



August 19, 2014

Geotechnical Report Limitations - Revised

Introduction

On November 22, 2011, an Urban Development (UD) bulletin titled “Geotechnical Report Limitations” was issued by the City of Calgary. The purpose of the bulletin was to clarify the City’s expectation to the development industry regarding the submission of geotechnical reports development specifically the ability for the City to rely on these reports. Guidance was provided to industry on the geotechnical reliance wording. After discussions with industry through the Urban Development Institute (UDI) of Calgary and the Consulting Engineers of Alberta, the geotechnical reliance wording has been refined to better meet the needs of the City and industry. The current bulletin presents the revised geotechnical reliance wording below and supersedes the November 22, 2011 UD bulletin.

Announcement

Please be advised that the City of Calgary is now requiring that all geotechnical reports accepted by the City, pursuant to a city approval (development, subdivision, land use or otherwise) and thus paid for by a third party applicant or surveyor, must name “The City of Calgary” as a party and addressee to the report. The report must also make clear that the “City of Calgary” can use and rely on the information in the report.

Urban Development is in the process of updating the current City requirements for geotechnical reports to include this revision. In the interim, the following procedure should be followed:

- **Active Applications:** For active applications where a geotechnical report has already been accepted by the City, the consultant, the developer and author of the report is required to complete and submit a geotechnical reliance letter which allows the City to rely on the information in the report. The Engineering Generalist will provide a template of the letter to the applicant for execution prior to release of the development permit or approval of the land use or subdivision.
- **New Applications:** For new applications where a geotechnical report must be submitted, the first page of the geotechnical report must state the following:

*“This report has been prepared for the benefit of
_____ (APPLICANT NAME) and their agents in
support of their _____ (DEVELOPMENT
PERMIT/SUBDIVISION/ETC.) application to the City of Calgary which report
becomes a public document upon submission.*

Industry Bulletin

The City of Calgary shall at all times be entitled to fully use and rely on this report, including all attachments, drawings, and schedules, for the specific purpose for which the report was prepared, in each case notwithstanding any provision, disclaimer, or waiver in the report that reliance is not permitted.

The City of Calgary shall be entitled to provide copies of the report to City Council, City of Calgary employees, and City of Calgary regulatory boards, each of whom shall also be similarly entitled to fully use and rely on the report in their official capacities for the specific purpose for which the report was prepared.

The City of Calgary is at all time entitled to provide copies of the report to Alberta Transportation, Rockyview County, Foothills County, and any other governmental authorities and regulatory bodies having jurisdiction. The City of Calgary may also contact the author or any other parties to the report to request further information respecting the report or to discuss the report further.”

In addition, the limitations set out in the report must not limit the City's reliance as required above.

For further information or inquiries please contact Lawrence Wong, Leader of Development Engineering, Infrastructure Planning at 268-1714.