

# Pennsylvania Precast Association

Meeting at Susquehanna Club

March 9, 2022

## Attendance in Person- see sign in sheets

### Attendance via Teams Virtual

Randy Lazouras, PennDOT

Matt McSweeney, PennDOT

Alissa Myers, PennDOT

Joe Bracken, PennDOT

Chip Winner, Oldcastle Precast

Chad Forcellini, AC Miller

Todd Monahan, Airmatic

Dan Linaugh, ConTech

Marlene Hecker, Carbon Cure

Bill Wentz, AC Miller

Introductions were made by all in attendance. An Anti-trust reminder and disclaimer was reviewed before the meeting started.

### Items for Discussion: Quality Control items from PennDOT

- Chief Bridge Engineer, Tom Macioce has left PennDOT and they are looking for a replacement. Kristin Langer is filling in temporarily.
- There have been some other changes at PennDOT, Jon Fleming is now Chief Executive Highway Administration and Gavin Gray is Acting Chief Engineer Highway Administration and Joseph Robinson is Acting Bureau of Construction and Materials Director.
- There was some discussion regarding PPA comments regarding Sheet BD-632M in recent Clearance Transmittal that covered design of box culverts. PPA members submitted suggested changes to galvanized strap connection details and other comments. Responses from PennDOT will be included in the next round of Clearance Transmittal submissions
- Due to technical difficulties the DOT will be reverting back to email attachments instead of transmitting CT's through Teams app.
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- As to the ongoing discussion regarding inventory, storage and shipping: when the precast product has shipped but extra pieces return to the yard at a later date, they must be placed back for inspectors to put them back in the system for future use.
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- Discussion clarifying the electronic signature requirements for material certifications that is now in effect. For example, mill certs will have to be separate attachments with electronic signature. PPA producers will need to send email to GC who has access to ECMS but no other attachments are allowed. Fabricators are not business partners which is why they need to go through the GC. You can also email ECONSTRUCT to get electronic signature ( [econstruct@pa.gov](mailto:econstruct@pa.gov) )
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- Reminder that plants are required to send their NPCA certification as well as QC manuals to PennDOT on annual basis. They should also let the Department know if there is a change in management.
- It was suggested that it might be easier to submit this information to PennDOT when NPCA conducts audit or provides plant certification. However, after later revisiting the idea, PPA members preferred to maintain status quo.
- PPA Members were asking if there was information available regarding box culverts or other major precast projects that would be let in 2022. That would be helpful if they knew when Districts would be letting those jobs.
- Conference call in February was beneficial in starting the process toward improved collaboration. We discussed how to anticipate some common problems with submittals and revisited the PennDOT/PPA approved repair list. A check list was circulated that contains information necessary to get approvals for repairs that are not on pre-approved list. Including the right data will help head off issues and avoid delays. The Check list is included at the end of these minutes. If there are any additional comments please forward to MS.
- The conference call was also beneficial in opening discussions to improve and inform other topics. One topic was the request that plant inspectors include notification of plant staff (whomever designated) for communications of red flags or other items that need to be addressed. Instead of only notifying PennDOT, going forward it would be helpful to let precaster know about these issues or concerns.
- Another item for discussion was the approval time for mix designs for trial batching. It is estimated that a 2 week turnaround time is required.
- Some brief discussion as to how to negotiate the Bulletin 15 approval process. For those who are unfamiliar with it there is a target response time of 180 days. Depending on whether it is a new product or whether it falls under PennDOT specifications determines if the application needs to go through different departments. New product applications take longest.
- When you go through ECAMS there should be a way to check on progress through the “My Product Evaluation” center. That is where you should address concerns.

## ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT

If you are interested in presenting at a meeting this year, please contact me to reserve an Associate Spotlight at one of our meetings.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was suggestion to invite an attorney to a future meeting to review contract concerns during these uncertain times. The speaker could address price escalation (especially fuel) and other topics of interest.

Another idea was to consider the option for a social meeting like skeet shooting or golf.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

If you have a project you would like to feature in the PPA newsletter, please send me some info. This project will also be featured on web site as case study. Projects can be located in surrounding states as long as PPA producer manufactured product for project.

Please send MS updates to contacts at your firm or updates to PPA web site to reflect personnel changes.

After the success of our September meeting, we will discuss the idea of co-hosting some meetings with the ASACP.

The next PPA meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at the Susquehanna Club.

Meeting Dates for 2022: all at the Susquehanna Club all on Wednesdays  
May 11, September 7, November 2

### **Revised 3/22 PPA check list for precast concrete repair proposal**

Reminder to review the pre-approved product specific repairs for structural or cosmetic defects in PennDOT Pub 145. The goal of PPA members is to minimize recurring defects and associated future repairs.

If a repair is beyond the scope of the pre-approved repairs – either for cosmetic or structural or missing or mis-aligned inserts, etc.

Please submit the following info to PennDOT with your repair proposal

1. Project information (ECMS, SR, Section, Structure #, County) – not just plant job #
2. Piece mark, strip dates
3. Product strengths
4. Photos of damaged area, with tape measure or some proportioning, and photo from a distance
5. Sketches of damaged area/repair area
6. Shop drawing sheet of piece showing the damaged area
7. Detailed repair procedure
8. Detailed curing (typically what the manufacturer recommends, but if varying or using own concrete – different)
9. Inspector's signature/initials + date
10. Current cut sheets of Bulletin 15 repair materials
11. Some statement about QC and inspector evaluating the repair after complete – i.e. sounding of the repair, etc.