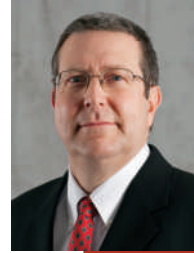


# Seismic and Lateral Loads Committee

I am pleased to submit my first committee report as chair of the Seismic and Lateral Loads Committee. I succeed Zia Zafir, of Kleinfelder, who capably led this committee since its inception in 2005. Thank you to Zia for all of his efforts.

The committee is finalizing *Seismic and Lateral Loads Design and Testing Guidelines*, a new DFI publication. This guidance document will assist geotechnical engineers, pile designers and contractors in analysis, design and testing of piles and drilled shafts for lateral loads. Among the subjects covered are the background of different analytical and testing procedures and the recommended methods for analysis, design and testing of piles for lateral loads. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of guideline subcommittee chair, Bob Kruger of CB&I in developing this publication. The committee is incorporating final comments from DFI's Technical Advisory Committee, and we expect the document to be published in 2011.

At the request of Technical Committee T-15 of the AASHTO Bridge Subcommittee, the committee reviewed and provided comments on intended revisions to Section 11 of the New Draft Seismic Wall Design Specifications. The revisions pertain to the seismic design for abutments and conventional retaining walls, MSE walls, anchored walls, non-gravity cantilever walls, prefabricated modular walls and retaining structures. T-15 specifically requested consensus comments from a number of industry organizations, as opposed to comments from individuals, and so the committee stepped-up to answer this request. Thank you to those who contributed their time and efforts to developing the commentary: Enrique Farfan, Diane Fiorelli, Ramin Gholesorki, Jim Knutelski, Bob Kruger, Tim Siegel, Brian Strohmman, Ke Yang and Wei Zheng.



Mark Petersen, P.E., G.E.  
Committee Chair  
[mark.petersen@shawgrp.co](mailto:mark.petersen@shawgrp.co)

In early 2012, FHWA will issue the new *LRFD Seismic Analysis and Design of Transportation Geotechnical Features and Structural Foundations*. This document will serve as the reference manual for the related National Highway Institute course, and is the first major technical update to the 1997 *Geotechnical Engineering Circular No. 3, Design Guidance: Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering for Highways*.

The committee welcomes new members Enrique Farfan of Arup and Anne Lemnitzer of Cal State University–Fullerton.

We want to prepare applications for project funds applicable to committee work – please contact me with ideas. The committee is discussing plans for seminars in 2012 and 2013. Additional information will be available soon.