

B-6 Upgrade Burnt Dam Access Road, \$309,200

Q. Provide a detailed description of the Burnt Dam Access Road that illustrates the condition of the road and why it is necessary to upgrade the road at this time.

A. Upgrades are required for the following reasons:

- Since the Granite Canal Development was commissioned in 2003, there has been an increased need for the Water System Attendants (WSA's) stationed at Burnt Dam to travel to the Granite Development for water management activities. Prior to Granite coming on-line, the WSA's would only be required to travel over the road 4-6 times per year. In 2005 there was one incident in which the WSA's were required to travel to Granite 5 times in a 6-day period. It takes approximately 2.5 hours for a one-way trip.
- There has been no significant work done on this road since it's construction 35 years ago. The road has now deteriorated to the point where significant repairs are required. Annual maintenance typically consists of removing large rocks from the road surface, repairing washouts and repairing and replacing culverts.
- Portions of the road are submerged during rainfall events because ditching has in-filled with sediment, forcing drainage water on to the road. During a site visit in 2005, when it was raining heavily, there was water flowing over the road in many areas, sometimes over long sections ranging from 100 – 200 m. At the same time there were a number of areas that were completely submerged.

- The lack of ditching combined with collapsed culverts or non-existent culverts leads to the road being often submerged. This further contributes to washouts and erosion. Some of the larger culverts have been replaced, but there are still many smaller ones that are rusted, damaged or blocked and need to be replaced.

- The road often fulfills the role of a ditch in removing run-off. There are areas where embankment material, including sods has become deposited in the ditches, making the ditch elevation higher than the road. This situation forces drainage water on to the road where it runs along until it finds a low point to discharge. This result in washouts.

- The road predominantly consists of larger than cobble sized rocks and potholes, which makes driving it like an obstacle course.

- Vegetation is a major problem along the road. The vegetation is growing in over the road to the point that the branches strike the mirrors of the vehicles. In 2004 and 2005, the worst areas were cut, but there are still areas that require clearing. The vegetation also clutters the ditches and obstructs flow.

- Fuel suppliers have expressed major concerns about traveling this road to deliver fuel and the condition of the road has the potential to be a safety problem. Fuel trucks traveling this portion of the road between Granite Development and Burnt Dam can take up to 5 hours.

Please also refer to IC-6 NLH for additional information.