



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

June 20, 2016

CIRCULAR LETTER 2016-12

EXPOSED STEEL PILE INSPECTIONS

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Circular Letter 2014-15, “EXPOSED BRIDGE PILING”, dated August 28, 2014, was issued to make bridge owners and bridge inspectors aware of recent Department findings regarding exposed steel bridge piling. The Circular Letter is available by [clicking here](#).

CL 2014-15 indicated that “deterioration of exposed piles is often found near the water surface elevation. Extra attention should be given to these areas during all routine NBIS inspections.”

Recently the Bureau of Bridges and Structures (BBS) has closed two structures due to severe deterioration of exposed steel piles directly under the concrete pier cap and not near the water surface elevation. The BBS has not seen this phenomenon before. The Department will be working with the FHWA to identify possible causes for this corrosion.



The Department urges all inspectors to sound exposed steel piling for signs of deterioration during Routine NBIS Inspections. Visual inspection of all surfaces of all exposed piling should continue. If a local public agency has concerns about exposed piling, the local public agency may institute a special inspection to monitor steel pile deterioration on a more frequent basis.

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As stated in Circular Letter 2014-15, "all new structures with proposed individual steel H-piles or metal shell piles shall provide for concrete encasement of the piling".

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Local Policy and Technology Unit at (217) 785-5048 or DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



Salmon O. Danmole, P.E.
Acting Engineer of
Local Roads and Streets



D. Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.
Acting Engineer of
Bridges and Structures

cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division
Gary Iles, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Elias Ajami, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
Eric Seibring, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Joe Schatteman, Illinois Municipal League
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
Christine Filbert, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois