GENERAL: These specifications provide the procedures for obtaining the geotechnical information, for highway design and construction, required by the Roadway Design Division of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). These specifications include the general guidelines for conducting geotechnical investigations and are governed by the “Geotechnical Engineering Circular No. 5 - Evaluation of Soil and Rock Properties”, FHWA-IF-02-034, April 2002, the most current AASHTO and ASTM test procedures, and AASHTO R-10.

Geotechnical information is obtained through subsurface investigations, field tests, and the corresponding laboratory tests conducted on samples obtained in the field. Direction and oversight of these operations are provided by the Geotechnical Engineer with day to day coordination through the project geotechnical specialist.

A Geotechnical Engineer is a registered professional engineer with geotechnical expertise. A geotechnical specialist is a civil engineer, geologist, engineering geologist, or a trained, experienced, qualified individual that has been certified by the ODOT Materials Division or other approved designated authority.

The Geotechnical Engineer is required to submit a boring, sampling, and testing plan to ODOT for approval prior to beginning the subsurface exploration in order to resolve all matters with regard to sampling, testing and analysis of data. The Department’s geotechnical policies and procedures will represent the state of the practice and will govern.

In conducting geotechnical investigations, the Geotechnical Engineer is responsible for and will be compensated for the following items of work:

- Securing right-of-way
- Filing and obtaining U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Permits.
- Locating and marking utility crossings, with OKIE, where borings, test pits, or trenches are required in the geotechnical investigation.
- Planning and arranging for traffic control when required in conducting the geotechnical investigation. Traffic control is to be subcontracted outside of ODOT and is required to meet the most current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device Specifications during the geotechnical investigation.
- Provide the required location of all test borings and pavement core locations conducted in the preliminary soil surveys, detailed soil investigations and geological investigations. The survey shall be referenced to plan station and offset from the centerline of survey, construction reference line (CRL) or base line given on the project plans. If the project is a
new alignment that is beyond the reasonable reach by a measuring tape of 100 ft. from a reference line, then a supplemental survey contract may be approved.

- Dozer services required for access to test boring locations.
- Borehole closing when applicable.

**SCOPE:** The geotechnical investigation shall consist of performing all or parts of the following surveys and investigations required by the Roadway Design Division of ODOT and as directed by ODOT at the time of contract negotiations.

**PRELIMINARY SOIL SURVEYS**

1. **Pedological and Geological Survey:** A Pedological and Geological Survey is required for new highway alignments, new construction parallel to existing highway alignments, and new construction requiring a raising of the grade on and above existing highway alignments. A Pedological Soils Survey is reliant on knowledge of the soil series mapping units and the corresponding taxonomic classification system established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). More detailed information about Pedological Soil Surveys and the NRCS Soil Classification System are provided in Appendix 1. The general procedures for conducting the Pedological activities are presented below in option A and option B as directed. This includes the procedures for sampling and testing.

**Option A**

a. The pedological survey requires plotting the Center Reference Line (CRL) or the Centerline (CL) for the proposed highway alignment on the appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation (SCS) county soil survey report map sheet(s). The map units are delineated on aerial photographs that comprise the aforementioned sheets. They are usually scaled at 1:20,000 and occasionally 1:24,000; either is acceptable. The plotting procedure is also used to establish the length of each soil series map unit (soil phase) as the alignment crosses the map unit delineation. These lengths or distances are to be summed and provided in the report. The CRL and CL locations are taken from the project plans. In the case of soil series complexes, as map units, e.g. Niotaze-Darnell, each series is to be located and treated separately. The type and degree of assistance, as well as the names of the NRCS, or other soils scientist(s) personnel rendering assistance, shall be documented and referenced in detail.

b. Take adequate sample quantities at the site of each soil series to ensure proper testing of each soil horizon as well the composite bulk sample(s). Pits are acceptable and may be a preferred method. These are to be made along the CRL or CL or referenced to them. If the map unit repeats within the alignment, it need not be resampled, if the series is confirmed by boring to be the same.
c. A composite bulk sample is defined as a mixture of the total depths (thicknesses) of each of the B and C horizons. For example, if a soil series description lists the B horizons as Bt1, Bt2, Btk, Bt3, and B/C, these together will constitute one composite “B” bulk sample. Subsequently, the C/B and C horizons will constitute a second bulk sample “C”, for soil series that contain those particular horizons. In the event that the map unit does not have a B horizon but has an A/C horizon instead, the composite bulk sample shall be taken of the total depth of horizons listed below the A horizon e.g. the A/C or B/C horizon. It is important that the bulk sample be a well blended mixture of soils that are representative of all the respective horizons in the composite sample. In most cases, soil map unit revisions and recorrelations have probably been made to at least a few of the map units encountered along the CRL. This new information is available at the local NRCS field offices, usually located in the county seat or the NRCS State Soil Scientist in Stillwater OK. The NRCS Web Soil Survey, [http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/) is also a good source for county soils maps and information. Copies of all official soils series descriptions, including the new recorrelated series are required for inclusion in the Pedological report.

d. Use the soil map unit with its associated current official soil series description and classification as a guide for sampling and other engineering interpretations. For example, the official description of Kirkland clay loam, 0 – 1% slope; Fine mixed, superactive, thermic Udertic Paleustoll, 6/99, is to be used as a guide for sampling. The Fine mixed, superactive, thermic, Udertic Paleustall is the soil series taxonomic description. It consists of the order, suborder, great group, subgroup modifier, particle size, mineralogy, and soil temperature. In this description the typical thickness of the A horizon is 8 inches, the Btl horizon is typically 8 to 19 inches thick, the 2Bt3 is 75 to 82 inches thick, etc. In the map unit of interest, the depths and thickness of the subhorizons may vary from that of the description given in the county soil survey report and/or in the official soil series description. However, they must be within the “Range in Characteristics,” as described in the official soil series description (OSD). A Soil Taxonomy Statement is required for each soil series consisting of a written interpretation of each taxonomy description sub-part for a total of seven parts. Guidelines for preparing the Soil Taxonomy Statement are included in Appendix 1.

e. There may be inclusions of a contrasting or similar soil series within the map unit being sampled. They may be listed and described in the “Competing Series” or the “Geographically Associated Soils” paragraphs in the official soil series descriptions. Select the best-fit soil series description from this list, if possible, for the inclusion in the report.

f. Laboratory tests required for all representative subhorizon samples for each soil series are as follows:

1. Plastic Limit, AASHTO T90
2. Liquid Limit, AASHTO T89
3. Gradation required for complete soil classification, AASHTO T88
4. pH, AASHTO T289
5. Electrical Resistivity, AASHTO T288
6. Soluble Sulfates, for projects in ODOT Field Divisions 4,5,6,&7, OHD L-49

g. Laboratory tests required for the bulk composite sample for the B and C horizons of each soil series are as follows:

1. Plastic Limit, AASHTO T90
2. Liquid Limit, AASHTO T89
3. Gradation required for complete soil classification, AASHTO T88
4. Moisture-Density, AASHTO T99 – (include a minimum of 5 points)
5. Resilient Modulus, AASHTO T307
6. Soluble Sulfates, for projects in ODOT Field Divisions 4,5,6,&7, OHD L-49

h. The geologic portion of this survey shall consist of the inclusion of a representative sample of the R horizon. A geologic statement describing the R horizon in geological terminology shall be included in the report. If the R horizon is shale it shall be sampled and subjected to the soil laboratory tests listed under paragraph “f” above. The terminology for describing the R horizon material shall be taken from the “Standard Guide for the Description of Surface and Subsurface Geological Rock Formations of Oklahoma” found in Appendix 3.

i. The quantities of soil required for the tests are provided in AASHTO R-13.

j. Personnel requirements. The person performing the pedological soil survey and providing the report shall hold a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Soil Science. The person may hold a BS in a natural science (i.e. geology or forestry) provided the natural science has a minimum of 30 credit hours of natural sciences with 15 of those hours in soil science. Alternatively, a resume of pertinent education and experience shall be submitted to the Geotechnical Engineer of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for review and approval.

**Option B**

The CRL or centerline of the proposed project is to be plotted on the soil survey map as in Option A. The soil series are to be organized by the Soil Taxonomy Order. The most predominant soil series (largest lineal extent) for each Order in the project extent is to be sampled and tested as required in Option A.

2. **Shoulder Soil Survey:** A Shoulder Soil Survey is required for the widening of existing pavement at grade. This survey shall apply to the adding of shoulders, lanes and medians to existing pavements. The general procedure for conducting the shoulder soil survey is as follows:

   a. The sampling location shall be within the station extents of the widening section using the average width of the improvement and a sampling interval of 500 feet. Sample locations shall apply to all widening extents as detailed in the project plans, i.e., outside pavement shoulder, both pavement shoulders (in the case of two-lane highway or street), inside shoulder (in the case of four-lane highway or street), and in median areas.
b. The sampling depth shall be 36 inches consisting of the top 6 inches and the bottom 30 inches provided that there is a reasonable consistency and similarity of material. If different material is encountered in the bottom 30 inches, subdivide the layers and include a sample from each layer.

c. Report the extent(s) of similar soil classifications within the station extents of the project.

d. Record the depth of groundwater or perched water zones measured from the top of ground elevation at the end of drilling.

e. A composite bulk sample(s) of the full sampling depth representative of the whole project extent or of each different soil extent as identified in item 2c.

f. Laboratory tests required of all sample interval depths and/or soil layers are as follows:
   1. Plastic Limit, AASHTO T90
   2. Liquid Limit, AASHTO T89
   3. Gradation required for complete soil classification, AASHTO T88
   4. Moisture-density, AASHTO T99
   5. Resilient modulus, AASHTO T307
   6. Soluble Sulfates, for projects in ODOT Field Divisions 4,5,6,&7, OHD L-49

g. Guidelines for quantities of soil samples are given in AASHTO R13

3. **In Place Soil Survey:** The In Place Soil Survey is required for new construction when the design calls for separation of the grading and paving contracts. It may also be used to evaluate the subgrade of existing pavement sections which are to be reconstructed with no change in grade or alignment. The general procedure for conducting the In Place Soil Survey is the same as for the Shoulder Soil Survey with the following exceptions:
   a. The sampling interval for grading projects is 1000 ft. or wherever there is a visual change in soil types. Sampling locations for existing pavement sections will most likely be project specific such as at a bridge approaches and underpasses.
   b. The sampling depth shall be 36 inches unless otherwise noted. Sample and test the different soil types encountered in the boring and record the extent(s) of similar soil classifications within the station extents of the project.

4. **Pavement and Subgrade Soil Survey:** A Pavement and Subgrade Soil Survey is required when the properties of an existing pavement structure and the underlying subgrade soils are needed for evaluation of the pavement load capacity and for an overlay design. The Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) is required for evaluating the pavement structure (surface, base, and subbase). The general procedure for conducting pavement deflection tests shall meet all requirements of the ASTM D4694 and D4695 with the following additional requirements:
a. FWD tests are to be conducted in the outside wheel path in a staggered pattern at a spacing of 250 feet along the highway centerline. Additional requirements for the FWD analysis are as follows:

1. The FWD is to be operated during a time frame of April through November or when the ambient temperature has been a minimum of 45 degrees for 3 successive days prior to and during the testing operations.

2. The air and pavement temperatures are to be recorded by the FWD equipment for each test location and according to ASTM D4695, Subsection 7.1.5.

3. At each FWD test location, the test procedure shall be according to ASTM D4694, Subsection 9. Load and deflection sensors are to be in current calibration at the time of testing, as required by ASTM D4694, Subsection 8. Deflection testing shall include 2 seating drops and 4 recording drops per test location. The test load for the 4 recording drops are based upon highway classification; Interstate highways will be tested with a 15,000 lb. load, U.S. designated highways will be tested with a 12,000 lb. load, State highways will be tested with a 9,000 lb. load, Local and County roads will be tested with a 7,500 lb. load.

b. Back calculation analysis of the pavement section shall be made using the most current edition of the Modulus program. For asphalt pavement sections, provide the back calculated resilient modulus of the subgrade and the elastic modulus of the composite pavement structure. For concrete pavement sections, provide the modulus of subgrade reaction, the pavement section thickness, and the pavement condition as determined according to the survey described in item 5d. A copy of the FWD report shall be submitted, in Microsoft Excel Format, electronically to the ODOT Pavement Engineer.

c. A minimum of five pavement cores per mile (more if there is an obvious change in pavement structure) shall be taken to document the thicknesses, types, and condition of the payment layers. Take the cores at FWD test locations. Provide a digital, color photograph of each core with scale. Record the layer thicknesses and the degree of stripping or deterioration of asphalt pavement cores. Record honeycomb, deterioration cracking (D-Cracking), and separations in concrete pavements. Examples of the required core logs are provided in Appendix 5. Cores shall be taken in the middle of the slab in PCC Pavements. Ground Penetrating Radar may be used to reduce the number of cores taken to accurately determine the pavement section profile.

d. Pavement surface condition shall be described according to the distress patterns as detailed in the FHWA publication No. FHWA-RD-03-031 “Distress Identification Manual for the Long Term Pavement Performance Program”.
e. For plain jointed, rigid pavements, joint efficiency shall be tested in each direction, in the right wheel path of the right lane, every 600 feet (180m) at the transverse contraction joint. A core shall be cut through the joint at the test site and the core condition reported.

f. The pavement subgrade shall be sampled to a depth of 36 inches below existing pavement. Dynamic Cone Penetration tests, DCPT, may be requested to further evaluate the strength and consistency of the subgrade.

g. Report the extent(s) of similar subgrade soils within the station extents of the project.

h. Record the depth of groundwater or perched water zones measured from the top of ground elevation at the end of drilling.

i. Laboratory tests required of granular bases, subbases, and subgrade soils are as follows:
   1. Plastic Limit, AASHTO T90
   2. Liquid Limit, AASHTO T89
   3. Gradation required for complete soil classification, AASHTO T88

j. Guidelines for quantities of soil samples are given in AASHTO R13.

5. **Borrow Pit Investigation:** A borrow pit investigation is required where selective subgrade topping is requested. The specifications for selective subgrade topping are provided in the most current issue of the ODOT Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, Section 202.02 B.

   a. The size of the borrow pit shall be based on plan estimates of borrow quantities needed.

   b. A borrow pit location within a 30-mile haul distance of the project is acceptable.

   c. As a minimum requirement, a boring shall be drilled at each geometric corner and two near the center. A minimum depth of ten feet per boring shall be analyzed for select material.

   d. Record the depth of groundwater or perched water zones measured from the top of the ground elevation at the end of drilling.

   e. If the borrow source is rock, investigate the rippability by use of seismic velocity. Refer to the seismic velocity charts found in the Appendix 3 to estimate the rippability of rock.

   f. If the borrow sources can be select graded in a cut section of the proposed project site, the above items c. through e. all apply.

   g. If a borrow source is unavailable, then a pavement layer requiring borrow may be substituted with an equivalent layer of chemically stabilized soil or a soil-aggregate blend.
h. Soils that are to be placed within the top 2 ft. of the grading section shall be tested for soluble sulfates according to OHD L-49.

i. Laboratory tests required of borrow pit soil samples are as follows:
   i. Plastic Limit, AASHTO T90
   ii. Liquid Limit, AASHTO T89
   iii. Gradation required for complete soil classification, AASHTO T88
   iv. Soluble Sulfates, for projects in ODOT Field Divisions 4,5,6,&7, OHD L-49

6. **Resilient Modulus Tests:** Resilient modulus testing is required for the pavement design of all State and Federal Aid highway projects. This test is conducted, according to the requirements of AASHTO T-307, on composite bulk samples obtained in Pedological, Shoulder, and In Place Soil Surveys. Resilient Modulus testing for ODOT shall be conducted by a qualified technician having a minimum of 2 years continuous experience in resilient modulus testing.

   ODOT requires two resilient modulus tests for each composite sample:
   **For A-1 to A-5 Soils:**
   - One test at 95 % of maximum dry density, optimum moisture content
   - One test at 95 % of maximum dry density, 2 % wet of optimum moisture content.
   **For A-6 to A-7 Soils:**
   - One test at 95 % of maximum dry density, optimum moisture content
   - One test at 95 % of maximum dry density at the corresponding moisture content at which 95% dry density intersects the wet side of the moisture/density curve.

7. **Laboratory Tests:** All laboratory tests required for the Preliminary Soil Surveys shall be performed by technicians certified by the Highway Construction Materials Certification Board in a laboratory qualified by the ODOT Materials Division.

**DETAILED SOIL INVESTIGATION:** A detailed Soil Investigation is required for analyzing the geotechnical problems related to roadway designs. These geotechnical problems include embankment and foundation soil settlement and stability, cut and natural slope stability, problem soils related to roadway subgrades and embankments, roadway structures, and construction recommendations. A detailed soil investigation of these problems is required in conjunction with the Pedological and Geological Survey. The interpretation and judgment of the pedological and geological site conditions is the responsibility of the Geotechnical Engineer.

1. **Embankment and Foundation Soil Settlement and Stability (Embankments Between 0-10 feet Above Natural Ground Line):** Estimates of embankment and underlying foundation soil settlement, slope stability and design slopes are required. These estimates are made by assuming reasonable parameters for anticipated embankment and foundation soils based
on the soil series types occurring within the project extent. These estimates are required for embankments crossing each soil series encountered along the project alignment. Use NAVFAC D 7.01 to determine estimates of reasonable soil parameters for anticipated embankment and foundation soils as described by the pedological soil units.

2. **Embankment and Foundation Soil Settlement and Stability (Embankments Greater Than 10 Feet Above Natural Ground Line):** Estimates of embankment and underlying foundation soil settlement and stability are required. Borings are to be typically spaced every 200 feet (erratic conditions) to 500 feet (uniform conditions), with at least one boring made in each Pedological soil unit. The primary borings are to be Standard Penetration Test (SPT) borings. These borings, which are for obtaining soil samples and information, should be supplemented with in situ field tests such as the Cone Penetration Test (CPT) or the Flat Plate Dilatometer Test (DMT) to obtain additional information for determining the soil and rock subsurface conditions as follows:

   a. **Stratigraphy**
      1) Physical description and extent of each stratum
      2) Thickness and elevation of top and bottom of each stratum
   b. For cohesive soils (each stratum)
      1) Natural moisture contents
      2) Atterberg limits
      3) Presence of organic materials
      4) Evidence of desiccation or previous soil disturbance, shearing or slickensides
      5) Swelling characteristics
      6) Shear strength
      7) Compressibility – **NOTE:** The Standard Penetration Test is not to be used for shear strength or compressibility analysis in cohesive soils. Shear strength and compressibility can be determined by laboratory consolidation tests conducted on undisturbed soil samples or by in situ field tests such as the Cone Penetration Test (CPT) or the Flat Plate Dilatometer Test (DMT).
   c. For granular soils (each stratum)
      1) In-situ density (average and range) typically determined from Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) or Cone Penetration Tests (CPT)
      2) Grain-size distribution (gradation)
      3) Presence of organic materials
   d. Ground water (for each aquifer if more than one is present)
      1) Piezometric surface over the site area, existing, past, and probable range in future (observation at several times.)
      2) Perched water table
e. Bedrock
   1) Depth and elevation over the entire site
   2) Type of rock (Lithology)
   3) Extent and character of weathering
   4) Joints, including distribution, spacing, whether open or closed, and joint filing.
   5) Faults
   6) Solution features in limestone or other soluble rocks
   7) Core recovery and soundness (RQD)

f. Engineering Analysis. The minimum guidelines required for engineering analysis, based upon soil classification, are given in Table 1 of Appendix 2. Additional guidelines should be noted for the following conditions:
   1) When soft ground is encountered (SPT ‘N’ Resistance < 4), conduct in situ tests and/or undisturbed sample exploration in each soil series mapping unit. Conduct continuous in situ tests and/or undisturbed sampling throughout the foundation soils until firm material (SPT ‘N’ Resistance > 30) or rock is encountered.
   2) When medium stiff to very stiff (5 < SPT ‘N’ resistance < 30) is encountered, follow the minimum sampling and testing criteria in Table 2 of Appendix 2.
   3) If rock is encountered within a depth equal to twice the embankment height, conduct continuous rock coring as detailed in Table 2 of Appendix 2.
   4) Groundwater investigations shall be made according to Table 2 of Appendix 2.
   5) For bridge embankment headers, conduct a detailed study of the embankment and foundation soils within 200 feet back and 200 feet forward of each bridge abutment.

3. Cut and Natural Slope Stability: Cut slopes greater than 30 feet below the natural ground line in soil shall be analyzed for both end of construction and long term slope stability conditions. If slope materials are overconsolidated (OCR > 2) then the residual shear strength shall be used in the long term slope stability analysis. Soils coming from cuts that will be placed within the top 2 ft. of the grading section shall be checked for soluble sulfates according to OHD L-49.

4. Problem Soils Related to Roadway Subgrades and Embankments: Additional field exploration, laboratory testing and analysis are required to determine the long-term performance and/or suitability of the following soil and rock that may be incorporated into the roadway subgrade and embankment or found in the foundation soils below the roadway embankment:
   a. Organic soils
   b. Normally consolidated clays
   c. Expansive clays and shales
   d. Dispersive soils
e. Collapsible soils
f. Degradable shales
g. Caliche
h. Mine spoils (all types) and caves
i. River or stream meander loops and cutoffs and ox-bow lakes
j. Karst features (e.g., gypsum, limestone)

These soils and conditions are coordinated with the Pedological and Geological Survey and Borrow Pit Investigation. The interpretation and judgment of these soil conditions is the responsibility of the Geotechnical Engineer.

5. Roadway Structures: Check the bearing capacity, settlement and stability of roadway structures (i.e. retaining walls) according to the most current AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges.

6. Construction Recommendations: The Geotechnical Engineer may recommend chemically stabilized bases, subbases and subgrades as directed by ODOT or in lieu of select borrow requirements of the most current edition of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Standard Specifications for Highway Construction. These recommendations are limited to lime, fly ash, CKD, and Portland cement and the method of evaluation shall follow ASTM D4609, OHD L-50 and OHD L-51.

**GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION:** A Geological Field Investigation is required for any or all of the following:

1. rock cuts of 10 feet or greater
2. shallow rock mapped within a proposed cut section
3. rock mechanics analysis
4. geological hazards
5. rock fills

A geological field investigation may consist of the following elements:

1. borings
2. slope stability analysis
3. rippability ratings
4. evaluation of geological hazards
5. shear strength of rock fills
6. evaluation of excavated rock for use as a source of aggregate
7. Geological statements.

The Geological Investigation is in conjunction with the Pedological and Geological Survey. Dimensions are to be in English or metric units, whichever is compatible with the Plans. Any interpretations and judgements made of the site geologic conditions are the responsibility of the Geotechnical Engineer. The investigation may include the following:
1. **Borings:** Space borings through cut sections within the project extent every 100 feet in the longitudinal centerline (CL or CRL) direction. Provide a minimum of two borings along a straight line perpendicular to the centerline or planned slope face to establish a geological cross-section of the cut. Two of these borings shall be continuously cored to characterize the soil and/or rock properties. The depths of all borings are to extend a minimum of 10 feet below the deepest plan grade. Record the location of perched or permanent water tables for a minimum of 24 hours.

2. **Seismograph Surveys:** Seismograph Surveys of cut sections may be required. The equipment must be capable of determining rock properties throughout the entire depth of the cut, plus 10 feet below plan grade. Depths to each rock layer must be accurate to the nearest foot.

3. **Rock Stability Analysis:** Rock stability analysis is required when the dip of the geological formation exceeds 20 degrees into the slope face. Ensure the analysis meets all the requirements of the kinematic slope stability program, RockPack III (or equivalent), using the stereographic projection procedure. This analysis is necessary to determine the slope stability of closely spaced (2 ft. or less) rock joints (fractures) and/or tilted (dipping greater than 10 degrees) rock strata of the cut slope. These measurements will allow development of the local structural geology, in three dimensions, required for making this analysis. The data that is required for this analysis is the dip, and dip direction of both the rock strata and of the joints (fractures) in the rock. The equipment necessary to obtain the dip, and joint orientation data is a Clar and/or Brunton compass. This device gives magnetic headings and dip angles. Trenching or oriented cores may be necessary in order to expose enough rock strata to make the measurements. The shear strength of the jointed rock shall be based on the requirements of the Hoek-Brown (1988) criteria. If the observations identify joints (fractures) in which shear failures may occur, or fractures that contain soil infilling; then, the shear strength of the infilling or fractures is required to be taken into account in the overall slope stability analysis. In argillaceous massive shales (non-laminar), slope stability analysis shall be based on the use of a soil mechanics approach.

4. **Rippability:** Determine rippability by a refraction seismograph. The seismograph must be capable of providing valid, useable signals for calculating the depth to bedrock to nearest foot. It must be capable of sensing rock layers to the depth of the proposed cut. Calculations of rock rippability shall be made from the resulting sound wave velocities. The rock rippability rating of each layer shall be reported as rippable, marginal, or non-rippable.

5. **Geologic Hazards:** Identify any geologic hazards (e.g. sinkholes, landslides, and others). These are to be precisely located and dimensioned to the nearest foot. Record all occurrences in the final report. GPS coordinates may be used in addition to Public Land Survey legal descriptions. Locations must be referenced to the CL or CRL by plan station and offset.

6. **Rock Fill Embankments:** Determine the shear strength values of rock fill embankments. The model will be generated by using the results of the triaxial shear tests. Conduct the testing on 1-in. size aggregates from the specified rock fill aggregate source.

7. **Geologic Site Assessment:** Provide a geologic site assessment of the rock type and layering conditions in the cuts along the CL or CRL. This report will be based on available geologic maps, bulletins etc., along with a field, on-site investigation. The assessment will pertain to
the geologic conditions and character of the rock strata as provided in the above geologic information sources.

8. **Equipment:** List the equipment used to make the observations (e.g. borings, seismograph surveys, rippability, and stability analysis) in the report. Provide the make, model, and manufacturer.

**Descriptive Terminology and Rock Classification:** The descriptive terminology and rock classification shall be based upon the “Standard Guide for the Description of Surface and Subsurface Geological Rock Formations of Oklahoma” as presented in Appendix 3. The finished boring log shall be a compilation of all classification and description from laboratory tests and field logging.

**GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION, IN SITU TEST PROCEDURE:**

1. The most current issue of the following ASTM Standards for in situ testing will govern and shall be used.
   a. Standard Test Method for Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils – ASTM D1586
   b. Electronic Friction Cone and Piezocone Penetration Testing of Soils – ASTM D5778
   c. Mechanical Cone Penetration Test – ASTM D3441
   d. Flat Plate Dilatometer Test – ASTM D 6635
   e. Pressuremeter Test – ASTM D 4719
   f. Vane Shear Test – ASTM D 2573
   g. Dynamic Cone Penetrometer Test – ASTM D 6951

2. The most current issue of the following ASTM and AASHTO Standards for sampling will govern and shall be used.
   a. Standard Test Method for Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils – ASTM D1586
   b. Practice for Thin-Walled Tube Geotechnical Sampling of Soils – ASTM D1587
   c. Practice for Rock Core Drilling and Sampling of Rock for Site Investigation – ASTM D2113
   d. Practice for Preserving and Transporting Soil Samples – ASTM D4220
   e. Collection and Preservation of Water Samples – AASHTO R24
   f. Standard Test Method for Determining Subsurface Liquid Levels in Borehole or Monitoring Well (Observation Well) – ASTM D4750

3. **Bore Hole Completion and Site Restoration:** All borings should be properly closed at the end of the field exploration for safety considerations and to prevent cross contamination of soil strata and groundwater. The general procedures for borehole completion and site restoration are as follows:
   a. **Responsibility** The driller is responsible for properly plugging the borehole.
b. **Timetable**  Ensure borings are plugged within 10 days of completion of drilling or groundwater observations to prevent contamination of groundwater.

c. **Backfill**  Consider the following:

1. For Pedological, shoulder, and in-place borings, backfill and compact the borehole with borehole cuttings.
2. In pavements, backfill the boreholes with cuttings. Compact, by tamping, the cuttings to a depth of 6 in. below the bottom of the pavement. Fill the remainder of the boring with either quick setting concrete or asphalt patch depending upon the pavement type.
3. For embankment and cut section borings, follow the procedures outlined in **AASHTO R-22**.

d. **Property Cleanup**  As practical, the site should be returned to its original conditions. For sensitive locations, take before and after photographs to address possible complaints from the landowner.

4. **Field Logging:** Field logs shall be based upon the descriptive terminology and classification of rock detailed in the “Standard Guide for The Description of Surface and Subsurface Geological Rock Formations of Oklahoma” as presented in Appendix 3.

5. **Method of Drilling:** An appropriate method of rotary drilling shall be used for the foundation and geologic conditions encountered. These are described in the AASHTO Manual on Subsurface Investigations, 1988. There is no restriction on the type of drill equipment other than it shall be capable of performing all of the field sampling and testing as outlined in the above referenced manual. Samples may be taken from the flight augers unless water table conditions are encountered. The practice of auger refusal is **not** an acceptable technique for defining the top of bedrock. The top of bedrock shall be established by sampler refusal as outlined in **ASTM D 1586 - Standard Test Method for Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils**. For borings over water in lakes or rivers, drilling operations shall be performed on a barge supported by spud rods firmly anchored at each corner.

6. **Geologic Statement:**  A general geologic review and assessment(s) shall be provided as a statement in the Geologic Investigation. It will include cross section(s) and provide drawings, showing the orientation of the rock masses or layered rock formations at each cut section investigated. The drawings will provide station designations along the centerline of survey or CRL and offset distances left and/or right. The geologic summary will be provided based on all available geologic information. Examples of such sources are as follows:

   a. Oklahoma Geological Survey
   b. Oklahoma Water Resources Board
   c. U.S. Geological Survey
   d. Tulsa Geological Society, and others
LABORATORY TESTS:  All laboratory testing shall be performed by technicians certified by the Highway Construction Materials Certification Board in a laboratory qualified by the ODOT Materials Division.

1. Where appropriate, soils and rock samples are to be tested and results reported according to the most current AASHTO/ASTM Standards for the following tests:
   a. Soils Classification, Gradation and Plasticity Index – AASHTO T88, T89, and T90
   b. Moisture Content, AASHTO T265
   c. Specific Gravity, AASHTO T100
   d. Chunk Density, AASHTO T233
   e. Hydrometer, AASHTO T88
   f. Double Hydrometer, ASTM D4221
   g. Pinhole Test, ASTM D4647
   h. pH, AASHTO T289
   i. Moisture-Density Test
      1) Standard, AASHTO T99
      2) Modified, AASHTO T180
   j. Electrical Resistivity, AASHTO T288
   k. Slake Durability, ASTM D4644
   l. Unconfined Compression Test, AASHTO T208
   m. Point Load Test, ASTM D5731
   n. One-Dimensional Consolidation Test, AASHTO T216
   o. Drained Direct Shear Test, AASHTO T236
   p. Triaxial Sheer Test
      1) Unconsolidated Undrained, ASTM D2850
      2) Consolidated Undrained, ASTM D4767
   q. Residual shear strength, ASTM D6467
   r. One Dimensional Swell or Settlement Potential of Cohesive Soils, ASTM D456

2. Classification and description of soils and compaction shales follow the practice as outlined in ASTM D2487 and D2488. For classification purposes, define, test, and report for the following particle size distribution.
   3 in. (75mm)
   ¾ in. (19mm)
   No. 4 (4.75mm)
   No. 10 (2.00mm)
   No. 40 (425mm)
   No. 200 (75mm)
3. A pocket penetrometer or any other “pocket” measurement device shall not be used to determine rock or soil properties for the purposes of this investigation.

**FINAL WRITTEN REPORT:** The final report shall be written by a Geotechnical Engineer with a broad experience and background in engineering for the type of roadway work identified in the project. All pertinent information to be included in the final report is detailed in Appendix 4 – *Guidelines For Preparing Geotechnical Reports*. Appendix 5 provides the *Standard Forms For Reporting Geotechnical Information*.

**REFERENCES**


**SUGGESTED REFERENCES**

Staff. The Geotechnical Engineering Consultant will provide an Oklahoma Registered Professional Engineer (PE) who has at least four (4) years of experience in geotechnical engineering to perform the supervision of field logging & sampling, in situ testing, and laboratory testing. Resumes of the Geotechnical Engineering Consultant’s Geotechnical Engineer and field engineers are to be submitted to the Roadway Design Division for approval. Interviews will be required.

Method of Payment. Unless otherwise specified, the price per unit of work or lump sum item shall include all engineering, labor, personnel, equipment, materials, etc., necessary to complete that unit of work. Failure to follow the procedures as stated will result in non-payment of the unit price item. The most current ASTM or AASHTO test procedure and supporting tests referenced shall be used. The units of work are defined as follows:

1. **Soil Classification.** Soil Classification includes gradation and plasticity index and shall be paid for a unit price per sample. This charge item includes all testing, calculation of Atterberg limits and all related indices, i.e. liquidity index and classification. Samples for soil mechanics and foundation analysis testing shall be performed according to ASTM D 4318 and D 422 test procedures on each sample. Samples for roadway testing shall be performed according to AASHTO T87, T88, T89, and T90 test procedures for each sample. If a hydrometer analysis is needed, it will be paid for under charge item 6A.

2. **Moisture Content.** Moisture Content shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to obtain the sample and perform the test according to ASTM D 2216 and AASHTO T 265. Moisture content required for other tests such as unconfined compression, etc. will be reimbursed under those test costs and will not be paid for under this item.

3. **Specific Gravity.** Specific Gravity shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM 854 and AASHTO T 100.

4. **Chunk Density.** Chunk Density shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to AASHTO T233.

5. **pH test.** pH test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to the ASTM D 4972 and AASHTO T289.
6. **Hydrometer, Double Hydrometer or Pin Hole Tests.** Hydrometer or Pin Hole Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. These charge items shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform each test according to AASHTO T 88, ASTM D 422, D 4221 or ASTM D 4647, respectively.

7. **Electrical Resistivity Test.** Electrical Resistivity Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform the test sample preparation according to AASHTO T 289 and testing according to ASTM G 57 for bridges, or to perform the test sample preparation and testing according to AASHTO T 288 for roadway.

8. **Soluble Sulfate Test.** Soluble Sulfate Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to the OHD L-49 procedures which can be found on the ODOT, Materials Division website. [http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/materials/materials.htm](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/materials/materials.htm)

9. **Slake Durability Test.** Slake Durability Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 4644.

10. **Unconfined Compression Test.** Unconfined Compression Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary for preparation of samples and to perform this test for soil and rock. Preparation and tolerances for rock specimens shall be in accordance with ASTM D 4543 requirements.

    A. UC test of soil and rock according to ASTM D 2166 and ASTM D 2938, respectively.

    B. Uniaxial compression test of intact rock core specimens with axial strain measurement and corresponding Intact Rock Modulus according to ASTM D 3148. The use of linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs) meeting the precision requirements of ASTM D 3148 is acceptable.

11. **Point Load Test.** Point Load Test shall be paid for at a unit price per specimen. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test in accordance with ASTM D 5731.

12. **Moisture-Density Test.** Moisture-Density Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the tests according to AASHTO T 99 Methods A, B, C and D; AASHTO T-180 Methods, A, B, C and D; ASTM D 698 Procedures A, B, and C; and ASTM D 1557 Procedures A, B, and C. Each test will include a minimum of five (5) moisture/density points.
13. **One-Dimensional Consolidation Test.** One-Dimensional Consolidation Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 2435.

14. **Drained Direct Shear Test.** Drained Direct Shear Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test for cohesionless soil and cohesive soils, respectively. These charge items shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 3080. Each test will include a minimum of three (3) points.

15. **Triaxial Shear.** Triaxial Shear Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test for unconsolidated undrained and consolidated drained with pore pressure measurement, respectively. These charge items shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 2850 and D 4767. Each test will include a minimum of three (3) points.

16. **Resilient Modulus Test.** Resilient Modulus Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to AASHTO T 307.

17. **Swell and Swell Pressure Test.** Swell and Swell Pressure Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 4546.

18. **Geotechnical Drilling.** Geotechnical Drilling shall be paid from top of ground to bottom of the hole at a unit price per foot for soil, soft rock and shale, and hard rock, respectively. These charge items shall include all operations and materials necessary to advance the hole. This includes borings for sampling and testing by means of the Standard Penetration Test split spoon sampler, thin-walled tube sampler, and the Texas Cone Penetrometer. Sampling techniques shall be performed according to ASTM D 1586 and D 1587 respectively. Hard rock coring shall be performed in accordance with ASTM D 2113.

19. **Standard Penetration Test.** Standard Penetration Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM D 1586.

20. **Texas Cone Penetration Test, TCPT.** Texas Cone Penetration Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test as outlined in the Specifications for Geotechnical Investigation.
21. **Dynamic Cone Penetration Test, DCPT.** Dynamic Cone Penetration Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM D 6951.

22. **Thin-Walled Tube Sample.** Thin-Walled Tube sampling shall be paid for at a unit price per sample. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM D 1587.

23. **Mechanical and Electrical Friction Cone and Piezocone, Penetration Testing of Soils.** Mechanical and Electrical Friction Cone and Piezocone, Penetration Testing of Soils shall be paid from top of ground to the depth at refusal at a unit price per foot of cone advancement. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to ASTM D 3441 and D 5778.

24. **Pressuremeter Test.** Pressuremeter Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM D 4719.

25. **Dilatometer Test.** Dilatometer Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the test according to ASTM D 6635.

26. **Seismic Test.** Seismic Test shall be paid for at a unit price per shot point along each survey spread. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform seismic tests according to the following criteria:

   A. (A. & B.)
   
   Engineering Surveys to accurately profile geologic layers (bedrock and/or water table) and to determine depths to layers. For engineering surveys, at least five shot points per spread are required with a forward, reverse, beyond end shots, and at least one intermediate shot. Shot points and geophones will be surveyed for vertical and horizontal control. Short geophone spacing and sufficient number of shot points will be required to achieve overlapping reciprocal arrivals necessary for accurate depth to refractor determination.

   B. (B. & C.)
   
   Rippability Surveys to determine seismic velocities for rippability assessment. For rippability surveys, at least two shot points per spread are required with a forward and reverse shot. If bore hole data is not available to establish a geological profile, more rigorous field procedures described above for Engineering Surveys will be required to profile geologic layers.
27. **Monitoring Well.** Monitoring Well shall be paid for at unit price per foot of well installed. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to install monitoring wells according to ASTMD D 5092. Monitoring wells shall include a locking protective cover, and be constructed of 2” minimum ID PVC flush thread casing with factory slotted PVC screen. The unit price does not include drilling. Drilling shall be paid for at the contract unit price for Geotechnical Drilling. The unit price includes development of the well, and a water table reading after completion of the well according to ASTM D 4750.

28. **Field Permeability Test.** Field Permeability Test shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform this test according to procedure identified in the AASHTO Manual Subsurface Investigations, subsection B.6.3 as either a falling head, constant head or rising head test with further reference to Hvorslev (1951).

29. **Water Sampling and Testing.** Water Sampling and Testing shall be paid for at a unit price per test. This charge item shall include all operations and materials necessary to perform the sampling and testing outlined in the Specifications for Geotechnical Investigation.

30. **Hole Abandonment.** Hole Abandonment shall be paid for at a unit price per foot for borings that penetrate the groundwater table. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to decommission boreholes according to the most current specifications: AASHTO R-22 and Specifications 785:35-11-2 of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Requisitions. The unit price includes abandonment and decommissioning of geotechnical exploratory boreholes and monitoring wells.

31. **Dozer Working Time.** Dozer Working Time (including operator) shall be paid for at a unit per hour of dozer working time. Mobilization (includes demobilization) costs for the dozer and operation shall be paid at the hourly rate for a maximum of four hours for each project.

32. **Traffic Control.** Traffic Control shall be paid for as a lump sum for mobilization and a unit rate per day. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform traffic control according to Chapter IV of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices when performing testing and investigative operations on mainline paving such as FWD testing, pavement coring, and in-place subgrade sampling of existing pavement sections. Charges for this work must be negotiated for each task order.

33. **TowBoat/Barge.** Towboat/Barge and its crew shall be paid as a lump sum for mobilization and unit rate per day. Charges for this work must be negotiated for each task order.
34. **Mobilization of Equipment.** Mobilization of Equipment shall be paid for at unit price per mile. Round trip mileage shall be computed from Oklahoma City, Tulsa, or the actual location of equipment, whichever is less. This includes mobilization and demobilization of all equipment necessary to perform the subsurface investigation.

35. **Engineering.** Engineering shall be paid for at a unit price per hour. This charge item includes all operations and materials necessary to perform Engineering Analyses as outlined below in items A-C. It also includes all items and operations necessary for preparing and writing reports, drafting, making recommendations and other correspondence.

   A. **Slope Stability Analyses.** Each analysis shall reference the analysis method and software used and include the accompanying factor of safety obtained

   B. **Settlement Analyses.** Each analysis shall include ultimate settlement and time rate of settlement calculations. In the case of spread footings, the analysis shall include all calculations necessary to size the footing. Analyses shall be presented in the form of a drawing to show the embankment or footing, the soil layers, parameters and all the calculations. Surcharge loading and/or wick drain analyses shall also be considered where applicable.

   C. **Seismic Analyses.** Several hand methods and computer modeling programs are available for refraction analysis. If significant surface or bedrock relief is present, computer analysis will be required. If hand methods are used, at least two different methods shall be used with one method being the “Delayed Time” method. For Engineering Surveys, velocities of each layer and geologic profile with depths to each layer under every shot point and geophone shall be determined. For Rippability Surveys, velocities of each layer and a general geologic profile shall be determined. An assessment of rippability shall be presented.

   D. **Report Preparation.** As a minimum, each report will address those items required in the most current ODOT Geotechnical Specifications. Activities under this item include boring location plan preparation, drafting of boring location plan, and writing and typing the text of the report.

   E. **Miscellaneous Analysis.** This item is for other analyses not specifically outlined above. The unit price shall be on an hourly basis. The scope of the specific analysis will be included in each task order.

36. **Miscellaneous Labor, Materials and Equipment as required to meet Section 404 Requirements.** Miscellaneous Labor, Materials and Equipment as required to meet Section 404 Requirements shall be paid for on a lump sum basis. This charge item shall include all miscellaneous labor, materials, and equipment necessary to complete the
work, i.e., erosion control measures such as hay bales. Charges for this work must be negotiated for each task order.

37. Pavement Deflection Testing, Pavement Evaluation and Pavement Coring. Pavement Deflection Testing, Pavement Evaluation, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), and Pavement Coring shall be paid for under items for mobilization/use of equipment, pavement coring, distress identification, GPR, and deflection testing. Traffic Control will be paid for under item 31. Mobilization/use of pavement coring equipment shall be paid for at a unit price per day. Mobilization/use of distress identification equipment, GPR equipment, and deflection testing equipment (FWD) shall be paid on a unit rate basis. Charges for this work must be reviewed and approved by ODOT prior to performing any work associated with this item. Pavement Coring shall be paid for at a unit price for asphalt pavement cores and unit price for concrete cores. Composite Cores shall be paid for at a unit price for Concrete Cores. This includes all operations and materials to cut 4 or 6 inch (100 or 150mm) diameter cores and repair core holes. Concrete pavement shall be repaired with grout and asphalt pavement shall be repaired with cold patch. Distress Identification shall be based on 10% sampling and shall identify distress types and severities as detailed in the FHWA publication No. FHWA-RD-03-031 “Distress Identification Manual for the Long Term Pavement Performance Program”. Distress Identification, GPR testing, FWD testing and data analysis including the identification of uniform sections and back calculations of pavement layer moduli using the latest version of Modulus and/or AASHTO, shall be paid as for each Lane-Mile tested.

38. Site Access. Site Access shall be paid at a unit price per hour while someone is on site for purposes such as securing access to private property or obtaining water level readings in a previously completed monitoring well. There shall also be a unit price per mile which includes travel time and vehicle mileage costs. Round trip mileage shall be computed from Oklahoma City, Tulsa, or the actual location of personnel whichever is less.

39. Pedological Research/Assessment. Pedological Research/Assessment shall be paid at a unit price per hour. This item is for a “Desk Top” evaluation of mapped soils and units crossed by the proposed alignment. Work under this item includes plotting the proposed alignment on the County Soil survey map and determining which mapped units will be crossed. The NRCS national database is to be used as a resource in obtaining the most current soil series descriptions.

40. Survey for New Alignment Borings. Surveys to locate geotechnical borings for projects on new alignment shall be paid as a lump sum and will be negotiated for each task order. The survey coordinates shall be referenced to plan stations and elevations.
APPENDIX 1. - GUIDELINES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PROVIDING SOIL CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Purposes: The purpose of these guidelines is to describe a systematic practice for providing a Pedological Survey report. These guidelines will include methods for providing the most up to date and meaningful soil classification information. Soil samples are to be taken from within named, mapped units as contained in County Soil Survey report. Every soil series associated with the named map unit(s) is to be sampled and tested. Therefore, for proper and current classification of the sampled soil, a copy of the official soil series description must be provided. The description includes the classification. The included description shall be the most current version of the sampled soil series as certified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Services (SCS). For example, a 1968 soil survey report map unit symbol CrE, red clay land, “probably has been recorrelated to “Vernon clay loam, 8-20% slopes, “ or similar soil series. Thus, an official copy of the Vernon soil series is to be provided in the pedological report. If in the extent of alignment the map unit repeats a soil series, it need not be sampled again. However, borings must be made in the subsequent map unit to verify that the soil series is indeed the same within the allowable ranges as stated in the official soil series description paragraph, “Range in Characteristics.”

Scope. This method covers that portion of the Pedological system used for identification and classification of natural soil profiles in their undisturbed state as developed in their natural environment. This system includes topographic and drainage characteristics as well as those particular features that are influenced by broader climatic factors, such as temperature and rainfall.

Soil Profile:

1. A vertical cross section of soil layers constitutes the soil profile which is composed of six master horizon layers designated O, A, E, B, C, and R.

2. The O horizon is a surface horizon dominated by organic matter. It is composed of partially decomposed leaves, needles, twigs, etc., left on the surface. Soils of forested areas of southeastern Oklahoma commonly contain O horizons.

3. The A horizon is the usual topsoil layer. It is dark by virtue of an accumulation of organic matter but is not dominated by it. It is mostly mineral matter. This layer is usually present in all Oklahoma soils.

4. The E horizon is a subsurface horizon. It’s the leached horizon. It’s usually lighter in color than the A or the underlying B horizon. It contains predominantly uncoated sand and silt particles. These layers are common in flat-lying clay soils and forested soils of the eastern ½ of Oklahoma.

5. The B horizon is a subsurface horizon. It’s often called the subsoil. It is a layer or accumulation of silicate clay, iron, aluminum, humus, carbonates, gypsum, or silica or combinations of these. In most Oklahoma soils the accumulation of clay causes the B horizon to be “heavy” or more clayey than the above horizons. Often a fairly new soil
will have a B horizon that it is just forming and will have a structure B prior to the many years it takes for clay, etc. accumulation to occur.

6. The C horizon lies below the B horizon and is little affected by the processes that formed the horizons above. It’s usually unconsolidated or un cemented and related to the horizons above. However; it may not be related to the horizons above. It could be alluvial sediment or weakly cemented rock.

7. The R horizon is hard bedrock. If the R horizon is shale, it’s still usually too firm to be easily dug with hand tools. Shale is usually rippable, other rock types are generally not.

8. Transitional layers are common. These include AB, EB, BE, or BC. These occur in soils with thick transition layers in which the properties of one horizon dominates over the other. They generally occur in deep, gently sloping to flat soils.

**Soil Classification:**

1. The primary purpose of soil classification is to describe a soil in sufficient detail to permit engineers to recognize features significant to design and if need be, to obtain samples in the field.

2. Highway engineers have found that the soil classification system with its wide range of soil information could be used in the general identification of soil, after which he could classify the various soil materials for engineering purposes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture classification system is used primarily for agronomic purposes. However, after testing and correlation with engineering properties and performance, it then becomes a system of classification suitable for use by the highway, railroad, or airport engineer.

**USDA Classification System:**

1. This system of soil classification or identification is based on the fact that soils with the same weather (rainfall and temperature rages), the same topography (hillside, hilltop, valley, etc.), and the same drainage characteristics (water-table height, speed of drainage, etc.) will grow the same type of vegetation (either oaks or bluestem grasses or a combination) and will generally be the same kind of soil.

2. This classification system is important basically because a subgrade or a particular soil series, horizon and particle size (texture) will perform the same wherever it occurs since such important factors as rainfall, freezing, groundwater table, capillarity of the soil, etc., are factors in the identification and classification. This is the only system which directly employs these important factors. Its value and use can be extended widely as soon as the engineering properties, such as load-carrying capacity, susceptibility to moisture change, or general performance has been established for a particular soils series. This is because soils of the same particle size, horizon and series name are the same and will, under comparable conditions, behave the same wherever they occur. Thus, engineers operating within designated soil geographic regions, after identifying similar soils, through the system, could exchange accurate pavement-design and other performance data.
3. The classification currently being used is described in the 2nd Edition of “Soil Taxonomy” 1999, as shown below.

**SOIL ORDERS COMMONLY FOUND IN OKLAHOMA BY AREA RANKING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Formative Syllable</th>
<th>Derivation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mollisols</td>
<td>oll</td>
<td>mollis, soft topsoil</td>
<td>dark topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfisols</td>
<td>alf</td>
<td>pale, thin, topsoil</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inceptisol</td>
<td>ept</td>
<td>inception</td>
<td>new soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultisol</td>
<td>ult</td>
<td>last, ultimate</td>
<td>old soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entisol</td>
<td>ent</td>
<td>recent</td>
<td>very new soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertisol</td>
<td>ert</td>
<td>vertical</td>
<td>heaving/swelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aridisols</td>
<td>id</td>
<td>arid</td>
<td>dry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mollisols are the prairie soils and thus are the most common in Oklahoma, occupying about 18 million acres. Alfisols occupy about half of that or 9.8 million acres. Inceptisols and Ultisols occupy 6.1 and 4.0 million acres respectively. The remaining are the Entisols, Vertisols, and Aridisols, which occupy 2.6, 0.59, and 0.25 million acres respectively.

Other soil Orders that are not commonly found in Oklahoma include Gelisols (frozen soils), Spodosols (wood ash), Andisols (volcanic, e.g. ash, lava), Oxisols (tropical conditions), and Histosols (organic matter, bogs).

4. Soils Orders are subdivided into Suborders, Groups, Subgroups, Families, Series, and Phases. Each classification has significance for engineering. These subgroupings are based on such things as water tables, moisture regimes, and particle sizes.

5. Suborders are based on those characteristics that seem to produce genetic similarities. The suborders narrow the broad climatic range permitted in the orders. The soil properties used to separate suborders mainly reflect either the presence or absence of the water table or soil differences resulting from the climate and vegetation. The suborders have names composed of only two syllables. For example, Aquolls are the Mollisols resulting from high water tables (aquic + oll = wet Mollisol), while the Udolls are the moist Mollisols because of a moist climate (udic + oll = moist Mollisol). These suborder names are the endings of the great groups in each suborder.

6. Groups or “Great Groups” are divided on the basis of uniformity in the kinds and sequences of major soil horizons and features. The horizons on which the divisions are based are those in which clay, iron, or humus has accumulated. The features on which the divisions are based are the properties of clays, soil temperature, and major differences in chemical composition (mainly calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium). Another syllable or two is added in front of the suborder name to indicate how each great group differs from others in the same suborder. The name of each group is the last word in the name of the subgroup. An example of a Great Group
names would be Argiaquoll. An Argiaquoll is a wet, prairie soil that has a clay accumulation B (subsoil) horizon.

7. Groups are divided into subgroups. One of the subgroups in each great group represents the central (typic) segment or concept of the group and the others, called intergrades, have properties of another great group, suborder or order. Subgroups may also be made in those instances where soil properties intergrade outside the range of any other great group, suborder, or order. The names of subgroups are derived by placing one or more adjectives before the name of the great group. An example classification is: Typic Hapludalf. Thus, a Typic = typical, Hapl = minimum horizon development, ud = moist; alf = Alfisol soil order. So, the names are connotative of major properties of the kinds of soil included in each category. The names also indicate how they are related to each higher classification category.

8. Subgroups are divided into families primarily on the basis of properties imported to the growth of the plants or to the behavior of soils used in engineering. Among the properties considered important are texture (particle size distribution), mineralogy, reaction, soil temperature, permeability, thickness or horizons, and consistence. Each family name also shows the placement of these soils in every higher category of the system and tells how the family differs from other families in the subgroup. For example, the Miami series is in the “fine-loamy, mixed active mesic” family of Oxyaquic Hapludalfs. This means that their subsoils contain 18 to 35% clay (fine Loamy) a mixture of minerals (mixed), the ratio of cation exchange capacity over clay content percentage of the soils is between 0.40 and 0.60 (active), and has a mean annual soil temperature between 47 and 59 degrees F (mesic). Oxyaquic connotes redox features (mottles) in the upper part of the B horizon and is saturated for short periods during each year. The Hapludalf great group has a minimum number of horizons characteristic of the Udalf suborder and are the more moist soils in the Alfisol order.

9. Soils within each family are divided into soil series and the soil series are further broken down into soils phases. Similar soils within a family that developed in the same age, climate, vegetation, and local environment acting on parent material are given a soil series designation. All soil profiles of a certain soil series are similar in all respects with the exception of possible variation of slope or particle size distribution (texture) of the surface horizon. The soil series were originally named after a town, county, stream or similar geographical source, such as “Clarita” or “Denise”, where the soil was first identified and mapped. There are many exceptions today. For instance, a Gasil soil series is related to the Galey soil series but there is no such location as “Gasil”.

10. The texture of the surface soil or A horizon may vary slightly within the same soil series. The soil mapping unit is therefore a result of subdividing into the final classification unit, which includes the soil series name, surface texture and slope or other observable surface characteristic useful for describing map delineations. The description of the slope, stoniness, and similar easily observable surface features is called the soil phase. This was formerly called the soil type. For example, if the texture of the A horizon of an Enterprise soil series is very fine sandy loam, then the soil map unit will be described as an Enterprise very fine sandy loam. Other landscape observable characteristics, such as
slopes, or stoniness will be phase criteria. Thus the Enterprise map unit or soil phase may now be described an Enterprise very fine sandy loam, 5-20 percent slopes.

11. The description of the soil series provides the key to identification and classification. It gives the significant characteristics involved in most design, construction, and maintenance problems. Characteristics of importance are the nature of the parent material, including geological origin, texture, and chemical constituents. No less important are environmental conditions which influence soil behavior. Local environment including topography, drainage, and location of the ground water table are dominating factors. For instance, a soil map unit soil series name classified as a “fine, smectitic, superactive, thermic Udic Haplustert” can quickly state that the soil is shrinking/swelling soil (ert), on the dry side but moist in the growing season, commonly cracking and containing slickensides (ust + Udic), and has minimal horizon development (Hapl). The term thermic denotes a warm temperature regime, 47 to 59 degrees F, smectitic denotes the dominant clay mineral type, namely smectite (an expansive clay type), superactive is the ration of cation exchange capacity over clay content, and fine indicates a soil high in clay content. Fine describes particle size and amount; in this case the clay content of the soil massive is less than 60 per cent. Thus, classification with its subsequent interpretation gives strong clues toward the engineering properties and performance of a given soil series.

12. The classification is present in every official soil series description obtained from the NRCS database web site. This is why it’s important to identify and sample the correct soil series within map unit.

13. If the Pedological investigator encounters a significant extent of a soil dissimilar or not fitting the one described for the map unit, the soils(s) is to be sampled according to the convention set forth in Appendix 3. Such dissimilar soils are called “inclusions”. For example, the soil inclusion may be described and labeled as “red clay soil similar to Vernon clay loam occurring in the KaA, Kirkland silt loam 0-1% slope, map unit”. Make sure the location is properly noted, e.g. Station 457 + 16, 11 feet right of CL. Horizons of the inclusion are to be estimated as closely as possible, labeled, and samples taken and submitted for laboratory analysis.

The Role of NRCS: All of Oklahoma has been mapped by the NRCS. The more recently published surveys have the soil series classifications listed therein. Copies of the county soil survey reports are available in the counties where the construction activity is to take place. These can be obtained at the local county NRCS filed offices or the County Cooperative Extension Office. These are usually located in the county seat cities. The reports contain maps based on aerial photographs. If copies are not available in the counties, then contact the NRCS State Soil Scientist in Stillwater, OK to locate a source of the required information.


The county soil survey reports, with their included maps, are the basic publications for discovering the soil series at a given location or roadway alignment. The NRCS is constantly working to update and recorrelate the soil series in Oklahoma. The most current NRCS county
soil legend must be used to ensure that the mapped unit(s) and its classification and sampling are current to the date of the Pedological report.

Locating a current legend can be done in at least three ways:
   1) By contacting the local NRCS field office, usually in the county seat,
   2) By contacting the Geotechnical Branch, Materials Division, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 200 NE 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, phone (405) 522-4998 or,
   3) By calling the NRCS State Soil Scientist

Please provide to them the county, map symbol, and soil series name. They will provide, from soils legend, the most current unit name.

Once the current soil series name has been attained, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service database to obtain the most current official soil series description(s). Their web site address is: http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/osd/index.html. Select the category “soil series by name”. Descriptions of the Soil Series are to be included in the Pedological report.

**Summary:** The Pedological Survey report consists of the following required elements:

1. Aerial photographs at 1:20,000 scale, (or the scale as utilized by NRCS in their county soils reports) with delineated map units and proposed location or CRL/CL alignment plotted thereon (reproduction from county soil survey report) are required. Obtaining copies of Digital Orthophoto Quad sheets, at a website address of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, may allow a greater accuracy and ease of plotting.

2. The traversed distance of each alphabetized map unit is to be summed and reported in feet.

3. A set of official soil series description sheets from the official NRCS national database source (Iowa State) is to be included. These are for the soil series found along the alignment extent or at the location of interest.

4. A numerical listing in alphabetical order of the soil series found long the alignment and their classification is to be provided in the report, for example: 1. Burleson Soil Series, Fine, smectitic, thermic, Udic Haplustert.

5. Soil samples from all horizons, according to the official soil series description, are to be taken. Also, a large composite sample of the major horizons, excluding the A horizon, are to be taken and listed. The sampling method is described in paragraph 1.c. of the Geotechnical Specifications for Roadway Design. This is to be done for each soil series present along the alignment. The samples are then to be submitted to a certified laboratory for testing.

6. The required laboratory tests for the above samples as listed in paragraphs 1.f. and 1.g. of the Geotechnical Specifications for Roadway Design.
APPENDIX 2. - GUIDELINES FOR ANALYSIS, BORING, SAMPLING, AND TESTING

Purposes: These guidelines provide the basic criteria for:
  (1) Geotechnical engineering analysis for roadway embankments and retaining walls
  (2) Boring, sampling and testing
These guidelines are intended to provide, to the Geotechnical Engineer, a minimum approach to providing geotechnical information based upon the various soil types encountered at the project location. The Geotechnical Engineer is not limited to these guidelines if site conditions warrant the need for further sampling, testing, and/or analysis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Classification</th>
<th>Embankment and Cut Slopes</th>
<th>Retaining Walls</th>
<th>Lateral Earth Pressure</th>
<th>Stability Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slope Stability(2) Analysis</td>
<td>Embankment Settlement Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified AASHTO(1)</td>
<td>Soil Type</td>
<td>GW A-1-a Gravel well graded</td>
<td>Settlement analysis generally not required except possibly for SC soils.</td>
<td>GW, SP, SW, &amp; SP soils generally suitable for backfill behind or in retaining or reinforced soil walls. GM, GC, SM, &amp; SC soils generally suitable if have less than 15% fines. Lateral earth pressure analysis required using soil angle of internal friction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GP A-1-a Gravel poorly graded</td>
<td>Stability analysis required if cut or fill slope is 1-1/2 Horizontal or flatter and water table in cut slope is drawn down by underdrains. Erosion of slopes may be a problem for SW or SM soils.</td>
<td>All walls should be designed to provide minimum F.S. =2 against overturning and minimum F.S. =1.5 against sliding along base. External slope stability considerations same as previously given for cut slopes and embankments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GM A-1-b Gravel silty</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>These soils are not recommended for use directly behind or in retaining or reinforced soil walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GC A-2-6 Gravel clayey</td>
<td>Stability analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SW A-1-b Sand well graded</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SP A-3 Sand poorly graded</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SM A-2-4 Sand silty</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SC A-2-6 Sand clayey</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ML A-4 Silt inorganic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
<td>Settlement analysis required unless non-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CL A-6 Clay inorganic</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OL A-4 Silt</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TABLE 1: GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING ANALYSIS REQUIRED FOR EMBANKMENTS, AND RETAINING WALLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Classification</th>
<th>Embankment and Cut Slopes</th>
<th>Retaining Walls Conventional, Crib &amp; Reinforced Soil</th>
<th>Lateral Earth Pressure</th>
<th>Stability Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unified AASHTO(1)</td>
<td>Soil Type</td>
<td>Stability Analysis(2)</td>
<td>Embankment Settlement Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH A-5 Silt inorganic</td>
<td>Stability Analysis required</td>
<td>Erosion of Slopes may be a problem</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>These soils are not recommended for use directly behind or in retaining walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH A-7 Clay inorganic “fat clays”</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>All walls should be designed to provide minimum F.S. =2 against overturning and minimum F.S. =1.5 against sliding along base. External slope stability considerations same as previously given for cut slopes and embankments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH A-7 Clay organic</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT --- PEAT</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Long-term settlement can be significant.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>Fills-Analysis not required for slopes 1-1/2 Horizontal to 1 Vertical or Flatter. Cuts-Analysis required but depends on spacing, orientation, and strength of discontinuities, durability of the rock.</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Lateral earth pressure analysis required using rock backfill angle of internal friction.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMARKS:**
Soils - Temporary ground water control may be needed for foundation excavation in GW through SM soils.
Rock - Durability of shales (silt-stones, clay-stones, mud-stones, etc.) to be used in fills, should be checked. Non-durable shales should be embanked as soils, i.e., placed in maximum 12” looses & compacted with heavy sheepsfoot or grid rollers.

(1) Approximate correlation to United (Unified Soil Classification system is preferred for geotechnical engineering usage – AASHTO system was developed for rating pavement subgrades).

(2) These are general guidelines – detailed slope stability analysis may not be required where past experience in area in similar soils or rock gives required slope angles.
### TABLE 2: GUIDELINE “MINIMUM” BORING, SAMPLING AND TESTING CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sand-Gravel Soils</th>
<th>Silty-Clay Soils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPT</strong> (split-spoon) samples should be taken at 5-foot (2m) intervals (2m) Intervals or at significant changes in soil strata.</td>
<td><strong>SPT</strong> and “undisturbed” thin wall tube samples should be taken at 5 foot (2m) intervals or at significant changes in strata. Take alternate <strong>SPT</strong> and thin wall tube samples in the same boring or take thin wall tube samples in a separate undisturbed boring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPT** jar or bag samples shall be taken for classification testing and verification soil identifications.  

**SPT** jar or bag samples shall be taken for classification testing and verification of field visual soil identification.  

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**SPT** jar or bag samples shall be taken for classification testing and verification of field visual soil identification.

**Ground Water**

Continuous cores should be obtained in rock or shales using double or triple tube core barrels.

Thin wall tube samples should be sent to the lab to conduct consolidation testing (for settlement analysis) and strength testing (for slope stability and foundation bearing capacity analysis).

Field vane shear testing is also recommended to obtain in-place sheer strength of soft clays, silts, and well rotted peats.

Water level encountered during drilling, at completion of boring, and at 24 hours after completion of boring should be recorded on boring log.

In low permeability soils such as silts and clays, a false indication of the water level may be obtained when water is used for drilling fluid and adequate time is not permitted after hole completion for the water level to stabilize (more than one week may be required). In such soils a plastic pipe water observation well shall be installed to allow monitoring of the water level over a period of time.

Artesian pressure and seepage zones, if encountered, should also be noted on the boring logs.

The top foot or so of the annual space between water observation well pipes and boreable wall should be backfilled with grout, bentonite, or sand-cement mixture to prevent surface water inflow which can cause erroneous groundwater level readings.

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**Rock**

Continuous cores should be obtained in rock or shales using double or triple tube core barrels.

In structural foundation investigations, core a minimum of 10 feet (3m) into rock to insure it is bedrock and not a boulder.

Core samples should be sent to the lab for possible strength testing (unconfined compression) for foundation investigation.

Percent core recovery and **RQD** value should be determined in field or lab for each core run and recorded on boring log.

---

**Ground Water**

In low permeability soils such as silts and clays, a false indication of the water level may be obtained when water is used for drilling fluid and adequate time is not permitted after hole completion for the water level to stabilize (more than one week may be required). In such soils a plastic pipe water observation well shall be installed to allow monitoring of the water level over a period of time.

Artesian pressure and seepage zones, if encountered, should also be noted on the boring logs.

The top foot or so of the annual space between water observation well pipes and boreable wall should be backfilled with grout, bentonite, or sand-cement mixture to prevent surface water inflow which can cause erroneous groundwater level readings.
APPENDIX 3. - STANDARD GUIDE FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE GEOLOGICAL ROCK FORMATIONS OF OKLAHOMA

This guide provides standard methods of describing geologic rock formations as required by the Materials Division of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). These descriptions shall be of such quality and quantity as to provide complete and accurate rock type information useful to ODOT.

This guide is to be used to describe various sedimentary and igneous consolidated rock formations, henceforth called “units,” in the State of Oklahoma. Such units are exposed at the earth’s surface as well as in borings. These rock units may lie exposed naturally, undisturbed by man or be present in man-made cuts, pits, ditches, or similar features. Loose uncompacted earth materials, such as alluvium, are considered unconsolidated and are not included in this guide.

In addition, this guide applies to descriptions of rock types as recovered from drill bit cuttings, or as observed in cores. It is structured such that the description of rock characteristics most pertinent to the construction or repair of ODOT facilities is emphasized. Other more detailed terms may be used to describe obvious features of the rock units; i.e. carbonaceous, veins, mottles, or fissures, but they must be defined in the “Glossary of Geology” (1). The person or persons using this guide to describe rock types must be a geologist, geological engineer, civil engineer, or a trained, experienced, qualified individual that has been certified by the ODOT Materials Division or other approved designated authority.

Geographic locations of the geological log or outcroppings must be described from plans by Station to the nearest foot and tenth, when such information is available. A minimum of a legal description accurate to the nearest 100 ft. is required when plans or other detailed location information is not available. Global Positioning System (GPS) locations are acceptable. All locations shall be referenced to plan station and offset. Elevations of the ground surface to the nearest tenth of a foot are required for all borings. As a minimum, all boring logs shall include the following ancillary information:

1. Stratigraphic location, to nearest 0.1 foot, of any sample(s) or tests taken.
2. Name of contractor
3. Name of logger
4. Core or hole diameter, in inches
5. Boring number
6. Date drilled or logged
7. Bit type
8. Method of drilling
When cores are taken, identify the Rock Quality Designation (RQD) according ASTM D 6032. For continuous core sampling, use the Rock Mass Ratings (Geomechanics Classification) procedure identified in ASTM D 5878. The following is a list of the rock characterization elements to be used in describing the rock units. The elements describing the character of rock types are to be presented in the report in the order listed.

1. Rock Type (Lithology)
2. Color
3. Thickness
4. Gradation
5. Texture
6. Pores
7. Cementation
8. Hardness
9. Layering (or bedding)
10. Joints

Not all of the above elements will be present at a given site. The type of construction being considered, the character of the rock encountered, and the method of investigation are examples of situations that will dictate the elements used to describe the rock (unit(s) in the report.

**Types and Descriptions of Rock**

The term lithology pertains to the rock type being observed and described. The following rock descriptions represent the rock types or lithologies commonly found in Oklahoma. They occur as outcroppings or as recovered in cores. These example descriptions are to be included in the Geotechnical Report. The most common rock types are listed first.

1. **Shale.** Shales are fine grained sedimentary rocks consisting of compacted and hardened clay, silt or a combination of the two particle sizes. Shales normally contain at least 67% clay, with the remainder being silt with a chemical or crystalline material acting as a cementing agent. Shales are by far the most common of the sedimentary rocks. They are usually identified in the field by their laminated or fissile appearance. Shales can be any color. They are usually gray, brown, olive, or black in the eastern half of Oklahoma and shades of red often with greenish-gray spots or layers in western Oklahoma. The reddish shales of western Oklahoma commonly do not exhibit strong laminations but are more massive or blocky in appearance. They usually exhibit a smooth, sometimes waxy feel.

2. **Sandstone.** Sandstones are medium grained, consolidated, sedimentary rocks composed primarily of 85-90% quartz grains and 10-15% of a cementing agent such as
calcium carbonate which will fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution (HCL, 1 part concentrated hydrochloric acid in three parts distilled water) or more commonly, silica. The cementing medium commonly contains minor amounts of silt and/or clay. The quartz grains are sand sized and can be seen with the naked eye. Sandstones are commonly reddish in western Oklahoma. In eastern Oklahoma, sandstone is most commonly brown to yellowish but many are gray. They usually exhibit a gritty feel.

3. **Limestone.** Limestones are sedimentary rocks consisting of more than 95% of the mineral calcite (calcium carbonate). The remaining 5% is commonly dolomite. They occur in beds or layers. They may contain minor amounts of chert (silica), clay, pyrite, feldspar, and siderite. They will fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. They may be massive or contain visible fossils. They may increase in fossil content to the point of being composed entirely of fossil shells of various types and sizes. These are common in southeastern Oklahoma. Limestones are most commonly whitish or cream in color but range through brown and red, to black. Limestones are commonly hard but may be soft and chalky.

4. **Gypsum.** Gypsum is a rock composed of the mineral gypsum, which is hydrous calcium sulfate. Gypsum occurs as massive layers or beds. It normally does not contain any particles of sand, silt, or clay. It is white in color and may occasionally contain streaks of reddish brown. Gypsum is softer than limestone and will not fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. Gypsum is found in the western half of Oklahoma.

5. **Anhydrite.** Anhydrite is a rock similar to gypsum. It occurs in beds or layers. It is composed of calcium sulfate without the water of hydration, which is present in gypsum. Anhydrite is slightly harder than gypsum but still a soft rock. Anhydrite generally has the same appearance as gypsum and occurs associated with gypsum in western Oklahoma.

6. **Siltstone.** Siltstones are consolidated sedimentary rocks that contain at least 70% silt sized particles with the remainder being clay size particles. They can be any color. They usually appear flaggy to thin bedded but are not as fissile as shales. Siltstones are usually soft but may occasionally be hard.

7. **Conglomerate.** Conglomerates are consolidated sedimentary rocks that contain rounded to subangular fragments larger than sand size (2mm). They appear to be a “gravelstone”. Often the particles range up to small boulder (12 inch) size. The particles are usually rounded to subrounded. The matrix is commonly silt and sand
cemented by calcium carbonate (which will fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution), iron oxide, silica, or clay. Conglomerates are usually brownish to reddish in color. They are usually found in massive beds and associated with sandstones. Conglomerates are usually hard but range from soft to hard. They are named by the composition of the “gravel” fragments. For example, if the gravel-sized material is mostly limestone, the rock is described as a limestone conglomerate.

8. **Dolomite.** Dolomite is a sedimentary rock that contains more than 50% of the mineral dolomite, which is a calcium/magnesium carbonate, CaMg(CO3). Dolomite commonly contains more than 90% dolomite with the remaining percentage being calcite. It will not fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. However, it will fizz if powdered (e.g. with knife scratches or similar techniques). Dolomite commonly occurs with limestones or interlayered with limestones. Most Oklahoma dolomite is white, ranging to light gray or sometimes slightly pinkish. Dolomite is commonly hard, durable rock. Dolomite occurs in all areas of Oklahoma except the panhandle.

9. **Caliche.** Caliche is a rock-like soil deposit of the high plains of northwestern Oklahoma. It is calcareous and will fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. It may contain various amounts of gravel, sand, silt, and clay locally. Caliche occurs as a 2 to 3 ft thick bed or layer at or near the soil surface. Sometimes the caliche is degraded and soft, being easily dug with a knife. Caliche is usually whitish or light gray.

10. **Granite.** Granite is an igneous rock (not bedded) that is hard, dense and crystalline. The rock is composed of crystals of quarts, feldspar, and a minor amount of dark minerals. Feldspar gives granite its color. Colors range from salmon in the Wichita Mountains of southwestern Oklahoma, light reddish purple in the Tishomingo area, to grayish in the Arbuckles. Weathered granite is usually whitish and soft.

11. **Gabbro, Anorthosite, Prophyry, and Basalt.** These rocks are igneous and similar in physical properties and mode of occurrence to granite. These are all hard dense rocks that are not bedded, except basalt, which appears as a lava flow atop Black Mesa in the extreme northwestern tip of Cimarron County in the panhandle. The other rocks occur in association with granite. Gabbros are hard, dark to black colored rocks occurring in masses or veins. Anorthosites are composed primarily of feldspar. In Oklahoma They are hard, dark grayish and also occur in masses or veins. Porphyry is a hard, coarsely crystalline rock with the same mineral content as granite or any other igneous rock.

12. **Chert.** Chert (sometimes called flint) is a very hard, dense, siliceous sedimentary rock. Chert consists of interlocking invisible microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline quartz
crystals of less than 30 µm. Chert has a splintery fracture. It commonly occurs as nodules or concretions in limestones. Chert only occasionally occurs in beds. It will not fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. This is commonly medium to dark gray but due to impurities, may be brown, black, reddish, or whitish. Chert is more commonly found in northeastern Oklahoma.

These rock types are not always pure. For example: Sandstones may contain more than just sand grains. If it contains a calcareous matrix or cementing agent, then it should be called limy or calcareous sandstone. If limestone is composed mostly of whole or broken fossils, it should be described as a fossiliferous, etc.

Descriptions for the rock types should be based on the following:

1. **Color:** Describe the color using Munsell rock color chart notations and symbols

2. **Thickness:** Record the thickness of each rock type either in an outcropping or in a log should to the nearest 0.1 foot. The elevation in feet and nearest tenth is required on all logs or other appropriate or designated reports.

3. **Texture:** The term texture refers to the arrangement of grains, particles, or crystals on a freshly exposed rock surface, as easily seen by the naked eye. Texture indicates the appearance as megascopic or microscopic as seen on the surface of mineral aggregate. The following describes the texture of geometrical aspects of the rock grains.

   a. **Grain Size:** There are two major grain size classes:
      - Coarse grained. This texture is one in which the large crystals or grains can be seen easily by the naked eye.
      - Fine grained. This texture is one whose grains cannot be seen without magnification.

   b. **Grain Shape:** There are six grain shape classes:
      - Very angular
      - Angular
      - Subangular
      - Subrounded
      - Rounded
      - Very rounded

   c. **Grain Arrangement:** From a morphological standpoint, rock texture is grouped into three main groups.
      - Homogenous
      - Nonhomogeneous (or Heterogeneous)
      - Layered
For example: a rock may be described as, “coarse grained, subrounded, homogeneous, etc.”

4. **Cementation**: Cementation is a term used to describe the natural cementing agents surrounding the grains and binding the grains together making a rigid and compact mass. They may include the following:

   a. **Siliceous**: A granular rock with the mass cemented by silica. It is hard and cannot be scratched by a knife blade. It will not fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. It is usually shades of gray but may be any color.

   b. **Calcareaous**: A rock with calcareous or limy cement. It is not as hard as the siliceous cement. It ranges from fairly hard to soft. It will fizz upon the application of a hydrochloric acid solution. It is usually whitish but may be any color.

   c. **Ferruginous**: A rock cemented by iron. It is usually hard to very hard. It is dark red in color; sometimes it will show yellowish streaks or pockets.

   d. **Argillaceous**: A rock cemented by clay. It is usually soft and can be any color.

5. **Hardness**: The rock hardness* classes most pertinent to engineering are as follows:

   a. **Soft**: The rock can be worked with a shovel, friable, can be broken by hand in a dry to moist hand specimen, easily carved with a knife when moist. The red clay shales and mudstones of western Oklahoma are usually soft.

   b. **Moderately Hard**: The rock cannot be worked with a shovel. It can be worked with a geology hammer, or pick. It can be scratched with a penny. Examples of such rocks are the gypsiums, anhydrites, and caliches of western Oklahoma. Many sandstones and siltstones are among this class, as well as some black shales in the Quachita Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma.

   c. **Hard**: The rock cannot be worked with a pick. It has a ring when struck with a hammer. It cannot be scratched with a penny but can with a knife. Most competent rocks are within this category. Most limestones, sandstones, and dolomites are examples.

   d. **Very Hard**: The rock has a distinct ring when struck with a hammer. Cannot be scratched with a knife. Examples include the siliceous limestones of eastern Oklahoma and the granites and other igneous rocks of the Witchitas and Arbuckles.

*These are hammer tests. They should be made with a 2 lb hammer on a 4 inch or so diameter specimen lying on a flat hard surface. Friable hand specimens should also be
about 4 inches. The hammer soundness test on rock outcrops should be on layers at least 1 ft thick.

6. **Layering:** Most of the rocks of Oklahoma occur as beds or layers. The exceptions are the granites and other ingenious rocks of the Wichitas and Arbuckles. Include a description of the character of the beds or layers from the list below in the Geotechnical report.

   a. **Fissile:** Splits easily along closely spaced plains of 1/16 inch or less. Many shales of eastern Oklahoma are fissile.

   b. **Very Thin Bedded:** Beds of 1/16 to 2 in. (known as stringers)

   c. **Thin Bedded:** Beds of 2 inches to 2 feet.

   d. **Thick Bedded:** Beds of 2 to 4 feet. Beds in excess of 4 feet are described as “very thick bedded”.

   e. **Massive Bedded:** Beds exceeding 4 feet. Usually describes homogeneous beds that have little or no evidence of minor joints, laminations, or imperfections. Gypsums are commonly massive bedded.

7. **Joints, Faults, and fractures:** A Joint is defined as a surface of a fracture or a discontinuity in a rock mass, without displacement (faulting). If displacement of the sides of the rock, relative to one another, can be observed along the discontinuities, then the feature is by definition a fault. Sedimentary rocks will usually have two sets of parallel joints. All the features defined above are considered discontinuities within a rock mass. Note: Unusual conditions where rocks are observed exhibiting closely spaced (measured in inches or fractions thereof) joints and faults may be described as fractured or highly fractured. Their rating classes are as follows:

   a. **Very Low Jointing.** A distance of more than 6.5 ft between discontinuities.

   b. **Low Jointing.** A distance 2.0 to 6.5 feet between discontinuities.

   c. **Medium Jointing.** A distance of 8 inches to 2.0 feet between discontinuities.

   d. **High Jointing.** A distance of 2.5 to 8 inches between discontinuities.

   e. **Very High Jointing.** A distance of less than 2.5 inches between discontinuities.
8. **Pores:** The open spaces in a rock or soil. Pores are to be observed with the unaided eye. Measure, describe, and report where there are obvious features in a hand specimen or length of core. Use the following class sizes:

a. **Very Fine.** Less than 1.0 mm.
b. **Fine.** 1 to 2 mm
c. **Medium.** 2 to 5 mm
d. **Coarse.** 5 to 10 mm*
e. **Very Coarse.** More than 10 mm*
f. **Vugs.** 5 to 30 mm

*If irregular shaped coarse and very coarse pores are present in limestones, dolomites, or gypsins, they may be described as having vugs or vuggy (small cavity in a rock).

References:


Other Relevant Publications:

EXAMPLES

The features listed in the above Guide are to be noted in the report or log as observed in cuttings, cores, and outcroppings. The most current versions of Rock Quality Designations (ASTM D6032), Rock Mass Ratings (ASTM D5868), and Diamond Core Drilling for Site Investigation (ASTM D2113) are to be used. When coring, NX Core sizes are preferred; a minimum of NQ is required.

The following is an example of core log from a bridge boring:

Surface Elevation _________ ft  Station _________ + _________, feet left or right

0.0 – 3.3  Fine sand (2.5 Y8/6), alluvium, not covered
3.3 – 13.5  Shale – Red (10R5/8), sandy, mottled with yellow (5Y8/6), soft, fissile
15.5 – 23.0  Sandston – Red (10R6/6), mottled with yellow (5Y7/8), mostly fine ranging to coarse grains, becoming coarser with depth, med graded, mod. hard, massive, calcareous, many fine pores.
23.0 – 23.7  Limestone Conglomerate – Reddish – brown (5YR5/4), limestones are light gray (10YR7/1), mod. hard, particle sizes range from clayey matrix up to about 4 in gravel, well graded, calcareous cement, few coarse pores, thin bedded.
23.7 – 30.1  Limestone – Gray (10YR7/1), hard, thick bedded, contains two thin zones (1/2 in) of broken fossil shells at 28.6 and 29.1
30.1 – 33.6  Dolomite – Pinkish gray (5YR6/2), sandy, hard, thin bedded, occasional, large pores, vuggy
33.6 – 39.3  Interbedded dolomite and shale – Dolomite; pinkish gray (5YR6/2), shale; very dark gray (5YR3/1), dolomite is thin bedded, hard; shales range from thin to thick bedded, minor small pyrite, mod. hard, becomes predominantly shale @ 37.0
39.3  TD, shale – very dark gray, (5YR3/1), as described above.

Logged by:  Bit Type, Size, Design:  Date of Start, Finish:
Contractor:  Ground Water Level, Dates:  Other ASTM 2113 Boring Items as Appropriate
Hole (core):  Diameter  Project Identification:
The following is an example of a description of an outcropping along a proposed roadway alignment:

Station 139 + 50, from centerline 12 ft right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Thickness (ft.)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 – 10.3</td>
<td>Sandstone, brown (10YR5/3), fine, poorly graded, moderately hard, mostly thin bedded, high jointing; one thick bed at 5.3 to 7.8 ft. Sandstone contains thin stingers of brown sandy shale near the base and grades to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.3 - 15.5</td>
<td>Interbedded sandstone and sandy shale, brown (10YR5/3), mostly soft ranging to mod. hard, very thin bedded ranging to thin bedded, high jointing, becoming more shale-like at the base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.5-26.6</td>
<td>Shale, very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2), soft fissile, contains veins of reddish yellow (7.5YR6/8) going at all angles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>Elev. Of roadway grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seismic Velocity Charts for Estimating the Rippability of Various Soil and Rock Formations
Rippers

D8L Ripper Performance
• Multi or Single Shank No. 8 Ripper
• Estimated by Seismic Wave Velocities
D9N Ripper Performance

- Multi or Single Shank No. 9 Ripper
- Estimated by Seismic Wave Velocities
D10N Ripper Performance

- Multi or Single Shank No. 10 Ripper
- Estimated by Seismic Wave Velocities
D10N Impact Ripper Performance
- Single Shank Impact Ripper
- Estimated by Seismic Wave Velocities

Seismic Velocity
Meters Per Second × 1000

Feet Per Second × 1000

GLACIAL TILL
IGNEOUS
GRANITE
BASALT
TRAP ROCK
SEDIMENTARY
SCHIST
SANDSTONE
SILTSTONE
CLAYSTONE
CONGLOMERATE
BRECCIA
CALCHET
LIMESTONE
METAMORPHIC
SHIST
SLATE
MINERAL & ORES
COAL
IRON ORE

RIPPABLE
MARGINAL
NON-RIPPABLE
D11N Ripper Performance
- Multi or Single Shank No. 11 Ripper
- Estimated by Seismic Wave Velocities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seismic Velocity (Meters Per Second x 1000)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feet Per Second (x 1000)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- GLACIAL TILL
- IGNEOUS
- GRANITE
- BASALT
- TRAP ROCK

- SEDIMENTARY
  - SHALE
  - SANDSTONE
  - SILTSTONE
  - CLAYSTONE
  - CONGLOMERATE
  - BRECCIA
  - CALICHE
  - LIMESTONE

- METAMORPHIC
  - SHIST
  - SLATE

- MINERAL & ORES
  - COAL
  - IRON ORE

Legend:
- Rippable
- Marginal
- Non-Rippable

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APPENDIX 4. - GUIDE FOR PREPARING GEOTECHNICAL REPORTS

This purpose of this guide is to provide clear and concise methods for preparing geotechnical reports for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. When used as described, this information will provide consistent and appropriately documented geotechnical reports.

Overview

Geotechnical reports provide written documentation of findings from preliminary investigations, field explorations, laboratory testing, geotechnical evaluations and construction planning reviews. The Geotechnical Engineer responsible for the report should have broad experience in geotechnical engineering and a background in engineering for the type of roadway work identified in the project. The project geotechnical specialist, responsible for the report preparation, should have a broad background in civil engineering with a good basic knowledge of the soils and geology of Oklahoma as well as an understanding of the designs that are required to remedy the problems at a certain specific location(s). The project geotechnical specialist should anticipate possible design and construction issues and provide recommendations and solutions to mitigate or eliminate problems as well as any comments concerning possible limitations or other construction problems. The recommendations should be brief, concise and include the reasons for the recommendations. Provide any supporting data (e.g., graphics, tabular data, and calculations) in the appendices of the report.

Supplemental Geotechnical Report

Occasionally, the project design team may request the Geotechnical Engineer to conduct additional geotechnical reviews or studies. Based on these reviews or studies, the project geotechnical specialist will prepare a supplemental report to the geotechnical report. The supplemental report should only address the analysis and alternatives for those elements requested for additional geotechnical review or study.

Special Reports

Occasionally, the project geotechnical specialist may be required to prepare a special geotechnical report not related to a particular project (e.g., landslides, rock falls). Typically, these reports are prepared under emergency conditions and, as a result, only include recommendations to mitigate immediate problems. The special report should include the methods of analysis, calculations, design assumptions, computer programs used and other information as applicable to arrive at the design recommendations.
The Final Geotechnical Report for Roadway Design should contain all the geotechnical data and recommendations required for design. The report should be organized to include Transmittal Information about the report, General Information about the project, Field Investigation and Laboratory Testing Information, and the Geotechnical Information required for Roadway Design projects. These are described in greater detail in succeeding sections of this appendix. In addition to this required information, the final geotechnical report should include the following, where applicable:

- design geotechnical data;
- design computations as required by the consultant’s agreement;
- quality assurance/quality control certifications including lab and technician certification; and
- any alternative designs considered.

The Geotechnical Engineer is required to conduct a quality assurance review of the report before it is submitted to ODOT. The quality assurance review should include checking all calculations, as well as a review by a senior engineer or geologists of the approach, assumptions, results and conclusions/recommendations of any work carried out for the project. The report should also be edited to be free of grammatical and spelling errors, and graphics should be legible and easy to interpret. Geotechnical reports must be dated, signed, and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Oklahoma.

The Geotechnical Engineer shall submit the final geotechnical report to ODOT in two hard copies and one PDF copy on CD.

The Department, upon review of the final written report and boring logs, will exercise final authority as to whether the consultant has provided sufficient information or if additional data or borings are required. The Department further reserves the right to review all phases of the geotechnical report, including all field and laboratory data, computations and analysis.

GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT

In general, organize all geotechnical project reports using the following format.

Transmittal Information

The project geotechnical specialist should use the following format when preparing the transmittal memorandum for the geotechnical report:
1. **Addressee (To):** Address the memorandum to the ODOT Division Engineer (e.g., Roadway Design Division, Bridge Division, Field Division) responsible for the project oversight.

2. **Contact.** Provide the name, telephone number and email of the individual(s) that can be contacted for additional information or questions.

3. **Signature (From):** Prepare the report for the Geotechnical Engineer’s signature. Also, include the report author and title directly underneath the author’s signature line.

4. **Date.** Include the date the report is submitted to the addressee.

5. **Subject.** In the subject, include the official construction project number, job piece number, and project description.

**General Project Information**

The project geotechnical specialist is responsible for preparing a detailed geotechnical engineering report outlining the findings of the field and laboratory investigations and, where applicable, results from the geotechnical engineering analyses, designs for geotechnical features and recommendations and alternatives for potential issues affecting the project alignment or construction.

Not all of the subject areas listed in the following Sections will be required for every geotechnical report and adjustments may be required as deemed necessary. The level of coverage for each item will also vary from project-to-project. Although in-depth coverage of individual details is usually not provided in the report, provide sufficient detail to allow the reader to fully understand the problem and any proposed recommendations. Detailed analyses may be added as appendices to the report.

The following provides the topic areas, listed in order, to be addressed in geotechnical reports:

1. **Introduction.** Identify the purpose of the report and provide a very brief summary of what is included in the report.

2. **Project Information.** Include the following in the project description:
   - construction project number and job piece number;
   - the county where the project is located;
   - route number or street name;
   - nearby towns and/or cities;
• the project location with respect to the highway mileage markers and/or project length;

• general scope of the project (e.g., roadway reconstruction, pavement widening and/or overlay);

• major features of the project (e.g., four-span structure, retaining wall, final roadway widths, design speed); and

• other applicable elements of the project (e.g., deep cuts or fills, special drainage considerations, detour requirements).

3. **Area Geology.** Note the topography of the project area. Identify the soil and rock type formations within the project area. Note the predominate soil and rock types that can be found within the project area. If available, provide a description of the soil and rock formations (e.g., expansive soils, dispersive clay, karst).

4. **Site Reconnaissance.** Note any geotechnical features found during the investigation, including, but not limited to, the following:

• outcrops of bedrock;
• existing cuts and fills, including slope angles;
• evidence of current or past landslides;
• surface soils;
• potential problem soils such as dispersive or expansive clays sulfate bearing soils;
• groundwater conditions (e.g., springs, streams, irrigation);
• wetland locations;
• areas that may require subexcavation or other foundation stabilization/drainage measures;
• locations that may require rock excavations, including areas that may require blasting;
• locations that will require extensive excavations and/or fills;
• roadway patching that may indicate subgrade problems;
• the type of vegetation or lack thereof;
• location of nearby buildings, drainage structures, bridges, utilities, etc.; and
• other features that may affect the project alignment, right-of-way and/or design.

5. **Subsurface Investigation.** Document the insitu tests conducted and their results. Provide the preliminary soil classifications determined from the subsurface investigation. Indicate any special considerations required for the subsurface investigation (e.g., location of utility lines, steep terrain, nearby structures, wetlands, private property, and required permits). Include the proposed scope of the field and laboratory work that appears to be necessary for future phases of the project.
6. **Design and Construction Recommendations.** Where applicable, provide design and construction recommendations to the project designer so that it can be considered during the design phase. Include the information noted in Sections 3.2.4 and 3.2.5, as applicable.

7. **Report Limitations.** Provide possible constraints so they may be considered during the preliminary stage of design.

**Field Investigation and Laboratory Testing Information**

Geotechnical investigation and testing information is a vital part of geotechnical reports. The information in geotechnical reports should provide written documentation of findings from the field explorations and laboratory testing. Where applicable, the project geotechnical specialist should include the following information in the geotechnical report:

1. **Pedological Investigation.** The pedological investigation should include and consist of the following elements:

   - Include aerial photographs at 1:20,000 scale (or the scale that is used by NRCS in their county soil survey reports) with delineated map units and proposed location or center reference line/centerline alignment plotted thereon (reproduction from county soil survey report) are required. Obtain copies of Digital Orthophoto Quad sheets from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission website.
   
   - Sum and report the traversed distance of each alphabetized map unit in feet.
   
   - Include a set of official soil series description sheets from the official NRCS national database source (Iowa State). These are for the soil series found along the alignment extent or at the location of interest.
   
   - Provide a numerical listing in alphabetical order of the soil series found along the alignment along with their Taxonomic classification (e.g., Burleson Soil Series, Fine, smectitic, thermic, Udic Haplustert).
   
   - Include field logs of the soil samples taken from all soil horizons for each soil series. Describe the results according to the official soil series description. Also, a large composite sample of the major horizons, excluding the A horizon, are to be listed.
   
   - As an option to using county soil survey maps, the soil map units may be plotted on digital orthophoto quad sheets. These are at 1:24,000 scale and are...
appropriate for the report. These can be obtained at the State of Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

- Provide a list of the required laboratory tests conducted and the findings from these tests. Standard forms for reporting Pedological Investigation information are provided in Appendix 5.

2. **Shoulder Survey/In Place Soils Investigation.** The Shoulder/In Place soils investigation should include the following information:

- Field logs of the soil samples taken with depths and station extents of similar soil types within the project extents. Note on the logs which soils samples were used to conduct resilient modulus tests.

- Provide a list of the required laboratory tests conducted and the findings from these tests. Standard forms for reporting Shoulder Soils/In Place Soils Investigation information are provided in Appendix 5.

3. **Pavement and Subgrade Soils Investigation.** The Pavement and Subgrade Soils Investigation should include the following information:

- Back calculated FWD data of the pavement section in tabular format. Include a CD with the back calculated data in Excel format for further analysis.

- Detailed core logs with color photo of core. Note the pavement layer thicknesses and condition.

- Pavement surface condition survey as detailed in FHWA-RD-03-031

- Field logs of the soil samples taken with depths and station extents of similar soil types within the project extents. Note on the logs which soils samples were used to conduct resilient modulus tests.

- Provide a list of the required laboratory tests conducted and the findings from these tests. Standard forms for reporting Pavement and Subgrade Soils Investigation information are provided in Appendix 5.

4. **Subsurface Investigation.** When summarizing the subsurface investigation include the following information, where applicable:

- permission from property owners;

- number of borings taken and dates that the boring work took place;

- summary of the soil and rock types found;
• general description of the land formation (e.g., gullies, excavations, slopes, stream banks) and vegetation;
• study of existing structures;
• location of underground and overhead utilities:
• presence of surface water and stream debris;
• subsurface water table and location on the boring logs;
• unusual drilling conditions;
• any additional subsurface testing that was conducted (e.g., groundwater monitoring, seismic), the equipment used, the stationing and other applicable information relative to the test;
• results of the in-situ tests (e.g., SPT, CPT);
• boring logs, maps indicating the boring locations, including the plan station and offset, data from site tests, etc., in the appendices; and
• location for material and borrow sources.

5. Laboratory Testing. Indicate the laboratory tests that were completed on the soil and rock samples. Include a summary of the laboratory testing results. Discuss the results of these laboratory tests.

6. Soil Classification. Identify soil classifications in sufficient detail to permit engineers to recognize features significant to design and, if need be, to obtain samples in the field.

7. Geological Surface and Subsurface Rock Formation Information. Geological rock formation information should be provided using the standard methods of rock type descriptions as described in Appendix 3. Provide complete and accurate rock type information useful to designer. In addition, include the descriptions of rock types as recovered from drill bit cuttings or as observed in cores. The geological information provided should be structured so that the description of rock characteristics more pertinent to the construction or repair of ODOT facilities is emphasized.

Where cores are taken, provide the Rock Quality Designation (RQD) in accordance with ASTM D 6032. If Rock Mass Ratings (Geomechanics Classification) are required note these according to ASTM D 5878. The following is a listing of the rock characterization elements to be used in describing the rock units. The elements describing the character of Oklahoma rock types are to be presented in the report in the order listed:
- rock type (lithology),
- color,
- thickness,
- gradation,
- texture,
- pores,
- cementation,
- hardness,
- layering (or bedding), and
- joints.

Not all of the above elements will be present at a given site. The type of construction being considered, the character of the rock encountered, and the method of investigation are examples of situations that will dictate the elements used to describe the rock unit(s) in the report.

An example of the type of report is found in Appendix 3 “Standard Guide for the Description of Surface and SubSurface Geological Rock Formations of Oklahoma”.

8. Plans and Boring Logs. Geographic locations of the geological log or outcappings must be described from plans by Station to the nearest tenth of a foot, where the information is available. A minimum of a legal description accurate to the nearest 100 ft is required when plans or other detailed location information is not available. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) locations are acceptable; however, bore hole locations must be referenced to the plan station and offset. Elevations of the ground surface to the nearest tenth of a foot are required for all borings. At a minimum, include the following ancillary information on the logs:

- construction project number and job piece number;
- stratigraphic location, to nearest 0.1 ft, of any samples or tests taken;
- name of contractor;
- name of the driller
- name of logger;
- core or hole diameter, in inches;
- boring number;
- date the drilling or logging was performed;
- type of equipment used (e.g., bit type used);
- name of engineer and/or geologist, onsite, responsible for the field boring logs and interpretation of the geologic profile; and
- method (or combination) of drilling used.
Geotechnical Engineering for Roadway Design

This section of the report is generally prepared for the roadway design and covers roadway embankments, side slopes, rock cuts, pavement subgrade, etc. For each item discussed in the report, the project geotechnical specialist should clearly indicate the following:

- applicable station-to-station distance, width and depth of the area of concern;
- interpretation and analysis of the drawings, logs and data;
- any specific recommendations and/or alternatives to mitigate or eliminate the concern;
- detailed drawings or sketches and tabular data, these may be included in the appendices; and
- where necessary, include applicable special provisions.

The design portion of the geotechnical engineering roadway alignment section should include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

1. **Alignment Recommendations.** Identify recommended revisions to the horizontal and vertical alignment from the preliminary plans.

2. **Right-of-Way Considerations.** Note where additional right-of-way may be required to accommodate landslide areas, cut and embankment slopes, rock containment, etc.

3. **Specific Findings and Design Recommendations.** The alignment section may include discussions and recommendations on the following:

   a. **Cuts and Embankments.** If the project has cuts or embankments, address the following:

      - Provide the location and description of existing surface and subsurface drainage.
      - Identify and report springs and excessive wet areas.
      - Identify and report slides, slump and faults along the alignment.
      - Identify special cuts and embankments. Characterize the area or volume of material, station along alignment or reference line, distance left or right from alignment or reference line, etc.
      - Provide subsurface drainage recommendations.
      - Recommend undercut extents, if required.
• Identify unusual erosion control measures that may be necessary.
• Provide recommended limits on cut and fill slopes.
• Provide shrink-swell factors for earthwork calculations.
• Provide the parameters that characterize the discontinuity and rock mass, excavation, slopes, blasting requirements, containment areas, etc. Identify recommended rock extents that are rippable and areas that will need to be blasted.
• Provide recommended rock slope stabilization measures.

b. **Soft Ground.** If the embankment is over soft ground, provide the following:

• Include recommendations for alternative embankment designs if problematic soils (e.g., dispersive clays, silt) are anticipated from local embankment borrow sources.
• Provide the estimated short and long-term settlement.
• Provide alternative designs, conceptual construction sequencing, time needs, and address long-term settlement, including surcharging and/or wick drains where applicable, and slope stability. Identify methods of analysis, factors of safety, design codes with version, etc.
• Provide recommendations and specifications for monitoring settlement and slope stability.

c. **Floodplains.** If the embankment is in a floodplain, provide the following:

• Give recommendations for alternative embankment designs if problematic soils (i.e., dispersive clays, silty soils) are anticipated using local borrow sources.
• Include recommended special provisions for the embankment.
• Identify recommended embankment protection for hydraulic impacts on the embankment including rapid draw down, scour, wave action, etc.

d. **Landslides.** For landslides, address the following:

• Include landslide movement history, past maintenance works, previous correction measures, etc.
• Provide scaled cross-section showing ground surface conditions before and after failure.

• Identify failure planes, excavation/buttressing limits, recommended slopes, instrumentation requirements, results from the slope stability analysis, and drainage requirements.

• Summarize causes of the slide.

• Provide alternative designs and benefits/limitations of each design.

• Provide construction sequence and special provisions.

e. **Retaining Walls.** Provide internal wall stability design parameters and global retaining wall stability analysis.

f. **Drainage.** Discuss excavation concerns, erosion protection, culvert bedding materials, geotextile fabrics, water table levels, dewatering recommendations and settlement considerations.

g. **Stability Analysis.** Address the methods used (e.g., computer programs), assumptions made for soil strength parameters (e.g., strength), groundwater conditions, selected factors of safety or resistance factors, conclusions from analyses (slope angles and heights), and recommended methods of mitigation (e.g., regrading, reaction berms, ground improvement).

h. **Settlement Analysis.** Discuss methods used to calculate the settlement analysis, assumptions for soil parameters (e.g., preconsolidation pressure, compression index, recompression index, coefficient of consolidation), groundwater conditions, conclusions from analyses, recommended mitigation. (e.g., dig outs and subexcavation, use of light-weight fills, wick drains and preloading, staged construction).

i. **Computer Programs.** Include a summary of the analyses and list of software programs used.

j. **Results.** Describe the limitations of the analyses and results.

k. **Special Issues.** Identify special issues to consider during construction, including construction staging, scheduling of preloads, special field testing and instrumentation.
Appendices

If available, include the following in the appendix of the report:

1. **Maps.** If deemed appropriate, include geological or highway maps and indicate the applicable geotechnical features on the maps.

2. **Boring Logs.** If boring logs are available from previous projects in the area and they are applicable to the project, include copies of these logs.

3. **Photographs.** If photographs were taken during the site investigation, include applicable photographs showing only the major geotechnical features. On the photograph, indicate the reason for the photograph (e.g., steep rock cuts, landslides), the location (e.g., reference post, stationing) and direction the picture was taken.

4. **Design Calculations.** Include the detail design calculations and results used in making the analyses and recommendations.

REFERENCES


5. *Subsurface Investigations – Geotechnical Site Characterization*, NHI-01-031, FHWA.


APPENDIX 5. - STANDARD FORMS FOR REPORTING GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION

In order to insure uniformity in the information submitted to ODOT, certain standard report formats will be required as follows:

1. Pedological & Geological Soils Test Data
2. Resilient Modulus Test Data
3. Resilient Modulus of Subgrade Soil (AASHTO T 307-99)
4. Shoulder Soils Survey
5. Pavement Core Data and In-place Soils
6. Pavement Core logs
7. Soil Series Characteristics
8. FWD Report for Flexible Pavement
9. FWD Report for PC Concrete Pavement

While these forms may be re-created in an electronic format and the general parameters adjusted as necessary, the content and specific presentation of the information must not be modified.

In addition to these standard report Formats, ODOT will require the utilization of the following unique software package gINT® in the development and compilation boring log information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field No.</th>
<th>Soil Group</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Depth (in)</th>
<th>L.L.</th>
<th>P.I.</th>
<th>3 in.</th>
<th>½ in.</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#10</th>
<th>#40</th>
<th>#200</th>
<th>OSI</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Resis. (Ω·Cm)</th>
<th>Soluble Sulfates (mg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
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EXAMPLE Resilient Modulus of Subgrade Soils (AASHTO T-307) Data

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<th>Actual Applied Contact Load</th>
<th>Actual Applied Max. Axial Stress</th>
<th>Actual Applied Cyclic Load</th>
<th>Actual Applied Contact Load</th>
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* Reported results are based on the average of the last 5 cycles of each load sequence
** Detailed report (Hard Copy), as recommended by AASHTO T 307-99, is available at ODOT (Materials Division, Soils and Foundations Branch)
*** Peaks and valleys were recorded per load cycle
### Resilient Modulus of Subgrade Soil (AASHTO T 307-99)

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2. **Material Type**: Type 2  
3. **Test Date**: 2/7/2007

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<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>3.70</td>
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</table>

1: Model #1

**Model #1:** $Mr = K_1 \times Sd^{K_2}$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S3 (psi)</th>
<th>K1</th>
<th>K2</th>
<th>$R^2$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>17405</td>
<td>-0.43</td>
<td>0.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14845</td>
<td>-0.40</td>
<td>0.97</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>12162</td>
<td>-0.41</td>
<td>0.99</td>
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<td>All</td>
<td>14438</td>
<td>-0.41</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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### Graph: Atoka Co., Bernow “B21t & B22t” Comp., OMC = 2%

- $Mr = 14438.17(Sd)^{-0.41}$
- $R^2 = 0.71$

- $\Delta$ S3 = 6 psi  
- $\triangle$ S3 = 4 psi  
- $\circ$ S3 = 2 psi  

---

**Power** (Series 4)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field No.</th>
<th>Soil Group</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Depth (in)</th>
<th>L.L.</th>
<th>P.I.</th>
<th>Percent Passing</th>
<th>Soluble Sulfates (mg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>A-6(11)</td>
<td>115+50, 18’RT</td>
<td>Lean Clay</td>
<td>0 - 6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 99.4 90.0</td>
<td>15 24.4 ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>A-6(16)</td>
<td>6 - 22</td>
<td>Lean Clay</td>
<td>6 - 22</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 92.2 100</td>
<td>12 24.1 ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>A-6(18)</td>
<td>22 - 36</td>
<td>Lean Clay</td>
<td>22 - 36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 91.5 100</td>
<td>21 21.8 245</td>
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<td>A-6(18)</td>
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<td>Composite- Lean Clay</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>100 100 100 100 92.1 100</td>
<td>20 24.0 229</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>A-6(16)</td>
<td>6 - 27</td>
<td>Lean Clay with Sand</td>
<td>0 - 6</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>100 100 100 100 97.8 83.5</td>
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<td>Lean Clay</td>
<td>27 - 36</td>
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<td>A-6(13)</td>
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<td>Lean Clay</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 92.7 100</td>
<td>16 26.7 260</td>
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<td>A-6(16)</td>
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<td>Composite- Lean Clay</td>
<td>9 - 27</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 99.3 92.2</td>
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<td>Field No.</td>
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<td>Station</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Depth (in)</td>
<td>L.L.</td>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>Percent Passing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>A-6(11)</td>
<td>160+00, 17' Lt</td>
<td>Lean Clay</td>
<td>0 - 6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 99.4 90.0 15 24.4 255</td>
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<td>1B</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 92.1 20 24.0 289</td>
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<td>165+00, 16’Rt</td>
<td>Similar as 1A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Similar as 1C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170+00, 16' Lt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>A-2-4(0)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Silty Sand</td>
<td>0 – 6</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>100 91 83 76 64 26.0 0 12.7 260</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>A-4(0)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Silty Sand</td>
<td>6 – 16</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>100 100 95 88 86 82.9 0 14.5 357</td>
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<td>3C</td>
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<td>16 - 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>175+00, 15’ Rt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>A-4(0)</td>
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<td>Silty Sand</td>
<td>0 – 6</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>100 100 91 89 86 81.2 0 14.9 138</td>
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<td>4B</td>
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<td>Silty Sand</td>
<td>6 – 18</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>100 100 100 100 92 83.2 0 15.1 175</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<td>NP</td>
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<td>15</td>
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### EXAMPLE

**PAVEMENT CORE DATA & IN-PLACE SOILS**

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<th>Soil No.</th>
<th>Field No.</th>
<th>Soil Group</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>CL RT-LT</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Depth (in)</th>
<th>L.L.</th>
<th>P.I.</th>
<th>Percent Passing</th>
<th>MC %</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>2-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minor Stripping</td>
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<td>7297</td>
<td>1A</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>98 97 95 85.1</td>
<td>17 21.1</td>
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<td>6' Lt.</td>
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<td>0-2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Major Stripping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Minor Stripping</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Type S3 Asphalt</td>
<td>4.5-7.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deteriorated</td>
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<td>7.5-11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aggregate Base</td>
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<tr>
<td>7298</td>
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<td>A-2-6(0)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Silty Clayey Gravel with Sand</td>
<td>18.5-25.5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56* 42 35 27.5</td>
<td>4 16.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7299</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>A-6(11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lean Clay with Sand</td>
<td>25.5-36</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>99 97 90 77.8</td>
<td>13 20.4</td>
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</table>

*Maximum Size Passing One Inch Sieve
**EXAMPLE ASPHALT CORE LOG**

**CORE LOG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NO.</th>
<th>STPY-1230(123)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOB PIECE NO.</td>
<td>12345(04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>SH-123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>OKLAHOMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANE NO.</td>
<td>JUNE 11, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTROL SECTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE</td>
<td>32+50, 16' RT</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANE DIRECTION</td>
<td>NB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CORE DATA**

- Surface Material Type:  
  - A.C.  
  - P.C.C.  
  - Continuously Reinforced Concrete

- Stripping or Separation in Asphalt:  
  - Stripping  
  - Separation  
  - N/A

- Honeycomb or "O" Cracking in PCC:  
  - Honeycomb  
  - "O" Cracking  
  - N/A

- Stabilized Subgrade Beneath Pavement or Sub-base?  
  - Yes  
  - No  
  - Unknown

**CORE LAYER DATA (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Layer Type</th>
<th>Layer Thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Layer Characteristics*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asphalitic Concrete</td>
<td>1 3/4</td>
<td>Type D, separation at 1 3/4 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalitic Concrete</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Type B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalitic Concrete</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>Type B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalitic Concrete</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>Type B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalitic Concrete</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
<td>Type A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Core Thickness**  
9 1/4

*Asphalt type based on visual observation only*
### EXAMPLE CONCRETE CORE LOG

**CORE LOG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No</th>
<th>Layer Type</th>
<th>Layer Thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Layer Characteristics*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Portland Cement Concrete</td>
<td>0 5/8</td>
<td>Separation at 5 5/8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalitic Cement</td>
<td>6 1/8</td>
<td>Type C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CORE DATA**

- **Surface Material Type:**
  - A.C.
  - P.C.C.
  - Contiuously Reinforced Concrete

- **Stripping or Separation in Asphal:**
  - Stripping
  - Separation
  - N/A

- **Honeycomb or "D" Cracking in C.C:**
  - Honeycomb
  - "D" Cracking
  - N/A

- **Stabilized Subgrade Beneath Pavement or Sub-base?:**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unknown

**Total Core Thickness:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>15 3/4</td>
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</table>

*Asphalt type based on visual observation only*
**Table 1 Typical Characteristics of Soil Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Series</th>
<th>Lineal Extent (ft)</th>
<th>Slope Variability %</th>
<th>Parent Material</th>
<th>Depth to Bedrock (in)</th>
<th>Drainage</th>
<th>Permeability</th>
<th>Shrink-Swell Potential</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bates</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1 - 5</td>
<td>Sandstone</td>
<td>30 - 34</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Low to moderate</td>
<td>- moderate corrosion risk to concrete - low strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis</td>
<td>4320</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>Shale</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mod. Well</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Moderate to high</td>
<td>- high corrosion risk to uncoated steel - moderate corrosion risk to concrete - low strength - perched water table 2-3 ft Dec.- April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okemah</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>0 - 1</td>
<td>Shale</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mod. Well</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>- high corrosion risk to uncoated steel - moderate corrosion risk to concrete - low strength - perched water table 2-3 ft Dec.- April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsons</td>
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Std Dev.: 81  
85%: 69
### EXAMPLE FWD REPORT FOR PC CONCRETE PAVEMENT

**PROJECT NO. STP-123C (123) 12345(04)**  
US 69 from Choteau to SH20  
Mayes County

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