

Queens Chapter New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

September 2010

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President's Message

By *George Tavoulaareas, P.E.*
President
gltpe@msn.com

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Anthony Cava**, PE, Professor **Ysrael Seinuk**, PE and **Nicky Petallides**, wife of past president Chris Petallides, PE. Nicky was a supporter of our chapter and was well known and loved in our Society. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chris and his family.

The proposed NYC Department of Buildings rule (http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/downloads/rules/rule_101-06_proposed.pdf) modifying Appendix A has not been promulgated by the City of New York. Our chapter through the MCPC (five borough chapters of NSPE) issued a letter to **Alan Price**, PE, Director of OTCR for the Buildings Dept. expressing our concerns with this proposed rule. In our letter, we made it clear that special inspections are the practice of engineering and that allowing plumbers and other trades people to perform drywell, fire alarm, standpipe, and other special inspections violate State Law. Special inspections is the practice of engineering according to the NYS Education Dept. and the NYS Education Dept. issued a letter to DOB advising them that special inspections constitute the practice of engineering. The society also expressed concerns regarding the agency structure language. The agency structure language in its current form allows any corporate structure to perform special inspections and this will foster rubber stamping and

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illegal practice. Our Society opposes any corporate entity that is not authorized by the NYS Education Dept. to practice engineering or architecture to perform special inspections. Incorporated businesses that are not grandfathered are violating the law by performing special inspections. I telephoned the OTCR unit to discuss the changes and I have not heard back from them. The Society of Fire Professional Engineers has also expressed similar concerns and the letters are included in the Drawingboard.

Local law 564 created the NYC Energy code and it became effective July 1, 2010. The NYC energy code closes "loop holes" that were in the NY State Energy code. Engineers will now have to show calculations on their drawings justifying compliance with the code. The code will also require more than forty progress inspections be performed during construction by engineers or architects. These progress inspections have opened up opportunities for professional engineers. A new TR form for these progress inspections will be issued by the DOB within the next several weeks. The Building Dept. has contacted me and has expressed interest in coming to our Chapter and explaining the changes. We will schedule something with them in the next couple of weeks.

How well do you know the Education Dept. Laws? Staten Island Chapter President **Joseph Pasaturo**, PE forwarded me a test. According to Joe " the following link will take you to the office of professions web site where there is a small 15 Question quiz to test your knowledge about our practice laws. While the quiz uses the term engineers, many of the questions also apply to the practice of architecture so I urge all our architecture friends to also take the quiz. In my years on the state board as well as in many of the presentations that I have given to various groups, I am amazed by how many of us don't fully understand a lot of our practice laws." Go and take the test at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pels/peselftest.htm>

Last week I attended a meeting with the Commissioner of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, **Cas Holloway**. In the next several months, DEP will propose storm water rules that will have an impact on building design. Please read **Bob Lo Pinto's** article summarizing

these changes.

The Society's lawsuit (appeal) against NYC for violating State Education Law by appointing a non license design professional as Building Commissioner is in the court system and we expect a ruling in October.

In the next several months we will be making major changes to our website, www.nspequeens.org I want to include and showcase photos of projects that our members have worked on. Please forward me your project photos in JPEG format and other interesting material to me at gltpe@msn.com. We will put these photos on our website so everyone can appreciate the work we do.

As always, I want to hear from you. Call or e-mail me
Our chapter meeting is this Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:30pm in Ft.Totten. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23 at 6:30PM

There will be a charge of \$20 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Mr. Bruce Maida, Principal Engineer, National Grid Architect and Engineer's Program. Topics to be discussed:

- A&E Mission Statement
Through single point accountability, the A&E Principal Engineers provide project guidance, technical information and training on National Grid's Energy Efficiency Programs. We are the 'First Touch' with A&E Firms who specialize in building design and mechanical systems and seek to proactively influence projects to be the most energy efficient & economical designs.
- Energy efficient equipment and rebate programs offered by National Grid. New project design and process flow for submissions will be discussed.
- New project design and process flow for submissions

Proposed Stormwater Management Rules

By Robert LoPinto, P.E.

Chapter President George Tavoulaareas, PE, and past presidents **Robert LoPinto**, PE and **Brian Flynn**, PE attended a stakeholders meeting on Sept. 13th at the NYC DEP. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information from DEP regarding changes they are preparing to the Stormwater Management Program, and for DEP to obtain comments from the stakeholders. The DEP is proposing to change the calculation method for required stormwater detention on new developments, and developments that increase impermeable surfaces by 20%.

Under the proposed method, the allowable stormwater flow rates to the DEP sewer system will be set at 0.25 cfs, or 10% of the current calculated allowable value, whichever is higher. The current average flow rate is 2.5 cfs. This would decrease the allowable flow for most developments, especially larger ones. This would result in the requirement to detain as much as 9 times the amount of stormwater as is now required to be detained. There are going to be 6 standard methods for the detention, plus the ability to propose other methods for the specific site. The change will increase development costs from 0.3 to 1.5 % of the current development costs, based on DEP estimates.

The purpose of the change is to decrease flows to the sewers, thereby extending their useful lifetime, and to encourage green and grey structures to reduce stormwater discharge rates.

The DEP expects to promulgate their new proposal by early 2011, along with design guidelines. The proposal would then have to go thru the approval process. After

approval, the DEP would hold workshops to present the new requirements. There will be another meeting in Sept. to review proposed changes to the House/Site Connection Applications. Stay tuned for further developments.

Retroactive Application of Code

By Martin A. Schwartzberg, Esq.
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COURT UPHOLDS RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CODE PROVISION TO ENGINEER

In April, New York's Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State, upheld the retroactive application of an Administrative Code provision, resulting in the revocation of the engineer's professional certification privileges.

The licensed engineer, **Leon St. Clair-Nation** ("Nation"), placed his seal on digitally-altered photographs submitted to the New York City Department of Buildings ("DOB") in connection with a pavement plan for a building under construction in Brooklyn in 2004. In early 2005, Nation attested to the accuracy of a falsified photograph in support of another pavement plan for a separate Brooklyn property. The following year, he offered a false application to the DOB for alterations to a non-existent second floor of a third property in Brooklyn.

As a result of the falsified filings, the DOB commenced an administrative proceeding before the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings

seeking to revoke Nation's professional certification privileges. Following a hearing, the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") found

by a preponderance of the evidence that the Nation had negligently certified the accuracy of the altered photographs and submitted a deceptive application, resulting in a recommendation that Nation's professional certification privileges be rescinded.

The DOB Commissioner adopted the ALJ's recommendation and revoked Nation's certification privileges with respect to the agency's "Limited Supervisory Check and/or Professional Certification Program". Relying on a recently-enacted Administrative Code provision, §26-124(c), the DOB Commissioner further precluded Nation from filing any application or document with the DOB, whether in connection with the Limited Supervisory Check/Professional Certification Program or otherwise, for two years, to be followed by a three-year probationary period.

The DOB Commissioner's determination that Administrative Code §26-124(c) was inapplicable. The DOB argued that the Commissioner's refusal to accept documents from Nation for a future period of time did not amount to an improper retroactive application of the provision. The Court of Appeals agreed with the DOB's position and reinstated the penalty of precluding Nation from submitting any documents to the DOB for two years, with a three-year probationary period thereafter.

In the above regard, §26-124(c) provides, in relevant part, as follows:

"In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the Commissioner may refuse to accept any application or other document . . . that bears the signature of any person who has been found, after a hearing at the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings pursuant to the Department's rules . . . to have knowingly or negligently falsified or allowed to be falsified any certificate, form, signed statement, application, [or] report.

In response to the penalties imposed, Nation commenced an Article 78 proceeding challenging the DOB Commissioner's determination. Nation argued: that the determination was not supported by substantial evidence; that the revocation of his certification privileges was excessive; and that Administrative Code §26-124(c) was inapplicable because it was enacted in 2007, after he engaged in the acts charged

Commissioner's application of the Code provision retroactive. This Court of Appeals decision is notable for two reasons. The first, and most obvious, is that it establishes the underlying purpose of the Code provision is to promote public safety, the DOB's authority to discipline licensed professionals given the vast number of documents filed with and relied upon the DOB each year. who intentionally or negligently file inaccurate documents based upon a Code provision that was not in effect

Based upon the above rationale, the at the time of the filing. In addition, a Court of Appeals held that the further significant result of this decision is Commissioner properly relied on the Court's implicit finding that the DOB has Administrative Code §26-124(c) in the authority to discipline licensed determining that the DOB could preclude professionals separate and apart from any Nation from submitting any documents for discipline that the licensed professional may two years, with a three-year probationary be subject to by the New York State period thereafter. In addition, the Court Education Department, which is the also held that, based upon Nation's authority which in the past was solely repeated certification and submission of responsible for disciplining licensed false materials, the DOB Commissioner's professionals who act improperly. determination did not shock the conscience.



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Allan Price
Director of OTCR
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

June 25, 2010

Re: NYC DOB - Special Inspection Agencies

Dear Mr. Price.

We are in receipt of a copy of the proposed amendments to the rules promulgated by the New York City Department of Buildings regarding Special Inspections dated June of 2010. I would first like to applaud the efforts made by DOB personnel, the draft contains a number of improvements which were made in response to concerns expressed by members of the NYS Society of Professional Engineers and their local representatives at the MCPC (Metropolitan Chapters Presidents Council). The improvements will go a long way in ensuring that there remains a suitable pool of qualified Professional Engineers and Registered Architects who can perform the special inspections.

That being said, there is still two issues which we believe still need to be addressed. The first involves agency structure ([5] 6) which currently states;

Agency Structure. The special inspection agency shall have a full time director who is a registered design professional in responsible charge and all special inspections shall be performed under his or her direct supervision. The director shall not be retained by any other agency that provides special inspection or testing services. The director shall possess relevant experience in the inspection and testing industry and hold a management position in the agency. The agency structure shall comply with all relevant New York State and Federal laws. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this paragraph, an agency that is limited to conducting fuel-oil storage and fuel-oil piping inspections [(BC1704.16)], fire alarm tests, sprinkler systems [(BC1704.21)], standpipe systems [(BC1704.22)], emergency power systems or site storm drainage disposal and detention [(BC1704.20)] may have a director who satisfies the requirements of inspection supervisor for such tests and inspections as set forth in Appendix A of this rule.

Pursuant to NYS Education Law [with very limited exception of some grandfathered general business corporations] under NYS education law section 7209 (6), general business corporations and other general business entities cannot offer to provide professional engineering services.

In short, since the performance of these special inspections is considered the practice of engineering by the NYS Education Department any individual or entity engaged in performing these inspections must either obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the NYS Education Dept. (a copy of this application is attached.) or be Professional Engineer practicing as a sole proprietor. Registered Architects and Authorized Architectural Entities can also perform these special inspections. The PE or RA must be the owner of the entity performing the special inspections, not just a full time director.

The current language of the rule is misleading in that it gives the impression that anyone can form a special inspection agency as long as they have a full time director who is a registered design professional in responsible charge. Keep in mind the landscape architects are technically considered registered design professionals and under the current language could form a special inspection agency. In addition while we concur that the next sentence in the current language, (*The agency structure shall comply with all NYS and Federal laws*) does provide legal cover for the DOB. We still feel that the language of this paragraph can be substantially improved so as not to foster illegal practice.

We offer the following recommend language for the agency structure portion of the rule for your consideration:

Agency Structure: A special inspection agency must either be a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer or NYS Registered Architect acting in the capacity of a Sole Proprietor or a corporate entity authorized by the NYS Education Department to provide engineering or architectural services. In addition such individual or entity must be properly registered with the NYC Department of Buildings as a Special Inspection Agency in the proper class that they will be practicing in. The special inspection agency shall also have a full time director who is a NYS Professional Engineer or NYS Registered Architect in responsible charge and all special inspections shall be performed under his or her direct supervision. The director shall not be retained by any other agency that provides special inspection or testing services. The director shall possess relevant experience in the inspection and testing industry and hold a management position in the agency. The agency structure shall comply with all relevant New York State and Federal laws.

The second issue which I want to bring to your attention has to do with the Appendix /A/ qualifications for the following inspections:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this paragraph, an agency that is limited to conducting fuel-oil storage and fuel-oil piping inspections [(BC1704.16)], fire alarm tests, sprinkler systems [(BC1704.21)], standpipe systems [(BC1704.22)], emergency power systems or site storm drainage disposal and detention [(BC1704.20)] may have a director who satisfies the requirements of inspection supervisor for such tests and inspections as set forth in Appendix A of this rule.

After a thorough review the NYS Education Department, on recommendation by the NYS State Board of Engineering and Land Surveying has made the determination that all special inspections constitute the practice of engineering and as such can only be performed by either a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer or NYS Registered Architect. This is especially true for Site Storm Drainage, Disposal and Detention. The Appendix /A/ qualifications that provide for an alternative qualification other than a Professional Engineer or Registered Architect to perform these inspections are in direct conflict with this NYS Education Department Ruling who has sole authority for determining what is considered the practice of engineering. We respectfully request that the Appendix /A/ Qualifications for these inspections be modified to conform with NYS Education Department Regulations.

We feel that the foregoing language and recommendations would help to ensure that only qualified individuals and entities properly supervised by a Professional Engineer or Registered Architect will be performing special inspections. We applaud the DOB's efforts in both outreach to the professional community and willingness to work together with NYSSPE and its chartered affinity group the MCPC, in developing a special inspection rule which will protect the health and welfare of the public as well as ensure a pool of qualified inspectors operating legally under NYC and NYS laws. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further or to provide any additional assistance that you may need.

Professionally yours,

Joseph A. Pasaturo P.E.

Joseph A. Pasaturo PE
Chairman - Metropolitan Chapters Presidents Council of NYSSPE
President - Staten Island Chapter NYSSPE
Vice Chairman - NYS Board of Engineering and Land Surveying.



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August 20, 2009

Mr. Constadino "Gus" Sirakis
Acting Director of Engineering Technical Affairs
New York City Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: Special Inspections

Dear Mr. Sirakis:

We write as a follow-up to our May 2009 conference call where we discussed the Department of Buildings' adoption of new Section 101-06 to Subchapter A of Chapter 100 of Title 1 of the Official Compilation of the Rules of the City of New York, regarding special inspections and the qualification of these special inspectors.

The New York State Education Department - Office of Professions (Department) and the State Boards for Engineering & Land Surveying and Architecture have reviewed Section 101-06 and also Chapter 17 - Structural Tests and Special Inspections from the 2008 New York City Building Code provided by you subsequent to our conference call in May.

After a careful review of the above documents and lengthy discussion, the State Board of Engineering and Land Surveying at their June 2009 Board meeting, voted unanimously to recommend to the Department that the Special Inspections as defined in Chapter 17 and Section 101-06 of the Rules on the City of New York fall within the scope of practice for engineers as defined in Education Law, Articles 145. Likewise, the State Board for Architecture at their July 2009 Board meeting, also voted unanimously to recommend to the Department that the Special Inspections as defined in Chapter 17 and Section 101-06 of the Rules on the City of New York fall within the scope of practice for architects as defined in Education Law, Articles 147. With unanimous support from the Boards, and consultation with our attorneys and senior management within the Department, we believe that all special inspections as currently defined should be performed by the appropriate licensed (and currently registered) design professional.

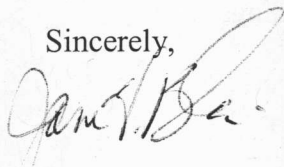
We applaud the efforts of the NYC Department of Buildings to put in place consistent standards for the qualification of Special Inspectors that will enhance public safety and the integrity of the

construction process. Specific qualifications will help to ensure that the Special Inspectors have the appropriate knowledge, expertise, and experience, to perform this very critical step in the design and construction process and support the requirement that they sign and seal the Technical Report – Statement of Responsibility document.

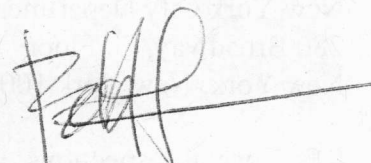
We appreciate the opportunity to discuss this very important scope of practice issue related to the design professions and look forward to future discussions on issues where we may work together to further enhance the protection of the public.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Robert Lopez at the contact information provided above.

Sincerely,



Jane Blair, PE
Executive Secretary



Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

C: Frank Munoz – Associate Commissioner



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New York Metro Chapter

July 7, 2010

Director Allan Price, P.E.
Director of OTCR
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 7th floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Special Inspection Qualifications.

Dear Mr. Price:

Society of Fire Protection Engineers - Metro Chapter represents numerous Fire Protection Engineers, consultants and contractors practicing fire protection in New York City. We currently have close to 100 members.

We have reviewed the "Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Rule Relating to Special Inspectors and Special Inspection Agencies" (10 pages) and a call for a public hearing on July 8, 2010. We also reviewed Appendix A "Qualifications" (12 pages), both located on the DOB web site.

These two documents establish criteria for people and companies that under the new code will be allowed to perform Special Inspections (construction inspections) of new systems and installations in lieu of the Department of Buildings and/or Fire Department inspectors.

Upon careful review of these documents, we have the following comments:

Section 1 (a)(19):

We believe that the Agency structure must comply with all relevant NY State laws. Since under the NY State Education laws Special Inspections proposed by the Department of Buildings clearly fall under definition of practice of engineering and/or architecture, such practice shall be performed only by authorized entities: individual self-employed P.E.s / R.A.s, Professional Services Corporations (P.C.) or a small amount of "grandfathered" Inc. Corporations. This position is consistent with the June 25, 2010 letter from the New York State Society of Professional Engineers to you (copy attached).

Section 1 (a)(21):

Since Special Inspections are clearly considered a practice of Engineering and/or Architecture, Special Inspectors shall be limited to qualified registered design professionals (NY State licensed P.E.s and R.A.s).

Par. 2 Subdivision c of Section 101-06 (5)(i):

We believe that all Special Inspection Agencies shall carry Professional liability/errors and omissions insurance policy. We do not believe that proposed exclusions of Agencies performing inspections of fuel-oil storage and piping, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, emergency power systems serves the best interest of the residents of New York City.

This exclusion could also expose the NYC Department of Buildings to a substantial liability due to accepting special inspection reports for such important and life-saving systems from uninsured entities.

Par. 2 Subdivision c of Section 101-06 (5)(i):

We believe that the Agency structure must comply with all relevant NY State laws. Since under the NY State Education laws Special Inspections proposed by the Department of Buildings clearly fall under definition of practice of engineering and/or architecture, such practice shall be performed only by authorized entities: individual self-employed P.E.s / R.A.s, Professional Services Corporations (P.C.) or a small amount of "grandfathered" Inc. Corporations. This position is consistent with the June 25, 2010 letter from the New York State Society of Professional Engineers to you (copy attached).

Appendix A - Qualifications:

Smoke control systems:

No comments.

Standpipe and Sprinkler Systems:

Inspection of sprinkler and standpipe systems is clearly a practice of Fire Protection Engineering. As you know, a PE license in New York State is issued without a specific field of engineering the licensee is allowed to practice in. Years ago, applicants taking Part II of the PE exam were even allowed to choose engineering problems from any field of engineering. Professional Engineer's stamp in New York does not indicate the field he/she is allowed to practice in. In addition, the field of Fire Protection was recognized by the NY State Education Department only a few years ago. Based on the above, it does not make practical sense to indicate the "PE - Mechanical Engineering" in this chart.

Furthermore, we believe that NYC Licensed Class A Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractors shall not be allowed to inspect their own or other contractor' installations. Please note that at one point of time, this license was "grandfathered" to existing licensed plumbers, without verifying their knowledge of sprinkler and standpipe systems. Furthermore, inspection of a fire sprinkler or standpipe system includes not only the piping, tanks and sprinkler head locations, but also fire pumps (with their electrical power and controls), installed by a Licensed Electrician. Based on the above, we believe that only Licensed Professional Engineers shall be authorized as Primary Inspectors. This is consistent with the New York State Education Department position letter to Gus Sirakis of OTCR dated August 20, 2009 (copy attached).

We also believe that NICET Level II Technicians as Supplemental Inspectors (under a supervision of a Professional Engineer as Primary Inspector) shall be allowed to conduct inspections of standpipe and sprinkler systems.

Firestop, draftstop and fireblock systems:

No comments.

Fire Alarm Test (when FDNY inspection not required):

We believe that only Professional Engineers as Primary Inspectors and NICET Level III Technicians as Supplemental Inspectors shall be allowed to conduct inspections of fire alarm systems (see justification for sprinkler and standpipe systems above).

Please note that the 2008 NYC Fire Code allows only Licensed Design Professionals (and not the Electricians) to conduct "Professional Certifications" of extensions of existing approved fire alarm systems. Therefore, this proposed Qualification is in contrary to the NYC Fire Code.

Furthermore, Electrical Contractors shall not be allowed to perform construction inspections of their own installations, or installations done by their competitors. This is especially critical in case of fire alarm systems, where the electrical contractor only installs the wiring for fire alarm systems. Please note that there are numerous contractors involved in fire alarm installation:

- * wiring and back boxes are installed by the electrical contractor,
- * fire alarm panels are provided and programmed by the fire alarm vendor,
- * central station transmitters are provided and programmed by the central station company,
- * tie-ins for elevator recall and elevator communication are done by the elevator contractor,
- * tie-ins to the HVAC units and dampers for shut-down are done by the HVAC contractor,
- * tie-ins to the HVAC units and dampers for smoke exhaust are done by the HVAC contractor,
- * tie-ins to the Building Management System (BMS) are done by the BMS contractor,
- * tie-ins to the sprinkler system (waterflow and tamper switches) are done by the sprinkler contractor.

In addition, Licensed Electricians are not trained in the field of fire alarm systems; even the examination for a Master Electrician in NYC does not include any questions related to the fire alarm systems.

Please note that NICET is a non-profit division of the National Society of Professional Engineers. There are over 20,000 individuals certified by NICET in fire protection technology; many of them in the NY area. Therefore there shall be no shortage of qualified engineers and engineering staff to perform inspections of fire protection systems. For more information, please refer to www.nicet.org.

Emergency Power Systems:

We believe that only Professional Engineers as Primary Inspectors shall be allowed to conduct inspections of Emergency Power (see justification for sprinkler and standpipe systems above).

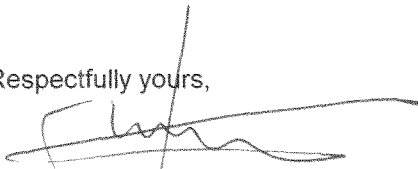
Furthermore, Electrical Contractors shall not be allowed to perform construction inspections of their own installations, or installations done by their competitors. This is especially critical in case of emergency

power systems, where the electrical contractor only installs the wiring for generators. Please note that there are numerous contractors involved in Emergency Power installation:

- * Emergency Generator is typically delivered and installed by the General Contractor or Mechanical Contractor
- * Fuel Oil Contractor provides the fuel tank, day tank, fuel transfer pump etc.
- * Electrical wiring is then completed by the Electrical Contractor
- * Monitoring of the Emergency Power System by a Central Station is then completed by the Fire Alarm Contractor.

We hope that the above comments will be helpful to you and will ensure that only qualified individuals and entities will be performed special inspections.

Respectfully yours,



Zygmunt Staszewski P.E., FSFPE
President - NY Metropolitan Chapter - Society of Fire Protection Engineers

cc: Fatma Amer, P.E. - DOB Deputy Commissioner



PROFESSIONAL DESIGN CENTER OF NEW YORK, INC
422 Weaver Ave
Fort Totten, Bayside, NY 11356

2010

NSPE Lecture Series

2-10

Lecture

Date: October 13, 2010
Time: 7:00PM to 9:00PM

At

422 Weaver Ave. Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens

2 Continuing Education Credits

Admission fee is \$40 for AIA & NYSSPE members; \$50 for non-members.

PRESENTED BY:

Timothy D. Lynch, PE, NYC DOB, Director Forensic Engineering Unit

THE PROGRAM

Building in a dense urban environment

An in depth look at the importance of creating a historical profile of a building or site before the start of any construction work. Through web based assessments and research, Dept. engineers will detail how to reveal previous work history at a site and determine the previous violations and structural conditions of neighboring parties. The experts will discuss how these factors can impact a building's structural condition.

Building collapses will also be discussed.

Buffet dinner 6:15 pm-7:00pm included

Please make your check payable to Queens Chapter NYSSPE
and mail it to:

George Tavoulaareas, 272 Clinton Road Garden City, NY 11530 by 10/8/2010
Contact George Tavoulaareas, PE at 347-387-1649 for further information



Dear Bennett,

It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the death of Professor Ysrael Seinuk. Professor Seinuk was one of The Cooper Union's most distinguished faculty members, who served in the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture with great distinction for more than forty years. In the year 2000, he also served as Interim Dean of Architecture. Professor Seinuk was a world renowned structural engineer and a gifted teacher, beloved by generations of Cooper Union students and by his colleagues. He developed a highly rigorous structures curriculum, unique among schools of architecture, comprising seven semesters of study, including the analysis and design of highly complex structures. Enormously generous with his skill and talent, he was someone I personally came to rely on for forthright perspectives on issues related to the college, as well as professional advice in addressing structural integrity in Cooper Union's facilities and architectural projects.

In his own practice, Professor Seinuk was a brilliant, consummate professional. Often recognized by his peers as a structural engineering genius, he received more than 60 industry, professional, and community awards including the Concrete Industry Board's Leader of Industry Award and the Cooper Union Urban Visionaries Award. During his career, he was elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Institution of Civil Engineers of the U.K. Professor Seinuk was the only American invited by the Institution of Structural Engineers of Great Britain to participate in the publication of the tall building design standards for the European Union.

The Cooper Union Alumni Association
30 Cooper Square, Floor 8
New York, NY 10003

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Passionately dedicated to his wonderful family, Professor Seinuk brought his wife Fanny, his children and grandchildren into The Cooper Union circle and, on behalf of the entire Cooper Union community, I offer each of them our sincere condolences. With them we mourn his loss while, at the same time, we celebrate the exceptional contributions he made to his profession, to his community and to this college. The Cooper Union will forever owe him a debt of gratitude.

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