**RESPONSE TO D.S. BROWN RFI – STEEL ELASTOMERIC BEARINGS**
**NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

Following are the RFI questions generated by D.S. Brown on the Elastomeric Bearing Details. Original RFI is attached for reference.

Reference RFI#: 42253-1103/1107-RFI#1 (D.S. Brown RFI #)
RFI Date: 11/22/2013

VHB responses are in ***bold italics*** following each comment.

**Received from Jennifer Fitch – VTrans Project Manager November 22, 2013.**

**RFI Questions and Responses:**

1. Where applicable, the contract plans call for 16ga internal steel laminate. The D.S. Brown Company asks to substitute 14ga steel due to erratic 'floating' of the 16ga steel during the curing process. This floating often leads to out-of-tolerance internal layers thickness and rejected elastomeric bearings. 14ga marginally thicker steel (0.0147") is less prone to 'floating' during the fabrication process. D.S. Brown proposes holding the exterior elastomeric dimensions and thinning the interior elastomeric dimensions to compensate for the gage substitution. Bearing Height would not be modified. Please verify this minor substitution.

   ***Substituting 14ga internal steel layers for the 1/16" layers (as shown in the plans) is acceptable. The overall difference between the 14ga thickness (0.0747) and the 1/16" plan thickness, as designed, is only 0.0122" (less than one quarter of 1/16"), which would lead to an overall thickness change of less than 1/32" (both steel internal layers combined). This modification is acceptable.***

2. Please provide Load Data for the bearing for proof load testing.

   ***All loads are "service loads".***

   ***NEXT Beam Bearings (per bearing):***

   ***DL – 51.5 kips***

   ***LL – 50.5 kips***

   ***Steel Support Beam:***

   ***DL – 31.5 kips***

   ***LL – N/A***

**The D.S. Brown Company**
300 East Cherry Street
North Baltimore, OH 45872
(419) 257-3561
(419) 257-0332 [Engineering Fax #]

# Request for Information

Date Sent: 11/22/13 Response Requested by: ASAP

DS Brown RFI #: 42253-1103/1107-RFI#1)

| | |
|---|---|
| Contractor: | **T Buck Construction, Inc.** |
| To: | **Brian Emmons** |
| Project Description: | **VT RT 125** |
| Project #: | **RS 0174(8)** |
| E-mail Address/Fax #: | **bemmons@tbuckcon.net** |
| | |
| DS Brown Project #: | **42253-1103/1107/1102-VT** |
| Reply to: | **Steve Postich** |
| E-mail Address: | **spostich@dsbrown.com** |
| Phone Number: | **419 257-5446** |
| | |
| Subject: | **Elastomeric Bearings** |

**Project Status:**

X Able to Proceed
☐ Able to Proceed BUT requested information needed prior to drawing submittal
☐ **ON HOLD** until receipt of requested information

**Please provide the following items:**

☐ Special Provisions
☐ Field Measurements (sketch provided—please complete)
☐ Structural Steel Drawings
☐ "As Built" Shop Drawings
☐ Finish Details
  ☐ Federal Color Number
  ☐ Paint System
☐ Contract Document Clarification (explanation provided below)
X Other (explanation provided below)

**Explanation:**

1. Where applicable, the contract plans call for 16ga internal steel laminate. The D.S. Brown Company asks to substitute 14ga steel due to erratic 'floating' of the 16ga steel during the curing process. This floating often leads to out-of-tolerance internal layers thickness and rejected elastomeric bearings. 14ga marginally thicker steel (0.0147") is less prone to 'floating' during the fabrication process. D.S. Brown proposes holding the exterior elastomeric dimensions and thinning the interior elastomeric dimensions to compensate for the gage substitution. Bearing Height would not be modified. Please verify this minor substitution.
2. Please provide Load Data for the bearings for proof load testing.