



Geopier Northwest

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Boise, Idaho 83702
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February 4, 2026

TO: Adorah Lester, PMP
Avista Corporation

SUBJECT: Design Submittal
Geopier Ground Improvement
Bronx 115kV Substation – Ponderay, Idaho

This letter and the attached documents represent our design submittal for Geopier® soil reinforcement at the site of the Bronx 115kV Substation project located in Ponderay, Idaho. The following paragraphs document our design of the Geopier-Impact reinforcement system for support of slabs and foundations, as well as mitigation of liquefaction induced settlement to tolerable levels beneath the slabs and foundations.

Geopier Reinforcement Design

The project consists of constructing a new substation in Ponderay, Idaho. The project consists of supporting several phases of the proposed substation, the current planned substation, as well as the future full buildout. Due to the presence and depth of very loose to loose soils, as well as the potential for seismic induced liquefaction, the geotechnical engineer recommends supporting the structures on Geopier's rammed aggregate piers.

Our subsurface soil and groundwater understanding is based on the geotechnical explorations prepared by Allwest and completed on July 16, 2025. In general, the soil profile consists of interbedded very loose to medium dense silty sand and sand with silt and very soft to medium stiff silty and clay with variable sand content to a depth 20 feet. This layer is underlain by medium dense to dense sand with silt and silty sand and extends to a depth of approximately 32 feet below ground surface. These soils are underlain by very soft to medium stiff and extend to depths explored. Groundwater was encountered at a depth of 6 to 8 feet below existing grade. The geotechnical engineer estimated post-liquefaction settlement on the order of 5 inches or less under a design earthquake.

A structural foundation plan dated January 12, 2026, and prepared by Avista was provided via email. The Geopier system will be designed to support an allowable bearing pressure up to 4,000 pounds per square foot (psf). Additionally, we've assumed that the static settlement criteria are 1-inch total post-construction settlement and ½-inch of differential settlement, as well as a post-liquefaction differential settlement of 1-inch or less below foundations and structures only. Based on the civil grading plans we understand that 3½ to 4¾ feet of grade-raised fill is required to reach finished grade.

In view of the loose silty sand soil coupled with a high groundwater table, the Geopier-Impact system or "displacement process" will be used to install the Geopier elements. The Geopier-Impact system which we propose to utilize consists of a hollow mandrel with an internal

compaction surface which is driven into the ground using a powerful static down force augmented by dynamic vertical impact energy. After driving to the design depth, the hollow mandrel serves as a conduit for aggregate placement. As the mandrel is raised and redriven downward thin lifts of compacted aggregate are formed and compacted both vertically and laterally. The process is repeated until the rammed aggregate pier is constructed. The mandrel will be driven up to 25 feet beneath the ground surface or practical refusal, whichever is reached first. The mandrel insertion in a dense pattern beneath the foundations will lead to the creation of a reinforced crust that will extend to a depth of two feet greater than the mandrel insertion. Practical refusal is considered less than 1 foot of mandrel advancement in 30 seconds.

The Geopier soil reinforcement is designed to reinforce and stiffen the upper portion of the soil profile beneath the planned subgrade elevation. The upper reinforced zone will support the foundation and building loads, as well as reduce the potential for surface manifestations and lessen settlements caused by liquefaction and minimize differential settlement. The Geopier-Impact elements will help reduce pore pressure generation during a seismic event due to increased lateral stress and the higher permeability of the Geopier element, thereby reducing the potential for triggering liquefaction.

Currently, our design consists of the construction of approximately 610 Geopier elements to a maximum depth of 25 feet below the ground surface. The installation of the piers will displace over 1,230 cubic yards of subgrade soil that will be replaced with approximately 2,100 tons of 0.75 in. nominal diameter aggregate. We have based our design on utilizing the following parameters and design criteria.

- Earthquake magnitude = 6.14
- Maximum acceleration = 0.32g
- Design depth of groundwater table = 6 feet below existing ground surface
- Allowable liquefaction settlement less than 1-inch

Foundation Settlement

For our analysis, settlements are first calculated for a zone extending from the bottom of the footing to the depth of the reinforcement. Additional settlement may occur in the “lower zone” or in the unimproved soil beneath the reinforced zone. The lower zone settlement is calculated using an elastic or consolidation approach depending on the soil type.

Based on our analyses of both static and liquefaction induced settlement the design of the system will meet the performance criteria described in this memorandum.

Geopier Installation and Modulus Testing

The installation of the Geopier reinforcement, including one downward modulus test, will be completed in general accordance with the specifications. The installation and the modulus test will be conducted under the supervision of an experienced geotechnical engineer from Geopier Northwest. The modulus test will consist of loading the Geopier element in increments to 150% of the design load while measuring deflections to verify the design parameters. The modulus test will also incorporate a creep test at 115% of the design load.

Geopier Quality Control

The test will load the Geopier element to 150% of its design load in increments and include a creep test. During the installation of the test Geopier element, the QC and QA personnel will be able to observe and document the Geopier-Impact installation process including mandrel pattern to confirm that the same installation procedure is being utilized on production Geopier elements. If differing conditions are encountered at the site, we will conduct additional modulus/load tests to document the Geopier element performance under differing conditions. The modulus/load test is a direct measurement of the performance of the Geopier element and will provide increased quality control over indirectly measuring the Geopier element performance through the energy input.

Additionally, we will be conducting Crowd Stabilization Tests on at least 10% of all production Geopier elements. It is important to wait a few minutes for the soil to regain some of its strength before conducting the crowd stabilization tests due to our equipment effectively liquefying the native soils.

A crowd stabilization test (CST) shall be performed on the first five (5) installed piers to establish acceptance criteria for the maximum allowable deflection of the mandrel under the full-static crowd pressure of the closed-ended mandrel. The CST should be performed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- CST should be performed by shutting the hammer energy off at the top of a compacted lift in the bottom one-half of the pier.
- Once the hammer energy is off and the mandrel is resting on top of the last compacted lift, static crowd pressure should be applied to the pier for a period of ten seconds. The corresponding deflection of the mandrel is then noted and recorded.
- Results of the initial CST should be provided to the designer for review and establishment of acceptance criteria and frequency of CST. The frequency of CST may vary depending on the soil conditions; however, CST shall be performed on no less than 10% of the production piers.

Through our testing we will be able to document the performance of the Geopier elements through direct measurements and will also be able to document and determine when differing soil conditions are encountered. Also, we will have a full-time QC technician onsite during installation documenting all applicable measurements.

Future Building Out

Our Geopier ground improvement design is for the full build out of the substation, as such a portion of the substation will not be built during this initial phase of construction. It is important that the piers installed below the future build out are protected to minimize weathering effects and surface water intrusion. At a minimum we recommend that the future piers installed be capped with a minimum of 1-foot of structural fill. Furthermore, civil grading shall be completed in such a manner that surface water does not pond in the area and it is diverted to an appropriate outfall. During foundation preparation of the future build out the subgrade shall be evaluated by

the geotechnical engineer. The top of the piers shall be compacted to a firm and unyielding condition using hand operated compaction equipment.

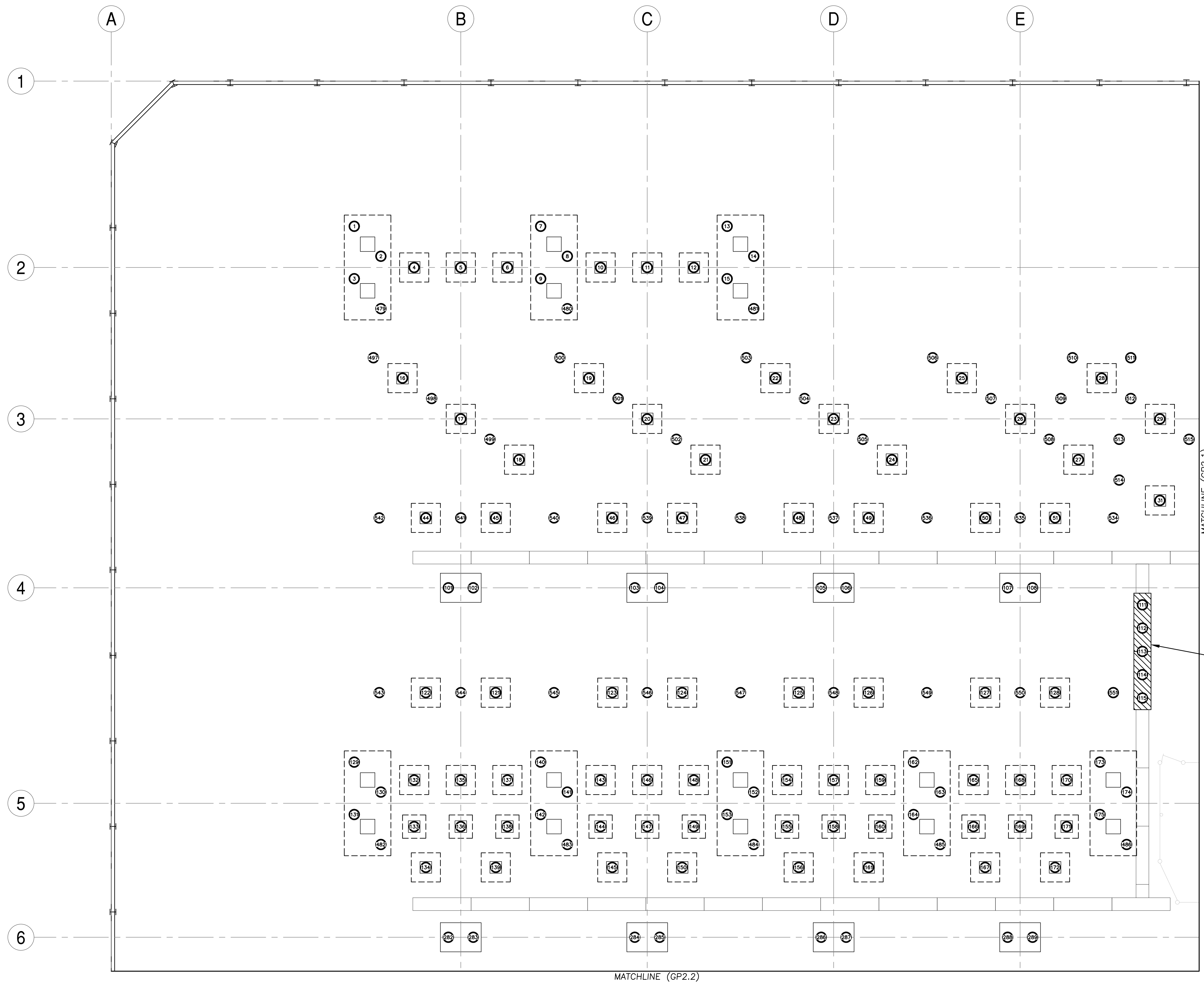
We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project. If you have any questions or require further information, please call.

Sincerely,
Geopier Northwest Inc.



Daniel P. Ciani, P.E.

Attachments: Geopier Foundation Plan and Construction Notes, Geopier Capacity and Settlement Calculations, and Aggregate Sieve Analysis



GEOPIER PLAN NOTES:

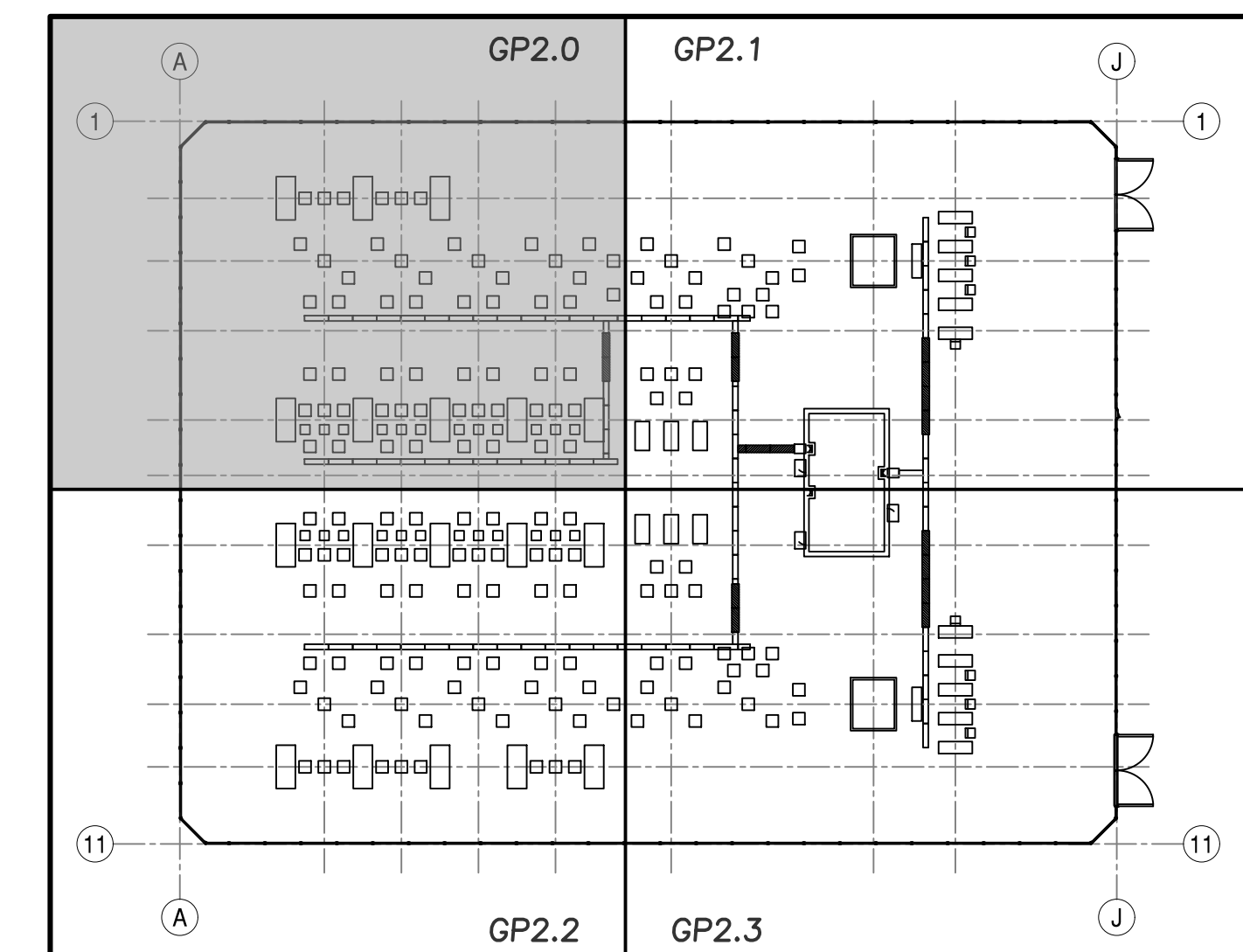
1. THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY AVISTA.
2. FOOTING OUTLINES ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY. SEE STRUCTURAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL PLANS FOR FOOTING DIMENSIONS AND DETAILS.
3. FOOTING LOCATIONS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STRUCTURAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, DIMENSIONS, AND DETAILS.
4. GEOPIER ELEMENTS UNDER WALLS AND COLUMNS SHALL BE CENTERED UNDER FOOTINGS AS SHOWN, DIMENSIONED FROM CONTROL POINTS ESTABLISHED FROM STRUCTURAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL PLANS.
5. A MINIMUM OF 2 FEET OF STRUCTURAL FILL SHALL BE PLACED BETWEEN THE TOP OF THE PIER AND THE BOTTOM OF THE CABLE TRENCH (HATCHED AREAS ONLY). STRUCTURAL FILL SHALL BE PLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

FOUNDATION PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

GEOPIER LEGEND

○ NUMBERED 20" GEOPIER

NOTE: GEOPIER DESIGN DOCUMENTS AND PLANS ARE ONLY VALID IF INSTALLED BY A LICENSED GEOPIER INSTALLER.



KEY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

ZONE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED

GEOPIER FOUNDATION PLAN



2/1/2026

BRONX SUBSTATION

PONDERAY, IDAHO

ph: (208) 401-9567

GEOPIER®

GEOPIER NORTHWEST
800 W. MAIN ST., STE 1460
BOISE, IDAHO 83702

PROJECT NUMBER
26-GIM-0442

DATE
2/1/2026

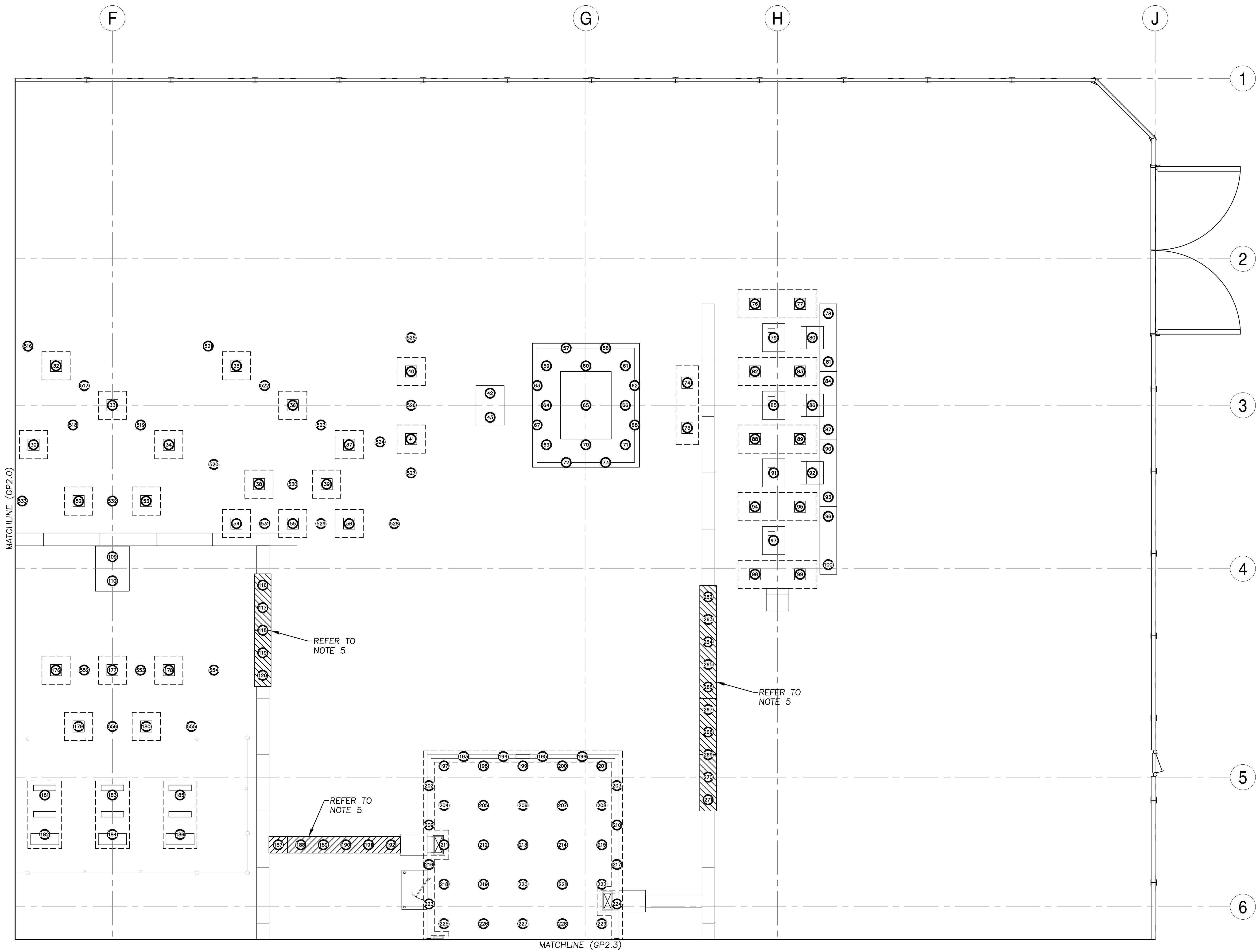
SHEET NUMBER

GP2.0

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Geopier is the property of The Geopier Foundation Company, Inc. and is protected under U.S. Patent No. 5249892 and other patents pending.

DATE: Feb 05, 2026 -- 9:35am DRAWING: Bronx Substation Geopier.dwg



GEOPIER PLAN NOTES:

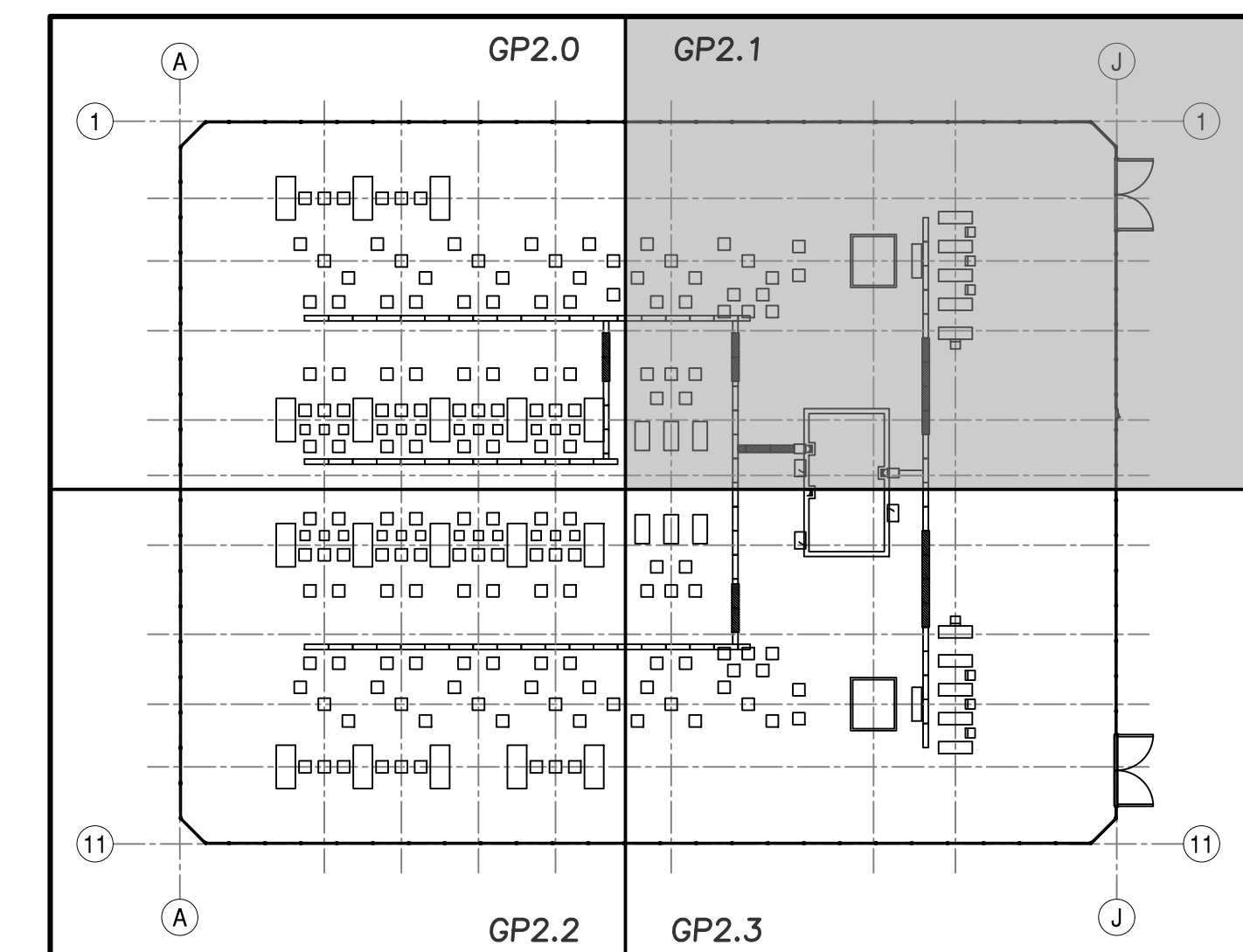
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REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED

GEOPIER FOUNDATION PLAN



2/1/2026

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INPUT PARAMETER VALUES:

Parameter	Symb	Val.
Constructed RAP diameter (in)	d	20
Depth to groundwater (ft)	d _{gw}	6
Total unit weight of soil (pcf)	g	120
Soil frict. angle (degr)	f	25
Max. hor. pressure (psf)	p _{max}	2500
From Table 4.2:		
RAP cell cap. (kips)	Q _{cell}	50
Allowable bearing press. (ksf)	q _{all}	4
RAP stiffn. modulus (pci)	kg	175
Soil stiffness modulus (pci)	km	12

TOP OF PIER STRESS - SQUARE FOOTINGS

Parameter	Symb	Equation	F5	F4					
Sustained column load (kips)	p		20	20					
Required footing width (ft)	Br	$\sqrt{p/(q_{all})}$	2.24	2.24					
Selected footing width (ft)	B		5.0	4.0					
Sustained bearing pressure (ksf)	q	$p/(B*B)$	0.80	1.25					
Est. No. RAP elems per Qcell	Nr	p/Q_{cell}	0.4	0					
Selected No. RAP elems	N		1	1					
Approximate Minimum Spacing (ft)	S								
Area replacement ratio	Ra	$N*Ag/(B*B)$	0.087	0.136					
Stiffness ratio	Rs	kg/km	14.6	14.6					
Stress at top of GP (ksf)	qg	$q*Rs/(Rs*Ra-Ra+1)$	5.34	6.39					
Load at top of GP (kips)	Qg	$qg*Ag$	11.6	13.9					

SHAFT LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

Parameter	Df	Hs	H _{drill}	Q _s	Q _{sall}	Q _{eb}	Is shaft long enough?
Depth of Embedment	Df						
Trial shaft length (ft)	Hs						
Drill depth (ft)	H _{drill}	Df+Hs					
Frictional resistance force (kips)	Q _s	$fs*pi*d*Hs$					
Allowable tensile resistance (kips)	Q _{sall}	Q _s /2					
Allowable end-bearing rest. (kips)	Q _{eb}	Q _{eb}					
Is shaft long enough?		$Qs+Qeb>Pcdem?$	ok	ok			

INPUT PARAMETER VALUES:

Upper Zone Elastic Parameters	Sym	Val.
Pier Modulus Layer 1 (ksf)	Eg1	2000
Pier Modulus Layer 2 (ksf)	Eg2	2000
Pier Modulus Layer 3 (ksf)	Eg3	2000
Pier Modulus Layer 4 (ksf)	Eg4	2000
Pier Modulus Layer 5 (ksf)	Eg5	2000
Soil Modulus Layer 1 (ksf)	Em1	150
Soil Modulus Layer 2 (ksf)	Em2	150
Soil Modulus Layer 3 (ksf)	Em3	150
Soil Modulus Layer 4 (ksf)	Em4	150
Soil Modulus Layer 5 (ksf)	Em5	150

UPPER ZONE SETTLEMENT

Parameter	Symb	Equation	F5	F4					
UZ Settlement Approach		1-Stiffness, 2-Modulus	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Thickness of UZ sublayer 1 (ft)	H _{uz1}		4.0	4.0					
Thickness of UZ sublayer 2 (ft)	H _{uz2}		5.0	5.0					
Thickness of UZ sublayer 3 (ft)	H _{uz3}		5.0	5.0					
Thickness of UZ sublayer 4 (ft)	H _{uz4}		5.0	5.0					
Thickness of UZ sublayer 5 (ft)	H _{uz5}		4.5	4.5					
Total UZ Thickness OK?		H _{uz} = H _s + d	ok	ok					
Composite Modulus Layer 1 (ksf)	E _{comp1}	Eg1Ra + Em1(1-Ra)	311	402					
Composite Modulus Layer 2 (ksf)	E _{comp2}	Eg2Ra + Em2(1-Ra)	311	402					
Composite Modulus Layer 3 (ksf)	E _{comp3}	Eg3Ra + Em3(1-Ra)	311	402					
Composite Modulus Layer 4 (ksf)	E _{comp4}	Eg4Ra + Em4(1-Ra)	311	402					
Composite Modulus Layer 5 (ksf)	E _{comp5}	Eg5Ra + Em5(1-Ra)	311	402					
Sett. of UZ sublayer 1 (in)	S _{uz1}	qg/kg or $q^{1/3} \cdot v_{ag} \cdot H/E_{comp}$	0.10	0.10					
Sett. of UZ sublayer 2 (in)	S _{uz2}	$q^{1/3} \cdot H_{uz2}^2 / E_{comp2}$	0.03	0.03					
Sett. of UZ sublayer 3 (in)	S _{uz3}	$q^{1/3} \cdot H_{uz3}^3 / E_{comp3}$	0.01	0.01					
Sett. of UZ sublayer 4 (in)	S _{uz4}	$q^{1/3} \cdot H_{uz4}^4 / E_{comp4}$	0.01	0.01					
Sett. of UZ sublayer 5 (in)	S _{uz5}	$q^{1/3} \cdot H_{uz5}^5 / E_{comp5}$	0.00	0.00					
Total Upper Zone Settlement (in)	S _{uz}	$S_{uz1} + S_{uz2} + S_{uz3} + S_{uz4} + S_{uz5}$	0.2	0.2					

INPUT PARAMETER VALUES:

Parameter	Symb	Val.
Allowable end-bearing (kips)	Q _{eb}	0.0
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 1	E ₁ / c _{c1}	500
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 2	E ₂ / c _{c2}	500
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 3	E ₃ / c _{c3}	0.01
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 4	E ₄ / c _{c4}	0
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 5	E ₅ / c _{c5}	0
Calc. settlement to X*B	X	4

LOWER ZONE SETTLEMENTS

Parameter	Symb	Equation	F5	F4					
Dpth to botm of LZ from ftg (ft)	X*B	X*B	20	16					
Upper zone thickness (ft)	H _{uz}	H _s +d	23.7	23.7					
Lower zone thickness (ft)	H _{lz}	H _{2b} -H _{lz}	-3.7	-7.7					
Thickness of LZ sublayer 1 (ft)	H _{lz1}								
Thickness of LZ sublayer 2 (ft)	H _{lz2}								
Thickness of LZ sublayer 3 (ft)	H _{lz3}								
Thickness of LZ sublayer 4 (ft)	H _{lz4}								
Thickness of LZ sublayer 5 (ft)	H _{lz5}								
Total LZ thickness ok?			No LZ	No LZ					
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 1	E ₁ / c _{c1}	E (ksf) or c _c	500	500					
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 2	E ₂ / c _{c2}	E (ksf) or c _c	500	500					
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 3	E ₃ / c _{c3}	E (ksf) or c _c	0.01	0.01					
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 4	E ₄ / c _{c4}	E (ksf) or c _c	0	0					
E or c _c for LZ sublyr 5	E ₅ / c _{c5}	E (ksf) or c _c	0	0					
Initial stress for sublyr 1 (ksf)	P' _{o1}		1.910	1.910					
Initial stress for sublyr 2 (ksf)	P' _{o2}		1.910	1.910					
Initial stress for sublyr 3 (ksf)	P' _{o3}		1.910	1.910					
Initial stress for sublyr 4 (ksf)	P' _{o4}		1.910	1.910					
Initial stress for sublyr 5 (ksf)	P' _{o5}		1.910	1.910					
Ftg stress on sublyr 1 (ksf)	ΔP1	q*I	0.02	0.02					
Ftg stress on sublyr 2 (ksf)	ΔP2	q*I	0.02	0.02					
Ftg stress on sublyr 3 (ksf)	ΔP3	q*I	0.02	0.02					
Ftg stress on sublyr 4 (ksf)	ΔP4	q*I	0.02	0.02					
Ftg stress on sublyr 5 (ksf)	ΔP5	q*I	0.02	0.02					
Sett. of LZ sublayer 1 (in)	S _{lz1}	DP1*H _{lz1} /E1	0.00	0.00					
Sett. of LZ sublayer 2 (in)	S _{lz2}	DP2*H _{lz2} /E2	0.00	0.00					
Sett. of LZ sublayer 3 (in)	S _{lz3}	$ce3*H_{lz3}^3 \cdot \log((Po3+DP3)/Po3)$	0.00	0.00					
Sett. of LZ sublayer 4 (in)	S _{lz4}	$ce4*H_{lz4}^4 \cdot \log((Po4+DP4)/Po4)$	0.00	0.00					
Sett. of LZ sublayer 5 (in)	S _{lz5}	$ce5*H_{lz5}^5 \cdot \log((Po5+DP5)/Po5)$	0.00	0.00					
Total lower zone sett. (in)	S _{lz}	$S_{lz1} + S_{lz2} + S_{lz3} + S_{lz4} + S_{lz5}$	0.0	0.0					
Total UZ + LZ settlement (in)	s		<1/2	<1/2					

Geopier Foundation Company

Project: Ponderay - Bronx Substation
 Project No: GIM-442
 Engineer: DPC
 Date: 2/5/2026
 Boring: B-2
 v1.4

SPT LIQUEFACTION SETTLEMENT ANALYSIS

M	6.14	GWT	6 ft	RAP Hs	25	ft
PGA	0.32 g	GWT EQ	6 ft	RAP sp	6	ft c-c
DF	Yes	Borehole	8 in	Densif	Yes	
Triggering	B & I (2014)	γ	120 pcf	Δko	Yes	
		Fill	0 ft	E_{comp}	Yes	



Unimproved Settlement 5.0 in
 Improved Settlement 1.0 in

