

*Paul La Pointe received his doctorate in Mining Engineering with a specialization in rock mechanics from the University of Wisconsin in 1980, where he began a long fascination with the characterization and engineering of fractured rock masses. After graduation, he worked for the ARCO Coal Company to carry out geomechanical modeling and field characterization of fractured rock in support of in-situ coal gasification field experiments, followed by work on fracture-related blasting, highwall and portal stability issues for Anaconda Minerals subsequent to moving into development of fractured reservoirs for the ARCO Oil & Gas Company. In 1992, Paul joined Golder Associates in Seattle, Washington as part of the FracMan Technology Group, helping to develop software, technology and consulting services in fractured rock for the petroleum, mining and nuclear waste industries, working on a wide variety of projects throughout the world.*

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