



AIPG GEORGIA SECTION

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Tony Moraes – University of Georgia student chapter
Shayna Turner - Georgia Southwestern State student chapter
Logan Moore – University of North Georgia student chapter
Mallory Paulk – Berry College student chapter

June 2017

NEXT MEETING

Improve In Situ Chemical Oxidation Performance in Source Areas

Speaker: Patrick Hicks, Ph.D., PeroxyChem

When: Friday, July 21, 2017 at noon

Where: Geosyntec Consultants – 1255 Roberts Blvd., NW, Suite 200
Kennesaw, GA 30144

AIPG Members and guests call or email by Wednesday July 19, if you plan to attend
[Call Ron Wallace (404) 362-2589 or ronald.wallace@dnr.state.ga.us]

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Since our last news letter we have had two luncheon presentations where we are teaming with Georgia Ground Water Association. We plan to have a talk every other month and rotate between the USGS office in Norcross and one on the northwest side of town. If your office is big enough to host one of these talks, please contact me. Currently we have between 10-15 people in attendance.

Our 7th Conference was very successful and once again we had a good variety of speakers and subjects. I'd like to thank Eric Lowe who took care of the food and helped Mary Stacy with registration, Yo Sumartojo with assembling all our speakers with their abstracts and presentations, Susan Kite and Glen Faulkner who worked the registration table, and Becky Ferguson and Kent Hankinson who helped register the Georgia EPD employees. We have already set the date for our 8th conference on September 18-19, 2018. If you would like to be a speaker, please contact us.

During May I was able to visit Georgia Southwestern State University, University of West Georgia, Columbus State University, and University of North Georgia and present our Georgia Section scholarship. I was also able to make a surprise second visit to University of West Georgia to present the \$1,000.00 AIPG National scholarship to Sydney O'Brien. Our student chapter president, Logan Moore, at the University of North Georgia was a double winner with both our Georgia Section scholarship and the AIPG National scholarship. A double congratulations.

The 2017 AIPG National Conference will be in Nashville, TN September 23-26, 2017.

GEORGIA SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Shayna Turner - Georgia Southwestern State



Heather Alley - West Georgia



Mallory Paulk - Berry College at Southeastern GSA



Ryan Lloyd - Columbus State



Harrison Bohannon - Georgia State



Sydney O'Brien – University of West Georgia



Logan Moore - University of North Georgia

AIPG GEORGIA SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Ryan Diederich - Georgia Southern
Ryan Lloyd - Columbus State
Cason Dowdy - University of Georgia
Harrison Bohannon - Georgia State
Shayna Turner - Georgia Southwestern State
Heather Alley - West Georgia
Logan Moore - University of North Georgia
Mallory Paulk - Berry College

AIPG NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Sydney O'Brien – West Georgia
Logan Moore - University of North Georgia

GEORGIA SECTION LONGEVITY AWARD

The following members were mailed our longevity award:

30 years – John Absalon

20 years – Frederick Basham

10 years – Michael Amsbaugh, Henry Esterly, Kendall Fountain, Matt McDuffie, and Neil Pearce

We would like to thank these members for their commitment to AIPG.

DRILLING DEMONSTRATION AT COLUMBUS STATE

On April 11, 2017, we had a drilling demonstration on campus. The students had an opportunity to watch direct push and hollow stem auger drilling. Dr. Clinton Barineau and Dr. Diana Ortega-Ariza helped the students in describing the lithology. Once again I would like to thank Jim Fineis with Atlas Geo-Sampling Company for their drill rig and personnel.



Samples laid out for describing



Hollow stem auger drilling

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

House committee hearing considers nuclear waste legislation

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing on April 26 to examine a discussion draft of a bill that would amend certain provisions of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPAA) to streamline management and licensing processes for nuclear waste disposal.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 proposes a number of changes to the NWPAA, including the addition of options to enter into cooperative agreements with respect to monitored retrievable storage facilities. It would revoke Public Land Order 6802, which directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to ensure that scientific studies for site characterization are not adversely impacted. It would withdraw approximately 147,000 acres of land at Yucca Mountain site from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the previous public land laws, and reserves the withdrawal area for activities associated with the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. The bill also would direct the Secretary of the Interior to submit a management plan for use of the withdrawal area, providing that the Secretary permit non-project related uses that the Secretary considers appropriate, including domestic livestock grazing and hunting.

Executive order targets offshore leasing plans and regulations

President Donald Trump released an executive order targeting the five-year oil and gas leasing plan finalized under the Obama administration. The order, entitled "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy," encourages exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) of the United States in order to maintain our nation's position as a global energy leader, while ensuring related activities are safe and environmentally responsible.

The order directs the Secretary of the Interior to consider revising the schedule of proposed oil and gas lease sales, while ensuring that any changes do not hinder or affect ongoing sales. It also directs the Secretary to develop and implement a streamlined permitting process for privately funded seismic data research and collection aimed at determining the offshore energy resource potential within the OCS.

The order requires the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Interior, and Homeland Security, to conduct a review of all designations and expansions of National Marine Sanctuaries, and of all designations and expansions of Marine National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Additionally, President Trump's executive order directs the Secretary of the Interior to review several pre-existing rules, including the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) final rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control," the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) proposed rule entitled "Air Quality Control, Reporting, and Compliance," and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPR-55.

Hazards Caucus briefing conveys the importance of geologic mapping and monitoring

The Hazards Caucus Alliance, a network that supports the Congressional Hazards Caucus, hosted a briefing on April 6 about how geologic and hazards mapping and monitoring are used to prepare and protect communities from natural hazards. The Hazards Caucus provides congressional staff with information and educational materials concerning preparation, mitigation, and response for natural disasters. The caucus is led by Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1).

The briefing, “Watching the World: Saving Lives Through Hazards Mapping and Monitoring,” emphasized the importance of federally funded programs that support geologic and topographic mapping projects and seismic monitoring efforts. The speakers discussed the functions of several federal programs, including the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP), and the NSF-funded EarthScope program.

Kevin Gallagher, Associate Director for the USGS Core Science Systems, explained how mapping can help save lives and protect infrastructure by underpinning hazards research and response. Mike West, State Seismologist for the Alaska Earthquake Center, focused on the critical value of seismic monitoring stations in Alaska and throughout the United States. Dr. West talked about the need for a reliable seismic network throughout the nation and expressed his support for reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. Richard Ortt, Director and State Geologist for the Maryland Geological Survey, highlighted the importance of NCGMP-funded geologic maps for use at the state level.

Senate EPW committee hearing reviews Clean Water Act rule

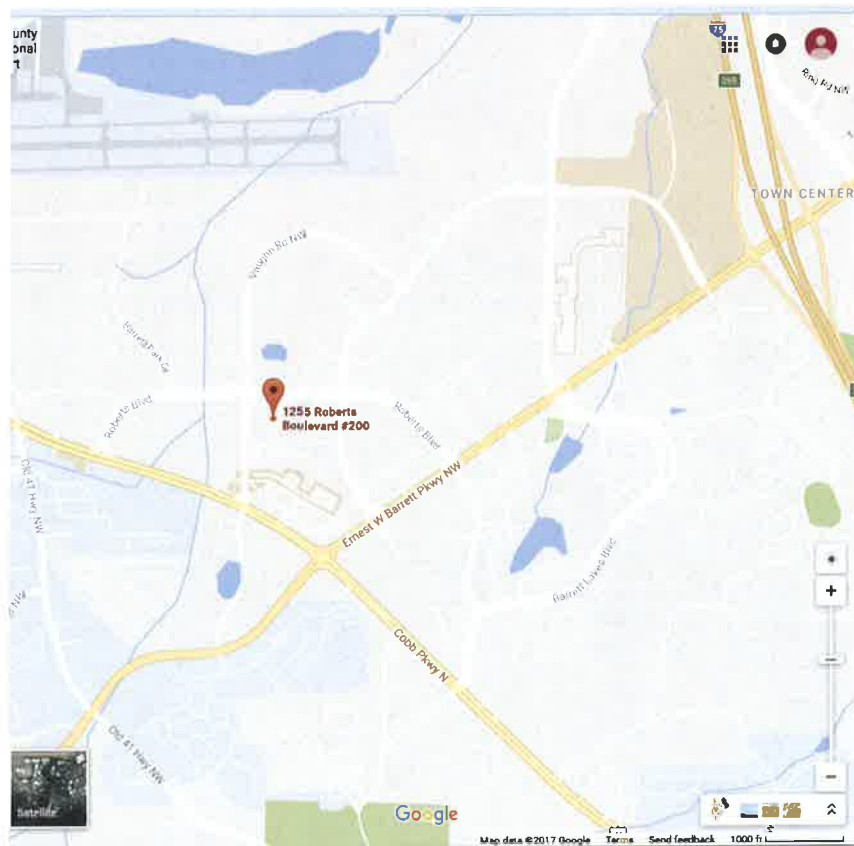
On April 26, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) held an oversight hearing to review the Obama Administration’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The WOTUS rule, also known as the Clean Water Rule, was established to provide a more clear definition of the waters protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The EPA developed a report on water connectivity to inform the WOTUS rulemaking process, which confirmed the basic hydrologic principle that all parts of a watershed are connected to some degree. According to Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Chairman of the EPW Committee, the EPA’s report fails to examine whether connections are significant, and it does not address the issue of federal jurisdiction, therefore it cannot be used to justify the WOTUS rule.

Witnesses provided testimony during the hearing to assess which streams and wetlands should be subject to federal regulation. Misha Tseytlin, Solicitor General for the State of Wisconsin, said that the WOTUS rule is “an overbroad assertion of federal authority over local waters, which are rightfully subject to state, not federal, regulation.” According to President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Wildlife Foundation (NWF) Collin O’Mara, however, the WOTUS rule is an important part of collaborative federal and state conservation efforts. Mr. O’Mara explained that the rule is a product of years of transparent scientific and public deliberations, and it protects the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans.

The hearing follows an executive order signed by President Trump on February 28 directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to review and then rescind or revise the WOTUS rule. The rule is currently stayed (postponed from further action) pending legal challenges, including a petition before the Supreme Court to decide whether or not circuit courts should have jurisdiction to hear challenges to the rule.

NEXT MEETING



Meeting Topic

In Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) is a powerful tool for addressing a relatively large contaminant mass concentrated in a relatively small area such as source areas typically identified at environmental remediation sites. A focused, aggressive source area contaminant mass destruction often proves a more efficient option compared to prolonged dilute dissolved mass remediation strategies. The challenge is how to improve the efficacy and efficiency of ISCO applications for source area remediation. The critical variables for successful ISCO execution includes proper basis of design, and establishing sufficient contact with contaminants for a long enough period of time to allow the chemical reactions to occur. ISCO performance can be substantially improved when focused on source areas by including all three variables in the basis of design: contaminant mass, geochemistry, and hydrogeology. This however, does not always ensure satisfactory performance. The application process where the ISCO products are emplaced in the subsurface is extremely critical for successful remediation. An appreciation for the challenges associated with soil and aquifer heterogeneity, and maximizing flexibility during field application is just as critical as a sound basis of design.

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