



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Washington Division

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April 30, 2009

HLP-WA/435.6

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

Attention: Pasco Bakotich III, PE

**Proprietary Item – Statewide  
Blanket for Concrete Faced  
Structural Earth Walls**

Dear Ms. Hammond:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted with your April 27, 2009, letter requesting FHWA approval of the Tensar's Mesa Wall and Keystone Retaining Wall System's Keysystem proprietary items as listed in WSDOT General Special Provision 13033.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 2009-2011 Biennium.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.  
Division Administrator

*Megan P. Hall*  
for  
By: Donald A. Petersen  
Division Safety/Design Engineer

Enclosure



*pbw  
file*



# Memorandum

April 14, 2009

APPROVED	
<i>Pino B. [Signature]</i>	
State Design Engineer	
Date	4/28/09

TO: J. C. Lenzi/P. Bakotich  
E&EP/Design - 47329

FROM: R. A. Lewis/M. H. Bauer *[Signature]*

PHONE: 705-7396/705-7190

SUBJECT: Concrete Block Faced Structural Earth Wall  
GSP 13033.GB6

The Bridge and Structures Office requests blanket proprietary item approval for the two concrete block faced structure earth wall products, currently specified in GSP 13033.GB6, for the 2009-2011 biennium.

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, CD, as well as an internal WSDOT review of the wall system components and design calculations for respective walls.

Since the inception of the structural earth wall GSP in the early 1980's, Tensar's Mesa Wall and Keystone Retaining Wall System's KeySystem I Wall are the only two concrete block faced structural earth wall systems to have successfully completed the WSDOT pre-approval process.

The Bridge and Structures Office is currently reviewing submittals from three concrete block faced structural earth wall systems for evaluation under the current pre-approval process. These submittals are in the early stages of evaluation, and while they each show promise, this process will not be completed for any of these wall systems before the beginning of the 2009-2011 biennium. For this reason, the Bridge and Structures Office deems the use of the two specified concrete block faced structural earth wall systems to be in the public's interest, at least for the time being.

We will continue to evaluate alternative concrete block 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) 705-7190.

RAL:  
MHB

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



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

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April 27, 2009

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

**APPROVED**  
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR  
BY Meghan P. Nell DATE 4-30-09  
for Don Petersen

Attn: Don Petersen

Subject: Statewide Blanket Proprietary Concrete Block Face Structural Earth Walls  
**Proprietary Item Request**

Dear Mr. Mathis:

Attached is a statewide blanket approval request for two pre-approved structural earth wall systems referenced in the Washington State Department of Transportation General Special Provisions used in contracts throughout the State.

As stated in the request, these items are the only two concrete block-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 2009 – 2011 biennium.

Sincerely,

Pasco Bakotich III  
State Design Engineer

RECEIVED

APR 29 2009

WASHINGTON DIVISION