# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

## Memorandum

June 19, 2008

**CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM**
**08-09**

TO: District Deputy Commissioners
District Highway Operation Directors
District Construction Engineers
District Testing Engineers
District Area Engineers
Project Engineers/Supervisors

FROM: Mark A. Miller, Director
Division of Construction Management

SUBJECT: Pay Items: Mulched Seeding vs Temporary Mulching

It has recently been brought to my attention that the two pay items of "Mulched Seeding" and "Temporary Mulching" as being used interchangeably when mulch is needed on a construction site. Looking into this concern I have learned that our specifications need to be rewritten in this area because it appears that the designers can call for various pay items that would appear to accomplish the same results. However, until these parts of the standard specifications are addressed, please use the mulching items as follows:

- The item of "Mulched Seeding class, type" under specification section 621, when specified in the list of pay items for a contract, does include seed, fertilizer, and mulching material. This is intended to be used on a permanent basis not a temporary basis because the rate of mulch for temporary use as specified in 205.03(b) is at a ½ ton higher rate per acre and the specifications reference that temporary erosion control material pay items include the removal of the item at some time in the future.

- The items of "Mulching Material", "Fertilizer", and "Seed Mixture class , type" when specified in the list of pay items for a contract are intended to be used as a group and not used separately. Therefore, a PE/PS should not use just the pay item of "Mulching Material" in place of the pay item for "Temporary Mulching". If that is done, the contractor will not be compensated correctly for the work performed because its unit cost is tied to the other unit bid costs in the group.

- The item of "Temporary Mulching" requires only mulching material to be placed plus a component to hold it in place on the grade, i.e., glue tackifier or mulch crimper. As stated previously it is applied at a different rate than permanent mulch and does include costs to remove it at a later date, if directed.

In summary, I have discussed this concern about use of pay items with our Roadway Standards Team Leader in Production Management and he has agreed to look into getting a Design Memorandum out to designers to remind them that they need to call for the correct pay items in their contracts.

If your current contract does not have a pay Item of "Temporary Mulching" and one is needed, a change order needs to be generated. Do not use the item of "Mulching Material" for temporary work because of the reasons stated in the memorandum.

MAM:dak