NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

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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 180 BLOWS PER 30 cm ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (ABSHIT 120A, 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. EXAMPLE:	WELL GRADED- INDICATES A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF PARTICLE SIZES FROM FINE TO COARSE WITCORN- 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, 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 REFUSALS SPT REFUSAL IS PERETRATION BY A SPLITT SPOON SAMPLER EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 cm PER 50 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:	ALLUVIUM (ALLUV.) - SOILS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY WATER. ADUIFER - 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	ROCK (WR) PER 30 cm.	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.
GENERAL GRANULAR MATERIALS SILT-CLAY MATERIALS ORGANIC MATERIALS (185% PASSING *200) (185% PASSING *200)	MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAOLIN, ETC. ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE.	CRYSTALLINE ROCK (CR) FINE TO COARSE GRAIN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCK THAT WOULD YIELD SYT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES GRANITE, GNEISS, GABBRO, SCHIST, ETC.	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.
GROUP A-1 A-3 A-2 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-1, A-2 A-4, A-5 CLASS. A-1-a A-1-b A-2-4 A-2-5 A-2-6 A-2-7 A-7-6 A	COMPRESSIBILITY SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 30 MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT 31-59	NON-CRYSTALLINE ROCK (NCR) FINE TO COARSE GRAIN METAMORPHIC AND NON-COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTARY ROCK THAT WOULD YETLD SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES PHYLLITE, SLATE, SANDSTONE, ETC. COASTAL PLAIN COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTS CEMENTED INTO ROCK, BUT MAY NOT YIELD	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.
SYMBOL 000000000000000000000000000000000000	HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50 PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL	SEDIMENTARY SPT REFUSAL. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, CEMENTED ROCK (CP) SHELL BEDS, ETC.	DIKE - A TABULAR BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK THAT CUTS ACROSS THE STRUCTURE OF ADJACENT ROCKS OR CUTS MASSIVE ROCK.
X PASSING	ORGANIC MATERIAL GRANULAR SILT- CLAY OTHER MATERIAL SOILS SOILS	WEATHERING FRESH ROCK FRESH, CRYSTALS BRIGHT, FEW JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING, ROCK RINGS UNDER	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.
LIQUID LIPHT 40 MX41 MN 40 MX41 MN 40 MX41 MN 40 MX 41 MN 40 MX 41 MN 50 LS WITH PASTIC BADEX 6 MX N.P. I/O MX I	TRACE OF ORGANIC MATTER 2 - 3% 3 - 5% TRACE 1 - 10%	HAMMER IF CRYSTALLINE. VERY SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED, SOME JOINTS MAY SHOW THIN CLAY COATINGS IF OPEN, (V. SL[.) CRYSTALS ON A BROKEN SPECIMEN FACE SHINE BRIGHTLY, ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER BLOWS IF	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.
GROUP INDEX 0 0 0 4 MX 8 MX 12 MX 16 MX No MX MODERATE ORGANIC	GROUND WATER	OF A CRYSTALLINE NATURE. SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS INTO ROCK UP TO	FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLOGED FROM PARENT MATERIAL
USUAL TYPES STONE FRACS. FINE SILTY OR CLAYEY SILTY CLAYEY ORGANIC OF MAJOR GRAVEL AND CAMPIL CRAYER AND SAMD SOILS SOILS MATTER	WATER LEVEL IN BORE HOLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRILLING.	(SLI) 2.5 cm. OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CLAY, IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OCCASIONAL FELDSPAR CRYSTALS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED, CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER HAMMER BLOWS,	FLOOD PLAIN (F.P.) - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY THE STREAM,
MATERIALS SAND SAND SAND SAND SAND SAND SAND SAN	STATIC WATER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS. VPW PERCHED WATER SATURATED ZONE OR WATER BEARING STRATA	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	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.
AS A EXCELLENT TO GOOD FAIR TO POOR POOR POOR UNSUITABL SUBGRADE P.I. OF A-7-5 ≤ L.L 30 :P.I. OF A-7-6 > L.L 30	PERCHED WATER, SATURATED ZONE OR WATER BEARING STRATA SPRING OR SEEPAGE	DULL SOUND UNDER HAMMER BLOWS AND SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF STRENGTH AS COMPARED WITH FRESH ROCK.	LEDGE - A SHELF-LIKE RIDGE OR PROJECTION OF ROCK WHOSE THICKNESS IS SMALL COMPARED TO ITS LATERAL EXTENT.
CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS PANCE OF STANDARD RANGE OF INCONFINED	MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS	MODERATELY ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, IN GRANITOID ROCKS, ALL FELDSPARS DULL SEVERE AND DISCOLORED AND A MAJORITY SHOW KAQLINIZATION, ROCK SHOWS SEVER LOSS OF STRENGTH (MOD. SEV.) AND CAN BE EXCAVATED WITH A GEOLOGIST'S PICK, ROCK GIVES "CLUNK" SQUIND WHEN STRICK.	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
RANGE OF STANDARD COMPACTNESS OR CONSISTENCY COMPACTNESS OR CONSISTENCY RANGE OF UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (N-YALUE) (RAY/m²)	ROADWAY EMBANKMENT WITH SOIL DESCRIPTION ROADWAY EMBANKMENT OPEN CONT TEST BORING SAMPLE DESIGNATIONS	<u>IF TESTED, WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL</u>	INDICATES POOR AERATION AND LACK OF GOOD DRAINAGE. PERCHED WATER - WATER MAINTAINED ABOVE THE NORMAL GROUND WATER LEVEL BY THE PRESENCE OF AN
GENERALLY VERY LOOSE <4	SOIL SYMBOL AUGER BORING S- BULK SAMPLE	SEVERE ALL ROCKS EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED ROCK FABRIC CLEAR AND EVIDENT BUT REDUCED (SEV.) IN STRENGTH TO STRONG SOIL. IN GRANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS ARE KAOLINIZED TO SOME	INTERVENING IMPERVIOUS STRATUM.
MATERIAL MEDIUM DENSE 10 TO 30 N/A	ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN SS- SPLIT SPOON	EXTENT. SOME FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK USUALLY REMAIN. IF TESTED. YIELOS SPI N VALUES > 100 BLOWS PER 30 cm.	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
VERY DENSE >50	NEFERRED SOIL ROLLINDARIES ST. SHELBY TUBE	VERY SEVERE ALL ROCK EXCEPT OUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, ROCK FABRIC ELEMENTS ARE DISCERNIBLE BUT (V. SEV.) THE MASS IS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED TO SOIL STATUS, WITH ONLY FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK REMAININ	ROCK SEGMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 10 CENTIMETERS DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
VERY SOFT	MONITORING WELL SAMPLE	SAPROLITE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ROCK WEATHERED TO A DEGREE SUCH THAT ONLY MINOR VESTIGES OF THE ORIGINAL ROCK FABRIC REMAIN. <i>IF TESTED, YIELDS SPT N VALUES < 100 BLOWS PER 30 cm.</i>	ACTION OF THE PHENT ROCK.
SILT-CLAY MEDIUM STIFF 4 TO 8 50 TO 100 MATERIAL STIFF 8 TO 15 100 TO 200 (COHESIVE) VERY STIFF 15 TO 30 200 TO 400 HARD 130 M 140 M	TTTTT ALLUVIAL SOIL BOUNDARY INSTALLATION RT- RECOMPACTED	COMPLETE ROCK REDUCED TO SOIL ROCK FABRIC NOT DISCERNIBLE, OR DISCERNIBLE ONLY IN SMALL AND SCATTERED CONCENTRATIONS. OUARTZ MAY BE PRESENT AS DIKES OR STRINGERS. SAPROLITE IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE.	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.
TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE	25/825 DIP/DIP DIRECTION OF INSTALLATION CBR - CBR SAMPLE ROCK STRUCTURES SPI NAVALUE	ROCK HARDNESS	SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR SLIP PLANE.
U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE 4 10 40 60 200 270	SOUNDING ROD REFUSAL	VERY HARD CANNOT BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR SHARP PICK, BREAKING OF HAND SPECIMENS REQUIRES SEVERAL HARD BLOWS OF THE GEOLOGISTS PICK.	STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (PENETRATION RESISTANCE) (SPT) - NUMBER OF BLOWS (N) OF A 63.5 kg HAMMER FALLING 0.76 METERS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PENETRATION OF 30 cm INTO SOIL WITH
OPENING (MM) 4.76 2.0 0.42 0.25 0.075 0.053	ABBREVIATIONS	HARD CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY, HARD HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO DETACH HAND SPECIMEN.	A 5 cm OUTSIDE DIAMETER SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER. SPT REFUSAL IS LESS THAN 2.5 cm PENETRATION WITH 50 BLOWS.
BOULDER CUBBLE GRAVEL SAND SAND SILT CLAY (BLDR.) (COB.) (GR.) (CSE. SD.) (F. SD.) (SL.) (CL.)	AR - AUGER REFUSAL PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST BT - BORING TERMINATED SD SAND, SANDY CL CLAY SL SILT, SILTY	MODERATELY CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK, GOUGES OR GROOVES TO 6 mm DEEP CAN BE HARD EXCAVATED BY HARD BLOW OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK, HAND SPECIMENS CAN BE DETACHED	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:
GRAIN MM 305	CPT - CONE PENETRATION TEST SLI, - SLIGHTLY CSE, - COARSE TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL	BY MODERATE BLOWS. MEDIUM CAN BE GROOVED OR GOUGED 1 mm DEEP BY FIRM PRESSURE OF KNIFE OR PICK POINT, HARD CAN BE EXCAVATED IN SMALL CHIPS TO PIECES 25 mm MAXIMUM SIZE BY HARD BLOWS OF THE	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. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER.
SOIL MOISTURE SCALE FIELD MOISTURE GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION OFFICE OF THE CONTROL O	DPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST 7 - UNLI WEIGHT • - VOID RATIO 7 _d - DRY UNIT WEIGHT	POINT OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK. SOFT CAN BE GROVED OR GOUGED READILY BY KNIFE OR PICK. CAN BE EXCAVATED IN FRAGMENTS	
- SATURATED - USUALLY LIQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY	F FINE W - MOISTURE CONTENT FOSS FOSSILIFEROUS V VERY	FROM CHIPS TO SEVERAL CENTIMETERS IN SIZE BY MODERATE BLOWS OF A PICK POINT, SMALL, THIN PIECES CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE.	BENCH MARK:
(SAT.) FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE	FRAC FRACTURED VST - VANE SHEAR TEST FRAGS FRAGMENTS MED MEDIUM	VERY CAN BE CARVED WITH KNIFE. CAN BE EXCAVATED READILY WITH POINT OF PICK. PIECES 25 mm SOFT OR MORE IN THICKNESS CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE, CAN BE SCRATCHED READILY BY	ELEVATION:
PLASTIC SEMISOLID: REQUIRES DRYING TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE	MED MEDIUM EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT	FINGERNAIL. FRACTURE SPACING BEDDING	NOTES:
(PD PL PLASTIC LIMIT ATTAIN UPTIMUM MUISTURE	DRILL UNITS: ADVANCING TOOLS: HAMMER TYPE:	TERM SPACING TERM THICKNESS	-
OM OPTIMUM MOISTURE - MOIST - (M) SOLID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE	AUTOMATIC MANUAL	VERY WIDE MORE THAN 3 m VERY THICKLY BEDDED > 1 m WIDE 1 TO 3 m THICKLY BEDDED 0.5 - 1 m	, y
SL _ SHRINKAGE LIMIT	MOBILE B- CLAY BITS CLAY BITS CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER CORE SIZE:	MODERATELY CLOSE 30 TO 100 cm	APPROXIMATE FLOOD PLAIN
- DRY - (D) ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE	BK-51	VERY CLOSE LESS THAN 5 cm THICKLY LAMINATED 2.5 - 10 mm THINLY LAMINATED < 2.5 mm	LIMITS
PLASTICITY PLASTICITY INDEX (PI) DRY STRENGTH	- ■ CME-45C	INDURATION FOR SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, INDURATION IS THE HARDENING OF THE MATERIAL BY CEMENTING, HEAT, PRESSURE, ETC.	1
NONPLASTIC 9-5 VERY LOW PLASTICITY 6-15 SLIGHT	TUNG,-CARBIDE INSERTS	FRIABLE RUBBING WITH FINGER FREES NUMEROUS GRAINS; GENTLE BLOW BY HAMMER DISINTEGRATES SAMPLE.	
PLASTICITY	PORTABLE HOIST TRICONE 7.46 mm STEEL TEETH POST HOLE DIGGER	MODERATELY INDURATED GRAINS CAN BE SEPARATED FROM SAMPLE WITH STEEL PROBE;	
COLOR	OTHER TRICONE TRICONE TO THE SOUNDING ROD	BREAKS EASILY WHEN HIT WITH HAMMER, [NDURATED GRAINS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE WITH STEEL PROBE;	
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,	OTHER VANE SHEAR TEST	DIFFICULT TO BREAK WITH HAMMER. EXTREMELY INDURATED SHARP HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO BREAK SAMPLE;	
	OTHER	SAMPLE BREAKS ACROSS GRAINS.	
			REVISED 09/15/00