

KCE Member Firms:

Allgeier, Martin & Associates, Inc.
Allied Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc.
H. H. Bassett Enterprises, Inc.
Baughman Company, P.A.
BG Consultants, Inc.
Black & Veatch
Brungardt Honomichl & Company, P.A.
Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation
Burns & McDonnell Engineers
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.
Campbell, Barber, Lambeth & Assoc., P.A.
Certified Engineering Design
Communication & Automation Engineering
Cook, Flatt & Strobel, Engineers, P.A.
Delich Roth & Goodwillie, P.A.
Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Associates, P.A.
FBS Engineers, Inc.
Garver, Inc.
George Butler Associates, Inc.
GeoSystems Engineering, Inc.
Geotechnical Services, Inc.
Harding ESE
Haris Engineering, Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
HNTB Corporation
HWS Consulting Group, Inc.
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
Kramer Engineering, P.A.
Larkin Group Consulting Engineers
Latimer Sommers & Associates, P.A.
Lembeck Associates, Inc.
MKEC Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Morrow Engineering, Inc.
Olsson Associates
Palmerton & Parrish, Inc.
Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.
Payne & Brockway, P.A.
Poe-Van Doren, LLC
Ponzer-Youngquist, P.A.
Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A.
Reiss & Goodness Engineers
Savoy, Ruggles & Bohm, P.A.
Schwab-Eaton, P.A.
Shafer, Kline & Warren, P.A.
Systems Management Consultants, Inc.
Taylor & Associates, Inc.
Terracon, Inc.
Tetra Tech-FHC, Inc.
TranSystems Corporation
Turner Consultants
URS Corporation, Inc.
Wallace Engineering
White Associates, Inc.
Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects

For a directory of Kansas engineering firms,
contact the KCE office: 785/357-1824

Graham and Jackson Counties are winners in 2001 PIA Competition

KCE President Roy Wilson presented the 2001 County Public Improvement Awards at the Annual Conference of the Kansas Association of Counties. The meeting was held in Century II Convention Center, Wichita, on November 19.

Graham County was the winner in the Under 10,000 Population category for its Graham County Health Department project.

The Graham County Health Department was formerly located in the Graham County Courthouse. The Health Department was allotted two rooms to operate its various programs. Due to the rising cost of health care and insurance, many of the people in the county are reliant on the Health Department. The department serves many farm families and single parent families who are not able to afford insurance. In August, 1999 the County Commissioners determined that there was favorable public support for acquisition and remodeling of a building to meet the needs of the Graham County Health Department and the citizens of Graham County. It was determined that purchase and remodeling of an existing building within the

community would be the most cost effective.

The handicap accessible building accommodates three examination rooms, two offices, one conference room/kitchen, one reception area, one restroom, two storage rooms, one filing/copy room and additional space in the basement for storage.

The engineer on the project was Stecklein and Brungardt Architects and the contractor was Apache Construction. Funds for the project came from CDBG Funds as well as a County Match.

R o g e r Davignon,

Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners accepted the Public Improvement Award on behalf of the citizens of Graham County.

Jackson County was winner in the 10,000 and Above Population category for the Ervin-Zweifel Building.

This building houses the new Senior Citizens Center which was moved from a previous location. The new location provides much needed parking space and a safer environment. It consists of a large dining area, a media room, sitting room and



KCE President Roy Wilson and Roger Davignon, Graham County

a game room for the participants. The use of this site is making use of a large building that would very possibly be sitting empty. The Multi-County Health Department is located in the south part of the building which makes it more convenient for the senior participants to tend to their health needs. Because of the location of the center, there has been a definite increase in the number of participants.

The old location is now being used by the City Recreation Department for office space. They have hopes of having a Teen Recreation Center at this location in the future.

The General Contractor for the project was Joe Sterrett. Funds for

the project were provided by private donations and county funds.

Cheryl Hamlin accepted the Public Improvement Award on behalf of the citizens of Jackson County.



KCE President Roy Wilson and Cheryl Hamlin, Jackson County

The County Public Improvement Award competition recognizes engineering projects, not for their engineering excel-

lence, but for their benefit to the citizens of a community. This is the 40th year Kansas Consulting Engineers has presented the awards. We thank the Kansas Association of Counties for allowing us to be a part of their annual banquet each year.

EPA Goes Ahead with Standard to Reduce Arsenic in Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is moving forward with plans to draft a standard that dramatically reduces levels of arsenic in drinking water.

The new standard will have the same compliance dates in 2006 as the agency's previous proposal under the Clinton administration, which was delayed for 60 days pending review. The Bush administration's new proposal extends the current effective date until February 22, 2002.

Specifically, the EPA has asked the National Academy of Sciences to perform an expedited review of an arsenic range of three to 20 parts per billion for the establishment of a new drinking water standard. NAS is also being requested to examine new health effects studies and review EPA's risk analysis of arsenic levels.

NAS already has reported that the present standard of 50 parts per billion is too high, but it did not specify what a protective level should be. As a follow-up, the EPA staff has been directed to prepare a rule proposal seeking additional public comment on this range.

White House Relaxes Rules On Protection of Wetlands

According to Michael Grunwald of the *Washington Post* the Bush administration has cut back several rules intended to protect thousands of wetlands, swamps, and streams despite opposition from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Army Corps of Engineers announced the revisions, which the White House had endorsed. The changes override some restrictions created by the Clinton administration in March of 2000, and will help enable mining companies, developers, and others get "general permits" to dredge and fill wetlands.

Corps leaders have said the permit changes would cut down on extra paperwork without compromising environmental protections, and that the Corps is dedicated to "no net loss" of wetlands.

Environmentalists have charged that the Bush administration has sold out, pointing out that some of the officials taking part in drafting rules governing mining operations have former connections with mining interests.

Environmentalists also caution that the wetlands rules changes give too much discretionary power to the Corps of Engineers, says the "Post."

An attorney with the Natural Re-

sources Defense Council says that the new policy will bring about increased water pollution, flooding, and loss of wildlife habitat. The National Association of Home Builders, which had sued to block the Clinton administration's tougher rules, is said to be pleased by the changes

Firm News

For more information

about how to find the

right
engineering
company
for your project:

www.kce.org

The website
is user-friendly
for cities and counties

HNTB Corporation has announced the appointment of **Joe Brand, P.E.**, to vice president. Brand, a 22-year HNTB veteran, heads the transportation department in the firm's Overland Park office. He has significantly expanded HNTB's client base among municipalities in the Kansas City area. With planning, design, and construction services experience on municipal projects in Kansas City, Brand has contributed to more than 40 miles of arterial street improvement projects over the past 10 years.

Dale McGregor, P.E., HNTB associate vice president, has relocated from the Overland Park office to the Kansas City, Missouri office where he will manage the highway design department. McGregor, who joined HNTB in 1984, was previously the transportation section manager in the

Overland Park office and has been the project manager on numerous major highways and interchanges throughout Kansas and the Midwest including, the East Topeka KTA/I-70/K-4 Interchange, the South Lawrence Trafficway, and the Kellogg/Oliver Interchange.

HNTB has over 3000 professionals in 60 offices across the country.

Thomas Ruggles, P.E. and **Christopher Bohm, P.E., L.S.**, have announced the purchase of Savoy, Ruggles & Bohm, P.A. and will now provide services as *Ruggles & Bohm, P. A., Engineering, Surveying and Land Planning*.

Contact information remains 924 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203; phone 316-254-8008; fax 316-264-4621; and Email info@rbkansas.com. The company's URL is www.rbkansas.com.

Budget Shortfalls Issue Confronting the Kansas Legislature is Compounded by Redistricting Struggle

Things are bit tense in the 2002 session of the legislature. The leadership must feel that herding cats would be an easier task than leading the Kansas legislature. But, difficult as it is, the cat herders must resolve several issues with the two most important, and still unresolved, being reapportionment and the budget.

The constitution requires that the states must redistrict according to the most recent census numbers that are collected once per decade. With an eastward migration of the Kansas population there have been many new redistricting maps drawn with very little agreement. This comes as no surprise since each party desires to

strengthen their position and gain votes through elections.

With Republicans in the majority one might think it is a slam dunk to draw a map to their advantage in both the Senate and the House. This myth dissolved two weeks ago when a newly formed Senate coalition of conservative Republicans banded together, with the ten Democrats, to approve a new map via a floor amendment 21-19.

To compound the disarray caused by that surprise move, the Governor has now vetoed the bill that contains the adjusted Senate map. Distrust in the Senate is rampant and, daily, new issues are being caught in this web of distrust.

The budget may be short by as much as \$600 million depending on new revenue estimates due March 8. It is obvious to all concerned that compromises are going to have to be made.

Of major concern to consulting engineers as well as to cities and counties is how these two issues, linked by their political nature, will affect education and transportation needs. Transportation could lose \$52 to \$147 million this year because of down-scoping the projects in the current Comprehensive Transportation Program. Where those down-scoped projects are located could well be closely tied to how the redistricting issue is resolved.

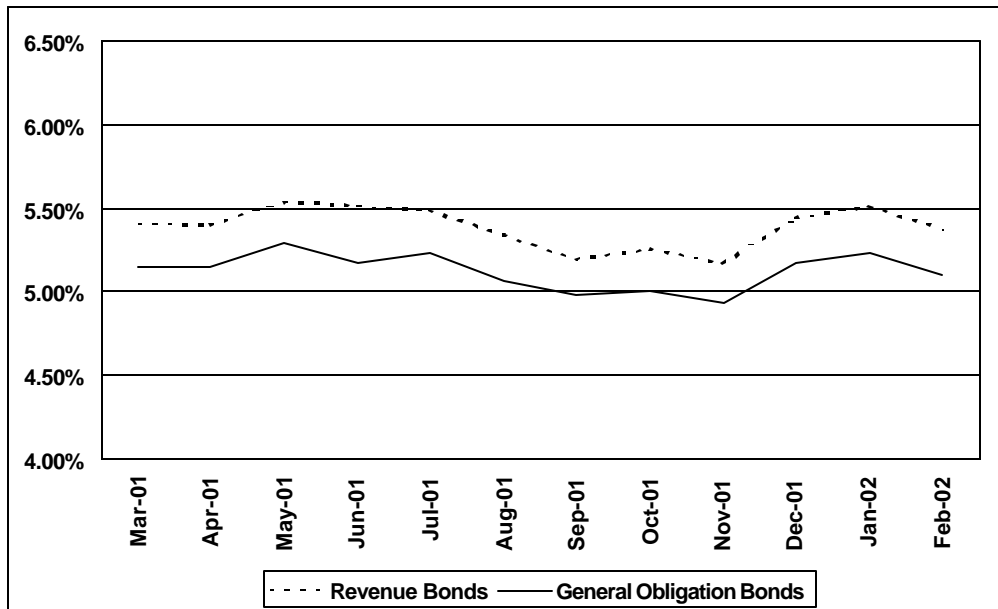


300 SW 8TH ST - 3RD FLOOR
TOPEKA KS 66603

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #684
Topeka, Kansas

**Consulting Kansas is published quarterly for KCE by Gaches Braden Barbee & Associates
George Barbee, KCE Executive Director - Phone 785/357-1824 - FAX 785/233-2206**

12-Month Tax-Exempt Interest Rate Trends



The rates shown are weekly national averages of long-term, tax-exempt rates. They represent selected trends of general obligation bonds and revenue bonds since March 2001. General obligation bonds and revenue bonds issued by Kansas municipalities, if properly structured and secured, can typically be sold at interest rates slightly lower than the national average.