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Central Oklahoma Section Newsletter
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The Section is located at: Oklahoma Engineering Center, 201 Northeast 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Central Oklahoma Section Newsletter is nominally published nine times per year to convey monthly meeting dates, meeting topics, section activities, and/or other ASME information to its membership.

***** NO ASME CENTRAL OKLAHOMA SECTION MEETING FOR AUGUST *****

This newsletter launches our 2013-2014 ASME Central Oklahoma Section program year. Unfortunately, scheduling difficulties arose when planning our August Section meeting. So we will not be meeting this month.

Our September Section meeting, on the other hand, will be of interest to all our members. The speaker will be the new OSU College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology (CEAT) Dean, Dr. Paul Tikalsky. This meeting will be held Thursday, September 26 at the Boulevard Cafeteria in OKC.

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ASME Membership Renewal & Referral Drive is ON!

Dear ASME Members:

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support. It is now time to renew your ASME Membership for 2013 – 2014.

There has never been a better time to be an ASME Member. We've enhanced many of our member-only benefits, programs and services, including:

- **New for 2013:** ASME SmartBrief, a free daily e-mail newsletter specifically written for engineering professionals, keeping you up-to-date with the latest information and trends affecting the profession.
- **New for 2013:** Social networking features on ASME.org – register to become an ASME.org Participant and take advantage of incredible

The ASME Referral Drive is back!

Great New Prizes!

The ASME Referral Drive is back and better than ever!

- Now through September 2013, ASME members can once again share the value of ASME membership by using our online form to refer friends and colleagues in just minutes!
- Participate and help increase membership while also supporting ASME's efforts to promote the vital role of the engineer around the globe.
- Start making your referrals now at: go.asme.org/ReferralOnline

There's practically no limit to the number of prizes you can earn!

Quick, Easy, Online!

Get Started Now

Click Here to Learn More, View Prizes & Make Referrals!

Refer Friends & Colleagues • Earn Great Prizes
Spread the Word!

community tools that connect you with engineers around the world, and so much more! (continued next page)

Help ASME reduce paper waste by renewing online. It's quick and easy. Go to: ASME.org → [Shop ASME \(Shop All\)](#) → [Shopping Cart](#) to renew your Membership today.

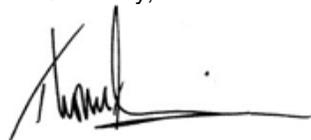
RENEW EARLY TO WIN DRAWING! This year, ASME is rewarding members like you who renew early with 3 opportunities to win a prize. Plus, members who renew online will get three EXTRA entries. The sooner you renew your membership the more chances you have to win.

Here are the great prizes you can win*

Drawing #1: August 1st	iPhone (\$299 value)
Drawing #2: September 1st	iPad Mini (\$329 value)
Drawing #3: October 1st	42" Flat Screen TV (\$500 value)

ASME Membership gives you the tools, professional training, information and connections you need to succeed in your career. Please renew your membership today!

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Loughlin, CAE Executive Director

See <https://www.asme.org/about-asme/professional-membership/asm-referral-drive> for more information.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

U.S. Roads, Bridges Are Decaying Despite Stimulus Influx

(courtesy NSPE's *Engineering Press Review* publication, August 5, 2013)

USA Today (07/29/13; G. Stoller, L. Higgs) The deterioration of U.S. roads and bridges is continuing despite the infusion of \$27 billion in federal stimulus funding. An analysis of Federal Highway Administration data by TRIP and USA TODAY found that only 38 percent of road pavement in the country is in good condition, while about 11 percent of U.S. bridges 20 feet or longer are structurally deficient. The analysis also determined that the percentage of miles of pavement in poor condition increased from 20.7 percent to 21.4 percent between 2008 and 2011. Kansas had more miles of pavement in poor condition than any other state, followed by Connecticut, New Jersey, Hawaii, California, and Oklahoma, while even a state such as Missouri, with more than half of its pavement miles in good condition, also had significant road decay. Kansas suffers from a higher overall portion of pavement in poor condition due to the rampant disrepair of its secondary roads, while 94 percent of its major roads and interstate highways are in good condition. Meanwhile, the American Society of Civil Engineers reports that at least 20 percent of Pennsylvania, Iowa, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Dakota bridges are structurally deficient or are in need of "significant maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement."

EDITOR'S NOTE: A recent *Daily Oklahoman* article focused on our State's efforts and accomplishments in road and bridge improvement. While good progress has been made there is still much work to do.

Halliburton Reveals It Is Object Of DOJ Antitrust Probe Into Fracking Industry

(courtesy NSPE's *Daily Designs* publication, July 26, 2013)

The **Wall Street Journal** (7/26, Sider) reports Houston-based oilfield and natural gas services company Halliburton has revealed that it is part of an antitrust investigation from the Department of Justice, as does Baker Hughes Inc. A DOJ spokeswoman said, the antitrust division "is investigating the possibility of anticompetitive practices involving pressure-pumping services performed on oil and gas wells." According to Halliburton's statement, additional companies have been contacted regarding the investigation and the company is not being singled out. The Journal briefly analyzed Halliburton and Baker Hughes' dominance in the oilfield and fracking industries, coming in below Schlumberger Ltd., which did not provide comment.

Halliburton to Plead Guilty to Destruction of BP Spill Evidence. The [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Mufson) reports that Federal prosecutors said on Thursday that Halliburton has agreed to plead guilty to destroying evidence during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster in 2010, “admitting to one count of criminal conduct and agreeing to pay the \$200,000 maximum statutory fine.” In what the Post calls a “startling turn” in the three-year criminal probe, Halliburton “said that on two occasions during the oil spill, it directed employees to destroy or ‘get rid of’ simulations that would have helped clarify how to assign blame for the blowout – and possibly focused more attention on Halliburton’s role.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Krauss) reports that Halliburton “will pay the maximum allowable fine and be subject to three years of probation.” It will also continue to cooperate with Federal investigators in the ongoing criminal probe, and has separately “made a voluntary contribution of \$55 million to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.” Federal prosecutors “filed one criminal charge against” Halliburton, “which has suffered significant damage to its reputation since the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11 workers and soiled hundreds of miles of beaches.”

Sen. Wyden Suggests Splitting Fracking Oversight. [The Hill](#) (7/26, Colman) reports in its “E2 Wire” blog Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D) “floated a proposal” under which states would regulate fracking underground and the Federal government would create reporting and disclosure requirements. Unlike a draft Interior Department rule, this proposal would cover private as well as government lands. Splitting “fracking oversight would attempt to split the difference between complaints industry and environmental groups have about the draft Interior fracking rule.” Industry argues that varying geologies make states best to regulate fracking, while environmentalists “say the technology is changing — and becoming more widespread — faster than states can regulate it.” Wyden said he’s talking to lawmakers about various ideas regarding natural gas, including “smoothing the path for using natural gas in the transportation sector, upgrading pipeline infrastructure, managing exports and the environment.”

DOE: Study Shows No Evidence of Fracking Chemicals Spreading Into Drinking Water

(courtesy NSPE’s *Daily Designs* publication, July 22, 2013)

The [AP](#) (7/19, Begos) reported that, according to the Department of Energy, “a landmark Federal study on...fracking...shows no evidence that chemicals from the natural gas drilling process moved up to contaminate drinking water aquifers at a western Pennsylvania drilling site.” Duke University scientist Rob Jackson, who did not participate in the study, called it a “‘useful and important approach’ to monitoring fracking, but he cautioned that the single study doesn’t prove that fracking can’t pollute, since geology and industry practices vary widely in Pennsylvania and across the nation.” The article suggested that other DOE researchers may agree with a portion of Jackson’s opinion of the study, since the AP reported that “DOE researchers view the study as just one part of ongoing efforts to examine the impacts of a recent boom in oil and gas exploration, not a final answer about the risks.”

House Republicans Push Bill That Would Thwart Interior’s Fracking Rules. In its “RegWatch” blog, [The Hill](#) (7/22, Geman) reports that House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings and “other GOP lawmakers are pushing legislation to block looming Interior Department regulations that govern the oil-and-gas ‘fracking’ on public lands.” The legislation “is highly unlikely to become law but it signals ongoing GOP political pushback against the rules, which critics say are not needed and will create costly red tape.” The measure, called “Protecting States’ Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act.” was “introduced Thursday by Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas), Hastings and three others” and “will be the subject of a July 25 House Natural Resources Committee hearing.”

Sustainability Continues to Make Gains at Hospitals

(courtesy NSPE’s *Engineering Press Review* publication, June 24, 2013)

Health Facilities Management (06/13; Vol. 26, No. 6) Sustainability is built into the decision-making process and operations of 87 percent of hospitals when selecting environmentally preferable products and supplies, according to a survey conducted by Johnson & Johnson. Also, 90 percent of respondents indicated their hospital increased sustainability investments in 2012 compared with 2011. The driving cause behind the investments, according to 37 percent of hospital administrators, is the reduction of operational costs, such as energy usage, products and supplies, and waste disposal. According to the Healthier Hospitals Initiative’s (HHI) 2012 Milestone Report, hospitals recycled more than 50 million pounds of materials and 61.5 million pounds of construction and demolition waste; they saved \$32.1 million by reprocessing single-use medical devices; and spent almost \$9 million on locally produced or sustainable food.

Approximately 750 hospitals take part in HHI, which began in 2011 and provides free resources to health care facilities for creating and developing sustainability programs.

Fracking Features

(courtesy NSPE's *Engineering Press Review* publication, June 17, 2013)

Pollution Engineering (06/13; Vol. 45, No. 6, R. Bigham) Hydraulic fracturing is seen by industry as a method that will help the United States achieve energy independence by tapping natural gas reserves, but there are movements arguing that the process will cause or is causing more environmental damage by releasing more methane into the air, polluting drinking water, increasing quake activity, and producing more CO2 from trucking and construction operations. EPA has started a project to determine whether fracking can cause pollution. The study will concentrate heavily on surface activities, as drinking water aquifers are generally thousands of feet above the shale formations. One issue to be focused on is whether companies are taking all necessary measures to prevent spills and ensure the proper containment of all fluids. Duke University, in association with U.S. Geological Survey members, studied 127 shallow drinking water wells in areas that overlaid Fayetteville Shale gas production in Arkansas. They did not uncover any link between fracking operations and drinking water contamination. Furthermore, the EnergyfromShale.org website indicates that only a small amount of seismic activity occurs during the fracking process. EPA announced plans to have the final report on fracking circulated for peer review by the end of next year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fracking (hydraulic fracturing) for petroleum production has become a hot issue, yet fracking is essential to our ability to produce petroleum products that our country demands. The petroleum industry has a major task in explaining to the general public the pros, cons, potential hazards, and industry safeguards used hydraulic fracturing operations.

Chair's Corner

Welcome back! Summer is over and a new, exciting year for ASME is upon us. We are in the process of planning an interesting slate of programs for the year and we need your input & support in order to bring YOU, our members, the topics that are of interest to YOU. If YOU have any ideas/suggestions that YOU wish to share about program topics, meeting locations, facility tours, etc., then please inform one of our Executive Committee members.

I appreciate this opportunity to welcome everyone to our ASME Section and encourage your participation in our Section activities. We have approximately 400 members in the Central Oklahoma Section and yet, only 5-10% regularly attend our monthly activities. On behalf of our Executive Committee members, we look forward to serving YOU, our membership, to make this a very successful year with your participation and involvement in our Section activities.

Again, Welcome back! Hope to see YOU at our Section kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 26.

Ed Reynolds
Chair, ASME Central Oklahoma Section

Future ASME-Central Oklahoma Section Events

Date	Location	Program Topic and Speaker
Thursday Sept. 26, 2013	Boulevard Cafeteria 511 NW 11th St., OKC	Speaker: OSU CEAT Dean, Dr. Paul Tikalsky

Please visit our Section website <http://sections.asme.org/CentralOK/>
IT'S BEEN REVAMPED. Check event updates and other useful information!