

**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 100 BLOWS PER FOOT ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (AASHTO T206, 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, ANGULARITY, STRUCTURE, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLES: <i>VERY STIFF, GRAY SILTY CLAY, MOST WITH INTERBEDDED FINE SAND LAYERS, HIGHLY PLASTIC, A-7-6</i>		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.		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 FOLLOWS:		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. ARTESIAN - GROUND WATER THAT IS UNDER SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO RISE ABOVE THE LEVEL AT WHICH IS ENCOUNTERED, BUT WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RISE TO OR ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE. CALCAREOUS (CALC.) - SOILS WHICH CONTAIN APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM CARBONATE. 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. 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. DIP DIRECTION (DIP AZIMUTH) - 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. FISSILE - A PROPERTY OF SPLITTING ALONG CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL PLANES. FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLOGED FROM PARENT MATERIAL. FLOOD PLAIN (F.P.) - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY THE STREAM. FORMATION (FM.) - A MAPPABLE GEOLOGIC UNIT THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AND TRACED IN THE FIELD. 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, MOTTLED IN SOILS USUALLY INDICATES POOR AERATION AND LACK OF GOOD DRAINAGE. 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 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. 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. 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 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. STRATA ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (S.R.Q.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. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER.	
SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION		MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION		WEATHERING			
GENERAL CLASS., GRANULAR MATERIALS (>85% PASSING #200), SILT-CLAY MATERIALS (>85% PASSING #200), ORGANIC MATERIALS		MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAOLIN, ETC. ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE.		WEATHERED ROCK (WR), CRYSTALLINE ROCK (CR), NON-CRYSTALLINE ROCK (NCR), COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTARY ROCK (CP)			
GROUP CLASS., A-1 to A-7		COMPRESSIBILITY, SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE, MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE, HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE		FRESH, VERY SLIGHT (V. SLT.), SLIGHT (SLT.), MODERATE (MOD.), MODERATELY SEVERE (MOD. SEV.), SEVERE (SEV.), VERY SEVERE (V. SEV.), COMPLETE			
SYMBOL, % PASSING, LIQUID LIMIT, PLASTIC INDEX, GROUP INDEX		PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL, ORGANIC MATERIAL, GRANULAR SOILS, SILT-CLAY SOILS, OTHER MATERIAL		ROCK FRESH, CRYSTALS BRIGHT, FEW JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING. ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER IF CRYSTALLINE.			
GENERAL RATING AS A SUBGRADE, EXCELLENT TO GOOD, FAIR TO POOR, POOR, UNSUITABLE		GROUND WATER, WATER LEVEL IN BORE HOLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRILLING, STATIC WATER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS, PERCHED WATER, SATURATED ZONE OR WATER BEARING STRATA, SPRING OR SEEPAGE		ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED, SOME JOINTS MAY SHOW THIN CLAY COATINGS IF OPEN. CRYSTALS ON A BROKEN SPECIMEN FACE SHINE BRIGHTLY. ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER BLOWS IF OF A CRYSTALLINE NATURE.			
CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS, PRIMARY SOIL TYPE, COMPACTNESS OR CONSISTENCY, RANGE OF STANDARD PENETRATION RESISTANCE (N-VALUE), RANGE OF UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (TONS/FT²)		MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS, ROADWAY EMBANKMENT WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION, SOIL SYMBOL, ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENTS, INFERRED SOIL BOUNDARIES, INFERRED ROCK LINE, ALLUVIAL SOIL BOUNDARY, DIP/DIP DIRECTION OF ROCK STRUCTURES, SOUNDING ROD		ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS INTO ROCK UP TO 1 INCH. OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CLAY. IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OCCASIONAL FELDSPAR CRYSTALS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED. CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER HAMMER BLOWS.			
TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE, U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE, BOULDER, COBBLE, GRAVEL, COARSE SAND, FINE SAND, SILT, CLAY		ABBREVIATIONS, AR - AUGER REFUSAL, BT - BORING TERMINATED, CL - CLAY, CPT - CONE PENETRATION TEST, CSE - COARSE, DMT - DILATOMETER TEST, DPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST, F - FINE, FOSS - FOSSILIFEROUS, FRAC - FRACTURED, FRAGS - FRAGMENTS, MED - MEDIUM, PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST, SD - SAND, SANDY, SL - SILT, SILTY, SLI - SLIGHTLY, TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL, UNIT WEIGHT, DRY UNIT WEIGHT, MOISTURE CONTENT, VERY, VST - VANE SHEAR TEST		ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS INTO ROCK UP TO 1 INCH. OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CLAY. IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OCCASIONAL FELDSPAR CRYSTALS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED. CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER HAMMER BLOWS.			
SOIL MOISTURE - CORRELATION OF TERMS, SOIL MOISTURE SCALE, FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION, GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION		EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT, DRILL UNITS, ADVANCING TOOLS, HAMMER TYPE, CORE SIZE, HAND TOOLS		ROCK HARDNESS, VERY HARD, HARD, MODERATELY HARD, MEDIUM HARD, SOFT, VERY SOFT			
PLASTICITY, PLASTICITY INDEX (PI), DRY STRENGTH		FRACTURE SPACING, TERM, SPACING, BEDDING, TERM, THICKNESS		INDURATION, FOR SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, INDURATION IS THE HARDENING OF THE MATERIAL BY CEMENTING, HEAT, PRESSURE, ETC.			
COLOR, DESCRIPTIONS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YEL-BRN, BLUE-GRAY) MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK, STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESCRIBE APPEARANCE.		INDURATION, FRIABLE, MODERATELY INDURATED, INDURATED, EXTREMELY INDURATED		BENCH MARK, ELEVATION, NOTES			