



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

November 30, 2007

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2007-21**

### **SCOUR CRITICAL BRIDGES – PLAN OF ACTION UPDATE**

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Pursuant to the March 22, 2007 Bureau of Local Roads and Streets' Circular Letter 2007-05, Scour Critical Bridges & Plans of Action, we are providing additional information for your use. In order to provide advance notice for planning purposes and for user comments, a draft of this Circular Letter was sent to the district Bureaus of Local Roads for electronic distribution on November 3, 2007.

See <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/manuals/infocirculars/CL2007-05.pdf> for a link to Circular Letter 2007-05. We have committed to attempting completion of all Scour Plans of Action by the end of Calendar Year 2009, with a goal on the local system of being at least 50% complete by the end of Calendar Year 2008.

#### **Circular Letter 2007-05**

1. Recommended that each local agency review the Scour Evaluation Study (SES) on file for each Scour Critical Bridge.
2. Recommended that the current Scour Evaluation Team (SET) review existing SES's to identify errors or omissions that would require the present rating for ISIS Item 113 to be revised.
3. Provided information on codings for ISIS Item 113 that will require a Scour Plan of Action (POA).
4. Provided guidance on preparation of Scour Plans of Action, including a link to Form BBS 2680 at <http://www.dot.il.gov/Forms/BBS%202680.doc>. This form was developed by the department as a guide for personnel preparing a POA.
5. Provided information regarding training.

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### **Plan of Action Update**

1. We have received very little feedback regarding POAs. We understand the demands that have been made regarding bridge inspection and the reduced availability of department staff to assist local agencies. However, Scour POAs are required by the new rules for the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS), as provided in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 650, Subpart C, dated December 14, 2004, which became effective January 13, 2005. We encourage local agencies to dedicate the necessary resources to this initiative.
2. The Federal Highway Administration has prepared another Plan of Action form that we are providing for reference. It can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/bridgehyd/poatform.cfm>. However, use of the Form BBS 2680 is still required in Illinois for consistency and uniformity.

### **Training**

As indicated in Circular Letter 2007-05, some training for personnel may be necessary to familiarize involved staff with scour evaluation procedures. The National Highway Institute has available training courses at [http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training/brows\\_catalog.aspx](http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training/brows_catalog.aspx), and training has been scheduled for the following:

1. Stream Stability and Scour at Highway Bridges  
[FHWA-NHI-135046](#) (prerequisite for FHWA-NHI-135048)  
February 5-7, 2008 in Springfield (\$400)
2. Countermeasure Design for Bridge Scour and Stream Instability  
[FHWA-NHI-135048](#)  
April 1-3, 2008 (2.5-days) in Springfield (\$335)

These two classes are intended for designers or managers. Note that Course 135046 provides training in identifying and analyzing stream instability and scour problems at highway bridges and is recommended as a prerequisite for Course 135048. To enroll in one of these courses, please contact Mr. Brad Risinger of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Bureau of Employee Services at (217) 782-3708 or e-mail [brad.risinger@illinois.gov](mailto:brad.risinger@illinois.gov).

In addition, the department is currently attempting to set up training classes for Stream Stability and Scour at Highway Bridges for Bridge Inspectors, ([FHWA-NHI-135047](#)). If there is sufficient interest, this class may also be scheduled. For more information and to assist us in assessing the need for scheduling such training, please contact Mr. Risinger. Notification will be provided if that class is scheduled.

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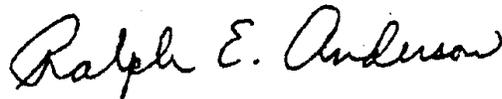
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We recommend training in these classes for appropriate staff involved in evaluating bridge scour. However, given the constraints of those interested in training, as well as the schedule and possible difficulty in providing enough training classes, the following are provided for individualized training and reference:

1. FHWA POA Webinar 135085  
<http://fhwa.acrobat.com/n135085seminar>.
2. Caltrans has a website with Overview, Q&A, Sample POA's, POA form field definitions, as well as some excellent POA weblinks at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/scour.htm>. Much of this is also applicable to Illinois.

If you have any questions regarding this Circular Letter, please contact Mr. Jim Klein at (217) 782-5928 or [james.klein@illinois.gov](mailto:james.klein@illinois.gov).



Ralph E. Anderson, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures



Charles J. Ingersoll, P.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc: FHWA, Illinois Division, Attn: Dan Brydl  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Gary Iles  
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority  
Township Officials of Illinois, Attn: Bryan Smith  
Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois, Attn: Ron Johnson  
(St. Charles Township, Kane County)