

June 11, 2024

## GEOTECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

RE: Tecumseh Dam Spillway Improvements  
Lenawee County, Michigan  
Project No: 129021SG2020

This memorandum summarizes Spicer Group's geotechnical investigation for the proposed spillway improvement project.

### **Project Overview:**

This project will involve removal and reconstruction of the current auxiliary spillway. The existing auxiliary spillway is located at the northeast end of the dam. It is approximately 40 feet wide at the upstream end and 25 feet wide at the downstream end. It is comprised of a concrete slab with 3- to 10-foot-high sidewall. Sidewalls are constructed of concrete and steel sheet piling. The top of the spillway slab is at about elevation 767 or 768. The dam impounds the Red Mill Pond.

The new spillway is conceived to be about 140 feet long by about 40 feet wide with an 18-inch thick concrete slab and concrete sidewalls up to about 11 feet tall.

### **Subsurface Investigation:**

Subsurface conditions at the site were explored on April 4 and 6 and May 1, 2023 by drilling two rig-drilled borings and two hand auger borings near the spillway. Borings B1 through B3 were drilled by McDowell & Associates under subcontract to Spicer Group. B4 was drilled by Spicer Group.

Rig-drilled borings were drilled using hollow stem auger methods, with samples obtained at 2.5- to 5-foot intervals in accordance with the standard penetration test, in which a 2-inch O.D. split barrel sampler is driven three 6-inch increments by a 140-lb hammer falling 30 inches.

Hand auger borings were drilled by 2.75-inch diameter hand auger equipment in locations not accessible to a drill rig. In select locations, relative density and consistency were determined using a Sowers-type dynamic cone penetrometer, in which a 1.5-inch diameter cone is driven three successive 1.75-inch increments using a 15-lb hammer freely falling 20 inches.

During drilling, soils were visually/manually classified in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System per ASTM D2487 and D2488. Boring logs, are attached, along with boring location maps.

Laboratory testing, including moisture content, calibrated penetrometer, and grain-size analyses, were performed on selected soil samples. The results are attached and used to correlate with engineering properties and filtration requirements.

The ground surface elevation at the boring locations was estimated by plotting their locations on the topographic survey. The approximate elevations are shown below:

<b>Boring</b>	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4
<b>Elevation</b>	773	776	779	771

**Conclusions & Recommendations:**

In general, the observed subsurface conditions should not impose any significant impediment to the proposed project. The soils at the site will tend to have moderate strength and moderate compressibility. Permeability, moisture sensitivity, and frost susceptibility will be variable, depending on fines content. Grain-size analysis results indicate that the some of the materials immediately below the bottom of the slab (the sand and gravel layer) are broadly graded, and may tend to be more susceptible to internal erosion.

The soils observed in the borings can be categorized into four general units. The units and their appropriate geotechnical design properties are listed below:

<b>Soil</b>	<b>Unit Weight</b> lb/ft <sup>3</sup>	<b>Friction Angle</b> degrees	<b>Cohesion</b> lb/ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>Undrained Shear Strength</b> lb/ft <sup>2</sup>
Existing Fill	120	32	0	0
Sand & Gravel	120	33	0	0
Fine Sand	120	34	0	0
Silty Clay	125	32	400	4000

**Retaining Walls & Foundations**

Spillway walls will support lateral pressures from the soil and groundwater retained behind them. Earth pressure coefficients can be calculated from the parameters provided above. An underdrain system should be considered to prevent excess unbalanced hydrostatic forces.

We expect foundations for cast-in-place concrete spillway walls will bear in the fine sand unit. This material should provide suitable support with a recommended allowable bearing pressure of 2,000 lb/ft<sup>2</sup> (factor of safety of about 3). Under this loading, total settlement can be expected to be less than about 1/4 inch and differential settlements will be about half of the total.

If sheet piling is used to construct spillway walls, or used as temporary cofferdams during construction, the soil properties given in the table above can be used in their design. The cobbly soil units observed in the borings might make driving sheet piles more difficult; however, we do not expect to be an excessive hindrance (there is existing sheet piling at the site and the borings were able to be advanced and sampled through these soils).

**Spillway Slab**

We expect a new concrete slab will form the spillway bottom. We expect the subgrade to consist predominantly of medium dense fine sand; however, portions of the subgrade might include the existing fill unit or the sand and gravel material. Care should be taken if the subgrade material is existing fill, as undocumented fill can be highly variable and with unknown placement. The fill and sand and gravel soils observed in the borings at that elevation, however, appear to be capable of providing good support. We suggest placing the slab on a base of open-graded coarse crushed aggregate, such as MDOT 29A to provide uniform support and dissipation of excess hydrostatic pressure. A filter-compatible subbase

June 11, 2024

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should be used under the aggregate, such as MDOT 2NS. A perforated underdrain (without geotextile sock) should be placed within the aggregate course and be extended to a positive outlet.

### **Earthwork**

The on-site soils should be able to be readily excavated using conventional equipment. The on-site soils are variable and have a significant amount of clay and silt, so may prove challenging to adequately compact. Therefore, imported fill should be considered, especially for areas supporting structures or slabs. Imported fill should generally meet the requirements of MDOT Class III granular material.

Prior to placing new fill or concrete, the subgrade should be inspected for topsoil, highly organic soils, debris/rubbish, or excessively soft or loose soils. Where encountered, the unsuitable material should be excavated and replaced with compacted granular soil (such as MDOT Class II or III, or 2NS).

All fill should be conditioned to near its optimum moisture content, placed in thin lifts (generally less than about 8 inches thick, depending on the compaction equipment) and compacted to at least 95% of its maximum dry density, as determined by ASTM D1557 or the MDOT one-point cone method.

Temporary excavations should be appropriately sloped or shored, as determined by the contractor's competent person. Site soils can generally be classified as Type C soils, with maximum temporary slopes of 1.5H:1V.

To prevent internal erosion/piping of soils adjacent to the new spillway walls and/or slab, filtration characteristics of the fill should be considered. The procedure discussed in the NRCS *National Engineering Handbook* Part 633, Chapter 26 is appropriate. Based on the laboratory grain-size analyses performed, the coarser material observed in sample B1D would be adequately filtered by MDOT 6A aggregate. The other samples that were tested would be filtered by MDOT 2NS or ASTM C33 sand. MDOT 29A generally meets filter criteria for 2NS sand. For less critical applications, filtration can be accomplished with a needle-punched nonwoven geotextile meeting MDOT's specification for Geotextile Blanket, with an AOS less than 0.35 mm.

SOILS INVESTIGATION  
TECUMSEH SPILLWAY  
TECUMSEH, MICHIGAN

SPICER GROUP, INC.  
331 BAY STREET  
PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN 49770

APRIL 10, 2023  
BY  
McDOWELL & ASSOCIATES

# McDowell & Associates

Geotechnical, Environmental & Hydrogeological Services • Materials Testing & Inspection

21355 Hatcher Avenue • Ferndale, MI 48220  
Phone: (248) 399-2066 • Fax: (248) 399-2157  
www.mcdowasc.com

April 10, 2023

Spicer Group, Inc.  
331 Bay Street  
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Job No. 23-111

Attention: Mr. Nils W. Lindwall

Subject: Soils Investigation  
Tecumseh Spillway  
Tecumseh, Michigan

Dear Mr. Lindwall:

We welcome this opportunity to offer our services for your project.

In accordance with your request, we performed three (3) borings at the subject project. The borings were drilled at the locations you required and are shown approximately on the attached Soil Boring Location Plan.

Detailed soil descriptions and stratifications for each completed boring are shown on the attached boring logs.

If you have any questions or if we can be further service, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

McDOWELL & ASSOCIATES



Tony (Antoine) Merheb, M.S., P.E.  
Senior Geotechnical Engineer

TM/



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JOB NO. 23-111

SURFACE ELEV. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 4/6/2023

LOG OF SOIL  
 BORING NO. 1

PROJECT Soils Investigation

LOCATION Tecumseh Dam Spillway

Evans and Maumee Streets

Tecumseh, Michigan

Sample & Type	Depth	Legend	SOIL DESCRIPTION	Penetration Blows for 6"	Moisture %	Natural Wt. P.C.F.	Dry Den Wt. P.C.F.	Unc. Comp. Strength PSF.	Str. %
	1		Moist dark brown sandy TOPSOIL with trace of gravel, fill						
A	2		Very compact moist brown clayey SAND with gravel and trace of brick, fill	7	8.6				
SS	3			12					
	4		3'6" Compact moist dark brown to black SAND & GRAVEL with brick, stones and asphalt, fill						
B	5		Very stiff moist brown silty CLAY with sand and trace of pebbles, fill	4	14.4				
SS	6			7					
	7		COBBLES and stones, possible fill						
C	8		7'7" Medium compact wet brown fine to coarse SAND & GRAVEL with trace of silt						
SS	9			3					
	10			3					
	11		4	10.1					
	12								
	13								
	14								
E	15		14'6" Very stiff moist blue silty CLAY with sand and pebbles and occasional stones	2	11.7				
SS	16			7					
	17		Very compact wet brown to gray fine SAND with occasional stone and pebbles and discolored streaks						
	18		17'6"						
	19								
F	20		Extremely compact wet brown fine SAND with trace of silt	7	22.6				
SS	21			14					
	22			21					
	23								
	24		23'8" Compact wet gray fine SAND with trace of gravel						
G	25		24'6" Very stiff moist blue silty CLAY with traces of sand and pebbles	4					
SS				9					

TYPE OF SAMPLE  
 D. - DISTURBED  
 U.L. - UNDIST. LINER  
 S.T. - SHELBY TUBE  
 S.S. - SPLIT SPOON  
 R.C. - ROCK CORE  
 ( ) - PENETROMETER

REMARKS: \*Calibrated penetrometer

Standard Penetration Test - Driving 2" OD Sampler 1' With  
 140# Hammer Falling 30": Count Made at 6" Intervals

GROUND WATER OBSERVATIONS

G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT 7 FT. 7 INS.  
 G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT 15 FT. 2 INS.  
 G.W. AFTER COMPLETION 5 FT. 6 INS.  
 G.W. AFTER HRS.  
 G.W. VOLUMES Heavy



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**LOG OF SOIL**

**BORING NO.** 1 (continued)

**PROJECT**

Soils Investigation

**LOCATION**

Tecumseh Dam Spillway

Evans and Maumee Streets

**JOB NO.** 23-111

**SURFACE ELEV.** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** 4/6/2023

Tecumseh, Michigan

Sample & Type	Depth	Legend	SOIL DESCRIPTION	Penetration Blows for 6"	Moisture %	Natural Wt. P.C.F.	Dry Den Wt. P.C.F.	Unc. Comp. Strength PSF.	Str. %
	26	[Diagonal Hatching]	Very stiff moist blue silty CLAY with traces of sand and pebbles						
	27								
	28								
		[Cross-hatching]	28'2" COBBLE						
	29		28'11"						
H	30	[Diagonal Hatching]	Extremely stiff moist blue silty CLAY HARDPAN with sand and pebbles	34					
SS				60					
	31								
	32								
	33								
	34								
I	35	[Diagonal Hatching]	35'0"	25					
SS				40					
	36								
	37								
	38								
	39								
	40								
	41								
	42								
	43								
	44								
	45								
	46								
	47								
	48								
	49								
	50								

Note: Used track rig.

TYPE OF SAMPLE  
 D. - DISTURBED  
 U.L. - UNDIST. LINER  
 S.T. - SHELBY TUBE  
 S.S. - SPLIT SPOON  
 R.C. - ROCK CORE  
 ( ) - PENETROMETER

REMARKS:

Standard Penetration Test - Driving 2" OD Sampler 1' With  
 140# Hammer Falling 30"; Count Made at 6" Intervals

GROUND WATER OBSERVATIONS

G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT 7 FT. 7 INS.  
 G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT 15 FT. 2 INS.  
 G.W. AFTER COMPLETION 5 FT. 6 INS.  
 G.W. AFTER HRS. FT. INS.  
 G.W. VOLUMES Heavy



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**LOG OF SOIL BORING NO.** 2

**PROJECT** Soils Investigation  
**LOCATION** Tecumseh Dam Spillway  
Evans and Maumee Streets  
Tecumseh, Michigan

**JOB NO.** 23-111  
**SURFACE ELEV.** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** 4/4/2023

Sample & Type	Depth	Legend	SOIL DESCRIPTION	Penetration Blows for 6"	Moisture %	Natural Wt. P.C.F.	Dry Den Wt. P.C.F.	Unc. Comp. Strength PSF.	Str. %
	1		Moist dark brown clayey TOPSOIL, fill						
A	2		1'1" Stiff moist brown sandy CLAY with pebbles, stones and concrete, fill	4					
SS	3		2'0" Medium compact moist brown fine to medium SAND with traces of clay, gravel and concrete and topsoil seams, fill	4	10.6				
	4			3					
B	5		4'6" Stiff moist brown gravelly CLAY with trace of concrete, fill	4	14.1				
SS	6			5					
	7		6'2" COBBLES and stones, possible fill	8					
C	8		7'6" Compact moist brown SAND & GRAVEL with stones, possible fill	8					
SS	9			9					
	10		9'6" Stiff moist blue sandy CLAY with sand and pebbles, possible fill	6	16.9				
D	11		10'0" Compact wet gray clayey gravelly SAND	6					
SS	12			3					
	13								
	14								
E	15		13'0" Compact wet brown fine SAND with trace of silt	2					
SS	16			5	23.1				
	17			7					
	18								
	19								
F	20		19'6" Compact wet gray fine SAND	3					
SS	21		20'6" Note: Used track rig.	6					
	22								
	23								
	24								
	25								

TYPE OF SAMPLE  
 D. - DISTURBED  
 U.L. - UNDIST. LINER  
 S.T. - SHELBY TUBE  
 S.S. - SPLIT SPOON  
 R.C. - ROCK CORE  
 ( ) - PENETROMETER

REMARKS:

Standard Penetration Test - Driving 2" OD Sampler 1' With  
 140# Hammer Falling 30": Count Made at 6" Intervals

GROUND WATER OBSERVATIONS

G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT 9 FT. 0 INS.  
 G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT FT. INS.  
 G.W. AFTER COMPLETION 8 FT. 0 INS.  
 G.W. AFTER HRS. FT. INS.  
 G.W. VOLUMES Heavy





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LOG OF SOIL  
 BORING NO. 3

PROJECT Soils Investigation  
 LOCATION Tecumseh Dam Spillway  
Evans and Maumee Streets  
Tecumseh, Michigan

JOB NO. 23-111

SURFACE ELEV. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 4/4/2023

Sample & Type	Depth	Legend	SOIL DESCRIPTION	Penetration Blows for 6"	Moisture %	Natural Wt. P.C.F.	Dry Den Wt. P.C.F.	Unc. Comp. Strength PSF.	Str. %
	1		0'11" Moist dark brown sandy TOPSOIL with gravel, trace of vegetation and occasional stones, fill						
	2		Moist brown clayey fine SAND with gravel and stones, fill						
	3		2'2" Moist brown clayey fine SAND with silt, gravel, cobbles and topsoil streaks, fill						
	3'0"								
	4								
	5								
	6								
	7								
	8								
	9								
	10								
	11								
	12								
	13								
	14								
	15								
	16								
	17								
	18								
	19								
	20								
	21								
	22								
	23								
	24								
	25								

Notes:

- (1) Boring advanced by hand drilling methods.
- (2) Four attempts to drill deeper than 3' but too much stones to advance boring. First attempt refusal at 2'4". Second attempt refusal at 2'8". Third attempt refusal at 3'. Fourth attempt refusal at 2'6".

Note: Used track rig.

TYPE OF SAMPLE  
 D. - DISTURBED  
 U.L. - UNDIST. LINER  
 S.T. - SHELBY TUBE  
 S.S. - SPLIT SPOON  
 R.C. - ROCK CORE  
 ( ) - PENETROMETER

REMARKS:

Standard Penetration Test - Driving 2" OD Sampler 1' With  
 140# Hammer Falling 30": Count Made at 6" Intervals

GROUND WATER OBSERVATIONS

G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT FT. None INS.  
 G.W. ENCOUNTERED AT FT. INS.  
 G.W. AFTER COMPLETION FT. INS.  
 G.W. AFTER HRS. FT. INS.  
 G.W. VOLUMES

SIEVE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

<u>Boring</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>% Passing #4 Sieve</u>	<u>% Passing #10 Sieve</u>	<u>% Passing #40 Sieve</u>	<u>% Passing #100 Sieve</u>	<u>% Passing #200 Sieve</u>
1	D	45.0	24.7	8.6	4.7	3.8
	F	100.0	100.0	98.5	9.0	6.3
2	D	75.7	66.4	46.1	33.6	28.9
	E	100.0	100.0	96.2	4.3	3.4



**LEGEND**



Soil Boring Locations, 1 through 3:  
Drilled by McDowell & Associates



**McDowell & Associates**  
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Phone: (248) 399-2066  
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**Soil Boring Location Plan**

Job No. 23-111



**LOGS OF HAND  
AUGER BORINGS**

Client: Lenawee County Drain Commissioner  
Project No: 129021SG2020

Project Name: Tecumseh Dam Spillway  
Project Location: Lenawee County, Michigan

**4**

Location: 6 feet south and 8 feet west of d/s end of concrete trailing wall in area between spillway and river.

Lat:  
Surface: grass/weeds

Long:  
GW: 4.5 feet during drilling

By: NWL  
Date: 5/1/2023

Depth	Material Description	Sample	DCPT	Other
0	2 inches Topsoil			
	Orange-brown, fine to coarse, CLAYEY SAND (SC) with gravel - moist - loose			
1				
2			6 6 6	
	Light brown, fine, CLAYEY SAND (SC) - moist - loose			
3	Orange-brown, SANDY CLAY (CL) - moist - loose		3 4 7	PP:0.25-0.75tsf
4				
	becomes wet			
5	Brown, fine, SAND WITH SILT (SP-SM) - saturated - loose		3 3 5	
6	becomes gray			
7	Boring terminated at 7 feet below ground surface. Two other attempts encountered refusal on coarse gravel at 1 to 2 feet.			
8				



August 5, 2024

GEOTECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

RE: Tecumseh Dam Spillway Improvements  
 Lenawee County, Michigan  
 Project No: 129021SG2020

This memorandum provides revised recommendations for filter sand and drainstone gradations for the spillway underdrain system.

Filter sand and drainstone gradation requirements were determined using the filter methodology presented in NRCS’s National Engineering Handbook, Part 633, Chapter 26: *Gradation Design of Sand and Gravel Filters*. A summary of the calculations is attached. The resulting gradations do not exactly fit common AASHTO or MDOT material specifications, so the materials must be produced by blending multiple materials.

**Drainstone**

Sieve	Opening	Percent Passing
2-in	50 mm	100
1 ½-in	37.5 mm	90 – 100
¾-in	19 mm	40 – 85
½-in	12.5 mm	10 – 50
3/8-in	9.5 mm	5 – 40
No. 4	4.75 mm	0 – 25
No. 8	2.36 mm	0 – 10
No. 200	0.075 mm	0 – 3

This gradation is very similar to MDOT 6A or 46G.

**Filter Sand**

Sieve	Opening	Percent Passing
1-in	25 mm	100
½-in	12.5 mm	75 – 100
3/8-in	9.5 mm	65 – 100
No. 4	4.75 mm	50 – 95
No. 8	2.36 mm	30 – 75
No. 16	1.18 mm	10 – 50
No. 30	0.60 mm	0 – 30
No. 50	0.30 mm	0 – 10
No. 100	0.15 mm	0 – 5
No. 200	0.075 mm	0 – 3

August 5, 2024

Page 2 of 2

This gradation is similar to the coarse side of MDOT 2NS.

Aggregates used for sand filter and drainstone should be produced from natural aggregate or ledgestone. Aggregates must be clean, hard, durable, uncoated, and free of clay lumps, organic matter, soft or flakey material, and other foreign matter. Crushed Portland cement concrete or asphaltic concrete should not be used.

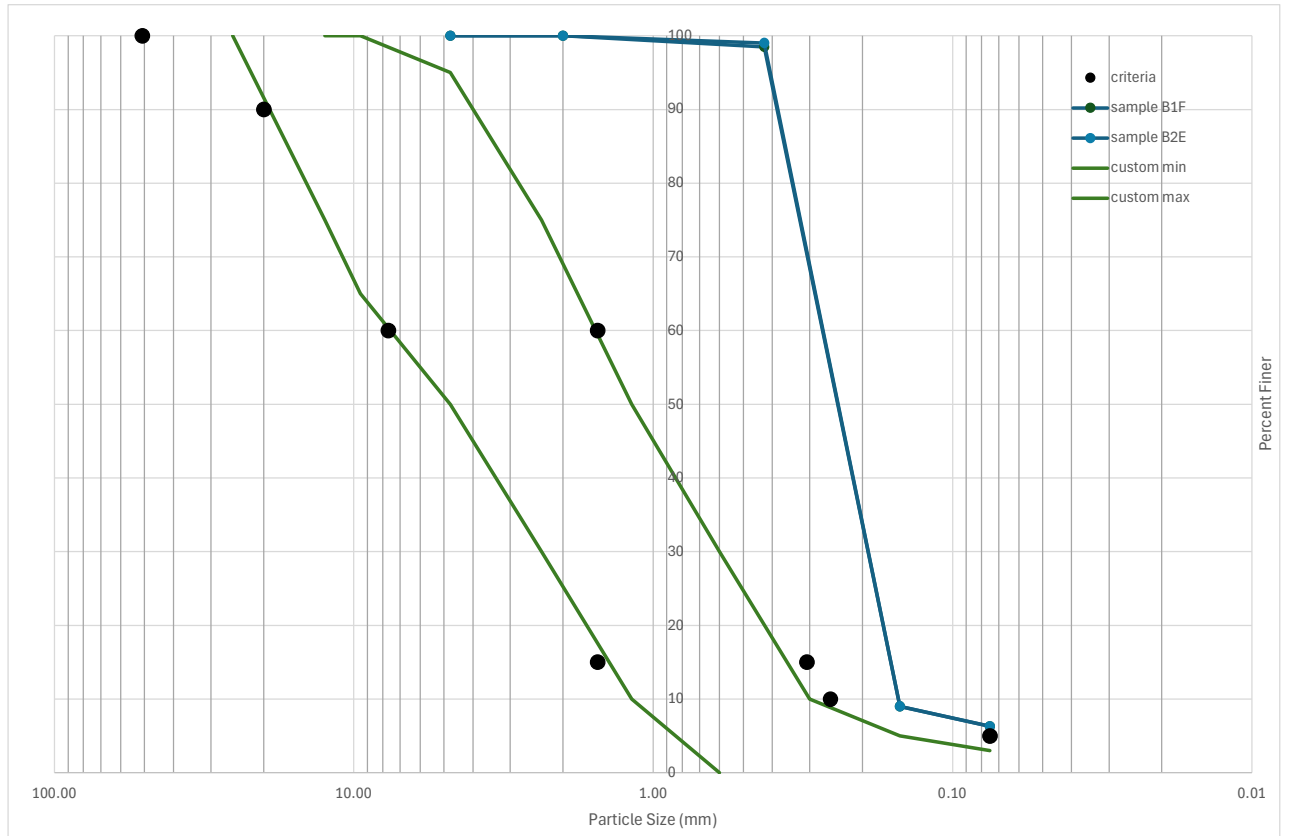
Filter Criteria

(in accordance with NRCS Part 633 Soils Engineering, National Engineering Handbook, Chapter 26 Gradation Design of Sand and Gravel Filters)

Tecumseh Dam - Spillway Slab

Sieve Size (mm)	Base Soil = B1F		Base Soil = B2E	
	% Passing	Corrected % Passing	% Passing	Corrected % Passing
No. 4 4.75	100	100.0	100	100.0
No. 10 2	100	100.0	100	100.0
No. 40 0.425	98.5	98.5	99	96.2
No. 100 0.15	9	9.0	9	4.3
No. 200 0.075	6.3	6.3	6.3	3.4

CF =	1.00	1.00
Category =	4	4
Filter Gradation		
d85 =	0.38 mm	0.39 mm
Max D15 =	1.53 mm	1.57 mm
Min D15 =	0.31 mm	0.31 mm
Max D60 =	7.67 mm	7.83 mm
Min D60 =	1.53 mm	1.57 mm
Max D100 =	50.80 mm	50.80 mm
Max P200 =	5 percent	5 percent
Min D10 =	0.26 mm	0.26 mm
Min D5 =	0.075 mm	0.075 mm
Max D90 =	20 mm	20 mm



Filter Criteria

(in accordance with NRCS Part 633 Soils Engineering, National Engineering Handbook, Chapter 26 Gradation Design of Sand and Gravel Filters)

Base Soil = Custom Filter (fine side)

Sieve Size (mm)	% Passing	Corrected % Passing
1"	25	100
1/2"	12.5	100
3/8"	9.5	100
No. 4	4.75	95
No. 8	2.36	75
No. 16	1.18	50
No. 30	0.6	30
No. 50	0.3	10
No. 100	0.15	5
No. 200	0.075	3

CF = 1.00

Category = 4

Filter Gradation

d85 =	3.56 mm
Max D15 =	14.22 mm
Min D15 =	2.84 mm
Max D60 =	71.10 mm
Min D60 =	14.22 mm
Max D100 =	50.80 mm
Max P200 =	5 percent
Min D10 =	2.37 mm
Min D5 =	0.075 mm
Max D90 =	40 mm

