

## President's Message

Welford C. Roberts  
PhD, RS, REHS, DAAS



# The Environmental Health Industry: Salute to the Private Sector

## Introduction

Environmental health professionals are found in many sectors throughout the workforce. Many of us work in academia, federal government (to include the uniformed services), state government, and local government. Some EH professionals also work in private practice, including corporate industry and independent consultation, which is the focus of this column. I also would like to recognize and address the industries that may not employ EH professionals, but provide products, support, and other beneficial services that enable environmental health professionals to do their jobs easier and better.

NEHA has a long history of public service and service to the EH professional. In fact, our three primary products—credentials, the *JEH*, and annual conference—reflect these attributes in terms of keeping our workforce educated to better serve our communities and the nation. In order to serve our members and the profession, NEHA has some tremendous programs and relationships with several federal agencies, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We also have had and continue to have equally important ventures with private sector companies to provide educational resources to our members and others who work in environmental health-related disciplines and support services.

This column identifies the various categories of environmental health support and services in the industry and recognizes the important

**NEHA has a long history of public service and service to the EH professional.**

role that our industry colleagues have in environmental health practice.

What is the Environmental Health Industry?

We can think of this industry as being comprised of several sectors. For the simplicity of this column, I will consider them to be moderate- to large-size companies that either provide environmental health services or products or employ environmental health practices for the quality of their product. The other category is small businesses and individual/independent consultants.

The moderate- to large-size companies that provide environmental health services or related products may develop and sell products like instruments to measure, monitor, or control environmental health parameters in various media (air, water, soil, food, etc.). They also may include companies that develop software and information systems that record, catalog, and analyze environmental health data and other information and those that help in the management of environmental health programs and activities. The industry also

may include companies that produce products that depend upon environmental health science and practices for product quality and safety. Examples may include wholesale and retail food producers, commodity developers, and manufacturers (e.g., companies that produce chemicals, devices, and other products). These companies may have a corporate organization or office staffed by environmental health professionals to provide company wide support and services.

While I would like to list all of those companies that have supported NEHA and our profession, there is no way that I can be comprehensive in this short column. I think that good examples of these companies can best be seen and appreciated by reviewing advertisements in the *JEH*, including earlier and future publications. Another source in the *JEH* is the section titled “Special NEHA Members.” Also, we are fortunate to have a multitude of much-appreciated vendors attend and display at our Annual Educational Conference & Exposition (AEC). I therefore suggest that you also review the vendor listings published before and after each conference; this is prominently displayed on the NEHA Web site ([www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)). Obviously, these companies advertise in the *JEH* and exhibit at our conferences to market their products, which provides readily available sources of information about their companies and products.

The final category of the environmental health industry that I would like to recognize consists of both small businesses and individual/independent consultants. They provide a broad range of environmental health services

*continued on page 43*

## Products & Services



### Comark's New RF500 Wireless Monitoring System

#### Wireless monitoring of temperature, humidity and door events.

Comark's new RF500 system provides a full audit trail for anyone needing 24/7 monitoring of temperature and humidity. A network of remote sensors and probes collects and transmits information to a Gateway unit for data management and storage. The Gateway connects directly to the local area network permitting access via internet browser. In the event of a power failure the transmitters store and send data as soon as the network is restored. A mesh network enables the system to automatically re-route signals as required to maintain integrity of the data.

For further information visit [www.comarkusa.com](http://www.comarkusa.com) or call 1 800 555 6658.



## Did you know

Radon is estimated to cause 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States, according to U.S. EPA. It is a leading cause of lung cancer, second only to cigarette smoking.

Source: [www.epa.gov/epahome/enviroq/index.htm#lungcancer](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/enviroq/index.htm#lungcancer).

# Fast Accurate Waterproof

## Why settle for less?

### C28 KIT

- K type thermocouple with probe
- ±1°F Accuracy
- Clock and timer
- Anti-microbial protection

### PDT300

- Thin tip pocket digital thermometer
- ±2°F Accuracy
- 6 second response or less
- Anti-microbial protection



COMARK

1-800-555-6658  
[www.comarkUSA.com](http://www.comarkUSA.com)

### President's Message

*continued from page 4*

that may include consultation or technical support, often to larger environmental health programs. Several of our NEHA members fall into this category and are presidents or chief executive officers of their independent businesses. Unfortunately, we do not have a readily available listing of these businesses, but that just becomes a challenge for NEHA, or, perhaps even better, the Industry Affiliate.

### The NEHA Industry Affiliate

"Industry" is one of NEHA's affiliated organizations that—because of its nongeographic disposition—is a member of NEHA Region 10. I am pleased to announce that NEHA Past President Colonel (Ret.) Tony Aiken recently volunteered to take the lead of this affiliate and reinvigorate it. Tony is an independent owner of a small business that provides environmental health and related services. Given his demonstrated leadership, dedication to environmental health, and experience with business, I expect to see this affiliate flourish.

### Closing

As we all know, our profession—the environmental health profession—is dynamic, diverse, local, regional, national, and international. As time moves ahead, so will the discipline, the practice, and the profession. I expect the future to bring many new environmental situations and challenges that can affect people's health and well-being. Our industry partners are an important part of the environmental health arsenal that should be ... needs to be ... considered in the tactical and strategic planning and employment of resources to meet changing needs. We must recognize industry's importance to our profession because they develop and supply the tools and many important services that allow our environmental health programs to excel and will allow us to continue to succeed in the future. As we, along with our industry colleagues, tackle the future head on, **LEAN FORWARD!** 🐹