



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

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

Dear Ms. Hammond:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted with your April 27, 2009, 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 2009-2011 biennium.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.
Division Administrator

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

Enclosure



AB to file



April 14, 2009



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

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 structure earth wall products, currently specified in GSP 13031.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, 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) 705-7190.

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 *Megan P. Hall* DATE *4-30-09*
for Don Petersen

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,

Pasco Bakotich III
State Design Engineer

RECEIVED

APR 29 2009

WASHINGTON DIVISION