



Bruce Colvin's job transcends rail project

VIENNA, VIRGINIA

Bruce Colvin, winner of Bechtel's ES&H Professional of the Year award, is environmental manager for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail project — but his work and interests have taken him far beyond the narrow transportation corridor of the Washington, D.C.-area's Metrorail system. Judges selected Colvin not only for his efforts at the project but also for his willingness to assist other Bechtel projects with specific environmental challenges, and for his contributions to his profession, in which he is widely recognized and consulted as an expert.

Multiple challenges

Until late 2007, Colvin was the only Bechtel environmental professional assigned to the Dulles project, says Project Director **George Morschauer**. "As such, he worked extremely hard to ensure that our project management team remained apprised of the environmental issues affecting the project's bidding, scope, design, and construction." Colvin also developed the permitting plan for the multibillion-dollar design-build effort, which involves coordination with many landowners and regulatory jurisdictions and dust, noise, and erosion control, as well as traffic and storm-water management and other environmental challenges.

Before joining the Dulles team, Colvin was environmental manager on the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit (SNJLRT) project. He continued to support post-project arbitration at SNJLRT after joining the Dulles project. His detailed project knowledge regarding upfront permitting, design,

and field execution helped Bechtel present its case with respect to environmental issues, says **Pete McMahon**, project manager during SNJLRT's closeout. "The project encompassed protecting historical structures and districts and conducting several archaeological investigations, including one of a 200-year-old sunken vessel within the project alignment," McMahon says. "Bruce worked to protect the environmental resources while keeping project activities moving and complying with all the permits and regulations."

Crossing GBUs

Even while working on both projects, Colvin helped formulate an environmental management plan for the Romanian motorway project and mentored project employees at the start of the Fjarðaál aluminum smelter project in Iceland. "In these temporary support roles, Bruce has been instrumental in keeping project teams focused on the environmental complexity and risks that accompany any major construction project," says ES&H Manager **Kevin Berg**. "He has an outstanding ability to simplify the complexity of environmental issues so that designers, construction employees, and subcontractors can more easily comply with the requirements. And above all else, he cares passionately about our environment and people."

Widely known expert

Colvin has been with Bechtel for nearly 20 years, having started his career managing environmental programs at the Boston Central Artery/Tunnel project, and he's widely recognized as an expert on ecological issues, especially rodent

behavior and control, invasive species, raptor conservation, and wetlands.

"I've been interested in science and wildlife since I was a kid," Colvin says. "I can remember at the age of five or six looking at display cases of stuffed birds in the public library, learning about wildlife, and starting to explore ponds, woodlands, and marshes. As a teenager, I spent summers at a Scout reservation in New Hampshire, where I became nature director. By the time I had my Ph.D. in biology, I was studying and advising on environmental issues with global impact."

Colvin recently headed a team of scientists looking into the effects and mitigation of the invasive brown tree snake on South Pacific islands. His background in that area led BSII's M&BD team to rely on him as a technical expert on a recent proposal for a project in Guam.

He frequently speaks on environmental management at professional seminars and has appeared on U.S. cable television on the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet and on the History Channel, to discuss owls and public health concerns related to rodents. In addition, Colvin has been a frequent adviser and contributor to environmental journals, technical panels, and other forums on rodent control, wildlife protection, and public health worldwide. He was an adviser to the Chinese Ministry of Archaeology on environmental management at the country's cultural resource sites, including the Dalai Lama's palace in Tibet.