



## FIELD NOTES

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*The Newsletter of the Council of Professional Surveyors*

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### What's Available From COPS?

COPS has a variety of business practice materials available for your use. To bring you up to date here is a list.

- Compact Disk with 4 contracts on it especially for surveyors. 1. Client/Consultant Agreement, 2. Client/Consultant Short Form, 3. Consultant/Sub-Consultant Agreement and 4. Agreement for Surveying and Engineering Services.
- COPS Sample Safety Policy and Procedures.
- A job estimating spreadsheet.
- A Manpower Projection spreadsheet.
- Job descriptions in a land surveying firm.
- A 12 page Scope of Services publication.
- Performance review form for surveying firms.
- Audio Tape from a COPS seminar – “Improve Your Firm”
- Audio Tape from a COPS seminar – “GIS and Your Client”
- Audio Tape from a COPS seminar – “Surveying for Profit”.

When you joined COPS, you received a package with most of these items i.e. what was available at the time. If you have

misplaced or lost any of these a limited number are available free after which there will be a charge. To see about replacements contact Ed Bajer at (202) 347-7474 ebajer@acec.org.

### SBA To Release Proposed Rule On A/E Size Standards

ACEC recently held meetings with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to inquire about details of an upcoming proposal to amend the small business "size" standard for engineering services. The current engineering size standard, \$4 million in annual gross receipts, is used by federal and state agencies as a threshold to determine whether a firm is eligible to compete for projects "set aside" for small businesses.

While SBA is not divulging much information about the proposed changes at this time, ACEC has learned that SBA will be converting the size standard from a "gross-receipts basis" to a "number of employees basis." The proposed rules, which are scheduled to be published by year's end, will have a 60-day public comment period.

"It's always a concern when SBA toys with the size standard," said Kathy Dewkett, owner of Dewkett Engineering, P.C. "Depending on the size of your firm you could lose your ability to qualify for small business programs overnight."

ACEC is establishing a task force composed of small, medium, and large firm principals, to provide input on the proposed rules. Members interested in participating on the task force please contact Roger Jordan at 202-347-7474.

### **Charting Inland Waterways Wins Engineering Excellence Award**

COPS member Photo Science Inc. of Lexington, KY won this year's surveying and mapping category of ACEC's Engineering Excellence Awards. Together with the Army Corps of Engineers, it developed a unified standard for navigation data on U.S. waterways. The project is the first use of Inland Electronic Navigational Charts, IENC combines the real time capabilities of global positioning technology with the built in intelligence of vector-based geographic information systems to deliver accurate mapping data onboard inland vessels. It provides the ability to "see" the location of vessels on a real-time moving map. To date, the standard has been applied to over 2,500 miles of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

### **Senate Panel Clears TEA-21 Reauthorization Bill; Critical Funding Provisions to be Considered Later**

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bill that reauthorizes the federal highway program for the next six years. The bill (S. 1072) authorizes \$221.5 billion for highways, but major portions of the financing provisions were not included in the approved measure.

The Committee has set a goal of \$255 billion in total funding for highways, and Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK) said during the markup that each state is guaranteed an increase of 10 to 33 percent.

Key financing provisions will be announced early next year when the bill is considered on the Senate floor, including the mechanism that will ensure each state gets at least a 95 percent return on their annual highway tax contribution and the state funding distribution formula.

Other Senate committees must still consider the transit and tax portions of the TEA-21 reauthorization. The Senate has set a goal of \$311.5 billion for highways and transit over the next six years.

Earlier this week ACEC President Dave Raymond sent the Committee leadership a letter providing the Council's comments on key portions of the bill. Raymond noted in his letter that ACEC supports \$375 billion for highways and transit over the next six years, and opposes any attempts to limit outsourcing by state departments of transportation. "Private engineering companies have played a key role in helping the states deliver federal and state transportation funding for infrastructure improvements," Raymond said. "We seek to continue this role in the next reauthorization bill."

Raymond also provided comprehensive comments on the environmental and planning provisions of the bill, which ACEC seeks to incorporate when the bill is considered on the Senate floor next year.