

Why I should be elected to the Board – Rick Huckfeldt

Almost 30 years ago my father (a chemist) started talking more about work-related activities. He worked at Hanford, a desolate 500 square miles located just outside of city proper. It was literally a “wasteland” where uncharacterized waste from the Cold War was prevalent everywhere. Regulations were not as strict as they are now. To point? I was raised with Hanford’s legacy as the most poignant subject matter at home and school.

I was a junior in college and had not declared a major yet. The “Environmental Sciences” had not been entirely defined then. However, coupled with the option of “Hazardous Waste Management?” The curriculum was intriguing. I chose that path for my career.

25+ years later, and I have not deviated from that path.

I have spent my entire career dealing with almost every facet of hazardous materials/waste management. I have been a generator, a shipper, a designator, a clean-up supervisor, an incident commander, a consultant/SME, a manager at landfills, and ultimately I now serve an integral part of a TSDF that handles radioactive/mixed waste(s). Seven years out of college, I applied and achieved the CHMM credential. It was valuable in pursuing environmental positions.

It was another 15 years later that I received the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) credential. A natural match as Environmental, Safety and Health positions are very often joined together. And dealing with hazardous chemicals? You learn about chemical safety by necessity.

I feel strongly that the CHMM should carry the same level of respect that the CSP does. More elite. The testing should be more arduous. The level of professional that achieves the CHMM credential should be of the highest caliber. The BCSP and CHMM could even work together in determining subject matter? Bold goals, but achievable.