

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Mississippi

*The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.*

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### Opportunities abound at *Fall Fling*

November 19 will provide answers to questions about the new Healthcare Reform and how to enhance your business opportunities with "social networking". A lot of firms are hesitant to begin the social networking. This seminar will give you insight into how to make it work to your advantage.

Thursday evening we will honor our ACEC Fellows and enjoy Dr. Sarah Rajala, Dean of the College of Engineering at Mississippi State University, as our keynote speaker.

Registration forms available at [www.acecms.org](http://www.acecms.org)

## ROOSEVELT DAY A BIG SUCCESS

We had record attendance and participation in our Day at Roosevelt State Park. Questions were answered and hopefully communications improved. It is always a full day and the suggestion was made that perhaps we should rotate some agencies to every other year. However, at the end of the day a "straw poll" was taken and the consensus was to "Keep doing what we are doing". A request was made for phone numbers for the participating panelists.

### MDOT

Melinda McGrath – Chief Engineer - 601-359-7004  
Keith Purvis – Assistant Chief Engineer - Preconstruction - 601-359-7007

Jeff Altman – Assistant State LPA Engineer - 601-359-7675  
Scot Ehrgott – Consultant Services Director - 601-359-7874

### MSDH

Keith Allen, Director, Bureau of Public Water Supply - 601-576-7534  
Bill Moody - 601-576-7527  
Leslie Royals 601-576-7522

### MDEQ

Harry Wilson, Chief Environmental Permit Division - 601-961-5073  
Maya Rao, Chief, Air Division, Office of Pollution Control 601-961-5242

### MDA

Chuck Mobley, Business Manager - 601-359-2335  
Mike Armstrong 601-359-9314

## ACEC/MS Remembers Harry Wilson

Harry Maury Wilson, III, returned to God on August 19, 2010. Before Harry retired, he was Principal Partner and President of Cook Coggin Engineers. Harry served as President of ACEC/MS in 1994 and 1995 and was active until his retirement. In 2004, Harry was named Life Fellow of ACEC. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State and his M.S. in Urban Planning from the University of Mississippi. Harry was a master carver and woodworker, cartoonist and artist. Harry is survived by his wife of 65 years, Sue and three children, Harry IV, Leigh Curtis and John.



Harry will be remembered in ACEC for his leadership, his character, quiet temperament and for his "carving angels".

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 23-24	PSMJ AASHTO Audit Guide Bootcamp Ridgeland, MS
October 17-20	ACEC Fall Conference - Puerto Rico
October 22	EEA Intent to Enter Due
November 18 & 19	Fall Meeting, Capital Club Jackson, MS
December 6	EEA Projects Due
February 3	Capitol Day - Jackson, MS
March 10	EEA Dinner
March 10 & 11	Winter Meeting

## ACEC-MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Hust

### Making A Difference

It is an honor and privilege to serve as President of your ACEC state organization. It is a humbling experience to have been preceded by a legacy of very accomplished leaders, one of which included my father, Jim Hust (President 1976), and to be amid the outstanding professionals in the current membership of this organization.

ACEC-MS members and affiliates are **making a difference** every day. While traveling around our state, I have had the opportunity to witness the great talent within our membership which has contributed greatly to so many worthy endeavors: job creation through economic development projects; environmental projects that improve and protect our natural resources; water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects that support our communities; vertical construction programs that provide places for us to work, live, and recreate; transportation projects that give us mobility; water resource and flood control projects that help us appropriately balance the needs of man with Mother Nature; energy projects that energize our world; and other projects that affect the built environment and so integrally support the lifestyle of our society. These types of projects and programs are truly game-changers for Mississippi and, indeed, enable our profession to contribute immensely to the quality of life of each Mississippian.

As consulting engineers, our members are serving as trusted advisors and consistently producing results for clients in the private and public sectors. We are diverse and committed to the consistent demonstration of intelligence, integrity, efficiency, and exceptional work ethic in all that we do. As innovators, we are called to be creative, resourceful, and thrifty in our efforts to be solution-oriented problem solvers who contribute daily to the successful work products of the great firms we represent.

Our state is the beneficiary of your hard work and you are **making a difference** today in the lives of others. It is certainly an honor to be affiliated with this organization both personally and professionally. Thank you for **making a difference!**

ACEC-MS'S GOAL IS **"TO BE RECOGNIZED BY OUR PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC AS THE PRIMARY VOICE FOR THE ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MISSISSIPPI."**

Our 5 year Strategic plan goals and objectives include the following:

**Strategic Goal # 1: Be recognized as the legislative advocate for engineering companies in the promotion and protection of their business interests.**

- a. Single point of contact for our industry

- b. Educate Legislators on issues important to our business
- c. Members will become more active as individuals and have more personal interaction with legislators and key decision makers.
- d. Members will have more interaction with Legislators in their districts.
- e. Voice opinion – all ways and means
- f. Hire a full time lobbyist

**Strategic Goal # 2: Increase the number of Member Firms by 2% each year and increase the number of Member Firm Employees by 2% each year.**

- a. Provide regional activities – marketed and driven by member firms
- b. Board members to host meetings in their areas.
- c. Develop a Small Firms Council within Mississippi

**Strategic Goal # 3: Become recognized by All Stakeholders in the Built Environment as the Voice of the Engineering Industry**

- a. Develop annual Legislative Issues Brochure
- b. Develop regular, consistent communication plan/projects throughout the year.
- c. Tie public relations to economical development

**Strategic Goal # 4: Increase Budget/Resources**

- a. Increase non-dues income from \$85,400 to \$100,000
- b. Request for voluntary increase over and above dues.
- c. Affiliate memberships – need to increase from \$10,400 to \$12,000
- d. Increase contributions to Legislative Fund from \$6,900 to \$7,900
- e. Meet ACEC PAC
- f. Provide webinars

We are grateful to Wayne Morrison for his service as President and dedication during the previous years, particularly this past year. He has inspired us all to strive for a higher level of distinction in our profession. Thank you, Wayne.

Please invite a friend to join and become involved in ACEC-MS. It would be an opportunity for us to expand and grow from additional affiliations and grow relationships. Continue to do what you do so well, **make a difference!**



### ACEC President's Update

By Dave Raymond

- Called on President Obama to put a moratorium on government in-sourcing.
- Urged Secretary of Interior to lift the moratorium on offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico which is causing economic hardship.
- ACEC/South Carolina became the fifth state organization to achieve its 2010 ACEC/PAC fundraising goal, thereby adding critical sums to war chest for the November elections.
- Secured language in pending legislation clarifying liability relief for structural and other firms that worked at Ground Zero after 9/11.
- Participated in multi-state, multi-organization outreach campaign calling for immediate congressional action on a six-year transportation authorization bill.
- Met with FHWA officials on implementation of revised audit guide-

- lines and forthcoming regulatory changes on consultant services.
- Worked with State MOs to address specific FAR and AASHTO Audit Guide compliance issues in conjunction with FHWA and AASHTO.
- ACEC International Committee members lobbied Congressional committees to increase international business opportunities for U.S. engineering firms in the foreign aid program.
- Government and industry officials in the energy arena discussed the strong market outlook for natural gas and other energy sources at a recent ACEC Environment and Energy Committee meeting.
- Urged the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt greater flexibility in the "grandfather" regulations for group health plans under the health care reform law.

### BURNS COOLEY DENNIS, INC. CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

**RIDGELAND, Miss.** – In 1985, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc. (BCD) opened for business with a small office in downtown Jackson, a drill rig, a water truck and a pickup truck. This year BCD commemorates its 25th anniversary as the largest Mississippi-based geotechnical and materials engineering consulting firm with a staff of 110 employees.

BCD provides complete geotechnical and materials consulting services, including engineering, soil borings, laboratory testing, construction observations and testing for earthwork, concrete and asphalt, and pavement studies and design. BCD is headquartered in Ridgeland and has offices in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Memphis, Tenn. and Kenner, La.

The firm has earned widespread recognition for its high quality, innovative and practical solutions to challenging projects. BCD received a 2009 National Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for its work on the U.S. 90 over St. Louis Bay Bridge project. BCD submitted with HNTB Corporation (Kansas City, Mo.), and the team received the award as one of the Top 25 projects by American engineering companies throughout the world during ACEC's annual Engineering Excellence Awards program in Washington, D.C. Since 2000, BCD has received six ACEC-Mississippi Grand Conceptor Awards and one Grand Award involving specialized and unique projects. The Grand Conceptor Award is the highest honor given on a yearly basis by ACEC-Mississippi.



## Paving the way to the Winner's Circle.

You can find Ergon Asphalt & Emulsion's product on Superspeedways or the road outside your window. Cutting-edge innovation and progressive product development are essential components for any successful team and Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions has them both. Sign us up for your next project and go for the win!

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## U.S. House Clears Drinking Water Bill; Includes QBS Mandate

The House cleared legislation just prior to adjourning for the August recess that authorizes nearly \$5 billion for drinking water projects.

The ACEC-backed infrastructure bill reauthorizes EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program for three years, and also mandates the use of QBS for projects serving communities with populations greater than 10,000.

The bill clarifies that SRF loans can be used to cover costs for pre-construction activities, such as engineering, and also provides more favorable terms for disadvantaged communities.

ACEC and industry allies are pressuring the Senate to act on companion legislation and advocating that the final package include both drinking water and wastewater components.

## ACEC Calls for End to Deepwater Drilling Moratorium

ACEC President Dave Raymond has called for Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to lift the moratorium on deepwater drilling, citing the economic impact to the Gulf region and the need to maintain domestic energy supplies.

Raymond also urged Secretary Salazar to expedite a review of the existing 33 deepwater oil rigs to ensure their safety and integrity

## ACEC Congratulates New Business Insurance Trust Vice Chairman

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the nation's largest business association for the engineering industry, congratulates the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) on its appointment of Woody Germany, PE, FACEC, as vice chairman.

Germany formerly held the position of Trust treasurer and was chosen for this position based on his involvement in ACEC and leadership experience in engineering. He is a former vice chairman of the ACEC Executive Committee (2005-2007).

The Business Insurance Trust is responsible for overseeing a program that provides ACEC member firms with business and professional liability insurance coverage.

"I look forward to helping lead the ACEC Business Insurance Trust

efforts and working with a new group of people to continue to improve and maintain the program," says Germany.

During his previous position as treasurer, he helped develop a new strategic plan to provide attractive insurance solutions to benefit ACEC member firms.

Germany received his bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University and has over 30 years of experience in civil engineering. Germany is a past president of WGM Group, and now serves as a member of the Board of Directors and as a senior design engineer.

For more information on the BIT program, please contact Jeff Connelly of Marsh at (800) 338-1391 and [Jeffrey.connelly@marsh.com](mailto:Jeffrey.connelly@marsh.com).



for everything CONCRETE

### MCIA can:

*A non-profit trade association representing the concrete, concrete block, cement, aggregate, and related industries doing business in Mississippi*

- ▶ **Expand Your Network**
- ▶ **Put Knowledge at Your Fingertips**
- ▶ **Speak to Your Organization**
- ▶ **Provide Proven Training**

### Welcome New Affiliate Member

#### ACEC BUSINESS INSURANCE TRUST

701 Market Street, Suite 1100

St. Louis, MO 63101-1830

Telephone: (800) 338-1391

Facsimile: (888) 621-3173

Website: [www.acecbit.org](http://www.acecbit.org)

Email: [karen.m.corbett@marsh.com](mailto:karen.m.corbett@marsh.com)

*Principal(s): Karen Corbett*

**Areas of Interest:** The ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) provides the only Business Insurance Program endorsed by ACEC. In addition to providing Business Insurance, The BIT also provides Professional Liability and Management Liability Insurance to members of ACEC.

## Four Months to Go Until the Largest Tax Hikes in History

*From Americans for Tax Reform*

In just four months, the largest tax hikes in the history of America will take effect. They will hit families and small businesses in three great waves on Jan. 1, 2011.

### First Wave: Expiration of 2001 and 2003 Tax Relief

In 2001 and 2003, the GOP Congress enacted several tax cuts for investors, small business owners and families. These will all expire Jan. 1, 2011: Personal income tax rates will rise. The top income tax rate will rise from 35 to 39.6 percent (this is also the rate at which two-thirds of small business profits are taxed). The lowest rate will rise from 10 to 15 percent. All the rates in between will also rise. Itemized deductions and personal exemptions will again phase out, which has the same mathematical effect as higher marginal tax rates. The full list of marginal rate hikes is below:

- The 10 percent bracket rises to an expanded 15 percent.
- The 25% bracket rises to 28 percent.
- The 28% bracket rises to 31 percent.
- The 33% bracket rises to 36 percent.
- The 35% bracket rises to 39.6 percent.

**Higher taxes on marriage and family.** The “marriage penalty” (narrower tax brackets for married couples) will return from the first dollar of income. The child tax credit will be cut in half from \$1,000 to \$500 per child. The standard deduction will no longer be doubled for married couples relative to the single level. The dependent care and adoption tax credits will be cut. The return of the death tax. This year, there is no death tax. For those dying on or after Jan. 1, 2011, there is a 55 percent top death tax rate on estates over \$1 million. A person leaving behind two homes and a retirement account could easily pass along a death tax bill to their loved ones. Higher tax rates on savers and investors. The capital gains tax will rise from 15 percent this year to 20 percent in 2011. The dividends tax will rise from 15 percent this year to 39.6 percent in 2011. These rates will rise another 3.8 percent in 2013.

### Second Wave: Obamacare

**There are more than 20 new or higher taxes in Obamacare. Several will first go into effect Jan. 1, 2011.** They include: The Tanning Tax. This went into effect July 1 of this year. It imposes a new, 10 percent excise tax on getting a tan at a tanning salon. There is no exemption for tanners making less than \$250,000 per year. The “Medicine Cabinet Tax.” Thanks to Obamacare, Americans will no longer be able to use health savings account (HSA), flexible spending account (FSA), or health reimbursement (HRA) pre-tax dollars to purchase non-prescription, over-the-counter medicines (except insulin). The HSA Withdrawal Tax Hike. This provision of Obamacare increases the additional tax on non-medical early withdrawals from an HSA from 10 percent to 20 percent, disadvantaging them relative to IRAs and other tax-advantaged ac-

counts, which remain at 10 percent. Brand-Name Drug Tax. Starting next year, there will be a multi-billion-dollar tax assessment imposed on name-brand drug manufacturers. This tax, like all excise taxes, will raise the price of medicine, hurting everyone.

**Economic Substance Doctrine.** The IRS is now empowered to disallow perfectly legal tax deductions and maneuvers merely because it judges that the deduction or action lacks “economic substance.” This is obviously an arbitrary empowerment of IRS agents.

**Employer Reporting of Health Insurance Costs on a W-2. This will start for W-2s in the 2011 tax year. While not a tax increase in itself, it makes it very easy for Congress to tax employer-provided healthcare benefits later.**

### Third Wave: The Alternative Minimum Tax and Employer Tax Hikes

When Americans prepare to file their tax returns in January 2011, they'll be in for a nasty surprise — the AMT won't be held harmless, and many tax relief provisions will have expired. These major items include: The AMT will ensnare over 28 million families, up from 4 million last year. According to the left-leaning Tax Policy Center, Congress' failure to index the AMT will lead to an explosion of AMT taxpaying families—rising from 4 million last year to 28.5 million. These families will have to calculate their tax burdens twice, and pay taxes at the higher level. The AMT was created in 1969 to ensnare a handful of taxpayers. *Small business expensing will be slashed and 50 percent expensing will disappear. Small businesses can normally expense (rather than slowly deduct, or “depreciate”) equipment purchases up to \$250,000. This will be cut all the way down to \$25,000. Larger businesses can expense half of their purchases of equipment. In January 2011, all of it will have to be “depreciated.” Taxes will be raised on all types of businesses.* There are literally scores of tax hikes on business that will take place. The biggest is the loss of the “research and experimentation tax credit,” but there are many, many others. Combining high marginal tax rates with the loss of this tax relief will cost jobs. Tax benefits for education and teaching reduced. The deduction for tuition and fees will not be available. Tax credits for education will be limited. Teachers will no longer be able to deduct classroom expenses. The Coverdell Education Savings Accounts will be cut. Employer-provided educational assistance is curtailed. The student loan interest deduction will be disallowed for hundreds of thousands of families. Charitable contributions from IRAs no longer allowed. Under current law, a retired person with an IRA can contribute up to \$100,000 per year directly to a charity from their IRA. This contribution also counts toward an annual “required minimum distribution.” This ability will no longer be there.