

***Volume V – Performance  
Floodwall and Levee  
Performance Analysis***

***Interagency Performance Evaluation  
Task Force (IPET)***

***NRC Meeting***

***May 15, 2006***

# Purpose - The 5 Questions

1. **The Flood Protection System:** What were the design criteria for the pre-Katrina hurricane protection system, and did the design, as-built construction, and maintained condition meet these criteria?
2. **The Storm:** What were the storm surges and waves used as the basis of design, and how do these compare to the storm surges and waves generated by Hurricane Katrina?
3. **The Performance:** How did the floodwalls, levees, pumping stations, and drainage canals, individually and acting as an integrated system, perform in response to Hurricane Katrina, and why?
4. **The Consequences:** What have been the societal-related consequences of the Katrina-related damage?
5. **The Risk:** Following the immediate repairs, what will be the quantifiable risk to New Orleans and vicinity from future hurricanes and tropical storms?

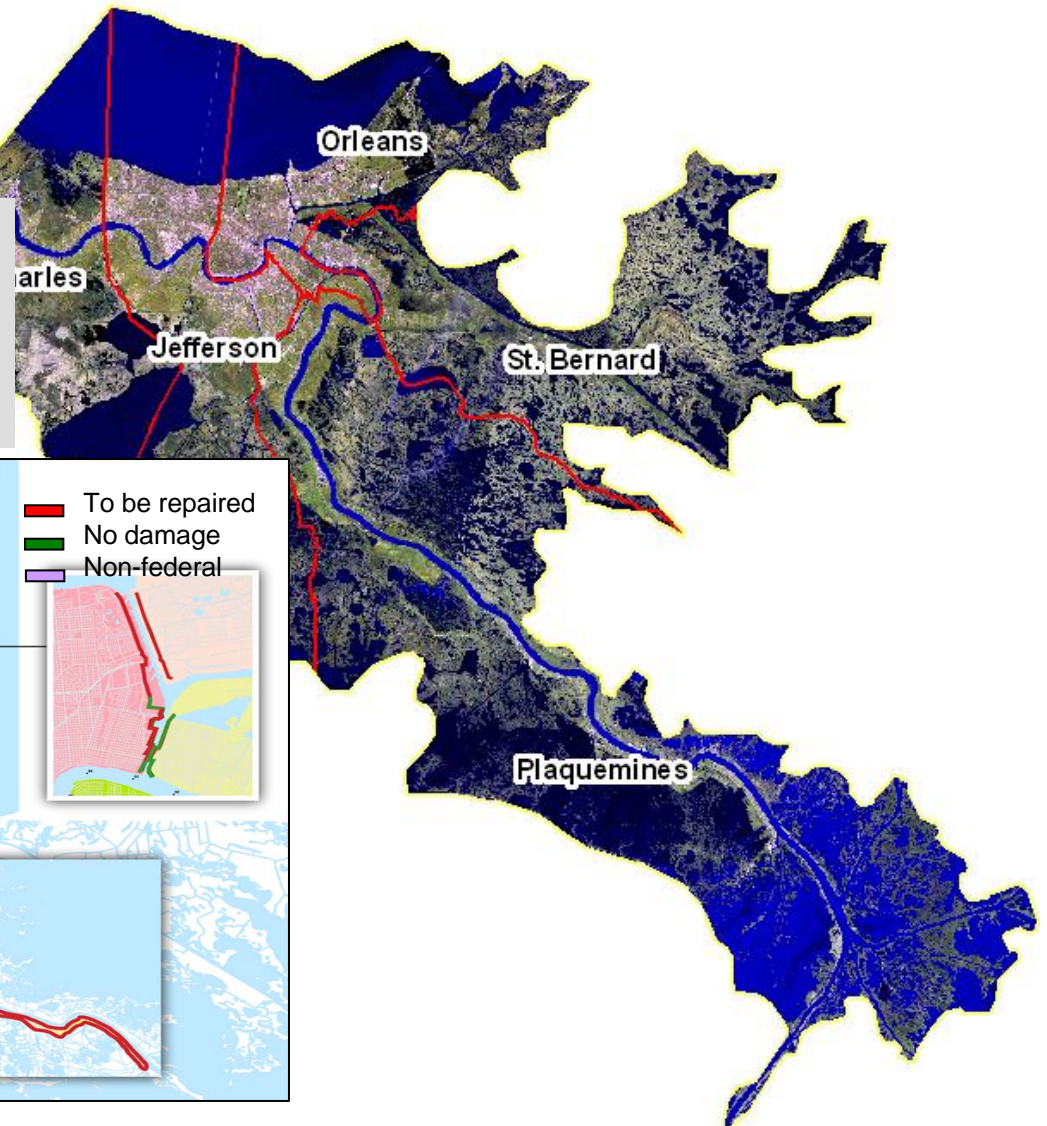
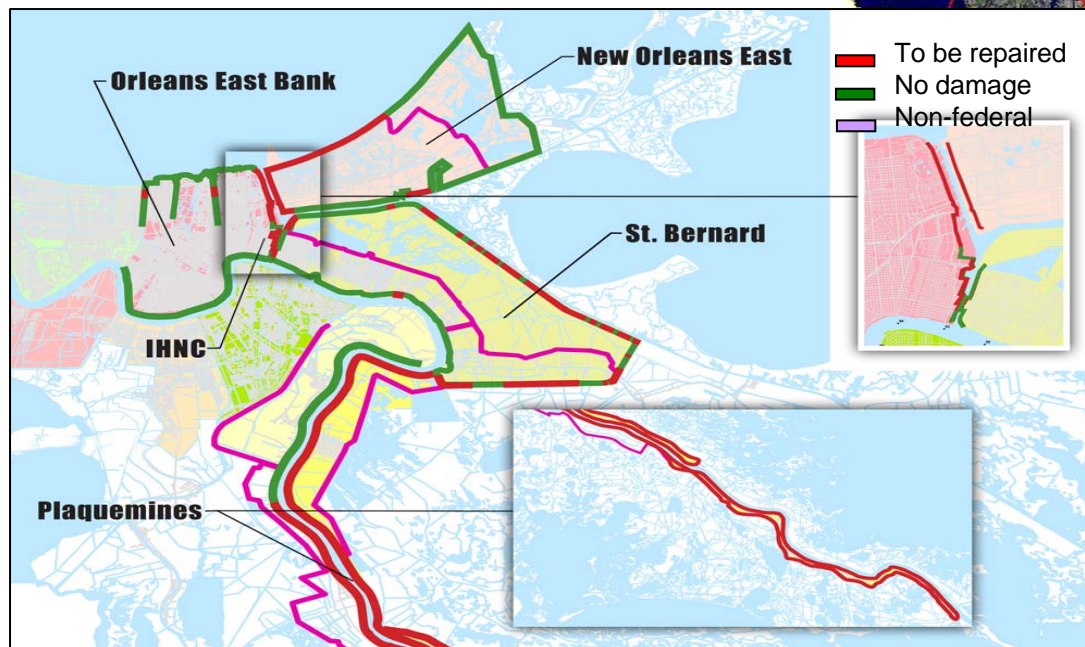
# Performance

Performance

*How did the structures perform and why?*

## System-Wide Strategy

- Understand breach mechanisms
- Understand non-breach analogs
- Extend to assess system-wide integrity



# ***Floodwall and Levee Performance Analysis Team***

- **Reed Mosher** – ERDC/GSL, Co-Lead
- **Mike Duncan** – Virginia Tech, Co-lead
- **George Sills** – ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical
- **Noah Vroman** – ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical
- **Joe Dunbar** – ERDC/GSL, Geologist
- **Ron Wahl** – ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical Modeling
- **Maureen Corcoran** - ERDC/GSL, Geologist
- **Robert Ebeling** – ERDC/ITL, Geotechnical Modeling
- **Don Yule** – ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical Modeling
- **Ellen Glynn** - ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical
- **Tom Lee** – ERDC/GSL, Geotechnical
- **Paul Mlakar** – ERDC/GSL, Structural
- **Joe Padula** - ERDC/GSL, Structural
- **Kevin Abraham** – ERDC/ITL, Geotechnical Modeling
- **Mike Pace** – ERDC/ITL, Geotechnical Modeling
- **Benita Abraham** – ERDC/GSL, Data Support
- **Tony Young** – MVD
- **Ken Klaus** – MVD
- **Richard Pinner** – MVN
- **Pete Cali** – MVN
- **Tom Brandon** – Virginia Tech - Geotechnical
- **Geomatrix** – FLAC Analysis
- **Steve Wright** – UT – Slope Stability
- **Allen Marr** – GeoComp- PLAXIS Analysis, Soil Testing
- Others TBD

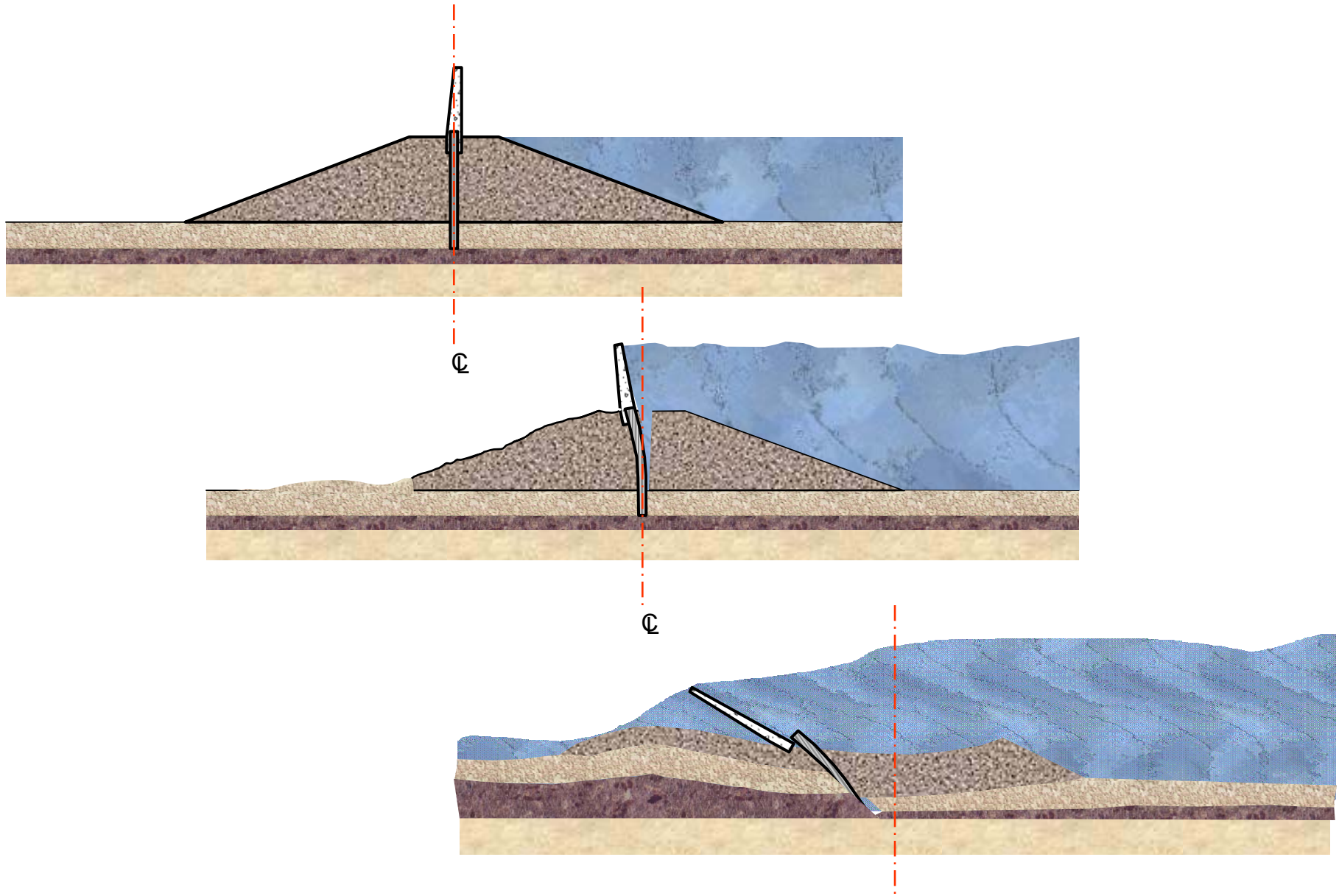
# Agenda

- **Overview**
- **17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Breach**
- **London Avenue Canal Breaches**
- **Orleans Avenue Canal Assessment**
- **IHNC Breaches**
- **Erosion Assessment**
- **Findings and Lessons Learned**

# Scope of Study

<b>Project</b>	<b>Limit Equilibrium</b>	<b>Physical Model</b>	<b>FE Analysis</b>	<b>Other</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> Street Canal Breach	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
London Ave Canal – North Breach	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
London Ave Canal – South Breach	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Orleans Ave Canal – North Breach	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Orleans Ave Canal – South Breach	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Inner Harbor Navigation Canal	<b>X</b>			
New Orleans East				<b>X</b>
St. Bernard Parish				<b>X</b>
Plaquemines Parish				<b>X</b>
Michoud Canal	<b>X</b>			

# Failures of walls that were not overtopped

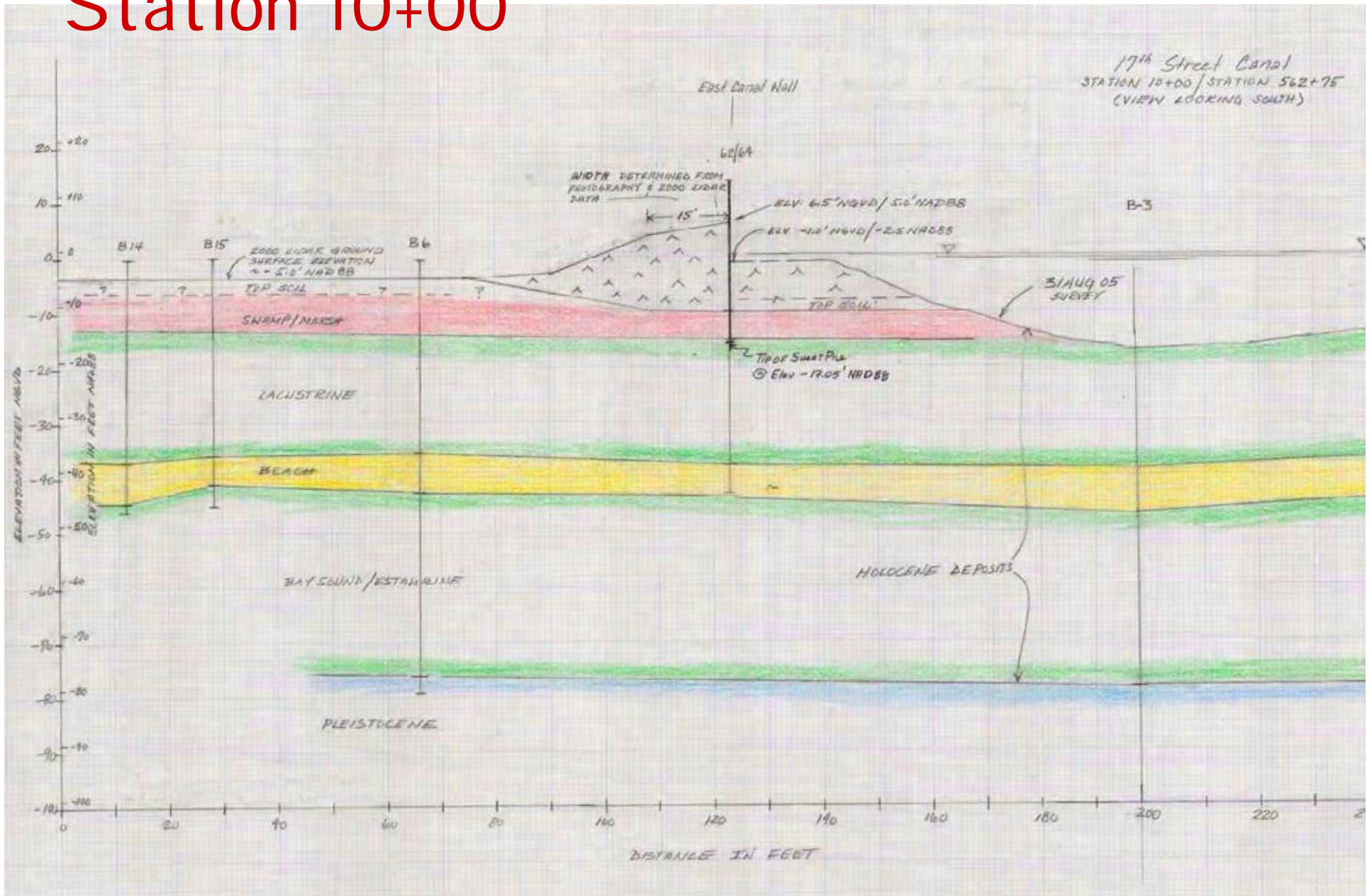


# 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal breach





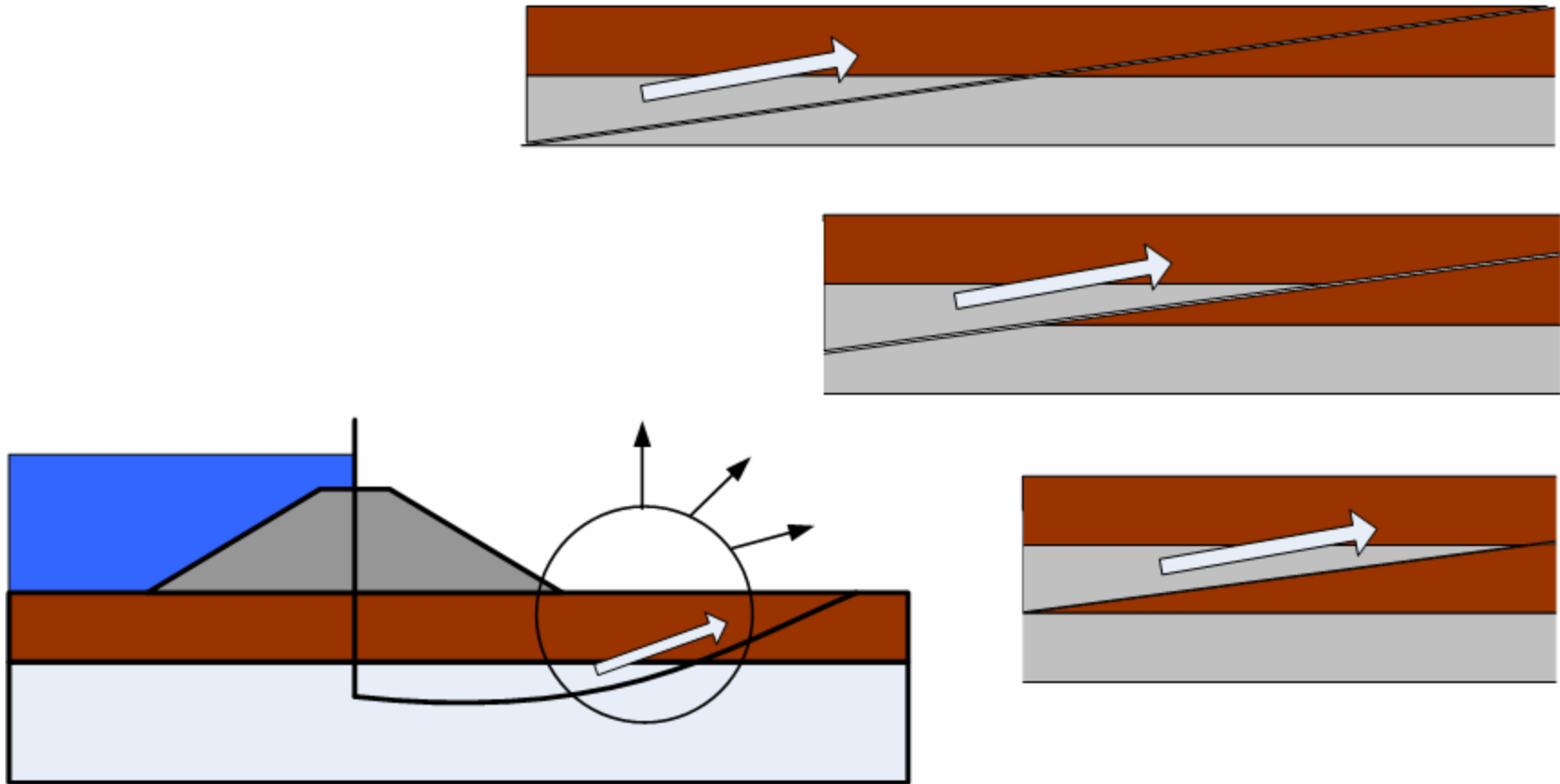
# Station 10+00

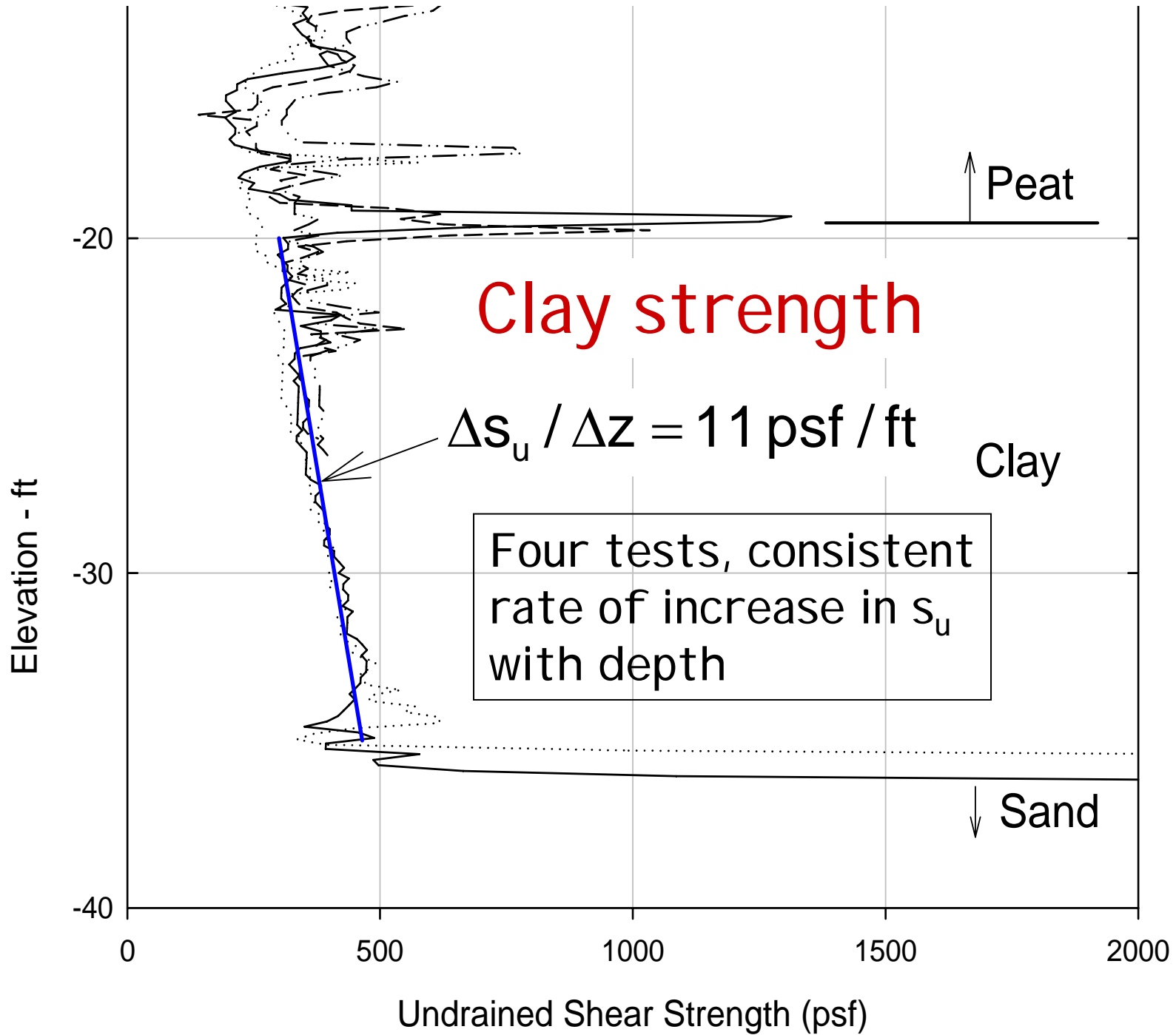


# 17<sup>th</sup> Street slide block



# Failure mechanism





# Clay strength

$$\Delta s_u / \Delta z = 11 \text{ psf / ft}$$

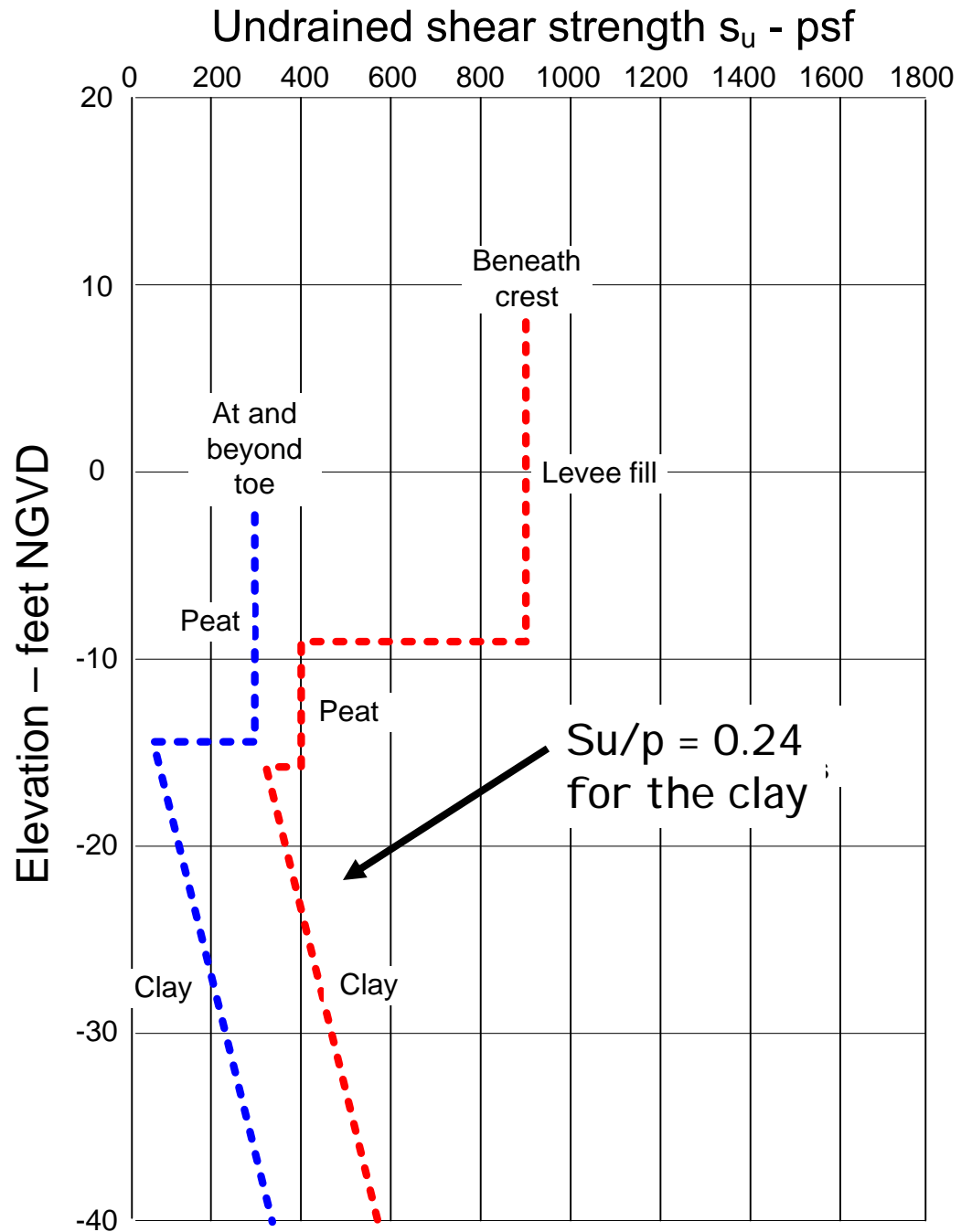
Four tests, consistent rate of increase in  $s_u$  with depth

↑ Peat

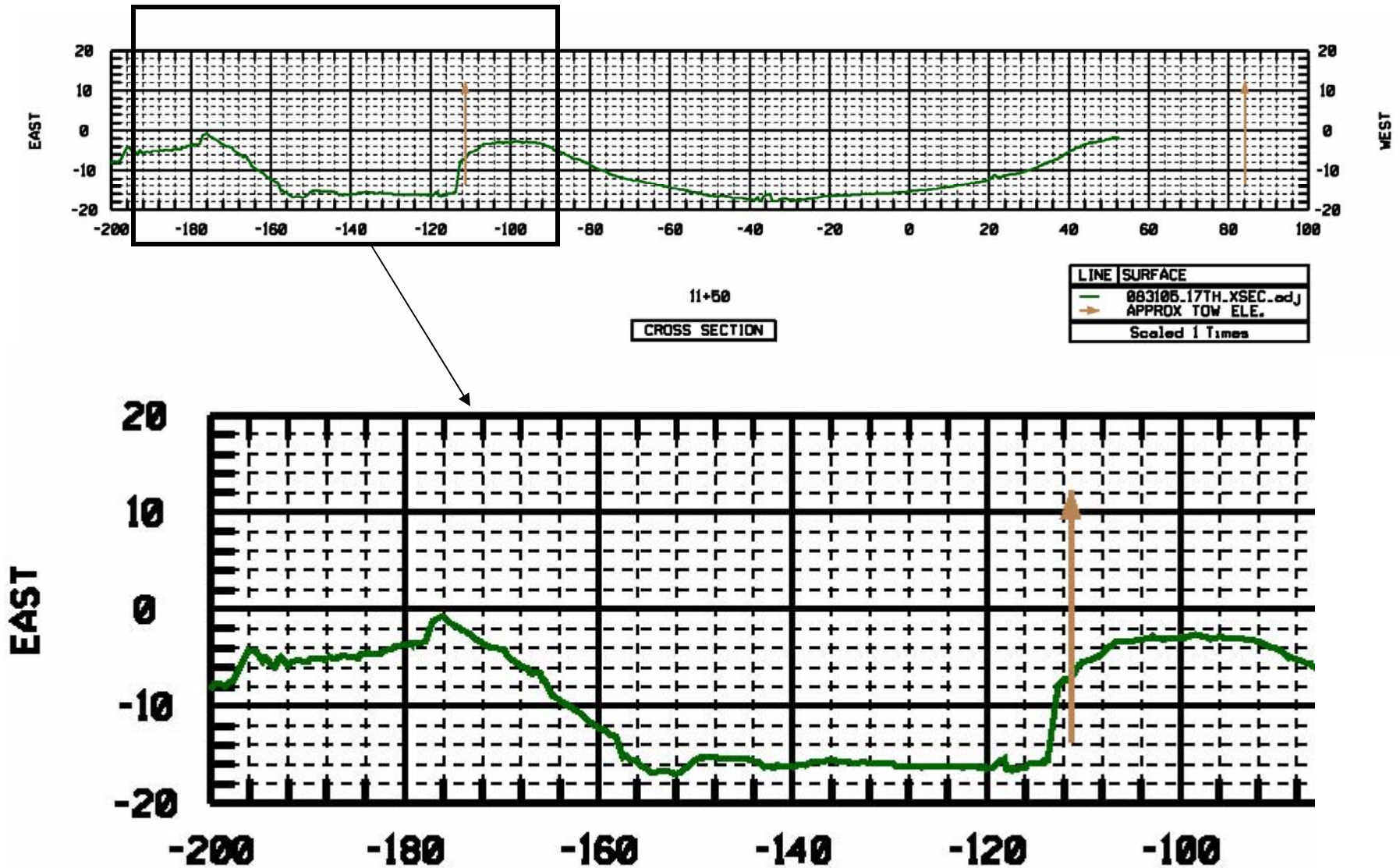
Clay

↓ Sand

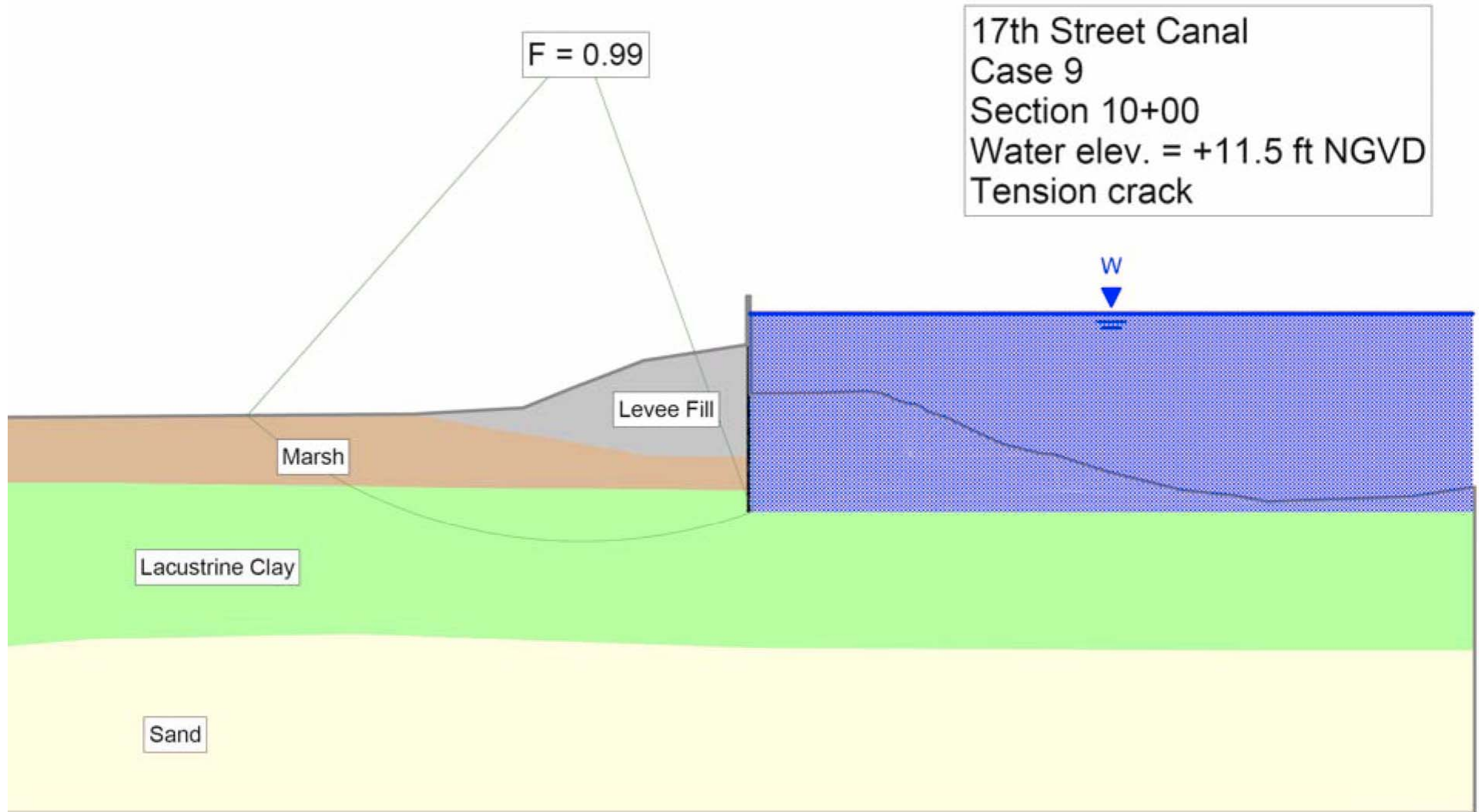
# IPET strengths



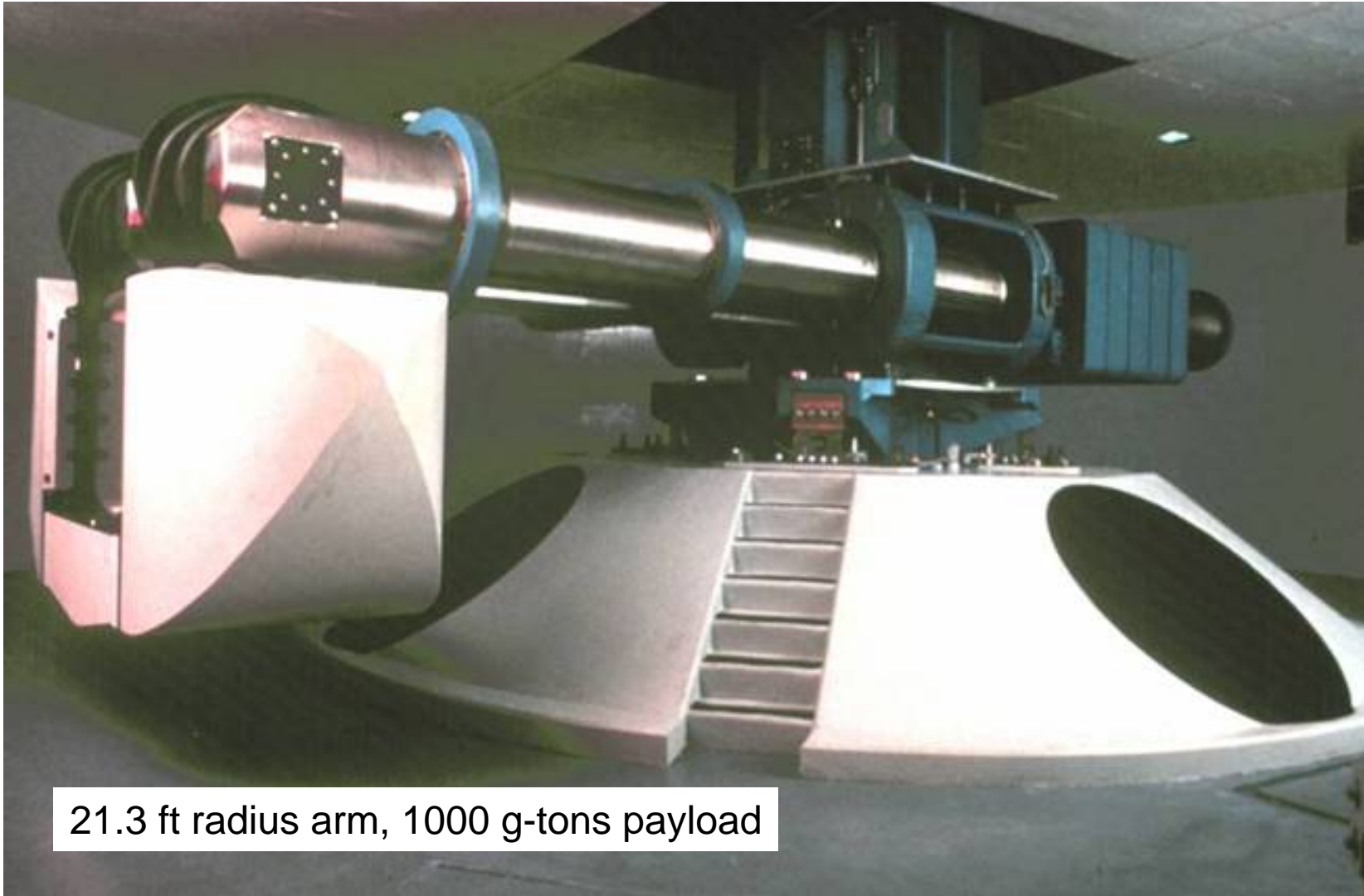
# 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal after failure



# Stability analysis



# Centrifuge tests to study failure mechanism



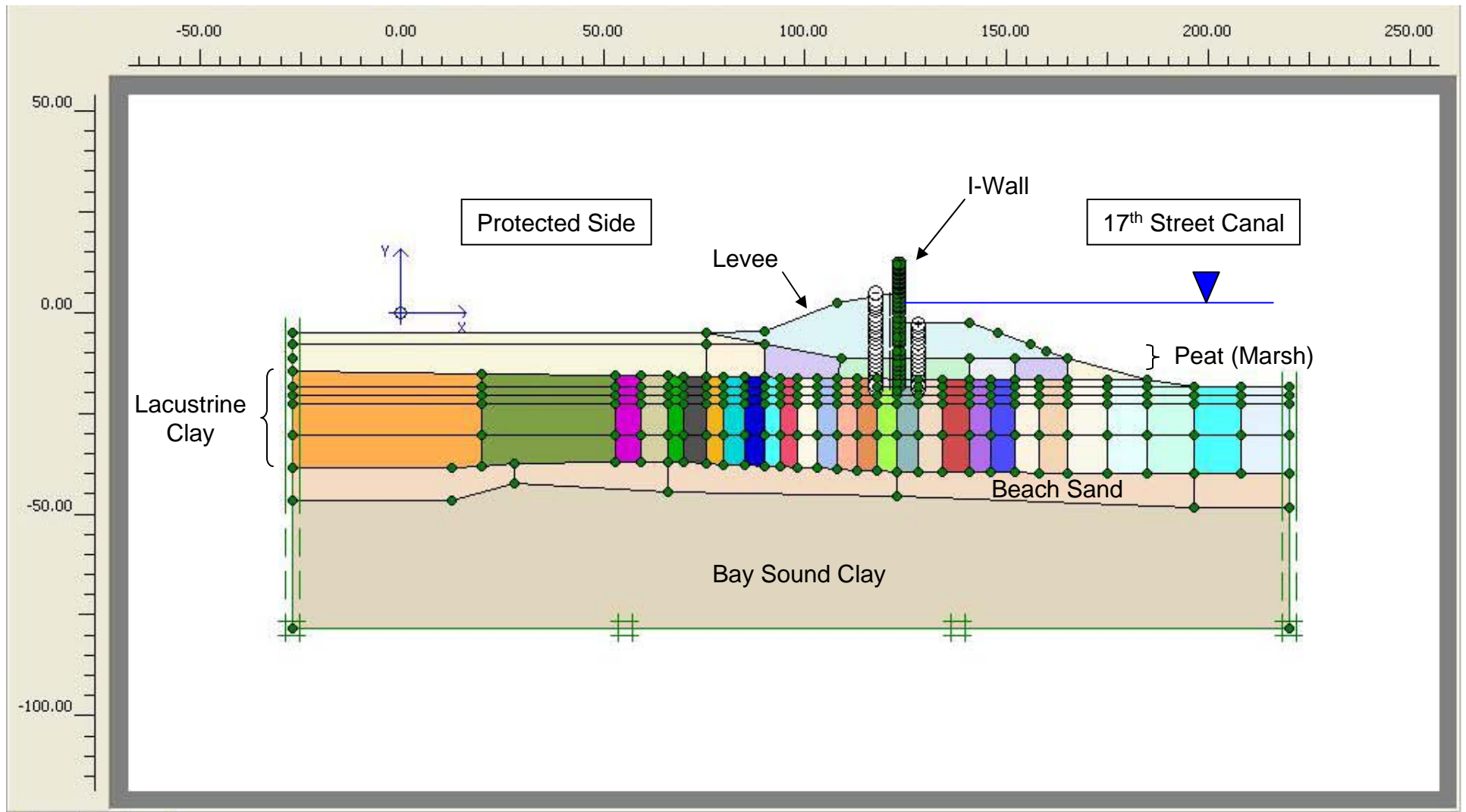
21.3 ft radius arm, 1000 g-tons payload

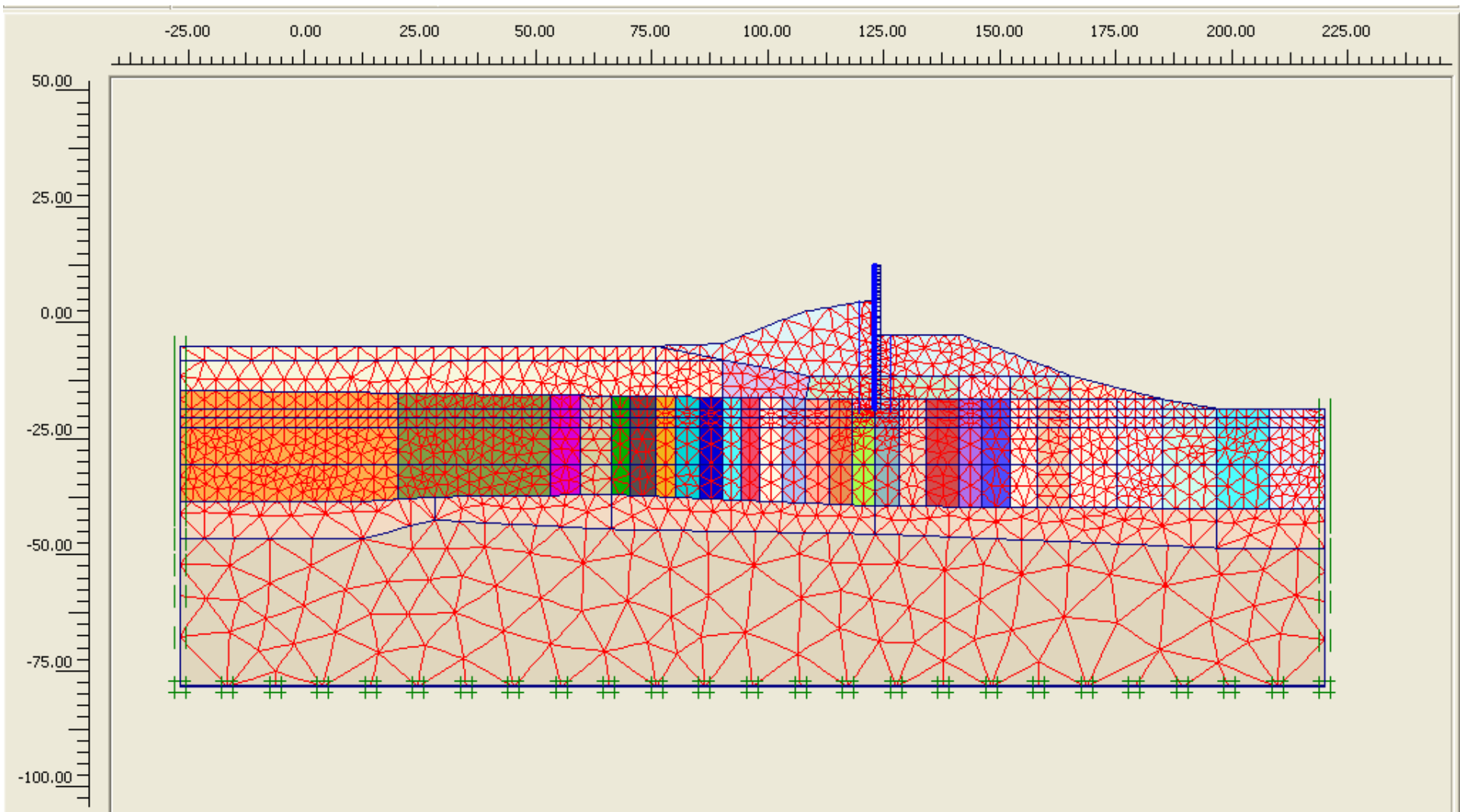


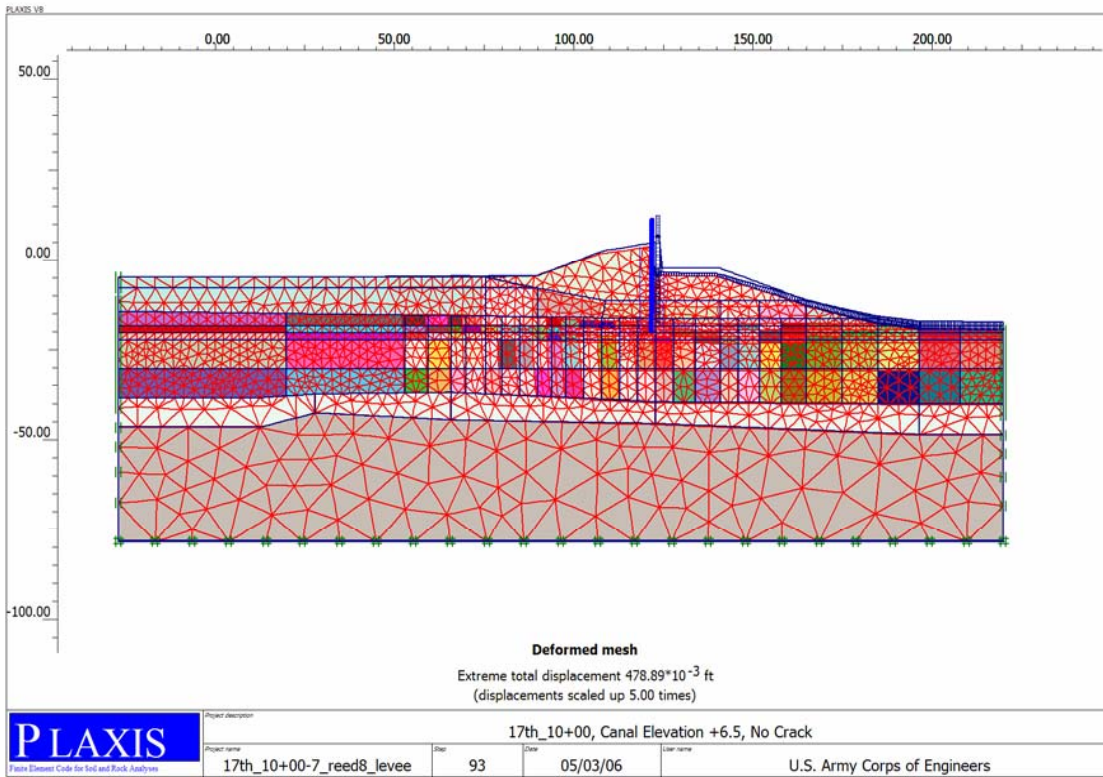




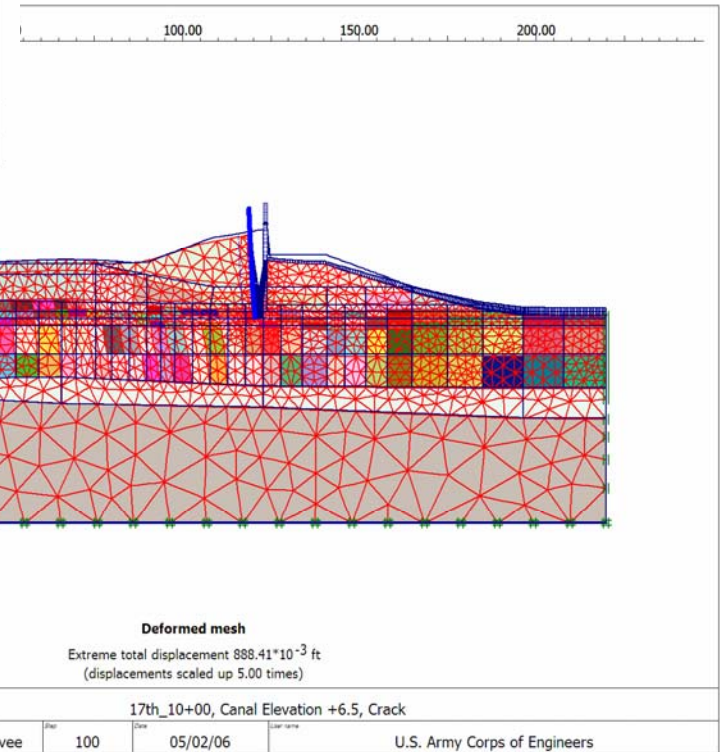
# **17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Finite Element Analysis**



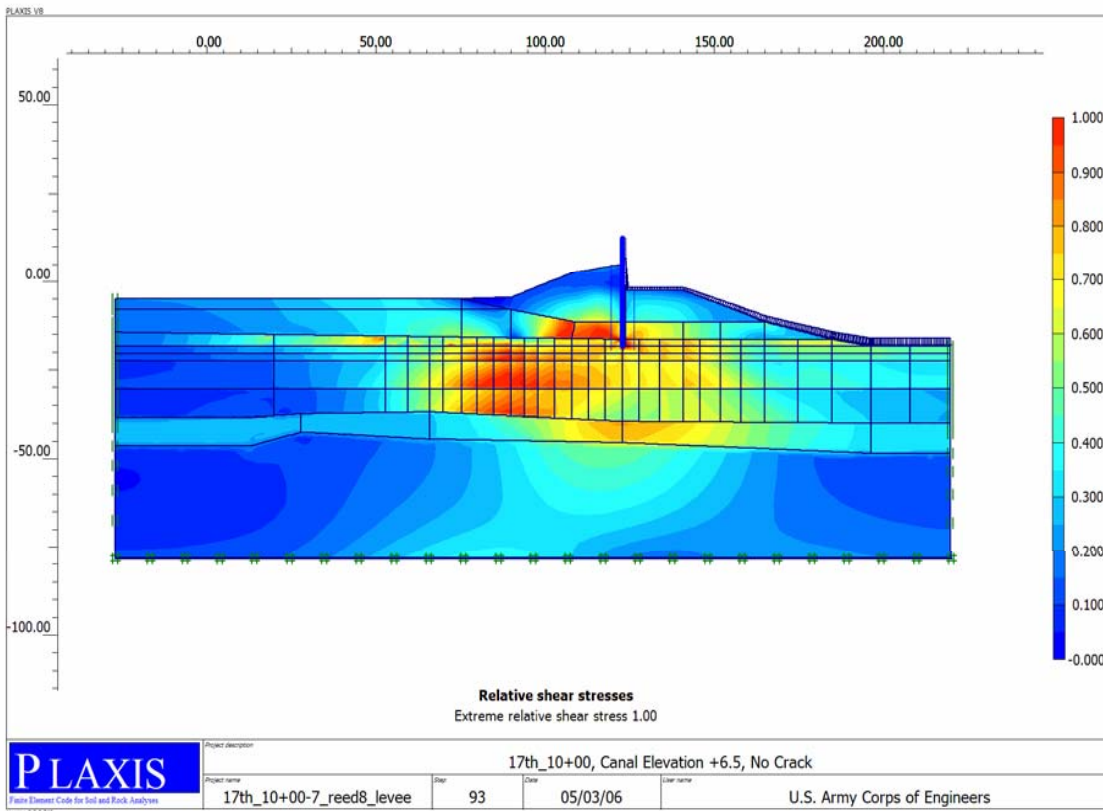




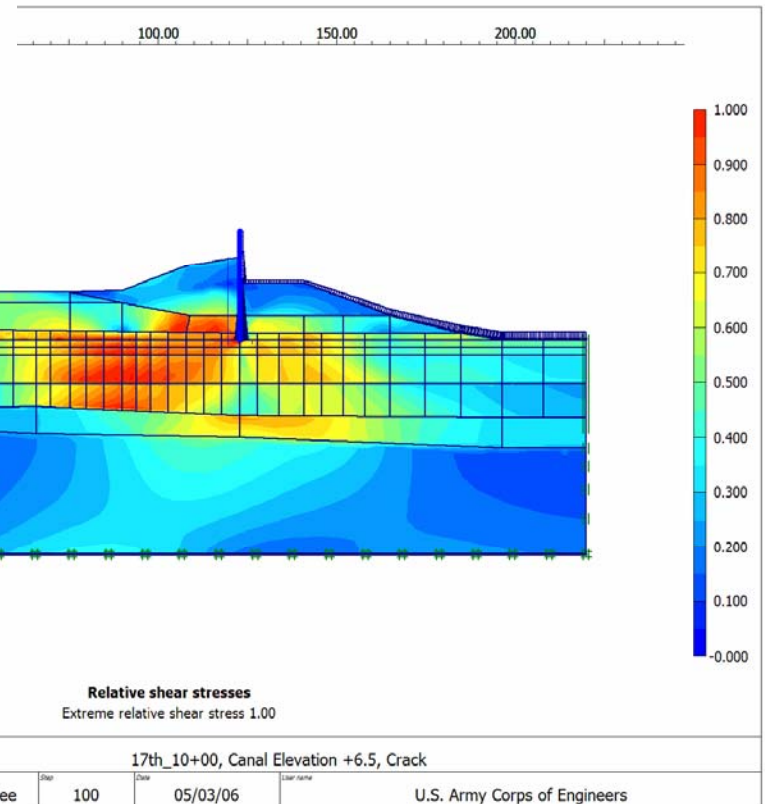
**No Crack**



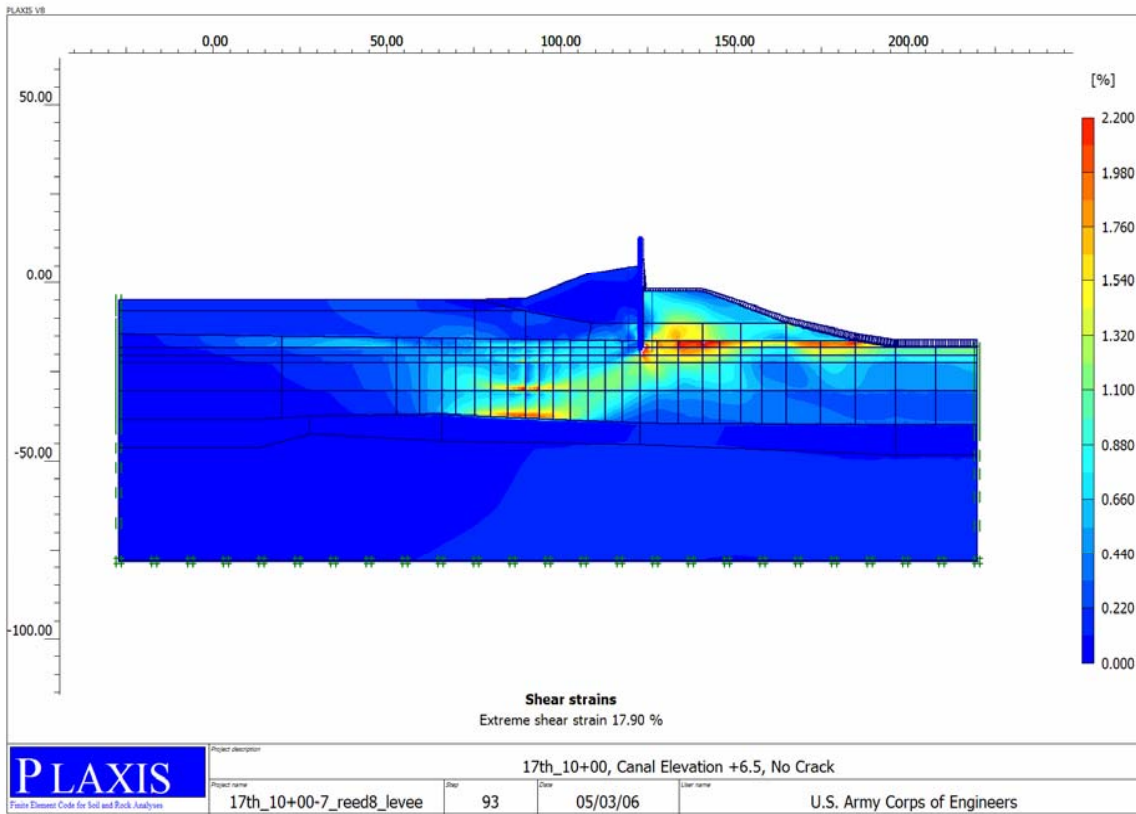
**Crack**



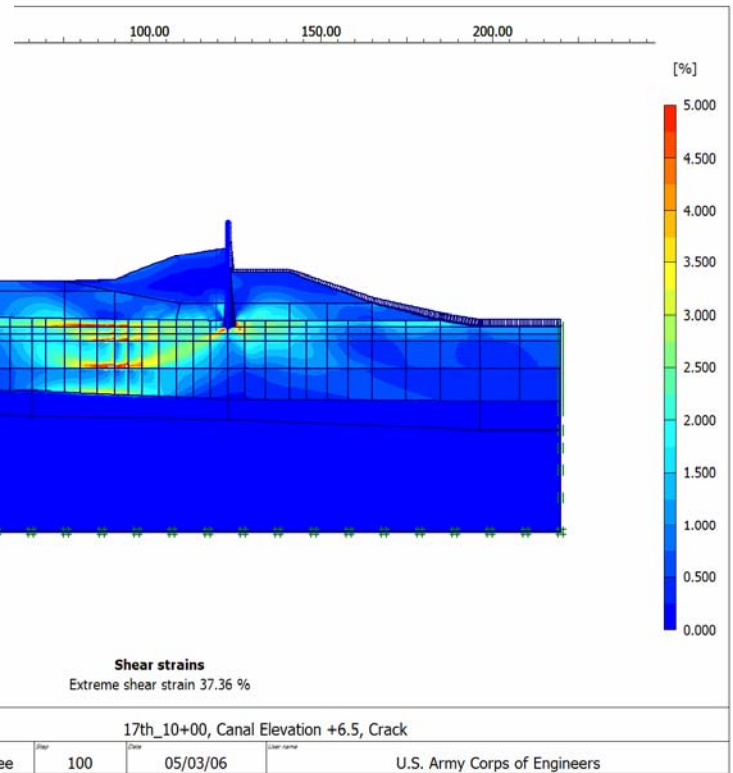
**No Crack**



**Crack**

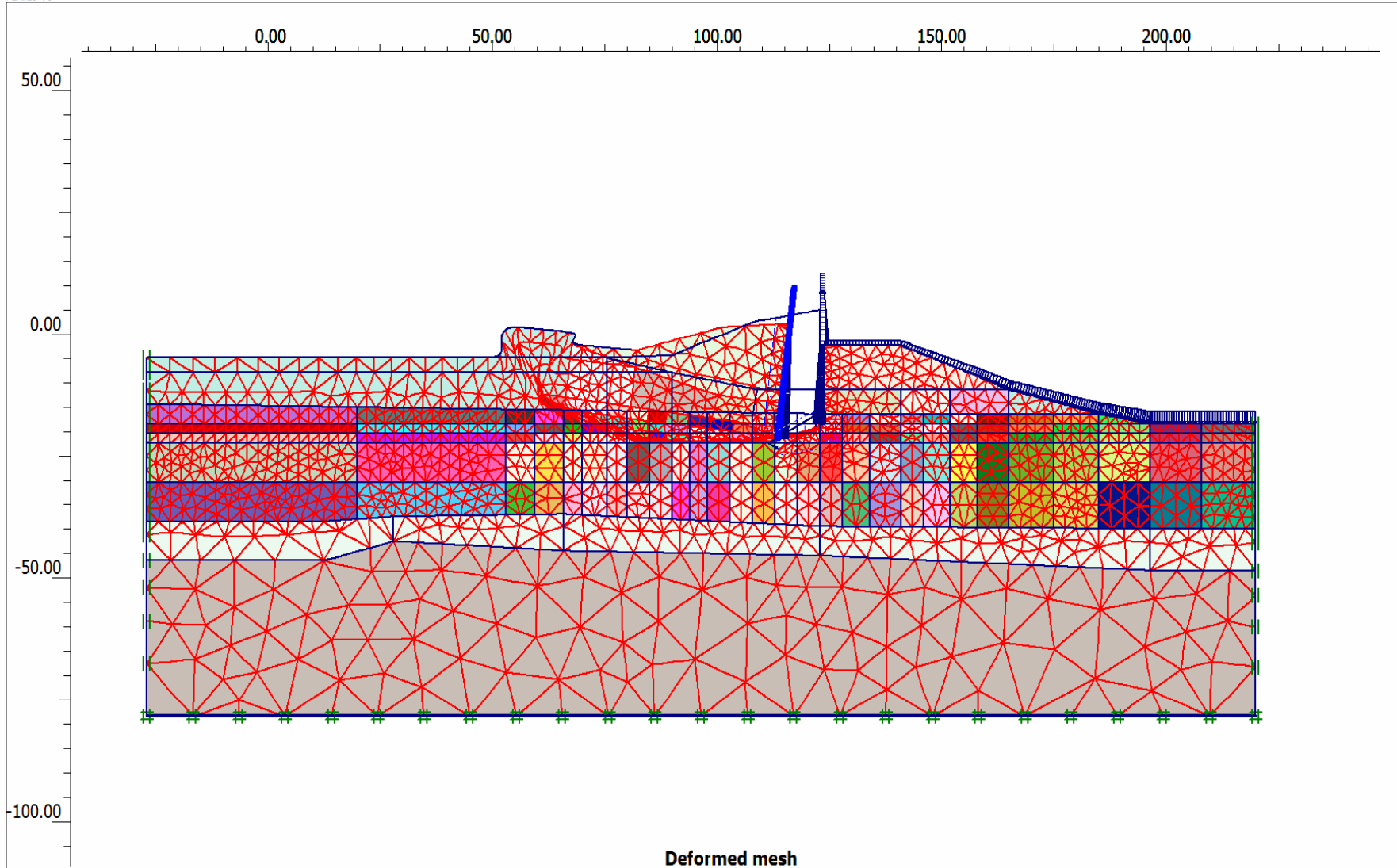


**No Crack**



**Crack**



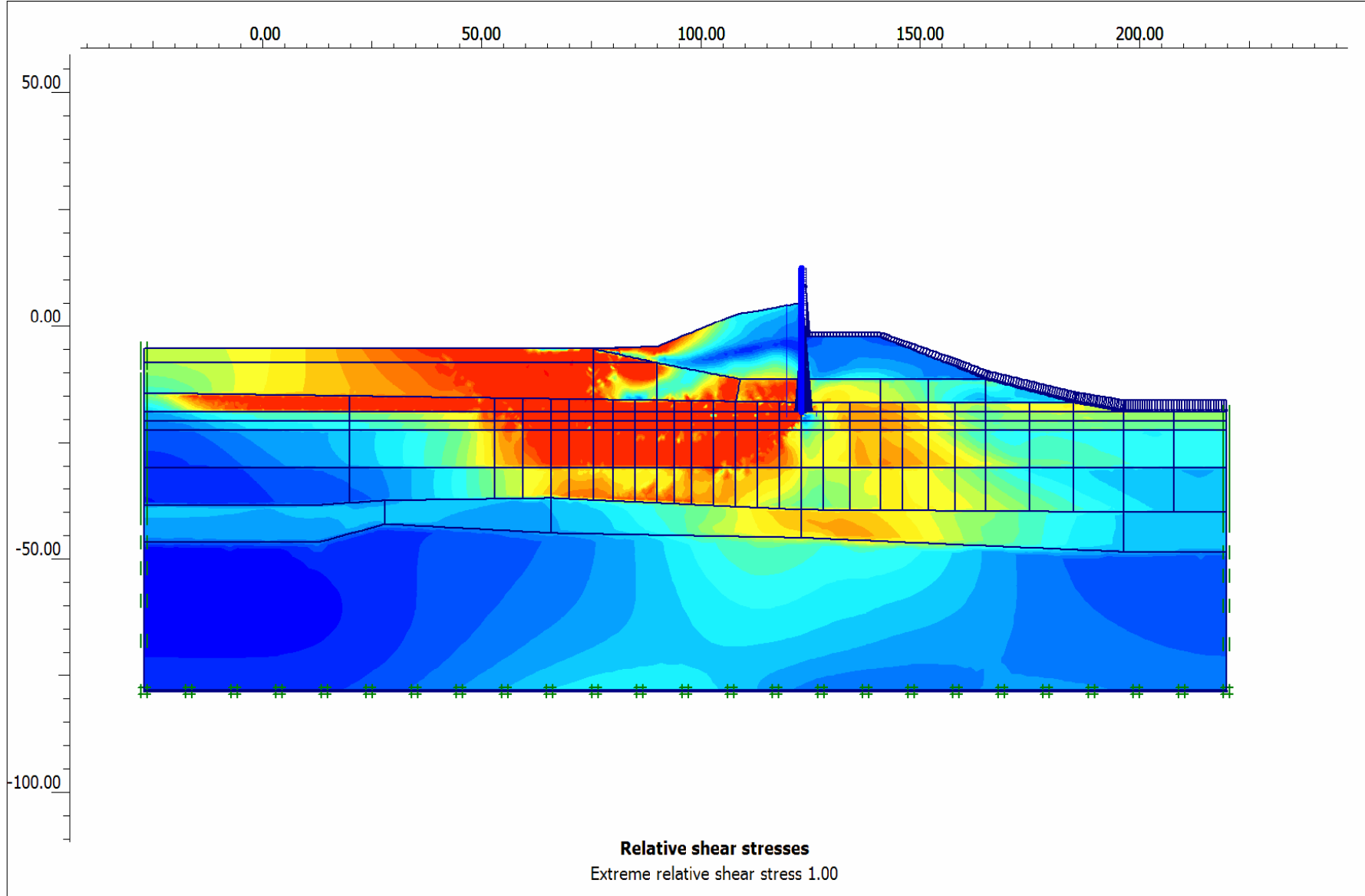



**Deformed mesh**

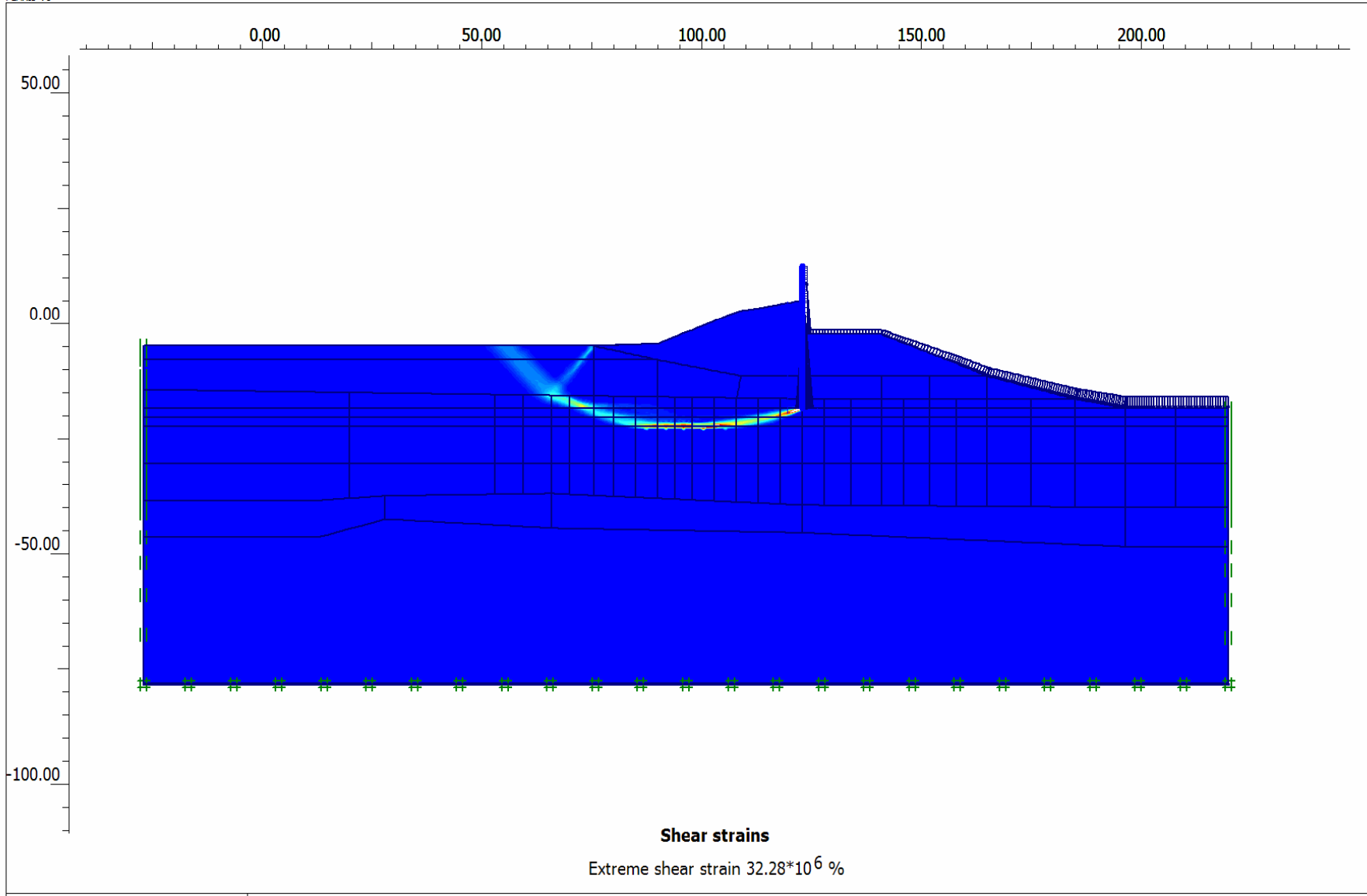
Extreme total displacement  $53.74 \times 10^3$  ft  
(displacements scaled up  $200.00 \times 10^{-6}$  times)




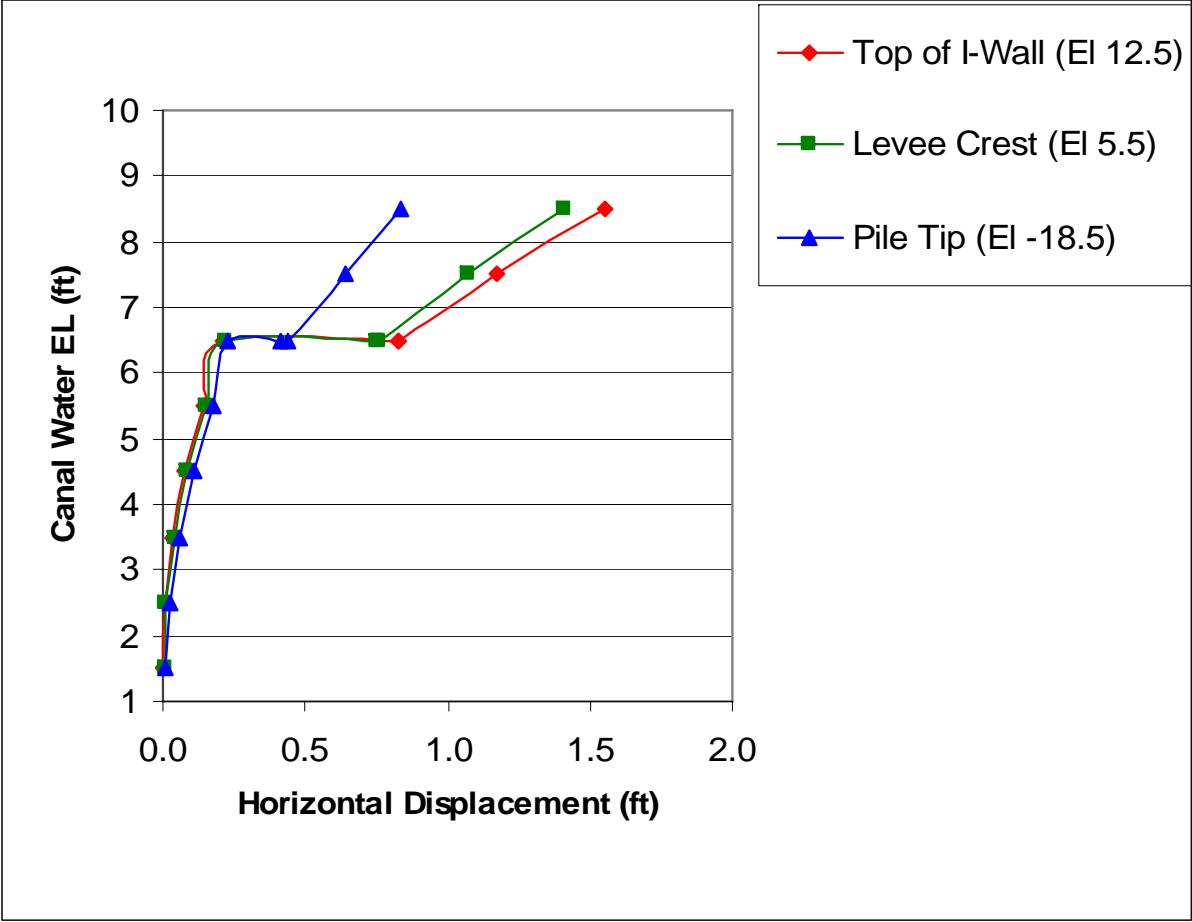
<i>Project description</i>				
17th_10+00, Canal Elevation +8.5, Crack, Phi-C Reduction				
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Step</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>User name</i>	
17th_10+00-7_reed8_levee	526	05/03/06	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	



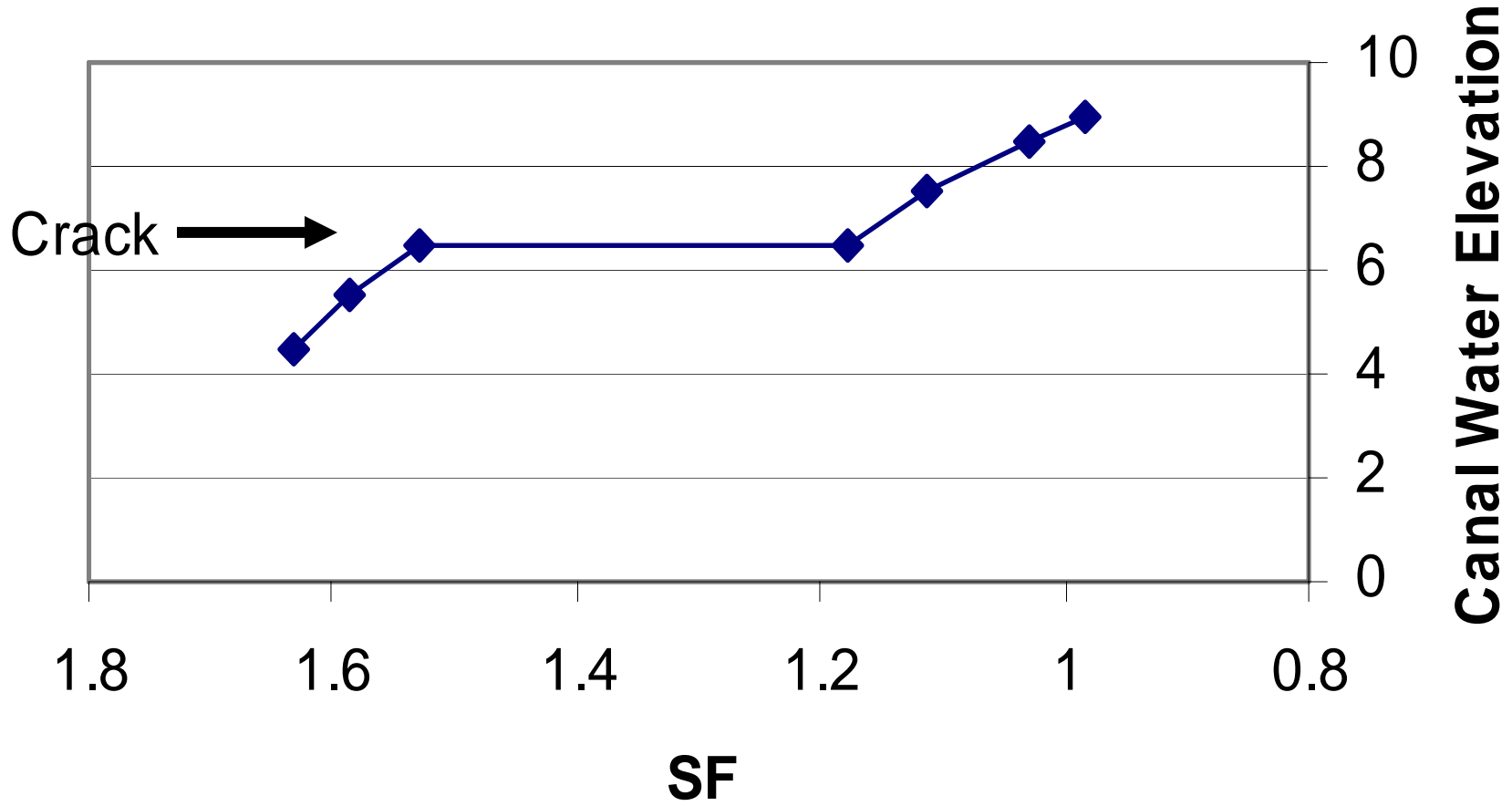
 Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analyses Version 8.2.8.746	<i>Project description</i> 17th_10+00, Canal Elevation +8.5, Crack, Phi-C Reduction			
	<i>Project name</i> 17th_10+00-7_reed8_levee	<i>Step</i> 526	<i>Date</i> 05/03/06	<i>User name</i> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



 <small>Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analyses</small> <small>Version 8.2.8.746</small>	<small>Project description</small> 17th_10+00, Canal Elevation +8.5, Crack, Phi-C Reduction			
	<small>Project name</small> 17th_10+00-7_reed8_levee	<small>Step</small> 526	<small>Date</small> 05/03/06	<small>User name</small> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



# Safety Factor



# Study of London Avenue Canal Breach Mechanisms

New Orleans IPET/ERP meeting

May 4 - 5, 2006

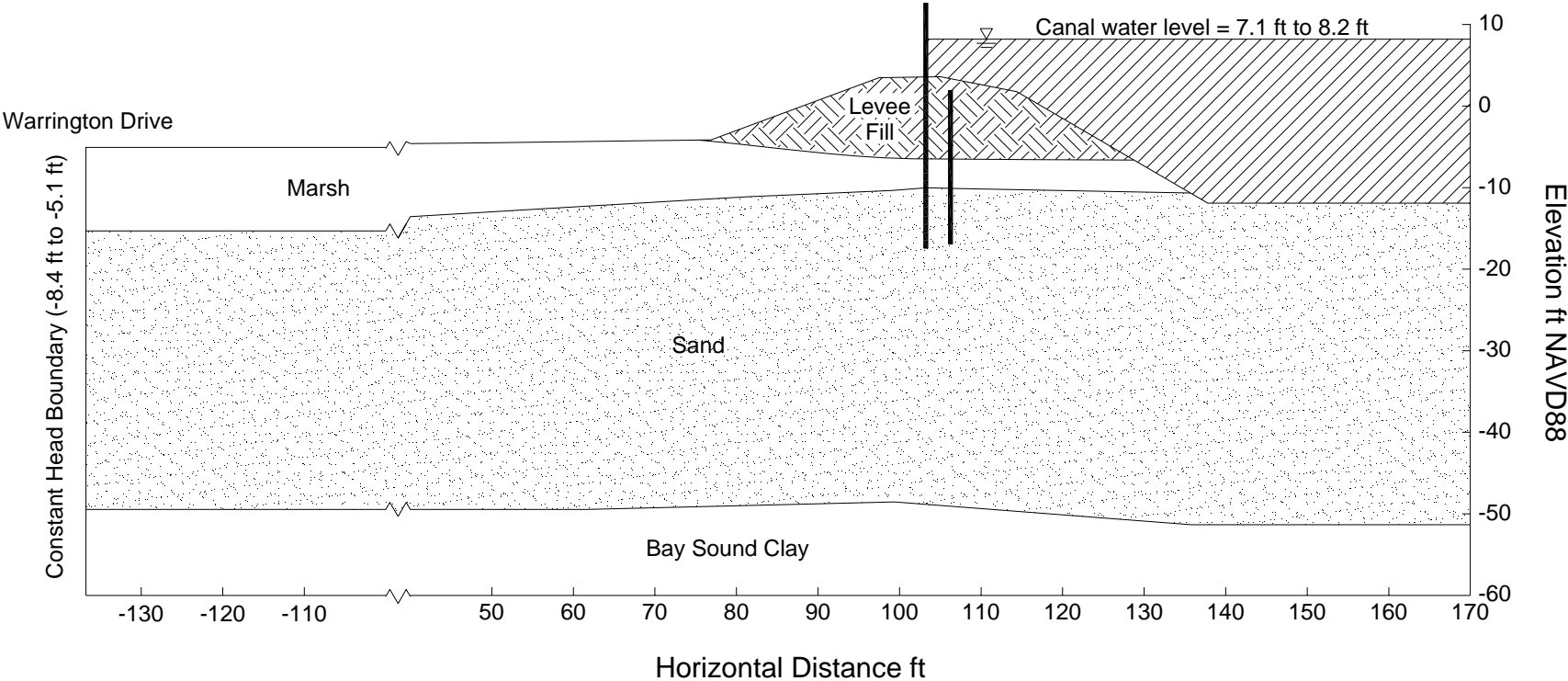


London Avenue south breach – about 60 ft wide – much sand washed through the breach into the neighborhood





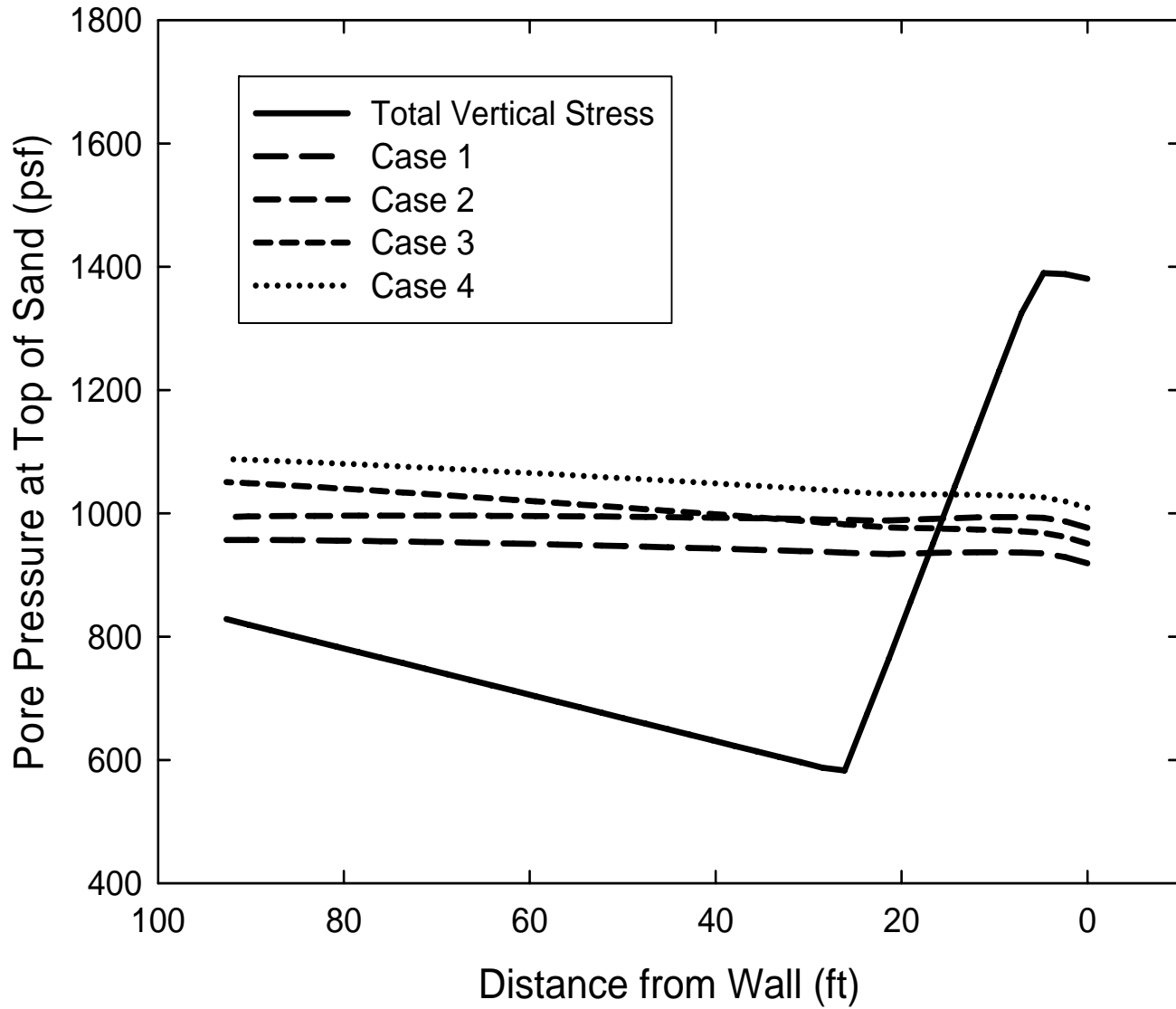
London Avenue Canal - South  
Station 53+00/75+00  
East I-Wall



# Permeability values

- Sand –  $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$  cm/sec based on pumping test
- Marsh –  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/sec
- Levee fill –  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec

# London Avenue Canal - South



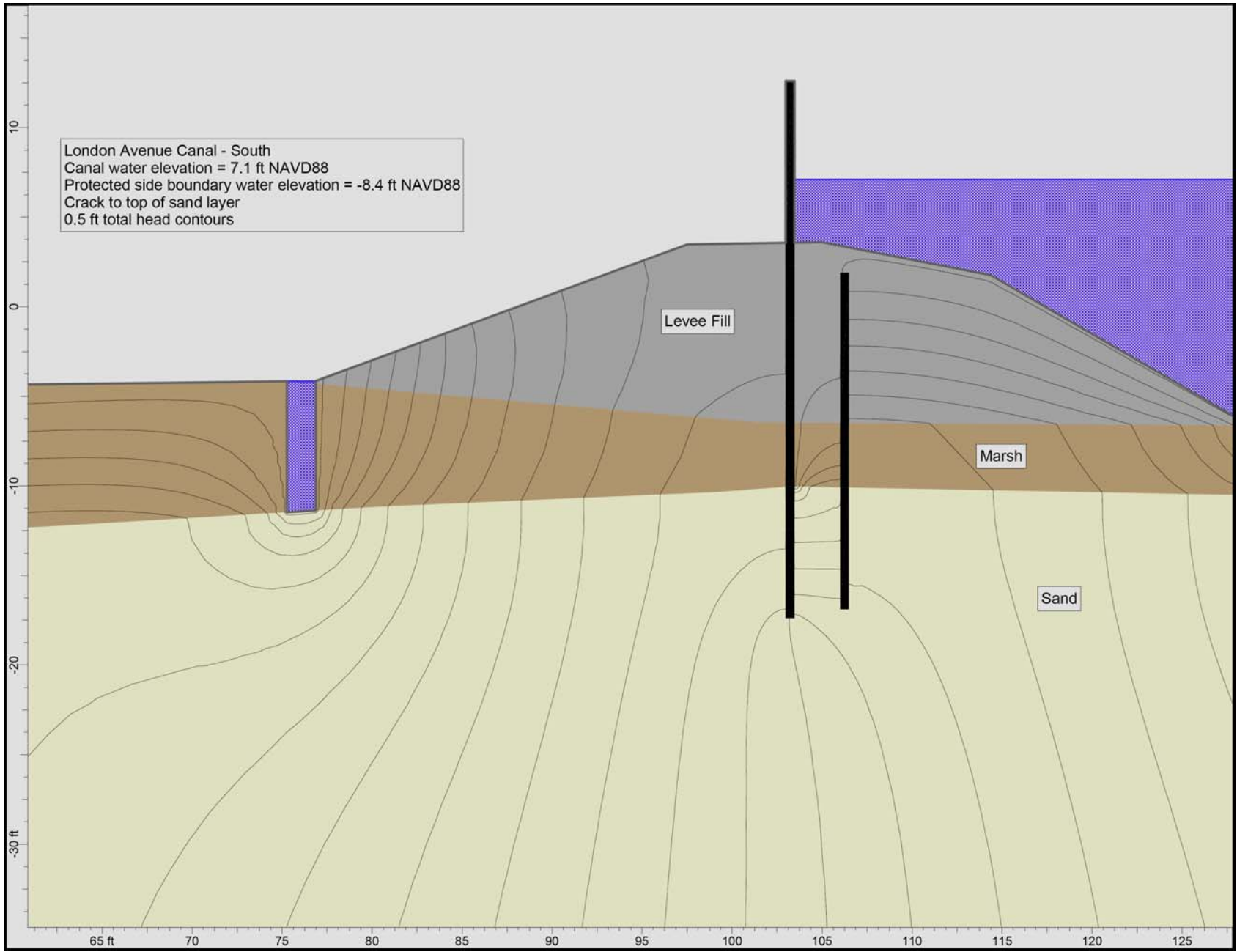
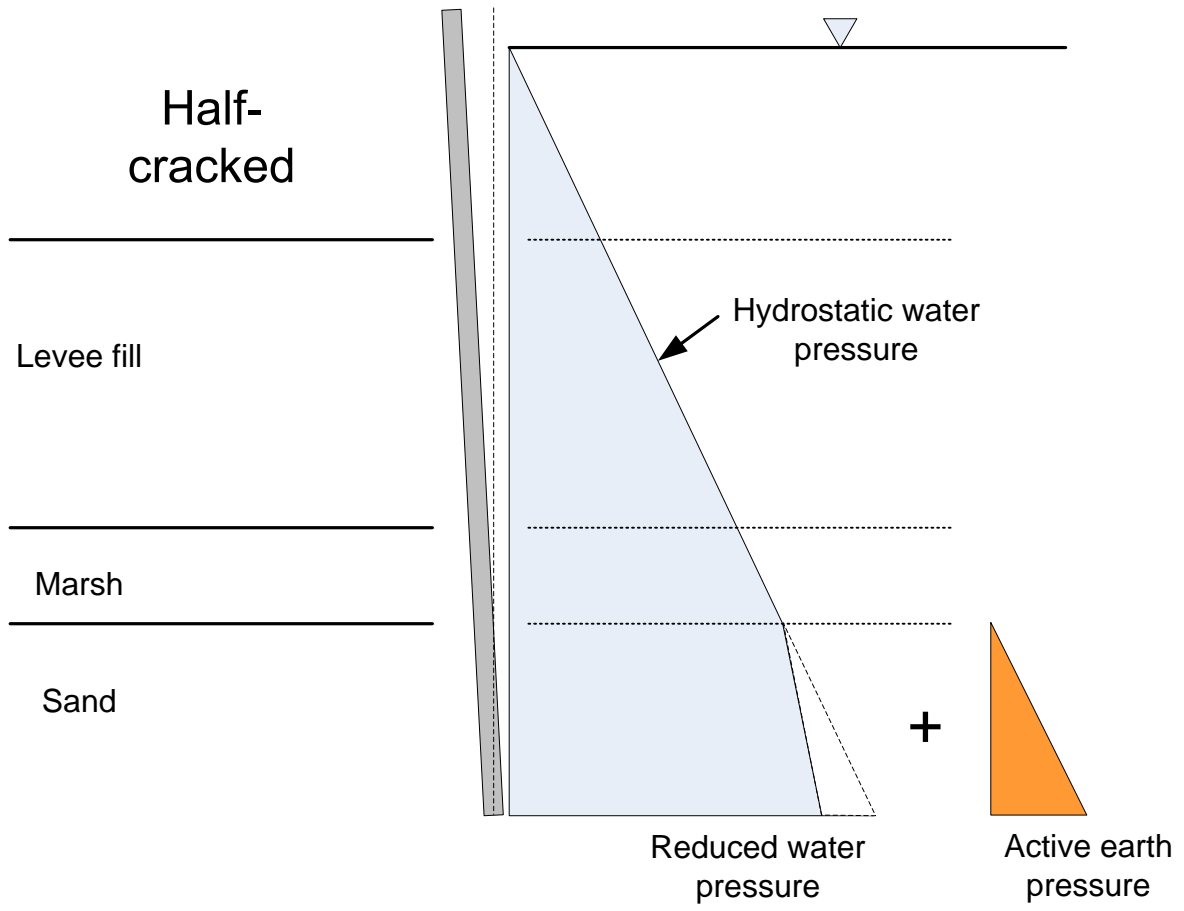


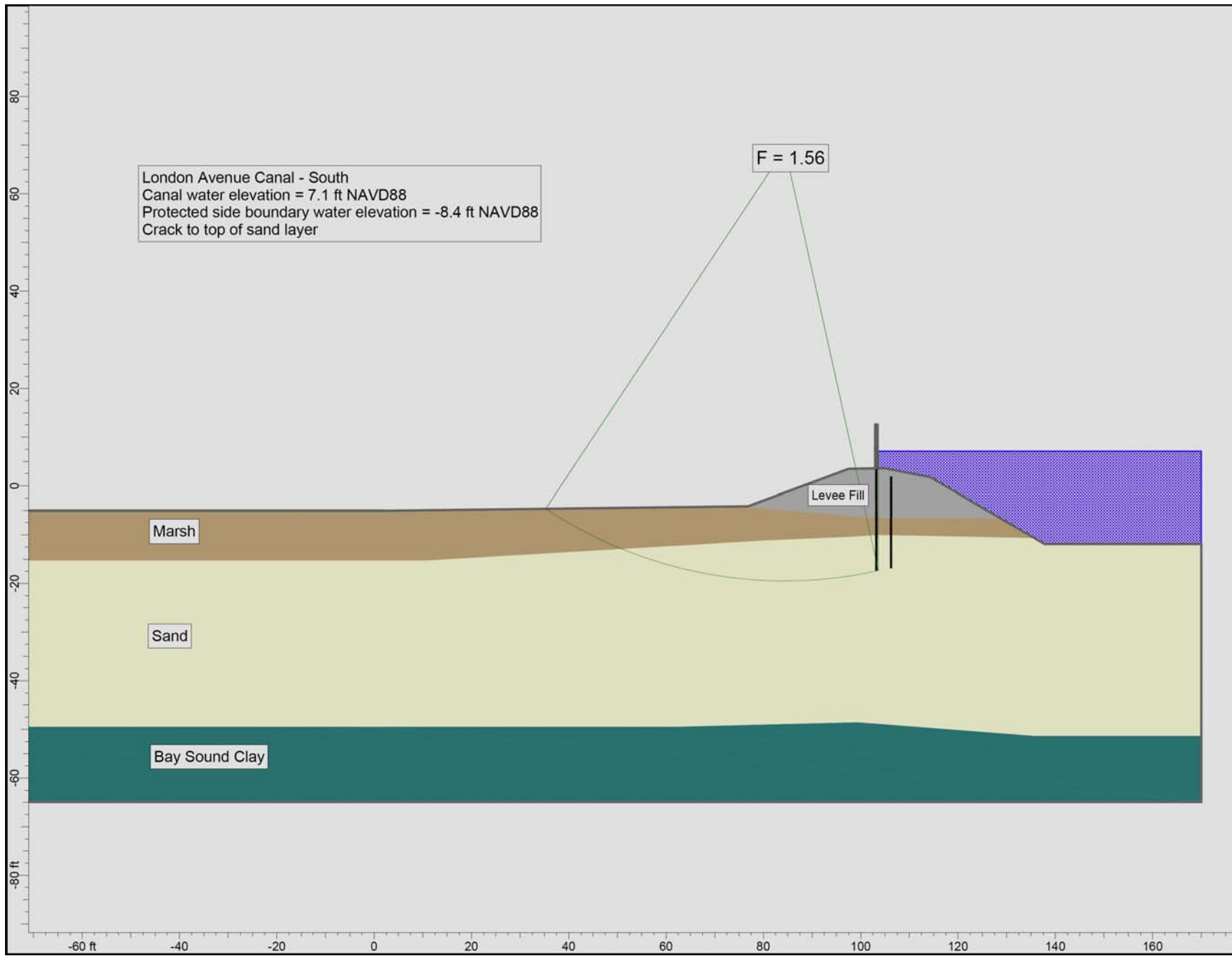
Table 3. Calculated probabilities of erosion – London Avenue south breach

Canal water level	$F_{MLV}$ *	$COV_F$ **	Probability of erosion
7.1 ft	0.84	5%	> 99%
8.2 ft	0.77	4%	> 99%

\*  $F_{MLV}$  taken as the average for high and low positions of LWL

\*\* Reflects  $\Delta F$  due to variations in LWL



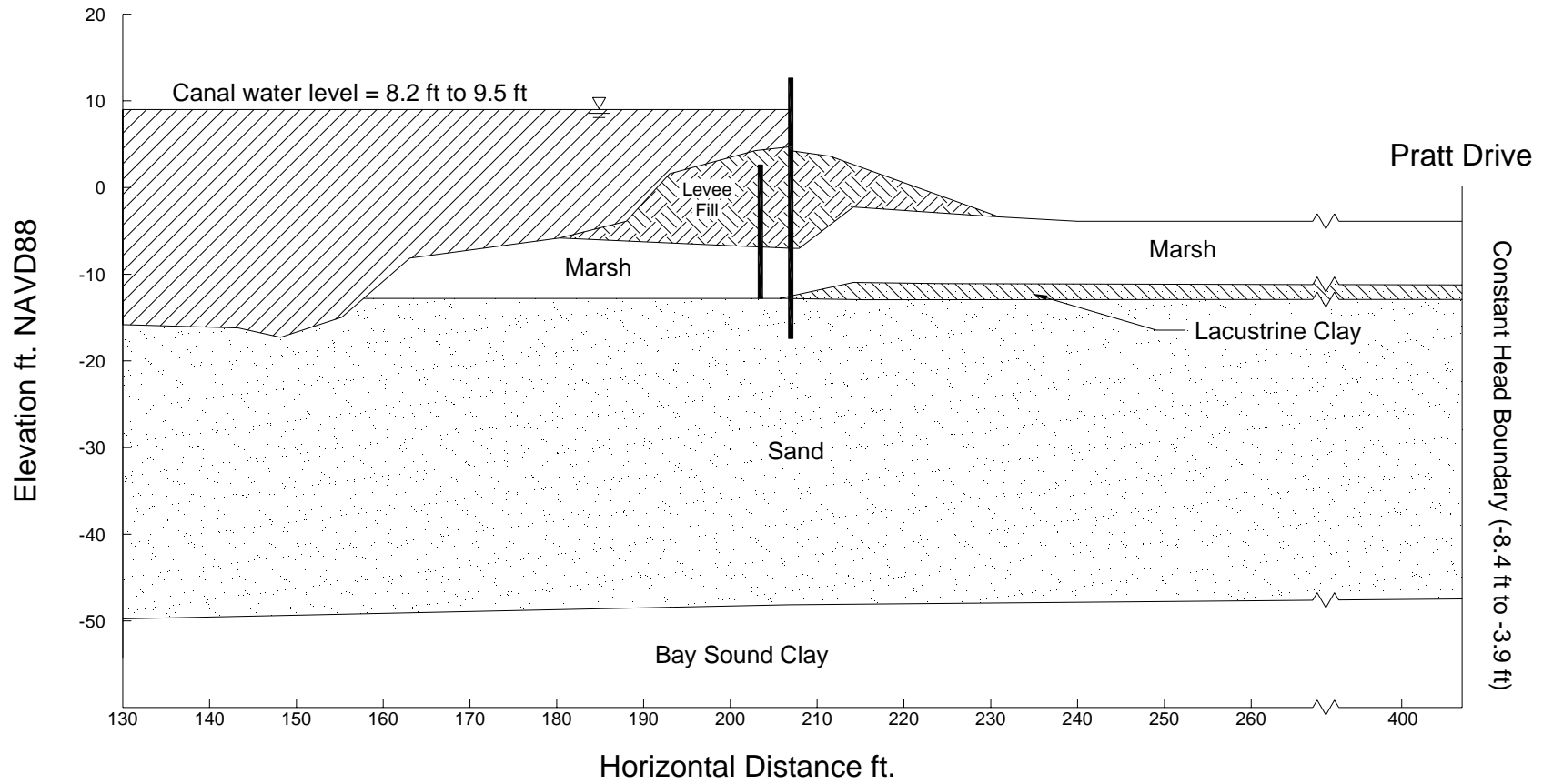




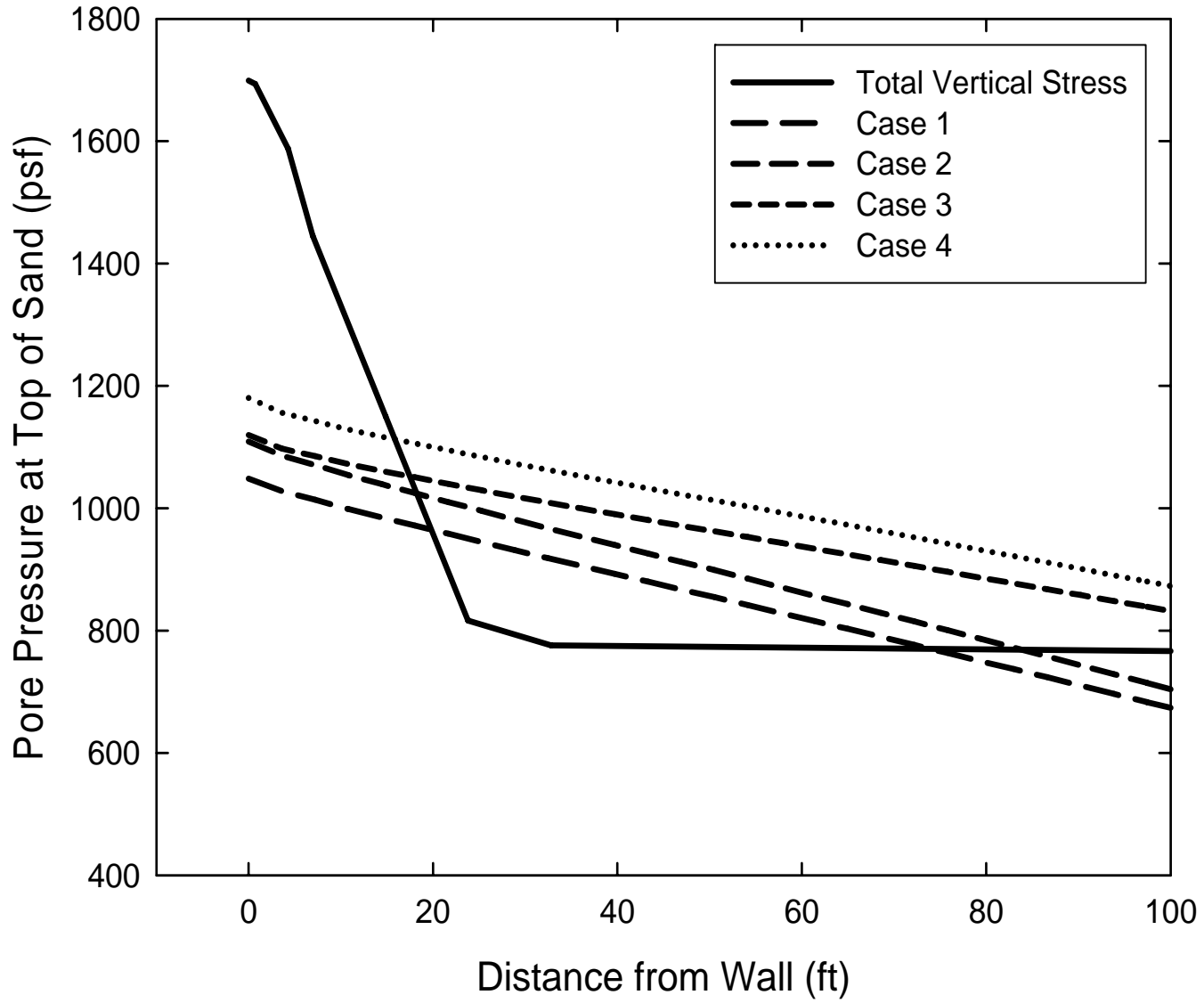
London Avenue north breach – about 410 ft wide – similar to 17<sup>th</sup> Street canal I-wall failure

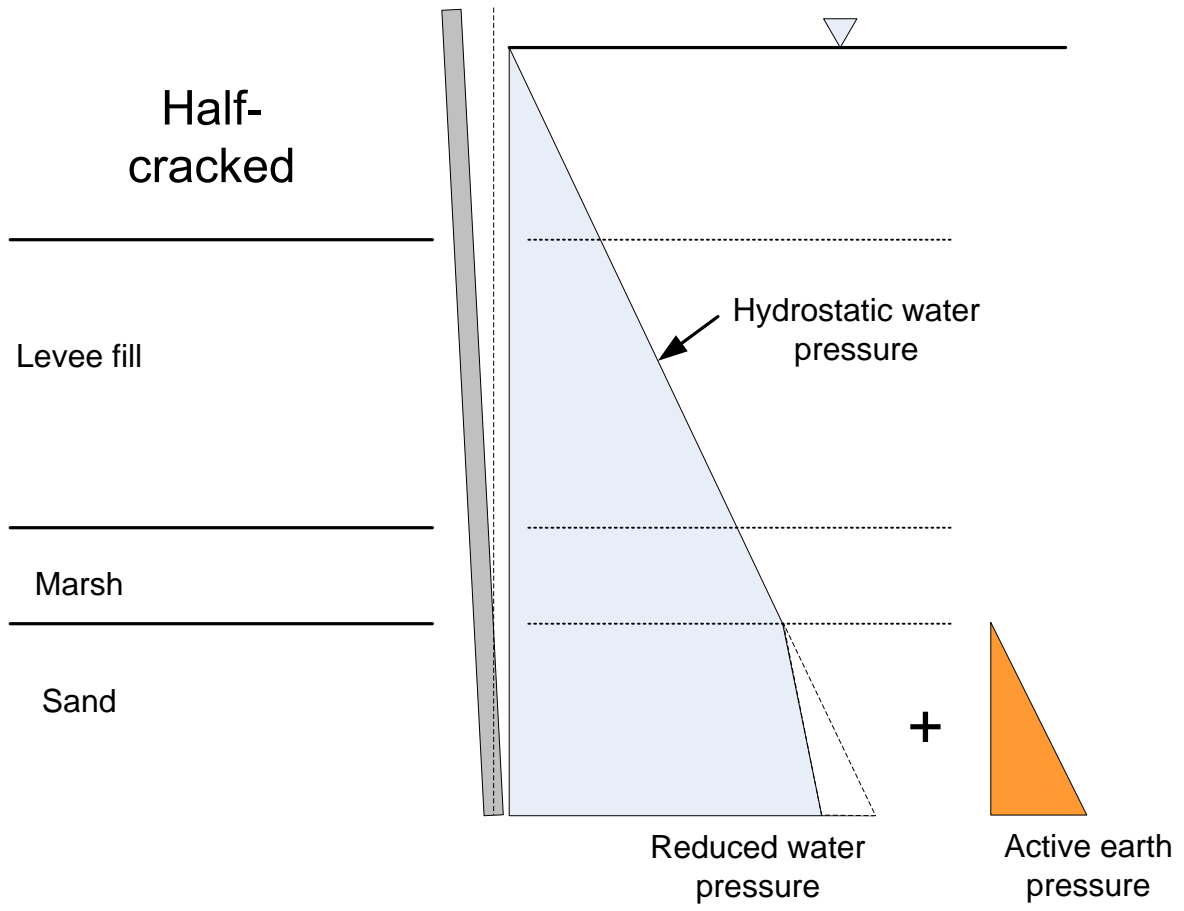


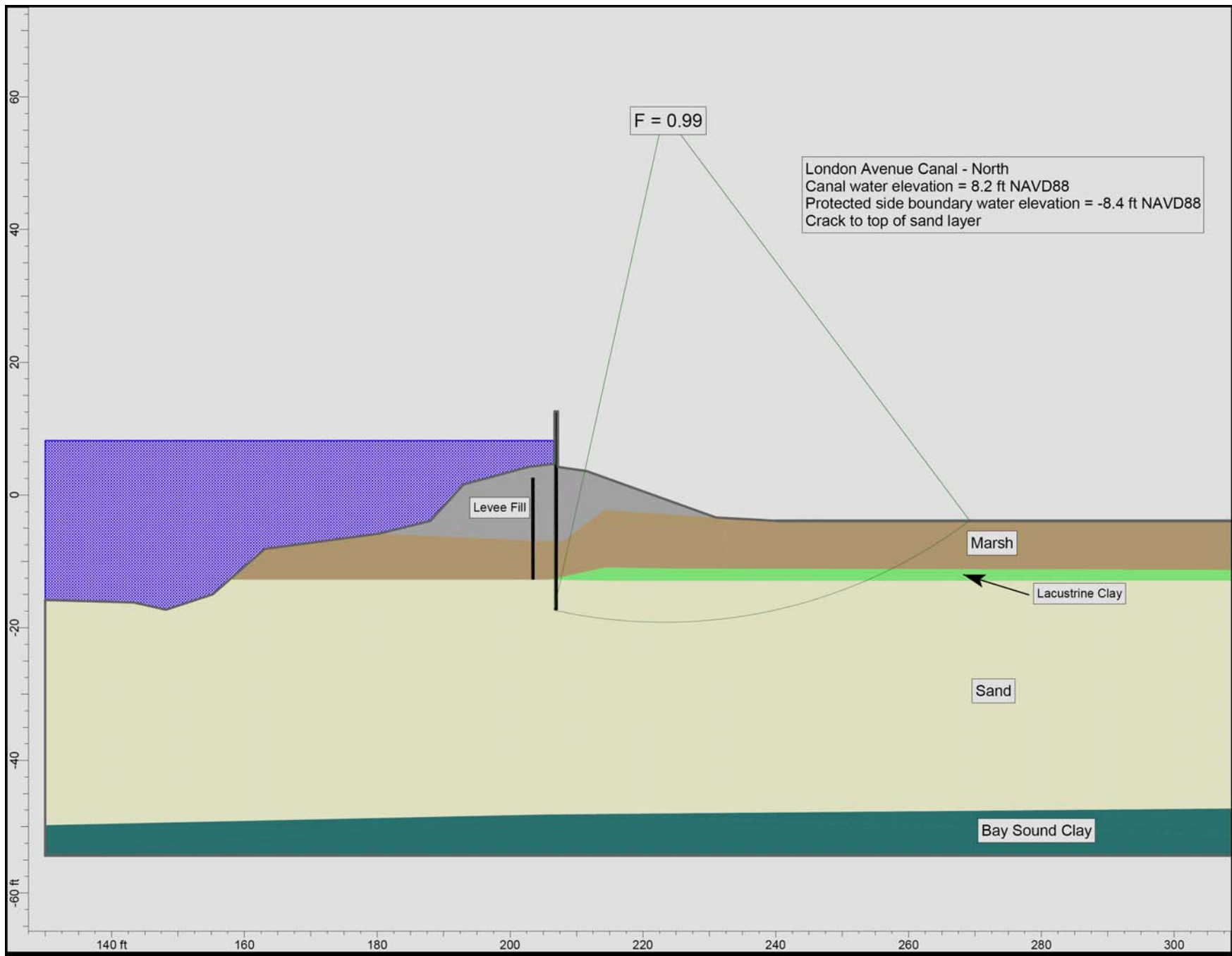
London Avenue Canal - North  
Station 14+00/114+75  
West I-Wall



# London Avenue Canal - North







F = 0.99

London Avenue Canal - North  
Canal water elevation = 8.2 ft NAVD88  
Protected side boundary water elevation = -8.4 ft NAVD88  
Crack to top of sand layer

Levee Fill

Marsh

Lacustrine Clay

Sand

Bay Sound Clay

60

40

20

0

-20

-40

-60 ft

140 ft

160

180

200

220

240

260

280

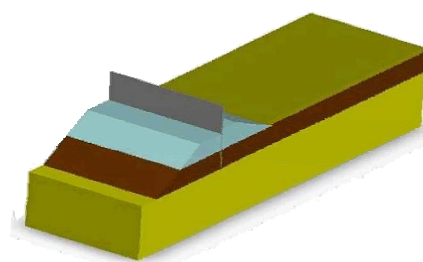
300

# Comparison of Factor of Safety for north and south breaches

Breach	$F_{\text{erosion}}$	$F_{\text{instability}}$
South	0.74 to 0.89	1.19 to 1.56
North	0.67 to 0.88	0.72 to 0.99

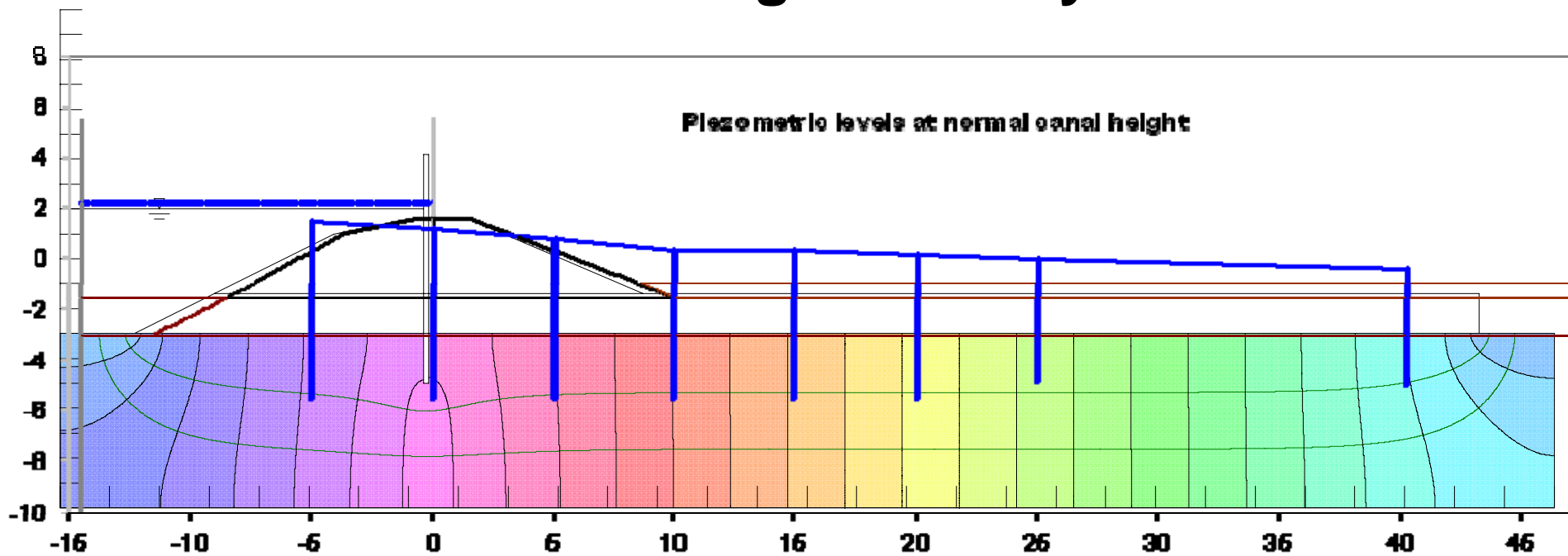
# Comparison of probabilities for north and south breaches

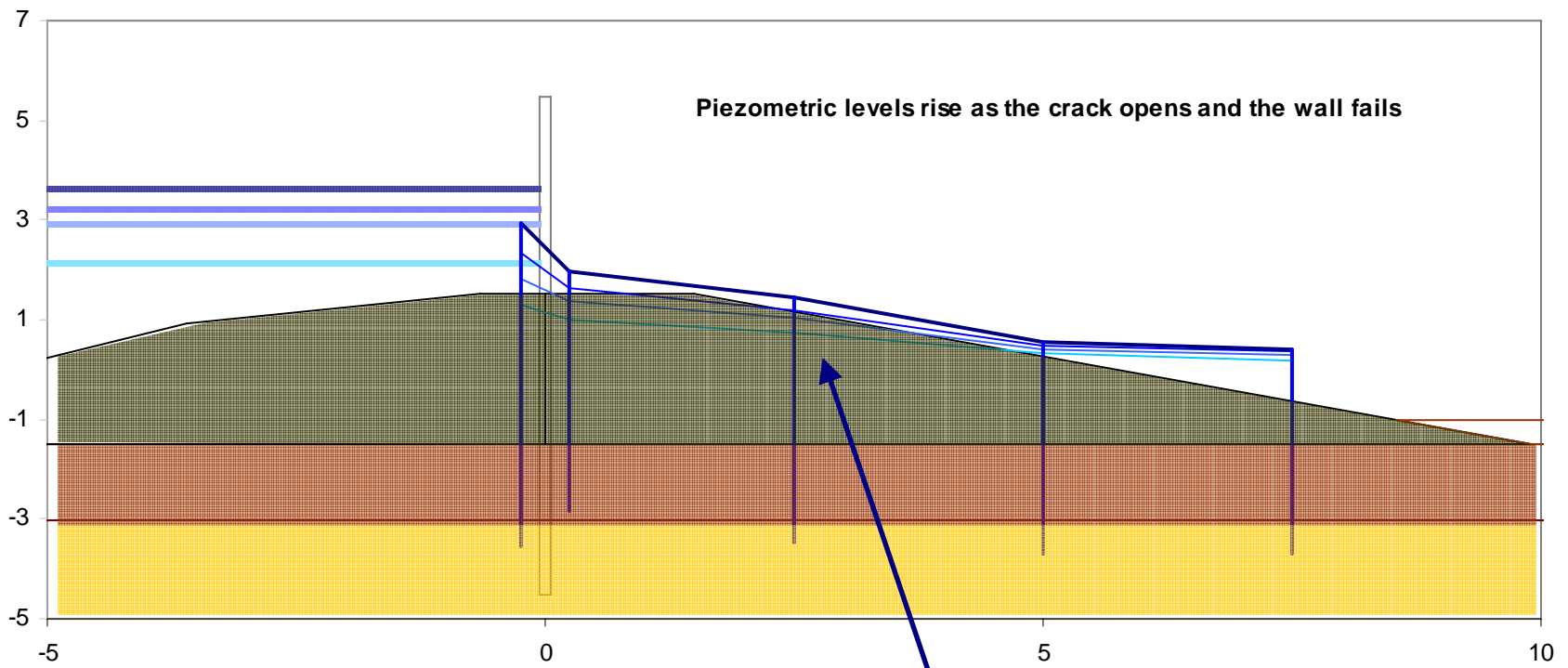
Breach	$P_{\text{erosion}}$	$P_{\text{instability}}$
South	>99%	1% to 10%
North	91% to 99%	70% to 97%



# *Establishing initial conditions*

## Flownet through sand layer



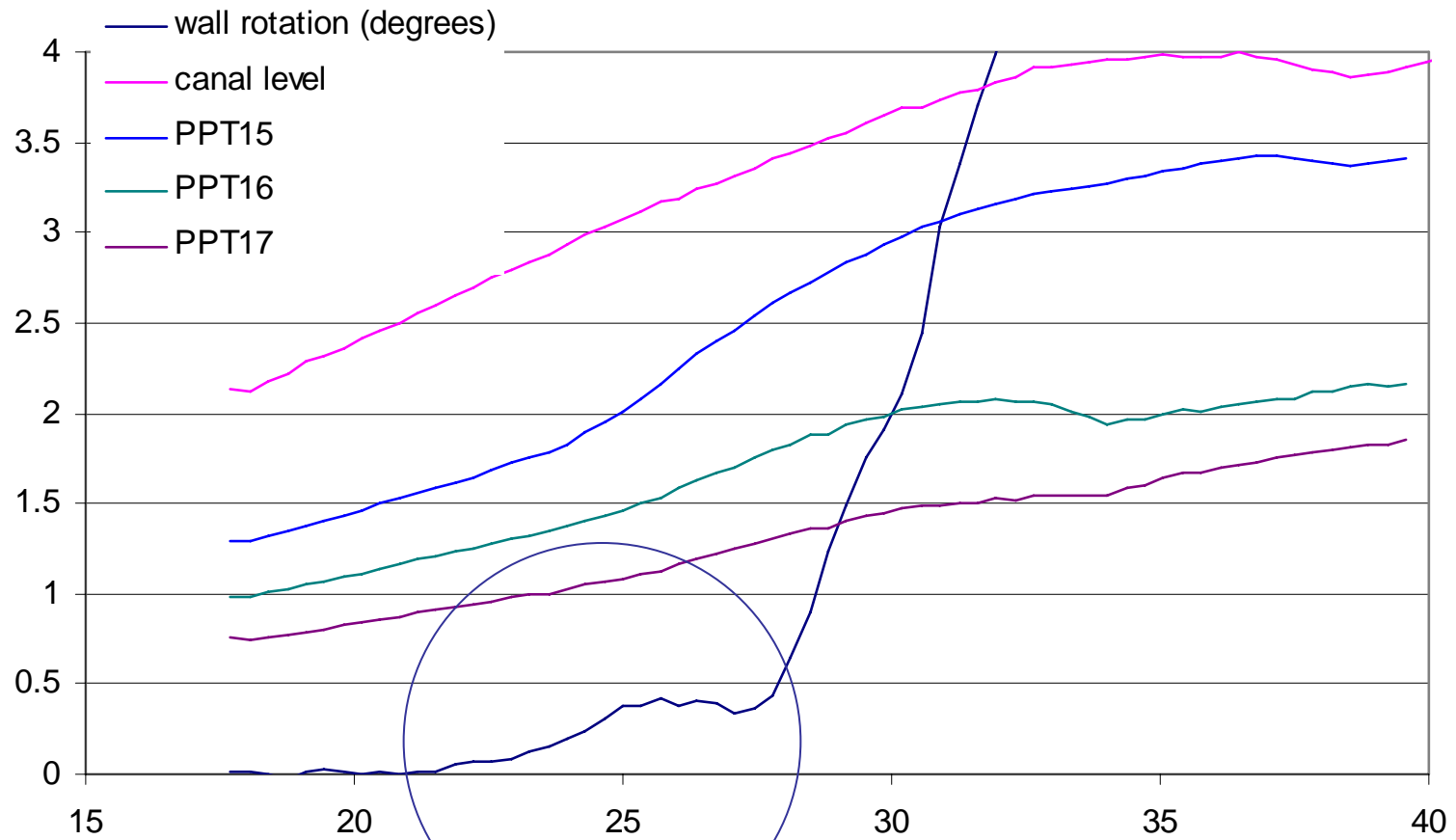


Piezometric levels under the landward levee berm rise as water rises in the canal, (ERDC London South)

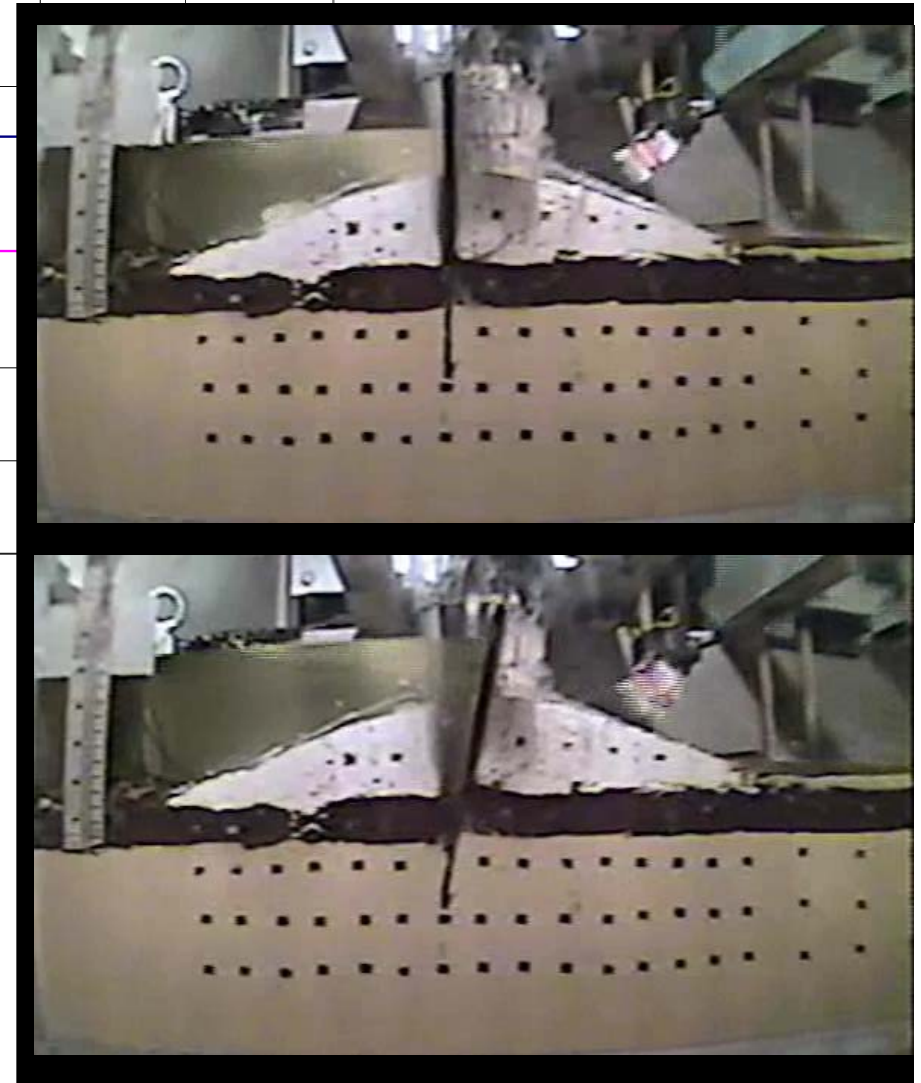
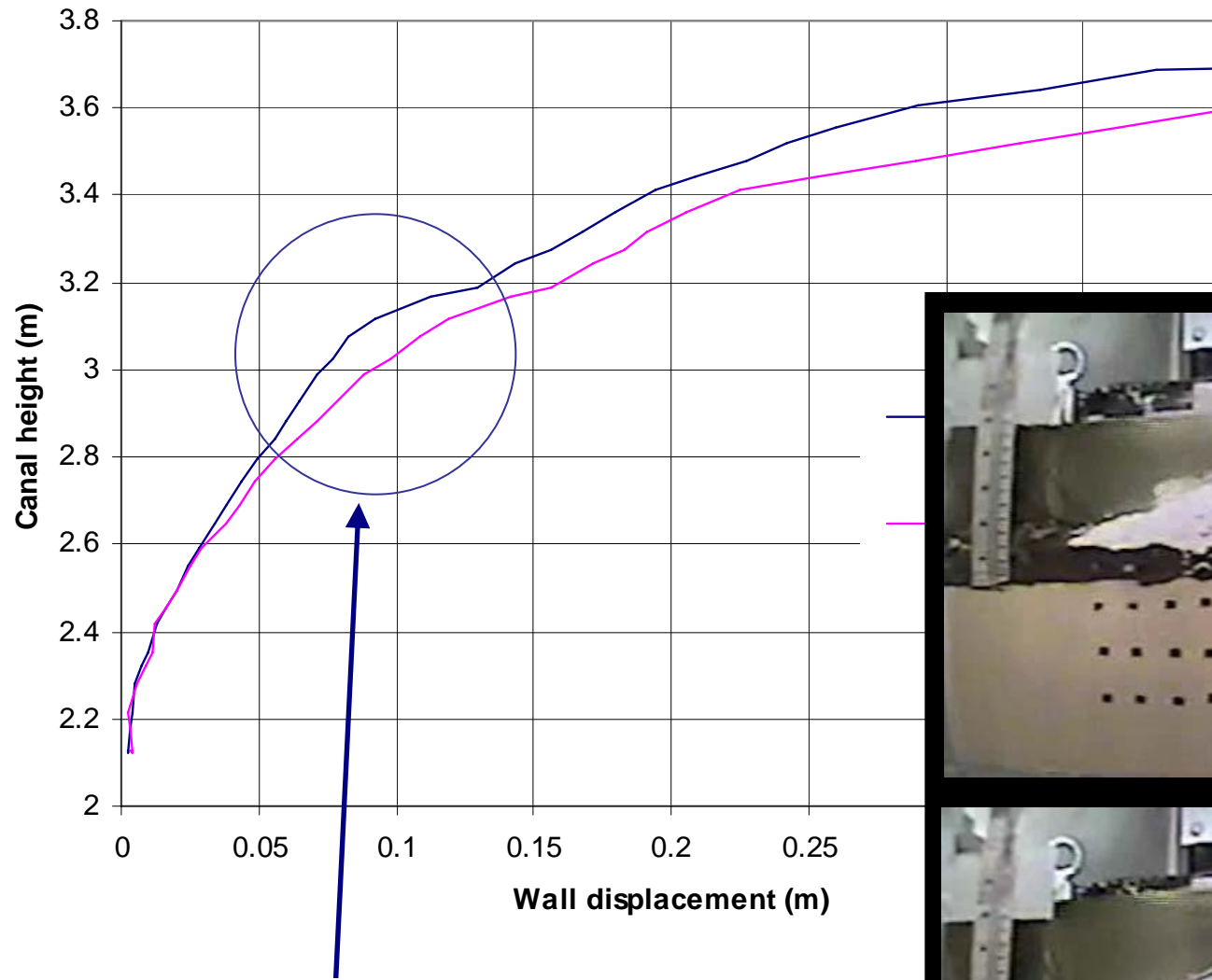




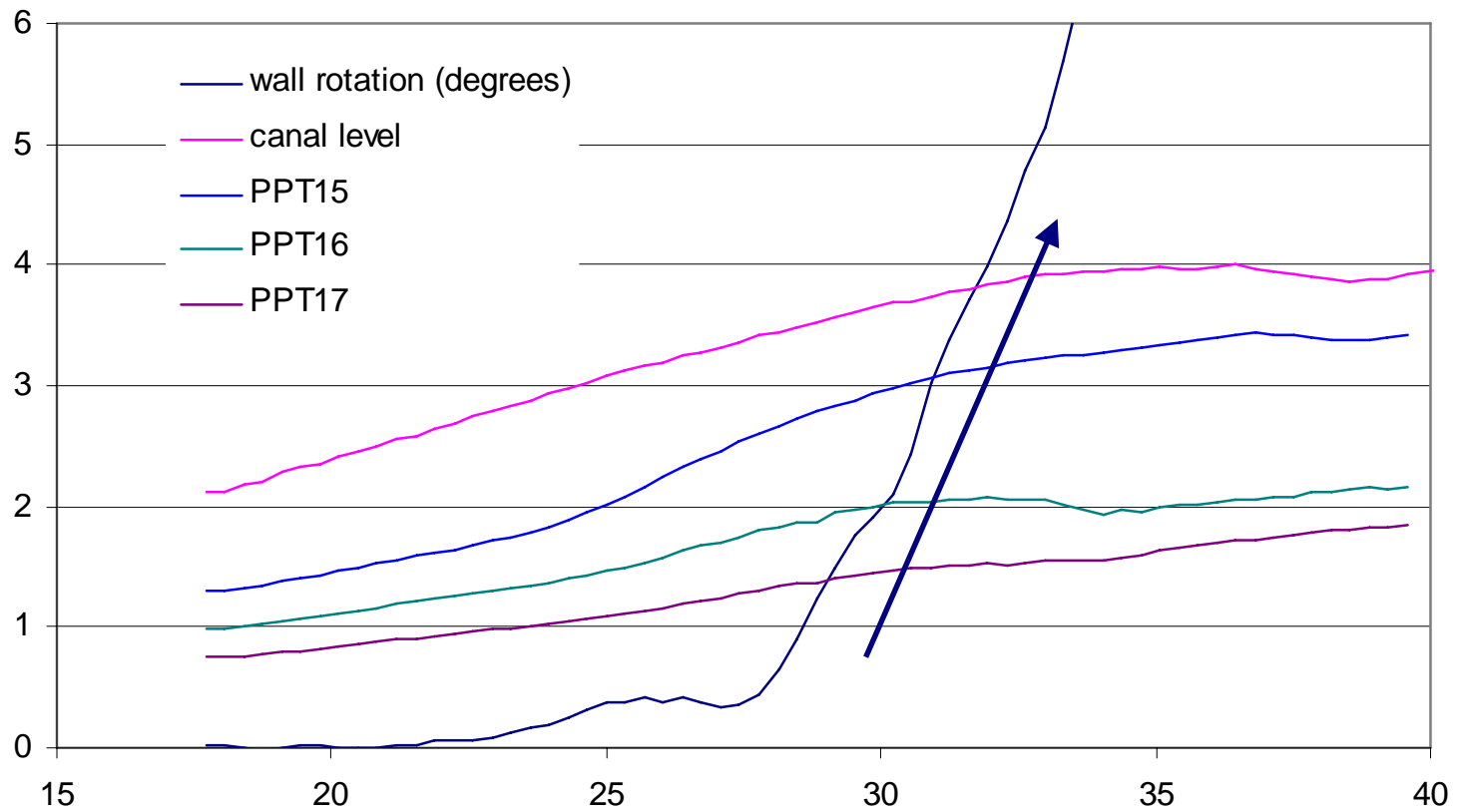
***London South – sand foundation***



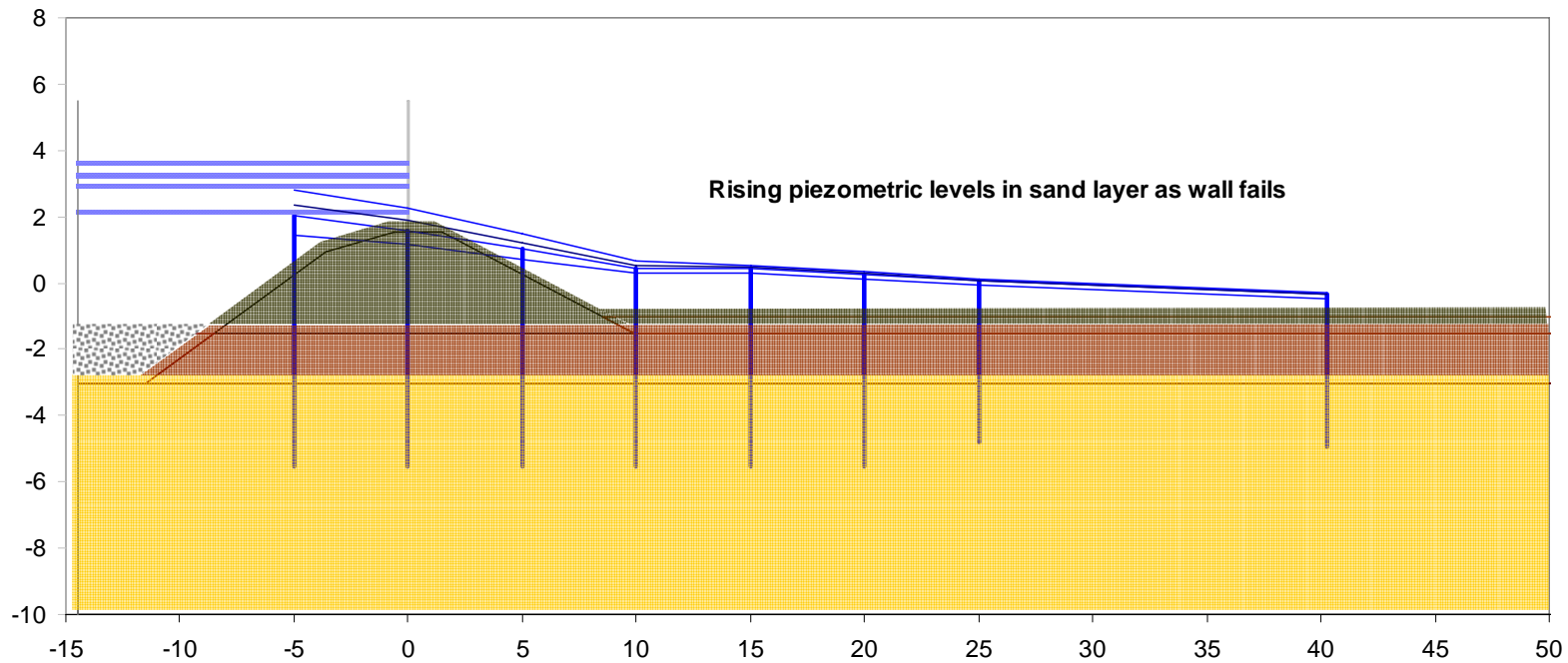
Crack opening phase, marked by start of wall rotation and pore pressure rise around the toe of the sheet pile (ERDC London South)



Crack opening phase, marked by start of wall rotation and followed by large scale failure (ERDC London South)



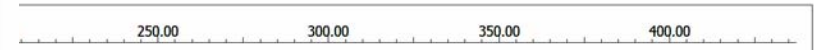
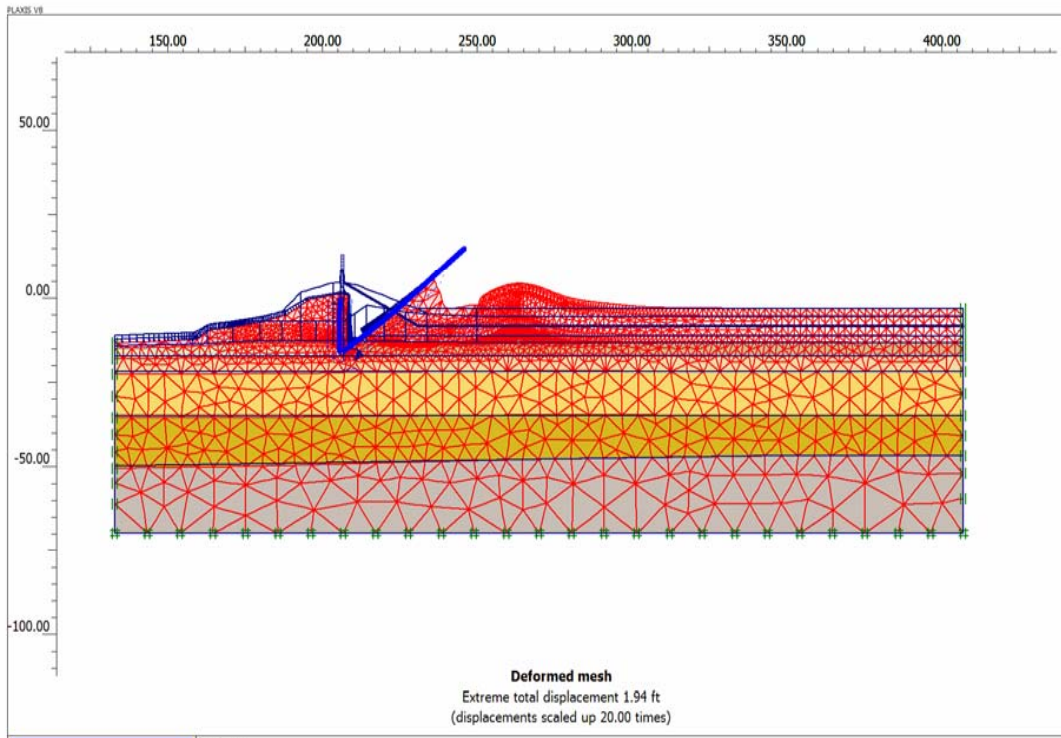
Main failure phase, ERDC London South, marked by rapid and continuing wall rotation and pore pressure rise (PPT15)



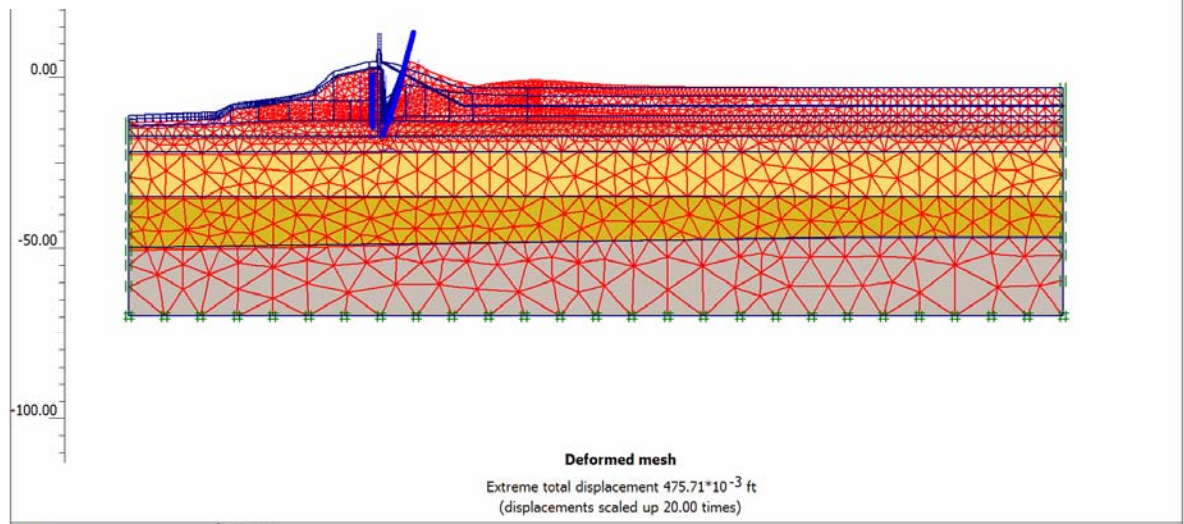
Main failure phase, beyond the levee on the landward side there is a small increase in piezometric level and water emerges from the toe of the levee (RPI London South)



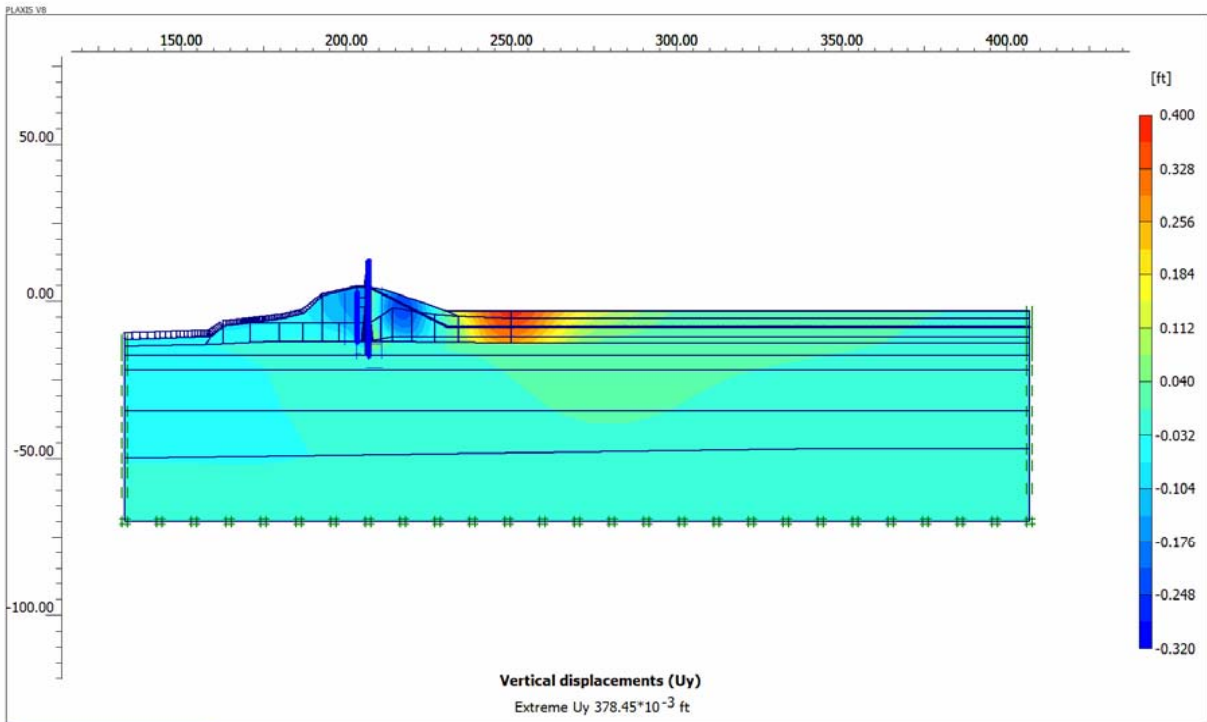
**London Avenue Canal  
North  
Finite Element Analysis**



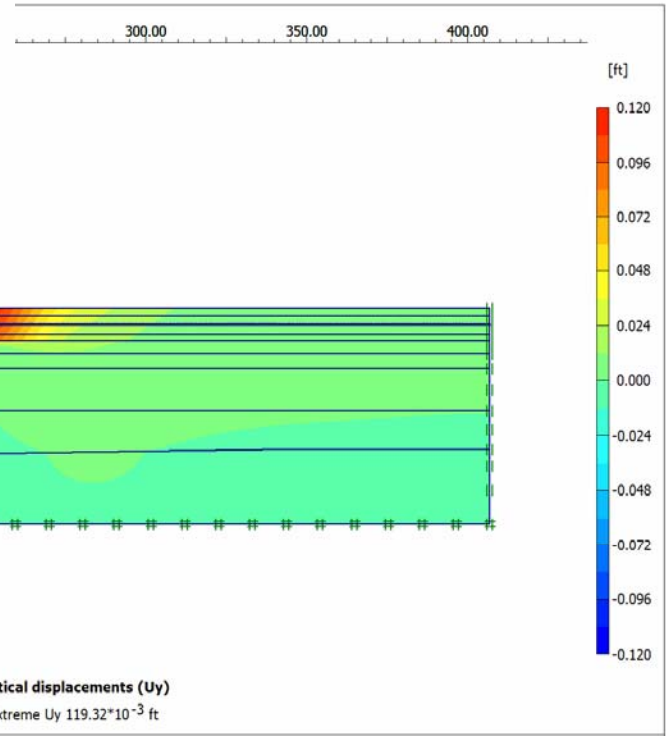
 <small>Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analyses</small> <small>version 8.1.3.146</small>	Project description: London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8.0, Crack				
	Project name: London_North_14+00_v8-19	Step: 133	Date: 05/03/06	User name:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



 <small>Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analyses</small> <small>version 8.1.3.146</small>	Project description: London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8.0 Full Crack				
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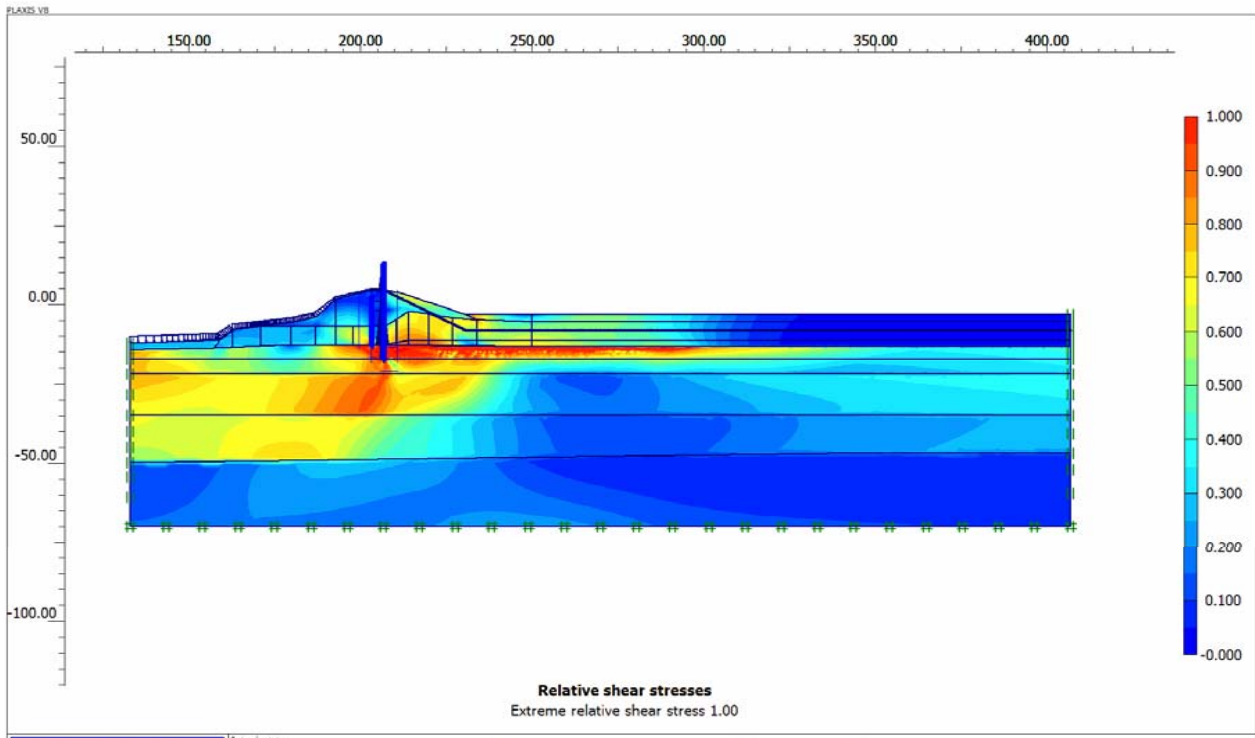


 <small>Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analysis</small> <small>version 8.2.3.146</small>	Project description: London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8.0, Crack				
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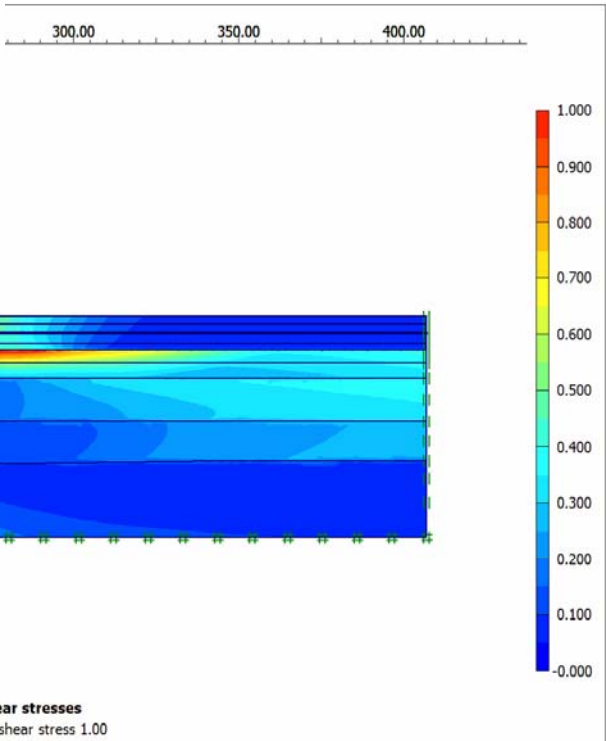


 <small>Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analysis</small> <small>version 8.2.3.146</small>	Project description: London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88				
	Project name: London_North_14+00_v8-20	Step: 61	Date: 05/03/06	Client name: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	

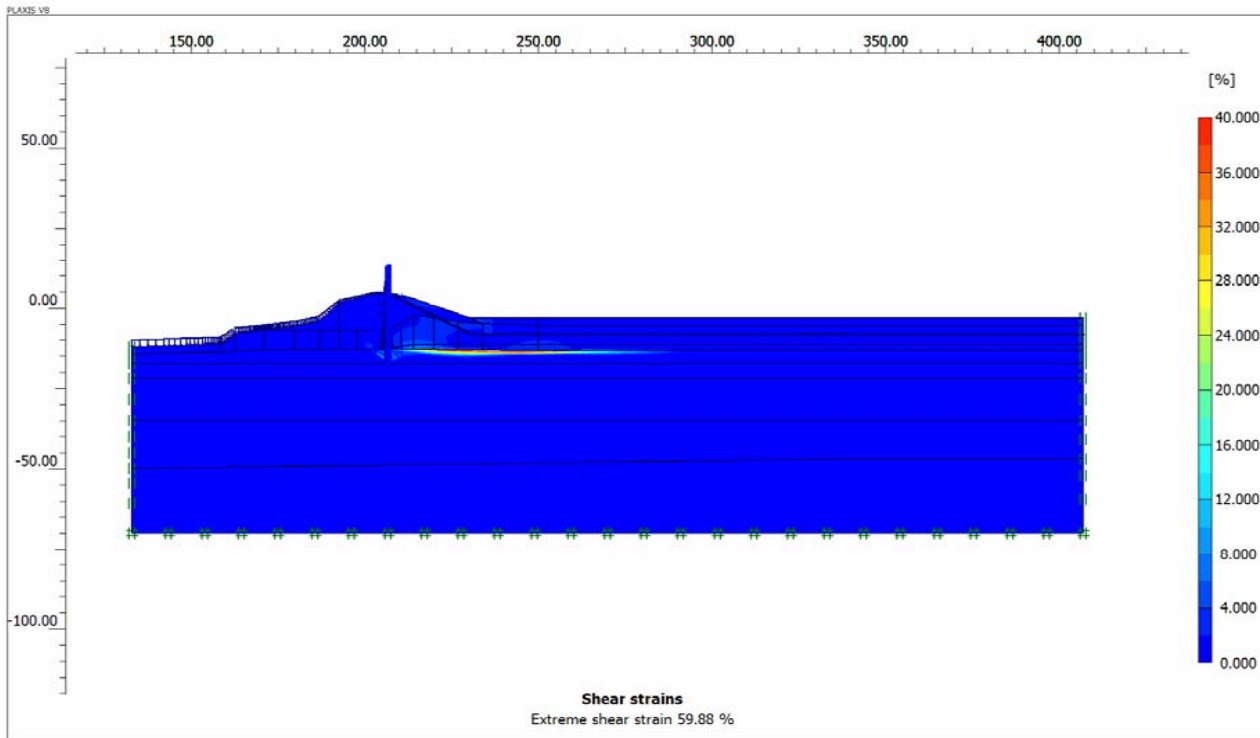




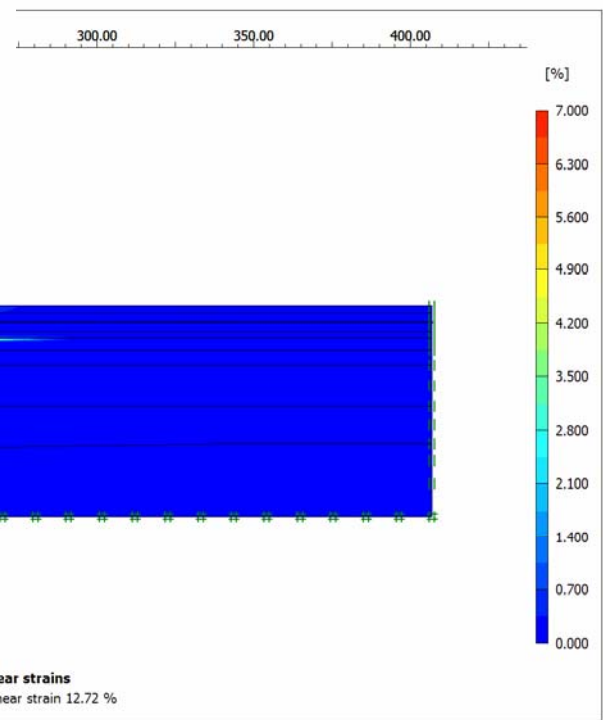
 Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analysis version 8.2.3.146	Project description London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8, Crack			
	Project name London_North_14+00_v8-19	Step 133	Date 05/03/06	User name U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



 Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analysis version 8.2.3.146	Project description London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8.0, Full Crack			
	Project name London_North_14+00_v8-20	Step 61	Date 05/03/06	User name U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

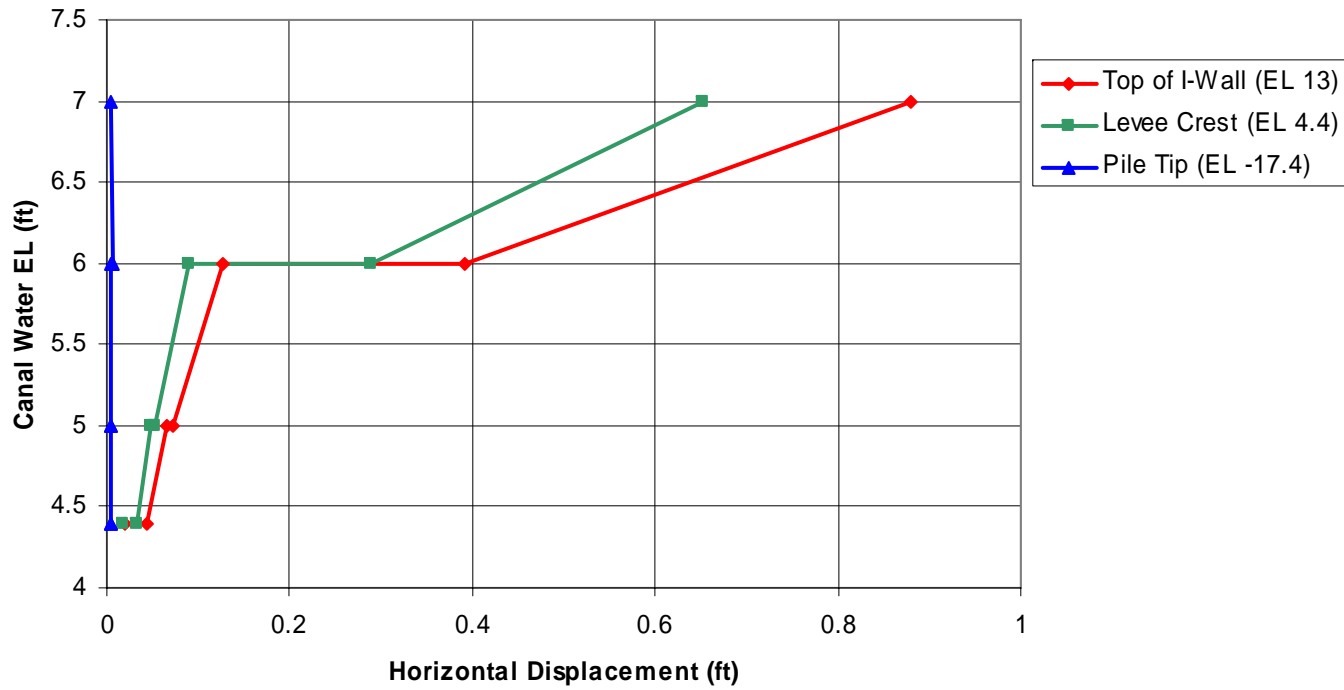


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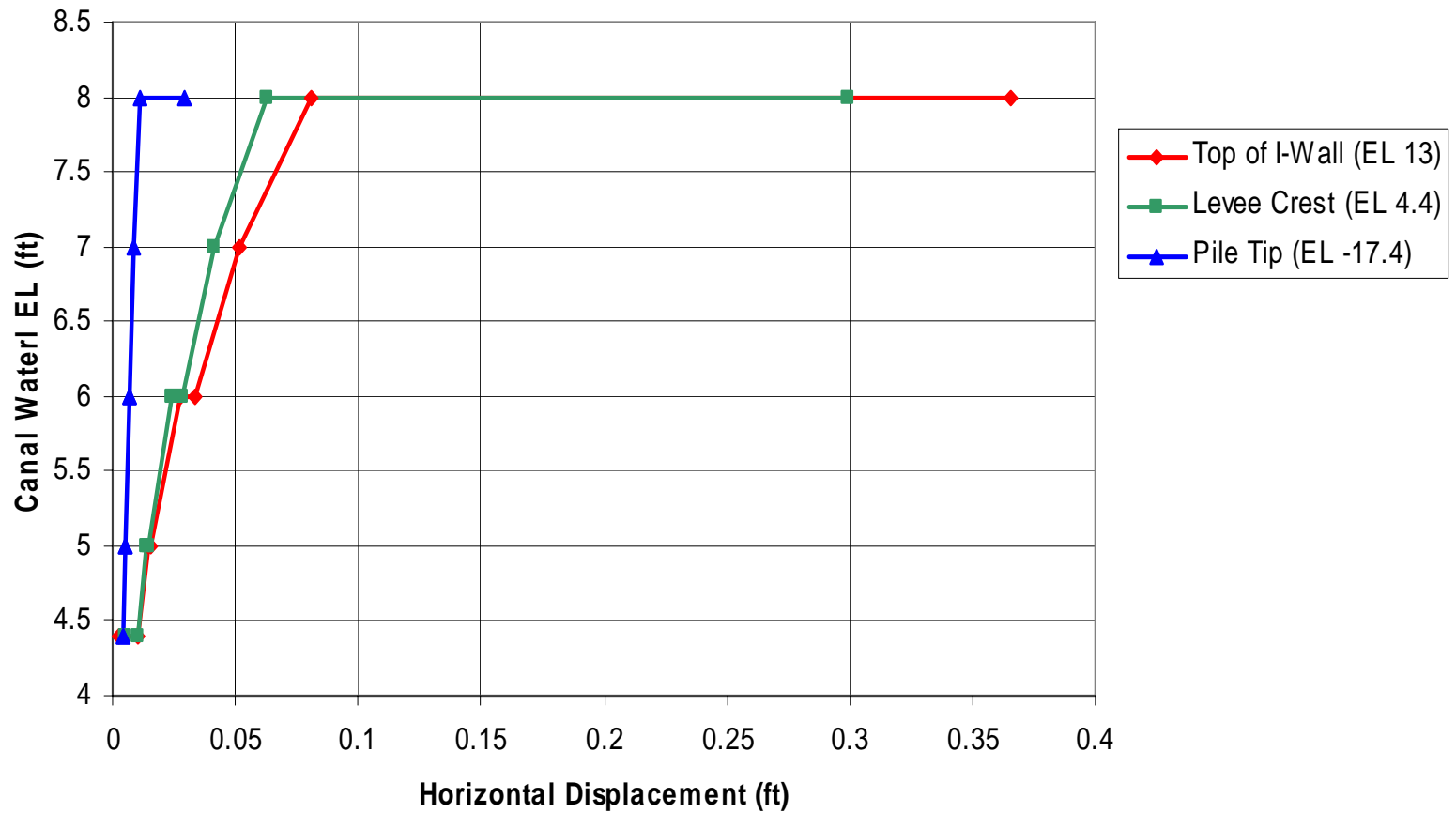


 Finite Element Code for Soil and Rock Analyses Version 8.2.6.146	Project description: London Canal Station 14+00 NAVD88, Canal Elevation +8.0, Full Crack			
	Project name: London_North_14+00_v8-20	Sheet: 61	Date: 05/03/06	User name: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

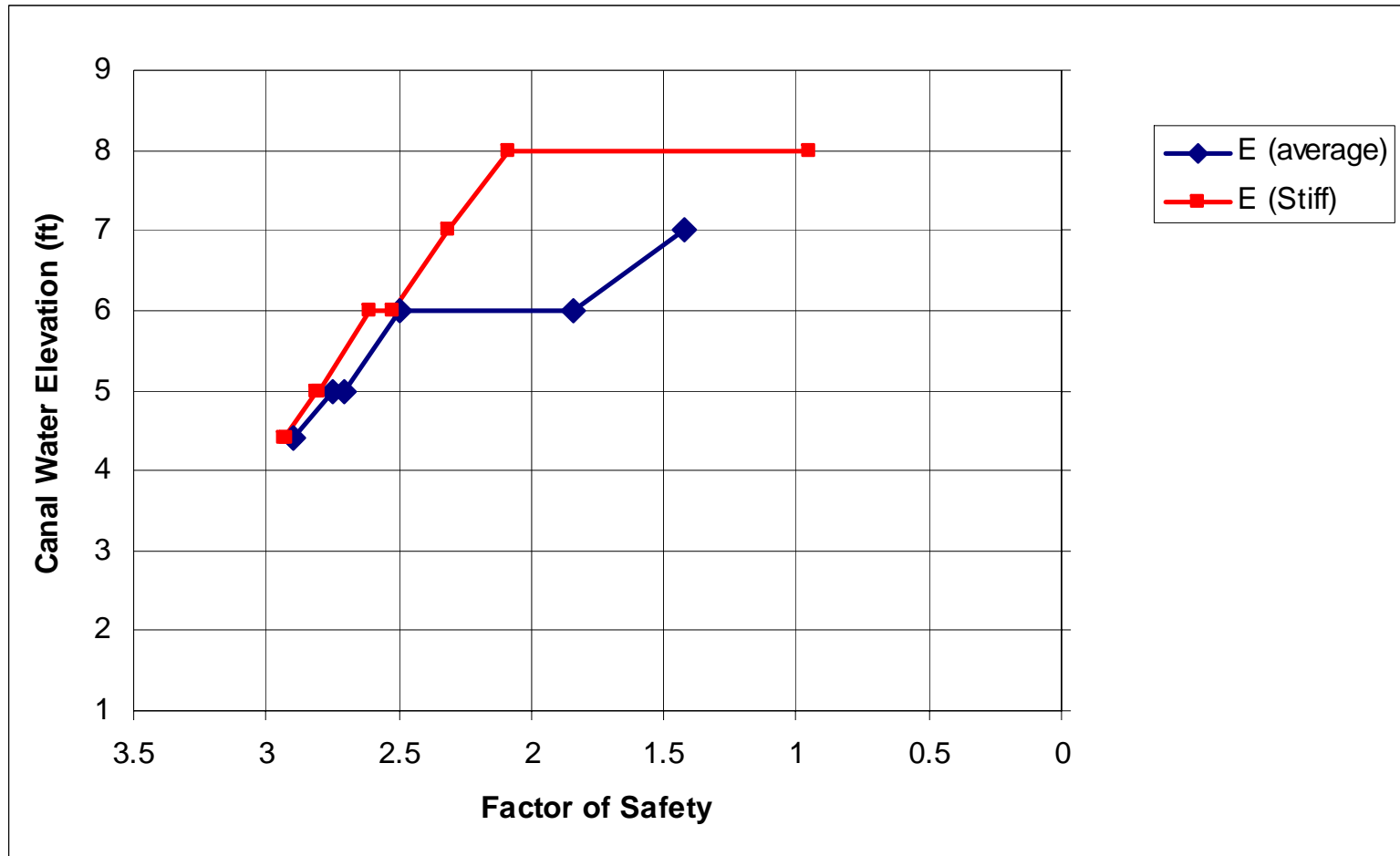
# E average



# E stiff



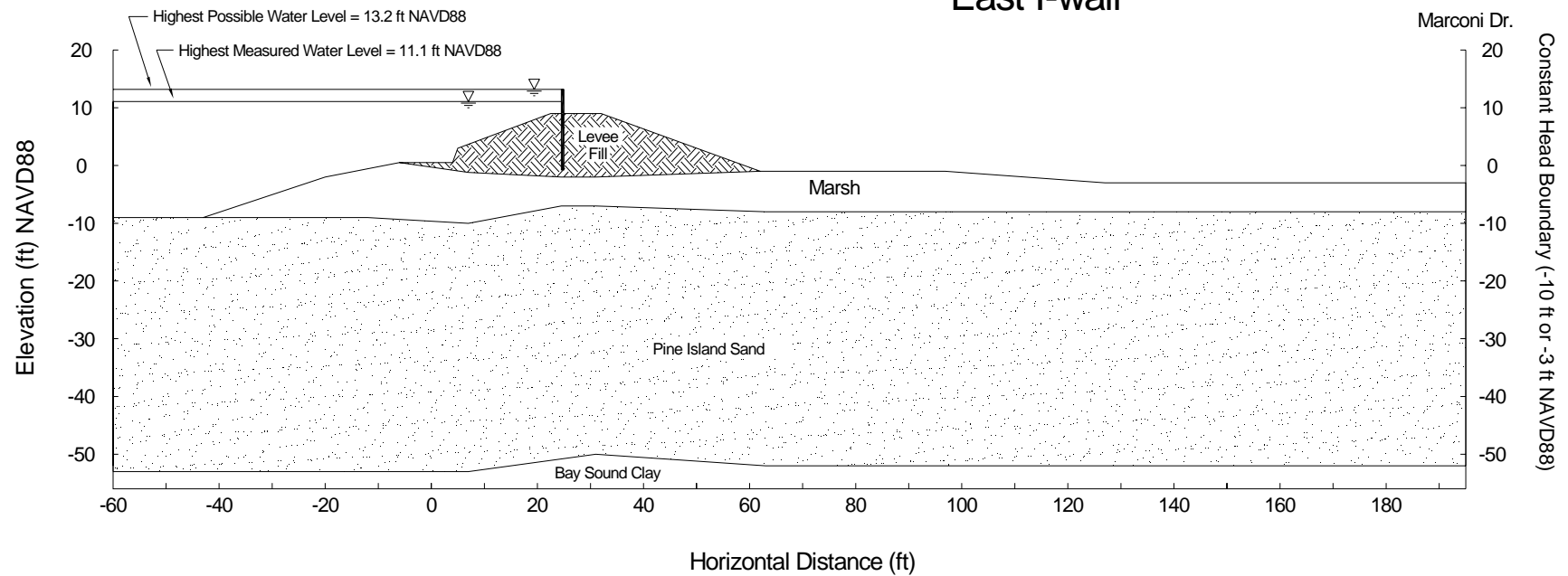
# Factor of Safety



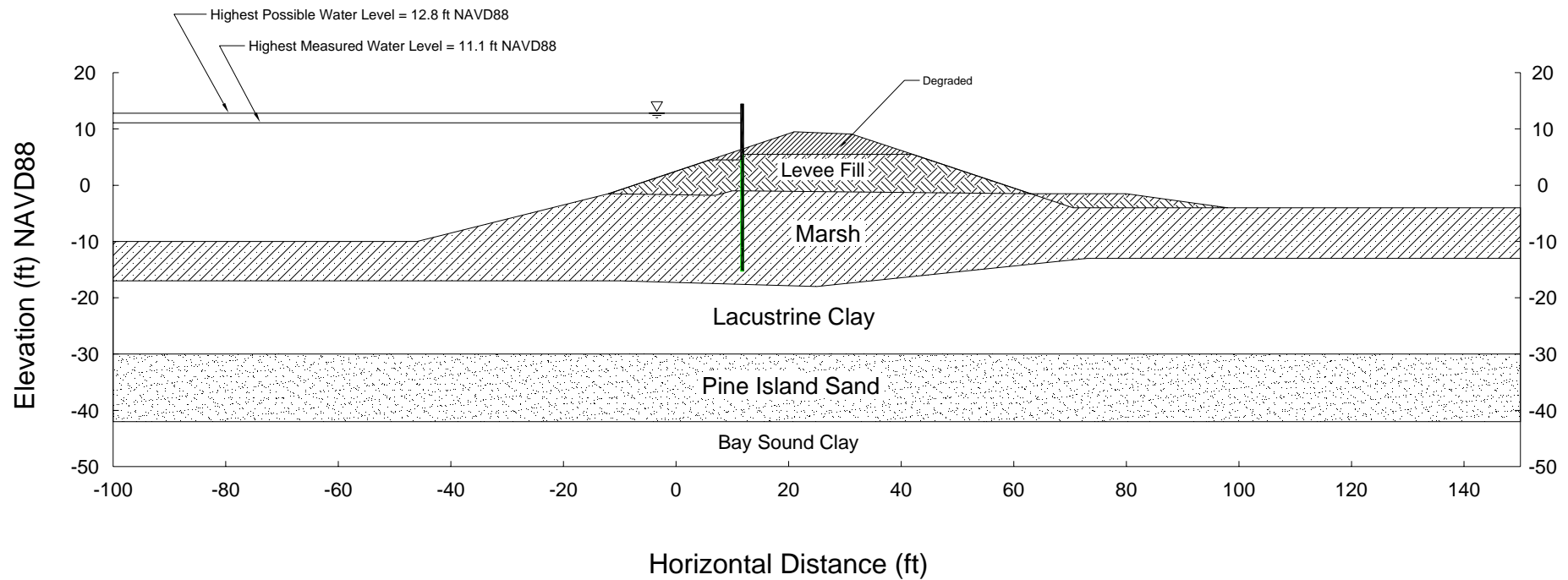
# Analysis of Performance Orleans Canal I-wall

## Principal Findings

Orleans Avenue Canal - South  
Station 8+61  
East I-wall



Orleans Avenue Canal - North  
Station 64.27  
East I-wall





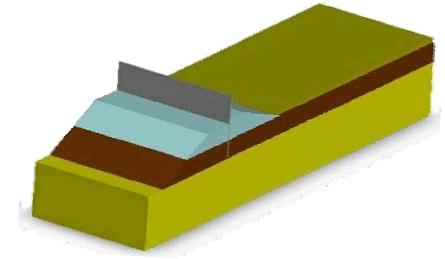
# Factors of safety – maximum Observed water level

Breach	$F_{\text{erosion}}$	$F_{\text{instability}}$
South	0.89 to 4.6	1.86 to 2.71
North	NA	1.62

# Probabilities – maximum observed water level

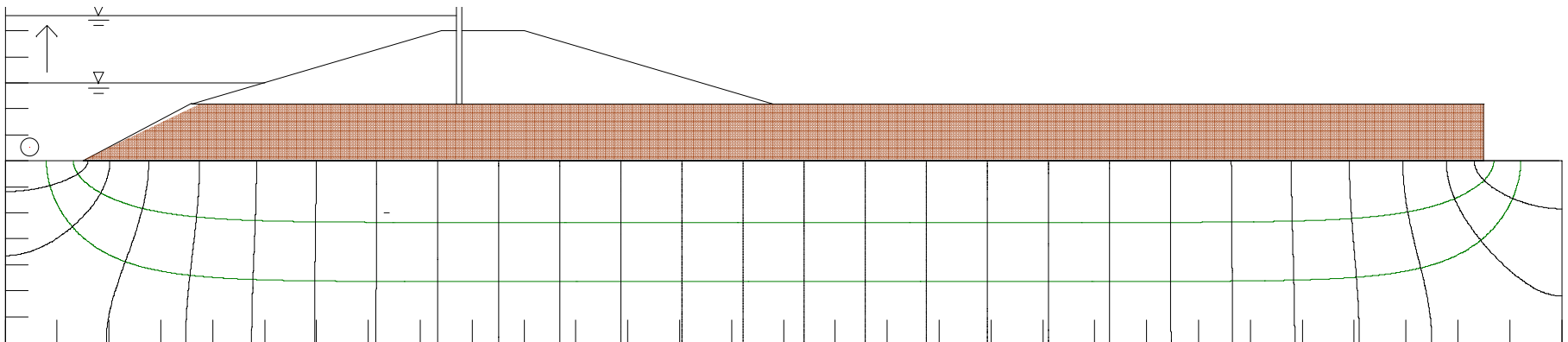
Breach	$P_{\text{erosion}}$	$P_{\text{instability}}$
South	3% to 28%	Less than $10^{-6}$
North	NA	Less than 1%

# *Orleans Canal*



## **Model test plan**

- Stage 1: Raise water to Katrina level and wait
- Stage 2: Raise water to top of wall and wait



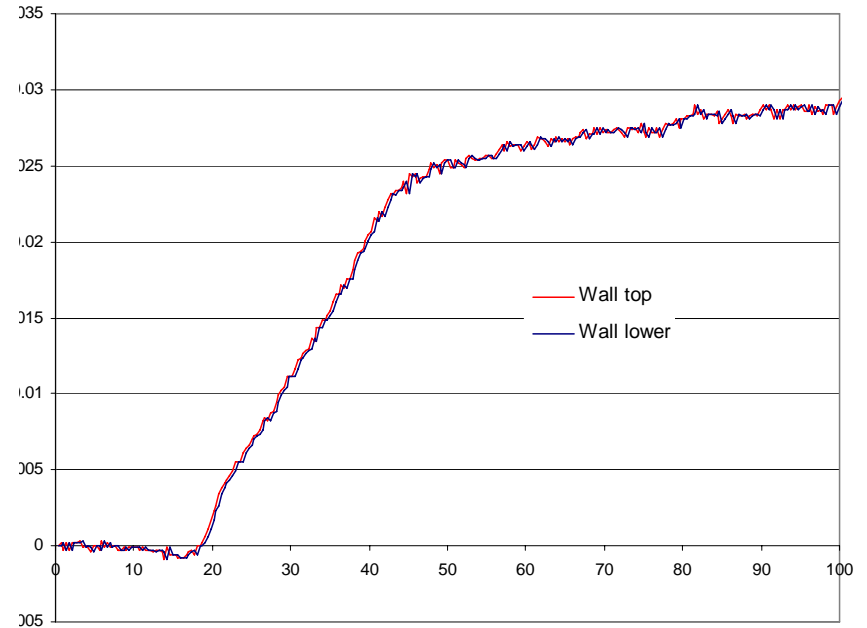
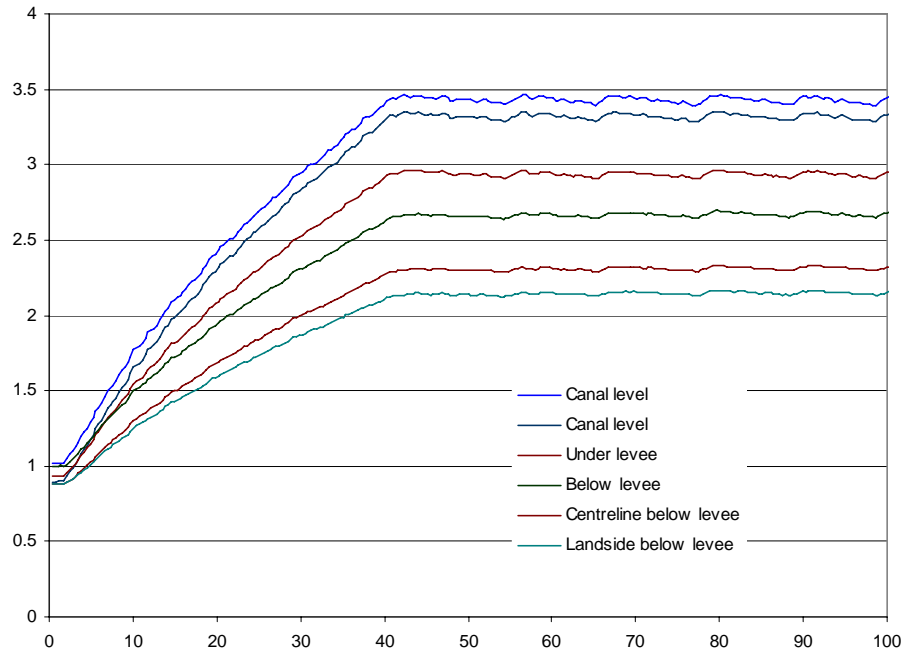


## ***Orleans Canal – Stage 1***



***Orleans Canal – end Stage 1***

# Orleans Canal – end Stage 1

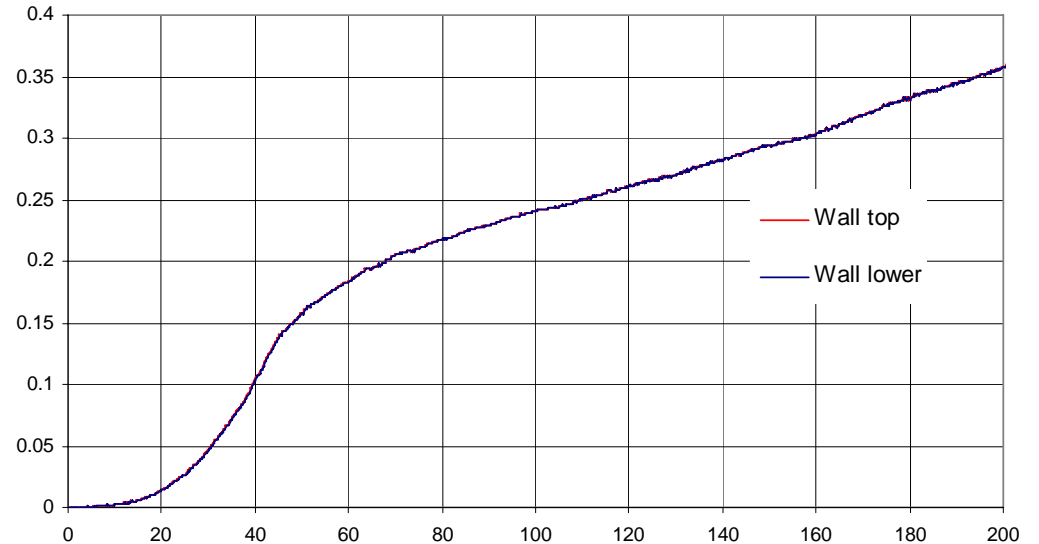
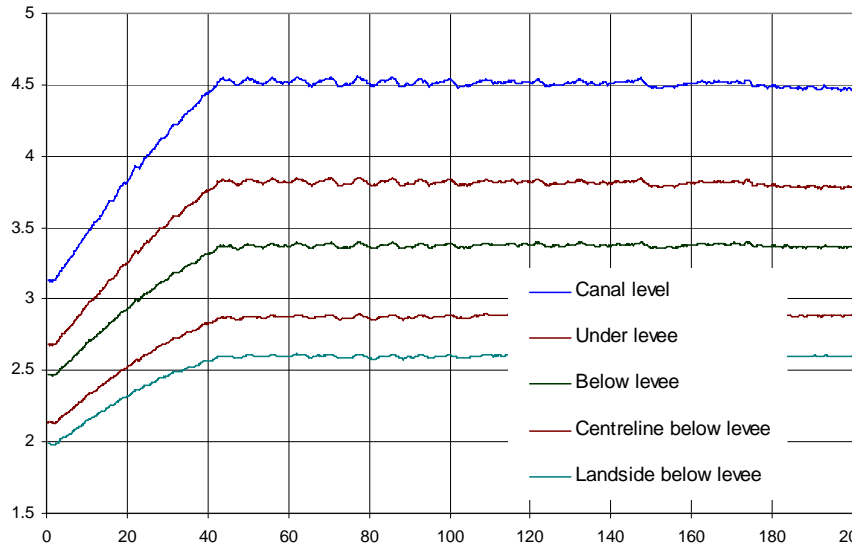


Piezometric levels under the canal side levee berm rise as water rises in the canal, (RPI Orleans Canal). Movement of the wall very small.



## ***Orleans Canal – Stage 2***

# Orleans Canal – end of Stage 2



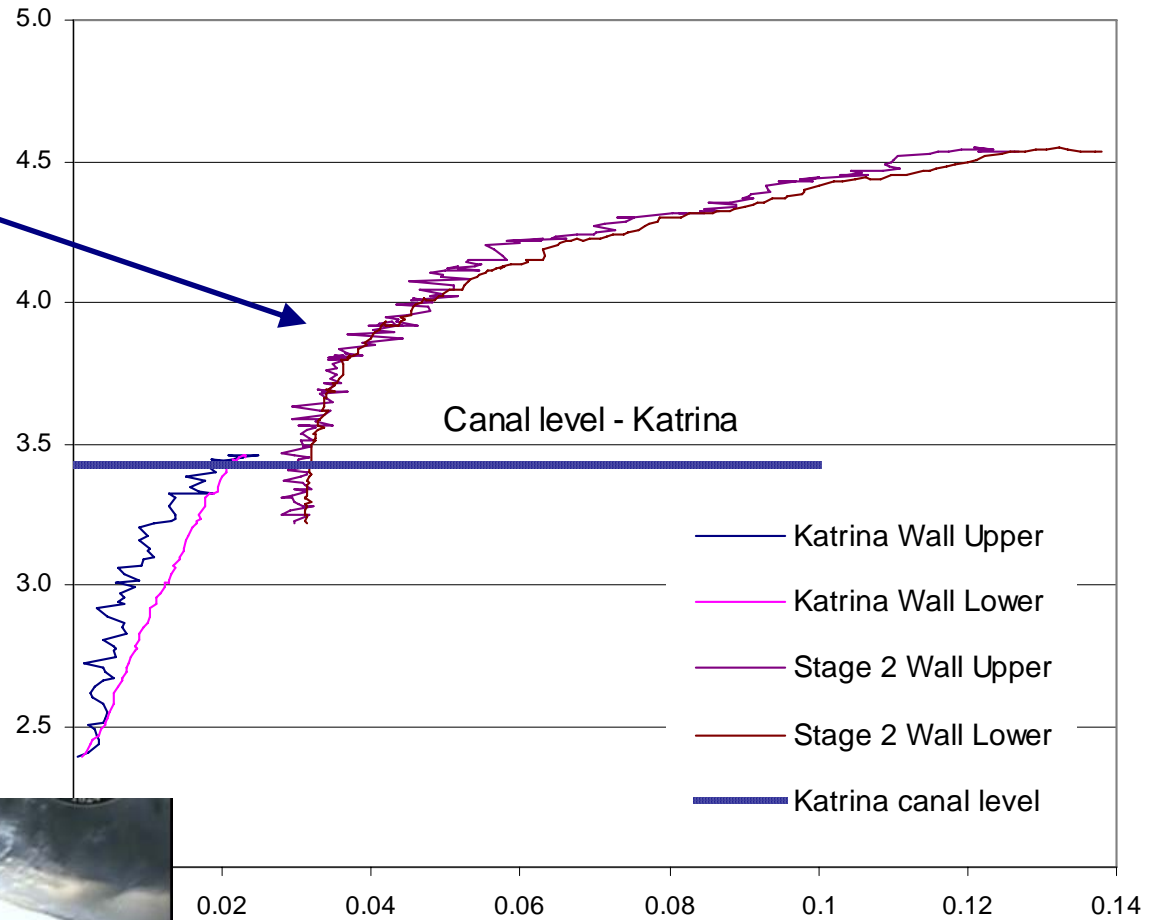
Piezometric levels under the canal side levee berm rise again as water rises to the top of the wall in the canal, (RPI Orleans Canal). Movement of the wall ten times greater small.



# Orleans Canal – crack formation

Reduction of stiffness indicative of crack formation with canal 0.5m above Katrina level

Katrina loading



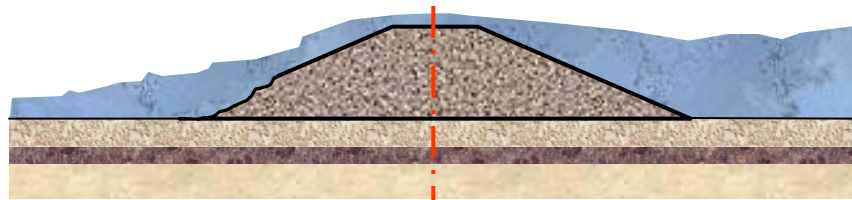
Loading of wall leads to crack formation in translation at canal levels above Katrina levels, wall remains stable at maximum water level

# Performance

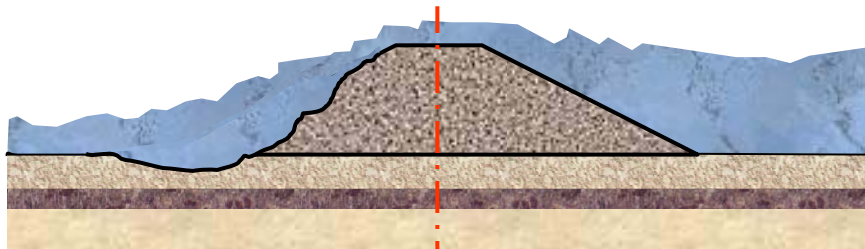
## Levee Scour and Erosion Breach Analysis

### Levee Scour and Erosion Breach Mechanism

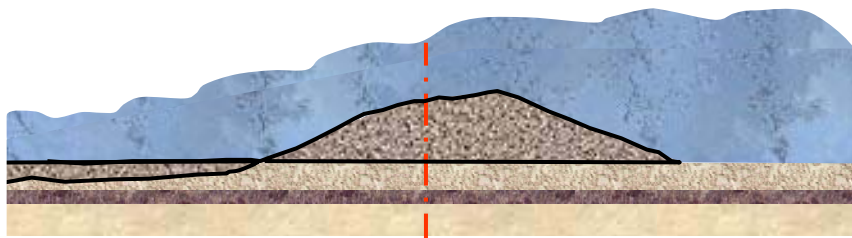
- Overtopping by surge and waves
- Hydraulically filled levees
  - High silt and sand content in the levee
- Water flowing over the levee causes scour and erosion of levee



Overtopping



Scour



Erosion

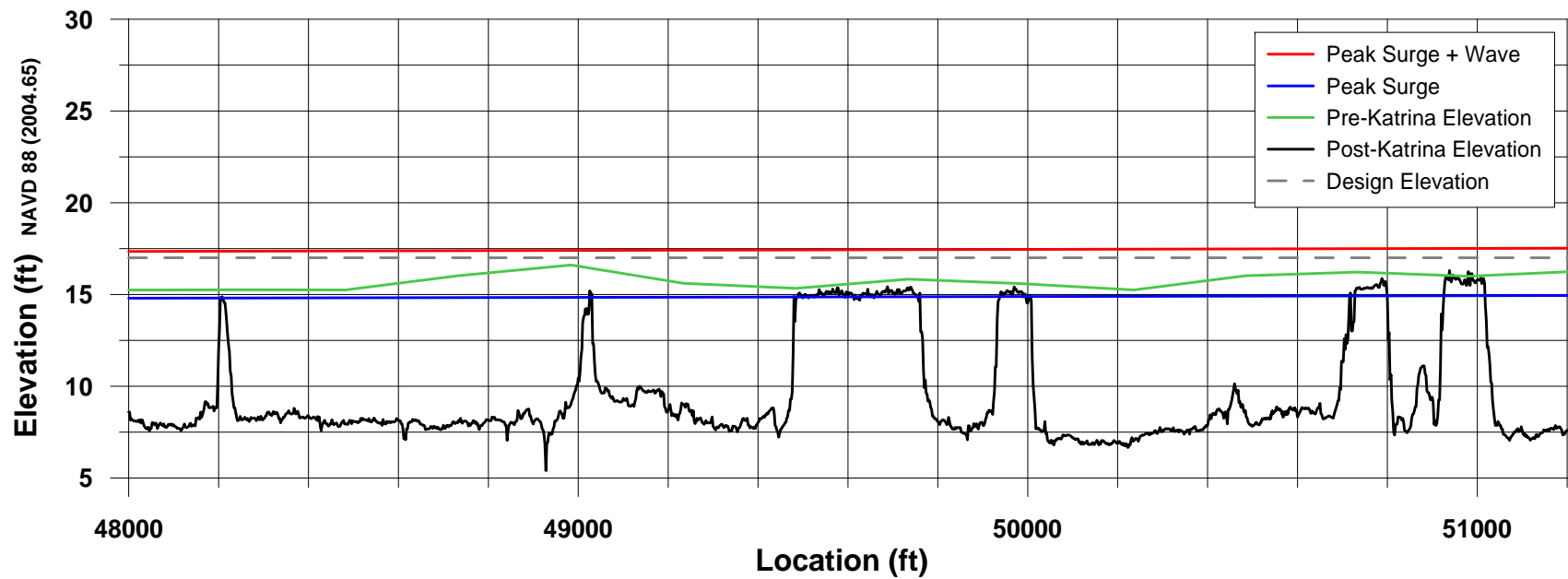
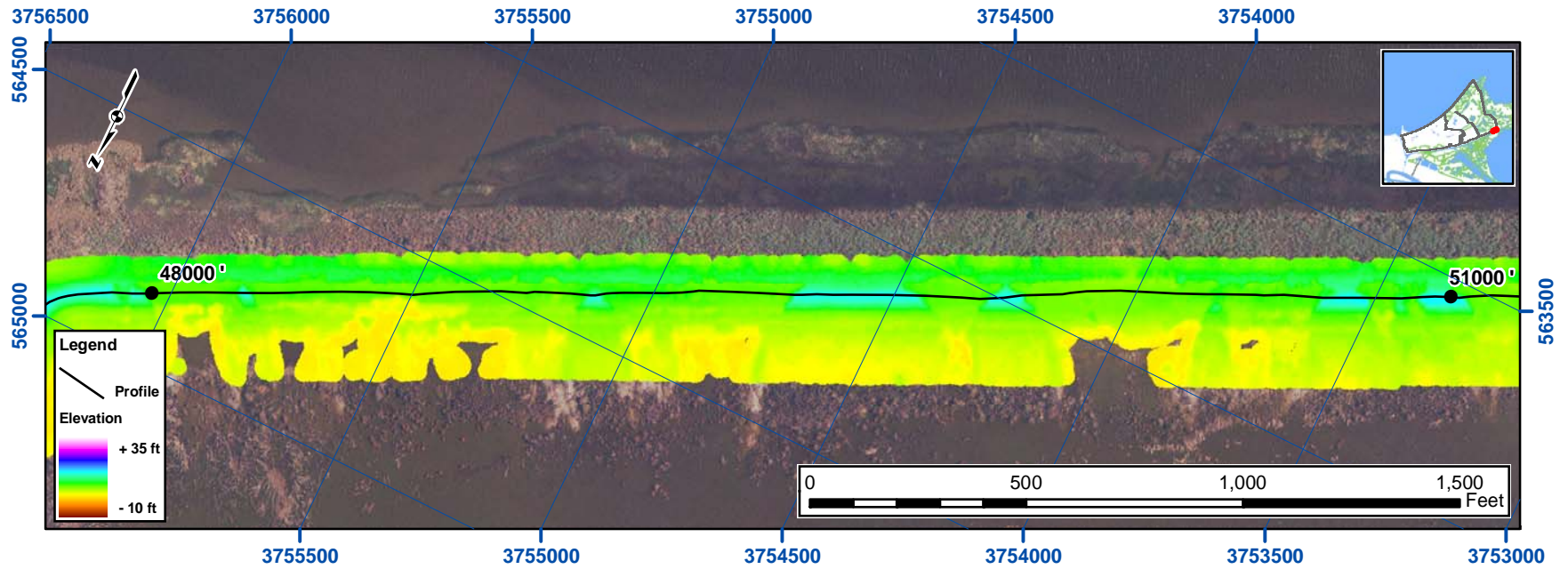


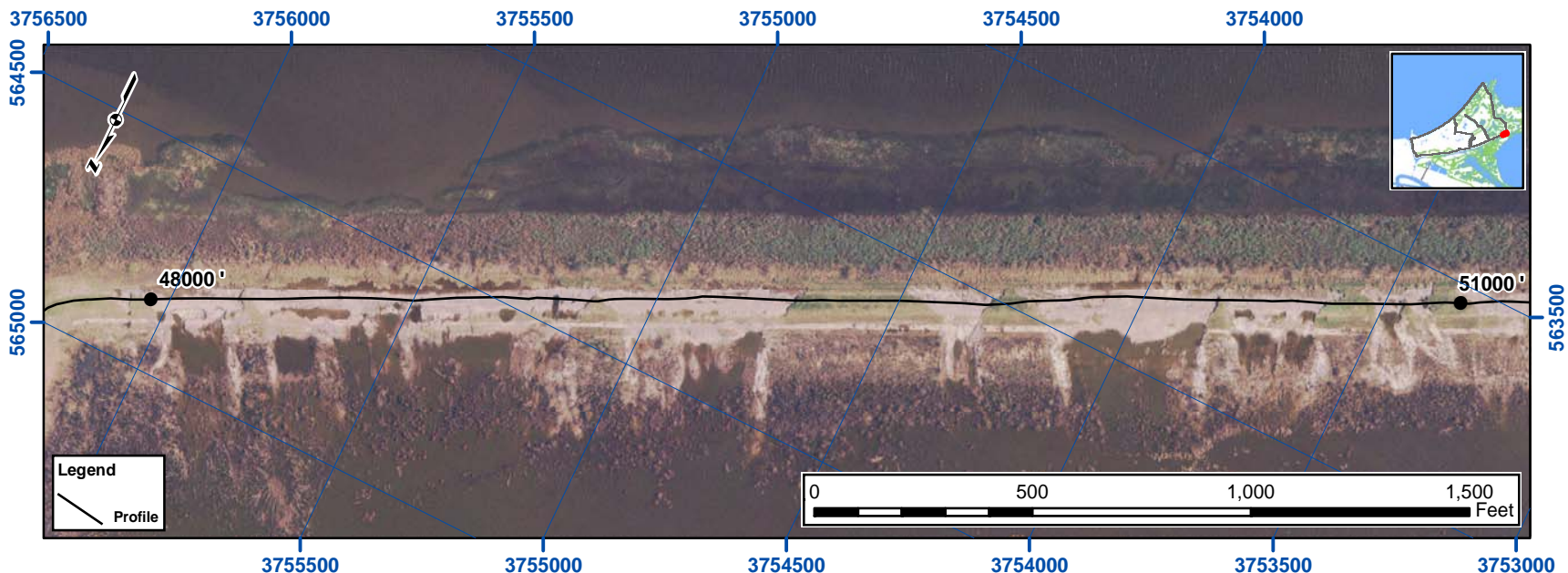
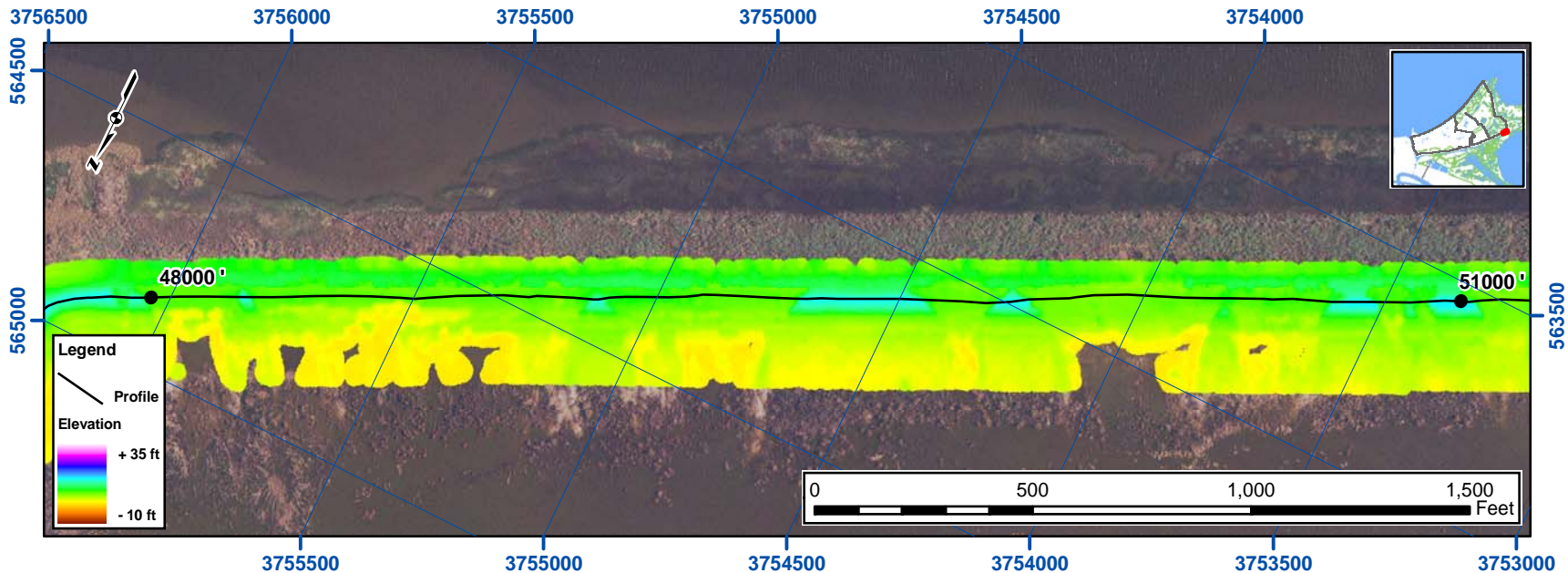
# New Orleans East

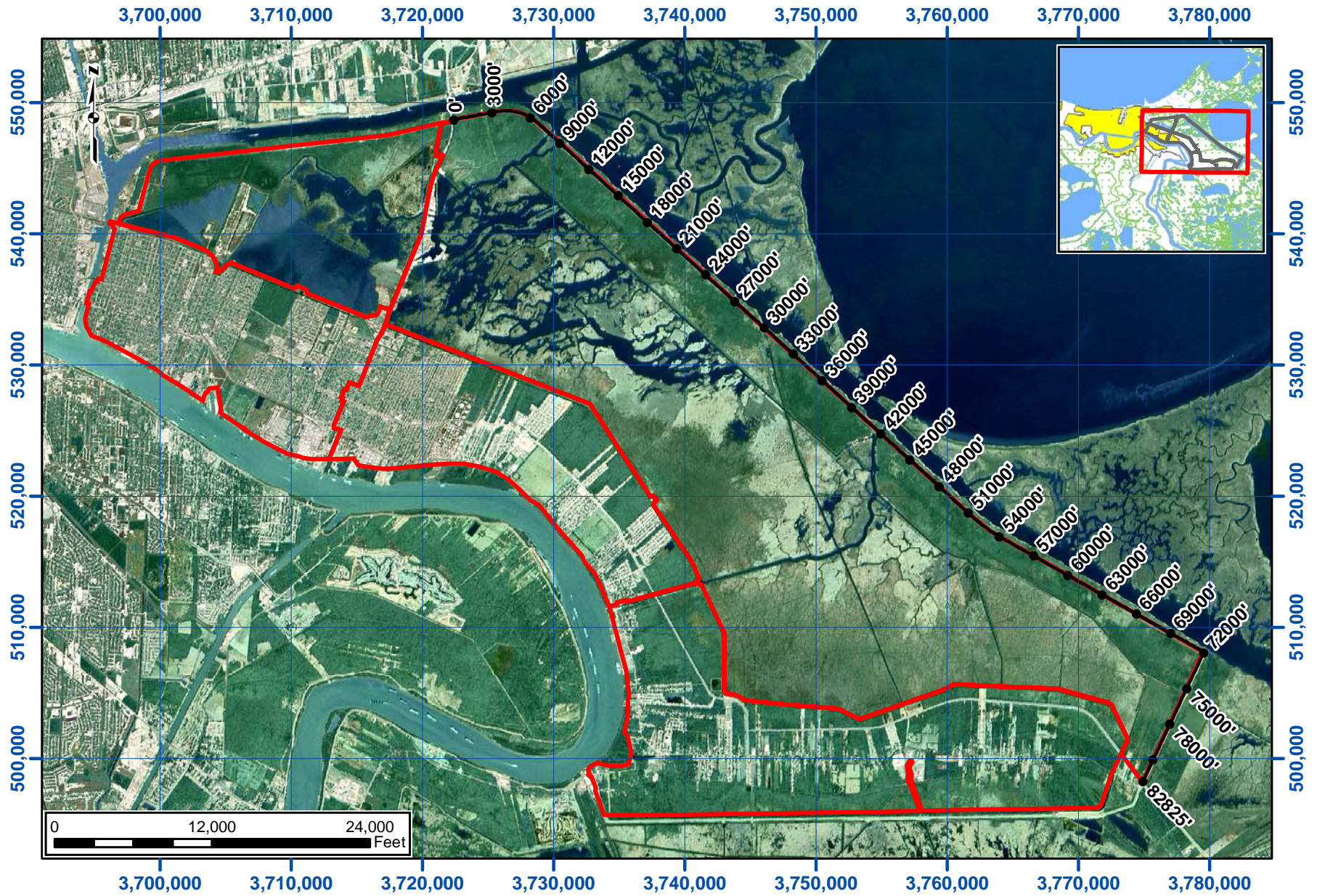




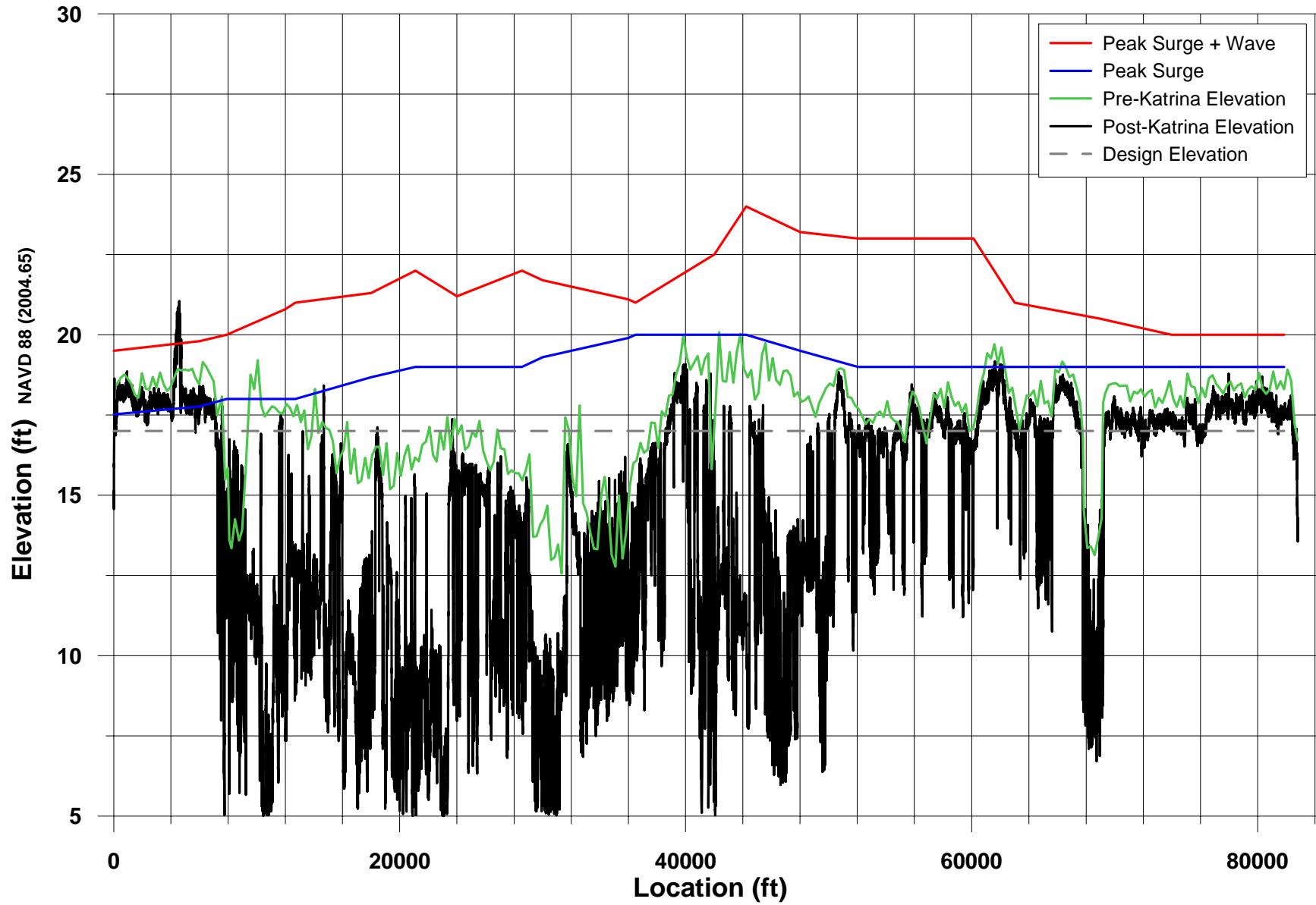


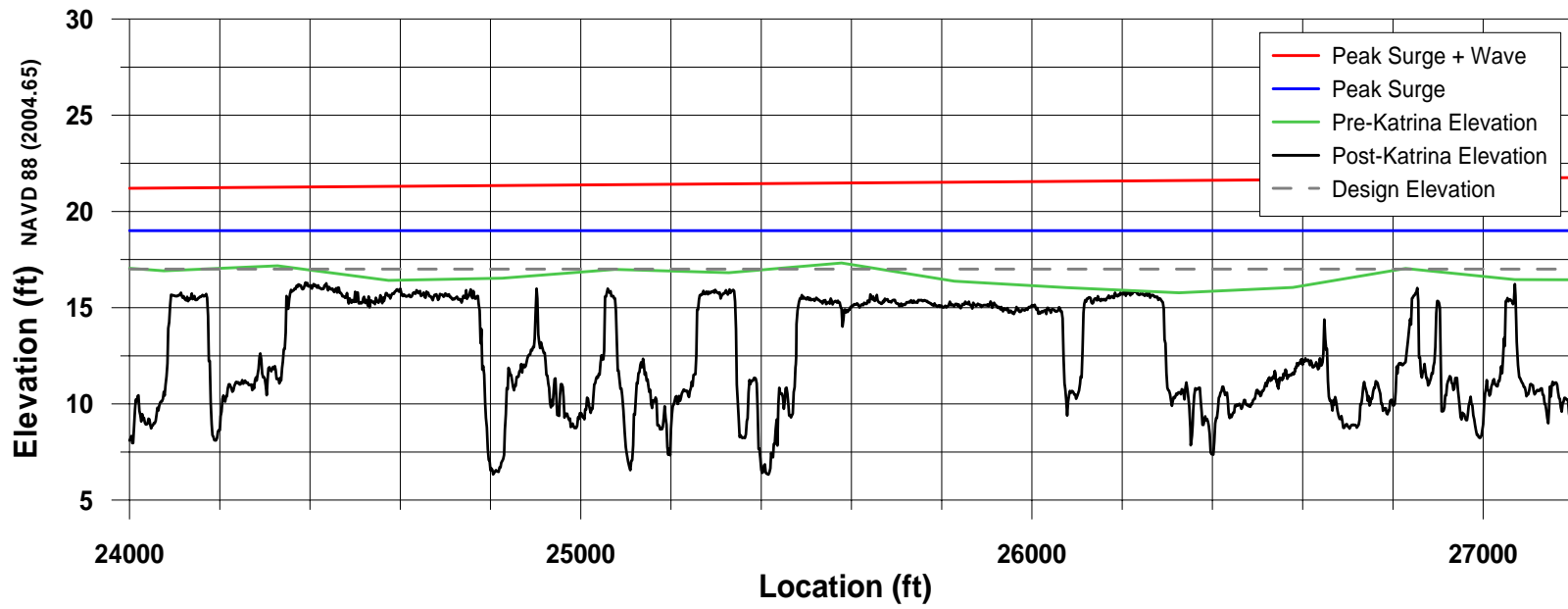
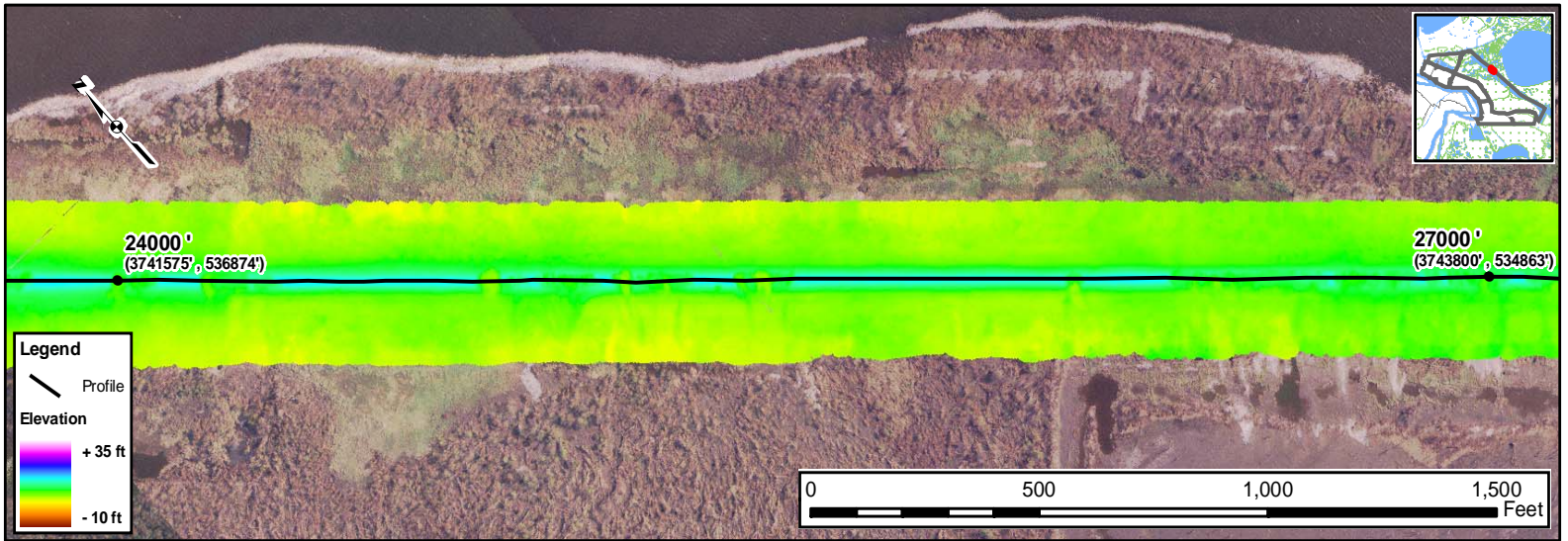


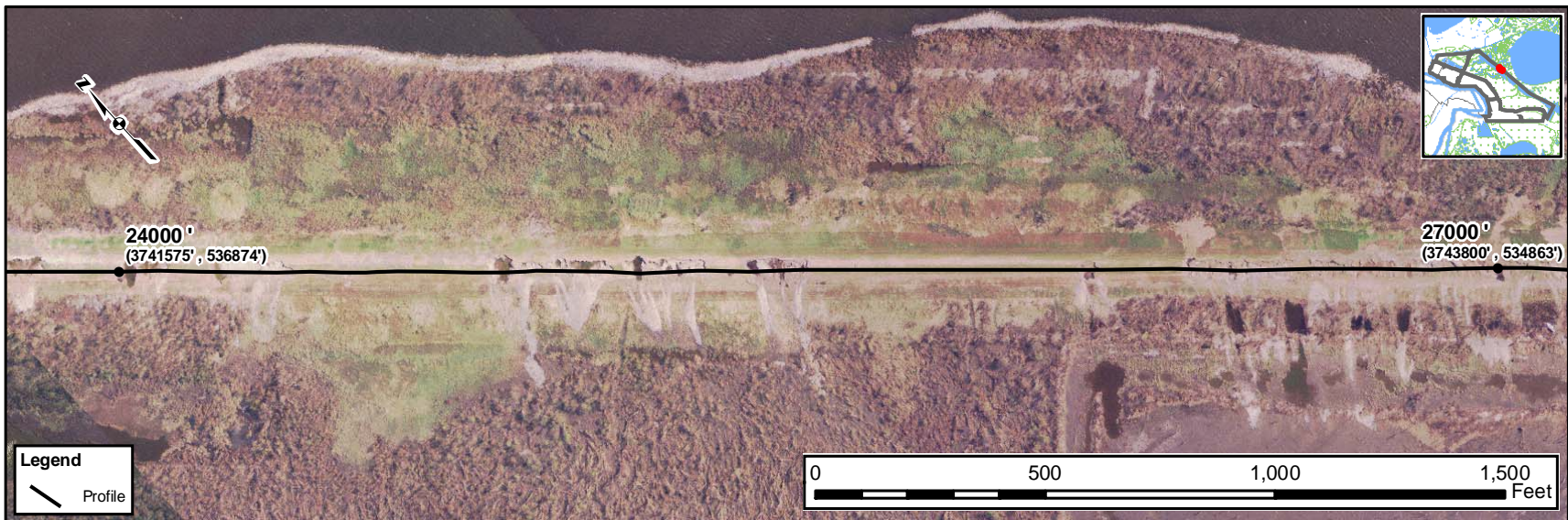
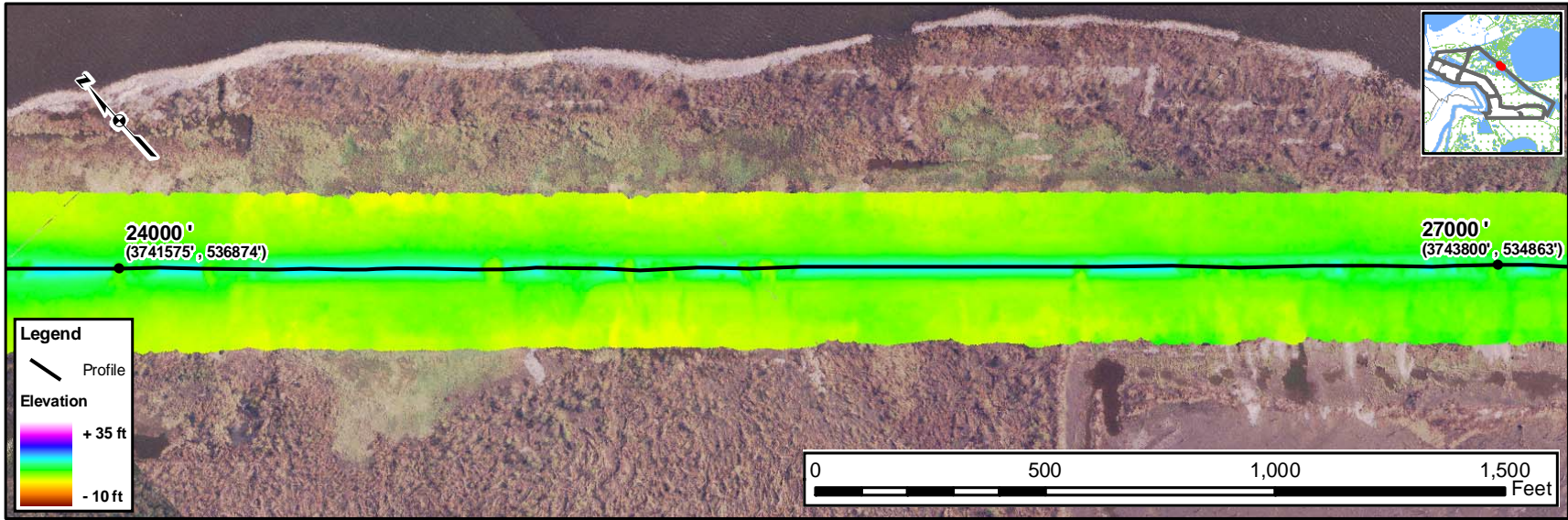












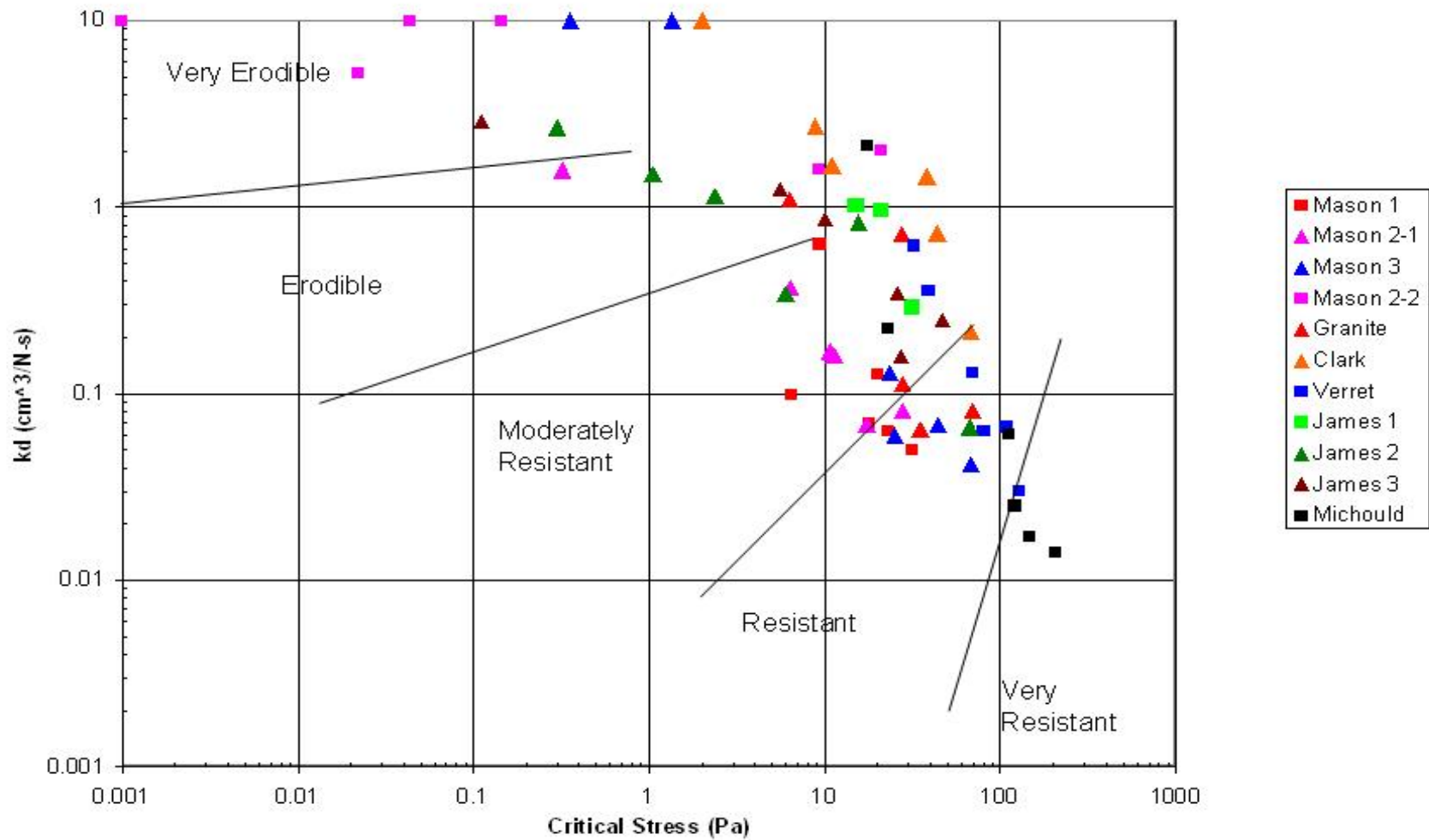
# Field Erosion Jet Tests



# Jet Test Apparatus Set in Place

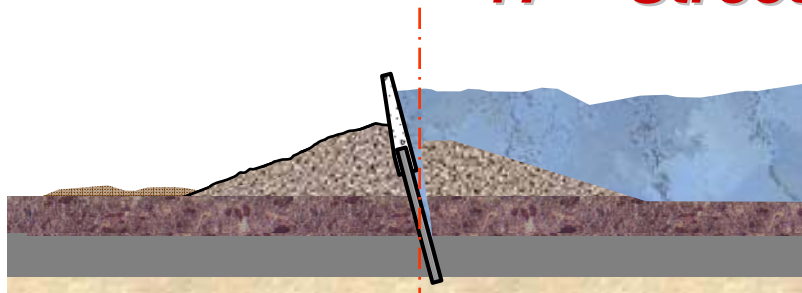


### Critical Stress vs Erodibility St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans East Levee Repair

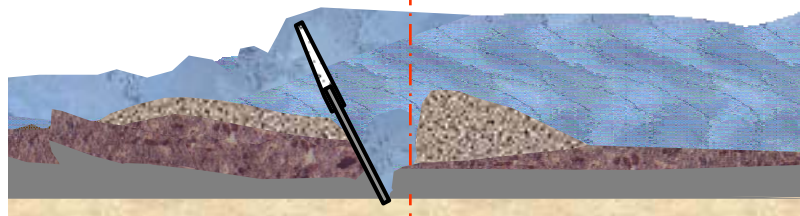


# Performance

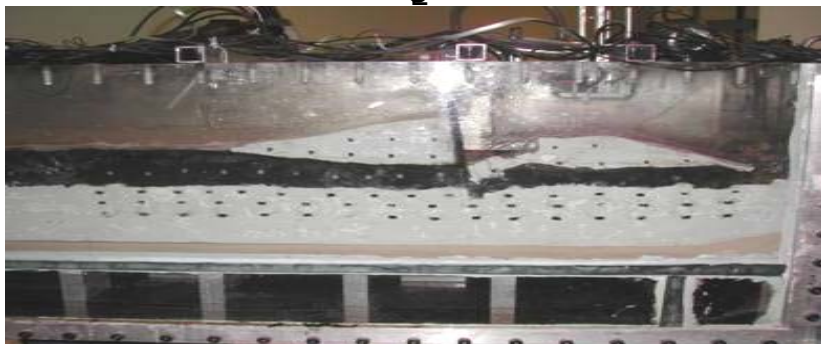
## 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Breach Analysis



Deflection and Pressure



Failure and Movement



Confirmation in Centrifuge

### 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Breach Mechanism

- Deflection of I-wall by surge/waves
- Full hydrostatic pressure along wall splits levee into two blocks
- Weaker clay at levee toe causes failure in subsurface clay layer
- Soil block from wall back displaced



Displacement of wall and part of levee

# Findings and Lessons Learned

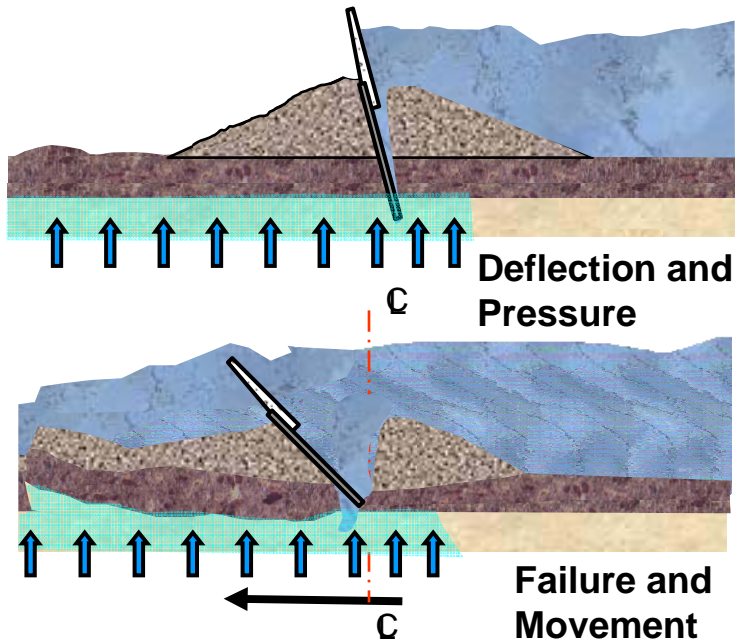
## 17th Street Canal Breach

- **Failure Mechanisms:**
  - Gap formation between the wall and levee soil adjacent to canal side of the wall
  - Variation in shear strength from the levee crest to the toe and beyond
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Consider the vertical and horizontal variation in shear strength throughout the critical cross sections
  - Assume that the gap will occur and design the walls and levees to ensure that they are stable
    - Increase the levee toe footprint
    - Add stability berms



# Performance

## London Ave. Canal North Breach Analysis



### London Ave. Canal North Breach Mechanism

- Deflection of I-wall by surge/waves
- Full hydrostatic pressure along wall splits levee into two blocks and increases pore pressures in underlying sand layer
- High pore pressures cause loss of shear strength in underlying sand layer, leading to sliding instability
- Levee and I-wall displaces laterally



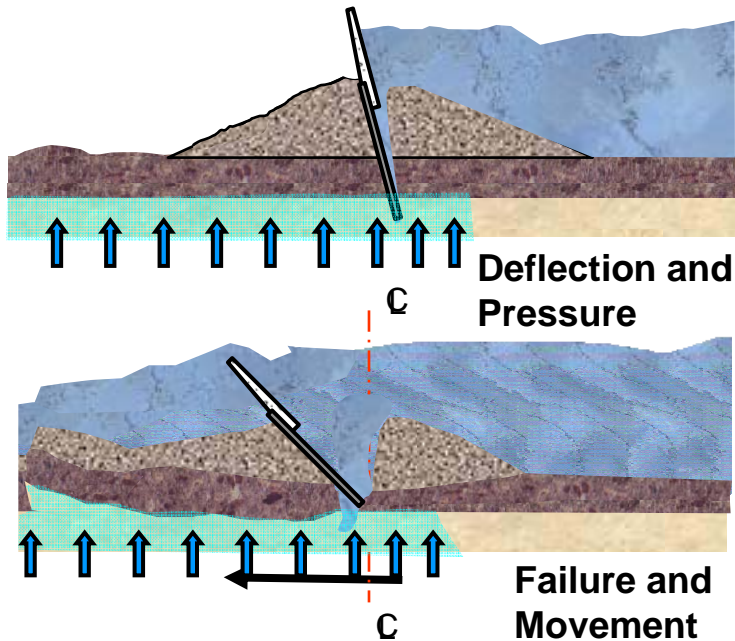
Confirmation in Centrifuge



Displacement of wall levee

# Performance

## London Ave. Canal South Breach Analysis



Confirmation in Centrifuge

### London Ave. Canal South Breach Mechanism

- Deflection of I-wall by surge/waves
- Full hydrostatic pressure along wall splits levee into two blocks and increases pore pressures in underlying sand layer
- High pore pressures cause piping and erosion at the toe, leading to loss of shear resistance
- Levee and I-wall displaces laterally



Displacement of wall levee

# Findings and Lessons Learned

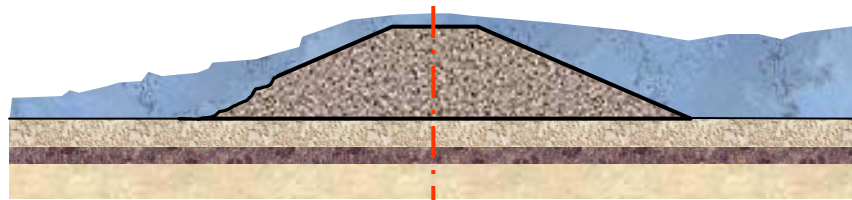
## London Avenue Canal Breaches:

- **Failure Mechanisms:**
  - Gap formation between the wall and levee soil adjacent to canal side
  - Uplift pressures on the base of the levee and the marsh layer led to instability of the I-walls and levees
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Assume that the gap will occur and design the walls and levees to ensure that they are stable
    - Increase the levee toe footprint
    - Add stability berms
  - Control the underseepage
    - Relief wells
    - Seepage cutoff walls
    - Seepage berms

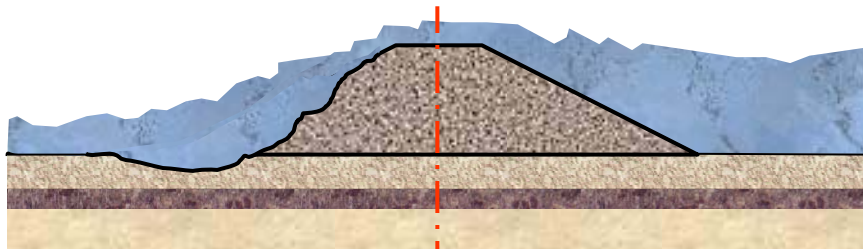
# Performance

## Levee Scour and Erosion Breach Analysis

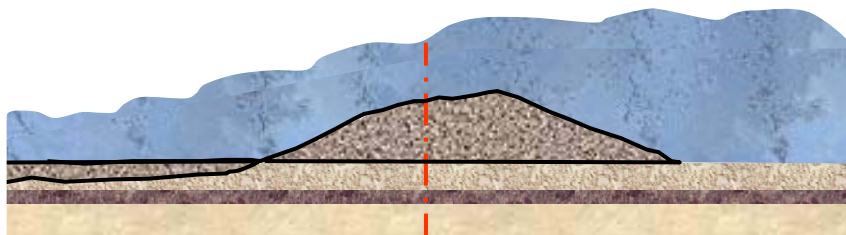
### Levee Scour and Erosion Breach Mechanism



Overtopping



Scour



Erosion

- Overtopping by surge and waves
- High silt and sand content in the levee
- Water flowing over the levee causes scour and erosion of levee



# Findings and Lessons Learned

## Levee Scour and Erosion:

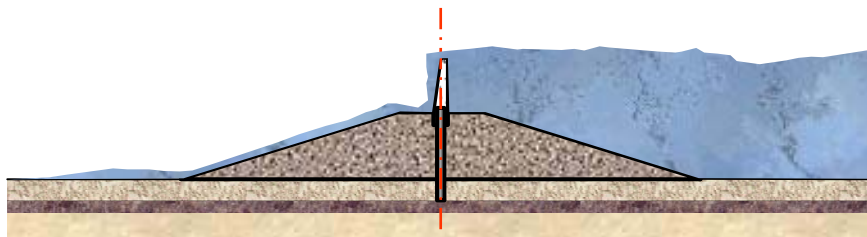
- **Failure Mechanisms:**
  - Overtopping from surge and waves
  - Hydraulically filled levees
    - High content of silts and sands
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Need to assess the erodibility of the emplace levee materials
  - Avoid silts and sands and hydraulic fills for levee construction
  - Increase the compaction effort for levee materials

# Performance

## *I-wall Scour and Erosion Breach Analysis*

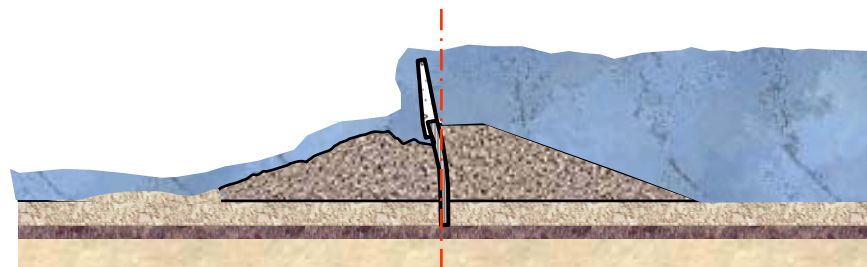
### I-wall Scour and Erosion Breach Mechanism

- Overtopping by surge and waves
- Water flowing over the wall causes scour and erosion of levee



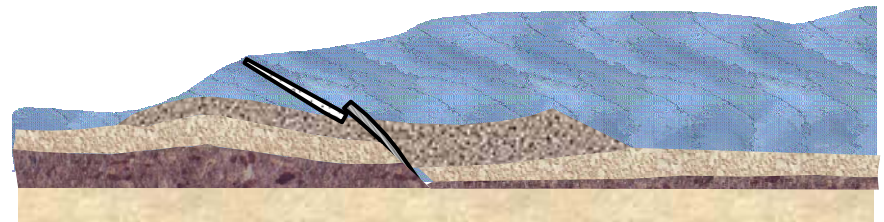
Overtopping

Ⓞ



Scour

Ⓞ



Erosion

# Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Breaches



# Findings and Lessons Learned

## I-Wall Scour and Erosion:

- **Failure Mechanisms:**
  - Overtopping from surge and waves
  - Erosion of the protective side levee embankment adjacent to the wall
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Provide an erosion-resistant surface on the levee adjacent to the wall on the protected side



**ESSAYONS!**

**Any Questions?**