



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

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E. **PF**
Highways Engineer

Date: March 19, 2014

Subject: Obliterate Roadway

The following questions have arisen on recent projects that included the obliteration of the existing roadway:

- Should a quantity of Unclassified Excavation be provided in the plans
- Should additional provisions be included in the plans for the removal of the existing plant mix surface

The Standard Specifications contain the following statement about the obliteration of the existing roadway:

“Grade and contour abandoned roadways to blend with the new roadway and existing terrain.”

While this is sufficient for most projects that include the obliteration of segments of the PTW, it may not provide sufficient information in all situations. In some cases landowners have requested that the old roadbed be flattened sufficiently so that it can be farmed. This situation will require considerably more grading than is typically needed to meet the standard specification.

Another situation that may result in more extensive grading can occur on projects where a bridge is placed on a new alignment. The old roadway embankments at the bridge ends may be substantially higher than the adjacent terrain.

For these cases the obliteration of roadway should still be paid by the station. However, providing a quantity of Unclassified Excavation for informational purposes may be beneficial. This item should be discussed at the plan-in-hand

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has recently determined that in some respect, plant mix is a hazardous material. DEQ has further determined that the old plant mix from an obliterated roadway can be used in the construction of the roadway fill, or it must be disposed of in an appropriate landfill. The old plant mix can no longer be buried next to the old roadway, which has been a common practice in the past. Since this is a change from past practice, the following note should be added to the bottom of the obliterate roadway frame:

"Removed Plant Mix can be used in the roadway embankment or disposed of in an appropriate landfill"

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact Paul Ferry.

Copies:

Lesly Tribelhorn,	Highways Design Engineer
Damian Krings,	Road Design Engineer
Shane Stack,	Preconstruction Engineer – Missoula District
Dustin Rouse,	Preconstruction Engineer – Butte District
Steve Prinzing,	Preconstruction Engineer – Great Falls District
Gary Neville,	Preconstruction Engineer – Billings District
Jim Frank,	Preconstruction Engineer – Glendive District
Paul Jagoda,	Construction Engineering Services Engineer
Lisa Durbin,	Construction Administration Services Engineer
Suzy Price,	Supervisor – Contract Plans Bureau
Ryan Dahlke,	Consultant Design Engineer
Bryan Miller,	Consultant Design Bureau
John Cornell,	Road Plans Checker
Kevin Farry,	Road Plans Checker
Jerry Sabol,	Road Plans Checker