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STRUCTURAL STEEL PAINT UNDER STUDY

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA.....The Transportation Research Board of the National Research Council has awarded a \$150,000 contract to the Ga. Tech's Engineering Experiment Station for a nationwide study of coating systems for painting old and new structural steel.

According to the principal investigator, Dr. Daniel J. O'Neil, the 27-month project will be the first comprehensive study since 1968 of existing and recently developed paint and coating systems for corrosion protection of structural steel. The results of the study will be used to establish guidelines for manufacturers and users, especially highway departments, of steel coatings.

O'Neil indicated that millions of dollars are spent each year by highway departments for the maintenance of bridges, culverts, guardrails and other steel structures and that there is wide variation in the selection and use of paints by the different states. With stiff environmental regulations in effect in California, and being proposed by OSHA and EPA, new paint systems which meet health and environmental criteria must be identified. Since exposure conditions vary widely in the U. S., it will be necessary to specify coatings on the basis of categorized environmental zones.

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One phase of the study will involve experimental testing of potentially usable coatings in a coastal zone in Brunswick, Georgia.

In addition to establishing guidelines, the EES study will have an objective of identifying areas and priorities for future research in the United States for coatings of structural steel.

The project team includes W. H. Burrows, F. A. Rideout and E. M. Dannenberg, all of EES.