AECOM Wins Leading Environmental and Climate Change Industry Publications Awards

AWARD CATEGORY
TECHNOLOGY MERIT: Monitoring
For using an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for the first time on the Navajo Nation to collect detailed topography of a remote area for application in a flood study, generating centimeter-level contour intervals used in engineering analyses to produce detailed floodplain boundaries. The Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) in Crownpoint, NM was aware that portions of a housing subdivision encroached on a floodplain, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development required a detailed floodplain study containing high resolution topographic data before releasing mitigation funds. AECOM leveraged UAS technology to collect high resolution terrain data in a fraction of the time required by conventional ground or air surveys. Paired with a 2D engineering analysis tool, the team was able to model complex flooding scenarios in the project area and provide results in multiple visual products, facilitating stakeholder understanding of the issues and proposed solutions.

AWARD CATEGORY
PROJECT MERIT: Remediation
Meriden Green was once a center of commercial activity until 1990s flooding caused $22 million in property damage, causing the site to go idle. Redevelopment was collaborative and involved local, state and federal investment of $14 million for improvements, including flood control, infrastructure, brownfield remediation, transportation and housing. AECOM was tasked with design and construction oversight for remediation of the 14-acre site that had included 300,000 sf of mall, factories, auto service facilities, machine shops, and dry cleaners. Remedial design included construction of an earthen soil cap, along with isolated "hot-spot" excavations. AECOM negotiated with regulators under an engineered control variance for a one foot soil cap across the site rather than the typical four feet. Reduced thickness saved $6.5 million by reducing disposal by 100,000 tons and imported fill by 68,000 cubic yards. This variance was found acceptable due to diminished water velocities expected by uncovering the brook, grading the site, and leveraging an earthen cap training program for city personnel. The project was completed on time and on budget and now includes an 11 acre park with flood control elements.

AWARD CATEGORY
INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP
For preparing a simplified yet complete guidance document for EPA’s complex rules on coal combustion residuals (CCR) management. With deep expertise in solid waste management, dams, and geotechnical engineering, AECOM manages CCRs through compliance across power markets, consistently meeting clients’ strategic needs with cost-effective, innovative, and environmentally favorable solutions. The firm’s eight-step suite of full life cycle services combines CCR and power expertise to deliver integrated services through all work phases, bringing local knowledge backed by global resources to each unique project, delivering safe, high-quality, profitable, and efficient operations. AECOM provides award-winning CCR services to approximately 20% of the power industry; has 1,000 CCR-focused employees providing services to over 175 impoundments for over 45 utilities; has assisted in up to three times as many compliance certifications as any other industry consultant; and in a single month in 2017, had teams working on more than 50 active closure designs.
AWARD CATEGORY
PROJECT MERIT: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
For completing the four-year Partnering for Adaptation and Resilience-Agua (PARA-Agua) program in Peru and Colombia. PARA-Agua was designed to enhance local leaders’ capacity to manage ecosystems and water resources in the face of rising temperatures, drought and flooding. This United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project supported scientists, decision-makers, and communities to strengthen watershed management and planning capabilities and improve water security and resilience to climate change impacts in five watersheds. AECOM worked with USAID and stakeholders to: create platforms for dialog and information sharing; identify structural and non-structural adaptation options and facilitate access to financing mechanisms; and replicate best practices and built capacity across the region through improved data-sharing tools and partnerships.

AWARD CATEGORY
CONSULTING & ENGINEERING: GHG Mitigation
For assisting Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in determining the contribution that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and other measures could make to reduce Kuwait’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. AECOM performed a strategic analysis to understand costs, benefits and practical implications of CCS compared with other GHG reduction measures. Deliverables included an action plan for GHG minimization, recommendations for key performance indicators, and illustrative life cycle analyses. AECOM recommended KOC adopt specific 10- and 15-year GHG reduction targets relative to 2015 levels. Kuwait Oil Company produces three million barrels of oil per day and can play a crucial role in reducing the nation’s GHG emissions. Carbon storage relies on captured CO₂ being injected into deep underground rock formations where temperature and pressures enable permanent storage of CO₂.