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Closure to Discussion: Failure Case Studies and Engineering Ethics in Engineering Mechanics Courses

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Closure to “Another Look at the L’Ambiance Plaza Collapse,” by Rachel Martin and Norbert J. Delatte

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The authors appreciate the discussor’s interest in this paper and his comments on its content. The authors agree that the original forensic engineering reports prepared by the investigators involved should be consulted when they are available.

In addition to this discussion, a letter was received from Mr. Bryant Mather, Honorary Member ASCE, concerning errors in the conversion of non-SI quantities to SI equivalents in the paragraph at the bottom of the left-hand column of page 162. The equivalents for the slab packages in tons are given in MN, which

is incorrect, as it mixes mass quantities in non-SI units with force quantities in SI units. Correct conversions are as follows:

- The 320-ton slab package has a mass of 325 Mg, with a corresponding weight of 3.13 MN,
- The 960-ton slab package has a mass of 975 Mg, with a corresponding weight of 9.38 MN,
- The load capacity of the regular jacks, listed as 89 tons, should be 199 kips, with an SI equivalent of 887 kN,
- The load capacity of the super jacks, listed as 150 tons, should be 336 kips, with an SI equivalent of 1.49 MN, and
- The shearhead and lifting angle began to twist as the loads approached 179 kips, with an SI equivalent of 797 kN.

Erratum

The sentence at the end of the first paragraph on the right-hand column of page 162, reading “This theory was later abandoned by NBS in favor of Theory 4 (Culver and Marshall 1994),” should be deleted.