07-0032

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Washington Division

Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza
711 South Capitol Way
Olympia, Washington 98501-1284
(360) 753-9480
(360) 753-9889 (FAX)
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/wadiv

January 14, 2008

HDE-WA/ 435.6

Ms. Paula J. Hammond
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Olympia, Washington

Attention: Dick Albin

**WSDOT Statewide Blanket
Proprietary Item: Welded Wire
Faced Structural Earth Walls**

Dear Ms. Hammond:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted with your January 3, 2008, letter requesting FHWA approval of the Hilfiker Welded Wire Retaining Wall System and the Tensar Wire Form Retaining Wall System proprietary items as listed in WSDOT General Special Provision 13031.GB6 and the Qualified Products List. These items will be used on a statewide basis.

We approve the use of these proprietary items through the 2007-2009 biennium.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.
Division Administrator

Donald A. Petersen

By: Donald A. Petersen
Division Safety/Design Engineer

Enclosure

MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

07-0032

Washington State
Department of Transportation
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

January 3, 2008

APPROVED
For DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
BY [signature] DATE 1/14/08

Mr. Dan Mathis
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

Attn: Don Petersen

Subject: Statewide Blanket Proprietary Welded Wire Faced Structural Earth Walls
Proprietary Item Request

Dear Mr. Mathis:

Attached is a statewide blanket approval request for two pre-approved welded-wire-faced structural earth wall systems. These systems are referenced in the Washington State Department of Transportation's General Special Provisions that are used in contracts throughout the State.

As stated in the request, these items are the only two welded-wire-faced structural earth wall systems that meet WSDOT pre-approval process at this time. The Bridge and Structures division continues to evaluate alternative welded-wire-faced structural earth wall systems.

It is possible that these items will be used on future New/Reconstruction projects, thus these requests are being forwarded to FHWA.

We concur with the request for proprietary item use through the end of the 2007 – 2009 biennium.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Albin
Assistant State Design Engineer

07-0032

Washington State Department of Transportation

Memorandum

APPROVED
FOR DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
BY [signature] DATE 1/14/08

December 17, 2007

APPROVED
[signature]
Assistant State Design Engineer
Date 12/31/07

TO: P. Bakotich/D. Albin
E&EP/Design - 47330

FROM: R. A. Lewis/M. H. Bauer MB
PHONE: 705-7396/705-7190

SUBJECT: Welded Wire Faced Structural Earth Wall
GSP 13031.GB6

The Bridge and Structures Office requests blanket proprietary item approval for the two welded wire faced structural earth wall products, currently specified in GSP 13031.GB6, through December 2009.

As stewards for the public interest, the Bridge and Structures Office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Services Branch are responsible for overseeing the process for reviewing wall systems seeking WSDOT pre-approval as structural earth wall systems. This pre-approval process currently includes successful completion of a technical evaluation similar to that formerly performed by the Highway Innovative Technology Evaluation Center (HITEC) of Washington, DC, as well as an internal WSDOT review of the wall system components and design calculations for representative walls.

Since the inception of the structural earth wall GSP in the early 1980's, the Hilfiker Welded Wire Retaining Wall System, and more recently the Tensar Wire Form Retaining Wall System, are the only two welded wire faced structural earth wall systems to have successfully completed the WSDOT pre-approval process.

At this time, we know of no other welded wire faced structural earth wall systems either seeking pre-approval from WSDOT or with a strong enough performance record to merit successful completion of the WSDOT pre-approval process. For this reason, the Bridge and Structures Office deems the use of the two specified welded wire faced structural earth wall systems to be in the public's interest.

We will continue to evaluate alternative welded wire faced structural earth wall systems as they are submitted to this office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Services Branch for consideration.

If you have questions concerning this request, please contact Mike Bauer at (360) 705-7193.

RAL:tms
MHB
(SF121707054)

cc: J. G. Cuthbertson, Materials Laboratory - 47365
M. Talukdar, Bridge and Structures - 47340