

1. What is the definition of a subsurface unit?
2. What is the basis for unit correlation between borings?
3. What is a soil classification? How many different soil classification systems exist?
4. What are the deficiencies and uncertainties for trying to correlate soil classifications between borings?
5. How does a soil classification differ from a sediment description?
6. When logging a boring, what physical soil change(s) with depth would be the basis for describing a new interval?
7. What is the difference between the geological meaning and the engineering meaning for the term “graded?” Why is it important to understand the difference during site characterization?
8. What is the difference between a “lean clay” and a “fat clay?”
9. When is “Silty Clay” classified in the field?
10. What sediment could be described as “very dense” and what sediment could be described as “hard”?

11. Why is description of sedimentary structure important? How is sedimentary structure different from secondary soil structure?

12. What is the meaning of soil color? Why is it important?

13. Besides consistency, why use Munsell Soil Colors to designate soil color?

14. What can be done to help increase efficiency of a geotechnical or environmental testing program ?

15. What techniques are useful to help identify fractures in fine-grained glacial deposits?

16. What is the basis for predicting the occurrence and distribution of fractures in glacial deposits?

17. What strategies exist for efficient water table monitoring in near-surface, low-permeability units?

18. Why is it important to differentiate a vertical sequence of low-permeability units? Is it acceptable to lump units together as a single hydrostratigraphic confining unit?

19. What clues are helpful to differentiate laterally-continuous sand bodies from isolated sand lenses? How can we be certain that ground water monitoring wells are installed in the same unit?

20. What process helps to recognize “unanticipated site conditions” in the field? Why is it important?