

December 19, 2016

Dear Design Consultants:

The 2015-17 Wisconsin State Budget (2015 Wisconsin Act 55) modified Wisconsin's prevailing wage laws. Effective January 1, 2017, the administration of state prevailing wage law on state building projects will transition from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to the Department of Administration/Division of Facilities Development (DOA/DFD). Prevailing hours of labor will be determined by Wis. Stats. 16.856(1)(e) and prevailing wage rates will be as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor 40 U.S.C. 3142 for publication in the applicable project bidding documents. **These changes take effect for projects bidding after January 1, 2017.**

The purpose of this communication is to identify the changes that will impact A/Es working on DFD projects. These changes are also discussed in the explanation section of the new "Project Manual for the Preparation of Bid Specifications" (Front End). These changes have not yet been reflected in the A/E Policy and Procedure manual; therefore, this communication should be used as your guide until the manual is updated.

DOA/DFD bidding and contracting documents have been updated to reflect the changes in the law. Effective immediately, please use the new versions and delete any existing versions you may have of the "Project Manual for the Preparation of Bid Specifications" including Front End documents, General Requirements, General Conditions, pre-printed read-only documents, and associated DOA forms. **All projects bid after January 1, 2017, must use the new sets of documents.** These new documents are posted on the DFD website in the Master Specifications/Design Guidelines section and can be accessed at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Facilities-Development/Document-Library/Master-Specifications-Design-Guidelines>.

For projects bidding after January 1, 2017, DOA will issue Prevailing Wage Rate Determinations that will include hours of labor as determined by Wis. Stats. 16.856(1)(e) and prevailing wage rates as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor 40 U.S.C. 3142 for publication, and will require using the new front end bidding document templates.

As a result of the changes in prevailing wage law, the Prevailing Wage Rate Determinations published in the bidding documents will appear different than those published prior to January 1, 2017. Prevailing wage rates are as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) decisions that are applicable to areas, rather than a single county; and are based upon trade classifications for a same or most similar trade or occupation in the area in which the project is situated. If your firm receives any questions from contractors regarding Prevailing Wage, please refer those questions to [DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov).

Finally, the submittal of an Affidavit of Compliance with Prevailing Wage Determination by the contractor is no longer required on state building projects.

To request a project specific Prevailing Wage Rate Determination to be published in the bidding documents, use the Request for Prevailing Wage Rate Determination form (DOA-4752) that is posted on the DFD website at: <http://doa.wi.gov/Divisions/Facilities-Development/Construction/Prevailing-Wage>. The form requests identification of the listed trades or classifications, which are different from those previously published by DWD, and cover broader categories. Please select the trade(s) or classification(s) listed on the form that is most similar to the trade(s) performing work on the project. Please submit your request to: [DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov) no later than one month prior to DFD's required bid advertisement date for the project.

For more information on DOA Prevailing Wage, please access the <http://doa.wi.gov/Divisions/Facilities-Development/Construction/Prevailing-Wage> page on the DFD website.

Please do not hesitate to contact [DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOAPrevailingWage@wisconsin.gov) with any questions about this communication. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Division of Facilities Development  
Wisconsin Department of Administration