

# **Effective Prestress Evaluation of the Varina-Enon Bridge Using a Long-Term Monitoring System and Finite Element Model**

Rachel Amanda Brodsky

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Carin L. Roberts-Wollman (Chair)  
Iaonnis Koutromanos  
Rodrigo Sarlo

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modeling, Creep, Shrinkage, Thermal gradient

# Long Term Monitoring of the Varina-Enon Bridge: Effective Prestress Evaluation

Rachel A. Brodsky

## ACADEMIC ABSTRACT

The Varina-Enon Bridge is a cable-stayed, precast, segmental, post-tensioned box girder bridge located in Richmond, Virginia. Inspectors noticed flexural cracking in July of 2012 that prompted concerns regarding long-term prestress losses in the structure. Prestress losses could impact the future performance, serviceability, and flexural strength of the bridge. Accurately quantifying prestress losses is critical for understanding and maintaining the structure during its remaining service life.

Long-term prestress losses are estimated in the Varina-Enon Bridge using two methods. The first utilizes a time-dependent staged-construction analysis in a finite element model of the full structure to obtain predicted prestress losses using the CEB-FIP '90 code expressions for creep and shrinkage. The second method involves collecting data from instrumentation installed in the bridge that is used to back-calculate the effective prestress force.

The prestress losses predicted by the finite element model were 44.9 ksi in Span 5, 47.8 ksi in Span 6, and 45.3 ksi in Span 9. The prestress losses estimated from field data were 50.0 ksi in Span 5, 48.0 ksi in Span 6, and 46.7 ksi in Span 9. The field data estimates were consistently greater than the finite element model predictions, but the discrepancies are relatively small. Therefore, the methods used to estimate the effective prestress from field data are validated. In addition, long-term prestress losses in the Varina-Enon Bridge are not significantly greater than expected.

# Long Term Monitoring of the Varina-Enon Bridge: Effective Prestress Evaluation

Rachel A. Brodsky

## GENERAL AUDIENCE ABSTRACT

Post-tensioned concrete uses stressed steel strands to apply a precompression force to concrete structures. This popular building technology can be used to create lighter, stiffer structures. Over time, the steel strands experience a reduction in force known as *prestress losses*. Accurately quantifying prestress losses is critical for understanding and maintaining a structure during its remaining service life.

The Varina-Enon Bridge is a cable-stayed, prestressed box girder bridge located in Richmond, Virginia. Inspectors noticed cracking in July of 2012 that prompted concerns regarding long-term prestress losses in the structure. Prestress losses were estimated using two methods. The first method utilized a computer model of the full bridge. The second method used data from sensors installed on the bridge to back calculate prestress losses.

It was found that the prestress losses estimated from field data were slightly greater than, but closely aligned with, the computer model results. Therefore, it was concluded that the Varina-Enon Bridge has not experienced significantly more prestress losses than expected.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Virginia Department of Transportation for their support on this project, including providing documentation regarding the design and construction of the Varina-Enon Bridge. I would also like to thank Seth Lindley, whose previous work, thesis, and guidance were immensely helpful for this next phase of the project. Thank you also to Drs. Roberts-Wollman, Koutromanos, and Sarlo, whose support and expertise were greatly appreciated. I learned a great deal from you all and thank you for your guidance during the especially unique challenges faced this year.

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the research motivation, major concepts, and project purpose. The first section describes the concepts of prestressed concrete and prestress losses to provide context for the research motivation. The second section provides a description of the Varina-Enon Bridge, concerns with the structure, and a brief summary of previous research work. The third section outlines the purpose and scope of the project.

## 1.1 Research Motivation

Prestressed concrete uses stressed steel strands to apply a precompression force to concrete structures. This can lead to lighter, stiffer, and more efficient construction. Prestressing strands can be stressed before the concrete is placed to create *pretensioned* structures. The steel strands can be stressed after the concrete is cast and hardened to construct *post-tensioned* concrete. Prestressed concrete is now a common method for all types of construction but has become an especially effective technique for bridges.

As infrastructure ages, it is important to be able to assess its remaining service life. One serviceability concern for prestressed concrete is *prestress losses*. Prestress losses occur when the steel strands lose tension force at the time of stressing as well as throughout the life of the structure. Prestress losses can lead to excessive deflections and cracking, which can allow ingress of moisture and subsequently corrosion of steel. In addition, for systems with *unbonded* tendons, prestress losses can negatively impact the flexural strength. One type of unbonded tendon is external to the concrete cross-section, so the forces are transferred only at the anchors and deviators rather than throughout the length of the prestressing strands. Quantifying prestress losses is critical for understanding the serviceability of a structure.

## 1.2 Varina-Enon Bridge Overview

The Varina-Enon Bridge is located on I-295 and spans the James River in southeastern Richmond, Virginia. It was designed by Figg and Muller Inc. and opened to traffic on July 18, 1990. The structure is a cable-stayed, segmental, precast, post-tensioned box girder bridge. As seen in Figure 1.1, the bridge consists of two parallel box girders carrying three northbound lanes and three southbound lanes. The bridge totals 4,680 ft in length and consists of 28 spans. 21 are *approach spans*, 6 are *transition spans*, and 1 is the *main span*.



Figure 1.1: Aerial View of Varina-Enon Bridge

### 1.2.1 Approach Span Units

The approach spans are each 150 ft in length and consist of seven 20-ft precast *typical segments* between the piers. Nine-ft long *pier segments* are installed at the locations over the piers. The joints between the typical segments are epoxied, and the spans are completed with six-inch cast-in-place closure joints on either side of the pier segments. Figure 1.2 provides an example of an approach span unit. Pictured are approach Spans 1 through 6, which start at Abutment 1 and end at the first expansion joint located over Pier 7.

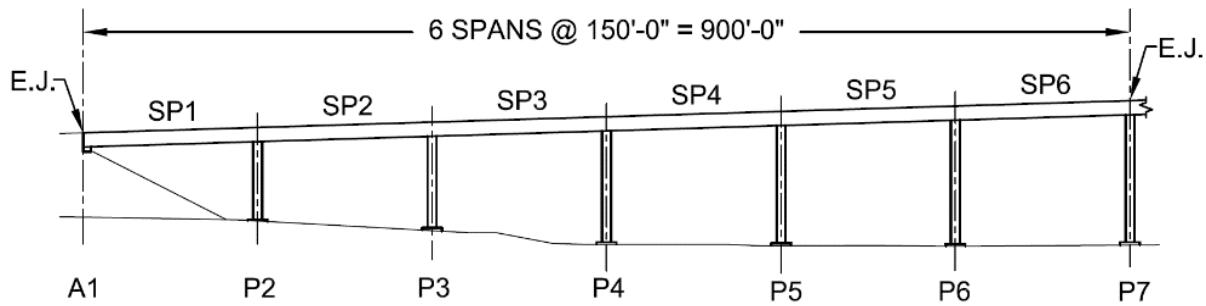


Figure 1.2: Elevation of Approach Spans 1-6 (Lindley 2019, with permission)

The dimensions of the typical and pier segments are shown in Figure 1.3 and Figure 1.4. Each box girder contains transverse internal post-tensioning. As seen in Figure 1.3 and Figure 1.4, the pier segments have the same outer dimensions as the typical segments but contain diaphragms on the interior. These diaphragms enclose additional transverse internal post-tensioning and accommodate the anchors for the longitudinal tendons.

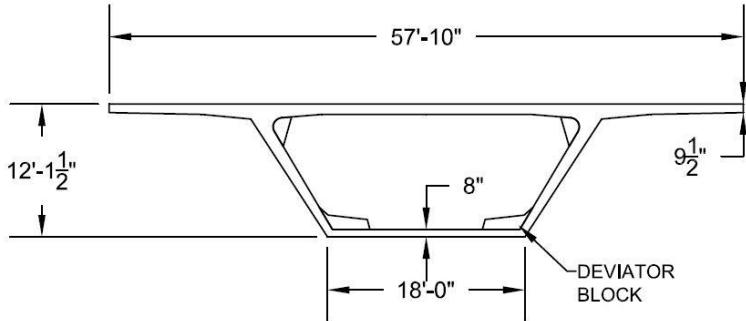


Figure 1.3: Typical Segment Dimensions (Lindley 2019, with permission)

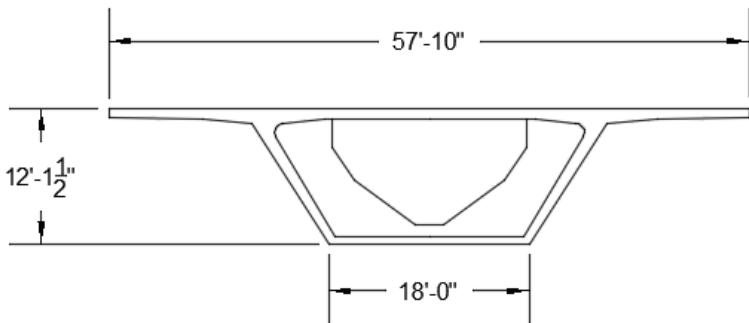


Figure 1.4: Pier Segment Dimensions

Each approach span has external longitudinal post-tensioning consisting of eight tendons located in the hollow interior of the segments. Each tendon contains 19 each 0.6 in. diameter strands. An example post-tensioning layout is shown for Span 6 in Figure 1.5. The tendons are grouted in ducts that run through the deviator blocks seen in Figure 1.5 and Figure 1.3. Figure 1.5 also shows that the tendons overlap over the piers, providing continuity between the spans. Design drawings for all approach span longitudinal post-tensioning layouts can be found in Appendix A.

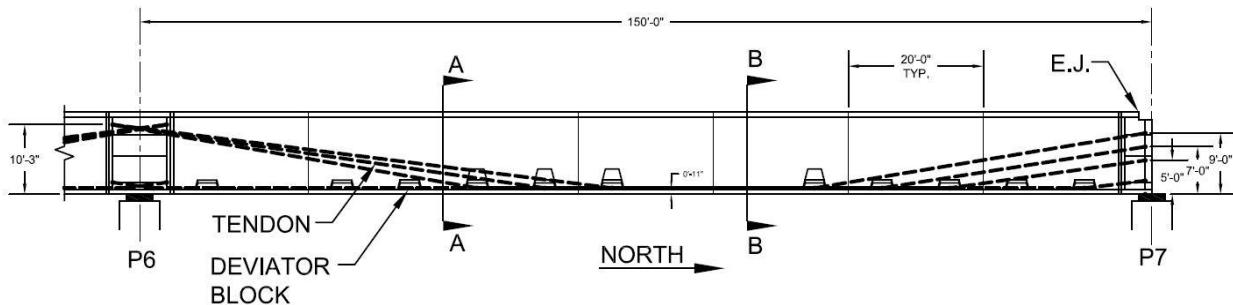


Figure 1.5: Longitudinal Post-Tensioning Layout in Span 6 (Lindley 2019, with permission)

## 1.2.2 Main Span Unit

The main span unit is the cable-stayed section of the bridge and can be seen in Figure 1.6. The main span unit consists of six transition spans that are similar to the approach spans in that they are each 150 ft long with 20-ft typical segments. The main span is the portion of the bridge that crosses the James River, and it is 630 ft long with 10-ft typical segments. This span was built with the cantilever method using a beam and winch system, beginning at Piers 16 and 17 and ending where the segments meet at midspan. See Appendix B for the original drawings outlining the construction process of the main span unit.

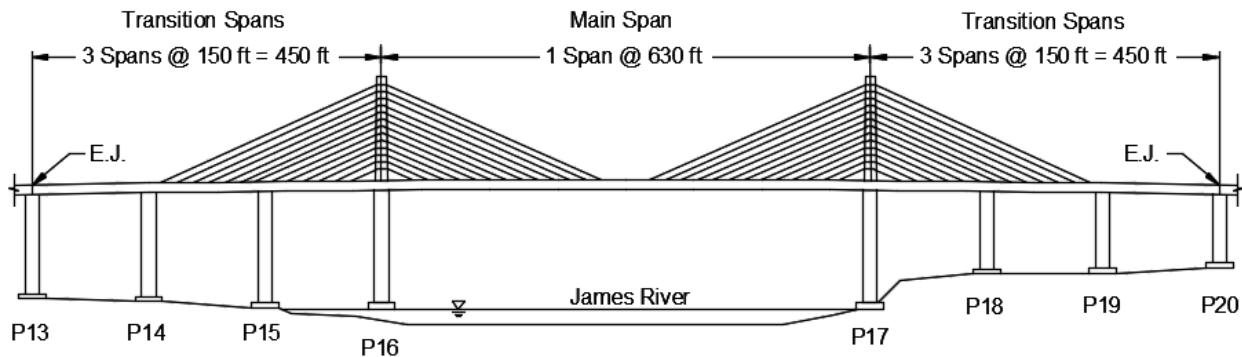


Figure 1.6: Elevation of Main Span Unit

The northbound and southbound sides of the main span unit are joined by a closure pour. At each location where a stay cable meets the superstructure, a *delta frame* distributes the stay force with a truss-like behavior. Each delta frame has internal transverse post-tensioning. Figure 1.7 shows the expected behavior of the delta frames under the stay force and dead load only.

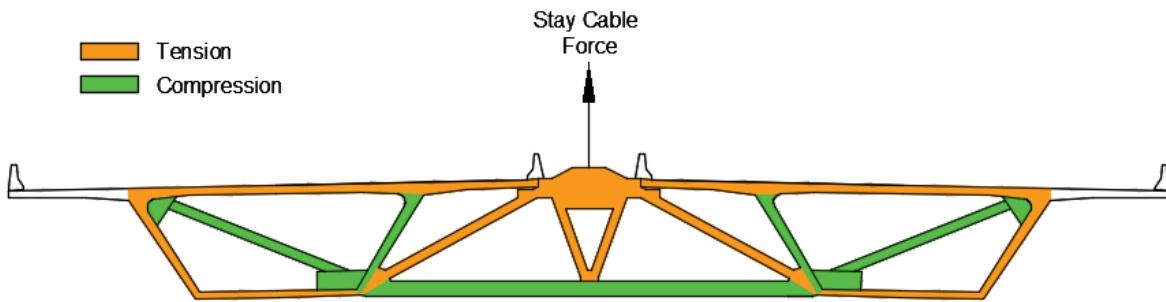


Figure 1.7: Delta Frame Behavior Under Stay Force and Self-Weight

The main span unit contains both internal and external longitudinal post-tensioning. The internal longitudinal post-tensioning runs through the top and bottom slabs of the box girders as well as through the

closure pour. The internal longitudinal tendons in the transition spans consist of 4 each 0.6 in. strands, while those in the main span and closure pour contain 12 each 0.6 in. strands. The transition spans have a similar harped external post-tensioning layout to that of the approach spans. These tendons consist of 19 each 0.6 in. strands. The main span has a unique external longitudinal post-tensioning layout as seen in Figure 1.8. These tendons contain 12 each 0.6 in. strands. The stay cables consist of 0.6 in. strands varying in number from 80 to 90. Design drawings for all main span unit external and internal longitudinal post-tensioning layouts can be found in Appendix A.

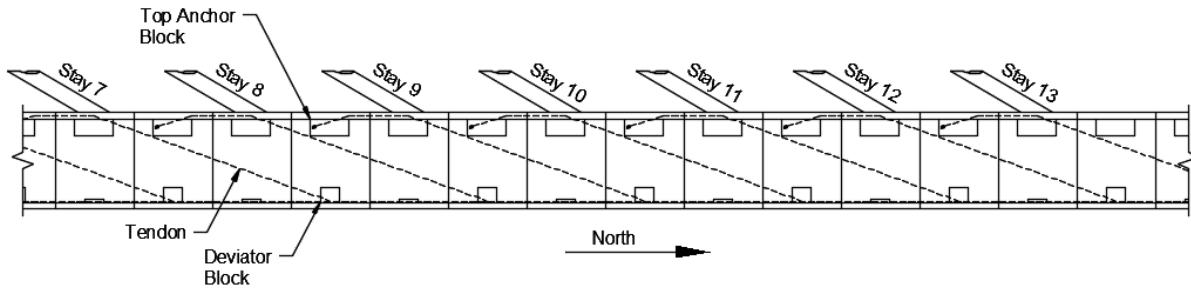


Figure 1.8: Longitudinal External Post-Tensioning Layout in Main Span 16

### 1.2.3 Project Background

In July 2012, inspectors visually observed the joint in the bottom flange at Section A-A in Figure 1.5 opening up to 1/16 in. under heavy traffic loads. This could indicate unanticipated high levels of tension in the bottom flange that would not be expected for a heavily prestressed structure. While this could partially be attributed to large *thermal gradients*, or the temperature difference throughout the depth of the segments, it could also indicate larger than expected prestress losses.

Several studies have previously been conducted to evaluate the crack-opening behavior at the joint in Span 6 of the Varina-Enon Bridge. Maguire et al. (2014) installed a long-term monitoring system to measure the joint opening as well as the thermal gradient at that location. It was concluded that crack openings are greatly influenced not just by heavy traffic, but by the interaction of these loads with large thermal gradients. In 2017, a study was conducted evaluate the effective prestress force in Span 6 using the data collected at the opening joint. The results of this study were not published. Lindley (2019) reinstalled the original long-term monitoring system and refined the effective prestress evaluation in Span 6. These previous research projects are discussed in greater detail in the Literature Review.

### 1.3 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this research project is to estimate longitudinal prestress losses using field data from flexural crack openings at several locations throughout the bridge and compare these values to those

obtained from a finite element model of the full structure. This purpose can be broken down into the following scope:

- Estimate the longitudinal effective prestress force in multiple spans from field data collected at joint openings.
- Develop a finite element model of the full structure. For this thesis, it will be used evaluate predicted prestress losses using standard models for creep and shrinkage. The model will be used by future researchers to investigate other aspects of behavior of the bridge, such as response to superloads.
- Monitor, maintain, and expand instrumentation on the Varina-Enon Bridge.
- Provide recommendations for continued research on the Varina-Enon Bridge.

## Chapter 2. Literature Review

Extensive research has been conducted on several bridges that are similar to the Varina-Enon Bridge. In addition, there have been previous studies on the Varina-Enon Bridge itself. This chapter discusses the similar and previous work as it relates to this project. The chapter is broken down into the four major concepts of computer modeling, creep and shrinkage, prestress losses, and thermal gradient. A general overview is provided for each concept, and then the methods utilized by previous researchers to address these topics are discussed.

### 2.1 Computer Modeling

Finite element models of structures are powerful tools in the design process but can also be useful for analysis of existing structures. Finite element analysis software enables the user to input the geometry, material properties, and loading of a structure in order to obtain a mathematical response of the system. Environmental loads such as temperature and time-dependent effects such as creep and shrinkage may also be included in a model. The mathematical response of a system from a finite element analysis includes valuable information such as member stresses, strains, and deflections.

#### 2.1.1 Veterans' City Glass Skyway Modeling

The Veterans' Glass City Skyway (VGCS) is a precast, segmental concrete bridge similar to the Varina-Enon Bridge. The VGCS was known as the Maumee River Crossing until it opened to traffic in 2007. It is located on I-280 in Toledo, Ohio and carries three lanes of traffic in each direction. The VGCS consists of 56 approach spans totaling 7,273 ft and one cable-stayed main span totaling 1,525 ft (Helmicki et al. 2012). Figure 2.1 provides a view of the bridge that shows where it crosses the Maumee River.



Figure 2.1: Artistic Rendering of Veterans' Glass City Skyway (Helmicki et al. 2012, public domain)

A three-dimensional finite element model was created for the VGCS main span using LARSA 4D. An overview of the model is shown in Figure 2.2. Although cable-stayed bridges are generally highly nonlinear in terms of deformations and dynamic effects, the arrangement of the box girders and delta frames make the VGCS very stiff. Therefore, linear behavior was assumed for the model. It was also assumed that the delta frames do not contribute to the longitudinal stiffness of the structure. Another assumption was that the elastomeric bearings at the superstructure to substructure connections only contribute to vertical stiffness. Elastomeric bearing stiffness was neglected in the longitudinal, transverse, and rotational directions (Helmicki et al. 2012).

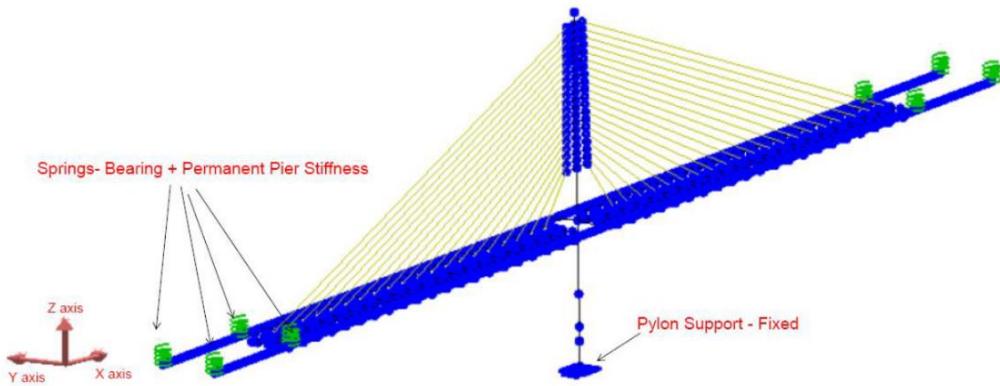


Figure 2.2: VGCS Main Span Finite Element Model (Helmicki et al. 2012, public domain)

The three types of elements in the finite element model were beam elements, cable elements, and spring elements. Cable elements were used to model the cable stays. Although in reality the stays for the VGCS are continuous through a cradle over the pylon, they were represented in the model as two separate stays stressed simultaneously. Cable elements have stress stiffening properties that require nonlinear analysis. However, since the self-weight of the bridge is so high, it is expected that the cables will always be in tension and there would never be a live load large enough to reverse the stresses. Therefore, stress stiffening properties of the cables were ignored. Spring elements were used to model the elastomeric bearing and pier compressive stiffnesses. The box girders and delta frame members were modeled as beam elements (Helmicki et al. 2012). The arrangement of delta frame elements is shown in Figure 2.3.

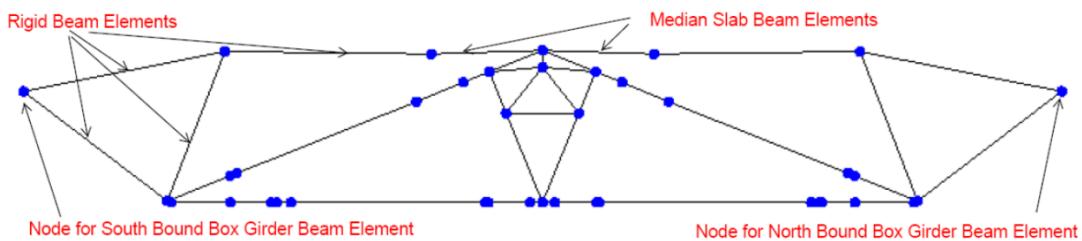


Figure 2.3: VGCS Delta Frame in Finite Element Model (Helmicki et al. 2012, public domain)

Some VGCS box girders were instrumented with strain gages during casting, allowing for *progressive calibration*. Progressive calibration is calibration of a finite element model against construction loads for intermediate construction stages. Both dynamic load tests using segment haulers and static load tests using cranes were conducted, and the measured strains were compared to those predicted by the model. The model was further validated by conducting a truck test on the completed VGCS and comparing the analytically obtained values to the measured data. Electrical-resistance strain gages were used to collect data from dynamic truck tests, while both vibrating wire and electrical-resistance strain gages collected data for static truck tests. An *influence line* was obtained from dynamic truck tests that could be compared to the results of an influence line analysis in the model. The locations of maximum response were also compared (Helmicki et al. 2012).

The delta frame model was calibrated separately before being included in the full finite element model, also using progressive calibration. Strains in delta frame members were measured during initial and final post-tensioning and compared to the model predictions. A stress-to-strain transformation was used to convert the stresses predicted by the model to values of strain that could be compared to the measured data. It was concluded that a finite element model created using LARSA 4D accurately represented the expected behavior of the VGCS (Nimse et al. 2015).

### 2.1.2 Varina-Enon Bridge Modeling

LARSA 4D was also used by Lindley (2019) to create a three-dimensional finite element model of the northbound approach Spans 1-6 of the Varina-Enon Bridge. An overview of this model can be seen in Figure 2.4. The model utilized beam elements for the box girders and piers, and spring elements for the neoprene bearing pads at the connections from the superstructure to substructure. Referencing the axes defined in Figure 2.4, the springs had translational stiffness in the Z and X-directions, and rotational stiffness about the Y-axis. The springs were modeled as fixed for the remaining three degrees of freedom. The spring stiffness values utilized were validated by live load tests conducted by Maguire et. al (2014). The longitudinal external post-tensioning tendons were included in the model, as well as the self-weights of the tendon deviator blocks and barrier rails. The finite element model was validated using deflection data collected from live load tests conducted by Maguire et al. (2014). The deflections measured due to different load configurations were compared to the deflections predicted by the model under those loadings, and were found to match reasonably well (Lindley 2019).

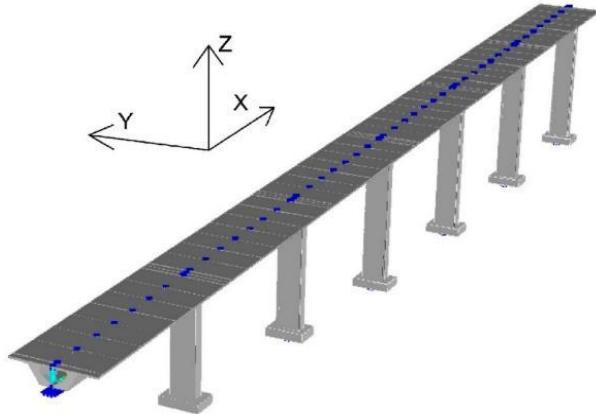


Figure 2.4: Isotropic View of Varina-Enon Bridge Approach Spans 1-6 FE Model (Lindley 2019, with permission)

## 2.2 Creep and Shrinkage

Creep is the long-term deformation of a structure due to a sustained load, and shrinkage is the volume change of material due to moisture losses. It is necessary to quantify creep and shrinkage effects in order to investigate long-term prestress losses. Stresses and strains due to creep and shrinkage are generally modeled as increasing over time and approaching an asymptotic value, as shown in Figure 2.5. The figure also demonstrates that after the time of unloading, there is recovery of all elastic strain and some creep strain. Various creep and shrinkage models exist such as CEB-FIP '78, CEB-FIP '90, ACI 209, AASHTO, and B3. Each model accounts for material properties and environmental conditions, but uses different functions to quantify the progression of creep and shrinkage over time (Lindley 2019). For a detailed overview of each of these models and how they differ, see Lindley (2019).

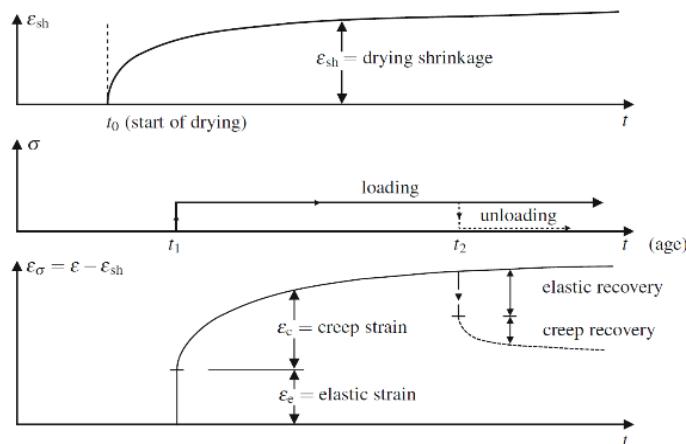


Figure 2.5: Creep and Shrinkage Strains Over Time (reprinted by permission from Springer Nature Customer Service Centre GmbH: Springer Nature Basic Properties of Concrete Creep, Shrinkage, and Drying by Bažant and Jirásek 2018)

## 2.2.1 Sunshine Skyway Bridge Creep and Shrinkage Models

The Sunshine Skyway Bridge is a prestressed, concrete, cable-stayed bridge located on I-275 in Florida. It is composed of four types of spans including trestle approach spans, low-level approach spans, high-level approach spans, and three cable-stayed spans. The trestle approach spans consist of standard prestressed I-girders, the low-level approach spans are comprised of twin box girders, and the high-level approach spans contain a single-cell box girder. The main cable-stayed spans consist of single-cell precast box segments (Shahawy and Arockiasamy 1996a). An elevation view of the main cable-stayed span of the bridge can be seen in Figure 2.6.

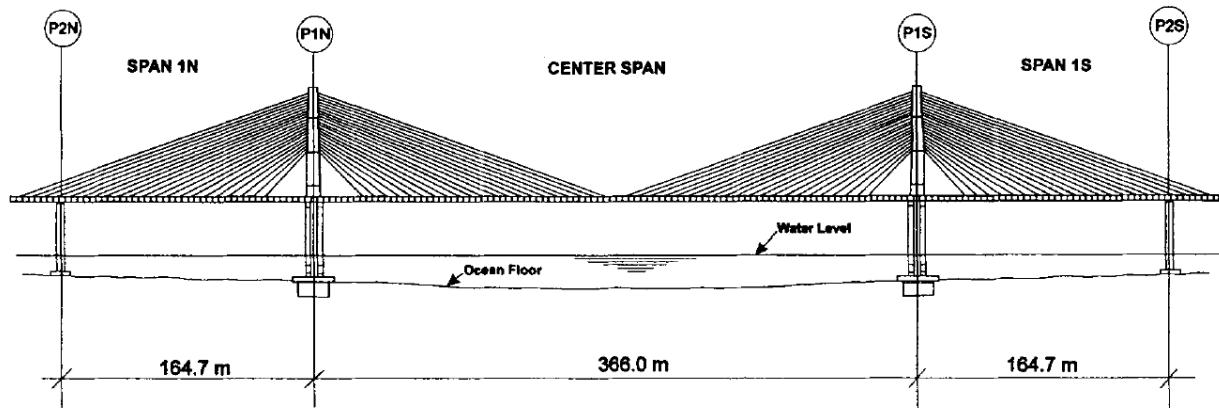


Figure 2.6: Elevation View of Sunshine Skyway Bridge (Shahawy and Arockiasamy 1996b, with permission from ASCE)

Shahawy and Arocklasamy (1996) conducted a study to develop an analytical model to predict time-dependent strain histories throughout all construction stages of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Box girders in the main span as well as the pylons were instrumented with strain gages, and the collected data was used to calibrate the analytical computer model. The age-adjusted effective-modulus method was used to compute the time-dependent creep and shrinkage strains. This method includes an aging coefficient that accounts for the effect of aging on the ultimate value of creep after the application of a load. There is also a correction factor accounting for ambient relative humidity, volume to surface ratio, and temperature. An iterative process was used to analyze the stresses and strains in the concrete sections after each construction stage of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The loading changed in each construction stage, so the aging coefficient changed as well. However, the study showed that time-dependent strains due to the construction sequence based on a constant aging coefficient aligned closely with those considering a varying aging coefficient. Therefore, a constant aging coefficient was determined to be adequate for analysis (Shahawy and Arockiasamy 1996b).

## 2.2.2 Varina-Enon Bridge Creep and Shrinkage

As mentioned in the Introduction, Lindley (2019) studied the prestress losses in Span 6 of the Varina-Enon Bridge. Predicted prestress losses were evaluated from the finite element model considering three different creep and shrinkage models: CEB-FIP '78, CEB-FIB '90, and AASHTO. Although the bridge was designed under the CEB-FIB '78 model code, it was found that the theoretical effective prestress using CEB-FIP '90 most closely matched the calculated effective prestress from field data (Lindley 2019). Therefore, for the purposes of this thesis, CEB-FIP '90 is used to quantify the creep and shrinkage effects of the structure over time.

## 2.2.3 CEB-FIP '90 Creep and Shrinkage Model

The CEB-FIP '90 model code was published by the Comité Euro-International Du Béton in 1990 as an update to the CEB-FIP '78 model code. In this model, creep and shrinkage are represented as a hyperbolic change over time. The ultimate values are corrected for mixture proportions and environmental conditions. The parameters required for the model include the age of the concrete when drying starts, the age of the concrete at loading, the mean 28-day compressive strength, the relative humidity, the volume-surface ratio of the member, and the cement type (ACI 209 2008). The CEB-FIP '90 calculations for creep and shrinkage per ACI 209 (2008) are subsequently described. All units are in terms of lb. and in.

The creep effect is defined by the compliance function given by Equation (2-1), which describes the total stress-dependent strain per unit stress.

$$J(t, t_o) = \frac{1}{E_{cmto}} + \frac{\Phi_{28}(t, t_o)}{E_{cm28}} \quad (2-1)$$

$E_{cmto}$  is the modulus of elasticity at the time of loading  $t_o$ , calculated with Equation (2-2).

$$E_{cmto} = E_{cm28} \exp \left[ \frac{s}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{28}{t/t_1}} \right) \right] \quad (2-2)$$

$t_1 = 1$  day, and  $s$  is a value dependent on the type of cement and compressive strength of concrete taken from Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Coefficient s Based on Cement Type and Compressive Strength (ACI 209 2008, with permission)

$f_{cm28}$	Type of cement	$s$
$\leq 60$ MPa (8700 psi)	RS (rapid hardening high-strength cement)	0.20
	N or R (normal or rapid hardening cements)	0.25
	SL (slowly-hardening cement)	0.38
$> 60$ MPa (8700 psi)*	All types	0.20

\*Case not considered in CEB MC90.

$E_{cm28}$  is the mean 28-day modulus of elasticity calculated with Equations (2-2) and (2-3).

$$E_{cm28} = \alpha_E 3,118,310_3 \sqrt{\frac{f_{cm28}}{f_{cmo}}} \quad (2-2)$$

$$f_{cm28} = f'_c + 1160 \text{ psi} \quad (2-3)$$

$f_{cmo}$  is taken as 1450 psi, and  $\alpha_E$  is a value dependent on the aggregate type taken from Table 2.2.  $f'_c$  is the compressive cylinder strength defined as the strength below which only 5% of all possible strength measurements may be expected to fall.

Table 2.2: Effect of Aggregate Type on Modulus of Elasticity (ACI 209 2008, with permission)

Aggregate type	$\alpha_E$
Basalt, dense limestone aggregates	1.2
Quartzitic aggregates	1.0
Limestone aggregates	0.9
Sandstone aggregates	0.7

$\Phi_{28}$  is the 28-day creep coefficient calculated in Equations (2-4) through (2-10), which gives the ratio of the creep strain at the time of loading  $t_o$ , to the elastic stress due to a constant stress applied at 28 days.

$$\Phi_{28}(t, t_o) = \Phi_o \beta_c(t - t_o) \quad (2-4)$$

$$\Phi_o = \Phi_{RH}(h) \beta(f_{cm28}) \beta(t_o) \quad (2-5)$$

$$\Phi_{RH}(h) = \left[ 1 + \frac{1-h/h_0}{\sqrt[3]{0.1[(V/S)/(V/S)_0]}} \alpha_1 \right] \alpha_2 \quad (2-6)$$

$$\beta(f_{cm28}) = \frac{5.3}{\sqrt{f_{cm28}/f_{cmo}}} \quad (2-7)$$

$$\beta(t_o) = \frac{1}{0.1 + (t_o/t_1)^{0.2}} \quad (2-8)$$

$$\alpha_1 = \left[ \frac{3.5 f_{cmo}}{f_{cm28}} \right]^{0.7} \quad (2-9)$$

$$\alpha_2 = \left[ \frac{3.5 f_{cmo}}{f_{cm28}} \right]^{0.2} \quad (2-10)$$

$h$  is the ambient relative humidity in decimals,  $h_0 = 1$ ,  $V/S$  is the volume-surface ratio, and  $(V/S)_o = 2$  in. The coefficient  $\beta_c(t-t_o)$  describes the development of creep over time after loading and can be calculated with Equations (2-11) through (2-13).

$$\beta_c(t - t_o) = \left[ \frac{(t-t_o)/t_1}{\beta_H + (t-t_o)/t_1} \right]^{0.3} \quad (2-11)$$

$$\beta_H = 150[1 + (1.2h/h_o)^{18}](V/S)/(V/S)_o + 250\alpha_3 \leq 1500\alpha_3 \quad (2-12)$$

$$\alpha_3 = \left[ \frac{3.5 f_{cmo}}{f_{cm28}} \right]^{0.5} \quad (2-13)$$

In order to determine shrinkage effects, the total shrinkage strains are calculated from Equation (2-14).

$$\varepsilon_{sh}(t, t_c) = \varepsilon_{cso} \beta_s(t - t_c) \quad (2-14)$$

$t$  is the age of the concrete (days) at the time of interest, and  $t_c$  is the age of the concrete (days) at the beginning of drying.  $\varepsilon_{cso}$  is the notional shrinkage coefficient obtained from equations (2-15) through (2-18).

$$\varepsilon_{cso} = \varepsilon_s(f_{cm28}) \beta_{RH}(h) \quad (2-15)$$

$$\varepsilon_s(f_{cm28}) = [160 + 10\beta_{sc}(9 - f_{cm28}/f_{cmo})]10^{-6} \quad (2-16)$$

$$\beta_{RH}(h) = -1.55 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{h}{h_o} \right)^3 \right] \text{ for } 0.4 \leq h < 0.99 \quad (2-17)$$

$$\beta_{RH}(h) = 0.25 \text{ for } h \geq 0.99 \quad (2-18)$$

The coefficient  $\beta_{sc}$  depends on the type of cement and can be taken from Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Coefficient Based on Type of Cement (ACI 209 2008, with permission)

Type of cement according to EC2	$\beta_{sc}$
SL (slowly-hardening cements)	4
N and R (normal or rapid hardening cements)	5
RS (rapid hardening high-strength cements)	8

$\beta_{sc}(t-t_c)$  gives the development of shrinkage with time and is given by Equation (2-19).

$$\beta_s(t - t_c) = \left[ \frac{(t - t_c)/t_1}{350[(V/S)/(V/S)_o]^2 + (t - t_c)/t_1} \right]^{0.5} \quad (2-19)$$

## 2.3 Prestress Losses

As mentioned in the Introduction, prestress losses are the loss of tension force in prestressing strands. Total prestress losses are the summation of immediate and time-dependent losses, as shown in Equation (2-20) (Lindley 2019). Immediate prestress losses include those due to seating and friction ( $\Delta f_{pFS}$ ) as well as elastic shortening ( $\Delta f_{pES}$ ). Of greater concern are time-dependent prestress losses which include those due to creep ( $\Delta f_{pCR}$ ) and shrinkage ( $\Delta f_{pSH}$ ) of the concrete as well as relaxation of the steel strands ( $\Delta f_{pRE}$ ). Time-dependent effects can be difficult to predict but are critical for quantifying prestress losses and understanding the serviceability of a structure.

$$\Delta f_{pT} = \underbrace{\Delta f_{pFS} + \Delta f_{pES}}_{\text{Short-term losses}} + \underbrace{\Delta f_{pCR} + \Delta f_{pSH} + \Delta f_{pRE}}_{\text{Long-term losses}} \quad (2-20)$$

Several methods have been developed for calculating long-term prestress losses with varying degrees of accuracy. The lump-sum method depends only the level of stress in the steel and concrete. Another simplified method estimates the long-term losses due to creep, shrinkage, and relaxation individually using factors dependent on the type of concrete, age at loading, and type of prestressing steel. The most accurate methods are time-step methods and age-adjusted effective modulus methods, which directly consider the creep, shrinkage, and relaxation models for the materials being used. These methods for calculating long-term prestress losses are outlined in ACI 423.10R *Guide to Estimating Prestress Losses* (ACI 423 2016), and described in greater detail by Lindley (2019).

### 2.3.1 Varina-Enon Bridge Prestress Losses

As mentioned in the Introduction and Section 2.2.2, Lindley (2019) studied prestress losses in Span 6 of the northbound side of the Varina-Enon Bridge. Data collected from the joint opening at Section A-A in Figure 1.5 was used to determine the effective prestress force at that location. The effective prestress force was back-calculated from both 2013 and 2019 field data based on the assumption that there is zero stress at the location of the crack when it opens. The finite element model described in Section 2.1.2 was used to obtain predicted prestress losses that could be compared to those calculated from field data. In 2013 the average prestress loss was calculated as 47.3 ksi, while the model employing the CEB-FIP '90 model for creep and shrinkage predicted losses of 43.3 ksi. Therefore, the actual prestress losses were determined to be 8.4% greater than those predicted by the model (Lindley 2019).

## 2.4 Thermal Gradient

As mentioned in the Introduction, *thermal gradients* are the temperature differences throughout the depth of a structure. Figure 2.7 shows that this temperature distribution is affected by several environmental factors including solar radiation, ambient temperature, wind, and humidity (Xu et al. 2019). Large box girders develop thermal gradients since the wide top flange is exposed to solar radiation, but shades the webs and bottom flange (Lindley 2019).

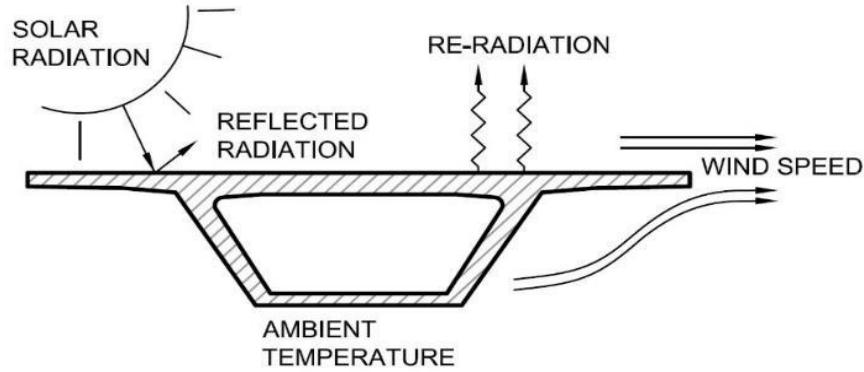


Figure 2.7: Environmental Factors Affecting Thermal Gradients (Lindley 2019, with permission)

Non-linear thermal gradients tend to develop in bridges such as the Varina-Enon Bridge on days with large temperature fluctuations. This induces two types of internal stress: *self-equilibrating stress* and *continuity stress*. Self-equilibrating stresses are the stresses induced when considering a simply supported configuration. Continuity stresses arise from the effects of the non-linear thermal gradient on the redundant structure (Lindley 2019). Table 2.4 summarizes the types of temperature induced thermal stresses. For a more detailed description of the concepts related to thermal gradient, see Lindley (2019). See Sections 3.4.6 and 3.4.7 of this thesis for descriptions of the calculations for self-equilibrating stress and continuity stress.

Table 2.4: Summary of Temperature Induced Thermal Stresses (Lindley 2019, with permission)

	Determinate 	Indeterminate 
Linear Thermal Gradient 	Stresses @ A-A SELF EQUILIBRATING CONTINUITY	Stresses @ B-B SELF EQUILIBRATING CONTINUITY
Non-Linear Thermal Gradient 	Stresses @ A-A SELF EQUILIBRATING CONTINUITY	Stresses @ B-B SELF EQUILIBRATING CONTINUITY

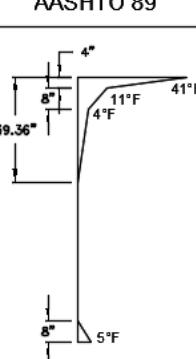
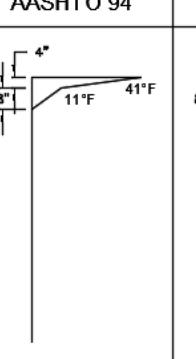
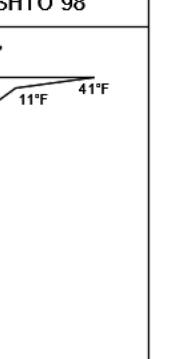
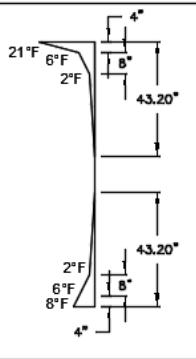
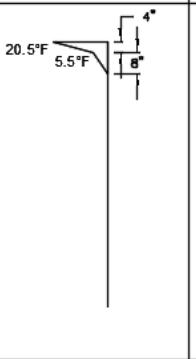
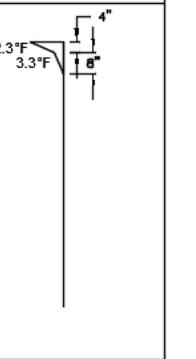
#### 2.4.1 Veterans' Glass City Skyway Thermal Gradient

Helmicki et al. (2012) conducted a study on the thermal gradient within the concrete box girders of the Veterans' Glass City Skyway. Both *positive thermal gradients* and *negative thermal gradients* were considered. Positive thermal gradients occur when the top of the cross section is at a higher temperature

than the middle and bottom, while negative thermal gradients occur when the top of the cross section is at a lower temperature than the middle. Negative thermal gradients are of particular concern because they can lead to cracking of the top slab, allowing ingress of moisture that could corrode reinforcing steel and prestressing strands (Helmicki et al. 2012).

The purpose of the thermal gradient study on the VGCS was to assess if the actual thermal gradients are consistent with the AASHTO design code. Table 2.5 shows several AASHTO positive and negative design gradients for various years. Eight full months of temperature data were collected using thermistors embedded in the box girders of the VGCS. The positive thermal gradient was determined to be consistent in shape throughout the eight months of the study. In addition, it was found that the positive gradients typically fell within the AASHTO design code. Only two months of data showed occurrences of negative thermal gradients, indicating that the issues associated with them are not a large concern. The negative gradients were not as consistent in shape as the positive gradients, but they still typically fell within the AASHTO design code (Helmicki et al. 2012).

Table 2.5: AASHTO Design Gradients

Design Code	AASHTO 89	AASHTO 94	AASHTO 98
Positive Gradients			
Negative Gradients			

#### 2.4.2 Sunshine Skyway Bridge Thermal Gradient

Six bridge segments of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge were each instrumented with 28 thermocouples to measure the temperature in the bridge superstructure. The thermocouples were clustered

into seven groups throughout the depths of the box sections, each with four thermocouples. The pylons were also instrumented with 14 thermocouples to measure temperature distributions across their major and minor axes (Shahawy and Arockiasamy 1996a). It was found that nonlinear thermal gradients had a considerable effect on the total strain magnitude in the bridge segments. In some cases, high thermal strains doubled the magnitude of the total strain at certain locations in the cross-section (Shahawy and Arockiasamy 1996b).

#### 2.4.3 Varina-Enon Bridge Thermal Gradient

Maguire et. al (2014) conducted a study on the thermal gradient of the Varina-Enon Bridge. Temperature data was collected using thermocouples installed throughout the depth of the box girder at Section A-A in Figure 1.5. The purposes of this study were to determine if the measured thermal gradient fell within the AASHTO design code, and to characterize the relationship between the thermal gradient and the observed joint opening at Section A-A in Figure 1.5.

The study concluded that the measured thermal gradient was the same shape as the design gradient, but significantly less severe in magnitude. The other key conclusion was that the crack opening in Span 6 is influenced by both heavy truck loads and large thermal gradients. As seen in Figure 2.8, there were more crack opening events, and the crack displacements were larger, in warmer months when the differential temperatures were generally greater. Cooler months had fewer and smaller crack openings (Maguire et al. 2014).

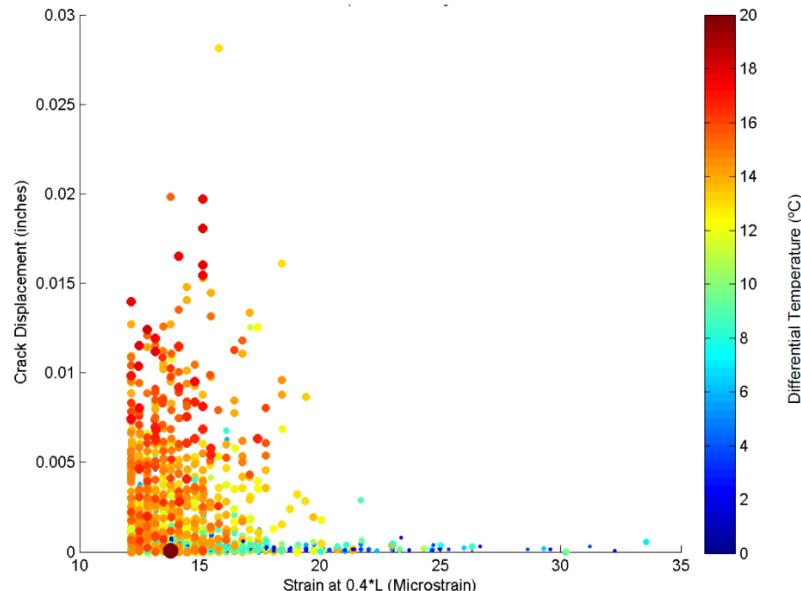


Figure 2.8: Crack-Temperature-Strain Plot for 2013 Crack Opening Events (Maguire et al. 2014, with permission)

## 2.5 Summary of the Literature

Finite element modeling has been used for multiple precast box girder bridges to predict the staged-construction and time-dependent behavior related to creep, shrinkage, and prestress losses. A model was created of the Veteran's Glass City Skyway and calibrated during various construction stages of the bridge to provide a baseline model that could be used for long-term monitoring. A model was created of the Varina-Enon Bridge in order to obtain predicted prestress losses and aid in calculations of prestress losses from measured data. In general, finite element models can be used to obtain valuable information regarding the behavior of a structure that can be used in conjunction with collected data for long-term monitoring.

The time-dependent effects of creep and shrinkage are important to quantify in order to understand a structure's long-term behavior and obtain predicted prestress losses. There are several different models that quantify creep and shrinkage strains over time. An analytical model was created for the Sunshine Skyway Bridge with time-dependent creep and shrinkage strains computed per the age-adjusted effective modulus method. Multiple creep and shrinkage models were used to predict prestress losses in the Varina-Enon Bridge, but it was concluded that the CEB-FIP '90 model provided the most accurate prediction.

Quantifying time-dependent prestress losses is critical for understanding the serviceability of a structure. Prestress losses in northbound Span 6 of the Varina-Enon Bridge were computed from measured data at the location of the observed joint opening. The calculated prestress losses were compared to the predicted prestress losses from the finite element model. Actual prestress losses were determined to be 8.4% greater than the losses predicted by the model.

Non-linear thermal gradients lead to the development of internal stresses in large box girders. The effects of thermal gradients have been studied for several precast, segmental, box girder bridges. A study on the VGCS determined that the measured thermal gradients fell within the AASHTO design code. Research on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge found that nonlinear thermal gradients had a considerable effect on the total strain magnitude in the bridge segments. A study on the Varina-Enon Bridge concluded that the measured gradient fell within the design code, and that greater thermal gradients lead to more and larger crack openings.

## Chapter 3. Methodology

This chapter describes the processes and steps taken to fulfill the project purpose of estimating the effective prestress force from field data collected at multiple joint opening locations in the Varina-Enon Bridge and comparing the results to those obtained from a finite element model of the full structure. The first section describes how data was acquired from instrumentation in northbound Spans 5, 6, and 9. The second section explains how the data was processed to obtain key measurements of interest. The third section provides an overview of the computer model and describes how it took time-dependent effects into account. The fourth section details how the effective prestress forces were calculated from field data.

### 3.1 Data Acquisition

#### 3.1.1 Spans 5 and 6 Instrumentation

The original long-term monitoring system was installed by Maguire et al. (2014) for the main purpose of measuring the crack opening and thermal gradient at the visually observed opening joint in Span 6. Instrumentation was also installed to monitor an opening joint in Span 5. This system was reinstalled by Lindley (2019) in order to continue research and evaluation of the effective prestress force. The sensors in this long-term monitoring system include Transtek linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs), Bridge Diagnostics Inc. (BDI) strain transducers, and thermocouples (TCs). Figure 3.1 shows the locations of the sensors in Span 6, and Figure 3.2 shows the locations of the sensors in Span 5.

The strain transducers measured live load strains on the top of the bottom flange of the box girders. ST01 was installed at the location of the maximum expected live load moment in Span 6, Section B-B, which is 0.4 times the span length from Pier 7. This strain transducer served as the trigger gage for the data acquisition system since crack-opening events were expected to occur under large live loads. ST02 measured the strain at the top of the bottom flange adjacent to the opening joint in Span 6. The LVDTs at Section A-A in Figure 3.1 measured the crack displacement at the opening joint in Span 6. They were installed on the top of the bottom flange of the box girder as shown in Figure 3.3. Similarly, the LVDT at Section C-C was located on the top of the bottom flange of the box girder and measured the crack displacement at the opening joint in Span 5.

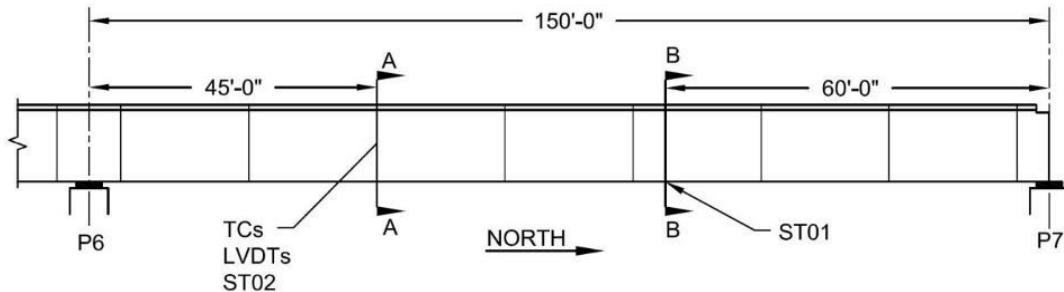


Figure 3.1: Sensor Layout in Span 6 (Lindley 2019, with permission)

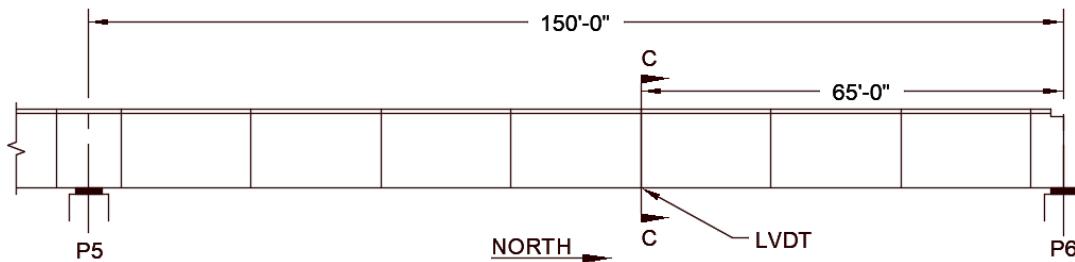


Figure 3.2: Sensor Layout in Span 5

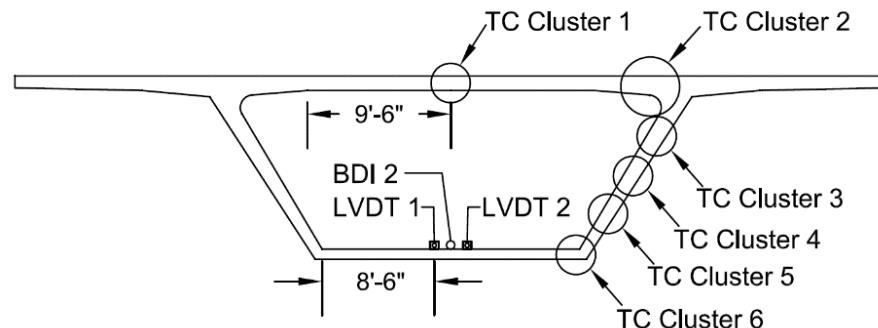


Figure 3.3: Section A-A Sensor Layout (Lindley 2019, with permission)

The thermocouples were installed in clusters throughout the depth of the box girder at Section A-A as shown in Figure 3.3. Each thermocouple had a tributary area over which the temperature was taken as constant. Several thermocouples were located at approximately the same depth in the section, so their temperature measurements were averaged and treated as one measurement. These thermocouples are grouped together in Table 3.1, which summarizes the location of each thermocouple from the top of the wearing surface, the tributary area, and the centroid of the area from the bottom of the section. The values from this table were used in the calculations of the self-equilibrating stresses in Section 3.4.6 and the thermal continuity forces in Section 3.4.7. It was assumed that the measured thermal gradient at Section A-A is representative of the thermal gradient along the full length of the Varina-Enon Bridge (Maguire et al. 2014).

Table 3.1: Thermocouple Locations and Tributary Areas (Lindley 2019, with permission)

TC	Elev. from top of wearing surface, in.	CG from the bottom, in.	Tot area, in. <sup>2</sup>	Area*cg, in. <sup>3</sup>
1	140.0	8.1	1,086.8	8,838.8
2	142.3	3.2	496.5	1,602.6
3	144.5	1.1	457.5	481.4
4,5	108.8	35.8	754.9	27,043.1
	110.8			
6,7	78.0	66.2	848.4	56,156.3
	80.6			
8,9	48.5	97.5	1,030.0	100,394.8
	51.1			
10	15.8	122.9	667.5	82,040.1
11	13.8	131.8	317.2	41,810.9
12	11.8	133.9	673.2	90,158.4
13	9.8	135.3	713.9	96,594.5
19	9.5	136.2	692.9	94,363.8
14	7.8	137.6	1,041.0	143,241.6
15	6.5	138.9	798.1	110,876.0
16,21	5.5	140.0	694.0	97,160.0
	5.5			
17,22	4.5	141.0	694.0	97,854.0
	4.5			
18,23	3.5	142.0	694.0	98,548.0
	3.5			
24	2.5	143.7	957.7	137,614.8
99	0.8	145.6	1,131.2	164,666.0

For more details regarding the types and locations of sensors installed in Spans 5 and 6 of the Varina-Enon Bridge, see Maguire et al. (2015) and Lindley (2019).

### 3.1.2 Span 9 Instrumentation

Another joint of interest in Span 9 was instrumented to monitor the crack-opening under heavy live loads and evaluate the effective prestress force in that span. The layout of the Transtek LVDTs and BDI strain transducers in Span 9 is shown in Figure 3.4. ST04 was located at Section E-E, the midspan and location of expected maximum live load moment in the span. ST04 served as the trigger gage for the data

acquisition system in Span 9. Section D-D was the location of the opening joint, where two LVDTs measured the crack displacement and ST03 measured the strain adjacent to the joint. This data acquisition system was installed with the intent of periodically moving it to different joints throughout the length of the bridge in order to monitor various crack-opening locations.

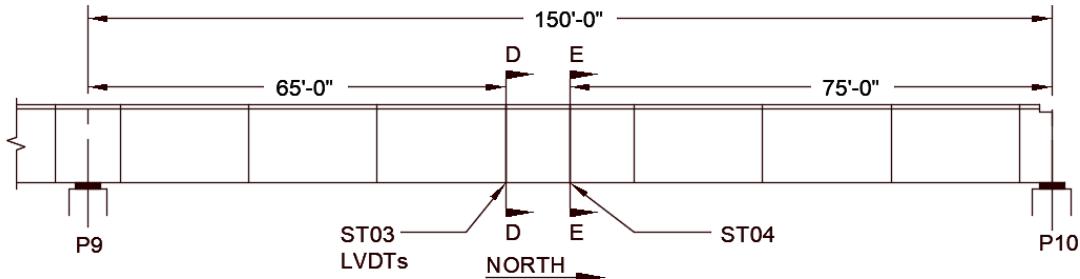


Figure 3.4: Sensor Layout in Span 9

### 3.1.3 Data Collection

The data from all sensors was collected using Campbell Scientific data acquisition systems. Two CR1000 dataloggers collected the data from the sensors in Spans 5 and 6. One collected the strain transducer and LVDT data at a 33 Hz sample rate for a 3.6 second event when the strain measurement from the trigger gage, ST01, exceeded  $11 \mu\epsilon$ . The other collected the thermocouple data at a continuous 2-minute sample rate. A CR1000X datalogger collected the strain transducer and LVDT data in Span 9 in the same manner as the CR1000 in Span 6. In this case, data was collected when the strain measurement from the trigger gage, ST04, exceeded  $11 \mu\epsilon$ . Three separate data files were downloaded from the dataloggers every 24 hours: one with strain transducer and LVDT data from Spans 5 and 6, one with thermocouple data from Span 6, and one with strain transducer and LVDT data from Span 9.

## 3.2 Data Processing

The data collected from the instrumentation throughout the Varina-Enon Bridge was processed using Matlab codes that matched the strain and displacement data for each “event” to the corresponding temperature data. “Bad” events were eliminated through a series of exclusionary criteria that ensured the trigger strain gages measured at least  $11 \mu\epsilon$ , and that the time difference between the strain and temperature measurements was less than 2 hours. Although the time difference would not be expected to be more than 2 minutes, this criterion was included because a difference of up to 2 hours would be considered acceptable. It was also ensured that the events were sufficiently short in length in case a trigger gage measurement drifted above the threshold value for an extended period of time. In addition, it was ensured there was not an unreasonable change in strain resulting from a “jump” in the strain measurements. A five-point moving average filter was used to remove noise from the data before each event was plotted and values of interest

were extracted. Sample plots of a crack-opening event in Spans 5 and 6 before and after the application of the moving average filter are shown in Figure 3.5 and Figure 3.6. Values of interest including the timestamp, maximum and minimum strains from the trigger gage, maximum crack displacement, and thermocouple readings were output into an Excel spreadsheet for each event. These spreadsheets were directly used for the effective prestress calculations from field data described in Section 3.4.

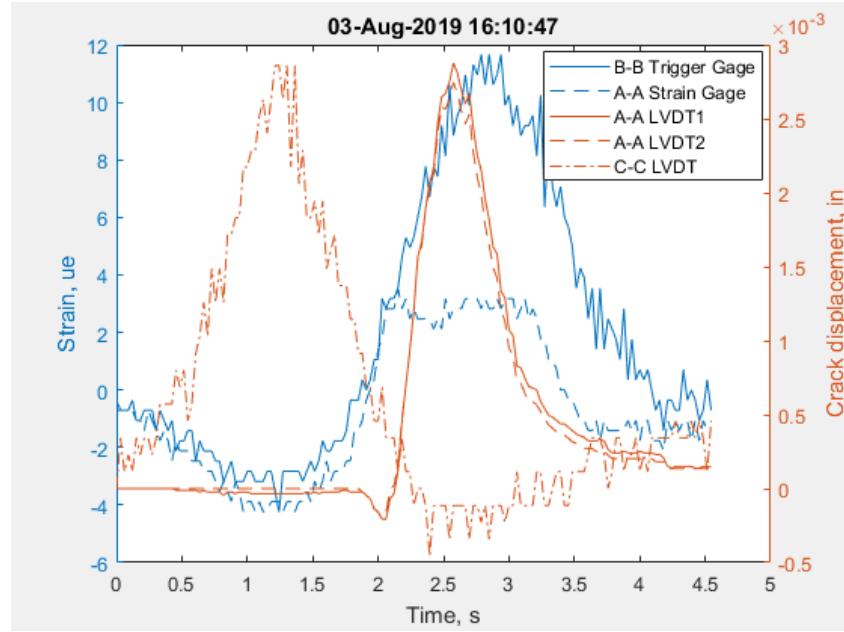


Figure 3.5: Sample Plot of Spans 5 and 6 Event Data Without Moving Average Filter

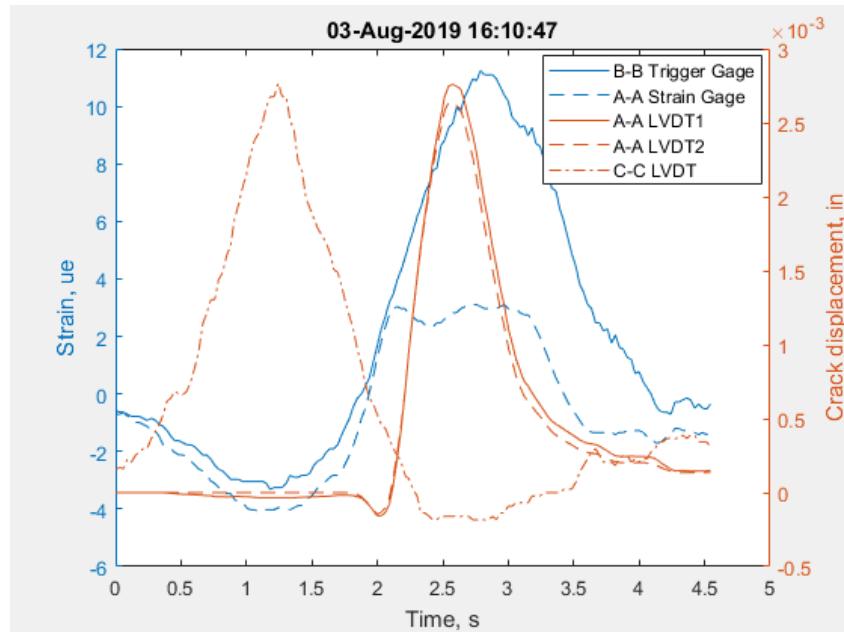


Figure 3.6: Sample Plot of Spans 5 and 6 Event Data With Moving Average Filter

### 3.3 Finite Element Model

#### 3.3.1 Finite Element Model Overview

A finite element model was created of the full Varina-Enon Bridge using LARSA 4D and is shown in Figure 3.7. The bridge was modeled as two parallel box girders. All approach spans were modeled in a similar fashion to the model of approach spans 1-6 created by Lindley (2019) and described in Section 2.1.2. The only significant change was the boundary conditions of the springs representing the elastomeric bearings at the superstructure to substructure connections. Referencing the axes defined in Figure 3.7, the model created by Lindley (2019) represented the bearings with springs that had translational stiffness in the Z and X-directions, and rotational stiffness about the Y-axis. The springs were fixed, or *restrained* from movement, in the remaining three degrees of freedom. In the revised model, the springs were *constrained* in these remaining degrees of freedom. The constraints ensured that the box girder and pier cap at the superstructure to substructure connections must displace together in the directions in which the bearings did not provide stiffness.

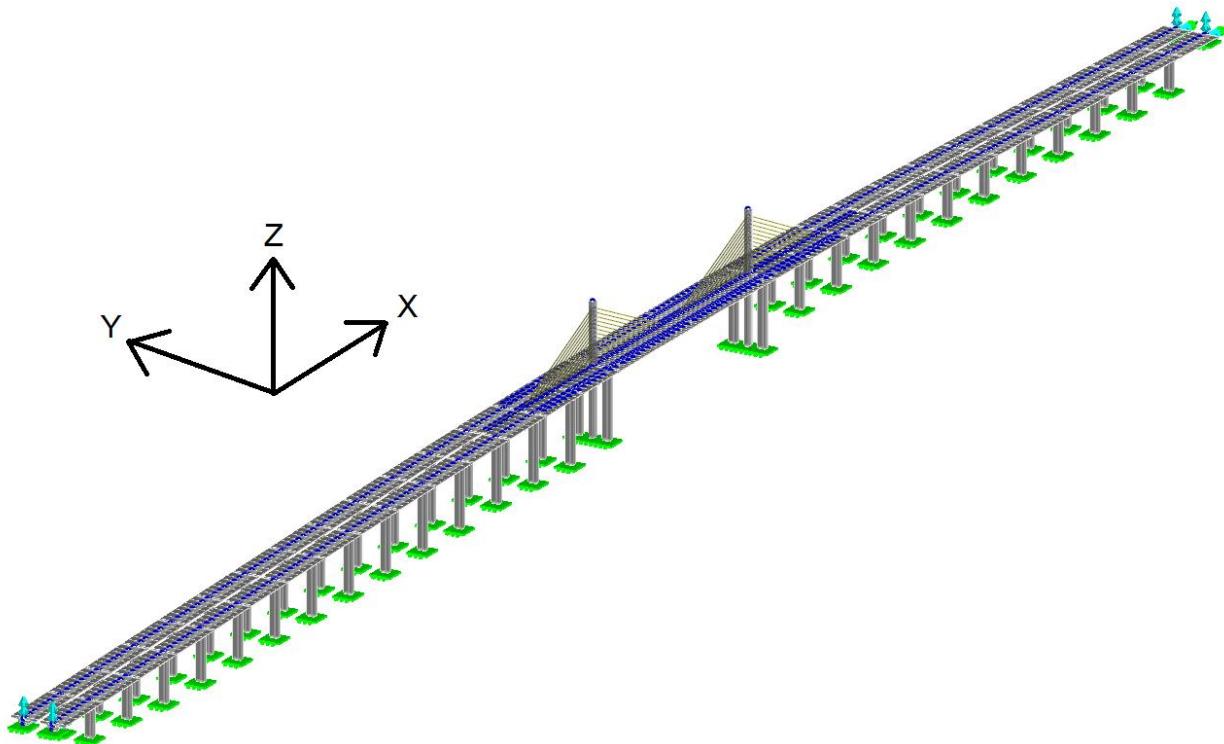


Figure 3.7: Isometric View of Varina-Enon Bridge Full FE Model

The main span unit, consisting of transition spans and a main span as described in Section 1.2.2, was modeled with beam elements, cable elements, spring elements, and truss elements. Beam elements were used to model the box girders, substructure, closure pour, and rigid links that provided connections

between various elements. Cable elements were used to model the cable stays in a similar fashion to the stays in the VGCS model (Helmicki et al. 2012). Although the stays are actually continuous through a cradle in the pylons, they were represented by two separate prestressed cable elements. Stress-stiffening properties were ignored since the large dead load of the bridge makes stress reversal due to live loads unlikely. Spring elements were used to model the pot bearings at each end of the main span. The value of translational stiffness in the Z-direction was taken from the description of a previous finite element model of the Varina-Enon Bridge main span unit (Lissenden 1988). The corresponding rotational stiffness about the Y-axis was calculated using dimensions of the elastomeric disc provided in design drawings. The springs were modeled as constrained in the remaining four degrees of freedom. Truss elements were used for delta frame members to account for the fact that the delta frames do not contribute to the longitudinal stiffness of the structure. A cross-section of the delta frame model is shown in Figure 3.8.

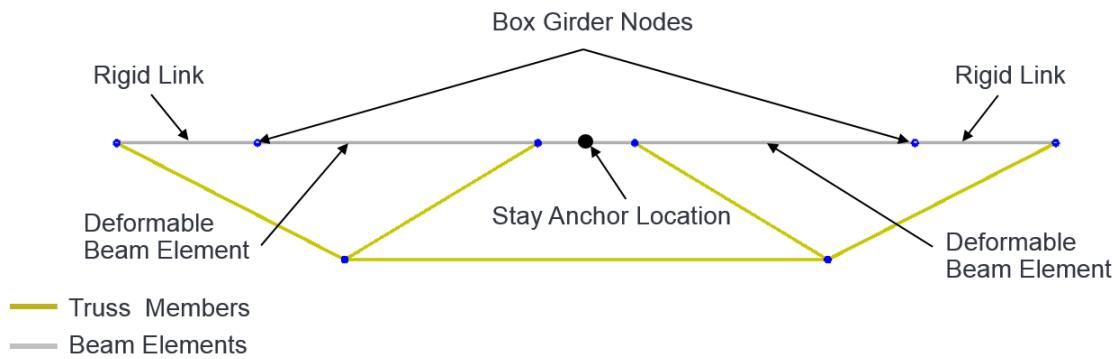


Figure 3.8: Cross Section of Delta Frame in FE Model

All longitudinal post-tensioning was included in the model using geometry and jacking forces from the design drawings in Appendix A. The material properties used in the finite element model are summarized in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Material Properties for Finite Element Model

Property	Value	Source
Concrete Elastic Modulus	5000 ksi	Verified by live load tests (Maguire et al. 2014)
Concrete Strength	6600 psi	Assumed
Tendon Tensile Strength	270 ksi	Design Drawings
Tendon Elastic Modulus	27,400 ksi	As-Built Testing (F&M Engineers 1993)

### 3.3.2 Staged Construction Analysis

A *time-dependent staged construction analysis* was used to represent the segmental construction of the Varina-Enon Bridge. This analysis accounted for the impact of the placement and stressing of each

span as well as the time-dependent effects due to creep, shrinkage, and relaxation. In this analysis, construction *stages* were broken down into *steps* and *activities*. Each stage represented one day of construction for the purposes of the time-dependent analysis. Each step represented an individual analysis and could be broken down into a series of activities. An activity could include placing an element, applying a load, or stressing a tendon (Lindley 2019).

The model contained 88 stages that each represented the construction of a span or a portion of a span of the Varina-Enon Bridge. The construction of approach spans and transition spans were each represented as one stage. The cantilever construction of the main span, Span 16, was broken up into 30 stages following the processes outlined in the original construction drawings in Appendix B. The activities included in the first step of each stage were adding the elements, applying the self-weight, and adding the dead loads due to guardrails, deviator blocks, and anchor blocks. The remaining steps were for stressing the longitudinal post-tensioning strands and/or cable stays. Each tendon was stressed in its own step so that the analysis accounted for elastic shortening losses. The cable stays were each stressed to an initial prestress force during the cantilever construction of the main span. All of the stays were restressed to their final prestress force in the 89<sup>th</sup> stage by adding duplicate cable elements with a prestress force equal to the difference between the final and initial prestress forces. The values of these jacking forces can be found in the original drawings in Appendix B. During the actual construction of the Varina-Enon Bridge, the stays were stressed from both ends simultaneously. This was accounted for in the model by representing each stay as two separate stays that met in the cradle and were stressed in the same step.

Each box girder was input into the model with a casting day in order to account for time-dependent effects. Day zero was defined as the day that the first box girder was cast, which was April 29, 1986. The 89 construction stages of the Varina-Enon Bridge took place from day 106 to day 1104. Empty construction stages were input in increments ranging from 200 to 1,000 days up until day 12,000. The empty stages served as time-steps for the time-dependent analysis (Lindley 2019). Day 2,000 represented the year 1992, and day 9,800 represented the year 2013. These stages were input so that the model could be validated using data from live load tests conducted by Duemmel et al. (1992) and Maguire et al. (2014), as discussed in Section 4.1. Day 12,000 represented the year 2019 so that the prestress losses predicted by the model could be compared with those calculated from 2019 and 2020 field data.

### 3.1.4 Prestress Losses

The finite element model incorporated both short-term and long-term prestress losses. As discussed in Section 2.3, short term prestress losses include those due to friction, seating, and elastic shortening losses. Friction losses arise from both *curvature friction* and *wobble friction*. Curvature friction results from the contact between the tendon and the duct when there is an intentional change in direction (Larsa 4D 2019).

The curvature friction coefficient,  $\mu$ , was taken as 0.25 for the model since this value was measured during construction (F&M Engineers 1993). Wobble friction arises from unintentional misalignment of tendons and only occurs for internal tendons (Larsa 4D 2019). The wobble friction coefficient was assumed to be 0.0002 for the internal longitudinal tendons in the main span. Seating losses are a result of slippage at the anchorage due to stress transfer from the steel strands to the concrete when they are released after jacking. The anchor set was taken as 3/8 inch for the Varina-Enon Bridge from as-built drawings (F&M Engineers 1993). Both friction losses and seating losses were computed in the finite element model before the staged construction analysis (Larsa 4D 2019).

Elastic shortening losses depend on the total number of tendons in the section as well as the sequence of stressing. These losses arise from the elastic shortening of the concrete as the precompression force from each tendon is applied when released after jacking. Since elastic shortening losses are dependent on the sequence of stressing, they were computed during the staged construction analysis in the model. The long-term prestress losses due to creep and shrinkage were also computed during the staged construction analysis (Larsa 4D 2019). CEB-FIP '90 code expressions were used to compute creep and shrinkage strains at each time step, and the changes in these strains were used to calculate the prestress losses (Lindley 2019). Long-term losses due to relaxation of the steel strands over time were also computed during the staged construction analysis (Larsa 4D 2019). Figure 3.9 provides an example of a tendon force profile computed by the finite element model during jacking, after seating, and in 2019 after long-term losses.

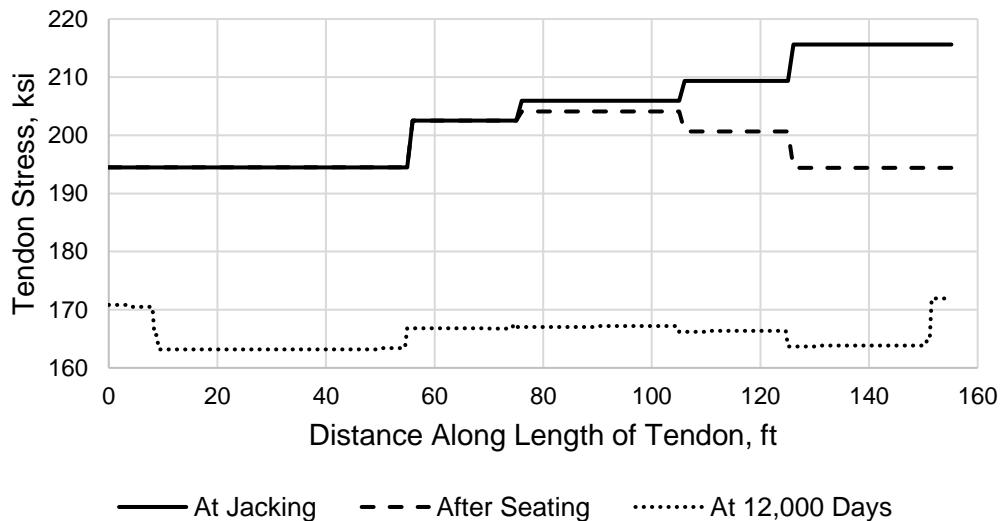


Figure 3.9: Tendon S6-T9L Stress Profile

## 3.4 Effective Prestress Calculations from Field Data

### 3.4.1 Overview

The effective prestress forces at the joint openings in Spans 5, 6, and 9 were calculated using data acquired from the instrumentation in those spans. The calculation procedure was based on the assumption that the total stress at the location of a joint when it opens is zero. Equation (3-1) governs the computation of the stress in the cross-section of a prestressed structure.

$$\sigma = -\left(\frac{P_e}{A}\right) - \left(\frac{P_e ey}{I}\right) + \left(\frac{My}{I}\right) + \sigma_{temp} \quad (3-1)$$

Where:

$P_e$  = effective prestress force

$A$  = area of cross-section

$e$  = tendon eccentricity from centroid of section

$y$  = centroid of section

$I$  = moment of inertia of section

$M$  = sum of all moments due to self-weight, live load, secondary prestress, creep, and shrinkage

$\sigma_{temp}$  = stresses arising from forces due to thermal gradients

Setting the above equation equal to zero, rearranging to solve for effective prestress, and further breaking down the terms gives Equation (3-2), which was directly used to calculate the effective prestress force from field data (Lindley 2019).

$$P_e = \left( -\sigma_{SE} + \sigma_{con} + \frac{(M_{sw} + M_{live} + M_{other})y}{I_{cr}} + \frac{P_{sw} + P_{other}}{A_{cr}} \right) \left( A_{cr} + \frac{I_{cr}}{e_{cr} y_{cr}} \right) \quad (3-2)$$

Where:

$P_e$  = effective prestress force

$\sigma_{SE}$  = self-equilibrating stress at the bottom flange due to thermal gradients

$\sigma_{con}$  = continuity stress associated with thermal moments

$M_{sw}$  = self-weight moment

$M_{live}$  = live-load moment

$M_{other}$  = moment due to secondary effects from prestressing, creep, and shrinkage

$I_{cr}$  = cracked transformed moment of inertia of the box girder

$P_{sw}$  = axial force due to the self-weight of the structure and restraint of movement at bearings

$P_{other}$  = axial force due to secondary effects from prestressing, creep, and shrinkage

$A_{cr}$  = cracked transformed area of the box girder

$e_{cr}$  = tendon eccentricity from the cracked centroid

$y_{cr}$  = distance from the cracked centroid to the top of the bottom flange of the section

$y$  = distance from the uncracked centroid to the top of the bottom flange of the section

All of the terms on the right-hand-side of the equation were obtained from either field data, known section properties, or a staged construction analysis in the finite element model. The processes of computing these values are described in the following sections. See Lindley (2019) for sample calculations following these procedures.

### 3.4.2 Section Properties

Transformed, cracked section properties were used in the calculation of the effective prestress force since the bottom flange was entirely decompressed when the joint opened and data was collected. The contribution of mild steel to the transformed section was not considered since it does not extend through the joints between segments. The cracked section used in the analysis is shown in Figure 3.10. The cracked, transformed area was taken as 12,267.75 in<sup>2</sup>. The cracked, transformed moment of inertia was calculated to be 16,346,893.09 in<sup>4</sup>. The centroid of the uncracked section was taken as 98.5 in., while the centroid of the cracked section was taken as 112.67 in. (Lindley 2019). The tendon eccentricities from the centroid of the cracked section were calculated to be 91.06 in. for Section A-A in Span 6, and 109.68 in. for Section C-C in Span 5 and Section D-D in Span 9.

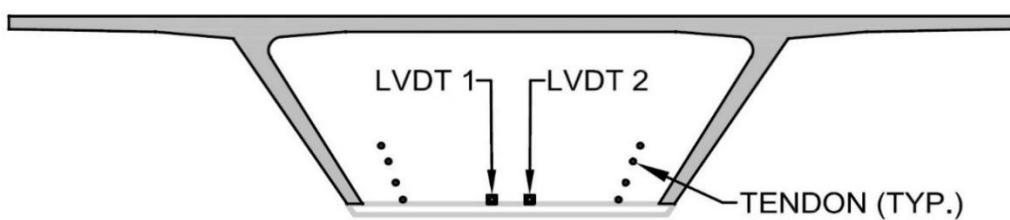


Figure 3.10: Cracked Section Used in the Analysis (Lindley 2019, with permission)

### 3.4.3 Dead Load Moment

The dead load moment was calculated by running a staged construction analysis in the finite element model. The dead load included the self-weight of the superstructure, deviator blocks, anchor blocks, and barrier rails. The self-weights of the deviator blocks and anchor blocks were calculated from the geometry given in the design drawings. These weights were applied as point loads at their respective

locations in the model. The rest of the self-weight, including the barrier rail, was incorporated as a distributed load equal to 15.86 klf (Lindley 2019). Figure 3.11 and Figure 3.12 show the moments due to dead load in Spans 5, 6, and 9. The values of the dead load moment at Section A-A, Section C-C, and Section D-D are indicated.

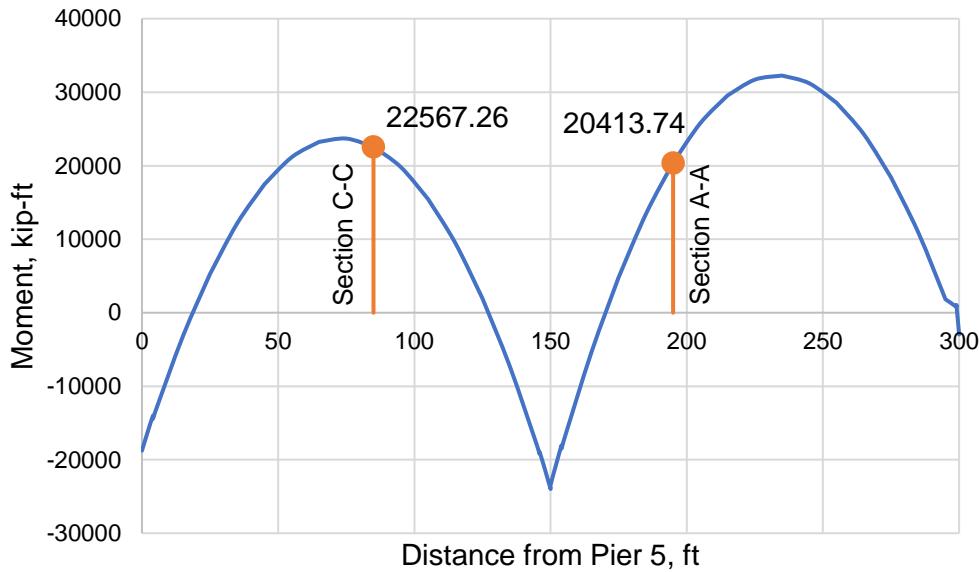


Figure 3.11: Spans 5 and 6 Dead Load Moment

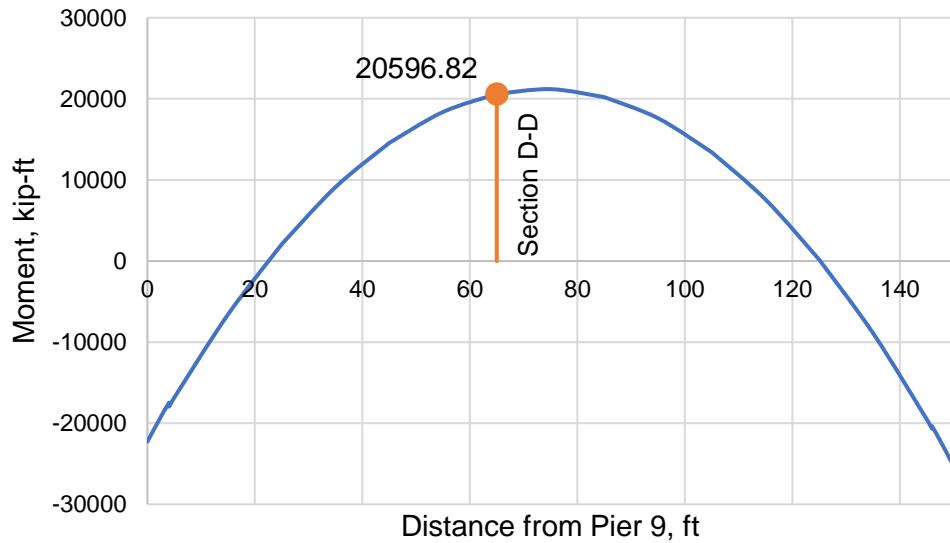


Figure 3.12: Span 9 Dead Load Moment

### 3.4.4 Live Load Moment

The live load moments at the joint openings were calculated by conducting an influence line analysis in the finite element model to correlate the measured live load strains at the trigger gages to the strains at the locations of interest. This method was used rather than directly calculating the live load strain from the strain measurements adjacent to the opening joints because the bottom flange could resist no more tension force when it decompressed during a crack-opening event. This created a “plateau” effect in the strain measurement, which can be seen in Figure 3.6.

The strain measured by the trigger gage at Section B-B, ST01, was used to determine the live load moments at Sections A-A and C-C. Conducting an influence line analysis in the finite element model resulted in an envelope of maximum moments that could be used to correlate the maximum moment at Section B-B to the maximum moments at Sections A-A and C-C (Lindley 2019). This envelope of maximum moments as a fraction of the moment at Section B-B is shown in Figure 3.13. Similarly, the live load moment at Section D-D in Span 9 was determined from the strain measured by the trigger gage at Section E-E, ST04. The envelope of maximum moments as a fraction of the moment at Section E-E is shown in Figure 3.14. The coefficients indicated in Figure 3.13 and Figure 3.14 were used to scale the live load strains and obtain the live load moments at the sections of interest.

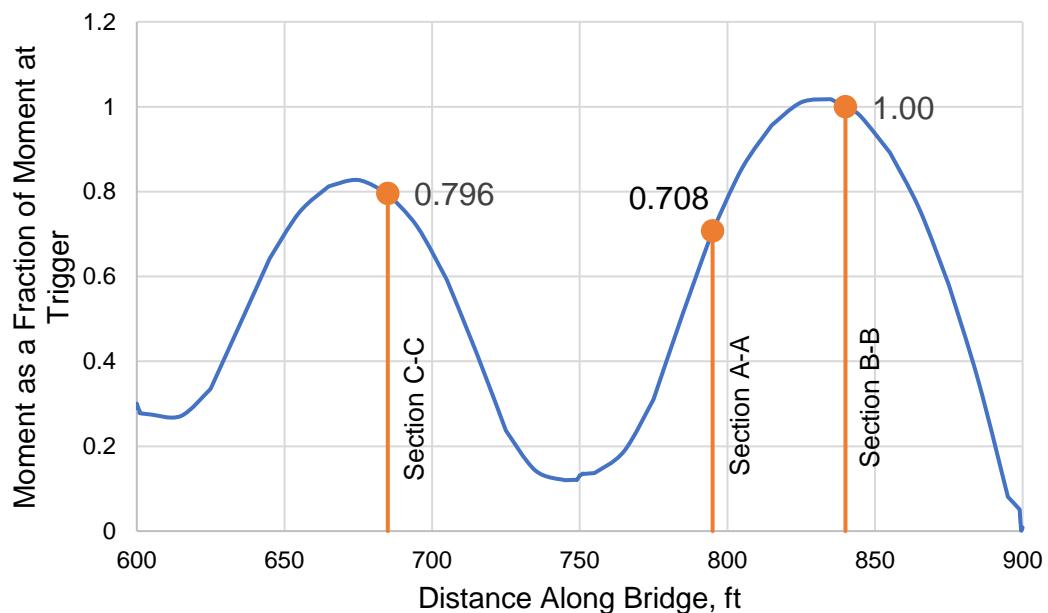


Figure 3.13: Spans 5 and 6 Envelope of Maximum Moments

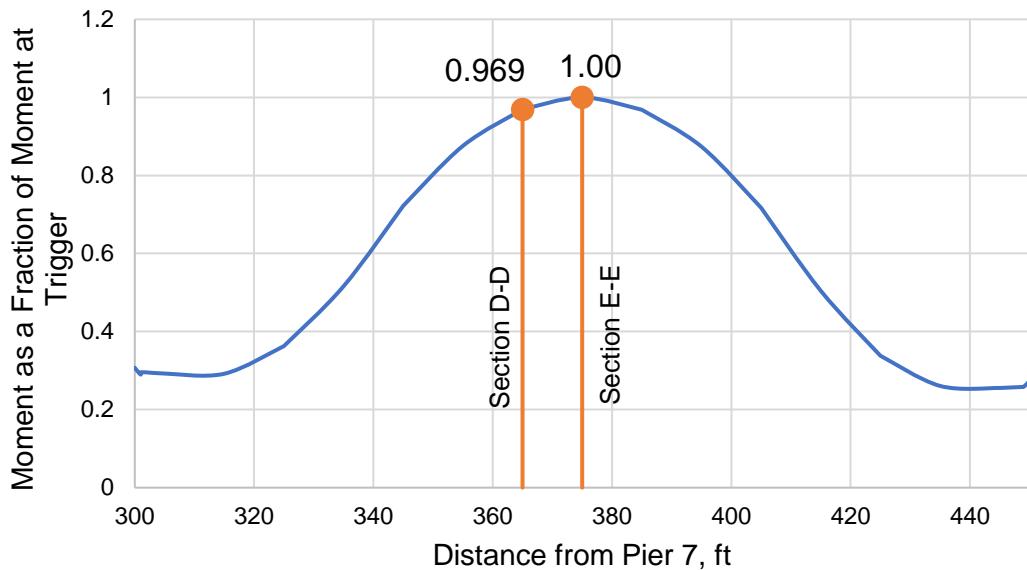


Figure 3.14: Span 9 Envelope of Maximum Moments

### 3.4.5 Creep, Shrinkage, and Secondary Prestress Axial Forces and Moments

Creep, shrinkage, and secondary prestress effects result in axial forces and moments due to redundancy in a structure. All axial forces and moments at locations of interest due to these effects were determined from a staged construction analysis in the finite element model, and can be seen in Table 3.3. The values of these axial forces and moments were dependent on the creep and shrinkage factors input as parameters in the finite element model, and the primary prestress forces and tendon forces are directly tied to the secondary forces. Therefore, iteration of these factors was required in order to obtain the appropriate values for creep, shrinkage, and secondary prestress axial forces and moments. Various trial creep and shrinkage factors were input as parameters in the finite element model until the effective prestress results obtained from the model and from field data were closely aligned. The appropriate creep and shrinkage factors were determined to each be 1.85.

Creep causes axial shortening and bending in a structure as it deforms under a sustained dead load. The creep axial force tends to be positive (tensile) due to the axial shortening. However, negative (compressive) values of creep axial force can be attributed to the restrained bending of the superstructure. Shrinkage causes axial shortening with no bending, so the shrinkage axial force is always positive. Bending moments due to shrinkage effects result from differential shortening of the superstructure. Secondary prestress effects are caused when a redundant structure is stressed. Prestress forces would cause a simply supported structure to shorten axially and camber upwards. In a redundant structure, these deformations are restrained by the self-weight of the superstructure and the stiffness of the bearing supports (Lindley 2019).

Table 3.3: Creep, Shrinkage, and Secondary Prestress Effects at Instrumented Joint Openings

Force/Moment	Section C-C (Span 5)	Section A-A (Span 6)	Section D-D (Span 9)
$M_{cr}$	1,623 kip-ft	1,960 kip-ft	749.2 kip-ft
$P_{cr}$	56.10 kip	172.4 kip	-34.90 kip
$M_{sh}$	-487.6 kip-ft	310.1 kip-ft	588.9 kip-ft
$P_{sh}$	842.7 kip	661.2 kip	839.4 kip
$M_2$	20,150 kip-ft	15,830 kip-ft	23,280 kip-ft
$P_2$	166.7 kip	163.6 kip	261.2 kip

### 3.4.6 Self-Equilibrating Stresses

As mentioned in Section 2.4, nonlinear thermal gradients result in both self-equilibrating stresses and thermal continuity stresses. The process of calculating self-equilibrating stresses is described in this section, and the computations for thermal continuity stresses are described in Section 3.4.7. See Lindley (2019) for a more detailed description of the concepts underlying these calculations.

Self-equilibrating stress can be conceptualized as the thermally induced stress due to a non-linear thermal gradient in an artificially restrained structure, added to the stresses resulting from the axial load and moment that would be required to remove the artificial restraints. Therefore, the thermally induced stress in the bottom flange was calculated considering the removal of interior supports and artificially restraining each approach span unit at the locations of expansion joints (Lindley 2019). For calculations in Spans 5 and 6, the interior supports were removed, and the superstructure was restrained only at Piers 1 and 7. For calculations in Span 9, the interior supports were removed, and the superstructure was restrained only at Piers 7 and 13. Equation (3-3) governed the calculation of the thermally induced stress in the bottom flange (Lindley 2019).

$$\sigma_{t1} = -E\alpha\Delta T_1 \quad (3-3)$$

Where:

$\sigma_{t1}$  = thermally induced stress in the bottom flange when fully restrained

$E$  = modulus of elasticity

$\alpha$  = coefficient of thermal expansion

$\Delta T_1$  = difference in temperature between the coolest location, and TC<sub>1</sub>

The restraining axial forces and moments were calculated as those required to fully restrain the structure from elongation and bending due to thermally induced stresses. These computations were governed by Equations (3-4) and (3-5) (Lindley 2019).

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^{18} E\alpha\Delta T_i A_i \quad (3-4)$$

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^{18} E\alpha\Delta T_i A_i Y_i \quad (3-5)$$

Where:

$\Delta T_i$  = difference in temperature between  $TC_i$ , and  $TC_{cool}$

$A_i$  = tributary area of thermocouple  $i$ , as presented in Table 3.1

$Y_i$  = distance of thermocouple  $i$  from the center of gravity of the section

Finally, the total self-equilibrating stresses were calculating by summing the thermally induced stress in the bottom flange, the stress due to the restraining axial force, and the stress due to the restraining axial moment. This computation was governed by Equation (3-6) (Lindley 2019).

$$\sigma_{SE} = \sigma_t + \frac{P}{A} + \frac{My}{I} \quad (3-6)$$

### 3.4.7 Thermal Continuity Forces

As described in Section 2.4, thermal continuity forces arise from the application of non-linear thermal gradients on a redundant structure, so these forces were calculated considering the internal supports. Forces arising from thermal gradients can be idealized as a constant moment and axial force applied at the ends of a structure. Therefore, a constant moment and axial force were applied at the ends of Spans 1-6 and Spans 7-12 in the finite element model to obtain normalized bending moment and axial force diagrams. These diagrams were used to obtain coefficients at Sections A-A, C-C, and D-D that could be used to scale Equations (3-4) and (3-5) for any distribution of temperatures. The scaled axial force and moment were the thermal continuity forces (Lindley 2019). The axial force coefficients were taken as -0.0266 for Section C-C in Span 5, -0.02 for Section A-A in Span 6, and -0.0195 for Section D-D in Span 9. The normalized bending moment diagrams with the scaling coefficients indicated can be seen in Figure 3.15 and Figure 3.16.

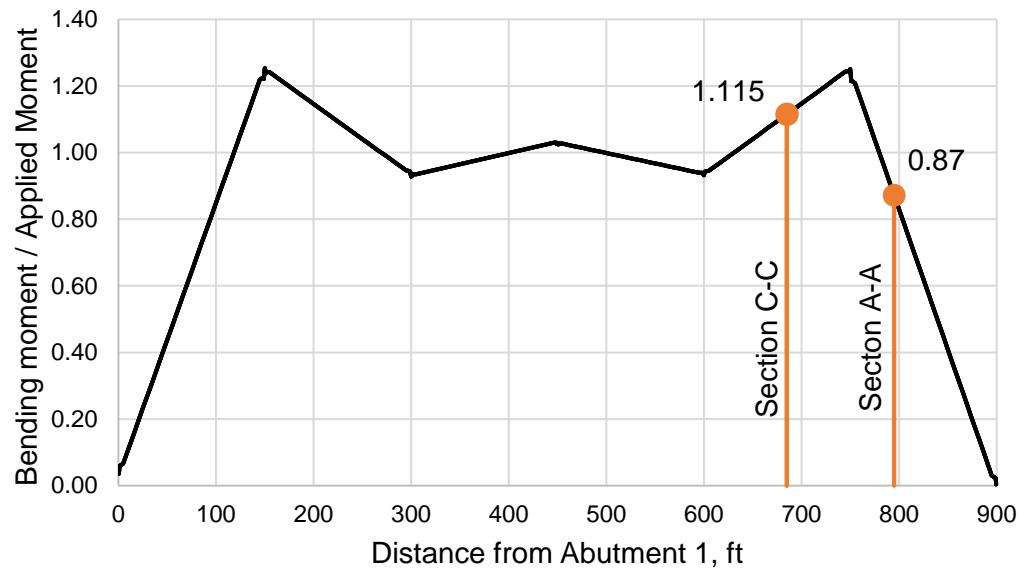


Figure 3.15: Thermal Continuity Moment as a Fraction of Applied Moment, Spans 1-6

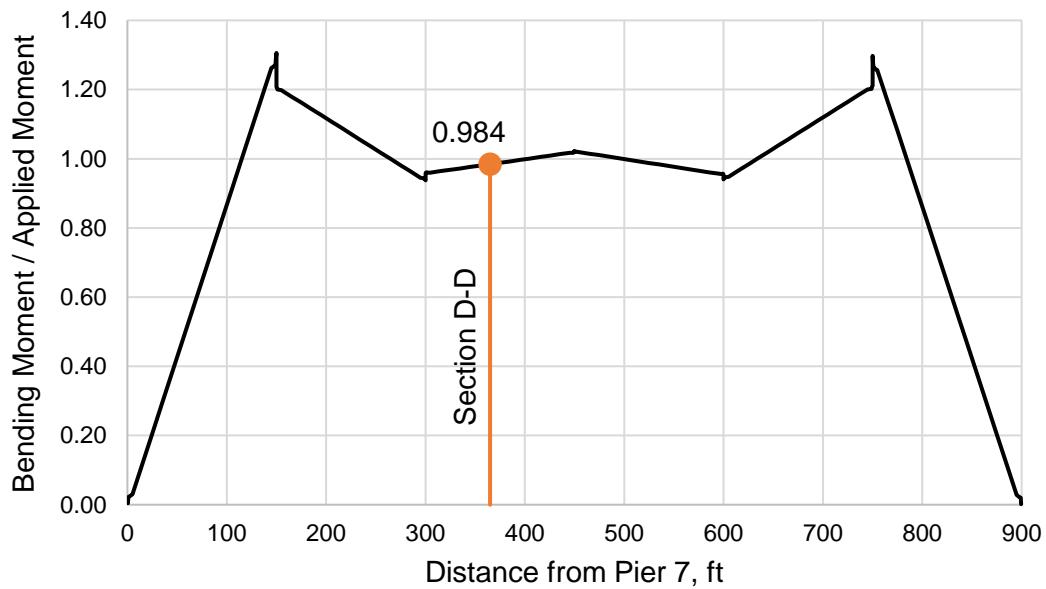


Figure 3.16: Thermal Continuity Moment as a Fraction of Applied Moment, Spans 7-12

## Chapter 4. Results and Discussion

This chapter presents analysis results as obtained by the methods described in the previous chapter. In the first section, the finite element model is validated using data from load tests conducted by Duemmel et al. (1992) and Maguire et al. (2014). The second section outlines the results from the model including the prestress losses predicted at the crack-opening locations in Spans 5, 6, and 9. In the third section, the results of the effective prestress calculations from field data are presented. Finally, the fourth section provides a comparison of finite element and field data results.

### 4.1 Validation of Finite Element Model

#### 4.1.1 Approach Span Validation

The modeling of approach spans was validated by verifying that the predicted behavior was consistent with that measured during live-load tests conducted by Maguire et al. (2014) in August of 2012. Three different *load configurations* were implemented during the live load tests. Load configuration 1 (LC1) consisted of one truck driving in the northbound center lane. Load configuration 2 (LC2) consisted of one truck driving in the northbound left lane. Load configuration 3 (LC3) consisted of two trucks, one driving in the northbound left lane and one driving in the northbound center lane. A deflectometer measured the vertical deflections at the mid-span of Span 5 during the load tests (Maguire et al. 2014).

The axle loads for the three loading configurations were applied to the finite element model as static loads. Table 4.1 provides a comparison between the field-recorded maximum mid-span deflections in Span 5 and those obtained from the model. The percent difference between the analytically obtained and measured deflections ranges from 0.00% to 20.97%, which is considered satisfactory. The results obtained from this validation are almost identical to those obtained by Lindley (2019). This is expected since the approach spans in the full structure model were modeled very similarly to the approach spans in the reduced model.

Table 4.1: Measured and Computed Span 5 Mid-span Deflections

Load Configuration	Span 5, Mid-Span Deflection, in.		Percent Difference
	Live-Load Test Results	FE Model Results	
LC1	-0.03	-0.035	16.67%
LC2	-0.035	-0.035	0.00%
LC3	-0.062	-0.075	20.97%

The strains throughout the depth of the box girder cross-sections at the mid-span of Span 5 and Section A-A in Span 6 were also measured. Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 provide comparisons between the field-recorded and analytically obtained strains. By visual observation it can be concluded that the strains throughout the depth of the box girders given by the finite element model align closely with the measured strains. Discrepancies can be attributed to the fact that the model assumes linear elastic behavior, but the structure may undergo nonlinear behavior under heavy loadings. In addition, the opening joints in the bottom flanges of the box girders may have influenced the strain readings at those locations. These strain comparisons, in conjunction with the Span 5 mid-span deflection comparison, confirm that the approach span portions of the finite element model adequately represent the actual structure's behavior.

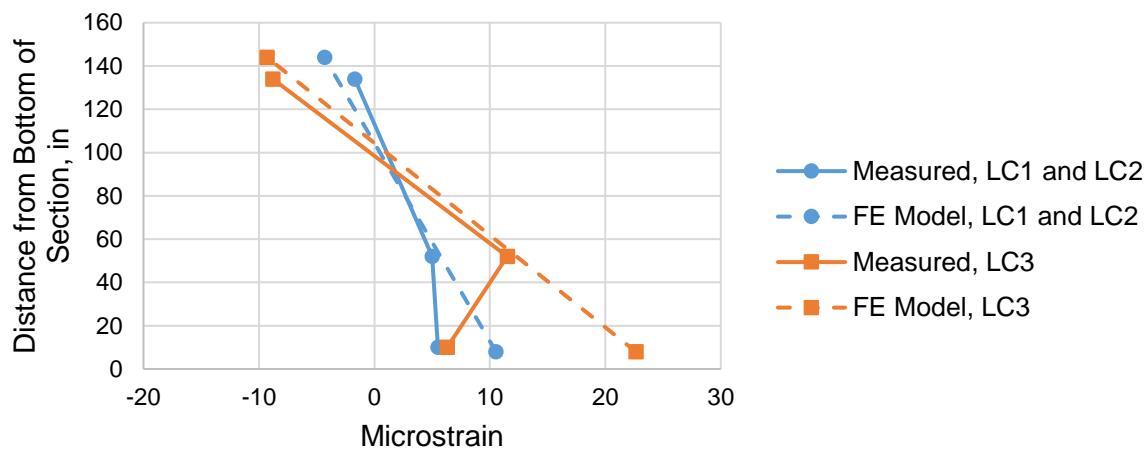


Figure 4.1: Measured and Computed Strains Throughout the Depth of the Box Girder Cross-Section at the Mid-span of Span 5

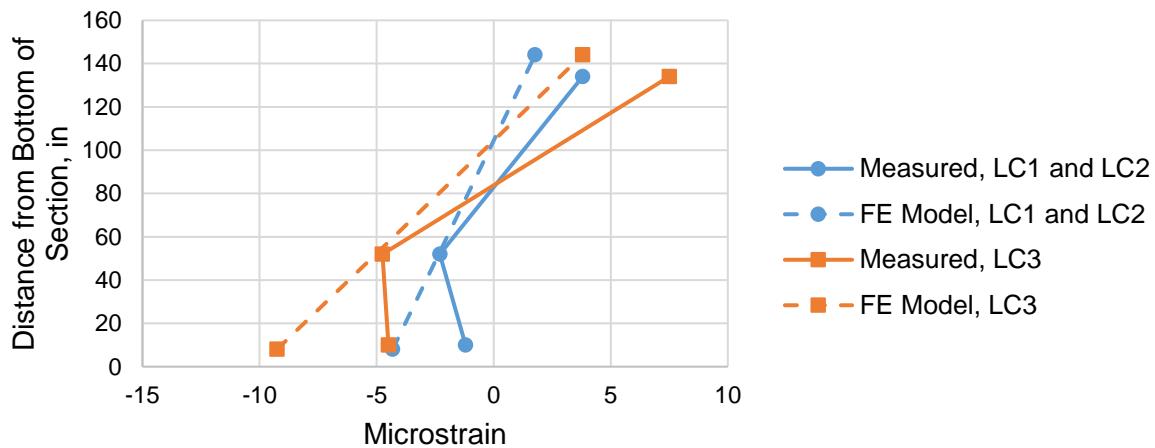


Figure 4.2: Measured and Computed Strains Throughout the Depth of the Box Girder Cross-Section at Section A-A in Span 6

#### 4.1.2 Main Span Validation

The modeling of the main span unit was validated by verifying that the model adequately predicted the bridge response when compared to the measurements obtained during live-load tests conducted by Duemmel et al. (1992). One truck was used for these load tests, and its location varied along the length of the main span unit. Loading configurations were implemented on both the northbound and southbound sides, and in both the exterior and interior lanes. The resulting upper and lower flange strains were measured in two segments, Segment 33 and Segment 62, with strain gages embedded in the cross-sections. Segment 33 is located in Span 16 next to the segment adjacent to Pylon 17. Segment 62 is located at the mid-span of Span 16 (Duemmel et al. 1992).

The axle loads were applied to the finite element model as static loads. Two loading configurations were considered, one with the truck on the northbound side and one with the truck on the southbound side. For each case, the location of the truck was 780 ft from Pier 14. The resulting lower flange strains in northbound Segment 33 and upper flange strains in northbound Segment 62 were analyzed. Table 4.2 and Table 4.3 provide a comparison between the analytically obtained and field-recorded strains in Segment 33 and Segment 62, respectively. The percent difference between the finite element results and field measurements ranges from 7.93% to 20.89%, which is considered satisfactory. Therefore, it can be concluded that the main span model adequately represents the actual structure's behavior.

Table 4.2: Measured and Computed Lower Flange Strains in Segment 33

Load Configuration	Segment 33 Lower Flange Strain ( $\mu\epsilon$ )		Percent Difference
	Live-Load Test Results	FE Model Results	
NBL	-8	-9.27	15.91
SBL	-3.75	-4.35	15.98

Table 4.3: Measured and Computed Upper Flange Strains in Segment 62

Load Configuration	Segment 62 Upper Flange Strain ( $\mu\epsilon$ )		Percent Difference
	Live-Load Test Results	FE Model Results	
NBL	-0.25	-0.20	20.89
SBL	-0.45	-0.41	7.93

## 4.2 Finite Element Results

A time-dependent, staged-construction analysis was conducted in the finite element model using the CEB-FIP '90 code expressions. The results of the analysis included predicted prestress losses in the year 2019, or at 12,000 days. The average tendon stress profiles obtained from the model for Spans 5, 6, and 9 are shown in Figure 4.3, Figure 4.4, and Figure 4.5, respectively. Table 4.4 presents the jacking stresses, effective prestress values at 12,000 days, and prestress losses obtained from the finite element model for each joint opening location considered. The jacking forces were taken from the original design drawings in Appendix A. The prestress losses were calculated as the difference between the jacking stresses and the prestress forces at 12,000 days.

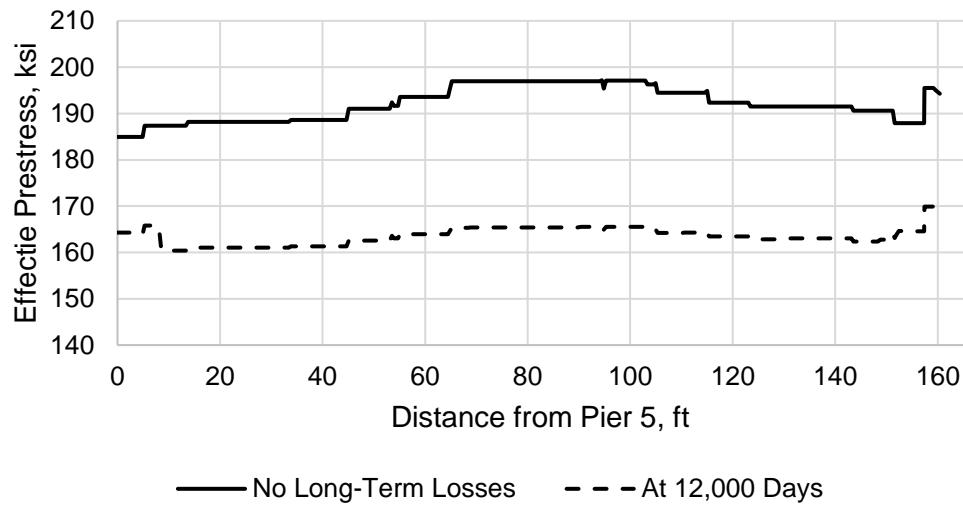


Figure 4.3: Span 5 Average Tendon Profiles

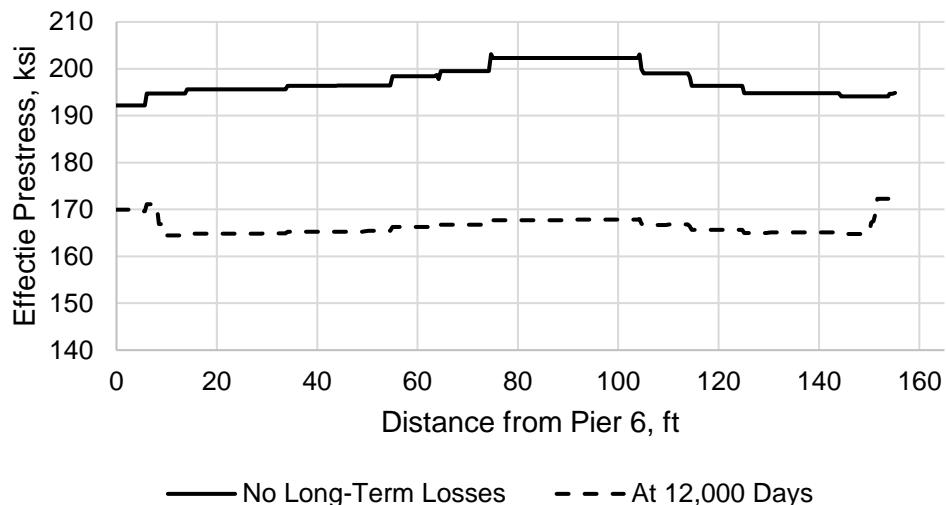


Figure 4.4: Span 6 Average Tendon Profiles

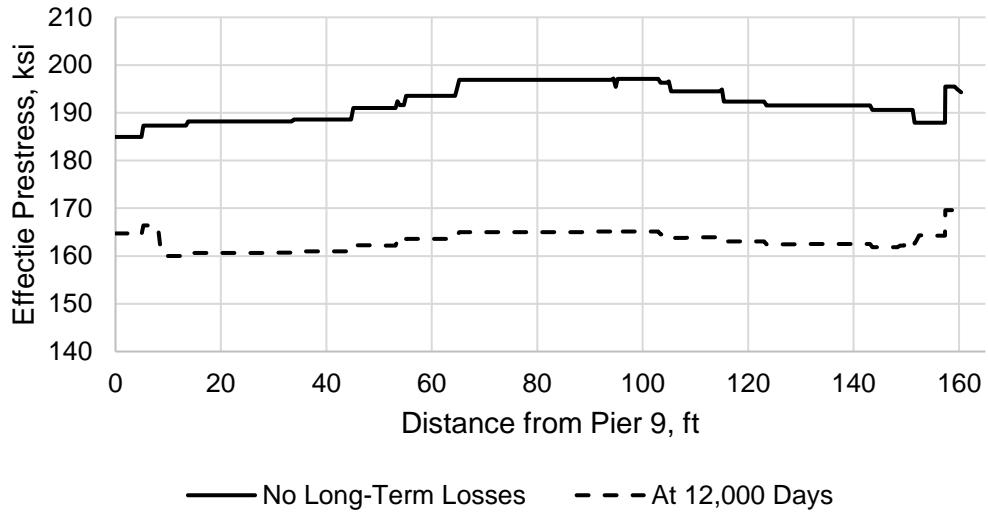


Figure 4.5: Span 9 Average Tendon Profiles

Table 4.4: Prestress Losses per FE Model

Location	Average Jacking Stress (ksi)	Average Prestress at 12,000 Days (ksi)	Average Prestress Loss (ksi)
Section C-C, Span 5	210.3	165.4	44.9
Section A-A, Span 6	213.1	165.3	47.8
Section D-D, Span 9	210.3	165.0	45.3

### 4.3 Field Data Results

Data collected from the instrumentation at joint openings was used to calculate the effective prestress force for each crack-opening event in accordance with the methods described in Chapter 3. The effective prestress force was estimated at the crack-opening locations in Spans 5, 6, and 9 to compare with the finite element model results.

#### 4.3.1 Span 5 Effective Prestress from Field Data

A total of 10,150 crack-opening events were recorded in Span 5 from May 16, 2019 to June 3, 2020. The average of the effective prestress values calculated at Section C-C for each event was 148.1 ksi with a standard deviation of 6.5 ksi. The maximum crack displacement recorded was 0.0174 in., but the majority of crack openings were significantly smaller than this. A plot of all effective prestress values versus corresponding crack displacements can be seen in Figure 4.6. A histogram showing the distribution of calculated prestress values can be seen in Figure 4.7.

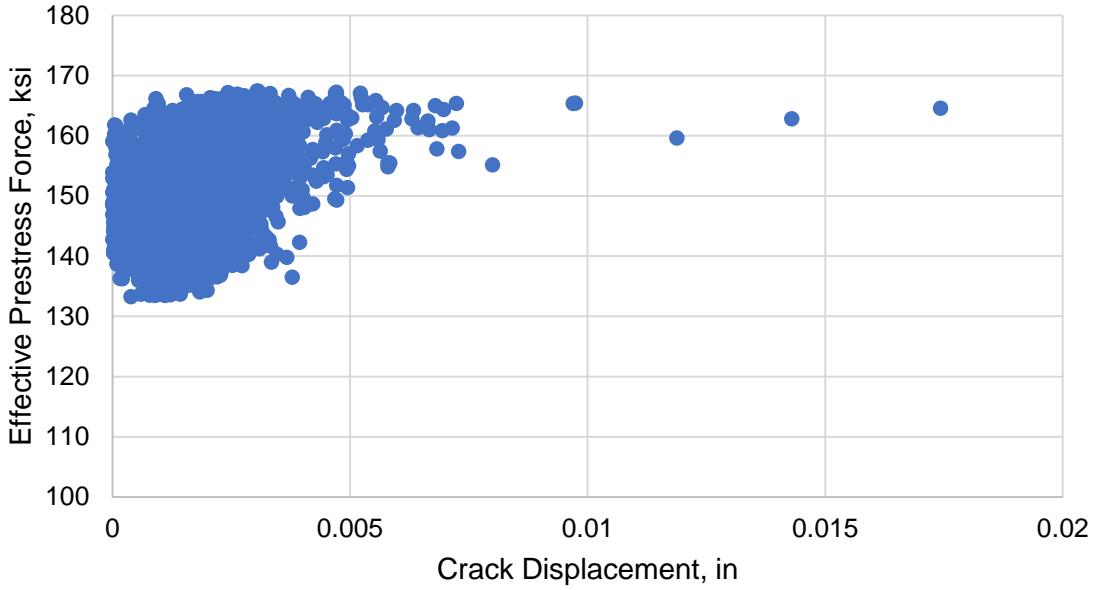


Figure 4.6: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacement for all Span 5 Events

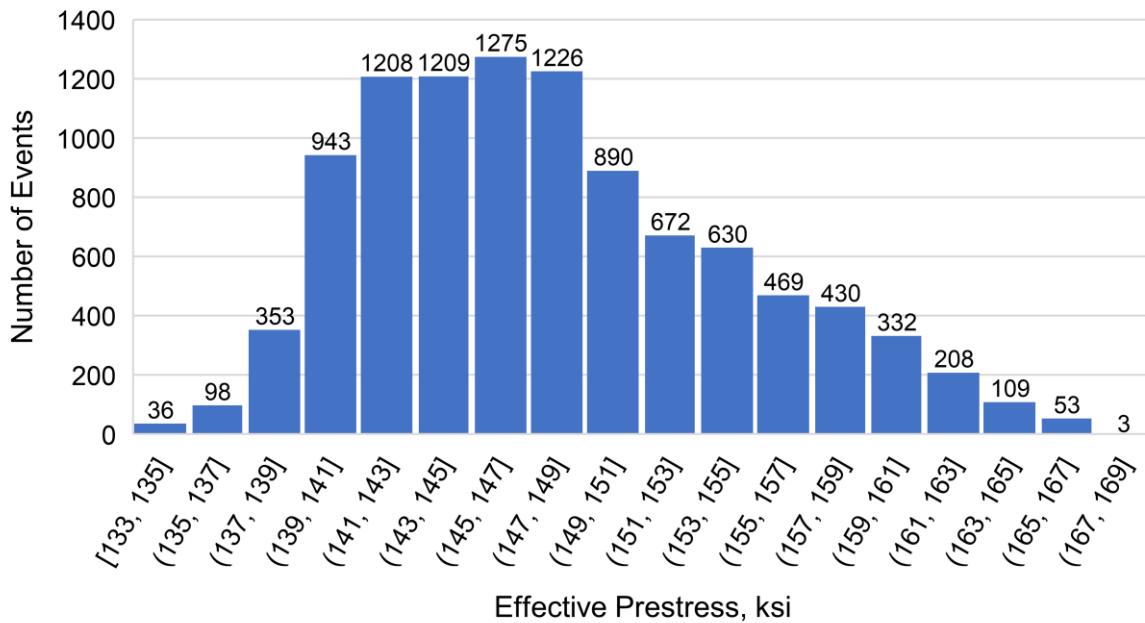


Figure 4.7: Histogram of Prestress Values for all Span 5 Events

It can be seen by the plot in Figure 4.6 that the scatter of prestress values decreases as the crack opening increases. The large variation in prestress estimates at smaller crack displacements is likely due to the fact that the bottom flange may not fully decompress when the crack only opens a small amount. The existence of a compressive stress at the joint opening is inconsistent with the underlying assumption of zero

stress that governs the effective prestress calculations. Therefore, events for which the crack displacements were less than 0.004 in. were discarded. This threshold was chosen since the prestress values in Figure 4.6 begin to converge above this value.

The plot in Figure 4.8 shows the effective prestress values for events with a crack displacement greater than or equal to 0.004 in. This reduced data set consists of 96 events. The mean effective prestress value of these events is 160.3 ksi with a standard deviation of 5.0 ksi.

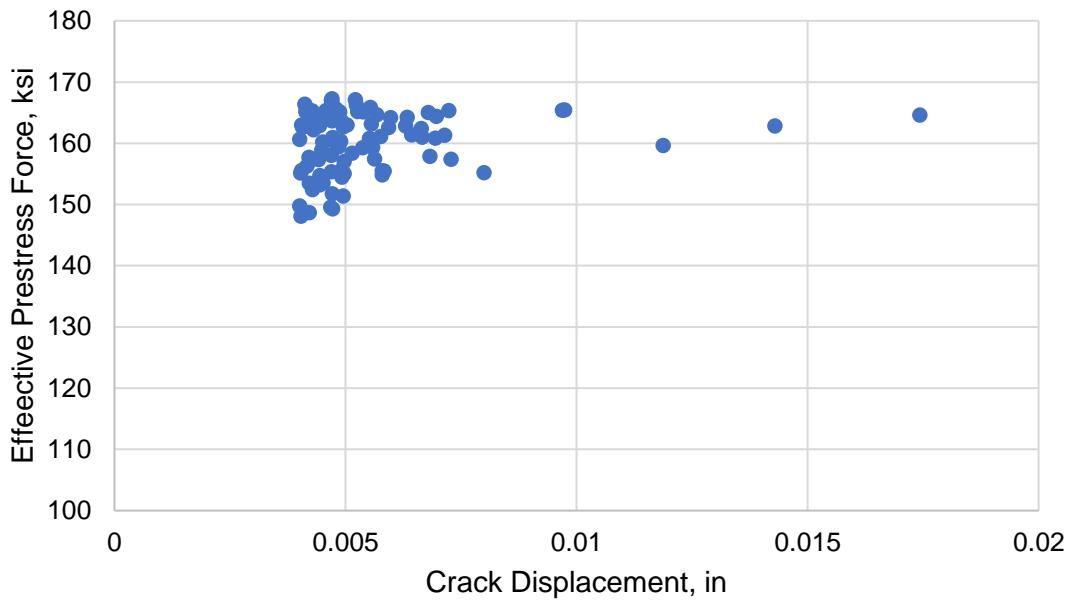


Figure 4.8: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacement for Span 5 Events with Corresponding Crack Openings of 0.004 in. or Greater

#### 4.3.2 Span 6 Effective Prestress from Field Data

A total of 10,134 crack-opening events were recorded in Span 6 from May 16, 2019 to June 3, 2020. The mean effective prestress value calculated at Section A-A was 152.6 ksi. The standard deviation of the effective prestress values calculated for all events was 5.8 ksi. The maximum crack displacement recorded was 0.01 in., but the vast majority of crack openings were much smaller. Figure 4.9 presents a plot of effective prestress versus corresponding crack displacements for all Span 6 crack-opening events. Figure 4.10 shows the distribution of the effective prestress values.

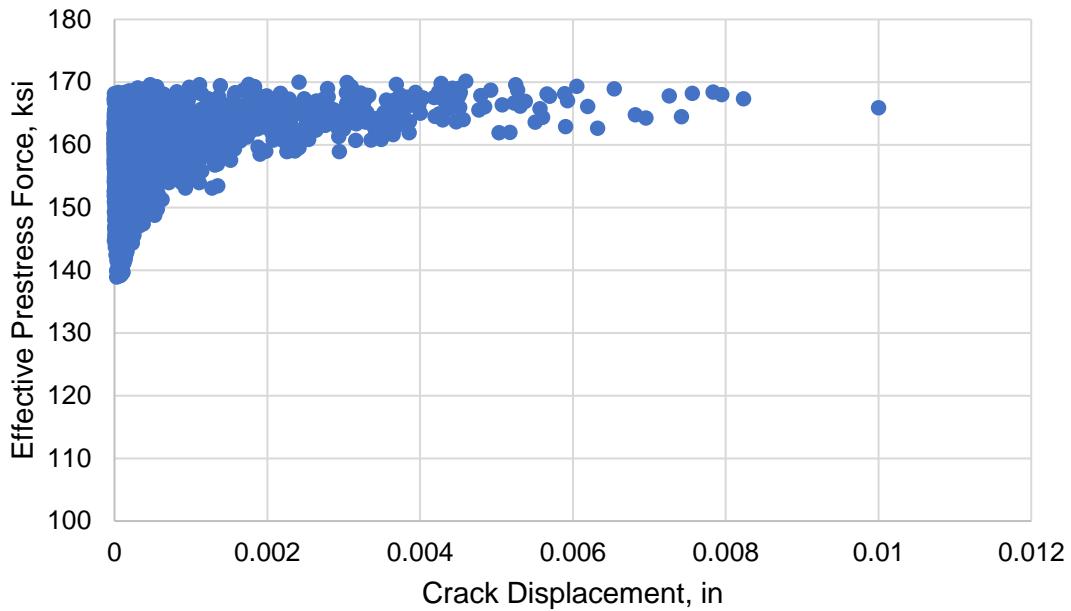


Figure 4.9: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacement for all Span 6 Events

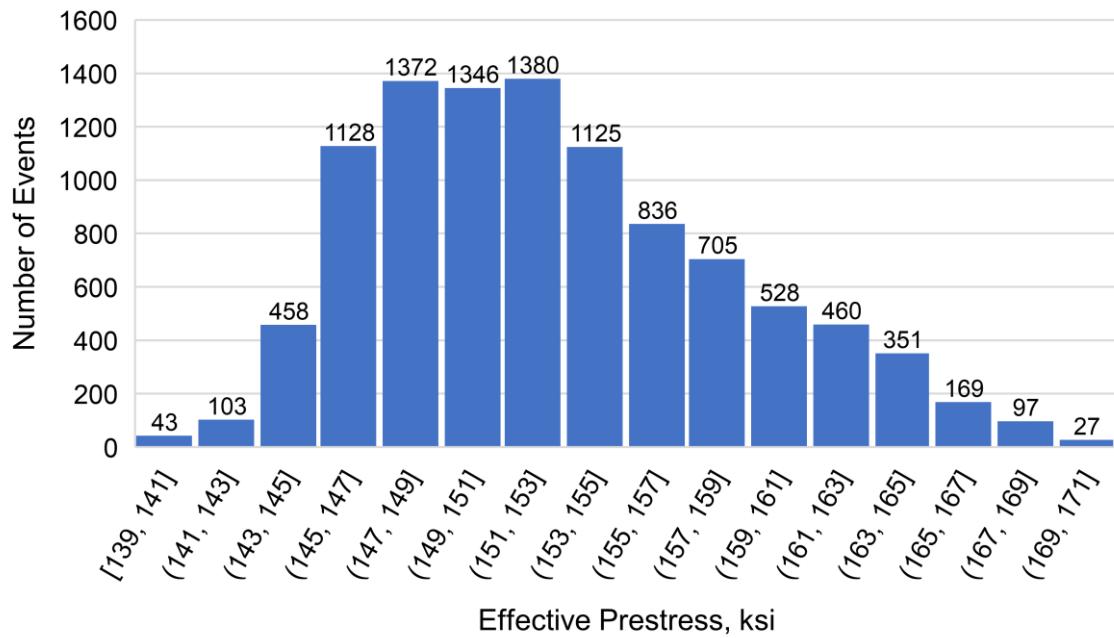


Figure 4.10: Histogram of Prestress Values for all Span 6 Events

Again, it can be seen in Figure 4.9 that there is more scatter in the effective prestress values at lower crack openings since the bottom flange may not fully decompress during these small crack-opening events. In this case, events with corresponding crack displacements less than 0.002 in. were discarded since this

appears to be the value above which the effective prestress calculations begin to converge. A plot of the effective prestress values for events with crack displacements greater than or equal to 0.002 in. can be seen in Figure 4.11. This reduced data set consisting of 212 effective prestress values has a mean of 165.1 ksi and a standard deviation of 2.5 ksi.

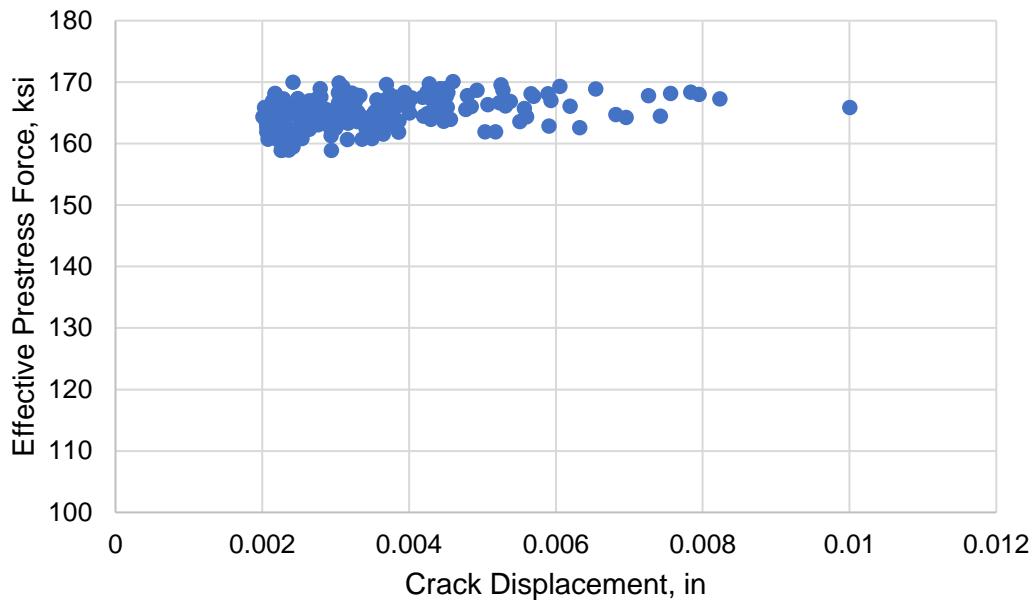


Figure 4.11: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacements for Span 6 Events with Corresponding Crack Openings of 0.002 in. or Greater

#### 4.3.3 Span 9 Effective Prestress from Field Data

A total of 1302 crack-opening events were recorded at Section D-D in Span 9 from March 12, 2020 to June 3, 2020. This is a more limited data set than for Spans 5 and 6. The average of the effective prestress values calculated at Section D-D for all events was 155.3 ksi with a standard deviation of 5.7 ksi. The maximum crack opening recorded was 0.00151 in. Again, most crack displacements were significantly smaller than this. A plot of all effective prestress values versus their corresponding crack openings can be seen in Figure 4.12. A histogram showing the distribution of effective prestress values can be seen in Figure 4.13.

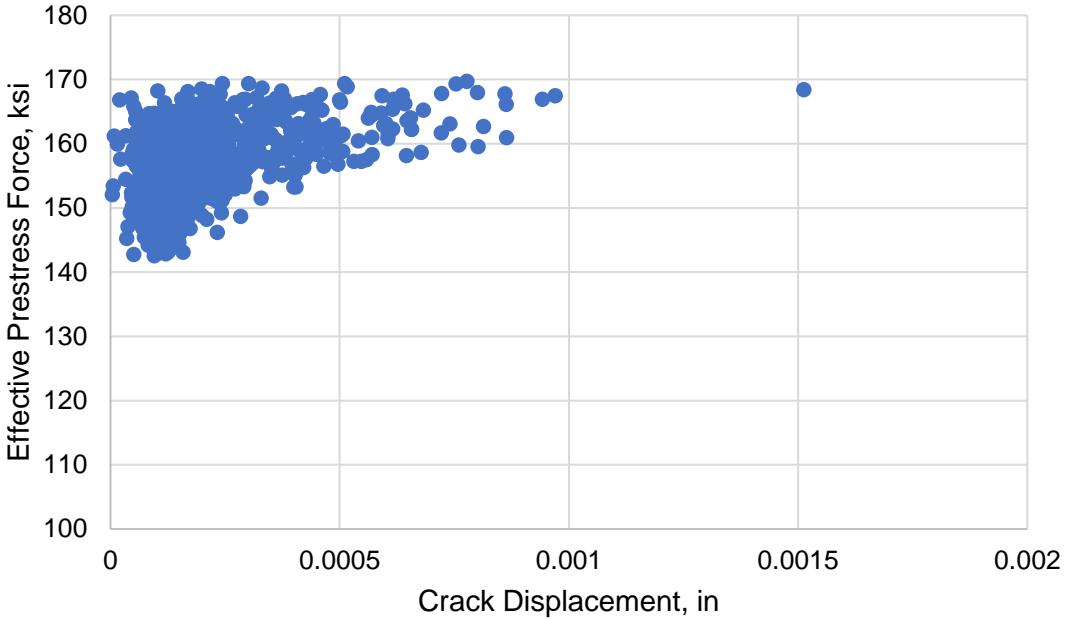


Figure 4.12: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacement for all Span 9 Events

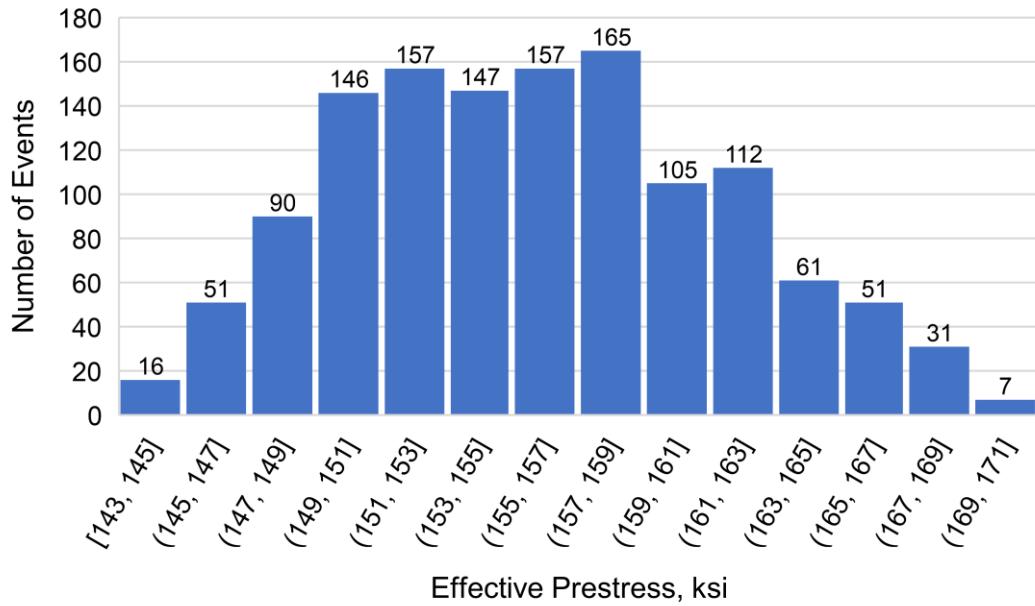


Figure 4.13: Histogram of Prestress Values for all Span 9 Events

Figure 4.12 indicates that, again, there is more scatter in the effective prestress values when the crack displacements are smaller. Events corresponding to crack openings smaller than 0.0005 in. were discarded since the effective prestress calculations begin to converge above this value. Figure 4.14 presents a plot of effective prestress values versus corresponding crack displacements for crack openings greater

than or equal 0.0005 in. This reduced data set consists of 48 events. The average of the effective prestress values for these events is 163.6 ksi with a standard deviation of 3.6 ksi.

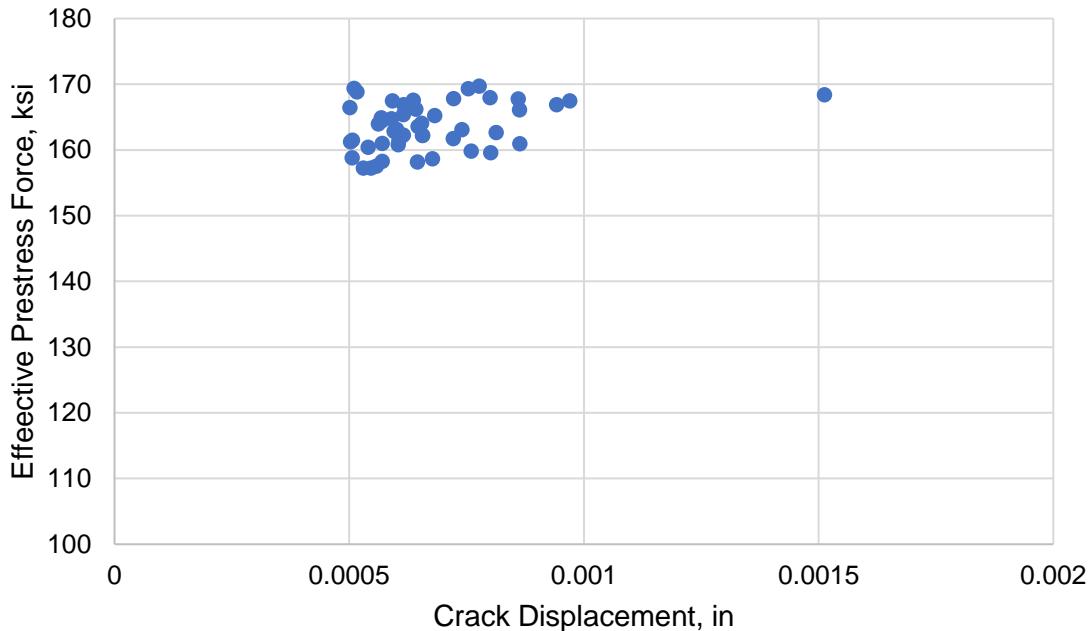


Figure 4.14: Effective Prestress vs. Crack Displacement for Span 9 Events with Corresponding Crack Openings of 0.005 in. or Greater

#### 4.3.4 Field Data Results Summary

A summary of the results obtained from the calculations using field data is provided in Table 4.5. These are the results when considering only crack-opening events with joint displacements greater than the threshold values previously discussed.

Table 4.5: Prestress Losses per Calculations From Field Data

Location	Average Jacking Stress (ksi)	Average Prestress at 12,000 Days (ksi)	Average Prestress Loss (ksi)
Section C-C, Span 5	210.3	160.3	50.0
Section A-A, Span 6	213.1	165.1	48.0
Section D-D, Span 9	210.3	163.6	46.7

#### 4.4 Finite Element and Field Data Comparison

The field data results were compared to the finite element results in order to verify the assumptions made in the effective prestress calculations, and to assess if actual prestress losses are greater than those

predicted by the model. A summary of this comparison is provided in Table 4.6. Again, prestress losses were calculated by subtracting the effective prestress values at 12,000 days from the original jacking stresses. The percent differences between the effective prestress values estimated from field data and those predicted by the model with CEB-FIP '90 code expressions were calculated for each location analyzed.

Table 4.6: Finite Element and Field Data Comparison

		Prestress at 12,000 Days (ksi)	% Difference
<b>Section C-C, Span 5</b>	FE Model	165.4	3.08
	Field Data	160.3	
<b>Section A-A, Span 6</b>	FE Model	165.3	0.12
	Field Data	165.1	
<b>Section D-D, Span 9</b>	FE Model	165.0	0.85
	Field Data	163.6	

# Chapter 5. Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations for Future Work

## 5.1 Summary

In July of 2012, a flexural crack on the bottom flange of a segment in the Varina-Enon Bridge was observed to open under heavy traffic loads. This indicated unanticipated high levels of tension, which could be attributed to several factors including larger than expected prestress losses. The purpose of this thesis was to estimate the effective prestress forces at the original observed joint-opening location in Span 6 as well as at two other joint-opening locations in Spans 5 and 9. Field data from instrumentation in Spans 5, 6, and 9 was used to calculate the effective prestress forces based on the assumption that the total stress when the cracks opened was equal to zero. A finite element model of the full bridge structure was created in order to conduct a time-dependent staged construction analysis using CEB-FIP '90 code expressions and obtain predicted values of effective prestress to compare with those obtained from field data. This enabled verification of the methods used to calculate effective prestress from field data and provided a means to evaluate if prestress losses were greater than expected.

The results indicated a lot of scatter in calculated effective prestress values for crack-opening events with small joint displacements. Therefore, the results were refined to only include events for which the crack-opening was greater than or equal to a chosen threshold value. These threshold joint displacements were 0.004 in. for Span 5, 0.002 in. for Span 6, and 0.0005 in. for Span 9. The average effective prestress values calculated from these reduced data sets were 160.3 ksi at the crack in Span 5, 165.1 ksi at the crack in Span 6, and 163.6 ksi at the crack in Span 9. The corresponding effective prestress values predicted by the finite element model were 165.4 ksi, 165.3 ksi, and 165.0 ksi.

## 5.2 Conclusions

Effective prestress estimates from the raw field data including events for all joint displacements indicate significantly larger prestress losses than predicted by the finite element model. However, excluding crack-opening events with very small joint displacements results in improved agreement. The prestress losses calculated from field data are still greater than those predicted by the model, but the discrepancies are not as significant. The model overestimates the effective prestress in 2019 by 3.08% at the crack in Span 5, 0.12% at the crack in Span 6, and 0.85% at the crack in Span 9. These differences are considered to be within a reasonable margin of error, indicating good agreement between the finite element model and field data results. Therefore, it can be concluded that the finite element model verifies the assumptions and methods used to calculate the effective prestress from field data. In addition, the Varina-Enon Bridge does

not seem to be experiencing significantly greater prestress losses than expected when considering CEB-FIP '90 code expressions.

Prestress losses could greatly influence the future performance and serviceability of the Varina-Enon Bridge. One serviceability concern could be excessive cracking which could lead to ingress of moisture and deterioration of steel tendons. However, considering the opening joints are located on the bottom flanges of the segments and the tendons are encased in grouted PVC ducts, this is not of great concern.

Other future performance concerns related to prestress losses are excessive deflections and reductions in flexural strength. Since prestress losses calculated from field data are not significantly greater than those predicted by the finite element model, these issues are not of great concern either. However, it is important to note that the analyses were run in the model using the CEB-FIP '90 code expressions, while the Varina-Enon Bridge was designed under the CEB-FIP '78 code. Previous research concluded that greater prestress losses were predicted using the CEB-FIP '90 code expressions than the CEB-FIP '78 code expressions. Therefore, the effective prestress values calculated from field data more closely aligned with the finite element results using CEB-FIP '90 (Lindley 2019). This leads to the conclusion that although prestress losses are not much greater than those obtained from more recent code expressions, there are greater discrepancies when considering the code that was used for design.

The progression of prestress losses can be evaluated by comparing the results calculated from 2019 and 2020 data to those obtained from 2013 and 2014 data by Lindley (2019). Lindley calculated the effective prestress at just the crack location in Span 6 and obtained a value of 166 ksi. The effective prestress of 165.1 ksi calculated from 2019 and 2020 data represents a 0.54% decrease. In general, it is expected that the effective prestress force decreases rapidly initially after construction and approaches a nearly asymptotic value over time. Using the CEB-FIP '90 code expressions, the losses in 2013 represent 93.7% of the total 100-year losses (Lindley 2019). Given these two considerations, the effective prestress would be expected to decrease only slightly from 2013 to 2019. The 0.54% decrease obtained aligns with this expectation. Therefore, it can be concluded that the progression of prestress losses in the Varina-Enon Bridge follows what is anticipated.

### 5.3 Recommendations for Future Work

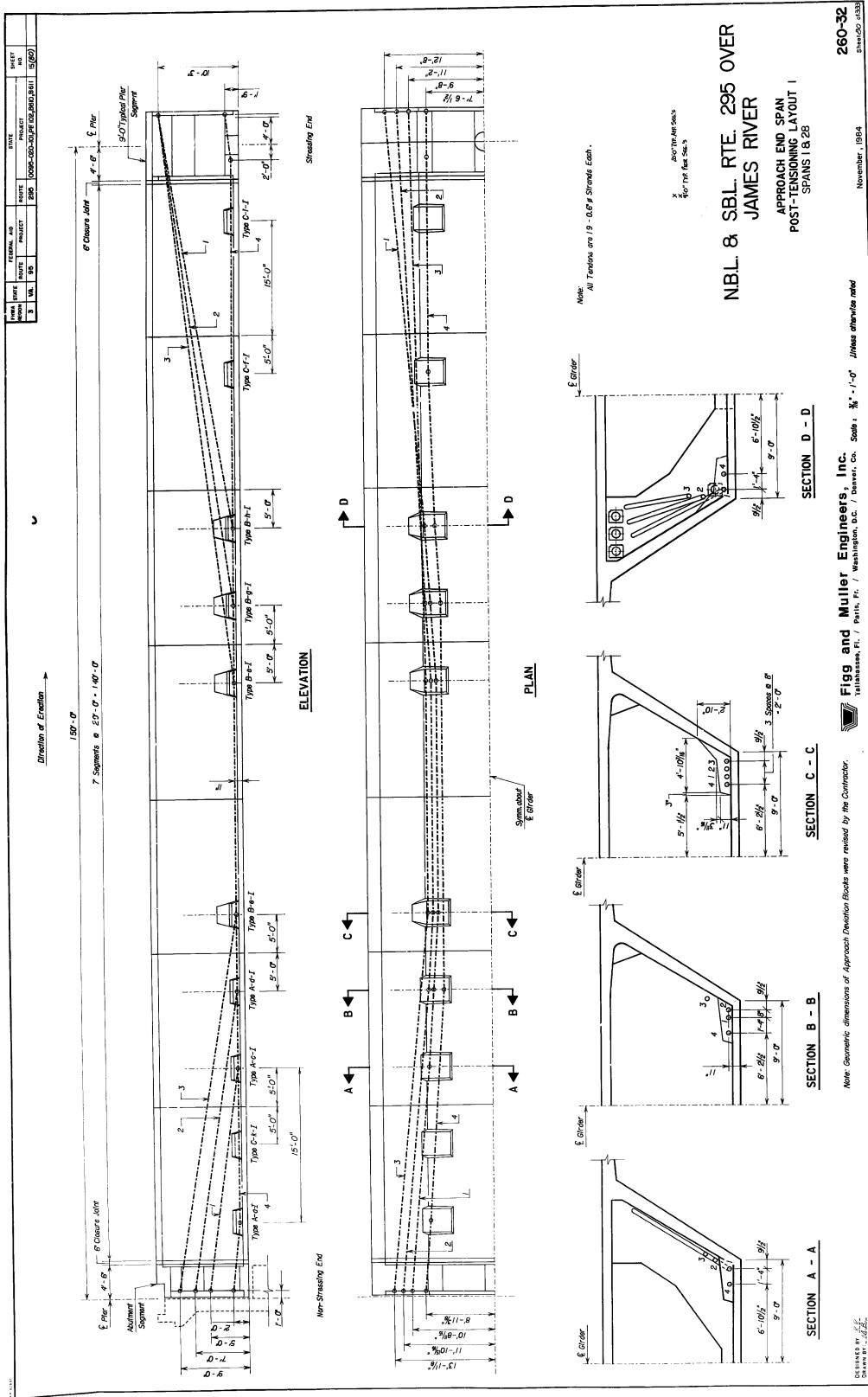
This research has investigated the prestress losses in Spans 5, 6, and 9 of the Varina-Enon Bridge. In order to further assess the condition of the structure, the following recommendations for future work are made:

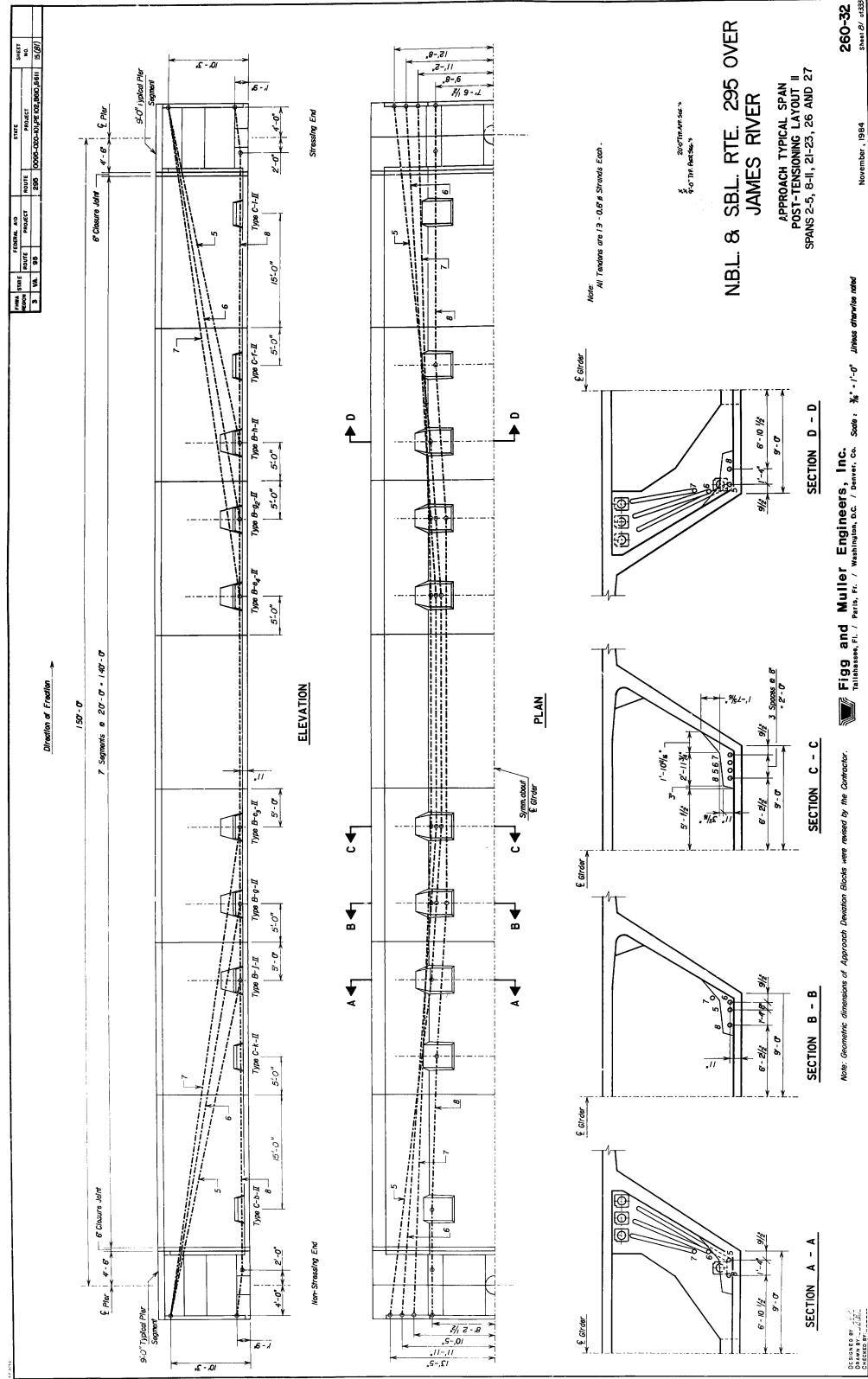
1. The prestress losses in Spans 5 and 6 should continue to be monitored in order to evaluate the rate of prestress losses at these locations. This progression should be compared to that obtained from finite element analyses using model codes such as CEB-FIP '90.
2. Similar cracking to that observed in Spans 5, 6, and 9 has been observed at other locations throughout the bridge. The “mobile” instrumentation setup at Span 9 should be periodically moved to other joints of interest in order to monitor those crack locations and evaluate prestress losses in a similar manner to Spans 5, 6, and 9.
3. For this thesis, LVDTs were installed on the top of the bottom flange at crack locations in Spans 5, 6, and 9. However, the crack openings are likely greater on the bottom of the bottom flange. LVDTs should be installed at the bottom of the bottom flange in order to compare the joint displacements at the top and bottom of the bottom flange.
4. A more detailed analysis should be conducted to determine how the progression of prestress losses affects the future load rating of the Varina-Enon Bridge.
5. The finite element model of the full structure should be used to investigate other aspects of the behavior of the Varina-Enon Bridge, such as response to superloads.

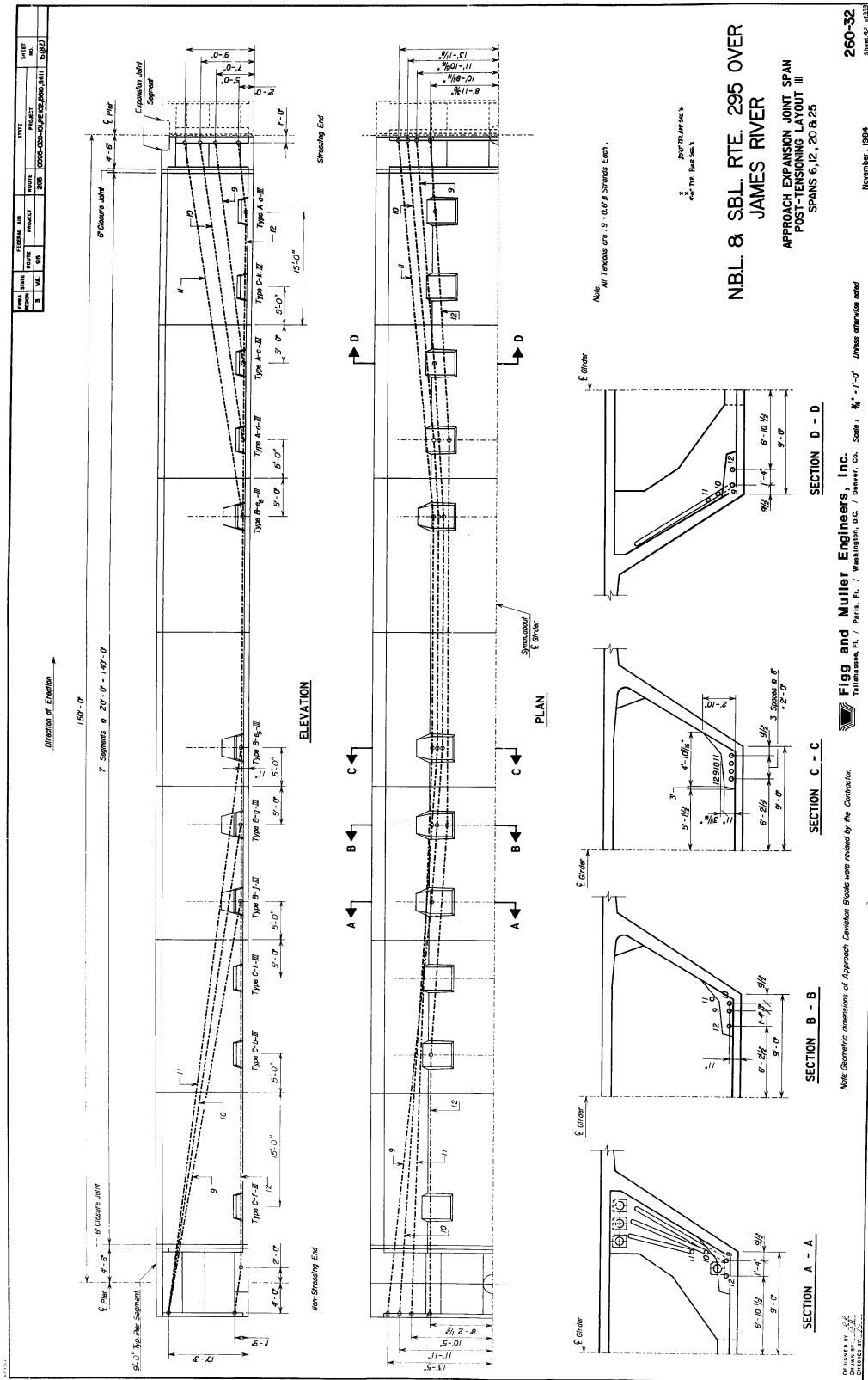
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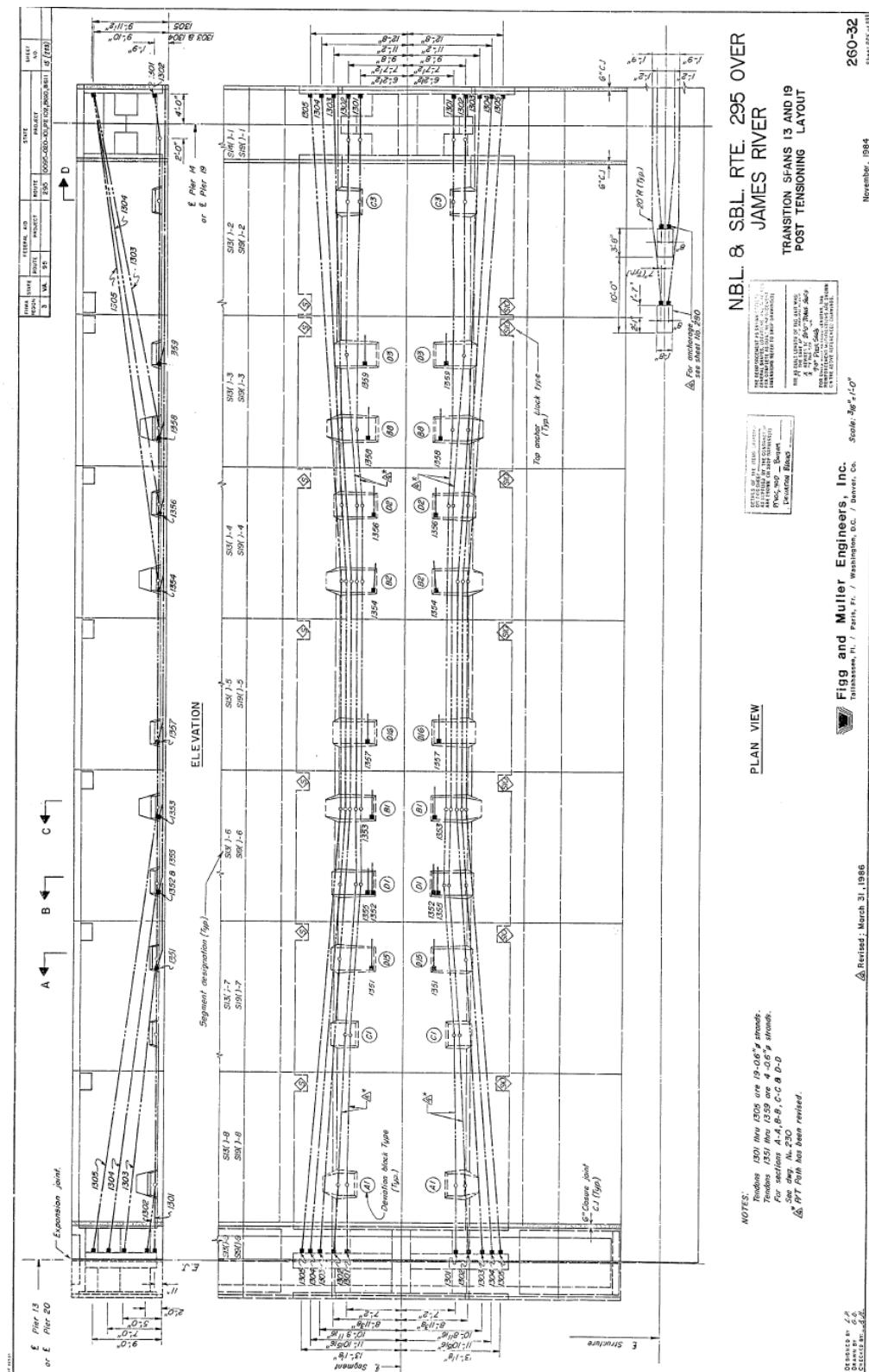
## Appendix A. Original Drawings of Tendon Profiles

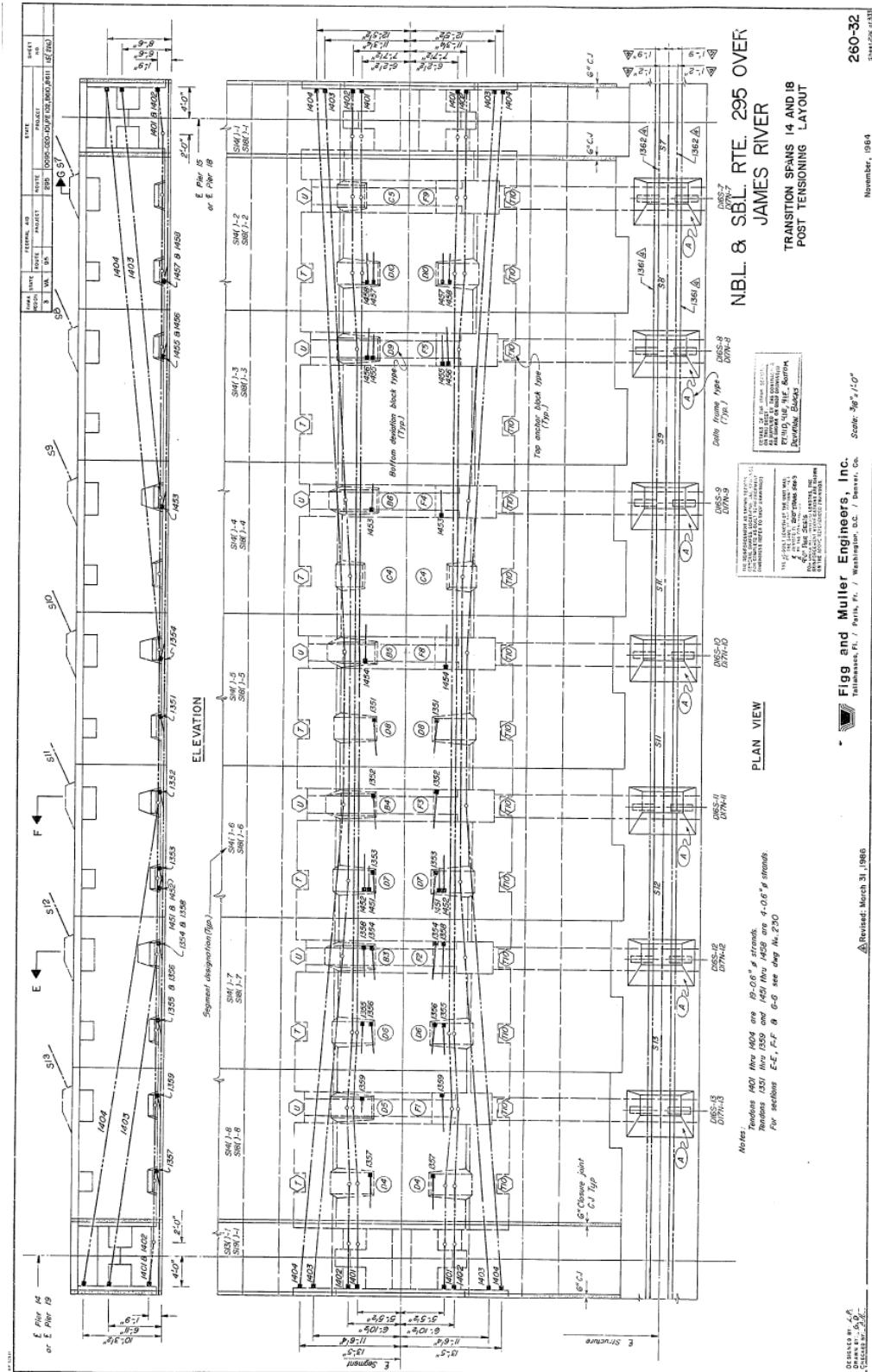


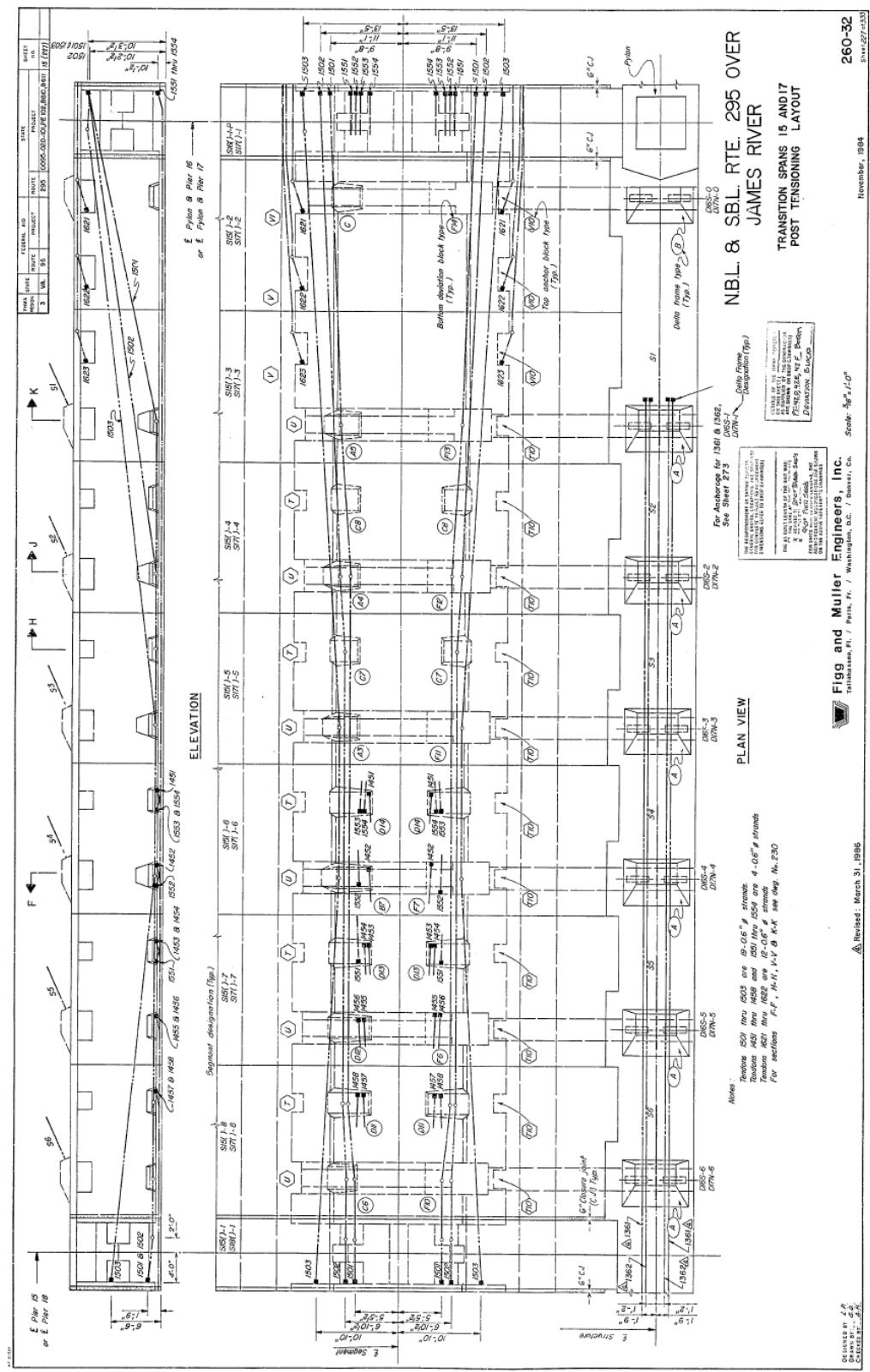


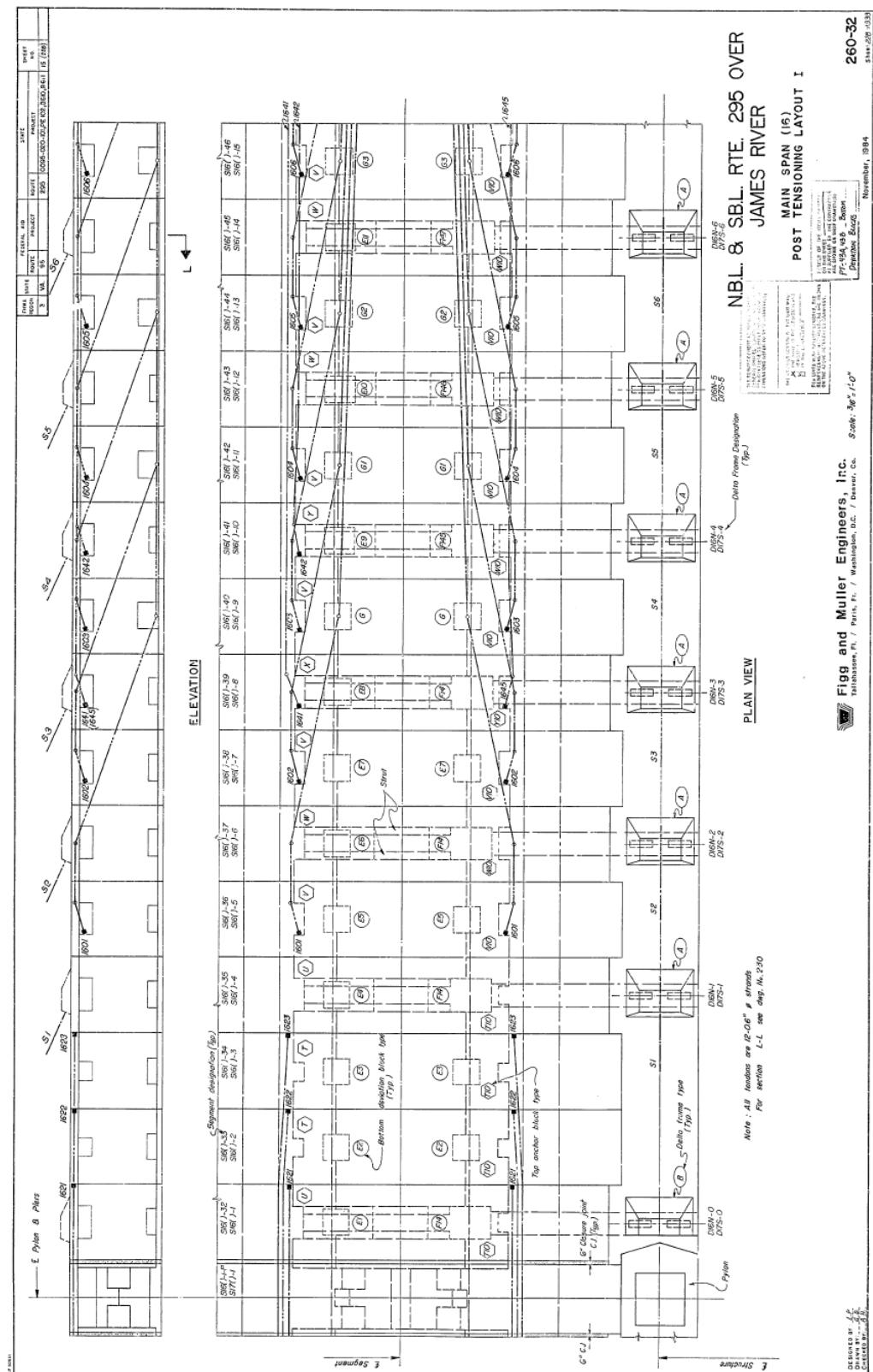


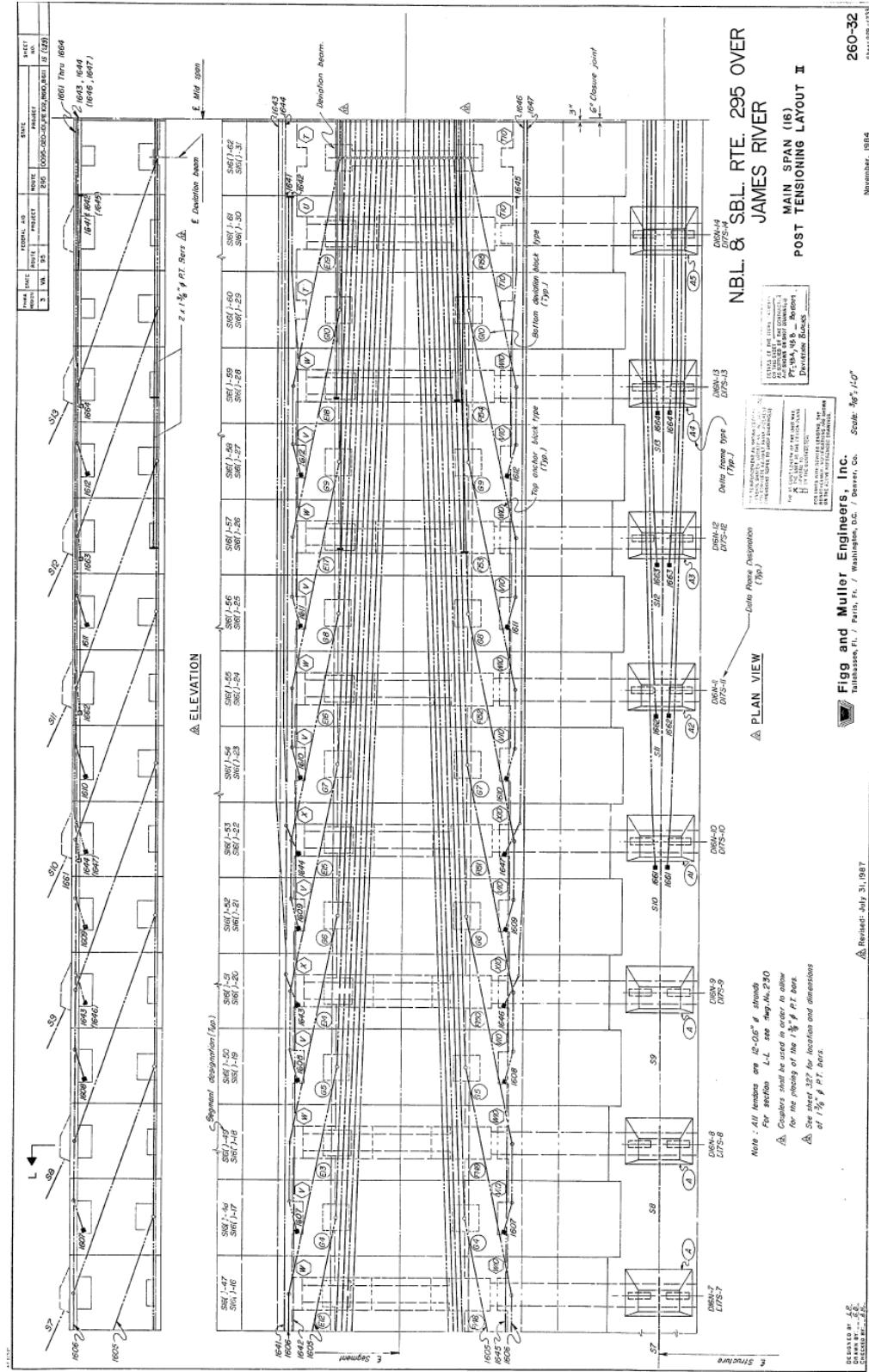






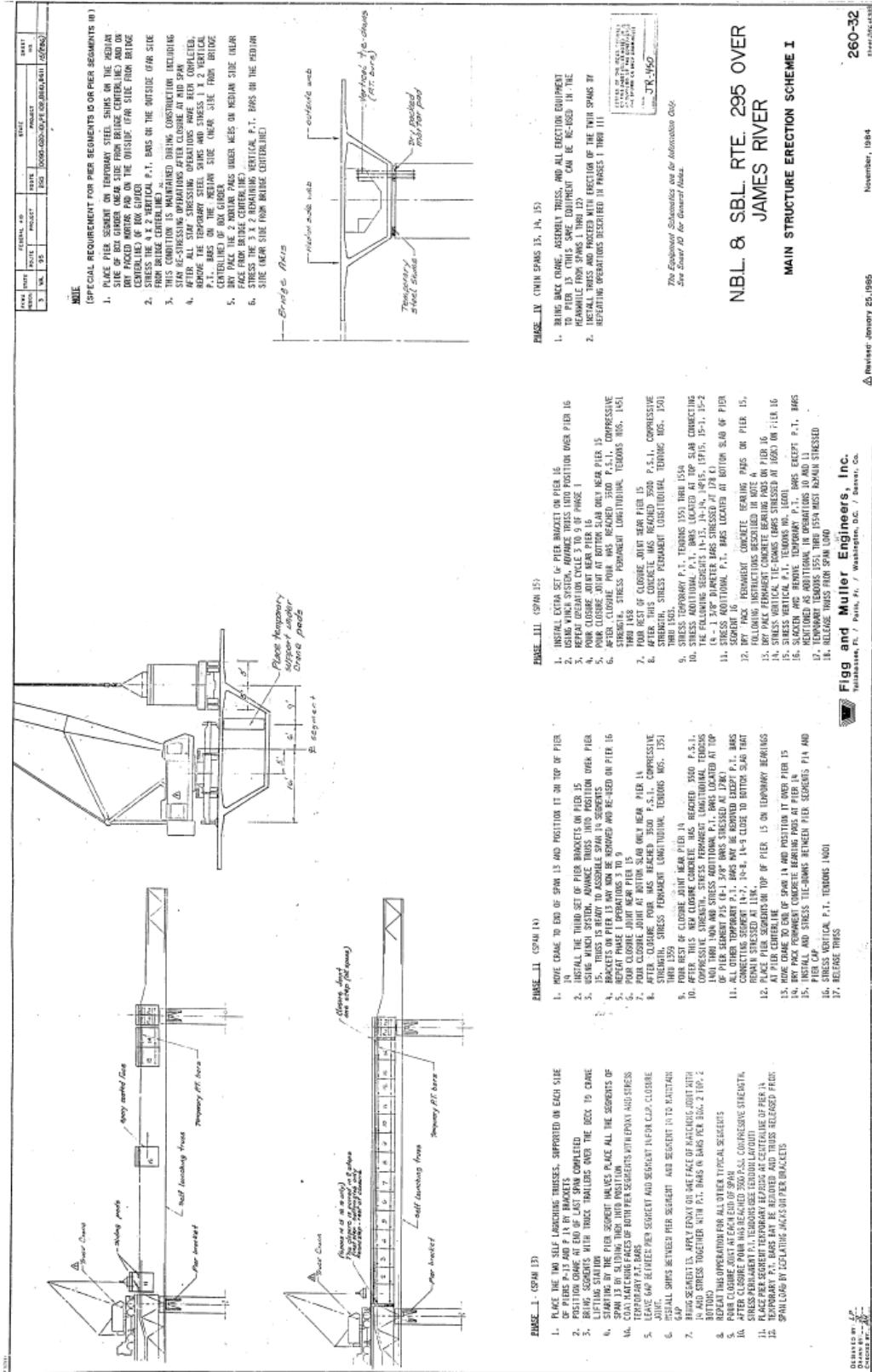








## Appendix B. Original Main Span Construction Drawings





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1. THE 5 SPAN WING SHEDULE IS IN CLOTH FILE, THIS PAGE.

2. KEEP 2 SPAN WING EQUIPMENT ON TILTA FRAMES, CONNECTING SECTIONS OF SPANS IN AND 15' IN LENGTH.

3. BRING WELA FRAME WITH TRAILER TRUCKS OVER THE LECK TO PAPER LOCATIONS TO BE LIFTED BY THE CRANE.

4. USE THE CRANE LIFT AND MOUNT WELA FRAME SO ALIGNED IT IS LOCATED IN BETWEEN THE TWO STRUCTURES, ONCE THE WELA FRAME IS BELOW MELA, ROTATE IT BACK AND LIFT IT TO ITS POSITION.

5. INSTAL TEMPORARY SUPPORT TO HOLD IT IN PLACE.

6. SWING JUNCTION ON TOP OF WELA FRAMES AND DIAGONAL STAB INSIDE SECTIONS, SWINGABLE UNDER SEGMENT FRAMES.

7. LATERAL FRAMES, SWINGABLE UNDER SEGMENT FRAMES.

8. PAN CONCRETE IN WELA, ALIGN WELA FRAMES, AND SEGMENT ON EACH SIDE AT SPAN LEVEL.

9. AFTER THE CONCRETE IS PLACED, JUNCTION AND GAP AT TOP SPAN SLICE AT THE END OF DIAGONAL, JUNCTION, AND GAP IN TOP SPAN.

10. CONTINUITY TRANSVERSE TAILED IN TOP SPAN. P.S.1.0, COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH, STRESS RESISTANCE, AND STRENGTH.

11. CONTINUITY TAILED IN TOP SPAN. P.S.1.0, DURABILITY, THICKNESS IN SECTION, AND STRENGTH.

12. CONTINUITY TAILED IN TOP SPAN. P.S.1.0, DURABILITY, THICKNESS IN SECTION, AND STRENGTH.

13. PLACES TO EJECTON OF WELA FRAME WITH 1.5' SAME OPERATION FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED.

14. AFTER WELA FRAMES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED, INSTAL DELTA FRAMES AND THE PAN CONCRETE STRIP REMAINING, LENGTH DELTA FRAMES ARE THE PAN CONCRETE STRIP AT SPAN 13.

15. STRESS STRIP, REMAINING TRANSVERSE CONTINUITY TEARONS ON SPANS 13 - 14 - 15.

16. ELEVATION FRAMES.

17. CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH IS FROM TERMINAL AND THE EQUIPMENT CAN BE STORED ON SPAN 14 AND APPROXIMATELY 10' FROM SPAN 15.

18. SEVEN DEEP EJECTOR SECTIONS CAN BE INSTALLED ON SPAN 14.

19. THREE DEEP EJECTOR SECTIONS CAN BE INSTALLED ON SPAN 15.

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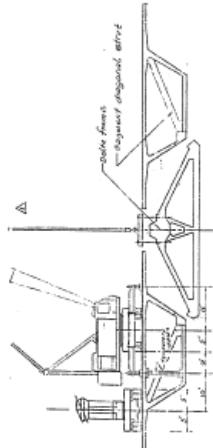
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165. CAN BE INSTALLED ON SPAN 15.

166. DEEPLY EJECTOR SECTIONS CAN BE INSTALLED ON SPAN 15.



Page VI

1. THE 5' FIRST CANTILEVER SEGMENTS CAN BE BRIGHTON OVER THE DECK BY TRAILER TRUCK.  
ALL THE OTHERS WILL BE ERECTED WITH BEAM AND WRECH METHOD.

  2. POSITION ON DECK OF THE 16' STRESS TENDERS.
  3. PLATE AND SHEET PILING.
  4. PLATE AND SHEET PILING, P.1.1, BARS, BEVELS 1E-1 AND PIER SECTIONS, PIA, INSTEAD OF SHEET PILING, FOR CANTILEVER CLEARANCE JOINT.
  5. ALMOST SHORT ARM FLAT CONCRETE CANTILEVER TENDERS.
  6. AFTER CONCRETE HAS REACHED P.5.1, CANTILEVER LENGTH.
  7. STRENGTH CANTILEVER TEST AT 533 K.

NOTE: SAME PROcedURE ON OPERATIONS CAN BE MADE SIMILARLY  
OR SUCCESSFULLY ON ALL OTHER OPERATIONS, IF THE FRACTURE OF EACH  
THESE CANTILEVER SEGMENTS IS ALREADY ERECTED AND CANTILEVER TENDERS

LIFT AND PLATE, SEPARATE, CAN BE MATCHED WITH 1E-1,  
PAIR TO ACCORDING WITH TENDER P.1.1, BARS, APPLY ENRY ON  
ONE FACE OF SEGMENT MATCHING WITH 1E-1.

10. STRESS TEMPORARY P.1, BARS, BARS SECTIONS 1E-1 AND SCREWEING  
L-E-2 FOR TEMPORARY P.1, BARS, STRESSING 1E-1 AND SCREWEING  
SHEET, SPECIAL SHEETS 338 THRU 333, BARS STRESSING 1E-1 FOR ERECTION OF SEGMENTS

11. KNUCKLE PREDLING AT CANTILEVER 7-10-5-6 FOR ERECTION OF SEGMENTS

1E-3

The Equipment! Schematics are for information Only  
See Sheet #0 for General Notes

JAMES RIVER

MAIN STRUCTURE CREATION SCHEME 7

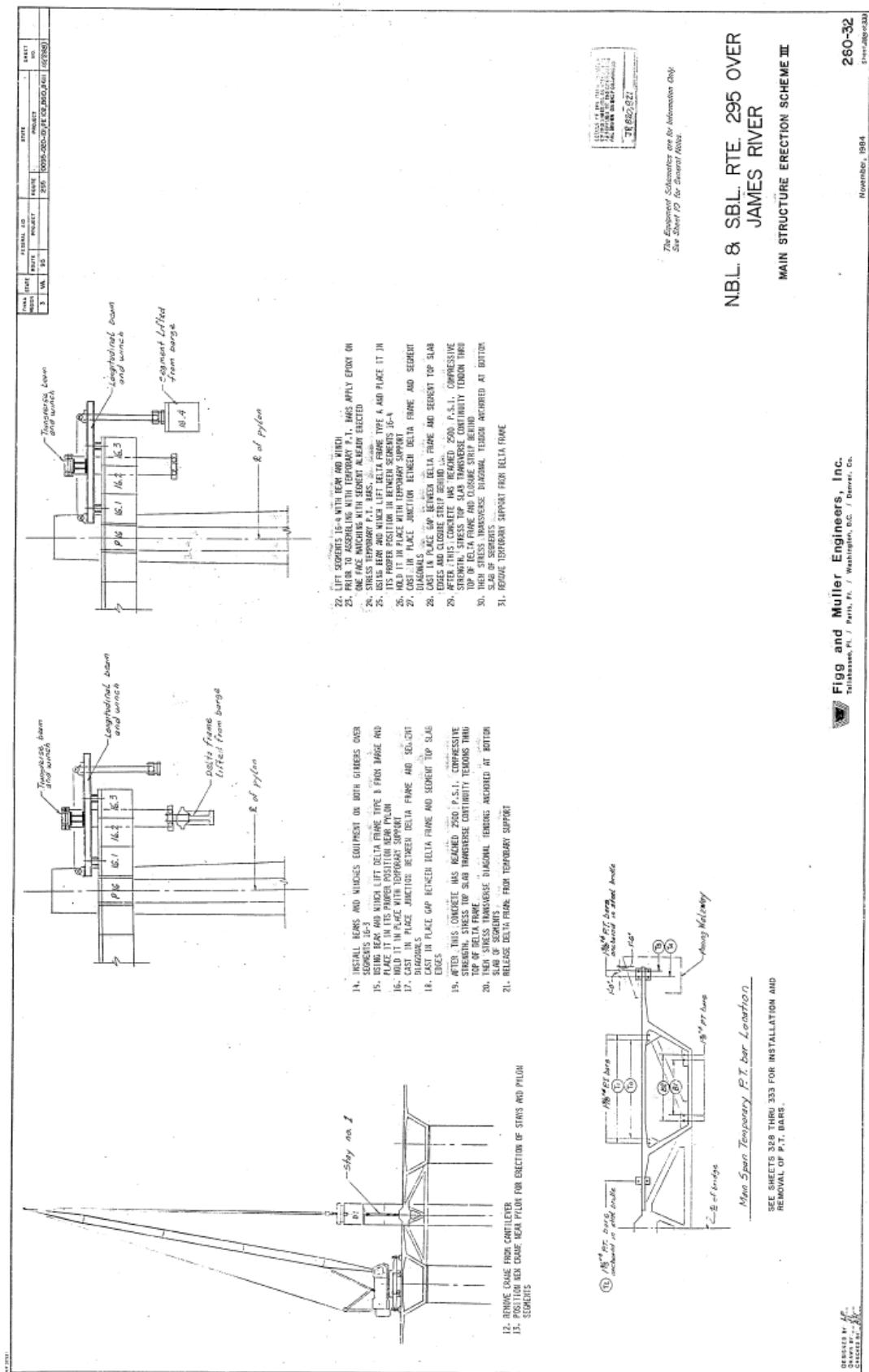
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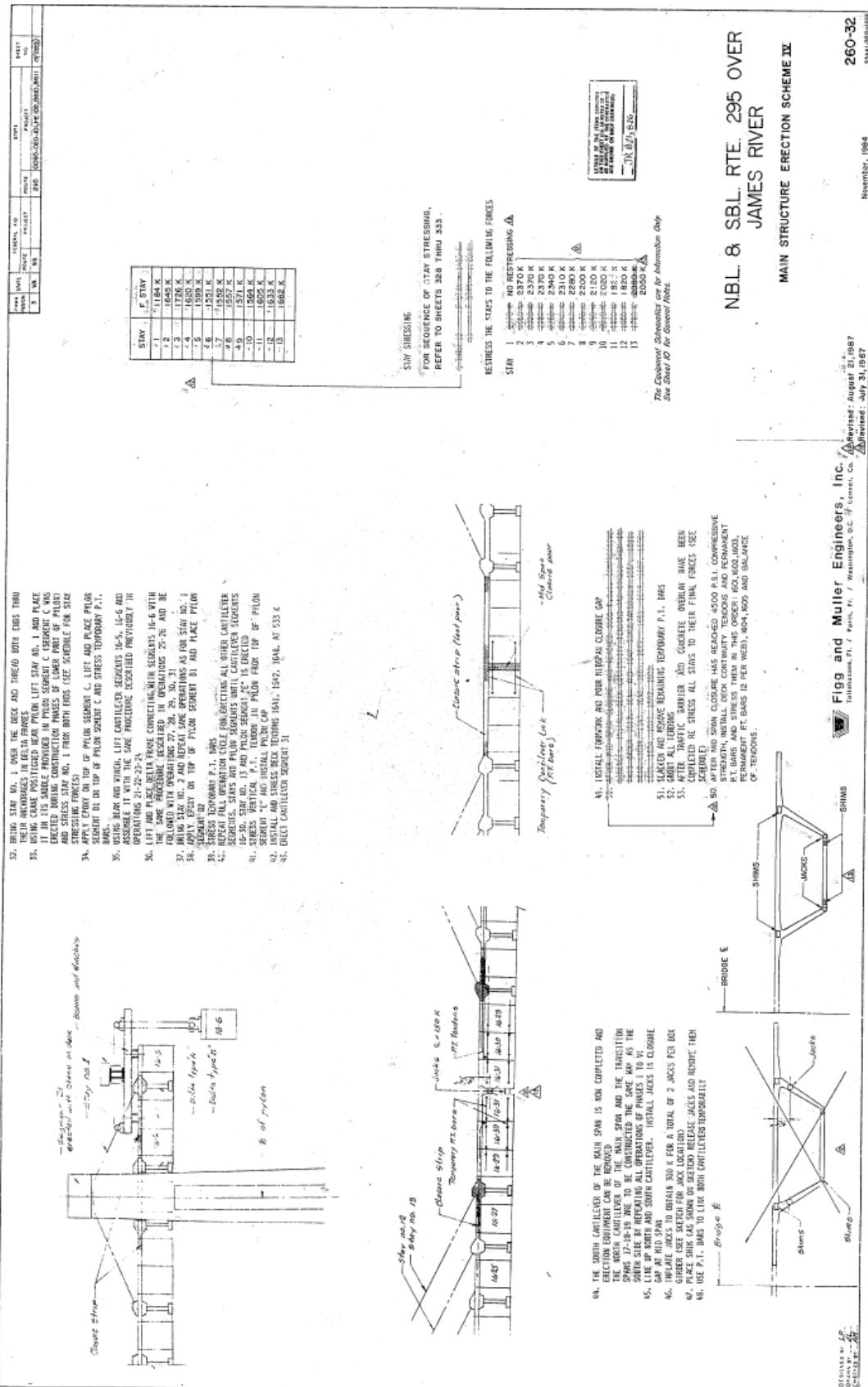
△ Revised: January 25, 1995 Number, 1014  
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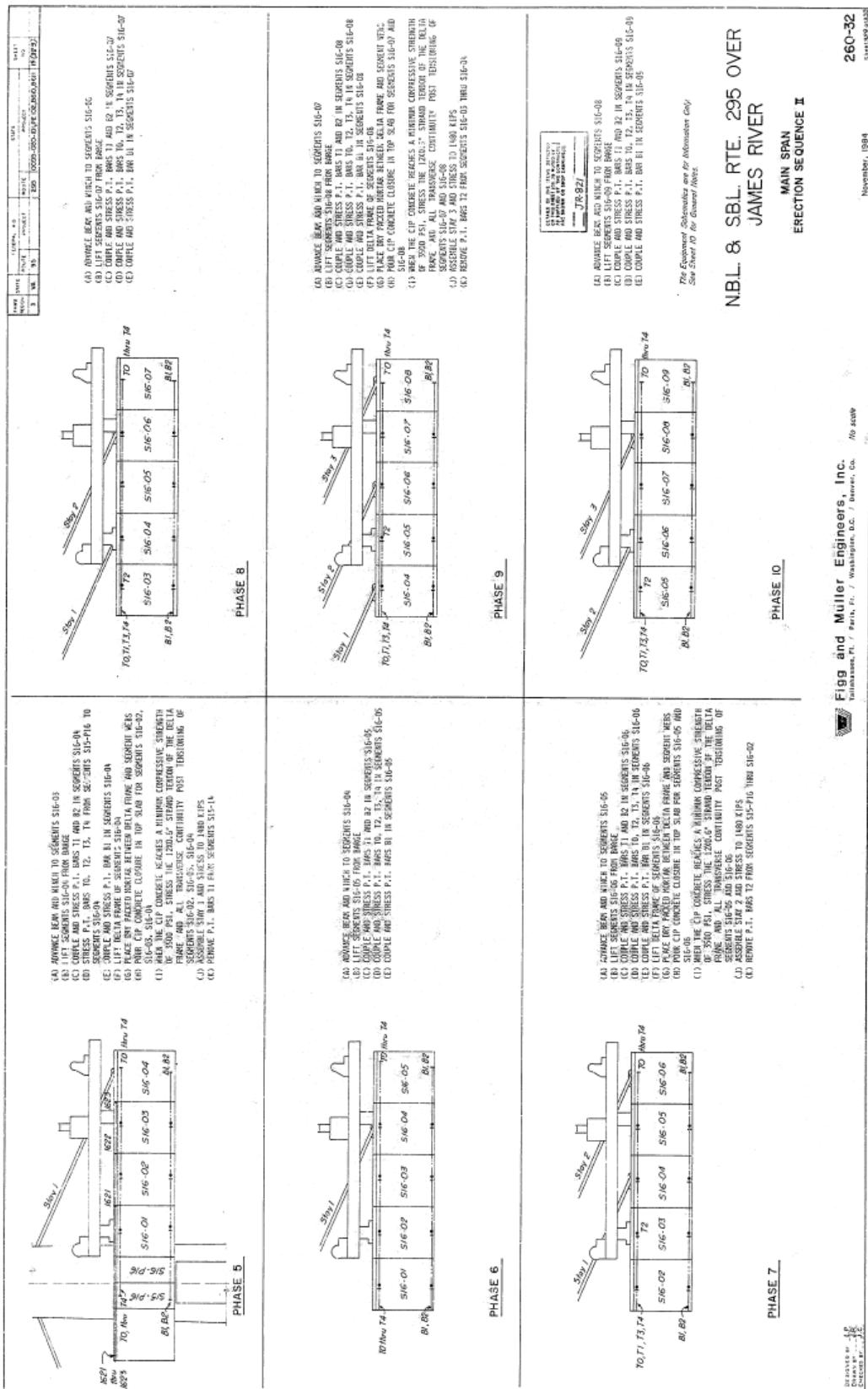
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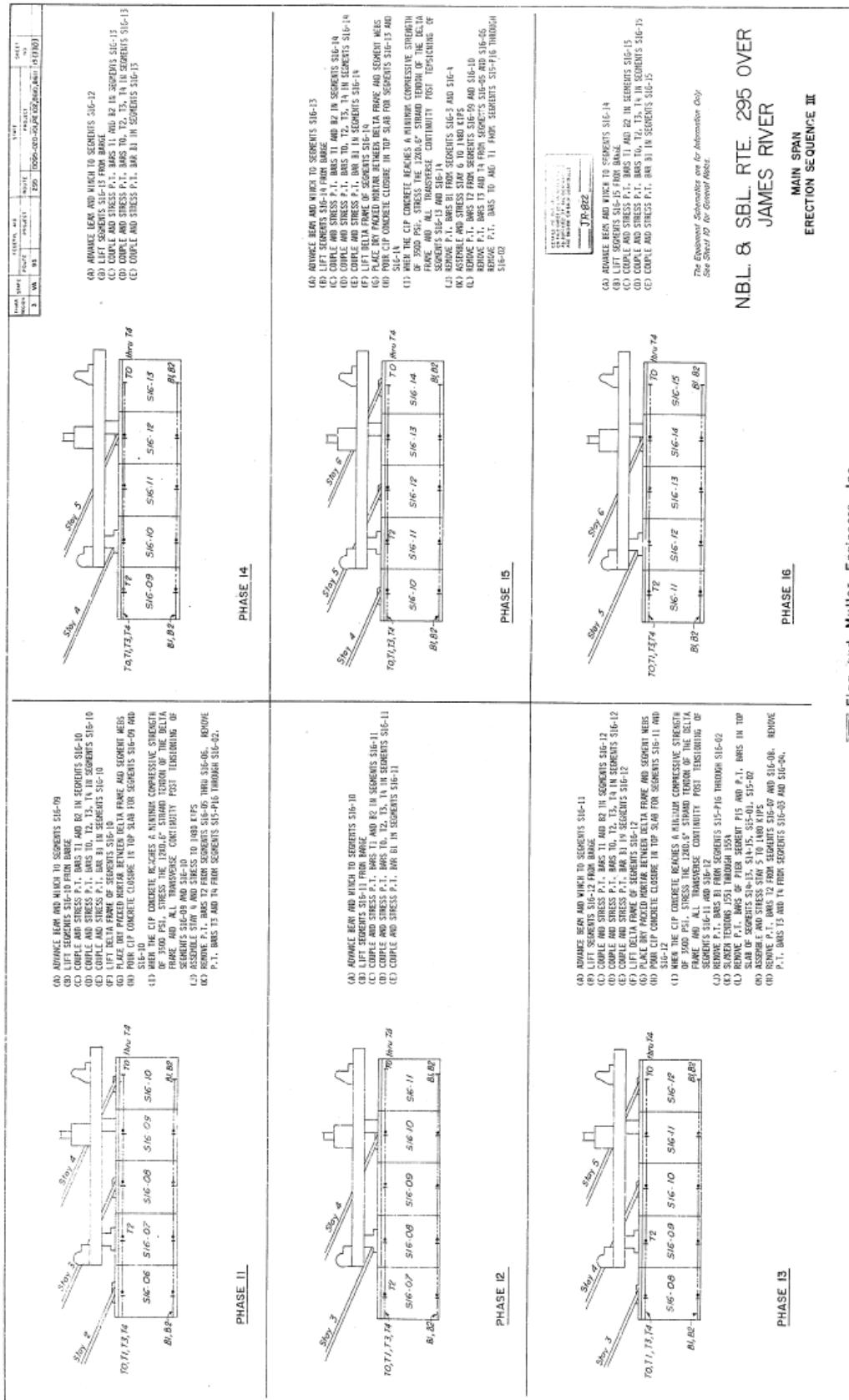
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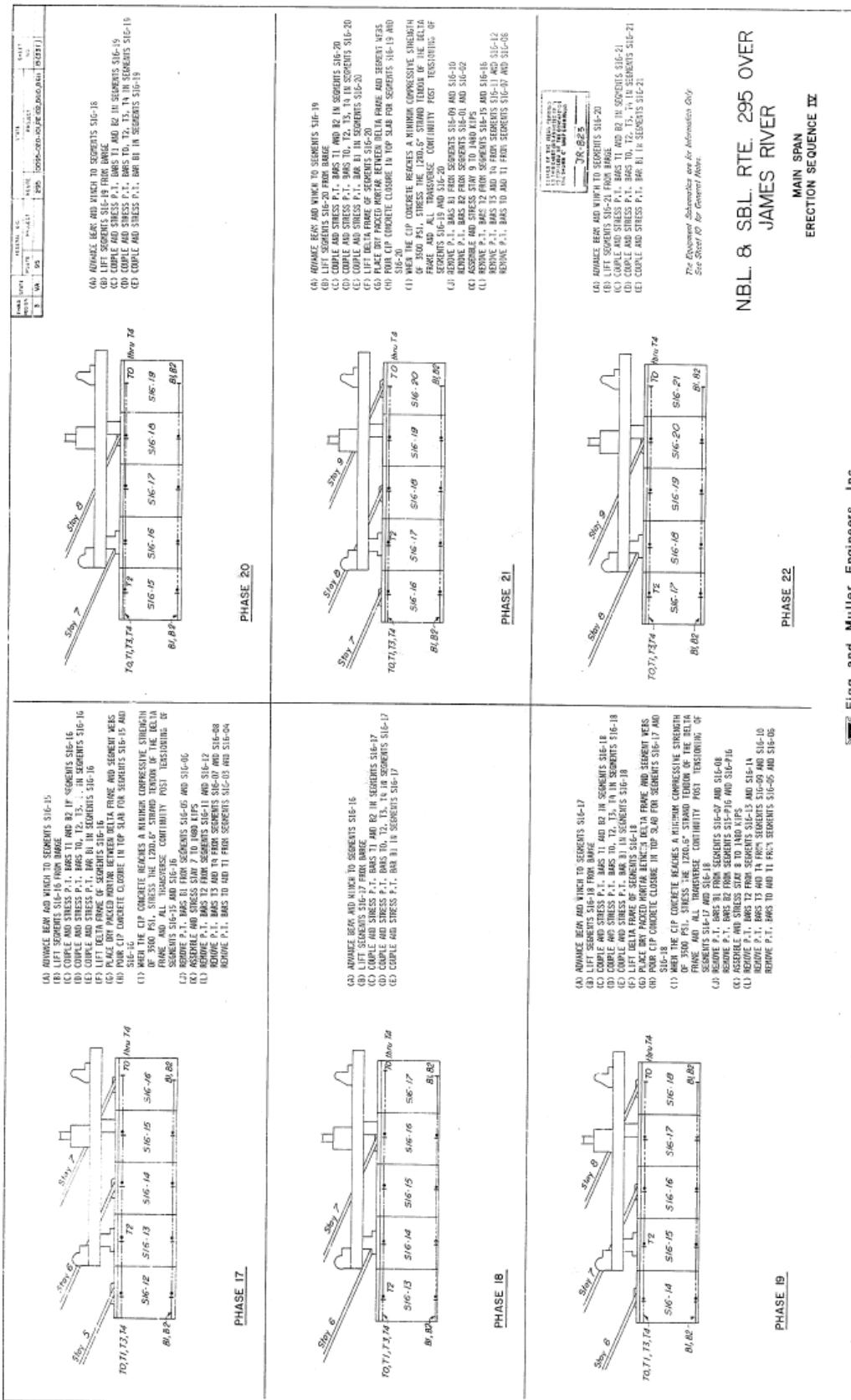












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Denver, Colo. *No scope*



