

Bell, Tammi [DOT]

From: Nordholm, Gail [DOT]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 12:16 PM
To: Bell, Tammi [DOT]
Subject: Important Information for Flood Damage Repairs on Federal-aid Routes

TO: County Engineers and City Representatives
Tammi Bell Iowa DOT - Local Systems tammi.bell@dot.iowa.gov

CC: District Local Systems Engineers, Service Bureau
and Office of Local Systems

FROM: Office of Local Systems

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS ON
FEDERAL-AID ROUTES**

DATE: June 18, 2008

If you have experienced significant damages to your federal-aid system from the recent flooding, please read the following information carefully so that you won't accidentally jeopardize opportunities for reimbursement of FHWA Emergency Relief funds.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has submitted a letter of intent to FHWA that Iowa will be requesting Emergency Relief funding for Federal-aid routes that are not eligible for assistance under the FEMA program. FHWA accepted the request and we have begun the process to gather the required information to obtain FHWA concurrence in the disaster and obtain FHWA assistance in repair costs.

Agencies may proceed with performance of emergency operations, including emergency repairs, on Federal-aid highways necessary to restore essential traffic, to protect remaining facilities, and to reduce the extent of damage. Also, you may proceed with preliminary engineering, meaning surveys, design and preparation of construction plans, to perform the permanent restoration work required as an associated part of the emergency operations, and to use your own forces and/or negotiated equipment rental contracts as necessary to perform the work.

Chapter VI, Section M of the Emergency Relief Manual provides three methods for completion of emergency repairs. Those methods are Force Account which means work is done by your crews, Solicited Contracts which means you can contact a reasonable minimum number of contractors (three if possible) and obtain quotes, or Negotiated Contracts which means you select a contractor and negotiate a contract to accomplish the work. Please keep in mind that these options are only

available if State or local laws allow such procedures.

VERY IMPORTANT If you elect to use the Solicited or Negotiated contracts method, the contractor must be advised that Davis-Bacon minimum wage requirements must be met. FHWA has advised us that this federal regulation also applies to contract work associated with emergency repairs.

The ER manual also states that permanent repair and reconstruction work, not accomplished as part of emergency repairs, must be done by contract awarded by competitive bidding and all the normal federal aid project development and contracting requirements apply. When reviewing your system damages it's very important to determine whether the repairs meet the criteria to be classified as emergency repairs. (Restore essential traffic, protect remaining facilities, and reduce the extent of damage)

According to the ER manual, repair projects under the program must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Emergency repairs to restore essential travel, minimize extent of damage, or protect remaining facilities are normally classified as categorical exclusions. You do not need to obtain any environmental clearance for your emergency repairs. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District Office, has advised us that emergency repair work can be covered under the nationwide permits via a phone call to the Rock Island District, who would provide verbal authorizations. The phone number for the Rock Island District is 309-794-5370. For those of you along the Missouri River involving areas between the levees and the river, your contact would be the Omaha District at 402-896-0896.

We will be following up with those of you that have contacted us about Federal-aid system damage to schedule informational meetings that will provide more detail about the Emergency Relief process and to complete appropriate field reviews of your damages. You should proceed with emergency repairs but document your damages with photographs and detailed records of damages and repair activities.

You may contact Donna Buchwald, donna.buchwald@dot.iowa.gov 515-239-1051 or me, leroy.bergmann@dot.iowa.gov 515-239-1506 if you have specific questions.

Please do not hit the reply option in your e-mail note.

Thanks

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