NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

| | | | | SOIL AND ROO | CK LEGEND, TERM | S, SYMBOLS, | AND ABBREVI | IATIONS | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SOIL DESCRIPTION | | GRADATION | | | ROCK DESCRIPTION | | | | TERMS AND DEFINITIONS |
| SOIL IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE UNCONSOLIDATED, SEMI-CONSOLIDATED OR WEATHERED EARTH MATERIALS | | | 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 | | | 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. | | | | ALLUVIUM (ALLUV.) - SOILS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY WATER. |
| 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 0-1586), SOIL | | | POORLY GRADED: GAP-GRADED: INDICATES A MIXTURE OF UNIFORM PARTICLES OF TWO OR MORE SIZES. | | | SPT REFUSAL IS PENETRATION BY A SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PER 60 BLOWS. | | | | AQUIFER - A WATER BEARING FORMATION OR STRATA. |
| CLASSIFICATION IS BASED ON THE AASHTO SYSTEM AND BASIC DESCRIPTIONS GENERALLY SHALL INCLUDE: | | | ANGULARITY OF GRAINS | | | IN NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL. THE TRANSITION BETWEEN SOIL AND ROCK IS OFTEN REPRESENTED BY A ZONE OF WEATHERED ROCK. | | | ARENACEOUS - APPLIED TO ROCKS THAT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM SAND OR THAT CONTAIN SAND. | |
| CONSISTENCY, COLOR, TEXTURE, MOISTURE, AASHTO CLASSIFICATION, AND OTHER PERTIMENT FACTORS SUCH AS MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION, ANGULARITY, STRUCTURE, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLE: | | | THE ANGULARITY OR ROUNDNESS OF SOIL GRAINS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE TERMS; ANGULAR, | | | ROCK MATERIALS ARE TYPICALLY DIVIDED AS FOLOWS: | | | ARGILLACEOUS - APPLIED TO ALL ROCKS OR SUBSTANCES COMPOSED OF CLAY MINERALS, | |
| VERY STIFF, GRAY SULY CLAY, MOIST WITH INTERBEDDED FINE SAND LAYERS, HIGHLY PLASTIC, A-7-6 | | | SUBANGULAR, SUBROUNDED, OR ROUNDED. | | | WEATHERED NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL THAT YIELDS SPT N VALUES > 100 BLOWS PER FOOT. | | | OR HAVING A NOTABLE PROPORTION OF CLAY IN THEIR COMPOSITION, AS SHALE, SLATE, ETC. <u>ARTESIAN</u> - GROUND WATER THAT IS UNDER SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO RISE ABOVE THE LEVEL | |
| SOIL LEGEND | AND AASHTO CLASSIFI | CATION | | INERALOGICAL COMPOSITIO | | ļ | 7 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A | E GRAIN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHI | C ROCK THAT | AT WHICH IS IS ENCOUNTERED, BUT WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RISE TO OR ABOVE THE |
| GENERAL GRANULAR MATERIAL | | ORGANIC MATERIALS | MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED | FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAOLIN, ETC. ARE U | SED IN DESCRIPTIONS | CRYSTALLINE ROCK (CR) | | SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYP | | GROUND SURFACE. |
| CLASS. (\$15% PASSING *200 |)) (>85% PASSING *2000) A-2 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 | A-1. A-2 A-4. A-5 | Withter the sonoidered | COMPRESSIBILITY | | NON-CRYSTALLINE | FINE TO COARS | E GRAIN METAMORPHIC AND NON-CO | ASTAL PLAIN | CALCAREOUS (CALCI) - SOILS WHICH CONTAIN APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM CARBONATE. |
| 01/001 | -5 A-2-6 A-2-7 A-7-6 | 1 A-2 A-6, A-7 | SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE | | LESS THAN 30 | ROCK (NCR) | SEULMENTART R | OCK THAT WOULD YEILD SPT REFU LITE, SLATE, SANDSTONE, ETC. | SAL IF TESTED, ROCK TYPE | COLLUVIUM - ROCK FRAGMENTS MIXED WITH SOIL DEPOSITED BY GRAVITY ON SLOPE OR AT BOTTOM OF SLOPE. |
| SYMBOL 000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | | MODERATELY COMPRESSI HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE | BLE LIQUID LIMIT | | COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTARY ROCK | COASTAL PLAIN | SEDIMENTS CEMENTED INTO ROCK. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES LIMESTONE, S | BUT MAY NOT YIELD | CORE RECOVERY (REC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF ALL MATERIAL RECOVERED IN THE CORE BARREL DIVIDED BY TOTAL |
| % PASSING | | 1 | TITOLET COM NEGGIBLE | PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL | ONCATER TOME SE | (CP) | SHELL BEDS. ET | 'C. | ANDSTONE, CEPENTED | LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. |
| * 10 50 MX | | GRANULAR SILT- MUCK, | | ANULAR SILT- CLAY | OTHER MATERIAL | Ţ | WE | ATHERING | | <u>DIKE</u> - A TABULAR BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK THAT CUTS ACROSS THE STRUCTURE OF ADJACENT ROCKS OR CUTS MASSIVE ROCK. |
| * 40 38 MX 50 MX 51 MN * 200 15 MX 25 MX 18 MX 35 MX 35 MX | MX35 MX35 MX36 MN36 MN36 MN36 M | SOILS SOILS PEAT | | SOILS SOILS ! - 3% 3 - 5% TRA | | | | JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING | ROCK RINGS UNDER | DIP - THE ANGLE AT WHICH A STRATUM OR ANY PLANAR FEATURE IS INCLINED FROM THE |
| | IN 40 MX41 MN 40 MX 41 MN 40 MX 41 MN | | | - 5% 5 - 12% LIT | TLE 10 - 20% | } | R IF CRYSTALLINE. | NED, SOME JOINTS MAY SHOW THIN | CLAY COATINGS IF OPEN | HORIZONTAL. |
| | 4X 11 MN 11 MN 10 MX 10 MX 11 MN 11 MN | | | 5 - 10% 12 - 20% SOM >10% >20% HIG | | (V. SLI.) CRYSTA | LS ON A BROKEN SPECIMEN FA | ACE SHINE BRIGHTLY, ROCK RINGS U | NDER HAMMER BLOWS IF | <u>DIP DIRECTION (DIP AZIMUTH) -</u> THE DIRECTION OR BEARING OF THE HORIZONTAL TRACE OF THE LINE OF DIP, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM NORTH. |
| GROUP INDEX 0 0 0 | 4 MX 8 MX 12 MX 16 MX No M | MODERATE ORGANIC | | GROUND WATER | | § | RYSTALLINE NATURE. | NED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS | INTO ROCK HP TO | FAULT - A FRACTURE OR FRACTURE ZONE ALONG WHICH THERE HAS BEEN DISPLACEMENT OF THE |
| USUAL TYPES STONE FRAGS. FINE SILTY | OR CLAYEY SILTY CLAYEY | ORGANIC | V WATER LEV | EL IN BORE HOLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER | DRILLING. | (SLI.) 1 INCH. | OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CL | AY. IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OC | CASIONAL FELDSPAR | SIDES RELATIVE TO ONE ANOTHER PARALLEL TO THE FRACTURE, |
| | AND SAND SOILS SOILS | MATTER | STATIC WAT | ER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS. | | 1 | | CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER | | FISSILE - A PROPERTY OF SPLITTING ALONG CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL PLANES. |
| GEN. RATING | | FAIR TO DOOD INCOME. | <u>∇PW</u> PERCHED WA | TER, SATURATED ZONE OR WATER BEAR | ING STRATA | | | DISCOLORATION AND WEATHERING RE DULL AND DISCOLORED, SOME SI | | FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLODGED FROM PARENT MATERIAL. |
| AS A EXCELLENT TO GOO SUBGRADE | DD FAIR TO POOR | POOR POOR UNSUITABLE | | | | | OUND UNDER HAMMER BLOWS A RESH ROCK. | ND SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF S | TRENGTH AS COMPARED | FLOOD PLAIN (F.P.) - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY |
| | ≤ L.L 30 : P.I. OF A-7-6 > L.I | | SPRING OR S | | | 1 | | D OR STAINED. IN GRANITOID ROCK | S, ALL FELDSPARS DULL | THE STREAM. |
| CONS | SISTENCY OR DENSENESS RANGE OF STANDARD | RANGE OF UNCONFINED | | MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS | | | | OW KAOLINIZATION. ROCK SHOWS SI OGIST'S PICK. ROCK GIVES "CLUNK" | | FORMATION (FM.) - A MAPPABLE GEOLOGIC UNIT THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AND TRACED IN THE FIELD. |
| PRIMARY SOIL TYPE COMPACTNE | PENETRATION RESISTENCE | COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH | ROADWAY EMBANKMEN | | G SAMPLE | | TED. WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSA | | SOUND WILL STROCK. | JOINT - FRACTURE IN ROCK ALONG WHICH NO APPRECIABLE MOVEMENT HAS OCCURRED. |
| | (N-VALUE) | (TONS/FT ²) | WITH SOIL DESCRIPT | \sim | DESIGNATIONS | | | RED OR STAINED, ROCK FABRIC CLEA | | LEDGE - A SHELF-LIKE RIDGE OR PROJECTION OF ROCK WHOSE THICKNESS IS SMALL COMPARED TO |
| GENERALLY VERY LOOSE GRANULAR LOOSE | | | SOIL SYMBOL | AUGER BORING | S- BULK SAMPLE | | . SOME FRAGMENTS OF STRONG | RANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS AF 3 ROCK USUALLY REMAIN. | E KAULINIZEU 10 SUME | ITS LATERAL EXTENT. |
| MATERIAL MEDIOM L | | N/A | ARTIFICIAL FILL OTH | | SS- SPLIT SPOON | 1 | TED. YIELDS SPT N VALUES > | | | LENS - A BODY OF SOIL OR ROCK THAT THINS OUT IN ONE OR MORE DIRECTIONS. |
| (NON-COHESIVE) VERY DEN | | | ROADWAY EMBANKMEN | s | SAMPLE ST- SHELBY TUBE | | | D OR STAINED. ROCK FABRIC ELEM TO SOIL STATUS, WITH ONLY FRAGN | | MOTTLED (MOT.) - IRREGULARLY MARKED WITH SPOTS OF DIFFERENT COLORS. MOTTLING IN SOILS USUALLY INDICATES POOR AERATION AND LACK OF GOOD DRAINAGE. |
| VERY SOF | | ⟨∅.25 | INFERRED SOIL BOUR | NDARIES MONITORING WEL | CAMPI E | REMAIN | ING. SAPROLITE IS AN EXAMPL | E OF ROCK WEATHERED TO A DEGR | EE SUCH THAT ONLY MINOR | PERCHED WATER - WATER MAINTAINED ABOVE THE NORMAL GROUND WATER LEVEL BY THE PRESENCE OF AN |
| GENERALLY SOFT SILT-CLAY MEDIUM S | 2 TO 4 STIFF 4 TO 8 | 0.25 TO 0.5 0.5 TO 1 | SINE INFERRED ROCK LINE | | RS- ROCK SAMPLE | i | | BRIC REMAIN. IF TESTED, YIELDS | | INTERVENING IMPERVIOUS STRATUM. |
| MATERIAL STIFF | 8 TO 15 | 1 TO 2 | TTTTT ALLUVIAL SOIL BOUN | IDARY A INSTALLATION | RT- RECOMPACTED | | | NOT DISCERNIBLE, OR DISCERNIBLE MAY BE PRESENT AS DIKES OR ST | | RESIDUAL SOIL - SOIL FORMED IN PLACE BY THE WEATHERING OF ROCK. |
| (COHESIVE) VERY STI | IFF 15 TO 30 >30 | 2 TO 4 | 25/025 DIP/DIP DIRECTION (| OF SLOPE INDICATO | | | N EXAMPLE. | | | ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (R.O.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 AN |
| TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE | | | ROCK STRUCTURES | | | ROCK HARDNESS | | | | EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. |
| U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE 4 10 40 60 200 270 | | SPT N-VALUE SPT N-VALUE SPT REFUSAL | | | | VERY HARD CANNOT BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR SHARP PICK, BREAKING OF HAND SPECIMENS REQUIRES SEVERAL HARD BLOWS OF THE GEOLOGISTS PICK, | | | SAPROLITE (SAP.) - RESIDUAL SOIL WHICH RETAINS THE RELIC STRUCTURE OR FABRIC OF THE PARENT ROCK. | |
| | 1.76 2.0 0.42 0.25 0.0 | | | | | į | | CK ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY. HARD H | AMMER BLOWS REQUIRED | SILL - AN INTRUSIVE BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK OF APPROXIMATELY UNIFORM THICKNESS AND |
| COPPLE COPPLE | AVEL COARSE FIN | E SILT CLAY | | ABBREVIATIONS | | | TACH HAND SPECIMEN. | | manufic bears nesones | RELATIVELY THIN COMPARED WITH ITS LATERAL EXTENT, WHICH HAS BEEN EMPLACED PARALLEL TO THE BEDDING OR SCHISTOSITY OF THE INTRUDED ROCKS |
| | GR.) (CSE. SD.) (F. | VU (CL.) | AR - AUGER REFUSAL BT - BORING TERMIN | | | | | CK. GOUGES OR GROOVES TO 0.25 | | SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR |
| GRAIN MM 305 75 | 2.0 0.25 | 0.05 0.005 | CL CLAY | SL SILT, SIL | TY | | YATED BY HARD BLOW OF A GE ODERATE BLOWS. | OLOGISTS PICK, HAND SPECIMENS (| AN BE DETACHED | SLIP PLANE. |
| SIZE IN. 12" 3" | | | CPT - CONE PENETRI CSE COARSE | ATION TEST SLI SLIGHTL TCR - TRICONE | | | | NCHES DEEP BY FIRM PRESSURE OF | | 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 | | | OMT - DILATOMETER TEST OPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST OPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST | | | HARD CAN BE EXCAVATED IN SMALL CHIPS TO PEICES 1 INCH MAXIMUM SIZE BY HARD BLOWS OF THE POINT OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK. | | | A 2 INCH OUTSIDE DIAMETER SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER. SPT REFUSAL IS LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PENETRATION | |
| SOIL MOISTURE SCALE (ATTERBERG LIMITS) | FIELD MOISTURE GUIDE FOR | R FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION | e - VOID RATIO | TRATION TEST /d - DRY UN | IT WEIGHT | 1. | | Y BY KNIFE OR PICK. CAN BE EXCA | VATED IN FRAGMENTS | WITH 60 BLOWS. |
| CATTERBERG CIMITS) | | | F FINE FOSS FOSSILIFERO | W - MOISTURE US V VERY | CONTENT | | CHIPS TO SEVERAL INCHES IN S CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER | SIZE BY MODERATE BLOWS OF A | PICK POINT. SMALL, THIN | STRATA CORE RECOVERY (SREC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA MATERIAL RECOVERED DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATUM AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. |
| | | LIQUID: VERY WET, USUALLY LOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE | FRAC FRACTURED | VST - VANE S | HEAR TEST | 1 | | E EXCAVATED READILY WITH POINT | OF PICK, PIECES I INCH | STRATA ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (S.R.O.D.) - A MEASURE OF ROCK QUALITY DESCRIBED BY: |
| LL LIOUID LIMIT _ | | | FRAGS FRAGMENTS MED MEDIUM | | | SOFT OR M | DRE IN THICKNESS CAN BE BRO | KEN BY FINGER PRESSURE. CAN BE | | TOTAL LENGTH OF ROCK SEGMENTS WITHIN A STRATUM EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 10 CENTIMETERS DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. |
| PLASTIC RANGE < | | D; REQUIRES DRYING TO | | MENT USED ON SUBJECT P | PRO IECT | FINGE | JRE SPACING | BEDD | INC | TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER. |
| (PI) PI PLASTIC LIMIT | ATTAIN C | PTIMUM MOISTURE | LGOI | | | TERM | SPACING | TERM | THICKNESS | DENOT MADE |
| | | T OD WEAD ODTINUM MOTOTUDE | DRILL UNITS: | ADVANCING TOOLS: | HAMMER TYPE: | VERY WIDE | MORE THAN 10 FEET | VERY THICKLY BEDDED | > 4 FEET | BENCH MARK: |
| OM OPTIMUM MOISTURE SL SHRINKAGE LIMIT | - MOIST - (M) SOLID; A | T OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE | MOBILE B | CLAY BITS | X AUTOMATIC MANUAL | WIDE WIDE | 3 TO 10 FEET | THICKLY BEDDED THINLY BEDDED | 1.5 - 4 FEET 0.16 - 1.5 FEET | ELEVATION: |
| SC SHRINKAGE CIPIT | REQUIRES | ADDITIONAL WATER TO | | 8 CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER | CORE SIZE: | MODERATELY CLO CLOSE | SE 1 TO 3 FEET 0.16 TO 1 FEET | VERY THINLY BEDDED | 0.03 - 0.16 FEET 0.008 - 0.03 FEET | NOTES: |
| | | PTIMUM MOISTURE | | X 8" HOLLOW AUGERS | | VERY CLOSE | LESS THAN 0.16 FEET | THICKLY LAMINATED THINLY LAMINATED | 0.008 - 0.03 FEET | |
| | PLASTICITY | | - CME-45 | HARD FACED FINGER BITS | | | | DURATION | | |
| <u></u> | PLASTICITY INDEX (PI) | DRY STRENGTH | - Cric-43 | TUNGCARBIDE INSERTS | | FOR SEDIMENTARY RO | CKS, INDURATION IS THE HARDE | NING OF THE MATERIAL BY CEMENT | ING, HEAT, PRESSURE, ETC. | |
| NONPLASTIC | 0-5 | VERY LOW | X CME-550 | CASING W/ ADVANCER | □-# | FRIABLE | | G WITH FINGER FREES NUMEROUS C | | |
| LOW PLASTICITY MED. PLASTICITY | 6-15 16-25 | SLIGHT MEDIUM | | | HAND TOOLS: | 1 | | BLOW BY HAMMER DISINTEGRATES | | |
| HIGH PLASTICITY | 26 OR MORE | HIGH | PORTABLE HOIST | TRICONE STEEL TEETH | POST HOLE DIGGER | MODERATE | | CAN BE SEPARATED FROM SAMPLE EASILY WHEN HIT WITH HAMMER. | WITH STEEL PROBE; | |
| | COLOR | | OTHER | TRICONE TUNGCARB. | HAND AUGER SOUNDING ROD | INDURATED | GRAINS | ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE WIT | H STEEL PROBE: | |
| DESCRIPTIONS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YEL-BRN, BLUE-GRAY) | | | | CORE BIT | VANE SHEAR TEST | | DIFFIC | ULT TO BREAK WITH HAMMER. | | |
| MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK | , STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESC | CRIBE APPEARANCE. | OTHER | OTHER | OTHER | EXTREMELY | | HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO BREA E BREAKS ACROSS GRAINS. | K SAMPLE: | |
| L | | | 1 | | | | SAMPLI | C DUCHES METIOSS DEMINS. | | L |