ILLINOIS SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION STRUCTURAL GROUP FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

The Evolution of Some Modern U.S. Bridge Practices

William N. Nickas, P.E.
Director, Transportation Systems
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

Synopsis:

The talk will focus on a few historical and modern bridge engineering challenges like Traffic Rail Crash Testing, Ship Impact Loadings and Wind Loadings. The presentation will then cover the more recent bridge damage from Hurricane events. The devastation of major coastal bridges in Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana brought about new requirements. The response by engineers, contractors and material suppliers has demonstrated to all citizens how fast Civil Engineers can re-establish mobility to a region. Through these experiences Accelerated Construction Techniques (ACT) are becoming standard practice. The final portion of the talk will take a look at mainstreaming these Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) methods.

Many successful ideas that are now part of the U. S. Bridge Code were adapted from other countries. Other improvements have arisen out of necessity from natural and man made events. Some will be funny and some will be informative.

Speaker:

Mr. Nickas manages all transportation related activities of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. These activities include serving as staff liaison to the transportation related committees. He works to educate engineers of the benefits of precast and prestressed concrete while continuing to facilitate the advancement of research for infrastructure through code development activities and communications to FHWA, Departments of Transportation and members of AASHTO Committees.

Mr. Nickas' entire 25 year career has been spent in the design and construction of transportation facilities. He began his career at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as a Professional Engineer Trainee and Design Engineer. He then joined the private sector where he has served as a design engineer, project manager, and principal. In his second tenure at FDOT William served as State Structure Design Engineer. In this role he was responsible for all structure design policy development for the State and major and complex bridge project issues. In January of 2007, He joined Corven Engineering as a Principal Engineer. One of his initial contracted assignments was to the National Highway Institute as an instructor for LRFD Prestressed Concrete Bridge Design Courses. As a public servant and Consultant, he developed a keen understanding of customer service and owner's perspective and now brings that background to PCI.

Date & Time:	Wednesday, February 11, 2009 Cocktails at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:00 pm Presentation following dinner
Location:	Pazzo's 311 South Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 Self-service parking is available south of the building for $10
Cost:	$40 ($25 for Students) – RSVP on or before February 6, 2009 $45 – without/late RSVP Make checks payable to ASCE Structural Group
RSVP:	Victor E. Van Santen, victor.vansanten@hdrinc.com, (773) 380-7966