

above ground storage tank  
air quality  
asbestos/lead-based paint  
baseline environmental assessment  
brownfield redevelopment  
building/infrastructure restoration  
caisson/piles  
coatings  
concrete  
construction materials services  
corrosion  
dewatering  
drilling  
due care analysis  
earth retention system  
environmental compliance  
environmental site assessment  
facility asset management  
failure analyses  
forensic engineering  
foundation engineering  
geodynamic/vibration  
geophysical survey  
geosynthetic  
greyfield redevelopment  
ground modification  
hydrogeologic evaluation  
industrial hygiene  
indoor air quality/mold  
instrumentation  
masonry/stone  
metals  
nondestructive testing  
pavement evaluation/design  
property condition assessment  
regulatory compliance  
remediation  
risk assessment  
roof system management  
sealants/waterproofing  
settlement analysis  
slope stability  
storm water management  
structural steel/welding  
underground storage tank

## **GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

### **ARGO DAM HEADRACE EMBANKMENT ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

**SME Project No. PG60424  
December 16, 2009**



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December 16, 2009

Mr. Glen Wiczorek, PE  
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RE: Geotechnical Evaluation Report  
Argo Dam Headrace Embankment  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
SME Project No. PG60424

Dear Mr. Wiczorek:

We have completed our geotechnical evaluation to review potential seepage conditions and slope stability at the earthen headrace embankment of the existing Argo Dam located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This report presents the information from the borings and observation wells, our analyses of the existing and potential seepage and stability, and our recommendations for seepage controls (e.g., the need for the existing drainage system) along the existing earthen headrace embankment.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. After review of this report by representatives from Stantec Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor, we recommend SME meet with representatives from Stantec Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor to discuss our recommendations and to jointly outline the course of action related to the headrace embankment. In the interim, if you have questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

**SOIL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERS, INC.**

Joel W. Rinkel, PE  
Senior Project Engineer

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consultants in the geosciences, materials, and the environment

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 General Description of Dam .....	1
1.2 Background Data .....	2
<b>2. EVALUATION PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Field Exploration .....	2
2.1.1 Borings.....	2
2.1.2 Observation Wells .....	3
2.2 Laboratory Testing.....	3
2.3 Site Survey.....	4
<b>3. SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Headrace Embankment Soil Conditions .....	4
3.2 Headrace Embankment Groundwater Conditions .....	5
<b>4. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Review of Seepage Conditions .....	6
4.2 Review of Embankment Global Stability .....	8
4.3 Piping Considerations .....	10
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
 <b>APPENDIX A:</b> Drawing No. 1: Headrace Layout and Sections (5302) Drawing. No. 2: Argo Dam Piezometers - Stantec Michigan	
 <b>APPENDIX B:</b> General Notes Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) Boring Logs (B1, B2, and B4 through B9) Observation Well Logs (B1, B2, and B4 through B9) Particle Size Distribution Reports (Figures 1 through 4)	
 <b>APPENDIX C:</b> Important Information about your Geotechnical Engineering Report General Comments Laboratory Testing Procedures	
 <b>APPENDIX D:</b> Seepage and Slope Stability Results and Input (Sections A through C)	

## SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Under current operating conditions, there appears to be no emergency or imminent threat that the earthen headrace embankment will suffer a catastrophic failure. At this time, we do not believe there is an immediate need to dewater the headrace or cease using the headrace. Consequently, SME recommends that Ann Arbor conduct regular inspections (at a minimum, quarterly and during/after significant storm events) to evaluate the effectiveness of the drainage system and be prepared to take responsive actions (e.g. dewatering the headrace) if evidence of insufficient drainage, piping or other possible failure modes are noted. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:
  - (a) Based on the borings performed during this evaluation, the earthen headrace embankment consists predominantly of fine to coarse sand fill containing cobbles, gravel and silt. The foundation soils beneath the earthen headrace embankment consist of interbedded strata of silty sands, sands and gravels with cobbles or boulders, and occasional organic silt strata. Based on our experience near the dam site, natural clays and clayey glacial till likely exist beneath the stratified foundation soils encountered during this evaluation.
  - (b) The water level data collected during this study demonstrate that the existing drainage system is functioning. Previous dam safety inspection reports (completed in 1992, 2001 and 2004) support this finding since these reports indicate water seepage was observed emanating from the toe drains. However, the 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Report states water seepage was also evident emanating from the embankment around and above at least one of the toe drains. SME has not performed analyses to determine the degree of effectiveness of the existing drainage system.
  - (c) Based on the limit equilibrium analysis performed during this study, the factors of safety against global stability were determined for three cross-sections in the headrace embankment in its current condition, which were found to be 1.4, 1.5 and 1.9, respectively. At section A (which exhibited the safety factor of 1.4), the value falls slightly below the recommended factor of safety of 1.5 for long-term loading conditions identified by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Manual EM 1110-2-1902. The factors of safety at the other two cross-sections were at or above the USACE recommended 1.5 factor of safety.
2. Effective seepage controls are important to demonstrate an appropriate factor of safety. The current drainage control system appears to be operating. SME has not evaluated the degree of effectiveness of the current drainage system. Therefore, SME recommends that Ann Arbor take steps to evaluate the drainage system and be prepared to take steps to improve the system's effectiveness if it is found to be deficient. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:
  - (a) As noted above, the water level data collected during this study demonstrate that the existing drainage system is functioning. However, the degree of effectiveness of that system has not been determined to date.

- (b) Based on our analyses, seepage controls are required to demonstrate an adequate factor of safety against global stability (under both normal operating conditions and design flood conditions) and to mitigate the potential for piping at the toe of the downstream slope of the existing earthen tailrace embankment. The current drainage system serves as the seepage controls. If the drainage system is allowed to deteriorate beyond the condition at the time this report was prepared, the factors of safety for the headrace embankment could decrease further below accepted values, and immediate corrective action could be required.
- 3. Piping is a potentially dangerous situation in an earthen embankment. However, to date, no evidence of piping has been observed. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:
  - (a) If the toe drains fails, increased water seepage could result in piping. Piping has not been reported in the 1992, 2001 or 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Reports for Argo Dam reviewed by SME. Based on information provided to SME, there is no evidence of an imminent piping concern.
  - (b) In the short term, SME recommends that Ann Arbor continue regular visual monitoring of seepage (at a minimum, quarterly and during/after significant storm events) to identify any visible evidence of potential piping. If indicators of piping are observed, corrective action, such as shutting off water flow into the headrace, could become necessary.
  - (c) The results of the quarterly observations could be used to refine the current study results, and in combination with further field exploration, should be used to conduct a piping study for the headrace embankment.
- 4. SME recommends that the inspection program be performed by a qualified dam safety inspector (a registered PE with familiarity with dam safety requirements). In general, the program must be tailored to visually assess conditions that could alter the results of this evaluation. Regular groundwater level readings should also be taken from the recently installed piezometers. The additional information obtained from further observations/groundwater levels must be reviewed so that the evaluation can be refined accordingly and the data collected will be sufficient to identify conditions that could require further action. Additional field exploration may also be necessary.

The Conclusions, Recommendations and Summary of Findings, presented above were developed based on the limited data collected during this evaluation and could be refined based on the results of further and more extensive field exploration and laboratory testing. The summary presented above includes selected elements of SME's findings and recommendations and is provided solely for purposes of overview. It does not present crucial details needed for the proper application of our findings and recommendations. It should, therefore, not be considered apart from the entire text of this report and appendices, with all of the qualifications and considerations mentioned therein, which are best evaluated with the active participation of SME.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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REPORT REVIEWED BY:

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Senior Consultant

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the geotechnical evaluation performed by Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc. (SME) to evaluate the existing conditions of the Argo Dam headrace embankment located along the Huron River in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This evaluation was conducted in general accordance with the scope of services outlined in our Proposal, dated October 5, 2009. Mr. Glen Wiczorek, PE with Stantec Michigan authorized this evaluation.

References to right and left made in this report are based on the observer looking downstream at the dam spillway location.

### **1.1 General Description of Dam**

Argo Dam is located north of Depot Street, south of Longshore Drive, and between Broadway Street and Main Street, on the Huron River in the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan. Stantec Michigan provided SME historic drawings of the dam, including a drawing titled “Argo Power Plant – Headrace Layout and Sections” dated April 9, 1913 (5302) that depicts typical cross sections of the existing earthen headrace embankment with the existing drainage system. A copy of the Headrace Layout and Sections drawing is included in Appendix A for information. SME also briefly reviewed the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Dam Safety Unit’s file for the subject dam.

Argo Dam was constructed around 1920 and consists of a concrete spillway, left and right earthen embankments and an earthen headrace embankment. The headrace embankment, which is approximately 1,500-feet long, is the embankment being evaluated. Argo Dam is classified by the MDEQ Dam Safety Unit as a high hazard potential dam.

As shown on the drawing titled “Argo Power Plant – Headrace Layout and Sections” dated April 9, 1913, the subject embankment section has a 10-foot crest width, a downstream slope inclination of 2H:1V, and a crest elevation near 777 feet. A drainage system consisting of a 4-inch-diameter main drain connected to a series of 4-inch-diameter lateral drain tiles (perpendicular to the subject embankment alignment) was installed during the initial construction. The lateral drain tiles were reportedly installed at a spacing of 25 feet on-center. The lateral extent of these drains along the embankment is unknown, but is expected to extend throughout the entire alignment of the subject embankment.

## **1.2 Background Data**

The 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Report (dated October 27, 2004) for Argo Dam, prepared by the MDEQ, states that in regards to the lateral drains “Seepage water was discharging around and above these drains, indicating that the toe drain system is failing, and thus weakening the embankment.” The referenced report recommends the immediate repair or replacement of the toe drain system. The MDEQ Dam Safety Unit file for the subject dam includes an executed permit (Permit No. 05-81-0086-P) to complete repairs to the dam, including repair of the toe drains, but the file did not include the plans and specifications referenced in the permit (entitled “Water Utilities Department City of Ann Arbor, Michigan Plans for Argo Dam Improvements”). Additional information on the condition, use and performance of the dam is available in documents contained in the MDEQ Dam Safety Unit file or the Owner file.

The scope of this evaluation included the evaluation of the potential for through seepage at the headrace embankment (i.e., seepage migrating from the headrace impoundment through the embankment) and the need of the existing drainage system within the subject embankment. Our scope of services did not include a review of the performance of the existing drainage system. We are not aware of whether a study has been performed to identify the proper function or performance of the existing drainage system.

## **2. EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

### **2.1 Field Exploration**

#### **2.1.1 Borings**

SME completed eight borings (B1, B2, and B4 through B9) at the site between September 17 and 28, 2009. One planned boring (B3) was eliminated during our site visit with Stantec Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor on September 15, 2009. The approximate locations of the borings are depicted on the Argo Dam Piezometers drawing provided by Stantec Michigan and included in Appendix A. SME determined the number, locations, and depths of the borings. SME staked the locations of the borings in the field using a measuring wheel and referencing existing site features. SME estimated the ground surface elevations at the boring locations to the nearest 1-foot based on the existing topographic information provided on the Argo Dam Piezometers drawing (dated September 30, 2009) prepared by Stantec Michigan.

Borings B1, B4, and B7 were performed along the crest of the subject embankment and extended to depths of about 16 to 20 feet below the surface. Dynamic cone penetrometer (DCP) testing was performed at each of these boring locations to estimate the strength or relative



density of the subject embankment soils. The depths of the DCP tests were dependent on subsurface conditions and were limited to 12 feet. These borings were performed with our ATV Geoprobe® rig which collects continuous samples using acetate-lined piston samplers. The liners were sealed in the field and returned to our laboratory for further testing.

Borings B2 and B6 were performed at approximately mid-slope on the downstream side of subject embankment. Borings B5, B8, and B9 were performed near the downstream toe of the subject embankment. These borings were performed using hand augers and extended to depths of 0.5 to 4 feet below the surface. The relatively shallow depth of these borings was due to encountering obstructions (likely cobbles or boulders). Auger samples were collected from the hand augers and sealed in plastic bags or glass jars and returned to our laboratory for further testing. DCP tests were also performed at each of these hand auger boring locations.

Groundwater level measurements were recorded during and immediately after completion of each boring.

### **2.1.2 Observation Wells**

SME installed standpipe piezometers (observations wells) at each boring location. Five of the piezometers were constructed of 1- or 2-inch diameter (I.D.) PVC 10-slot well screens (with conical tips) attached to 1- or 2-inch-diameter (I.D.) PVC riser pipe. The remaining three piezometers were constructed of a 1¼-inch-diameter stainless steel well screen, with galvanized steel riser pipe. Drivable tips were connected to these stainless steel well screens. Prior to driving the wells, a 1-inch diameter steel rod was driven into the ground to create a pilot hole. The rod and well driving was accomplished using a hand-operated post driver. Overall, the piezometers extend about 5 to 11 feet below the existing ground surface. The PVC piezometers were backfilled with a sand filter pack around the screen sections and then sealed with bentonite chips. The piezometers extend approximately 30-inches above grade. A protective metal casing with a locking cover was installed over each piezometer. PVC protective covers were also installed over the driven wells, prior to installing the metal casings. The metal casings were embedded in concrete to about 1.5 to 2 feet below grade. Water levels within the piezometers were read by Stantec Michigan on September 30, 2009.

## **2.2 Laboratory Testing**

The general laboratory testing program consisted of performing visual soil classification on recovered samples along with particle size distribution tests on select samples. The Laboratory Testing Procedures in Appendix C provides general descriptions of the laboratory tests performed.

Upon completion of the laboratory testing, boring and observation well logs were prepared and include information on materials encountered, penetration resistances, well installation information, groundwater level readings, pertinent field observations made during the field exploration, and the results of certain laboratory tests. The boring logs and the observation well logs are included in Appendix B. The soil descriptions included on the boring logs were developed from both visual classification and the results of laboratory tests, where applicable. The approximate existing ground surface elevations at the boring locations are also provided on the boring logs.

Soil samples retained over a long time, even sealed in jars, are subject to moisture loss and are no longer representative of the conditions initially encountered in the field. Therefore, soil samples are normally retained in our laboratory for 60 days and then disposed, unless instructed otherwise.

### **2.3 Site Survey**

On September 29 and 30, 2009, Stantec Michigan performed an elevation survey of select cross sections on the headrace embankment. The drawing titled “Argo Dam Piezometers” included in Appendix A of this report contains the survey information provided to SME.

The survey was performed to obtain the elevation of the top of casing at each of the eight observation wells, as well as surface water elevations in the headrace and the Huron River along the subject embankment, water levels within the observation wells, and ground surface topography for each of three cross sections along the embankment.

## **3. SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS**

### **3.1 Headrace Embankment Soil Conditions**

The embankment borings (B1, B2, and B4 through B9) indicate the existing earthen embankment was constructed of granular soils. The foundation soils consist of interbedded strata of natural silty sands, sands and gravels with cobbles or boulders, and occasional organic silt strata. A generalized summary of the soils encountered in the embankment borings during this evaluation is given below, beginning at the existing ground surface and proceeding downward:

**Stratum 1: Topsoil.** Six to 18 inches of topsoil were encountered at the ground surface at the boring locations.

**Stratum 2: Earthen Embankment Soils (Sand with Gravel Fill).** The existing earthen embankment appears to have been constructed of fine to coarse sand fill containing cobbles, gravel, and silt. DCP test resistances within the embankment soils ranged from 3 blows for 6 inches of penetration to 50 blows for 1 inch of penetration, indicating a loose to very dense condition.

**Stratum 3: Foundation Soils (Natural Sands).** The foundation soils appear to consist of interbedded strata of natural silty sands, sands and gravels with cobbles or boulders, and occasional organic silt strata. DCP test resistances within the natural foundation soils ranged from 1 blow for 6 inches of penetration to 50 blows for 1 inch of penetration, indicating a very loose to very dense condition.

There were no existing boring logs for the subject embankment (either from the original construction or from previous studies) available for our review, although our experience in the area indicates the embankment foundation soils encountered during this evaluation are likely underlain by a natural clays and clayey glacial till.

The soil profile described above and included on the boring logs in Appendix B of this report are generalized descriptions of the conditions encountered. The stratification depths shown on the logs and described above are intended to indicate a zone of transition from one soil type to another. They are not intended to show exact depths of change from one soil type to another. Soil conditions may be different in areas other than at the boring locations. Please refer to the logs for the soil conditions at the specific soil boring locations. The soil descriptions are based on visual classification of the soils encountered.

### **3.2 Headrace Embankment Groundwater Conditions**

Groundwater was encountered during drilling at borings B1, B4, and B7, performed along the crest of the subject embankment, at depths ranging from about 11 to 15 feet below the existing ground surface (or at about elevations 762 and 766 feet). Groundwater was encountered during drilling at borings B2 and B6, performed near the toe of the subject embankment, at depths of about 2.5 and 1 feet below the existing ground surface, respectively (or at about elevations 765.5 to 762 feet, respectively). Groundwater was not observed within the explored depths of the remaining borings (with explored extents to about elevations 762 to 765 feet).

As indicated previously, piezometers (observation wells) were installed at each of the boring locations. Groundwater measurements obtained by Stantec Michigan in the observation wells and provided to SME are contained in Table No. 1 below. The groundwater levels provided by Stantec Michigan from the observation wells were recorded during the site survey discussed in Section 2.3. During the site survey, the surface water level in the headrace was

measured at 773.5 feet and the surface water downstream of the headrace embankment in the Huron River ranged between about elevations 760 to 761 feet.

**TABLE 1: OBSERVATION WELL GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER ELEVATIONS**

Section	Location	Date
		9/30/09
Section A	Headrace	773.5
	B1	769.9
	B2	766.4
	Huron River	761.0
Section B	Headrace	773.5
	B4	761.3
	B5	763.8
	B6	762.3
	Huron River	760.0
Section C	Headrace	773.5
	B7	762.3
	B8	761.9
	B9	760.0
	Huron River	760.0

The groundwater levels indicated by the borings and/or observation wells and presented in this report represent conditions at the time the readings were taken. The elevations and volumes of groundwater should be expected to fluctuate throughout the year, based on variations in precipitation, evaporation, run-off, the water level in the Huron River, the water level in the headrace, and other factors (e.g., the efficiency of the existing drainage system within the subject embankment). Additional groundwater level measurements in the observation wells could be collected to further study fluctuations in the groundwater level within the existing headrace embankment.

## **4. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

### **4.1 Review of Seepage Conditions**

All earthen dam embankments are subject to some seepage passing under or through the embankment. The location of the phreatic surface within earthen dam embankments is an

important consideration in the quantitative evaluation of the stability of embankments. The phreatic surface within an earthen embankment can be estimated by constructing a flow net while considering the soil conditions within (embankment soils) and below the embankment (foundation soils) and the typical head water and tail water elevations. Accurate determination of the phreatic surface is very complex for highly stratified or heterogeneous soils. The estimated phreatic surface can then be verified if needed by the installation of a series of piezometers or observation wells.

The 1992 Dam Safety Inspection Report reviewed by SME stated the only evidence of seepage is through the clay pipes (part of the drainage system) buried within the headrace dike, but visibility was restricted by undergrowth. The 2001 Dam Safety Inspection Report reviewed by SME stated seepage is evident at the toe of the headrace embankment, and is primarily emerging from the clay toe drains (part of the drainage system). The 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Report reviewed by SME stated seepage water was discharging around and above the clay toe drains.

The subject embankment soils consist predominately of fine to coarse sand fill containing cobbles, gravel, and silt. The density of the embankment soils increased with increasing depth, but otherwise the embankment soils are considered fairly homogenous (i.e., composed of generally the same material). For the purposes of this evaluation, the embankment was generally assumed to consist of homogenous and isotropic (i.e., engineering properties are the same in all directions) soils with good drainage characteristics.

The subject embankment foundation soils consist of interbedded strata of permeable natural silty sands, sands and gravels with cobbles or boulders, and occasional less permeable organic silt strata within the explored depths of the borings. Based on our experience near the subject dam site, relatively impermeable clays and clayey glacial till likely exist below about elevation 750 feet. For the purposes of this evaluation, the embankment foundation soils were generally assumed to consist of heterogeneous (i.e., differing materials at different sections) and isotropic soils with poor drainage characteristics. The potential presence of relatively impermeable clays and clayey glacial till below about elevation 750 feet was not considered in our evaluation since we do not have deep borings at this site.

Typically, the phreatic surface within a homogenous earthen embankment with good drainage characteristics and no seepage controls originates at the head water surface along the upstream embankment face and then decreases in head (elevation) through the embankment and exits along the downstream slope face above the embankment toe. Observations during our field exploration indicate seepage is present near the toe of the embankment in the vicinity of Section B and standing water was observed near the toe of the embankment in the vicinity of Section A.

On September 29, 2009, Stantec Michigan surveyed the headrace (head) water elevation at 773.5 feet and the water surface elevation of the Huron River at 760 to 761 feet along the subject embankment. The observation well readings provided by Stantec Michigan indicate the phreatic surface within the subject embankment, at least at Sections B and C, is depressed below typical theoretical values, suggesting the drainage system is functioning at some level of efficiency.

SME used a two-dimensional (2D) limit equilibrium slope stability computer program (SLIDE 5.0 by Rocscience) to evaluate the probable phreatic surface within the subject embankment for a steady-state seepage condition and various boundary conditions. The following loading conditions (cases) were evaluated for the subject embankment geometry at Sections A, B, and C provided by Stantec Michigan:

**Case I:** Normal operating conditions with headrace water surface elevation of 773.5 feet, tail water (Huron River) surface elevations of 760 or 761 feet and the piezometer readings used as boundary conditions to determine the phreatic surface within the embankment;

**Case II:** Normal operating conditions with a headrace water surface elevation of 773.5 feet, tail water surface elevations of 760 or 761 feet used as a boundary condition to determine the phreatic surface within the embankment (i.e., assuming a failed drainage system); and

**Case III:** Design flood conditions with headrace water and tail water elevations of 774.5 feet and 769.0 feet, respectively (provided by Stantec Michigan), used as boundary conditions to determine the phreatic surface within the embankment (i.e., assuming a failed drainage system).

The graphical output of the analyses which depict the probable phreatic surfaces are included in Appendix D of this report. Refer to Section 4.2 for further discussion of the input parameters used and the results of the seepage- seepage analysis.

#### **4.2 Review of Embankment Global Stability**

As part of our scope of services, we evaluated the global stability (limit equilibrium) of the headrace embankment using slope stability software and the available soil and groundwater data developed from the borings and observation wells. First, we developed design 2D cross sections through the subject embankment using the survey data provided by Stantec Michigan. We then superimposed soil and groundwater subsurface boundaries on the cross section using data developed from the borings, the observation wells, and the head and tail water information provided by Stantec Michigan. We then estimated soil index properties (drained strength

parameters, unit weights, and permeability for each subsurface soil boundary based on the boring information (e.g., DCP resistances), laboratory test data, our experience with similar soils, and published correlations.

SLIDE 5.0 was used to first develop theoretical phreatic surfaces through the subject embankment and then to evaluate trial circular failure surfaces under the various loading conditions to assess a global factor of safety using Spencer's method. As referenced in USACE EM 1110-2-1902 dated 31 Oct 2003, near surface failure surfaces (i.e., surface sloughing) are considered a maintenance problem and therefore were not considered in this evaluation. The soil parameters input into the computer program are summarized in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2 - SOIL PROPERTIES USED FOR SEEPAGE AND SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSES**

Soil Type	Moist Unit Weight (pcf)	Drained Cohesion, $c'$ (psf)	Drained Friction Angle, $\phi'$ (degrees)	Hydraulic Conductivity, $k$ (ft/s)
Upper Embankment Sand Fill	120	0	34	$7.5 \times 10^{-4}$
Lower Embankment Sand Fill	125	0	36	$6.0 \times 10^{-4}$
Foundation Soil - Gravelly Sand (Section A)	125	0	35	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$
Foundation Soil - Silty Sand (Section B)	120	0	34	$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$
Foundation Soil - Gravelly Sand (Section C)	125	0	35	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$

Three loading conditions (cases), as described in Section 4.1, were analyzed for Sections A, B and C developed as part of this evaluation. The graphical output of the analyses that depict the probable phreatic surfaces and the slope circle failure surface with the minimum factor of safety against global stability are included in Appendix D of this report. The resulting factors of safety for each case and at each section analyzed are summarized in Table 3 below.

**TABLE 3 – RESULTING FACTORS OF SAFETY FOR SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSES**

	Current Conditions	Future Conditions	
Section	Case I – Normal Headrace Pool with Drainage System Functioning to Current Level of Efficiency	Case II – Normal Headrace Pool with Failed Drainage System	Case III – Design Headrace Pool with Failed Drainage System
A	1.4	1.2	1.1
B	1.5	1.1	1.2
C	1.9	1.4	1.5

Case I resulted in a minimum factor of safety against global stability of 1.4 at Section A, which is considered below the minimum satisfactory value under long-term conditions (normal operating and maximum storage pool conditions) for dams as referenced in Table 3-1 of the USACE EM 1110-2-1902 dated 31 Oct 2003. Case I also resulted in a probable phreatic surfaces below those determined for Case II, indicating the existing drainage system is functioning. The results for the phreatic surfaces indicate the existing drainage system at Section A is functioning less efficiently than the existing drainage system at Sections B and C.

Case II resulted in a probable phreatic surface above the surface suggested by the piezometer readings (Case I) and indicated that without seepage controls (i.e., without a functioning existing drainage system), seepage should be expected to emanate along the downstream slope of the earthen headrace embankment at or below about elevation 767 to 769 feet. Case II also resulted in a minimum factor of safety against global stability of 1.1, which is well below the recommended value of 1.5.

Case III resulted in a minimum factor of safety against global stability of 1.1, which is well below the recommended value of 1.5.

### **4.3 Piping Considerations**

Seepage through earthen structures (such as the subject embankment) could cause, if the seepage (escape) gradient reaches the critical gradient, the movement or transport of soil particles, which is known as piping. This critical gradient approaches unity (1) for sands. Piping could also occur through the joints in the clay drain tiles, or through failed sections of clay drain tiles, used to construct the drainage system within the headrace embankment.

Visible indicators of piping can include the presence soil particles or sediments within seepage water, soil accumulation near the toe of earth slopes, sinkholes along the slope crest or



downstream slope face, etc. These visible indicators of piping may not manifest until a significant piping problem arises. Visible indicators of piping were not reported in the 1992, 2001, or 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Reports for Argo Dam reviewed by SME. In fact, the 2001 and 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Reports stated that observed seepage (resulting primarily from the clay toe drains) did not appear to be transporting soil with the water, but did recommend observing the seepage quarterly with notations on evidence of sedimentation associated with the seepage. Based on information provided to us, there is no evidence of an imminent piping concern.

Determination of piping potential within an earthen structure requires detailed knowledge of the soils and seepage conditions. Since indicators of piping have not been reported to us, we judge a detailed study of piping potential is not warranted until better knowledge of the soils and seepage conditions is known. Quarterly monitoring of the seepage, including documentation of evidence of sedimentation associated with this seepage, should continue. A piping study including additional borings should be performed if detailed quarterly monitoring information shows evidence of piping. Immediate corrective action (e.g., shutting off flow to the headrace) will be required if sedimentation associated with this seepage is observed.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

USACE EM 1110-2-1902 dated 31 Oct 2003 recommends a minimum factor of safety of about 1.5 for limit equilibrium (global stability) of earthen dams under long-term (normal operating and maximum storage pool conditions) loading conditions. A lower minimum factor of safety of about 1.3 might be acceptable during extreme events where the consequences of embankment failure are considered low. Based on the factors of safety calculated from our analyses, two sections of the headrace embankment have an acceptable factor of safety; one section, in its current condition, falls short.

Under current operating conditions, there appears to be no emergency or imminent threat that the earthen headrace embankment will suffer a catastrophic failure. At this time, we do not believe there is an immediate need to dewater the headrace or cease using the headrace. Consequently, SME recommends that Ann Arbor conduct regular inspections (at a minimum, quarterly and during/after significant storm events) to evaluate the effectiveness of the drainage system and be prepared to take responsive actions (e.g. dewatering the headrace) if evidence of insufficient drainage, piping or other possible failure modes are noted. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:

Based on the borings performed during this evaluation, the earthen headrace embankment consists predominantly of fine to coarse sand fill containing cobbles, gravel and silt. The

foundation soils beneath the earthen headrace embankment consist of interbedded strata of silty sands, sands and gravels with cobbles or boulders, and occasional organic silt strata. Based on our experience near the dam site, natural clays and clayey glacial till likely exist beneath the stratified foundation soils encountered during this evaluation.

- (a) The water level data collected during this study demonstrate that the existing drainage system is functioning. Previous dam safety inspection reports (completed in 1992, 2001 and 2004) support this finding since these reports indicate water seepage was observed emanating from the toe drains. However, the 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Report states water seepage was also evident emanating from the embankment around and above at least one of the toe drains. SME has not performed analyses to determine the degree of effectiveness of the existing drainage system.
- (b) Based on the limit equilibrium analysis performed during this study, the factors of safety against global stability were determined for three cross-sections in the headrace embankment in its current condition, which were found to be 1.4, 1.5 and 1.9, respectively. At section A (which exhibited the safety factor of 1.4), the value falls slightly below the recommended factor of safety of 1.5 for long-term loading conditions identified by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Manual EM 1110-2-1902. The factors of safety at the other two cross-sections were at or above the USACE recommended 1.5 factor of safety.

Effective seepage controls are important to demonstrate an appropriate factor of safety. The current drainage control system appears to be operating. SME has not evaluated the degree of effectiveness of the current drainage system. Therefore, SME recommends that Ann Arbor take steps to evaluate the drainage system and be prepared to take steps to improve the system's effectiveness if it is found to be deficient. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:

- (a) As noted above, the water level data collected during this study demonstrate that the existing drainage system is functioning. However, the degree of effectiveness of that system has not been determined to date.
- (b) Based on our analyses, seepage controls are required to demonstrate an adequate factor of safety against global stability (under both normal operating conditions and design flood conditions) and to mitigate the potential for piping at the toe of the downstream slope of the existing earthen tailrace embankment. The current drainage system serves as the seepage controls. If the drainage system is allowed to deteriorate beyond the condition at the time this report was prepared, the factors of safety for the

headrace embankment could decrease further below accepted values, and immediate corrective action could be required.

Piping is a potentially dangerous situation in an earthen embankment. However, to date, no evidence of piping has been observed. These conclusions and recommendations are based on the following:

- (a) If the toe drains fails, increased water seepage could result in piping. Piping has not been reported in the 1992, 2001 or 2004 Dam Safety Inspection Reports for Argo Dam reviewed by SME. Based on information provided to SME, there is no evidence of an imminent piping concern.
- (b) In the short term, SME recommends that Ann Arbor continue regular visual monitoring of seepage (at a minimum, quarterly and during/after significant storm events) to identify any visible evidence of potential piping. If indicators of piping are observed, corrective action, such as shutting off water flow into the headrace, could become necessary
- (c) The results of the quarterly observations could be used to refine the current study results, and in combination with further field exploration, should be used to conduct a piping study for the headrace embankment.

SME recommends that the inspection program be performed by a qualified dam safety inspector (a registered PE with familiarity with dam safety requirements). In general, the program must be tailored to visually assess conditions that could alter the results of this evaluation. Regular groundwater level readings should also be taken from the recently installed piezometers. The additional information obtained from further observations/groundwater levels must be reviewed so that the evaluation can be refined accordingly and the data collected will be sufficient to identify conditions that could require further action. Additional field exploration may also be necessary.

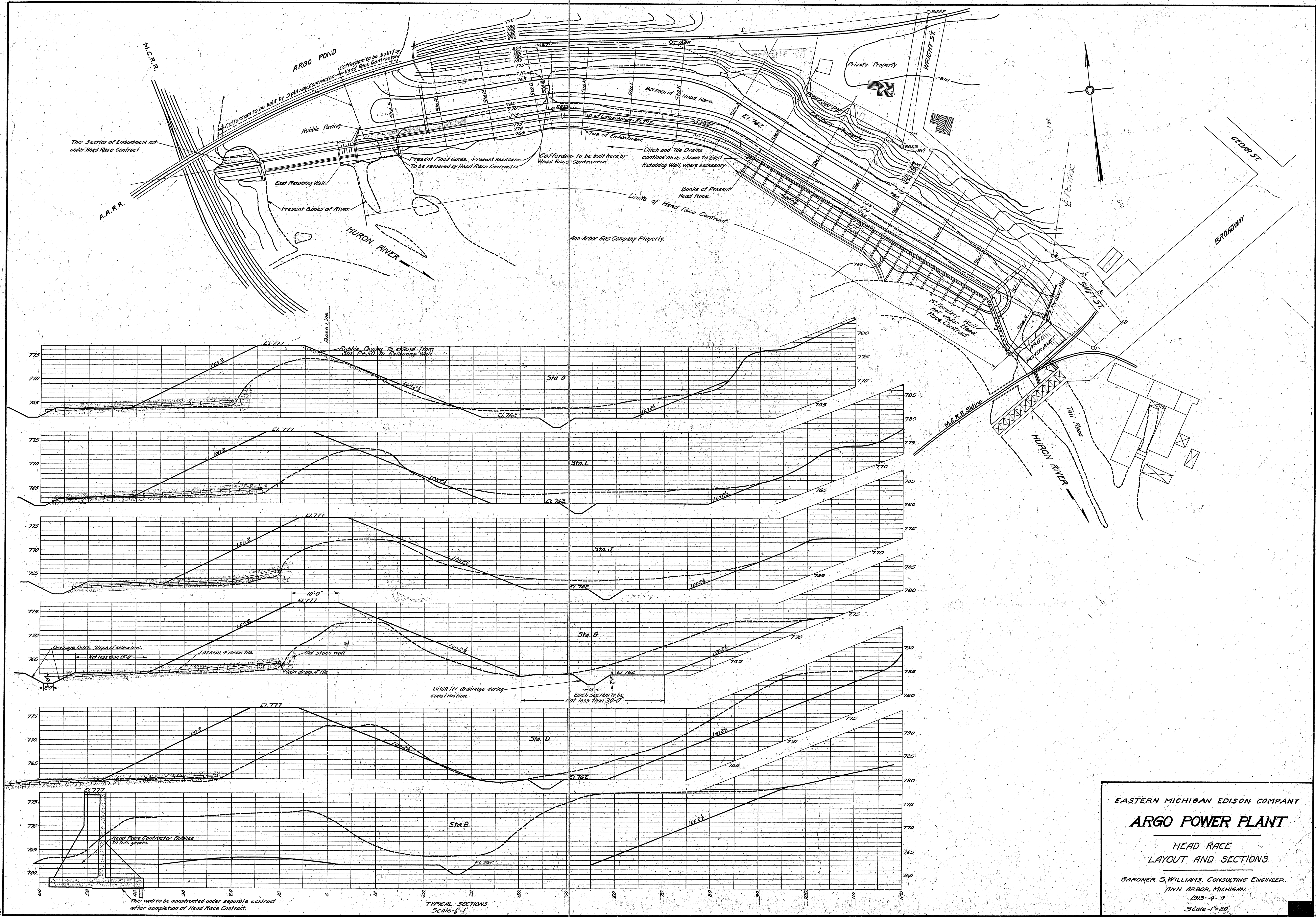
The above conclusions are based on the results of our analysis using the limited data collected during this evaluation and could be refined based on the results of further and more extensive field exploration and laboratory testing.

## **APPENDIX A**

**DRAWING NO. 1: HEADRACE LAYOUT AND SECTIONS (5302)**

**DRAWING. NO. 2: ARGO DAM PIEZOMETERS- STANTEC MICHIGAN**





EASTERN MICHIGAN EDISON COMPANY  
**ARGO POWER PLANT**  
 HEAD RACE  
 LAYOUT AND SECTIONS  
 GARDNER S. WILLIAMS, CONSULTING ENGINEER.  
 ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.  
 1913-4-9  
 Scale - 1"=80'





100



**Copyright Reserved**

### Consultants

### Legend

## Permit-Seek

**ClientProject**

CITY OF ANN ARBOR

## ARGO DAM PIEZOMETERS

Ann Arbor, Michigan



**Project No.**  
**2075090900**

Scale **AS NOTED**

### Drawing No.

## Short

## Revision

## **APPENDIX B**

### **GENERAL NOTES**

**UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (USCS)**

**BORING LOGS (B1, B2 AND B4 THROUGH B9)**

**OBSERVATION WELL LOGS (B1, B2 AND B4 THROUGH B9)**

**PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION REPORTS (FIGURE 1 THROUGH 4)**



soil and materials engineers, inc.

# GEOTECHNICAL NOTES

## Drilling and Sampling Symbols

SS	-	Split-Spoon 1-3/8" I.D., 2" O.D. except where noted	NR	-	No Recovery
LS	-	Liner Sample	RC	-	Rock Core with diamond bit. NQ size, except where noted
AS	-	Power Auger Sample	RB	-	Rock Bit
2ST	-	Shelby Tube – 2" O.D.	VS	-	Vane Shear
3ST	-	Shelby Tube – 3" O.D.	PM	-	Pressuremeter
PS	-	Piston Sample – 3" diameter	WOH	-	Weight of Hammer
WS	-	Wash Sample			
HA	-	Hand Auger Sample	SP	-	Soil Probe
BS	-	Bag or Bottle Sample	PID	-	Photo Ionization Device
CS	-	Continuous Sample	FID	-	Flame Ionization Device

Standard Penetration 'N' – Blows per foot of a 140-pound hammer falling 30 inches on a 2-inch O.D. split spoon, except where noted.

## Particle Sizes

Boulders	-	Greater than 12 inches (305 mm)
Cobbles	-	3 inches (76.2 mm) to 12 inches (305 mm)
Gravel-Coarse	-	3/4 inches (19.05 mm) to 3 inches (76.2 mm)
Fine	-	No. 4 (4.75 mm) to 3/4 inches (19.05 mm)
Sand-Coarse	-	No. 10 (2.00 mm) to No. 4 (4.75 mm)
Medium	-	No. 40 (0.425 mm) to No. 10 (2.00 mm)
Fine	-	No. 200 (0.074 mm) to No. 40 (0.425 mm)
Silt	-	0.005 mm to 0.074 mm
Clay	-	Less than (0.005 mm)

## Depositional Features

Parting	-	as much as 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) thick
Seam	-	1/16 inch (1.6 mm) to 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) thick
Layer	-	1/2 inch (12.7 mm) to 12 (305 mm) inches thick
Stratum	-	greater than 12 inches (305 mm) thick
Pocket	-	small, erratic deposit of limited lateral extent
Lens	-	lenticular deposit
Varved	-	alternating seams or layers of silt and/or clay and sometimes fine sand
Occasional	-	one or less per foot (305 mm) of thickness
Frequent	-	more than one per foot (305 mm) of thickness
Interbedded	-	applied to strata of soil or beds of rock lying between or alternating with other strata of a different nature

Groundwater levels indicated on the boring log are the levels measured in the boring at the times indicated. The accurate determination of groundwater levels may not be possible with short term observations, especially in low permeability soils. The groundwater levels shown may fluctuate throughout the year with variation in precipitation, evaporation and runoff.

## Classification

### Cohesionless Soils (Blows per foot or 0.3 m)

Very Loose	:	0 to 4
Loose	:	5 to 9
Medium Dense	:	10 to 29
Dense	:	30 to 49
Very Dense	:	50 to 80
Extremely Dense	:	Over 80

### Soil Constituents

Trace	:	Less than 5%
Trace to Some	:	5% to 12%
Some	:	12% to 25%
Use Descriptor	:	25% to 50%
(i.e., Silty, Clayey, etc.)		

### Cohesive Soils

<u>Consistency</u>	<u>Shear Strength</u>
Very Soft	: 0.25 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (12.0 kPa) or less
Soft	: 0.25 to 0.49 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (12.0 to 23.8 kPa)
Medium	: 0.50 to 0.99 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (23.9 to 47.7 kPa)
Stiff	: 1.00 to 1.99 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (47.8 to 95.6 kPa)
Very Stiff	: 2.00 to 3.99 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (95.7 to 191.3 kPa)
Hard	: 4.00 kips/ft <sup>2</sup> (191.4 kPa) or greater

### Soil description

If clay content sufficiently dominates soil properties, then clay becomes the primary noun with the other major soil constituent as modifier: i.e. silty clay. Other minor soil constituents may be added according to estimates of soil constituents present, i.e., silty clay, trace to some sand, trace gravel.





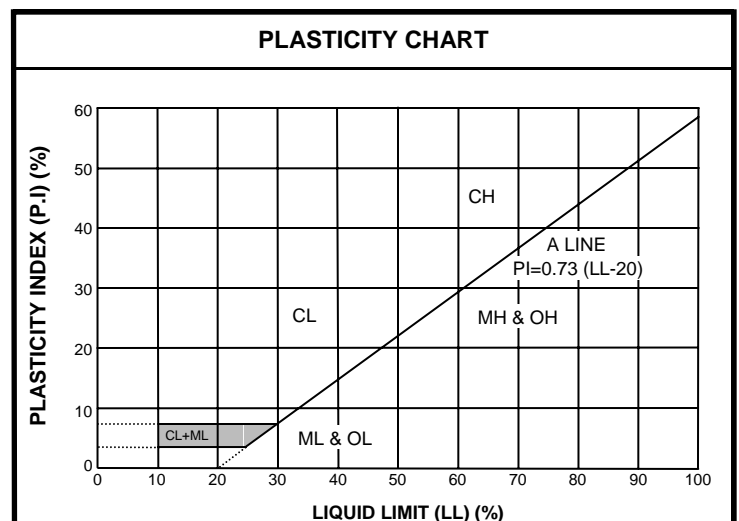
# UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND SYMBOL CHART		
COARSE-GRAINED SOILS (more than 50% of material is larger than No. 200 sieve size.)		
<b>GRAVELS</b> More than 50% of coarse fraction larger than No. 4 sieve size	Clean Gravels (Less than 5% fines)	
		GW Well-graded gravels; sandy gravels, little or no fines
		GP Poorly-graded gravels; sandy gravels, little or no fines
	Gravels with fines (More than 12% fines)	
		GM Silty gravels, some sand or sandy gravels, some silt
		GC Clayey gravels, some sand or sandy gravels, some silt
<b>SANDS</b> 50% or more of coarse fraction smaller than No. 4 sieve size	Clean Sands (Less than 5% fines)	
		SW Well-graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines
		SP Poorly graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines
	Sands with fines (More than 12% fines)	
		SM Silty sands or sands, some silt
		SC Clayey sands or sands, some clay
FINE-GRAINED SOILS (50% or more of material is smaller than No. 200 sieve size)		
<b>SILTS AND CLAYS</b> Liquid limit less than 50%		ML Inorganic silty silts or clayey silts with slight plasticity
		CL Inorganic clays of low plasticity, sandy clays, silty clays
		OL Organic silts and organic clays of low plasticity
<b>SILTS AND CLAYS</b> Liquid limit 50% or greater		MH Inorganic silts of high plasticity
		CH Inorganic clays of high plasticity
		OH Organic silts and organic clays of high plasticity
<b>HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS</b>		PT Peat and other highly organic soils

LABORATORY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA		
GW	$C_U = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 4; $C_C = \frac{D_{30}}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	
GP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for GW	
GM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or P.I. less than 4	Above "A" line with P.I. between 4 and 7 are borderline cases requiring use of dual symbols
GC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with P.I. greater than 7	
SW	$C_U = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 6; $C_C = \frac{D_{30}}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	
SP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for SW	
SM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or P.I. less than 4	Above "A" line with P.I. between 4 and 7 are borderline cases requiring use of dual symbols
SC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with P.I. greater than 7	

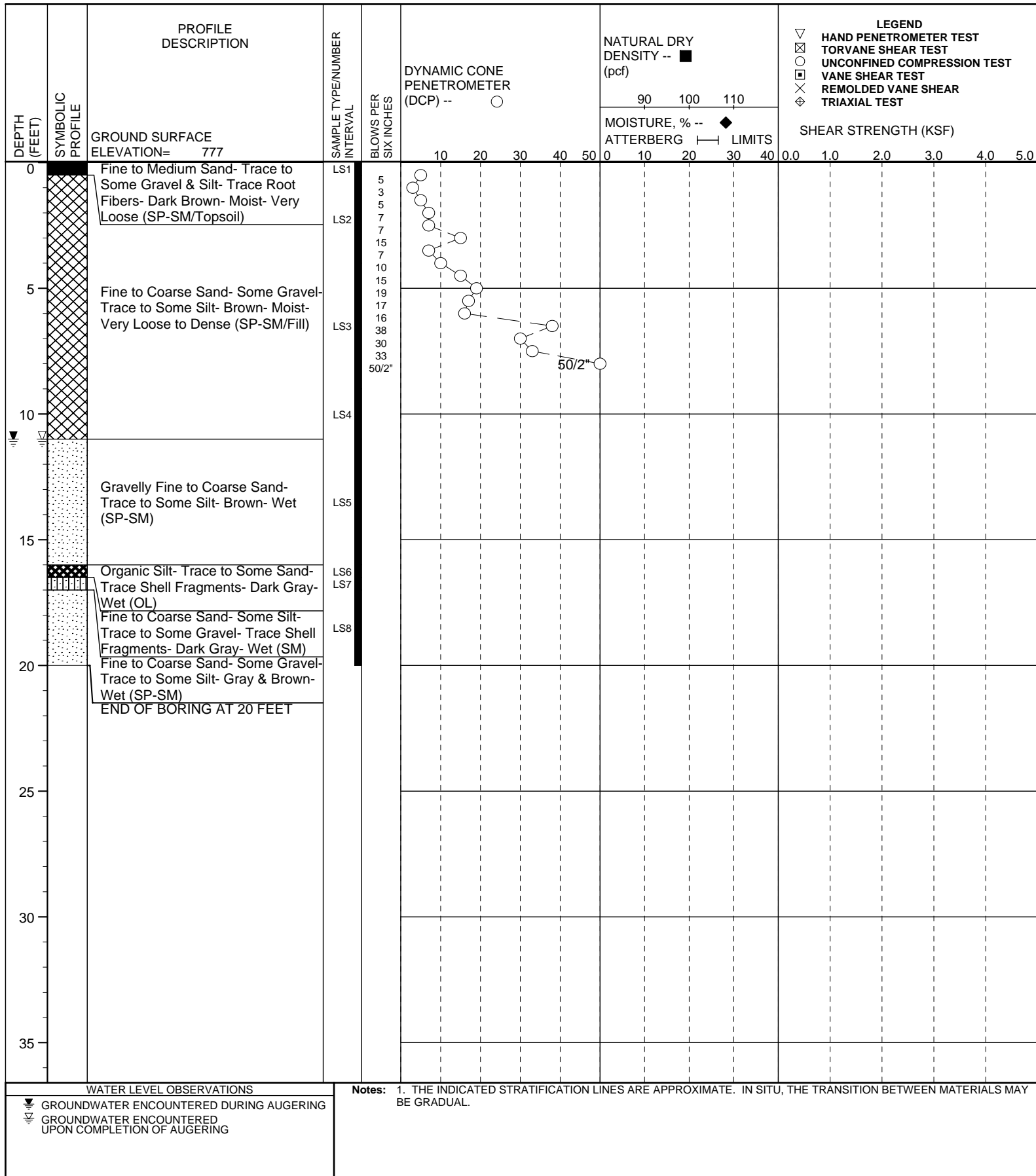
Determine percentages of sand and gravel from grain-size curve. Depending on percentage of fines (fraction smaller than No. 200 sieve size), coarse-grained soils are classified as follows:

Less than 5 percent.....GW, GP, SW, SP  
 More than 12 percent.....GM, GC, SM, SC  
 5 to 12 percent.....Borderline cases requiring dual symbols





**BORING B1**  
**SHEET: 1**

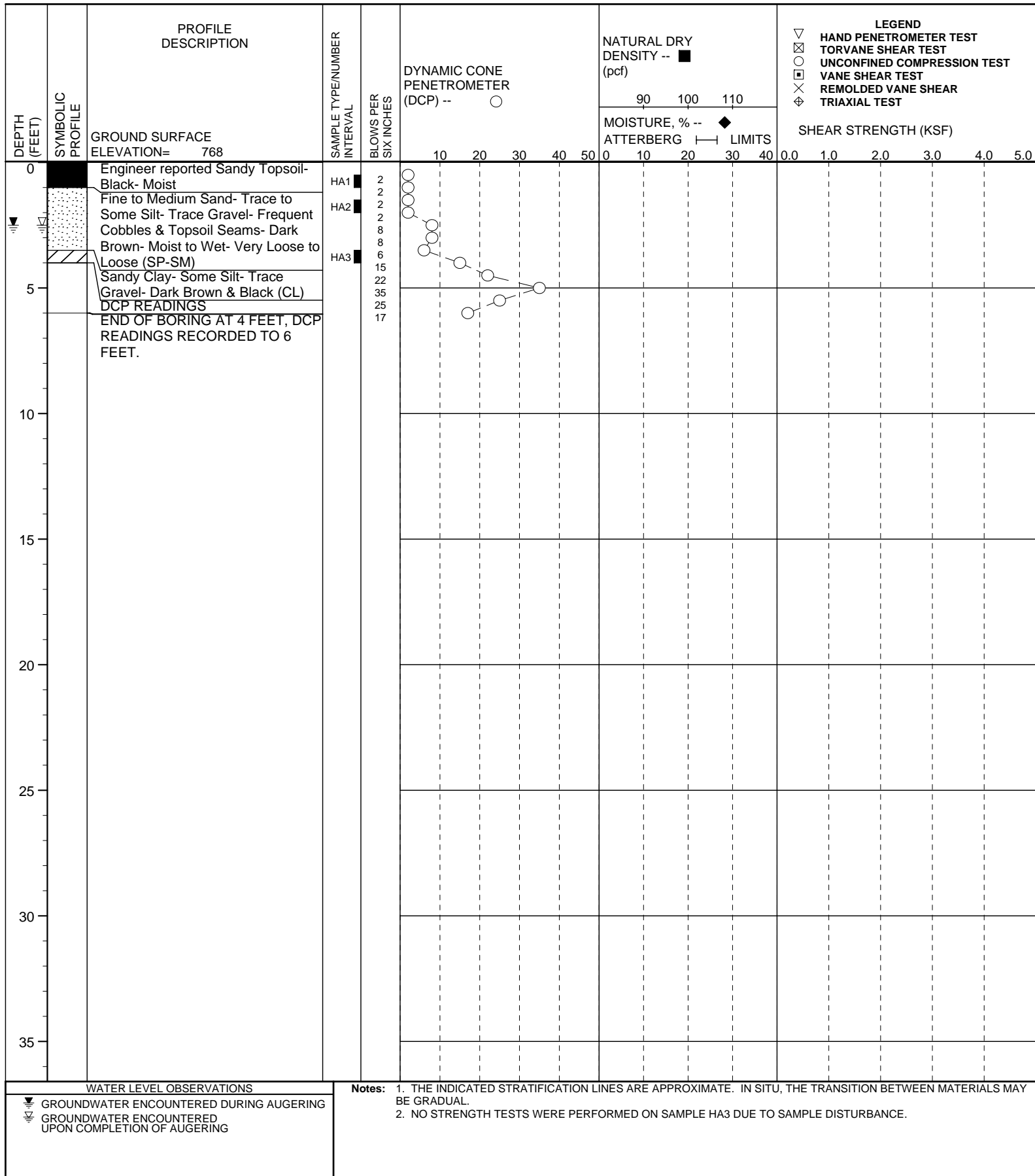




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PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B2  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1

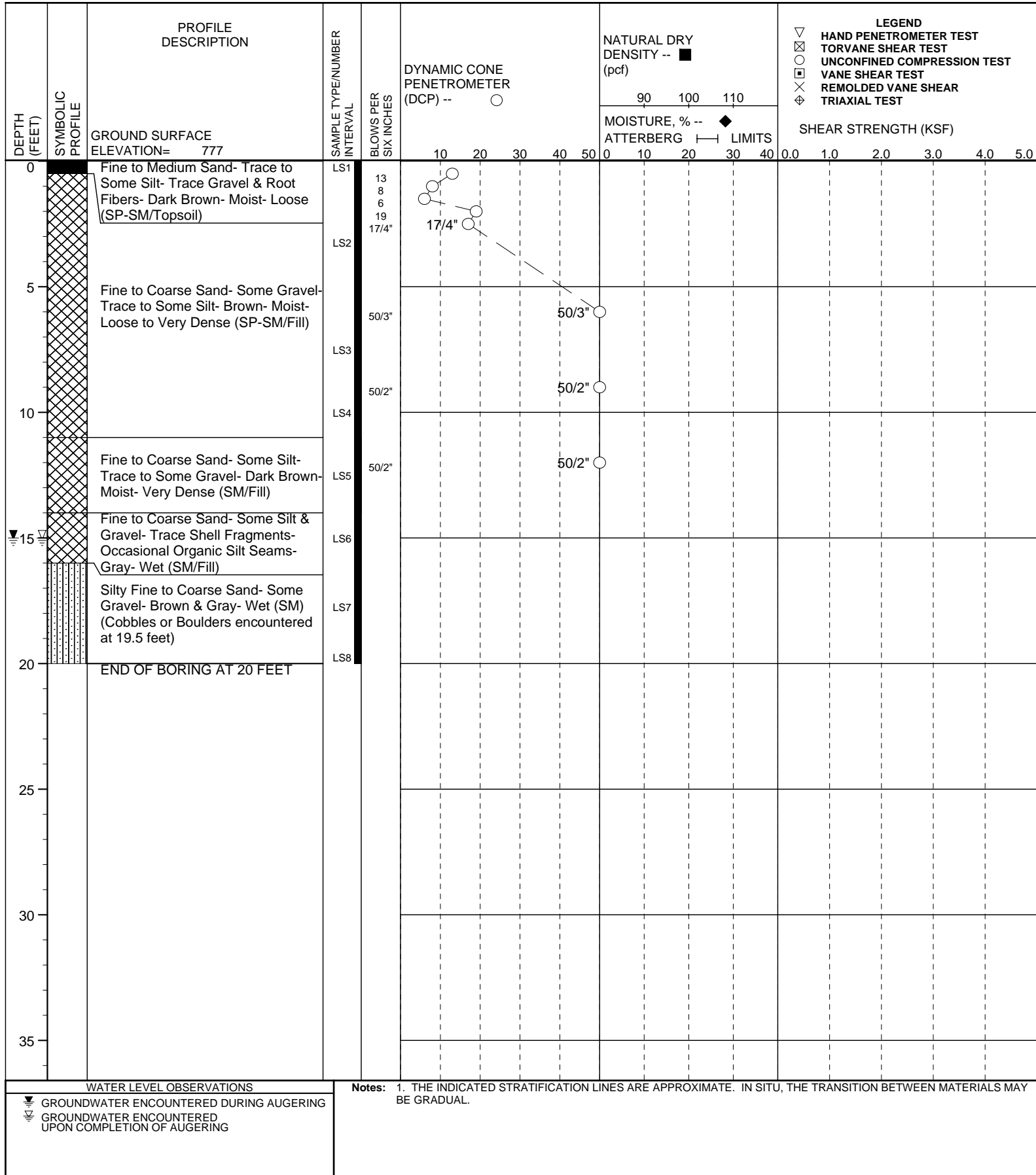




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PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: SB/CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B4  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1

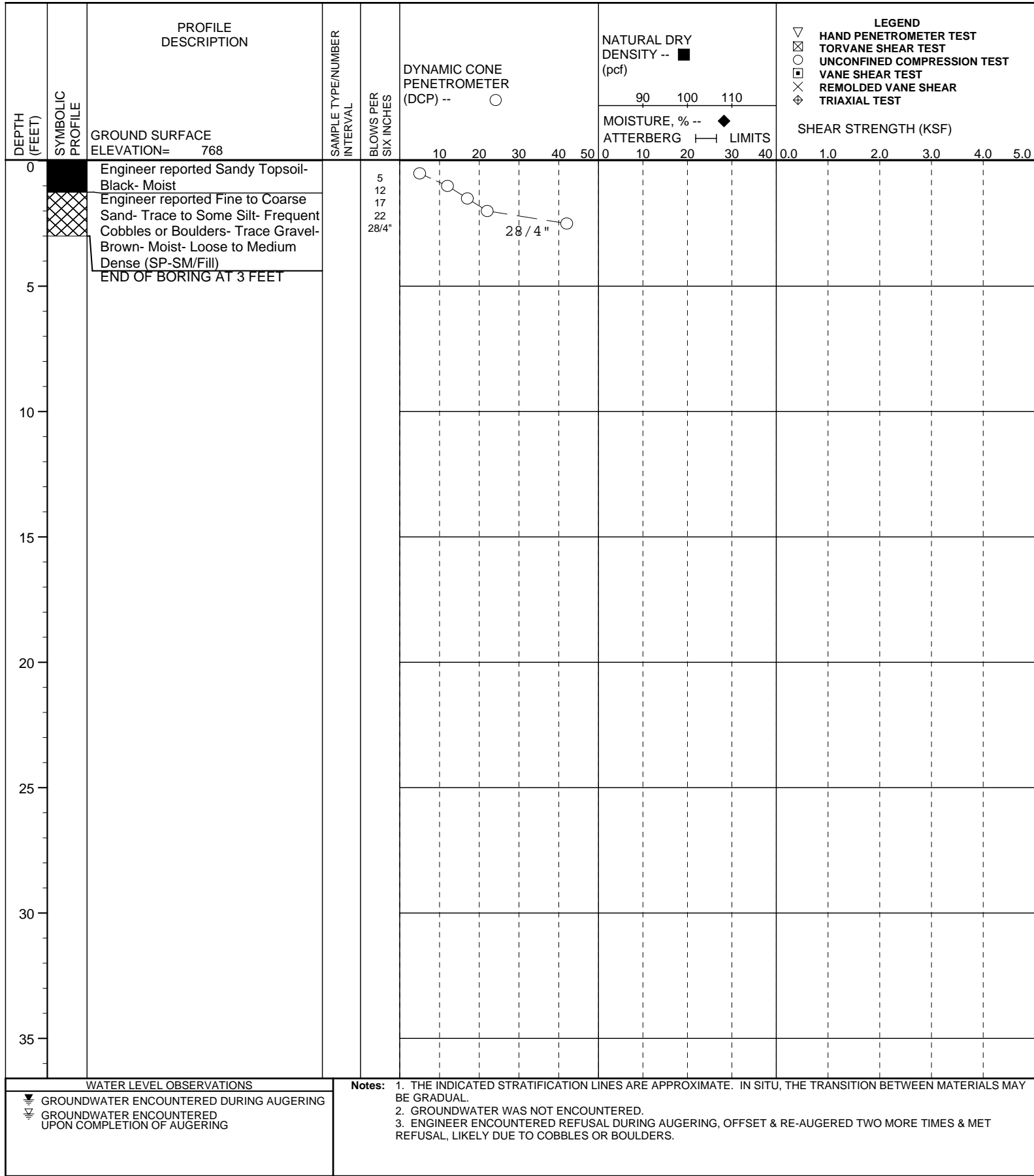




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PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B5  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1

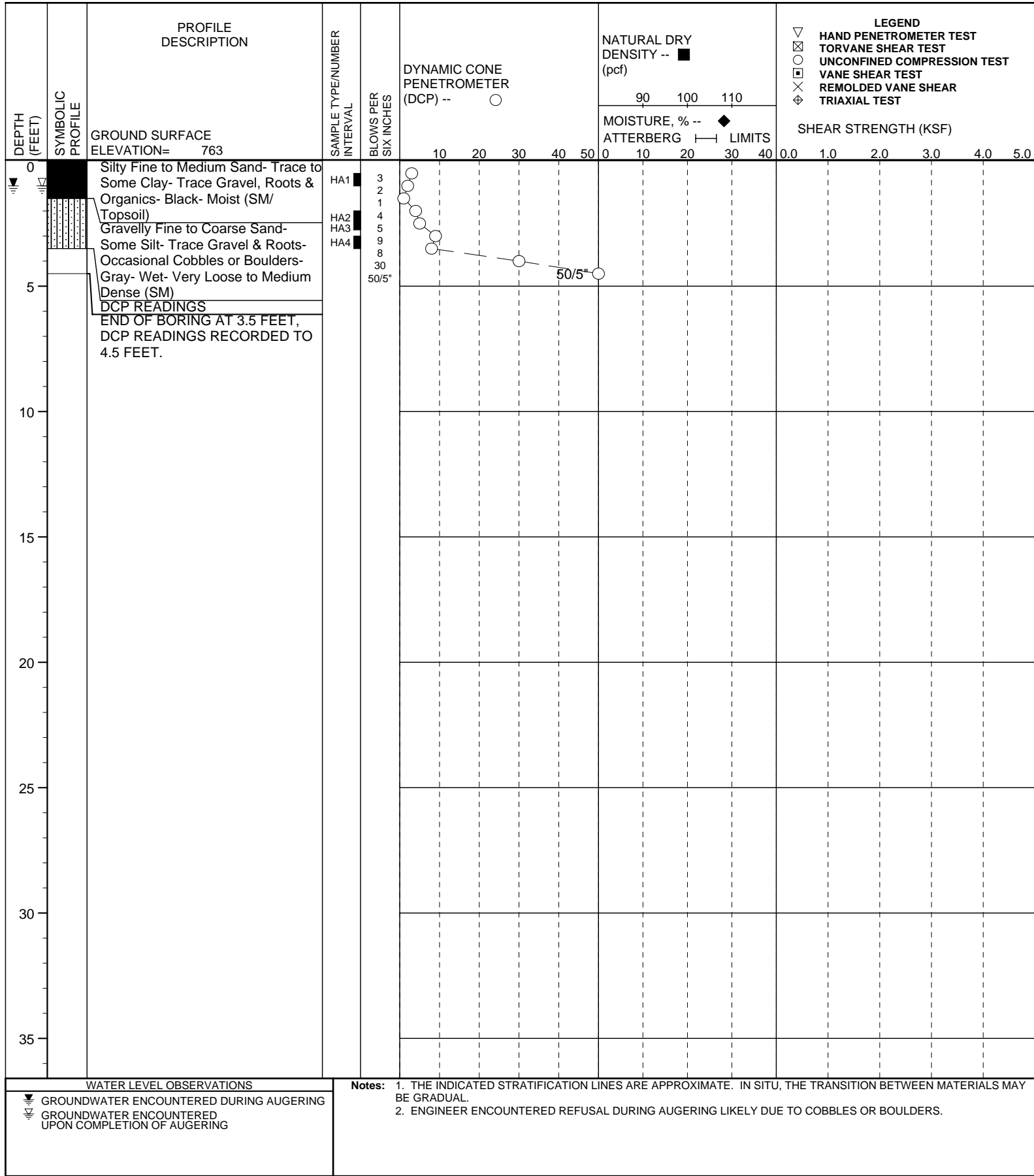




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PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B6  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1

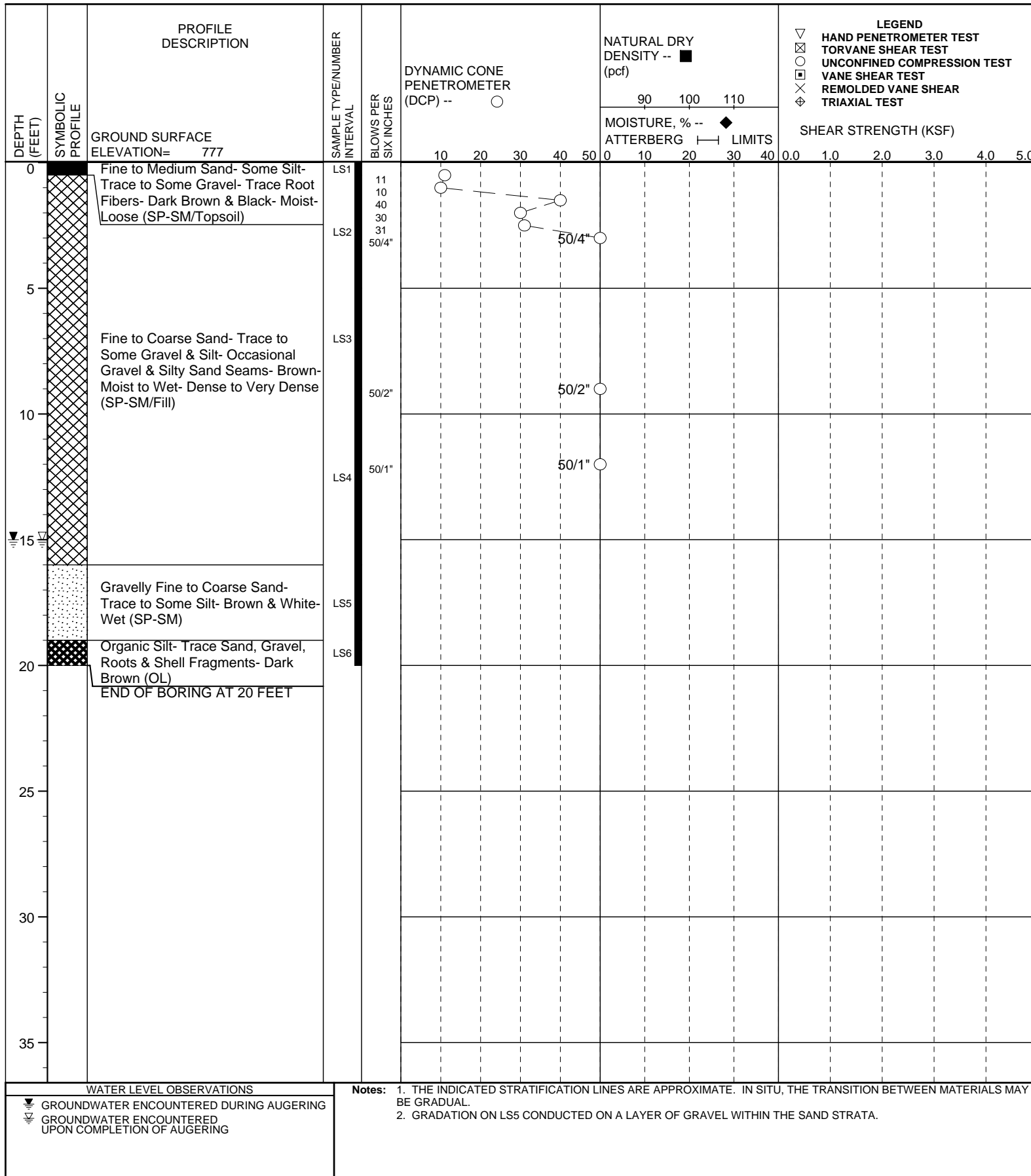




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PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: SB/CGN DATE: 9/17/09  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424  
BORING B7  
SHEET: 1



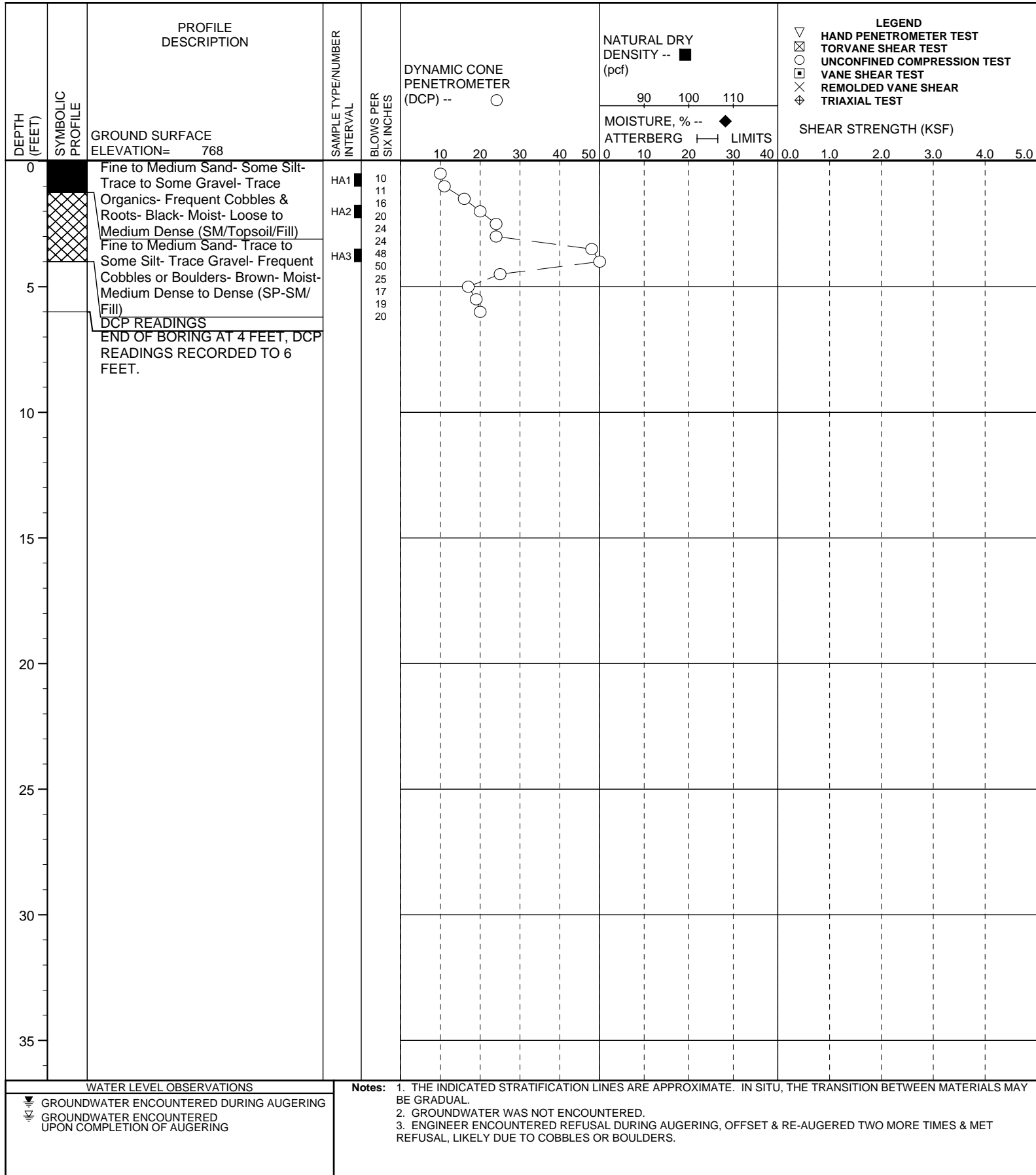
FIELD ENG.: CGN      AUGER METHOD: DIRECT PUSH      WATER LEVEL DURING AUGERING: 15      WATER LEVEL      HOURS AFTER COMPLETION:  
EQUIPMENT: Geoprobe      BACKFILL METHOD: SOIL CUTTINGS      WATER LEVEL UPON COMPLETION: 15      CAVE OF AUGERHOLE AT



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PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B8  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1







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PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

A/E: STANTEC MICHIGAN  
BY: CGN DATE: 9/17/09 BORING B9  
PROJECT NUMBER: PG60424 SHEET: 1

DEPTH (FEET)	SYMBOLIC PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	SAMPLE TYPE/NUMBER INTERVAL	BLOWS PER SIX INCHES	DYNAMIC CONE PENETROMETER (DCP) --	NATURAL DRY DENSITY --	MOISTURE, % --	ATTERBERG	LIMITS	SHEAR STRENGTH (KSF)
						(pcf)				
		GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION= 762								
0		Engineer reported Sandy Topsoil- Black- Frequent Cobbles- Black- Moist (SM/Topsoil/Fill) DCP READINGS		2 19 14 8 4						
		END OF BORING AT .5 FEET, DCP READINGS RECORDED TO 2.5 FEET.								
5										
10										
15										
20										
25										
30										
35										
WATER LEVEL OBSERVATIONS					Notes:	1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL. 2. GROUNDWATER WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED. 3. ENGINEER ENCOUNTERED REFUSAL DURING AUGERING, OFFSET & RE-AUGERED SEVEN MORE TIMES & MET REFUSAL, LIKELY DUE TO COBBLES OR BOULDERS.				
GROUNDWATER ENCOUNTERED DURING AUGERING GROUNDWATER ENCOUNTERED UPON COMPLETION OF AUGERING										



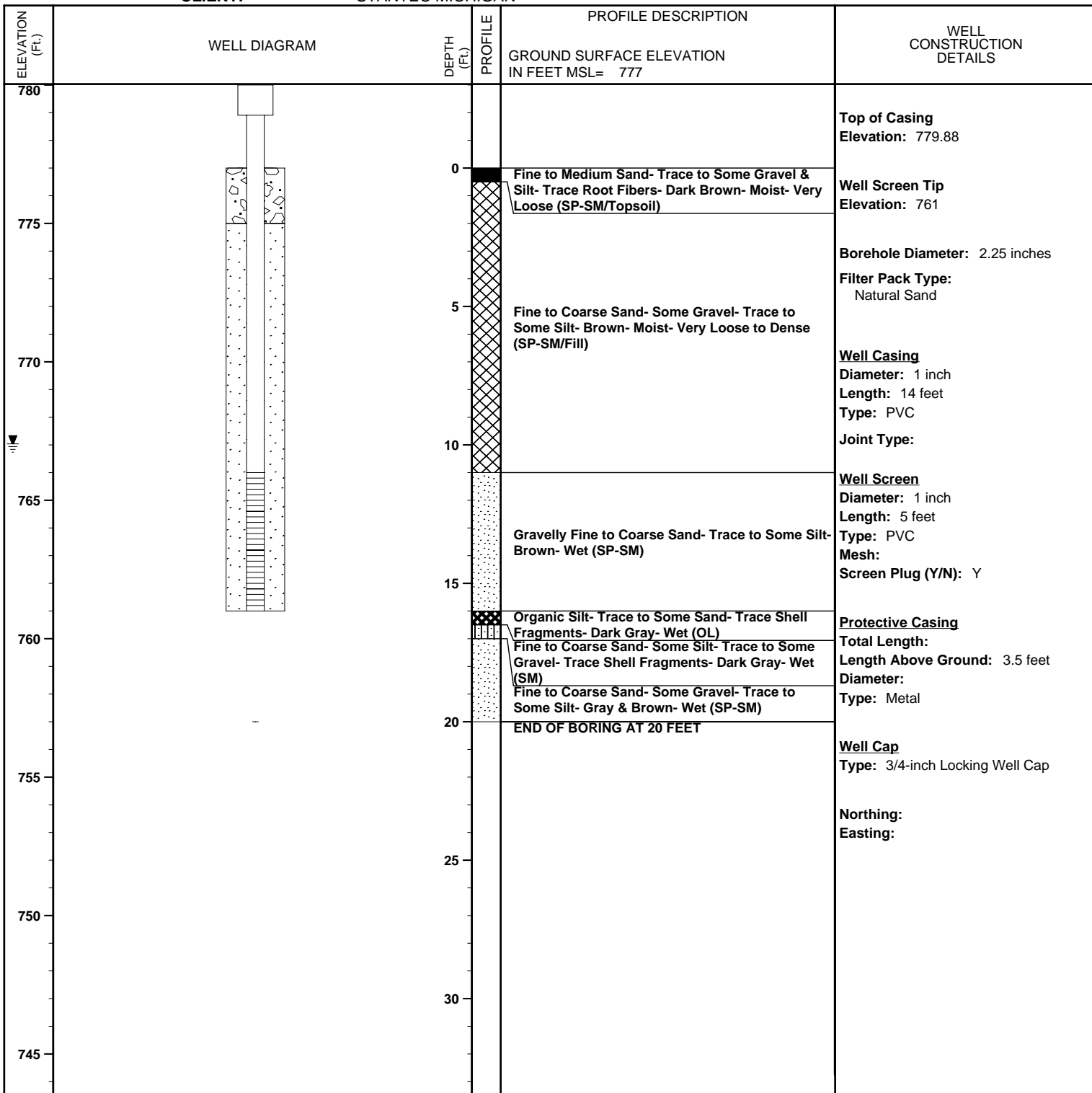
## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

BY: SB/CGN

DATE: 9/17/09



WELL TYPE: OBSERVATION  
DRILLER: CGN  
RIG NUMBER OR  
CONTRACTOR: GEOPROBE

DRILLING METHODS: DIRECT PUSH  
GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING  
GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING

#### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED IN BORING B1.

#### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	9.96	767.04

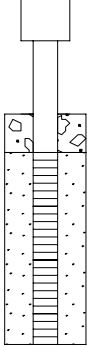


## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

**PROJECT NAME:** ARGO DAM  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
**CLIENT:** STANTEC MICHIGAN

**BY:** CGN**DATE:** 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
770				GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 768	<b>Top of Casing</b> Elevation: 772.30
		0		Engineer reported Sandy Topsoil- Black- Moist	<b>Well Screen Tip</b> Elevation: 762
				Fine to Medium Sand- Trace to Some Silt- Trace Gravel- Frequent Cobbles & Topsoil Seams- Dark Brown- Moist to Wet- Very Loose to Loose (SP-SM)	<b>Borehole Diameter:</b> 3.25 inches
765				Sandy Clay- Some Silt- Trace Gravel- Dark Brown & Black (CL)	<b>Filter Pack Type:</b> 2NS Sand
		5		END OF BORING AT 4 FEET, OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED TO A DEPTH OF 6 FEET.	
760		10			<b>Well Casing</b> Diameter: 2 inches Length: 4 feet Type: PVC Joint Type:
755		15			<b>Well Screen</b> Diameter: 2 inches Length: 5 feet Type: PVC Mesh: Screen Plug (Y/N): Y
750		20			<b>Protective Casing</b> Total Length: Length Above Ground: 3.5 feet Diameter: Type: Metal
745		25			<b>Well Cap</b> Type: 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
740		30			<b>Northing:</b> <b>Easting:</b>
735					

**WELL TYPE:** OBSERVATION  
**DRILLER:** CGN  
**RIG NUMBER OR**  
**CONTRACTOR:** HAND AUGER

**DRILLING METHODS:** HAND AUGER  
**GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING**  
**GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING**

**Notes:**

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED IN BORING B2.

**WATER LEVEL DATA**

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	5.88	762.12



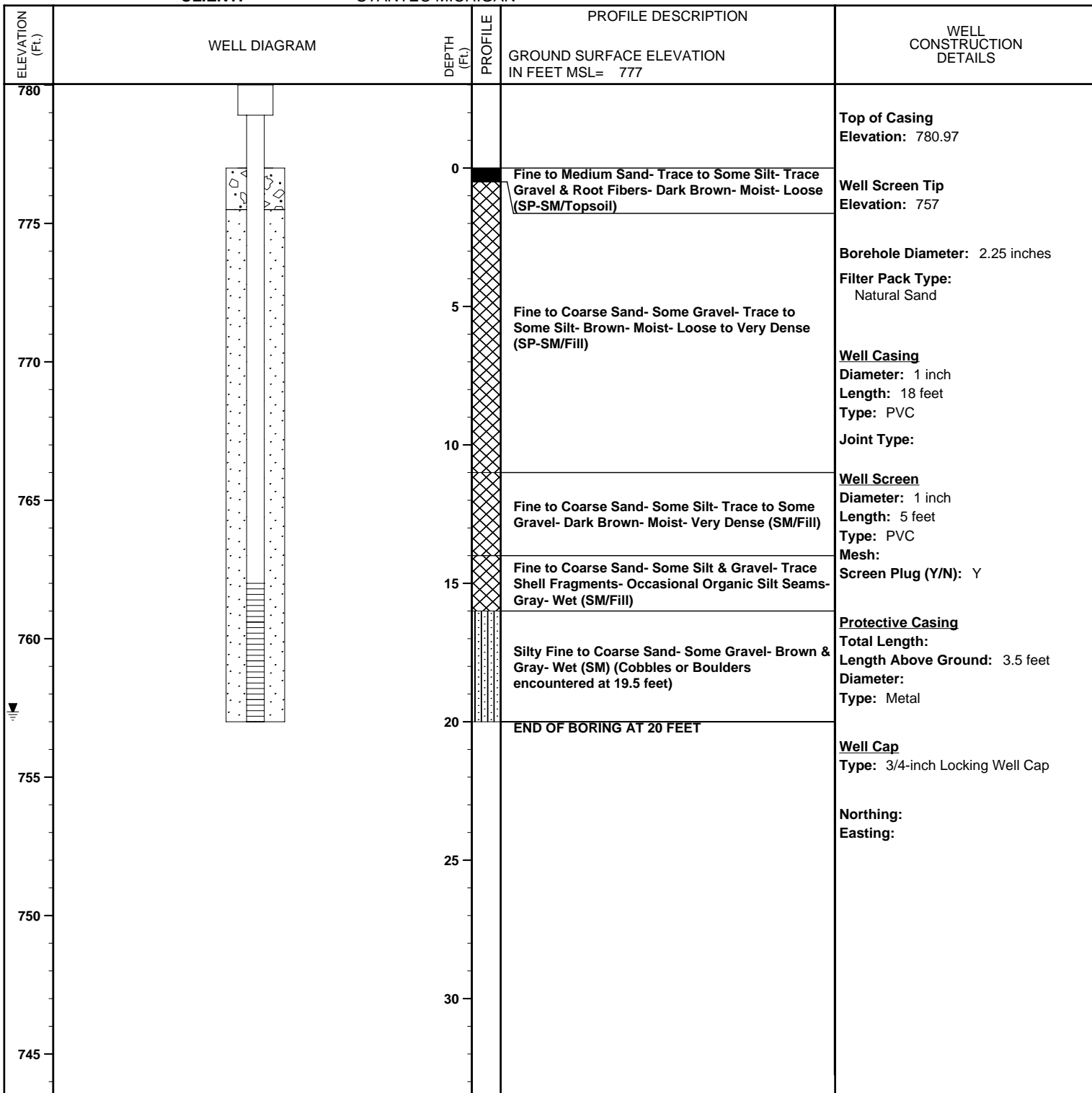
## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

BY: SB/CGN

DATE: 9/17/09



WELL TYPE: OBSERVATION  
DRILLER: CGN  
RIG NUMBER OR  
CONTRACTOR: GEOPROBE

DRILLING METHODS: DIRECT PUSH  
GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING  
GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING

#### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED IN BORING B4.

#### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	19.64	757.36




## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

BY: CGN

DATE: 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
770		0		GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 768	<b>Top of Casing</b> Elevation: 772.06
				Engineer reported Sandy Topsoil- Black- Moist	<b>Well Screen Tip</b> Elevation: 758.5
				Engineer reported Fine to Coarse Sand- Trace to Some Silt- Frequent Cobbles or Boulders- Trace Gravel- Brown- Moist- Loose to Medium Dense (SP-SM/Fill)	
765		5		END OF BORING AT 3 FEET, OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED TO A DEPTH OF 9.5 FEET.	<b>Borehole Diameter:</b> Driven <b>Filter Pack Type:</b> None
760		10			<b>Well Casing</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 1.25 inch <b>Length:</b> 9 feet <b>Type:</b> Galvanized Steel
755		15			<b>Joint Type:</b> <b>Well Screen</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 1.25 inches <b>Length:</b> 3 feet <b>Type:</b> Stainless Steel <b>Mesh:</b> <b>Screen Plug (Y/N):</b> Y
750		20			<b>Protective Casing</b> <b>Total Length:</b> <b>Length Above Ground:</b> 3.5 feet <b>Diameter:</b> <b>Type:</b> Metal
745		25			<b>Well Cap</b> <b>Type:</b> 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
740		30			<b>Northing:</b> <b>Easting:</b>
735					

WELL TYPE: OBSERVATION  
DRILLER: CGN  
RIG NUMBER OR  
CONTRACTOR: HAND AUGER

DRILLING METHODS: HAND AUGER  
GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING  
GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING

#### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED NEAR BORING B5.
3. ENGINEER ENCOUNTERED REFUSAL DURING AUGERING, OFFSET & RE-AUGERED TWO MORE TIMES & MET REFUSAL, LIKELY DUE TO COBBLES OR BOULDERS.
4. A 2 INCH DIAMETER 5 FOOT LONG PVC CASING WAS DRIVEN ABOUT 1.5 FEET BELOW THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE TO PROTECT THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE. THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE HAD A STICK-UP OF ABOUT 2.5 FEET FROM THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE.

#### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	8.25	759.75

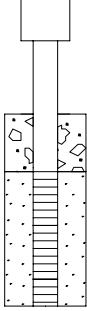


## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

**PROJECT NAME:** ARGO DAM  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
**CLIENT:** STANTEC MICHIGAN

**BY:** CGN**DATE:** 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
765				GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 763	<b>Top of Casing</b> Elevation: 766.67
		0		Silty Fine to Medium Sand- Trace to Some Clay- Trace Gravel, Roots & Organics- Black- Moist (SM/Topsoil)	<b>Well Screen Tip</b> Elevation: 758
760				Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand- Some Silt- Trace Gravel & Roots- Occasional Cobbles or Boulders- Gray- Wet- Very Loose to Medium Dense (SM)	<b>Borehole Diameter:</b> 3.25 inches
		5		END OF BORING AT 3.5 FEET, OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED TO A DEPTH OF 5 FEET.	<b>Filter Pack Type:</b> 2NS Sand
755		10			<b>Well Casing</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 2 inches <b>Length:</b> 3 feet <b>Type:</b> PVC <b>Joint Type:</b>
750		15			<b>Well Screen</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 2 inches <b>Length:</b> 3.5 feet <b>Type:</b> PVC <b>Mesh:</b> <b>Screen Plug (Y/N):</b> Y
745		20			<b>Protective Casing</b> <b>Total Length:</b> <b>Length Above Ground:</b> 3.5 feet <b>Diameter:</b> <b>Type:</b> Metal
740		25			<b>Well Cap</b> <b>Type:</b> 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
735		30			<b>Northing:</b> <b>Easting:</b>
730					

**WELL TYPE:** OBSERVATION  
**DRILLER:** CGN  
**RIG NUMBER OR**  
**CONTRACTOR:** HAND AUGER

**DRILLING METHODS:** HAND AUGER  
**GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING**  
**GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING**

**Notes:**

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED IN BORING B6.
3. ENGINEER ENCOUNTERED REFUSAL DURING AUGERING LIKELY DUE TO COBBLES OR BOULDERS.

**WATER LEVEL DATA**

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	4.42	758.58



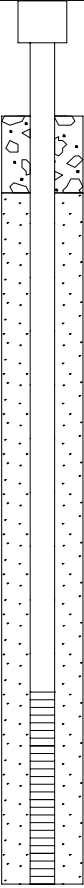
## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

**PROJECT NAME:** ARGO DAM  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
**CLIENT:** STANTEC MICHIGAN

**BY:** SB/CGN

**DATE:** 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
780				GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 777	<b>Top of Casing</b> Elevation: 780.60
		0		Fine to Medium Sand- Some Silt- Trace to Some Gravel- Trace Root Fibers- Dark Brown & Black- Moist- Loose (SP-SM/Topsoil)	<b>Well Screen Tip</b> Elevation: 757
775		5			<b>Borehole Diameter:</b> 2.25 inches <b>Filter Pack Type:</b> Natural Sand
770		10		Fine to Coarse Sand- Trace to Some Gravel & Silt- Occasional Gravel & Silty Sand Seams- Brown- Moist to Wet- Dense to Very Dense (SP-SM/Fill)	<b>Well Casing</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 1 inch <b>Length:</b> 18 feet <b>Type:</b> PVC <b>Joint Type:</b>
765		15			<b>Well Screen</b> <b>Diameter:</b> 1 inch <b>Length:</b> 5 feet <b>Type:</b> PVC <b>Mesh:</b> <b>Screen Plug (Y/N):</b> Y
760		20		Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand- Trace to Some Silt- Brown & White- Wet (SP-SM)	<b>Protective Casing</b> <b>Total Length:</b> <b>Length Above Ground:</b> 3.5 feet <b>Diameter:</b>
				Organic Silt- Trace Sand, Gravel, Roots & Shell Fragments- Dark Brown (OL) END OF BORING AT 20 FEET	<b>Type:</b> Metal
755		25			<b>Well Cap</b> <b>Type:</b> 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
750		30			<b>Northing:</b> <b>Easting:</b>
745					

**WELL TYPE:** OBSERVATION  
**DRILLER:** CGN  
**RIG NUMBER OR**  
**CONTRACTOR:** GEOPROBE

**DRILLING METHODS:** DIRECT PUSH  
**GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING**  
**GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING**

#### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED IN BORING B7.
3. GRADATION ON LS5 CONDUCTED ON A LAYER OF GRAVEL WITHIN THE SAND STRATA.

#### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	18.28	758.72




## OBSERVATION WELL LOG

### SME PROJECT No. PG60424

PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

BY: CGN

DATE: 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
				GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 768	
765		0		Fine to Medium Sand- Some Silt- Trace to Some Gravel- Trace Organics- Frequent Cobbles & Roots- Black- Moist- Loose to Medium Dense (SM/Topsoil/Fill)	Top of Casing Elevation: 770.0
				Fine to Medium Sand- Trace to Some Silt- Trace Gravel- Frequent Cobbles or Boulders- Brown- Moist- Medium Dense to Dense (SP-SM/Fill)	Well Screen Tip Elevation: 757
		5			Borehole Diameter: Driven Filter Pack Type: None
760				END OF BORING AT 4 FEET, OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED TO A DEPTH OF 11 FEET.	Well Casing Diameter: 1.25 inches Length: 9 feet Type: Galvanized Steel
		10			Joint Type:
755					Well Screen Diameter: 1.25 inches Length: 3 feet Type: Stainless Steel Mesh: Screen Plug (Y/N): Y
		15			Protective Casing Total Length: Length Above Ground: 3.5 feet Diameter: Type: Metal
750					Well Cap Type: 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
745		20			
		25			Northing: Easting:
740		30			
		35			

WELL TYPE: OBSERVATION  
DRILLER: CGN  
RIG NUMBER OR  
CONTRACTOR: HAND AUGER

DRILLING METHODS: HAND AUGER  
GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING  
GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING

#### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED NEAR BORING B8.
3. ENGINEER ENCOUNTERED REFUSAL DURING AUGERING, OFFSET & RE-AUGERED TWO MORE TIMES & MET REFUSAL, LIKELY DUE TO COBBLES OR BOULDERS.
4. A 2 INCH DIAMETER 5 FOOT LONG PVC CASING WAS DRIVEN ABOUT 1.5 FEET BELOW THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE TO PROTECT THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE. THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE HAD A STICK-UP OF ABOUT 2.5 FEET FROM THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE.

#### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	8.07	759.93





# soil and materials engineers, inc.

Observation Well


B9

## OBSERVATION WELL LOG SME PROJECT No. PG60424

PROJECT NAME: ARGO DAM  
PROJECT LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
CLIENT: STANTEC MICHIGAN

BY: CGN

DATE: 9/17/09

ELEVATION (Ft.)	WELL DIAGRAM	DEPTH (Ft.)	PROFILE	PROFILE DESCRIPTION	WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
				GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION IN FEET MSL= 762	
760		0		Engineer reported Sandy Topsoil- Black- Frequent Cobbles- Black- Moist (SM/Topsoil/Fill)	Top of Casing Elevation: 765.35
				END OF BORING AT .5 FEET, OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED TO A DEPTH OF 6 FEET.	Well Screen Tip Elevation: 756
755		5			Borehole Diameter: Driven
					Filter Pack Type: None
750		10			Well Casing Diameter: 1.25 inches Length: 3 feet Type: Galvanized Steel
					Joint Type:
745		15			Well Screen Diameter: 1.25 inches Length: 3 feet Type: Stainless Steel Mesh: Screen Plug (Y/N): Y
740		20			Protective Casing Total Length: Length Above Ground: 3.5 feet Diameter: Type: Metal
735		25			Well Cap Type: 3/4-inch Locking Well Cap
730		30			Nothing: Easting:
		35			

WELL TYPE: OBSERVATION  
DRILLER: CGN  
RIG NUMBER OR  
CONTRACTOR: HAND AUGER

DRILLING METHODS: HAND AUGER  
GROUNDWATER DURING DRILLING  
GROUNDWATER AFTER DRILLING

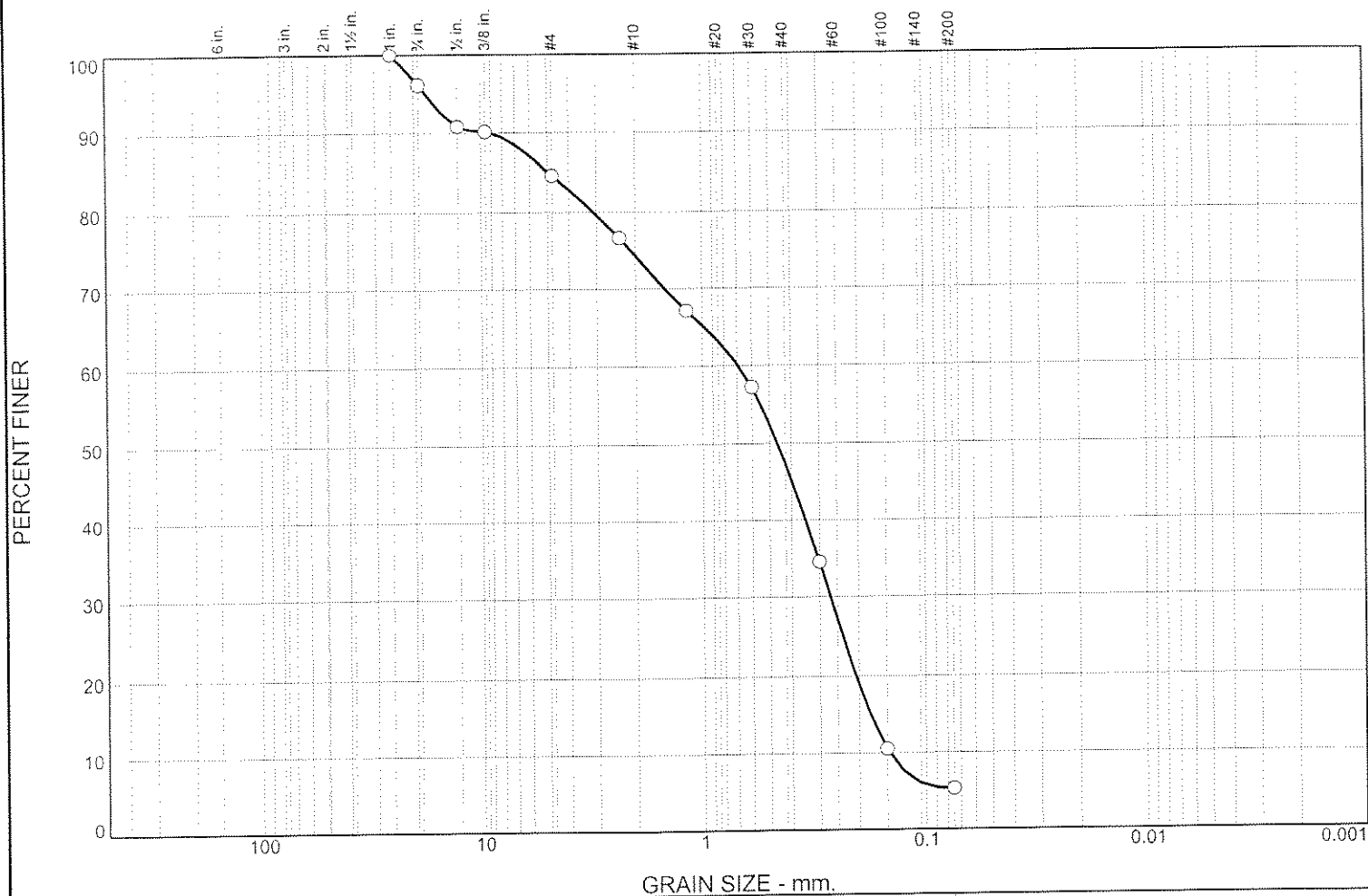
### Notes:

1. THE INDICATED STRATIFICATION LINES ARE APPROXIMATE. IN SITU, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN MATERIALS MAY BE GRADUAL.
2. OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLED NEAR BORING B9.
3. ENGINEER ENCOUNTERED REFUSAL DURING AUGERING, OFFSET & RE-AUGERED SEVEN MORE TIMES & MET REFUSAL, LIKELY DUE TO COBBLES OR BOULDERS.
4. A 2 INCH DIAMETER 5 FOOT LONG PVC CASING WAS DRIVEN ABOUT 1.5 FEET BELOW THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE TO PROTECT THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE. THE 1.25 INCH GALVANIZED RISER PIPE HAD A STICK-UP OF ABOUT 0.08 FEET FROM THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE.

### WATER LEVEL DATA

DATE	DEPTH (Feet)	ELEVATION (Feet)
9/30/09	5.34	756.66

# Particle Size Distribution Report



GRAIN SIZE - mm.										
% +3"			% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines		
			Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay	
○	0.0		3.8	11.5	10.3	27.0	42.1	5.3		
×	LL	PL	D <sub>85</sub>	D <sub>60</sub>	D <sub>50</sub>	D <sub>30</sub>	D <sub>15</sub>	D <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>	C <sub>u</sub>
○			4.8956	0.6901	0.4608	0.2683	0.1779	0.1462	0.71	4.72
Material Description								USCS	AASHTO	
○ Fine to Coarse Sand, Some Gravel, Trace to Some Silt								SP-SM		

Project No. PG60424 Client: Stantec Michigan  
 Project: Argo Dam Toe Drain Evaluation  
 Ann Arbor, MI

Remarks:  
 ○ Boring: B1  
 Sample: LS3

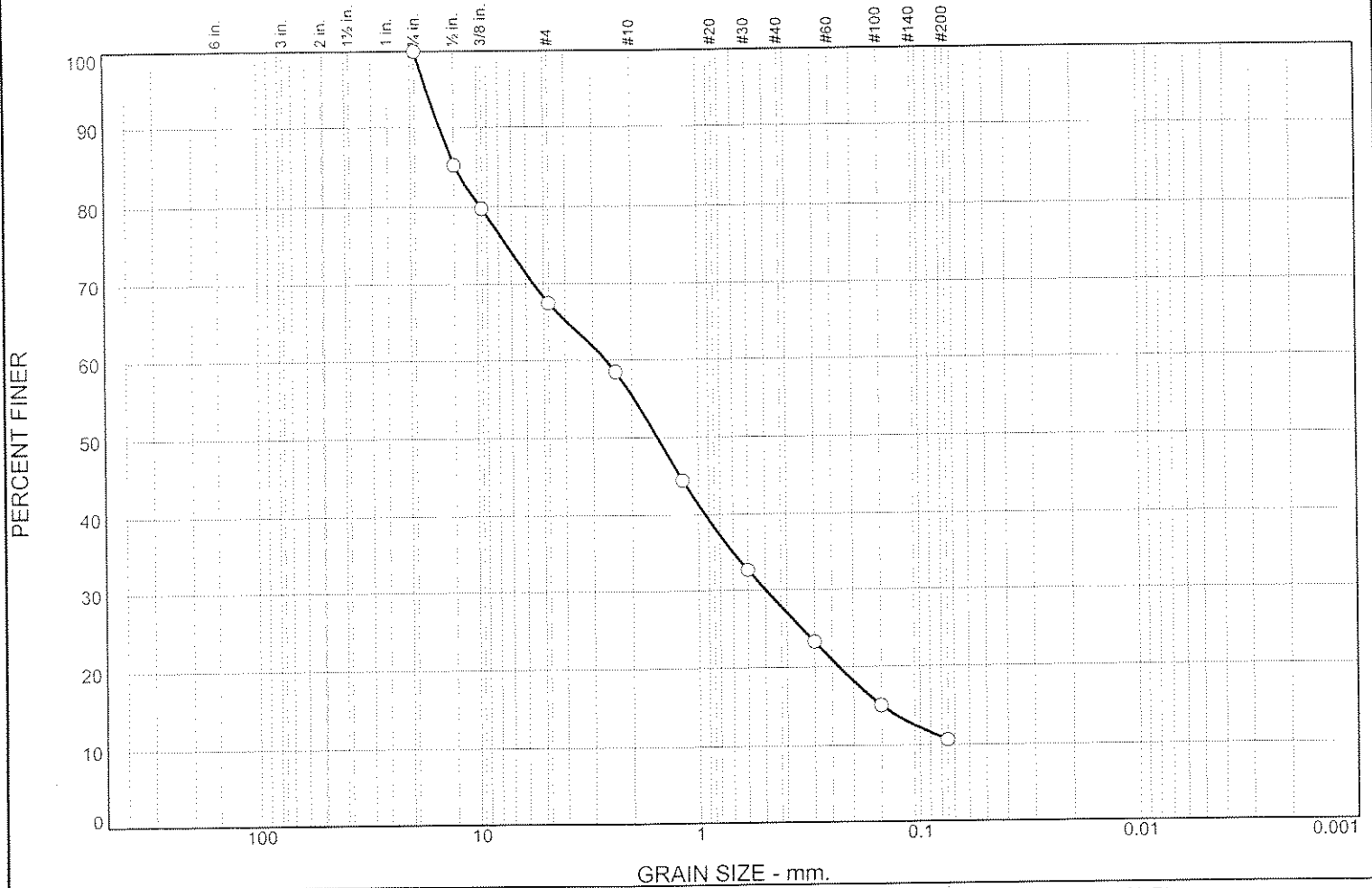
Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.

Plymouth, MI

Figure 1

Tested By: Kanti Patel Checked By: Jason Cumbers

# Particle Size Distribution Report



GRAIN SIZE - mm.									
% +3"		% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines		
		Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay	
<input type="radio"/>	0.0	0.0	32.5	11.9	27.8	17.1	10.7		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LL	PL	D <sub>85</sub>	D <sub>60</sub>	D <sub>50</sub>	D <sub>30</sub>	D <sub>15</sub>	D <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>
<input type="radio"/>			12.5578	2.6083	1.5304	0.4981	0.1476		C <sub>u</sub>

Material Description	USCS	AASHTO
<input type="radio"/> Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand, Trace to Some Silt	SP-SM	

Project No. PG60424 Client: Stantec Michigan  
 Project: Argo Dam Toe Drain Evaluation  
 Ann Arbor, MI

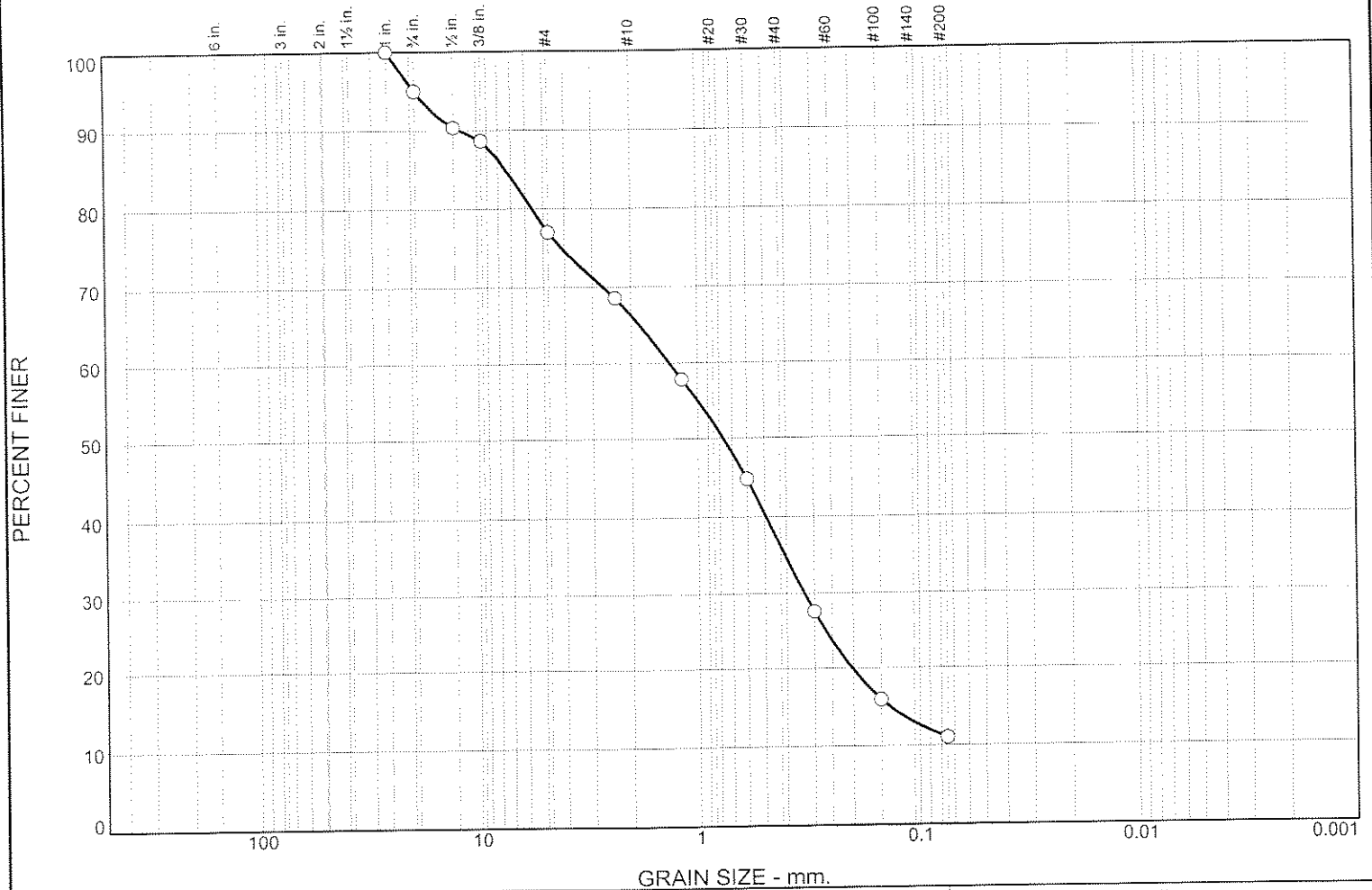
Remarks:  
☐ Botring: B1  
 Sample: LS5

Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.  
 Plymouth, MI

Figure 2

Tested By: Kanti Patel Checked By: Jason Cumbers

# Particle Size Distribution Report



GRAIN SIZE - mm.							% Fines	
% +3"		% Gravel		% Sand			Silt	Clay
		Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine		
○	0.0	5.0	18.0	10.7	30.1	25.2	11.0	
LL	PL	D <sub>85</sub>	D <sub>60</sub>	D <sub>50</sub>	D <sub>30</sub>	D <sub>15</sub>	D <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>
○		7.3256	1.3428	0.7681	0.3325	0.1379		
Material Description							USCS	AASHTO
○ Fine to Coarse Sand, Some Gravel, Trace to Some Silt							SP-SM	

Project No. PG60424 Client: Stantec Michigan  
 Project: Argo Dam Toe Drain Evaluation  
 Ann Arbor, MI

## Remarks:

○ Boring: B4  
 Sample: LS3

Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.

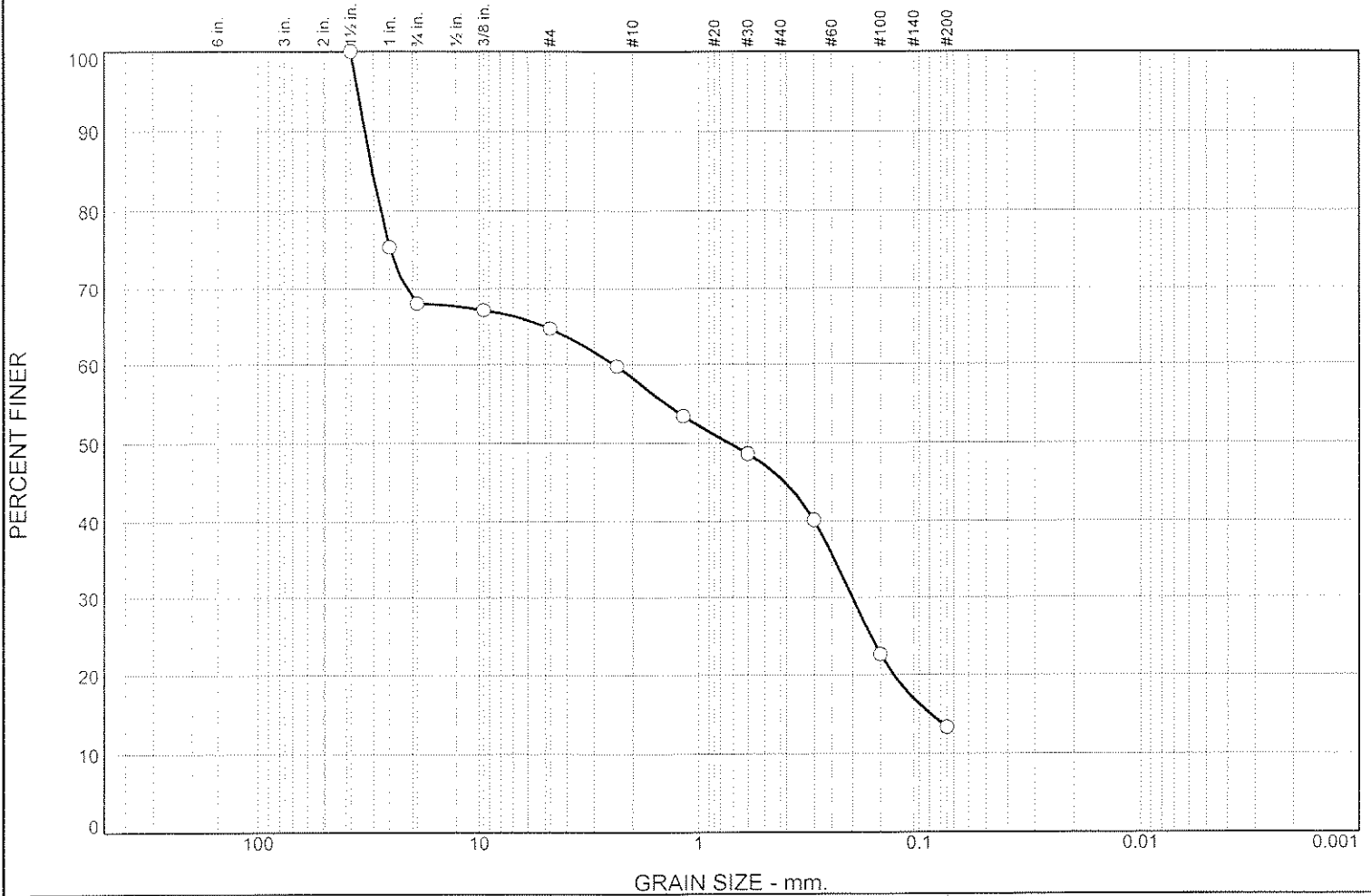
Plymouth, MI

Figure 3

Tested By: Kanti Patel

Checked By: Jason Cumbers

# Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"		% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines			
		Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay		
○	0.0	31.9	3.3	6.6	12.6	32.2	13.4			
×	LL	PL	D <sub>85</sub>	D <sub>60</sub>	D <sub>50</sub>	D <sub>30</sub>	D <sub>15</sub>	D <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>	C <sub>u</sub>
○			30.4683	2.4362	0.7300	0.2015	0.0890			
Material Description								USCS	AASHTO	
○ Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand, Some Silt								SM		

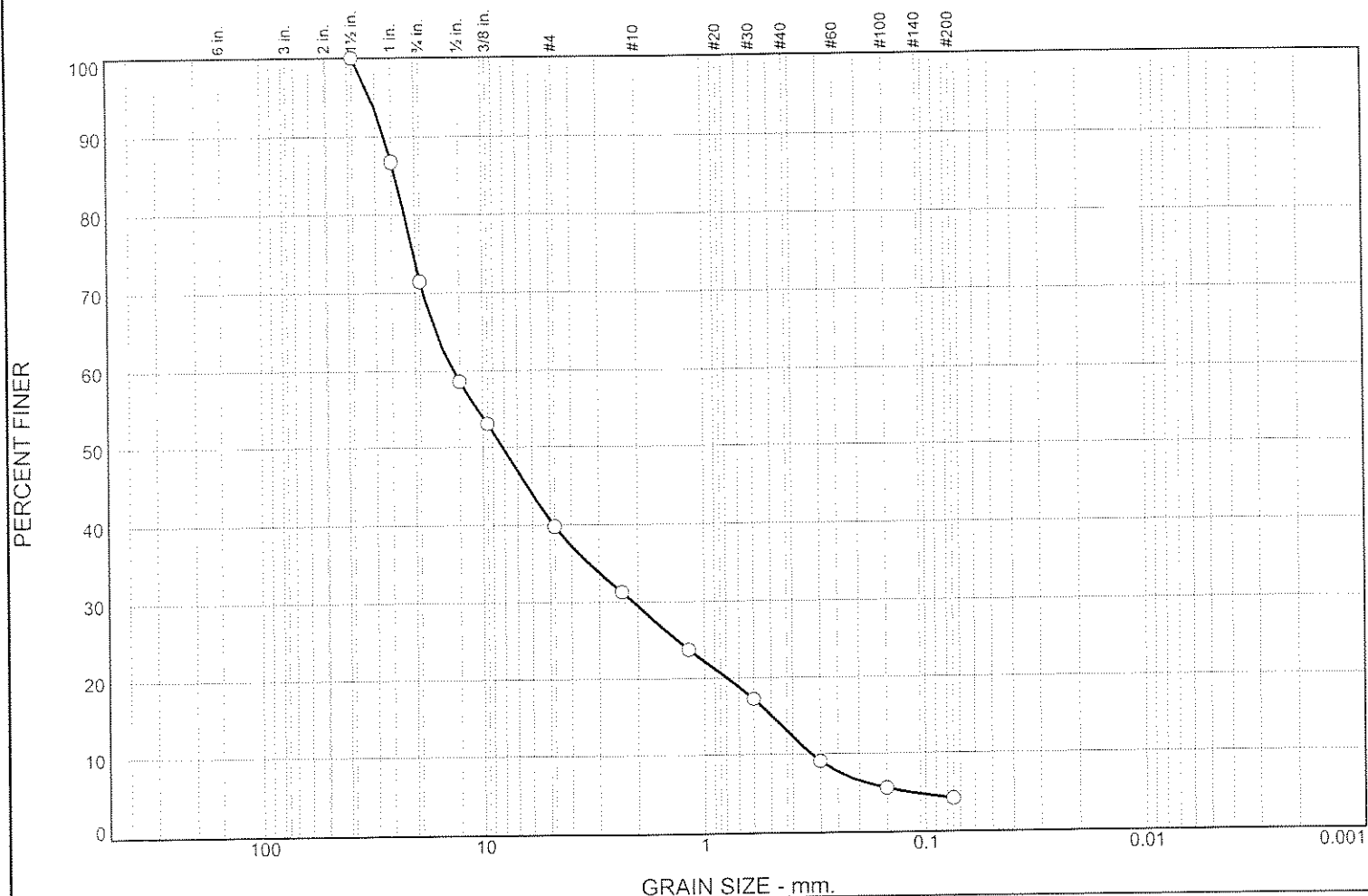
Project No. PG60424 Client: Stantec Michigan  
 Project: Argo Dam Toe Drain Evaluation  
 Ann Arbor, MI

Remarks:  
 ○ Boring: B6  
 Samples: HA3 & HA4

Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.  
 Plymouth, MI

Figure 4

# Particle Size Distribution Report



GRAIN SIZE - mm.										
% +3"			% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines		
			Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay	
○	0.0		28.6	31.6	10.3	16.5	8.9	4.1		
×	LL	PL	D <sub>85</sub>	D <sub>60</sub>	D <sub>50</sub>	D <sub>30</sub>	D <sub>15</sub>	D <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>	C <sub>u</sub>
○			24.4731	13.5487	8.1467	2.0968	0.4993	0.3298	0.98	41.08
Material Description								USCS	AASHTO	
○ Sandy Fine to Coarse Gravel, Trace Silt								GP		

Project No. PG60424 Client: Stantec Michigan  
 Project: Argo Dam Toe Drain Evaluation  
 Ann Arbor, MI

Remarks:  
 Boring: B7  
 Sample: LS5

Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.

Plymouth, MI

Figure 5

Tested By: Kanti Patel

Checked By: Jason Cumbers

## **APPENDIX C**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT**

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

#### **LABORATORY TESTING PROCEDURES**

# Important Information About Your Geotechnical Engineering Report

*Subsurface problems are a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes.*

*The following information is provided to help you manage your risks.*

## **Geotechnical Services Are Performed for Specific Purposes, Persons, and Projects**

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

## **Read the Full Report**

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

## **A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Based on A Unique Set of Project-Specific Factors**

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

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

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

- the function of the proposed structure, as when it's changed from a parking garage to an office building, or from a light industrial plant to a refrigerated warehouse,

- elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure,
- composition of the design team, or
- project ownership.

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

## **Subsurface Conditions Can Change**

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

## **Most Geotechnical Findings Are Professional Opinions**

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

## **A Report's Recommendations Are *Not* Final**

Do not overrely on the construction recommendations included in your report. *Those recommendations are not final*, because geotechnical engineers develop them principally from judgment and opinion. Geotechnical engineers can finalize their recommendations only by observing actual



subsurface conditions revealed during construction. *The geotechnical engineer who developed your report cannot assume responsibility or liability for the report's recommendations if that engineer does not perform construction observation.*

### **A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Subject to Misinterpretation**

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

### **Do Not Redraw the Engineer's Logs**

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

### **Give Contractors a Complete Report and Guidance**

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

### **Read Responsibility Provisions Closely**

Some clients, design professionals, and contractors do not recognize that geotechnical engineering is far less exact than other engineering disciplines. This lack of understanding has created unrealistic expectations that

have led to disappointments, claims, and disputes. To help reduce the risk of such outcomes, geotechnical engineers commonly include a variety of explanatory provisions in their reports. Sometimes labeled "limitations" many of these provisions indicate where geotechnical engineers' responsibilities begin and end, to help others recognize their own responsibilities and risks. *Read these provisions closely.* Ask questions. Your geotechnical engineer should respond fully and frankly.

### **Geoenvironmental Concerns Are Not Covered**

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

### **Obtain Professional Assistance To Deal with Mold**

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

### **Rely on Your ASFE-Member Geotechnical Engineer for Additional Assistance**

Membership in ASFE/The Best People on Earth exposes geotechnical engineers to a wide array of risk management techniques that can be of genuine benefit for everyone involved with a construction project. Confer with you ASFE-member geotechnical engineer for more information.



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## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **Basis of Geotechnical Report**

This report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted geotechnical engineering practices to assist in the design and/or evaluation of this project. If the project plans, design criteria, and other project information referenced in this report and utilized by SME to prepare our recommendations are changed, the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are not considered valid unless the changes are reviewed, and the conclusions and recommendations of this report are modified or approved in writing by our office.

The discussions and recommendations submitted in this report are based on the available project information, described in this report, and the geotechnical data obtained from the field exploration at the locations indicated in the report. Variations in the soil and groundwater conditions commonly occur between or away from sampling locations. The nature and extent of the variations may not become evident until the time of construction. If significant variations are observed during construction, SME should be contacted to reevaluate the recommendations of this report. SME should be retained to continue our services through construction to observe and evaluate the actual subsurface conditions relative to the recommendations made in this report.

In the process of obtaining and testing samples and preparing this report, procedures are followed that represent reasonable and accepted practice in the field of soil and foundation engineering. Specifically, field logs are prepared during the field exploration that describe field occurrences, sampling locations, and other information. Samples obtained in the field are frequently subjected to additional testing and reclassification in the laboratory and differences may exist between the field logs and the report logs. The engineer preparing the report reviews the field logs, laboratory classifications, and test data and then prepares the report logs. Our recommendations are based on the contents of the report logs and the information contained therein.

### **Review of Design Details, Plans, and Specifications**

SME should be retained to review the design details, project plans, and specifications to verify those documents are consistent with the recommendations contained in this report.

### **Review of Report Information With Project Team**

Implementation of our recommendations may affect the design, construction, and performance of the proposed improvements, along with the potential inherent risks involved with the proposed construction. The client and key members of the design team, including SME, should discuss the issues covered in this report so that the issues are understood and applied in a manner consistent with the owner's budget, tolerance of risk, and expectations for performance and maintenance.

### **Field Verification of Geotechnical Conditions**

SME should be retained to verify the recommendations of this report are properly implemented during construction. This may avoid misinterpretation of our recommendations by other parties and will allow us to review and modify our recommendations if variations in the site subsurface conditions are encountered.

### **Project Information for Contractor**

This report and any future addenda or other reports regarding this site should be made available to prospective contractors prior to submitting their proposals for their information only and to supply them with facts relative to the subsurface evaluation and laboratory test results. If the selected contractor encounters subsurface conditions during construction, which differ from those presented in this report, the contractor should promptly describe the nature and extent of the differing conditions in writing and SME should be notified so that we can verify those conditions. The construction contract should include provisions for dealing with differing conditions and contingency funds should be reserved for potential problems during earthwork and foundation construction. We would be pleased to assist you in developing the contract provisions based on our experience.

The contractor should be prepared to handle environmental conditions encountered at this site, which may affect the excavation, removal, or disposal of soil; dewatering of excavations; and health and safety of workers. Any Environmental Assessment reports prepared for this site should be made available for review by bidders and the successful contractor.

### **Third Party Reliance/Reuse of This Report**

This report has been prepared solely for the use of our Client for the project specifically described in this report. This report cannot be relied upon by other parties not involved in the project, unless specifically allowed by SME in writing. SME also is not responsible for the interpretation by other parties of the geotechnical data and the recommendations provided herein.

## **LABORATORY TESTING PROCEDURES**

### **Visual Engineering Classification**

Visual classification was performed on recovered samples. The appended General Notes and Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) sheets include a brief summary of the general method used visually classify the soil and assign an appropriate USCS group symbol. The estimated group symbol, according to the USCS, is shown in parentheses following the textural description of the various strata on the boring logs appended to this report. The soil descriptions developed from visual classifications are sometimes modified to reflect the results of laboratory testing.

### **Moisture Content**

Moisture content tests were performed by weighing samples from the field at their in-situ moisture condition. These samples were then dried at a constant temperature (approximately 110° C) overnight in an oven. After drying, the samples were weighed to determine the dry weight of the sample and the weight of the water that was expelled during drying. The moisture content of the specimen is expressed as a percent and is the weight of the water compared to the dry weight of the specimen.

### **Hand Penetrometer Tests**

In the hand penetrometer test, the unconfined compressive strength of a cohesive soil sample is estimated by measuring the resistance of the sample to the penetration of a small calibrated, spring-loaded cylinder. The maximum capacity of the penetrometer is 4.5 tons per square-foot (tsf). Theoretically, the undrained shear strength of the cohesive sample is one-half the unconfined compressive strength. The undrained shear strength (based on the hand penetrometer test) presented on the boring logs is reported in units of kips per square-foot (ksf).

### **Torvane Shear Tests**

In the Torvane test, the shear strength of a low strength, cohesive soil sample is estimated by measuring the resistance of the sample to a torque applied through vanes inserted into the sample. The undrained shear strength of the samples is measured from the maximum torque required to shear the sample and is reported in units of kips per square-foot (ksf).

### **Loss-on-Ignition (Organic Content) Tests**

Loss-on-ignition (LOI) tests are conducted by first weighing the sample and then heating the sample to dry the moisture from the sample (in the same manner as determining the moisture content of the soil). The sample is then re-weighed to determine the dry weight and then heated for 4 hours in a muffle furnace at a high temperature (approximately 440° C). After cooling, the sample is re-weighed to calculate the amount of ash remaining, which in turn is used to determine the amount of organic matter burned from the original dry sample. The organic matter content of the specimen is expressed as a percent compared to the dry weight of the sample.

### **Atterberg Limits Tests**

Atterberg limits tests consist of two components. The plastic limit of a cohesive sample is determined by rolling the sample into a thread and the plastic limit is the moisture content where a 1/8-inch thread begins to crumble. The liquid limit is determined by placing a 1/2-inch thick soil pat into the liquid limits cup and using a grooving tool to divide the soil pat in half. The cup is then tapped on the base of the liquid limits device using a crank handle. The number of drops of the cup to close the gap formed by the grooving tool 1/2 inch is recorded along with the corresponding moisture content of the sample. This procedure is repeated several times at different moisture contents and a graph of moisture content and the corresponding number of blows is plotted. The liquid limit is the moisture content at a nominal 25 drops of the cup. From this test, the plasticity index can be determined by subtracting the plastic limit from the liquid limit.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **SEEPAGE AND SLOPE STABILITY RESULTS AND INPUT**

Section A-A' - Case I  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

1.4

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

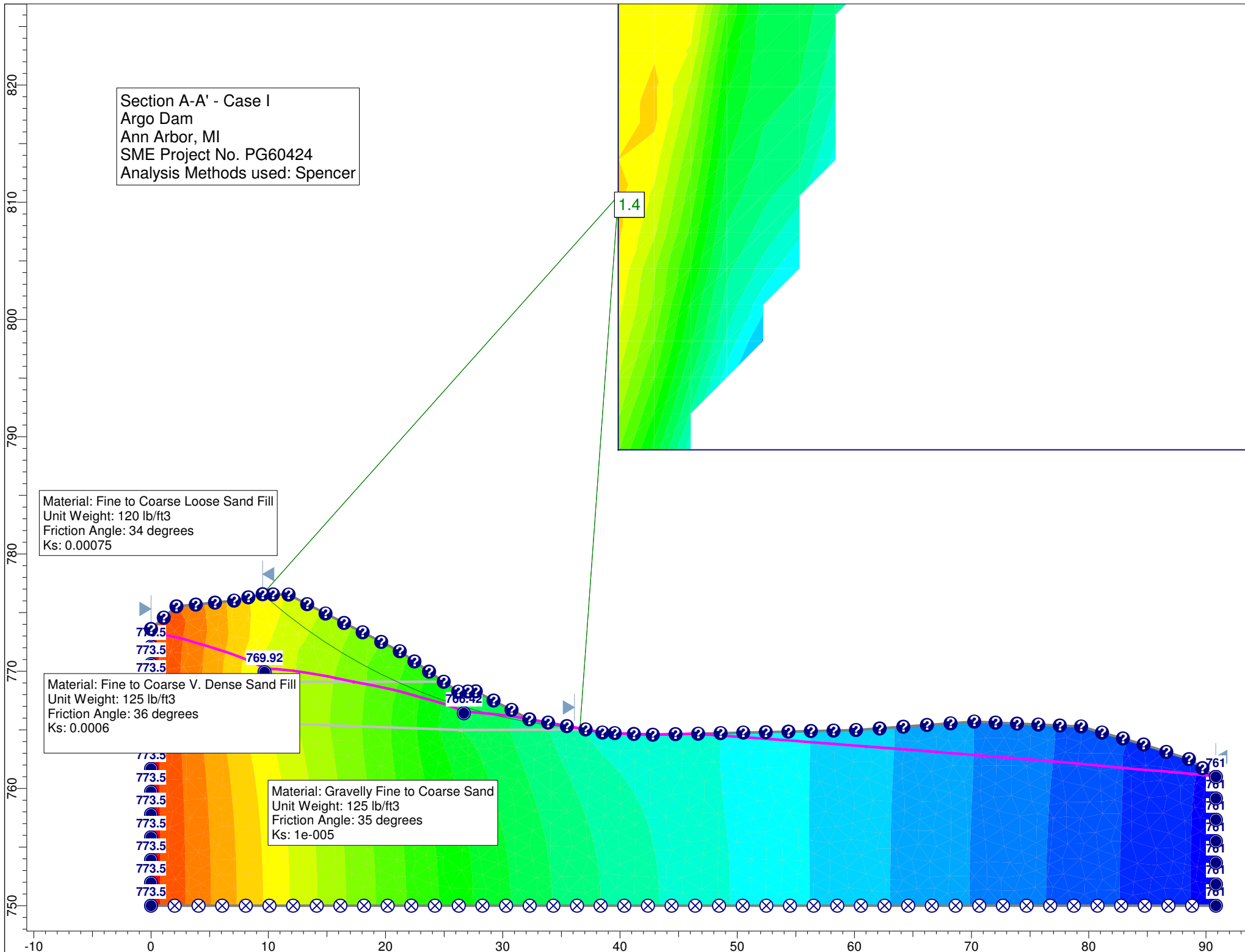
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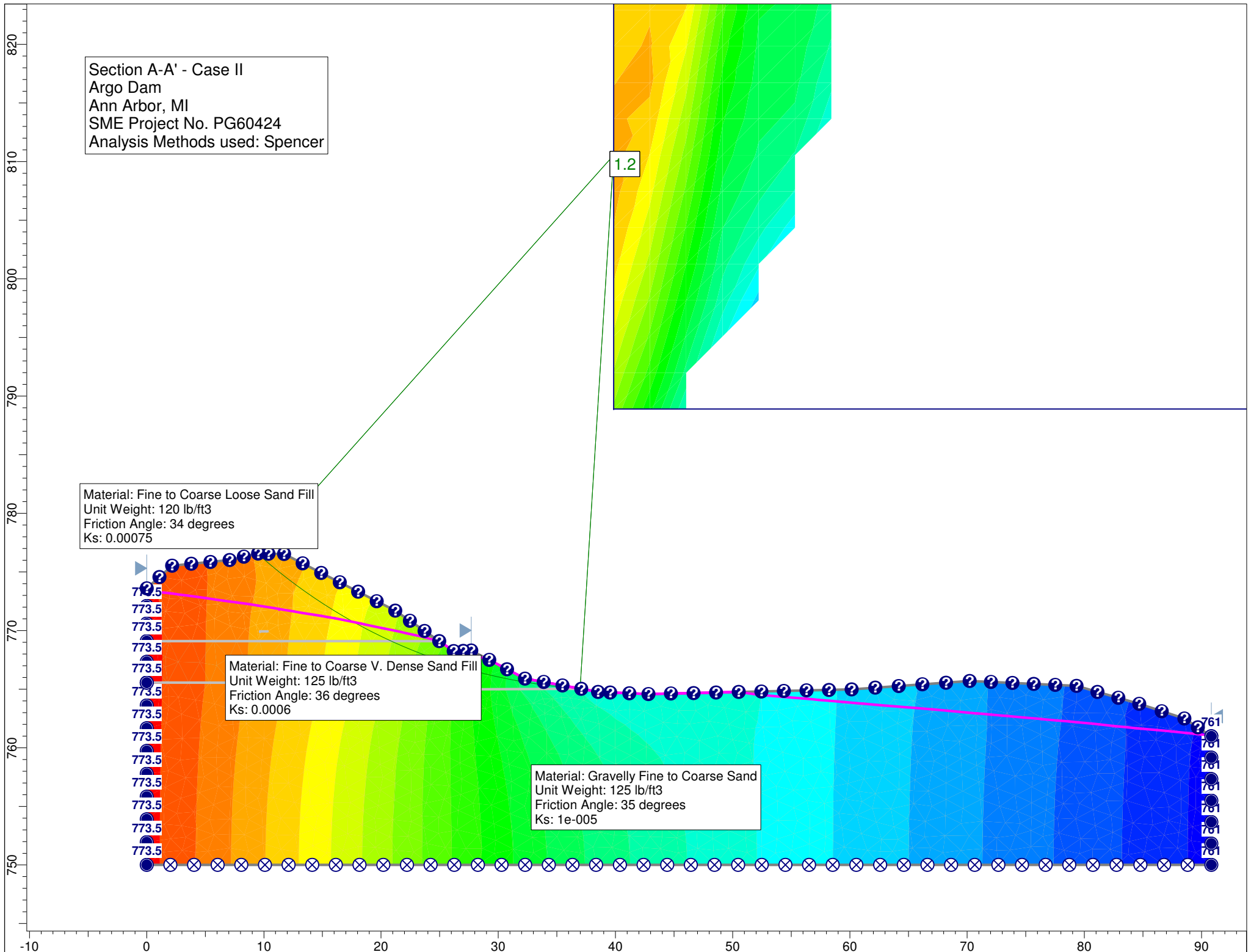
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773.5

769.92

766.42

761.1  
761.1  
761.1  
761.1  
761.1  
761.1







Section A-A Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

1.1

Section A-A Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft3  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

1.1

Section A-A Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

1.1

Section A-A Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft³  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

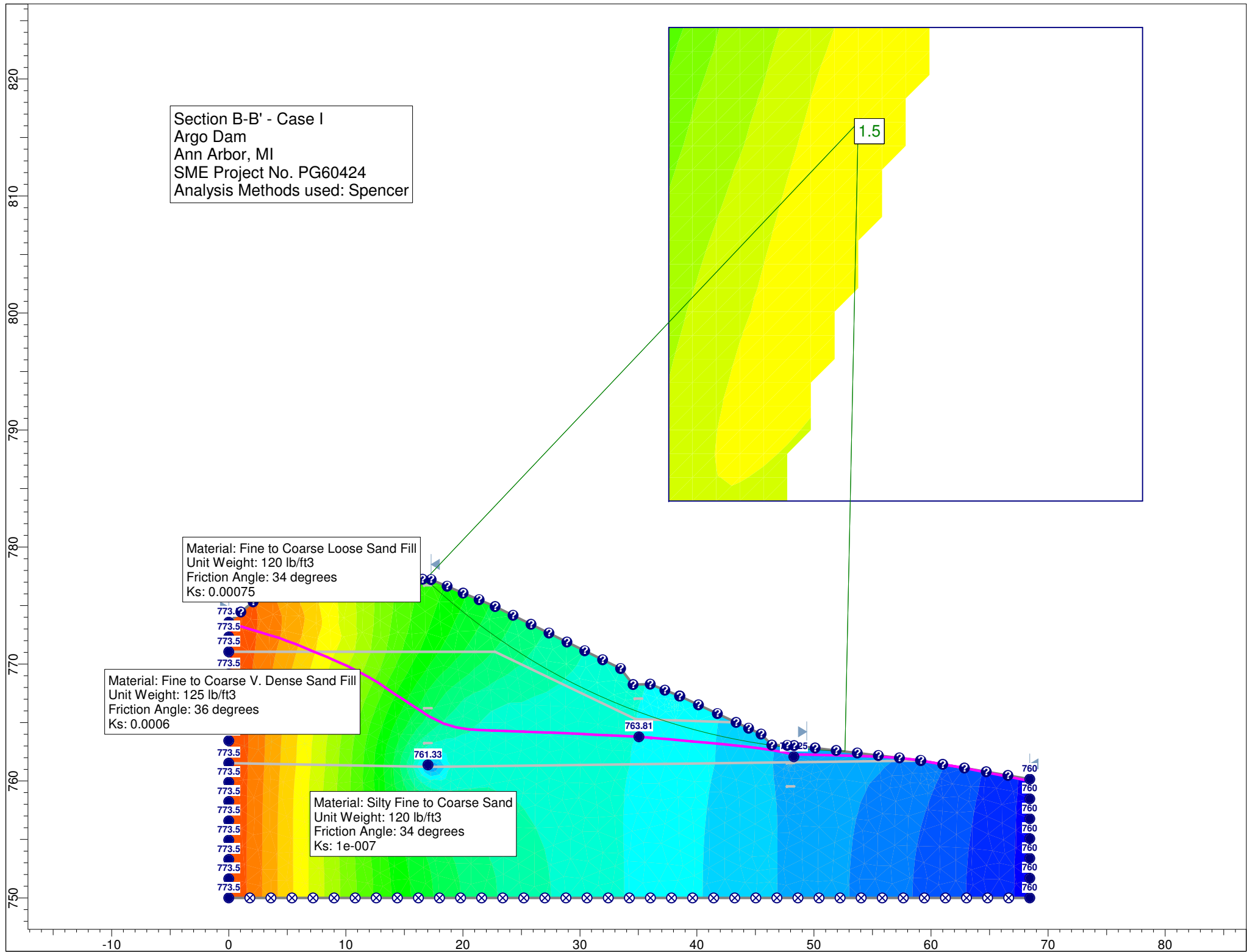
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Section B-B' - Case I  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

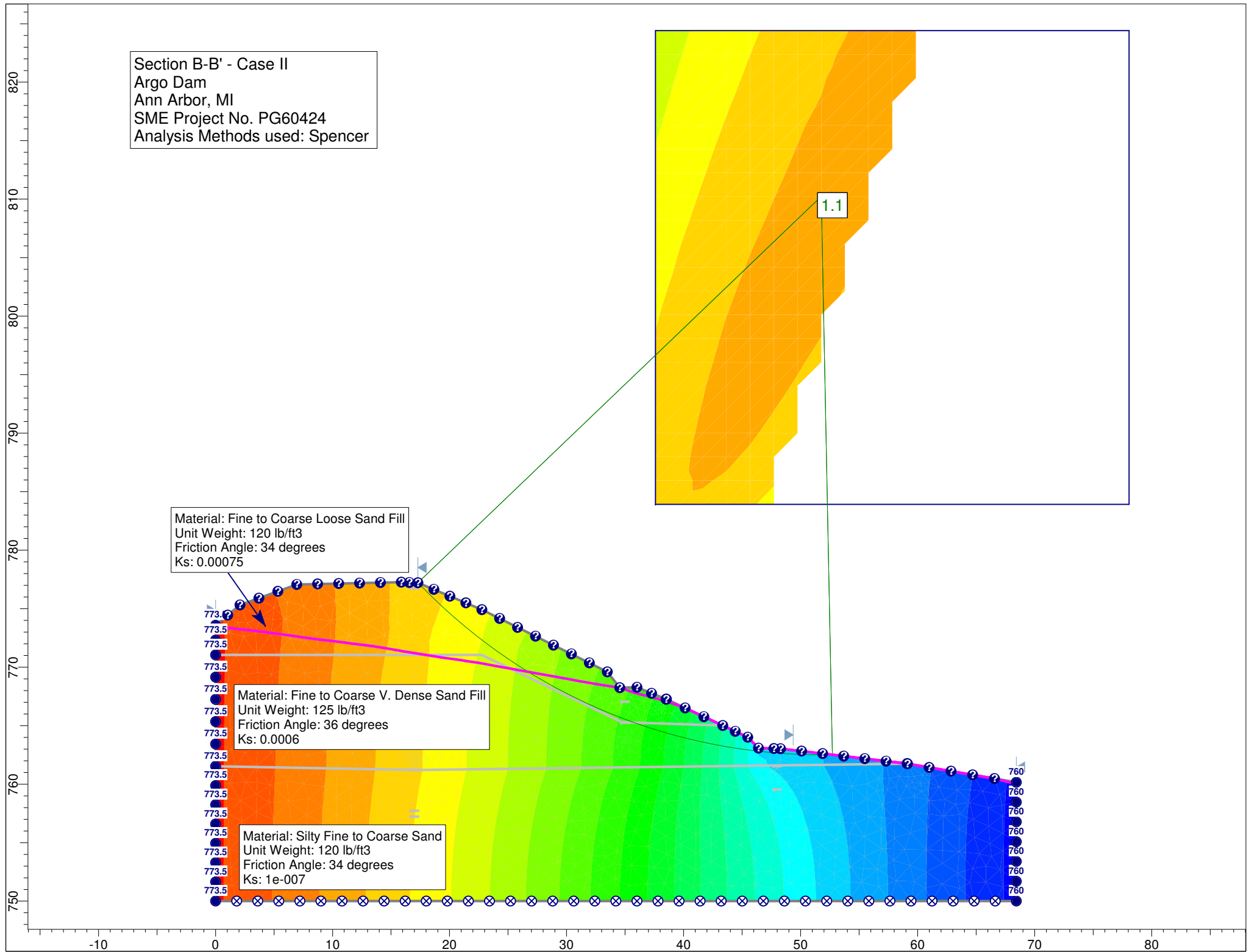
Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Silty Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 1e-007





Section B-B' - Case II  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer



Section B-B Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Fine to Coarse Loose Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Fine to Coarse V. Dense Sand Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Silty Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 1e-007

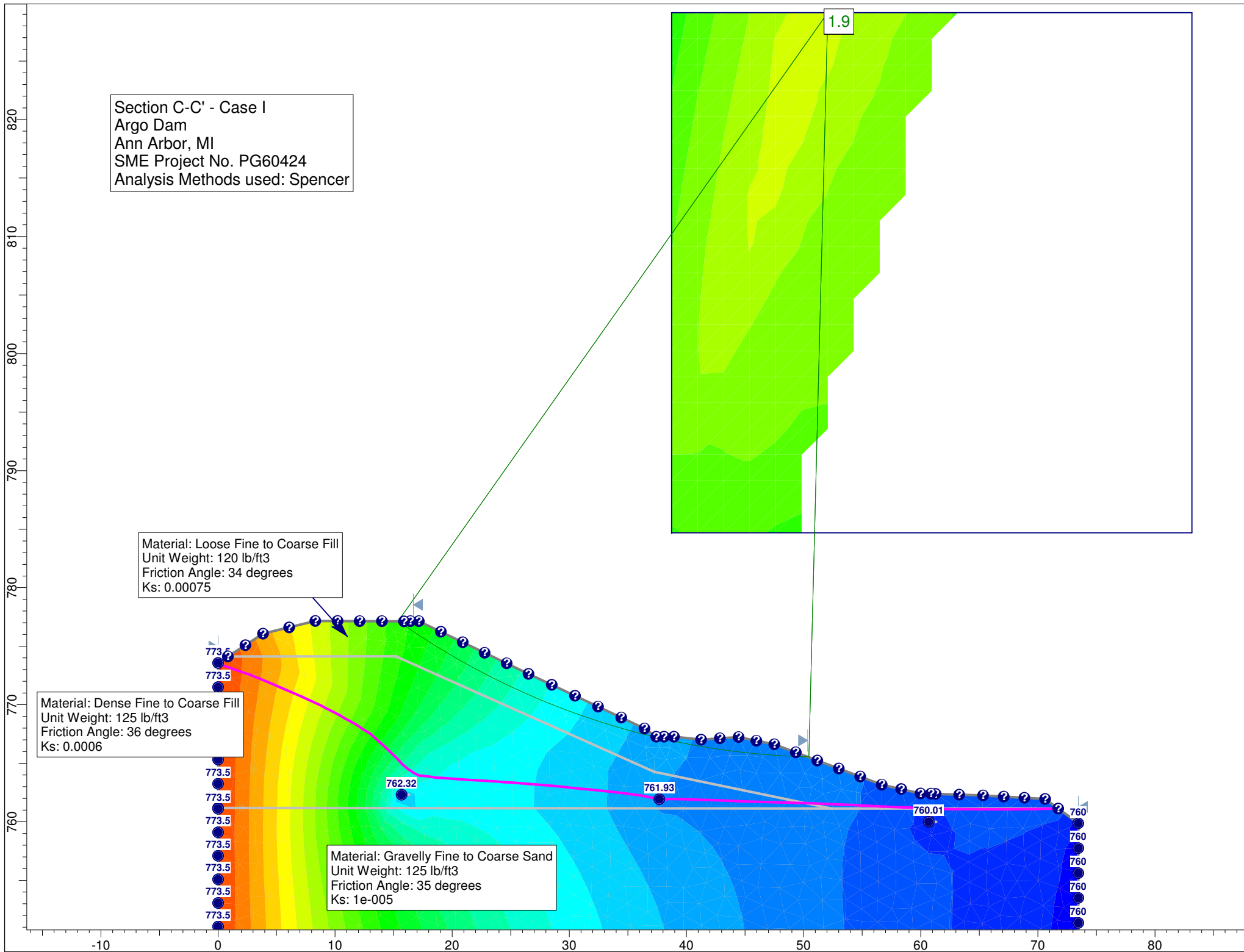
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Section C-C' - Case I  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Loose Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Dense Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

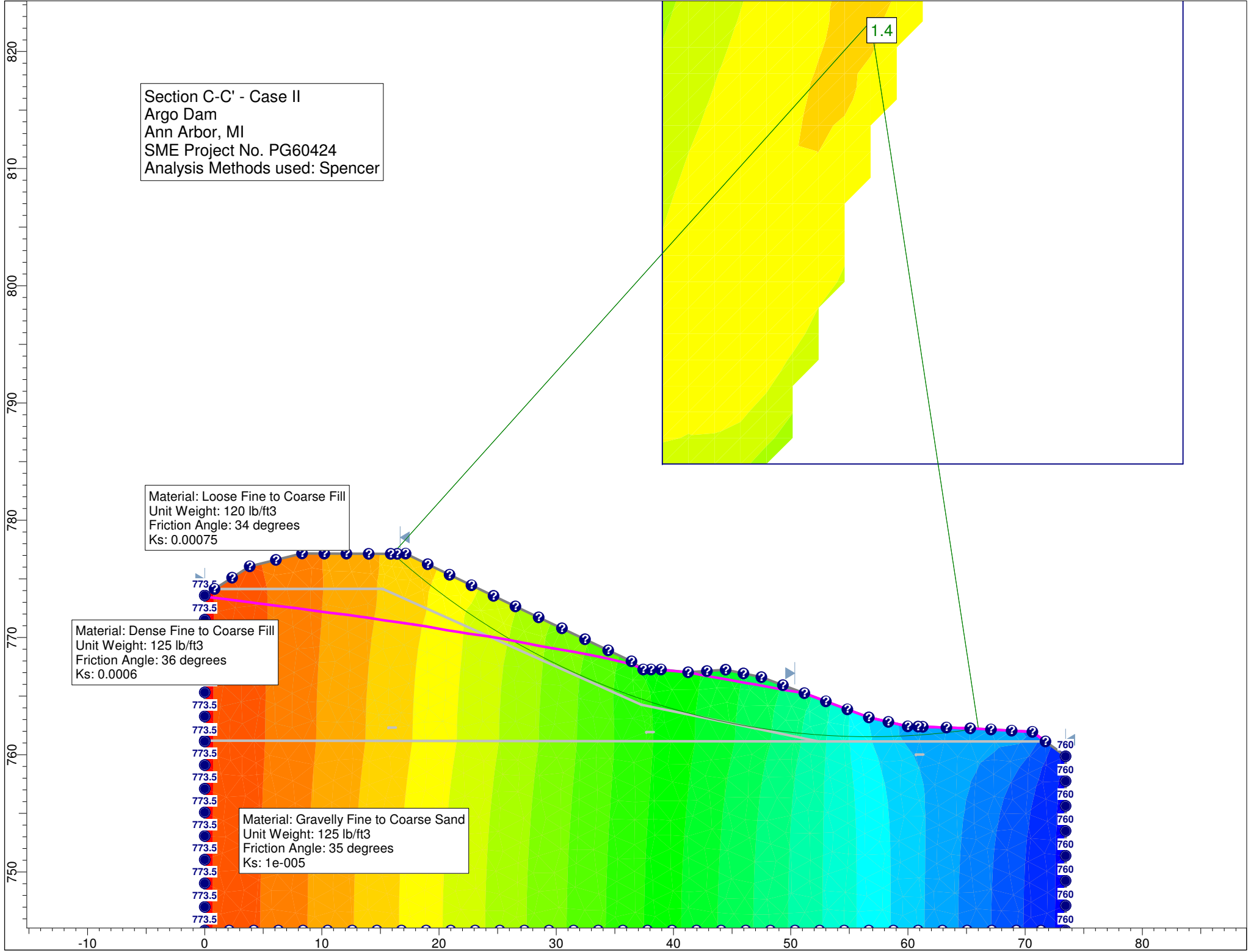
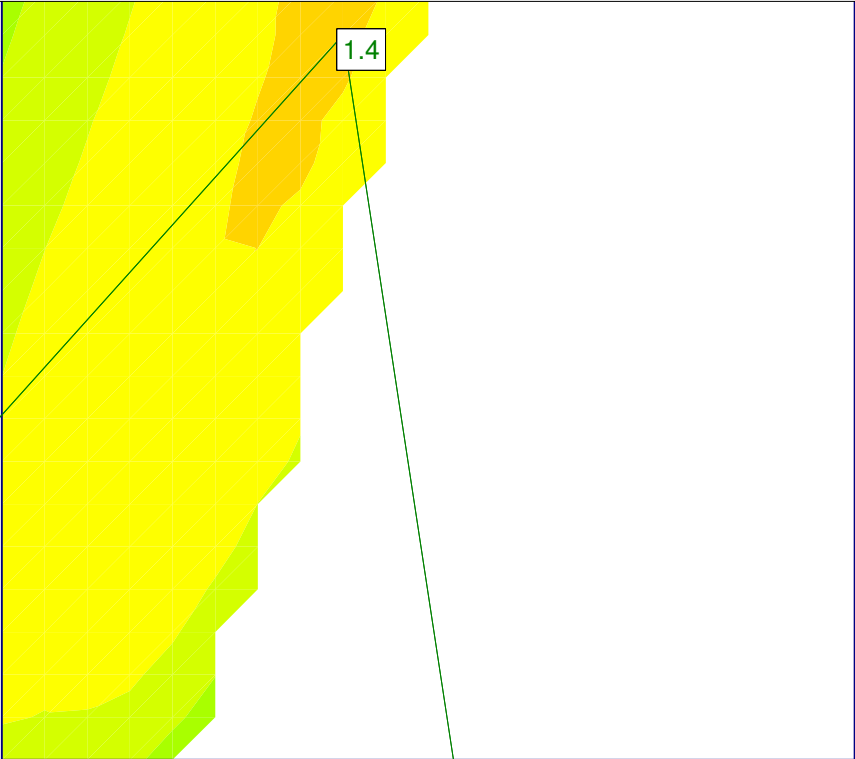


Section C-C' - Case II  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Loose Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Dense Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005



Section C-C Case III  
Argo Dam  
Ann Arbor, MI  
SME Project No. PG60424  
Analysis Methods used: Spencer

Material: Loose Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 34 degrees  
Ks: 0.00075

Material: Dense Fine to Coarse Fill  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 36 degrees  
Ks: 0.0006

Material: Gravelly Fine to Coarse Sand  
Unit Weight: 125 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>  
Friction Angle: 35 degrees  
Ks: 1e-005

1.5

