Pile Driving Blow Counts Criteria or 100% Testing: Advantages, Disadvantages, and Best Practices

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The pile/foundation design generally is not completely finished until the piles are successfully driven to the required depth and load bearing capacity.

























The main goals of Test Piles are to establish:

- Production Piles Length
- Pile Driving Criteria

... also to check the engineer's design assumptions, and the contractor's equipment, means and methods.









PDA Wireless Gages & Remote Testing - SiteLink®









Dynamic Pile Testing provides information for evaluating:

Hammer System Performance.

Pile Driving Stresses and Structural Integrity.

Soil Resistance and pile static load bearing capacity.

















Example: 96 ft long, 30-inch square voided PCP, <u>APE D80, Required capacity 1030 kips</u>



PDA Dynamic testing of Test Pile.



CAPWAP analysis



Refined Wave Equation Analysis of Test Pile data, Driving Criteria.



Refined Wave Equation Analysis results	
5 APE D 80-23 Gasecity 1030.0 kips	
Driving of the 30 inch square with 18-inches diameter void, 75 feet long production pil with capacity as specified in the project construction plans (i.e., 515 tons Nominal Bear Resistance), may be stopped if one of the following criteria is met:	es, ing
(1. Practical refusal (20 blows per inch with a 10 feet hammer stroke height) is reached during driving and the minimum penetration requirements are achieved.	/ t 2
 The required blow count versus its respective hammer stroke is achieved for two consecutive feet (with blow count increasing) and the minimum penetration requirements are met. The blow count per foot required for the respective strokes are as follows: 	333
Stroke (ft) Blows/foot	3
8.50 118 8.75 110 9.00 100 9.25 80	5

Driving Criteria – page 2 of 2

Employ the same hammer equipment, means and methods used in the Test Pile program to install the production piles.

If there is a change in the hammer driving system, or installation methods, notify the project engineer to check/confirm the criteria.

Use a new 16-inch thick plywood cushion for each pile, change every 1700 blows, or as needed. Use it for 240 blows before applying criteria.

Start driving with hammer fuel pump setting #1, increase the setting to next higher at 50 blows/foot, and decrease to the lower at 25 blows/foot.

Stop pile driving if the pile top is one foot above cut-off elevation and notify the project engineer for a possible restrike test.







Inspector's pile driving blow count log

sour tist.

PILE DRIVING LOG PILE DRIVING INFORMATION Pus 10 DATE 13/7 PLLS 10 10/7 PLLS 10 10 FIN PROJ. ID # NO. <u>6 40 4 74</u> μοτεί μοτεί μοτεί μοτ. 4/2 μοτ PILE DATA PELEDATA PELEDATA PELEDATA PELEDATA MONEFICIERED DY <u>Reference</u> and <u>A</u> MONEFICIERED DY <u>Reference</u> and <u>ELEP</u> 34.51, GROUND ROD READ DATE CATT ROD ROD <u>A</u> DATE CATT ROD ROD <u>A</u> DATE CATT PELEDATA DATE CATT DATE TOTAL PILE BUILD UP Normalization Normalinstation Normalization Norma AUTHORIZED ACTUAL NOTES: * TEST PRE * BPES DERL 30', STUCK @ 20' & START HA-1 21 7.00 55-1











Engineering, Construction, and Inspection must work together for a successful project.





... alternatively, some projects drive production piles without test piles and blow count criteria, but with 100% PDA dynamic pile testing.







Must determine production piles length ahead of time ...







... some projects incorporate the best practices of both Test Piles and 100% production piles testing.

SR 19 over Little Lake Harris Bridge Replacement





