

ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESOURCE ANALYSTS,  
INC.

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Operator training course is set for July 12th.. You won't want to miss it!
- ERA is now offering a new lab training program!
- We have expanded our sample pick-up area!
- Read about our contaminant of the month hexavalent chromium.
- Information about the Stage 2 DBPR!

Environmental  
Resource Analysts,  
Inc.

2975 Brown Court  
Auburn, AL 36832

Owner: Dr. Joseph  
Freda

[jfreda@eralab.com](mailto:jfreda@eralab.com)

Lab Manager: Staci  
Hickman

[shickman@eralab.com](mailto:shickman@eralab.com)

[www.eralab.com](http://www.eralab.com)

# ERA Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2011

## ERA Operator Training Course

July 12, 2011

10:00am-3:00pm

Lunch Provided

4 Continuing Education Credits

Back by popular demand ERA is offering our all new 2011 operator's training course on Tuesday, July 12th. This year during the course we are featuring a guest speaker, Dr. Gilbert O'Neal, as well as optional lab tours following the presentations. Come join us in Auburn, AL and update your knowledge from 10am-3pm with a one hour included lunch. This course is offered free of charge to our existing clients. Registration will begin in May, and class size is limited, so sign up early.

It is our privilege to have Dr. Gilbert O'Neal as our guest speaker. Dr. O'Neal is President and CEO of the Institute of Textile Technology in North Carolina. He is a certified class I wastewater operator and has a Masters of Engineering as well as a Ph.D. in civil engineering. Dr. O'Neal has

spent many years in operations and consulting work. He has held positions in a wide variety of forums such as federal government, municipal government, academia, industry and consulting. He is recognized internationally as an expert in biological treatment of industrial wastewater. Not only has he conducted many environmental studies, but he also has extensive experience in the textile industry. He will be presenting on efficient management of activated sludge wastewater treatment plants. If you are involved in any form of wastewater treatment, you will not want to miss his presentation!

If you would like more information on this course please contact Erin Consuegra at [caroei@gmail.com](mailto:caroei@gmail.com)



Dr. W Gilbert O'Neal

## Contaminant of the Quarter: Hexavalent Chromium

Hexavalent chromium has made headlines recently by being the center of a study released by the Environmental Working Group. This study found that hexavalent chromium, the carcinogen featured in the Blockbuster *Erin Brockovich*, was present in the drinking water of 31 out of the 35 cities tested. Hexavalent chromium is one form of elemental chromium. Chromium is most commonly found in three forms in the environment: chromium-3

(trivalent), chromium-6 (hexavalent), and chromium-0 (the metal form). While trivalent chromium is naturally found in the environment, hexavalent chromium and chromium-0 are generally produced by industrial processes and can be released into the water by discharge, leakages, or improper practices.

(Story continued on back page.)

# ERA Small Laboratory Training Program

ERA is introducing our new small lab training program. This new program offers training on sample collection and simple analyses. Training is free to our current clients and will be given at ERA laboratory. Our knowledgeable staff will walk you through all the steps needed to run an analysis from sample collection through data interpretation. This program is aimed to help municipal wastewater treatment plants who are running their own tests. Some tests included are BOD, TSS, ammonia,

and fecal analysis. You can come view our technicians perform the tests from start to finish. During this time we can help you trouble shoot any problems as well as provide a copy of any paperwork you might need such as bench sheets, excel spreadsheets for calculations, or QA/QC sheets. Covered in this training would be proper sample handling, equipment set up, sample processing, QA/QC requirements, and how to interpret results.

If you are a small lab running these analyses and would like some

training, please contact Erin Con-suegra at [carroei@gmail.com](mailto:carroei@gmail.com). We will be happy to set up a time to meet with you and help you improve your analysis.



*“This new program offers training on sample collection and simple analyses. Training is free to our current clients.”*

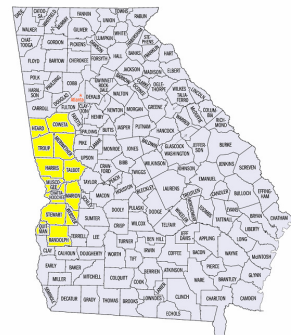
## ERA Expands GA Sample Pick-Up Area

We are happy to announce that we are expanding our sample pick-up area. We are now available for sample pick-up in several western Georgia counties.

As part of our service, we will come to your location and pick up the samples and bring them back to our laboratory for analysis. This saves you from having to travel around the state for delivery or pay

shipping costs.

If you are located in Heard, Co-weta, Troup, Meriwether, Harris, Talbot, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion, Steward, Webster, Quit-man, or Randolph counties and would like a price quote, we would be happy to give you one. Please contact Staci Hickman at [shickman@eralab.com](mailto:shickman@eralab.com).



## REMINDER - DBP Monitoring Plan Due

Prior to August 1st, every water system in Alabama must submit a “Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) Monitoring Plan” to ADEM. The DBP plan includes a description of sampling locations and frequency of sampling. The tests that are included in the DBP plan include the trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and the haloacetic acids (HAA5). We have

a fully trained staff to perform these analyses here at ERA.

You can access an example DBP plan on our website by going to [www.eralab.com](http://www.eralab.com) then selecting “Info Sheets”. After downloading the [example plan](#), insert your information in the designated areas and it would be ready to send to ADEM.

Because the stage 2 regulations require that all samples be collected during the same week of each quarter, we are asking that you contact ERA for help with scheduling your sample collection dates.





## Environmental Resource Analysts, Inc.

2975 Brown Court  
Auburn, AL 36832

Phone: 334-502-3444

Fax: 334-502-8888

E-mail: [shickman@eralab.com](mailto:shickman@eralab.com) for Staci  
Hickman or [carroej@gmail.com](mailto:carroej@gmail.com) for Erin  
Consuegra

Environmental Resource Analysts (ERA) was founded in 1991 by Dr. Joseph Freda. The company's initial focus was ecological field studies, but expanded into the areas of aquatic toxicology and analytical chemistry. Our primary motivation for expansion has always been, and will continue to be, meeting the needs of our valued clients. This commitment to service has allowed us to obtain many diverse capabilities such as cultural resource studies, bacteriological analysis of drinking water, and hazardous waste identification.

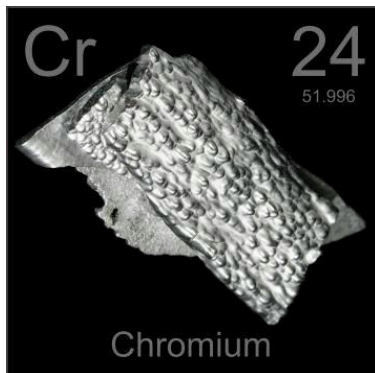
For more information about ERA please contact the Lab Manager Staci Hickman at [shickman@eralab.com](mailto:shickman@eralab.com).

[www.eralab.com](http://www.eralab.com)



## Contaminant of the Quarter: Hex chrome(continued)

***“It is likely that the EPA will tighten drinking water standards to address health risks posed by chromium-6”***



Source: [www.periodictable.com](http://www.periodictable.com)

Hexavalent chromium has been shown to be carcinogenic by inhalation, and new studies suggest it is likely to be carcinogenic by ingestion.

Currently the standard for total chromium set by the EPA is 100 pbb. This standard accounts for all forms of chromium, including chromium-6. There is not currently an EPA standard for just the chromium-6 form. The total chromium standard was set by assessment of the scientific data available at that time, and the value of 100pbb assumes that the sample is 100% chromium-6. In September of last year the EPA released a new scientific assessment of hexavalent chromium for public comment and it is set for finalization sometime this year. In December of last year, Lisa Jackson (Administrator of the EPA) released a statement stating that the EPA is looking further into the prevalence, occurrence, spread, and detection of hexavalent chromium. She also stated that, “Once EPA’s chromium-6 risk assessment is finalized, EPA will work quickly to determine if new standards need to be set....it is likely that the EPA will tighten drinking water standards to address health risks posed by chromium-6”.

As scientific studies allow for better understanding of the adverse health effects of hexavalent chromium, and new lab technologies allow for the detection of this element at lower levels, we do expect for the standards for chromium-6 to become more stringent in the future.



Environmental Resource Analysts, Inc.

Sources: [EPA](#), [Environmental Working Group](#), [National Toxicology Program](#)