



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

January 8, 2008
Subject: Tree Clearing along I-95
Project No.IM-1570(200) E, HSIP-1570(210) E
Pin No's 015035.00, 015702.00 & 015702.10
Amendment No. 1

Dear Sir/Ms:

Please make the following change to the Bid Documents.

In the Bid Book on pages 4 and 8, CONTRACT AGREEMENT, OFFER & AWARD, under Section B. Time. Change the date for completion from **April 15, 2008** to **May 2, 2008**. Make this change in pen and ink.

SPECIAL PROVISION, Section 107, TIME (page 25). Change, the specified contract completion date before which all repair work shall be completed from **April 15, 2008** to **May 2, 2008**. The date for completion of clearing remains the same. Make this change in pen and ink.

The following questions have been received.

Question: Is the perimeter of the clearing defined by flagging? If so is it in place now? If not is there a dimension from the shoulder that you are clearing to?

Response: Perimeter will be defined by flagging. It is not in place yet. Clearing will be +/- 16.5' from the face of the existing vegetation.

Question: The bid info calls for stumps to be flush with the grade. In light of the heavy snow we are getting this winter will there be a maximum stump height allowed above grade or do you still expect the stumps to be cut off at grade?

Response: Stumps are required to be left flush with the existing grade.

Question: Can we work on weekends assuming clear weather?



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Response: Work can be performed on Saturdays. Work on Sundays or Holidays (2/18) can only be performed with prior permission from the Department.

Question: Will we be able to park an operator's pickup on the shoulder, perhaps by plowing the bank back to get it partially off of the shoulder?

Response: The operator can park their vehicle on the travel lane shoulder while performing work. They will need to provide some cones to mark their vehicle. They cannot park their vehicle overnight.

Question: Are multiple crews allowed?

Response: More than one crew can work at a time on different sections of the project.

Question: Are lane closures allowed more than once a week?

Response: MaineDOT will allow one day of lane closures per week. There may be multiple closure locations on that day within the project.

Question: – Regarding measuring acreage, it sounds like the most sensible thing would be to go with the average clearing width of 16.5' per side times the length to determine acreage. Is that what you have in mind?

Response: Actual areas cleared can be measured or the area can be agreed to by the Department and the contractor.

Question: What is the method and timing for payment? Will we invoice you on a weekly or biweekly?

Response: The Department will process progress payments on a biweekly or monthly basis depending on the amount of work performed. The contractor does not need to invoice the Department.

Question: In the Special Provision Section 107 it says that all clearing work is to be completed by April 1, 2008. In the Contract Agreement Offer and Award item B says to complete all work except warranty work by April 15, 2008? Is there a specific date we should plan on or is this more related to weather?

Response: All clearing work needs to be completed by April 1st; if the contractor has damaged any MaineDOT property they have until May 2nd to repair it. See addendum for repair completion date change.

Question: What do I need to submit my bid?

Response: At a minimum the Bidder needs to submit the following: notice to contractors, bid bond or guarantee, acknowledgement of amendments form completed and signed, completed schedule of items, and 2 copies of the contract, agreement, offer & award completed and signed.

Question: The Contract Amount is \$560,000. There is no specification on the maximum quantity of area that the department desires to be cleared. Will there be any scenario, where the Department reaches its maximum acreage for clearing? Or, is the \$560,000 a guaranteed number that will not be reduced if the contract is awarded?

Response: The Department will clear as much acreage as it can for \$560,000.00

Question: Method of measurement for the clearing is: "from the face of existing vegetation." It is presumed that the face of the existing vegetation could be the canopy (branches) of the tree closest to the pavement. Once the tree is cut and removed, how will the resident know where the edge of vegetation was? Also, will the vegetation need to be cut back 16.5' and then vertical. For instance, a 16.5' box that extends to the top of the tree canopy.

Response: The face of vegetation will be measured from tree trunks. It will not be necessary to remove only limbs of trees. If it is determined that a particular tree has too much overhang the entire tree will be removed. The Department will flag the clearing limit line prior to the start of work.

Question: If the department does in fact want to have no limbs, or overhanging branches within the aforementioned 16.5' window, will it allow the contractor to remove trees beyond the 16.5', to avoid having to limb trees all the way to the top? If the department agrees to allow removal of the trees beyond 16.5', will that be counted as acreage?

Response: See the above question. The 16.5' width is an average to account for this issue.

Question: Since some of the timber in the 16.5' is usable for other than chipping, is there a basis for what size, type, or appearance of any trees that will be chosen to remain? The specs merely say it is up to the resident, but what will the resident be basing their flagging on? It is likely that the wood that the resident views to be aesthetically pleasing would also be the wood with the most monetary value for the contractor.

Response: The Department's intent is to completely clear, not selectively clear, a 16.5'+/- wide swath of vegetation.

Question: Given the unusually heavy snowfall thus far this year, and the fact that there is nearly 4' of snow pack, covering unfrozen ground; does the department have any plans for extending the completion date?

Response: See addendum repair completion date change. The date for completion of clearing (April 1, 2008) remains the same.

Question: If there is no extension for completion, how is the contractor to grind stumps to ground level if the area of the worksite is covered with snow, and ground level can not be ascertained without snow removal around the tree? The specs call for all stumps to be cut to "Existing Grade"; should it be assumed by the contractor that "existing grade" is the top of snow level, or ground level beneath the snow pack?

Response: Existing grade is that of the ground not the snow.

Question: If there is still snow covering the ground on April 15, will the department allow extra time to repair any damage caused? If so, how many weeks or days beyond when the snow melts will the contractor be allowed?

Response: See addendum for repair completion date change. The date for completion of clearing (April 1, 2008) remains the same.

Consider these changes and information prior to submitting your bid on **January 16, 2008.**

Sincerely,



Scott Bickford
Contracts & Specifications Engineer