Join SAME at the A/E/C industry’s most anticipated military engineering conference of 2012 – the SAME Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo (JETC). In addition to a well-rounded technical program, you’ll have opportunities to network with colleagues from each of the uniformed services with a focus on working in today’s joint environment. JETC also will feature an Honors Luncheon, with award presentations by each of the uniformed services to recognize individuals, companies and public agencies for their outstanding service to military engineering and SAME.

Hosted by SAME HQ, and the St. Louis and Scott Field Posts, the 2012 JETC features six technical tracks addressing timely issues affecting the A/E/C, facility management and environmental fields.

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NEW JETC WORKSHOPS!

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BY GORDON L. SIMMONS, P.E., M.SAME, and BENJAMIN J. CROSS, PH.D., P.E., M.SAME

The need to shrink dependence on fossil fuels is not a new concept in the nation’s energy discussion, nor is the need to invest in clean, renewable energy. But the challenge of how to deliver solar, biomass, wind, wave, geothermal and other power generation technologies in a cost effective, large-scale manner—and meet the changing energy demands of the nation—is a very current one indeed.

Through a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District, Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and other federal entities, the Southeast Energy Initiative (SEEI) is proactively addressing ways to deliver renewable energy technologies such as biomass, solar, and waste-to-energy generation at the best value. The partnership aims to attract private industry development of these technologies on federal land with federal customers.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is addressing the challenge as a key player in the U.S. energy transformation. In fact, the number one objective according to the DOD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, signed June 2010, is to reduce the use of fossil fuels to ensure continued availability of resources that are critical to its mission.

Further, legislation enacted by Congress—such as the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007—has set the minimum, escalating standards for reducing fossil fuels across the nation. For example, EISA currently requires that all new federal facilities be designed to consume 55 percent of the fossil fuel-generated energy compared to buildings that were constructed in 2003. These energy-reduction percentages escalate to 65 percent by 2015, 80 percent by 2020, 90 percent by 2025, and finally to 100 percent (the net-zero energy state) by 2050. As such, DOD installations are actively seeking ways to reduce energy consumption on new construction and existing buildings with more efficient designs, and to generate electricity through renewable energy sources.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Within DOD, the U.S. Army is charging ahead on achieving energy goals through the development of Regional Energy Initiatives (REIs). REIs are geographically-organized partnerships that combine the energy demands of multiple federal partners within a region to address how to deliver large-scale renewable energy projects at the best value. The goal is to create an attractive business case for financiers and for utilities to develop renewable projects on available federal lands with a guaranteed federal customer base.

One REI gaining momentum as an example of successful partnering is SEEI, a partnership spearheaded by USACE Savannah District, DOE and SRNL. The agencies are developing solutions to meet the energy demands unique to the South-east through alternative, non-fossil-fuel burning energy sources. Another active REI is the Northwest Energy Initiative, anchored by USEC Seattle District and the DOE’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Plans are underway to develop similar partnerships.