

Pickering, John

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**To:** Section Engineers  
**Cc:** Purvis, Keith; Lowe, Greg  
**Subject:** Profile Grade of Rural Property Ramps

It has come to my attention several projects have been let to contract where property ramp profile grades could not have been checked to conform to our maximum grade of 15%, as shown on Standard RD-1 (Sh. No. 271). I received a call this morning on a project where the profile grade is 3:1 or 33%. The grade could not be flattened because there was not enough right of way or easement to construct it flatter.

I am requesting you to inform your Design Team Leaders that checking the property ramp profile grades is a requirement on every project during the right of way plan development. I request you meet with all your Design Team Leaders within the next few days and inform of that fact. In addition, you should inform them if they have already printed plans for ROW, and they did not check the property ramp profile grades, then it still needs to be done. If an easement is needed, a ROW revision will need to be done.

**Things For Thought --**

Typically, the best place for a property ramp is where the cut meets the fill or vice-versa; however, where there are existing ramps, it may be difficult to place the ramp where the cut meets the fill. The normal property ramp is constructed normal (90 degrees) to the roadway; however, this does not always have to be the case. Sometimes, in extremely high fills or cuts, placing the ramp normal to the roadway will cause the fill material or backslope to take most of the property or maybe a house. In cases such as these, the ramp may intersect the roadway at 90 degrees, but then turn parallel to the roadway coming down the foreslope or up the backslope. As you can see, there are various ways to construct property ramps. The Field Inspection is the best time to make a final decision how to construct the property ramps.

This is a very important matter, and thank you for your assistance.