

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION
Production Management Division – Room N642



*Writer's Direct Line
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September 15, 2006

DESIGN MEMORANDUM No. 06-11 TECHNICAL ADVISORY

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

FROM: /s/ Anthony L. Uremovich
Anthony L. Uremovich
Design Resources Engineer
Production Management Division

SUBJECT: Policy for Geotechnical Investigation or Geotechnical Waiver

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The Production Management Division's Office of Geotechnical Services has prepared the subject Policy, attached hereto. Please make project geotechnical considerations in accordance with it.

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Attachment

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**Indiana Department of Transportation
Office of Geotechnical Engineering**

Policy for Geotechnical Investigation or Geotechnical Waiver

Purpose: To establish a uniform policy regarding the need for a geotechnical investigation or a geotechnical waiver on a State or Local Public Agency (LPA) project utilizing Federal-Aid Funds.

Policy: Each project requires a geotechnical investigation with a few exceptions noted below. The Office of Geotechnical Engineering or a Department-approved geotechnical consultant will conduct all Geotechnical Investigations. The Office of Geotechnical Engineering must approve a consultant report before the report is used in the design.

Exceptions: A project meeting the following conditions may qualify for a geotechnical waiver. However, subgrade recommendations may still be required.

1. Preventative-Maintenance Type Project.
 - a. Chip Seal, Crack Sealing, Microsurface, Single Lay HMA Mill and Overlay, or Functional HMA Overlay.
 - b. PCCP Joint Sealing, Retrofit Joint Transfer, etc.
2. Rehabilitation-Type Project: Shoulder widening up to 2 ft (0.6 m) on existing pavement with less than 2 ft (0.6 m) of cut or fill.
3. Bridge maintenance or repair that does not include foundation work.
4. Pipe structure smaller than 36 in. (900 mm) diameter or pipe extension of shorter than 5 ft (1.5 m) length.

However, if the project is in an area that contains known isolated problematic soils such as peat, marl, etc., or if the project includes fills of greater than 2 ft (0.6 m), no geotechnical waiver will be given.

Waiver Request: The project manager or the LPA design consultant must submit a request for approval with the supporting data to the Office of Geotechnical Engineering, no later than the preliminary field check.

The waiver request will include the following:

1. Project Scoping Report;
2. plans and cross sections – one set; and
3. six to ten existing pavement photographs.

NO Geotechnical Investigation or Waiver is Required: The following types of projects will not require geotechnical investigations or geotechnical waivers.

1. Bridge Painting;
2. Pavement Marking;
3. Landscaping/Enhancement;
4. Traffic Signals;
5. Guardrails;
6. Small Signs;
7. Wedge and Level;
8. Mowing;
9. Lighting Maintenance; or
10. any other project with NO earthwork, foundations, or retaining walls.

Approval: The Manager of the Office of Geotechnical Engineering will either approve or deny the geotechnical waiver in writing to the project manager within 5 days.