Washington State Department of Transportation

Memorandum

December 3, 2009

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Don Whitehouse, South Central Region
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FROM: J.C. Lenzi, Chief Engineer
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SUBJECT: **Project Delivery Memo #09-02** – High Visibility Fence Clarifications

Background

Installing High Visibility Fence (HVF) to protect environmentally sensitive areas is crucial to achieve environmental compliance, by visually drawing attention to locations that should be protected from project-related impacts. In 2004, a series of permit violations revealed that WSDOT needed to specifically designate HVF locations in the contract documents. Project Delivery Memo (PDM) #04-04 provided guidance and Regions and Washington State Ferries (WSF) developed specific HVF design and installation methods based on that guidance.

A statewide workgroup recently developed new Standard Specifications to address common permit conditions associated with HVF installation and protection of sensitive areas. The updated contract language meets the construction and material requirements found in the PDM #04-04. However, the new contract language does not address how the HVF should be visually designated on the plan sheets.

The intent of this memorandum is to:
1. Rescind outdated sources of HVF guidance
2. Identify new HVF implementation guidance
3. Communicate expectations

Rescinded Guidance

Project Delivery Memo #04-04, *High Visibility Construction Fencing*, is rescinded.

New Guidance

New HVF Standard Specifications became available on August 3, 2009. In addition, PDM #09-02 compliments the Standard Specifications and provides guidance on how to visually designate HVF in the plans.

Action Requested

1. Use HVF Standard Specifications and Standard Plans, plus any subsequent amendments, to protect sensitive areas. These include:
   - Section 1-07.16(2)A *Wetland and Sensitive Area Protection*
   - Section 1-08.4 *Prosecution and Progress*
   - Section 8-01.3 *Construction Requirements*
   - Section 9-14.5(8) *High Visibility Fencing*
   - Standard Plan I-10.10-00 *High Visibility Fencing*

   Note: Projects to be constructed in phases and that have permits allowing phased installation of HVF shall develop a Special Provision supplementing Standard Specification 1-08.4 to address HVF installation.

2. As of August 3, 2009, delete any WSF and Region HVF General Special Provisions (GSP) from Region GSP libraries, which were based on PDM #04-04. If project Special Provisions are needed, modify the appropriate HVF Standard Specifications (referenced in #1 above).

3. As projects are developed, show all sensitive areas on the contract plans along with the locations where HVF shall be installed. Examples include, but are not limited to:

   - Areas where permits allow temporary or permanent wetland impacts;
   - Areas that will be temporarily protected from disturbance until, as part of the scheduled work, they will be accessed to improve environmental features;
   - Areas that are designated within the project where clearing or grading are not allowed; and
   - Areas where temporary impacts are permitted to portions of sensitive areas (e.g. crossing a wetland to access work area).

   For complex projects, WSF and Regions may develop a separate set of plans dedicated to environmentally sensitive areas. These plans identify locations where HVF shall be installed to protect these areas. Less complex projects may depict HVF placement locations in other sets of plans, such as Site Preparation, Grading Sections, Temporary Erosion/Sediment Control, or Alignment/Right of Way.

   Note: Projects with no work beyond the paved surface will be waived from this HVF requirement as long as the contract provisions address the Contactor not leaving existing paved surfaces without approval of the Engineer. Consider supplementing Standard Specification 1-07.16(1) Private/Public Property with such language. Project Engineers are encouraged to consult with Region Environmental Managers in making a decision to waive these requirements.

4. During construction, the Project Engineer may identify additional areas per Standard Specification 1-07.16 to be protected from damage. These areas shall be fenced at the Engineer's request. Project office staff is encouraged to work with WSF and Region environmental staff to verify sensitive areas prior to start of construction or ground disturbing activities.

5. References to Project Delivery Memo #04-04 (e.g. manuals, training material, web pages) shall be replaced or deleted as appropriate.

JL:sc
KR/EW/MW/JC/CM

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