



Current Challenges Facing the Structural Engineering Community



Michael L. Lenkin, P.E.

Senior Vice President
Miller & Long Co., Inc.
CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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725 23rd St NW (Between G and H), Washington, D.C. 20052

Abstract

Structural Engineering is a high responsibility profession. Of paramount concern to structural engineers is the safety of the public. Many recent graduates feel nervous at their first jobs because of the high level of responsibility. Mistakes in practice can have high costs; meanwhile, clients expect quick responses. The presentation will discuss some of these challenges and remedies to narrow the experience gap exists between leaders of the field and young engineers, such as: (1) standards set by engineering firms on the internal technical review of projects, (2) balance between the level of detail of work, including internal reviews, and the budget restrictions of a project, (3) training and mentorship needed at all levels to encourage young professionals to develop quality work, gain confidence, and eventually step into management roles themselves.

Speaker's Biography

Michael L. Lenkin, Senior Vice President for Miller & Long Co., Inc., received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in 1986 and his M.E. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in 1987. Mr. Lenkin has been practicing engineering since graduating from Cornell University in 1987. He became licensed as a Professional Engineer in 1990 and is currently licensed as a Professional Engineer in 22 states plus the District of Columbia. Upon graduating from Cornell, Mr. Lenkin continued his career with KCE Structural Engineers, P.C. in Washington, District of Columbia. After several years with KCE, Mr. Lenkin continued his career working for Blake Construction Company to construct the Fort Belvoir Headquarters Complex, and then for M. A. Mortenson Company constructing the Main Terminal Addition at Dulles International Airport. Mr. Lenkin was initially hired by Miller & Long Co., Inc. to help construct the Carolina Panthers Stadium, and has remained with Miller & Long since the stadium was completed. Mr. Lenkin has experience working on hundreds of projects including many major private and government facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition to his work experience, Mr. Lenkin is twice a past President of the National Capital Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (NCC-ACI), is past chairman of the Structural Engineers Association of Metropolitan Washington (SEA-MW), and a member of the Board of Directors for the District of Columbia Students Construction Trades Foundation (DCSCTF). Mr. Lenkin is currently a member of ASCE, ACI, ICRI, NCC-ACI, and SEA-MW.

(If you any questions, please contact Professor Sameh Badie, 202-994-8803)