



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
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Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Dwane Kailey, P.E.
Acting Chief Engineer
Highways & Engineering Division

Date: September 5, 2013

Subject: Optional Culverts – Change in the Basic Bid

The Montana Department of Transportation has decided to change the basic bid item for optional pipe from concrete to steel. This directive supersedes the information contained in Section 5.3 of the Road Design Manual and any other documents referring to concrete as the basic bid.

The basis for the decision to change the basic bid for optional pipe to steel is that steel pipe is selected almost exclusively when optional pipe is specified. When concrete is used as the basic bid and steel is the selected material the following discrepancies can occur:

- The steel pipe size may be larger than the concrete pipe size (e.g. 30" RCP is equivalent to a 36" CSP). This difference would show up in the Culvert Summary Recap, the Plan & Profile sheets and the cross sections.
- The end treatment may be different for pipes greater than 48" in diameter (e.g. the end treatment for a 72" RCP is a FETS, while the end treatment for a 72" CSP is a 2:1 step-bevel with cutoff walls and potentially edge protection). The quantities and the end sections shown on the cross section would not match the pipe selected for installation

Consequently, when optional pipe is used, the information shown in the plans package will more accurately represent what will actually be installed in almost all cases.

The following changes will need to be made to the plans:

- In the Culvert Summary the quantities for the basic bid items will be for the steel pipe size
- In the Culvert Summary Recap the pipe size for the optional pipe ("Drain") will be the size of the steel pipe.
- On the Plan & Profile sheets the pipe size for the optional pipe ("Drain") will be the size of the steel pipe.

- In the cross sections the steel pipe size and end treatment will be shown.
- The steel pipe size for the optional pipe will also be shown in the cost estimate
- Include a note with the Culvert summary and Culvert Summary Recap stating that the basic bid pipe material is steel (or concrete if an exception is appropriate)

All of the current processes will continue to be used when non-optioned pipe is specified in the plans.

This change is effective for all projects let to contract after May 31, 2014.

Exceptions allowing the use of concrete as the basic bid can be made on a case-by-case basis where a significant amount of work will be required to change the basic bid item for optional pipe from concrete to steel.

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

Copies:

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|--------------------|---|
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