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August 30, 2010

Dear Fellow Engineers in Construction:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer, both in business and pleasure. As we get ready for another busy and informative year in NJ PEC, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself.

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to design bridges. For most of my career, I worked at ENR top 500 engineering firms doing just that. However, over the years, I found myself interested in not only the design, but also how the structures were actually built. This desire led me to become a bridge construction engineer, working with contractors like you to help move the bridge from paper to the real world. Six years ago, I started my own firm and now enjoy being part of the process to improve our bridges and roadways.

Getting involved with PEC has fostered my interest in construction, broadened my knowledge, and overall has made me a better engineer. I hope you will join me and the Executive Committee and come to this year's events beginning in October when Ms. Lynne Baumann, PE and Mr. Pankesh Patel, PE of Jacobs Engineering Group speak on the Route 36 Highlands bridge replacement project in Monmouth County. Also, please encourage younger engineers to attend, as they are the future Project Engineers and Managers, ultimately our successors. Hopefully, the meetings will spark their interest in our industry and get them more involved with PEC.

I would like to thank our Chair for the past two years, Robert Thiel, PE for his dedication to the organization. Under his leadership, and the continuing efforts of John Clearwater, PE and the Executive Committee, the organization maintains a strong presence in our industry.

Thanks very much and hope to see everyone during the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Michael Marks, PE
Chairman, PEC of NJ