

**Design and Evaluation of Scour for Bridges  
Using HEC-18**  
(Volume 2 of 3)

FINAL REPORT  
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Submitted by

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## **DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

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16. <b>Abstract</b> The overall objective of this research is the development of a new approach for evaluating bridge scour for New Jersey's bridges on non-tidal waterways. The study commenced with a web-based survey of scour practice within the U.S. and a literature review of predictive scour models. The major project deliverable is a new Scour Evaluation Model (SEM), which is a tiered, parametric, risk-based decision tool. A variety of geotechnical, hydrologic, and hydraulic data are analyzed to generate risk ratings for a particular bridge. These ratings are then inputted into a Risk Decision Matrix to generate a scour priority level and recommended actions, which may range from expedited installation of countermeasures to removal from scour critical status. Bridge importance is also factored into the final priority level. In addition, the New Jersey SEM provides standard protocols for: (1) erosion classification of sediments; (2) application of scour envelope curves; and (3) analysis of hydrologic data. The model was validated and calibrated by inspecting scour critical bridges and comparing actual field observations with model results. While the current model reflects New Jersey's geology and hydrology, it can be recalibrated to other regions or states. The model is principally designed to evaluate scour risk of existing bridges, but many model components are useful for designing new bridges as well. Included are example SEM applications for 12 bridges and two detailed example problems.					
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SEM analyses require that three kinds of reports be generated for each bridge studied: (1) Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study; (2) Field Scour Investigation; and (3) Reconnaissance Hydrologic Analysis. These reports are not included in this document due to length restrictions. However, examples of each are available upon request from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Contact: Dr. John Schuring at [schuring@njit.edu](mailto:schuring@njit.edu).

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation  
ACBs – Articulated Concrete Blocks  
ADT – Average Daily Traffic  
ARF – Average Risk Failure  
ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials  
BIM – Bridge Importance Matrix  
COF – Consequence of Failure  
CSU – Colorado State University  
DOT – Department of Transportation  
DR – Detour Risk  
EFA – Erosion Function Apparatus  
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation  
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
HEC-18 – Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 18  
ICSE-5 – 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Scour and Erosion  
ILDOT – Illinois Department of Transportation  
NBIS – National Bridge Inspection Standards  
NBSD – National Bridge Scour Database  
NCHRP – National Cooperative Highway Research Program  
NJDEP – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
NJDOT – New Jersey Department of Transportation  
NJIT – New Jersey Institute of Technology  
NWS – National Weather Service  
PennDOT – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
POA – Plan of Action  
RQD – Rock Quality Designation  
SCDOT – South Carolina Department of Transportation  
SDI – Slake Durability Index  
SEM – Scour Evaluation Model  
SHA – State Highway Administration  
SI&A – Structure Inventory and Appraisal  
SRICOS – Scour Rate in Cohesive Soils  
SRICOS-EFA – Scour Rate in Cohesive Soil – Erosion Function Apparatus  
TXDOT – Texas Department of Transportation  
US – United States  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture  
USDOT – United States Department of Transportation  
USGS – United States Geologic Survey  
USSCS – United States Soil Conservation Service  
WMA – Water Management Areas

## NEW JERSEY SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)

### Model Purpose and Overview

This chapter describes the New Jersey Scour Evaluation Model (SEM), the major deliverable of this research study. The literature search, practice survey, and analytical phases of the study have clearly established the need to improve scour analysis procedures for New Jersey bridges. The practice of applying HEC-18 methods to all bridges has resulted in overly conservative scour depth predictions in many cases. This leads to wasted resources because bridges that are not really at risk are repaired unnecessarily or replaced prematurely. The converse is also true: bridges that are truly scour susceptible are not always discerned, which may lead to unsafe conditions during high flow events.

The overall purpose of the New Jersey SEM is to improve bridge safety and to allow NJDOT to expend repair funds more strategically. The model also assures that scour evaluations for existing and new bridges are performed in a uniform manner and are based on sound engineering practice. Preliminary results suggest that a significant number of bridges are candidates for removal from the Scour Critical List over the next few years, with the potential to save the Department tens of millions of dollars. More importantly, the model also prioritizes bridges by scour risk so that they can be repaired in a rational sequence.

In general, the New Jersey SEM is a tiered, parametric, risk-based decision tool. A variety of geotechnical, hydrologic, and hydraulic data are first inputted into the model for a particular bridge. These data are analyzed to determine two risk ratings, one geotechnical and the other hydrologic/hydraulic. The user then enters a two-dimensional risk decision matrix to determine the scour priority level of the bridge. The bridge “importance” is then examined to see whether the priority needs to be increased. Each priority level is then linked to recommended actions, which may range from installation of countermeasures to removal from the Scour Critical List.

The general flow of the SEM is presented as a flow chart in **Figure 8**. As indicated, the model has four main interconnected modules. The function and process of the major model components are briefly summarized below.

- **Module 1 - Geotechnical Evaluation of Scour**  
Model analysis begins with a geotechnical evaluation of scour. This requires that the user perform certain office and field studies to collect key data, which are then analyzed. This yields a geotechnical risk rating of low, medium or high. *See report section, “Assigning Geotechnical Risk Level – Module 1” on page 63 for a complete explanation of this module.*
- **Module 2 – Hydrologic/Hydraulic Evaluation of Scour**  
The second module of the model analysis is a hydrologic/hydraulic evaluation of scour. Again, the user performs certain office and field studies to collect key

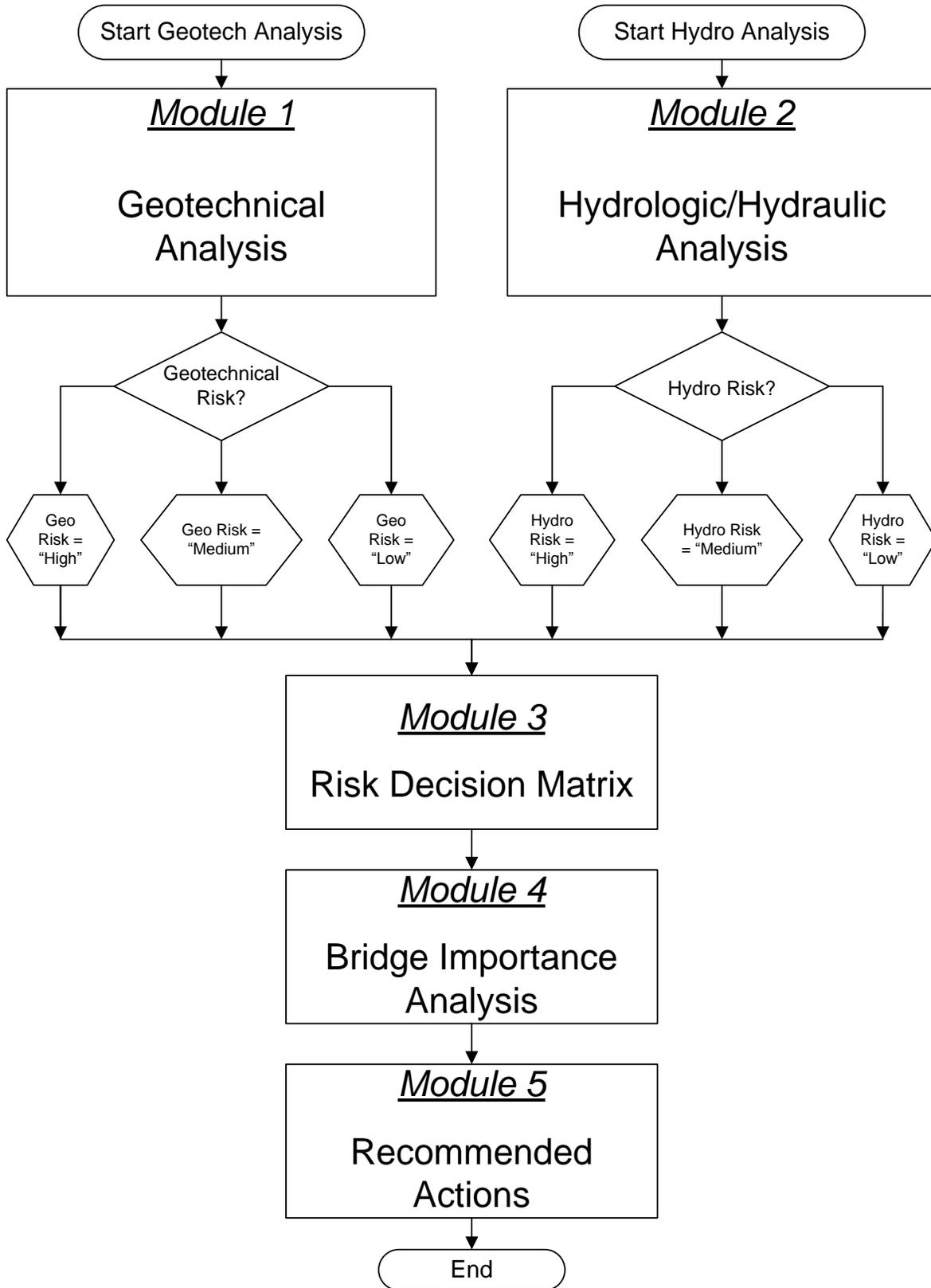


Figure 8. Overview Flow Chart of SEM Modules

data, which are then analyzed. This yields a hydrologic/hydraulic risk rating of low, medium or high.

*See report section, "Assigning Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk Level – Module 2" on page 66 for a complete explanation of this module.*

- **Module 3 – Risk Decision Matrix**

The results of Module 1 and 2 are next inputted into Module 3. This module consists of a two-dimensional matrix that has geotechnical risk on one axis and hydrologic/hydraulic risk on the other axis. It is known as the "Risk Decision Matrix," and it generates a scour priority rating for the bridge.

*See report section, "Risk Decision Matrix – Module 3" on page 69 for a complete explanation of this module.*

- **Module 4 – Bridge Importance Analysis**

The purpose of this module is to evaluate the "importance" of the bridge. Like the previous module, it is defined by a two-dimensional matrix, which considers average daily traffic, bridge length, and detour length, among other factors. The Bridge Importance Analysis is applied after the bridge is classified using the Risk Decision Matrix. The scour priority rating may then be adjusted depending on the calculated importance.

*See report section, "Bridge Importance Analysis – Module 4" on page 70 for a complete explanation of this module.*

- **Module 5 – Recommended Actions**

This final module of the model links the scour priority rating with recommended corrective actions. The actions are graduated according to risk level, and they may range from priority installation of countermeasures to removal of the bridge from the Scour Critical List.

*See report section, "Recommended Actions – Module 5" on page 72 for a complete explanation of this module.*

## **Assigning Geotechnical Risk Level – Module 1**

Module 1 of the Scour Evaluation Model analyzes and determines the level of geotechnical risk for the bridge under study. The factor most influencing the geotechnical risk is the erosion resistance of the stream bed materials, as opposed to basin hydrology and channel hydraulics, which are evaluated in Module 2. So, the geotechnical risk analysis focuses on characterizing as accurately as possible the nature and condition of the soil and rock materials both upstream and underneath the bridge. This is accomplished by a combination of desk study and field investigation. In general, geological materials such as bedrock, boulders, and cobbles, normally represent lower geotechnical risk, while fine grained soils such as sand and silt, pose higher geotechnical risk. The module also considers mitigating risk factors such as evidence of field scour and bridge age.

The geotechnical risk analysis begins with both a Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study and a Field Scour Investigation. In addition, bridges may occasionally require a detailed

Geotechnical Investigation if sufficient data are not uncovered during the first two studies to confidently evaluate geotechnical risk. Procedures for conducting these investigations were previously described in report section, “Geotechnical Evaluation Procedure Steps” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 46.

The principal objective of the investigation phases is to determine the *erosion class* of the stream bed materials. Seven distinct classes of soil and rock materials have been established for the SEM, reflecting the wide range of erosion resistance encountered in bridge scour situations. These are summarized in **Figure 9**, and each class is described in detail in report section, “Description of Erosion Classes” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 32.

The overall procedure for assigning geotechnical risk is shown in **Figure 10**. As indicated, the results of investigative Steps 1, 2, and 3 are used to determine erosion class. Once erosion class is confirmed, a series of decisions are made to determine geotechnical risk. Decision factors include erosion class, age of the structure, and whether or not there is field evidence of substantial scour. These decisions ultimately lead to an assignment of “low,” “medium,” or “high” geotechnical risk.

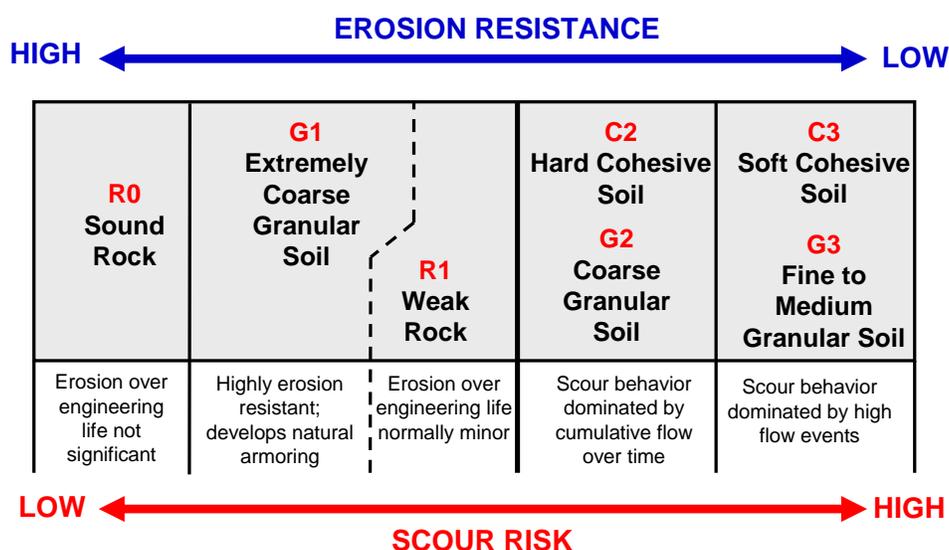


Figure 9. SEM Erosion Classes for Soil and Rock

Several logic trends are worth noting in **Figure 10**. Only bridges founded on highly erosion resistant materials, namely classes R0, R1, and G1, may be assigned to have “low” geotechnical risk. Bridges founded on materials with moderate erosion resistance (classes G2 and C2) may be assigned “medium” risk if they show no field evidence of substantial scour. Bridges founded on materials with low erosion resistance (classes G3 and C3) must be older than 50 years and show no field evidence of substantial scour to be assigned “medium” risk. Otherwise, they are assumed to have high geotechnical risk.



An important decision in both the Geotechnical and Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk Analyses is whether or not there is evidence of “substantial scour.” This is determined during the field investigation. A number of factors enter into this determination, including depth and extent of observed scour, depth of footings, erosion class of stream bed, and existing countermeasures. Guidelines for assessing the severity of scour are provided in **Appendix B4**.

Note that the assignment of a “low” geotechnical risk rating to a bridge does not lessen the need for continued maintenance and repair of the stream channel to control scour risk. This may include removal of debris, correction of minor erosion or scour zones, or repair of existing countermeasures. Such maintenance and repair is normally accomplished using local Department crews or through standing agreements with M&R contractors.

Illustrative examples for applying Module 1 are provided in chapter, “EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)” on page 79.

## **Assigning Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk Level – Module 2**

Module 2 of the Scour Evaluation Model analyzes and determines the level of hydrologic/hydraulic risk for the bridge under study. A key factor in assigning hydrologic/hydraulic risk is whether or not the bridge has experienced a 100 year storm, and if it has, how did it perform. Thus, the risk analysis also checks whether substantial field scour has been observed at the bridge. For bridges located in Coastal Plain and Non-glaciated Piedmont/Highlands physiographic provinces of the State, a supplemental analysis is also conducted using envelope curves. In general, bridges that have experienced and performed well in a 100+ year storm and/or meet the envelope curve criteria represent low hydrologic/hydraulic risk. Otherwise, they are considered to have higher hydrologic/hydraulic risk.

The hydrologic/hydraulic risk analysis begins with both a Hydrologic Reconnaissance Study and a Field Investigation Study. Note that the latter study is dual-purpose and is the same one conducted for the Module 1 Geotechnical Evaluation (see report section, “Geotechnical Evaluation Procedure Steps” on page 46). Procedures for conducting Hydrologic Reconnaissance Studies were described in report section, “Procedures for Reconnaissance Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis” on page 58.

An important component of Module 2 is the envelope curve analysis, which is performed for all bridges in the Coastal Plain province and any bridges in the non-glaciated section of the Piedmont/Highlands provinces. The general concept of the envelope curve is to define an upper range of observed scour depths for a given hydraulic variable within a specific physiographic region. Envelope curves developed for New Jersey’s Coastal Plain and Piedmont/Highlands provinces were presented previously in chapter, “GUIDELINES - HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC EVALUATION OF SCOUR RISK” on page 50.

Another important component of this module is a hydrologic reconnaissance analysis, which determines whether or not the bridge under investigation has experienced a 100-year storm (note that proportions greater than or equal to 95% are considered to satisfy the 100-year storm condition). Several data sources are used for this analysis including stream gages and StreamStats data at the bridges of interest. In general, if a bridge has experienced a 100-year storm and does not show substantial field scour, then it is deemed to have a reduced risk.

The overall procedure for assigning hydrologic/hydraulic risk is shown in flowchart form in **Figure 11**. As indicated, the results of investigative Steps 1 and 2 are related to erosion class and physiographic province. This leads to a series of decisions in which bridges are tested against the 100-year storm criterion and examined to determine whether or not there is field evidence of substantial scour. Some bridges are additionally subjected to an envelope curve analysis if they are located within select physiographic provinces. For bridges with certain kinds of bed sediments, there is a check (Step 3) of assessed or calculated scour conditions that may include appropriate HEC-18 methods. Note that for bridges on spread footings, the scour check is made relative to the bottom of footings, while for bridges on pile foundations, a lateral stability check is usually appropriate. All of these decisions ultimately lead to an assignment of “low,” “medium,” or “high” hydrologic/hydraulic risk.

Several logic trends are worth noting in **Figure 11**. Bridges founded on highly erosion resistant materials (classes R0, R1, and G1) or that have passed an envelope curve check may be assigned to “low” hydrologic/hydraulic risk. These bridges, however, must also have sustained a 100-year storm event. Conversely, any bridge in the Coastal Plain or Non-glaciated Piedmont/Highlands provinces that has a predicted scour depth greater than the respective footings is considered a “high” risk bridge. Bridges founded on materials with moderate to low erosion resistance (classes G2, C2, G3, C3) in the Highlands, Valley & Ridge, and Glaciated Piedmont provinces may be assigned either “low,” “medium,” or high” risk depending on the path through the flow chart.

Illustrative examples for applying Module 2 are provided in chapter, “EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)” on page 79.

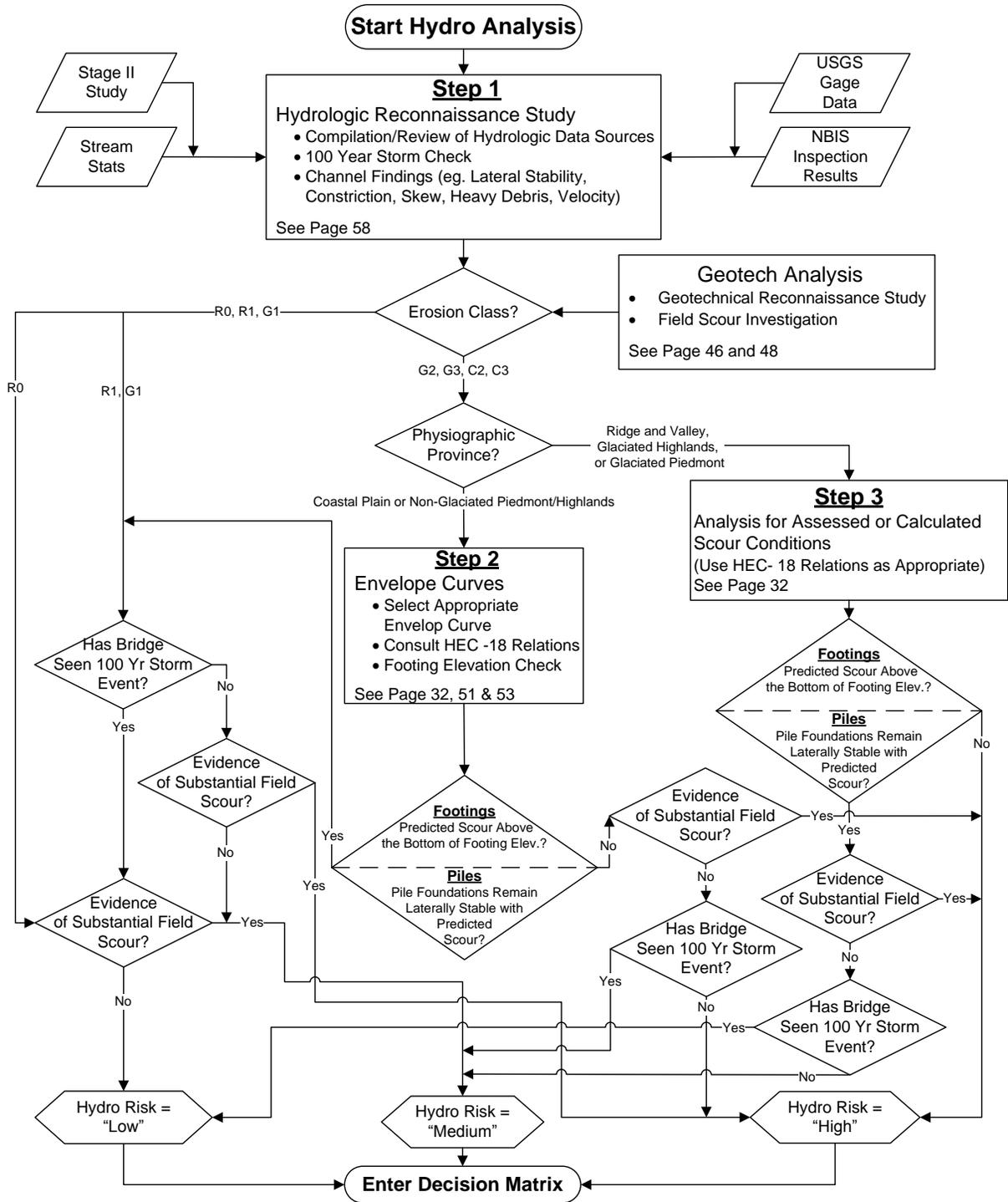


Figure 11. Flow Chart for Evaluation of Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk – Module 2

### Risk Decision Matrix – Module 3

Once the results of the Geotechnical Scour Evaluation (Module 1) and the Hydrologic/Hydraulic Scour Evaluation (Module 2) are known, these risk levels are entered into Module 3, which consists of a *Risk Decision Matrix*. A decision matrix is a technique for analyzing a multi-criteria problem like scour in a systematic way (e.g. Tague, 2004). It can consider any number of decision factors by listing them in  $M$  rows and  $N$  columns. This forms a matrix of  $M \times N$  elements, where each element defines a certain performance or outcome. Two-dimensional decision matrices are the most common, but, in theory, they can be expanded into any number of dimensions.

The Risk Decision Matrix developed for the SEM is shown in **Figure 12**. This two-dimensional matrix has geotechnical risk on the horizontal axis and hydrologic/hydraulic risk on the vertical axis. Risk level for each argument axis is graduated from low to high. Bridges will normally plot in one of nine possible zones, each of which is associated with a scour priority rating. For example, a bridge with a “medium” geotechnical risk and a “high” hydrologic/hydraulic risk corresponds to a Scour Priority 2.

		Geotechnical Risk		
		High	Medium	Low
Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk	High	Scour Priority 1	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3
	Medium	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3	Scour Priority 4
	Low	Scour Priority 4	Scour Priority 4	Scour Priority 4

Figure 12. Risk Decision Matrix – Module 3

There are four possible priority ratings in the Risk Decision Matrix: 1 through 4. Priority 1 corresponds to a high risk scour condition that demands prompt attention. Conversely, a bridge with a Priority 4 rating is recommended for removal from the State’s Scour Critical List. The required actions for Priorities 2 and 3 are intermediate between these extremes. Note that occasionally a user may opt to plot a bridge on the borderline between two adjacent priority boxes if the bridge is judged to exhibit an intermediate level of risk. Illustrative examples for applying Module 3 are provided in chapter, “EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)” on page 79.

### Bridge Importance Analysis – Module 4

The purpose of this module is to evaluate the importance of a bridge, since some structures have more impact on the transportation network and economy than others if they should be closed. When a bridge is determined to be “important,” then the Scour Priority Rating generated during Module 3 will be increased. This approach is consistent with NJDOT’s Plan of Action, and it has also been employed by the Department to the seismic design of bridges, for example (FHWA 2010).

Certain bridges in NJDOT’s inventory automatically default to a status of “important” because of their position within the transportation network. For example, all bridges located on the Interstate Highway System are so designated. Other situations that automatically classify a structure as important include bridges with defense priority (SHARAHNET), bridges that carry life safety utilities, bridges located on evacuation routes, and bridges providing critical hospital access. For all of these situations the bridge is automatically designated as important and scour priority will typically be increased.

A flow chart for determining whether or not the scour priority of a bridge should be modified for importance is presented in **Figure 13**. Bridges that fall into the special importance categories described in the previous paragraph, scour priority increases by one level, e.g. a Priority 2 becomes a Priority 1. Note that a Priority 1 bridge is not changed since it is already the highest priority. Similarly, a Priority 4 bridge is already recommended for removal from the Scour Critical List and is not adjusted.

For the remainder of the bridges, importance is determined analytically using the Bridge Importance Matrix or BIM, which appears in the lower left of **Figure 13** (the “No” answer branch on the chart). Like the Risk Decision Matrix in the previous module, structure importance is defined by a two-dimensional matrix. The parameter on the X-axis is the “Average Risk due to Failure” or ARF. Two input factors needed to compute this parameter are Average Daily Traffic (ADT) and Bridge Length. The value is defined by the following equation:

$$\text{Average Risk due to Failure (ARF)} = \frac{\text{ADT} \left( \frac{\text{veh}}{\text{day}} \right) * \text{Bridge Length (ft)}}{1000} \quad \text{(Eq. 2)}$$

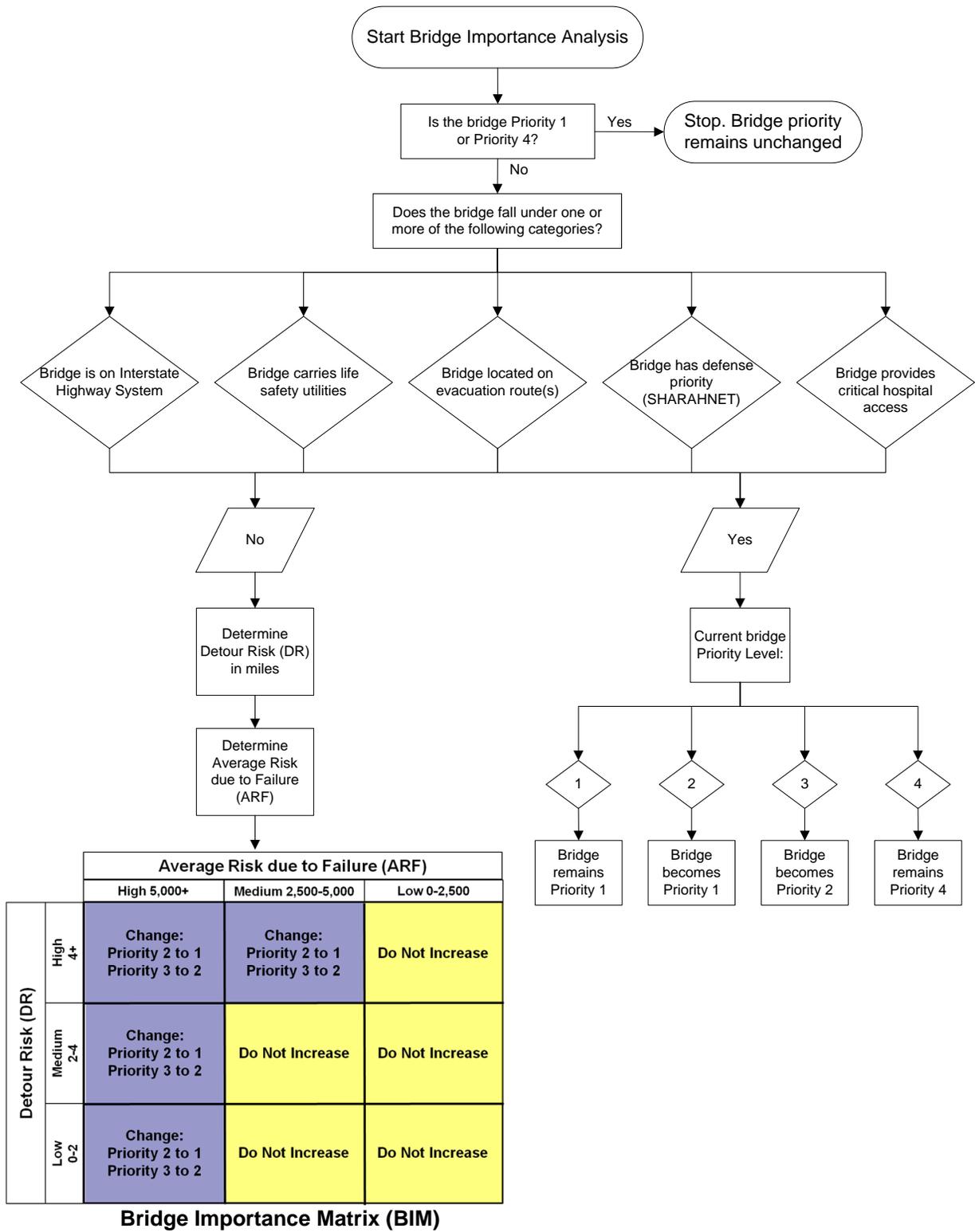


Figure 13. Bridge Importance Analysis - Module 4

Note that this parameter is generally related to the intrinsic risk to the traveling public in that it reflects the probability that a vehicle would be on the bridge if it were to fail.

The parameter on the Y-axis of the Bridge Importance Matrix is “Detour Risk” or DR. It is measured as the detour length in miles should the bridge need to be closed for repair or replacement. Detour Risk is more representative of the inconvenience to the traveling public, which translates into monetary loss due to the longer travel times. Note that the user has an option to increase the value of Detour Length to account for local traffic conditions. For example, if the posted speed limit of the detour is less, or if there is obvious congestion, then the value of Detour Length may be increased in proportion.

Once the Average Risk due to Failure and the Detour Risk parameters are computed, they are plotted on the Bridge Importance Matrix in **Figure 13** to determine whether or not the bridge is designated as important. If the bridge is found to be important, then the Scour Priority Rating is increased by one level. For example, a Scour Priority Rating of 2 from the Risk Decision Matrix is increased to a Scour Priority Rating of 1. This elevated priority assures that these bridges are moved to the front of the line in completing corrective actions. Note that, as before, if a bridge is rated as Priority 1, it is not changed since it is already the highest priority. Similarly, a bridge rated as a Priority 4 has been determined to be low risk and is recommended for removal from the scour critical list. Therefore, no adjustment is made to Priority 4 bridges.

Illustrative examples for applying Module 4 are provided in chapter, “EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)” on page 79.

## **Recommended Actions – Module 5**

Module 5, “Recommended Actions,” is the final module of the model. It links the priority rating with recommended actions. The actions corresponding to each Priority Level are outlined in **Table 7**. It is important that all actions listed for a given priority level be performed. Typically, all Priority 1 bridges and many Priority 2 bridges will require installation of protective measures to control scour risk. Note that FHWA now recognizes long term monitoring as an acceptable countermeasure for bridges determined to have the lowest consequence of failure (COF) and/or low average daily traffic (ADT). However, a bridge with a monitoring countermeasure shall retain its scour critical code.

The more common protective measures employed by the Department are listed and briefly described in **Table 8**. The table also indicates which SEM priority levels typically correspond with each protective measure. For example, traditional ‘Structural Countermeasures and Armoring’ are normally applied to Priority 1 and 2 bridges, while ‘Directed Maintenance and Repair’ is used for Priority 3 and 4 bridges.

Illustrative examples for applying Module 5 are provided in chapter, “EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)” on page 79.

Table 7 – Priority Levels and Corresponding Recommended Actions

<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Matrix Risk Combinations</b> (Geo-Hydro)	<b>Recommended Actions</b> (All listed actions for a given priority level must be performed)
<b>Priority 1</b>	High-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue flood watch or Install Real-time Monitoring System until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures as soon as possible (see Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 2</b>	High-Med Med-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue Flood Watch until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures (see Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 3</b>	Med-Med Low-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until resolved.</li> <li>(2) Consider use of engineering judgment to designate the bridge as either Priority 2 or 4.</li> <li>(3) Alternatively, consider monitoring for an intermediate period (3± years), then revisit SEM Risk Analysis (See Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 4</b>	All Others	Bridge is recommended for removal from the Scour Critical List. Return to biannual NBIS inspection schedule. Continue M&R to control minor erosion zones and debris.

Table 8 – Common Protective Measures

<b>Protective Measure</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Typical SEM Priority Level</b>
Accelerated Bridge Replacement	May be appropriate for a high priority scour critical bridge meeting one or more of the following criteria: (1) has nearly reached the end of its design life; (2) has low NBIS value and is beyond repair; (3) has available alternate routes/detours; or (4) has limited vertical clearance which makes installation of countermeasures difficult.	1
Structural Countermeasures and Armoring	Examples include riprap (grouted and ungrouted), gabions, articulated concrete blocks, concrete pavement, and vegetation planting.	1 and 2

Table 8 – Common Protective Measures (continued)

Foundation Strengthening and Substructure Rehabilitation	Examples include underpinning, collars, sheeting, and reinforcing jackets.	1 and 2
Channel Improvement and River Training	Examples include dredging, lining, guide banks, and check dams.	1 and 2
Scour Monitoring	Long term monitoring is an acceptable countermeasure for bridges determined to have the lowest consequence of failure (COF) and/or low average daily traffic (ADT). However, a bridge with a monitoring countermeasure shall retain its scour critical code. Long term monitoring is not permitted as a countermeasure for Priority 1 bridges.	2 and 3
Directed Maintenance and Repair	Applies to low risk bridges where limited scour or erosion damage has been observed. Maintenance and repair work is referred to the NJDOT Maintenance Office having jurisdiction (targeted riprap, gabions, ACB, etc.). Remedial work is accomplished with in-house forces or by contract.	3 and 4

FHWA requires that all scour critical bridges be coded for observed or assessed scour conditions. Bridges are coded using Item 113, which communicates as accurately as possible the current scour status of the bridge. The FHWA Item 113 Code Guide is reproduced in **Table 9**. Also shown in the table are the possible SEM priority levels corresponding to each code. Most bridges evaluated with SEM will start out as Code 3, but upon completion of the analysis, the code is elevated if the findings are favorable (SEM priority 3 or 4). Conversely, for bridges determined to have a high SEM risk level (SEM priority 1 or 2), the Code 3 rating remains until the bridge is repaired or replaced, and then it is updated.

### Reporting Requirements for Existing Bridges

The overall purpose of the New Jersey SEM is to improve bridge safety and allow the NJDOT to expend repair funds strategically. First and foremost, it will allow the Department to discern more precisely those bridges which are scour critical and require protective measures. The SEM procedure is also capable of identifying other bridges that can be returned to a normal or modified monitoring program. These things are accomplished by providing standard protocols to assure that scour evaluations for bridges are performed in a uniform manner.

The Department will engage qualified consultants to perform SEM analyses of bridges using the procedure described in this report. The results are to be summarized in an “SEM Analysis and Stage III Evaluation” report generated for each individual bridge.

Table 9 – Coding Guide for Bridges - Item 113

Code	Description	Possible SEM Priority Level			
		1	2	3	4
N	Bridge not over waterway.				
U	Bridge with "unknown" foundation that has not been evaluated for scour.				
T	Bridge over "tidal" waters that has not been evaluated for scour, but considered low risk.				
9	Bridge foundations (including piles) on dry land well above flood water elevations.				
8	Bridge foundations determined to be stable for the assessed or calculated scour condition. Scour is determined to be above top of footing by assessment, by calculation or by installation of properly designed countermeasures.				X
7	Countermeasures have been installed to mitigate an existing problem with scour and to reduce the risk of bridge failure during a flood event.				X
6	Scour calculation/evaluation has not been made.				
5	Bridge foundations determined to be stable for assessed or calculated scour condition. Scour is determined to be within the limits of footing or piles by assessment, by calculations or by installation of properly designed countermeasures.			X	X
4	Bridge foundations determined to be stable for assessed or calculated scour conditions; field review indicates action is required to protect exposed foundations.			X	X
3	Bridge is scour critical; bridge foundations determined to be unstable for assessed or calculated scour conditions: (1) Scour within limits of footing or piles; (2) Scour below spread-footing base or pile tips.	X	X		
2	Bridge is scour critical; field review indicates that extensive scour has occurred at bridge foundations, which are determined to be unstable by: (1) a comparison of calculated scour and observed scour during the bridge inspection, or (2) an engineering evaluation of the observed scour condition reported by the bridge inspector.	X			
1	Bridge is scour critical; field review indicates that failure of piers/abutments is imminent. Bridge is closed to traffic. Failure is imminent based on: (1) a comparison of calculated and observed scour during the bridge inspection, or (2) an engineering evaluation of the observed scour condition reported by the bridge inspector.	X			
0	Bridge is scour critical. Bridge has failed and is closed to traffic.				

The report will contain the following sections and must be issued by a Professional Engineer registered in New Jersey:

- Geotechnical Reconnaissance
- Hydrologic Reconnaissance
- Field Scour Investigation
- Geotechnical and Hydraulic/Hydrologic Risk Analyses
- Bridge Importance Analysis
- Scour Priority Rating
- Recommended Actions and Coding for the Bridge

In situations where the bridge is recommended for removal from the scour critical list, the report should summarize the reason(s) why the Stage II study incorrectly categorized the bridge as scour critical, e.g. new or adjusted geotechnical, hydraulic, or hydrologic information. For bridges that remain on the critical list, the report will form the basis for modifying the current Plan of Action (POA) and NBI scour coding. When it is recommended to install protective measures (priority and non-priority) or install real-time monitoring systems, the report should provide preliminary design recommendations (detailed design will be performed under separate contract). Sound engineering judgment shall be applied to all scour evaluations, as required.

### **Scour Evaluation for New Bridges**

Although the New Jersey SEM is principally designed to evaluate the scour risk of existing bridges, many of the model components are also useful for designing new bridges. The procedure for applying the SEM to estimate scour depth for new bridges is outlined below:

#### **Step 1: Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study**

A thorough desk study of geologic information sources is as important for new bridges as it is for existing bridges. The study focuses on the nature of the alluvium delineated within the stream channel itself, as well as the soil/rock units that underlie and adjoin the site. Procedures for conducting the study were previously described in report section, “Step 1 - Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 46.

#### **Step 2: Detailed Geotechnical Investigation**

A Detailed Geotechnical Investigation is mandatory for every new bridge site (unlike existing bridges, where it is optional). In general, the subsurface investigation program shall be prepared in accordance with the “Procedures for Consultants of the Bureau of Geotechnical Engineering.” It is also important to include borings within the streambed to assess the erosion potential of the alluvial sediments. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining representative samples in certain alluvial materials, consideration should be given to use of modified investigative methods that provide data for scour evaluation. These modified methods were previously described in report section, “Step 3 - Detailed

Investigation (Optional)” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 49.

### **Step 3: Determine Erosion Class**

The principal objective of Steps 1 and 2 above is to determine the *erosion class* of the stream bed materials. Seven distinct classes of soil and rock materials have been detailed for the SEM, reflecting the wide range of erosion resistance encountered in bridge scour situations. These are summarized in **Figure 9** on page 64, and each class is described in detail in report section, “Description of Erosion Classes” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 32. Once erosion class has been established, it is then linked to a method to estimate scour depth (see Step 5 below).

### **Step 4: Hydrologic/Hydraulic Study**

This study determines the design flows for the bridge, which permits sizing of the bridge opening and estimation of channel velocities. The SEM establishes a standard protocol to conduct hydrologic analyses for both new and existing bridge sites. Several input data sources are used including stream gages, StreamStats runs, and weighted USGS flows. Procedures for conducting a hydrologic/hydraulic analysis were previously described in report section, “Procedures for Reconnaissance Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis” in chapter, “GUIDELINES - HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC EVALUATION OF SCOUR RISK” on page 58.

### **Step 5: Estimate Scour Depth**

The final step is to estimate the scour depth, which is needed to design the size and depth of the substructures. The SEM provides several optional methods to compute scour depth for new bridges, which are listed below. Method selection depends on physiographic province and erosion class. Note that if more than one method applies to a particular bridge, engineering judgment is recommended in the selection of scour depth for design purposes.

- ***Envelope Curve Analysis*** – If the bridge is located within the Coastal Plain or Non-glaciated Piedmont/Highlands provinces, then envelope curve analysis may be used as a verification check to estimate scour depth. An envelope curve establishes an upper range of probable scour depth for a given hydraulic variable. Envelope curves developed for New Jersey’s Coastal Plain or Non-glaciated Piedmont/Highlands provinces were presented previously in report section, “Selection of Envelope Curves Appropriate to New Jersey” in chapter, “GUIDELINES - HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC EVALUATION OF SCOUR RISK” on page 53.
- The method assumes that other relevant hydraulic factors are also evaluated, including channel stability, propensity of the river to move sediment, potential meandering, and the angle of attack of the river to the bridge axis. A review of

scour experience of existing bridges on the same river is also helpful, especially if the existing bridge has experienced a 100-year flood.

- ***Bed Materials with High Erosion Resistance*** - When a new bridge is to be founded on geotechnical materials that exhibit high erosion resistance, scour depth is determined by a combination of empirical rules and selected HEC-18 scour relationships. These SEM erosion classes include Sound Rock (R0), Weak Rock (R1), and Extremely Coarse Granular Soil (G1). See report section, “Geological Materials with High Erosion Resistance” in chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR” on page 33 for design guidance when constructing new bridges on these geologic materials.
- ***Bed Materials with Moderate to Low Erosion Resistance*** – When a new bridge is to be founded on soils with moderate to low erosion resistance for which envelope curves are not applicable, then it is recommended that scour depth be analyzed using selected HEC-18 scour relationships. These SEM erosion classes include Coarse Granular Soil (G2), Fine to Medium Granular Soil (G3), Hard Cohesive Soil (C2), and Soft Cohesive Soil (C3). Design guidance for estimating scour depth when constructing new bridges on these geologic materials are presented in report section, “Geological Materials with Moderate Erosion Resistance” on page 38 and section, “Geological Materials with Low Erosion Resistance” on page 42, of chapter, “GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION OF BRIDGE SCOUR”.

## EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE SCOUR EVALUATION MODEL (SEM)

### Field Visits for Validation and Calibration of the Model

The final phase of the research study involved validation and calibration of the newly developed New Jersey Scour Evaluation Model (SEM). Validation is a process by which the stimulation-response mechanism of the model is tested. That is, does the model represent, to a reasonable degree, the real world phenomenon that it is supposed to simulate? Calibration is a related but different process that involves the selection of threshold values for key parameters within the model, e.g. correlating grain size with erosion class.

The principal approach used in the validation and calibration phase was field evaluation of selected scour critical bridges. The idea was to analyze a bridge with the model and then correlate the results with actual observations at the site. Field visits commenced in early August 2010 and extended through December 2010. A majority of the field visits were made during summer and early fall, which are the best months to conduct scour inspections due to the prevalence of low water conditions. A total of 34 bridges were visited by the Research Team in four different physiographic provinces, including 6 in the Ridge and Valley, 14 in the Highlands, 10 in the Piedmont, and 4 in the Coastal Plain. Bridges were selected in consultation with NJDOT and the USGS. Preference was given to bridges in the northern part of the State to thoroughly test the “hard bed” classification (Erosion Classes R0 and G1), which is among the unique aspects of the new model.

A standard field inspection form was developed to record the observations of the Research Team during the field visits. The form prompts the user to carefully evaluate the characteristics of the stream bed that can affect scour risk. The field inspection form is provided in **Appendix B3**, and a narrative describing procedures for conducting a field inspection is presented in **Appendix B4**.

### Example Model Applications to Selected Scour Critical Bridges

This section presents example applications of the SEM to 13 bridges that are currently on the State’s Scour Critical List. A number of the example bridges received a full scour evaluation including application of Modules 1 and 2 of the model. The evaluation of other bridges was more limited, since certain data were not available or complete field inspections were not conducted due to weather or other access issues. **Thus, the example results presented in this section are provided for illustration purposes only. All data and risk ratings must be re-verified before undertaking any recommended actions for these bridges.**

The 12 example bridges are listed in **Table 10** along with their physiographic province and whether they were glaciated during the Wisconsin stage, the most recent ice age. Also shown are the principal input parameters required to evaluate a bridge through

each of the modules of the SEM. For example, the parameters that most affect the geotechnical evaluation (Module 1) are erosion class, bridge age, and field evidence of substantial scour. The input parameters that most affect the hydrologic/hydraulic evaluation (Module 2) are also listed in the table. One is whether the bridge has seen a 100-year flow event. Another is the result of an envelope curve analysis, which is applied to all bridges in the Coastal Plain and Non-glaciated Piedmont/Highlands. Field evidence of substantial scour also factors into the hydrologic/hydraulic evaluation.

The shaded columns of **Table 10** summarize the risk levels that resulted from each scour evaluation. These risk levels, e.g. “LOW-MED,” are then plotted on the Risk Decision Matrix, which is shown as **Figure 14**. The Matrix then yields a priority rating for each bridge depending on where it falls on the plot. The final result is a priority rating from 1 to 4, which is listed in the rightmost column of **Table 10**.

For further instruction in the application of the SEM, 2 of the 13 example bridges have been used to create detailed “Example Problems.” For ease of use, the example problems have been patterned after the flow charts created for each of the modules and make use of the data contained in **Table 10**.

Example Problem 1 features the bridge on NJ Route 31 over Pequest River, Structure Number 2111155. This bridge is located in Warren County at the boundary of the Ridge and Valley and Highlands Provinces. Beginning with Module 1, the Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study and Field Scour Investigation determined that the stream bed for this bridge is composed of sediments with high erosion resistance that classify as G1. Continued analysis found the bridge to be of “Low” risk based on the fact that the footings were deeper than the calculated scour depth. In Module 2, the bridge was assessed to also have “Low” hydrologic/hydraulic risk because it had seen the 100-year storm and showed no evidence of substantial scour. In the Risk Decision Matrix (Module 3), The bridge was determined to be a Priority 4. The Bridge Importance Flow Chart (Module 4) was not applied since the bridge is already recommended for removal from the critical list. Finally, the recommended actions were determined from Module 5.

Example Problem 2 highlights the bridge on US Route 322 over Scotland Run, structure Number 826150. This bridge, located in Gloucester County, is an example of SEM analysis in the Coastal Plain. Beginning with Module 1, the Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study and Field Scour Investigation determined that the stream bed for this bridge is composed of sediments with low erosion resistance that classify as G3. Continued analysis found the bridge to be of “High” geotechnical risk because of the stream bed composition and the fact that the age was less than 50 years old. Because the bridge is located within the Coastal Plain, it was a candidate for envelope curve analysis as seen in Module 2. The bridge met the envelope criteria satisfactorily, but it had not yet seen a 100-year storm. The conclusion of this Module was that the bridge was of “Medium” hydrologic/hydraulic risk. In the Risk Decision Matrix (Module 3), Bridge 826150 was found to be a Priority 2. The Bridge Importance Flow Chart (Module 4) was next applied, but no adjustment in priority level was indicated on account of the low ADT. Finally, the recommended actions were determined from Module 5.

Table 10 – Summary of Model Input and Results for Example Bridges

	Bridge Name (Number)	Physiographic Province	Wisconsinan Glaciation	Geotechnical Scour Evaluation (Module 1)			Hydrologic/Hydraulic Scour Evaluation (Module 2)		Risk Decision Matrix			BIM	
				Erosion Class?	> 50 Years Old?	Field Evidence of Substantial Scour?	Q <sub>100</sub> Seen? (proportion) ***	Envelope Curve OK?	Geo Risk	Hydro Risk	Matrix Result	Result	Final
1	Rt. 10 over Malapardis Brook (1402150)	Piedmont/ Highlands	Yes	G1	Yes	No	Yes (95.5%)	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
2	Rt.15 over Beaver Run (1922150)	Ridge & Valley	Yes	G1	Yes	No	Yes (138.2%)	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
3	Rt. 23N over Pequannock River (1605175)	Highlands	Yes	G1	No	No	Yes (115.3%)	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
4	Rt. 31 over Pequest River (2111155)	Ridge & Valley/ Highlands	Yes	G1	Yes	No	Yes (100.5%)	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
5	Rt. 33 over Manalapan Brook (1304156)	Coastal Plain	No	G3/C3	Yes	Yes	Yes (159.9%)	Yes	HIGH	MED	Priority 2	Do Not Increase	Priority 2
6	Rt. 206 over Albertson Brook (0118153)	Coastal Plain	No	G3	Yes	No**	No (87.7%)	Yes	MED	MED	Priority 3	Do Not Increase	Priority 3

\* Erosion class based on study of NJGS Surficial Geology maps and the findings recorded in the Stage II report.

\*\* Evidence of scour based on findings recorded in the Stage II report. Field inspection not conducted for this bridge.

\*\*\* Proportions greater than or equal to 95% may be considered to satisfy the Q<sub>100</sub> condition.

‡ Proportion from an off-stream analysis

Table 10 – Summary of Model Input and Results for Example Bridges (continued)

	Bridge Name (Number)	Physiographic Province	Wisconsinan Glaciation	Geotechnical Scour Evaluation (Module 1)			Hydrologic/Hydraulic Scour Evaluation (Module 2)		Risk Decision Matrix			BIM	
				Erosion Class?	> 50 Years Old?	Field Evidence of Substantial Scour?	Q <sub>100</sub> Seen? (proportion) ***	Envelope Curve OK?	Geo Risk	Hydro Risk	Matrix Result	Result	Final
7	Rt. 46E over Branch of Mine Brook (1407153)	Highlands	No	G1	Yes	No	Yes (204.8%)‡	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
8	Rt. 46 over Musconetcong River (2108162)	Highlands/Ridge & Valley	No	G1	Yes	No	No (94.4%)	N/A	LOW	MED	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
9	Rt. 206 over Cruisers Brook (1810155)	Piedmont	No	R1	Yes	No	Yes (176.0%)‡	N/A	LOW	LOW	Priority 4	N/A	Priority 4
10	Rt. 206 over Branch of Big Flat Brook (1912158)	Ridge & Valley	Yes	G1→G3 Use G2	Yes	Yes	Yes (123.9%)	N/A	HIGH	HIGH	Priority 1	N/A	Priority 1
11	Rt. 322 over Hospitality Brook (119151)	Coastal Plain	No	G3*	Yes	No**	Yes (106.3%)‡	Yes	MED	LOW	Priority 4	Do Not Increase	Priority 4
12	Rt. 322 over Scotland Run (826150)	Coastal Plain	No	G3*	No	No**	No (89.8%)‡	Yes	HIGH	MED	Priority 2	Do Not Increase	Priority 2

\* Erosion class based on study of NJGS Surficial Geology maps and the findings recorded in the Stage II report.

\*\* Evidence of scour based on findings recorded in the Stage II report. Field inspection not conducted for this bridge.

\*\*\* Proportions greater than or equal to 95% may be considered to satisfy the Q<sub>100</sub> condition.

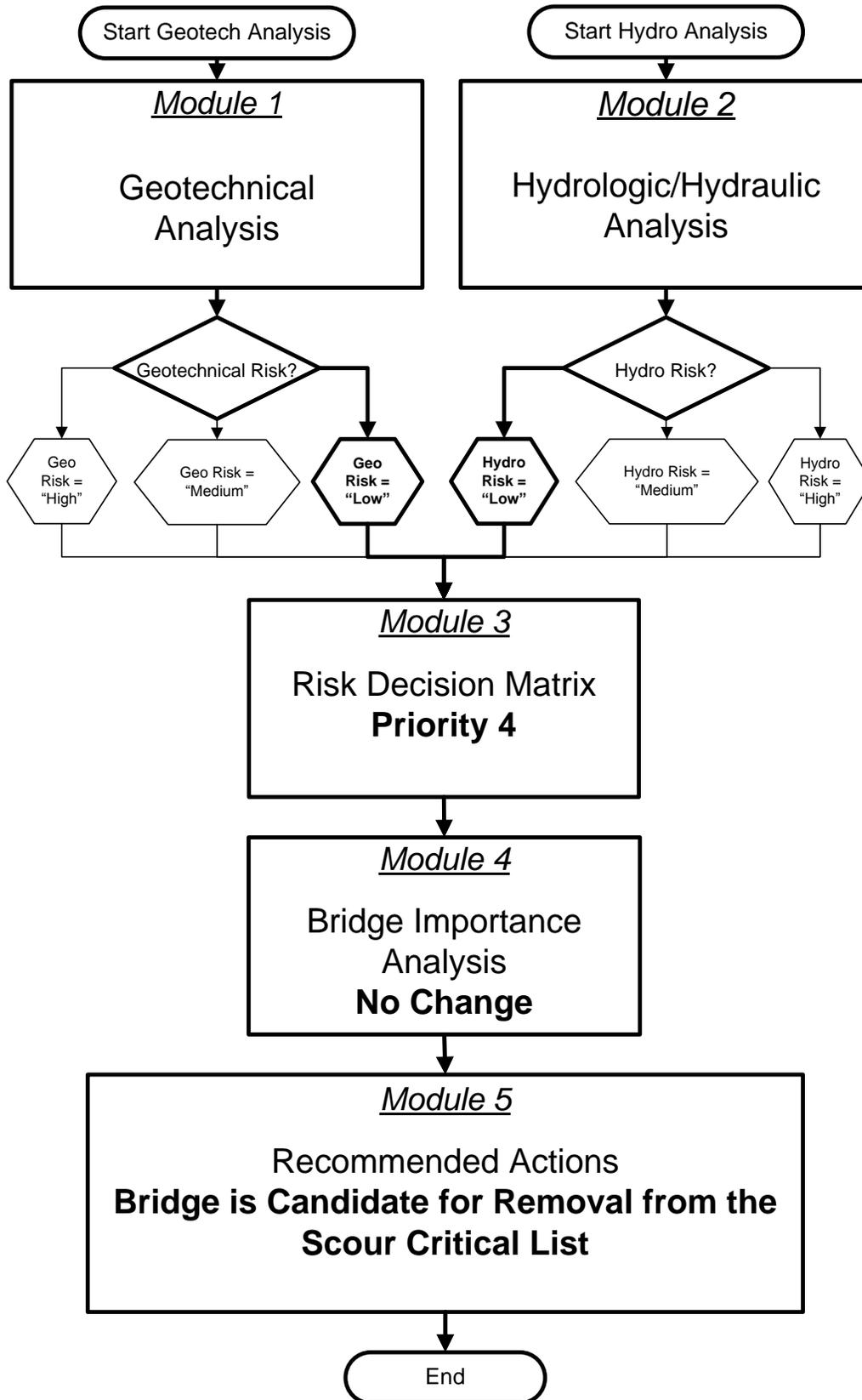
‡ Proportion from an off-stream analysis

		Geotechnical Risk		
		High	Medium	Low
Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk	High	● 1912158 Scour Priority 1	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3
	Medium	● 826150 ● 1304156 Scour Priority 2	● 0118153 Scour Priority 3	● 2108162 Scour Priority 4
	Low	Scour Priority 4	● 119151 Scour Priority 4	● 1402150 ● 1407153 ● 1605175 ● 1810155 ● 1912160 ● 1922150 ● 2111155

Figure 14. Risk Decision Matrix with Example Bridge Applications Plotted

# Example Problem 1: Bridge 211155

## OVERVIEW OF EXAMPLE PROBLEM 1



# Example Problem 1: Bridge 2111155

## MODULE 1 – GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS

**Start Geotech Analysis**  
NJ Route. 31 over Pequest River  
White Township, Warren County New Jersey  
(2111155)

### Step 1

#### Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study Results:

- Stage II:
  - Built in 1922, two span, total length 116 ft; reinforced concrete gravity vertical wall abutments. Reinforced concrete solid wall with square nose/tail pier with spread footings.
  - Bridge determined to be scour critical based on calculated scour depth according to HEC-18 formulations.
  - Field observations found no undermining of foundations nor exposure of footings.
  - Two bed samples recovered by hand auguring to depth of between two and three feet. Could not go deeper due to presence of solid rock (either large boulder or bedrock).  $D_{50}$  likely underestimated due to presence of large boulders and cobbles.
  - Grain analysis found a sand and gravel with cobbles layer above fine to coarse sand with some gravel, silt and clay.
- USGS Surficial Geology: Alluvium (Qal), artificial fill (af), moraine deposits (Qwm), and glacial lake deltaic deposits (Qwld); general texture: silt to gravel with cobbles and boulders.
- Rutgers Soil Survey: Recent alluvium (AR) and glacial terminal moraine (GMM-24ge); general texture: clay to sandy gravel with possible cobbles and boulders.
- USDA Web Soil Survey: Fredon-Halsey complex (FrdAb); general texture: silt loam to extremely gravelly loamy coarse sand.
- NJDOT GDMS Borings: General texture: silt and clay to sand with gravel, cobbles, and boulders.
- Conclusion: Consensus of bed texture is silty and clay to sand with gravel, cobbles, and boulders. No evidence of substantial field scour.

### Step 2

#### Field Scour Investigation Results:

- Stream Bed Classification and Field Description: G1 - Extremely Coarse Granular (highly erosion resistant); predominantly boulders and cobbles, some gravel to fines. Consistent upstream to downstream. Probing indicates that bed ranges from firm to hard.
- General Channel Observations: Channel profile is currently stable; banks are lined with natural cobbles, boulders, and vegetation and are stable; upstream banks are well wooded and debris-trapping potential is judged low due to high vertical clearance and low channel contraction; Upstream skew is low (<15 deg.)
- Scour Observations: One minor scour zone, measuring approx. 1 ft. in depth and 6 SF was noted at the downstream end of the center pier. The footing is not exposed and the area appears stable with some natural armoring present.
- Conclusions Related to Scour: Overall geotechnical risk is considered low. Streambed materials are highly erosion resistant and bed profile beneath and in immediate vicinity of bridge is stable. No maintenance and repair suggestions related to scour.

More Geotech Data Needed?

Yes

No

**Step 3 (Optional)**  
Detailed Geotechnical Investigation

Erosion Class?

R0, R1, G1

**Continue to Step 4**

# Example Problem 1: Bridge 2111155

## MODULE 1 – GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS (Continued)



### Step 4

**Analyze Scour Using Selected HEC-18 Relations:** (See Chapter 6.3 and Appendix 1)

Erosion class is G1. From hydrologic/hydraulic data, assume, water Elev. for 100 year storm is 381.70 ft.

**Pier Scour: HEC-18 Eq. 7.34:**

$D_{50} = 0.83$  ft;  $D_{84} = 1.3$  ft;  $\sigma = 1.57$ ;  $K_1 = 1.1$ ;  $K_2 = 1.33$ ;  $a = 7$  ft;  $y_1 = 5.4$  ft (381.70 ft – 376.30 ft);  
 $V_1 = 8.6$  fps;  $s_g = 2.65$ ;  $g = 32.2$  ft/s<sup>2</sup>

$$H = \text{Densimetric particle Froude Number} = \frac{V_1}{\sqrt{g(S_g - 1)D_{50}}}$$

$$y_s = \text{depth of scour} = y_x = 1.1K_1K_2a^{0.62}y_1^{0.38}\tanh(H^2 / (1.97\sigma^{1.5}))$$

$$H = \frac{V_1}{\sqrt{g(S_g - 1)D_{50}}} = \frac{8.6}{\sqrt{32.2(2.65 - 1) * 0.83}} = 1.295 \quad \tanh\left(\frac{H^2}{1.97\sigma^{1.5}}\right) = \tanh\left(\frac{1.295^2}{1.97 * 1.57^{1.5}}\right) = 0.4076$$

$$y_x = 1.1K_1K_2a^{0.62}y_1^{0.38}\tanh\left(\frac{H^2}{1.97\sigma^{1.5}}\right) = 1.1 * 1.1 * 1.33 * 7^{0.62} * 5.4^{0.38} * 0.4076 = 4.16 \text{ ft}$$

**Contraction Scour: HEC-18 Equations. 6.1 and 6.4**

$$V_c = K_u y^{1/6} D_{50}^{1/3} \quad K_u = 11.17 \text{ (English); Assume } y = y_1$$

$$V_c = (11.17)(5.4)^{1/6}(0.83)^{1/3} = 13.9 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$$

Compare  $V_c$  with  $V_1$ ,  $13.9 > 8.6$ , use clear water.

$$y_2 = \left(\frac{K_u Q^2}{D_m^3 W^2}\right)^{3/7} \quad K_u = 0.0077 \text{ (English); } W = 58.0 \text{ ft (At the Bottom)}$$

$$D_m = 1.25 * D_{50} = (1.25)(0.83) = 1.038 \text{ ft}$$

$$Q = 2630 \frac{\text{ft}^3}{\text{sec}}$$

$$y_2 = \left(\frac{(0.0077)(2630)^2}{(1.038)^{2/3}(58.0)^2}\right)^{3/7} = 3.22$$

$$y_s = y_2 - y_0 = 3.22 - 5.4 = -2.18 \text{ ft} \quad \text{Negative Value, So No Contraction Scour}$$

So, Total Pier Scour = 4.16 ft

Lowest existing bed elevation near pier is 376.3 ft.; Bottom of footing elevation is 369.1 ft;

Therefore, 376.3 – 4.16 = 372.14 ft

**372.14 ft > 369.1 ft OK, sufficient cover for scour resistance.**

**Abutment Scour: HEC 18 Eq. 8.6 (NCHRP 24-20, clear water):**

$$y_s = y_{\max} - y_0 \quad y_{\max} = \alpha_B y_c \quad y_c = \left(\frac{q_{2f}}{K_u D_{50}^{1/3}}\right)^{6/7}$$

Flow,  $Q = 2630$  ft<sup>3</sup>/sec;  $K_u = 11.17$  (English); Width at constriction = 68.1 ft; Width at Bridge = 58.0 ft.

$$q_{2f} = \frac{Q}{w} = \frac{2630}{58.0} = 45.3 \frac{\text{cfs}}{\text{ft}} \quad (\text{unit discharge at bridge opening}) \quad q_f = \frac{Q}{w} = \frac{2630}{68.1} = 38.6 \frac{\text{cfs}}{\text{ft}} \quad (\text{unit discharge upstream})$$

$$\text{Contraction ratio} = \frac{q_{2f}}{q_f} = \frac{45.3}{38.6} = 1.17 \quad \text{From Fig. 8.12, HEC-18: } \alpha_B = 2.6$$

$$y_c = \left(\frac{q_{2f}}{K_u D_{50}^{1/3}}\right)^{6/7} = \left(\frac{45.3}{11.17 * 0.83^{1/3}}\right)^{6/7} = 3.37 \text{ ft} \quad y_{\max} = \alpha_B y_c = (2.60)(3.37) = 8.93 \text{ ft}$$

Left Abutment: Lowest existing bed elevation near abutment is 377.8 ft.

Bottom of footing elevation is 369.1 ft Water depth: 381.70-377.80 = 3.9 ft

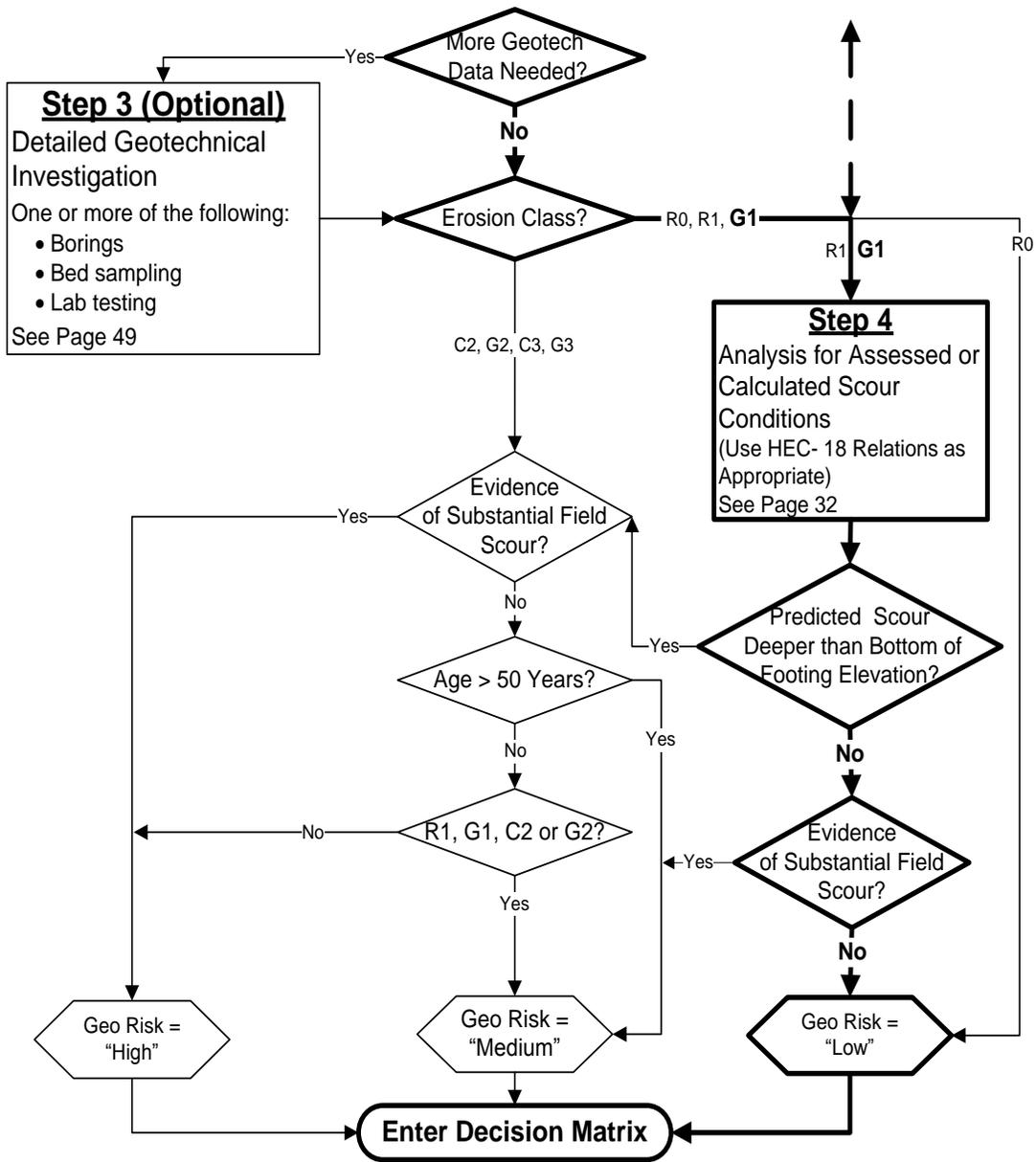
$$y_s = y_{\max} - y_0 = 8.75 - 3.9 = 4.85 \text{ ft} \quad \mathbf{377.8 \text{ ft} - 4.85 \text{ ft} = 372.95 \text{ ft} > 369.1 \text{ ft}}$$

**OK, sufficient cover for scour resistance.** Right abutment not in main channel, say OK.



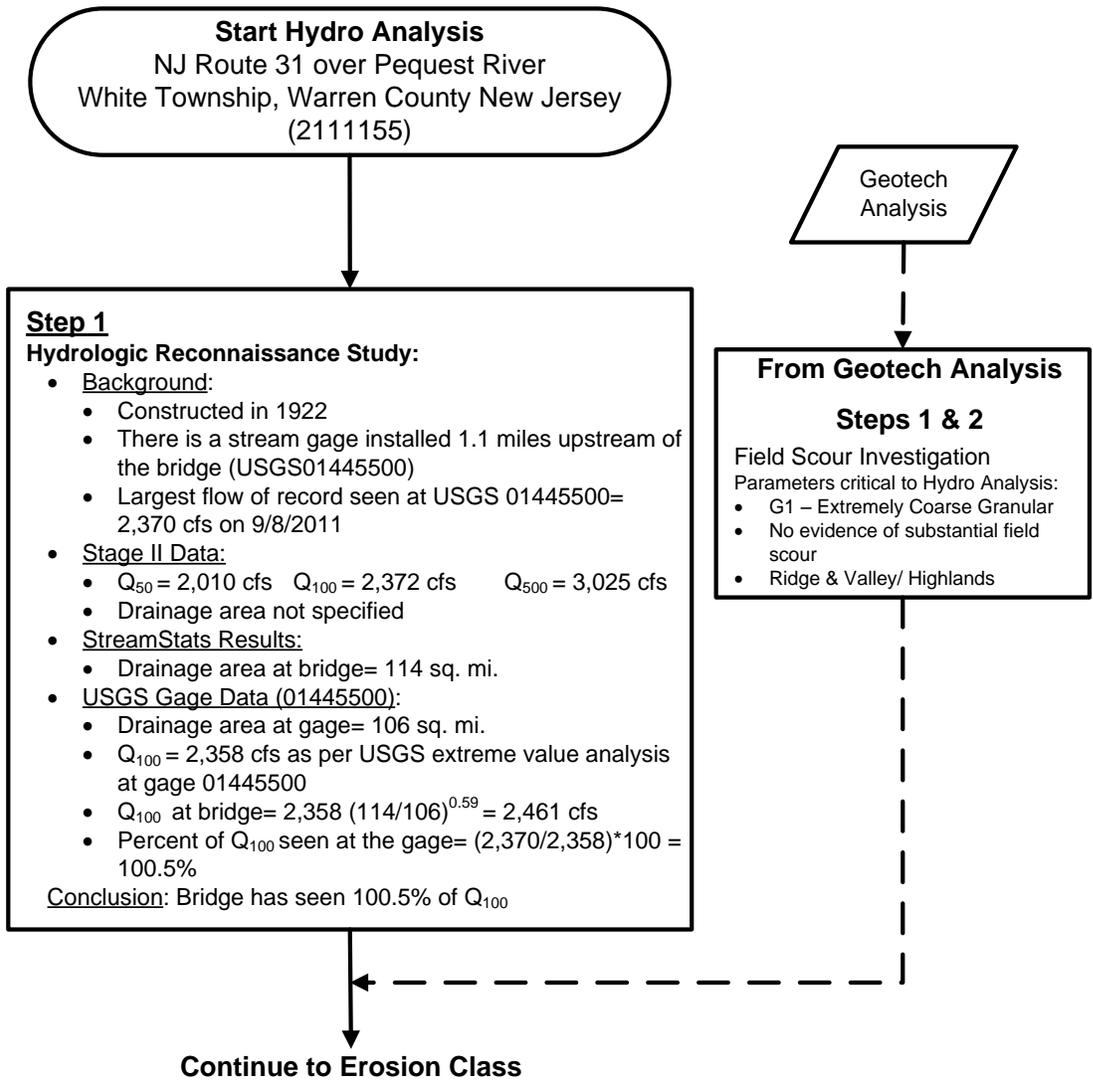
# Example Problem 1: Bridge 211155

## MODULE 1 – GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS (*Continued*)



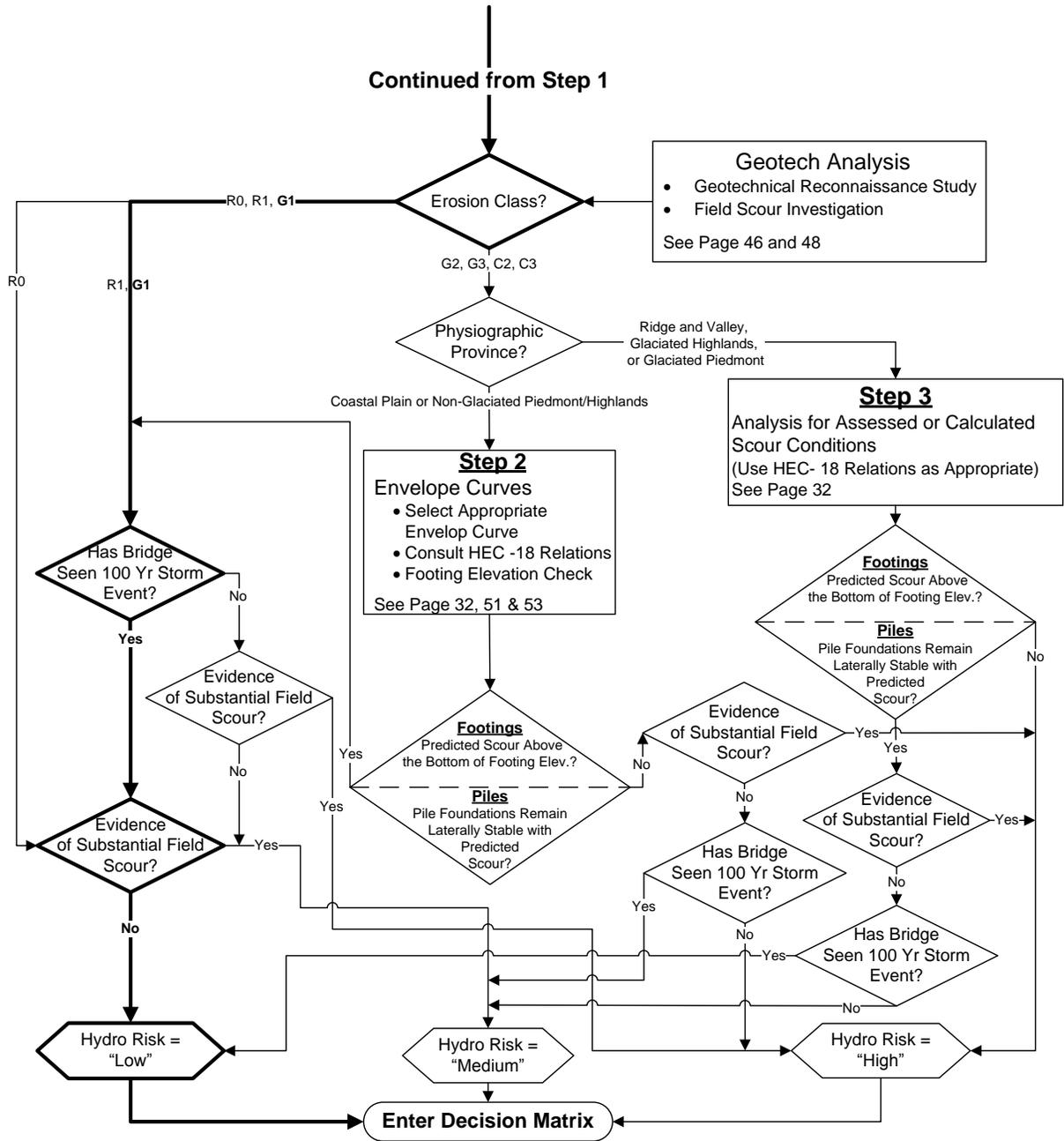
# Example Problem 1: Bridge 2111155

## MODULE 2 – HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS



# Example Problem 1: Bridge 211155

## MODULE 2 – HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS (Continued)



# Example Problem 1: Bridge 211155

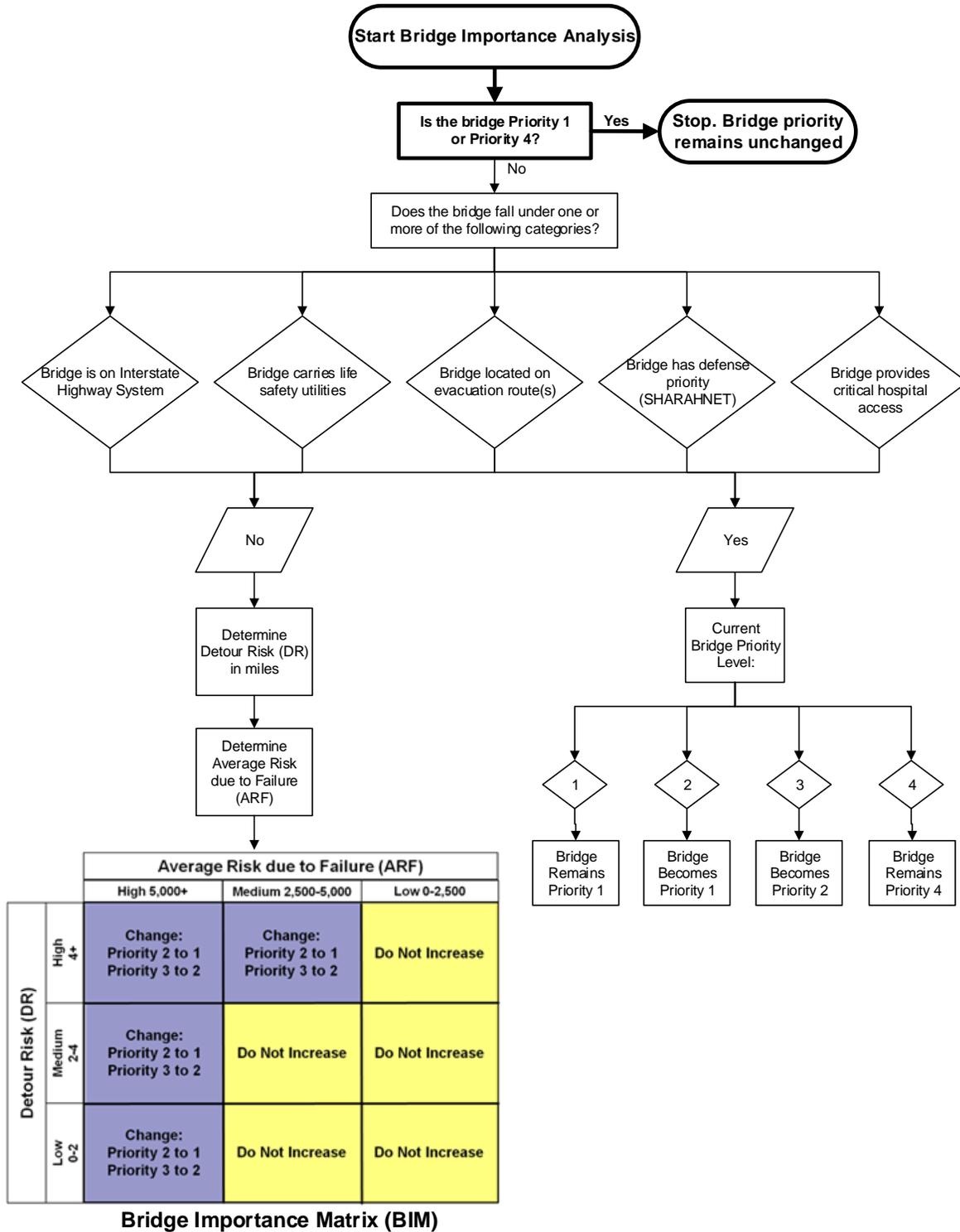
## MODULE 3 – RISK DECISION MATRIX

		Geotechnical Risk		
		High	Medium	Low
Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk	High	Scour Priority 1	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3
	Medium	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3	Scour Priority 4
	Low	Scour Priority 4	Scour Priority 4	● Bridge 211155 Scour Priority 4

# Example Problem 1: Bridge 211155

## MODULE 4 – BRIDGE IMPORTANCE ANALYSIS

Enter the Bridge Importance Flow Chart shown below. Since bridge 211155 is already a Scour Priority 4, it remains unchanged. Priority 4 bridges are already candidates for removal from the Scour Critical List.



# Example Problem 1: Bridge 2111155

## MODULE 5 – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

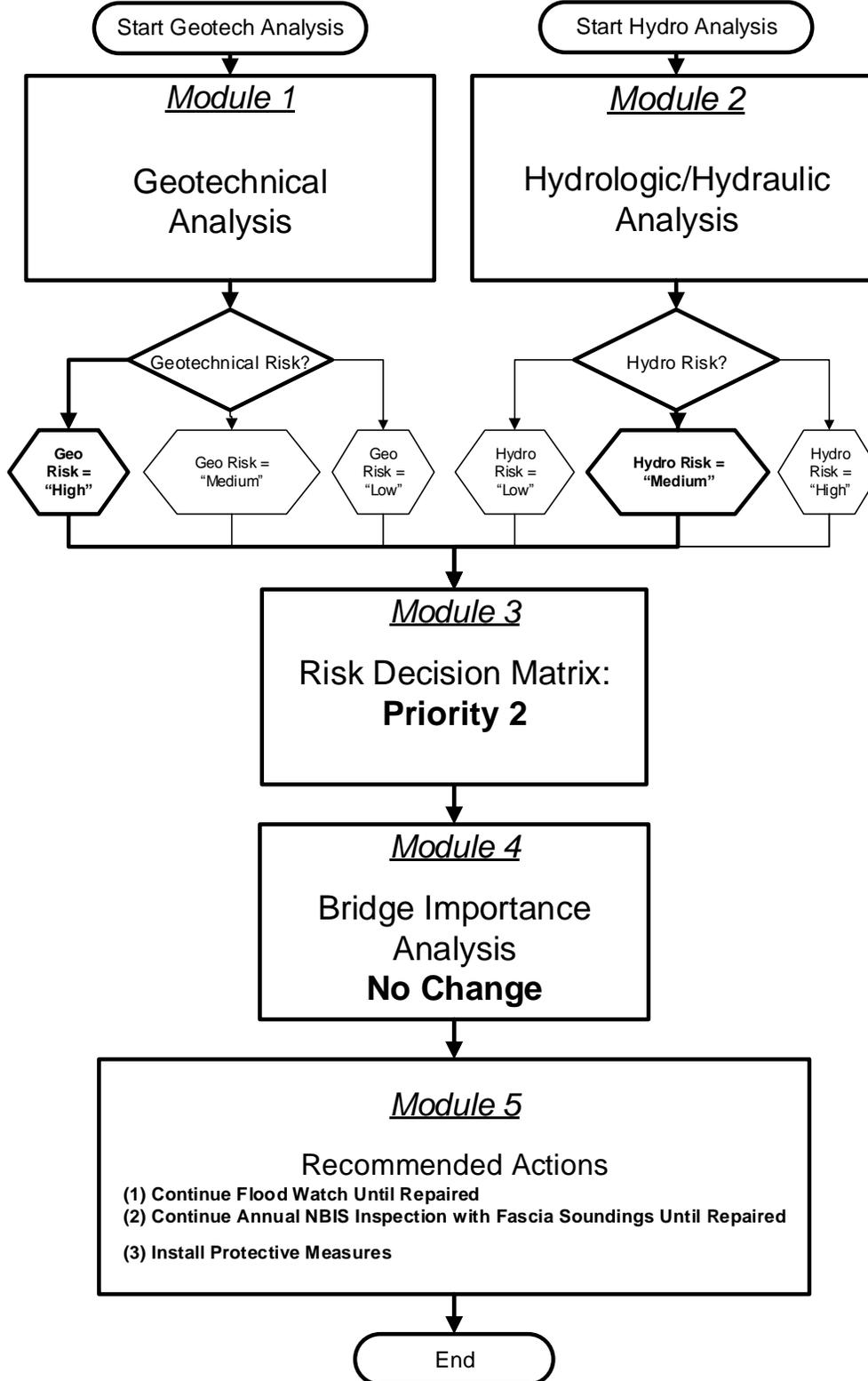
Priority Level	Matrix Risk Combinations (Geo-Hydro)	Recommended Actions (All listed actions for a given priority level must be performed)
Priority 1	High-High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue flood watch or Install Real-time Monitoring System until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures as soon as possible (see Table 8).</li> </ol>
Priority 2	High-Med Med-High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue Flood Watch until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures (see Table 8).</li> </ol>
Priority 3	Med-Med Low-High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until resolved.</li> <li>(2) Consider use of engineering judgment to designate the bridge as either Priority 2 or 4.</li> <li>(3) Alternatively, consider monitoring for an intermediate period (3± years), then revisit SEM Risk Analysis (See Table 8).</li> </ol>
Priority 4	All Others	Bridge is recommended for removal from the Scour Critical List. Return to biannual NBIS inspection schedule. Continue M&R to control minor erosion zones and debris.

\* Note: Long term monitoring is an acceptable countermeasure for bridges determined to have the lowest consequence of failure (COF) and/or low average daily traffic (ADT). However, a bridge with a monitoring countermeasure shall retain its scour critical code.

**Note that these example results are provided for illustration purposes only. All data and risk ratings must be re-verified before undertaking any recommended actions for this bridge.**

## Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

### OVERVIEW OF EXAMPLE PROBLEM 2



# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

## MODULE 1 – GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS

**Start Geotech Analysis**  
NJ Route 322 over Scotland Run  
Monroe Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey  
(826150)

### Step 1

#### Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study Results:

- **Stage II:**
  - Built 1970, one span, total length 27.7 ft; plain concrete vertical gravity type abutments with spread footings;
  - Bridge determined to be scour critical based on calculated scour depth according to HEC-18 formulations.
  - Channel appears laterally stable as evidenced by the channel's highly vegetated banks, the lack of steeply cut banks and unvegetated bars, and a comparison of the plan form of the channel from the original bridge drawings to the existing plan form of the channel. Long term scour is estimated at 0.48 in./yr. Field observation indicated no scour holes or significant channel degradation.
  - Two grab samples recovered from bed and grain size analyses performed.
  - Bed description: Sand with silt and clay
- **USGS Surficial Geology:** Swamp deposits (Qs) adjacent to Cohansey formation (Tch) with Bridgeton formation (Tbr) nearby; general texture: sand and silt with peat, muck, gravel, and clay.
- **Rutgers Soil Survey:** Recent alluvium and swamp (AR/Z) adjacent to alluvial material over marine deposits (AM-12/M-23); general texture: silty, clayey sand and gravel with organic material.
- **USDA Web Soil Survey:** Manahawkin muck (MakAt); general texture: muck with sand
- **NJDOT GDMS Borings:** General texture; sand with gravel.
- **Conclusion:** Consensus of bed texture is sand with gravel, silt, and clay; shallow organics. No evidence of substantial field scour.

### Step 2

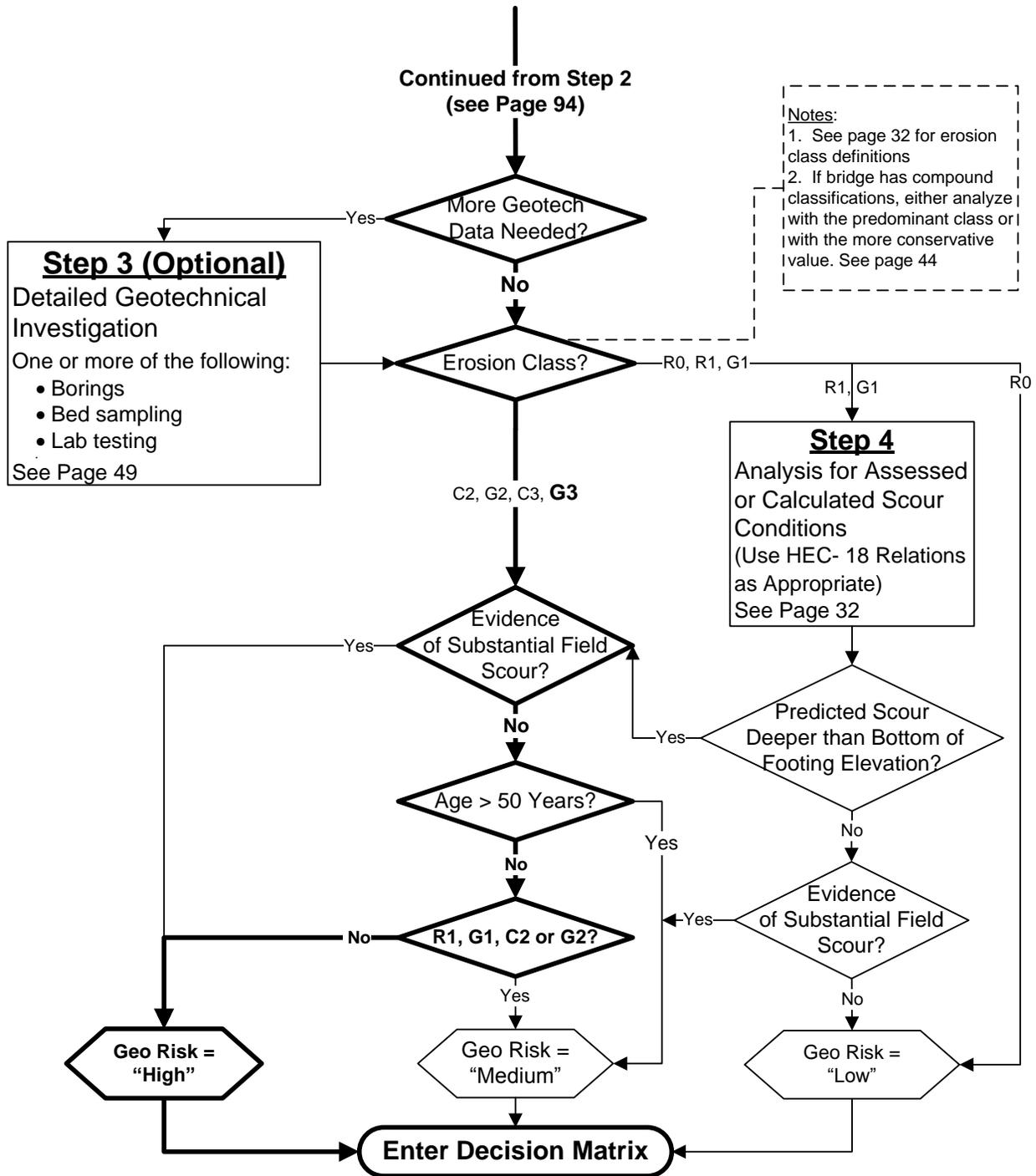
#### Field Scour Investigation Results:

- **Stream Bed Classification and Field Description:** G3 – Fine to Medium Granular Soil (based on Geotechnical Reconnaissance Study results; bridge was not field inspected for this research study).
- **General Channel Observations:** Channel appears laterally stable as evidenced by the channel's highly vegetated banks, the lack of steeply cut banks and unvegetated bars, and a comparison of the plan form of the channel from the original bridge drawings to the existing plan form of the channel (based on Stage II field observations; bridge was not field inspected for this research study).
- **Scour Observations:** No evidence of substantial field scour (based on Stage II field observations; bridge was not field inspected for this research study).
- **Conclusions Related to Scour:** Streambed materials exhibit low erosion resistance. Bed profile beneath and in immediate vicinity of bridge is generally stable. Recommend continued maintenance and repair to control debris and minor erosion zones.

**Continue to More Geotech Data Needed?**

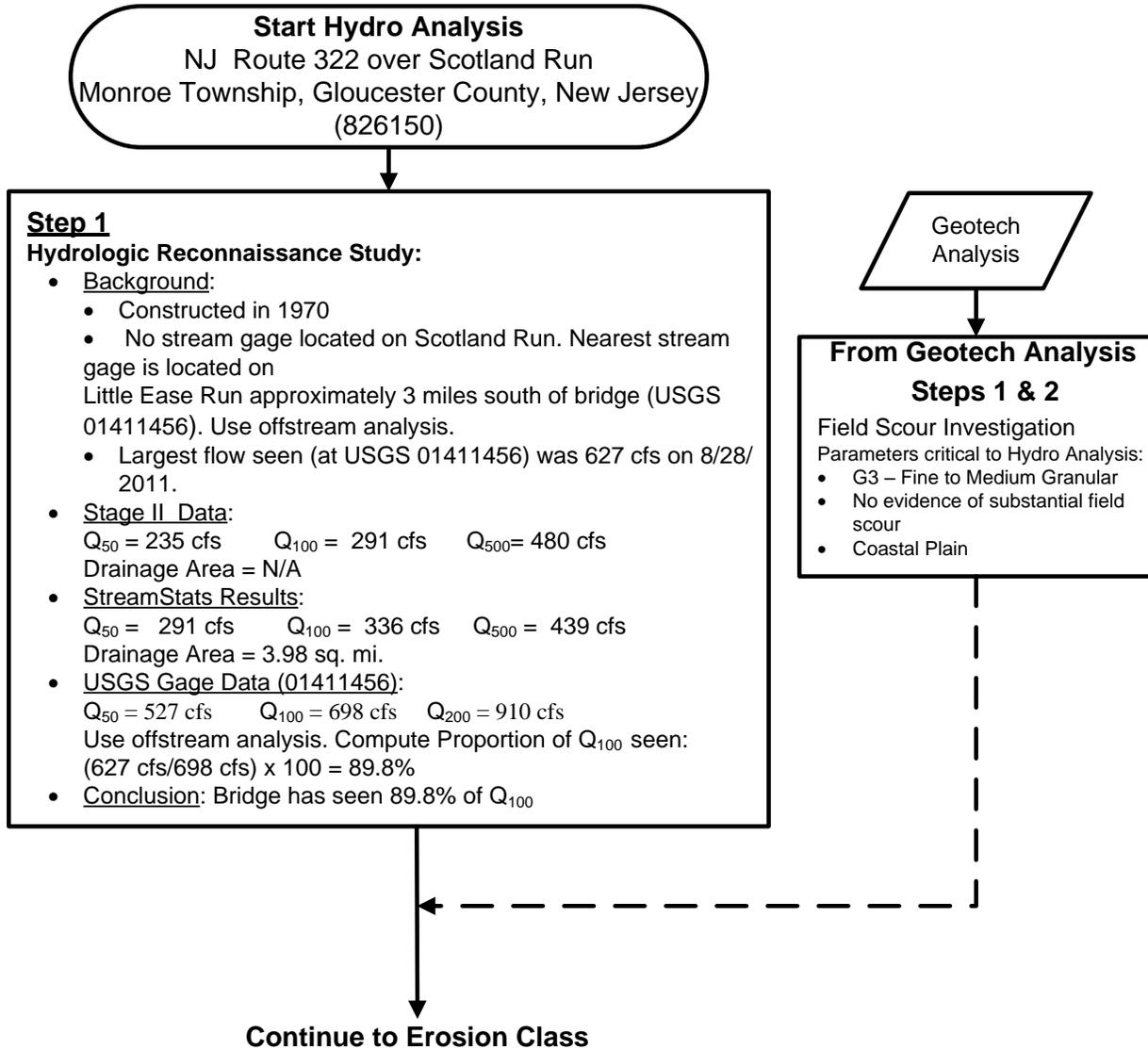
# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

## MODULE 1 – GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS (*Continued*)



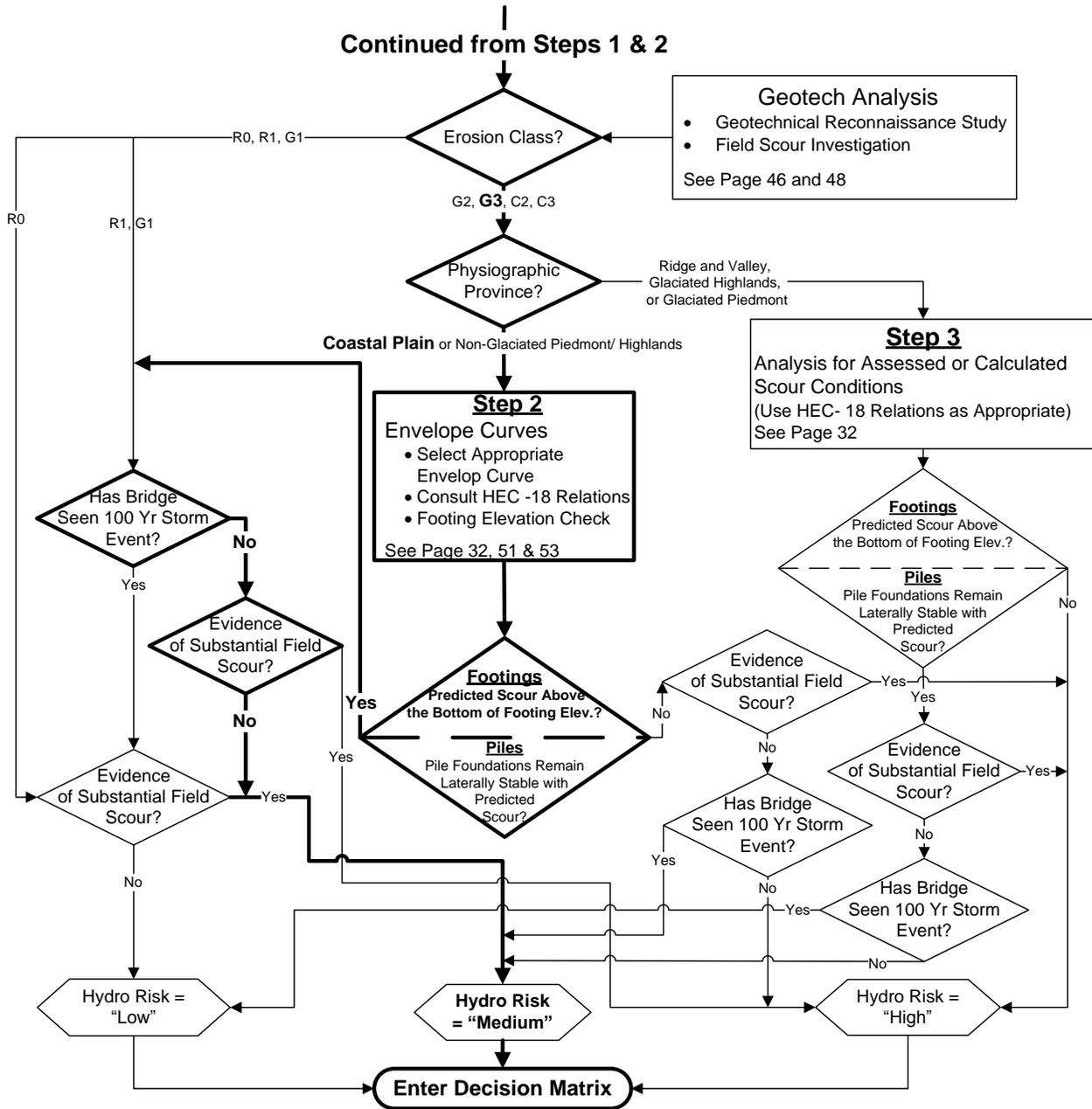
# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

## MODULE 2 – HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS



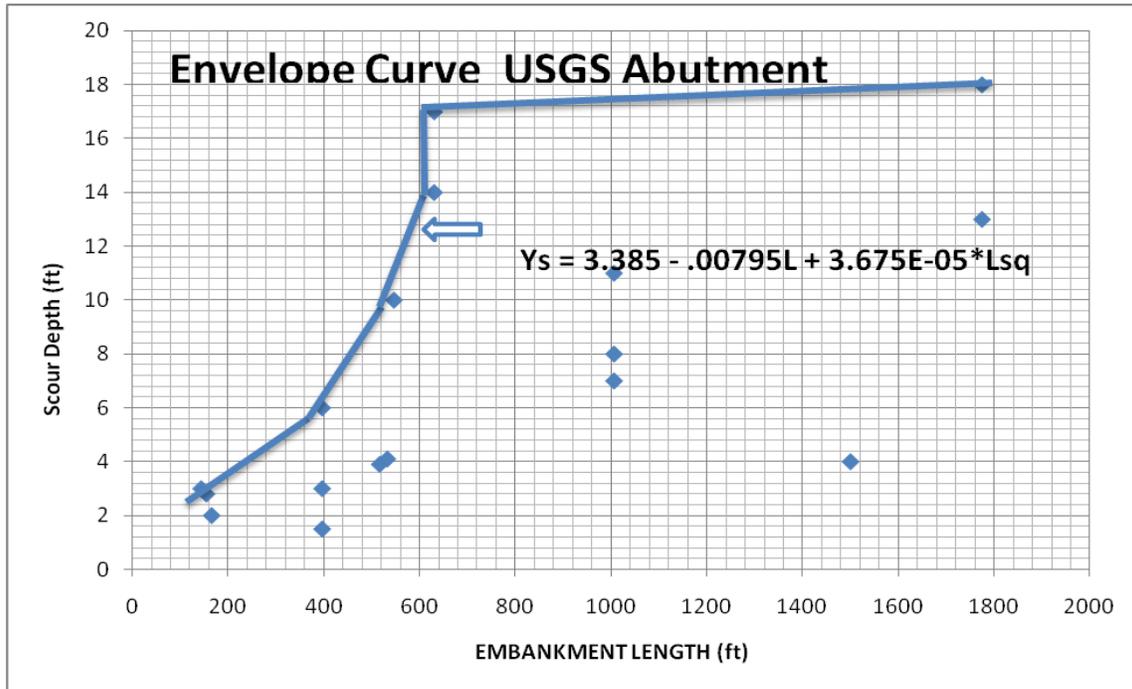
# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

## MODULE 2 – HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS (Continued)

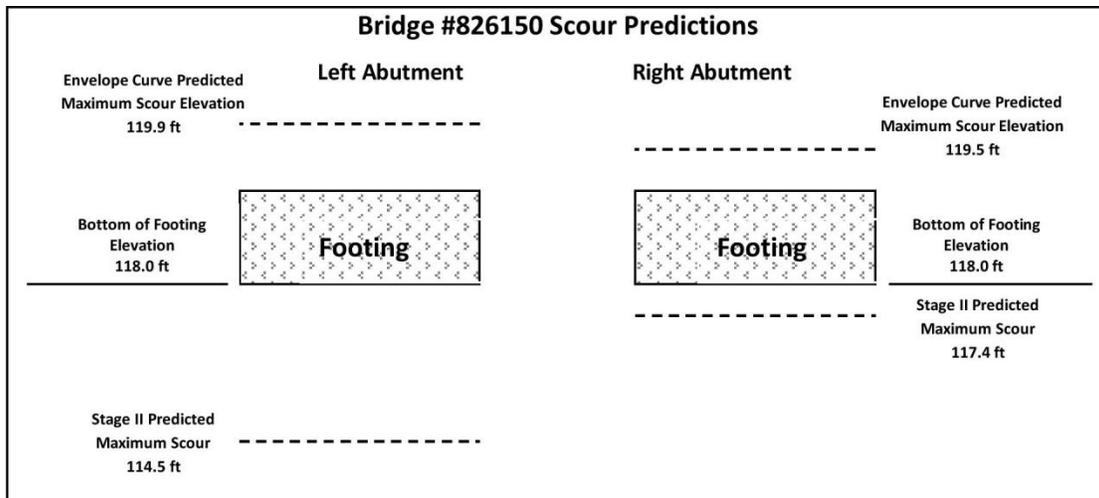


# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

## ANALYSIS OF ENVELOPE CURVES



Bridge # 826150	Left Abutment	Right Abutment
Depth of Scour from Stage II Reports	8.4	5.2
Elevation of Scour Predicted from Stage II Reports	114.5	117.4
Elevation of Bottom of Footing from Stage II Reports	118.0	118.0
Depth of Scour Predicted from Envelope Curve for Embankment Length of 81 ft.	3.0	3.1
Change in Scour Depth Predicted from Envelope Curve versus Stage II Reports	5.4	2.1
Predicted Elevation of Scour from Envelope Curve	119.9	119.5
Conclusion: 119.9 > 118.0 & 119.5 > 118.0 therefore, Maximum Scour is above left and right abutment bottom footing elevation.		



## Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

### MODULE 3 – RISK DECISION MATRIX

		Geotechnical Risk		
		High	Medium	Low
Hydrologic/Hydraulic Risk	High	Scour Priority 1	Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3
	Medium	● Bridge 826150 Scour Priority 2	Scour Priority 3	Scour Priority 4
	Low	Scour Priority 4	Scour Priority 4	Scour Priority 4

### MODULE 4 – BRIDGE IMPORTANCE MATRIX

Bridge 826150 requires analysis using the Bridge Importance Matrix as shown on the next page.

The detour length for this bridge is 5 miles. Therefore, the Detour Risk, DR, is in the “High 4+” range.

The ARF for this bridge is calculated as:

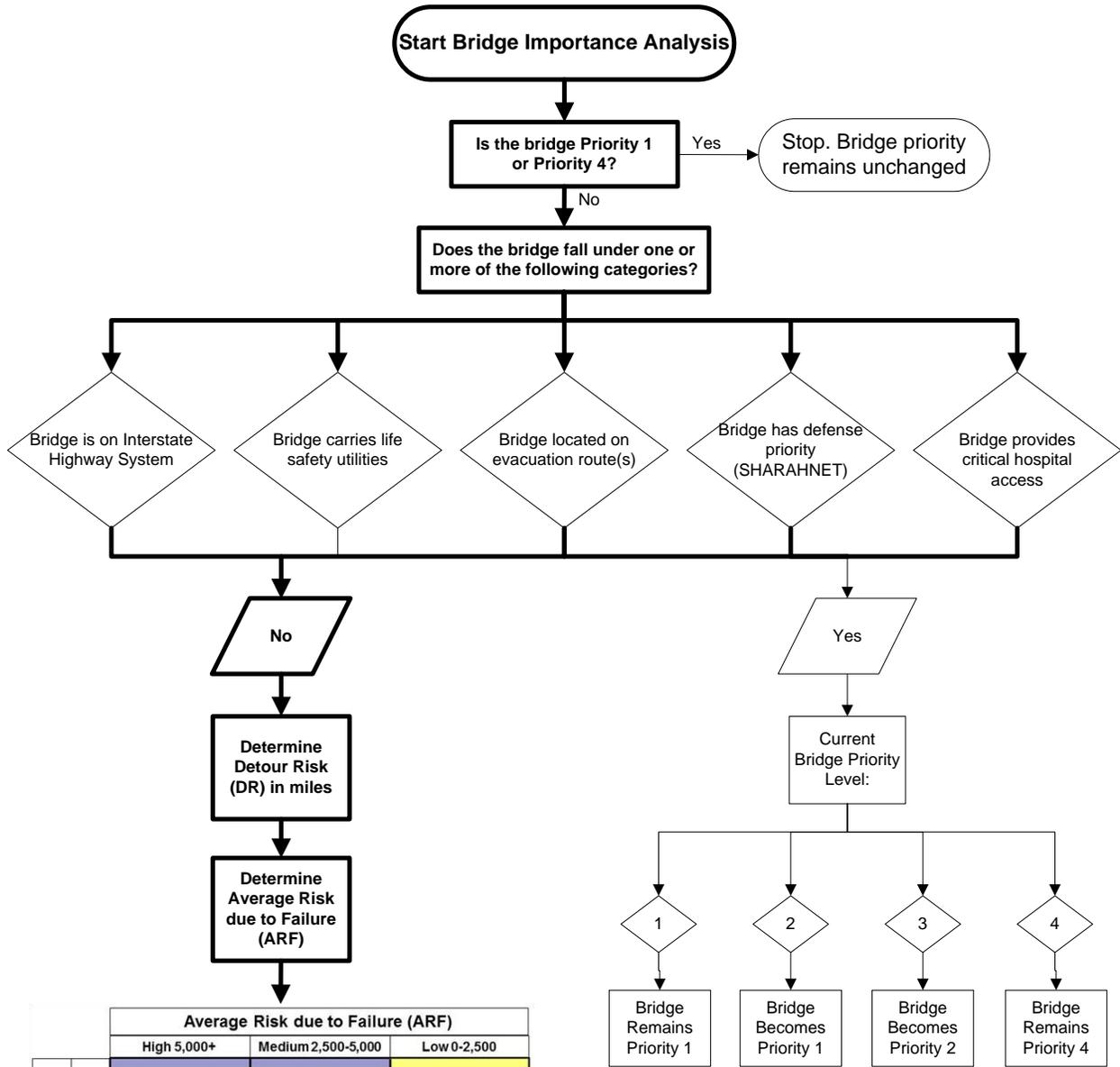
$$\text{Average Risk due to Failure (ARF)} = \frac{\text{ADT} \left( \frac{\text{veh}}{\text{day}} \right) * \text{Bridge Length (ft)}}{1000}$$

Where, ADT = 7670 veh/ day; Bridge Length = 28 ft.

ARF = 7670\*28/1000 = 215. So, ARF is in the “Low 0- 2,500” range.

**Plotting the results on the Bridge Importance Matrix, no increase in priority is required. The bridge remains as Priority 2 (see next page).**

# Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150



		Average Risk due to Failure (ARF)		
		High 5,000+	Medium 2,500-5,000	Low 0-2,500
Detour Risk (DR)	High 4+	Change: Priority 2 to 1 Priority 3 to 2	Change: Priority 2 to 1 Priority 3 to 2	● Bridge 826150 Do Not Increase
	Medium 2-4	Change: Priority 2 to 1 Priority 3 to 2	Do Not Increase	Do Not Increase
	Low 0-2	Change: Priority 2 to 1 Priority 3 to 2	Do Not Increase	Do Not Increase

**Bridge Importance Matrix (BIM)**

## Example Problem 2: Bridge 826150

### MODULE 5 – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Priority Level	Matrix Risk Combinations (Geo-Hydro)	Recommended Actions (All listed actions for a given priority level must be performed)
<b>Priority 1</b>	High-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue flood watch or Install Real-time Monitoring System until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures as soon as possible (see Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>High-Med Med-High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue Flood Watch until repaired.</li> <li>(2) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until repaired.</li> <li>(3) Install Protective Measures (see Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 3</b>	Med-Med Low-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Continue annual NBIS inspection with fascia soundings until resolved.</li> <li>(2) Consider use of engineering judgment to designate the bridge as either Priority 2 or 4.</li> <li>(3) Alternatively, consider monitoring for an intermediate period (3± years), then revisit SEM Risk Analysis (See Table 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 4</b>	All Others	Bridge is recommended for removal from the Scour Critical List. Return to biannual NBIS inspection schedule. Continue M&R to control minor erosion zones and debris.

\* Note: Long term monitoring is an acceptable countermeasure for bridges determined to have the lowest consequence of failure (COF) and/or low average daily traffic (ADT). However, a bridge with a monitoring countermeasure shall retain its scour critical code.

**Note that these example results are provided for illustration purposes only. All data and risk ratings must be re-verified before undertaking any recommended actions for this bridge.**

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## **Stage II Reports**

During the this research study, the Stage II In-Depth Scour Evaluation Reports for 165 of the State's scour critical bridges were reviewed and analyzed. These are currently available at the offices of AECOM in Piscataway, NJ.

### **Listing of Stage II In-Depth Scour Evaluation Bridge Scour Evaluation Reports:**

| Bridge Number |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 118150        | 317152        | 606150        | 826150        | 1222150       | 1407153       | 1601157       | 1807155       | 1911159       | 2106164       |
| 118152        | 319152        | 609151        | 1005153       | 1227159       | 1407156       | 1601160       | 1809150       | 1912158       | 2107154       |
| 118153        | 324152        | 609152        | 1005162       | 1303155       | 1409154       | 1604150       | 1809153       | 1912160       | 2107155       |
| 119151        | 324153        | 709150        | 1005163       | 1304151       | 1410159       | 1605153       | 1809158       | 1922150       | 2107156       |
| 119156        | 324155        | 711150        | 1006151       | 1304156       | 1411152       | 1605156       | 1810153       | 1922151       | 2108162       |
| 201151        | 324156        | 716156        | 1009150       | 1308154       | 1413155       | 1605158       | 1810155       | 1923150       | 2111151       |
| 206166        | 324160        | 719151        | 1013152       | 1315157       | 1416152       | 1605162       | 1810158       | 2003157       | 2111155       |
| 206181        | 324162        | 722157        | 1015157       | 1320152       | 1417156       | 1605167       | 1810164       | 2003161       | 2113160       |

206189	326152	722158	1016156	1321150	1417157	1605175	1810165	2003162	2117157
216150	326153	807152	1016157	1401156	1417159	1612154	1903152	2004151	2117159
216157	405153	808151	1102150	1402150	1418154	1619151	1903153	2006151	2117160
218161	408160	810150	1105152	1403150	1424150	1703152	1904152	2006152	2117160
218162	424151	815152	1110158	1404155	1502153	1705150	1904153	2012150	
220157	509150	817150	1122150	1404158	1502154	1716151	1905151	2102154	
225166	510152	817151	1123152	1404159	1502157	1801153	1907152	2103152	
316150	601150	818151	1123153	1405156	1516151	1801154	1907157	2103153	
317150	601151	825150	1218158	1407152	1516152	1803156	1911151	2105164	