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American Council of Engineering Companies Honors Two HRG Projects

Harrisburg, Pa. • The Pennsylvania chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies has honored Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) with two 2010 Diamond Awards: for the Route 944 Underpass of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Harrisburg Authority Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Compliance Plan. The Diamond Awards recognize engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of skill and ingenuity among member firms.

The Route 944 Underpass conveys hikers on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail underneath Route 944 (or Wertzville Road), a busy roadway in suburban Harrisburg that carries approximately 14,000 vehicles per day. This level of traffic had made it the most dangerous crossing of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Pennsylvania, but it also created a challenge for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to improve without unduly impacting the drivers who travel this road daily. Further complicating this challenge was the local topography, which made it virtually impossible to construct a temporary roadway for drivers to use during construction. With the only viable detour stretching more than 20 miles, HRG suggested an innovative approach to construction in which the contractors from Hempt Bros., Inc. would close the road completely and work around the clock for 60 hours to build the structure over a holiday weekend when traffic would be lowest. Thanks to this construction approach and a design that carefully positioned the structure within the existing rock formation to avoid costly and time-consuming excavation, the project was constructed at a savings of 54% from the original project estimate. (View video of the underpass's innovative construction approach on HRG's website at www.hrg-inc.com/project/recreation.asp.)

The Harrisburg Authority Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Compliance Plan is the first example of a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant in Pennsylvania to adopt a plan combining construction with nutrient trading and the first to complete a public bidding for nutrient credits.

In creating the plan, HRG conducted a study of various alternatives in order to determine the most cost-effective approach to meeting nitrogen and phosphorus limits mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. These limits were set by DEP to improve the quality of water in the Chesapeake Bay, which is on the EPA's list of impaired waters.

The study compared the costs of completely relying on the construction of treatment plant upgrades, completely relying on nutrient credit trading, or combining construction and trading to achieve compliance. It found that the combination of construction and trading would be the most cost-effective approach, reducing the capital construction costs by more than 53% and reducing the needed rate increase for the authority's customers by 43%.

ABOUT HERBERT, ROWLAND & GRUBIC, INC.

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) is a full-service civil engineering firm offering expertise in the areas of land development, transportation, water resources, water and energy, environmental compliance, mechanical and electrical engineering, surveying, geographic information systems, and financial consulting. For more information, please visit the web site at www.hrg-inc.com.

ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the preservation and management of the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources associated with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in order to provide primitive outdoor-recreation and educational opportunities for trail visitors. For more information, please visit www.appalachiantrail.org.

ABOUT THE HARRISBURG AUTHORITY

The Harrisburg Authority provides water, wastewater and resource recovery services to customers throughout the City of Harrisburg and surrounding municipalities. It also provides conduit financing for development projects in the public interest. For more information, please visit www.hbgauthority.com.

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