

**ATTACHMENT 34 – Mn/DOT CORRESPONDENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
WASHOUT HOLE BETWEEN PIER 4 AND 5**

(7 pages)

## **Bullets for washout/sinkhole interview with associated press Sept. 4, 2007**

- The erosion was noted in December of 2006 and some temporary repairs were made in January of 2007.
- Maintenance crews came back in early July 2007 to conduct further investigation and complete repair.
- First thought was that it might be a “sinkhole” which is generally caused by something creating a void underground, and then having the earth fall into that void, causing a hole on the surface.
- After further investigation, maintenance crews determined that it was a washout caused by water draining from the bridge on to an angled pavement bed below the bridge.
- As the water hit the concrete, it began to work its way into cracks, and eventually began to wash away earth beneath the concrete.
- The hole in picture two was caused because the earth kept washing away and eventually it pulled the earth from underneath the blacktop, causing the hole to form.
- Mn/DOT maintenance began a repair in July by putting five yards of a very moist concrete into the hole. (A yard is equivalent to 9 wheelbarrows.) They found that the concrete, which was fairly runny, began to seep out of spots at the bottom of the slope. This helped confirm that it was indeed a washout and not a sinkhole.
- The repair continued with a number of loads of rock and more concrete.
- The last time the crew was working on the washout repair was July 25.



PIER  
5  
WEST







