

July 13, 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.

[Tennessee Wins Award From Area Development Magazine \(Tennessean\)](#)

Tennessee has been given an award for its economic-development efforts by Area Development magazine, which writes about corporate site selection and facility planning. The state is one of this year's winners of the magazine's Silver Shovel Award, presented to states with successful development efforts. "It is an honor to again be recognized by Area Development magazine for our state's success in economic development and creating high-skilled, better-paying jobs for Tennesseans," Gov. Phil Bredesen said. The awards recognize state economic development agencies for job-creation efforts such as infrastructure improvements that attract new employers, as well as investments in expanded facilities. This year's awards are based on projects that were announced during 2009. Tennessee, Indiana and Georgia were Silver Shovel winners for states with populations of 5-10 million.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100712/BUSINESS/100712057/2221/BUSINESS/Tennessee+wins+award+from+Area+Development+magazine>

[Road To Hemlock Solar Plant To Open \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)

A new four-lane road named Solar Way will open on Thursday, a major infrastructure improvement for the \$1.2 billion Hemlock Semiconductor LLC facility under construction in Clarksville. The plant, which will produce polysilicon, a primary building block for the solar energy industry, is scheduled to start production by October 2012. Terry Strange, Hemlock's site manager, Jim Russo, Hemlock's construction project director, and Gerald Nicely, the commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, will dedicate and open the new thoroughfare. Hemlock will also release a construction update on Thursday.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100712/BUSINESS01/100712026/2221/BUSINESS/Road+to+Hemlock+solar+plant+to+open>

Opinion

[State Dam Inspection Law Is Flawed \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

It is illogical that a dam rated one day as high hazard — life threatening if it fails — could be classified as an unregulated farm pond then next. But that is the case for many non-federal high-hazard watershed dams in Tennessee once they become 50 years old. It is time to rewrite Tennessee law regarding dam regulation and safety. Already, there are 67 unregulated high-hazard dams that are not inspected for safety by the state under Tennessee's Safe Dams Program. Under current law, as many as 40 West Tennessee dams could be reclassified as farm ponds in the next five years. Inaction by an unaware, uninformed or neglectful owner of one of these dams could result in major property damage and people being killed in the event of a dam failure. The importance of dam safety was brought to the forefront following the early May torrential rains that dumped as much as 18 inches of rain on parts of West and Middle Tennessee. Some dams failed, others were damaged and nearly all were tested to their limits. This wakeup call and an investigative news story in The Jackson Sun led state Sen. Roy Herron, D-Dresden, to ask that legislation be written to fix the dam regulation flaws in state law. Herron expects the new rules to be introduced in the 2011 session of the General Assembly.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100713/OPINION01/7130304/1014/OPINION/State-dam-inspection-law-is-flawed>

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