



# Kentucky Lake Bridge Pipe Pile Load Test Program 45<sup>th</sup> Annual STGEC Mobile, AL – October 27-30, 2014

Presented by:

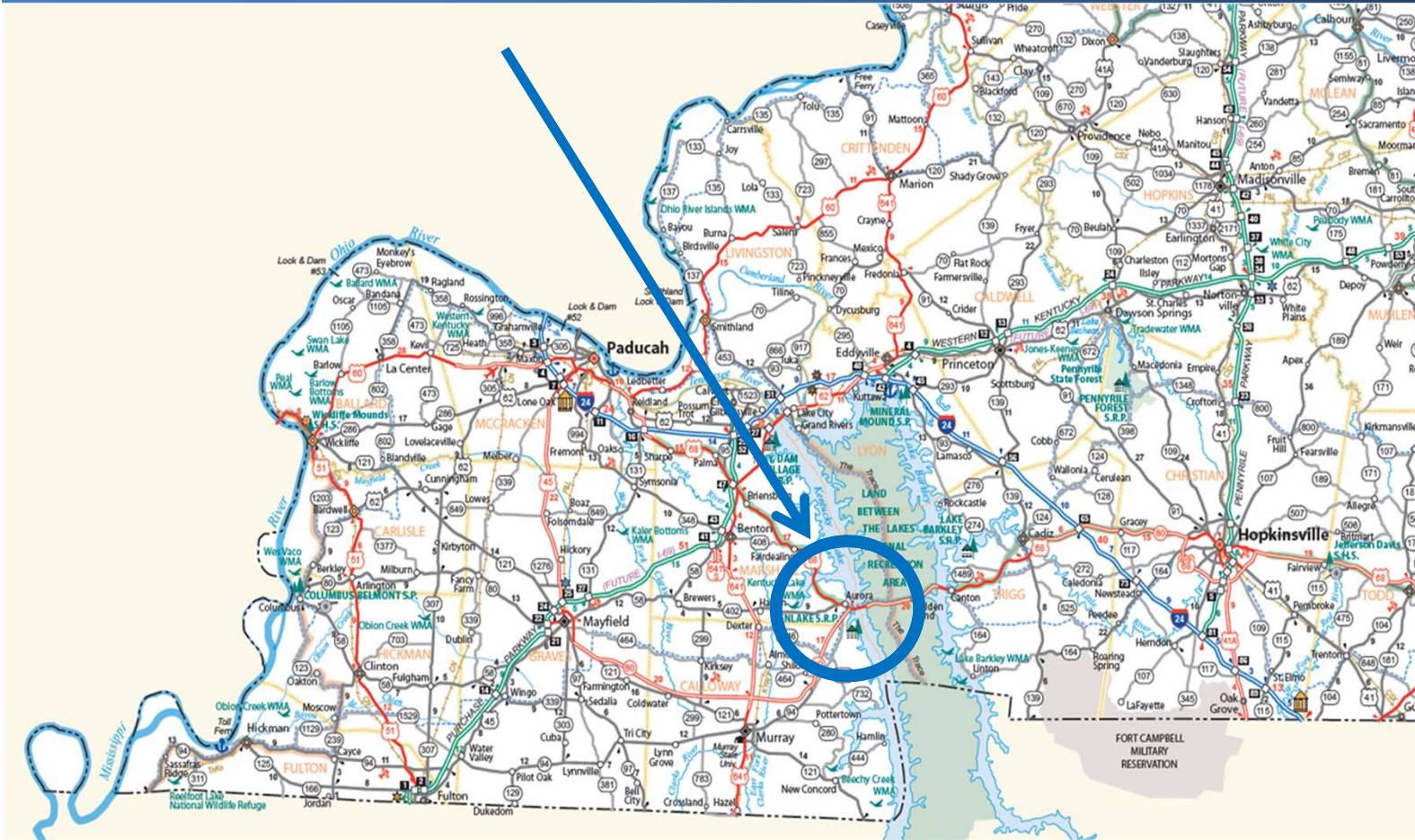
Darrin Beckett - KYTC

Ron Ebelhar - Terracon Consultants



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# Project Site



*Kentucky Official Highway Map*



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# Proposed Bridge Rendering



[www.lakebridges.com](http://www.lakebridges.com)



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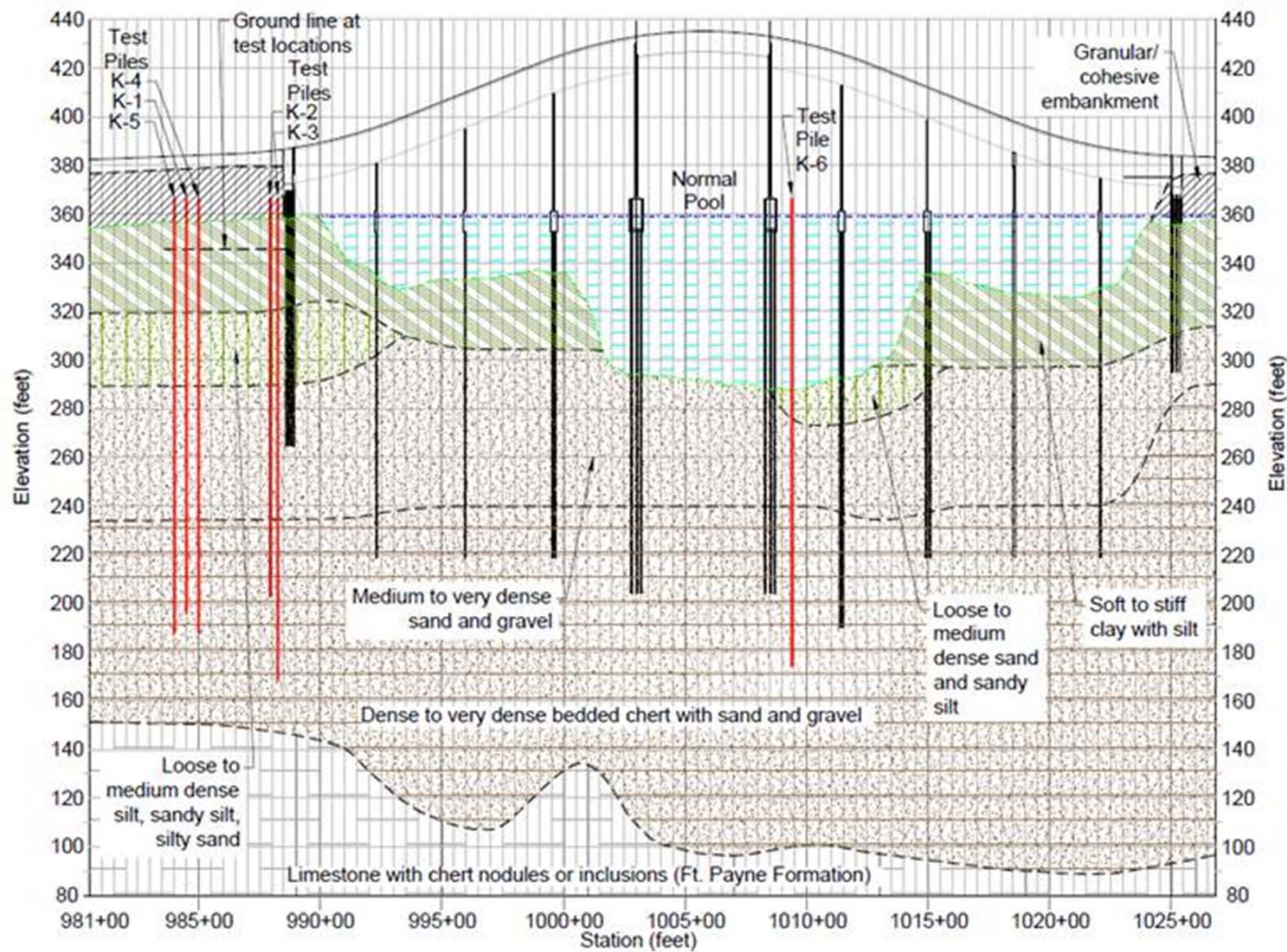
# Presentation Scope

1. Subsurface Conditions
2. Pier Foundation Design Considerations
3. Load Test Program Considerations
4. Load Test Program Results





# 1. Subsurface Conditions



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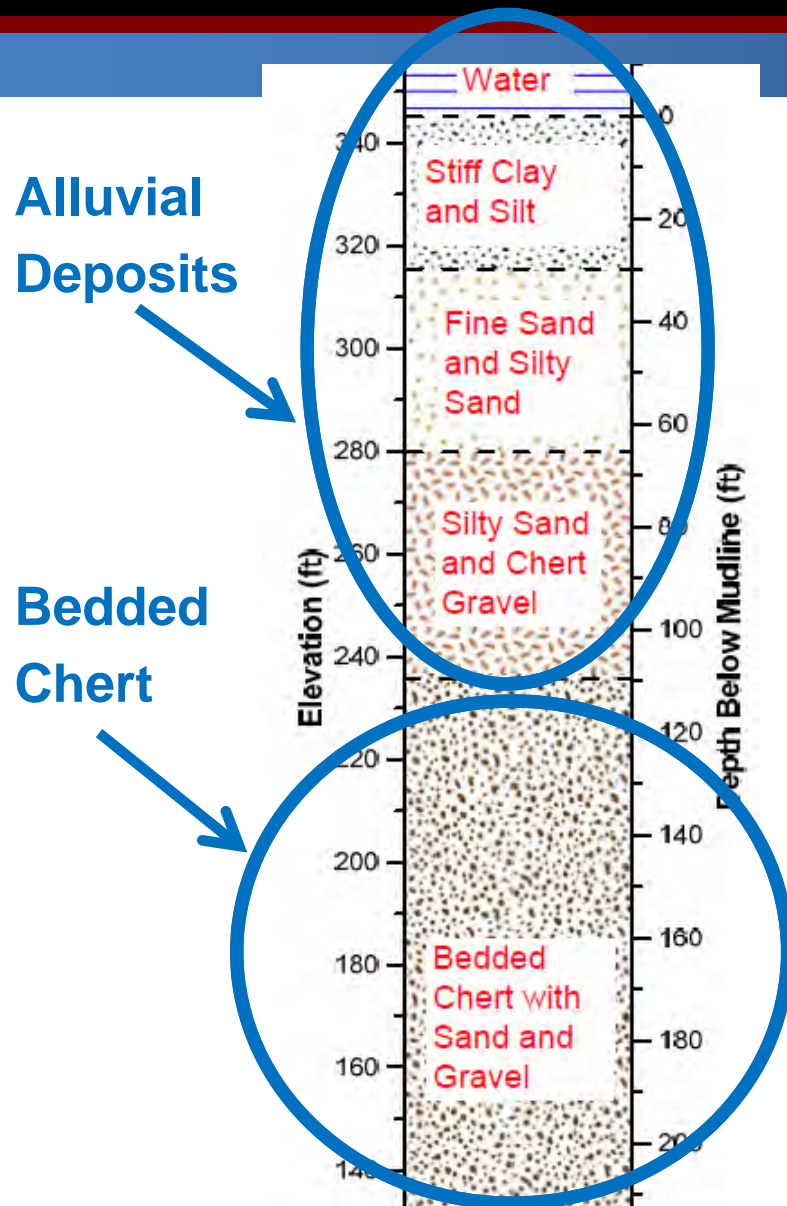
# Comprehensive Field Sampling / Testing Program

- Conventional Soil Borings
  - Extensive Laboratory Testing
- Piezo-Cone Penetration Tests
- Specialized In-Situ Tests
  - Downhole & Crosshole
  - P-S Suspension Logging
  - Pressuremeter
  - Shear Wave Seismic Reflection





# Typical Soil Profile



**In-Situ Outcrop of Similar Material**



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## 2. Pier Foundation Design Considerations

- Open-ended driven pipe piles selected as appropriate foundation
  - Considered 48", 60", 72" & 96" Diameter for Piers - Final Design 72"
  - Prior to this Project 48" Believed to be Largest Diameter Driven Piles by KYTC
- API RP 2A method for axial resistance analyses considers "plugged" and "unplugged" conditions
- Constrictor plates (i.e. "artificial" plugs) to allow required penetration but force the piles to plug to achieve end bearing
- Drivability/Constructability also a key factor in these analyses
  - Many combinations of hammers, target depths considered



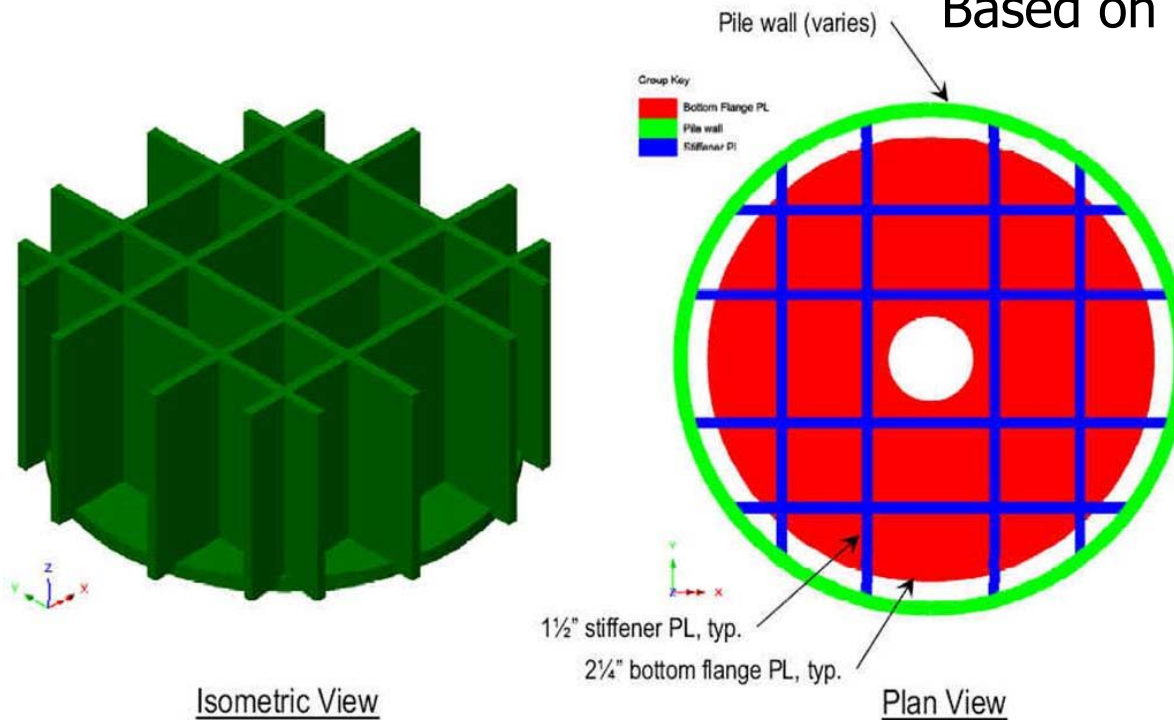
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# Constrictor Plate (i.e. Artificial Plug)

72" dia. Pile Plug Models

Placed  $\approx 70$  to 100 ft. above Pile Tips  
Based on Depth to Bedded Chert



Partial Model Diagrams

*Artificial Plug Design Calculations by Genesis Structures, 2013*



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# Bridge Construction Concerns

*"Do not design on paper what you have to wish into the ground."*

*Karl Terzaghi*



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# Bridge Construction Concerns

Uncertainties Could Lead to Potential for:

- Construction Delays
- Construction-Phase Foundation Redesign
- \$\$\$ Overruns on \$100M+ Contract



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# 3. Load Test Program Considerations

- Unusual soil conditions – chert gravel presence in clays & sands & “bedded chert”
- Uncertainties over drivability / achievable depths / axial & lateral resistance
  - Maximum required nominal axial resistance  $\approx$  9000 – 10,000 kips
- Decision to perform significant design-phase

## Pile Load Test Program with “Advance Contract”

- Contract also included Lagoon Bridge & Expanded Causeways
- February 2013 Letting



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results

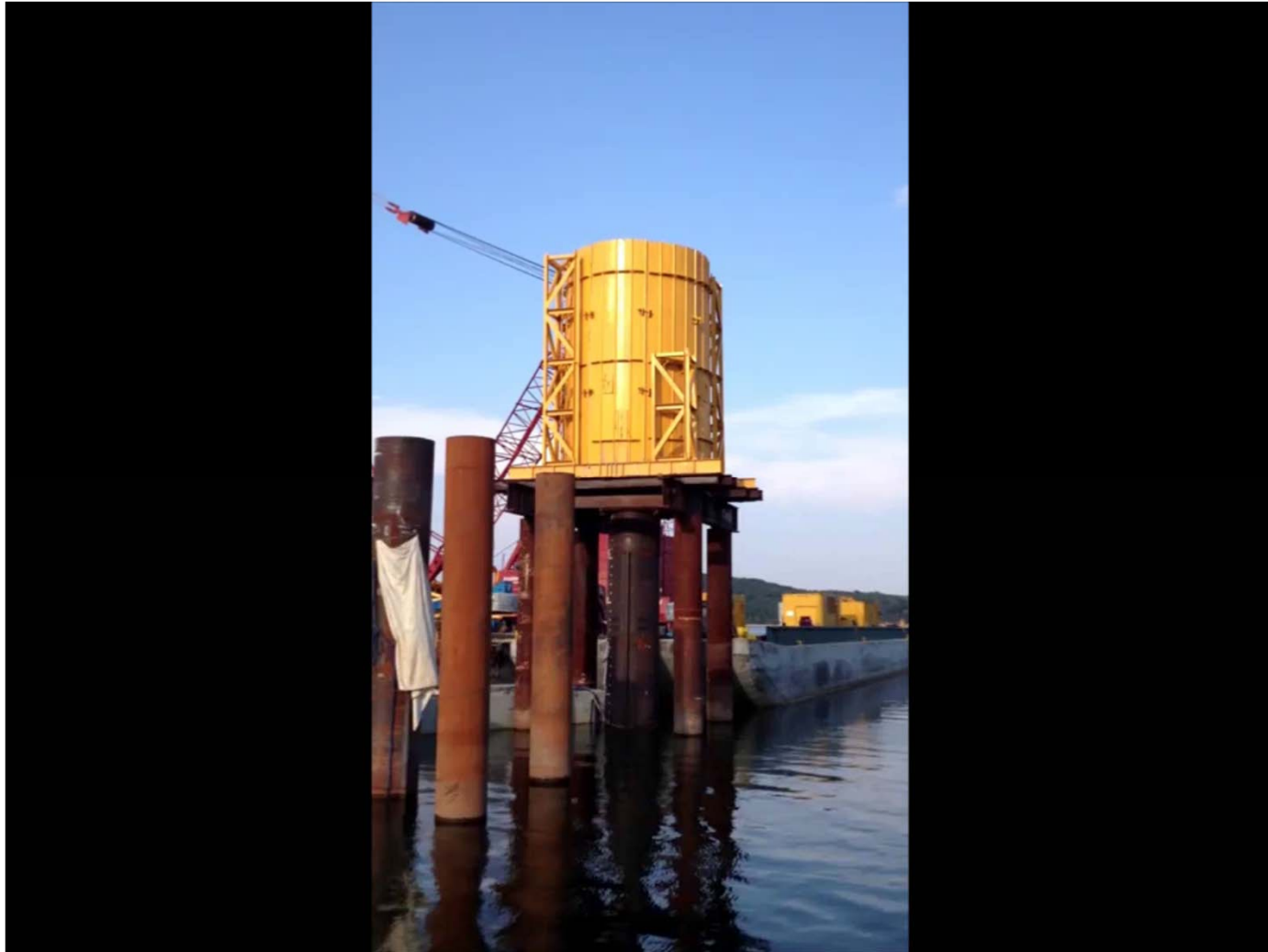
## Purpose

- Confirm Soil Parameters
- Evaluate Pile Drivability
- Evaluate Hammer
- Evaluate Pile Capacity
- Pile Handling (185' and 210' test lengths)



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



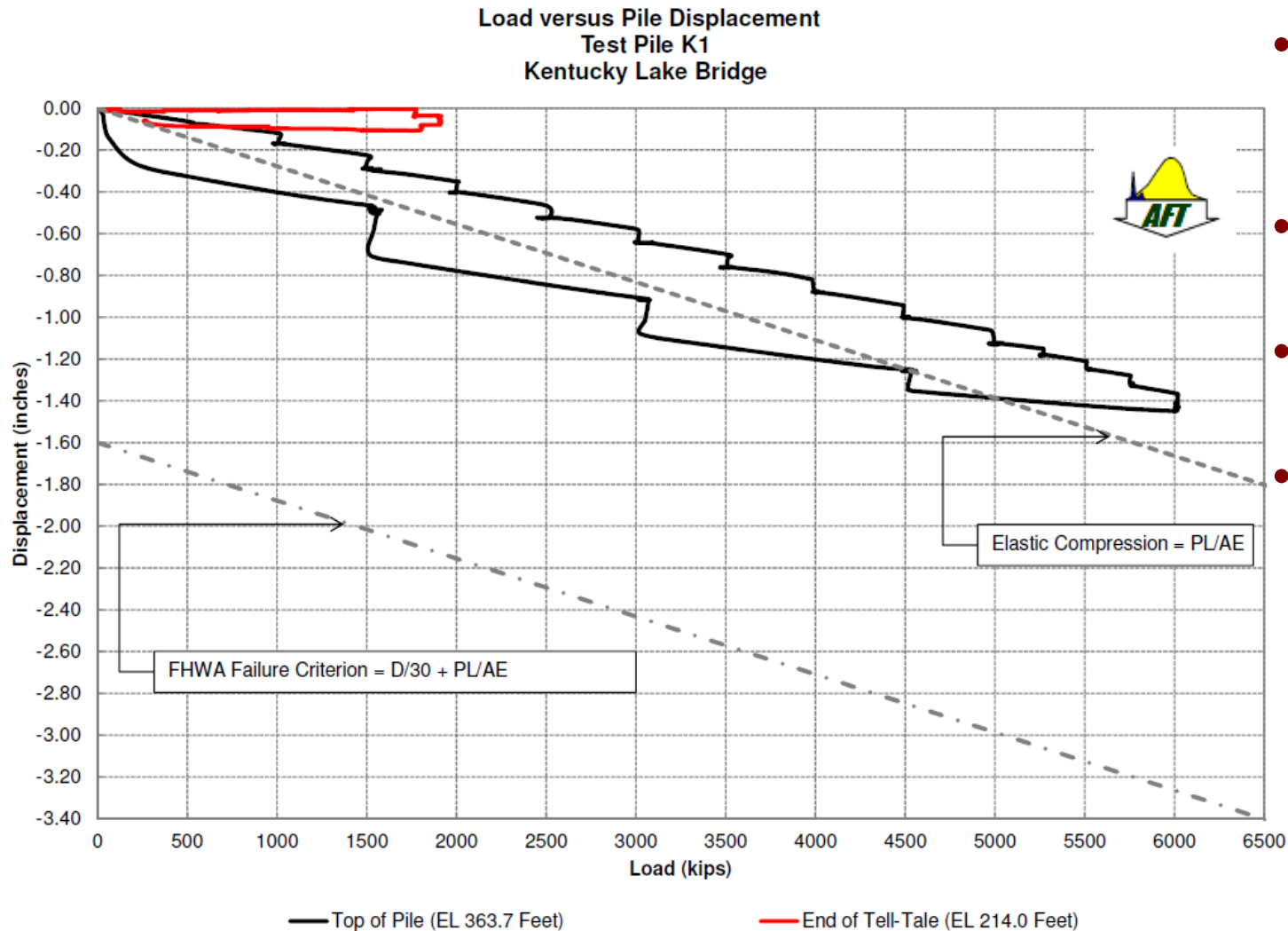
Video –  
Static  
Axial Load  
Tests



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



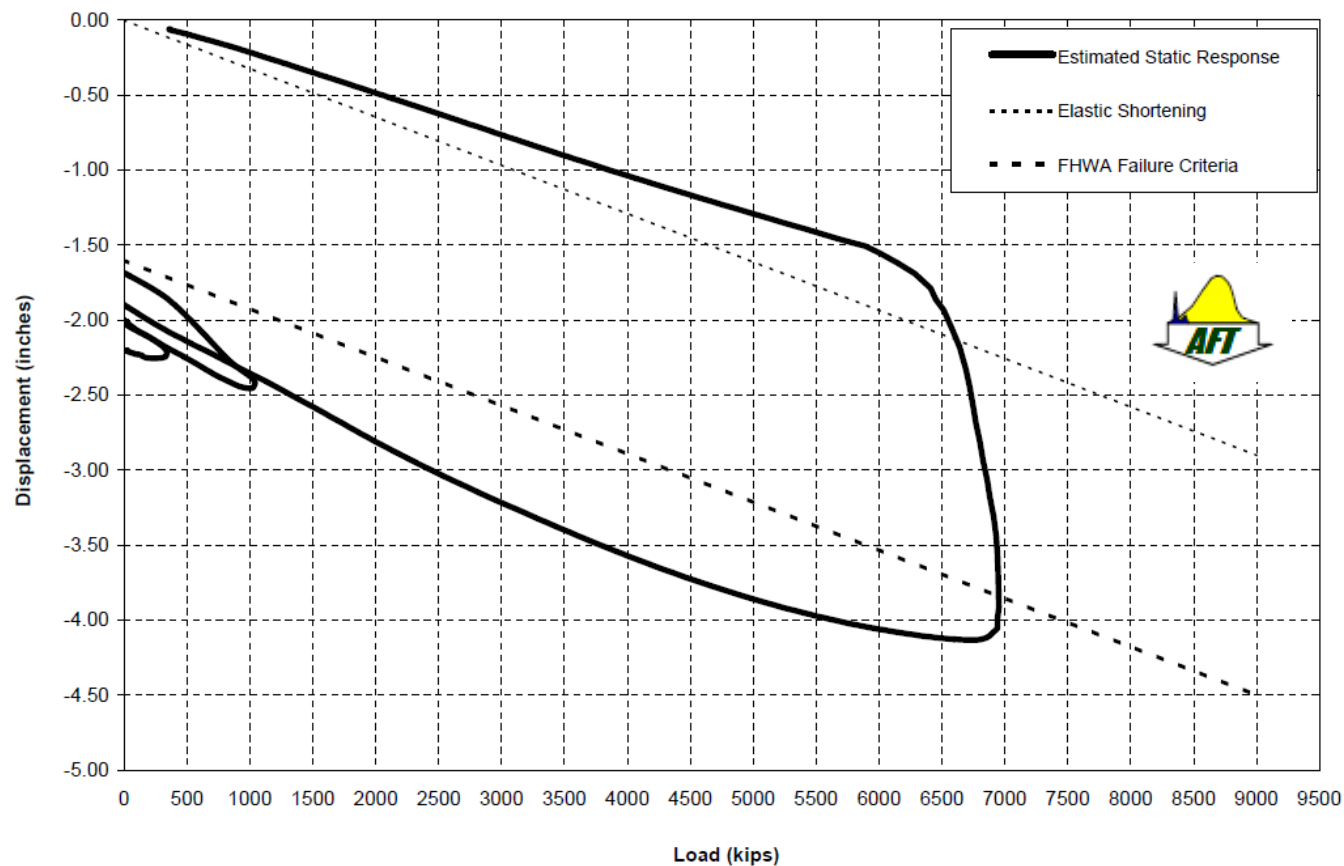
- Static Load Test – 48-inch-diameter pile
- Six 1200-kip jacks
- Test duration 24 hours
- Hold time at 5000 kips (8 hrs)



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results

Load vs. Displacement from Statnamic Test  
Test Pile K-2, Kentucky Lake Site



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



## Test Program

- Dynamic Pile Testing (PDA)
- Statnamic Load Tests
  - Axial (6950 kips and 8500+ kips)
  - Lateral (4 loads up to 425 kips ESL)
- Static Axial Load Test (6000+ kips)
- Fully Instrumented Piles
  - Soil Resistance
  - Load Transfer (axial and lateral)



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



## Test Piles

- 48" Piles
  - 1" & 1.5" Wall
- 72" Piles
  - 1.5" & 2" Wall
- Near Causeway
- Deep Water
- Open End-partial
- Constrictor Plate



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



## Summary of Results

- Nominal Resistance (capacity) achieved  
Near Estimated Tip Elevations
- Menck MHU 800S Hammer used  
successfully
- Relatively Easy to Drive to Target Tip  
Elevations with plate placed high
- Constrictor Plate Functional for plugging -  
extended drives
- Deeper Penetrations achievable



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



## Summary of Results

- Pile lengths and wall thicknesses can be handled with heavy marine equipment
- Soil resistance during pile driving is less than long-term static resistance (ranged from 40% to 80%, typically about 70%)



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# Geotechnical Considerations - Load Test Program Results



## Summary of Results

- Recommendations developed for production pile verification test program
- Dynamic Pile Testing required
- Longer-term pile restrikes required



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# Kentucky Lake Bridge Pipe Pile Load Test Program

## QUESTIONS???????

Presented by:

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