

November 30, 2021

Rob Deal
JRA Architects
3225 Summit Square Place
Suite 200
Lexington, Kentucky 40509

RE: Central Hardin High School – Special Inspections
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
B+K Project No. 20096

Rob,

Based on the accepted structural steel contractor, we have requested an additional service proposal from Solid Ground Consulting Engineers, which is attached. We recommend acceptance of this proposal by the Owner.

The additional service is justified and the work required by code due to the lack of AISC certification of Stewart Richey Construction. At the onset of the project the request for proposal for Geotechnical Engineering and Special Inspections, in attempt to accurately gage the price of inspections, stated that the steel fabricator would be required to be AISC certified. Brown + Kubican, PSC holds that having an AISC certified fabricator and erector is appropriate for this level of complexity and size of structure. The project was bid with same certification requirement placed within the 051200 specification. Stewart Richey was allowed to bid and the bid accepted as a savings to the school district although they lack the required certification.

Special Inspections are required by chapter 17 of the Kentucky Building Code. Specific steel inspections are deferred to the AISC 360 steel design code. The Kentucky Building Code allows that Special Inspections during fabrication are not required where the work is done on the premises of a fabricator registered and approved to perform such work without Special Inspections. For the structural steel industry this certification is considered as a AISC STD designation. Similarly, the construction documents required certification of the erector – such was not a requirement of the Special Inspections RFP and does not cause an increase in the inspection cost by waiving, though it likely will have some schedule impact.

The additional service cost represents inspections of every weld and bolted assembly which is placed in the fabrication shop, but must now be inspected. The construction documents reflect the building code requirements in the scheduled inspection interval and inspections to be performed. While many welds can be performed periodically – that is anytime prior to being fully loaded and concealed from inspection – all must be inspected.

For reflection on the bid, there was some unforeseeable issues that lead to a lack of certified fabricators bidding the Central Hardin High School project. Approximately 6 weeks before bid, Harry Gordon Steel (Lexington, Kentucky) dropped their AISC certification as it was a cost which yielded little reward – many contractors disregard the certification requirements during bidding. Fields Welding (Walton, Kentucky) had trouble obtaining a certified erector and professionally chose to not bid rather than to fraudulently ignore the requirement.

Finally, we ask that the Construction Manager continue to be encouraged to provide a complete schedule of values. The Special Inspector, and the design team, cannot have their fees rectified and payments made without the Schedule of Values.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Kubican PE". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Kubican, PE
Principal

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