



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

November 18, 1999

ROADWAY DESIGN UNIT	
RECEIVED	FILE _____
NOV 24 1999	
cc:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BARBOUR	<input type="checkbox"/> ALFORD
<input type="checkbox"/> BREW	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEN
<input type="checkbox"/> GOODNIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/> BENNETT
<input type="checkbox"/> LASSITER	<input type="checkbox"/> FLOWERS
<input type="checkbox"/> MCMILLAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NORRIS
<input type="checkbox"/> SPEER	<input type="checkbox"/> SYKES
<input type="checkbox"/> DURHAM	<input type="checkbox"/> PURYEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> STEPNEY	
DAVID MCCOY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY FOR _____ SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SECRETARY
<input type="checkbox"/>	P.P.S.
REVIEW/DISCUSS WITH _____	

MEMORANDUM TO: Tim Rountree, P.E.; John Alford, P.E.; Charlie Casey, P.E.;  
Bob Brown, P.E.; Victor Barbour, P.E.;

FROM: John Ledbetter, Jr., P.E. *JL*

SUBJECT: Reinforced Bridge Approach Fills

It is our policy to use reinforced bridge approach fills for all bridges with a few exceptions; please, refer to our letter dated May 18, 1999 for this policy. **Effective immediately** the Soils and Foundation Design Section **will not submit a letter** to Roadway Project Engineer to recommend using the reinforced bridge approach fills. We will provide a letter to Roadway Project Engineer if we specifically recommend **not** using the reinforced approach fills.

If you have any questions or comments. please advise.

JFL/MAM

cc: Mr. Ellis Powell, P.E.  
Division Engineers  
Bridge Maintenance



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JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
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P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

E. NORRIS TOLSON  
SECRETARY

May 18, 1999

MEMO TO: Mr. W. J. Rogers, P.E.

ATTENTION: Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E.

FROM: J. F. Ledbetter, Jr., P.E. *JFL*

SUBJECT: Reinforced Bridge Approach Fills

As you are aware, it is our policy to recommend reinforced bridge approach fills for all bridge projects with few exceptions. We have discovered two exceptions up to this point. They are bridges without bridge approach slabs and bridge widening projects in which the width of bridge widening is less than five feet. If you would like to add or modify exceptions to this policy, please let me know.

In staged bridge construction projects where temporary shoring is used between the stages, the fabric layers of reinforced bridge approach fills become discontinuous at the shoring location. In such cases, we recommend no folding of fabric layers on the edges at the shoring location. The drainage pipe (4" diameter) will also be discontinuous at the shoring, and it shall be sloped such that the water flows away from the shoring location to outside of the reinforced approach fills. In some cases the pipe may be omitted, and drainage through the weep holes will have to suffice. We plan to revise the standard drawings of reinforced bridge approach fills to incorporate this special situation.

For bridges without reinforced bridge approach fills, the soils and Foundation Section will modify the standard note for waiting period and include it on our foundation recommendations as a special note.

If you have any questions or comments, please advise.

JFL/KJK

CC: Mr. Ellis Powell, P.E.  
Mr. G. T. Shearin, P.E.

