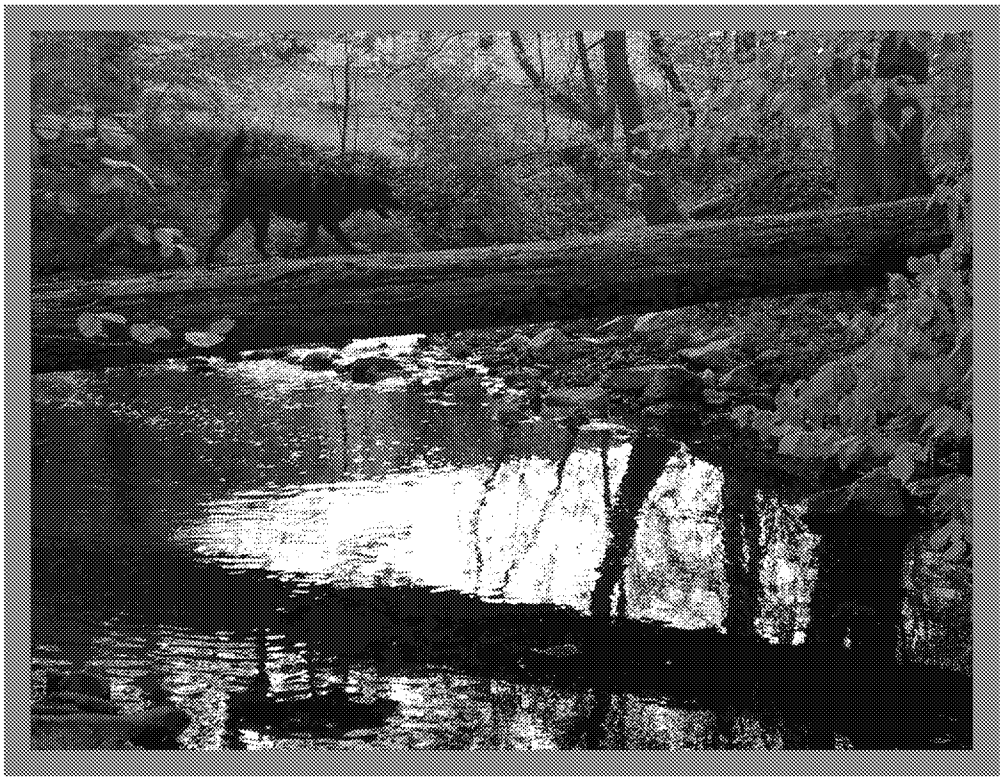
THE SEMDAY TIMES

JUNE2020



HIGHLIGHTS

Huddling moves to a virtual platform

Spotlight on the Site Assessment Section

These parents have a lot to celebrate this year

Getting creative during the COVID-19 pandemic

Celebrating EPA's 50th Anniversary through Cleanup Month

Learn a little more about your newly minted Division Director and Deputy Division Director

Photo credit: Spunky Nilsen out for a socially distanced stroll across Baldwin Run in Aston, PA (Ashley Nilsen)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

After being your acting Director the past 16 months, I am very happy to be able to continue as your Director. As you know I'm proud of all the work you do, and I know our division does a great job directly protecting human health and the environment. I'm also happy that Linda will be your permanent Deputy. We are both excited to continue our efforts to provide you with the leadership and support you need to continue your excellent work. Thank you all for your support over the past year and a half and I'm looking forward to our continued success. I'm also excited to now be in position to fill our management positions over the next several months.

Although we can't get together in person for our divisional awards ceremony, we will press on in our virtual world. While sitting in my dining room for 10 hours a day has its advantages (snacks and coffee right next to me), it doesn't diminish the importance for us to celebrate with our peers and acknowledge those who have stood out over the past year. As we get ready to move through the summer and the changes we will see in our office life, please know that Linda and I will be working with you and your supervisors to make good decisions.

Paul Leonard

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WORKING REMOTELY WITH ELMS

Test your ELMS Knowledge!

_____ is the 'behind schedule' section of a flow board

(Answer below)

As everyone is becoming familiar with Microsoft Teams, your ELMS champions would like to highlight a few tools that can make your virtual huddles more effective and fun! Visual management is a key piece of your ELMS project and its success. Although we are all in different locations, **you can continue to use visual management tools to 'see' your boards, keep your projects moving and achieve results.**

- Microsoft Planner in Teams can be used to set up a virtual Flow Board to track workflow and associated timeframes as well as to identify bottlenecks or potential problems in your process. Check out how to set up your virtual flow board here.
- To view projects metrics, track attendance, document employee ideas on your Action Registry and more – use this Excel template of a virtual Performance Board.

Many resources exist at OCI's intranet site. YOU, however, have your ELMS Champions here to assist you! Feel free to reach out to Sandy Allen (x3150), Leslie Jones (x3409), Micka Peck (x5192) or Maryanne Ruiz (x5123) to assist you with your ELMS needs.

In other ELMS happenings, the **Proposed Plan ELMS projects** continue at full tilt with the goal of reducing the time required to issue a proposed plan for public comment after completing the Feasibility Study. The average time was 247 days. Huddles include participants from SEMD, ORC, and OPA. **Both the Current Proposed Plan and the IPT Proposed Plan Pilot ELMS projects have integrated use of virtual Flow Boards and Performance Boards** in Teams along with utilizing the shared document editing features of Word via OneDrive. The IPT team is using integrated project team meetings and is piloting the virtual MSD Performance Board. Below are some other ways the projects differ.

Proposed Plan Project	Goal (Days)	Process Steps	Plans being evaluated	Huddle Frequency
Current	185	9	12	Bi-weekly
IPT	90	6	1	Weekly

Answer: Andon

WELCOME & FAREWELL

As time marches on, SEMD continues to see changes in our ranks. We give our best wishes on the following job changes.

Andrea Bain was selected as the Chief of the Data Support Section in ECAD.

Audrey Clark will join the SEMD Front Office and Preparedness and Response Branch as an Administrative Assistant on June 21st.

Susie Chun is acting as the Section Chief for the Program Support Section until August.

Leslie Jones has returned as a federal facilities RPM after her detail in ECAD.

Kail Hess will join the ranks of RPMs and will be working in the Western PA/MD Section starting in June.

Claudette Reed was selected as the Program Support and Cost Recovery Branch Chief.

FIELD WORK TIP

Are you still getting out in the field during the COVID-19 pandemic? Be sure to use the Health and Safety Guidance to evaluate how to safely conduct site work. And remember that management is reviewing all travel requests with your safety as the top priority.

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TIP OF THE HAT

Shout-out to our SEMD colleagues who are making strides from their home offices.

We appreciate **Lorie Baker** for stepping up and working with the Navy on the joint Hartsville GW PFAS investigation as well as helping the Federal Facilities section in providing RPM oversight at the Norfolk Naval Base while Leslie Jones was on detail.

Big thanks to **Lisa Donahue** who organized and delivered the first SEMD virtual RPM meeting, got a ROD signed and delivered her first PRAP briefing.

A shout-out and thank you to all of the **human health risk assessors** who have all volunteered to take on more site work while we work to fully staff the group again. Their dedication to the mission and in helping out one another is inspiring and a testament to this great group.

A shout-out goes to **Wanda Johnson** for her excellent work with the States to strengthen their capacity to manage their Cooperative Agreements (CA). In particular, she helped WV to overcome some major obstacles. With her support, WVDEP was the first R3 State to submit their CA application.

The efforts of several members of the Preparedness and Response branch are recognized for their efforts to maintain our readiness to respond safely to releases and discharges of hazardous substances and oil. **Glen Lapsley, Raj Sharma, Ashley Nilsen**, and **Don McLaughlin** put extra effort into keeping our response equipment ready for emergency use and developing regional health and safety guidelines to keep our OSC responders safe.

This month's Remedial shout-out goes to the **RPMs, support staff and management** that have been finalizing decision documents at a remarkable pace. Recent accomplishments include ROD Amendments for Spectron, Arrowhead, and H&H Burn Pit and ESDs for Westinghouse Sharon, Central Chemical, Spectron, and North Penn 6. Moreover, the Bert's Sand Pit ROD Amendment is final and waiting for State concurrence. If that wasn't enough, on the horizon are Proposed Plans for Valmont, Jackson Ceramix, and Hanlin-Allied-Olin and a ROD for Franklin Slag. An amazing amount of work produced by an amazing group of dedicated people!

THE SITE ASSESSMENT SECTION: FROM ALPHA TO OMEGA

The Site Assessment (SA) Program is often considered the beginning of the Superfund pipeline. **This group is like a triage unit in the emergency room after the first responders address the immediate emergency.** While the Removal Program looks at emergencies and short-term risk, SA looks at the potential for long term risk at a site. The team is comprised of scientists and engineers that function as project managers and Agency representatives to the public. An important part of the SA program is listing sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). SA has been working to list the Blades Groundwater site, which would be the first site in Region 3 where listing is partially based on PFAS contamination.

With that said, **SA is about much more than NPL listing**! They coordinate with SEMD management and partner with our states to see what kind of options are best suited to addressing a site. SA often identifies sites that pose a possible risk to human health and the environment that may have not been on anyone's radar before they worked on them. Even if contaminated sites are not placed on the NPL, the sites they have evaluated often end up getting cleaned up in other programs such as State Programs or the superfund alternative program (SAS).

Since the realignment, **SA also includes the Land Revitalization Action Team** (LRAT), which focuses on redeveloping sites that have been cleaned up. The Superfund Reuse Coordinator works with Headquarters to produce a variety of reuse products such as "Ready for Reuse Fact Sheets," Site Reuse Assessments, comfort letters, and other products to promote the redevelopment of CERCLA sites. Already this fiscal year, LRAT has executed a record 14 comfort letters. With the addition of the Superfund reuse program, this section is the alpha and omega of SEMD.

Looking for a colleague to talk sports or nerd out over sci-fi or fantasy universes? Look no further than Site Assessment. When in the office, they can be found on the "bright" side of the 8th floor.

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JULY MARKS CLEANUP MONTH

As our celebrations for EPA's 50th anniversary continue, each month we recognize a different aspect of EPA's work. With July's theme of "Cleaning Up the Nation's Lands," SEMD's work takes center stage along with our RCRA and Brownfields programs. As a division, we have many accomplishments to take pride in. A few highlights are below.

SEMD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Site Assessment program successfully listed the Shaffer Equipment site
- Hurricane fact sheets were sent to over 900 facilities in preparation of hurricane season
- Cleanup progress at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot has made it a desirable site for re-use, with six comfort letters executed and another on the way, a record for Region 3
- Nearly 200 Eastwick residential yards have been cleaned up as part of the Lower Darby Creek Area cleanup, which reduced the greatest risk for residential exposure to contaminants from the site

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS AND GRADUATES!

These proud parents are celebrating big milestones.

Wanda Martinez and **Luis Pizarro** are proud to celebrate their son's, Alec Pizarro, graduation from Rutgers University as a Mechanical Engineers with high honors. Alec will continue his Masters at University of Michigan in the fall.

Kira Nevshehirlian, daughter of **Stepan Nevshehirlian**, graduates Lenape High School in June and has committed to attend Drexel University starting in the fall to pursue a B.S. in Chemical Engineering.

Maryanne Ruiz and Carlos Carrero are proud to announce their son's, Cristobal Carrero, graduation from Liberty University, with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Apologetics. Cris will being working as a missionary with Cru in Sweden starting in the fall.

Bob Stroud's son, Mason, has made the honor roll as a junior at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where he majors in literary media and communications.

Randy Sturgeon's son, Connor, is graduating high school and will major in Mechanical Engineering in the fall at the University of Arizona.

LINDA DIETZ FUN FACTS

Where did you grow up?
Far Northeast Philly– Normandy
First car?
1978 Red Chevy Impala
Favorite Venue?
Any beach

PAUL LEONARD FUN FACTS

Where did you grow up?
Harrowgate Section of Philly
First car?
8 year old Toyota Corolla
Favorite Venue?
Atlantic Ocean

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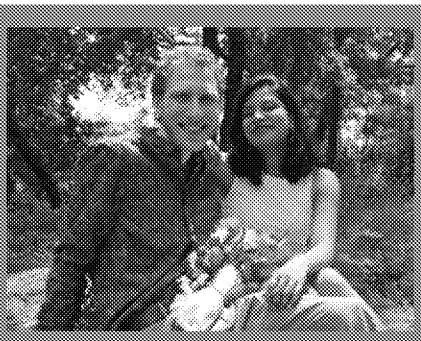
SEMD ADAPTING TO LIFE UNDER COVID-19 QUARANTINE

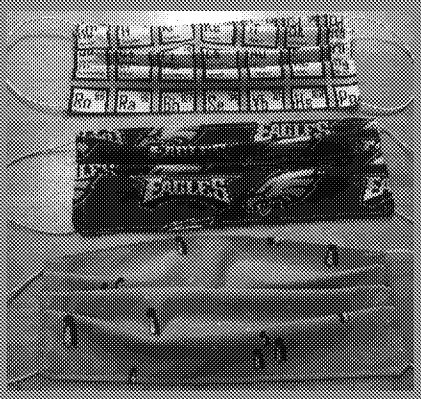
The COVID-19 pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on each of our lives. From how we stock our fridge to care for our loved ones, few things look quite the same. Each of us finds our own ways to adjust, and your SEMD colleagues have a few quarantine wins they'd like to share.



Deb Goldblum celebrated over Zoom as her son, Adrian, tied the knot in NYC on May 28th (pictured top right with his wife, Poonam). This virtual wedding was particularly special because it enabled the bride's parents and siblings, who live in Nepal, to be present for the ceremony.

Sarah Kloss and her daughter, Asha, worked as a team to on her quaran-cut, shown right. Asha took the lead and Sarah swooped in with a correction cut.

Missing that piping-hot, oven fresh pizza from your favorite local joint? **Peter Ludzia** has you covered. Pack along some plates, napkins, cutlery, and drinks for a car-based pizza picnic. His favorite? Chicken pesto pizza.



Mindi Snoparsky has been putting her quilting skills to good use to create cloth masks (see a few examples at right). Mindi has donated around 80 masks to healthcare workers as well as friends and family.

Trying to avoid unhealthy snacking with the fridge constantly calling? **Claudette Reed** is loving a new Chewy Granola Bar recipe and you could too (see below).

Chewy Granola Bar Recipe

Ingredients

2 1/2 C. Rolled or Steel Cut oats
1/2 C. Pumpkin seeds
1/2 C. Pecans, chopped
1/3 C. Cranberries
1/3 C. Medjool dates
1/3 C. Any other dried fruit (apricots, blueberries, prunes, cherries, etc.)
1/3 C. Semi-sweet chocolate chunks
1/3 C. Honey
1/4 C. Brown Sugar, lightly packed
1/4 C. Butter
1/2 Tsp. Vanilla extract
1/4 Tsp. Allspice, Cinnamon, or Nutmeg
1/4 Tsp. Salt

Instructions

Heat oven to 425 °F. Line the bottom and sides of an 8" or 9" square baking pan with foil. Oil the foil. Set pan aside.
Add oats and nuts to a baking sheet, mix and bake for 5 minutes. Remove and stir.
Bake an additional 3-5 minutes until lightly toasted.
Transfer to a large mixing bowl and set aside.
In a small saucepan, combine the butter, sugar, honey, vanilla extract, salt, and spice. Over medium heat, melt butter and dissolve sugar, stirring occasionally.
Pour butter mixture into toasted oats, mix well and let cool for 5 minutes.
Add the dried fruit and chocolate chunks, and combine well.
Place mixture in lined baking pan and press firmly and evenly to compact the mixture.
Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Remove and immediately cut into bars or blocks while still cold.

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