

Via Email

May 29, 2015

Mr. Chris Brooks  
President, Board of Directors  
Cape Decision Lighthouse Society  
224 Katlian Street  
Sitka, AK 99835

Re: Cape Decision Lighthouse - Timber Tramway Hazardous Condition  
WJE No. 2015.1826

Dear Mr. Brooks:

At your request, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has performed a limited condition assessment of the timber boathouse foundation that was subject to fire in 1989. During the week of May 18, 2015, Mr. Zeno Martin of WJE was onsite documenting conditions for repair planning, and met with you and others. An item of immediate concern, and as discussed with you onsite, is that the timber tramway and boathouse foundation (Figure 1) have deteriorated to such an extent that we strongly suggest these structures no longer be used to carry people or equipment until significant structural repair occurs.

In addition to section losses of timber from the fire, biodeterioration observed includes:

- Advanced wood decay in non-fire damaged portions of tramway joists (Figure 2)
- At some charred areas, wood material cannot resist aggressive probing (Figure 3)
- Organic growth through char (Figure 4)

Late stages of fungal decay at many of the timber structural elements is obviously present and, as a result, significant strength loss of the wood material has occurred and will continue to occur. Due to the extensive char and wood decay, we reiterate our strong opinion that these structures no longer be used to carry people or equipment until significant structural repair occurs.

If there are any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact us.

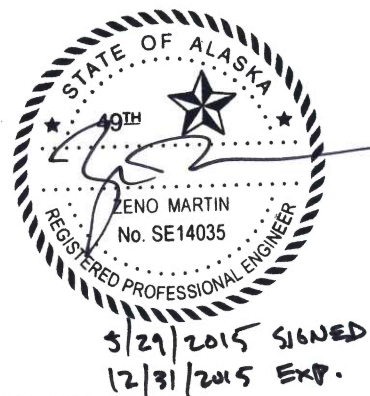
Sincerely,

WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.



Zeno Martin, P.E., S.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Figures



Headquarters & Laboratories—Northbrook, Illinois

Atlanta | Austin | Boston | Chicago | Cleveland | Dallas | Denver | Detroit | Honolulu | Houston  
Los Angeles | Minneapolis | New Haven | New York | Princeton | San Francisco | Seattle | Washington, DC



*Figure 1. Helipad, tramway, boathouse foundation and pier (left to right).*





*Figure 2. Joists supporting the tramway deck have lost integrity due to wood decay.*



*Figure 3. Wood material has lost integrity due to decay.*



*Figure 4. Organic growth on underside of 12x12 timber beam supporting temporary plank decking above.*