M e m o r a n d u m

To: Bridge Team Leaders and staff

From: Elmer Cole, Bridge Inspection Team Leader

Subject: Q and A from bridge meeting February 6, 2008

Date: February 13, 2008

cc: Bridge File

After review of the NBIS manual and communicating with the Bridge division at the Department of Roads Bridge Division I offer the following:

Q. ***What inspection materials are needed to perform bridge/culvert inspection ?***
A. The recommended inspection tools for a satisfactory inspection are as follows:

* Muti-tool knife, pliers
* Wire brush
* Flat bladed screwdriver
* Shovel
* 6 ounce geologist's pick
* Plumb bob
* Binoculars
* Flashlight
* Lighted magnifying glass - 5 or 10 times magnification
* Inspection mirror - hard to see places
* 6 foot rule
* Calipers - measure component dimensions
* Optical crack gauge
* Thermometer - ambient temp and superstructure temp
* Tool belt with tool pauch

Q. ***Will a P.E. (Professional Engineer) have to sign off on all bridge data with PONTIS ?***
A. No- at this time there is NO need for this. If a Fracture Critical Bridge has a low rating then a Structural Engineer will be needed for the report to be filed.

Q. What inspection requirements are needed on private bridges/culverts that meet the standards for NBIS (National Bridge Inspection Standards) ?
A. NBIS regulations apply to all publicly owned highway bridges longer then twenty feet located on PUBLIC roads private bridges/culverts would require separate inspection from State or City involvement. Private inspection or inter-local agreement with property owner.

Q. Who is responsible for Pedestrian Bridges ?

A. The NBIS does not apply to tunnels, bridges that carry **only pedestrians**, railroad tracks, pipelines or other types of non-highway passageways. Public authorities or bridge owners are strongly encouraged to inspect these non-highway carrying bridges and other significant structures. As of this typing the State of Nebraska is keeping those pedestrian bridges that are on our inventory not knowing what agreements have been made previous.

Q. Does an inspector that meets the requirements of a Team Leader, have to be on site during bridge inspections ?

A. Yes. During any structure inspection that is either initial, routine, in-depth, fracture critical member or underwater inspection, a Team Leader must be present. This is required for State, Local Agency, consultant or any other organization that inspect bridges under NBIS.