NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

SOIL AND ROCK LEGEND, TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS			
SOIL DESCRIPTION	GRADATION	ROCK DESCRIPTION	TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
SOIL IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE UNCONSOLIDATED, SEMI-CONSOLIDATED OR WEATHERED EARTH MATERIALS WHICH CAN BE PENETRATED WITH A CONTINUOUS FLIGHT POWER AUGER, AND WHICH YIELDS LESS THAN 1808 BLOWS PER FOOT ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (AASHTO 1286, ASTM D-1586). SOIL CLASSIFICATION IS BASED ON THE AASHTO SYSTEM AND BASIC DESCRIPTIONS GENERALLY SHALL INCLUDE: CONSISTENCY, COLOR, TEXTURE, MOISTURE, AASHTO CLASSIFICATION, AND OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS SUCH AS MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION, ANOULARITY, STRUCTURE, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLE: **VERY STIFF, GRAY SULY CLAY, WOST WITH INTERBEDGED FINE SAMD UNERS, HIGHLY PLASTIC, A-7-6	WELL GRADED- INDICATES A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF PARTICLE SIZES FROM FINE TO COARSE UNIFORM- INDICATES THAT SOIL PARTICLES ARE ALL APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SIZE. (ALSO POORLY GRADED) GAP-GRADED- INDICATES A MIXTURE OF UNIFORM PARTICLES OF TWO OR MORE SIZES. ANGULARITY OF GRAINS THE ANGULARITY OR ROUNDNESS OF SOIL GRAINS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE TERMS; ANGULAR, SUBANGULAR, SUBROUNDED, OR ROUNDED.	HARD ROCK IS NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL THAT WHEN TESTED, WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL, AN INFERRED ROCK LINE INDICATES THE LEVEL AT WHICH NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL. SPT REFUSAL IS PENETRATION BY A SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PER 60 BLOWS. IN NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN SOIL AND ROCK IS OFTEN REPRESENTED BY A ZONE OF WEATHERED ROCK. ROCK MATERIALS ARE TYPICALLY DIVIDED AS FOLOWS: WEATHERED NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL THAT YIELDS SPT N VALUES > 100 BLOWS	ALLUVIUM (ALLUV.) - SOILS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY WATER. AQUIFER - A WATER BEARING FORMATION OR STRATA, ARENACEOUS - APPLIED TO ROCKS THAT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM SAND OR THAT CONTAIN SAND. ARGILLACEOUS - APPLIED TO ALL ROCKS OR SUBSTANCES COMPOSED OF CLAY MINERALS, OR HAVING A NOTABLE PROPORTION OF CLAY IN THEIR COMPOSITION, AS SHALE, SLATE, ETC.
SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION	MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAQLIN, ETC, ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE. COMPRESSIBILITY	CRYSTALLINE ROCK (CR) FINE TO COARSE GRAIN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCK THAT MOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES GRANITE, GNEISS, GABBRO, SCHIST, ETC. MON CRYSTALLINE FINE TO COARSE GRAIN METAMORPHIC AND NON-COASTAL PLAIN	ARTESIAN - GROUND WATER THAT IS UNDER SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO RISE ABOVE THE LEVEL AT WHICH IS IS ENCOUNTERED, BUT WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RISE TO OR ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE. CALCAREOUS (CALC.) - SOILS WHICH CONTAIN APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM CARBONATE.
CLASS. A-1-b A-1-b A-2-4 A-2-5 A-2-6 A-2-7 A-7-6 A-3 A-6, A-7 SYMBOL 000000000000000000000000000000000000	SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 30 MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT 31-50 HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50 PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL	ROCK (NCR) SEDIMENTANT NOCK THAT WOULD TELLO SHE TELLO AUCK THE INCLUDES PHYLLITE, SLATE, SANDSTONE, ETC. COASTAL PLAIN COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTS CEMENTED INTO ROCK, BUT MAY NOT YIELD SEDIMENTARY ROCK SPT REFUSAL. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, CEMENTED (CP) SHELL BEDS, ETC.	COLLUVIUM - ROCK FRAGMENTS MIXED WITH SOIL DEPOSITED BY GRAVITY ON SLOPE OR AT BOTTOM OF SLOPE. CORE RECOVERY (REC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF ALL MATERIAL RECOVERED IN THE CORE BARREL DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
* 18 50 MX * 40 30 MX50 MX51 MN GRANULAR SOILS	ORGANIC MATERIAL GRANULAR SILT- CLAY SOILS SOILS OTHER MATERIAL SOILS TRACE OF ORGANIC MATTER 2 - 3% 3 - 5% TRACE	FRESH ROCK FRESH, CRYSTALS BRIGHT, FEW JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING, ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER IF CRYSTALLINE. VERY SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED, SOME JOINTS MAY SHOW THIN CLAY COATINGS IF OPEN,	DIKE - A TABULAR BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK THAT CUTS ACROSS THE STRUCTURE OF ADJACENT ROCKS OR CUTS MASSIVE ROCK. DIP - THE ANGLE AT WHICH A STRATUM OR ANY PLANAR FEATURE IS INCLINED FROM THE HORIZONTAL.
LASTIC INDEX 6 MX N.P. I8 MX I8 MX II MN 10 MX 10 MX 11 MN 1	MODERATELY ORGANIC 5 - 10% 12 - 20% SOME 20 - 35% HIGHLY ORGANIC >10% >20% HIGHLY 35% AND ABOVE GROUND WATER WATER LEVEL IN BORE HOLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRILLING.	(V. SLI,) CRYSTALS ON A BROKEN SPECIMEN FACE SHINE BRIGHTLY, ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER BLOWS IF OF A CRYSTALLINE NATURE. SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS INTO ROCK UP TO (SLI,) 1 INCH. OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CLAY. IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OCCASIONAL FELDSPAR	DIP DIRECTION OIP AZIMUTHO - THE DIRECTION OR BEARING OF THE HORIZONTAL TRACE OF THE LINE OF DIP, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM NORTH, FAULT - A FRACTURE OR FRACTURE ZONE ALONG WHICH THERE HAS BEEN DISPLACEMENT OF THE SIDES RELATIVE TO ONE ANOTHER PARALLEL TO THE FRACTURE.
IF MAJOR GRAVEL AND SAND GRAVEL AND SAND SOILS SOILS MATTER SEN, RATING AS A EXCELLENT TO GOOD FAIR TO POOR FOR TO POOR UNSUITABLE SUBGRADE	▼ STATIC WATER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS. ▼PW PERCHED WATER, SATURATED ZONE OR WATER BEARING STRATA	CRYSTALS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED. CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER HAMMER BLOWS. MODERATE SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF ROCK SHOW DISCOLORATION AND WEATHERING EFFECTS. IN (MOD.) GRANITOID ROCKS, MOST FELDSPARS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED, SOME SHOW CLAY. ROCK HAS DULL SOUND UNDER HAMMER BLOWS AND SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF STRENGTH AS COMPARED	FISSILE - A PROPERTY OF SPLITTING ALONG CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL PLANES. FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLODGED FROM PARENT MATERIAL. FLOOD PLAIN (F.P.) - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY
P.I. OF A-7-5 ≤ L.L 30 :P.I. OF A-7-6 > L.L 30 CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS COMPACTNESS OR PANGE OF STANDARD RANGE OF UNCONFINED PRINTED PRINTED PRINTED COMPARESSIVE STRENGTH	SPRING OR SEEPAGE MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS ROADWAY EMBANKMENT WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION POSSERITE TO THE TEST BORING SAMPLE STREET TO THE TEST BORING STREET TO TH	WITH FRESH ROCK. MODERATELY ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, IN GRANITOID ROCKS, ALL FELDSPARS DULL SEVERE AND DISCOLORED AND A MAJORITY SHOW KAQLINIZATION, ROCK SHOWS SEVERE LOSS OF STRENGTH (MOD. SEV.) AND CAN BE EXCAVATED WITH A GEOLOGIST'S PICK, ROCK GIVES "CLUNK" SOUND WHEN STRUCK. IF TESTED, WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL	THE STREAM. FORMATION (FM.) - A MAPPABLE GEOLOGIC UNIT THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AND TRACED IN THE FIELD.
CONSISTENCY	WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION SOIL SYMBOL ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENTS ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENTS ST-SHELBY TUBE	SEVERE ALL ROCKS EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, ROCK FABRIC CLEAR AND EVIDENT BUT REDUCE (SEV.) IN STRENGTH TO STRONG SOIL. IN GRANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS ARE KAOLINIZED TO SOME EXTENT, SOME FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK USUALLY REMAIN. IF TESTED, YIELDS SPT. N YALUES > 100 BPF VERY SEVERE ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, ROCK FABRIC ELEMENTS ARE DISCERNIBLE BUT	JOINT - FRACTURE IN ROCK ALONG WHICH NO APPRECIABLE MOVEMENT HAS OCCURRED. LEDGE - A SHELF-LIKE RIDGE OR PROJECTION OF ROCK WHOSE THICKNESS IS SMALL COMPARED TO ITS LATERAL EXTENT. LENS - A BODY OF SOIL OR ROCK THAT THINS OUT IN ONE OR MORE DIRECTIONS. MOTTLED (MOT.) - IRREGULARLY MARKED WITH SPOTS OF DIFFERENT COLORS, MOTTLING IN SOILS USUALLY INDICATES POOR AERATION AND LACK OF GOOD DRAINAGE.
VERY SOFT	INFERRED SOIL BOUNDARIES MONITORING WELL SAMPLE PIEZOMETER RS- ROCK SAMPLE INSTALLATION RT- RECOMPACTED TRIAXIAL SAM SAMPLE SAM	(V. SEV.) THE MASS IS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED TO SOIL STATUS, WITH ONLY FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK REMAINING, SAPROLITE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ROCK WEATHERED TO A DEGREE SUCH THAT ONLY MINOR VESTICES OF THE ORIGINAL ROCK FABRIC REMAIN. IF TESTED, YIELDS SPT N VALUES < 180 BPF COMPLETE ROCK REDUCED TO SOIL. ROCK FABRIC NOT DISCERNIBLE, OR DISCERNIBLE ONLY IN SMALL AND SCATTERED CONCENTRATIONS. QUARTZ MAY BE PRESENT AS DIKES OR STRINGERS, SAPROLITE IS	PERCHED WATER - WATER MAINTAINED ABOVE THE NORMAL GROUND WATER LEVEL BY THE PRESENCE OF AN INTERVENING IMPERVIOUS STRATUM. RESIDUAL SOIL - SOIL FORMED IN PLACE BY THE WEATHERING OF ROCK. ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (R.Q.D.) - A MEASURE OF ROCK QUALITY DESCRIBED BY: TOTAL LENGTH OF
HARD >30 >4 TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE 4 10 40 60 200 270	25/025 DIP/DIP DIRECTION OF INSTALLATION CBR - CBR SAMPLE SPT N-VALUE - SOUNDING ROD GEF SPT REFUSAL	VERY HARD CANNOT BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR SHARP PICK, BREAKING OF HAND SPECIMENS REQUIRES SEVERAL HARD BLOWS OF THE GEOLOGISTS PICK.	ROCK SEGMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 4 INCHES DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. SAPROLITE (SAP.) - RESIDUAL SOIL WHICH RETAINS THE RELIC STRUCTURE OR FABRIC OF THE PARENT ROCK.
OPENING (MM) 4.76 2.0 0.42 0.25 0.075 0.053 BOULDER (CDR) COBBLE (CDR) CRAYEL (CDR) SAND (CDR) SAND (CDR) SAND (CDR)	ABBREVIATIONS AR - AUGER REFUSAL PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST	HARD CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY, HARD HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO DETACH HAND SPECIMEN. MODERATELY CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK, GOUGES OR GROOVES TO 0.25 INCHES DEEP CAN BE	SILL - AN INTRUSIVE BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK OF APPROXIMATELY UNIFORM THICKNESS AND RELATIVELY THIN COMPARED WITH ITS LATERAL EXTENT, WHICH HAS BEEN EMPLACED PARALLEL TO THE BEDDING OR SCHISTOSITY OF THE INTRUDED ROCKS
GRAIN MM 305 75 2.0 0.25 0.05 0.005 SIZE IN 12' 3'	BT - BORING TERMINATED SD SAND, SANDY CL CLAY SL SILT, SILT, CPT - CONE PENETRATION TEST SLI SLIGHTLY CSE COARSE TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL	HARD EXCAVATED BY HARD BLOW OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK, HAND SPECIMENS CAN BE DETACHED BY MODERATE BLOWS. MEDIUM CAN BE GROOVED OR GOUGED 0.05 INCHES DEEP BY FIRM PRESSURE OF KNIFE OR PICK POINT. HARD CAN BE EXCAVATED IN SMALL CHIPS TO PEICES I INCH MAXIMUM SIZE BY HARD BLOWS OF THE	SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR SLIP PLANE. STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (PENETRATION RESISTANCE) (SPT) - NUMBER OF BLOWS (N OR B.P.F.) OF A 140 LB. HAMMER FALLING 30 INCHES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PENETRATION OF 1 FOOT INTO SOIL WITH
SOIL MOISTURE - CORRELATION OF TERMS SOIL MOISTURE SCALE FIELD MOISTURE GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION GATTERBERG LIMITS) GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION	DMT - DILATOMETER TEST DPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST O - VOID RATIO F FINE W - MOISTURE CONTENT	POINT OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK. SOFT CAN BE GROVED OR GOUGED READILY BY KNIFE OR PICK. CAN BE EXCAVATED IN FRAGMENTS FROM CHIPS TO SEVERAL INCHES IN SIZE BY MODERATE BLOWS OF A PICK POINT. SMALL, THIN	A 2 INCH OUTSIDE DIAMETER SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER. SPT REFUSAL IS LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PENETRATION WITH 60 BLOWS. STRATA CORE RECOVERY (SREC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA MATERIAL RECOVERED DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATUM AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
- SATURATED - USUALLY LTQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY (SAT.) FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE LL LTQUID LIMIT SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO	FOSS. FOSSILIFEROUS V VERY FRAC FRACTURED VST - VANE SHEAR TEST FRAGS FRAGMENTS MED MEDIUM	PIECES CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE. VERY CAN BE CARVED WITH KNIFE. CAN BE EXCAVATED READILY WITH POINT OF PICK. PIECES 1 INCH SOFT OR MORE IN THICKNESS CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE. CAN BE SCRATCHED READILY BY FINGERNAIL.	STRATA ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (S.R.O.D.) - A MEASURE OF ROCK QUALITY DESCRIBED BY: TOTAL LENGTH OF ROCK SEGMENTS WITHIN A STRATUM EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 4 INCHES DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE	EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT	FRACTURE SPACING BEDDING	TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER.
OM OPTIMUM MOISTURE - MOIST - (M) SOLID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE SL SHRINKAGE LIMIT REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER TO	DRILL UNITS: ADVANCING TOOLS: HAMMER TYPE: X AUTOMATIC G'CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER CORE SIZE:	MODERATELY CLOSE	BENCH MARK: NOTES:
- DRY - (D) ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE PLASTICITY PLASTICITY INDEX (PI) DRY STRENGTH	BK-51 X 8*HOLLOW AUGERS -B CME-45 HARD FACED FINGER BITS -N XWL	VERY CLOSE LESS THAN 0.16 FEET THICKLY LAMINATED 0.006 - 0.008 FEET THINLY LAMINATED < 0.008 FEET THINLY LAMINATED	
NONPLASTIC 0-5 VERY LOW LOW PLASTICITY 6-15 SLIGHT MED. PLASTICITY 16-25 MEDIUM	X CME-550	FRIABLE RUBBING WITH FINGER FREES NUMEROUS GRAINS; GENTLE BLOW BY HAMMER DISINTEGRATES SAMPLE. R MODERATELY INDURATED GRAINS CAN BE SEPARATED FROM SAMPLE WITH STEEL PROBE;	
HIGH PLASTICITY 26 OR MORE HIGH COLOR DESCRIPTIONS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YEL-BRN, BLUE-GRAY)	OTHER TRICONE TUNG,-CARB. HAND AUGER CORE BIT SOUNDING ROD	BREAKS EASILY WHEN HIT WITH HAMMER. INDURATED GRAINS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE WITH STEEL PROBE: DIFFICULT TO BREAK WITH HAMMER.	
MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK, STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESCRIBE APPEARANCE.	OTHER OTHER OTHER OTHER	EXTREMELY INDURATED SHARP HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO BREAK SAMPLE; SAMPLE BREAKS ACROSS GRAINS.	REVISED 09/15/00