

Mr. Stock,

We received your facsimile yesterday and want to take a brief moment to respond to your fax.

First, Mr. Ratfisch was a temporary employee for Slagter for less than one year, moving as needed between projects in Jacksonville and Miami. Because of the effects of the economy on the construction industry, we were forced to lay-off Mr. Ratfisch, as well as other employees from time to time. His lay-off is completely unrelated to any of the events on the I-395 project.

Second, contrary to Mr. Ratfisch's comments, Slagter did not install the "wrong size pads." Slagter was required to install new bearing pads in the size designated by the plans. Before installation, Slagter submitted shop drawings providing details of the bearing pads it intended to install, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reviewed those shop drawings to ensure that the pads complied with the project's plans and specifications, including the size requirements. Our shop drawings were approved, and we then ordered and installed the approved pads.

This project entails the rehabilitation of an old bridge with outdated joint designs. The bridge was jacked so that new bearing pads could be installed. Once the work was completed and the jacks removed, it became evident that the bridge did not sit correctly. Structural engineers prepared a repair procedure to be implemented to correct this issue. The joint failure occurred while the repair plan was in process. The repair plan was eventually approved, and Slagter completed those repairs.

Third, Slagter has not received any information from the FDOT that Slagter's work was in any way defective or improper. The parties are still investigating the cause of the failures in the metal joint.

Slagter has been in business in the United States for over 50 years. It is, and always has been, dedicated to providing quality construction for the travelling public. Slagter continues to work with FDOT and its engineers to determine a cause of the failure in the metal joint and to ensure that the failure does not occur again.

Regards,

Brian Slagter

President