



Chicago Midwest Section of AACE International

The Role of the Engineer, Scientist, and Cost Estimator in Subrogating Loss

Thursday, January 12, 2012

SPEAKER: Elizabeth Laura Powers & Richard Walther, PE, SE – Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

SUMMARY: Buildings, bridges, and other structures experience failures due to a wide assortment of causes ranging from natural disasters, poor quality construction, deterioration and distress, errors and omissions, etc. Failures can be catastrophic, as was the case in the I-35W bridge collapse, or much more mundane, as might be the case associated with a drafty window. In either case, there are costs that will be incurred to correct the deficiencies and/or failure. These costs must be paid; but how much? And by whom?

The first step in determining the financial liability of a failure or deficiency is to understand the problem. Engineering and scientific methods can be employed to help in this process. The presenters will recount project experiences where engineering and science have been used to save clients thousands and even millions of dollars. Cooperation between various disciplines (engineering, science, and cost estimating) can help ascertain the extent of liability and to whom it should be applied.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) specializes in diagnosing and solving problems in buildings, bridges, and other structures, both historic and modern. The presenters will draw on the experience of more than 70,000 projects completed since the firm's origin in 1956 to highlight how engineering and science can be used to successfully subrogate blame and the financial loss of building and bridge failures.

Location

Athena Restaurant
212 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL

Schedule

Networking	11:45 am
Lunch & Presentation	12:00 pm

Parking

There is free Valet Parking at Athena Restaurant.

Cost

\$30 – members and non-members

Reservations

Please RSVP by Monday, January 9, noon

Fax or email registration form to:

Rich Blackwell rich@richblackwell.com

Phone: 630.269.9411 Fax: 708.658.1533

Online registration is available at www.richblackwell.com/AACE



Speaker Background

Richard Walther has extensive experience in the inspection and evaluation of bridge and building structures that exhibit distress and deterioration. His interest lies in the field of nondestructive evaluation (NDE), and he has developed considerable experience in the use of NDE techniques for the assessment of steel, masonry, and concrete structures. Mr. Walther has experience in the investigation of insurance loss claims and has served as an expert witness. Mr. Walther joined WJE after graduating from Purdue University (BSCE '86, MSCE '89). He is licensed in several states.

Laura Powers is an internationally known petrographer with more than 25 years of experience investigating causes of distress and failure in concrete and other materials used in construction. Ms. Powers' experience includes on-site and laboratory investigations of concrete, mortar, stucco, grout, plaster, dimension stone, ceramics, fibers, metals, glass, cement, and aggregates. She is an active member of ACI, ASTM International, and various geological, mineralogical, and professional petrographic organizations. She obtained her Master's degree from the University of Saskatchewan and her Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, both in Geology, focusing on petrology, petrography, and geochemistry. Laura joined WJE in 2003.

Information about the section is also on the web at <http://chicago.aacei.org/>. 1.0 CEU for continuing education credit is awarded for each attendee. All AACEI members and non-members are welcome.



REGISTRATION

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AACEI – Chicago Midwest Section

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Name: _____

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Cost: \$30 for both members and non-members.

Fax or email registration to: *(registration due by 1/9/12)*

Rich Blackwell

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Questions: Call Scott Hollingsworth at 312.521.7446
(shollingsworth@KenrichGroup.com)