



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Tennessee



# The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## Inland Waterways: A Vital Transportation Resource

by W. R. (Ron) Coles, PE  
Vice President and Principal  
Hanson Professional Services

The growth of freight traffic in the U.S. contributes to congestion on roadways and railways. Major manufacturers attract suppliers, distribution centers, and related activities. Regional economic development successes place significant demands on existing transportation systems. Government officials recognize the need to make best use of our entire freight transportation infrastructure, including marine highways.



Ron Coles

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Policy and Research recently provided funding for the *Alabama Freight Mobility Study (AFMS)*; Hanson Professional Services Inc., an ACEC Tennessee firm, was selected for the project. AFMS provides an action plan to address freight-induced congestion in a pro-active manner by making better use of marine highways. Marine highways are not a panacea for mitigating freight congestion, but better use of existing waterways can make a valuable contribution. As ports on the Gulf Coast grow, inland waterways are playing a key role in delivering goods to the heartland of the U.S. - not only traditional bulk cargoes, but higher valued freight as well.

### Lower Costs; Green Benefits

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our waterways move over 15% of the

nation's freight at a cost of only 2% of our nation's freight bill. In 2007, the U.S. DOT published a report comparing the effects of moving freight by various modes. Barge transportation consumes far less energy and creates a much smaller carbon footprint when compared to truck and rail alternatives. A single barge carries the equivalent of 60 trucks or 25 railcars. Barges move in groups pushed by a single towboat. A typical 15 barge tow carries the equivalent of 900 trucks or 375 railcars.

TVA studies show overall freight rates for all modes are lowered when barge transportation is available. Barge transportation provides savings of over \$7 billion a year to shippers across the country. This increases the attractiveness of states blessed with marine highways in competitive economic development arenas.

### Tennessee Waterways

The Tennessee DOT (TDOT) recognizes waterways resources are part of the solution to reducing highway congestion and enhancing air quality while continuing to promote trade and economic growth. Tennessee has 1,062 miles of navigable waterways, connecting to 21 states and to global markets via Gulf Coast ports.

Barge transportation reduces costs for basic materials required to produce electrical power and support manufacturing jobs. Locks and dams are constructed and maintained by the federal government. What is the appropriate role for TDOT regarding water transportation? Hanson was selected to work with TDOT and the Corps of Engineers to help answer this question.

(continued on page 3)

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## Don't Miss the ACEC Small Firm Council Meeting Coming to You Live in Nashville in February!

by Lillard Teasley, PE  
President, ACEC of Tennessee

Opportunity will knock on our door February 27 - 28 when the ACEC Small Firm Council winter meeting is held in Nashville.



**Lillard Teasley**

The agenda includes *Small Firm Principals Bootcamp*, a program tailored to the specific needs of small firm principals. It combines interactive, roll-up-your-sleeves workshops with a hard-hitting program to tackle fundamental business areas crucial to leading and growing a small design firm.

This event is also an opportunity to network

with small firm principals from across the nation. There's more good news! ACEC of Tennessee members receive a special discount on registration, a savings of \$200.00. However, you must register by February 6. Please visit ACEC of Tennessee's website, [www.acectn.org/Events.htm](http://www.acectn.org/Events.htm), to view a brochure outlining the program and including registration details.

*Small Firm Principals Bootcamp* is a wonderful opportunity to gain new insights and practical management techniques that will help small firms navigate the challenging business environment. One of the many learning objectives is how to increase profits by 25% without increasing staff. Sign me up!

I hope to see many of you on February 27 - 28. My best wishes to everyone for a prosperous 2009.

## Water Issues Fill Agenda at Environmental Meeting

by Liz Porter, PG  
Chair, ACEC of Tennessee Environmental  
Committee, S&ME Inc.

The Environmental Committee met with state regulatory personnel on November 18, 2008, for another informative update on regulatory issues. The meeting began with a discussion on anti-degradation led by Saya Qualls, PE, Chief Engineer of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC). The TDEC anti-degradation policy, defined in



**Liz Porter**

the Tennessee water quality standards, is designed to protect surface water quality by evaluating potential future stream water quality impacts as part of the permit review process. Permit applicants and TDEC must consider the existing stream conditions, and determine if the proposed activity will result in degradation of the water quality. The antidegradation policy also incorporates an evaluation of the social and economic necessity of a proposed activity. The Committee had an opportunity to learn about and discuss the impact that antidegradation policy has on the overall permit review process.

TDEC also presented information on a \$2 mil-

lion annual pilot program in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) that will provide opportunities for watershed enhancement projects. Detailed information on the program will be presented in a future edition of this newsletter.

Alan Leiserson, TDEC Office of General Counsel, presented information on the groundwater classification rules and reporting requirements. These rules were recently revised in an effort to simplify the classification, while being responsive to public needs. The revisions also allow for greater consistency with remediation approaches and with existing surface water classifications.

Bill Hench, PE, TDEC Division of Water Supply, updated the group on water supply regulations and issues. Groundwater disinfection requirements and disinfection byproducts rules were two primary discussion topics. There was also a brief discussion of recent national news stories documenting pharmaceuticals in the water supply. Mr. Hench indicated that TDEC has attended seminars related to this topic, and the state will continue to monitor this issue.

The ACEC Environmental Committee welcomes the opportunity to represent ACEC members during these meetings with regulatory personnel. Specific questions or topics of concern can be submitted to [lporter@smeinc.com](mailto:lporter@smeinc.com) for discussion in upcoming meetings.

# EEA Entries Reflect Firms' Abilities

The diversity of the projects entered in the 2009 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition is a striking reflection of the outstanding capabilities of Tennessee's engineering firms. Entries range from a Natural History Museum to an Iraqi water transmission project to site development for the Volkswagen Assembly Plant. Of the 30 entries, 10 categories are represented including the new "Energy" category.

"In February, our panel of six judges will convene to review the entries. Their decisions will be announced on the evening of March 3, 2009, during the EEA banquet," said Paula Harris, CPSM, chair of the awards program and Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer at Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc., Nashville.

Serving as judges in 2009 will be: **Mike Oakes, PE**, County Engineer, Shelby County Government; **Scott Potter, PE**, Director, Metro Water Services, Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County; **David Huddleston, PE**, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Tennessee Tech University; **Herschell Parker**, Interim Exhibits and Collections Manager, Adventure Science Center; **Marilyn Lewis**, Assistant Chief of the Engineering Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District; and **Greg Reed, PE**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"The EEA banquet is attended by hundreds of state and city officials, business leaders and engineers from across the state," said Rick Gafford, PE, EEA co-chair and Vice President of Fisher & Arnold, Memphis. "It is a wonderful evening of networking and celebrating. We are very grateful to our sponsors for helping to make the EEA banquet a memorable and successful event."

## Inland Waterways *(continued from page 1)*

The *Assessment of Tennessee Waterways* includes examinations of river systems, market connectivity, port needs, roles of other state DOTs, and stakeholder concerns. DOTs in Mississippi and Missouri have intermodal divisions focusing on freight movement and providing assistance to public ports. However, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to organization and programming for a state DOT. Programs provided by a DOT must satisfy constituent needs. Intensive workshop sessions

## 2009 EEA Entrants *(listed by project name)*

Cleveland Regional Detention Ponds, Cleveland, TN: CTI Engineers, Inc.  
College Street Pedestrian Bridge, Bowling Green, KY: Gresham Smith and Partners  
Cumberland River Pedestrian Bridge, Nashville, TN: AECOM  
Davy Crockett Park Energy Conservation Project, Lawrenceburg, TN: Allen & Hoshall  
Dibis to Kirkuk Water Transmission Project, Iraq: Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc.  
ETSU Natural History & Fossil Site Museum, Johnson City, TN: Vaughn & Melton, Inc./Bullock-Smith & Partners  
Grove Park Commons, Phase 1, Oak Ridge, TN: Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc.  
Highland/Getwell Force Main and Pumping Station, Memphis, TN: Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, Inc.  
Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN: Kimley-Horn and Associates  
Industrial Wastewater Discharge Elimination Feasibility Study, New England (CT & ME): EnSafe Inc.  
Legion Street Improvement Project, Clarksville, TN: Gresham Smith and Partners  
Livingston New Water Source, Livingston, TN: J.R. Wauford & Company Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
MTSU Campus Plan Transportation Improvements, Murfreesboro, TN: RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC/Lose & Associates  
New Orleans Pump Station Expansion, New Orleans, LA: Gresham Smith and Partners  
Northshore Dr./Concord Rd. Roundabout, Knox County, TN: Cannon & Cannon, Inc.  
Runway 2L-20R Reconstruction - Geotechnical Study, Nashville, TN: K.S. Ware & Associates, LLC  
Smartfix-40, I-275 Widening, Knoxville, TN: Neel-Schaffer, Inc.  
Smarthouse Way Southern Tract, North Little Rock, AR: EnSafe Inc.  
South Carolina Public Railways Roadbed Stabilization, Huger, SC: AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.  
State Route 50 Transportation Planning Report, Maury County, TN: Long Engineering, Inc.  
Stream Relocations for Volkswagen Site, Chattanooga, TN: Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc.  
The Icon, Nashville, TN: TTL, Inc.  
Tullahoma Regional Airport Runway 6/24 Rehabilitation, Tullahoma, TN: S&ME, Inc.  
US 90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay, Biloxi and Ocean Springs, MS: Parsons  
Variable Flow Pumping, Memphis, TN: SSR Ellers  
Volkswagen Assembly Plant, Enterprise South Industrial Park, Chattanooga, TN: Qore, Inc.  
Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant Soils Restoration, Chattanooga, TN: Tetra Tech, Inc.  
Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN: SSR Ellers  
Wastewater Capacity Information Management System, Knoxville, TN: Camp Dresser & McKee Inc.  
Wolf Creek Dam Integrated GIS Database and Website, Nashville, TN: AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.

were conducted to promote dialog and incorporate needs of constituents into final recommendations. The *Assessment of Tennessee Waterways* recommends organizational structure and programs for TDOT that stakeholders want and which have reasonable chance for implementation.

In an era of change, economic challenge, and environmental concerns, it is important to keep waterways transportation in the mix of options for moving freight efficiently.

## CALENDAR

JANUARY  
**16**

Deadline to Submit Entry Notebooks for *Engineering Excellence Awards*  
Information: [jlodge@tnec.org](mailto:jlodge@tnec.org)

FEBRUARY  
**15-21**

Engineers' Week

FEBRUARY  
**16**

Nashville Chapter Meeting  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Tennessee Engineering Center  
Information: [ctoler@tnec.org](mailto:ctoler@tnec.org)

FEBRUARY  
**27-28**

ACEC Small Firm Council Meeting, Nashville  
Information: [ctoler@tnec.org](mailto:ctoler@tnec.org)

MARCH  
**2**

Legislative Reception  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Nashville Downtown

MARCH  
**3**

Engineers' Day on the Hill  
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,  
State Capitol  
Information: [ctoler@tnec.org](mailto:ctoler@tnec.org)

Transportation Committee  
10:00 a.m., TDOT 7th Floor  
Conference Room  
Information:  
[bill\\_moore@gspnet.com](mailto:bill_moore@gspnet.com)

5th Annual Senior Principals' Forum  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs  
Information: [jlodge@tnec.org](mailto:jlodge@tnec.org)

MARCH  
**4**

Board Meeting  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs  
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Tennessee

1968 40th ANNIVERSARY 2008

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JANUARY 2009

## INSIDE

- Inland Waterways: A Vital Transportation Resource – page 1
- Don't Miss the ACEC Small Firm Council Meeting – page 2
- EEA Entries Reflect Firms' Abilities – page 3

## MEMBER NEWS

- Dyan Damron, PE, a Neel-Schaffer, Inc. project manager, was profiled in a cover story appearing in the December edition of national publication *PE Magazine*. The article, "The Sky's the Limit", profiles the 2008 Young Engineer of the Year Award winners. Dyan, a civil engineer and graduate of Tennessee Tech, is Tennessee's honoree. Congratulations to her and to Neel-Schaffer.
- ACEC of Tennessee has received an *Award of Excellence* from the Tennessee Society of Association Executives (TSAE) for its website, [www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org).
- Garland Rose, PE, Chairman of the Board of Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc., is a nominee for President-Elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Let's Build Some Bridges in March*

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The Tennessee General Assembly returned to session on January 13, with plunging state revenues on the minds of state legislators. The Republican majority in both the House and the Senate plan to put education funding



Candy Toler

above other departments. While we do not always know in advance what legislative initiatives will be proposed, we do know that there are often issues that have the potential to affect public health and safety. I invite you to participate in ACEC's Legislative Reception on Monday evening, March 2, followed the next morning, March 3, by *Engineers' Day on the Hill*. Both events offer engineers the opportunity to "build bridges" with our state's legislators, promote the value that engineers bring to every community across Tennessee, and address issues that impact

engineering and safety. Although it may sound trite, together we really are stronger than we are individually.

#### Sign Up Now

I hope you will show your support for the profession on March 2 and 3. You can sign up by emailing me ([ctoler@tnc.org](mailto:ctoler@tnc.org)). Please let me know which events you will attend and provide the names of your State Representative and State Senator. You may also complete the registration form on ACEC of Tennessee's web site ([www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org)) and send it to me. *Day on the Hill* activities will begin with a briefing at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitol. I will send you emails to keep you posted on the issues as bills are introduced during the next two months.

**P.S.** After you join your colleagues to "build bridges" on March 2 and 3, attend ACEC's 5<sup>th</sup> Senior Principals' Forum and the *Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet!* For more information, see page 3 of this newsletter.