



ASTSWMO, providing pathways to our Nation's environmental stewardship since 1974

December 8, 2014

Dear Members of ASTSWMO,

The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) is the best professional organization to which I have ever belonged. The dedication and passion of its members make us vibrant! As we celebrated 40 years of existence this past October and look forward to our next age, we have changed our look with a new logo, have gotten leaner and more efficient with a stronger fiscally responsible approach, and have gotten our game plan together with the new Strategic Plan (the 5<sup>th</sup> one of ASTSWMO's existence). It is the implementation of the plan along with any mid-course corrections that we will be focusing on this next year.

This could be a rather simple letter by attaching the plan and saying "What this says" and we would be done. It is not that simple however, and nothing could be built without the nuts and bolts. Those nuts and bolts are the members, the Board, the 5 Subcommittees, the 19 Task Forces/Focus Groups and the Staff of ASTSWMO that bind us all together *"to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices and environmental restoration."*

*Our first goal* and objective of the new Strategic Plan is to provide assistance to our membership. Along with developing the Strategic Plan, ASTSWMO has been very busy this past year, including holding information meetings, workshops, and developing training. It would be too voluminous to mention all the work products in this letter and I encourage you to visit our website <http://www.astswmo.org/> to see the fine work our dedicated members and staff have done or will be doing this coming year. Here are just some examples:

**Tanks Subcommittee:** Released the Tanks Core Report this summer, a two-year research effort documenting the overall costs of operating and maintaining the State Tanks programs.

**CERCLA & Brownfields Subcommittee:** The Site Assessment Focus Group finalized the Value of the CERCLA Site Assessment Program Position Paper and the Analysis of Site Assessment Cooperative Agreements research project in the spring, and continues work on a Pre-CERCLIS Screening research project.

**Hazardous Waste Subcommittee:** Met jointly with the **Materials Management Subcommittee** in September to begin planning the August 2015 ASTSWMO Joint Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Program Managers Training.

**Federal Facilities Subcommittee: Radiation Task Force (now under Materials Management):** Finalized their report on their survey of State Regulations and Policies for Control of Naturally-occurring and Accelerator Produced Radioactive Materials (NARM) and Technologically Enhanced Naturally-occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM).

On November 21, just 3 weeks into our new leadership, ASTSWMO, along with ECOS, met with OMB, which is reviewing the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule that is due final by December 19. We provided our points as to why the proposed rule should be promulgated under RCRA Subtitle D and advocated for State administration of the rule and for regionally appropriate standards.

*Our second goal* of the plan is to enhance and cultivate partnerships. We will continue our long-term relationship and coordinate with ECOS on the CCR rule and other issues that arise and attend calls and meetings with EPA, DOD and others. We have already started to explore new partnerships with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) and the National Groundwater Association (NGWA). As part of these partnerships we will explore sharing of resources to enhance our fiscal viability.

I thank all of you for your passion, dedication of time, and sharing of vast knowledge that provides ASTSWMO a firm base as we move forward. As witnessed by the dynamic sharing of the experiences of protecting the environment over the past 40 years during the Past-President Caucus (PPC) facilitated discussion at the Annual Meeting, we have learned many things and intend to take these lessons learned to develop and keep ASTSWMO strong and at the forefront of State advocacy and national policy development. Part of this will be through the implementation of the Members in Action policy and ensuring continuity and momentum for people in positions through the mentoring that the PPC and alumni provide, including reaching out to newly elected or appointed individuals filling their positions to prepare them for the job ahead.

I also expect that you will be hearing more from your Regional Board Representatives on issues that may affect your State or Territory. ASTSWMO will continue to provide training and will research if Continuing Education Units (CEU) could be offered to those attending webinars, training and conferences. These actions -- along with continuous reinvention with reporting quarterly the actions that are completed, will be done or need to be changed -- will assist ASTSWMO with *the third goal* of the Strategic Plan, which is, to enhance long-term sustainability.

In this next year, ASTSWMO will continue to become even more efficient as we explore the use of electronic reimbursements and payments, communicate more through social media, webinars and live feed and promote ourselves through the media and outreach.

ASTSWMO will also be telling its story with an interview to *Inside Washington Publishers*, *Inside EPA Superfund Report* at the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting. Be sure to follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to see up-to-the-minute activities of this wonderful Association!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I thank **YOU** for making ASTSWMO the valued organization it is. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Vice-President Bonnie Buthker (OH), Past-President Ryan Benefield (AR), Secretary-Treasury Nancy Marker (DE), Regional Board Representatives, Subcommittee Chairs or Staff (<http://www.astswmo.org/>) with any of your concerns or needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Forbeck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michael G. Forbeck  
ASTSWMO President, 2014 - 2015