



5.1 EVALUATING SITE CHARACTERISTICS AND SOIL SAMPLING LOCATIONS

A site visit is imperative to evaluate site characteristics that may influence implementation of the Sampling and Analysis Plan. During the first and second steps of Systematic Planning of the Site Investigation, as discussed in Section 3, historical site information and data are assembled, reviewed, and evaluated. Prior to conducting the site visit, available information about site characteristics and history should be reviewed.

5.1.1 Identifying Sample Locations

While conducting the initial site evaluation, sampling locations may be determined by using a detailed site drawing or reference structure. The boundaries of decision units can be marked using paint, flagging, marking flags, or similar means. The initial site evaluation visit is also an opportunity to locate underground utilities and other subsurface features that will affect selection of drilling and subsurface sampling locations, if planned for the investigation.

See Sections 3 and 4 for guidance on Site Investigation Design and Implementation and Soil Sample Collection Approaches.

5.1.2 Overhead Utilities

During the initial site evaluation, look for overhead utilities, trees, or structures that may interfere with elevated attachments like a drill rig mast. Overhead utilities or structures must be high enough to accommodate the drill rig or any type of equipment that will be used to collect samples. General precautions for overhead clearance are given in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance on Cranes and Derricks in 29 CFR 1926.550(a)(15)(i) through (iv), but these should be regarded as bare minimums.

5.1.3 Initial identification of Potential Subsurface Features

During the initial site evaluation, look for direct surface connections and other indirect potential indicators of subsurface utilities and features. These indicators may manifest themselves in various ways:

- Prior subsurface location surveys – Worksites often have multiple stages of construction or other site work that involve their own subsurface surveys. It is not uncommon to find markings from prior surveys indicating subsurface utilities or



features. Examples of these markings include: surface paint marks, stakes, pins, or flags.

- Direct attachments to subsurface utilities – These are the surface segments directly attached to subsurface utilities or features. These include (but are not limited to): manholes, valve pits, valves, standpipes, hose bibs, hydrants.
- Irregularities in surface or surface cover – These are caused by or associated with but not directly attached to subsurface utilities or features. Example of these are: linear cuts in concrete/asphalt cover, linear depressions, raised surfaces, sharply defined lack of vegetation, patches or other irregularities in surface cover that suggest a definable feature.