

New Publication

A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents

Executive Summary

Since the mid 1990's, owners, contractors, and design professionals have expressed concern about the level of quality of structural construction documents. They have observed that the quality of these documents has deteriorated, resulting at times in poorly coordinated and incomplete design drawings. Inadequate and/or incomplete design drawings often result in inaccurate competitive bids; delays in schedule; a multiplicity of requests for information (RFIs), change orders and revision costs; increased project costs; and a general dissatisfaction with the project.

In an effort to address these concerns, the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) has prepared this *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*. It discusses the purpose for the guideline, the background behind the issue, the important aspects of design relationships, communication, coordination and completeness, guidance for dimensioning of structural drawings, effects of various project delivery systems, document revisions, and closes with recommendations for development and application of quality management procedures. A Drawing Review Checklist is attached.

The key to achieving the desired level of quality throughout the profession is for each structural engineering firm to focus on and develop its own specific quality management plan, and to implement that plan on each project. This guideline will assist the structural engineering profession in achieving that goal. This is consistent with the vision of CASE, to be the recognized leader addressing business practices issues for structural engineering firms, and its mission to provide information and business practice products that will increase profitability, improve quality, reduce liability, and enhance management practices, as well as provide an investment in our future.

All CASE members have received free hard and electronic copies of this document. The member rate for additional copies is \$30 plus \$3 S&H. You may fax an order to (202) 789-7220. Ask for document # 962 D, please include credit card information.

Organizational Peer Reviews

Expertise at Hand

Your firm has the know-how to encourage efficient, effective and profitable project management, but how many of your firm's project managers are using it?

ACEC's Organizational Peer Review Program (OPR) focuses on seven management areas: General Management, Human Resources and Professional Development, Financial Management, Project Management, Business Development and Quality Management.

A team of trained reviewers will help you find out answers to questions such as: "Is the scope of work well understood by the project team?", "Do we promote the development and use of up-to-date standard design techniques?" and "Do we check formally that all concepts, technical calculations, report drafts, analyses, drawings, etc., conform to our firm's standards at appropriate milestones?"

Over 1,100 firms benefit from the expertise of OPR. To schedule a review, or to find out more information, contact Kevin Wilson at (202) 682-4320 or peerreview@acec.org.

Legislative Update

Health Plan Legislation Passes House – Benefits ACEC Members; Tough Battle Expected In Senate

ACEC-supported Association Health Plan legislation, H.R.660, has passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 262 to 162. The legislation, "The Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003," would give small businesses better access to affordable healthcare, allowing them to pool together through trade associations to purchase health insurance from a provider, or self-insure in the same manner as that of large employers and labor unions.

ACEC members have been contacting members of Congress urging support for the legislation, and this grassroots action has paid dividends. Debate on the legislation will now move to the Senate, where identical legislation has been introduced by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). The Senate bill, S. 545, is expected to meet stiffer opposition than its counterpart in the House.

The bill creates uniform regulations for all states, and allows firms of all sizes to be covered. ACEC currently offers its members the benefits of an Association Health Plan, but individual state regulations can cause higher insurance rates and often deny access for member firms.

"Under the current scheme, firms in Maryland with less than 50 employees are excluded from participating in the ACEC Health Plan", said Jim Otradovec, ACEC/Maryland's Executive Director. "By passing H.R. 660, Congress is improving access for small businesses, creating an additional option for affordable, quality healthcare for our membership."

AOD Contracts

A Concern to the Industry

Members are alerted to a proposed new standard contract, written by attorneys for the Associated Owners and Developers (AOD), to be used when contracting for design professionals/services. Although not officially released, they could be shortly. Or, you could see language from the proposed contract incorporated in owner-drafted contracts. Authors contend it was written to reflect the "owner's vision," but there are serious questions about assigning responsibility to the design professional over items which they have no control and for which there may be no insurance coverage. Many terms or phrases go undefined or are vague. There is a section on certification that is not clearly defined. Insurance carriers normally do not permit design professionals to certify their work. This contract is in addition to an owner/contractor agreement previously released that has many of the same problems.

AOD is made up of some major clients of engineering firms such as Marriott, Intel, Disney, Georgia-Pacific, Home Depot and Tishman Realty & Construction. If you do business with one of its members, you may be faced with signing an AOD sponsored contract. CASE members are advised to seek legal assistance and the involvement of your insurer should you have to deal with one of these contracts. Oftentimes, owners will reconsider their contract language when they understand that the engineering firms may not have insurance coverage over some items included in the contract.

CASE in Point

CASE is a part of the American Council of Engineering Companies



OSHA Establishes Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that it is establishing a Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Committee to develop a new, proposed construction safety standard for cranes and derricks.

The committee will function as a part of OSHA's rulemaking process to revise the existing standards for cranes and derricks in construction. If the committee reaches a consensus on a proposed rule, the proposed

regulatory text will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health and then be published for public comment.

The advisory committee may consist of up to 25 members and a facilitator, who will chair the meetings in an impartial manner and assist the committee members in conducting discussions and negotiations. OSHA will be a member of the committee.

OSHA published a Federal Register notice

in July 2002 requesting comments on establishing a cranes and derricks negotiated rulemaking committee. There was broad support for using negotiated rulemaking to update the standard, and nearly all commenters supported the establishment of the committee.

Notice of the establishment of the Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee appeared in the June 12, 2003 Federal Register.

And The Winner Is....

Seahawks Stadium Takes High Honors in the ACEC Engineering Excellence Award Program

The Seahawk Stadium and Exhibition Center project is unrivaled in creativity. The resultant complex meets the goals of both the Washington State Public Stadium Authority and Seahawks owner Paul Allen (the private contributor) in providing Seattle with a world-class NFL stadium and exhibition center. At a time when most of the new NFL stadiums are simply large bowls, Seahawks Stadium is daringly different.

Two signature 720-foot tied arches span and support the stadium roof (the first ever seismically isolated stadium roof), with no columns to block the views of the field, downtown Seattle, the water, or the surrounding mountains. The seating capacity is expandable to 72,000 (to qualify for the Super Bowl), and features more seats closer to the action than any other NFL stadium. The

Exhibition Center offers 201,800 sq.ft. of first-class exhibit space, which can be augmented by 92,000 sq. ft. of convertible space in the garage, and 80,000 sq. ft. of space on the stadium's west concourse. The six-story, 2,000-car garage serves both facilities, and was designed for future expansion.

Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire, Inc., Seattle, WA, provided structural engineering, civil engineering, implosion engineering support, and steel erection means and methods engineering services for the project. The firm, which changed its name to Magnusson Klemencic Associates in March of this year, was presented a Grand Award for the engineering of the Seahawks Stadium in the 2003 ACEC Engineering Excellence competition.

