



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

Date: June 25, 2010

Subject: Culverts – Abandon in Place

The Construction Administration Services Bureau has developed two special provisions to address a number of issues regarding culverts that are abandoned in place instead of being removed. Culverts that will be abandoned in place can be treated by one of the three following methods:

Abandon. This should be used when a pipe is either filled with silt or is shown in the as-built plans but cannot be found. It should be noted in the plans, and since it does not require any additional work, no pay item is provided.

Plug Ends and Abandon. This should be used when a pipe is being abandoned but is small enough and in deep enough fill that it does not need to be filled throughout its length. The pipe will be filled for a distance of 10 feet from each end and the pipe ends will need to be capped to prevent material from infiltrating the abandoned pipe. Crushing the ends is an acceptable means of capping pipes.

Use the Plug Ends and Abandon treatment when **both** of the following criteria exist:

- The pipe is less than or equal to 36" in diameter, and
- The pipe has at least 15 feet of cover.

Pipes that are plugged and abandoned will be paid per each and a special provision needs to be included in the plans.

Fill and Abandon. Pipes must be filled and abandoned when they do not meet the criteria for Plug Ends and Abandon. However, the Fill and Abandon treatment can be used for any pipe that is going to be abandoned in place. As a general practice, fill and abandon all storm drains that are not removed,

Pipes that are filled and abandoned will be paid based on the volume of material required to fill existing pipes. The volume will be determined based on the nominal diameter and effective length of the pipe. A special provision needs to be included in the plans.

The standard special provisions for Plug Ends and Abandon and Fill and Abandon can be found in the following binder.

<\\astro\wpccommon\special\contract plans\ binder.docx>

If you have questions concerning this, please contact me at 444-6244.

Attachment

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