

May 2, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 6, Session 4 (session 63)

Topics:      Proposal review updates  
                Session notes  
                National spill control school  
                Incident Command System (ICS)  
                National Incident Management System (NIMS)  
                Grant opportunities  
                Upcoming events

### **Proposal Review Updates**

It's time for the "long wait." Proposals are in, and a lot needs to be done on EPA's part. A fair and comprehensive evaluation of 60-100 proposals for 10-12 awards is, at best, a difficult task. Hopefully you will **not** hear from EPA soon, as those **not** meeting qualification requirements will be notified in the next few weeks. Ranking criteria evaluation should take another 2-3 months (July). Make sure you keep in contact with your partners as they may be contacted during the review process.

### **Session Notes**

Thanks go out to Tony Wood with the Texas A&M University, National Spill Control School. Those interested in talking with him can email [tony.wood@tamucc.edu](mailto:tony.wood@tamucc.edu) for additional contact information.

The National Spill Control School (NSCS) was established in 1977 and was named as a consulting, training, and research resource for the National Response Team in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The NSCS offers specialized hands-on OSHA-mandated training for professionals and workers in the oil spill, HAZMAT, and emergency management industries as well as others in exploration, production, and transportation who deal with spill prevention, planning, and response.

NSCS personnel deliver customized training including:

- Oil Spill Prevention, Planning, & Response Training
- HAZMAT & HAZWOPER Courses
- Incident Command & Management Courses
- Hurricane Preparedness Courses
- Disaster Drills & Emergency Management Training
- Industrial Safety Courses

In addition to training response personnel, industrial workers, and military personnel, the NSCS supports the National Response Team's Strike Force with consulting and research as requested. The NSCS is a nationally recognized facility for oil spill research activities. While the NSCS is currently heavily involved in research, professional development, and incumbent training, it would like to expand by adding a community-based environmental workforce and job development program. The community-based program would provide job opportunities for unemployed and underserved residents.

The NSCS provides an example of organizations or partners that can bring to the table a multitude of

leveraged resources. Existing or developing environmental workforce development programs can be greatly enhanced by partnering with organizations such as the NSCS. Facilities, instructors, curriculum, equipment, industrial contacts, depth of knowledge, and experience are just a few of the resources such an organization provides.

Acknowledging the depth and resources of programs like the NSCS, additional assistance through grants and partnerships is still required to address special populations associated with the EPA workforce development program. Partnering and additional assistance is needed to provide the specialized training, life, and work skills required by unemployed and difficult-to-employ community residents.

For those interested in emergency and spill response, Tony provided some excellent resources. Extensive training is available at no cost from FEMA relating to both the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). His feelings are that all environmental workforce program participants should receive NIMS and ICS training.

#### Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach. Training including classroom versions of ICS courses are available from the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI). You can access this material free at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/IncidentCommandSystem.shtm>.

#### National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The basic premise of NIMS is that all incidents begin and end locally. NIMS does not take command away from state and local authorities. NIMS simply provides the framework to enhance the ability of responders, including the private sector and NGOs, to work together more effectively. During emergency or disaster response situations, NIMS and ICS play the primary role in effective and safe remediation. Additional information about NIMS can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/AboutNIMS.shtm>.

### **Current Grant Opportunities**

Search for environmental training at grants.gov for the following federal assistance opportunities:

- Employment and Training Administration with office of Disability Employment
  - June 20 due date
  - \$20 million in grant assistance
  - Training unemployed and underemployed individuals with disabilities
  
- Employment and Training Administration
  - May21 due date
  - \$330k for 3 years assistance
  - Training women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations
  
- Employment and Training Administration
  - May8 due date
  - \$75 million for Youthbuild
  - Providing occupational skills to disadvantaged youth

## Announcements

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

### **National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013**

The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013. The Conference, co-sponsored by U.S. EPA, is the largest and most comprehensive event in the nation that focuses on issues important to community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties. Stay tuned to [www.brownfieldsconference.org](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org) for more information on the 2013 conference.

### **Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012**

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference, May 22-23, 2012, Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City

Rethink ... Reinvest ... Reinvent

Convening at one of Oklahoma City's Brownfields success stories, the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel, hear from industry leaders about the economic, social, and environmental impact of Brownfields redevelopment. Who should attend?

- Realtors & real estate appraisers
- Developers & investors
- Commercial/industrial property owners & bankers
- Attorneys & environmental consultants
- Environmental professionals
- Nonprofit organizations
- Architects, engineers, surveyors, & planners
- Governmental officials involved in redevelopment projects

The registration fee includes programming, breakfast, and lunch for both days, and a networking reception at the Petroleum Club.

Private Sector Registration:

Includes private entities

\$250 Registration through May 21st

\$300 Onsite Registration

Public Sector Registration:

Includes government entities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and education institutions

\$125 Registration through May 21st

\$150 Onsite Registration

The program is posted online at:

[www.oklahomabrownfields.com](http://www.oklahomabrownfields.com)

Registration site: <https://register.wciconferences.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=34671&>

## **Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012**

May 23 - 24, 2012, Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield\\_Conference2012.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield_Conference2012.aspx)

### Why Attend?

- Central location
- Low cost
- Relevant and timely sessions topics
- Networking opportunities
- Outstanding exhibits
- Fascinating keynote speakers
- Excellent presenters
- Conference CD with all presentational content
- Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included

## **Good Jobs, Green Jobs Regional Conferences**

<http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>

Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, May 10-11, 2012, Detroit, Michigan

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session:      May 16, 2012  
   2:00pm EDT

Topic:                      Curriculum Continued  
   Core curricula vs. awareness training  
   Training resources  
   Helpful hints  
   Open discussion

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.