July 24, 2018

CIRCULAR LETTER 2018-11

DELIVERY OF PRECAST PRESTRESSED BEAMS

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Due to high demands for Welded Wire Reinforcement (WWR) the Department recommends local agencies adjust their project planning and scheduling to allow for at least an additional 4 weeks for delivery of precast prestressed beams. Local agencies are likely to experience delays in delivery of precast prestressed beams which include WWR. During this construction season, the Department has experienced delivery times for precast prestressed beams at least 4 weeks longer than previously experienced. The factors creating these delays include high demand, limited suppliers for WWR, and limited suppliers for epoxy coating. The department has explored alternative solutions to mitigate these delays. To date, no acceptable alternative solution has been found. The factors causing the additional delays are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

If you have any questions regarding this circular letter, please contact Tim Peters Local Policy and Technology Engineer at (217) 785-5048 or DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov

Sincerely,

Maureen E. Kastl, P.E.
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

TP
Attachment

cc:    David Marth, Illinois Association of County Engineers
       Greg Willis, Illinois Municipal League
       Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
       Charlie Montgomery, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois
Due to unusually high demands, the fabrication delivery schedules for Welded Wire Reinforcement (WWR) have been running at approximately six weeks this year compared to two weeks in previous years. Additionally, Illinois precast prestressed IL-Beams require that the WWR be epoxy coated. Currently, there is only one epoxy coater available for the IL-Beam WWR configurations. This has resulted in an additional four weeks to the delivery schedule, making it difficult for precast prestressed beam manufacturers to be able to order the reinforcement and still have enough time to fabricate their beams to meet contract scheduling requirements.

The department is working on alternate coating solutions to help alleviate a portion of the material delivery delays. In the interim, the Bureau of Bridges and Structures recommends that contracts with precast prestressed IL-Beams be scheduled with additional time allowed for the delivery of the WWR to the beam fabricators.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Shaffer by email at mark.shaffer@illinois.gov or by telephone at (217) 785-2914.

cc: Omer M. Osman
    Paul A. Loete
    Tim Kell
    Jack Elston
    Maureen Kastl
    Brian Pfeifer
    Carl Puzy
    Mark Shaffer
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