

News from This Week's *NewsBreak!*

September 1, 2010

2011 CAGC Convention: Resourceful, Resilient, Ready!>>

Your CAGC Chair of the Board Mike Long invites you to join him at the 90th Annual Carolinas AGC Convention, January 18 - 23 in beautiful Puerto Rico, to affirm that contractors will not be deterred or discouraged. "There's more we can do to thrive as an industry, and it starts with our commitment to education and building positive, professional relationships." [Registration is now open!](#) (Early Bird, New Member and First-Time Attendee discounts available!)

<http://Convention.CAGC.org>

Pinnacle Awards Deadline Friday, September 3>>

Members have just 2 days left to submit entries for the 2010 CAGC Pinnacle Awards. [Nominate your firm \(or any other member\) for either a "Best Project" or "Best Company" Pinnacle Award now!](#)

<http://www.cagc.org/secured/pinnacle.cfm>

Renew Your CAGC Membership Online: It's Quick & Easy>>

By now, all CAGC members up for October 1 renewal have received their company's 2010–11 membership dues invoice and IBuild Plus invoice for Plans Online (if applicable). [Pay now online](#)—it's quick and easy—to ensure uninterrupted member benefits and services.

<http://www.cagc.org/dues/>

Upcoming NC Events to Help Contractors Branch Out>>

- [North Carolina Federal Environmental Symposium](#)
September 10, 2010, Raleigh
- [Rentenbach/Leeper Construction Subcontracting Event](#)
September 23, 2010, Fayetteville
- [2010 North Carolina Military Construction Summit](#)
October 21, 2010, Greensboro

EPA Hearing on Fly Ash Rule Coming to Charlotte>>

On August 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended by 60 days the public comment period for its proposed rule to classify coal combustion residuals (CCR) as either hazardous or non-hazardous waste. The new deadline to submit comments is November 19. CCRs are used widely in vertical and horizontal construction. AGC will hold an Environmental Network conference call on September 23 and EPA has announced a series of public hearings across the country.

The extension of the comment deadline allows AGC to more thoroughly review member responses to the association's [survey](#) (closed August 16) and to solicit additional input from members during a special Environmental Network conference call. A preliminary review of the survey responses indicates that members will continue to use CCRs, such as fly ash, on projects where mandated by the specifications. Even so, a clear majority feared that a hazardous designation would increase liability for new construction and demolition that include fly ash materials, create a stigma against materials incorporating fly ash and introduce new and uncertain requirements for shipping, handling, use and disposal. Even with an exemption from the hazardous designation for the beneficial use of CCRs, members have expressed doubt that the public would differentiate between beneficial use, such as in wallboard or concrete, and the disposal practices that ignited public concern in December 2008 with the Kingston, Tenn., impoundment breach and spill. AGC plans to further discuss these issues during the conference call.

Sign Up: AGC Environmental Network Conference Call

AGC invites Environmental Network members to a conference call on September 23 at NOON ET. The purpose of the call is to have an open discussion on the implications of the proposed rule and to further advise AGC staff in advance of filing formal comments with EPA. AGC will send out a question sheet for participants to consider in advance of the call. Those questions will guide the discussion. To register for the conference call, send an e-mail to Crystal Yates at yatesc@agc.org.

To prepare for an active and well-informed discussion on the merits of the proposal, AGC encourages conference call participants to review the transcripts from the educational webinars EPA held in early August. Resources from those webinars and listings of future webinars are available on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccr-webinar.htm>.

Attend: EPA Hearings

EPA will host seven public hearings on the proposed rule. Each hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 9:00 p.m. Walk-ins and written comments will be accepted at each hearing, though attendees must register for the public hearing no later than three business days in advance to guarantee a time slot in which to speak. Interested attendees should prepare remarks focusing on one or two key points that take no longer than three minutes to express.

August 30: Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va.
September 2: Grand Hyatt, 1750 Welton Street, Denver, Colo.
September 8: Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas
September 14: Holiday Inn Charlotte (Airport), 2707 Little Rock Road, Charlotte, N.C.
September 16: Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
September 21: Omni Hotel, 530 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, Pa.
September 28: Seelbach Hilton, 500 Fourth Street, Louisville, Ky.

To pre-register to speak at the hearings, please call EPA at (703) 308-8429 or sign up online at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccr-form.htm>.

For More Information

More information about the proposed regulation is online at <http://www.epa.gov/coalashrule>. This Web page provides information on the proposed rule, a comparison of the two proposed options for regulation of CCRs, EPA webinars and public hearings. ***For more information or to offer additional insight and comments, please contact Melinda Tomaino at tomainom@agc.org or (703) 837-5415.***

CAGC Feature of the Week: Sporting Clays Championship>>

Join us for the [2nd Annual Sporting Clays Championship](#), presented by Nexsen Pruet, October 15, 2010 at The Fork Farm & Stables in Norwood, NC. This event offers a full day of networking in a unique and beautiful setting, and the opportunity to learn a new sport—all while supporting the Foundation for the Carolinas Construction Industry.

http://www.cagc.org/news_events/news/foundationClays_10.cfm

IBuild Feature of the Week: IBuild Support Options>>

Are you using IBuild for all it's worth? IBuild offers numerous tools designed to help you find more work in less time, with search features specific to your nature of work. A quick online demonstration will help even the advanced IBuild user become better acquainted with the many features of IBuild.

<https://ibuild.cagc.org/about/index.cfm?fa=training>

Nat'l AGC Feature of the Week: Newsletters>>

AGC of America's newsletters provide members with the latest news in construction, and are a great resource to learn the true value of membership. [Thirteen different newsletters](#), each targets a specific construction segment or issue—and all are FREE to members! (Did you know? Carolinas AGC members are automatically members of AGC of America.)

http://www.agc.org/cs/news_media/newsletters

ARTBA Connect: 2010 National Convention>>

[Register now for the 2010 National ARTBA Convention](#), October 3-6 in New York City. The meeting's theme: "Global Innovations in Transportation Design & Construction."

<http://artbanationalconvention.org/>

Government Relations-- News Impacting Your Business>> **North Carolina**

CAGC Says More Construction Will Bolster Economy: In an article published last week in The Mecklenburg Times, CAGC said that construction is an excellent way to bolster the economy at a time when lending is limited and jobs are scarce.

Dave Simpson, NC building director for Carolinas AGC, said that more construction work and easier access to bank loans would give the construction industry - and the economy -- a badly needed boost. He said each \$1 billion in nonresidential construction spending, for example, would create or sustain 28,500 jobs. It also would add about \$1.1 billion to personal earnings.

"Banks aren't lending the money, and there's just not much work out there...", Simpson said. "I always try to be as optimistic as possible, but in this case, I'll believe it's over when it's over." To view the article, [click here](#).

Alcoa Upgrade Planned: Alcoa, Inc., has announced plans for a \$110 million upgrade of its Cheoah Dam near Robbinsville. The dam on the Little Tennessee River is the oldest of four Alcoa uses to supply power for its aluminum smelting and refining operations. The Knoxville News Sentinel reports that four 90-year-old turbines at the dam will be replaced by high-efficiency turbines and other equipment. The project received a boost from a \$12.95 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant.

State Tax Collections Show Positive Signs: Following the state tax hike approved in 2009, tax collections rose about \$1 billion for the last fiscal year, but still fell about \$270 million short of budget projections, according to figures compiled by the office of State Controller David McCoy. The June monthly General Fund report shows final tax collections closing out the fiscal year of \$17.7 billion.

The state also collected another \$912 million in non-tax revenue. The report shows Gov. Beverly Perdue's administration making up for the shortfall by spending \$500 million less than budgeted. The state ended the fiscal year with an unreserved fund balance of \$237 million.

Meantime, despite the stagnant economy, tax collections flowed in pretty much on target during July. Legislative economist Barry Boardman said tax collections totaled \$1.38 billion -- \$20 million less than the \$1.4 billion projected. Boardman said the difference was largely due to more sales tax refunds for nonprofit organizations going out in July instead of June. He said those numbers should even out over the course of the fiscal year. Boardman said July typically isn't a volatile month for state tax collections, The Insider reports.

Gaston County Parkway Construction Update: Secretary of Transportation Gene Conti said recently that construction on Gaston County's Garden Parkway could begin in a year and be open to traffic by 2014. The 20-mile toll road from Charlotte to western Gaston County has been discussed for decades. Some Gaston residents have wondered whether it would ever be built.

Last year, Conti said he was concerned whether the road would generate enough toll revenue to be financed. But last Friday he said he thinks it will move forward. "Our financial advisors have put together a good package," Conti said during the Regional Roads Conference at Carowinds.

The N.C. Turnpike Authority has scaled back parts of the project to save money. The toll road was originally supposed to have six lanes total across the Catawba River, but it has been reduced to four lanes total. The footprint of intersections has shrunk, and one intersection has been eliminated. West of U.S. 321, the highway will shrink from four lanes to two lanes but it will still be a limited-access highway. Reid Simons of the N.C. Turnpike Authority said the changes have saved \$300 million. The Garden Parkway is controversial. Some Gaston residents worry that it will destroy a mostly rural area. Some transportation experts have questioned whether it's the best use of \$1 billion. Promoters say the toll road will take traffic from I-85 and open up south Gaston for development, according to The Charlotte Observer.

Natural Gas Companies Eye Lee County for Shale Gas: Natural gas companies appear to be interested in taking advantage of deposits of shale gas in Lee County in the event the method of drilling for natural gas becomes legal in the state. The natural gas deposits are centered in the Sanford sub-basin, according to Dr. Kenneth Taylor, chief of the North Carolina Geological Survey. "There's gas out there," he said.

Geologists have estimated that the underground formations in the state cover nearly 1,400 square miles and could supply the state with 40 years of natural gas. State geologists have also identified commercially significant deposits in Moore and Chatham counties. As of last week, 62 landowners had registered with the Lee County Register of Deeds as having signed on with gas companies, accounting for 6,043 acres of the overall 135,000 acres of land that geologists have identified in the county.

To date, the biggest player in Lee County looks to be the WhitMar Exploration Co., a private energy company based in Denver. Tar Heel Natural Gas of Charlotte, and North Carolina Oil and Gas and the Old North State Energy Co. of Sanford also are looking to seal contracts with homeowners.

State law currently prohibits the drilling method used to extract natural gas. The technique -- called hydraulic fracturing -- involves injecting liquids, sands and chemicals underground to open pathways for gas. "The problem with it - some of those chemicals are not stuff you want to drink," Taylor said.

Stimulus Money & Transportation: A total of \$5.95 million in stimulus funds went to more than 7,100 North Carolina workers for nearly 350,000 hours of work on transportation projects last month, according to new statistics collected by the NC Department of Transportation. That is up from the \$5.69 million that 7,046 people received for 346,895 hours of work the previous month.

As of Aug. 1, the department had advertised 400 contracts representing nearly \$661 million in recovery act funding, according to DOT. Of those contracts, 386 representing \$658 million have been awarded. The department said 177 of the 400 contracts advertised for bid, representing \$173 million, were finished by Aug. 1, Triangle Business Journal reports.

Bonner Bridge Replacement Strongly Favored: Of the more than 4,000 comments that North Carolina officials have received on what to do with an aging Outer Banks bridge, only 9 opposed the state DOT's plan to begin replacing the bridge as soon as possible. Drew Joyner, a spokesperson for the department, said the comments will weigh heavily as state and federal officials decide whether to do more studies or start planning a replacement for Bonner Bridge, the only bridge linking the southern Outer Banks to the rest of the state.

Some environmental groups want more study to see if a 17-mile bridge that would bypass a wildlife refuge is a better alternative. Joyner said comments from interest groups aren't included in the public comment total, The Virginian-Pilot reports.

NC Schools Snag \$400 Million: North Carolina has been awarded \$400 million in federal funds in the second round of the "Race to the Top" school reform grant competition, Gov. Perdue announced last week. The funding, part of \$4.35 billion being given out nationwide, will pay for recruiting and retaining quality teachers and administrators; a turnaround plan for low-performing schools; and technology for assessing students' needs, Perdue said.

The money "will give us the resources to more aggressively implement our plan to ensure that all of our children graduate ready for a career, college or technical training," Perdue said in a statement. North Carolina was one of nine states and the District of Columbia to receive money in the second round of the competition. The other winners were Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, Ohio and Rhode Island. North Carolina missed out when first-round winners were named in March, as only Tennessee and Delaware were selected to share \$600 million.

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr Revs Campaign: Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, with his campaign flush with cash, was scheduled to begin his fall TV advertising campaign this week. The Burr campaign said its initial two-week buy was close to \$500,000. Its purchase at one station, WRAL in Raleigh, was \$55,250, according to the station's public file. The GOP candidate has also posted an online ad that will be up for the duration. Burr has not been on the air since this spring when he ran a TV commercial talking about his record in helping constituents.

Meanwhile, independent groups opposed to Burr ran ads that seek to tie him to the oil industry and to the oil spill in the gulf. A Washington-based group called Americans United for Change spent \$234,000 against Burr in June. A coalition of union and environmental groups spent considerably more on an ad depicting a Burr-like figure being fished out of the ocean covered with oil. That group spent \$135,468 on WRAL in June and July, according to the public file. Political observers have been waiting to see when Burr would use his major financial advantage over his Democratic opponent, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. As of June 30, Burr had \$6.2

million in his campaign treasury while Marshall had \$163,195, according to the Federal Election Commission.

State GOP Targets Race in Fayetteville Area: The state Republican Party has come to the aid of GOP Senate candidate Wesley Meredith in his bid to unseat Margaret Dickson. The party sponsored fliers that arrived in Senate District 19 mailboxes last week. The slick, color flier doesn't mention Dickson, but describes Meredith as a "conservative for North Carolina Senate" and says he wants to create jobs, cut spending and lower taxes, according to The Fayetteville Observer. Meredith, a three-term member of the Fayetteville City Council, owns a landscaping and general contracting company.

The 19th Senate District includes part of Cumberland County and all of Bladen County. Some voters in the district received a second flier, also paid for by the state party, in the mail Friday. The race is among about a dozen Senate competitions being targeted as potential Republican wins in the fall, said Jim Blaine, the state GOP's senate caucus director. Democrats hold those seats now, he said. Blaine declined to talk specifics about Meredith's mailer or whether the party would do more advertising in the District.

Unemployment Rate Drops: The state's unemployment rate dropped for the fifth month in a row in July, reaching the single digits for the first time in over a year, the state's Employment Security Commission says. A report issued last month by the commission shows the state's unemployment rate at 9.8 percent in July, down from 10 percent in June and the lowest since January 2009, when the rate stood at 9.7 percent.

But non-farm employment fell by 29,800 jobs, according to the commission. All but 2,500 of those job losses were in the government sector, which was hit by school district layoffs. The state's jobless rate peaked at 11.2 percent in February, fell to 11.1 percent in March, 10.8 percent in April and 10.4 percent in May.

South Carolina

SCDOT Technician Certification Program: The SCDOT provided Carolinas AGC an updated schedule for the 2010 SCDOT Technician Certification Program. Information on the program is provided in the attachment.

Integrated Project Delivery Publication: National AGC has published and released a publication titled: "Integrated Project Delivery for Public and Private Owners". The publication is a joint effort between National AGC; National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA); Construction Owners Association of America (COAA); APPA: The Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers; and the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This white paper is available for free at www.agc.org/projectdelivery or by clicking [here](#). This is a white paper and not AGC policy, but it was approved by the AGC Executive Board at its most recent meeting.

November Election 56 Days Away: The general election in South Carolina takes place November 2 and the Constitutional Officers, SC House of Representative, and SC Congressional Delegation members, who will be on the ballot that day, are listed below. If you are unsure who your House or Congressional Members are, [find your elected officials](#) on the CAGC website. While the election is 56 days away, you only have 32 days left to [register to vote](#). CAGC encourages you to register to vote and then do so on November 2.

Candidate Parties are abbreviated as follows: Democrat (D); Republican (R); Green (G); Libertarian (L); Working Families (WF); Labor (Labor); Constitution (C); United Citizens (UC); and Independence (I).

Constitutional Officers

Governor	Rep. Nikki Hayley(R)	Sen. Vincent Sheheen (D)	
Lt. Gov	Ken Ard (R)	Ashley Cooper (D)	Christopher Mixon (L)
Secretary of State	Mark Hammond(R)	Marjorie Johnson (D)	
Attorney General	Alan Wilson (R)	Matthew Richardson (D)	Leslie Minerd (G)
Comptroller General	Richard Eckstrom (R)	Robert Barber (D)	
Supt. of Education	Frank Holleman (D)	Mick Zais (R)	Dorthea Bull (G) Tony Fayyazi (I) Tim Moultrie (L)
Comm of Agriculture	Hugh Weathers (R)	Tom Elliott (D)	

SC House of Representatives

District 42	Rep. Mike Anthony (D)	Randy English (R)	
District 24	Rep. Bruce Bannister(R)	D.C. Swinton (D, G)	
District 58	Rep. Liston Barfield (R)	Butch Johnson (D)	James C. Robinson (L)
District 28	Rep. Eric Bedingfield (R)	Ines Alvarez (D)	
District 8	Rep. Don Bowen (R)	Tom Dobbins (D,WF)	Michael Carmany (L)
District 120	Rep. Bill Bowers (D)	Dan Lawrence (R)	
District 78	Rep. Joan Brady (R)	Paige George (D)	
District 116	Rep. Robert Brown (D)	Sean Pike (R)	
District 17	Tom Corbin (R)	Stephen Salter (D)	
District 10	Rep. Dan Cooper (R)	Dave Ballard (D)	
District 63	Rep. Kris Crawford (R)	Sheila Gallagher (D)	
District 23	Rep. Chandra Dillard (D)	Tom Kolarik (R)	
District 104	Rep. Tracy Edge (R)	Charles Randall (D)	Patricia Matthews (C)
District 79	Rep. Anton Gunn (D)	Sheri Few (R)	
District 87	Todd Atwater (R)	Pete Oliver (D)	
District 20	Rep. Dan Hamilton (R)	Jason Macias (L)	
District 91	Rep. Lonnie Hosey (D)	Ben Kinlaw (R)	
District 76	Rep. Leon Howard (D)	Victor Kocher (L)	
District 115	Rep. Anne P. Hutto (D)	Peter McCoy (R)	Eugene Platt (G)
District 102	Rep. Joseph Jefferson (D)	Joseph Caplinger (R)	
District 35	Bill Chumley (R)	Tom Davies (D, WF)	
District 101	Ronnie Sabb (D)	Barbara W. Mishoe (R)	
District 47	Rep. Herb Kirsh (D)	Tommy Pope (R)	
District 45	Rep. Deborah Long (R)	Mary Bernsdorff (D)	
District 60	Rep. Phillip Lowe (R)	Benny L. Webb (D)	
District 108	Rep. Vida Miller (D)	Kevin Ryan (R)	
District 38	Jerry Blanton (C)	Doug Brannon (R)	John Lewis (D,WF)
District 22	Rep. Wendy Nanney (R)	Joe Waters (D)	
District 44	Rep. Jimmy Neal (D)	Rob McCoy (R)	
District 48	Rep. Ralph Norman (R)	Stan Smith (L)	
District 93	Rep. Harry Ott (D)	Charlie Stoudemire (R)	
District 37	Rep. Steve Parker (R)	Delores Frazier (D, WF)	Ralph Davenport (C)
District 12	Rep. Anne Parks (D)	Jennings McAbee (D)	
District 12	Rep. Gene Pinson (R)	Rep. Mike Gaskin (D)	
District 14	Rep. Mike Pitts (R)	Dan Curry (L)	

District 69	Rick Quinn (R)	Brett Bursey (Labor)	Jan Crangle (D)
District 26	Judy Gilstrap (D)	Eric Bikas (R)	
District 74	Rep. Todd Rutherford (D)	Christopher Jones (G)	
District 46	Rep. Gary Simrill (R)	Laird Minor (L)	
District 112	Rep. Mike Sottile (R)	Aaron Stransky (L)	
District 119	Rep. Leon Stavrinakis (D)	Lee Edwards (R)	
District 18	Rep. Tommy Stringer (R)	Steven Edwards (L)	
District 9	Anne Thayer (R)	Doug Taylor (L)	
District 98	Chris Murphy (R)	Christine Jackson (D)	

SC Congressional Officers

US Senate	Jim DeMint (R)	Alvin Greene (D)	Tom Clements (G)
US House Dist 1	Tim Scott (R)	Ben Frasier (D)	Keith Blandford (L)
			Robert Burton (WF)
			Robert Dobbs (G)
			Mac McCullough (UC)
			Jimmy Wood (I)
US House Dist 2	Joe Wilson (R)	Rob Miler (D)	Mark Beaman (C)
			Eddie McCain (L)
US House Dist 3	Jeff Duncan (R)	Jane Dyer (D,WF)	John Dalen (C)
US House Dist 4	Trey Gowdy (R)	Paul Corden (D)	Dave Edwards (C)
			Faye Walters (G)
			Rick Mahler (L)
US House Dist 5	John Spratt (D)	Mick Mulvaney (R)	
US House Dist 6	John Clyburn (D)	Jim Pratt (R)	Nammu Muhammad (G)

Announcements For Members By Members>>

In Memoriam

Phil Hargett Sr., Starr Electric Company, Inc., The Ind-Com Group, Monroe, NC

Announcements

Fisher & Phillips LLP present a free webinar, *100% Compliance with OSHA Recordkeeping- Anything Less Will Be Costly*, September 14. [Click here to register and for more information on this and other events »](#)

Are you a woman looking for a great group of individuals who share your passion for the construction industry? The **Raleigh Chapter of National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)** is seeking new members to join the local NAWIC Team. All women employed in construction or related industries are welcome to attend the Women in Construction and Related Industries event, October 7th from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm at the NC State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough St., Raleigh. Bring your business cards and company brochures. Must RSVP to reservations@nawicraleigh.org.