

# THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER



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## Monthly Meeting Information

### DATE:

Thursday, March 21

### HOST:

Environmental Group  
Nebraska Section ASCE

### SPEAKER:

### **Michael E. Hagemeister, P.E.**

Department Manager for Environmental  
Assessment and Remediation Services  
Terracon, Omaha

### TOPIC:

The Former Alter Monofill  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

### TIMES:

5:30-6:30.....Social Hour  
6:30-7:30.....Dinner  
7:30.....Meeting and Program

### LOCATION:

**Beacon Hills Restaurant**  
**5353 N. 27th St. - Lincoln**

(about 1-1/4 miles S. of I-80/N. 27 St. Intersec-  
tion, W. side, adjacent to the Country Inn &  
Suites. Enter on the east side of the building,  
the door east of the Beacon Hills entrance,  
and take the elevator down.)

### MENU:

Pasta Primavera.....\$14.00  
Garlic Basil Chicken.....\$17.50  
New York Strip Steak.....\$22.50

*(Prices include side items, beverage,  
dessert, tax and gratuity)*

## DINNER RESERVATIONS

*RSVP with menu choice by noon  
on Monday 3/18/02*

*In Omaha and Eastern Nebraska:  
contact Bob Kalinski at (402) 894-2678  
or [president@neasce.org](mailto:president@neasce.org)*

*In Lincoln and Central/Western Nebraska:  
contact Brad Levich at (402) 466-3911  
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## Michael E. Hagemeister, P.E.

Michael E. Hagemeister, P.E. is currently the Department Manager for Environmental Assessment and Remediation Services for Terracon's Omaha office. He has been involved with a diversified list of environmental projects during his eight years with Terracon. Typical projects that Mr. Hagemeister has been involved with include: landfill design; blighted property redevelopment; risk assessment services; chlorinated solvent and petroleum assessments; and remediation design and implementation.

Mr. Hagemeister received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering and M.S. degree in Biological Systems and Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mike is also active in ASAE - *Society of Biological Systems and Agricultural Engineers* and is currently the President-Elect for the Nebraska Section.

Prior to returning to the University of Nebraska to obtain his Masters degree, Mike was employed by Chief Industries as a design engineer for their materials handling product lines. Also, he previously worked at Ford New Holland's proving grounds where he was a field stress analysis engineer for prototype and production line heavy agricultural and construction equipment.

*continued, Page 2*

# President's Comments

## Be Aware of the Political Winds and Budgets



Bob Kalinski, President  
Nebraska Section, ASCE

Because of the reduced tax revenue from slowing to stagnant growth in the U.S. Economy, the war on terrorism, and concerns for homeland security, civil engineers need to be aware of numerous pending budget cuts that will impact our profession, at least temporarily.

On the federal level, President Bush's 2003 budget may provide some bad news for the civil engineering profession by reducing budgets for many federal

construction accounts. The most severe cuts have been proposed for federal aid to highway obligations and for prison projects. For example, the administration's proposed budget allocates \$24.1 billion for FHWA, including \$23.2 billion for the Federal-Aid Highway Obligation Limitation, which is \$4.4 billion below the funding level authorized in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) for F.Y. 2003 and \$8.6 billion below the actual 2002 funding level (numbers cited from ACEC 'Last Word', March 1, 2002).

Other significant cuts proposed by the Bush administration from F.Y. 2002 to F.Y. 2003 include a 16% reduction in Corps of Engineers water projects and no new construction (from \$1.71 to \$1.44 billion), a 31% reduction in DOD military construction other than family housing (from \$5.91 to \$4.05 billion), a 10% reduction in DOE environmental management programs (from \$6.48 to \$5.81 billion), and a 7% reduction in EPA State/Tribal Water Grants and the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (from \$3.73 to \$3.46 billion) (numbers cited from ENR, February 11, 2002).

Bipartisan opinion exists both for and against the proposed federal budget cuts. But as stated by a director of business development for a large construction firm, "Would you like to be the member of the Senate or House that voted no on homeland security and then have some catastrophe occur?" Organized efforts by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) are underway to reduce or eliminate some of these proposed budget reductions. In addition to cuts on the federal level, they can also be expected to occur on the State level due to shortfalls in projected tax revenues. To balance the state budget, Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns has recently recommended

elimination of funding for several areas including 'New Information Technology Funding' and the transfer of cash reserves from several funds including the DAS Recycling Fund, Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund, and Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Cash Fund (Governors Budget Recommendations, February 28, 2002).

The purpose of this column is not to lend political opinion as to the need or not for the proposed budget changes, and it is the duty of any responsible political leader to balance budgets while recognizing that not everyone will be satisfied by what is necessary. This column is intended, however, to provide examples as to why civil engineers need to be aware of changes on the political and economic landscapes that impact our profession and to become involved in the political decision process when necessary.

### Michael E. Hagemester, continued

**ALTER PROJECT CAPSULE:** The former Alter Monofill in Council Bluffs, Iowa had been used for about 20 years for the disposal of non-ferrous waste from an automobile recycling operation. The Alter Monofill property consists of approximately 40 acres and is located in close proximity to Bluffs Run Casino and Council Bluffs Convention Center that is now under construction. Approximately 25 acres of the site previously receiving waste materials with an expansive wetland situated immediate to the disposal area.

In the late 1990's the site received approval to expand the landfilling operation from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). This plan was inconsistent with the long term development goals for the City of Council Bluffs. Terracon and the City of Council Bluffs worked together to identify alternatives to continued operation of the landfill. Once a plan that was acceptable to the City and owner of the monofill, the City took title to the property and tasked Terracon with developing a closure design that would allow for reuse of the monofill as a YMCA athletic complex.

Terracon worked with the City of Council Bluffs, the Army Corps of Engineers, the YMCA, and the IDNR during development of the plan. Terracon demonstrated that the design met IDNR's overall requirements through equivalency evaluations and ultimately received the variances from the IDNR to make the project feasible. Major design elements included: a slope of 2 percent or less across the playing surfaces; the use of a geosynthetic clay liner as the primary barrier layer; a geonet and subsurface piping network for subsurface drainage; and special foundation systems for anchoring athletic equipment.



[www.asce.org/conferences/structures2002/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/structures2002/)

On behalf of the Structural Engineering Institute and the American Society of Civil Engineers, I am pleased to invite you to the 2002 Structures Congress and Exposition. The Congress will be held in the Denver Marriott City Center Hotel, located in vibrant downtown Denver, Colorado.

The theme for the 2002 congress is Performance of Structures — From Research to Design. The congress program brings this theme to life — from sessions selected to exciting new concepts for presenting information. We've also made the sessions more attractive to design professionals and more accessible to younger engineers. Innovations for 2002 include:

- Moving the congress from Monday through Wednesday to Thursday through Saturday to reduce the number of days you need to spend away from the office.
- Adding several seminars — scheduled concurrently with the traditional technical sessions — to inform you of the latest developments in structural analysis, building code development, and structural design. Many of these seminars were developed by SEI's Business and Professional Activities Division (BPAD) to provide in depth information on the design of structures and to offer a variety of sessions related to business practice and professional activities. These include developments in dispute resolution, status of S.E. registration, and pricing structural engineering services.
- Inviting Maryann Phipps, P.E., president of ESTRUCTURE, Berkeley, California, to address the congress as the featured Plenary Speaker. Maryann will share her thoughts on the promises of Performance Based Engineering.

In addition to these enhancements, our traditional paper sessions offer you the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in a variety of critical areas:

- One full track devoted to the 15th Analysis and Computation Conference
- Two sessions on fire engineering
- Two sessions on analysis and design of tall buildings
- Several sessions on timber structures, including two related to the behavior of light frame wood buildings
- Issues on structural failure and forensic engineering
- Sessions on improved performance through "smart damping" systems, base isolation, and passive/active control.

Because there are important lessons to be learned on the performance of structures under extreme loads, we have also scheduled special sessions related to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. These sessions will preview the

reports produced by the special ASCE-FEMA teams investigating the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Last, but not least, all congress delegates are invited to attend the ASCE 150th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration will be held on Wednesday evening, April 3, high atop the breathtaking Pinnacle Club in downtown Denver. This exciting event will highlight the historical achievements of Rocky Mountain area civil and structural engineers.

I look forward to seeing you in Denver. Enjoy the congress, meet friends and colleagues, and visit the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains!

Sincerely,

Finley A. Charney, Ph.D., P.E.  
Steering Committee Chairman

## Conference Highlights

- Steel Bridge Forum
- AASHTO Specifications
- High Performance Steel
- Cost Effective Design
- Tour of CPP's Wind Tunnel Testing Laboratory
- Welcome Reception
- Diversity in Structural Engineering Breakfast
- ASCE's 150th Anniversary Celebration
- Special Business & Professional Practice Seminars
- Plenary Session: Performance-Based Design & the Evolution of Structural Engineering
- Awards Luncheon
- SEI Business Meeting
- Bonus: ASCE Building Performance Study Team Briefings on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center

**ASCE**

**SEI**

## Last Month's Meeting



At left, Dr. Robert Koerner (L) accepts a token of appreciation from Ed Prost (R), Nebraska Section Director and Organizer of the Geotechnical Meeting. Dr. Koerner's presentation ("Stability Assessment of Ten Large Land-fill Failures") was captivating and informative. Fifty-five people attended the meeting held February 28 at Caniglia's Venice Inn in Omaha.

Kevin Pavlik (guest)	Steven Saye
Mike Naccarato	Loras Klostermann
Rick Kaufmann	Arjun Patney
Susie Jorgensen	Dan Maht
Steve Jorgensen	Mel Esrig (guest)
Steve Bottum	Ray Moore
Helen Bottum (guest)	Ken Agud (guest)
Tom Marnik	Ryan Beckman
David Ayala (guest)	Bob Kalinski
Daren Konda	Mike Baumert
Dave Hamilton (guest)	Reed Schwartzkopf
Dave Jaros	Ryan Paradis
Tucker Coolidge	Lok Sharma (guest)
Steve Butler (guest)	Ed Keating (guest)
John Dempsey	James Landrum (guest)
Steve Nickel	Troy Rohret (guest)
Brian Havens	Brad Chambers
Dave Svingen	Ed Prost
Nathan Dickerson	Jeff Magner (guest)
Bryan Flere (guest)	Brian Gisi (guest)
Ryan Schaner	Cory O'Brien
Jean-Louis Briaud (guest)	Dave Ray (guest)
Aaron Gaul	Mike McIntosh
Jim McHenry (guest)	John Hill
Joe Waxse	<i>Plus six unregistered</i>

The following day, Dr. Koerner and other distinguished experts presented at **GEO-Omaha 2002**, our 19th Annual Geotechnical Seminar. Approximately 125 individuals attended the conference. A portion of the proceeds from the conference will be donated to the Peck-Benak Geotechnical Scholarship fund. Congratulations to the Geotechnical Committee for organizing another successful conference (despite another heavy snowfall)!

## 2002 Important Dates

Mar 21	MARCH MEETING (Hosted by Environmental Group), TBA
Apr 11	APRIL MEETING (Co-hosted by Transportation Group and UNO Student Chapter), Omaha
Apr 18-19	ASCE Continuing Education Seminar - "Seismic Design of Highway Bridges", Kansas City, MO
May TBA	ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET, GOLF OUTING
Jul 18-19	ASCE Continuing Education Seminar - "Earthquake Induced Ground Motions", Kansas City, MO
Jul 25-26	ASCE Continuing Education Seminar - "Construction Administration for Engineers", Omaha
Oct 3	MONTHLY MEETING (Hosted by Structural Group)
Oct 4	<b>ANNUAL STRUCTURAL CONFERENCE</b>

## Explore ASCE's NEW History and Heritage Website, the Heritage Knowledge Base

[www.asce.org/history](http://www.asce.org/history)



This innovative resource, celebrating the Society's 150th Anniversary, allows users to search a database of people and projects important to the development of our nation and the world. The site encourages members and the public to gain an understanding of the history of civil engineering and a valuable insight into our own lives, past and future. Please visit the site and join in the enthusiasm of the past, while getting a glimpse of the future.

## A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the April edition of *The Nebraska Civil Engineer* is Mar. 18. Send ideas for items that could be included in this newsletter, articles, or information to:

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c/o **Rick Kaufmann**  
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The Section's website can be found at

**[www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org)**

Direct any items of interest or comments to the Section Webmaster, **Brad Chambers**, at (402)444-6866 or [webmaster@neasce.org](mailto:webmaster@neasce.org). These can include job position postings, RFP's, corporate news releases, editorials, articles, or photos of ASCE-related events. We send out notices, reminders and an electronic copy of this newsletter via email. To be included in our email database, email Brad Chambers at the above address.

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