



**FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT
GWP 392-98-00
PROPOSED EMBANKMENT WIDENING
HIGHWAY 17 FROM STATION 12+050 TO 12+250
TOWNSHIP OF ROLPH**

**December 20, 2005
TG04221**

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**6 Copies
1 Copy**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

DST Consulting Engineers Inc. (DST) has been retained by JMC Transportation Group to conduct foundation investigations at nine locations for the proposed embankment widening for the passing lanes of Highway 17 and a culvert extension in the Townships of Head and Rolph. This report summarizes the factual information for one of these sites.

Authorization to proceed with this work was received from JMC Transportation Group. This work was carried out as part of their Total Project Management Contract for the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) under G.W.P. 392-98-00.

The project is located on Highway 17, from 6.2 km west of Renfrew County, Road 635, easterly 18.6 km. As part of this project, it is proposed to construct one new eastbound passing lane from Station 28+250 to Station 30+850, Twp of Head, one new westbound passing lane from Station 29+120 Twp of Head to Station 12+250 Twp of Rolph and to extend the Colton Creek culvert. Within the alignment for the passing lanes, Detailed Foundation Investigation is required at nine locations for embankment widening and for a culvert extension. The specified locations for detailed foundation design are as follows:

Township of Head	Station 28+475 to 28+700
Township of Head	Station 29+175 to 29+350
Township of Head	Station 30+025 to 30+150
Township of Head	Station 30+450 to 30+600
Township of Head	Station 30+750 to 31+100
Township of Rolph	Station 10+400 to 10+675
Township of Rolph	Station 11+250 to 11+550
Township of Rolph	Station 11+725 to 11+825

Township of Rolph Station 12+050 to 12+250

At the proposed passing lane locations, the through lanes and the passing lanes will be 3.75 m wide. Shoulder widths at the passing lanes will be 3.0 m on the side of the new passing lane and 2.3 m on the opposite side. The shoulder rounding on the side of the new passing lane will be 1.0 m.

This report addresses the field investigation and laboratory testing program for the proposed widening at the Township of Rolph, Station 12+050 to 12+250, as defined by the Ministry as the Foundation Investigation Report.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Along this section of highway under investigation for the proposed widening, the existing embankment varies in height from approximately 0.7 m to 1.8 m within the proposed construction.

The existing ditch is approximately 1.7 m in width, 12.8 m from the highway centreline and slopes down to the east. The tree line is about 10 m north of the ditch. The ditch is grass covered with bullrushes. A 760 x 24.24 CSP culvert exists at Station 12+225.

A picture of the site taken from Station 12+250 looking west is shown below.



3.0 INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES AND LABORATORY TESTING

Site work was carried out between November 27 and December 7, 2004 utilizing a track mounted CME 75 drill rig equipped for geotechnical drilling and operated by DST. Ten boreholes were put down to depths ranging between 1.5 to 6.1 m.

Borehole locations and a stratigraphic profile and section are shown on the Borehole Location Plan, Drawing No. 1. Boreholes 55 and 60 are located in the shoulder of the roadway while Boreholes 53, 54 and 55A to 59 and 61 are located between the toes of the existing and proposed embankments. The boreholes were advanced with hollow stem augers to auger refusal which varied from 1.5 to 6.1 m below existing grade.

Soil samples were obtained from the auger flights and from the split spoon sampler used for the standard penetration test (SPT). The SPT involves driving a 50 mm diameter thick-walled sampler into the soil under the energy of a 63.5 kg weight falling through 760 mm. The number of blows required to drive the sampler 300 mm is known as the standard penetration blow count (N) which provides an indication of the denseness or consistency of the soil. Representative soil samples are obtained from within the sampler. Borehole Logs are presented as Enclosures 1 to 10.

Ground surface elevations at the borehole locations were surveyed by DST and referenced to the highway centreline at Station 12+050. The elevation of the centreline was taken as 175.534 m from K. Smart Associates Limited's survey of the site.

The fieldwork was supervised on a full-time basis by DST personnel who located the boreholes in the field, supervised the drilling, sampling and in-situ testing, and logged the boreholes. The soil samples were identified in the field, placed in labelled containers and transported to DST's

laboratory in Thunder Bay for further analysis.

Classification and index tests were subsequently performed in the laboratory on samples collected from the boreholes to aid in the selection of engineering properties. Laboratory tests included natural moisture contents and gradation analyses. Laboratory test results are presented on the Borehole Logs and Enclosure 11. Where samples were non-plastic, grainsize analyses were carried out above the 0.075 mm sieve which is adequate for the purposes of soil classification and assessment of frost susceptibility. Other analyses of the finer fractions of non-plastic soils were not carried out given that soil permeability estimates were not required.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS

4.1 Published Engineering Geology

The Quaternary and bedrock geology of the area under investigation as reported by John F. Gartner and P.F. VanDine in the Northern Ontario Engineering Geology Terrain Study 103, Deep River Area (NTS31K/SW) District of Nipissing and County of Renfrew consists of a discontinuous veneer of ground moraine till over the bedrock. During deglaciation, a number of glaciofluvial deposits were formed (Chapman 1975). Precambrian rocks of the Grenville Structural Province underlie the Deep River map area. The oldest and most abundant rocks of the metamorphic complex are metasediments derived largely from siliceous sandstone and siltstones. These metasediments consist of a variety of gneisses and can be found throughout most of the map area.

The mapping associated with the above report indicates that material, landform, topography and drainage generally consists of sand and gravel outwash plain with moderate local relief and dry.

4.2 Field Observations

The generalized stratigraphy of the site based on the borehole locations off the highway consist of topsoil and/or organics overlying a sand. At Boreholes 57 and 61, no sand was identified beneath the organic. Auger refusal occurred in all boreholes. The refusal material was not confirmed by diamond drilling techniques, therefore could be boulders or bedrock.

The highway fill, as identified by Boreholes 55 and 60, consists of granular fill from 2.8 to 3.5 m in thickness.

4.3 Embankment Fill

The fill in the highway embankment consists of sand and gravel. The sand and gravel comprises

the base and subbase materials. The base material is 300 mm in thickness. The subbase varies in thickness from 2.5 to 3.2 m. The bottom of the fill varies between elevations 172.3 m and 171.8 m.

The Standard Penetration Test (SPT) results generally indicate loose to compact state of denseness (N values vary from 5 blows/0.3 m to 25 blows/0.3 m).

At Borehole 60 the base of the fill from 2.0 m to 3.5 m consists of sand mixed with organics. An organic content conducted on sample 4 indicated an organic content of 3.5%.

At Borehole 53 only, located off the highway, a layer of granular fill exists, 0.6 m in thickness underlying the topsoil.

4.4 Organics

An organic layer is present at surface in all boreholes located off the Highway varying from Elevation 175.3 to 173.9 m except Borehole 53. The organic layer varies in thickness from 0.4 m to 4.0 m. The organic layer has a variable organic content and consists of a mixture of topsoil, root mat, inorganic soil and peat (and organic soil with <75% organics).

Beneath the highway fill, a 0.8 m thick layer of peat was encountered at Borehole 55. At the other locations drilled through the embankment the peat appears to have been subexcavated.

Field vanes carried out within the peat generally indicate a soft consistency with field vane strengths ranging from 15 to 25 kPa. At Borehole 54, one vane test was recorded in excess of 25 kPa.

4.5 Sand

From beneath the fill and/or organics noted above, sand exists to the extent of penetration refusal between 2.0 and 6.1 m below existing grade. Gradation analyses conducted on representative samples retrieved from the field investigation at Boreholes 53, 55A, 56 and 58 indicate 0% to 27% gravel content, 50% to 96% sand and 4% to 36% silt (Enclosure 11).

The Standard Penetration Test (SPT) results generally indicate a very loose to very dense state of denseness (N values vary from 3 blows/0.3 m to 121 blows/0.3 m).

At Boreholes 57 and 61 no sand was found below the organics and auger refusal occurred at 1.5 m below existing grade.

4.6 Groundwater

The groundwater levels taken on completion of drilling are noted on the Borehole Logs, Enclosures 1 to 10. The groundwater level in the off road boreholes noted during our field investigation varied between 0.2 m and 0.4 m below existing grade. The water level recorded in the boreholes drilled in the shoulder of the road varied between 1.4 and 2.0 m below existing grade. For design purposes, the groundwater level should be taken at the natural ground surface outside the embankment.

Groundwater levels may fluctuate seasonally and in response to climatic conditions.

5.0 LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

A description of limitations which are inherent in carrying out site investigation studies is given in Appendix 'A', and this forms an integral part of this report.

For DST CONSULTING ENGINEERS INC.

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APPENDIX 'A'
LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

The data, conclusions and recommendations which are presented in this report, and the quality thereof, are based on a scope of work authorized by the Client. Note that no scope of work, no matter how exhaustive, can identify all conditions below ground. Subsurface and groundwater conditions between and beyond the testholes may differ from those encountered at the specific locations tested, and conditions may become apparent during construction which were not detected and could not be anticipated at the time of the site investigation. Conditions can also change with time. It is recommended practice that DST Consulting Engineers be retained during construction to confirm that the subsurface conditions throughout the site do not deviate materially from those encountered in the testholes. The benchmark and elevations used in this report are primarily to establish relative elevation differences between the testhole locations and should not be used for other purposes, such as grading, excavation, planning, development, etc.

The design recommendations given in this report are applicable only to the project described in the text and then only if constructed substantially in accordance with details stated in this report. Since all details of the design may not be known, we recommend that we be retained during the final stage to verify that the design is consistent with our recommendations, and that assumptions made in our analysis are valid.

Unless otherwise noted, the information contained herein in no way reflects on environmental aspects of either the site or the subsurface conditions.

The comments given in this report on potential construction problems and possible methods are intended only for the guidance of the designer. The number of testholes may not be sufficient to determine all the factors that may affect construction methods and costs, e.g. the thickness of surficial topsoil or fill layers may vary markedly and unpredictably. The contractors bidding on this project or undertaking the construction should, therefore, make their own interpretation of the factual information presented and draw their own conclusion as to how the subsurface conditions may affect their work.

Any results from an analytical laboratory or other subcontractor reported herein have been carried out by others, and DST Consulting Engineers Inc. cannot warranty their accuracy. Similarly, DST cannot warranty the accuracy of information supplied by the client.

A P P E N D I X 'B'

MODIFIED VON POST CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

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Reference: Landva and Pheeny, Canadian Geotechnical Journal, 1980, Pg. 416.
Peat is classified using the following categories.

Humification (H):

The degree of humification is graded on a scale from 1 to 10 and designated H₁ to H₁₀. The various degrees of humification are recognized as shown in Table 1.

DEGREE OF HUMIFICATION	DECOMPOSITION	PLANT STRUCTURE	CONTENT OF AMORPHOUS MATERIAL	MATERIAL EXTRUDED ON SQUEEZING (Passing between fingers)	NATURE OF RESIDUE
H ₁	None	Easily identified	None	Clear colourless water	
H ₂	Insignificant	Easily identified	None	Yellowish water	
H ₃	Very slight	Still identifiable	Slight	Brown muddy water, no peat	Not pasty
H ₄	Slight	Not easily identified	Some	Dark brown muddy water, no peat	Somewhat pasty
H ₅	Moderate	Recognizable but vague	Considerable	Muddy water, some peat	Strongly pasty
H ₆	Moderately strong	Indistinct (more distinct after squeezing)	Considerable	About 1/3 peat squeezed out, dark brown water	
H ₇	Strong	Faintly recognizable	High	About 1/2 of peat squeezed out, very dark brown water	
H ₈	Very strong	Very indistinct	High	About 2/3 of peat squeezed out, some pasty water	Mainly roots and fibres
H ₉	Nearly complete	Almost not recognizable		Nearly all peat squeezed out, has a fairly uniform paste	
H ₁₀	Complete	Not discernable		All peat squeezes between fingers, no free water visible	

Water Contents (B)

In the field the water content of the peat is on a scale from 1 (dry) to 5 (very high) designated B₁ to B₅. In terms of actual water contents, by dry weight, these are as follows:

- B₁ dry
- B₂ up to 500%
- B₃ 500 to 1000%
- B₄ 1000 to 2000%
- B₅ greater than 2000%

Fine Fibres (F)

Fine fibres are defined as fibres and stems smaller than 1 mm in diameter or width. Shrub rootlets may also be included, specified as F (N). No special designation is indicated for plant root hairs as such.

- F₀ nil
- F₁ low content
- F₂ moderate content
- F₃ high content

Coarse Fibres (R)

Coarse fibres are defined as fibres, stems and rootlets greater than 1 mm in diameter or width.

- R₀ nil
- R₁ low content
- R₂ moderate content
- R₃ high content

Wood (W) and Shrub (N) Remnants

- W₀ nil
- W₁ low content
- W₂ moderate content
- W₃ high content

D R A W I N G S

ENCLOSURES

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN REPORT

N VALUE: THE STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (SPT) N VALUE IS THE NUMBER OF BLOWS REQUIRED TO CAUSE A STANDARD 51mm O.D. SPLIT BARREL SAMPLER TO PENETRATE 0.3m INTO UNDISTURBED GROUND IN A BOREHOLE WHEN DRIVEN BY A HAMMER WITH A MASS OF 63.5 kg, FALLING FREELY A DISTANCE OF 0.76m. FOR PENETRATIONS OF LESS THAN 0.3m N VALUES ARE INDICATED AS THE NUMBER OF BLOWS FOR THE PENETRATION ACHIEVED. AVERAGE N VALUE IS DENOTED THUS \bar{N} .

DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION TEST: CONTINUOUS PENETRATION OF A CONICAL STEEL POINT (51mm O.D. 60° CONE ANGLE) DRIVEN BY 475 J IMPACT ENERGY ON 'A' SIZE DRILL RODS. THE RESISTANCE TO CONE PENETRATION IS MEASURED AS THE NUMBER OF BLOWS FOR EACH 0.3m ADVANCE OF THE CONICAL POINT INTO THE UNDISTURBED GROUND.

SOILS ARE DESCRIBED BY THEIR COMPOSITION AND CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS.

CONSISTENCY: COHESIVE SOILS ARE DESCRIBED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR UNDRAINED SHEAR STRENGTH (c_u) AS FOLLOWS:

c_u (kPa)	0 - 12	12 - 25	25 - 50	50 - 100	100 - 200	> 200
	VERY SOFT	SOFT	FIRM	STIFF	VERY STIFF	HARD

DENSENESS: COHESIONLESS SOILS ARE DESCRIBED ON THE BASIS OF DENSENESS AS INDICATED BY SPT N VALUES AS FOLLOWS:

N (BLOWS/0.3m)	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 30	30 - 50	> 50
	VERY LOOSE	LOOSE	COMPACT	DENSE	VERY DENSE

ROCKS ARE DESCRIBED BY THEIR COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURAL FEATURES AND/OR STRENGTH.

RECOVERY: SUM OF ALL RECOVERED ROCK CORE PIECES FROM A CORING RUN EXPRESSED AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE CORING RUN.

MODIFIED RECOVERY: SUM OF THOSE INTACT CORE PIECES, 100mm+ IN LENGTH EXPRESSED AS A PERCENT OF THE LENGTH OF THE CORING RUN. THE ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (RQD), FOR MODIFIED RECOVERY, IS:

RQD (%)	0 - 25	25 - 50	50 - 75	75 - 90	90 - 100
	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT

JOINTING AND BEDDING:

SPACING	50mm	50 - 300mm	0.3m - 1m	1m - 3m	> 3m
JOINTING	VERY CLOSE	CLOSE	MOD. CLOSE	WIDE	VERY WIDE
BEDDING	VERY THIN	THIN	MEDIUM	THICK	VERY THICK

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

FIELD SAMPLING

S S	SPLIT SPOON	T P	THINWALL PISTON
W S	WASH SAMPLE	O S	OSTERBERG SAMPLE
S T	SLOTTED TUBE SAMPLE	R C	ROCK CORE
B S	BLOCK SAMPLE	P H	T W ADVANCED HYDRAULICALLY
C S	CHUNK SAMPLE	P M	T W ADVANCED MANUALLY
T W	THINWALL OPEN	F S	FOIL SAMPLE

STRESS AND STRAIN

u_w	kPa	PORE WATER PRESSURE
u	1	PORE PRESSURE RATIO
σ	kPa	TOTAL NORMAL STRESS
σ'	kPa	EFFECTIVE NORMAL STRESS
τ	kPa	SHEAR STRESS
$\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$	kPa	PRINCIPAL STRESSES
ϵ	%	LINEAR STRAIN
$\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3$	%	PRINCIPAL STRAINS
E	kPa	MODULUS OF LINEAR DEFORMATION
G	kPa	MODULUS OF SHEAR DEFORMATION
μ	1	COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

m_v	kPa ⁻¹	COEFFICIENT OF VOLUME CHANGE
C_c	1	COMPRESSION INDEX
C_s	1	SWELLING INDEX
C_α	1	RATE OF SECONDARY CONSOLIDATION
c_v	m ² /s	COEFFICIENT OF CONSOLIDATION
H	m	DRAINAGE PATH
T_v	1	TIME FACTOR
U	%	DEGREE OF CONSOLIDATION
σ'_{v0}	kPa	EFFECTIVE OVERBURDEN PRESSURE
σ'_p	kPa	PRECONSOLIDATION PRESSURE
τ_f	kPa	SHEAR STRENGTH
c'	kPa	EFFECTIVE COHESION INTERCEPT
ϕ'	-°	EFFECTIVE ANGLE OF INTERNAL FRICTION
c_u	kPa	APPARENT COHESION INTERCEPT
ϕ_u	-°	APPARENT ANGLE OF INTERNAL FRICTION
τ_R	kPa	RESIDUAL SHEAR STRENGTH
τ_r	kPa	REMOULDED SHEAR STRENGTH
S_f	1	SENSITIVITY = $\frac{c_u}{\tau_r}$

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

ρ_s	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SOLID PARTICLES	e	1. %	VOID RATIO	e_{min}	1. %	VOID RATIO IN DENSEST STATE
γ_s	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SOLID PARTICLES	n	1. %	POROSITY	I_D	1	DENSITY INDEX = $\frac{e_{max} - e}{e_{max} - e_{min}}$
ρ_w	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF WATER	w	1. %	WATER CONTENT	D	mm	GRAIN DIAMETER
γ_w	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF WATER	S_r	%	DEGREE OF SATURATION	D_n	mm	n PERCENT - DIAMETER
ρ	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SOIL	w_L	%	LIQUID LIMIT	C_u	1	UNIFORMITY COEFFICIENT
γ	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SOIL	w_p	%	PLASTIC LIMIT	h	m	HYDRAULIC HEAD OR POTENTIAL
ρ_d	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF DRY SOIL	w_s	%	SHRINKAGE LIMIT	q	m ³ /s	RATE OF DISCHARGE
γ_d	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF DRY SOIL	I_p	%	PLASTICITY INDEX = $w_L - w_p$	v	m/s	DISCHARGE VELOCITY
ρ_{sat}	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SATURATED SOIL	I_L	1	LIQUIDITY INDEX = $\frac{w - w_p}{I_p}$	i	1	HYDRAULIC GRADIENT
γ_{sat}	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SATURATED SOIL	I_C	1	CONSISTENCY INDEX = $\frac{w_L - w}{I_p}$	k	m/s	HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY
ρ'	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SUBMERGED SOIL	e_{max}	1. %	VOID RATIO IN LOOSEST STATE	j	kN/m ²	SEEPAGE FORCE
γ'	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SUBMERGED SOIL						