
APPENDIX A

Field Exploration

We explored the subsurface conditions at the project site by drilling and sampling eight borings, designated as Boring Nos. 1 through 8, extending to depths of about 5.1 to 71.5 feet below the existing ground surface. In addition, three bulk samples of the near-surface soils, designated as Bulk-1 through Bulk-3, were obtained to evaluate the pavement support characteristics of the near-surface soils. The approximate boring and bulk sample locations are shown on the Site Plan, Plate 2. The borings were drilled using a truck-mounted drill rig equipped with continuous flight augers and coring tools.

Our geologist classified the materials encountered in the borings by visual and textural examination in the field in general accordance with ASTM D2488, Standard Practice for Description and Identification of Soils, and monitored the drilling operations on a near-continuous (full-time) basis. These classifications were further reviewed visually and by testing in the laboratory. Soils were classified in general accordance with ASTM D2487, Standard Practice for Classification of Soils for Engineering Purposes (Unified Soil Classification System), as shown on the Soil Log Legend, Plate A-0.1. Deviations made to the soil classification in accordance with ASTM D2487 are described on the Soil Classification Log Key, Plate A-0.2. Graphic representations of the materials encountered are presented on the Logs of Borings, Plates A-1 through A-8.

Relatively “undisturbed” soil samples were obtained in general accordance with ASTM D3550, Ring-Lined Barrel Sampling of Soils, by driving a 3-inch OD Modified California sampler with a 140-pound hammer falling 30 inches. In addition, some samples were obtained from the drilled borings in general accordance with ASTM D1586, Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils, by driving a 2-inch OD standard penetration sampler using the same hammer and drop. The blow counts needed to drive the sampler the second and third 6 inches of an 18-inch drive are shown as the “Penetration Resistance” on the Logs of Borings at the appropriate sample depths. The penetration resistance shown on the Logs of Borings indicates the number of blows required for the specific sampler type used. The blow counts may need to be factored to obtain the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) blow counts.

Pocket penetrometer tests were performed on selected cohesive soil samples in the field. The pocket penetrometer test provides an indication of the unconfined compressive strength of the sample. Results of the pocket penetrometer tests are summarized on the Logs of Borings at the appropriate sample depths.

Core samples of the rock materials encountered at the project site were obtained by using diamond core drilling techniques in general accordance with ASTM D2113, Diamond Core Drilling for Site Investigation. Core drilling is a rotary drilling method that uses a hollow bit to cut into the rock formation. The rock material left in the hollow core of the bit is mechanically recovered for examination and description. Rock cores were described in general accordance with the Rock Description System, as shown on the

Rock Log Legend, Plate A-0.3. The Rock Description System is based on the publication “Suggested Methods for the Quantitative Description of Discontinuities in Rock Masses” by the International Society for Rock Mechanics (March 1977).

Recovery (REC) may be used as a subjective guide to the interpretation of the relative quality of rock masses, where appropriate. Recovery is defined as the actual length of material recovered from a coring attempt versus the length of the core attempt. For example, if 3.7 feet of material is recovered from a 5.0-foot core run, the recovery would be 74 percent and would be shown on the Logs of Borings as REC = 74%.

The Rock Quality Designation (RQD) is also a subjective guide to the relative quality of rock masses. RQD is defined as the percentage of the core run in rock that is sound material in excess of 4 inches in length without any discontinuities, discounting any drilling, mechanical, and handling induced fractures or breaks. If 2.5 feet of sound material is recovered from a 5.0-foot core run in rock, the RQD would be 50 percent and would be shown on the Logs of Borings as RQD = 50%. Generally, the following is used to describe the relative quality of the rock based on the “Practical Handbook of Physical Properties of Rocks and Minerals” by Robert S. Carmichael (1989).

<u>Rock Quality</u>	<u>RQD</u> (%)
Very Poor	0 – 25
Poor	25 – 50
Fair	50 – 75
Good	75 – 90
Excellent	90 – 100

The excavation characteristic of a rock mass is a function of the relative hardness of the rock, its relative quality, brittleness, and fissile characteristics. A dense rock formation with a high RQD value would be very difficult to excavate and probably would require more arduous methods of excavation.