

Appendix H:

Sediment Quality Analysis

*Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study:
Boulanger Bend to Lock and Dam No. 2*

In July and August of 2015, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District completed two sediment surveys of Boulanger Bend in lower pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River (river miles 821-818). The purpose of the 2015 sediment surveys were to characterize the physical and chemical properties of the sediment for the Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study: Boulanger Bend to Lock and Dam No. 2. The sample locations were randomly selected inside the footprint of the preferred alternative: The widening of the Boulanger Bend navigational channel and the placement of training structures outside of the channel (Figure 1). Below is a detailed description of the 2015 survey, including: sampling locations, depths, sampling methods, chemical and physical analyses, results and discussion.

2015 SURVEY

Sampling:

For the July survey, district staff drilled four boreholes and collected one composite sample per borehole. Two boreholes were located at the upstream section of the main channel dredge cut (boreholes 15-60M and 15-61M) and the other two boreholes were located inside the proposed upstream training structure (boreholes 15-58M and 15-59M). The composite samples were taken from roughly the upper 4 feet of surficial sediment for 15-60M and 15-61M and about the top two feet for 15-58M and 15-59M.

In early August 2015, 10 composite samples were collected from six new boreholes (four in the main channel cut and two inside the downstream training structure). The four main channel boreholes (15-67M, 15-69M, 15-71M and 15-72M) accounted for 8 composite samples, two samples from each hole (roughly split between a five foot upper sample and a 3 foot lower sample). The remaining two samples were from two boreholes inside the downstream training structure (15-68M and 15-70M), consisting of a single surficial 2.5 foot composite sample from each location.

A record of the boring depths and description of the material encountered are detailed in the boring logs shown in Figure 2.

All of the sediment samples from the July and August surveys were immediately processed after collection and sent on ice to ARDL, Inc., Mt Vernon, IL for physical and chemical analyses to determine grain size and contamination.

Analyses:

Metals, PCBs, pesticides, PAHs, cyanide, total organic carbon, percent moisture, percent solids, percent total volatile solids, selected inorganics and grain-size analyses were performed by ARDL, Inc. for each of the 14 composite samples plus 2 split QA/QC samples.

Results and Discussion:

The results of the grain size analyses showed that the sediment samples had a wide range of silt content. In general, finer material was found in samples that were: 1) inside the training structures, 2) further out from the channel centerline and 3) for the boreholes with multiple composite samples, the lower stratum samples were finer than their corresponding upper stratum samples. The samples with the least amount of silt was found in the furthest upstream boreholes, 15-60M and 15-61M. Table 1 shows the percentage of material that passed through the #200 sieve for each sample and their total organic carbon content (TOC). The role of sediment in chemical pollution is tied both to the particle size of sediment, and to the amount of particulate organic carbon associated with the sediment. Silt content is important, because finer material has more surface area for binding with contaminants, but as TOC increases, the affinity between the sediment and the contaminants also increases. As a result, greater TOC concentrations reduces the biological availability of many of the persistent, bioaccumulating and toxic organic contaminants, especially chlorinated compounds.

Table 1. Silt and Total Organic Carbon Composition of Composite Sediment Samples.

Sample ID	Percent of material passed through the #200 sieve	Total Organic Carbon mg/kg
P2-15-59M/1	97.2	14000
P2-15-58M/1	87.8	19000
P2/15-68M/1	81.6	19000
P2/15-71M/2	79.7	30000
P2/15-69M/2	77.3	27000
P2/15-70M/1	76.5	25000
P2/15-69M/1	75.5	35000
P2/15-71M/1	41.6	18000
P2/15-67M/2	32.1	12000
P2/15-72M/2	18.6	7000
P2/15-67M/1	17.7	6000
P2/15-72M/1	10.9	5400
P2-15-60M/1	3.9	1200
P2-15-61M/1	2.9	990

To ascertain the possible toxicity of the samples to the benthic environment, the chemical results were compared to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) sediment quality targets (SQTs) for the protection of sediment-dwelling organisms in Minnesota and the MPCA's Soil Reference Values (SRVs) that are used for upland placement suitability (Table 2). The SQTs consist of level I guidance for a high level of protection for benthic invertebrates and level II guidance for the moderate level of protection for benthic invertebrates.

The three furthest upstream main channel dredge cut boreholes (15-60M, 15-61M and 15-72M) were mostly sand, but 15-60M had a SQT I exceedance of acenaphthylene, 15-61M had SQT I exceedances of acenaphthylene, acenaphthene and benzo(a) anthracene and the upper subsample of 15-72M had exceedances of acenaphthylene, benzo(a) anthracene, pyrene and benzo(a)pyrene. However, all of these exceedances were only minimally above the SQT I guidelines.

15-71M was the one sample collected in the middle portion of the dredge cut. This borehole was mainly composed of finer material. The high silt percentage in 15-71M is probably due to it being on the outside edge of the channel dredge cut where fines tend to buildup. In both the upper ~ 5 feet and the lower ~ 2.5 feet of the surficial sediment there were exceedances of several SQT I guidelines. 15-71M/1 had exceedances of acenaphthylene, acenaphthene, benzo(a) anthracene and benzo(a)pyrene. 15-71M/2 had SQT I exceedances of acenaphthylene and cadmium.

The next downstream channel borehole is 15-69M. The silt percentage of the material found in both strata of 15-69M were similar to the lower stratum of 15-71M at around 75%. SQT I exceedances found in 15-69M includes: acenaphthylene and cadmium in 15-69M/1 and acenaphthylene, acenaphthene and cadmium in 15-69M/2.

The furthest downstream borehole in the channel dredge cut was 15-67M. 15-67M had SQT I exceedances in just in the lower stratum that included acenaphthylene and acenaphthene.

Of the four boreholes (15-58M, 15-59M 15-68M and 15-70M) located in the two training structures, 15-70M was the most concerning. The other three had several SQT I exceedances, but 15-70M had SQT II exceedances for acenaphthylene and pyrene and recreational SRV exceedances for benzo(a)pyrene and cadmium.

The recommended future action related to sediment quality for this study is to engage the MPCA to determine if the results of the 2015 surveys are acceptable to continue pursuing the preferred alternative. And specifically, does the results of the existing testing allow the construction of training structures on sediment containing levels of pollutants above SQT II and SRVs and are there any issues with widening the main channel, which has some sediment with minimal SQT I exceedances.

References for Sediment Quality

Crane, J.L. and S. Hennes. 2007. Guidance for the use and application of sediment quality targets for the protection of sediment-dwelling organisms in Minnesota. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul, MN. MPCA Doc. No. tdr-gl-04. (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=9163>)

Crane, J.L., D.D. MacDonald, C.G. Ingersoll, D.E. Smorong, R.A. Lindskoog, C.G. Severn, T.A. Berger, and L.J. Field. 2002. Evaluation of numerical sediment quality targets for the St. Louis River Area of Concern. *Arch. Environ. Contam. Toxicol.* 43:1-10

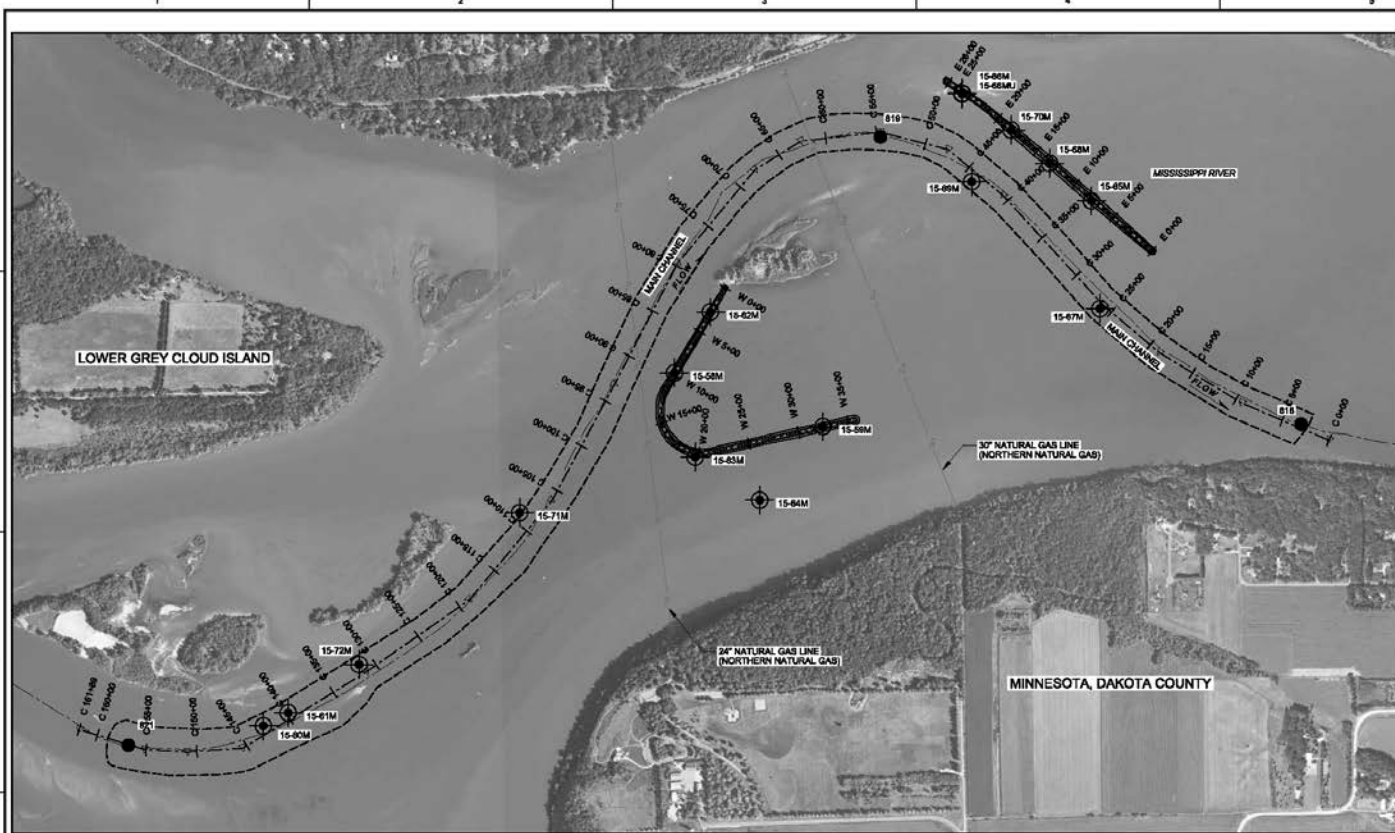


Figure 1. Map of Boulanger Bend, Lower Pool 2 Boreholes for Preferred Alternative - Main Channel Widening and Training Structures.

ELEVATION DATUM (VERTICAL CONTROL):
 DATUM OF MEAN SEA LEVEL
 PROJECTION: UTM
 COORDINATE SYSTEM (HORIZONTAL CONTROL):
 DATUM OF MEAN SEA LEVEL
 PROJECTION: UTM
 CONVERSION FACTOR (CF): Conversion Table

BOLLAWER BEND CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS
 LOWER POOL 2
 TRAINING WALLS
 TAMPING MAT
 SOIL BORING LOCATIONS

Sheet
 ID
 B-001

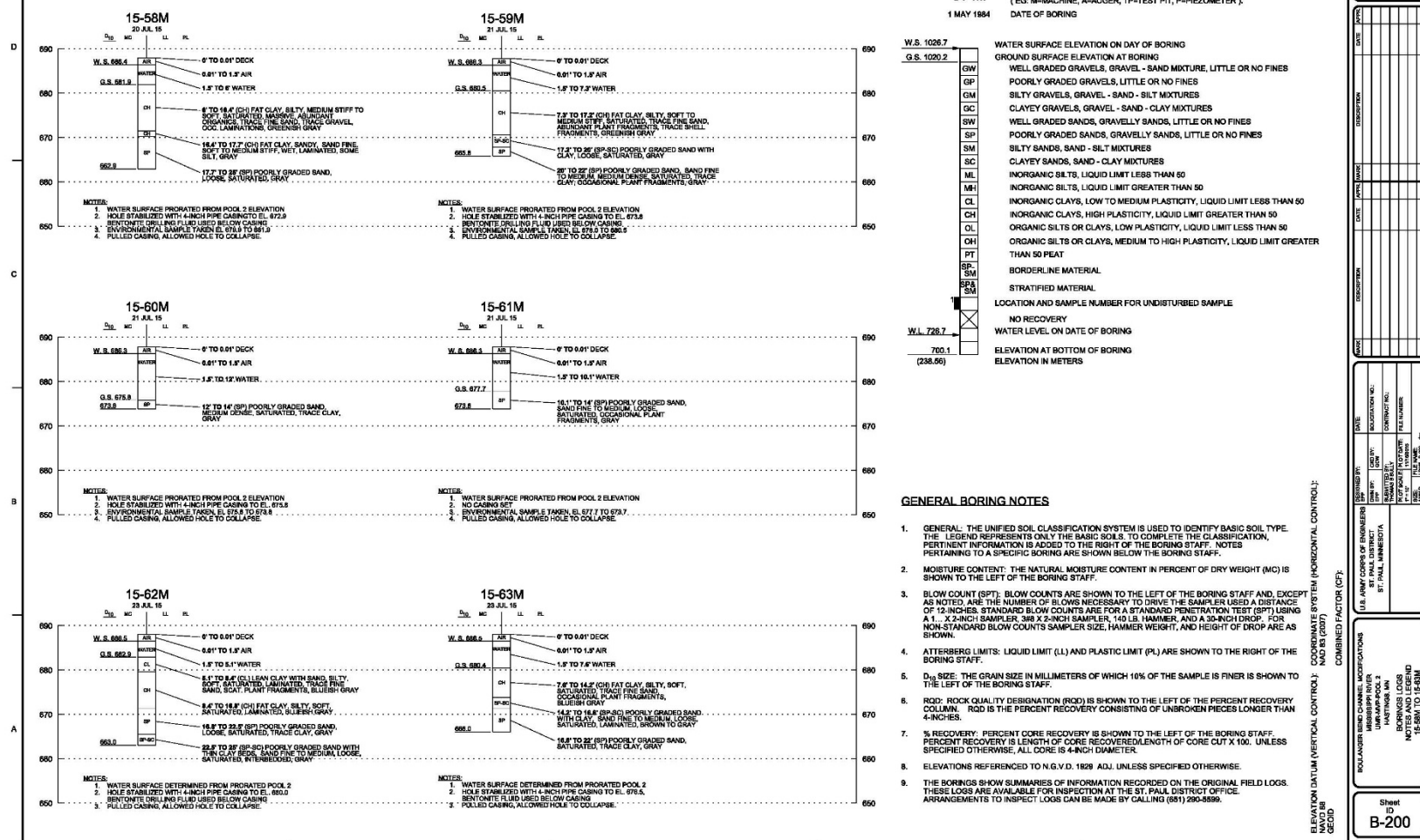
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 TIME: 10:10 AM
 DRAWN BY: JRM
 CHECKED BY: JRM
 PROJECT: BOLAWER BEND CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS
 SHEET NO.: 17 OF 21
 PROJECT NO.: 15-0000000000000000
 DRAWING NO.: 15-0000000000000000
 FILE NUMBER: 15-0000000000000000

NO.	REVISION/DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHECKED



Figure 2. Boring Log

Boreholes for Preferred Alternative - Main Channel Widening and Training Structures.



GENERAL BORING LEGEND

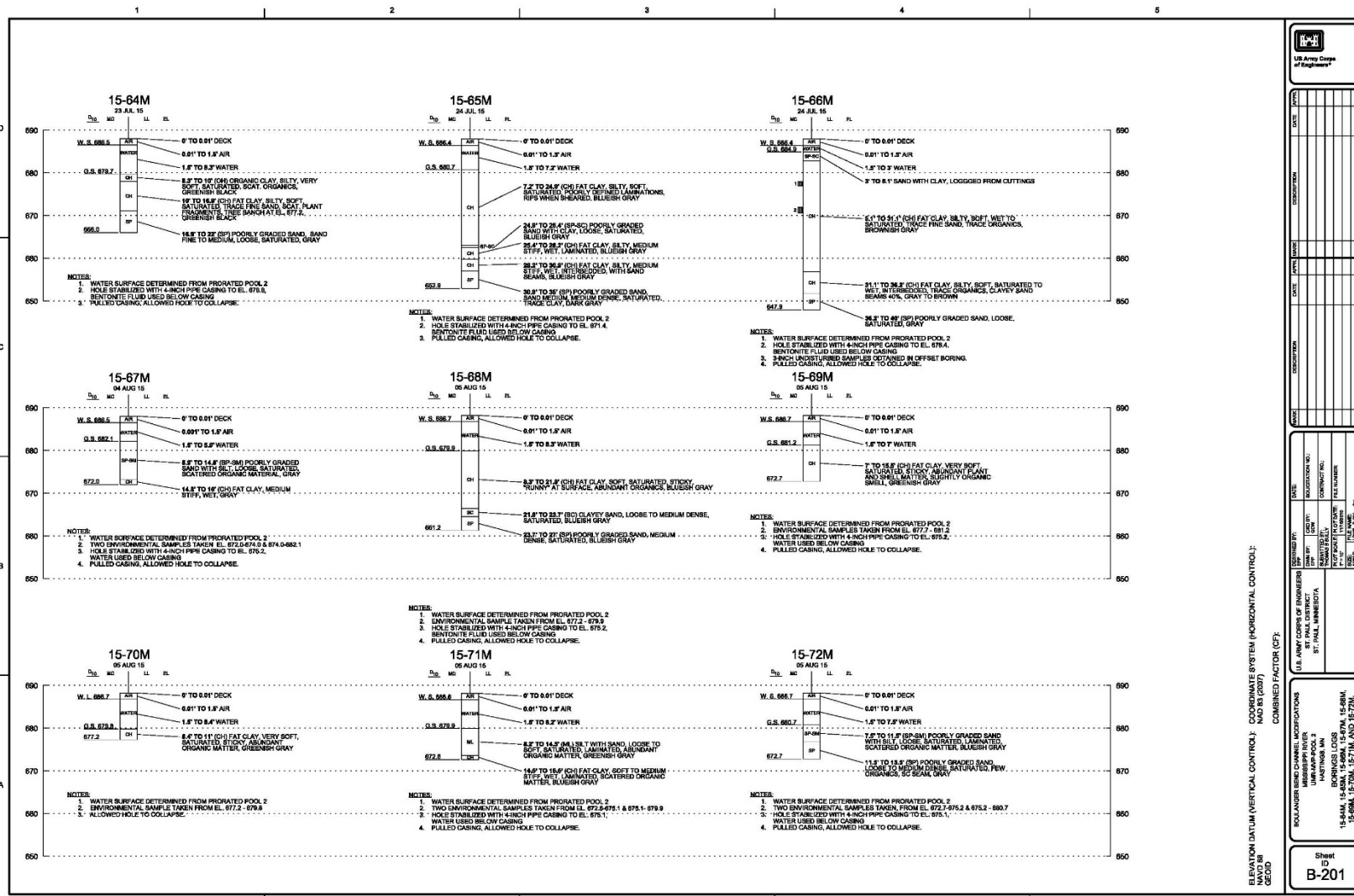
- 84-1M** YEAR OF BORING-BORING NUMBER, BORING TYPE (EG: M-MACHINE, A-AUGER, TP-TEST PIT, P-PIEZOMETER),
1 MAY 1984 DATE OF BORING
- G.S. 1026.7** WATER SURFACE ELEVATION ON DAY OF BORING
G.S. 1020.2 GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION AT BORING
- GW WELL GRADED GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND MIXTURE, LITTLE OR NO FINES
 - GP POORLY GRADED GRAVELS, LITTLE OR NO FINES
 - GM SILTY GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND - SILT MIXTURES
 - GC CLAYEY GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND - CLAY MIXTURES
 - SW WELL GRADED SANDS, GRAVELLY SANDS, LITTLE OR NO FINES
 - SP POORLY GRADED SANDS, GRAVELLY SANDS, LITTLE OR NO FINES
 - SM SILTY SANDS, SAND - SILT MIXTURES
 - SC CLAYEY SANDS, SAND - CLAY MIXTURES
 - ML INORGANIC SILTS, LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 50
 - MH INORGANIC SILTS, LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50
 - CL INORGANIC CLAYS, LOW TO MEDIUM PLASTICITY, LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 50
 - CH INORGANIC CLAYS, HIGH PLASTICITY, LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50
 - OL ORGANIC SILTS OR CLAYS, LOW PLASTICITY, LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 50
 - OH ORGANIC SILTS OR CLAYS, MEDIUM TO HIGH PLASTICITY, LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50 PEAT
 - BP BORDERLINE MATERIAL
 - SM STRATIFIED MATERIAL
 - Location and sample number for undisturbed sample
 - NO RECOVERY
 - W.L. 726.7 WATER LEVEL ON DATE OF BORING
 - 700.1 ELEVATION AT BOTTOM OF BORING
 - (238.55) ELEVATION IN METERS


GENERAL BORING NOTES

- GENERAL: THE UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IS USED TO IDENTIFY BASIC SOIL TYPE. THE LEGEND REPRESENTS ONLY THE BASIC SOILS. TO COMPLETE THE CLASSIFICATION, PERTINENT INFORMATION IS ADDED TO THE RIGHT OF THE BORING STAFF. NOTES PERTAINING TO A SPECIFIC BORING ARE SHOWN BELOW THE BORING STAFF.
- MOISTURE CONTENT: THE NATURAL MOISTURE CONTENT IN PERCENT OF DRY WEIGHT (MC) IS SHOWN TO THE LEFT OF THE BORING STAFF.
- BLOW COUNT (SPT): BLOW COUNTS ARE SHOWN TO THE LEFT OF THE BORING STAFF AND, EXCEPT AS NOTED, ARE THE NUMBER OF BLOWS NECESSARY TO DRIVE THE SAMPLER USED A DISTANCE OF 12 INCHES. STANDARD BLOW COUNTS ARE FOR A STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (SPT) USING A 1" X 2-INCH SAMPLER, 350 X 2-INCH SAMPLER, 140 LB. HAMMER, AND A 30-INCH DROP. FOR NON-STANDARD BLOW COUNTS SAMPLER SIZE, HAMMER WEIGHT, AND HEIGHT OF DROP ARE AS SHOWN.
- ATTERBERG LIMITS: LIQUID LIMIT (LL) AND PLASTIC LIMIT (PL) ARE SHOWN TO THE RIGHT OF THE BORING STAFF.
- D₆₀ SIZE: THE GRAIN SIZE IN MILLIMETERS OF WHICH 10% OF THE SAMPLE IS FINER IS SHOWN TO THE RIGHT OF THE BORING STAFF.
- ROQ: ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (ROQ) IS SHOWN TO THE LEFT OF THE PERCENT RECOVERY COLUMN. ROQ IS THE PERCENT RECOVERY CONSISTING OF UNBROKEN PIECES LONGER THAN 4-INCHES.
- % RECOVERY: PERCENT CORE RECOVERY IS SHOWN TO THE LEFT OF THE BORING STAFF. PERCENT RECOVERY IS LENGTH OF CORE RECOVERED/LENGTH OF CORE CUT X 100. UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE, ALL CORE IS 4-INCH DIAMETER.
- ELEVATIONS REFERENCED TO N.G.V.D. 1929 UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE.
- THE BORINGS SHOW SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION RECORDED ON THE ORIGINAL FIELD LOGS. THESE LOGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE ST. PAUL DISTRICT OFFICE. ARRANGEMENTS TO INSPECT LOGS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING (811) 280-8589.

ELEVATION DATUM (VERTICAL CONTROL): CHICAGO MAJOR BENCHMARK (MAD) (2200)
 DATUM SYSTEM (HORIZONTAL CONTROL): COORDINATE SYSTEM (HORIZONTAL CONTROL): COMBINED FACTOR (CF):

Sheet ID
B-200





ROLL-ANALYSIS CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS		ROLL-ANALYSIS CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS	
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NO.:	15-84M, 15-85M, 15-86M, 15-87M, 15-88M, 15-89M, 15-70M, 15-71M, AND 15-72M.
PROJECT LOCATION:	BORINGS LOGS
DRAWN BY:	JANUARY
DATE:	

ROLL-ANALYSIS CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS	ROLL-ANALYSIS CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS
DATE:	DATE:
DESCRIPTION:	DESCRIPTION:

ROLL-ANALYSIS CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS

BY: [Name]

DATE: [Date]

PROJECT NO.:

PROJECT LOCATION:

DRAWN BY:

DATE:

Sheet ID: **B-201**

* Chlordane

** Mercury (inorganic)

*** Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP equivalents)

Level I SQT – Chemical concentrations which will provide a high level of protection for benthic invertebrates.

Level II SQT – Chemical concentration which will provide a moderate level of protection for benthic invertebrates.

2015 draft MPCA Res/Rec Soil Reference Value (SRV)

J - Indicates an estimated value. This flag is used either when estimating a concentration for tentatively identified compounds where a 1:1 response is assumed, or when the mass spectral data indicate the presence of a compound that meets the identification criteria but the result is less than the sample quantitation limit but greater than zero.