



**Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
March 2007**

Upcoming Events

The next Kansas City/Omaha Section meeting will be held on **March 21, 2007** in Room 117 of the Administration Center (5115 Oak) at UMKC. Our speaker will be Ms. Barbra Smith, Research Geologist for the Kansas Department of Transportation. She will present *What Makes a Good Limestone for Concrete Pavement?* While Kansas currently has some of the best highways in the nation, it has not always been that way. Find out how it got there. For directions, check: <http://www.umkc.edu/maps/directions.asp>

Our new AEG President, **Dr. Terry West**, will be coming to Kansas City to speak to us in June. Stay tuned for details.

The **2007 North American Landslide Conference** will be held in Vail, Colorado on **June 3-8, 2007**. Deadline for registration ends **March 15!** Look for details at: www.mines.edu/academic/geology/landslidevail2007

The Kansas Geological Society will host the Joint Meeting of the South-Central and North-Central Sections of the **Geological Society of America**. The GSA meeting will be held **April 11-13** in Lawrence, Kansas.

This year's meeting will include several environmental theme sessions, including these two recently added:

- *Applied Hydrogeology and Geophysics: Innovative Approaches to Old Hydrological Challenges*
- *Geologic Hazards in Urban Areas and Transportation Corridors of the Midcontinent.*

Syed Hassan has been on the management board of GSA's Engineering Geology Division for the past three years and will be serving as Chairman

for the Division for the 2006-2007 year. Additional information is available by contacting Syed, or by visiting the GSA website at: www.kgs.ke.edu/Conferences/GSA07/index.html

Recent Activities

January 19, 2007 Close to 30 attendees of the KC/O Section received Professor **Jack Shroder** of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He spoke to the KC/O Section on *Geoscience Adventures in Afghanistan and Pakistan: Tectonic to Terrorist Terrains.*



November 17, 2006 We joined with the Kansas Section of the American Institute of Hydrology for the 15th Annual Kansas Hydrology Seminar. We had eleven speakers from several backgrounds, including the Kansas Geological Survey, the Kansas Department of Agriculture and various consulting firms. The day was full of information and provided a great opportunity to see old friends and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you there next year.

October 5, 2006 Darrel Schmitz, PhD, PG, President of Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists provided us a presentation on *Katrina: Geologic, Disaster and Personal Perspectives*. Dr. Schmitz is the Professor of Geology and Head of Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State University.



News from the Chair

Recently, AEG was made aware of proposed legislation in the Missouri House. Bill 159 in the 2007 legislative session discusses dam safety issues, specifically, who is authorized to sign and seal geologic work performed for a high hazard dam when applying for a construction permit. The original proposed language in the bill states in part that a Missouri Registered Geologist was required to sign and seal the work, including investigation, interpretation, and report writing. Subsequent to the original language, substitute language allowed a professional engineer who has "professional geological practice experience relating to dam safety" to also sign and seal the geologic work. It is our understanding that the revised language was put forth in response to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Geologist Registration (BRG) and the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (APELSLA). The MOU states in part that the boards would "work together in good faith" to resolve issues related to overlapping areas of practice.

The Kansas City-Omaha and the St Louis Section of AEG decided that it was our obligation to our members to officially protest the revised language in the bill in addition to questioning the effectiveness of the MOU. It was determined that AEG should inform the Missouri Board of Geologist Registration of our opinion at the public meeting on March 6, 2007 in Jefferson City. Andrea Prince and Martha Kopper were present to represent AEG. During the meeting, it was decided that the BRG would officially appeal to the Governor to testify on HB 159. The language of the testimony was to be to the effect that the revised language was unacceptable, however, the exact language of the testimony is unavailable at this time.

Several meetings and conversations between John Bogner, Chair of BRG, representatives of AEG and AIPG, and Representative Bivins, has led to an additional revision to the language of HB 159. The current proposed language has deleted the following: "Geological investigation, interpretation and report writing done in support of a construction permit application for a high hazard dam shall bear the seal and signature of a geologist or a professional engineer registered in

the state of Missouri whom also has professional geological practice experience relating to dam safety" and substituted the following: "A geologic report shall accompany an application for a construction permit." The current proposed language then puts the onerous onto the BRG to determine the minimum competency of a Registered Geologist by implication of the term "geologic report". AIPG has also asked that the MOU be revised or dissolved. The BRG has agreed to revisit the language of the MOU.

Other News

AEG's 50th Anniversary (AEG-2007) will be held September 24 - 29, 2007 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles. Be a part of the celebration by submitting an abstract for the Annual Meeting.

Technical Sessions will cover a wide variety of geotechnical topics. Symposia include:

- Paleoseismology and Active Faulting
- Perspectives on Regulatory Review
- The Future of Environmental and Engineering Geology - A Global Perspective
- Engineering Challenges of Mine Reclamation
- Levee Protecting Urban Population Centers: Are New Standards Needed?
- Tunneling
- Solving Diverse Problems with Groundwater Models
- Advances in Subsurface Characterization Techniques and Environmental Investigations
- Dam Removal and Decommissioning
- Operating Dam Analysis and Remediation

For more information, contact Julie Keaton, Meetings Manager (aegjuliek@aol.com). Abstracts are due by **April 1, 2007**.

Missouri River Relief has several events planned this year. Get a free boat ride and help clean up, too!



- *March 3 - River Otter Day, downtown Kansas City:* The KC Port Authority asked for a clean-up of the historic Town of Kansas as they prepare for a riverfront renovation project. This event was postponed from Feb. 3.
- *March 31 - Blue River Rescue, Kansas City:* The 17th annual Blue River Rescue, a large-scale clean-up of the Blue River watershed in urban Kansas City.
- *September 23 - Clean-up at Omaha, NE, and Council Bluffs, IA.*
- *October 5-6 - Kansas City Clean-up and Learning Festival:* Friday Learning Festival with Saturday Clean-up.

Jeff Binder with Burns & McDonnell is currently conducting an investigation to determine the preferential pathway for chloride impacted groundwater near McPherson, Kansas. This investigation is utilizing an electrical conductivity and hydraulic profiling tool developed by Geoprobe®. This data coupled with existing geologic and hydrogeologic data will be used to design a hydraulic containment system to collect and treat the chloride impacted groundwater at the site.



HPT at work
McPherson, KS

Syed Hasan, Professor of Geology and Chair, Department of Geosciences, University of Missouri, Kansas City will present a poster titled "A preliminary report on potential link between heavy metals and health, Nile River islands, near Assiut, Egypt." at 118th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America at Philadelphia in October.

Job Opening

KDHE is looking for a Professional Geologist to work with the Bureau of Waste Management.

Required: Professional geology license recognized by the Kansas Board of Technical Professions and four years of experience as a professional geologist.

Preferred: Masters degree in environmental geology. Good oral and written communication skills. Supervisory experience. Experience in solid waste environmental geology and groundwater monitoring system design. Knowledge of Kansas solid waste statutes and regulations.

For more information, go to:

<http://jobs.ks.gov>

The AEG Newsletter is looking for information on our members! Please consider providing information on interesting projects, hobbies, or research. If you have any news items of interest, please contact Yvonne at yhuff@aquaterra-env.com, or 913-681-0030.

HELP!

John Moylan is working on a draft "**History of the Kansas City/Omaha Section**" for our 40th anniversary. He would appreciate:

- Any old photos from section activities
- Names of the section officers for the 1984-85, 1986-87, 1995-97, and 2001-2003 terms
- Year in which the section held a conference in the Brunson mine
- Any of your recollections of interest, especially of people, section conferences, field trips, interesting speakers, etc.
- Year we first co-sponsored the KU Geotechnical Conference

He would also like to know if you would be interested in being a reviewer of the history. It is hoped that it will be ready for review sometime in early May with completion in June. Please contact John at 913-262-1557 or john_moylan@sbcglobal.net.

KC/O Section Website

www.vocshop.com/aeg



KC/O Board Members

Chairperson - Andrea Prince

Andrea_Prince@urscorp.com

913.344.1108

Vice-Chair - Jeff Binder

jbinder@burnsmcd.com

(816) 822-3406

Treasurer - Julie WestHoff

jwesthoff@prairiellc.com

913-766-0081

Secretary - Bruce Wilkinson

bwilkinson@HaleyAldrich.com

913-217-6910

Program Chairman - Josh Sales

joshuasales@kennedyjenks.com

913-385-7299