FORGOTTEN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOPHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

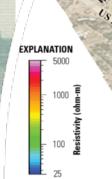
Lewis E. Hunter, Sr Geologist, RTS, Ph.D., PG Geology Section, SPK

M2S2 Webinar Series – A Potpourri of RI/FS Topics

04 August 2016

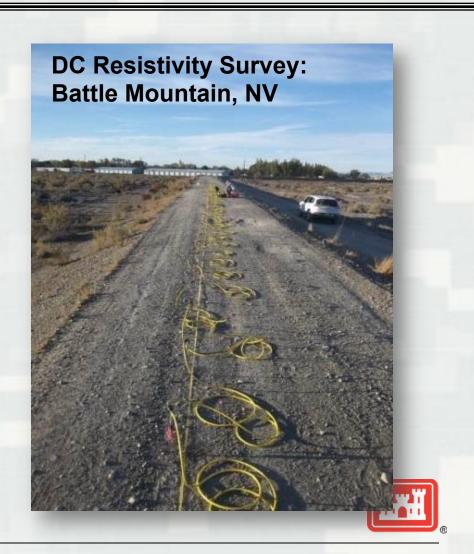


US Army Corps of Engineers BUILDING STRONG®



AGENDA

- WHAT IS GEOPHYSICS
- TAKE-HOME
- QUESTIONS
- AVAILABLE METHODS
 - Electromagnetics (TDEM & FDEM)
 - DC Resistivity
 - Magnetics
 - Ground-Penetrating Radar
 - Seismic
 - Others
- PITFALLS AND ADVANTAGES
- GENERAL APPLICATIONS
- CASE STUDIES



DEFINITION

What is Geophysics? – two answers from the Engineering and Environmental Geophysical Society

Geophysics (1): The subsurface site characterization of the geology, geological structure, groundwater, contamination, and human artifacts beneath the Earth's surface, based on the lateral and vertical mapping of physical property variations that are remotely sensed using non-invasive technologies. Many of these technologies are traditionally used for exploration of economic materials such as groundwater, metals, and hydrocarbons. Geophysics (2): The non-invasive investigation of subsurface conditions in the Earth through measuring, analyzing and interpreting physical fields at the surface. Some studies are used to determine what is directly below the surface (the upper meter or so); other investigations extend to depths of 10's of meters or more

Non-invasive, remote sensing of subsurface conditions using variations in physical properties to make deductions on subsurface conditions:

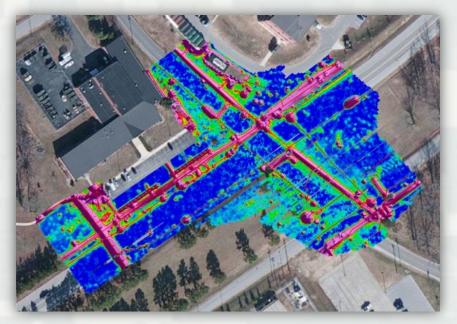
 MMRP, environmental, archeological, engineering applications => same approach: identify target, target properties & size, contrasts relative to background & ambient noise - - select method, tools & parameters

TAKE-HOME

Near-surface geophysics

- Few cm to 100's m
- Range of methods and applications
- Target properties dictate method/ approach
 - Size
 - Material properties
 - Contrast relative to background
- Intrinsic parts of successful survey

QC/QA

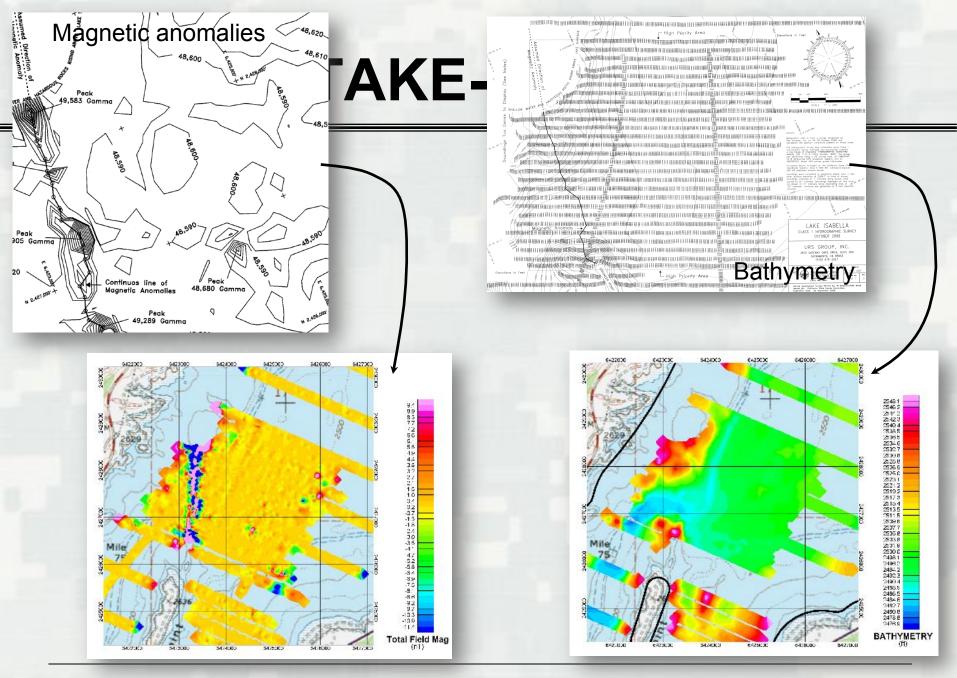


From M. Glover (NWO)

Note: outside of MMRP, no set standards for geophysics quality (Scary)

BUILDING STRONG®

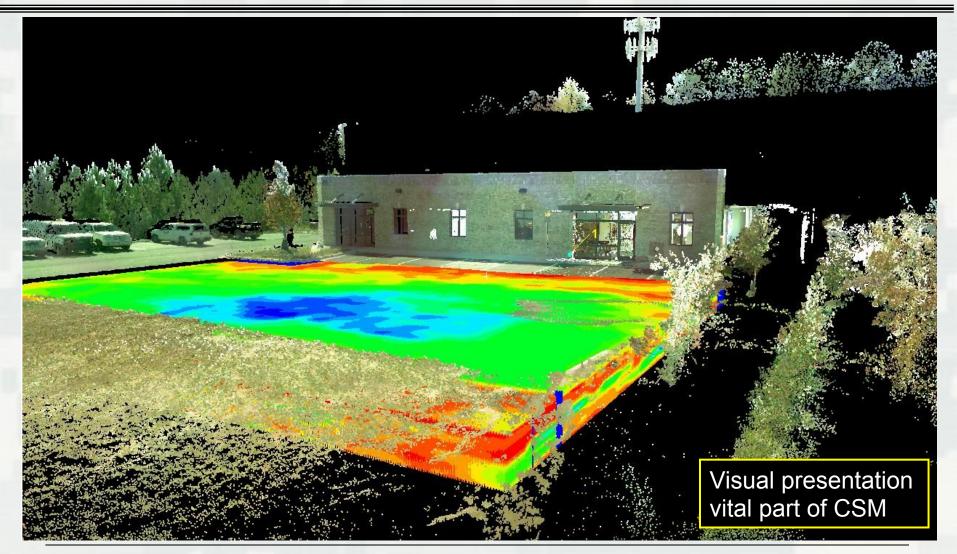
w....w



Which is more informative to you?

Utility survey: 3-D presentation of gridded GPR data with terrestrial LiDAR

PRESENTATION



Images courtesy of D. Goodman

Merging/co-presentation of digital data

QUESTIONS

Basic questions:

- What is/are the target(s) of interest? (e.g., material composition, size)
- What are the geologic/ environmental conditions? (e.g., soil properties, clay content, saturation, etc.)
- What are the surrounding conditions? (e.g., buildings, power lines, transformers, metal fences, roads, metal plates in ground, etc.)
- What are the project constraints? (e.g., time schedule, funding limitations, reporting needs, and how the data will be used)



METHODS

METHOD

- Seismic refraction: P-wave
- Seismic refraction: S-wave
- Seismic reflection: P-wave
- Seismic reflection: S-wave
- Resistivity profiling (DC)
- Mis-a-la-masse electrical survey
 (Resistivity)
- Electromagnetic profiling (EM)
- Self-potential mapping (SP)
- Ground-penetrating radar (GPR)
- Magnetics
- Microgravity
- Borehole geophysics
- Lidar

PROPERTY INVESTIGATED

- Density & velocity contrasts
- Density & velocity contrasts
- Density contrasts
- Density contrasts
- Electrical resistivity (active)
- Electrical resistivity (active)
- Electrical resistivity (active)
- Electrical resistivity (passive)
- Electrical property interfaces (dielectric permittivity)
- Magnetic field variations
- Mass variations
- Electrical resistivity, seismic velocity, gamma ray emission, etc.
- Time & reflectance

TARGET

- Lithology variations
- Soft zones & bedrock
- Layer boundaries
- Layer boundaries
- Fluid and/or lithologic variations
- Extent of local conductor (metal, seepage, and/or clay content)
- Property changes in shallow fluids or lithology; metal content
- Flowing water (streaming potential)
- Shallow interfaces (stratigraphy, anthropogenic modifications, infrastructure)
- Geologic variations; metal; cultural features, burn pits, etc.
- Estimated location and shape of mass variations & structural geology
- Stratigraphy, layer boundaries, water level, plume detection, etc.
- Surface morphology, change, and reflectance variations

METHODS

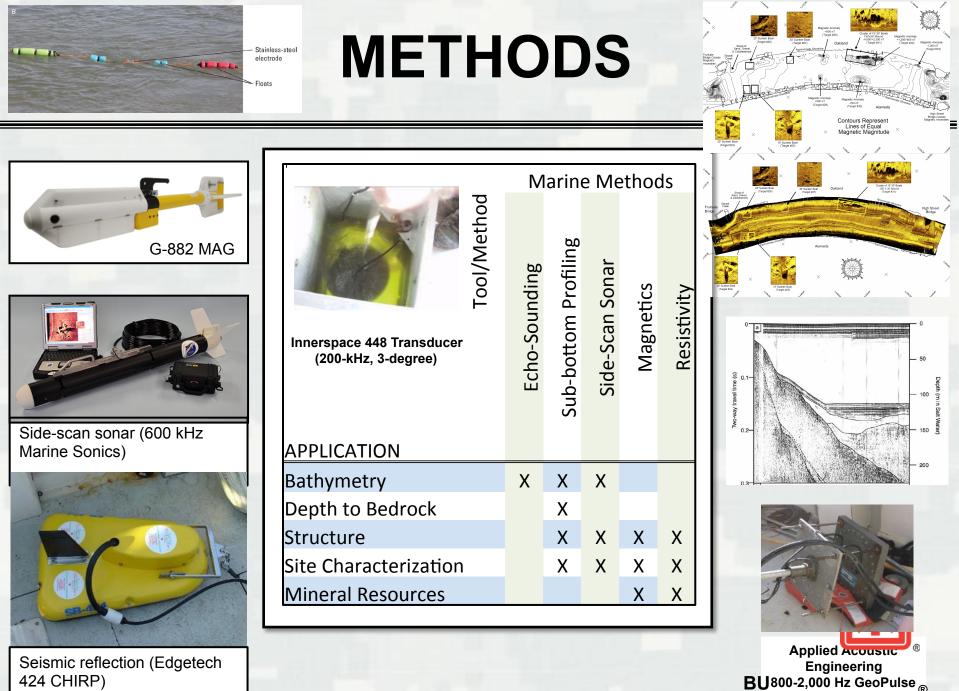
Surface Methods																							
					Electrical										_						_		
		Seismic					Electromagnetic									Down-Hole Methods							
T ool/Method	ection	action	e			F	DEI	м	J		Ęł	R	arization	netic			ser	Sonar			onductivity		netic
	Seismic Reflection	Seismic Refraction	Surface Wave	MASW	Magnetics	EM 31	EM 34	EM 61	TDEM	GPR	DC Resistivity	Self-Potential	Induced Polarization	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	Gravity	Cross Hole	Borehole Laser	Borehole So	Gamma	Nuclear	Induction/Conductivity	Televiewer	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
Archeologic Site Characterization					Х	х	Х			Х	Х				х								
Void Detection	x	х	х	х	х	х	х			х	х				x	x	х	х					х
Levee & Dam Evaluation	х	х	х	х		х	х		х	х	х	х	х			x							
Groundwater Resources	x	х				х	х		х		х	х		х					х	х	х	х	x
Structure/Stratigraphy	x	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х		х		x	x		х	х		х		
Saltwater Intrusion						х	х		х		х	х									х		х
Geotechnical Site Characterization	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х				x	x	х	х	х	х	х	х	
Environmental Site Characterization		х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х	х		x	х	х	х	х	х	х	
Seismic Engineering/Dynamic Properties	x	x	х	x																			
Pipeline Characterization/Detection	x	х			х	х		х		х	х												
Plume Characterization (landfill/UST/Acid Mine Drainage)					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x			x	х	х	x	x
Energy Exploration - Geothermal	x				х				х		х											х	
Energy Exploration - Mining	х	х			х				х		х				x				х	х	х	х	
Energy Exploration - Oil & Gas	x				х										x	x		х	х	х	х		х



TOOLS







(acoustic source)

PITFALLS

Non-unique solutions

- Geophysics is non-bias in the sense that the techniques measure a response to physical properties
- But a particular response can be the product of multiple causes
- Professional judgement, experience, geologically reasonable interpretations
- Multiple method approach to converge on interpretation

Noise: ~ any unwanted signal

Natural

- Wind (seismic)
- ► Soil conditions (EM methods, DC & GPR)
- ► Saturation (GPR)

Anthropogenic

- ► Traffic (air craft & vehicle) => seismic
- Metal fences => EM methods & GPR
- Stray electrical current => DC & EM methods
- ► Faulty electronics => all methods

Prior to initiation

- ► Is target achievable?
- Often not proposed (preconceived bias)
- Often oversold

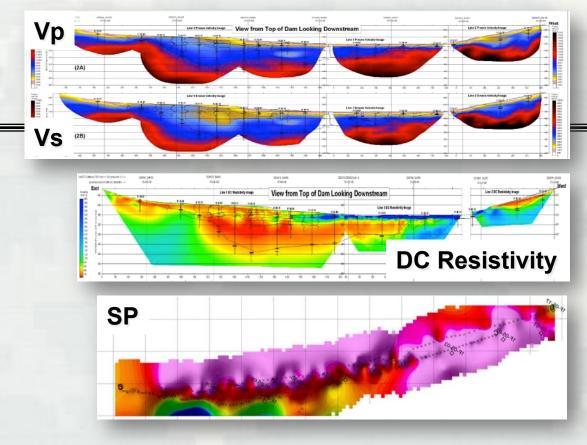
Communication

▶ Risk, deliverables, time, cost, ...

It's not dowsing, when geophysics doesn't work there are predictable constraints that limit its effectiveness

ADVANTAGES

- Non-intrusive surface methods (except borehole methods)
- 2-D image
 - Vertical x-section
 - ► Planar map
- Hardware & software advances over last decade
 - making 3-D inversion and modeling more mainstream
 - Handling of extremely large data sets
- Respond to different properties in the subsurface
 - ► Electrical conductivity
 - ► Material density
 - Bulk/shear moduli
 - ► Dielectric permittivity
 - Water content
 - ► Density
 - ► Etc.
 - Property contrasts

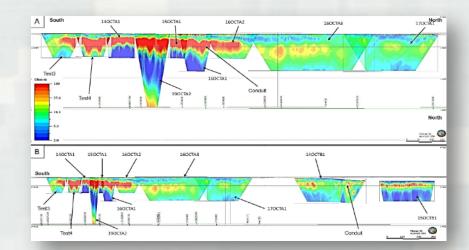


Carefully applied geophysical investigations can yield extremely valuable information

- Cost-effective component of the evaluation process.
- Modern digital equipment capable of collecting data over large arrays makes geophysical surveys increasingly useful and efficient
- New inversion and imaging software makes communicating results to non-geophysicists easier

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Geologic characterization
 - Aquifer/aquitard characterization
 - ► Stratigraphy
- Plume mapping
- UST detection
- Utility detection
- Landfill delineation
- Trench delineation
- Infrastructure investigations
- Munitions detection and classification
 - Covered by EMCX-Huntsville, AL





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Results:

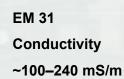
GPR penetration limited on tailings pile due to high conductivity of acid mine drainage (pH 2-4)

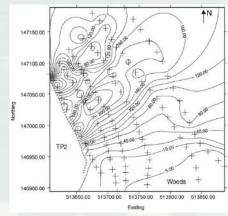
GPR technique able to define extent of acid plume

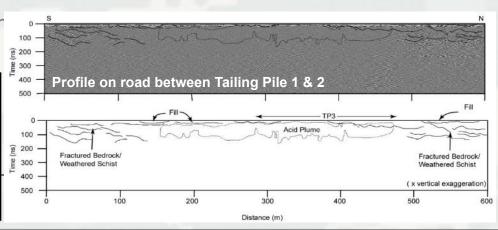


Acid Mine Drainage: Elizabeth Mine South Strafford, VT





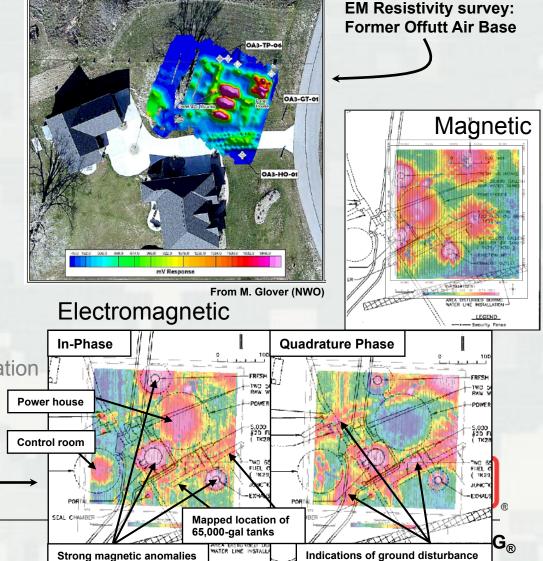




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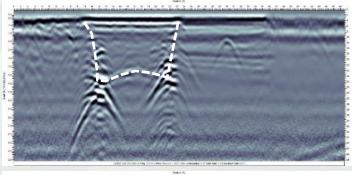
Magnetic and FDEM survey: Former Titan 1A Missile Site, Lincoln, CA

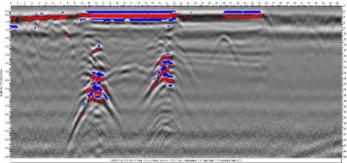


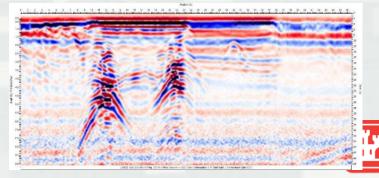
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GPR – Utility detection survey at MOTCO, Concord, CA







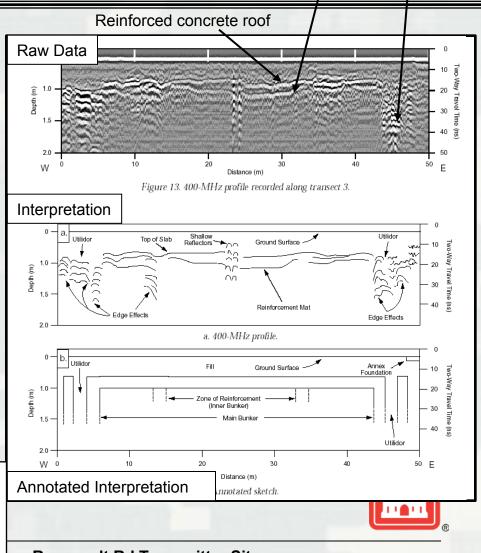
Hyperbolas off rebar Utilidor floor

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Results:

GPR provided quick cost effective method to locate abandoned bunker and associated utilidors



Roosevelt Rd Transmitter Site ${\mbox{\sf BUILDING STRONG}}_{\mbox{\sf R}}$ Ft Richardson, AK

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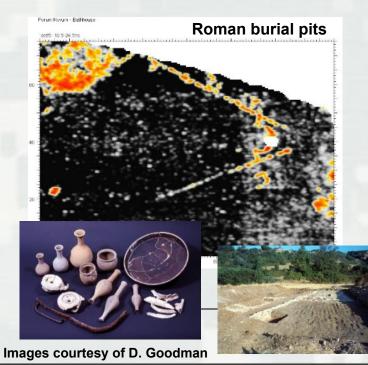


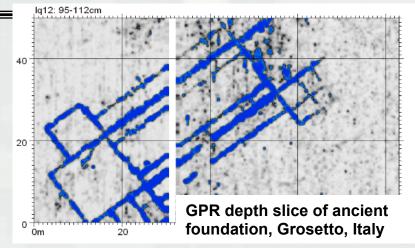
EM survey for utility detection: Ft Leonard Wood

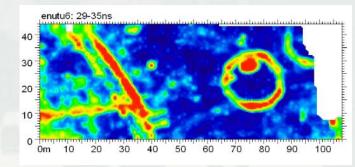


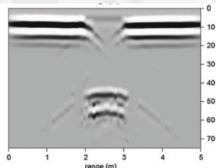
ARCHEOLOGIC STUDIES

- Foundation footprints
- Buried chambers
- Fire pits
- Graves



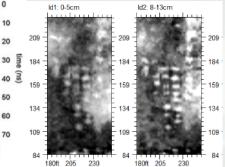






Burial chamber Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan

Graves/ cemetery



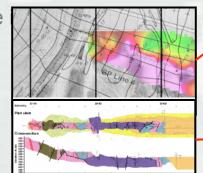
Seepage analysis

GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

- Dam & Levee foundation characterization
- Definition of geotechnical properties
- Geologic characterization
 - Stratigraphy
 - ► Fault/shear zone delineation
 - Depth to bedrock
 - ► Liquefaction potential

Groundwater & seepage studies

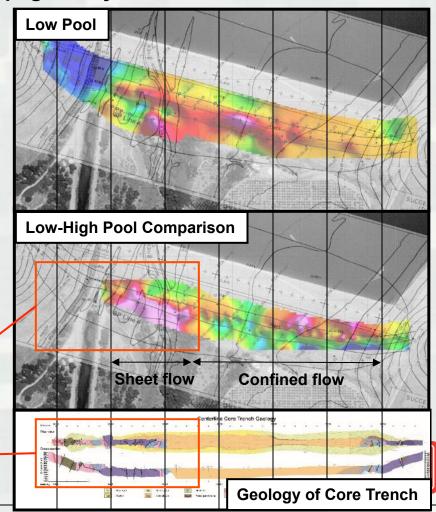
Infrastructure



Sheet flow anomaly

Pre-construction channel

Shallow bedrock

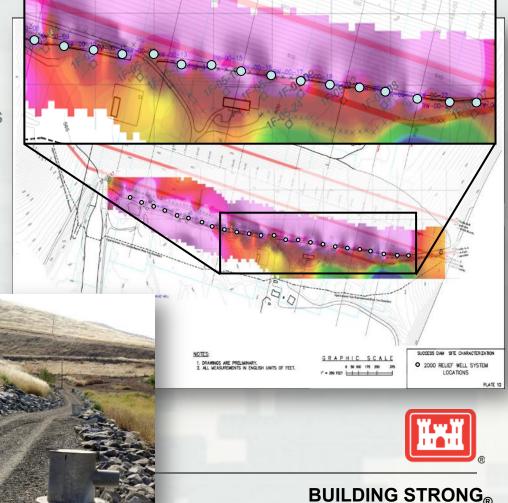


Seepage analysis

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High pool SP data
Point anomalies
Relief wells
Flowing at time of survey





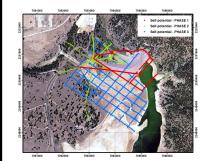
APPLICATIONS

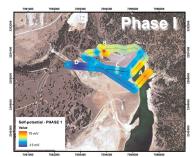


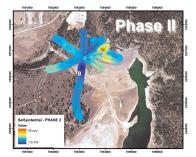
GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

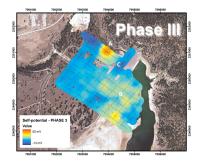
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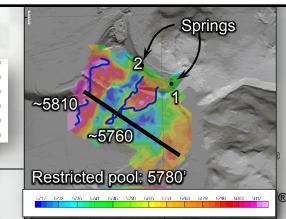
Seepage (Self-Potential)

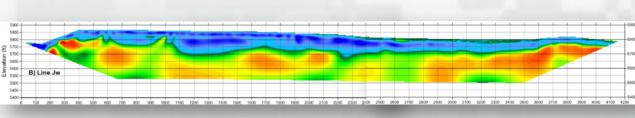






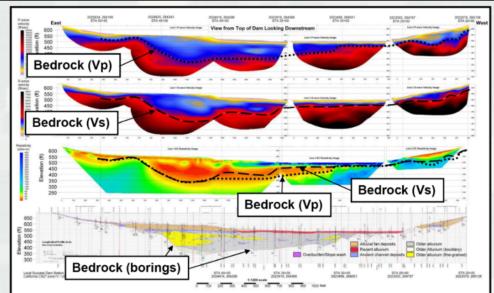




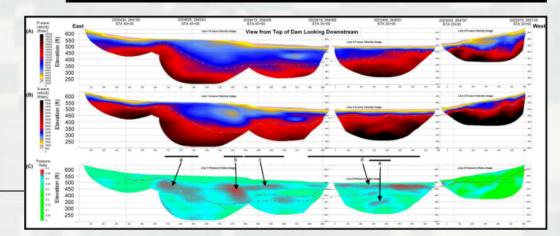


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Different bedrock surface identified between Vp & Vs Compaction, lithification, weathering



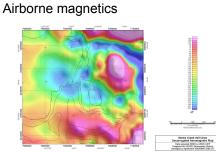
Depth to bedrock

GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

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- Definition of geotechnical propertie

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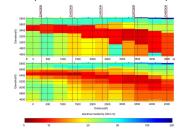


Bedrock Surface (Seismic)

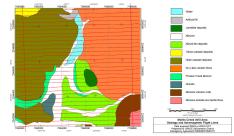
Top of basalt flow



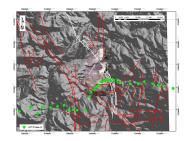
TDEM (basalt flows/bedrock?)



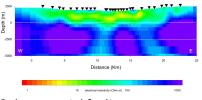
Mapped multiple lava flows



CS-AMT Transect (green dots)



CS-AMT Profile

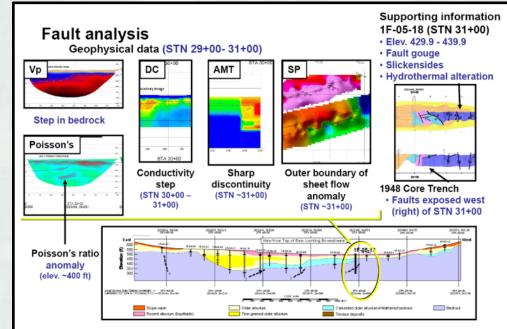


2 deep crustal faults

Crystalline bedrock >2000 m

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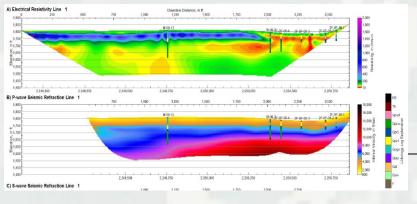




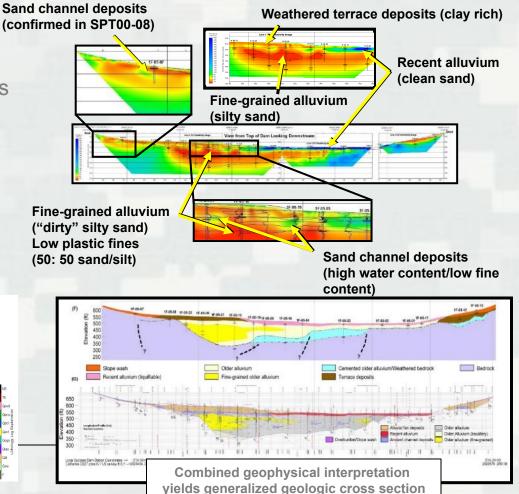
Stratigraphic continuity

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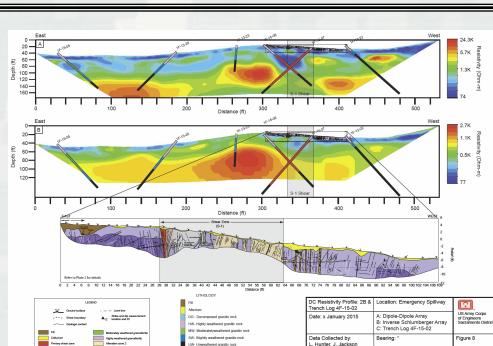


- Correlate major stratigraphic units horizontally and vertically
- Improves confidence in lithologic correlations between boreholes



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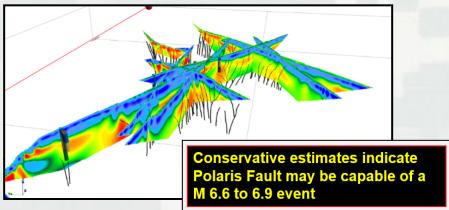


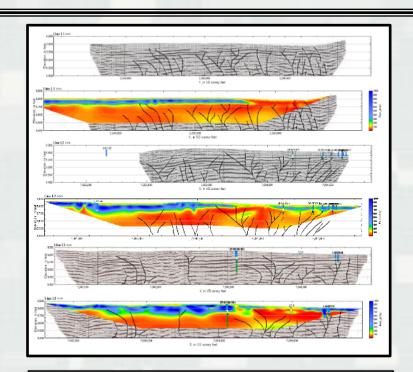
STRONG

- 4 lines perpendicular to proposed spillway right cutwall
- Each collected with dipole-dipole and inverse-Schlumberger arrays
- Useful in defining shear zones along the proposed alignment of the new Emergency Spillway
- Each yielded anomalous responses reflecting discontinuities consistent with shear zones
- Trenching verified fractured and altered rocks associated with well-developed shears
- DG & HW granite near formed a nearly continuous low-resistivity layer

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POLARIS FAULT, TRUCKEE, CA

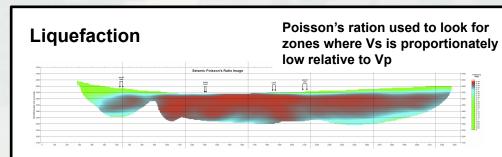
Length (km)	Depth (km)	Area (km²)	Eq. 1 M	Eq. 2 M	Eq. 3 M	
30	15	450	6.79	6.67	6.63	
35	15	525	6.87	6.74	6.70	B
38	15	570	6.91	6.77	6.74	

GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

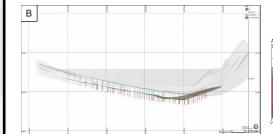
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Geologic characterization

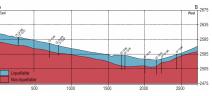
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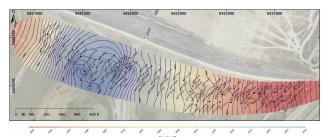






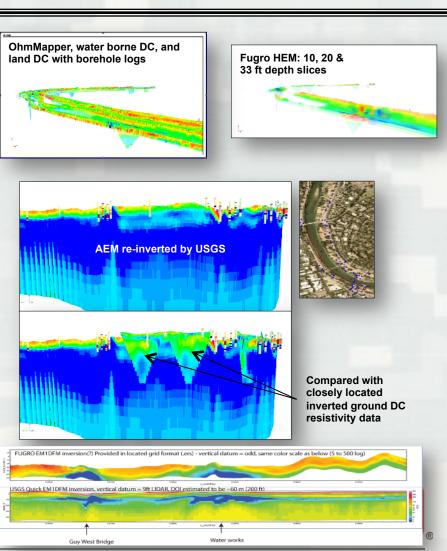
Isopach map showing material to be removed to base of liquefiable layer Factor of safety against liquefaction (FS_{liq}) calculated based on Youd et al. (2001) & Idriss & Boulanger (2008) to determine amount of material to remove to get below upper liquefiable layer



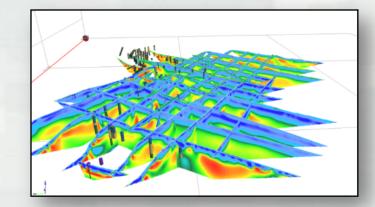


CONCLUSIONS

- Range of methods available in field of near-surface geophysics
 - Tailor to fit data needs based on series of site & project considerations
 - Methods well established (some used for over 100 yrs)
 - Software & computers enable processing on immense datasets and enhanced visualization (GIS)
- Geophysics often best applied early
 - Provided lateral/spatial continuity (vs Swiss cheese approach)
 - ► Cost effective
- "Unregulated"
- Often misused or not considered
 - Geophysics Cadre
 - Sacramento: John Jackson & Lewis Hunter
 - Omaha: Erin Wallin & Matt Glover
 - Huntsville: Rick Grabowski & Bob Selfridge



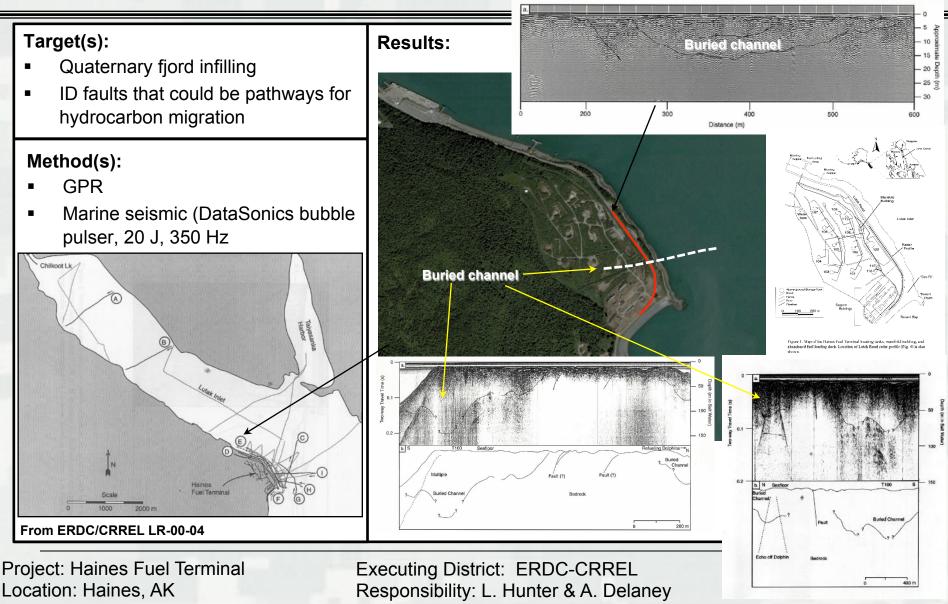
ADDENDUM

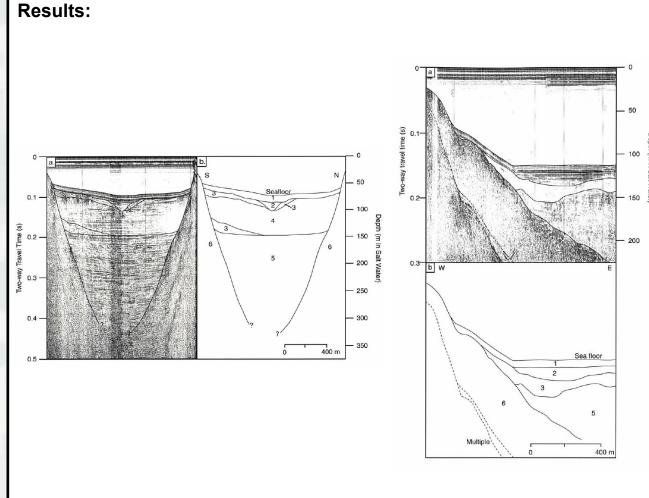


Select case studies at time allows









- Sediment infilling locally exceeded 500 m
- Identified 6 seismic facies:
 - 1. post-glacial mud
 - 2. incised channel deposits
 - 3. sediment gravity flow deposits
 - 4. distal glacimarine mud (silty mud)
 - 5. proximal glacimarine mud

6. bedrock

- Offshore deposits capped my mud drape 10-20 m thick
- Identified 2-buried channels correlated to inshore buried channels
 - Trough-like feature off
 Tank 100 extended at least
 350 m offshore
- Several faults observed in nearshore profiles

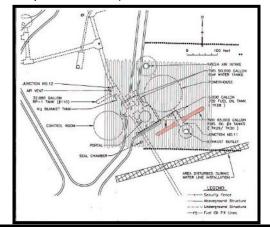
Project: Haines Fuel Terminal Location: Haines, AK

Target(s):

- Determine if we could detect two USTs (65,000-gal diesel storage tanks: TK29/ TK30)
- See if we could image other buried structures
- Evaluate soil conductivities to determine if GPR would be useful on site

Method(s):

- Magnetice (GSMP-30 K-vapor magnetometer)
- Electromagnetic Induction (FDEM using a Geophex GEM2)

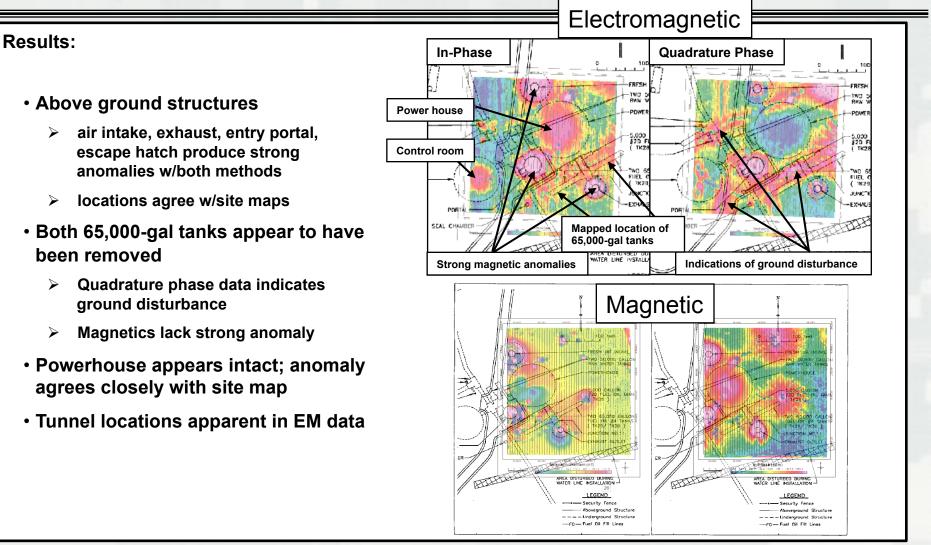


Project: Titan 1-A Missile Site Location: Lincoln, CA

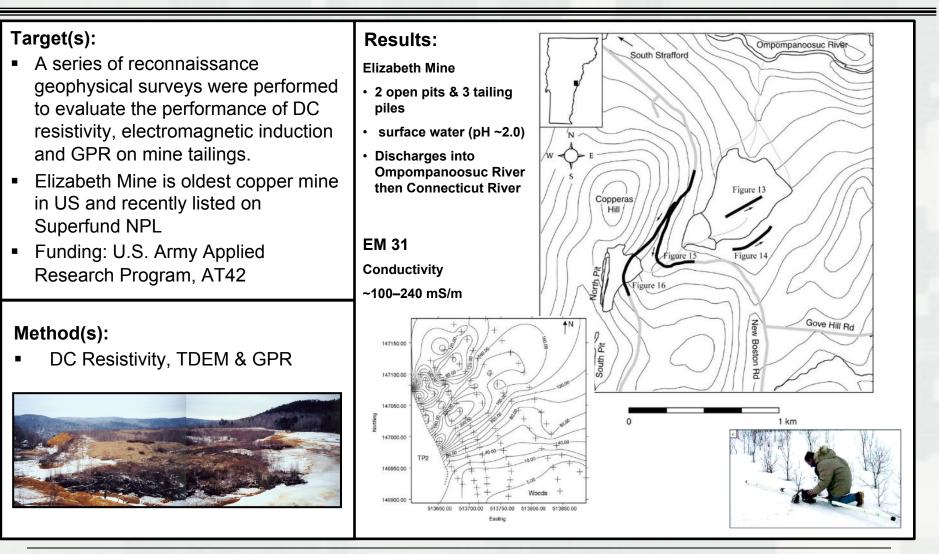
Results:



Executing District: SPK Responsibility: L. Hunter



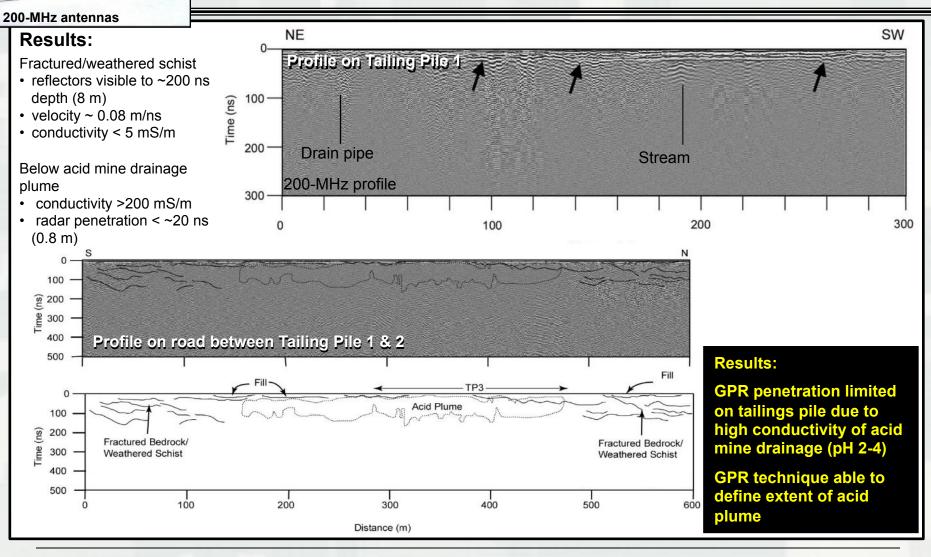
Project: Titan 1-A Missile Site Location: Lincoln, CA



Project: Elizabeth Mine Location: South Strafford, VT

Executing District: ERDC-CRREL B Responsibility: L. Hunter (w/Arcone & Delaney)

BUILDING STRONG_®



Project: Elizabeth Mine Location: South Strafford, VT

BUILDING STRONG_®

Target(s):

 Utilize GPR to identify utilities and estimate their depths

Method(s):

■250-MHz Noggin

- •41 primary sites were investigated
- 2 optional sites were surveyed but preliminary results revealed nothing useful – so not processed

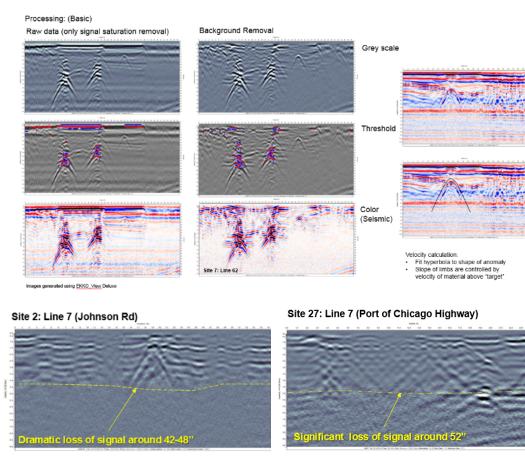
■3 opportunity sites investigated – saw cuts in pavement surface so collected additional lines.

 721 GPR lines collected over duration of project (includes 61 missing GPS data that were recollected)

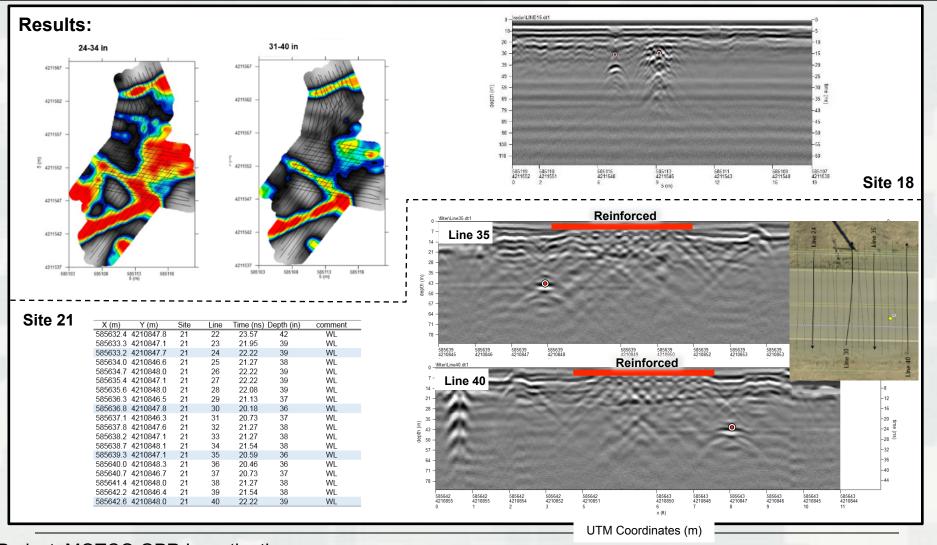


Project: MOTCO GPR Investigation Location: Marine Ocean Terminal-Concord

Results:



Executing District: SPK Responsibility: L. Hunter



Project: MOTCO GPR Investigation Location: Marine Ocean Terminal-Concord

BUILDING STRONG_®



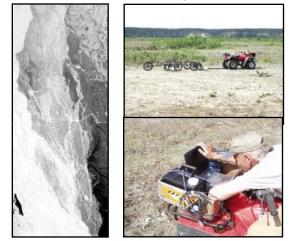


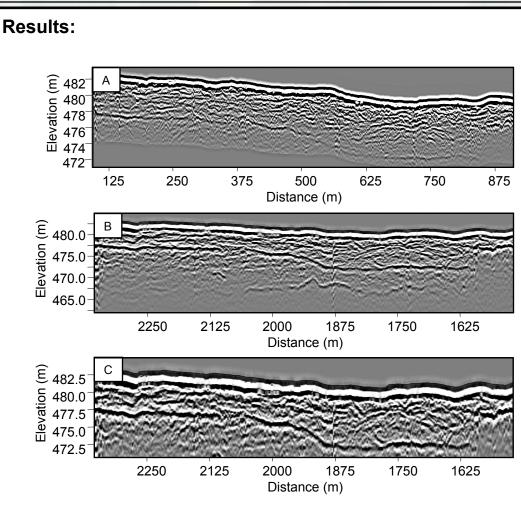
Objective(s):

- Overall: To define processes affecting explosive contamination on firing ranges.
 Develop protocols for characterizing firing ranges.
- Specific: Evaluation of GPR performance in defining the hydrologic setting as part of site characterization phase.

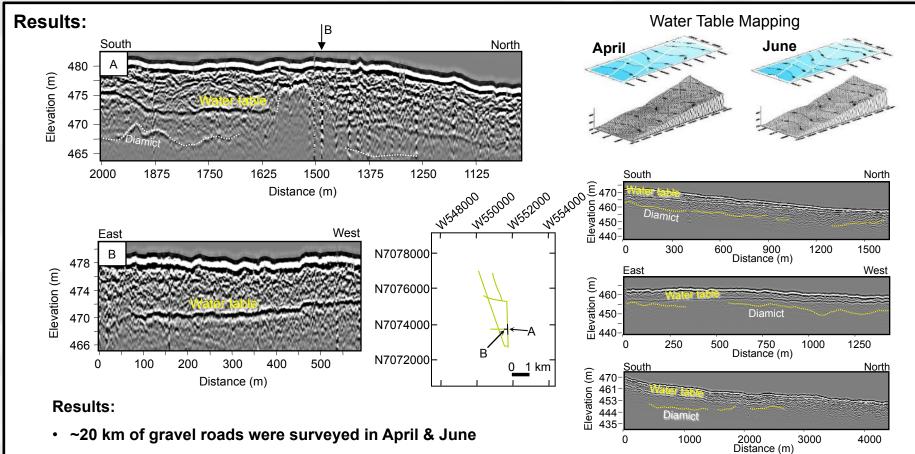
Method(s):

 GPR (S&S pulseEKKO 100 with 50-& 100-MHz antenna)





Project: GPR Groundwater Mapping Location: Washington Range, Ft Greely, AK Executing District: ERDC-CRREL Responsibility: L. Hunter



- Both 50 and 100 MHz detected water table in the coarse sandy gravels at depth up to 9 m
- Internal stratigraphy and depth to deep reflector (diamict) could often be observed

Project: GPR Groundwater Mapping Location: Washington Range, Ft Greely, AK

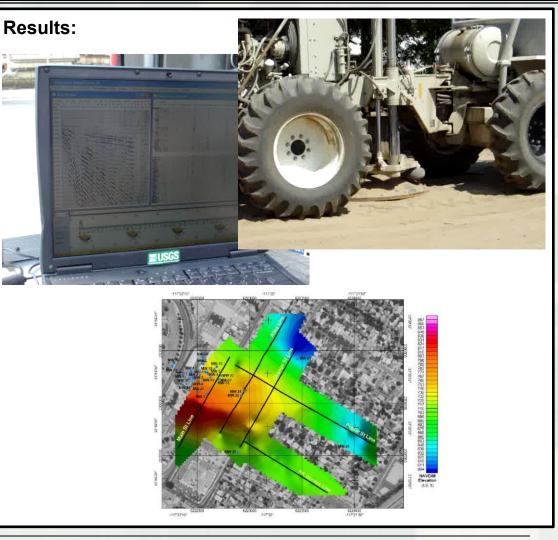
Target(s):

- Depth to bedrock in urban setting
- Chrome VI in fractured bedrock

Method(s):

- Seismic refraction
 - Vibroseis





Project: Alark Hard Chrome Location: Riverside, CA

Executing District: SPK (W/USGS) for EPA **BUILDING STRONG**[®] Responsibility: L. Hunter

Target(s):

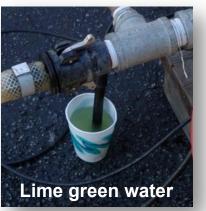
- Stratigraphic characterization
- Hydrostratigraphy

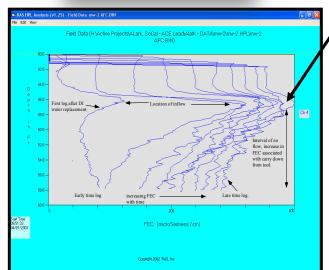
Method(s):

- Borehole Geophysics (induction, short-/long-normal resistivity, fluid resistivity, natural gamma, & optical.acoustic televiewer)
- Hydrophysics



Results:

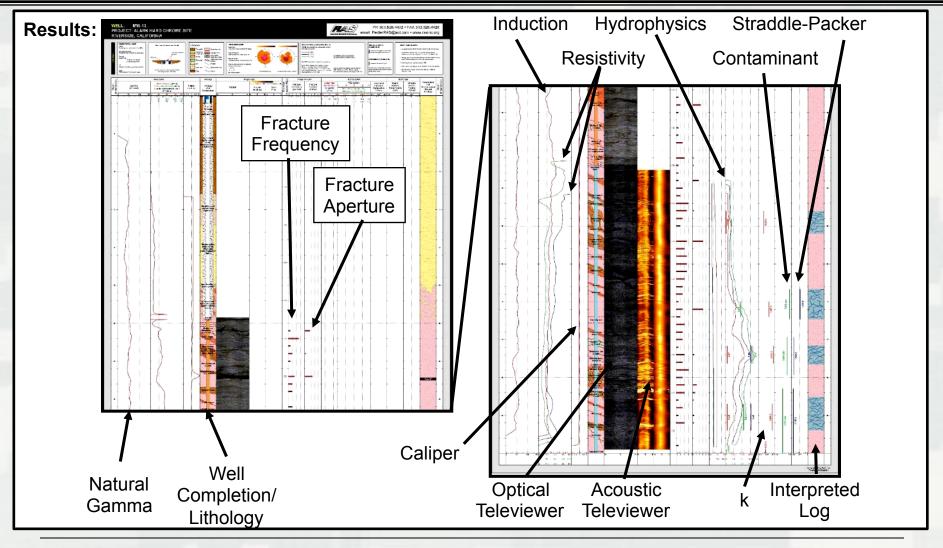




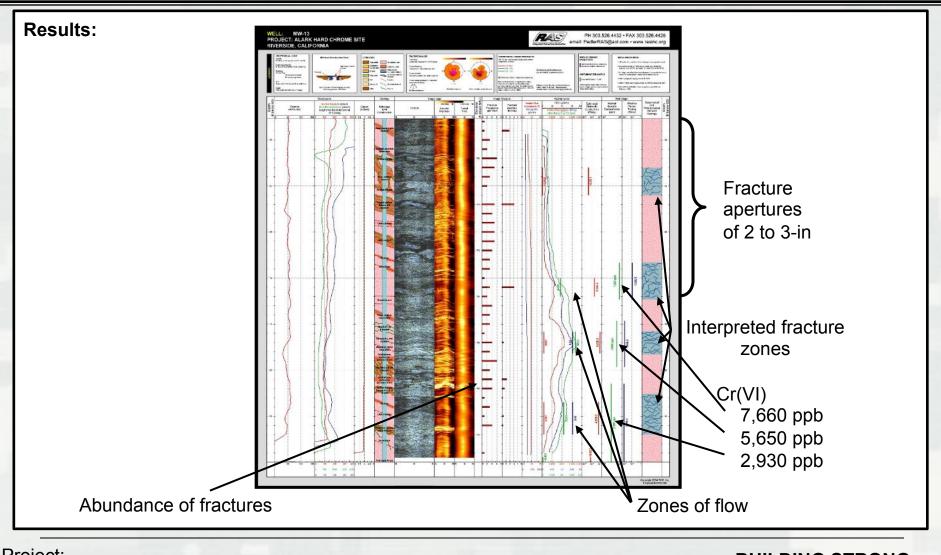
, Inflow zone:

- Greater deflection of profile where DI is being replaced by ambient ground water
- Rate of deflection used to calculate mixing and hydraulic conductivity

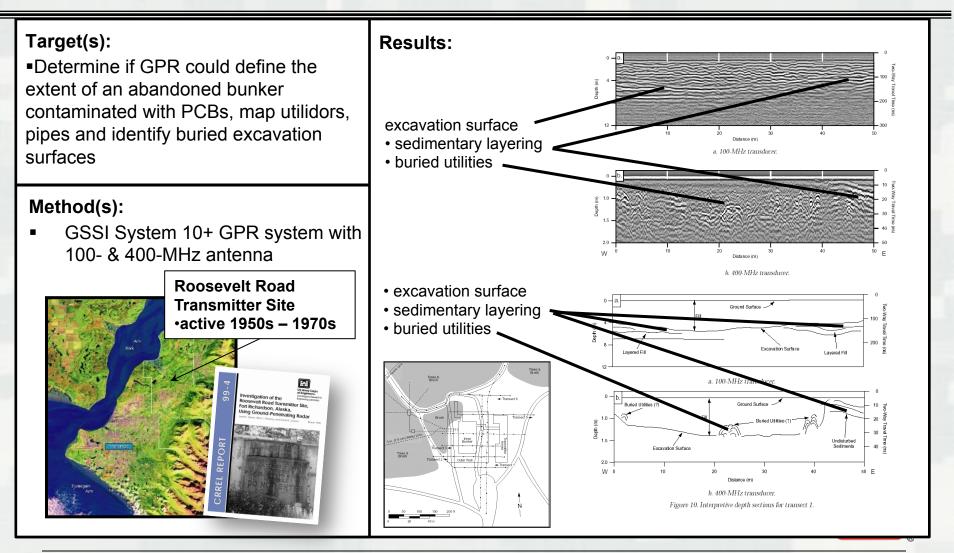
Project: Alark Hard Chrome Location: Riverside, CA Executing District: SPK (w/B. Pedler) for EPA **BUILDING STRONG**® Responsibility: L. Hunter & D. Henry



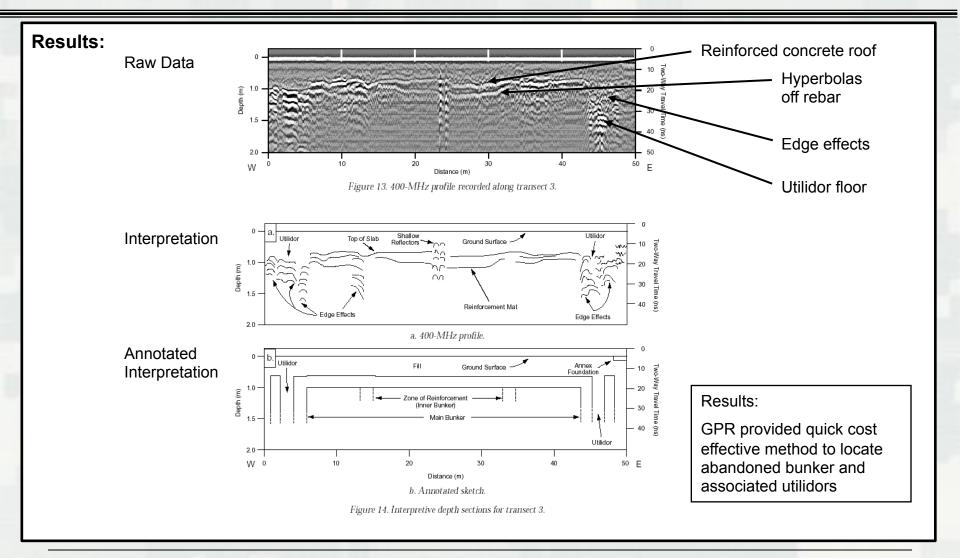
Project: Location:



Project: Location:



Project: Roosevelt Road Transmitter Location: Fort Richardson, AK Executing District: ERDC-CRREL Responsibility: L. Hunter



Project: Roosevelt Road Transmitter Location: Fort Richardson, AK

Target(s):

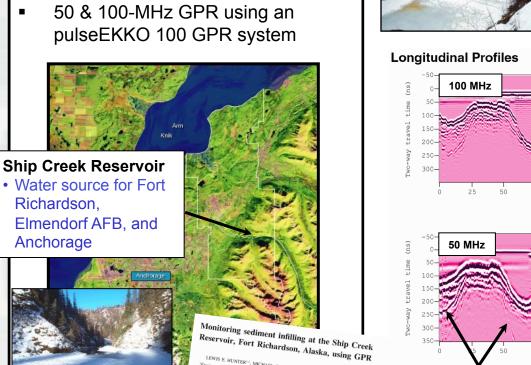
Bathymetric mapping using GPR from frozen lake surface

Method(s):

Richardson,

Anchorage

50 & 100-MHz GPR using an pulseEKKO 100 GPR system **Results:**



R^{1,2}, MICHAEL G. FERRICK¹ & CH ARLES M. COLLINS

Project: Fort Richardson Reservoir Location: Fort Richardson, AK

Executing District: ERDC-CRREL Responsibility: L. Hunter

Multiple reflection

BUILDING STRONG

Reservoir floor

Reflection off dam

Interference from

rotten ice

.75 ĝ

125

Distance (m)

Distance (m)

150

175

B

Water

Results:

Table 2. Ship Creek Reservoir Sedimentation Rate Estimates								
Period	Years	Survey Length (m)	Total Accumulation (m ³)	Mean Annual Accumulation (m ³ /yr)				
1976-81	5	183	56,577	37,626	62.7			
1983-88	5	183	73,397	47,659	80.3			
1988-89	1	427	35,934	117,894	82.8			
1989-95	6	427	354,753	193,145	138.0			
1989-95	6	259	122,329	67,726	77.8			
1995-01	6	251	91,746	50,168	60.2			
Total	23	_	611,795					

Results:

- Volume estimates between 1976 to 1995 derived from repeat bathymetric surveys made before and after reservoir dredging
- 1995 to 2001 estimate determined by comparing 1995 bathymetric results to 2001 radar survey
- Radar survey results comparable to bathymetric surveys
- Survey performed over 2 day period with party of 2

Project: Fort Richardson Reservoir Location: Fort Richardson, AK

Target(s):

- Stratigraphy
 - (Locating dense layer that will retard downward erosion)

Depth sounder interface

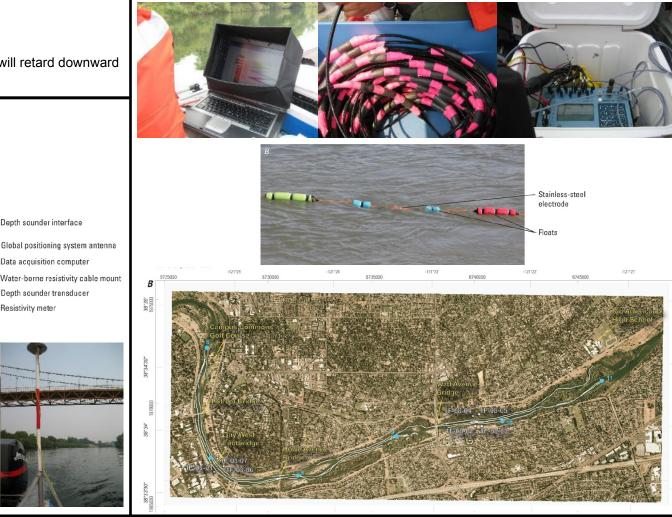
Data acquisition computer

Depth sounder transducer

Resistivity meter

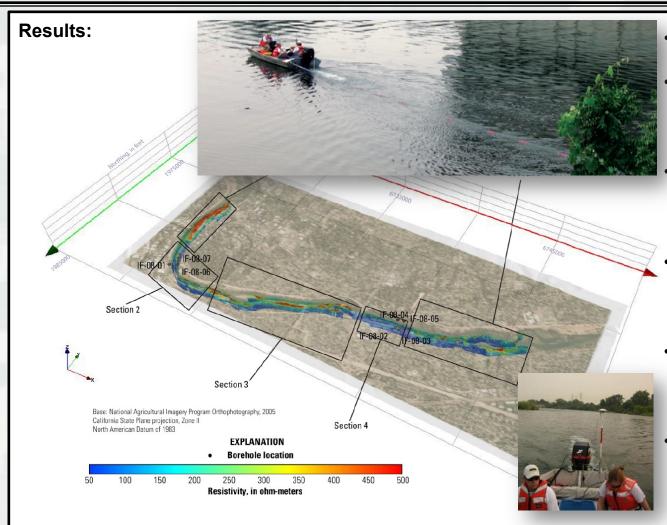
Method(s):

DC Resistivity



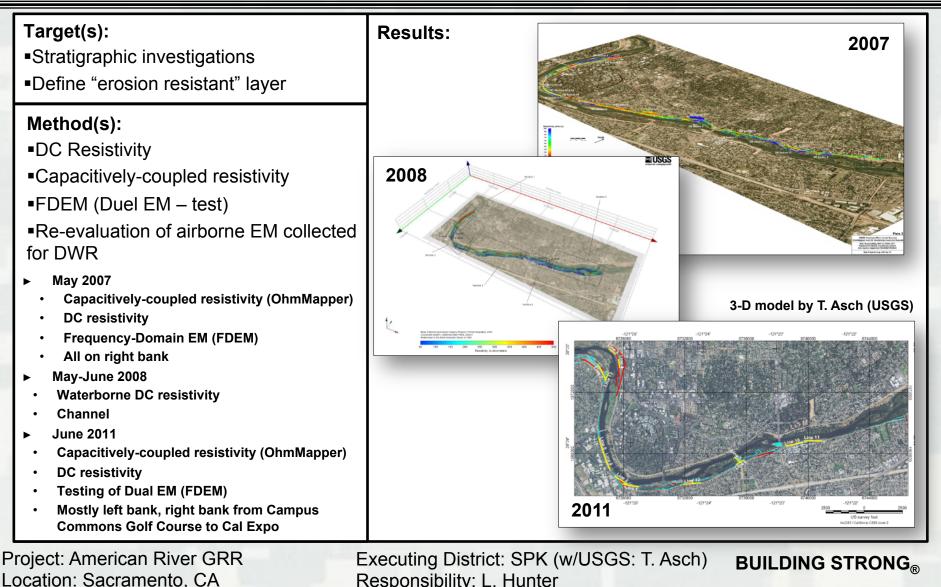
Project: American River GRR Location: Sacramento, CA

Executing District: SPK (w/USGS: B. Burton & L. Ball) IG STRONG® Responsibility: L. Hunter



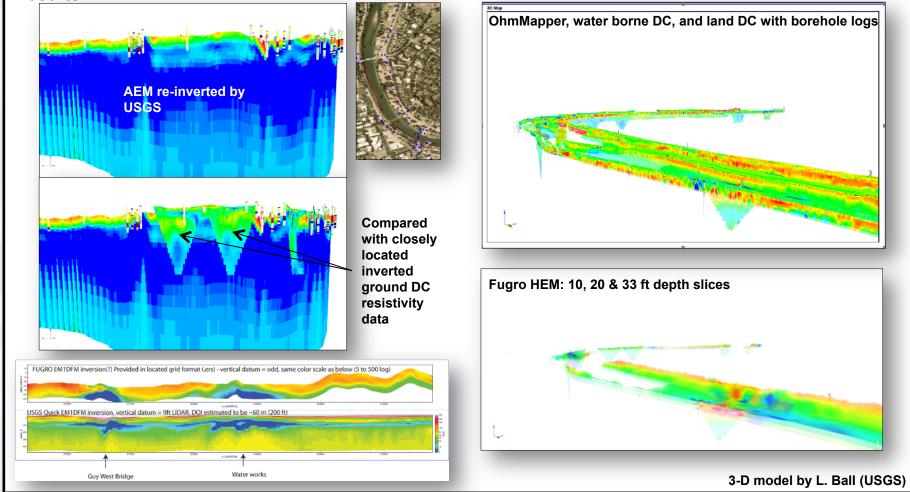
- 3 water-borne continuous resistivity profiling lines inverted resistivity profiles
- used to interpretations the extent & thickness of geologic layers
- an intermittent highresistivity layer extends to a depth of up to 30 ft (9 m)
- underlain by a lowresistivity layer (high-clay content) extending below 60 ft (18 m)
- high-resistivity layer is absent immediately upstream of the Watt Avenue Bridge
- low-resistivity layer extends to the surface where a scour-resistant unit is observed

Project: American River GRR Location: Sacramento, CA

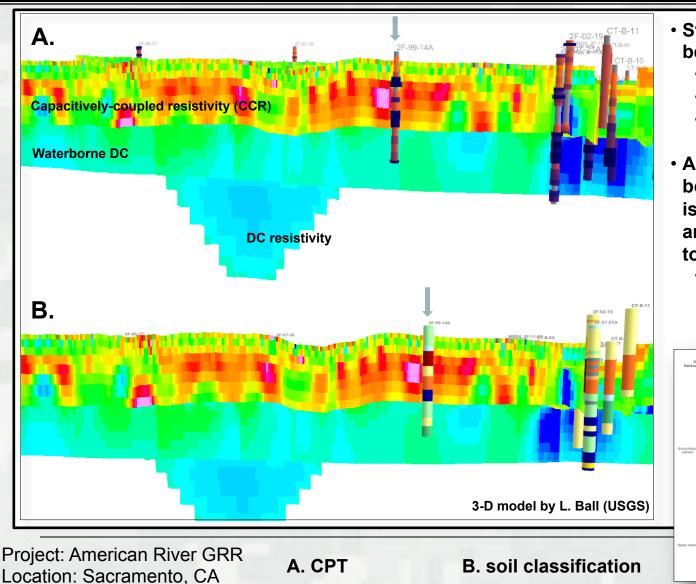


Responsibility: L. Hunter

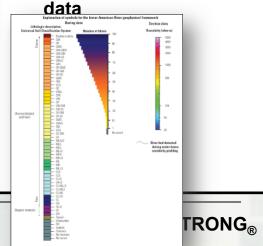
Results:

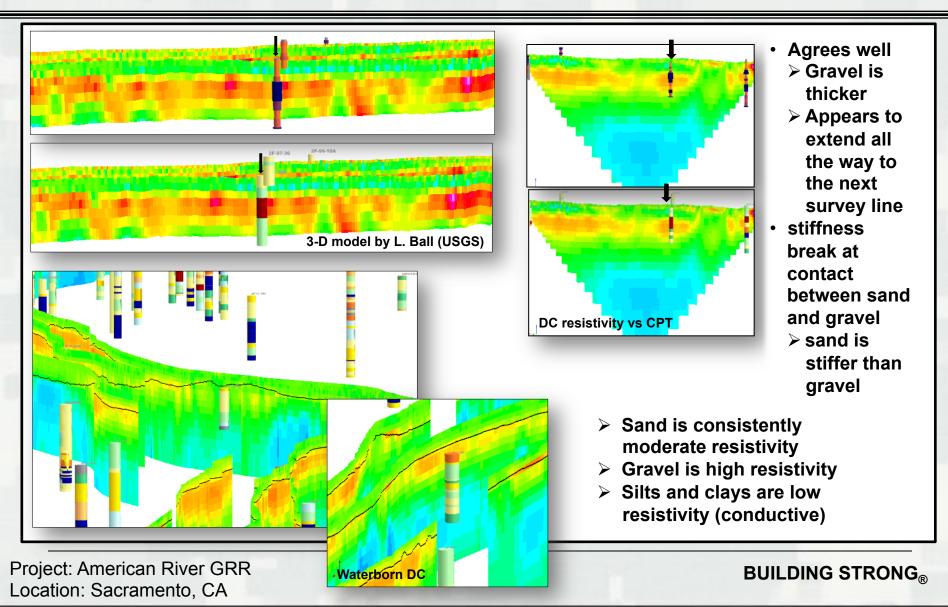


Project: American River GRR Location: Sacramento, CA



- Strong correlation
 between
 - resistor
 - high blow-count layer
 - gravel/sand and gravel (2F-99-14A)
- Arrows indicate close boreholes. Because this is 3D, other boreholes aren' t necessarily close to transects
 - Included to show the complexity and variability of boring





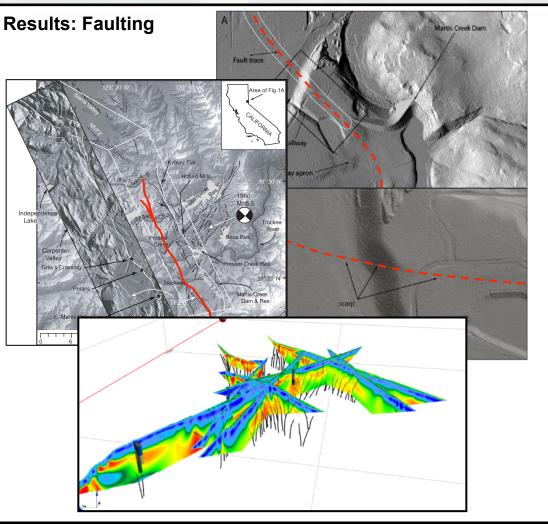
Target(s):

- Depth to bedrock
- Water table/seepage
- Variations in foundation properties/ stratigraphy
- Identification of liquefiable zones
- Faulting

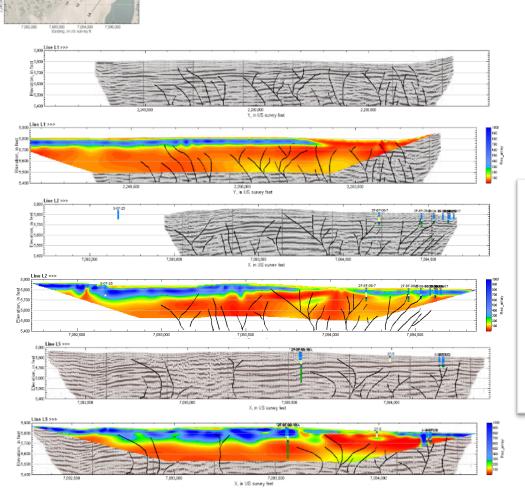
Method(s):

P- & S-wave seismic refraction
DC Resistivity
Continuous source audiomagnetotellurics (CS-AMT)





Project: Martis Creek Dam Location: Truckee, CA Executing District: SPK (w/USGS) Responsibility: L. Hunter



Wells and Coppersmith (1994)*

Surface rupture length (SLR)

Eq. 1 M = 5.08 + 1.16 x log(SLR)

Subsurface rupture area (RA)

Eq. 2 M = 4.38 + 1.49 x log(RA)

Hanks and Bakun (2002)

- Eq. 3 M = log(RA) + 3.98 ± 0.03 (for A ≤ 537 km²)
- * Regression lines for all fault-types

POLARIS FAULT, TRUCKEE, CA

Length (km)	Depth (km)	Area (km²)	Eq. 1 M	Eq. 2 M	Eq. 3 M
30	15	450	6.79	6.67	6.63
35	15	525	6.87	6.74	6.70
38	15	570	6.91	6.77	6.74

Conservative estimates indicate Polaris Fault may be capable of a M 6.6 to 6.9 event

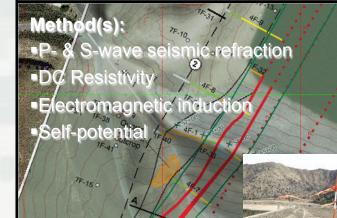
Project: Martis Creek Dam Location: Truckee, CA

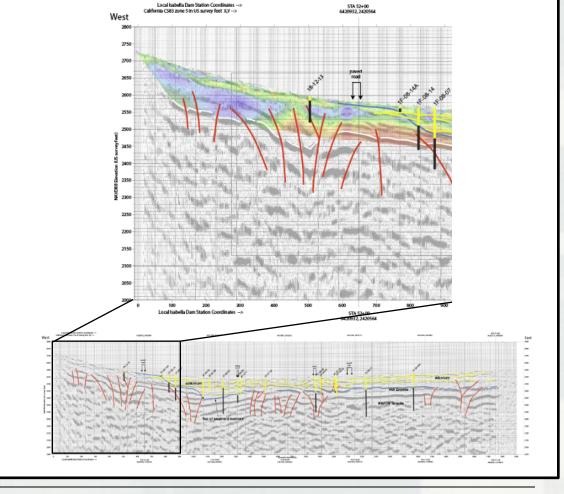
121

Faulting

Target(s):

- Depth to bedrock
- Water table/seepage
- Variations in foundation properties/ stratigraphy
- Identification of liquefiable zones
- Faulting





Project: Isabella Dam Location: Lake Isabella, CA Executing District: SPK (w/USGS) Responsibility: L. Hunter w/J. Jackson

Target(s):

- Depth to bedrock
- Water table/seepage
- Variations in foundation properties/ stratigraphy
- Identification of liquefiable zones
- Faulting

Method(s): •P- & S-wave seismic refraction •DC Resistivity •Electromagnetic induction •Self-potential

Results: Liquefaction

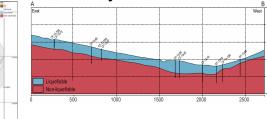
Period to the second se

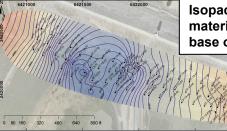


Factor of safety against liquefaction (FS_{liq}) calculated based on Youd et al. (2001) & Idriss & Boulanger (2008) to determine amount of material to remove to get below upper liquefiable layer

Poisson's ration used to look for zones where Vs

is proportionately low



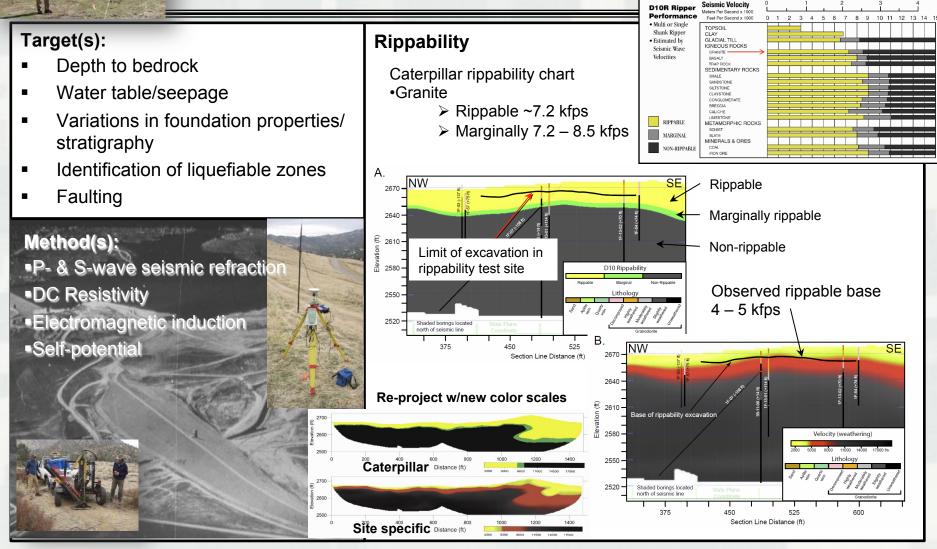


Isopach map showing material to be removed to base of liquefiable layer

Project: Isabella Dam Location: Lake Isabella, CA Executing District: SPK (w Responsibility: L. Hunter

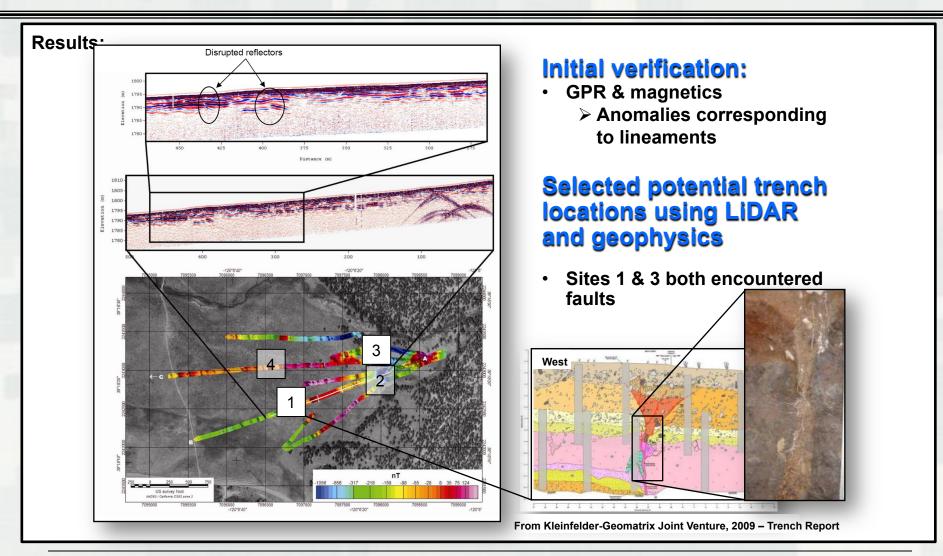
В





Project: Isabella Dam Location: Lake Isabella, CA

Executing District: SPK (w/USGS) Responsibility: L. Hunter



Project: Martis Creek Dam Location: Truckee, CA

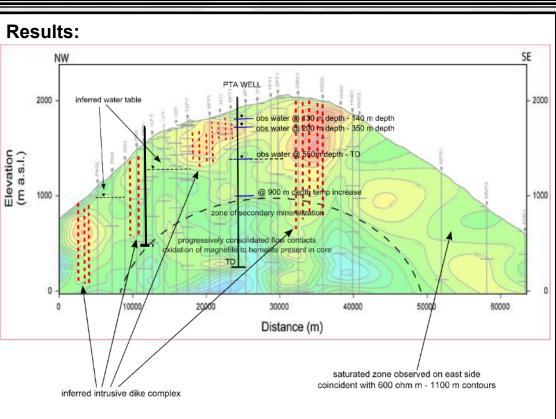
Target(s):

 Survey goal was to look for water in the saddle between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa

Method(s):

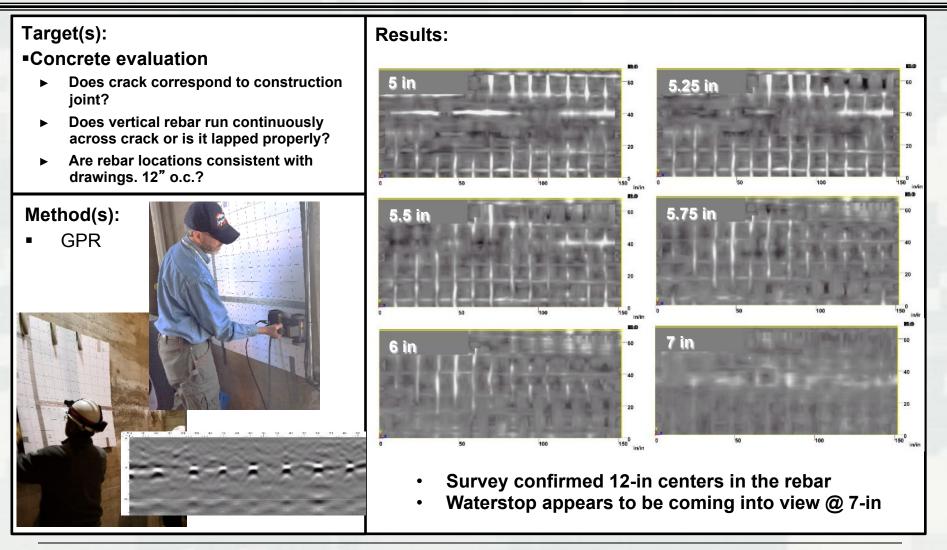
 Magnetotellurics and Audiomagnetotellurics





- Perched layers from 130-140 m, 200-350 m &550 m depth
- Cores:
 - > Identified zones of secondary mineralization.
 - Alternating confining layers after confining layers

Project: Pohakuloa Army Training Area Location: Big Island, Hawaii Executing District: University of Hawaii Responsibility: E. Wallin (now NWO)



Project: Dam Intake Tower Location: Undisclosed Executing District: NWO Responsibility: E. Wallin