PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING UNIT
SOIL AND ROCK LEGEND, TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

SOIL DESCRIPTION

SOIL IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE UNCONSOLIDATED, SEMI-CONSOLIDATED, OR WEATHERED EARTH MATERIALS THAT CAN BE PENETRATED WITH A CONTINUOUS FLIGHT POWER AUGER, AND YIELD LESS THAN 100 BLOWS PER FOOT ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (AASHTO T206, ASTM D-1586). SOIL CLASSIFICATION IS BASED ON THE AASHTO SYSTEM. BASIC DESCRIPTIONS GENERALLY SHALL INCLUDE: CONSISTENCY, COLOR, TEXTURE, MOISTURE, AASHTO CLASSIFICATION, AND OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS SUCH AS MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION, ANGULARITY, STRUCTURE, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLE:

VERY STIFF, GRAY, SILTY CLAY, MOIST WITH INTERBEDDED FINE SAND LAYERS, HIGHLY PLASTIC, A-7-6

SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION

GENERAL CLASS.	GRANULAR MATERIALS (≤ 35% PASSING #200)							SILT-CLAY MATERIALS (> 35% PASSING #200)				ORGANIC MATERIALS		
GROUP CLASS.	A-1		A-3	A-2				A-4	A-5	A-6	A-7	A-1, A-2 A-3	A-4, A-5 A-6, A-7	
	A-1-a	A-1-b		A-2-4	A-2-5	A-2-6	A-2-7				A-7-5 A-7-6			
SYMBOL														
% PASSING # 10	50 MX											GRANULAR SOILS	SILT-CLAY SOILS	MUCK, PEAT
# 40	30 MX	50 MX	51 MN											
# 200	15 MX	25 MX	10 MX	35 MX	35 MX	35 MX	35 MX	36 MN	36 MN	36 MN	36 MN			
LIQUID LIMIT / PLASTIC INDEX	6 MX		NP	40 MX / 10 MX	41 MN / 10 MX	40 MX / 11 MN	41 MN / 11 MN	40 MX / 10 MX	41 MN / 10 MX	40 MX / 11 MN	41 MN / 11 MN	SOILS WITH LITTLE OR MODERATE AMOUNTS OF ORGANIC MATTER		HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS
GROUP INDEX	0		0	0		4 MX		8 MX	12 MX	16 MX	No MX			
USUAL TYPES OF MAJOR MATERIALS	STONE FRAGS. GRAVEL, AND SAND		FINE SAND	SILTY OR CLAYEY GRAVEL AND SAND				SILTY SOILS		CLAYEY SOILS				
GEN. RATING AS A SUBGRADE	EXCELLENT TO GOOD							FAIR TO POOR				FAIR TO POOR	POOR	UNSUITABLE

PI OF A-7-5 SUBGROUP IS ≤ LL - 30 ; PI OF A-7-6 SUBGROUP IS > LL - 30

CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS

PRIMARY SOIL TYPE	COMPACTNESS OR CONSISTENCY	RANGE OF STANDARD PENETRATION RESISTENCE (N-VALUE)	RANGE OF UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (TONS/FT^2)
GENERALLY GRANULAR MATERIAL (NON-COHESIVE)	VERY LOOSE LOOSE MEDIUM DENSE DENSE VERY DENSE	<4 4 TO 10 10 TO 30 30 TO 50 >50	N/A
GENERALLY SILT-CLAY MATERIAL (COHESIVE)	VERY SOFT SOFT MEDIUM STIFF STIFF VERY STIFF HARD	<2 2 TO 4 4 TO 8 8 TO 15 15 TO 30 >30	<0.25 0.25 TO 0.50 0.5 TO 1.0 1 TO 2 2 TO 4 >4

TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE

U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE	4	10	40	60	200	270
OPENING (MM)	4.76	2.00	0.42	0.25	0.075	0.053

BOULDER (BLDR.)	COBBLE (COB.)	GRAVEL (GR.)	COARSE SAND (CSE. SD.)	FINE SAND (F SD.)	SILT (SL.)	CLAY (CL.)

GRAIN SIZE	MM	305	75	2.0	0.25	0.05	0.005
	IN.	12	3				

SOIL MOISTURE - CORRELATION OF TERMS

SOIL MOISTURE SCALE (ATTERBERG LIMITS)	FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION	GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION
	- SATURATED - (SAT.)	USUALLY LIQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE
LL — LIQUID LIMIT		
PLASTIC RANGE (PI)	- WET - (W)	SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE
PL — PLASTIC LIMIT		
OM — OPTIMUM MOISTURE SL — SHRINKAGE LIMIT	- MOIST - (M)	SOLID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE
	- DRY - (D)	REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE

PLASTICITY

	PLASTICITY INDEX (PI)	DRY STRENGTH
NONPLASTIC	0-5	VERY LOW
LOW PLASTICITY	6-15	SLIGHT
MED. PLASTICITY	16-25	MEDIUM
HIGH PLASTICITY	26 OR MORE	HIGH

COLOR

DESCRIPTIONS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YELLOW-BROWN, BLUE-GRAY). MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK, STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESCRIBE APPEARANCE.

GRADATION

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 IS DESIGNATED BY THE TERMS ANGULAR, SUBANGULAR, SUBROUNDED, OR ROUNDED.

MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION

MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAOLIN, ETC. ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE.

COMPRESSIBILITY

SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE	LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 31
MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE	LIQUID LIMIT EQUAL TO 31-50
HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE	LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50

PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL

ORGANIC MATERIAL	GRANULAR SOILS	SILT - CLAY SOILS	OTHER MATERIAL	
TRACE OF ORGANIC MATTER	2 - 3%	3 - 5%	TRACE	1 - 10%
LITTLE ORGANIC MATTER	3 - 5%	5 - 12%	LITTLE	10 - 20%
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
- STATIC WATER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS
- PW — PERCHED WATER, SATURATED ZONE, OR WATER BEARING STRATA
- SPRING OR SEEP

MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS

- ROADWAY EMBANKMENT (RE) WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION
- SOIL SYMBOL
- ARTIFICIAL FILL (AF) OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENT
- INFERRED SOIL BOUNDARY
- INFERRED ROCK LINE
- ALLUVIAL SOIL BOUNDARY
- 25/025 — DIP & DIP DIRECTION OF ROCK STRUCTURES
- SPT DPT DMT VST PMT — TEST BORING
- AUGER BORING
- CORE BORING
- MW — MONITORING WELL
- PIEZOMETER INSTALLATION
- SLOPE INDICATOR INSTALLATION
- CONE PENETROMETER TEST
- SOUNDING ROD
- TEST BORING W/ CORE
- SPT N-VALUE
- REF — SPT REFUSAL

ABBREVIATIONS

AR - AUGER REFUSAL
BT - BORING TERMINATED
CL. - CLAY
CPT - CONE PENETRATION TEST
CSE. - COARSE
DMT - DILATOMETER TEST
DPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST
e - VOID RATIO
F - FINE
FOSS. - FOSSILIFEROUS
FRAC. - FRACTURED, FRACTURES
FRAGS. - FRAGMENTS
HI. - HIGHLY
MED. - MEDIUM
MICA. - MICACEOUS
MOD. - MODERATELY
NP - NON PLASTIC
ORG. - ORGANIC
PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST
SAP. - SAPROLITIC
SD. - SAND, SANDY
SL. - SILT, SILTY
SLI. - SLIGHTLY
TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL
w - MOISTURE CONTENT
V - VERY
VST - VANE SHEAR TEST
WEA. - WEATHERED
γ - UNIT WEIGHT
γ_d - DRY UNIT WEIGHT

SAMPLE ABBREVIATIONS
S - BULK
SS - SPLIT SPOON
ST - SHELBY TUBE
RS - ROCK
RT - RECOMPACTED TRIAXIAL
CBR - CALIFORNIA BEARING RATIO

EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT

DRILL UNITS:
- [ ] MOBILE B-___
- [ ] BK-51
- [ ] CME-45C
- [x] CME-550
- [ ] PORTABLE HOIST
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

ADVANCING TOOLS:
- [ ] CLAY BITS
- [ ] 6" CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER
- [x] 8" HOLLOW AUGERS
- [ ] HARD FACED FINGER BITS
- [ ] TUNG.-CARBIDE INSERTS
- [ ] CASING [ ] W/ ADVANCER
- [ ] TRICONE ____" STEEL TEETH
- [ ] TRICONE ____" TUNG.-CARB.
- [ ] CORE BIT
- [ ] _____

HAMMER TYPE:
- [x] AUTOMATIC
- [ ] MANUAL

CORE SIZE:
- [ ] -B_____
- [ ] -N_____
- [ ] -H_____

HAND TOOLS:
- [ ] POST HOLE DIGGER
- [ ] HAND AUGER
- [ ] SOUNDING ROD
- [ ] VANE SHEAR TEST
- [ ] _____

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