

# Investigations of the Pedro Miguel Fault during Borinquen Dam 1E Construction Panama Canal Expansion

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CORE TRENCH EXCAVATION

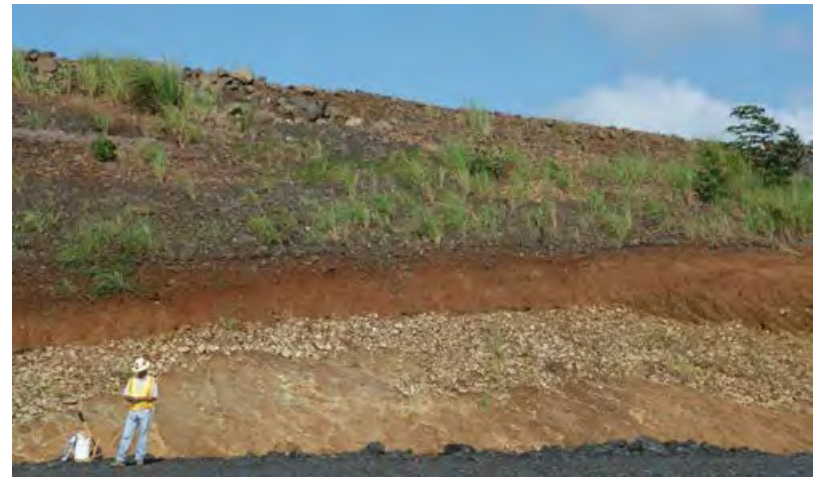


**AECOM**

# Presentation Outline



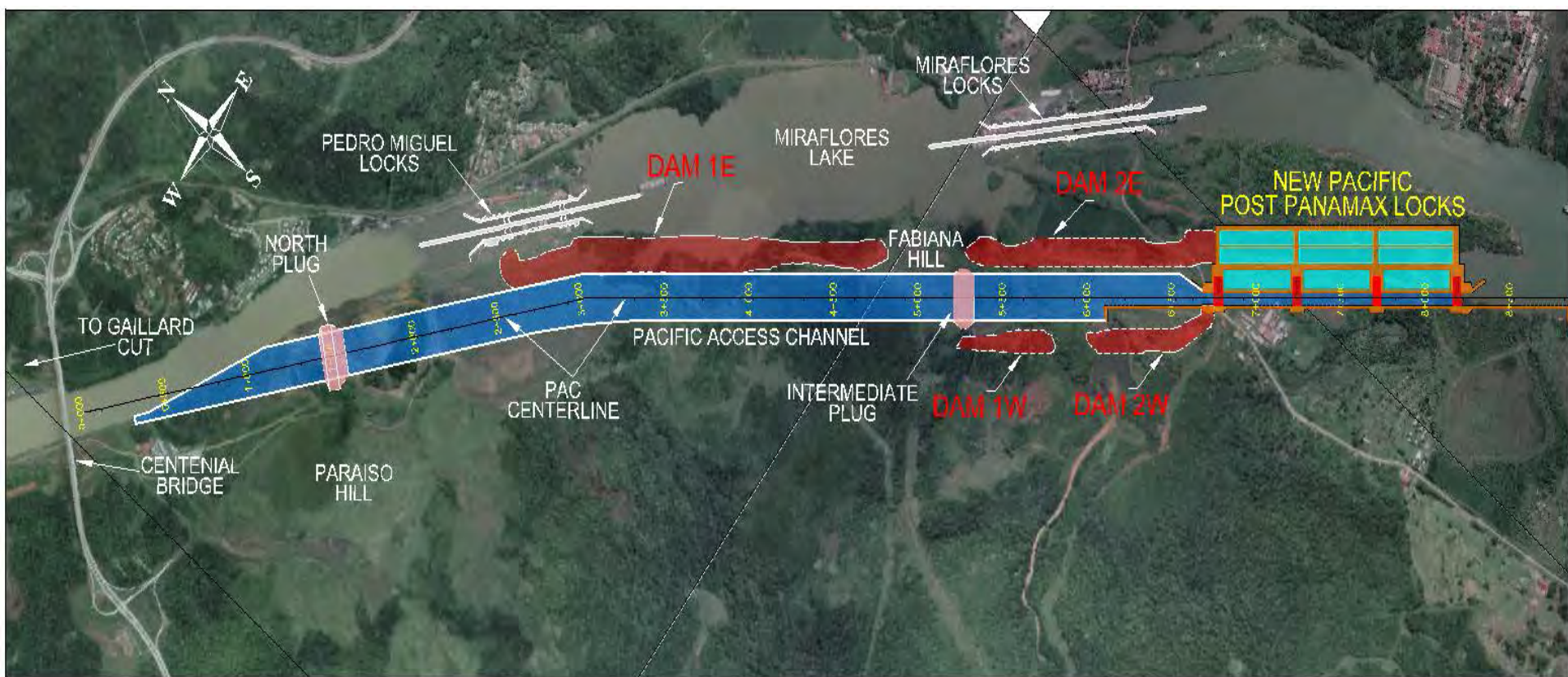
- » Overview of fault investigations during construction-
- » The Pedro Miguel fault had minor displacement of early Holocene alluvium at Dam 1W
- » The absence of a reported “Main Trace” of the Pedro Miguel fault



# Overview of Pacific Approach Channel (PAC)



# PAC EXPANSION OVERVIEW



Southern termination of Limon fault mapped by Stewart et al. (1980)<sup>b</sup>

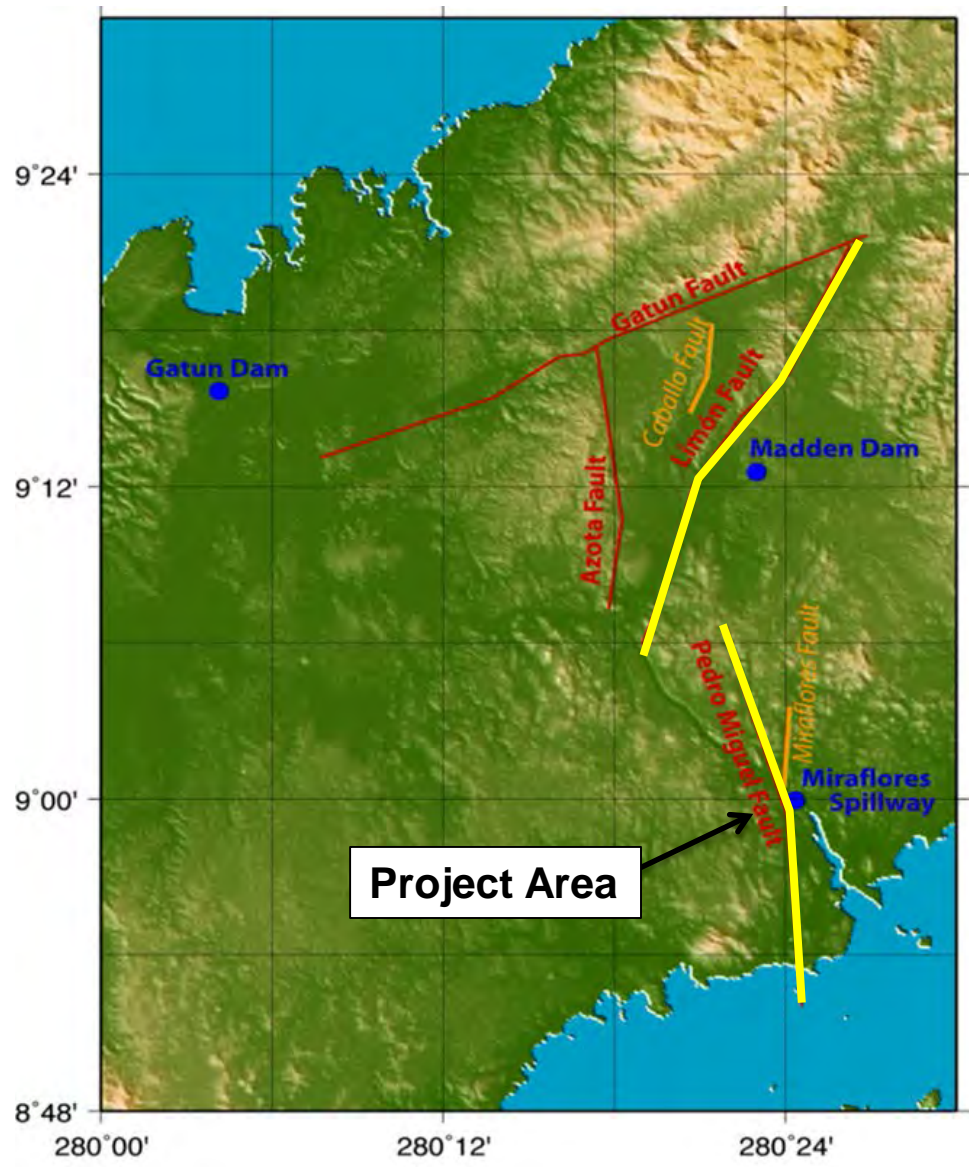
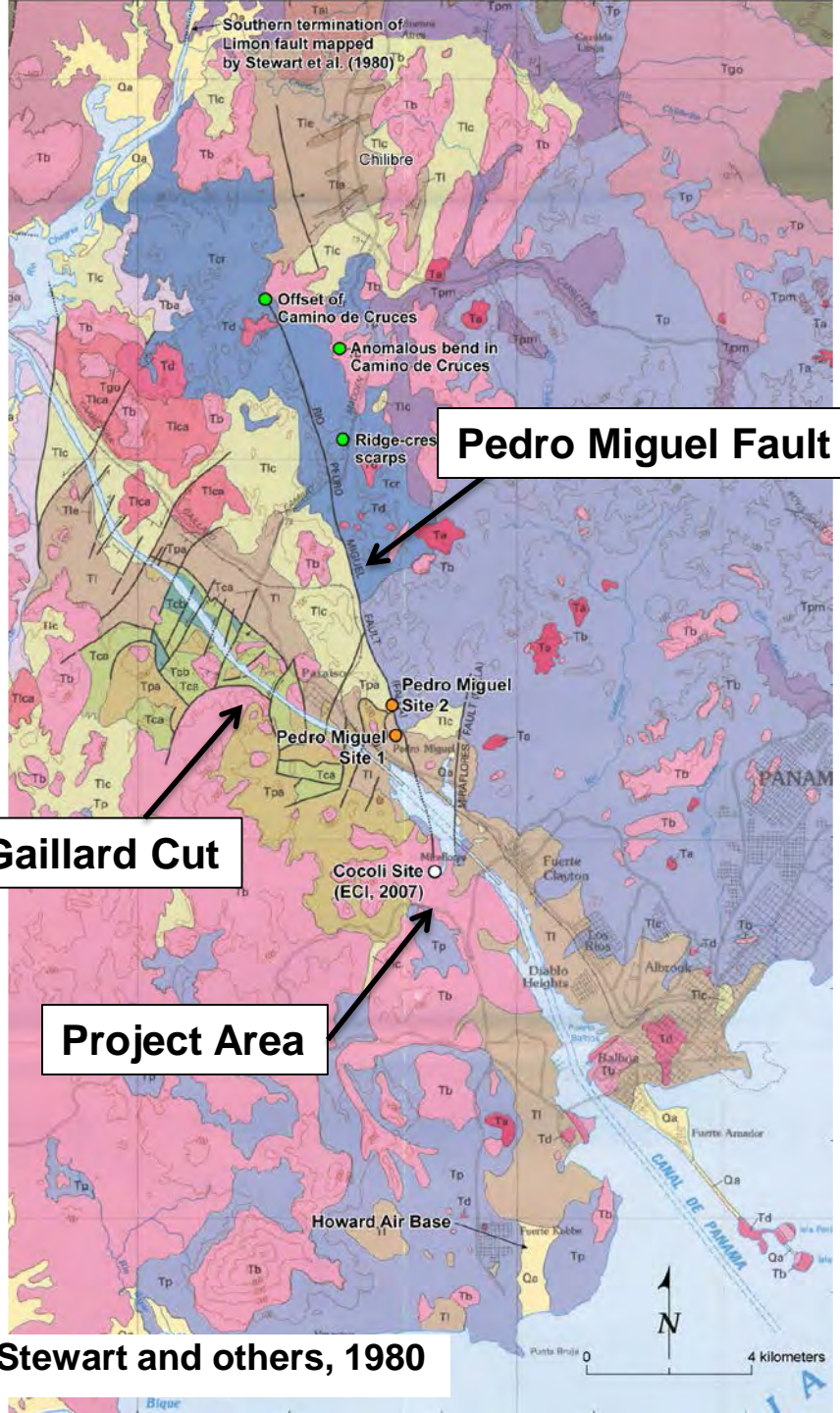
- Offset of Camino de Cruces
- Anomalous bend in Camino de Cruces
- Ridge-cresc scarp

**Pedro Miguel Fault**

**Gaillard Cut**

**Project Area**

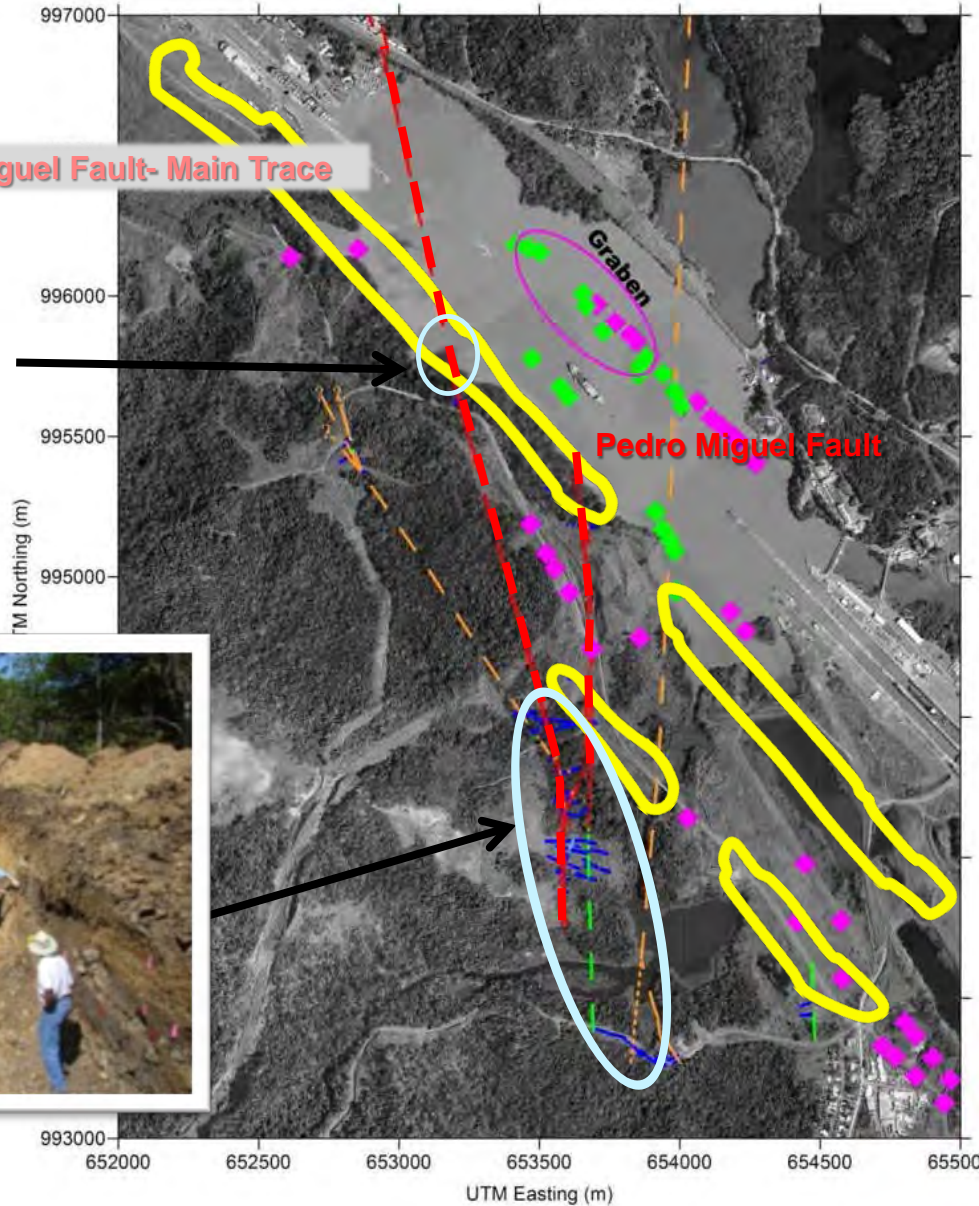
**Stewart and others, 1980**



**Project Area**

# Active faults mapped at Dams 1E-1W

Multiple Holocene events  
 Surface rupture  
 Most recent event  
 1621 AD



Scale 1:12,000

Seismic Anomalies

- 2006 Land and Boomer (shallow)
- 2007 Airgun (deep)

Fault Projections from ECI



Two or three late Holocene events

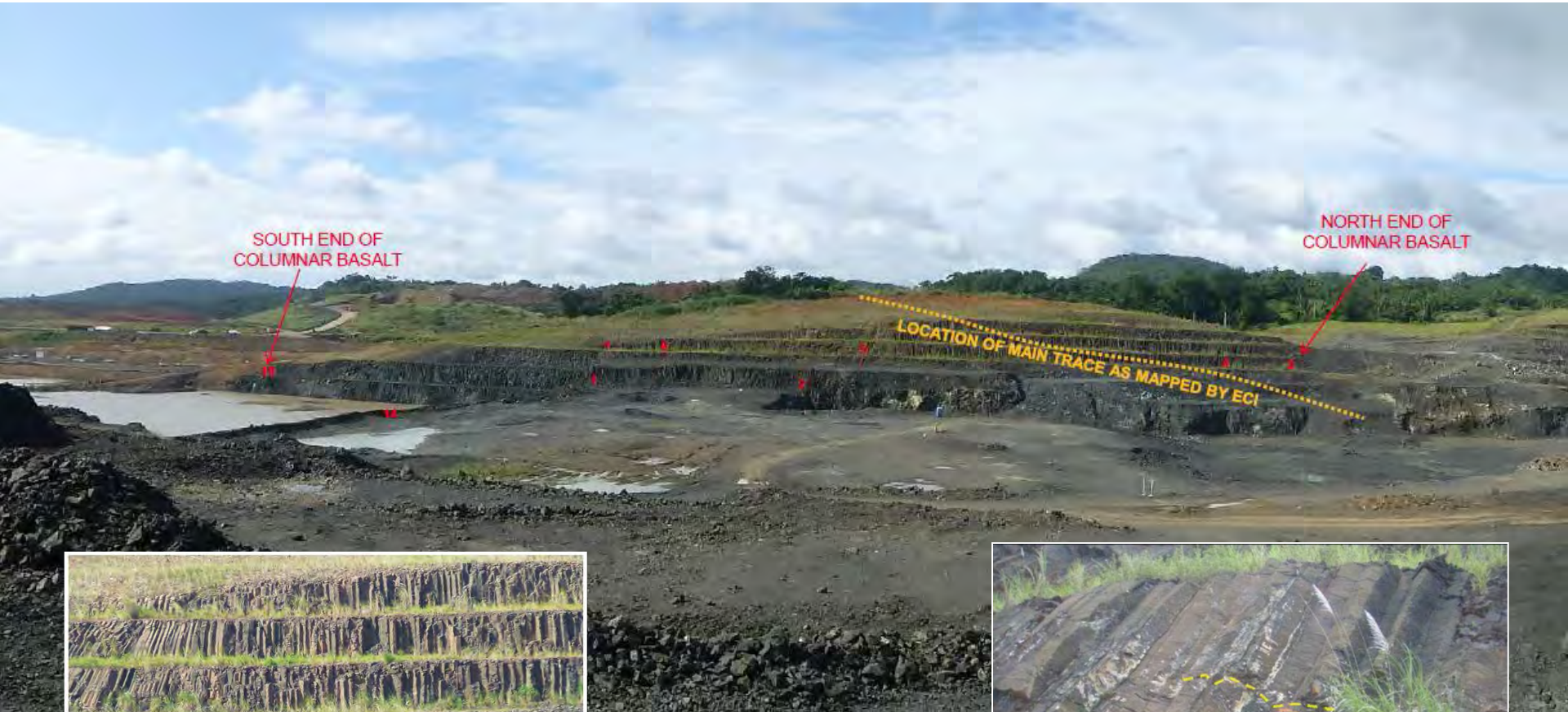
Potential 3 m rupture should be considered for design

# The PAC- World's Deepest Fault Trench



Photo 3-16-10

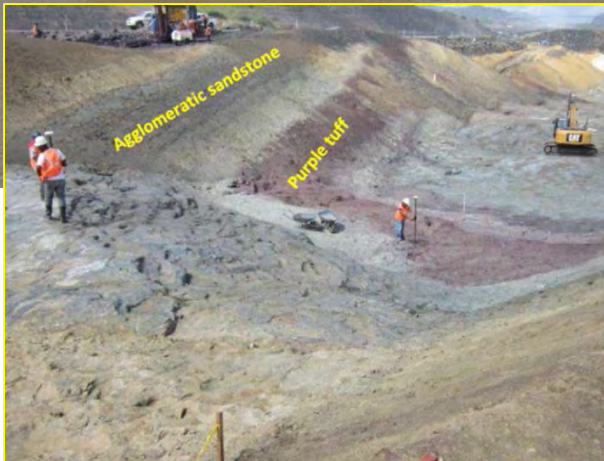
# Initial PAC Excavation – Columnar Basalt



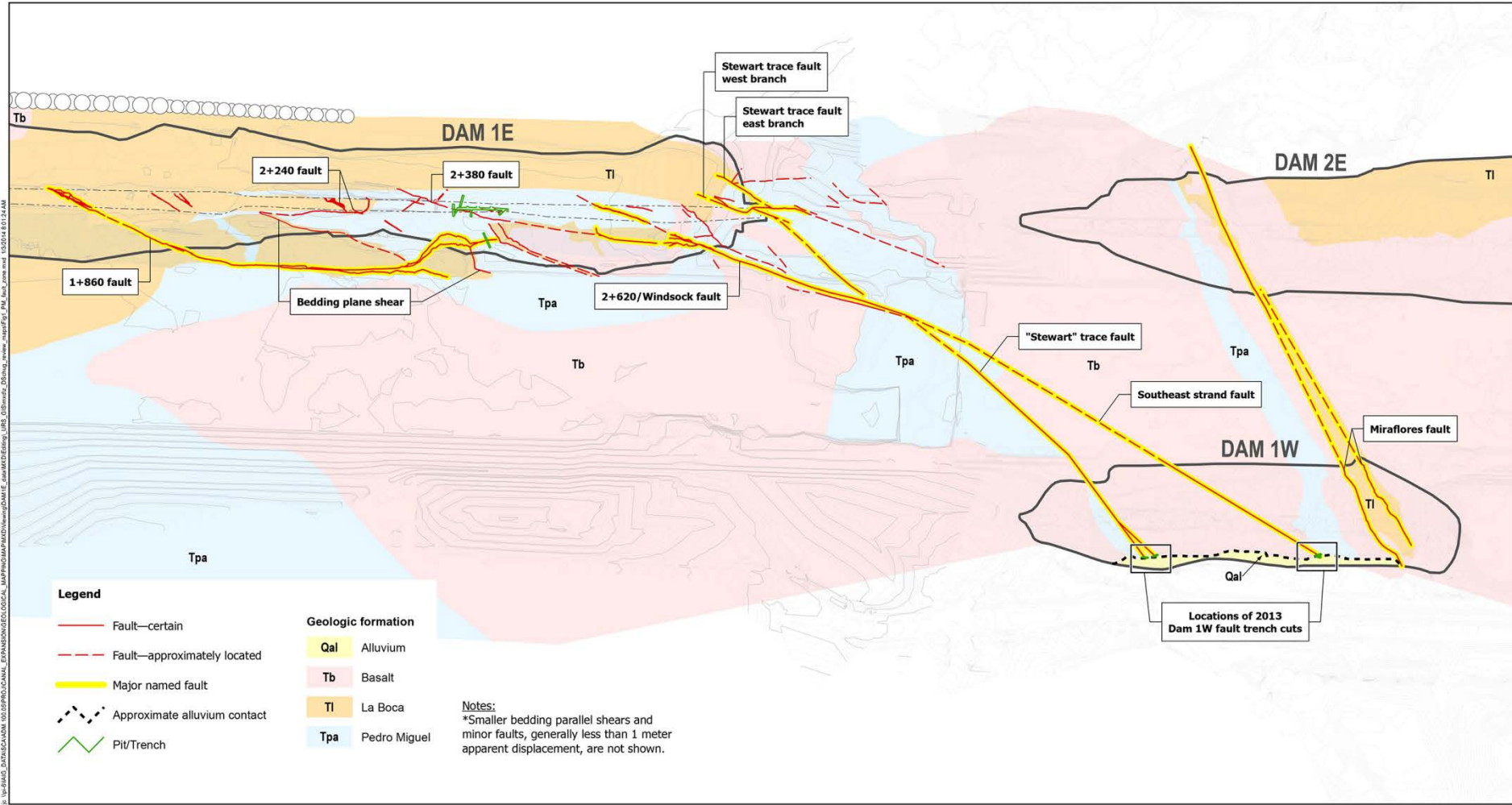
# Dam 1E- Foundation Excavations & Trenching



Paleoseismic  
Trenching 2010



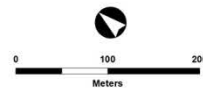
# Pedro Miguel Fault at Dams 1E-1W and the PAC



**FIGURE 10**  
 PEDRO MIGUEL FAULT ZONE  
 THROUGH DAMS 1W, 1E AND THE PAC

December 2013 Panama Canal Expansion Program  
 Panama City, Panama

DRAFT





View to SW from N end of Dam 2E

# Pedro Miguel Fault South Abutment Dam 1E

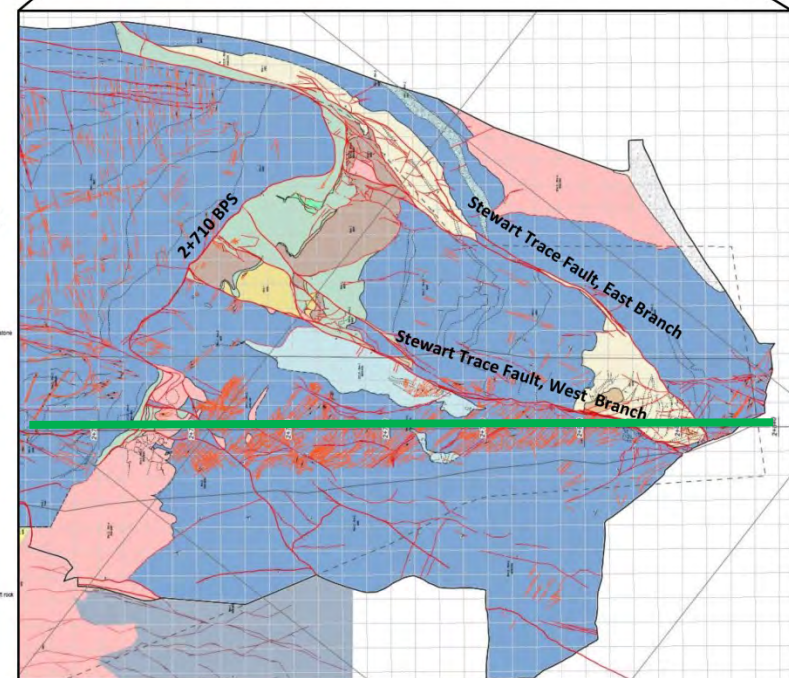
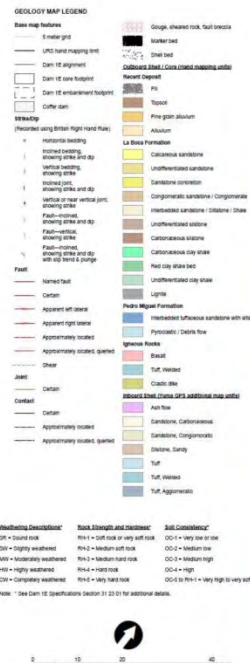
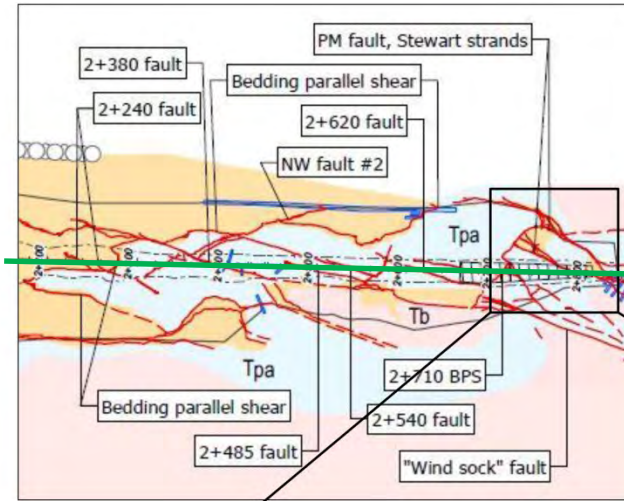
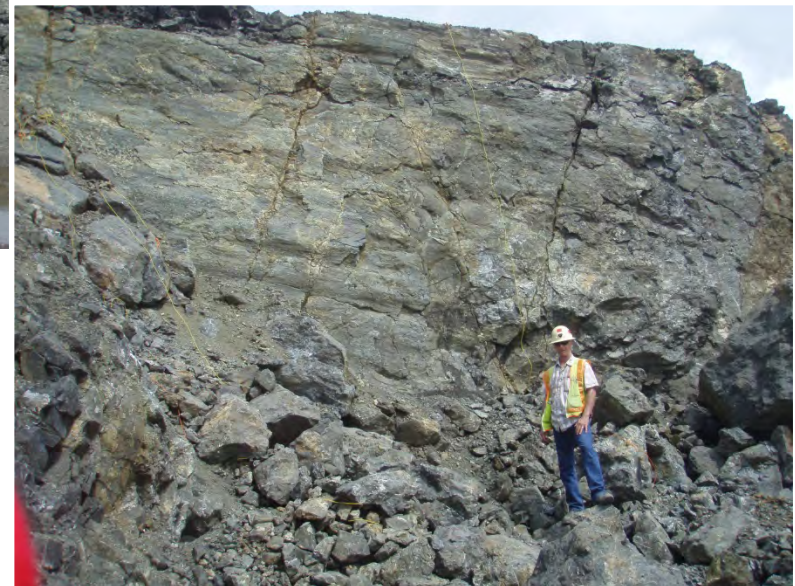


Figure 6: Pedro Miguel Stewart Strands Geology

# Pedro Miguel Fault PAC Centerline



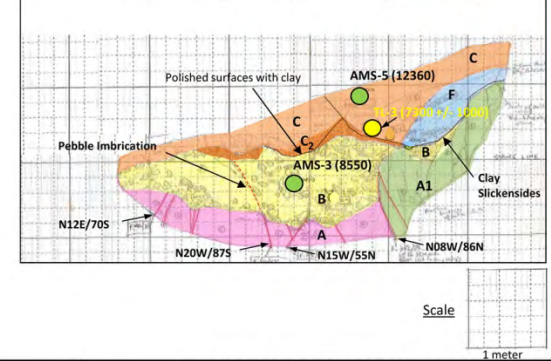
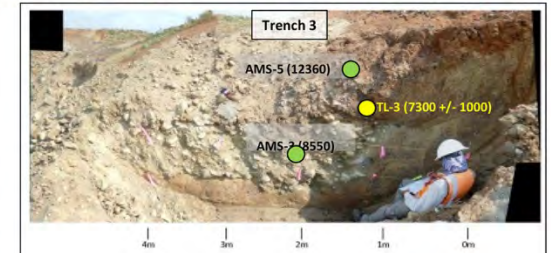
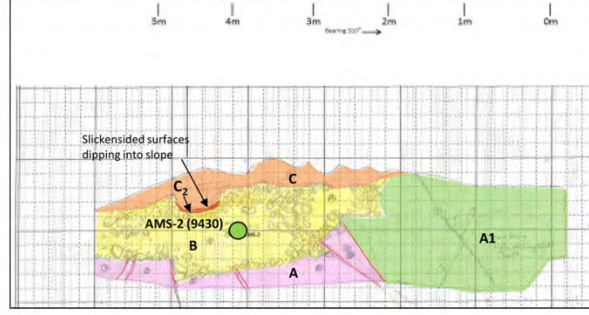
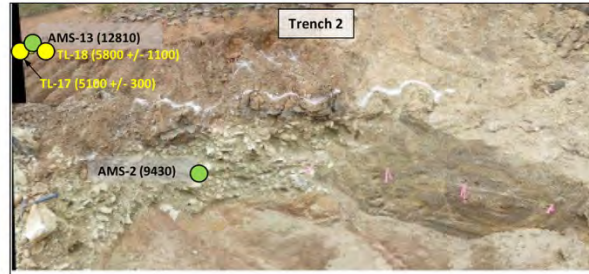
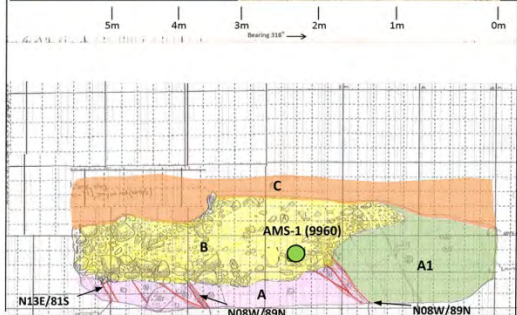
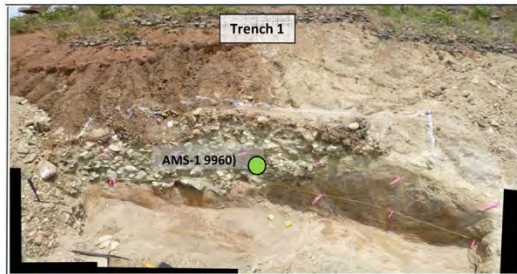
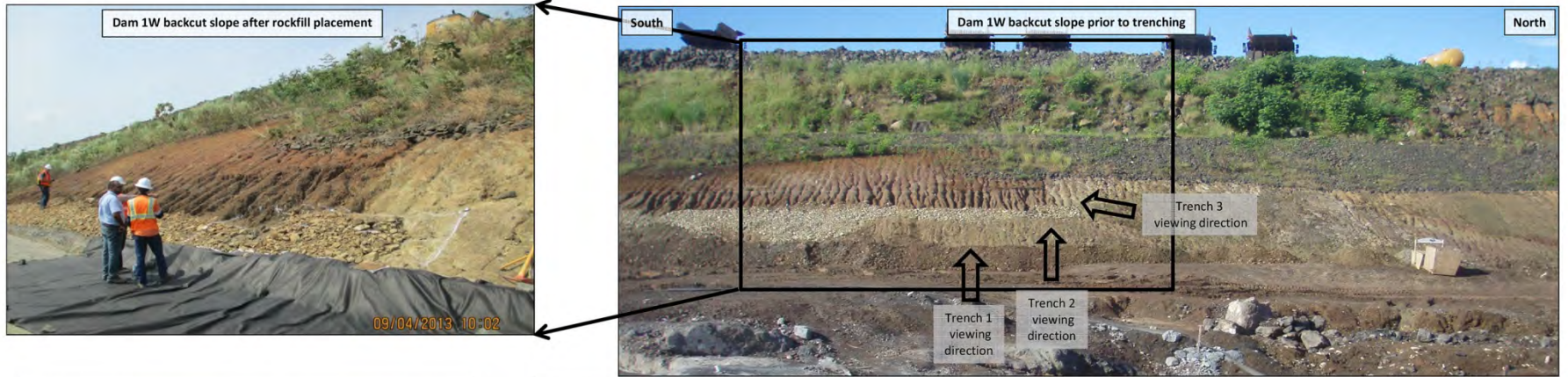
# Pedro Miguel Fault Dam 1W Foundation



**Southeast Strand**



# Pedro Miguel "Southeast Strand" Fault Trenching at Dam 1W



## Legend

- Unit A - Completely Weathered Volcaniclastic Rock (Pedro Miguel Fm)
- Unit A1 - Highly Weathered Basalt (Pedro Miguel Fm)
- Unit B- Basal Alluvial Gravels

- Unit C - Fine-Grained Alluvium
- Unit C<sub>2</sub> - Clayey Gravels (at base of Unit C)
- Unit F- Silty Clay (Completely Wx Bedrock/Possible Slump)

- TL-8 (Age- years before present)
- AMS-7 (Age- years before present)
- N08W/89N
- Shelby Tube Sample
- Bulk Sample
- Fault Strike/Dip

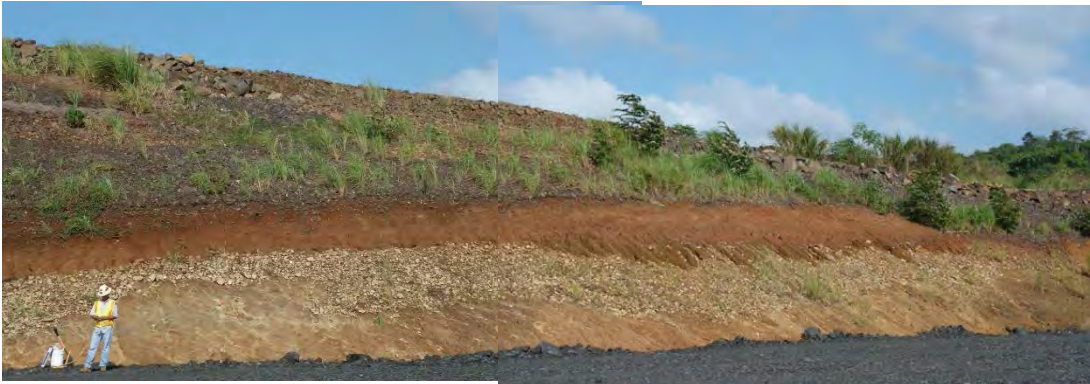
## Geologic Log of Trench Exposures Southeast Strand Fault at Dam 1W

<b>URS</b>	CHECKED BY: DLS	DATE: 1-2-14	FIG. NO.
	PM:	PROJ. NO.: 26818044.00035	12

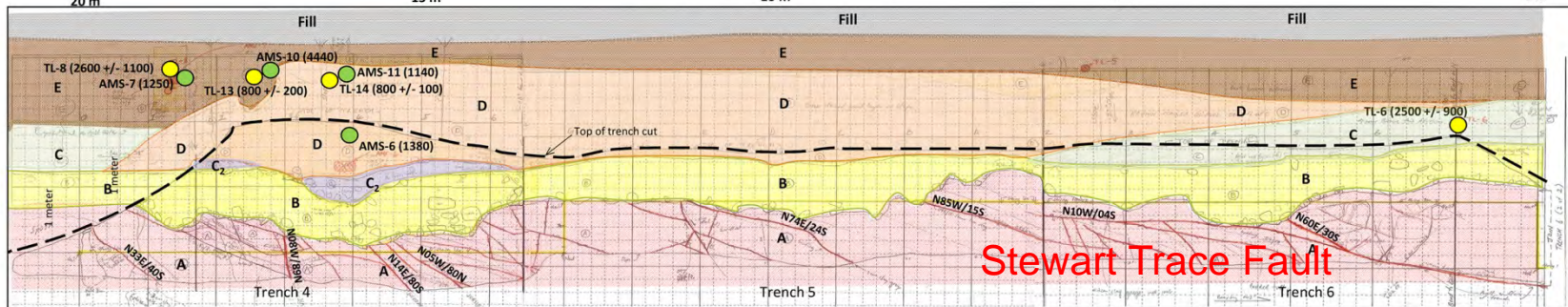
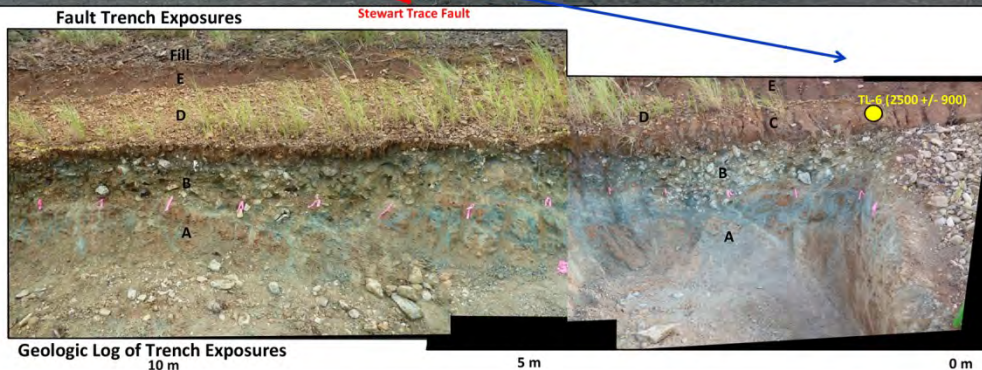
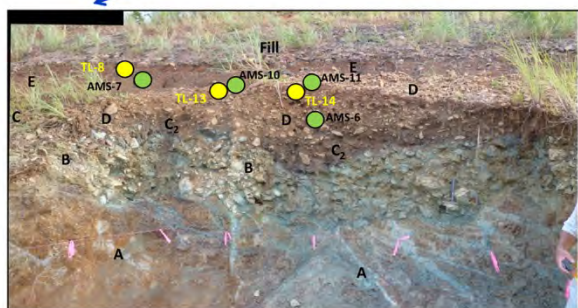
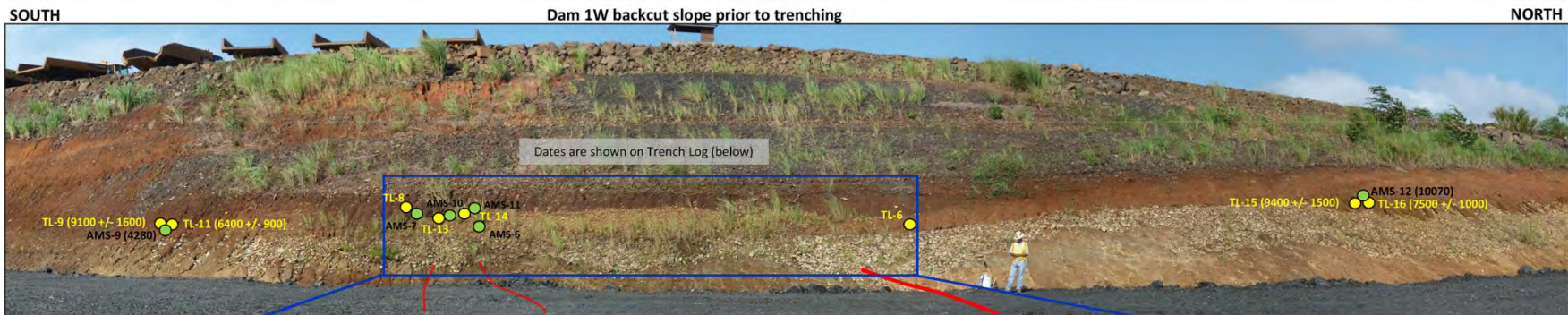
# Pedro Miguel Fault at Dam 1W Foundation Dental Treatment



# Pedro Miguel Fault at Dam 1W



# Pedro Miguel Fault Trenching at Dam 1W



**Stewart Trace Fault**

### Legend

- Unit A - Moderately to highly weathered tuff (Pedro Miguel Formation)
- Unit B - Basal Alluvial Gravels
- Unit C - Fine-Grained Alluvium
- Unit C<sub>2</sub> - Clayey Gravels (at base of Unit C)
- Unit D - Alluvial Gravels
- Unit E - Fine-grained Alluvium
- TL-8 (Age- years before present)
- AMS-7 (Age- years before present)
- Shelby Tube Sample
- Bulk Sample
- N85W/89N
- Fault Strike/ Dip

### Geologic Log of Trench Exposures Stewart Trace Fault At Dam 1W

<b>URS</b>	CHECKED BY: DLS	DATE: 12-30-13	FIG. NO. 2
	PM:	PROJ. NO.: 26818044.00035	

# Key Geologic Findings at Borinquen Dams

**The Pedro Miguel “Stewart Trace” fault does not displace Holocene alluvial gravels at Borinquen Dam 1W**

**The “Southeast Strand” of the Pedro Miguel fault has produced minor displacement of early Holocene alluvium at Dam 1W**

**Geologic observations do not provide evidence for multiple late Holocene events with meters of slip per event at Borinquen Dams**

**The Pedro Miguel “Main Trace” does not exist at the Canal**



# Thank you

United States Society on Dams



## FAULT INVESTIGATIONS DURING BORINQUEN DAM 1E CONSTRUCTION PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION

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**Celebrating the Value of Dams and  
Levees — Yesterday, Today  
and Tomorrow**

36th Annual USSD Conference  
Denver, Colorado, April 11-15, 2016

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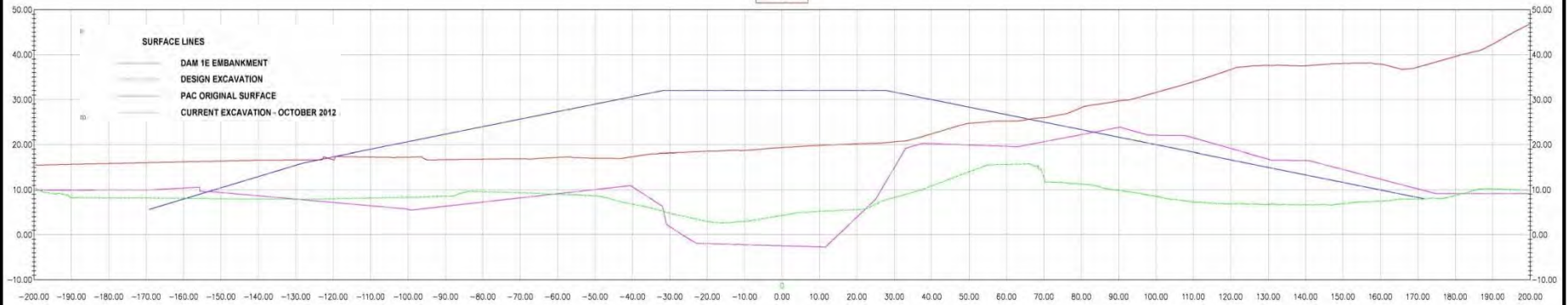
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# Section at 1+860 Fault (Deepened PAC Redesign)

2+077



Apparent bedding dip = 5 degrees

← Line of Section N10W (view looking south)

2+077

