



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

July 24, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Division and District Engineers

FROM: L. D. Love, P.E.

SUBJECT: Sign for Illegal Cutting

At its June meeting, the Board of Transportation approved the staff recommendation for installation of a highway sign at locations of illegal destruction of vegetation on state right of way at Outdoor Advertising Structures (billboards).

Since August 2000 we have documentation on 27 billboard sites where illegal destruction of vegetation has occurred -- four instances within the past few months. In only 11 cases did we have sufficient evidence to revoke the sign permits.

The new sign will be used on a pilot basis as a public notice that a violation has occurred and requesting anyone with information to call the toll free customer service number. A similar sign is used by SCDOT as a deterrent for illegal cutting.

The Traffic Engineering Signing Section will be forwarding the new design to division traffic engineers (see attached sample). District Engineers will be responsible for requesting the sign on an as-needed basis. The request, along with a location map, will be sent to the Division Traffic Engineer for fabrication and installation. The sign will be installed and left in place for no more than one year.

Attached is a sample form to use to record any incidents of illegal cutting. The incident should be recorded for future data collection and to monitor the length of time a sign has been in place. A copy of the completed form can also be sent to the sign owner with your notice letter. A draft letter is also attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the new sign.

Attachments

cc: J. D. Goins, P.E.
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W. S. Varnedoe, P.E.
Troy Peoples, P.E.
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