

Wet Wells The Easy Way

Look into a prefabricated and preassembled duplex pump station, and here is what you see. Using a 4' diameter manhole, Eastern Precast of Brookfield, CT installed two 2HP Goulds submersible pumps capable of pumping 190 GPM to an elevation 30' higher. When it is shipped to the customer, it also includes interior piping and wiring, activating floats, and a guide rail system for pump servicing. On this residential project, the manhole receives storm water from an underground retention system, and pumps it to a higher elevation into an existing municipal storm drain. All the contractor does is connect 3" diameter pressure discharge pipe, and wire the pumps, floats, and control panel.



Wet well ready to ship.

Photo by Eastern Precast Co.

Nuclear Shielding

When the West Valley Nuclear Services Company needed three enormous nuclear shielding vaults for long term storage of radiated materials, they engaged Kistner Concrete Products to design, manufacture, and deliver them. But how do you prefabricate and ship a 24' wide by 65' long concrete structure which weighs well over 600 tons? Kistner divided the structure into manageable segmental elements for casting and shipping, and then installed and connected them to provide a near-monolithic unit.



Positioning wall/half floor segment.

Photo by Kistner.



Preparing preassembled wet well.

Photo by Eastern Precast Co.



Each structure was erected in 1 day.

Photo by Kistner.

(cont. on page 2)

Nuclear Shielding *(cont. from page 1)*

Typical joints were shiplap, drawn and held together with double nutted threaded rods in bolt pockets; floor segments were connected using a recess to connect interlocking reinforcing bars, which then received a concrete closure pour. Having no doors or windows, access is achieved by removing appropriate 20" thick roof slabs. Since this requires personnel to work on the roof, each vault was supplied with a safety post and chain system. In addition to carrying the regions heavy snowfalls, the buildings were designed for earthquake forces.

A Warm Welcome to Lakelands Concrete Products

We are pleased to welcome Todd Clarke, President, and all his staff and crew, to PCANY as a full Producer Member (Richard Clarke, Todd's father, was one of the original founders of PCANY over twenty years ago). Located in Lima, NY, Lakelands produces highway barriers, architectural, noise and retaining walls, columns and beams, utility and drainage structures, box culverts, three sided culverts and arches, bridge slabs, lighting poles, pump stations...just about everything.

Precast Concrete Walls – All Sizes and Shapes and Many Uses

Recently many national and state organizations have announced winners in different categories of structures, all very impressive, imposing, and sometimes simply awesome. Of no less importance are the basic, down to earth applications of precast concrete for different wall functions. For example, the brick face pattern on the load bearing walls of the commercial building shown. These panels continue 8' into the ground, forming a basement at the same time. They bear on compacted stone – there is no footer needed. The brick façade was formed with a rubber grid impressed on the panel face after casting, then light broomed, and finally, a colored facing rolled on. Truly, no one knows this is a factory made precast concrete load bearing panel – but many wondered how the building was completed in only a few days.

Retaining walls of almost any size are quickly installed with precast panels or blocks. Why isn't every rapidly placed box culvert project finished off just as quickly with precast wing walls or precast concrete modular block systems, as shown in the finished photo of Wolcott's East Port Bay Road culvert, or the retaining walls installed for the West Seneca Bus Parking Garage enlargement project? Also note the new light pole bases are precast, and the designs for these can be very elegant, meeting many architectural requirements. In addition, many precasters maintain a large stock inventory of their products. On this project, it saved the contractor approximately 2 weeks construction time over the originally specified gabions, as well as presenting a more finished appearance.



Brick face precast concrete panel.



Culvert wall using modular stay in place block.



Redy Rock retaining wall, West Seneca Bus Garage.

These same factory made units are widely used for free standing walls on diverse applications. At the Buffalo Veterans Hospital, "Redy Rock" units form a beautiful new fence line, enclose an exterior space for their new veterans memorial courtyard, and serve as handsome parking lot delineators. All projects in this article were serviced by Kistner Concrete Products, Lockport, NY.



Precast blocks bolster iron fence.



Precast blocks form courtyard surround.

Notes to our Valued Readers

PCANY's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2007, 1:00 p.m. at the AGC Conference Room, 10 Airline Drive, Latham. The PCANY Board will meet 10:00 a.m. to 12:30, with a lunch after. Any member wishing to join us for lunch is welcome, but please advise Carl Buchman for ordering purposes. New officers and directors will be elected at this meeting.

Anyone currently receiving this Newsletter by postal mail may change to email delivery by letting us know. Besides saving postage and paper, the photos are in color, and you can forward it to anyone else interested in your office.

Inserted in this issue is the beginning of a series called TECH TALK produced by the PCANY Septic Tank Group. Its simple purpose is to inform. We welcome your participation, assistance, suggestion or complaint, as long as it is consistent with our stated objectives – to inform, instruct, assist, or correct common misconceptions.

If your office is interested in a PCI Box Lunch Program, worth 1.0 AIA Learning Units, please let us know. The accredited topics are: Architectural Precast Concrete, Designing Precast Bridges, Designing with Precast/Prestressed Hollowcore Concrete, Precast Housing Structures, Industrial Structures Design and Construction, Precast Parking Structures, Precast 101, Designing Precast Concrete School Buildings, Precast Concrete Stadium Design, Sustainable Building Design Using Precast Concrete, and Total Precast Structures. We are working to get PDH's for engineers approved for these and other programs as well.

Over 200 people attended the ABCD 18th Annual Fall Bridge Conference November 17 in Buffalo. One of the last speakers said "You have to maintain steel bridges." Is this a surprise?

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PCANY Website

All PCANY members now have access to the Members Only Page, where varied reports, communications, meeting notes, etc. will be posted. There is also a new category listing, Complimentary One Year Membership, which will be given to every attendee at a PCANY seminar or workshop; or it may be requested simply by visiting...

www.pcany.org

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