Notes From The Director

We had a productive set of meetings in May including updates on membership status, marketing initiatives and finances during our morning session followed by discussions with NYSDOT in the afternoon. One major topic included possible revisions to precast drainage unit designs that will greatly improve the manufacturing process.

I was recently interviewed for an upcoming feature article in Construction In Focus Magazine. The article is slated to appear in either the June or July issue and I will provide a link to the online version when it appears. The following link is to a similar article about NPCA (Article)

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
MGM Resorts International—Springfield, MA

Submitted by David Wan, PE of Oldcastle Precast Building Systems Division.

This new casino under construction in the City of Springfield, MA is a shallow steel-frame structure using Girder-Slab D Beams and Oldcastle Elematic precast hollow-core planks. Solid precast-prestressed slabs were also used around the perimeter to facilitate MEP openings. Berlin Steel Construction Company manufactured the steel members and erected both the steel and precast units. The building’s large footprint and prefabricated steel and precast allowed for a continuous erection schedule from west to east with almost no downtime for the tower crane. Erection was completed in March 2017.

Project Credits:
Owner: MGM Resorts International
Engineer-of-Record: DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Architect: Friedmutter Group
Contractor: Tishman Construction Corp / Berlin Steel Construction Company
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Precast, Selkirk, NY
Sorting Out Joint Sealant Specifications

It is widely accepted that many precast underground structures need to be watertight in order to prevent either infiltration of ground water, exfiltration of contents or both.

There are essentially two ASTM specifications for joint sealing materials, both of which are effective but it’s important to understand the differences between the two in order to ensure that the most appropriate method is chosen for a specific application:

- **ASTM C990 “Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections Using Preformed Flexible Joint Sealants”**

C443 includes O-Rings and similar type gaskets that are pre-formed for a specific sized manhole, pipe, culvert, or vault and requires specialized joint formers that are made to precise tolerances conforming to the gasket being used. Preformed gaskets are not particularly suitable for rectangular structures but can be used, if necessary. Gaskets manufactured to C443 must withstand a hydrostatic pressure of 13psi or 30ft of hydrostatic head pressure.

C990 includes bitumen and butyl rubber sealants, typically in rope form. The flexible seal is suitable for most horizontal joints as the material compresses under the weight of the adjoining member to fill the joint’s annular space. Flexible seals manufactured to C900 must withstand a hydrostatic pressure of 10psi or 23ft of hydrostatic pressure.

Regardless of the type of joint sealant being used, it is critically important to follow manufacturer’s installation instructions in order to ensure a water-tight joint.

For more information on joint sealants, please refer to the [PCANY Buyer’s Guide](#) located on our [website](#) and look under Joint Sealants in the Associate Member Product Matrix.
Barton & Loguidice Announces New Managing Engineer...

for its Watertown office. Matthew J. Cooper, P.E., with over 20 years of engineering and management experience will help lead the firm’s continued growth as well as guide public and private sector projects for the firm’s North Country clients. B&L is a professional member of PCANY

NPCA Holding ‘Sizzlin’ Summer Webinars...

with a focus on best practices in production. The following three seminars will be held from noon to 1 p.m:

June 15: Reducing Concrete Permeability: Does Your Concrete old Water?

July 13: Best Practices When Using Fiber Reinforcement

Aug 17: Troubleshooting Your SCC (Self-Compacting Concrete)

(Information)