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# 1 Right-of-Way Preparation

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**Preliminary Investigation**

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*Building and Foundation Removal*

*Inspection and Removal of Asbestos*

*Bridge Removal*

*Pipe and Sewer Removal*

*Pavement and Miscellaneous Removal*

# **CHAPTER ONE:**

## ***RIGHT-OF-WAY PREPARATION***

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Whether the work requires widening of an existing pavement section or the construction of a new roadway section through a new undisturbed right of way, certain preliminary investigations are required. The PE/PS obtains right of way grants for all parcels of property purchased for the new work. These also include grants for temporary right of ways. From the construction plans, all right of way is staked so that the limits of ownership are clearly visible and areas of temporary ownership for construction are known. All INDOT employees and the Contractor are required to be aware of the limits so that no disputes arise over work activities outside our property or destroying or disturbing private property. Any work on the right of way has some involvement with public or private utilities.

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### **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION**

During the completion of the plans, INDOT has already notified all public utilities and all pipe line owners or other parties affected so that they may plan to move and relocate their existing facilities. All utilities are required to be moved so INDOT has no involvement or conflict between the public utility company and the construction. Delays caused to the Contractor by public utility companies are reason for time extension and may cause contracts to be extended into another construction season.

Existing survey section corners and other survey controlled points and bench marks are required to be referenced for establishment when the contract is completed. The County Surveyor is contacted to obtain the proper location of all section survey references.

Another area of importance is the investigation of existing underground drainage. Farm field tiles placed by farmers are required to be outletted or continued across the project limits so the drainage is uninterrupted. Legal county tiles and ditches are required to be maintained and preserved. The PE/PS coordinates with the County Surveyor or County Engineer to assure that all legal county drainage has been located.

If the Contractor is required to assist in the investigation of underground drainage by excavation, this excavation is paid for as set out in Section **203**.

## **CLEARING AND GRUBBING**

When the Contractor arrives at the job-site, one of the first orders of business is to clear the right-of-way in preparation for construction. This work consists of the removal and disposal of all vegetation and debris within the limits of construction which is in the way of the construction work. Any items within the right-of-way that are designated to remain in place are not disturbed or damaged by the Contractor. Trees, shrubs, and other items outside the construction limits are required to be repaired by the Contractor at his expense, if damaged.

Trees that are encountered within the construction limits may be removed. If the tree stump is cut off level with the ground and is a minimum of 3 ft below the final subgrade, the stump may be left in place. If trees are completely removed, the roots from the stump are required to be grubbed from the ground around the old stump. Any holes created in the embankment area are required to be backfilled satisfactorily up to the level of the existing ground prior to starting the new embankment. Burning perishable items may only be done if local laws, ordinances, and the contract permit burning. Perishable materials such as brush, stumps, and sod are removed from the right-of-way and disposed of at a location approved in advance by INDOT. This approval includes a plan for site restoration after the contract, and a plan for prevention of stream sedimentation. Written permission to dispose of perishable materials is required to also be obtained from the property owner before beginning the disposal operation (Section **201.03**).

Sod is required to be removed from inside the embankment limits. Removing the sod and placing the sod outside the limits of the road bed is not allowed. The measurement and payment of clearing of right of way is a somewhat complicated process. Payment may be by the acre, by a lump sum, by length, or by individual units. If tree removal is paid for by an individual unit, the tree is measured at a height of 24 in. above the ground. Any tree less than 4 in. in diameter is classified as brush and no payment is made.

## **REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND OBSTRUCTIONS**

Most contracts require removal of structures and obstructions. This includes the removal and disposal of buildings, fences, structures, old pavement, abandoned pipe lines, and any other obstructions that are not designated in the contract to remain in place.

### ***BUILDING AND FOUNDATION REMOVAL***

A Contractor is not allowed to begin removing a building without written authority from INDOT. All buildings are required to be checked prior to allowing a Contractor begin demolition. For buildings or houses that are

required to be removed, the Contractor removes the buildings and the foundations or basement walls to an elevation 1 ft below original ground. All debris and trash that is accumulated in a basement or foundation is removed. Any floor drains encountered are plugged, and any basement floors are broken. All public utilities into the building are shut off prior to beginning of demolition. The Contractor is responsible for notifying the utility companies involved. Basements are backfilled with B Borrow in accordance with Section **203**.

Wells, cisterns, septic tanks, and other tanks are cleaned and backfilled in an approved manner. Cisterns, septic tanks, and other tanks that cannot be satisfactorily backfilled are removed. All abandoned wells are sealed and backfilled in accordance with Indiana code. A copy of the Indiana code is reviewed to assure the PE/PS that the well is being properly backfilled.

#### ***INSPECTION AND REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS***

For any material found that is suspected to be hazardous, the proper State, Federal, and Local authorities are contacted. All State, Federal and Local regulations are required to be followed in cleaning up the hazardous materials.

#### ***BRIDGE REMOVAL***

Clearing of the right-of-way may include the removal of bridges, culverts, and other drainage structures. Bridge foundations are removed to the existing stream bed, and those portions outside the stream bed are removed 1 ft below the original ground. The removal of a reinforced concrete arch includes the removal of all of the pavement and backfill of the arch.

Demolition of bridges by blasting is only allowed by Local ordinances. When a portion of a bridge structure is removed to widen an existing structure, care is taken not to damage the portion of the existing structure to remain in place. If specified, broken up concrete from bridge removal may be used as riprap on the contract.

#### ***PIPE AND SEWER REMOVAL***

Materials not specified to be salvaged become the property of the Contractor. Sanitary and storm sewers no longer in use are removed from under the roadway and shoulders.

***PAVEMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS REMOVAL***

When the removal includes concrete pavement, sidewalks, curbs, and other miscellaneous concrete items, this concrete may be broken into pieces and used as riprap on the contract or disposed of off the right-of-way. Pavement removal includes the concrete pavement and all HMA overlay courses on existing public roads, streets, and alley pavements. Parking lots and driveways are not considered pavement removal. When a portion of pavement is removed, the limits of removal are marked and sawed along these limits to assure a smooth line of removal. Any portion that is damaged outside the removal lines is replaced at the Contractor's expense. Sawing of pavement to be removed is not paid for directly, but is included in the cost of pavement removal. Hot Mix Asphalt surface removal for resurfacing is done with a power driven milling or planing machine capable of accurately establishing a profile grade.