

May 30, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 6, Session 5 (session 65)

Topics:            Updates from Washington  
                      Efforts to Create New Environmental Jobs  
                      Seeking Job Opportunities  
                      Certification Programs & Teaching Aids  
                      Upcoming Events

### **Updates from Washington**

#### Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program Benchmarks

EPA has funded 191 job training grants totaling over \$42 million through the former Brownfields Job Training Program and newly expanded Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program. As of January 2012, approximately 10,275 individuals had completed training and approximately 7,155 obtained employment in the environmental field, with an average starting hourly wage of \$14.12. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 70% for the program, and also includes accomplishments data recorded since the program was created in 1998.

### **Efforts to Support Environmental Workforce Job Development**

The National Brownfields Coalition ramped up outreach to Congress during 2013 Appropriations process. As Congress considers the federal budget for fiscal year 2013, the National Brownfields Coalition is working to support several brownfields-related federal programs, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 108 loan guarantee authority and Sustainable Communities program, and the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) program.

#### Additional Environmental Workforce Job Development Opportunities

The Environmental Protection Agency announced \$69.3 million in grants for new investments to provide communities with funding necessary to clean and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies, and create jobs while protecting public health. The 245 grantees include tribes and communities in 39 states across the country, funded by EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) grants; and Revolving Loan Fund Supplemental grants.

The grants awarded will assess and clean up abandoned industrial and commercial properties. Nearly half of the grantees this year are new awardees who demonstrate a high level of commitment for undertaking specific projects and leveraging the funding to move those projects forward.

See a list of all awarded Brownfields grants by state at [http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf\\_factsheets/](http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_factsheets/).

#### Training and Placement in Wastewater Operations

Wastewater operations jobs provide excellent opportunities for stable long-term employment. EPA is now recognizing the maturing workforce and new opportunities for trained community residents.

### EPA and Department of Veterans Affairs to Connect Veterans with Jobs in Water Sectors

“More than one-third of all current water operators are eligible to retire within seven years and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment for water and wastewater operators is expected to grow by 20 percent between 2008 and 2018 – faster than the national average for all other occupations. EPA sees the need to invest now in creating a pipeline of future water sector professionals to fill these essential water sector careers.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program have announced a Memorandum of Understanding to connect veterans with disabilities to career opportunities in the water and wastewater sectors. The agreement allows EPA and VA to connect qualified veteran employees with staffing needs at water and wastewater utilities. EPA and the VA will work with water utilities, states, and local VA counselors to promote water sector careers and resources for finding water jobs for veterans as well as educational programs to help veterans transition into careers in water industries. The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program further supports veterans for the water workforce by providing necessary accommodations and additional training as needed.

Find out more at [http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/ws\\_workforce.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/ws_workforce.cfm). Find out more about the VA connecting qualified veterans with employer needs at <http://www.vetssuccess.gov/>.

### **Seeking Job Opportunities**

Job placement is the most important component of the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program. As each cycle begins, connections with each of the employment resources below should be considered.

1. Direct employment by traditional employers
  - Identified as part of the needs assessment process
  - Use potential employer members of the Advisory Board
  - Use potential employers as guest speakers
  - Look to non-environmental firms in transportation, retail, and manufacturing
2. Manpower and temporary worker firms
  - Work well during periods of economic uncertainty
  - National in nature – seek out national firms
  - Develop continuing relationships on a program level
3. Job boards
  - Check out *Brownfield Renewal* – a free place to post resumes  
<http://www.brownfieldrenewal.com/jobs.html>
4. Professional meetings
  - Attend local and national professional conferences such as AWWA
  - Ask to present at local or statewide conferences – bring graduates
5. Job fairs
  - Research participating employers
  - Contact interested participants before each event

Provide potential employers with background information  
Set up special meetings with program graduates

6. Governmental employment services
  - Use, but do not depend on massive labor placement services
  - Partner with local college and trade school placement activities

### **Certification Programs & Teaching Aids**

For information on wastewater operator exams and certification, and state requirements for operator exams or certification, please visit the Association of Boards of Certification Web site at <http://www.awwa.org/Resources/operator.cfm?ItemNumber=6356&navItemNumber=32937>

For information on wastewater operator training and resource materials, please visit the AWWA Web site at <http://apps.awwa.org/eBusmain/OnlineStore/ProductListing.aspx?Category=TRAIN>

For information on the requirements for OSHA 10- and 30-hour training, please visit OSHA's Web site at <http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/teachingaids.html>

#### How to become an OSHA-authorized trainer for the construction industry

You must meet separate prerequisites for experience and training. You may not substitute one prerequisite to fulfill the other prerequisite. OSHA does not issue waivers for either the experience or training prerequisites. The prerequisites are as follows:

1. Experience – You must have five years of construction safety experience. A college degree in occupational safety and health, a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) designation may be substituted for two years of experience. Obtain guidance on whether you meet this requirement from the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Center where you want to take the training.
2. Training. You must complete the OSHA course #510, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry. This course covers OSHA policies, procedures, and standards, as well as construction safety and health principles.

After you have fulfilled the prerequisites, you must complete OSHA course #500, Trainer Course in OSHA Standards for Construction. Special emphasis is placed on those topics that are required in the 10- and 30-hour programs, as well as those that are the most hazardous. Course participants are briefed on effective instructional approaches and the effective use of visual aids and handouts. Persons successfully completing this course will receive an "Authorized Construction Trainer Card."

OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers conduct this training. Each OTI posts their course offerings, schedules, and locations on their individual Web sites. Construction outreach trainers are authorized for four years. Before the expiration of their authorization status, authorized trainers must take OSHA course #502, Update for Construction Industry Outreach Trainers, to renew their authorization for another four years. If your card expires, you will have to retake Course #500 to become reauthorized as a trainer.

Authorized trainers may receive OSHA course completion cards for their students.

### How to become an OSHA-authorized trainer for general industry

You must meet separate prerequisites for experience and training. You may not substitute one prerequisite to fulfill the other prerequisite. OSHA does not issue waivers for either the experience or training prerequisites. The prerequisites are as follows:

1. Experience. You must have five years of general industry safety experience. A college degree in occupational safety and health, a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) designation may be substituted for two years of experience. Obtain guidance on whether you meet this requirement from the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Center where you want to take the training.
2. Training. You must complete the OSHA course #511, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry. This course covers OSHA policies, procedures, and standards, as well as general industry safety and health principles.

After you have fulfilled the prerequisites, you must complete OSHA course #501, Trainer Course in OSHA Standards for General Industry. Special emphasis is placed on those topics that are required in the 10- and 30-hour programs as well as those that are the most hazardous. Course participants are briefed on effective instructional approaches and the effective use of visual aids and handouts. Persons successfully completing this course will receive an "Authorized General Industry Trainer Card."

OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers conduct this training. Each OTI posts their course offerings, schedules, and locations on their individual Web sites. General industry outreach trainers are authorized for four years. Before the expiration of their authorization status, authorized trainers must take OSHA course #503, Update for General Industry Outreach Trainers, to renew their authorization for another four years. If your card expires, you will have to retake course #501 to become reauthorized as a trainer.

Authorized trainers may receive OSHA course completion cards for their students.

Additional OSHA publications can be viewed at <http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html>.

### How to become a disaster site worker trainer

For information on becoming a disaster site worker trainer, please visit OSHA's Web site at <http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/disaster/index.html>.

### **Upcoming events**

National Brownfields Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013.

Call for Ideas!!

Organizers of the 15th National Brownfields Conference want your ideas! The program for this annual conference is intended to motivate brownfields stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise and learn from each others' experiences. Venues for over 100 educational sessions include panel and plenary presentations, discussion-based roundtables and town hall meetings, business development opportunities such as the Economic Redevelopment Forum and exhibit hall, mobile workshops, and redevelopment walking tours. Abstracts are due by August 3, 2012. For more information and to submit an abstract, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: June 13, 2012  
2:00pm EDT

Topics: Finding students with the best chance of success  
Targeting participant groups  
Working with Veterans  
Recruiting disabled students  
Disenfranchised populations  
Seeking out the hardest-to-reach groups and communities  
Student recruitment strategies  
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.