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Geotechnical Investigation

Proposed Bennett Lake Dam Replacement Fundy National Park, Alma, NB

By

**GEMTEC** Limited

Submitted to

McCormick Rankin Corporation

FILE: 6032.01-R01 October 2008

Geotechnical and Materials Engineering • Hydrogeology • Materials Testing and Inspection



Certified Tesling Lab A283 Concrete



77 Rooney Crescent, Moncton, N.B., Canada, E1E 4M4 Tel. (506) 858-7180 Fax: (506) 858-0742

28 October 2008

File: 6032.01 - R01

McCormick Rankin Corporation 2655 North Sheridan Way Mississauga, ON L5K 2P8

Attention: Doug Dixon, P.Eng

### Re: Geotechnical Investigation, Proposed Bennett Lake Dam Replacement Fundy National Park, Alma, NB

Enclosed is our geotechnical report for the above noted project.

If you have any questions concerning this report or require further details, contact the undersigned.



Serge Bourque, M.Sc.E, P. Eng.

(N:\Files\6000\6032.01\2008aet0922R01.doc)



## Geotechnical Investigation

# Proposed Bennett Lake Dam Replacement Fundy National Park, Alma, NB

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#### Geotechnical Investigation

#### Proposed Bennett Lake Dam Expansion Fundy National Park, Alma, NB

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

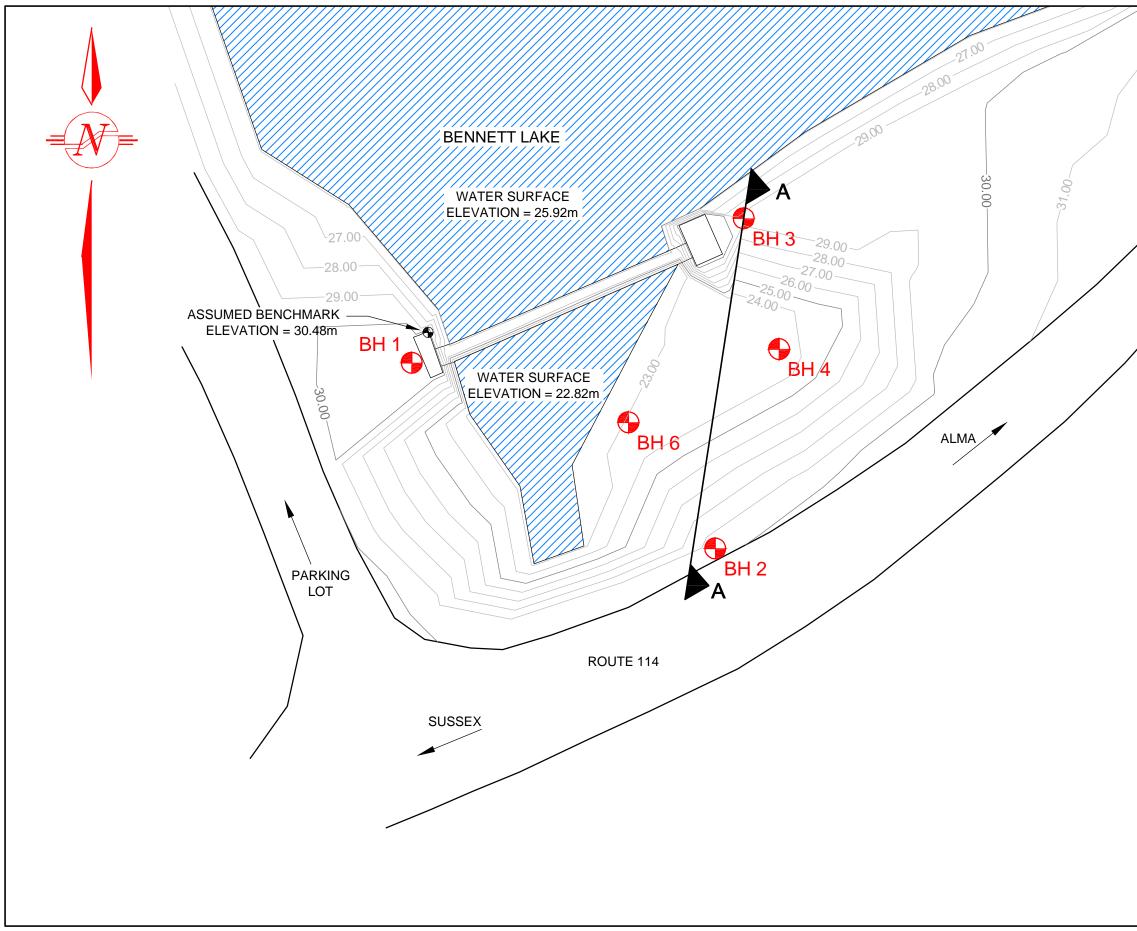
GEMTEC Limited was retained by Doug Dixon of McCormick Rankin Corporation to undertake a geotechnical investigation for a proposed new dam at Bennett Lake, which is located within Fundy National Park. We understand that the proposed dam will be located between the existing structure and Highway 114.

The purpose of our geotechnical investigation was to assess the soil, bedrock and groundwater conditions. Five boreholes (BH) were put down between 15 and 18 September 2008 using a track-mounted drill rig (CME 55) in the presence of a junior geotechnical engineer. Four of the five boreholes were taken down to bedrock.

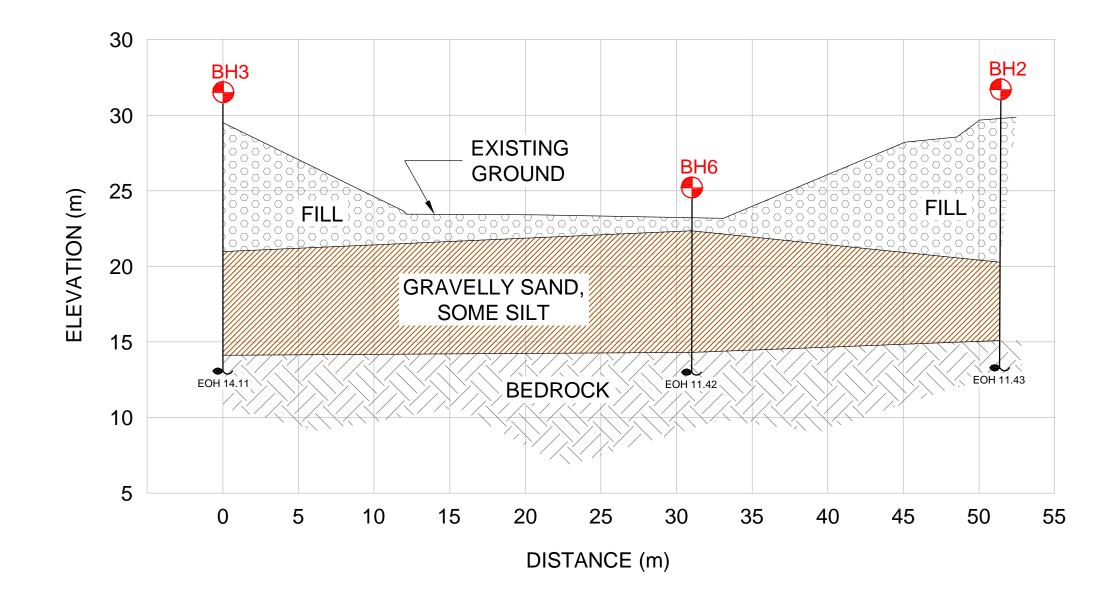
Refer to Figure 1 for approximate borehole locations. An interpretive cross section of site is shown in Figure 2. Detailed borehole logs are appended (Appendix A).

Borehole locations and elevations were surveyed in the field by GEMTEC Limited. Borehole elevations are based on an assumed datum of 30.48 metres (100.00 feet) taken from the white paint marker on top of the west abutment of the existing dam and walkway structure.

We assume the design of the proposed new dam will be based on the design drawing Option "A" – Concrete spillway, as shown in the drawings provided by Mitchelmore Engineering Company Ltd. Drawings are appended (Appendix C).



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# 2.0 SITE, SOIL AND GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

# 2.1 SITE CONDITIONS

The site of the proposed new dam is located south of the existing dam and north of Route 114. At the time of our field investigation, this area was mostly covered with young tree growth.

The existing dam is constructed between two former bridge abutments. BH 1 and 3 were put down within the west and east abutments, respectively.

Water seepage was observed near the toe of the east embankment, and also from the springs at the ground surface. Streams generating from springs were observed within the area between the existing dam and roadway embankments, likely due to seepage from the existing dam.

# 2.2 SOIL, BEDROCK AND GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

Five boreholes were put down at the site. Two boreholes were put down through the former bridge abutments, one borehole was put down on the road shoulder of Route 114, and the remaining two boreholes were put down within the proposed dam embankment area.

# Soil Conditions

The overburden soils at the site generally consist of sand and gravel fill underlain by native sand and gravel to bedrock. The compactness of the native overburden soils is medium to very dense based on the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) N-values1, which ranged from 16 to 79, averaging 29.

At BH 6, wood debris was encountered at a depth of 0.6 metres below surface.

A summary of the soil stratigraphy is presented in Table 2.1 and detailed logs are appended (Appendix A).

<sup>1</sup> The number of blows of a 475 joule hammer required to advance the 50 mm diameter split spoon sampler 300 mm.

Borehole	Ground Elevation <sup>(a)</sup>	Fill Thickness	Native Sand & Gravel Thickness	Depth to Bedrock	Borehole Depth
	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
BH 1	29.50	2.74		2.74	12.19
BH 2	29.72	9.45	5.18	14.63	18.29
BH 3	29.50	8.53	6.86	15.39	17.83
BH 4	23.79		> 5.79		5.79
BH 6	23.19	1.10 <sup>(b)</sup>	8.04 <sup>(c)</sup>	9.14	11.77

#### Table 2.1: Summary of Soil Conditions

(a) Ground elevations are based on an assumed datum of 30.48 metres taken at the top of the west abutment.

<sup>(b)</sup> Wood debris encountered.

(c) Cobbles and boulders encountered at bottom of sand and gravel layer, see borehole log.

Soil index testing was carried out on four representative samples of the native overburden. A summary of the test results is presented in Table 2.2 and detailed results are appended (Appendix B).

Borehole	Sample Depth	% Gravel	% Sand	% Silt and Clay
	(m)			
BH 2	9.14 - 9.75	20.2	60.9	18.9
BH 3	11.73 – 12.34	41.8	47.2	11.0
BH 4	2.59 - 3.20	33.8	55.3	10.9
BH 6	6.40 - 7.01	30.5	60.0	9.5

#### Table 2.2: Summary of Grain Size Analysis Tests

Based on the grain size analysis, the native overburden soil ranges from gravelly sand with some silt to sand and gravel with some silt.

The hydraulic conductivity of the native overburden soil can be estimated using the Shepard (1989) equation:

 $K = Cd_{50}^{1.5}$ 

where

K = hydraulic conductivity (ft/day) C = shape factor (100 native sand and gravel)  $d_{50}$  = mean grain size (mm) Refer to Table 2.3 for a summary of the calculated hydraulic conductivities of the native overburden soils.

Borehole	Sample Depth	d <sub>50</sub>	Hydraulic Conductivity
	(m)	(mm)	(cm/s)
BH 2	9.14 - 9.75	0.64	1.8 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>
BH 3	11.73 – 12.34	3.11	1.9 x 10 <sup>-1</sup>
BH 4	2.59 - 3.20	1.98	9.8 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>
BH 6	6.40 - 7.01	1.68	7.7 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>

 Table 2.3: Summary of Hydraulic Conductivity Calculations

# The average hydraulic conductivity is $9.5 \times 10^{-2}$ cm/s.

For design purposes the internal friction angle ( $\phi$ ') of the native sand and gravel soil may be taken as 34 degrees.

# **Bedrock Conditions**

Greenish grey meta-sedimentary bedrock was encountered in four of the five boreholes. The natural bedrock fracture planes are at 45 degrees.

The Rock Quality Designation<sup>3</sup> (RQD) generally ranges from 25 to 93 %, averaging 59%. On this basis, the rock quality is generally fair. It should be noted that the upper five metres of bedrock at BH 1 (west abutment) is highly weathered as evidenced by RQD values of zero.

A summary of the rock core compressive strengths is presented in Table 2.4 and testing results are appended (Appendix B).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Percent of core consisting of hard, sound pieces in excess of 100 mm long (excluding machine breaks).

Borehole	Depth	Peak Load	Compressive Strength
	(m)	(kN)	(MPa)
BH 1	12.04	228.6	59.4
BH 2	17.98	120.9	37.9

Results of the rock core compressive strengths indicate that the rock strength is moderate to strong.

#### Groundwater Conditions

Groundwater seepage was observed in each borehole with the exception of BH 1 and BH 3. At these borehole locations the presence of groundwater seepage could not be determined due to the presence of drill water used during rock coring and advancement of the casing through the abutment fill. In BH 1 and 3, the groundwater level could be estimated at the water level of the adjacent Bennett Lake. The groundwater seepage levels measured in BH 2 and BH 6 were consistent with the nearby stream level.

# 3.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand that a new earth dam with a concrete spillway is being proposed to replace the existing Bennett Lake dam. The new earth dam will butt up against the existing dam as shown on the proposed Option "A" design sections (Appendix C).

Based on the foundation soil conditions encountered at the borehole locations, the proposed 3H:1V embankment slopes would be appropriate for stability purposes. The native sand and gravel layer is not susceptible to liquefaction during an earthquake event.

For design purposes the allowable bearing capacity of the native sand and gravel layer may be taken as 150 kPa. We would anticipate about 25 mm of settlement of the native sand and gravel layer under 5 metres of embankment fill. This settlement would occur practically instantaneously and should be complete by the end of embankment construction.

Because of the pervious nature of the foundation soils, either a full cutoff to bedrock will be required, consideration given to an upstream impervious blanket, or provisions made for internal drainage, relief wells, etc to guard against potential excessive seepage and piping failures through the granular foundation soils.

The creep-head ratio (L/h) should be considered in the design to prevent progressive loss of the foundation material. This is the ratio of the weighted seepage flow length (L) to the headwater (h) to tail-water. Based on the native soil conditions, this ratio (L/h) should be about 6 without a filter drain and 4.8 with a filter drain. In order to increase the creep-head ratio (i.e. increase seepage flow length) a cut off wall could be installed as shown on design drawings. In calculating creep-head ratio, Lane (1935), has adopted the following weighting factors for calculating the seepage length (L):

- Unity (1) for contact surfaces steeper than 45 degrees
- One third (1/3) for contact surfaces flatter then 45 degrees
- Two (2) for seepage path through virgin or undisturbed foundation soils.

In the event that a cut off wall is proposed in the final design, some considerations will need to given on the constructability of the cut off wall due to the granular nature of the foundation soils and existing dam seepage conditions.

GEMETEC Limited would be pleased to provide additional geotechnical design recommendations once the proposed dam design is finalized.

#### 4.0 GENERAL

The boreholes put down at this site are widely scattered and soil conditions may vary from those encountered at the borehole locations. Although representative samples were taken throughout the site, GEMTEC Limited personnel should be contacted immediately if the soils encountered during excavations are different than those encountered in our geotechnical investigation.

The investigation outlined in this report is strictly geotechnical in nature and should not be viewed as an environmental assessment of the site.

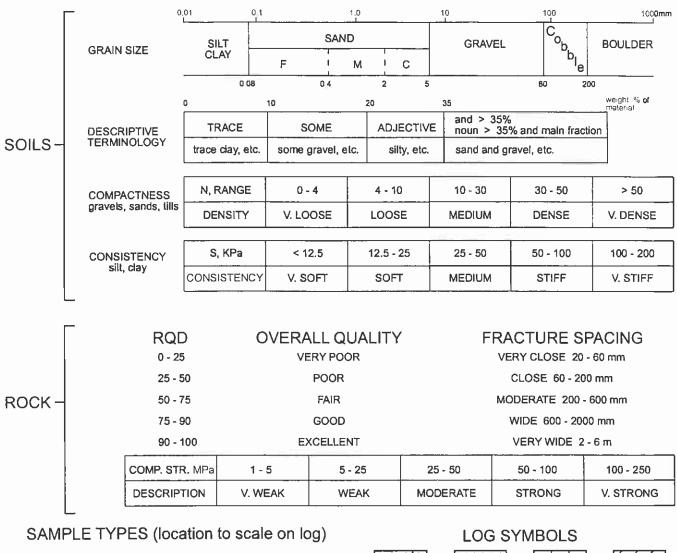
APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTIVE TERMS AND BOREHOLE LOGS

GEMTEC

GROUND ENG & MATERIALS

# DESCRIPTIVE TERMS- BOREHOLE/TEST PIT LOG



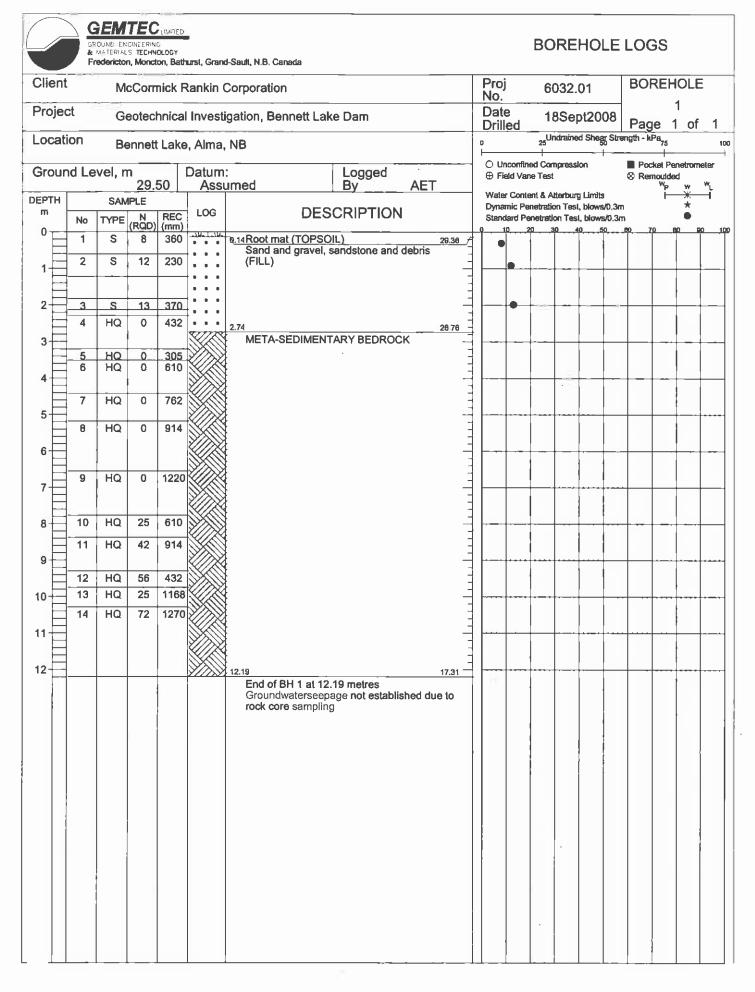
S SPLIT TUBE T SHELBY TUBE P PISTON F AUGER W WASH	G SHOVEL H CARVED BLOCK K SLOTTED V IN SITU VANE NR NO RECOVERY		SAND SAND BOULDER	SILT ROCK	
•••	S A(30mm); B(41mm); N(54mm)		WELL S'	YMBOLS	
		SCREEN WITH SAND	PIPE WITH SAND	BENTONITE	PIPE WITH BACKFILL

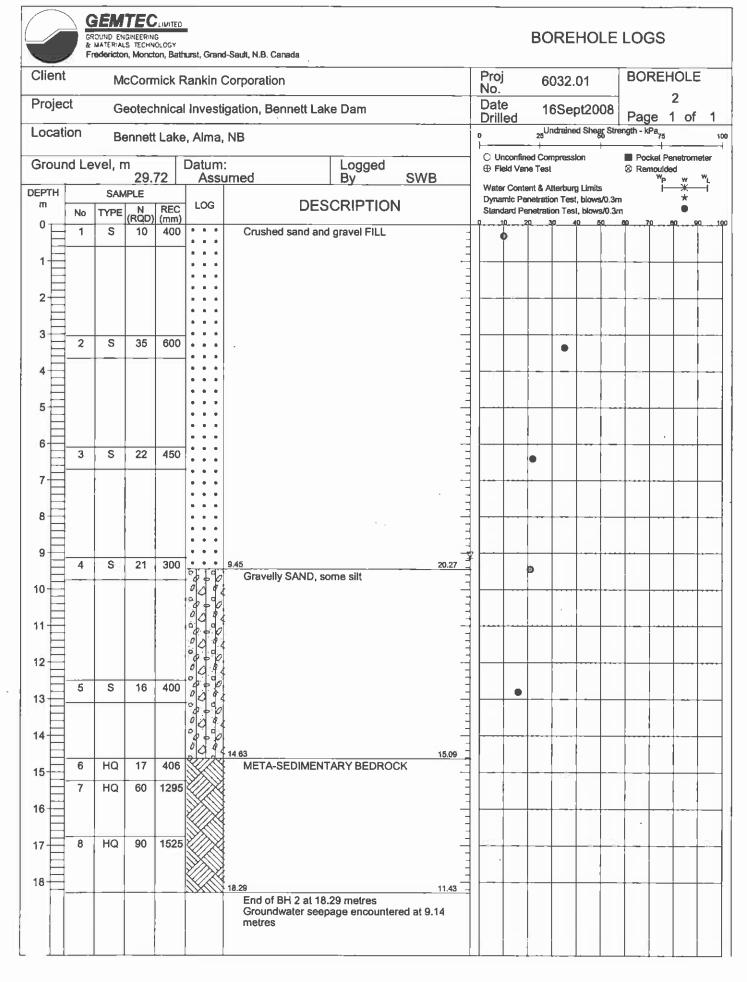
N - standard penetration test; blows by 475 J drop hammer to advance Std. 50mm O.D. split tube sampler 0.3m

RQD - percent of core consisting of hard, sound pieces in excess of 100mm long (excluding machine breaks)

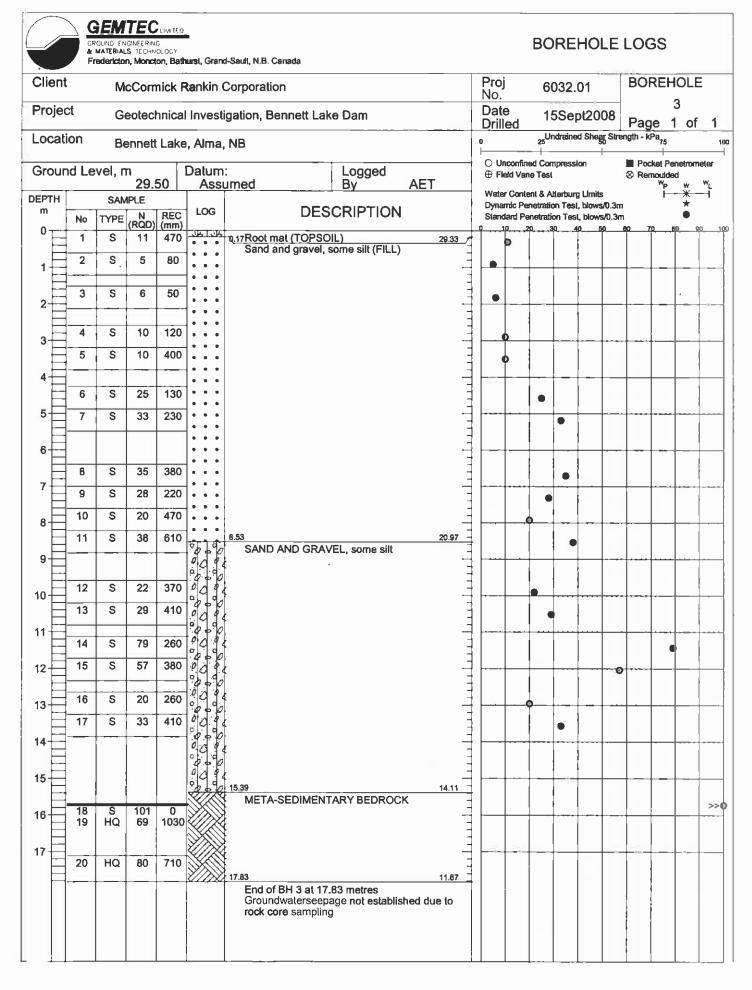
- RECOVERY sample recovery expressed as percent or length
  - S shear strength , kPa; vane<sup>⊕</sup> ; penetrometer <sup>■</sup>; unconfined <sup>○</sup>
  - Sr shear strength, remoulded; vane \*; penetrometer
  - Dd dry density; t/m3
  - W natural moisture content, percent \*
  - PL plastic limit, percent ----
  - LL liquid limit, percent ------
  - ND non detect, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) not detected in soil

Groundwater Level ∓ ; Seepage ₽



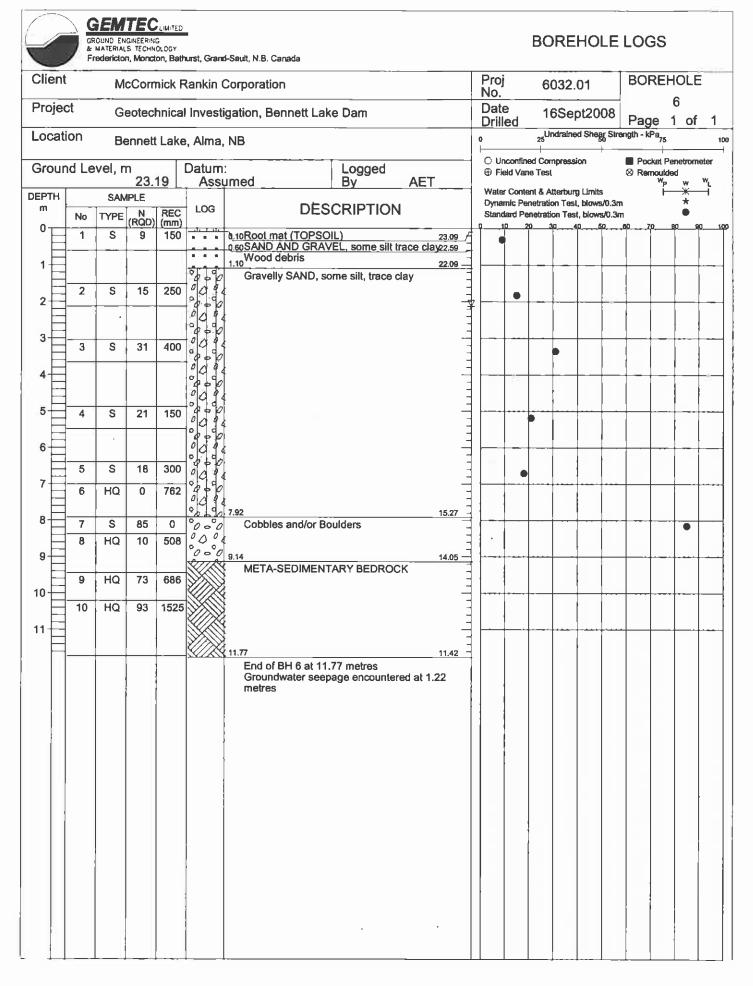


GEOTG 603201.GPJ GEMTEC 2004.GDT 10/14/08



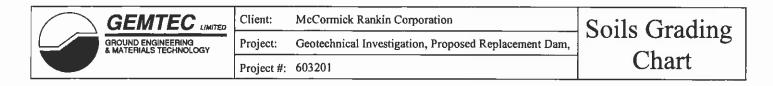
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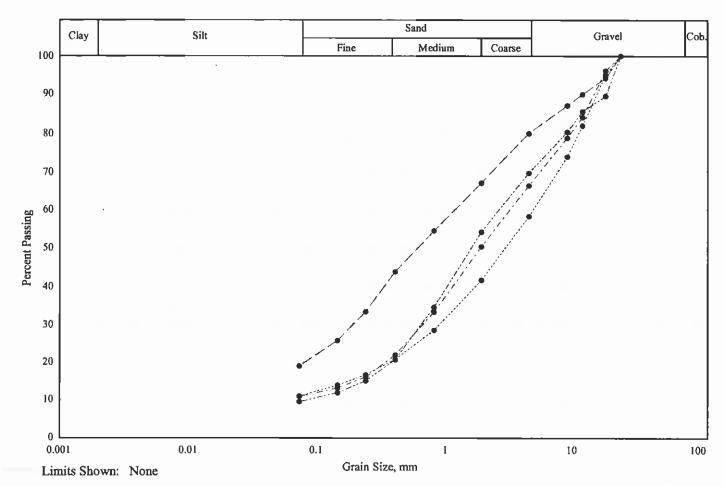
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5-	-	5	s	33	-	0000	5.79		18.00			•				
	-						End of BH 4 at 5.7 Groundwater seep									
							metres	age encounter	CU a( 2.15							



APPENDIX B

LABORATORY TESTING RESULTS





Line Symbol	Description	Borehole/ Test Pit	Sample Number	D	epth		lob.+ avel	% Sand	% Sil		Date Sampled
		2	4	9.14	-9.75m	20	0.2	60.9		18.9	19/09/2008
		3	15	1.73	-12.34r	4	1.8	47.2		11.0	19/09/2008
		4	4	2.59	-3.20m	33	3.8	55.3		10.9	19/09/2008
		6	5	6.40	-7.01m	3(	0.5	60.0		9.5	19/09/2008
Line Symbol	Sample Description	1	AASH	łто	D <sub>10</sub>		D <sub>15</sub>	Dg	50	D <sub>85</sub>	% 5-75µm
	Gravelly sand, some	silt	A-1	-b				0.64	104	7.7741	
	Sand and gravel, som	e silt	A-1	-a			0.1853	3.11	45	13.8022	
	Gravelly sand, some	silt	A-1	-a	+		0.2101	1.93	755	12.9237	
	Gravelly sand, trace	silt	A-1	-b	0.086	55	0.2510	1.67	750	12.1516	

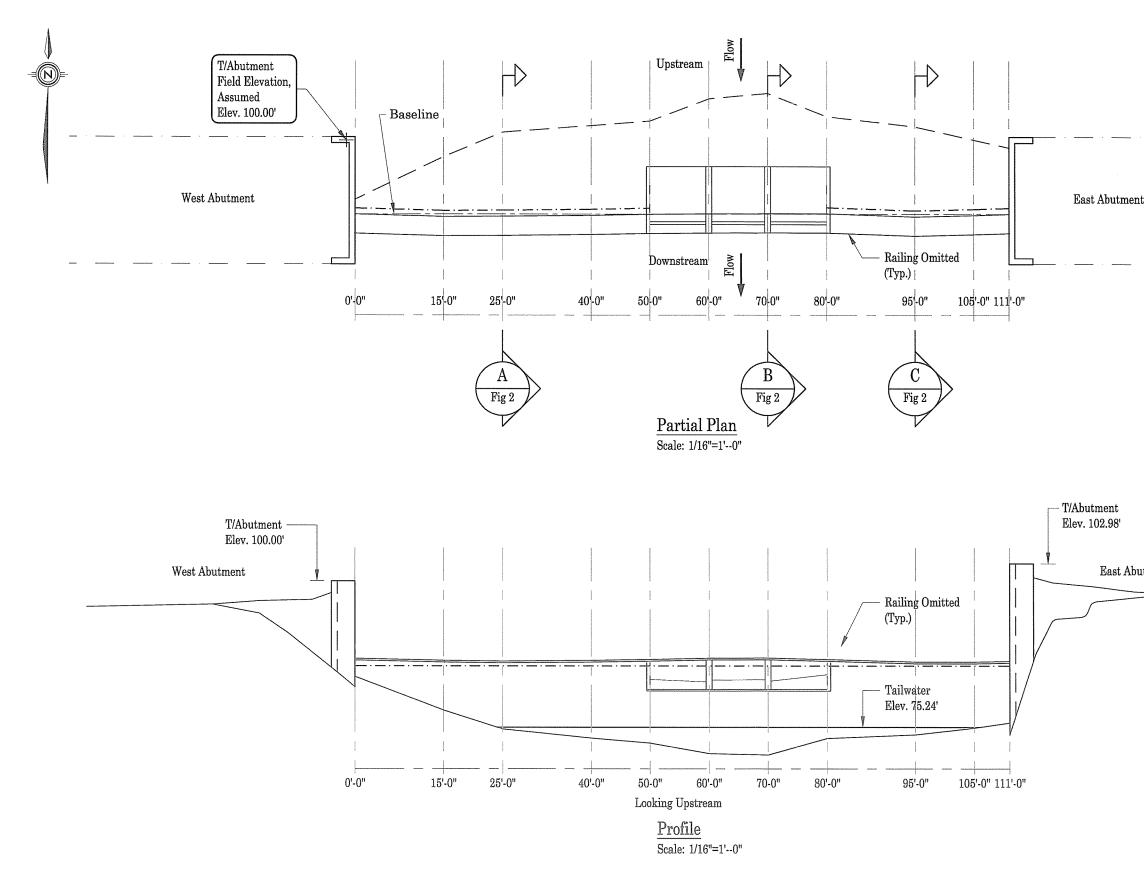
GEMTEC UMIED	Client:	McCormick Rankin Corporation	Book Cora
GROUND ENGINEERING & MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY		Project: Geotechnical Investigation, Proposed Replacement Dam, Bennett Lake, Fundy Natio	_
	Project #: 603201	. 603201	Compressive Strength
Date/Time Sampled: 07/10/2008 2:11:00 PM Date/Time Tested:	:11:00 PM	Date/Time Tested: 08/10/2008 2:12:13 P	
		Diameter, Area, Lengt	Length After Comp.

-drino-	Str., MPa	37.9	59.4	
	Load, kN	120.920	228.620	
	U/J	1.67	1.60	
	Capping, mm	105	110	
	mm²	3117	3739	
(INNER )	шш	63.0	69.0	
	Description			
	Depth	17.98	12.04m	
	Sample No	1	1	
	BH	2	1	

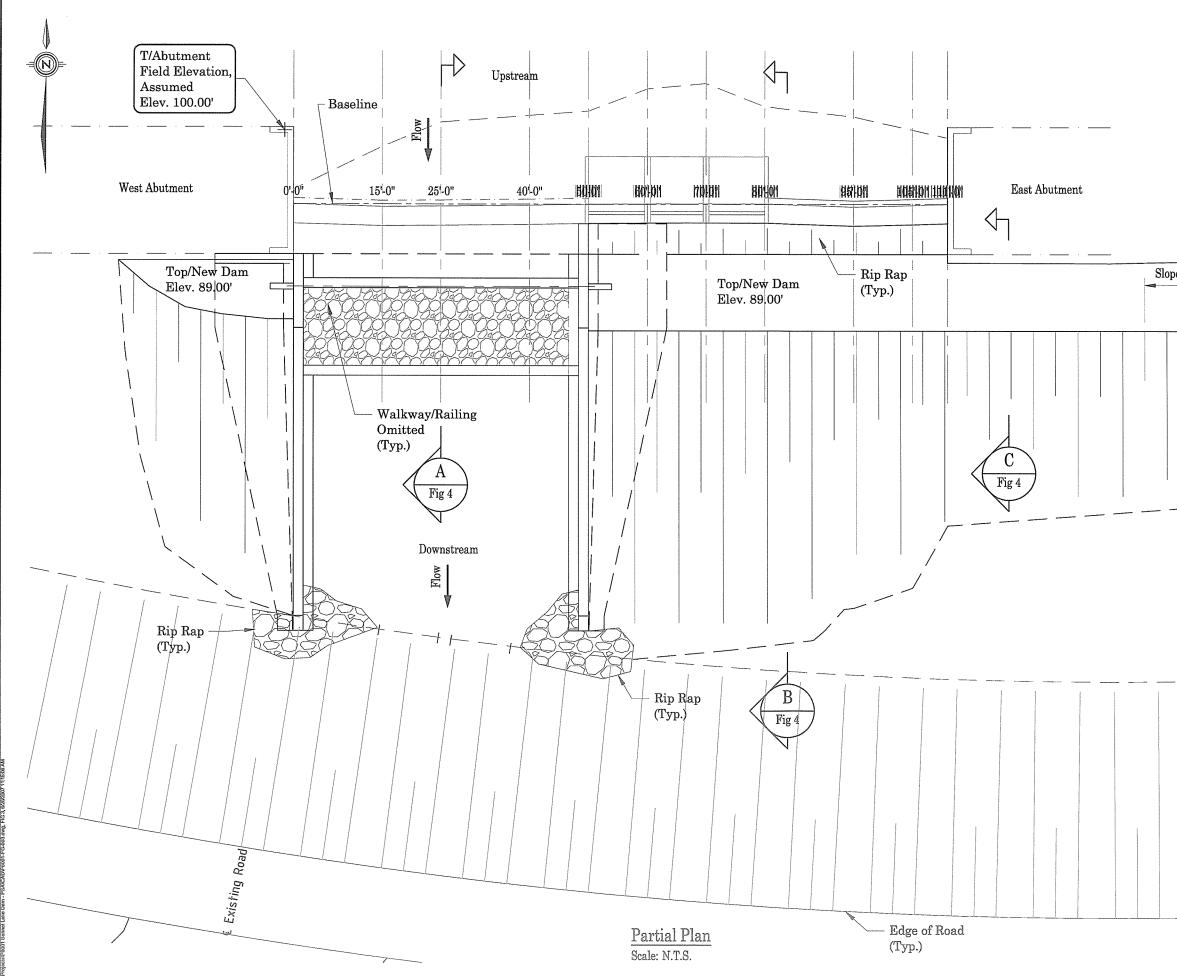
APPENDIX C

DESIGN DRAWINGS, OPTION "A" - CONCRETE SPILLWAY

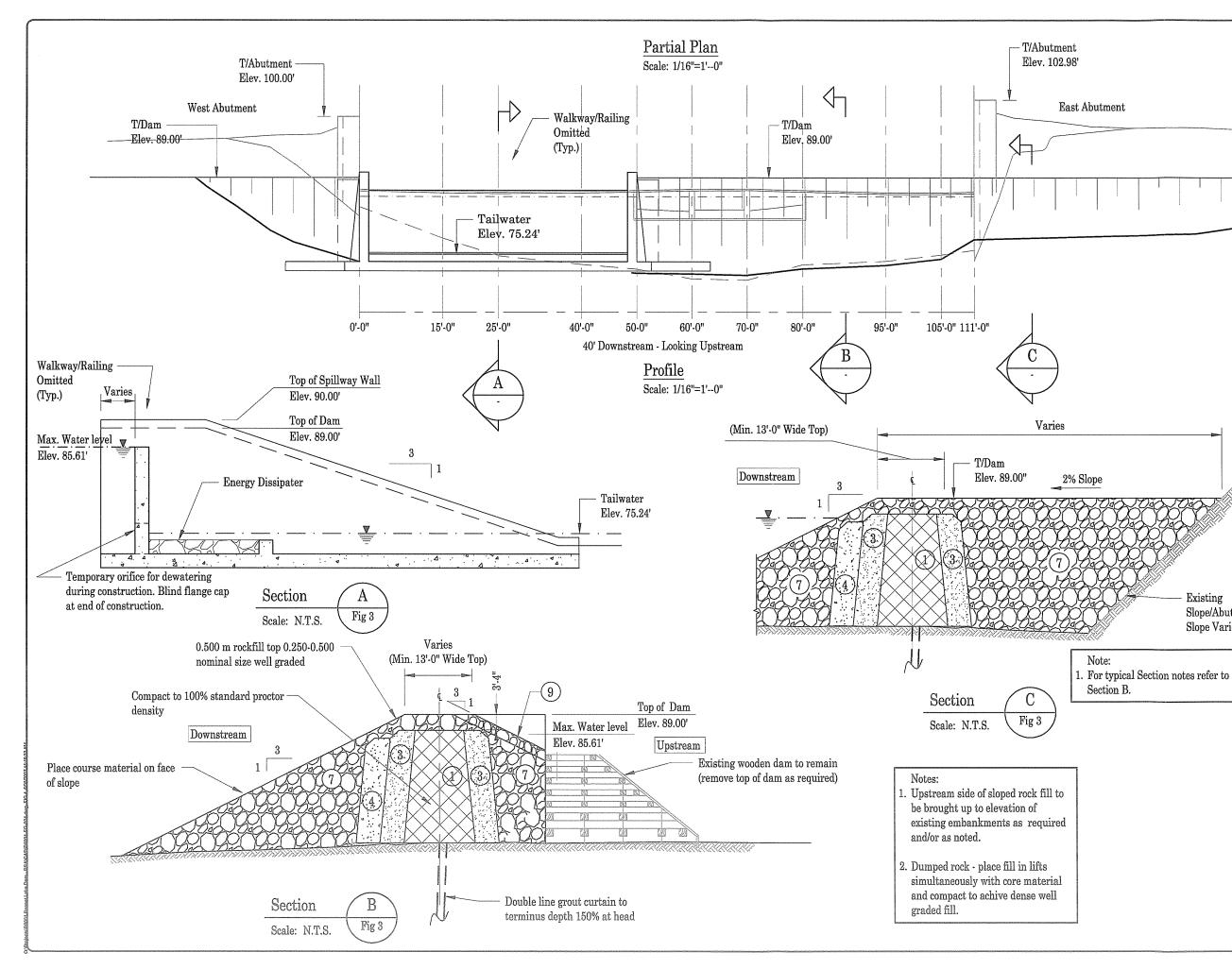
1



	Notes:			)	
	1. All dimensions in feet unless otherwise noted.				
	2. All elevations in feet unless otherwise noted.				
	3. Elevations are base on the field elevation 100.00', assumed. Refer to plan this figure.				
	4. Partial Plan of existing structure created bas			eated based	
	on dra	wing provided by	Owner.		
t					
ent					
	1	Final		20/06/07	
	0	Draft		DD/MM/07	
	Revision	Descriptio	n	Date	
		ITCHELMOR T'NGINEERIN		Street, Suite 101 NS B2X 1S1	
		L'COMPANY LTI	Ph (902) Ph (902)	4047777	
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	Project:	Services Bennett L <sup>Condition A</sup> Plan, Profile	Canada Lake Dan Assessment	n	
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	Notes:			. ]
	1. All dimensions in feet unless otherwise noted.			
	<ol> <li>All elevations in feet unless otherwise noted.</li> <li>Elevations are base on the field elevation 100.00',</li> </ol>			
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#### Notes: 1. All dimensions in feet unless otherwise noted. 2. All elevations in feet unless otherwise noted. 3. Elevations are base on the field elevation 100.00', assumed. Refer to plan this drawing. Legend: Zone - Impervious Fill (3) - Fine Filter Zone (4)- Coarse Filter Zone (7)- Rock Fill Zone (9)Zone - Riprap

Final 20/06/07 1 0 Draft DD/MM/07 Revision Description Date



177 Main Street, Suite 101 Dartmouth, NS B2X 1S1 Ph (902) 404-7777 Ph (902) 444-3131

# Public Works & Government Services Canada

Project:

Client:

Existing

Slope/Abutment

Slope Varies

Bennett Lake Dam Condition Assessment

Title: Option "A" - Concrete Spillway **Profile and Sections** Proposed Dam

Designed By:	Drafted By:		
P.M.	E.C.B.		
Date:	Scale:		
04/09/07	As Noted		
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P6001	Figure 4		