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The construction season is in full swing. The days seem perpetually short in early January and seem like they will never get longer. Then before we know it, it is still light at 8:00 p.m.

This reminds me of the durability of Reinforced Concrete Pipe and Precast Structures.

RCP is looked at, in some cases, as too expensive, too heavy, long lead times, too short of lengths, cracks, bad joints and the list can go on. However, when a designer has these misperceptions clarified, he sees a different picture - a picture full of possibilities; a product of durability, strength and a track record he can stake his reputation on.

RCP may have a higher initial cost but always a lower total cost. RCP may be heavier than other competitive products, but most jobsites have the proper equipment to handle RCP. And I would believe that most designers want a great project; not a lightweight project. RCP also has a wide variety of gasket and jointing options to fit your unique application. RCP will crack if handled improperly, just as most competitive products are susceptible to damage if handled improperly.

Just as we know the short dreary days of January will turn into the long warm busy days of summer, RCP will transform your project into strong, proven performance. It is time to give RCP another look. Call us today for a demonstration of the proven performance.

J.P. Nolan
Vice President

REPUTATION YOU CAN TRUST, EXPERIENCE YOU CAN DEPEND ON!

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New Faces at ACP

Spring has sprung and growth is in the air. Please join me in welcoming **Brian Boegel** and **Jason Isaac** to the ACP family.

Brian is the new sales representative for the Southern Wisconsin territory. Brian is based out of the Milwaukee office and



can be reached at bboegel@spancrete.com or on his mobile at 414-550-5561.



Jason is the new sales representative for the Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan territory. Jason is

based out of our Green Bay office. He can be reached at jisaac@spancrete.com or on his mobile at 920-362-7844.

They both look forward to meeting each of you in the near future.

THE LOWLY MANHOLE



The manhole is an integral part of any gravity flow water handling system, be it sanitary or storm sewer. It is used to connect pipes together, connect laterals to mains, change direction or elevation, or in the case of force main construction, access valves or blow offs.

Though it is not often given its due, it is highly engineered and tightly regulated by many ASTM specifications.

The basic specification for the precast manhole itself is ASTM C-478 which was first enacted in 1961 and most recently updated in 2008. This specification governs the manufacture and items noted during the purchase of the manhole. It governs dimensions, concrete mix design, steel requirements and placement, joints and even step installation and placement along with dimensioning for prepoured inverts. This specification also lays out a number of acceptance tests such as concrete strength, concrete absorption and even strength of manhole step embedment in the manhole wall.

The next specification that we apply to our manholes is ASTM C-990, which is for joints made using preformed flexible joint sealant. The specification outlines chemical requirements of the sealant, dimensioning of joints, and material placement on the joint and even gives a suggested method of storing the sealant.

The gasketed manhole sections we supply meet the specification ASTM C-443 for joints made using rubber gaskets. Items covered in this section are material used in gasket, geometry of the manhole joint and testing requirements for the manhole joint to meet the requirements of water tightness at 13 psi or a head pressure of approximately 29 feet.

Manhole "boots" have their own specification ASTM C-923 for resilient connectors between reinforced concrete manholes and pipes or laterals. This specification, celebrating its 30 year anniversary, was originally approved in 1979 with its most recent update in 2008. This specification applies to the performance and material used in the connector; it outlines required test methods and even principles of the design of the connectors we use.

In some applications, an external sealing wrap is applied to the manhole joint to better insure performance. The ASTM for this sealing band is ASTM C-877 which covers the design of the band and materials used to produce this product.

There is even an ASTM that lays out proper field vacuum testing of installed manholes. The vacuum air test procedure for precast manholes installed in the field is ASTM C-1244. This testing procedure allows the verification of the integrity of the manhole units assembled into a complete manhole.

It's rather amazing that there are six different specifications for materials, production, testing and installation of manhole sections and installed manholes in the field. These requirements assure you that when our manholes are unloaded at your jobsite, you get a high quality, closely inspected engineered product that you can install with confidence.

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