



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

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note  
COMMISSIONER

September 21, 2020  
Subject: Highway Rehabilitation  
State WIN: 018767.01  
Location: **Woodstock**  
**Amendment No. 2**

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The following questions have been received:

**Question:** The existing soil nail wall was designed using hollow-bar soil nails with corrosion protection provided through sacrificial bare steel. Will hollow-bar soil nails and corrosion protection through sacrificial bare steel, designed in accordance with FHWA GEC 007, be allowed?

**Response:** No, hollow-bar soil nails will not be allowed. Our intent is to use a solid, epoxy coated bar.

**Question:** What is the basis for the 1H:12V batter shown for the soil nail wall? It is our opinion that a 1H:12V cut slope is not typical and will be difficult to construct and maintain the stability of during soil nail wall construction. Will a flatter cut slope and wall facing be allowed, and if so, at what angle?

**Response:** We have successfully used a 1H:12V batter on several MaineDOT projects and near vertical batter on other projects. However, we will allow a flatter batter, up to 10 degrees.

**Question:** Will a permanent shotcrete wall finish, either a rough gun finish or a trowel finish, be allowed in lieu of the cast-in-place facing for the soil nail wall?

**Response:** A trowel finish will be allowed. A rough gun finish will not be allowed.

**Question:** The special provision 636 requires that the soil nail wall design provide a minimum factor of safety of 1.3 per AASHTO LRFD Specifications. The soil nail wall will not alter the factor of safety for a shallow slip surface within the proposed 1.5H:1V slope above the soil nail wall. Please confirm that the factor of safety requirement only applies to slip surfaces that extend through or behind the soil nail wall.

**Response:** The factor of safety requirement for global stability only applies to slip surfaces that extend through, behind, or below the soil nail wall.

**Question:** Specification Section 636.02 calls for an “encapsulated epoxy coated” bar. The remainder of the specification only calls for epoxy coated bars. Please confirm that encapsulation (e.g., prefabricated, grout filled corrugated plastic around the bar) is not required.

**Response:** Encapsulation (e.g., prefabricated, grout filled corrugated plastic around the bar) is not required.

**Question:** Would a self-drilling, galvanized hollow-bar soil nail that meets the design requirements be an acceptable alternative to the proposed epoxy coated bar soil nail? The existing wall utilized hollow-bar nails.

**Response:** No, hollow-bar soil nails will not be allowed. Our intent is to use a solid, epoxy coated bar.

**Question:** It is not clear what the payment limits are for 636.411 Soil Nail Wall. I think the Stations and top limits are pretty clear but the bottom limit is not. Can you please clarify or change this to a lump sum item?

**Response:** Bottom pay limit is El. 736.53 feet, per Sheet No. 20.

Consider these changes and information prior to submitting your bid on **September 23, 2020**.

Sincerely,



George M. A. Macdougall P.E.  
Contracts & Specifications Engineer