



ASTSWMO, Providing Pathways to Our
Nation's Environmental Stewardship Since 1974

November 1, 2023

Dear ASTSWMO Family,

It is a huge honor to write to you as your 2023-2024 President of our great Association. My Vice-Presidential year went by so fast. After watching the great leadership of my good friends 2022-2023 President Millie Garcia-Serrano (MA) and our outgoing Past-President Tim Ratsep (DE), I feel ready to accept the responsibilities you all have granted me. I look forward to collaborating with our outstanding Executive Committee including Past-President Millie Garcia-Serrano (MA), Vice-President Suzanne Engels (WY), Secretary-Treasurer April Webb (KY), and Executive Director Dania Rodriguez. I also look forward to working closely with the Regional Board Representatives, the Subcommittee Chairs, and ASTSWMO's wonderful staff.

During my Vice-President's speech, I spoke about how ASTSWMO is about helping us all learn and grow. This past year at ASTSWMO meetings I made many new friends and was able to catch up with long-time ones as well. I learned about the critical issues facing environmental policy makers including, to name a few: incinerator capacity shortages, coal combustion residuals (CCR), the 48% RCRA grants overmatch by States, Underground Storage Tank (UST) cleanup program challenges, and issues related to Electronic Vehicle battery recycling.

This past year, ASTSWMO's Materials Management Subcommittee led by Kathryn Perszyk (VA) provided comments regarding EPA's Proposed Denial of Alabama's CCR Permit Program, the Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution, and the Proposed Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments and CCR Management Units rule. This Subcommittee published a Radiological Disaster Debris Self-Assessment Questionnaire and a fact sheet on Emerging Wastes from Renewable Energy Sources jointly with the Hazardous Waste Subcommittee.

The Hazardous Waste Subcommittee led by Melissa Ferree (DE) also had a very productive 2023, commenting on EPA's Technical Corrections Rule, providing comments to EPA's e-Manifest Advisory Board, and producing the Hazardous Waste Management Program Implementation Costs Report.

The CERCLA and Brownfields Subcommittee led by Judy Fassbender (WI) worked on a variety of issues in 2023. Their projects included creating a Human Health Risk Assessment Screening Tool, reviewing the issue of Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Site Assessment program, a Position Paper on Increased 128(a) Funding in the Brownfields program, and producing a technical assistance resource document for the reuse of Brownfield sites.

ASTSWMO's Tanks Subcommittee led by Russ Olsen (WA) hosted a successful Tanks Workshop in September 2023. The Subcommittee also hosted a webinar on moving UST sites to closure, published an UST Common Compliance Violations report, and generated a 2023 Sustainability of State Financial Assurance Funds for UST Programs paper. The Subcommittee also published a report on Comparing EPA UST Regulations and National Fire Protection Association Fire Codes.

The Federal Facilities Subcommittee led by Jennifer Currie (AK) helped plan the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Forum with the U.S. Department of Defense and ITRC held in June 2023. They also issued a paper titled, "Identifying and Considering ARARs at Federal Facility Cleanups."

The Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Steering Committee led by Tracie White (CO) worked hard this past year providing multiple comments to EPA as new proposals were opened for comment. This included comments on U.S. EPA's Proposed Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) National Priority Drinking Water Regulation, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Potential Future Designations of PFAS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances, and U.S. EPA's proposed rule on Changes to Reporting Requirements: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and to Supplier Notifications for Chemicals of Special Concern; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting. The Steering Committee also worked diligently to update and enhance the group's website.

I look forward to working closely with all the ASTSWMO Subcommittee Chairs and Task Force and Focus Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs this year. These are the people who give so much time and energy to developing projects and putting on meetings. Thank you for all the work you do!

ASTSWMO has been invaluable to me over the years, providing me countless opportunities to gain experience as an environmental regulator and improving my leadership skills first as a Focus Group member, as a Focus Group Vice-Chair and then Chair and as a Subcommittee Chair and now as your President. I encourage all of you to continue to be involved and encourage your coworkers and staff to get involved in ASTSWMO. To our Voting Members, thank you for your support.

We are truly a large family and I look forward to attending upcoming events and webinars hosted by our membership, including but not limited to the 2024 Mid-Year Meeting in Boston on April 23-24, the RCRA Subtitle C Corrective Action Training Workshop on June 4-5, and the Superfund and Brownfields Symposium on August 13-15.

I look forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our great Association at our Annual Meeting in October 2024. The robust and continued involvement of our whole membership of 50 States, 5 Territories and the District of Columbia ensures that our Association continues to fulfill our mission 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Brittain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Brittain, OK
2023-2024 ASTSWMO President