
BULLETIN 2000-057-BU

APRIL 19, 2007
(Revised)

FOUNDATIONS IN AREAS OF PEAT BOGS OR SOFT SOILS

This is to confirm our policy with respect to construction of buildings in areas of soft soils such as peat bog or liquefiable sands. Applications to build in such areas require the following:

1. A detailed geotechnical report prepared in conformance with Part 4 of Division B of the Vancouver Building By-Law which contains the following:
 - The results of an acceptable subsurface investigation, including ground water conditions, to establish the depth and characteristics of subsoil materials sufficient for the purposes of foundation design and site preparation.
 - Recommendations for the design and construction of building foundations and for the placement of fills and backfills on the site for the support of slabs on grade, paving, buried services and associated improvements. These recommendations should include construction techniques and sequences required to prevent any damage to adjacent buildings, structures or services.
 - An assessment of predicted settlements of the building foundations to demonstrate that these do not exceed acceptable limits together with recommendations for handling differential settlements between the building and incoming services and adjacent improvements.
 - Recommendations for bracing and supporting excavations and trenching more than 1.2m indepth, consistent with WCB regulations and good engineering practice.
2. Detailed foundation design drawings sealed by a registered professional engineer and prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and the provisions of Article 2.2.4.6 of Division B of the VBBL. The design drawings should be accompanied by Schedules B-1 and B-2 for the geotechnical design.

It is important that the geotechnical report clearly identify the subsurface materials and present a technique for handling these materials consistent with good engineering practice. While it is not necessary for the design engineer to also be the geotechnical engineer, it is important that the design drawings reference the foundation report and address its recommendations in the design.

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