

JOB 030415
LITTLE RIVER STR. & APPRS. (S)
MARCH 23, 2016

Question:

A Special Provision, "Thermal Integrity Profiling of Drilled Shafts" is included in the project documents. This SP states under Basis of Payment that "TIP testing shall be performed by Pile Dynamics, Inc." It does not indicate how the Contractor will be paid for this testing. Please clarify.

Answer:

Pile Dynamics, Inc. (PDI) will furnish all labor, tools and materials required to perform the testing. The Contractor will only be required to coordinate their Drilled Shaft work schedule so that PDI can be on site and install their testing equipment on the drilled shaft reinforcing cage. PDI is doing this testing as a demonstration free of charge to the Department.

Question:

A Special Provision, "Special Facilities at Site" is included in the project documents. This SP states in paragraph two under Transportation that "The Contractor shall also provide and maintain suitable landing docks on each side of the river, constructed so as to permit safe and easy access to the boat during all stages of the river." Given the constraints associated with the Freshwater Mussel Beds on the north bank of the river (stations 324+07 – 324+90), would the Department relax the access requirement for the north bank? Also, would the Department allow the existing boat ramp on the south bank just west of the existing bridge to be the access point for the project?

Answer:

The Department agrees that no landing dock will be required for the north bank due to the mussel beds. One landing dock will be sufficient for construction inspection access for this project. We will allow the existing boat ramp to be utilized for the inspection boat access, but would ask that consideration be made to tie the inspection boat off to any barges or work platforms that may be placed that would be accessible from the bank rather than having to launch it on the ramp when needed by Department personnel.

Question:

Is a full geotechnical report available?

Answer:

This information can be found at ftp://arkansashighways.com/Outgoing/March_Letting_Bridge_Info/030415

Question:

The Drawings and Specifications require permanent casing for the drilled shafts at Bents 17, 18, and 19. The casing lengths are shown but no casing thicknesses are shown. What casing wall thickness should be considered for bid purposes.

Answer:

The wall thickness of the permanent casing shall be selected by the Contractor. Special Provision "Drilled Shaft Foundations" states "All casing shall be steel, watertight and of ample strength to withstand handling and/or driving stresses and the pressure of both concrete and the surrounding earth materials. All casing shall be selected by the Contractor to control dimension and alignment of excavation within tolerances and to execute all other construction operations."

Question:

No geotechnical information or borings are provided for the approx. bottom 40' for drilled shafts at Bent 17 and Bent 19. No information for the drilled shaft at Bent 18 is provided. For Bid purposes in these unknown zones, is the Contractor to assume the soil will not be materially different than represented in the borings from Sta. 322+30 o/s 33'L and Sta. 325+90 o/s 36L?

Answer:

Yes. This assumption was also used in the design of the drilled shafts.

Question:

The requirement for drill shaft concrete on this job is that it has to maintain its plasticity and maintain a 4" minimum slump until the final concrete is placed in that shaft. What test method is used to verify that the concrete meets these requirements?

Answer:

The Drilled Shaft Foundations Special Provision for this project will be revised to include a section called "Trial Batch" that will provide guidance on how to perform the slump loss test. A trial batch and slump loss test will be required for all drilled shaft concrete mix design(s) submitted by the Contractor.

Question:

On a previous job it was determined that after each load was placed that the main concern was that the concrete did not begin its initial set and the slump retention or lack thereof had no bearing on this process. Please clarify?

Answer:

The specified level of plasticity/slump needs to be maintained throughout the entire shaft pour. Initial set or slump levels falling out of tolerance during placement of the shaft are unacceptable.

Question:

During demolition of the existing bridge, coffer cells may be required to remove existing bents to 2' below ground. Will coffer cells and 2' below ground removals be allowed due to proximity to the Freshwater Mussel Bed?

Answer:

Yes. The Department will conduct relocations of the mussels located within the area surrounding the footings both proposed and existing. The relocation area will include the coffer cells.

Question:

Please verify the quantity of structural steel.

Answer:

The quantity has been revised. An addendum has been issued.