NDOR
Nebraska
Department of Roads

Memorandum

DATE September 4, 2012

TO District Engineers, District Construction Engineers, AGC

FROM Ronald Poe

THRU Claude Oie

SUBJECT Hay Shortage for Seeding Mulch Alternatives

This summer's drought has produced tough growing conditions for nearly all agricultural crops, and is creating challenging conditions for the industries that utilize these commodities. This includes the prairie hay and straw that NDOR utilizes to stabilize new seedings on highway construction projects. Scarcity is becoming such an issue that the NDOR has decided to allow alternatives to ensure that our roadside plantings continue to be protected and to help reduce competition for the remaining prairie hay product.

The following alternatives are offered, for the remainder of the 2012 and all of the 2013 construction seasons. For the 2014 construction season, the drought conditions will be reevaluated and the mulching specifications will be handled accordingly.

The following alternatives are offered as a **"No Cost Change Order" for Type A and B seeding**:

1. The use of "noxious weed free certified" cattails and rushes will be allowed as a substitute for prairie hay at an application rate of 2 tons/acre.
2. The use of straw without the "noxious weed free certification" at an application rate of 2.25 tons/acre.

The following alternative is offered as a **"No Cost Change Order" for Type B seeding** only:

3. The use of wood fiber hydromulch, with a manufacturer included tackifier, at an application rate of 1.5 tons/acre. Hydromulch is to be paid at one lump sum equal to the total mulch price, as shown in the contract.

The following alternative is offered as a **"Negotiable Change Order" for Type B seeding** only:

4. As an alternative to mulching the Type B seeding, covercrop can be applied at ½ the rate from Section 812. Covercrop shall be planted as a separate operation from the Type B seeding, but no more than 24 hours previous. Section 812.02.3 is void. Fertilizer shall be applied as specified in Section 803 and 804. This must also include as a minimum (2) two- 0.25 inch/acre water applications to the "Type B Seeding" area, if the area has not received rain greater than or equal to 0.5 inches within the last 7 days. If at the end of a (60) day observation period, the covercrop seeding has not produced at least (4") four inches of growth then the covercrop must be replanted, without additional fertilizer, at the same rate as specified above with no additional payment.

Pay Item	Pay Unit
Cover Crop Seeding	Acre(A)
Water for Seeding	MGal

The following alternative is offered as a **"No Cost Change Order" for Slope Protection seeding** only:

5. The use of "noxious weed free certified" cattails and rushes will be allowed as a substitute for prairie hay at an application rate of 1.5 pounds/square yard.
6. The application rate for slope protection mulch can to be reduced to 1.5 pounds/square yard.