

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**Weights and Measures  
Memorandum**

**FROM:** Josh Gallion

**TO:** File

**DATE:** 7/17/15

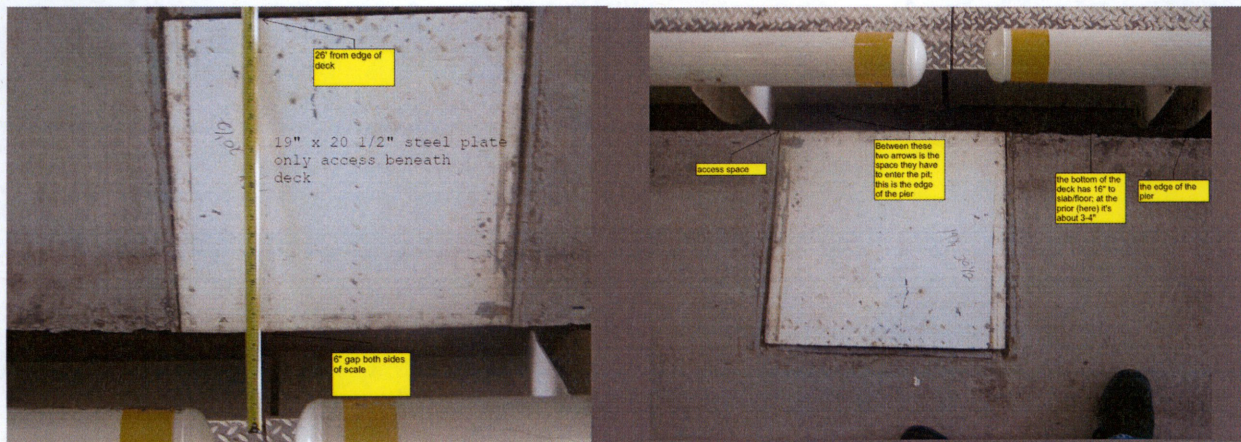
**SUBJECT:** Remington Seeds Scale in Grafton, ND

**SUMMARY:**

The scale being installed by Bratney Company on behalf of Remington Seeds in Grafton, ND came into question by a service technician with Capital Scale who contacted the PSC regarding the design. The scale was designed for a pitless application to allow for access underneath the deck through the sides. However, the contractor installed the pitless scale into an indoor shallow, concrete pit measuring about 16" in depth per Wayne Grangaard's (state inspector) report.

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION:**

The primary issue is the operator's ability to adequately maintain the scale. The only access is a small panel pictured below:



Note: Pictures and comments provided by Wayne Grangaard (state inspector)

Improperly maintaining a scale threatens its future reliability.

**SOLUTION:**

A few solutions were discussed such as:

- a. installing cameras beneath the deck to monitor conditions; or
- b. remove the concrete on one side to open up access; or
- c. cut manhole covers on the deck to allow access to each section of the scale for visual inspections and cleaning.

We felt that option c's access covers were the least cost option that provided the best option for the operator. The contractor's representative, Derek Gage, said he would contact the scale manufacturer to determine if this would be acceptable without harming the integrity of the scale.

Mr. Gage was informed that access for the operator must be improved in order to obtain a variance for the lack of appropriate pit depth from the ND Public Service Commission. He will contact us to let us know the manufacturers status of the manhole access covers.

Mr. Gage was also informed that future variances for a pitless scale in a shallow pit would not be provided.

#### PREVENTION:

Several options for future prevention are:

- a. require contractors submit scale and installation plans prior to construction
- b. add a section under pitless scales that clearly states that a pitless scale enclosed on all 4 sides is considered a pit scale
- c. have a state inspector visit each new install early in construction to assist with any design issues

All options would require administrative rule and possibly statutory changes. Option c could be implemented immediately but we are not informed of all new large scale installs.

#### CONCLUSION:

As long as the operator has the ability to adequately maintain the scale, it should operate as designed. A variance could be approved for this specific situation but should not be issued for any future installs of pitless scales in a pit.



Note: Pictures provided by Travis with Capital Scale