

News in Brief Across The Valley

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named the Yellow Bank Creek Watershed Plan in Alabama and the Crab Orchard Watershed Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Plan in Tennessee as two of the six best such plans in the nation. TVA staffs from the Pickwick-Wheeler and Watts Bar-Clinch Watershed teams were instrumental in working with their partners in the production of these plans. Beginning in fiscal year 2003, EPA began requiring all watershed projects funded under Section 319 of the Clean water Act to be supported by a watershed plan, which includes nine essential elements. Last fall, in an effort to assess national progress toward implementing these essential elements in meeting water-quality standards, EPA's regional offices were asked to submit the "best" recent examples of watershed plans from the field. A total of 44 plans were submitted, with 30 being analyzed for adherence to the nine essential elements.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its Energy Star program want to recognize architects for designing energy efficient buildings.

The Energy Star Challenge invites architects to submit designs for projects that reach Energy Star energy efficiency targets by March 2, 2007. yet-to-be built projects can earn EPA's "Designed to earn the Energy Star" designation.

In promoting its challenge, Energy Star commends the AIA for its commitment to reducing fossil fuel consumption of buildings by 50 percent by 2010. The EPA uses the performance goal as one of the targets architects can select to demonstrate they are improving energy performance in their buildings. The agency says it will provide special recognition to projects that meet their energy objectives.

"Taking the Energy Star Challenge is a great way for architects to design more sustainably and receive much-deserved recognition," stated EPA Commercial New Construction Manager Karen Butler.