Notes From The Director

It never ceases to amaze me how innovative precasters are when it comes to solving problems with new and exciting products. The latest, according to a NPCA blog, is a precast light pole base retrofitted with a charging station for electric vehicles.

Developed by Wilbert Precast of Spokane Washington, the base units are built to stick above ground with a block-out to house the charging unit. Concrete protects the charger from damage that commonly occurs with metal stands and the light pole can be equipped with security cameras and sensor lights.

To read the entire blog about this product please click the following link:

https://precast.org/2018/06/precast-concrete-its-electric/

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
CSO #26 Real Time Control (RTC) Smith Street Overflow

Submitted by Michael Kistner of Kistner Concrete Products.

The objective of RTC is to maximize the utilization of a collection system’s storage and conveyance capacities to reduce combined sewer overflows and inflow peaks to the wastewater treatment plant. The Smith Street project included a large cast-in-place 31’-8” x 73’ vault with precast roof slabs. The use of precast concrete for the roof elements significantly accelerated the project schedule.

Typical roof slabs are 7’ wide x 31’-8” long x 18” thick, weighing approx. 30 tons each and were designed for AASHTO HS20 loading using 5000psi concrete. The size and weight of the slab units required an 8-point pick, the rigging of which included roller blocks to equally distribute the load to each of the cast-in lift anchors.

Custom forming features included cast iron hatches and longitudinal shear keys.

Kistner Concrete Products is a Producer Member of PCANY and is NYSDOT approved and NPCA certified.
FHWA National Review on Nonstructural Precast Concrete Elements

The Federal Highway Administration issued a comprehensive report in 2012 that reviewed the acceptance processes of several state highway agencies to determine if they allow for enough oversight of precast concrete producers to minimize the risk of material not meeting the specifications for nonstructural precast elements. Products such as inlets, manholes, and endwalls were considered as nonstructural for the purposes of this study.

The report outlines several issues with state DOT’s that provide limited oversight of precast producers, some of which include unclear and outdated DOT standard sheets, unapproved substitution of wire mesh for specified rebar, and inconsistent compliance with Buy America requirements.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) stands out in this report as an example of Successful Practices for its approach to managing the construction oversight and acceptance processes for precast elements. FHWA uses the NYSDOT approach as a benchmark for assessing other state DOT programs.

The NYSDOT QA/QC program for precast products is outlined in Materials Procedure No. 09-02, which requires each producer to submit and adhere to a plant specific quality control plan. They must also participate in either the NPCA or PCI Plant Certification Program and be subject to both annual and periodic audits.

This 60 page report is an interesting read and illustrates why the quality of precast products produced in New York State is among the highest in the nation.

The entire FHWA report can be found at the following link:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/materials/program_review.pdf

The NYSDOT Materials Procedure for Precast Concrete QA/QC can be found at the following link:

Call for Bridge Conference Presentations...
For the 24th Statewide Conference on Local Bridges taking place October 24th & 25th in Liverpool, NY. Deadline for submissions is August 17th. Contact Andrew Clark at NYSDOT Office of Structures Andrew.Clark@dot.ny.gov

NYSSPE Broome Chapter to Offer Course
Conquering the Energy Code for Engineers & Architects is a 7PDH presentation is being held in cooperation with the Urban Green Council on Thursday, July 26 at Ithaca College. For questions contact Sallie Valentine (svalentine@DELTA-EAS.COM>

Registration Now Open for NPCA Convention...
Being Held in Providence, RI, October 4—6 at the Omni Providence Hotel. The convention will include plant tours, Precast Marketplace exhibits, educational sessions, committee meetings and more. (Information)

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