



June 3, 2015

TO: L. Laird/P. Bakotich
Engineering & Regional Operations/Development
Division

FROM: B. Khaleghi/M. H. Bauer *MHB*
705-7181/705-7190

SUBJECT: Welded Wire Faced Structural Earth Wall
GSP 6-13.3.OPT1.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 6-13.3.OPT1.GB6 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

As a steward for the public interest, the WSDOT Bridge and Structures Office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Division 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 internal WSDOT review of the wall system components and design calculations for the 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.

The Bridge and Structures Office will continue to evaluate alternative welded wire faced structural earth wall systems as they are submitted to this office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Division for consideration.

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If you have questions concerning this request, please contact Mike Bauer at (360) 705-7190.

I, Pasco Bakotich, State Design Engineer, of the Washington State Department of Transportation, do hereby certify, in accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 635.411(a)(2), that no equally suitable alternative exists for these patented or proprietary items.



Pasco Bakotich, P.E.



Date

RAL:tc
MHB

cc: M. Frye, Materials Laboratory - 47365
M. Pawelka, Bridge and Structures - 47340