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# Investigation of Deflection and Vibration Dynamics of Concrete and Bituminous Pavements Constructed Over Geofoam

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# **Investigation of Deflection and Vibration Dynamics of Concrete and Bituminous Pavements Constructed Over Geofoam**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Construction near deep lakes and on tall embankments present challenging soil correction solutions. When used as fill, Geofam attenuates net effective stress on weak soils. Geofam, an XPS polystyrene with a unit weight of 1 to 3 lb/ft.<sup>3</sup> was used as embankment fill for Minnesota Trunk Highway (TH) 100 segment 3 (SP 2735-159) in 2000. It was also used at Technology Drive in 2002 to correct a slope failure that had occurred in a large embankment near a ramp.

The TH 100 project was proximate the Twin Lakes in the cities of Crystal and Robbinsdale in Minnesota. The active aquifer through which the lake was effluent to the Mississippi river and very unsuitable soils compounded the problem. The section with Geofam inclusion consisted of a 10 in. dowelled jointed plain concrete pavement (JPCP) built over an 8 in. granular base, over 3 ft. of granular fill over a 4 in. concrete cap placed over the Geofam fill.

The Technology Drive section was on a tall embankment bordering a storm water pond enclosed by the ramp and Highway. After initial construction, the section encountered an embankment failure. The designers then adopted a partial Geofam replacement of embankment fill to solve the problem. The Technology Drive design consisted of a 7 in. bituminous pavement on a 6 in. granular base built over 3 ft. of fill underlain with a 4 in. concrete cap placed over the Geofam fill. The Geofam thickness ranged from 8 to 30 ft. deep in the 500 ft. length portion of the ramp.

Concerns about the vibration issues during and immediately after paving led to a retrofit of the sites with Multi-Depth-Deflectometers (MDD) and a two-year study of pavement response. The authors seasonally investigated flexible and rigid pavement response to Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) loads, loaded and calibrated snow and ice trucks through the MDDs, and a seismograph. This study compared seasonal deflection basins, elastic moduli, and dominant frequencies of flexible and rigid pavements built with Geofam fill to their corresponding contiguous control sections. The 3 ft. (914 mm) granular fill above a 4 in. (150 mm) concrete cap above the Geofam compounded the process of layer moduli computations.

The Geofam sections showed spectral (time series) sinusoidal characteristics for computed composite and layer moduli. Excitation and the deflection basin were generally larger in the Geofam sections. Results also suggested high thermal gradients across the Geofam layers accentuating their thermal insulating properties. Vibration amplitude acceleration and deflections were within non-resonant regimes though higher than control sections.

This paper investigated the load response phenomena of the concrete pavement on the TH 100 section built over Geofam.

- Investigated the load-response phenomena of bituminous pavement on Technology Drive built over Geofam.
- Examined seasonal variations and determined if deflections, strains, and vibration are excessive.

- Compared the flexible pavement response to the rigid pavement response.
- Recommended either further investigation or alternate load transfer mechanisms or vibration damping strategies to preserve the pavements.

The report concludes with interesting findings, particularly that the response of Geofoam pavements may exhibit higher deflections and vibration amplitudes and they are in a time series. However, these are not resonant vibrations that would require design changes from the current practice.

## **Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the responses of a flexible and rigid pavement built above lightweight fill (Geofoam blocks). Two different Geofoam (XPS polystyrene) test sections were studied, a rigid and a flexible pavement. The rigid pavement was a doweled jointed plain concrete pavement (JPCP) on TH 100 near County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 81 in Crystal/Robbinsdale. The Geofoam was used adjacent to Twin Lake to minimize environmental impacts to the lake and to address the slope issues related to the depth of twin lakes and the presence of water.

The second roadway studied was a flexible pavement on Technology Drive in Eden Prairie. Technology drive is located adjacent to TH 5 and intersects Prairie Center Drive just south of the interchange between TH 5 and Prairie Center Drive. The next interchange east is TH 212/I-494. The Geofoam section was placed next to an adjacent storm pond. The original contract did not call for Geofoam blocks but after a slope failure, Technology Drive was re-excavated and Geofoam blocks were installed.

The concrete pavement Geofoam section consisted of 11 in. of plain concrete with doweled joints over 4 in. of class 5 base above 21 in. of granular subbase above the Geofoam blocks. The Geofoam used for this project was ASTM Type VIII Expanded Polystyrene with a unit weight of 1.25 pcf and was approximately 12 feet in depth at the test section. A 5 in. thick concrete load distribution slab was placed over the Geofoam blocks underneath the driving lanes. A non-Geofoam control section was also constructed along TH 100. The control section consisted of 10.5 in. of plain concrete with doweled joints over a 4 in. class 5 base above 4 ft. of granular fill.

The control hot mix asphalt (HMA) section of Technology drive consisted of 5 in. of HMA over 3 in. of aggregate base over 4 ft. of granular fill. In the test section, Geofoam blocks were placed on a 1 ft. select granular base. The top 32 in. of the Geofoam fill had a unit weight of 2.0 pcf with the unit weight of the remaining Geofoam being 1.25 pcf. The total height of the Geofoam fill was dependant on the road profile with a minimum height of 5 ft. and a maximum height of over 15 ft.. Nailing plates were used to fasten the Geofoam blocks together and a 20 mil geomembrane blanket was used over the entire lightweight fill section. A 5 in. thick concrete load distribution slab was poured over the Geofoam under the driving lanes. Above the load distribution slab, 3 ft. of road surfacing was utilized. These three feet included: a 5 in. HMA section, a 4.5 in. aggregate base, and the remaining 26.5 in. being select granular borrow.

During construction of TH 100, field personnel brought up the concern of increased vibration and buoyant effects of the Geofoam sections. After the concrete pavement set, the level of vibration was reduced but not eliminated. Due to the observations of field personnel, it was decided to further investigate the effects of vibration on a Geofoam pavement structure.

### **Objective**

The objective of this study was to compare the response of rigid and flexible pavements built over Geofoam block fill to identical pavements built over standard bases. This was accomplished through seasonal Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) testing.

## Section Notation

Notation used in this report is shown in Table 1. Tests were taken seasonally over a variety of different pavements. Data is labeled based on the season, year, pavement, and base. Therefore SU6CG would mean that the data corresponds to the summer of 2006 and that it was taken on a concrete surface of the Geofoam section.

**Table 1 Report Notation**

Season	Abbreviation	Section	Abbreviation
Fall	F	Concrete	C
Spring	S	Bituminous	B
Summer	SU	Control	C
Winter	W	Geofoam	G

## Literature Review/Synthesis

Geofoam has been used extensively to reduce lateral loads in foundation structures. Negussey and Sun [1] investigated and reported the lateral load reduction of Geofoam and thus recommended its' adequacy for fill behind retaining structures. One of the critical parameters in the use of Geofoam blocks is the interface friction of the Geofoam, which according to Sheeley and Negussey [2] eliminates the need for lateral clips.

Frost differential is a critical parameter when using Geofoam fill in Minnesota. This has been minimized by design of granular fill and a concrete cap over the Geofoam blocks. The fill also minimizes buoyancy effects induced on the Geofoam when the phreatic surface is high. The mechanism of stress attenuation when Geofoam is used has not been exhaustively studied as there is little published in that area.

Many documents were used as reference for the backcalculating procedure:

- FHWA, *Backcalculation of Layer Parameters for Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Test Sections, Volume I: Slab on Elastic Solid and Dense-Liquid Foundation Analysis of Rigid Pavements*, FHWA-RD-00-086, Washington, DC: FHWA, December 2001.
- FHWA, *Backcalculation of Layer Parameters for LTPP Test Sections, Volume II: Layered Elastic Analysis for Flexible and Rigid Pavements*. FHWA-RD-01-113, Washington, DC: FHWA, December 2001.
- FAA, *Use of Nondestructive Testing in the Evaluation of Airport Pavements*, FAA AC 150/5370-11A, Landover, Maryland: FAA, December 2004.

## Report Organization

This Report is divided into five chapters. Chapter one was an introduction to the Geofoam test sections. Chapter two is the project work plan. Chapter three will explain the testing and

monitoring, chapter four will discuss the results of the data collection, and chapter five will summarize findings and establish recommendations.

## Chapter 2. RESEARCH PLAN AND TESTING SCHEDULE

Investigation of vibration dynamics of concrete and bituminous pavements constructed over Geofoam. Draft proposed work plan and research matrix.

### Background

Office of Materials and Road Research purchased four Multi-Depth Deflectometers (MDD) for a proposed investigation of vibration dynamics of bituminous and concrete pavements constructed over Geofoam. These deflectometers were recently installed by a research crew of Tom Burnham, Ted Snyder, Doug Lindfelter, and Robert Strommen with the assistance of CTL's Tom Weinmann. The installations are being connected to transmit data that can be read off our mobile MEGADEC system. Drilling to the concrete cap above the Geofoam was provided by a crew from the Geotechnical section.

On the 23rd and 24th of August, the Multi-Depth Deflectometers were retro-fitted at two Geofoam project sites namely TH 100 at CSAH 81 in Crystal/ Robbinsdale (Concrete Pavement) and Technology Drive in Eden Prairie (Bituminous Pavement). In each site, one unit was installed as a control in a non-Geofoam location and the second was installed over Geofoam. Though these pavements have been in service for some years very little is known about the dynamic load response of pavements built on Geofoam beyond perception of bystanders. However, in close proximity, dynamic response is perceived to be different from pavements over granular or normal weight fills. The MDDs will supply dynamic response at various depths beneath the pavement surface.

According to Tom Wienmann of CTL group, this is the first time this type of investigation would be done. This research project will improve our understanding of Flexible and Rigid Pavement response in a lightweight environment and suggest if we need to modify our designs to accommodate any increased dynamic response.

### Distinct Objectives

- Investigate the load response phenomena of the Concrete Pavement on TH 100 section built over Geofoam.
- **Outcomes:** Load response phenomena will be different from pavement built on normal weight fill. Natural frequencies may be different and may result in unpredictable excitation at lower stresses. A better understanding will help us design Geofoam sections better when rigid pavements are placed.
- Investigate the load –response phenomena of bituminous pavement on Technology drive built over Geofoam.
- **Outcomes:** Load response phenomena will be different from pavement built on normal weight fill. Natural frequencies may be different and may result in unpredictable excitation at lower stresses. A better understanding will help us design Geofoam sections better when flexible pavements are placed.

- Determine if deflections, strains and vibration as are excessive. Compare the flexible pavement response to the rigid pavement response. Based on the above, recommend either further investigation or alternate load transfer mechanisms or vibration damping strategies to preserve the pavements.
- **Outcomes:** Combination of information from LVDT, seismograph and FWD will elucidate performance of pavements built over Geofoam.

## Tasks

### 1. Site selection and confirmation

- Identify a Geofoam section and a proximate non-Geofoam section for reference (Preferably to accommodate a single static lane closure for both sites) on Technology drive by as built drawings of the Project. Confirm with Ground penetrating Radar.
- Identify a Geofoam section and a proximate non-Geofoam section for reference (Preferably to accommodate a single static lane closure for both sites) on TH 100 at CSAH 81 by as built drawings of the Project. Confirm with Ground penetrating Radar.

### 2. Instrumentation Installation: Retrofitting Multi- depth deflectometer

- Drill to bottom of granular fill above concrete cap layer over Geofoam or to 3.5 ft. whichever is smaller, taking every precaution to forestall cracking or perforation of the concrete cap.
- Install multi-depth deflectometers (MDD) on the selected location. Each location should have an LVDT targeted at the following depths, Figure 1:

Location 1: Core or bottom of the Pavement surfacing (12 in. thick concrete and 10 in. thick bituminous Pavements)

Location 2: Near bottom of class 5 aggregate base

Location 3: mid-depth of granular fill

Location 4: bottom of granular fill

Create a manhole at the roadside and run wires through joints to the manhole, raised above shoulder level to minimize storm water impacts. Test for functioning LVDTs after Installation. Grout around shell and anchor to pavement.

## Research Process

Seasonal load testing shall be performed in each of the sections. Load tests are therefore scheduled for November 2005, February 2006, April/May 2006, August 2006, November 2006, February 2007, April/May 2007, and November 2007 noting the actual climatic data for the day of testing. Each seasonal load test shall comprise the following:

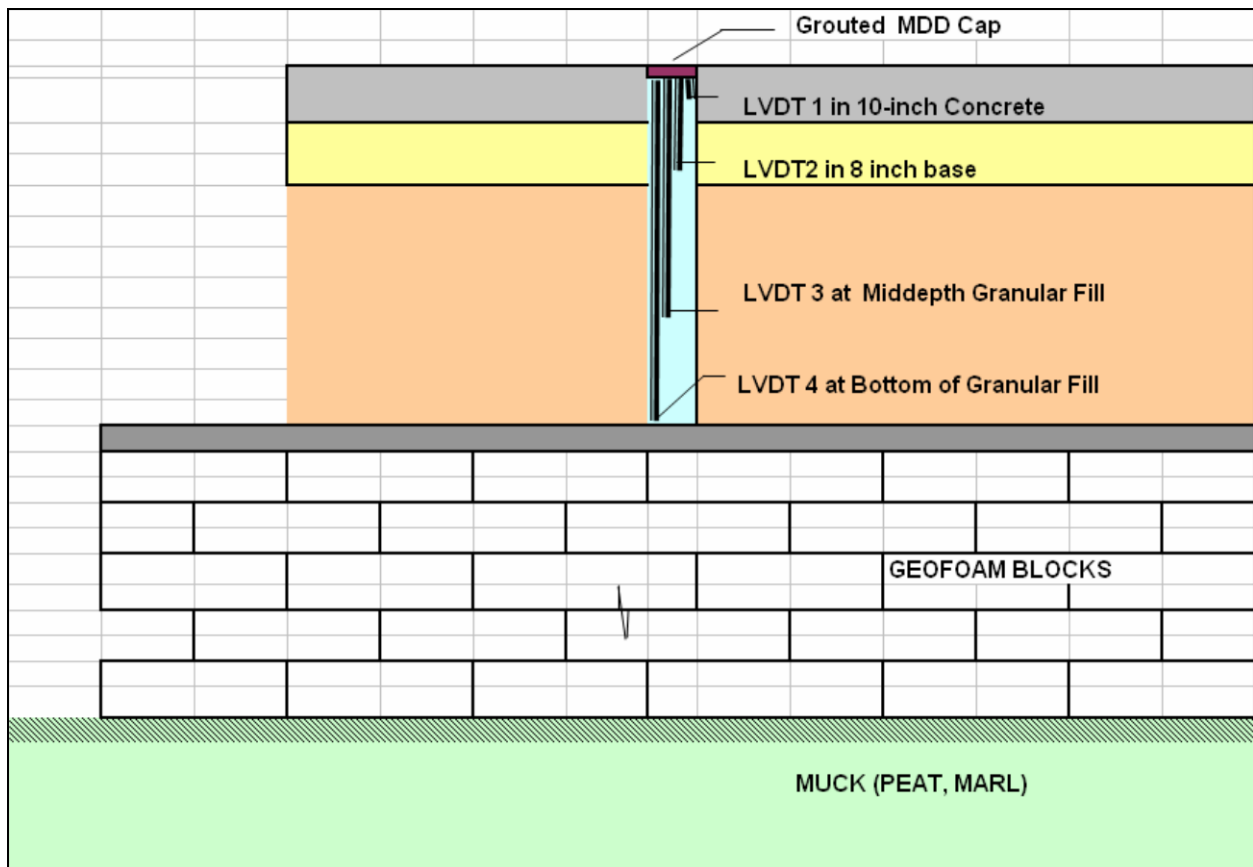
- Create a fully loaded truck calibrated to have front axle and rear axle to make some rounds through the pavement sections if the MnROAD Standard Truck may not be



available. Run a minimum of 20 trips ensuring that in each trip, the MDD is directly loaded. This may be done in a continuum for proximate Geofoam and Non-Geofoam sections if traffic control allows.

- Perform FWD test and analyze for impact on neighboring panels while noting longitudinal and transverse joint conditions.
- Perform seismic monitoring of the traffic load vibration, recording velocities and accelerations. Determine dependently or independently the natural frequency of panel or pavement in each section.
- Confirm actual profile, using ground penetrating radar technology.

Deflection data may be obtained continuously from the LVDTs. During load testing, the deflection data shall also be recorded compared analyzed along with FWD, GPR and seismographs.



**Figure 1 TH 100 Geofoam Schematic Section**

## **Deliverables**

- A first year report will be due in January 2007
- The 2-year Report will be due in January 2008
- Based on this study, any suggested strategy for use of Geofoam will be communicated to the Mn/DOT Pavement Design Unit and Geotechnical Section
- Seismic, FWD and LVDT records to be saved electronically in one source with a Concrete Research Unit designated person as custodian

## **Research Group**

### ***Investigators***

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## Chapter 3. TESTING, MONITORING, & DATA COLLECTION

### Description of Instrumentation, Equipment, & Tests

Data for this study was collected using Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD), Multi-Depth Deflectometer (MDD), and vibration seismograph tests. FWD (Figure 2) is a non-destructive testing device that is used to collect deflection data. The FWD device used was a Dynatest 8000 series Falling Weight Deflectometer. Dropping force ranged from 6,000 lbs to 18,000 lbs. The response of the pavement system was measured in terms of vertical deformation (deflection), over a given area using seismometers. FWD enables the determination of a deflection basin caused by a controlled load. FWD generated data, combined with layer thickness, can be used to obtain the "in-situ" resilient elastic modulus of a pavement structure, including the subgrade if layer depth and type is known for the remaining layers.



**Figure 2 FWD Testing Device**

The multi-depth deflectometer (MDD) was provided and customized by Construction Technology Laboratories (CTL). The MDD (Figure 3) is a set of Linear Variable Differential Transformer (LVDT) sensors placed at the following critical depths in the pavement:

- Top surface
- Mid depth of base
- Top of granular fill
- Top of concrete cap over Geofoam blocks

Since the Geofoam structure is non conventional, it required the anchorage of the MDD in the pavement surface contrary to conventional practice. What makes a MDD valuable is that each LVDT is restricted to the movement of its adjacent layer. Therefore, when a load is applied and displacement takes place, the response of an individual layer or even how a response changes within a layer as distance from the surface is varied is recorded. The MDD was placed by coring through the pavement and base layers. The MDD was then installed and a groove was cut into

the pavement to route the wires to the edge of the pavement. A PVC manhole was then constructed to house the connector ends of the MDD wires.



**Figure 3 MDD Core and Manhole**

The third tool used to collect data was an InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone (Figure 4). During our testing, this instrument measured a time history of vibration velocity in each of three mutually perpendicular directions (vertical, longitudinal, and transverse). From these three directions a peak acceleration, velocity, and displacement is measured for each vibration event. The geophone data presented in this report is from the vertical direction.



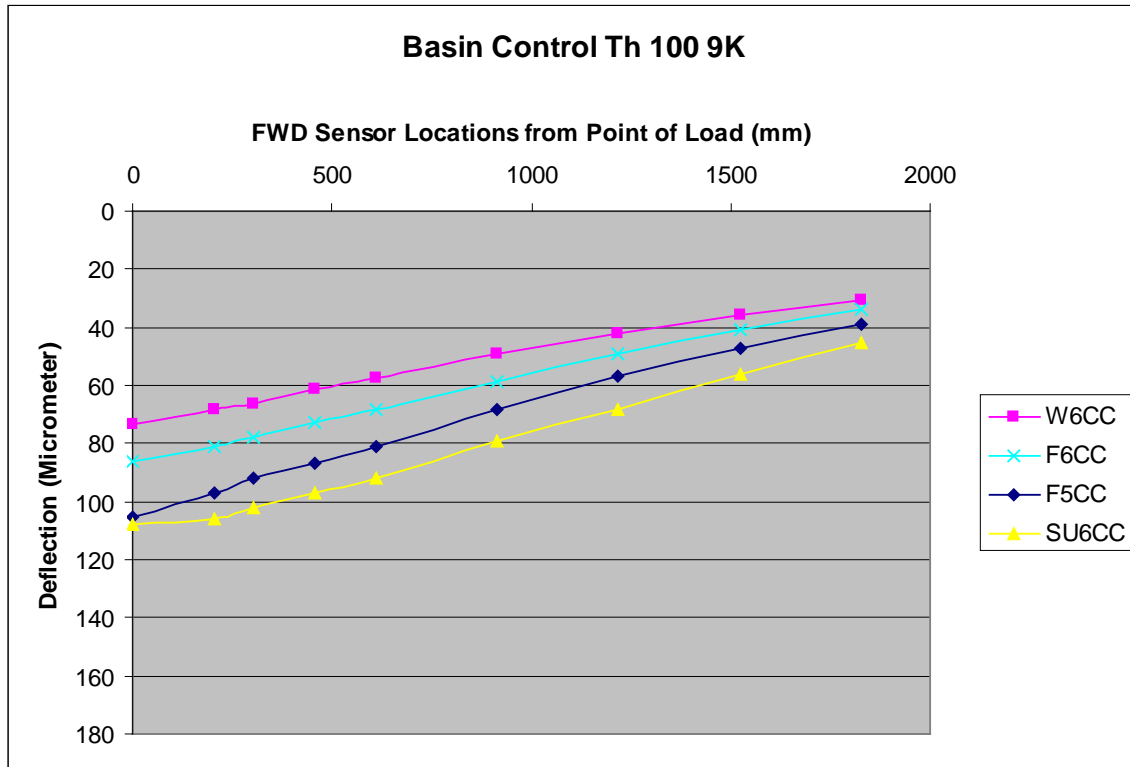
**Figure 4 Geophone Adjacent to FWD**

## Data Collection

### *FWD Testing & FWD Sensor Response*

The Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) was used to measure the deformation/deflection basins, trigger the MDD, and collect data using the geophone. The FWD accomplishes deflection/deformation measurements by applying a dynamic point load then the sensors, which are set at a predetermined distances from the applied force, measure deflection. The FWD device had 9 sensors spaced at 0mm (0in), 203mm (8in), 305mm (12in), 457mm (18in), 610mm (24in), 914mm (36in), 1219mm (48in), 1524mm (60in), and 1829mm (72in) from the point load.

In Figure 5, the deflection is shown along the vertical axis and sensor distance from the point load is shown along the horizontal axis. The deflection basin is the distance versus deflection curve. As will be explained later, deflection at different points will give insight into what is happening at different depths within the pavement structure.



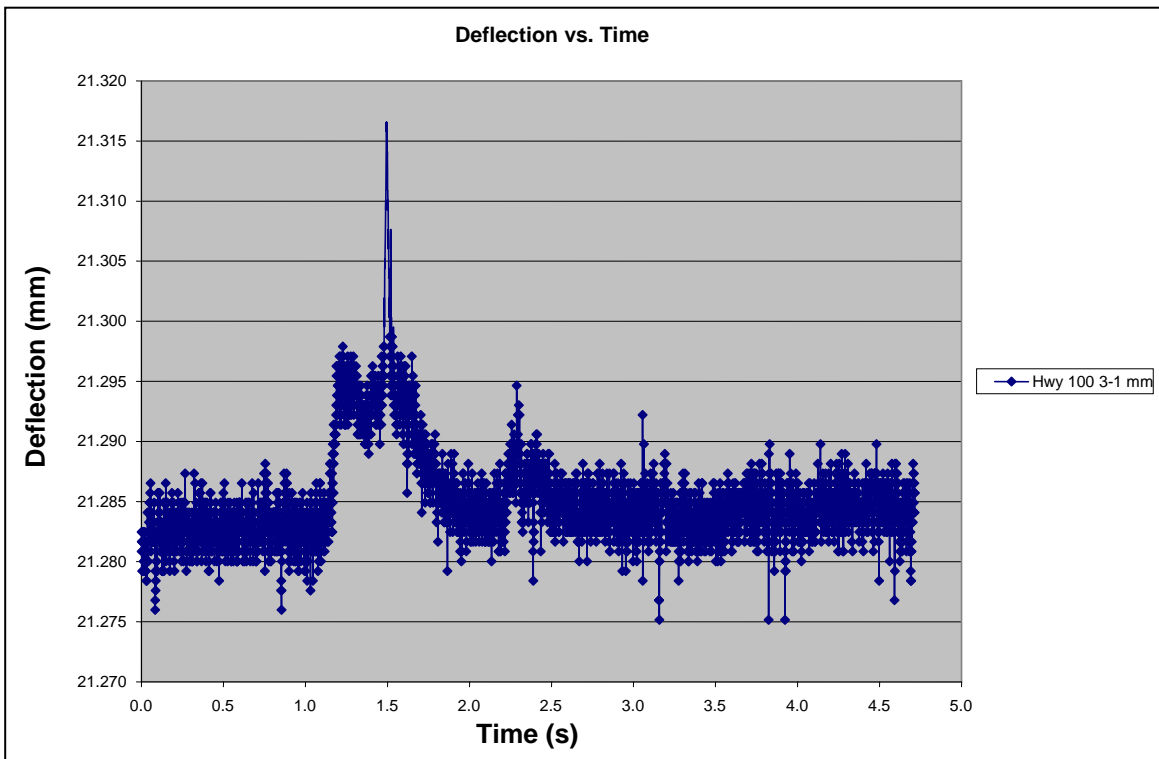
**Figure 5 Example FWD Deflection Basin**

Deformation information can be used to back-calculate layer elastic moduli if the layer type and thickness is known. This report will utilize the use of a software product called BAKFAA from the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) to calculate the elastic moduli for the different layers including the Geofoam.

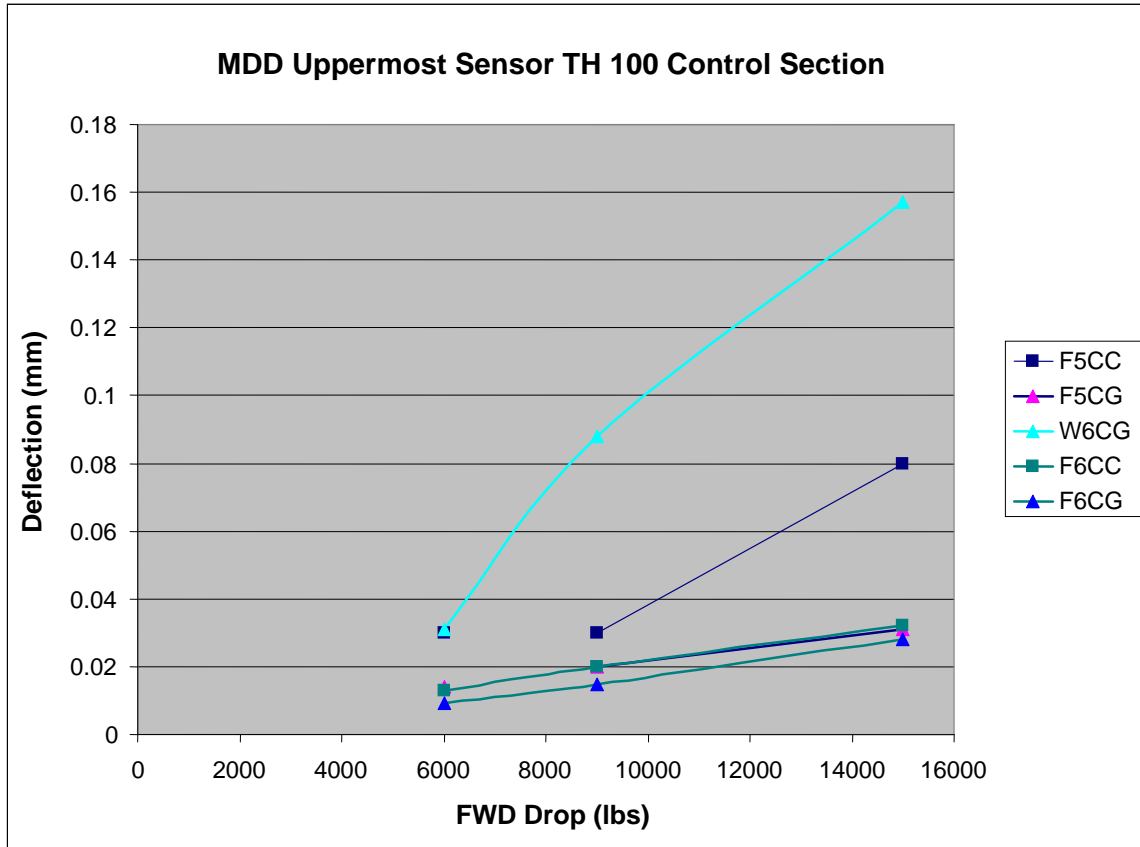
### ***FWD Testing and MDD/LVDT Response***

A multi depth deflectometer (MDD) was installed at each control and test section (4 total). To determine the difference between deformations at variable depths, a known force was applied using the FWD adjacent to the MDD. Unfortunately, many of the test runs did not harvest complete data and other tests were not coordinated correctly so that MDD and FWD data could be collected simultaneously. In order for MDD data to be gathered using the FWD, close coordination between the MDD and FWD operator had to take place.

MDD data was processed using a combination of software packages. The MDD data was imported to a program called “Peak Pick” where the peaks would be separated from the noise. The data was also imported into Microsoft EXCEL where the data could be visually inspected for peaks. Figure 6 shows the associated noise data that came from an LVDT sensor and a deflection that was induced by the FWD. Once the deflections were separated from the noise, the data was summarized into an EXCEL spreadsheet where trends were shown. Figure 7 shows the MDD data that was from the control section at TH 100.



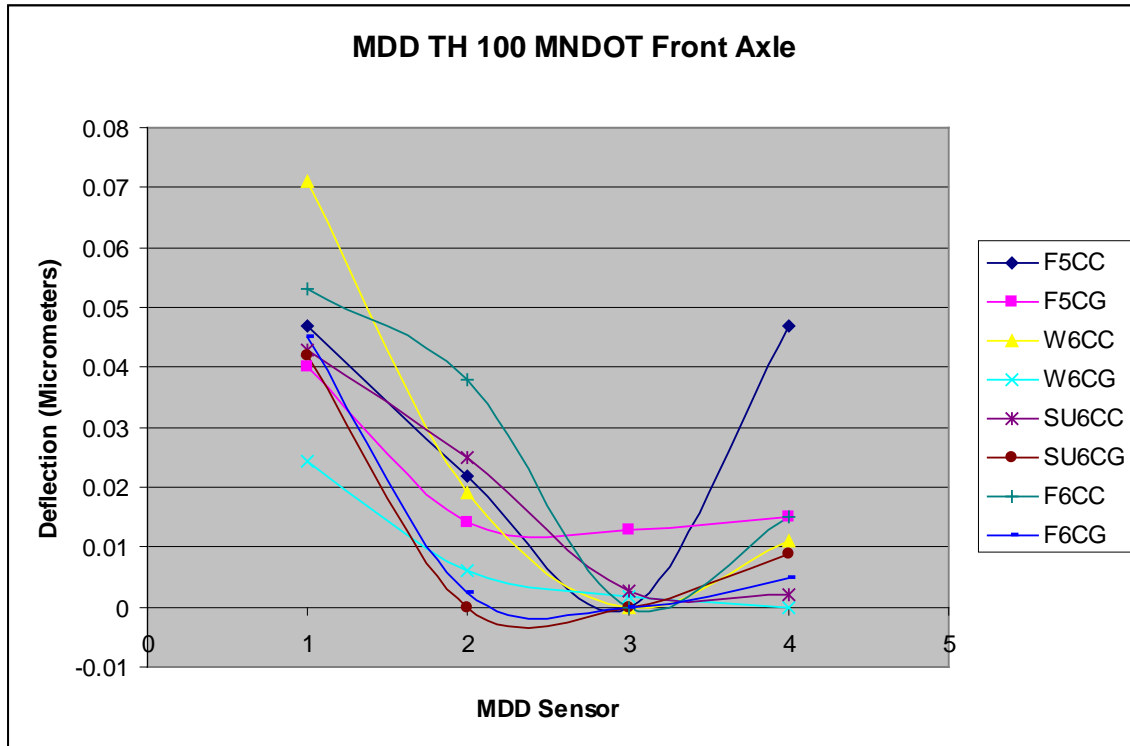
**Figure 6 LVDT Noise Data**



**Figure 7 MDD Data from TH 100**

***Loaded Truck and LVDT Response***

A multi depth deflectometer (MDD) was installed at each control and test section. To determine the difference between deformations at variable depths, a control vehicle (DOT Truck) was utilized. The truck was loaded with boulders and was sent to a weigh station where the axle loads were determined. The Mn/DOT truck attempted to drive directly over the MDD sensor. It should be noted that a constant speed was the goal, however, traffic control and road geometry made that goal unattainable at times. The variations in speed and wheel track did create some data variance. The truck testing of the MDD however did supply somewhat consistent tests which were trended for this report. Figure 8 shows deflection at different MDD sensors from the truck loading.



**Figure 8 MDD Truck Loading**

***Loaded Truck and Geophone Response***

An Instatel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone was used to record responses due to a control vehicle. The geophone was placed approximately 12 to 18 in. from the trucks wheel path. Initial vibrations sensed by the geophone triggered the data collection at the seismograph. The level of vibration at which the geophone triggered the seismograph was controlled by the user.

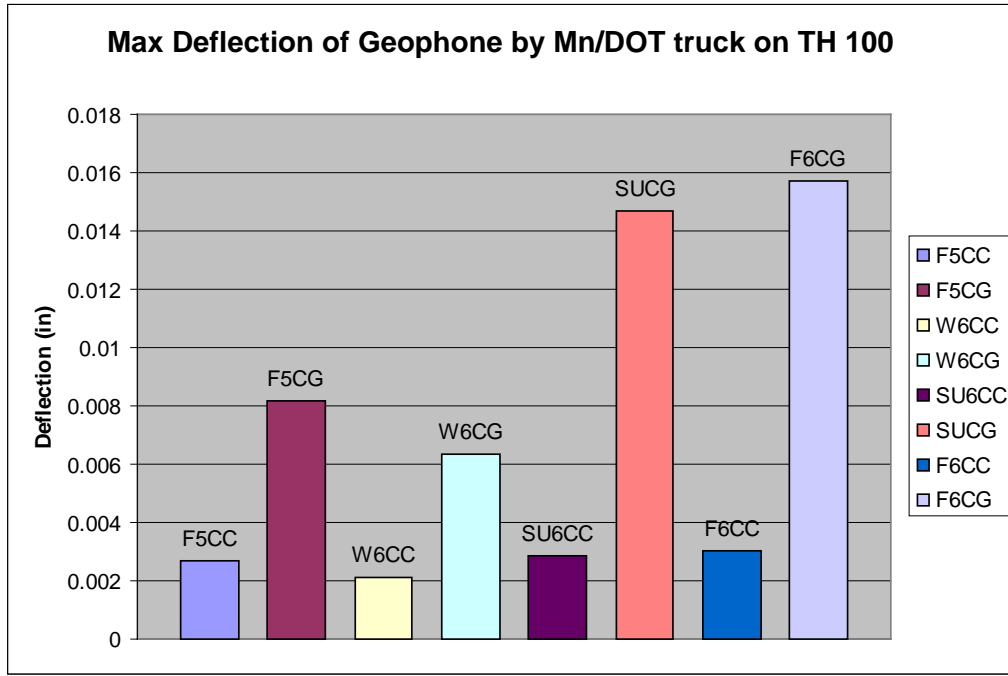
The trigger velocity value that the Blastmate III used to begin collecting data ranged from 0.1 in/s to 0.5 in/s. This test was able to capture the maximum velocity, the dominant frequency, and the maximum acceleration of the pavement as the deformation wave from the wheel load passed.

Figure 9 shows an example of one set of data that was captured by the geophone as the MN/DOT truck passed by. The data is the maximum displacement/deflection of the geophone as the wheel load deflection basin passed through. It is worth noting that the maximum deflection, vibration, acceleration, and velocity always occurred with the front/steering axle of the Mn/DOT truck so that no rear axle data is presented in this report.

Two other facts worth noting are that on several occasions the acceleration was greater than 1g so that it was likely the geophone lost contact with the pavement surface. To remedy this occurrence, the field personnel attached the geophone to the pavement using clay. Clay has physical properties all of its own so the data where clay was used may be skewed. Applying



mortar to the sensor would have been a more ideal fastener than clay. Secondly, when using a moving truck, variance in speed and distance to geophone is never constant so some variance in the data will be due to those factors. However, some very noticeable trends were identified using the collected data.

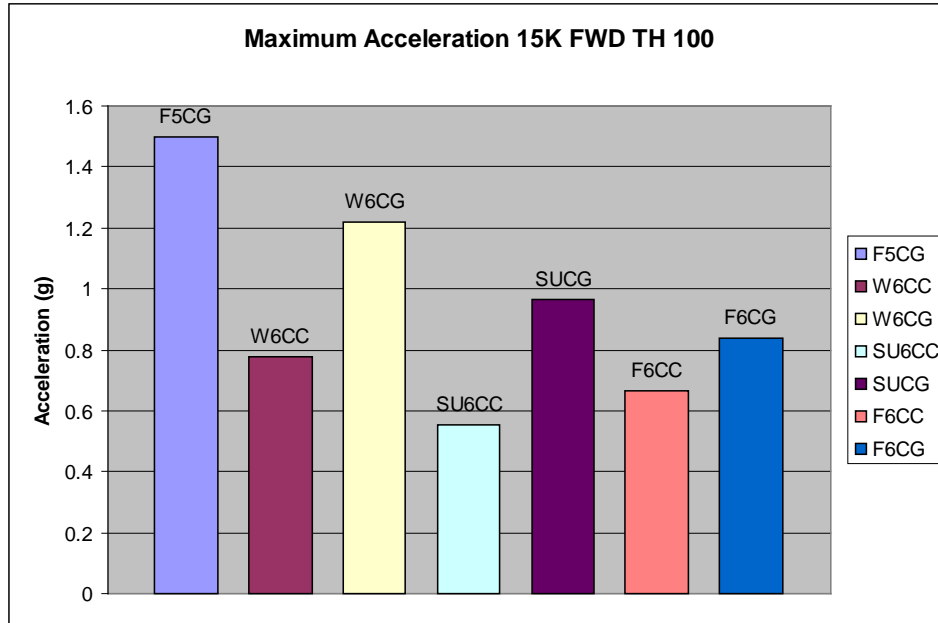


**Figure 9 Maximum Truck Deflection of Geophone on TH 100**

***FWD Testing and Geophone Response***

An InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone was used to record responses due to a controlled force which was applied by a FWD. The geophone was placed approximately 12 to 18 in. from the FWD. The FWD would then apply force which would trigger the geophone to begin collecting data as the deflection wave progressed through the geophone. It is to be noted that on several occasions acceleration rates greater than 1g occurred and this may have skewed some of the data.

Figure 10 displays one of the data types the geophone was able to capture when the FWD applied loads adjacent to the geophone. This chart displays maximum acceleration documented for a 15,000 lb load that was applied adjacent to the geophone. Even though acceleration values greater than 1g may be skewed, trends in the data are apparent.



**Figure 10 Maximum Acceleration Recorded by Geophone**

### Chapter Summary

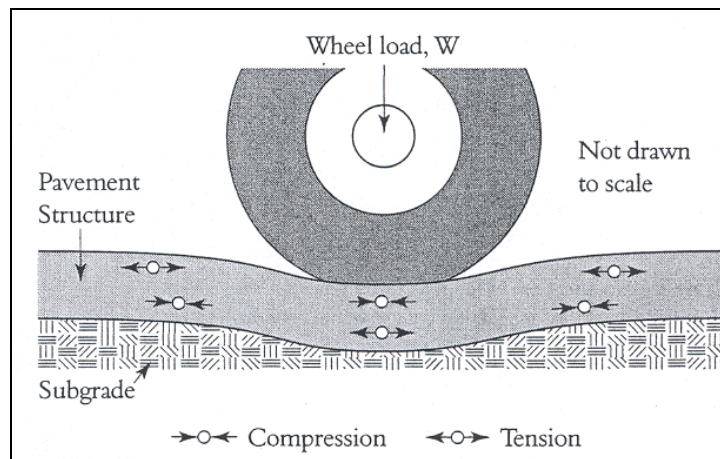
Several different methods of data collection were used for this study. Data collecting instruments included a FWD, a MDD, and a seismograph with geophone. Data collection was either in response to a load applied by a FWD or in response to a control vehicle, which in this case was a Mn/DOT truck.

## Chapter 4. ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

### Deflection Basins

Deflection basin data can relate many interesting aspects of a pavement structure. The deflection/deformation basin is a tell tale of the underlying pavement strength, and when the deformation basin is used to back-calculate, the individual moduli for each layer if the layer type and thickness is known can be calculated. Deflection basin data was collected by all three instruments. However, only a magnitude of displacement is given with the seismograph and the MDD. The best basin data was collected using the FWD.

The FWD gives a snap shot of a slice of the deflection basin made up of deflection values measured at sensors of predetermined distance from the center. As mentioned before, the FWD collects deflection data from the point the load is applied up to 1829 mm (72 in) away for this data collection. A two dimensional view of a deflection basin is shown in Figure 11. Barring transient phenomena and the effect of deflection hardening and other sources of error, the basin is an indicator of the composite and individual layer moduli. Instantaneous formation of a basin of deflection is analogous to a water drop impacting a larger body of water. At the moment the drop disappears into the greater mass of water there is a depression where the drop impacted and a wave propagates out from the drop impact. This phenomenon is evident on a stiffer structure, and forms the basis of the qualitative test roll process. Other examples include a heavy piece of equipment on an aggregate grade, a roller on fresh asphalt, or probably the best way to see a deflection basin over and over is to view a railroad track when a train is passing by.



**Figure 11 Stresses in a Pavement due to Vertical Deflection**

When data from a deflection basin is plotted (Figure 12) a very thin slice of the deflection basin is shown. If it is assumed that the deflection basin is uniform, then a complete basin picture can be built out of one thin cross section. The deflection basin can tell much about the underlying structure.

Sensor deflections from a FWD have a relationship to materials strength at a certain depth. The theory is that the further the sensor from the point of the applied load, the deeper that sensor is looking.

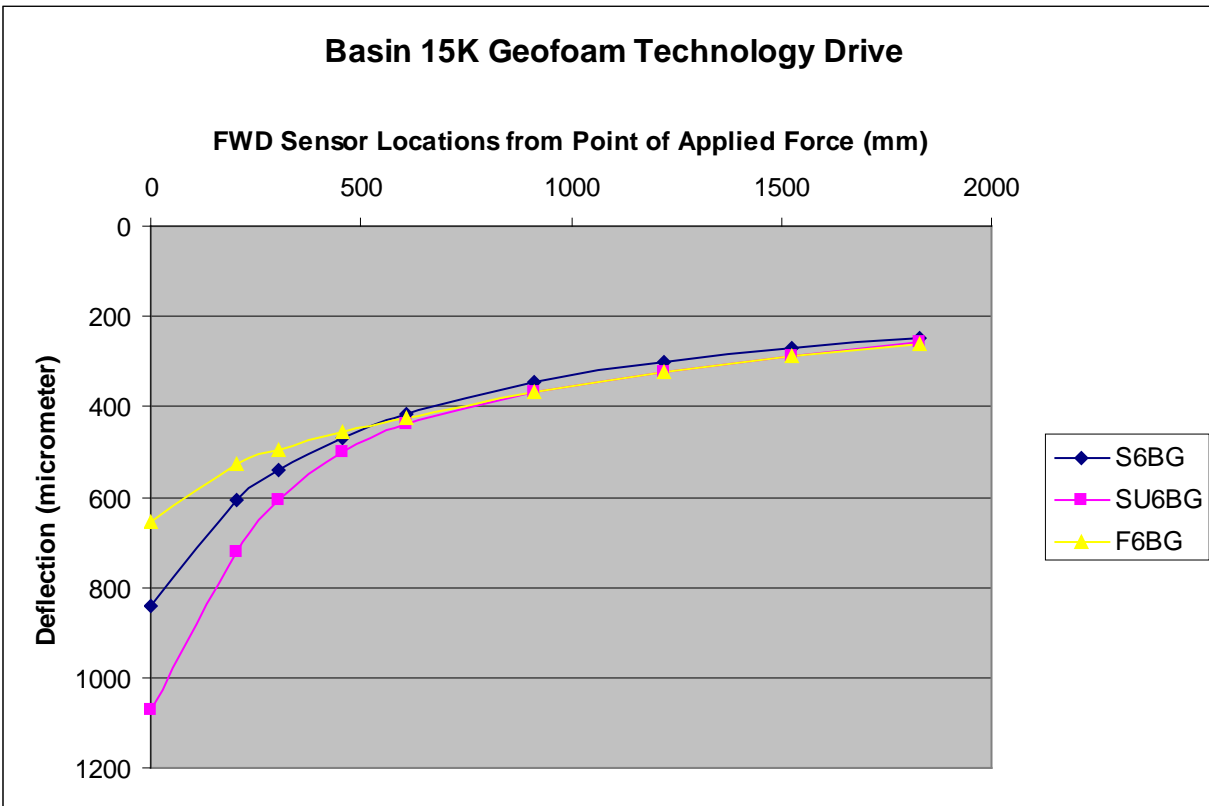


Figure 12 Deflection Basin from Technology Drive

### Determination of Composite Moduli for Technology Drive

The determination of component moduli for a flexible pavement design was accomplished using a software program called BAKFAA. BAKFAA is used by the Federal Aviation and Aeronautics department for pavement analysis. It requires FWD testing, for which the software calculates a best fit algorithm. The software attempts to calculate individual layer moduli given layer depth, FWD loading, poisson's ratio, seed, and sensor location.

An important fact to remember is that backcalculation results are not unique and are one of many possible solutions. In fact, the backcalculation moduli might very well be incorrect all together depending on the seed values entered and whether certain layers are locked in or if all layers are allowed to be calculated by BAKFAA. Engineering judgment must be used when considering backcalculation data. More information regarding BAKFAA and steps that can be taken to ascertain better results can be found in the FAA Report AC 150/5370 [5].

A seed value is simply a starting number that BAKFAA uses to determine a starting position. BAKFAA will use any seed values given and then adjust all parameters to calculate a best fit curve to most closely match the recorded FWD data. To determine a seed value for the in-situ

subgrade the resilient modulus of subgrade was determined. The resilient modulus of subgrade ( $M_r$ ) is calculated in psi and is in accordance with the 1993 AASHTO Design Guide for HMA Pavements. It is given by:

$$M_r = \left( \frac{0.24P}{d_r r} \right) \quad (1)$$

where:

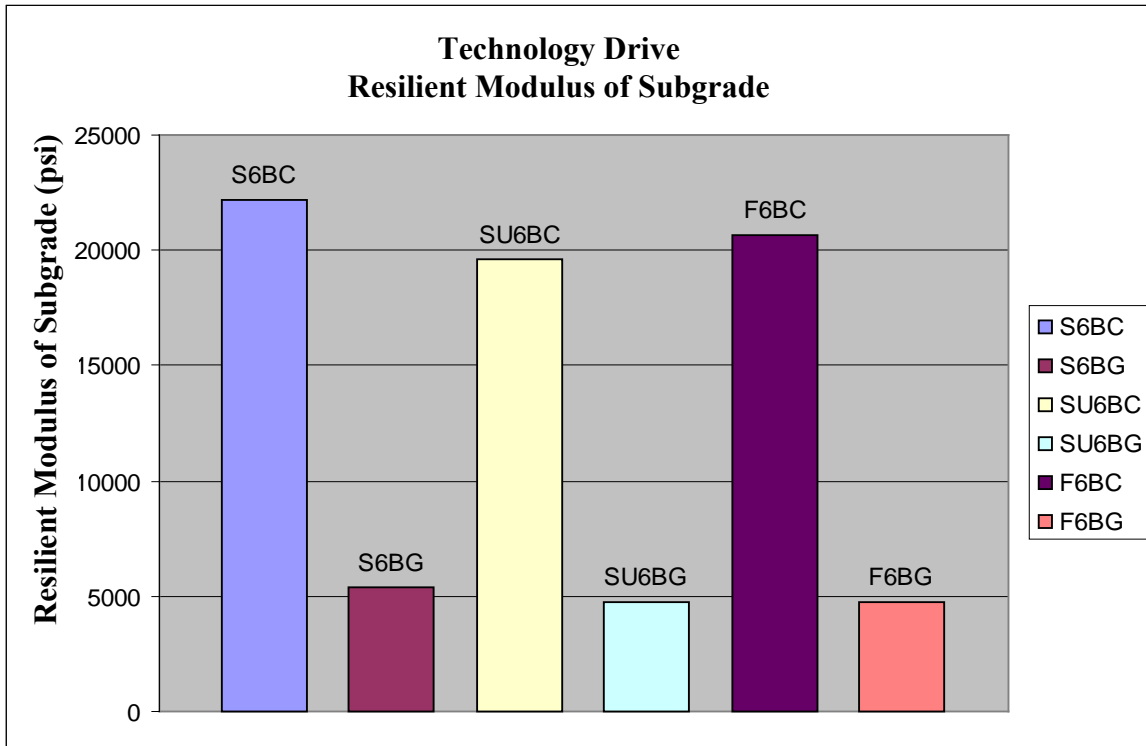
- $M_r$  = Resilient modulus, psi
- $P$  = Applied load, pounds
- $d_r$  = Measured deflection at distance  $r$  from applied load, inch
- $r$  = Radial distance at which the deflection is measured, inch

Other seed values are determined from past experience, engineering judgment, materials books, and FAA report AC 150/5370 [5]. Table 2 lists typical seed values. FAA report AC 150/5370 also gives values of expected moduli for certain materials. The following is part of Table 13 from FAA report AC 150/5370 [5]. This table can be used as a reality check for the backcalculation moduli and can also be used for seed values.

Figure 13 specifies the different resilient modulus of subgrade calculated for each section of Technology drive during different times of the year. Note that the resilient subgrade is lower for the Geofoam sections, which is to be expected if the subgrade was of sufficient strength, no need for Geofoam would exist.

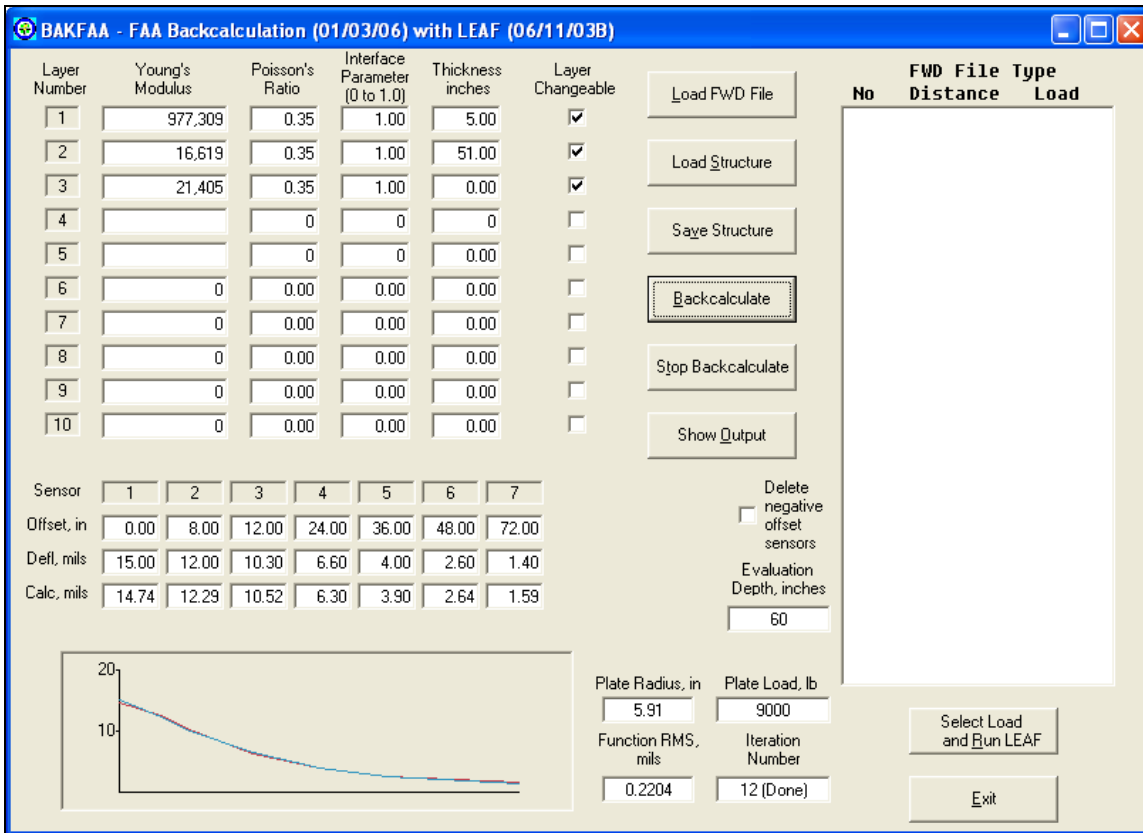
**Table 2 FAA Seed Values [5]**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Low Value (psi)</b>	<b>Typical Value (psi)</b>	<b>High Value (psi)</b>
<b>Asphalt Concrete</b>	70,000	500,000	2,000,000
<b>Portland Cement Concrete</b>	1,000,000	5,000,000	9,000,000
<b>Granular Base</b>	10,000	30,000	50,000
<b>Granular Subbase or Soil</b>	5,000	15,000	30,000



**Figure 13 Resilient Modulus of Subgrade**

After the resilient modulus for the subgrade has been calculated, the specified data can be entered into BAKFAA. An example of BAKFAA is shown for S6BC. Other points of interest are that this particular run of BAKFAA was accomplished for the 9,000 lb applied force, depths of materials are listed in inches, granular base and aggregate base have been combined for calculation purposes and that a Poisson's ratio of 0.35 was chosen for all present materials. BAKFAA was then used to calculate layer moduli for different loading and seasons. Figure 14 shows a screen shot of the BAKFAA program.



**Figure 14 BAKFAA Example**

Seasonal variations due to temperature and moisture were prevalent. Figure 15 shows the corresponding elastic modulus for the bituminous layer at Technology Drive. The bars represent the control sections vs. the Geofom sections and are taken during three different seasons. Fall of 2006 has two bars to represent the elastic modulus at the Geofom section because the author does not believe the F6BG to be correct. The weather observations suggest that the surface pavement should have been frozen. Furthermore, the values for the granular base are higher than what would be expected for that material. The author believes the F6BG\* bar to be most indicative of the two results. In order to get the F6BG\* data, the resilient modulus of subgrade had to be fixed at the predetermined value and the seed value for bituminous had to be increased along with decreasing the seed value for the granular material.

It should be noted however that the elastic modulus for bituminous was always greater in the control section than in the Geofom section. Recall that elastic modulus is equal to a material's stress over strain and for the same material the elastic modulus should be the same. One potential reason for the differing moduli is that the BAKFAA software, or probably any other backcalculating software computes composite moduli and then spreads those moduli over all the layers according to the FWD deflection basin. The software recognizes reduced moduli for the Geofom sections but does not distribute the moduli as it probably should.

Another interesting trend to note is the moduli of the surfacing during different times of the year. Not surprisingly, the lowest moduli occurred in the summer when increased temperature makes

the asphalt softer. Alternatively, during the fall testing when temperatures were below freezing, the asphalt acted much stiffer and the corresponding moduli rose. In fact, it was found that variations in moduli due to weather were much greater than moduli deviations due to Geofoam.

Figure 16 shows a summary of BAKFAA backcalculation results for elastic modulus, and two trends are apparent. Granular backcalculated elastic modulus differs from bituminous calculated elastic modulus in that the granular material over the Geofoam seems to have a higher modulus. This may be due to the fact that a concrete cap was poured over the Geofoam and that this concrete cap was not distinguished from the granular in the backcalculating procedure. Also note that seasonal variations are still prevalent and are apparently more influential on the granular material than the Geofoam.

The last backcalculated elastic modulus from BAKFAA (Figure 17) illustrates the control subgrade (BC), the Geofoam subgrade (BG(S)), and the Geofoam (BG(G)). As stated before, the subgrade results are the most intuitive because it is expected that the subgrade beneath the Geofoam would be weaker, hence the need for Geofoam. Also, seasonal variation does not play a major role for subgrade in these test sections. An explanation of the fluctuation in layer and composite modulus was not feasible within the scope of this report. However subsequent papers will attempt to do that.

It should be noted that elastic modulus is ideally only applicable for a homogenous, isotropic, and linear elastic material. A road surfacing structure is neither, but can be successfully modeled as such.

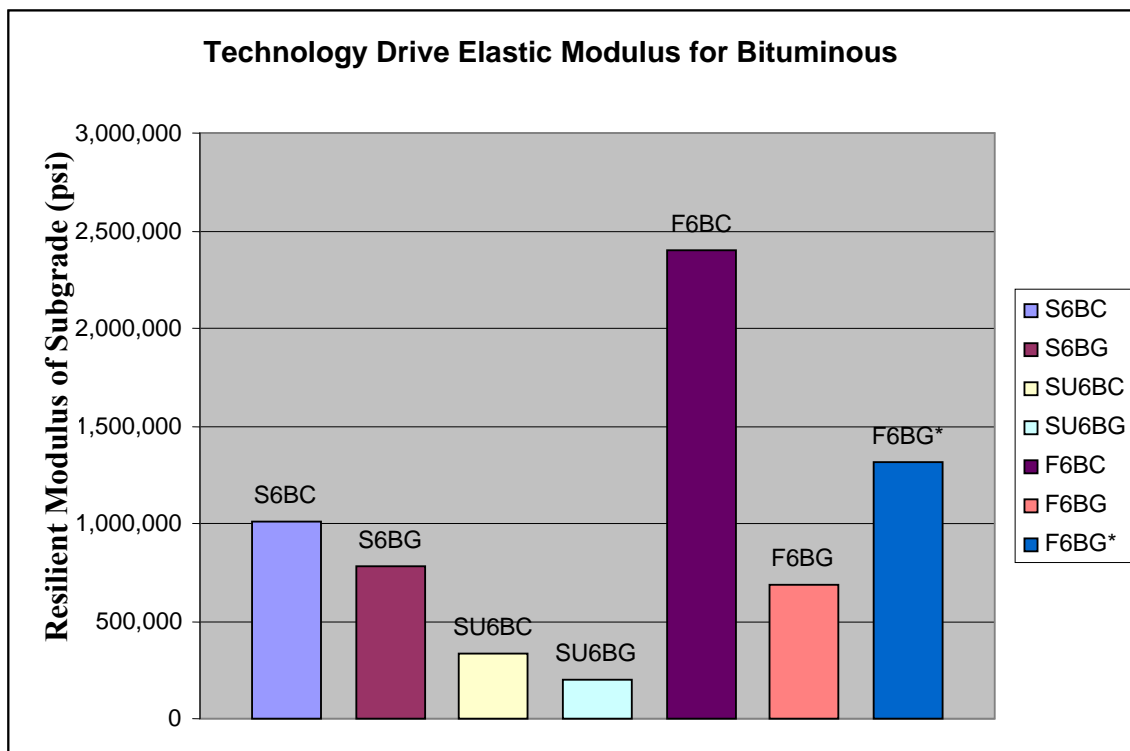
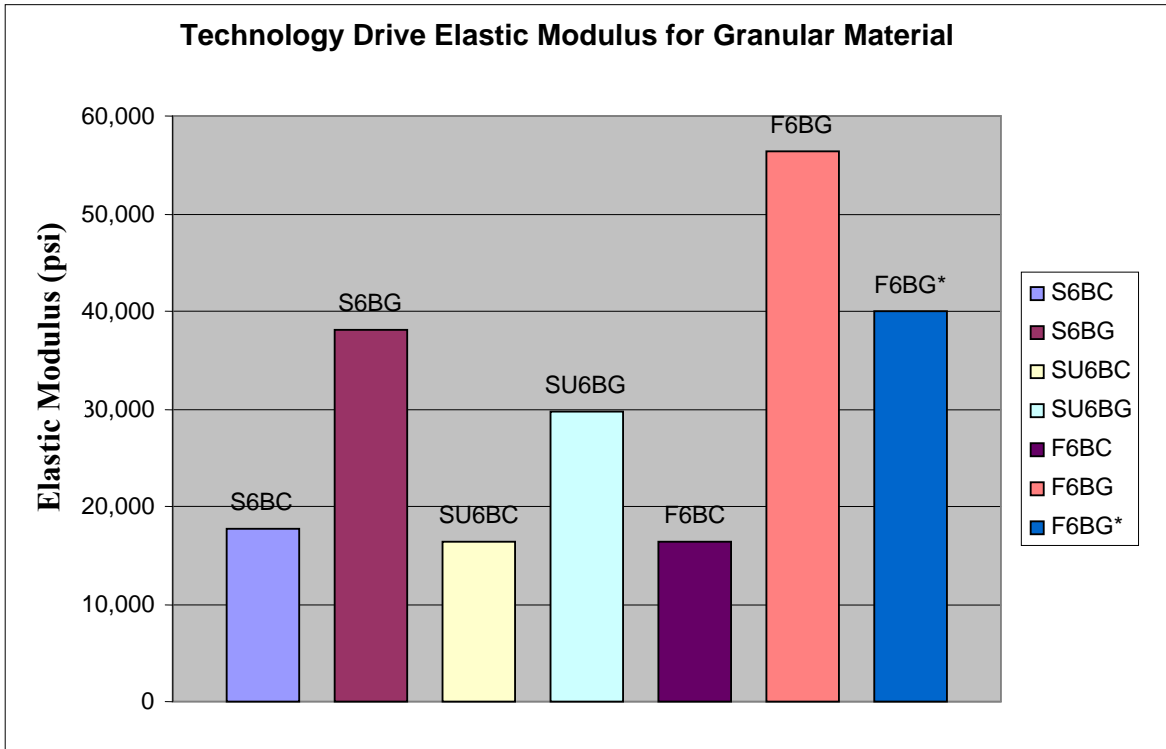
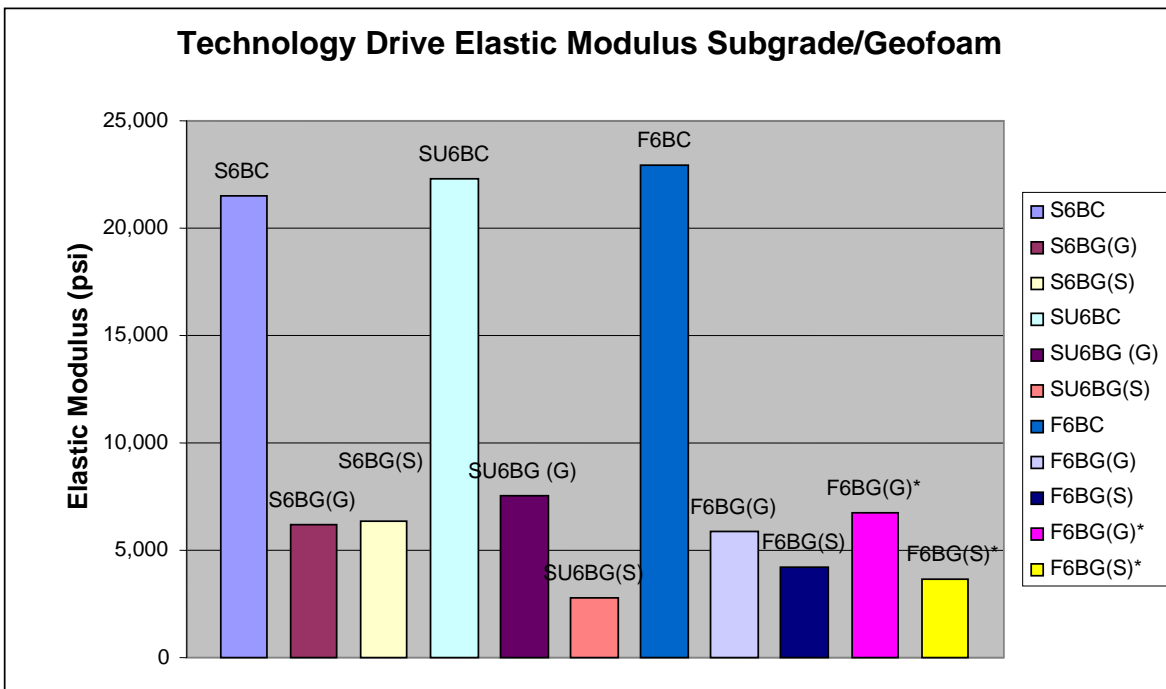


Figure 15 Elastic Modulus for Technology Drive





**Figure 16 Elastic Modulus for Granular Material at Technology Drive**



**Figure 17 Elastic Modulus Subgrade/Geofoam Technology Drive**

## Determination of Composite Moduli for Trunk Highway 100

The determination of effective moduli for rigid pavement was accomplished using calculations from the FAA report AC 150/5370-11A [5] and from methods outlined by Khazanovich *et al.* in the report FHWA-RD-00-086 [3]. The process of calculating the effective moduli for rigid pavement from FAA report AC 150/5370-11A and FHWA report FHWA-RD-00-086 will be explained below

FAA report AC 150/5370 focuses on non destructive testing and evaluation using such data. Chapter 7 of the formerly mentioned report deals with deflection data analysis and the following steps are from that chapter. Unlike using BAKFAA for flexible pavement, the backcalculation for rigid pavement utilized in this report will give a unique answer. The method is referred to as the *AREA* based method, and the desired results are the subgrade reaction  $k$  and the effective pavement modulus.

This report will use the FHWA report RD-00-086 and mimic the *AREA* calculation so that the relevant curves (3) may be used to record the radius of relative stiffness. The authors of this report then used various software products to calculate the subgrade reaction  $k$ , and the component moduli. This report however will not be concerned with calculations of various software products and will use the two methods as a comparison.

The first step to calculating the composite moduli along with the subgrade reaction  $k$ , is to gather FWD data and then to determine *AREA*. The second step is to calculate the radius of relative stiffness, and finally to calculate the subgrade reaction  $k$  and the composite moduli. Determining *AREA* will be the next step since the FWD data has been gathered. *AREA* is not area; *AREA* is a one dimensional measure that has a direct relation to a specific radius of relative stiffness. *AREA* is calculated using the trapezoid rule and has been represented below to meet specific sensor arrangements.  $AREA_4$  (Eq. 2) is used with the Khazanovich *et al.* calculations, while  $AREA_7$  (Eq. 3) is used with the AC 150 calculations.

$$AREA_{4.SNR} = \left[ 6 + 12 \left( \frac{d_{12}}{d_0} \right) + 12 \left( \frac{d_{24}}{d_0} \right) + 6 \left( \frac{d_{36}}{d_0} \right) \right] \quad (2)$$

$$AREA_{7.SNR} = \left[ 4 + 6 \left( \frac{d_8}{d_0} \right) + 5 \left( \frac{d_{12}}{d_0} \right) + 9 \left( \frac{d_{24}}{d_0} \right) + 18 \left( \frac{d_{36}}{d_0} \right) + 12 \left( \frac{d_{60}}{d_0} \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

where:

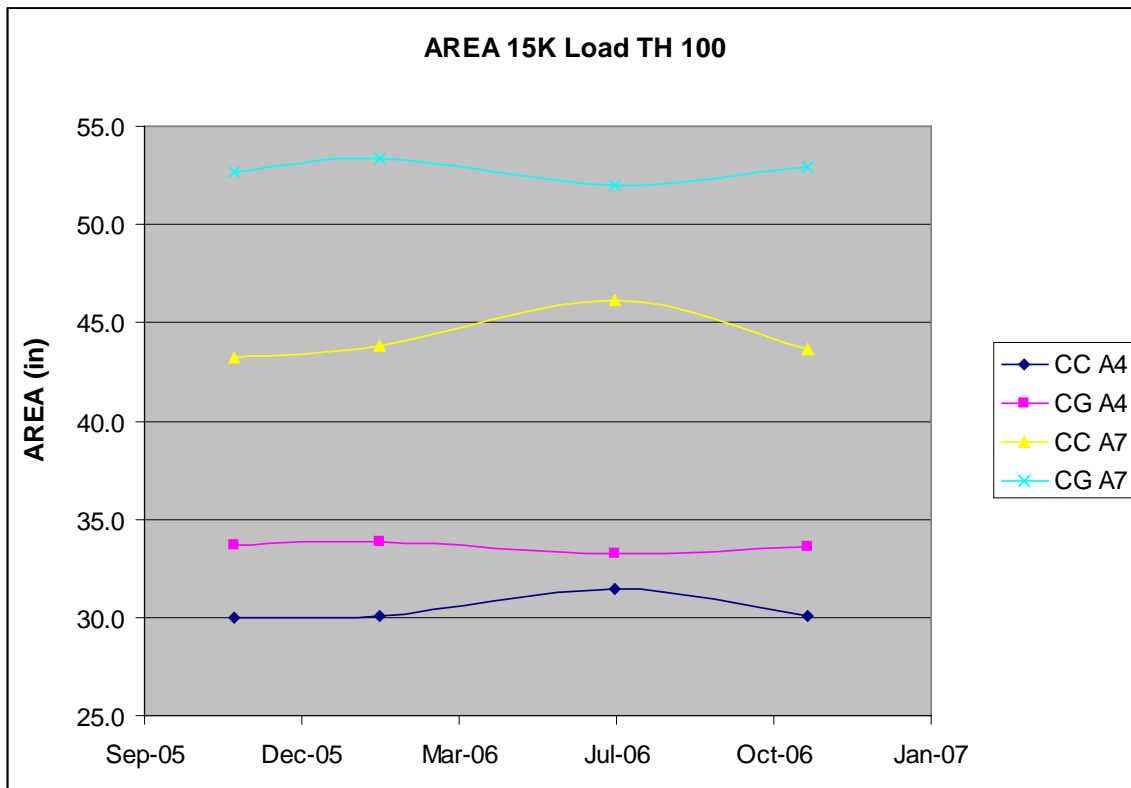
$AREA$  = One dimensional, inches

$d_x$  = Deflection of sensor at  $x$  inches from the applied load

*AREA* calculations for  $AREA_4$  and  $AREA_7$  do differ more than the author had anticipated based on the fact that both equations are stated to be based off of the trapezoid rule. Differences in *AREA* are magnified to be larger differences in the radius of relative stiffness and even larger differences in the composite elastic modulus.

A few trends can be identified from Figure 18. First, Geofoam sections always have higher *AREA* values than the control sections for a similar *AREA* calculation. Secondly, *AREA*<sub>7</sub> values always have higher values than *AREA*<sub>4</sub> values for this study. Also, there appears to be a trend in the summer that Geofoam sections have a lower *AREA* while the control sections have a higher *AREA*.

After area has been calculated, the radius of relative stiffness can be calculated. The radius of relative stiffness can be found by using the chart created by Khazanovich *et al.*, or it can be calculated by the FAA method in AC 150/5370. When using the chart created by Khazanovich *et al.*, it is important to note that the *AREA* calculation is based off of a four sensor FWD with 12” sensor spacing. Also, the chart contains radius of relative stiffness curves for both a slab placed on an elastic solid base and dense liquid base. This report utilized the relationship between *AREA* and relative stiffness in regards to an elastic solid.



**Figure 18 AREA Calculations on TH 100**

The relationship between *AREA* and the radius of relative stiffness can be stated to be sensitive. The author defines this relationship as being sensitive, for a small change in one variable can lead to a considerable change in the other variable. Khazanovich *et al.* found the same fact to be true and stated:

“As was found by Ionnides *et al.* (1989), an *AREA*-radius of relative stiffness relationship becomes almost flat for high radii of relative stiffness.... This means that small variability in a measured basin may cause significant variability in the backcalculated radius of relative stiffness [3].”

In summary, the method used to calculate the *AREA* can alone change greatly the radius of relative stiffness, and small errors in the FWD data gathering stage can create high variability in the calculated radius of relative stiffness.

Radius of relative stiffness is calculated by the FAA method by Equation 4:

$$\lambda_k = \left[ \frac{\ln\left(\frac{A - AREA}{B}\right)}{C} \right]^D \quad (4)$$

where:

- $\lambda_k$  = Winkler foundation radius of relative stiffness, inch
- AREA* = *AREA* as calculated (Eq. 2, 3)
- A, B, C, D = *AREA*-based constants

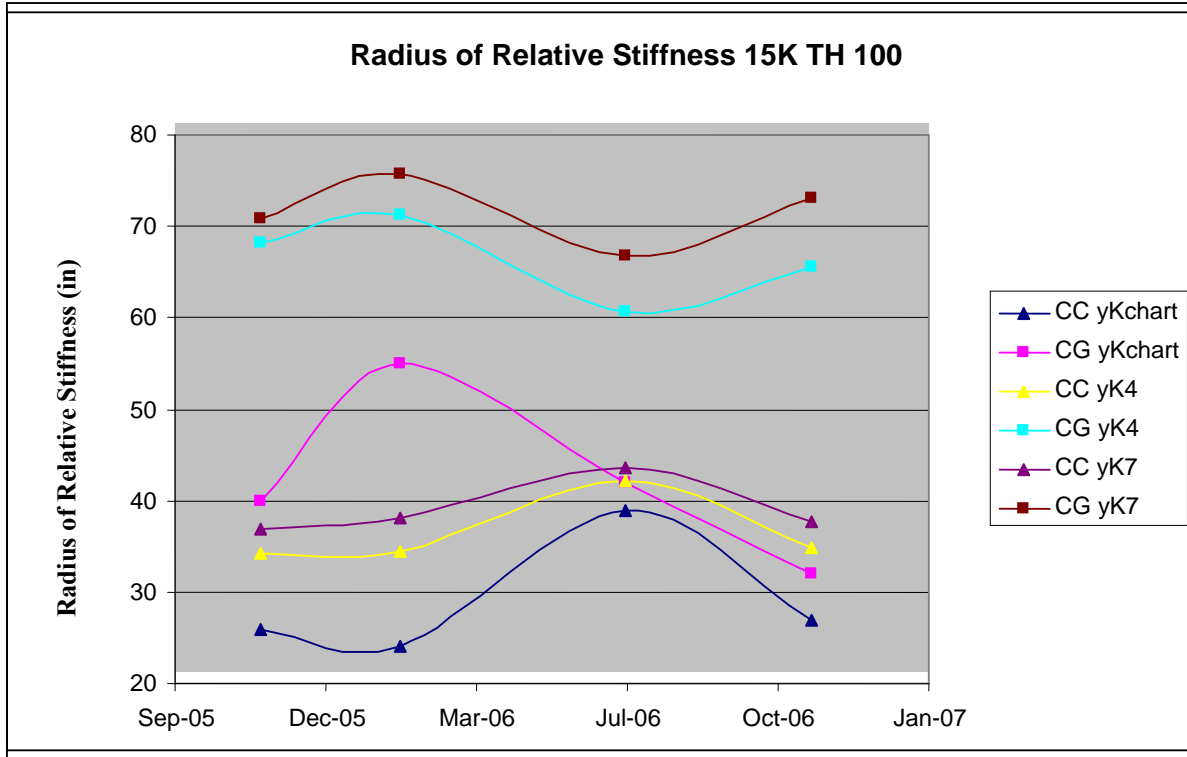
Constants A, B, C, and D (Table 3) are constants that are FWD and sensor spacing specific. The specific FWD used for this project is not listed in the table above; however, the FWD sensors used have been manipulated to reflect the FWD above for the area calculation. Once the constants A, B, C, and D are plugged into the above equation the radius of relative stiffness can be computed.

**Table 3 Closed Form Constants**

<i>AREA</i> Method	Constant			
	A	B	C	D
1. SHRP 4-sensor (0 to 36 inches)	36	1812.279	-2.559	4.387
2. SHRP 7-sensor (0 to 60 inches)	60	289.078	-0.698	2.566
3. SHRP 5 outer sensors (12 to 60 inches)	48	158.408	-0.476	2.22
4. Air Force 6 outer sensors (12 to 72 inches)	60	301.8	-0.622	2.501

Figure 20 illustrates the trends in calculating the radius of relative stiffness for different methods of calculating *AREA* and for either the control sections or the Geofoam sections. The control sections of TH 100 are labeled CC while the Geofoam sections are labeled CG. The different methods for calculating *AREA* are stated as yKchart, yK4 or yK7. yKchart is the radius of

relative stiffness provided by the chart supplied in the report by Khazanovich *et al.* [3] and yK4 and yK7 are the radius of relative stiffness values calculated using either  $AREA_4$  or  $AREA_7$  from the FAA report [5].



**Figure 19 Radius of Relative Stiffness Calculations**

A few interesting trends can be stated about the radius of relative stiffness. First, the radius of relative stiffness is always greater for the same method on the Geof foam section. Secondly, the radius of relative stiffness increases with the addition of more sensors. The chart from FHWA-RD-00-0086 uses a four sensor FWD while the  $AREA_4$  also uses a 4 sensor FWD and finally the  $AREA_7$  utilizes a seven sensor FWD. The last interesting trend is that the radius of relative stiffness is greatest in the winter for the Geof foam and smallest in the summer. On the other hand, the radius of relative stiffness is greatest in the summer for the control sections and least in the winter.

Once the radius of relative stiffness is known the modulus of subgrade reaction,  $k$ , and the effective elastic modulus can be calculated. The modulus of subgrade reaction  $k$  and the associated variables are calculated by Equation 5. Let it be noted that the variable  $d_r^*$  will not be explained in this report and that guidance for calculating this variable can be found in the FAA report AC 150/5370-11A [5].

$$k = \left( \frac{P * d_r^*}{d_r^* \lambda_k^2} \right) \quad (5)$$

where:

- k = Modulus of subgrade reaction, psi/inch
- P = Applied FWD load, pound
- $\lambda_k$  = Winkler foundation radius of relative stiffness, inch
- d\*r = Nondimensional deflection coefficient for radial distance r.
- dr = Measured deflection at radial distance r, inch

Figure 21 shows that the modulus of subgrade reaction was always higher for the control sections than the Geofoam sections. This fact intuitively makes sense because the Geofoam was placed over areas of weak subgrade. Another feature of Figure 21 is that k chart values are always greater than the k4 (AREA4 method) which are always greater than k7 (AREA7 method). It also appears that k4 and k7 is a better match than any other two combinations. This also can be expected considering that both k4 and k7 are derived from the methodology outlined in FAA report AC150/5370-11A [5] while the k chart values are derived from the chart created by the authors of the FHWA-RD-00-0086 [3] report.

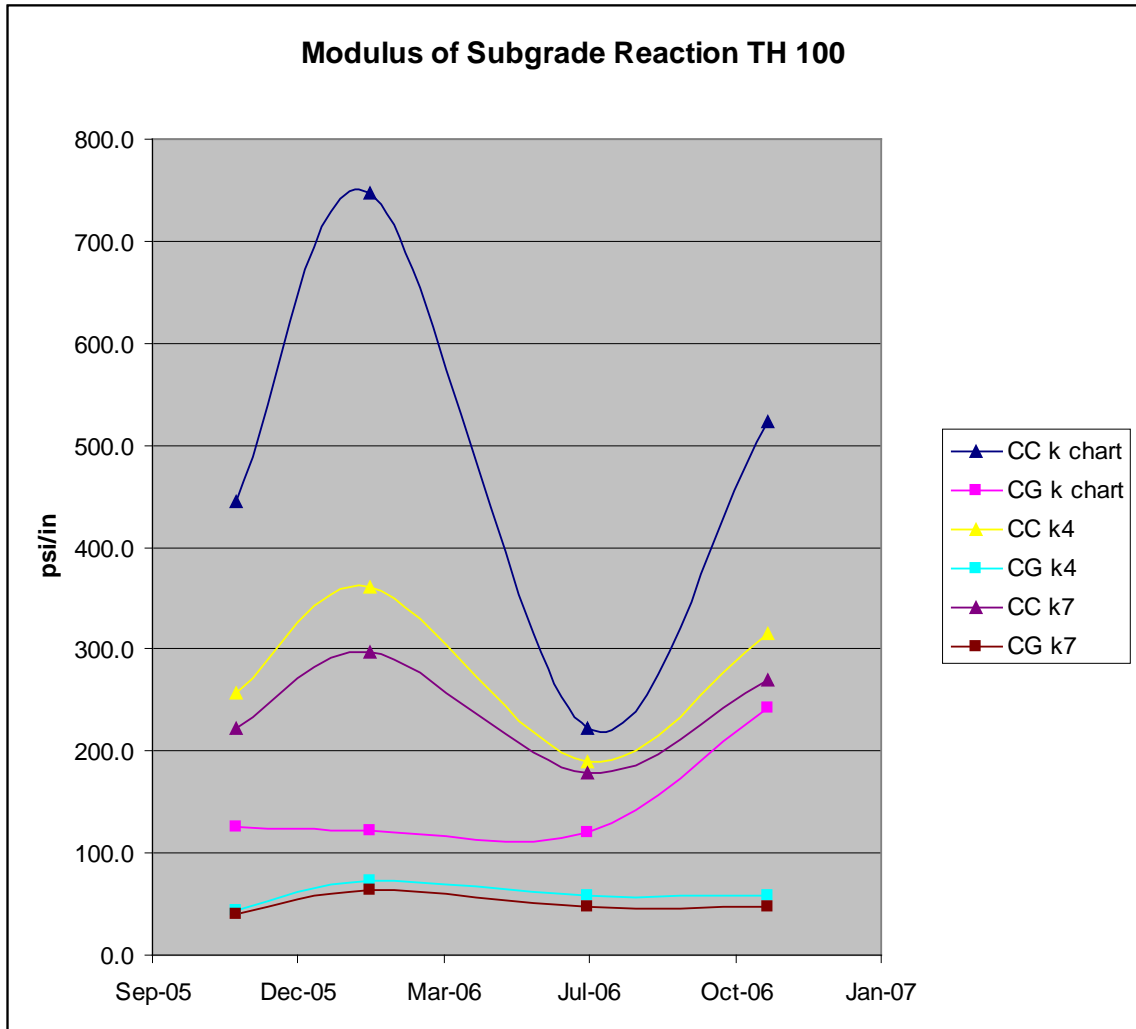
Once the modulus of subgrade reaction is calculated the effective elastic modulus can be calculated. The effective elastic modulus is calculated by Equation 6 [5]:

$$E = \left( \frac{12(1 - \mu^2)P * \lambda_k^2 * d_r^*}{d_r * h^3} \right) \quad (6)$$

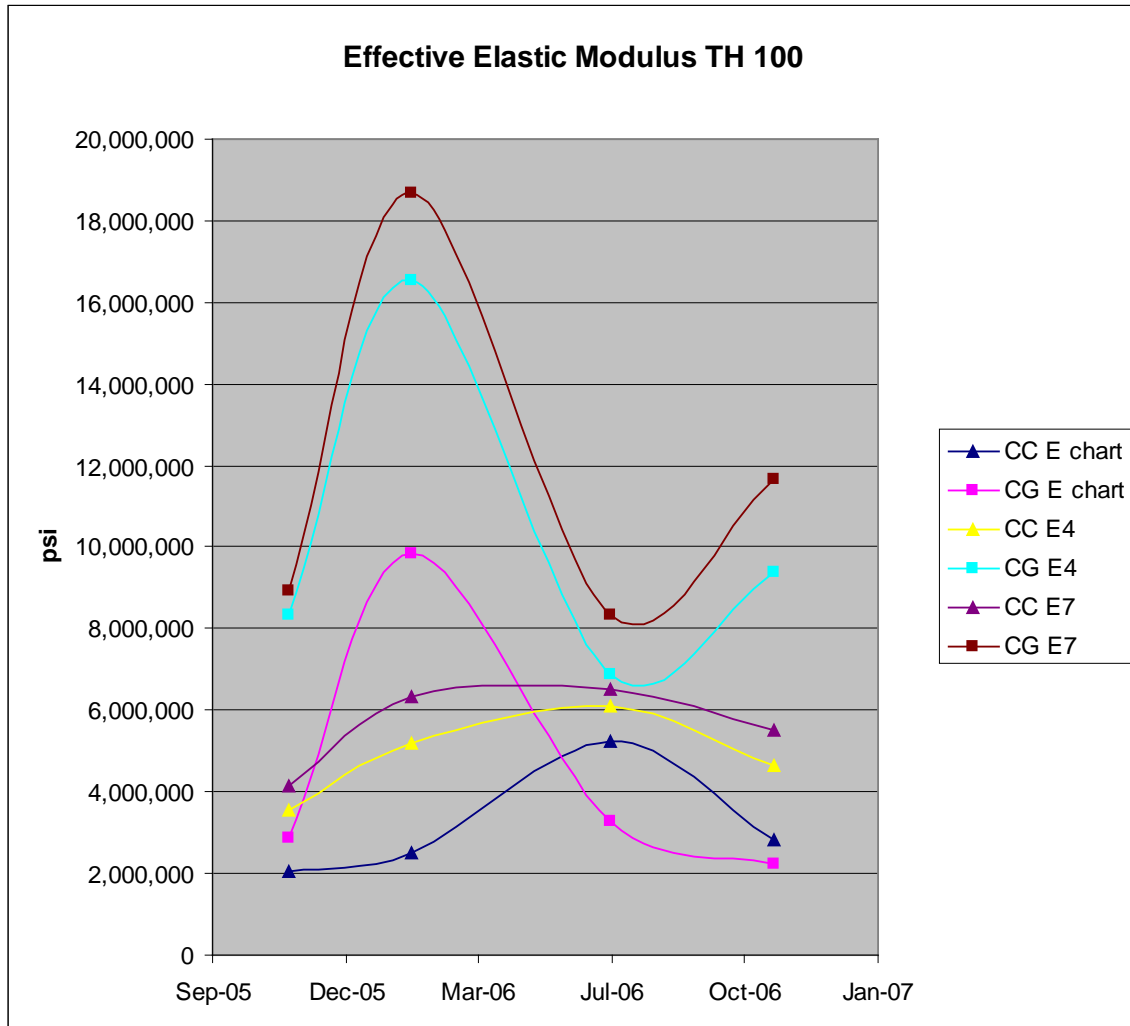
where:

- E = Effective elastic modulus, psi
- $\mu$  = PCC Poisson's ratio
- P = Applied FWD load, pounds
- $\lambda_k$  = Winkler foundation radius of relative stiffness, inch
- d\*r = Nondimensional deflection coefficient for radial distance r
- dr = Measured deflection at radial distance r, inch
- h = Thickness of all bound layers above the subgrade, inch

Many interesting topics can be discussed with Figure 22. The first point of discussion that pops out is that the effective modulus for the Geofoam sections jumps up in the winter. No extreme cold weather took place over the winter and perhaps this is related to differential icing. The Geofoam could be insulating the surface material from the warmer material beneath and this could cause freezing of the surface and granular material. Secondly, there is a somewhat consistent trend within a section in that Geofoam sections peak at the same season while control sections somewhat mirror each other. Thirdly, again the AREA trend trickles down in that E7 is greater than E4 and E4 is greater than E chart for both the control sections and the Geofoam sections.



**Figure 20 Modulus of Subgrade Reaction TH 100**



**Figure 21 Effective Elastic Modulus TH 100**

**Determination of Component Moduli for Layers, Trunk Highway 100**

The determination of component moduli for a rigid pavement design was accomplished using BAKFAA. To determine a seed value a statement from the FAA Report AC 150/5370-11A is used:

“If the PCC structure does not contain a stabilized base, HMA overlay, or PCC overlay, the backcalculated dynamic effective modulus is the PCC modulus of elasticity [5].”

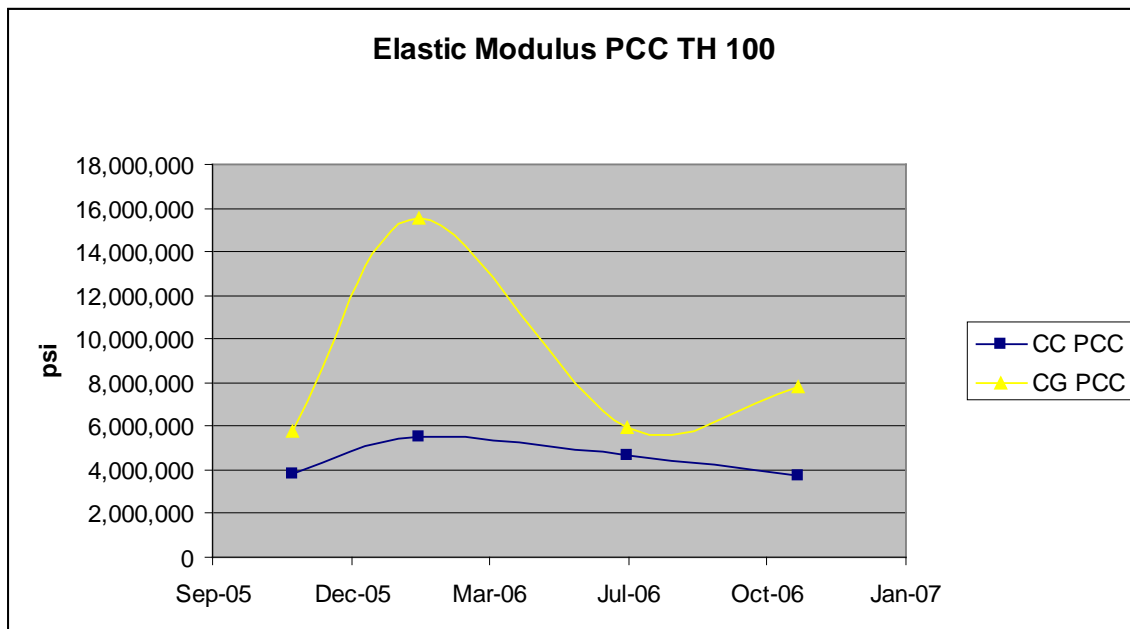
After the seed values have been entered, the appropriate FWD data backcalculation can be done. Other points of interest are that this particular run of BAKFAA was accomplished for the 15,000 lb applied force, depths of material are listed in inches, granular base and aggregate base have been combined for calculation purposes, and that a Poisson’s ratio of 0.15 was chosen for the concrete while 0.35 was chosen for the remaining materials. BAKFAA was then used to



calculate layer moduli for different loading and seasons. Seasonal variations due to temperature and moisture were prevalent.

Figure 23 shows the corresponding elastic modulus for the Portland Cement Concrete layer at Trunk Highway 100. The points on the chart represent the different modulus calculated by BAKFAA for the concrete layer during different seasons. The two lines represent the concrete above Geofoam (CG) and the concrete control (CC) section.

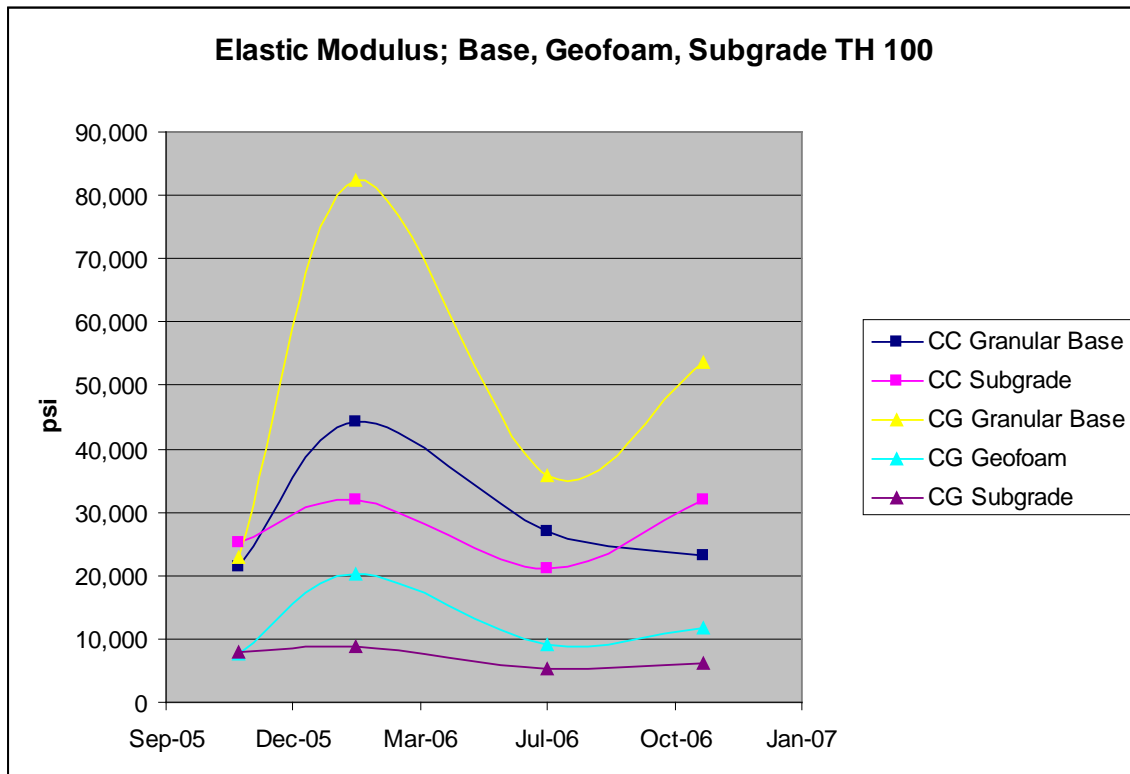
The winter value for concrete was much higher for the measurement taken in February of 2006. This could potentially be due to the insulating properties of Geofoam. The month that the measurement was taken was not overly cold and did not have long spells of far below freezing temperatures. The author speculates that the Geofoam trapped subgrade heat from rising to the pavement surface and therefore the pavement surface froze, creating a stiffer section over the Geofoam section but not the control section. Secondly, the concrete over the Geofoam always had a greater modulus calculated by BAKFAA than the control section concrete calculated by BAKFAA.



**Figure 22 Elastic Modulus PCC TH 100**

As noted in the discussion on the HMA test section, the elastic modulus for the same material should be relatively similar. One potential reason for the differing moduli is that the BAKFAA software, or probably any other backcalculating software computes composite moduli and then spreads those moduli over all the layers according to the FWD deflection basin. The software recognizes reduced/increased moduli for a section but does not distribute the moduli as it probably should.

Figure 24 compares the granular, subgrade, and Geofoam elastic modulus and how they contrast by season. The calculated moduli for control sections are represented with squares while the calculated moduli for Geofoam sections are represented with triangles.



**Figure 23 Elastic Modulus: Base, Geofoam, Subgrade TH 100**

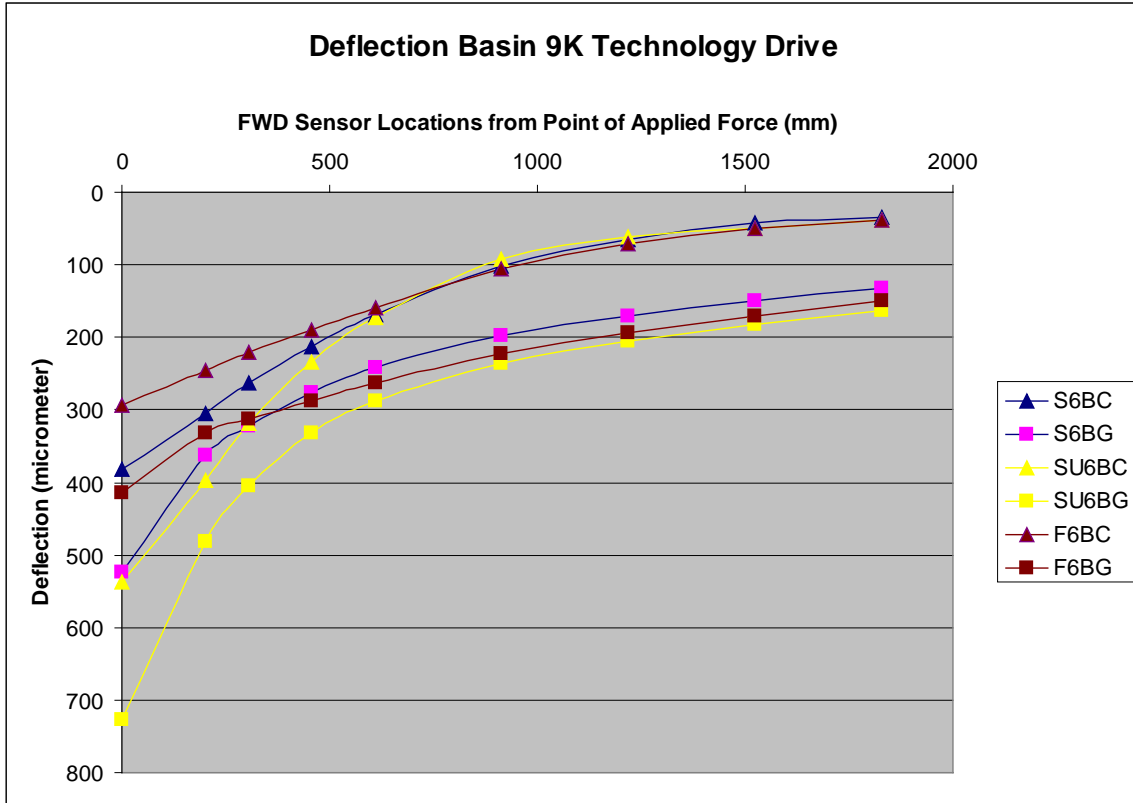
The granular over Geofoam is calculated to have a higher elastic modulus than the granular at the control section. One potential reason for this is that a concrete cap was placed over the Geofoam blocks and this could increase the stiffness in the granular material. Secondly, the granular material over Geofoam has a spike in the elastic modulus over the winter testing period. This perhaps could be related to differential icing, or in this case as differential freezing. The Geofoam could be acting as a barrier to warm air rising from the subgrade allowing the granular material to freeze over the Geofoam while the granular material in the control section does not freeze. The third trend spotted is the increase in all materials elastic modulus for the winter testing. Perhaps materials are beginning to freeze or the top layer is freezing causing the composite elastic modulus to increase and then BAKFAA distributes this increase in the composite to all component layers. It should be noted that Young's Modulus is ideally only applicable for a homogenous, isotropic, and linear elastic material. A road surfacing structure is neither, but can be successfully modeled as such.

### ***Geofoam versus Control HMA Section***

FWD deflection, MDD deflection, Geophone vibration/acceleration, and elastic modulus data will be used to compare the Geofoam section with the control section at Technology Drive. The

following trends were found to exist and will be explained in greater detail below. First, sections with Geofoam were found to have deeper deflection basins than the control sections. Secondly, maximum acceleration was found to be the same for both the control and the Geofoam section. Since the control section and the Geofoam section have the same maximum acceleration either maximum acceleration is happening longer at the Geofoam section or the pavement structure is accelerating longer at the Geofoam section/shorter at the control section. Longer acceleration will lead to greater velocity so it can be assumed that the Geofoam deflection is moving faster at some point than the control section. It could also be possible that the Geofoam has limited effect on the maximum acceleration and that acceleration is a variable of the surfacing or granular layers. Another supporting fact is that velocities are closer in the winter when the surface materials are stiffer, so perhaps a better way to explain acceleration and/or velocity is that the stiffer the surface material the less the underlying material affects the acceleration and or velocity of the above layers. Another possible conclusion is that since the frequency is higher for control sections and knowing that maximum accelerations are approximately the same while velocities and deflections are different is that Geofoam section deflections are deeper and broader while control sections are shallower and sharper. A potential worse case would involve a deep sharp deflection basin for that would place the maximum stress on the pavement as the deflection wave propagates with the wheel loading.

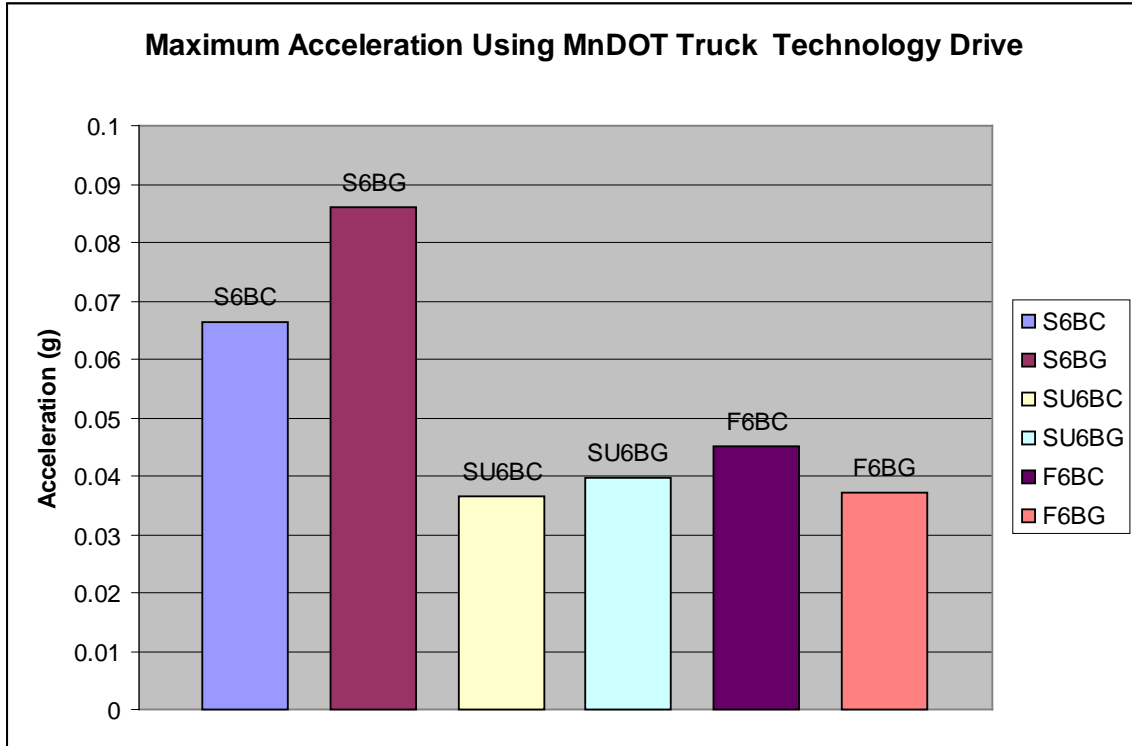
Sections with Geofoam were found to deflect more than the control section at Technology Drive when the same loading was applied by the FWD, Figure 25. A correlation also existed within a season for the sensors located within 18 in. of the applied load. For example, during the summer deflection testing the Geofoam section had the greatest deflection of all the other seasons. This case was also seen for the control section for the sensors located within 24 in. of the applied load. Another trend is that Geofoam had less to do with maximum deflection than deflection at sensors beyond 24 in. The observations for this statement relate to the closeness of the control maximum deflection for a season to the same season Geofoam section compared to the closeness of those same two deflection basins beyond 24 in. from the applied load. It may be hypothesized that maximum deflection or deflection at the sensors within 24 in. of the applied load are more dependent on the surface material than that of the underlying Geofoam. However, it appears that the deflection basin as measured by sensors beyond 24 in. from the applied load are more greatly affected by underlying Geofoam than the surface material as seen by the increased gap between the control sections and the Geofoam sections. It also appears that the gap in between maximum deflections and deflections at 72 in. increase. Thus creating the appearance that the Geofoam deflection basin while deeper is broader. More testing beyond 72 in. is most likely needed and also one could fit an equation so the deflection basin and then derivate to see which slope is indeed greater.



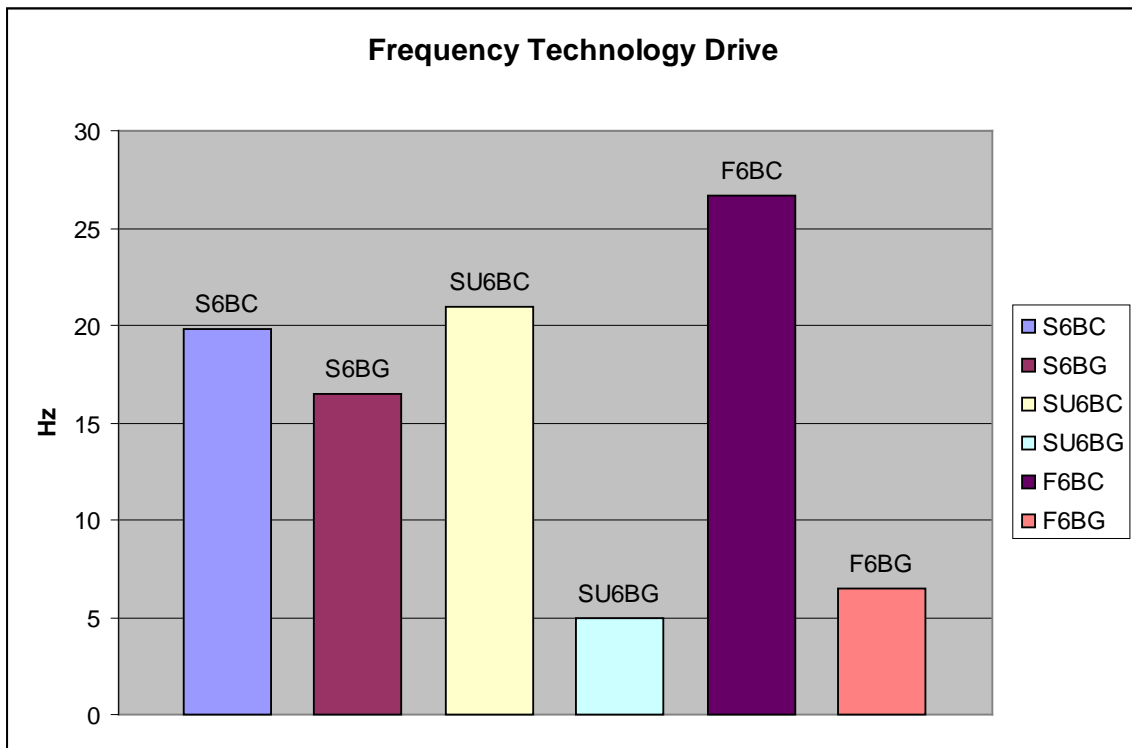
**Figure 24 Deflection Basin at Technology Drive**

Figure 26 shows the maximum acceleration caused by a Mn/DOT truck and measured by an InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone. The data is significant in that no significant trends were identified. During different seasons vibrations were measured to be higher or lower, but due to the variability in the speed of the truck, the placement of the wheel to the geophone, and that fact that the geophone could have been damaged, this author is not comfortable in identifying differences and will claim the acceleration is about equal for the different sections within a season.

The last data to be observed will be the vibration data, Figure 27. The vibration data was also collected by the InstanTel Blastmate III. The vibration data shows that the dominant frequency for the control section is always greater than the dominant frequency for the Geofoam section. The fall testing of 2006 was done in November and there is a possibility that the surface material had begun to freeze, so it would have been interesting to collect data on Technology drive in the winter months to see if freezing materials would cause a variance in the frequency. Since the frequency for the control is higher, the deflection waves are moving faster from crest to trough. However, the control section deflections are less than those of the Geofoam section so it is hard to say whether the control or the Geofoam section produces more stress on the pavement due to bending caused by the deflection waves.



**Figure 25 Acceleration Due to Mn/DOT Truck at Technology Drive**



**Figure 26 Frequency at Technology Drive**

### Geofoam versus Control Concrete

FWD deflection, MDD deflection, Geophone vibration/acceleration, and elastic modulus data will be used to compare the Geofoam section with the control section at Trunk Highway 100, Figure 28. The following trends were found to exist and will be explained in greater detail below. First, sections with Geofoam were found to have deeper deflection basins than the control sections. Secondly, maximum acceleration was found to be approximately the same for both the control and the Geofoam section. Since the control section and the Geofoam section have the same maximum acceleration either maximum acceleration is happening longer at the Geofoam section or the pavement structure is accelerating longer at the Geofoam section/shorter at the control section. Longer acceleration will lead to greater velocity so it can be assumed that the Geofoam deflection is moving faster at some point than the control section. It could also be possible that the Geofoam has limited effect on the maximum acceleration and that acceleration is a variable of the surfacing or granular layers. Another supporting fact is that velocities are closer in the winter when the surface materials are stiffer, so perhaps a better way to explain acceleration and/or velocity is that the stiffer the surface material the less the underlying material affects the acceleration and or velocity of the above layers. Another possible conclusion is that since the frequency is higher for control sections and knowing that maximum accelerations are approximately the same while velocities and deflections are different is that Geofoam section deflections are deeper and broader while control sections are shallower and sharper. A potential worse case would involve a deep sharp deflection basin for that would place the maximum stress on the pavement as the deflection wave propagates with the wheel loading.

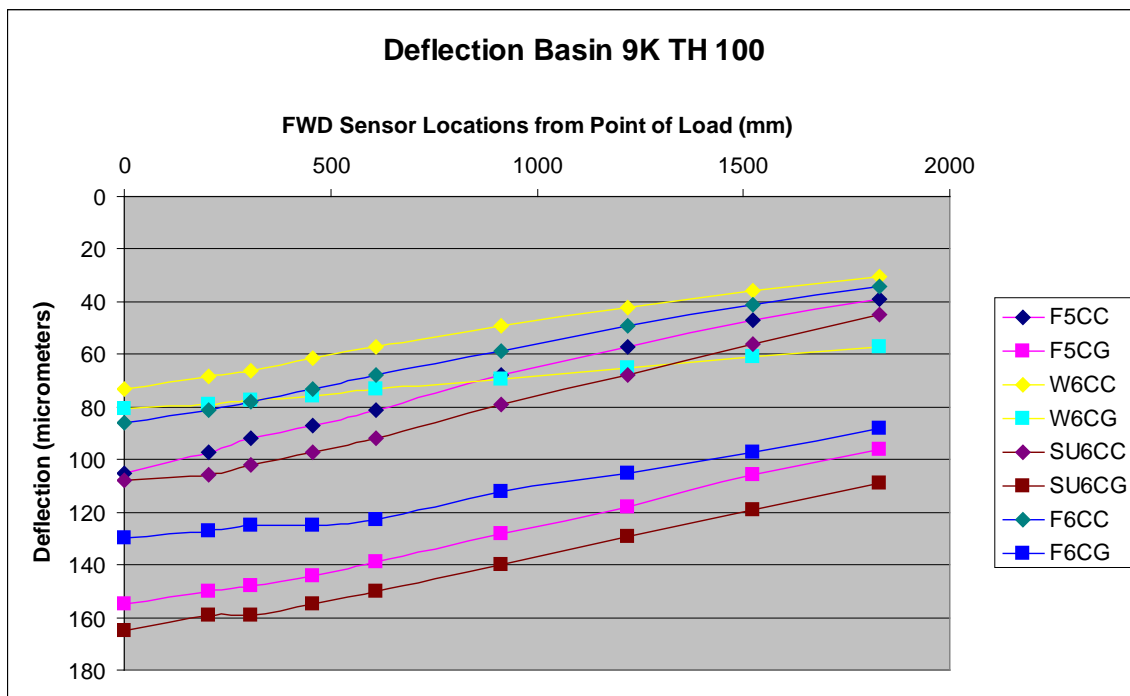
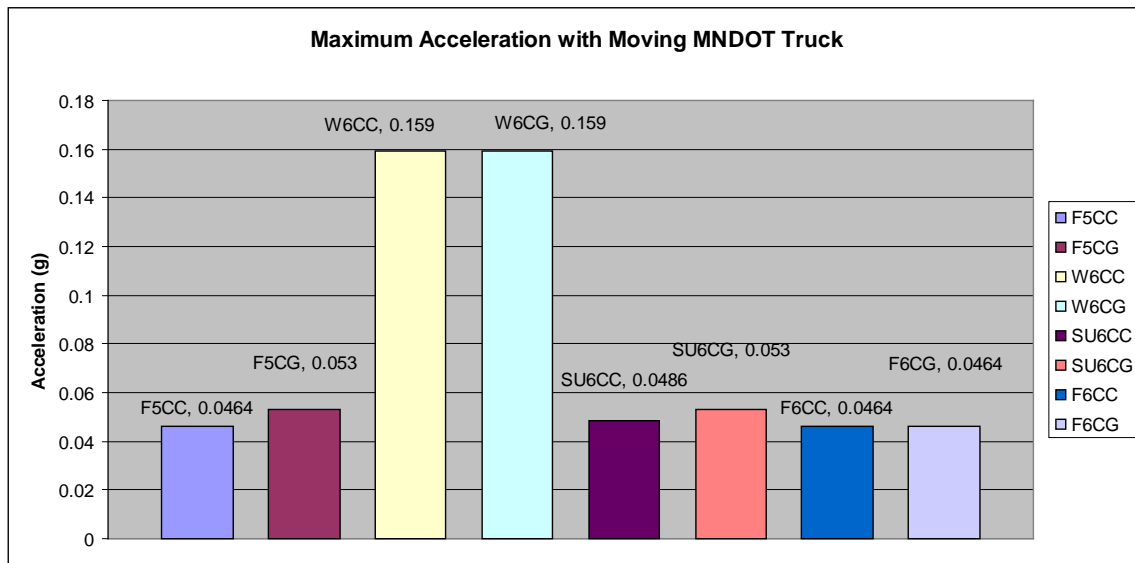


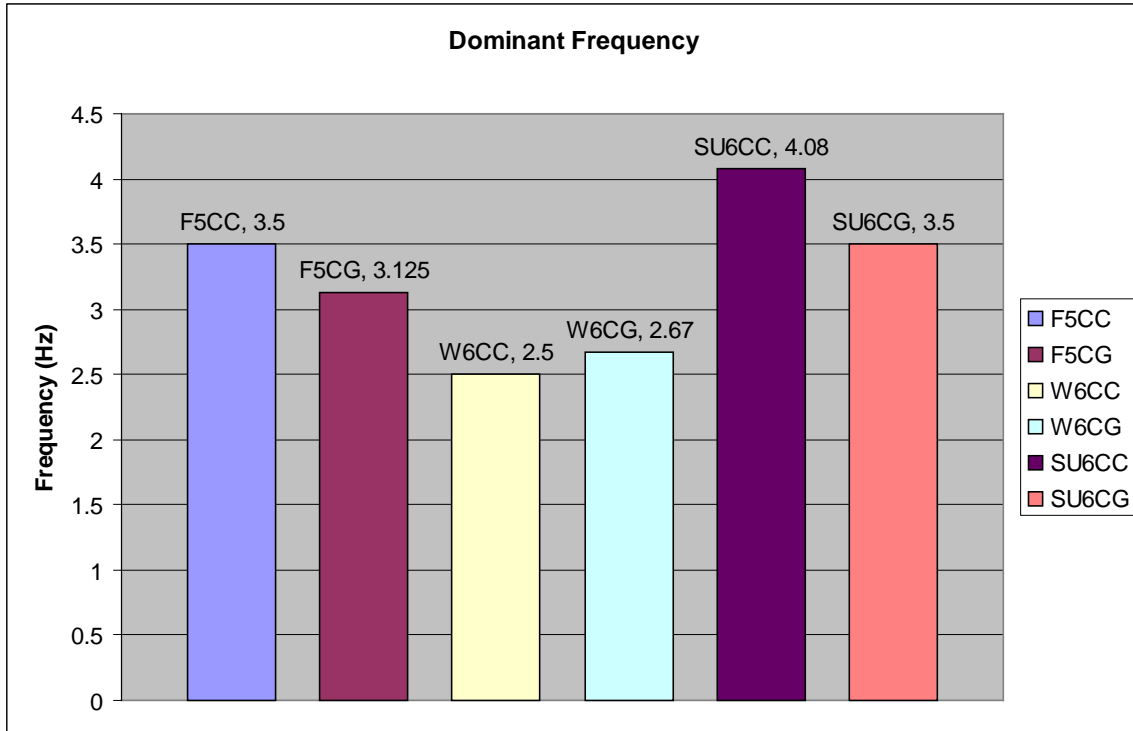
Figure 27 Deflection Basin at TH 100

Sections with Geofoam were found to deflect more than the control section at TH 100 when the same loading was applied by the FWD. A correlation also existed within a season. For example, during the winter testing the Geofoam section had less deflection than Geofoam sections during all other seasons, and during the summer deflection testing the Geofoam section had the greatest deflection of all the other seasons. This case is also true of the control section. Another interesting fact is that during the winter deflection testing the Geofoam section acted most like the control section. Considering the depth of Geofoam and the depth of the material below the Geofoam it is very unlikely that the Geofoam or the subgrade froze, therefore, the additional stiffness must be contributed to the upper layers, or the PCC and the granular base. Also, the warmer the temperature, or the softer the PCC/granular base the more the Geofoam affected deflection. This can be seen in that the difference in deflections from the control section to the Geofoam section is greatest in the summer time. From this observation, the stiffer the top layer, the less the underlying Geofoam effects deflection, or that the softer the top layer the greater the effect that underlying Geofoam has on deflection.

Figure 29 shows the maximum acceleration caused by a Mn/DOT truck and measured by an InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone. The data is significant in that no significant trends were identified. During different seasons vibrations were measured to be higher or lower, but due to the variability in the speed of the truck, the placement of the wheel to the geophone, and that fact that the geophone could have been damaged, this author is not comfortable in identifying differences and will claim the acceleration is about equal for the different sections within a season. One noticeable trend however is the increase in acceleration in the winter testing. It appears that a pavement structure that becomes stiffer in the winter will accelerate faster. Figure 30 shows the dominate frequencies of vibration due to the Mn/DOT truck loading.



**Figure 28 Maximum Acceleration by Mn/DOT Truck TH 100**



**Figure 29 Dominant Frequency TH 100**

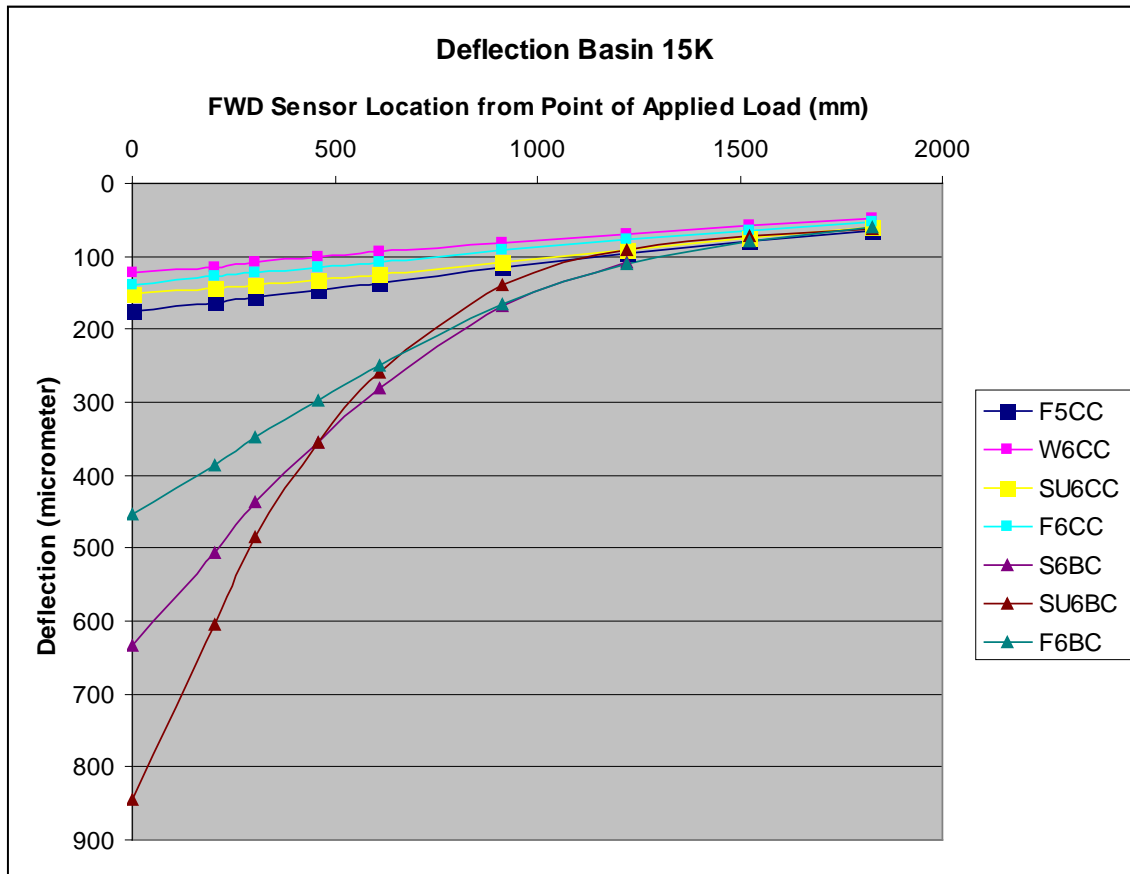
The last data to be observed will be the vibration data. As stated previously, the vibration data was also collected by the InstanTel Blastmate III. The vibration data shows that the dominant frequency for the control section is always greater than the dominant frequency for the Geofoam section. Since the frequency for the control is higher, the deflection waves are moving faster from crest to trough, or stated in another way, during any set time period, more waves occur on the control section than on the Geofoam section. However, the control section deflections are less than those of the Geofoam section so it is hard to determine whether the control or the Geofoam section produces more stress on the pavement due to bending caused by the deflection waves. The Work Plan document for this project claimed that field observations documented increased vibration over the Geofoam before the PCC surfacing was placed. From the data below, the response of the vibration frequency is little different and perhaps even less on Geofoam than on an adjacent control section. While it is noted that increased deflection takes place at the Geofoam section according to FWD data, the author has some doubts whether this difference would even be noticeable much less worth noting as a concern. If increased vibration frequency and magnitude did indeed take place, then the cap of concrete, the granular material, and the PCC surfacing must play a role in reducing the previously observed vibrations.

### ***Control Concrete versus Control Geofoam HMA***

FWD deflection, MDD deflection, Geophone vibration/acceleration, and elastic modulus data will be used to compare the PCC control section to the HMA control section. The following trends were found to exist and will be explained in greater detail below. First, HMA sections at Technology Drive deflect more under a given load than the concrete sections at TH 100 for the



same given load, Figure 31. Secondly, temperature variations effect deflections on Technology drive to a greater extent then temperature variations on TH 100. Acceleration is greater for concrete sections in a season then for the same season of bituminous. The dominant frequency was not only higher in any one season for bituminous then concrete, but bituminous had a higher dominant frequency regardless of which season was compared.



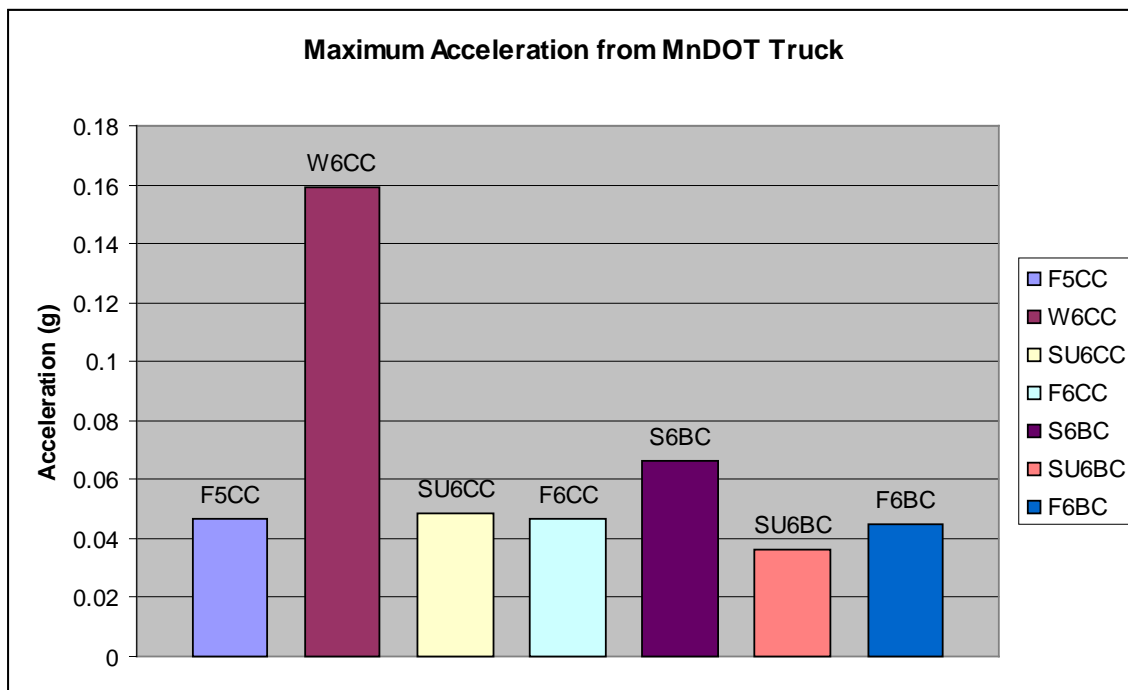
**Figure 30 Deflection Basin TH 100 vs. Technology Drive Control Sections**

Control sections at Technology drive were found to deflect more than control sections at Trunk Highway 100 and were affected more by changes in the weather. Technology drive deflections were much greater for the sensors within 610 millimeters (24 in.) of the applied load then sensors located more than 915 mm (36 in.). At the sensors located the furthest from the applied load, deflections are nearly identical. The reason for the larger deflection adjacent to the applied load is two fold. First, the asphalt itself deflects under load and that is the reason why when calculating *AREA* the sensor directly over the applied load is not used. Secondly, hot mix asphalt is a flexible pavement while portland cement concrete is a rigid pavement. A rigid pavement disperses a load over a wider area than a flexible pavement. The sensors that measure deflection on a FWD are set so that the sensors adjacent to the load measure the deflection of the surfacing while the sensors furthest from the load measure the deflection of the materials at deeper levels. Therefore the pavement at Technology Drive will have a lower elastic modulus and less load distribution then the pavement at TH 100, but since the sensors located over 1524 mm (60 in.)

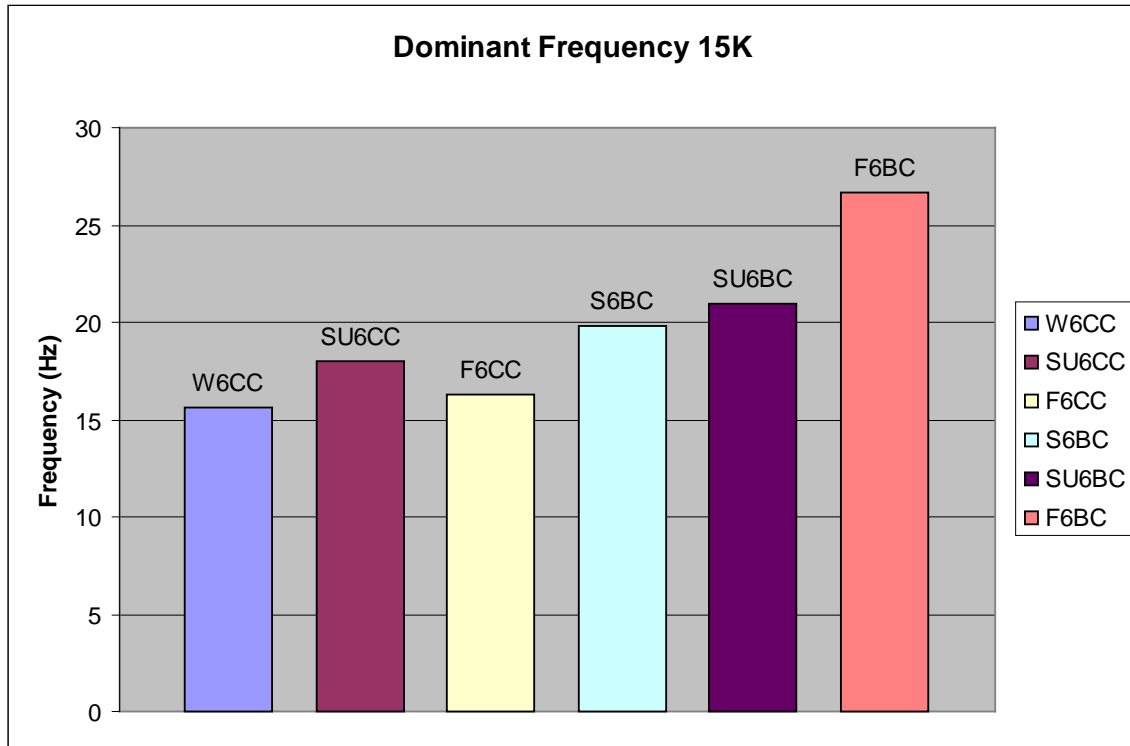
are nearly identical it can be assumed that the roadways are built over subgrades that have similar elastic moduli.

Secondly, it has been noted that changes in temperature affected the HMA at Technology Drive greater than temperature affected PCC at TH 100. It can be noted that as HMA freezes it acts more as if it were concrete. This is the case because temperature affects the flexibility of the asphalt binder in the mix. The warmer the temperature the more flexible the binder becomes, and the colder the more stiff the binder becomes. The stiffer the binder the stiffer the pavement, the stiffer the HMA the more it resembles concrete.

Figure 32 shows the maximum acceleration caused by a Mn/DOT truck measured by an InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone. The acceleration is always greater for the PCC section than the HMA section. Unfortunately, only two seasons can be compared but the acceleration for 2005 and 2006 fall PCC is greater than the 2006 fall HMA. Also, the summer of 2006 has a similar comparison. A stiffer pavement structure will lead to a greater degree of acceleration for a load of similar magnitude. A more noticeable point is the increase in acceleration in the winter testing. It appears that a pavement structure that becomes stiffer in the winter will accelerate faster. Winter data at Technology Drive would have been beneficial in supporting this claim. Figure 33 shows the dominant measured frequencies at the control sections.



**Figure 31 Maximum Acceleration by Mn/DOT Truck at Control Sections**



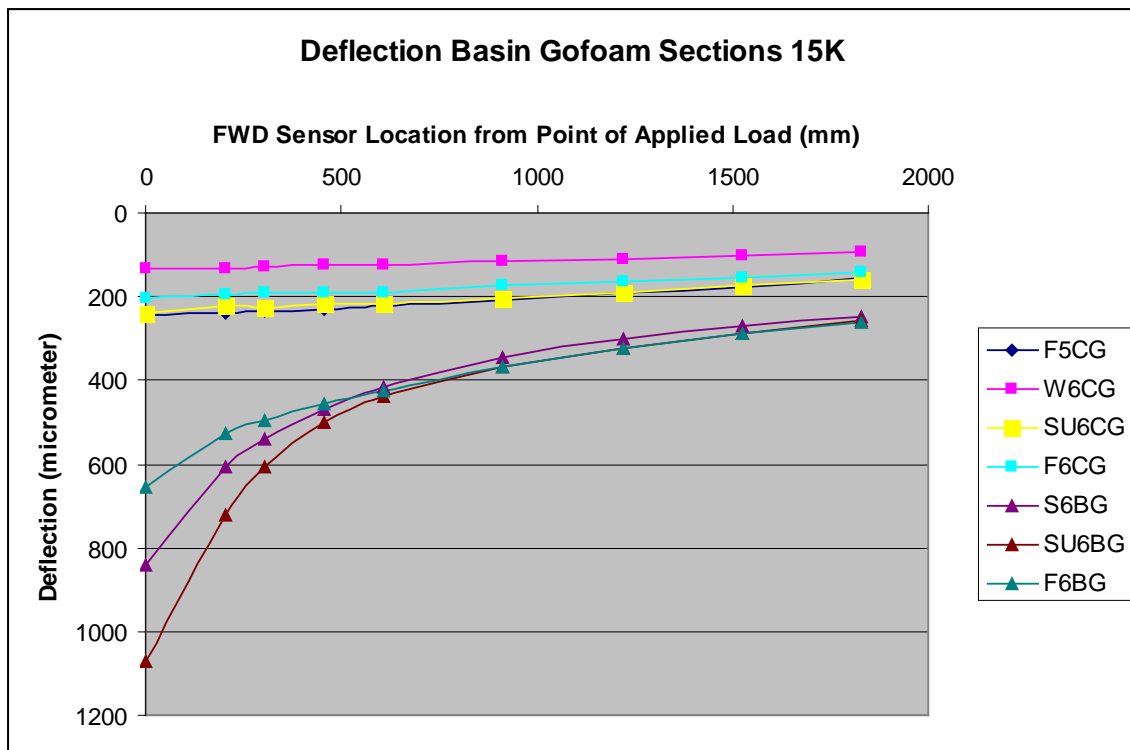
**Figure 32 Dominant Frequency at Control Sections**

The vibration data was also collected by the InstanTel Blastmate III. The vibration data shows that the dominant frequency for the HMA control section is always greater than the dominant frequency for the PCC section regardless of the season. Since the frequency for the HMA is higher, the deflection waves are moving faster from crest to trough, or stated in another way, during any set time period for the same applied load, more waves occur at the HMA control section than on the PCC control section. Even though the HMA section has greater deflections and deflection waves that are moving faster, it cannot be determined if more or less damage to the pavement structure is happening because of the difference in pavement response of flexible and rigid pavement.

### ***Concrete Geofoam versus HMA Geofoam***

FWD deflection, MDD deflection, Geophone vibration/acceleration, and elastic modulus data was used to compare the PCC Geofoam section to the HMA Geofoam section. The following trends were found to exist and will be explained in greater detail below. First, HMA sections at Technology Drive deflect more under a given load than the concrete sections at TH 100 for the same given load. Secondly, temperature variations effect deflections on Technology drive to a greater extent than temperature variations on TH 100. Third, acceleration is greater for concrete sections in a season than for the same season of bituminous. Lastly, the dominant frequency did not have discernable trends between the concrete and asphalt section, but an outlier is worth some discussion.

The Geofoam section at Technology Drive were found to deflected more than Geofoam sections at Trunk Highway 100 and were affected more by changes in the weather, Figure 34. Technology Drive deflections were much greater for the sensors within 610 millimeters (24 in.) of the applied load then sensors located more than 915 mm (36 in.). At the sensors located the furthest from the applied load, deflections are similar but not nearly as similar as the control sections. The reason for the larger deflection adjacent to the applied load is twofold. First, the asphalt itself deflects under load and that is the reason why when calculating *AREA* the sensor directly over the applied load is not used. Secondly, hot mix asphalt is a flexible pavement while Portland cement concrete is a rigid pavement. A rigid pavement disperses a load over a wider area than a flexible pavement. The sensors that measure deflection on a FWD are set so that the sensors adjacent to the load measure the deflection of the surfacing while the sensors furthest from the load measure the deflection of the materials at deeper levels. The pavement at Technology Drive should have a lower elastic modulus and less load distribution then the pavement at TH 100. The sensors located over 1524 mm (60 in.) are in closer agreement, but still do differ. The reason could be differences in Geofoam used or perhaps differing subgrades.



**Figure 33 Deflection Basin Gofeam Sections at TH 100 and Technology Drive**

Secondly, it has been noted that changes in temperature affected the HMA at Technology Drive greater than temperature affected PCC at TH 100. As HMA freezes it acts more as if it were concrete. This is the case because temperature affects the flexibility of the asphalt binder in the mix. The warmer the temperature the more flexible the binder becomes, and the colder the more stiff the binder becomes. The stiffer the binder the stiffer the pavement, the stiffer the HMA the more it resembles concrete.

Figures 35 and 36 show the maximum acceleration caused by a 15 kip load applied by a FWD and a Mn/DOT truck respectively. The acceleration was measured by an InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with a triaxial velocity geophone. It is difficult to identify trends for the acceleration data obtained by using the FWD and the data collected by using the Mn/DOT truck to now agree with each other. Due to difficulties in gathering this data the author does not want to draw conclusions from the data.

The vibration data was also collected by the InstanTel Blastmate III, Figure 37. Except for the summer of 2006 at Technology Drive, it would appear that the dominant frequency data is slightly higher at the HMA sections than at the PCC sections. The summer of 2006 at Technology Drive however had a much lower dominant frequency than the other two seasons for the same road and the dominant frequency was much lower than the summer data for 2006 at TH 100.

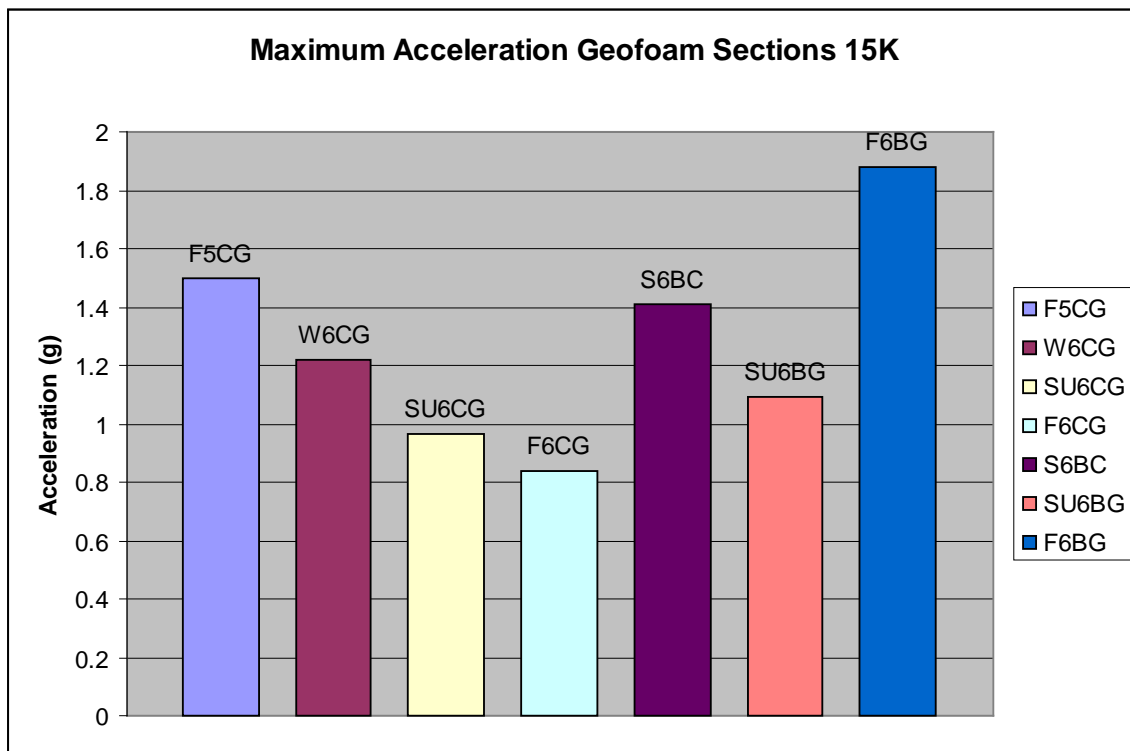
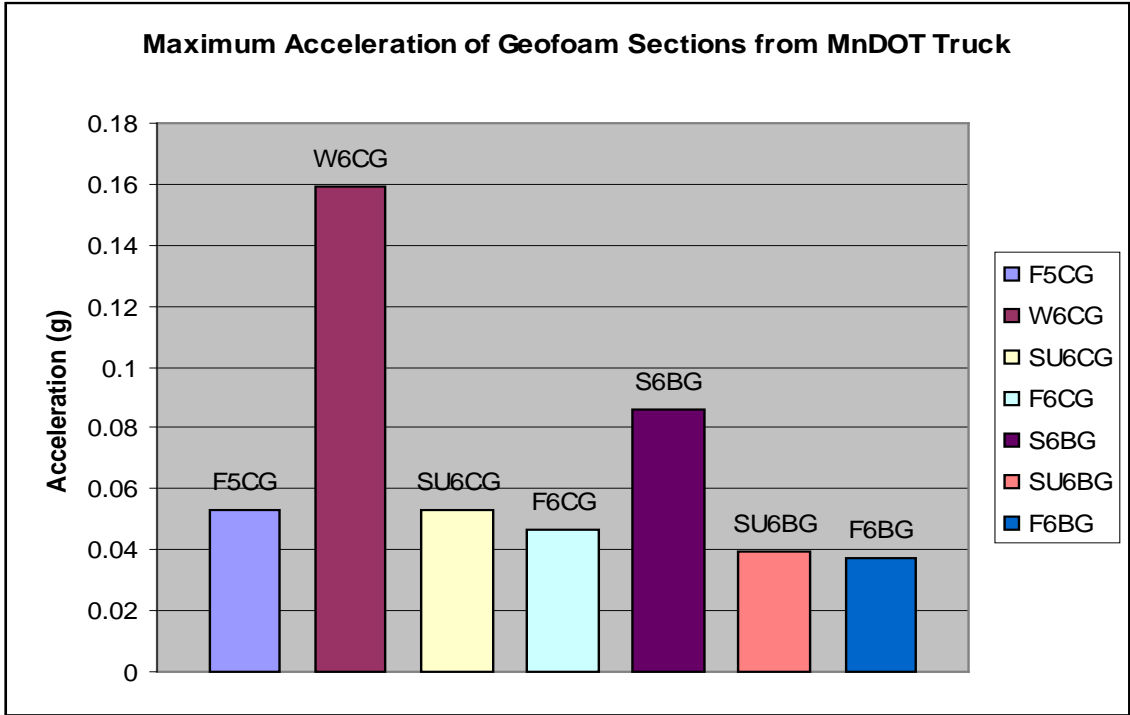
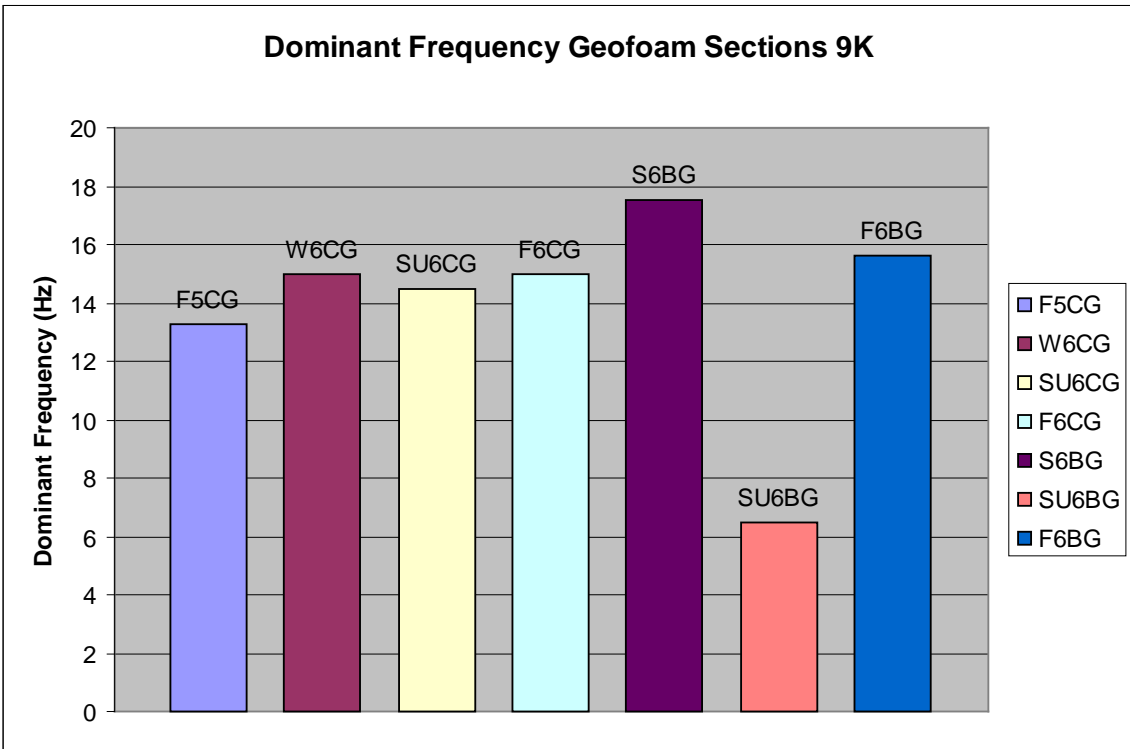


Figure 34 Maximum Acceleration from FWD Geofoam Sections



**Figure 35 Maximum Acceleration of Geofoam Sections from Mn/DOT Truck**



**Figure 36 Dominant Frequency Geofoam Sections**

### ***General, Correlative and Non-Correlative Trends***

There are many trends that were observed on TH 100 and Technology Drive. These trends included deflection, elastic modulus, acceleration, and frequency.

### **Chapter Summary**

This chapter compared seasonal deflection basins, elastic moduli, and dominant frequencies of flexible and rigid pavements built with Geofoam fill to their corresponding contiguous control sections. The 4 in. (150mm) concrete cap beneath the 3 ft. (914-mm) granular fill above the Geofoam compounded the process of layer moduli computations.

Geofoam sections showed spectral (time series) sinusoidal characteristics for computed composite and layer moduli. Excitation and the deflection basin were generally larger in the Geofoam sections. Results also suggested high thermal gradients across the Geofoam layers accentuating their thermal insulating properties. Vibration amplitudes, acceleration, and deflections were within non-resonant regimes though higher than control sections.

## Chapter 5. CONCLUSION

The authors instrumented pavement sections that the Minnesota Department of Transportation had built over Geofoam lightweight fill and compared them to coterminous control sections of granular fill.

- Deflection basins encountered with the Geofoam sections of each pavement type were consistently higher (in terms of “AREA”) or basin coordinates than the control.
- Computed seasonal moduli based on FWD testing in the Geofoam sections follow a time series and are seasonal. The Control section does not follow that time series.
- Seismographic monitoring accentuated higher dominant frequencies in of the bituminous pavement over Geofoam sections
- After 6-years, the Geofoam sections do not exhibit poor surface rating or lower pavement capacity parameters than is prevalent in the corridor. An experiment beyond the present scope determining the natural frequencies of the pavement systems can expose the proximity of current vibration data mechanistically to resonance. Resonant frequencies can surely result in premature failure at incredibly low loading. This study provides an empirical assessment of the vibrations in the Geofoam sections and found no reason to change the current design existing design process of pavements over Geofoam, providing all the buoyancy effects and capping of the Geofoam are adequately considered in the design.
- The experiment validated the expected relative composite moduli and layer moduli and reinforces the importance of choosing the right back-calculation process for the right situation.

### Recommendations

Until the MDDs are removed from the pavement, it is recommended that continuous seasonal monitoring be done.

- If possible conduct the same experiment in a Geofoam pavement without the concrete cap. It can easily be analyzed by layered elastic process of by the analytical process of Khazanovich *et al.*



## REFERENCES

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- 4) FHWA, *Backcalculation of Layer Parameters for LTPP Test Sections, Volume II: Layered Elastic Analysis for Flexible and Rigid Pavements*. FHWA-RD-01-113, Washington, D.C., December, 2001.
- 5) FAA, *Use of Nondestructive Testing in the Evaluation of Airport Pavements*, FAA AC 150/5370-11A, Landover, MD, December, 2004.

## **APPENDIX A. ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA**

ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA																
CODE F5CC CONTROL CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100								CODE F5CG GEOFOAM CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100								
LVDT	6000	7000	FWD			Loaded Truck		6000	7000	FWD			Loaded Truck			
			9000	12000	15000	17000	fr. axle	rear axle			9000	12000	15000	17000	fr. axle	rear axle
1	0.03		0.03		0.08		0.047	0.01	0.014		0.02		0.031		0.04	Noise
2	0.014		0.025		0.048		0.022	0.013	0.008		Noise		Noise		0.014	Noise
3	0.015		0.018		0.017		Noise	Noise	Noise		Noise		Noise		0.013	Noise
4	0.016		0.015		0.016		0.047	0.004	Noise		Noise		Noise		0.015	Noise
<b>WD Sensor</b>																
1	72		105		175				129		155		242			
2	72		97		163				122		150		237			
3	69		92		156				121		148		234			
4	65		87		146				117		144		229			
5	60		81		136				114		139		222			
6	51		68		115				105		128		206			
7	42		57		95				97		118		192			
8	35		47		78				86		106		175			
9	29		39		65				78		96		157			
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>																
acc. (g)																
geophone																
1	no data		no data		no data		0.0464	---	0.53		0.698		1.5		0.053	---
acc. (g)																
geophone																
2	no data		no data		no data		**	**	no data		no data		no data		**	**
velocity (ips)																
geophone																
1	no data		no data		no data		0.06	---	0.553		0.742		1.177		0.143	---
velocity (ips)																
geophone																
2	no data		no data		no data		**	**	no data		no data		no data		**	**
Maximum Deflection (inches)																
dominant	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	0.00271	**	no data	0.00314	0.00397			0.00633	0.00816	**
frequency (Hz)																
geophone																
1	no data		no data		no data		3.5	---	16.15		13.3		14.4		3.125	---
dominant frequency (Hz)																
geophone																
2	no data		no data		no data		**	**	no data		no data		no data		**	**
*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.																
**Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.																
---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.																
*no data" means that no data was collected.																

Figure A1

## ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA

CODE W6CC CONTROL CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100										CODE W6CG GEOFOAM CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100							
LVDT	FWD					Loaded Truck		FWD							Loaded Truck		
	6000	9000	10000	12000	15000	18000	fr. axle	rear axle	6000	9000	10000	12000	15000	18000	fr. axle	rear axle	
1	Noise	Noise			Noise		0.071	0.045	0.031	0.088			0.157		0.0242	0.018	
2	Noise	Noise			Noise		0.019	0.007	0.011	0.014			0.019		0.006	0.0059	
3	Noise	Noise			Noise		Noise	Noise	Noise	Noise			Noise		0.0016	0.0011	
4	Noise	Noise			Noise		0.011	0.007	0.003	0.007			0.02		Noise	Noise	
<b>WD Sensor</b>																	
1	41.9	73.2			121.9				54.1	80.5			133.1				
2	39.6	68.6			114.6				52.8	79			131.1				
3	37.6	66.3			109				52.6	77.5			128.3				
4	34.5	61.5			101.1				51.6	75.9			125.7				
5	32.3	57.4			94.7				50.3	73.4			123.2				
6	27.7	49			81				48.3	69.6			115.1				
7	23.9	42.4			68.6				45.7	65.3			108.5				
8	20.3	35.6			58.7				44.2	60.7			100.3				
9	17	30.5			49				41.7	56.9			95				
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>																	
acc. (g)																	
geophone																	
1	0.239	0.477			0.777		0.159	---	0.406	0.636			1.22		0.159	---	
acc. (g)																	
geophone																	
2	no data	no data			no data		**	**	no data	no data			no data		**	**	
velocity (ips)																	
geophone																	
1	0.17	0.32			0.55		0.075	---	0.23	0.39			0.67		0.08	---	
velocity (ips)																	
geophone																	
2	no data	no data			no data		**	**	no data	no data			no data		**	**	
Maximum Deflection (inches)																	
dominant	0.00085		0.00149				0.00242	0.00214	**		0.00127		0.00206		0.00329	0.00633	**
frequency (Hz)																	
geophone																	
1	20.8	14.5			15.6		2.5	---	15.3	15			16		2.67	---	
dominant frequency (Hz)																	
geophone																	
2	no data	no data			no data		**	**	no data	no data			no data		**	**	

\*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.  
 \*\*Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.  
 ---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.  
 "no data" means that no data was collected.  
**The second geophone was not used for this sampling event. The first geophone was placed ~12"-18" from the shot.**

**Figure A2**

ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA												
CODE S6BC						CODE S6BG						
CONTROL BIT PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE						GEOFOAM BIT. PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE						
LVDT	FWD				Loaded Truck		6000	FWD			Loaded Truck	
	6000	9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle		9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle
1		no data	no data	no data	0.45	0.15		No Data	No Data	No Data	0.41	0.38
2		no data	no data	no data	0.4	0.26		No Data	No Data	No Data	0.004	-
3		no data	no data	no data	0.27	0.15		No Data	No Data	No Data	0.3	0.22
4		no data	no data	no data	0.42	0.25		No Data	No Data	No Data	2	1.33
<b>WD Sensor</b>												
1		381	490	633				523	667	840		
2		305	395	507				363	475	607		
3		262	341	437				322	424	541		
4		212	276	354				276	368	470		
5		168	219	280				241	323	415		
6		101	132	169				197	267	344		
7		65	86	109				170	235	303		
8		43	54	-				150	211	272		
9		35	45	-				133	190	246		
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>												
acc. (g)												
geophone												
1		3.19	4.22	4.29	0.0663	---		1.03	1.16	1.41	0.0861	---
acc. (g)												
geophone												
2		no data	no data	no data	**	**		no data	no data	no data	**	**
velocity												
(ips)												
geophone												
1		1.43	1.69	1.93	0.08	---		0.945	1.185	1.485	0.129	---
velocity												
(ips)												
geophone												
2		no data	no data	no data	**	**		no data	no data	no data	**	**
Maximum												
Displacement												
(Inches)												
dominant												
frequency												
(Hz)												
geophone												
1		24.5	19.5	19.8	2.5	---		17.5	15.3	16.5	2.13	---
dominant												
frequency												
(Hz)												
geophone												
2		no data	no data	no data	**	**		no data	no data	no data	**	**

\*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.  
 \*\*Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.  
 ---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.  
 "no data" means that no data was collected.  
**The second geophone was not used for this sampling event. The first geophone was placed ~12"-18" from the shot.**

Figure A3

ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA												
CODE SU6BC CONTROL BIT PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE							CODE SU6BG GEOFOAM BIT. PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE					
LVDT	FWD				Loaded Truck		6000	FWD			Loaded Truck	
	6000	9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle		9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle
1		0.09	0.12	0.15	0.42	0.33	1.99	2.96	2.71	Noise	Noise	
2		0.25	0.31	0.36	0.7	0.62	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.027	
3		0.5	0.51	0.47	0.64	0.45	0.5	1.05	1.2	0.35	0.32	
4		2.57	2.94	4.12	0.21	0.1	0.11	0.15	0.21	0.32	0.29	
<b>FWD Sensor</b>												
1		538	699	845			727	907	1071			
2		398	507	605			481	611	723			
3		319	407	484			404	514	607			
4		235	300	356			332	427	501			
5		173	219	259			287	371	437			
6		93	118	139			236	309	366			
7		61	78	92			206	273	323			
8		49	62	73			183	244	288			
9		39	53	63			163	220	258			
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>												
acc. (g)												
geophone												
1		0.897	1.09	1.32	0.0365	---	0.813	0.954	1.09	0.0398	---	
acc. (g)												
geophone												
2		0.146	0.166	0.181	**	**	0.179	0.159	0.239	**	**	
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
1		0.992	1.22	1.39	0.136	---	0.863	1.08	1.28	0.103	---	
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
2		0.123	0.15	0.178	**	**	0.338	0.448	0.548	**	**	
Maximum Displacement (Inches)												
geophone												
1		0.00487	0.00604	0.00707	0.00365	**	0.00604	0.0076	0.00963	0.00884	**	
dominant frequency (Hz)												
geophone												
1		29	24	21	2.25	---	6.5	5.5	5	4.42	---	
dominant frequency (Hz)												
geophone												
2		14.75	12	10.5	**	**	6.5	5.5	6	**	**	

\*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.  
\*\*Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.  
---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.  
"no data" means that no data was collected.

Figure A4

ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA												
CODE F6BC CONTROL BIT PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE						CODE F6BG GEOFOAM BIT. PAVEMENT ON TECH. DRIVE						
LVDT	FWD			Loaded Truck		6000	FWD			Loaded Truck		
	6000	9000	12000	15000	fr. axle		rear axle	6000	9000	12000	15000	fr. axle
1	Noise	Noise		Noise	0.17	0.15	0.03	0.17		0.27	0.9	0.7
2	0.02	0.1		0.165	0.25	0.2	Noise	Noise		Noise	0.0025	-
3	3.2	3.3		3.5	0.26	0.22	0.725	0.7		0.12	0.22	0.18
4	0.075	0.13		2.5	0.32	0.31	0.05	0.05		0.075	0.116	0.09
<b>FWD Sensor</b>												
1	195	294		454			299	414		657		
2	165	245		387			232	331		529		
3	149	220		347			223	312		495		
4	128	189		298			205	287		458		
5	107	159		249			190	263		426		
6	71	106		166			161	222		368		
7	47	71		111			144	193		324		
8	32	50		78			128	170		290		
9	24	39		60			118	150		261		
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>												
acc. (g)												
geophone												
1	0.526	1.05		1.75	0.0451	---	0.749	1.1		1.88	0.0371	---
acc. (g)												
geophone												
2	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
1	0.783	1.17		1.81	0.093	---	0.821	1.24		1.95	0.173	---
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
2	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**
Maximum Displacement (Inches)												
dominant frequency (Hz)	0.00374	0.00545		0.00868	0.00408	**	0.00547	0.00753		0.0118	0.0106	**
geophone												
1	23.1	24.3		26.7	no data	---	14	15.6		6.5	no data	---
dominant frequency (Hz)												
geophone												
2	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**
*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.												
**Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.												
---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.												
"no data" means that no data was collected.												
<b>The second geophone was not used for this sampling event. The first geophone was placed ~12"-18" from the shot.</b>												

Figure A5

ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA												
CODE SU6CC CONTROL CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100							CODE SU6CG GEOFOAM CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100					
LVDT*	6000	FWD			Loaded Truck		6000	9000	FWD		Loaded Truck	
		9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle			12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle
1		no data	no data	no data	0.043	0.029		no data	no data	no data	0.042	0.024
2		no data	no data	no data	0.025	0.015		no data	no data	no data	noise	noise
3		no data	no data	no data	0.0026	0.0015		no data	no data	no data	noise	noise
4		no data	no data	no data	0.0022	0.0017		no data	no data	no data	0.009	0.0038
<b>WD Sensor*</b>												
1		108	131	150				165	204	238		
2		106	124	143				159	194	223		
3		102	121	139				159	194	224		
4		97	116	133				155	190	219		
5		92	109	125				150	184	216		
6		79	94	108				140	172	202		
7		68	80	92				129	160	189		
8		56	66	75				119	148	173		
9		45	53	61				109	135	159		
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>												
acc. (g)												
geophone												
1		0.389	0.455	0.552	0.0486	---		0.711	0.795	0.964	0.053	---
acc. (g)												
geophone												
2		0.0398	0.0464	0.0663	**	**		0.0727	0.119	0.153	**	**
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
1		0.38	0.47	0.558	0.07	---		0.63	0.78	0.887	0.275	---
velocity (ips)												
geophone												
2		0.0625	0.085	0.105	**	**		0.133	0.195	0.235	**	**
Maximum Deflection (inches)												
dominant frequency (Hz)												
geophone												
1		14.5	12	18	4.08	---		14.5	11	15	3.5	---
dominant frequency (Hz)												
geophone												
2		14.5	12	15.75	**	**		15	13	15	**	**

\*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.  
\*\*Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.  
---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.  
"no data" means that no data was collected.

Figure A6



ULTIMATE RESPONSE DATA												
CODE F6CC CONTROL CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100							CODE F6CG GEOFOAM CONCRETE PAVEMENT TH 100					
LVDT	FWD				Loaded Truck		6000	FWD			Loaded Truck	
	6000	9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle		9000	12000	15000	fr. axle	rear axle
1	0.013	0.02		0.032	0.053	0.012	0.0092	0.0148		0.028	0.045	0.001
2	0.0072	0.018		0.029	0.038	0.021	noise	noise		noise	0.0025	0.0018
3	noise	noise		noise	noise	noise	noise	noise		noise	noise	noise
4	0.0064	0.0079		0.0118	0.0149	0.0082	noise	noise		noise	0.005	0.0025
<b>FWD Sensor</b>												
1	56	86		138			97	130		203		
2	55	81		128			95	127		196		
3	53	78		123			94	125		191		
4	50	73		115			94	125		191		
5	47	68		108			94	123		189		
6	40	59		92			83	112		173		
7	33	49		77			79	105		164		
8	28	41		64			73	97		154		
9	23	34		53			67	88		141		
<b>Vibration Monitoring</b>												
acc. (g)												
geophone 1	0.256	0.384		0.665	0.0464	---	0.32	0.493		0.837	0.0464	---
geophone 2	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**
velocity (ips)												
geophone 1	0.263	0.384		0.613	0.07	---	0.35	0.503		0.79	0.225	---
geophone 2	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**
Maximum Deflection (inches)												
dominant frequency (Hz) geophone 1	0.00129	0.00191		0.00305	0.00303	**	0.00242	0.00301		0.00459	0.0157	**
dominant frequency (Hz) geophone 2	15.1	14.8		16.25	no data	---	13.9	15		16.25	no data	---
dominant frequency (Hz) geophone 2												
	no data	no data		no data	**	**	no data	no data		no data	**	**

\*LVDT and FWD displacement data are in microns.  
 \*\*Only one geophone was used for the truck vibration monitoring.  
 ---rear axle sensor response not discernable from front axle sensor response, maximum sensor response assumed to be associated with front axle.  
 "no data" means that no data was collected.

**The second geophone was not used for this sampling event. The first geophone was placed ~12"-18" from the shot.**

Figure A7

## **APPENDIX B. ADDITIONAL FIGURES**

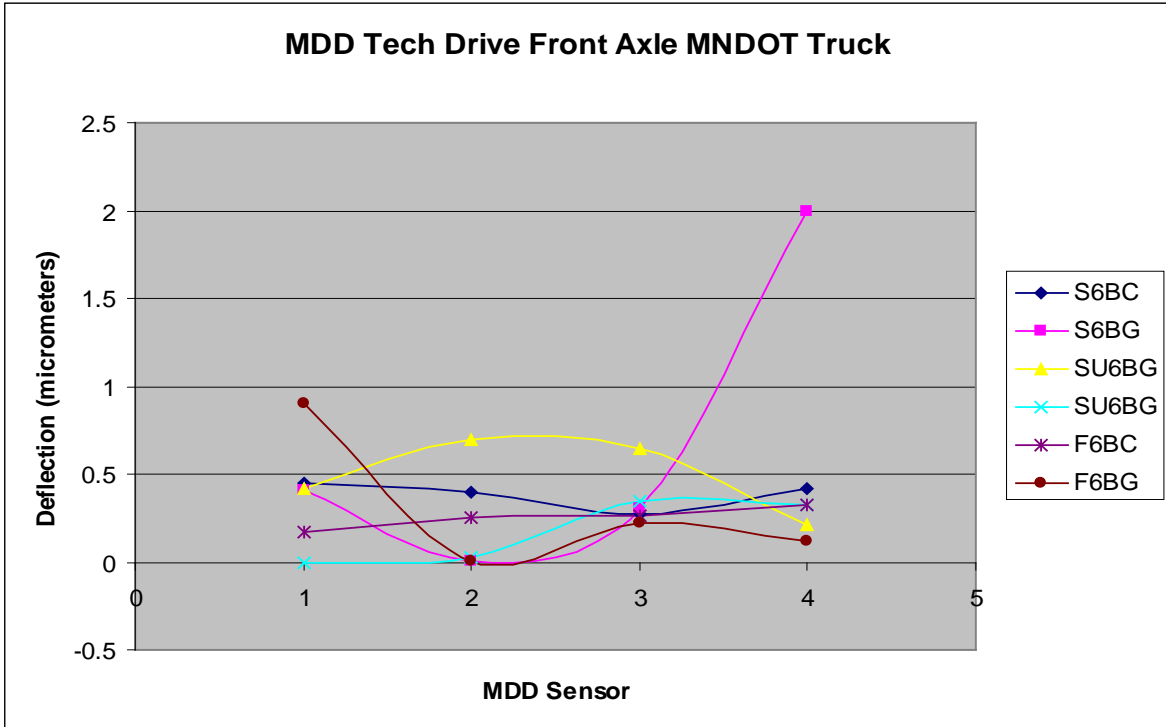


Figure B1

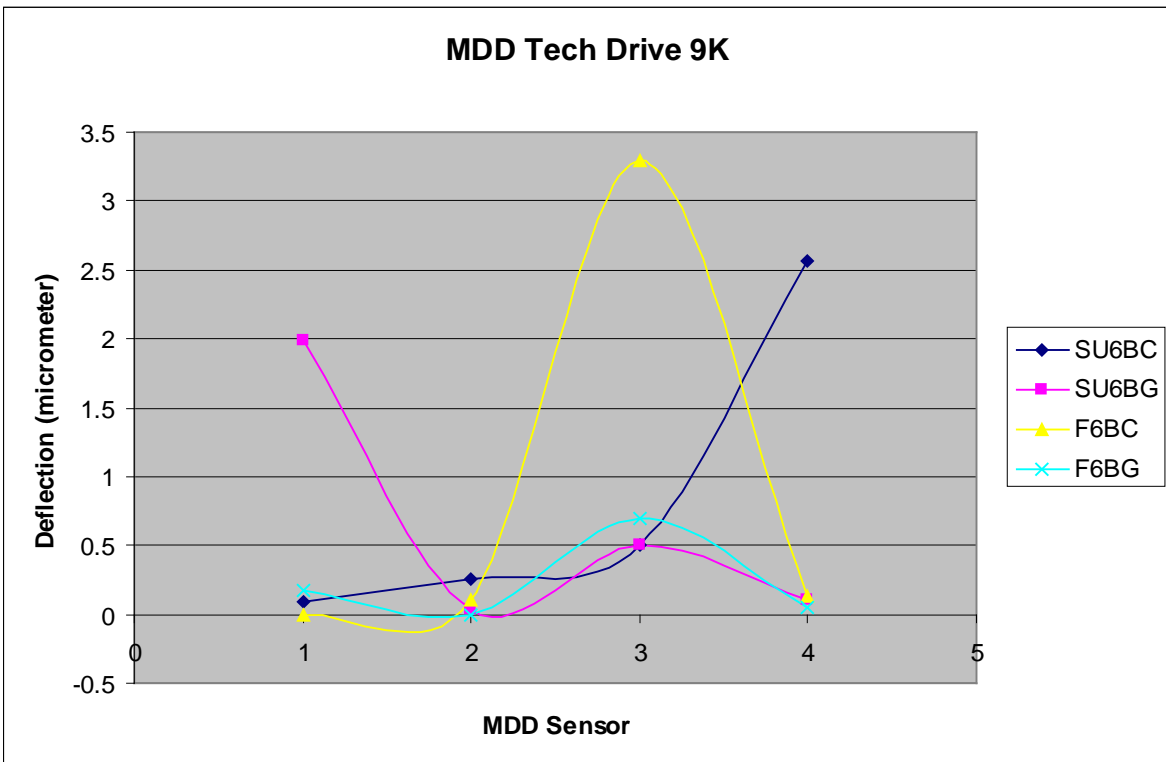


Figure B2

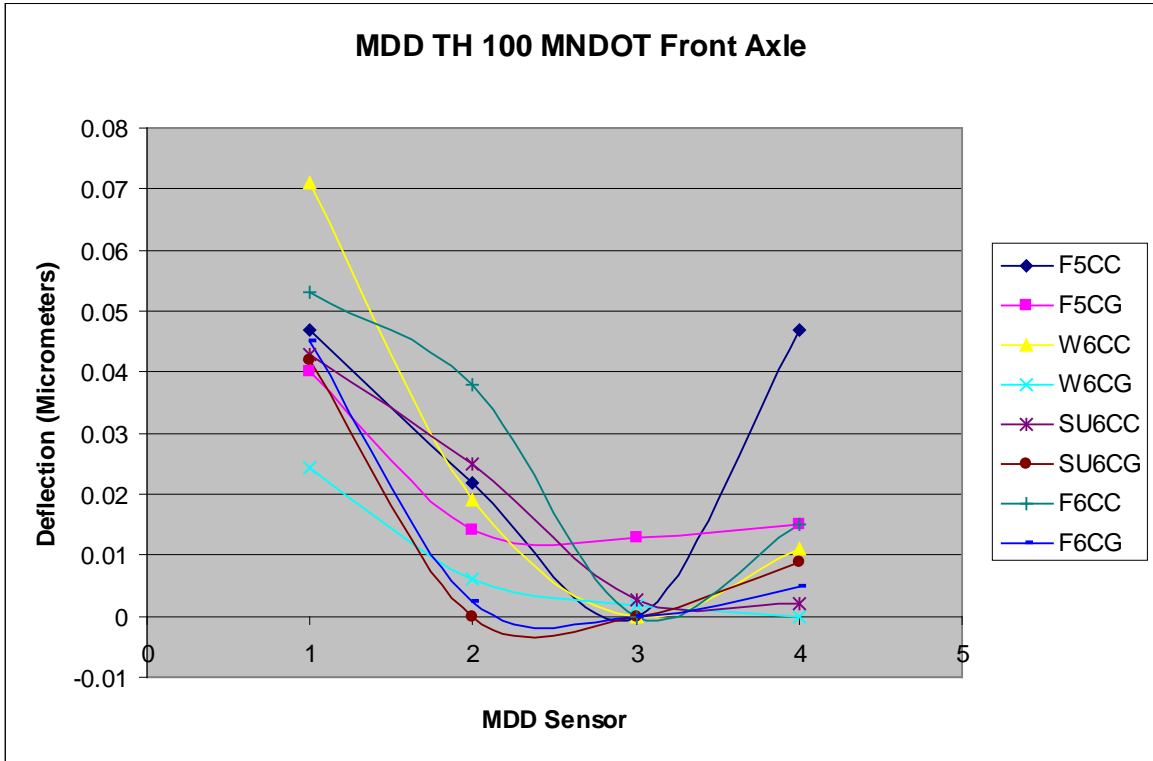


Figure B3

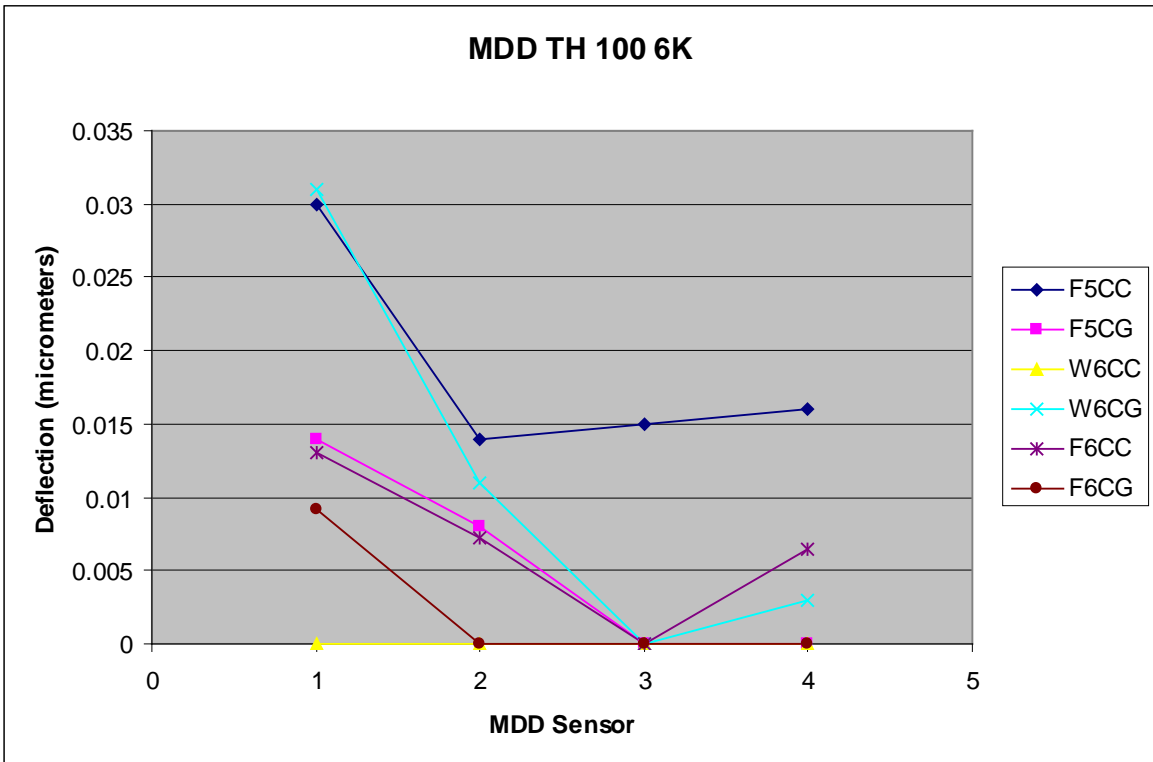
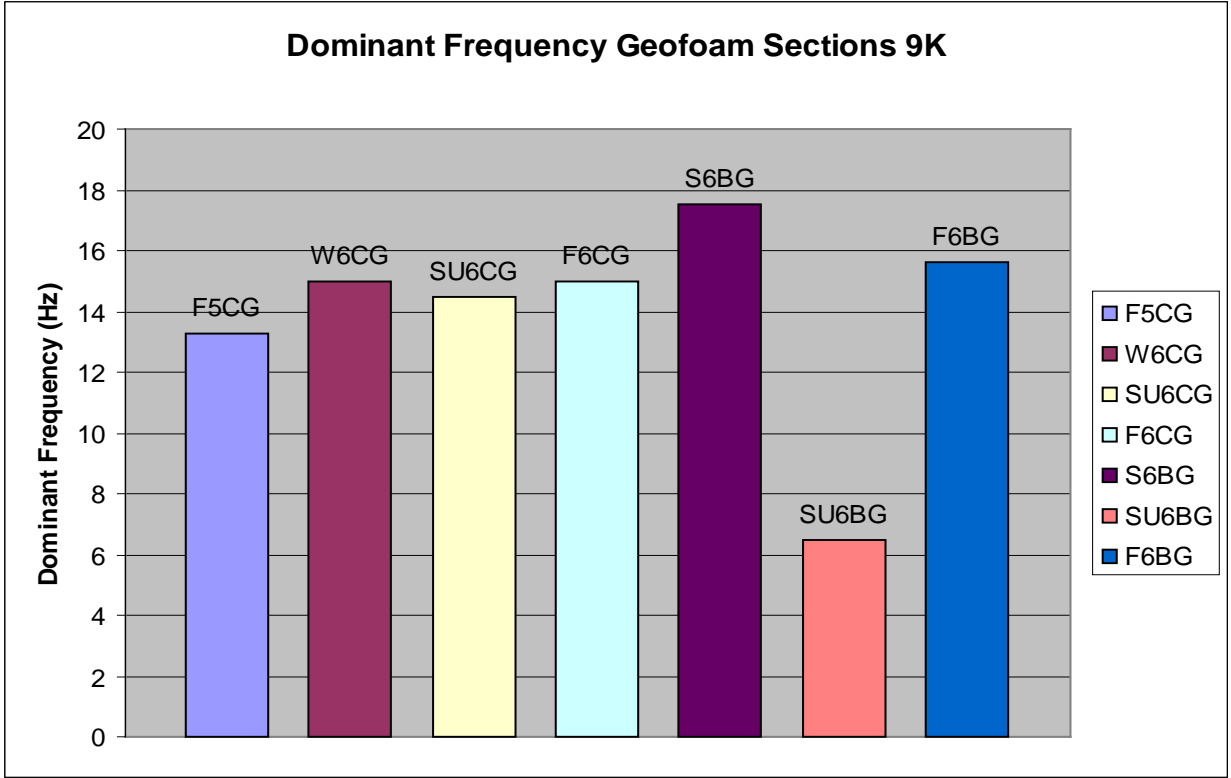
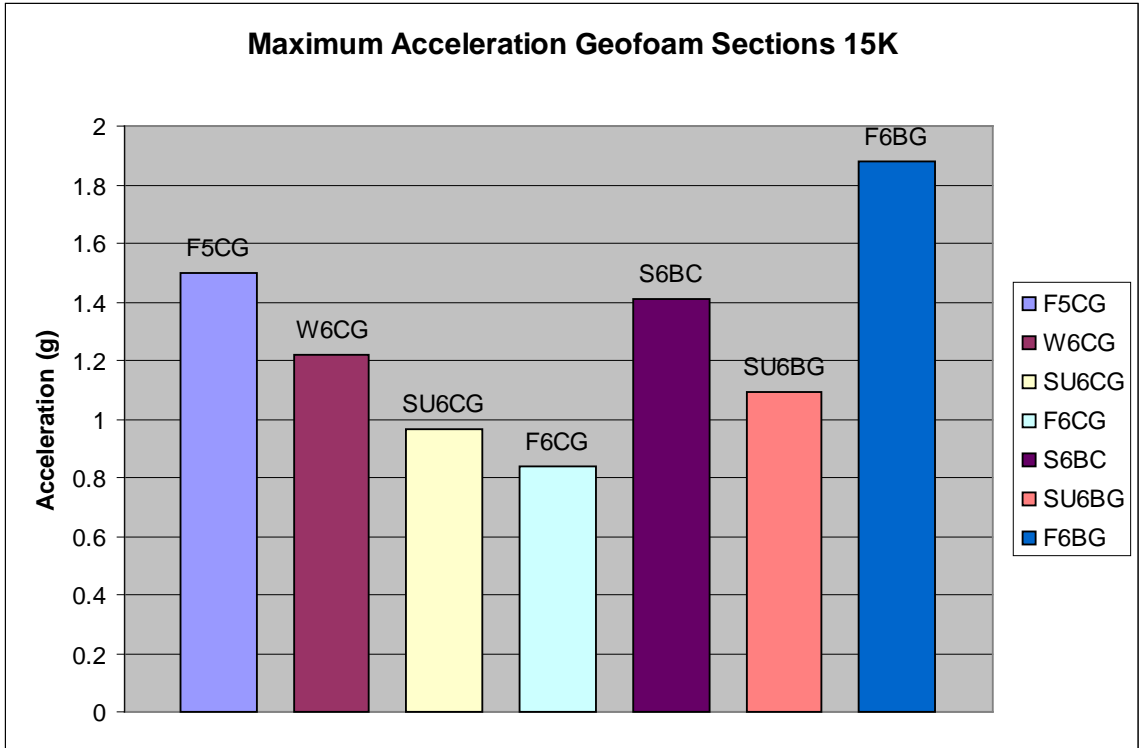


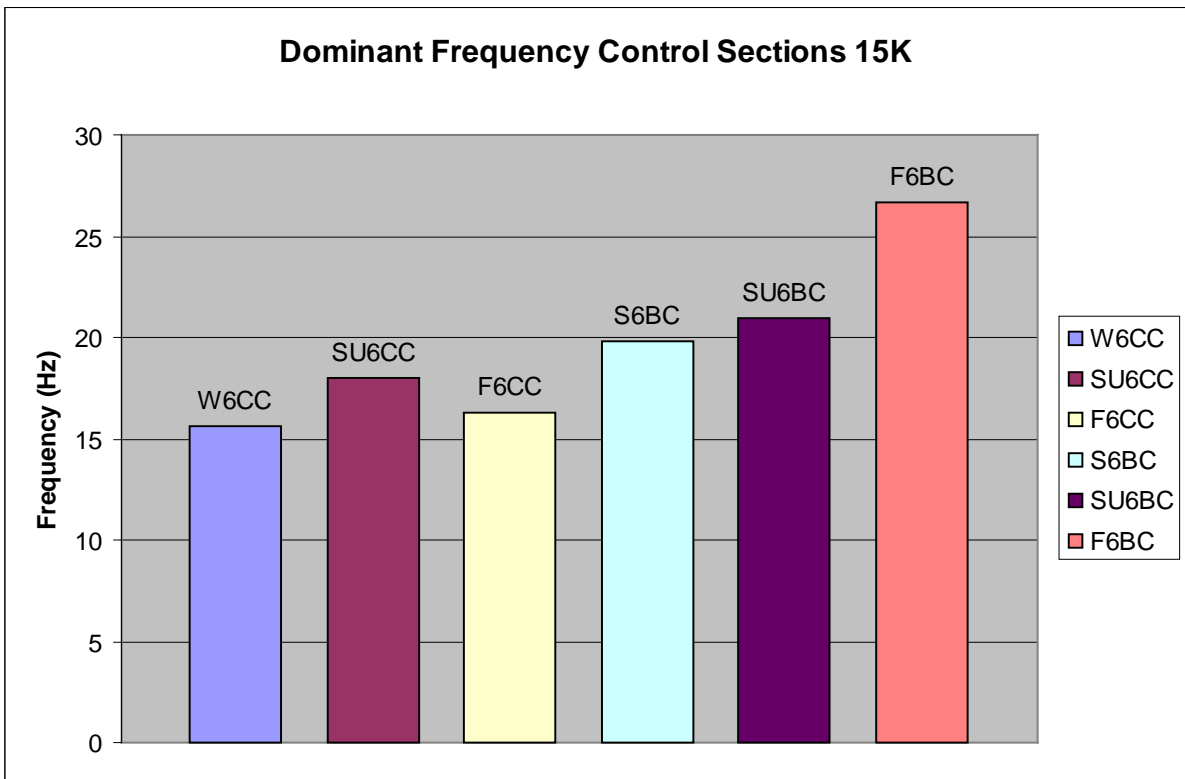
Figure B4



**Figure B5**



**Figure B6**



**Figure B7**

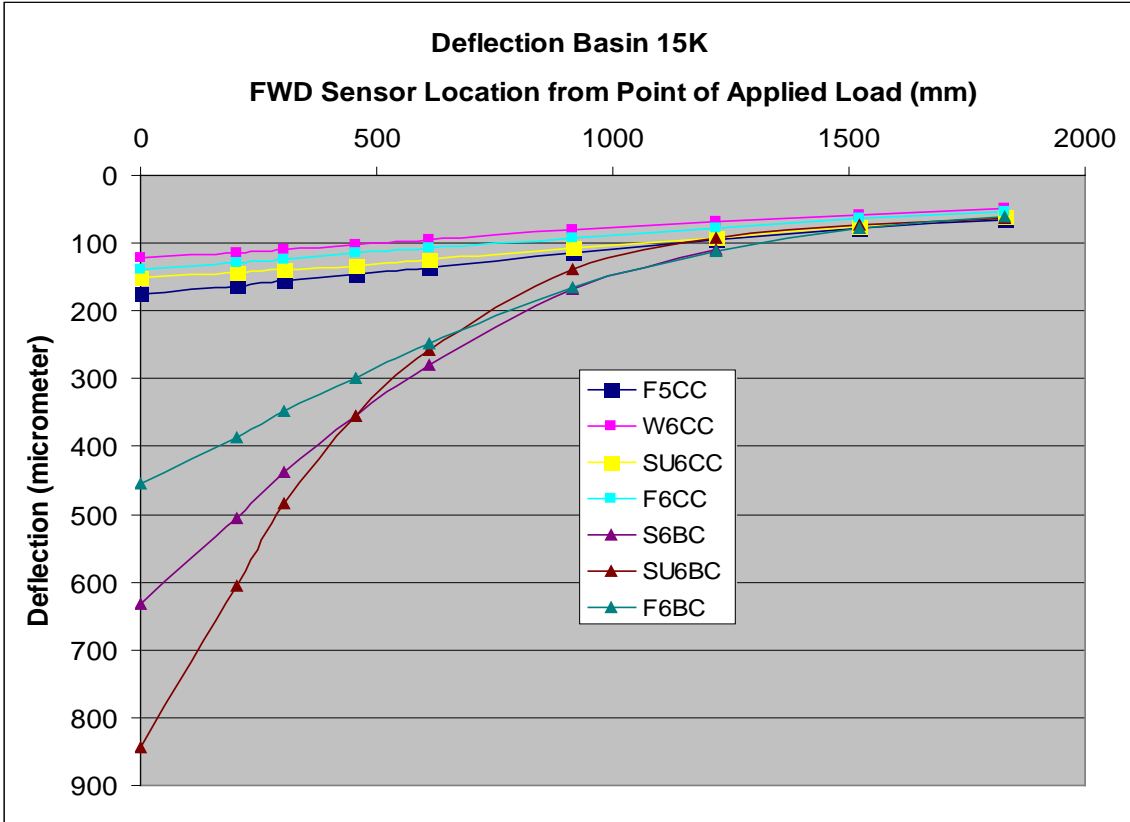


Figure B8

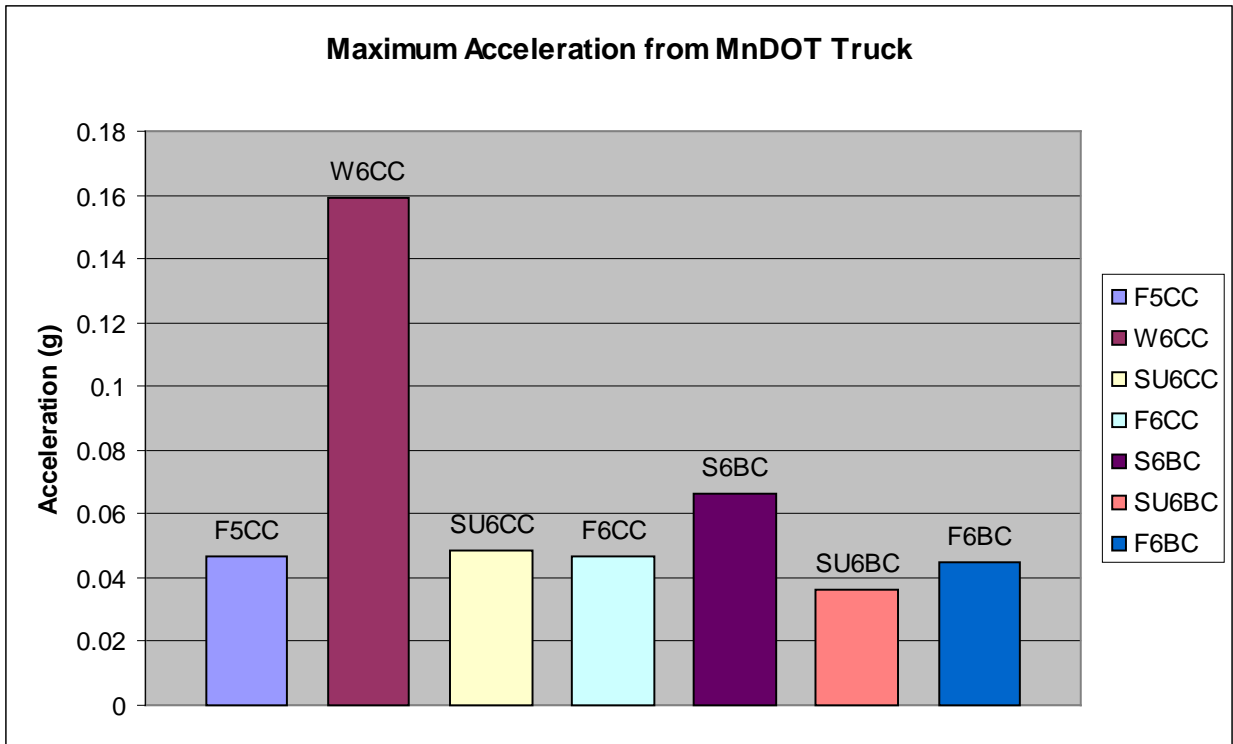
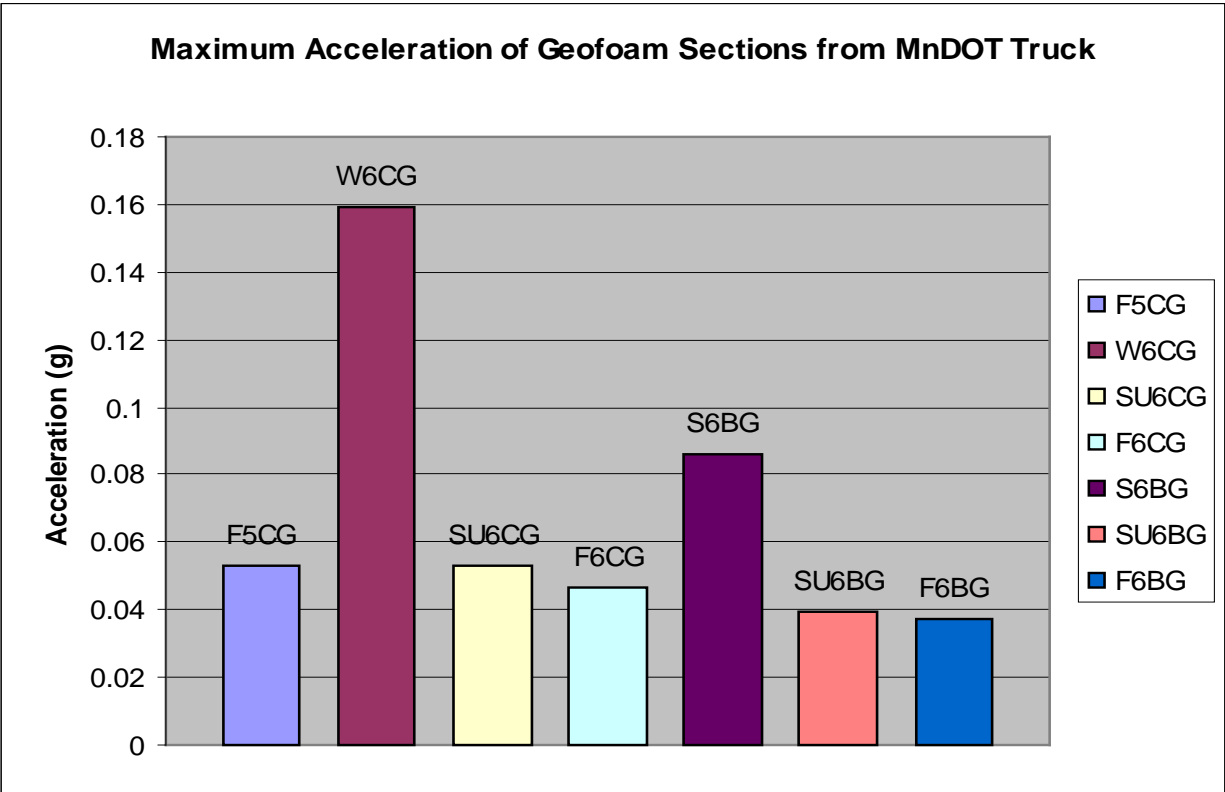
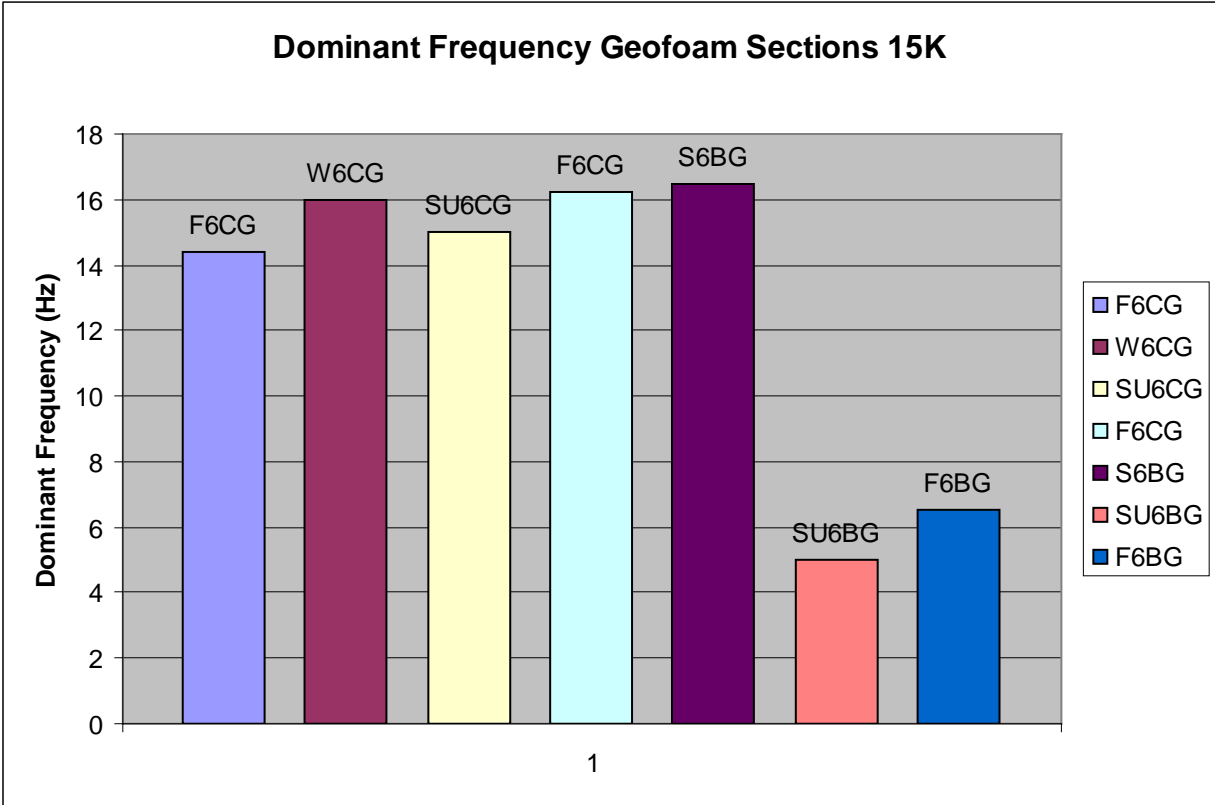


Figure B9



**Figure B10**





**Figure B11**

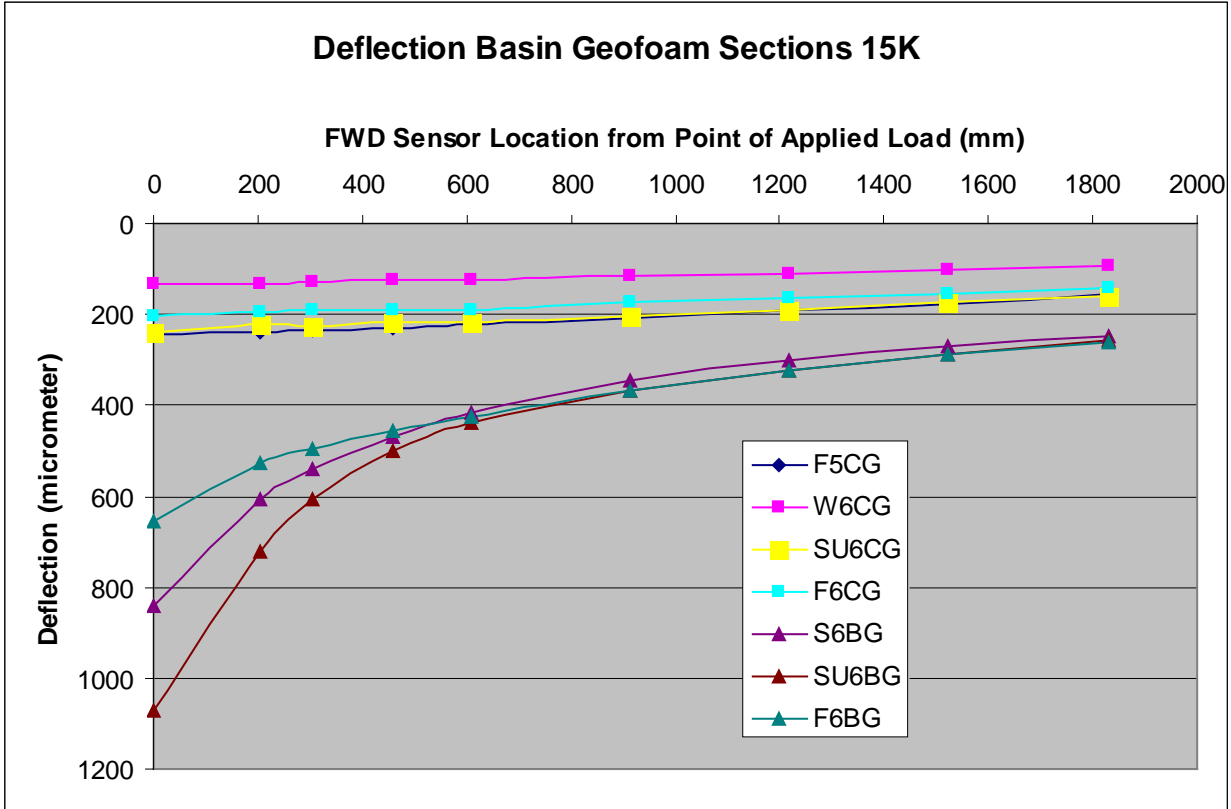


Figure B12

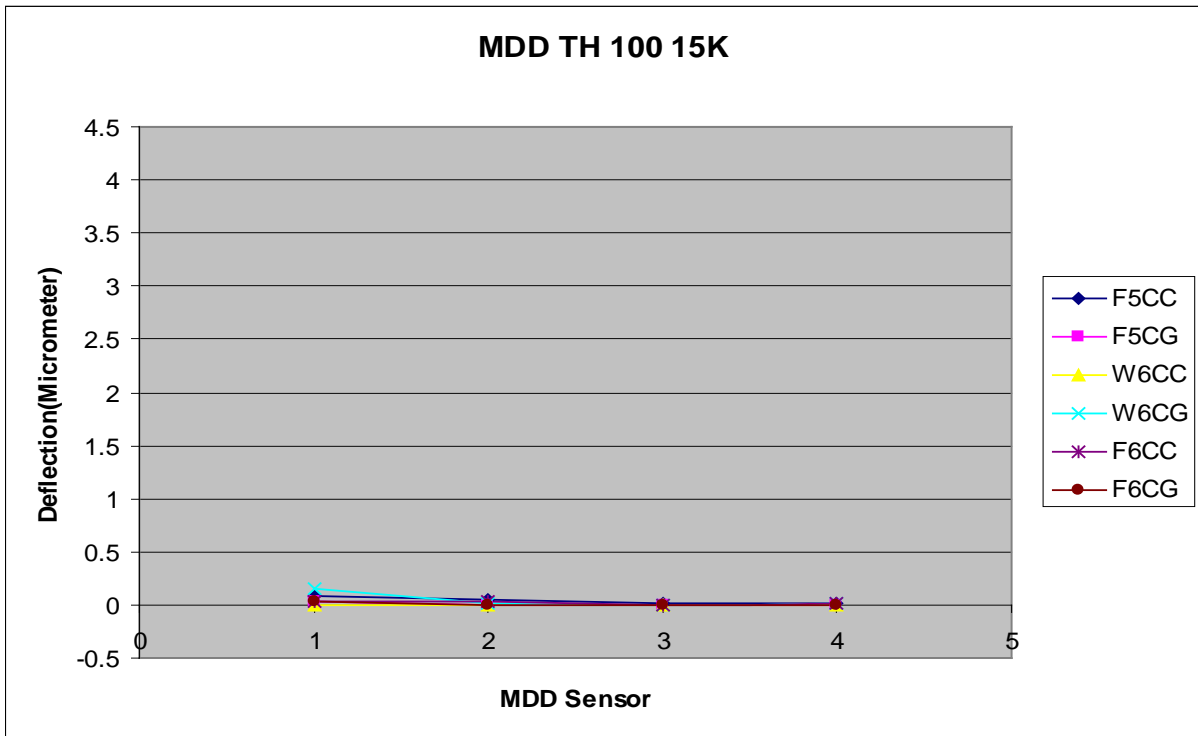


Figure B13

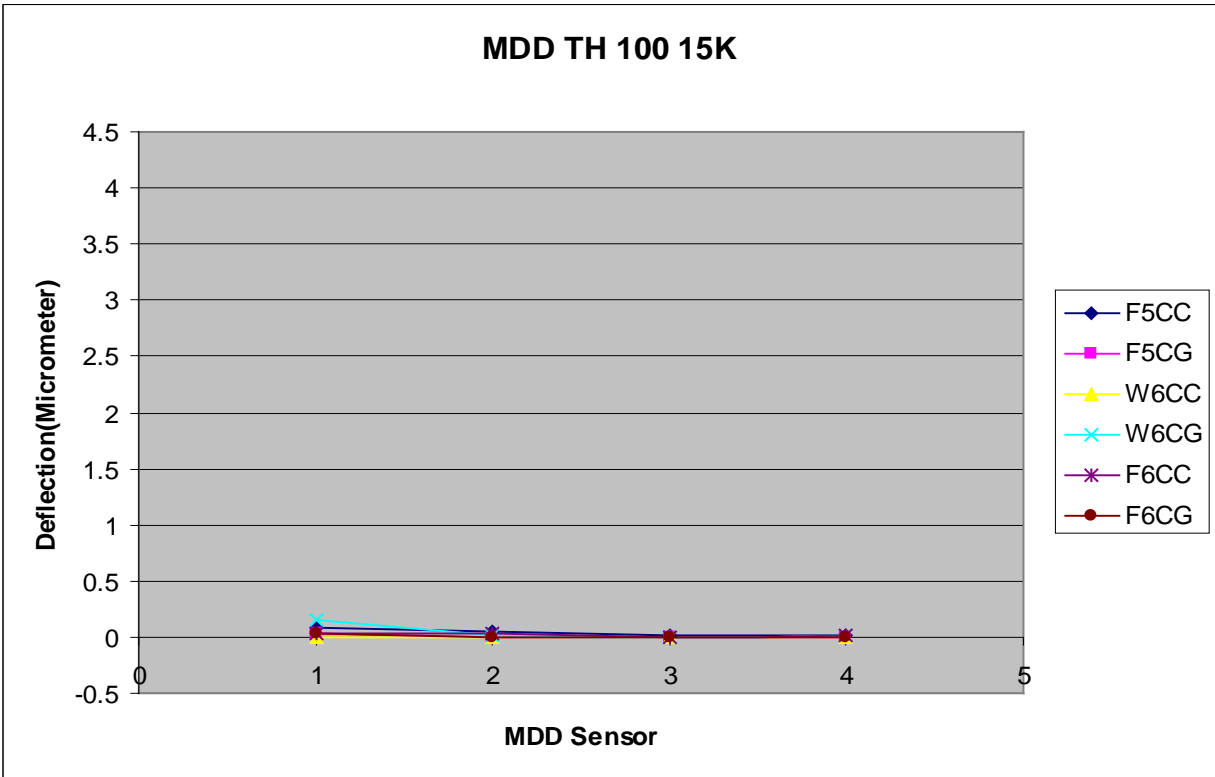
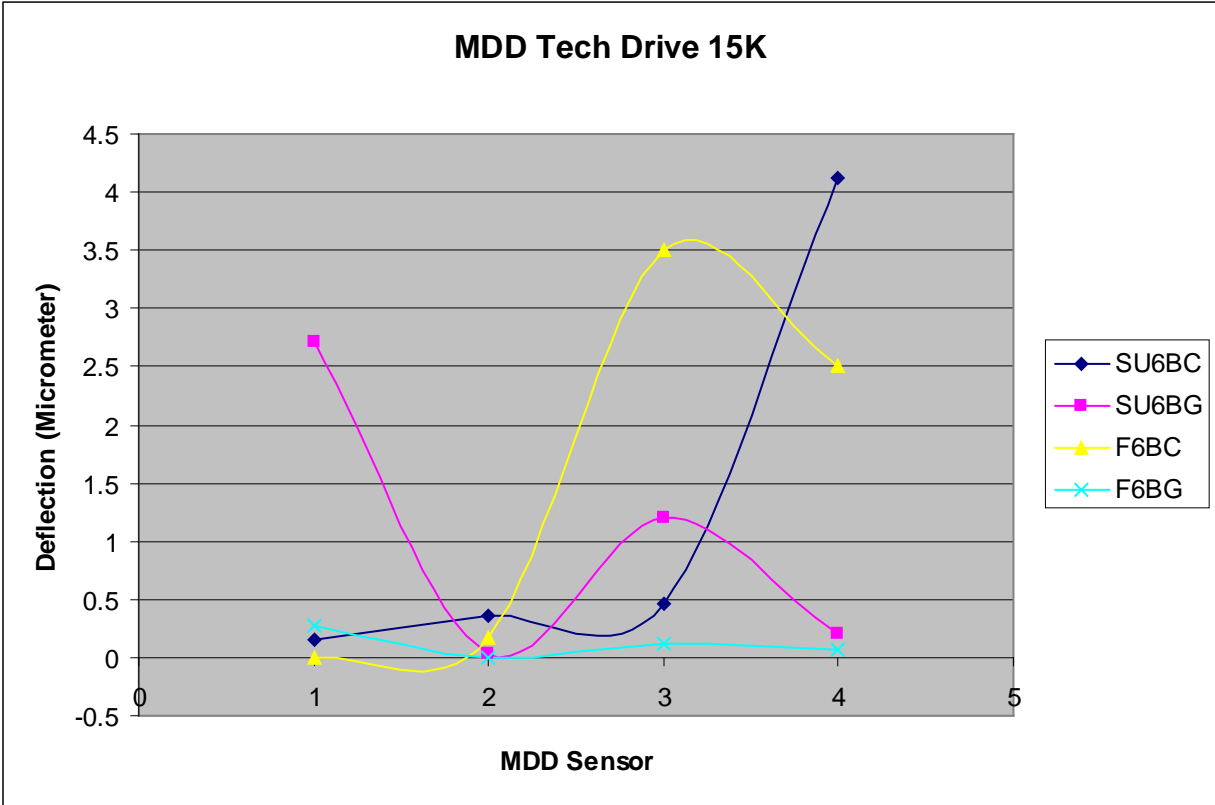


Figure B14



**Figure B15**

## **APPENDIX C. VIBRATION MONITORING REPORT**



Date of Contact: November 15, 2007  
Date of Report: December 4, 2007

STATE OF MINNESOTA - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SECTION

**GEOLOGY CONTACT REPORT**

**Attendees:** Ted Snyder, Research  
Beth Lauzon, Geology  
Beverly Baron, Research Design

**Prepared by:** Beth Lauzon

Digitally signed  
by Beth Lauzon  
Date: 2007.12.04  
12:52:13 -06'00'

**TYPE OF WORK:** Vibration Monitoring

**Control Section:** 2735 & 2762

**REASON FOR CONTACT**

Perform final set of seismic monitoring of traffic load vibrations, as defined in proposed work plan for *“Investigation of Vibration Dynamics of Concrete and Bituminous Pavements Constructed Over Geofoam.”*

**BACKGROUND**

Monitoring sections are located where Mn/DOT Research previously installed multi-depth deflectometers. Vibrations are monitored at two different roadways: one with concrete pavement (TH100) and the other with bituminous pavement (Technology Drive). Two sections exist at each roadway, one with geofoam and one with standard base, called the ‘Control Section’. At TH100, the Geofoam Section is located on the outside lane of northbound TH100, approximately 1200 feet north of County Road 81. The Control Section is located on the middle of three lanes of northbound TH100, approximately 800 feet south of CR81. At Technology Drive, both the Control Section and the Geofoam Section are located in the right turn lane of westbound Technology Drive, with the geofoam being the westernmost. See the contact report from May 9, 2006 for a map of the exact location. To this date, monitoring has been performed at TH100 on eight separate seasonal occasions, and at Technology Drive, seven.

**INSTRUMENTATION**

Surface vibrations were measured with InstanTel Blastmate III Vibration Seismograph, equipped with two triaxial velocity geophones. See contact report from December 6, 2005 for a detailed description of this instrumentation.

**MEASUREMENTS**

Set up and measurement methods were performed in the same manner as the previous seasonal vibration monitoring sessions (see contact report from July 12, 2006), with two geophones. Geophone 1 was located 1 ft from the FWD and Geophone 2 was located approximately 12 ft from the FWD. Clay was placed on the bottom of geophones to create better contact with the pavement. Monitoring was performed at TH100 the morning of November 15, 2007 and at Technology Drive on the afternoon of the same day.

**FWD**

Vibrations levels were measured adjacent to the FWD as well as approximately 12 feet from it in the same lane, as it operated over the installed deflectometers at both the Control and the Geofoam Section. FWD reported weights for this monitoring session were 6000 lbs, 9000 lbs, and 15000 lbs. Each was dropped 3 times and each set of drops was preceded by several seating drops.

**TH100**

Two sets of FWD drops were recorded at the control and geofoam sections at TH100. The first sets of drops are presented in Table 1 below.

At the control section, Geophone 1 located one foot from the FWD, Peak Particle Velocities (PPV's) ranged from 0.301 to 0.701 inches per second (ips). Acceleration values at the 6k lbs drop averaged 0.285 g and at the 15k lbs, drops averaged 0.699 g. Dominant frequencies were the lowest at the 9k drops, with a frequency of 14Hz, and the highest at the 15k lbs drop, with a level of 28.5 Hz. Geophone 2 results were on the order of a magnitude lower than at Geophone 1 with a maximum frequency of 0.0562 ips. Dominant frequencies were similar for the 6k and 15k drops with an average of 19 Hz, but were lower at the 9k drops, with a value of 14 Hz.

**Table 1: FWD Results, TH100 – Control Section**

Table 1: FWD Results, TH100 – Control Section													
		Geophone 1						Geophone 2					
Time	Event #	Weight (lbs)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Trigger difference (s)
9:21:19	1	6,000	0.301	43	0.283	0.00154	18	0.025	19	0.0182	0.0002	19	0.0205
9:21:25	2	6,000	0.31	39	0.285	0.00158	18	0.0244	20	0.0133	0.0002	18.5	0.0205
9:21:31	3	6,000	0.309	37	0.288	0.00157	18	0.0244	20	0.0166	0.00019	19	0.0215
9:21:51	4	9,000	0.432	11	0.416	0.00221	14	0.0331	26	0.0199	0.00026	14	0.0205
9:21:57	5	9,000	0.421	32	0.409	0.00219	14	0.0337	20	0.0199	0.00026	14	0.0205
9:22:03	6	9,000	0.431	18	0.391	0.0022	14	0.0312	20	0.0199	0.00025	14	0.0205
9:22:24	7	15,000	0.701	13	0.759	0.00357	28.5	0.0537	27	0.0315	0.00043	19	0.0215
9:22:32	8	15,000	0.701	5	0.747	0.00358	28.5	0.0562	27	0.0381	0.00043	19	0.0214
9:22:40	9	15,000	0.696	5.3	0.741	0.00359	28.5	0.0562	27	0.0331	0.00044	19	0.0205
Geofoam Section													
		Geophone 1						Geophone 2					
Time	Event #	Weight (lbs)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Trigger difference (s)
9:39:53	19	6,000	0.525	43	0.477	0.00338	19.5	0.0681	12	0.0464	0.00114	8	0.0225
9:39:59	20	6,000	0.527	43	0.484	0.00378	19.5	0.065	12	0.0447	0.00138	5	0.0215
9:40:19	21	9,000	0.724	43	0.699	0.00449	14.5	0.0856	28	0.058	0.00164	5	0.0215
9:40:25	22	9,000	0.752	39	0.686	0.00471	14.5	0.0894	7.3	0.058	0.00164	5	0.0215
9:40:32	23	9,000	0.745	47	0.656	0.00461	14.5	0.085	11	0.0547	0.00162	5	0.0225
9:40:52	24	15,000	1.17	47	1.23	0.00723	15.5	0.151	26	0.108	0.00218	10	0.0244
9:41:00	25	15,000	1.15	23	1.19	0.0071	15.5	0.147	27	0.121	0.00234	9.5	0.0235
9:41:08	26	15,000	1.17	18	1.14	0.00712	15.5	0.151	27	0.119	0.0023	9.5	0.0234

Results from FWD testing at the Geofoam Section are also shown in Table 1. Near the FWD at Geophone 1, PPV's ranged from 0.525 ips to 1.17 ips. The first drop at 6k lbs was missed in the monitoring, only two drops are shown in the table. Dominant frequencies ranged from 14.5 at the 9k drops to 19.5 at the 6k drops. Acceleration values ranged from 0.477 to 1.23 g, the highest values being recorded at the 15k lbs drops. Twelve feet from the FWD, at Geophone 2, PPV's ranged from 0.065 to 0.151 ips. Dominant frequencies from 5 to 10 Hz, and acceleration values from 0.0447 g to 0.121 g. The difference in time between the geophone triggers was slightly longer than at the Control Section, ranging from 0.0215 s to 0.0244 s.

**TECHNOLOGY DRIVE**

At Technology Drive, one set of FWD measurements was performed at both the Control and Geofoam Sections. Table 2 shows the results of these measurements. At the Control Section, PPV near the FWD ranged from 0.993 to 1.25 ips. Acceleration values were greater than 1 g with the highest being 1.99 g. Dominant frequencies ranged from 14 at the 9k lbs drops to 29 at the 15k lbs drops. At Geophone 2, PPV's ranged from 0.0387 ips to 0.1 ips. Dominant frequencies ranged from 14 to 19 Hz, and acceleration values from 0.0381 to 0.0795 g.

At the Geofoam Section, Geophone 1 PPV varied between 0.687 ips at the 6k lbs drops and 1.25 at the 15K lbs drops. Dominant Frequencies were low, with a maximum at the 9K drops of 14.5 Hz, and the minimum of 6 Hz at the 15K drops. The maximum acceleration measurement was 1.58 g. At Geophone 2, PPV ranged from 0.124 ips to 0.251 ips and dominant frequencies were varied between 3.5 Hz and 15 Hz. Acceleration readings ranged from 0.0497 to 0.111 g.

Table 2-FWD Results, Technology Dr – Control Section													
		Geophone 1						Geophone 2					
Time	Event #	Weight (lbs)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Trigger difference (s)
12:51:46	40	6,000	1.04	57	1.23	0.00397	18.5	0.0387	21	0.0381	0.00029	18.5	0.026
12:51:52	41	6,000	1.05	57	1.24	0.00401	18.5	0.0394	21	0.0381	0.00029	18.5	0.027
12:52:58	42	6,000	0.993	51	1.11	0.00401	18.5	0.0394	21	0.0381	0.00029	18.5	0.025
12:52:19	43	9,000	1.25	47	1.41	0.00537	14	0.055	30	0.0514	0.00039	14.5	0.026
12:52:25	44	9,000	1.25	43	1.29	0.00546	14	0.0567	30	0.053	0.0004	14	0.027
12:52:31	45	9,000	1.25	47	1.47	0.00554	14	0.0556	30	0.053	0.0004	14	0.0263
12:52:52	46	15,000	1.25	21	1.91	0.00776	29	0.0987	34	0.0812	0.00062	15.5	0.0263
12:52:59	47	15,000	1.25	47	1.99	0.00778	28.5	0.1	34	0.0845	0.00064	19	0.0254
12:53:08	48	15,000	1.25	13	1.51	0.00771	28.5	0.1	32	0.0795	0.00064	19	0.027
Geofoam Section													
		Geophone 1						Geophone 2					
Time	Event #	Weight (lbs)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)	Trigger difference (s)
13:00:02	49	6,000	0.687	39	0.681	0.00476	12.5	0.124	16	0.0497	0.00145	6.5	0.0342
13:00:08	50	6,000	0.701	39	0.643	0.00484	12.5	0.126	16	0.053	0.00151	6.5	0.036
13:00:14	51	6,000	0.687	39	0.646	0.00484	6.5	0.126	16	0.0514	0.00151	6.5	0.0352
13:00:35	52	9,000	0.998	39	0.921	0.00653	9.5	0.157	16	0.0663	0.00182	15	0.034
13:00:41	53	9,000	1.01	37	0.905	0.00664	14.5	0.159	17	0.0679	0.00186	15	0.036
13:00:47	54	9,000	1.02	37	0.9	0.00667	14.5	0.16	17	0.0696	0.00184	15	0.036
13:01:07	55	15,000	1.25	7.1	1.37	0.0108	6	0.246	16	0.106	0.00282	6.5	0.0352
13:01:16	56	15,000	1.25	7	1.58	0.0109	6	0.251	16	0.111	0.00288	6.5	0.0363
13:01:24	57	15,000	1.25	6.6	1.44	0.0108	6	0.251	16	0.111	0.00288	6.5	0.0352

## TRAFFIC

Only one geophone was used for traffic monitoring. It was placed approximately one foot from the wheel path along the fog line. Traffic cones were placed along the fog line to deter vehicles from driving over the geophone. Traffic vibrations from a calibrated Mn/DOT truck and other passing vehicles were monitored. Only the results from the Mn/DOT Truck passes are included in this report.

## TH100

Traffic monitoring was performed on both the Control and the Geofoam section at TH100. Table 3 displays the results from the monitoring. At the Control Section, PPV ranged from 0.0769 to 0.114 ips, and Dominant frequencies were consistently low at 4 Hz. At the Geofoam Section PPV ranged from 0.0562 ips to 0.0712 ips. Dominant frequencies were low once again, ranging from 2 Hz to 3.5 Hz.

Table 3-Traffic Control Section TH100							
Time	Event #	Trigger Source	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)
10:09:43	34	Mn/DOT Truck	0.114	15	0.174	0.00395	4
10:15:26	35	Mn/DOT Truck	0.0769	9.3	0.0696	0.00242	4
10:20:51	36	Mn/DOT Truck	0.104	4.3	0.109	0.00354	4
Geofoam Section							
Time	Event #	Trigger Source	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)
10:48:18	37	Mn/DOT Truck	0.0712	n/a	0.00415	0.00395	3
10:53:56	38	Mn/DOT Truck	0.0712	2.8	0.00447	0.00242	3.5
10:55:45	39	Mn/DOT Truck	0.0562	11	0.00281	0.00281	2



**TECHNOLOGY DRIVE**

Several passes of the Mn/DOT truck were recorded at the Geofoam Section of Technology Drive. The Mn/DOT truck hit the cone near the geophone, hitting the geophone on two passes. No results were recorded from the Control Section. The results from the Geofoam Section are shown in Table 4. Velocities varied between 0.131 ips and 0.256 ips. Dominant frequencies reached a maximum of 2.5 Hz.

Table 4-Traffic Monitoring Technology Drive-Geofoam Section							
Time	Event #	Trigger Source	Peak Velocity (ips)	Frequency at Peak V (Hz)	Acceleration (g)	Displacement (inches)	Dominant Frequency (Hz)
13:50:07	58	Mn/DOT Truck	0.147	2.9	0.0298	0.00882	2
13:58:53	59	Mn/DOT Truck	0.256	2.5	0.0381	0.0121	2
14:04:27	60	Mn/DOT Truck	0.131	3.3	0.0265	0.00674	2.5

**SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS**

This set of vibration measurements at both geofoam locations concludes the testing at TH100 and Technology Drive. After two years of monitoring at each location, trends are still difficult to determine. Figure 1 shows a comparison of measurements from the FWD averaged from the 15k lbs drops. Figure 2 shows a comparison of vibrations recorded from the passes of the Mn/DOT Truck at each location, gray bars signify “no data”. Several conclusions can be drawn from the data collected at the two sites; however, there are limitations to the significance that can be gained.

**Conclusions**

- At TH100, both the Traffic and the FWD results show that the Peak Particle Velocities at the Geofoam Section are generally higher than at the Control Section.
- Generally, vibration levels are slightly higher on the bituminous pavement, Technology Drive, than on the concrete pavement at TH100, for both FWD and traffic monitoring.
- At Technology Drive, FWD results show the majority of vibration levels to be higher at the Control Section than at the Geofoam Section.
- Traffic vibrations at TH100 are generally higher at the Geofoam Section, and vary more in value.
- At Technology Drive, traffic results vary more at the Geofoam Section than at the Control Section.

**Limitations**

- Although care was taken to perform monitoring during each of the four seasons, no record of weather or soil conditions was taken, and no effort was made to try to take measurements on days with similar weather conditions and levels of frozen soil.
- It is difficult to draw conclusions from eight distinct data sets. To be more confident of trends more data is required.
- Traffic data at TH100 and Technology Drive cannot be compared. While calibrated Mn/DOT vehicles were used at both locations, the speed traveled at each was not kept constant, and therefore the traffic measurements can only be compared between Geofoam and Control Sections at each site.
- It is also difficult to make any conclusions about traffic data because it was not possible to control or measure key variables, including vehicle speed and distance from the vehicle to the geophone.
- Two geophones were damaged in the course of measuring vibrations.

Figure 1: Comparison of FWD measurements at 15k lbs

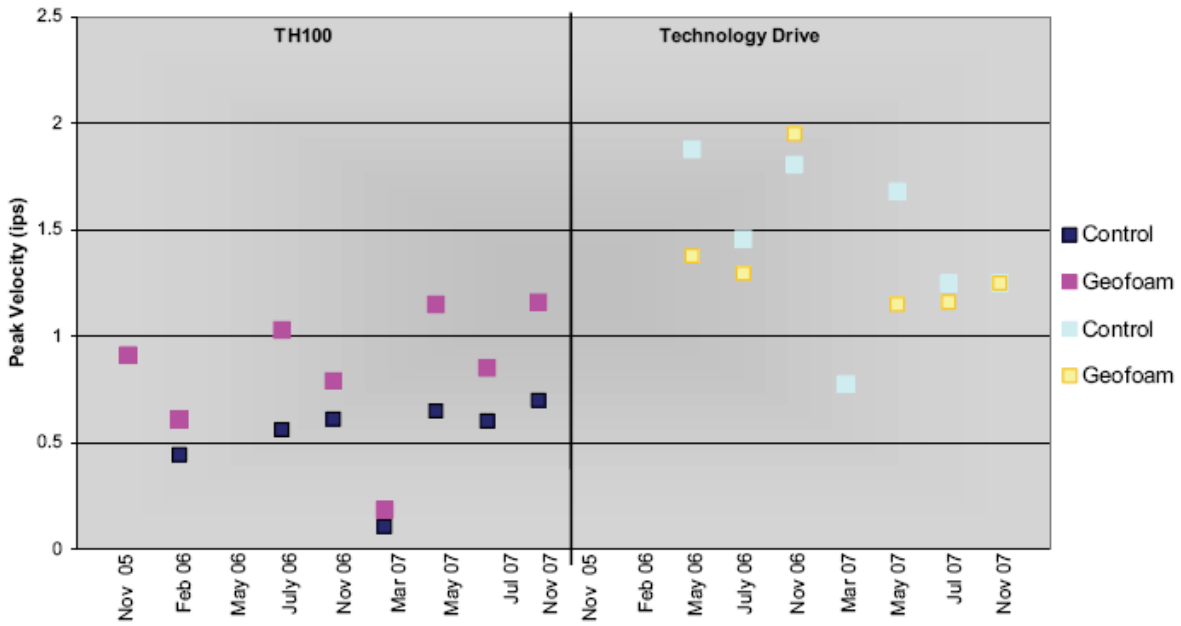
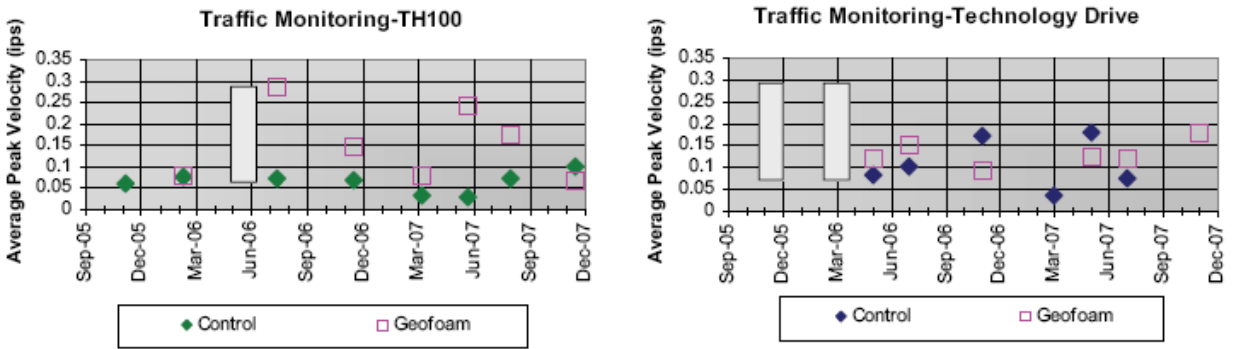
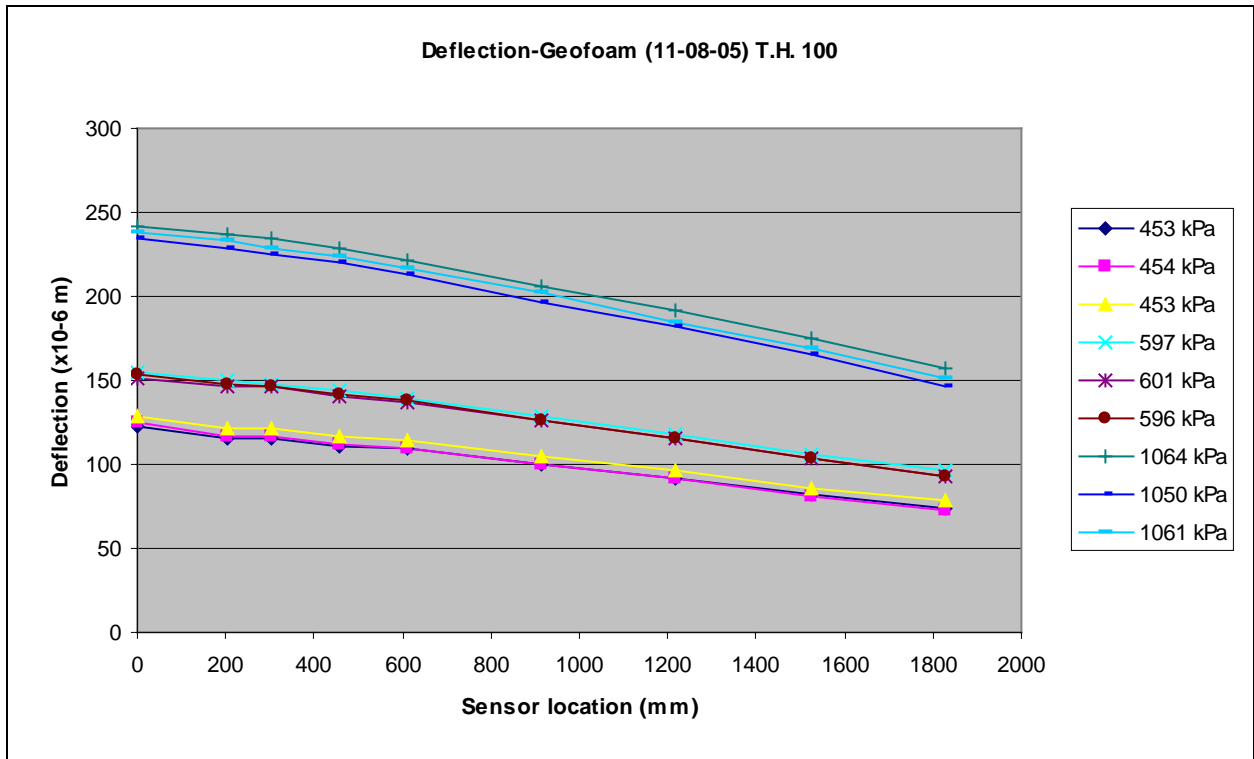


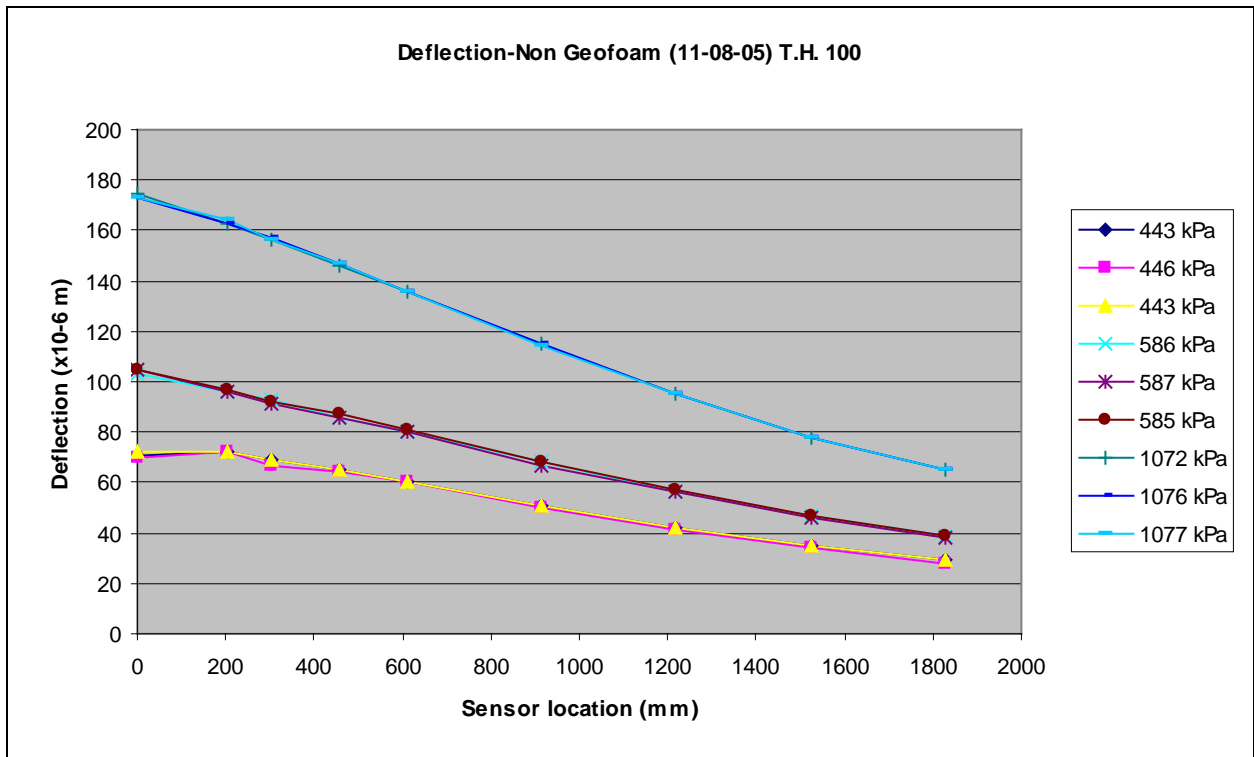
Figure 2: Traffic Monitoring Results



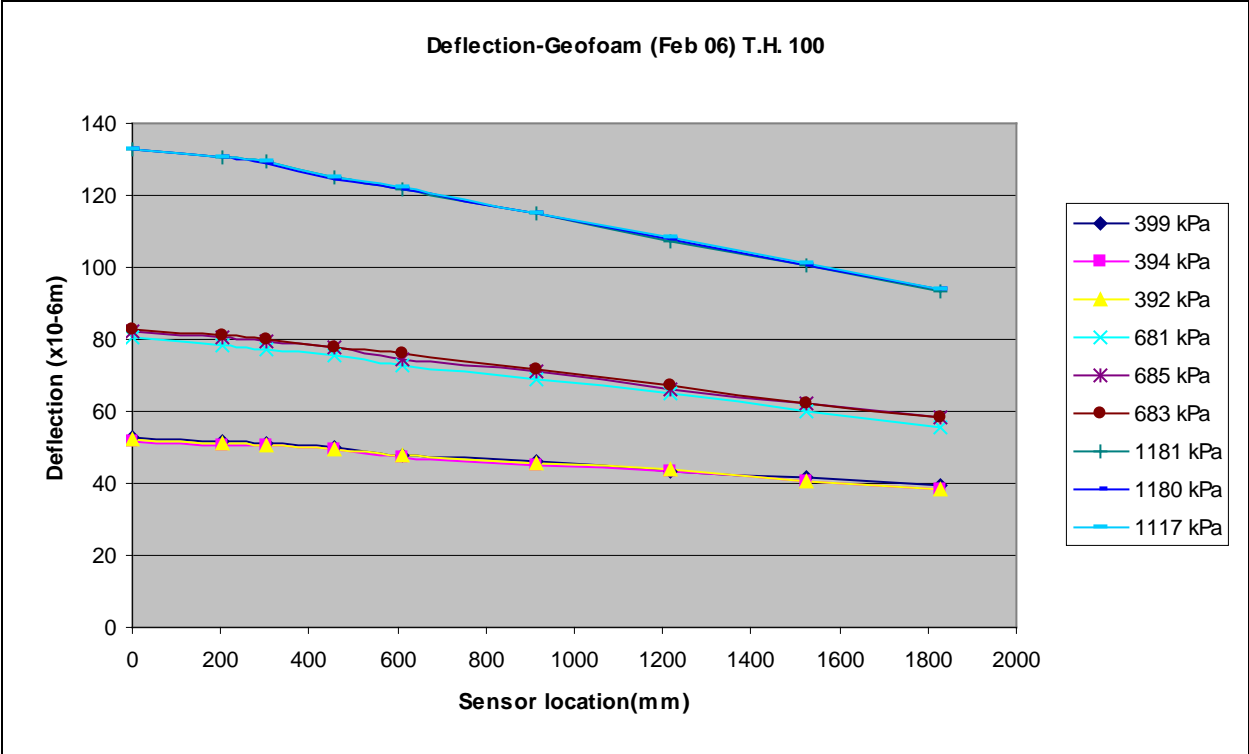
## **APPENDIX D. FALLING WEIGHT DEFLECTOMETER DEFLECTIONS**



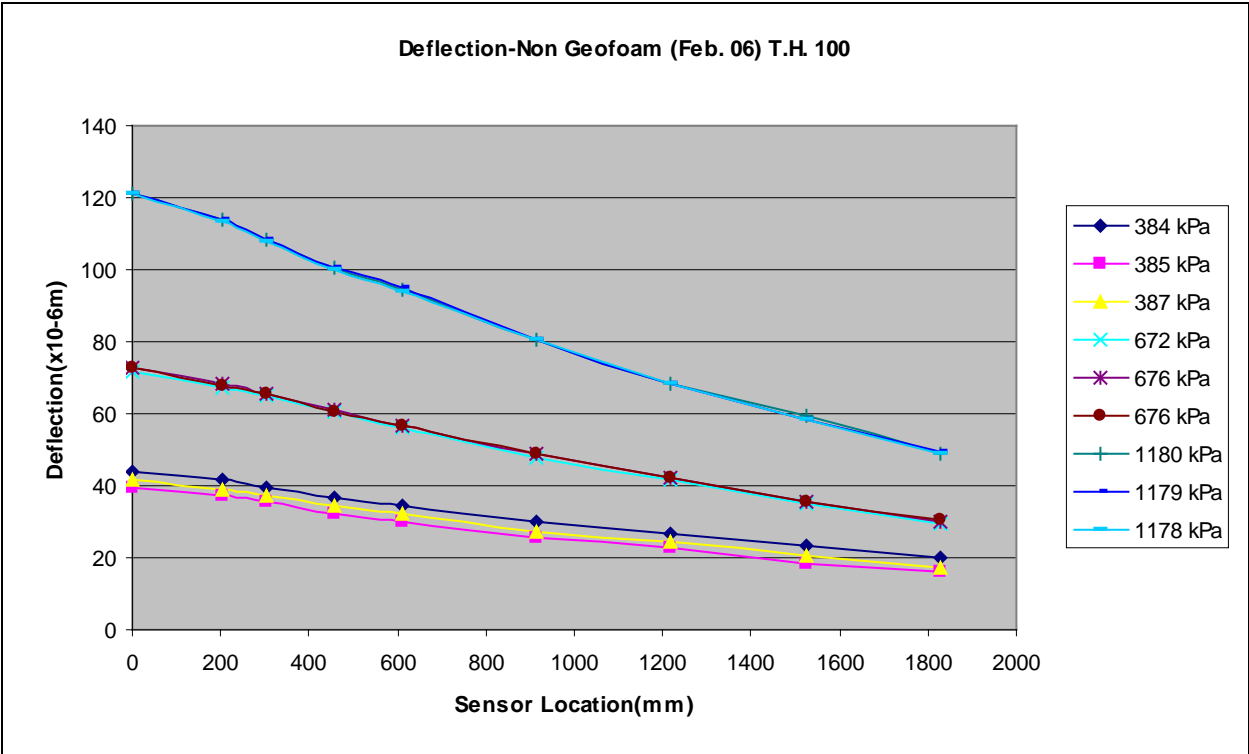
**Figure D1 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; November 8, 2005**



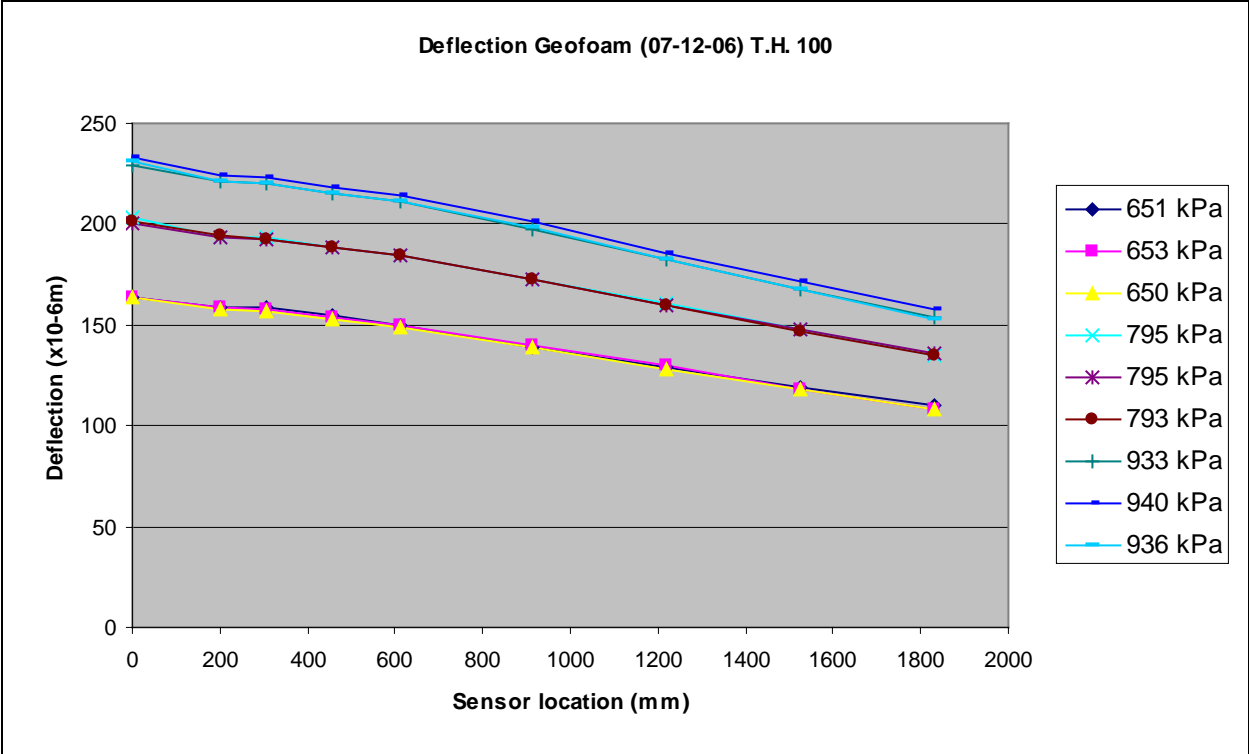
**Figure D2 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; November 8, 2005**



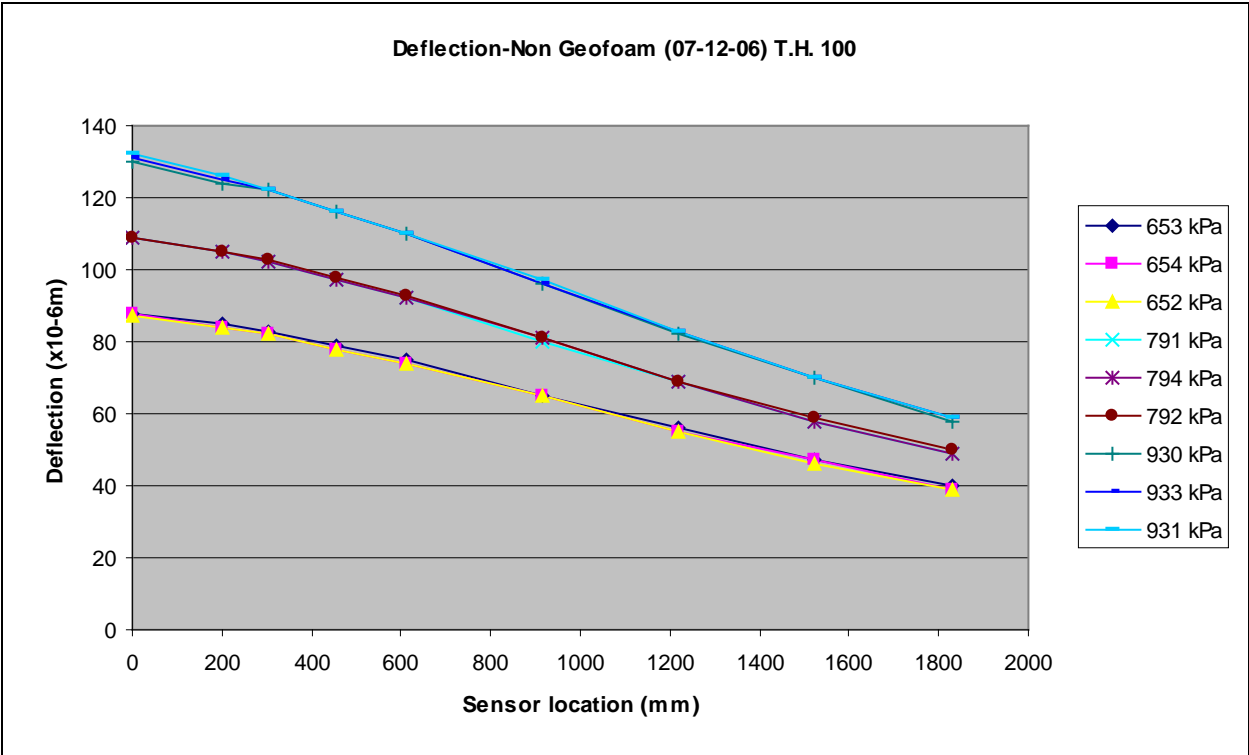
**Figure D3 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; February 2006**



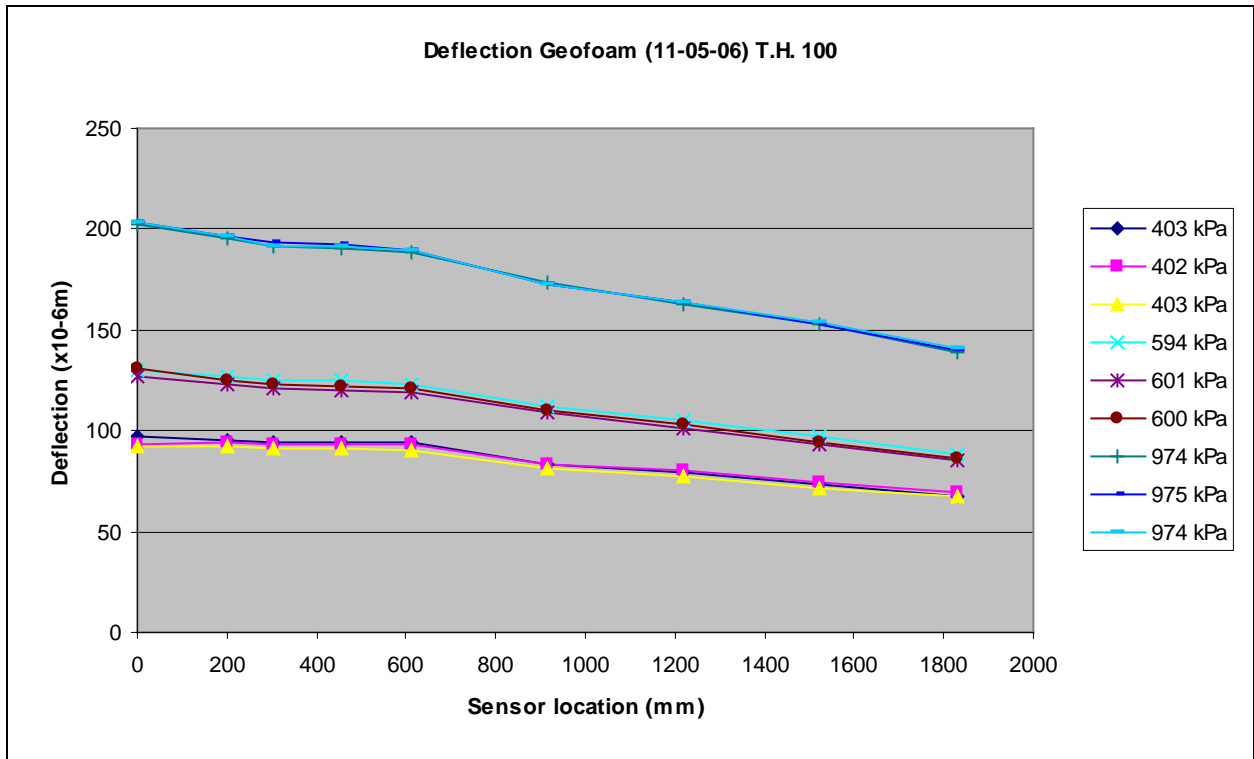
**Figure D4 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; February 2006**



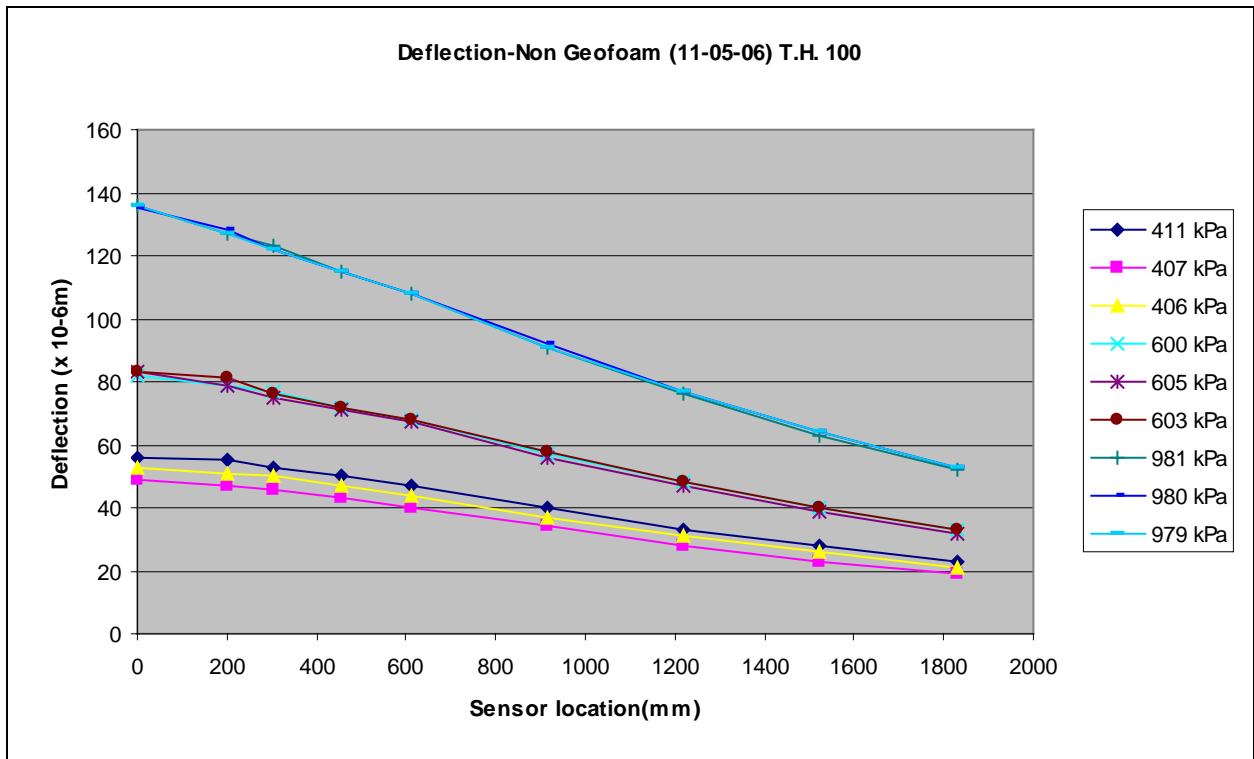
**Figure D5 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; July 12, 2006**



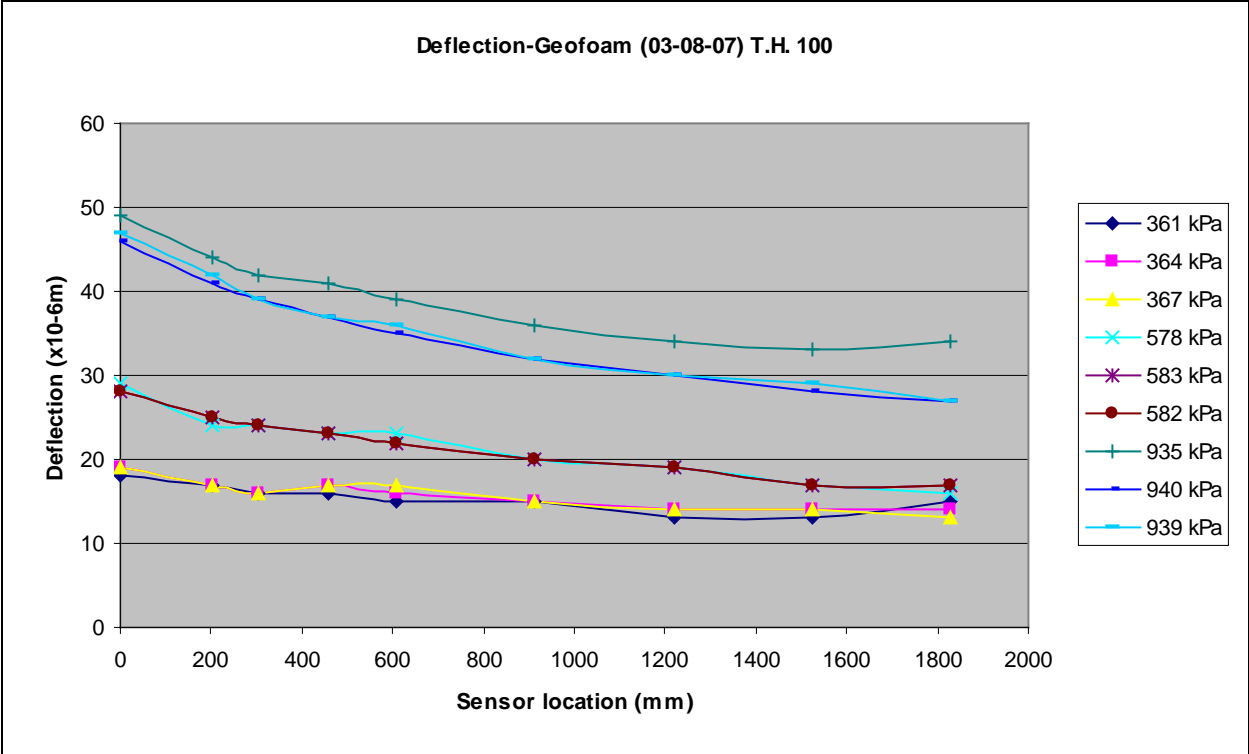
**Figure D6 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; July 12, 2006**



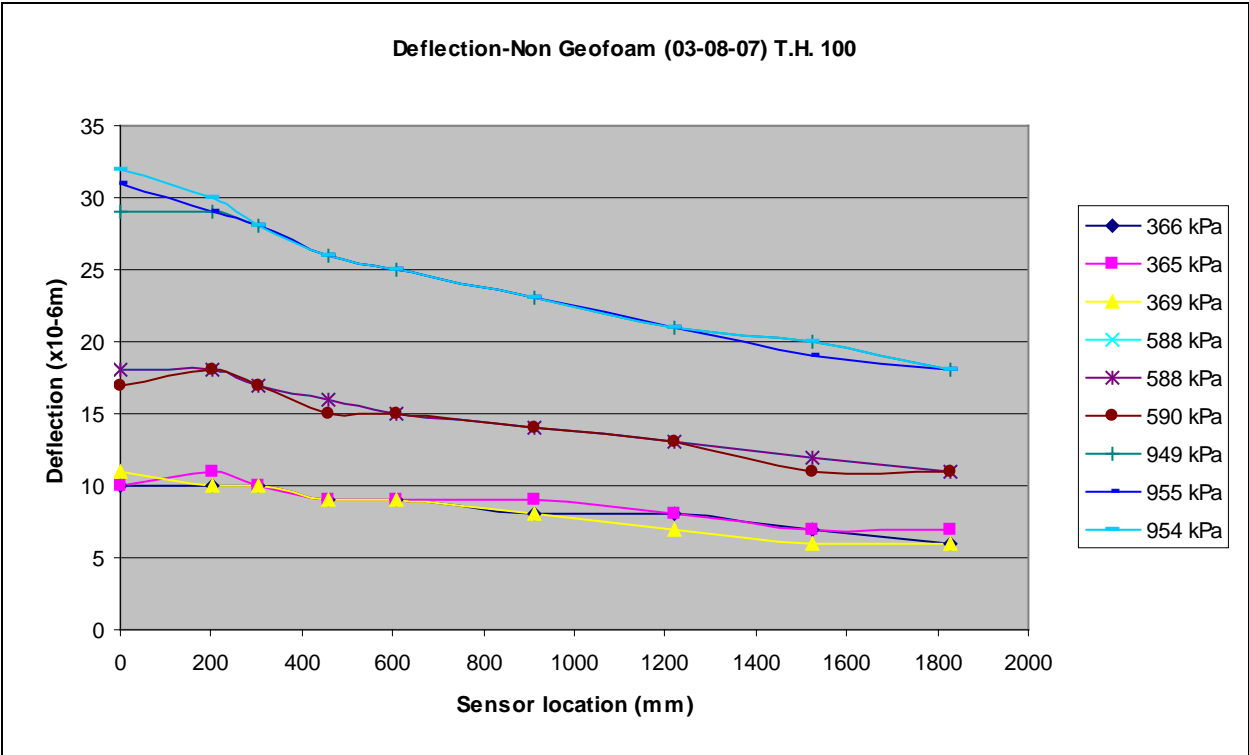
**Figure D7 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; November 5, 2006**



**Figure D8 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; November 5, 2006**

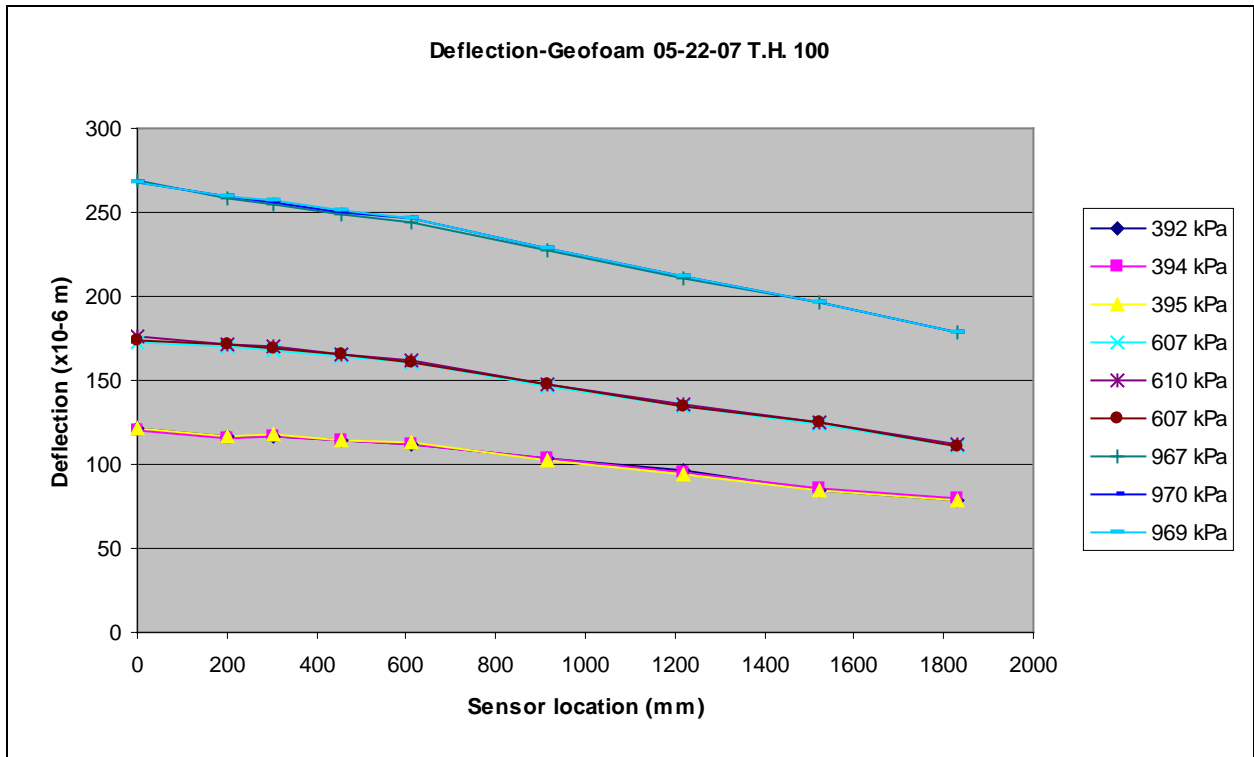


**Figure D9 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; March 8, 2007**

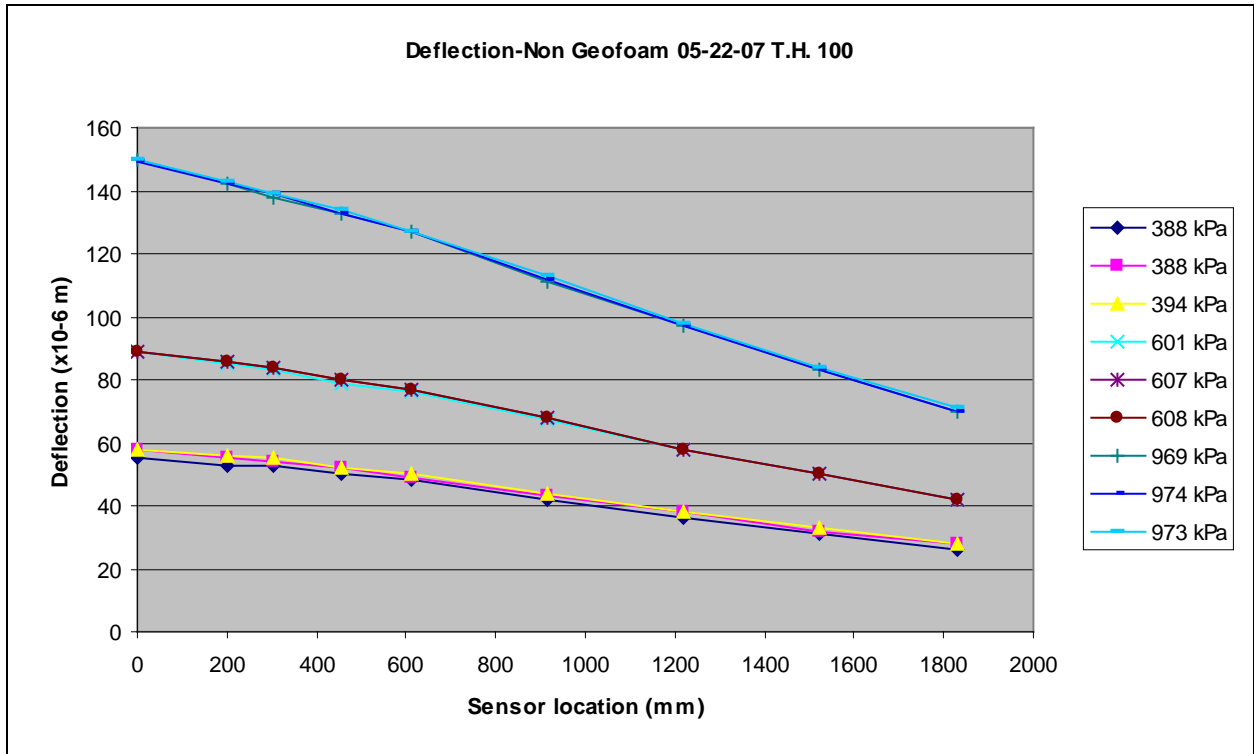


**Figure D10 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; March 8, 2007**

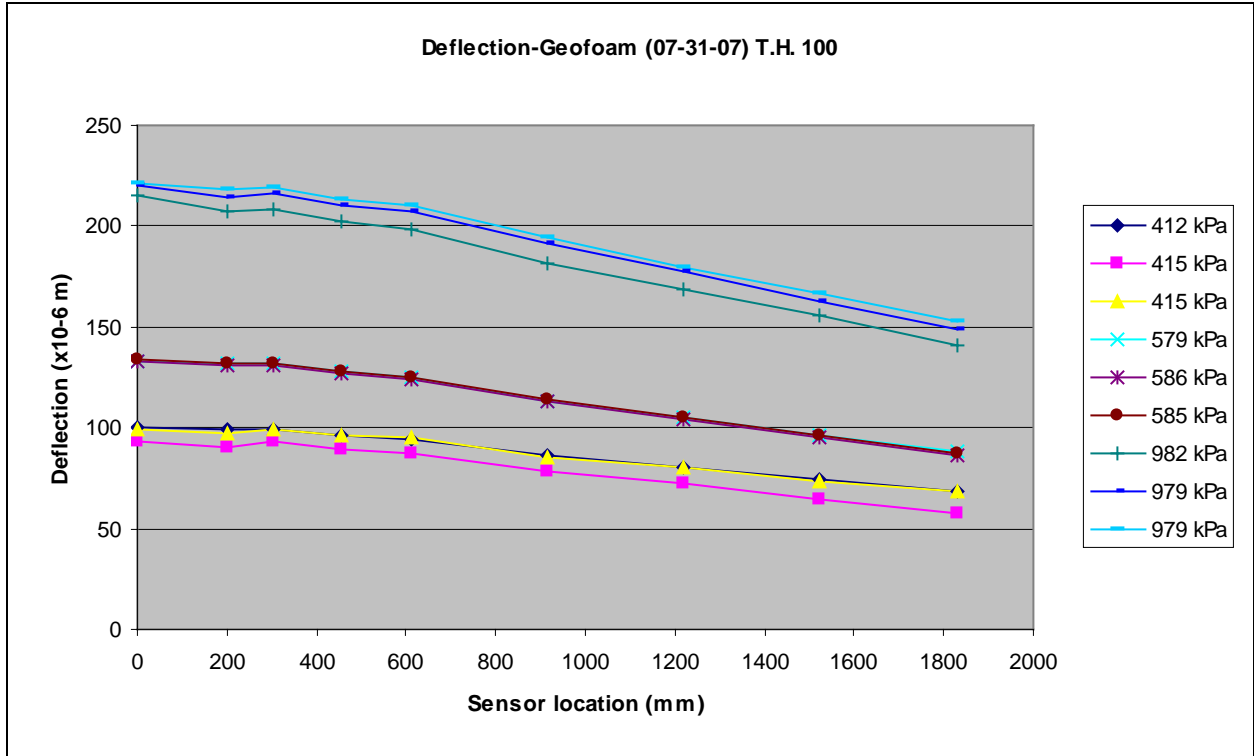




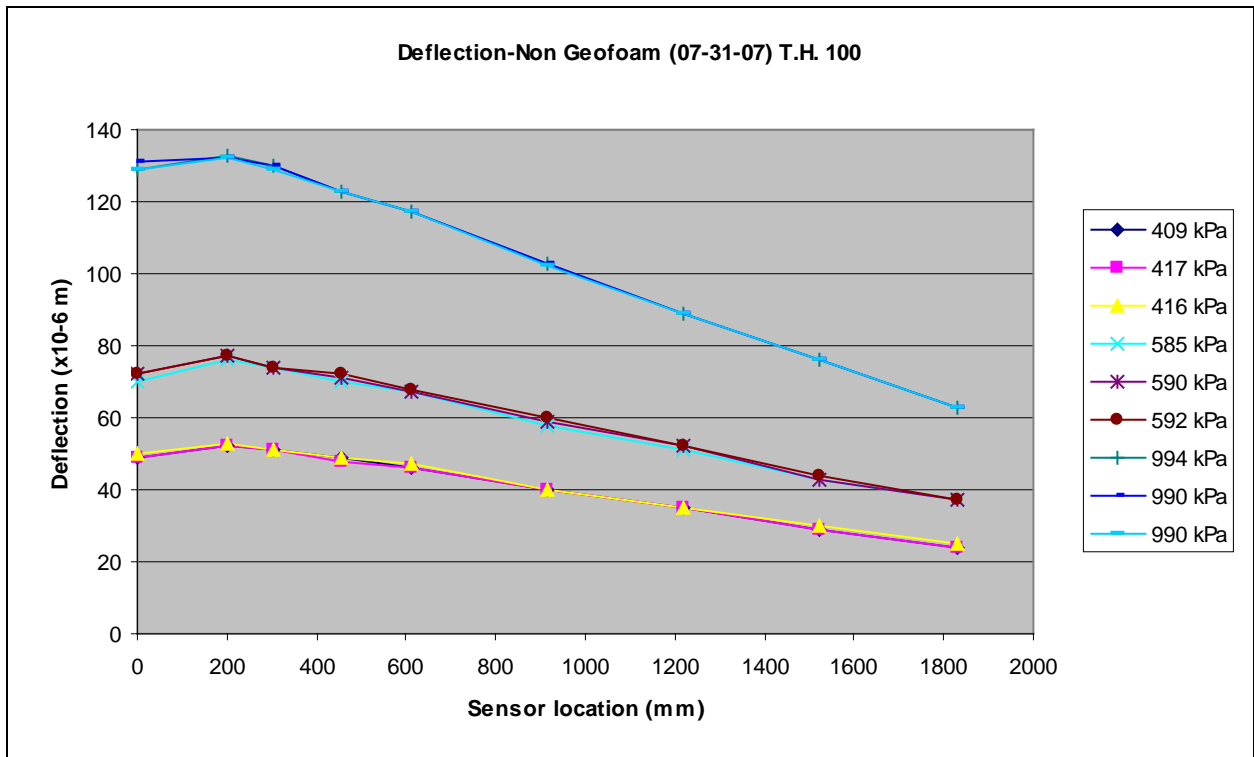
**Figure D11 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; May 22, 2007**



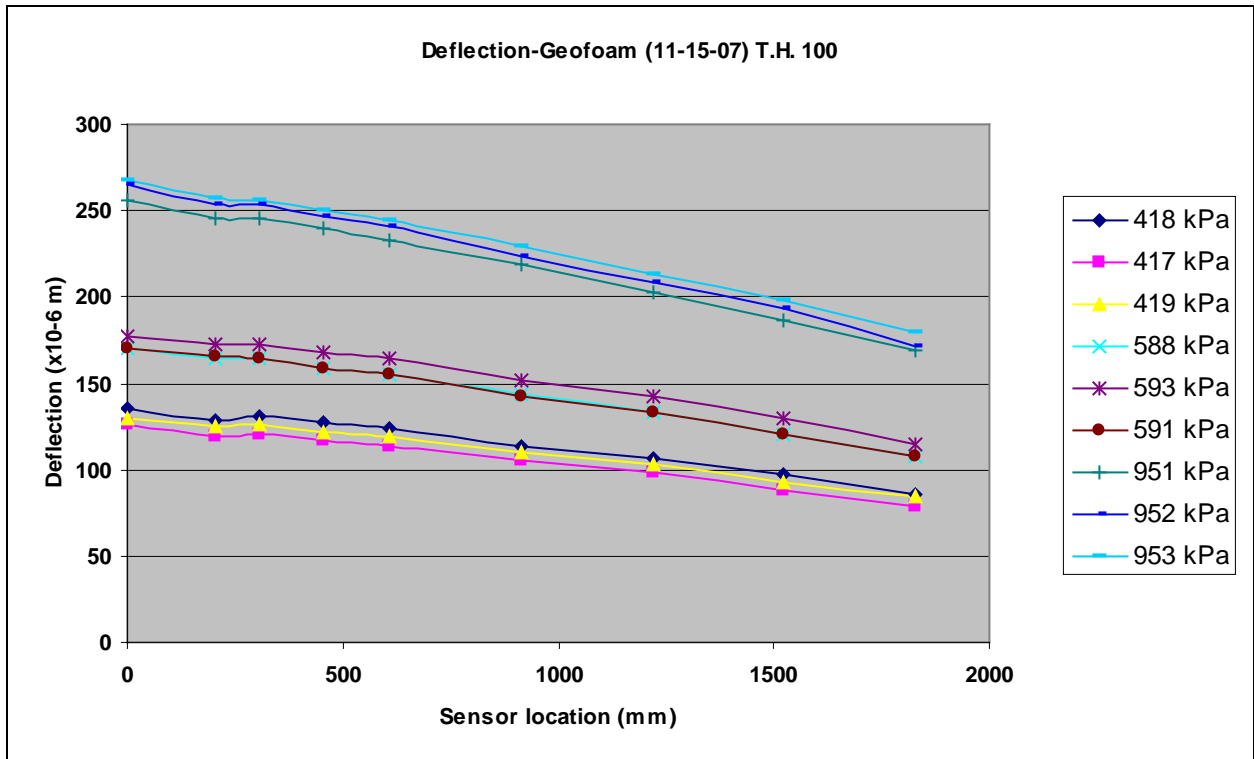
**Figure D12 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; May 22, 2007**



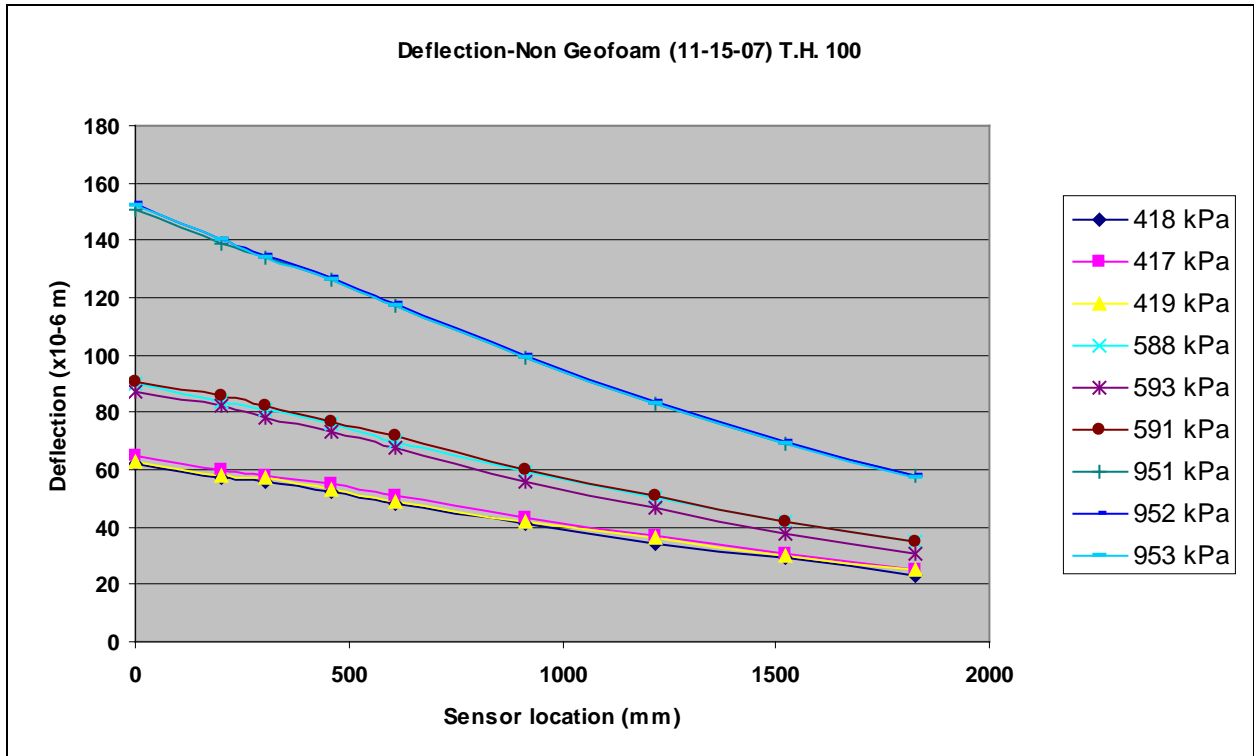
**Figure D13 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; July 31, 2007**



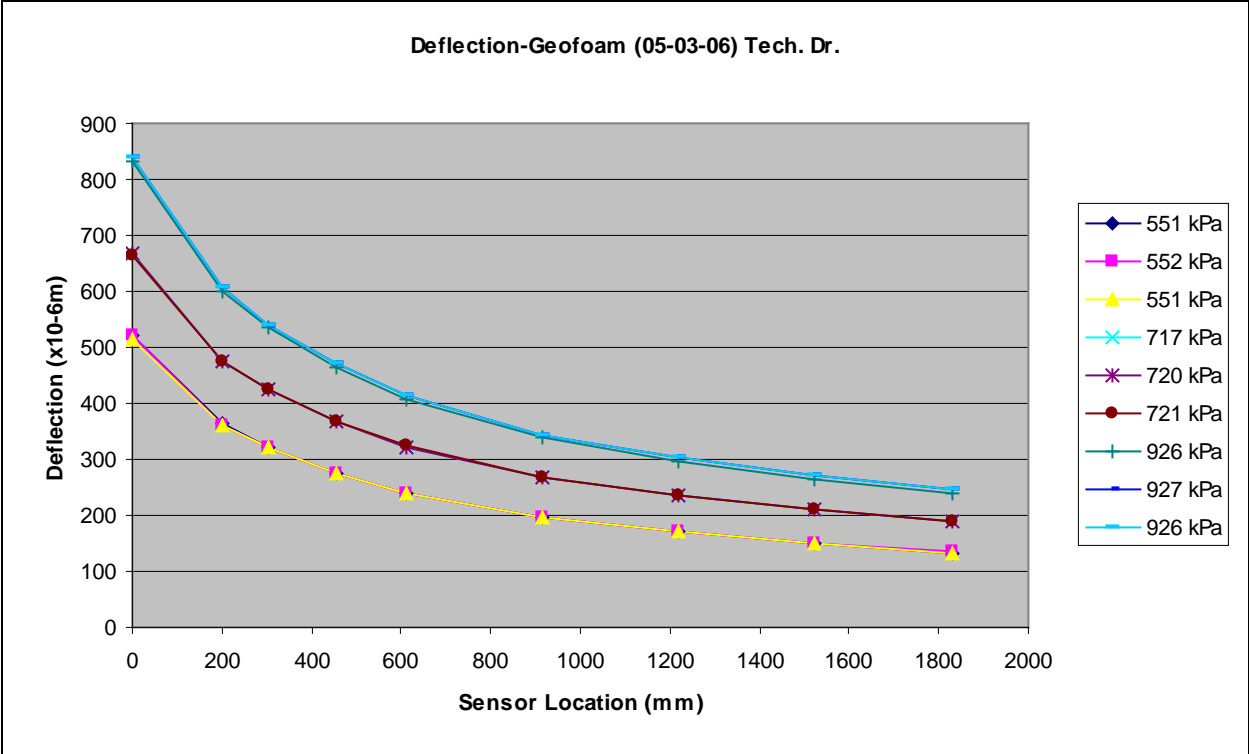
**Figure D14 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; July 31, 2007**



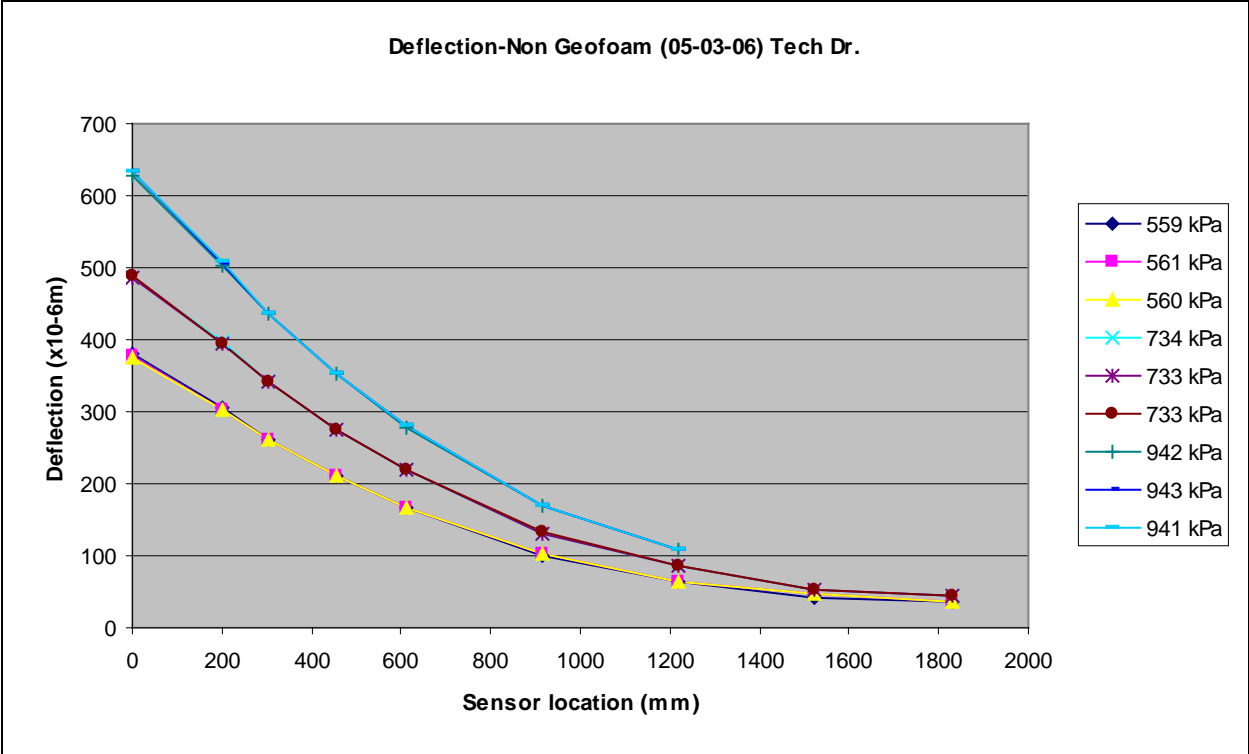
**Figure D15 TH 100 Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; November 15, 2007**



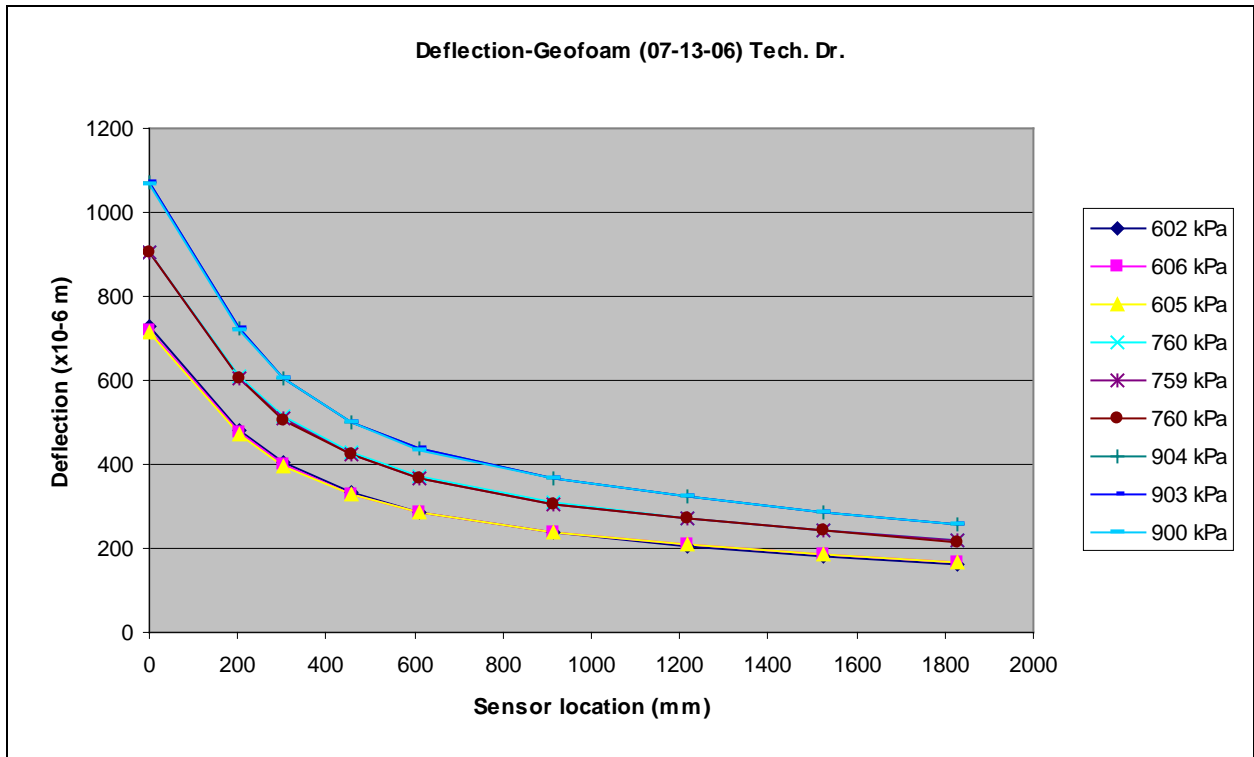
**Figure D16 TH 100 Control FWD Deflection Basin; November 15, 2007**



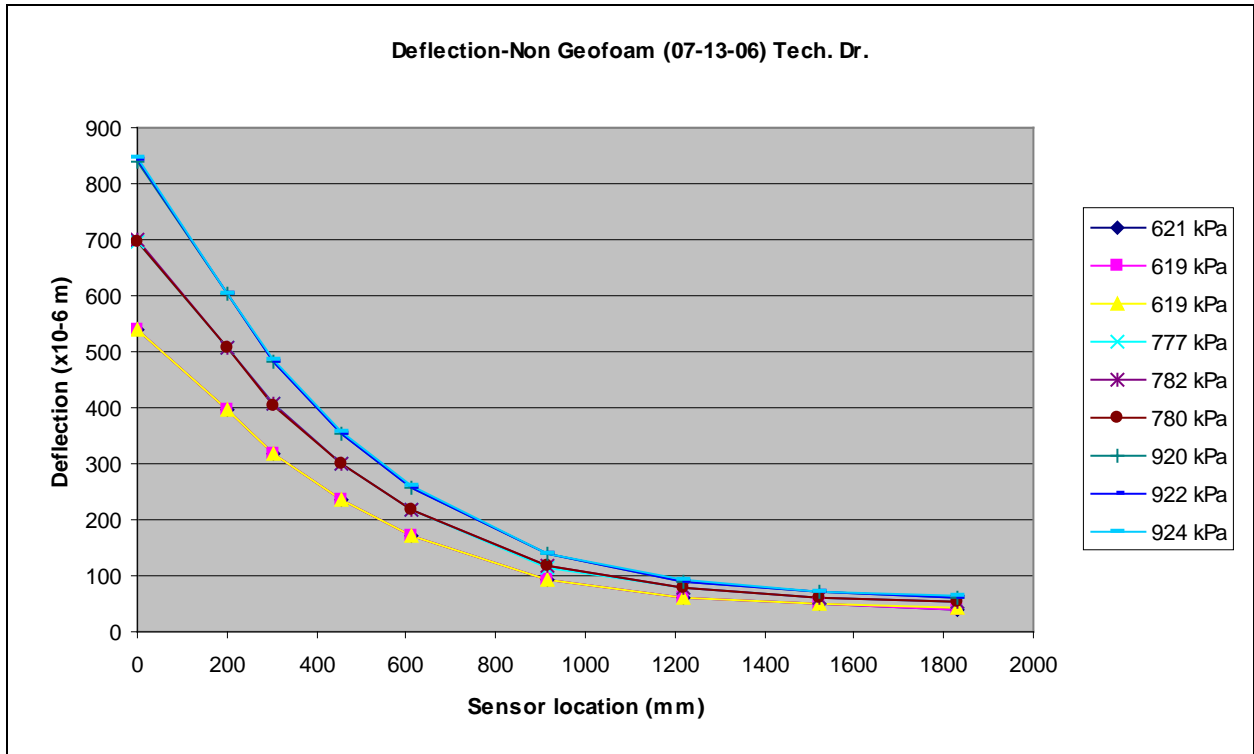
**Figure D17 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; May 3, 2006**



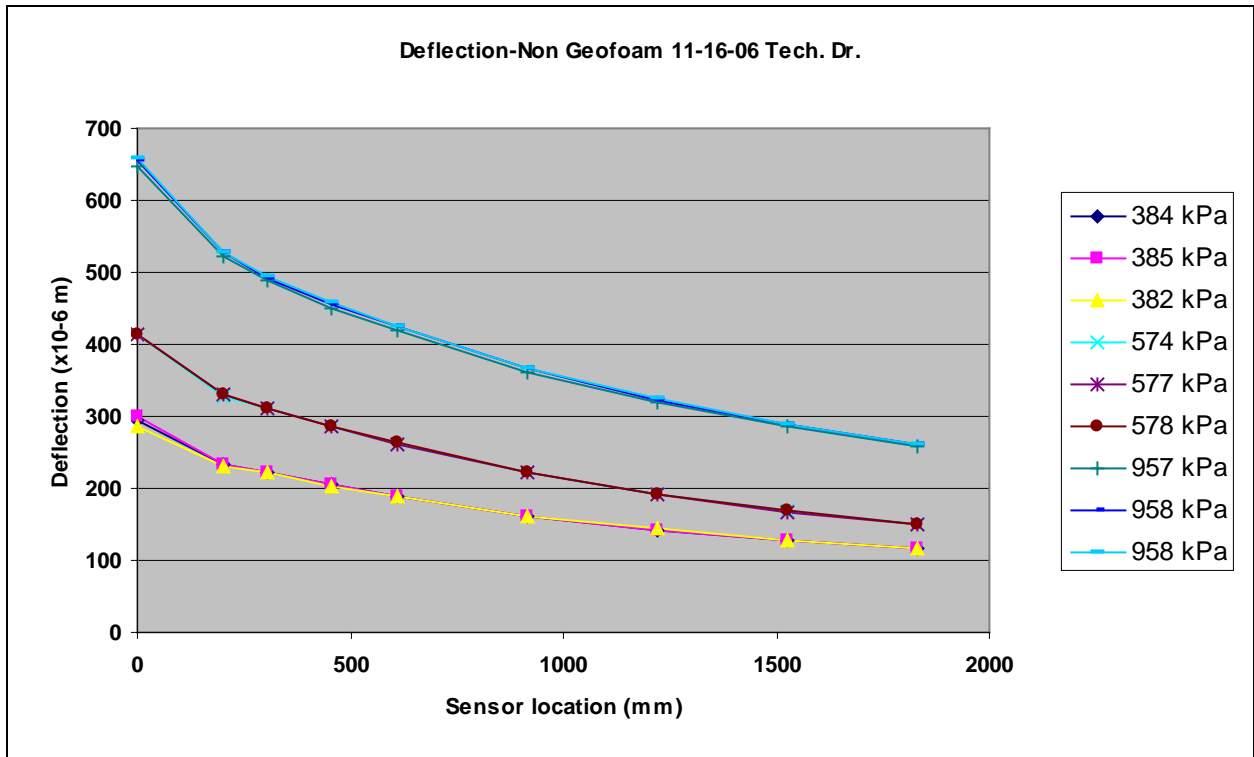
**Figure D18 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; May 3, 2006**



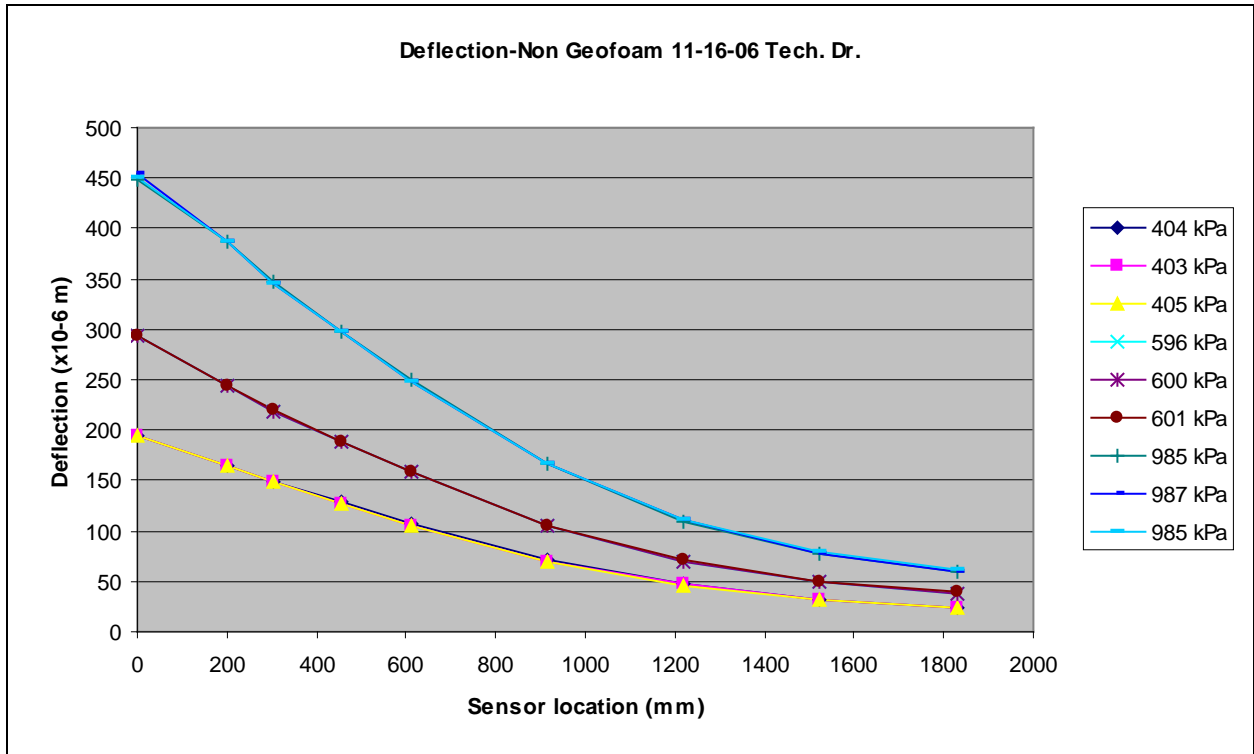
**Figure D19 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; July 13, 2006**



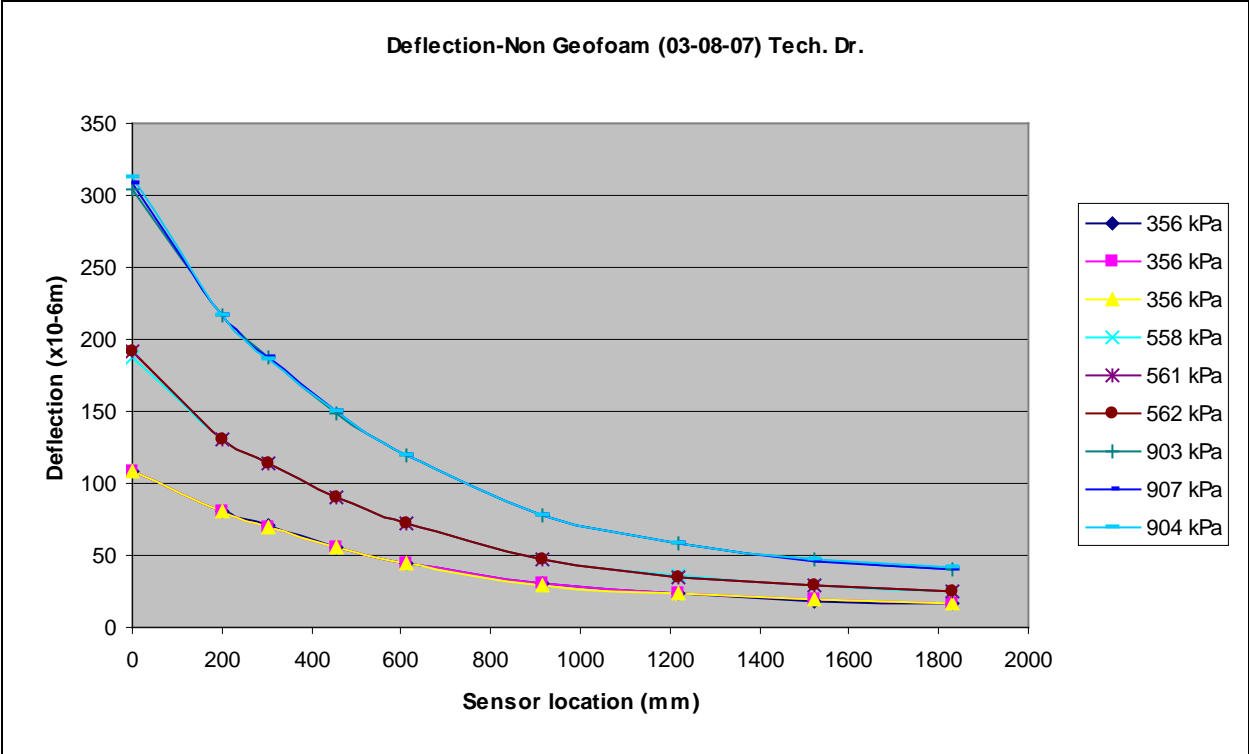
**Figure D20 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; July 13, 2006**



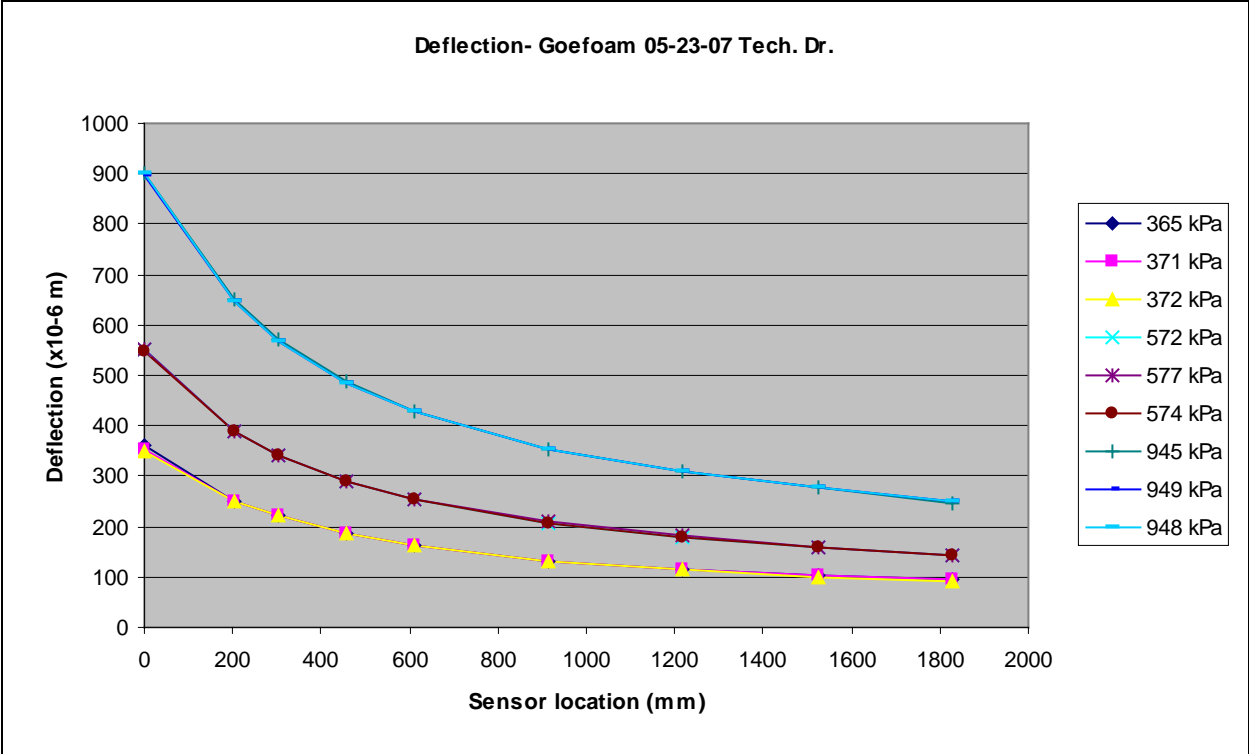
**Figure D21 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; November 16, 2006**



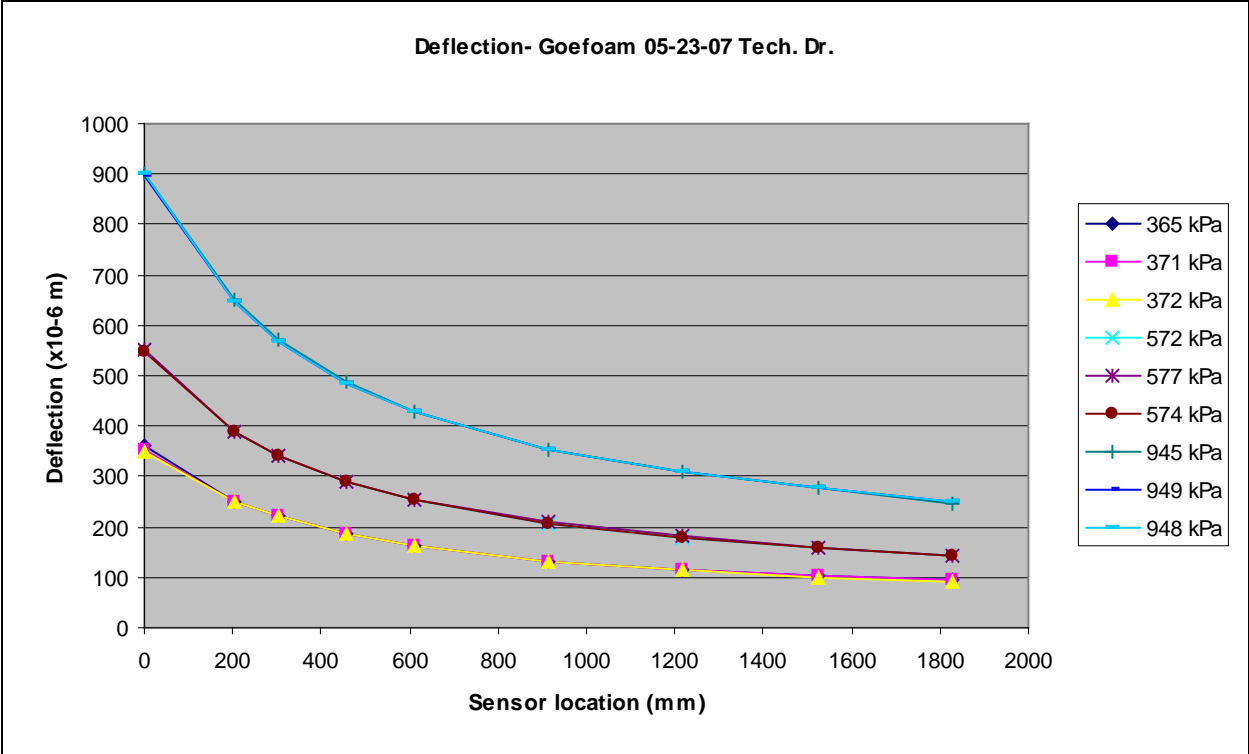
**Figure D22 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; November 16, 2006**



**Figure D23 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; March 8, 2007**

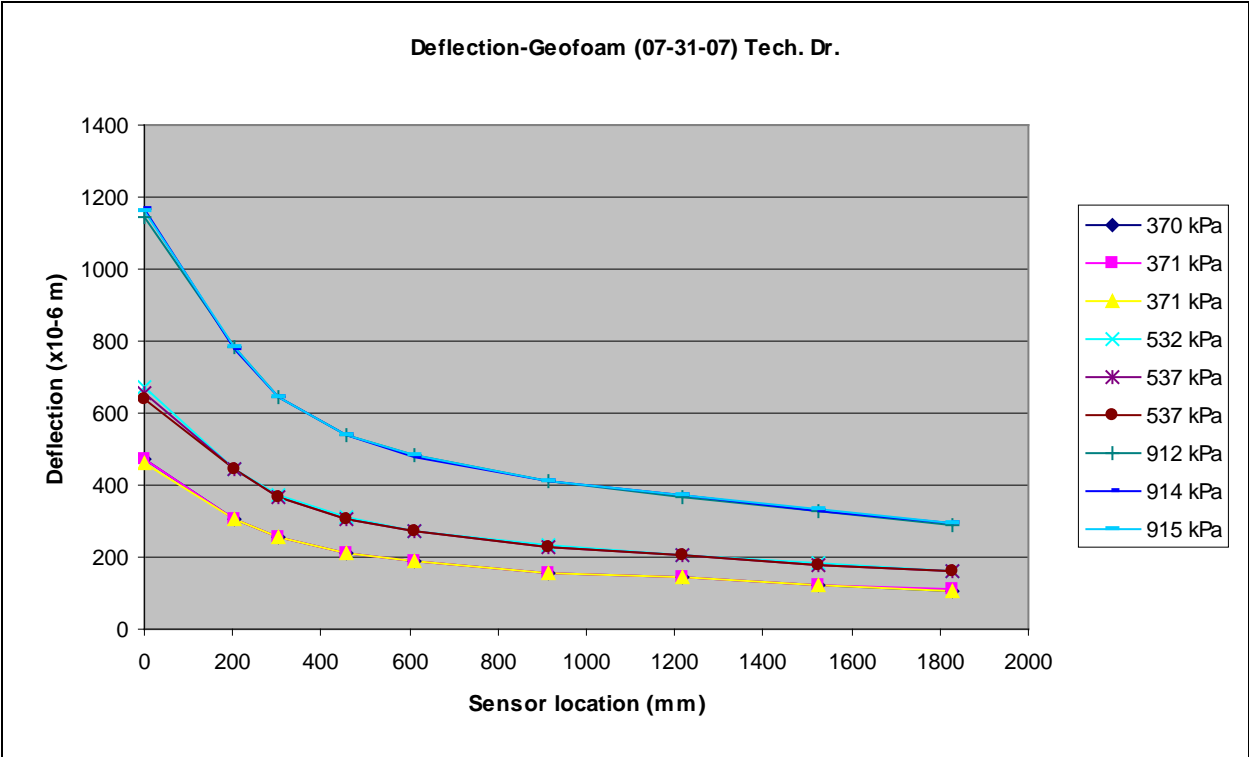


**Figure D24 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; May 23, 2007**

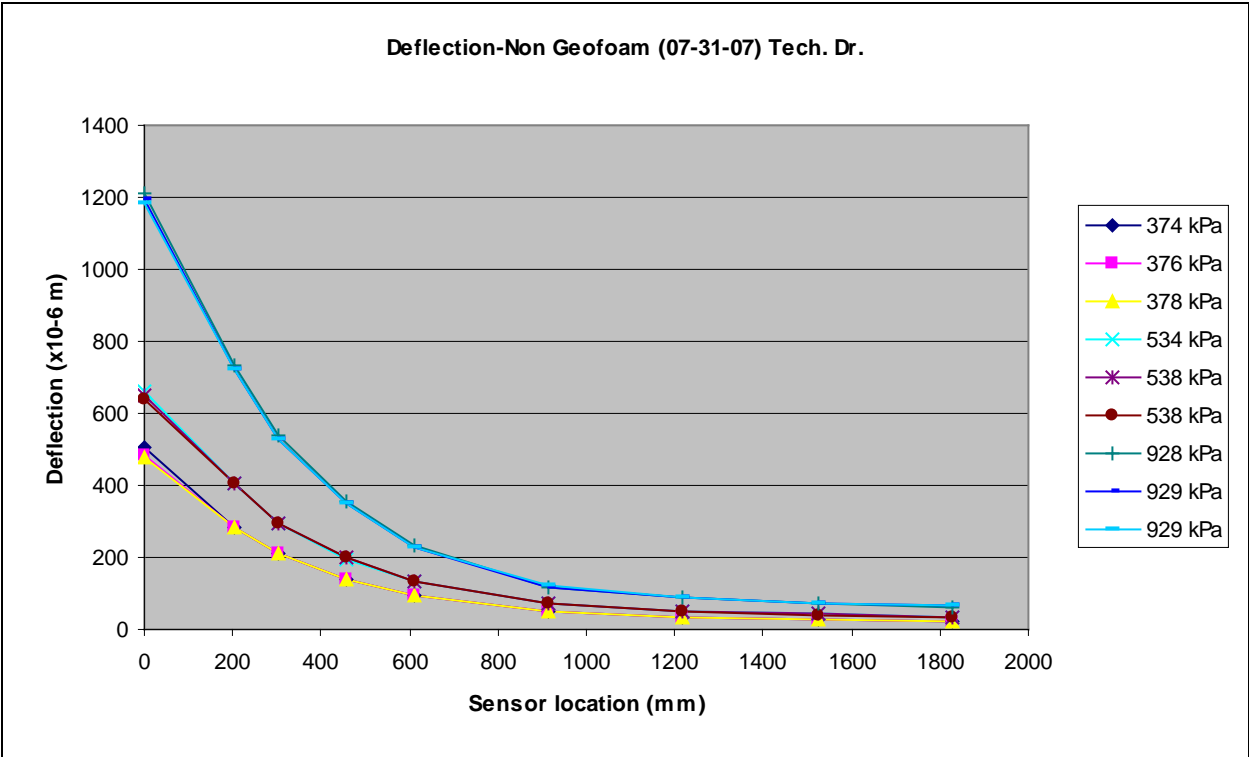


**Figure D25 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; May 23, 2007**

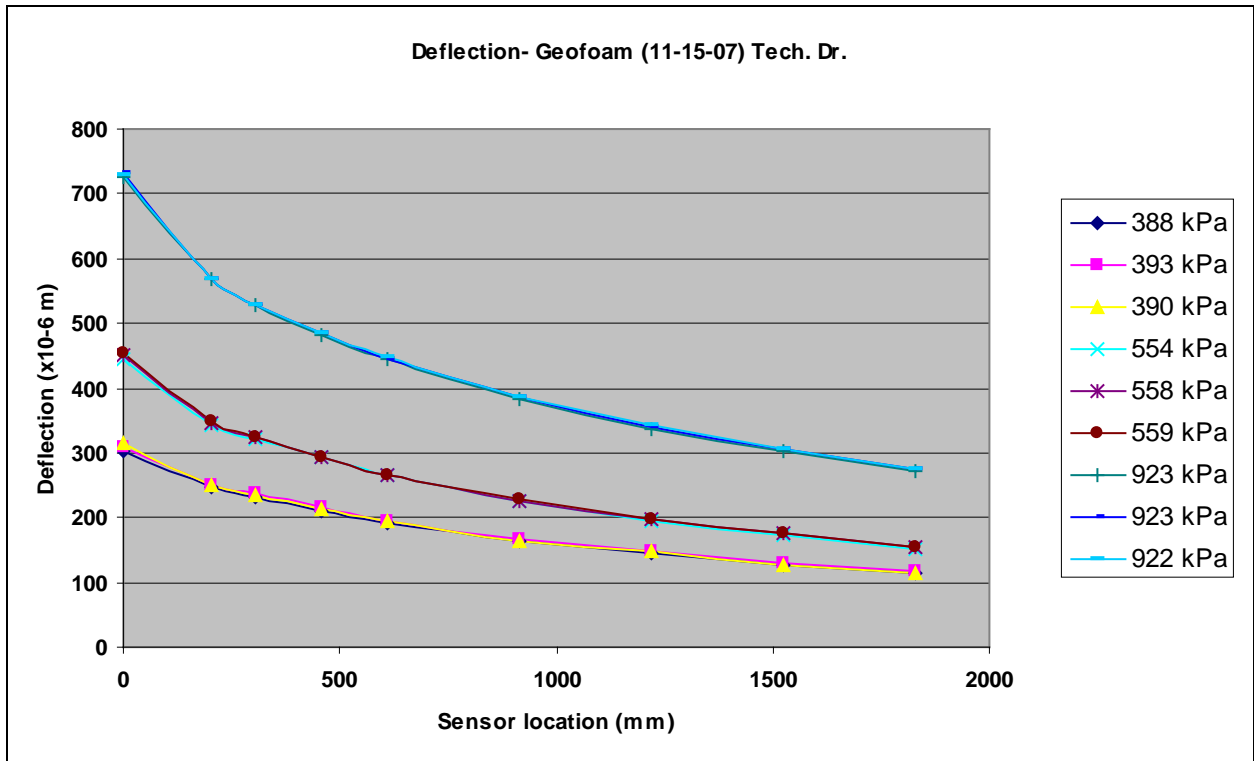




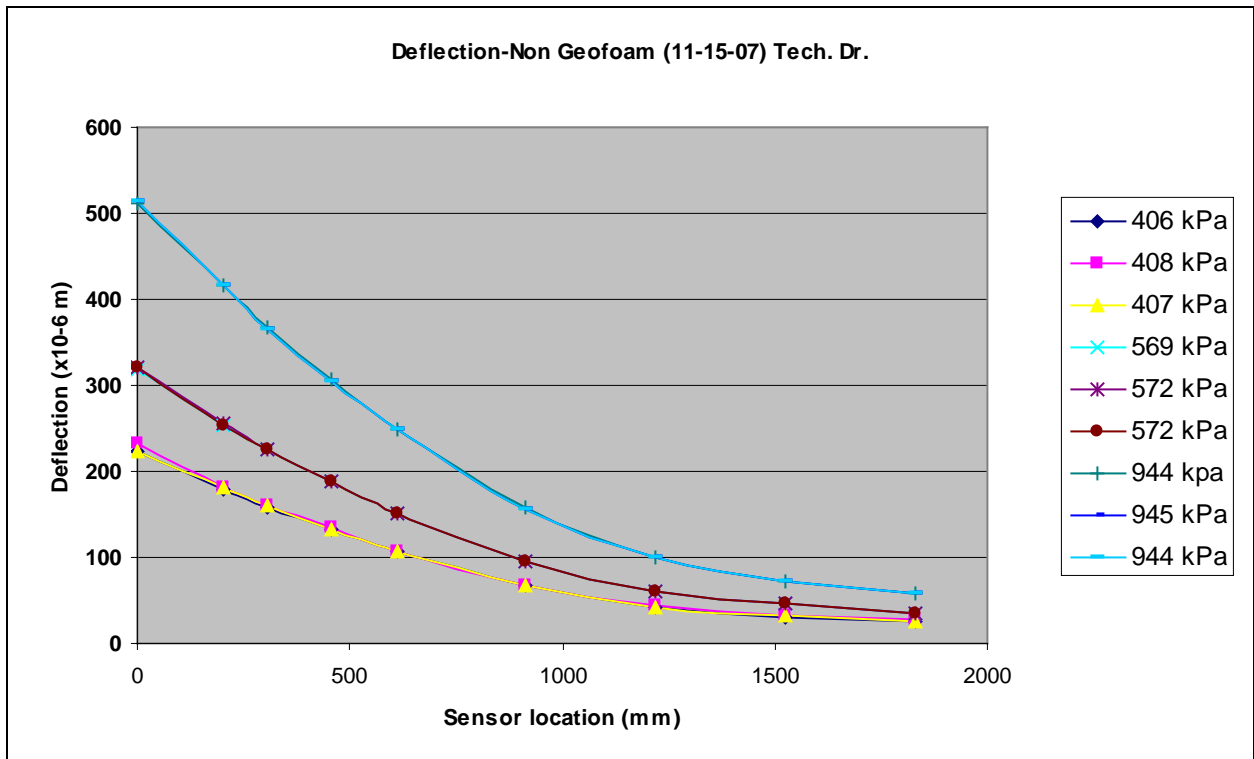
**Figure D26 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; July 31, 2007**



**Figure D27 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; July 31, 2007**



**Figure D28 Technology Drive Geofoam FWD Deflection Basin; November 15, 2007**



**Figure D29 Technology Drive Control FWD Deflection Basin; November 15, 2007**