### DIGGS

Digital Interchange for Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists

# Development of Geotechnical Data Schema in Transportation

## Results Presentation Ohio DOT

June 22, 2012

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Vice Chancellor for IT and Professor Civil Engineering
North Carolina State University

FHWA Pooled fund study TPF-5(111)

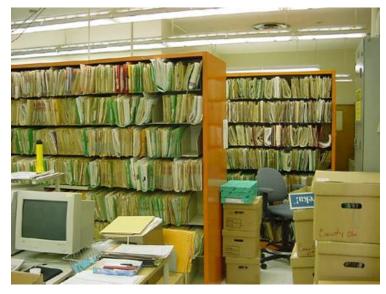
#### Outline

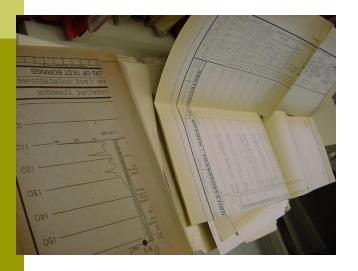
- Why do we need DIGGS?
- What is DIGGS?
- What can DIGGS do?
- Some examples of software using DIGGS
- A short technical description of the schema
- Future of the standard



### Caltrans Experience

- 30,000 project files
- 2 million documents
- 300 projects/year
- 80 years of data
- Difficult to access information









## Ohio DOT Experience

 20-30 person hours per week to retrieve information



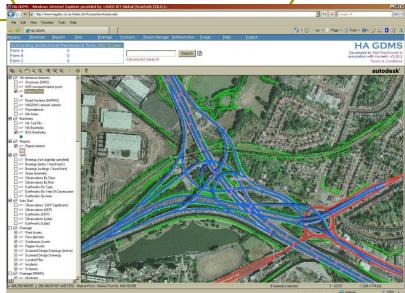


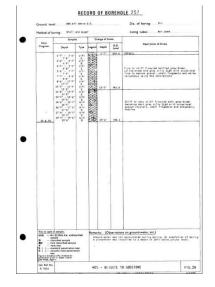


### The HA Geotechnical Data

Management System (HA GDMS)

- Internet-based GIS
- Stores data on:
  - spatial context (mapping and aerial photos)
  - assets
  - reports
  - boreholes
- Supports UK AGS data transfer format
  - data storage/retrieval
  - summary logs
  - summary test sheets







### AGS Data Committee History

#### **Key dates for the Data Format Committee**

1991 -convened in after a conference to discuss electronic data

transfer

1992 AGS v1

1994 AGS v2

1999 AGS v3

2002 AGS-M

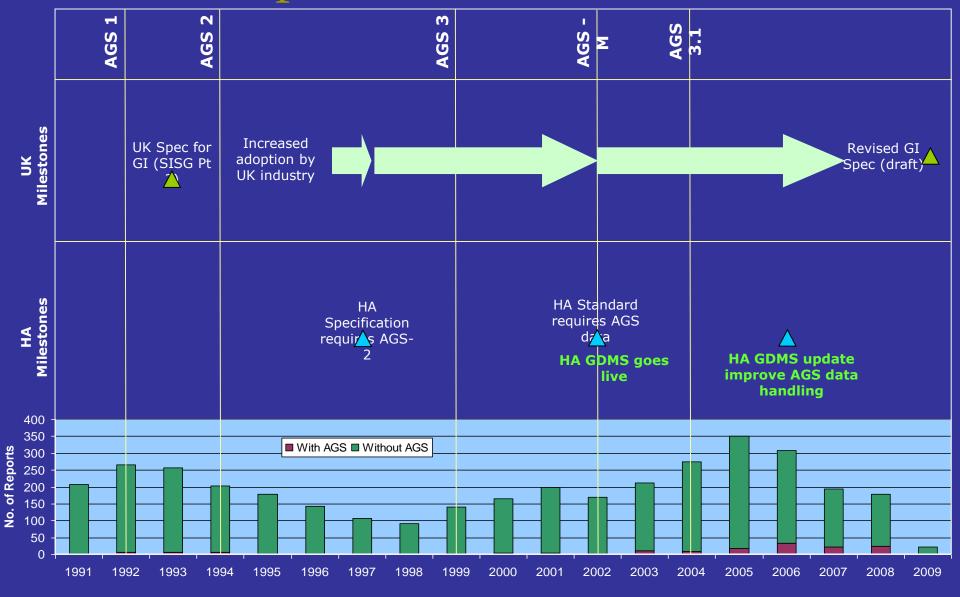
2004 AGS v3.1

2004 Launch of the web site

2008 renamed **Data Management Committee** 



### AGS Implementation Timeline

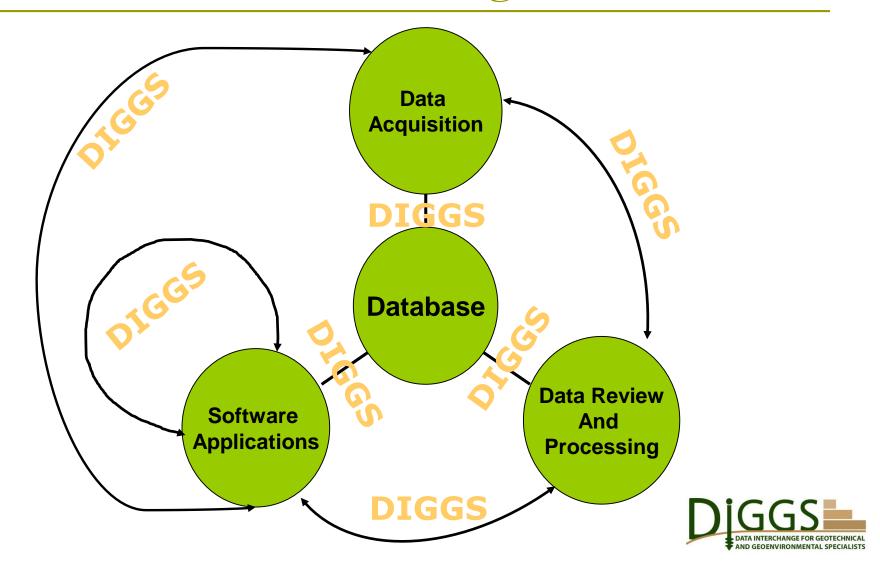


#### What is DIGGS?

- DIGGS = "Data Interchange for Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists"
- Standardized international format for the electronic transfer of geotechnical and geoenvironmental data
- Software neutral and non-commercial
- □ Fully extensible
- DIGGS is not:
  - A software application
  - A database structure



## The DIGGS Advantage



#### Characteristics of DIGGS

- DIGGS provides a context for different kinds of data that may be related administratively or spatially
- Transfers data commonly reported as part of a geotechnical investigation
  - Borehole records
  - In-situ test data
  - Monitoring data
  - Laboratory test summaries
  - Geophysical data (Logging)
  - Geoenvironmental data (Water quality & Testing)



## Key Activities

- Borehole Data
  - Point Location
  - Drilling Operations



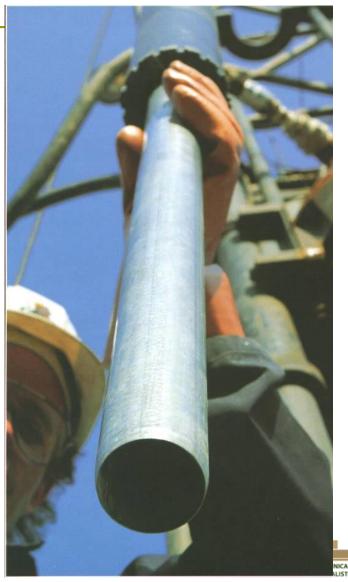




## Key Activities

- Borehole Data
  - SAMPLES!



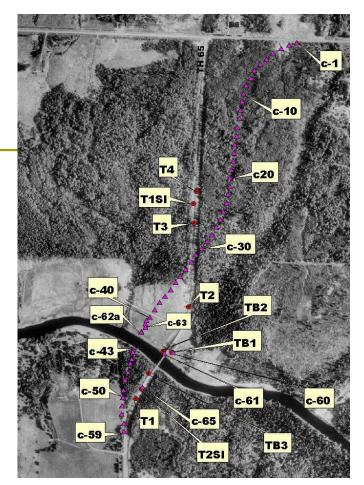


#### Data TRANSFER

- Site Information
- Depth Information
  - Field
  - Lab Testing
  - Soil and Rock









### Data TRANSFER

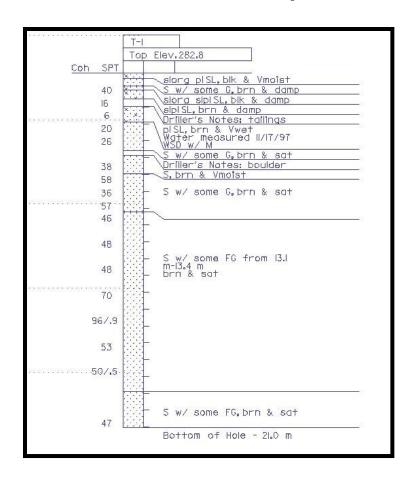
□ Lab Data (results and/or test data)





## Logs and Log Data

#### □ Electronic / Paper



#### MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - GEOTECHNICAL SECTION LABORATORY LOG & TEST RESULTS - SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION



#### **UNIQUE NUMBER 64796**

U.S. Customary Units

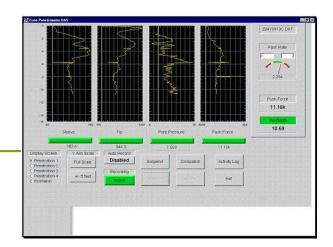
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#### Data TRANSFER

#### Borehole data

- From field to office
- Intraoffice (among software)
- Interoffice (among staff)
- From office to External



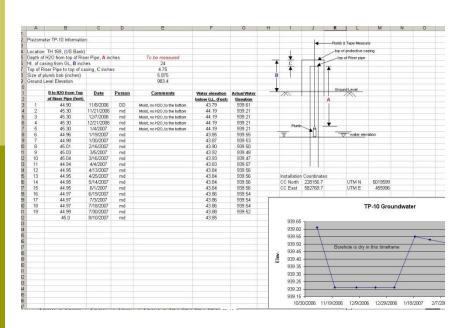


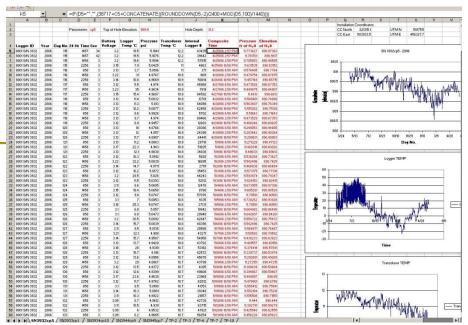


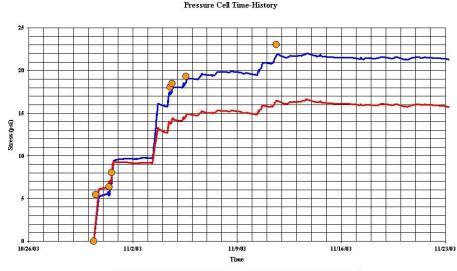


### Sensor Data

- Manual
- Automated







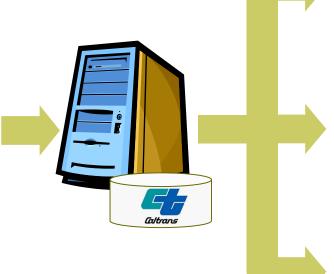
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## Workflow within an Organization



Data is collected in the field electronically



Data files are transferred to a central repository



Design Engineer



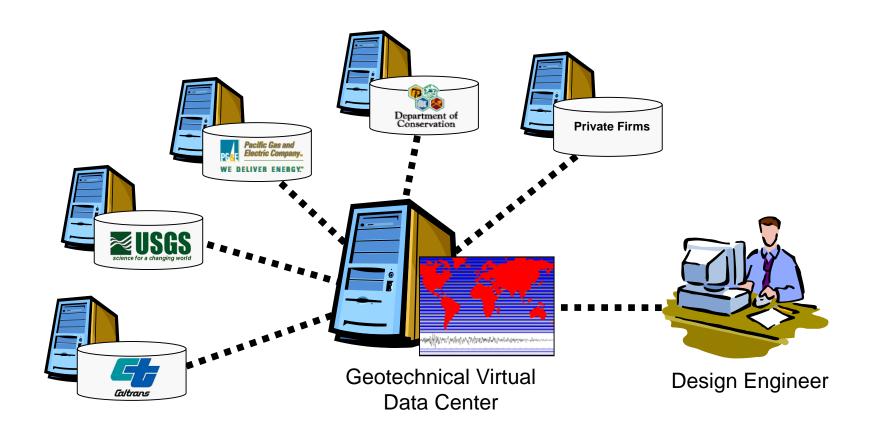
Drafter



Other Staff



### Connection to Multiple Data Sources





### Cost Savings

- Ohio DOT:
  - □ 10-20% less drilling, savings \$12-24M per year
- Florida DOT:
  - □ Fewer borings saving \$250,000 \$500,000 on one project
- Missouri DOT:
  - □ 10-15% fewer borings per bridge
- Missouri DOT:
  - \$81,000 savings per year in boring log preparation by using electronic data entry in the field
- California DOT:
  - 20% savings (\$200k/year) with laboratory data management system implementation



### DIGGS Research Objective

#### Develop a standard XML schema and data dictionary for geotechnical data

- Survey of GMS stakeholders to identify specific geotechnical data needs (at dictionary level).
- Survey based on previous standards by AGS, COSMOS, UF-FDOT, and EPA
- Results were used to develop a consensus to define the international standard XML (GML compliant) data interchange format schema.
- Majority of the effort was in agreement on definitions and XML structure.



#### Characteristics of DIGGS

- Extensible Mark-Up Language (XML)
- XML Schema Definition (XSD)
  - Normative document
  - Defines elements
- Standard for internet data transfer
  - Platform independent
  - Tools available for validating, querying, processing, displaying, and transforming



### **DIGGS** Evolution

- Pooled Fund Study to create DIGGS
  - TPF-5(111), started 2005 (managed by Ohio DOT)
  - Merger of existing XML standards:
    - AGS standard (UK)
    - COSMOS standard (CA, Earthquake group)
    - FDOT/UF Pile standard
  - GML Compliant (International Geo-Spatial XML standard)
  - Version 2 is final result from study (June 2012)
  - Partners: AGS, COSMOS, EarthSoft, EPA, FHWA, GINT, KeyNetix, UK-HA, UF, USGS State DOTs

### Research Scope and Phasing

#### Original Proposal:

- Phase I Develop survey (dictionary and XML schema based on AGS, COSMOS & UF-FDOT)
- Phase II Complete dictionary and schema using workshops and volunteer effort
- Phase III Add special interest groups for new areas

#### Final structure – Two major stages:

- Stage 1 Original Phase I, most of Phase II and part of Phase III
- Stage 2 Contract with GML expert to convert
   Stage 1 results into the final schema

## Initial Collaboration Meeting



May 2005



## Development History

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Meeting	Purpose	Date	Outcomes
Pre-planning	Develop consensus on basic structure of schema	May 16-17, 2005, Atlanta, GA	Draft schema structure and plans for proposal
First Workshop	Schema outline & Data dictionary for data in existing systems. Dates, Deadlines and Deliverables	August 10-13, 2005, San Francisco, CA	Schema team and dictionary team, refined schema structure, data dictionary,
Second Workshop	Continue development of schema and dictionary	November 18, 2006, Orlando, FL	Draft schema, dictionary and users guide for presentation to GMS
GMS Meeting	Update governing body on progress and get approval for directions	January 18-19, 2006, Atlanta, GA	Approved
AGS Meeting	Develop plan to improve progress	March 2007, UK	Move to UML version with now tool to automate schema creation for consistency
Workshop V1.0 review	Review release candidate for V1.0 and plan final corrections – using new UML tool system	September, 2007, Boston, MA	Set actions, assignments and tasks to finalize V1.0 – set release for spring 2008
Invitational Workshop	Present and approve new directions for DIGGS	Orlando Florida, March 25-26, 2009	Approved new timeline, consultant for final stages, plan for permanent governance/ownership
Consultant hired	Send RFP and hire consultant	August 2009	Galdos Hired to complete Schema
Update Schema to v1.1	Consultant completes v1.1 – working with GDC members and Loren Turner – weekly calls	May 19, 2010	V1.1 released
Completion of v2.0a	Consultant delivers v2.0a schema, dictionary and report	June 30, 2012	V2.0a released
Final Transfer Workshop	Transfer DIGGS to ASCE- GeoInstitute, develop implantation proposal to ODOT	June 22-23, 2012, SF, CA	Developed proposal to ODOT for new funding to transfer schema to ASCE-GeoInstitue and make available to community.
			▼ AND GEOENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

### Five Examples of DIGGS in Use

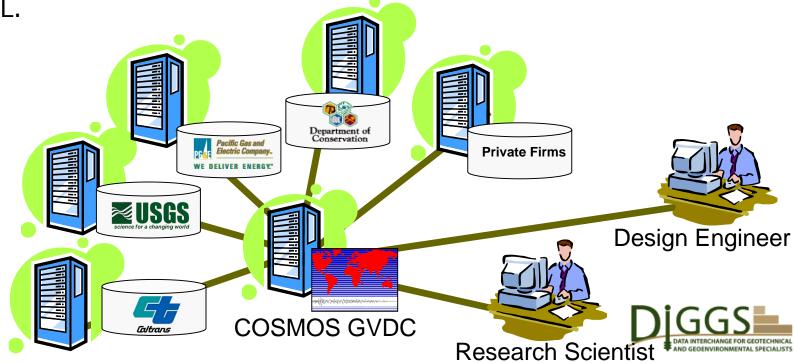
- Public
  - CalTrans Virtual Data Center
  - Florida DOT Geotechnical Database
- Commercial
  - Earthsoft Equis
  - Gint
  - KeyNetix Holebase



#### Geotechnical Virtual Data Center

- The GVDC is a web application that acts as a "broker" for geotechnical data. It is not a data repository.
- Data is held by registered data providers who maintain their data in their own proprietary systems, and make available to the GVDC only the data they choose.

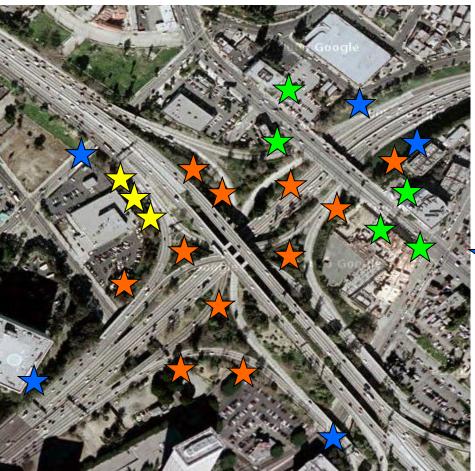
Data is transmitted to the end-user via the GVDC as DIGGS XMI.



### Virtual Data Center







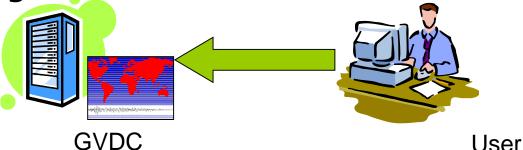




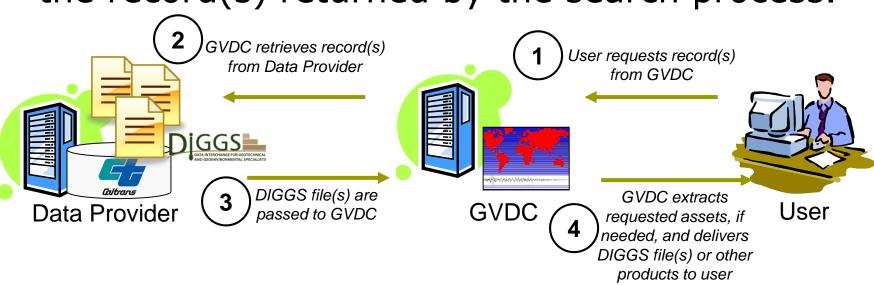


### User Experience

A user goes the GVDC to search for data



The user requests to download and/or preview the record(s) returned by the search process.







#### Geotechnical Virtual Data Center (GVDC)

The overall project is divided into a short-term and a long-term objective. The project we are now undertaking encompasses the short-term objective only, to develop a pilot web-based system linking the PG&E, Caltrans, CGS and USGS example geotechnical data sets. The long-term objective (a future project not yet funded) is to extend the pilot system and develop a web-based system linking multiple data sets... read more >>



Please see the Project Workshop agenda, June 21-23 '04 in Newport Beach, CA. The results of the user scenario survey more >>

The objective is to develop consensus recommendations for classifying, archiving, and web dissemination of geotechnical data... more >>

COSMOS and the PEER Lifelines Program are coordinating additional workshops and establishing a pilot project leading to... more >>

#### Sponsored by:

- CalTrans
- California Energy Commission
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- PEER-Lifelines Program

#### In Partnership with:

- Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center
- United States Geological Survey
- California Geological Survey

#### Implemented by:

- · University of Southern California
- Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observations Systems







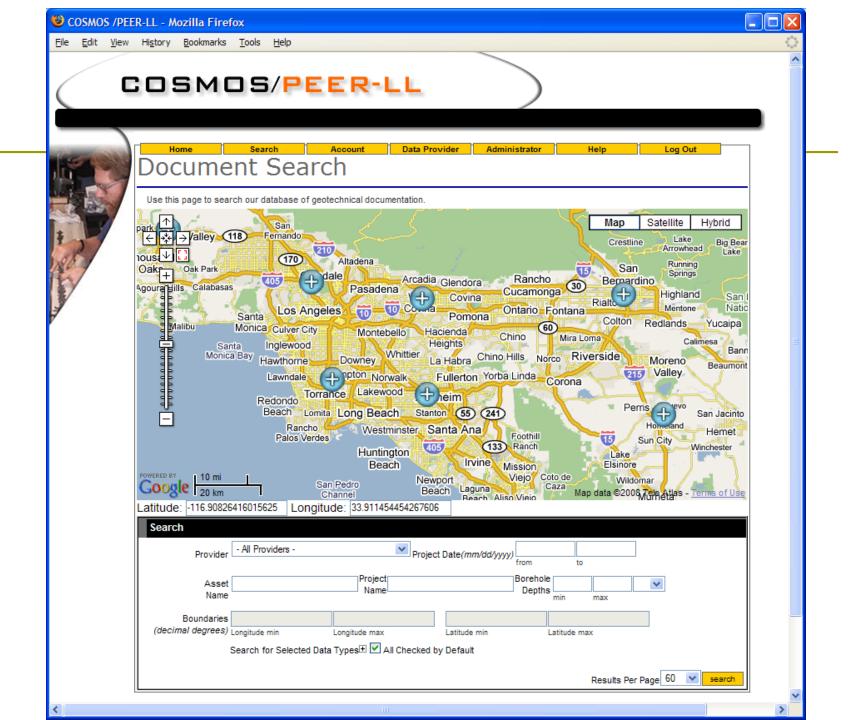


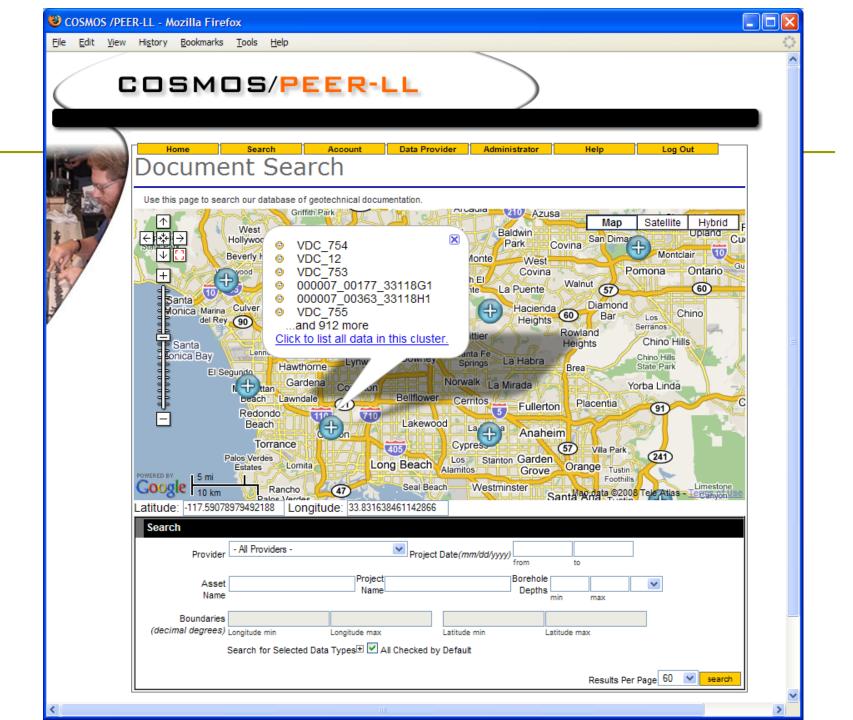


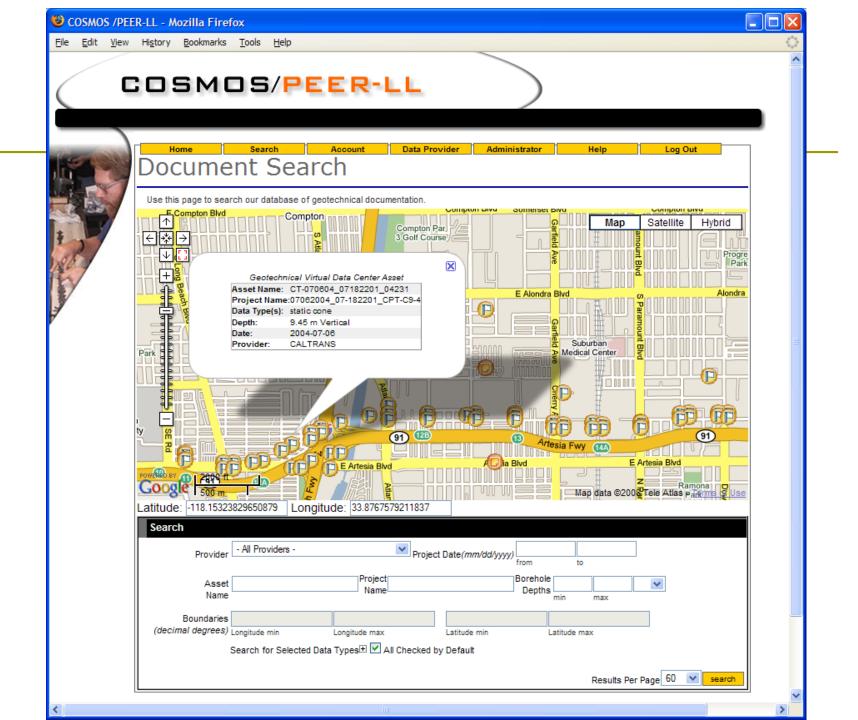


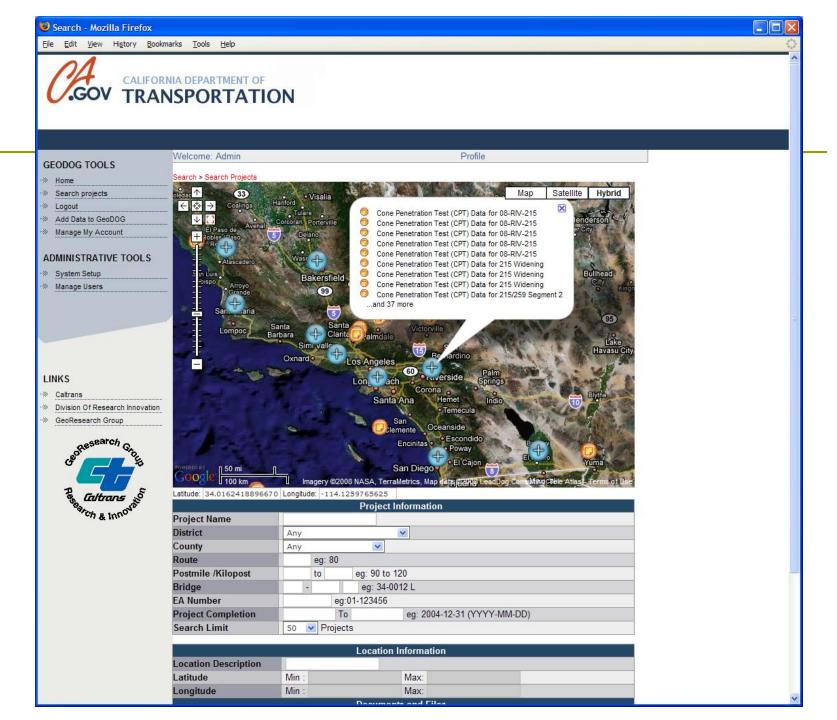


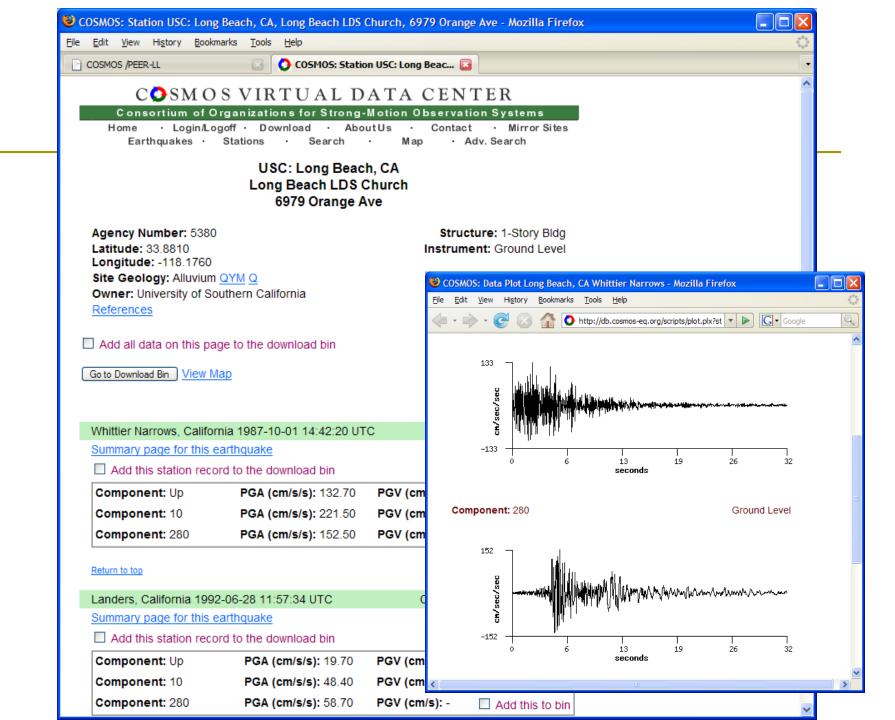


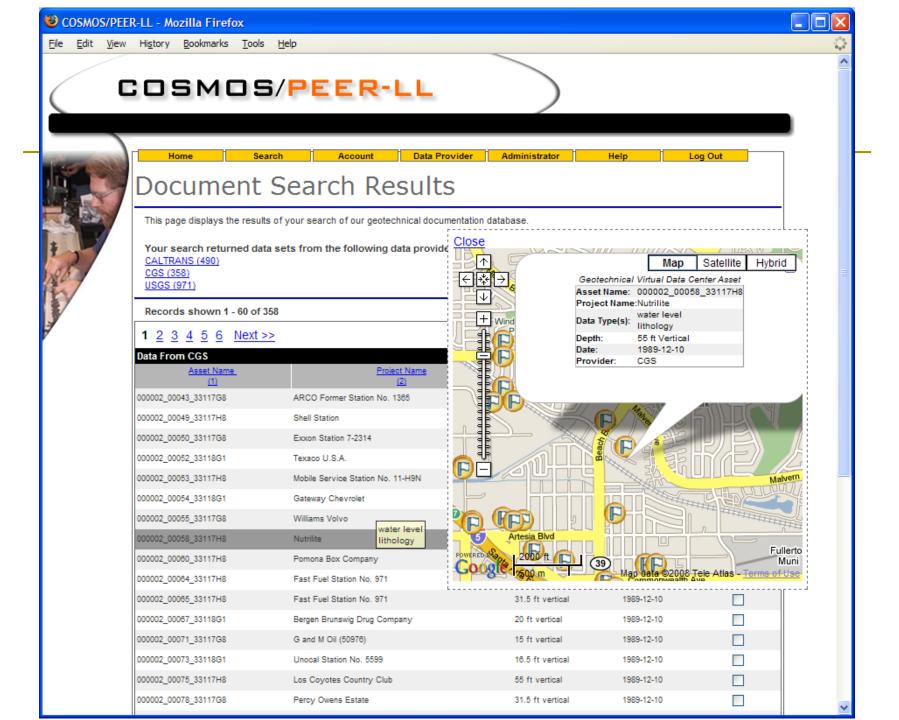


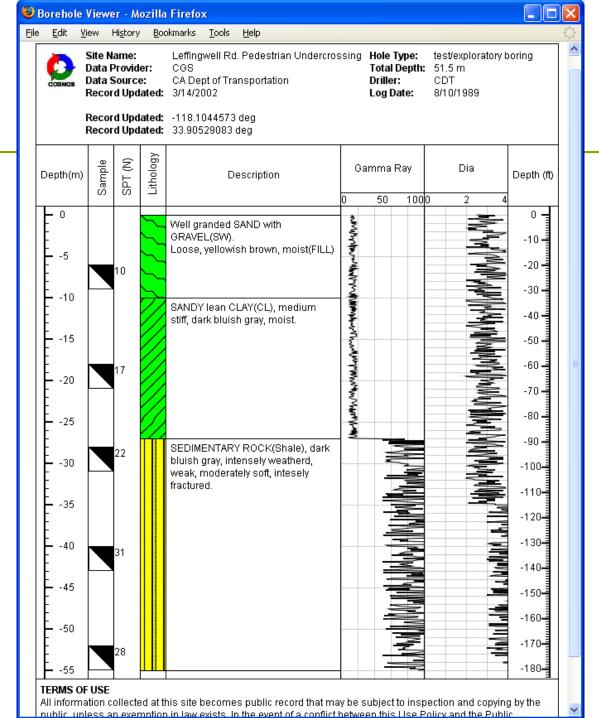












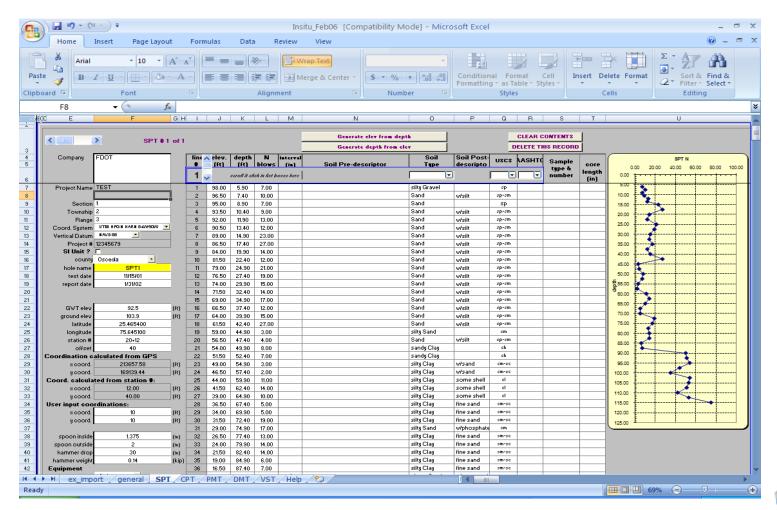


### Florida

- FDOT Geotechnical Database
- Bridge Software Institute (BSI) has developed three unique pieces of software that can access the database
  - FB-Deep
  - Pile Technician
  - Database Spreadsheets

http://bsi-web.ce.ufl.edu

## Example of In-situ spreadsheet



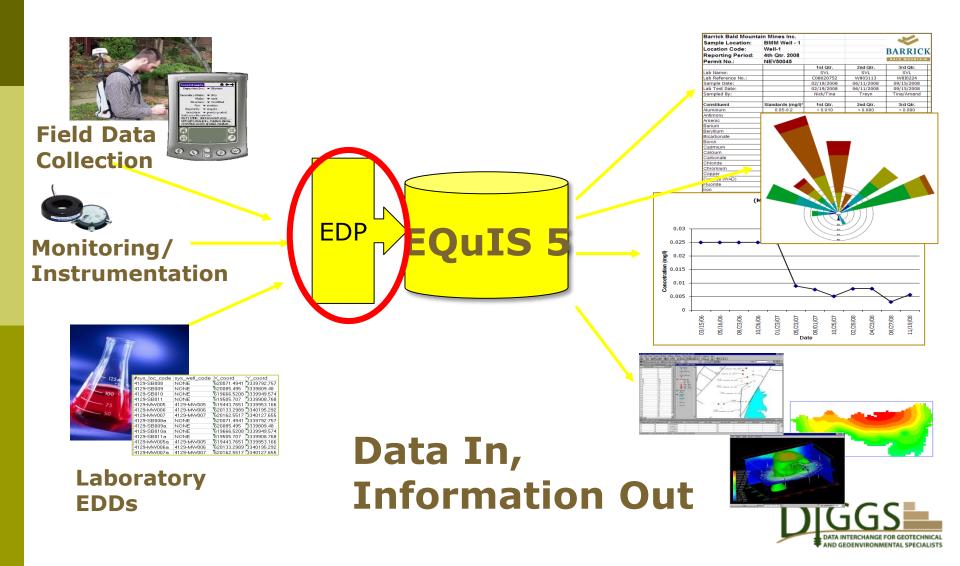


# EarthSoft Data Management Software

- Environmental Quality Information System (EQuIS)
  - The most widely used system in the world for managing technical sample data:
    - Groundwater
    - Surface Water (Stream or Lake/Reservoir)
    - Geology / Geotechnical
    - Meteorological
    - Air
  - Data Quality first, then Data Usability
  - Open System



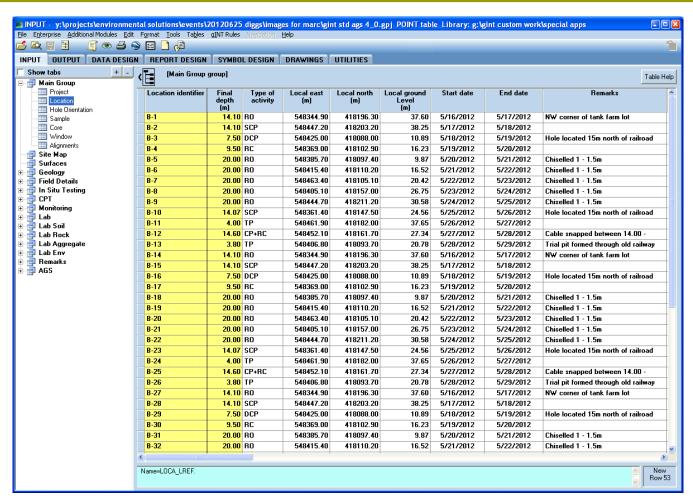
# EQuIS Data Management Software



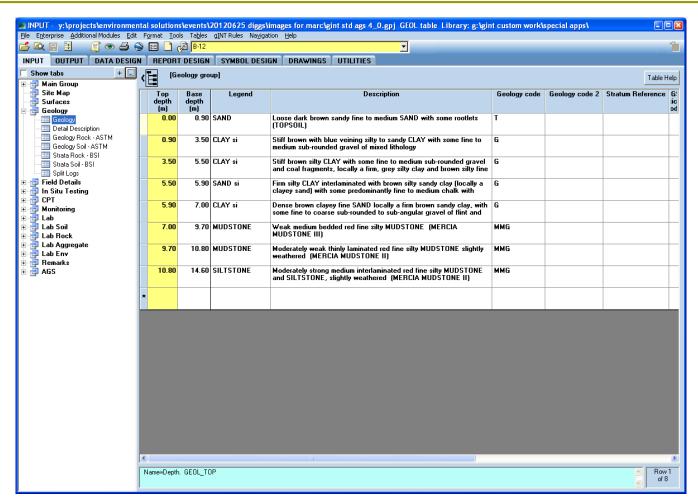
### gINT – Geotechnical Data Management System

- Geoenvironmental and geotechnical software for reporting, managing and storing data
- Customizable:
  - borehole/boring
  - well logs
  - fence diagrams
  - geotechnical testing

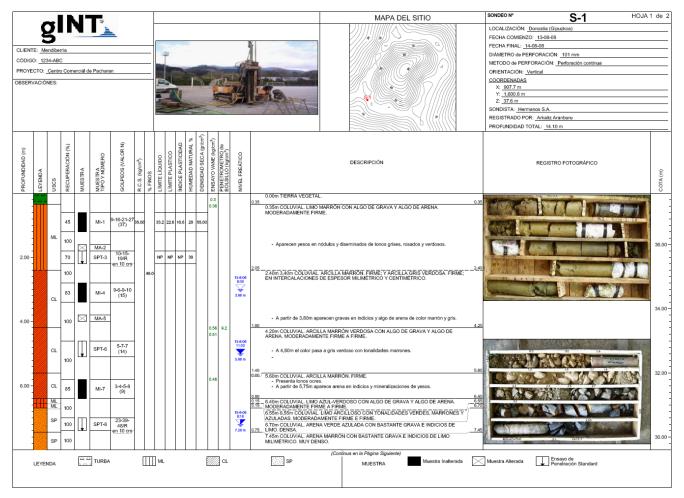




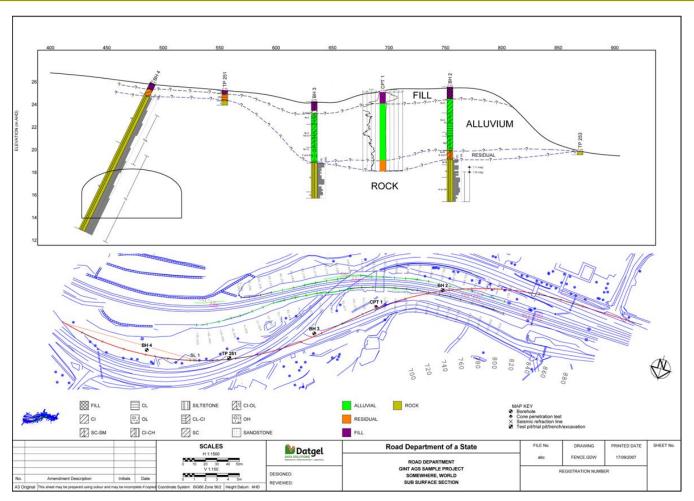




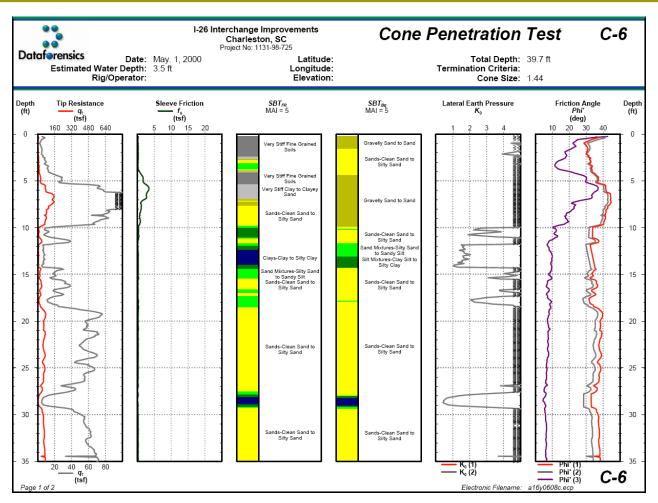




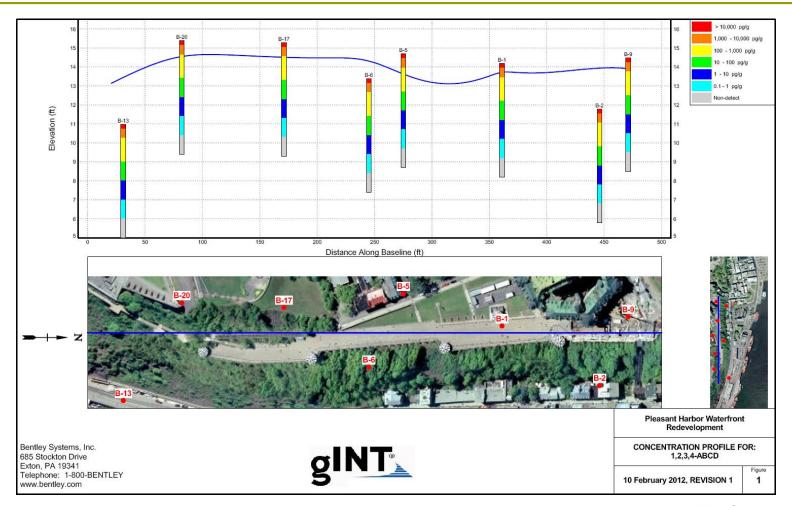




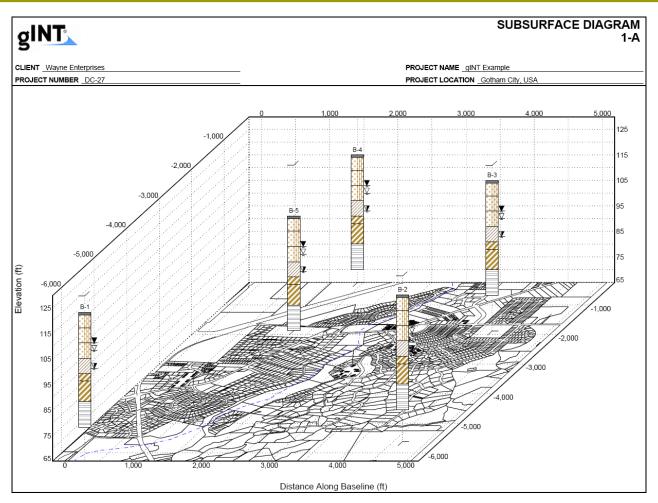












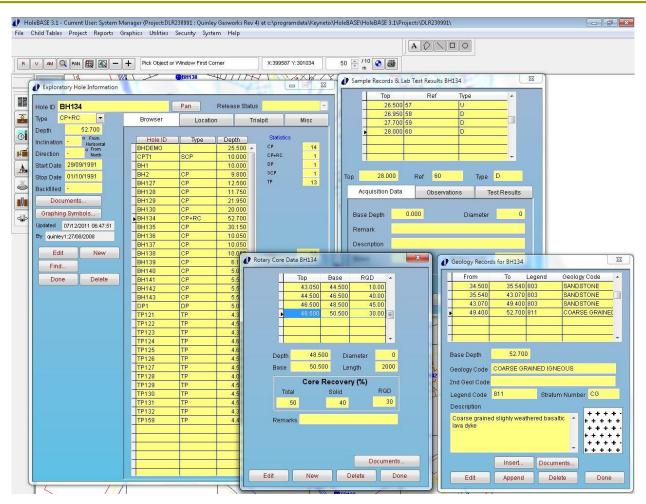


## HoleBASE – Geotechnical Data Management

- Data management and borehole logging software package for geotechnical and geoenvironmental site investigations
- Capabilities include:
  - Borehole logging
  - Draw cross sections
  - Complete bill of quantities
  - Invoices
  - AutoCAD drawings

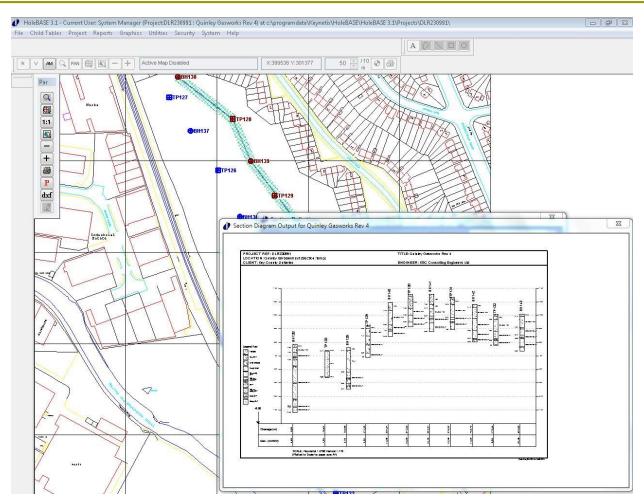


## Holebase



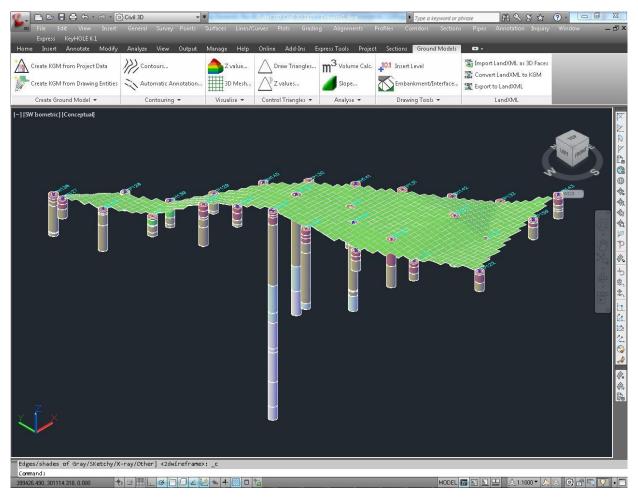


## Holebase





## Holebase



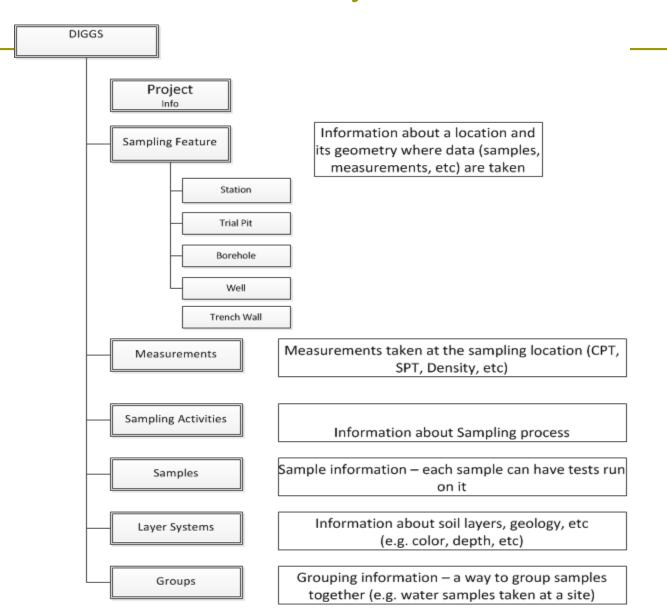


### DIGGS Research Results

- Project deliverables consist of:
  - Final data dictionary (imbedded in the XML schema)
  - XML schema including:
    - Boreholes, soil layers, tests & measurements, samples, wells, logging, code lists
  - A guideline for using and adding to the schema
  - Tools supporting the schema:
    - MS Excel extractor
    - Google KML converter tool

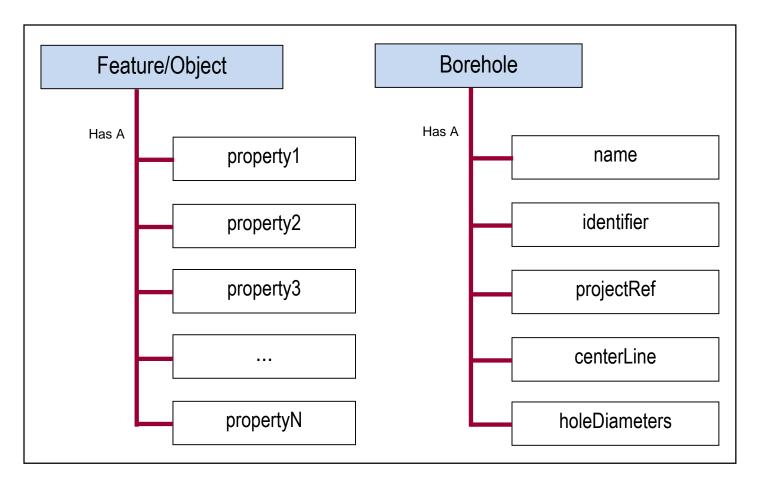


## Basic Schema Layout



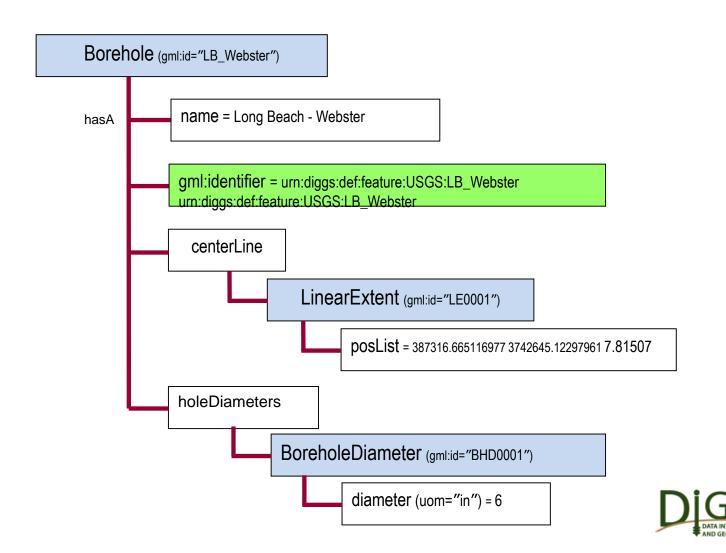


## GML - Feature



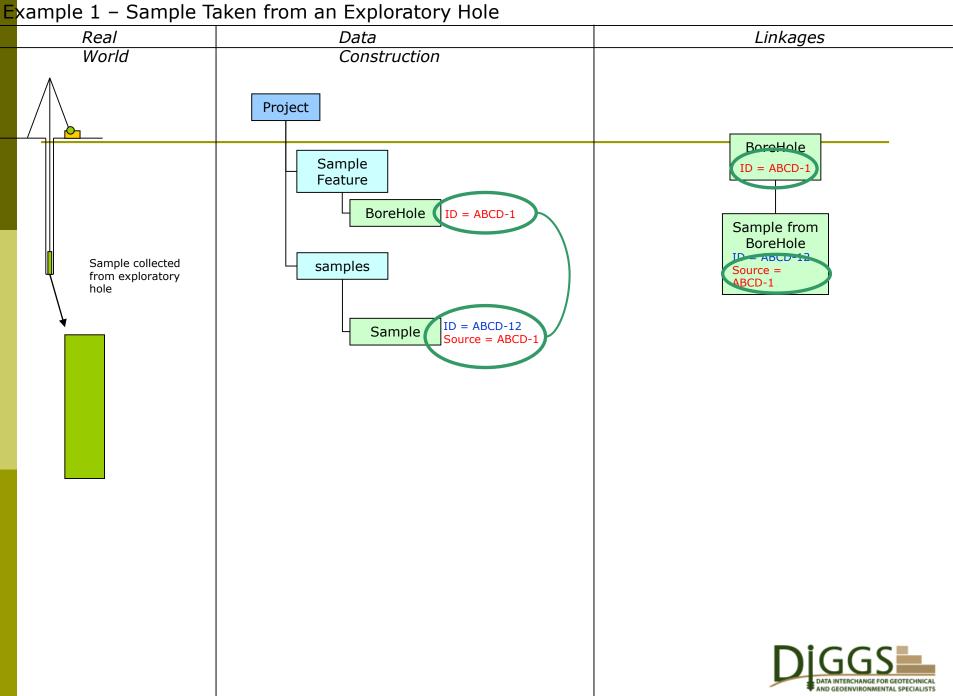


## DIGGS – Borehole Feature

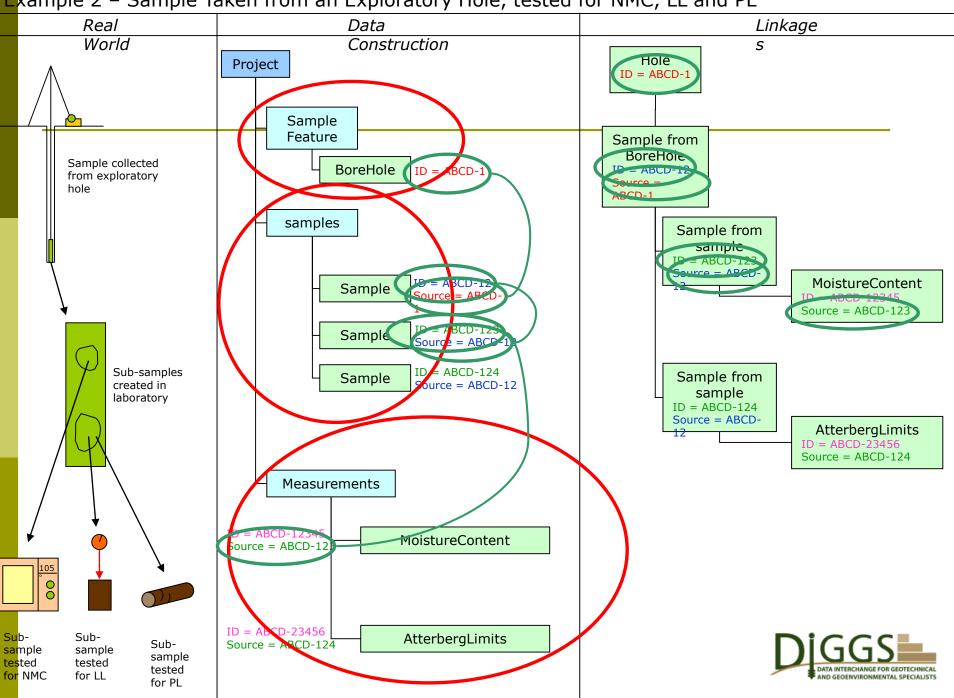


## Example XML Excerpt

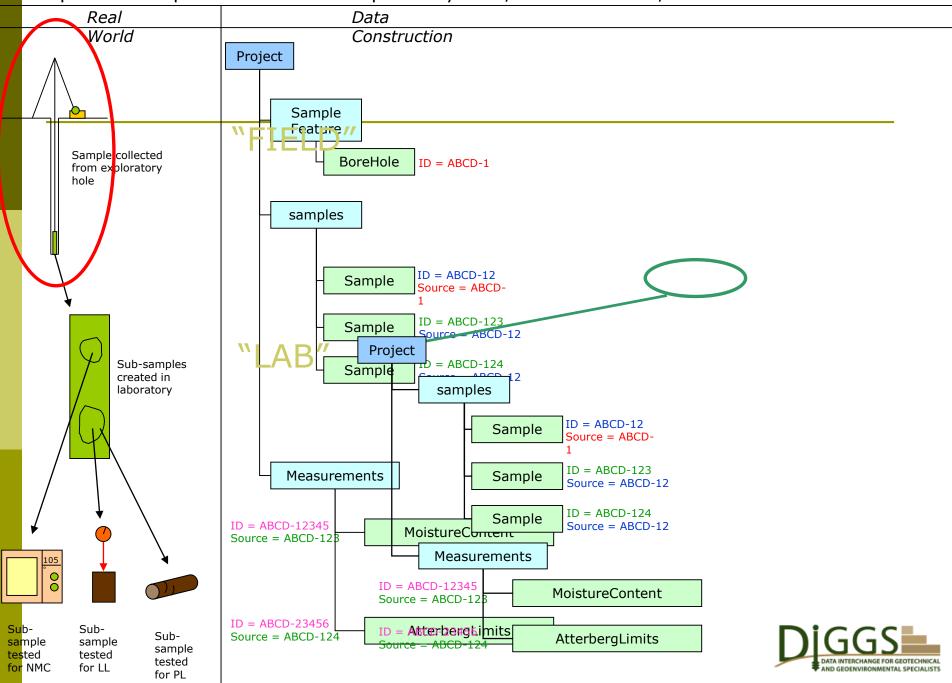
```
<Borehole gml:id="LB_Webster">
  <gml:name>Long Beach - Webster
  <gml:identifier>urn:diggs:def:feature:USGS:LB_Webster
              </gml:identifier>
  <centerLine>
    <LinearExtent srsName="urn:diggs:def:crs:DIGGS:</pre>
          26911_5703" srsDimension="3" gml:id="LS0001">
     <gml:posList>387316.665116977 3742645.12297961
               7.81507 387316.665116977 3742645.12297961 -
                  420.124129847717</gml:posList>
    </LinearExtent>
  </centerLine>
  <holeDiameters>
    <BoreholeDiameter gml:id="bhd1">
     <diameter uom="in">6</diameter>
    </BoreholeDiameter>
  </holeDiameters>
 </Borehole>
```



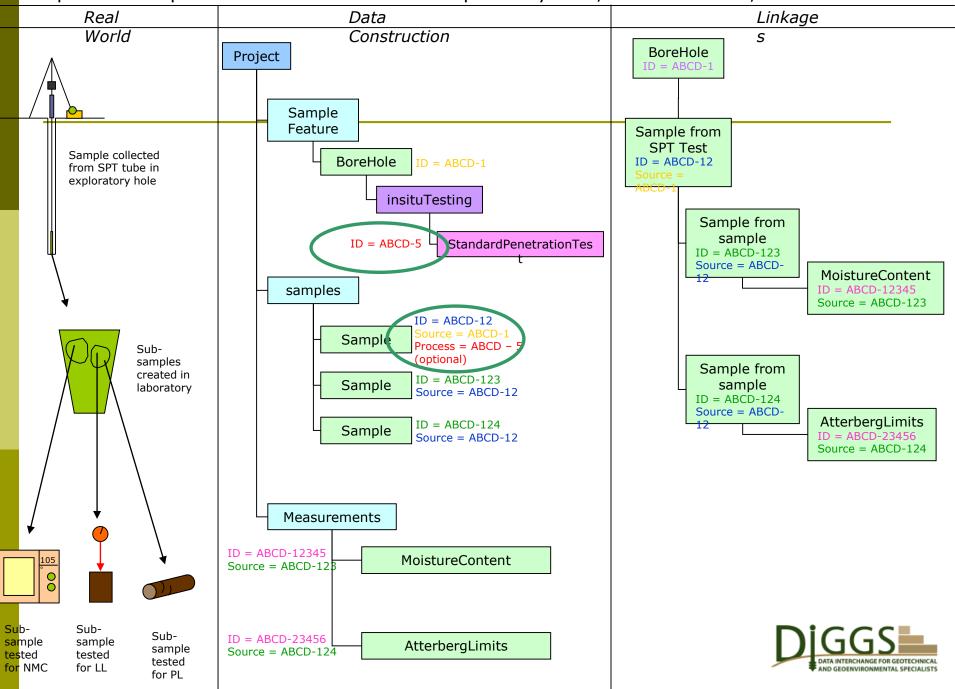
Example 2 – Sample Taken from an Exploratory Hole, tested for NMC, LL and PL



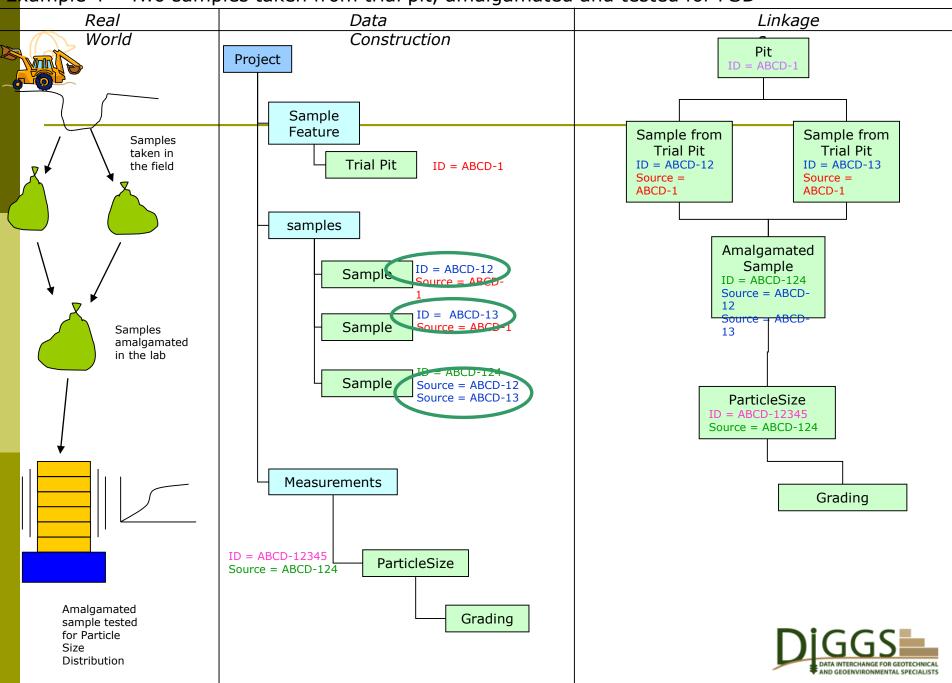
Example 2 – Sample Taken from an Exploratory Hole, tested for NMC, LL and PL



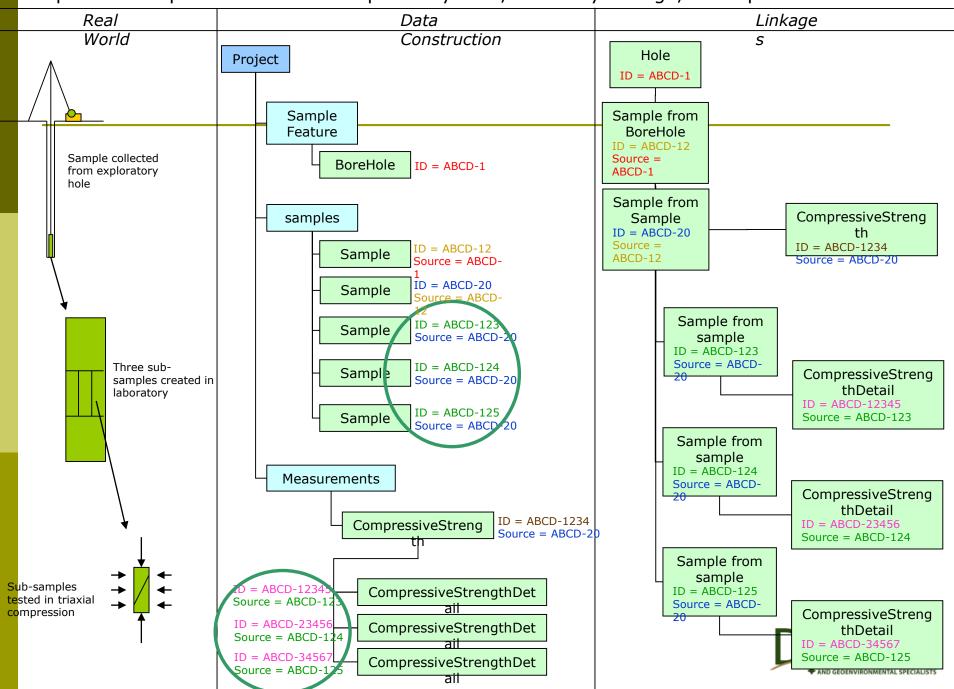
Example 3 – Sample Taken from an SPT in an Exploratory Hole, tested for NMC, LL and PL



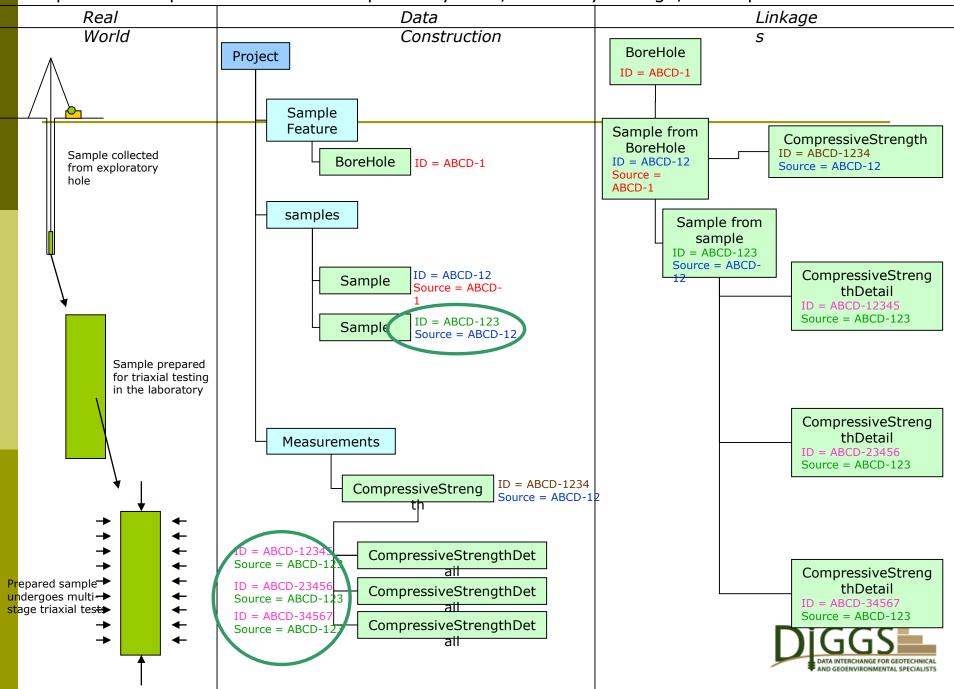
Example 4 – Two samples taken from trial pit, amalgamated and tested for PSD



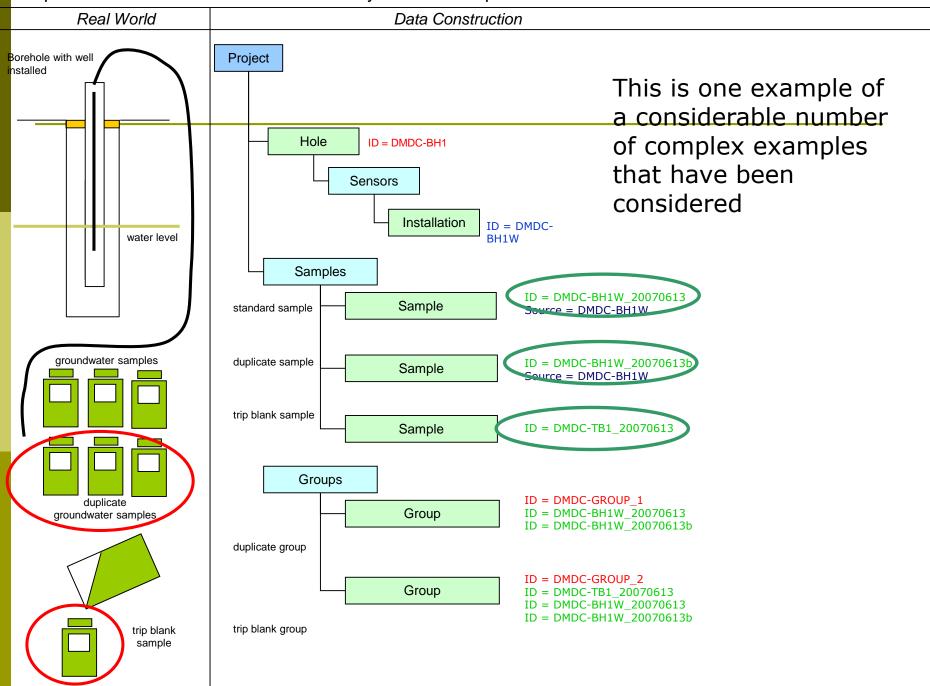
Example 5 - Sample Taken from an Exploratory Hole, tested by 3 stage, 3 sample triaxial test



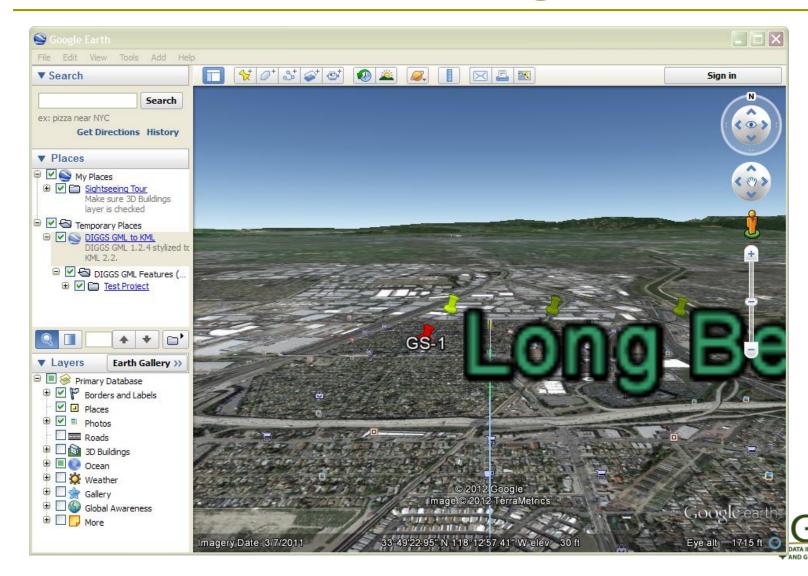
Example 6 - Sample Taken from an Exploratory Hole, tested by 3 stage, 1 sample triaxial test



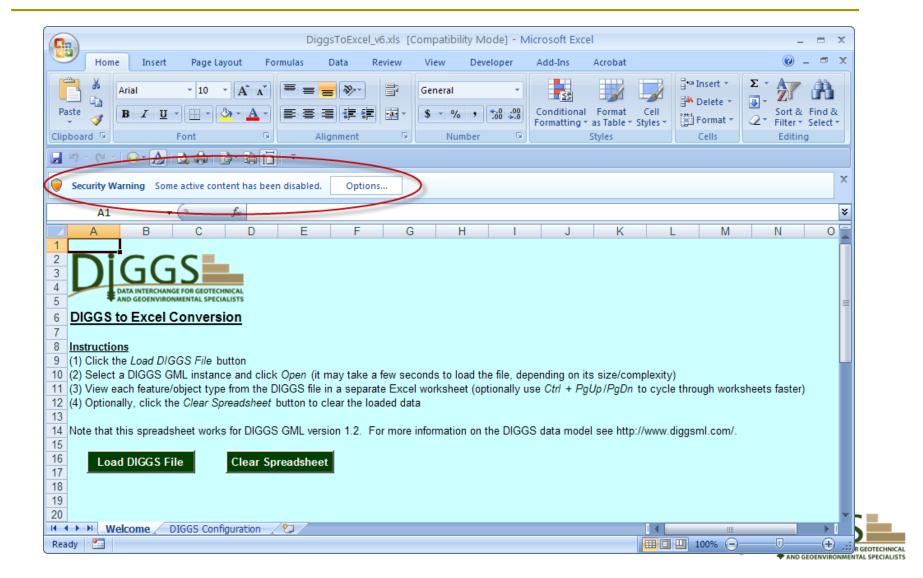
#### Example 7 – Geoenvironmental: Field Quality Control Samples



# DIGGS – KML (Google) Viewer



### DIGGS to Excel Converter



## Excel – Tabbed Structure for Data

	A	В		C					
1	Home Page	Previous Page	Next Page	4	ľ				
2				,					
3	Property Name	Attribute Name	Property Value	4	ž.				
4	Project	ID:	p1	1	)				
5	Name		Test Project	į.	)				
6	Remarks			=	)				
7	Remark				1				
8	Content		This could be a virtual project that h	as no relevance	į.				
9	Associated Location Ref		#LB_Webster	1					
10	Associated Location Ref		#a22		С	D	E	F	3
11	Associated Location Ref		#cpt-1	4	Next Page				3
12	Sampling Activity Ref		#zyx	į					
13	Group Ref		<u>#g1</u>		Property Value				1 3
14					bcd :				3
15				-	<u>#d1</u>				1
16				-	#p1				- 4
17				j	#LB_Webster				1
18					#a22				- 5
19				3	#cpt-1				3
20				3	#d123				3
21				-	#d1e242				
22					#gl1				3
23	Desiret Desiret	ala Baiat Lia	eString LinearSpatialReferenceSy	stem Linea	#xvz				1
14	Project Boreh	ole Point Lir	#zyx				3		
			15 Sampling Activity		#pointSample				1
			16 Sample		#s321				3
			17 Sample		#s123				3
			18 Sample		#sampt				3
			19 Layer System		#ls-1				3
			20 Layer System		#ls2				1
			21 Layer System		#lst1				1
			22 Layer System		#fs1				1 9
			23 Laver System  Diags Doc	umentInformatio	#let uec	cation	Designet / D	lorobolo 4	Doits
			Diggs Doc	umencimormatio	n SoftwareAppli	Cation	Project / B	orehole 🦯	Poils

## CPT Data Extract

4	Α	В	С	D	E	F	
1	Home Page	Previous Page	Next Page				
2			•				
3	Property Name	Attribute Name	Property Value				
4	Log	ID:	MPC001				
5			Log position (#cptsr1)	Tip Resistance (kN/m2)	Sleeve Resistance (kN/m2)	Friction Ratio	Pore V
6			0.010	0.1300	0.40	0.0000	0.0013
7			0.020	0.2400	0.40	0.1000	0.0078
8			0.030	0.5500	0.40	0.0040	0.0126
9			0.040	0.6800	0.40	0.0070	-0.0017
10			0.050	0.7800	0.30	0.0120	-0.0121
11			0.060	0.9000	0.30	0.0150	-0.0161
12			0.070	0.9600	0.40	0.0200	0.0191
13			0.080	1.0400	0.40	0.0240	-0.0120
14			0.090	1.0700	0.30	0.0270	-0.0129
15			0.100	1.1000	0.30	0.1000	-0.0123
16			0.110	1.1300	0.40	0.0350	-0.0176
17			0.120	1.1800	0.30	0.0400	-0.0234
18			0.130	1.2400	0.40	0.0430	-0.0206
19			0.140	1.2600	0.40	0.0460	-0.0277
20			0.150	1.2600	0.40	0.0480	-0.0303
21			0.160	1.2800	0.40	0.0490	-0.0413
22			0.170	1.2900	0.40	0.0500	-0.0482
23			0.180	1 2600	0.30	0.0500	-0.0455
	Density	Test / DensityTe				0.0500	-(



# http://diggsml.org - Website



Login

International geotechnical and geoenvironmental data interchange framework based on XML and GML.
Written by geotechnical professionals, for geotechnical professionals.



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  - Registered ID's
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  - Environmental
  - Geotechnical
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#### Data Interchange for Geotechnical and GeoEnvironmental Specialists (DIGGS)

DIGGS is a coalition of government agencies, universities and industry partners whose focus is on the creation and maintenance of an international data transfer standard for transportation related data. The coalition came into existence through coordination from the US Federal Highway Administration sponsoring meetings and eventually forming the pooled fund study project. The initial base schema consists of geotechnical data including Borehole, soil testing, site information and more. The first SIG is extending the schema to include Geo-Environmental testing. More SIGs and expanded membership are in the works.

The draft DIGGS standard is available for review and comment. In order to act as a reviewer, you must create an account. You will then have access to download the schema and documentation as well as participate in the online discussion forum. The forums will be monitored and the DIGGS team will answer questions to help in the understanding and implementation of the schema and will be the main point of contact for review comments. The schema will be updated monthly with corrections and additions during the review. Review Forum >

#### Recent Blog Entries (Full Blog Listing)

#### Status of Work on the DIGGS v1.2 Release

September 4, 2010 - 1:13am - LTurner

It's been several months since the release of DIGGS v1.1 this past April. At the roll-out meeting we had anticipated having a version 1.2 ready by July. However, the changes in version 1.2 have required far more analysis and work than originally anticipated. (Read more....)

LTurner's blog Read more 3 attachments Public Frontpage

#### DIGGS v1.1 Release

May 19, 2010 - 10:30pm — LTurner

We are pleased to announce the release of DIGGS v1.1. This release includes a number of significant schema changes. The net result is a schema that is more robust and easier to use, far less complex in organization and file size, loads and validates much quicker, and is compliant with GML 3.2 standards.

LTurner's blog Read more 1 attachment Public Frontpage

#### Pooled Fund Project TPF 5(111)

The Pooled Fund Project is a US Federal Highways Administration project administered by the state of Ohio. Multiple states commit funds to create a larger project under which all organizations receive the benefit from the project. The DIGGS project was created to develop an international standard interchange format for geotechnical data. The project brought together the existing formats created by Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists in the United Kingdom (AGS), Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems (COSMOS) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) created by the University of Florida (UF). The project has a governance structure for developing the base schema as well as Special Interest Groups (SIG) to create extensions. The result of the project is the DIGGS schema. Pooled Fund Project >

### Lessons Learned

### Data Dictionary is the most critical part

- Agreement on how to:
  - measure a reference point (top or bottom), how to define a collection process, how to assign sample numbers, etc
- required a huge investment of time, large number of experts from various countries and disciplines.
- Using a core team of people and concentrated time (workshops) was critical to success
- Recommended: Best practices from AGS involving stakeholders in developing corrections, new additions and releases.

### Lessons Learned

- Involve a paid industrial partner (GML expert) sooner in the process.
  - Workshops were excellent format for dictionary & early schema versions.
  - Handled the difficult consensus building with subject matter experts
- Recommendation: when converting to a final schema, schema experts should have been brought in sooner for GML expertise



### Recommendations – Future Work

# Items not included in the current version

- Deep Foundations (parts of the UF-FDOT schema)
  - Geotechnical components are covered, deep foundation portions are not.
  - Recommended that SIG formed to include in next release
- Parts of the US-EPA schemas.
  - Many parts can be covered by DIGGS,
  - Recommended that a SIG be created in conjunction with US-EPA and develop the remaining portions.



### Future Additions to DIGGS

- Schematron validation tool
- Web authoring tool for readable forms
- Web validator to check files compliance
- Data and Map server for detailed mapping
- Identifier Registry to share specific changes
  - CRS and Units Registry
  - Data/Metadata Registry for businesses, equipment codelists and other data to ensure compatibility



### Future of DIGGS

- ASCE Geo-Institute will take ownership of DIGGS
  - Treat as new standard (under Codes & Standards Division)
  - Form a committee (with outside members)
  - Maintain:
    - Schema standard (new form of technical standard)
    - Website, standard updates, etc
- □ Transfer process:
  - Ohio DOT to fund implementation (transfer and startup)



## Supporters/Promoters of DIGGS

- AGS (UK Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists)
- Bridge Software Institute, University of Florida
- CIRIA (UK Construction Industry Research and Information Association)
- COSMOS (Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems)
- Delta Environmental Consultants, Inc.
- EarthSoft Inc.
- Galdos Inc.
- gINT Software Inc. (Bentley Systems, Inc.)
- Keynetix Ltd.
- Mott MacDonald
- North Carolina State University
- Petrochemical Open Standards Consortium
- United States Federal Highways Administration
- United Kingdom Highways Agency
- □ US Departments of Transportation (CA, CT, FL, GA, IN, KS, KY, MN, MO, NC, OH, TN)
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Navy
- University of New Hampshire

