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January 8, 2024  
Project#01349-0001

Bowie Resources, LLC  
43659 Bowie Road  
Paonia, Colorado 81428

Attention: Mr. Basil Bear

Subject: Summary of Instrumentation Monitoring  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023  
Bowie Coal Waste Disposal Area No. 2  
Paonia, Colorado

Reference: *Summary of Instrumentation Monitoring, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023, Bowie Coal Waste Disposal Area No. 2, Paonia, Colorado* by Huddleston-Berry Engineering & Testing, LLC for Bowie Resources, LLC, October 31, 2023.

*Stability Evaluation, Technical Revision #85, Gob Pile #2 Drying Area, Bowie No. 2 Mine* by Huddleston-Berry Engineering & Testing, LLC for Bowie Resources, LLC, June 3, 2014.

Dear Mr. Bear,

At the request of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS), Huddleston-Berry Engineering & Testing, LLC (HBET) prepared this letter regarding quarterly monitoring of vibrating wire piezometers and inclinometers at Coal Waste Disposal Area No. 2 (CWDA No. 2) at the Bowie mine near Paonia, Colorado. The intent of the monitoring was to detect significant changes in the pore water pressures or significant displacements within the coal waste which may impact the stability of the waste pile.

### **Inclinometers**

In 2005, three inclinometers, designated BG05-04, BG05-05, and BG05-07, were installed at CWDA No. 2 through the coal refuse and into the native foundation soils. The inclinometers have been monitored quarterly since August 2005. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 monitoring was completed by Buckhorn Engineering (Buckhorn) on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The monitoring report prepared by Buckhorn includes a site plan showing the locations of the inclinometers and cumulative displacement curves relative to the baseline readings in 2005. Axis "A" reflects deformation with depth in the direction of anticipated movement perpendicular to the face of the gob. Axis "B" reflects deformation with depth parallel to the face of the gob.

### **Discussion of Inclinometer Monitoring**

The latest inclinometer readings indicate no major movements since the last quarterly reading. In general, the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 monitoring data does not provide any indication of instability in CWDA No. 2.

### **Vibrating Wire Piezometers**

Between 2005 and 2012, a total of ten vibrating wire piezometers were installed in CWDA No. 2. However, several of the piezometers have been damaged or have otherwise ceased to function. Currently, five of the piezometers are functional.

Monitoring of the functioning piezometers was completed by Buckhorn on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The attached monitoring report prepared by Buckhorn includes the piezometer monitoring data and the data is summarized in the following table.

VWP ID	Initial Pore Pressure (psi)	09/26/23 Pore Pressure (psi)	12/21/23 Pore Pressure (psi)	Difference Since Installation (psi)	Difference Since Last Reading (psi)
VWP-05	6.8	1.2	1.6	-5.2	+0.4
VWP-06	11.3	10.6	10.5	-0.8	-0.1
VWP-08	8.2	8.6	8.5	+0.3	-0.1
VWP-09	2.8	3.0	3.1	+0.3	+0.1
VWP-10	-1.9	-1.6	-1.6	+0.3	0.0

### **Discussion of Vibrating Wire Piezometers**

#### **VWP-05**

VWP-05 was installed on August 3, 2005 near the toe of CWDA No. 2 adjacent to the access road/bench. The pore pressures recorded at VWP-05 have shown some seasonal fluctuations; however, the range of pore pressure changes is fairly small. Most of the data in the last several years had shown a general downward trend in the pore pressures. The last two quarters have shown increases in the pore pressures and it is unclear why. At the current time, HBET does not believe that the increases in the pore pressures in VWP-05 are cause for concern regarding stability of the gob pile; however, these will be further evaluated next quarter.

#### **VWP-06**

VWP-06 was installed on June 5, 2009 near the existing top of CWDA No. 2. The pore pressures recorded at VWP-06 have fluctuated since installation. However, the pore pressures have been generally decreasing over the last few years. In general, HBET does not believe that the measured pore pressures are an indication of any instability in CWDA No. 2.

#### **VWP-08**

VWP-08 was installed on June 5, 2009 at a slightly lower elevation than VWP-06. The pore pressures recorded at VWP-08 have fluctuated since installation. However, the measured values have stabilized over the past year. This is consistent with limited activity at CWDA No. 2, and the pore pressures are anticipated to remain steady or drop over time.

As indicated in the referenced *Stability Evaluation* report, the stability of CWDA No. 2 is sensitive to increases in pore pressures in VWP-08. An increase in the pore pressure of 7 psi in VWP-08 would result in a reduction of the Factor of Safety to below 1.5.

The current pore pressure reflects a piezometric surface elevation of approximately 6095 feet which is much less than the critical elevation of 6113 feet. As a result, HBET does not believe that the measured pore pressures in VWP-08 are any indication of instability in CWDA No. 2.

#### VWP-09

VWP-09 was installed on May 18, 2012 near the toe of CWDA No. 2. The pore pressures recorded at VWP-09 have been fairly steady since installation. This suggests that dewatering of the gob in this area is likely nearly complete. It is anticipated that the pore pressures at VWP-09 will remain fairly steady over time.

#### VWP-10

VWP-10 was installed on May 18, 2014 near the toe of CWDA No. 2. The pore pressures recorded at VWP-10 have been fairly steady since installation. This suggests that dewatering of the gob in this area is likely nearly complete. It is anticipated that the pore pressures at VWP-10 will remain fairly steady over time.

#### General

In general, based upon the results of the recent VWP and inclinometer monitoring data, HBET does not believe that there is any reduction in the stability of CWDA No. 2. Due to the limited activity at the mine, HBET recommends that the monitoring frequency be reduced to semi-annually.

We are pleased to be of service to your project. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Huddlestone-Berry Engineering and Testing, LLC**



Michael A. Berry, P.E.  
Vice President of Engineering

**ATTACHMENTS**



December 28, 2023

Mr. Mike Berry, PE  
Huddleston-Berry Engineering and Testing, LLC  
2789 Riverside Parkway  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**SUBJECT: Summary Report, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023, Inclinator and Active Vibrating Wire Piezometer Data October – December 2023, Bowie Mine #2 Coal Waste Disposal Area (CWDA) #2**

Greetings Mr. Berry:

Buckhorn Engineering, Inc. (BEI) conducted quarterly monitoring of inclinometers and vibrating wire piezometers (VWP) at Coal Waste Disposal Area #2 (CWDA #2), Bowie Resources, LLC Bowie Mine #2. This report covers the period from October through December 2023. Field VWP data and inclinometer data were recorded on December 21, 2023. Per Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety (CDRMS) and your directions, vibrating wire piezometer and inclinometer readings for all active instruments are currently recorded and reported quarterly.

**Vibrating Wire Piezometers**

The physical locations of the piezometers are shown on the attached Instrumentation Site Plan (Map 1). As seen on this map, five of the original piezometers were damaged, and some were replaced. Currently, there are five active VWP's, and three of them are adjacent to inclinometers. The graph of historical VWP data from May 16, 2005 through May 21, 2014 is presented in Figure 1. A graph of measured pore pressures of active piezometers is shown on the attached Figure 2 and is presented numerically in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Summary of VWP Pore Pressure Readings**

VWP ID #	Measured Pore Pressures (psi)				Pore Pressure Difference (psi)		
	Installation	Last Year (Qtr 4) 12/23/2022	Last Quarter (Qtr 3) 9/26/2023	Current (Qtr 4) 12/21/2023	Since Installation	Since Last Year (Qtr 4)	Since Last Quarter (Qtr 3)
VWP-05	6.8	1.0	1.2	1.6	-5.2	0.6	0.4
VWP-06	11.3	10.8	10.6	10.5	-0.8	-0.3	-0.1
VWP-08	8.2	8.1	8.6	8.5	0.3	0.4	-0.1
VWP-09	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
VWP-10	-1.9	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	0.3	0.0	0.0

As seen on Table 1 and Figure 2, the VWP readings and trends are consistent with recent and historic readings. When compared to a year ago (Q4 2022), pore pressure readings in all the VWP's changed by small amounts (-0.3 to 0.6 psi). When compared with last quarter (Q3 2023), pore pressures also changed by relatively small amounts (-0.1 to 0.4 psi) for all five VWP's. Although four of the five VWP's remain steady or have general declining trends in pore pressure over the life of the VWP's, one of the piezometers (VWP-05) has exhibited pronounced seasonal cyclical behavior for its lifespan, except from mid-2021 to mid-2022 where there was a steady decline in pore pressures. This piezometer generally (but not always) shows low pore pressures for Q1 and Q2 and higher pressures for Q3 and Q4, with a net loss of 5.2 psi over the lifetime of that VWP. The other four VWP's have experienced net changes of +0.3 to -0.8 psi since installation, meaning current readings are very similar to initial readings. For VWP-09 and VWP-10, pressures have been consistent throughout the lifetime of the piezometers; however, for VWP-06 and VWP-08, they experienced wild fluctuations in pore water pressure in the first half of their lifetimes but have settled to pressures similar to the installation pressures in the past several years.

### **Inclinometers**

Three inclinometers (designated BG05-4, BG05-5, and BG05-7) were installed at CWDA #2 in August 2005. The inclinometers were installed through the coal refuse and approximately 20 feet into the native foundation soils for total depths of 50-60 feet. The locations of the inclinometers are shown on the attached Instrumentation Site Plan (Map 1). Baseline readings were taken on August 10, 2005, and subsequent readings have generally been taken quarterly since that time. Displacement curves for each of the three inclinometers for the initial, current, and four previous quarterly readings are presented as attachments to this letter in Figure 3. Axis "A" reflects deformation with depth in the direction of anticipated movement (downslope), while Axis "B" is orthogonal to Axis A.

As described in previous reports, historic displacements indicated on the plots for the approximate upper 12-14 feet of the inclinometers since installation in 2005 are due to placement of cover soil on the face of the waste pile during revegetation/regrading operations in late 2006 and early 2007. This man-caused displacement is documented in a report by Buckhorn Geotech dated December 22, 2008, to Bowie Resources called *Revised Stability Evaluations for Coal Mine Waste Disposal Area No. 2, Bowie No. 2 Mine*.

Based on the current inclinometer readings, BG05\_7 shows near perfect alignment (essentially identical readings for 18 years) with the initial reading in 2005 for the downslope direction (Axis A). Inclinometers BG05\_4 and BG05\_5, however, show a bulge of less than 1/2-inch in the inclinometer pipes (below the surface regrading). Based on our records, this bulge developed slowly from 2005 to 2010, but no movement has been recorded since then. This suggests there had been some gob pile settlement early in the lifetime of the inclinometers, but no recent or additional movement has occurred. Some "noise" which is understood to be relatively common in orthogonal direction (Axis B) readings, was observed over the past few years for all three inclinometers. This can be due to various mechanical or installation causes that are unrelated to slope movement. For example, grout voids, poor grout coverage, or soil settlement around the instrument can all contribute to vibrations and pipe movement that impacts inclinometer

readings. Software bias adjustments were applied which somewhat filtered this noise. All readings were consistent with previous readings and the "displacement" error was within equipment tolerances and not deemed to be due to slope movement.

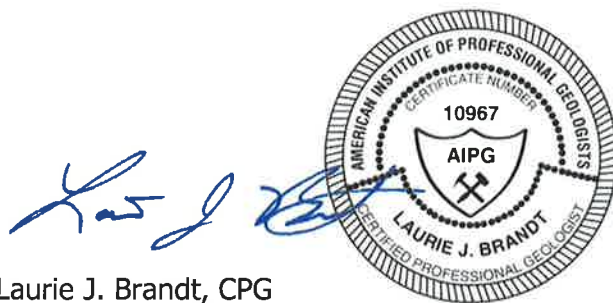
Table 2 below shows water levels in all three inclinometers for the past 12 quarters. There was no water in the BGI05-5 pipe and this inclinometer is typically dry. However, water was standing in the BGI05-4 inclinometer pipe at a depth of 7.0 feet and in BGI05-07 at 8.0 feet. Water has been observed in these two inclinometers for most of their history. In order for water to be in inclinometer pipes, the seal may be broken at the seams where the pipes snap together, the grout sleeve could have voids or has deteriorated so that it no longer forms a solid sleeve around the inclinometers. There could also be a crack in the pipe, either due to slope movement or other pipe damage. Although it is not known for sure, we suspect the pipes cracked or the seals were compromised in 2006-2007 when the slope revegetation occurred, in the upper 12-14 feet of the inclinometers.

**Table 2. Summary of Groundwater Levels in Inclinometers**

	2021-2023 Groundwater Levels per Quarter (feet)											
	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
BGI 05-04	6.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	surface	surface	4.0	7.0
BGI 05-05	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry	dry
BGI 05-07	8.5	10.5	10.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.5	11.0	8.0	8.0

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the instrumentation monitoring at CWDA #2, please contact me at (970) 497-8821 or [lbrandt@buckhornengineering.com](mailto:lbrandt@buckhornengineering.com).

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Buckhorn Engineering, Inc.**



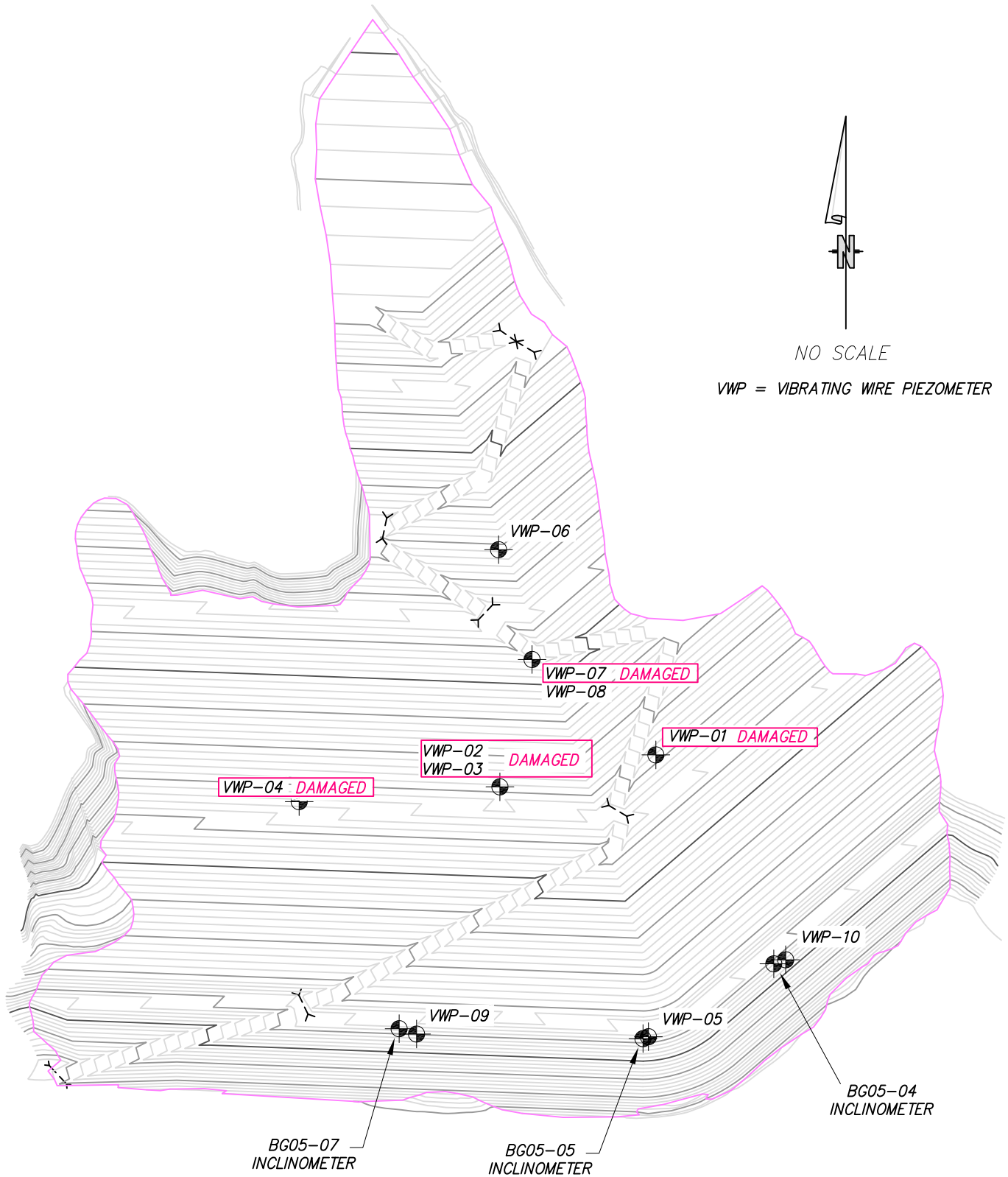
Laurie J. Brandt, CPG  
Certified Professional Geologist

Daniel C. Quigley, P.E.  
Senior Civil Engineer/Professional Geologist



Attachments: Map 1 – Instrumentation Location Plan  
Figure 1 – Active and Damaged Piezometer Data Graph (2005-2014)  
Figure 2 -- Active Vibrating Wire Piezometer Data Graph (installation to present)  
Figure 3 – Inclinometer Displacement Curves

# INSTRUMENTATION SITE PLAN



Map

1

OF 1

DATE

2021

JOB NO.

2021-008-GEO

Huddleston-Berry

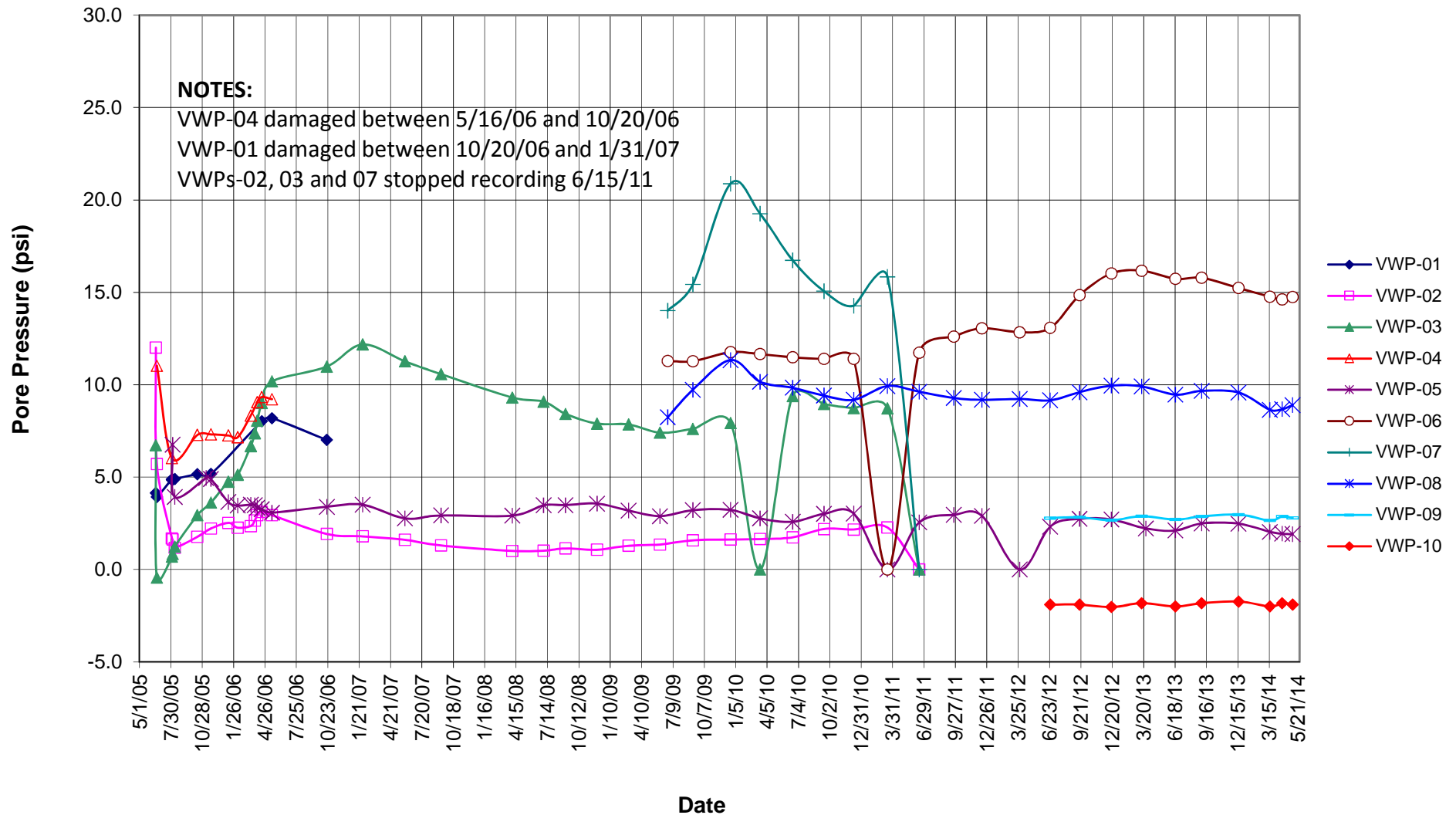
BOWIE #2 GOB PILE

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

**BUCKHORN**  
**ENGINEERING**

**Figure 1 - Bowie Mine #2 - CWDA #2**  
**Active and Damaged Vibrating Wire Piezometer Data**

**Inception (5/16/05) through 5/21/14**



**Figure 2 - Bowie Mine #2 - CWDA #2**  
**Active Vibrating Wire Piezometer Data**

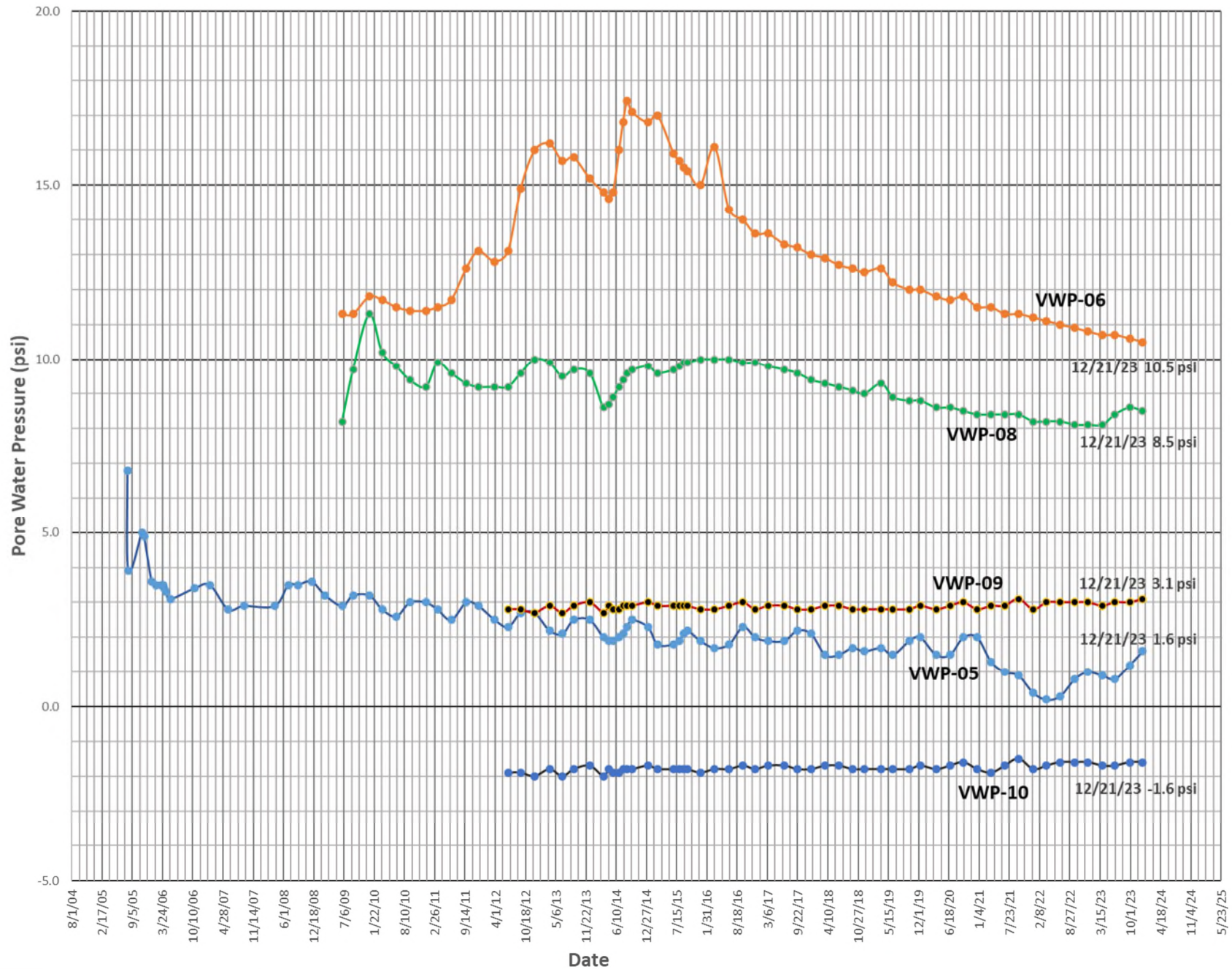
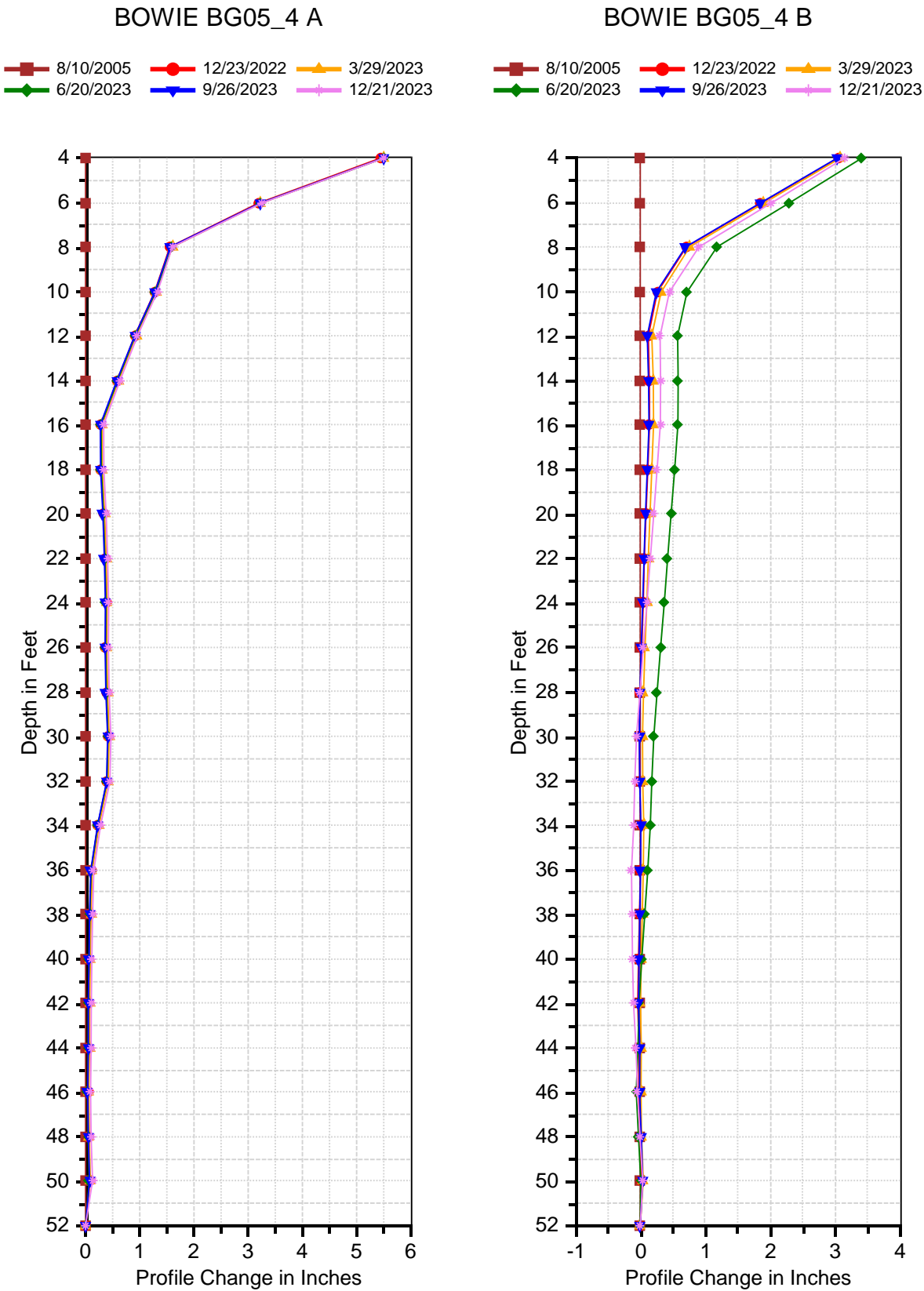
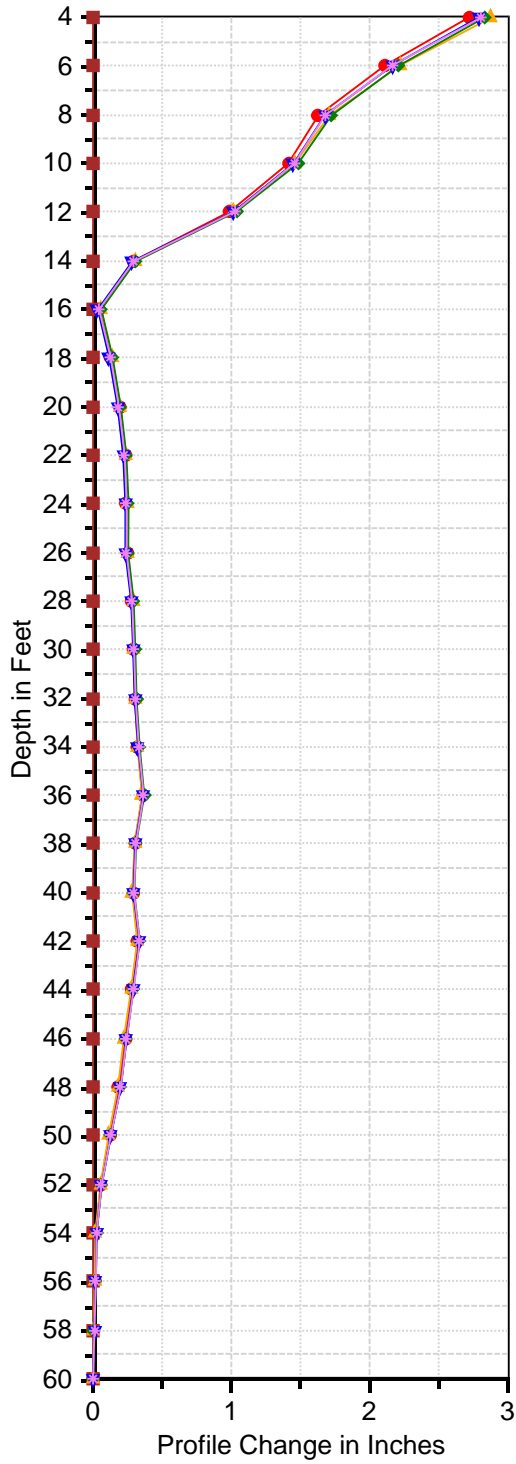


Figure 3 - Inclinometer Displacement Curves



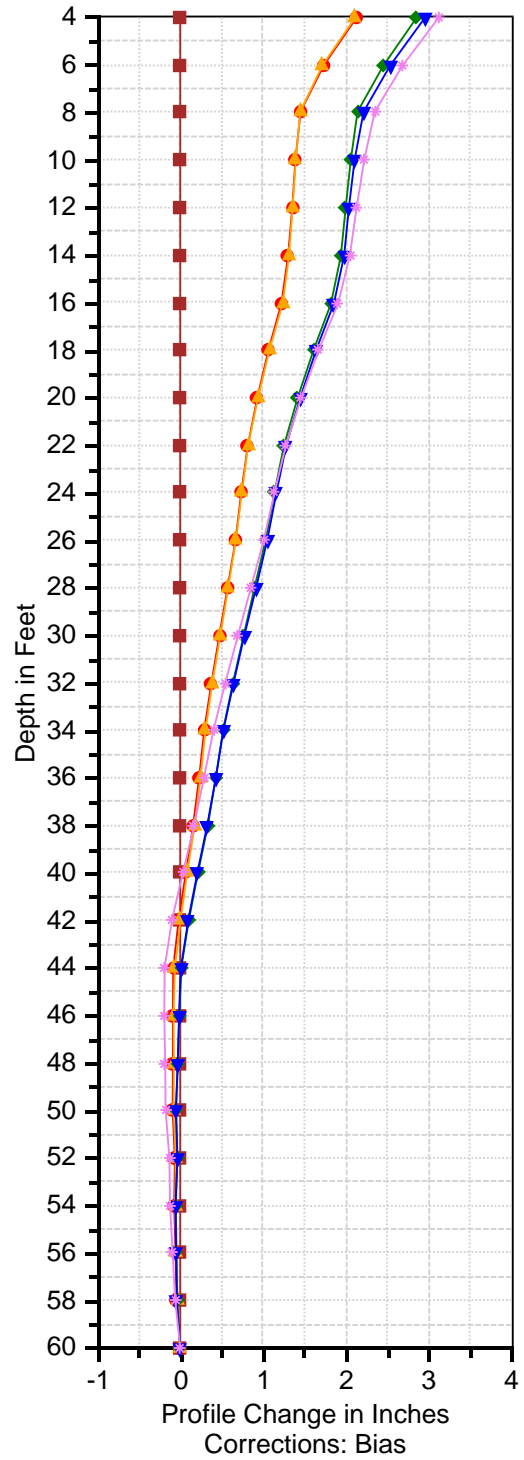
# BOWIE BG05\_5 A

8/10/2005 12/23/2022 3/29/2023  
6/20/2023 9/26/2023 12/21/2023



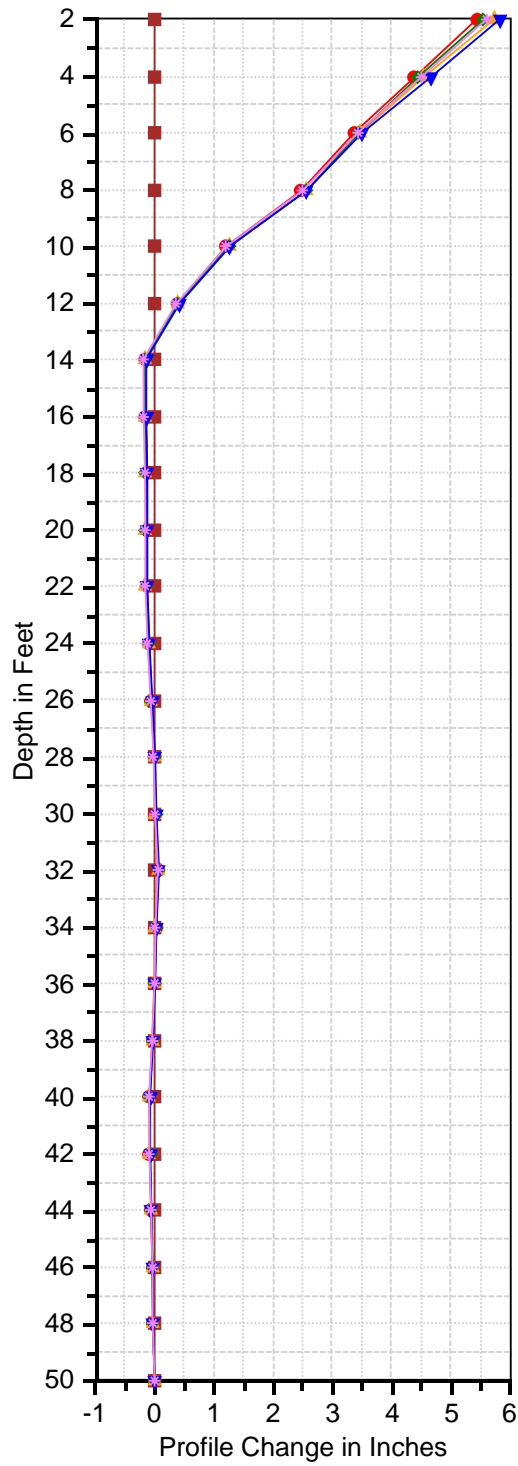
# BOWIE BG05\_5 B

8/10/2005 12/23/2022 3/29/2023  
6/20/2023 9/26/2023 12/21/2023



# BOWIE BG05\_7 A

8/10/2005 12/23/2022 3/29/2023  
6/20/2023 9/26/2023 12/21/2023



# BOWIE BG05\_7 B

8/10/2005 12/23/2022 3/29/2023  
6/20/2023 9/26/2023 12/21/2023

