

Big Thanks

Thank you yet again for the materials about blast and progressive collapse in recent issues of *Modern Steel Construction* and posted on the AISC web site. They have been very helpful!

David Thomas, P.E.

At What Cost?

While I may not be qualified as a structural engineer to comment on the aesthetic qualities of the Fisher Center (EAE Merit Award, featured in January and April 2004 issues of *MSC*), I can react to the cost. \$62,000,000 for a 64,000-sq.-ft building—almost \$1000 per sq. ft—is irresponsible, and your glamorizing of it is in the same league.

William Oakey P.E.

Breakfast, Anyone?

The publication of CASE Document 962 D 2003, *A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*, represents an authoritative integration of articles and discussions by structural engineers during the past 15 to 20 years. Until now, the participants and audience have been mostly the structural engineering community. The time has come to involve the stakeholders who have the most to gain from the benefits of adopting concepts presented in the *CASE Guideline*.

The stakeholders: public and private owners/developers; construction managers; design-builders; general contractors; and architects. The benefits: reduced construction cost; fewer RFIs and change orders; more satisfied owners; higher profits; fewer conflicts and disputes among the parties; less litigation; lower insurance premiums; shorter construction time; and, making life easier by doing things right the first time.

This monumental task demands the realization that well-coordinated and complete construction documents are critical to project success and owner satisfaction. The stakeholders must be convinced that the benefits are real and attainable. They must join in the discussion.

How do we accomplish this? CASE and AISC are collaborating on a series of 35 to 50 breakfast meetings this spring in major cities across the country.

Members of the CASE National Guidelines Committee will lead these programs, but delivering the message effectively depends on the participation of stakeholders. CASE members, NCSEA member organizations, and AISC members and staff should contact stakeholder leaders. Stakeholder association chapters, such as AIA, AGC, CMAA, DBIA and NAIOP, will be asked to promote attendance by their members.

Without stakeholder involvement, the *CASE Guideline* will languish for lack of widespread implementation. If the SER is to have the time, the information, and the fee to prepare well-coordinated and complete construction documents, then the stakeholders must change their perception of how fast-track projects can be best accomplished.

Join us at these upcoming programs and help us attract the stakeholders, whose support is essential to implementing the recommendations in the *CASE Guideline*.

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Editor's note: CASE members will make presentations across the country at breakfast meetings sponsored by fabricator associations, fabricators, engineering firms, and SEAs. Since these meetings are sponsored, there will be no charge to attendees, and AISC will give each person in attendance a free copy of the CASE document (\$30 value). All structural engineers, fabricators, architects, general contractors and owners are encouraged to attend. To register, or to get more information, e-mail Carol Pivonka, Director of Continuing Education for AISC, at pivonka@aisc.org.

2004 CASE Breakfast Meetings

May 4	Raleigh, NC
May 5	Richmond VA
May 6	Norfolk, VA
May 7	Louisville, KY
May 26	Albany, NY
June 2	Greensboro NC
June 3	Greenville, SC
June 9	Seattle, WA
June 10	Portland, OR
June 10	Omaha, NE
July 14	Cheyenne, WY