



# DRILLED SHAFTS: DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, QA/QC TESTING

Vishal B. Patel, M.S.C.E., P.E.

Sebastian Lobo-Guerrero, Ph.D., P.E.



**American Geotechnical &  
Environmental Services, Inc.**

# Outline

- Recent AASHTO/FHWA changes in design equations → QA/QC impact
- Construction: drilling Tools / machines
- Instrumentation for drilling (QA/QC)
- Testing (QA/QC) constructed shaft



# Design Equations: the “old” vs new

## Ultimate side friction (example if controlled by 3 ksi concrete)

**AASHTO 2012 and earlier**

$$q_s = 0.65 \alpha_E p_a (q_u / p_a)^{0.5} < 7.8 p_a (f'_c / p_a)^{0.5}$$

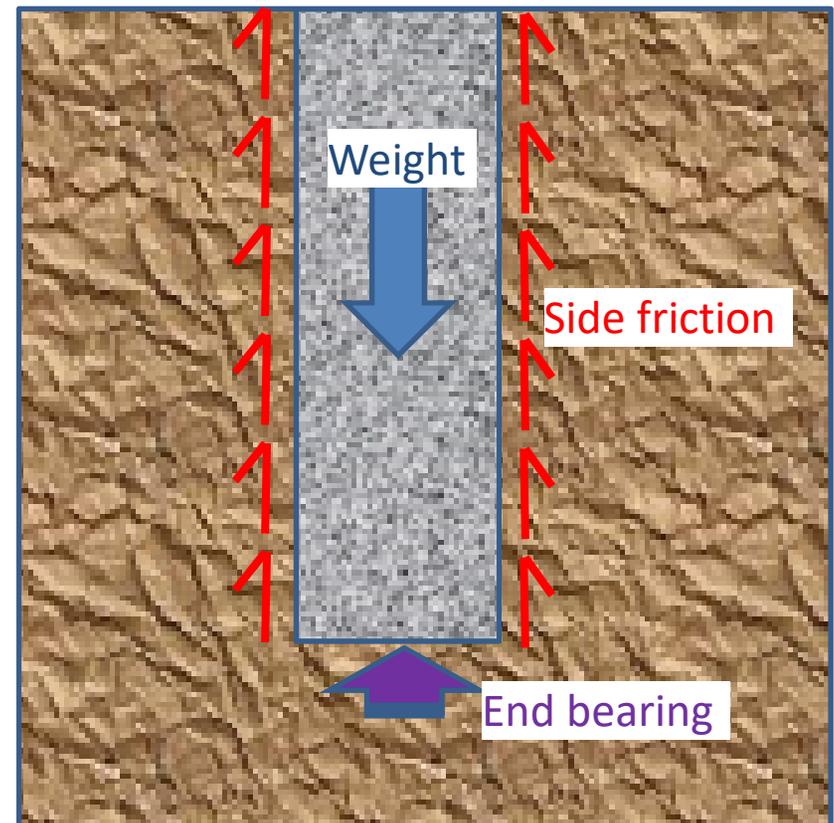
**$q_s = 19.7$  ksf**

**AASHTO 2014**

$$q_s / p_a = C \sqrt{q_u / p_a}$$

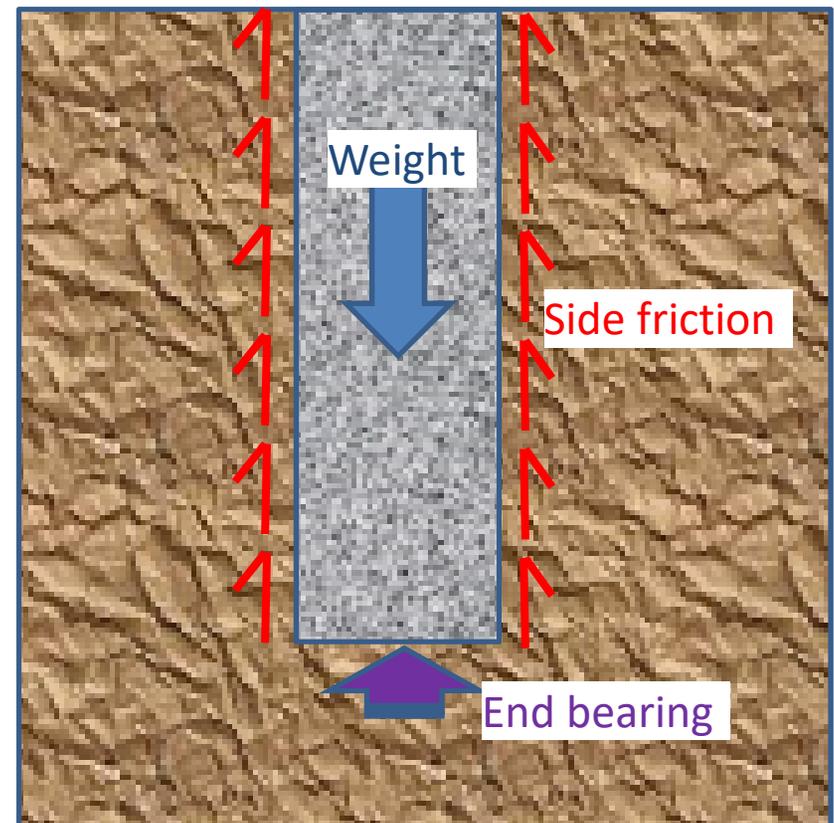
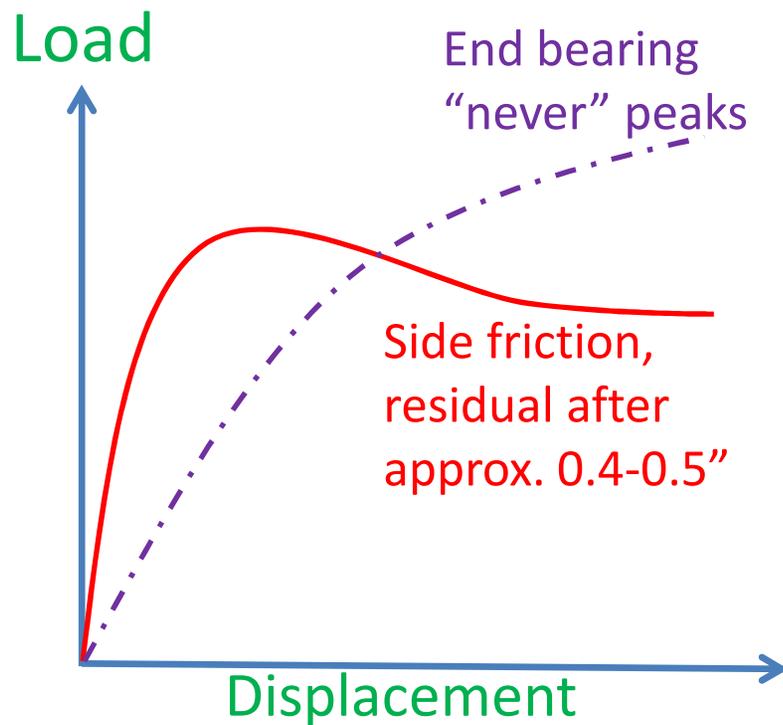
**$q_s = 30.3$  ksf**

**New value is 1.54 times the old!**



## End bearing

- No change in equation, allows using combination of end bearing and side friction
- More State DOTs allowing this combination



- New equations require rock socket with “clean” side walls without the need of artificial roughening
- Does not apply if: walls show smearing, rapid deterioration or collapse, and/or require temporary support/pre-grouting
- If using end bearing: clean up procedure to be specified to ensure removal of sediments/loose material

→ **Construction QA/QC is a critical item!!!!**

# Drilling Tools - Augers







Down Hole Hammer

# Machines





# Casing



# Reinforcement



# Grouting

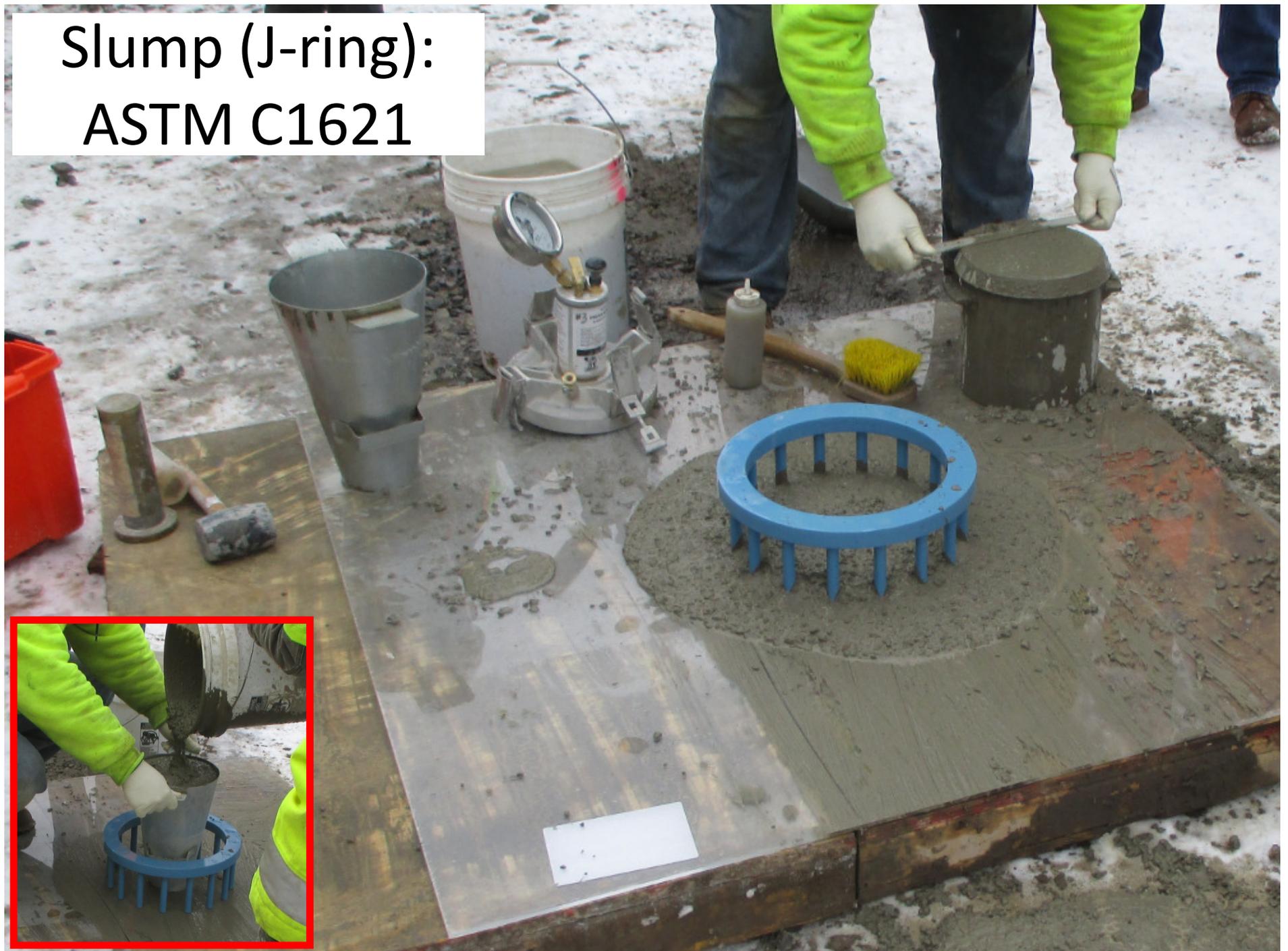


## Traditional QA/QC items to record:

- Geometry (length, diameter)
- Elevations (working, bottom of Cap, bottom of shaft)
- Materials requirements (reinforcements / grout)
- Concrete: slump flow, air content, temperature, penetration test, UC strength, etc. → every 50 CY
- Advance / Drilling rate (ft/min)
- Spoils (material type vs. boring logs / design)
- Plumbness of shaft
- Spoil control
- Cleanliness at bottom of shaft

**Well established ASTM tests and requirements**

# Slump (J-ring): ASTM C1621



# Instrumentation (QA/QC) during Drilling

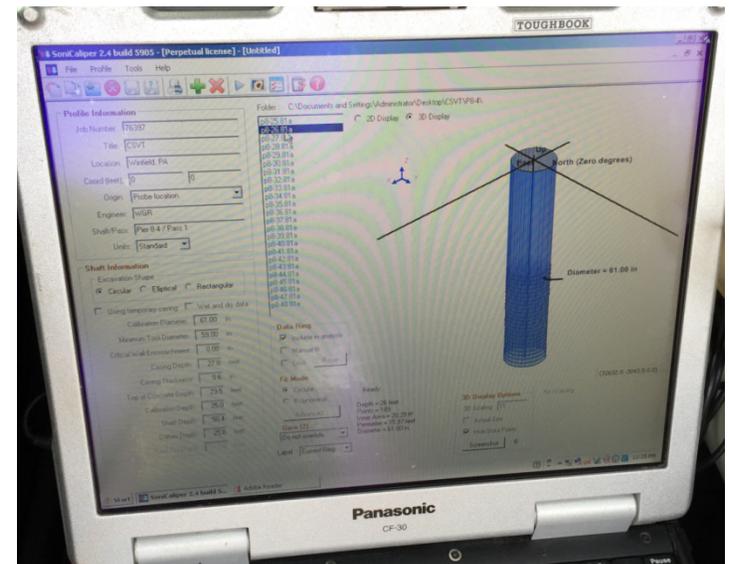
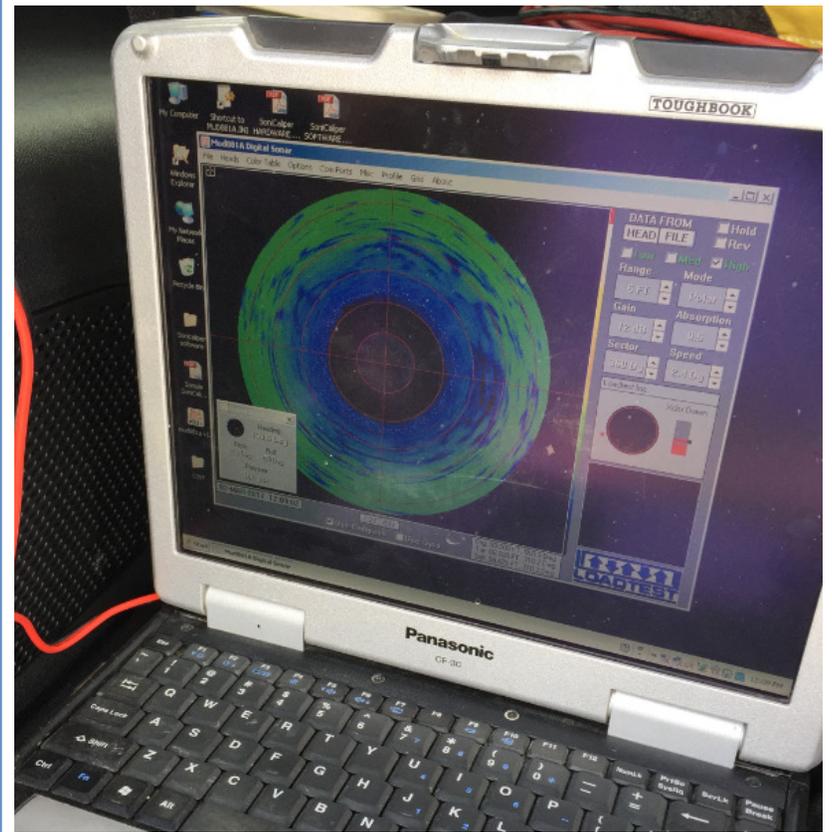
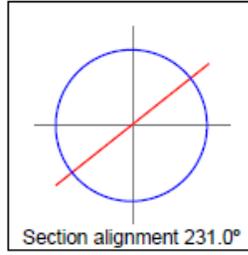
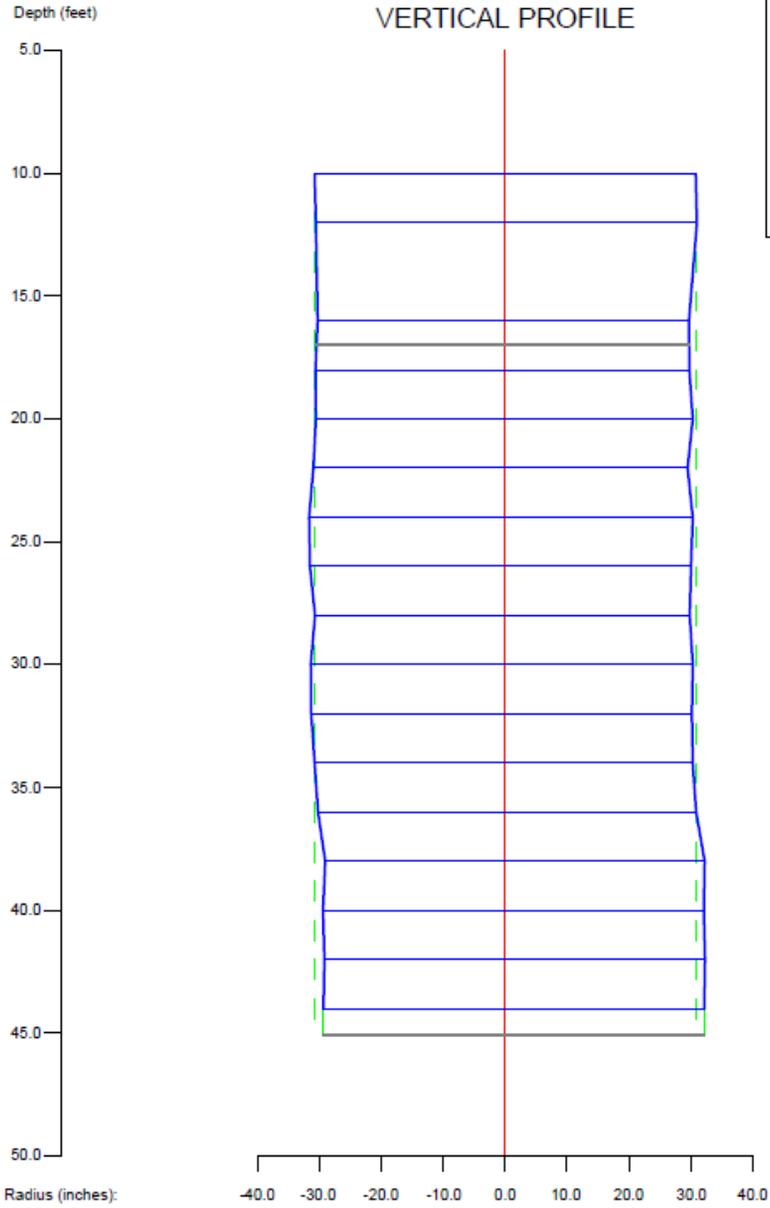
- Sonicaliper: 3D geometry
- MiniSID : quality of bottom of the shaft
- Down hole camera (visual inspection):  
quality of side walls of the shaft

# Sonocaliper: 3D geometry



PA, 1/16/2017

### VERTICAL PROFILE



Project Number: 1576

# SONICALIPER

# Miniature Drilled Shaft Inspection Device (MiniSID)





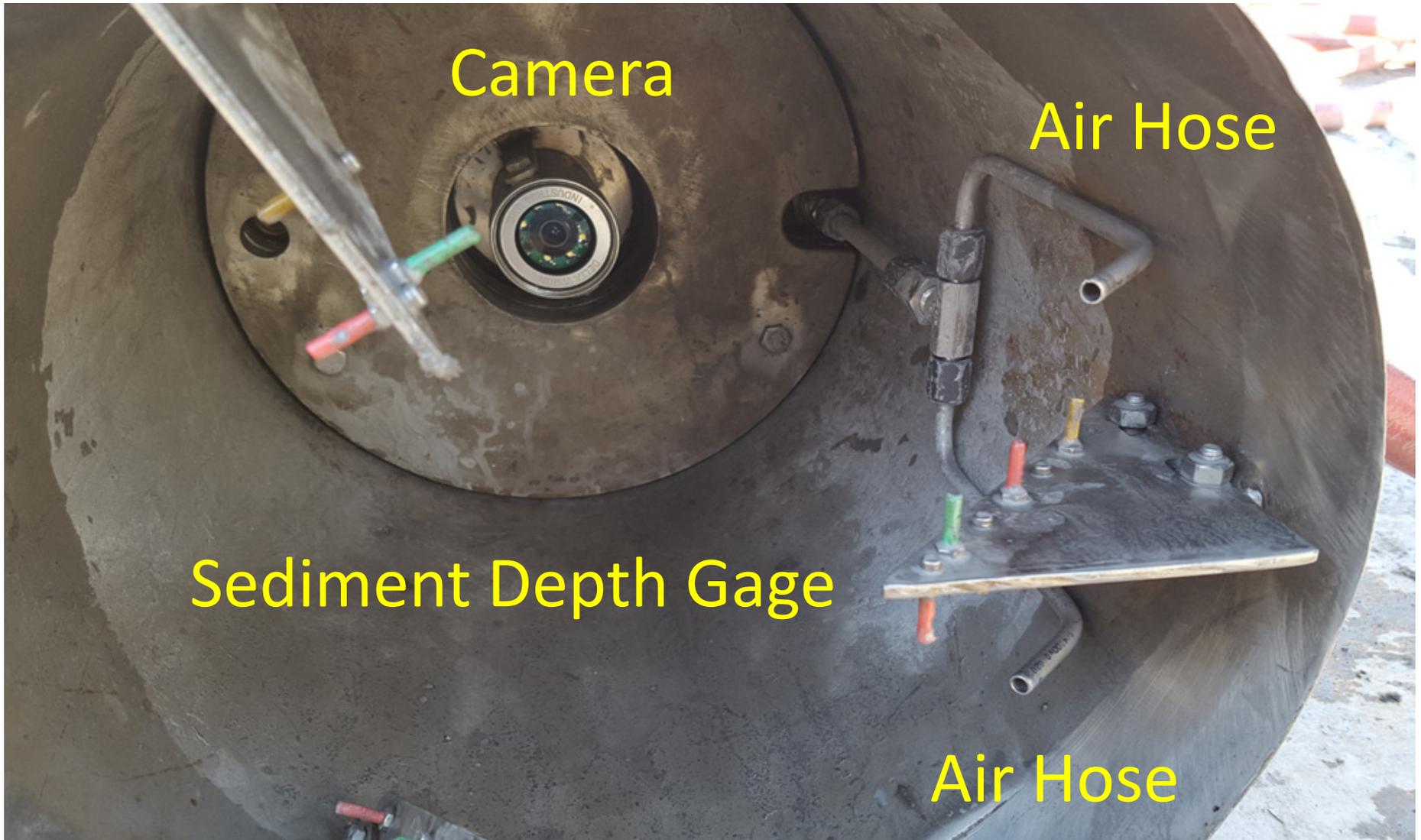
Monitor

Connected Laptop  
For Recording

Air / Water Control



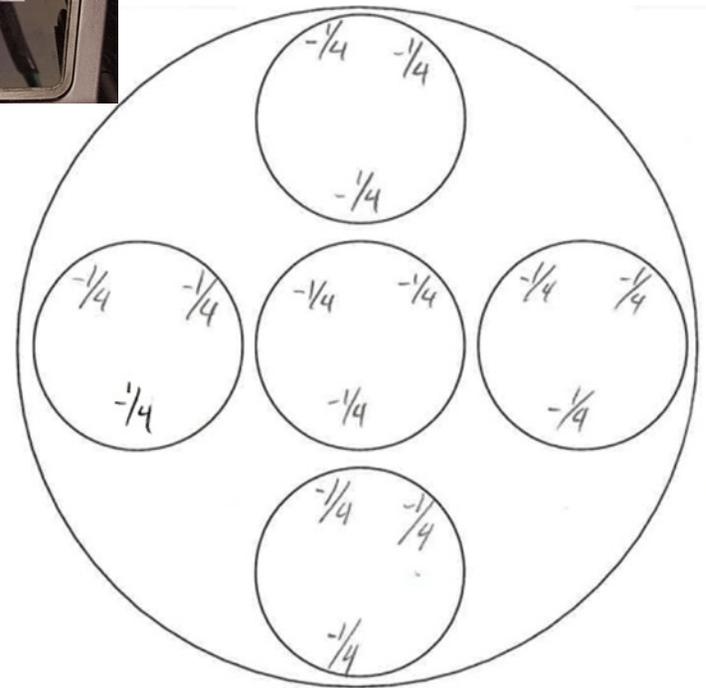
# Mini SID - Looking from below (camera and depth gage)





## Sample Reading On Monitor

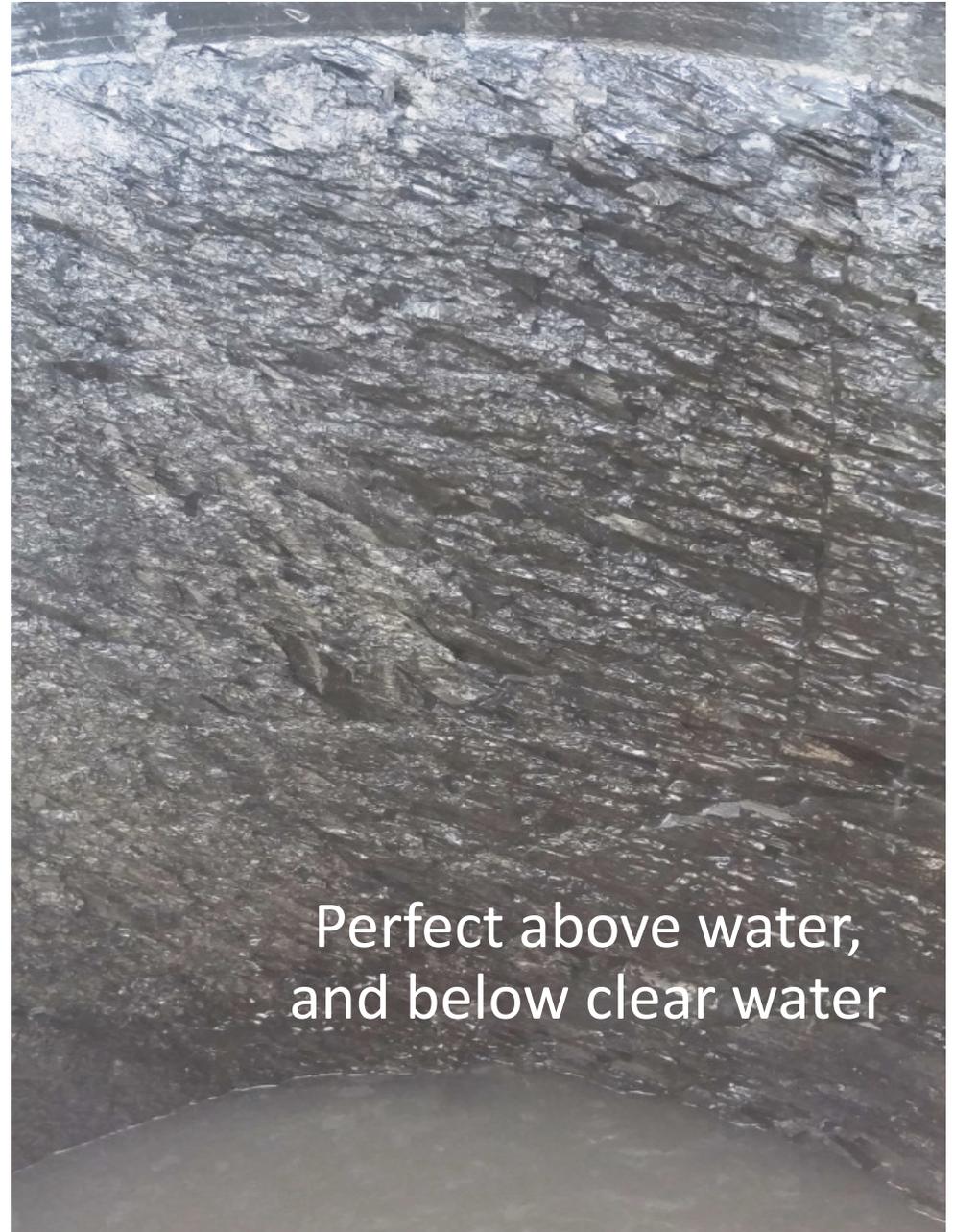
- 4 to 5 areas
- Based on specification, for example...
  - 50% lower than  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
  - Max. lower than 1 or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch



# Cleaning the Shaft



# Down Hole Camera



Perfect above water,  
and below clear water

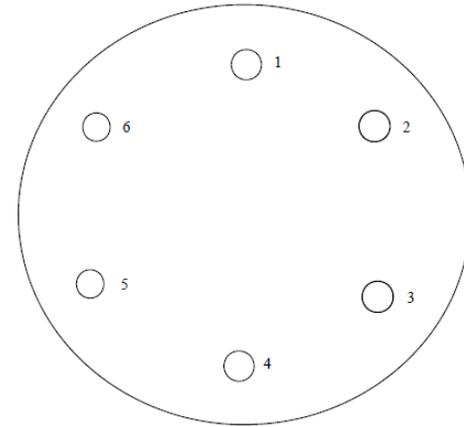
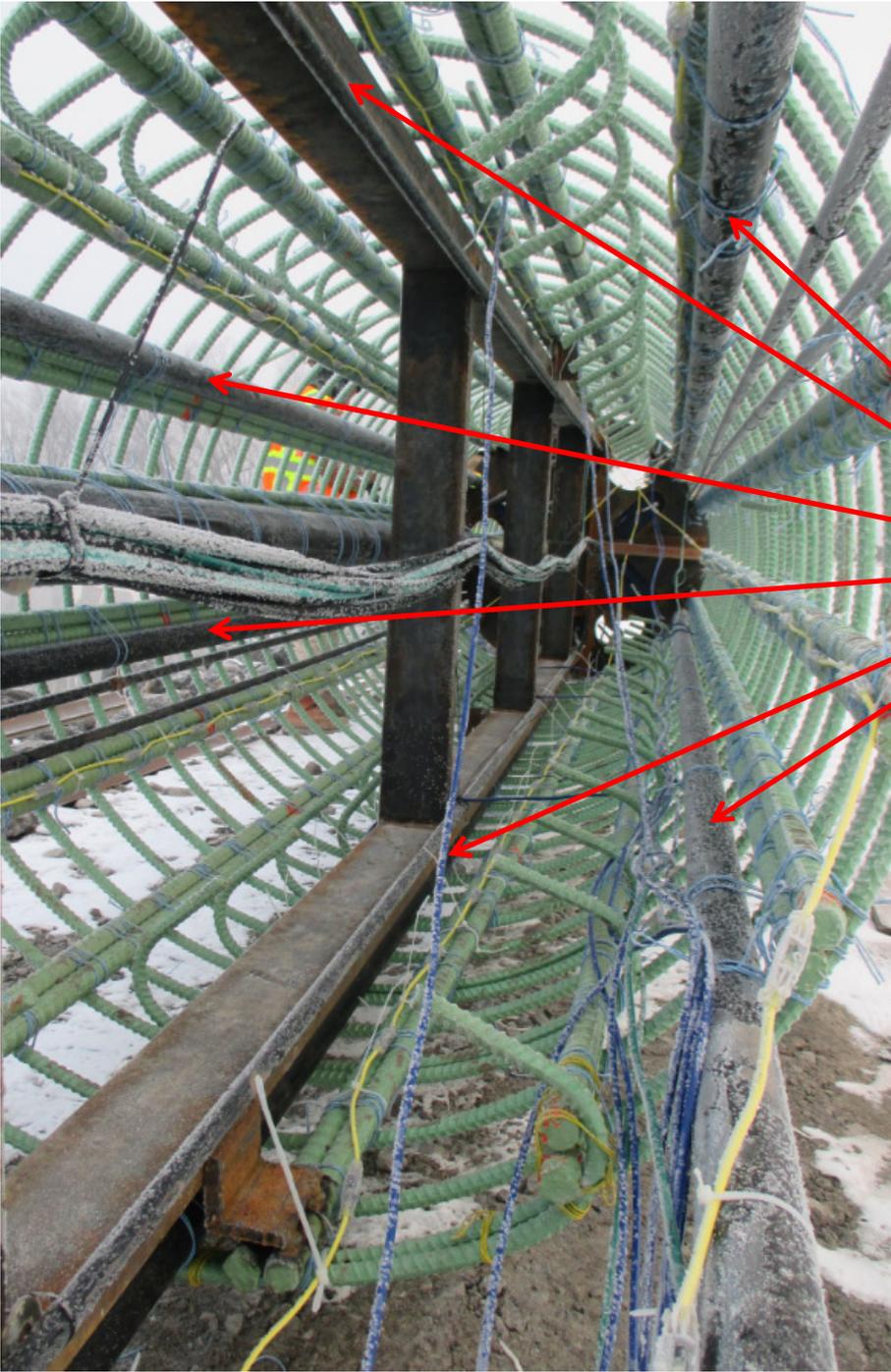


# Testing Constructed Shaft

- Crosshole Sonic Logging (**CSL**)
- Thermal Integrity Profiler (**TIP**)
- Concrete coring
- **O-Cell** / Sensors (only for test shaft)

# CSL

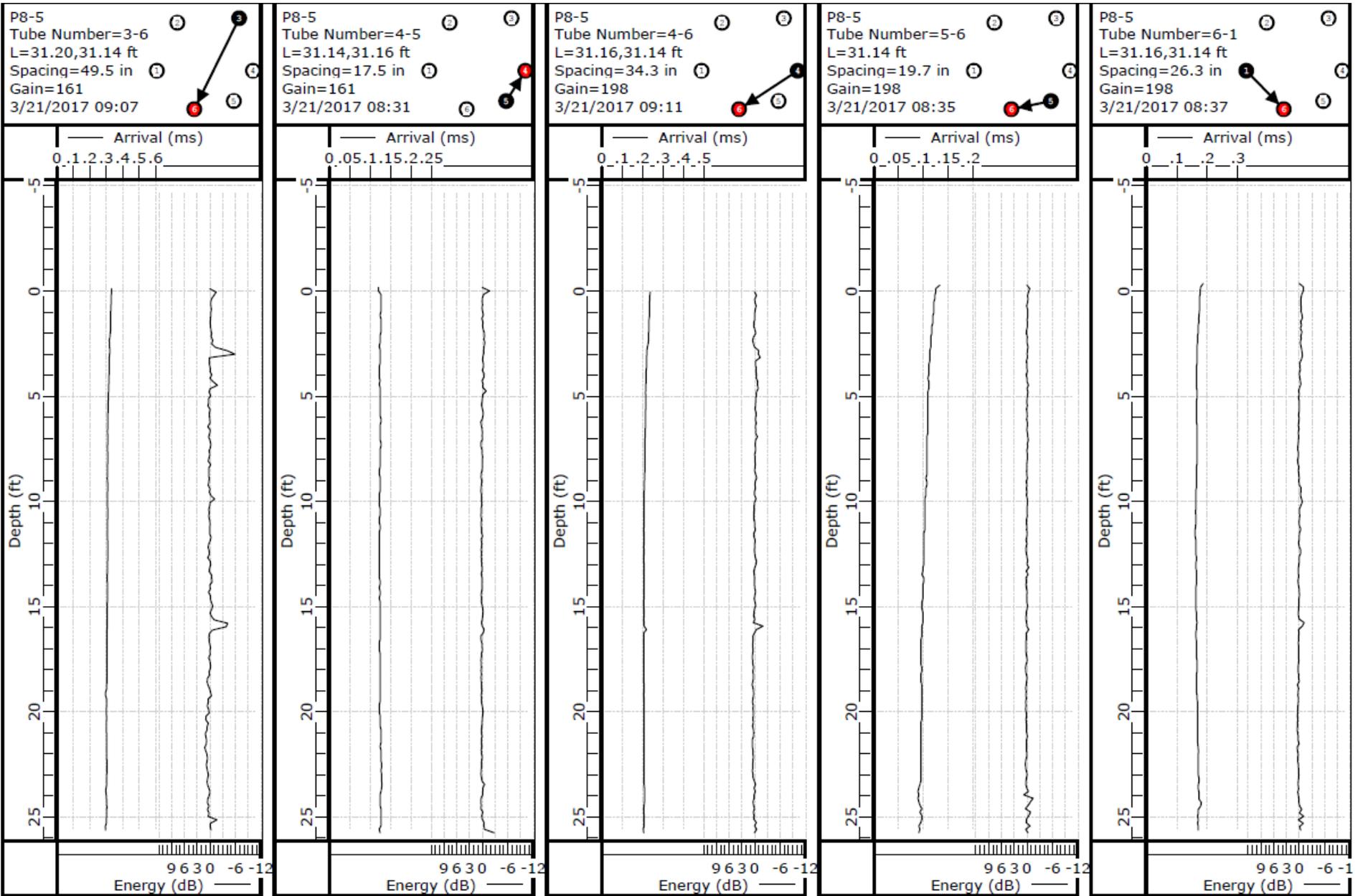
- Assesses concrete integrity by sending ultrasonic pulses through the drilled shaft from one access tube to another
- Transmitter and receiver probes are placed at the bottom of the access tubes and then slowly raised (one profile/ points approx. every 2")
- Typically 1 probe per foot of drilled shaft diameter



CSL Pipes:  
typically steel  
or PVC



PDI/GRL Eng.



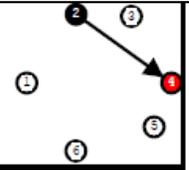
<b>Concrete Integrity Assessment</b>	<b>First Arrival Time (FAT) Delay (%)</b>		<b>Energy Reduction</b>
Satisfactory	0 to 10%	and	< 6 dB
Anomaly	11 to 20%	and	6 dB to 9 dB
Flaw	21% < FAT < 30%	or	9 to 12 dB
Poor/Defect	30% < FAT	or	> 12 dB

PDI recommends that Flaws (P/F) should be addressed if they are indicated in more than 50% of the profiles. They recommend that Defects (P/D) should be addressed if they are indicated in more than one profile.

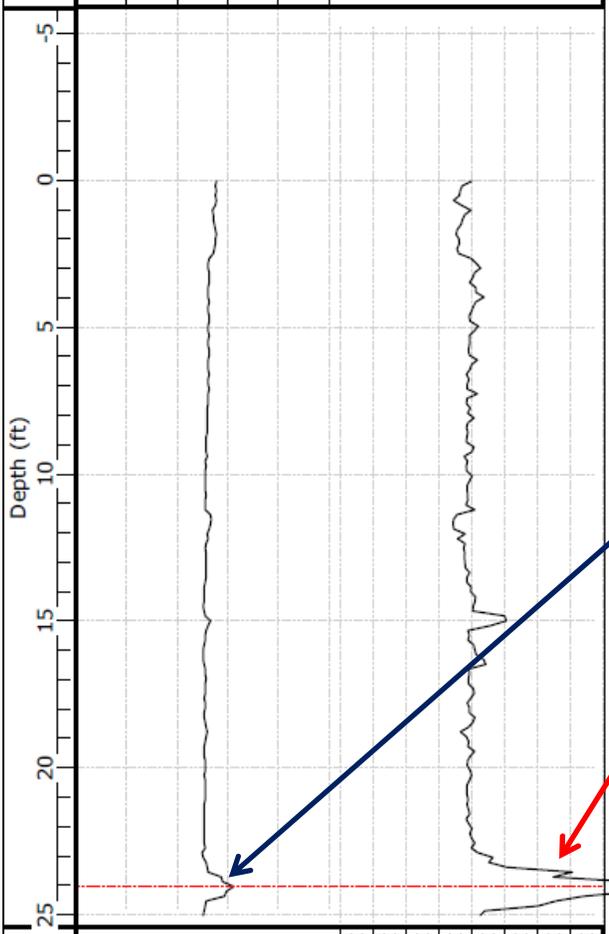
## ASTM D6760 - 16

### Standard Test Method for Integrity Testing of Concrete Deep Foundations by Ultrasonic Crosshole Testing

P7-8  
Tube Number=2-4  
L=31.19,31.20 ft  
Spacing=38.5 in  
Gain=198  
4/17/2017 12:40

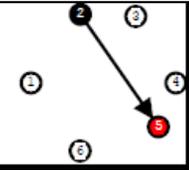


Arrival (ms)  
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5

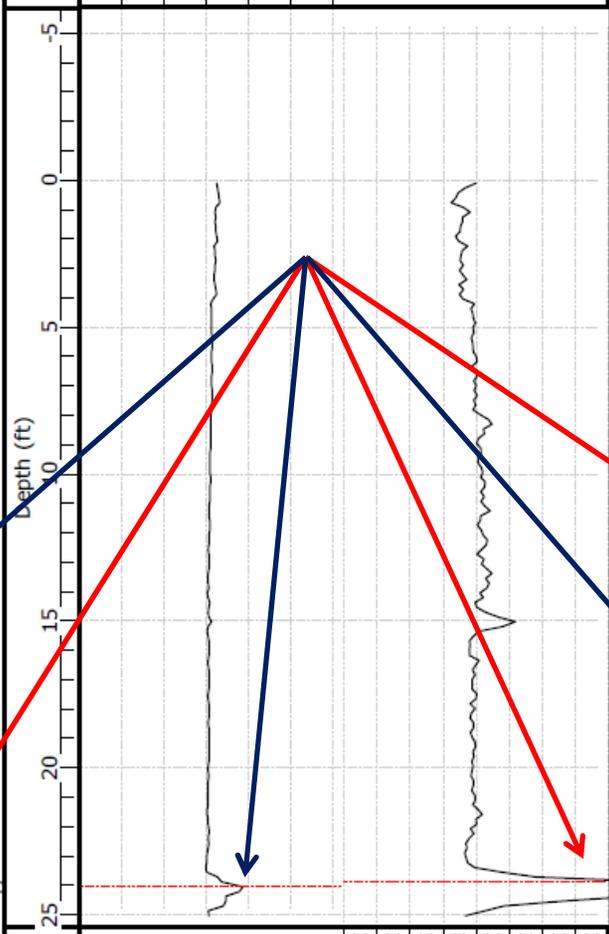


12 9 6 3 0 -3 -6 -9 -12  
Energy (dB)

P7-8  
Tube Number=2-5  
L=31.19,31.20 ft  
Spacing=44.9 in  
Gain=198  
4/17/2017 12:42

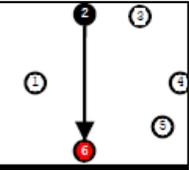


Arrival (ms)  
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6

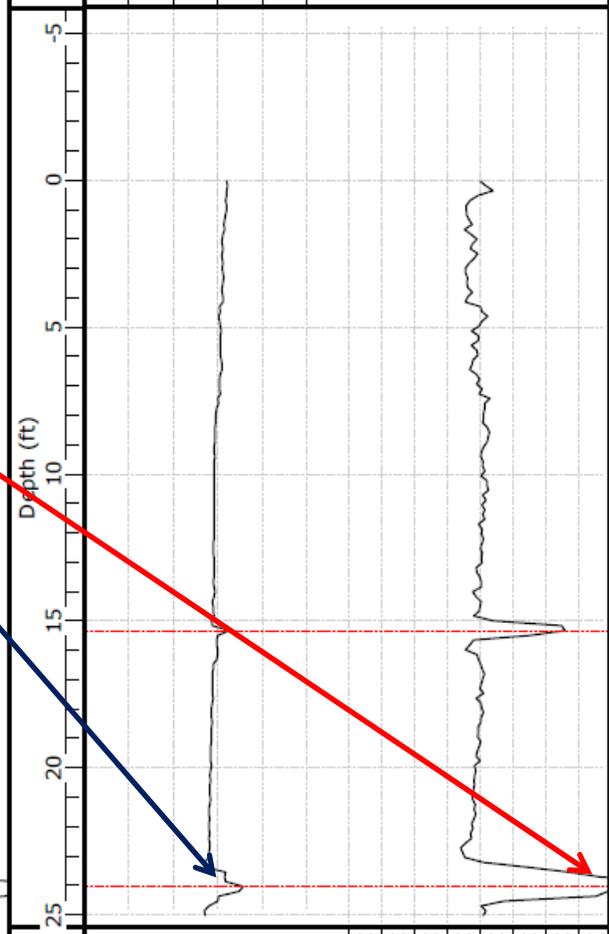


12 9 6 3 0 -3 -6 -9 -12  
Energy (dB)

P7-8  
Tube Number=2-6  
L=31.19,31.12 ft  
Spacing=44.8 in  
Gain=198  
4/17/2017 12:48

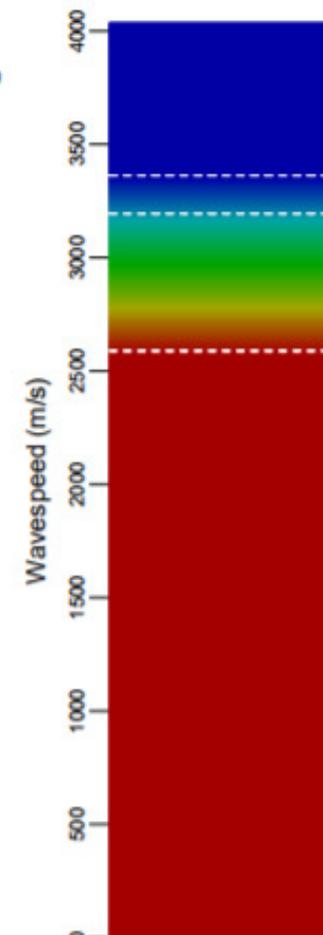
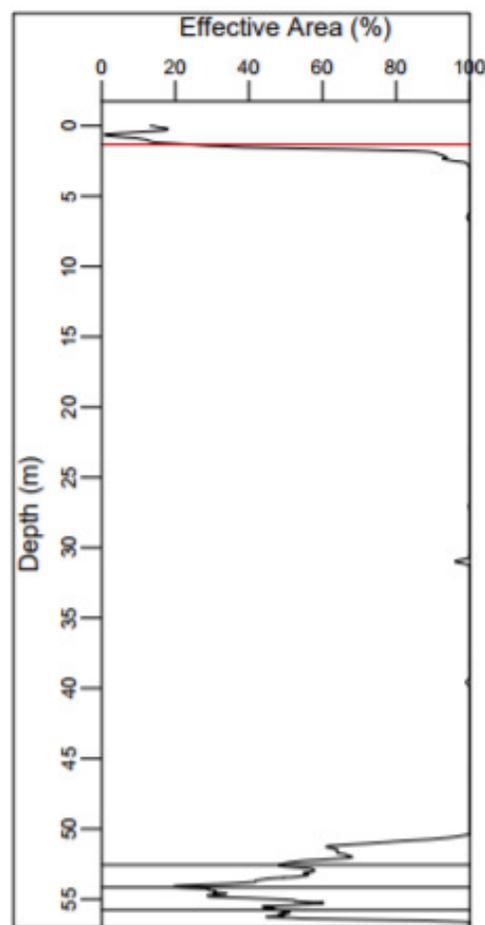
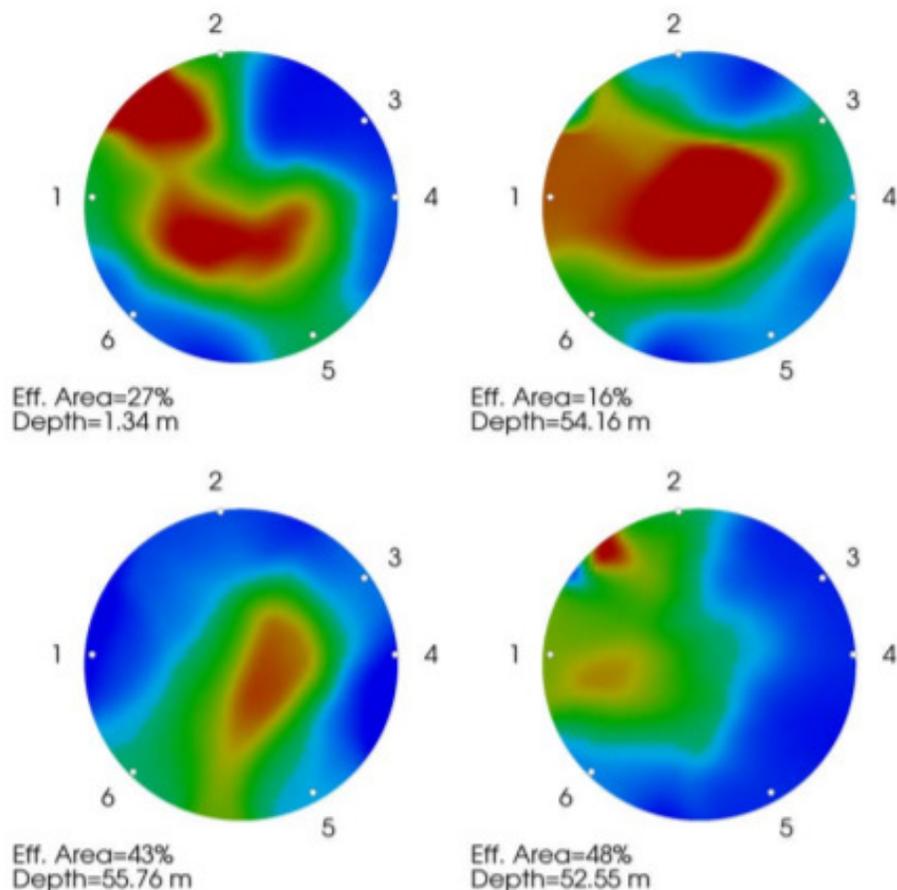


Arrival (ms)  
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5



12 9 6 3 0 -3 -6 -9 -12  
Energy (dB)

Company Name: Pile Dynamics, Inc.  
Project Name: DEMO-SHAFT  
Pile Name: DEMO-SHAFT 1  
Pile Length=60 m / Pile Diameter=2.5 m / Cage Diameter=1.9 m  
MAR 17, 2016



Effective Area is the percentage of cross-sectional area with wave speeds greater than the effective wave speed (EWS) selected by the user by the user, 3194 m/s



# Thermal Integrity Profile (TIP)

- During curing: system measures concrete temperatures using embed cables
- Thermal Acquisition Ports (TAPs) connected to the ThermalWire<sup>®</sup>: store temperature data
- Cement hydrates during curing process: generated heat increases temperature inside the shaft



Attached to rebar

Attached to CSL  
tubes

Sensors uniformly spaced

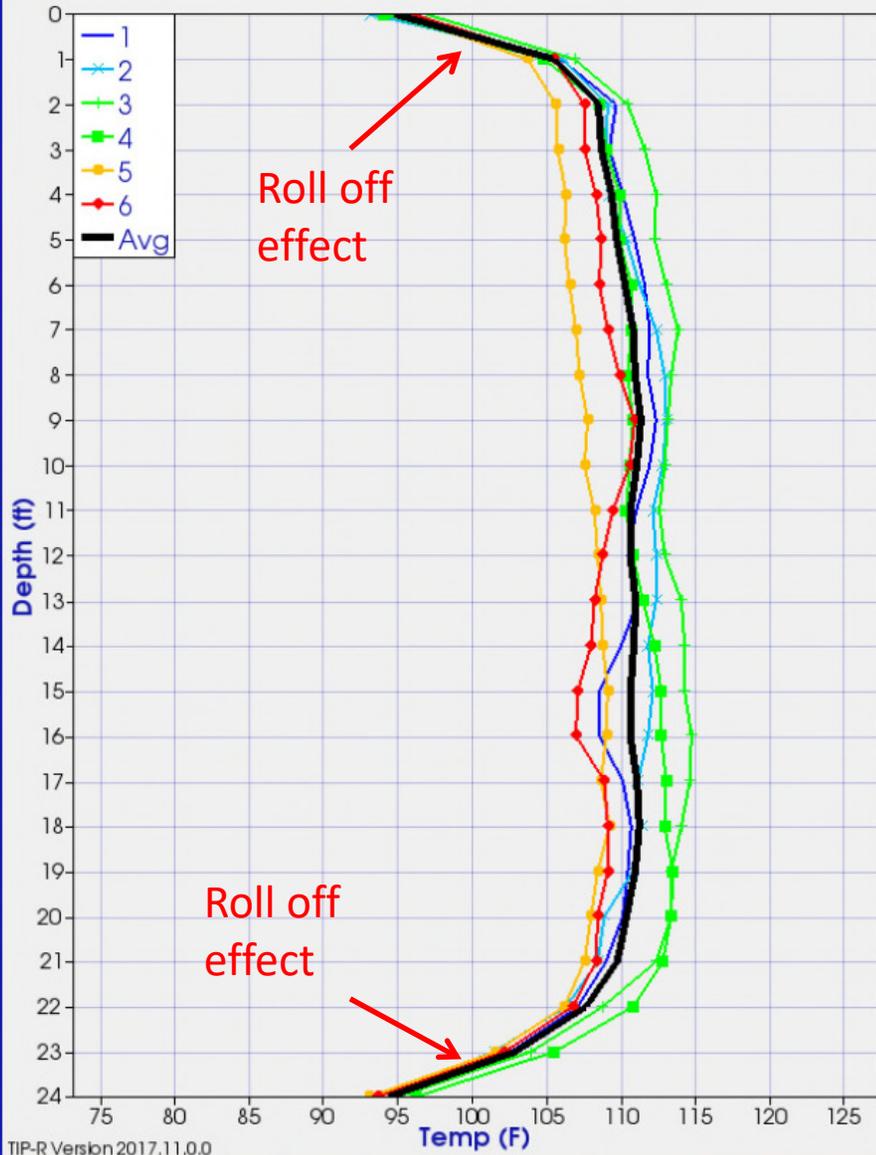




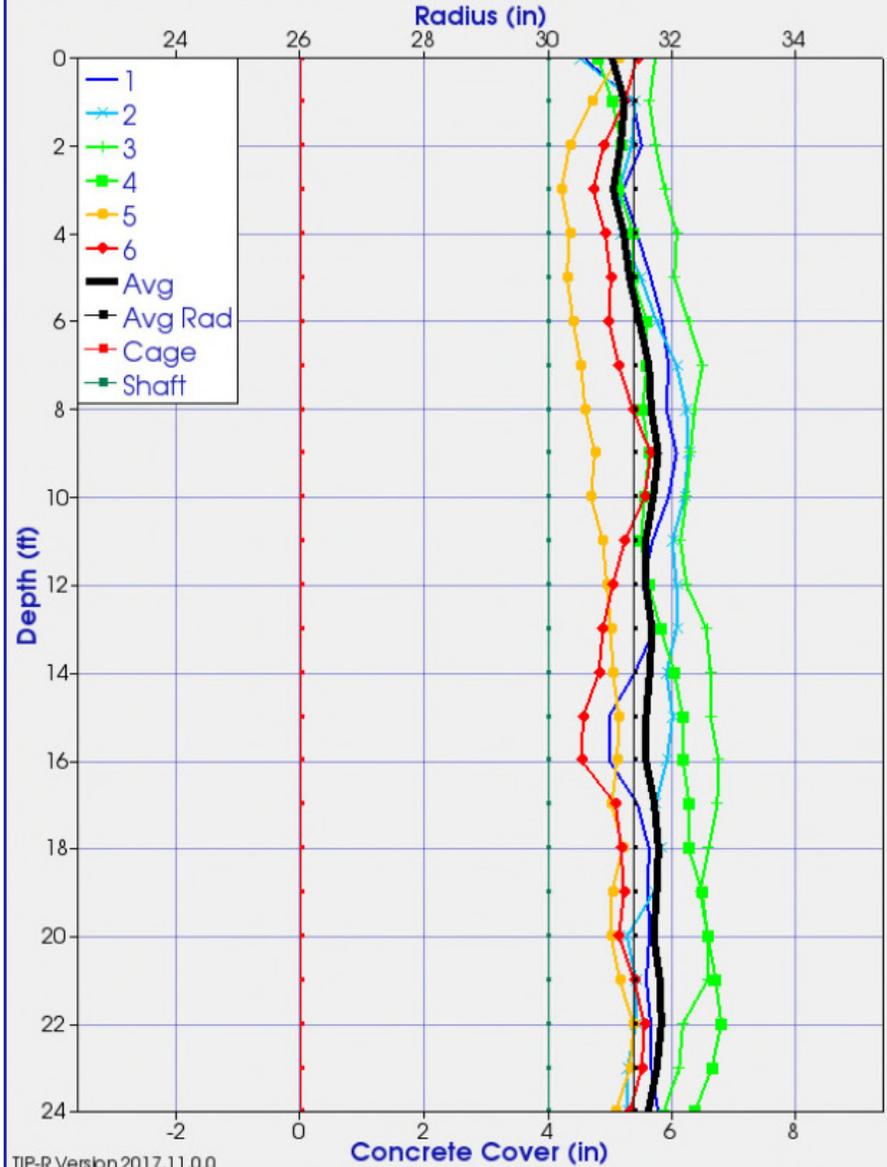
- Shaft radius vs depth: calculated based on measured average peak temperature
- Integrity: based on measured concrete volume input and the average peak temperature
- If measured average temperature vs depth is consistent: uniform shape and quality

- Bulges: localized increases in average temp.
- Poor concrete quality or necking: localized decreases in average temperature
- Areas of soil intrusion/inclusion: lower local temperatures.
- ASTM D7949 – 14 Standard Test Methods for Thermal Integrity Profiling of Concrete Deep Foundations

Temperature vs Depth - P7-5A - 03/31/17 02:49 (33h:4m)

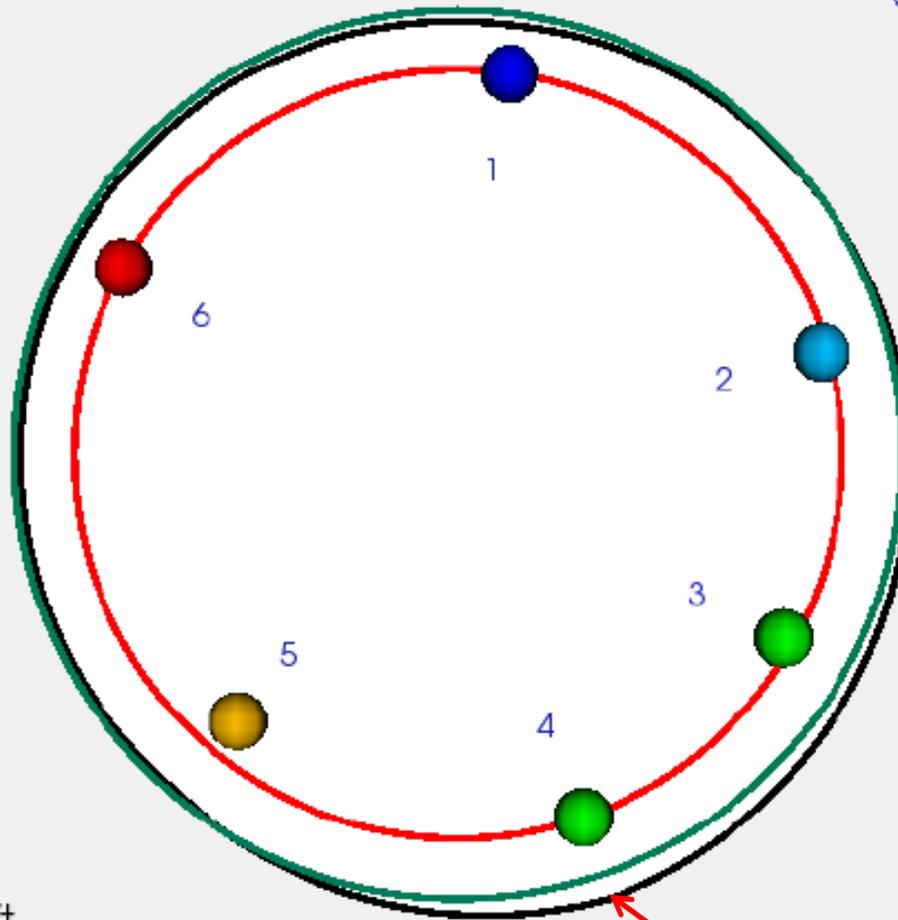
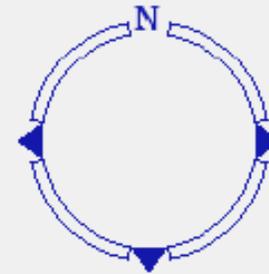


Radius vs Depth - P7-5A - 03/31/17 02:49 (33h:4m)

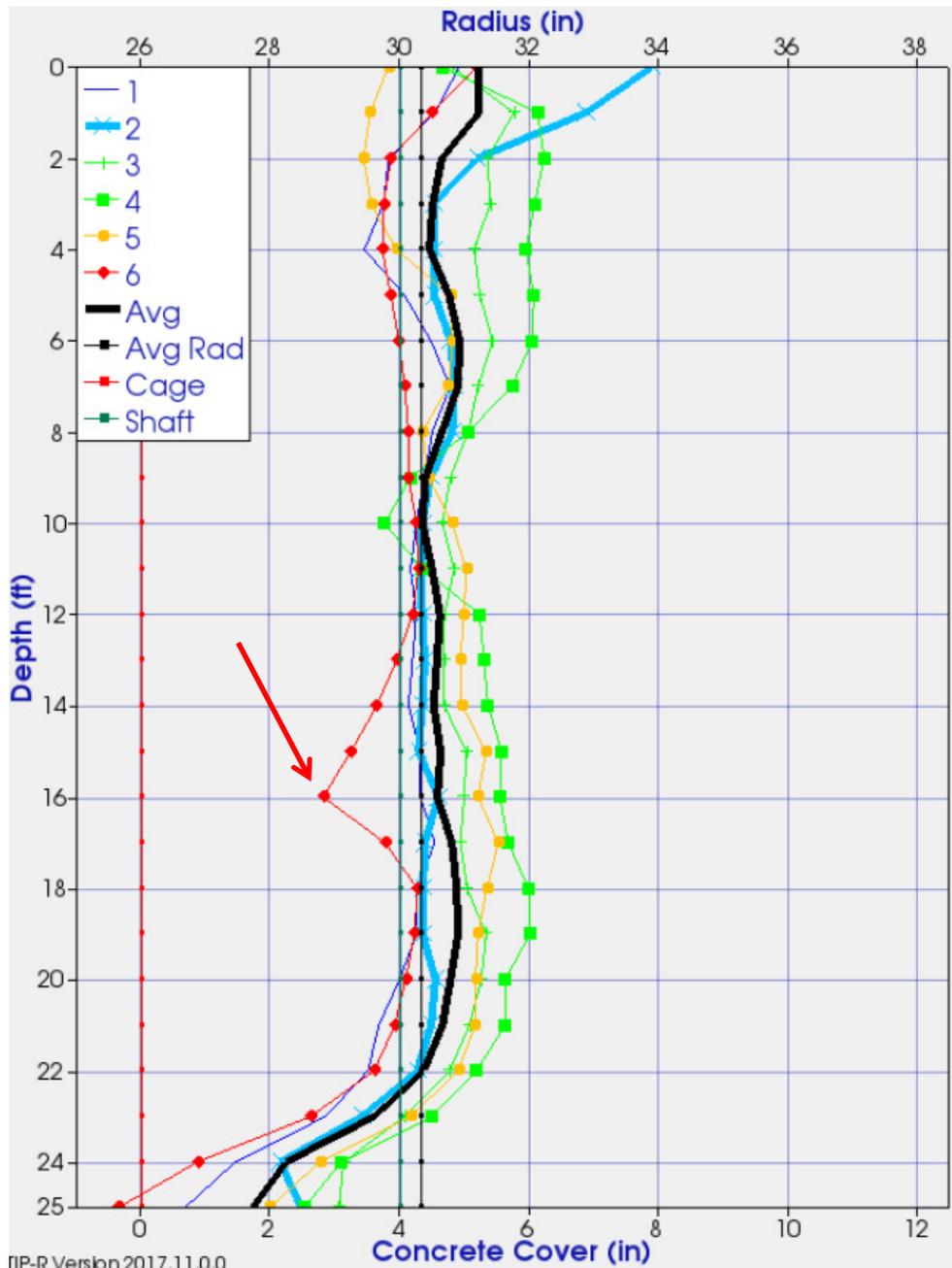


Selected Slice - P7-8 - 04/13/17 16:08 (29h:49m)

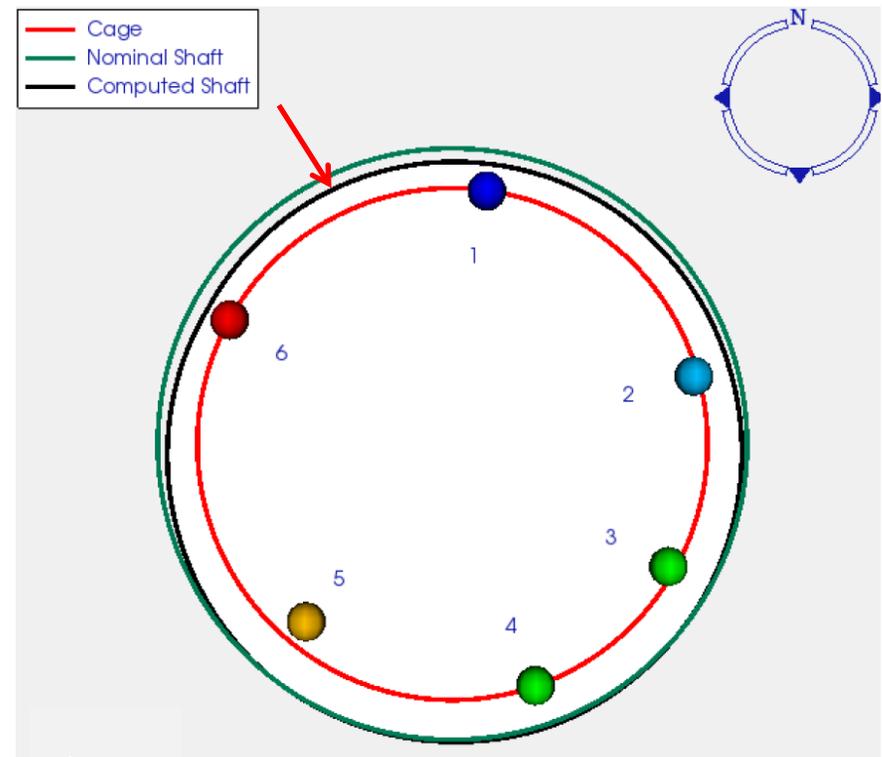
- Cage
- Nominal Shaft
- Computed Shaft



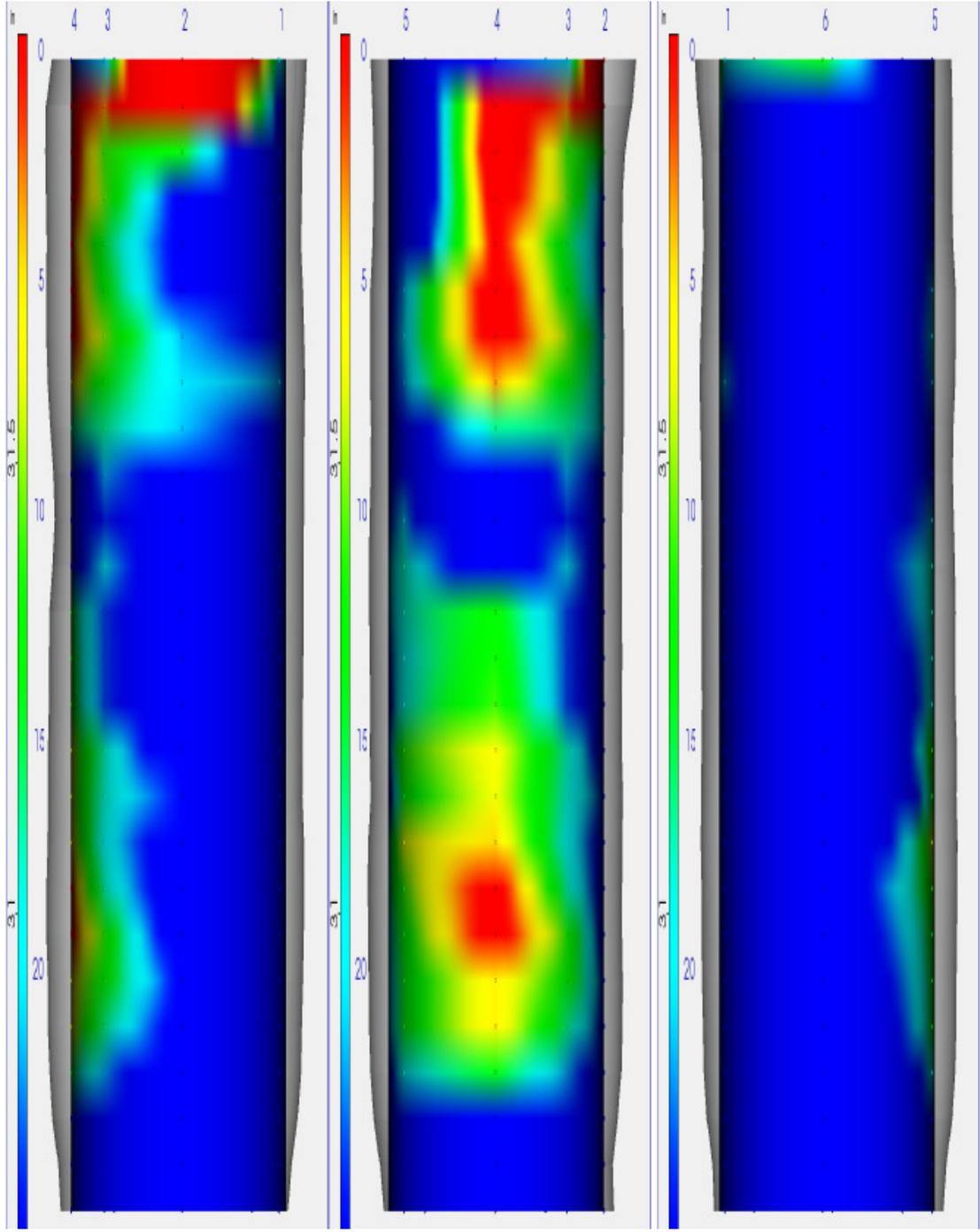
Depth: 4ft  
Avg: 30.39in  
Min: 29.39in (loc. 1)  
Max: 31.88in (loc. 4)  
TIP-R Version 2017.11.0.0



IIP-R Version 2017.11.0.0

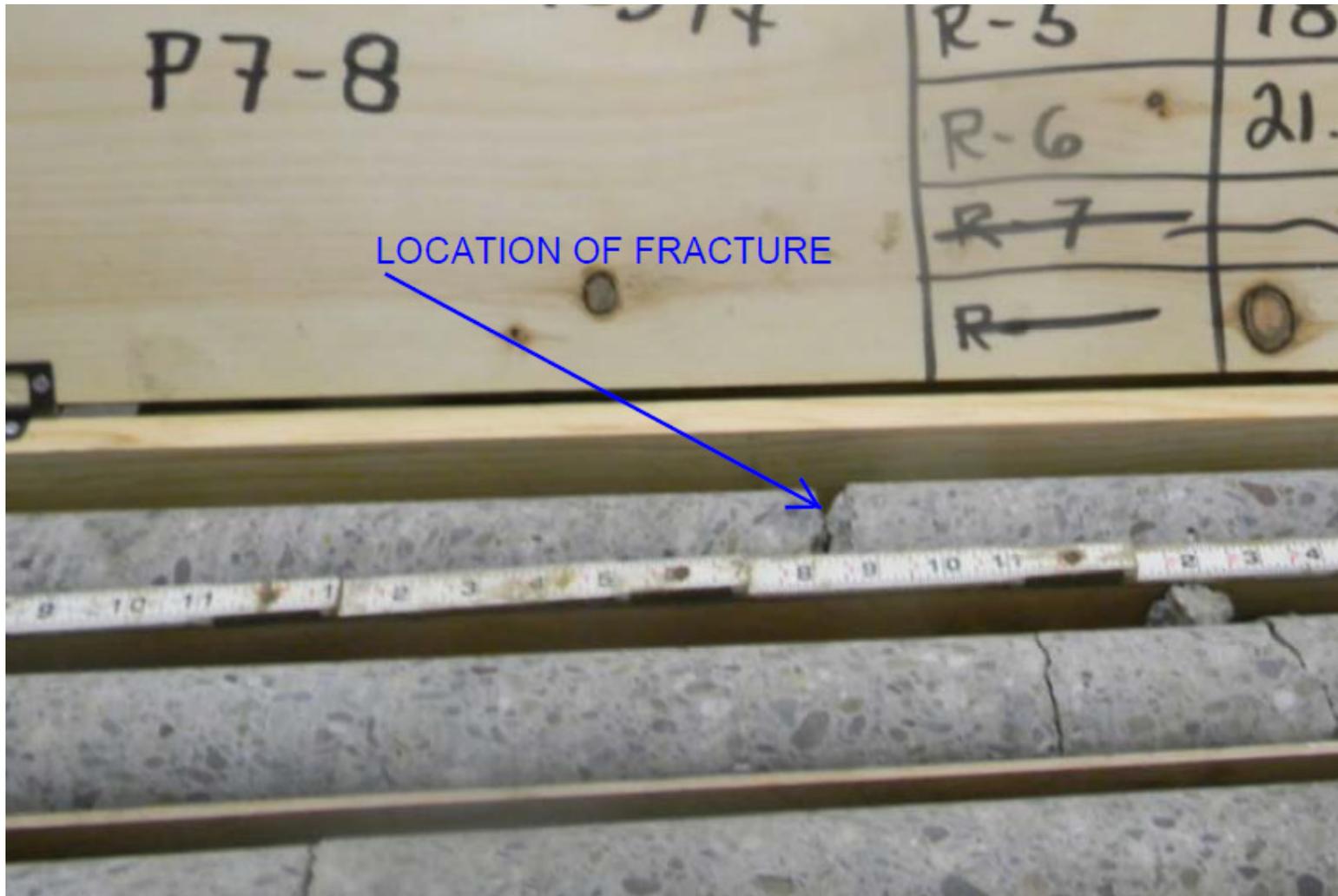


Advantage vs. CSL:  
 “outside the rebar”



# Concrete Coring

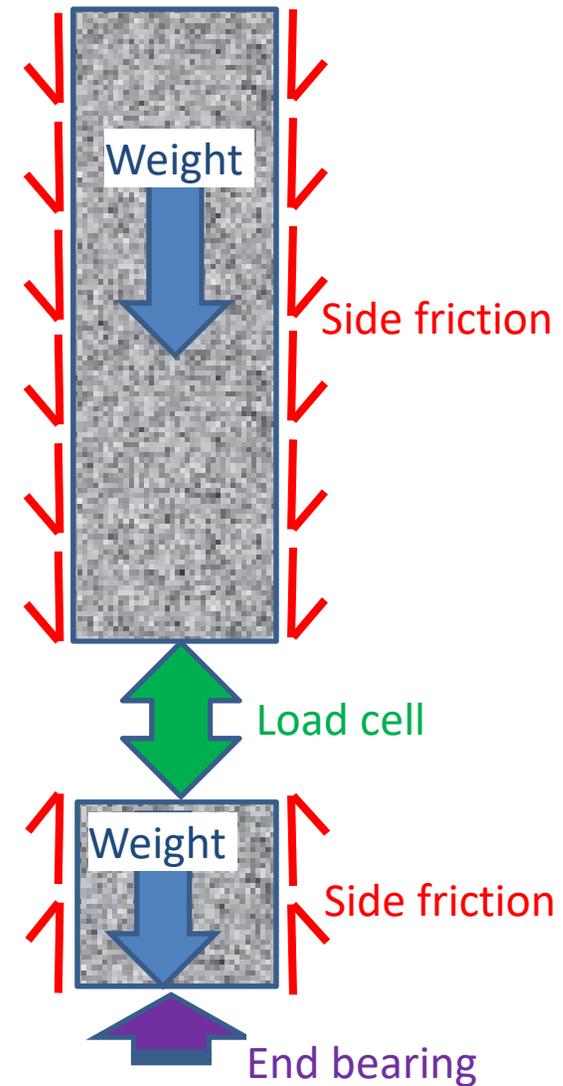
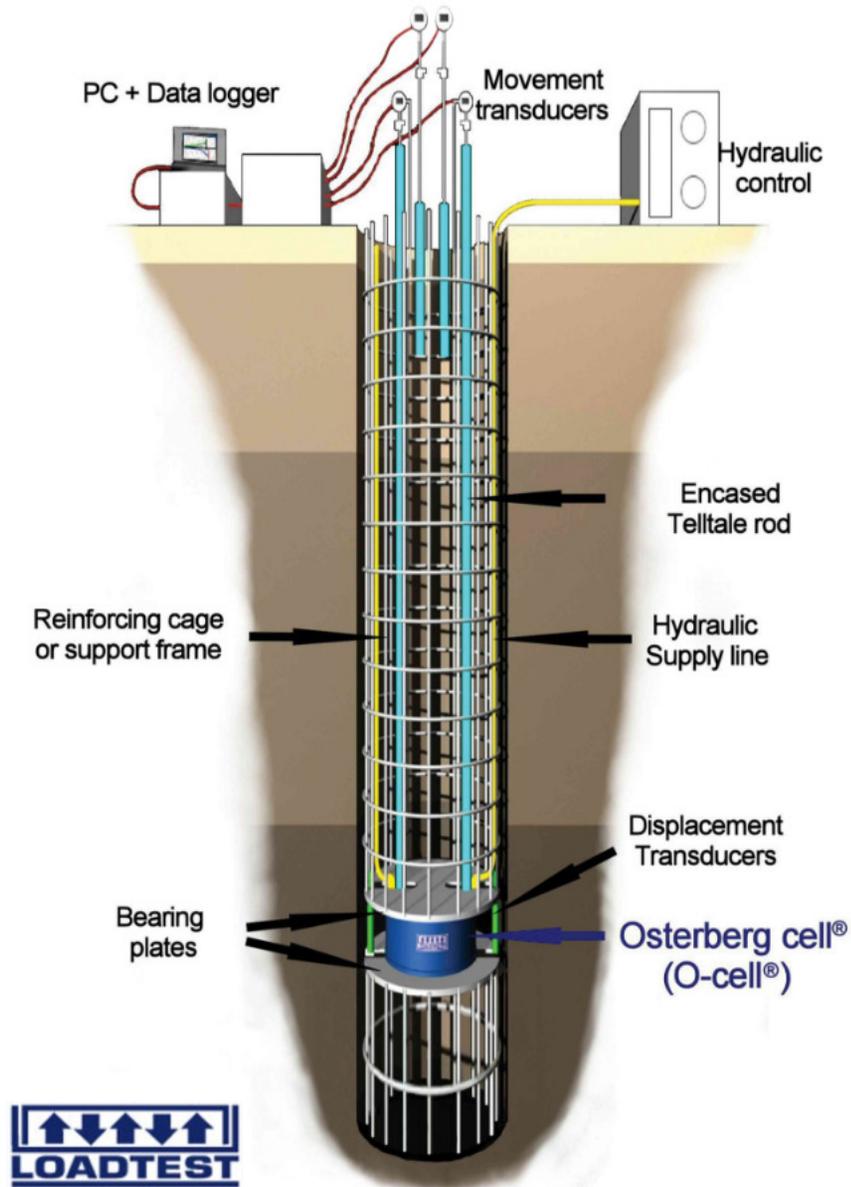
- Intended areas:

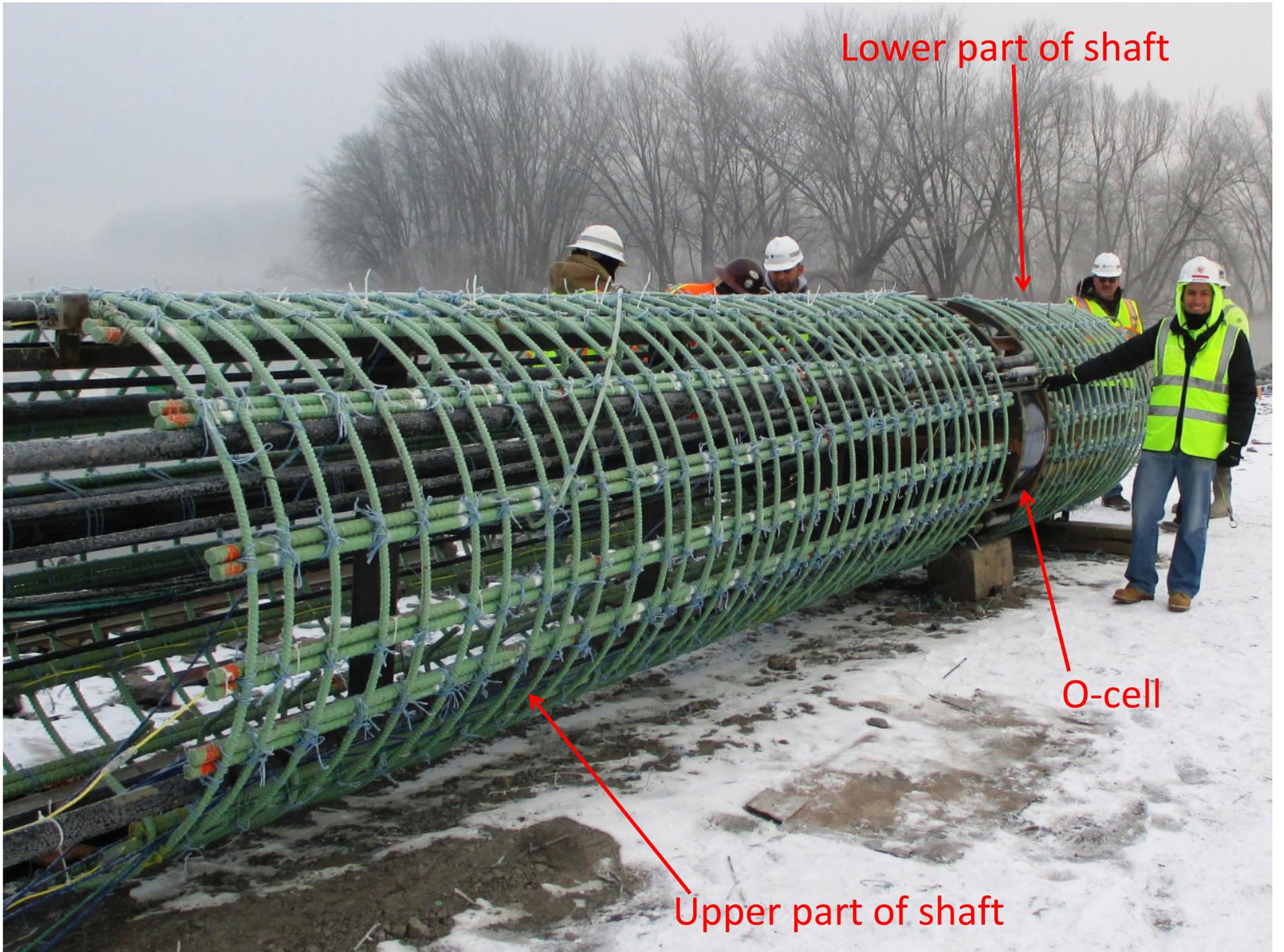




Besides visual observation, option to perform unconfined compression testing

# O-cell Load Test (Bidirectional load test)

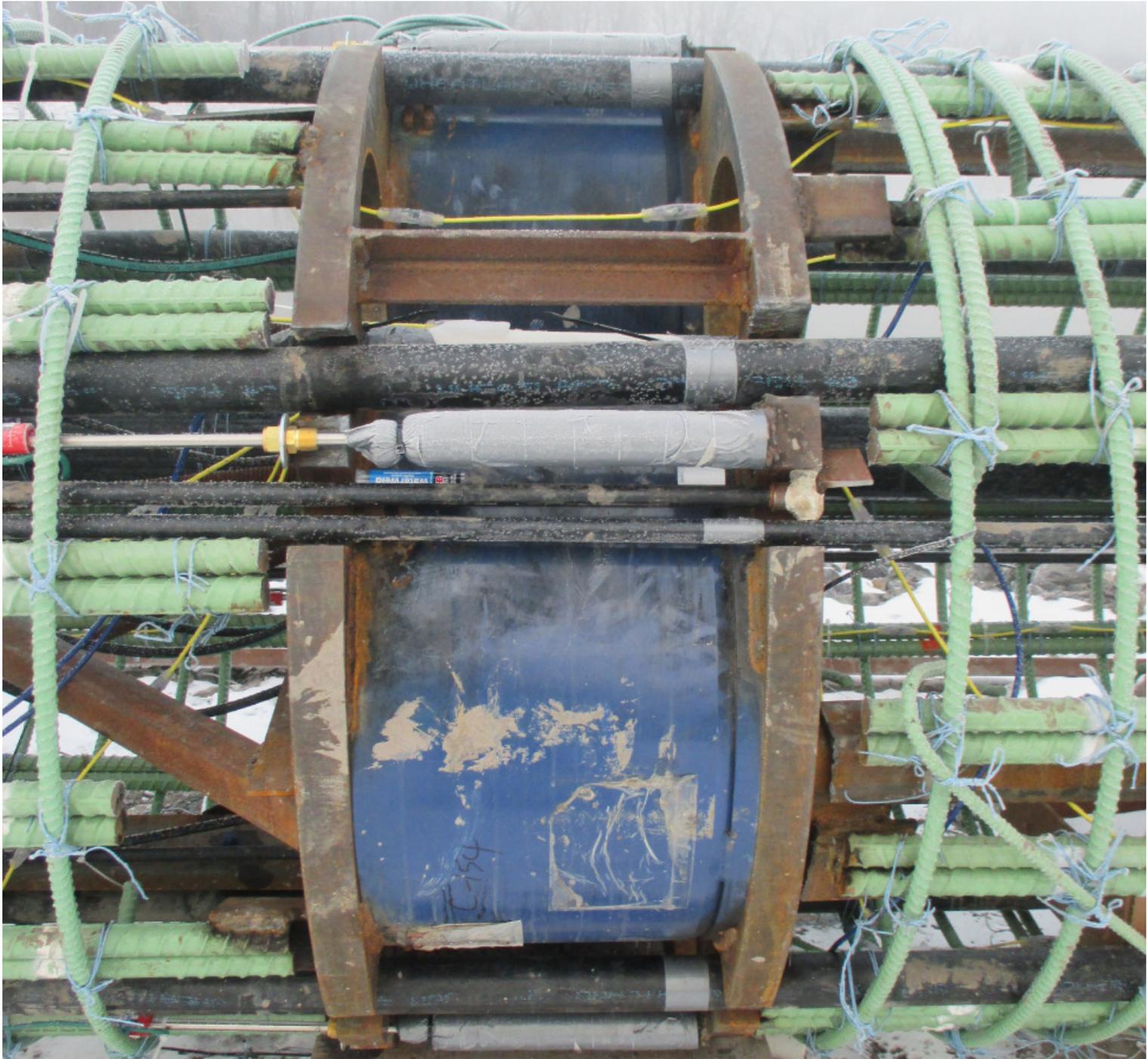




Lower part of shaft

O-cell

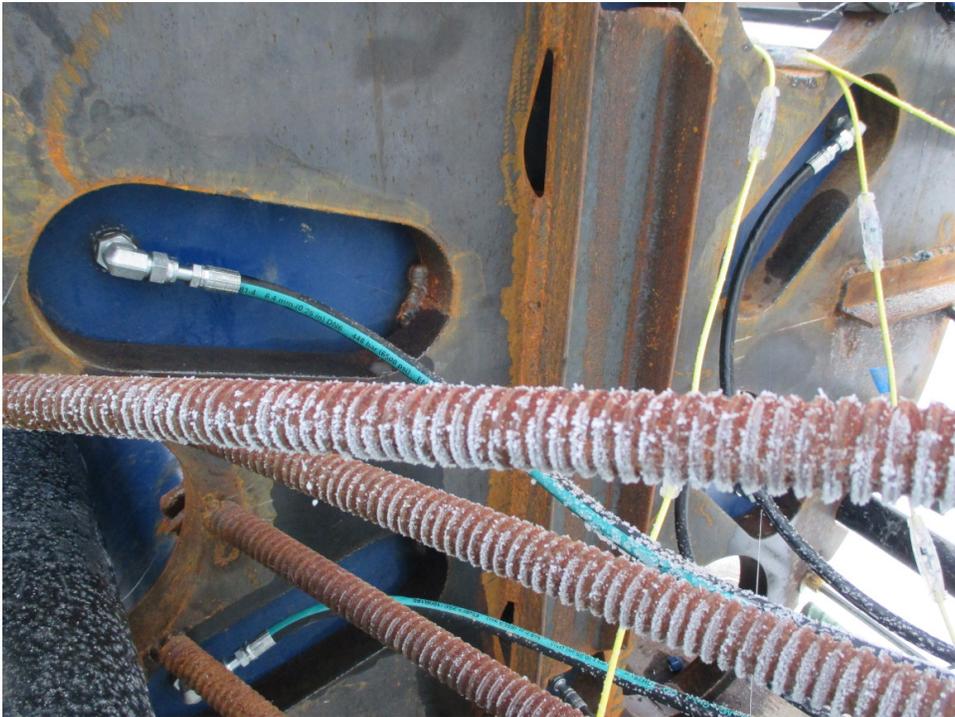
Upper part of shaft





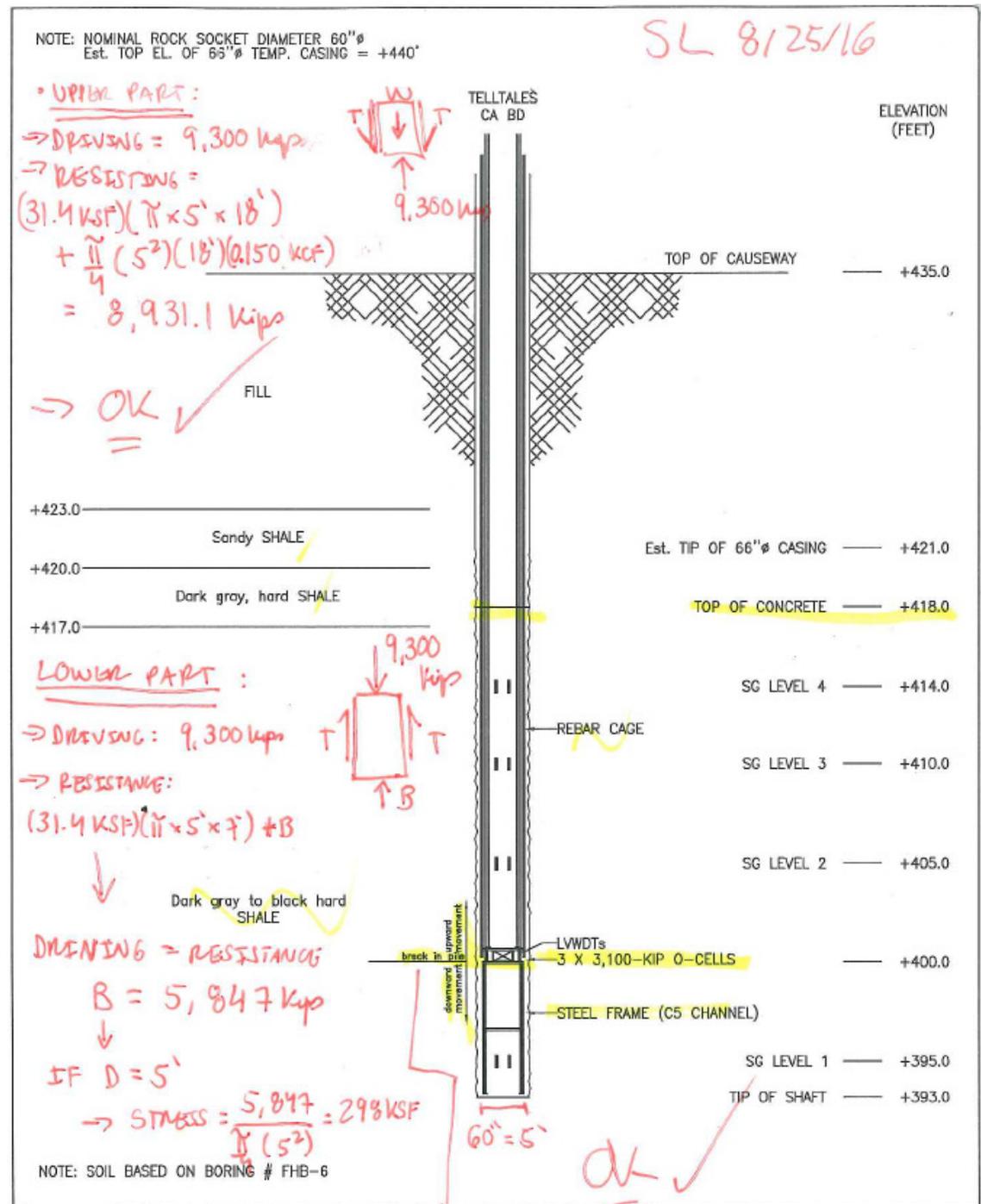
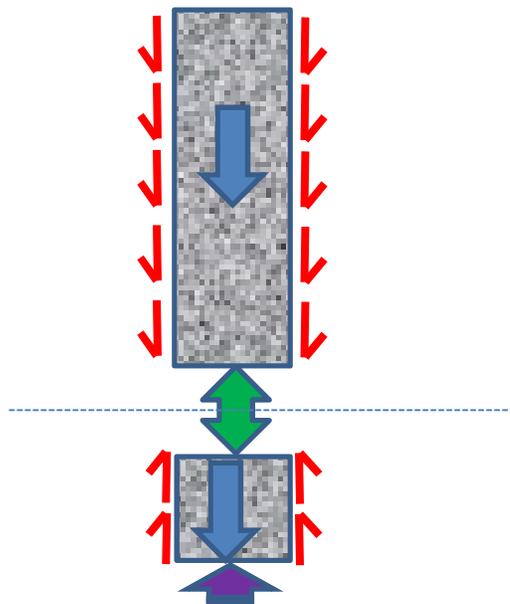
Complete shaft instrumentation for load and displacement:

- Strain gages/ LWDTs
- Tell tales
- etc



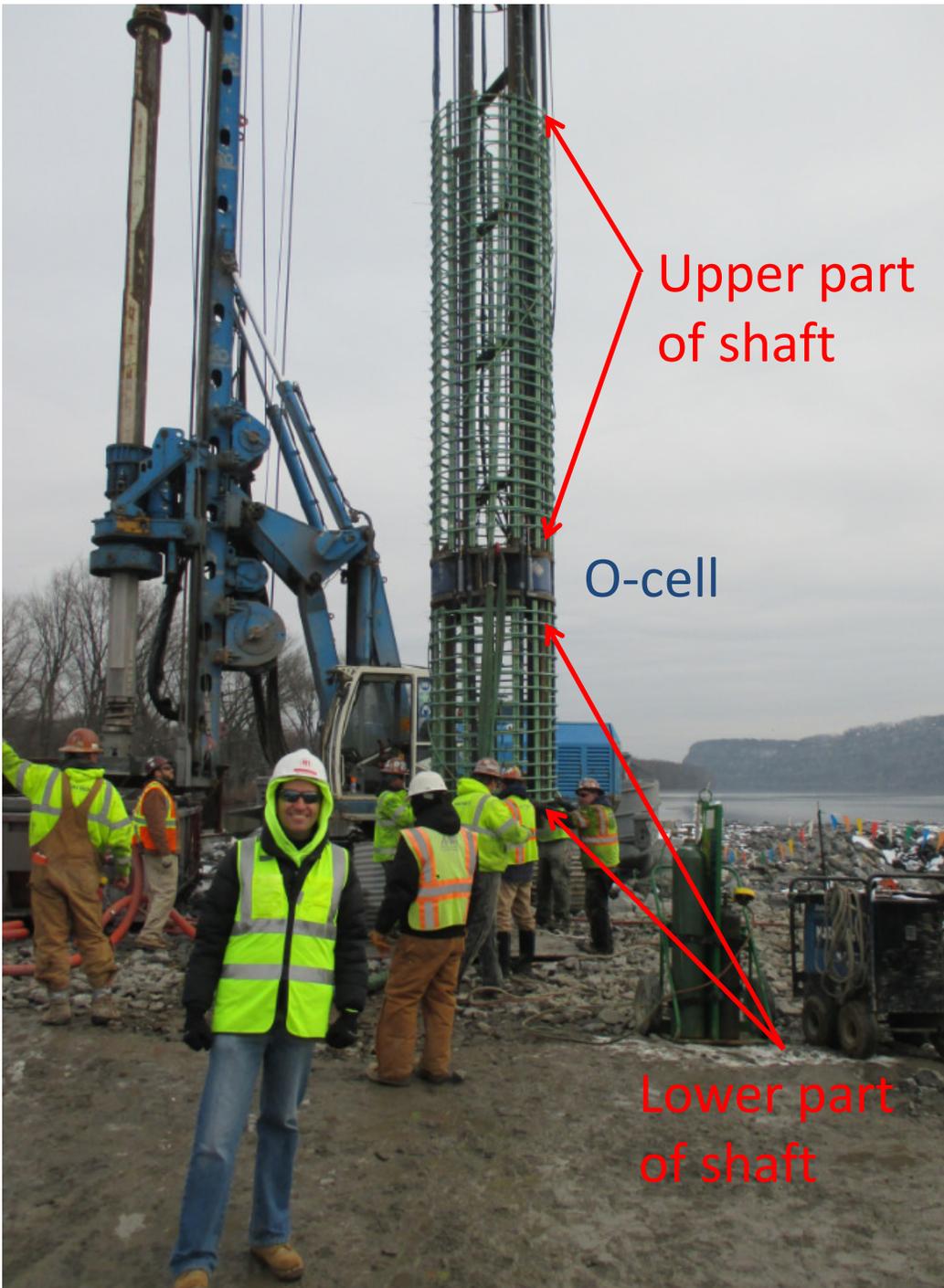
Selecting the right dimensions and the right cell:

- Use **ultimate** Geotech side shear and end bearing stresses
- Load > Expected resistance



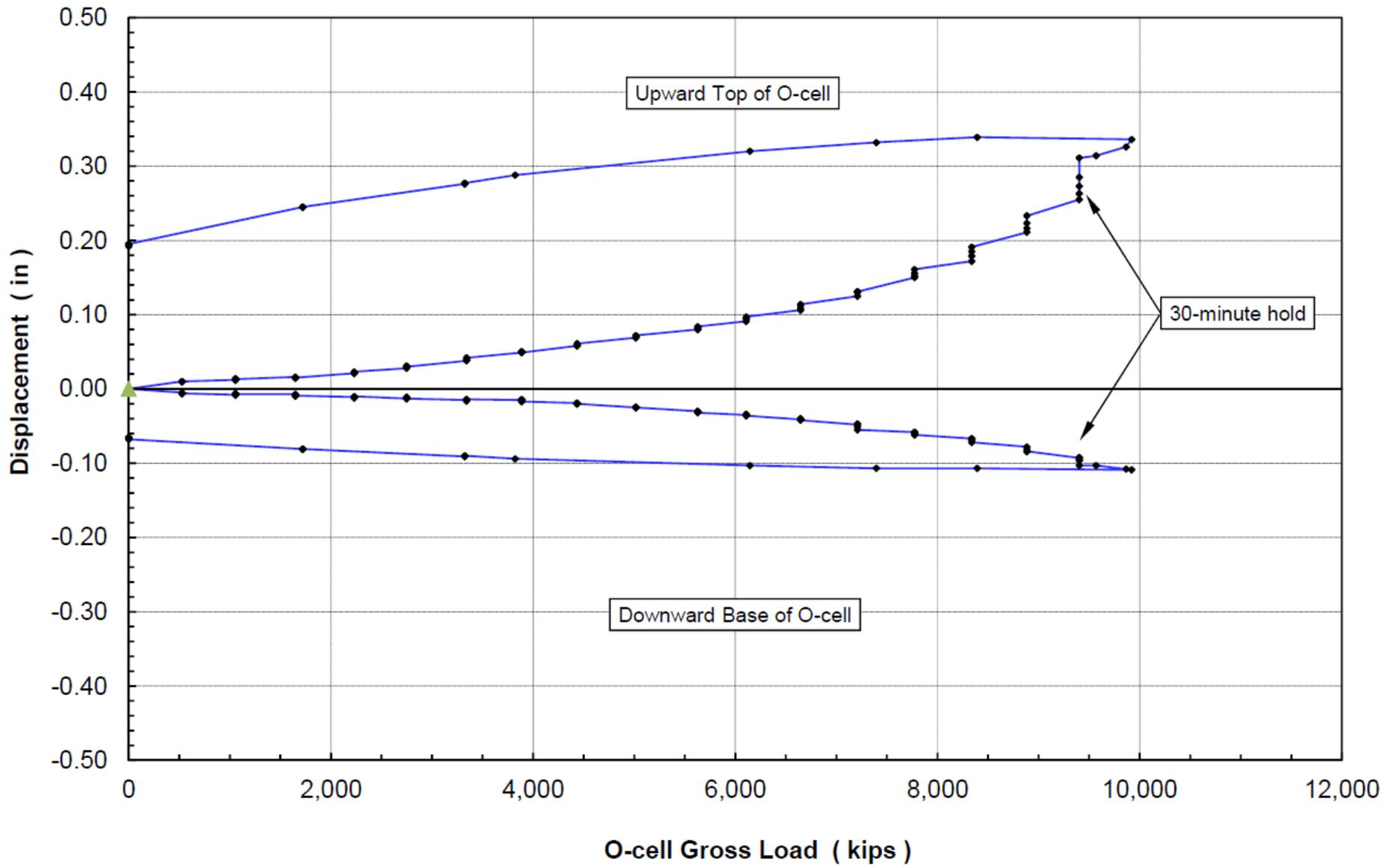
## Lifting the instrumented shaft (including installed O-cell)











Comparison of Test Results	Ultimate Capacity		Displacement at Failure	
	Predicted (kips) [MN]	Measured (kips) [MN]	Predicted (in) [mm]	Measured (in) [mm]
Upper portion (above O-cell): skin friction only	9,300 [41.4]	9,371 [41.7]	0.40 [10]	0.31 [7.9]
Lower portion (below O-cell): skin friction + end bearing	9,300 [41.4]	9,402 [41.8] (no failure observed)	0.40 [10]	0.10 [2.6] (no failure observed)

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DEEP FOUNDATIONS INSTITUTE    SEPT/OCT 2017

# DEEP FOUNDATIONS

**Anchor Testing Data Management**

**Emergency Landslide Stabilization**

**Predicting Drilled Shaft Capacity**

**HMG Stabilizes Historic Structure**

**2017 OPA Winner  
Expansion and Preservation  
of Andrew Mellon Building**

FEATURE ARTICLE

Production shaft drilling

## Predicting Geotechnical Drilled Shaft Capacity: Are We Close?

Recently modified design equations used in the transportation industry to calculate side friction and end bearing capacity for drilled shafts in rock, and these changes are reflected in the 2015 edition of the PennDOT Design Manual, Part 4 (DM-4). This article discusses the past and current design methodology along with a project case study with results from Osterberg Cell (O-cell) load testing, which presents a comparison between the design resistances of ultimate side friction and end bearing and the measured capacities at failure.

**The Old and the New**  
Editions of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Manual from 2012 and earlier estimated ultimate side resistance,  $q_u$ , in rock using the following equation (modified from Horvath and Kenney 1979):  
$$q_u = 0.65 \alpha_p q_u \alpha_p^{0.5} < 7.5 p_u / \alpha_p^{0.5}$$
 where:  $q_u$  is the uniaxial compressive strength of the rock in ksf,  $p_u$  is the atmospheric pressure in ksf,  $\alpha_p$  is the reduction factor to account for jointing in rock, and  $f_c$  is the compressive strength of the concrete in ksf. For intact rock, previous versions of the AASHTO manual required that the ultimate end bearing resistance,  $q_u$ , was calculated using the following equation:  $q_u = 2.5 p_u$ .

Editions of PennDOT DM-4 from 2012 and earlier adhered to the same methodology as AASHTO, with slight modifications for calculating the value of  $\alpha_p$  based on the rock quality designation (RQD) and open or closed joints.

In editions of the AASHTO manual prior to 2014, the method for determining the interaction between side friction and end bearing resistance was not practical and often resulted in conservatively neglecting one of these two resistance components. Moreover, the AASHTO manual did not provide a clear guideline for calculating side friction and end bearing resistance when both components were considered.

Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently adopted and incorporated the similar methodology as AASHTO for calculating side friction and end bearing for drilled shafts in rock, and these changes are reflected in the 2015 edition of the PennDOT Design Manual, Part 4 (DM-4). This article discusses the past and current design methodology along with a project case study with results from Osterberg Cell (O-cell) load testing, which presents a comparison between the design resistances of ultimate side friction and end bearing and the measured capacities at failure.

**AUTHORS**    Vishal B. Patel, M.S.C.E., P.E., Sebastian Lobo-Guerrero, Ph.D., P.E., and James G. Ulricki, P.E., American Geotechnical & Environmental Services, Inc.

DEEP FOUNDATIONS • SEPT/OCT 2017 • 81

Production shaft drilling

## Predicting Geotechnical Drilled Shaft Capacity: Are We Close?

Recently modified design equations used in the transportation industry to calculate side friction and end bearing capacity for drilled shafts in rock, and these changes are reflected in the 2015 edition of the PennDOT Design Manual, Part 4 (DM-4). This article discusses the past and current design methodology along with a project case study with results from Osterberg Cell (O-cell) load testing, which presents a comparison between the design resistances of ultimate side friction and end bearing and the measured capacities at failure.

Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently adopted and incorporated the similar methodology as AASHTO for calculating side friction and end bearing for drilled shafts in rock, and these changes are reflected in the 2015 edition of the PennDOT Design Manual, Part 4 (DM-4). This article discusses the past and current design methodology along with a project case study with results from Osterberg Cell (O-cell) load testing, which presents a comparison between the design resistances of ultimate side friction and end bearing and the measured capacities at failure.

# Acknowledgements

