



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Columbia Environmental Research Center
4200 New Haven Road
Columbia, Missouri 65201

September 1, 2010

Dear CERC Colleagues:

The U.S. Geological Survey's Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC) is pleased to announce that on September 17 construction will start on a new, state-of-the-art office and laboratory facility in Columbia, Missouri. 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 and funding for the effort will be provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Design and construction activities are anticipated to employ more than 100 Missourians. The new building, approximately 22,800 square feet in size, will enhance and improve research conducted at the Center. Estimates show that the new facility will result in an overall savings of \$200,000 in annual maintenance costs.

A groundbreaking ceremony is planned to kick-off the construction of the new facility, and we cordially invite you to this special event. The ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m., and to occur at CERC, which is located at 4200 New Haven Road, in Columbia. Marcia K. Nelson, CERC Office of Outreach, is coordinating the event agenda. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience; contact Marcia at mknelson@usgs.gov or 573-876-1875. For more information about CERC and a detailed view of the Center's research activities, visit us online at <http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/>.

We are indeed fortunate that ARRA and the U.S. Department of the Interior chose to invest in the Columbia Environmental Research Center. This new construction project and related renovation efforts will greatly improve existing research facilities, increase efficiency, and increase scientific productivity. It will be a unique addition to the Columbia community and the State of Missouri.

We hope that you will be able to join us for our groundbreaking celebration.

Sincerely,

Rip S. Shively
Director
Columbia Environmental Research Center
U.S. Geological Survey