

## James E. Lalumiere, President Project Development International

Mr. Lalumiere began his 45-year construction career by helping his father build homes as a teenager in Massachusetts. His Geometry teacher in high school, who also happened to be a licensed Land Surveyor, taught him how to use a transit and level as well as introducing him to computer programming in the late 1960s. This made Mr. Lalumiere somewhat of a hot commodity to contractors working in his city as his training in surveying easily translated into providing layout control for construction installations as a Field Engineer. He had two very important responsibilities on construction sites, to make sure everything was built correctly and in the right place.

Mr. Lalumiere's early experience as a Field Engineer formed the basis of his lifelong approach to the construction industry. Mr. Lalumiere explains, "I met a state inspector on my first large commercial construction job, a bridge job, where I was working as a field engineer. I was about twenty-three at the time. I had been taught how to use a transit and level in high school. Laying out the project required me to use trigonometry daily. The inspector gave me a simple piece of advice that saved my job many times in the subsequent years I worked in the field. 'You can't check yourself enough in this business', he told me. I never forgot this advice and, amidst doing routine calculations daily, I would always take the time to stop and simply look around to see if the results of my complex calculations made practical sense. This became my mantra in all phases of my construction career. Stop and look to see if all the complicated details simply make sense."

Mr. Lalumiere began working as a project analyst and expert witness in the 1980s having previously worked as a field engineer, superintendent, and project manager for several contractors during the 1970s. He spent most of the 1980s preparing and defending construction claims in which the damages arose from project delay, disruption, and lost productivity, for contractors, designers, and owners. He has testified in construction litigation and been accepted as an expert witness in superior courts in Massachusetts and New Jersey as well as county courts in Texas, Georgia, and Florida, and in arbitrations in New York, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana. He has been an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association since 1984 and is a Fellow and Chartered Arbitrator, their highest qualification, for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators based in London.



Mr. Lalumiere's "dirt under the fingernails" experience in construction management, his extensive experience in dispute resolution, his education including a Masters Degree in International Business, and his recognition as a Planning and Scheduling Professional by AACE International, have all combined to give Mr. Lalumiere a highly unique perspective of Construction Management. He has an intimate knowledge of why problems occur on complex projects, the adverse impact these problems cause, and the methods and procedures by which these problems are ultimately resolved.

Mr. Lalumiere realized in the 1980s that these disputes were crippling the construction industry by adding significant unbudgeted extra costs to the construction process without adding anything in the way of value to the process. He began writing articles and speaking to a cross-section of industry participants about ways to manage projects more effectively and dispute prevention.

This culminated in the development of Mr. Lalumiere's Construction Riskontrol<sup>SM</sup> Program, a process he developed to give construction projects the best chance of success for the least cost. Mr. Lalumiere identified four practical areas of the construction process that, if addressed properly, can eliminate most if not all extra cost disputes on any project. Mr. Lalumiere has utilized this Program on projects ranging in size to \$416 million to assure the on-time, within budget, and dispute free success of these projects.

Mr. Lalumiere has, in the last eight years, expanded his business internationally pursuing projects throughout West Africa, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean. He is applying his practical principles to the management of innovative and effective solutions for social infrastructure development. "Most companies are simply selling their products to whomever will buy them in developing countries. I believe we're taking a more responsible and effective role in identifying social needs, developing creative operational solutions that include sustainable goods and services, and partnering with the people of these nations to develop long term, mutually beneficial relationships," says Mr. Lalumiere.

Mr. Lalumiere's approach has now included a \$44 million supply of firefighting equipment, protective clothing, breathing apparatus, and extensive technical and operational training for the Ghana National Fire Service, which received an award as a "Deal of the Year" in 2010 from Trade Finance Magazine. Mr. Lalumiere is now closing deals in Nigeria, Ghana, and Gabon for the design and construction of clean water supply systems, fire stations, emergency management centers, and medical waste treatment.

Mr. Lalumiere has now announced that he will be releasing his upcoming book "Practical Construction: Common Sense Solutions for Project Success" soon. This book should prove to be an invaluable body of advice for particularly Owners engaged in capital improvement or investment projects.