



E – LETTER

THE OFFICIAL E-MAIL NEWSLETTER OF
THE PILE DRIVING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PDCA BACK AT THE TABLE WITH AASHTO'S T-15 COMMITTEE

The PDCA went back to the table with the AASHTO T-15 Committee on Tuesday, November 8, 2006, at the Ohio Department of Transportation's Sign and Signal Shop in Columbus, Ohio. The T-15 is the AASHTO Technical Committee for Substructures and Retaining Walls under the Bridges and Structures Subcommittee; and is responsible for the review and approval of many installation and design specifications used by the driven pile industry today. PDCA had two issues on the agenda before T-15; first was the acceptance of the PDCA extensive and comprehensive revisions to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Installation Specifications, Section 4: Driven Foundation Piles; and secondly, discussions on revisions to Section 10, AASHTO LRFD Driven Pile Design Specifications.

The meeting was attended by PDCA representatives, Harry Robbins, PDCA President (Palmetto Pile Driving), Dale Biggers, Technical Committee Chair (Boh Brothers), Van Hogan, PDCA Secretary (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co. Inc.), Randy Dietel, PDCA Immediate Past President (Piling, Inc.), Michael Morgano (GRL, Inc.) and George Goble (George G. Goble Consulting and Engr. LLC).

The PDCA presented what we believed to have been the final version of the installation specifications to T-15 in May 2006 and was expecting an approval vote by the committee in Columbus on the new code. Unfortunately, the PDCA received comments for revisions from T-15 committee members just prior to the meeting in Columbus, OH. The Technical Committee was able to meet, review and prepare responses to the last minute changes proposed by T-15, but during the Columbus meeting additional issues arose and the PDCA agreed to take the installation specifications back to the PDCA Technical committee for consideration. The PDCA will submit the final revisions to T-15 by mid-December so the specifications can be placed on the Bridges and Structures Committee agenda for approval when they meet this summer in Delaware.

The PDCA then discussed Section 10 – LRFD Driven Pile Design Specifications with T-15. Several months prior to the Columbus meeting, the PDCA was made aware of several articles in the design code that are believed to place driven pile at a disadvantage with other competitive deep foundation methods. The Technical Committee began researching these articles under the direction and leadership of George Goble (George G. Goble Engr. & Consulting). It is unclear whether or not the PDCA was originally asked by T-15 to provide input into the revised changes or not, but the code was approved and is now in existence. The PDCA expressed to T-15 that we did not believe changes regarding site variability, redundancy and the need to obtain a new driving criterion by calibrated wave equation for the one obtained by static load test as one progresses across the site are reasonable and should be revised.

The PDCA will review these areas within the design specifications and make the appropriate recommended revision with supporting data to T-15.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

“Members On The Move” now appears regularly in the PDCA E-Letter as an added service/benefit for PDCA members. If your business has an announcement that you would like to see appear in this new E-Letter section, forward the information to the PDCA via email at exec@piledrivers.org. PDCA may edit the information if necessary and is not responsible for its content.

Hercules Machinery Corp.: Hercules Machinery Corp. has announced plans to relocate and grow in a newly acquired facility at 5025 New Haven Ave. in New Haven, Indiana. The purchase of the property is expected to be completed this week. The company is currently located in a shared facility at 3101 New Haven Ave. in Fort Wayne. Mid-America Foundation Supply and Poseidon Barge Corp. will remain there. Established in Fort Wayne in 1964, HMC manufactures, wholesales and leases construction equipment such as diesel pile-driving hammers. The company looked at locations within and outside of Allen County before settling on the property at 5025 New Haven Ave. The building there contains over 24,000 square feet of manufacturing space and approximately 6,500 square feet of office area. Renovations should be completed by the end of the year, said HMC Chief Financial Officer Justin Reed, in a written statement. Nearly \$440,000 in building improvements are planned at the new site. This evening members of the New Haven City Council will begin considering a tax abatement request in connection with the building plans. If approved as presented, the abatement could save HMC nearly \$46,000 over the seven-year life of the abatement. Even with the abatement, taxes paid by the company would total nearly \$70,000.

“This is a nice project for the company and the community,” said New Haven Mayor Terry E. McDonald, in the statement. “With 22 good-paying jobs, it is important to keep HMC in the area, and New Haven is fortunate to be home to the right building at the right time.

“Together with our local economic development partners, it is important that the city of New Haven do everything possible to help keep and grow HMC here.”

VIBRACONSULT: Mark Svinkin, President of VIBRACONSULT received the 2006 ASCE Thomas Fitch Rowland Award for the paper, “Minimizing Construction Vibration Effects,” Practice Periodical on Structural Design and Construction, May 2004. Congratulations Mark!

PDCA of South Carolina Chapter: The PDCA Chapter of South Carolina is working on switching an auger cast job at Bushy Park to driven piles. The process is made easier by the contribution of information and pictures provided by Mr. Tommy Parker of an older job site in the same location that was constructed on driven piles. PDCA of South Carolina Chapter is also working on converting an auger cast project to driven pile in the Santee Cooper area.

On Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 10:00 AM, the PDCA of South Carolina Chapter will invite Engineers, students from The Citadel, and all members of the PDCA to Palmetto Pile Driving, Inc.’s yard for a chance to observe pre-stressed concrete piles being manufactured from start to finish showing how quality control and quality assurance is built into every pile. Palmetto Pile Driving, Inc. President and PDCA President, Harry Robbins will have a buffet luncheon included in the day’s activities. Everyone is invited to the program located at 1875 Pittsburgh Ave. North Charleston, SC. For more information contact PDCA of South Carolina Chapter President, John King at 843.763.7736.

In January and March, the PDCA of South Carolina Chapter will be scheduling a tour of Carolina Poles yard and Nucor Steel facilities to get a better understanding of how the QA/QC issues factor into timber and steel pile manufacturing.

The PDCA of South Carolina Chapter's quarterly chapter meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2006, at the Town and Country Inn, Charleston, SC. Mr. Tommy Parker is the guest speaker and will be presenting a program on the history of driven pile in the Charleston area.

International Construction Services, Inc.: International Construction Services, Inc. announces a new web page, www.iscpiling.com. Please bookmark this website under your "Favorites" for easy access. ICS has also changed addresses in their Pittsburgh, PA headquarters to the following: Bill Land, wcl@iscpiling.com; Harold Garbooshian, hg@iscpiling.com; and Brian Land, bl@iscpiling.com. You can check the website for contacts in ISC's Northeast, Southeast, Midwest and West Coast offices.

PDCA INITIATES "HR" CENTER FOR MEMBERS

The PDCA has initiated another service/benefit for PDCA members, which will allow member companies to post position openings within your firm or for individuals seeking positions/employment. This new "HR" feature will ultimately be on the new PDCA website as a member only benefit for PDCA companies. Until this feature is available on the website, the PDCA will use the E-Letter to provide this forum for our members. Due to space restrictions, the announcements must be short and succinct and the PDCA will reserve the right to edit the announcements if necessary.

Technical Marketing Specialist – L.B. Foster, Piling Division, Atlanta, GA. Supports field sales and commercial efforts by providing project evaluation, design and AutoCAD drawings, while supplying creative product layout options. Works with and assists Marketing Manager in a variety of functions, including website design and maintenance, product literature and trade show support. Must possess 2 – 5 years of sales and work related experience and demonstrate competency in all areas necessary to be a successful candidate. More information: recruiter@lbfoster.com.

11TH ANNUAL PDCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

The PDCA just completed its final site inspection and event planning session at the Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN, home of the 11th Annual PDCA International Conference and Exposition. The PDCA is extremely excited about the upcoming conference and is sure that all participants will find the 2007 conference the best that PDCA has assembled yet.

Pre-Conference Course: The PDCA will sponsor a pre-conference course, titled "Deep Foundations: Design, Construction, and Quality Control. The purpose of this course is to present modern techniques for the design, installation and verification of deep foundations.

- Find out the latest subsurface investigation methods for deep foundation design
- Understand the design process for deep foundations
- Learn the new standards and procedures for the design and installation of deep foundations
- Learn the use of wave equation analysis as applied to both the design and installation of driven piles including driving problems
- Understand the various capacity determination methods including both static and dynamic methods

This course is designed for pile driving contractors, suppliers, geotechnical engineers, construction engineers, owners, structural engineers, or any professional involved in design, construction, inspection, testing and specification of deep foundations.

Conference Programs: The conference will include six to seven technical presentations, a hammer manufacturer's forum, and an industry roundtable on "Evolving Specifications and Design Criteria and Their Impact on Driven Pile Costs."

Social Programs: The conference will include several receptions with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar as well as an expanded continental breakfast each morning. The PDCA Annual Dinner will feature a Country-Western theme and dress, a band for dancing and entertainment, a line dance instructor (for the carefree and brave), and a buffet dinner with open bar.



The PDCA's 1st Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Gaylord Springs – a Larry Nelson Scottish-links designed course that was host to several Senior PGA tournaments. The course's scenery is spectacular, with the Cumberland River on one side and limestone bluffs on the other. Participants will be treated to 72 holes of golf for all levels of play. The tournament will include golf, cart, drink tickets, proximity prizes, lunch, and awards. Callaway clubs are available for rent. Finally, the PDCA will have its night at the "Grand Ole Opry", one of the true icons of American entertainment. The Grand Ole Opry showcases the best in country music from new stars, superstars and legends live on the Opry stage.

Companion's Program: The Companion's Program continues to evolve into a very special program for our spouses and guests. The 2007 Companion's Program is one you won't want to miss. The PDCA has lined up a great program, including a continental breakfast each morning in the Presidential Suite with white glove service, a tour of the Ryman Auditorium (original home of the Grand Ole Opry), lunch at the Wild Horse Saloon – a Nashville must, with a line dance instructor (to give the ladies a jump on the guys at the annual dinner), and a trip on the General Jackson Showboat, featuring music and comedy along with a elegant lunch on the 300-foot paddlewheel riverboat and a slow cruise down the Cumberland River. Relache, the Spa at Gaylord Orpyland is a world-class spa, state-of-the-art fitness center and salon featuring 12 enchanting treatment rooms dedicated to pampering, peace and renewal.

Exhibitor: The PDCA will have space for approximately 35 exhibitors in 10' x 10' booths. The PDCA has arranged to have the exhibitors and food and beverage events hosted in the Governor's B, C and D Ballroom's with over 12,000 square feet of open floor meeting space allowing all exhibitors to meet, socialize and promote their products during all Continental Breakfasts, AM and PM breaks, luncheons, and receptions and throughout the day during conference programs. The exhibitor's exposure to conference participants could not be greater. All technical programs, forums and roundtables will be in the Governor's A & E, which connects to the exhibitor's ballroom.

Sponsors: The PDCA is seeking sponsors for the following programs:

- ◆ Annual
- ◆ Dinner
- ◆ Luncheons
- ◆ Receptions
- ◆ Band
- ◆ AM & PM Breaks
- ◆ Companion's Program
- ◆ Continental Breakfasts
- ◆ Golf

If your firm would like to take advantage of a paid sponsorship this year for tax advantages, contact the PDCA for more information.

PDCA SEEKS PRESENTATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The PDCA is seeking abstracts for consideration at the 11th Annual PDCA International Conference and Exposition in Nashville, TN. The PDCA is requesting interested individuals submit an abstract to the PDCA Technical Committee for consideration as potential topics for an expanded presentation during the association's conference (see attached Memorandum, dated October 20, 2006).

The PDCA is seeking presentations that support the use of driven piles in deep foundations and earth retention systems. The conference will be attended by a variety of individuals representing a broad spectrum of companies associated with the driven pile industry, but is intended primarily for contractors. Therefore, presentations should focus on project issues and resolutions that will have a direct and positive impact on contractor practices. Examples could include presentations describing how driven piles were selected over other foundation alternatives, cost savings resulting from the use of driven pile, foundation challenges overcome through innovative construction techniques using driven pile, excellence in client services or project management, new materials, exceptional designs or innovative engineering. Additionally, presentation could discuss the quality control and quality assurance aspects associated with driven pile applications making them an exceptional choice over other foundation methods.

All submittals must be in MS Word and submitted in an electronic format to the PDCA office. Submittals must be in the PDCA office by December 11, 2006. The PDCA Technical Committee will review all submittals and notify authors by December 22, 2006 if they have been selected to make a presentation.

If selected, presenting authors will be required to submit their presentation to the PDCA in MS PowerPoint, with 3 slides per page and in black and white only no later than Friday, March 2, 2007. Alternately, a formal paper can be written and submitted in MS Word. The PDCA will incorporate all presentations or papers into a Conference Proceedings to be distributed during the conference. If you miss the publication deadline, presenters are encouraged, but not required to distribute copies of their full presentations during the conference.

Abstracts and PowerPoint presentations should be sent to the PDCA, PO Box 66208, Orange Park, Florida 32065; or emailed to the PDCA at execdir@piledrivers.org. A copy of the "Request for Abstracts" is attached for your review and consideration.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AND PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The PDCA has traditionally offered its Contractor members the opportunity to spotlight their companies or projects in each quarterly edition of the PDCA *PileDriver* magazine feature, titled "Member Spotlight" or "Project Spotlight." This program allows members, at no charge or financial obligation to promote their business or projects to over 2500 individuals who receive *PileDriver* every time it is distributed – 4 times a year. The PDCA wants to continue promoting our Contractor members in the same way; however, the PDCA will now open this program to our Associate members, allowing them to participate on a limited basis. Participating companies, both Contractors and Associates, must be able to provide a professional writer (assigned by Lester Publications, the PDCA publicist) some details on your company or project in a short 30-45 minute telephone interview and be available to review the draft editorial content for accuracy in a timely manner. Additionally, participating companies must have pictures available for print that depict either your company or projects that can add to the article. That is the sum total of what your firm needs to supply, the PDCA and Lester Publications do the rest. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact the PDCA via email at execdir@piledrivers.org.

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
FHWA DRIVEN PILE FOUNDATIONS MANUAL AVAILABLE**

The Pile Driving Contractors Association has the FHWA Driven Pile Foundations Manuals, Reference Manuals, Volume I: FHWA NHI-05-042 and Volume II: FHWA NHI-05-043 (NHI Reference No. 132021 and 132022) available on CD. This CD is the 2006 version of the FHWA Manual just released by FHWA and NHI, June 2006. Volume I is 968 pages and Volume II is 486 pages. The CD is \$65.00 for PDCA members and \$100.00 for non-members. The price includes Priority shipping via USPS and immediate shipping is available. Contact the PDCA office for purchases at 1.888.311.7322 or email at execdir@piledrivers.org.