



July 11, 2017

Armando Armendariz
NMDOT Executive Manager
New Mexico Department of Transportation
1120 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: CN 6100783 Public Interest Finding – Request to use State Furnished Excess Material (Dirt)

Mr. Armendariz:

State Furnished Excess Material (Dirt) is a proprietary item but is essential in providing functionality, safety and maintainability specific to this project.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is requesting concurrence in the allowance to utilize state furnished materials through this Public Interest Finding herein referred to as PIF. This project (CN 6100783) is on US 491, MP 15.07 to 37.0. This project is approaching completion and through the change order process, we will be adding work that will require sub-excavation and fill material. The scope of CN 6100783 is new construction to make the remainder of this two lane roadway into a four lane roadway.

Need for State Furnished Excess Material (Dirt)

The reconstruction of aforementioned roadway will require the use of select backfill material that meets a soil classification of A-2-4 for the reconstruction of approximately 500 feet of roadway that failed under traffic. The NMDOT has excess material (dirt) from drainage structures that meets this requirement. It is critical to ensure safe and efficient pavement sections in this high volume roadway corridor to ensure safety to the travelling public.

Benefits of State Furnished Excess Material (Dirt)

Currently, approximately 3,000 cubic yards of excess material (dirt) is available on NMDOT right of way and can be used as select backfill material to reconstruct approximately 500 feet of the southbound lanes of US 491. The existing materials are stockpiled at the Exit 33 interchange. This stockpiled material is an unpleasant view for the travelling public and nearby citizens of Wingate. Its removal will enhance the value and perception of the surrounding land over the long term by allowing the chance to create a beautiful, improved and sustainable landscape. In addition, removing this material will allow maintenance crews additional space to clean and maintain the drainage structures in this area. This area has experienced flooding in the past.

The material meets the A-2-4 soil classification and can be used to reduce the cost of this required extra work. The Tohatchi Formation which is part of the Mesa Verde Group of Cretaceous rocks is a source of expansive clay/ bentonite beds in this area. Weathered weak rock and unconsolidated clays are widespread through the project corridor along US 491. It is assumed that the expansive material that led to pavement distress is a Smectite- clay material. Based on the initial moisture content (5.8%) and the dry density (107 pcf), the expansion pressure of the weak rock material could have an upper bound of about 14,400 psf, with a free swell greater than 3-4%. As the expansive material is directly beneath the base course, the undulations in the roadway pavement are considered to be related to the expansive soils. The contractor is working on providing the Department a cost proposal for this work. Their initial estimate shows that using state furnished material will reduce the cost of the select backfill by approximately \$65,000.


Additional Considerations

In addition, this allows the NMDOT to utilize a resource that is considered excess material that maintenance forces cannot readily utilize. The use of state-furnished excess material (dirt) provides the best tax-payer value by reducing the overall cost of this required extra work when used on this project and allowing the utilization of materials that would normally remain stockpiled.


We therefore request the implementation of State Furnished Excess Material (dirt) on project 6100783. The Department has revised drawings with all recommendations finalized. If this PIF is accepted, the contractor can submit their final proposed costs for review. Then the Authorization to Proceed with Work Pending Submission of Contract Change Order can be submitted for approval.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated in this request.

I concur with this request:



(Armando Armendariz, NMDOT Exec. Manager)



(Date)