

Department of

Chemical and Environmental Engineering

2013—2014 Seminar Series

Friday, April 4, 2014

9:30—10:30 AM

WCH 205/206



Marc A. Edwards

Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Virginia Tech

The Washington D.C. Lead Crisis and Its Aftermath

In January 2004, Washington, D.C., residents were outraged to learn that hazardous levels of lead had been present in their drinking water supply for several years. Dr. Marc Edwards has spent the last 10 years employing investigative science to reveal how government agencies distorted scientific studies to calm down the public and hide evidence of harm to DC's children. His work, which culminated in high profile Congressional Investigations into the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in 2010, and an article in *Environmental Science and Technology* in January 2014 on fetal deaths associated with the lead crisis, raises important questions about the ethical obligations of scientists and engineers and their role in maintaining a just society.

Edwards is the Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), where he teaches and performs research related to environmental engineering. Amongst other awards he has received the Praxis Award in Professional Ethics from Villanova University, a MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and was listed amongst the foremost innovators in water from around the world by Time Magazine. In 2013 Edwards' was the 9th recipient (in a quarter century) of the IEEE Barus Award for "courageously defending the public interest at great personal risk."