

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

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



Who: Jerry Hill

What: Consulting meteorologist and environmental engineer

When: CCM since 1975

Where: Houston, Texas

Why: Obtained his CCM as a logical part of his growth as a professional meteorologist



How: The first paying job Jerry had out of college was as a weather officer in the U.S. Air Force, which was followed by employment as a meteorologist in the U.S. Weather Bureau. One of his many Weather Bureau assignments was on a university campus, where he provided specialized forecasting services for the state, did research, and taught. During this period, Jerry applied for his certification. After retirement from the federal government, he spent several years as a consulting meteorologist.

In 1990, Jerry was hired to start an air quality group as part of an environmental services organization for a large engineering and construction company. Today he still does their air quality work—such as dispersion modeling and air-quality planning—in addition to being an in-house consultant on climate data for locations where projects are being planned worldwide.

In His Own Words: “While the title of the certification program has connotations that the person holding the certification is engaged exclusively in consulting, potential applicants for the program should think of it otherwise. Achieving the certification can be considered a capstone on one’s growth as a professional meteorologist. It tells others that you have achieved a level of recognition by your peers that sets you apart. The CCM grade can be considered the equivalent of other professional board certification programs such as those for Qualified Environmental Professionals or Certified Financial Planners. For me, even as a government meteorologist, there was no hesitation in applying for the program, in spite of the narrow range of employment denoted by the title.

“In the engineering and construction business where I now work I see the value that is put on board certification, particularly for registered engineers, architects, and other similar professionals. Career growth in those fields is almost always ultimately dependent on the individual achieving professional certification. When I was hired into the particular company where I work now, it was clear that my certification as a CCM was relevant to the work and would aid in gaining the respect of colleagues, as well as giving confidence to customers.”

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