Title: INTERIM BRIDGE INSPECTIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED SOLELY FOR SCOUR FLAGS

Issued By: Office of Structures - Structure Management Bureau
Bridge Inspection, Inventory and Bridge Safety Assurance

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Technical Advisory (TA) is to provide the Regional Bridge Engineer (RBE), as defined in the Inspection Flagging Procedure (Appendix B of the 2017 Bridge Inspection Manual), with guidance on approving special inspections in-lieu of interim (SILO) bridge inspections that are required solely for active and/or inactive scour flags.

BACKGROUND

Interim bridge inspections require inspection of the entire structure. SILO bridge inspections, when approved by the Deputy Chief Engineer Structures (DCES), may be limited to the active and/or inactive structural flag(s) (for more information regarding SILO inspections, see NYSDOT TA 17-001).

Diving inspection issued scour flags trigger interim dive inspections, but do not trigger interim bridge inspections. The ensuing interim dive inspection is performed only on the substructure unit (SSU) and thus is similar in effort to performing a SILO bridge inspection of a scour flag. Interim dive inspections do not require DCES approval. Therefore, DCES approval intrinsically is not necessary for SILO bridge inspections that are required solely for active and/or inactive scour flags.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective immediately, the RBE can approve special inspections in-lieu of interim bridge inspections that are required solely for active and/or inactive scour flags. The RBE signed written approval shall include additional inspection requirements deemed necessary to ensure safety of the bridge. All areas affecting public safety shall also be generally observed during the SILO bridge inspection for conditions which may pose a hazard to the public. The signed written approval shall be included in the SILO bridge inspection report as a sketch attachment. A comprehensive BIN list of all such SILO bridge inspections shall be provided to the Main Office Bridge Inspection Unit Head and Main Office Liaison Engineer upon completion of the inspection season and no later than February 15th of the following year.