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July 17, 2013

MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

New Specification Revisions. The CAS Bureau is proposing revisions to 5 Standard Specifications. The proposed revisions were open for comment during the month of July, 2013. Each specification was briefly discussed.

Supplemental Specifications

1. 401.03.4 Plant Mix Sampling

MCA mentioned that the word sufficient could be subjective.

2. 401.03.14 Plant Mix Preparation

3. 402.03.4 Sampling

4. 561 Bridge Deck Milling

5. 704.1.8 Overhead Sign Structure

A Contractor mentioned the difference in size between these and signal poles. Along with the size of the structure, the foundations can get very large. Contractor stated that it is nearly impossible to bid without boring logs to design the foundation. MCA asked if payment for these structures could be separated into items as opposed to the current lump sum. MDT will discuss this with the appropriate staff.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. DBE Program.** MDT has been tracking DBEs. MDT's new employee seems to understand the problems we have been having. We have been hitting our goals most of the time lately. A Contractor stated a prime would not use him because he was not a DBE. MCA mentioned that our goals seem variable. MDT does not just set goals based on area and/or cost, we have to weigh project risk as well (e.g. funding).
- 2. Finalization Process.** MDT is trying to streamline this process. However, it depends on timely submittals from Contractors as well. One Contractor stated it had been quicker recently. SiteManager Materials is helping with the process. There are still issues, with steel documentation in particular.
- 3. Erosion Control.** The task force that was set up last year was discussed. There will be things MDT and the Contractors do not agree on. MCA would like to bring back the higher level policy meeting they used to have with MDT's administrative staff. Everyone has the same goal; to protect the environment. MCA has been providing education to its members. Contractors wondered whether the information we provide is enough to produce a bid (e.g. plans and climate data). The Contractor is in operational control. Environmental laws vary from state to state. The timeframe for the SWPPP transfer was discussed at length. Contractors asked who is in operational control once we have done the walkthrough. A Contractor mentioned that they feel the units provided for erosion control devices only cover installation and not maintenance. MDT stated that prime contractors have some responsibility as well. MDT stated that we can find common ground with MCA with regard to what information provided with plans.

AD-HOC ITEMS

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- 1. Concrete.** MDT is very close to a final draft for the new concrete specs. It will be sent out for comment one more time.
- 2. Plant Mix Designs.** Contractors mentioned the timeframe on mix design reviews. This, coupled with DEQ approvals, makes it difficult to begin work. This was one of the reasons MDT moved the NTP out to 6-7 weeks after award.
- 3. Liquidated Damages.** There are still a lot of jobs out there with expedited NTPs and tight contract time. MDT didn't see anything alarming in the spreadsheet that was distributed at the last meeting. MCA mentioned that it appeared there was a general trend upward. MDT can take a closer look but wondered if there were two or three projects skewing the numbers upward. MDT stated that as Contractor payment go up; liquidated damages will increase as well. MDT encouraged the Contractors to comment on blue sheets and during the Q&A Forum.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 21, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office in Helena.