

6.2.2

Using GIS to Analyze Arkansas Highways within the Natural Gas Drilling Area

Presenter

Sharon Hawkins

Section Head - Mapping and Graphics
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Dept.
sharon.hawkins@arkansashighways.com

Co-Presenter

Since 2006, north central Arkansas area has been affected by the nature gas drilling activities. Approximately 1,338 miles of State Highways designed as low volume roads are now subjected to extreme heavy loads. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) immediately started to monitor the effects that the Natural Gas Industry has on these highways. This presentation will show the evaluation of these highways through the use of GIS by correlating well activities, traffic growth, pavement structural evaluation, pavement condition assessment, and improvement project progress.

This analysis provides an accurate assessment of the highway conditions within the Natural Gas Drilling Area over time. Utilizing the products from this analysis, decision-makers are able to make informed decisions to ensure that the proper improvement strategies are deployed to provide a safe and efficient highway system.

Bio(s):

Sharon graduated in 1999 from the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. She started at the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Dept. in 1999 in the Mapping and Graphics Section where she is currently Section Head.