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[sections.asce.org/columbia](http://sections.asce.org/columbia)

Since October 10, 1950

October 2012

## Columbia Section Monthly Meeting

Date:	October 31, 2012
Place:	O'Callahan's Restaurant— <a href="#">Directions</a> Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock Street, Richland WA 99352
Meal:	Buffet (Chef's Choice) - \$20 for members and non-members. Please pay cash or check to treasurer at meeting.
Topic:	Franklin County Current Major Project Accomplishments & Future Projects
Speaker:	<b>Matt Mahoney, Franklin County Public Works Director</b>
RSVP to:	Teresa Peterson (509) 546-2046 <a href="mailto:teresa.peterson@hdrinc.com">teresa.peterson@hdrinc.com</a>

**\*\*FOR NEXT MONTH'S ICE HARBOR DAM TOUR-SEE PAGE 2\*\***

## President's Remarks

### Greetings

I recently attended the President's & Governor's Forum at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA. There I met all the support staff with National ASCE who frequently assist our Section. Also I met many other Section President's and have taken back several valuable ideas to try to improve our own local Section which I hope to enact over the course of this year. Finally I was delighted to meet Pat Natale, Executive Director of ASCE, Greg DiLoretto (President), Andy Hermann (Past-President), and Randall Over (President-Elect). Current president Greg is from our Region, being an Oregonian. Next April we're working hard to get Randall Over to visit our Section and give us a National perspective update from the 2013 ASCE President-Elect!

In case you didn't notice, starting this month, we're forced to slightly raise the price of lunch at the Shilo Inn for our meetings. The Shilo again recently raised their prices to us another 25%. Previous years' increases in prices were just absorbed and the rate remained the same. From reading previous newsletters, it looks like it had been \$15 since December, 2004, so we sure had a good run at that rate! I was inquiring to some other local venues, such as the Tri-Cities Convention Center, among others to see how their lunches and fees would compare. If anyone has any input or suggestions they'd like to share with me, please feel free to email me or any of our officer team. Remember, we're here to serve you.

Don't forget November 6th is Election Day. Your vote matters!



Paul Knutzen, PE, LEED AP BD+C



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## Ice Harbor Dam Tour Scheduled for November 28th

In order to properly notify the dam please RSVP by November 14th. You will need to arrive with a Valid Driver's License, substantial footwear (no open toed shoes), a hardhat if you have one (we have pink loaners) as well as safety glasses if you have them.

If you are not an American Citizen you will need to RSVP by October 30th. We will put you in contact with the Dam's security office. They will ask for your name, company, and a copy of your passport / Visa / Green Card . RSVP to: [ptknutzen@meierinc.com](mailto:ptknutzen@meierinc.com)

## Make myASCE yours. ASCE's newly created online community

With myASCE, you can voice opinions, participate in discussions, post blogs, and share photos and documents. [Click here](#) to watch a video on how to get started. Log on today at [www.asce.org/myasce](http://www.asce.org/myasce).

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## Principles and Practice of Surveying to become a closed book exam

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) [Principles and Practice of Surveying](#) 6-hour exam will become a closed-book exam in April 2013. At that time, examinees will no longer be allowed to bring reference material into the exam room. The Washington State Specific 2-hour Land Surveyor's exam will remain an open book exam.

## Professional Reviewers and Expert Witnesses

The Oregon Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying is [soliciting](#) Professional Reviewers And Expert Witnesses To Assist With Law Enforcement Cases.

## ASCE Earns Prestigious Energy Star from EPA and U.S. Department of Energy

ASCE recently reached a significant milestone in its program to advance the principles of sustainable development when its headquarters building, in Reston, Virginia, received a certificate of achievement and a plaque in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy program [Energy Star](#).



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### Branch News

- Please donate to E-Day if possible to help with expenses. A donation box will be available at each branch meeting or contact LisaRene to donate any other time.
- The November 8th meeting will be the last meeting of 2012! We will break for the Holidays and meet in January so plan on attending!

### Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

**Habitat for Humanity**  
Yakima house on T Street  
8am-noon or 12:30-4pm shifts  
**Saturday, November 17**  
**Saturday, December 1**  
Please let us know if you are able to volunteer and when.

**Yakima Clean-Up**  
Date and details TBD

**Engineering Day**  
February 2013

## Yakima Branch Monthly Meeting

Date: November 8th, 2012  
Place: WSDOT South Central Region Office (Board Room)—[Directions](#)  
2809 Rudkin Road Union Gap, WA 98903  
Meal: Pizza or Sandwiches - free for members and \$5 for non-members. Please pay cash or check to treasurer at meeting.  
Topic: **Hanford Waste Treatment (Vitrification) Plant**  
Speaker: **Wash. Dept. of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program**  
Lunch will start at noon. The presentation will begin shortly thereafter.  
RSVP to: Jason Ingalls (509) 966-7000 [jingalls@hlcivil.com](mailto:jingalls@hlcivil.com)

### Monthly Meeting Presentation Summary

We have an opportunity to learn about the largest radioactive waste treatment plant in the world. The plant is currently under construction with an estimated operation start date of 2022. The plant will “process and stabilize 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste” by “blending the waste with glass-forming materials” to create a solid, stable form for storage.

This is a massive project right in our back yard and we are excited to host representatives of the Nuclear Waste Program to provide a project background and answer questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you November 8th!

### What's Next for Old SR 520 Bridge Pontoons?

The SR 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington between Seattle and Bellevue is being replaced with a new floating bridge (see information here: [SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program](#)).

There are 33 old pontoons which amount to 10 million pounds of concrete, and they are planned to be broken down into smaller pieces and removed from the site. However, that hasn't stopped people from offering ideas to reuse the pontoons: [What's next for old SR 520 bridge pontoons?](#) \* [Design competition: Reusing the old SR 520 Bridge](#) \* [RE-THINK RE-USE COMPETITION](#).



### Civil Engineering Profession Projected to Grow

“Civil engineering will remain a wise career choice for the coming decade.” ASCE provides an outlook for our profession on the Civil Engineering Web News website based on recent labor information: [Civil Engineering Profession Projected to Grow](#).

Bookmark this website for interesting, current Civil Engineering news.