

May 3, 2017



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 16, Session 9

- Topics:
1. News from Washington and HMTRI
  2. EWDJT funding awards update
  3. Review and highlights from the HMTRI Update Webinar
  4. Innovative placement strategies—continued
  5. EWDJT resources and assistance
  6. Items of interest and learning opportunities

## **1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI**

### EWDJT Social Media Directory

HMTRI has compiled a Social Media Directory for over 35 EWDJT programs. Websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Google + sites are displayed. Social platforms are linked for users to explore. The Directory will be uploaded to the Brownfields Toolbox website and a notice will be posted to the HMTRI listserv when it is available.

### Important Reminder—Grantees: Update your information for the Certified Employee Finder

The Certified Employee Finder is a compilation of program information regarding certificates, certifications, and core curriculum knowledge that EWDJT students will possess upon graduation.

This information is meant to assist placing graduates. The final document will be distributed on our listserv and posted to our [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website. EPA and potential employers have found this useful information for helping to place graduates.

Please send Glo Hanne ([ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu)) the information below that will update the document.

- 2017 graduation dates
- Approximate number of students graduating on each date
- Certificates and certifications held by graduates
- Other core competencies
- Name, phone number, and email address to be listed as a contact for your program

NOTE: As in the past, all currently funded EWDJT programs will be included in the update with or without specific program information.

## 2. EWDJT FUNDING AWARDS UPDATE

We are just a few weeks away from this year's EWDJT grant award announcements. Touch base with the principal contact on the proposal. They will be first to get the official announcement. HMTRI will post the list of funded programs as soon as they are released.

After your award—what's next?

- Check in with your regional EPA EWDJT coordinator.
- July/August—Administrative and work plan approvals. Funds may be spent up to 90 days before completion of final paperwork after official acceptance is made.
- August/September—Official notice that funds are available for spending.
- August 9–10, 2017—Annual All-Grantee Meeting in Alexandria, VA.
- September and ongoing—Training and execution of work plans including quarterly and ACRES reports.
- November 2017—FY2018 EWDJT Request for Proposals issued (tentative).
- December 5–7, 2017—National Brownfields Training Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

## 3. REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HMTRI UPDATE WEBINAR

HMTRI's Annual Grantee Update Webinar was held April 25, 2017. This year's topic was "The Application of Hazardous Waste Standards to Brownfields Sites" with HMTRI's Master Trainer, John Morgan. John's PowerPoint and a recording of this webinar are available to download on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website.

During this PLC session, we reviewed a few of the topics addressed in the webinar.

Exactly what is HAZWOPER and why is it mandatory?

The Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has recognized since World War II the importance of keeping workers safe at military industrial sites. By 1984, OSHA, EPA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Coast Guard provided guidance to what was to become Federal Register 29CFR1910.120. HAZWOPER comes from the military acronym derived from Hazardous Waste Operations. Most importantly, 29CFR1919.120 spells out in detail the training necessary to keep workers safe in cleanup operations and emergency response in working with hazardous materials. As EPA developed the EWDJT program, the importance of keeping workers safe during cleanup operations was clear. For that reason, HAZWOPER training became mandatory. Other OSHA training associated with health and safety during cleanup, while not mandatory, can be funded with EWDJT funds (such as OSHA 10 for General Construction).

Certifications—what do they mean and who issues them?

Certifications come in all shapes and sizes. They may be issued by a certifying agency, an employer, a trainer, or government agency. It is important to determine the type of certification being offered, who recognizes it, and its importance. For example:

- HAZWOPER—A training certificate may be issued by the EWDJT program, but final certification and responsibility falls on specific operations and hazards at the work site. Details of training and certification are specific and presented in 29CFR1910.120.
- Asbestos and lead—Requires approved curriculum on either the state or federal level
- OSHA certifications—Training must be conducted by OSHA-authorized trainers
- State certifications—May involve state-approved curriculum and/or instructors
- EWDJT and third party certifications—May involve state-approved curriculum and/or instructors, or may be an agency- or organization-issued certification

As illustrated, there is not a single certificate or certifying organization covering EWDJT training. It is important that EWDJT project officers ensure that trainers have the proper authorizations (if required) and are using an approved curriculum (when required). Assurances should be written into the training contract as a condition of employment.

Where can I find capable trainers? Are they capable and are they qualified?

Those are questions to ask potential trainers. Below are a few of the resources for finding local trainers.

- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) can assist in finding certified trainers for OSHA courses.
- [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) (NIEHS) provides extensive resources related to health and safety training. NIEHS funds 20 nonprofit organizations dedicated to worker protection training.
- Third party trainers and consultants such as OSHA and [OutreachTrainers.org](#) provide a variety of training and certifications.
- Local health and environmental agencies, state Brownfields coordinators, and voluntary cleanup coordinators may also be an excellent source for qualified trainers.
- Universities and community colleges are excellent partners for providing health and safety training. [CCCHST](#) (an NIEHS grantee) trains vetted trainers in 34 states and two territories dedicated to environmental health and safety training.

What is your liability if a graduate is injured on the job? Can his training (or lack of training) become an issue? The answer is yes. This is why it is of utmost importance that the trainers are well vetted. Programs should keep training records with pre- and post-tests signed by students with documentation

regarding the training received. Likely, the primary responsibility for worker health and safety will go back to the employer, but it remains a best practice to maintain your own training records. As previously noted, trainer responsibilities should be included as part of the training contract.

#### **4. INNOVATIVE PLACEMENT STRATEGIES—CONTINUED**

We have spent considerable time in past PLC sessions discussing placement and strategies that work well for many of our grantees. Every once in a while, we come across a really good strategy that is not widely used but would be of great benefit to EWDJT grantees and their graduates.

In April, the PLC visited St. Nick's Alliance. Placement strategies there are innovative and comprehensive. The program works closely with its partners, vendors, and stakeholders to track job opportunities for graduates and alumni. Bob Din, St. Nick's account manager, mentioned a special strategy we would like to share with other grantees.

Before every graduate is placed, Bob asks them to look ahead 90 days. Identify any time when the graduate may have to take off from work for probation meetings, court appearances, or other personal issues. Before placement, these potential employment issues are discussed with the employer to avoid surprises or tardiness by the new hire. This approach results in excellent relationships between the program, employer, and newly placed graduates.

#### Other placement strategies important to remember

- It is important to be available when employers are seeking screened, trained, and certified workers. It is most important to maintain that contact even when they have no immediate openings. When openings arise, the EWDJT program needs to be first in line.
- Invite employers to graduation.
- Email a list of certifications and the training provided to graduates. Early in the cohort is the time to distribute program brochures as widely as possible. Do not wait until graduation approaches.
- Invite local government officials to be guest speakers and to graduation. Elected officials enjoy photo opportunities with the programs and students they support. More important, they have connections to local employers.
- Visit [Cleanups in My Community](#) to locate and research active cleanup sites to identify contractors and subcontractors working on the site.
- If there is a local remediation or operators union, contact the business manager to discuss the EWDJT program.

- Alumni are your sales force and representatives in the field. If possible, offer alumni free refreshers and opportunities to attend classes and class events.

## 5. EWDJT RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

### EWDJT Social Media Directory

HMTRI has compiled a social media directory for over 35 EWDJT programs. Websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Google + social platforms are linked for easy navigating. The Social Media Directory is on HMTRI's [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website in the Download section.

### Environmental health and safety apps available for download

[Freeware](#) maintains a collection of apps on environmental health and safety for smartphones and mobile devices. The apps provide a wide range of capabilities, such as recording, mapping, and sharing health and environmental data using your smartphone.

### Brownfields Toolbox

Post-session notes and audio recordings from Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions and much more about environmental workforce development programs are available on HMTRI's [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website. EPA documents including RFP guidelines are also housed on the website.

Visitors to the website may want to look at the [Start a Program](#) section. Click on the Start a Program tab along the top. Many components are regularly updated, so check back often.

## 6. ITEMS OF INTEREST AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### [Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center](#) (BTSC)

All things Brownfields including the Brownfields Road Map, contacts, procurement, and learning opportunities are available.

### [TechDirect](#)

TechDirect's purpose is to identify new technical, policy, and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments, and groundwater. Anyone interested in subscribing or viewing previous issues of TechDirect may visit their website. The TechDirect messages of the past can be searched by keyword or can be viewed as individual issues.

## [CLU-IN](#)

EPA's Contaminated Site **Clean-Up Information** (CLU-IN) website offers comprehensive information designed to assist hazardous waste cleanup professionals in finding the latest information on innovative hazardous waste treatment technologies including information on programs, organizations, publications, and access to data bases and other tools for cleanups. CLU-IN users include EPA staff, other federal and state personnel, consulting engineers, technology vendors, remediation contractors, researchers, community groups, and the public. CLU-IN provides an ongoing series of free internet seminars.

## [Trainex](#)

Training Exchange (Trainex) is designed to provide a wide range of training information to EPA, other federal agencies, states, tribes, and local staff involved in hazardous waste management and remediation. Trainex focuses on free training directed to federal and state staff. This site includes training schedules for deliveries of many courses, both classroom and Internet-based.

EPA works in partnership with organizations such as the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to offer training relevant to hazardous waste remediation, site characterization, risk assessment, emergency response, site/incident management, counter-terrorism, and the community's role in site management and cleanup.

## [ITRC](#)

The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a public/private coalition working to reduce barriers to the use of innovative environmental technologies that reduce compliance costs and maximize cleanup efficacy. ITRC produces documents and training that broaden and deepen technical knowledge and expedite quality regulatory decision-making while protecting human health and the environment. ITRC achieves its mission through its technical teams which are composed of environmental professionals including state and federal environmental regulators, federal agency representatives, industry experts, community stakeholders, and academia. Since 1995, ITRC has published hundreds of documents and reached tens of thousands of participants through training courses on hundreds of topics.

### 2017 Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

Mark your calendar and register for the 2017 Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting. The meeting will be held August 9–10 at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria located at 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Travel days are August 8 and 11.

This meeting will be attended by:

- EPA regional and headquarters staff
- Present EPA-funded EWDJT grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members

The deadline to register and to make hotel reservations in the reserved block of rooms is **Monday, July 17, 2017**. **PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!** Contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu) to register or for more information.

### National Brownfields Training Conference

Mark your calendar for the [National Brownfields Training Conference](#) to be held in Pittsburgh, PA on December 5–7, 2017 with pre-conference workshops on December 4. The conference is co-sponsored by the EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The conference, offered every two years, is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing formerly utilized commercial and industrial properties.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session:        May 17, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. ET  
Please call in five minutes early.

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



Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](#) website for more information on Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. All [PLC session notes and recordings](#) are also located on the website. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and job training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA or its policy and should not be taken as official guidance.