

## **9% or 90%: An Assessment of the EPA Lab Rule Criteria**

### **Presenter(s)**

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### **Abstract Text**

In May 2006, The United States Environmental Protection Agency released proposed Standards Applicable to Academic Laboratories, or the Lab Rule. EPA intends these regulations to establish an alternative set of requirements that better reflect the circumstances found in academe.

The proposed rule included a plan for an additional program that institutions could use to manage their Hazardous Waste generated in many laboratories and art studios. EPA decided to include some labs while excluding others, partially based on the assumption that “Laboratory Waste” constituted 9% of the total Hazardous Waste generated by academic institutions.

Colorado College, and many others, disputed this assessment. In December 2006 EPA asked Colorado College for data supporting the claim that waste generation from laboratory processes represented the majority of Hazardous Waste generated in Higher education. Colorado College analyzed the data from the 2001 Biennial Report to try to replicate EPA’s assertion and found significant flaws in the data and the original analysis. Colorado College developed a set of alternate perspectives of the 2001 BR data that present a drastically different picture of Hazardous Waste generation in Higher Education.

This presentation will review the data EPA used to conclude that 9% of Higher Education waste comes from laboratories, and present alternate perspectives on that data from the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Biennial Reports.

### **Presenter Bio(s)**

#### **Kent Clawson, CHMM, Colorado College**

Kent has a BS in Environmental Studies and Applications from Michigan State University (THE University of Michigan). He has been with the Environmental Health and Safety department at Colorado College in Colorado Springs since 2004 and involved in academic EHS since 1998 with stops at Utah State and Michigan State.

#### **John DeLaHunt, MBA, Manager, Fire Safety and Risk, University of Texas – San Antonio**

Mr. DeLaHunt graduated from the Colorado College in December of 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry. Nearly immediately thereafter, he took a newly created position at the College with the primary goal of sorting the several chemical storerooms according to the Uniform Fire Code. In the ensuing eighteen years, that

position developed into a full-scale environmental health & safety office, responsible for all aspects of environmental health and safety management. Recent tasks have included business continuity planning and threat scenario mitigation, including pandemic influenza.

In 2006, Mr. DeLaHunt completed his MBA, with emphasis in finance and management, at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs. Since August of 2007, Mr. DeLaHunt has been managing fire safety and risk at the University of Texas – San Antonio.

Mr. DeLaHunt has been published by APPA, the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (now the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers) in the 1990 guide, Case Studies in Environmental Management. He co-edited the 2002 APPA publication Environmental Compliance Assistance Guide for College & Universities. Mr. DeLaHunt writes a bi-monthly column on campus issues for the American Chemical Society's Journal of Chemical Health & Safety (JCHAS) and its predecessor Chemical Health & Safety (CHAS). CHAS published Mr. DeLaHunt's article *Results-oriented external laboratory inspection programs* in the November/December 2005 issue. JCHAS published his article, *Review of the safety of potassium and its oxides, including deactivation by introduction into water*, in the March-April 2007 issue.

Mr. DeLaHunt has been active in the Campus Safety, Health & Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) – a Division of the National Safety Council. He has served on the CSHEMA Executive Committee, the Government Relations committee, and the Newsletter Awards Committee. Mr. DeLaHunt has also represented small colleges in a joint higher education task force addressing the relationship between higher education and the EPA, which seeks fundamental reform to environmental regulations applied to colleges & universities.

In August 2003, Mr. DeLaHunt co-hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> annual College & University Hazardous Waste Conference, a national event drawing approximately three hundred delegates from institutions of higher learning across the country and world. He was a stakeholder in the New England Universities Project XL.