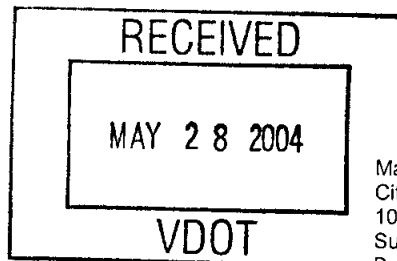




U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**



Maryland Division
City Crescent Building
10 S. Howard Street
Suite 2450
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

May 19, 2004

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project
Contract method for Chemical
Grouting of PT Ducts
(WWB-400, DPWW-MO13(33)N,
DPWW-M)13934)N, DPWW-
MO13(184)N)

Mr. Robert D. Douglass
Project Director
Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project
Maryland State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Md. 21202

Dear Mr. Douglass:

Your letter of April 2, 2004 requested for our approval to perform the chemical grouting, cleanup and testing of post tensioning (PT) ducts under a separate contract awarded by other than competitive bidding method. You requested to use Potomac Crossing Consultant (PCC) - your construction manager - as a sole-source provider to acquire the chemical grouting service from Superior Grouting Services, Inc., as a subcontractor.

Federal regulation 23 CFR 635.114 requires that Federal-aid contracts be awarded competitively to the contractor that submits the lowest responsive bid. Title 23 CFR 635 Subpart B allows that rare circumstances may justify the use of force account, negotiated contract, or other unusual method of construction. Therefore, the consideration of any noncompetitive construction contract method requires a cost effectiveness determination as well as an evaluation, which demonstrates that the circumstances are unusual and unlikely to recur.

We have reviewed your request and find that:

- 1) awarding of the chemical grouting project to PCC as a sole source provider to acquire the chemical grouting service from Superior Grouting Service, Inc. would result in the lowest overall cost,

- 2) advertising of the project on a competitive basis would either result in lack of bids or bids received would be unreasonable because of the specialized nature of the chemical grouting project,
- 3) the situation (problem of water intrusion into PT ducts) is unusual, and
- 4) after performing the chemical grouting, water intrusion into PT ducts (the situation) is potentially unlikely to recur.

Based on our concurrence with your analysis of cost effectiveness, we approve the use of PCC as a sole-source provider to acquire the chemical grouting service from Superior Grouting Services, Inc. We approve the use of special federal funding (100 percent federal) for the repair work.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-779-7136

Sincerely yours,



Nelson J. Castellanos
Division Administrator



Cc:
Ronaldo T. "Nick" Nicholson, VDOT
Bob Healy (MSHA)
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Russ Fuhrman, PCC
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