



**FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT
GWP 392-98-00
PROPOSED EMBANKMENT WIDENING
HIGHWAY 17 FROM STATION 30+450 TO 30+600
TOWNSHIP OF HEAD**

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TG04221**

**Prepared For:
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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 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 east bound passing lane from Station 28+250 to Station 30+850, Twp of Head, one new west bound 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

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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 Head, Station 30+450 to 30+600, 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 highway embankment varies in height from approximately 3 m to 7.8 m within the proposed construction.

On the north side of the embankment, the surface water drainage appears to be to the northwest.

The tree line is approximately 14 to 17 m from highway centreline.

A picture of the site taken from Station 30+510 looking west is shown below.



3.0 INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES AND LABORATORY TESTING

Site work was carried out between November 15 and December 22, 2004 utilizing a track mounted 75 drill rig equipped for geotechnical drilling and operated by DST, and an excavator operated by a local contractor. Nine testholes were put down to depths ranging between 0.6 to 6.9 m.

Borehole locations and a stratigraphic profile and section are shown on the Borehole Location Plan, Drawing No. 1. Boreholes 30 and 31 are located in the shoulder of the roadway while Testholes 62 to 68 are located between the toes of the existing and proposed embankments. Boreholes 30 and 31 reached shallow auger refusal of 1.2 and 0.7 m. Numerous attempts were unsuccessful in penetrating the rockfill. Boreholes 65 to 68 were advanced with hollow stem augers to auger refusal which varied from 1.6 to 6.9 m. Testholes 62 to 64 were excavated with a backhoe to depths of 0.6 m to 1.5 m where bedrock was encountered.

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 condition of the soil. Representative soil samples are obtained from within the sampler. Borehole and Testpit Logs are presented as Enclosures 1 to 9.

At the Testpit locations, representative disturbed samples were obtained from the backhoe bucket and/or the walls of the testpit at regular intervals. The in situ characteristics of the soil were estimated using a static cone penetration test (CPT). A cone shaped probe is advanced through the soil and the force required to push the cone is measured with a load cell. At the testpit locations, hand operated equipment was used which is limited to a maximum penetration resistance of approximately 2000 kPa. This is indicative of a soil with a relative density of compact. The

penetration resistance obtained from the field tests were greater than 2000 kPa.

Ground surface elevations and the borehole locations were surveyed by K. Smart Associates Limited.

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 10. 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 Northern Ontario Engineering Geology Terrain Study

The Quaternary and bedrock 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 the soil landform, topography and drainage generally consists of sand and gravel outwash plain with moderate local relief and dry.

4.2 Field Observations

Numerous cobbles and boulders were noted on surface throughout the investigated area. Bedrock was visible at surface in the area of Borehole 65.

The generalized stratigraphy based on the off highway testhole locations consist of topsoil overlying sand and silt that in turn is underlain with sand. Refusal to penetration occurred at all locations. Auger refusal in Boreholes 65 to 68 occurred 1.6 m to 6.9 m below existing grade. The refusal material was not confirmed by diamond drilling techniques, therefore could be either bedrock or boulders. At Testpit locations 62 to 64 the bedrock at depth of 0.6 m to 1.5 m was visually confirmed in the field.

4.3 Embankment Fill

Penetration through the highway fills was not achieved. Auger refusal occurred at 1.2 m and 0.7 m

in Boreholes 30 and 31. Numerous attempts were made in the vicinity of the boreholes but could not penetrate past 1.2 m. The initial 0.35 to 0.45 m consisted of base material. The subbase material to a depth 1.2 m consisted of a sand with a trace to some gravel, trace silt. Beneath this depth it is assumed rockfill exists.

From the highway cross sections provided, the height of the embankment in the vicinity of the boreholes vary between 6.5 and 7.5 m indicating a possible thickness of rockfill between 5.5 and 6.5 m.

4.4 Organics

A topsoil layer exists at surface at the off highway testholes from EL 178.2 m to 180.7 m varying in thickness from 0.2 m to 0.35 m. Beneath the topsoil a discontinuous layer of clay with some organics was present in Borehole 67 to a depth of 1.2 m (EL 177.5 m). At Borehole 68 a layer of sand with some organics was present to a depth of 0.6 m (EL 178.6 m).

4.5 Sand and Silt

At Testholes 62, 67 and 68 beneath the topsoil, a layer of sand and silt exists. This layer is in a compact to dense state of denseness according to N values from the standard penetration test of 17 to 49 blows per 0.3 m. At Borehole 68 at a depth of 0.75 m, a N value of 6 was obtained indicating a loose state of denseness.

Gradation analysis conducted on representative samples obtained from the field program (Enclosure 10) indicate 0 to 2% gravel, 45% to 58% sand and 37% to 48% silt.

4.6 Sand

Beneath the sand and silt or topsoil at Testholes 63, 64 and 65 a sand exists with varying amounts

of silt and gravel. Gradation analyses conducted on representative samples (Enclosure 10) indicate 15% to 39% gravel and 6% to 22% fines.

The results of the CPT testing (tip resistance greater than 2000 kPa at the testpit locations) indicate the density of the sand is in at least a compact state of denseness. The N values from the SPT testing generally ranged from 11 to 49 blows per 0.3 m indicating a compact to dense state of denseness.

4.7 Bedrock

At Testpits 62, 63 and 64 the bedrock was visually confirmed and varies in elevation from 178.2 m to 179.7m.

4.8 Groundwater

The groundwater levels taken on completion of drilling are noted on the Borehole Logs, Enclosures 1 to 13. The groundwater generally varied between 0.3 and 0.8 m below existing grade. The testpits at locations 63 and 64 were dry.

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.

DRAWINGS

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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 63.5kg, 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 473 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	l	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	l	COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

m_v	kPa ⁻¹	COEFFICIENT OF VOLUME CHANGE
C_c	l	COMPRESSION INDEX
C_s	l	SWELLING INDEX
C_a	l	RATE OF SECONDARY CONSOLIDATION
c_v	m ² /s	COEFFICIENT OF CONSOLIDATION
H	m	DRAINAGE PATH
T_v	l	TIME FACTOR
U	%	DEGREE OF CONSOLIDATION
σ'_{vo}	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_t	l	SENSITIVITY = $\frac{c_u}{\tau_r}$

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

ρ_s	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SOLID PARTICLES	e	l, %	VOID RATIO	e_{min}	l, %	VOID RATIO IN DENSEST STATE
γ_s	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SOLID PARTICLES	n	l, %	POROSITY	I_D	l	DENSITY INDEX = $\frac{e_{max} - e}{e_{max} - e_{min}}$
ρ_w	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF WATER	w	l, %	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	l	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 = $\frac{w_L - w_p}{w_p}$	v	m/s	DISCHARGE VELOCITY
ρ_{sat}	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SATURATED SOIL	I_L	l	LIQUIDITY INDEX = $\frac{w - w_p}{I_p}$	i	l	HYDRAULIC GRADIENT
γ_{sat}	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SATURATED SOIL	I_C	l	CONSISTENCY INDEX = $\frac{w_L - w}{I_p}$	k	m/s	HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY
ρ'	kg/m ³	DENSITY OF SUBMERGED SOIL	e_{max}	l, %	VOID RATIO IN LOOSEST STATE	j	kN/m ³	SEEPAGE FORCE
γ'	kN/m ³	UNIT WEIGHT OF SUBMERGED SOIL						