

ATTACHMENT 5

Information Regarding Soils Report

GEOTECHNICAL REPORT LIMITATIONS

Empire Geo-Services, Inc. (Empire) has endeavored to meet the generally accepted standard of care for the services completed, and in doing so is obliged to advise the geotechnical report user of our report limitations. Empire believes that providing information about the report preparation and limitations is essential to help the user reduce geotechnical-related delays, cost over-runs, and other problems that can develop during the design and construction process. Empire would be pleased to answer any questions regarding the following limitations and use of our report to assist the user in assessing risks and planning for site development and construction.

PROJECT SPECIFIC FACTORS: The conclusions and recommendations provided in our geotechnical report were prepared based on project specific factors described in the report, such as size, loading, and intended use of structures; general configuration of structures, roadways, and parking lots; existing and proposed site grading; and any other pertinent project information. Changes to the project details may alter the factors considered in development of the report conclusions and recommendations. *Accordingly, Empire cannot accept responsibility for problems which may develop if we are not consulted regarding any changes to the project specific factors that were assumed during the report preparation.*

SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS: The site exploration investigated subsurface conditions only at discrete test locations. Empire has used judgement to infer subsurface conditions between the discrete test locations, and on this basis the conclusions and recommendations in our geotechnical report were developed. It should be understood that the overall subsurface conditions inferred by Empire may vary from those revealed during construction, and these variations may impact on the assumptions made in developing the report conclusions and recommendations. *For this reason, Empire should be retained during construction to confirm that conditions are as expected, and to refine our conclusions and recommendations in the event that conditions are encountered that were not disclosed during the site exploration program.*

USE OF GEOTECHNICAL REPORT: Unless indicated otherwise, our geotechnical report has been prepared for the use of our client for specific application to the site and project conditions described in the report. *Without consulting with Empire, our geotechnical report should not be applied by any party to other sites or for any uses other than those originally intended.*

CHANGES IN SITE CONDITIONS: Surface and subsurface conditions are subject to change at a project site subsequent to preparation of the geotechnical report. Changes may include, but are not limited to, floods, earthquakes, groundwater fluctuations, and construction activities at the site and/or adjoining properties. *Empire should be informed of any such changes to determine if additional investigative and/or evaluation work is warranted.*

MISINTERPRETATION OF REPORT: The conclusions and recommendations contained in our geotechnical report are subject to misinterpretation. *To limit this possibility, Empire should review project plans and specifications relative to geotechnical issues to confirm that the recommendations contained in our report have been properly interpreted and applied.*

Subsurface exploration logs and other report data are also subject to misinterpretation by others if they are separated from the geotechnical report. This often occurs when copies of logs are given to contractors during the bid preparation process. *To minimize the potential for misinterpretation, the subsurface logs should not be separated from our geotechnical report and the use of excerpted or incomplete portions of the report should be avoided.*

OTHER LIMITATIONS: Geotechnical engineering is less exact than other design disciplines, as it is based partly on judgement and opinion. For this reason, our geotechnical report may include clauses that identify the limits of Empire's responsibility, or that may describe other limitations specific to a project. These clauses are intended to help all parties recognize their responsibilities and to assist them in assessing risks and decision making. Empire would be pleased to discuss these clauses and to answer any questions that may arise.