

Gateways

Information from Gateway Geotechnical, LLC

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WIN CARDINALS TICKETS!

Are you dealing with or have questions about a geotechnical issue? If so, send us an [email](#).

We'll get you the solution!

ONE OF US ON A TRICYCLE

One of the more interesting foundation investigations we completed this past year was for this roughly 16-foot tall statue by Steven Gregory, 2008, now located in Clayton's Charles A. Shaw Park. We provided foundation design, site development, and construction recommendations to our client's Project Manager, Matt Hejna with Acme Erectors, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri.



QUESTIONS WE MIGHT ASK WHEN RESPONDING TO YOUR RFP

Following are some of the questions we will likely ask you in response to your RFP, all with the intent of providing better service. Please give us the opportunity to ask.

WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING?

Footprint, basement level or slab-on-grade, number of stories, structural loadings, cut and fill, special requirements?

The value of us knowing as much of this information as possible should be obvious; each can affect the number and depth of borings, as well as the planned laboratory testing and subsequent analysis.

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

Subsurface conditions can be quite variable across our region, and we've been exploring it long enough to have a feel for what we will find -- hence, the location-dictated number of borings, their depth, and the sampling protocol all

affect the proposal.

IS THERE ANY AVAILABLE HISTORICAL INFORMATION?

A fair question when the project is an addition to an existing building or nearby. However, we are always amazed when told almost every time that "nothing is available" or "no one knows where it is," even when the existing structure is of recent vintage.

Another pre-existing condition is fill on the site -- we can only know its history if it's fill we monitored during its original placement and compaction, or if historical information is provided to us.

WHAT ABOUT SITE ACCESS?

Are there locked gates or other obstructions? Are there private utilities that need to be located other than those that will be marked by Missouri One-Call or Illinois Julie? We always use these services which automatically add two or more days to the drilling schedule. Is there someone on site that we should check in with before the drill rig arrives?

WHO IS DETERMINING SCOPE OF SERVICES?

Usually we learn of a project when asked to provide a geotechnical proposal, the format of which can be quite varied -- from a detailed boring and sampling protocol to simply presenting the finished project and letting us apply our experience in planning the scope of investigation.

When a specific number and location of borings is requested, it can be a signal that the client is "shopping" for price regardless of our experience and capabilities. We respond to those requests, but prefer to provide our professional input. Other times the client is knowledgeable of similar projects and has experience to specify what's needed. We can usually tell the difference.

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO RECEIVE OUR REPORT?

Depending on how much drilling and testing is involved, we normally can provide our report to you within one or two weeks following the field work. Preliminary information can almost always be provided in a few days rather than a few weeks.

However, we are not always responsible for our utility locators' delays or our subcontracted driller's scheduling, nor do we often determine the weather -- we do use the same subcontracted drillers as others in the area, so if we are delayed, so are they. Occasionally we can pull some strings for weekend or otherwise expedited drilling, but please don't ask for it all the time.

We can, however, control the turn-around time required for our own laboratory testing and reporting. Quick response is one of our core values; we're not reluctant to working weekends or long days to meet your schedule.

Recently we drilled on Saturday and delivered our report the following Wednesday.



BY THE NUMBERS -- WE'RE IN OUR 10TH YEAR!

Gateway will be 10 years old next July 1. In addition to the experience and judgment our engineering staff has earned over 50 years of geotechnical practice in the St. Louis marketplace, Gateway has completed more than **400** projects since our founding -- mostly in Missouri, some in Illinois, and a few in other states.

No longer should we be looked at as "the new kid on the block"!

WHAT IS GEOSTRAT?

The Department of Natural Resources' Geosciences Technical Resource Assessment Tool (GeoSTRAT) is a web-based resource using Google Earth and ESRI GIS mapping technology. Sinkholes, mines, springs, certified water wells, groundwater depth and other features may be available for your site. For example, the "Inventory of Mines, Occurrences and Prospects" layer provides information about the commodity, operation status and type, formation mined or prospected, elevation, operator name, and more.

Source: Missouri Resources, Winter 2015, Volume 32, Number 1.

GEOCONFLUENCE 2015



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**

Registration is open for GeoConfluence 2015! This full day conference focuses on geotechnical engineering and geo-environmental topics.

The Conference is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2015 at the St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, Missouri. Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Conference details are at:

<http://sections.asce.org/stlouis/GEI/GEI.htm>

and online registration is at:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eb1gyvwr69c58f11&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

Shari Cunningham, a Senior Geotechnical Engineer at Gateway, is the incoming Vice Chair of the St. Louis Chapter of the Geotechnical Institute of ASCE and has helped plan this successful event for the past several years.

WHAT IS THIS?



The first person to successfully identify this will be recognized in our next Gateways issue and receive **Two tickets to the Cardinals vs. Brewers baseball game on September 25th!**

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