

GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PIPING SUPPORT OVER BULKHEADS

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GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PIPING SUPPORT OVER BULKHEADS

BULKHEADS

- ❖ LARGE AND STIFF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS
- ❖ SOFT AND WEAK RETAINED FILLS
- ❖ MARINE ENVIRONMENT
- ❖ SEISMIC LOADING



PIPING SUPPORT CONDITIONS

- ❖ HIGHLY VARIABLE
- ❖ LARGE GROUND DEFORMATIONS
- ❖ UNSTABLE AND EXTREME GROUND CONDITIONS

GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PIPING SUPPORT

VARYING CONDITIONS ALONG PIPING ALIGNMENT

- ❖ VARYING SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS
- ❖ SOFT AND/OR LIQUEFIABLE SOILS
(e.g. HYDRAULIC FILLS)
- ❖ UNSTABLE SLOPES
- ❖ LATERAL SPREAD AND FAILURE ZONES
- ❖ MULTIDIRECTIONAL BENDS IN PIPING
- ❖ CONNECTIONS TO OR PENETRATIONS
THROUGH STRUCTURES OR TANKS ON
DIFFERENT FOUNDATION TYPES



**SETTLEMENT AND GROUND
DEFORMATIONS**



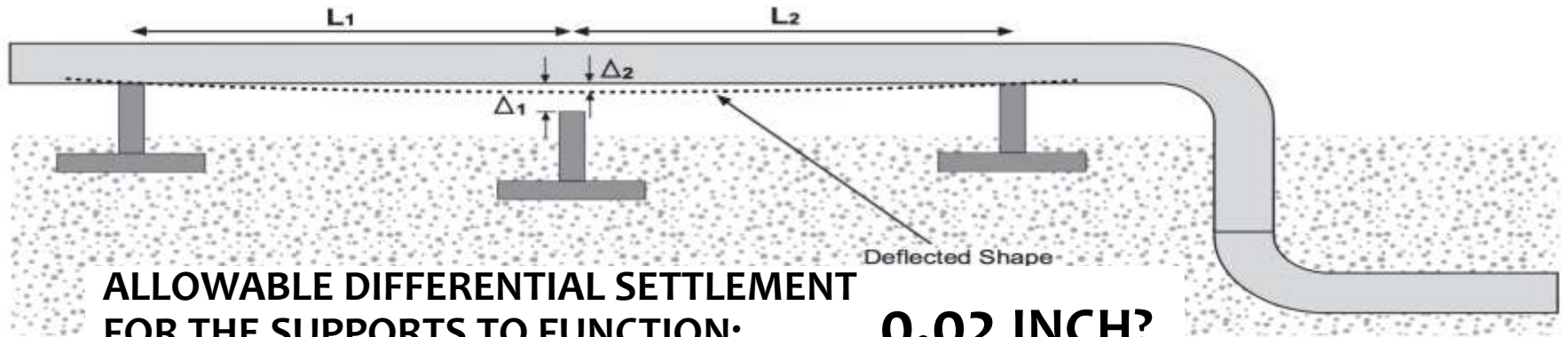
**DIFFERENTIAL SETTLEMENT
OR SUPPORT CONDITIONS**

EXAMPLE - ABOVE GROUND PIPE SUPPORT “FAILURE”



DIFFERENTIAL PIPE SETTLEMENT ABOVE-GROUND PIPE

FOR THE 42-INCH DIAMETER PIPE WITH 32 FEET
SPAN (L_1+L_2): **DEFLECTION (Δ_2) = 0.08 INCH**



**ALLOWABLE DIFFERENTIAL SETTLEMENT
FOR THE SUPPORTS TO FUNCTION: 0.02 INCH?**

**ESTIMATED DIFFERENTIAL SETTLEMENT: 3/4 INCH
PER DESIGN DOCUMENTS**



PIPE SUPPORT “FAILURE”

Observations

- Strap changed support to load
- Other supports affected?
- Solution? Additional Maintenance?
- Wrong foundation type?

Lessons

- Differential settlement critical for piping/support performance
- Allowable differential settlement depends on soil-structure interaction
- Geotechnical estimates of differential settlement are typically for “ground settlement”

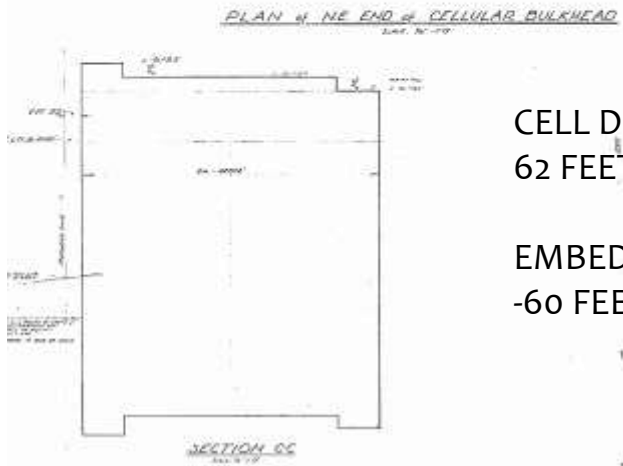
TYPICAL GROUND SETTLEMENT AT A PORT SITE

TABLE 3-3 SUMMARY OF LIQUEFACTION ANALYSIS USING SITE-SPECIFIC SOIL INVESTIGATION

Boring / CPT	Approximate Elevations of Liquefiable Zone (ft, MLLW)		Approximate Seismically induced Settlement (inches)	
	Under Level 1 EQ	Under Level 2 EQ	Under Level 1 EQ	Under Level 2 EQ
09-B1	None	-4.8 to -9.8, -33.5 to -38.5	0.4	2.8
09-B2	None	+5.0 to -24.8	0.7	8.1
09-B3	None	+5.0 to -28.5	2.3	9.9
09-C1	None	+5.0 to -25.2, -32.6 to -39.8, -44.8 to -46.2	0.2	10.4
09-C1A	None	+5.0 to -24.6, -30.8 to -39.5	0.1	10.0
09-C2	None	+5.0 to -0.4, -14.1 to -15.0, -31.1 to -33.1, -39.0 to -41.0, -50.1 to -51.1	0.1	4.9
09-C3	None	+5.0 to -24.6, -33.2 to -40.3, -48.5 to -50.3	0.1	10.3
09-C4	None	-6.2 to -9.5, -32.6 to -35.7, -38.3 to -40.8, -48.0 to -50.0	0.1	3.7
09-C5	None	+2.2 to -1.3, -6.8 to -9.6, -33.1 to -35.4, -36.2 to -39.0, -48.8 to -50.6	0.3	4.8
09-C6	None	+5.0 to +3.8, -2.9 to -16.5, -22.1 to -25.2, -34.7 to -36.4	0.1	6.4
09-C7	None	+4.6 to +4.0, +2.5 to +1.4, -1.9 to -9.5, -30.5 to -33.2, -38.2 to -40.8	0.1	4.9
09-C8	None	+5.0 to -25.3, -32.3 to -35.4, -36.5 to -39.0, -45.9 to -47.5, -60.0 to -61.3	0.0	8.9

Reference: Chemoil MOTEMS Initial Audit report, 2009, by Earth Mechanics, Inc.

BURIED PIPING SUPPORT AT PORT FACILITIES WITH SHEET PILE BULKHEAD



CELL DIAMETER:
62 FEET

EMBEDMENT TO:
-60 FEET MLLW

VARIABLE SUPPORT CONDITIONS OVER SHORT DISTANCES:

- ◆ VERTICAL SETTLEMENT OF SHEET PILES LESS THAN **1 INCH**
- ◆ LATERAL SHEAR DEFORMATION OF SHEET PILES – **UP TO 3 FEET**
- ◆ SETTLEMENT OF FILL INSIDE OR OUTSIDE CELL: **3 TO 11 INCHES**

VALVE WITHIN THE CELL NEEDS TO BE FUNCTIONAL AT ALL TIMES

BURIED PIPING SUPPORT AT PORT FACILITIES WITH SHEET PILE BULKHEAD

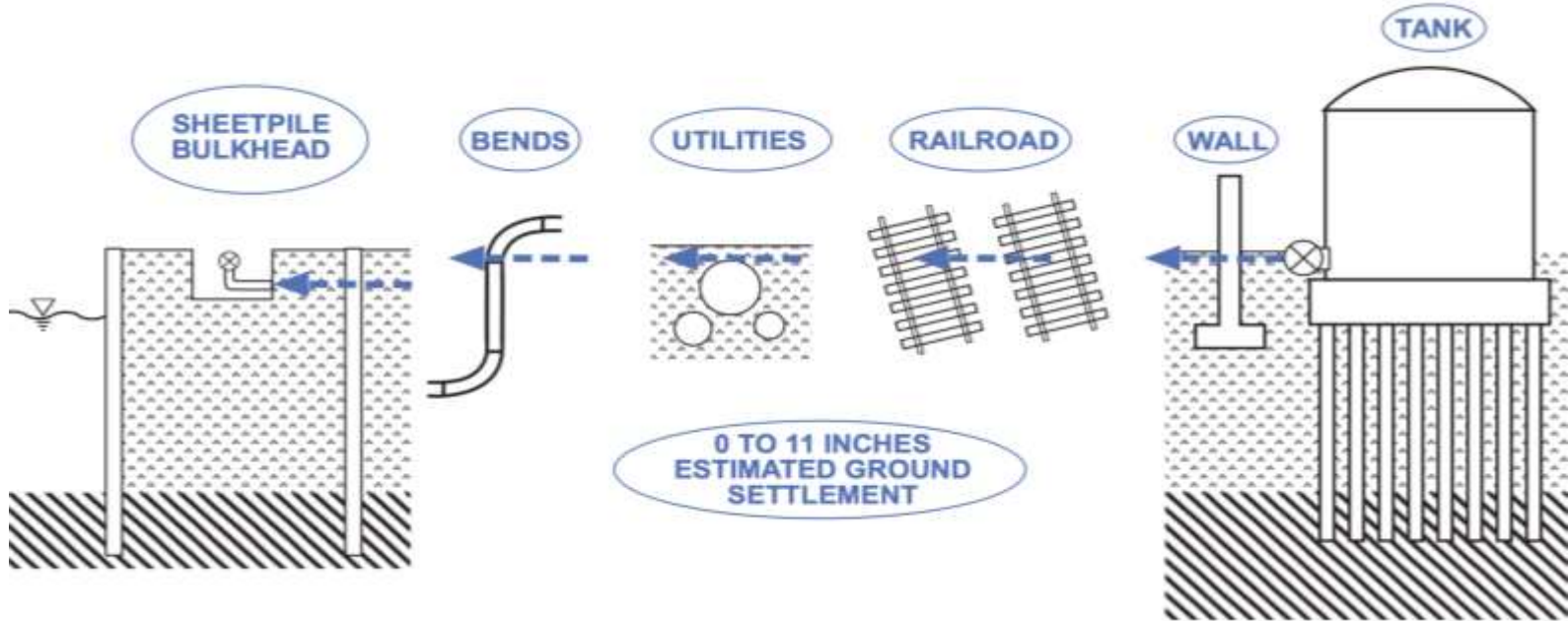
PARTIAL SITE PLAN



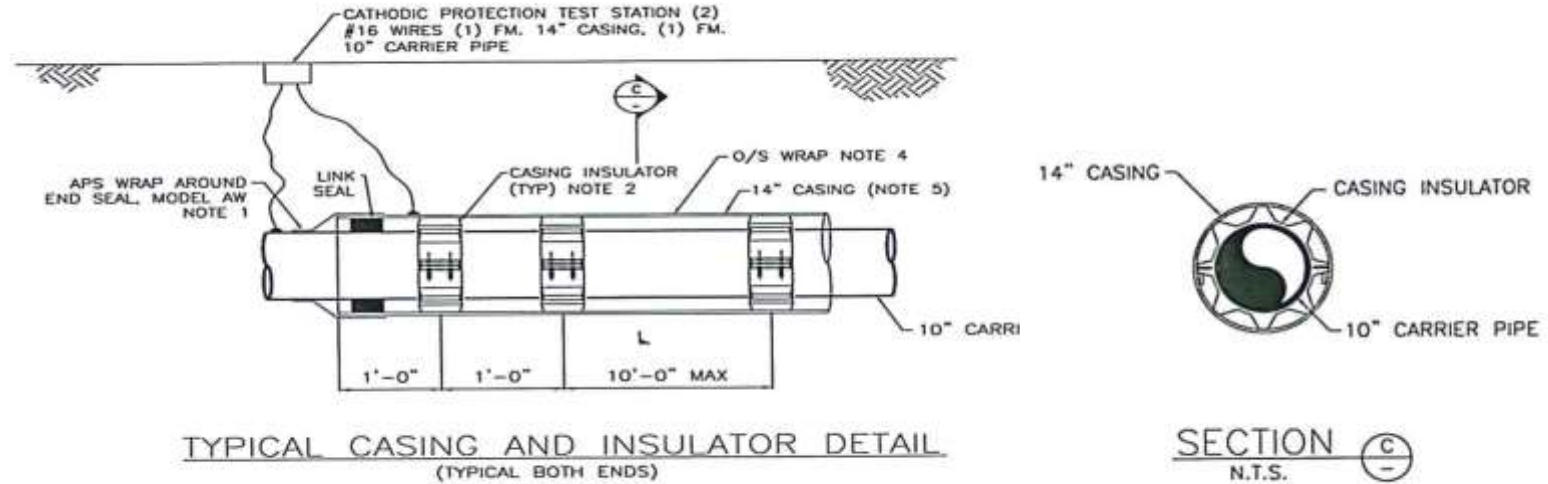
- ◆ 10-INCH DIA. TRANSMIX LINE
- ◆ ~900 FEET LENGTH
- ◆ ORIGINATE FROM TANK FARM
- ◆ ENDS AT VALVEPIT WITHIN BULKHEAD CELL
- ◆ VARIOUS UTILITIES AND RAILROADS

BURIED PIPING OVER BULKHEAD

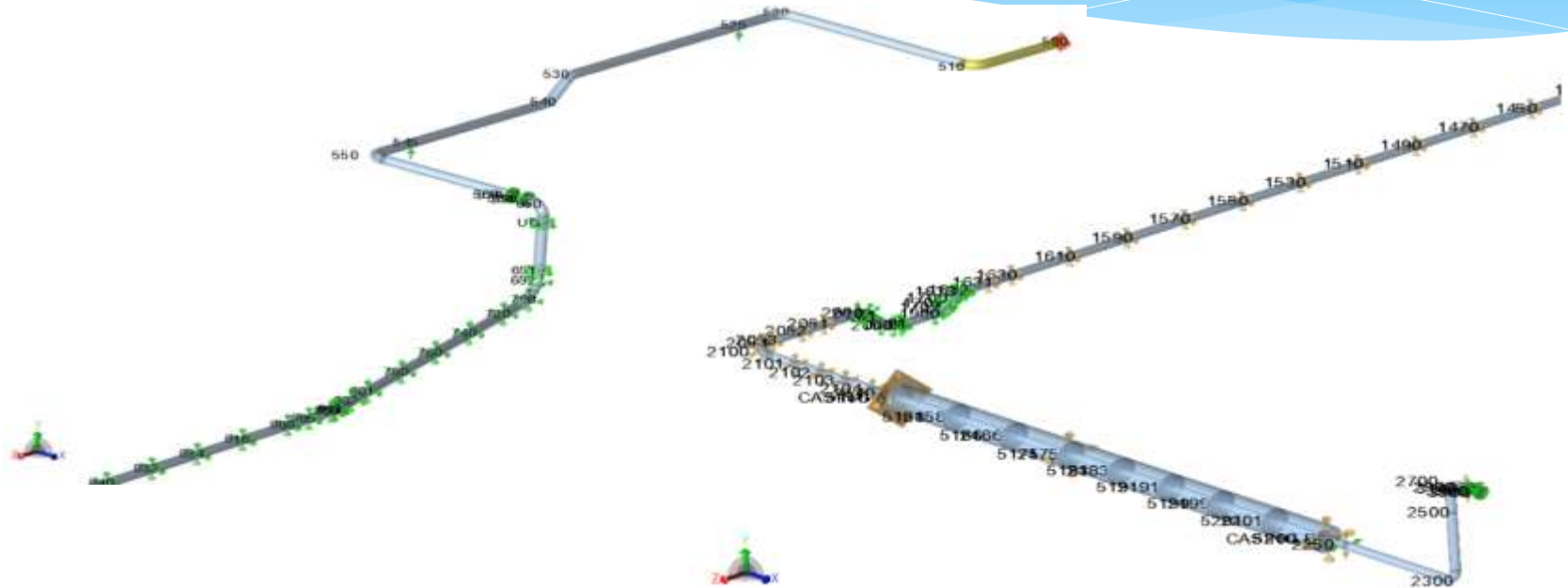
VARIABLE SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS



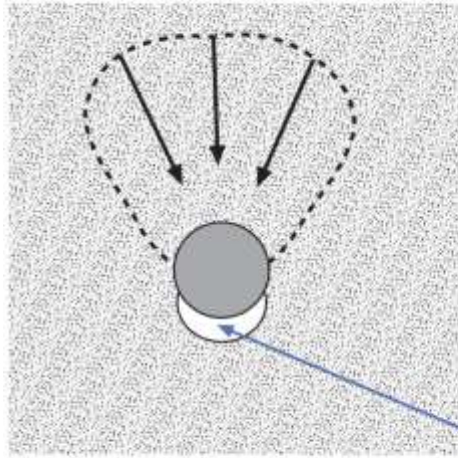
CASING DETAIL AT RAILROAD CROSSING



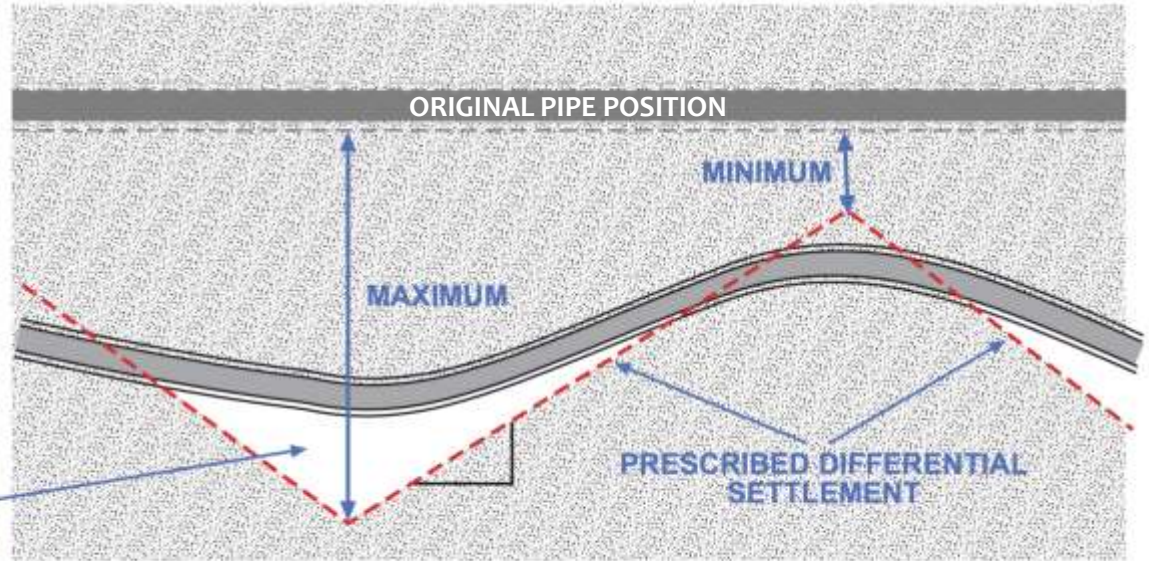
PIPE STRESS ANALYSIS MODELS



MODELING OF GROUND DEFORMATION

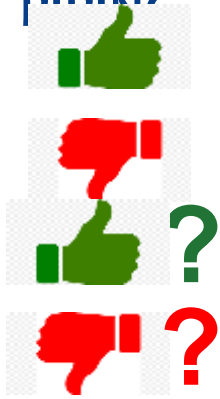


**GAP -
LACK OF
SUPPORT**



ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND PIPING PROS AND CONS

ABOVE-GROUND GROUND PIPING



INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

LOSS OF USABLE SPACE

CONSTRUCTION COST

EXTREME SITE VARIABILITY

BELOW-

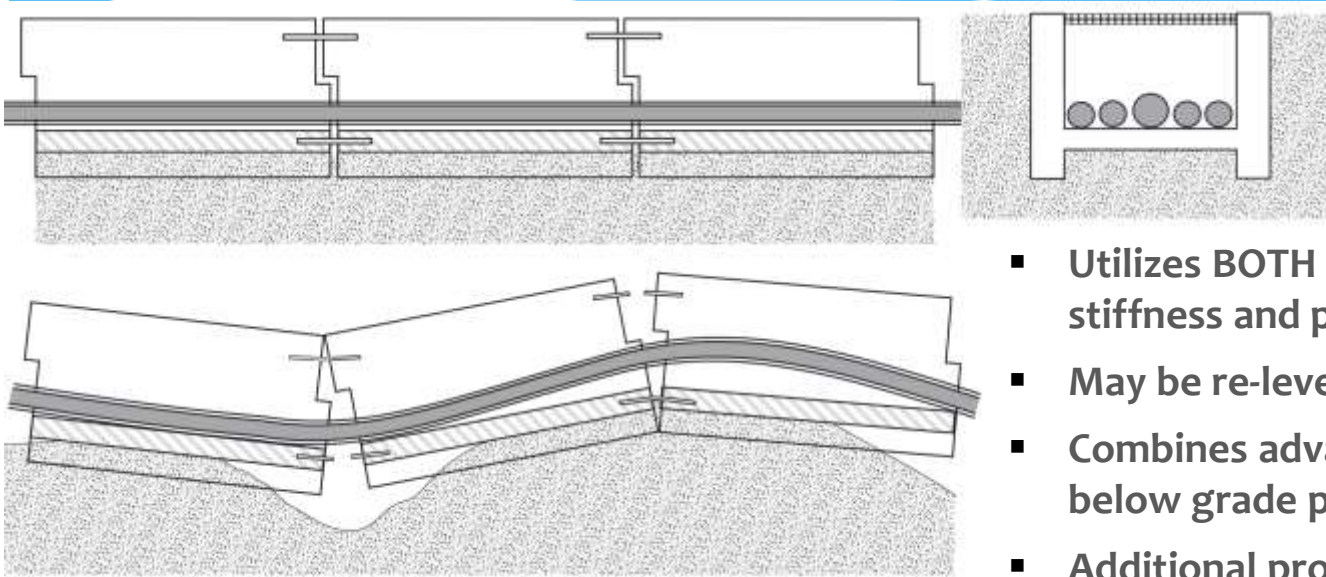
PIPING



DESIGN FOR EXTREME SITE VARIABILITY

Ground movement in feet; Failure/Flow zones

REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE TRENCH WITH JOINTS



- Utilizes BOTH concrete strength/stiffness and pipe ductility
- May be re-leveled after earthquake
- Combines advantages of both above and below grade piping
- Additional protection layers possible
- Possible alternate to ground improvement in some cases

DESIGN STRATEGY FOR PIPING SUPPORT

- ❖ ISOLATE PIPE FROM SUDDEN VARIATIONS IN SUPPORT CONDITIONS
- ❖ MAINTAIN AND UTILIZE PIPE DUCTILITY
- ❖ RELATIVE STIFFNESS OF SUPPORTS SHOULD BE GREATER THAN THE STIFFNESS OF PIPING
- ❖ NONLINEAR SOIL-STRUCTURE INTERACTION ANALYSES NEEDED FOR EXTREME CONDITIONS
- ❖ COMBINE FOUNDATIONS IF POSSIBLE
- ❖ AVOID BENDS AND OTHER FEATURES IF POSSIBLE
- ❖ PROVIDE LAYERS OF PROTECTION IN EXTREME SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS
- ❖ CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO GROUND IMPROVEMENT

Acknowledgements

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- * **Chemoil Terminals Corporation**
- * **Earth Mechanics Inc.**
- * **IQA Solutions Inc.**