

June 18, 2010

**A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure**

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

**[Delegation Requests FEMA Filing Deadline Extension \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Tennessee's congressional delegation has found some agreement on an issue – extending the deadline to file for flood assistance. The state's nine congressmen and two senators have signed a letter asking FEMA administrators to extend the July 6th deadline by six months. Governor Bredesen has made the same request. Some flood victims are still waiting to see what their insurance will pay, which leaves them in a paperwork limbo. A FEMA deadline extension would give them more time to file their so-called Proof of Loss. Without it, congressmen say thousands of Tennesseans who have valid claims could see them denied.

<http://wpln.org/?p=18662>

**[TDEC Returns to Normal Water Monitoring After May Flooding \(WPLN-Radio Nash\)](#)**

State regulators have returned to normal water quality testing of Tennessee's lakes and rivers after heightened monitoring since the flood. Most bodies of water have returned to pre-flood conditions. May's flooding caused 200 sewage pumping stations to malfunction, along with 70 waste water treatment plants. Many were spewing raw sewage into waterways such as the Cumberland River. There were also thousands of so-called "orphaned containers" floating around – including large propane tanks, oil drums and thousand of smaller gas cans. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation second-in-command Paul Sloan says the same water that caused all the damage also helped water down the contaminates. "Dilution is never the solution, but in a catastrophe like this, you did have an enormous body of water receiving those discharges, and that makes a big difference." TDEC is reporting normal conditions in all areas except downstream on the Cumberland River from Clarksville. There's a sewage treatment plant that is still not fully functional and won't be for several more weeks.

<http://wpln.org/?p=18640>

**[Fema Uses Internet To Reach Public \(Jackson Sun\)](#)**

When the May 1 flood spread across Tennessee, members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency turned to private businesses and social networking sites to spread the word of hope and healing. The agency used Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, Youtube and other social networking sites to inform residents of where to go for immediate help and where to apply for federal disaster aid, rather than relying strictly on television and newspapers to spread the word. Some of the information listed on those sites also directed Web users to government sites for current and correct flood information, said Jeremy Heidt, public information officer for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, which is coordinating the state's recovery efforts.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100617/NEWS01/6170307/1002/FEMA-uses-Internet-to-reach-public>

**[Fema Gets Help With Flood Message \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

Private sector steps up to spread word about aid Innovative modes of communication were used to reach out to those affected by last month's flooding. In addition to newspapers and their websites, Facebook, Twitter and other social networks, emergency management officials said Wednesday that the private sector stepped up in the Volunteer State to help get out the message. "So far, 62,500 people have registered for disaster assistance in Tennessee," Jeremy Heidt, with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, said in a media conference call. "That's a really high number. We think it's a tremendous payoff with the partnerships we've made with the private sector." Leslie Moore, Federal Emergency Management Agency private sector coordinator, said businesses have used their phone trees and e-mail lists to reach their employees and customers with accurate information about topics ranging from mold removal to registering with the Small Business Administration.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100617/NEWS01/6170319/1002/NEWS01/FEMA-gets-help-with-flood-message>

**[Funds For Or Airport Study OK'd \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Chung\)](#)**

The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority on Wednesday voted to move on to the second phase in a feasibility study to build the Oak Ridge General Aviation Airport. The Airport Authority approved the allocation of funds, not to exceed \$295,860 for consultation by the LPA Group for "detailed physical site analysis, programming cost estimates for near-term and long-term developments," and studies for three possible sites for the airport, according to the meeting briefing. LPA is a Columbia, S.C.-based engineering, architectural and planning firm that has done airport projects across the country. Becky Huckaby, Airport Authority spokeswoman, said the Community Resource Organization of East Tennessee approached the Airport Authority to look possible development of an Oak Ridge airport. Bryan White, Airport Authority vice president of engineering, said the second phase of the project will look at the sites more closely, looking at the geotechnical aspects of the land. LPA will "look at what's under the ground to see what's down there,"

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/17/funds-for-or-airport-study-okd/>

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