



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0350**

**INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN NO. 05-17
Regarding Addition of Contours to the Plans**

Effective May 1, 2005, contours shall be included in plans for all projects submitted for Right-of-Way Appraisal and Acquisition and Construction except for resurfacing projects, projects where a survey is not required, and small projects or projects of limited scope where a surface is not developed. Contours shall also be included in right-of-way field review and construction field review plans. For plans where development has proceeded beyond any of the above mentioned phases, contours should be submitted to the Storm Water Permits Office as soon as practical. Contours should include existing (pre-construction) and proposed contours. Contours for intermediate construction phases are not required. For small projects or projects of limited scope where a surface is not developed, cross sections shall be included in all plans submittals in lieu of contour sheets.

Contour sheets should be developed at the same scale as the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan sheets. Designers should refer to Design CADD standards for contour sheet development. Existing contours may be included on the drainage map or developed as a separate sheet when the size of drainage areas make it impractical show drainage areas at the same scale as the erosion control sheets. Existing contour sheets will include the project centerline, contours at an interval sufficient to show the direction of flow, contour elevations, north arrow, scale, existing edges of pavement, and streams and rivers. Proposed contours may be included on the final phase of the Erosion and Sediment Control sheets or as separate sheets. Proposed contour sheets will include the project centerline, contours at an interval sufficient to show the direction of flow, contour elevations, north arrow, streams and rivers, proposed edges of pavement, and proposed slope lines. Proposed contours will only be required to the top of cut or toe of slope. It will not be required to connect to existing contours outside the slope lines. Surface development should include the mainline and side roads. When developed as a separate set of sheets, contours should immediately follow Erosion and Sediment Control sheets.

Since site conditions and topography are unique to each project, designers should seek input from the Storm Water Permits Section of the Environmental Division to determine contour intervals.

Attached are examples of existing and proposed contour sheets.

Original signed by Jeff C. Jones
Jeff C. Jones, C. E. Director
Design Division

March 21, 2005
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