

Construction Memo No. 7-00

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief District Engineers
TEBM's for Construction
District Construction Engineers
Resident Engineers
Active Consultant Engineers

FROM: Dexter Newman, P.E., Director
Division of Construction

DATE: February 9, 2000

SUBJECT: Slip Form Bridge Barrier Wall

Section 601.03.12 D of both the 1998 and 2000 edition of the Standard Specifications allows slip forming of bridge barrier wall, but only after the engineer approves test sections. In the past some wall has been placed without test sections and concrete consolidation problems around horizontal steel reinforcement was later noted.

The purpose of test sections is to allow the contractor to refine his concrete mix, machine travel speed and vibration, and crew techniques. After concrete set, test sections are randomly saw cut or cored to determine concrete consolidation. Also compliance with plan dimensions and details are checked. Multiple test sections may be required before satisfactory results are obtained. After a test section is acceptable, production work may proceed.

Production walls should be cut or cored at an agreed frequency to insure continued concrete consolidation. The project engineer can reject any sections that prove unacceptable and require corrective work or removal and replacement. Additional test sections can also be required before production work resumes.

Project engineers who are familiar with a contractor's previous work may allow test sections to be placed on the bridge. Otherwise, throw-away test sections off the bridge are required.

A contractor earns the right to place bridge barrier concrete with slip form methods by demonstrating satisfactory performance. Each contractor must continue to demonstrate this satisfactory performance every production day.

DN/je

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