



**"We bring it all together"**  
**STEEL ERECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

## **Report: OSHA Stakeholders Meeting on Construction Cranes Standard**



*By Bob Beckner, Senior Vice President/Area Manager, Peterson Beckner*

The OSHA Stakeholders Meetings on Construction Cranes Standard were held at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC and were moderated by Jim Maddux, Director of the Directorate of Construction. I attended the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am-12 pm meeting as an observer and the 1:30 pm- 4:30 pm meeting as a participant and representative of the SEAA.

The meetings were conducted in an open forum, and OSHA made it clear that the purpose was information gathering only and nothing more. OSHA representatives did take notes but did not record the sessions.

The following people represented other stakeholder groups at the meeting:

- Labor (L) - Operating Engineers, United Mine Workers, Teamsters
- Business Owners (BO) – Large and small companies including General Contractors, Subcontractors, Crane Rental Providers, Safety Professionals
- Crane Certification Agencies (CCA) – NCCO, NCCER

OSHA separated each meeting into two discussions, with the first part discussing Operator/Qualification and the second part discussing Type and Capacity Requirement for Operator Certification.

My observations from both meetings were the overall majority of Business Owner and Labor representatives were opposed to certification as a qualification for an operator's competency to operate a crane. Numerous times the BO representatives stated it was their responsibility to choose the most qualified operator for their equipment and it should not be based on a certification test alone as to whether that person is qualified to operate the equipment.

Regarding Certification for Type and Capacity, once again BO representatives voiced a strong opinion against numerous categories of certification by crane type and/or capacity. Most BO representatives stressed that the costs placed on BO's would be expensive and cumbersome to manage.

On behalf of SEAA, I stated our association represents steel erectors of all sizes, non-union and union, with a larger percentage of our members being small, family-owned businesses. Thus, the cost and



**"We bring it all together"**  
**STEEL ERECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

management of additional certifications would impose a financial and administrative burden on our steel erector members, making it difficult for many to comply with the added regulations.

After the meeting, I talked to both Jim Maddux and Dean McKenzie and thanked them for the participation in our convention "Roundtable" video conference. Further, I thanked them for their openness with SEAA and stated that we welcome further dialogue in the future. They expressed that they, too, would like to continue the dialogue in the future.