



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
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Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

Date: February 28, 2011

Subject: Bituminous Prime

A memo dated January 15, 2010 required that bituminous prime would replace all other types of aggregate treatment in the surfacing section. Since its inception, the application of prime has resulted in the following issues:

- High costs especially when the quantities are small
- Bituminous material sticking to vehicles when traffic must be placed on the primed surface without adequate curing time
- In urban areas, tracking of the bituminous material into parking lots with an increased potential for the material to be tracked into businesses.

To address these issues Construction and the Materials Bureau have determined that bituminous prime should be eliminated from the following projects:

- Projects having less than 2000 tons of plant mix (this is the limit where Grade S commercial mix is required and would have between 20 and 27 tons of prime depending on the thickness of the plant mix).
- Urban projects

For projects meeting these criteria, do not show any quantities for informational purposes.

Prime may be eliminated from other projects or added back into projects meeting the conditions listed above based on District Construction recommendations. In all cases the use of prime should be discussed at the design reviews (Alignment & Grade, Plan-in-hand). The use of other aggregate treatments (e.g. magnesium chloride) in place of prime may also be considered. The basis for using other aggregate treatments must be documented in the appropriate report.

Incorporate these changes into all projects submitted to the checkers after March 11, 2011.

If you have questions concerning this, please contact me at 444-6244.

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