



Pittsburgh Department of City Planning

Geotechnical Report

WHAT IS A GEOTECHINAL REPORT?

Geotechnical reports indicate whether a particular site is suitable for the construction of a permanent or temporary structure. Geotechnical reports assess the safety of the proposed construction by indicating whether the soil and other geological conditions of the site will provide the necessary support for the development. A geotechnical report may be required before the construction of buildings, walls, roads, municipal projects, tunnels, dams, and many other structures.

Please note: As part of the geotechnical report, a subsurface investigation is required, which will include borings on the site, and may require heavy equipment on the site.

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WHEN IS A GEOTECHNICAL REPORT REQUIRED?

The applicant must submit a geotechnical report if the project site is located within the following areas, or meets the following criteria:

- Landslide-Prone Overlay District (See Sec. 906.04 of Zoning Code);
- Undermined Area Overlay District (See Sec. 906.5 of Zoning Code); or
- Finished grades of 25% or more (See Sec. 915.02.A.1.c)

WHEN IS A GEOTECHNICAL REPORT NOT REQUIRED?

Typically if you have a smaller project with little or no impact to the soils, a geotechnical report may not be needed. This is not an exhaustive list, but is simply an example of construction in which a geotechnical report is not required.

- Installation of fences no taller than 6 feet;
- Project has no impact to the site (i.e. interior renovations, etc.);
- Deck renovation with no change to the posts or structure; or
- Structures less than 120 sq. ft.

If you have an existng approved geotechnical report, and if your proposed project is within the same scope of work, it may be possible to reuse the existng, approved geotechnical report.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE GEOTECHNICAL REPORT?

The report will include written and graphic summary of the subsurface investigation, conclusions or assessment from that investigation, and recommendations for the proposed project.

- Field Investigation with site plan
- Subsurface Investigation*
- Recommendations for the project / scope of work
- Site plan with landslide prone area overlay, undermined area overlay, and steep slope contours shown (as applicable)
- Demolition plan (as applicable)
- Grading Plan
- Professional signature and sealed with liability insurance information

*These subsurface investigation should detail any findings and should include a map that illustrates the investigation. Include site photos if possible.

WHO CAN CREATE A GEOTECHNICAL REPORT?

Professionals with credentials and who carry liability insurance (individually or as a professional group) may produce a geotechnical report. These include:

- Soil Engineers;
- Professional Civil Engineers;
- Geotechnical Engineers;
- Professional Geologists; or
- Engineering Geologists

WHO REVIEWS THE GEOTECHNICAL REPORT?

Geotechnical reports are reviewed by the Department of City Planning and by the Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections (PLI).

Planning Staff will evaluate it for completeness with the Site Plan Review. PLI Staff will review it with the building permit(s) to ensure that the recommendations and assessments are consistent with the drawings submitted

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Geotech Reports, see our webpage <http://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/strategic-planning/environmental>

For assistnace determining if your project needs a Geotech Report, please contact the Zoning Counter (412) 255-2241, zoning@pittsburghpa.gov