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Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Madani, Mo
Subject: Appendix C Existing Building Safety Guide (Draft 2.1)

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I received the draft 2.1 as a part of the AISC Vertical Support Committee and wanted to provide you with a few of my comments.

My main comment or concern with the document is from Page 9 “Each report shall include a statement to the effect that the building is structurally safe, unsafe, or safe with qualifications.” I believe the group should look into altering the wording of this passage. With only a visual observation of the structure as described I don’t see how a responsible Engineer could produce a statement that the “structure is safe”. Without having a full accounting of the structure’s design, verifying that it meet applicable design criteria, a review of the materials and practices used during construction, and being able to observe all facets of the structure’s condition (foundation through roof) I would be limited to a statement along the lines of “no deterioration was observed that would jeopardize the structural performance of the building”.

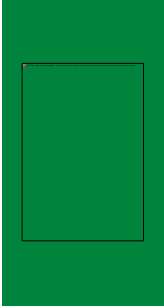
The second comment or concern is on Page 2 “structural deterioration will always require repair”. I feel that this statement if strictly enforced by a Code Official would be too onerous unless a definition is provided of what constitutes a “structural deterioration” versus a normal member deterioration that does not have immediate or even long term structural concerns. If not clearly defined my fear is that a stringent code official may require owners to perform costly repairs for shrinkage cracks in locations where there is little concern for reinforcement corrosion or other similar minor deteriorations that do not warrant a repair.

A couple other points that may be considered.

- My reading of Table 4.1 is that all Category 2 buildings under four stories tall are excluded. I believe that this should be revised so that these shorter buildings if of a significant size or in at risk areas are included.
- In the foundations resource material noting the adjacent ground level / condition could also be mentioned. Structures located near the shoreline with questionable protection from beach erosion or other locations near altered ground levels or water tables may warrant a significant danger the building.
- In the roof construction resource material I think some mention of ponding would be beneficial. Flat roofs that have a tendency to store water are more prone to degradation from my experience.

Thank you.

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