

ANNUAL FALL JOINT CONFERENCE 2023

Speaker Biographies (listed in chronological order)



CHRIS OCCHIPINTI [CONFERENCE CHAIR] is a Project Manager and lead dispersion modeler at NTH Consultants, Ltd. He has 17 years of experience providing professional consulting services, specializing in air quality, to a broad range of clients. His technical expertise includes air dispersion modeling, major and minor source permitting, compliance auditing, and regulatory compliance studies. Mr. Occhipinti has provided consulting services to state agencies and public and private sector clients in the areas of emissions calculations, data analysis, data review, report writing, and quality assurance. He has a BS in Physics from Michigan Technological University and an MS in Atmospheric Science from NC State. He is a member of the West Michigan Air and Waste Management Association board and has been involved on the conference planning committees for many years.

PHIL ROOS was named director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in July of 2023. He oversees EGLE's \$1 billion budget and 1,400-person team dedicated to protecting Michigan's environment and public health through managing the state's air, water, land, and energy resources. Nestled in the heart of the world's greatest freshwater ecosystem, Michigan EGLE has a unique regulatory role in ensuring the Great Lakes and their connecting waters remain the vital cultural, recreational, ecological, and economic engines of the region. The agency also regulates air quality, waste management, drinking water, groundwater, oil and gas extraction, and contaminated site remediation. Phil is an entrepreneur, business leader, and a consultant with deep expertise in organizational strategy, innovation, and growth. He has held senior leadership positions in numerous large and early-stage companies, as well as two consulting firms he founded. Environmental protection has been a constant in his life. He has been a longtime board member and officer of wildlife, conservation, and health organizations, and was vice chair of Michigan's Council on Climate Solutions. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and a master's in business administration from the Harvard Business School. Phil is married with three adult children and two wonderful dogs. His hobbies include playing hockey, cycling, music history, and health and fitness. He lives in Ann Arbor.

KURT KISSLING [MODERATOR] is an environmental attorney and Partner in the Southfield office of Warner Norcross + Judd. Kurt counsels clients around the United States, but focuses his legal practice on permitting, compliance, enforcement, and rulemaking based on the Clean Air Act and its local equivalents. Kurt serves on the board of the East Michigan Chapter of A&WMA, but also chairs the Air Committee and serves on the Council for the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. His complete biography can be found at <https://www.wnj.com/people/kurt-a-kissling>. Kurt can be reached at (313) 546-6142 or at kkissling@wnj.com.

LIZ BROWNE has spent her career in the environmental protection programs at the state of Michigan and has managed to work in most of the program areas in the agency. Along the way, Liz did stints as the department's emergency management coordinator and provided support to the Deputy Director while creating the DEQ's Individual Development Plan process. Liz served as the Assistant Chief of the Resource Management Division. She served as the last Chief for the Land and Water Management Division addressing issues such as wetlands, dunes, and inland lakes and streams. There were also turns as the Chief of the Superfund Section and the Field Operations Manager for the Storage Tank Division. A significant amount of her experience was gained in the Waste Management Division where she was the program's Environmental Monitoring, Safety and Health Coordinator, Shiawassee District Supervisor, and the first Shiawassee District Multi-Media Coordinator. Liz also represents the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy as a member of Michigan State University's Great Lakes Leadership Academy Advisory Group.

ANNETTE SWITZER is Director of the Air Quality Division at the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Annette led the Division's Air Permit Section for seven years prior to being named director in early 2023. Annette began her civil service career as an air permit engineer where she used her education to work on the most complicated air permit applications. She is a proud graduate of Michigan Technological University with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. She maintains her professional engineers license and believes continuing to learn is an important part of navigating through the highly technical world of air quality rules and regulations.

PHIL ARGIROFF is the Assistant Director of the Water Resources Division of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). He has 36 years of experience with the state water quality program. Previous roles include 20 years in the district overseeing engineering reviews of wastewater treatment systems and permit compliance and as southeast Michigan's District Supervisor and Permits Section Chief. Phil earned both his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and his Master of Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan.

MIKE NELLER is a native of East Lansing and is currently the Director of the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Mike started off in EGLE in 2018 in the Materials Management Division as the Section Manager of the Radiological Protection Section before assuming his current position in December 2019. Prior to coming to work at the State of Michigan, Mike has enjoyed a varied and exciting career in many different vocations. Mike attended college at the U.S. Naval Academy where he received his BS degree and was commissioned as a Naval Officer. Upon graduation he began his post graduate training and education as a nuclear engineer. Upon completion of this 12-month program he attended the Submarine Officer's Basic Course and began his over 25-year career as a Nuclear Submarine Officer. Mike served on four different submarines, both fast attack and strategic missile boats, and was the Commanding Officer of the USS Florida (SSBN 728) when it was part of the nation's strategic nuclear deterrence arsenal. Post 9-11 he was stationed overseas in Naples, Italy, where he served as the Director of Submarine Operations in the Mediterranean and as the Chief of Staff of a multi-national intelligence gathering task force. Besides his time in operational assignments in the Navy, he served for two years on the Navy's Staff at the pentagon in addition to completing two tours of duty at two Universities (Cornell and Notre Dame) that had Naval Reserve Officer Training Units. While at Cornell he co-taught a course offered through the engineering department on Propulsion Systems and Ship Design and while at Notre Dame was both a Department Chair in addition to teaching a class on Leadership and Ethics. After retirement from the Navy, Mike worked in manufacturing operations and maintenance at a solar panel company, a sportswear apparel company, and at an international company that manufactured household cleaning products. Prior to coming to EGLE, he was the Dean of Students at a private boarding school, Culver Academies, in Indiana for several years.

LILLIAN WOOLLEY [MODERATOR] is a professional engineer with more than twenty years of experience doing environmental engineering, primarily air quality permitting and compliance work. Prior to joining Fishbeck she worked for DTE Energy supervising its Emissions Quality Program working on NSR litigation, NSR permitting and other air quality compliance work. She was the Air Quality Manager at ANR Pipeline Company where she managed the NSR and Title V Permitting for 64 compressor stations in 15 states. She was also the District Supervisor for Southeast Michigan (including the Detroit Office) during the Wayne County Assumption Program.

TRACE MCDONALD has been with the EGLE Air Quality Division since 1998 as a Grand Rapids district inspector, air dispersion modeler, and state implementation plan/rule writer. He's currently focused on ozone issues for the nonattainment areas in West Michigan as well as NOx rules. In his spare time, he's a wannabe lumberjack and sawyer.

DAVE MORGAN is the manager of the newly created Data Applications and Technology Support Unit within EGLE Air Quality Division. Prior to this role, Dave spent 27 years as an inspector for the Air Quality Division, in both the Southeast Michigan and Grand Rapids District Offices, working with a wide variety of industries. In addition, he serves as the Michigan compliance and enforcement data steward for Air data flows to US EPA. He is currently leading the Air Quality Division's implementation of a comprehensive electronic data management system, MiEnviro Portal. Dave holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in Environmental Science.

STEPHANIE JARRETT graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in chemical engineering. She has worked for Fishbeck for 18 years assisting and managing a wide range of environmental compliance matters for a diverse clientele that includes the power industry, chemical manufacturing plants, automotive and more. Stephanie is the air quality team leader and is involved with a variety of air quality and environmental compliance projects. She assists clients with emission inventories, monitoring plans, chemical mass balances, and technical and economic feasibility studies for pollution control equipment and processes. Stephanie also manages greenhouse gas emissions footprints and reporting for a variety of clients. Stephanie is a licensed engineer in the State of Michigan.

TRISTA GREGORSKI, P.E. [MODERATOR] is the Safety and Regulatory Compliance Manager at the Holland Board of Public Works overseeing environmental compliance, safety, and other regulatory driven programs utility wide. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biosystems Engineering with a specialization in Environmental Economics and Public Policy from Michigan State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Michigan. Trista has worked in the energy field for over 15 years, spending the past 9 years at Public Power Utilities.

HAROLD (J.R.) REGISTER has 25 years of experience in solid and hazardous waste management and environmental remediation, formerly working as a state regulator in Florida and most recently as a senior principal environmental engineer for Consumers Energy. In his current role, Mr. Register leads engaging conversations in state and federal policy for Coal Combustion Residuals (CCRs), waste management, and environmental remediation issues, and serves as the technical chair of the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group (USWAG) Ash Management Committee. He also continues to pursue innovative technical and professional solutions for the current and former Consumers Energy coal-fired generating facilities through strategic planning and compliance-focused execution.

RHONDA OYER is a graduate of Michigan State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in biological science and Miami University's Project Dragonfly where she received a Master of Arts in biology. Her master's work focused on working with numerous community collaborators to begin to develop a deconstruction framework for the City of Lansing to address blight and building materials reuse and move the city to a circular economy for the built environment. She joined the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in 1991 and has been "talking trash" ever since! Rhonda has held various positions within EGLE as a tireless proponent of sustainability. She became the Solid Waste Section Manager in September 2016, where she continues to promote talking about "trash" in a different way. She is an advocate for recycling and other sustainable materials management practices and keeps looking for other options on the materials management continuum. Rhonda has been recognized nationally for leading a successful regulatory and oversight program that cleaned up over 30 million abandoned scrap tires in Michigan and provides market development research for new uses of scrap tires, such as rubber-modified asphalt for roads.

ANNMARIE SANFORD is a Member at Dickinson Wright PLLC, resident in its Troy office. Ms. Sanford is primarily engaged in environmental remediation, environmental regulatory issues and counseling clients regarding compliance with federal and state chemical regulations. Before attending law school, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. Since 1990, Ms. Sanford has represented clients at Superfund sites throughout the United States, Michigan Part 201 sites, and sites under other state cleanup programs. Throughout her career, she has integrated her scientific technical knowledge into her practice to achieve favorable outcomes for clients. Ms. Sanford has significant experience

advising clients regarding the many unique issues posed by emerging contaminants including PFAS. Ms. Sanford is active in the community and has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations. Ms. Sanford also has been a LEED accredited professional since 2009. Ms. Sanford can be reached at ASanford@dickinsonwright.com.

SCOTT SINKWITTS [MODERATOR] is an attorney with Consumers Energy Company, the state's second largest utility and one of the largest combined gas and electric utilities in the U.S., serving 6.8 million of Michigan's 10 million residents. With his office located in Jackson, he is responsible for air and water issues affecting the corporation including permitting, operations, enforcement, and litigation. He regularly counsels his clients with regards to issues involving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. He also advises the company on political law issues and MIOSHA related matters. He has been involved in the State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section for several years where he is a former chair and helps plan seminars and conferences. Scott is also the former chair of the Michigan Manufacturing Association Lawyer's Committee. Prior to his practice in environmental law, he worked in commercial litigation for another Consumers Energy Company affiliate and in private practice. He has a degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University and received his law degree from Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University in 1997.

F/LT. VENCE WOODS is a lifelong resident of Michigan and an avid outdoors person and residing in Gaylord. He has 36 plus years in Law Enforcement and 13 years in traditional law enforcement holding various positions. He started with the Department of Environmental Quality as a Det. Sergeant in 2000 and was promoted to First Lieutenant and Section Supervisor in 2010 at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Vence is also a current member of the DNR Law Enforcement Division management team.

RICHARD J. POWERS is a Senior Trial Attorney in the Environmental Crimes Section (ECS) of the U.S. Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. He graduated from the University of Illinois Law School in 1992 and served as a U.S. Army Assistant Judge Advocate General from 1993 to 1997. Mr. Powers was an Assistant State's Attorney from 1997 to 2005 and Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Crimes Bureau from 2005 to 2009. He has been with DOJ ECS since 2009.

MADELAINE LANE is an accomplished white-collar criminal defense attorney, assisting clients with everything from complex civil investigations involving high-volume documents and high-risk publicity, to responding to discovery requests and conducting internal investigations, to creating convincing litigation strategies and leading a persuasive criminal defense at trial. She has extensive experience working in several sectors, including higher education, environmental, automotive, healthcare, finance, and agriculture, among others. As co partner-in-charge, directing the firm's eDiscovery Center, Ms. Lane has led some of the state's largest criminal and civil discovery matters in recent years. She regularly handles internal investigations and also explores whistleblower allegations involving the False Claims Act in a variety of industries, including healthcare, finance, and defense. She is recognized as one of the go-to lawyers in Michigan when clients need to create programs focused on sexual abuse prevention and detection training. If allegations of wrongdoing arise, she coordinates with law enforcement agencies and defends clients in civil and criminal cases. Ms. Lane also serves as Warner's deputy general counsel, handling questions regarding privilege and ethics at the firm level.