



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
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Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

Date: December 17, 2009

Subject: Erosion Control Blanket and Turf Reinforcement Mat

Erosion Control Blankets

The Environmental Services Bureau recently noted that a requirement of the Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits is that all erosion control blanket or fabric used in or adjacent to waters of the U. S. must be natural and biodegradable. The language in the permit specifically forbids the use of synthetic material. To avoid confusion and potential non-compliance penalties, we have determined that all erosion control blankets will be biodegradable. Although it may be necessary to use synthetic material in some situations, the basis for its use must be well documented.

The Contract Plans Bureau will replace the Erosion Control Blanket bid item with the following two bid items:

Erosion Control Blanket - Biodegradable
Erosion Control Blanket - Synthetic

When the biodegradable erosion control blanket is used, which will usually be the case, a special provision will be provided by the Environmental Services Bureau and included in the plans. The synthetic erosion control blanket is covered by the Standard Specifications

Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM)

Turf reinforcement mat may consist of either biodegradable or synthetic material depending on the application. A special provision will be provided by the Environmental Services Bureau whenever TRM is called for in the plans. Consequently, a single bid item will be adequate for all TRM materials

If you have questions concerning this, please contact me at 444-6244.

Pf.

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