



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement
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January 14, 2016

Seattle Tunnel Partners
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104
ATTN: Chris Dixon

Subject: SR 99 Bored Tunnel Design-Build Project
Contract No. 007999 / Federal Id No. BR-NH-STP-STPF-0099(111)
Suspension of Tunneling Operation for Cause

WSDOT Ref: W-G-GEN-TUN-CR14-0005025-01

Dear Mr. Dixon,

This letter is written per Contract Section 14.2, Suspension for Cause, to direct STP to suspend tunneling operations involving the TBM, including the loading of barges at the Site, until such time as WSDOT lifts the suspension in writing.

WSDOT has determined that STP has failed to correct conditions unsafe for the Project personnel or general public, and failed to comply with Governmental Approvals, Law, or otherwise carry out the requirements of the Contract Documents. Therefore, WSDOT has the authority to suspend work for cause, pursuant to Contract Sections 14.2 (a) and 14.2(b) and Technical Requirements Section 2.52.7.3.5.

On the night of January 12, 2016, a sinkhole was detected over the tunnel. The full extent of ground loss is not yet determined and settlement is increasing. STP has yet to provide a detailed analysis of the cause of the observed ground settlement, or a plan for modifying tunneling operations to ensure positive ground control at all stages of tunneling (TR 2.32), and to prevent settlement outside of tolerance in the future (see TR 2.52).

On Tuesday January 12, 2016, STP's barge filling operation resulted in a barge listing beyond STP's control. As a result the barge was either let go or broke free from the pier, spilling tunnel spoils into Elliott Bay, and drifted out of control damaging both Terminal 46 and Pier 48. These events created an unpermitted spill of material and posed a hazard to project personnel and the public.

WSDOT requests a meeting with STP within 24 hours to address this matter.

Nothing in this letter shall be considered as an acceptance by WSDOT of STP's positions in these matters, nor shall it be considered as a waiver of any Contract requirements. All Contract requirements remain in full force and effect.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (206) 805-5426.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul E. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

For Brian D. Nielsen, PE
AWV Deputy Program Administrator
SR99 Tunnel Contract Director

BDN-PEN/kat

cc: File, Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program