In the setting of permanent and test piling, the Contractor may initially predrill holes to a depth up to 10 feet or 20% of the pile length whichever is greater, unless otherwise shown in the Plans. Predrill holes for production piles in the same manner and to the same depth test piles were predrilled, unless required otherwise by the Engineer or the Plans.

Response: This was a change requested by Keith Waugh from FTBA on March 8, 2021. He specifically requested to “Revise to allow permanent piling initial predrill to same depth as the test piles. This would provide relationship of driving data to the test pile installation”. He was not asking to go to 25%, just to allow the production piles to have the same predrill depth of the test piles.

We agreed with this request because the driving criteria is based on the test piles conditions. In order not to alter the driving criteria the predrilling should be the same depth and in the same manner as the test piles were driven. Through the years the Department has increased the predrilling depth allowance from 4’ to 10 ft and up to 20 % length. We do not find necessary nor prudent going beyond the 20%, which may affect the lateral stability, axial capacity and unnecessarily require longer piles.

After discussing with the CO geotechnical engineers, we will make the following change:

In the setting of permanent and test piling, the Contractor may initially predrill holes to a depth up to 20% of the test pile length unless required otherwise by the Engineer or the Plans. Predrill holes for production piles in the same manner as the test piles.
deletions thereto, as approved by the Engineer." Add- "No adjustments in the length, in feet, of piling will be made if cut-offs are required after the pile has been driven to satisfactory bearing." Comment: The quantity to be paid for will be the authorized length in feet furnished. No adjustments in the length, in feet, of piling will be made if cut-offs are required after the pile has been driven to satisfactory bearing. Reasoning- the suggestion will avoid ambiguity.

Response:

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Comments: (6-30-21, Industry)
455-16.3 If other means includes the use of chains to keep cage centered in shaft (not casing) until after concrete has been poured to the top of casing then yes. But other means I do not believe will get the Turnpike off the backs of drill shaft contractors unless it is an example of other means as this is the way almost all drill shaft contractors keep cage in the center of the shaft. The other problem is that at times drill shaft contractors have to off set their casings due to obstructions so keeping the cage concentric with casing would interfere with keeping cage concentric with the drill shaft so that wording is problematic too.

Response:

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