

COMMITTEE CHAIR GERALD VERBEEK

Testing and Evaluation Committee

Since our last report was published in the May/June 2017 issue, the committee continued with its standard practice of a monthly, one hour conference call on the last Wednesday of each month. In addition, the committee met during SuperPile'17 in San Diego, Calif., and again at the DFI 42nd Annual Conference on Deep Foundations in New Orleans, La. During the Annual Conference, a task force chaired by Anna Sellountou, Ph.D., P.E., Pile Dynamics, presented the latest draft of a white paper being prepared on "Terminology and Evaluation Criteria of Crosshole Sonic Logging (CSL), as Applied to Deep Foundations." The purpose of this white paper is to propose improved CSL rating criteria and an overall shaft acceptance process, as well as safeguard the industry from false interpretation of CSL test results and undue rejection of functional shafts. During the discussion, the task force received some valuable feedback, which they are incorporating in the next version of the paper.

A second task force has been formed under the direction of Mike Holloway, Ph.D., P.E., consulting engineer, to examine dynamic methods for site characterization (including equipment calibration). This group is about to begin its work. Contact gverbeek@verbeekservices.com if you are interested in participating in this effort.

During our committee meeting in New Orleans, Zhangwei Ning, Ph.D., SIXENSE Soldata, presented a template for an instrumentation course being proposed by the committee. The course will focus on the monitoring required for specific foundation-related applications. For each application, the course will present the parameters that should be monitored to provide design and construction verification as well as to identify the instrumentation that is most suitable. Coverage of each application will be supplemented with one or more case studies. The template being

developed covers excavations in urban environments, and the committee aims to use this template to cover other applications during the upcoming year. Members of the DFI Europe Monitoring and Instrumentation Committee will be asked to provide input as well. The goal is to develop the course content before the end of 2018.

Finally, after receiving positive feedback on the Static Load Testing video (if you haven't watched it yet, I encourage you to do so at www.dfi.org/StaticLoadTesting), the committee has begun work on a second video on High Strain Dynamic Testing (commonly referred to as Dynamic Load Testing). We hope to have this video ready prior to the DFI 43rd Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in October 2018.

The committee continues to work on a wide range of topics, including promoting the ITS Money initiative and reviewing the DFI Lexicon and Glossary. ITS Money stands for Increased Testing Saves Money, and our objective is to convey to owners and engineers that very message through presentations, papers and articles at every possible occasion, even at events not organized by DFI. The committee is also reviewing the DFI Lexicon and Glossary, and it was decided that this effort would be jointly pursued with the DFI Codes and Standards Committee.

We welcome other DFI members to join the committee and to participate in its activities. Therefore, I would like to extend once again an invitation to all DFI members interested in Testing and Evaluation topics to join our committee. We would be happy to have you if only to spread the message that Increased Testing Saves Money.

