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RECORD NO. 1967/139



MIDDLE CREEK AND WIVENHOE
DAM SITES SEISMIC SURVEY,

QUEENSLAND 1966

by

P.E. MANN and G.F. HART

The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus or statement without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

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SUMMARY

The object of the survey was to determine the depth to bedrock and the nature of the bedrock at two dam sites, viz Middle Creek and Wivenhoe on the Brisbane River, for the Co-ordinator-General's Department, Queensland.

The seismic results indicate that foundation conditions are better at Middle Creek. However, test drilling is recommended for both sites to test the rock and the seismic interpretation.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Co-ordinator-General's Department, Queensland, proposes to construct a dam on the Brisbane River to augment the Brisbane water supply and to assist in flood mitigation. Two sites are being investigated, one about half a mile downstream of the Wivenhoe road-bridge on the Brisbane Valley Highway, the other at Middle Creek near Bryden. The approximate co-ordinates of the sites are 574600 and 568615 respectively on the Ipswich sheet of the Australia 1:250,000 map series.

In response to an application from the Co-ordinator-General's Department, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics made a geophysical investigation of the sites to determine the depth to, and nature of, the bedrock. Approximately 35,000 feet of traverse was surveyed by the seismic refraction method. The survey was carried out between 25th October and 16th November 1966 by a party consisting of P.E. Mann (party leader and geophysicist), G.F. Hart (geophysicist), and D. Tarlinton (field assistant). The Department provided four field-hands and ancillary supplies and surveyed the traverse lines. The term bedrock used in this record refers to the deepest refractor with the highest measured seismic velocity.

2. GEOLOGY

Preliminary geological mapping and reconnaissance auger drilling at the dam sites has been carried out by the Geological Survey of Queensland (Warner, 1967).

In the survey areas the Brisbane River has eroded a valley in sedimentary and volcanic rocks of Mesozoic age, laid down in an ancient rift valley (Hill and Denmead, 1960).

Middle Creek dam site

The bedrock at Middle Creek is the Neara Volcanics. The main rock types of this stratigraphic unit are andesite, andesitic tuff, andesitic agglomerate, and volcanic breccia. The individual rock types were not mapped. The rock crops out to form a steep cliff on the left bank and at several places upstream of the axis near the stream gauging station. The rock is highly weathered and the joint spacing ranges from one to four inches.

On the right bank near test shaft No. 9 (Plate 1) about 20 feet of boulder conglomerate, probably of Tertiary age, overlies the volcanic rocks.

Alluvium at the dam site is divided into two types: Younger Alluvium and Older Alluvium. The lower alluvial terrace (Younger Alluvium) consists of medium and coarse-grained sand and gravel. The upper alluvial terrace (Older Alluvium) consists of about 60 feet of gritty clay overlying weathered bedrock.

Eleven test shafts were dug at the Middle Creek site, probably about 1899. Two auger holes were drilled in 1966 by the Mines Department on the proposed axis. Plate 1 shows the location of the test shafts and auger holes.

Wivenhoe dam sites

The bedrock at Wivenhoe is the Wivenhoe Sandstone. The rock is a massive thick-bedded, medium to coarse-grained argillaceous sandstone, commonly showing current bedding. The sediments are approximately horizontal and the joints vertical and widely spaced.

The lower alluvial terraces mapped as Younger Alluvium consist of medium to coarse-grained sand and gravel; the proportion of coarser particles generally increases with depth. Older Alluvium mapped at the dam site consists of clayey sand about 20 feet deep overlying weathered sandstone in auger hole No. 2 and about 60 feet of clay in auger hole No. 3.

Plate 4 shows the location of the auger holes drilled by the Mines Department in 1966.

3. METHODS AND EQUIPMENT

The method used is described in reports of previous surveys (e.g. Polak and Mann, 1959).

A 24-channel seismograph manufactured by South-western Industrial Electronics Company was used with Technical Instruments Co. geophones, of natural frequency 20c/s, to record the arrival of the longitudinal waves.

To determine the transverse wave velocity, three-component Hall-Sears geophones, model HS-1-LP-3D with natural frequency of 14 c/s and miniature three-component Hall-Sears geophones, model HS-1-LPJ-3D with a natural frequency of 7.5 c/s were used.

For 'normal' spreads, the geophone spacing was 50 feet. Five shots, in shallow holes about three feet deep, were fired for each spread, one at the centre of the spread and the others at 25 and 200 ft from each end of, and in line with, the spread. In addition, 'weathering' spreads with 10-ft geophone spacings were used to obtain the velocities of the upper layers.

To determine the elastic constants in situ at each dam site, vertical and three-component geophones spaced 25 feet apart were laid out in spreads 500 feet long with centres at A18 at Middle Creek and A65 at Wivenhoe. Shot distances of 50 and 200 feet were used.

The total length of seismic traverses was approximately 13,000 feet at Middle Creek and 22,000 feet at Wivenhoe.

4. RESULTSMiddle Creek dam site

Plate 1 shows the locality map, seismic traverses, geology, and the position of test shafts and auger holes at the dam site.

Table 1 gives an interpretation of the seismic velocities in geological terms based on geological mapping, logs of auger holes and test shafts, and experience in other areas.

TABLE 1Relation between seismic velocity and rock type

Longitudinal wave velocity (ft/s)	Rock type
1000 \pm	Soil
2000-4000	Highly weathered bedrock;
	Older Alluvium predominantly clay; semiconsolidated boulder conglomerate
5000 \pm 500	Water saturated alluvium- silt, sand, and gravel
5500-9000	Weathered to partly weathered bedrock
15,000-16,000	Unweathered bedrock

Plate 2 shows the seismic cross-sections. Generally the cross-sections are self-explanatory but a few points will be discussed. The depth to the highest velocity refractor interpreted as bedrock is greater along Traverses A,C,D, and E on the right bank than along Traverses B,F,G, and H on the left bank.

Between stations A23 and A31 (Plate 2) there is a deep depression in the seismic cross-section. On the bedrock contour plan (Plate 3) this area shows up as a deep gully. The extension to the south-east is unknown,

but the contours suggest a river terrace bounded approximately by Traverses A, D, and E. The contour plan shows another gully intersecting Traverses A and C and a ridge centred near A12.

On the left bank the contours show a large block of unweathered bedrock which diverts the river. The difference in elevation of the bedrock on the right and left banks and the sharp bend in the river suggests a possible fault, with an east-west strike, beneath the river.

The bedrock contours indicate that the most favourable position for a dam is about 400 feet east of Traverse A.

A comparison of drilling logs with the seismic results is shown in Table 2.

The geological logs of some trial shafts are indefinite. For example, the question mark indicates that the only available log of TS4 gives the rock type but does not indicate whether the rock is weathered or unweathered. This fact and the paucity of drilling data does not permit a reliable comparison of drilling and seismic results to be made.

Accuracy of the seismic depth determination. The error in the depth determination depends on the error in the travel time of seismic waves and the error in the conversion factor.

The error in the travel time depends on the quality of the 'breaks' on the seismogram. The percentage error in travel time was estimated as 3%. The error in the conversion factor depends on the error involved in fitting straight lines to points of the time/distance curves to determine the velocity of the different layers and the error due to the extrapolation of these straight lines to determine the intercept times. By computing several different conversion factors for the same point the percentage error in the conversion factor was estimated as 15%.

Hence the percentage error in the depth was estimated as $15 + 3 = 18\%$.

At the intersections of traverses, two values of depth were obtained. The difference between the two values gives further information about the accuracy of the depth determination. Seven pairs of values were obtained. The greatest deviation from the mean was 17%, and the standard deviation was 10%.

Elastic constants. Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio of the bedrock were determined by measuring the longitudinal wave velocity V_p and the horizontally polarised transverse wave velocity V_s on Traverse A (dynamic method). The measurements were made between A13 and A23; thus, the calculated values represent average moduli along the measured length in the direction of measurement. Shots were fired at 50 feet and 200 feet, two values thus being obtained. The values are given in Table 3.

TABLE 2

Comparison of drilling logs with seismic results

Test Shaft (TS) Auger Hole (AH)	Drilling results		Seismic results	
	Depth (ft)	Rock type	Depth (ft)	Seismic velocity (ft/s)
TS9	0-5	Sandy clay	0-5	1000
	5-20.5	Conglomerate	5-	3200
TS5	0-4	Sandy clay		
	4-71	Highly weathered to weathered breccia and tuff		
	71-83.6	Unweathered (?) breccia and tuff		
TS4	0-8	Clay	0-5	1000
	8-10.5	Weathered breccia and tuff		
	10.5-25.5	Unweathered (?) breccia and tuff	5-	8500
TS10	0-5	Sandy clay		
	5-14.5	Weathered breccia and tuff		
	14.5-45	Unweathered breccia and tuff		
TS3	0-27.5	Clay	0-7	1000
	27.5-31.5	Weathered breccia and tuff	7-	4000
TS6	0-21.5	Clay		
	21.5-41	Weathered breccia and tuff		
TS2	0-9	Gravel and sand		
	9-30	Weathered andesite breccia and tuff		
	30-53	Unweathered breccia and tuff		
TS8	0-49	Gravel, sand, and clay	0-12	1000
	49-50.5	Weathered (?) breccia and tuff	12-36	2900
			36-	6500
AH6	0-16	Gravel and sand		
AH7	0-64	Gravel, sand, and clay		

TABLE 3

Elastic constants of bedrock - Middle Creek dam site

Traverse and Station	Longitudinal velocity (ft/s)	$\frac{V_p}{V_s}$	Poisson's ratio (σ)	Young's modulus (E)	
				(10^6 lb/in ²)	(10^6 kg/cm ²)
A13 - A23	17,000	1.94	0.33	7.1	0.50
	14,000	2.00	0.33	6.9	0.49

Young's modulus was calculated assuming a density of 2.6 g/cm³ (Jakosky, 1950).

Poisson's ratio was computed using the formula

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{V_p}{V_s} \right)^2 - 1 / \left(\frac{V_p}{V_s} \right)^2 - 1 \quad (1)$$

The fractional error $\delta\sigma/\sigma$ in σ is given by

$$\frac{\delta\sigma}{\sigma} = (4\sigma - 6 + 2/\sigma) \delta \left(\frac{V_p}{V_s} \right) / \left(\frac{V_p}{V_s} \right) \quad (2)$$

The percentage error in V_p/V_s is estimated as 8%. From equation 2, the percentage error in σ is about 11% when $\sigma = 0.33$.

Young's modulus was computed using the formula

$$E = \rho V_s^2 \frac{(3V_p^2 - 4V_s^2)}{(V_p^2 - V_s^2)} \quad (3)$$

The fractional error $\delta E/E$ in E is given by

$$\frac{\delta E}{E} = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial V_p} \cdot \frac{V_p}{E} \right) \frac{\delta V_p}{V_p} + \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial V_s} \cdot \frac{V_s}{E} \right) \frac{\delta V_s}{V_s} + \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial \rho} \cdot \frac{\rho}{E} \right) \frac{\delta \rho}{\rho} \quad (4)$$

From equation 3, with $V_p = 14,000$ ft/s and $V_s = 7000$ ft/s,

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial V_p} \cdot \frac{V_p}{E} = \frac{2V_s^2 V_p^2}{(V_p^2 - V_s^2)(3V_p^2 - 4V_s^2)} = 0.33$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial V_s} \cdot \frac{V_s}{E} = \frac{2(3V_p^2 - 2V_s^2)(V_p^2 - 2V_s^2)}{(V_p^2 - V_s^2)(3V_p^2 - 4V_s^2)} = 1.7$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial \rho} \cdot \frac{\rho}{E} = 1$$

The percentage errors in V_p , V_s , and ρ were estimated as 3%, 5%, and 4% respectively. Thus the percentage error in E was found to be about 14%.

Wivenhoe dam site

Plate 4 shows the seismic traverses, geology, and the location of auger holes drilled at the dam site. Plate 7 shows the seismic traverses and cross-sections at a proposed spillway site.

Table 4 gives an interpretation of the seismic velocities in geological terms based on geological mapping, the logs of auger holes, and experience in other areas.

TABLE 4
Relation between seismic velocity and rock type

Longitudinal wave velocity (ft/s)	Rock type
1000	Soil
2700-5500	Highly weathered sandstone; water saturated alluvium - gravel, sand, and clay
6000-9000	Weathered to partly weathered sandstone
11000-14000	Unweathered bedrock

Plates 5 and 6 show the seismic cross-sections at the dam site. Again only a few points will be discussed briefly because the cross-sections are self explanatory.

Generally the seismic velocity of the bedrock is higher on the right bank than on the left bank. However, velocities observed on Traverses A, C, D, and L near the river are higher than elsewhere on the left bank.

At some traverse intersections different velocities were observed in different directions, e.g. Traverses A and F. Small differences of up to 500 ft/s may be due to observational errors, e.g. Traverses A, J, and K. Large differences of up to 1200 ft/s were observed at other intersections, e.g. Traverses B and C, and are probably due to velocity anisotropy. This is probably due to jointing.

The deepest refractor observed between stations A154 and A162 has a velocity of 7500 ft/s. Here, shots fired at the normal distance of 200 feet from the end of the spread were too close to give refractions from the 14,000-ft/s layer recorded elsewhere on the traverse.

The greatest depth to bedrock observed (178 feet) is at station A57. However, this large depth is due to the low velocity contrast between weathered and unweathered bedrock and the thickness of the weathered and unweathered bedrock and the thickness of the weathered bedrock.

It is considered that the traverses are too widely spaced to be able to construct a bedrock contour plan.

A comparison of the seismic sections between stations B13 and B54, and between A97 and A129 shows that the bedrock conditions along Traverse A are probably better than along Traverse B. The cross-section of Traverse B suggests a high-level alluvial terrace between station B23 and B48; a similar terrace along Traverse A is not as well developed. A depression in the bedrock profile near A122 and B38 may represent the old river bed.

The accuracy of the seismic depth determinations was calculated in a way similar to that given above for the Middle Creek dam site results. The percentage error in the depth was estimated as 17%. From data obtained at the intersection of traverses the greatest deviation from the mean was 16% and the standard deviation was 9%.

Elastic constants. Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio of the weathered bedrock were determined by measuring the longitudinal wave velocity and the vertically polarised transverse wave velocity on Traverse A between stations A60 and A70. The values obtained are given in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Elastic constants of weathered bedrock - Wivenhoe dam site

Traverse and Station	V _p (ft/s)	$\frac{V_p}{V_s}$	Poisson's ratio (σ)	<u>Youngs modulus (E)</u> (10 ⁶ lb/in ²) (10 ⁶ kg/cm ²)	
A60	9000	1.94	0.32	1.7	0.12
A70	8000	2.00	0.33	1.3	0.09

Young's modulus was calculated assuming a density of 2.2 g/cm^3 (Jakosky, 1950). The percentage error in σ is about 26% when $\sigma = 0.27$. The percentage error in E was found to be about 12% assuming the same error in ρ , V_p , and V_s as was found for the Middle Creek dam site results and taking $V_p = 9000 \text{ ft/s}$ and $V_s = 4600 \text{ ft/s}$.

Plate 7 shows the seismic traverse layout and cross-sections at the spillway site. The relatively high seismic velocity ($13,000 \text{ ft/s}$), interpreted as bedrock, suggests that the fault zone mapped in a gully near the traverses does not give a wide shear zone intersecting the seismic traverses. However, there may be minor shear zones near stations V3, V35, and V40.

5. CONCLUSIONS

At both dam sites, foundation conditions on one bank are better than the other, viz at Middle Creek the left bank is better and at Wivenhoe the right bank. On both these banks, bedrock or weathered bedrock with seismic velocity of 6000 ft/s or greater is shallow and may be considered suitable foundation rock for a certain type of dam.

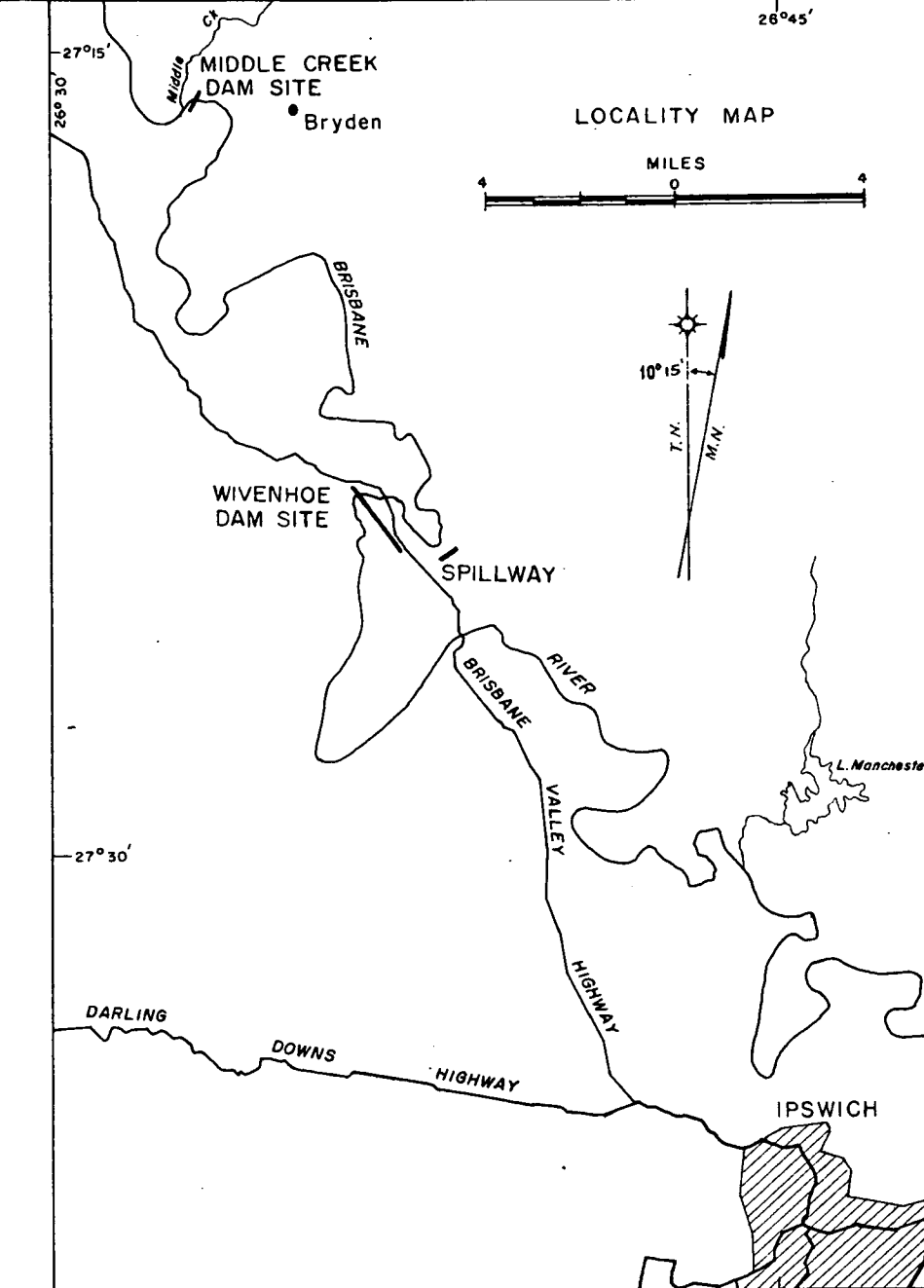
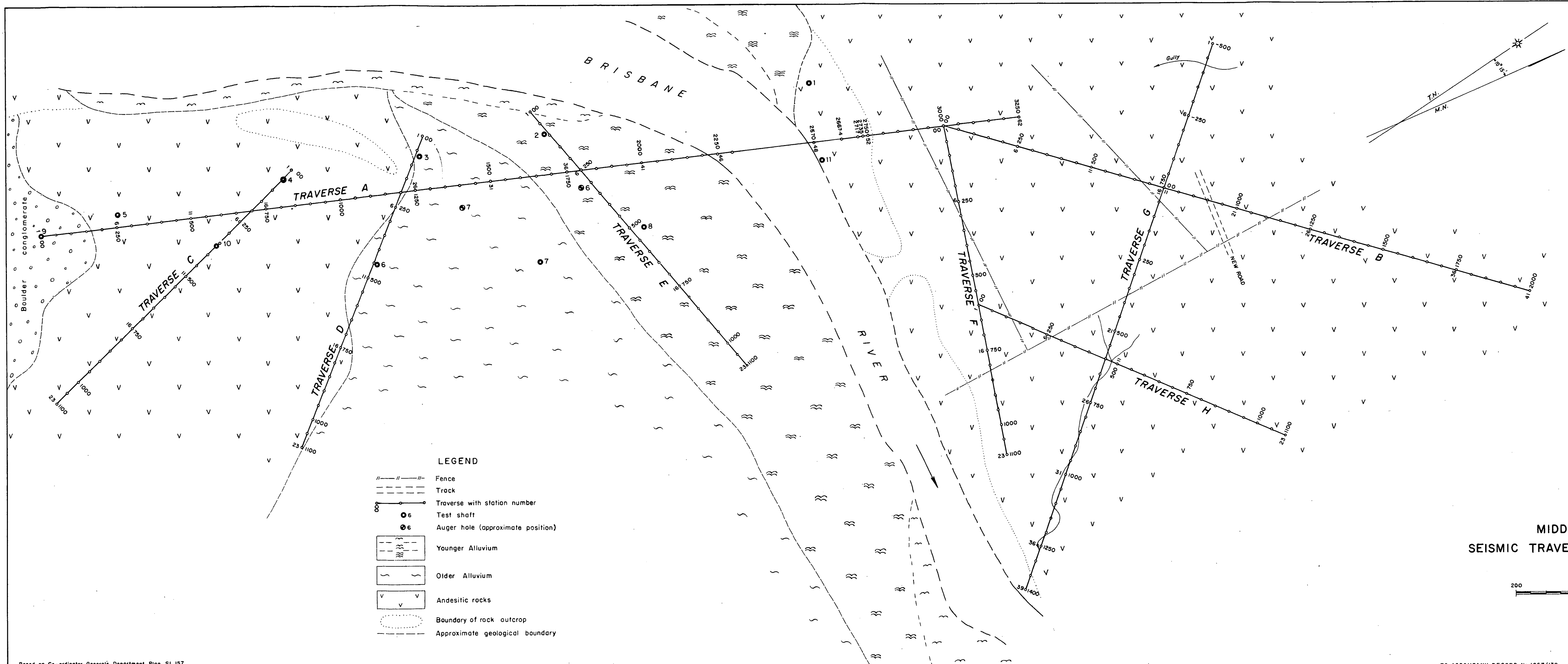
On the right bank at Middle Creek, south of A32, bedrock that is probably weathered may prove suitable for foundations. On the left bank at Wivenhoe, foundation conditions are probably better between A97 to A130 than between B13 and B54. Again, weathered bedrock of 6000 ft/s observed on Traverse A may be used for foundations.

Values of Young's modulus of the bedrock at Middle Creek measured in the field is $7.0 \times 10^6 \text{ lb/in}^2$; the value for weathered bedrock at Wivenhoe is $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ lb/in}^2$.

To check the seismic results and the quality of the bedrock, test drilling is recommended for each dam site; at Middle Creek near A1, A26, and A45; at Wivenhoe near A32, A122, A137, B40, and B68.

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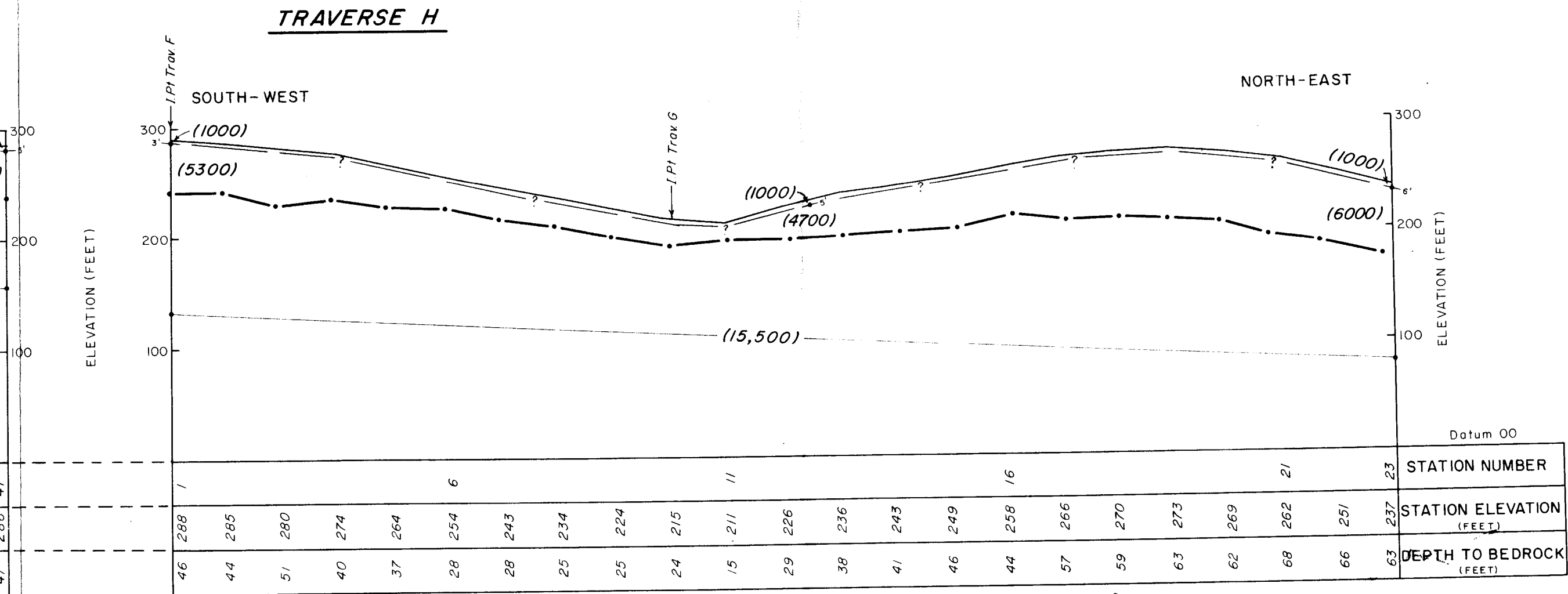
MIDDLE CREEK DAM SITE QLD
SEISMIC TRAVERSES, GEOLOGY, AND LOCALITY MAP

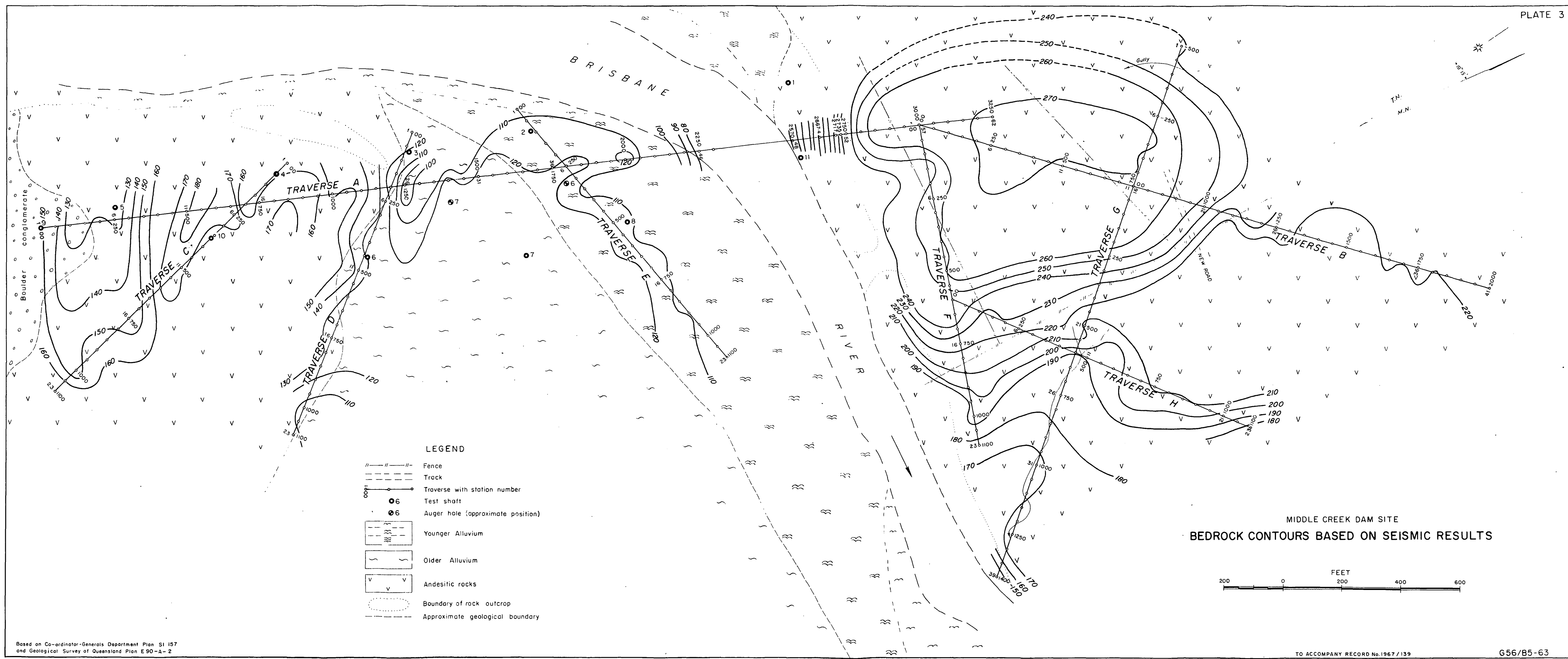


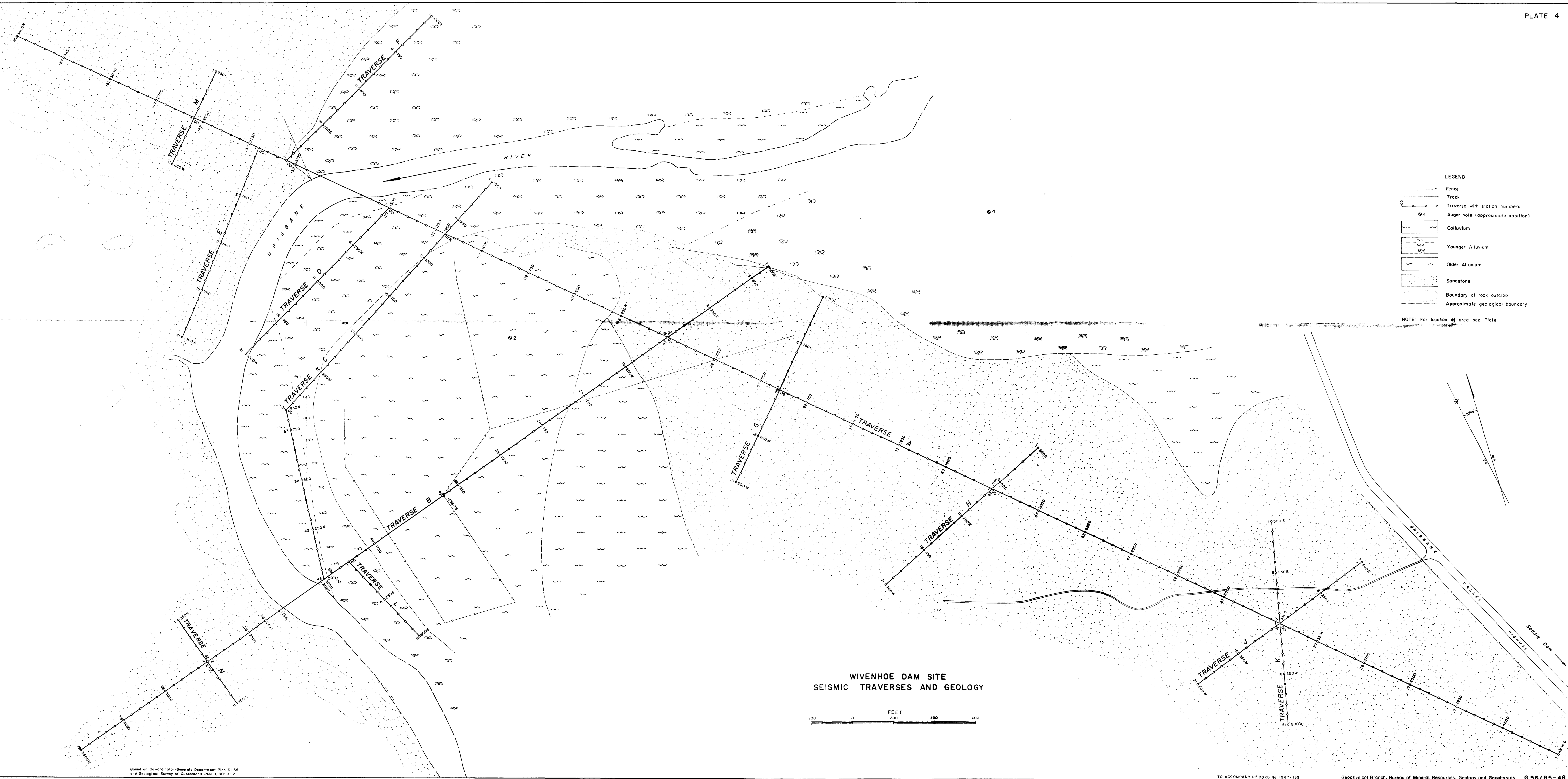
- LEGEND
- I.P.I. Traverse intersection point
 - (1000) Seismic velocity (ft/s) in formation
 - Depth to formation with different seismic velocity
 - Unweathered bedrock boundary
 - Test shaft
 - Soil or Older Alluvium
 - Depth to geological boundary
 - Boulder conglomerate
 - Andesitic rocks
 - Younger Alluvium
 - depth of shaft

MIDDLE CREEK DAM SITE
SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

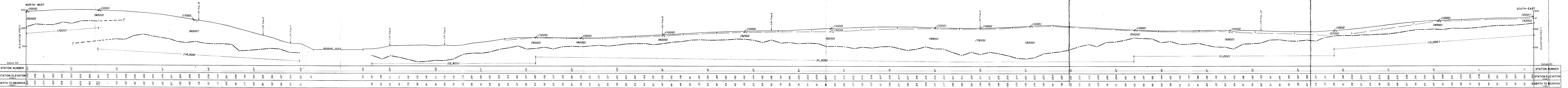
Based on C. ordinator-Generals Department Plan S1 158





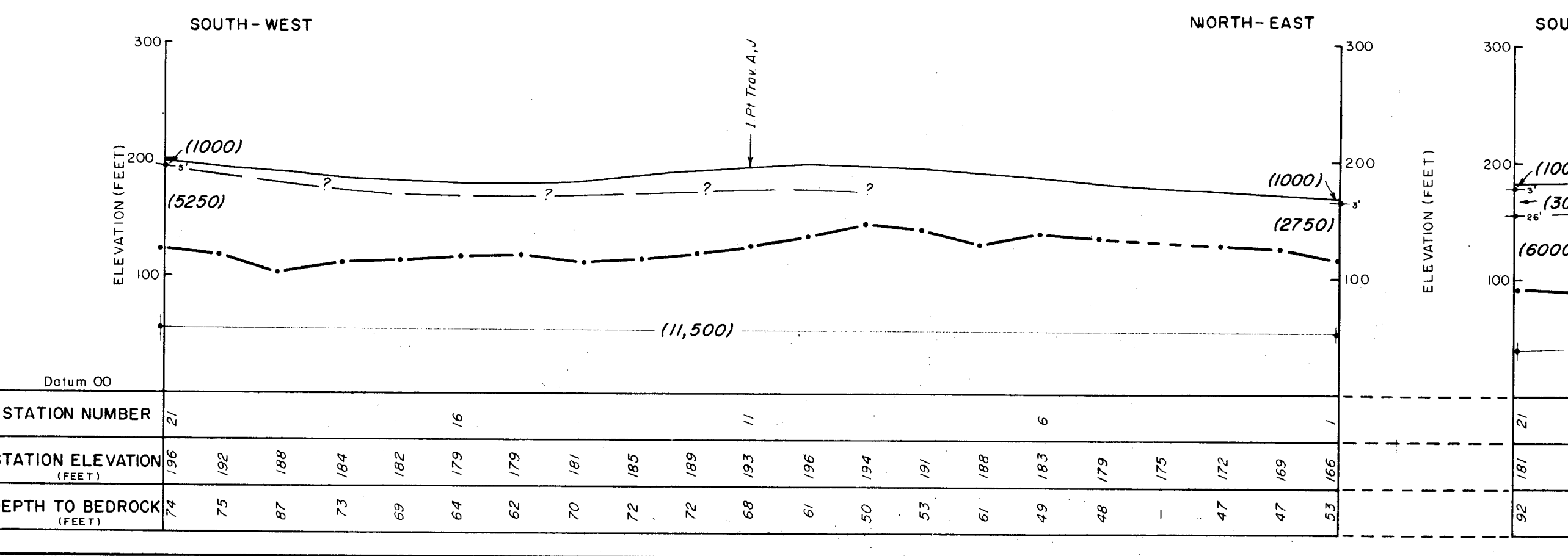


TRAVERSE A

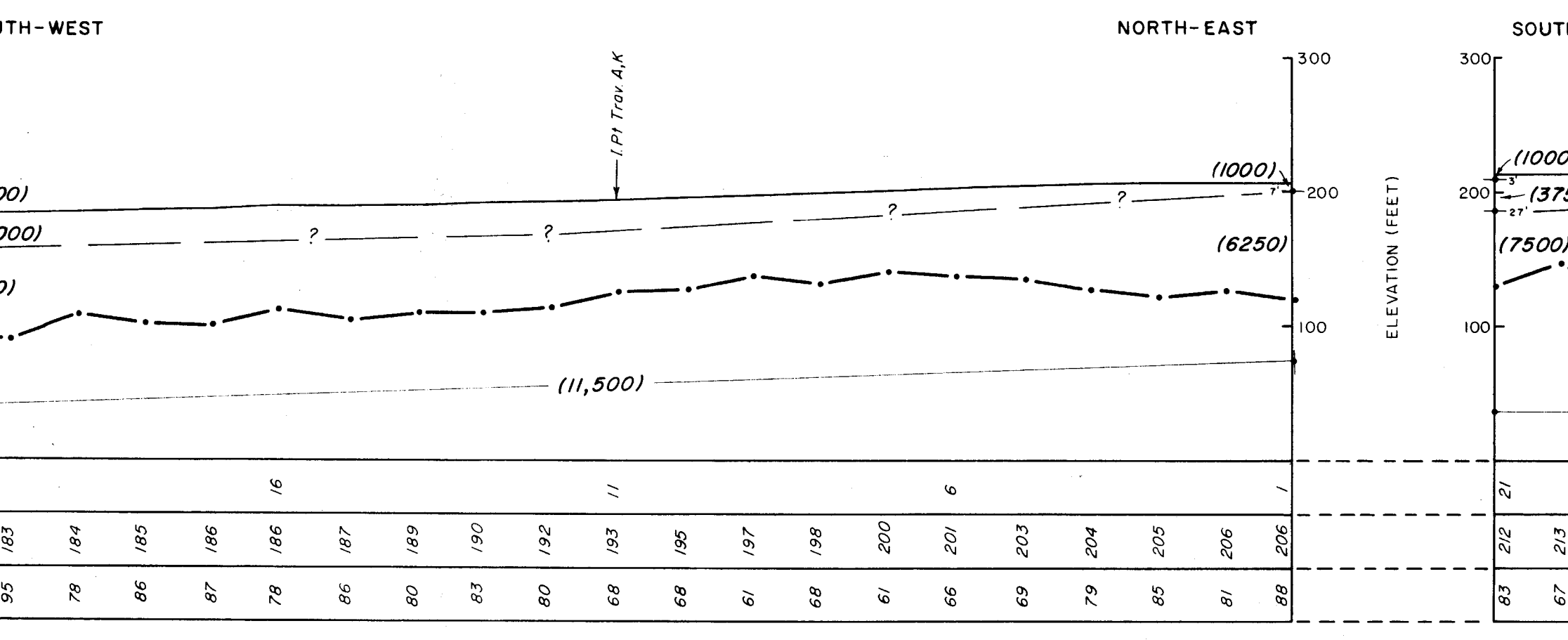


LEGEND
 IPI Traverse intersection point
 (1000) Seismic velocity (1/s) in formation
 -x- Depth to formation with different seismic velocity
 — Unweathered bedrock boundary

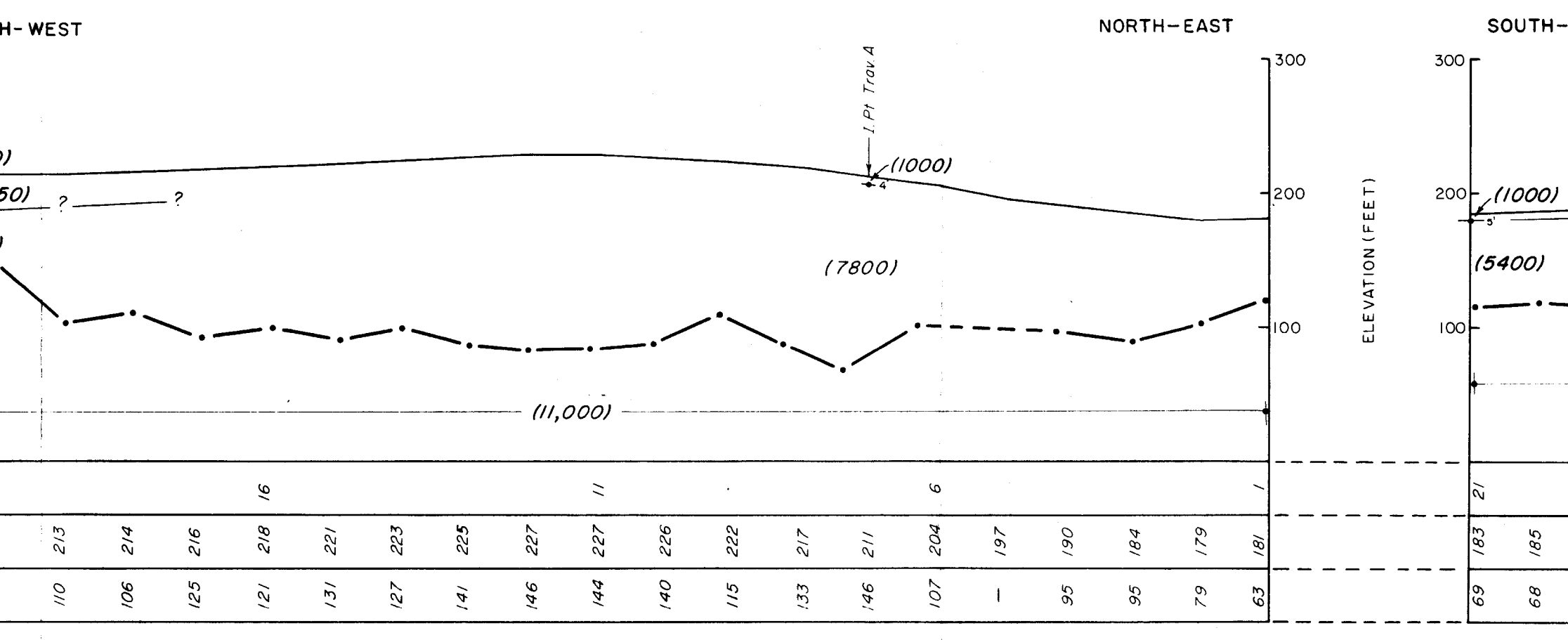
TRAVERSE K



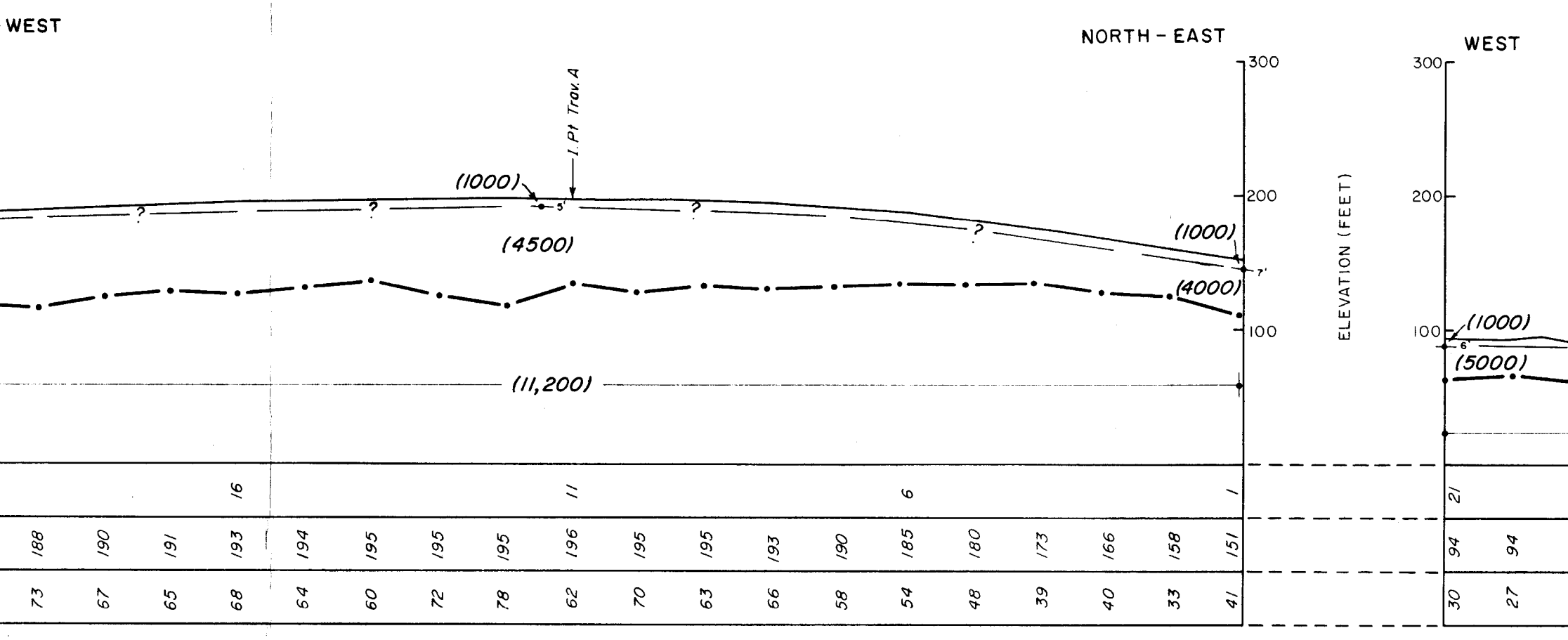
TRAVERSE J



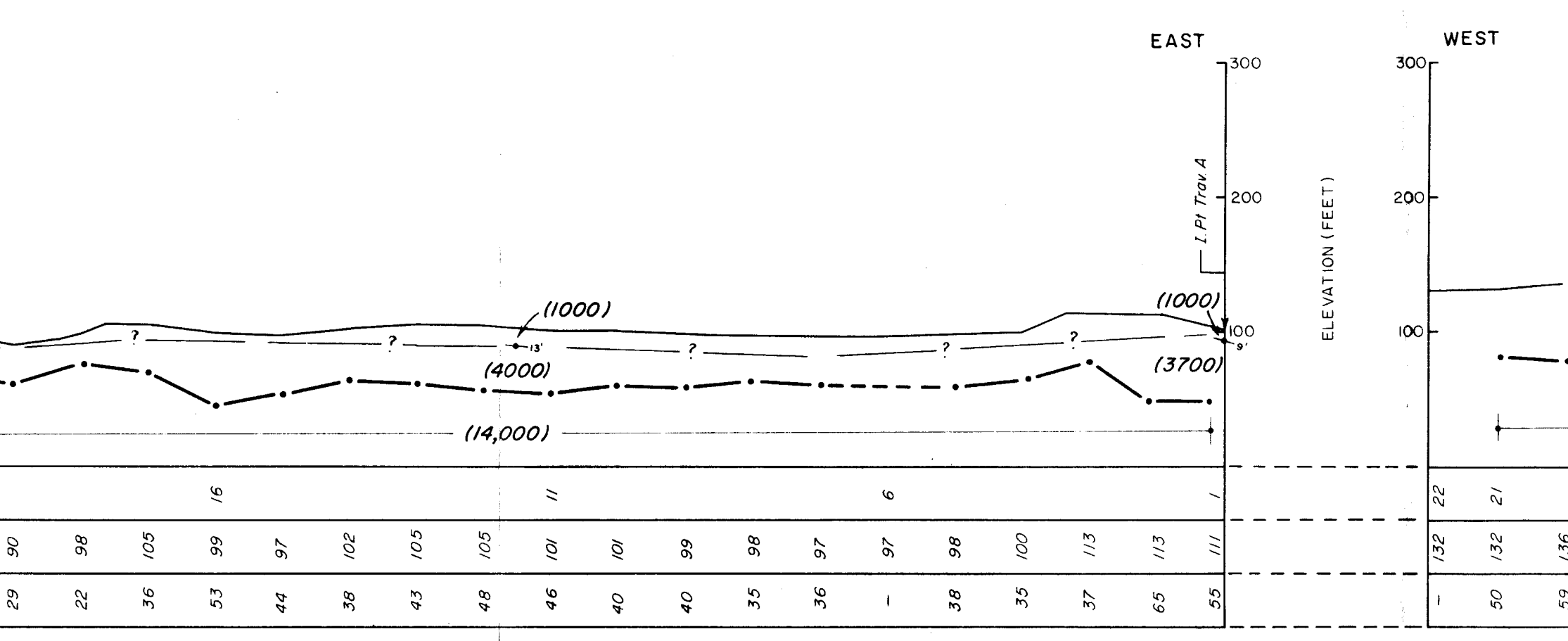
TRAVERSE H

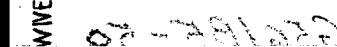


TRAVERSE G

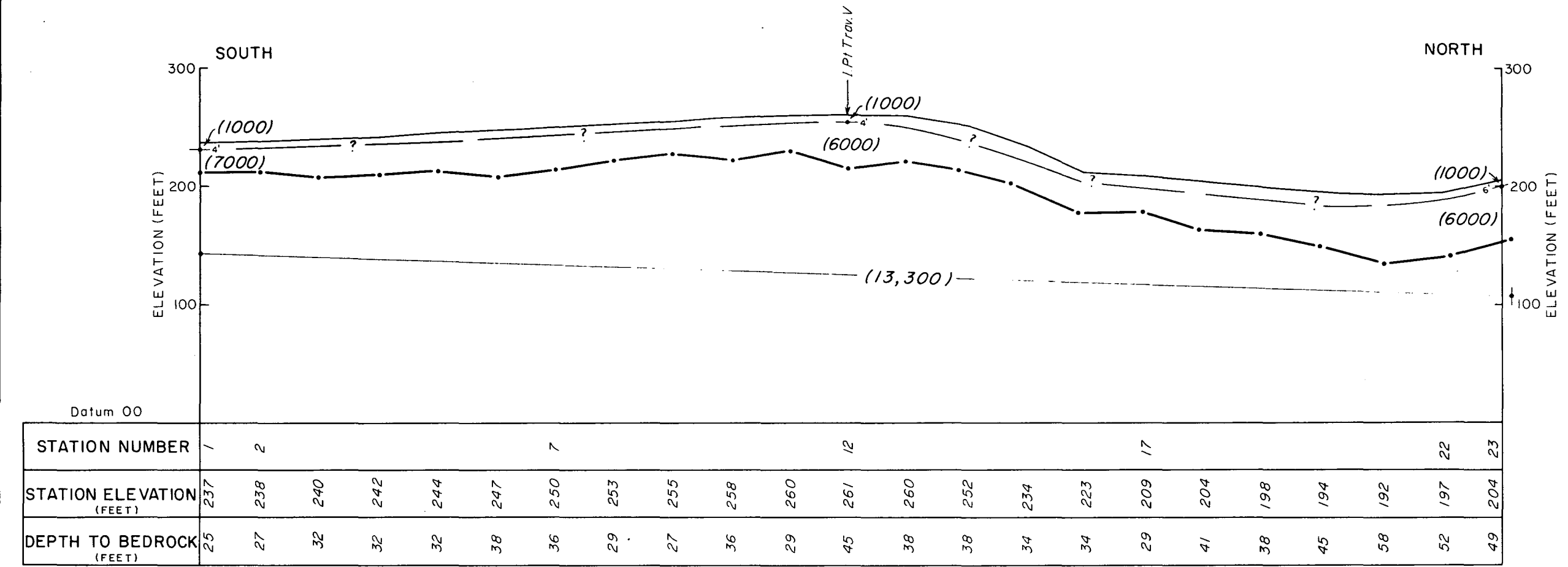


TRAVERSE D

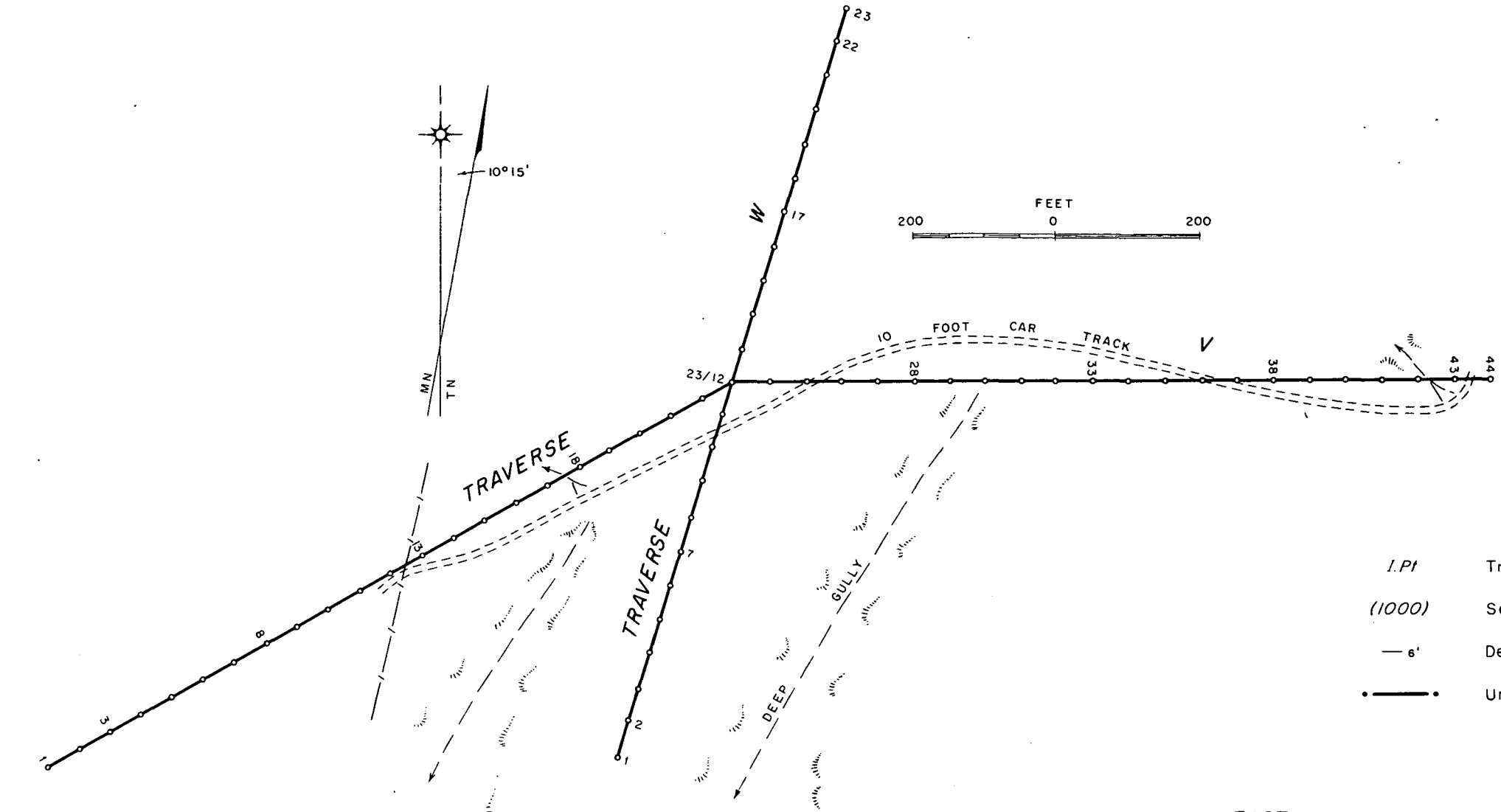
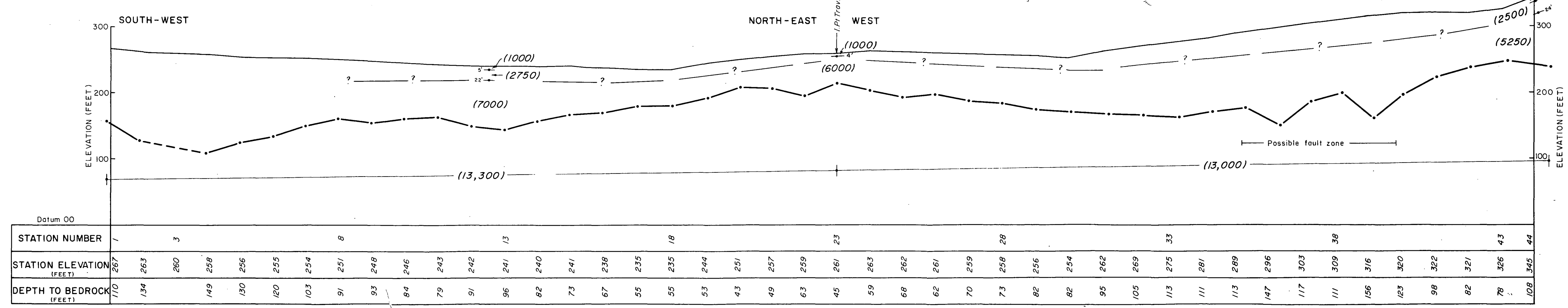




TRAVERSE W



TRAVERSE V



- LEGEND
- I.PI Traverse intersection point
 - (1000) Seismic velocity (ft/s) in formation
 - 6' Depth to formation with different seismic velocity
 - Unweathered bedrock boundary

WIVENHOE DAM SITE
SPILLWAY TRAVERSES V AND W
TRAVERSE LAYOUT AND
SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

