



## Texas Department of Transportation

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

July 8, 2005

Mr. Steve Stagner  
Texas Council of Engineering Companies  
1001 Congress Avenue, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Stagner:

The Texas Department of Transportation - Information Systems Division (TxDOT-ISD) is planning to implement MicroStation 2004 Edition (V8) products, which include MicroStation, GEOPAK, Descartes, and IPlot, beginning sometime in July. These applications are used for P.S.&E. purposes on both internal and external TxDOT projects. The current versions of MicroStation J (V7) products will continue to be supported and available through August 2006.

### **Present V7 CADD Systems (maintained through August 2006)**

MicroStation/J 7.1.4.16  
GEOPAK 2001 MR  
Descartes 7.1 7.1.210.9  
Iplot 10.2

Districts and divisions are allowed to make the transition to the new versions as their workloads permit. It is recommended to staff to continue using current systems to complete ongoing projects and begin any new projects using V8. It is assumed that there will be a need, at some point to convert existing data from V7 to V8, whether it is a shelved project or one that is ongoing. TxDOT-ISD will be available to consult with district staff concerning migration options.

It is important to note that the 2004 Edition (V8) does not use the same file format for a design file as is used with V7. The two formats are not natively compatible. To enable TxDOT to safely migrate TxDOT V7 files to the new V8 environment, new procedures have been developed, which include additional code and configuration. Any TxDOT user, when using the proper V7 seed files, can safely convert V7 files to TxDOT's V8 file format once they upgrade to the 2004 Edition.

We are aware that once TxDOT releases V8 to the districts, the consultants will also begin upgrading. Consultants will have access to TxDOT V8 files to begin new projects that will provide them a similar environment to TxDOT. However, TxDOT cannot insure


that the consultant's conversion from V7 to V8 will match TxDOT's environment, nor that data integrity will be maintained. For these reasons, TxDOT is recommending that consultants actively working on a TxDOT contract continue to use present systems.

The current TxDOT V7 seed files and other TxDOT specific files are made available to consultants for use on TxDOT projects, to insure some level of compatibility and standardization between TxDOT and consultant deliverables. When properly communicated by the districts, this process has been successful. Once consultant deliverables are provided to the district in V7 format, TxDOT offices using the 2004 Edition can successfully upgrade the files to V8, provided the V7 files were created with TxDOT's V7 seed files. This will allow TxDOT designers to access and edit these files, should it become necessary.

For new contracts or projects, the specific version should be verified with the district and addressed in the scope of work prior to beginning work. The TxDOT Internet site will indicate the deployed versions. It can be viewed presently at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/business/standards.htm>.

For questions related to a specific project or contract, the appropriate TxDOT project manager should be contacted. Refer to the TxDOT website for updates related to the CADD systems conversion and availability of MicroStation 2004 Edition (V8) related files, as they are made available.

Sincerely,

  
for Mark A. Marek, P.E.  
Director, Design Division

- cc: Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E., Assistant Executive Director, Engineering Operations, TxDOT  
Camille Thomason, Director, Consultant Contracts, Design Division, TxDOT  
Judy Skeen, Director, Information Systems Division, TxDOT  
William Spooner, Information Systems Division, TxDOT  
Dean Wilkerson, Information Systems Division, TxDOT  
Phillip Russell, Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division, TxDOT  
All District Engineers, TxDOT