NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the South Dakota Department of Transportation until 1:30 pm, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at which time they will be opened for the following project(s):

Project Number	PCN	County	Type of Work	Area Engineer
000N-151,	i7RR			
000N-152,	i7RT	Brown		
000P-151,	i7RU	DIOWII		
000P-152	i7RV			
000N-151,	i7RW	Day		
000P-151	i7RX	Day	Weed Spraying	Lana Caldamith
000N-152,	i7RY	Edmundo		Lane Goldsmith
000P-152	i7T0	Edmunds		(605-626-7885)
000N-152,	i7T1	Faulk		
000P-152	i7T2	rauik		
000N-151	i7T3	Marshall		
000N-152,	i7T4	MoDhoroon		
000N-371	i7T5	McPherson		

Should you have questions you are encouraged to contact Area Engineer listed for the project.

AVAILABILITY OF PLANS AND PROPOSALS:

Specifications and proposal forms are available at the Aberdeen Area Office and at the following website: https://apps.sd.gov/hc65bidletting/RegionDefault.aspx

The DOT-123 form provided within the proposal document is for information only. Do not use for bidding purposes. Bids submitted on the enclosed DOT-123 form will be considered void and will not be accepted by the department. Please email the Aberdeen Area office for the DOT-123 form that can be used for bidding purposes to the following:

Michael.Welch@state.sd.us and Erin Mullen@state.sd.us

The email request for the DOT-123 form shall include the following information, so that the SDDOT can maintain a list of prospective bidders for this project and to maintain a contact list for future region lettings:

Company Name Mailing Address Phone Number

Addendums, if any, will be made available on-line at the above website, no later than 48 hours prior to opening bids. It will be the Contractor's responsibility to check for addendums prior to submitting bids.

CONTENT OF PROPOSALS:

Returned Proposals shall include the following items all signed in ink:

1. A notarized Contract Proposal (DOT-123). Non-signature items shall be typed or completed in ink.

Bids shall be in sealed envelopes and clearly marked on the outside as to the content when delivered to the Regional Office by the time indicated for Opening. Proposals faxed to the office will not be accepted.

If hand delivering or using a package delivery service,	If using the US Postal Service,
address the envelope:	address the envelope:
Mark Peterson, Region Engineer	Mark Peterson, Region Engineer
Department of Transportation	Department of Transportation
2735 West Highway 12	P.O. Box 1767
Aberdeen, SD 57401	Aberdeen, SD 57402-1767

Bidders will be required to fill out the blank spaces in the proposal form correctly. The bidder must fill in a unit price for each bid item shown on the proposal form. Bidders will also be required to carry out extensions and determine the "Total or Gross Sum Bid" as indicated in the proposal. The total of any proposal, as determined by the bidder, will be used only for a comparison when bids are publicly opened and read, and any errors noted in extensions or totals will be corrected to determine the "Total or Gross Sum Bid" of any proposal.

Failure to properly carry out any of the above requirements is deemed as sufficient reason to reject any proposal.

BONDING & INSURANCE:

A **bid bond** will not be required.

A **performance bond** will not be required.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Any person engaged in highway construction work in the State of South Dakota must obtain a motor fuel highway contractor tax license.

The Department of Transportation in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in consideration for an award.

The Contractor, by signing and submitting a bid or proposal, agrees to provide services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Department of Transportation reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mark Peterson Aberdeen Region Engineer

CC:

C. Bennett L. Goldsmith

File

NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS

TO REPORT BID RIGGING ACTIVITIES, CALL: 1-800-424-9071

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) OPERATES THE ABOVE TOLL-FREE "HOTLINE" MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M., EASTERN TIME. ANYONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE BID RIGGING, BIDDER COLLUSION, OR OTHER FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD USE THE "HOTLINE" TO REPORT SUCH ACTIVITIES.

THE "HOTLINE" IS PART OF THE DOT'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AND INVESTIGATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FRAUD AND ABUSE AND IS OPERATED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DOT INSPECTOR GENERAL.

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND CALLER ANONYMITY WILL BE RESPECTED.

* * * *

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT PROPOSAL

	F	PROJECT		MAINT	CONTROL			BEGIN	END
CODE	PRE	ROUTE	AGR	UNIT	REFERENCE	AFE	FUNCTION	MRM	MRM
	5	000N		151		i7RR	2305	ht I	c to
		000N		152		i7RT	2305		
		000P		151		i7RU	2305		
		000P		152		i7RV	2305		

CITY AND/C	DR COUNTY: Brown County	Bl	JDGET SOUR	CE:	FY 2025 Contr	act Maintenance		
	REGION MATERIALS CERTIFICATION CERTIFIED INSPECTORS/TESTERS TO BE INSTALLED ON CM&P:	REQUIRED: YES YES	NO WIF					
•		Control the growth of declared noxious						
	suppression within the right-of-way all maintained highway routes as shown on Exhibit "A" of this contract. The Contractor may							
	use an approved equal to the brand names listed below. The approved equal shall have the same active ingredients, and labeled instructions shall be followed.							
and labeled		IMATE OF QUANTITIES AND COS	T					
BID ITEM NUMBER		ЕМ	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT		
910E0012	24D		22800	Oz				
910E0007	Tordon 22K		9000	Oz				
910E0022	Sahara		720	Oz				
910E0197	Surfactant		2200	Oz				
910E0085	Mile Stone		3700	Oz				
910E0030	Round Up		680	Oz				
910E0100	Escort		160	Oz				
910E1 <u>050</u>	ATV/Sprayer		540	Hr				
910E1 <mark>0</mark> 10 910E1060	Truck/Sprayer Labor	use tor	260 820	Hr. Hr	din	g		
					TOTAL			
	CONT	RACTOR'S PROPOSAL STATEME	NT					
The undersigned agrees to offer the labor and material in the quantities, at the unit price, for the purpose, in the place, and in accordance with attached provisions. The Contractor will provide services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and any amendments. SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE May 1, 2025								
	K COMPLETION DATE	SIGNATURE						
	ED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME TH							
CODOCINIDA	DAY OF, 20	COMPANY						
NOTARY		STR. ADDRESS						
	nmission Expires:	CITY, STATE, ZII						
-	- -	PHONE NUMBER						
DATE		(SEAL) FEDERAL	TAX ID NUMB	ER				

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT PROPOSAL

	F	PROJECT		MAINT	CONTROL			BEGIN	END
CODE	PRE	ROUTE	AGR	UNIT	REFERENCE	AFE	FUNCTION	MRM	MRM
	h	000N		151		i7RR	2305	hti	CtO
		000N		152		i7RT	2305		
		000P		151		i7RU	2305		
		000P		152		i7RV	2305		

	TO BE FILLED OUT	BY STATE PERSONNEL:			
The parties agree that the F	Sonartment of Transpor	ation may execute this contract by electronic signature.			
The parties agree that the L	repartment of Transpor	ation may execute this contract by electronic signature.			
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:	_				
info	orma	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE ENGINEER	DATE		
AREA / REGION / OPS ENGINEER	DATE	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	DATE		
	ī	NTERNAL SERVICES / AUDITS	DATE		
ACCEPTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPA	ARTMENT OF TRANSPO	PRTATION			
NAME		TITLE DATE			
IF FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE EXPENDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, ACCEPTANCE BY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS REQUIRED					
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER	DATE				

Do not use for bidding

purposes.

INDEX OF SPECIAL PROVISIONS

PROJECT(S): 000N-151, 000N-152, 000P-151, 000P-152 PCN i7RR, i7RT, i7RU, i7RV

COUNTY(IES): Brown

TYPE OF WORK: WEED SPRAYING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL FORM:

Plans for Project - Sheets 1 thru 4.

Special Provision for Acknowledgement and Certification Regarding Article 3, Section 12 of the South Dakota Constitution, dated 8/24/23.

Special Provision for Buy America, dated 5/1/24...

Special Provision for Liability Insurance, dated 4/21/22.

Special Provision for Responsibility for Damage Claims, dated 4/21/22.

* * * *

Weed Spraying Specifications

The contractor does hereby agree to furnish the necessary equipment, materials and labor to control the growth of declared noxious weeds within the right-of way of state routes as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

Spraying

The spraying shall consist of spot treatments and shall be accomplished by using the herbicides specified on the contract (or equivalent) with applicable rates as recommended by the manufactured. If herbicide is needed that is not on this contract, the type and price shall be negotiated and added by Change Order, prior to use of the herbicide.

The contractor agrees to indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Department and all its employees and agents, from any and all claims, demands, actions or cause of action of whatsoever nature or character arising out of, or by reason of, the execution of performance of the work provided for under the contract whether or not the Contractor itself is negligent or otherwise culpable. The Contractor further agrees to defend at its own sole cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced for the purpose of asserting any claim on whatsoever nature or character arising under this contract whether or not the Contractor is itself negligent or otherwise culpable. This section does not require the Contractor to be responsible for or defend against claims or damages arising solely from acts or omissions of the State, its officers or employees.

The spraying shall be accomplished by personnel properly licensed by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

The Contactor shall advise the local Maintenance Supervisor of his intent to spray, 48 hours prior to doing so.

The Contractor shall complete the attached daily form (DOT 820) "Contract Daily Pesticide Application Record" (Exhibit B), furnished by the Department, after each day of spraying.

The Contractor shall provide the Maintenance Supervisor with a complete copy of the daily form (DOT 820) within One week after completing the spraying.

The Contractor shall submit an invoice for payment to the Area Engineer or Maintenance Supervisor (as instructed). The invoice shall be accompanied by the completed original daily form(s) DOT 820. Separate invoices may be submitted for the spring and fall sprayings, if the Contractor desires to do so.

The herbicide selected for use will dictate frequency and timing of application. If two applications are required per growing season, the first shall be made in the spring of the year while the second shall be made in the late summer or early fall as directed by the Maintenance Supervisor. For herbicides requiring a single application, the application shall be made in accordance with the label for the product being used.

Equipment used for spraying shall be an ATV capable of navigating the highway ditches to allow for identification and direct treatment of weeds. Support vehicles shall be equipped with flashing amber lights. The lights shall be turned on and used at all times when the vehicle is on the roadway.

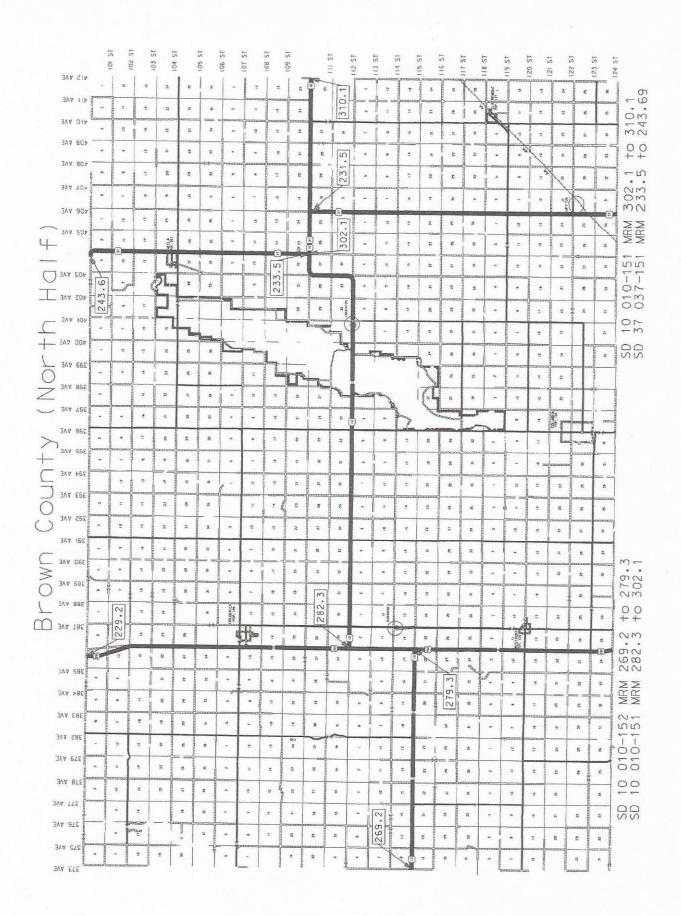
Growth Suppression

The following locations shall be treated for growth suppression:

- 6 foot radius around all sign and delineator posts.
- 2. Underneath and 3 foot behind guide rail.

Herbicides shall be applied uniformly with properly calibrated equipment using manufacturers recommended rates and concentration.

Herbicides for growth suppression shall be applied in the spring of the year. Herbicides shall not be applied to vegetation that has exceeded 8" in height.



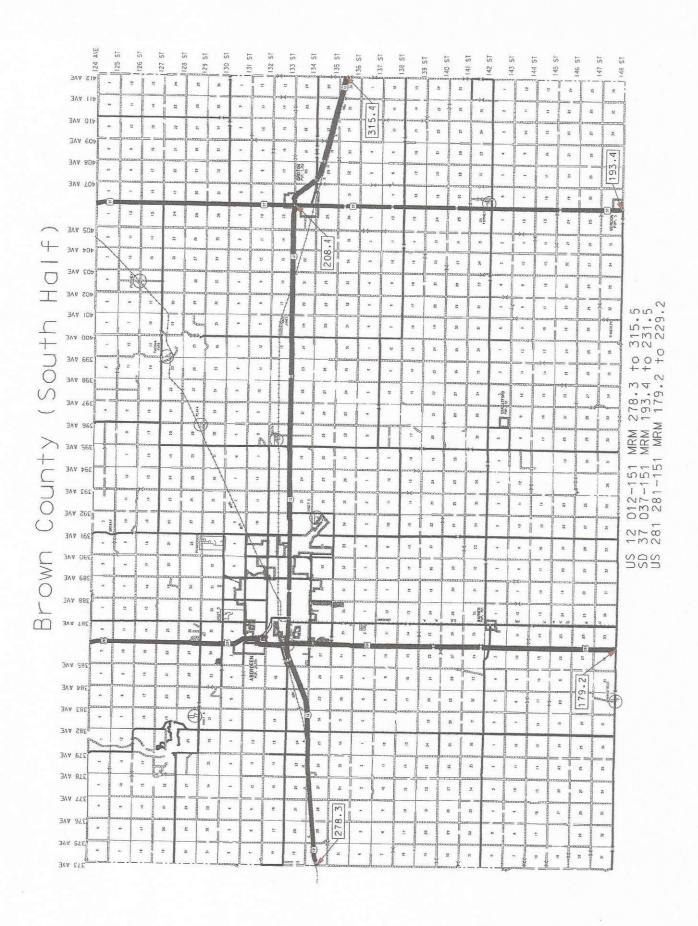


EXHIBIT B SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT 820 Modified - Aberdeen Area Rev 03/15	PCN:		DAT	E <u>:</u>	
WEATHER CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY S	UNNY	CLEAR
COUNTY MCPHERSON EDMUNDS	FAULK BROWN	DAY MAR	SHALL		
TIME TEMP °F WIND - Direction WIND - Speed APPLICATION	COMMENTS:			CDDA	
L HWY# N S E W Median A T I O N	MRM START MRM END			SPRA CONT SPOT	INUOUS
TYPE BRAND M UNIT C A L QUANTITY	OZ	OZ		OZ	
NAME L A B O R	S	ART	STOP	HOURS	LABOR TOTAL HOURS
TYPE E Q U I P		START	STOP	HOURS	EQUIP TOTAL HOURS
Operator - Applicator			D.O.A. Lico	ense #	

This form shall be completed in duplicate for each route after completion of your daily pesticide application. One copy is to be kept on file for a period of three (3) years, and the other copy is to be forwarded to the Area Engineer.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING ARTICLE 3, SECTION 12 OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION

AUGUST 24, 2023

In accordance with the State of South Dakota Office of the Governor Executive Order 2023-13, the following will apply to all contracts:

The Contractor acknowledges and certifies that the following information is correct:

CERTIFICATION OF NO STATE LEGISLATOR INTEREST:

Contractor (i) understands neither a state legislator nor a business in which a state legislator has an ownership interest may be directly or indirectly interested in any contract with the State that was authorized by any law passed during the term for which that legislator was elected, or within one year thereafter, and (ii) has read South Dakota Constitution Article 3, Section 12 and has had the opportunity to seek independent legal advice on the applicability of that provision to this contract. By signing this contract, Contractor hereby certifies that this contract is not made in violation of the South Dakota Constitution Article 3, Section 12.

It is understood and agreed that, if this certification is false, such false certification will constitute grounds for the Department to terminate the contract.

The Contractor further agrees to provide immediate written notice to the Department if during the term of the contract it no longer complies with this certification and agrees such noncompliance may be grounds for contract termination.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR BUY AMERICA

MAY 1, 2024

Section 6.9 – Page 46 – Delete and replace with the following:

- 6.9 BUY AMERICA Iron & steel, manufactured (composite) products, and construction materials must be produced in the United States in accordance with these Buy America requirements. Buy America preference applies to articles, materials, and supplies required to be consumed in, permanently incorporated into, or affixed to the completed project. Buy America preference does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies such as temporary works and other temporary items brought to the project and removed at or before the final completion of the project. Temporary items are items that are not part of contract specifications, items that are not required in the design or final working drawings, and items that are removed or could be removed but allowed to remain in place if requested by the Contractor and approved by the Engineer.
 - **A. Certification:** The following category-based requirements will apply for each article, material, or supply.
 - 1. Iron & Steel: A statement will be included on the certification stating whether the iron or steel is of domestic or foreign origin. The Department will consider iron & steel that does not require separate certification in accordance with the Department's Materials Manual as miscellaneous iron & steel. The Contractor will provide the Department a completed and signed Miscellaneous Materials Buy America Certificate stating the miscellaneous iron & steel required to be consumed in, permanently incorporated into, or affixed to the completed project complies with the Buy America requirements specified herein.
 - 2. Manufactured (Composite) Products: Due to an existing nationwide waiver, manufactured (composite) products currently have no specific requirements.
 - 3. Construction Materials: Construction materials and construction materials currently on the Department's Approved Products List will be treated as "Tier 1" items in accordance with the Required Samples, Tests, and Certificates (RSTC) section of the Department's Materials Manual. The

Contractor will provide the Department a completed and signed Miscellaneous Materials Buy America Certificate stating the construction materials required to be consumed in, permanently incorporated into, or affixed to the completed project complies with the Buy America requirements specified herein.

- **B. Determination of Material Category:** The Department, in the Department's sole discretion, will classify an article, material, or supply into one of the following categories, (1) Iron & Steel, (2) Manufactured (Composite) Product, (3) Construction Material, or (4) Excluded Material. Articles, materials, and supplies will be considered to fall into only one single category of Buy America requirements. Some contract items are composed of multiple components that may fall into different categories. Individual components and composite items will be classified based on their nature when they arrive on the work site.
 - **1. Iron & Steel:** The Department will classify items wholly or predominantly composed of iron or steel or a combination of both as iron & steel.

Predominantly of iron or steel or a combination of both means that the cost of the iron and steel content exceeds 50% of the total cost of all its components. The cost of iron and steel is the cost of the iron or steel mill products (such as bar, billet, slab, wire, plate, or sheet), castings, or forgings utilized in the manufacture of the product and a good faith estimate of the cost of iron or steel components.

- 2. Manufactured (Composite) Products: The Department will classify items not specifically classified as iron & steel, construction materials, or excluded materials which are fabricated, combined, or manufactured through a manufacturing process into a commercially available composite item as manufactured (composite) products. The Department will classify items consisting of 2 or more of the listed construction materials combined through a manufacturing process as a manufactured (composite) product. The Department will classify items consisting of 1 of the listed construction materials combined with a material not listed through a manufacturing process as a manufactured (composite) product.
- **3. Construction Materials:** The Department will classify only the materials specifically listed as construction materials as construction materials.

Minor additions of articles, materials, supplies, or binding agents to a construction material will not change the categorization of the construction material.

4. Excluded Materials: The Department will classify cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; and aggregate binding agents or additives as excluded materials.

C. Iron & Steel: Structural steel and other iron and steel products will be produced in the United States. To be considered produced in the United States, all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, must occur in the United States. The application of a coating is interpreted to mean all processes that protect or enhance the value of material or product to which it is applied; examples are epoxy coatings, galvanizing, and painting.

Buy America does not apply to iron ore, scrap, pig iron, and processed, pelletized, and reduced iron ore.

If iron ingots or steel billets produced in the United States are sent out of the country for a subsequent manufacturing process and then are brought back into the United States, the full value of the iron or steel as it reenters the country (including the original billet cost and any coatings) will be considered foreign.

If foreign iron or steel components are combined with other components into a fabricated or assembled manufactured (composite) product, the foreign iron or steel content of the manufactured (composite) product is not only the value of the foreign iron or steel components, but also the pro-rata value of the fabrication and assembly labor and overhead used in the combining the foreign iron or steel and other components into the finished manufactured (composite) product, including coatings.

- **D. Manufactured (Composite) Products:** Iron and Steel components of manufactured (composite) products will comply with the Buy America requirements for iron & steel. Due to an existing nationwide waiver, manufactured (composite) products without iron and steel components currently have no specific requirements.
- **E. Construction Materials:** Construction materials will be produced in the United States. Each construction material is followed by a standard for the material to be considered produced in the United States.

A construction material is an article, material, or supply that is one of the following:

- Non-ferrous metals. All manufacturing processes, from initial smelting or melting through final shaping, coating, and assembly, occurred in the United States.
- **2.** Plastic and polymer-based products including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables. All manufacturing processes, from initial combination of constituent plastic or

- polymer-based inputs, or, where applicable, constituent composite materials, until the item is in its final form, occurred in the United States.
- **3.** Glass including optic glass. All manufacturing processes, from initial batching and melting of raw materials through annealing, cooling, and cutting, occurred in the United States.
- **4.** Fiber optic cable including drop cable. All manufacturing processes, from the initial ribboning (if applicable), through buffering, fiber stranding and jacketing, occurred in the United States. All manufacturing processes also include the standards for glass and optical fiber, but not for non-ferrous metals, plastic and polymer-based products, or any others.
- **5.** Optical fiber. All manufacturing processes, from the initial preform fabrication stage through the completion of the draw, occurred in the United States.
- **6.** Lumber. All manufacturing processes, from initial debarking through treatment and planing, occurred in the United States.
- **7.** Engineered wood. All manufacturing processes from the initial combination of constituent materials until the wood product is in its final form, occurred in the United States.
- **8.** Drywall. All manufacturing processes, from initial blending of mined or synthetic gypsum plaster and additives through cutting and drying of sandwiched panels, occurred in the United States.
- F. Unavailability of Compliant Items: If the Contractor discovers a Buy America compliant item or items does not exist or an item becomes unavailable, the Contractor will immediately notify the Department. The Contractor will furnish written documentation of the Contractor's complete efforts to obtain a compliant item. This documentation will include a complete contact log with dates and times of the Contractor's efforts to obtain a compliant item, the responses received, and any correspondence between the Contractor and potential suppliers of the item which demonstrate efforts to obtain a compliant item. If, based on review of the documentation provided, the Department determines all potential options to obtain a compliant item have been exhausted; the Department will determine the appropriate course of action.
- **G. Non-Compliant Items:** If the Engineer, in the Engineer's sole discretion, determines an article, material, or supply provided to the project does not comply with these Buy America requirements but is available; the following will apply:

- 1. If the non-compliant item is not permanently incorporated into the completed work, the Contractor will not permanently incorporate the item and will replace the non-compliant item with an item that complies with the Buy America requirements specified herein at the Contractor's expense.
- 2. If the non-compliant item has been permanently incorporated into the completed project; the Engineer, in the Engineer's sole discretion, will determine if the non-compliant item must be removed and replaced including any completed work at the Contractor's expense or if the non-compliant item may remain in place in accordance with both of the following requirements:
 - **a.** Minor quantities of non-compliant iron & steel may be incorporated in the Department's sole discretion based on the Department's review of the Contractor's documented invoiced material costs, provided the invoiced material costs of all non-compliant iron & steel do not exceed 0.1% of the total contract amount or \$2,500, whichever is greater.
 - **b.** Minor quantities of non-compliant iron & steel and construction materials may be incorporated in the Department's sole discretion based on the Department's review of the Contractor's documented invoiced material costs, provided the total value of the non-compliant items does not exceed 5.0% of the total applicable costs for the project or \$1,000,000, whichever is less.

The total value of the non-compliant items will include non-compliant iron & steel and non-compliant construction materials. The total value of the non-compliant items will not include excluded materials, manufactured (composite) products, or other items within the scope of an existing Buy America waiver.

The total value of an item includes the cost of the material plus the cost of transportation to the project site, as evidenced by delivery receipt, but does not include the labor costs to assemble and install at the project site.

The total applicable project costs will be defined as the total value of materials used in the project that are subject to a domestic preference requirement, including the total value of any iron & steel, construction materials, manufactured (composite) products, and other items within the scope of an existing Buy America waiver. The total applicable project costs will not include excluded materials.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE

APRIL 21, 2022

Section 7.15 – Page 50 – Delete and replace with the following:

7.15 LIABILITY INSURANCE - The Contractor will procure and maintain at the Contractor's expense, during duration of the contract, liability insurance with an insurance company authorized to do business in the state of South Dakota, for damages imposed by law. The insurance will cover all operations under the contract, whether performed by the Contractor or by subcontractors, and will name the State of South Dakota, the Department, and the Department's officers and employees as additional insureds, but liability coverage is limited to claims not barred by sovereign immunity. The State of South Dakota, the Department, and the Department's officers and employees do not hereby waive sovereign immunity for discretionary conduct as provided by law. Before commencing the work, the Contractor will furnish certificates of insurance, certifying that the policies will not be changed or cancelled until 30 calendar days' written notice has been given to the Department.

The certificates of insurance will provide evidence that the Contractor carries sufficient liability insurance to protect the public from injuries sustained by reason of pursuing the work, and that Workers' Compensation Insurance meets the requirements of the South Dakota Workers' Compensation Law.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE CLAIMS

APRIL 21, 2022

Section 7.14 – Page 50 – Delete and replace with the following:

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE CLAIMS - The Contractor will indemnify the State of South Dakota, the Department, and the State's officers and employees, from all suits, actions, or claims of any character, including suits in which the State, Department, or the State's officers and employees are sued, brought because of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property arising at least in part from the Contractor's operations; or on account of or in consequence of any neglect in safeguarding the work; or through use of unacceptable materials in constructing the work; or because of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct of said Contractor; or because of any claims or amounts recovered from any infringements of patent, trademark, or copyright; or from any claims or amounts arising or recovered under the "Workers' Compensation Act", or any other law, ordinance, order, or decree. The Contractor's obligation to indemnify will include the payment of reasonable attorney fees and other costs of defense. So much of the money due the Contractor under and by virtue of the contract as may be considered necessary by the Department for such purpose may be retained for the use of the State; or in case no money is due, the Contractor's surety may be held until such suit or suits, action or actions, claim or claims for injuries or damages as aforesaid will have been settled and suitable evidence to that effect furnished to the Department. Money due the Contractor will not be withheld when the Contractor produces satisfactory written confirmation from the Contractor's insurer that adequate public liability insurance and property damage insurance providing coverage for such particular claims as may be made is in force, and the Contractor provides evidence the claim has been submitted to the Contractor's insurer. A copy of a certificate of insurance, without further confirmation of coverage for the particular claim being made, will not be sufficient to satisfy the requirement of written confirmation.