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# THIS ISSUE

This month, in addition to our annual Haulage and Loading preview, Coal Age focuses on coal preparation. This includes a detailed overview of the Coal Prep 2015 show beginning April 27 in Lexington, Kentucky. On the cover is an exterior photo of Arch Coal's Leer preparation plant in northern West Virginia, the subject of an extensive technical profile that begins on page 29.

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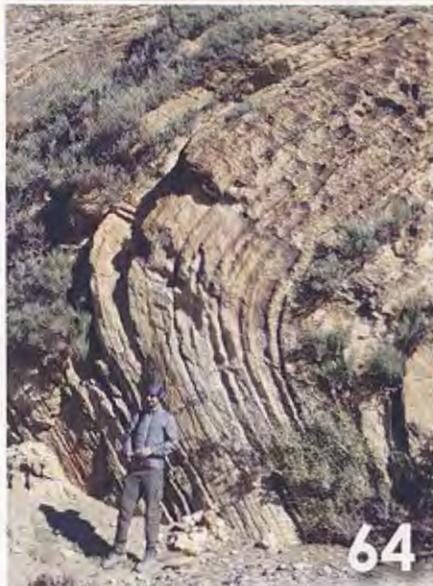


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This month E&MJ reports on advancements in exploration. With limited funds, prospectors have had to find new ways to explore for mineral deposits. On the cover, a prospector trams a heli-portable RAB drill up a steep slope through the bush. (Photo courtesy of GroundTruth Exploration)

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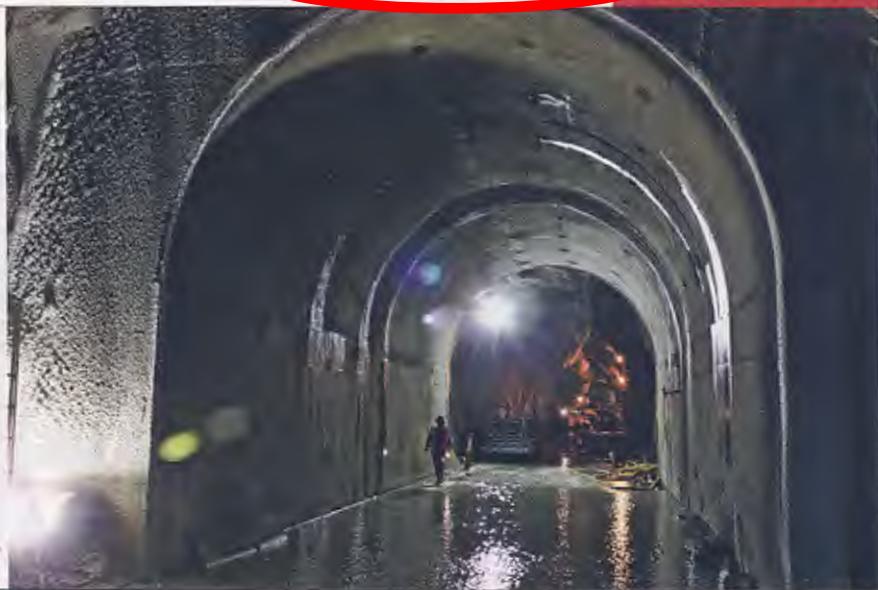
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Cover photo and right courtesy of Southern Nevada Water Authority



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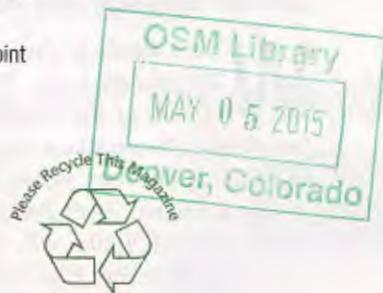
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- May 11 Top 500 Design Firms
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- May 25 Top 400 Contractors

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## SPECIAL REPORT

## THE TOP 500 DESIGN FIRMS

**49** In 2014, large design firms grew as industry consolidation accelerated, but midsize designers seemed to be holding their own. However, many firms, large and small, worry about the impact of depressed oil prices and where funding will come from for desperately needed infrastructure.

Cover illustration by Arunas Kacinskis; photo (right) courtesy of A. Morton Thomas & Associates.

**BRIDGING THE GAP** A. Morton Thomas & Associates is providing highway design and construction engineering on the U.S. Route 460 Connector Bridge in southern Virginia, set to be completed in June.



It's Safety Week! Pages 7, 10, 12 and 17

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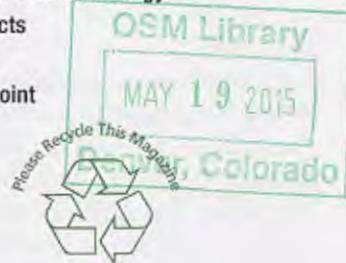
- 24 Obituary:** Fred Berger, 67, championed global issues for firm and sector
- 27 Obituaries:** Albert Grant, 88, led ASCE sustainability; Martin Grunley, 98, started Washington, D.C., builder; Jim Smith, 74, advanced Texas A&M University construction program

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## 65th Annual Meeting of ICCP and 30th Annual Meeting of TSOP

edited by

Magdalena Misz-Kennan

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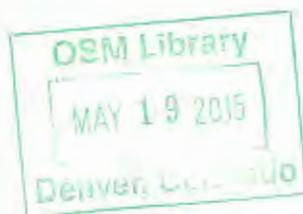
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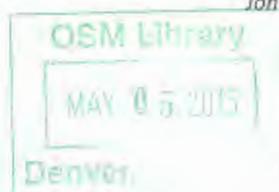
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