

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Success for Florida's PGs!

by Jonathan D. Arthur, P.G., Ph.D.

**O**n behalf of the FAPG board of directors, I am pleased to report another successful legislative session for Florida's professional geologists! Just days ago, the governor signed into law House Bill 1289, which adds reference of Florida's PGs within the Water Resources Act (Chapter 373 F.S.). Moreover, the FAPG played an important role in the evolution of the "Insurance Bill" (Senate Bill 1486) that includes language on sinkhole investigations.

Above all we have successfully publicized our profession among our state's leaders. You may recall from the last newsletter, the initial draft of the Insurance Bill did not even mention our profession among those qualified to identify sinkholes! Not only were we consulted during the draft revisions of this bill, the governor's office called the chair of our Legislative Action Committee (LAC), Chuck Drake, to get the FAPG's opinion on the final version of the bill. Our efforts are working.

Prior to the legislative work accomplished this year, many local governments in need of activities or research relating to water resources would turn to professionals other than PGs. Oddly, PGs would eventually complete much of the work, but due to interpretations of 373 F.S., a professional engineer would have to sign off on the PG's work. Passage of this change to the Water Resources Act now clearly allows the appropriate professional to be hired and to sign off on his or her own work. While clear differences exist between what PGs and PEs do, the work of these professionals can overlap. The new law, however, removes the interpreted need for one professional to take on liability for the other's work. This is a huge plus for both professions and provides better professional assessment to conserve natural resources and protect the public!

The significant role of our profession in water resource activities was also recognized in the "Water Study Commission" bill, which was amended to include a PG on the commission. While the amendment passed, the bill did not. Nonetheless, our continued presence at the Capitol, which is maintained by our LAC and our lobbyist, Laura McLeod (see "PGs Show Strong Presence in 2005 Session" on page 2), has gone well beyond simply keeping our profes-

*This newsletter addresses all geologists practicing in Florida. Whether you are a recent graduate, a consultant, a professor, a public servant or in industry, I sincerely hope you will read this newsletter. Not only does it contain important news about progress in our chosen profession, I hope it will answer questions you may have regarding the FAPG: Why should I join? What does the FAPG do and why should I care? Why should I remain a member? I invite you to keep reading to find some answers.*

sion from being overlooked. When committee staff and elected officials require information on geological issues, the FAPG is now on their calling list. We will continue the vital role of educating those in political circles about what we do and why it matters.

You may recall our success last year as well when House Bill 991 was passed. Our legislative sponsors, the FAPG and our lobbyist successfully paved the way to improving the "P.G. Statute" (Chapter 492 F.S.). A legal glitch, now fixed, was standing in the way of the state being able to pursue unlicensed activity. Also, disciplinary authority is now the responsibility of the Florida Board of Professional Geologists instead of state administrators with little or no geological background. With the implementation of these two revised laws over the past two sessions, the FAPG has come far toward its goal of promoting integrity within our profession and parity among our professional colleagues. Our presence at the Capitol has elected officials already asking "What do the geologists want next year?"

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# PGs Show Strong Presence in 2005 Session

by **Laura McLeod, President - McLeod & Associates  
FAPG Lobbyist**



Laura McLeod

The FAPG continues to enhance the presence of professional geologists in the nuts and bolts of the legislative process.

McLeod and Associates is proud to be a part of this success.

As most of you are aware, in late 2003 and early 2004, the FAPG board made the decisions and took the actions to raise the profession of geology in Florida to a new level. In the 2004 session we were able to pass a regulatory cleanup bill and begin to build a presence of knowledge and understanding in the legislative arena. In the 2005 session, we passed a bill adding professional geologists to the Water Resources Act, and we became a resource on a variety of other bills moving through the process. For example, we were involved in decisions about sinkhole legislation, water studies and the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act. McLeod & Associates tracked 18 bills for the FAPG, becoming involved in discussions about several bills with legislators and staff and monitoring other bills in case our input was needed.

McLeod & Associates wants to thank all of the FAPG members for their

support; the FAPG board for its commitment; and Jon Arthur, Chuck Drake and Jorge Caspary for their constant availability to make trips to the Capitol, take late night and early morning phone calls with staff and attend meetings with other interested parties. Additionally I am grateful for the meetings we had with the Florida Engineering Society and for the telephone conferences with the Water Management Districts that allowed for legislation that accommodated all concerns.

Everyone, please take the opportunity to thank our bill sponsors:

- Rep. Stan Jordan and his committed staff, Matthew Holliday: 904/359-2644
- Sen. Burt Saunders and his committed staff, Becky Kokkinos: 239/417-6220

Looking forward, we must take on even more responsibility for our role in the legislative process. We must create our own agenda while we solidify our foundation as the resource on geology for legislators, the Executive Office of the Governor and its agencies, committee staff and the public at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and represent your profession. I look forward to continuing our successful efforts.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

### The Two Sides of Success ...

By now you have figured out the main ingredient of our success: the support of our members. While financial support is vital, I'm also referring to the "elbow grease" that keeps us going strong. Within the past year, we have added 117 new members and the size of our leadership base has tripled! We are continuing an aggressive membership campaign, and we have regional meetings planned all over Florida, including areas that may have felt neglected by the FAPG in the past. For more information about these meetings, please see page 6. I ask that

you please bear with us as we do our best to reach our entire membership, from Pensacola to Key West. With these meetings, which are open to all, and with the membership recruitment letters, we hope to reach all Florida geologists to get our message out.

On page 4 of this newsletter is an update from Treasurer Marc Hurst. He has taken on a job that few people are willing to assume: fundraising. As you know, a large part of our legislative success is due to the work of our lobbyist. You also likely recall that last summer the FAPG membership dues

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notably increased. The dues increase was the first in 10 years and was a long overdue adjustment to keep up with general operational costs. The dues increase may have taken an edge off of the cost of our lobbying contract, but additional fundraising through the Legislative Finance Committee has been essential. Unless our membership numbers increase significantly, this type of fundraising must continue if we are to continue to have success in advancing our profession through changes in Florida law. What's my point? Fundraising gets old real fast—not just for those trying to raise the money, but for those being asked for it. Wouldn't it be nice if our membership fully supported our ability to finance our lobbying effort? The Legislative Action Fund would be a thing of the past.

### What Is Our Message?

You have heard and read about our message in membership and fundraising letters, but allow me to give it a different spin. The FAPG has gone far beyond watching your back with regard to the possibility of "sunsetting" our profession. We are not only protecting and promoting our profession; we are gaining parity for PGs in Florida law, and our work is far from complete. Many of you have voiced interest in adding PGs to the Lien Law, establishing CEUs for geologists and establishing a Geologist in Training program. All of these goals require legislation, which the FAPG is certainly continuing to pursue.

Among our other goals, including membership service, communication and education, there is a goal that you have not heard much about: a geological alliance in Florida. Due in part to the geographic extent of our state, we, like any other profession, tend to segment into regions, making the job of a statewide organization difficult. Several geology-related associations exist in Florida, all with some similarities in their missions. I'm all for diversity in terms of geology societies and associations; I am a member of several. But at the same time, because we are relatively few in

number, we need to communicate more effectively with each other.

There are roughly 2,000 licensed PGs in Florida, and less than a third are FAPG members. Stack that up against the billions of dollars being spent to address Florida's environmental and water resource issues, and the more than 1,000 people per day moving into our state, and the issue becomes clear. There exists a need for an alliance among geology-related organizations. The more we work together, the more we can accomplish for our profession and the environment. Over the next year, the FAPG will seek to improve communication with these other groups in an effort to work together to accomplish mutual goals.

### Are You a State Employee?

So am I, and I often get asked "Why are you so active in the FAPG?" Sometimes between the lines of the question is "What's in it for you? You have nothing to gain financially from helping to pass these laws that help consultants." That may be true, but if that is what people are thinking about the work of the FAPG, the question is off the mark. Sure, we are working to bring fairness to the professional marketplace, so to speak, but there's a bigger picture. By working to pass laws that improve the integrity, quality and importance of the PG license, everybody gains. Several state employees have remarked to me that some of the laws we are trying to change will make their jobs less frustrating because a qualified and appropriate professional will be submitting the work instead of someone marginally knowledgeable about geological processes.

### Are You a Professor?

Many college freshmen on an engineering-degree track already know the value of having a professional registration; it's on their radar. Do geology students get it? It's not common. Geology majors receive one of the most diverse academic backgrounds offered, and the

degree leads to fascinating careers. We have cool jobs. The pay is good. Our work helps protect and improve the environment. Geologists study Mars, climb through caves ... the media glamorizes our profession, yet enrollment is dropping. Few alumni associations are strong. Why are these things happening? Maybe it would help if the students were more exposed to aspects of the profession while they are learning basic geological principals. Increased association with the well-employed professionals that the FAPG represents might help students to foster realistic career goals. Maybe alumni would be more responsive if they were tapped as a resource for the students through guest lectures and career days, along with frequent communications and meetings (an excellent model of this is the USF Geology Alumni Society). Please invite the FAPG to speak at your campus and join us in the promotion of student FAPG chapters. **Having a PG license is not a requirement to be a member of the FAPG.** We offer different levels of membership including student, associate, affiliate, corporate and professional.

### Are You a Member of the FAPG?

Thank you. I appreciate your patience as our organization grows to better meet the needs of its members and our profession. With nearly 2,000 Florida PGs and hundreds more qualified geologists, just think what we could accomplish if a majority of these professionals were members of the FAPG! We could handle the rising cost of lobbying, award student scholarships, reduce meeting costs, lower dues and much more.

Please let us know how we are doing and how we can do it better. I would particularly like to hear from those of you in parts of the state where FAPG participation is low. If you wish to contribute a few hours of your time to help us achieve our common goals, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

# The Cost of FAPG's Legislative Success

by Marc V. Hurst, P.G., FAPG Treasurer

The board of directors of the FAPG has squeezed every penny it could to achieve the results you have read about in this newsletter. I would like to thank all of our members for their participation. Over the last two years as the FAPG has increased its legislative program, you have responded.

During the fiscal year 2003, when we considered hiring a lobbyist to fight for parity for professional geologists

during the 2004 legislative session, the FAPG's total annual revenue, exclusive of legislative donations, was \$24,795. You can understand our concern about hiring lobbyists when they were quoting fees between \$12,000 and \$30,000 per year. It took lots of courage to sign a lobbying contract for \$15,000 when virtually all of our revenue was already spent.

When the call when out, you re-



sponded. Our legislative fundraising efforts for the 2004 legislative session generated \$17,156 in contributions. These resources allowed us to hire a lobbyist—and we successfully improved Chapter 492 F.S. Discipline of the PG profession was put into the hands of the Board of Professional Geologists. However, at the end of the year, expenses exceeded revenues, mainly due to increased communication costs.

While we wish we could do all of our communications via email, spam filters and busy inboxes make it hard for folks to read and respond to those calls to action. We have only been able to get the results we need from direct mail. The printing and mailing of member surveys, newsletters and multiple dues notices were expensive. Fortunately our expenditures achieved the results we wanted.

As of May 31, 2005, we are half-way through our fiscal year, which ends November 30, 2005. Our net assets balance is \$7,592. This is very positive; however, our financial projection shows

**See Legislative Success on page 5**

## A Quick Look at Where the Money Goes

While the projected revenue of the FAPG is \$51,410, we expect expenses to be \$51,058. Considering we started the year with a deficit of outstanding bills of \$4,640, we'll need to recruit 33 additional members to end the year with a zero balance.

In case you've wondered how we spend your money, here is a pie chart that depicts the FAPG's current and projected expense for 2005. Allow me to highlight a few areas.

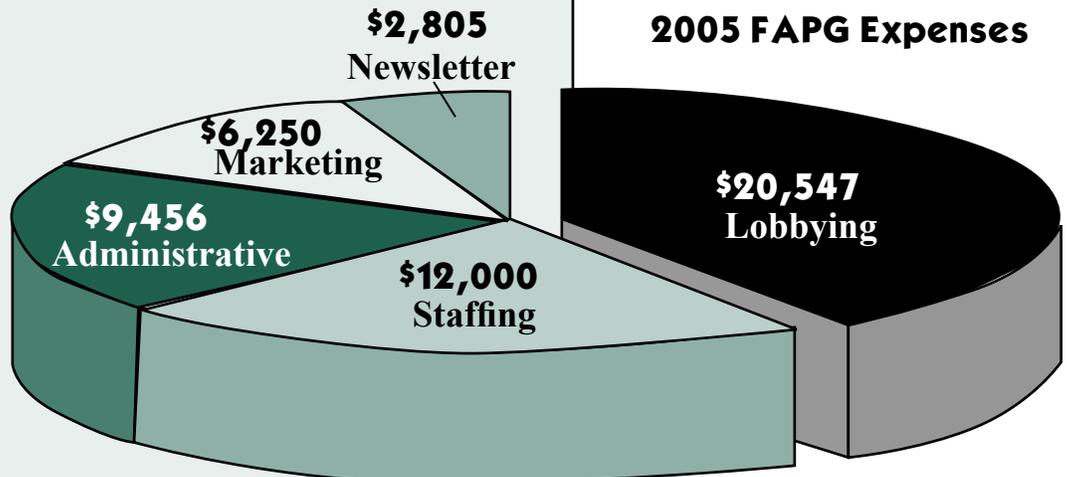
The largest slice is our new legislative program. Our lobbyist contract is for \$20,000 plus expenses for the year. We have already been told that this will increase next year. All the more reason a few extra PG members would allow the organization to continue its work.

Our staffing, rent, utilities, furniture and computer equipment are provided by an association management company, Membership Services Inc. MSi is the same firm that helped to create the FAPG in 1996. MSi's fee of \$12,000 has been the same since 1999, when the company lowered it from \$24,000 to help us through low membership participation at the time. Clearly our management company is overdue for a raise.

Administrative expenses consist of postage, printing, tax preparation and bank fees to operate the association. These get the normal dues notices out and pay for long distance phone calls our staff makes to answer members' inquiries and coordinate meeting arrangements.

Marketing expenses are the postage and printing expenses necessary to generate the legislative contributions and membership dues increases. Each of our efforts has been expensive, but each has generated more in revenue than it cost the association in expenses. I wish every PG would join with the first notice, but unfortunately three, four and five notices are necessary for many.

Newsletter expenses are the costs associated with producing our quarterly newsletter. If we increase our membership base we will be able to publish this newsletter bi-monthly or even monthly to maintain a closer contact with our members.



# Legislative Finance Committee Update

by Marc V. Hurst, P.G., Chair, Legislative Finance Committee

I extend my sincere appreciation to those of you who responded to our somewhat feverish pleas for funds to support the legislative effort. This year we raised \$9,380, which was just enough for now. When you cross paths with the Legislative Action Fund contributors listed on page 8, please thank them for being such staunch FAPG supporters. This is the second year that most of them have personally anteed up for professional geology in Florida.

With your support in the coming year, we will continue to track and seek change in the laws that affect us all. As usual, the major goal of the Legislative Finance Committee will be to fund our lobbyist, who acts as our sentinel in Tallahassee, especially during session. Please take heart weary contributors: We are seeking new ways to distribute the funding load more equitably among the general membership of our organization.

Corporate membership is a virtually unrealized funding opportunity for the FAPG. Companies and governmental organizations that employ PGs benefit most directly from our legislative action; however, to date there are only six corporate members,

Aerostar Environmental Services Inc., Golder Associates, SDI Environmental Services Inc., Southwest Florida Water Management District, Subsurface Evaluations Inc. and my company, Independent Geological Services Inc.

It has come to our attention that the current corporate dues are a little pricey for smaller companies and organizations. In response, the Executive Committee is developing a new fee schedule that will be based upon the number of PGs employed. With stronger corporate backing, perhaps individual members' contributions would be less necessary than they are now. We look forward to a day when fundraising is a thing of the past, but to accomplish this, our membership base, especially corporate membership, needs to continue to grow.

I think everyone recognizes the value of monitoring and enacting legislation for our profession. But no one wants to pay any more than necessary to continue our presence in Tallahassee. I hope every PG will encourage their employer to join the FAPG soon. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may offer.

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## LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS continued from page 4

that our balance will be a negative \$4,288 by November 30, 2005. If current trends continue we'll have to give our lobbyist an IOU and hope large January-March membership billing cycles allow us to catch up. Clearly it is imperative that we increase membership over the next few months.

The Legislative Action solicitations for the 2005 legislative session have generated \$11,084 to date. While this is a lot less than last year, we are extremely grateful to those who contributed. Those resources made it possible for us to continue our legislative program in 2005 and complete important changes to the Water Resources Act.

Individual members have responded to the FAPG's communication and membership recruitment efforts. In June 2003, the FAPG had just 313 members. As of May 2005, we were at 437 members. This increase was substantial; however, when you consider there are over 700 licensed PGs living in Florida who aren't FAPG members, there is a lot of room for improvement.

During the summer of 2004, we recognized that requesting voluntary legisla-

*See Legislative Success on page 7*

## Mark Your Calendar

### FGWA

July 9 • Daytona Beach

### FAEP

July 19 • Marco Island

### AWRA – Section

July 28-30 • Key West

### FSAWWA Region VIII

August 10 • Port St. Lucie

### Annual Conference on Water Management

Sept. 7-9 • Ft. Myers

### FGWA

Sept. 17 • Panama City Beach

### GWPC

Sept. 24-28 • Portland, OR

### GCAGS

Sept. 25-27 • New Orleans, LA

### NGWA Eastern Regional

Sept. 26-27 • Portland, ME

### AWRA – Section

Sept. 30 • Cedar Key

### Earth Science Week

Oct. 9-15 • Everywhere!

### Annual Phosphate Conference

Oct. 12-13 • Lakeland

### GSA Annual Meeting

Oct. 16-19 • Salt Lake City, UT

### ASR V (AGWT)

Oct. 20 • Tampa

### AWRA Annual Meeting

Nov. 7-10 • Seattle, WA

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# Upcoming FAPG Events

## Regional Meetings • Watch Your Mail for More Details!

### Northwest Florida

When: July or August, date TBA  
Location: Pensacola  
Speaker: Jon Arthur, P.G., Ph.D., Florida Geological Survey  
Topic: Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment (FAVA)  
Sponsor: Severn-Trent Laboratories

### Central Florida

When: August 25, 2005  
Location: PBS&J Office, Maitland (Orlando area)  
Speaker: Louis C. Murray, Jr., P.E., Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey  
Topic: Groundwater Flow in Central Florida  
Sponsor: Severn-Trent Laboratories

### Southwest Florida

At press time, regional coordinator Carlos Lemos, P.G., was finalizing plans for a Tampa meeting to be held within the next three weeks. Sponsored by Ambient Technologies, the program planned to include lunch and a talk on geophysics.

### South Florida

At press time, regional coordinator Janet Peterson, P.G., was making plans for a N. Miami-Dade meeting to be held the first part of July. The speaker will be a representative from the Miami-Dade County Planning Department on the topic "Urban Development Boundaries."

### Suwannee River Region

by James D. Hirsch, P.G., M.S.

On May 20, 2005, the Suwannee River Region held its first 2005 FAPG meeting at Water & Air Research Inc. in Gainesville, Florida. Many thanks to Severn Trent Laboratories for good barbeque and to Dr. Anthony Randazzo of Geohazards Inc. for the engaging presentation "Causes of Subsidence Induced Foundation Failures in Florida Karst Terrains." Approximately 20 geologists and scientists attended the meeting, and, as expected, this many Florida geologists in one room made for a very informative and fun meeting. Feedback from the meeting indicated that people are impressed with how hardworking and successful the FAPG has been at protecting and promoting our profession. We hope this translates into their continued participation and that our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for **October 28, 2005**, will attract additional FAPG support and attendees.



## Music and Fun for Everyone!

On **October 20-23, 2005**, come join members and friends of the FAPG and other geology societies at Florida's largest, finest annual bluegrass festival: **MAGNOLIAFEST!** This event will be held at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park near Live Oak, Florida. Among last year's 30+ featured artists were Donna the Buffalo, Snake Oil Medicine Show, and Railroad Earth. A large corner of the park will be reserved for camping geology-style! As the event draws near, we will provide more details. For now, mark your calendars and buy your tickets! For more information about the upcoming festival, keep checking [www.magnomusic.com/magnolia.htm](http://www.magnomusic.com/magnolia.htm).

tive donations was not a good long-term option. We made the choice to raise dues from \$75 a year to \$130. This increase allowed us to handle operating costs and partially fund our lobbying effort. The new rate is comparable to the dues for most other professional societies. However, additional voluntary contributions will be required to continue our participation in the legislative process until our membership increases substantially. Don't be surprised if I call you again.

I hope this short article provided you with some insight into the FAPG's financial management. I can tell you it isn't any fun begging folks for money and then running low on funds while our lobbyist and staff work so hard on our behalf. I welcome ideas and help from anyone who has ideas and the determination to implement them.

## Participate in FAPG Committees

Opportunities exist for individuals to learn about the leading-edge trends, legislative efforts and government administrative actions affecting professional geologists. By serving as a member of an FAPG committee you will be among the first to know about developing issues in our industry and be one of the first individuals invited to participate in the solutions. To maximize efficiency and productivity, each committee is limited to five participants. Volunteers will be assigned on a first-come, first-preference system. Please reply right away to assure you are placed in the committee that most interests you.

### Legislative Action

**Chair - Charles Drake, Hartman and Associates**

**Vice Chair - Jorge R. Caspary, Levine Fricke Recon**

### Legislative Finance

**Chair - Marc Hurst, Independent Geological Services Inc.**

### Membership & Communications

**Chair - Merv Dale, Tetra Tech NUS Inc.**

**Vice Chair - Tracy Thrift, QORE Property Sciences**

### Education

**(New committee, members needed)**

If you are interested in profiting from firsthand knowledge of industry trends, professional contacts and legal changes by serving as an FAPG committee member, please complete the information below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee Interest \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Volunteer by completing this form and sending it to the FAPG office:**

Robert Skrob, Executive Director  
Florida Association of Professional Geologists  
850/222-6000 • 850/222-6002, fax • Robert@FAPG.org

## AAPG\* – Energy Minerals Division Report

**by Peter Warwick  
EMD President-elect**

The Energy Minerals Division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (EMD, AAPG) continues to be very active to promote research and communication among scientists in the areas of remote sensing and earth materials capable of being used for energy production. The EMD is the primary sponsor for several sessions at regional, national and international AAPG meetings. The EMD website, <http://emd.aapg.org>, recently has been updated to include technical reports on various energy mineral commodities and geospatial information. A Members-only section has been added to the website to provide EMD membership with the latest committee and officer reports, as well as a searchable membership directory. Links to the Energy Minerals Grant (up to \$2,000 USD) for students are provided on the EMD website. The application deadline for the Energy Minerals yearly student grant is January 31. Please see the following web page for student grant application instructions: <http://foundation.aapg.org/gia/howto.cfm>. New EMD publications are listed on the EMD website.

Peter Warwick may be contacted at [pwarwick@usgs.gov](mailto:pwarwick@usgs.gov).

\*The FAPG is an affiliate member of the AAPG.

## FAPG Legislative Action Fund Contributors

### \$1,000 - Ruby

NS Nettles & Associates Inc.

### \$500 - Topaz

BCI Engineers and Scientists Inc.

Geohazards Inc.

Hy-Tech Environmental Services Inc.

RM Baker, LLC

URS

### \$250 - Amethyst

Access Engineering

Coastal Engineering Consultants Inc.

Creative Environmental Solutions Inc.

Gabrielle Enos, Solana Environmental Associates Inc.

EPI, Environmental Professionals Inc.

Geological & Environmental Consultants Inc.

Geosphere Technologies Inc.

James E. McNeal

MCD of Central Florida Inc.

Nova Environmental Services Inc.

PBS&J

SCS Engineers

TerraScan Company Inc.

Value Environmental Services Inc.

Sarah M. Whitaker

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B. Rafael Barba

The Colinas Group

Richard E. Copeland

Mervin W. Dale

ENVIRODYNE Inc.

Global Environmental Services Inc.

Carlett Grey-Wilson

HSW Engineering Inc.

Steve L. Krupa

Thomas Kwader

Jackie M. Lloyd

Richard M. Markey

Susan J. Metcalfe

Jeffrey S. Northrup

Jeffrey J. Peters

Janet M. Peterson

QuietEarth Consultants Inc.

Judy A. Richtar

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