

## **Environmental Committee Update**

Submitted by: Liz Porter, P.G., S&ME Inc.

ACEC Environmental Committee members met with regulatory personnel on November 18, 2008 for another informative update on regulatory issues. The meeting was held at the Tennessee Engineering Center and began with a discussion on antidegradation led by Saya Qualls, the Chief Engineer of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC). The TDEC antidegradation policy is defined in the Tennessee water quality standards. It 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 consultants had an opportunity to learn about and discuss the impact the antidegradation policy has on the overall permit review process.

TDEC also presented information on a \$2 million annual pilot program in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) that will provide opportunities for watershed enhancement projects. ACEC is currently coordinating with TDEC to provide additional detailed information on this program in a future edition of this newsletter.

Alan Leiserson of the 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 the public needs. The revisions also allow for greater consistency with remediation approaches and with existing surface water classifications.

Bill Hench of the TDEC Division of Water Supply also updated the group on water supply regulations and issues. Groundwater disinfection requirements and disinfection byproducts rules were two of the primary discussion topics. The meeting included a brief discussion of recent national news stories documenting pharmaceuticals in the water supply. Mr. Hench indicated that TDEC has been attending 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.