

System past due for change

ERIS, EQuIS replacement offers DEP many benefits

By Tom Aluise

In late January, the Department of Environmental Protection officially embarks on a four-year project that will greatly improve the way the agency stores, shares and retrieves the massive amounts of data it uses to conduct business and regulate industry.

While much of the DEP came together under one roof in 2004 when its divisions and offices consolidated into its Kanawha City headquarters, the agency's electronic data information system has remained fractured.

Employees invited to submit name ideas

Got an idea for a name to give the DEP's replacement for ERIS and EQuIS?

The DEP's Information Technology Office is taking suggestions for a catchy acronym that aptly describes the new computer system that will be phased in over a four-year period beginning in January.

"I really want to have an acronym and name

that describes what we're doing," said the ITO's Rick Doneghy. "This is an enterprise system. It's a very tightly integrated system that's going to bring the agency together under one roof."

Employees are encouraged to send their suggestions to both Doneghy at: Rick.N.Doneghy@wv.gov and to Jerry Forren at: Jerry.A.Forren@wv.gov.

Interoffice information sharing among the myriad of DEP regulatory programs is hamstrung by a system that does not operate in a fully integrated capacity. It is outdated, unsustainable and long overdue for change, said Jerry

Forren, chief of the DEP's Information Technology Office.

As a result, the agency is spending roughly \$8 million to replace both its Environmental Resource Information System (ERIS) and

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Environmental Quality Information System (EQuIS). CGI Technologies and Solutions, the same company that is implementing the state's new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System — the wvOASIS project — has been contracted by the DEP for its system overhaul. CGI software will be used to replace ERIS and EQuIS, a chemistry database.

"It will replace everything ERIS currently does, such as compliance, permitting and billing in the program offices," Forren said. "We're keeping ePermitting and integrating that into the new product. Time and activity will be replaced by the statewide ERP

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New OLS chief former state trooper

By Tom Aluise

As a law student in Grundy, Va., Josh Collins spent some of his free time doing volunteer work for the local town council.

"The mayor at the time suggested I come to West Virginia to speak with a gentleman up here who does coal transactions," Collins said.

The trip sparked an already simmering interest in contract law for Collins, who grew up in a coal mining family in Gate City, Va.

"I thought, 'Well, everybody else in my family has raised their family on coal mining, I just won't do it by going underground or working at a surface mine. I'm going to work from an executive position, as an attorney,'" Collins said. "So, that's what I've done for the last seven years — buy and sell coal companies."

That task provided a smooth transition for the 42-year-old Collins into his newest venture. He became chief of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Legal Services on Nov. 30, ending his seven-year stay at Jones & Associates, a Charleston law firm.



Josh Collins, the new chief of the Office of Legal Services, was in the Air Force and a Virginia State Trooper before law school.

"The legal activity in the environmental field is very appealing to me," said Collins, who graduated from the Appalachian School of Law in 2005. "I know it's going to change the way we function as a

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New project is an ‘absolute necessity’

By Randy Huffman

The Department of Environmental Protection cannot operate effectively without the proper management and use of the tens of millions of data points the agency has collected over the years through its regulatory process.

Two of our computer systems currently designed to store and retrieve that data — ERIS and EQulS — are antiquated, cumbersome to use, problematic to maintain and fail to function as a totally integrated DEP enterprise system. It’s imperative that they be replaced.

Next month, the agency will begin a four-year, \$8 million project that will eliminate ERIS and EQulS and upgrade to a fully integrated system. The new system, using software from CGI Technologies and Solutions, will greatly improve the ability of the DEP’s regulatory staff to store information, extract data and more accurately make decisions that impact our ability to properly



Message from the cabinet secretary

regulate industry.

As our agency moves forward, data on paper stuffed in file cabinets is not conducive to making timely decisions on policy matters.

This project is an absolute necessity and I’m very excited about what it’s going to bring to the table.

I understand change brings uncertainty, tests people’s confidence and results in consternation among the workforce.

But I also know the correct kind of change, initiated for the right reasons and done in the best possible format, often results in us saying at the end, “I don’t know how we ever did without it.”

I was around when people grumbled about having to use a computer. Now, no one can imagine doing their job without one. The same thing can be said about cell phones. With the ERIS-EQulS replacement, there undoubtedly will be growing pains and problems.

But if everyone chooses to take the best attitude toward change, and has the vision to see where this change will lead the agency, then it will be a tremendous success.

One of the questions I hear often is “Will this new system do what ERIS is doing for me now?” Do we really want it to do what ERIS is doing now, if it can do it better or differently? We certainly don’t want the tail wagging the dog.

Our data input should not determine how we conduct business. Rather, it should be driven by our business processes.

Another fear is cost overruns. People are concerned an \$8 million project will end up with a \$12 million price tag after four years. Cost

overruns are driven by two things: the more you do, the less you have to pay the contractor. As long as our staff does the work spelled out in the contract, costs will not increase. Second, we need to maintain an internal discipline to keep costs down and not ask for additional goods or services that aren’t needed, or weren’t budgeted.

Ultimately, the success of the new system rests with the users and the staff tasked with its implementation.

I am counting on you to believe in what you’re doing and to see the value it will add to your job, and to the agency, in the future.

Many people feel they’re too busy to spend two days in a training class. If you’re sawing firewood, you have to take a break now and then to sharpen your saw. That allows you to cut more wood in the long run.

With this project, we need to pay the short-term price in order to get the long-term gain ... sharpen our saws, so to speak.

CHIEF

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society in the next 15 to 20 to 30 years. The way states handle environmental laws, and the way states and the feds deal with them together, is going to have a significant impact on us as a state and country.”

At Jones & Associates, Collins was involved mostly in coal-related transactional mergers and acquisitions. The regulatory side of the mining industry often found its way into Collins’ day-to-day duties.


“When you sell a company you have permit transfer agreements,” Collins said. “You have to make sure the permits are OK. Are there any water problems? It’s the detail of, ‘OK, this is the permit we have, let’s fix the problems so we can sell it, or let’s fix it so we can buy it.’”

“If you’re not in compliance, you’re shutting down. If you don’t have a permit, you can’t operate. It’s been at the forefront of everything I’ve done.”

Collins has a diverse background. He went to Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va., to play basketball. While there, the school started a baseball program and the 6-foot-3 Collins ended up earning a scholarship in that sport. After college, he enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned to the Supply Squadron at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va.

Prior to law school, Collins served seven years as a Virginia State Trooper. He spent part of his time with the force as a

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Governor

Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco
Communications Chief

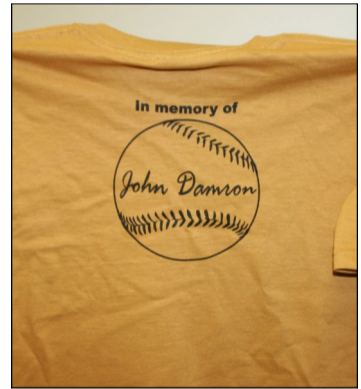
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DEP mining inspector John Damron was a regular participant for the agency during Corporate Cup activities. When Damron died prior to this year's competition, the agency honored him on the back of its Corporate Cup T-shirt (right). Above, the DEP softball team, of which Damron was a member, shows off the shirt following a game.



The year in pictures

A look back at DEP happenings from 2012



These grade-schoolers lost their grip on a slippery bullfrog during Earth Day at the Clay Center in Charleston. More than 400 students attended the spring event.



The DAQ's Tammy Mowrer and Mike Egnor check a bike rider's tire pressure during National Air Quality Awareness Week, April 30-May 4. The DAQ offered free tire checks.



The DAQ's Mike Rowe and other DEP staffers helped local high school students build a robot for competition.

More photos on next page

The year in pictures ... continued



The annual Great Kanawha River Cleanup included some innovative thinking this year at Magic Island in Charleston. These volunteers used a motorized toy car to haul trash from the riverbank to the collection area.



Workers from Mountain View Solar & Wind prepare to attach another solar panel to the DEP headquarters' roof. A total of 108 panels and a solar thermal hot water system were installed this summer as part of a federally funded pilot project.

During the spring, a DEP conference room was converted into a makeshift permit review room for the Office of Oil and Gas. Away from daily distractions, the reviewers were able to make significant progress in reducing the number of pending horizontal well permit applications.



Marshall football Coach Doc Holliday (above) paid a visit to DEP headquarters, along with the school's athletic director, Mike Hamrick, brother of the DEP's Ed Hamrick. Holliday answered lunchtime questions from DEP employees.



A strong contingent of DEP employees from Charleston headquarters took to the streets in May for an Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along the streets of Kanawha City.



A free electronics recycling event in September on the DEP parking lot in Charleston was very popular. More than 70,000 pounds of electronics were dropped off.



David Kersey, left, and Judy Smith worked together in payroll until Smith left for retirement in November. Kersey assumed her duties as payroll supervisor for the agency.



Employee of the Month

Lyle Bennett, DWWM — Charleston

Working in the 401 Certification Program often requires a broad knowledge of multiple program areas and the ability to advise customers when the law may not be clear.

During his tenure in the 401 Program, November Employee of the Month Lyle Bennett fielded hundreds, if not thousands, of phone calls asking questions about working and navigating in the 401 regulatory gray area.

He successfully guided many projects through the 401 certification process, and along the way developed good working relationships with a host of state and federal agencies.

Bennett, who retired in November, worked “extra duty” the past few years by being involved in the In-Lieu Fee Mitigation program. And, although he was contemplating retirement for some time, Bennett did not want to leave the agency until the In-Lieu Fee Mitigation program had someone to assume the reins.

That act was symbolic of Bennett’s dedication and commitment to the agency and the environment.

DEP retirements

Michael Young

Division of Water and Waste Management

Last day: Dec. 31, 2012

Years of service: 26

Richard Caserta

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Last day: Dec. 31, 2012

Years of service: 22

Kenna Amos

Division of Air Quality

Last day: Dec. 20, 2011

Years of service: 6

William Thomason

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Last day: Dec. 31, 2012

Years of service: 30

Kenneth Cartwright

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Last day: Dec. 31, 2012

Years of service: 21

DEP has presence at veteran’s job fair

By Colleen O’Neill

Asked to participate in a veteran’s job fair last month, David Dean and Benny Campbell represented the DEP and tried their hand at recruiting.

Campbell, an Army brat, is an assistant director in the Division of Mining and Reclamation. Dean, an Army veteran, is a mining inspector. Both work out of the Logan office.

The job fair was sponsored by Workforce West Virginia and was conducted at the Chief Logan Conference Center Lodge in Logan.

Campbell said about 20 to 25 job information



Mining inspector David Dean, right, speaks with visitors to a recent veteran’s job fair in Logan. Dean, an Army veteran, represented the DEP at the fair, along with Benny Campbell.

booths from various state agencies and local businesses were represented.

“The total number of

attendees looking for work was approximately 300, spread over four hours,” he said.

Dean and Campbell

were quite busy, talking about the DEP and its many offerings, not just mining.

“Specifically, we were looking for mining inspectors but we offered the information to all who were interested,” Dean said.

Dean said this was the first veteran’s job fair he has participated in but understands its value.

“If we, as inspectors and employees, have the opportunity to speak with recent and prospective graduates and veterans,” Dean said, “we have a better chance to get quality applicants.”

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Jeremy Davis, a paralegal in the Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Legal Services, enjoys playing music for area senior citizens. His band, “Total Meltdown,” travels throughout the area, visiting nursing homes and rehabilitation hospitals.

Makin’ music for a good cause

By Colleen O’Neill

When Jeremy Davis draws his bow across the strings of his fiddle, melodic tunes dance about and bring joy to the faces and hearts of the area’s senior citizens.

Together, Davis and nine other musicians make up the bluegrass/country/rock band, “Total Meltdown.” The band spends four evenings a month entertaining patients and residents at Heartland of Charleston, a skilled nursing and rehab facility, and Meadowbrook Acres nursing home.

“We play because it is something we truly enjoy,” said Davis, a paralegal in the Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Legal Services.

Davis has been playing music since he was 12. He grew up listening to his father play the fiddle and now, following in his father’s footsteps, uses the same fiddle to spread delight.

“Music is the one thing that can never be taken from you, because it lives inside you,” Davis said. “When we play for the residents, you can actually see them recalling memories with certain songs; there is not a more powerful feeling than



“Total Meltdown” consists of 10 members. In addition to Davis, the DEP’s Alyssa Hughes plays the bass, guitar, drums, mandolin and fiddle for the band.

being able to bring back joy to those who have forgotten it.”

What began as a Father’s Day performance for his friend’s father at Heartland, took on a life of its own.

“Following our performance, while we were leaving, many of the other residents began asking us to play other music for them, but we couldn’t on that day,” Davis said. “I felt so bad after we left because we couldn’t play for them that I immediately went home and contacted the activities director at Heartland. After many weeks of wrangling with the various people at Heartland, they agreed to allow Total Meltdown to play for the residents twice a month.”

Davis said the band was so inspired by the response of the residents at Heartland that it sought out Meadowbrook Acres and added that facility to its play schedule.

“When we first started at Meadowbrook, the activities director on duty asked if we were doing this as a type of penance — I laughed,” Davis said. “We can either sit at home and play, or we

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DEP Day at Capitol set for Feb. 26

Those who want to learn more about the state Department of Environmental Protection and the people who work for the agency, will have that opportunity during the upcoming DEP Day at the Legislature.

The annual event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 26 on the upper rotunda of the state capitol building.

DEP Day at the Legislature coincides with the regular session of the State Legislature and features informational displays of the various programs at DEP.

“DEP Day at the Legislature lets the Legislature and citizens know what we do on a daily basis,” said Annette Hoskins, coordinator of the event. “We had great representation from each office last year and expect to have the same this year.”

For more information, please contact Hoskins at 304-926-0499 ext.1659 or e-mail, Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov

New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ **Melinda Campbell,** Administration
- ▶ **Josh Collins,** Office of Legal Services
- ▶ **Jeremy James,** Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Rico Moore,** Office of Legal Services
- ▶ **Tina Perdue,** Division of Water, Waste
- ▶ **Barry Whitt,** Abandoned Mine Lands



Illustration by Matt Thompson

Christmas tree recycling ... the gift that keeps on giving

Your live Christmas tree doesn't have to stop being useful once its lights and ornaments are put back in their boxes for another year.

Next month, the Department of Environmental Protection will host its ninth annual Christmas tree recycling event. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Jan. 5, the DEP's REAP (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan) program will collect trees at Capitol Market in downtown Charleston.

Last year, close to 500 trees were dropped off by area residents and then dropped into a number of West Virginia lakes by the Division of Natural Resources.

The submerged trees improve fish habitat by providing hiding and feeding areas for fish and other aquatic creatures.

Recycling your live tree also saves space in public landfills, which is where some trees end up after a short stay on the side of the road.

To be accepted, all decorations must be removed from the tree, including lights, ornaments, tinsel, wire and stands.

Those who drop off trees for recycling can enter their names into a drawing to win ski packages from Canaan, Winterplace and Timberline.

JOB

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"I discovered a wide range of interest in potential West Virginia state government jobs," Campbell said, "with a primary interest of job seekers being the DEP."

Campbell and Dean were provided materials from the DEP's Human Resources division to

assist them at the job fair.

"The ladies in our Human Resources office helped to provide David and myself with job application information, DEP booth resources, and free DEP materials for this event," Campbell said.

"This event reminded me just how important DEP's overall environmental mission really is."

MUSIC

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can go out and try to brighten someone else's day a little."

And brighten someone else's day they do. The residents at both facilities look forward to the group's performance.

"It is not uncommon for many of the residents to gather in the music room and wait for us an hour before we even arrive," Davis said. "Although we do this for fun and for free, we still do take the music seriously and give it our all. We also take into account the residents and what they want to hear. Many of the songs we play for them nowadays are songs that we learned at their request. We want them to enjoy themselves, so their input is

important to us.

"A few months ago, a nice lady, Mary, at Meadowbrook Acres, was having her 97th birthday," Davis said.

"Her birthday was not on a day that we played at the facility, so we contacted the activities director and made arrangements, without the residents knowing, to make a special birthday appearance and play a short set. Mary was overjoyed, and she is, without a doubt, one of our biggest fans."

Not all of the band's 10 members are present at every performance. They practice a few times a month.

Alyssa Hughes, who works in the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Oak Hill office, also plays in the band.

"Allie plays the guitar, bass, drums, mandolin, fiddle — basically any instrument she touches," Davis said.

Davis has two sons who periodically play in the band. Like his upbringing, he shares the love of music with his children.

"I have tried long and hard to encourage them to play music, without pushing it down their throats," he said. "They both play with us on occasion, but not as often as I would like. Alec can play the drums, baritone, guitar, and bass. Cameron plays the guitar and mandolin. They can play all the music we can, but they can also play a lot of stuff we can't. I can honestly say that there is no shortage of instruments or talent in our house."



Charity Fellure, left, and Kimberly Parsons, of the Putnam County Solid Waste Authority, were recognized with a Clean County Award from the DEP.

Clean County, Community recognized

Four West Virginia communities were recognized recently by the DEP for environmental stewardship in 2012.

The DEP's Make It Shine Program awarded Clean Community Awards to New Cumberland in Hancock County; Camden-on-Gauley, in Webster County; Odd, in Raleigh County; and the Village of Beech Bottom, in Brooke County.

The DEP also recognized Putnam County with a 2012 Clean County Award. The Putnam County Solid Waste Authority received \$2,000 to put toward cleanup and other projects. Clean County Awards are presented annually to county solid waste authorities that promote environmental stewardship.



Holiday spirit

The Department of Environmental Protection's Charleston headquarters got spruced up for the holidays earlier this month during a tree decorating break in the lobby. Above, Ann Baker, left, and David Kersey address the hard-to-reach spots on the tree.



CHIEF

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motorcycle trooper, patrolling the congested Interstate system around Washington, D.C.

"If traffic stopped there," Collins said, "that place shut down. You needed a motorcycle to get on the shoulder of the road so you could get up to the people and tell them to get their cars out of the way so the place could begin functioning again."

Collins said he already feels like he fits in at the DEP. "I've been trying to meet with the staff and ask them what they need from me to keep the office functioning the way they think it should," he said.

Married two years, Collins and his wife, Jene', recently had a baby girl, Vivian. The couple's new addition was a big reason Collins left the hectic world of corporate law, where he often had to reschedule long-planned vacations because of client demands.

"I'm not willing to sacrifice my family's time for a little bit of extra money. It's not worth it. My time with my wife and my baby girl is much more important."

Auction raises \$227 for Combined Campaign

By Colleen O'Neill

Having fun while raising money for a good cause, the employees of the DEP's Office of Administration engaged in playful war as they participated in their annual Christmas auction.

The money raised on the afternoon of Dec. 11 went to the state Combined Campaign, which distributes state employee contributions among various charitable foundations in West Virginia.

"It's an enjoyable way to help those less fortunate," said Melinda Campbell, chief of Administration.

This was the fifth year for the auction, which



Brent Kessinger and Jean Sheppard conduct the Office of Administration's annual holiday auction to benefit the Combined Campaign. Barb Miles, right, picked up a birdhouse with a high bid.

was conducted in the Coopers Rock training room.

This year's auction



included a spirited battle between Campbell and Angela Garner, as they tried to out bid each

other for an unknown treasure.

For the auction, employees donate items that are either wrapped or put in decorative bags, making each gift a mystery until the winning bidder reveals it.

With a bid of \$16, Campbell won her battle with Garner.

Her take was a candle set.

Among the items taken home by employees were a birdhouse, bubble gum dispenser, pocket chair, golf practice net, wrench set, shoe rack, and an Applebee's gift card for \$15.

"We raised \$227 and had a lot of fun," Campbell said.

SYSTEM

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System. This new system should come out of the box with interfaces already built into OASIS (ERP System). If it didn't, we'd have to build those ourselves and that would be a huge project."

The job of replacing ERIS and EQuIS, which has been in the making for close to three years and probably needed for 10, is big enough. Late next month, DEP project teams will begin meeting with representatives from CGI to map out plans for implementation. The Office of Oil and Gas is first on CGI's list for installation and should be completely up and running by the end of 2013, the entire agency totally integrated by 2017.

James Martin, chief of OOG, said his office volunteered to go first for the upgrade. OOG needs a better data system than it presently has, he said.

"We're excited," Martin said. "We know it's going to be a lot of work and we're going to need people dedicated and engaged in the process."

"But we think it will be great for our program."

Four CGI technicians will be at DEP headquarters for the duration of the project.

The DEP's end will be managed by Rick Doneghy, an ITO information systems manager, and Geoffrey Chu, an outside contractor.

"As part of CGI's first needs analysis, they'll come in and look at what we've got, see how we do it and hopefully a lot of those processes will change so it's more efficient with the new software," Forren said. "Right now, Air does things one way, Water does things one way;



"We figured by 2014 we would not be able to sustain what we have now."

— Jerry Forren

hopefully when we get this new system in, everybody will be doing everything the same way. There will be a lot of efficiencies we can get from that."

"Implementation of the new system will make it necessary for any operation to actually look at what it's doing," Doneghy said. "More likely than not, these situations result in re-engineering your processes, making them much more streamlined."

Both ERIS and EQuIS have roots stretching back 20 years. ERIS was originally developed to improve the processing of mining permit applications and the tracking of mining violations. Its name was changed from SMIS (Surface Mining Information System) to ERIS when the needs of all DEP offices were incorporated into the system.

"ERIS wasn't designed to do what it's doing now," said Doneghy, who was at the forefront during the development stages of ERIS. "It's a mining system. After we saw its capabilities with applications, permitting, inspections and violations, we said, 'We can incorporate this system into other areas.' And that's what we've been trying to do ... unsuccessfully."

"That's one of the benefits of the new system. It's a totally integrated enterprise system and it will

address the needs of all offices, rather than trying to address the needs of one office and then saying to another office, 'OK, let's see what we can do to include you in this system.'

"The new system is very, very well-designed. That is one of the things we have with our current system that is causing problems. We have thousands of lines of code in this system that nobody knows anything about. And each time we do something, even with technically competent people, fires break out."

Because it is 20 years old, Forren said finding programmers to support ERIS is becoming increasingly difficult. It is now too extensive and too complex for the current ITO staff to adequately maintain.

"We can't find the programmers who have those skills anymore and once we lose people to retirement, we can't replace them," Forren said. "We figured by 2014 we would not be able to sustain what we have now."

Currently, the DEP is spending around \$1.2 to \$1.4 million per year on contractors to help the agency upgrade and manage ERIS and EQuIS.

Each DEP office will dedicate staff to work with CGI on the implementation of the new system, which will be comply with federal Environmental Protection

Agency standards. Calculating savings, Forren said the ERIS-EQuIS replacement will pay for itself in about six years.

"Our involvement as an agency needs to be underlined because this is going to be a very intense, very complicated, labor-intensive effort on our part," Doneghy said. "We have to have representatives who actually see this as being their No. 1 priority."

In the end, everyone will benefit. With more accurate, complete and accessible data, the agency will be better equipped to make important decisions. The new system will be Web-enabled, making data available to DEP employees on the go. Also, more information will be displayed on the agency Web site, increasing transparency and cutting down on Freedom of Information Act requests.

"With this new software, you'll be able to run reports and publish them right to the Web, which is light years better than what we can do right now," Forren said.

"Flexibility will be offered by this system," Doneghy said. "Now, you can ask a question of a program director or manager and there are times they'll tell you it might take two days to get the information. That's unacceptable in this day and age of computers. It should take you a few minutes and anybody should be able to get the information they need."

"The capabilities and flexibility that will be offered will make things a lot easier as far as people's jobs are concerned."

HAZ- WOPR refresher and training courses set for DEP

The following dates have been selected for 2013 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training for DEP employees.

The training will take place at the state Laborer's Training

Center in Mineral Wells:

- Feb. 5 — 8-hour refresher
- April 2 — 8-hour rfresher
- July 9 — 8-hour refresher
- Oct. 1 — 8-hour refresher
- Dec. 3 — 8-hour refresher
- Dec. 2-6 — 45-hour training

If you do not keep your certification current, you will be required to take the full 45-hour training to be recertified.

Contact Tammy Thornton for more information at 926-0499 ext. 1669.

Safety Spotlight



Tips for stopping winter falls

Hazards to watch for:

- ▶ Snow-covered ice
- ▶ Black ice
- ▶ Uneven surface



Walk like a penguin to reduce your chances of falling:

- ▶ Point your feet out
- ▶ Keep your head up
- ▶ Slowly take short steps
- ▶ Extend your arms out to your sides for balance.

— DEP Safety Committee

Safety Committee accepting ideas for new slogan

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Safety Committee is offering a prize for the best Safety Slogan for 2013.

The contest is open to DEP employees and submitted slogans will be voted on at the Safety Committee’s February meeting.

Slogans should be sent to Tammy Thornton at Tammy.S.Thornton@wv.gov. Thornton, who heads up the Safety Committee, would like all submissions by Jan. 25.

The new slogan will replace “Safety First,” which has been in place for several years, Thornton said.

“We have had a contest one other time to select the slogan,” she said.



Adopt-A-Highway honoree

Jennifer Garlesky was honored by the Adopt-A-Highway Program as its Public Information Office Coordinator of the Year during the recent state Educational Conference on Litter Control and Solid Waste Management in Wheeling.

Garlesky, who works for the DEP’s Youth Environmental Program out of the Oak Hill office, is pictured above with REAP Chief Danny Haught.

Stormwater manual new tool for towns

Produced for the WVDEP by the Center for Watershed Protection, the 500-page West Virginia Stormwater Management and Design Guidance Manual is the first of its kind in the state. Both state and federal funds were used for the \$150,000 project.

The manual was released earlier this month. The DEP’s Sherry Wilkins was the agency’s project manager for the manual, which outlines innovative ways to use plants and soils to reduce runoff volumes and pollutants at development and redevelopment sites. The guide can be used as a design resource by any community interested in more effectively dealing with the harmful effects of polluted stormwater to the state’s waterways.

The manual’s chief function is to provide design instruction and guidance on implementing stormwater practices in accordance with the state’s small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit.