

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures

Date July 20, 2005

Attention All Employees

Ref No. 521.1

From Gary Novey

Office Bridges and Structures

Subject Method's Memo No. 117 (Pile Cutoff for Battered Piles)

The Office of Construction recently brought up an issue concerning the details used to show the tops of battered piles in pier footings. On a recent bridge project, the cutoff of the tops of the battered piles were shown as normal to the centerline of the pile. Construction's preference is to show the pile top as a level (horizontal) surface. This allows easier placement of footing reinforcement when it is placed directly above the battered piling in pier footings. The top of the battered pile may interfere with placement of reinforcing unless it is trimmed horizontal.

Therefore, in bridge plans with pier footings where the footing reinforcement is located directly above the piles, the following note should be added to the pier general notes and the battered piles detailed to show a horizontal surface.

E724/M724 "All battered pile shall be trimmed to a horizontal line to aid in the placement of reinforcing".

Prestressed piles, which are normally driven to full penetration should not be trimmed, because of the difficulty and cost of removing the corner of the concrete to provide a horizontal surface.