

Question 1h.

Who should be listed as the coordinating professional during the construction of a project if one firm designed the project, but a different firm is doing the construction engineering?

Answer 1h.

For local projects which the owner, i.e. the local public agency (LPA), hires a construction engineering firm that did not perform design services for that same Federal-aid transportation project in Nebraska, NDOR's recommendation to local agencies regarding the Coordinating Professional (refer to NAC Section 6.3 <http://www.ea.ne.gov/PDFs/booklet.pdf>) during the construction phase is that the licensed professional serving as construction engineer or architect be assigned the role of Coordinating Professional. NDOR believes that the role of Coordinating Professional (defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3408 <http://www.ea.ne.gov/PDFs/statute.pdf>) applies primarily during the project's design, before and during construction. The purpose is to make sure that all design disciplines are working in coordination with one another so that life is safeguarded and public health, safety and welfare are not compromised.

If changes are made to the approved documents prepared by the designing firms/licensees due to unforeseen conditions, omissions, etc. during construction, it should be clear which licensee has prepared those changes. This applies to all local projects, not just those which are the subject of this FAQ. Refer to Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3437 (3)(d) <http://www.ea.ne.gov/PDFs/statute.pdf>. Licensees shall make any changes to the approved documents via sealed drawings, change orders, and the like. The extent of each licensee's work must be clear to the LPA, NDOR and anyone else.

It is appropriate, and for some activities essential, for the designer to be involved during the construction phase. To not do so could potentially compromise life, health, safety and welfare of the public. In NDOR's opinion, review of shop drawings, and bridge shim shot calculations are better and more efficiently done by the designer. NDOR also believes it is good practice for the designer to be involved in project meetings, such as the preconstruction conference(s) and site reviews. Refer to FAQ 4-21 on the Frequently Asked Questions website (<http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/gov-aff/faq/pdf-faq/4/PE-CE%2010-1-10.pdf>) for more information regarding the role of the design firm(s) with respect to performing extended design services during construction for these projects. The practice of architecture requires the design architect to be involved in the construction phase. The project owner is responsible to involve the designer in the construction phase as appropriate, independent of source of funding for those services. Also, as quoted from "The Nebraska Professional" September, 2009 issue (<http://www.ea.ne.gov/PDFs/newsletters/0909newsletter.pdf>), "The State of Nebraska does not condone uncoordinated design of simple or complex construction projects for public use. It is the responsibility of design professionals to assure that their work meets those expectations."

For more background information regarding Coordinating Professional, refer to the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects website (<http://www.ea.ne.gov/>), and the May 2010 newsletter (<http://www.ea.ne.gov/PDFs/newsletters/may10.pdf>).