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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee



The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Why I Advocate Adoption of International Codes

by Terry Cobb
Director, Department of Codes & Building Safety, Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County, & Member, Board of Directors, International Code Council, Inc.

The Tennessee State Fire Marshal is in the process of adopting the International Building Code (effective Sept. 1, 2008) and the International Fire Code (currently in rulemaking). In my view, the State of Tennessee is headed in the right direction.



Terry Cobb

The development of these international codes has been a multi-step process that has taken place over the past

three decades. I fully support the adoption of these codes. Consistent codes lead to more consistent enforcement, safer buildings and structures, and higher quality construction. Consistency means codes are easier to read, understand, use, communicate and administer. Consistent codes aid in streamlining the permitting, inspection and code compliance processes and also support economic and community development, business growth and expansion.

In addition, the adoption of model codes should ensure that we have a complete building safety system for building and fire safety, for timely review and revision to account for

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Come Celebrate 40 years with ACEC of Tennessee on October 10!

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

ACEC of Tennessee will celebrate its 40th birthday in a BIG way on Friday, October 10, 2008, at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. You won't want to miss it! Memories, music and a reincarnated Minnie Pearl will help make the evening a memorable one.

The celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a tour of the Country Music Hall of

Fame Museum and a reception, followed by dinner. In a brief program, we will honor our founders and past presidents. The fun starts when the band gets revved up for dancing and requests. *Reminiscing in the Rotunda* will be available for those of you more interested in catching up with your colleagues from across the state in a quiet environment where you can also enjoy photos from the past 40 years. No black tie required for ACEC's 40th birthday



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International Codes *(continued from page 1)*

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changing needs, and for advances in building methods and available technology. It should ensure that our codes are comprehensive, coordinated, and consistent to provide safeguards for people at home, at school, when they assemble, and in the workplace.

Why Codes Were Developed

Building codes set a minimum acceptable level of building safety and performance to protect public health, safety and welfare. They afford a reasonable degree of safety to life and property from fire and other hazards incident to the design, construction, alteration and repair of buildings and structures. Regulated components of building construction and occupancy include requirements for structural strength, means of egress and fire safety, fire protection systems, accessibility, energy conservation and the installation of safe mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. To create this integrity, architects, engineers and builders depend on established, model building codes—accepted industry standards, practices and methods—to guide them in their work.

Since the late 1800s, building codes were developed and maintained in the U.S. by individual cities or states and, more recently, by several code writing organizations. These code organizations—the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI), Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) developed a patchwork of model building, fire, plumbing, electrical and mechanical codes. Although these model codes served us well for decades, they were full of inconsistencies as well as overlapping and conflicting requirements. The adopted codes in one jurisdiction or state were usually quite different from the codes and standards adopted in another.

Call for One Code

By the early 1970s, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) called publicly for the four prominent model code organizations to come together for the purpose of developing “one-code”—one set of comprehensive, coordinated and contemporary building construction codes. It was believed that the random nature of a disjointed code environment was problematic to administer and placed an additional and unnecessary burden on design professionals.

Although it was an enormous task, in the early 1990s, SBCCI, BOCA, ICBO and NFPA all joined the effort and began development of a single set

of comprehensive, coordinated and contemporary codes to protect public safety across the U.S.

First, the code organizations wrote their regional codes in a common code format to make comparison and correlation easier. The next step included the joint effort to draft the best-of-the-best code documents from all the model codes

which were currently available. Although they had initially participated - and the NFPA code documents had been on the table in the development of the drafts of the International Codes - the NFPA withdrew from the “one-code” effort in the late

1990s. The remaining three organizations pressed forward.

International Codes Published & Adopted

In 2000, the International Code Council (ICC) published the first edition of the family of International Codes; IBC, IFC, IRC, IPC, IMC, IFGC, IEBC, IECC, etc. - the first ever set of fully compatible, fully coordinated, fully correlated, fully integrated and contemporary codes for building construction. They were developed from the best-of-the-best available codes and standards to protect both property and the safety of the public in the built environment as well as firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

Now in its third edition (2006), the International Codes are consistent with one another. It is this added benefit of “consistency” that earns my endorsement of the International Codes. The I-Codes are not only consistent with one another, but also consistent with the majority of codes that have been adopted across our nation. The International Building Code and its companion, the International Fire Code, are growing in adoption and use. The often inconsistent NFPA 1 (Uniform Fire Code) appears to be declining in use.

Nine of the 10 largest cities in the U.S. have adopted the International Building Code together with the International Fire Code. Of the 50 largest U.S. cities, 40 have now chosen to adopt the IFC along with the IBC.

Since 2000, 62 Tennessee jurisdictions—from Bristol and the Tri-Cities to Memphis and Shelby County—have chosen to adopt the IBC together with the IFC. The list of states which have adopted the IBC and IFC on a “statewide” basis now includes Tennessee's close neighbors—Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama—as well as 20 other states.

Two-thirds of the U.S. population is now protected by the IBC and IFC family of codes. I look forward to the day when every Tennessee and U.S. resident is protected by these codes.

The I-Codes are not only consistent with one another, but also consistent with the majority of codes that have been adopted across our nation.

Environmental Committee: Brownfields, Pollution & Permitting

by Liz Porter, P.G., S&ME, Inc.
Chair, Environmental Committee

ACEC Environmental Committee members met with regulatory personnel on August 7, 2008, for an informative update on regulatory issues.

The meeting began with a presentation on brownfield opportunities by Andy Binford, Director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Remediation (DoR). He provided information on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program, which has over \$70 million to be used for Brownfields



Liz Porter

Assessment, Revolving Loans, and Cleanup Grants. The DoR is currently working with communities across Tennessee to provide assistance as they identify potential sites for the next round of EPA brownfield grants.

Paul Davis and Saya Qualls, the Director and Chief Engineer, respectively, of the TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC), presented a Tennessee Water Regulatory Update to the 15 consultants in attendance. The presentation covered a range of topics, beginning with a summary of DWPC permitting activities. There was also a discussion regarding an unusual enforcement issue now facing TDEC, namely the impact of off-road vehicle parks on surface water quality. TDEC pre-

sented compelling evidence demonstrating the impact of off-road vehicles on jurisdictional waters, including photographs of significant sediment deposits in streams used for this activity.

A recently approved Bill of Rights for Permit Applicants (Senate Bill No. 3796) was also discussed. The Bill is intended to help applicants understand permitting rules, and it provides for timely decisions on permit applications. This discussion included input from William James, Chief of the Eastern Section, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District. James and Dan Eagar, DWPC Environmental Program Manager, fielded questions regarding efforts to streamline the permitting process. Discussions included an update on the impact of the Rapanos decision and the significance of jurisdictional waters determinations.

The meeting concluded with an update on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit presented by Robert Karesh, the TDEC Storm Water Coordinator. He also provided information on a stakeholder advisory committee recently formed to develop criteria for Qualified Local Programs. Ken Barry, P.E., D. WRE, S&ME, will represent the engineering community on the stakeholder advisory committee.

The ACEC Environmental Committee welcomes the opportunity to represent ACEC members during meetings with regulatory personnel. Specific questions or topics of concern can be submitted to lporter@smeinc.com for discussion at upcoming meetings.

Member News

- Everett H. Cowan, president and COO of Gresham Smith and Partners, has been elected as a Fellow in the American Council of Engineering Companies.
- Allen & Hoshall has acquired Jackson, TN-based Scallion Engineering, a firm specializing in structural engineering. Scallion Engineering will now be a division of Allen & Hoshall.
- Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, Inc. announces that Dennis Hubbard and Allen Williams have been elected Associates of the firm. Hubbard is the Mechanical Department Manager and Williams is the Civil Department Manager. In addition, Sherry Chapman Hoover has joined the firm.
- Earth Tech has joined AECOM. AECOM now offers services through three operating brands in Tennessee: CTE, M&E, and Earth Tech.
- PBS&J vice president and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) division manager W. Brad Dennard has been elected to the board of directors for ITS Tennessee.
- The Reaves Firm announces that Terry W. Boyd has received licensure as a professional engineer from the Tennessee State Board of Architects and Engineers.
- Wilbur Smith Associates announced that the SmartFIX40 project in Knoxville, TN, was selected by the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to receive AASHTO's America's Transportation Award for 2008 for the southeast region. The firm was the primary consultant to the Tennessee Department of Transportation on the project.

Celebration

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celebration - business attire is the dress for the event.

In the Beginning

In 1968, eight men had the foresight to incorporate an association of engineering companies called Consulting Engineers of Tennessee (CET). The state organization was recognized as an affiliate of the national organization (ACEC's precursor, the Consulting Engineers Council) in October 1968. Today, ACEC of Tennessee represents more than 110 engineering firms across the state.

Don't miss the 40th Anniversary celebration on October 10. The founders and all past presidents have been invited. More than 25 sponsors are already on board; thank you! For information on reserving a table or purchasing a ticket, go to www.acectn.org or contact Judy Logue at jlogue@tnc.org or 615-242-2486. All tickets must be purchased by October 3. See you there!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

12-13

Leadership Development
Session

Tennessee Engineering
Center

OCTOBER

10

40th Anniversary Party
ACEC of Tennessee

Country Music Hall of
Fame

OCTOBER

10-11

Leadership Development
Session

Tennessee Engineering
Center

OCTOBER

19-22

ACEC Fall Conference
Montreal, Quebec,
Canada

Fairmont - The Queen
Elizabeth Hotel

NOVEMBER

7

Deadline to Submit
Entries for

Engineering Excellence
Awards

Information:

jlogue@tnc.org

NOVEMBER

14-15

Leadership Development
Session

Tennessee Engineering
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ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
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SEPTEMBER 2008

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WELCOME, New Member

Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
1 Burton Hills Blvd., Ste. 360
Nashville, TN 37215
615-665-9611

Key Contact:
Charles P. Smith, PE
Email: csmith@hanson-inc.com

Hanson Professional Services, Inc., a national consulting firm, provides a full range of engineering, architectural and scientific services. Markets served include transportation, telecommunications, utilities, industry, and federal, state, county and municipal agencies. Specialized services include geotechnical, mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering, hydrographic surveying, land acquisition and telecommunications systems integration.

UPDATE: Tennessee Engineering Foundation

by Raymond White, PE
TEF Secretary

During the past year, efforts to make the Tennessee Engineering Foundation (TEF) a center for college scholarships for engineering students have begun to bear more fruit.

The TEF Board of Directors plans to increase its efforts to encourage engineering firms, professional organizations, and allied businesses to establish engineering scholarships in partnership with TEF. We are also exploring the possibility of grant funds for scholarships from government and foundation sources. Board members are Chairman Mack McCarley, PE; Vice Chairman Greg Reed, PE, PhD; Secretary Raymond White, PE; Treasurer Richard Dix, PE; George Barnes, PE; Bob Bowers, PE; Russell Walker; and Candy Toler, (Ex-Officio).

Once again in 2008, TEF's scholarship program was the beneficiary of the profits from the annual golf tournament. The Board extends

most sincere thanks to organizers Brad and Tara Thompson, Wilbur Smith Associates, for their outstanding efforts.

Meeting in Chattanooga



Bill Johnson, PE, (left) and John Hensley, PE, (right), both with ARCADIS in Chattanooga, recently met with Congressman Zack Wamp to discuss issues of importance to the engineering community. During the meeting, Johnson and Hensley delivered a PAC check from the national American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).