



**Association of Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
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NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Upcoming Activities

The next Kansas City/Omaha Section meeting will be held on **January 25th at UMKC**. Because of so many members having full schedules in December, the December meeting was moved to January. Our speaker will be **Dr. Craig Denny of Terracon** who will speak on **“Case Studies of Interesting Geotechnical Failures”**. Craig has practiced geotechnical engineering in the Kansas City area for many years and there are few better ways for us to learn than from case studies of failures. Please try to attend this excellent program and as always let your non-member friends and colleagues know that we welcome their attendance and participation. You should receive the meeting notice in the next few days.

The next joint ASCE, UMKC, AEG meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2005. It will be an all-day specialty seminar **“Design and Construction of Micropile Supported Foundations”** and held at Burns and McDonnell. If you have not received the announcement and are interested in the seminar, contact Casey Jones at (913) 438-1900 or c_jones@geotechnology.com.

I am pleased to announce that the Section is proceeding with our first Student Paper Competition. The following was taken from the announcement:

“The Kansas City/Omaha Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) is pleased to announce the Section’s first student paper competition. The Section membership consists of over 70 practicing geologists primarily from Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and western Missouri. Both our members and students have benefited from student participation in Section activities for a number of years. Student participation has generally been limited to meeting attendance by students from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

This year we would like to initiate a Student Paper Competition. The winner will be invited to present his/her paper at one of our section meetings in April, 2005 and will be presented with a prize in recognition of their achievement. All entrants will be invited to prepare poster presentations and/or abstracts for the same meeting. The papers will be judged by a group of practicing geologists from the Section.

The AEG is an organization of geologists who apply their knowledge of geology to support the solution of environmental, engineering, planning, groundwater remediation, and water supply development problems. Papers from any of these areas are encouraged. The origin of the papers may range from literature searches to original work. Our members represent government, engineering, and environmental organizations as well as academia and State geological surveys.”

Invitations were sent to the geology departments at Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State, Kansas, UMKC, Missouri, Nebraska, Southwest Missouri State, and Iowa State. Papers are to be submitted by March 5, 2005. After judging, the winner will be invited to present his/her paper at a special Section meeting in mid or late April. This type of activity has proven very popular in other sections.

Fall Conference

The Fall Conference “**State-of-the-Practice Investigation Methods to Support Design**” was a solid success. The presentations were excellent and covered a number of useful and practical topics. Forty-five attended including a contingent of eight geotechnical engineering graduate students from the University of Missouri in Columbia. This was the first day-long conference put on by the Section in many years. The success of this conference has given us the confidence to seriously consider conferences on a more regular basis in the future. We would like to thank Burns & McDonnell for the use of the meeting room, URS for the excellent lunch, and Haley and Aldrich for the refreshments through out the day.

Kansas Hydrology Seminar

Approximately 100 attended the **13th Annual Kansas Hydrology Seminar** which is jointly sponsored by the KC/O Section and the Kansas Section of the American Institute of Hydrology. The seminar was held on Friday, November, 19 at the Kansas History Center in Topeka. This was a record attendance for this consistently solid conference. A number of people commented that the quality of the presentations was especially good this year. It was good to go and learn and to see old friends.

Future Programs

The Section’s executive board and program committee will soon begin to discuss future section activities. At this time no schedule of programs has been established. We do, however, intend to continue to have a mix of environmental, conventional engineering geology, and hydrogeology programs. In most cases, we can all learn something useful from programs in any of the sub-disciplines and some presentations will be directly applicable to all of the sub-disciplines. We intend to continue to hold at least four KC/O Section meetings with technical presentations per year and to continue the joint sponsorship of the ASCE/UMKC/AEG and AIH/AEG programs. This core program offers ample opportunity to locally accumulate the professional development credits needed to maintain professional registration. In December we also jointly sponsored a meeting with the ASCE’s Environmental and Water resources Institute of KC.

In addition to the regular quarterly Section meetings, we will consider field trips, all-day conferences and short courses. The following are potential topics for possible meetings (most could also be the subject of a field trip):

- Uplift pressures and soil piping behind levees during high river stage
- Use of horizontal drains to stabilize the Blue River Channel banks
- Use of pressure relief wells to control uplift pressures on earth dams
- Acceptability of direct push methods for environmental investigations (panel discussion; EPA, KDHE, Consultant, Corps)
- Proposed downtown KC development (geotech and environmental)
- Missouri River Alluvial valley (e.g. water supply, dredging, hazardous waste sites, 1993 flood piping failures, wetlands restoration, effects of levees and flood walls, etc)
- Underground mining
- Groundwater remediation project(s) (e.g. Lake City AAP)
- Specific groundwater remediation technologies
- Use of the mini-video camera with the cone penetrometer for environmental investigations

A one-day short course might also be an interesting activity for the Section. It could provide training opportunity for both our members and for other segments of the community. One possible short course might be: Effects of Kansas City Area Geology on Land Use Planning and Development. It could be offered to geologists, developers, chambers of commerce, engineers, students, city planners, etc. KC has some pretty clearly defined physiographic areas whose characteristics clearly influence land use. E.g. glaciated north area, loess hills, Missouri and Kansas River alluvial valleys, periglacial clays in eastern metro area, alternating limestones and shales with residual soil cover, smaller streams draining the non-glaciated areas e.g. Blue River, Little Blue, Turkey Creek, Mill creek, etc. Necessary planning wouldn't allow putting on a short course until probably in late 2005 or 2006.

We would like to hear from you regarding topics of interest to you or specific presentations of interest to you or that you might like to make. The questionnaire that accompanies this newsletter asks for your input in this area.

Questionnaire

The KC/O Section has had a good year in terms of attendance at the quarterly meetings, the horizontal well field trip, and the Fall Conference. Comments from members and non-member guests have generally been favorable. In order to help maintain the momentum developed during 2004, a questionnaire has been included with this newsletter to solicit your input. We would like to ask both members and non-members to please take a few minutes to let us know what you think and what you would like to get from the Section.

John Moylan, P.G.
Chairman, Kansas City/Omaha Section