

Sampling and Shipment of Soil/Backfill Samples for Thermal Analysis

Undisturbed Tube Samples and Bulk Samples

- If cohesive soils (clayey or silty) are encountered, samples should be taken in nominal 3-inch diameter Shelby tubes or large diameter California samplers with brass liners (no rings); otherwise, standard split spoon samples or auger cuttings should be taken (see bulk soil section below).
- Please do not extrude samples from the Shelby tube. Cut the bottom 6" section (+/- 1/2") of the tube, seal both ends with plastic caps, and tape it to prevent any moisture loss.
- Identify the samples with the following details: Project Name, Location, Bore Hole, Depth, Date samples were taken, etc.
- The samples should be representative of the soil at the cable (or duct-bank) burial depth. If the soil above this elevation is different, it should be sampled as well.
- If bedrock is encountered, take core samples (minimum 2 inches in diameter and 5 inches long) or block samples approximately 5 inches on each side of irregular shape.
- **Please include a copy of the borehole logs.**
- Email the details of the shipment—courier name, tracking number, etc.—to **questions@geothermusa.com**

Bulk Soil or Back-fill Samples

- For all foreign shipments, declare a value of \$10 for the entire package and send it via FedEx or UPS overnight service (or second-day air service).
 - Mark the package "Aggregate samples for laboratory testing only".
 - Request import permit instructions to info@geothermusa.com
- Provide the Proctor (Standard or Modified) density, starting moisture content, and percent compaction effort.
- Please send approximately 25 pounds of each sample, contained in double heavy-duty plastic (Ziploc) bags or 5-gallon buckets. Each container should be clearly labeled with the Project Name, Sample Location, Bore Hole or Test Pit, Depth, and the Date the samples were taken.
- Email the details of the shipment—courier name, tracking number, etc. to **questions@geothermusa.com**

7828 Columbia Dr, Katy, TX 77494 | Phone: 281-985-9344

questions@geothermusa.com

www.geothermusa.com

COOL SOLUTIONS FOR UNDERGROUND POWER CABLES, THERMAL SURVEYS, CORRECTIVE BACKFILLS & INSTRUMENTATION
SERVING THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY SINCE 1978

Purpose for testing (in-situ vs. construction phase), the following apply:

For thermal resistivity measurements to determine in-situ values

For soils that are cohesive:

- Undisturbed tube samples
- Bottom 6-inches of Shelby tube or brass/stainless steel liner (minimum diameter of 2-inches) - **must be continuous tube and NOT rings**

Disturbed samples

- Provide the proctor (standard or modified) density, starting moisture content, and percent compaction effort such as 85%, 90%, 95%, etc.
- **In-situ moisture content unless otherwise specified**
- Bottom 6-inches of Shelby tube or brass/stainless steel liner (minimum diameter of 2-inches) - **must be continuous and NOT ring samplers**

For thermal resistivity measurements to determine construction phase (materials to be used around cables)

Disturbed samples

- Provide Proctor Density Curve for each sample (Standard or Modified)
- Provide percent (%) compaction (i.e. 85%, 90%, 95%, etc)
- Provide moisture content the sample should be installed at (i.e. in-situ, optimum or specified %)

What's needed:

1. Provide soil descriptions or borehole logs, a business card or contact information with the samples in a separate Ziploc bag.
2. Please issue a PO or a charge to number with the samples
3. Email the tracking number to **questions@geothermusa.com**
4. Turnaround time will vary depending on the current workload in our lab. Please reach out to **questions@geothermusa.com** get the current turnaround times.

Ship all samples to:

Geotherm USA
ATTN: Lab Manager
7828 Columbia Dr
Katy, TX 77494
Tel: 281-985-9344

7828 Columbia Dr, Katy, TX 77494 | Phone: 281-985-9344
questions@geothermusa.com
www.geothermusa.com



Native Soil or Backfill Chain of Custody Form

Company Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Project Name: _____

Project Location: _____ Project Number: _____

PO/Job Number: _____ Company to Invoice: _____

A/P Email Address: _____ Rush Testing (additional fee) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thermal Requirements: _____

Testing Instructions – for bulk samples, all sample testing instructions are required for testing to begin.

1) Proctor - (Modified or Standard) Max Dry Density and Optimum Moisture Content

2) Compaction Effort(s) – how the material will be placed back in the ground

3) Test Moisture Content(s) - Please Select all that apply

Proctor Type¹: ☐ Standard (ASTM D698) ☐ Modified (ASTM D1557)

Material/Sample Information				Proctor Results (Bulk)		Testing Requirements		
Sample ID	Collection Date	Sample Depth (ft)	Sample Type	Soil/Backfill Description	Max Dry Density (lb/ft ³)	Optimum M/C (%)	Compaction Effort(s) for testing ² (% of Max Density)	highest Moisture Content for Testing ³ Select all that apply
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____
			☐ Tube ☐ Bulk ☐ Both					☐ Optimum ☐ In-Situ/As Received: _____ Specified: _____