



USCS, SPT and the Meaning of Life

or

The Origins and Use of Standard Geotechnical Field Classification and Laboratory Index Testing

Presented by Ray D'Hollander, P.E.
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February 18th, 2010
Sophistications Café, Syracuse, NY

Subsurface investigations of soils for construction and hydrogeological characterization are a “routine” task done every day. The importance of detailed, comprehensive, and accurate soil classification is often under-appreciated until the late stages of a project. ASTM D1586 (SPT), D2487 (USCS), and D2488 (Visual-Manual Soil Description) have been refined over the decades to provide a comprehensive soil description that is relatively simple to obtain during normal field activities. The tests and techniques originated in the early years of geotechnical engineering in the 1940s and 1950s for civil construction purposes. Their value has expanded over the past decades with the increased importance of hydrogeology for water supply and environmental remediation.

The speaker will discuss the origins of standard geotechnical index testing and field classification. The traditional uses will be presented with some discussion of how they can also be used in hydrogeological investigations, including hazardous waste site characterization.

Raymond D'Hollander, P.E., P.Eng. is a Principal Project Engineer at Parsons. His area of expertise is geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering. He has worked on general civil, Arctic offshore engineering, landfill design, and hazardous waste remediation during his career. The project locations have included most of the major geologic regions of North America. He is currently working on remediation of the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site. Mr. D'Hollander received a B.Sc. and M.Eng. in civil and environmental engineering with a specialization in geotechnical engineering at Cornell University. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in NY, CA, DE, and Alberta.



MEETING LOGISTICS: The meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 18, 2010**, at **Sophistications Cafe**, located at 441 South Salina St (Inside the Galleries of Syracuse) in Syracuse, New York. Free parking is available in the Galleries Parking Garage located immediately adjacent to the Syracuse Galleries. A social gathering will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The presentation by Mr. D'Hollander will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The cost of the dinner is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members and \$15 for student members. CNYAPG will sponsor the cost for dinner for the first five students who register for this meeting. People may also attend the presentation only for a nominal fee of \$3. **Please RSVP by Monday, February 15, 2010** to Annette at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at info@pwinc.com or (315) 437-1429.

