

30th Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture

Friday, October 14, 2022 at 2 PM

College Station Hilton

<https://briaud.engr.tamu.edu/buchananlecture/>



Risk Mitigation in the Changing Relationship between Contractors and Engineers

The 2022 Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture

By Dr. Mark W. Buchanan



Geotechnical Systems, Uncertainty and Risk

The 2021 Terzaghi Lecture

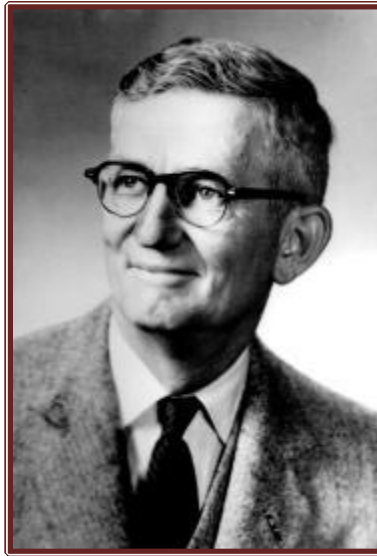
By Dr. Gregory B. Baecher



Table of Contents

Spencer J. Buchanan	1
Donors	3
Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture Series	7
Agenda	9
Biographies	10
♦ Dr. Gregory B. Baecher, 2021 Terzaghi Lecturer	
♦ Dr. Mark W. Buchanan 2022 Spencer J. Buchanan Lecturer	
“Geotechnical Systems, Uncertainty and Risk.” <i>Dr. Gregory B. Baecher</i>	13
“Risk Mitigation in the Changing Relationship between Contractors and Engineers.” <i>Dr. Mark W. Buchanan</i>	33
Pledge Information	52

SPENCER J. BUCHANAN



Spencer J. Buchanan, Sr. was born in 1904 in Yoakum, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1926, and earned graduate and professional degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Texas A&M University.

He held the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Reserve, (Ret.), and organized the 420th Engineer Brigade in Bryan-College Station, which was the only such unit in the Southwest when it was created. During World War II, he served the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an airfield engineer in both the U.S. and throughout the islands of the Pacific Combat Theater. Later, he served as a pavement consultant to the U.S. Air Force and during the Korean War he served in this capacity at numerous forward airfields in the combat zone. He held numerous military decorations including the Silver Star. He was founder and Chief of the Soil Mechanics Division of the U.S. Army Waterways Experiment Station in 1932, and also served as Chief of the Soil Mechanics Branch of the Mississippi River Commission, both being Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Professor Buchanan also founded the Soil Mechanics Division of the Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University in 1946. He held the title of Distinguished Professor of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering in that department. He retired from that position in 1969 and was named professor Emeritus. In 1982, he received the College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award from Texas A&M University.

He was the founder and president of Spencer J. Buchanan & Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, and Soil Mechanics Incorporated in Bryan, Texas. These firms were involved in numerous major international projects, including twenty-five RAF-USAF airfields in England. They also conducted Air Force funded evaluation of all U.S. Air Training Command airfields in this country. His firm also did foundation investigations for downtown expressway systems in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, St. Paul, Minnesota; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Dayton, Ohio, and on Interstate Highways across Louisiana. Mr. Buchanan did consulting work for the Exxon Corporation, Dow Chemical Company, Conoco, Monsanto, and others.

Professor Buchanan was active in the Bryan Rotary Club, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Chi Epsilon, served as faculty advisor to the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and was a Fellow of the Society of American Military Engineers. In 1979 he received the award for Outstanding Service from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Professor Buchanan was a participant in every International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering since 1956. He served as a general chairman of the International Research and Engineering Conferences on Expansive Clay Soils at Texas A&M University, which were held in 1965 and 1969.

Spencer J. Buchanan, Sr., was considered a world leader in geotechnical engineering, a Distinguished Texas A&M Professor, and one of the founders of the Bryan Boy's Club. He died on February 4, 1982, at the age of 78, in a Houston hospital after an illness, which lasted several months.

The Spencer J. Buchanan '26 Chair in Civil Engineering

The College of Engineering and the Department of Civil Engineering gratefully recognize the generosity of the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations for their part in helping to establish the Spencer J. Buchanan '26 Professorship in Civil Engineering. Created in 1992 to honor a world leader in soil mechanics and foundation engineering, as well as a distinguished Texas A&M University professor, the Buchanan Professorship supports a wide range of enriched educational activities in civil and geotechnical engineering. In 2002, this professorship became the Spencer J. Buchanan '26 Chair in Civil Engineering.

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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you feel there is an error, please contact the Engineering Development Office at 979-845-5113. A pledge card is enclosed on the last page for potential contributions.

Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture Series

1993	Ralph B. Peck	“The Coming of Age of Soil Mechanics: 1920 - 1970”
1994	G. Geoffrey Meyerhof	“Evolution of Safety Factors and Geotechnical Limit State Design”
1995	James K. Mitchell	“The Role of Soil Mechanics in Environmental Geotechnics”
1996	Delwyn G. Fredlund	“The Emergence of Unsaturated Soil Mechanics”
1997	T. William Lambe	“The Selection of Soil Strength for a Stability Analysis”
1998	John B. Burland	“The Enigma of the Leaning Tower of Pisa”
1999	J. Michael Duncan	“Factors of Safety and Reliability in Geotechnical Engineering”
2000	Harry G. Poulos	“Foundation Settlement Analysis – Practice Versus Research”
2001	Robert D. Holtz	“Geosynthetics for Soil Reinforcement”
2002	Arnold Aronowitz	“World Trade Center: Construction, Destruction, and Reconstruction”
2003	Eduardo Alonso	“Exploring the Limits of Unsaturated Soil Mechanics: the Behavior of Coarse Granular Soils and Rockfill”
2004	Raymond J. Krizek	“Slurries in Geotechnical Engineering”
2005	Tom D. O’Rourke	“Soil-Structure Interaction Under Extreme Loading Conditions”
2006	Cylde N. Baker	“In Situ Testing, Soil-Structure Interaction, and Cost Effective Foundation Design”
2007	Ricardo Dobry	“Pile response to Liquefaction and Lateral Spreading: Field Observations and Current Research”
2008	Kenneth Stokoe	“The Increasing Role of Seismic Measurements in Geotechnical Engineering”
2009	Jose M. Roesset	“Some Applications of Soil Dynamics”
2010	Kenji Ishihara	“Forensic Diagnosis for Site-Specific Ground Conditions in Deep Excavations of Subway Constructions”
2011	Rudolph Bonaparte	“Cold War Legacy – Design, Construction, and Performance of a Land-Based Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility”
2012	W. Allen Marr	“Active Risk Management in Geotechnical Engineering”
2013	Andrew J. Whittle	“Importance of Undrained Behavior in the Analysis of Soil-Structure Interaction”
2014	Craig H. Benson	“Landfill Covers: Water Balance, Unsaturated Soils, and a Pathway from Theory to Practice”
2015	William F. Marcuson III	“Katrina in Your Rearview Mirror”
2016	Edward Kavazanjian	“Bio-Geo-Alchemy: Biogeotechnical Carbonate Precipitation for Hazard Mitigation and Ground Improvement.”
2017	Jonathan D. Bray	“Turning Disaster into Knowledge”
2018	Paul W. Mayne	“Versatility of Cone Penetration Tests in GeoCharacterization”
2019	Gregory B. Baecher	“Putting Numbers on Geotechnical Judgement”
2020	Lidija Zdravkovic	“Soil Characterisation for Advanced Geotechnical Design: Parameter Derivation”

The texts of the lectures and a DVD’s of the presentations are available by contacting:

Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud
Spencer J. Buchanan ’26 Chair Distinguished Professor
Zachry Department of Civil Engineering
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3136, USA
Tel: 979-845-3795
E-mail: briaud@tamu.edu

Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture Series

2021	Philippe Jeanjean	"Offshore Geotechnics: From Oil and Gas to Renewable Energy"
2022	Mark W. Buchanan	"Risk Mitigation in the Changing Relationship between Contractors and Engineers"

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Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3136, USA
Tel: 979-845-3795
E-mail: briaud@tamu.edu

AGENDA

The Thirtieth Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture
Friday, October 12, 2022
Hilton Hotel and Conference Center
College Station, TX

- 2:00 p.m. Introduction by Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud
- 2:10 p.m. A few words by Dr. Zachary Grasley, Head of Zachry
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- 2:15 p.m. Introduction of Dr. Gregory B. Baecher by Jean-Louis Briaud
- 2:20 p.m. “Geotechnical Systems, Uncertainty and Risk”
2021 Terzaghi Lecture by Dr. Gregory B. Baecher
- 3:20 p.m. Introduction of Dr. Mark W. Buchanan by Jean-Louis Briaud
- 3:25 p.m. “Risk Mitigation in the Changing Relationship between
Contractors and Engineers” 2022 Buchanan Lecture by Dr.
Mark W. Buchanan
- 4:30 p.m. Closure with Jean-Louis Briaud
- 5:30 p.m. Reception at the Briaud Residence

Biographies



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Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742
- gbaecher@mac.com

Dr. Baecher is Glenn L Martin Institute Professor of Engineering at the University of Maryland. He holds a BSCE from UC Berkeley and a PhD in geotechnical engineering from MIT. He is the author of six books on risk, safety, and the protection of civil infrastructure; and 200+ technical publications. He is recipient of the USACE Commander's Award for Public Service, the Panamanian National Award for Science and Technology Innovation, GEOSnet Distinguished Achievement Award for contributions to geotechnical reliability, and is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and of the UC Berkeley Academy of Distinguished Alumni.



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The 2020 Terzaghi Lecture
By Dr. ; fY[cfn6"6UYWf

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

2021 Terzaghi Lecture

Gregory B. Baecher

University of Maryland



Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk



1965

1981

2004

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

MIT in the 1970-80s

John T. Christian †
C. Allin Cornell †
Herbert H. Einstein
Ronald C. Hirschfeld †
Charles C. Ladd †
W. Allen Marr
Erik Vanmarcke
Daniele Veneziano
Robert V. Whitman †

Later collaborators

Luis Alfaro
Tony Bennett
Karl Dise
Charles Dowding
Jerry Foster
Gerald E. Galloway
Robert B. Gilbert
Fernando Guerra
Desmond Hartford
Robert L. Johnson
Lewis (Ed) Link
Martin W. McCann
Ross McGillivray
Samuel G. Paikowski
Robert C. Patev
KK Phoon
Timo Schwekendiek
Nate Snorteland
Romanas Wolfsborg
TH Wu †
Li Min Zhang
P. Andy Zielinski

3

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

Two themes ...

1. What have we learned about assessing risk on complex projects?
2. How should we think about uncertainty.

4

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk



I. Tonen revisited (RVW's 1981 Terzaghi Lecture)



II. Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce



III. Tampa Bay site characterization



IV. Panama Canal engineering risk study

5

Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Bob Whitman

W. Allen Marr

Mishac Yegian

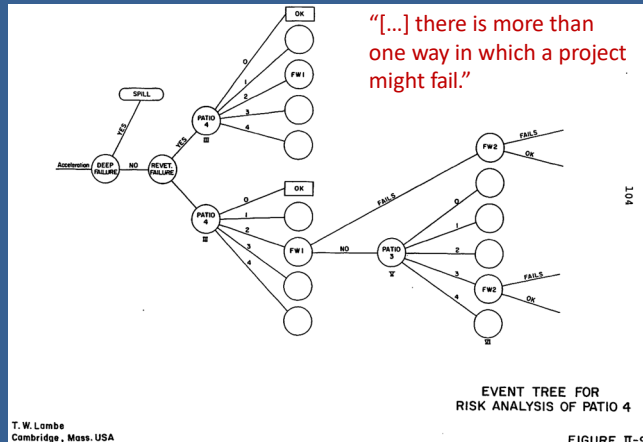
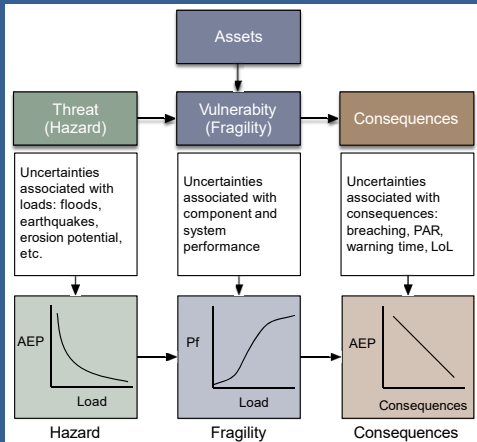
Bill Lambe



6

Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Threat-vulnerability-consequence (TVC)



"[...] there is more than one way in which a project might fail."

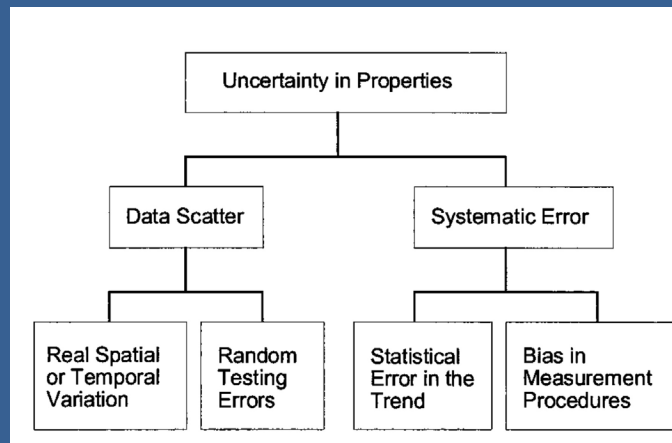
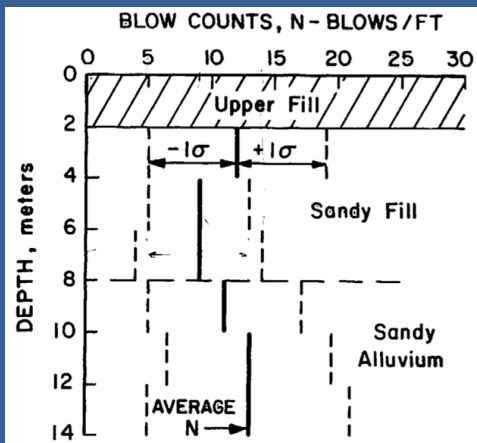
T. W. Lambe
Cambridge, Mass. USA

EVENT TREE FOR RISK ANALYSIS OF PATIO 4

FIGURE II-9

Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Variability and bias in soil property measurements



Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Spatial averaging and correlation

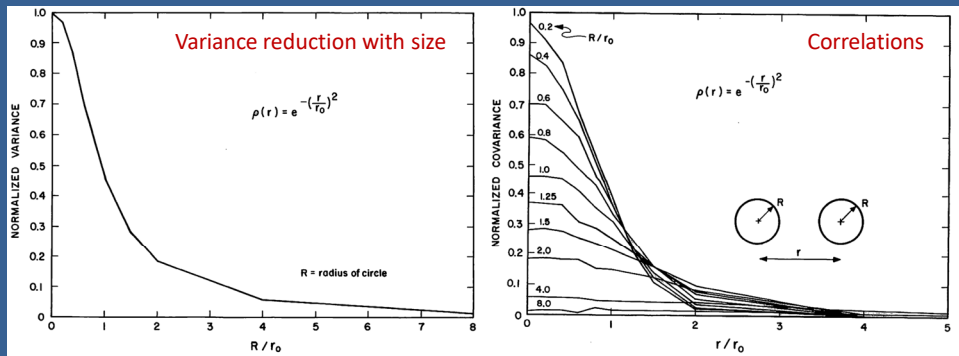
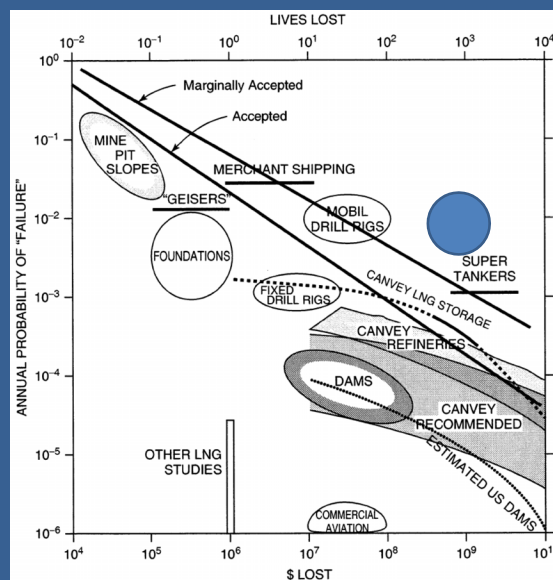


Figure 7. Spatial averaging and correlation of soil properties beneath tanks of various sizes and distances (TWL Associates 1982a). The LHS (a) shows variance reduction as a function of tank radius. The RSH (b) shows the covariance between the averages of soil properties under adjacent tanks as a function of their radius and separation.

Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Risk communication



Part I. TONEN REVISITED

Practical lessons

Need to organize uncertainties
Need to explain geotechnical data

Need to account for spatial variation

Need to communicate risk to stakeholders.

11

Lessons learned

Probability is in the model, not the ground *

* Matheron, G. *The Theory of Regionalized Variables and Its Application - Spatial Variabilities of Soil and Landforms*. Fontainebleau: Les Cahiers du Centre de Morphologie Mathematique 8, 1971.

12

Lessons learned

Uncertainty is epistemic, it's in the mind

13

Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

Jerry L. Foster

Harvey W. Jones

Lewis E. Link

Marty W. McCann

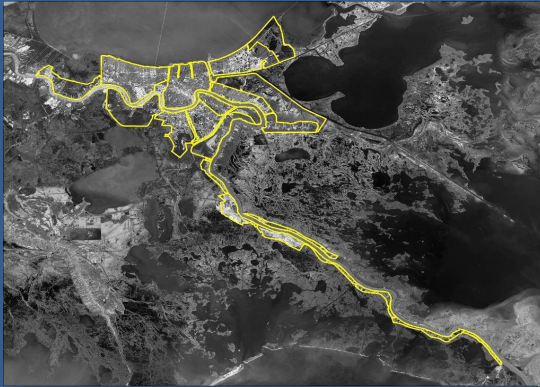
Robert C. Patev

David Schaaf

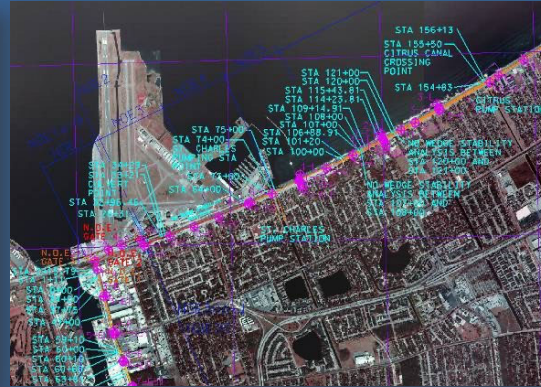
14

Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

“Did it work as a system?”



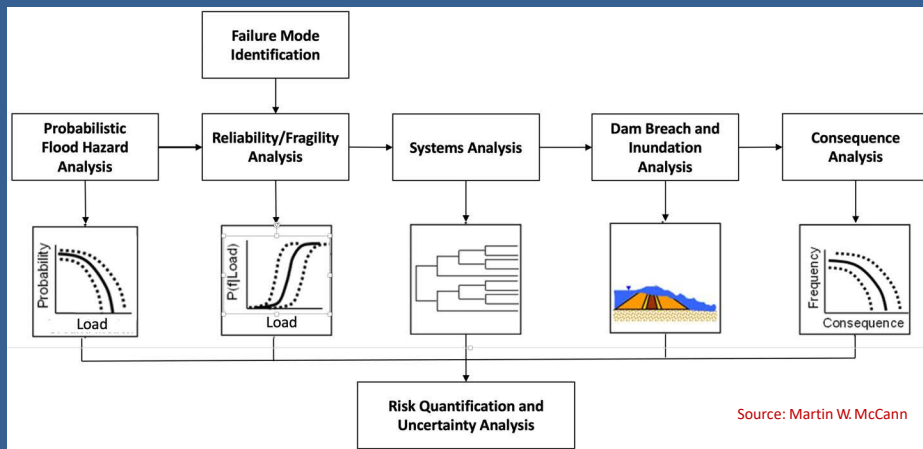
The system



The model

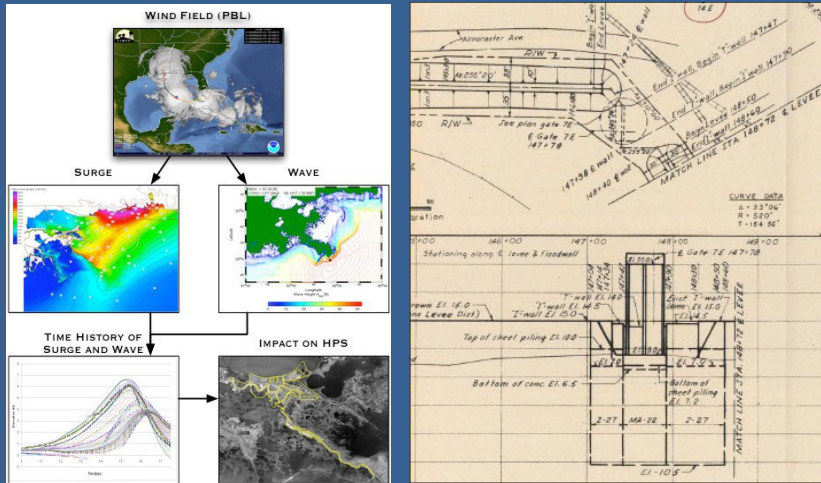
Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

Threat-vulnerability-consequence (TVC) revisited



Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

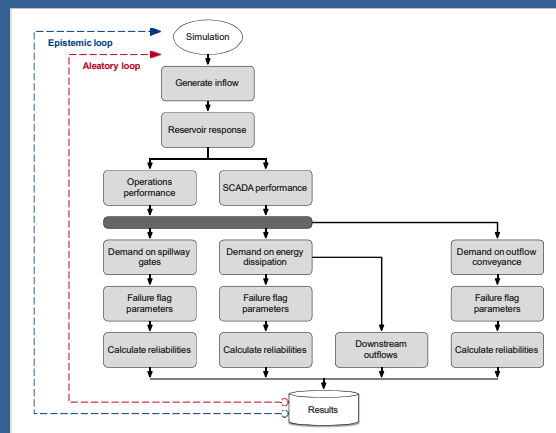
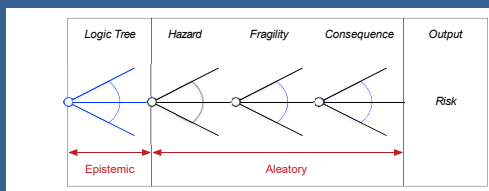
Working with legacy analyses



17

Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

Philosophical lessons about risk analysis



18

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

Practical lessons

Need for formalism in organizing data and analyses,

Event trees don't scale,

Putting numbers on engineering judgment,

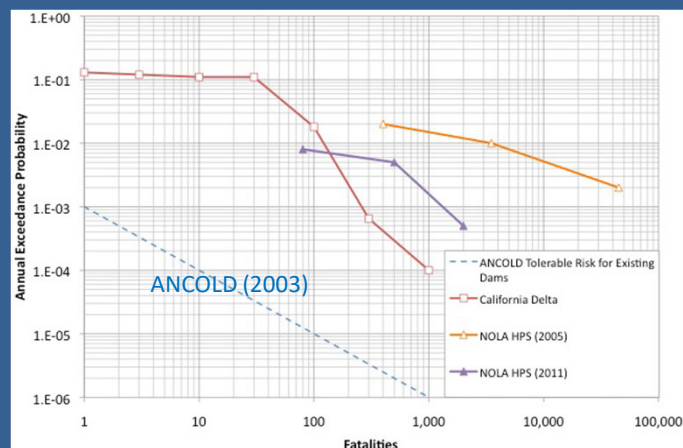
Need to communicate risk to the public.

19

Part II. Hurricane Katrina (IPET)

Risk communication

Safe is not an engineering term *



*Paraphrased from, Petroski, H. (2011). "How Safe Is Safe Enough?" NPR.org, March 29

20

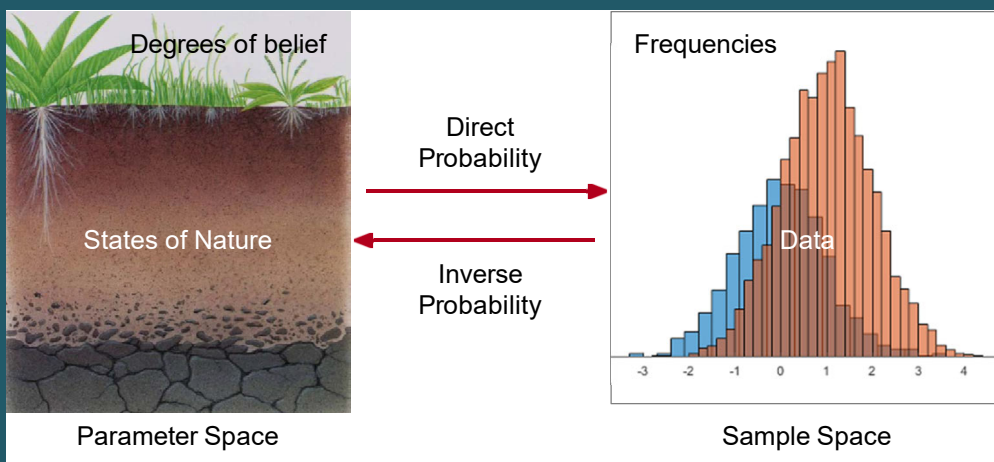
Bayesian digression

The statistics we all learned in college is useless

21

Bayesian digression

Uncertainty is about states of nature



22

Bayesian digression

There at the beginning ...



Not actually Thos. Bayes (1701?-61)



Actually Laplace (1749-1827)



Sir Harold Jeffreys (1891-1989)

Bayesian digression

Theory for uncertainty

The image shows a chalkboard with the Bayesian formula written in blue chalk: $P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$. The formula is annotated with text: "What you should think afterward" points to $P(A|B)$; "Likelihood = Weight of evidence" points to $P(B|A)$; "What you thought before" points to $P(A)$; and "Just a normalizing constant" points to $P(B)$.

Source: HP Autonomy™

"One sees, from this Essay, that **the theory of probabilities is basically just common sense reduced to calculus**; it makes one appreciate with exactness that which accurate minds feel with a sort of instinct, often without being able to account for it." — Laplace

Bayesian digression

Geotechnical engineers are all Bayesians*(ACM)

H&H people are frequentists

Geotechs are Bayesians

Structural people care mostly about meeting code

*ACM = According to me

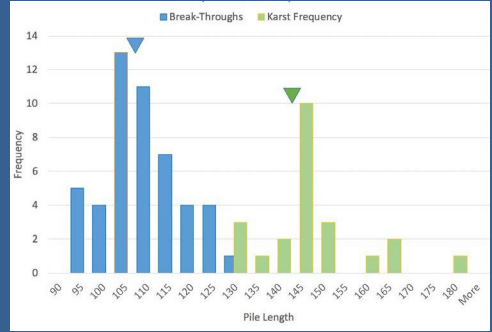
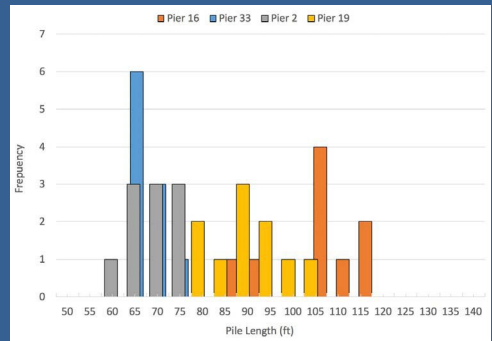
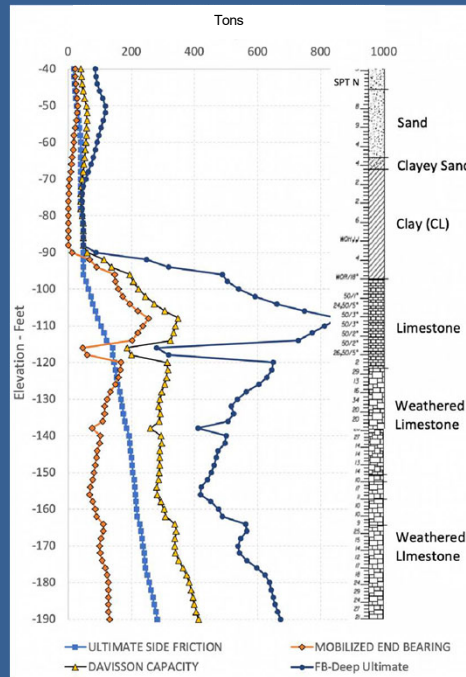
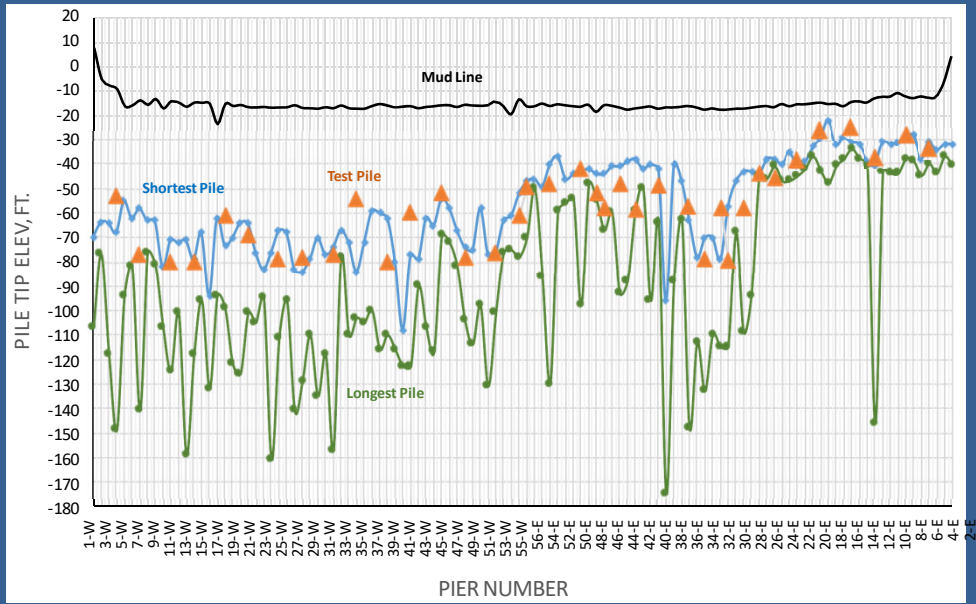
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Part III. Tampa Bay site characterization

Ross T. McGillivray

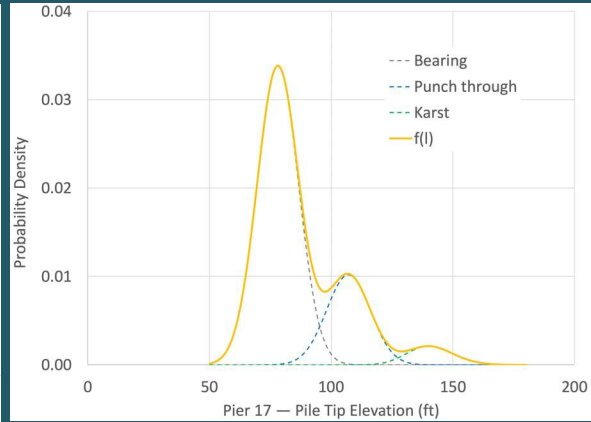
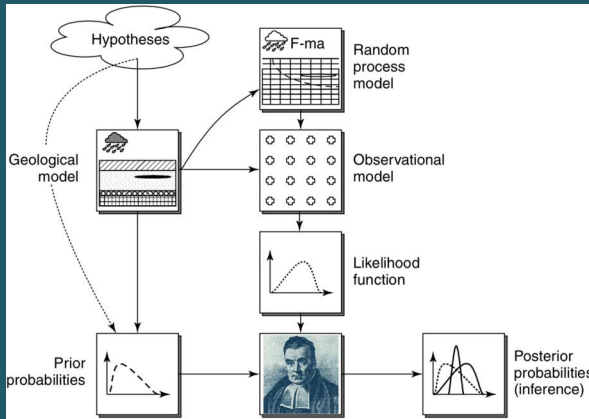
Thomas M. Waits





Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

Thinking rationally about uncertainty



29

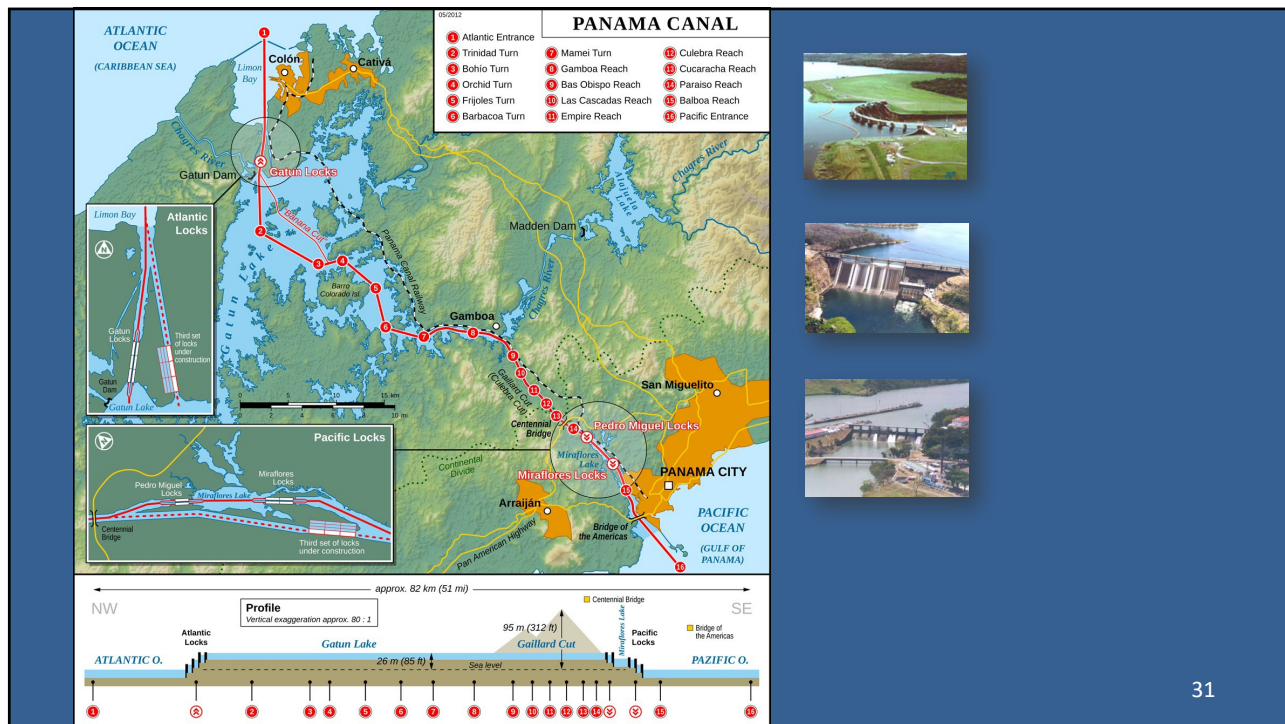
Part IV. Panama Canal Authority (ACP)

Luis Alfaro

Fernando Guerra

Robert C. Patev

30

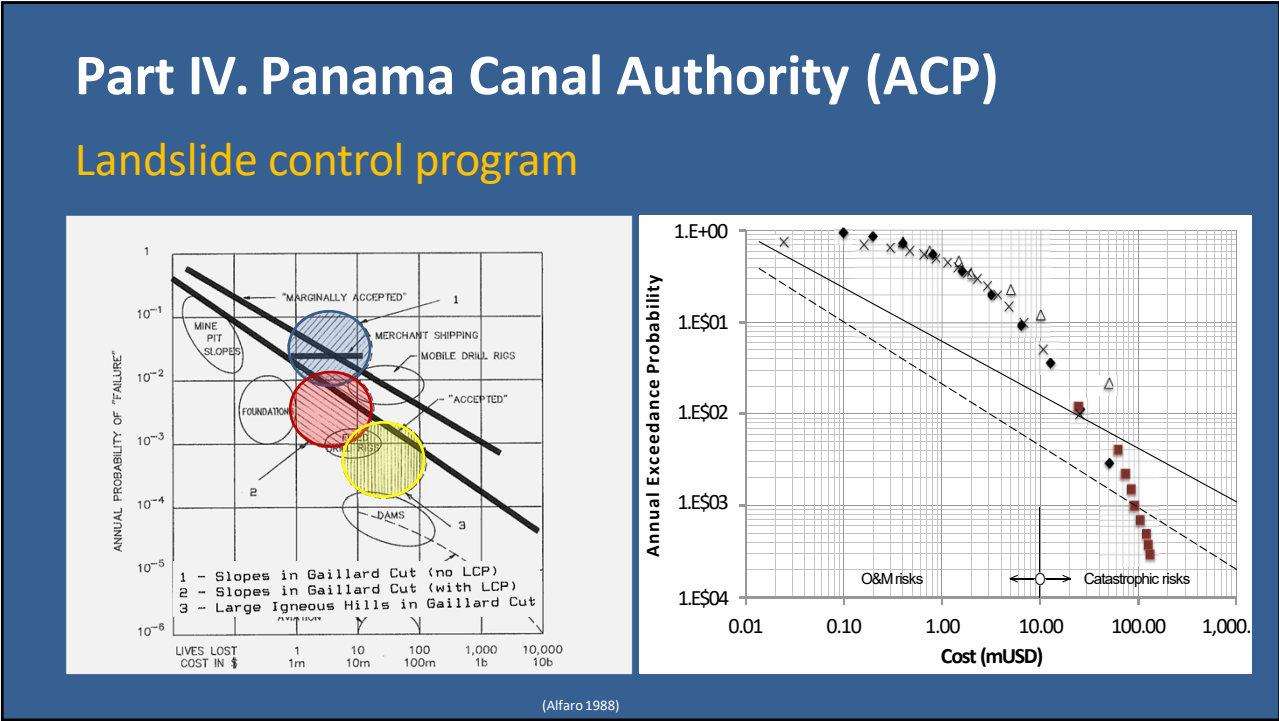


31

Part IV. Panama Canal Authority (ACP)

Risk register

#	Category	Structure	Event	Description	Component	Description	Failure Mode	Failure Cause	Remark	Consequences					EVENTS				
										LIKhood (I)	Consequences (C)	Risk Index	Risk Matrix Box Number	Natural (N) or Aging (A)	Low Probability	Low Consequences	Med Probability	Med Consequences	
110					Abutments		Structural failure	Overload and concrete overstressed		2	1	0	15	N	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
111					Roadway Bridge		Structural failure	Concrete overstressed		3	1	0	14	N	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
112					Corrosion	Metal deterioration	Yielding	Loss of member thickness		3	1	0	14	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
113					Drum gates	Structural steel	Gate out of commission	Water infiltration due to holes in the structure	Asumiendo que la compuerta se traba a nivel 232' y el lago empieza a salir por arriba de este nivel C	3	2	1	10	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
114					Gate machinery		Yielding	Loss of member thickness		3	1	0	14	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
115					Roadway Bridge		Structural damage	Reinforced steel corrosion		4	1	0	13	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
116					Sluice gates		Yielding	Loss of member thickness		3	1	0	14	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
117					Aging	Metal fatigue and concrete deterioration	Drum gates	Steel structure, and all castings in concrete	Fatigue	Excess vibration due to water flow	1	1	0	16	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000
118					Concrete piers					-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
119					Concrete main section					-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
120					Gate machinery		Mechanical, electrical, and control systems			-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
121					Sluice gates					-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
122					Abutments					-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	
123					Roadway bridge					-1	-1	-1	-1	A	0.9	500000	0.09	100000000	



Part IV. Panama Canal Authority (ACP)

Practical lessons about risk analysis

The organizing power of qualitative risk assessment.

Need to communicate risk to management.

Sometimes need to accommodate legacy analyses.

35

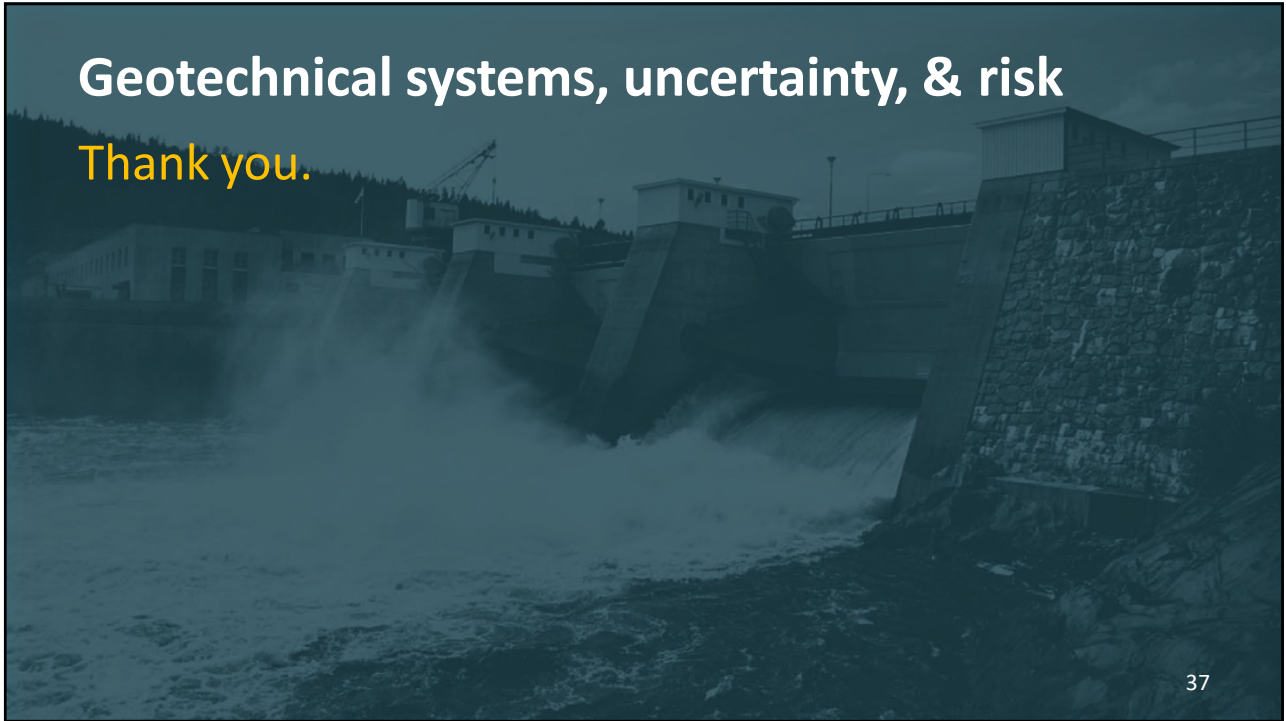
So what ?

- **Rationally dealing with risk in large geotechnically-engineered systems ...**
 - Risk analysis approach is still evolving but mature
 - Successful on large geotechnical projects
- **The statistics we learned in college is unhelpful ^{ACM} ...**
 - Probability is in the model, not the ground
 - Uncertainty is epistemic and subjective
- **Bayesian thinking is the natural way to think about uncertainties ...**
 - The way geotechnical engineers actually think
 - Allows strong conclusions from sparse data
 - Foundation of the observational method

36

Geotechnical systems, uncertainty, & risk

Thank you.



37

*F|g A |h| U|cb|b|h\Y
7\Ub| |b| FYU|cbg\|d'
V|k Y|b 7cb|fU|f|UbX
9b| |b|Y|f|g'*

The 202&Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture
By Dr. AU_K "6i WUb

2022 Buchanan Lecture

The Dynamic Relationship Between Contractors and Engineers, Risk Mitigation,
and Best Practice

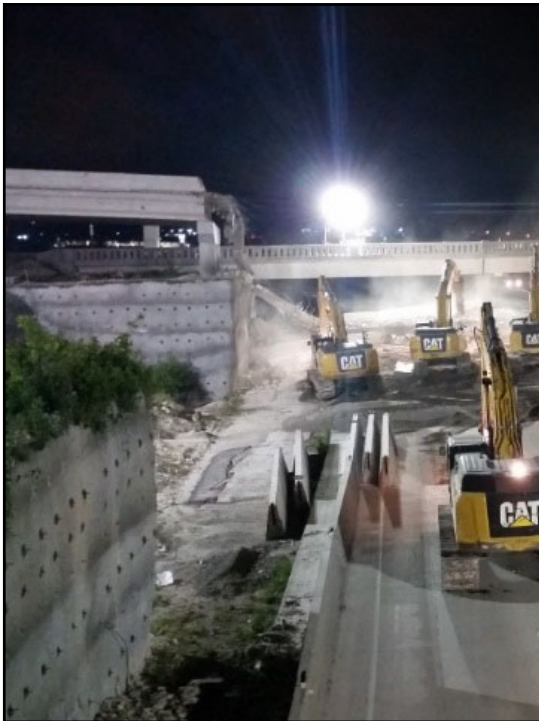


Introduction

- **Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud**
 - University Distinguished Professor
 - Distinguished Member ASCE
 - Past President ASCE (2021)
 - Buchanan Chair Holder
 - Scholar and Gentleman

Introduction

- General Spencer J. Buchanan, USACE
 - Texas A&M Class of 1926
 - Professor Emeritus, TAMU
 - True Gentleman

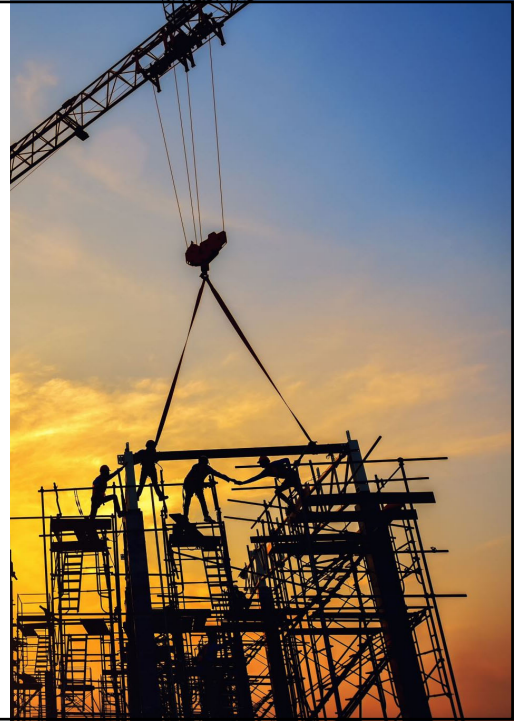


Changing Professional Dynamic

- Historic Preconceptions
- Generational Dynamics and New Technology
- Commonality of Emerging Construction Contract Platforms
 - Design/Build
 - CMAR
 - Public Private Partnership
 - Conclusion: Owner Risk Mitigation, Innovation, Acceleration

Heavy Civil Design/Build

- D/B Prequalification
- Teaming Agreement through Pre-Award Design; 0.5% vs. Stipend
- Teaming Agreement K Platforms
- Design Agreement; 6% of estimate cost to construct
- Know the Parties
- Know the Scope
- Know the Schedule (inc. Design Schedule)
- Know the 'Plan'
- Participate in the Bid



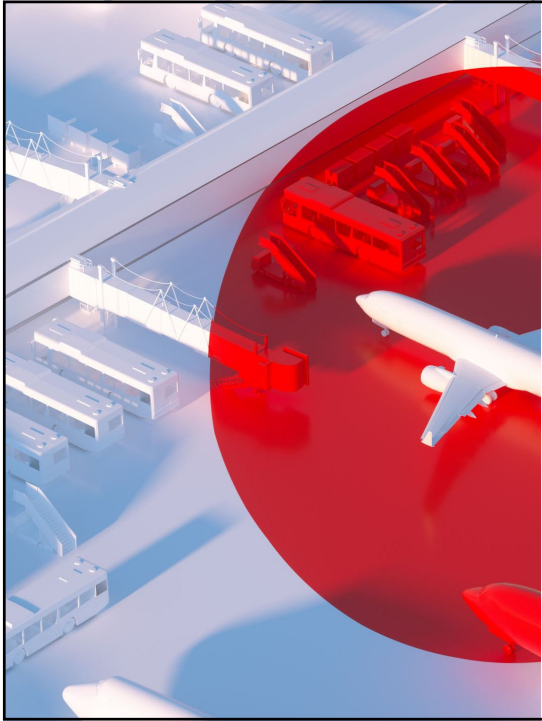
Risk Mitigation



Cost/Benefit
Comparison:
Engineering and
Contracting

Difference in
Business Models

Reconciling to
Success



Fort Lauderdale Airfield Expansion

- Performance Specification
- Success Fee
- Cohabitate
- Daily Over-the-Shoulder
- Daily Schedule
- Foresight



Fort Lauderdale
Airfield Expansion
\$240 Million

- Design/Build
- Performance Specification (747-800 vs Airbus 380)
- Success Fee
- Notice runway threshold and 'tunnels'

Fort Lauderdale Airfield Expansion

- Notice common point of aircraft landing location ('touchdown') over tunnel.
- MD 747-800 vs. Airbus A380



Fort Lauderdale Airfield Expansion

- Consider length of tunnel for US 1
- Consider the number of tunnels
- Consider skew
- Consider National Fire Protection Code
- Is it an overpass or tunnel?
- 3,600 driven piles increased, post bid, from 18" to 24"



Fort Lauderdale Airfield Expansion

- Consider the skew of the runway boundaries to the 'tunnel'...length determination made at centerline

Fort Lauderdale Airfield Expansion Lessons Learned

- Take Performance Specifications very seriously
- Always stay cognizant of the 'big picture'



Alaskan Viaduct Tunnel Bore

Nature of Joint
Venture Platform

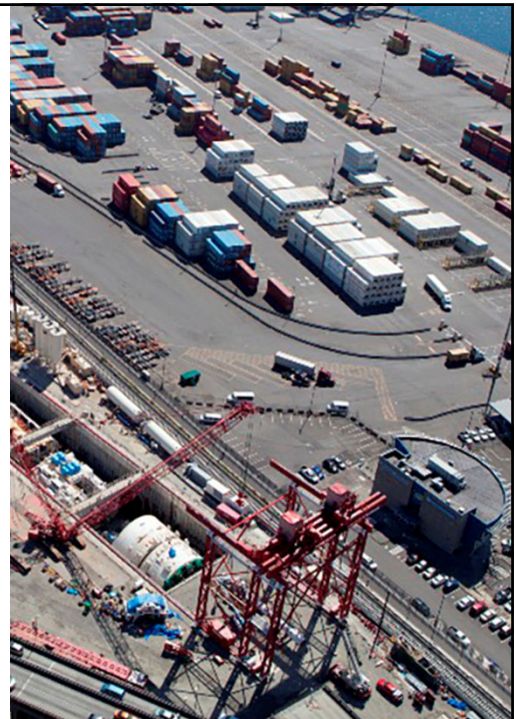
Engineer: Secant
Wall

Contractor:
Criticality of
Glacial Till
Interaction

Accountability

Alaskan Viaduct \$1.4 Billion

- Secant DS Entrance Pit complete
- TBM modules in the pit, assembly ongoing
- 360' x 60'...largest TBM in the world at the time
- Single use; \$82 M





Alaskan Viaduct

- Portions of the TBM hoisted off ships and preparing for assembly



Alaskan Viaduct:

- Twin Conveyors
- Precast Panel ring panels



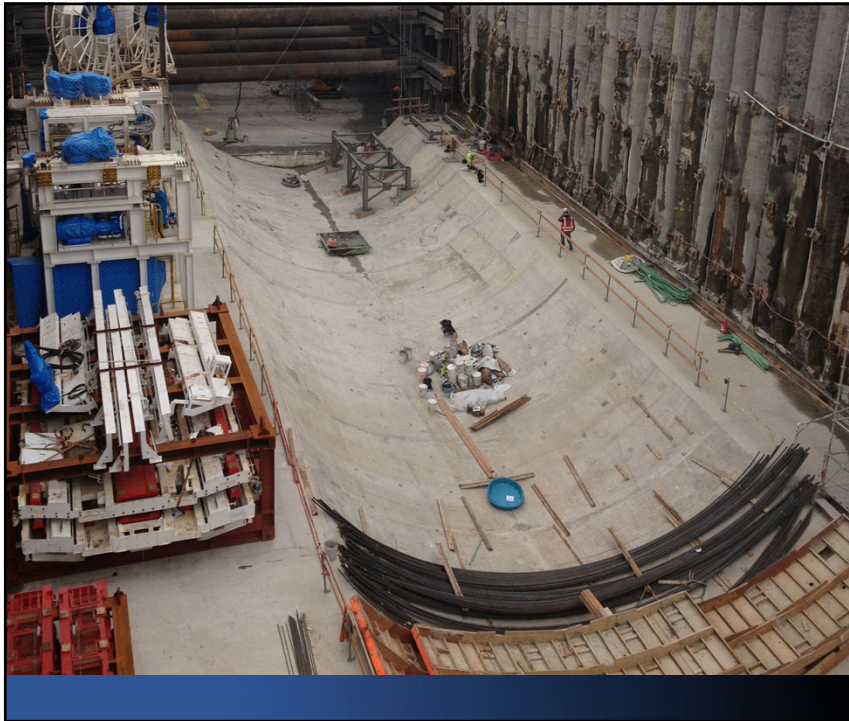
Alaskan Viaduct

- At the time, the world's largest TBM
- One use, then dismantled
- Cutter teeth replacement at 1,000 LF
- Piezometer strike at 1,500 LF



Alaskan Viaduct

- Secant shaft retaining wall
- Notice hydrostatic pressure relief
- FRP TBM 'valley'



Alaskan Viaduct

- Entrance pit ready for TBM assembly



Alaskan Viaduct



Alaskan Viaduct

- Entrance pit ready for TBM assembly
- TBM staged beside pit
- Gantry crane and Manitowoc 999 ready to assemble



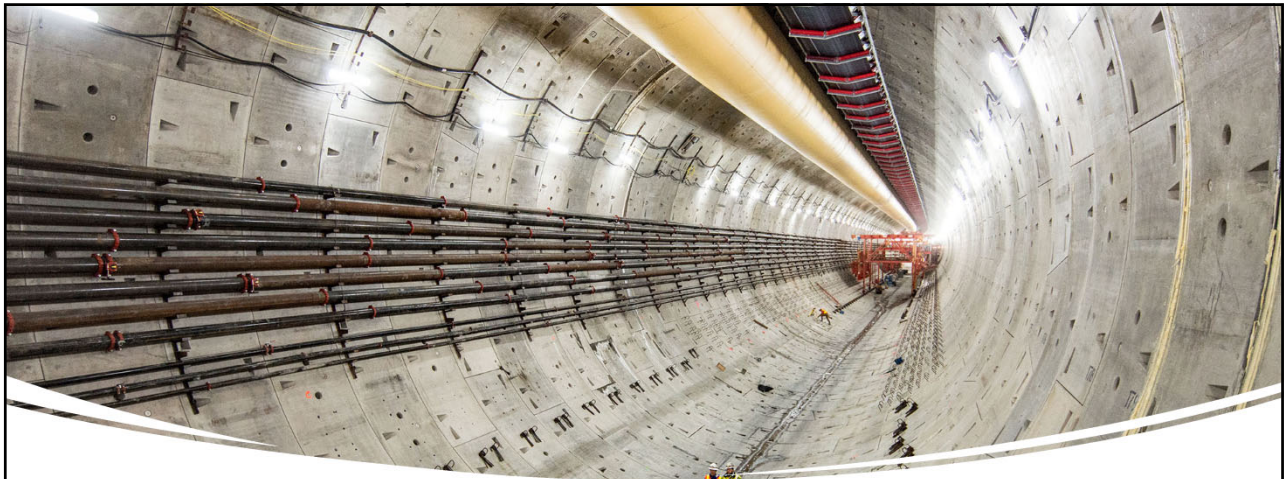
Alaskan Viaduct

- 360' TBM assemble and ready for excavation



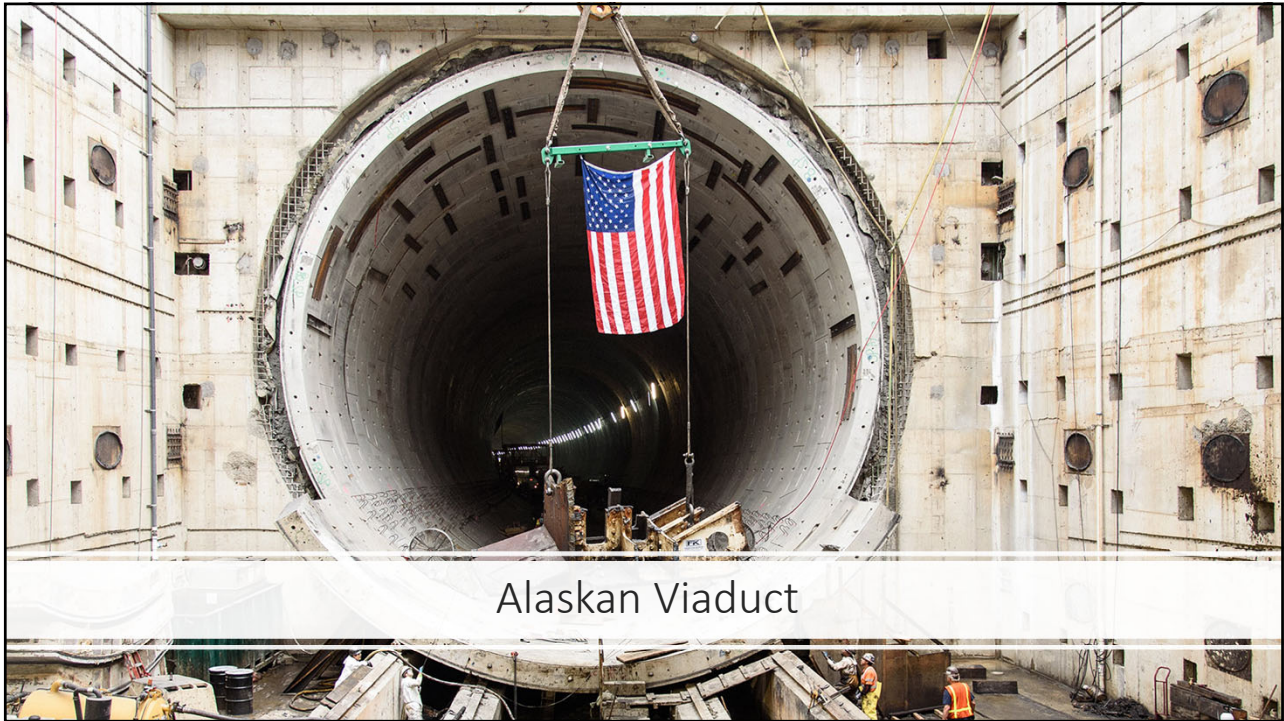
Alaskan Viaduct

- Notice precast panels (issue)
- Conveyor
- Ventilation

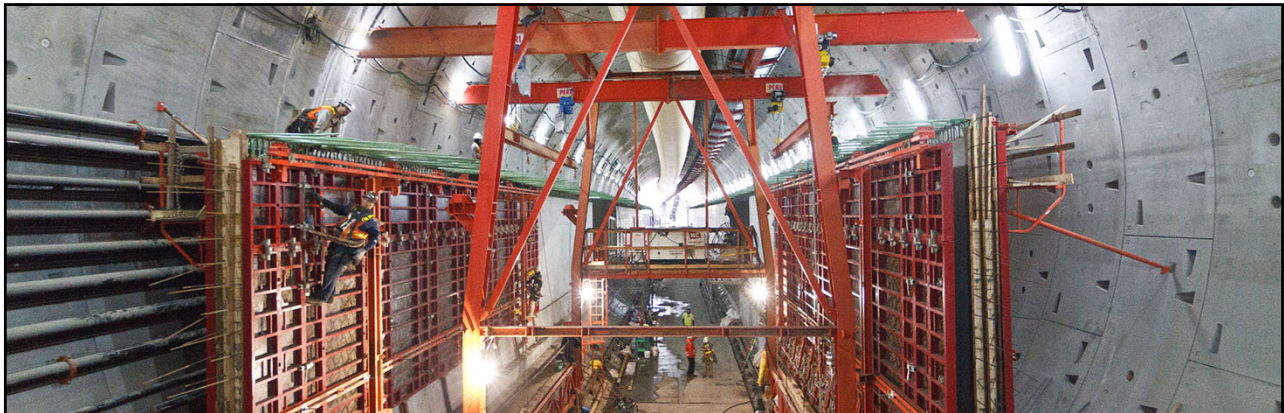


Alaskan Viaduct

- Rolling Gangform for interior walls and decks for split (over/under) highway



Alaskan Viaduct



Alaskan Viaduct

- Rolling form system for interior wall build out. Note rebar projections for highway decks



Alaskan Viaduct

- Interior walls poured with rebar projections for the Ideck
- Upper Deck formed at the extraction pit

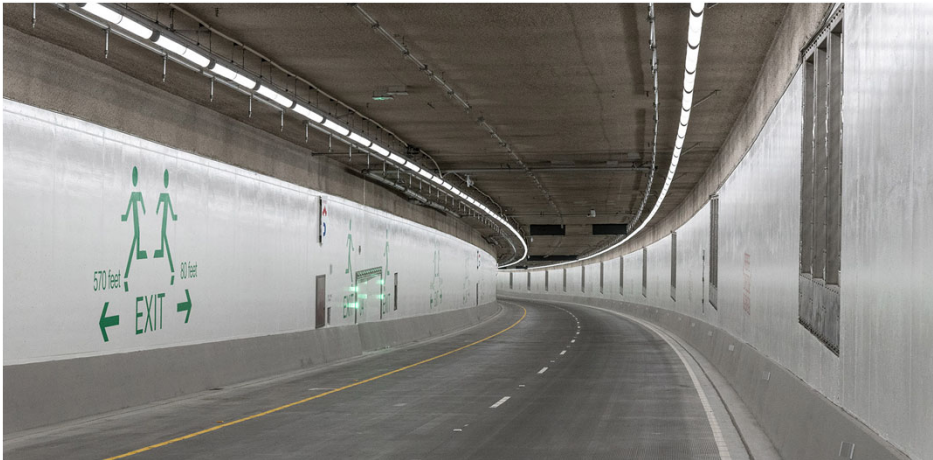


Alaskan Viaduct



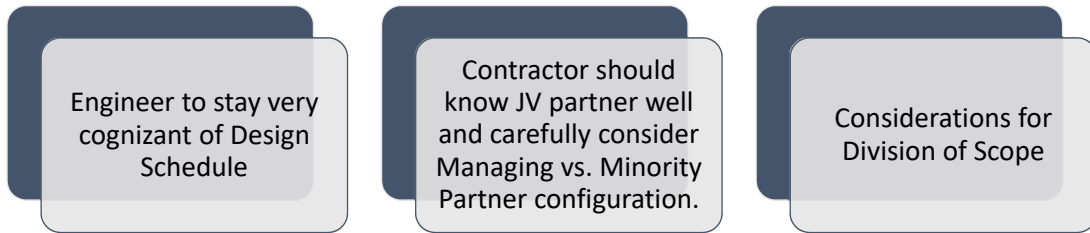
Alaskan Viaduct

Alaskan Viaduct

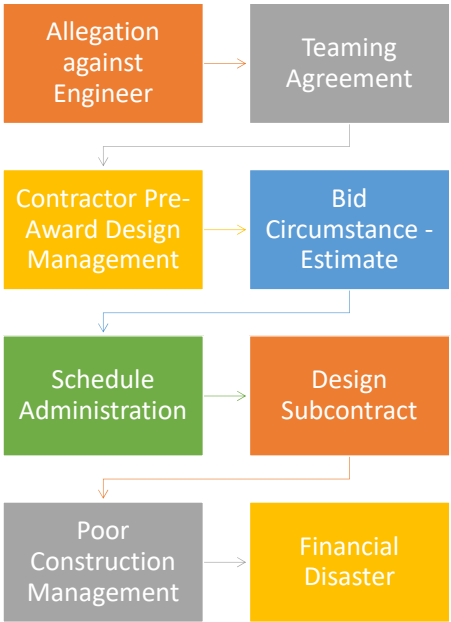




Alaskan Viaduct Lessons Learned



Undisclosed Project
(litigation = \$270m)



Undisclosed Project Lessons Learned

Conceptual Nature of Pre-Award Design

Contractor Design Manager

Pre-Award Design Contract and Liabilities

Estimating Process (Contingency and Quantities)

Scheduling Process

Design Subcontract

The 'Plan' ...Plan to Build; Build to Plan

Conclusions:

- Hard Infrastructure is a significant market
- Horizontal in nature, large market for civil/geotechnical
- The evolving relationship between Contractors and Engineers matters
- D/B provides innovation, speed, enhanced margins...and risk
- Focus on the nuances enhances success



Lessons Learned - Globally

Understand stakeholder cultures and motivations (history, backlog, repeat partnerships, etc.) and Design Coordinator expertise.

Examine Subk platform and Limit of Liability in Teaming Agreement and its relationship with the Design Subcontract.

Active Participation in Project Baseline Schedule (Inc. Engineering Deliverables) and Schedule Updates – know the Critical Path!!

Active Participation in Project Estimate/Bid (Read 1 and 2, quantities, risk, 11th hour changes, etc.)

Understand the Conceptual Nature of D/B and integrate with Risk Register and Contingency Fees

Success Fee Pitfalls – Promote Innovation, but not at the risk of productivity or scope creep

Performance Specification Pitfalls – especially late performance specification adjustments.

Cohabitation during design function – delivery schedule, over-the-shoulder reviews, costs, etc.

Develop a Project-Level Culture of cooperation, collaboration, accountability and trust



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