

# HIGHLIGHTS and INITIATIVES

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**Projects.** The final version of "Smart Growth for Tennessee Towns and Counties: A Process Guide" is now available on EERC's Web site at <http://eerc.ra.utk.edu/smart.htm>. The guide results from a one-year, WMREI-funded smart-growth study conducted by Research Leader **Mary English**, Research Scientist **Jean Peretz**, and Graduate Research Assistant **Melissa Manderschied**. The guide focuses on the process of developing a local vision and plan for smart growth, discusses tools for smart growth, and identifies smart-growth issues that need further research and analysis. The report can also be purchased from the American Planner's Association, Planner Press, Chicago, Illinois.

**Publications.** **Mary English**, along with Virginia Dale of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, co-edited the newly released *Tools to Aid Environmental Decision Making* (Springer-Verlag New York, Inc., 1999). The editors, together with nationally known experts and contributing authors, identify and describe tools that will not only ease the burden of environmental decision makers, but also focus the debate on important issues, offer useful options, and "narrow the range of disagreement." The volume, an outcome of the National Center for Environmental Decision-Making Research, seeks to bridge the gap between academics and practitioners.

Research Specialist **Kim Davis** co-authored "Reducing Costs of UST [underground storage tank] Site Management Using a Risk-based Corrective Action Strategy," which has been accepted for publication in *ASCE Practice Periodical of Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste Management*, April 1999.

**Workshops.** On March 6, **Kim Davis** led sessions in the biannual "Sharing Adventures in Engineering and Science" (SHADES). This one-day workshop aims to attract 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls to careers in science and engineering by showing them that math, physical sciences, life sciences, and engineering disciplines are fun and interesting. The program is highly interactive, with demonstration-oriented exhibits and presentations on science and engineering topics. Speakers are engineers and scientists from local professional societies, academia, and corporations who want to motivate young girls to pursue careers in science and engineering.

**Davis** also coordinated the National Engineer's Week *Discover "E"* program for the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE). During February and March, engineers visited Knox County middle schools to engage students in hands-on discovery of technology, science, and mathematics.

**International News.** The EERC frequently hosts international visitors who come to learn more about how environmental protection is carried out in the United States and the approaches that EERC researchers take to environmental analysis. Over the past quarter, for example, we have hosted Katalin Szili, deputy speaker, Hungarian National Assembly, Hungary; Fernando Ballester, chairman of the board of directors and CEO of a private agricultural product firm in Madrid, Spain; Pere Riera, vice rector of environmental studies Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; and Itaru Yausi, professor and director of the Center for Collaborative Research, University of Tokyo, Japan.