



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

Date: December 30, 2014

Subject: Back Slope Rounding

Due to a number of factors, including construction practices, utility requirements and design issues, the design of back slope rounding will be eliminated from the plans on all projects. Over the years back slope rounding evolved from a grading item, staked in accordance with a defined set of dimensions, to the provision of a theoretical catch point at the top of the cut to provide sufficient width for utility relocations.

Since back slope rounding will be eliminated, the construction limit will be located at the catch points at the top of cut sections.

Despite the elimination of back slope rounding, additional width may be needed at the top of cuts for the relocation of utilities. Designers need to contact the Utilities Section during the project development process to determine where utilities will be located. Since the need for additional width will not be apparent from the construction limits, designers will also need to coordinate with the Right-of-Way Bureau to ensure that adequate width is provided at the top of cut sections when needed.

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact Paul Ferry.

Copies:

Dwane Kailey,	Chief Engineer
James Walther,	Preconstruction Engineer
Kevin Christensen,	Construction Engineer
Bob Vosen,	Missoula District Construction Engineer
Bill Fogarty,	Butte District Construction Supervisor
Doug Wilmot,	Great Falls District Construction Engineer
Clay Blackwell,	Glendive District Construction Engineer
Mike Taylor,	Billings District Construction Engineer
Shane Stack,	Preconstruction Engineer – Missoula District
Dustin Rouse,	Preconstruction Engineer – Butte District
Steve Prinzing,	Preconstruction Engineer – Great Falls District
Gary Neville,	Preconstruction Engineer – Billings District
Jim Frank,	Preconstruction Engineer – Glendive District

Rob Stapley,	Right-of-Way Bureau Chief
Phil Inman,	Utilities Section Supervisor
Dave Hoerning,	Right-of-Way Design/Plans Manager
Paul Jagoda,	Construction Engineering Services Engineer
Lisa Durbin,	Construction Administration Services Engineer
Suzy Price,	Supervisor – Contract Plans Bureau
Ryan Dahlke,	Consultant Design Engineer
Bryan Miller,	Consultant Design Bureau
Lesly Tribelhorn,	Highways Design Engineer
Damian Krings,	Road Design Engineer
John Cornell,	Road Plans Checker
Kevin Farry,	Road Plans Checker
Jerry Sabol,	Road Plans Checker