



Just the Facts: Tower Base Electroslag Welds

There are almost a million welds in the bridge, and electroslag welds issue involved approximately 20 of these welds at the base of the self-anchored suspension span's 525-foot tower. These welds were fabricated by American Bridge/Fluor on site.

The welding method used for these welds—electroslag welding—was developed in the 1950s for welding thick materials. This welding method allows for efficient placement of large volume welds.

A number of indications (potential defects) were identified through quality control and quality assurance testing. These potential defects were removed, replaced with new weld material, and re-inspected. The remaining in place welds are now defect free.

Further Reading

Here is a video showing some of the testing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYU86JB3LSs&feature=youtu.be>