SECTION 312317

ROCK EXCAVATION

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***NOTE TO SPECIFIER***

*Use this Specification Section for Mail Processing Facilities.*

***This is a Type 1 Specification with completely editable text; therefore, any portion of the text can be modified by the A/E preparing the Solicitation Package to suit the project.***

*For Design/Build projects, do not delete the Notes to Specifier in this Section so that they may be available to Design/Build entity when preparing the Construction Documents.*

*For the Design/Build entity, this specification is intended as a guide for the Architect/Engineer preparing the Construction Documents.*

*The MPF specifications may also be used for Design/Bid/Build projects. In either case, it is the responsibility of the design professional to edit the Specifications Sections as appropriate for the project.*

*Text shown in brackets must be modified as needed for project specific requirements.* *See the “Using the USPS Guide Specifications” document in Folder C for more information.*

*The last date that USPS revised this standard specification section occurs in two places, at the end of this section and in the Table of Contents. If the date in this section matches the date in the Table of Contents, then you are using the latest version. Do not delete or revise the “last revised” date at the end of the section during the development of the Project Manual.*

*The footer in this section should be edited to replace the text, “USPS MPF SPECIFICATION” with the project name, and the blank date in the center should be replaced with the submission date, for interim design reviews, or the issue date of the completed Project Manual.*

**Use this section where Rock Excavation is part of the Work. Before editing this Section, obtain the "Report of Subsurface Investigation" prepared by the Geotechnical Engineer. Read the report and incorporate the recommendations included in the report into this Section.**

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1. GENERAL
   1. SUMMARY
      1. Section Includes:
         1. Removal of identified and discovered rock during excavation.
         2. Incorporating removed rock into fills and embankments.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use subparagraph below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + - 1. Use of explosives to assist rock removal.
    1. Related Documents: The Contract Documents, as defined in Section 011000 - Summary of Work, apply to the Work of this Section. Additional requirements and information necessary to complete the Work of this Section may be found in other Documents.
    2. Related Sections:
       1. Section 312000 ‑ Earth Moving: Cutting, Filling, and grading for site improvements.

2. Section 312300 ‑ Excavation and Fill: Earthwork for structures, utilities and pavement.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use REFERENCES below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* 1. REFERENCES
     1. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
        1. NFPA 495 ‑ Code For Explosive Materials.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use SUBMITTALS below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* 1. SUBMITTALS
     1. Section 013300 - Submittal Procedures: Procedures for submittals.
        1. Explosives: Indicate proposed method of blasting, delay pattern, explosive types, type of blasting mat or cover, and intended rock recovery method.
        2. Assurance/Control Submittals.
           1. Qualification Documentation: Submit seismic survey firm and explosives firm documentation of experience indicating compliance with specified qualification requirements.
  2. QUALITY ASSURANCE

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXPLOSIVES below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + 1. Qualifications for Explosives:
       1. Seismic Survey Firm: Company specializing in seismic surveys with five years documented experience.
       2. Explosives Firm: Company specializing in explosives for destruction for removal of subsurface rock with five years documented experience.
    2. Regulatory Requirements:
       1. Perform rock removal in accordance with applicable requirements of governing authorities having jurisdiction.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use subparagraphs 2 & 3 below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + - 1. Comply with all laws, rules, and regulations of Federal, State and local authorities which govern storage, use, manufacture, sale, handling, transportation, licensing, or other disposition of explosives. Take special precautions for proper use of explosives to prevent harm to human life and damage to surface structures, all utility lines, or other subsurface structures. Do not conduct blasting operations until persons in vicinity have had ample notice and have reached positions of safety.
      2. Obtain permits from authorities having jurisdiction before explosives are brought to site or drilling for setting of explosives is started.
         1. Notify Contracting Officer of schedule and procedures prior to explosive use.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use PRE-INSTALLATION MEETING below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + 1. Pre-Installation Meeting:
       1. Convene a pre-installation meeting one week prior to commencing Work of this Section.
       2. Require attendance of parties directly affecting Work of this Section.
       3. Review conditions for use of explosives in rock removal operations, explosive rock removal procedures and coordination with related Work.
       4. Agenda:
          1. Tour, inspect and discuss conditions of existing soils and rock encountered.
          2. Review blast control measures and requirements.
          3. Review safety precautions relating to use of explosives
          4. Review types of explosives to be used.
          5. Review required submittals, both completed and yet to be completed.
          6. Review and finalize construction schedule relating to explosive rock removal, and verify availability of materials, personnel, equipment and facilities needed to make progress and avoid delays.
          7. Review required inspections, certifying, and material usage accounting procedures.
          8. Review weather and forecasted weather conditions, and procedures for coping with unfavorable conditions.
  1. PROJECT CONDITIONS OR SITE CONDITIONS
     1. Environmental Requirements: Determine all environmental effects associated with proposed rock removal Work and safeguard those concerns as regulated by law and authorities having jurisdiction by approved methods.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use paragraph below when EXPLOSIVES are NOT Permitted.

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* + 1. Explosives: Not permitted.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use paragraph below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + 1. Explosives: Do not bring explosives onto site or use in Work without prior written permission from Contracting Officer and authorities having jurisdiction. Comply with requirements of NFPA 495. Contractor is solely responsible for handling, storage, and use of explosive materials when their use is permitted.
       1. Hold harmless the Architect, Engineer and United States Postal Service from any claim resulting from use of explosives. Removal of materials of any nature by blasting shall be done in such a manner and such time as to avoid damage affecting the integrity of design and to avoid damage to any new or existing structure included in or adjacent to work. It shall be Contractor’s responsibility to determine method of operation to ensure desired results and integrity of completed work.
    2. Existing Conditions:
       1. Geotechnical Data:
          1. Reports of Subsurface Investigation and data are not a part of Contract Documents.
          2. Soil and subsurface investigations were conducted at the site by an independent testing laboratory and a report with log of borings prepared. This report was obtained for USPS design use only.
          3. A copy of the report is provided by Contracting Officer and is made available for convenience of the Contractor.
          4. Soils investigation data is not warranted to indicate actual conditions. Owner and Architect/Engineer do not assume responsibility for variations in kind, depth, quantity and condition of soils; they disclaim responsibility for accuracy, true location, and extent of soils investigation that has been prepared by others; and they further disclaim responsibility for interpretation of that data by Contractor as in projecting soil bearing values, rock profiles, soil stability, and presence, level, and extent of underground water.
          5. Additional test borings and other exploratory operations may be made by Contractor at no additional cost to United States Postal Service.
       2. Immediately report any discrepancy between Contract Documents and amount and type of rock to be removed to Contracting Officer.

1. PRODUCTS

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use "Not Used" below when EXPLOSIVES are NOT Permitted.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use MATERIALS below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* 1. MATERIALS
     1. Explosives, Detonator/Delay Devices and Blasting Mat Materials: NFPA 495; Type recommended by explosive firm following a seismic survey and required by authorities having jurisdiction.

1. EXECUTION
   1. EXAMINATION
      1. Section 017300 - Execution: Verification of existing conditions before starting work.
      2. Verification of Conditions: Verify that field measurements, surfaces, substrates and conditions are as required, and ready to for rock excavation to begin.
      3. Report in writing to Contracting Officer prevailing conditions that will adversely affect satisfactory execution of the Work of this Section. Do not proceed with Work until unsatisfactory conditions have been corrected.
      4. By beginning Work, Contractor accepts conditions and assumes responsibility for correcting unsuitable conditions encountered at no additional cost to the United States Postal Service.
   2. ROCK EXCAVATION
      1. Perform rock excavation in a manner that will produce material of such size as to permit it being placed in embankments in accordance with Section 312000. Remove rock to limits indicated. Remove loose or shattered rock, overhanging ledges and boulders which might dislodge.
      2. Rock Excavation - Mechanical Method:
         1. Excavate for and remove rock by mechanical method. Drill holes and utilize expansive tools and wedges to fracture rock.
         2. Cut away rock at excavation bottom to form level bearing. Remove shaled layers to provide sound and unshattered base for foundations.
         3. In utility trenches, excavate to 6 inches below invert elevation of pipe and 24 inches wider than pipe diameter.
         4. Remove shaled layers to provide sound unshattered base for footings and foundations.
         5. Re-use excavated rock materials on-site in accordance with Section 312000.
         6. Remove excavated rock materials not re-used off-site.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Use ROCK EXCAVATION - EXPLOSIVES METHOD below when EXPLOSIVES are PERMITTED.

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* + 1. Rock Excavation - Explosives Method:
       1. Where igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rock is encountered that cannot be removed by rippers or other mechanical methods, remove rock by explosives method.
       2. Comply with requirements of NFPA 495.
    2. Use lean concrete or suitable materials to replace rock overblast or overexcavation in building area and in expansion area to facilitate placement of utilities and future footings.
  1. FIELD QUALITY CONTROL
     1. Section 014000 - Quality Requirements: Field inspection.
     2. Inspection: Contracting Officer will inspect bearing surfaces and cavities formed by removed rock.

END OF SECTION

USPS MPF Specification Last Revised: 10/1/2022