

# Strategic Estimating Systems

## Principal Consultant

## RUSSELL GRAEBER

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Russell Graeber is a Principal Estimator at Strategic Estimating Systems where he is involved in estimating consulting services for the chemical process industry. His nearly three decades of experience in estimating, project and operations management, and contract administration in civil engineering make him an added asset to the SES consulting team.

At SES Mr. Graeber provides consulting services for the process industry in the U.S. and Canada utilizing the Aspen Capital Cost Estimator (formerly Kbase) estimating software as the primary tool. His role as Manager includes management of the company's estimating resources and work processes in the performance of project estimates. Projects and assignments include: Construction Contract Procurement consulting and verification estimates for Xstrata Nickel in Southeast Asia, for their new Koniombo MET Plant in New Caledonia, Lead Principal Estimator on a 25,000bpd Hydrotreater for Western Refining; Construction Estimator for Linde Process Plants; multiple Enbridge Energy Pump Station projects; Hydrocracker and SRU Units for OPTI Canada; and Dow Chemical upgrades under shutdown.

As founder and developer of Texas Stabilization Company, Ltd. in northeast Texas, Mr. Graeber grew his company to possess 25% of market share of quicklime slurry distributed in the Dallas-Fort Worth market with annual sales exceeding \$4 million. The company was purchased by U.S. Lime and Minerals in mid-2006. Capacity developed required construction of three commercial plant sites. Process required procurement and implementation of highly specialized lime slaking plant equipment and also procurement and in-house fabrication of code tank trailers. This company was only the third entity to be certified by the State of Texas for providing commercial lime slurry on TXDOT projects, with all three plants receiving the highest rating given as a result of their compliance with the QAQC program administered by the State of Texas chemical lab division.

A notable accomplishment by Mr. Graeber was the development of a recirculation process to suspend cement slurry to allow commercial delivery. (The process has patent pending in Mr. Graeber's name and was excluded from the sale to U.S. Lime and Minerals.)

Mr. Graeber's experience in numerous positions including Vice President of Construction, Chief Estimator, Project Estimator, and Field Accountant at L.H. Lacy Company in Dallas, Texas included estimating, contract administration, purchasing, project management for mass excavation and concrete paving projects, production records, and measure for pay.

As Chief Estimator and then Vice President of the L.H. Lacy Company from 1990-2000, Mr. Graeber was involved in the construction of more than eight million square yards of city, county, residential, commercial, and industrial concrete pavement in the North Texas Region. The paving "train" consisted primarily of four CY portable Vince Hagen central ribbon mixer plants, Gomaco slipforms, trimmers and placers, with Cat support.

He developed and managed the survey division with capability to download project cad files (two dimensional: horizontal and vertical) and interpolate to three dimensional point sheets for subsequent project layout with GPS point sticks only. Also, Mr. Graeber was the first contractor in Texas to install GPS receivers and computer systems on fine grade machines (blades, dozers) to interface with three dimensional models to eliminate staking altogether from the fine grade process.

As Field Engineer for Chapman Engineers, Inc. in Houston, Texas, Mr. Graeber was responsible for the layout of two new \$5 million gas plant facilities. At Fish Engineering & Construction also in Houston, Texas, Mr. Graeber was the Field Engineer in the performance of concrete structural work. He was also a carpenter's helper, journeyman carpenter, and lead carpenter.

Mr. Graeber has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Civil Engineering.