



**SCI ENGINEERING, INC.**

**EARTH • SCIENCE • SOLUTIONS**

GEOTECHNICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CULTURAL RESOURCES  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

May 15, 2026

Seth Meyer  
Tencate Company, DBA GEOsurfaces  
10170 State Route OO  
Bloomsdale, Missouri 63627

Re: Foundation Excavation Observation – Retaining Wall (Revised)  
Richland County High School Athletic Complex  
Olney, Illinois  
SCI No. 2026-0241.00

Dear Seth Meyer:

At your request, SCI Engineering, Inc. (SCI) was on site to provide observations and recommendations during the excavation of the retaining wall footing and reinforced zone.

The purpose of our visit was to determine the suitability of the bearing soils for vertical support of the proposed construction. A Geotechnical Report for the project was prepared by Holcomb Foundation Engineering, dated November 24, 2025. The retaining wall plans and details were provided on Sheet C20 of the undated project plans prepared by GEOsurfaces. Sheet C20 did not provide a design bearing capacity requirement for the wall foundation bearing surface. SCI is not aware if a global stability analysis has been performed for the retaining wall. Our observations and recommendations are summarized below.

Travis Excavating had excavated the wall from Station 0+00 to approximately Station 0+50 upon our arrival on March 24, 2026. SCI observed firm soil fill, consisting of brown lean clay and gray fat clay to a depth of approximately 2½ feet below the planned elevation of the bottom of the leveling pad and reinforcing zone. We understand the fill was not monitored or tested during placement. Firm, natural lean clay was observed at a depth of 2½ feet below leveling pad subgrade elevation. We recommended the undocumented fills be removed to natural soil, and backfilling the overexcavation with 2-inch minus-graded crushed limestone, compacted in maximum 8-inch-thick loose lifts, to an elevation of 12 inches below the planned retaining wall footing and reinforced zone subgrade elevations. We recommended that compacted IDOT CA-6 crushed limestone should then be used as fill to subgrade elevation. SCI recommended the crushed limestone be compacted in accordance with project plans and specifications. The firm natural soil and properly compacted crushed limestone is suitable for vertical support of the retaining wall. SCI cannot comment on the global stability of the wall.

SCI was on site on March 26, 2026, to observe the overexcavation of the undocumented fill. The purpose of our visit was to document the locations and extents of the overexcavation. The undocumented fill was removed from wall face to the back of the reinforcing zone for the 138-foot length of the wall. The width averaged approximately 9 feet. The average depth of the overexcavation was approximately 2.6 feet below subgrade elevation.

Seth Meyer  
Tencate Company, DBA GeoSurfaces, Inc.

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We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you on this project. If you have any questions or comments, please call the undersigned.

Respectfully,

**SCI ENGINEERING, INC.**

D. Thomas Coleman III, P.E.  
Project Engineer



DTC/KTK/keh