**May 31, 2013 Demonstration – Centreville Elementary School – Fairfax, VA**

Mark Hoskins from Dewberry and Zhongyan Xu from URS Corporation led the demonstrations using the 3D Flood Simulator Model at Centreville Elementary School in Fairfax, VA on May 31, 2013. They conducted six separate demonstrations to over 120 first graders.

Each demonstration included a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation and a 30-minute hands-on display on three to four scenarios to demonstrate the impacts of development on watersheds. During the PowerPoint presentations, the first graders learned about watersheds, wetlands, and floodplains, and asked many intelligent questions. During the hands-on displays, they participated fully throughout and learned that when it rains, wetlands and forests can absorb rainwater and reduce runoff. They also learned about impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, and how if they are not properly managed, can contribute to increased runoff and flood nearby waterways and potentially homes and businesses. The first graders also learned about the dangers of living behind the levees.

Some of the questions we asked during the presentations were well received:

* Does it rain the same amount every day?
* What is the shape of a raindrop?
* Do the weathermen always know when it is going to rain?  How do they forecast the weather?
* Do you know what the part of the word hydrograph, means water?
* Do you know there are three classifications of clouds?
* Have you ever seen wetlands?
* Did you see any animals in the wetlands?
* As anyone seen a crayfish?  Do you know how to catch a crayfish?
* What happens when there is too much water in the streams?
* What does erosion mean?
* What does impervious mean?

The school teachers wrote after the demonstrations: “Thank you so much for the wonderful experience Friday.  The kids LOVED it!  We all learned some new things, too!”



