Geology and HDD

Sinkholes caused by HDD







54 inch reamer similar to one lost during an HDD in New Jersey

Generalized Rock Classification

		Unconsolidated	Consolidated
Igneous rocks	Intrusive rocks (plutonic)		granite, granitic pegmatite, diorite, gabbro, peridotite
	Extrusive rocks (volcanic)	volcanic ash	basalt, rhyolite, andesite
Sedimentary rocks	Mechanical	gravel, sand, silt & clay	conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone & shale
	Chemical		carbonates (limestone & dolomites), gypsum, anhydrite & salt
	Organic	peat & lignite	carbonates, coal
Metamorphic rocks	Any rock type altered by heat and pressure		gneisses, schist, amphibolite, argillite, slate, quartzite, & marble

Coastal Plain unconsolidated formations

Fine sand and dark clay



Thin clayey gravel at surface, below is a clean coarse sand



Clay formation with limonite filled fractures. In New Jersey some clays clay formations contain sulfide minerals such as pyrite and marcasite which can weather by groundwater and be deposited in fractures in the clay. Pyrite and especially marcasite can begin decomposing as soon as exposed to the air and produce sulfuric acid creating acid soil conditions.



Stratified glacial deposit of gravel over coarse cross-bedded sand



Consolidated sedimentary rock, quartzite/sandstone showing bedding and joints



Cleavage and fault in slate



Foliation and fault in gneiss



Volcanic rock, basalt with shear zones



Metamorphic and sedimentary rock



gneiss

quartzite/sandstone

Open solution joint

Filled solution joint/sinkhole





Borings showing cavities in dolomite

Borings are about 50 feet apart

Black areas are cavities

Based on core examination the cavities followed bedding and joints







Passaic Formation sandstone, siltstone, and shale Notice change in joint spacing and direction in shale beds

Joint spacing several feet

Joint spacing several inches



Monksville HDD

Green line is approximate location of HDD





Summary: Conditions that can affect HDD project and boring requirements

- The drilling must be able to create an open hole in the rock or cohesive soils or fluidized condition of cohesionless soils such as sand or silt. Coarse grained materials, excessive rock strength/hardness (+50,000 psi) and solution cavities in bedrock may prevent HDD.
- Coarse Grained-- gravel, cobbles & boulders cannot be fluidized for removal nor stablized for open hole.
- Excessive rock strength-- may deflect drill string, wear bits, slow drill rates extending construction duration and coasts.
- Poor rock quality—Vertical rock fissures can cause frac-outs.
- Depth of cover minimum 30 feet.
- Borings should be 30 to 50 feet. off drill path. The should be 20 feet. deeper than pipe depth. Split spoon samples should be taken every 5 feet and continuous rock core.

Notes from: Directional Drilling Best Practices by Dennis M. Walsh, PE and Daniel D'Eletto, PE. April 10, 2015 <u>https://www.northeastgas.org/pdf/d_walsh_directional.pdf</u>





Glacial till



Sources of Geologic Information:

- State geological surveys. On the Association of American State Geologists (AASG) website is a link that lists all the geological surveys. <u>http://www.stategeologists.org/</u>
- US Geological Survey
- National Geologic Map Data Base <u>https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html</u>
- Site visit by geologist
- Borings
- Split Spoon samples (2 foot samples every 5 feet or continuous) of the unconsolidated materials.
- Continuous core samples of consolidated materials.
- Notes from: Directional Drilling Best Practices by Dennis M. Walsh, PE and Daniel D'Eletto, PE. April 10, 2015

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