SECTION 26 0501

EXCAVATION AND FILL FOR ELECTRICAL WORK

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 SECTION INCLUDES

A. Trenching, backfilling, and compacting for electrical work underground inside the building and extending five feet beyond exterior building walls, and outside the building as shown on drawings.

B. Restoring and reseeding grassed areas.

1.2 RELATED SECTIONS

A. Cutting and patching: Section 26 0101.

B. Underground electrical ductbanks: Section 26 0544.

C. Conduit: Section 26 0533.

D. Identification for electrical systems: Section 26 0553.

1.3 REFERENCES

A. ASTM D 1557: Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Modified Effort (56,000 ft-lbs/cu ft (2700 kN-m/cu m)).

1.4 SUBMITTALS

A. Product data: Seed and mulch.

B. Certifications: Test reports showing that compaction meets specified requirements.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS

A. Backfill: Earth materials, free from perceptible amounts of wood, debris, or topsoil, free of frost at the time of placement, and not containing marl or other elements which tend to stay in a plastic state.

B. Grass seed: Fresh new-crop seed, 90 percent pure and 85 percent germination.
Mix: 70 percent Kentucky Bluegrass, 25 percent Red Fescue and 5 percent Red Top.
Only strains of Kentucky Bluegrass found adaptable to Maryland shall be acceptable.

C. Mulch: Free of sticks, weeds, or other foreign matter; either licorice root, tan root, or tan bark; fibrous by-product of extraction. Use only one type throughout the project.

2.2 EQUIPMENT

A. Mechanical tampers for compacting backfill: Capable of exerting a blow equal to 250 pounds per square foot (12 kPa) of area of the tamping face.

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PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 PREPARATION

A. Contact local utility company underground information service (Miss Utility) before beginning excavation outside buildings.

B. The general locations of underground utilities are indicated on the drawings and are not to be assumed to be accurate or complete. Before beginning work, field check the area with the most accurate instruments available, such as Fisher Labs' Pipe and Cable Locators.

3.2 INSTALLATION

A. Perform all excavating, cutting of paved areas, trenching, sheeting, shoring, backfilling, and compacting required for the proper installation of the work.

B. Where obstructions are encountered, obtain written approval and make necessary changes in line, grade or location.

C. Protect existing utilities from damage during excavation and backfilling. Repair damaged new or existing work at no addition to the contract sum. Bracing, shoring and other protection of existing utilities is part of this work.

D. Do not damage or remove existing shrubs or trees including their root systems, without prior notification to the Engineer.

E. Provide temporary roadways over trenches with railings and other safeguards, including amber blinker lamps or other warnings for night use.

F. Note the depths of footings. In cases where conduit is in close proximity to or below footings and where the natural earth under footings is disturbed, after the line is installed the voids shall be filled up to bottoms of such footings with solid concrete.

3.3 CUTTING

A. Cut concrete and asphalt concrete with masonry saw prior to breaking it into smaller pieces for removal.

B. Cut sidewalks perpendicular to the length at the closest existing joint that is a minimum of 24 inches back from either side of the top of the new trench.

3.4 TRENCHING

A. Excavations inside the building shall be carefully planned. Stockpile excavated earth so as not to interfere with other construction. Dig trenches to the proper depths, providing extra depressions where required for hubs of pipes.

B. Excavations outside the building shall generally follow the routes indicated on the drawings. Stockpile topsoil separately for later replacement. Excavations shall be of sufficient depths to provide, unless indicated otherwise on the drawings, a minimum cover as follows:

1. Electrical conduit: Depth required by NFPA 70 (NEC).

C. Trenches shall be of necessary depth and width for the proper laying of conduit with a minimum of 8 inches (205 mm) on each side of the joint.

1. The sides shall be as nearly vertical as practicable. Unless local regulations are more strict, trenches 4 ft. (1220 mm) and deeper shall have shored sides as required by OSHA trenching regulations.
2. The bottoms of trenches shall be accurately graded to provide uniform bearing and support for each section of conduit on undisturbed soil at every point along its entire length, except for bell holes.
3. No greater length of trench shall be left open, in advance of the completed structure placed in it, than can be completed in that day's operation.
4. Except where rock is encountered, do not excavate below the depths required. Where rock excavation is required, excavate to a depth of at least 6 inches (150 mm) below the trench depth and fill the overdepth with compacted crusher run or bank run stone or sand. Unauthorized overdepths in excavation shall be backfilled with crushed stone, slag or gravel, thoroughly compacted.
5. Whenever wet or otherwise unstable soil is encountered, it shall be removed to the depth and extent directed, and the trench backfilled to the proper grade with crushed stone, slag or gravel.

D. Should springs be encountered within the work area, or soft soil conditions at the elevations required for load bearing, immediately notify the Engineer and do not place any portion of the work on such surfaces until instructions are received.

E. Furnish and maintain pumps, flumes, gutters, and appurtenances if required to keep the excavations free from water. Water shall be directed to a point remote from building operations, shown on the approved shop drawing.

3.5 BACKFILL

A. Place no backfill until the adjacent construction or the utility to be covered has been inspected, tested, and approved.

B. Installing underground warning tape: Install in backfill above exterior buried lines not encased in concrete. Select legend and color appropriate for type of line. Install metallic lined tape for non-metallic lines. Install approximately 12 inches (305 mm) below grade.

C. Electrical systems backfill:

1. Backfill and compact in 8-inch (200-mm) layers, to level finished grade with the excavated materials approved for backfilling.
2. Surplus earth shall be mounded up on excavation and left to settle. When directed by the Engineer, surplus earth shall be removed and excavations leveled off to proper grade. Where direct burial cables are placed in trenches, first cover the cables with clean earth.

D. Structure backfill:

1. Do not backfill against structures with cement mortar joints until the mortar is at least twelve hours old.

3.6 COMPACTION

A. Test in accordance with the requirements of ASTM D 1557.

B. Compact under slabs, roads, and sidewalks to a 95 percent density.

C. Compact unpaved areas to a 90 percent density.

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D. Backfill and compact trench in unpaved areas to within 4 inches (102 mm) of existing grade. Furnish and install compacted select topsoil for the final layer to finish even with existing grade. Remove surplus earth and rake unpaved areas for final planting.

E. Take particular care in compaction of earth under joints of mechanical piping.

3.7 SEEDING

A. Seed disturbed grass areas at the rate of 5 pounds (2.27 kg) per 1000 sq. ft. (92.9 sq. m), with the seed mix specified.

B. Uniformly distribute seed with an approved machine to ensure a covering of plus or minus 1/4 inch (6 mm). Sow half of the seed in one direction and the rest at right angles.

C. Do not seed during windy weather or when ground is wet or otherwise untillable. Seed between the dates of March 1st to May 1st or August 15 to October 15 unless otherwise approved in writing.

3.8 MULCHING

A. Mulch seeded areas immediately following seeding with fibrous mulch evenly applied at an average rate of 2 tons per acre (4483 kg per hectare) so as to provide a loose depth of not less than 2 inches (50 mm).

B. Wet down mulch, unless a heavy rain wets it, to the Engineer's satisfaction, immediately after application.

3.9 RESURFACING

A. Resurface sidewalks, roads, streets, and other paved areas as work of this section, matching the construction and finish of adjacent paving.

END OF SECTION

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