



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Design Memorandum No. 17-28 Technical Advisory

December 4, 2017

TO: All Design, Operations, and District Personnel, and Consultants

FROM: /s/ Elizabeth W. Phillips
Elizabeth W. Phillips
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Bridges Division

SUBJECT: Plant Growth Layer

EFFECTIVE: Lettings on or after March 1, 2018

The requirements of Recurring Special Provision (RSP) 629-R-630, Plant Growth Layer, were developed to help establish and support healthy growth of permanent vegetation. It has come to the Department's attention that the RSP has been included in contracts without the appropriate approvals identified in the basis for use, without the necessary existing topsoil information, or in a modified format as a unique special provision. These practices are not acceptable.

Revisions to the RSP were approved by the Standards Committee in November and will become effective as noted. In addition, the basis for use was revised to identify a Rule 5 permit and the approval of the Office of Geotechnical Services as prerequisites for including the RSP in a contract.

The existing topsoil information is critical to the use of the RSP. Where the RSP is required (Rule 5 permit), the existing topsoil information must be included in the geotechnical report – either in the original report or as an addendum. Where a project requires a Rule 5 permit, designers should contact their geotechnical engineer if the geotechnical report does not include the existing topsoil information or if the project does not have a geotechnical report. Failure to include the topsoil information in the geotechnical report in conjunction with the RSP may result in a project being removed from the letting or the RSP being removed from the contract. These decisions will be made on a project-by project basis with input from INDOT Construction Management, Geotechnical Services, and Environmental Services.

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Where the Plant Growth Layer RSP is included in a contract, the pay item for topsoil generally should not be included.

Questions regarding the existing topsoil information and the use of RSP 629-R-630, Plant Growth Layer, should be directed to the Office of Geotechnical Services Manager, Athar Khan at atkhan@indot.in.gov.