

NR 716 REQUIRES APPROPRIATE LOGGING OF SOIL BORINGS

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Recently, RR staff members have noted more instances of soil borings completed during site investigation by blind drilling. Blind drilling means not logging the soil characteristics. This is happening even where the soil profile of the immediate area has not been previously logged in an adjacent boring.

Consultants should be aware that under ch. NR 716, Form 4400-122, Soil Boring Log Information must be completed, by a professional meeting the credentials required by NR 712. Boring log information must include the following, as appropriate: soil and bedrock descriptions, PID/FID readings, visual/olfactory observations, water level measurements, color, soil texture, and soil classification in the Unified Soil Classification System.

Compliance with NR 716 requires that a field investigation include an evaluation of subsurface rock, soil and sediment characteristics. Interpretation of subsurface data is critical to characterizing the geologic and hydrogeologic setting, defining the degree and extent of contamination, and choosing an appropriate remedial action. Remember to include a geologic cross section in all site investigation reports for sites or facilities with 2 or more soil borings, as required by NR 716. Note that blind drilling of borings may lead to delays in approval of a site investigation report.