Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference to be held in Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME), the Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference (RETC) is the renowned international forum for the exchange and dissemination of developments and advances in underground construction. The conference will be held June 23-26, 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park. Nearly 1600 registrants and 159 exhibitors will be attending the conference from around the world to showcase the latest innovations in equipment and advancing technologies. There will also be a special field trip to the Blue Plains advanced wastewater treatment plant to tour the $305 million 24,000-foot-long, 26-foot-diameter combined sewer overflow tunnel project.

“RETC is known for timely, quality programming,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “Issues covered in the program provide innovative solutions to the unique challenges associated with the tunneling and underground construction industries.”

Program topics include microtunneling and trenchless tunneling, East Coast projects, large span tunnels and caverns, and tunnel rehabilitation. In addition to the technical programs, RETC will award nine scholarships, and the Underground Construction Association of SME will award an additional three scholarships, to promising college students who desire to develop their skills in the tunneling industry.

Special keynote speaker at the welcoming luncheon Monday, June 24, is Greg Nadeau, Deputy Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Since becoming the 19th Deputy Administrator, Mr. Nadeau has focused significant attention on spearheading the development and administration of Every Day Counts, FHWA’s innovation initiative that is designed to address shortening project delivery time and accelerate the rapid deployment of innovative technology using a state-based model.

The RETC advances the engineering and scientific knowledge of rapid underground excavation and tunneling through interdisciplinary meetings, publications, technical-educational exhibitions and encouragement of research. It also provides innovative solutions to the unique engineering challenges associated with the tunneling industry.

SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 15,000 members represent all professions serving the minerals industry in more than 100 countries. SME members are engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

For more information, contact John Hayden, Deputy Executive Director - Public Affairs and Government Relations, (303) 948-4250 or hayden@smenet.org

SME exists to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community.
For further details see www.smenet.org.