



The Clarifier

News and Information from ESG Operations, Inc.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2

Employee Benefit Survey Is Coming Your Way

3

ESG/Perry Moves Digester Lid Weighing 85,800 pounds

6

The Pit Crew—ESG’s Barbecue Team Rolls Into Opelika

10

ESG/Perry Receives WEF Safety Award

11

Rockdale County Construction Projects



First State, Regional and National Award for the City of Vidalia, Georgia

ESG/Vidalia Project Awarded Highest State, Regional and National Award

ESG OPERATIONS, INC. is proud to announce that the Vidalia, Georgia Project has earned the highest United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Award for Operations and Maintenance Excellence for 2008. Earlier this year this facility was named Non-Discharge Wastewater Treatment Facility Plant of the Year. As a result of this Region 4 award, the Vidalia Project was then nominated for the national award, where they competed against other regional winners from all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

As a part of the competition, inspectors from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) visited the Vidalia Project to review plant operations, permit compliance, knowledge and training procedures of ESG associates, maintenance procedures, workorder records, and overall aesthetics of the facility. A roundtable discussion/interview with the inspectors was held followed



Pictured at the award ceremony in Chicago, Illinois on October 20, 2008 is (left to right): Sean Meyer, Robbie Akins, Ronnie Dixon (Mayor of Vidalia), EPA Representative, Spencer Ricks, Dan Groselle and Clay Sykes.

Congratulations to the ESG/Vidalia Team for this National 1st Place Award for Operations and Maintenance Excellence.

ESG is honored to serve the City of Vidalia.



by an on-site inspection of the plant. Robbie Akins, Spencer Ricks and Sean Meyer were instrumental in completing the award application—along with assistance from Marvin Lee, Mark Durden, Mia Sager,

Frank Landrum, Phillip Davis and Darrel West. This is a tremendous honor for the City of Vidalia and for the entire ESG/Vidalia Team!



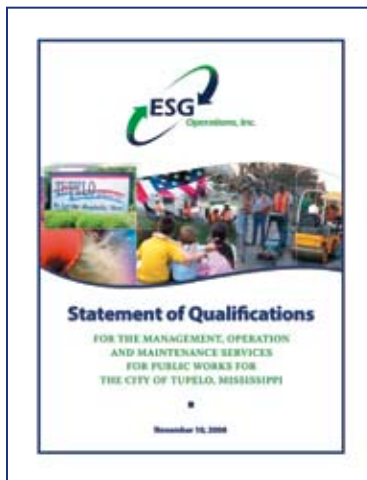


BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT update

Things are very busy on the business development front. ESG is currently pursuing opportunities in Rockdale County, Georgia, Tupelo, Mississippi and Dunwoody, Georgia.

In late October, ESG submitted a proposal to take over operation of Rockdale County's water distribution and wastewater collections system. **Paul Tickerhoof** and **Rob Burton** have worked diligently over the last year to develop this project and position ESG. ESG was the only firm that submitted a proposal. If selected, this project will add 42 additional staff to the ESG Team. ESG is currently working with Rockdale County elected officials and staff on determining the best path forward for this project.

In early November, the City of Tupelo, Mississippi issued a Request for Qualifications for the Management of their Public Works Department. ESG has a long history with the City of Tupelo and is uniquely qualified for this project. All of the hard work that **Chris Holloway and his Team** have put in over the past two years has positioned ESG to expand our scope there. We submitted our Statement of Qualifications to the City and are currently working with them on scheduling information sessions with members of the Tupelo City Council.



Also in early November, ESG began talks with the City of Dunwoody regarding their desire to outsource the Public Works Department of their newly incorporated City. This is a unique project since it is a brand new city with no employees nor equipment. ESG quickly assembled a team of local engineers and contractors to bid on the scope of work. The City wants to have the new contractor on board by December 1, so this will be a quick start-up if selected.



human resources

Be on the Lookout for Your Employee Benefit Survey

In early February 2009 ESG associates will be receiving an Employee Benefit Survey. Every spring we review our employee benefits—specifically our medical plan before the open enrollment of June 1.

In order for us to properly evaluate this plan, as well as other employee benefits, we would like for you to complete the survey. Your feedback regarding our current benefit plan is very important to this process. When you receive your survey, please take time to complete the information and share your thoughts with us.

Vision Eye Care Benefit with Ameritas

If you currently have dental coverage with Ameritas, please remember this also includes a \$150 vision benefit. Simply send in your eye care receipts along with your claim form and Ameritas will reimburse you up to \$150, less a \$25 deductible.



Your Corporate Administrative Services and Human Resources Team

Connie Skinner, HR Coordinator
(Vidalia)

Debbie Linton, Administrative Services
and HR Director • Corporate

Christina Settles, Office Assistant
Corporate

CAUTION

Planning for Safety

Most have heard the old saying “haste makes waste”—when you are talking about safety though, “haste makes injuries”. One can most certainly take the “haste makes injuries” philosophy to a much higher level when performing a multi-crane pick of tens of thousands of pounds of steel coupled with the potential for explosive methane gas. The team at **ESG/Perry** recognized the potential for encountering multiple serious safety issues when planning the removal of a floating digester cover. Rather than rushing in, the team chose to methodically and systematically identify and isolate each hazard identified. Several weeks of planning came together on October 30, 2008, when the team successfully removed a floating lid from the site anaerobic digester in preparation for conversion to an aerobic digestion process. The digester lid lift had a multitude of unknown factors which ESG had to account for—the first being the weight of the digester lid. ESG worked directly with steel weight experts from the crane company in estimating the lid’s weight. ESG and the crane company both recognized that with limited information, an accurate estimate was virtually impossible and chose to build a safety factor into the lift utilizing two cranes for the lid pick vs. a single large crane. ESG conducted and documented a thorough Job Safety Analysis (JSA) taking into account the potential for a flammable atmosphere, unknown weight, area safety, underground and overhead utilities, etc. A review of the Job Safety Analysis (JSA) as well as a contractor safety review per the Process Safety Management Plan was conducted prior to beginning rigging, crane setting, etc. The attention to safety and careful planning resulted in the successful removal of a 50-foot diameter digester lid weighing approximately 85,800 pounds from the site digester without incident.

Special thanks to Sharon Kelly, Larry Yockachonis, Chad McMurrian, Jay Whitten, Antwann Fann, Thomas Sutton and TJ Yockachonis, Richard Adams and Cleve Fleming for a job well done.



Digester Lid Removal in Perry, Georgia. The careful attention to safety and meticulous planning enabled the ESG/Perry Team to remove this 50-foot diameter digester lid which weighed approximately 85,800 pounds without incident!

Employee safety is one of ESG’s core values.

We will never knowingly risk the safety of any employee.

There is no task, role nor individual above safety. Employee safety is always paramount.

Project News and Recent Highlights

WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Wakulla County—A Wonderful Place to Be...

The Wakulla Team has been hard at work this year with many exciting accomplishments.

Mashes Sands Canal—Dredged to reopen the waterways for boats.

Indigent burials—ESG/Public Works assisted in burial preparation by preparing the grave sites for indigent citizens of Wakulla County.

Grant Received for Road Resurfacing—Wakulla County received a SCOP Grant for resurfacing the two major roads in Wakulla County—Spring Creek Highway and Jack Crum Road

Wakulla Aaron Road—The paving of this road was completed in February 2008, from Ivan Church to Spring Creek Highway. This has made it easier for citizens to get to the elementary and middle schools.

Amnesty Day a Huge Success

Amnesty Day was held on October 18, 2008. We had a great turnout this year! Over 339 vehicles passed through ESG's parking lot to drop off hazardous waste items such as tires, paint, electronic equipment, pesticides and unknown liquids which would otherwise be dumped in our landfill.

Tropical Storm Fay

We experienced the first tropical storm of the year on August 22, 2008. No major damage was reported in the County other than flooded roads and downed trees. The Road and Bridge Department did a wonderful job in maintaining the roads throughout the entire storm and in the weeks following Tropical Storm Fay. ESG is currently working with FEMA in gathering all the statistics of damages, costs, employee participation and assessments contributed by the storm in order to receive reimbursement to the County and ESG.

Upcoming Projects in Wakulla County

- Pave Old Shell Road and Lawhon Mill Road
- Upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Totally repair Lift Station #3 on Surf Road in order that Mike Rose can get some sleep at night!
- New scale and transfer station at the Landfill
- Accident, incident and OSHA training is coming up



Wakulla
County

Wakulla County Family News

This year we welcomed 8 new employees to the ESG/Wakulla Team:

- **Brent Pell** • Project Engineer
- **Neil Watts** • Fleet Supervisor
- **Edwin (E.J.) Porter** • Wastewater
- **Jared Harvey** • Grader Operator
- **John Timbes** • Road and Bridge Equipment Operator
- **George Trice** • Landfill Operator
- **Dave Hilliard** • Mechanic
- **Cheryl Swift** • Administrative Assistant

New Births

Todd, Elizabeth and Alex Baldwin welcomed the birth of a little baby boy, "R.C." born in May.

Nannette and Neil Watts announced the birth of their grandson, *Tucker O'Neil*, born in June.

Bo Howard is also a proud new grandfather! His granddaughter, *Olivia Williams*, was born in September. Bo has been an employee with Wakulla Public Works for 35 years.

The hunt is on...

Bubba Dempsey's ten year old son, Jacob, killed his first deer with a bow and muzzle loader! Congratulations, Jacob!

Project News and Recent Highlights

VIDALIA, GEORGIA

What a Year for the ESG/Vidalia Team!

On June 1, 2008, ESG celebrated five years in partnership with the City of Vidalia, Georgia—and what a year it's been for the ESG/Vidalia Team! As you can read in our cover story, this project recently received the highest United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Award for Operations and Maintenance Excellence. This recognition would not have been possible if not for the team effort on the part of everyone at ESG/Vidalia. Hours and hours of hard work made this award a reality—and again, we congratulate Team Vidalia for a job well-done!

Other Exciting News from Team Vidalia

Kenny Bryant was promoted to Meter Reading Supervisor.

ESG/Vidalia celebrated a five year anniversary with the City of Vidalia. Five year employees include: **Robbie Akins, Phillip Davis, Mark Durden, Frank Landrum, Andy Peterson, Paul Pratt, Spencer Ricks** and **Connie Skinner**.

Spencer Ricks obtained his Class I Wastewater License.

...and the Southside WWTP received the GAWP Plant of the Year, the EPA Region 4 Operations and Excellence Award, and the EPA National Operations and Excellence Award.

Wow! Congratulations ESG/Vidalia!



ESG/Vidalia awarded Plant of the Year. Pictured left to right: Spencer Ricks, Mia Sager, Philip Davis, Frank Landrum and Mark Durden.

WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

Team Waycross Experiences Significant Accomplishments

ESG/Waycross has had a very busy year in 2008, and here are just a few of the significant accomplishments they are most proud of this year:

- Exterior waterplant refurbishing completed.
- Interior water plant remodeling in progress.
- Scott Murphy graduated from his Leadership Waycross program.
- Completing ISO upgrades for the Fire Department to complement the city's rating
- Solved Tupelo's zinc problem. Designed and delivered a skid mounted chemical feed system system.
- Hosted two employee cookouts
- The Waycross Lab was recertified through a state program. Finished in highest percentile for accuracy.
- Maintained perfect compliance record for water and wastewater.
- Completed special provisions for new coastal regional drinking water permits.

and in other news...

- Kelly Bryson attended his Class 3 wastewater training.
- James Grobsmith had ANOTHER baby—this time it's a girl!

Project News and Recent Highlights

OPELIKA, ALABAMA

Team Opelika

Public Works

Project Director Mike Hilyer and the ESG/Opelika Team continue to make a tremendous impact on the City of Opelika. This year the Building Maintenance

Department had the pleasure of refurbishing the Rosemere House which was built in 1916. ESG associates pressure washed the siding, and removed old chipped paint and rotten wood siding. Once the siding was removed, they noticed that the sills were rotten on one entire side of the house. The old home was within months of falling in. The work team continued to replace the rotten sills, floor joist and wall studs wherever necessary. Once all the

rotten wood was repaired, the team began installing the wood siding. All the bare wood was primed and painted with two coats of fresh paint. All the brick columns were painted and new windows were built in the house after the existing plywood was removed. The overall job turned out very well and, thankfully, no one was injured when the house was jacked up to replace the sills and the floor joist. **Tim, Walter, Calvin** and **Anthony** all worked on this project at different times throughout the process.

Another project that was undertaken this year was the remodeling of City Hall. Though Team Opelika was not completely responsible for the remodeling job, they were in charge of cleaning and painting the ceiling grid on the entire first floor. Then they installed approximately 6,000 square feet of ceiling tiles throughout this floor and installed decorative tile in the newly-remolded Conference Room and the front foyer leading to the

Council Chambers. Team Opelika installed the door hardware and new cabinet hardware on the cabinets in the Conference Room. **Tim, Walter, Anthony, Jimmy** and **Calvin** worked on this project together. Opelika City officials are very pleased with the remodeling job and expressed appreciation to Team Opelika for their help and expertise.

In early October the **ESG Barbecue Team** rolled into Opelika and treated Team Opelika to a delicious barbecue lunch with all the trimmings. A great time was had by all!



Project News and Recent Highlights

More News from Team Opelika

Wastewater Treatment and Collections

The **Wastewater Treatment and Collections Department** has been busy this year handling customer calls, making sewer taps, cutting sewer right-of-ways, facilitating line locations, meeting effluent discharge limits, and preventive maintenance at all lift stations. The **Maintenance Department** for WWFT has done an outstanding job removing both return screws and replacing them with submersible pumps. The **Collections Department** has mirrored them with the repair of several force mains. The equipment that we now have has allowed us to handle these jobs in a timely manner.



The direction that we have for the new year is to continue what we have built on thus far. It was a big help for us to start cutting the right-of-ways at the beginning of summer due to the sewer blockages that we were having. We intend to monitor local restaurants to make certain that the owner's are pumping their grease traps on a regular schedule. Doing this should limit the amount of grease that is collected in our sewer system.

Local Citizens Visit the Westside WWTP

ESG encourages all projects to host local citizens to increase community awareness, and recently **Derrick Askew, Wastewater Superintendent**, and his team hosted a group of Opelika citizens. Below, other **Team Opelika associates** hard at work.



projects on the horizon in Opelika

WHAT'S AHEAD

Team Opelika has several exciting projects on the horizon including the Building Maintenance Department has plans to install 5 new HVAC units within the City over the next few months. These new units will replace current units that are 15 to 20 years old. This will cut down on high energy costs, thus saving the City of Opelika valuable dollars. Team Opelika is also planning to remodel the exterior of four concession stands/press boxes at the West Ridge ballpark. This remodeling job will include an overall cleaning of the facilities, along with new paint and new shingles. The greater goal of **Building Maintenance** is to continually complete more and more work orders every month and, yet, still complete the same (if not more) projects within the same time frame.

Welcome New Team Members

ESG/Team Opelika welcomed two new associates to our project this year: **Tim Maranville** and **Anthony Hamby**. We are glad to welcome them to the ESG family!



Project News and Recent Highlights

WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA

David Lewis, Project Director, and the **ESG/Warner Robins Team** have realized several significant goals this year, including:

- Obtaining a 10 year contract (with automatic renewals) for O&M services pertaining to water and wastewater.
- Expanding the number of Wastewater Operator Class I licensed associates by two.
- Greatly reducing unnecessary overtime costs project-wide (by approximately 94%)!
- Cross training one associate from Operations into the Main Lab (this associate will continue to work intermittently in the lab, supplying while other associates are on vacation, sick leave, holiday coverage, etc.).
- Submitted request to Georgia EPD for sludge land application program.
- Consistently met NPDES requirements at both wastewater facilities since April 2008.
- Removal of old aeration equipment from basin internally in preparation of cleaning and equipment replacement. The estimated cost savings to the City of Warner Robins was \$20,000.

Future Project Goals at ESG/Warner Robins...

- Experience zero lost time on accidents project-wide.
- 100% compliance pertaining to water and wastewater departments.
- Meet and exceed projected margin.
- Reduce unnecessary costs, in part or in whole, specifically pertaining to the following line items: vehicle fuel consumption, cell phone usage, chemical consumption, and overtime.
- Provide cross training between the water and wastewater departments—at least two associates alternating annually.
- Continue to provide in-house training and prepare associates for licensing and career advancement.

Family News

Scott Williams from our water department received his Class 3 Water Operator License. **Percy Nolan** from our Wastewater Treatment Department received his Class 1 Wastewater License. **Lance McLendon** from our Wastewater Treatment Department received his Class 1 Wastewater License.



The Water Crew



Land Application
Harold Glover and Spencer Daniely
(pictured above in WW2)



Project Director
David Lewis



Wastewater 2 Staff. Pictured left to right: Lance McLendon, Jennifer Kersey, Herb Streater, Spencer Daniely and Richard Baker.



Left to right: Dee Dee Spann and Cindy Mason (Lab Manager) keep quality at the highest level at ESG/Warner Robins.



Administrative Assistant, Teresa Blazek, keeps all running smoothly at the Warner Robins Project.



Wastewater 1 Staff. Pictured left to right: Daniel Erlich, Perry Nolan, Terry Gray, and Joshua Purvis.



Maintenance Staff. Pictured left to right: Richard Adams (Manager), James Lamb, Syl Causey, and Justin James.
Not pictured: Chris Jones

TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

Snapshots from Tupelo

Tupelo Project Highlights

ESG/Tupelo expands satellite projects; picks up a couple of state parks— Tishmingo State Park and J.P. Coleman State Park, City of Iuka. With the help of **Clay Sykes, Scott Murphy,** and **Jeff Buchanan,** Tupelo solves zinc problem with the addition of new polymer and lime pumping system (see photo at right of new pumping system). ESG/Tupelo renews contract with Pontotoc County, and is working through most of the warranty issues. With the hiring of several new associates, ESG/Tupelo is up to full staff. With assistance from **Darrel West,** ESG/Tupelo updates RMP this year.



Pam Stanley, Operator



Linda Tutor, Lab Technician



Ben Benton, Mechanic



Gerald Hamblin, Mechanic

Upcoming Project Goals

- Working through the rest of the warranty issues.
- Permit renewal for the City of Tupelo.

New ESG/Tupelo Associates

We are glad to welcome **Bobby Hall** (Mechanic), **Eddie Kirk** (MIT) and **Tyler James** (OIT) to the ESG/Tupelo family.

Family Update

Linda Tutor, Lab Tech, became a grandmother for the second time with the birth of her grandson, *Carter*, earlier this year.



New Polymer and Lime Pumping System



Tupelo Clarifier #1



Headworks

Project News and Recent Highlights

PERRY, GEORGIA

A Glimpse at Some ESG/Perry Accomplishments in 2008



◀ ESG/Perry receives WEF Safety Award.

Pictured, left to right:

Randy Engram (Lead Operator/PSTL), **Nicole Ivers**, **Ronnie Jones** (Public Works Director), **Sharon Kelly**, Project Manager, and **Nathan Brooks**.



◀ Repairs were made to the City's largest well which included pulling well motor for preventative maintenance, and replacing several valves that were leaking.

Pictured left to right:

Larry Yockachonis and **Richard Adams**



◀ ESG personnel painted wells, booster station, high service pumps, fluoride feed equipment, laboratory cabinets, and other associated WTP equipment.

Pictured: Kenny Baker, Operator.

Community Involvement is a Priority at our Perry Project

Water Treatment personnel continue to make improvement to the water treatment plants. This includes painting, repairing equipment, and completion of a water study by Constantine Engineering, which includes increasing withdrawal permit limits.

Community Involvement

ESG personnel in Perry recently assisted a Perry High School student with a "Science Fair" project that included a study on Dissolved Oxygen levels in State waters. This included the distribution of technical information, a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, and a laboratory demonstration.

The **Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel** provided a WWTP tour to the City of Perry "Youth Leadership" group from Perry High School.

CONGRATULATIONS

to these ESG Associates for these Outstanding Accomplishments

New Licenses:

- **Chad McMurrian**
Wastewater Operator Class III
- **Mike Gibson**
Collection System Operator
- **Sharon Kelly**
Collection System Operator
- **Kenny Baker**
Water Operator Class III

ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Rockdale County Has Been Under Construction!

Construction is complete at the Quigg Branch WPCP,

on improvements designed to increase the loadings capability of the plant and eliminate septage sludge from entering the treatment process. Several critical improvements have now been made which will eventually eliminate the septage waste from the process stream at Quigg.



Almand Branch Major Maintenance—Effluent Filter Demolition. Pictured, Matt Wilcox (Certified Operator) and Dean Pierce (Equipment Operator).

Construction has also been completed on a new Sludge Holding Tank at Quigg, which has a seven day wasting capacity, versus the current one day capacity for wasted sludge. This will allow us to tailor wasting and pressing operations to suit our needs.

Not to be left out on the Southside of town, we have commenced work on a major maintenance project at Almand Branch WPCP. Rockdale County has sole sourced to us a \$1.3 million dollar upgrade to the facility. Improvements consist of new Influent Screening, replacement of the antiquated Level Control Systems at the plant, replacement of the Chemical Feed Systems, replacement of the mechanisms in two of the Clarifiers with Tow-Bro sludge collectors and NEFCO baffles, replacement of the existing Traveling Bridge Filters with new Disk Filters, maintenance work to the Aeration Basins, replacement of the RAS pumps and installation of new Effluent Step-Aeration. We'll be reporting on the completion of this project in the next issue of *The Clarifier*.

Team Rockdale is excited about the completion of these projects, which will greatly improve our efficiency in operation and maintenance of these facilities.

ESG /Rockdale participated in the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners Block Party at New Haven Subdivision in Rockdale County. ESG personnel



Team Rockdale participated in the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners Block Party at the New Haven subdivision. Pictured, left to right: Rob Burton, Becky Alexander, Dickey Thompkins and Daryl Waits.

grilled and served hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks to over 100 people.

The ESG Rockdale Team, added two new associates this summer, and promoted one employee from part-time to full time status:

- **James Randall**, Georgia Certified Wastewater Operator Class III
- **William Chase**, Operator in Training, who came to us from the Apalachicola Project.
- **Stephen Arrey**, Laboratory Analyst, was promoted from part-time to full time status

Every member of the ESG/Rockdale Team has worked very hard to make this project a success, and the citizens of Rockdale County appreciate this team's dedication to Rockdale County.

ESG Operations, Inc.

A UTILITY
OPERATIONS
AND
PUBLIC WORKS
MANAGEMENT
COMPANY

CORPORATE OFFICE

1815 Satellite Boulevard
Suite 105
Duluth, Georgia 30097
office • 678.475.9212
fax • 678.475.9293

www.esgoperations.com



Your Partner in
Meeting the Demands
of Tomorrow

we would like to know your ideas your **input** is important to us

If you have an idea, story or topic that you would like to see covered in a future issue of *The Clarifier*, then please let us know. Email your ideas and/or thoughts to John Eddlemon at jeddlemon@esginc.net.



Thank you to our Project Managers and Administrative Assistants who submitted project highlights and photographs for this issue. Photographs tell a story and help us get acquainted with each other while also learning about the work being accomplished by ESG associates. We appreciate the time you invest in helping us compile this newsletter each quarter.



“INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT
to A GROUP EFFORT—
THAT *is* WHAT MAKES
A TEAM WORK,
A COMPANY WORK,
A SOCIETY WORK,
A CIVILIZATION WORK.”

VINCE LOMBARDI

■
*Real
leaders
are
ordinary
people
with
extraordinary
determination.*

–Unknown Author

*The difference
between
the
impossible
and the
possible
lies in a
person's
determination.*

–Tommy Lasorda



ESG Operations, Inc. is proudly 100% American owned and operated.