



Full-Scale Toe Drain Test Many Farms Dam

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Executive Summary

Full-scale laboratory testing was conducted on the proposed toe drain design for Many Farms Dam. The toe drain design calls for 10-inch single-wall corrugated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) drain pipe with 1/16-inch wide slotted perforations, covered with a knitted geotextile sock, and backfilled with a fine sand envelope. The geotextile sock has an apparent opening size (AOS) of #30 sieve (0.6 mm), and is placed on the pipe at the factory. The 1/16-inch slotted perforations are intended to clog with sand particles if the geotextile sock should tear. However, the slot width could potentially double if the drain pipe elongates significantly during installation.

Test Results.—The test was conducted for 13 days, and the outflow quickly stabilized at 7.3 gallons per minute (gpm) per foot (see figure 1). The envelope loss was stabilizing at about 1,000 grams per linear foot, which was higher than expected, but believed acceptable. This loss equates to a calculated thickness loss of 0.087 inches around the pipe circumference. After testing, the pipe was carefully exhumed, and a coarser natural soil filter had formed adjacent to the geotextile sock, measuring ½ to 1 inch thick. Because of the loss of 1,000 grams of sand envelope per foot of toe drain, a coarser more broadly graded envelope material has been proposed.

Cost Savings.—Traditional two-stage filters use a gravel envelope surrounded by a sand filter, and require extensive bench-cut (open-cut) excavation. Use of the geotextile sock in lieu of the gravel envelope allows construction with trenching equipment, which can offer significant cost savings.

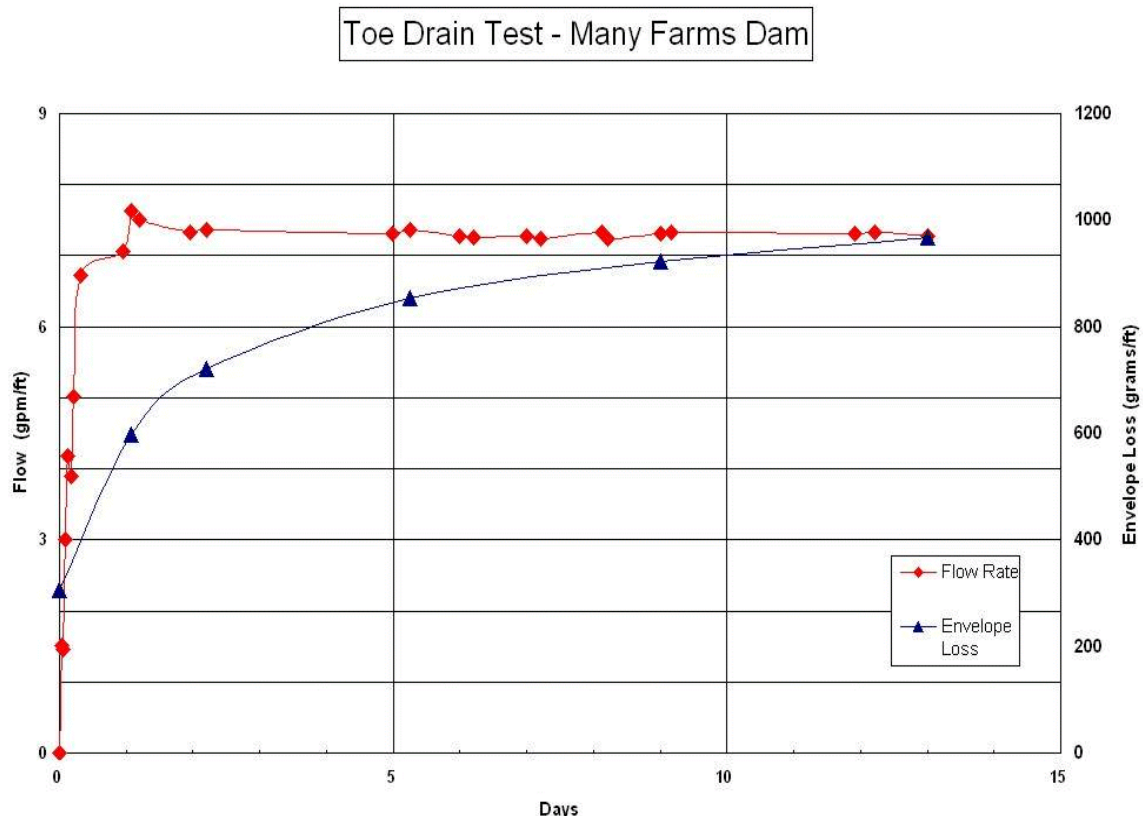


Figure 1.—Test results - toe drain with geotextile sock for Many Farms Dam.

Geotextile.—The knitted geotextile sock used in this study is the only geotextile that is pre-installed on the pipe at the factory. The knitted sock is only available with AOS of #30, which limits design options. Other geotextile products (such as monofilament woven) would have to be attached to the pipe in the field, but are available in a wide range of AOS.

Introduction

This report describes the full-scale laboratory testing (pipe box testing) of the proposed toe drain design for Many Farms Dam. The test apparatus is shown in figure 2. The toe drain design calls for 10-inch single-wall corrugated HDPE drain pipe with 1/16-inch slotted perforations, covered with a knitted geotextile sock, and backfilled with a fine sand envelope. The geotextile sock has an AOS = #30 sieve (0.6 mm), and is placed onto the pipe at the factory. This configuration allows installation of the toe drain with trenching equipment, eliminating the need for extensive bench-cut excavation. The sand envelope gradation (figure 3) is designed to filter the fine grained (silty) native soils (including some dispersive clays) . Previous work (Swihart, 1999) showed that the same geotextile sock used with a slightly coarser sand from Lake Alice Dam could simultaneously improve flow rates by factors of 3 to 12, and improve retention of sand envelope by factors of 4 to 17.

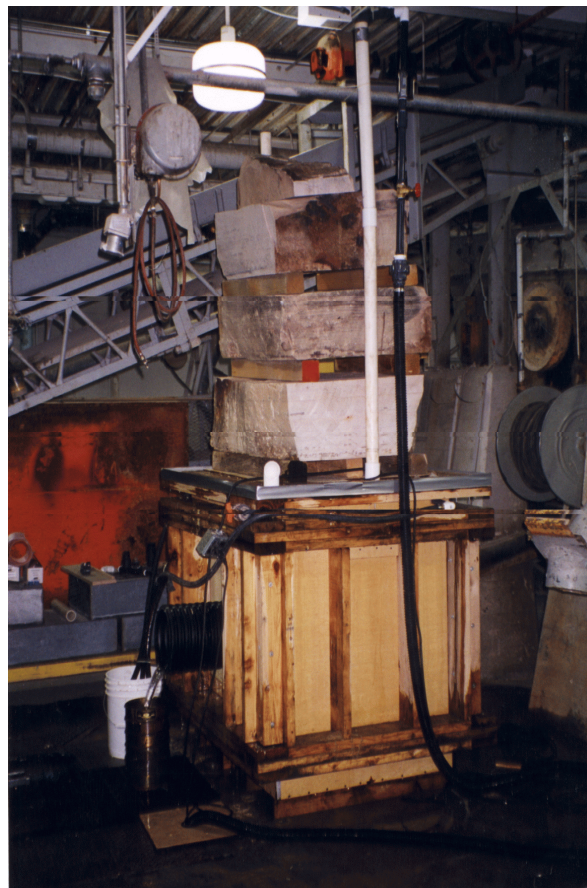


Figure 2.—Pipe box test apparatus.

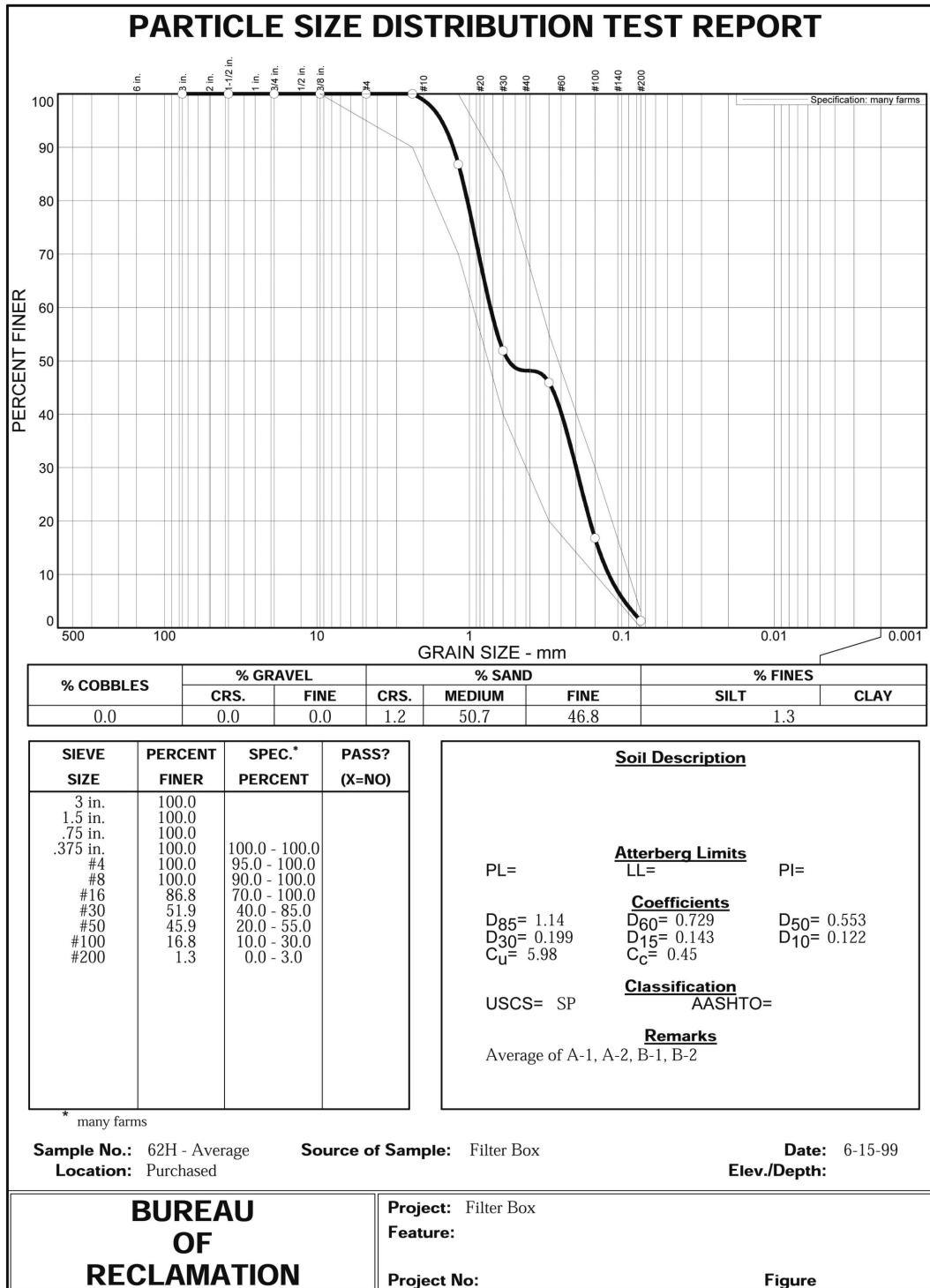


Figure 3.—Gradation of laboratory test sand for Many Farms Dam.

Test Set-up.—For the laboratory test, a 10-inch diameter dual-wall corrugated HDPE drain pipe with 5/64-inch slots was used. The slots are 1 inch long with 4 slots per corrugation. Open area is 3 square inches per linear foot. The geotextile sock is a knitted polyester (AOS = #30) provided by the pipe manufacturer. The laboratory sand was purchased commercially. As shown in figure 3, the test sand meets the specification limits, but doesn't contain any particles coarser than #16 sieve and is somewhat gap graded at the #50 sieve. The sand was placed in 6-inch lifts and compacted by flooding with a fire hose at 20 gpm.

Test Results.—The inflow rate was slowly ramped-up over a 24-hr period, until the box began to overflow. The inflow was then held constant, and the test was conducted at a constant head of 2.5 feet above the pipe invert for the 13-day test duration. The outflow was continuously sieved to determine the quantity and size of particles washed through the geotextile sock. The test results are shown in figure 4. The outflow stabilized after 2 to 3 days at 7.3 gpm per foot. The envelope loss was rather high initially, but was stabilizing at a total loss of about 1,000 grams per linear foot. The sieve analysis (table 1) shows that the loss was predominantly in the #100 and #200 particle sizes, and that the percentage of #100 particles was decreasing as a natural soil filter developed around the geotextile.

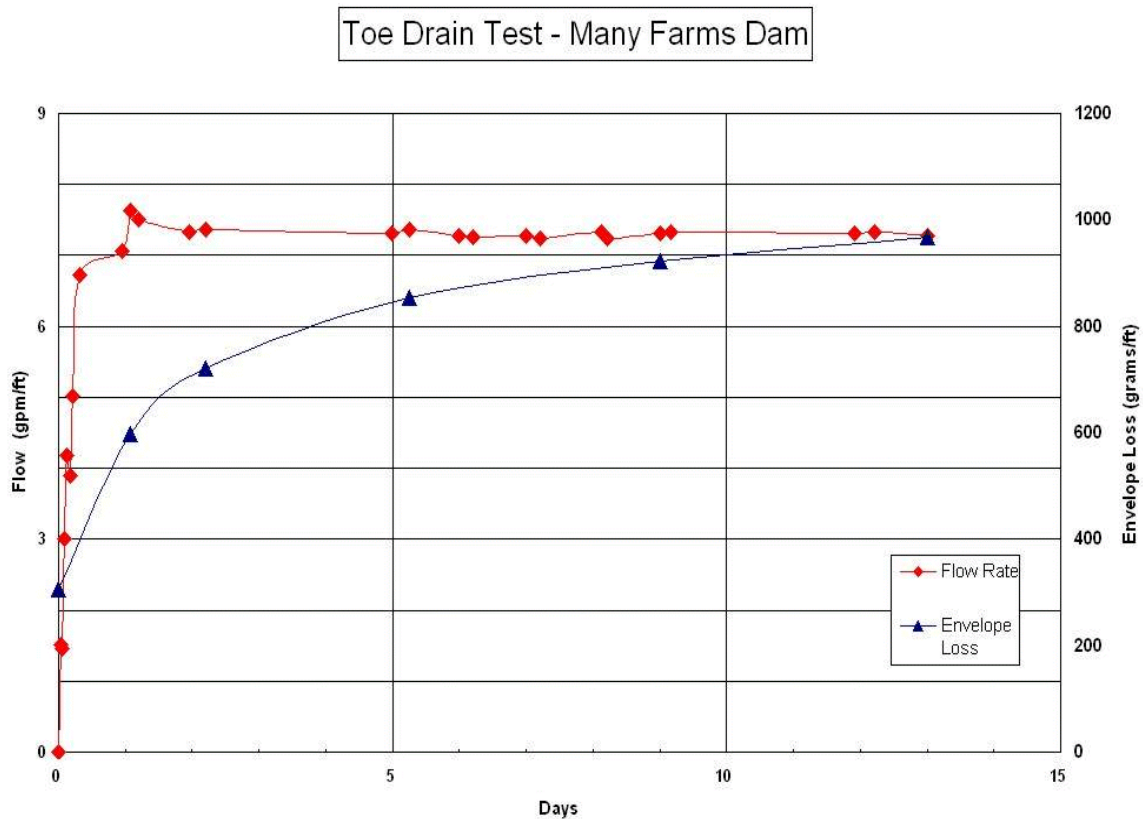


Figure 4.—Test results - toe drain with geotextile sock for Many Farms Dam.

Table 1.—Sieve analysis of envelope material washing through the geotextile sock

Sample	Pan (%)*	#200 (%)	#100 (%)	#50 (%)	#30 (%)	#16 (%)	Weight (g/ft)
Sluicing	---	10.6	87.6	1.7	0.1	0.0	306
Day 1	---	14.3	80.5	5.1	0.1	0.0	293
Day 2	---	27.0	66.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	122
Day 3-5	---	23.0	73.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	133
Day 6-9	---	38.8	56.0	5.1	0.1	0.0	68
Day 10-13	---	38.5	55.2	6.3	0.0	0.0	45

* Pan-size particles (minus #200) were not collected.

Exhumation of Pipe.—After testing, the pipe was carefully exhumed to check for the formation of a natural soil filter around the geotextile. The examination showed an area of coarser sand directly against the geotextile where finer particles had washed through the geotextile, leaving the coarser particles behind. These coarser particles then served as a natural soil filter, preventing the loss of additional fine particles. This natural soil filter was about 1 inch thick directly below the pipe invert, but appeared much thinner (less than ½ inch) around the rest of the pipe. Seven samples were collected from around the pipe for gradation analysis. Four samples were in direct contact with the geotextile (crown, springline, haunch, and invert). Three samples were taken at various depths (½, 1, and 1½ inches) below the pipe invert. The results are shown in table 2, along with the gradation of the surrounding sand. The coarser sand directly around the pipe had larger particle sizes (mm) than the finer surrounding sand for all particle fractions (D_{10} through D_{85}). The gradations for the individual specimens from each location are plotted in appendix A.

Table 2.—Gradation analysis of envelope material exhumed from around toe drain

Location	D_{10} (mm)	D_{15} (mm)	D_{30} (mm)	D_{50} (mm)	D_{60} (mm)	D_{85} (mm)
Crown	0.159	0.183	0.291	0.748	0.851	1.12
Springline	0.161	0.192	0.294	0.760	0.870	1.26
Haunch	0.153	0.186	0.292	0.754	0.859	1.22
Invert	0.145	0.167	0.240	0.702	0.824	1.23
½ inch below Invert	0.141	0.174	0.282	0.750	0.860	1.25
1 inch below Invert	0.144	0.174	0.262	0.706	0.819	1.19
1½ inch below Invert	0.132	0.152	0.206	0.545	0.716	1.08
Surrounding Sand	0.122	0.143	0.199	0.553	0.729	1.14

Discussion

Slotted Perforations.—If the geotextile sock should tear during installation, the toe drain could fill completely with sand envelope washing through the pipe perforations. To prevent this possibility, 1/16-inch slotted perforations were selected, based on Reclamation’s retention criteria (Perforation Size $\leq \frac{1}{2}D_{85}$). Based on previous testing (Swihart, 1998), the 1/16-inch slotted perforations should either retain the sand envelope or plug with sand particles.

Pipe Stretch.—During installation, single-wall drain pipe can stretch up to 5 percent. For pipe with slotted perforations, the stretch occurs mostly in the slotted perforations, and slot width might increase by up to 0.05 inch. Therefore, pipe with 1/16-inch slotted perforations might have (approximately) 1/8-inch slotted perforations after installation. This increased slot width caused by pipe stretch should be considered during design.

Sand Envelope Loss.—The sand envelope loss was about 1,000 grams per linear foot of toe drain. Based on an 1½-inch pipe outside diameter (OD) and a sand density of 100 pounds per cubic foot (pcf), the calculated thickness of sand envelope lost from around the entire pipe circumference was 0.087 inches. The calculation is shown in appendix B. This thickness loss is quite small compared to the minimum envelope thickness of 3 inches, and compared to the 1-inch thickness of the natural soil filter that developed. This loss of fine particles has little to no effect on the volume of the natural soil filter, and is not considered detrimental to performance.

Geotextile AOS.—The required AOS for the geotextile to adequately retain the sand envelope was calculated by several methods, as shown in table 3. These calculations were based on the actual gradation of the laboratory sand. Most of the calculations indicate that the knitted geotextile sock with AOS of #30 sieve ($O_{95} = 0.6$ mm) should function adequately. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) calculation showing only marginal performance is based on dynamic flow, suggesting that compaction methods other than wet sluicing could improve retention. The actual calculations are shown in appendix C.

Table 3.—Calculation of minimum AOS (O_{95}) for retention of sand envelope

Method	Formula	Calculated Value (mm)	Suitability of #30 Geotextile (0.6 mm)
Giroud, 1982	$O_{95} < 13.5 d_{50} / C_U$	1.25	Acceptable
Luetlich et al., 1992	$O_{95} < 13.5 d'_{50} / C'_U$	1.3	Acceptable
FHWA, 1985 (steady flow)	$O_{95} < 8 d_{85} / C_U$	1.53	Acceptable
FHWA, 1985 (dynamic flow)	$O_{95} < 0.5 d_{85}$	0.57	Marginal

Field Construction

Cost Savings.—Use of the geotextile sock allows construction with trenching equipment (figure 5) which offers significant cost savings over other construction methods on large jobs where the mobilization costs are justified. Three alternative construction techniques are shown in figure 6. Case 1 is a traditional two-stage filter requiring extensive bench-cut excavation. Case 2 uses a combination of bench-cut and trenching construction, which allows traditional placement of the geotextile around the gravel envelope. Finally, case 3 shows a geotextile sock pre-installed directly on the toe drain pipe, acting as one stage of the two-stage filter. This method allows exclusive use of trenching equipment.

Geotextile.—The knitted geotextile sock used in this study is the only geotextile that is pre-installed on the pipe at the factory. The knitted sock is only available with AOS of #30, which limits design options; however, additional products with tighter AOS are reportedly being developed. Other types of geotextiles (such as monofilament woven) could also be used as a pipe sock directly around the toe drain. These other geotextiles would have to be attached to the pipe in the field, but would increase design flexibility.



Figure 5.—Installation of drain pipe (without geotextile sock) using wheel trencher equipment.

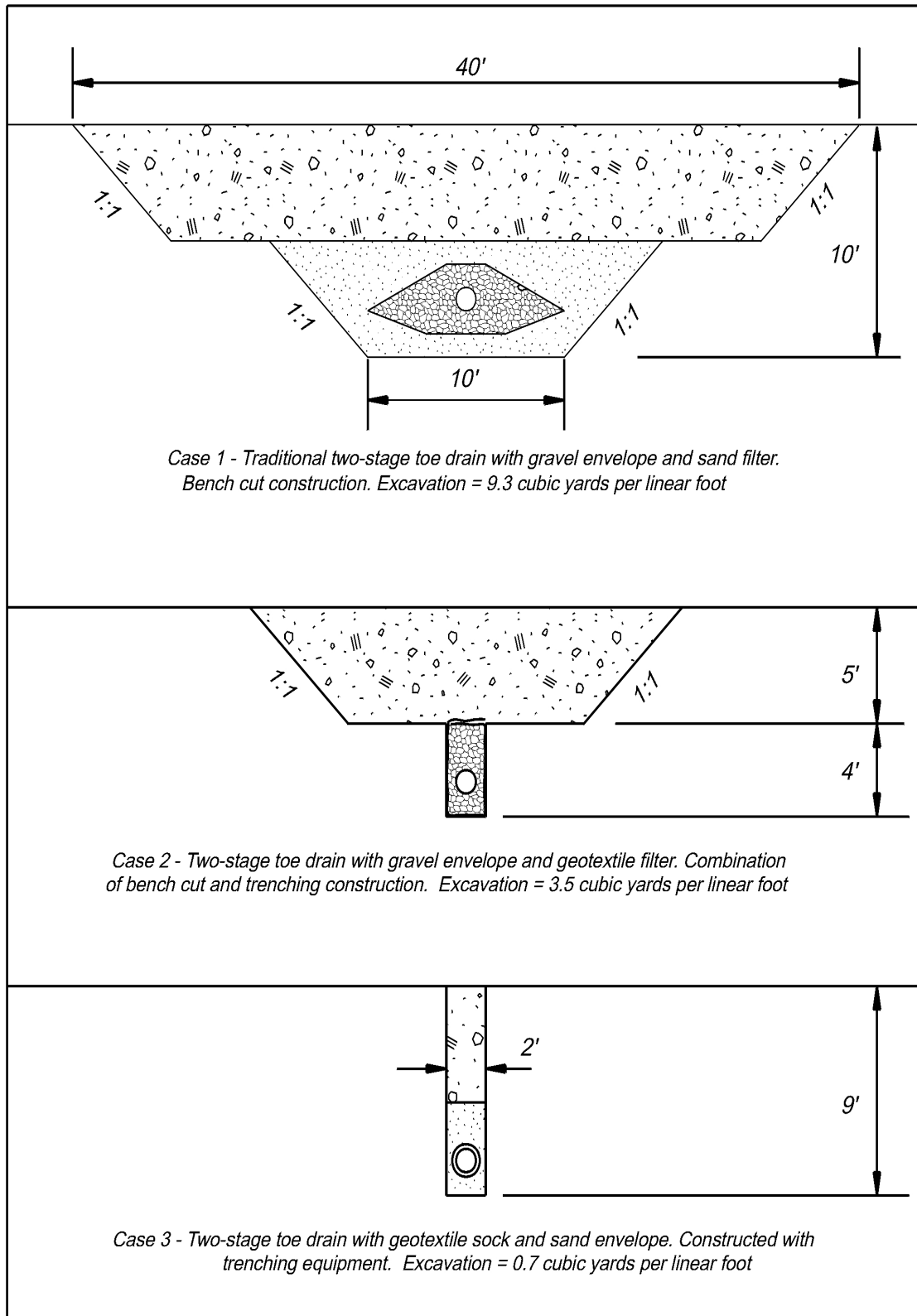


Figure 6.—Techniques for toe drain construction.

Conclusions

1. The outflow was stable at 7.3 gpm per foot of pipe, which is almost 100 times the anticipated accretion rate of 0.08 gpm per foot.
2. After 13 days, the total loss of sand envelope had stabilized at about 1,000 grams per foot of pipe, which equates to a calculated soil loss of 0.087 inches around the pipe. This loss is higher than initially expected, but not considered detrimental to performance. The actual loss in the field would probably be less at the lower flow rates expected at Many Farms Dam (0.08 gpm per foot).
3. Pipe exhumation showed that a natural soil filter had developed against the geotextile sock. This natural soil filter was about 1 inch thick below the pipe invert, but much thinner (less than ½ inch thick) around the rest of the pipe perimeter. The difference in these thicknesses suggest that the invert area was the principle flow path between the slotted screen and the drain pipe.
4. Soil retention calculations indicate that the geotextile sock (AOS = #30 sieve) is acceptable for steady flow, but only marginal for dynamic flows. Therefore, dry compaction (without sluicing) might significantly improve retention of the sand envelope.
5. Use of the geotextile sock allows for toe drain construction with trenching equipment at significant cost savings over traditional two-stage filters requiring extensive bench-cut excavation.
6. The knitted geotextile sock used in this study is the only geotextile pre-installed on the pipe at the factory. The knitted sock is only available with AOS of #30 which limits design options. Other geotextile products (such as monofilament woven) would have to be attached to the pipe in the field, but are available in a wide range of AOS, which would increase design flexibility.
7. Future Testing - Because the loss of nearly 1,000 grams of envelope per foot of toe drain was higher than desired, a coarser envelope has been proposed for Many Farms Dam (table 4). Materials are on-hand for manufacturing sand to meet the proposed specification as shown in figure 7.

Table 4.—Proposed specifications for sand envelope around toe drain at Many Farms Dam

Sieve Size	Original Specification (% finer)	Proposed Specification (% finer)
0.75	100	100
0.375	100	85-100
#4	95-100	70-90
#8	90-100	60-80
#16	70-100	50-70
#30	40-85	35-60
#50	20-55	20-45
#100	10-30	10-25
#200	0-3	0-5

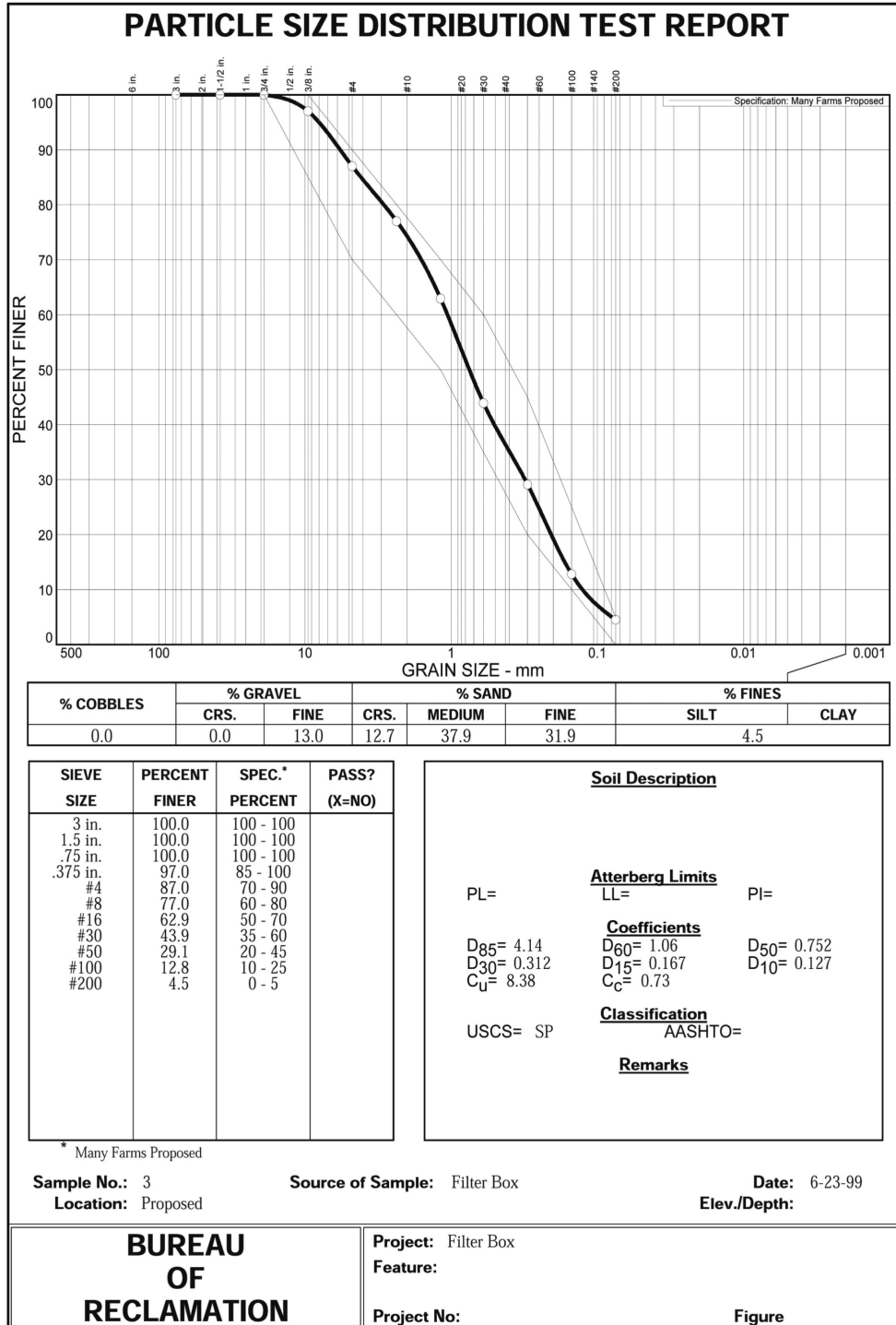


Figure 7.—Proposed Many Farms specification limits, and proposed gradation for laboratory test sand.

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APPENDIX A

Sieve Analysis of Envelope Material Exhumed Around Toe Drain with Geotextile Sock

Samples were taken from the following locations:

1. Pipe Crown
2. Pipe Springline
3. Pipe Haunch
4. Pipe Invert
5. ½ inch below Invert
6. 1 inch below Invert
7. 1½ inches below Invert
8. Surrounding Area - Original Gradation

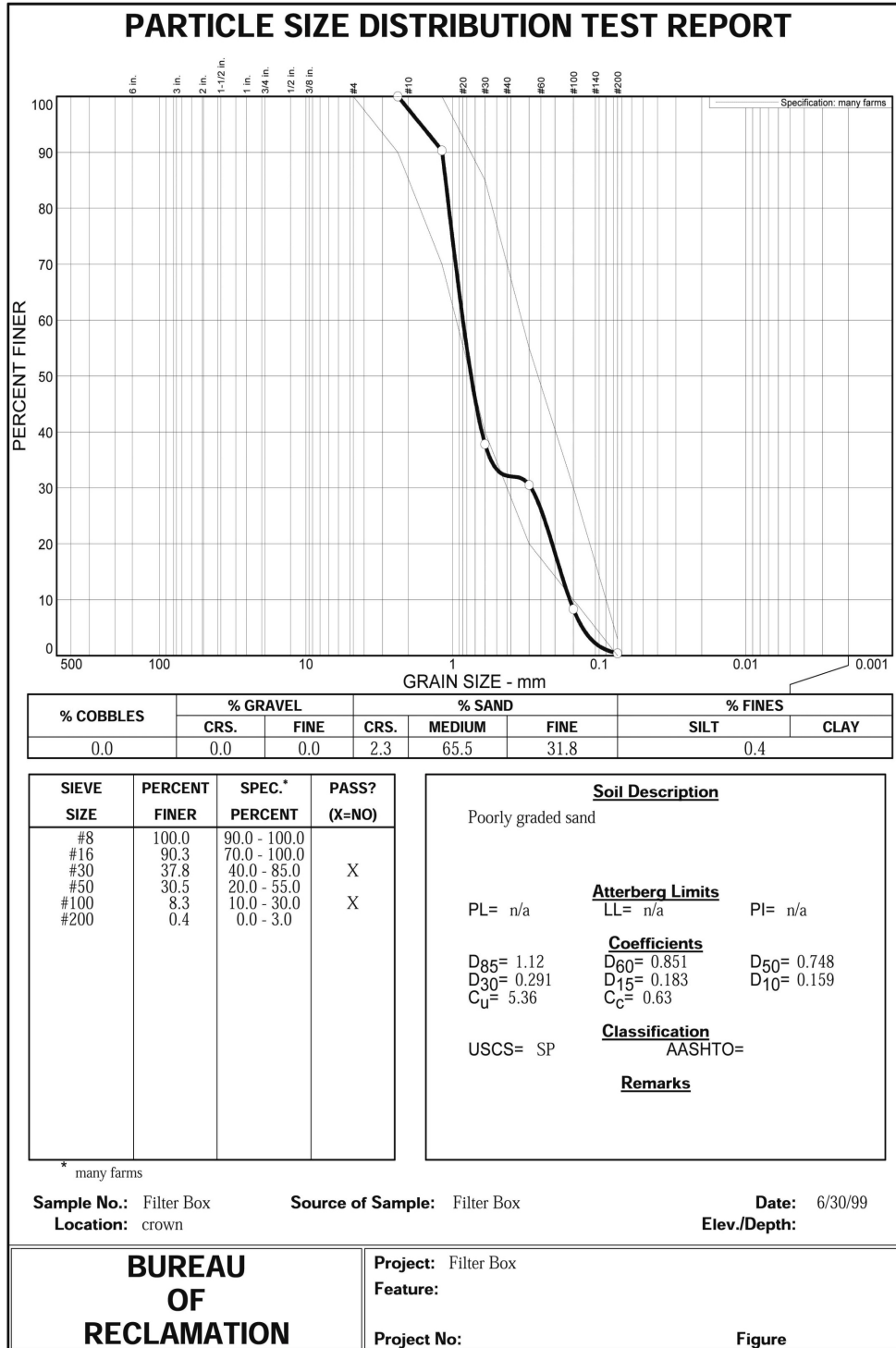


Figure A1.—Gradation of sand from pipe crown.

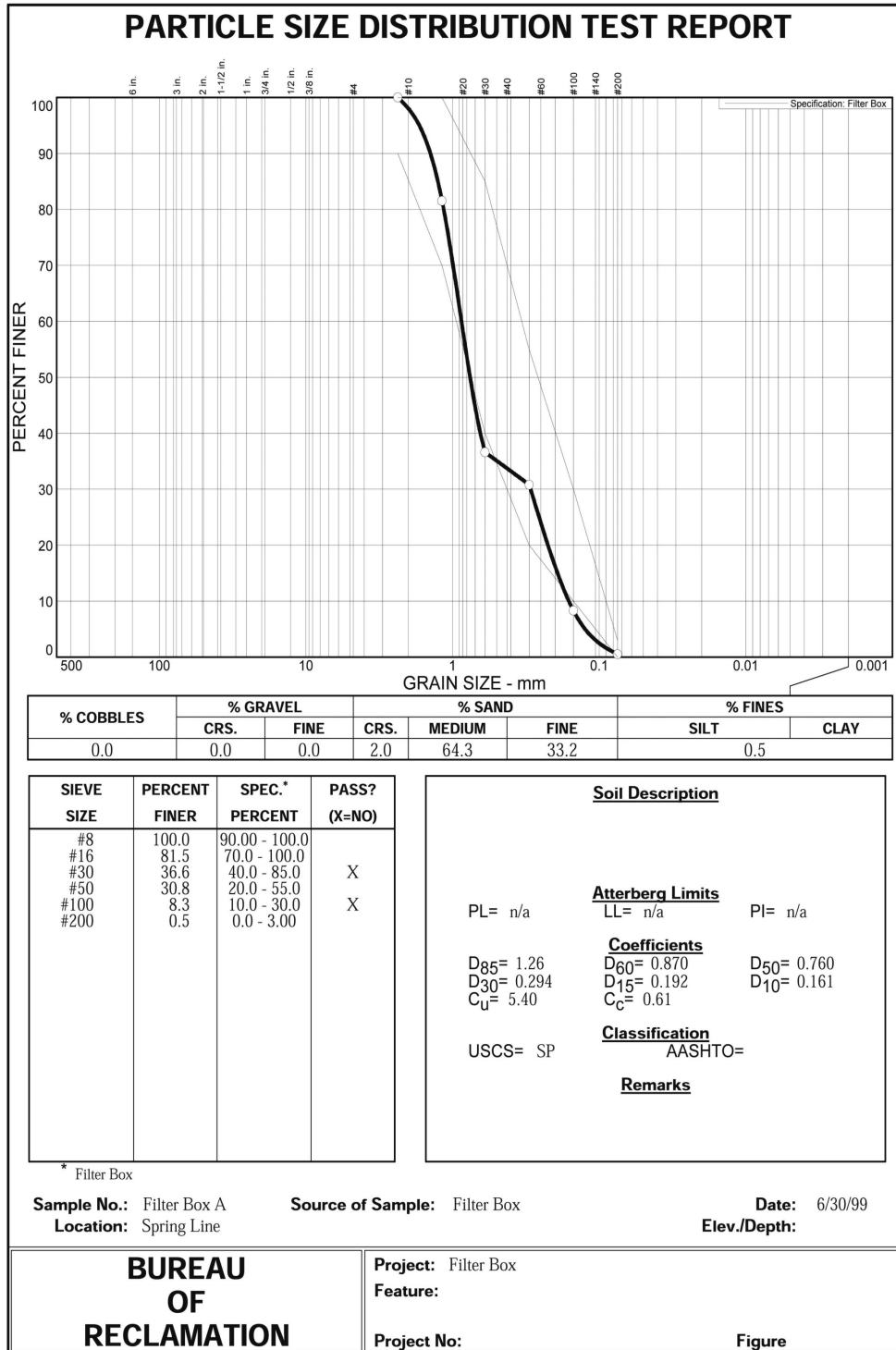


Figure A2.—Gradation of sand from pipe springline.

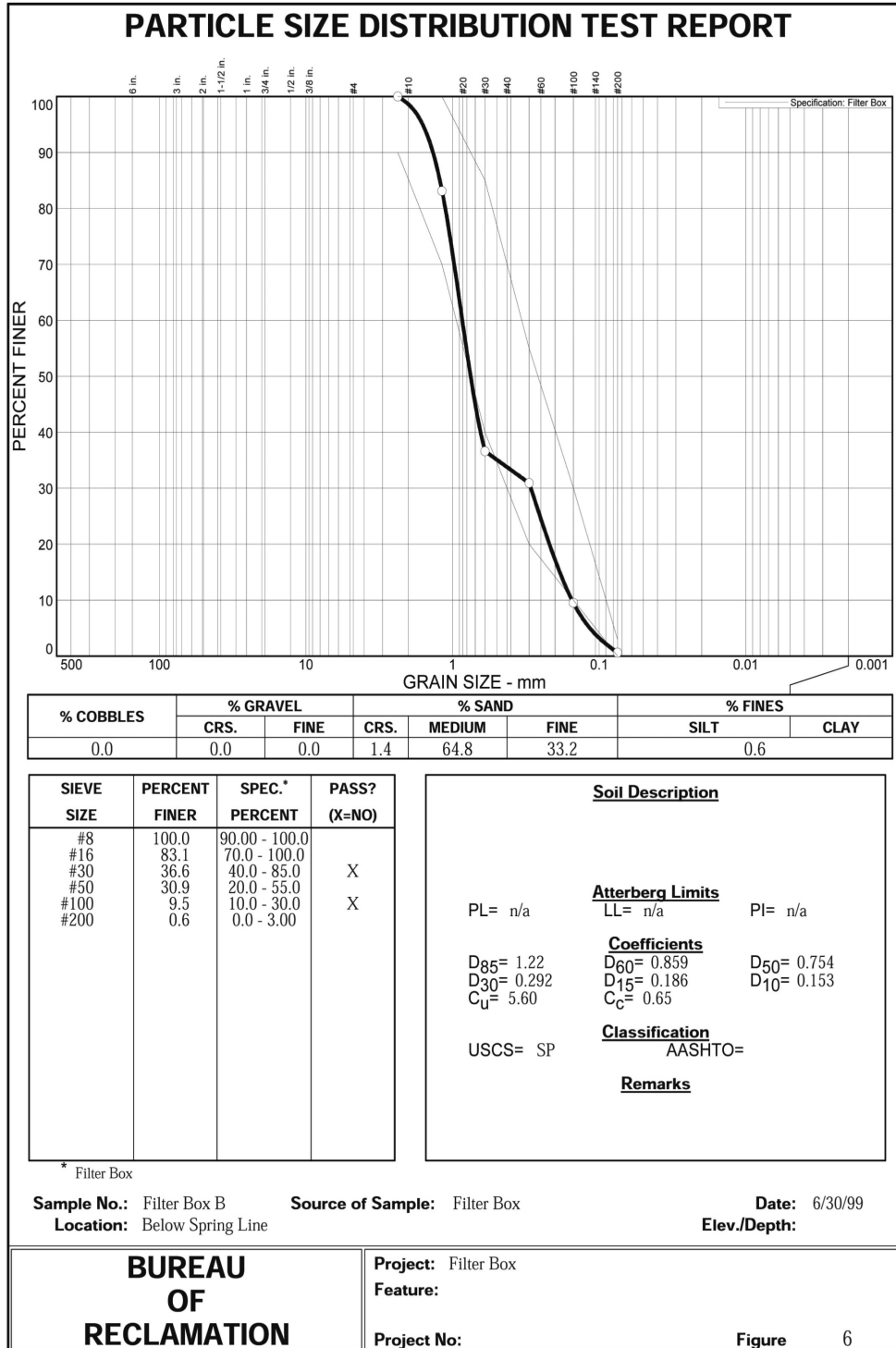


Figure A3.—Gradation of sand from below springline (pipe haunch).

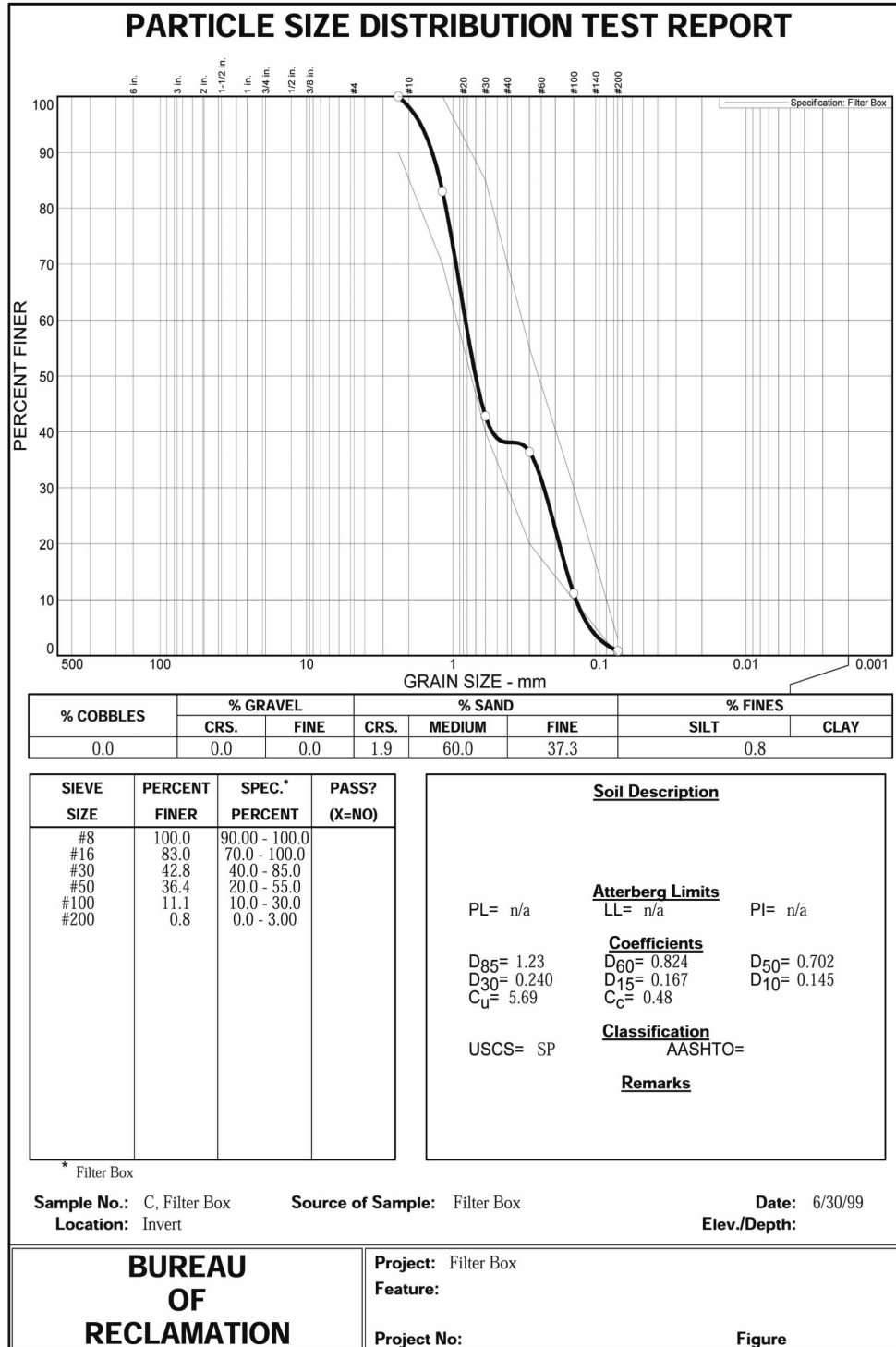


Figure A4.—Gradation of sand from pipe invert.

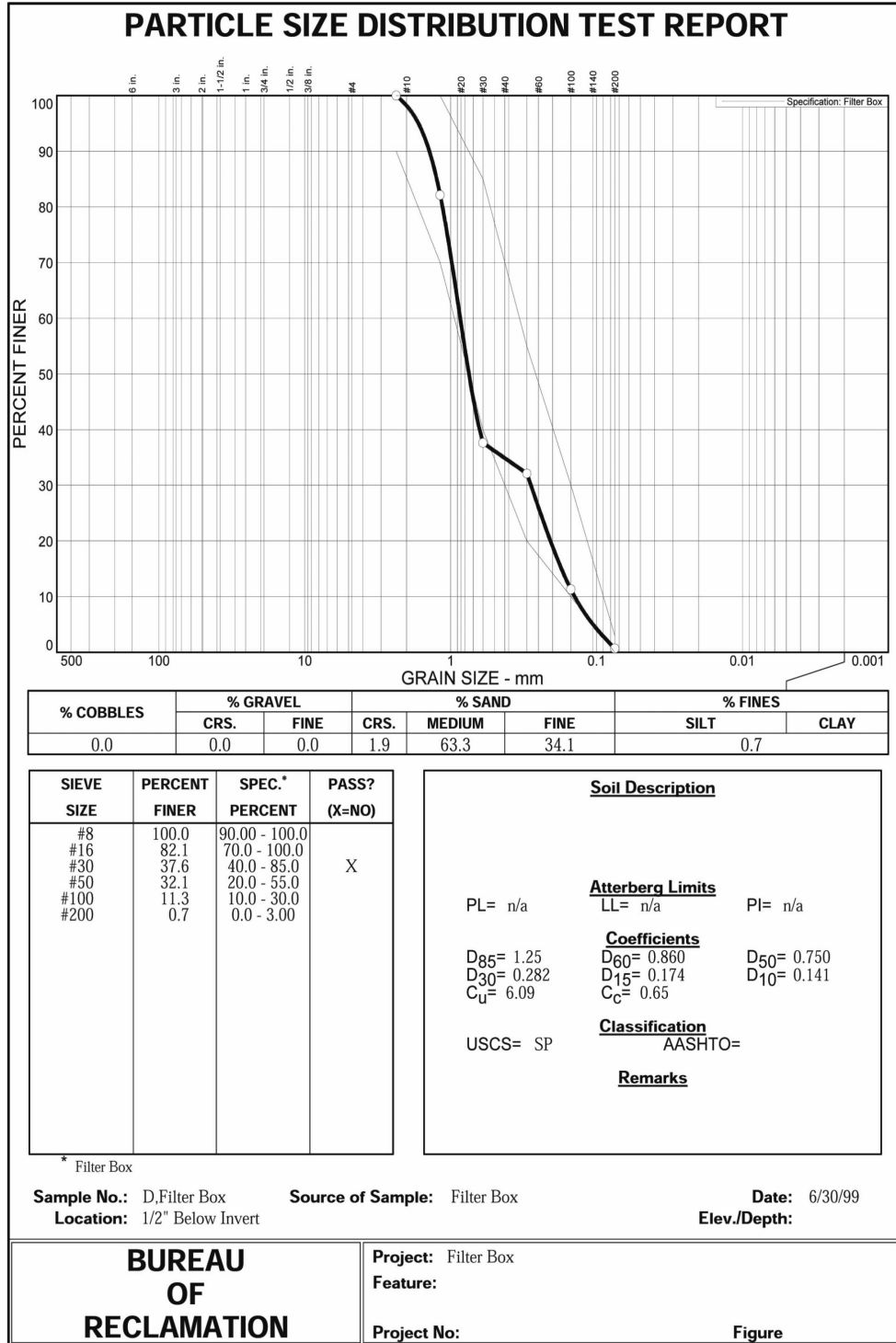


Figure A5.—Gradation of sand 1/2 inch below pipe invert.

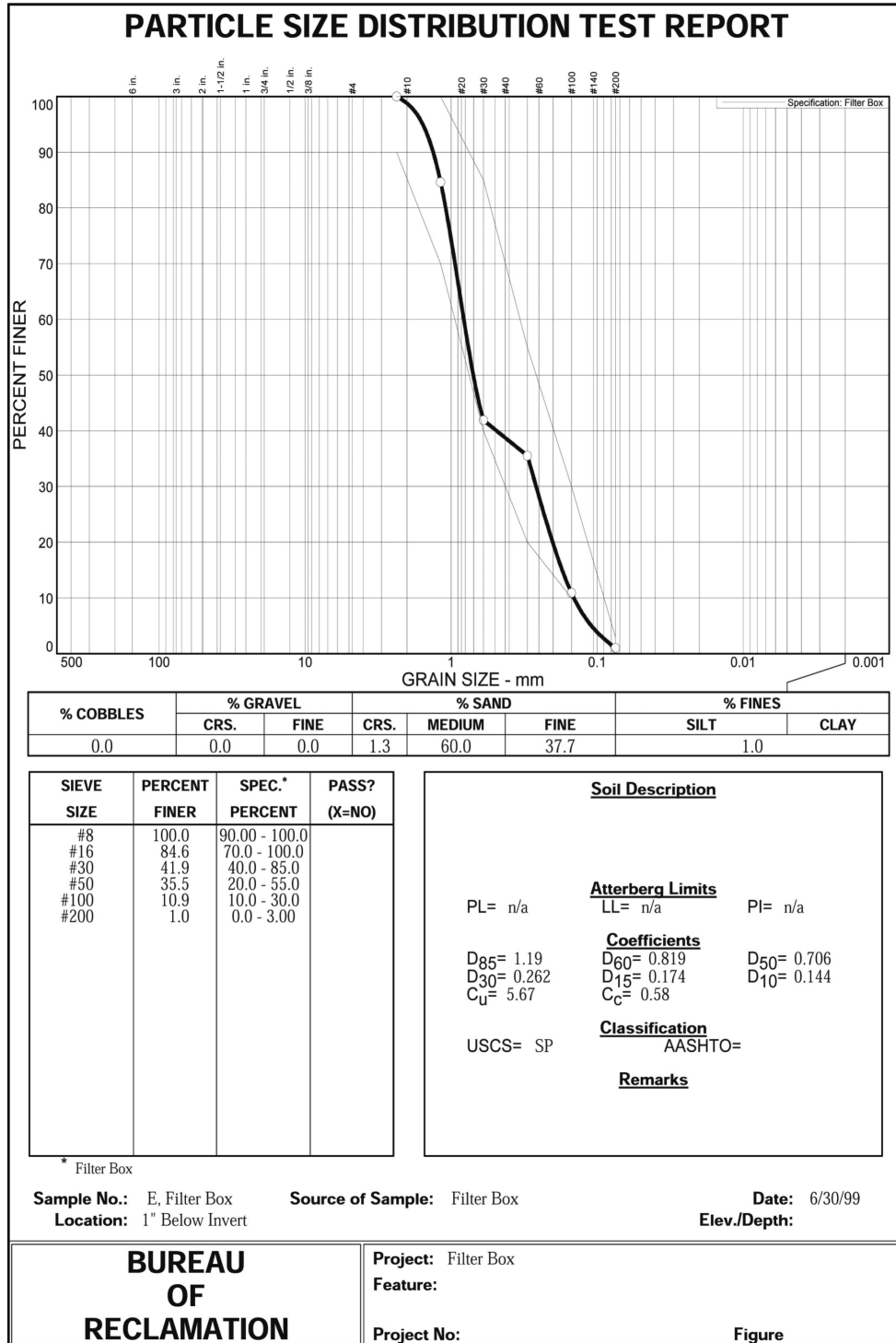


Figure A6.—Gradation of sand 1 inch below pipe invert.

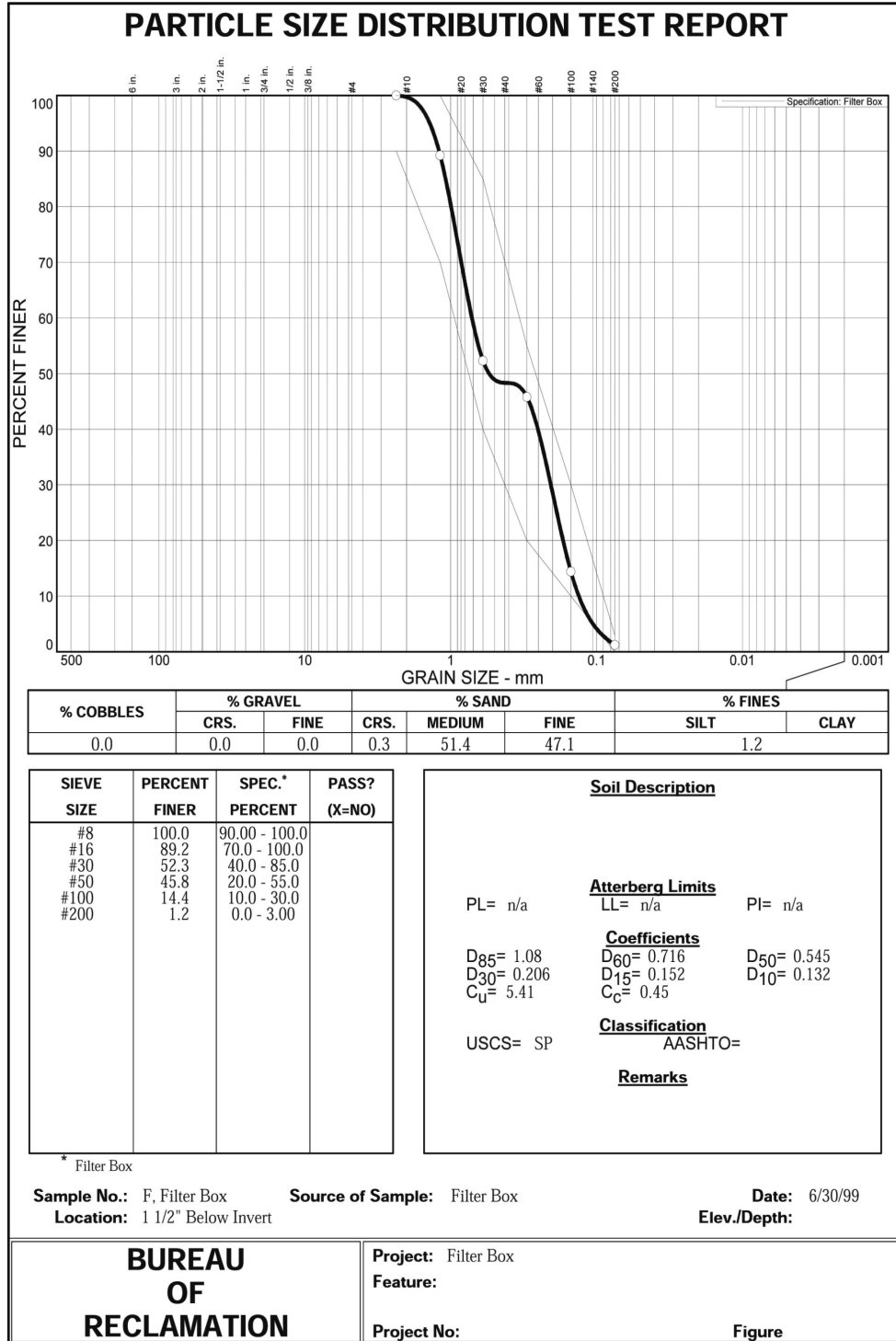


Figure A7.—Gradation of sand 1 1/2 inch below pipe invert.

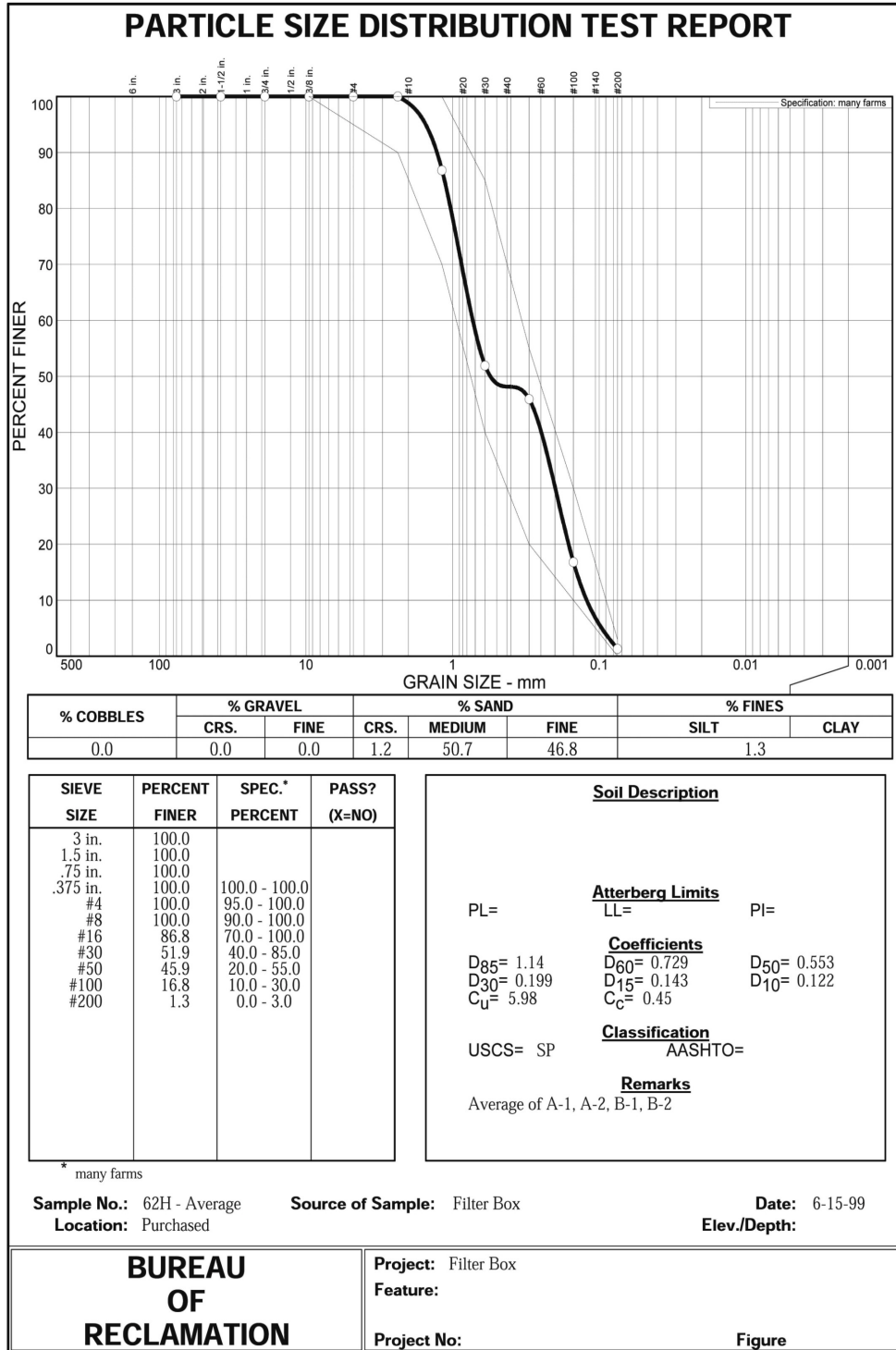


Figure A8.—Gradation of surrounding sand - original gradation.

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APPENDIX B

Thickness Loss Calculation for Sand Envelope

Loss = 1000 grams per linear foot = 2.2 lbf per linear foot

Sand density = 100 lbf/ft³

1 ft³ = 12 in x 12 in x 12 in = 1728 in³

Loss = $\frac{2.2 \text{ lbf/lin ft}}{100 \text{ lbf/ft}^3} = 0.022 \text{ ft}^3/\text{lin ft} = 38.0 \text{ in}^3/\text{lin ft}$

Loss = 38.0 in³/lin ft = 3.17 in³/linear inch = 3.17 in²

Loss = Area = 3.17 in²

D = pipe OD = 11.5 inches

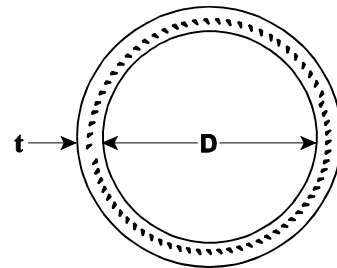
A = Area = 3.17 in² = C t

C = Circumference = πD = 36.1 inches

t = thickness

$t = A/C = 3.17 \text{ in}^2/36.1 \text{ in} = 0.087 \text{ inches}$

Thickness Loss = 0.087 inches



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APPENDIX C

Geotextile AOS Calculation for Soil Retention (AOS = O_{95})

AOS Calculation (Giroud)

$$C_U = 5.96 \quad (C_U > 3.0)$$

$$d_{50} = 0.553 \text{ mm}$$

Soil Density

$$\text{Loose} \quad O_{95} < \frac{9 d_{50}}{C_u} = \frac{(9)(0.553)}{5.96} = 0.835 \text{ mm}$$

$$\text{Medium} \quad O_{95} < \frac{13.5 d_{50}}{C_u} = \frac{(13.5)(0.553)}{5.96} = 1.25 \text{ mm} \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\text{Dense} \quad O_{95} < \frac{18 d_{50}}{C_u} = \frac{(18)(0.553)}{5.96} = 1.67 \text{ mm}$$

AOS Calculation (Luettich) - modified Giroud using only the finer portion of gradation curve

$$C_C = 0.45 \quad (C_C < 1.0)$$

d'_{xx} values from straight-line through d_{10} and d_{30}

$$d'_0 = 0.096 \text{ mm}$$

$$d'_{50} = 0.33 \text{ mm}$$

$$d'_{100} = 1.2 \text{ mm}$$

$$C'_u = (d'_{100} / d'_0)^{1/2} = 3.53$$

Soil Density

$$\text{Loose} \quad O_{95} < \frac{9 d'_{50}}{C'_u} = \frac{(9)(0.33)}{3.53} = 0.84 \text{ mm}$$

$$\text{Medium} \quad O_{95} < \frac{13.5 d'_{50}}{C'_u} = \frac{(13.5)(0.33)}{3.53} = 1.3 \text{ mm} \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\text{Dense} \quad O_{95} < \frac{18 d'_{50}}{C'_u} = \frac{(18)(0.33)}{3.53} = 1.7 \text{ mm}$$

AOS Calculation (FHWA)

$$C_U = 5.96 \quad (8 > C_U > 4)$$

$$d_{85} = 1.14 \text{ mm}$$

Steady Flow

$$O_{95} < \frac{8 d_{85}}{C_u} = \frac{(8)(1.14)}{5.96} = 1.53 \quad \leftarrow$$

Dynamic Flow

$$O_{95} < 0.5 d_{85} = (0.5)(1.14) = 0.57 \text{ mm} \quad \leftarrow$$