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May 15, 2013

MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

New Specification Revisions. The CAS Bureau is proposing revisions to 20 Standard Specifications. The proposed revisions will be open for comment during the month of May, 2013. Each specification was briefly discussed.

Supplemental Specifications

1. 102.18 Special Fuel User's Permit

2. 103.07 Execution and Approval of Contract

3. 107.11.5 Noxious Weed Management

4. 107.11.8 Protection of Aquatic Resources

Contractors brought up the transfer of the SWPPP and Payment for BMP's. A discussion about permitting occurred as well. MDT stated that the way it handles environmental permits is controlled by resource agencies. A Contractor also posed a question of when MDT should be taking over the permit.

5. 108.01.2 Contract Performance

6. 204.03.3 Master Blasting and Safety Plan

7. 401.03.14 Plant Mix Preparation

Contractors asked what will be done if the mixing temperature is outside the range. MDT stated this spec will likely be sent out again with further changes after internal discussions. The difference between bulk and mixing temperature was discussed.

8. 401.03.20 Constructing Joints

Contractors brought up payment of the tack. MCA mentioned that tack on top of the joint may help as well. A Contractor brought up a job seen where the paving contractor had smaller equipment which required extra joint in the roadway due to road width. Is this something MDT can control?

9. 401.03.21 Compaction Requirements

MCA had substantial comments regarding the filling of core holes in PMS. Contractors requested more requirements of what we are expecting with regard to the grout.

10. 403.02 Materials

11. 407.03.20 Application of Emulsions

12. 501.02.6 Curing Compound

13. 606.04.20 Guard rail Widening

Contractors requested more information of when this would be included in the price and when it would not.

14. 616.03.4 Pull Boxes and Manholes

15. 617.03.14 Traffic Signals

16. 701.04.3 Granular Bedding Material

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- 17. 701.03.2 Aggregate for PMS**
- 18. 703.03.2 Composite Pull Boxes (New)**
- 19. 704.01.1 Sheet Aluminum**
- 20. 705.03.1 Wood Treatment**

MCA NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Contract Time.** MCA requested MDT review the contract time it has been setting on contracts. MCA also requested MDT look at the number of projects in liquidated damages. Can this information be compared to information from five years ago? MDT stated with all the projects being let in the next couple of months, a hard look is being taken at contract time. MDT encouraged the Contractors to use the Q&A Forum and that flex time is being used where practical. Sometimes various timing restrictions make project timing difficult.
- 2. Traffic Control Requirement/Interpretation.** MDT had asked for specific examples. Contractors brought up moving devices and when they would get paid for Category II – Maintenance. Post mounted vs. permanent mounted signs was mentioned as well. Jim Wingerter of MDT spoke briefly regarding these issues and mentioned he has had several small meetings with some of the traffic control contractors.
- 3. Enforcement of Fuel Tax Law on Construction Sites.** Nobody at the meeting was sure why this was added to the agenda. MDT stated that the enforcement will be the same. Dyed fuel is not allowed. MCS has a hotline regarding illegal use of dyed fuel.
- 4. Spec Change Summary.** MCA requested MDT include a summary with the spec changes stating the reasoning behind the proposed changes. MDT will consider this.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. DBE Program.** MDT is in the process of hiring additional personnel in the Civil Rights Section. They are in the process of making sure the bidding list is up to date. Civil Rights has been talking to each DBE one-on-one. MDT is using all of this information set better/more realistic goals.

AD-HOC ITEMS

- 1. CPM Scheduling.** MCA requested MDT look at the program Primavera Contractor as compared to Primavera P6 with regard to MDT's needs.
- 2. Q&A Forum.** Contractors brought up a couple projects in which MDT made major changes to projects via the Q&A late in the advertisement period. This is a huge amount of work for the Contractors. A Contractor asked if we could call the prime bidders when this happens. They also asked if the projects could be pulled and moved to the next letting if the changes are necessary. Contractors questioned if the Q&A forum was really meant for that type of addenda. MDT stated it would look into the issue and that there are a large number of projects we are getting out the door in the next few months.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 19, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Offices in Helena.