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on the cover...

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Background: top: A JOY shuttle car is being loaded with coal by a JOY continuous miner. bottom: A JOY continuous miner is being trammed into position.
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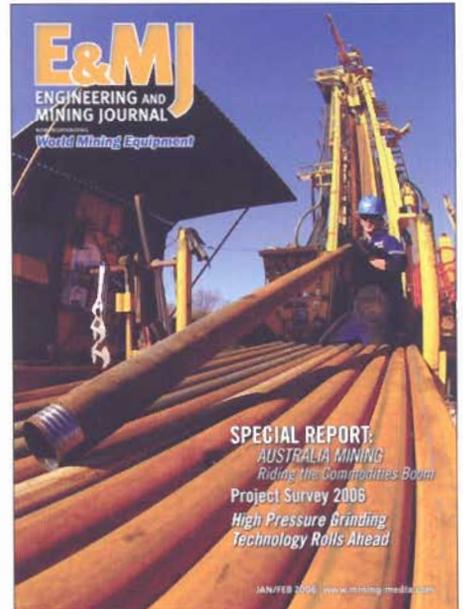
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► Steel Bashing

30 Concrete Alliance's ads proclaiming concrete's superior structural safety over steel has ignited a firestorm of debate. American Institute of Steel Construction calls the concrete promotor's tactics unfounded and unfair.

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COVER STORY

► **Road to Recovery**

26 With the rebuilding of the Interstate 10 bridge over Lake Ponchartrain completed last month, New Orleans reached a major post-Katrina milestone. The contractor that led the effort is being lauded as a local hero of the recovery.

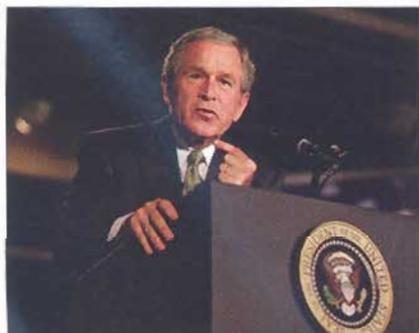
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- ▶ **Cover Story: 10** White House rejection of Louisiana's rebuilding plan, in favor of free market and grants, disappoints state officials.
- Mission Incredible**
- 12** With reconstruction efforts bogged down, cleanup is bulk of New Orleans recovery work for contractors.
- 14** White goods operation includes freon recovery and refrigerator gutting.

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FEATURE

- ▶ **Boom Bane**
- 26** After two decades of unbridled growth, Las Vegas is dealt a hard hand of congested roads, crowded schools and dwindling water supplies.



Still growing. Page 26

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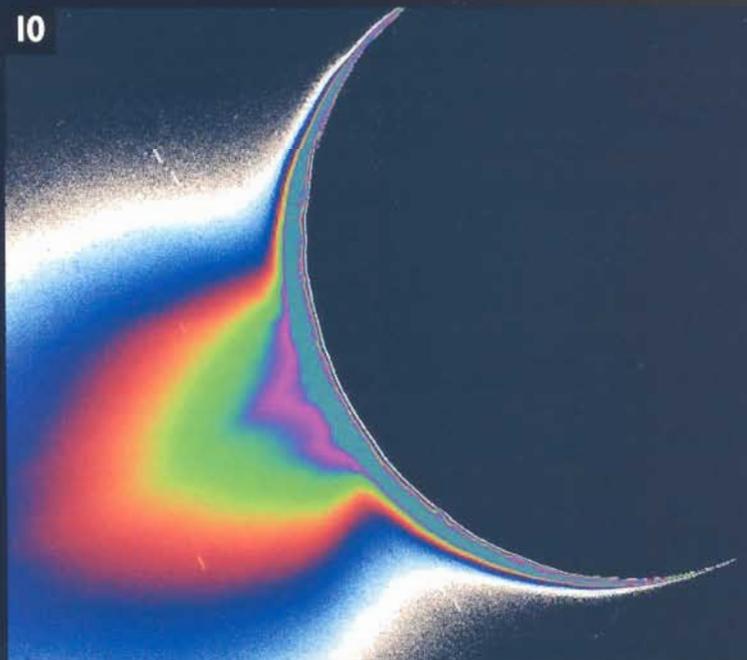
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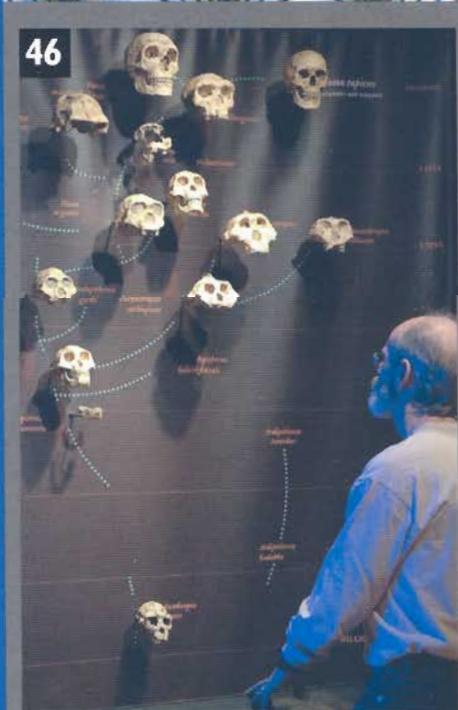
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A worker extracts a drill from a landfill in Richmond, Ind., on Feb. 18, 2004, in preparation for a methane gas well. The gas from landfills can be used to produce electricity. Read about a landfill gas project in Virginia on page 26 in this issue, and read about other waste-to-energy projects on page 18. Photo is from AP/Wide World Photos.



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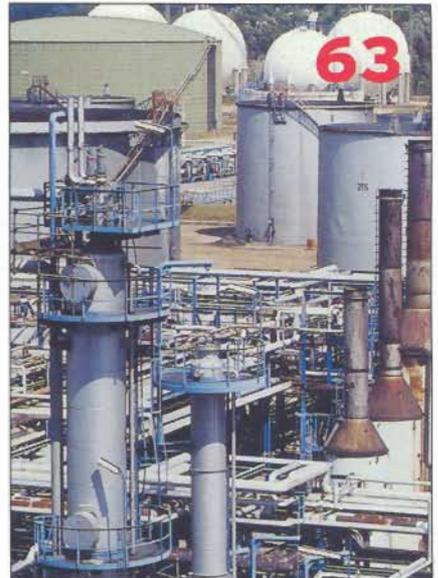
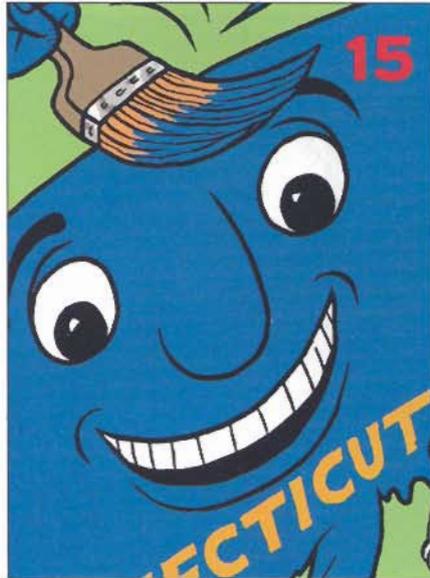
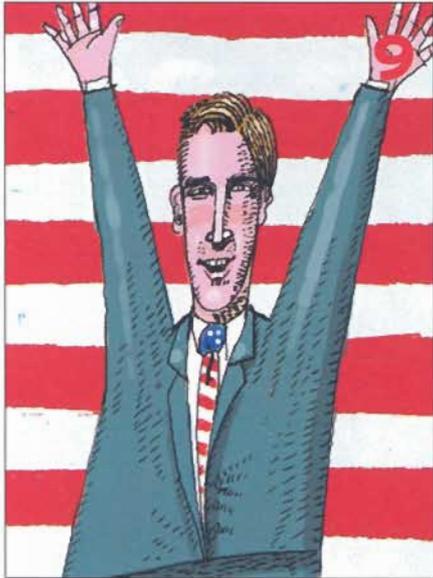
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Photo courtesy of DRAGIN Drilling Inc.

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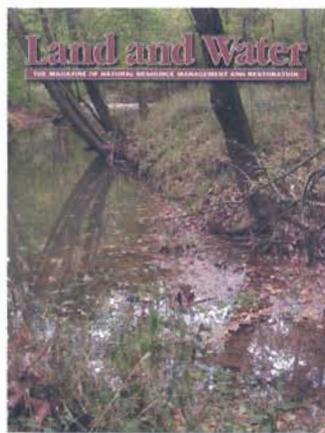


Land and Water

THE MAGAZINE OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

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January/February 2006



Cover Story

Cole Spring Branch, located in Jackson County, Alabama, is a tributary of the Paint Rock River and is a part of the Tennessee River basin. Cole Spring Branch is a small, headwater stream with a relatively small drainage area of 11.5 square miles. With assistance from the Wetland Reserve Program administered by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, a segment of the channelized branch has been restored to the original stream bed. See story page 47.

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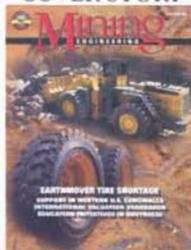
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VOL. 58, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2006

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PAY DIRT

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A Voice For Western Mining Since 1938

January 2006

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Photos taken in early December show the progress at Piedras Verdes in southern Sonora. In upper left is a view of leach-pad construction. At upper right, workers are constructing the high-explosives magazine and prill silos. Above left, the portable crushers are delivered. And above right, equipment is at work on the access road.

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Front Cover: Sheep grazing in the Sacramento Valley, California. Photo by Melvin George, Extension Rangeland Management Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

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Cover:

A crane with a 10-cubic-yd bucket lifts moist Illinois sediment from barges to mining trucks for transport to a lake-front park area being developed in Chicago. See accompanying article "Returning the Soil to the Land: The Mud to Parks Project."

Cover: Xeric limestone prairie (in lower foreground) at Edge of Appalachia Preserve (EOA) in Adams County, Ohio. A large number of similar prairies, which are found in openings within the larger forested matrix, are owned and managed by EOA. Prioritization of restoration management of these prairies was determined using decision analysis methodology. Photo taken by A. Maruyama. See related article by Cipollini et al. on pages 460-470.

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Soils Research

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