

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

SOIL AND ROCK LEGEND, TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

ID	STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
B-3828	8.2801601	2	16

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. EXAMPLE: <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 IT 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 DISLOOED 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. MOTTLING 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 (IN 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 10 CENTIMETERS DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER.					
<b>SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION</b>		<b>MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION</b>		<b>WEATHERING</b>							
GENERAL CLASS. GRANULAR MATERIALS (< 75% PASSING #200) SILT-CLAY MATERIALS (> 75% 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, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7		<b>COMPRESSIBILITY</b>		FINE TO COARSE GRAIN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCK THAT WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES GRANITE, GNEISS, GABBRO, SCHIST, ETC. FINE TO COARSE GRAIN METAMORPHIC AND NON-COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTARY ROCK THAT WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES PHYLLITE, SLATE, SANDSTONE, ETC. COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTS CEMENTED INTO ROCK, BUT MAY NOT YIELD SPT REFUSAL. ROCK TYPE INCLUDES LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, CEMENTED SHELL BEDS, ETC.							
SYMBOL		SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE		LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 30 LIQUID LIMIT 31-50 LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50							
% PASSING		<b>PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL</b>		<b>WEATHERING</b>							
• 10 • 40 • 200		ORGANIC MATERIAL GRANULAR SOILS SILT-CLAY SOILS OTHER MATERIAL		FRESH VERY SLIGHT (V. SL.) SLIGHT (SL.) MODERATE (MOD.) MODERATELY SEVERE (MOD. SEV.) SEVERE (SEV.) VERY SEVERE (V. SEV.) COMPLETE							
LIQUID LIMIT PLASTIC INDEX		TRACE OF ORGANIC MATTER LITTLE ORGANIC MATTER MODERATELY ORGANIC HIGHLY ORGANIC		ROCK FRESH, CRYSTALS BRIGHT, FEW JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING. ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER IF CRYSTALLINE. 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. 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. SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF ROCK SHOW DISCOLORATION AND WEATHERING EFFECTS. IN GRANITOID ROCKS, MOST FELDSPARS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED, SOME SHOW CLAY. ROCK HAS DULL SOUND UNDER HAMMER BLOWS AND SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF STRENGTH AS COMPARED WITH FRESH ROCK. ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED. IN GRANITOID ROCKS, ALL FELDSPARS DULL AND DISCOLORED AND A MAJORITY SHOW KAOLINIZATION. ROCK SHOWS SEVERE LOSS OF STRENGTH AND CAN BE EXCAVATED WITH A GEOLOGIST'S PICK. ROCK GIVES "CLUNK" SOUND WHEN STRUCK. ALL ROCKS EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED. ROCK FABRIC CLEAR AND EVIDENT BUT REDUCED IN STRENGTH TO STRONG SOIL. IN GRANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS ARE KAOLINIZED TO SOME EXTENT. SOME FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK USUALLY REMAIN. ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED. ROCK FABRIC ELEMENTS ARE DISCERNIBLE BUT THE MASS IS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED TO SOIL STATUS, WITH ONLY FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK REMAINING. SAPROLITE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ROCK WEATHERED TO A DEGREE SUCH THAT ONLY MINOR VESTIGES OF THE ORIGINAL ROCK FABRIC REMAIN. ROCK REDUCED TO SOIL. ROCK FABRIC NOT DISCERNIBLE, OR DISCERNIBLE ONLY IN SMALL AND SCATTERED CONCENTRATIONS. QUARTZ MAY BE PRESENT AS DIKES OR STRINGERS. SAPROLITE IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE.		GRANULAR SOILS SILT-CLAY SOILS MUCK, PEAT		FRESH VERY SLIGHT (V. SL.) SLIGHT (SL.) MODERATE (MOD.) MODERATELY SEVERE (MOD. SEV.) SEVERE (SEV.) VERY SEVERE (V. SEV.) COMPLETE			
GROUP INDEX		<b>GROUND WATER</b>									
USUAL TYPES OF MAJOR MATERIALS		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									
GEL RATING AS A SUBGRADE		<b>MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS</b>									
EXCELLENT TO GOOD FAIR TO POOR POOR UNSATURABLE		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		SPT TEST BORING AUGER BORING CORE BORING MONITORING WELL PIEZOMETER INSTALLATION SLOPE INDICATOR INSTALLATION SPT N-VALUE SPT REFUSAL							
P.I. OF A-7-5 ≤ L.L. - 30 ; P.I. OF A-7-6 > L.L. - 30		<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>									
<b>CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS</b>		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 FRAGS - FRAGMENTS MED. - MEDIUM		PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST SD - SAND, SANDY SL - SILT, SILTY SLI - SLIGHTLY TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL γ <sub>u</sub> - UNIT WEIGHT γ <sub>d</sub> - DRY UNIT WEIGHT w - MOISTURE CONTENT v - VERY VST - VANE SHEAR TEST							
PRIMARY SOIL TYPE COMPACTNESS OR CONSISTENCY RANGE OF STANDARD PENETRATION RESISTANCE (N-VALUE) RANGE OF UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (TONS/FT <sup>2</sup> )		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		SPT TEST BORING AUGER BORING CORE BORING MONITORING WELL PIEZOMETER INSTALLATION SLOPE INDICATOR INSTALLATION SPT N-VALUE SPT REFUSAL							
GENERALY GRANULAR MATERIAL (NON-COHESIVE)		GENERALY SILT-CLAY MATERIAL (COHESIVE)									
VERY LOOSE LOOSE MEDIUM DENSE DENSE VERY DENSE		VERY SOFT SOFT MEDIUM STIFF STIFF VERY STIFF HARD									
4 10 40 60 200 270		2 4 8 15 30 60									
4.76 2.0 0.42 0.25 0.075 0.053		0.25 0.5 1 2 4 8									
<b>TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE</b>		<b>EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT</b>		<b>FRACURE SPACING</b>		<b>BEDDING</b>					
U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE OPENING (MM)		DRILL UNITS: MOBILE B- BK-51 CME-45 CME-550 PORTABLE HOIST OTHER OTHER		TERM SPACING VERY WIDE MORE THAN 10 FEET WIDE 3 TO 10 FEET MODERATELY CLOSE 1 TO 3 FEET CLOSE 0.16 TO 1 FEET VERY CLOSE LESS THAN 0.16 FEET		TERM THICKNESS VERY THICKLY BEDDED > 4 FEET THICKLY BEDDED 1.5 - 4 FEET THINLY BEDDED 0.16 - 1.5 FEET VERY THINLY BEDDED 0.03 - 0.16 FEET THICKLY LAMINATED 0.008 - 0.03 FEET THINLY LAMINATED < 0.008 FEET					
BOULDER (BLDR.) COBBLE (COB.) GRAVEL (GR.) COARSE SAND (CSE, SD.) FINE SAND (F, SD.) SILT (SL.) CLAY (CL.)		ADVANCING TOOLS: CLAY BITS 6" CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER 8" HOLLOW AUGERS HARD FACED FINGER BITS TUNG-CARBIDE INSERTS CASING w/ ADVANCER TRICONE 2 7/8" STEEL TEETH TRICONE 2 15/16" TUNG-CARB. CORE BIT OTHER		HAMMER TYPE: AUTOMATIC MANUAL CORE SIZE: B H HAND TOOLS: POST HOLE DIGGER HAND AUGER SOUNDING ROD VANE SHEAR TEST OTHER		INDURATION FOR SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, INDURATION IS THE HARDENING OF THE MATERIAL BY CEMENTING, HEAT, PRESSURE, ETC. FRIABLE RUBBING WITH FINGER FREES NUMEROUS GRAINS; GENTLE BLOW BY HAMMER DISINTEGRATES SAMPLE. MODERATELY INDURATED GRAINS CAN BE SEPARATED FROM SAMPLE WITH STEEL PROBE; BREAKS EASILY WHEN HIT WITH HAMMER. INDURATED GRAINS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE WITH STEEL PROBE; DIFFICULT TO BREAK WITH HAMMER. EXTREMELY INDURATED SHARP HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO BREAK SAMPLE; SAMPLE BREAKS ACROSS GRAINS.					
GRAIN SIZE MM 305 75 2.0 0.25 0.05 0.005		<b>SOIL MOISTURE - CORRELATION OF TERMS</b>									
SOIL MOISTURE SCALE (ATTERBERG LIMITS) FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION		LL LIQUID LIMIT PLASTIC RANGE (PD) PL PLASTIC LIMIT OM OPTIMUM MOISTURE SL SHRINKAGE LIMIT									
- SATURATED - (SAT.) USUALLY LIQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE		- WET - (W) SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE									
- MOIST - (M) SOLID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE		- DRY - (D) REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER TO ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE									
<b>PLASTICITY</b>		<b>PLASTICITY INDEX (PI)</b>									
NONPLASTIC 0-5 VERY LOW LOW PLASTICITY 6-15 SLIGHT MED. PLASTICITY 16-25 MEDIUM HIGH PLASTICITY 26 OR MORE HIGH											
<b>COLOR</b>											
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.											