

May 13, 2025

TO: Mark Gaines, Development Division Director & State Design Engineer  
MS 47329

FROM: Amy Leland/Scott Sargent  
PHONE: 705-7181/705-7753

SUBJECT: Welded Wire Faced Structural Earth Wall  
GSP 6-13.3.OPTI.GB6

The Bridge and Structures Office certifies blanket proprietary item approval for the two welded wire faced structural earth wall products currently specified in GSP 6-13.3.OPTI.GB6 for the 2025-2027 biennium.

As a steward for the public interest, the WSDOT Bridge and Structures Office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Division are responsible for overseeing the process for reviewing wall systems seeking WSDOT pre-approval as structural earth wall systems. This pre-approval process currently includes successful completion of a technical evaluation similar to that formerly performed by the Highway Innovative Technology Evaluation Center (HITEC) of Washington, DC, as well as internal WSDOT review of the wall system components and design calculations for the respective walls.

Since the inception of the structural earth wall GSP in the early 1980's, the Hilfiker Welded Wire Retaining Wall System, and more recently the Tensar Wire Form Retaining Wall System are the only two welded wire faced structural earth wall systems to have successfully completed the WSDOT pre-approval process.

At this time, we know of no other welded wire faced structural earth wall systems either seeking pre- approval from WSDOT or with a strong enough performance record to merit successful completion of the WSDOT pre-approval process. For this reason, the Bridge and Structures Office deems the use of the two specified welded wire faced structural earth wall systems to be in the public's interest.

The Bridge and Structures Office will continue to evaluate alternative welded wire faced structural earth wall systems as they are submitted to this office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Division for consideration.

If you have questions concerning this request, please contact Scott Sargent at (360) 705-7753.

I, Amy Leland, State Bridge Design Engineer, of Washington State Department of Transportation, do hereby certify that no equally suitable alternative exists for this patented or proprietary item.

*Amy C. Leland*

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Date: 05/13/2025

AL:wss  
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cc: A. Fiske, Materials Laboratory – 47365  
M. Pawelka, Bridge and Structures - 47340