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-- News Release --

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For Immediate Release

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**Georgia Property Developer Honored for
Controlling Erosion at Construction Sites**

Steamboat Springs, Colo. – An Atlanta, Ga. general contracting company has been honored for its innovative, cost-effective approach to controlling erosion and sediment at construction sites in meeting strict requirements for protecting water quality.

This achievement has earned Oxford Properties, L.L.C., the 2005 Contractor of the Year Award from the International Erosion Control Association. The annual award recognizes demonstrated excellence in using effective erosion and sediment control practices on construction projects.

The award will be presented to Richard A. Denny, III, a founding partner in the company, during formal ceremonies at the annual IECA conference in Dallas, Tex., Feb. 22, 2005.

Oxford Properties develops, builds and manages rental townhouse communities. It has distinguished itself by its success in managing storm water runoff to minimize loss of water-polluting sediment from construction sites. This has reduced total erosion and sediment control costs significantly compared to typical construction site practices.

In addition to field testing of practices and materials, the company encourages its construction site managers to use a combination of conventional techniques and creative approaches in tailoring erosion control practices to match specific site conditions.

Examples of the company's solutions to erosion and sediment problems include:

- *Less sediment in street gutters.*

To prevent sediment from washing over curbs and into streets and down storm drains, a belt of rolled erosion control products is installed behind the curb. Acting as a filter, this material traps sediment while allowing storm water to run off the site. This reduces street cleanup costs considerably.

- *Better protection of storm drain inlets.*

Instead of using only a gravel berm in front of a curb storm drain inlet to prevent sediment in the street from washing into the drain, the company also installs logs made of coir fibers above and behind the curb inlet to trap sediment from the bare soil.

- *A more effective silt fence.*

At one construction site, heavy rainfall on exposed soil caused excessive accumulation of sediment at lower elevations along a lengthy silt fence. Such a large buildup of sediment could have caused the fence to fail. To reduce that risk, short sections of silt fence were attached, like chevrons, to the original structure in several locations at higher elevations. By dividing the single, long fence into shorter sections, these chevrons reduced the amount of sediment trapped in any one area and made removal of the sediment easier.

- *Stabilizing streambanks.*

At another site, the company used a combination of natural materials to protect a stream bank from erosion caused by increased water flows in the channel. Logs of compost material encased in a netting were anchored to the bank to help control the erosion. Then, aquatic plants were installed on the bank, where the root systems of the vegetation help hold the logs in place.

The IECA, founded in 1972, is a non-profit professional organization with members in 56 countries around the world who are dedicated to minimizing accelerated soil erosion

This is the 14th year of the annual IECA Environmental Excellence Awards program.

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