



# Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JOSÉ ABREU  
SECRETARY

February 14, 2005

**\*\* Expired \*\***

**MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 02-05**  
**DCE MEMORANDUM NO: 03-05**  
**(FHWA APPROVED: 2/11/05)**

**TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS  
DISTRICT MATERIALS ENGINEERS**

**FROM:** Ananth Prasad, P.E., Director, Office of Construction  
Thomas O. Malerk, P.E., Director, State Materials Office

**COPIES:** David Sadler, Don Davis (FHWA), Bob Burleson (FTBA), District Geotechnical Engineers

**SUBJECT: PILE HAMMER APPROVALS**

The Contractor is responsible for bringing a suitable pile driving hammer to the project. As soon as the pile driving results indicate that proposed hammer performs marginally (can't provide the required pile bearing capacity within the blow count range indicated in 455-5.10.2, or does not have the necessary reserve driving capacity per 455-5.11.2) the hammer should be rejected.

Approval of marginal hammers is becoming too frequent in the Districts. The reason being given for such hammer approval is that it is being done so in "the spirit of partnering". Partnering is about building relationships, establishing lines of communications, proactively dealing with issues before they arise, and to facilitate quick turnarounds of submittal analyses and approvals but not undermining specification requirements.

Accepting a pile hammer that performs marginally can and does often invite unnecessary difficulties during the production pile installation and therefore, should be discontinued immediately. If the pile hammer is insufficient, it is to be rejected and the Contractor be expected to provide one that meets all of the specifications for performance.

If you have any questions on this, please contact Sastry Putcha at 850-414-4148 or SC 994-4148.

PM/pw