



Geotechnical investigation and back-analysis of a large landslide with legal implications



Stanley M. Miller

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Abstract

This is the true story of an irrigation canal, a large landslide, property loss, geotechnical analysis, lawsuits and counter-lawsuits, water rights, and court filings that ultimately ended with a judicial decision rendered by the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho. It also illustrates how professional geotechnical engineering practice can interface with the legal profession to establish public policy and legal precedent. The main focus of this presentation is the back-analysis of the slope failure and subsequent geotechnical investigations that provided guidance for the legal professionals.

Biosketch

Stanley M. Miller, Ph.D., P.E. is Professor Emeritus of the University of Idaho, and Geotechnical Consultant. His expertise includes applied rock engineering, slope stabilization, geosynthetic-reinforced earth structures, and geotechnical risk analysis. He has conducted geotechnical investigations and taught seminars on slope stabilization and segmental retaining walls in the USA, Canada, Europe, and SE Asia. Since 2001, he has served as co-instructor for the two-day ASCE Continuing Education Seminars titled *Soil and Rock Slope Stability*. He also holds a U.S. Patent for an internally braced geosynthetic wrapped system for stabilized earth (Pyrawall®).

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