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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures Date January 1, 2009

Attention All Employees Ref No. 521.1

From Gary Novey

Office Bridges and Structures

Subject Methods Memo 210 (Updated Policy for LRFD Design)

Article 6.6 Piers in the LRFD Bridge Design Manual has been officially released with the January 1, 2009 Graphic Mail Release and with the release the Office of Bridges and Structures design policy has been updated:

1. All bridge projects started after October 1, 2007 will have the superstructures designed using the AASHTO LRFD Specifications 4th Edition / 2007.

2. With the release of Section 6.6 of the Bridge Design Manual [Pier Design – LRFD] the substructure units of bridge projects started after January 1, 2009 shall be designed using the LRFD specifications.

    a. The current J Standards (three span continuous concrete slab standards) superstructure and substructure are designed for LRFD and conform to this policy.

    b. The H Standards (three span prestressed beam standards) are designed LRFD for the superstructure and Standard Specifications (HS25 loading) for the substructure. If these standards are used, the substructure design will be considered acceptable with no redesign required. Plans are to update the substructure to LRFD in 2009.

    c. The current RS Standards (three span rolled steel beam standards) are designed to the Standard Specifications (HS20 Loading) for the superstructure and substructure. These standards have been removed from the Office of Bridges and Structures web site and will not be acceptable for new projects. Updating of these standards to LRFD design will be considered at a later date.

3. Exceptions to this policy will be considered based on development issues associated with the overall project. In general if preliminary design (completion of the TS&L) was done prior to October 2007, then the Standard Specifications may be used in final design.

4. Section 6.3 Drilled Shafts has not been updated to LRFD and drilled shaft designs will continue to be done by the Standard Specifications.

5. Repairs shall continue to follow MM No. 190 (LRFD Guidelines for Repair Projects).

6. Reinforced concrete box culverts and flumes will continue to be designed by the Standard Specifications until the culvert and flume standards are updated to LRFD.

7. Pile lengths may be designed by the Standards Specifications using the Foundation Soils Information Charts or by LRFD using the charts in article 6.2.7 of 6.2 Piles in the LRFD Bridge Design Manual. The design methods should give similar results for pile lengths. Designers are encouraged to calculate the pile lengths using both methods to verify the results.

If you have any questions please check with me.

GAN/dgb/bj