Notes From The Director

Precast producers that I have been talking to are reporting a very busy year. Much of this may be attributed to the overall improvement in our economy coupled with an incredibly mild winter and spring. However, a major force driving this industry is the increasing need for accelerated construction in all sectors, not just bridge. The most common question that precasters get from contractors seems to be “how can I precast this structure?” The answer typically leads to innovative custom built products such as the Triple TEE Beam elements used for the Hudson Yards Platform project featured in this issue.

Also in this issue, one of our Associate members describes how to avoid problems with gasketed pipe and manhole joints.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Hudson Yards Platform — New York, NY

Submitted by David Wan, PE, LEED AP of Oldcastle Precast.

A new platform covers the LIRR rail yard on the west side of Manhattan to provide additional outdoor plaza space between five new buildings comprising over 7 million square feet of mixed use real estate development. 500 pieces of precast Triple TEE beams were custom designed to support a very heavy 680psf loading for landscaping on the platform. In addition to the TEE beams, Oldcastle supplied some 30 triangular shaped solid slabs and nearly 1000 Elematic precast hollow-core slabs of various span lengths.

Hudson Yards is the largest private real estate development in the history of the US and the largest development in NYC since Rockefeller Center.

Project Credits:
Owners: Oxford Properties Group and Related Companies
Contractor: Tutor Perini
Engineer-of-Record: Thornton Tomasetti, Inc
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Precast, Selkirk, NY
Architect: Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

Precast elements were delivered to the site and erected by iron workers between April 2015 and June 2016.
Two Simple Rules for Installing Pipe and Manhole Gaskets

From Blog Post By Chris Barr of Press-Seal Corporation 12/21/15.

Equalize O-Ring & Profile Gaskets

O-Ring & profile gaskets can be equalized in a couple different ways:

- O-Ring gasket: Use a screwdriver or metal object underneath and go around 1.5 times
- Profile gasket: You could use the above method or the “pinch, pull and snap” method.

You might be asking yourself “Why do I have to equalize the gasket if I stretched it?” What happens is the rubber bunches up on one side and thins out on the other. By snapping it and equalizing around the entire pipe, we create a consistent form of rubber. See Video

Lubricant Is Your Best Friend

Lubricant is going to be your best friend when it comes to the O-Ring gasket. Lubricate the groove and bell, but don't forget the bell lead-in taper because it's the first part of the pipe that comes in contact with the gasket.

Stretch the gasket on. After equalizing the gasket then apply lube to the face of gasket. This reduces friction and allows the O-ring to move in the groove so as not to roll out and break the bell.

As for a Wedge gasket, lubricate the bell and entrance slope. Equalize the gasket then insert your pipe. Lube on the face of the gasket is optional; however, never put lubricant under the gasket especially on a single offset joint because the step it seats on is only about a 1/4". Doing this will cause the gasket to roll off the step and prevent from homing or, worse yet, break the bell.

Press-Seal Corp is an Associate Member of PCANY. Check out our members in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website
A-Lok Adds GatorBar to its Product Line

GatorBar is a Basalt Fiber Reinforced Polymer (BFRP) Rebar that is lightweight and non-corrosive. A-Lok is an Associate Member of PCANY. Contact Wally Swiger or visit www.a-lok.com for information.

Auburn Crane & Rigging Assists with Rescue of Trapped Mine Workers

In January 2016, when 17 workers were trapped 900’ below ground at the Cargill Salt Mine in Lansing, NY, it was PCANY member Auburn Crane and Rigging with their Grove 275-ton all-terrain crane that had enough cable to pull the men to safety. (See Article)

NPCA Annual Convention

The 51st Annual Convention will be held September 28—October 1, 2016 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, TX. (Information)