

From May 5, 2016 Exposed Steel Pile Inspections

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 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. Our office 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 exposed piling should continue. If a Local Agency has concerns about exposed piling, the Local Agency may institute a special inspection to monitor steel pile deterioration on a more frequent basis.

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".