

Chapter 2

Boreholes and Wells: Site Reconnaissance, Locations, Quantities, and Designations

2-1. Site Reconnaissance

Site visits are suggested for project geotechnical personnel as early as practical in the planning for any subsurface exploration. The purpose of this reconnaissance is to evaluate physical site conditions and logistical support availability. Particular items of interest would include geologic and geographic settings, site access, proximal utilities, service areas, sample shipment facilities, and potential hazards. Application of this knowledge will contribute to enhancing the technical approach and cost realism for subsequent project development.

2-2. Locations and Quantities

The locations and quantities of boreholes and wells should be selected to effectively ascertain desired geologic, hydrologic, and/or chemical parameters. The number of borings or wells specified in the drilling plan should not be altered without coordination with the FA. The drilling and well installation plan should permit relocations when necessitated by proximal utilities or drilling difficulties. The criteria for selection of the new location(s) should be included as a portion of the drilling plan and should indicate when coordination would be required with the FA.

2-3. Designations

Borehole and well designations (identification numbers) should not be unilaterally changed in the field or in a centralized computer database without prior approval of the installing Corps organization or non-Corps agency. After receiving approval, the requesting FA should physically renumber those sites where a designation is posted in the field.

Temporary conversions not involving the alteration of either field markings or a centralized database may be done for reporting purposes without approval of the installing organization or agency. Such temporary changes may be necessary, for instance, if the data entry format of a given computer system is not compatible with the characters in the existing well designation. A conversion table should be included in the final report to document any permanent *or* temporary boring/well designation changes.