

An official publication of the Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida

Florida **ASPHALT**

Vol. 11 No. 2 Fall 2012



2012 ACAF
**Pavement
Awards**



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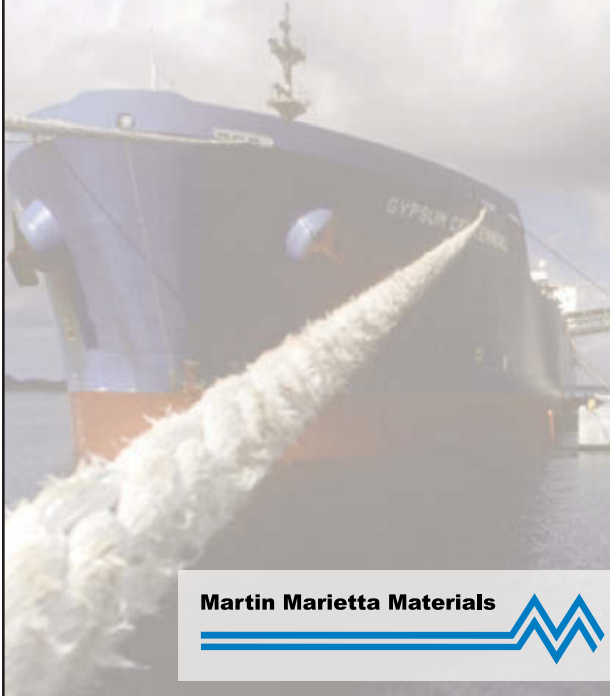
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Looking Forward to Better Days Ahead

Larry Dale, 2011-2013 ACAF President

Here we are near the end of the second quarter of 2012. I was thinking about what to talk about in this message, so I looked back at my previous efforts and it seems that nothing has changed. I guess I could just tell you to refer to my message in the Spring 2012 issue (just kidding)!

I understand how frustrating it is not only for corporate management but for everyone employed in our industry. There is an uncertainty today that didn't exist a few years ago. Back then, funding was available for infrastructure improvements at the federal and state level, and most local governments had sufficient monies for street and roadway improvements. Today that is not the case. Very little funding is available, most local governments have severe budget shortfalls, and commercial and residential development doesn't exist. Consequently, morale is a growing concern in our industry. Completed jobs leave employees wondering when they'll work on their next project—and even if there will be another one.

Florida is the fourth largest state in the U.S., with a population of almost 19 million people. Our roads are generally more heavily traveled than those of other states, ranking third highest in the nation.



Transportation is critical to Florida's economy. Not only does transportation provide construction employment over the short term, over the long term it enables the mobility that boosts economic productivity and competitiveness. Still, the current market stagnates, and we continue to have layoffs. Asphalt plant volumes have dropped to a point where companies have no choice other than to shut down plants and operations in some areas due to lack of work.

Florida should be a state of opportunity for young people who have a desire to begin a career in the transportation construction industry—especially our asphalt industry. Because of our large population and our highly traveled roads, the demand for transportation improvements—new roads, bridges, airports and improvements to existing roads, including widening for more capacity or resurfacing—is continuing to grow.

So while we weather these tough times in our industry, we must prepare for a better tomorrow. Equipment can be purchased, but experience, talent, and well-trained employees are not a commodity we can purchase from a vendor. We must continue with our training programs as we anticipate the need for more quality personnel in the not too distant future.

Federal and state transportation funding is essential to economic growth for Florida, and our nation as a whole. Our industry is dependent on transportation funding. Without it there would be very little to talk about.

Furthermore, we cannot forget the battle we continue to face with the cement industry; we must protect our market.

I would again encourage everyone to be directly involved in ACAF (Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida), FTBA (Florida Transportation Builders' Association), NAPA (National Asphalt Pavement Association), and ARTBA (American Road and Transportation Builders Association). Remind elected officials—local, state, and federal—how the lack of funding is affecting our companies. Jobs are being lost and serious cost-cutting measures are being taken to protect our companies. Many times, email is the simplest and quickest way to voice your opinion.

In the midst of a hurricane, we must turn the ship into the wind in order to survive. So continue doing what we're doing, remain optimistic, persevere, and **look forward to better days ahead.**

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Endeavor to Persevere— and Ever Forward

Jim Warren, ACAF Executive Director

Four years ago there was a presidential candidate preaching hope and change. Well, how did that work out for you and your company? I think that the last four years will go down as one of the darkest times in construction history: severe budget cutbacks, massive layoffs and unemployment, and our gas tax funding source is broken. Are we out of the woods yet? Well, at this writing we have still don't have a highway bill (the old one expired almost three years ago), deficient spending and debt is completely out of control (Congress hasn't passed a budget in three years either), the European Union (EU) has some members in big trouble, and—oh by the way—it's an election year . . . so I'll let you make the call on where we're at.

To quote a modern philosopher, Josey Wales, *"Now remember, when things look bad and it looks like you're not gonna make it, then you gotta get mean. I mean plumb, mad-dog mean. 'Cause if you lose your head and you give up then you neither live nor win. That's just the way it is."* The movie, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, is about a man driven to live, to thrive, to survive—longing for a time that was brutally taken from him.

As usual, you are probably wondering where I am off to again. I am talking about two things: personal responsibility and action. When we see all the mess this world is into, you just want to turn off the TV. Turning off the TV doesn't make it go away. The big question is not, Who's responsible for this mess? WE ALL ARE! We took our hand off the plow, dropped the reins, let someone else take care of it. We gave up our say, and we haven't demanded accountability—and we are seeing the results of our inaction. We have become soft to the fancy,

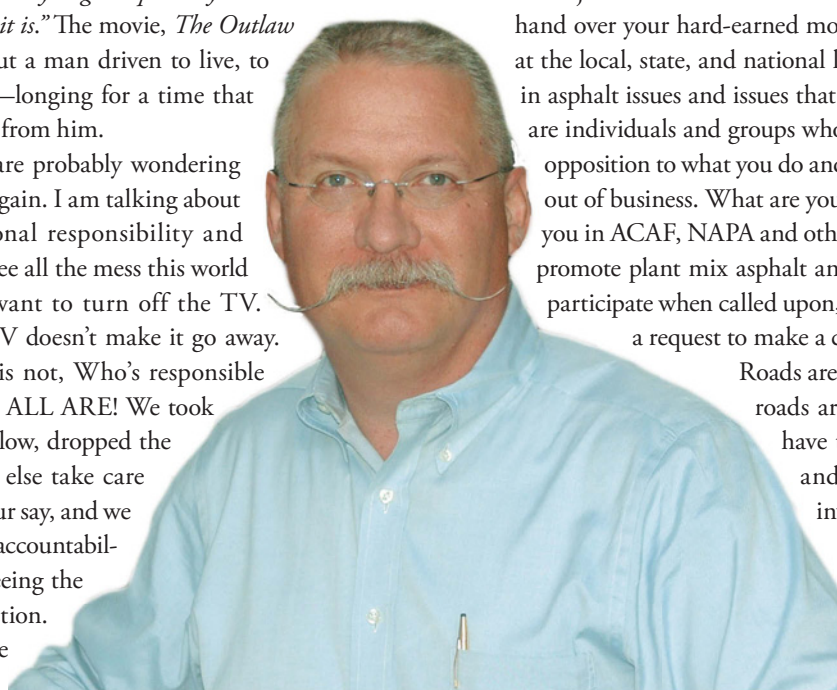
meaningless words of the politician. To quote Granny Hawkins from the same movie: *"I say that big talk's worth doodly-squat."*

The big question now is: What are you going to do about it? Remember, *"Don't give up, don't lose your head, you gotta get mean, plumb mad-dog mean."* Allow me to translate the word "mean" into "active." You need to get active, *passionately active*, in a controlled, borderline aggressive, systematic way (so you don't lose your head). It is time to re-grab the reins and change direction. We still live in a country where you get to vote and your vote counts. You have the ability to lobby for the people you believe can get us out of this mess. Do you have the will? If you elect to do nothing or sit on the sidelines, **it can and will get a lot worse**. If you have children or grandchildren, what kind of world do you want them to be left with after you are gone?

Find someone running for office (local, state, or federal) who agrees with your philosophy of life and get behind that person. Don't just write a check. Demand some accountability before you hand over your hard-earned money. You have to become active at the local, state, and national level, *not just in politics*, but also in asphalt issues and issues that pertain to your business. There are individuals and groups who are working hard every day in opposition to what you do and how you do it—i.e., to put you out of business. What are you doing about it? How active are you in ACAF, NAPA and other associations that are trying to promote plant mix asphalt and responsible funding? Do you participate when called upon, whether it is an email survey or a request to make a call or pay a visit?

Roads are vital to this nation, and asphalt roads are the best value out there. You have the most vested in your future, and we are calling on you to get involved. What say you?

Ever Forward. **A**

A handwritten signature of Jim Warren in black ink, written over a white background.

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Who's on First?

Jim Cordero, ACAF Director of Government Affairs



FOR MORE INFO . . .

For a list of candidates running for Florida federal and state offices, go to:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.shtml>

Your local county supervisor of elections will have additional information on other local offices that may be on the election ballot this year.

For information on the reauthorization of the federal transportation program, go to: www.asphaltpavement.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=492&Itemid=1057

Hopefully by the time you read this article, in our fall magazine, Congress will have enacted a bill to reauthorize the federal highway transportation program and keep it operating through 2013. After numerous extensions that have left state highway programs in great uncertainty and one shutdown that cost \$153 million per day in lost reimbursement payments for highway projects to the states, we should have a short-term program in place. But let me tell you, Washington is a very volatile political environment right now, and there is little expectations that it will get any better. The struggle for who goes to bat and gets to first is brutal. This environment is not advantageous for enacting a “long-term, properly funded program.”

However, in Florida, owing to the early completion of the 2012 legislative session, transportation funding and related issues fared much better than over the past several years. According to the Florida Transportation Commission, since November 2006, transportation revenue has declined by \$8.334 billion (the majority of this is a decline in fuel taxes), and this has resulted in \$11.613 billion in project commitments being deferred or deleted from the Work Program. A total of \$1.466 billion of the \$8.334 billion has been due to legislative sweeps. But this year's session concluded with no funds being deserted from the Transportation Trust Fund. In fact, the current budget directs additional revenue from certain transportation-related fees into the Trust Fund for future years of the Work Program—a commitment of up to \$200 million extra each year. This should provide some growth in work and jobs for our industry and for the Florida economy.

Now you may say this is “good news,” and it is, but today's good news is tomorrow's history footnote, and with the election later this year of a new Congress, a new Florida Legislature and a new president, the cycle will begin all over again. We'll be faced with new leaders and many new members in both the Florida Legislature and the

Florida congressional delegation. As you are all aware, the 2010 census set the stage for the redrawing on of district boundaries and the addition of two new congressional districts, for a total of 27. Many legislators are termed out, meaning that they can no longer run for reelection after eight years in office. Others are seeking election to other elected offices, while some are just retiring back to their private lives and careers.

What this means to our industry is that the knowledge and experience of what transpired during the 2012 Florida legislative session will be lost to many of the new members of the Legislature and Congress. And in a short few more years, most of the members from the 2012 session will no longer be serving at all.

As one congressman recently told me, he doesn't want an inexperienced pilot flying the 747 he's traveling home on. This is why we as an association must remain active not only in the legislative process in Tallahassee and in Washington, but just as importantly in the election process. Find out who is running for office in your area, educate yourself about them and the issues they support (or oppose), and meet with them to ask questions about the things that impact you, your job and your community. You can't rely on a 15-second TV commercial or campaign flyer or even a news story to completely inform you. And if you don't hear a complete or satisfactory answer, ask again. Also, make sure that you (and your family) are registered to vote. You will find voter information on the State Division of Elections website at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting/voting-info.shtml>.

So the real question, after the November election, is, “Will you know who's on first?” **A**

Finally, remember these words of wisdom: “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall hang separately.” — Ben Franklin, 1776, at the signing of Declaration of Independence.

2012

ACAF Pavement Awards

Congratulations to our 2012 ACAF Pavement Award winners. These projects undergo a vigorous rating procedure, and we are pleased to present the results.

ROADS AND STREETS — FDOT CATEGORY

District Winners



District 1: **APAC-Southeast, Inc.**, for their project on SR 555 (US 17) from South of Cypress Gardens Blvd. to South of Havendale Blvd. in Polk County.



District 4: **Ranger Construction, Inc.**, for their project on A-1-A from the Indian Rover/St. Lucie County Line to North of Coquina Lane in Indian River County.



District 5: **DAB Constructors, Inc.**, for their project on SR 35 from the Sumter County Line to CR 42 in Marion County.



STATEWIDE and District 4: **Community Asphalt Corporation** for their project on SR 9 (I-95) North Bound from South of Linton Blvd. to South of Boynton Beach Blvd. in Palm Beach County.

A.P. BOLTON CATEGORY

District Winners



District 2: **Anderson Columbia Co., Inc.**, for their project on SR 100 from the Clay County Line to CR 309 in Putnam County.

RESURFACING — URBAN CATEGORY

District Winners



STATEWIDE and District 2: **APAC-Southeast, Inc.**, for their project on SR 10 (US 90) from Captain Brown Road to NE Yellow Pine Ave. in Madison County.



District 4: **General Asphalt Company** for their project on SR 822 (Sheridan Street) from East of SR 7 to West of SR 9/I-95 in Broward County.

RESURFACING — RURAL CATEGORY

District Winners



District 1: **APAC-Southeast, Inc.**, for their project CR 663 from SR 62 to the Polk County Line in Hardee County.



District 2: **Hubbard Construction Company** for their project beginning at the Duval/Nassau County Line on SR 200 and goes 14.692 miles in Nassau County.



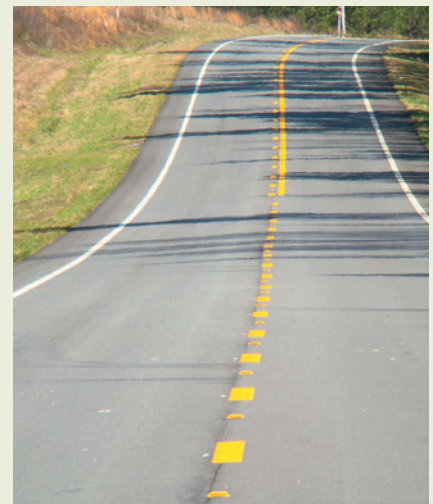
STATEWIDE and District 4: **Dickerson Florida, Inc.**, for their project on SR 76 from West of Loop Road to 6.6 miles West of Bridge Road; 1.3 miles East of SR 710 bridge to 1.3 miles West of SR 710 bridge; Van Buren Ave. to .1 miles west of MLK Blvd. in Martin County.



District 5: **DAB Constructors, Inc.**, for their project on SR 35 from Hernando County line to Main Street and from Main Street to SE 13th Ave. in Sumter County.



District 7: **DAB Constructors, Inc.**, for their project on US 41 from Pine Cabin Road to Ingram Street in Hernando County.



District 3: **Anderson Columbia Co., Inc.**, for their project on SR 2 from West of Spring Branch to East of Cowart's Creek Bridge.

SPECIAL PROJECTS CATEGORY



District 1: **APAC-Southeast, Inc.**, for their project on Bartow Municipal Airport Taxiways A, H, and Apron Edge in Polk County. The scope of work consisted of milling 1.5 to 3 inches of the existing asphalt, cleaning, routing and sealing any asphalt cracks, and placing an asphalt rubber membrane, a new P-401 asphalt surface course and new pavement, with only 93 calendar days to complete the work.



District 2: **Hubbard Construction Company** for their project on the Port of Fernandina in Nassau County. This project involved rehabilitating an existing rail and ship port concrete container yard with asphalt. Hubbard moved in and worked 14-hour days, including Saturday and Sunday, to grind the existing concrete down 4 inches, lay the first lift, or leveling course, apply a geosynthetic interlayer and then a structure course and friction course, using SP 12.5 D 76-22.



District 2: **APAC-Southeast, Inc.**, for their project on Runway 18L-36R in Cecil Field in Duval County. This project consisted of variable-depth asphalt milling, 31,000 tons of asphalt leveling and asphalt overlay (2.5-inch depth), repair of concrete pavement slabs by patching and joint sealing, pavement marking, and repair of storm drainage pipes and inlets.



District 2: **Duval Asphalt Products, Inc.**, for their project on Runway 5-23 at Craig Executive Airport in Duval County. The project consisted of milling and repaving approximately 53,000 square yards of runway with FAA specification P-401 SP superpave, including shoulder reconstruction, reconstructing the blast pad, new runway markings and adjustment of electrical runway lighting.



District 6: **General Asphalt Company** for their project on Miami International Airport Runway 8R-26L in Miami-Dade County. Most of the asphalt work was performed during a 35-consecutive-day closure of the runway. During this phase the existing pavement surface on the runway mainline keel (100-foot width) was milled, the outlying 50-foot sections were milled and texturized, and the entire runway mainline and shoulders was overlaid, with 71,864 tons laid.



ACAF & FDOT 36th Annual Asphalt Conference September 10-11, 2012 Orlando, Florida



We invite you to participate in the **36th Annual Asphalt Conference** scheduled for September 10-12, 2012 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. This year's Conference marks the 36th year that the Asphalt Contractors Association has partnered with the Department of Transportation to host this annual event.

We invite you to participate in Florida's premier Hot Mix Asphalt Industry Conference. **The registration fee is only \$99/person!**

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ACAF 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

August 5-7
SAPA Summer Meeting,
Point Clear, AL

August 9-12
FTBA Annual Convention,
Palm Beach, FL

August 29
FDOT Letting Date

SEPTEMBER

September 10-12
36th Annual Asphalt Conference,
Orlando, FL

September 11-14
ARTBA National Convention,
Washington, DC

September 26
FDOT Letting Date

OCTOBER

October 9
District 4, 6, & Turnpike
Contractors' Meeting
Hosted by D6

October 10
District 1 Contractors' Meeting

October 16
District 5 Contractors' Meeting

October 24
District 3 Contractors' Meeting

October 25
District 2 Contractors' Meeting

October 31
FDOT Letting Date

NOVEMBER

November 7
District 7 Contractors' Meeting

DECEMBER

December 5
FDOT Letting Date

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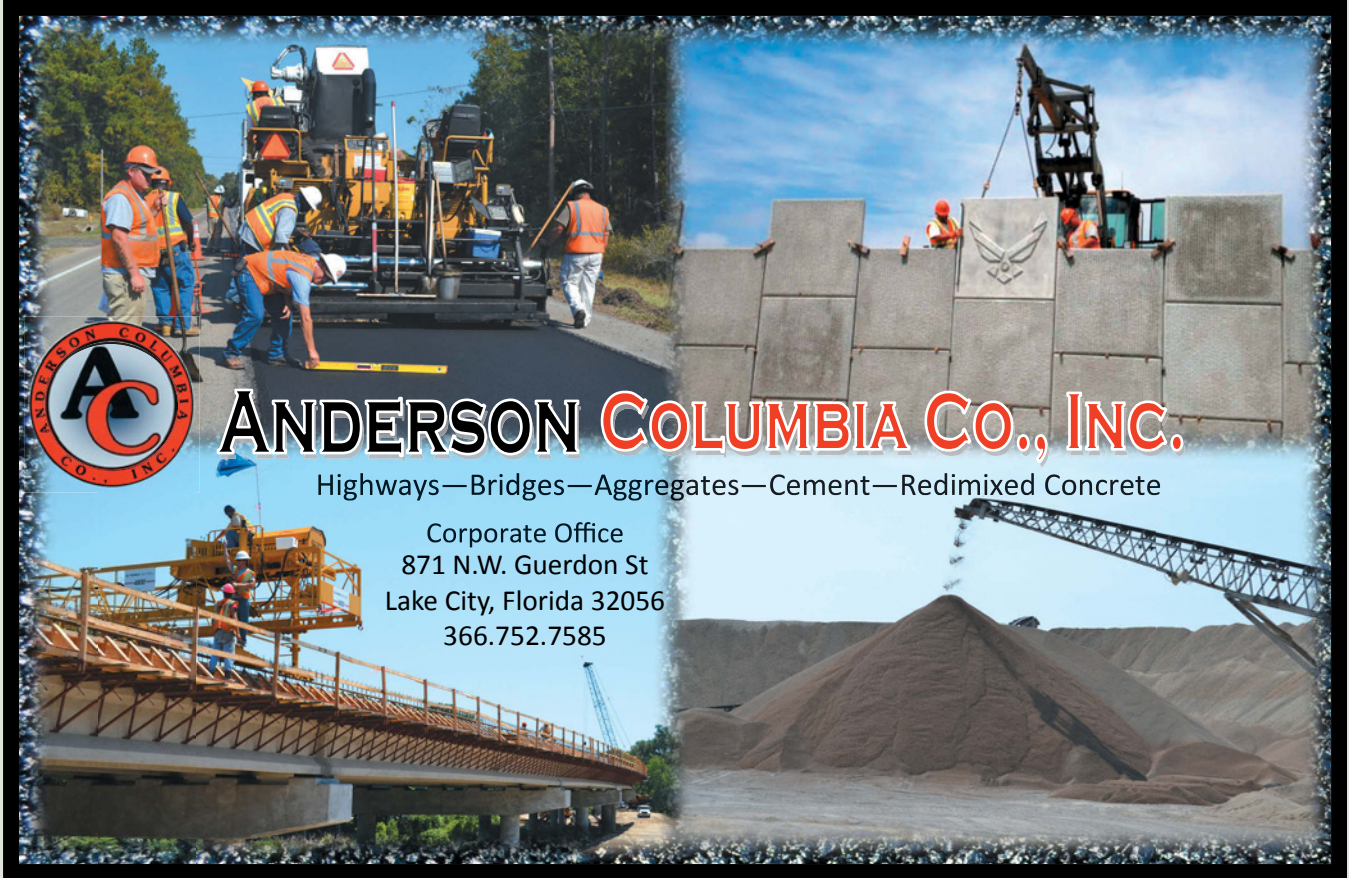
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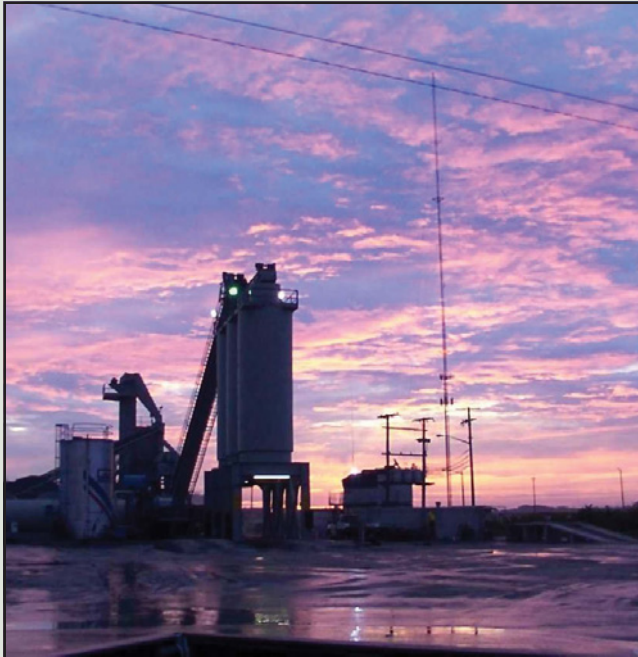
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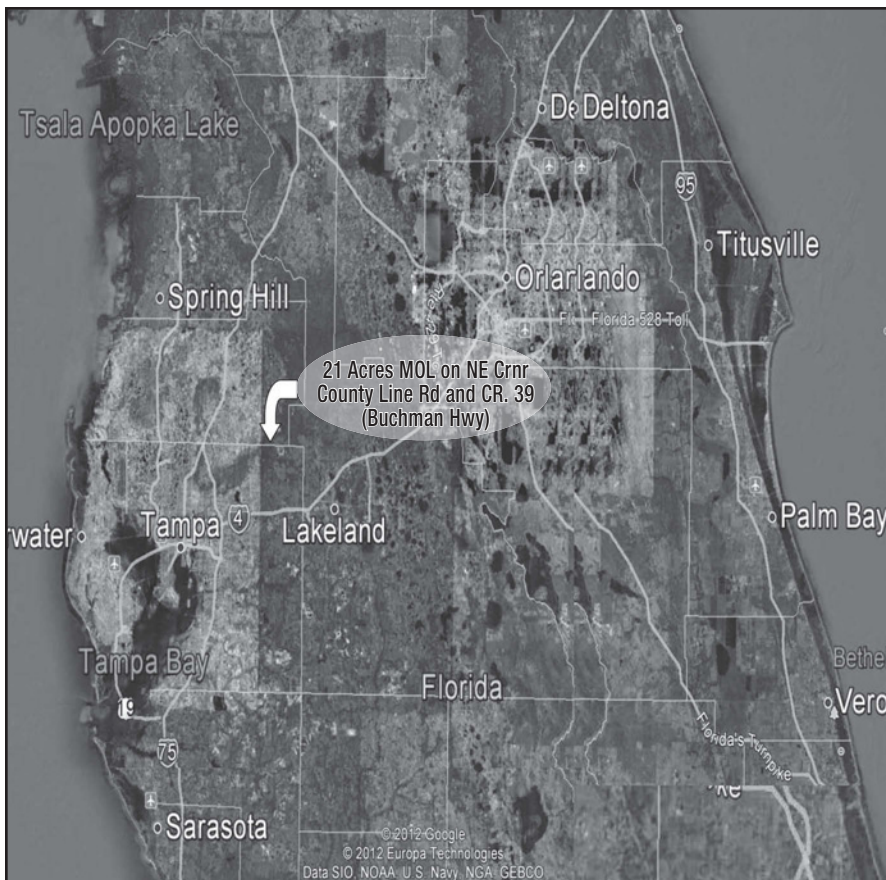
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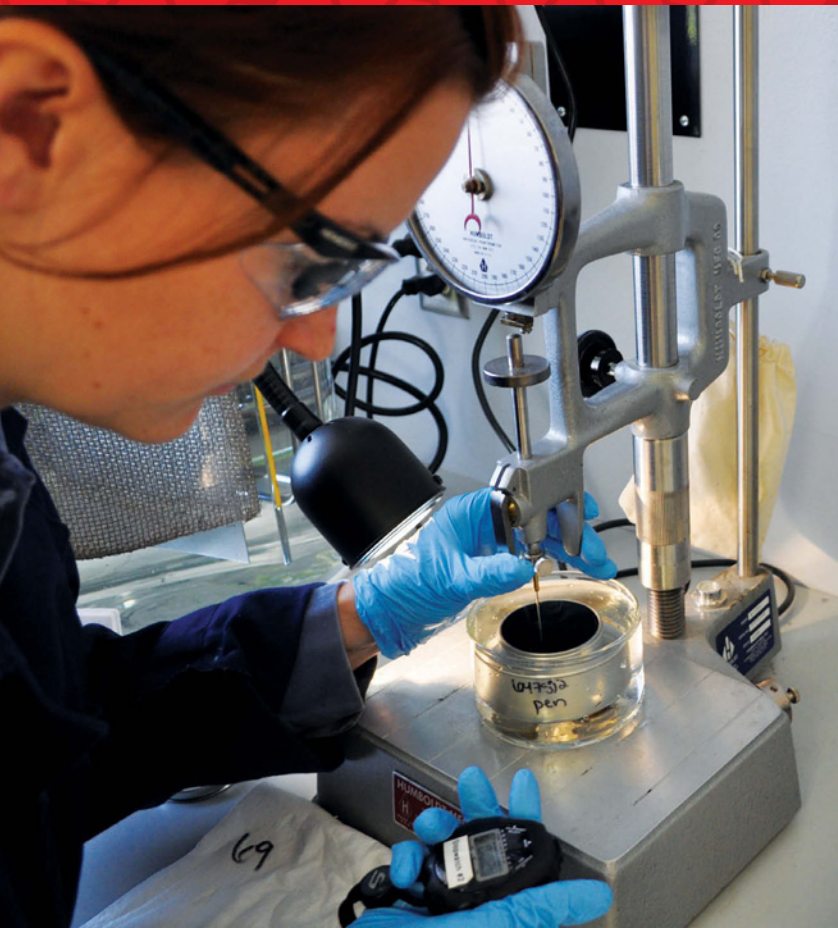
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