

Construction • Geotechnical Consulting Engineering/Testing

December 9, 2020 C20051-20

Mr. Chris Petykowski City of Madison Engineering Dept. City-County Building, Room 115 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Madison, WI 53703-3345

Re: Geotechnical Services Felland Road at Tranquility Trail Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Petykowski:

CGC, Inc. has completed our geotechnical services for the above-referenced project. At your request, three soil borings were drilled along Felland Road between Burke Road and Lien Road. The borings were performed on October 26, 2020 at locations selected by City personnel. Proposed boring locations were marked in the field by CGC personnel prior to drilling and are shown on a boring location map (copy attached in Appendix A). Note that the approximate distance north of Lien Road is indicated on the individual boring logs. Elevations at the boring locations were estimated using topographic information obtained from Dane County DCi Map, which should be considered approximate. The following paragraphs discuss our observations and provide opinions relative to pavement/utility construction. The following paragraphs discuss our observations and provide opinions and provide opinions relative to pavement/utility construction.

#### SUBSURFACE PROGRAM & OBSERVATIONS

The borings were drilled to depths selected by City personnel utilizing the services of Badger State Drilling (under subcontract to CGC) using a truck-mounted, rotary CME 55 drill rig equipped with hollow-stem augers. Note that B2 was extended an additional two feet through fairly competent bedrock into a less competent "residual" layer while attempting to determine whether auger refusal might occur (it did not). Standard Penetration Test (SPT) drilling techniques (ASTM D1586) were used for the full exploration depth at the boring locations. This method consists of driving a 2-inch outside diameter split-barrel sampler using a 140-pound weight falling freely through a distance of 30 inches. The sampler is first seated 6 inches into the material to be sampled and then driven 12 inches. The number of blows required to drive the sampler the final 12 inches is recorded on the log of borings and is known as the Standard Penetration Resistance (commonly referred to as the N-value).



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During the field exploration program, the driller visually classified the soils and prepared a field log. Water level observations were made within the borings during and shortly after drilling, which are shown on the bottom of each boring log. Note groundwater was not encountered at the boring locations. Groundwater levels are anticipated to fluctuate based on seasonal variations in precipitation, infiltration, nearby Autumn Lake stages, as well as other factors. Upon completion of drilling, the borings were backfilled to satisfy WDNR requirements, patched with asphalt and the soil samples delivered to our laboratory for classification. The soils were visually classified by CGC and reviewed by a geotechnical engineer using the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS). The final logs prepared by the engineer and a description of the USCS are presented in Appendix A.

The attached boring logs indicate that significantly variable pavement/soil conditions exist at the boring locations. In general, 5.5 to 8 in. of asphalt pavement was present atop 8 in. of base course. The base course was underlain by approximately 4 ft of clayey to sandy fill materials at B2 and B3, or 6 ft of generally stiff native clay soils at B1. The clay soils/fill materials were underlain by 6 to 8 ft of granular soils resting atop weathered to competent sandstone bedrock to the maximum depth explored. Note that at B3 the bedrock was present directly beneath the fill materials. The bedrock encountered exhibited variable competencies depending on the degree of weathering but did not result in auger refusal at any of the boring locations. Please refer to the final logs included in Appendix A for additional information specific to a boring location.

#### PAVEMENT/UTILITY CONSTRUCTION

#### **General**

In our opinion, the clayey to sandy materials encountered beneath the base course may prove *generally* satisfactory for proposed roadway support. Should areas of softer clays be encountered (such as where pocket penetrometer values are near 1 tsf or less), they may need to be undercut/removed and replaced with granular fill or additional base course. Furthermore, exposure to wet weather and significant construction traffic could destabilize the existing materials and increase the potential for undercuts. Granular materials should be thoroughly compacted and evaluated for stability before the placement of additional fill and/or base course. Pockets of excessively organic soil should also be removed. Standard earthwork-related techniques that should be used during roadway construction include:

- Proof-rolling of the exposed subgrades;
- Undercutting and/or stabilization in soft areas; and
- Compaction control of fill/backfill materials.

Should a utility alignment coincide with soft/loose conditions (such as within fill materials or near the transition from cohesive to granular soils), we recommend that increased bedding thicknesses, possibly underlain by a geotextile, be considered. Fill materials should be removed from beneath all utilities; or at a minimum thoroughly compacted/stabilized (where possible) prior to the placement of new infrastructure. As stated, weathered to competent bedrock was encountered beginning as



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shallow as 5.5 ft below ground surface at all of the boring locations. Special rock excavation measures could be necessary to accomplish some utility installations, depending on the degree of weathering and the invert elevations. For convenience we have included Rock Excavation Considerations in Appendix C.

#### Pavement Design

Clays will control the pavement design, as we anticipate that the pavement subgrades will at times consist of native clay soils or fill materials containing clay. The following *generalized* parameters should be used to develop the design pavement section:

AASHTO classification	A-6
Frost group index	F-3
Design group index	14
Soil support value	3.9
Subgrade modulus, k (pci)	125
Estimated percent shrinkage	20 - 30
Estimated CBR value	2-5

Assuming Felland Road is considered a local business/arterial street, we estimate it could receive between 51 to 275 ESALs (18,000 pound Equivalent Single Axle Loads). A typical pavement design per WisDOT Standard Specifications should meet MT (E-3) requirements. Thicker pavements could be necessary pending traffic counts.

#### **Compaction Requirements**

Regarding utility construction, we anticipate that imported sands will at times be required for use as backfill which is a typical requirement for City projects. On-site sands could be considered for reuse as trench backfill but they should be separated from clay soils and selectively stockpiled. Excavated bedrock could also be considered for reuse as backfill provided it is sufficiently crushed and well graded (e.g. 50% sand-sized particles and smaller) such that excessive voids do not exist following placement. Moisture conditioning could be necessary to achieve desired compaction levels. We recommend that at least a level of 95% compaction be achieved within backfill material placed within the final 3 feet below finished subgrades (including undercut backfill - if any), with 90% compaction required at depths greater than 3 feet. The specified levels of compaction are based on modified Proctor methods (ASTM D1557). In addition, the backfill material should be placed and compacted in accordance with our Recommended Compacted Fill Specifications presented in Appendix D.

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We appreciate the opportunity to be of service on this project and look forward to working with you as it proceeds. Other information regarding this report and its limitations is included in Appendix C.

We trust this report addresses your present needs. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

CGC, Inc.

Michael N Schn

Michael N. Schultz, P.E. Principal/Consulting Professional

Encl:	Appendix A -	Soil Boring Location Map
		Logs of Test Borings (3)
		Log of Test Borings-General Notes
		Unified Soil Classification System
	Appendix B -	Recommended Compacted Fill Specificataions
	Appendix C -	Rock Excavation Considerations
	Appendix D -	Document Qualifications

Cc: Ms. Johanna Johnson, City of Madison, Eng. Division Ms. Christy Bachmann, City of Madison, Eng. Division Mr. Adam Weiderhoeft, Madison Water Utility

#### APPENDIX A

SOIL BORING LOCATION MAP LOGS OF TEST BORINGS (3) LOG OF TEST BORING-GENERAL NOTES UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM



	G	CI	nc		   Lo	LOG OF TEST BORING         oject       Felland Road at Tranquility Trail         1000'N of Lien, 7'W of CL         ocation         Madison, WI         stry Street, Madison, WI 53713	•	levation C	n (ft <u>)</u> 20051	927± -20	
	SAMPLE					VISUAL CLASSIFICATION	SOIL	PRO	PEF	RTIE	S
No.	T Rec P (in.)	Moist	N	Depth (ft)		and Remarks	qu (qa)	w	LL	PL	LI
				L L		7 in. Asphalt Pavement/8 in. Base Course	(tsf)				
1	18	M	9			Stiff, Brown Lean CLAY (CL)	(1.25)				
2	18	М	10	┾╷┥╌┝╴┝╴┍╴			(1.5)				
3	18	M	11	 + 5- - - - -		Becoming Medium Stiff to Soft with Some Sand					
						Near 6' Medium Dense to Very Dense, Light Brown Fine to Coarse SAND, Some Gravel, Little to Some Silt (SP-SM/SM)	(0.5)				
4	18	М	59	     		(37-314/314)					
5	18	М	37								
6	18	М	26	] ┌── └─ ┨── 15─		Highly Weathered Brownish-Purple Clayey					
				F L I		Residual Bedrock        /           End Boring at 15 ft        /					
						Borehole Backfilled with Bentonite Chips and Asphalt Patch					
			W/		1     	VEL OBSERVATIONS	 GENERA	L NO	TES	 \$	
Time Dept Dept	e Drill After h to W h to Ca	Drilli ater ave in	ng	NW		pon Completion of Drilling <u>NW</u> Start <u>10/</u> Driller E	26/20 End SSD Chief GB Editor	10/26 MC r ES	7 <b>20</b> C R	kig <u>CN</u>	ME-55 r

	G	C	Inc		LOG OF TEST BORING         Project       Felland Road at Tranquility Trail         1300'N of Lien, 7'W of CL         Location         Madison, WI         21 Perry Street, Madison, WI 53713	Sheet	levation C	n (ft <u>)</u> 20051	928± -20	
	SA	MPL	.E		VISUAL CLASSIFICATION	SOIL	PRO	PEF	RTIE	S
No.	T Rec P (in.)	Moist	N	Depth (ft)	and Remarks	qu (qa)	w	LL	PL	LI
	E			L	8 in. Asphalt Pavement/8 in. Base Course	(tsf)	1			
1	18	M	14							
					FILL: Medium Dense Dark Brown Silt with Clay to 3'					
				+ 	Very Stiff Brown Clay with Sand and Gravel to					
2	18	M	11	╆ ┝─	5.5'	(2.25)				
				L   + 5		(2.25)				
				  - 	Loose to Dense, Light Brown Fine to Coarse	-				
3	18	M	7		SAND, Some Gravel, Little to Some Silt (SP-SM/SM)					
				1   						
4	18	M	16				<u> </u>		×	
4	10	101	10	Г Г						
				┃ ┃ 10				<u> </u>		
5	18	M	30	i						
					Weathered to Competent, Light Tan to Orange	-				
				ř F	Sandstone Bedrock					
6	2	M	50/2"							
				⊢ │15—						
				₁ ┣━ ┫ <u> </u>						
7AS	0	М	-		Becoming Brownish-Purple and Clayey with Depth					
				, [	End Boring at 17 ft	1				
				⊢ ∟ I	Borehole Backfilled with Bentonite Chips and					
				<b> </b>	Asphalt Patch					
<sup> </sup>			WA			GENERA		TEC		
	e Drill		<u>V</u>			/26/20 End	<u>10/26</u>			
	After h to W	Drillin ater	ng		Driller	BSD Chief GB Editor	M	2R	ig <u>C</u> I	ME-55
Dept	h to Ca	ave in	ion 1	ines re	resent the approximate boundary between may be gradual.				mme	<b>r</b>
soi	l type	s and	the t	ransiti	n may be gradual.	•••••	•••••	• • • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • •

CGC Inc.					LOG OF TEST BORING Project Felland Road at Tranquility Trail 1550'N of Lien, 7'W of CL Location Madison, WI 21 Perry Street, Madison, WI 53713 (608) 288-4100, FAX (60	Sheet	Elevation C	20051	932∃ -20	
	SAMPLE				VISUAL CLASSIFICATION		L PRO	PEF	RTIE	S
No.	Y Rec P (in.)	Moist	ท	Depth (ft)	and Remarks	qu (qa)	W	LL	PL	LI
				L	5.5 in. Asphalt Pavement/8 in. Base Course	(tsf)	_			
1	18	M	39	↓ ► ↓_	FILL: Dense to Medium Dense Brown Sand and Gravel with Silt and Traces of Clay					
2	18	М	22							
3	18	м	41		Weathered to Competent, Light Tan to Orange Sandstone Bedrock					
4	18	M	26							
5	2	M	50/3"	┎┙╸┙╸┍╴╽╺┍╴╽						
				   15 ⊢	End Boring at 15 ft					
				┙╸┍┧┑╴┼╖╶┝ϫ	Borehole Backfilled with Bentonite Chips and Asphalt Patch					
I			W/			GENER				
Time Dept Dept	e Drill After h to W h to Ca	Drillin ater ave in	<u>⊽</u> ng	<u>1W</u>		10/26/20 End BSD Chie GB Edit	10/26 ef MC	6/ <b>20</b> C R F	tig <u>CN</u>	ME-55 r



# LOG OF TEST BORING

**General Notes** 

#### **DESCRIPTIVE SOIL CLASSIFICATION**

#### **Grain Size Terminology**

**Soil Fraction Particle Size U.S. Standard Sieve Size** Boulders ...... Larger than 12"..... Larger than 12" Cobbles ...... 3" to 12" ...... 3" to 12" Fine ...... 4.76 mm to ¼" ...... #4 to ¾" Sand: Coarse...... 2.00 mm to 4.76 mm...... #10 to #4 Medium ...... 0.42 to mm to 2.00 mm ...... #40 to #10 Fine ...... 0.074 mm to 0.42 mm...... #200 to #40 Silt...... 0.005 mm to 0.074 mm....... Smaller than #200 Clay...... Smaller than 0.005 mm....... Smaller than #200

Plasticity characteristics differentiate between silt and clay.

#### **General Terminology**

Physical Characteristics	Term	"N" Value
Color, moisture, grain shape, fineness, etc.	Very Loose	0-4
Major Constituents	Loose	4 - 10
Clay, silt, sand, gravel	Medium Den:	se10 - 30
Structure	Dense	30 - 50
Laminated, varved, fibrous, stratified, cemented, fissured, etc.	Very Dense	Over 50
Geologic Origin		
Glacial, alluvial, eolian, residual, etc.		

#### **Relative Proportions** Of Cohesionless Soils

Proportional	Defining Range by	Term	q <sub>u</sub> -te
Term	Percentage of Weight	Very Soft	0.0
		Soft	
Trace	0% - 5%	Medium	0.5
Little	5% - 12%	Stiff	1
Some	12% - 35%	Very Stiff	
And		Hard	

#### **Organic Content by Combustion Method**

Soil Description	Loss on Ignition
Non Organic	Less than 4%
Organic Silt/Clay	
Sedimentary Peat	
Fibrous and Woody F	eat More than 50%

#### Consistency

**Relative Density** 

"N" Value

Term	q <sub>u</sub> -tons/sq. ft
Very Soft	0.0 to 0.25
Soft	0.25 to 0.50
Medium	0.50 to 1.0
Stiff	1.0 to 2.0
Very Stiff	2.0 to 4.0
Hard	Over 4.0

#### Plasticity

<u>Term</u>	Plastic Index
None to Slight	0 - 4
Slight	5 - 7
Medium	8 - 22
High to Very High	Over 22

The penetration resistance, N, is the summation of the number of blows required to effect two successive 6" penetrations of the 2" split-barrel sampler. The sampler is driven with a 140 lb. weight falling 30" and is seated to a depth of 6" before commencing the standard penetration test.

#### SYMBOLS

#### **Drilling and Sampling**

**CS – Continuous Sampling** RC - Rock Coring: Size AW, BW, NW, 2"W **RQD – Rock Quality Designation RB – Rock Bit/Roller Bit** FT – Fish Tail **DC – Drove Casing** C - Casing: Size 2 ½", NW, 4", HW CW - Clear Water DM – Drilling Mud HSA - Hollow Stem Auger FA - Flight Auger HA - Hand Auger COA - Clean-Out Auger SS - 2" Dia. Split-Barrel Sample 2ST - 2" Dia. Thin-Walled Tube Sample 3ST - 3" Dia. Thin-Walled Tube Sample PT - 3" Dia. Piston Tube Sample AS – Auger Sample WS - Wash Sample PTS – Peat Sample **PS – Pitcher Sample** NR – No Recovery S – Sounding **PMT – Borehole Pressuremeter Test** VS – Vane Shear Test WPT – Water Pressure Test

#### Laboratory Tests

qa - Penetrometer Reading, tons/sq ft q<sub>a</sub> – Unconfined Strength, tons/sq ft W – Moisture Content, %

- LL Liquid Limit, %
- PL Plastic Limit, %
- SL Shrinkage Limit, %
- LI Loss on Ignition
- D Dry Unit Weight, Ibs/cu ft
- pH Measure of Soil Alkalinity or Acidity
- FS Free Swell, %

#### Water Level Measurement

 $\nabla$ - Water Level at Time Shown NW - No Water Encountered WD – While Drilling **BCR – Before Casing Removal** ACR – After Casing Removal CW - Cave and Wet **CM – Caved and Moist** 

Note: Water level measurements shown on the boring logs represent conditions at the time indicated and may not reflect static levels, especially in cohesive soils.

# CGC, Inc.

#### Madison - Milwaukee

UNIFIED SO	IL CL	ASSIF	ICATION AND SYMBOL CHART					
	C	OARSE	E-GRAINED SOILS					
(more than 50% of material is larger than No. 200 sieve size)								
		Clean G	ravels (Less than 5% fines)					
	<b>E</b>	GW	Well-graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines					
GRAVELS More than 50% of coarse fraction		GP	Poorly-graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines					
larger than No. 4		Gravels	with fines (More than 12% fines)					
sieve size		GM	Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures					
		GC	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures					
		Clean S	ands (Less than 5% fines)					
		sw	Well-graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines					
SANDS 50% or more of		SP	Poorly graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines					
coarse fraction smailer than No. 4		Sands v	vith fines (More than 12% fines)					
sieve size		SM	Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures					
		SC	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures					
(50% or m	ore of I		GRAINED SOILS is smaller than No. 200 sieve size.)					
SILTS AND		ML	Inorganic silts and very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands or clayey silts with slight plasticity					
CLAYS Liquid limit less than 50%		CL	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays					
		OL	Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity					
SILTS AND		мн	Inorganic silts, micaceous or diatomaceous fine sandy or silty soils, elastic silts					
CLAYS Liquid limit 50% or		СН	Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays					
greater		ОН	Organic clays of medium to high plasticity, organic silts					
HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS	77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77	PT	Peat and other highly organic soils					

# Unified Soil Classification System



#### **APPENDIX B**

#### **RECOMMENDED COMPACTED FILL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### APPENDIX B

#### CGC, INC.

#### **RECOMMENDED COMPACTED FILL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **General Fill Materials**

Proposed fill shall contain no vegetation, roots, topsoil, peat, ash, wood or any other non-soil material which by decomposition might cause settlement. Also, fill shall never be placed while frozen or on frozen surfaces. Rock, stone or broken concrete greater than 6 in. in the largest dimension shall not be placed within 10 ft of the building area. Fill used greater than 10 ft beyond the building limits shall not contain rock, boulders or concrete pieces greater than a 2 sq ft area and shall not be placed within the final 2 ft of finish subgrade or in designated utility construction areas. Fill containing rock, boulders or concrete pieces should include sufficient finer material to fill voids among the larger fragments.

#### **Special Fill Materials**

In certain cases, special fill materials may be required for specific purposes, such as stabilizing subgrades, backfilling undercut excavations or filling behind retaining walls. For reference, WisDOT gradation specifications for various types of granular fill are attached in Table 1.

#### **Placement Method**

The approved fill shall be placed, spread and leveled in layers generally not exceeding 10 in. in thickness before compaction. The fill shall be placed at moisture content capable of achieving the desired compaction level. For clay soils or granular soils containing an appreciable amount of cohesive fines, moisture conditioning will likely be required.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to provide all necessary compaction equipment and other grading equipment that may be required to attain the specified compaction. Hand-guided vibratory or tamping compactors will be required whenever fill is placed adjacent to walls, footings, columns or in confined areas.

#### **Compaction Specifications**

Maximum dry density and optimum moisture content of the fill soil shall be determined in accordance with modified Proctor methods (ASTM D1557). The recommended field compaction as a percentage of the maximum dry density is shown in Table 2. Note that these compaction guidelines would generally not apply to coarse gravel/stone fill. Instead, a method specification would apply (e.g., compact in thin lifts with a vibratory compactor until no further consolidation is evident).

#### **Testing Procedures**

Representative samples of proposed fill shall be submitted to CGC, Inc. for optimum moisture-maximum density determination (ASTM D1557) prior to the start of fill placement. The sample size should be approximately 50 lb.

CGC, Inc. shall be retained to perform field density tests to determine the level of compaction being achieved in the fill. The tests shall generally be conducted on each lift at the beginning of fill placement and at a frequency mutually agreed upon by the project team for the remainder of the project.

# Table 1 Gradation of Special Fill Materials

Matorial	WisDOT Section 311	WisDOT Section 312	WisDOT Section 305			WisDOT S	WisDOT Section 210		
Material	Breaker Run	Select Crushed Material	3-in. Dense Graded Base	1 1/4-in. Dense Graded Base	3/4-in. Dense Graded Base	Grade 1 Granular Backfill	Grade 2 Granular Backfill	Structure Backfill	
Sieve Size	Percent Passing by Weight								
6 in.	100								
5 in.		90-100					<u> </u>		
3 in.			90-100					100	
1 1/2 in.		20-50	60-85						
1 1/4 in.				95-100			<u> </u>		
1 in.					100				
3/4 in.			40-65	70-93	95-100				
3/8 in.				42-80	50-90				
No. 4			15-40	25-63	35-70	100 (2)	100 (2)	25-100	
No. 10		0-10	10-30	16-48	15-55				
No. 40			5-20	8-28	10-35	75 (2)			
No. 100						15 (2)	30 (2)		
No. 200			2-12	2-12	5-15	8 (2)	15 (2)	15 (2)	

#### Notes:

1. Reference: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction.

2. Percentage applies to the material passing the No. 4 sieve, not the entire sample.

3. Per WisDOT specifications, both breaker run and select crushed material can include concrete that is 'substantially free of steel, building materials and other deleterious material'.

# Table 2Compaction Guidelines

Area	Percent Compaction (1)	
	Clay/Silt	Sand/Gravel
Within <u>10 ft of building lines</u>		
Footing bearing soils	93 - 95	95
Under floors, steps and walks		
- Lightly loaded floor slab	90	90
- Heavily loaded floor slab and thicker fill zones	92	95
Beyond 10 ft of building lines		
Under walks and pavements		
- Less than 2 ft below subgrade	92	95
- Greater than 2 ft below subgrade	90	90
Landscaping	85	90

#### Notes:

1. Based on Modified Proctor Dry Density (ASTM D 1557)

**APPENDIX C** 

**ROCK EXCAVATION CONSIDERATIONS** 

#### **APPENDIX C**

#### **ROCK EXCAVATION CONSIDERATIONS**

In order to minimize probable "rock" excavation expenses during construction, we suggest that project specifications incorporate the following:

- A. It is assumed that all excavations to levels and dimensions required by the Contract Documents are earth excavation. Earth excavation includes removal and disposal of all materials encountered except rock/sound bedrock which is defined as natural materials which:
  - 1. Cannot be excavated with a minimum 3/4 cubic yard capacity backhoe without drilling and blasting;
  - 2. Cannot be economically removed with a one-tooth ripper on a D8 cat (or equivalent);
  - 3. Requires the use of special equipment such as a pneumatic hammer;
  - 4. Requires the use of explosives (after obtaining written permission of the owner).
- B. Examples of material classified as rock are boulders 1/2 cubic yard or more in volume, bedrock, rock in ledges, and rock-hard cementitious aggregate deposits.
- C. Do not proceed with rock excavation work until architect, engineer and/or testing firm (i.e., CGC) has taken the necessary measures to determine quantity of rock excavation required to complete the work. Measurements will be taken after properly stripped of earth by the contractor. Contractor will be paid the difference between the cost of rock and earth excavation based on an agreed upon unit price established prior to starting rock excavation.

A statement should also be included in the specifications to the effect that: "Stated models of earth excavation equipment are merely for purposes of defining the various excavation categories and are not intended to indicate the brand or type of equipment that is to be used."

**APPENDIX D** 

**DOCUMENT QUALIFICATIONS** 

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#### APPENDIX D DOCUMENT QUALIFICATIONS

#### I. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS/LIMITATIONS

CGC, Inc. should be provided the opportunity for a general review of the final design and specifications to confirm that earthwork and foundation requirements have been properly interpreted in the design and specifications. CGC should be retained to provide soil engineering services during excavation and subgrade preparation. This will allow us to observe that construction proceeds in compliance with the design concepts, specifications and recommendations, and also will allow design changes to be made in the event that subsurface conditions differ from those anticipated prior to the start of construction. CGC does not assume responsibility for compliance with the recommendations in this report unless we are retained to provide construction testing and observation services. This report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted soil and foundation engineering practices and no other warranties are expressed or implied. The opinions and recommendations submitted in this report are based on interpretation of the subsurface information revealed by the test borings indicated on the location plan. The report does not reflect potential variations in subsurface conditions between or beyond these borings. Therefore, variations in soil conditions can be expected between the boring locations and fluctuations of groundwater levels may occur with time. The nature and extent of the variations may not become evident until construction.

#### II. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT

Subsurface problems are a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes. While you cannot eliminate all such risks, you can manage them. The following information is provided to help.

Geotechnical engineers structure their services to meet the specific needs of their clients. A geotechnical engineering study conducted for a civil engineer may not fulfill the needs of a construction contractor or even another civil engineer. Because each geotechnical engineering study is unique, each geotechnical engineering report is unique, prepared *solely* for the client. *No one except you* should rely on your geotechnical engineering report without first conferring with the geotechnical engineer who prepared it. *And no one - not even you* - should apply the report for any purpose or project except the one originally contemplated.

#### **READ THE FULL REPORT**

Serious problems have occurred because those relying on a geotechnical engineering report did not read it all. Do not rely on an executive summary. Do not read selected elements only.

#### A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT IS BASED ON A UNIQUE SET OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC FACTORS

Geotechnical engineers consider a number of unique, project-specific factors when establishing the scope of a study. Typical factors include: the client's goals, objectives, and risk management preferences; the general nature of the structure involved, its size, and configuration; the location of the structure on the site; and other planned or existing site improvements, such as access roads, parking lots, and underground utilities. Unless the geotechnical engineer who conducted the study specifically indicates otherwise, *do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report* that was:

- not prepared for you,
- not prepared for your project,
- not prepared for the specific site explored, or
- completed before important project changes were made.

Typical changes that can erode the reliability of an existing geotechnical report include those that affect:

- the function of the proposed structure, as when it's changed from a parking garage to an office building, or from a light industrial plant to a refrigerated warehouse,
- elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure,
- composition of the design team, or project ownership.

As a general rule, *always* inform your geotechnical engineer of project changes - even minor ones - and request an assessment of their impact. CGC cannot accept responsibility or liability for problems that occur because our reports do not consider developments of which we were not informed.

#### SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE

A geotechnical engineering report is based on conditions that existed at the time the geotechnical engineer performed the study. *Do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report* whose adequacy may have been affected by: the passage of time; by man-made events, such as construction on or adjacent to the site; or by natural events, such as floods, earthquakes, or groundwater fluctuations. *Always* contact the geotechnical engineer before applying the report to determine if it is still reliable. A minor amount of additional testing or analysis could prevent major problems.

### MOST GEOTECHNICAL FINDINGS ARE PROFESSIONAL OPINION

Site exploration identifies subsurface conditions only at those points where subsurface tests are conducted or samples are taken. Geotechnical engineers review field and laboratory data and then apply their professional judgement to render an opinion about subsurface conditions throughout the site. Actual subsurface conditions may differ - sometimes significantly - from those indicated in your report. Retaining the geotechnical engineer who developed your report to provide construction observation is the most effective method of managing the risks associated with unanticipated conditions.

#### A REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT FINAL

Do not over-rely on the confirmation-dependent recommendations included in your report. Those confirmation-dependent recommendations are not final, because geotechnical engineers develop them principally from judgement and opinion. Geotechnical engineers can finalize their recommendations only by observing actual subsurface conditions revealed during construction. CGC cannot assume responsibility or liability for the report's confirmation-dependent recommendations if we do not perform the geotechnical-construction observation required to confirm the recommendations' applicability.

# A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT IS SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION

Other design team members' misinterpretation of geotechnical engineering reports has resulted in costly problems. Confront that risk by having your geotechnical engineer confer with appropriate members of the design team after submitting the report. Also retain your geotechnical engineer to review pertinent elements of the design team's plans and specifications. Constructors can also misinterpret a geotechnical engineering report. Confront that risk by having CGC participate in prebid and preconstruction conferences, and by providing geotechnical construction observation.

#### DO NOT REDRAW THE ENGINEER'S LOGS

Geotechnical engineers prepare final boring and testing logs based upon their interpretation of field logs and laboratory data. To prevent errors or omissions, the logs included in a geotechnical engineering report should *never* be redrawn for inclusion in architectural or other design drawings. Only photographic or electronic reproduction is acceptable, *but recognize that separating logs from the report can elevate risk.* 

### GIVE CONSTRUCTORS A COMPLETE REPORT AND GUIDANCE

Some owners and design professionals mistakenly believe they can make constructors liable for unanticipated subsurface conditions by limiting what they provide for bid preparation. To help prevent costly problems, give constructors the complete geotechnical engineering report, but preface it with a clearly written letter of transmittal. In that letter, advise constructors that the report was not prepared for purposes of bid development and that the report's accuracy is limited; encourage them to confer with the geotechnical engineer who prepared the report (a modest fee may be required) and/or to conduct additional study to obtain the specific types of information they need or prefer. A prebid conference can also be valuable. Be sure constructors have sufficient time to perform additional study. Only then might you be in a position to give constructors the best information available to you, while requiring them to at least share some of the financial responsibilities stemming from unanticipated conditions.

#### **READ RESPONSIBILITY PROVISIONS CLOSELY**

Some clients, design professionals, and constructors do not recognize that geotechnical engineering is far less exact than other engineering disciplines. This lack of understanding has created unrealistic expectations that have led to disappointments, claims, and disputes. To help reduce the risk of such outcomes, geotechnical engineers commonly include a variety of explanatory provisions in their reports. Sometimes labeled "limitations," many of these provisions indicate where geotechnical engineer's responsibilities begin and end, to help others recognize their own responsibilities and risks. *Read these provisions closely*. Ask questions. Your geotechnical engineer should respond fully and frankly.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE NOT COVERED

The equipment, techniques, and personnel used to perform an *environmental* study differ significantly from those used to perform a *geotechnical* study. For that reason, a geotechnical engineering report does not usually relate any environmental findings, conclusions, or recommendations; e.g., about the likelihood of encountering underground storage tanks or regulated contaminants. *Unanticipated environmental problems have led to numerous project failures.* If you have not yet obtained your own environmental information, ask your geotechnical consultant for risk management guidance. *Do not rely on an environmental report prepared for someone else.* 

## OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEAL WITH MOLD

Diverse strategies can be applied during building design, construction, operation, and maintenance to prevent significant amounts of mold from growing on indoor surfaces. To be effective, all such strategies should be devised for the express purpose of mold prevention, integrated into a comprehensive plan, and executed with diligent oversight by a professional mold prevention consultant. Because just a small amount of water or moisture can lead to the development of severe mold infestations, many mold prevention strategies focus on keeping building surfaces dry. While groundwater, water infiltration, and similar issues may have been addressed as part of the geotechnical engineering study whose findings are conveyed in this report, the geotechnical engineer in charge of this project is not a mold prevention consultant; none of the services performed in connection with the geotechnical engineer's study were designed or conducted for the purpose of mold Proper implementation of the recommendations prevention. conveyed in this report will not of itself be sufficient to prevent mold from growing in or on the structure involved.

### RELY ON YOUR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Membership in the Geotechnical Business Council (GBC) of Geoprofessional Business Association exposes geotechnical engineers to a wide array of risk confrontation techniques that can be of genuine benefit for everyone involved with a construction project. Confer with CGC, a member of GBC, for more information.

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