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NACE International Offers One-Day Course on Bridge Assessment

HOUSTON, TX (August 30, 2007)—With the recent collapse of the bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the collapse of an overpass last year in Dorval, Quebec, bridge corrosion is a growing public concern. The public is calling for greater accountability, more attention, and urgent implementation of solutions to decaying bridges.

As a result, NACE International, a professional technical association for leaders in corrosion control technology, will conduct a one-day course on corrosion assessment of bridges and other concrete structures on October 18, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza in Hartford, Connecticut.

“Decaying infrastructure may now be the largest issue facing bridge owners today,” said Tony Keane, Executive Director of NACE International. “The NACE community knows that solutions to corrosion problems are a matter of investment in both existing technology and in time to network with experts in this industry.”

Damage from the corrosion of bridges and other reinforced concrete structures costs billions of dollars each year. In the United States, the direct costs are estimated to be $125 billion.\(^1\) Factor in the indirect costs, such as transportation delays and facility closures for repair, and the resulting total cost is a staggering amount of capital lost every year.

Furthermore, more than 15 percent of the United States’ 600,000 bridges suffer from corroded steel and steel reinforcements. Based on 1998 estimates, annual direct costs of structurally deficient bridges total $8.3 billion. In 2006 dollars, this cost is estimated to be 25 to 30 percent higher.\(^2\)

In order to alleviate these escalating costs, NACE International has developed a Corrosion Assessment of Bridges course to provide industry professionals with the essentials on assessing the corrosion of steel and reinforcing steel in bridges. Individuals who inspect, repair, or own bridge structures that may be subject to corrosion should attend this course, including:

- Department of Transportation (DOT) and public information officers
- Elected officials or their staff
- Civil engineers
- Port and marine authority personnel
- Process facility owners and engineers
- Coastal facility owners
- Contractors

Other individuals or companies who would benefit from the course are the staff of facility owners, repair contractors, inspection service companies, and manufacturers of repair products, coatings, equipment for cathodic protection, and corrosion monitoring devices.
Attendees will learn the fundamentals of bridge corrosion and deterioration, identify macro- and micro-environmental effects on corrosion acceleration, and gain practical knowledge of corrosion assessment methods. By attending this course, individuals will earn 0.8 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). NACE International is accredited by IACET to issue official CEUs.

Visit www.nace.org/bridge2007, or call 1 800/797-6223 for more information or to register for this event.

Footnotes

NACE International is a professional technical association dedicated to promoting public safety, protecting the environment, and reducing the economic impact of corrosion. Established in 1943, NACE International has more than 17,900 members worldwide and offers technical training and certification programs, sponsors conferences, and produces industry standards, reports, publications, and software. More information about NACE International can be found at www.nace.org.

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