



Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

Maryland Department of Transportation

June 15, 2011

TO: Distribution List

SUBJECT: Scour Evaluations and Assessments for County Projects

SHA policy requires that a scour evaluation or assessment be performed and approved for any bridge over a waterway that is to be rehabilitated or replaced with Federal or State funds. Box culverts and other structures with paved bottoms do not require a scour evaluation or assessment. A scour evaluation is a detailed scour study to estimate and evaluate scour depths at structure foundations. A scour assessment consists of a field and office review of plans and records to verify that the risk to public safety from potential scour damage is low.

If the scour assessment concludes that the risk of scour damage is low, as described in the attachment to this letter, no further study is needed. If the risk is determined to be high, a detailed scour evaluation or additional study is needed in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Office of Structures Manual for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Design. The Manual can be found at www.gishydro.umd.edu.

For certain types of work such as deck replacements or minor superstructure rehabilitation projects, which do not affect the foundations, a scour assessment, as compared to a scour evaluation, may be appropriate. The scour assessment serves to document, and supports a decision that the risk to the public of a structure failure due to scour is low.

We have enclosed a CD containing the scour assessment worksheet and guidance for its use.

ESF/PD/cd
FILE:N_2011/SCOUREVAL_ASSESSCO.LTR

My telephone number/toll-free number is _____
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 • Phone: 410-545-0300 • www.marylandroads.com

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We encourage the use of the scour assessment process, whenever appropriate, to facilitate and expedite work on State and Federal-aid projects. Mr. Andrzej Kosicki (410 545-8340) or Mr. Prakash Dave (410 545-8355) of my office are available to discuss questions you may have about the scour assessment process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ES Freedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Earle S. Freedman, Director
Office of Structures

Enclosure: CD containing (1) Office of Structures Manual for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Design, Chapter 11 Appendix F, Scour Evaluations and Assessments for County Projects (2) Guidance for Preparing the Scour Assessment Worksheet

Cc: Mr. Ralph Manna
Mr. Dennis O'Shea (FHWA)