Colleagues and Friends

As with so many groups in our society, the Central Pennsylvania Geotechnical Conference continues to monitor and assess the continually evolving situation with COVID-19. We respect the concerns of each and every one of you, and we pledge to maintain communication throughout the upcoming days and weeks leading up to our 31st Conference on April 22-24, 2020.

As part of our process, we continue to gather guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, as well as other government and community agencies and organizations, and healthcare providers. As of March 13, 2020, we are NOT altering the schedule for the 31st Central Pennsylvania Geotechnical Conference.

The following paragraphs are an excerpt from a letter from our host facility, the Hershey Entertainment and Resorts (HE&R):

Our teams across all of our properties conduct rigorous cleaning of all guest and meeting rooms and all public and back-of-house spaces several times throughout the day. Further, we follow exhaustive cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection protocols that meet or exceed extensive industry guidelines. These protocols, which assist with illness prevention, include:

- Regular sanitation training and reinforcement for our team members.
- Clearly established cleaning and disinfection cycles for all areas.
- Prominent placement of hand washing facilities and hand sanitizers.
- Fast response to off-cycle cleaning issues.
- Frequent cleaning and wash down of outdoor and high touch locations, including walkways, rides and queue lines.

Given the current concerns related to COVID-19, we are increasing our cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection frequency above our already high standards.

HE&R will more than double the number of hand sanitation machines available throughout our properties, and we are reinforcing with our team members the recommended precautionary steps from the CDC to prevent the spread of germs. These guidelines include:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover a cough or sneeze – preferably with a disposable tissue.
- Avoid touching your face – especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects.
- Stay home if you have flu-like symptoms.

We are taking the necessary steps to be prepared should this issue become a more significant concern for our area. HE&R will continue to implement preventive measures in line with the recommendations of the CDC and other health agencies.
Based on the guidance we’ve received and our general state of preparedness, we are confident our operations continue to be safe and ready to serve our guests. We will deepen our collaboration with health and government officials, so we are prepared to take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure the safety of our guests and team members.

We will continue to monitor the situation throughout the upcoming days and weeks, and provide you with additional updates as the situations require. We thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a Committee member.

Regards,

James B. Pease, P.E.
Co-Chair

Bruce G. Stegman, P.E.
Co-Chair