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## Media Advisory

September 14, 2010

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*Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid will help launch \$10.7 million dollar project*

## Groundbreaking Set for New Federal Office and Laboratory Facility in Columbia

The U.S. Geological Survey's Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC) will break ground on a new, state-of-the-art, office and laboratory facility in Columbia at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 17. The 23,800 square foot facility will be built at 4200 New Haven Road. Aquatic research facilities on the Center grounds will also be renovated as part of the one-year construction project.

Total project cost is estimated to be \$10.7 million dollars, funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Design and construction activities are anticipated to employ more than 100 Missourians. Estimates show that the new facility will result in an overall savings of \$200,000 in annual maintenance costs.

**WHAT:** Groundbreaking ceremony for new office and laboratory facility in Columbia

**WHO:** Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid, Columbia City Manager Bill Watkins, USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball, Congressional office representatives, and other officials.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 17, 2010 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center, 4200 New Haven Road in Columbia

**DIRECTIONS:** From Interstate-70, take Missouri Highway 63 South; turn left (east) on AC/Grindstone Prkwy/New Haven Road. The USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center is approximately ½ mile east of Highway 63.

The research program at CERC is recognized for its expertise in aquatic environmental toxicology and chemistry, endangered species, invasive species, and large river ecology. CERC conducts research in nearly every state in the U.S. as well as a number of territories and foreign countries. Through these connections and partnerships, CERC plays a critical role in defining U.S. aquatic environmental issues and brings national and international recognition to Columbia.

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