

## **SECTION 31 23 23**

### **UTILITY BACKFILL MATERIALS**

#### **PART 1: GENERAL**

##### **1.01 SECTION INCLUDES**

- A. Material Classifications
- B. Utility Backfill Materials:
  - 1. Concrete sand
  - 2. Gem sand
  - 3. Pea gravel
  - 4. Crushed stone
  - 5. Crushed concrete
  - 6. Bank run sand
  - 7. Select backfill
  - 8. Random backfill
- C. Material Handling and Quality Control Requirements.

##### **1.02 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Unsuitable Material:
  - 1. Materials classified as ML, CL-ML, MH, PT, OH, and OL according to ASTM D2487.
  - 2. Materials that cannot be compacted to required density due to gradation, plasticity, or moisture content.
  - 3. Materials containing large clods, aggregates, or stones greater than 4 inches in any dimension; debris, vegetation, or waste; or any other deleterious materials.
  - 4. Materials contaminated with hydrocarbons or other chemical contaminants.

- B. Suitable Material:
  - 1. Materials meeting specification requirements.
  - 2. Unsuitable materials meeting specification requirements for suitable soils after treatment with lime or cement.
- C. Foundation Backfill Materials: Natural soil or manufactured aggregate meeting Class I requirements and geotextile filter fabrics as required, to control drainage and material separation. Foundation backfill material is placed and compacted as backfill where needed to provide stable support for structure foundation base. Foundation backfill materials may include concrete fill and seal slabs.
- D. Foundation Base: Crushed stone aggregate with filter fabric (if required by the project). Substitutions may be approved by AW Project Manager on a case by case basis.
- E. Backfill Material: Classified soil material meeting specified quality requirements for designated application as embedment or trench zone backfill.
- F. Embedment Material: Material as specified herein and as shown on construction details; unless otherwise approved in advance by AW. Bedding materials shall be placed under controlled conditions within embedment zone extending vertically upward from top of foundation to an elevation 12 inches above top of pipe, and including pipe bedding, haunching and initial backfill.
- G. Trench Zone Backfill: Classified soil material meeting specified quality requirements and placed under controlled conditions in trench zone from top of embedment zone to base course in paved areas or to surface grading material in unpaved areas.
- H. Foundation: Either suitable soil of trench bottom or material placed as backfill over excavation for removal and replacement of unsuitable or otherwise unstable soils.
- I. Source: Source selected by Contractor for supply of embedment or trench zone backfill material. Selected source may be project excavation, off-site borrow pits, commercial borrow pits, or sand and aggregate production or manufacturing plants.
- J. Refer to Excavation Backfill and Compaction Section for other definitions regarding utility installation by trench construction.

### 1.03 SUBMITTALS

- A. Conform to requirements of Section - Submittal Procedures.
- B. Submit description of source, material classification and product description, production method, and application of backfill materials.

- C. Submit test results for samples of off-site backfill materials. Comply with Paragraph 2.03, Material Testing.
- D. Before stockpiling materials, submit copy of approval from landowner for stockpiling backfill material on private property.
- E. Provide delivery ticket which includes source location for each delivery of material that is obtained from off site sources or is being paid as specific bid item.

#### 1.04 TESTS

- A. Perform tests of sources for backfill material in accordance with Paragraph 2.03B.
- B. Verification tests of backfill materials may be performed by AW in accordance with Paragraph 3.03.

### **PART 2: PRODUCTS**

#### 2.01 MATERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. Classify materials for backfill for purpose of quality control in accordance with Unified Soil Classification Symbols as defined in ASTM D2487. Material use and application is defined in utility installation specifications and Drawings either by class, as described in Paragraph 2.01 B, or by product descriptions, as given in Paragraph 2.02.
- B. Class Designations Based on Laboratory Testing:
  - 1. Class I: Well-graded gravels and sands, gravel-sand mixtures, crushed well-graded rock, little or no fines (GW, SW):
    - a. Plasticity index: non-plastic.
    - b. Gradation: D60/D10 - greater than 4 percent; amount passing No. 200 sieve - less than or equal to 5 percent.
  - 2. Class II: Poorly graded gravels and sands, silty gravels and sands, little to moderate fines (GM, GP, SP, SM):
    - a. Plasticity index: non-plastic to 4.
    - b. Gradations:
      - (1) Gradation (GP, SP): amount passing No. 200 sieve - less than 5 percent.

- (2) Gradation (GM, SM): amount passing No. 200 sieve - between 12 percent and 50 percent.
  - (3) Borderline gradations with dual classifications (e.g., SP-SM): amount passing No. 200 sieve - between 5 percent and 12 percent.
3. Class III: Clayey gravels and sands, poorly graded mixtures of gravel, sand, silt, and clay (GC, SC, and dual classifications, e.g., SP-SC):
  - a. Plasticity index: greater than 7.
  - b. Gradation: amount passing No. 200 sieve - between 12 percent and 50 percent.
4. Class IVA: Lean clays (CL).
  - a. Plasticity Indexes:
    - (1) Plasticity index: greater than 7, and above A line.
    - (2) Borderline plasticity with dual classifications (CL-ML): PI between 4 and 7.
  - b. Liquid limit: less than 50.
  - c. Gradation: amount passing No. 200 sieve - greater than 50 percent.
  - d. Inorganic.
5. Class IVB: Fat clays (CH)
  - a. Plasticity index: above A line.
  - b. Liquid limit: 50 or greater.
  - c. Gradation: amount passing No. 200 sieve - greater than 50 percent.
  - d. Inorganic.
6. Use soils with dual class designation according to ASTM D2487, and which are not defined above, according to more restrictive class.

## 2.02 PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS

- A. Soils classified as silt (ML), silty clay (CL-ML with PI of 4 to 7), elastic silt (MH), organic clay and organic silt (OL, OH), and organic matter (PT) are not acceptable as backfill materials. These soils may be used for site grading and restoration in unimproved areas as approved by AW Project Manager. Soils in Class IV B, fat clay (CH) may be used as backfill materials where allowed,

provided applicable Specification requirements specifically within Excavation Backfill and Compaction Section are satisfied.

- B. Provide backfill material that is free of stones greater than 6 inches, free of roots, waste, debris, trash, organic material, unstable material, non-soil matter, hydrocarbon or other contamination, conforming to following limits for deleterious materials:
  - 1. Clay lumps: Less than 0.5 percent for Class I, and less than 2.0 percent for Class II, when tested in accordance with ASTM C142.
  - 2. Lightweight pieces: Less than 5 percent when tested in accordance with ASTM C123.
  - 3. Organic impurities: No color darker than standard color when tested in accordance with ASTM C40.
- C. Manufactured materials, such as crushed concrete, may be substituted for natural soil or rock products where indicated in product specification, and approved by AW Project Manager, provided that physical property criteria are determined to be satisfactory by testing.
- D. Bank Run Sand: Durable bank run sand classified as SP, SW, or SM by Unified Soil Classification System (ASTM D2487) meeting following requirements:
  - 1. Less than 15 percent passing number 200 sieve when tested in accordance with ASTM D1140. Amount of clay lumps or balls may not exceed 2 percent.
  - 2. Material passing number 40 sieve shall meet the following requirements when tested in accordance with ASTM D4318: Plasticity index: not exceeding 7.
- E. Concrete Sand: Natural sand, manufactured sand, or combination of natural and manufactured sand conforming to requirements of ASTM C33 and graded within following limits when tested in accordance with ASTM C136:

<u>Sieve</u>	<u>Percent Passing</u>
3/8"	100
No. 4	95 to 100
No. 8	80 to 100
No. 16	50 to 85
No. 30	25 to 60
No. 50	10 to 30
No. 100	2 to 10

- F. Gem Sand: Sand conforming to requirements of ASTM C33 for course aggregates specified for number 8 size and graded within the following limits when tested in accordance with ASTM C136:

<u>Sieve</u>	<u>Percent Passing</u>
3/8"	95 to 100
No. 4	60 to 80
No. 8	15 to 40

- G. Pea Gravel: Durable particles composed of small, smooth, rounded stones or pebbles and graded within the following limits when tested in accordance with ASTM C136:

<u>Sieve</u>	<u>Percent Passing</u>
1/2"	100
3/8"	85 to 100
No. 4	10 to 30
No. 8	0 to 10
No. 16	0 to 5

- H. Crushed Aggregates: Crushed aggregates consist of durable particles obtained from an approved source and meeting the following requirements:

1. Materials of one product delivered for same construction activity from single source, unless otherwise approved by AW Project Manager.
2. Non-plastic fines.
3. Los Angeles abrasion test wear not exceeding 45 percent when tested in accordance with ASTM C131.
4. Crushed aggregate shall have minimum of 90 percent of particles retained on No. 4 sieve with 2 or more crushed faces.
5. Crushed stone: Produced from oversize plant processed stone or gravel, sized by crushing to predominantly angular particles from naturally occurring single source. Uncrushed gravel is not acceptable materials for embedment where crushed stone is shown on applicable utility embedment drawing details.
6. Crushed Concrete: Crushed concrete is an acceptable substitute for crushed stone as utility backfill. Gradation and quality control test requirements are same as crushed stone. Provide crushed concrete produced from normal weight concrete of uniform quality; containing particles of aggregate and cement material, free from other substances

such as asphalt, reinforcing steel fragments, soil, waste gypsum (calcium sulfate), or debris.

7. Gradations, as follows:

Percent Passing by Weight for Pipe  
Embedment by Ranges of Nominal Pipes Sizes

<u>Sieve</u>	<u>Pipe &gt;15"</u>	<u>Pipe 15" - 8"</u>	<u>Pipe &lt; 8"</u>
1"	95 - 100	100	-
3/4"	60 - 90	90 - 100	100
1/2"	25 - 60	-	90 - 100
3/8"	-	20 - 55	40 - 70
No. 4	0- 5	0-10	0-15
No. 8	-	0- 5	0- 5

- I. Select Backfill: Class III clayey gravel or sand or Class IV lean clay with plasticity index between 7 and 20 or clayey soils treated with lime to meet plasticity criteria.
- J. Random Backfill: Any suitable soil or mixture of soils within Classes I, II, III and IV; or fat clay (CH) where allowed, provided applicable Specification requirements specifically within Excavation Backfill and Compaction Section are satisfied.

**2.03 MATERIAL TESTING**

- A. Source Qualification. Perform testing to confirm test results provided by suppliers for selection of material sources and products not from the project site. Test samples of processed materials from current production representing material to be delivered. Use tests to verify that materials meet Specification requirements. Repeat qualification test procedures each time source characteristics change or there is planned change in source location or supplier. Include the following qualification tests, as applicable:
  - 1. Gradation: Report complete sieve analyses regardless of specified control sieves from largest particle through No. 200 sieve.
  - 2. Plasticity of material passing No. 40 sieve
  - 3. Los Angeles abrasion wear of material retained on No. 4 sieve
  - 4. Clay lumps
  - 5. Lightweight pieces

6. Organic impurities
  - B. Production Testing: At AW's discretion, Contractor shall provide reports to AW Project Manager from an independent testing laboratory that backfill materials to be placed in Work meet applicable specification requirements.
  - C. Assist AW Project Manager in obtaining material samples for verification testing at source or at production plant.

### **PART 3: EXECUTION**

#### **3.01 SOURCES**

- A. Use of existing material in trench excavations is acceptable, provided applicable Specification requirements listed within Excavation Backfill and Compaction Section are satisfied.
- B. Identify off-site sources for backfill materials at least 14 days ahead of intended use so that AW Project Manager may obtain samples for verification testing.
- C. Materials may be subjected to inspection or additional verification testing after delivery. Materials which do not meet requirements of Specifications will be rejected. Do not use material which, after approval, has become unsuitable for use due to segregation, mixing with other materials, or by contamination. Once material is approved by AW Project Manager, expense for sampling and testing required to change to different material will be at the expense of the Contractor.
- D. Bank run sand, select backfill, and random backfill, if available in project excavation, may be obtained by selective excavation and acceptance testing. Obtain additional quantities of these materials and other materials required to complete work from off-site sources.
- E. AW does not represent or guarantee that any soil found in excavation work will be suitable and acceptable as backfill material.

#### **3.02 MATERIAL HANDLING**

- A. When backfill material is obtained from either commercial or non-commercial borrow pit, the backfill material selection from a borrow pit shall be such that the selected strata will provide uniformity in the product.
- B. Establish temporary stockpile locations for practical material handling, control, and verification testing by AW Project Manager in advance of final placement. Obtain approval from landowner for storage of backfill material on adjacent private property.

- C. When stockpiling backfill material near project site, use appropriate covers to eliminate blowing of materials into adjacent areas and prevent runoff containing sediments from entering drainage system.
- D. Place stockpiles in layers to avoid segregation of processed materials. Load material by making successive vertical cuts through entire depth of stockpile.

### 3.03 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

- A. Quality Control
  - 1. The AW Project Manager may sample and test backfill at:
    - a. Sources including borrow pits, production plants and Contractor's designated off-site stockpiles.
    - b. On-site stockpiles
    - c. Materials placed in Work
  - 2. The AW Project Manager may re-sample material at any stage of work or location if changes in characteristics are apparent.
- B. Production Verification Testing: If requested, an independent testing laboratory will provide verification testing on backfill materials, as directed by AW Project Manager. Samples may be taken at source or at production plant, as applicable.

**END OF SECTION 31 23 23**