

RISK AND LIABILITY IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING



THE VANCOUVER GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY

VANCOUVER, B.C.

MAY 27, 1988

The Canadian Geotechnical
Society



*La Société canadienne de
Géotechnique*

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Bryan Watts, Chairman

Don Sargent

Cam Scott

Ray Stewart

Bob Chambers

Alan Stewart

The Canadian Geotechnical
Society



*La Société canadienne de
Géotechnique*

VANCOUVER GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY

**RISK AND LIABILITY
IN
GEOTECHNICAL
ENGINEERING**

MAY 27, 1988

HOTEL GEORGIA

VANCOUVER, B.C.

PROGRAM

MAY 27, 1988

0800 - 0830 - REGISTRATION

OPENING REMARKS - B.D. Watts, Symposium Chairman

0830 - 1145 - MORNING SESSION - TECHNICAL PAPERS

"APPROPRIATE ALLOCATION OF RISKS IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING"
G. Urquhart, Barrister and Solicitor, Singleton Urquhart

"LITIGATION RESULTING FROM DEBRIS TORRENT ACTIVITY ALONG HOWE SOUND"
D. Lister, Geotechnical Engineer, Ministry of Transportation and Highways

1000 - 1020 COFFEE BREAK

"TWO CASE STUDIES INVOLVING LITIGATION AND THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER"
S. Fleming, Barrister and Solicitor, Brenner and Company

PANEL DISCUSSION - Examination of two British Columbia case histories involving litigation and the geotechnical engineer by the engineering, legal and insurance professions.

1145 - 1300 LUNCHEON

1300 - 1630 AFTERNOON SESSION - TECHNICAL PAPERS

"EVALUATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF RISK IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING"
R. Pack and G. Morgan, Geotechnical Engineers, Thurber Consultants

"A CASE STUDY OF RISK ANALYSIS IN DAM DESIGN"
S. Vick, Consulting Geotechnical Engineer, Indian Hills, Colorado

1420 - 1440 COFFEE BREAK

"LESSONS FROM CASE HISTORIES"
H. Nasmith, Past President of Thurber Consultants

PANEL DISCUSSION - J. Gadsby, Moderator - Review of a 'job gone bad' by four prominent Vancouver consulting geotechnical engineers. The review will involve examination of the details, comments by the four participants, followed by a summary of the actual legal findings for this particular case history.

CLOSING REMARKS - J. Gadsby

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

There is an increasing amount of litigation in geotechnical engineering in Canada. Liability for failures and cost overruns are sometimes assessed against geotechnical engineers because of improper allocation of risk between the geotechnical engineer and his client during the course of the project. This often results because the geotechnical engineer has a poor understanding of risk allocation.

The objective of this symposium is to draw attention to the issue of risk calculation, of allocation of risk between the geotechnical engineer and his client, and of projects which resulted in litigation because of poor risk management. To cover this broad spectrum of issues there are papers from the legal profession, papers from practicing engineers and panel discussions.

The Organizing Committee wishes to thank the speakers who donated their time to prepare lectures and papers. We also thank the prominent local geotechnical engineers who participated in the two panel discussions. It is hoped that these preprints will be a useful addition to the practicing geotechnical engineer's reference library on risk and liability.

Bryan D. Watts
Organizing Committee Chairman