

SCIENCE SEMINAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
KNOTT HALL B01
3PM

BOSTON'S BIG DIG- A WONDER, A MARVEL, A TRAVESTY?

DR. ROBERT B. POND, JR.
CHAIR, ENGINEERING SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
LOYOLA COLLEGE IN MARYLAND

DR. POND SERVED RECENTLY ON TWO GOVERNOR'S SAFETY PANELS FOR THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS. THESE SAFETY STUDIES WERE INITIATED AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A MOTORIST IN THE NEW TED WILLIAMS TUNNEL DUE TO MATERIAL DEGRADATION. THE BASIS FOR TECHNICAL OPINIONS AND ADVICE TO THE STATE WAS AN EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF SAFETY ISSUES IN THE BIG DIG.

THE SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST COSTLY CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF THE NATION WILL BE PRESENTED ALONG WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SAFETY REVIEWS, AND DETAILS OF THE EARLY WEAR AND TEAR OF THE SYSTEM. SOME OF THE COST OVERRUNS OF THE PROJECT IMPACTED THE QUALITY OF THE PROJECT, AND CAUSED A STAIN ON THE PROJECT RESULTS.

THE BIG DIG SAGA IS NOT OVER. THERE ARE FUTURE OPERATIONAL AND POTENTIAL LONG-TERM SAFETY ISSUES REMAINING THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. THERE ARE LESSONS FOR FUTURE CIVIL PROJECTS.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED