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Geological notes on proposed Sullivans Creek to Commonwealth Avenue pumping station sewer augmentation and possible extension to King Edward Terrace, Canberra, A.C.T.

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G.A.M. HENDERSON

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- 2. Geological sections along route options.

INTRODUCTION

The following geological notes on the proposed augmentation of the sewer pipeline from Sullivans Creek to Commonwealth Avenue pumping station and its possible extension to King Edward Terrace were prepared at the request of the National Capital Development Commission for the use of their consultant, Scott and Furphy Engineers Pty Ltd. The section north of the pumping station involves the investigation of three alternative routes, all of which would require a combination of tunnelling and trenching (see Plate 1 for route options). Data on rock conditions have been obtained from inspections of excavations by BMR geologists and from reports on drilling for foundation investigation of building sites, and for other purposes.

LITHOLOGY AND WEATHERING

Three rock units along a strip adjacent to the pipeline routes have been recognized on the basis of lithology and weathering characteristics. Weathering profiles do not include fault zones, where deeper weathering can be expected (see "Faults" below).

MUDSTONE AND SHALE - SHALLOW WEATHERED (Smc,)

A broad zone of shallow weathered mudstone and shale extends from City Hill across the western part of London Circuit to Sullivans Creek (see Plate 1). The rock generally shows little or no bedding and is of fairly uniform composition except for calcareous veins and lenses. Fresh or slightly weathered rock may be found in places within 1 m of the surface and generally at depths of less than 5 or 6 m. Moderately weathered rock overlies the slightly weathered rock and passes up into highly to completely weathered rock and soil at depths of about 1 to 3 m. The fresh rock is moderately hard and strong.

SHALE, MUDSTONE, SILTSTONE AND SANDSTONE - DEEPLY WEATHERED (Smc2)

Deeply weathered shale, mudstone, siltstone and fine-grained sandstone underlie areas to the southwest and north of City Hill. The rock ranges in composition from well-bedded siltstone and fine-grained sandstone to poorly-bedded shale and mudstone. The depth to fresh or

slightly weathered rock generally exceeds 6 m and, in places, moderately and highly weathered rock has been encountered in drillholes at depths exceeding 15 m. Except in areas within 10 or 20 m of the boundary with unit Smc₁ soft, weak rock can be expected in most places to at least 10 m depth.

COARSE TUFF (Smc_3)

Extremely weathered coarse tuff has been mapped in two excavations close to the Lakeside Hotel. The rock is thought to be a bed dipping in a general northeast direction within unit Smc₂. The rock has not been observed below a depth of 3 m but experience of similar thin beds elsewhere indicates that it is probably highly to extremely weathered to more than 10 m depth.

OVERBURDEN

ALLUVIUM

Alluvial deposits consisting of sand, gravel, and clay occur at several places. The alluvium on the western side of Sullivans Creek near Gould Street is about 4.5 m thick in drill hole DD158 (BMR stratigraphic hole). Gravel and coarse sand of variable thickness to 4.5 m was revealed in excavations and drilling at the site of the School of Music. Clayey gravel up to 3 m thick was mapped in part of the excavations for the Lakeside Hotel.

A drillhole (hole 10, Appendix 1, Plate A2-4) at the northern end of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge indicates sandy gravel overlain by silty sand between RL546 and 551 m.

FILL

Fill ranging to about 7 m thick forms the northern abutments of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and overlies alluvium of the old Molonglo river bed near the sewer pumping station (Appendix 1, Plate A2-2). Fill of variable thickness is associated with the road system at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue, London Circuit and Parkes Way.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES

CLEAVAGE

All rocks in the area except for some of the siltstone and fine-grained sandstone show noticeable cleavage which strikes approximately north and dips at about 70° to 75° to the east. Cleavage is particularly well-developed in some of the shallow weathered shale and mudstone and causes the rock to break into platy fragments.

JOINTS

Orientations of joints have been measured in several excavations. Prominent closely spaced joints striking 062° and dipping at about 75° southeast are prominent in mudstone beneath the CML building at Darwin Place and joints of similar orientation are common around City Hill. However the excavations for the Lakeside Hotel showed joints of widely varying orientations and no obvious preferred orientations, although the number of joints measured was not sufficient to give a statistically meaningful analysis. In all excavations mapped, closely spaced joints subparallel to cleavage are present where cleavage is developed and joints parallel to bedding are common. The attitude of bedding varies from place to place as indicated on the plan.

FAULTS AND SHEARED ZONES

No major faults of large displacement are known in the area. However minor faults with sheared zones up to 3.5 m wide have been observed in some excavations with associated zones of deeper rock weathering and decomposition. The faults are commonly steeply dipping and strike subparallel to cleavage or are of low angle with variable strike. Weathering is locally deeper and more severe above the planes of low-angle faults, where they approach the surface, than elsewhere. Two faults at Darwin Place possibly intersect the pipeline routes as shown on the plan. Some small low-angle thrust faults have also been observed in excavations. None of the faults have been active in recent geological time.

HYDROGEOLOGY

It is expected that the invert levels of all the proposed routes would be up to a few metres below the water table. Standing water was measured at a depth of 2.4 m in drill hole DD8 (see accompanying log). This hole was put down in 1969 during investigations for the proposed North Molonglo Outfall Sewer, and is on the route of Option 3 between manholes 2 and 3B. In another hole for the same project, DD9 - near the Hotel Acton, standing water was at 1.5 m depth. Towards the northern end of the pipeline routes water seepage was noted at a depth of 6.0 m about 100 m east of the intersection of Marcus Clarke Street and Rudd Street in a trench for the Ballumbir Street to Barry Drive sewer project (see Goldsmith, 1975). However in the section of trench along Marcus Clarke Street north of Rudd Street the trench was dry to a depth of 5 m. No water was encountered to a depth of 9 m below Canberra House (Plate 1). The drillholes at the School of Music were also dry to 7.5 m, the maximum depth drilled. Rates of seepage into the proposed tunnel and trench are expected to be small in most places where excavation is in rock. Water-pressure testing of drillholes 8 and 9 showed extremely low permeabilities in the moderately to highly weathered siltstone (Smc₂) where joints are probably sealed with clay (see accompanying logs). No significant variation in groundwater inflows can be expected between the three route options.

Inflows could be slightly greater in the less weathered mudstone (Smc₁) which will be found to be open-jointed in places and which could also possibly contain dissolved calcite veins. Water inflows can also be expected from small faults. For example a flow of about 0.25 cubic metres per hour was recorded from a small fault in the foundations of Electricity House east of City Hill in rock similar to Smc₁.

Alluvial deposits containing permeable gravel will be encountered along Sullivans Creek north of manhole 12, and in the vicinity of manhole 1. Some difficulty may be experienced in keeping excavations dry in these areas.

NOTES ON PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The interpreted profile of overburden and weathered rock has been plotted on the longitudinal sections of the three options for the route of the pipeline (Plate 2).

From the subsurface data available it is expected that generally similar conditions would be encountered in each of the options. Assuming that a tunnel would be excavated where the invert is at a depth greater than 7 to 8 m, the three route options can each be divided into three sections. They are (1) a southern section of shallow tunnel or deep trench in moderately to highly weathered rock, (2) a middle section of tunnel in slightly weathered or fresh rock, and (3) a northern section of trench in which hard slightly weathered rock will be encountered in the bottom of the trench. Approximate chainages on Option 1 would be - southern section 0-800 m, middle section 800-1800 m, and northern section 1800-2205 m.

A zone of weathered rock at depth may possibly be encountered in the central section of Option 2 between manholes 7A and 8A. Deep weathering was revealed in some auger holes on the northeastern side of University Avenue about 100 m northwest of manhole 8A and it is possible that this deeply weathered zone extends to the south across the pipeline route. The rock conditions under the Canberra School of Music building vary. On the northeastern side a patch of slightly weathered grey mudstone was revealed in foundation excavations but the remainder of the excavation was in moderately to highly weathered siltstone. Channels of alluvium up to 4.5 m thick are present, and alluvium of lesser thickness covers the entire site, but it is unlikely that the alluvium extends down to tunnel level near the building.

Table 1 below shows the approximate lengths at invert level of the various states of rock weathering, for each route option.

TABLE I STATES OF WEATHERING AT PIPELINE INVERT LEVEL

OPTION	FRESH TO SLIGHTLY WEATHERED	MODERATELY WEATHERED	HICHLY TO EXTREMELY WEATHERED	
1	1330 m	410 m	250 m	
2	1225 m	470 m	250 _. m	
3	1675 m	260 m	235 m	•

The length of pipeline that would be in alluvium or fill would be about 215 m for each option.

Assuming the whole route is tunnelled, except for the shallow section north of Barry Drive, option 3 appears to offer the greatest length of most favourable tunnelling conditions, which would be in fresh or slightly weathered rock. However, it should be noted that the boundary between the shallow and deeply weathered rock formations is sub-parallel to route option 3 to the east of the Lakeside Hotel, and the rock may be more weathered than has been indicated on the section on Plate 2.

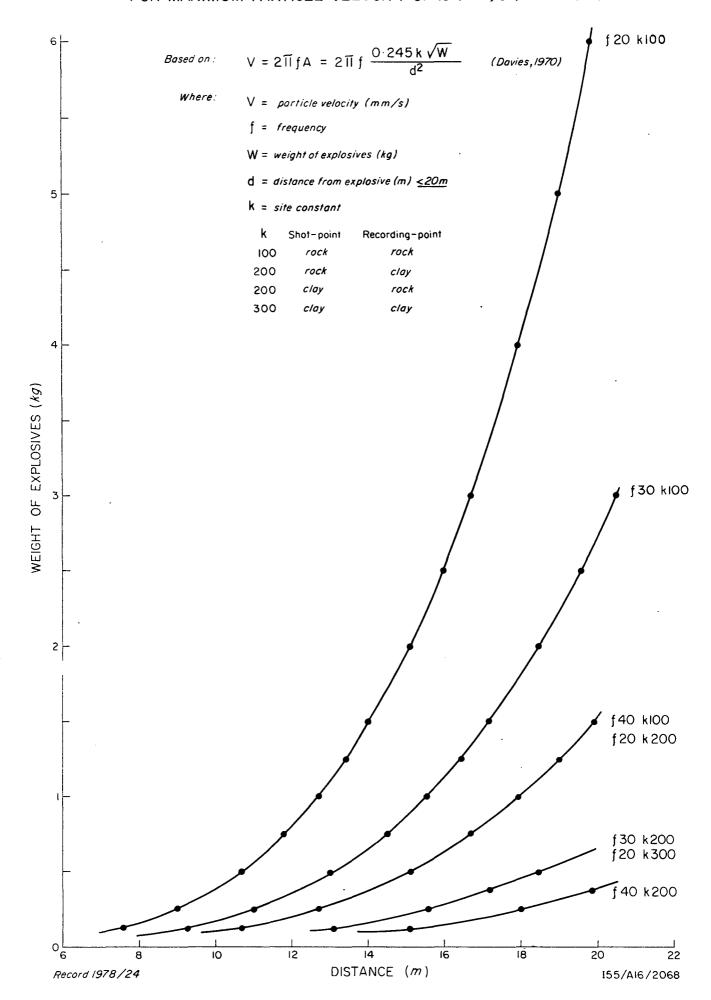
INFLUENCE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON ADJACENT BUILDINGS

The Canberra School of Music building is very close to the routes of Options 1 and 2. Settlement of the building foundations could occur during tunnel excavation unless preventive measures are taken, especially if the rock is deeply weathered. The amount of explosive which can safely be used in excavations close to buildings depends on the nature of the rock or soil, and it can be determined by vibration testing in which small charges are exploded in a drill hole and the resulting vibrations recorded at a given distance. An illustration of the type of result obtained for differing rock and soil conditions is shown on the accompanying graphs (Fig. 1), derived from Davies (1970).

EXTENSION OF PIPELINE SOUTH TO KING EDWARD TERRACE

The geological conditions along the line of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge are shown in plan and section on Plates A2-2 and A2-4 from Gardner (1969). Alluvium ranging in thickness to about 10 m covers bedrock which consists of deeply weathered siltstone, mudstone and claystone north of Pier 1. Gardner reports shallow weathered calcareous mudstone and limestone south of Pier 1. Two drill holes, DD3 and DD4 were put down for a weir site investigation at the former Lennox Crossing (see accompanying logs). Drill hole DD4 penetrated calcareous mudstone and limestone with cavities. A seismic refraction survey of the area between DD3 and DD4 indicated a zone of deep weathering as shown on Plate A2-2. Weathered rock extending to a maximum of 36 m depth is indicated beneath 4.5-9.5 m of alluvium. eastern ends of seismic traverses west of DD4 indicate unweathered rock probably calcareous mudstone at relatively shallow depth (10-16.5 m) beneath alluvium 4.5-9.5 m thick. The rock is probably similar to that along the bridge axis south of Pier 1. A possible major fault is indicated by very deep weathering in Hole 5 at Pier 2. Gardner interprets it as a low angle

PLOT OF WEIGHT OF EXPLOSIVES VS DISTANCE FROM SHOT-POINT TO RECORDING SITE < 20m FOR MAXIMUM PARTICLE VELOCITY OF 19 1 mm/s (0.75 in/s)



thrust fault striking north and northwest and passing through the deeply weathered zone around drill hole DD3. Other possible fault or sheared zones with accompanying deep weathering are indicated in the seismic traverses north of Pier 1.

In assessing the option of tunnelling to the south of the Commonwealth Avenue Pumping Station the possibility of cavernous limestone beneath the bed of Lake Burley Griffin and to the south of the lake must be allowed for. Large inflows of water into a tunnel through cavernous limestone would present serious problems because recharge of water in the limestone, even in the area south of Lake Burley Griffin, is expected to come direct from the lake. An investigation to locate cavernous limestone would require numerous drillholes, and detailed geological investigation, and it is doubtful if it would be possible to guarantee that all limestone had been located.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. Option 3 promises the greatest length of most favourable tunnelling conditions. Option 3 also avoids problems in excavating close to the Canberra School of Music building, and the zone of possible deep weathering between manholes 7A and 8A on Option 2 would not be intercepted.
- 2. Groundwater inflows are expected to be slight along most of the pipeline route, with no significant variation in inflows between any of the three route options.
- The possible extension of the pipeline south from the Commonwealth Avenue Pumping Station would need to be investigated thoroughly to determine the extent of cavernous limestone. Limestone with cavities could present serious difficulties with large inflows of groundwater into a tunnel.

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APPENDIX 1

EXTRACTS FROM OTHER REPORTS

Diamond-drill hole logs

DD3

DD4

DD8

DD9

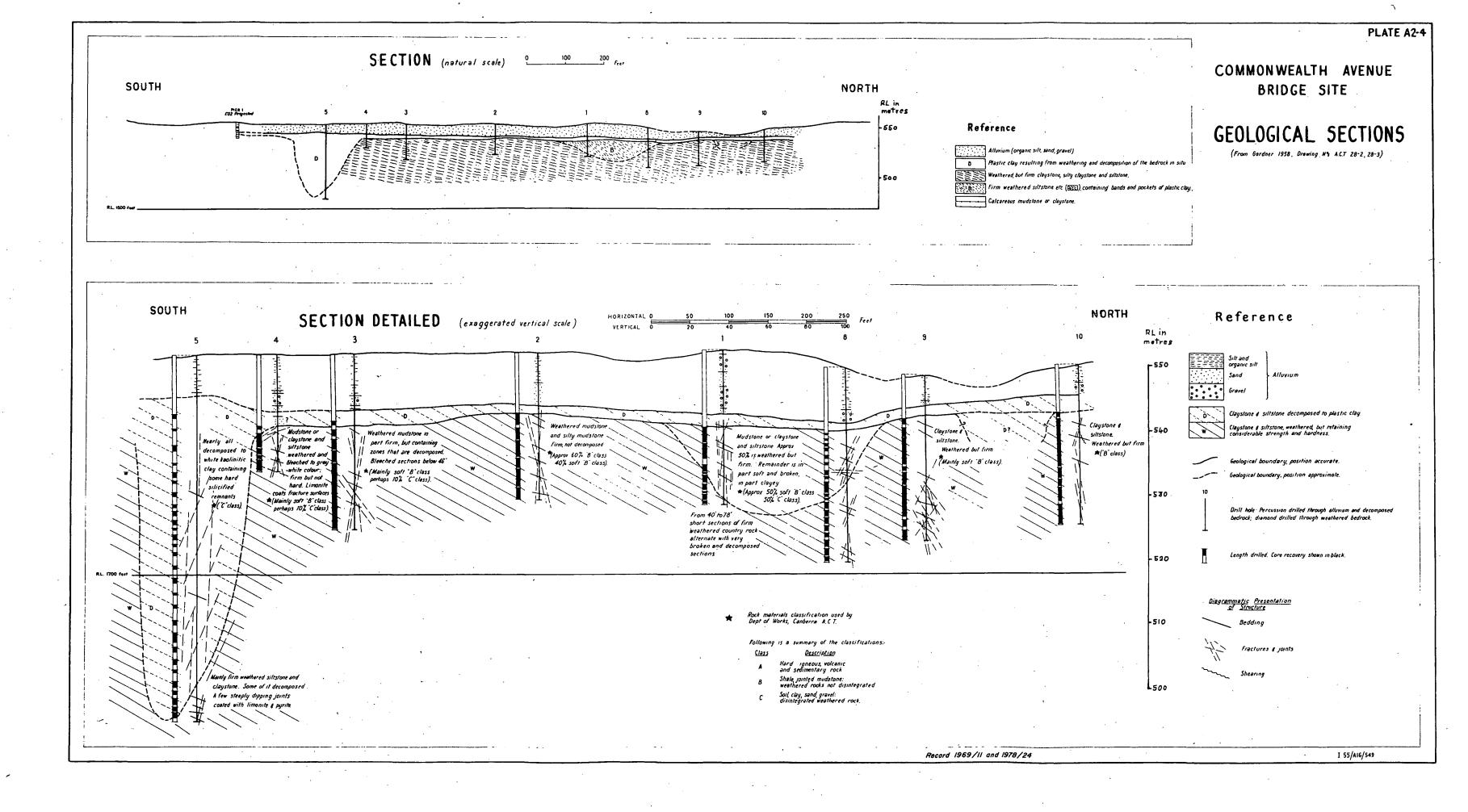
- Plate A2-2 Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Site exploratory drilling based on seismic refraction survey.
- Plate A2-4 Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Site geological sections.
- Plate A2-5 Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Site bored cylinder foundations.

BUREAU OF M GEOLOGY & GE	INERAL RESQURCES, OPHYSICS	LOCATION _		₹ <i>I</i> Γ − 0	N _ P	BICE	A2 -2	HOLE NO DD	
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Aeolian	Sand	:::	O.bm-						
	Sand and sandy clay					,			
Lacustrine	Buff clay	1-2-	3.0m		٠				
	Sand and gravel in clay matrix		3.4m						
,	Cemented gravel	0,0	5.5 _m					-	
	Silty shale and siltstone; weathered in part decomposed and plastic		1			%	Structure obscured by crushing and weathering		
	ond plastic	1 1 1 1 1	10 100		·	1111	Flatly dipping frac coated with limonite	tures	
							END OF HOLE		
Drill type .MLN.R.R.Feed	Fracture Log - Number blacks Bedding & Joint Plant	ed in. es — Angles a the core	are measured axis.	relative	to a pi	Iane nor	Depth(m) Black &	iph Negative No. White Colour	
Completed	3.8		Level in com					155/A16/2024	

BUREAU OF M			, LOCATIO	N_AS	_ ZH07	VN.	رم	1_PL	TE	R2-2	HOLE NO D.D.4		
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Rock Type and Degree of Weathering		Description colour, strength, etc.			Depth and size of Core		ture og	RQD	Structural	Structures Joints,veins, seams , fault,	etc. Water Level		
Acolian	Loose d	Tine sand and clay			1.bm								
Lacustrine	Sand	clayey sand and gravel lay matrix	0.0.0.0		6 m								
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										END OF HOLE			
Drill type .MLND.R. Feed Core barrel type Driller	ents – 🔟	tures po es are r core axi Lev	measurea is.	rela	itive in pr	to a p	lane no at spe	Depth(m) Black & W	oh Negative No. /hite Colour				

BUREAU OF M		ESQURCES,									PLL SE	WER E_! BARBUN	T-DRIKE HO	DLE NO D	B Q
GEOLOGICAL, L		RILL HOLE			FROM HO	ORIZONTA	AL (8))	9.0°.	DIRE	ECTION	- 561.8 m	SH	EETL_0	F_]_
Rock Type and Degree of Weathering		escription Colour, strength; etc.	Cosing	Graphic Log	Lift and % core	Depth and size of Core	Fract		ROD	Shructural Log			uctures seams , fault, etc.	Permeab- ility in lugeons*	Water
	Black . brown	soil and pale clay			100%	NX casing							-	-	
Siltstone, highly weathered	weak ro decomp	low-brown, soft, ck, much osed to clay. e length 10cm			100%,	NMLC-	^				Beddin	g at 35°		NoT - TESTED	2.40
					100%	5 0 m						÷		-	
	ž.		, ,		100%	, - -	hou -						· .:	-	
PROPOSED T INVERT LEVEL OF SULLIVANS CREEK TO C.A.P.S.					100%		18+ +hrovahou							<i>3</i> .	
SEWER					100%	10.0m								0	
-					100%	 					Beddin	g at 40°		0	,
				-	100%	15.2					END	OF HOLE			
		· · ·			•										
Drill type E.O.O.C.M Feed _ MYDRRULLI Core barrel type _NM.	£	Fracture Log - Number	d in		tures pei		•					Cor Depth(m)	e Photograph N Black & White	egative No. Colour	
Driller _M_DZJ.W.U Commenced .26/6/6 Completed!/7/6 Logged by G.RM.H6 M(Pf) 221	es - Angles are measured relative to a plane normal to the care axis. ents Level when hole in progress at specified depth Level in completed hole on specified date. * Permeability calculated trom water pressure testing									55/A16/66	 7a				

BUREAU OF M		-		T_NQE					FALL SG			DLE NO	1D.9
GEOLOGICAL, L	OG OF D	RILL HOLE	ANGLE FROM HORIZONTAL (0)_20° DIRECTION								sн	EET10)F_ <u>1</u> _
Rock Type and Degree of Weathering		Description * colour, strength, etc.	Graphic Scappic	Lift and % core	Depth and size	Fracture Log	RQD	Structural		Struc Joints, veins, se	tures eams , fault, etc.	Permeab- ility in lugeons	Water
	Dark t soil	prown clayey		100%	_						·	7011	\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\
		brown clay tstone fragments		100%	2.9m					•		TESTEO.	4/7/(
Siltstone, moderately weathered	moderat Max cor	orown, soft, ely weak rock re length 25cm, re lengths		100%						brown clay]	-	
	5-15cm	'	- - - - -	100%	5.0m			,	Bro	ken zone] .	<1 , .	
				100%					Brol	sen zone]	-	
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				100%	14 9 m								
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Logged by G. B. M.J.		Checked by	Level in completed hole on specified date. * Permeability calculated from water pressure testing									I 55/A16/66	 8a



PIER No.1 SITE EO 4

PIER No. 4 SITE EO2 Hole cased to 28 feet below collar. Surface of bedrock at 26 feet below collar

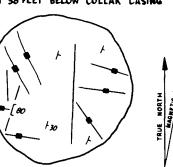
SKETCH PLANS OF BOTTOMS OF EXCAYATIONS

PLAN AT 24' BELOW COLLAR OF CASING

PLAN AT 31'BELOW COLLAR OF CASING



PLAN AT 38 FEET BELOW COLLAR CASING



Firm to hard, blue-grey cakareous mudatore Pale-gray and blue-gray clay (decomposed mudstone)

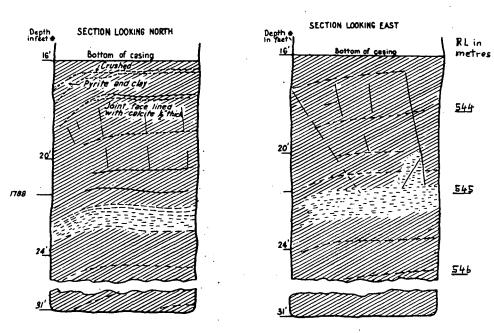
COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BRIDGE SITE

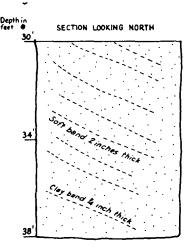
BORED CYLINDER FOUNDATIONS

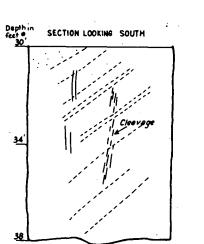
From Gardner 1961

SCALE 8 FEET

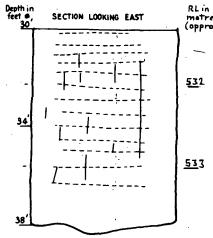
PIER No.1 SITE EO4



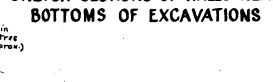


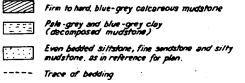


PIER No. 4 SITE EO 2



SKETCH SECTIONS OF WALLS NEAR





Depth in Approximate depth below coller of casing feet #

Record 1969/II and 1978/24

155/A16/559

