GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM NORTH CENTRAL REGION – ATHABASCA 2013 INSPECTION



Site Number	Location	Name	Hwy	km
NC 72	20 m east of south Mitsue access road	Graduation Rock Backslope Slump	2:46	42.5
Legal Description		UTM Co-ordinates (NAD 83)		
N.E.15-72-4-W5M		12 N 6124185	E 656972)

	Date	PF	CF	Total		
Previous Inspection:	June 11, 2012	7	2	14		
Current Inspection:	June 10, 2013	7	2	14		
Road AADT:	2560		Year:	2012		
Inspected By:	Tarek Abdelaziz (Thurber) Gordon Wolters, Roger Skirrow, Arthur Kavulok, Brandon Sandford (TRANS)					
Report Attachments:		☑ Pl	ans	☐ Maintenance Items		

Primary Site Issue:	EBL backslope slump material pushing into highway ditch drainage.	n and impeding		
Dimensions:	5-8 m wide (parallel to highway) x 16 m long (parallel to slope surface).			
Date of any remediation:	N/A			
Maintenance:	Issue was first noticed in 2009 and the ditch was maintained and cleared of the slump material in 2010 to enhance the drainage characteristics of the highway EBL ditch.			
Observations:	Description	Worse?		
☐ Pavement Distress				
Slope Movement	Up to 1.5 m high multiple scarps within the slump mass. The slump materials consist of fissured low to medium plastic clay and silty fine sand; slight retrogression of headscarp cracks			
✓ Erosion	Some erosion within the slump mass			
Seepage	Flowing water in the catch water ditch in 2013; slight amount of water ponding in the ditch but unimpeded surface water flow in the highway ditch			
☐ Bridge/Culvert Distress				
Other	Vegetation has grown within the slump mass			

Instrumentation: None

Assessment (Refer to attached Figure 1):

It appears that the slump mass has moved a bit, as manifested from the slight retrogression of the headscarp cracks, however the site conditions did not change significantly from last year.

The vegetation growth continued to increase the overall stability of the slump mass. Erosion and transportation of sediments to the bottom of the slope may still occur, but at a slower rate than experienced in the past in the absence of vegetation cover.

Client: Alberta Transportation Date: December 3, 2013
File No.: 15-16-285

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Recommendations:

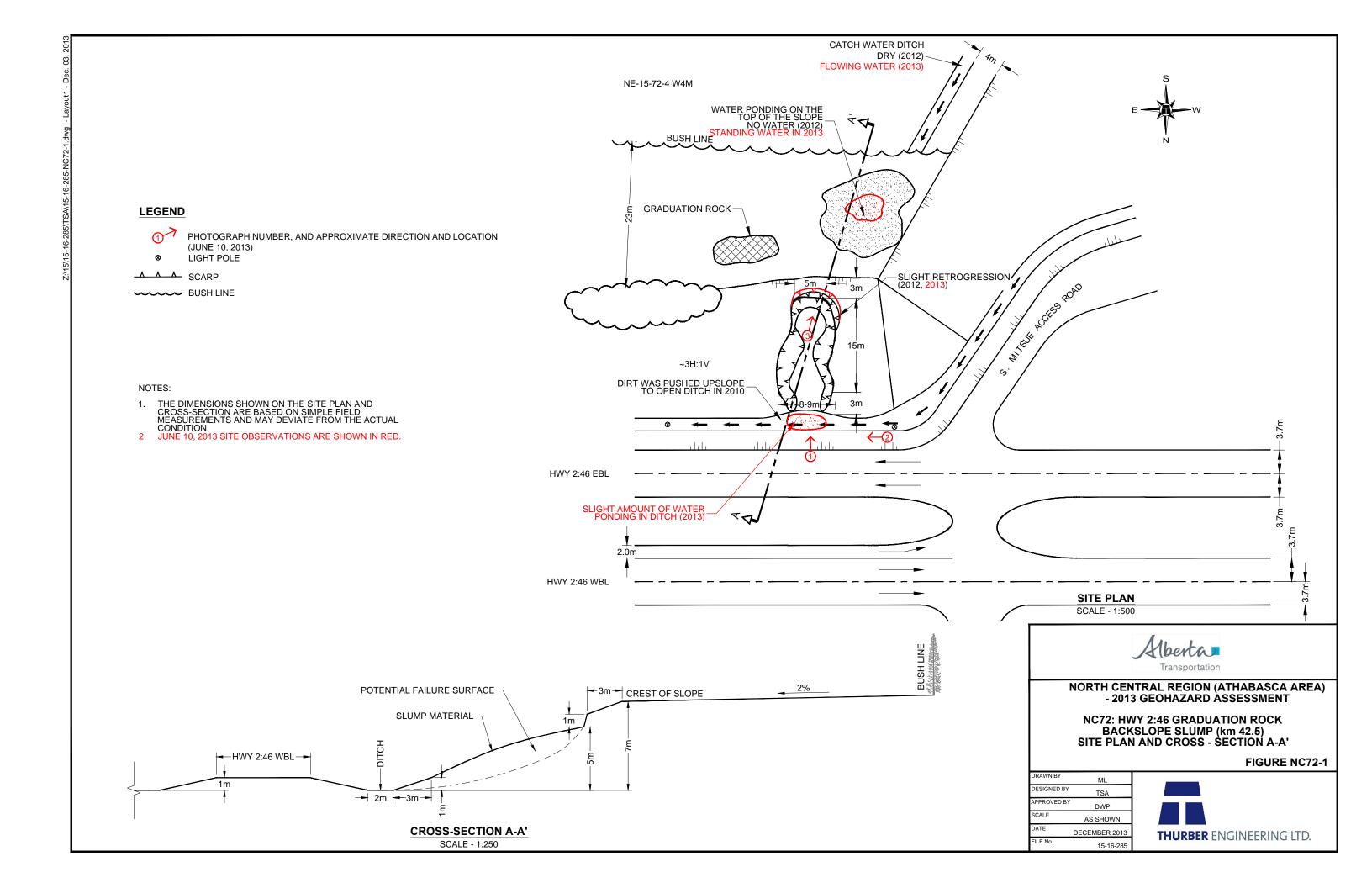
As discussed on site, the site conditions have not change significantly over the last couple of years and therefore this site will be removed from the future geo-hazard tours.

In the short term, the local MCI should continue to monitor the site and clean the ditch, as required, to maintain its drainage characteristics. If the slump materials start to accumulate in the ditch and block natural drainage, ground water levels may rise in the vicinity of the highway embankment and result in instability of the highway side slopes.

The recommended long-term remedial measure consists of excavating and replacing the slump mass with compacted granular fill. This option will also require constructing a longitudinal sub-drain along the base of the excavated mass and a riprap lined swale extending from the bush line to the bottom of the slope to drain the surface water from the catch water ditch in a controlled manner into the highway ditch. Ditch armouring using riprap along the bottom of the slope will also be required. The ballpark cost of this option would be in the range of \$80,000.

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Photo# 1 General view of highway backslope slump; note that vegetation has grown within the slump mass (looking south)



Photo# 2 Highway surface and side slope at the slump location, looking east; slight amount of water ponding in the ditch





Photo# 3 Looking south at the north facing crack; note fresh scarp and slight retrogression of the slump