

# STANDARD MATERIALS, LLC

READY MIX CONCRETE SINCE 1953

December 9, 2010

Mr. Chuck Dammon  
Dammon Engineering, Inc.  
1095 Florida Avenue,  
Slidell, LA 70458-2923

re: Ready-Mixed Concrete Supplied on November 4, 2010  
St. Tammany Parish Administration Building,  
The Towers Building Renovation  
520 Old Spanish Trail,  
Slidell, LA 70458-4047

Chuck:

This letter is to follow up our conversation of yesterday. It is in regard to the twenty-eight day concrete compressive strength values reported by K&L Testing, Inc. describing concrete which we supplied to this project on November 4, 2010. We were notified this past Tuesday of these results and began our investigation to determine whether these results reflect the actual strength of the in-place concrete or if there is some other reason or explanation which might account for these non-compliant low strength values.

Upon review of the K&L break report (dated 12-02-2010, ticket #240763); we noted the seven-day strengths at about 54% of the intended twenty-eight day minimum compressive strength of four thousand pounds per square inch. This would be exactly appropriate for the historical strength performance of this concrete mix at seven days' age placed under the ambient conditions noted by the K&L Technician on this report. The compressive strength appreciation between day seven and day twenty-eight of an additional 30% more compressive strength noted by K&L in this report is greatly out of character for the historical performance of this mix. It always gains much more than that 30% value in the intervening twenty-one days. In fact, we could not replicate this performance if we were requested to; using ASTM accepted practices, as this flat of a strength curve behavior does not occur in our experience.

We reviewed our production records for the concrete we produced on November 4<sup>th</sup> which was delivered to this project and placed and found all constituent materials were properly added and delivered. Our site personnel from that day's work reported no jobsite issues from either a delivery or delayed or otherwise aberrant concrete set-time issues occurred that day. We also have had no consistency or strength issues with any other concrete material we furnished companywide within a week prior of or following this production date of November 4<sup>th</sup>.

TELEPHONE 985-863-6304 • FAX 985-863-6303

62505 HIGHWAY 11 • PEARL RIVER, LOUISIANA 70452

We visited the jobsite yesterday and inspected the surface of the concrete which was placed on the date in question. This area is the paving directly to the northwest of the building. This inspection revealed that the concrete in this area showed excellent durability, with no random cracking occurring and no signs of weathering or spalling. There were no signs or indications from our observation of any material defect with the concrete material in-situ that was supplied by us on the November 4<sup>th</sup> concrete placement date. We also noted that this area is open to construction traffic and this loading has had no detrimental structural effect on it. As a side note and unrelated to this specific issue at hand, in our opinion, the workmanship of the concrete placed in this area was excellent. This uniformity made inspection that much easier.

In addition, our Quality Assurance Manager, Brian Moore, went to the jobsite and ran tests on the subject concrete in-place using a non-destructive rebound hammer (also known as a Swiss Hammer) in accordance with ASTM C-805 (Standard Test Method for Rebound Number of Hardened Concrete) to gage strengths of the in-place concrete. The results gained from his testing well-exceeded four thousand pounds per square inch compressive strength which was mandated as the design strength for concrete placed in this area.

After review of all this data and finding no empirical evidence to give us any reason to pause, we feel confident to restate our initial warranty of the compressive strength of this concrete material exceeds the design strength required. We will stand behind this concrete from any material defect. We can offer no explanation as to the statistical anomaly which K&L Testing's results suggest.

We value highly our reputation and appreciate your attention in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (985) 960-4908 or Bob Scogin at (985) 960-0442.

Sincerely Yours,

Standard Materials, L.L.C.



David Bosley  
Sales Manager

/file