

August 13, 2012

Flash No. 30

July Luncheon Speaker

At the SAEMS July luncheon, Dan Millis of the Sierra Club explored the negative effects that could result from the waiver of environmental due diligence requirements prior to US-Mexico border fence construction. The potential impacts of Bill HR1505 were discussed during this presentation. The bill waives 16 federal environmental and archaeological laws in a 100-mile wide zone extending from the US-Mexico border. Specific locations were highlighted because of their environmental significance. One area was the Otay Forest in Otay, California. This forest is the sole home to the Otay Mountain Cyprus which is unique for having a cone which opens only during fire. Two areas in Arizona were noted because of the effects the fence has had on flooding due to the blockage of natural watercourses. The areas were Organ Pipe National Monument for undeveloped floodway obstruction and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico for urban flooding.

June Luncheon Summary

At the June 27th SAEMS luncheon, results of the recent executive board election were announced and new officers installed. New officers include: President Heather Shoemaker, President-Elect Dawn Weyer, Vice President Dan Williams, Secretary Derek Koller, Treasurer Barb Ricca and Communications Coordinator Sarah Hartwell. Outgoing officers Ken Asch, president, and Dave Mack, secretary, were recognized for their hard work and dedicated service to SAEMS during the prior year. Ken Asch recognized all SAEMS member volunteers for their work during the year to support our education and litter cleanup programs.

Cat Schladweiler was recognized as the SAEMS "Volunteer of the Year". Cat has been very active in SAEMS for many years and her service includes leading the education committee and participating on numerous seminar committees. In addition, Cat is involved in other community environmental organizations, most notably as the Household Hazardous Waste volunteer coordinator. Congratulations and thank you to Cat for all you do in the Tucson community.

The June annual meeting also included a fiscal year financial summary by the treasurer, Barb Ricca, and status reports by all committees. With great appreciation, SAEMS recognized the sponsors who support our programs throughout the year.

SAEMS Quick Bulletins

- SAEMS is currently holding its annual membership renewal drive. Now is the time for individuals and companies to submit their applications for the upcoming year's membership. Please use the attached membership forms to renew.
- Job openings in the environmental field in Southern Arizona are periodically posted on the SAEMS website. If you or someone you know is job hunting, be sure to check http://www.saems.org/job_openings_frameset.htm frequently. Open positions are also forwarded to SAEMS members via the mailing list.
- Save the date – the annual SAEMS P2 seminar is fast approaching. This year, it will be held on September 26, 2012 at the Hotel Tucson. Please see the attached brochure for more details.
- The updated (and some new) SAEMS policies will be posted on the SAEMS website this month. The policy documents are password protected, so please contact the SAEMS Communications Coordinator at communications@saems.org if you require that the username and password be emailed to you so these policies can be accessed.

Message from the Incoming SAEMS President,

Heather P. Shoemaker

"As incoming President of this wonderful organization, I have a few goals for the year that I'd like to briefly outline. First, forwarding an initiative started by outgoing President Ken Asch, I would like to continue strengthening the relationship between SAEMS and the University of Arizona. We have worked hard making connections with faculty, staff and students of the U of A, and we have had a great response from all parties involved. Second, I would like to see SAEMS host training events. Our industry requires various certifications and our luncheons provide a great forum to host them. The third goal is to create a community project grant. It would be great to be a partner of a community project that focuses on the environment. Thank you for the chance to lead this accomplished society."

SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Join us for the next SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, to be held on September 8, 2012. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 AM sharp, at the Sonoita exit, off of I-10. Park in the dirt lot south of I-10. We will leave the parking area by 8:10 after the safety meeting. SAEMS volunteers for a one mile stretch of highway east of the Sonoita exit. Volunteers must be 12 years of age or older and if under 18, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, closed toe shoes, hat and sunscreen. SAEMS will provide safety vests, leather gloves, litter grabbers and collection bags. Also bottled water and snacks will be available. SAEMS will host a lunch at the Triple T truck stop after the cleanup. A prize will be given for the most interesting treasure found. Please contact the event coordinator, Barbara Ricca, at ricca@us.ibm.com or 799-4433 to RSVP or if you have questions.

Single Use Plastic Bag Survey

The Southern Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with community interests, has created a short survey on the ban and/or restriction of the single use plastic bag. Seen in nearly every single retail outlet and grocery store, trash can, road side, floating in the wind and in your kitchen, the single use plastic bag may have one of the largest impacts on our community than any other.

The Green Chamber of Commerce would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete an anonymous survey for future discussion with the City Council on the ban or restriction of the plastic bag. Many other communities have been successful in this effort. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/plasticbagsurvey>.

Help Choose a New State License Plate Design!

Keep Arizona Beautiful is about to launch a new Arizona specialty license plate to raise awareness of their organization and their mission. Keep Arizona Beautiful would like to know what you think. You have the opportunity to vote on two new license plate designs. Please visit <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=126f572901593a48c34fe4e57&id=5833517de1&e=d9b33eee99> to see the designs and place your vote!

EPA Extends Public Comment Period for Visibility rule at three Arizona Power Plants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency extended the public comment period for a rule proposed earlier this month that would require additional pollution controls for nitrogen oxide at three power plants in eastern Arizona. The rule would improve visibility and human health at 18 national parks and wilderness areas, including the Grand Canyon, Saguaro National Park and the Petrified Forest.

EPA is soliciting public comments on the proposal through September 18, and will host two additional public hearings in Arizona. The hearings will be held on August 14, 2012 at 6 PM at Northland Pioneer College (Tiponi Community Center Conference Room) in Holbrook, Arizona, and on August 15, 2012 at 6 PM at Cochise College (Rooms 113 and 115) in Benson, Arizona. The deadline for final EPA action remains November 15, 2012.

On July 2, EPA proposed to approve Arizona's plan that controls emissions of sulfur dioxide and coarse particles from older boilers at the Apache Generating Station, Coronado Generating Station and the Cholla Power Plant. In addition, EPA proposed a federal plan to limit nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions at these plants. Specifically, the proposal is designed to cut NOx emissions by 7,800 tons per year at the Cholla Power Plant, 4,700 tons/year at the Apache Generating Station, and 4,500 tons/year at the Coronado Generating Station.

Under the Clean Air Act, Congress set a long-term goal of restoring natural visibility conditions in numerous national parks and wilderness areas throughout the United States, known as Class 1 Areas. One of the strategies for achieving this goal is the use of Best Available Retrofit Technology at older power plants that cause or contribute to visibility impairment at Class I areas. The three power plants impact 18 of these areas.

For additional information on the proposed rulemaking and opportunities to provide input, please go to: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/az.html#all>.