

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**Northeast NTC  
CHESTER, PA 19013**

**SUBJECT:** Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)  
Field Studies in Warren and  
Sussex Counties, New Jersey;  
9 to 13 March 1992

**DATE:** 19 March 1992

**To:** Ronnie L. Taylor  
State Soil Scientist  
USDA-Soil Conservation Service  
Somerset, New Jersey

**Purpose:**

To evaluate the potential of using GPR as a quality control tool for use in the updating of soil information in Warren and Sussex Counties, New Jersey.

**Participants:**

Cluster Belcher, Soil Consv (IPA w/DEP), SCS, Trenton, NJ  
Cecil Currin, State Conservationist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Jim Doolittle, Soil Specialist, SCS, Chester, PA  
Donna Drewes, RC&D Coordinator, SCS, Annandale, NJ  
Andy Fisk, Student, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Suhas Ghatge, Geologist, NJGS, Trenton, NJ  
Joe Green, Civil Engineer Tech., SCS, Hackettstown, NJ  
David Hall, Geologist, NJGS, Trenton, NJ  
Thornton Hole, Soil Scientist, SCS, Hammonton, NJ  
Don Jagel, Geologist, NJGS, Trenton, NJ  
Dan Jones, District Conservationist, SCS, Hackettstown, NJ  
Doug Kauffman, Soil Conservationist, SCS, Freehold, NJ  
David Kingsbury, Soil Scientist, SCS, Annandale, NJ  
Maxine Levin, Soil Correlator, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Irene Lieberman, Public Affairs Specialist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Ciro LoPinto, Soil Conservationists, SCS, Hackettstown, NJ  
Mary Loudon, Student, Stockton College, Pomona, NJ  
Daryl, Lund, Ass't. State Soil Scientist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Lenore Matula, Soil Scientist, SCS, Hammonton, NJ  
David Pasicznyk, Section Chief, NJGS, Trenton, NJ  
John Peterson, Civil Engineer Tech., SCS, Annandale, NJ  
Richard Shaw, Student, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Jeanne Sherman, Student, Stockton College, Pomona, NJ  
David Smart, State Res. Conservationist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Ronnie Taylor, State Soil Scientist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
Anne Thor, Soil Conservationist, SCS, Freehold, NJ  
Jeff Waldner, Geologist, NJGS, Trenton, NJ  
Mike Watson, Civil Engineer, SCS, Annandale, NJ

**Activities:**

Field studies were conducted in accordance with the "Itinerary for ground-penetrating radar project" prepared by David Kingsbury.

However, field and staff soils scientists did not interpret this interface as a fragic horizon.

TABLE 1

DEPTH TO BEDROCK

TRANSECT #	MAP UNIT	SHALLOW	MOD-DEEP	DEEP	VERY DEEP
1	WoB	0%	88%	12%	0%
2	WaB	25%	75%	0%	0%
3	WoB	50%	40%	0%	10%
4	RWF	9%	46%	36%	9%
11a	NbB	0%	0%	22%	78%
11b	BaB	0%	100%	0%	0%
12	BfC	15%	54%	0%	31%
13	NbB	4%	21%	54%	22%

Areas of Adrian muck (Ad) and Carlisle muck (Ck) near Stevens Island were transected with GPR. Adrian is a member of the sandy or sandy-skeletal, mixed, euic, mesic Terric Medisaprists and Carlisle is a member of the euic, mesic Typic Medisaprists families. Maximum profiling depth of the 120 MHz antenna in these soils was about 5feet. Auger observations and radar interpretations were used to prepared Table 2.

TABLE 2

Taxonomic subgroups of Histisols

TRANSECT #	MAP UNIT	TERRIC	TYPIC
6	Ad	100%	0%
7	Ad	100%	0%
8	Ad	100%	0%
9	Ck	36%	64%
10	Ck	0%	100%

All radar profiles were turned over to David Kingsbury for review and analysis.

**Recommendations:**

1. This field study addressed the potential of using GPR methods as a quality control tool for soil surveys in northwestern New Jersey. The results of this study indicate that Ground-penetrating radar techniques can be used to help update the composition of soil map units in Warren and Sussex counties. The utility of using GPR to extend the depth of observation and determine the depth to bedrock are discussed in the enclosed articles. Traditional transect methods are too slow, labor intense, and ineffective for determining the depth to bedrock. I urge the scheduling by the New Jersey Soil Staff

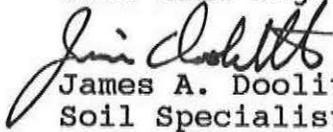
of NSSC - GPR field assistance. Field studies should immediately address the composition of map unit in areas of moderately deep or shallow Bartley, Bath, Nassau, Rockaway, and Wassaic soils.

2. The potential of using EM techniques for site assessments, ground water and mineralogical studies in south New Jersey should be explored in the near future.

3. I hope that the LORAN-C unit will be used in the upcoming sampling trip by Dr. Robert Grossman. I would be interested in learning of Lenore Matula's experiences with and impressions of the unit.

The field study was exceptionally well prepared. The efforts, enthusiasm, and participation of all were greatly appreciated. I enjoyed this opportunity to work with your fine staff and to provide GPR assistance to New Jersey.

With kind regards.

  
James A. Doolittle  
Soil Specialist

cc:

J. Culver, National Leader, SSQAS, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
C. Currin, State Conservationist, SCS, Somerset, NJ  
A. Dornbusch, Jr., Director, MWNTC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
E. Knox, National Leader, SSIV, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
C. Holzhey, Assistant Director, Soil Survey Div., NSSC, SCS, Lincoln,  
NE

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