

# Pennsylvania Precast Association

Membership Meeting

May 2, 2018

## Welcome

*Self-Introductions and Anti-Trust Reminder*

*Minutes were approved from March 2018 meeting*

## ASR and Concrete Mix Design

- Serge Ter-Arakelov gave an update on ASR mitigation measures that went into effect on April 1. The research results show that we underestimated how good our local aggregates are however mitigation procedures will need to be used in some situations.
- If you have low alkali cement – refer to Table G to determine level of replacement with Fly Ash or Slag.
- Mix designs need to be submitted under the new policy. He reviewed the Table covering the classification of aggregate reactivity. There are new TR forms from PennDOT that are required with mill tests.
- For Serge’s complete presentation, see attachment.

## PENNDOT Topics

- Joe Bracken updated the group on pertinent issues.
- MASH work is still in progress and they are continuing testing on barriers. Should have results by the end of the summer.
- 
- PennDOT is looking at products to see what can be taken at certification. The process is just in its infancy and they will reach out to PPA members for input. By fall we should have a response after looking at all products.
- 
- PennDOT said they still have not received Silica Sand Exposure plans from all PPA plants.
- 
- Bearing Pads do those used for sound walls need to be tested?
- 
- Regarding the Foreign Steel topic – if the project contains foreign steel the whole packet need to be submitted.
- 
- There is some discussion regarding allowing precasters access to submit paperwork electronically.

## Associate Spotlight

Ed Gebauer, with Concrete Sealants introduced ConBlock CDA. Here is link to Concrete Sealants website with public information on the technology.

<http://conseal.com/technical-resources/>

## Associate Spotlights for 2018:

If you would like to be added to the list of future presenters, please contact MS.

## Industry Discussion

Barry Fleck, ALP Supply, lead a discussion on the impact that steel prices and availability may have on our industry.

### **Where are we**

Where things are today:

25% increase was on raw steel and Aluminum

Only a few products have been impacted now = Wire ties on list of 1,300 products

That is subject to change and could be quickly up 25% - to be announced

There is no fix or solution being offered with the Tariffs. Everyone loses with increased costs

Domestic steel prices will always be higher than any imported prices

Already saw 20-30% increase before the tariffs were announced

The 2001 Bush Tariff lasted a year because it was a disaster and was rescinded

Little reinvestment back in the industry when Steel had the opportunity

Lack of ROI for their investments

Opening old steel mills that were closed because they were inefficient won't solve anything

### **Exposure**

Not enough Steel capacity – America is one of if not the biggest user of steel yet we only product 14% of the world's steel. We use far more than we produce

Prestress Strand is a good example

Largest use of strand is post tensioning around 3-4 times what is used by the prestress industry

Around 60-70% of this is all imports for Post Tension industry

Prestress industry uses 80-90% domestic produced strand for their volume

Due to dumping actions along with new Tariffs Post Tension industry has a big problem

Lack of strand

Higher costs

Impacting all users of strand

Prices are up and going higher due to limited capacity

We can't build our way out of this problem with new plants

Takes 10 years to get approvals to build a plant

Costs are prohibitive and hard to justify because of all the regulations

Reality of steel production

China produces 51% of the world's steel. They have the most modern mills in the world which are fully automated.

### **Concerns**

An unstable steel market will destroy the construction market just like 2008

8-10-month job cycle start to finish jobs

Uncertainty of prices and availability will stop new construction until it changes

### **Our industry**

Despite Buy America push little investment made in capacity in last 5 years for concrete accessories

Only around 18% of construction volume in US requires domestic

Manufacturing requires a lot of labor which is in short supply for every industry

---

**Stamped products** – more readily available with a 30% premium today but rising  
**Forged products**  
Very limited capacity and 3-5 times more expensive than imported prices

Other Items for discussion

OSHA crane rule changes postponed until November 2018

Membership and Marketing

- Welcome JJ Hooks/ Easi-Set Industries as our newest associate member!
- Please review your vendors and associates that are not involved. Send MS info of someone that may benefit from PPA membership.

Executive Director Report

- MS requested images and product information for updated web site content and e-newsletter and project profiles. Please send project info and photos to [info@paprecast.org](mailto:info@paprecast.org).
- If you are not receiving the PPA electronic newsletter, please let MS know to be added to the mailing list.
- Please review your company/personal contact info on the web site and send MS any updates.

Review of Recent Financials:

- PPA current bank balance (as of April 30, 2018)= \$ 34,169

Key Dates

September 5, 2018 – PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA  
October 4 –6, 2018 – NPCA Convention, Providence, R.I.  
November 7, 2018 – PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA