

MINUTES FOR CONVERSE HEARING 10/8/08

Attendees:

David Durkee
Scott Telford
Stephen Toms
Jack Sivertson
Mike Kemper
Don Christiansen
Lee Miller
Vance Smith

This meeting is the first step to section 22.02.540. This hearing meeting was established to verify the facts that occurred on the Harmon Towers regarding special inspection responsibilities and a recommendation to remove Converse Consultants from the QAA program. At the time of the meeting, there was no recommendation given. However, a summary judgment was made to remove Scott Edinger and J. Glen Laurente from the approved list.

There were 62 cases in which daily inspections confirmed the construction is in compliance with the approved construction documents; however, after an investigation, the construction of certain elements confirmed it is not in compliance with the approved construction documents. Converse Consultants confirmed they had block supervisors Dave Sealander and Ray Smith. Dave Sealander reported to Ray Smith. Scott Edinger was lead reporting to Dave Sealander and Scott Edinger turned it over to J. Glen Laurente at the 17th floor. Converse Consultants have removed them both from this project.

Converse Consultants set up a senior inspector that ran the project at City Center, then block leaders that were put over each major area who supervised and took care of all the junior and all the other inspectors. It was modified slightly when the union came in January which is when the issues started occurring. They are now auditing every couple of days and found the remainder of the jobs in compliance.

Converse Consultants confirmed that to avoid non-compliance again, Lee Miller is performing more audits and he and the assigned inspector both sign the audit document, a training program has been implemented and there are now project managers on the sites.

Dave Durkee advised Converse Consultants that he will find information on the notice of violations and will give them time to respond. Administrative Fees will be documented and issued to the inspector and agency. If fees are unpaid, the inspector and agency will be removed from the list as specified in Building Administrative Code section 22.02.540. In addition, Converse will need to present what they have done to correct the errors. There are two 10-hour shifts on Harmon Towers. Converse Consultants has no plans to change their staff on this project.

Converse Consultants confirmed the contractor, Perini, built inadequately and Converse Consultants missed the error. Perini also hired QC Aztec.

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Joseph Laurente

Mr. Laurente is an inspector for Converse Consultants. He confirmed he made an error signing items that were in non-compliance with the approved construction documents. He missed the beams (link beams) above the walls. He handled floors 17-20. He advised his experience is a grading inspector and is certified for reinforced concrete. He has an ACI certificate and a civil engineering degree. He assisted inspectors as part of his training. This was his first commercial project with Converse Consultants. Unknown if there is formal documentation on his training with Converse Consultants. He had not reviewed plans before until working for Converse Consultants and inspectors helped him read plans on prior jobs. He did read the plans on Harmon Towers.

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