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News Release

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**Pervious Concrete Chosen at Southface Eco-Office,
A Landmark Commercial Green Building Project**

*Southface Eco-Office, a model for environmentally responsible commercial construction, is
result of a unique collaboration tracking LEED platinum-level rating*

ATLANTA, July 22, 2005 – Pervious concrete has been chosen as the paving solution for the Southface Eco-Office, a landmark green building project that is on track to earn the Southeast's first LEED^{®1} Platinum-level rating for New Construction from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).² The Southface Eco-Office is the result of a unique collaboration among non-profit organization Southface Energy Institute, the owner; Lord, Aeck & Sargent, the architect; Eco-Office Contractors: A Green Building Consortium, and many others who have donated their services and dollars, as well as green building products and technologies that will be used in the Eco-Office.

Pervious concrete is a unique and effective pavement that meets growing environmental demands and is recognized as a Best Management Practice (BMP) for stormwater management by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is rapidly becoming the material of

choice for the construction of pavements because of the increased importance of sustainable construction.

“A traditional pavement at the Eco-Office would leave much to be desired when its environmental impact is considered,” said Dale Fisher, CEO of PCI Systems, LLC, the company selected to install the pervious concrete at the Southface Eco-Office. Known throughout the country as “the pervious company”, PCI is a national leader in designing and providing effective, cost-efficient stormwater management solutions.

“These pavements send oil, metals, and dangerous hydrocarbons that seep from vehicles directly into rivers and streams, doing serious damage to water quality,” Fisher continued. “In contrast, as rain falls onto our pervious concrete, it will pass directly through the pavement which removes the pollutants by microbial consumption. The stormwater will then be harvested for other uses while the excess will pass to a gravel layer known as a recharge bed, to be percolated back into the soil. This will result in superior water quality and a recharge of the aquifer.”

When the first phase of the Southface Eco-Office is completed in Spring 2006, the three-story structure, approximately 10,000 square feet, will serve as a model of environmentally responsible commercial construction and will demonstrate that green commercial building creates a healthy and productive workplace with reduced operating costs. The Eco-Office will showcase innovative ideas such as pervious concrete for saving energy and water, reducing waste, re-using and recycling materials, and maintaining a healthy indoor environment.

By using pervious concrete, the ambient air temperature will be reduced, requiring less power to cool the building. In addition, costly stormwater structures such as piping, inlets and ponds will be eliminated. Construction scheduling will also be improved as the stone recharge

bed will be installed at the beginning of construction, enhancing erosion control measures and preventing rain delays due to harsh site conditions.

“When completed, the Eco-Office will be one of the greenest commercial buildings in the world,” said Dennis Creech, executive director of Southface, a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable homes, workplaces and communities. “The building will feature off-the-shelf products and technologies and will give Southface a demonstration facility and a stellar teaching tool to increase by 50 percent our ability to educate the commercial building industry in ‘green building’ techniques,” Creech continued

“The Eco-Office will literally harvest energy from the sun, filter its storm water, collect rainwater for building use, and treat its own sewage, using only a fraction of the resources of a conventional facility,” said Jim Nicolow, AIA, a LEED Accredited Professional who leads Lord, Aeck & Sargent’s sustainable design efforts. “The building was sited and the windows oriented to make use of readily available daylight, minimizing artificial lighting requirements and the associated cooling loads. Our overall goal is to exceed the energy code by 60 percent.”

Sustainable Design Features

Nicolow noted that one of the unique features of Eco-Office is a canopy of semi-transparent photovoltaic panels that were destined for a landfill prior to being rescued by Southface staff. The panels will generate electricity from the sun while providing shade for an observation deck that overlooks an extensive vegetated roof and innovative mechanical system. The green roof will filter storm water and reduce the urban heat island effect. In addition, no potable water will be used to flush toilets. The Eco-Office will use a combination of foam-flush composting toilets and dual-flush toilets that will be supplied by harvested rainwater to reduce

water consumption dramatically. The facility will be fully daylit and have automated daylight harvesting controls.

“This project has provided the design team with a great opportunity to get to know and collaborate with other ‘green’ experts in the field; the exchange of information and ideas has been fantastic,” Nicolow said. “We’re all learning a great deal that we’ll take with us to future projects while at the same time creating a project that will influence the marketplace.”

When completed, the Eco-Office, which is adjacent to Southface’s existing facility, will provide much needed office space to support the organization’s growing staff and programs as well as providing meeting and training spaces for the Metro Atlanta design, construction, and development communities in a living sustainable design laboratory. In addition, the district office of the Urban Land Institute will share office space in the new Eco-Office, helping Southface with its outreach to developers.

About Southface

Since 1978, Southface has encouraged responsible solutions for environmental living. Driven by the Southeast’s growing need to save energy and water and preserve our natural resources, Southface has successfully fostered unique partnerships with public, private and nonprofit organizations. Southface programs and publications reach design and construction professionals, homeowners, government officials and others to promote sustainable homes, workplaces and communities through education, research, advocacy and technical assistance. For more information, visit Southface at www.southface.org.

About PCI

PCI Systems is an award-winning contracting firm specializing in the design and construction of pervious concrete pavements. The company’s founders are pioneers in the field of sustainable concrete construction who are dedicated to the advancement of pervious concrete technology. The company is a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) as well as many state concrete associations. PCI is headquartered in Atlanta, GA and also has offices in Denver, CO. For more information, visit PCI at www.pervious.com.

About Lord, Aeck & Sargent

Founded in 1942, Lord, Aeck & Sargent is an award-winning architectural firm serving clients in scientific, academic, historic preservation, arts and cultural and multi-family housing and mixed-use markets. The firm's core values are responsive design, technological expertise and exceptional service. In 2003, The Construction Specifications Institute awarded Lord, Aeck & Sargent its Environmental Sensitivity Award for showing exceptional devotion to the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly materials, and for striving to create functional, sensitive and healthy buildings for clients. Lord, Aeck & Sargent is headquartered in Atlanta and also has offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. For more information, visit the firm at www.lordaecksargent.com.

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¹The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System[®] is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution.

²The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation's foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work.