Final Report: Seismic Analysis at Strategic Border Sites Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a)

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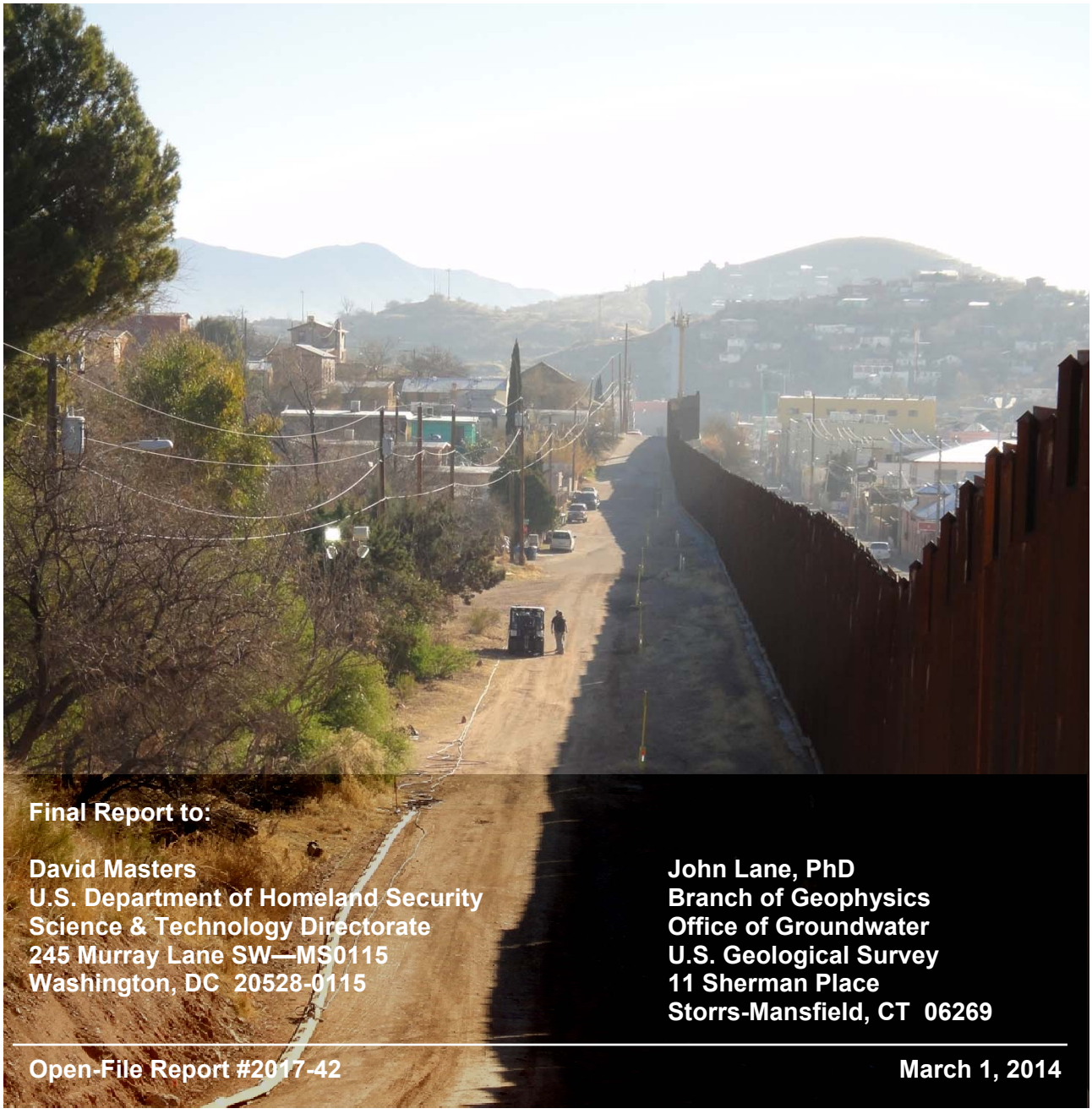

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Open-File Report #2017-42

March 1, 2014

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Final Report: Seismic Analysis at Strategic Border Sites
Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a)

Summary

The Kansas Geological Survey acquired borehole and surface seismic data at 15 DHS sites near the US-Mexico border. Surface seismic data were processed using multi-channel analysis of surface waves (MASW), refraction tomography, and surface wave inversion to obtain 2-D profiles of shear-wave velocity (Vs), compressional-wave velocity (Vp), and seismic quality factor (Qs and Qp) for the near surface. Downhole data were processed to obtain downhole Vs, Vp, Qs, and Qp. This report contains final processing and results for Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Data Acquisition

One line of seismic data (~175 m) was acquired on February 26, 2013, at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a) coincident with the USGS ERT profile (Figure 1). The system of sources and receivers, collectively, is the Active Seismic Imaging (ASI) system developed by and fabricated at the Kansas Geological Survey (Figure 2). Seismic sources were an accelerated weight drop for surface wave and long-offset compressional energy, sledge hammer and steel plate for near-offset compressional-wave energy, and sledge hammer and shear block for shear-wave energy. Seismic receivers were located in a towed 144-channel 3-component (3-C) land streamer with 48 stations separated by 1.2 m. Receivers were single 4.5 Hz and 40 Hz vertical geophones and two 14.5 Hz horizontal (SV orientation) geophones (Figure 3). Seismographs were a Geometrics Geode distributed system. The survey was fixed spread with variable 0-85.3 m source offset (Figure 4) to obtain sufficient seismic sampling within the depth of interest. Individual receiver spreads overlapped by one station.

Downhole data were acquired on January 23-24, 2014, approximately 325 m from the center of the surface seismic line, with a 3-C downhole Geostuff geophone (Figure 5). Receivers were located between depths of approximately 2.3 m and 45.7 m at approximately 0.75 m intervals (Figure 6). A repeatable shear and compressional 9 kg hammer source (Figure 7), developed and fabricated at the Kansas Geological Survey, was located at 3 m from the borehole. A 2.7 kg sledge hammer and steel plate were located at 22.9 m from the borehole.

For both the surface and downhole seismic surveys, multiple shots were acquired and recorded separately for each unique shot/receiver configuration and stacked during processing to minimize ambient noise (Figure 8) and increase the signal-to-noise ratio.

Figure 1: Aerial photo of Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a) and location of the active seismic line.

Figure 2: ASI and 144-channel 3-C land streamer, detached.

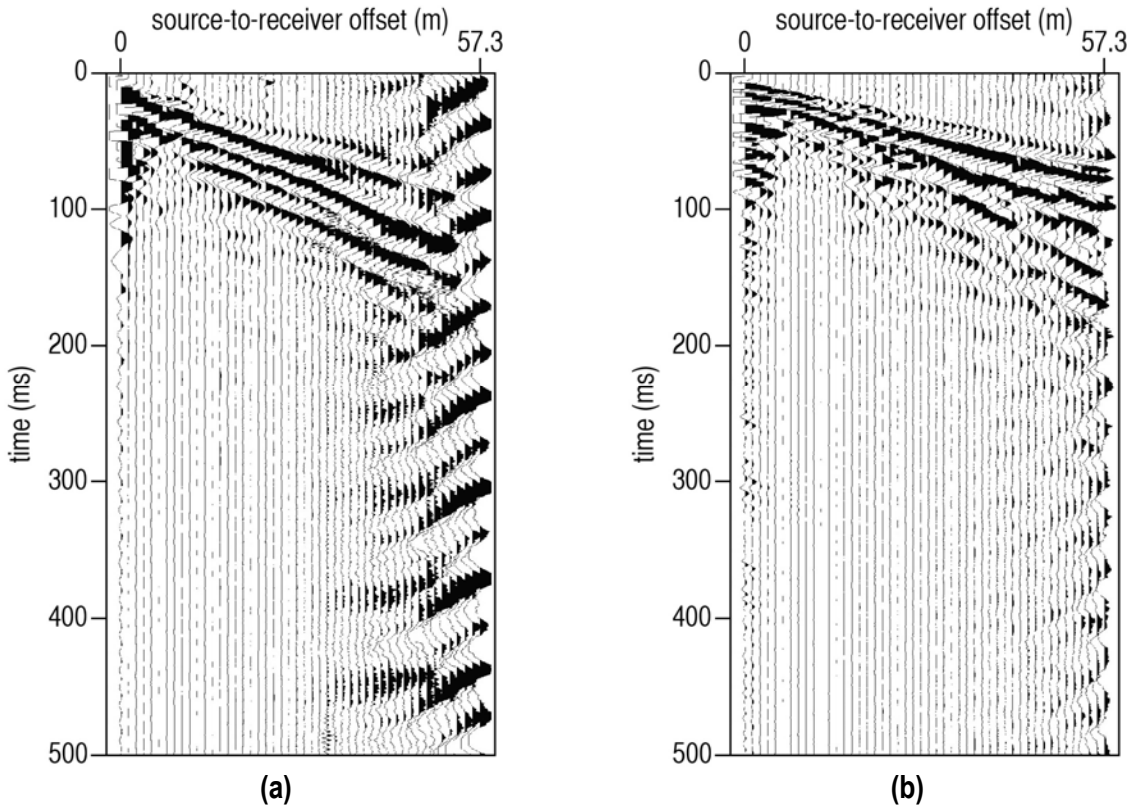

Figure 3: Representative off-end shot gathers at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a). (*a*) Sledge hammer and shear block source recorded with shear 14.5 Hz geophones, SV orientation. (*b*) Weight-drop source recorded with vertical 40 Hz geophones.

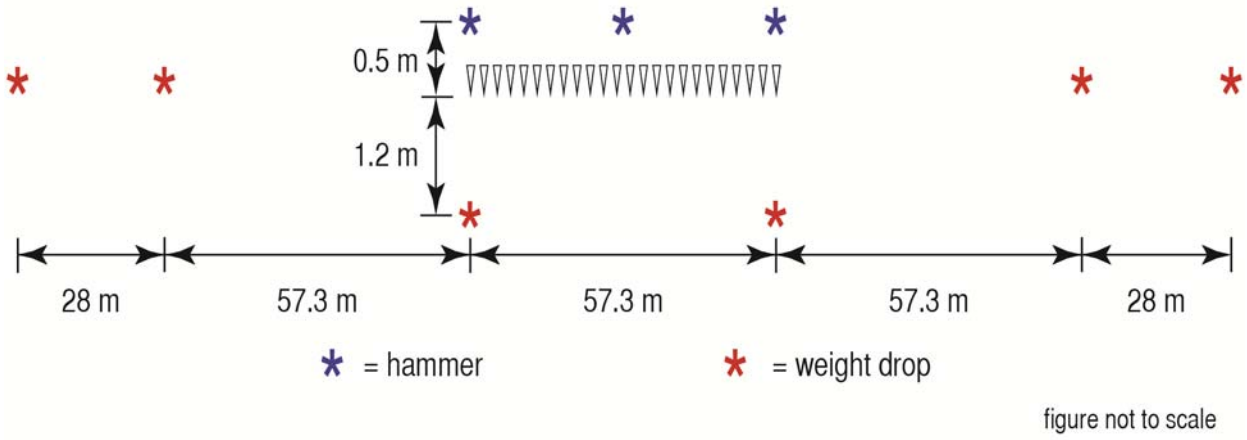

Figure 4: Diagram indicating all shot point locations relative to a single receiver spread. The receiver spread consisted of 48 stations separated by 1.2 m.

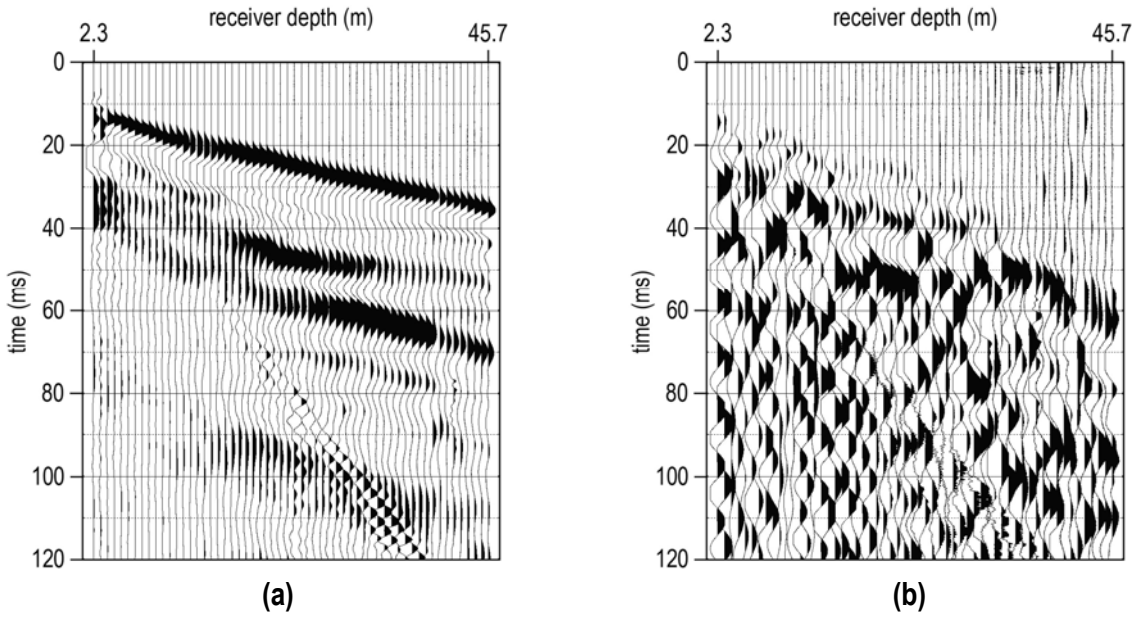

Figure 5: Representative unprocessed downhole (*a*) vertical, and (*b*) shear records at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

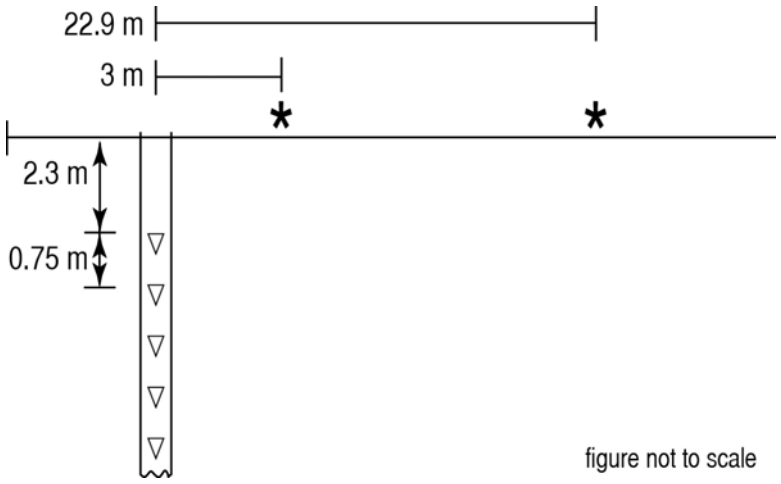

Figure 6: Downhole seismic field layout.

Figure 7: Downhole seismic acquisition at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

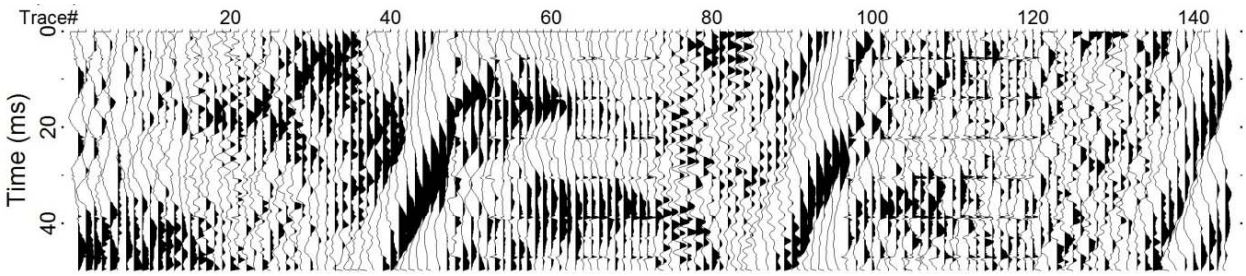

Figure 8. Representative ambient noise recorded at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a). Traces 1-48 represent the 4.5 Hz geophones, 49-96 represent the shear geophones, and 97-144 represent the 40 Hz geophones.

Data Processing

Multichannel-analysis of surface waves (MASW) was used to analyze dispersive Rayleigh-wave energy and estimate shear-wave velocity (Vs). Fundamental-mode energy was interpreted and inverted using a weighted, damped least-squares approach (Xia et al., 1999), resulting in a 2-D Vs profile. Average and interval downhole compressional-wave velocity (Vp) and Vs were calculated using the arrival time of the direct P-wave and S-wave, respectively, and pathlength from the seismic source to each receiver depth. Refraction tomography with 1.2 x 1.2 m cell size was used to estimate Vs and Vp. Joint-analysis of refractions and surface waves (JARS, Ivanov et al., 2010) was used to constrain the non-uniqueness inherently involved in refraction inversion, resulting in physically realistic 2-D Vs and Vp profiles. Shear- and compressional-wave seismic quality factors (Qs and Qp, respectively) were obtained using a surface wave inversion technique (Xia et al., 2010). Downhole shear records were numerically rotated to orient the recorded shear-wave traces in the vertical (SV) and horizontal (SH) polarization directions (Di Siena et al., 1984). The direct P-waves and S-waves were isolated on compressional and shear records, respectively, and the spectral ratio method was used to estimate Qp and Qs for each lithology identified in drilling notes (Tonn, 1991; Hasse and Stewart, 2004). The velocity and quality values calculated from downhole data were used to constrain inversion and improve accuracy of the results obtained using surface seismic methods.

Final Results

MASW

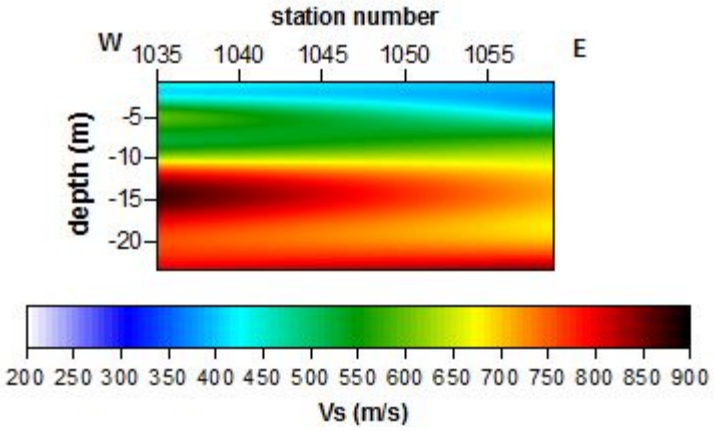

Figure 9: MASW Vs at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Downhole Vs

The characteristics of the direct wave recorded in the upper 8 m appear to be consistent with wavelet characteristics observed at other sites where grout is poorly bonded to the formation. The apparent large velocity gradient at a depth of 8 m is possibly due to poor quality bond; however, this cannot be confirmed because bond logs were not acquired at this site. The apparent downhole shear-wave interval velocity is faster than expected for the lithology described on the boring logs. This is most likely due to a mode conversion, possibly at the alluvium/sandstone interface.

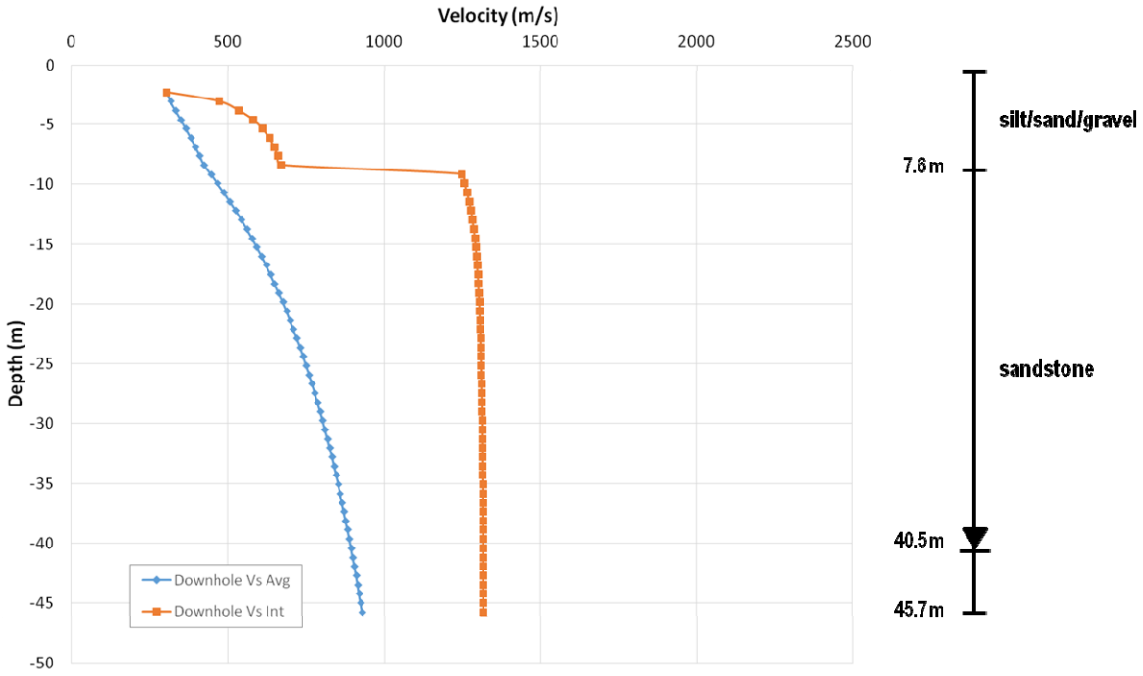

Figure 10: Downhole Vs profile at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Downhole Vp

The characteristics of the direct wave recorded in the upper 8 m appear to be consistent with wavelet characteristics observed at other sites where grout is poorly bonded to the formation. The apparent large velocity gradient at a depth of 8 m is possibly due to poor quality bond; however, this cannot be confirmed because bond logs were not acquired at this site.

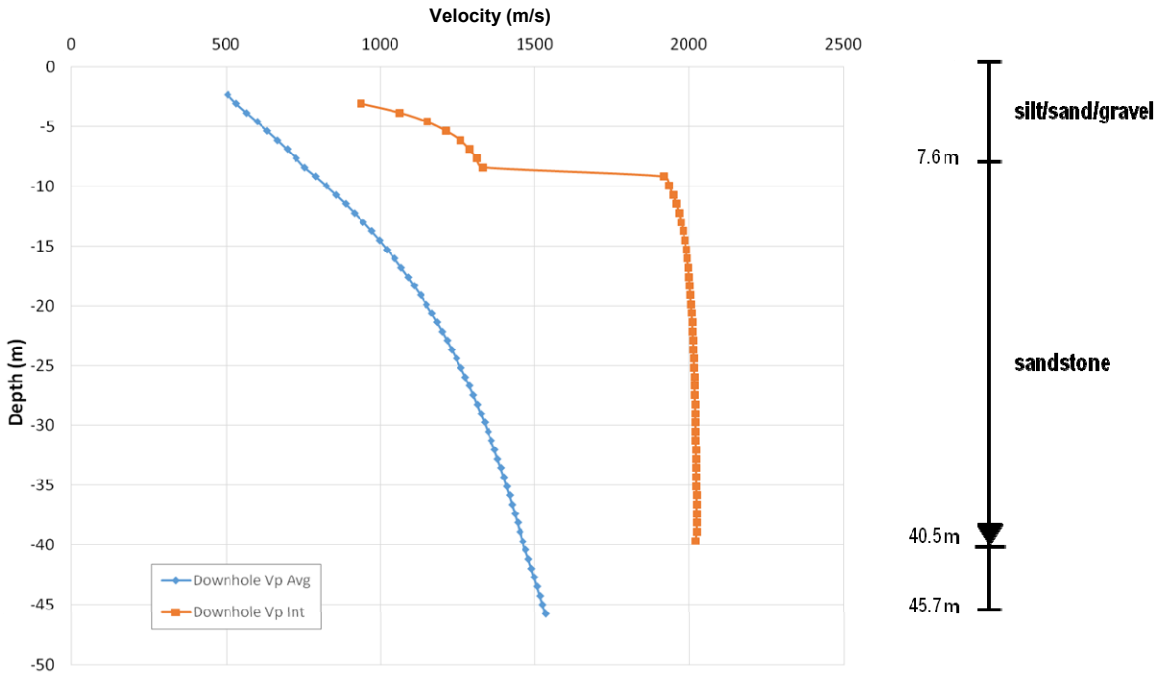

Figure 11: Downhole Vp profile at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Vs Tomography

A smoothed version of the final MASW Vs profile was used as the initial model. Picked first arrival times used for preliminary processing were reviewed to confirm their accuracy and used for final processing.

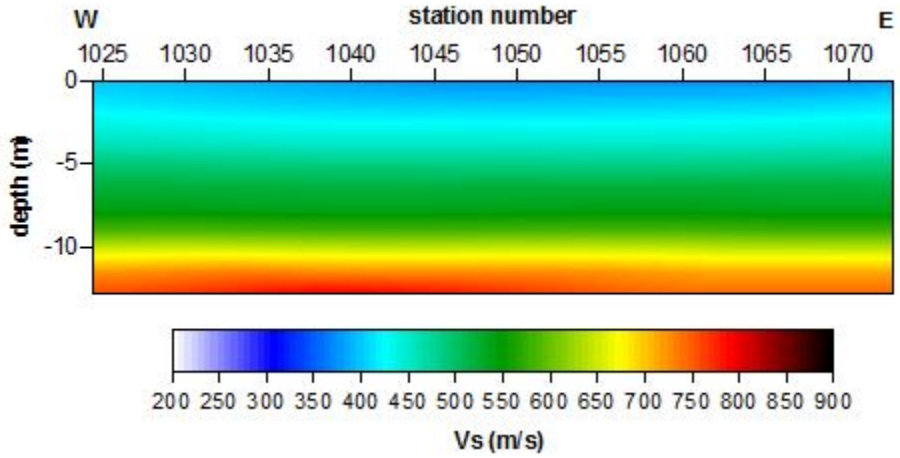

Figure 12: Vs tomography at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Vp Tomography

Scaled, smoothed MASW velocities were a very accurate initial model at lower station numbers located on a hillside. Borehole P-wave velocities were a very accurate initial model at higher station numbers located at the base of the hill. Therefore, an initial model was generated by interpolating between scaled, smoothed MASW velocities at low stations and the downhole interval Vp at high stations. Picked first arrival times used for preliminary processing were reviewed to confirm their accuracy and used for final processing.

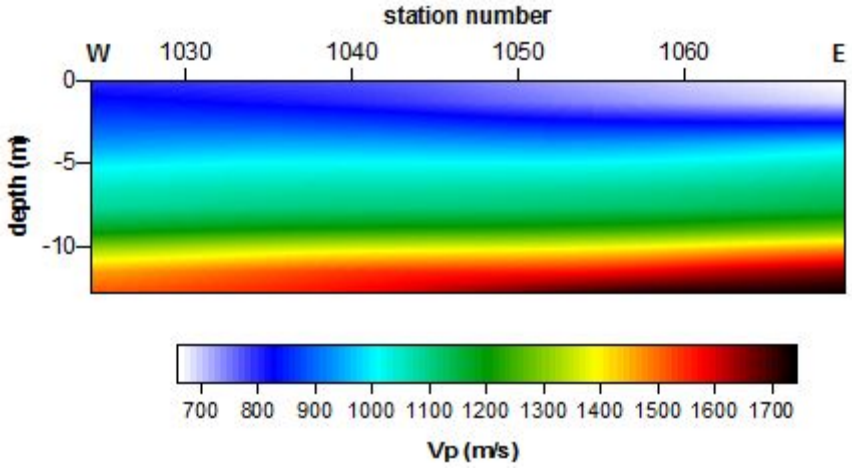

Figure 13: Vp tomography at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Downhole Qs

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition.

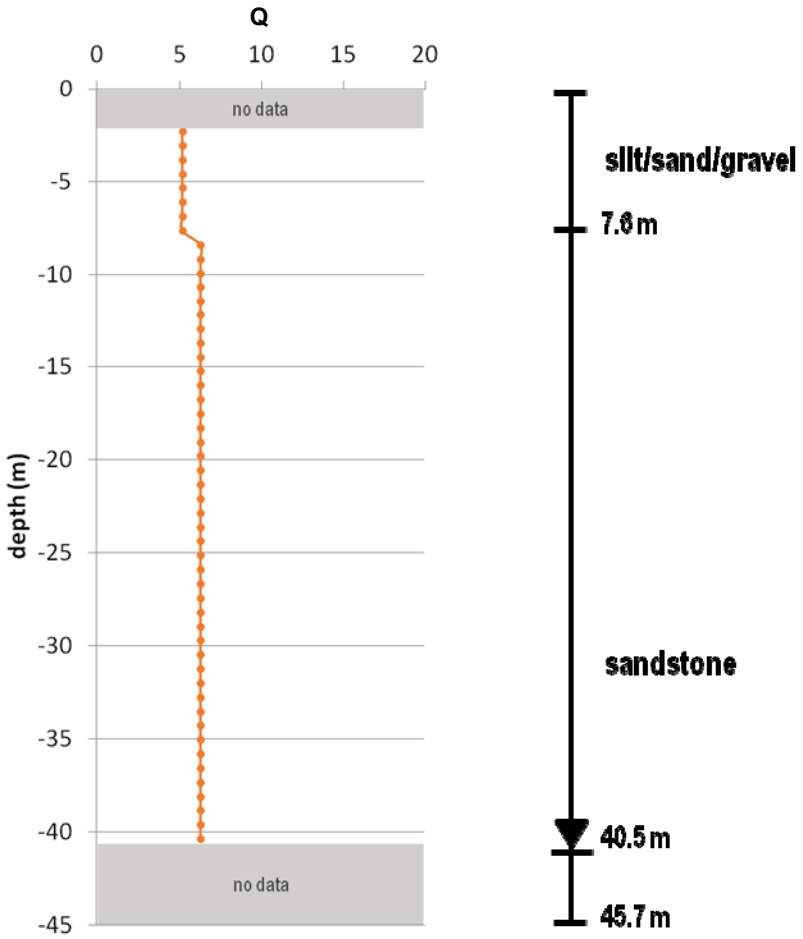

Figure 14: Downhole Qs profile at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Downhole Qp

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition.

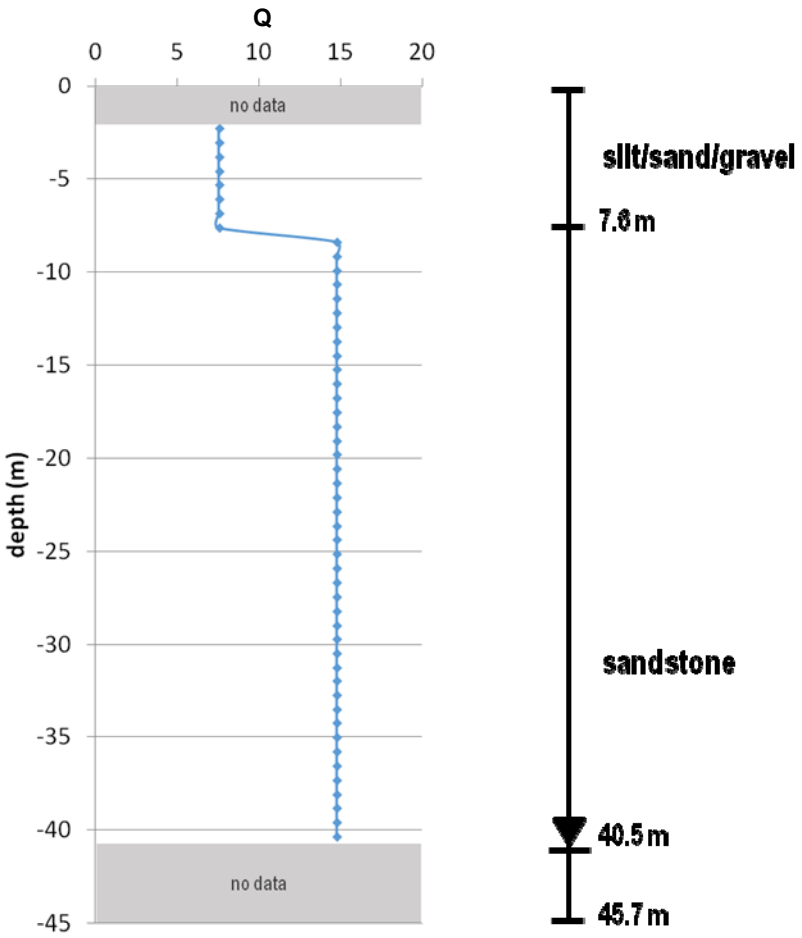

Figure 15: Downhole Qp profile at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Surface Qs

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition. Due to lack of stability in the inversion, the upper 0-5 m is low confidence.

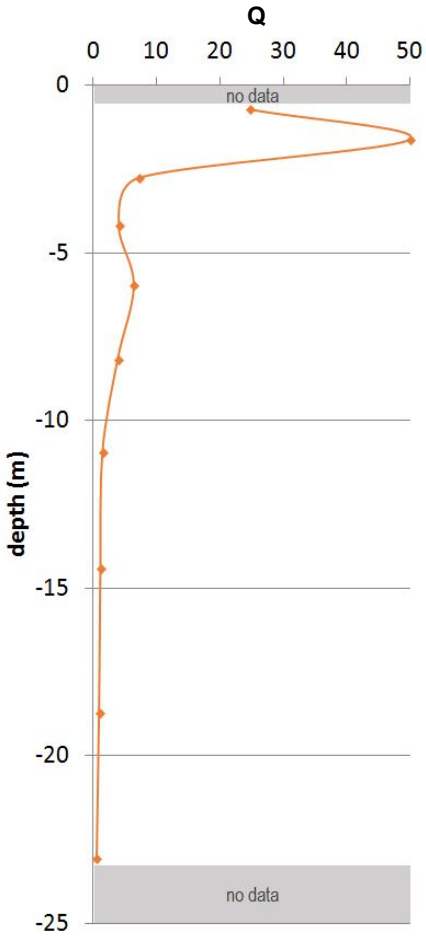

Figure 16: Surface Qs at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Surface Qp

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition. Due to lack of stability in the inversion, the upper 0-5 m is low confidence.

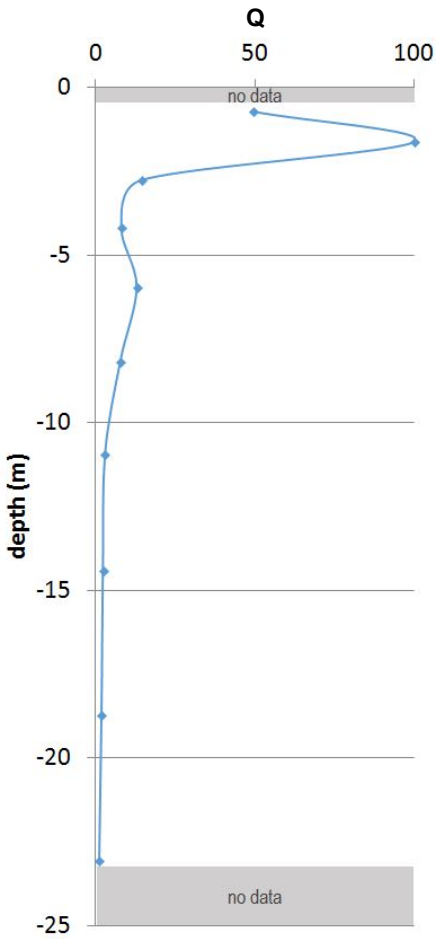

Figure 17: Surface Qp profiles for at Nog_N2 (DTRA N4a).

Related Materials

Delivered materials include:

1. This report
2. PowerPoint presentation summarizing this report
3. Data files
4. Document explaining the data file format
5. Detailed list of deliverables

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