



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Spalding DeDecker Associates Announces Surveying  
Honorable Conceptor Award**

**Detroit, (Feb. 26, 2007)** – Spalding DeDecker Associates (SDA), a Detroit-based civil engineering firm, received a Surveying Honorable Conceptor award for their work on the Maumee River East Side Watermain Phase II Project. The award was presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) and the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) at their annual banquet.

“The East Side Watermain project was a challenge that required precision and innovative thinking. We were able to efficiently use a technology that was popular in the 1960’s, the Gyrocompass, to most effectively complete the job,” said Catherine DeDecker, vice president of Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc. “Even though new surveying technology like GPS and Robotic instruments may improve efficiency and productivity, sometimes the old technology can not be beat.”

SDA’s surveyors were responsible for ensuring that the tunnel under construction would connect with an existing construction shaft on the far side of the river. The location and scope of the project introduced a number of constraints on typical surveying tools. Digging below the riverbed, lack of sight line to satellites and not enough area underground to effectively back-sight the tunnel all rendered other choices

such as GPS, ground probes, transits and theodolites useless. Using the gyrocompass, SDA's surveyors were able to ensure that the work proceeded correctly and on schedule.

Jim Bilicki of Ric-Man Construction, Inc., the general contractor, commended SDA for their work. "They hit the exit shaft dead center, perfect line and grade. Congratulations! You guys (SDA) did a great job getting across that river," commented Bilicki.

The tunnel provides safe and reliable water service to the City of Toledo and the surrounding communities for current use and future growth. The new watermain will provide increased water pressures in the southern and western portions of Toledo's distribution system, strengthen the eastern portion of the system, increase the reliability of the system by providing an additional river crossing, and increase the overall efficiency of the system by reducing system pressure losses.

SDA's project is now eligible for the national ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Gala Evening held May 8, 2007 in Washington, D.C. During the EEA black-tie event all national finalists are recognized and the top 24 winning projects are highlighted.

Established in 1954, Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc. is an engineering consulting firm specializing in infrastructure, land development and surveying. With offices in Detroit, Rochester Hills and Trenton, Michigan, SDA is an employee owned and ISO certified organization that provides design and engineering solutions for municipal, land development, transportation and water/wastewater projects. The firm also offers complete construction engineering and land surveying & mapping services.

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