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Mr. Harkness earned his BS degree in Civil Engineer from the Pennsylvania State University, graduating with highest distinction 1986. In 1997 he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Masters Degree in Structural Engineering. He has 20 years of design experience, 4 years in private industry and 16 with the US Army Corps of Engineers. While employed by the Corps he has worked on 5 new lock and dam design projects, written Engineering Manuals that include structural design criteria for lift-in and float-in hydraulic concrete structures and LRFD design of tainter gates, served as the lead structural engineer for Braddock Dam's float-in design, and managed technical designs for the Panama Canal Atlantic Lock Concept Design Study. He is the Program Manager for the Corps Dam Safety Portfolio Risk Assessment Program and Technical Manager for the USACE Engineering Risk and Reliability Directory of Expertise.