

From: Kaercher, Julianne

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:45 PM

To: Blalock, Andy (andy.blalock@dot.gov) <andy.blalock@dot.gov>

Cc: Moore, David <Dave.Moore1@dot.ohio.gov>; Brown, Timothy (Timothy.Brown@dot.ohio.gov) <Timothy.Brown@dot.ohio.gov>

Subject: Ohio DOT Notice of Buy America Waiver Request - Manganese Frogs

Andy,

We have two projects; one in Hamilton County and one in Allen County, for rail freight infrastructure. As part of these projects, new rail switches will need to be installed. A component of the switch is the manganese frog. The frog, also known as the common crossing, refers to the crossing point of two rails. Manganese is the type of steel used to construct the frog, due to the structural and load-bearing capacity of this type of steel. Frogs previously made from other steel failed within 3 months, due to wear. The manganese frog became the industry standard. There are no known American-made manganese frogs, which is why a waiver is needed. The frog component is essential to rail switch structures.

PID 94519 - HAM Cincinnati Bulk Terminals - Project will enhance railroad infrastructure within the last quarter-mile of the Central Railroad of Indiana (CIND) leading up to the Cincinnati Bulk Terminals (CBT) facility by building a run-around and storage track that will provide for the efficient switching, loading, and placement of rail cars for the benefit of CBT. CMAQ eligibility 2/12/13.

PID 103648 - ALL Sugar St Interlocking - A grade crossing safety project to alleviate blocked crossing conditions, the project will improve the Sugar Street interlocking with improved connections and circuitry. Railroad Protective Devices funded.

There's no difference between specs of domestic or foreign RBM frogs as they are all to AREMA standard. There is also not an appreciable cost difference. The issue is the lead time to obtain the domestic steel castings as they are not readily available. Each frog is \$15,000 and each project requires 4 frogs (a total of \$60,000 per project).

As per the FHWA Construction Administration webpage for Buy America Waiver Request, the Ohio DOT is requesting that the span brakes be posted to the website for a 15-day comment period. Following the comment period, there is a notice published to the Federal Register documenting the finding regarding the waiver. We have reviewed the list of waiver requests that have been approved previously and there are some for manganese frogs.

Both projects will be going to bid this spring, with anticipated completion dates of 12/31/17.

Please let me know if FHWA requires any further information.

Best,

Julianne Kaercher
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