

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists



Who: David Sullivan

What: Air quality meteorologist

When: CCM since 1980

Where: Alexandria, Virginia

Why: Certification provides clients with confidence that the consultant meets the society's standards for qualifications, experience, and character



How: After receiving B.S. and M.S. degrees in meteorology, David Sullivan began a career in air quality meteorology in 1974 working as a project meteorologist for nuclear power plant sites. He now has 37 years of experience as an air quality meteorologist and 32 years as a CCM. Over his career, he has had the opportunity to work on a broad range of projects that have included serving as the principal investigator on the EPA Integrated Environmental Management Project that conducted urban-scale modeling and monitoring programs in the United States and later in a modified form for EPA in Eastern Europe. During this period, his workload included providing expert testimony on major air quality-related cases in many parts of the United States. His projects have included the evaluation of emissions and airborne exposures from the use of various pesticides on farming operations throughout the United States, including the development of the FEMS agricultural air quality modeling system. More recently, he has served as the principal investigator for the first phase of the Breathe Easy Jakarta project, which is a joint U.S./Indonesian study funded by the U.S. Trade & Development Agency.

In His Own Words: “The most interesting part of my job has been conducting integrated air quality monitoring/modeling programs ranging from the urban scale to source testing of complex area sources. Testing model performance and using measured and modeled data as a basis to compute emission rates is a very tangible demonstration of the strengths and limitations of air quality analytical tools. Other notable moments have ranged from conducting training on the ISCST3 model through translation to a room full of Polish scientists in Katowice, Poland, to serving as the principal investigator for the U.S. EPA air quality evaluations of the chemical operations in the Kanwaha Valley of West Virginia after the Bhopal tragedy. I also get to work with farmers, plant pathologists, and nematologists on interdisciplinary projects on reducing airborne pesticide exposures—spending a lot of time on farms and getting out of the office is a major morale booster for me. Collecting and evaluating field data is always challenging and interesting. Our ongoing work in Indonesia (Jakarta) has provided an interesting experience, collaborating with Indonesian scientists with the goal of establishing an upgraded air quality and meteorological monitoring network for the Jakarta metropolitan area.

“We are in our 25th year of operations at Sullivan Environmental, with a staff of four, including CCM Dennis Hlinka. The CCM designation has had a very positive impact on my consulting practice, and I would highly recommend the CCM program, especially to those considering opening their own consulting practice.”

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Website at www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html.