

May 21, 2010

Dear Robert B. Stewart, President of VMS:

Just wanted to let you know that I was absolutely impressed with the VE Team that was put together for the Addicks and Barker Dams Outlet Works Filter Wrap project and the value engineering ideas and design suggestions the team members came up with. All team members were exceptional and lent well their expertise which resulted in a highly successful VE Workshop.

The chief of our Geotechnical Section commented that the study was "beneficial". A consultant we have employed to assist us with our dam safety risk reduction analysis, who has a doctorate in Geotechnical Engineering and prior to his retirement had a long career with the Corps of Engineers focused primarily on Corps dams and dam safety, mostly under the jurisdiction of the Fort Worth District, commented bluntly to Mark that in the past he has not been impressed by VE studies, but "this one was impressive".

Our Design Lead commented that the study was worthwhile and that he too was impressed. He also commented that the Team focused exactly on what he had expected it to in addressing the issues and challenges associated with the project.

Our contracting coordinator for A-E services commented that the VE Team did a very good job. The people making these comments do not make these sorts of comments casually, so they well-earned out of professional respect. What I am obviously trying to convey here is that the team members were a perfect fit for the job and the Team did a great job. You could not have put together a better team.

You need to understand that aside from the skepticism of VE studies in general by a lot of people and what real "value" they add to a project, there was skepticism in particular about doing a VE study for the Filter Wrap project given its simplicity and size, as well as "this is what we have been dictated to do" attitude. There appeared to be very little in the way of finding opportunities for increasing project value. (The VE Team found several.) I mean, after all, how much potential increase in value can one find for a "simple" small-scale project where the design is pretty much straightforward. I must confess that I too began to wonder whether doing a VE study was going to be worthwhile once I discovered just how basic the work was. The VE Team did such a great job and presented its findings well that it left those concerned with the project on our end with few questions and tremendous respect for the VE Team's accomplishment. You can definitely count on the Galveston District using Value Management Strategies again on future VE studies. Based on the VE study VMS did for the Filter Wrap project, I count VMS among the premiere VM/E firms. Thank you for a job well done (and I haven't even seen the draft VE report yet in saying this)!

Jon Plymale, Value Engineering Officer
US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District