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Greenhouse gas reduction 8

The Obama administration released its long awaited proposed rule for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generating units.

Innovative Altamonte 9

The city of Altamonte Springs unveiled yet another innovative solution to water resource management—the Altamonte Springs-FDOT Integrated Reuse and Stormwater Treatment project. A-First combines traditional water supply measures with innovative stormwater management.

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St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman thinks Floridians can minimize future water demand by using existing water resources more efficiently through a combination of mandatory conservation requirements, incentives, reclaimed water, education and effective pricing strategies.

Rainbow Springs study 12

Pollution from agricultural operations and septic tanks is having a big impact on Rainbow Springs in Marion County according to a new study by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Real-time monitors in IRL 15

The St. Johns River Water Management District and DEP installed five real-time water quality monitoring stations in the Indian River Lagoon to better track pollutant levels in the troubled waterway.

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Got a story lead?

Got an idea for a story? Like to submit a column for consideration? Fire away. And don't forget to fill us in on your organization's new people and programs, projects and technologies—anything of interest to environmental professionals in the state. Send to P.O. Box 2175, Goldenrod, FL 32733. Call us at (407) 671-7777; fax us at (407) 671-7757, or email mreast@enviro-net.com.

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EPA proposes CERCLA change

By ROY LAUGHLIN

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule to drop references to ASTM International's E1527-05 from the "All Appropriate Inquiries Rule" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

The "05 rule," as it is abbreviated, is titled "Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessment Process." The "05" refers to its promulgation in 2005.

The EPA passed a usual periodic amendment to CERCLA in December 2013. It referenced ASTM's updated Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessment Process Standard Procedure, E1527-13.

But the January rule did not remove reference to it, creating ambiguity with respect to the use of E1527-05 or E1527-13 going forward.

The agency left reference to E1527-05 in its 2014 rule, according to some experts, to ensure the validity of Phase I environmental site assessments performed under it and liability protections resulting from proper use of the 05 standard procedures supplied under law.



Photo by Abby Johnson

The Suwannee River WMD launched a springs dashboard that provides a view of water quality and flow affecting first magnitude springs and rivers. Manatee Springs, shown above, is the first dashboard to be launched and can be viewed at <http://www.mysuwanneeriver.org/dashboards/manatee/index.html>.

The EPA's proposal to amend its recently passed rule referencing E1527-13 is intended to clearly designate, going forward, that E1527-13 is the "industry consensus-based standard" and by removing reference to the 05 standard, end confusion for practitioners

performing CERCLA Phase I environmental site assessments.

When EPA passed its amended rule in December 2013, it promised to remove

CERCLA
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State of the Lab Business

Environmental lab officials blast certification program, lack of cash flow in state programs

By PRAKASH GANDHI

Major changes in Florida's environmental laboratory certification program have triggered a firestorm within the industry.

The changes require labs to select a private vendor to conduct the inspections, instead of having them completed by the Florida Department of Health, as in the past.

Of major concern is the increased expense of going to outside vendors.

"It has more than doubled the cost," said lab industry veteran Jeff Flowers, PhD, president of Flowers Chemical Laboratories Inc. in Altamonte Springs

and president of the American Environmental Lab Association. "It's like a hamburger that used to cost \$5 now costs \$10 to \$15."

Labs are periodically inspected by an authoritative, independent organization to ensure that they have the staff, facilities, equipment and professional practices to generate reliable data.

The certification program ensures that labs test drinking water, wastewater, soil and hazardous waste, as well as other types of environmental samples, in accordance with the quality standards of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

Several years ago, the Florida Department of Health concluded that their environmental laboratory certification program should be privatized.

DOH said the new process will be as intensive as previous assessments and the standards will be the same. Labs are now responsible for selecting one of several providers that conduct the assessments.

And the changes have triggered a wave of concern throughout the lab industry.

"I think it is a bumpy program," said Flowers. "Labs were accustomed to a pretty smooth program run by the state in the past. Now, we have inspectors who have different perspectives. What we have experienced is a very different approach to the inspection process."

Smaller labs, he said, may have to increase prices to help offset the increased certification costs. Meanwhile, the state is still collecting fees from the labs, even though the inspections are being handled by private vendors, Flowers said.

"The state is not doing the job they did in the past, so you would think the labs would not still be paying the fees to the state," he said. "But the fees remain identical to what they were in the past. All labs are being affected in a similar way. But this new system is so new and fresh that I don't think the industry has had time to react."

June Flowers, quality systems director with Flowers Labs, said business has been good. But she said that the new certification program has the potential

2014 Legislature changes requirements for state petroleum contractors

By ROY LAUGHLIN

Last year, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Petroleum Restoration Program established new requirements and procedures for environmental contractors to participate in the program's state-funded projects.

Those qualifications and procedures are defined in Rule 62-772.300, Florida Administrative Code.

This spring, the Florida Legislature made some changes to DEP's contractor requirements. The governor signed the legislation into law in mid-June. Changes were made based on recent past practice.

First, qualified contractors must maintain or contract with firms possessing and maintaining a valid certificate

to practice professional geology and a valid certification to practice professional engineering. Details of those requirements appear in Sections 492.111 and 471.023, Florida Statutes.

The legislature's version is different from Section 2.2 of the preapproval standard operating procedures that the bureau has been using.

That SOP required a contractor to have one—but not both—certifications in geology and engineering, and did not allow partnering with another organization to satisfy the requirement for the single license.

Since two certificates are simultaneously required, partnering will now satisfy the requirement for qualified

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For more information and to join the FECA, visit www.fleca.org

Corps poised to release final report on Everglades project

Staff report

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will soon release its final report for the Central Everglades Planning Project. Release will occur when the responses to comments made during the Civil Works Review Board's May meeting are completed.

Its release will mark the culmination of a three-year planning and assessment exercise in coordination with the South Florida Water Management District.

Release of this final report begins a comment opportunity for state and other federal agencies. The report will be available online, and those who wish to comment to the corps may do so there.

The release of the report is a major milestone, but not the final step, before presenting the plan to Congress for approval and then funding.

The next major milestone will be its inclusion in a "Chief's Report," a final for-

mality that will send the report to the White House for review and eventually to Congress for authorization and perhaps even funding.

A public affairs officer for the corps said the Chiefs Report is expected to be signed and sent by the end of summer, 2014.

Delays in April and May kept the subject projects from inclusion in the WRRDA bill that was passed in June. Some had hoped the projects would have received federal authorization in that large public works bill.

Now, federal appropriations for the project is years in the future. The state and water management districts might begin the projects before federal funding, however.

The Central Everglades Planning Project final report will be available online at http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_51_cepp.aspx.

EPA report tracks climate change impact. The third edition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Climate Change Indicators in the United States" is now available. The latest report adds additional years of observation to the last edition, produced in 2012.

Several new indicators of climate change have been added to the third edition: Lyme disease incidence, heating and cooling degree days, wildfires, and water level and temperatures in the Great Lakes.

This report includes bad news of two different genres. The first is that climate change effects are occurring across the country. The second is that those changes have accelerated in the past three decades.

Seven of the top 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 1998. In addition, sea levels are rising and have risen the most along mid-Atlantic and Gulf Coast shores. Some stations registered increases of more than eight inches between 1960-2013.

Some areas of the Southwest U.S. are nearly 2° F warmer than the average between 1895 and 2013, and wildfire burning has increased dramatically with nine of the 10 years with the largest acreage burned having occurred since 2000.

In addition, water levels in the Great Lakes have declined (although this year they have returned to normal).

The data for the report come from a number of federal government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, universities and others, and were selected to reflect long-term trends in climate characteristics. Data for each indicator discussed in the report were peer-reviewed by independent experts.

The report is available on line at <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators/download.html>.

Acid rain standards. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Washington, DC Circuit, ruled in favor of the EPA in a case that challenged the agency's strategy to establish acid rain standards.

In 2012, during a recurring examination of rules and regulations, EPA officials determined that a comprehensive rule that would regulate multiple substances, including oxides of nitrogen and sulfur that are involved in acid rain formation, would be appropriate.

They also determined that the agency needed more data and study to formulate a rule.

In lieu of proposing a rule, the EPA began an effort to identify information gaps and initiated a data gathering program to address those information gaps.

The agency left in place two separate rules, secondary national ambient air quality standards for both oxides of nitrogen



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FEDFILE

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Manatee officials seek more information on use of deep well injection at Piney Point property

Staff report

Manatee County commissioners want more details about the science of deep injection wells and other alternatives being considered for cleaning up pollution near Port Manatee before deciding on the best course of action.

Environmental officials said that contaminated wastewater at the former Piney Point phosphate plant continues to threaten Bishop Harbor and Tampa Bay with polluted runoff.

The contaminated water contains by-products from fertilizer manufacturing, including beryllium, cadmium, iron, sodium and arsenic.

Officials with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said the pollutant levels do not rate as toxic or hazardous, but the wastewater also contains high levels of phosphate and nitrogen—nutrients that can cause algae blooms.

Site owner HRK Holdings LLC, Manatee County and DEP are seeking a permanent solution to the potential for surface water contamination. They are considering the possibility of pumping the wastewater 2,500 to 3,500 feet underground.

Experts say that hundreds of feet of limestone and clay would prevent the wastewater from flowing back up into drinking and irrigation water levels.

Around the country, about 100 water sources have been contaminated by similar disposal methods, with about a dozen Class 1 injection well failures in Florida alone.

Brownfield grant. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council has been awarded a \$400,000 grant to continue its work with brownfields.

The Bartow-based planning agency has been involved in the program since receiving a million dollar grant in 2009.

That money paid for consultants to evaluate potential redevelopment sites and for setting up a revolving loan program to aid property owners within the council's five-county planning area.

Half of the grant will be used to assess areas where petroleum contamination may be present. The other half will be used to assess property where other hazardous substances may be present.

In all, the funds will be used to conduct as many as 27 environmental site assessments. Most will be basic assessments to determine the likelihood of contamination based on past land uses and any other evidence.

Some will include assessments of suspected contaminated sites and will involve soil and water testing to determine the extent of the contamination.

Carbon pollution. Duke Energy is the second largest emitter of carbon pollution in the country. Duke's coal, natural gas and oil-fired power plants emitted 134.3 million tons of carbon in 2012.

This is according to the 2014 Benchmarking Air Emissions report from CERES, a nonprofit advocate for sustainability.

Duke has over 1.7 million customers in Florida after its merger with Progress Energy earlier this year.

The biggest polluter was Ohio-based American Electric Power, which relies heavily on carbon-heavy coal.

The report tracks power production and emissions of carbon, sodium dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury for the 100 largest utilities in the nation.

Coal accounted for 37 percent of the power produced by the 100 largest companies in 2012, down from 44 percent in 2011.

PBC waste capacity marketing. Palm Beach County commissioners voted in favor of moving forward with a plan to allow other municipalities to ship their garbage into the county.

The vote allows the county's Solid

Waste Authority to contact other counties to see if they are interested.

Opponents of the plan don't like the idea that outside municipalities would pay about half of what those inside the county currently pay.

A study will be conducted over the next several months on the potential environmental impact of the plan.

Another vote is expected in August.

Lake County peat. The Lake County Commission has approved a controversial peat operation. C&C Peat will mine 328 acres in seven phases over 17 years.

Peat mining involves drying out wetlands and harvesting organic matter used in agricultural operations. The peat harvesting operation is expected to take place in 2015.

Some residents are concerned that the project will needlessly destroy wetlands and that peat mining will release additional carbon emissions.

The company said that concerns about

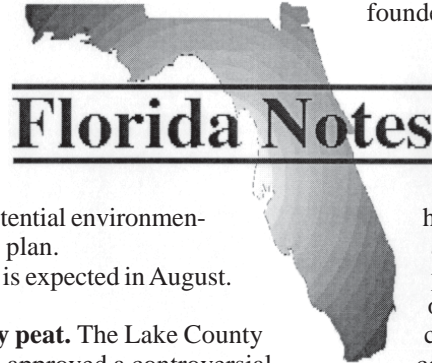
air quality and other environmental issues are unfounded.

Sustainability award. Adams Ranch, one of Florida's oldest ranches, founded in 1937, has received Audubon Florida's Sustainable Rancher Award for 2014.

Since its inception, the owners of Adams Ranch have worked to maintain high quality wildlife habitats and wetlands on their ranch properties, which now consist of over 50,000 acres in St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Osceola counties.

Progressions. Isabel Johnson has been appointed principal at Golder Associates. She has been with the firm since 1996 and is a past ecology group manager in Gainesville. In addition, Tom Yonge has been appointed an associate with Golder. Yonge is the practice group leader for the engineering and project development team.

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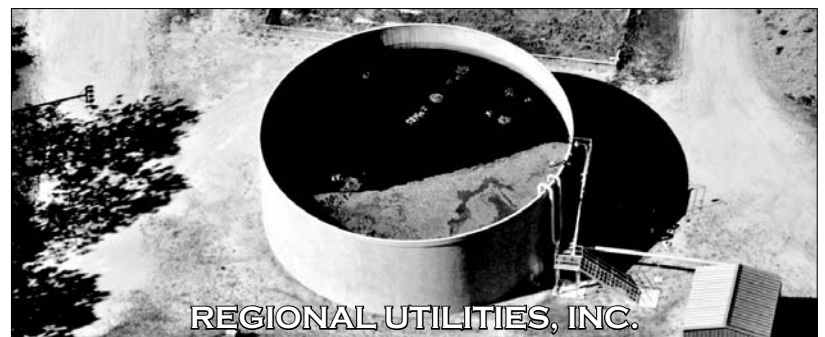


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Reservoir redesign will save money, reduce nutrients to St. Johns River

Staff report

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board approved an amendment to an agreement with the Clay County Utility Authority to co-fund the construction of a proposed reclaimed water storage reservoir in northeast Florida.

The 135-million-gallon water storage reservoir will help reduce nitrogen entering the lower St. Johns River by 19,374 pounds, and will save taxpayers money.

The approved amendment called for a redesign of the water storage project that

will result in total nutrient reduction of 9,500 pounds more than the original design. The new design will also save \$468,200 in state funds and \$1.17 million in district property tax funds.

St. Johns district ranks projects. The SJRWMD board also approved the ranking of 62 proposed water projects that develop traditional and alternative water quality improvement projects in priority waterbodies.

Qualified projects addressed one or more of the district's strategic initiatives, including water quality protection in the

Indian River Lagoon, Northern Coastal Basin, and middle and lower St. Johns River basins.

Proposals were submitted by local governments, water supply utilities and others and included reclaimed water treatment and enhancement projects, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, agricultural water management projects for water quality, alternative water supply development work and water conservation enhancements.

Another 10 proposed projects are currently under evaluation for funding through additional springs protection cost-share programs.

NFWFMD funding for bay work. Nearly \$430,000 in grant funding was approved last month by the Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board for a stormwater retrofit project for the city of Mexico Beach.

The project will significantly improve water quality and reduce pollution in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

Modifications to the existing stormwater management facility will increase the conveyance and treatment capacity of roadside ditches and swales.

The installation of a nutrient-separating baffle box will remove pollutants and reduce flow velocity, allowing suspended solids to settle into sediment chambers, and trash rack filters that can be monitored and cleaned as needed.

The district anticipates that the improvements will benefit the watershed and the surrounding area.

The district's board also approved \$462,000 in grant funding to implement a stormwater retrofit project for the city of Carrabelle that will improve water quality in the Apalachicola Bay watershed.

Discharges from the Marine Street stormwater retrofit project will treat stormwater that is released into the Carrabelle River.

The project is designed to improve stormwater quality before it discharges into the Carrabelle River via a "treatment train" approach that consists of pretreatment to remove larger pollutants, followed by bioretention treatment to further remove dissolved nutrients and pollutants.

Springs BMAPs. More than 70 spring vents have been identified in King's Bay, and the water quality in six major springs and the bay itself have been classified as

impaired by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Representatives from both agencies met last spring to discuss the basin management action plan for the bay and its associated springs.

A similar effort was also launched for Weeki Wachee Springs. Homosassa Springs is scheduled for next year. The BMAP for King's Bay runs from the coastal area to the Withlacoochee River and south to Homosassa, an area of about 180,000 acres.

The process involves estimating nitrogen loads introduced at different sources, including thirty-two wastewater treatment plants, an estimated 41,504 septic tanks, golf courses, livestock populations, and nutrients from both farm and urban fertilizers.

Pensacola stormwater plan. The city of Pensacola's new stormwater runoff plan will reconstruct the way the water flows in the Scenic Heights area by creating a new retention pond off Spanish Trail that will store water, while also treating it before it is discharged into Escambia Bay.

DEP committed \$1.8 million to help fund the project, and the city will match that grant with close to \$1.25 million.

Rockledge dumps well plan. City of Rockledge officials abandoned plans to store treated wastewater underground for future irrigation use due to concerns about arsenic contamination and the public outcry against deep wells.

The city council instructed staff to monitor technological advances that might enable underground wells to be used without concern that oxygen-rich water would release arsenic from limestone.

Water quality info online. Regular updates on water quality in the lower St. Johns River Basin in Northeast Florida are available on the St. Johns River Water Management District's website at www.floridaswater.com/lbwqnews.

The new capability provides information about restoration and protection projects within the river system, announces when significant algae blooms are occurring, and provides links to other agencies that publish information regarding the river.

Responsible fertilizer use group. A consortium comprised of ten Southwest Florida counties, municipalities and other organizations hopes to educate its citizens about the responsible use of fertilizer and the impact of over-fertilization on water quality.

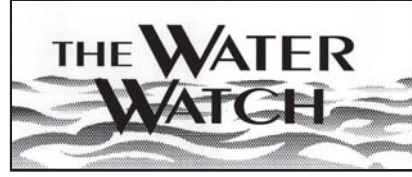
Lee and Charlotte counties; the cities of Sanibel, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach and Cape Coral; the South Florida Water Management District; the Sanibel & Captiva Chamber of Commerce and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation joined forces to launch a media campaign on how over-fertilization negatively impacts water quality, the quality of life and the local economy.

The goal of the campaign is to explain the relationship between poor landscaping practices, degraded water quality and the negative effect of nutrient loading on local waterways.

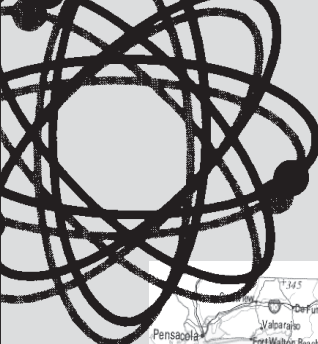
The goal is to raise awareness regarding the importance of proper fertilization application practices and the positive benefits that can be achieved to protect Florida's waterways for the future.

Haines City stormwater, wastewater. The Haines City Commission unanimously approved city staff's selection of the top three engineers under consideration for a stormwater project and improvements to the city's wastewater system.

The top three firms are Environmental



WATCH
Continued on Page 16



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LABS

From Page 1

to shut down some labs.

"You have to be certified if you test for water and wastewater," she said. "The certification process can take between two and five days depending on the size of the lab."

Instead of staff from the Florida Department of Health inspecting labs, the state cut staff and outsourced the work to five private vendors, she said.

The Florida Department of Health's Evaluation and Justification Review—produced in response to legislation passed in 2010—identified the Environmental Lab Certification Program as one function of the department that could potentially be privatized.

This recommendation was later modified to suggest that some activities should be outsourced, including lab inspections.

Additional legislation in 2012 mandated that the inspections be contracted out to third party providers.

"Because of the professionalism and cooperation of both the contract assessment providers and the members of the certified lab community, the program is going quite well," said DOH Spokesperson McKinley Lewis.

"Thorough and timely on-site lab assessments are being conducted. The Environmental Lab Certification Program has established open lines of communication and a good interactive rapport with the providers," he said.

Lewis said the cost of the inspections appears to be reasonable for this type of highly specialized and technical work.

"We have always been sensitive to the cost issues, which is one reason for having a pool of providers from which labs can select," Lewis said. "The hope is that competitive market forces will serve to hold prices in check."

But according to lab professionals, that hope has yet to be realized.

"We are stuck with third party assessments that are tremendously expensive," said Flowers. "It is a very rigorous review. These assessors are very well trained and know what you are supposed to be doing."

The inspection reviews personnel, equipment, chemicals and product, among other things, she said. "The checklist is huge," she said. "The department does not like to close labs and, for the most part, they work with you. A lab might not pass one aspect of the certification, but may pass another."

Flowers said the certification program of the past worked quite well. "The bureau of environmental labs was a self-financing, self-sufficient agency," she said. "But the powers that be decided that the Florida Department of Health should not be inspecting environmental labs."

So far, the new system has not been working well for labs, she said. "It's a tremendous burden on labs to change procedures," she said. "We always knew what to expect when we had our inspections done by the state."

"It's a lot of extra work, photocopying documents and providing them ahead of time. The private vendors have been in the industry for years and they are very knowledgeable. These are new people the labs are dealing with."

"It is intimidating to have new people come into your facility. Labs have had to tighten up their documentation and training. Labs have to work hard to stay in compliance, which is not a bad thing. But the new financial effects are serious."

The cost of the certification can vary from several thousand dollars to \$20,000 or more depending on the number of methodologies a lab is certified to perform. Some labs could be certified for only total fecal coliform, others for multiple areas.

For some labs, the changes in the process have been devastating, Flowers said. "Some labs are choosing to shut down instead of staying in business because of the increased cost of the certification," she said.

Flowers said business has been going well. "The petroleum work has dropped off," she said. "But all of our other business, such as water and wastewater, is holding its own. (We have seen) an increase in

construction projects, which has meant more testing for bacteria."

Pricing remains competitive, as has been the case for years, said Scott Martin, business development manager with ALS Environmental in Jacksonville.

"We have succeeded both in our oil and gas, and mining divisions," he said. "We do a lot of both water and soil testing for oil and gas."

"It has been a decent 2013," he said. "I expect this year to follow the same path as 2013 where pricing continues to be competitive."

The company's labs are spread throughout the Southeast U.S.. "Things are very competitive in Florida because of the large number of labs in the state," Martin said. "(Lab services) have become a commodity. The lab industry in the past was based on quality and capability. Now, it's all price-driven. It does not matter what your technical horsepower is or what you have done in the past. It's all about price."

"We have some overheads that smaller labs don't have. I think that in the future, we are going to have to work a lot harder for a lot less."

Martin said there are new regulatory requirements in 2014. "Some of the requirements for testing of coal by power

LABS

Continued on Page 7

ZEBRA High Resolution Site Characterization



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Name _____ E-mail _____

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Questions? Call Mike Eastman at (407) 671-7777.



Environmental Laboratories Serving Florida - 2014

Lab name and contact information	1) Capabilities/specialties, 2) Sample types, 3) Personnel info, 4) State of incorporation	1) Certs., 2) Add. capabilities, 3) Years in bus., 4) Other locations
Accutest Laboratories SE Inc. 4405 Vineland Rd., Suite C-15 Orlando, FL 32811 (407) 425-6700 • Fax: (407) 425-0707 Dr. Harry Behzadi, Laboratory Director www.accutest.com	1) Full service laboratory specializing in organics and inorganics by SW-846 Methodology (VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides, herbicides, PCBs, metals, nutrients, etc.) in addition to incremental sample processing (ISM), explosives, perchlorate and PFOAs. 2) Water, soil, air, oil, sediments and wipes 3) Total: 80 Engineers/Scientists: NA Technicians: NA 4) NJ	1) NELAC, DoD/ISO 17025 and multiple state certifications 2) Electronic data deliverables including ADaPT, EQUIS, ERPIMS, and state forms. LC-QQQ and reduced sample volume via LVI 3) 19 years 4) South Florida service center in Hollywood
Advanced Environmental Laboratories Inc. 6681 Southpoint Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32216 (904) 363-9350 • Fax: (904) 363-9354 Walter Kronz, Vice President wkronz@aellab.com www.aellab.com	1) Six labs providing a full range of inorganic and organic testing, EQUIS and ADaPT EDDs, and courier services throughout Florida 2) Drinking water, groundwater, wastewater, surface water, soil, sediment, industrial waste, hazardous waste and air 3) Total: 94 Engineers/Scientists: 46 Technicians: 30 4) FL	1) NELAP, GA, DoD ELAP 2) SELECT AEL software enabling you to compare lab results to FDEP 62-777 limits, generates FDEP analytical summary forms and benzo(a)pyrene conversion tables 3) 20 years 4) Altamonte Springs, Gainesville, Miramar, Tallahassee, Tampa
ALS Environmental 9143 Philips Hwy., Suite 200 Jacksonville, FL 32256 (904) 739-2277 • Fax: (904) 739-2011 Scott Martin, BD Mgr., (904) 562-9962 scott.martin@alsglobal.com www.alsglobal.com	1) Environmental testing, NPDES, RCRA, CERCLA, process control, product certification, field sampling, customized electronic data deliverables, CLP like deliverables 2) All matrixes 3) Total: 31 (Jacksonville) Engineers/Scientists: 14 Technicians: 17 4) TX	1) NELAC, DoD ELAP, most SE states 2) Project review and validation, data reviews, method development, information (data) management consulting 3) 27 years 4) NA
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc. Biology-Toxicology Laboratory (Formerly MACTEC E&C Inc.) 404 S.W. 140th Terrace Newberry, FL 32669 (352) 332-3318 • Fax: (352) 333-6622 Jennifer Sagan, Laboratory Project Manager jennifer.sagan@amec.com www.amec.com	1) NPDES effluent toxicity testing (chronic and acute); hazardous site sample testing; dredged materials testing; bioaccumulation studies; long term biological oxygen demand (LTBOD) tests; TIEs/TREs; nutrient limitation; macroinvertebrate, ichthyoplankton and algal taxonomy; statistical analyses 2) Salt and fresh water, sediments, soils, biota, polymers 3) Total: 10 Engineers/Scientists: 4 Technicians: 6 (Laboratory technicians, taxonomists, lab QA officer, scientists/engineers) 4) GA	1) NELAC, SC DHEC for taxonomy 2) Ecological and lake management studies, stream condition index assessment, wetlands (restoration, delineation, mitigation) and T&E studies 3) 48 years 4) NA
Analytical Laboratories of Florida PO Box 349 Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 (321) 258-1355 Dale Schamp, Chemist info@alf1992.info www.alf1992.info	1) EPA 8260/8021/8010/601/602 2) Soil gas, groundwater, soil and sediment 3) Total: 2 Engineers/Scientists: 1 Technicians: 1 4) FL	1) FDOH, Bureau of Laboratories; non-potable water - volatile organics, solid and chemical materials 2) Mobile laboratories (multiple) 3) 22 years 4) NA
Benchmark EnviroAnalytical Inc. 1711 12th St. East Palmetto, FL 34221 (941) 723-9986 • Fax: (941) 723-6061 Dr. Dale Dixon, Laboratory Director dale.dixon@benchmarkea.net www.benchmarkea.com	1) Full analytical and sampling services are provided for government agencies, industrial operations and engineering firms 2) Surface water, marine water, groundwater, drinking water, wastewater, sediment and soil 3) Total: 31 Engineers/Scientists: 8 Technicians: 14 4) FL	1) NELAP, MBE, DBE, SBE 2) Courier, field sampling, DIEL studies, project management, custom spreadsheet reporting, ADaPT 3) 22 years 4) Northport
ESC Lab Sciences 12065 Lebanon Road Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (941) 525-8577 • Fax (615) 758-5859 Rick Pickett, Florida Sales Representative rpickett@esclabsciences.com www.esclabsciences.com	1) 100,000 sq. ft. facility. On-line web reporting and custom reporting tool allowing one to compare results to regulatory levels. Only Florida lab approved for 3511 (reduced volume sampling) 2) GW, SS, DW, RCRA, UST, air, micro, IH 3) Total: 250 Engineers/Scientists: 130 Technicians: 75 4) TN	1) DoD-ELAP, NELAP, ISO 2) ESC will reprint COCs and labels, and deliver the kits to your office or site 3) 44 years 4) Orlando, Tampa
Florida-Spectrum Env. Services Inc. 1460 W. McNab Rd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309 (954) 978-6400 • Fax: (954) 978-2233 Katherine Kutil, Director of Sales & Marketing kkutil@flenviro.com www.flenviro.com	1) Chemical and biological analyses of a variety of matrices 2) Groundwater, surface water, drinking water, wastewater, saltwater, solid and hazardous wastes, soils, air and petroleum products 3) Total: 50 Engineers/Scientists: NA Technicians: NA 4) FL	1) NELAP certified, SFWMD SBE certificate 2) Field services, sampling supplies delivery, certified field technicians 3) 40 years 4) Ft. Lauderdale, Okeechobee, Ft. Meade
Flowers Chemical Laboratories Inc. PO Box 150597 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-0597 (407) 339-5984 • Fax (407) 260-6110 John W. Lindsey, Jr., water/ww analytical June Flowers, environmental analytical Lew Denny, North Florida and Georgia www.flowerslabs.com	1) Full service laboratory analyzing environmental and drinking water parameters. Providing defendable data in organics, inorganics, metals, microbiology and nutrients. ADaPT reporting, field and courier services. PhD chemist on staff. 2) All water matrices, soil, sediment, waste, oil and SPLC/TCLP 3) Total: 49 Engineers/Scientists: 24 Technicians: 25 4) FL	1) Florida DOH NELAC for over 1,000 analytes 2) EDDs, microbiologicals for routine water and wastewater at four labs in Florida, managers chair committess for The NELAC Institute (TNI) 3) 57 years 4) Port St. Lucie, Madison, Marathon in the Florida Keys
Jupiter Environmental Laboratories Inc. 150 Old Dixie Highway Jupiter, FL 33458 (561) 575-0030 • Fax (561) 575-4118 Kacia Baldwin, Client Services www.jupiterlabs.com	1) Full-service lab specializing in fast TAT for organics, trace PAHs by SIM, low level pesticides, metals and trace mercury (method 1631), pharmaceuticals in water and sediment, and explosives. ADaPT and custom EDD specialists, lab audits and QC reviews, specialized method development. Forensic analysis, fuel fingerprinting, melamine, food and flavor analysis 2) Drinking water, wastewater, soil and sediment, marina dredge, hazardous waste, food products 3) Total: 25 Engineers/Scientists: 19 Technicians: 4 4) FL	1) NELAP, DoD, W/MBE, State of Florida, SFWMD, Palm Beach County, SFWMD 2) Full field capabilities SW, GW, marina and lake sampling, 3-day TAT on most sampling, field training for MW & soil sampling per DEP protocols, custom EDDs 3) 19 years 4) NA
KB Labs Inc. 6821 SW Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608 (352) 367-0073 • Fax (352) 378-6491 Kelly Bergdoll, President www.kbmobilelabs.com	1) Certified mobile laboratories specializing in GC/MS 8260 volatiles, 8021 volatiles, BTEX, gas and diesel screening, dissolved methane, naphthalene, pesticides/PCBs, PAHs, FLPRO, UVF TPH, XFR, field screening 2) Soil, water, soil gas 3) Total: 8 Engineers/Scientists: 6 Technicians: 2 4) FL	1) NELAP certified, DoD ELAP certification, W/MBE certified, plus NC, SC, LA, VA 2) Membrane interface probe (MIP), cone penetrometer (CPT), hydraulic profiling tool (HPT), MiHPT 3) 16 years 4) Raleigh, NC, mid-Atlantic office

LABS

From Page 5

plants are changing and becoming more rigorous," Martin said. "However, the use of coal is being reduced. A lot of the power plants are fueled by natural gas and are using coal as a backup."

Like Flowers, Martin said there are concerns about the new certification process. "Certification is a big bone of contention," he said. "It is much costlier and the smaller labs are hurting, depending on the amount of work they do."

But Martin said the changes are just part of the cost of doing business. "It is unfortunate, but if you want to play the game, you have to pay the fee," he said. "You need to comply, so if you were just getting by in the past, you are not going to get by now. It is definitely a complete system audit. Personally, however, I did not see one bit of need to change the system."

Chuck Ged, president of Advanced Environmental Labs Inc. headquartered in Jacksonville, is another industry veteran with concerns about the new certification system.

"We were told by the state that the state fees would be going down," said Ged. "But that hasn't happened. The state should have dropped their fees by at least a third. I think that would have been fair."

"The state is not going out to facilities,

so why are the fees not going down? This was one of the few programs in the state that was actually operating in the black."

Like others, Ged is not sure why the certification system was changed to begin with. "It doesn't make sense," he said. "You have a system that is functioning fine and you change it. I can't get a clear answer. This new system is going to cause a bump in the road for the labs—not to mention the added expense to the industry."

Walter Kronz, vice president with AEL, said the state Department of Health made labs believe that it would reduce the cost of certification since it would no longer be performing the audits.

"They did not," Kronz said. "So now, we still pay the DOH the exact same amount but now also have to pay the third party auditor, which costs around \$40,000 to \$45,000."

"\$45,000 in additional fees means that an additional \$450,000 in sales have to be made just to pay for this new process."

Kelly Bergdoll, president of KB Labs Inc. in Gainesville, said the new certification requirements are indeed a "hot topic."

"It did not affect us yet, as we still had a grandfathered inspection from the Florida Department of Health," she said. "Our Department of Defense certification, however, was with an outside vendor and it was quite expensive. So I expect the next

NELAC audit we go through will be also. It's definitely a concern for labs moving forward."

Bergdoll said that her direct sensing work is up right now. In fact, this aspect of the company's business is doing so well that the firm is considering expanding its direct sensing capabilities.

One sector that is not hot, she said, is

traditional mobile lab work. "We have done virtually no petroleum program work in a year—and very little drycleaning program work," Bergdoll said.

"In at least one project site that we know of, the lab work—instead of being

LABS

Continued on Page 13

ARS

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Environmental Laboratories Serving Florida - 2014

Lab name and contact information	1) Capabilities/specialties, 2) Sample types, 3) Personnel info, 4) State of incorporation	1) Certs., 2) Add. capabilities, 3) Years in bus., 4) Other locations
Kemron Environmental Services Atlanta, GA (404) 601-6908 • Fax (404) 636-7162 Tommy Jordan, Program Manager tjordan@kemron.com www.kemron.com	1) Treatability studies; stabilization, solidification, ISCO, dewatering, thermal, and geotechnical testing 2) Soil, water, wastewater, refinery waste, hazardous and mixed waste, radioactive, sludges, sediments, concrete, asphalt, acid tar 3) Total: 6 Engineers/Scientists: 4 Technicians: 1 4) VA	1) NA 2) Proof of patent, R&D, experimental, green and sustainability evaluations, 3rd party technology verification 3) 20 years 4) NA
Lakeland Laboratories, LLC 1910 Harden Blvd., Suite 101 Lakeland, FL 33803 (863) 686-4271 • Fax (863) 686-4389 James Crawford, President/QA Officer jim@lakelandlabs.com www.lakelandlabs.com	1) Analysis of broad spectrum soil, groundwater and air samples for general environmental issues, UST assessments, hazardous waste, industrial hygiene and other applications. Specializing in rapid development of customized analytical methodologies and solutions, including analysis of ambient air and bulk samples in support of Chinese drywall investigations 2) Groundwater, soil, drinking water, surface water, wastewater, haz and non-haz waste, air, wipe and other bulk samples 3) Total: 10 Engineers/Scientists: 4 Technicians: 6 4) FL	1) NELAC accreditation, professional liability insurance 2) Competent individual attention to your projects, web-based project status and data access, experienced environmental PE on staff, custom analytical reports and EDDs, free courier and shipping services, ADaPT 3) 26 years 4) NA
Marinco Bioassay Laboratory Inc. 4569 Samuel St. Sarasota, FL 34233 1-800-889-0384 • Fax (941) 922-3874 Jason Weeks, President weeks@biologylab.com www.toxtest.com	1) Acute and chronic NPDES toxicity testing, toxicity identification and reduction evaluations, ion imbalance toxicity studies (MSIIT) 2) Domestic and industrial treated effluents, remediation site discharges, storm-water discharges, reverse osmosis reject, product testing 3) Total: 11 Engineers/Scientists: 5 Technicians: 6	1) NELAP accredited 2) Toxicity consulting, supply high quality bioassay organisms for testing 3) 24 years 4) NA
Microbial Insights 10515 Research Drive Knoxville, TN 37932 (865) 573-8188 • Fax (865) 573-8133 Dora Ogles, Director dogles@microbe.com www.microbe.com	1) Environmental microbiology/biotechnology laboratory specializing in molecular biological tools (DNA & PLFA) such as qPCR quantification of <i>Dehalococcoides</i> 2) Almost any matrix (soil, groundwater, sediment, biofilms, bio-trap samplers, filters) 3) Total: 19 Engineers/Scientists: 6 Technicians: 8 4) TN	1) NA 2) Innovative bio-trap samplers, consulting services and molecular biological analyses 3) 22 years 4) NA
Pace Analytical Services Inc. 8 East Tower Circle Ormond Beach, FL 32174 (386) 672-5668 • Fax (386) 673-4001 David Chaffman, Sales Manager david.chaffman@pacelabs.com www.pacelabs.com	1) Full drinking water and environmental testing services. Monitoring for CERCLA, RCRA, NPDES, SDWA, UCMR3, RCRA/UST and CWA 2) Drinking water, environmental water, groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, air, biota 3) Total: 104 Engineers/Scientists: NA Technicians: NA 4) MN	1) NELAC, NAICS 541380 2) Field sampling, courier services 3) 39 years (four years under same ownership) 4) Service center in Tampa, Jacksonville, Pompano Beach, Miami Lakes
Palm Beach Environmental Laboratories Inc. 1550 Latham Rd., Suite 2 West Palm Beach, FL 33409 (561) 689-6701 • Fax (561) 689-6702 Diana Magierowski, Marketing/Owner dianam@palmbeachlabs.com www.palmbeachlabs.com	1) Volatiles, fuel oxygenates, semi-volatiles, pesticides, FL PRO, metals and TCLP/SPLP on both water and soil samples, incremental sampling (ISM) 2) Water, soil and air 3) Total: 8 Engineers/Scientists: 4 Tech/Admin: 4 4) FL	1) NELAC certified, CSHA certified, W/MBE for SFWMD, small business for Palm Beach County, WPB, school boards and the state of Florida Office of Supplier Diversity 2) Field sampling 3) 9 years 4) NA
Sanders Laboratories Inc. 1050 Endeavor Ct. Nokomis, FL 34275 (941) 234-1000 • Fax (941) 484-6774 Henry Mason, President henry@sanderslabs.net www.sanderslabs.net	1) Surface water and groundwater monitoring, facility compliance and process control monitoring, ASR, injection well analysis and food microbiology 2) Drinking water, wastewater, groundwater, surface waters, soils and sediments; meat, juice/beverages, seafood, citrus, produce; materials testing; textiles 3) Total: 21 Engineers/Scientists: NA Technicians: NA 4) FL	1) NELAP: Drinking water, non-potable water, solid and chemical, ISO 17025 for food and mold testing 2) Full field capabilities 3) 23 years 4) Two locations: Sarasota and Fort Myers
XENCO Laboratories 5675 New Tampa Hwy Lakeland, FL 33815 (863) 646-8526 Michelle Williams, Account Executive michelle.williams@xenco.com www.xenco.com	1) All environmental analysis for water, drinking water, soil, hazardous waste, air and radio-chemistry 2) Water, soil, drinking water, waste and air 3) Total: 24 Engineers/Scientists: NA Technicians: NA 4) FL	1) NELAP, FL DOH, ELAP, MWBE. DOT MWBE 2) Mobile on-site lab services, rad-chem 3) 23 years 4) Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville

EPA proposes rule to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants

By ROY LAUGHLIN

In May, the Obama administration released its long awaited proposed rule for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generating units, or EGUs.

The rule has two primary parts. The first proposes state-specific rate-based goals for carbon dioxide emission from the electricity generation sector. The second reflects guidelines for each state to follow in developing plans to achieve the state-specific emission targets.

The rules are revisions to Clean Air Act, Section 111(b), which address new, modi-

fied and reconstructed electrical generating units, and Section 111(d), a part of the Clean Air Act characterizing state-based programs to control emissions from existing sources.

Proposed carbon dioxide emission reductions are based on each state's 2005 carbon dioxide emission level. Reductions accomplished and efforts already underway since 2005 are to be credited toward a state's progress to meet the new rule's carbon dioxide reduction targets.

The EPA expects that by 2030, when the rule's provisions are fully in effect, car-

bon dioxide emissions will decline 30 percent from 2005 carbon dioxide emission levels.

Apportioning states' reductions

Under Section 111(d), states have considerable authority to apply Clean Air Act standards.

The EPA's rule proposes a not-so-intuitive formula to calculate emissions rates as pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt hour, because, according to written statements by Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, the EPA's strategy is to substitute high carbon dioxide-generating units with lower carbon dioxide-emitting generators.

The proposed rule references 2005 carbon emissions, but most calculations use the most recently available 2012 fossil fuel rates to calculate 2030 reduction targets.

Using the proposed formulas, the Georgetown Climate Organization calculated that, based on 2012 carbon dioxide emission rates per kilowatt-hour of electricity generation, states will have to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as little as 11 percent in North Dakota to as much as 72 percent for Washington and 52 percent for Arizona.

The rules also propose allowing the use of mean carbon dioxide emission rates characterizing several years before 2030 to calculate "emission rates" for purposes of compliance.

So, apparently, calculations have some wiggle room in them, even though consistent math use implies numerically comparable standards.

Guidelines for state actions

The EPA's guidance to states characterizes four general strategies that they may use in combination to meet the carbon dioxide emissions targets.

Regulations may reduce carbon intensity at individual EGUs through heat-rate improvements; increasing energy conversion efficiency to yield more electricity when burning more high carbon dioxide emitting fuels; the substitution of less carbon dioxide-intensive EGUs for the most carbon dioxide-intensive EGU; and the substitution of natural gas for coal as a fuel in EGUs.

The use of four possible strategies gives each state the option of adjusting the mix of high carbon dioxide fuels used (typically coal) with other sources of electricity to meet the reduction targets.

The new rule does not mandate entirely abandoning an EGU that burns high carbon dioxide fuels. States that rely heavily on coal to fuel EGUs will have to under-

take the greatest changes, however, to reduce carbon dioxide intensity of electricity generation.

Florida is not one of those states. Only Orlando, Jacksonville and Pensacola rely significantly on coal EGUs, and Orlando, in particular, has already added EGU's that use natural gas.

The Florida case

According to Georgetown Climate Center's calculations, Florida's carbon dioxide emission rate in 2012 was 1,238 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour unadjusted, and 1,199 pounds of carbon dioxide/MWh adjusted for renewable and nuclear energy sources.

The target for 2030 is 740 pounds of carbon dioxide/MWh—a 40 percent reduction from the unadjusted rate, and a 38 percent reduction from the adjusted 2012 carbon dioxide emission rates.

Florida generates only 20 percent of its electricity from coal and a fraction less than 68 percent from natural gas. Florida is second only to Texas in the proportion of its electricity generated from natural gas combustion.

In 2012, eight percent of Florida's electricity came from nuclear energy, but that is expected to decline to about five percent when Duke Energy closes its Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant. Renewable and other electricity sources account for under four percent of the remaining electricity sources.

Florida has made substantial improvements in its carbon dioxide emission ratios over the last decade.

During the building bubble, Florida's electric utilities added new capacity that largely used natural gas. Burning natural gas produces about half as much carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour as does burning coal.

If Florida converted the remaining 20 percent of its electricity generation capacity to natural gas, it would make a 10 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, an estimate good for an order of magnitude estimate, but useful to show that complete conversion will still leave a lot of distance between actual performance and goals.

That leaves Florida with either reducing demand for electricity, or substitution of non-carbon emitting EGU fuels.

Florida has made no significant progress increasing nuclear, wind, solar or other electrical power sources.

The state's greater problem with flexibility in the carbon emissions formulas occurs because, in terms of electricity alone, the state is not self sufficient. Florida residents and businesses consumed about 220 million megawatt-hours of electricity, more or less, during 2008–2012.

It imported 20.5-28.9 megawatt-hours of electricity during those same years. Importation of electricity from adjacent states amounts to about 10 percent of the Florida's total electricity budget.

Since the Enron scandal, most electricity producers have returned to making profits by generating electricity rather than importing and reselling it, but in Florida, it is the fuel for the generators that is still imported at high levels.

This situation makes conservation enforced by consumption taxes the quickest and most effective method for Florida regulators to curtail electricity consumption. But the chances any Legislature or governor will approve those taxes is slim.

Alternate electricity generation such as nuclear, solar and wind are available, but their contribution to Florida's electricity generation is currently negligible at 3.5 percent.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is currently looking into EPA's proposal, said Tiffany Cowie, DEP press secretary.

"This proposal is unprecedented. The depth for the state is unprecedented," she said. But because it is early in the rule-making process, she said that DEP has little

GHG

Continued on Page 9



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Florida's Largest Laboratory Network

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Paul Gunsaulies - pgunsaulies@aellab.com

Gainesville - (352) 377-2349
Karen Daniels - kdaniels@aellab.com
Beth Elton - belton@aellab.com

Miami - (954) 889-2288
Kimberly Kostzer - kkostzer@aellab.com
Wayne Khan - wkhan@aellab.com
Tiffany Mackie - tmackie@aellab.com

Orlando - (407) 937-1594
Brandon O'Hara - bohara@aellab.com
Sheila Wilcox - swilcox@aellab.com

Tallahassee - (850) 219-6274
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Tampa - (813) 630-9616
Michael Cammarata - mcammarata@aellab.com
Wes Tyler - wtyler@aellab.com

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Florida Specifier

Altamonte Springs rolls out another innovative project using stormwater as a resource

By **BLANCHE HARDY, PG**

The city of Altamonte Springs is leading the state for yet another time in creating innovative solutions for water resource management.

Like Altamonte Springs' thirty-year-old Project APRICOT—one of the first public reclaimed wastewater reuse systems in the country and a national benchmark of engineering—the city's new A-First project combines traditional water supply measures with innovative stormwater management to create an alternative water supply regime capable of delivering positive regional impacts.

The Altamonte Springs-FDOT Integrated Reuse and Stormwater Treatment project, or A-First, is a partnership between the Florida Department of Transportation and the city of Altamonte Springs, and includes participation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the city of Apopka.

The system is the first of its kind in the Southeast U.S. and has the potential to be adapted as a standard alternative water supply solution in regional urbanized areas throughout the country and beyond.

The concept was developed and promoted by the city's engineers.

Ed Torres, Altamonte Springs' director of public works and utilities, has long seen stormwater as a resource rather than a problem to be quickly disposed of.

"A-First will allow FDOT to eliminate one of the retention ponds required for the Interstate 4 widening and store the result-

ing stormwater in Cranes Roost," he said.

Cranes Roost is a landlocked drainage basin adjacent to I-4 with pumped discharge that will allow captured stormwater to be conveyed for treatment.

"The water will be treated to reclaimed water standards and excess water from the city's regional reclamation plant will be added eliminating plant discharge other than during a major storm event," he said. "A-First will generate an average of 4.5 million gallons a day of reclaimed water. The excess will be sent to the city of Apopka."

The need to develop alternatives to groundwater withdrawal for water supply is critical in Central Florida.

To Torres, a notable part of the project's significance is "combining utility technology on the wastewater side with stormwater technology to get a common product."

In addition to augmenting Altamonte Springs' water supply, A-First is anticipated to provide approximately 3 mgd of reclaimed water to Apopka where it will be stored and used, or serve to supplement aquifer recharge.

A-First will also reduce water quality impacts in regional springheds and in the Little Wekiva River.

By eliminating FDOT's I-4 project pond and an associated bridge, and by capturing and treating the resulting combined stormwater and treatment plant discharge, calculations indicate a potential pollutant load reduction of 28,043 pounds per year of phosphorus and 62,659 pounds per year of nitrogen to the Little Wekiva River.

DEP Spokesperson Dee Ann Miller noted that A-First will "help improve water quality, help the region reuse reclaimed water more efficiently and save the state an estimated \$15 million. The project will also create an estimated 4.5 million gallon per day alternative supply of reclaimed water."

"The improvements are expected to substantially reduce the future pollutant loads for total nitrogen and total phosphorus, by 98 percent and 99 percent, respec-

tively."

The estimated \$15 million savings that FDOT gains through A-First will allow the department to fund a significant portion of the project.

"This project demonstrates the remarkable achievements that can be realized through cooperation between agencies and municipalities," said Miller. "Not only will these improvements generate a more sustainable reclaimed water supply for these cities, the projects will make a substantial impact on the nutrient pollution reaching the Little Wekiva River."



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Cleanup of Miami area parks progressing

By **DAN MILLOT**

Miami City Commissioner Marc Sarnoff is wondering why the cleanup of the city's parks is taking so long. A number of the still-closed parks are in his district.

Two parks, Merrie Christmas and Blanche, where soil contamination was first discovered months ago, are surrounded by pricey homes whose residents can't make use of the parks.

Since last fall, there has been a parade of contaminant discoveries at area parks, mostly located within the city limits of Miami, but several in Miami-Dade County.

The parks, whether within incorporated cities or not, are subject to scrutiny from Miami-Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management when contaminants are found.

Luis Espinoza, DERM's communications program manager, said the agency began screening 266 parks in the city and county in 2011, but that process was accelerated in late 2013 when contaminants were found at Merrie Christmas and Blanche in late 2013.

As of July 10, Espinoza said 192 of the parks have been evaluated and deemed safe for public use. DERM expects to complete evaluation of the remaining parks in the county by the end of September.

Harry James, the city of Miami's envi-

ronmental compliance coordinator, said that six parks impacted by contamination are closed, but work is underway to reopen them.

Blanche Park should have its playground portion open by August. The cleanup has consisted of soil removal, installation of a geotextile fabric liner at the base of excavation, followed by the application of clean fill.

James said new artificial turf and playground equipment as well as new landscaping are being installed at Blanche.

At the still-closed Merrie Christmas Park, James said permitting for the decontamination work should be in place by mid-August. Work should begin by the end of the month or early September.

The plan calls for regrading the uneven

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to discuss publicly at this time.

She noted that since the first proposal was released, another update has been released. Her department is not rushing right now into a rulemaking process that could last two years.

Past rules, even some with decades-long implementation times have accomplished little to nothing because court challenges inevitably delay implementation even longer.

This new rule became a possibility in 2008 when the Supreme Court ruled that carbon dioxide is a contaminant that can be regulated under the Clean Air Act, and the EPA could (and should) regulate it.

Now, six years later, the first proposal for regulation of EGUs has been released—a preliminary step toward a regulation.

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Obtaining air operation permits in the state of Florida

By JEFF KOERNER

Part four in a series

This is the fourth in a series of four columns covering the basic requirements for businesses to obtain air quality permits. The previous columns identified rules that exempt certain activities from permitting, detailed a simplified registration process for 17 specific air general permit categories that are available for eligible small businesses and discussed the process for obtaining air construction permits.

This column describes the process for obtaining air operation permits.

Commercial and industrial facilities that are subject to specific air quality regulations or that emit air pollutants in sufficient quantities are required to obtain air operation permits.

The air operation permit identifies the applicable conditions established in underlying air construction permits and applicable requirements from the state air regulations identified in the Florida Administrative Code: Chapter 62-204 - General Provisions; Chapter 62-210 - General Requirements; Chapter 62-213 - Major Source (Title V) Operation Permits; Chapter 62-214 - Federal Acid Rain Program; and Chapter 62-296 - State Emission Standards.

The air operation permit will also specify all applicable federal air quality requirements from Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including Part 60, New Source Performance Standards; Part 61, National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (regulated by pollutant); Part 63, NESHAP (regulated by industrial category); and Part 75, Acid Rain Monitoring Provisions.

Applications

After obtaining the appropriate air construction permit and completing construction and initial testing, the air operation permit process begins with timely submittal of the appropriate application form (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/rules/forms/application.htm>) or electronic form (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/epsap/default.htm>), and fee for minor facility (Rule 62-4.050, FAC, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/rules/current.htm>).

Except for applications to renew a permit for a minor source of air pollution, applications must be sealed by a professional engineer registered in Florida. The application must identify general facility information, contact information, process equipment, air pollution control equipment, fuels, materials processed, operational restrictions, applicable regulations, emissions standards, work practices, testing and monitoring, records and reports, and other methods of compliance.

Air operation permits are valid for terms of no more than five years. An application must be submitted at least 60 days before expiration to renew a minor source permit and at least 225 days before expiration to renew a Title V permit.

Applications must be submitted to the appropriate permitting authority. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Resource Management processes applications for all major source operation permits for utility power plants, facilities subject to the acid rain program, waste-to-energy facilities, landfills and other select special projects.

The DEP district offices process applications for all air operation permits within the district including pulp and paper mills, chemical manufacturing plants, sugar mills, and county-owned or operated facilities, except for those projects processed by the division or for which an approved local air program has jurisdiction.

State-only air operation permits

The state-only air operation permit is the simplest and most common site-specific operation permit for minor sources of air pollution. It can be used for both natural minor sources as well as synthetic minor sources.

A natural minor source is a facility with potential emissions below all major source thresholds when operating at full capacity year round. A synthetic minor source is a facility that has accepted operational or emissions limitations that keep potential emissions below all major source

thresholds.

To obtain a state-only air operation permit as a synthetic minor source, the applicant must have accepted operational or emissions limitations in a previous air construction permit that are then incorporated into the state-only air operation permit.

There is no specific requirement to publish a public notice of intent to issue a permit for state-only air operation permits.

Federally enforceable state operation permits

Federally enforceable state operation permits, or FESOPs, are facility-wide permits that incorporate all applicable air quality requirements. The primary purpose of a FESOP is to establish the facility as a synthetic minor source of air pollution to avoid regulation as a major source of hazardous air pollutants and/or a Title V source.

Like an air construction permit, a FESOP can establish restrictions to limit potential emissions below major source thresholds. A state-only air operation permit can only identify such restrictions from previous air construction permits. It cannot establish new federally enforceable restrictions since there is no requirement for public notice.

Examples include emissions limits, emissions caps and operational limitations on production, raw material usage or hours of operation.

The FESOP is similar to a minor source air construction permit in that the permit process requires publication of a public notice and provides for a 14-day comment period, unless all other previous minor permits have been publicly noticed.

Title V major source air operation permits

The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act established a federal operation permit program under Title V of the act. Florida operates a Title V air operation permit program that is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

These comprehensive permits incorporate all applicable air quality requirements including federal, state and local regulations. An applicant must obtain a Title V permit if the facility is a major stationary source subject to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality program, emits or has the potential to emit 100 tons per year or more of any regulated air pollutant, emits or has the potential to emit 25 tons per year or more of any combination of HAP, emits or has the potential to emit 10 tons per year or more of any single HAP, emits or has the potential to emit five tons per year or more of lead, belongs to an industrial category that is required to obtain a Title V permit pursuant to a federal NSPS or NESHAP; or is located in a non-attainment area and designated as a major source based on lower thresholds.

Note that there are no fees for processing Title V ma-

major source air operation permits. Instead, Title V sources are required to pay annual operating fees based on the facility's actual emissions of regulated pollutants. Information on Title V fees is at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/tvfee.htm>.

The administrative and public notice requirements for Title V permits are slightly different than those that apply to other permit processes.

The permitting authority must determine whether the application is complete within 60 days of receipt of an initial Title V application, and within 30 days of receipt of the last item of information submitted to complete application.

If the application is deemed incomplete, the applicant has 90 days to submit the requested additional information and may request additional time to respond.

The permitting authority must make a written permitting decision to issue or deny within 90 days of receipt of a complete application or from receipt of the last item required to complete the application.

Affected parties may petition for an administrative hearing within 14 days from the date of actual notice or from publication of the Notice of Intent, whichever occurs first.

Affected parties, federal agencies and the public may provide comments on the draft permit for 30 days after publication. If the draft permit is substantially revised due to public comment, the permitting authority will issue a revised draft permit and require another public notice.

Hearings are conducted by the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings. The permitting authority cannot issue a final permit until the Administrative Law Judge issues a recommended order.

If the Title V draft permit is not substantially revised and no hearing is requested, a proposed permit is sent to EPA Region 4 for review. EPA has 45 days to provide comments or object to the proposed permit.

If EPA's comments do not result in substantial changes and EPA does not object to the proposed permit, a final permit is issued. On the rare occasion when EPA objects, the permitting authority facilitates communications between EPA and the applicant to resolve the issue.

The final permit decision may be appealed to a Florida First District Court of Appeal. A notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days of the final permitting decision.

For questions regarding air operation permits, contact the appropriate permitting authority (division, district or local air program) for your project.

Jeff Koerner, PE, is the program administrator in the Office of Permitting & Compliance at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee. The permitting section website is <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/Air/emission/permitting.htm>.

Siphoning off surface water for potable use not the answer to water resource challenge

By LISA RINAMAN

Depending on who you talk to, most regions of Florida have either reached—or will soon reach—the sustainable limits of their primary source of water, the Floridan Aquifer. In some areas, we are already seeing the consequences with salt-water intrusion, sink holes, shrinking wetlands, and spring and river flows in significant decline.

Water management districts are scrambling to address the problem by updating water supply plans and identifying alternative water supply sources to meet future demand.

Unfortunately, most of these plans fail to address the root cause of our water problems and exhaust all opportunities to use our existing water resources more efficiently. When nearly 50 percent of residential water is used for irrigation and 10 percent is lost to leaks, it is clear that we have a water *use* problem, more than one of supply.

In Central Florida, three water management districts—the St. Johns River, South Florida and Southwest Florida districts—have joined together to form the Central Florida Water Initiative. Remarkably, the Draft Regional Water Supply Plan by the CFWI determined that only “3.9 percent of the projected demand for 2035 can be eliminated by water conservation.” Those estimates are “based on voluntary consumer actions” without considering new rules and criteria that would require the efficient use of water.

The District Water Supply Plan recently released by the St. Johns River WMD provides estimates for potential water conservation savings and increased wastewater reuse that total more than enough to offset the projected water deficit. Yet the plan never considers the realistic possibility of living within our water means.

Instead, both plans rely heavily on surface water with-

drawals from the St. Johns and Ocklawaha rivers. The plans call for potentially siphoning over 150 million gallons of water a day from the St. Johns at an estimated cost of nearly \$1.5 billion and more than 85 million gallons from the Ocklawaha.

To make matters worse, these proposed surface water withdrawals are being justified based on the findings of a flawed and incomplete study by the district. A group of independent scientists and experts from the National Research Council conducted a peer review of the St. Johns River Water Supply Impact Study, identifying significant shortcomings in the study and expressing concerns regarding many of its conclusions.

According to the NRC, “the WSIS operated within a range of constraints that ultimately imposed both limitations and uncertainties on the study’s overall conclusions.”

The NRC report goes on to say that “the modeling conducted by the district did not have a water quality component, and the district considered the potential ecological effects of significant increases in degraded stormwater runoff, as well as changes in the frequency distribution of stream flows in urbanized areas, to be outside the scope of the WSIS.”

St. Johns Riverkeeper has serious concerns that these proposed withdrawals would worsen existing pollution problems, increase the frequency of toxic algal blooms, further reduce flow and increase salinity levels farther upstream, and adversely impact the fisheries, wildlife and submerged vegetation in and along the river and its tributaries.

Many of these withdrawals would require treatment by reverse osmosis, resulting in a by-product with a high mineral/salt content that would likely be discharged back into the river. This brine concentrate would create additional pollution problems for an already polluted and

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Florida Specifier

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The Florida Specifier welcomes columns, articles and letters to the editor on any subject or issue pertinent to the environmental, regulatory and technical areas the newspaper covers. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for newspaper style and publish submissions on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors.

Calendar

August

AUG. 3 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Exam, Tampa, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 4 – Course: Basic Water and Wastewater Pump Maintenance, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 5 – Course: Asbestos Refresher: Inspector, Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 5 – Course: Asbestos Refresher: Management Planner, Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 6 – Course: Asbestos Refresher: Contractor/Supervisor, Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 6-9 – Conference: FES/FICE 98th Annual Summer Conference & Exposition, Marco Island, FL. Presented by the Florida Engineering Society and the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers. Call (850) 224-7121 or visit www.fleng.org.

AUG. 7 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Review, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 7 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Review, Destin, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 8 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Exam, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 8 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Exam, Destin, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 9 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Exam, Bradenton, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 10-15 – Meeting: 99th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Sacramento, CA. Call (202) 833-8773 or visit www.esa.org.

AUG. 11-15 – Course: Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Training and Certification, Destin, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 11 – Course: Lead: Renovation, Repair & Painting, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 12 – Course: Lead Refresher: Renovation, Repair & Painting, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 13 – Workshop: 2nd Annual Northwest Florida Brownfields Workshop, Chipley, FL. Sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Northwest District and the West Florida and Apalachee Regional Planning Councils. Contact Brandy Smith at (850) 595-0695 (brandy.m.smith@dep.state.fl.us) or visit www.dep.state.fl.us/northwest/.

AUG. 13 – Course: Spotter Training for Solid Waste Facilities, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 13 – Course: 4 Hour Refresher Course for Spotters at Landfills, C&D Sites and Transfer Stations, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 13-15 – Conference: Green Building Conference & Trade Show, Sarasota, FL. Hosted by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Call (850) 894-3422 or visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

AUG. 13-14 – Workshop: Florida ADaPT 2-Day Training Workshop, Royal Palm Beach, FL. Presented by Laboratory Data Consultants FL Inc. Call (561) 512-9956.

AUG. 14 – Course: Health and Safety for Solid Waste Workers – Part 3 (am + pm), Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 14-16 – Conference: Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, Hollywood, FL. Call (850) 222-9684 or visit www.floridaleagueofcities.com.

AUG. 16-24 – Course: Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Training and Certification, Jacksonville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO

Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 18 – Symposium: Power Plant Pollutant Control Mega Symposium, Baltimore, MD. Presented by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Electric Power Research Institute, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Air & Waste Management Association. Visit www.megasymposium.com.

AUG. 18-22 – Course: Water Class A Certification Review, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 19-22 – Course: Water Class B Certification Review, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 22 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Review, Venice, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 23 – Course: Backflow Prevention Recertification Exam, Venice, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 23-26 – Exposition: The FPMA Sunshine Food, Beverage and Fuel Expo, Orlando, FL. Presented by the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association. Call (850) 877-5178 or visit www.fpma.org.

AUG. 25-28 – Conference: WASTECON 2014, Dallas, TX. Presented by the Solid Waste Association of North America. Call 1-800-467-9262 or visit www.swana.org.

AUG. 25-29 – Course: Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Training and Certification, Lake Buena Vista, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

AUG. 26-29 – Course: Water Class C Certification Review, Gainesville, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

September

SEPT. 3-9 – Conference: 2-14 APA Florida Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL. Presented by the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association. Visit www.floridaplanning.org.

SEPT. 5 – Course: Initial Training Course for Spotters at Landfills, C&D Sites and Transfer Stations – 8 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

SEPT. 5 – Course: Refresher Training Course for Experienced Solid Waste Operators – 8 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

SEPT. 5 – Course: Refresher Training Course for Experienced Solid Waste Operators – 4 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

SEPT. 5-6 – Course: Initial Training Course for Transfer Station Operators and Materials Recovery Facilities – 16 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

SEPT. 5-6 – Course: Refresher Training Course for Experienced Solid Waste Operators – 16 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

SEPT. 5-7 – Course: Initial Training Course for Landfill Operators and C&D Sites – 24 Hour, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570.

SEPT. 5-7 – Course: Initial Training for Operators of Landfills and Waste Processing Facilities, Daytona Beach, FL. Presented by the University of Florida TREEO Center. Call (352) 392-9570 or visit www.treeo.ufl.edu.

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DEP study points to septic, ag operations as primary nutrient contributors to Rainbow Springs

By PRAKASH GANDHI

Pollution from agricultural operations and septic tanks is having a major impact on Rainbow Springs in Marion County, according to a new study by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Rainbow Springs is located 20 miles southwest of Ocala. It generates about 450 million gallons per day of water.

The Rainbow Springs Group spring-shed—the area contributing water to the

system—covers some 686 square miles in Marion, Alachua and Levy counties.

The landscape is comprised of rolling sand hills with pine forest, agricultural fields and growing residential communities.

The study by DEP concluded that agricultural businesses and septic tanks are the main sources of pollution to the springs. Sources of nitrate include septic tanks, fertilizer from agricultural and ur-

ban lands, and livestock waste.

The study noted that an estimated 21 percent of the nitrogen that enters the groundwater and bubbles up from Rainbow Springs can be linked to area septic tanks.

Cattle farming accounts for the greatest source of nitrogen, representing an estimated 25 percent. Horse farms accounted for 19 percent of nitrogen, agricultural fertilizer for 18 percent and residential fertilizer for seven percent.

“The nitrates are washed off by stormwater and seep into the underlying karst geology, characterized by open passages that readily transport groundwater and nitrates into the springs,” said DEP Spokesperson Dee Ann Miller.

State scientists calculated the percentages by studying activity in an area surrounding the springs.

Miller said officials used the Nitrogen Source Inventory and Loading Tool to analyze the area. Staff considered data from DEP and other agencies to quantify the sources of nitrogen in the spring-shed’s groundwater recharge area.

State officials considered the location of cattle and horse farms, the number of animals at the locations and how much nitrogen waste they produced each year.

The same type of analysis was done for other nitrogen sources.

Scientists also considered the subsur-

face geology and how the nitrogen might be taken up by vegetation.

“Like many other spring systems in Florida, the Rainbow Springs Group suffers from nitrate problems,” Miller said. “Nitrogen concentrations in Rainbow Springs are consistently reported above 1 milligram per liter and can approach 2 mg/L—well above Florida’s spring water quality criteria of 0.35 mg/L.”

That water quality criterion is the basis for the department’s restoration target for the spring system, adopted in May of last year. “Reaching this target will require an 82 percent reduction in nitrate inputs,” Miller said.

About 40 percent of the Rainbow Springs recharge area is agricultural and about 27 percent is residential. Another 27 percent is forest. The rest is a combination of wetlands, marshes and waterbodies.

State officials released the study as part of their discussion of the Rainbow Springs basin management action plan. Officials are using the plan to determine which activities affect the springs and spell out how such activities can be limited.

“Rainbow Springs is a prime example of Florida’s natural beauty at risk,” Miller said. “The problem of excess nitrates is known. Solving the problem requires well-planned, aggressively executed local and state investments and actions, which Basin Management Action Plans are designed to achieve.”

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White House launches infrastructure initiative

Staff report

In July, President Obama announced an executive action to create the Build America Investment Initiative, a government-wide initiative to increase infrastructure investment and economic growth.

As part of the initiative, the administration is launching the Build America Transportation Investment Center to serve as a one-stop shop for cities and states seeking to use innovative financing and

partnerships with the private sector to support transportation infrastructure.

The announcement is part of the administration’s continued effort to highlight the importance of investing in the nation’s infrastructure.

The action continues the president’s use of executive authority to invest in modernizing the nation’s infrastructure, including speeding up the permitting process for major infrastructure projects that create more jobs.

PETROLEUM From Page 1

contractors. These new qualification requirements became effective June 13. Qualified contractors who have not submitted valid certificates for both must now do so.

Of DEP’s approximately 200 qualified contractors, 89 were “initially affected by the PE/PG business certificate of authorization requirement,” said Mara Burger, public information specialist III in the Office of External Affairs at DEP.

She said of those 89, 13 have already updated their qualifications with the required documentation.

For contractors, there are a couple of twists associated with this new rule.

An Agency Term Contractor, who necessarily must meet the requirements of a qualified contractor, may subcontract with another firm that is not a qualified contractor to satisfy the PE/PG requirements.

The subcontracting firm is required to be properly licensed and to carry the designated amounts of insurance. Current contracts with subcontractors will be accepted by DEP to satisfy the agency’s new requirements.

Insurance requirements for qualified contractors who partner with other entities for professional geology and engineering services must have the same specified professional liability insurance coverage as the professionals—at least \$1 million per occurrence and \$1 million annual aggregate.

Certification requirements in Rule 62-772.300, FAC, that include five key elements to obtaining contractor certification

have also changed.

The requirement to submit a sworn statement under s. 287.133(3)(a), FS, on public entity crimes is no longer necessary.

A sworn oath pertaining to public entity crimes is now addressed in all agency contracts.

The change does not require existing contractors to submit new qualification documents, but the new rule will affect submissions to the Petroleum Restoration Program after June 13, 2014, the effective date of the new legislation.

All other contractor certification requirements remain as those described in s. 376.30711(2).

Contractors that claim exemption from Florida’s workers’ compensation law will be required to document that their businesses are not subject to Chapter 440, FS, requirements for worker’s compensation coverage.

A current Certificate of Election to be Exempt from the Florida Department of Financial Services for individual corporate officers is one example of necessary documentation of exemption that might be submitted to meet the law’s new requirements.

For firms and entities that must have workers’ compensation coverage, there is no change in requirements resulting from the law passed by the state Legislature this year.

Editor’s note: Robert Perlowski, Robert.perlowski@dep.state.fl.us, is the contact person with the state Petroleum Restoration Program who coordinates responses to contractors with questions about this new rule.

PARKS

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topography, placing contaminated soil under two feet of clean soil and covering that with geotextile fabric.

Three other city parks—Douglas, Curtis and Billy Rolle—are still closed and a fourth, Bayfront, remains open.

At Douglas Park, contamination assessment has been completed and is being reviewed by DERM. Once the agency has responded, the city will formulate an action plan, likely in August.

Curtis Park has been partially reopened. Part of the park has a track and field with artificial turf, plus basketball and tennis courts. Portions of the park where

contamination was found have been fenced off.

James said the city recently submitted a supplemental site assessment plan to DERM and their response will affect the city's approach to developing the cleanup plan.

Billy Rolle Park is closed, but the city hopes to reopen the park soon. Based on the earlier assessment of contamination, it appears that no significant corrective action will be required there.

DERM is reviewing that finding and, if they concur, the city will begin cleanup in August or restrict portions of the park, but open the areas where no contaminants were found.

LABS

From Page 7

done either by a mobile lab or a commercial fixed lab—was done by the DEP lab," she said. "There isn't even a line item in the new petroleum program for mobile labs."

Bergdoll said the bulk of the company's Florida work is for a federal contractor. "One major change for us this year is that we pursued and achieved a Department of Defense certification. It was expensive and time-consuming. But we feel we are better positioned for more federal opportunities in the future and most of those will be outside of Florida.

"Another recent change is that we have done a significant amount of screening with new technologies, especially fluorescence-based for petroleum hydrocarbons," she said.

Jim Crawford, president of Lakeland Labs, also reported that business has dropped over the past year. "The Florida Department of Environmental Protection cut back on the amount of money they distributed for the petroleum cleanup program, and that's definitely had an impact on our work load," he said.

"Our clients are realizing that they can't count on DEP to provide them with the work they need. DEP is having a very tough time allocating the funds to the contractors. The net effect has been less work."

Crawford said his company is doing a mixture of soil, water, wastewater, air quality and other work. But the prospects for the rest of 2014 do not look great, he said. "I don't think we will see a big uptick in the lab market for the rest of the year."

Such is the case with virtually all labs that are heavily dependent on work related to state-funded assessment and cleanup.

Brad Moravec, Gulf regional manager for ESC Labs Services, however, has seen an increase in business over the past year. "But the business could be even better if the state could get its petroleum program figured out," he said. "We do not live or die by it, but it affects a lot of people. You have to pick up that work load elsewhere.

"Commercial work is picking up, which is good. The building of schools and land acquisitions have provided us with work.

"I'm positive about the rest of 2014. I think the state will open its purse strings and I think that development work will continue to increase. The Florida market is on a nice upward trend so I am upbeat for the rest of the year."

AEL's Chuck Ged also experienced some improvement in the business climate over the past year.

"There were some signs of recovery in 2013—with the exception of the petroleum market—that made the economics of our business take a step backward," he said.

"But we are getting more significant requests for proposals in the five-figure plus range in 2014 than we did all of last year. There is definitely some light at the end of the tunnel.

"The market is showing some signs of improvement. We are not back to where we were five or six years ago, but we are definitely climbing the ladder," he added.

Also upbeat is Jason Weeks, president of Marincio Bioassay Lab Inc. in Sarasota, who said he has seen an increase in business of about 10 percent so far this year.

"We're getting more stormwater work," he said. "The only major new expense is the new accreditation process. We used to pay the state \$500 to do it. Now, we have to pay a few thousand dollars for the inspections and still pay the \$500.

"I don't mind the state saying we have to have the inspections done by a private company, but I don't think we should have to pay the \$500 (to the state). It's costing us \$4,000 for the outside work. I'm sure some of the other labs are paying a lot more than that."

State officials said there will continue to be a fee associated with certification, even though the work is now being done by private vendors.

"Even though we are outsourcing the routine assessments, the department will have to maintain sufficient environmental lab certification program staff to oversee the providers, to make certification decisions, and to enforce the applicable regulations," according to the department's web site.

Besides the certification issue, there are concerns about the effect that the state petroleum cleanup program slowdown has had on the lab industry.

Jeff Flowers said his lab has done fairly well over the past year, but the petroleum cleanup market's contraction has had an impact on the level of work at many labs.

He believes it's important for the program to continue. "I used to get phone calls saying my drinking water tastes bad," Flowers said. "I'm not getting those calls any more. That's because we have done such a good job with this program."

Flowers said he has some concerns about the industry's future. "If we continue to hammer the market on price and cost, the market will continue to contract and the services will not be available to our citizens," he said. "I have been in this industry for a long time and I don't want to see it degrade. The labs do something the medical industry does not do. We prevent illness. What could be better than that? We do it on a major scale and it's upsetting to see the (recent) contraction.

"Eventually, people will get sick and the pendulum will swing back. But isn't that a terrible way to solve our environmental problems?"

Outside the city, the county had three parks that were partially closed or impacted by the discovery of contaminants.

In August, 2012, the Hammocks Community Park was partially closed when traces of arsenic were found below the surface.

Remedial work is underway at Hammocks, plus other improvement projects are in progress and should be completed by year's end.

At Chapman Park, which features a number of baseball fields, arsenic concentrations were found in June. The county

elected to take the cautious route and closed Chapman.

Espinoza said that was done pending the completion of an additional assessment by an independent consultant and evaluation by the Miami-Dade County Health Department.

Brothers to the Rescue Park is still open to the public. No contamination was found in the park, but solid waste was identified on the ground surface and temporary engineering controls have been installed.

Areas with surficial waste have been fenced off to restrict access.

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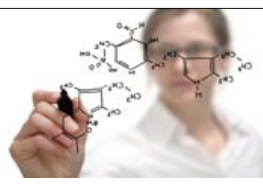
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WATER

From Page 11

threatened waterway. In addition, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to turn off the spigot if environmental damage occurs or to avoid harm during low-flow conditions, once communities become reliant on this water.

The plans have also been criticized by some utilities for overestimating future demand projections. The larger the projected deficit, the less likely conservation will be prioritized. Instead, utilities will be forced to pursue expensive alternative water supply projects that may ultimately prove unnecessary.

As a result, St. Johns Riverkeeper, Florida Defenders of the Environment and numerous other organizations are urging the SJRWMD to address projected water deficits by prioritizing water conservation, efficiency and reuse projects by focusing exclusively on these solutions to meet projected water needs in the district; removing all surface water withdrawal projects

from the plan; and creating a more sustainable policy framework to live within our water means by adopting aggressive and mandatory conservation rules.

The bottom line is that water conservation does work and is without question a much more sustainable, cost-effective and environmentally-responsible solution. Instead of siphoning millions of gallons of water a day from already impaired rivers, our water managers and public officials should focus on implementing aggressive conservation and efficiency strategies and increasing the use of reclaimed water.

However, voluntary measures alone are simply not going to cut it. Mandatory requirements must be adopted and enforced. We don't have voluntary water quality standards, so why should the use of this essential public resource be any different?

In addition, pricing strategies are necessary to achieve maximum conservation and efficiency benefits. Tiered rates for utility customers need to be more aggressive and consumptive use permit holders

must begin to pay for the right to use the public's water. The time has come to use market forces to discourage waste, drive innovation and help bring discipline to the allocation of our water resources.

Finally, we must address the process for how we allocate water and to whom. Water management districts continue to issue frivolous consumptive use permits that only further deplete our aquifer.

The time has clearly arrived for moratoriums on new aquifer withdrawals and permit increases, until we have a sustainable plan of action in place and a better handle on the hydrologic performance and

sustainable limits of our aquifer system.

Let's keep the straws out of the St. Johns and the Ocklawaha rivers, quit over-allocating our groundwater and finally get serious about addressing the root causes of our water use problems.

We can live within our water means and meet future demand by using existing water resources more efficiently through a combination of mandatory conservation requirements, incentives, reclaimed water, education and effective pricing strategies.

Lisa Rinaman is the St. Johns Riverkeeper in Jacksonville. She can be reached at lisa@stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

FEDFILE
From Page 2

and sulfur, that set emission standards for oxides of nitrogen and sulfur most commonly involved with acid rain genesis.

A group of environmental organizations, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, brought suit against the agency, alleging that failure to promulgate a "joint, secondary national standard" violated the Clean Air Act.

The court ruled that the EPA's decision to identify information needed and establish a research effort to get it was entirely acceptable. To do otherwise, the court stated, would leave the agency open to charges of capricious behavior.

It noted that the agency could, in the absence of the data it said it needs, immediately write a rule that violated the Clean Air Act. EPA now has the time necessary to establish a new joint standard.

WRRDA passes. When President Obama signed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act in mid-June, he authorized eight Florida projects administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

Four of the eight are projects intended to improve water quality in the Everglades. The remaining four are port projects: two in Jacksonville, one at Port Canaveral and the other at the Port of Palm Beach.

Congressional authorization of the WRRDA does not appropriate funding for the projects. In its announcement, the corps said that when funding is appropriated, it can move forward to finalize project designs, complete partnership agreements and let construction contracts.

The approved contracts had been submitted for authorization between 2011-2014. Congress' usual practice is to bundle them in an annual Water Resources Act update. But Congress has not approved an update of the act in years.

This year's WRRDA passage is an attempt to move the multiyear backlog forward. Funding appropriation, which will allow construction, is not on the horizon, and is not expected before this fall's elections.

In addition to authorizing the Florida projects, the "Reform" part of the WRRDA included provisions to deauthorize old projects, including requirements to gradually increase spending from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund so that by 2025, it will annually expend the full amount of revenues generated by the trust fund.

In addition, it expands fundable projects using Inland Waterway Trust Fund revenues, changes rules for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, allows public-private partnerships that fund corps public works projects, limits corps feasibility studies to three years and \$3 million, and requires review by three levels of the corps.

Finally, it reduces from six to three years the time during which environmental claims could be filed against a water resources project's environmental impact statement.

Trichloroethylene risk assessment. In late June, the EPA released its long awaited final risk assessment for trichloroethylene.

The assessment evaluated risks to human health for consumers using aerosol degreasers and spray fixatives. It also evaluated health risks from TCE exposure in small commercial shops and drycleaning establishments.

This is the first work plan risk assess-

ment for a chemical performed under the Toxic Substances Control Act to identify potential risks to human health and the environment.

The agency followed the release of the risk assessment with a workshop in late July that identified alternatives to using TCE as a degreaser, and risk reduction approaches when it is used.

The EPA will also, in the future, address risk reduction strategies for TCE used in the drycleaning process and as a clear, protective spray fixative.

The agency advises people to use TCE in well ventilated areas and use protective clothing to avoid contact with the chemical while using it.

Tampa nonprofit to receive training grant. The Community Development Corporation of Tampa was selected to receive an environmental training grant from the EPA.

EPA training grants are intended to provide training, skills and education that may lead to certification for employment that cleans up and reduces pollution. Admission to the training and education programs is focused on unemployed and low income people.

The Corporation to Develop Communities will receive \$200,000 from the EPA program, which it intends to use to train 54 students and place 51 of them in environmental jobs.

The training program includes 580 hours of instruction in refuse and recycling of hazardous materials, natural gas fueling maintenance and chemical safety, green construction and wastewater management.

Participants could earn one or more of four state certifications. Program managers expect to recruit young adults and ex-offenders.

The program includes partners in government, private industry, community organizations and environmental employers.

Participants who complete training will be tracked for a year after employment to help evaluate the training's effectiveness.

The Center for Community Development was among 18 grantee selected nationally and the only one in Florida.

The EPA has been funding these training grants since 1998. 12,800 people have completed training and 9,100 of them were employed in the environmental field after completing the training.

Brevard County erosion control. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a large dredging project that renourished 38 miles of beaches in Brevard County, more than a third of the county's total on the Atlantic Ocean.

The beach renourishment project, which began after the 2004 hurricanes and was later extended to repair damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2010, included several phases.

By the end of April, the dredging contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dry Dock, completed the final 10-mile stretch of beach, the North Reach.

Poor winter weather conditions at times made it uncertain whether or not the project would be completed before turtle nesting season began and dredging operations had to be halted for the summer.

The dredging project involved taking 4.2 million cubic yards of sand from the outer continental shelf, which is under the control of the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

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Monitors to track health of IRL

By BLANCHE HARDY, PG

The St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection met with local government partners and stakeholder groups in early June to celebrate installation of five real-time water quality monitoring stations in the Indian River Lagoon.

The lagoon's estuarine system of coastal waters extends 156 miles from Ponce to Jupiter inlets on Florida's east coast. Due to the lagoon's unique ecosystems and characterization as home to the greatest species diversity in any estuary in North America, it is designated as an estuary of national significance.

The state estimates the total annual economic value of the IRL is \$3.7 billion, supporting 15,000 full and part-time jobs, and providing recreational opportunities for 11 million people annually.

District data and observation indicate that the combined effects of stormwater runoff, drainage, loss of essential marshland, and agricultural and urban development have severely impacted the lagoon's water, sediment and habitat quality.

An eighteen-year period of recovery from a series of algal blooms came to an abrupt end with the superbloom in the Banana River during the Spring of 201. And last year, an extensive seagrass die-off occurred in the lagoon and an unusually high number of manatees, dolphins and pelicans died.

This prompted extensive planning for hundreds of projects of all scales designed to restore the lagoon. The newly installed sensor project is among those efforts.

"We are pleased to have five 'real-time' continuous monitoring stations installed in the Indian River Lagoon," said Hank Largin, public communications coordinator for the water management district.

Prior to installation of the sensors, all data collection was conducted by hand. With the sensors in place, stakeholders and the public can now monitor data about nutrients and other parameters affecting the lagoon by accessing a district website.

A cellular modem sends data to software that feeds the information to the district's website at <http://webapub.sjrwmd.com/agws10/hdswq/>.

An online map allows users to select a waterbody, such as the lagoon, and a parameter, such as chlorophyll, and available sensor monitoring point locations appear. By clicking on the monitoring point, data is displayed.

For example, the five IRL monitoring station sensors appear under the "Indian River Lagoon" selection.

Real-time data from the monitors will enhance scientific understanding of nutrient concentrations, plankton, salinity, water temperature and other dynamics in the lagoon system, noted Largin.

"Insights gleaned from the new data will help in managing lagoon resources and identifying projects to improve the health of the lagoon," he said.

In discussing the real-time monitoring capability, William Tredik, director of the district's Indian River Lagoon Protection Initiative, said the sensors will allow observers to gain an understanding of how drift macroalgae respond to the monitored parameters—information needed to predict the probable onset of future blooms or conditions necessary to disrupt bloom cycles.

Observers can watch as a parameter such as chlorophyll rises, and potentially determine if they are starting to see a bloom form, helping them to select which of the 500 recovery projects need to be implemented first.

Eventually a \$1 million network of water-quality sensors will assist scientists in monitoring the pulse of the IRL.

DEP provided \$746,000 for 15 water-quality sensors, including the five already in the lagoon. Other sensors are slated to be installed in springs and other Central Florida waterbodies.



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Technical Agenda (Draft)

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Conference Kick-off

Keynote Address from Conference Chair Nick Albergo, PE, DEE, CRA, Tampa
A New Model: Recovering Remediation Costs from Old Insurance Policies in Florida

Session 2: In-Situ Chemical Oxidation

Evaluation of Advanced Oxidation Treatment Options for Extracted Groundwater with Chlorinated Solvents, Aromatics, and 1,4-Dioxane
In-Situ Chemical Oxidation of Pentachlorophenol and Dioxins/Furans at a Unique Cultural Site
Evaluation of Multiple Biotic and Abiotic In-Situ Treatment Method for the Remediation of a Commingled TCE and Metals Plume

Session 3: Field Tools

BTEX & MTBE Remediation in Challenging Chipley, FL, Geology at Two Separate Sites using ISCO/BIO Injections
Application of MIP/HPT Logging for Source Zone Characterization & Water Quality Evaluations for Enhanced Conceptual Site Model Development
Real-time Flux Measurement Using Direct Sensing, Quantitative Discrete Sampling and On-Site Analysis
Emerging Tools Used for In-Situ Chemical Oxidation/Reduction Projects
SERDP Study Explores Well Flow Dynamics for Active "Purge" Sampling and Newer "Passive" Sampling Approaches

Session 4: Sorption

Sorption Coupled with Enhanced Biodegradation to Treat Petroleum and Chlorinated Contaminants in Groundwater
Use of Colloidal Mg(OH)₂ for Aquifer pH Adjustment from Concept to Laboratory to Field scale
In-Situ Remediation of Commingled Plumes Utilizing an Injection Program for pH and Alkalinity Optimization

Day Two: Friday, Oct. 10, 2014

Session 5: Laboratory Tools and Techniques

Efficiency of an Online Chain of Custody Service
Interpreting 3D-CSIA Forensic Data: A Step-By-Step Demonstration
Optimization of Metals Remediation using Column and Microcosm Studies

Session 6: A Common Sense Approach to Long-Term Landfill Monitoring Requirements in Florida

Moderator: Nick Albergo, PE, DEE, CRA, Tampa; Panelists from DEP NE District, TBA

Session 7: Annual Environmental Regulatory Panel

Moderator: Glenn MacGraw, PG, Vice President, The FGS Group, Tallahassee
Panelists from Regulatory Agencies, TBA

Session 8: Fixation & Mobilization

Chemical Fixation of Priority Heavy Metals in Soil, Sediment and Groundwater using MetaFix™ Reagents
Advances in Surfactant Selection for LNAPL Remediation
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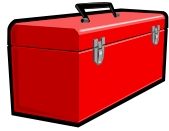
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WATCH From Page 4

Research and Design, VHB and Hydro Solutions.

The stormwater project will address the water quality of Lake Eva and is designed to clean the lake's water and reduce algae build up. Drainage issues will also be addressed on Hill Drive and on the corner of Ledwith Avenue and Fifth Street.

The wastewater filtration project involves replacing a filtration system at the city's wastewater treatment facility, and increasing the system's capacity of three million gallons per day to six mgd.

CERCLA From Page 1

reference to E1527-05 "in the near future," and after seven months, the near future came close enough to seize.

It is possible that EPA will establish the 2013 rule this year, but make the effective date a year following approval.

Going forward, especially if the 05 rule is dropped, purchasers, lenders and environmental site assessors should ensure their activities conform to the 2013 Phase I standard.

The 2013 rule includes definitions of recognized environmental conditions, or RECs, including "controlled" and "historical" RECs, regulatory file review procedures and clarifications on vapor migration assessment in the Phase I process.

SRWMD, Dixie County partner on restoration. The Suwannee River Water Management District and Dixie County teamed up on an effort to restore the natural hydrology and reestablish surface water levels in the Middle Suwannee River and associated springs.

The Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project, located on approximately 11,000 acres of privately owned land in northeast Dixie County, will restore the natural hydrology and reestablish surface water levels using flashboard risers in area drainage canals.

The water storage areas will retain water on land that will disperse into wetlands, recharging the aquifer and increasing spring flows by about 130 million gallons of water annually.

MWH awarded Everglades work. Broomfield, CO-based MWH was awarded a master services agreement contract by the South Florida Water Management District for Everglades work.

The firm will provide construction management and engineering services to implement the district's Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan.

The planned projects include design and construction management of stormwater treatment areas and other associated improvements throughout the Everglades.

NOTES From Page 3

Mary Beth Northrup, CIH, joined Cherokee Enterprises Inc. Northrup most recently served as the environmental health and safety manager of U.S. operations for Motorola Solutions Inc. She will be taking the lead in offering enhanced EHS compliance services for CEI's clients.

Company news. Gannett Fleming expanded its facilities and upgraded equipment for geotechnical and environmental investigations, as well as mineral exploration.

GF's Tampa Bay area operations will move to a 10,000-square-foot facility in Pinellas Park that will be dedicated exclusively to geotechnical services.

In addition to its new facility, GF invested \$1 million in its fleet of drilling equipment with the purchase of new drill rigs, as well as upgrades and enhancements to its current fleet of rigs, boats and barges.

The move is effective at the end of August.



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