

**Oregon Department of Transportation**

Delivery & Operations Division/

Engineering & Technical Services

7163 ­‑ Geotechnical Engineering,

Engineering Geology & Hazmat Section

4040 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, MS 6

Salem, Oregon 97302

Phone: (503) 986-3377

Fax: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

FILE CODE:

**DATE: Monday, October 2, 2023**

**TO:** Susan C. Ortiz, P.E., G.E.

 State Geotechnical Engineer

**FROM: Susan C. Ortiz, P.E., G.E. Phone: 503.428.1344**

 **State Geotechnical Engineer**

 ODOT

**SUBJECT: Proposed Revision to Geotechnical Design Manual**

 **To Section Number** Chapter 2.4.2

**Problem Statement:**

 Subsection **2.4.2 Reviewer Authority** describing disputes was inadvertently modified in the last version. The proposal is to return language to the original text prior to 2023.

Existing language reads:

**2.4.2 Reviewer Authority**

**Disputes.** Differences in engineering opinion exist and it is likely that Reviewers and PORs will find areas of disagreement. On first identifying areas of disagreement, it is incumbent upon the parties to discuss the issue and attempt to come to a solution that is satisfactory to both parties. When an impasse has been reached, the issue will be reviewed by Headquarters geotechnical staff that will be made available to both parties. Ultimately, it may be necessary for one of the parties to recuse themselves from the project.

**Proposal:**

**2.4.2 Reviewer Authority**

**Disputes.** Differences in opinion regarding geotechnical engineering or engineering geology exist and it is likely that Reviewers and program leads will find areas of disagreement. On first identifying areas of disagreement, it is incumbent upon the parties to discuss the issue and attempt to come to a solution that is satisfactory to both parties. If a solution cannot be found, the Unit Manager should be the first person brought in to discuss the disagreement and potential solutions to assist in a resolution.

When an impasse has been reached, the issue will be reviewed by the program lead, and the State Geotechnical Engineer, who will be made available to both parties. Ultimately, it may be necessary for one of the parties to recuse themselves from the project.

**Analysis / Research / Other Supporting Data:**

[x] None

[ ] Attached:

*
*

**Geotechnical Engineering, Engineering Geology & HazMat Section Response:**

[ ]  Accepted for consideration as submitted

[ ]  Accepted for consideration as noted

[ ]  Proposal tabled, see Remarks

[ ]  Proposal not accepted, see Remarks

**Remarks:**

[Enter Remarks here]

Susan C. Ortiz, PE, GE Curran E. Mohney, RG, CEG

State Geotechnical Engineer Engineering Geology Program Lead