

GSE - December 17, 2001 Talk

TOPIC: Site Characterization - Does the SPT still have a place ?

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Penetration testing is a major component of most field exploration programs for site characterization in soils, with the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) the most widely used in situ test worldwide. This is despite its known limitations. The importance of the input energy to the measured blow count has been widely accepted since the pioneering work of Schmertmann and Palacios (1979) and energy calibration of hammers is commercially available. It has also become widely assumed that hammers of a given design deliver a characteristic energy. Recent research at UBC into the factors affecting the reliable measurement of input energy indicates that this assumption may not be justified. The presentation will outline the findings of the research and will discuss the role of energy corrected N-values in engineering practice for the characterization of soil behaviour and estimation of engineering parameters.

Venue: University of Alberta Faculty Club – 116 Street & Saskatchewan Drive

Time: Cocktail 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Presentation: 7:00 pm

Date: Monday, December 17, 2001

Cost: \$15 GSE Members, \$10 Students, \$20 Non-members