

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

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Message from the President

Welcome to Spring. The time for new growth and renewed spirit as we come out to enjoy the warmer weather and longer daylight. If only someone told Mother Nature to cooperate and stop dropping rain and snow all over us. OK, enough complaining about the weather but that is what us New Englanders like to do while we wait for the next sports season to begin. I hope everyone had a chance to view the recent solar eclipse (partial for us) and for a moment enjoy the fact that millions of folks were united in that one phenomenon. As we ready for the busier season for most of us, please take this time to review your employee safety protocols and work environments. Remember our most valued assets are our employees and families and we want to ensure we provide them with the best tools and training for the job. Did you know that SWANA has available safety training as part of your membership? Please read about that later in this newsletter.

It is scholarship season. SNE SWANA is pleased to be able to continue our efforts of awarding well deserved scholarships to members and their families. Check out the program as the deadline is fast approaching. Our annual Golf Event/fundraiser for the scholarships is also scheduled for July 1. Finally, SNE SWANA now has a LinkedIn page so make sure you follow us. Please enjoy this newsletter.

SAFETY

SWANA continues its strategic focus on promoting safety and reducing the injury and fatality rates in our industry. There are numerous resources available to train your workforce in methods to being safe each and every day. In addition, the National Waste & Recycling Association has teamed up with a national fleet trucking safety organization called Together for Safer Roads to offer a

fleet safety program to the independent haulers that may not have a large robust internal system. This program, along with SWANA's, helps companies adopt best practices for improving the safety culture of the organization. No matter which organization you choose, the most important part is to focus on safety and provide the necessary training to keep our employees safe each day.

PROJECTS IN THE MAKING

As many of us know landfills, especially in the northeast, are running out of space with facilities continuing to close. Many of them locally and nationwide face challenges to remain profitable while fulfilling the needs of their ever-growing communities. Designing and permitting landfill expansions is often a maze of regulatory roadblocks and limiting acreage. Airspace is at a premium.

Routinely landfill owners turn consultants, many of whom are SWANA members to capture cost-effective airspace. As part of our effort to share information with the membership, SNE SWANA asked Geosyntec Consultants, Inc., to share details on a project that incorporated a mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) berm into a landfill expansion design, which significantly increased airspace gain compared to an expansion using a perimeter berm with traditional 3:1 slopes. The relatively small footprint of MSE berms, when compared to traditional perimeter berms, reduces the acres needed to expand and creates much-coveted additional airspace. It also allows the landfill footprint to be maximized adjacent to any buffer zone. Although historically MSE structures have been permitted for earth-retaining projects, such as road and bridge foundations, their use in landfill expansion can be a hard sell to some state regulators.

A well-designed, well-built, and properly monitored and maintained MSE berm is an effective and efficient solution to a landfill expansion. The key to incorporating

this into the project is ensure you have a solid design and that quality is built into the construction oversight such that the regulatory community is ensured that this project will not have any detrimental effects upon the community or environment.

Geosyntec, an industry leader in MSE berm design and permitting, did just that for the Fitchburg/Westminster Sanitary Landfill in Massachusetts (a Waste Management of Massachusetts landfill site)—a state that had not permitted MSE berms for landfill expansion for about a decade. Part of the success was including a robust construction quality assurance program and a well-thought-out monitoring and maintenance plan. The experience and expertise offered by these SWANA members, along with the ability to educate and negotiate with regulators helped Geosyntec's client get permit approval for a 750 foot-long, 40-foot-high MSE berm, which will create nearly 2 million cubic yards of additional capacity in our Region. If you are interested in learning more about this or other technical aspects in our industry, please reach out to the SNE Board members.

REGULATORY UPDATES

FEDERAL: The U.S. EPA finalized its long-awaited drinking water standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on April 10th. The new standards included additional limits than those originally proposed and sets phasing in of these limits over multiple years. This new rule coincides with the release of the updated interim guidance of the destruction and disposal of this chemical group. Many of us are working to determine what this means for our industry in terms of wastewater disposal and management of materials at our sites. Stay tuned for more information from SWANA as it develops.

CT: The Solid Waste Advisory Committee held its meeting on March 26, 2024. During that meeting, representatives from various agencies provided updates on EPR programs for tires and gas cylinders, EV battery recycling, and regulatory / legislative updates. The next [meeting](#) is scheduled for June 25, 2024.

MA: The Solid Waste Advisory Committee next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2024. More information can be found at the MA SWAC [page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SOAR 2024: Technical Solutions for Resource Management, April 15-18, 2024, Phoenix, AZ

- NY Federation Solid Waste Conference, May 19-22, 2024, Sagamore Resort near Lake George, NY. Information can be found [here](#).
- SNE SWANA Golf Event – scheduled for July 1, 2024. Registration will open soon.

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

- SNE SWANA LinkedIn page – we have launched a new method to keep in contact with the membership and to share innovative practices and information. We urge each member to [follow](#) us and share the page.
- The Applied Research Foundation released its February 2023 report on Advanced Air Pollution Control at WTE Facilities. This report is now free for all SWANA members. Did you know that the SNE SWANA Chapter is a member of the ARF? As members, we have access to reports immediately upon publication. If any member would like to take advantage of this, please reach out for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2024 SNE SWANA Scholarship program is open and accepting applications for the 2024-2025 period. This program is open to high school seniors entering college, college undergraduates (juniors/seniors) majoring in any field associated with the industry, graduate students, and young professionals. This is a great opportunity to be awarded additional funding to help support you or a family member achieve their goals. We urge you to check out the information on our [sneswana.org](#) website.

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