

An informative newsletter from Gannett Fleming, a global infrastructure firm focused on planning, design, technology, and construction management services for the transportation, environmental, water, power, and facilities industries.

## Gannett Fleming Develops National Guidelines for Hydrologic Safety of Dams

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently authorized Gannett Fleming to complete a new study, titled "Development of Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk-Based Hydrologic Safety of Dams." The objective of this study is to develop and publish a guidance document for the evaluation of the hydrologic safety of dams, including guidelines for determining the inflow design flood for new and existing dams. The compilation and publication of this guidance document will provide a resource to assist federal and state dam safety programs in evaluating their current hydrologic guidelines. The guidelines are intended to assist regulators and dam owners with difficult decisions and limited resources relating to protecting the public safety and public resources.

This project team includes Amanda Hess, P.E., a senior project engineer; Greg Richards, E.I.T., a hydrologic and hydraulic designer; Don Roarabaugh, P.E., a vice president, senior project engineer, and project manager; and Paul Schweiger, P.E., an engineering manager; along with a steering committee of nationally recognized experts from federal and state dam safety agencies.



*Pictured left to right: Don Roarabaugh, Paul Schweiger, Amanda Hess and Greg Richards*

Completed tasks include a comprehensive literature review and a survey of the hydrologic guidelines currently used by each state and federal agency that regulates dams. The Gannett Fleming study team recently conducted a soapbox session at the Association of State Dam Safety Officials' 2011 National Conference in Washington, D.C., to present a summary of the current state of the practice by federal and state agencies, discuss inconsistencies and problems with the current practices, and present recent advances and trends. The session was filled to capacity and was a highlight of the conference.

## United Way Campaign

Through the generosity of Gannett Fleming employees, the firm had another successful United Way Campaign in 2011 which exceeded our goal and last year's total by 14%. The firm's employees raised \$223,442, which includes a 10% company match. Various regional events were held in Gannett Fleming offices across the country including a Basket Mania Raffle, Maine Beach House Getaway, Cutest Pet Contest, Sandwich Sale, Bake Sale, and the Pittsburgh Penny War. Gannett Fleming Chief Executive Officer, Bill Stout stated, "this impressive total demonstrates the kind heartedness of the Gannett Fleming family. This will truly change lives where we all live and work."



## Rapid Response System Highlighted in Ohio

GeoDecisions®, a division of Gannett Fleming, exhibited the firm's Rapid Response System at the Ohio Municipal League's 60th annual conference held in Columbus on December 6-7, 2011. The system assists cities, municipalities, authorities, and other clients notify the public of any emergency situation.



The Rapid Response System is a reliable and robust high-speed alert notification system designed to deliver phone, email, or text messages during an emergency. A mobile interface also enables users to perform all tasks associated with sending an alert directly from the field. With its user-friendly, web-based interface, the Rapid Response System has the ability to contact thousands of customers within minutes, when it matters most.

## GreenSource Ranks Gannett Fleming Among Top Green Design Firms

Gannett Fleming was ranked 47 of the top 100 green design firms for 2011 by GreenSource, a magazine about sustainable design. The list is based on design revenue from registered sustainable projects.



Among the projects that were important to Gannett Fleming's green design revenue in 2011 were the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) Bed-down Facility in Annville, Pa., and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) reservoir replacement in New Cumberland, Pa. ASOS is LEED® Silver certified and has renewable energy generation to reduce peak energy demand, high-efficiency water source heat pumps, and individual room temperature controls. The reservoir

replacement incorporates high-efficiency pump motors and lighting systems and features a high percentage of recycled content.

GreenSource reports that although overall reported revenue of the top 500 design firms declined for a second year, revenues from the top 100 green design firms increased for the fourth year in a row. Green project revenue increased a dramatic 17.4 percent, valued at \$3.3 billion. An increase in renovation work during this down economy, as well as a willingness of cost-conscious owners to invest in green technology to lower utility bills, were likely key in driving this growth.

## INSIDE THE INDUSTRY USDOT Technical Advisory

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration published Technical Advisory 5140.32 on September 12, 2011. The purpose of the advisory is to provide recommendations regarding the in-service inspection of, and the treatment of critical findings identified on fracture critical bridges fabricated from AASHTO M270 Grade 100 (ASTM A514/A517) steel, more commonly known as "T-1" steel. The background of the advisory centers around the in-service inspection of the I-64 Sherman Minton Bridge, which consists of two 800-foot tied arch truss main spans carrying six lanes across the Ohio River between Louisville, Kentucky and New Albany, Indiana. The bridge was constructed between 1960-1961, before AASHTO/AWS Fracture Control Plan material and fabrication requirements were adopted.

Earlier this year inspectors discovered several cracks in the butt welds of their associated heat-affected zones, and so retrofit and repair work began to address those cracks and provide additional inspections. During the retrofit process, an additional critical crack in the tension tie was discovered. The tension tie cracks could not be seen through the previous visual inspections because of the connection plate detail.

**Among several recommendations, the Technical Advisory strongly recommends bridge owners review the inspection records of their inventory of fracture critical bridges to ensure any components fabricated with T-1 steel have been regularly and appropriately inspected and have critical findings properly addressed.** Gannett Fleming has a long history of providing specific construction inspection services for bridges and transportation-related projects.

**For more information about our inspection services or the Technical Advisory, please contact Joseph Rikk, P.E. at 614.794.9424.**

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