



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

Dale F. Doughty
COMMISSIONER

August 4, 2026
Subject: Highway Reconstruction
WIN:028704.00
Location: Southwest Harbor
Amendment No. 2

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The following questions have been received:

Question: Lakeside Engineering Inc does not recommend installation of the ABS climbing substrate in this application. Can the department provide a typical detail of what they would like installed?

Response: No, the Department does not and will not provide a typical detail.

Question: Under Section 509, it calls for a composite invert lining to be used as an eel climbing substrate. We have recently learned that the ABS Climbing Substrate, manufactured by Lakeside Engineering, is suggested as a product for this application. While we appreciate this suggestion, it may not durable enough for this application during high water flows. And since it is not designed for this application, the installation may be challenging.

We suggest either a special mussel seed collection spat line or a vertical brush set in a plastic base material that could be molded to the invert of the culvert during installation. Previously, we have had the brush panels made with the bristles in a pattern to accommodate varying eel sizes. Unfortunately, this manufacturer will no longer provide this custom product. We are in the process of reaching out to other US and European suppliers.

The brush substrate has several advantages over the ABS Climbing Substrate:

- Ability to conform to the pipe invert
- Durable
- Will bend over and shed debris during higher flows
- Proven track record of eel passage in Europe

Would either the spat line or brush be an acceptable alternative to the rigid peg style substrate suggested above?

Response: Yes, the Department is open to an alternative method as long as the other contract requirements are met such as but not including Buy America Build America.

Consider these changes and information prior to submitting your bid on **August 5, 2026**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "George Macdougall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Macdougall" clearly legible.

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