

SP4550000DB Structures Foundations (Design Build)  
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Comments: (11-1-21, Internal)

Why 2 wd for 100% dynamic testing and 1 wd for piles not dynamically tested?

For piles on foundations requiring 100% dynamic testing and piles initially non instrumented with instrumented set-checks, the Engineer will accept piles withing 2 working days after the final drive is performed, including any instrumented restrikes performed to ensure bearing has been met and that any potential relaxation may not reduce the required capacity below the required nominal bearing resistance (NBR). For foundations not requiring 100 % dynamic testing, the Engineer will accept the production piles within one working day after the final drive is performed, including any restrikes performed to ensure bearing has been met, and that any potential pile relaxation will not reduce pile capacity to less than the required nominal bearing capacity.

Response:

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Comments: (11-3-21, Industry)

**455-15.8.3 Polymer Slurry: (Both 4550511 & SP4550000DB Specs)**

1. The viscosity range of polymer on miscellaneous structure foundation states, “50 seconds to upper limit recommended by the manufacture.” This should be amended to, “50 seconds to upper limit recommended by the manufactuer **based on soil type.**”
  - a. Manufacturer’s instructions can publish an overall range limit for their product and a reduced set of ranges based of soil or formation type of excavation materials. This change should avoid any confusion with using the wrong viscosity ranges and cause the user to seek the appropriate ranges based on soil type.
2. The wording in this same area should be manufacturerer, instead of manufacture.

**455-15.8.4 Fluid in Excavation At Time Of Concrete Placement: (Both 4550511 & SP4550000DB Specs)**

3. The additional table for Mixed Polymer Slurry Properties located within this section, seems to be contradictive to the table in shown in 455-15.8.3 concerning the ranges of viscosities on the miscellaneous structure foundations and the specification language.
  - a. It has been accepted to date that this paragraph is dealing with the testing of polymer slurry, “... *in the shaft prior to placing the concrete,*” 455-15.8.4.

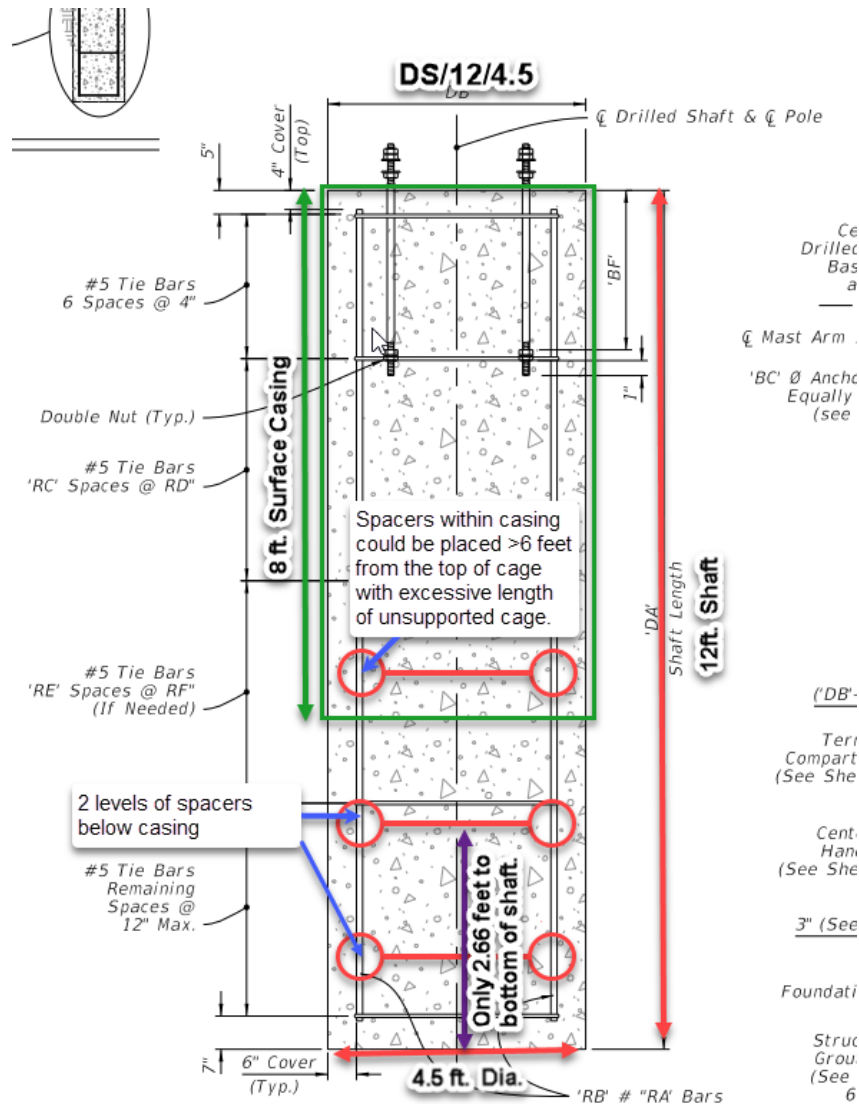
Moreover, the polymer testing requirement of this specification is documented on the construction form 700-010-84 on the Fluid-Slurry sheet under section b) titled, “*Before placing concrete.*” Within these premises, the first paragraph of the specification states, “*When any fluid is present in any drilled shaft excavation, including shafts to support sign, signal, lighting and ITS structures, the applicable test methods and reporting requirements described in 455-15.8.1, 455-15.8.2 and 455-15.8.3 apply to tests of fluid in the shaft prior to placing the concrete.*” The last portion of this specification sentence directs the user to apply the testing ranges listed in section 455-15.8.3. Following this direction back to the last section, the polymer slurry is shown to have a viscosity range of 50 seconds to upper limit recommended by the manufacturer for miscellaneous structure foundations. Whereas, below the opening paragraph in the 455-15.8.4, the user is directed with the following language, “*When polymer slurries are used ensure the properties of the polymer slurry are within the following acceptable ranges at the time of concrete placement.*” The following range for polymer slurry is now listed as 50 seconds to the upper limit defined by APL, which is assumed to apply to all shaft types and is now contradictory to the table in 455-15.8.3: concerning polymer viscosity for miscellaneous structure foundations. **This contradictory question caused the formation of the question below.**

4. Is there a difference in the interpretation of the language of polymer testing in a shaft, “At time of concrete placement,” verses, “prior to placing the concrete,” concerning the utilization of the additional table for polymer slurry testing properties in 455-15.8.4?

#### **455-16.3 Support, Alignment, and Tolerance- (Both 4550511 & SP4550000DB Specs)**

5. New language, “*...Provide spacers within 3 feet of the bottom and at intervals not exceeding 10 feet along the reinforcement, with a minimum of two levels of spacers below the bottom of the casing,*” has removed the language to provide spacers **within 6 feet of the top**.
  - a. Recommend adding this language back into language concerning shafts which support sign, signal, lighting, and ITS structures.
    1. Since the new language requires a minimum of two levels of spacers below the bottom of the casing and a third row placed anywhere within the surface casing, adding back the language to provide spacers within 6 foot of the top will promote a means to keep the spacers more evenly spaced when longer than 6 foot surface casings are used. With no requirement/guidance of the spacer row placement within a longer casing, a potential to adversely affect the cage centering exists. The image below depicts a longer 8 foot casing employed on a typical 12 long miscellaneous shaft. Note: In our district, we have used 10 and 12 foot long surface casing on longer shafts to mitigate caving layers. The image demonstrates how the omission of language could cause an excessive length of unsupported cage on just an 8 foot surface casing. How far could a contractor possibly stretch this unsupported/centered cage length on a 10

or 12 foot surface casing used on a 16 foot shaft length? This could be as long as 10 feet, according to the language, “*at intervals not exceeding 10 feet along the reinforcement,*” used in conjunction with no requirement to place spacers within 6 feet of the top.



6. Specification writing discontinuity has the potential to cause confusion when compared to established writing rules seen on previous special instruction paragraphs concerning shafts which support sign, signal, lighting, and ITS structures.
  - a. The second paragraph starts off by stating requirements for all shafts, but then goes on to state new requirements within the same paragraph for shafts which support Sign, Signal, Lighting, and ITS Structures. This is not following the established writing protocols within the same specification 455 section. For example (July 2021 specs) in section-15.1.3 General methods & Equipment: the fourth paragraph actual starts a new paragraph concerning special details/instructions for shafts which support sign, signal, lighting, and ITS structures. Also, within 455-15.11.4.1 (Exceptions for Shafts for Sign, Signal,

Lighting, and ITS Structures) and 455-16.2 (Splicing Cage) special instructions are detailed with a new paragraph for the same type of miscellaneous shafts. Consider following this established writing protocols for subsequent paragraphs within the 455-15 sections to assist with interpretation and clarification.

**Response:**

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