

I **NDUSTRY UPDATE**

Freeze / Thaw Update

Department of Transportation (DOT) engineers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Wyoming, Michigan, New York and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently met to discuss the use of segmental retaining walls (SRWs) on DOT projects. The focus of the discussion was freeze/thaw durability.

Bruce Baumann, special projects director, Anchor Wall Systems, attended the meeting. He reports, “The general consensus is that most state departments are ready to specify more SRW on their projects. The exception to this trend in SRW acceptance is Illinois, which announced that it would limit the use of SRWs for DOT projects to heights less than five feet (1.5m).”

Most of the states represented, indicated that they will require freeze/thaw durability testing similar to MNDOT and NYDOT, which requires freeze/thaw testing in a saline solution. Anchor Wall Systems is participating with the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) in their efforts with the FHWA and DOT officials regarding freeze/thaw durability, and in conjunction with Anchor Block Company will continue to do research on making durable SRW units. 

