



Geo-Institute Meetings

Lessons from Failures on US 70 Part 1: Case of the Rotating RSS

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Abstract. Three major geotechnical failures occurred on the US 70 project following construction. One of these was a reinforced soil slope (1/2H:1V) that had a slope stability-type failure. The failure occurred after severe rains. What caused this failure to occur? How did we design the slope to prevent future problems? The presentation will answer these questions, and will include photographs of the failure, a summary of forensic studies, and photos of the remediation construction. The author was brought back on site to evaluate the failure, develop a repair design, and monitor repair construction. This presentation is a will help other project engineers recognize signs of potentially troublesome geologic areas during design, and develop strategies for working with multiple clients in tense situations.

Biosketch. Elizabeth Smith, P.E., G.E., is a senior geotechnical engineer and associate principal at Terracon in Austin, Texas. Ms. Smith has more than 20 years of engineering experience, and has managed hundreds of geotechnical design projects. She has conducted evaluations and provided recommendations for conventional and design-build transportation infrastructure projects, including most recently the 183A Turnpike design-build project in Austin. Ms. Smith holds a bachelor's and master's in civil engineering from Virginia Tech, and is a registered professional engineer in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. She is president of the Heart of Texas (Austin) Chapter of WTS, and is active on the Virginia Tech Civil and Environmental Alumni Advisory Board and the ASCE GeoInstitute's Deep Foundations Committee.

When and Where.

Monday, October 9, 4:00 - 5:00 PM
CE Building, Room 222

Event Series Website.

<http://geoinstitute.tamu.edu/meetings.html>

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