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National Dam Safety Organization Presents Annual Awards

At each annual conference, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of dam safety. ASDSO is pleased to announce this year's award winners, who were recognized at the 2002 ASDSO Awards Banquet, held September 10, at Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa, Florida.

Honorary ASDSO Member: Thomas A. Kelly

Thomas A. Kelly has worked tirelessly for ASDSO since it was founded in 1984. Not only was Mr. Kelly a founding member of the Affiliate Advisory Committee, he has participated on the ASDSO Peer Review team since its inception, helping to conduct pilot reviews of New Mexico, Tennessee and Wisconsin, nine additional state reviews, and organizational reviews of dam safety programs within the US Department of Interior and the US Mine Safety and Health Administration.

As senior civil engineer for Southern California Edison Company, Mr. Kelly was responsible for dam safety and performance evaluation of 33 company-owned dams and related facilities. He interacted with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California Division of Safety of Dams to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. He also cooperated with the FERC Part 12 Board of Consultants and with other Boards of Consultants relating to Southern California Edison-owned dams.

West Regional Award of Merit: Alan Pearson

During his 30-plus years of service in the Colorado Dam Safety Program, Alan Pearson held the positions of Inspecting Engineer, Chief of the Design Review Unit, and Principal Engineer, his job title from 1980 until May 2002, when he retired from state government.

Mr. Pearson served as the 1996-1997 ASDSO President, and was a member of ASDSO's Board of Directors from 1994 to 2002. He was a Peer Reviewer of state dam safety programs in North Carolina, Maryland, and Washington, and of BC Hydro in British Columbia, Canada. He also served for several years on the Executive Committee of the National Performance of Dams Program (NPDP).

Midwest Regional Award of Merit: Samuel S. Doak

Since his 1990 retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Samuel S. Doak has been the Chief Structural and Geotechnical Engineer for McClure Engineering Associates, Inc. of East Moline, Illinois.

During most of his tenure with the Corps, Mr. Doak served as Chief of the Design Branch, and worked on numerous dam and levee projects, including Red Rock Dam, Saylorville Dam, the Mississippi River navigation lock and dam system, and the investigation of the hydropower potential of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Doak has demonstrated a rare understanding of the problems and rewards that face dam safety regulators on a day-to-day basis, as evidenced by his consistent submittal of complete, correct permit applications, his ability to persuade dam owners to act responsibly, his innovative and timely ideas, his cooperative approach to problem solving, and his assistance to state officials in the protection of the public.

Southeast Regional Award of Merit: Randall P. Bass

As Program Manager of Water Resources for the Portland Cement Association, Randy Bass promotes the use of roller compacted concrete (RCC) and soil cement in water resources projects.

Mr. Bass has also promoted the practice of dam safety through a number of efforts. An ASDSO member since 1990, he joined the Affiliate Member Advisory Committee in 2000. He has served as a sponsor and instructor of ASDSO regional technical seminars on RCC, and has presented papers at many ASDSO regional and national conferences. He was recognized in 2001 as the ASDSO Membership Recruiter of the Year, and currently serves as the Chair of the Technical Training Committee.

Mr. Bass, a registered professional engineer in Georgia, is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Association of Dam Safety Officials, the U.S. Society on Dams, and the American Concrete Institute.

Northeast Regional Award of Merit: Dr. Arthur C. Miller

Dr. Arthur Miller, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, has been teaching and performing research in the area of hydrology and hydraulics for more than 25 years. Dr. Miller has won numerous awards at the University for teaching and advising, including 1999 Penn State Engineering Society Premier Teaching Award.

Dr. Miller has been a steadfast supporter of ASDSO. Along with his doctoral students, he has made numerous presentations at ASDSO annual and regional conferences. He has provided valuable input to the ICODS Training Subcommittee. He has served as an instructor at ASDSO regional technical seminars on Hydrologic Modeling, and teaches an annual short course through FEMA. He was instrumental in the efforts to convince the HEC of the Corps to add dambreak functions to the new HEC RAS program.

His participation in such efforts and his influence on hundreds of students ensure an enduring legacy to the dam safety community.

National Rehabilitation Project of the Year: The Rehabilitation of Black Rock Dam - HydroPlus, Inc. and GEI Consultants, Inc.

The purpose of this annual design award is to recognize the use of technology, creativity, and economy in the rehabilitation of dams. For their innovative solution for the rehabilitation of Black Rock Dam, HydroPlus, Inc. of Arlington, Virginia and GEI Consultants, Inc. of Englewood, Colorado received the award for the 2002 ASDSO National Rehabilitation Project of the Year.

Black Rock Dam is a 79 foot high embankment built in 1908 to impound irrigation water for the Zuni Indian Reservation, in western New Mexico. In 1983, the US Bureau of Reclamation identified three deficiencies in the dam: uncontrolled seepage, inadequate spillway capacity, and deteriorating outlet works.

Under the auspices of the "Indian Self Determination Act" Public Law 93-638, the Pueblo of Zuni contracted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which funded the renovation of the dam, to manage and administer the design and construction of the renovation project. The Pueblo of Zuni selected GEI Consultants, Inc. for design and engineering services during construction.

Among the various modifications incorporated in GEI's design, one of the most innovative involved the use of Fusegates, a technology provided by Hydroplus, Inc., to increase the discharge capacity of the main spillway. Fusegates allow full reservoir storage during normal conditions, and maximize the capacity of the existing spillway by moving downstream during infrequent floods. The innovative approach of the fusegated spillway not only increased the discharge capacity by 600%, but also mitigated the environmental impacts of the rehabilitation, which required no major work to the embankment, as there was no increase in the reservoir maximum water level.

The Pueblo of Zuni selected Laguna Construction Company, Inc., which is wholly owned by the Pueblo of Laguna Indian Tribe, as the construction contractor. Construction began in early 1998, and was successfully completed in December 2001.

The renovation of Black Rock Dam is one of the largest projects executed under the Indian Self Determination Act, and is the second largest project under BIA's Safety of Dams Program.

National Award of Merit: Congressman Bill Shuster of Pennsylvania

Congressman Bill Shuster of the 9th district in Pennsylvania has provided invaluable leadership in the effort to reauthorize the National Dam Safety Program. Congressman Shuster recognized the importance of a national dam safety program to the country, and introduced House Resolution 4727, The National Dam Safety and Security Act of 2002. His strong advocacy quickly won approval of HR 4727 in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His bill extends the FEMA Dam Safety Program with modest increases in funding for the state grant assistance program and for research.

President's Award: Brian Pallasch, American Society of Civil Engineers Director of Government Relations

Over the past two years, Brian Pallasch, American Society of Civil Engineers Director of Government Relations, has been a tremendous advocate for dam safety within ASCE and on Capitol Hill.

Under Mr. Pallasch's leadership, ASCE testimony before Congress has stressed the importance of dam safety to the entire nation. His close work with ASDSO, the National Watershed Coalition and the Department of Agriculture helped ensure the passage of the 2001 Small Watershed Rehabilitation Bill. During the annual ASCE Policy Week, ASCE sent over 50 civil engineers to the Hill. Dam safety was among one of four significant legislative issues presented by their members.

In April 2002, ASCE staff arranged legislative appointments for nearly thirty ASDSO members. Mr. Pallasch gave a short training session for ASDSO state dam safety contacts and provided handout packets for the visits in support of reauthorizing the National Dam Safety Program Act.

ASDSO sincerely appreciates Mr. Pallasch's contributions toward improving dam safety, his steadfast support for ASDSO and his efforts to make dam safety an important part of the national legislative agenda of the ASCE.

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving dam safety through research, education and communication. Since its formation in 1984, ASDSO has served as one of the premier professional organizations for individuals committed to ensuring the safety of dams in the U.S. For more information, please visit www.damsafety.org.