

POINT-AND-CLICK: PAVING THE ROAD TO PROJECT SUCCESS WITH GIS



Who uses GIS? Just about everyone.

Remember that old thing in the glove box of your car called a map? Once upon a time, plotting a course from point A to point B involved finding a table large enough to unfold the map, a keen eye for shortcuts, some guesswork, and a pinch of luck getting the map folded back into its original form. Now, getting turn-by-turn directions to a destination is as simple as the click of a mouse.

Today, reliance on geographic information systems, or GIS, has become a daily part of our lives. Through the use of the latest technology and a GIS database, Internet websites such as Yahoo! Maps and MapQuest give users the ability to turn an address into a point on a map in a matter of seconds. Even more recently, automotive manufacturers are incorporating this technology into vehicle navigation systems that not only display interactive maps with directions, but can also find the nearest restaurants, gas stations and landmarks. Because the information is based on GIS technology, it can be revised as needed and is more reliable than an old, and possibly outdated, map or atlas.

So how does GIS work?

GIS is a system of computer hardware and software that organizes and integrates information and is a tool that can be used across a variety of project applications. While it often helps create maps, GIS also can maximize the quality and use of spatial data analysis to help answer questions of where, how far, how many, what size, and within what area. A comprehensive geographic database – coupled with the query, analysis and visualization power of GIS software – provides invaluable information solutions to real-world problems. A GIS analysis can be used to help identify brownfields in targeted areas of a community, helping to prioritize individual properties with respect to potential costs for development - including environmental cleanup - and potential benefits resulting from redevelopment.

GIS technology offers significant advantages over conventional computer programs and traditional research techniques. Staff can visualize spatial relationships among any geographically referenced features – such as clusters of monitoring wells, groundwater surface contouring and contaminant concentrations – while integrating different databases based on geographic proximity, including population, metropolitan boundaries and other features. Once assembled, the information can be used to help in presenting findings to clients and preparing for the next step in a project. It can even be used to show policymakers and stakeholders the steps required to complete a project using simplistic, visually attractive thematic maps.

Hull is currently integrating GIS and GPS data collection to increase efficiency, reducing the need for surveying services in some instances. To learn more about GIS or how it can benefit your project, please contact Mark Eiseman at (847) 291-4321 or meiseman@hullinc.com.

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PROUDLY CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

Since 1980, we've grown to over 160 employees, expanded into six offices across the Midwest, and developed comprehensive services that extend beyond traditional engineering and environmental consulting to include public relations, funding and planning. We are proud to celebrate 25 years of professional excellence in 2005.



C&DD CHANGES, ENVIRONMENTAL COVENANTS AND AGENCY SHAKEUPS: A LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP OF FALL '04

Ohio's 125th General Assembly concluded business at the end of December by moving through two pieces of environmental legislation aimed at providing more funding for local health departments that oversee construction and demolition debris programs, and making the process for obtaining environmental covenants more uniform.

House Bill 432 replaces the former Construction & Demolition Debris (C&DD) facility license fee, which was \$3,000 annually, with a 30-cent per cubic yard or 60-cent per ton fee on the disposal of construction and demolition debris at both C&DD and solid waste facilities. The bill also revises the definition of C&DD waste and requires the owner or operator of a C&DD facility to attempt to remove all solid waste from each load prior to disposal on the working face of the facility. In addition, the bill provides a measure for the Ohio EPA director to enforce an additional disposal fee at C&DD facilities to fund groundwater monitoring at certain C&DD sites. A measure extending the term of hazardous waste facility installation and operation permits from five to 10 years also was added into the bill. The bill passed both the House and the Senate, and was signed by Governor Bob Taft on January 14, 2005. The bill will become effective on April 14, 2005.

House Bill 516 establishes standardized land use restrictions and requirements for an environmental covenant in each of Ohio's four environmental programs that utilize institutional controls: the Voluntary Action Program, the hazardous waste program, the remedial response program, and the wetlands mitigation program. The bill also provides specific measures for county recorders to follow in recording the covenants, ensuring that Ohio has a consistent means for establishing, revising, transferring and enforcing environmental covenants while providing assurance to property owners during real estate transactions. The bill passed both the House and the Senate in early December, and was signed by Gov. Taft on December 22. Because the bill included unrelated provisions added by the Senate, it was declared an emergency bill and became effective immediately.

In Agency news, Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones announced his resignation in mid-December, effective January 7, 2005. Joe Koncelik was named by Gov. Taft to replace Jones. Koncelik served previously as Ohio EPA's assistant director and chief legal counsel, and worked in the environmental enforcement section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

In Indiana, incoming Governor Mitch Daniels announced the appointment of Thomas Easterly as the new commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Easterly takes over IDEM with 30 years of environmental experience in government and business. He has worked previously with Environmental Business Strategies, Inc.; NiSource; Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Division; and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

For more information on legislative, government relations, or environmental policy issues, contact Kara Allison at (614) 793-8777 or kallison@hullinc.com, or Karl Gebhardt at (614) 228-3274 or krgebhardt@teatergebhardt.com. ●

FIVE RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING IN EXTREME WEATHER

Extreme road conditions materialize quickly this time of year. Keep these tips in mind when you are on the road.

1. Lights on: Lights always help other cars see you more clearly in all weather conditions.
2. Slow down: Adjust your speed according to visibility and road conditions.
3. No sudden movements: Make steering and acceleration changes gradually. Sudden braking can cause a fishtail.
4. Keep your distance: Maintain a four-second interval between you and other cars. Increase the interval as conditions become more treacherous.
5. Steer into the Skid: If the rear of the car slides right, steer towards the right to keep the front wheels moving in the direction of travel. As you balance out, adjust the steering slowly.

From heavy rain and flooding to ice and snow, be sure to always take all weather conditions seriously. ●

ALLISON APPOINTED TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL PRSA POSTS

Kara Allison, Hull's Government and Community Relations Practice Leader, was appointed by the national chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as Secretary/Treasurer of the Environmental Section for 2005. She also serves as a Programming Committee Board member for PRSA's Central Ohio Chapter.

Kara's roles on the national level include selecting presenters for the organization's international conference in October, arranging programming and professional development opportunities, and promoting and increasing membership in PRSA's environmental section. As part of the Central Ohio Programming Committee, she will help review and select speakers for the chapter's monthly professional development functions. For more information on PRSA, visit: www.prsa.org/. ●

HULL'S PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION FROM OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION

John Hull, President of Hull & Associates, Inc., received the Special Recognition Award from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission for his work and leadership with Ohio's *Lake Erie Balanced Growth Initiative*.

John chaired the Balanced Growth Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was formed in 2001. The group's purpose was to help counsel Ohio on ways to continue to protect and improve Lake Erie's watershed while advancing economic growth.

John's work on the task force led to documents that detail the relationship between land use and water quality, including: "*Linking Land Use and Lake Erie: A Planning Framework*," and "*Best Local Land Use Practices*." The plans provide recommendations for Ohio to implement voluntary programs and local planning initiatives that support Lake Erie's balanced growth. John Hull will continue his work with the Commission as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee, assisting with the overall implementation of the task force recommendations.

Some recommendations are already being implemented, as the Commission just received a \$600,000 grant from the Ohio Water Development Authority for three Pilot Watershed Balanced Growth projects. A Request For Proposal (RFP) for the pilot projects will be developed later in February. Information on the RFP should be distributed in March 2005.

To learn more about the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Programs, or to access the Task Force's reports, visit: www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/openhouse.htm. ●



CLEAN OHIO REVITALIZATION FUND ROUND 3 BEGINS, TRAINING SESSION OFFERED

Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Development announced that the Round 3 Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) has been approved and is underway. Applications are currently available for download from ODOD's website at: www.odod.state.oh.us/ud/CORFRoundThree.htm. The applications are due into public libraries by June 24, 2005.

A CORF Round 3 Application Training Session will be held on March 9, 2005. The training is free and open to anyone interested in details on how to complete the application and maximize their project score.

WHEN: March 9, 2005, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation
William Green Building - Auditorium
30 West Spring Street
Columbus, OH 43215

To attend the training session, send an email RSVP with your name, organization, daytime phone, and email address for each person attending to the Ohio Department of Development at oud@odod.state.oh.us. ●

NEW OHIO LAMP RULES CHANGE DISPOSAL AND STORAGE PRACTICES

Lamps are now regulated under Ohio's universal waste rules (UWR) under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-273, which became effective December 2004. Previously, hazardous lamps that were used and were being recycled were considered characteristic by-products; and therefore, would not be considered hazardous waste. Under the rule change, lamps are now defined as "spent materials" and will be a waste even when reclaimed. Generators of hazardous waste lamps may now handle lamps as either hazardous waste or universal waste. The UWR prohibits universal waste handlers from crushing hazardous lamps. If you are the generator of hazardous lamps and you are presently crushing your lamps, you will be required to manage your lamps according to the hazardous waste rules (OAC chapter 3745-52). Under the UWR, a handler must store universal waste lamps in containers or packages that prevent breakage and they must manage lamps in a way that prevents the release of any components of the lamp to the environment.

For more information, please contact Scott Smith, Hull-Solon, at (440) 519-2555 or ssmith@hullinc.com. ●

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UPCOMING TRADESHOWS AND CONFERENCES

M-PACT: MIDWEST PETROLEUM AND CONVENIENCE TRADESHOW - April 26-28, 2005 - Indianapolis, IN

M-PACT provides educational and networking opportunities for attendees from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois to share best practices and lessons learned in their particular areas. Attendees will include petroleum marketers, suppliers, convenience store owners and operators, truck stop operators, and car wash operators from throughout the Midwest.

For more information or to register, visit: www.m-pact.org/attendees.html.

OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION - ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SEMINAR - April 28 - 30, 2005 - Mt. Sterling, OH

The OSBA Environmental Law Seminar, held at Deer Creek Resort & Conference Center, brings together legal professionals and consultants, and provides an assortment of industry-specific educational forums and guest speakers with topics on current issues.

For more information on the conference, please call the Ohio State Bar Association at (614)487-4432.

EPA'S POSSIBLE SPCC RELIEF FOR SMALL TANKS

U.S. EPA is responding to pressure from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the regulated community for relief from the SPCC revised regulations approved in July 2002. The SBA estimates that revising the SPCC plan alone would cost small businesses \$7,000 per site. U.S. EPA is reviewing comments on an exemption from, or streamlining of, SPCC regulations for small tanks. The capacity threshold for a small tank exemption is not specified, but the SBA proposal for relief is based on the following three-tiered approach:

- **Tier I:** 1,321 to 5,000 gallon facilities - No written plan required, but must implement compliance with all applicable substantive provisions of the rule.
- **Tier II:** 5,001 to 10,000 gallon facilities - Written plans required, but no PE-certification requirements.
- **Tier III:** 10,001 gallons and above facilities - Written PE-certified plans.

The deadline for complying with the rule has been extended to 2/16/06 to revise existing plans, and 08/18/06 to implement the plan revisions. Written comments on the above recommended three-tiered approach were due to the EPA in November 2004. For more information log onto: www.epa.gov/