

Pennsylvania Precast Association

Conference Call

May 15, 2020

Attendance via Skype/Conference Call

Joseph Bracken, PennDOT

Douglas Palkendo, PennDOT

Alissa Myers, PennDOT

Randy Lazouras, PennDOT

Matt McSweeney, PennDOT

Son Vu, PennDOT

Joshua Charnosky

Adam Zuccolotto

Andrew Pennoni, Pennoni Associates

Bob Horwhat, TRC

Bruce Hottle, Eagle Concrete Products

Lynn Calvin, Wine Concrete Products

Mike Buchan, AC Miller Concrete

Monica Schultes, PPA

Phillip Lapp, Faddis Concrete Products

Chip Winner, Oldcastle Infrastructure

David Bryan, CCI

Nadine Brennan, Faddis

Nelson Martin, Terre Hill Concrete

Gene Martin, Terre Hill Concrete

Agenda Items for Discussion

- Covid-19 Safety Plan
- Fabrication
- Shipping

Joe Bracken started discussion with Covid-19 updates. Since March 16, the Department went to tele-working and at that time the precast fabrication shops were continuing to varying degrees. Operations continued depending on the health and safety of their employees.

A copy of Covid-19 plan for inspectors was supplied to PennDOT. Most plants in Western half of state have submitted their revised safety plans while some are still needed from precasters located in the eastern half of the state. One of the biggest issues the precasters

are facing is how to keep their employees safe while they adjust to this new situation during pandemic.

From March 23 to April 20 much of the state was shut down under stay at home orders. On May 1st all construction projects were released and things are slowly rebounding with contractors trying to catch up.

Authorities have compiled a Red/Yellow/Green phasing document for how to return to work across the Commonwealth. During the 6 week shutdown with construction on hold many precast products could not be shipped. There was no delivery of products in the interim depending on whether it was deemed a tier 2 project. After that as long as the job has been inspected and precast can be recv'd on site, the products are good to go.

One PPA producer said that some contractors wouldn't be taking delivery until much later than originally scheduled. One contractor even said to stop precast production. Meanwhile, however, projects scheduled for June and July are now trying to catch up. There was blanket relief given to GC's for meeting deadlines. What is the expectation regarding trying to meet schedules and the imposed Liquidated Damages (LDs)?

PennDOT suggests reaching out to the contractor on each individual project to discuss schedule challenges. It is best to get something in writing regarding revised dates or other changes to original contract. As of now, PennDOT is still working from home and working with precasters as issues come up. They are trying to make it business as usual except for tele-commuting.

A participant on the call stated that according to APC's counsel, contractors should put in change orders for cost inefficiencies due to the mandatory shut down. There was some discussion as to whether PPA members had rights to similar compensation due to costs incurred during same time frame.

PennDOT again recommended to communicate with the GC on each project regarding not only any concerns regarding missing delivery dates but to document any costs incurred during this time.

One precaster was hit hard by flare up of Covid-19 cases and was down to 50% production capacity. There are concerns regarding meeting schedules this summer. Even though we didn't cause the pandemic not sure if there will be any provisions for extra work performed and additional safety and production measures put in place.

To date there haven't been backlogs with trucking companies. Some are getting calls from GCs saying they would not be taking delivery on ECMS schedule dates. Delivery dates were moved on material that was already fabricated. One contractor said don't even produce because I don't know what is happening.

Jobs that are going to go in June and July – will there be any relief (especially box culverts) for deadlines moving forward from precasters? A bigger issue will be whether Liquidated Damages mitigated?

PennDOT does not have control over contractors and each District will be handling things differently. PPA Precaster should bring it up to contractor and try to work it out individually and the GC can in turn work that out with the District on job by job basis. Every situation is different and there is no blanket solution

If you anticipate that there will be problems you should start discussions with GC and put it in writing to track any revised agreements. Each district is handling their own projects and depending on their needs will vary how jobs move forward in an effort to catch up.

Terre Hill lost more than half of employees due to Covid-19 outbreak at their box culvert plant. Which set them back 50% production capacity – looking forward to July we won't be able to make all the delivery dates and schedules. It has been a chain reaction and we are coming to a point in time where it will keep pushing later in the year. We are trying to hire people, but they would rather be on unemployment and we are struggling to fill those gaps. We are looking for help to alleviate the problems

PPA members would like to see PennDOT become advocate for the industry to help us through this situation.

PennDOT says you should raise red flag now to let everyone know that there will be schedule slippage this summer. The contractors who will be affected by this need to know that Covid has affected your shop and they can talk to District regarding availability of product. You need to tell them as soon as possible.

PPA should create spreadsheet documenting these issues and track what is affected and results. Send to MS to compile hardship cases and results.

It seems that the GCs have an avenue to submit costs and losses due to cranes sitting on site and other issues – they can submit for relief. We as suppliers have no ability to do that and would like for someone at PennDOT to support us.

If GC files for change order – they provide supporting documentation to show cost and time. If we move forward with this PPA members would need to know specific project and exactly what the impact is.

If we capture this information – there are no guarantees but it is worth starting the process.

As precasters send requests to the GC – a copy can be sent to PPA and PennDOT so we can track the magnitude of these challenges. PPA can track when letters were sent and how many and to what extent projects are affected.

Even if there is a favorable response from GC – we should put it on the list to be able to reference this to keep track and let PennDOT know the extent of the situation.

In the past we occasionally asked for help from GCs depending on the reason. Since this is such anomaly it might be worth documenting additional costs incurred on a particular project if it can relate to Covid-19.

Other PennDOT related items

There is a lot that is not known regarding PennDOT bid lettings given the financial impact that the pandemic has wreaked. No info available at this time. If there is a list of upcoming box culverts in the pipeline they will provide however there are a number of jobs that have been pulled or delayed.

BD Standards are being clarified via E-note (#75) regarding Sheet 14 and the joint alignment. This should resolve prior PPA concerns regarding layout and staged construction lines. Standards will be updated later this year through Clearance Transmittal.