

NEZAR ABRAHAM, S.E., P.E.

Principal



Summary

Nezar Abraham is a licensed structural and professional engineer with 20 years of management and professional structural engineering experience. He brings over a decade of structural design experience from the nuclear industry to opine on complex forensics engineering problems. He actively participates and chairs chapters in several ASCE committees. His experience is focused on forensic investigations, emergency response, protective design, property loss consulting, failure analysis investigation, and rehabilitation of steel, concrete, masonry and timber. He has expertise in structural dynamics, linear and non-linear finite element analysis, and evaluating buildings and structures for various conditions and forms of damage, including: code compliance, construction defects, structural failure analysis, fire damage, and earthquake/hurricane/tornado/damage.

Areas of Technical Expertise

- Forensic Structural Engineering
- Structural Engineering

Education

- M.S., Structural Engineering, 2008, Illinois Institute of Technology
- B.S., Structural Engineering, 2006, Illinois Institute of Technology

Registrations

- Licensed Structural Engineer in GA and IL
- Licensed Professional Engineer in FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MN, NC, ND, OH, TN, WI and WY

Professional Activities

- Chapter Lead, American Society of Civil Engineers, Energy Division, Structural Fire Engineering Task Committee
- Continuing Education Committee Past Member, Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI)
- Active Member, Forensic Engineering Division, Committee on Practices to Reduce Failure, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Active Member, Forensic Engineering Division, Wild Speed Estimation in Tornadoes Committee, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Select Project Experience

Forensic Structural Engineering

ADM East Plant, IL. Scope of Damage Investigation due to explosion and code upgrade review in a food processing plant.

Amazon DL14 Distribution Center Collapse, Edwardsville, IL. Scope of damage and cause and origin investigation into the partial collapse of a distribution warehouse as a result of an EF-3 tornado.

ADM Green Bison, ND. Cause and Origin investigation into a failed concrete silo in a food processing plant.

Confidential Investigation, MI. Immediate shoring of a newly designed and constructed higher education facility with a comprehensive analysis of the building and remediation design.

Confidential Wastewater Treatment Plant, Atlanta, GA. Failure Investigation into a failed concrete cover plate Assembly.

IPFW, Indiana Pedestrian Bridge, Fort Wayne, IN. Analysis of a newly constructed pedestrian bridge for brittle fracture concerns over select welded design connection details.

CMC 2018 83 HD+Arbor Pro, Tampa, FL. Man lift boom fracture forensic investigation.

Emergency Response

Pre-Engineered Metal Building Collapse, IN. Structural engineering evaluation to determine the cause and origin of the collapse of a 25,000-square-foot warehouse structure during construction.

Confidential Investigation, MI. Immediate shoring of a newly designed and constructed higher education facility with a comprehensive analysis of the building and remediation design.

River 1 Parking Garage Assessment, WI. Structural damage assessment of a parking garage, a 9-story commercial tower, and a 5-story residential building following an explosion and a fire in a parking garage.

*Denotes work performed with previous employer.

NEZAR ABRAHAM, S.E., P.E.

Ridgeview Apartments, BC. Seismic performance evaluation of a newly constructed 11-story residential building with a comprehensive analysis of the building and remediation design.

Confidential Medical Center, Columbus, OH. Emergency response to a structural failure during construction. Worked with project team to develop stabilization and repair plan. Reviewed impact of failure on building systems to mitigate and avoid any long term effects on building performance.

Kiwanis Riverview Terrace, Adrian, MI. Emergency response over structural concerns for an evacuated 12-story senior housing facility and remediation design.

Property Loss Consulting

Hurricane Ian Damage Assessments, FL. Structural and building envelope damage assessment of multiple 5-10 story condominium buildings following Hurricane Ian.

Confidential Operability Evaluation and Root Cause Analysis. Analysis of a delaminated nuclear power plant prestressed containment structure.

S&R Egg Farm, WI. Cause and origin investigation of two collapsed roofs in a food processing plant, and a structural condition assessment of multiple other buildings.

Structural Engineering

New Nuclear Power Plant Design, Southern TX.* Structural design of reactor building, control building, radioactive waste building, ultimate heat sink building, and turbine building as part of the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor technology.

New Nuclear Power Plant Design, AP1000, GA, SC and CHN.* Structural design of components within the reactor building containment structure as part of the pressurized water reactor technology.

Ontario Power Generating Nuclear Station, Ontario, CAN.* Design of concrete structures against tornado loadings within the new Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.

Existing Nuclear Power Plant Assessments and Modifications, multiple states.* Linear and non-linear finite element analyses of multiple systems within the plants to demonstrate structural integrity against natural and man-made hazards. Seismic upgrades of several US nuclear power plants after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear incident in Japan.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Facility, NM.* Design of multiple components within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Department of Energy facility.

SHINE, Medical Radioactive Isotopes Facility, Janesville, WI.* Design of facility against natural and man-made hazards.

CITGO Refinery Plant Foundation Design, Lemont, IL.* Foundation design of static and rotating equipment for a new boiler unit at CITGO plant.

Sworn Testimony

Deposition, Bd. of Educ. of Marion Cmty. Unit Sch. District #2 v. Design Architects, Inc., Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Inc., Hurst-Rosche, Inc., & Ross Constr., Inc. regarding design and construction of a FEMA 361 safe room/storm shelter. Circuit Court, 1st Judicial Circuit, Williamson County, IL, January 30, 2026.

Deposition, Alpha Dev. Group LLC, et al. v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co., regarding structural failure causation analysis with repair scope recommendation for a reported tornado loss in October 2021. United States District Court, Western District of LA, Lake Charles Division, October 20, 2022.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Eden Owners v. Underwriters, FL. Mediation regarding a hurricane Sally investigation claim of a 28-story tower.

Logan Aluminum, Inc. v. Ace World Co. Ltd., Lexington, KY. Mediation regarding overhead crane design and construction where plaintiff alleged crane did not meet contract specs and defendant requested design changes.

Select Papers, Lectures and Publications

"Forensic Analysis of High-Strength Steel Boom Failure in a Mobile Elevating Work Platform," Forensic Engineering 10th Congress, 2024 (co-author)

"Fracture-critical Bridge Components Subject to Fatigue Loading," 11th International Conference on Bridge Maintenance, Safety and Management, Barcelona, Spain, July 2022 (co-author)

"Material Deterioration – Fitness-For-Service Analysis and Repair of a Steel Tank," Forensic Engineering 8th Congress, 2018 (co-author)

"Evaluation of a New Forcing Function for Analysis of Structures Due to Automobile Missile Impacts," Geotechnical and Structural Engineering Congress, Phoenix, AZ, 2016 (co-presenter)

"Relative Building Movements for Design of Commodities in Nuclear Plants," SMIRT Conference, Manchester, UK, 2015 (co-author)

CONTACT

Nezar Abraham, S.E., P.E.
600 W. Fulton Street, Suite 705, Chicago IL 60661
D: 312.596.2230 M: 773.592.6294
NAbraham@ThorntonTomasetti.com
www.ThorntonTomasetti.com