

SITE NUMBER AND NAME: S020 Highwood House Rockfall Hazard		HIGHWAY & KM: 541:02, 0.817	PREVIOUS INSPECTION DATE: May 9, 2023	INSPECTION DATE: May 28, 2024
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 04-33-016-05 W5M	NAD 83 COORDINATES: UTM Northing Easting 11 5584038 667795		RISK ASSESSMENT: PF: 14 CF: 5 TOTAL: 70	
AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT): 260 (west), 260 (east), (Ref. No. 59130)			CONTRACTOR MAINTENANCE AREA (CMA): 27	

SUMMARY OF SITE INSTRUMENTATION: None	INSPECTED BY: Chris Grapel (KCB) Peter Roy (KCB) Renato Macciotta (U of A) Kristen Tappenden (TEC) Alex Frotten (TEC) Maury Siddons (TEC)
LAST READING DATE: N/A	
PRIMARY SITE ISSUE: Rockfall from the rock cutting, large rock block potentially unstable (west end), and soil debris flows due to surface water runoff erosion (gulying) from the brow of the slope.	
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: Approximately 150 m length and over 20 m high.	
DATE OF ANY REMEDIAL ACTION: Ditches cleaned periodically. Ditch has accumulated rockfall debris and appears that it has not been cleaned out this year.	

ITEM	CONDITION EXISTS		DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	NOTICABLE CHANGE FROM LAST INSPECTION	
	YES	NO		YES	NO
Pavement Distress	X		Rock strike marks on pavement indicates rockfall of 0.1 - 0.3 m diameter (estimate), track marks from heavy equipment on pavement from rockfall removal.		X
Slope Movement	X		Rockfall debris is accumulating in the ditch. Ditch has not been cleaned out recently	X	
Erosion	X		Weathering coal and shale sub-vertical beds interlayers with less weathered mudstone and sandstone, runoff erosion from brow (gulying). No significant changes.		X
Seepage		X			X
Culvert Distress		X			X

COMMENTS
Overall, no significant changes to the site when compared to 2023. Ongoing rockfalls at the site, the majority of which are retained in the ditch, but some rocks are falling onto and across the highway.
Rockfall debris observed in the ditch during the 2024 inspection, an increase in volume and size since the 2023 inspection.
Loose blocks and boulders up to 0.5 m x 0.5 m x 0.5 m present along the top of the rock slope. Some blocks of rock are within the soil at the brow of slope and are being eroded out and will eventually fall. One large boulder at the brow of western end of the slope, and one smaller boulder midslope are both perched at the crest of the exposed bedrock.

No significant change in extent of soil erosion at brow of hill since 2023 was observed during the site inspection. Surface runoff down the slope is leading to erosion and washout of material, which is being deposited in fans at the base of the slope.

Pine trees are present above the rock slope and adjacent to the slope. The trees appear to be Limber Pine or Whitebark Pine.

Recommended Mitigation Measures:

Short-Term

- Continue to monitor site and clean out ditch regularly to maintain storage capacity for future rockfalls;
- Continue annual photogrammetric survey and 3D surface modelling to monitor potential changes in slope performance and inform existing estimates of annual failure volumes and relative frequency of rockfall events.
- Confirm hazard assessment at the site based on the ongoing UAV photogrammetry change detection work being completed by the U of A.

Long-Term

- Rock face scaling, including check scaling of loose blocks (for safety), clearance of trees and loose debris from the brow of the slope, and removal of the large potentially unstable rock blocks on the upper portion of the rock slope (possibly requiring drilling and blasting);
- Place rock slope mesh in critical areas to protect road users, leaving gaps for sheep passage; and
- Increase the ditch depth/width and evaluate the addition of HTC/B or possible barrier wall at the toe of the rock slope (between rock slope and highway).
- Jersey barriers could be installed as an alternative to HTC/B or rockfall barrier.

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<p>Peter Roy, P.Eng. Civil Engineer</p>	
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Photo 1 Rock slope has a maximum height of approximately 20 m, with continuous joints in an adverse orientation. Photo was taken facing north on May 28, 2024.



Photo 2 Erosion of soil at brow of slope leading to rockfalls and debris fans in the ditch. Note large boulders at crest of slope. Photo was taken facing north on May 28, 2024.



Photo 3 Active rockfall - debris fans and large rocks in ditch. The ditch should be regularly cleaned of debris. Photo taken facing east on May 28, 2024.



Photo 4 Large rock perched on top of cliff. Photo taken facing northwest on May 28, 2024.

