

Lessons Learned from Mike O’Neill And their Impact on Current Practice

Tracy Brettmann, P.E., BC.GE
Executive Vice President
A.H. Beck Foundation Company
Houston, Texas

ABSTRACT

Although I wasn’t a student under Dr O’Neill, I was fortunate to be able to work with him on three industry-related research projects involving deep foundations. I have continued to apply the lessons I learned from Dr. O’Neill doing this practical research my entire career. I am currently involved with several interesting industry sponsored research projects that will impact current design practices and provide a better understanding of installation procedures.

The primary lessons involve the proper selection of soil properties for design, application of quality control and assurance methods during the installation of deep foundations and the need for adequate load testing that is both performed and analyzed correctly.