LETTER

Comment on “Method of Test for Determining the Splitting Tensile Strength of Rocks”

To the editor:

I am taking the opportunity, as requested by Dr. Peng in his proposed “Method of Test for Determining the Splitting Tensile Strength of Rocks,” Vol. 1, No. 1, to object to one part of the test proposed.

Under Note 5 we are told that the application of a dye penetrant is recommended prior to test. However, it has been shown, for example in the article by Vutukuri, that a change in the fluid content within a rock has an effect on the material strength. Gardner and Pincus have shown that the dye penetrant will completely penetrate cracks. One is therefore left with the thought that unless the sample is very carefully ground back to insure total test penetrant removal, something which I believe will be very difficult to do, one may get some contamination of the test sample and therefore an incorrect evaluation of the material properties, should such a procedure be followed. I would therefore recommend that Note 5 be dropped from the proposed test method.

David A. Summers
Professor of Mining Engineering
Director, Rock Mechanics and Explosives
Research Center
University of Missouri-Rolla