

Project Description

This project involved a feasibility study and potential combined construction and operation license application (COLA) for two nuclear reactors and related infrastructure at an existing nuclear power plant site. As part of the study, a geotechnical subsurface investigation was conducted, and a laboratory testing program in support of that investigation was carried out. Due to the significance of the project, a major portion of the effort involved attention to quality assurance and quality control.

GeoTesting Express' Role

GeoTesting Express, Inc. (GTX) worked directly for the geotechnical consultant for the project. GTX supplemented the consultant's in-house laboratory by providing sophisticated geotechnical testing, including:

- triaxial
- consolidation, and
- direct shear.

In addition, GTX performed index testing associated with strength and compressibility testing. GTX provided these services while adhering to the strict quality requirements of the project (10CFR50 Appendix B and NQA-1).

Procedures for all facets of the testing program were developed and approved prior to commencing work. Our laboratory under-

went a series of audits which examined both our testing processes and our quality system. Only very minor observations were discovered during these audits and our fast-acting team resolved those within days. In fact, during one such quality audit, a team of four auditors could not find a single observation!

Benefits to Client

Since GTX had an established quality system that met the requirements of the project, we were able to move rapidly through the auditing process and begin testing without delay. Be-

cause we have a large number of totally automated test stations, we were able to provide the client with test data in short-order. As a result of this quick turn-around, our client was able to complete their work on schedule.

Not only did we provide speedy test results to the client, we saved them money. Because of GTX's prior experience providing geotechnical testing services for nuclear-related projects, coupled with our expansive automated testing capabilities, GTX was able to save the client over 30% in standard testing fees.



Automated geotechnical laboratory