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FME PRESENTED ACEC-SC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Columbia, SC (February 8, 2017) – On February 7, 2017, F&ME Consultants, Inc. (FME) received an ACEC-SC Engineering Excellence Award for its work on the SC 171 Replacement Bridges over Folly Creek and Folly River in Charleston County, South Carolina. FME was one of the highest scoring entrants and was qualified to enter the ACEC national competition.

Engineering Excellence, sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina (ACEC-SC), recognizes engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. The projects are judged on original or innovative application of new or existing techniques; future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public; social, economic, and sustainable design considerations; complexity; and exceeding owner/client needs.

ACEC-SC recognized FME's pile-supported embankment design used on the off-alignment replacement bridges on SC 171 over Folly Creek and Folly River. Faced with the challenge of soil liquefaction at the project sites, the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) as-bid construction documents required deep soil mixing under the four bridge approach embankments to improve the project areas' soils. However, because this is a specialized process installed by only a small number of contractors, competition was limited and the project bids came in higher than expected.

After SCDOT selected Cape Romain Contractors to construct the project, FME was hired to develop an alternative to the as-bid costly deep soil mixing method. As a value engineering effort with Cape Romain, FME designed a pile-supported embankment that consisted of a reinforced concrete slab founded on steel H-piles with vertical side walls. Local soil and stone were then used to form the embankment on top of the slab. FME's innovative value engineering design resulted in \$1.6 million in cost savings.



About F&ME Consultants, Inc.

F&ME Consultants, Inc. is a South Carolina based engineering firm established in 1980 with offices in Columbia, Beaufort, and Charlotte. F&ME specializes in geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, materials testing, and construction services. For more information, visit www.fmeconsultants.com.

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