

Live Interactive Web Seminar

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Geo-Risk Management: Essential to Better, Faster, Cheaper Projects

Sponsored by ASCE Continuing Education and ASCE'S Geo-Institute (GI)

MONDAY, August 8, 2011
12 Noon - 1 pm Eastern Time

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

There are increasing demands by owners and the design/construction industry for geo-professionals to provide "Better, Faster, Cheaper" approaches to project geotechnical issues. These demands necessitate more active management of project risks associated with unanticipated subsurface conditions. The recommendations for dealing with such geo-risks include: (1) involvement of experienced geo-professionals over the life of the project, (2) use of project risk registers for identifying, tracking and controlling geo-risks and (3) project Geotechnical Baseline Reports (GBR) fashioned after such reports pioneered over the last 40 years in the tunneling industry.

This webinar spells-out the need for effectively dealing with the uncertainties and associated risks inherent in the subsurface. It retrospectively looks at case histories of typical projects for the purpose of examining how these projects were, or might have been, executed to provide Better, Faster, Cheaper project solutions by implementing geo-risk management.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary objective of this webinar is to reflect on and reinforce the fundamental geotechnical concept that is often lost in today's tendency for commodity geotechnical services. Namely that "experience counts" when it comes to: first, avoiding and/or second, dealing with subsurface uncertainties that are often encountered during below ground construction; the overwhelming majority of which make projects "poorer, slower, more costly", and often could have been avoided by adequately directed and funded subsurface investigation programs.

To support this concept, the presentation focuses on: (1) the value of experienced professionals from inception to completion of each project, (2) the advantages of a formal risk register to document management of known or possible project geo-risks, and (3) the value to the entire project team of a Geotechnical Baseline Report (GBR) for establishing a baseline for what is known about the site subsurface conditions at the time of bidding.

SEMINAR BENEFITS

- Development of the self confidence of geoprofessionals in raising and discussing with owners/designers the issue of uncertainties associated with the subsurface conditions and their possible impacts on projects
- A better understanding of the geo-risk management process
- Introduction to the use of a project risk register
- Discussion of the applicability of the GBR and differing site condition (DSC) contract clauses for all construction projects
- Earn one Professional Development Hour (1 PDH)

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The primary audiences are the geotechnical engineering and engineering geology communities. Secondary audiences include the owner/designer/construction communities involved with project development.

SEMINAR OUTLINE

- Background
 - 2006 Geo-Council Workshop – Trends Affecting the Geo-Community
 - Industry demands for better geotechnical engineering
 - Significance of uncertainties associated with subsurface conditions
 - The growing threat of commoditization of geotechnical services
- Very large cost overruns associated with unanticipated subsurface conditions
 - Examples of high unanticipated subsurface related costs
 - Comparative cost of unanticipated conditions to adequate initial services
 - Effectively communicating the reality of subsurface uncertainties with project owners and designers
- Dealing with Geo-Risk
 - Identification- relies heavily on experience
 - Assessment- Bayesian approach
 - Communication- share risk information with all project stakeholders
 - Alternative approaches- avoidance, mitigation, acceptance, or transference
 - Monitoring and Controlling
- Project Geo-Risk Management
 - Long-term involvement of senior geotechnical experts
 - Risk Register
 - Geotechnical Baseline Report
 - Differing Site Condition Contract Clause
 - Disputes Review Board
- Conclusions- A probable future of geotechnical engineering
- Case Histories
 - Early Identification
 - High Risk Situation

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Information/Registration:**SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR**

Ronald E. Smith, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE., M.ASCE, has a broad range of geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering experience extending over more than 40 years. He began his career teaching four years at the University of Florida. Subsequently he spent 29 years with Woodward-Clyde (WC), beginning as a Project Engineer and rising to Senior Vice President in URS/WC. During this period he worked on a wide variety of geotechnical and geoenvironmental projects. He retired from URS/WC in 1998 after five years leading the URS/WC team on the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Storage Project. For the three-year period following retirement, he served as an engineering consultant, university instructor teaching graduate geotechnical engineering courses at UNLV, and President of the Geo-Institute. In 2001 he joined Kleinfelder as the firm's Chief Technical Officer. In 2004 he became the CTO Emeritus, retiring in June 2007 to return to the role of geotechnical engineering consultant. He currently serves as Technical Region Director on the Board of Direction of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

BENEFITS OF LIVE TELEPHONE/WEB SEMINARS

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The Geo-Institute (GI) is a specialty membership organization focused on the geo-industry. It was created by the American Society of Civil Engineers in October 1996. The GI combines the talents and perspectives of its members to enhance their career development through specialty conferences, journals and practice-oriented publications; educational programs; networking and coalition-building; technical committees and task forces, and leadership on emerging issues.

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