

2009 ASTSWMO Removal Action Symposium  
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## Speaker Biographies

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## **Nicole Bealle**

Nicole Bealle holds a Bachelors of Science in Biology (MJ)/Geology (MN) from Sam Houston State University (1985) and a Master of Science in Biology from the University of Houston, Clear Lake (1991). She is a Licensed Professional Geologist, Registered Sanitarian, and has Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Senior Certifications for Water Quality, IHW/RCRA, and Municipal Solid Waste.

Ms. Bealle has worked for the state for 24 years. She began in the Water Program and, in 1992, moved into the Waste Program. During her time with the agency, she has been recognized as EPA Region 6 RCRA Inspector of the year (1996) and Employee of the Year for the TCEQ (2002). Ms. Bealle was the Waste Team Leader in the Houston Regional office from 1995 until 2005. At present, she is the Waste Section Manager for the Houston Region of the TCEQ. The Houston Office encompasses 13 coastal counties and the largest petrochemical industrial base in the state of Texas. The Houston Region is the largest regional office in the state with over 200 staff.

## **Jamie Bethard**

Jamie Bethard has been an emergency responder for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) for over 20 years and a volunteer firefighter for over 30 years. He has a bachelor's degree in Fire and Safety Engineering and a master's degree in Safety Engineering. Mr. Bethard has been instrumental in shaping the way the DNREC responds to oil and hazardous substance releases, from a consulting "level d" response team to a fully capable "level a" team. With the events of 9/11/2001 the DNREC has become Delaware's agency to respond to actual or perceived threats of chemical, biological and radiological terrorism. Mr. Bethard is also an instructor at the Delaware State Fire School.

## **Kevin Guarino**

Kevin Guarino has been a special agent with EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement for over 22 years. Currently he is the Assistant Director of the Office of Criminal Enforcement's Homeland Security Division and manages the National Counter Terrorism Evidence Response Teams (NCERT) special team. During his tenure with EPA, he has been assigned to criminal enforcement offices located in San Francisco, Denver, New York City, Miami, and Washington, DC. Before coming to EPA, Mr. Guarino was a special agent and a forensic chemist with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Mr. Guarino holds a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from John Jay College of the City University of New York and a Master of Public Health in Biomedical and Environmental Health Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **Deborah Dietrich**

Deborah Dietrich joined the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1986 and currently serves as the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. She holds several positions of leadership, including Agency Emergency Coordinator and Chair of the National Incident Coordination Team, a multi-office team that coordinates EPA's activities during national and international environmental incidents. She is also chairs the National Response Team, an organization of 16 federal agencies that coordinates federal planning, preparedness, and response actions.

From 1995 through June of 2002, Ms. Dietrich headed the Office of Resources Management and Administration in EPA's Office of Research and Development. Ms. Dietrich is not new to the emergency management community, as she made many contributions to the Superfund Program in EPA's Office of Emergency and Remedial Response from 1986 through 1995. Within that organization, she held a variety of positions, including Director of the Emergency Response Program. Earlier in her career she spent 10 years at the Department of Energy where she held several positions in the management and budget fields. Ms. Dietrich has a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Maryland and another in education from Salisbury University.

### **Christopher Hase**

Christopher Hase has a Bachelor of Science in environmental biology and a Master of Science in biology. He has worked with natural resources in Kansas for about nine years and is a project manager for the Natural Resource Damage and Restoration program in the Response/Restoration unit at Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Mr. Hase conducts HEA analysis, determines compensatory restoration, prepares presentations, and calculates total damages, and completes supporting documentation for Kansas and federal partners for settlement discussions with potentially responsible parties. He is also responsible for writing restoration plans for settled claims and overseeing restoration, long-term operations, and maintenance at restoration sites.

### **Kathy Jones**

Kathy Jones has been at the US Environmental Protection Agency since 1986, initially developing regulations to implement the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. She has held various positions within the Office of Emergency Management and predecessor offices contributing to the development of chemical accident prevention, preparedness, response, and homeland security programs. Prior to her work at EPA, she worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Ms. Jones is currently the Director of Evaluation and Communication in the Office of Emergency Management, where she oversees crisis and risk communication activities, as well as planning and program evaluation.

### **Maziar Movassaghi**

Maziar Movassaghi was appointed as Acting Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on March 16, 2009. Prior to this position, Mr. Movassaghi was the Deputy Director of the Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program for DTSC. During his tenure, the Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program consolidated 17 different programs into a single cleanup program. This action increased the total acreage that has been put back into productive use, helping communities return underutilized properties into commercial, residential, or educational activities. Prior to working at DTSC, Mr. Movassaghi worked in the private sector focusing on financing and development work across the country. He also has prior work experience in both local and state government. Mr. Movassaghi worked for the City of Oakland as Assistant Development Director and Assistant to Mayor Jerry Brown. His accomplishments included the development of over 10,000 housing units in former brownfields sites. Prior to working for the City of Oakland, he was the Wetlands Program Coordinator for the State of California. He developed and implemented the first statewide tracking system for wetland and riparian habitats that was eventually adopted by USEPA. He is a graduate of UCLA and the Goldman School at UC Berkeley.

## **Daniel A. Meer**

Daniel A. Meer is an Assistant Director in the Superfund Division at the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest office. This region includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Island territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Mr. Meer's branch has responsibility for the emergency response and removal programs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the oil program under the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act, and emergency preparedness and prevention programs under CERCLA and the Clean Air Act §112(r). Mr. Meer has also held supervisory positions in the Clean Water Act enforcement and Clean Air Act regulatory programs. He began his EPA career in 1989 as a remedial project manager in Superfund. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Meer spent ten years as a petroleum geologist, with postings in Houston, Denver, Dallas and London, England. He graduated from Binghamton University, State University of New York, in 1978.

## **James F. Michael**

James Michael is the Chief of the Waste Characterization Branch, Materials Recovery and Waste Management Division, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Waste Characterization Branch is responsible for identifying waste streams/waste practices that may pose a risk to human health and the environment as currently managed. The Branch identifies and assesses both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to address risks posed by problematic waste streams and then implements the appropriate strategy (e.g., developing regulations, developing national guidance). The branch determines which wastes should be listed as hazardous, interprets existing listing regulations and is also responsible for issues related to the existing hazardous waste characteristics. The branch develops and evaluates analytical methods to identify hazardous constituents in wastes; develops waste sampling guidance to support RCRA programs; and develops other policies or rules or related to environmental monitoring. Finally, the branch acts as the lead office in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery on homeland security issues, particularly to those related to the identification and characterization and the disposal of wastes generated from homeland security incidents.

Mr. Michael has a Bachelor of Art in geography and a Master of Art in urban geography and regional planning from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. His experience working on environmental issues includes 29 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and five years with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Katy Miley**

Katy Miley is a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 7 Superfund Division in Kansas City, Kansas, and has worked with EPA since 2005. Ms. Miley's work in EPA Region 7 includes emergency response, time-critical removals, contingency planning, community outreach, oil facility inspections, and coordination with tribal programs. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Kansas State University, a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Kansas, and is an accredited Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM). Ms. Miley has over ten years of experience in the environmental field prior to working for EPA. She has worked in the public sector for both state and municipal governments in emergency response, planning, and environmental compliance. She has also worked in the private sector as a contractor to EPA and the Department of Defense.

## **Melinda Stehr**

Melinda Stehr joined the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), formerly the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), Technical Assistance Programs in 1998. Since 2001, she has been a Debris Specialist, receiving training from FEMA, USACE, and other federal and state agencies on debris management issues. She has provided debris management training to emergency management personnel throughout California. Ms. Stehr has been a debris specialist in a number of disaster recovery operations including the 2003 and 2007 Southern California Fires, Hurricane Katrina, the Angora Fire, the 2008 Northern and Southern California Wildfires, and the recent 2009 Wildfires in California.

## **Peter D. Stevenson**

Peter D. Stevenson has over 28 years of diversified experience in the environmental field, with the last 22 years working for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Response Program as a Federal On-Scene Coordinator responding to, securing, and cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste facilities and a variety of other incidents involving hazardous chemicals and/or other wastes. National incidents in which Mr. Stevenson has been involved include the Capitol Hill Anthrax Response, the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery, and the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Responses. Mr. Stevenson has a Bachelor of Art in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont, a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Colorado- Denver, and a Master of Science in Atmospheric Chemistry from the University of Colorado- Denver.

## **David Sweeney**

David Sweeney has been with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the past 20 years. He is currently the Chief of the Bureau of Emergency Response, a Bureau that responds to all major discharges of oil and hazardous materials in New Jersey. He became Chief of BER in early 2000. Prior to this, he was the Bureau Chief of a group that provides technical support in the areas of geology and hydrogeology for cases in the Site Remediation Program (November 1993 to December 1999). Mr. Sweeney has been a member of the ASTSWMO Removal Action Focus Group since 2000, and prior to this he participated in the ASTSWMO Hazardous Waste Identification Rule efforts. He worked in the Bureau of State Case Management as a Section Chief and Case Manager overseeing waste site remediation from August 1988 to November 1993. His experience involves various complex site remediations undertaken in New Jersey including CERCLA, RCRA, ISRA, Spill Act, and Voluntary cleanups.

Prior to working at DEP, Mr. Sweeney was employed by the Camden County Health Department for 14 years. At Camden County, he managed environmental programs under the County Environmental Health Act, including Emergency Response, and was the manager of their environmental laboratory.

Mr. Sweeney's background is in Environmental Science, and he is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. He has been active in the Fire Service for 20 years and was an Emergency Medical Technician for 13 years.

## **Rebecca Wagoner**

Rebecca Wagoner manages the Recovery Division of the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). She has approximately 18 years of experience in emergency management,

including emergency preparedness and disaster recovery. Her disaster experience dates back to the Cantara Spill of 1991 through the fires of 2009. Her state service includes 5 years with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control working with state and local governments on county hazardous waste management plans and site mitigation cost recovery.

Rebecca holds a Master of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Arts in Bacteriology, and a certificate in hazardous materials management from UC Davis. Prior to working for the state, Rebecca was a Procurement Officer for the Department of Defense at McClellan Air Force Base and a chemist for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

## **Christopher Weden**

Christopher Weden is an On Scene Coordinator (OSC) in EPA Region 9's Emergency Response Section. Chris is responsible for responding to releases of oil and hazardous substances and the development of strategies for assessment and cleanup of toxic sites throughout the Region (California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the Trust Territories of the Pacific).

OSC Weden's recent sites include a lead-acid battery cleanup at a remote 911 repeater site on Guam and a major plating shop cleanup in Burbank, CA. His ancillary duties include responding to FEMA requests for EPA assistance during federally declared disasters and outreach efforts to Trust Territories of the Pacific. He has served on the training committee for both the Continuing Challenge Hazardous Materials Workshop and EPA's OSC Readiness Board.

Before becoming an OSC, Chris worked in EPA's Water Enforcement Program conducting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) inspections and enforcement actions. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering with concentrations in water and wastewater pollution control from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.