

# Newport Bridge



“ New England, Nov 6:  
treated 4-lane,  
2 mile long  
Newport Bridge  
in 22 hours. ”



*Anthony Scarcia*  
Allied Maintenance  
Technology

The Newport Bridge is the largest suspension bridge in New England, connecting Newport and Jamestown, Rhode Island. In the late 1980s the concrete road surface of the bridge was experiencing water damage. In an attempt to fix the problem, the road surface was treated with a water repellent to prevent water

from permeating the concrete and rusting the steel superstructure beneath.

However, the problems continued after the application. Ten years later, when the bridge needed to be treated again, Allied Maintenance Technology of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was chosen to do the application. The product the company chose for this treatment was CHEM-TRETE® BSM 40 VOC water repellent from Degussa Corporation.





The Newport Bridge was treated with the CHEM-TRETE® water repellent over a 22-hour period on November 6, 1999. According to Bill Everett, waterproofing consultant on the project, it was “as smooth a job as I’ve ever worked on.” Anthony Scarcia, president of Allied Maintenance Technology, points to correspondence he’s received from both Aetna Bridge Company and the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority complimenting Allied Maintenance on the job as testimony to the benefits of the CHEM-TRETE® water repellent. Among the advantages it offers: “It is VOC-compliant, dries very fast and is easy to apply,” explains Mr. Scarcia.

Applying a waterproofing agent to the surface of a four-lane bridge over two miles long and a hundred feet above the water is no easy task. The difficulty is compounded by the hours of drying time most water repellents require, necessitating that traffic be shut down for at least part of the application process. Anthony Scarcia explained, “The quick drying time of the CHEM-TRETE® water repellent made it possible to keep traffic flowing throughout the project.” This, of course, made the project much more manageable – especially on a bridge, where detours are difficult. It was excellent planning and CHEM-TRETE®’s short drying time that allowed for the entire project to be completed in less than 24 hours.

Of course, what matters ultimately is not how easy the product is to apply, but how well it does its job. Allied Maintenance Technology had no reason to doubt

CHEM-TRETE® water repellent’s ability; as Mr. Scarcia noted, “Over 20 years of using the product leaves no question as to its effectiveness. We’ve always had excellent results with CHEM-TRETE®.”

CHEM-TRETE® water repellent achieves this effectiveness in two ways. First, the molecules of the protectant chemically bond to silica, the primary component of concrete. This forms a molecular barrier to water penetration that can’t be achieved in other ways. Second, the CHEM-TRETE® molecules are small enough to enter the pores in concrete and masonry. The concrete is protected from within, not just by a surface layer that can be abraded or deteriorated by weather. It is both the full penetration and the molecular bonding that allow CHEM-TRETE® water repellent to provide the level of protection that it offers.

The owners of the Newport Bridge were so impressed with CHEM-TRETE® water repellent, from its ease of application to its effectiveness, that they’ve shown interest in the product for use on another bridge. It remains the water repellent of choice for Allied Maintenance Technology. For the protection of concrete from the damaging effects of water, the CHEM-TRETE® line of products from Degussa Corporation is truly the standard. ☔

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