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Civil / Transportation / Water Resources / Wastewater / Planning / LEED

Dear Friend,

The holidays have arrived and with less than 60 days left in the year it time we all started planning for 2012.

Please give us a call or send an email to find out how we can help.

If you get a moment we have many of our past projects available for review on our website. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Best Wishes and a Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Ali Fakih
Sustainability Engineering Group
ali@azseg.com



Green Links

[The 5th Annual Opportunity Green conference brings together today's leading companies and visionaries; showcasing the sought-after opportunities, profound innovations and trends accelerating the new green economy.](#)

[This year's San Francisco 2011 fall event represents the actual 10th Anniversary of the Green Festival. Special celebrations, tributes and programs are planned in this first host city of the original 'Party with a Purpose'.](#)

China Aims to Dominate U.S. in Smart Grid Investments

With plans to invest \$250 billion in electric power infrastructure upgrades over the next five years.

There is no way to get around this fact-China aims to modernize its energy infrastructure at home and dominate clean energy technology markets abroad. At the 2011 Smart Grid World Forum in Beijing late last month, China's State Grid Corporation announced plans to invest \$250 billion in electric power infrastructure upgrades over the next five years, of which \$45 billion is earmarked for smart grid technologies.

According to its three-stage plan, China will invest another \$240 billion between 2016 and 2020 (including another \$45 billion toward smart grid technologies) to complete the build-out of a "stronger, smarter" Chinese power grid.



When complete, this system will improve energy efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and give Chinese consumers more control over their utility bills. Chinese leaders are betting that upgrading to a smarter electricity grid will also drive technology innovation and move the country up the manufacturing value chain. The Chinese view smart grid technology as the next industrial revolution-and they want to make sure that once other countries start upgrading their own grids, they will buy most of their equipment from China.

To learn more visit [Think Progress](#).

BP's Plan for Drilling in the Gulf Is Approved

The federal government's approval of the BP plan to drill up to four exploratory wells nearly 200 miles from the Louisiana coast.

The Obama administration on Friday took another step toward allowing BP to return to the Gulf of Mexico, approving the first oil drilling plan for the company there since the explosion that sank the Deepwater Horizon more than a year ago.

It was another sign that oil exploration in the gulf was coming back to normal, although energy companies continued to complain that the permitting process for drilling new wells remained far slower than before the accident.

The federal government's approval of the BP plan to drill up to four exploratory wells nearly 200 miles from the Louisiana coast was positive news for BP, which has struggled to recover from the April 2010 accident that left 11 workers dead and spilled millions of barrels of oil into the gulf.



"Our review of BP's plan included verification of BP's compliance



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Free Membership for Students - Sustainability Engineering Group (SEG) is sponsoring 10 free student memberships to AZAEP this year; if you are interested please download and fill out a membership application and write "SEG" in the payment section. Email application to: mzorba@transconusa.com (or mail to PO Box 44966, Phoenix, AZ 85064 and to Human Resource Department at HR@azseg.com).

Please sign up to our informative newsletter at www.azseg.com; SEG is a civil engineering firm headquartered in Phoenix and licensed in AZ, CA and NM. SEG is proud to be a member of the AZAEP and has served as a lead consultant for public and private agencies in Arizona and throughout the western region of the United States.

To learn more visit AZ Association of Environmental Professionals website.

with the heightened standards that all deepwater activities must meet," said Tommy P. Beaudreau, the director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, in a statement announcing the decision...

"Comprehensive safety legislation hasn't passed Congress, and BP hasn't paid the fines they owe for their spill, yet BP is being given back the keys to drill in the gulf," Mr. Markey said in a statement.

To learn more visit [New York Times](#).

Mexico's newest export to US may be water

Mexico ships televisions, cars, sugar and medical equipment to the United States. Soon, it may be sending water north.

Western states are looking south of the border for water to fill drinking glasses, flush toilets and sprinkle lawns, as four major U.S. water districts help plan one of two huge desalination plant proposals in Playas de Rosarito, about 15 miles south of San Diego. Combined, they would produce 150 million gallons a day, enough to supply more than 300,000 homes on both sides of the border.

The plants are one strategy by both countries to wean themselves from the drought-prone Colorado River, which flows 1,450 miles from the Rocky Mountains to the Sea of Cortez. Decades of friction over the Colorado, in fact, are said to be a hurdle to current desalination negotiations.



The proposed plants have also sparked concerns that American water interests looking to Mexico are simply trying to dodge U.S. environmental reviews and legal challenges. Desalination plants can blight coastal landscapes, sucking in and killing fish eggs and larvae. They require massive amounts of electricity and dump millions of gallons of brine back into the ocean that can, if not properly disposed, also be harmful to fish.

Water agencies that supply much of Southern California, Phoenix, Las Vegas and Tijuana, Mexico, are pursuing the plant that would produce 50 million gallons a day in Rosarito near an existing electricity plant. They commissioned a study last year that found no fatal flaws and ordered another one that will include a cost estimate, with an eye toward starting operations in three to five years.

To learn more read the [Boston Globe](#).

Expediting Electrical Transmission Lines in AZ

Is this good for Arizona, will it create jobs?

President Obama's plan to fast-track the permitting and construction of major electrical transmission line projects - including one in Arizona - is touted as a way to create jobs; increase capacity and reliability of the nation's electrical grid; and accelerate the growth of domestic clean energy.



[Click to View the Video](#)

Find out what the plan means for Arizona from Kris Mayes, former Arizona Corporation Commissioner who is now in charge of the Program on Law and Sustainability at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and Sandy Bahr, Director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter.



Civic Duty Calls as Ali Fasih joins with leadership

"Congratulations on your appointment to the Development Review Board, and thank you for agreeing to volunteer your time to make this significant commitment to the City of Scottsdale.

Since our incorporation almost 60 years ago, the citizens of Scottsdale have taken a leadership role in building the quality of life we enjoy today. As we move into our next 60 years, the role you play individually and collectively as a member of the Board is very important.

Again, congratulations and thank you for volunteering your time to this important civic role."

Regards,
Mayor Jim Lane

To learn more read the [Letter from Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane](#)

To learn more visit [Horizon PBS](#)

Sustainability Engineering Group LLC

Please feel free to email us your input, comments and suggestions to help make this newsletter a success. Your input is very valuable. Have a Great Day!

Sincerely, Ali Fasih

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[View our profile on LinkedIn](#)

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As a small engineering firm, we provide competitive prices with heightened level of services. we would like the opportunity to propose on your future civil engineering projects.

SEG has served as a lead consultant for public and private agencies in Arizona and throughout the western region of the United States. Additionally, we have a great deal of experience in Transportation, Master Planning and entitlements, civil engineering, water / wastewater treatment plant, Hydraulic / Hydrology and sustainability investigation.

SEG's key members provide more than 150 combined years of experience in public and private sector work. We do hold Professional Engineer licenses in Arizona and California.



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