



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Distribution
From: Paul Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer
Date: July 7, 2008
Subject: Mass Diagram

Construction and the Highways Bureau have decided that the Mass Diagram will no longer be included in the plans package. Designers will continue to develop the mass diagram following the current procedures during the design process. They must send it and the volume text file to Contract Plans with the earthwork log file. All of them will be posted for information purposes on the Internet for anyone to access. The decision to eliminate the Mass Diagram from the contract plans package was based on the following issues:

- 1) The mass diagram is not an exact representation of how the grading will be accomplished, because the designer can not assume where the contractor will start grading or where they will introduce borrow and/or waste.
- 2) Problems can occur when the balances do not match the construction sequencing in the special provisions.
- 4) The mass diagram does not account for limitations on haul, such as hauling across bridges.

The Mass Diagram will be eliminated from the contract plans packages starting with projects in the November 2008 letting. If you have questions concerning this, please contact me at 444-6244.

Pf.

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