




Four or six?

Many of our readers remember when *PCI Journal* was a bimonthly publication. It became a quarterly publication at the beginning of 2009 as a cost-cutting measure due to increases in postage and paper costs and in anticipation of a long recession. It costs considerably more to publish and mail six issues of about 100 pages each than four issues of about 150 pages each. The original plan, as expressed by my predecessor, Emily Lorenz, in this column in the Winter 2009 issue, was to publish quarterly for the next two years.

It has been a source of frustration for many that we have continued to publish quarterly for six years now. Producer Members who use *PCI Journal* as a means of educating engineers and owners about precast/prestressed concrete want to get it in front of people more often. Readers may find it more manageable to get through shorter issues more frequently. Authors would like to see their papers published quickly, and that's hard to do when the next issue doesn't come out for another three months. Also, the news items we report may not be all that new by the time we go to press.

Every year between April and the first of July, the PCI staff puts together a budget for the next fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). It's always difficult to match our members' needs, interests, and aspirations with our limited resources. After so many years of trimming costs, everything that's left is a priority. Since I joined *PCI Journal* in January 2011, we've bargained down our printing and postage costs, switched to the cheapest paper that doesn't jam the presses, streamlined our editing process, and stopped traveling to report on our cover stories. We've put off getting DOIs (digital object identifiers) for our electronic archive and developing an electronic version of *PCI Journal* because these modernizations would have added to our costs.

We have begun to see signs of economic recovery here at *PCI Journal*. Our advertising revenue in 2013 was back up to what it was in 2009 after years of steady decline. Our subscription revenue has not yet recovered, but PCI membership—and therefore the allocation we receive from member dues—has increased.

The budget for fiscal year 2014–2015 as approved by the Board of Directors includes the additional funds needed to return to bimonthly publication. We'll start that with the January–February 2015 issue. Expect to see the same features as before: the Cover Story, Project Spotlight, Meet. The news sections will be shorter and more timely, reflecting the shorter news cycle. To begin with, we'll still publish the same number of peer-reviewed papers annually, so each issue will carry fewer of them. We look forward to our new publication schedule. 

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