Happy Fall Everyone! It’s that time of year again; the leaves are falling, there’s a chill in the air, football is in full swing, and it’s Halloween!

Your SDAEP Board has been working hard on our upcoming activities in 2019. Please mark your calendars for the following OSHA 8 Hr Refresher classes:

- Sioux Falls: Water Purification Plant - February 21 & 22, 2019
- Lead: Sanford Education & Outreach Center—March 7, 2019
- Rapid City: Ellsworth Airforce Base—March 8, 2019
- Pierre: Ramkota Hotel—Monday, March 11, 2019

More information and updates to these classes can be found on our website: www.sdaep.org/educationtraining.

The SDAEP Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Ramkota Hotel on March 11, 2019, following the 8 Hr Refresher class. Our guest speaker will be Allan Miller from the SD Office of Emergency Management.

The first “Call for Speakers” for the 2019 Environmental & Groundwater Quality Conference was emailed out on October 26. If you did not receive the flyer, a copy can be found on Page 2 of this Newsletter as well as on our website and on the DENR website. We are in the initial planning stages and WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! We want to hear YOUR suggestions on topics and potential speakers. This conference is designed for YOU for education, training, and continuing education credits. YOUR input is vital for staying up-to-date on current issues in the environmental industry. Please send your suggestions to Melissa at sdaep@yahoo.com, or to Kayla and Georgina at the DENR (Kayla.Fawcett@state.sd.us or Georgina.Smith@state.sd.us).

Keep watching your emails and the website for updates and information.

Gary Haag, SDAEP President, 2018-2019
Call for Speakers

31st Annual Environmental & Ground Water Quality Conference

When: March 11, 2019 - OSHA 8-Hour Refresher & SDAEP Annual Meeting

March 12-13, 2019 - Conference

Where: Ramkota Hotel - Pierre, South Dakota

The Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference was started by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 1989 as a means to periodically inform environmental consultants working in the state of any updates to the regulations. While the conference still performs this function it has expanded to include professional talks covering the environmental topics of the day and the latest technologies in assessing and remediating soil and ground water contaminated with agricultural chemicals, petroleum products, and other chemicals.

Program Format

General Topics
- Site Assessment
- Remediation Technologies
- Case Studies
- Risk Based Corrective Action
- Emergency Response
- Oil and Gas / Energy Development
- Pipeline Development / Safety
- Mining
- All Topics Related to Environmental Protection and Remediation

Event Highlights

- No Conference Registration Fee
- FREE Contact Hours
- OSHA 8-Hour Refresher
- SDAEP Annual Meeting
- Evening Social Events
- Interesting topics
- Excellent Presentations
- Door Prizes

Submit Abstracts to:

Kayla Fawcett, Conference Coordinator
SD DENR
523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre SD 57501
605.773.3296
kayla.fawcett@state.sd.us

OSHA 8-Hour Information:

South Dakota Association of Environmental Professionals
PO Box 8854
Sioux Falls, SD 57109
http://sdaep.org/
(605) 216-3256
Gov. Daugaard Announces Nearly $34 Million for Environmental Projects

Date: September 27, 2018
Mike Perkovich, (605) 773-4216
Website: http://denr.sd.gov/bwnrapps.aspx

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved nearly $34 million for water, wastewater and solid waste projects. The board met today in Pierre.

The $33,850,255 total includes $7,000 in grants and nearly $33.9 million in low-interest loans, with $951,255 in principal forgiveness.

The grants and loans awarded by the board are administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). “I am pleased to announce that this financial assistance is available,” said Gov. Daugaard. “These grant and loan awards will result in upgraded drinking water systems, improved wastewater treatment, more recycling opportunities and enhanced protection of the environment.”

A grant was awarded to:
- Burke, $7,000 grant to purchase a recycling collection trailer

Loans were awarded to:
- Harrisburg, $24,487,000 loan to construct a wastewater treatment facility
- Mitchell, $8,345,000 loan for the Sanborn Boulevard water system, storm water and sanitary sewer improvements and to install nonpoint best management practices in the Firesteel Creek watershed

Loans with principal forgiveness were awarded to:
- Raymond, $1,011,225 loan, with $951,225 in principal forgiveness, for lift station and wastewater treatment facility improvements.

2019 8 Hour OSHA HAZWOPER REFRESHERS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SDAEP will be hosting 8 Hr OSHA Refresher classes in 2019. Classes will be held as follows:
- Sioux Falls: Water Purification Plant—February 21 & 22, 2019
- Lead: Sanford Education & Outreach Center—March 7, 2019
- Rapid City: Ellsworth Airforce Base—March 8, 2019
- Pierre: Ramkota Hotel—Monday, March 11, 2019

For more information, please visit our website: www.sdaep.org/educationtraining
NEWS FROM EPA and REGION 8

EPA awards over $200k to North Dakota State University to assess Prairie Pothole Region wetlands restoration

EPA Region 8: 09/05/2018

Denver, Colo.—EPA has awarded $209,800 in wetlands grant funding to North Dakota State University to assess ecosystem health of the Prairie Pothole Region, supporting North Dakota’s Water Quality Monitoring Strategy for Surface Waters.

“This grant will support restoration of North Dakota’s unique wetlands, which are an important source of groundwater recharge,” said Darcy O’Connor, Assistant Regional Administrator of the Office of Water Protection.

The aim of the project is to assess success of prior wetlands restorations in North Dakota and to provide guidelines for restoration monitoring. This effort helps address the state’s goal of refining and applying wetland assessment methods to evaluate the effectiveness of wetland mitigation and restoration programs and projects. Biogeochemistry, vegetation and invertebrate populations will be studied as measures of the services these wetlands provide to the environment. These data will be key in cost effective management and protection of water and wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region. This project will be done in close collaboration with Dr. David Mushet of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota.

EPA has awarded over $2.5 million in wetlands grant funding for 11 projects across EPA’s mountains and plains region of the West (Region 8). Healthy wetlands perform important ecological functions, such as feeding downstream waters, trapping floodwaters, recharging groundwater supplies, removing pollution, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife.

Wetlands Program Development Grants assist state, tribal, local government agencies, and interstate/intertribal entities in building programs that protect, manage, and restore wetlands and aquatic resources. States, tribes, and local wetlands programs are encouraged to develop wetlands program plans, which help create a roadmap for building capacity and achieving long-term environmental goals.

Owner and operator of Philadelphia service station settle with EPA on underground storage tank violations

EPA Region 3: 10/17/18

Philadelphia, PA – The owner and operator of the F-Street Sunoco service station, 3951 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia have agreed to pay a $22,080 penalty to settle alleged violations of underground storage tank regulations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today.

The settlement with service station owner, 3951 Roosevelt Blvd. Realty Corporation, and operator Liberty Tradeplus, Inc., addresses compliance with environmental safeguards protecting communities and the environment from exposure to petroleum or potentially harmful chemicals.

EPA cited the companies for violating safeguards designed to prevent, detect, and control leaks from the underground tanks. Based on a September 2017 inspection and follow-up investigations, EPA alleged that two underground gasoline tanks failed to comply with leak detection and recordkeeping requirements for a 27-month period in 2015 through 2017.

The penalty reflects the companies’ cooperation with EPA. As part of the settlement, the companies did not admit liability, but have certified that the station is now in compliance.
EPA announces resources and tools for healthy school environments

EPA Region 8: 10/02/2018

Denver, Colo. – In honor of Children’s Health Month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of nearly $30 million to support safe drinking water and cleaner air. EPA is making $20 million available for states and tribes to test for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. At the same time, EPA is announcing approximately $9 million in rebates to public school bus fleet owners to help them replace older school buses with cleaner, more modern vehicles. In addition to the newly announced resources, EPA has guidance, recommendations, and programs available to support schools in ensuring clean, healthy, and environmentally conscious school communities.

“Our schools reflect the best of our communities,” said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento. “EPA offers a variety of resources to help school administrators and parents provide safe places to learn and educate students about environmental stewardship.”

A healthy school community starts with traveling to and from school. When safe, walking or biking to school can help children meet the recommended physical activity levels on weekdays, while helping to reduce traffic, lower pollutants, and save money. Clean school buses and anti-idling policies for buses, passenger vehicles, and delivery trucks help reduce emissions in and outside schools. The EPA’s Clean School Bus Program, School Siting Guidelines and Idle-Free Schools Toolkit are useful resources to establish and maintain a responsible transportation program for your school.

Inside and out, it’s important to understand how school communities can be protective of health. From recess to organized sports, knowing the outdoor air quality is important. Understanding how the building’s air system works, how the school is cleaned, and how teachers set up their classrooms is important in considering the indoor air quality.

Knowing the outdoor air quality helps schools identify steps to take to protect students from pollutants that can negatively affect health. Participating in the Air Quality Flag Program is a simple way to get your school community involved in knowing and understanding local air quality. This is especially valuable in the mountain west with high instances of wildfires.

Ensuring a healthy indoor learning environment reduces absenteeism, improves test scores, and enhances student and staff productivity. When considering indoor air quality, it is important to know about radon, which is prevalent in the plains and mountain states. The Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program is a great place to start or get a refresher!

EPA strongly encourages schools to test for lead in drinking water. EPA has developed a tool kit called the 3Ts (training, testing, telling) for reducing lead in drinking water for schools to use as guidance.

When cleaning and using chemicals in science classes, teachers, school administrators and facility managers can look for EPA’s Safer Choice Label and apply the Toolkit for Safe Chemical Management in K-12 Schools.

Saving resources and reducing waste can be accomplished throughout the school. Facility-level efforts including integrating Energy Star and WaterSense can save money for schools and districts. Schools can participate in a food waste audit and implement strategies to feed children and the community while reducing waste. Students and teachers can pack a waste-free lunch. Make sure to pack only what you can eat, reuse, recycle, or compost. Reusable or compostable bags can be a good choice to carry or cover your lunch items.

As temperatures dip throughout the plains and the mountain west, managing pests in and around school facilities is essential to maintaining a healthy learning environment free of pests and unnecessary exposure to pesticides. To minimize health risks to students and staff, an Integrated Pest Management approach includes adopting preventative measures and choosing the lower-risk methods of pest removal and prevention.

EPA Region 8 is available to connect your school community to resources to establish or maintain healthy school environments in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, as well as 27 Tribal Nations. Please contact April Nowak (nowak.april@epa.gov).
Wind, Solar Farms In Sahara Could Make The Desert Green And Save The Region

September 10, 2018


For a long time, the Sahara Desert has been one of the largest, driest expanses of land in the entire world. It doesn't have to stay dry forever, though, if scientists have anything to say about it. New research shows that there is a way to transform the uninhabitable desert into a greener oasis that would yield great benefits to the arid region.

A 'Greener' Sahara

The answer, the researchers say in a new study published in the journal Science, are large-scale wind and solar farms in the famous Sahara Desert. According to the team's new climate model, such farms will not only provide clean energy for a good chunk of the global population but also yield greater rainfall and consequently more vegetation in the region.

Yan Li, the lead author of the study, reveals in a statement that this is one of the first studies to explore both the climate effects and the effects on vegetation of wind and solar installations. Other modeling studies have analyzed whether such farms could produce significant effects on climate change, but Li adds that neglecting the responses of vegetation growth could make a model inaccurate.

The model shows that wind farms facilitated greater regional warming near the surface due to the wind turbines bringing down the warmer air from up high.

Precipitation and rainfall increase significantly in regions where wind farms are located, which leads to greater vegetation that in turn causes more precipitation — a positive feedback loop that could bring about incredible benefits to the Sahara and surrounding lands.

"The increase in rainfall and vegetation, combined with clean electricity as a result of solar and wind energy, could help agriculture, economic development and social well-being in the Sahara, Sahel, Middle East and other nearby regions," Safa Motesharrei, co-author of the study, says.

Energy From The World's Largest Desert

For such an undertaking, any desert would do, but the team opted to use Sahara Desert for their model due to its size and proximity to rising energy consumers.

"We chose it because it is the largest desert in the world; it is sparsely inhabited; it is highly sensitive to land changes; and it is in Africa and close to Europe and the Middle East, all of which have large and growing energy demands," Li, a postdoctoral researcher in natural resources and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois, continues.

The team's simulations include wind and solar farms that span a total of roughly 9 million square kilometers. This is expected to generate an average of 3 terawatts of wind power and 79 terawatts of solar power.

As Li points out, this is more than enough to cover the world's electrical needs, as the global energy demand in 2017 was only 18 terawatts.
Air pollution leads to millions of ER visits for asthma attacks worldwide

October 25, 2018

Source: Science Daily (www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181025083955.htm)

Nine to 33 million visits to the emergency room (ER) for asthma worldwide may be triggered by breathing in air polluted by ozone or fine particulate matter -- pollutants that can enter the lung's deep airways, according to a study published today.

Scientists have long known that breathing in air sullied by car emissions and other pollutants could trigger asthma attacks. However, the new study is the first to quantify air pollution's impact on asthma cases around the globe.

"Millions of people worldwide have to go to emergency rooms for asthma attacks every year because they are breathing dirty air," said Susan C. Anenberg, PhD, MS, lead author of the study and an Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (Milken Institute SPH). "Our findings suggest that policies aimed at cleaning up the air can reduce the global burden of asthma and improve respiratory health around the world."

Asthma is the most prevalent chronic respiratory disease worldwide, affecting about 358 million people. The new findings, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, suggests car emissions and other types of pollution may be a significant source of serious asthma attacks.

Anenberg and her team first looked at emergency room visits for asthma in 54 countries and Hong Kong, and then combined that information with epidemiological exposure-response relationships and global pollution levels derived from satellites orbiting the earth.

The new research suggests that:

- Nine to 23 million annual asthma emergency room visits globally (8 to 20 percent of total global asthma ER visits) may be triggered by ozone, a pollutant generated when car, power plant and other types of emissions interact with sunlight.

- Five to 10 million asthma emergency room visits every year (4 to 9 percent of total global asthma ER visits) were linked to fine particulate matter, small particles of pollution that can lodge deep in the lung's airway tubes.

- About half of the asthma emergency room visits attributed to dirty air were estimated to occur in South and East Asian countries, notably India and China.

Although the air in the United States is relatively clean compared to South and East Asian countries, ozone and particulate matter were estimated to contribute 8 to 21 percent and 3 to 11 percent of asthma ER visits in the United States, respectively.

To estimate the global levels of pollution for this study, the researchers turned to atmospheric models, ground monitors and satellites equipped with remote-sensing devices.

"The value of using satellites is that we were able to obtain a consistent measure of air pollution concentrations throughout the world," said Daven Henze, who is the principal investigator on the project and an associate professor for the University of Colorado Boulder. "This information allowed us to link the asthma burden to air pollution even in parts of the world where ambient air quality measurements have not been available."

Support for the study was provided by the NASA Health and Air Quality Applied Science Team, NASA Aura ACMAP, the Stockholm Environment Institute Low Emissions Development Pathways Initiative, and the Global Environment Research Fund of the Japan Ministry of the Environment.
OSHA bulletins address respiratory, hearing protection for temp Workers

Date: August 13, 2018
Source: Health + Safety Magazine (https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/17343-OSHA-bulletins-address-respiratory-hearing-protection-for-temp-workers)

Washington — Staffing agencies and host employers share responsibility for protecting temporary workers from respiratory and noise hazards, according to separate bulletins recently released by OSHA as part of its Temporary Worker Initiative. Both documents include sample scenarios that explore what could happen if workers do not receive adequate training or protection.

One bulletin states that the agency’s Respiratory Protection Standard (1910.134) requires the use of appropriate respirators for general industry, construction and maritime (1915.154, 1917.92 and 1918.102). Employers must identify and evaluate possible workplace respiratory hazards and determine the correct type of respirator. “While both the host and the staffing agency are responsible to ensure that the employee is properly protected in accordance with the standard, the employers may decide that a division of the responsibility may be appropriate,” the bulletin states. “Neither the host nor the staffing agency can require workers to provide or pay for their own respiratory protection when it is required.”

The document explains that the host employer typically handles the following:
- Evaluating exposure levels.
- Implementing and maintaining engineering, administrative and work practice controls.
- Maintaining a respiratory protection program when respirators are required.

The staffing agency is required to take reasonable steps to ensure workers are protected from hazards and must communicate regularly with workers and the host employer.

A second bulletin examines compliance with OSHA’s Occupational Noise Standard (1910.95) for general industry and construction. It directs the host employer to determine noise exposure levels; implement and maintain engineering, administrative and work practice controls; provide appropriate hearing protection; and maintain a hearing conservation program.

The staffing agency is required to:
- Maintain familiarity with established noise exposure hazards and controls.
- Inform workers of potential hazards and ensure workers have adequate hearing protection.
- Communicate regularly with workers and host employers about noise exposures.

“Neither the host nor the staffing agency can require workers to provide or pay for their own hearing protection devices or require workers to purchase such devices as a condition of employment or placement,” the bulletin states. “In addition, employees must be paid for the time spent receiving their audiograms, and the audiograms must be at no cost to the employee.”

Employers must initiate a valid baseline audiogram within six months of a worker’s first exposure at or above a time-weighted average of 85 decibels over an 8-hour period for general industry and 90 dBA for construction, according to the bulletin.
OSHA Stresses Trenching and Excavation Safety

October 25, 2018


It’s not too hard to figure out why. Trenching and excavation work exposes workers to particularly dangerous hazards. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, between 2011 and 2016 there were 130 fatalities occurring in trenching and excavation operations. The private construction industry accounted for 80% of those fatalities, and 49% of them occurred between 2015 and 2016. Of the private construction fatalities, 40 (38%) were at industrial places and premises; 39 (38%) were at private residences; and 21 (20%) occurred at streets or highways.

OSHA’s long-standing focus on trenching and excavation violations has resulted in numerous high-profile penalties for companies, note attorneys Thomas Metzger and Sarah Squillante of the law firm of Littler Mendelson. Earlier this year, the agency announced proposed penalties in excess of $400,000 against a company for alleged exposure to trench cave-ins and other violations. OSHA also issued proposed penalties in excess of $250,000 against another employer after it found that employees were allegedly working without cave-in protection while working in a trench.

In light of a recent resurgence in trenching and excavation fatalities and serious injuries, OSHA announced a renewed emphasis on these workplace hazards starting with a three-month period of education and prevention outreach that it kicked off on Oct. 1.

In addition, OSHA said it will provide support for compliance assistance and inspection programs, create a national reporting system for all OSHA trenching and excavation inspections, and establish a requirement that each OSHA Area Office develop and implement outreach programs.

To assist employers, the agency has issued new compliance guidance in response to the NEP. OSHA has an online resource for practical guidance on complying with the standards. Employers also should review OSHA’s Trenching and Excavation Quick Card, which was recently updated in advance of the NEP.

Outreach programs will include providing compliance assistance material to excavation employers, permitting and other municipal organizations, industry associations, equipment rental organizations, water works supply companies, and major and local plumbing companies, OSHA reported.

‘Drive-By Inspections’

The NEP also requires OSHA area and regional offices to concentrate their enforcement resources on employers performing work involving trenching and excavation. Specifically, OSHA compliance officers will initiate inspections under the NEP whenever they observe an open trench or open excavation.

In addition, the NEP calls for inspectors to initiate inspections when they observe employers performing trenching or excavation work near sites that are being inspected for other reasons. Thus, if OSHA is at a worksite for a programmed inspection, compliance officers will also be looking for trenching or excavation work, Wilensky and Martin warn.

“The NEP means that employers performing trenching or excavation work are subject to the dreaded ‘drive-by inspection.’ If an inspector happens upon an employer’s excavation, an inspection can be opened,” the lawyers explain.
It's Halloween time and for many people that is time to have fun. Just like other holidays there are some scientific aspects to the scary day. Digital Journal takes a look at the science behind Halloween.

Let's begin with getting scared. Many people will watch a scary movie on October 31 and a reaction to a haunted house or creepy slasher naturally raises the goosebumps. Despite seeking fear intentionally, in most cases it is a natural reaction and one very important to a human's survival instincts: the heart races, pupils dilate, we breathe heavy, sometimes the stomach tightens, even dizziness. Talking to CBS about this issue, psychologist Dr. Elizabeth Gordon notes: "Fear is there to protect us. People fear things that would have been dangerous as we evolved. A lot of things we see at Halloween play on natural fears we have to things like spiders."

Next, fangs. This time, not vampires but deer. Did you know deer could have fangs? The deer in question is the kashmir musk deer. It was recently spotted in 2014 exhibiting pointed teeth, the first recorded incident since 1948. The musk deer is classified as an endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. Moving on to some of the classic monsters. With werewolves there is a genetic condition that leads to some people having excessive body hair. It is possible that, in years gone by, people with this condition were mistaken for half-wolf, half-human creatures. Even today the condition - hypertrichosis - is sometimes called "werewolf syndrome."

How about zombies? The story behind the walking dead seems to date back to people falling under trances (either natural or artificially induced through mind-altering substances.) For instance, an ethnobotanist investigating the claims in Haiti found a toxic drug that could actually induce a zombie-style catatonic state.

Going back to fear, if you were afraid of spiders would you be prepared to have a chunk of your brain removed? Recently a 44 year-old businessman, who suffered from arachnophobia, started suffering with seizures. The only way to deal with this was for him to undergo surgery to remove part of his amygdala, which is buried deep within the brain. The operation was successful and when he recovered his fear of spiders had gone.

Finally, one way to really scare someone is with a scream. You want this to be high-pitched, right? Perhaps not according to David Poeppel, director of the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Germany. What makes a scary scream is a particular modulation. This was found by subjecting a wide range of subjects, The Washington Post reports, to a range of different screams (some taken from horror films.) The most frightening are those at a modulation rate between 4 and 5 hertz. The singer Tom Waits was cited as often coming closest to the vocal range.
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Thank you for supporting SDAEP. If you have any questions please call Melissa at 605-216-3256.

SDAEP will consider all submittals for publishing in Enviro-News - a vehicle to expand the collective knowledge of South Dakota’s environmental professionals.

Submittal deadlines are:
March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

Please email your newsletter contributions to:

sdaep@yahoo.com
Interesting Facts about Halloween

1. The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.
2. Halloween is the second highest grossing commercial holiday after Christmas.
3. Ireland is typically believed to be the birthplace of Halloween.
4. Scarecrows, a popular Halloween fixture, symbolize the ancient agricultural roots of the holiday.
5. The largest pumpkin ever measured was grown by Norm Craven, who broke the world record in 1993 with a 836 lb. pumpkin.
6. According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.
7. In many countries, such as France and Australia, Halloween is seen as an unwanted and overly commercial American influence.
8. Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween.
9. Fifty percent of kids prefer to receive chocolate candy for Halloween, compared with 24% who prefer non-chocolate candy and 10% who preferred gum.
10. The owl is a popular Halloween image. In Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches, and to hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.