

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

**SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION**

**SOIL AND ROCK LEGEND, TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS**

SOIL DESCRIPTION				GRADATION				TERMS AND DEFINITIONS				ABBREVIATIONS							
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 ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (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 OF GRAINS, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLE: VERY STIFF, GRAY SILTY CLAY, MOST WITH INTERBEDDED FINE SAND LAYERS, HIGH 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.				ALLUVIUM (ALLUV.) - SOILS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY WATER. APPARENT DIP - THE DIP OF ROCK STRATA NOT PERPENDICULAR TO STRIKE. AQUIFER - A WATER BEARING FORMATION OR STRATA. AUGER REFUSAL (A.R.) - POINT AT WHICH POWER AUGERS WILL NOT PENETRATE. BEDDED - SOIL OR ROCK LYING IN A POSITION ESSENTIALLY PARALLEL. BEDROCK - ROCK OF RELATIVELY GREAT THICKNESS AND EXTENT IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION. CALCAREOUS (CALC.) - SOILS WHICH CONTAIN APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM CARBONATE. COHESIVE SOIL - A SOIL THAT WHEN UNCONFINED HAS CONSIDERABLE DRY STRENGTH AND SIGNIFICANT COHESION WHEN SUBMERGED. COLLUVIUM - ROCK FRAGMENTS MIXED WITH SOIL DEPOSITED BY GRAVITY ON SLOPE OR AT BOTTOM OF SLOPE. CORE RECOVERY (% REC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF ALL ROCK DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. COQUINA - A ROCK TYPE COMPOSED ESSENTIALLY OF MARINE SHELLS CEMENTED BY CALCIUM CARBONATE. DIKE - IGNEOUS ROCK INTRUSION WHICH IS NARROW COMPARED WITH ITS OTHER DIMENSIONS. DIP - THE ANGLE BETWEEN A BEDDING PLANE, JOINT PLANE OR FAULT PLANE AND THE HORIZONTAL, MEASURED PERPENDICULAR TO THE STRIKE. DUMPS - UNCOVERED DEPOSITS OF WASTE MATERIAL SUCH AS WOOD, MASONRY DEBRIS OR GARBAGE. FAULT - A BREAK IN THE CONTINUITY OF A BODY OF ROCK, ATTENDED BY A MOVEMENT ON EITHER OR BOTH SIDES OF THE BREAK. FINES - PORTIONS OF A SOIL FINER THAN NO. 200 U.S. STANDARD SIEVE. FISSILITY OR FISSILE - A PROPERTY OF SPLITTING EASILY ALONG CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL PLANES. FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLODGED FROM PARENT MATERIAL. FLOODPLAIN - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY THE STREAM. FORMATION - A MAPPABLE UNIT THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AND TRACED IN THE FIELD. FRACTURE - A CRACK LARGE ENOUGH TO BE VISIBLE TO THE UNAIDED EYE. FRIABLE - EASY TO BREAK OR CRUMBLE. GRANULAR MATERIAL - SOIL THAT WHEN UNCONFINED HAS LITTLE OR NO DRY STRENGTH AND HAS LITTLE OR NO COHESION WHEN SUBMERGED. GROUNDWATER (G.W.) - WATER THAT IS FREE TO MOVE THROUGH SOIL MASS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF GRAVITY. GROUNDWATER LEVEL - LEVEL OF WATER WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING GROUND SURFACE. HARDPAN - A GENERAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE A HARD CEMENTED SOIL LAYER WHICH DOES NOT SOFTEN WHEN WET. INDURATED - EARTH MATERIAL HARDENED BY HEAT, PRESSURE OR CEMENTATION. INTERBEDDED - ALTERNATING LENSES OR LAYERS OF SOIL AND/OR ROCK MATERIALS. JOINT - FRACTURE IN ROCK ALONG WHICH NO APPRECIABLE MOVEMENT HAS OCCURRED. LAMINATED - VERY THIN ALTERNATING LAYERS LESS THAN INCH. LAYER - SUBJECT MATERIAL GREATER THAN INCH IN THICKNESS. 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. MARL - A NON-INDURATED, CALCAREOUS DEPOSIT OF CLAYS, SILTS AND SANDS, OFTEN CONTAINING SHELLS. MICACEOUS SOIL (MIC.) - A SOIL OR ROCK TYPE CONTAINING AN APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF MICA. MUCK (MK.) - A HIGHLY ORGANIC SOIL OF VERY SOFT CONSISTENCY, GENERALLY FOUND ON TIDAL FLATS, LAKE OR STREAM FLOODPLAINS. PEAT (PT) - A FIBROUS MASS OF ORGANIC MATTER IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DECOMPOSITION. 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 - SEE LEGEND 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 EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. SANITARY LANDFILLS - COMPACTED AND/OR COVERED LAYERS OF SOIL AND WASTE PRODUCTS. SAPROLITE (SAP.) - RESIDUAL SOIL WHICH RETAINS THE RELIC STRUCTURE OR FABRIC OF THE PARENT ROCK. SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR SLIP PLAIN. SILL - AN IGNEOUS SHEET OF INTRUSIVE ROCK WHOSE THICKNESS IS SLIGHT COMPARED TO ITS LATERAL EXTENT. SOME - PRESENCE OF 5% TO 30% OF SUBJECT MATERIAL. 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 PENETRATION RESISTANCE OF LESS THAN INCH WITH 50 BLOWS. STRIKE - THE DIRECTION OR BEARING OF A HORIZONTAL LINE IN THE PLANE OF AN INCLINED STRATUM, JOINT, FAULT OR OTHER STRUCTURAL PLANE. SUBGRADE - THE SOIL PREPARED TO SUPPORT A STRUCTURE OR A PAVEMENT SYSTEM. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER. TRACE - PRESENCE OF LESS THAN 5% OF SUBJECT MATERIAL.				MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAOLIN, ETC. ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE.				B.LDR. - BOULDER CL. - CLAY COB. - COBBLE CSE. - COARSE EST. - ESTIMATED F. - FINE FOSS. - FOSSILIFEROUS FRAC. - FRACTURED GR. - GRAVEL LL - LIQUID LIMIT MED. - MEDIUM MOT. - MOTTLED OM - OPTIMUM MOISTURE ORG. - ORGANIC  PL - PLASTIC LIMIT PI - PLASTICITY INDEX n - POROSITY SD. - SAND SAT. - SATURATED SL. - SILT, SILTY SLI. - SLIGHTLY G <sub>s</sub> - SPECIFIC GRAVITY q <sub>u</sub> - UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH γ - UNIT WEIGHT (WET UNIT WEIGHT) γ <sub>d</sub> - DRY UNIT WEIGHT γ <sub>SAT</sub> - SATURATED UNIT WEIGHT e - VOID RATIO V. - VERY			
GENERAL CLASS. GRANULAR MATERIALS (≤ 35% PASSING #200) SILT-CLAY MATERIALS (> 35% PASSING #200) ORGANIC MATERIALS				ANGULARITY OF GRAINS THE ANGULARITY OR ROUNDNESS OF SOIL GRAINS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE TERMS: ANGULAR, SUBANGULAR, SUBROUNDED, OR ROUNDED.				MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION				FIELD BORING LOGS ROCK CORES SOIL & ROCK TEST DATA SUBSURFACE REPORT							
SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION				COMPRESSION				ROCK DESCRIPTION				<b>CAUTION NOTICE :</b> THE SUBSURFACE INFORMATION AND THE SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION ON WHICH IT IS BASED WAS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDY, PLANNING AND DESIGN, AND NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION OR PAY PURPOSES. SOME DATA OBTAINED MAY BE OMITTED FROM THIS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:  THIS INFORMATION MAY BE VIEWED BY APPOINTMENT BY CONTACTING THE N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GEOTECHNICAL UNIT @ (919) 250-4088. NEITHER THE SUBSURFACE PLANS AND REPORTS, NOR THE FIELD BORING LOGS, ROCK CORES, OR SOIL TEST DATA IS PART OF THE CONTRACT.  GENERAL SOIL AND ROCK STRATA DESCRIPTIONS AND INDICATED BOUNDARIES ARE BASED ON A GEOTECHNICAL INTERPRETATION OF ALL AVAILABLE SUBSURFACE DATA AND MAY NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE ACTUAL SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS BETWEEN BORINGS OR BETWEEN SAMPLED STRATA WITHIN THE BOREHOLE. THE LABORATORY SAMPLE DATA AND THE IN SITU (IN-PLACE) TEST DATA CAN BE RELIED ON ONLY TO THE DEGREE OF RELIABILITY INHERENT IN THE STANDARD TEST METHOD. THE OBSERVED WATER LEVELS OR SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS INDICATED IN THE SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS ARE AS RECORDED AT THE TIME OF THE INVESTIGATION. THESE WATER LEVELS OR SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS MAY VARY CONSIDERABLY WITH TIME ACCORDING TO CLIMATIC CONDITIONS INCLUDING TEMPERATURES, PRECIPITATION AND WIND, AS WELL AS OTHER NON-CLIMATIC FACTORS.  THE BIDDER OR CONTRACTOR IS CAUTIONED THAT DETAILS SHOWN ON THE SUBSURFACE PLANS ARE PRELIMINARY ONLY AND IN MANY CASES THE FINAL DESIGN DETAILS ARE DIFFERENT. FOR BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES, REFER TO THE CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND DOCUMENTS FOR FINAL DESIGN INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WARRANT OR GUARANTEE THE SUFFICIENCY OR ACCURACY OF THE INVESTIGATION MADE, NOR THE INTERPRETATIONS MADE OR OPINIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT AS TO THE TYPE OF MATERIALS AND CONDITIONS TO BE ENCOUNTERED. THE BIDDER OR CONTRACTOR IS CAUTIONED TO MAKE SUCH INDEPENDENT SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS AS HE DEEMS NECESSARY TO SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO CONDITIONS TO BE ENCOUNTERED ON THIS PROJECT. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL HAVE NO CLAIM FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION OR FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME FOR ANY REASON RESULTING FROM THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED AT THE SITE DIFFERING FROM THOSE INDICATED IN THE SUBSURFACE INFORMATION.  <b>NOTE - THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS NOT IMPLIED OR GUARANTEED BY THE N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS BEING ACCURATE NOR IS IT CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, OR CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT.</b>  <b>NOTE - BY HAVING REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION THE CONTRACTOR SPECIFICALLY WAIVES ANY CLAIMS FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION OR EXTENSION OF TIME BASED ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONDITIONS INDICATED HEREIN AND THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS AT THE PROJECT SITE.</b>							
GROUP CLASS. A-1 A-2 A-3 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-1.1 A-1.2 A-2.4 A-2.5 A-2.6 A-2.7 A-3.1 A-3.2 A-4.1 A-4.2 A-5.1 A-5.2 A-6.1 A-6.2 A-7.1 A-7.2				SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 30 MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT 31-50 HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50				IN THE BROADEST MEANING, HARD ROCK IS CONSIDERED THAT MATERIAL WHICH CANNOT BE SAMPLED BY CONVENTIONAL SOIL SAMPLING TOOLS OR TECHNIQUES. THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SOIL AND ROCK IS ARBITRARY. TRANSITION BETWEEN SOIL AND ROCK IS OFTEN REPRESENTED BY A ZONE OF "WEATHERED ROCK". FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION, THESE MATERIALS ARE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:  WEATHERED ROCK (SWR) (HWR) SOFT WEATHERED ROCK HARD WEATHERED ROCK CORED ROCK INFERRED ROCK LINE MATERIAL THAT CAN BE PENETRATED WITH SOME DIFFICULTY USING POWER AUGERS AND YIELDS SPT VALUES > 100 BLOWS BUT < SPT REFUSAL MATERIAL THAT CAN BE PENETRATED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY USING POWER AUGERS AND YIELDS SPT REFUSAL. MATERIAL THAT CANNOT BE PENETRATED BY POWER AUGERS, EXCEPT IN THIN LEDGES, AND REQUIRES ROCK CORING TOOLS FOR OBTAINING A SAMPLE.											
SYMBOL				ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (RQD) - TOTAL LENGTH OF SOUND ROCK SEGMENTS RECOVERED THAT ARE LONGER THAN OR EQUAL TO 4" DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE CORE RUN TIMES 100%.				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											
% PASSING • 10 • 40 • 200				USUAL TYPES OF MAJOR MATERIALS				MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS ROADWAY EMBANKMENT WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION SOIL SYMBOL ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENTS INFERRED SOIL BOUNDARIES ALLUVIAL/RESIDUAL BOUNDARIES DIP DIRECTION AND DIP OF STRUCTURES APPARENT DIP (NORMAL TO)											
LIQUID LIMIT PLASTIC INDEX GROUP INDEX				TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE				EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT DRILL UNITS: MOBILE B BK-51 CHE-45 CHE-550 PORTABLE HOIST OTHER SMC 4000 OTHER											
P.I. OF A-7-5 ≤ L.L. - 30 + P.I. OF A-7-6 > L.L. - 30				CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS				HAMMER TYPE: AUTOMATIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANUAL CORE BORING TOOLS: -AX <input type="checkbox"/> -BX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> -NX HAND TOOLS: POST HOLE DIGGER HAND AUGER SOUNDING ROD VANE SHEAR TEST											
GENERALLY GRANULAR MATERIAL				SOILS WITH LITTLE OR MODERATE AMOUNTS OF ORGANIC MATTER				SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR SLIP PLAIN. SOME - PRESENCE OF 5% TO 30% OF SUBJECT MATERIAL. 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 PENETRATION RESISTANCE OF LESS THAN INCH WITH 50 BLOWS. STRIKE - THE DIRECTION OR BEARING OF A HORIZONTAL LINE IN THE PLANE OF AN INCLINED STRATUM, JOINT, FAULT OR OTHER STRUCTURAL PLANE. SUBGRADE - THE SOIL PREPARED TO SUPPORT A STRUCTURE OR A PAVEMENT SYSTEM. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER. TRACE - PRESENCE OF LESS THAN 5% OF SUBJECT MATERIAL.											
GENERALLY SILT-CLAY MATERIAL				HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS				NOTES:											
U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE OPENING (MM)				PLASTICITY				REVISED AUGUST 10, 1998											
BOULDER COBBLE GRAVEL COARSE SAND FINE SAND SILT CLAY				PLASTICITY INDEX DRY STRENGTH															
GRAIN SIZE				COLOR															
SOIL MOISTURE SCALE (ATTERBERG LIMITS)				FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION															
FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION				GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION															
LIQUID LIMIT				SATURATED - (SAT.)				USUALLY LIQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE											
PLASTIC LIMIT				WET - (W)				SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE											
OPTIMUM MOISTURE				MOIST - (M)				SOLID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE											
SHRINKAGE LIMIT				DRY - (D)				REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE											
NONPLASTIC				VERY LOW															
LOW PLASTICITY				SLIGHT															
MED. PLASTICITY				MEDIUM															
HIGH PLASTICITY				HIGH															
DESCRIPTORS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YEL-BRN, BLUE-GRAY) MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK, MOTTLED, STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESCRIBE APPEARANCE.																			