



Speaker Biographies

Karen Kinsella:

Karen Kinsella is a biogeochemist at GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. in Glastonbury, Connecticut. She has more than 40 years of experience in the agricultural, analytical, construction, energy, environmental, and radionuclide sectors, and has taught chemistry and environmental science at the secondary school level. As an environmental consultant, her work involves investigation, management, and remediation of contaminants in groundwater, soil, wastewater, and solid waste, helping project teams in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin understand the environmental behavior and fate of chemicals. As a National Ground Water Association volunteer, Karen co-authored the 2017 guidance, "Groundwater and PFAS: State of Knowledge and Practice," and is a program advisor for the upcoming PFAS in Groundwater Workshop: "The Professional's Charge." Karen holds a M.S. degree in chemistry from Central Connecticut State University, and a Ph.D. in soil chemistry and microbiology from the University of Connecticut.

Ritchie Straff

Ritchie Straff is VP of Regulatory and Advocacy at Daikin America Inc. (DAI), in Orangeburg, NY. He has more than 40 years' experience in R&D, sales and marketing of high performance chemicals and plastics. He serves on the board of DAI, MDA and on the Plastics Association, where he is also chairman of the Materials Supplier Group. Recently most of this work has been in the regulatory area of fluorine chemistry and in advocacy for the safe manufacturing, use and sale of these materials. As part of that work he has been involved with the FluoroCouncil, a trade group dedicated to supporting the critical benefits of FluoroTechnology and science and risk-based regulation of chemistry that allows for the safe use of these materials. In this role he has presented to the EPA and state authorities on the use and stewardship of fluorinated materials. Ritchie holds a B.S and M.S. degree in Materials Science from MIT and a Ph.D. in Polymer Science, also from MIT.

Denise Kmetzo:

Denise Kmetzo, Principal of Collaborative Risk Solutions, LLC, is an experienced health risk assessor and toxicologist, with a background in environmental consulting and academic and commercial laboratories. She conducts and manages complex risk assessments within a variety

of regulatory frameworks, models fate and transport of contaminants, evaluates chemical exposures, communicates potential for health risks, and performs product safety assessments. Active in professional and regulatory groups, she serves as a member of Toxic Use Reduction Act (TURA) Science Advisory Board, which is reviewing the hazards of long-chain and short-chain perfluorinated compounds. She served as co-chair of the Technical Practices Committee of the Licensed Site Professional Association (LSPA) and is a member of the Regulations Committee of the LSPA. Denise holds a BA in Biochemistry and Music from Middlebury College and a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Boston University. She is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology.

Rich Desrosiers:

Rich Desrosiers is an Associate Principal/Hydrogeologist with GZA GeoEnvironmental in Glastonbury, Connecticut. He is a Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) in the state of Connecticut and Licensed Professional Geologist (PG) in Tennessee and New Hampshire. He has over 33 years of environmental assessment and remediation experience evaluating sites throughout the US. His practice focuses on solving complex hydrogeologic and geochemical issues in unconsolidated and bedrock geologic formations. He has evaluated contaminant fate and transport mechanisms at industrial, military and RCRA facilities including facilities with groundwater impacts of over one square mile. Rich has provided expert testimony, authored technical papers and is currently on an ITCR working group concerning PFAS, assisting on remedial approaches. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Northeastern University and graduate level studies at Kent State University.

Jim Occhialini:

Jim Occhialini is a vice president with Alpha Analytical and has 40 years of environmental analytical and consulting experience working on a wide range of projects. Jim serves as the product line manager for the laboratory's specialty analytical services team, where he supports the laboratory's emerging contaminants, ecological risk assessment and hydrocarbon forensics project applications. Jim has been very involved in the development and implementation of the MassDEP's Compendium of Analytical Methods and Representativeness Evaluation and Data Usability workgroups. Jim is also very active with the LSPA, SETAC, SMWG, and EBC as well as a number of additional regulatory workgroups and industry associations where he has given numerous technical presentations and training programs on PFAS and 1,4 dioxane emerging contaminate topics, sediments, data usability, and quality assurance/quality control. Jim received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Emilee Mooney Scott

Emilee Mooney Scott is a member of Robinson + Cole's Environmental, Energy and Telecommunications Group, with a focus on facility compliance and transactional matters. She assists clients in complying with federal and state environmental laws, with a particular focus on

the management of hazardous and toxic substances. Prior to joining Robinson + Cole, Emilee was a legislative fellow for the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research, where she conducted nonpartisan legal and public policy research. Before attending law school, she was a research analyst at an economic consulting firm in Massachusetts, assessing mass tort and environmental liabilities of companies in energy and mineral processing sectors. She is a regular contributor to the firm's Manufacturing Law Blog, which covers legal news and related business issues facing manufacturers and distributors. Emilee is a graduate of Smith College and earned her J.D at University of Connecticut School of Law.