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2012 ASTSWMO President's Letter

January 19, 2012

Dear ASTSWMO Members:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), I thank you for your commitment to ensuring that ASTSWMO is a beacon of environmental leadership to our members: the 50 States, five Territories and the District of Columbia (States). As we start 2012, I hope that it will be as healthy and productive as in years past. I assumed the ASTSWMO Presidency on October 26, 2011, and I take it as my personal charge to ensure that the momentum we have created over the many years be continued and built upon.

During the first quarter of my Presidency, the Board finalized the Association Bylaws during the October 2011 Annual Meeting in Bethesda, MD, and submitted formal comments to EPA on November 14, 2011, regarding EPA's *Notice of Data Availability* for the proposed rulemaking for the *Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Special Wastes: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities*. Both of these documents are listed on the ASTSWMO website.

I want to encourage you to continue your involvement in this organization and if not a member, then look to become active on a Task Force, Focus Group, the Board or run for office. I have found that I have gained so much during my time as the Region 8 Board Representative, the year as Vice-President, and now as President. *Our successful Members in Action program, now in its fifth year, ensures that ASTSWMO remains viable by cultivating the experience and expertise of our members.* If interested in joining a group, visit the Members page on the ASTSWMO website: <http://astswmo.org/Pages/Members/Members.html>

We have also implemented ASTSWMO's newsletter, which is sent out quarterly to all of the membership. The newsletter as well as ASTSWMO's Facebook and LinkedIn pages are new ways we are communicating and keeping our members informed.

This year we will continue to offer excellent meetings that will offer valuable training and networking opportunities for the members. The current meetings schedule includes:

- April 25-26, 2012: Mid-Year Meeting in Montgomery, AL. **Registration is now Open.**
- June 19-21, 2012: State Superfund Managers Symposium in Providence, RI.
- August 21-23, 2012: Hazardous Waste Managers Conference in Long Beach, CA.
- October 18-19, 2012: Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The seven programmatic Subcommittees and the Task Forces and Focus Groups (Groups) of ASTSWMO will continue to keep abreast of new policies and initiatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the other federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense (DoD). The work that these members do at either face-to-face meetings or on conference calls is truly amazing. Please visit the Policies and Publications page to peruse the various research products produced by the Groups.

As State regulators, we live, work, and play where authority is applied and we not only have professional and ethical interests, but are morally vested in our land and communities. Even during these tough budgetary times, you all continue to do the work that is necessary in order to protect human health and the environment. The expertise that is brought to ASTSWMO is what makes this organization so strong and so revered. *Collaborative solutions and professional growth is what you take back to your organizations, citizens and stakeholders.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me or to reach out to any of the other [Officers, Board of Directors](#), or [Staff](#). We want to ensure that your needs are met and want to hear your ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Thamke', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ed Thamke
ASTSWMO President