



ROBERT (BOB) C. RABELER, PE

RABELER ASSOCIATES, LLC – SENIOR GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANT

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- Geotechnical Engineering
- Forensic Engineering/Expert Witness
- Underground Corrosion Evaluation
- Board of Directors

BACKGROUND

Bob is a geotechnical engineer with 50 years of experience on over 5000 projects throughout the Midwest. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in six states, and he is a master's level Geotechnical Engineer. His geotechnical expertise includes shallow and deep foundations, embankments and earth fill, slope stability, shoreline erosion, earth retention, and groundwater issues. He is an expert in underground corrosion evaluation with experience in nine states and several foreign countries. Bob has been active in many professional organizations including president of ASCE (Valparaiso University), Michigan statewide Vice President for MSPE, and president of ACEC of Michigan. Bob also served as chair of the Peer Review committee and member of Board of Directors for GBA/ASFE. He has performed 39 GBA/ASFE peer reviews of other firms across the USA and Canada. Bob serves as a forensic engineer and expert witness providing evaluations and/or expert opinion in legal cases involving geotechnical engineering issues/failures.

EDUCATION

B.S., Civil Engineering, Valparaiso University, 1975
M.S., Civil Engineering, Purdue University, 1976

REGISTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Engineer – Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota

Professional EXPERIENCE

President, Rabeler Associates, LLC – 2020 to present
Senior Vice President and Principal, SME – 1983 to 2020
Project Manager/Lead Geotechnical Engineer, STS Consultants (Michigan) -- 1979 to 1983
Staff Engineer, STS Consultants (Wisconsin) -- 1977 to 1979

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SME – 2013 to Present	MSPE (MI) – 1995 to 1997
ASFE/GBA – 1998 to 2002	SMPS (MI) – 1992 to 1994
ACEC/MI – 2000 to 2005	

AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM)
Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD)
Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recipient of Vern B. Spaulding Leadership Award from ACEC of Michigan -- 2017

MSPE Fellow – Michigan Society of Professional Engineers – 2003

Outstanding Engineer in Private Practice – ACEC/M and MSPE – 1997

Engineer of the Year – MSPE Grand Valley Chapter – 1992

Young Engineer of the Year – MSPE Grand Valley Chapter -- 1986

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

"Geotechnical Failure Case Studies – Lessons Learned", 2022 GeoCongress Conference, Charlotte, NC, March 2022.

"Lake Michigan Shoreline Erosion During Record High Water Levels – Case Studies", by Jeffery M. Krusinga, PE, GE, M.ASCE and Robert C. Rabeler, PE, M.ASCE, Geo-Extreme 2021, ASCE Geo-Institute, August, 2021.

"Lake Michigan Shoreline Erosion – 3 Case Studies", by Jeffery M. Krusinga, PE, GE, M.ASCE and Robert C. Rabeler, PE, M.ASCE, 10th International Conference on Scour and Erosion, 2021.

"Urban Geotechnics – Geotechnical Engineers Providing Added Value", Purdue Geotechnical Society, April 27, 2018

"Problem Recognition – Geotechnical Engineering: Lessons Learned", Purdue Geotechnical Society, April 15, 2016

"Mold Alert" by Robert C. Rabeler, PE and James M. Less, CIH, Michigan Contractor, 2002

"Using Pressuremeter Technology and Geotechnical Expertise to Construct City Center Parking Structure, East Lansing, Michigan", Michigan Constructor, Summer/Fall 2000

"High Capacity Drilled Cast-in-Place Piles", by Robert C. Rabeler, Tim H. Bedenis and Michael Thelen, presented at the GeoDenver Conference, August 5-8, 2000, and published in ASCE Geotechnical Special Publication New Technological and Design Developments in Deep Foundations, pages 125-139

"State Reduces Liability for Brownfield Site Development and Gets Better Results", by Robert Rabeler and Debra Osuch, Michigan Constructor, Summer 1997

"Dispute Resolution – Consultant Partners with MDOT", Michigan Professional Engineer, May/June 1997

"Michigan Dam Safety Inspection", ASCE specialty conference on geotechnical practice and dam rehabilitation, 1993

"Total Quality Control", by Robert Rabeler and Ed Lindow, symposium on Quality and Statistics: Total Quality Management, sponsored by ASTM, 1993

"Maintaining Existing Clients", Journal of Management and Engineering, American Society of Civil Engineers, 1991

"Evaluation of Parameters for Design of Sub-Irrigation Systems", presented at the International Conference on Sub-Irrigation Systems, 1991

"Soil Corrosion Evaluation of Screw Anchors", special technical publication, American Society for Testing and Materials, 1989

PEER REVIEWS

GBA/ASFE – Chair of Peer Review Committee (1998-2002). Firms Peer Reviewed:

AGEC - Utah, 2002 & 2006	GRI, 2023
Alaska Testlab, 2021	GTA - Maryland, 2002
Blackburn Consulting, 2023	Hirata - Hawaii, 2004
BSK - California, 2001	Kaveree, 2025
Civil & Environmental Consultants - PA, 2006	Klohn Crippen Berger - Vancouver, 2006 & 2009
Columbia West Engineering, 2021	Miller Pacific, 2024
CTL/Thompson - Colorado, 2003	Pacific Geotechnical - California, 2007
DOWL - Alaska, 2003	Prototype Engineering - MA, 2001
Eddy Group - Virginia, 2001 & 2006	Sanborn Head & Associates - NH, 2005
Faulkner Engineering - Florida, 2014	Schnabel - Virginia, 2004
Foundation Design, 2024	SCI - Missouri, 2001
Foundation Design, 2024	Southern Engineering, 2025
Fugro - Texas	Stephens Associates - MA, 2001
Fugro - West California, 2002	Strata - Idaho, 2009, 2015
GEI - Massachusetts, 2001	Strata - Washington, 2003
Geo Engineers - Washington	SW Cole - Maine
GEOMAT, 2021	Terracon - Kansas, 1998
GPI, 2023	TREK Engineering, 2026

EXPERT WITNESS/FORENSIC CASE LIST

- Michigan State Police Firing Range Berms – Stability Evaluation, Lansing, MI (Attorney: Pat Hanes)
- Mohr vs Kirschner – Retaining Wall Stability, Metamora, MI
- Lansing Board of Water and Light -- Cathodic Protection Evaluation, Lansing, MI
- Perry vs Darby, Casco, MI – Shoreline Erosion on Lake Michigan (Attorney: Mika Meyers)
- Tesara Investments vs Flying Fish, Bloomington, IN – Groundwater in basement (Attorney: Lewis Wagner, LLP)
- City of Greenfield, Indiana vs GAI Consultants and Milestone Contractors, Greenfield, IN – Road failure (Attorney: Easter & Cavosie)
- Amanda Mardeusz vs Connie Lee Parks, Newaygo, MI – Slope stability issues (Attorney: Gielow Groom Terpstra & McEvoy)
- Laurels of Stubenville, Ohio – Slope Slippage and Failure (Client: Jim Marlin, Jr. Attorney at Law and Terra Insurance)
- Blandford Nature Center vs Newco Design Build – Retaining Wall Failure, Grand Rapids, MI (Client: Starr, Butler, Alexopoulos, & Stoner, PLLC)
- Mayberry vs. Lefler, East Lansing, MI – Frost movements on patio wall (Client: Oade Stroud & Kleiman)
- Swien Residence, Rochester Hills, MI – Water in basement from leaking pipe (Client: Auto-Owners Insurance)

- DeMaria Residence, Shoreham, MI – Shoreline Erosion on Lake Michigan (Attorney: Mika Meyers)
- Former Ford Wixom Plant, Wixom, MI – Building demolition material as backfill (Client: State of Michigan – Attorney General)
- Tichvon Residence, Wayland, MI (Client: Hanes and Associates)
- Disselkoen vs. Citizens Insurance Company, Rockford, MI – Possible settlement at residence (Client: Collins, Einhorn, Farrell, PC)
- Plaza Towers Parking Structure, Grand Rapids, MI – Floor slab uplift due to 2013 flood (Client: Eenhoorn LLC)
- M-10 (Lodge) Retaining Wall Failure, Detroit, MI – Failure of caisson-type tieback retaining walls (Client: AECOM)
- I-94 over Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI – Bridge settlement due to vibrations from pile driving. (Client: MDOT)
- Gaskin Residence vs. City of Jackson Settlement Issue (Client: O' Connor, Degrazia, Tamm & O' Connor)
- DGD vs. GCDC – Sewer issues (Client: AECOM, Plunkett Cooney)
- Shaffers et al vs. High Grade Materials (Client: High Grade Materials, Hoesch & VanderPloeg)
- Lot 20 Cottage Homes on Maple Beach, MI – Settlement issue (Client: Hanes & Associates)
- 40 Acres Pasture, LLC vs. Sylvester Material Company, Washtenaw County, MI – evaluated fluff factor of overburden at gravel mine (Client: Sable Rowe Krichbaum)
- Donahue vs. Kebler – storm water issues (Client: Farm Bureau Insurance/Steven Rysiel)
- Odawa Casino, Petoskey, MI – Earthwork issues (Client: Clark Construction)
- Dewitz Construction vs. Manorwood Association – Earthwork costs issues (Client: Grange and Integrity Insurance)
- Firestone Drive Sewer, Fenton, MI – Artesian water pressure issues (Client: City of Fenton)
- Spoolstra Residence vs. Walters Garden, Salem Township, MI – Storm water issues (Client: Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance)
- Langford vs. Davis Construction, Montague, MI – Vibration and slope stability issues (Client: Harvey Kruse)
- Mariner's Cove Condominium, South Haven, MI – Issues with swimming pool (Client: Richard Quist/Cincinnati Insurance)
- Southern Michigan Conference Church, Jackson, MI – Issues with foundation support (Client: Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company)
- Residence on Highlander Drive, Rockford, Michigan – Foundation settlement issues (Client: Frankenmuth Insurance)
- Water Street Embankment, Douglas, MI – Slope stability issues (Client: Latitude Engineering)
- Residence, Baroda, MI – Water issues (Client: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos)
- Center Street, Douglas – Pavement cracking issues (Client: Aggregate Industries)
- Montague Foods vs. Houseman Construction – Floor slab settlement issue (Client: Straub Seaman and Allen)
- Phillipou vs. Washtenaw County Drain Commission – Evaluated development costs to construct building pad in a swamp. (Client: Hubbard Law Firm)

- Residence in Baroda, MI – Water issue in basement. (Client: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos)
- Jupiter Estates Number 4 – Excavation wall collapse during construction where a child was killed. (Client: Straub, Seaman and Allen)
- Burns Case – Fatality due to overturned truck. (Client: Fraser Law Firm)
- Lansing Pavilion vs. Eastwood, Lansing Township, MI – Earthwork issues. (Client: Dinsmore and Shohl)
- Cascade Township, MI Sewer – Dewatering issues. (Client: Law Weathers)
- Groothuis vs. Milanowski and Englert Engineering & Surveying – Services included report of opinion and deposition regarding groundwater levels. (Client: Phil Seltzer of Lipson, Neilson, Cole, Seltzer and Garin, PC)
- Wal-Mart Store, Sturgis, MI – Expert witness regarding changed condition. (Client: Butzel Long)
- Sawyer Residence, Bath, MI – Floor-slab issues. (Client: Timberland Development)
- Parking Lot Evaluation, IGA Supermarket, Richmond, MI. (Client: Willingham & Cote')
- Gordon Johns, Coldwater, MI – Wall failure. (Client: Allstate Insurance)
- Digger Dan Excavating vs. Porter – Provided expert opinion regarding dispute between owner and contractor. (Client: Willingham & Cote')
- Lorence vs. Yuker Construction – Provided expert opinion regarding retaining wall. (Client: Bodman, Longley & Dahling)
- Rutledge et al vs. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) – Evaluation of subsurface conditions regarding construction of shopping center in a wetland (Client: MDNR)
- Finnerty vs. MDOT – Services included volume calculations and cost estimates for sand in the road right-of-way, Lansing, MI (Client: MDOT)
- Rogers vs. Parish Corporation – Dispute involved settlement of a Wal-Mart store in Charlotte, MI. Reviewed soil borings and construction documentation, and provided an expert opinion regarding the cause of settlement. (Client: Parish Corporation)
- Schlegel et al vs. MDOT – Performed soil borings and provided volume calculations of sand and gravel within the road right-of-way, Lansing, MI. (Client: MDOT)
- Brookmark Plat, Rockford, MI – Provided expert opinion regarding earth fill dispute. (Client: Butzel Long/Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Hampton)
- Degrouchy vs. State Home Development – Provided expert opinion regarding erosion dispute. (Client: UAW-GM Legal Services)
- Septic Tank Collapse – Evaluation of cause of failure. (Client: Allstate Insurance)
- Gilin Residence, Delta Township, MI – Basement wall failure. (Client: Michigan Millers Insurance)
- Avance vs. Michigan State University – Services included deposition. (Client: Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis and Dunlap)
- D & H Asphalt vs. Ideal Company – Services included pavement analysis and recommendations. (Client: Burchfield, Pak, and Pollesch, PC)
- Grand Rapids TIFA vs. M.C. Smith – Provided expert opinion regarding observed movements. (Client: Smith, Haughey, Rice and Roegge)
- Harmon vs. Schlegel, Clinton County, Michigan – Soil borings, volume calculations and expert opinion regarding fill placed in an old gravel pit. (Client: Guggemos and Brown)