

Introduction by John Dunnycliff, Editor

This is the seventy-first episode of GIN. Three minus three articles this time. To explain—one week before going to press there were three, but the week has brought challenges (and frustrations!). I won't bore you with the details. I'm consoled by the fact that, after many weeks of rain, the sun is finally shining here in the Mother Country.

Manual of geotechnical engineering

My review of the excellent "ICE Manual of Geotechnical Engineering" was in June GIN. In my introduction to GIN I included some quotations from the chapter on geotechnical risks, including one attributed to Donald Rumsfeld. I've since received an e-mail from Don Shields, indicating that the correct source is our much-respected geotechnical colleague Elio D'Appolonia (D'App). Here is part of Don's e-mail:

In your introduction to your review of *ICE Manual of Geotechnical Engineering* you repeat a quotation from the Manual attributed to Donald Rumsfeld. To wit:

"... as we know, there are things that we know we know. We also know that there are known

unknowns; that is to say we know there are things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know."

I first heard this statement more than 30 years ago (probably in 1979) from a much nicer person than Rumsfeld. The nicer person is Elio D'Appolonia, who appeared at a hearing on the future of uranium mining in British Columbia.

During his testimony, Dr. D'Appolonia made exactly the same statement to the commissioners that is now attributed to Rumsfeld. I remember Elio's statement perfectly because it was one of those moments when one says to oneself: Why didn't I think of that!

Now I ask myself: How do I go about getting D'Appolonia credit for this statement?

Answer to Don—right here!

The next continuing education course in Florida

This is scheduled for April 7-9, 2013 at Cocoa Beach. Details are now on www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/geotech. Also see the announcement on facing page.

Closure

Please send contributions to this column, or an abstract of an article for GIN, to me as an e-mail attachment in MSWord, to john@dunnycliff.eclipse.co.uk, or by mail: Little Leat, Whisselwell, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9LA, England. Tel. +44-1626-832919.

Yasas! (Greece)

Errata

There is a significant error in the article "Update of the fully-grouted method for piezometer installation" by Contreras et al, published in the June 2012 episode of GIN (page 20). The cement-bentonite grout mix given near the beginning of the section subtitled "Laboratory" should be 2.5:1:0.3, NOT 1:2.5:0.3.