



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

North Carolina Department of Transportation

**MULTI-BRANCH EVALUATION COMMITTEE
FOR NEW PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

BACKGROUND

In the past sales representatives often visited various sections of the Department of Transportation in an effort to sell their product. If a Branch or Unit felt the product had merit, that section may have elected to evaluate the product. The results of those evaluations were normally used within that section and were not distributed to other Units. At times, this has resulted in the same item or method being evaluated by more than one Unit.

To provide a more thorough and orderly evaluation of products and methods, a Multi-Disciplinary Committee has now been formed and will be operating through the cooperative efforts of the Design, Construction, Maintenance, Traffic Engineering, and Planning and Research Branches. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has also representation on this committee.

PURPOSE

The Multi-Disciplinary Committee will provide a comprehensive evaluation of new products, methods and procedures. The Committee may approve or disapprove the use of these products, methods or procedures in the design, construction and maintenance of our highways. Sales Representatives or manufacturers will submit their information to one central committee rather than visiting the many different units.

The Committee will also monitor installations and provide long-term documentation on the durability and performance of new products, methods and procedures.

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY UNIT
1595 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1595

TELEPHONE: 919-250-4234
FAX: 919-212-5711

WEBSITE:
WWW.NCDOT.ORG/DOH/PRECONSTRUCTION/ALTERN/

LOCATION:
CENTURY CENTER COMPLEX
ENTRANCE B-1
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The following personnel were selected by the Branch Managers for the Multi-Branch Committee. The Chairman and Co-Chairman were elected by the Committee.

Frankie Draper, Acting Chairman	(919) 250-4143	Alternate Delivery Unit
Jack Cowsert, PE Co-Chairman	(919) 733-7088	Materials and Tests
Emily McGraw, PE	(919) 733-3725	State Road Maintenance
Terry McLaurin	(919) 835-8431	State Road Maintenance
Paul Sprouse, PE	(919) 835-8212	Bridge Management
James Speer, PE	(919) 250-4016	Roadway Design
Farzin Asefnia, PE	(919) 250-4047	Structure Design
Moy Biswas, Ph.D., PE	(919) 715-2465	Research and Analysis
Mustan Kadibhai, PE	(919) 715 2467	Research and Analysis, PE
Randy Henegar, PE	(919) 250-4100	Hydraulics Unit
Jerry Blackwelder, Jr., PE	(919) 250-4094	Pavement Management
David B. Harris, PE	(919) 733-2920	Roadside Environmental
Tom Drda, PE	(919) 856-4354	Federal Highway Admin
Chris Howard	(919) 250-4159	Traffic Engineering
Delbert Roddenberry	(919) 715-5657	Chief Engineer's Office
Chris Chen, Ph.D., PE	(919) 250-4088	Geotechnical Unit
Norma Smith	(919) 250-4128	Special Services Unit
Ron King, PE	(919) 662-4339	Signing Unit
James M. Jackson, CSP	(919) 250-4200	Safety & Loss Control
John Schleich	(919) 329-8493	Signing Unit
Wayne Johnson, PE, PLS	(919) 250-4153	Alternate Delivery Unit
Bill Chappell	(919) 733-8015	Eng. & Safety Branch
Milton Dean, PE	(919) 661-5952	Signals Mgt. Unit
Renee Roach, PE	(919) 437-2614	Traffic Eng. & Safety Sys Br.
Zahid Baloch	(919) 733-7844	Proj. Develop. Mgr. (PDEA)
Daniel L. Smith,	(919) 250-4148	New Products Engineer

Representatives from other Units may serve on an as-needed basis.

The Chairman of the Committee or his designated Coordinator will be responsible for arranging the meetings, receiving information from the various sales or manufacturing representatives and disseminating it to the other Committee members, conducting or coordinating product studies when needed, and other miscellaneous duties as required.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

(1) Application:

Sales representatives or manufacturing personnel seeking approval of new products may request an audience with members of the NP Committee to submit their information to the Coordinator for distribution to the appropriate Committee members. Time is limited to 60 Minutes, total; of which 10 minutes prior to and after the

presentation is dedicated to questions. The Committee members will examine product information and history of use, if applicable, relevant to their field of operations. Testing of material properties may be requested at this time. After reviewing this information, the Committee member will provide a recommendation concerning approval or rejection of the product to the Committee, at large, for a ruling.

- (2) When additional information is desired by the Committee; the committee may request (a) additional information from the sales, or manufacturing representative, (b) sales representatives, or manufacturing personnel to work with various reviewing members of the Committee; to develop an in-depth study or additional test data, or (c) various reviewing members to perform a more in-depth study and make a recommendation to the full Committee. The Chairman or his designate may serve as study coordinator, in the development and presentation of these reports, to the Committee.
- (3) The Evaluation Committee will meet monthly to assure timely consideration of submitted products for evaluation.
- (4) The Committee may approve, disapprove, recommend trial use, or recommend limited use of new products in construction and maintenance of our highways.
- (5) The Committee will coordinate the monitoring of trial installations and ensure that long term documentation on the durability and performance of the products and methods is obtained.
- (6) The Committee will not normally consider new equipment products such as those handled by the Equipment Unit.
- (7) Vendors failing to satisfactorily respond to inquiries, correspondence or maintain contact with the Chairman or his Coordinator for a period of one year will be subject to having their product dropped from the Evaluation Program.
- (8) The Chairman has the authority to drop from the Evaluation Program products with no apparent or significant application for usage in the Highway Program or products which are deemed not to be far enough along in the development process to evaluate.
- (9) This program is intended for the evaluation of new and/or proprietary products for highway use. Products meeting the "NCDOT Standard Specification for Roads and Structures" are not usually evaluated, or receive approval.
- (10) Acceptance of a product for evaluation by NCDOT or Committee's approval of the product after evaluation is in no way a commitment to purchase, or specify the product investigated regardless of its performance.
- (11) The following status codes have been adopted as a means of identifying the Committee's action on products submitted for evaluation. Some codes are self-explanatory. Others will benefit from further discussion as noted below.

<u>Status Code</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
AU	<u>A</u> pproved for <u>U</u> se
CA	<u>C</u> onceptual <u>A</u> pproved on a project by project basis
TU	Approved for <u>T</u> rial <u>U</u> se
NFC	<u>N</u> o <u>F</u> urther <u>C</u> onsideration
NAT	<u>N</u> o <u>A</u> ction <u>T</u> aken
UNR	<u>U</u> sage <u>N</u> ot <u>R</u> ecommended
H	<u>H</u> olding (awaiting on-going evaluation)
NAR	<u>N</u> o <u>A</u> ction <u>R</u> equired-Conforms to Specifications
NAU	<u>N</u> ot <u>A</u> pproved for <u>U</u> se
VOID	No Longer Authorized

AU Approved for Use indicates the Committee found the evidence sufficient to consider the product fully acceptable. Also, assigned to products that have been verified to meet our current specifications as described in the “Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures”. Assignment of this status code does not imply endorsement of the product and should not be construed as a guarantee that the Department will use this product. Should a problem arise with use by construction or maintenance activities, The Committee would appreciate being notified.

CA Conceptual Approval status is assigned to products which have been found acceptable for use; however, their usage must also be approved for each application. These are usually pre-cast or prefabricated products for which the product design must be modified to meet ‘Site Specific’ project requirements. Products which are conceptually approved can be considered for value engineering proposals during the design or construction phase of a project.

TU Trial Use indicates the Committee has determined the product to be worthy of further evaluation by incorporating it into construction or maintenance work. The Committee encourages the project design, construction, or maintenance personnel to use the product. When used, the vendor shall notify the Committee Chairman so the product or process can be properly monitored. Although the Committee encourages its use, the Department is not responsible for establishing a trial application.

If a product is not used within a 3-years period, it will be placed on “No Further Consideration” status. This has no bearing on the quality of the product but reflects that the Department does not have a need for the product at this time.

NFC **No Further Consideration** status is applied to products, for which no need presently exists within our Department; or do not have specific transportation construction/maintenance related applications. This status is assigned to products for which no use is anticipated within the next five years.

The vendor may, at his option, resubmit the product for consideration no sooner than five years after the date this code is assigned. Also, products which have been withdrawn by the vendor or have been awaiting additional information from the vendor for more than one (1) year are assigned this status. Assignment of this status code does not imply any judgment as to the quality of the product, only that the Department has elected to not consider the product further.

NAT - **No Action Taken** status applies to products that meet current specifications or standards, and therefore do not need approval status. Some category of products that receive this status will not appear under the approved products listing.

UNR -**U usage Not Recommended.** Product does not meet our current needs or criteria at this time. It is based on limited usage of the product within our Department.

H - **Holding** (awaiting on-going evaluation)

NAR **No Action Required** status applies to products that have been certified by the vendor, that the product conforms to the NCDOT Standard Specification for Roads and Structures Manual; including Special Provisions, indicated on the Evaluation Application, by filling in the Division & Section above part **I**.

NAU **Not Approved for Use** indicates the Committee found the evidence sufficient to consider the product not acceptable. Also, assigned to products that have been verified to not meet our current specifications as described in the “Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures. Should a problem arise with use by construction or maintenance activities, The Committee would appreciate being notified.

VOID **VOID** Product is no longer authorized for use on NCDOT Highway projects.

NOTE: There may be occasions when a new product has merit potential. However, insufficient information is available concerning the product’s performance to enable a Committee decision. Experimental use of these products may be coordinated through the Design, Construction or Maintenance Units; interested in specifying or using the product.

The information obtained through experimental usage will be used by the Committee to complete an evaluation and make a ruling.

(12) Data resulting from an evaluation of the submitted product is public information and will not be considered privileged. All information developed during this product evaluation may be released by the North Carolina Department of Transportation at its discretion.

The Approved Products List is intended to tabulate information about certain proprietary products for highway use. Products covered by the “NCDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Structures” are not usually included. Approval of a product is not to be construed as an endorsement or indication that the product(s) will be used.

Project Design Engineers and Division Construction and Maintenance Engineers are made aware of approved products through a Main Frame Data Base with programs including the Approved Products Listing. However, these engineers are under no obligation to specify or use specific products once this committee has approved the product. Vendors or manufacturers wanting to promote the use of their product(s) after receiving committee approval should consider the following:

1. Vendors or manufacturers of products which meet the requirements of the “NCDOT Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures” may wish to contact contractors who have been awarded construction projects which will need the particular product. The types and quantities of materials to be used in new construction projects can be identified in the Department’s monthly publication “**Invitation to Bid**”. Persons wishing to subscribe to this listing may contact the State Contract Office - Proposals Squad of the Project Services Unit at (919)-250-4128. The identity of contractors who have been awarded specific projects can be obtained through the Public Affairs Office @ (919)-733-2520 or the State Contract Officer @ (919)-250-4128.
2. Committee approved products for which a Standard Specification is not applicable may be designed into a specific project by a Department Project Design Engineer. A special provision will be prepared by the design engineer and included in the contract documents to define the requirements for, and quantities of, products to be used. As stated earlier, Project Design Engineers are made aware of new products through the Approved Products Listing. However, vendors or manufacturers may wish to periodically mail product information flyers to Department Design & Maintenance Branch Units indicating that the product is available and has been approved by the New Products Evaluation Committee.

3. In addition to constructing new projects, the NCDOT is responsible for maintaining over 88,000 miles of roadway and more than 17,000 bridges. Maintenance of these facilities is directed through both the Raleigh Central Office and Division of Highways offices located throughout the state. Vendors or manufacturers of roadway or bridge maintenance products approved by the Committee may wish to promote these types of products to Division Maintenance Engineers and Area Bridge Maintenance Superintendents.

A list of addresses for these individuals can be provided upon a request made to the New Products Evaluation Program Coordinator at (919)-250-4147. Department Maintenance Engineers are under no obligation to use the products approved by the committee.

4. Upon receiving product approval from the Committee, vendors or manufacturers may wish to promote their products to users within the state having similar needs as the Department. Municipalities or private developers occasionally construct roadway or structures which eventually will be incorporated into the Department's maintained system. Right-of-Way encroachment agreements are reviewed by Department engineers to ensure that, among other things, Department approved products are used by the encroaching parties.
5. Committee approved products, for which the Department's Standard Specifications do not apply, and which have not been included as a bid alternate in a project design; may be considered in Value Engineering Proposals which can be submitted by contractors, after a contract has been awarded. Product vendors or manufacturers may wish to work with contractors to develop cost saving Value Engineering Proposals, which utilize their products. Contractors are awarded a 50% share of the savings obtained through approved value engineering proposals. For more information on the Value Engineering Proposal clause and procedures contact the Value Engineer's Office at (919)-250-4153.

Questions regarding the New Products Evaluation Program in general or about specific products should be directed to:

Mr. Frankie Draper, Special Services Engineer
New Products Evaluation Committee Chairman, (Acting)
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Alternate Delivery Unit
1595 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1595
Telephone (919)-250-4234
Fax No. (919) 212-5711
e-mail <mailto:fdraper@ncdot.gov>

Or visit our web site at:

<http://www.ncdot.org/business>

Click on New Product Information pull down menu, and click on your choice

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