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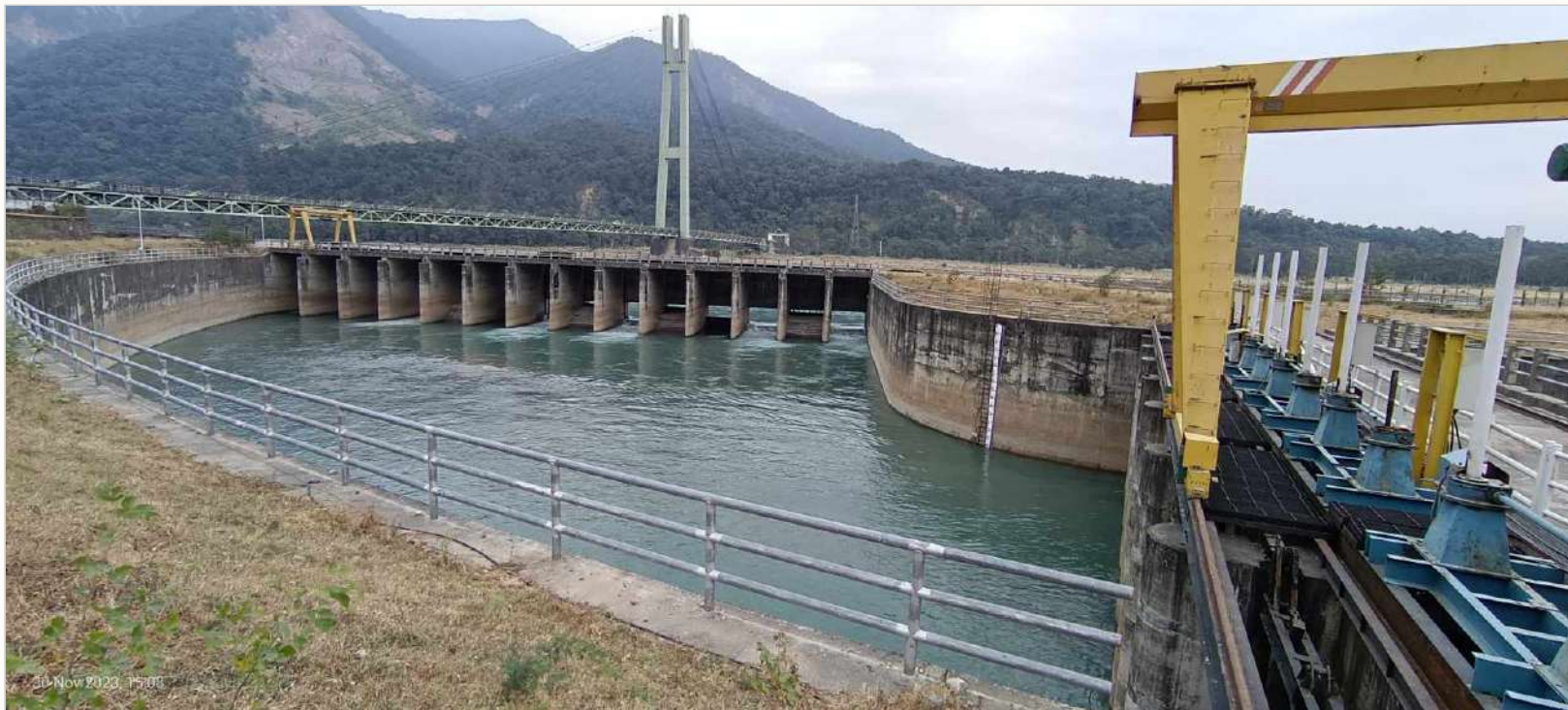
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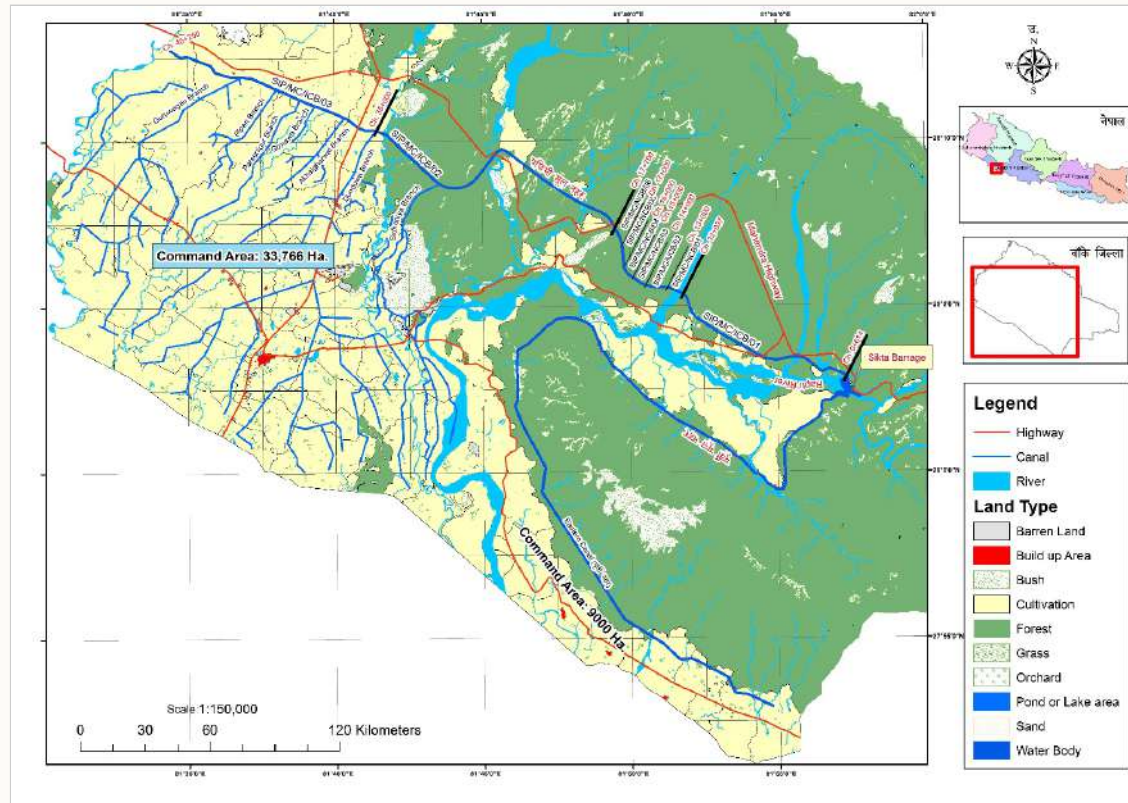
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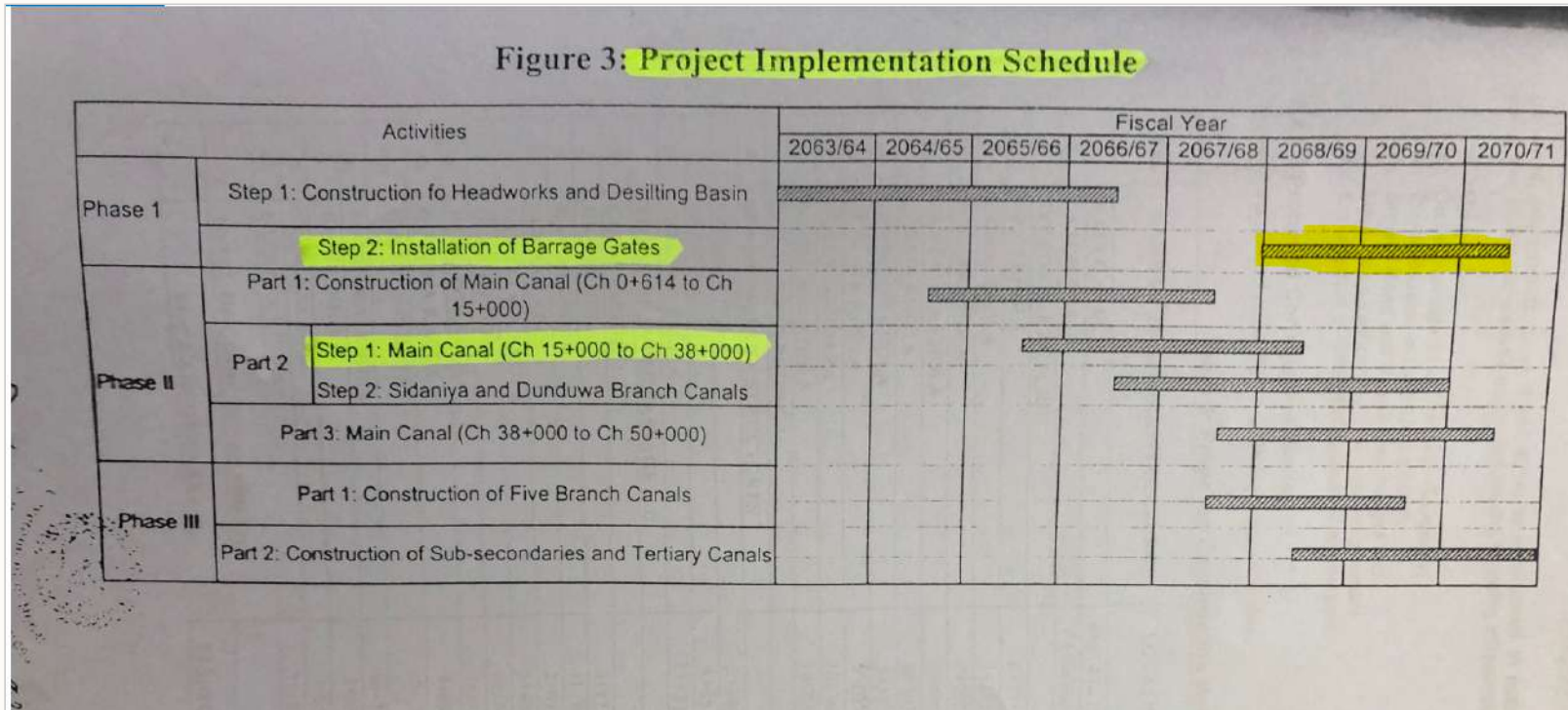
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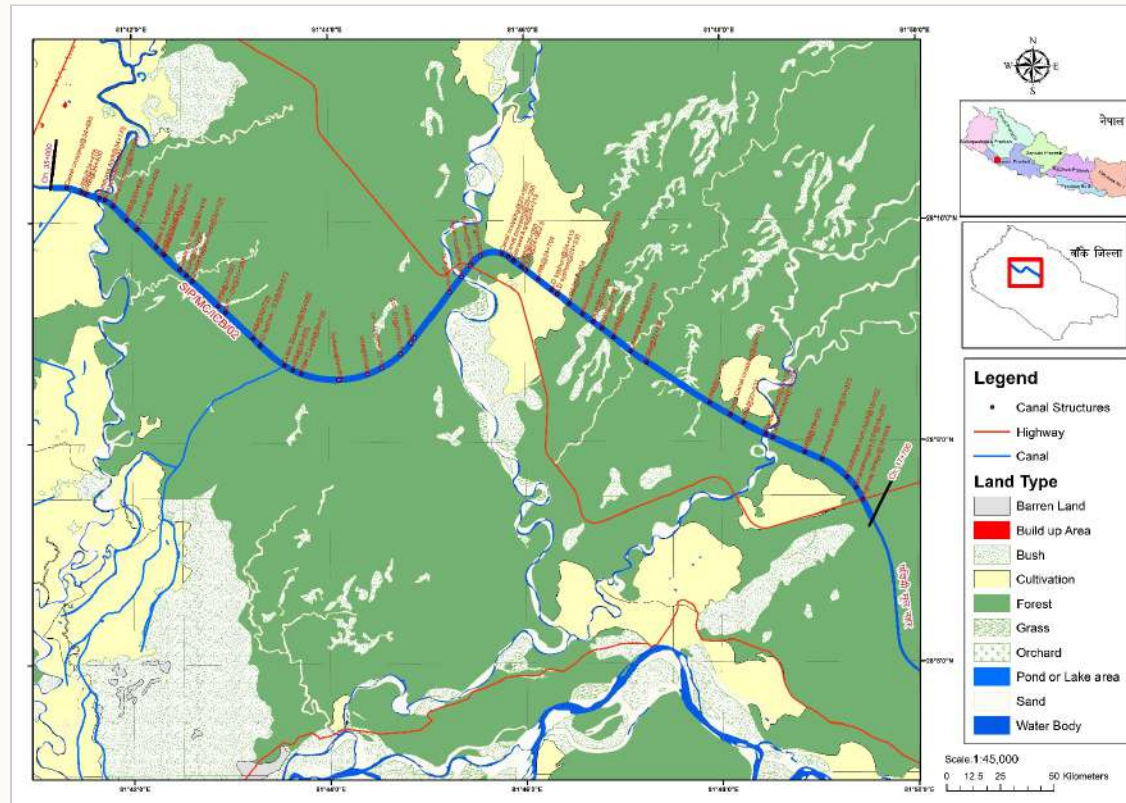




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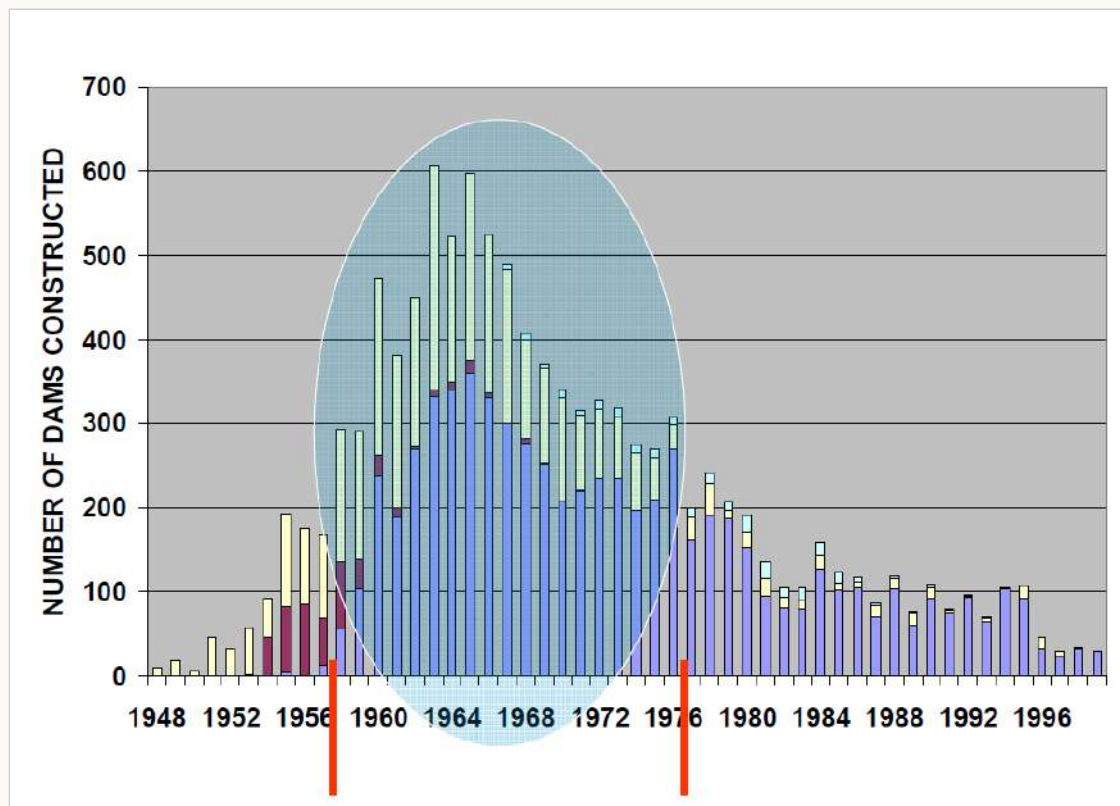
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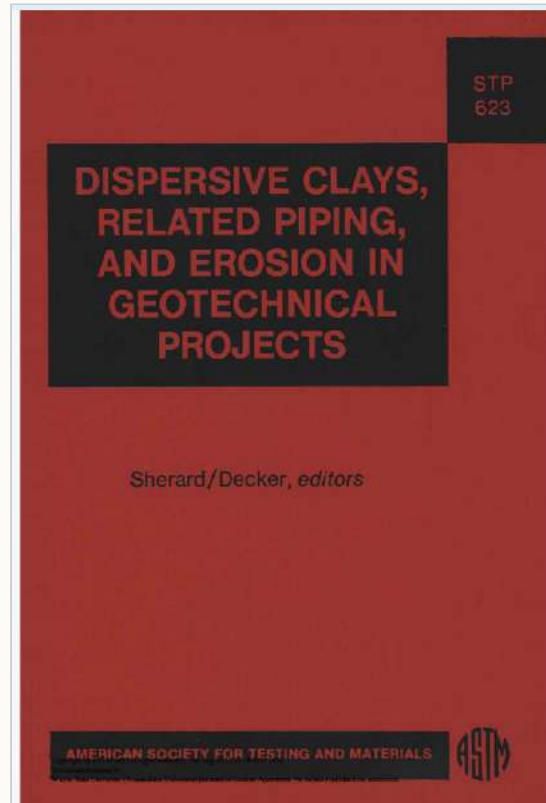
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

February 21, 1991

SOIL MECHANICS NOTE NO. 13
210-VI

SUBJECT: ENG - DISPERSIVE CLAYS

Purpose. To distribute Soil Mechanics Note No. 13 (SMN-13).

Effective date. Effective when received.

Dispersive clay soils can be a problem for many SCS practices or structures. In appearance, they are like normal clays that are stable and somewhat resistant to erosion, but in reality they can be highly erosive and subject to severe damage or failure. It is important to understand the nature of these materials and to be able to identify them so they can be avoided or treated.

SMN-13 summarizes the properties of dispersive clay soils, discusses the proper way to investigate for them and outlines the ways to test for them in the laboratory or field. Defensive design measures are given and remedial treatments explained.

Filing Instructions. File with other soil mechanics notes with guide material on dispersive soils or on construction with soils.

Distribution. This soil mechanics note will be of interest to soil engineers, design engineers, area engineers, project engineers, engineering geologists and others who may be conducting investigations for designing, or constructing practices or structures where dispersive soils may be found. The initial distribution to each state and NTC is according to requested numbers indicated in a survey for SMN-1 (shown on the reverse side). Additional copies may be obtained by ordering SMN-13 from Central Supply.

EDGAR H. NELSON
Associate Deputy Chief
for Technology

DIST: SMN-13

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**EARTH
MANUAL**

PART 1

THIRD EDITION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

DISPERSIVE SOILS *and* *their* MANAGEMENT



Technical Reference Manual

Sustainable Land Use
Department of Primary Industries and Water



ea

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Figure 10. 'Pitting & pocketing', resulting from topsoil removal, surface water has dissolved through the soil surface. Soils derived from Triassic Sandstone.



Figure 28. Rill and tunnel erosion caused by excavation of sodic soils for road construction. Dunalley.

O ffy fyéwy zó...ó fiy wó é fy 4

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DEFINITION

Dispersive clays differ from ordinary, erosion resistant clays because they have a higher relative content of dissolved sodium in the pore water. Dispersive clays have a preponderance of sodium in the pore water, whereas ordinary clays have a preponderance of calcium and magnesium cations. Dispersive clays erode as the individual colloidal clay particles go into suspension in practically still water, whereas considerable velocity in the eroding water is required to erode normal clays.

Standard soil mechanics tests, such as mechanical grain size distribution analyses (gradation) and Atterberg limit tests, do not distinguish dispersive clays from ordinary clays. A special group of tests is needed to identify dispersive clays.

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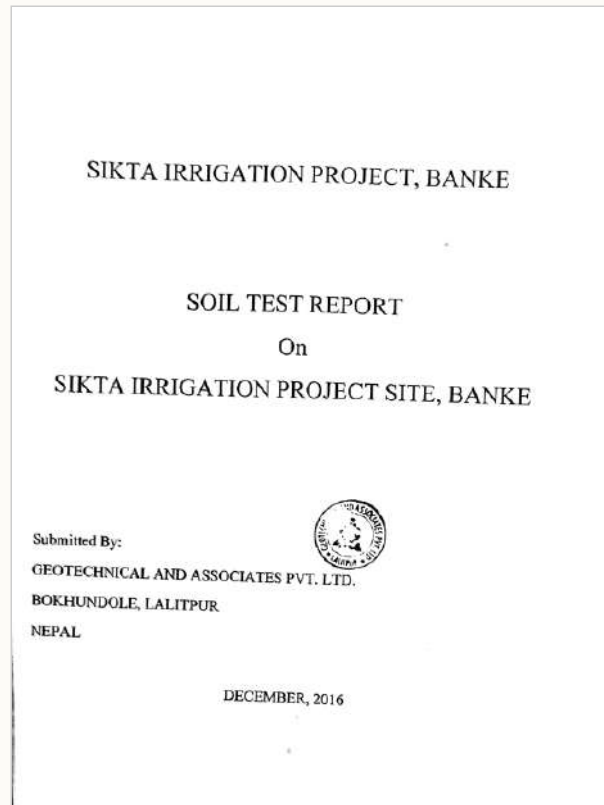


Table 3 - Summary of Double hydrometer test results

S. No.	Sampling Locations	Soil Dispersion in %	Remarks
1	Chainage (17+407)	55.88	Dispersive
2	D/s of Paruwa sqaeduct, right side (19+900)	35.41	Intermediate
3	Balapur deep cutting area (21+221)	42.5	Intermediate
4	Chainage 22+757	56.44	Dispersive
5	Dholeri village, w/s: disturbed, left side (23+207)	29.1	Non dispersive
6	Dhakri village, right side (23+996)	45.55	Intermediate
7	Jhijhari River (Right bank: probable soil quarry site)	11.32	Non-Dispersive
8	Jhijhari deep cutting (26+435)	58.75	Dispersive
9	Jhijhari sqaeduct downstream (26+124)	58.46	Dispersive
10	Highly disturbed part 1 (27+773)	48.78	Intermediate
11	Highly disturbed part 2 (31+207)	60.64	Dispersive
12	Chandi Bhagn Aqaeduct, w/s right side (31+670)	43.26	Intermediate
13	Dandawa filling (34+175)	57.14	Dispersive
14	Silbaria around (1+500)	33.33	Intermediate

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gft u T ft u f6é Syux ó • uéx a ufé Muéu”





hfiué• ó !