

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

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



Who: Dennis Hlinka

What: Air quality meteorologist/
weather forecaster

When: CCM since 1984

Where: Alexandria, Virginia

Why: Recognized that the certification distinguishes a consulting meteorologist as one that meets or exceeds the professional standards established by the AMS

How: After receiving a B.S. degree in geography/meteorology, Dennis Hlinka began his career in weather analysis and forecasting in 1974 as a meteorologist. He became lead weather forecaster for a research and operational forecasting center providing five-day wind and wave forecasts for worldwide offshore industries. In 1980, he broad-

ened his meteorological expertise into air quality modeling studies. Over his career in the air quality field, he has had the opportunity to work on a broad range of projects that have included serving as the technical manager/scientist and air modeling programmer on the EPA Integrated Environmental Management Project. The project conducted urban-scale modeling and monitoring programs in the United States and later in a modified form for the EPA in Eastern Europe. More recently, over the past 12 years, 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 design and development of the Fumigant Emissions Modeling System (FEMS) agricultural air quality modeling system.

In His Own Words: "I have especially enjoyed the varied opportunities that the combination of my weather forecasting and air quality modeling skills have provided me in my 36 years of professional consulting experience. My weather forecasting skills were particularly integral when I became lead forecaster and provided on-site real-time weather forecasting support for the safe operation of a number of radar containing aerostats, tethered up to 10,000 feet above ground level in Arizona, New Mexico, and the Bahamas. The combination of those skills and experience in these two areas of expertise has given me the background to provide expert analysis and testimony on local severe weather conditions and related potential injuries and air quality related cases in many parts of the United States. I highly recommend the CCM program for anyone seriously considering taking that extra step in order to increase your working experience enjoyment and open up all the potential professional options you would like to be involved with."

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

