

The minutes reflect the writer's impressions of the discussion and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the contract to determine MDT requirements.

March 20, 2014
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

SPECIFICATIONS

No supplemental specifications were distributed this month.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. Revised Mix Design Submittal Sheet

Mix designs are currently submitted in various formats, so the Department is standardizing the mix design submittal. Contractors would like to see a place on the form to indicate if a mix design has been transferred. This new form should streamline the Department's reviews of mix designs because all the data will be available in one place.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

1. Nick Miller is MCA's new co-chairman of the MCA-MDT Technical Committee.

2. Contractor Convenience

Contractors would like to see a definition of Contractor Convenience. It seems mostly relating to traffic control. The current interpretation is non-uniform. Typically, the Department pays for operations requested by the Department. The Department will consider some guidance to make the issue more uniform. Specific to Interstate crossovers, FHWA may have a memo on the subject.

3. Aggregate Gradation Testing

A Contractor brought up the possibility of results differing for the oven dry method vs the floor dry method for gradation testing. They mentioned the difference seems to show in the 200M results. The Department has looked into this concern. Samples are dried to a constant weight with both test methods. The 500g split sample that the 200M results are obtained from is always oven dried. The Department does not see this to be an issue.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Working Day

MCA voiced concern about the definition of a chargeable work day if work occurs for 6 hours. Contractors mentioned they thought the old 60% requirement worked. The Department explained the intent of the 60% was of the work schedule, not 60% of work completed. The old spec wasn't applied consistently. Contractors voiced concerns about postponing subcontractor work so it could occur concurrently with work by the prime contractor. The Department takes specs into account when setting up contract time. MDT will discuss this issue internally again.

2. Pugmilling

The Department explained that it will not, at this time, be implementing a time limit on pugmilling of aggregates. The Department will be updating the spec to include language about notifying the Project Manager when the pugmilling will occur. Enforcement of the existing spec, regarding only having one chance to add water, will be an area of focus this construction season.

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3. Precast Plant Certification

Contractors asked what items will be required to be manufactured at certified plants. There are some items that are currently either field cast or precast. The Department will define which materials will be included.

4. Seal and Cover

MCA wanted to discuss the meeting from October. The Department doesn't think anyone really knows what the issues are. Polymers are allowed in the oil and cost about \$30/ton. The 3% spec has worked for a while. The Department is not changing testing methods without changing spec requirements. The thought is that crude oil characteristics may have changed. One supplier is tightening controls so chips will tighten sooner.

Contractors are concerned that high speeds and temps may be detrimental to freshly applied chip seals. No results are available from the fog seal experiment on Roger's Pass in the early 90s. Fog sealing complicates construction sequencing. The addition of a possible Type 3 chip was discussed.

AD-HOC ITEMS

1. The new pipe staked lengths form is working well.