

Reese's

PIECES

RTS specializes in providing condition assessments, mappings, and weld inspection services to the tower and pole industries

RTS: Showcased in Print

By Brian Reese

The *AGL* February issue was big for Reese Tower Services. Not only was the centerfold photo taken by RTS, Brian Reese co-authored an article with David Hawkins of Paul J. Ford & Company entitled "Monopole Base Weld Toe Cracks and Why They May Collapse Your Tower". Tubular steel monopoles (poles) are popular support structures in many industries today and have been utilized as support structures in the communications, sports lighting, utility, and transportation industries for many decades. The use of poles in the communications industry has exploded in the last twenty years due to ever-increasing demand for voice and data usage. However, in the last decade, there have been numerous failures of steel poles across the country in various industries that are attributed to unmitigated cracks in welds at the pole to base plate connection. The property damage in some cases has been

significant; and at the very least there is service interruption and repair/replacement costs associated with subsequent loss of the structure. It's reasonable to assert that these failures could have been prevented if timely periodic inspection and maintenance had been performed on these structures. As with America's other aging infrastructure, the cost of ignoring this issue can be significant to public safety, welfare, and your assets. The purpose of the article is to raise awareness of this issue and provide guidance to safely maintain and prolong the service life and reliability of monopole assets. Reese and Hawkins' paper presents a proposed monopole base crack classification system which is intended to standardize the way the industry deals with inspection, repair, and maintenance of pole base connections. The article can be viewed on-line [here](#). □



Industry Standards Development



TR-14, the formulating committee for the well-recognized 222 tower design standard, met in Las Vegas on March 29th and 30th. Setting an all-time attendance record, over 100 participants were in attendance! Numerous sub-committees are working diligently on

updating sections of the G standard for revision H and presented their work. Revision H of the 222 standard is planned to be released during the 1st quarter of 2017. For the first time, a Spanish translation of a 222 standard will be issued as a translated version of 222 revision G and is planned for release by mid-2016. TIA-322 will be a new standard dedicated to loading criteria analysis, and design related to the installation, alteration, and maintenance of communication structures. The 322 standard will be dedicated in memory of Ernie Jones who tragically passed in a tower accident last year and is slated to be released by the end of this year. Dean McKenzie, Acting Director of Construction at OSHA, sent a personal video message to committee members and thanked the committee for their work. To see his video message, click [here](#). □



Safety

The Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP), which aims to promote safety, enhance quality, and enable education and advancement opportunities in the telecommunications workforce, participated in the Second Federal Communications Commission – U.S. Department of Labor Tower Climber Safety Workshop at FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on February 11th. The workshop was well attended and included panel discussions focusing on climbing safety and the role apprenticeships will play in the tower industry. Federal officials in attendance included Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the FCC; Roger Sherman, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief; Dean McKenzie, Acting Director of Construction OSHA; and Eric M. Seleznow, Deputy Assistant Secretary ETA. □

Larry Smetana 1950-2016

Our industry suffered a great loss when Larry Smetana passed on March 24th. Larry was founder and owner of CWI Services in Bloomingdale, IL. A Senior CWI with multiple ASNT Level II

non-destructive weld examination credentials, Larry was unsurpassed in his knowledge of the AWS D1.1 Code and welding procedure documentation. The industry will miss Larry! □