August 12, 2002

To: ASCE-SEI TAC Metals

Re: ASCE-SEI Committee on Cold-Formed Members
Annual Report
September 21, 2001 – August 12, 2002

The committee’s primary focus over the past year has been on completing an article to address issues related to accommodating building deflections in secondary cold-formed steel systems and on organization for the 2003 Structures Congress.

Meeting
Members of the committee (4 members and 5 guests) met in February 2002 at the semi-annual AISI Committee on Specifications in Baltimore. In addition the members of the committee are in regular contact through email, web-based surveys, and a small home page dedicated to the committee. The committee will next meet, in person, in February 2003.

Publications
In August of 2002 the committee completed and submitted the following article to STRUCTURE magazine: “Accommodating Building Deflections: What every EOR should know about accommodating building deflections in secondary cold-formed steel systems.” The article was extensively reviewed within the committee, but was submitted as “individuals” instead of as a committee document requiring approval by the TAC on Metals, etc.

It has been proposed that the committee consider writing an article on “Research Needs in Cold-Formed Steel Systems” to try to bring greater attention to areas in cold-formed steel research that need pushed along. The committee feels that with the general lack of funds available for cold-formed research right now it is all the more important to get priorities in research highlighted. The best forum for such an article is under discussion.

Technical Sessions
The committee’s proposed session for the 2003 Structures Congress “Recent Advances in Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structures” has been approved. Committee members: C. Rogers, and B. Schafer and friends of the committee R. Tremblay, and R. LaBoube (past-chair) have all agreed to participate with papers/presentations.

T. Sputo and friend of the committee P. Green have taken the lead on a cold-formed steel session for the 2004 Structures Congress and have submitted a proposal for “Practical Advances in the Design of Low-Rise Metal Buildings Subjected to Environmental Loadings.” They have lined up two papers so far for this session. The committee fully supports their efforts.

Other Activities
The members of the committee continue to participate and lead in other organizations related to cold-formed steel including the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) – Committee on Specifications, AISI – Committee on Framing Standards, the Light Gauge Steel Engineer’s Association (LGSEA), the Steel Stud Manufacturing Association, the Structural Stability Research Council and other organizations.
Members also participated in the review of articles for ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering, although this role appears to be largely informal at this point.

Continuing with previously established tradition, the chair of the ASCE-SEI cold-formed committee served on the planning committee and reviewed papers for the bi-annual International Specialty Conference on Cold-Formed Steel Structures organized by the Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures at the University of Missouri-Rolla to be held in Orlando in October 2002.

Increased cooperation and interaction with the LGSEA is needed and expected from the ASCE-SEI Committee on Cold-Formed Steel. The LGSEA has a similar mission to the ASCE-SEI cold-formed committee, and is currently more active and more in touch with practicing engineers. Dean Peyton, a current committee member, also serves as the chair of the LGSEA Research Development Committee (RDC). I have joined the LGSEA RDC, as chair of the ASCE cold-formed committee, to explore opportunities where collaboration could be beneficial.

Future activities

- 2003 and 2004 Structures Congress sessions
- Development of an article on “Research Needs in Cold-Formed Steel”
- Development of an ongoing research projects list in collaboration with the LGSEA RDC
- Consideration of possible special projects for 2003 submission
- Consideration of increased collaboration with National Association for Home Builders, which has invested significant time and resources into issues related to cold-formed steel

Membership

The committee consists of 16 members: 10 practitioners and 6 academics. J. Wellinghoff (Clark Steel) and T. Sputo (Sputo Eng., and Adjunct at Univ. of Florida) joined the committee in the past year. A minimum of 4 heavily contributing members will be forced to cycle off the committee next year. It is important that they be replaced by active and involved new committee members. The new membership requirements make it difficult to involve international contributors to the committee. Our international collaborators have been very helpful in many of the committees successful activities.

Chair’s note

Special thanks for aiding the committee’s recent progress go to Rob Madsen and George Polard who provided critical editing and drawings for the committees recently submitted article.

With the recent financial problems in the steel industry far less research was conducted in cold-formed steel in 2002 than in previous years – 2003 appears to be more of the same, if not worse. This is true, despite the enormous growth in the use of cold-formed steel – particularly with respect to the stud industry. As this committee’s mission is to “stimulate research and the publication of technical papers” on cold-formed steel it seems imperative that a more pro-active approach be taken to developing a set of research priorities and publishing these needs. While this form of advocacy is not always a comfortable role for engineers, without it, this area may stagnate considerably.

Sincerely,

Ben Schafer
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