



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

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

Date: August 24, 2010

Subject: Reinforced Concrete Box – Steel Pipe Options

We have recently seen a number of reinforced concrete boxes (RCB) included in the plans with steel pipe options (CSP). The optional drainage structure was called out in the schedule of bid items as RCB. This presents two problems:

- The call-out can be confusing to the contractor as it does not appear to be an optional item
- The bids for this optional item will skew the bid history for the actual RCB

To resolve this issue we will add “Drain” bid items for the RCB/steel pipe option that are similar to the bid items we use for optional round pipe.

For example: an installation that can be either a 6’x4’ RCB or an 81”x59” CSP will be called out as a 6x4 Drain. New bid items will be created on as an-needed basis.

The RCB is still the basic bid and the culvert summary should be filled out accordingly. We do not anticipate that the RCB/steel optional installation will be that common.

In accordance with our standard practice, we will continue to provide alternate bids for SSPP and RCB when the area of the opening is \geq a 10-foot diameter round pipe and the use of both materials is appropriate. Alternate bids can be provided for the smaller RCB/steel structures if the design team elects to do so.

This change should be made to all projects let after April 2011.

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

Pf.

Electronic Distribution:
(this memo can also be found on the Road Design webpage)

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