



**EBC Leadership Series with MassDEP
Commissioner Suuberg and the Western Region Leadership Team**

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Collaborating Organization

Society of Women Environmental Professionals – Massachusetts Chapter



AGENDA

9:00 a.m. **Welcome:** Jessamyn Cox, Operations and Programs Coordinator, EBC

Introduction: Kate Wilkins, Project Manager, Tighe & Bond

9:15 a.m. **Review of MassDEP Priorities**



Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- Michael Gorski, Regional Director
- Eva Tor, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Air & Waste
- Brian Harrington, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Water Resources
- John Ziegler, Acting Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

10:45 a.m. **Networking Break**

11:00 a.m. **Moderated Q&A with the MassDEP Northeast Region Leadership Team**

Moderator: Kate Wilkins, Tighe & Bond

Panelists:

- Michael Gorski, Regional Director
- Eva Tor, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Air & Waste
- Brian Harrington, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Water Resources
- John Ziegler, Acting Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
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Martin Suuberg was appointed on January 8, 2015 as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) by Governor Charles D. Baker and his Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew A. Beaton.

With nearly 30 years of experience working in environmental and natural resource agencies at the state and federal level, Martin is a lawyer and manager who has effectively and efficiently administered the environmental laws that protect the quality of life for all Massachusetts' citizens.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Martin served as Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. At MassDEP, Martin served as Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning. He took over this position after 9 ½ years as the Regional Director for the Central Regional Office in Worcester, which serves more than 70 communities in Worcester County and nearby areas and is responsible for environmental permitting, inspection and enforcement activities.

Over his long career, Martin has also served as General Counsel to MassDEP and to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, as well as to the former Department of Environmental Management where he also served as Deputy Commissioner.

Before moving to Massachusetts, Martin was an Associate Solicitor and then Deputy Solicitor at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, DC, where he worked on land management and natural resource issues.

MODERATOR

Kate Wilkins, Project Manager
Tighe & Bond, Inc.
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Kate Wilkins is a Project Manager with Tighe & Bond, Inc. and has twelve years of experience in wetland evaluations, natural resources surveys, and permitting. She has worked throughout New England and specializes in projects subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and New Hampshire Wetlands Protection Administrative Rules working heavily with regional power utility companies.

Kate earned her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts concentrating in Wildlife Management and Conservation and returned to UMass to complete her Masters degree with a focus on Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds.

Outside of work Kate enjoys spending time with her husband, twin boys, and rescue dog Winnie. She is actively involved in Franklin County youth hockey as a member of the Board of Director and helps to represent western Massachusetts as a District Director for Massachusetts Hockey.

DEP WESTERN REGION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Gorski, Regional Director
Massachusetts DEP, Western Regional Office
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Michael J. Gorski is Regional Director for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Western Region. He is responsible for the overall administration and operations of MassDEP's Western Region, which encompasses 106 communities primarily in the four western counties of the Commonwealth.

Mike began his career in the private sector and has worked in the environmental, safety and health departments of industrial companies. He has had environmental management responsibilities in several states and Europe.

Mike earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Rochester Institute of Technology with concentrations in environmental science and emergency management. He has been an active volunteer on the State and Regional level. He has been a member of the State Emergency Response Commission, a member and chair of Local Emergency Planning Committees for several municipalities. Mike recently retired from the volunteer fire department in his home town of Hampden where he served for 34 years the last 10 years as chief.

Brian Harrington, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Water Resources
Massachusetts DEP, Western Regional Office
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Brian Harrington joined MassDEP in 2001 as Regional Counsel. In 2002, Brian was appointed Deputy Regional Director for the Bureau of Resource Protection (now Bureau of Water Resources) in the Western Region. That Bureau oversees Drinking Water, Wastewater, Wetlands and the Municipal Services Program.

Prior to joining MassDEP, Brian was an attorney in Private Practice for 12 years in the Springfield Area practicing corporate, business and real estate law. Brian was formerly a City Councilor in Northampton and a member of the Board of Public works. In addition to coaching youth sports, Brian has also served on a variety of committees in Northampton including the State Hospital Advisory Committee, Regional Solid Waste Planning Committee, Florence Plan Committee, Superintendent Search Committee and as

Moderator of the Expiring Use (affordable housing) Committee. Brian presently serves on the Board of Directors of Freedom Credit Union.

Brian's experience as an attorney representing businesses, as a former City Councilor and Board of Public Works member, and as a current Board Member at Freedom Credit Union allows him, as a regulator, provides him an understanding of the needs and interests of businesses and communities as they interact with MassDEP.

Eva Tor, P.E., Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Air & Waste
Massachusetts DEP, Western Regional Office
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Eva Tor is the Deputy Regional Director of the Bureau of Air and Waste, Western Regional Office. Prior to that she was the Deputy Regional Director of the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup. She has been with DEP for over 20 years where she most recently oversaw cleanup of contaminated sites in the region. Some significant sites she's worked on include the GE Housatonic PCB Superfund site, cleanup and redevelopment of the Facemate/Uniroyal Brownfields site in Chicopee and current cleanup efforts on emerging contaminant sites in Westfield (PFAS) and Warren (1,4-Dioxane). Eva also oversaw the Western Region's incorporation of the Asbestos program into Waste Site Cleanup. Prior to working in the Waste Site Cleanup Program, Eva worked for many years in DEP's Drinking Water Program, specializing in water treatment plant process work as well as watershed protection considerations for unfiltered systems. Prior to coming to MassDEP, Eva worked in the environmental engineering consulting industry. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Massachusetts and received a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. Eva looks forward to now working on promoting the Commonwealth's initiatives on air quality and climate change, management of solid and hazardous wastes, and the promotion of waste reduction and recycling efforts.

John Ziegler, Acting Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
MassDEP – Western Regional Office
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John Ziegler was recently appointed as the Acting Deputy Regional Director (DRD) of the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, Western Regional Office. John has over 30 years of experience working as both a consultant and regulator in the environmental field, with the last 16 years serving as Audit Section Chief for the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup in MassDEP's Western Regional Office. John's experience includes hydrogeologic assessment, remediation, and redevelopment at CERCLA, RCRA, and 21E sites. John also serves as a project manager for the GE/Housatonic River PCB cleanup and has been actively involved in providing regulatory review and assistance for redevelopment projects by the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority at the former GE plant site.

John holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Tulane University and a Master of Science degree in geochemistry from the University of Utah. John also is an LSP and an active member of the LSPA and has represented DEP in providing training to the LSPA membership.