



Iowa Department of Transportation

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS  
FOR  
INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Woodbury County  
IM-NHS-29-6(240)147--03-97**

**Effective Date  
December 20, 2011**

**THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS, SERIES 2009, ARE AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS. THESE ARE SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND THEY SHALL PREVAIL OVER THOSE PUBLISHED IN THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.**

**090165.01 GENERAL.**

**A. Description.**

This work includes furnishing the material for and installation of either stone columns or rammed aggregate piers, hereafter collectively denoted as "intermediate foundations". The design of the proposed intermediate foundation system shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.

The purpose of the intermediate foundations on this project is to provide sufficient global slope stability beneath the proposed mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall.

The final location and extent of the intermediate foundations shall be determined by the Contractor, but shall generally be located under the influence area of the MSE wall to satisfy the design requirements listed in Article 090165.01, B.

**B. Design Requirements.**

The intermediate foundations shall extend through the compressible native soils, hereafter denoted as "soil to be improved". The soils to be improved include, but are not necessarily limited to, sand and gravel, clay, silty clay, and silts.

The intermediate foundations shall extend into the underlying soils beyond the anticipated critical global slope stability failure plane, hereafter denoted as "foundation soil", which includes sand and gravelly sand with occasional cobbles. Each individual intermediate foundation element shall penetrate a minimum of 2 feet into the foundation soil. Any other material encountered will be classified by the Engineer.

It should be noted that subsurface conditions can change rapidly across the site. The Contractor is required to obtain additional subsurface information, including soil borings and water table information, as part of their design of the intermediate foundation system, as required to meet the requirements of this section. It is imperative that the surface of the foundation soil is delineated before installation to ensure the intermediate foundation system penetrates to the foundation soil layer.

The intermediate foundation system shall provide a global slope stability adequate to support the proposed MSE wall and embankments, determined in consultation with the MSE wall vendor. The overall global stability of the combined wall, embankment, and intermediate foundation system shall be analyzed and the intermediate foundation system designed so as to provide a factor of safety

greater than or equal to 1.3 for short-term conditions, and greater than or equal to 1.4 for long-term conditions.

**C. Method.**

The Contractor may elect to utilize either a stone column or rammed aggregate pier intermediate foundation system, based upon the soil information provided in the contract documents, additional borings conducted by the Contractor, the Contractor's expertise, and other factors. The Contractor shall be responsible for the design of the intermediate foundation system selected and meeting the performance requirements specified herein. The contractor is required to design the intermediate foundations in coordination with requirements for design of the MSE walls, in consultation with the MSE wall vendor.

If the Contractor does not possess the capability or expertise to design and/or install the intermediate foundation system or they select a system that is considered proprietary, they shall make arrangements to contract the services of a licensed Contractor or other qualified personnel to perform the necessary design and/or installation. All intermediate foundation design documents shall be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Iowa. The procurement of any permits required for the installation of the intermediate foundations, including the disposal of any water or spoils, shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor.

**D. Submittals.**

1. The Contractor shall submit seven copies of the following documents to the Engineer a minimum of 30 days prior to the installation of the intermediate foundation system they have selected:
  - a. Evidence of successful installation of the selected intermediate foundation system in the United States on five or more projects under similar conditions using the same proposed installation technique within the last 3 years. The documentation to be submitted includes references for the specific projects. The references consist of the Contracting Authority and Engineer, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers.
  - b. Construction drawings showing intermediate foundation locations, depths, and identification numbers. Construction drawings shall be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Iowa.
  - c. A description of the equipment and construction procedures to be used, including a plan to dispose of any water or spoils if applicable.
  - d. A proposed verification program, including proposed independent testing agency to be used (see Article 090165.01, D, 2).
  - e. Certification that the project superintendent possesses a minimum of 5 years of method specific experience.
  - f. The source of the proposed intermediate foundation backfill material and the gradation and bandwidths the Contractor proposes to use. Upon approval of the backfill source and gradation, the Contractor shall maintain this gradation throughout the intermediate foundation installation.
  - g. A proposed plan for quality control throughout the installation procedure. This shall address issues such as control and measurement of column or pier diameter, lift thickness, and any other pertinent information. The roles of the Contractor and Engineer shall be defined in the contract documents.
  - h. Results of overall stability analysis, anticipated settlements, and other calculations relating to performance of the intermediate foundation system. Also include the results of any additional soil borings.

**2. Verification Program.**

A verification program designed, accomplished, and reported by the Contractor is required to measure the quality of the installed intermediate foundations. The proposed verification program is subject to approval by the Engineer. As a minimum, the verification program shall include the following:

- a. Proposed means and methods for verification that design and performance criteria as stated in Article 090165.01, B have been satisfied. This may include, but shall not be limited to, modulus or load tests on individual elements and/or groups, soil borings, and other methods as required by the intermediate foundation system designer and approved by the Engineer.
- b. Quality control program to verify that intermediate foundation elements are installed in accordance with the designer's specifications and the requirements as outlined in this Special Provision. The quality control program shall include testing and/or observations by an independent testing laboratory.
- c. Program to monitor performance of the intermediate foundation system during and after construction of the overlying embankment. This procedure may include installation of settlement plates, inclinometers, or other instrumentation. Instrumentation installed to monitor performance may also be used to aid in verification that design and performance criteria have been satisfied.

### 3. Daily Reports.

During construction, the Contractor shall submit three copies of daily progress reports in writing to the Engineer detailing the following:

- a. Stone Columns.
  - 1) Stone column identified by location number.
  - 2) Date constructed.
  - 3) Elevation of top and bottom of each stone column.
  - 4) Average lift thickness.
  - 5) Estimate of ground heave or subsidence.
  - 6) Vibrator power consumption during penetration and compaction of each increment of stone column constructed.
  - 7) Jetting pressure (air or water).
  - 8) Description of soil and groundwater conditions.
  - 9) Details of obstructions, delays, and any unusual ground conditions.
  - 10) Quantity of aggregate placed in each stone column.
  - 11) Amount of water used per column (if applicable).
  - 12) Results of quality control testing.
- b. Rammed Aggregate Piers.
  - 1) Rammed aggregate pier identified by location number.
  - 2) Date constructed.
  - 3) Elevation of top and bottom of each rammed aggregate pier.
  - 4) Average lift thickness.
  - 5) Description of soil and groundwater conditions.
  - 6) Details of obstructions, delays, and any unusual ground conditions.
  - 7) Quantity of aggregate placed in each rammed aggregate pier.
  - 8) Results of quality control testing.

### 4. Final Report.

At the completion of the installation of the intermediate foundations, the Contractor shall submit a report to the Engineer detailing the equipment and methods used, production rates, the performance of the site during treatment, and that the site meets the criteria established for this project. This report shall include a summary of all verification testing performed.

### E. Pre-Construction Conference.

A pre-construction conference shall be held at least five working days prior to the Contractor beginning any intermediate foundation installation work at the site to discuss construction procedures, personnel, verification program, quality control, and equipment to be used. Those attending shall include:

- 1. The superintendent, on-site supervisors, independent testing agency representative, and all foremen in charge of intermediate foundation installation operations.

2. The Engineer, key inspection personnel, and representatives of the Contracting Authority.

If the Contractor's key personnel change or if the Contractor proposes a significant revision of the approved intermediate foundation installation plan, an additional conference shall be held before any additional work is performed.

**F. Basis of Acceptance.**

The basis of acceptance for the intermediate foundations will include visual inspection by the Engineer, who will consider results of all verification tests as well as consistent use of procedures, methods, and construction performance rates.

**090165.02 MATERIALS.**

Intermediate foundation system backfill material shall be furnished by the Contractor. Aggregate used for the construction of both stone columns and rammed aggregate piers shall be relatively clean crushed stone, meeting the requirements of Section 4115 of the Standard Specifications for abrasion loss, freeze-thaw durability, and deleterious material content.

Gradation for stone columns shall be in accordance with Section 4109, Gradation No. 4 of the Standard Specifications. Gradation for rammed aggregate piers shall be in accordance with Section 4120 and with Section 4109, Gradation No. 11 of the Standard Specifications. However, in the case that the drilled cavity is partially filled with water, the Contractor may furnish a crushed granular material that meets the requirements of Section 4115 and Section 4109, Gradation No. 3 of the Standard Specifications. This Gradation No. 3 material shall be placed to a thickness of approximately 2 feet above the water level. Alternative gradations may be considered as part of the submittal process (Article 090165.01, D, 1, f).

**090165.03 CONSTRUCTION.**

**A. Procedures.**

The actual construction procedures shall be determined by the Contractor (Article 090165.01, D, 1, c). The following are minimum requirements, and should be referenced by the Contractor when preparing submittals. The submittal shall include the manufacturer's specifications for the proposed equipment to ensure that it has sufficient capacity to perform the intended function.

The site shall be graded and leveled as needed for proper installation of the intermediate foundation system selected by the contractor. This work shall be incidental to intermediate foundation installation.

**1. Stone Columns.**

Install the stone columns with a down-hole vibrator capable of densifying the aggregate by forcing it radially into the surrounding soil. The vibrator shall be of sufficient size and capacity appropriate to constructing stone columns to the Contractor's design plan diameters and lengths.

- a. The probe and follower tubes shall be of sufficient length to reach the elevations shown on the Contractor's design plans and approved shop drawings. The probe, used in conjunction with the available pressure to the tip jet, shall be capable of penetrating to the required tip elevation. Pre-boring of silt lenses, layers, or strata, if encountered is permitted.
- b. The probe and follower tubes shall have visible markings at regular increments to enable measurement of penetration and re-penetration depths.
- c. Provide methods for supplying to the tip of the probe a sufficient quantity of air or water to widen the probe hole to allow adequate space for stone backfill placement around the probe. Maintain the flow of air or water from the bottom jet at all times during backfilling to prevent caving or collapse of the hole and to form a clean stone column.
- d. The probe shall penetrate into the foundation soil layer to the minimum depths required in the Contractor's design plans or 2 feet, whichever is deeper.
- e. Lift thickness shall not exceed 4 feet. After penetration to the treatment depth, slowly retrieve the vibrator in 1 foot to 1 1/2 foot increments to allow backfill placement.

- f. Compact the backfill in each lift by re-penetrating it at least twice with the horizontally vibrating probe so as to densify and force the stone radially into the surrounding soil. Re-penetrate the stone in each increment a sufficient number of times to develop an ammeter reading on the motor significantly higher than the freestanding (unloaded) ampere draw on the motor.
- g. Stone columns shall be installed so that each completed column is continuous throughout its length.
- h. Should any obstructions be encountered during installation that cannot be penetrated with reasonable effort, the Contractor shall remove such obstruction or the element shall be relocated or abandoned with the Engineer's approval. If the obstruction is deep, the element shall be constructed following the specified procedures from the obstruction to the surface. The treatment of any subsurface obstruction shall be directed by the Engineer. Removal of subsurface obstructions, if directed by the Engineer, shall be deemed "extra work" and paid for according to Article 1109.03 of the Standard Specifications. Additional elements or replacement elements required due to obstructions will be paid for at the contract unit price. Obstructions include but are not limited to boulders, timbers, concrete and utility lines which shall prevent placing the elements to the required depth, or shall cause the element to drift from the required location.
- i. Any ground heave that is observed shall be reworked and compacted by the Contractor prior to retaining wall foundation construction. The depth of soil to be reworked and the degree of compaction required will be determined by the Engineer. Rework and compaction of heaved ground shall be incidental to stone column installation.
- j. The Contractor shall provide a full-time quality control representative to verify all installation procedures.

## **2. Rammed Aggregate Piers.**

The rammed aggregate piers shall be constructed in accordance with the contract documents, the Contractor's design plans and the following requirements.

- a. The drilled cavity excavation shall be in reasonably close conformity to the limits and construction stages shown on the plans. If temporary casing is needed to limit the sloughing of subsurface soils, the casing should be inserted to at least 2 feet beyond any sloughing strata. Casing of sufficient length should be available on site during drilling operations. Upon extraction, the bottom of the casing should be maintained at not more than 1 foot to 2 feet above of level of the backfill.
- b. Should any obstructions be encountered during installation that cannot be penetrated with reasonable effort, the Contractor shall remove such obstruction or the element shall be relocated or abandoned with the Engineer's approval. The treatment of any subsurface obstruction will be directed by the Engineer. Removal of subsurface obstructions, if directed by the Engineer, will be deemed "extra work" and paid for according to Article 1109.03 of the Standard Specifications. Additional elements or replacement elements required due to obstructions will be paid for at the contract unit price. Obstructions include but are not limited to boulders, timbers, concrete and utility lines which shall prevent placing the elements to the required depth, or shall cause the element to drift from the required location.
- c. Backfill placement shall closely follow the excavation of each cavity. The backfill shall be placed in 1 foot thick lifts loose measure. Each lift should be rammed with a high-energy impact tamper to the satisfaction of the Engineer and as recommended in the licensed Contractor's design plans.
- d. The Contractor shall provide a full-time quality control representative to verify all installation procedures.

## **B. Tolerances.**

- 1. Horizontal Control: The center of the completed pier or column shall be within 4 inches of the plan location.

2. Vertical Control: The completed pier or column shall not deviate from the vertical by more than 2 inches in 10 feet.
3. Diameter: The completed pier or column diameter shall not be more than 10 percent below the plan diameter.
  - a. If any pier or column falls outside these tolerances, an additional pier or column may be required to be installed at the Contractor's expense.
  - b. The Engineer may require additional rammed aggregate piers or stone columns at the Contractor's expense if the average effective diameter of any group of 50 consecutively installed piers or columns is less than the plan diameter.
4. Finish top of stone column or rammed aggregate pier to within 3 inches of the proposed foundation subgrade elevation.

**090165.04 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT.**

- A. The item for "Intermediate Foundation Improvements" will be Lump Sum for completed and accepted rammed aggregate piers or stone columns in locations as shown in the contract documents. Backfill and temporary casing will not be measured.
- B. The item for "Intermediate Foundation Improvements Verification Testing" will be Lump Sum.

**090165.05 BASIS OF PAYMENT.**

- A. The Contractor will be paid the contract Lump Sum price for "Intermediate Foundation Improvements". This payment shall be full compensation for design, field staking for the location of elements; drilling, furnishing, transporting, placing and compacting intermediate foundation system backfill and associated work; and full-time quality control. Backfill and temporary casing will not be paid for directly, but shall be considered incidental to the intermediate foundation improvements, as per plan.
- B. The Contractor will be paid the contract Lump Sum price for "Intermediate Foundation Improvements Verification Testing". This payment shall be full compensation for furnishing all of the labor and equipment, and installing additional intermediate foundation members to comply with the procedures as outlined in Article 090165.01, D, 2.