

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide a simple, practical guide for slope stability studies. It is concerned with (1) the characteristics and critical aspects of various types of slope stability problems, (2) geologic studies and site investigation procedures, (3) methods of designing slopes, including field observations and experience, slope stability charts, and detailed analyses, (4) factors of safety, and (5) methods of stabilizing slopes and slides.

The emphasis of this manual is on simple, routine procedures. It does not include advanced analysis procedures, nor does it deal with specialized problems such as design of dams or the stability of slopes during earthquakes. References are given to the sources of the material contained in the manual, and to more advanced procedures where appropriate, to provide avenues for studies going beyond the scope of this manual.

The first edition of this manual was written under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station in 1975. This edition incorporates changes to reflect improvements in the state-of-practice since 1975, and to provide clearer explanations of some of the analysis procedures.