



Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
April, 2006

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN
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Upcoming Activities

The next Kansas City/Omaha Section meeting will be held June 2006 at the Golden Ox Restaurant. Our speaker will be Mr. William Casey Jones, P.E., R.G., of Geotechnology, Inc. The topic will be determined at a later date. Please look for the announcement soon.

We are in the process of planning a meeting in the fall in the Omaha area. Please let me know if you have a particular topic or venue that you would like to see.

Recap of Activities

On March 22, 2006 we were pleased to have the 2006 Jahns Lecturer, Jerry Higgins who's topic was "Engineering Geology of Expansive Soil and Bedrock: A Case Study from Colorado".

On April 1, 2006 AEG in conjunction with ASCE and UMKC presented the annual spring conference at Burn's and McDonnell.

Other Information

The state of Missouri has proposed House Bill 1720-Registration of Environmental Professionals. This bill has generated a great deal of comments. APG and the St. Louis section of AEG provided their opinions regarding this bill. The KC-O board agreed with the opinions of our fellow organizations. Attached is a copy of letter that was sent on behalf of the Kansas City-Omaha section.

We are always looking for news about our members to include in the *AEG News*. Please let me know if you would like to highlight some of your work or a hobby.

The deadline for ballot submittal for the proposed changes to the Section Constitution and By-Laws is May 1, 2006.

Sincerely,

Andrea Prince
Chairman, Kansas City/Omaha Section



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Groundwater Geology Since 1957"
KANSAS CITY-OMAHA SECTION

April 10, 2006

The Honorable Steve Hobbs
Missouri State Representative of the 21st District
Chairman of the Conservation and Natural Resources Committee

State Capitol Building
Room 206-C
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

RE: Opposition to House Bill 1720
Registration of Environmental Professionals

Dear Representative Hobbs:

Our members have requested that I, as Chair of the Kansas City-Omaha Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), communicate to you our opposition to House Bill 1720-Registration of Environmental Professionals.

The Kansas City-Omaha Section of Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists strongly oppose passage of House Bill (HB) 1720. We urge the House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources to drop further consideration of the bill. We welcome the opportunity to provide public testimony, if a hearing is scheduled for the bill or to discuss the bill with you personally. The reasons for our opposition are discussed in the following.

The proposed HB 1720 appears to discriminate against and discourage individual consultants by excluding those that are unable to demonstrate financial responsibility for professional liability insurance to the limits noted.

In addition, the bill promotes unnecessary duplication (with little to no added value) regarding existing recognized professionals including professional engineers, registered geologists, certified hazardous materials managers, and similar recognized professionals. The State of Missouri has a well established Division of Professional Registration which regulates engineers and geologists. The existing licensing laws appropriately identify national standards of education, experience, and professional development. The proposed bill does not incorporate this substance and content.

April 11, 2006
Opposition to House Bill 1720
Registration of Environmental Professionals

HB 1720 proposes to require review times for documents submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR.) Since MDNR already has timeframes incorporated into various environmental programs' regulations, It would appear to be quite difficult for HB 1720 to establish control over the review timeframes for the MDNR., Passage of this bill would result in unnecessary conflicts and confusing redundancy regarding review timeframes for regulatory documents.

The bill is silent as to how the proposed professional registration will be established and maintained and the cost of administering the proposed registration. There will undoubtedly be significant costs associated with MDNR registration of environmental professionals. Considering how tight money is in the State government, it appears to us that this redundant professional registration provides minimal additional benefit while incurring an unknown but likely substantial expense.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I can be reached at (913) 344-1108, or by email at Andrea_Prince@urscorp.com

Very truly yours,

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIROMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS



Andrea L. Prince, R.G.
Chairperson – Kansas City-Omaha Section

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Representative Jason Brown
Representative Bruce Barrough
Representative Mike Dethrow
Representative Ward Franz
Representative Albert Liese
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