

Suffolk Gem and Mineral Club Lecture

Megaconstruction Projects in New York City

Charles Merguerian



Hofstra Geology



**Merguerian's Early
Field Work on
Manhattan
Island**

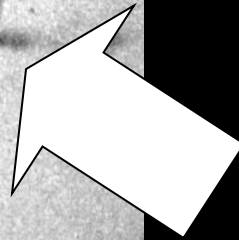
**In The Days
When He Was
Limber**







**Merguerian Has Spent
Most of his Career
Mapping the Surface
and Subsurface
Geology of NYC**



**Proper Field Attire
For NYC**

Miles

Paleo-equator

after Kay, 1951

Seas with limy and sandy bottoms on miogeosynclines

Seas with bottoms of argillaceous muds and volcanic rocks on eugeosynclines

Paleo-shoreline

EARLY MEDIAL ORDOVICIAN

(Early Chazyan)

PALEOGEOGRAPHY

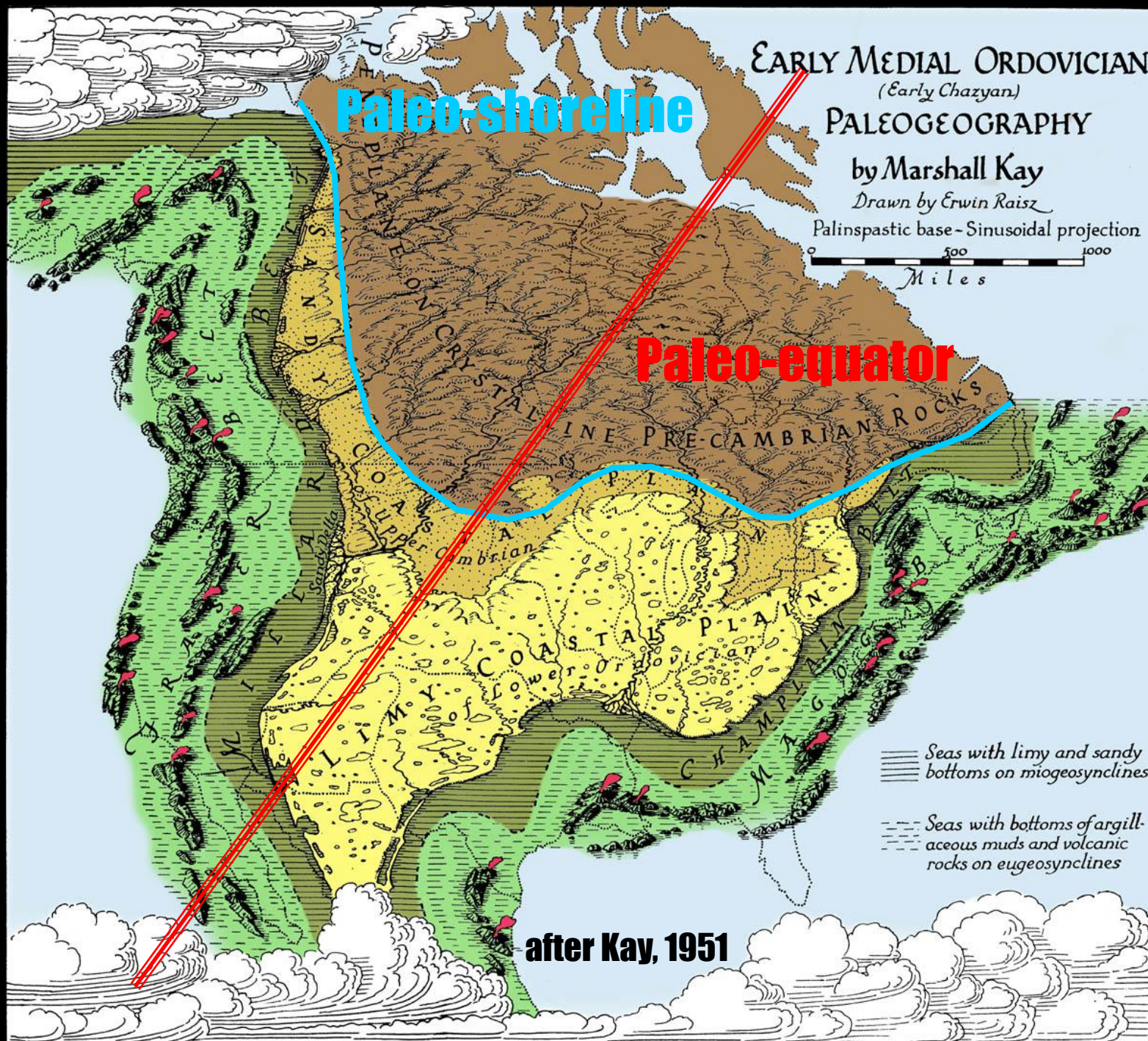
by Marshall Kay

Drawn by Erwin Raisz

Palinspastic base - Sinusoidal projection

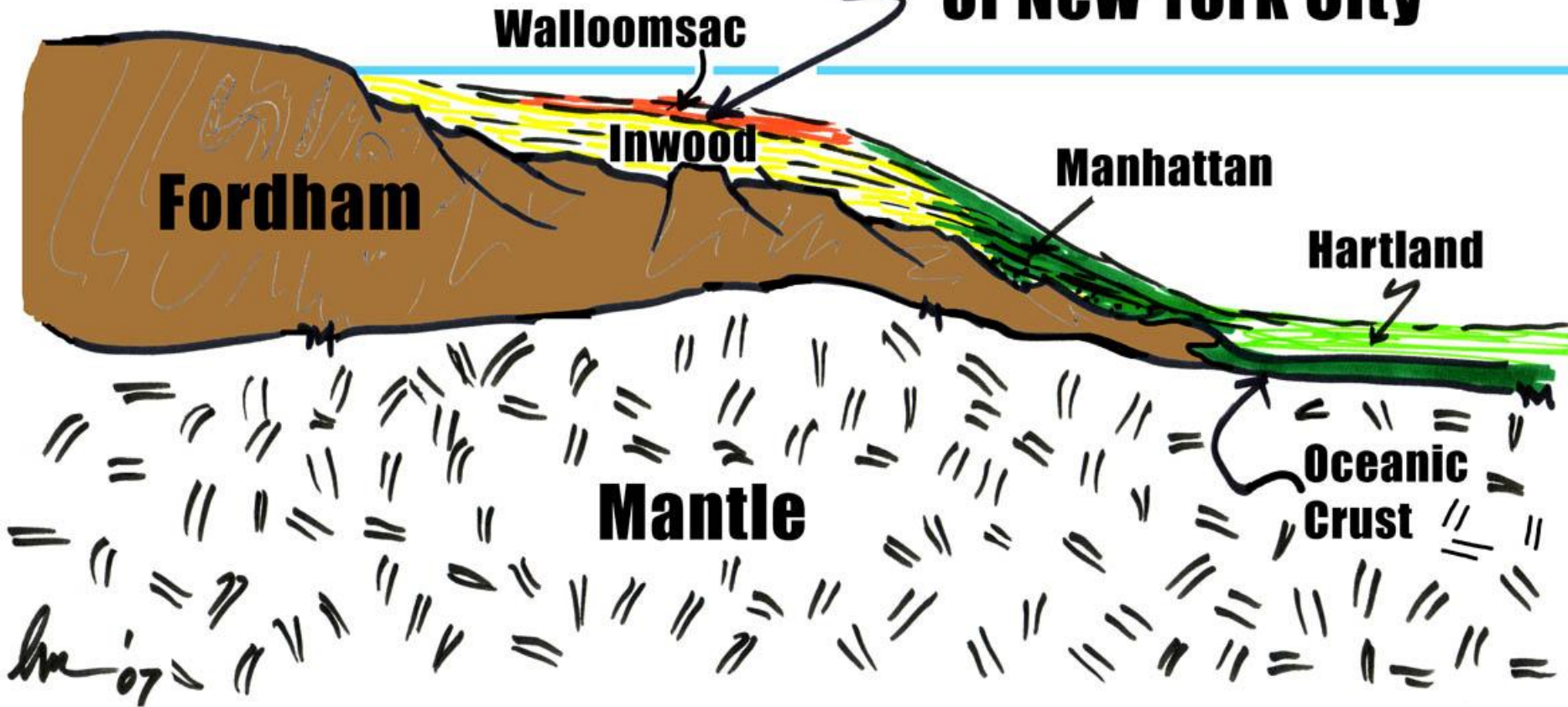
0 500 1000
Miles

Paleo-equator

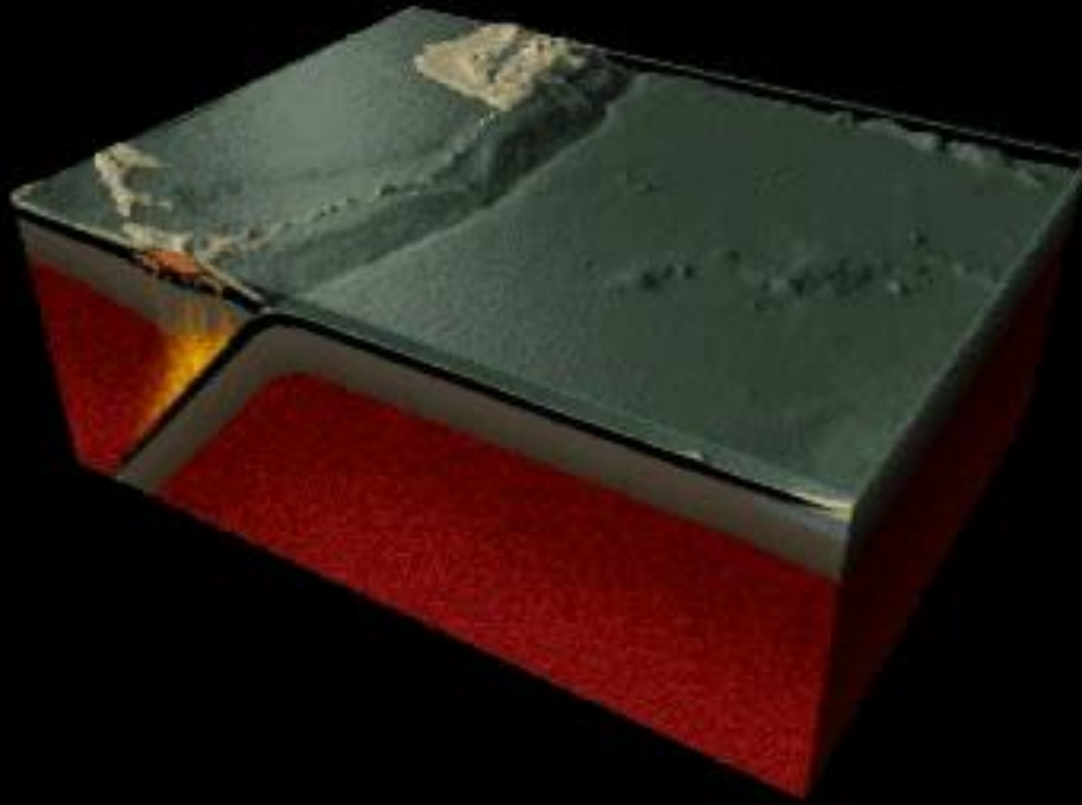


after Kay, 1951

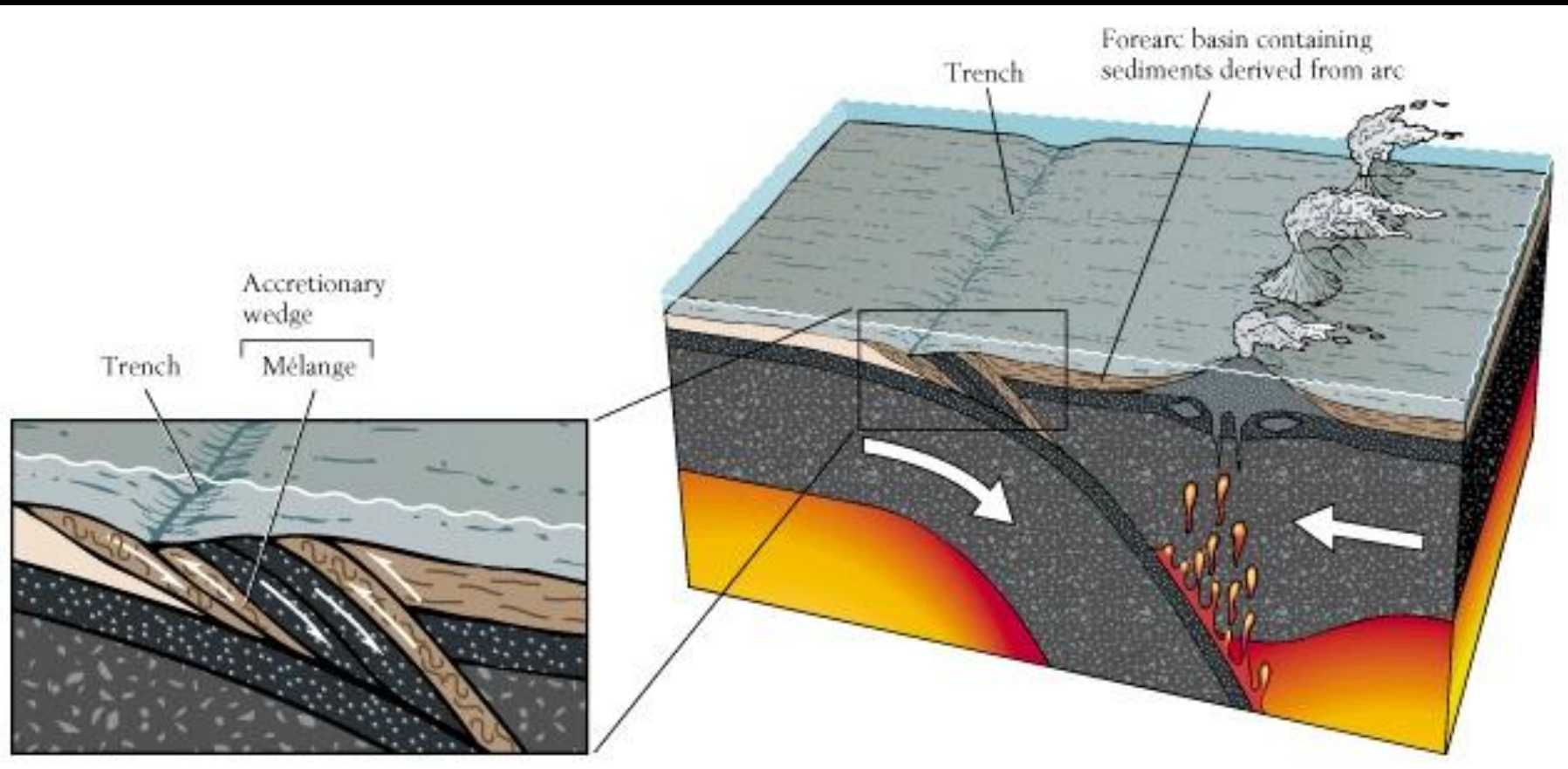
Future Site of New York City

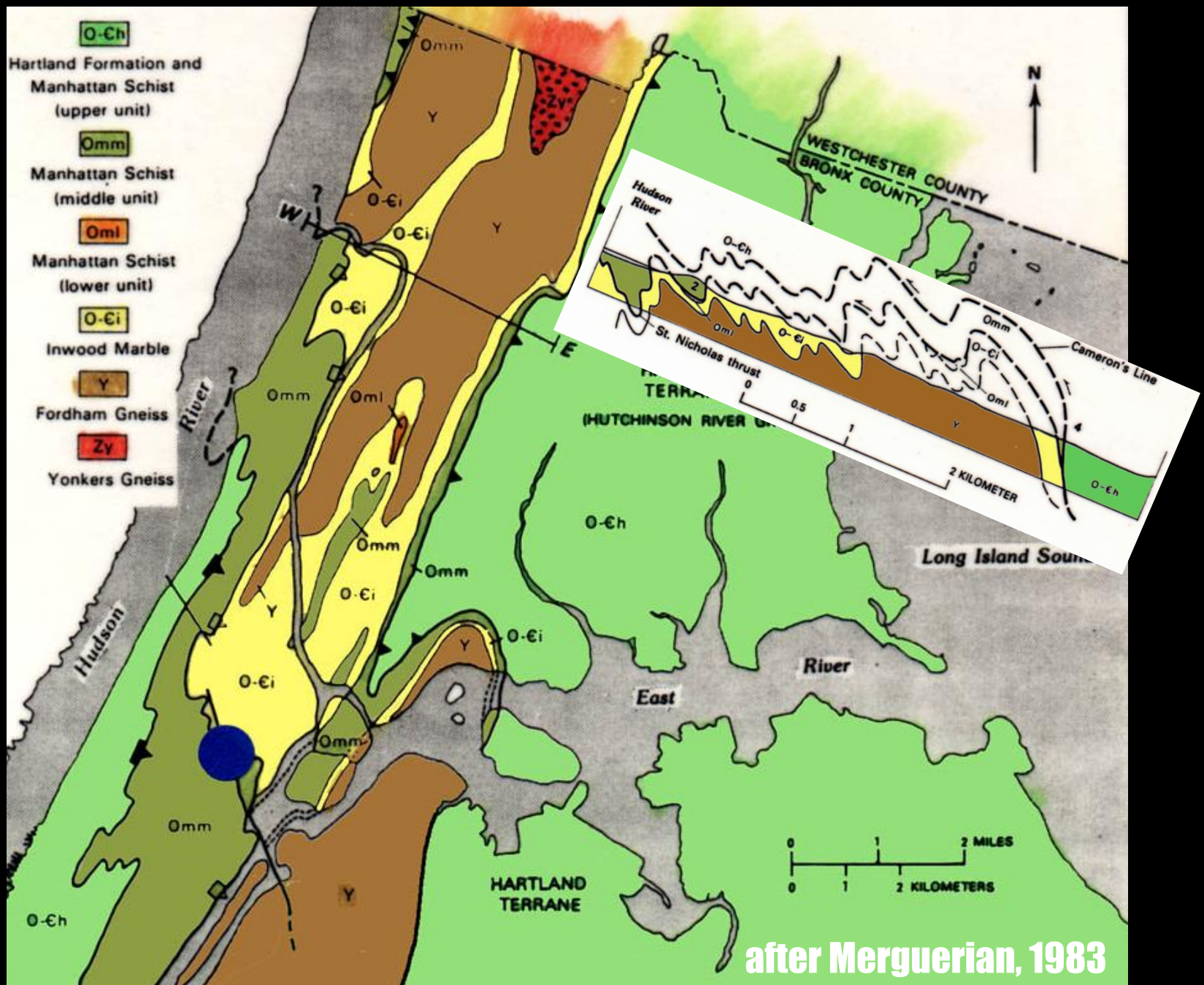


~ 450 Ma Taconic Arc – Passive Margin Collision



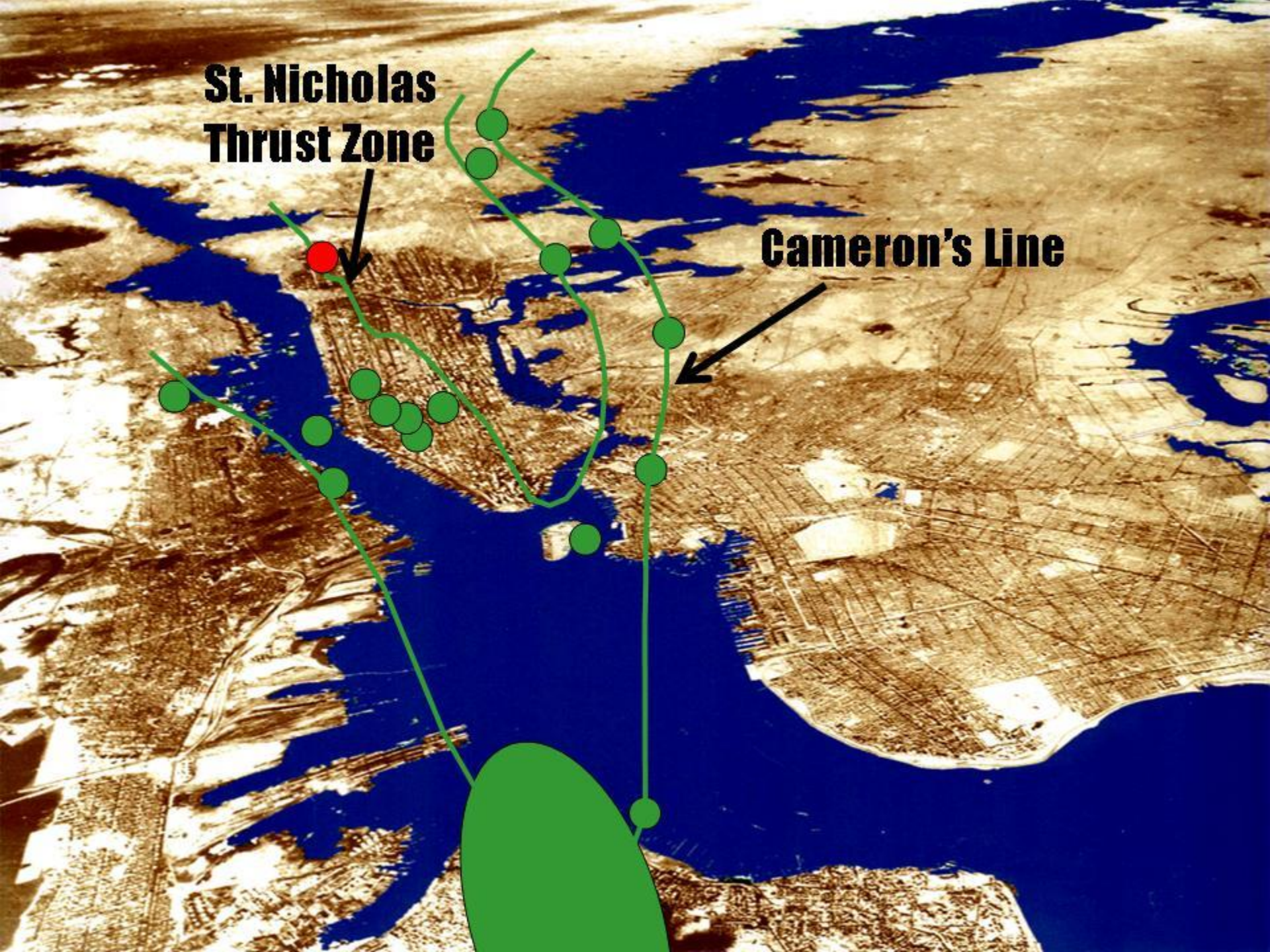
Taconian Accretionary Prism

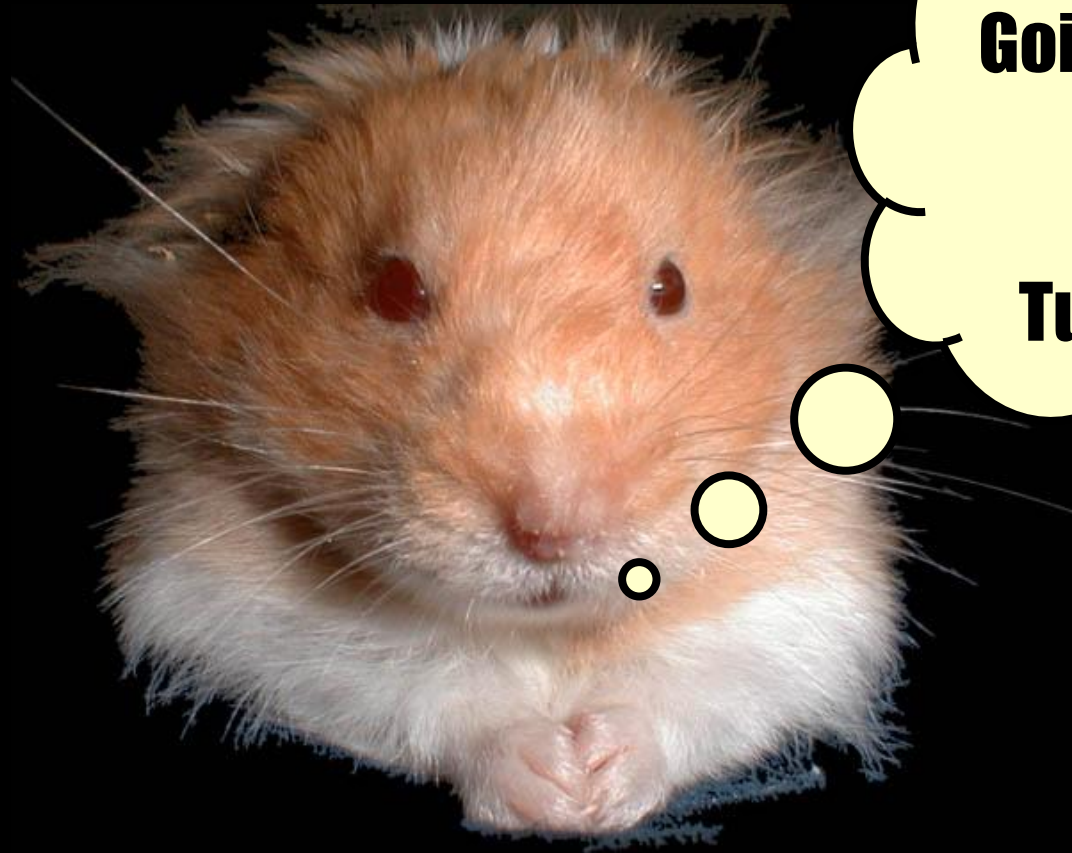




**St. Nicholas
Thrust Zone**

Cameron's Line



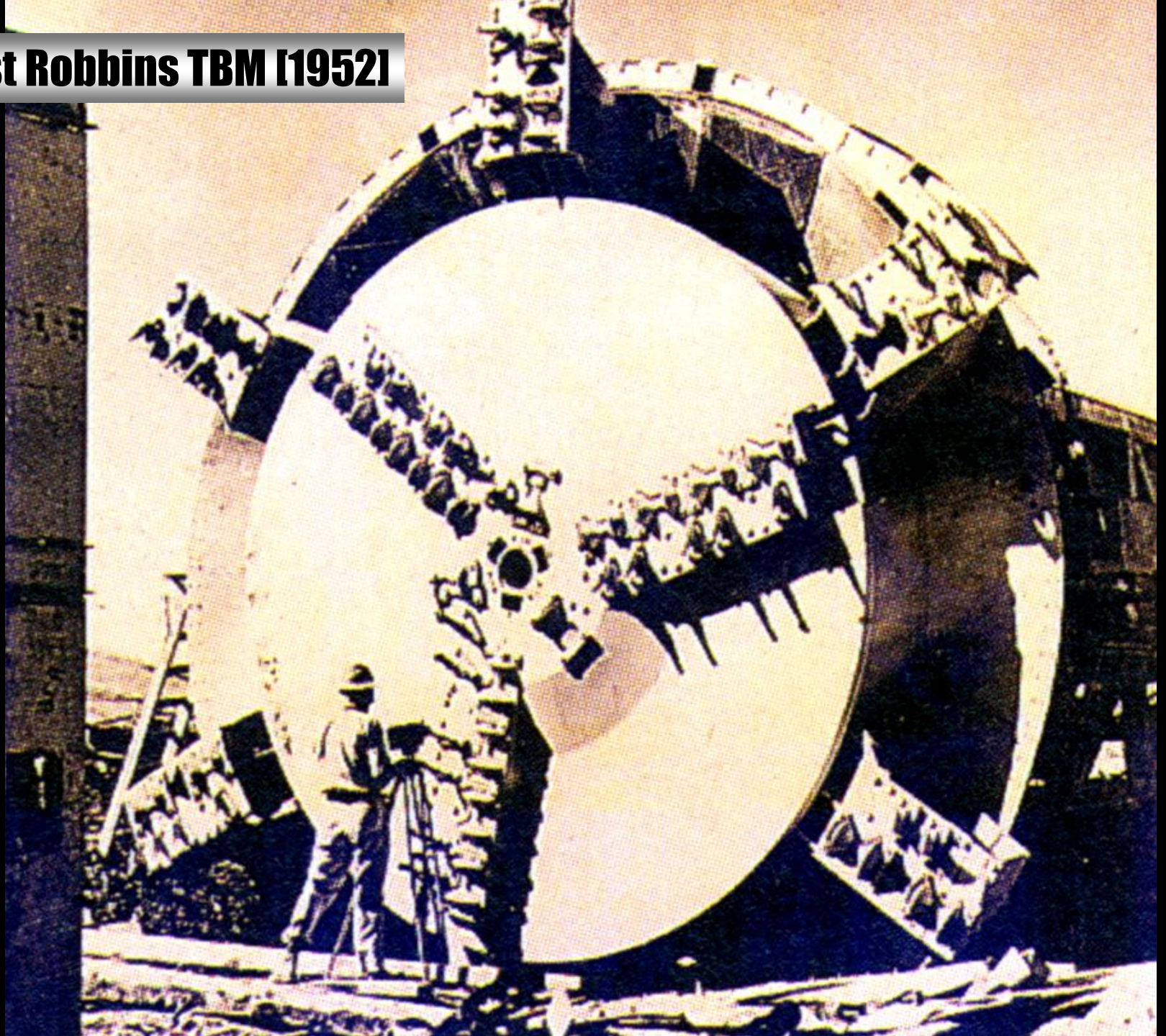


**Finally, He's
Going to Talk
About
TBM
Tunneling**

TBM Tunneling



First Robbins TBM (1952)





Holing Through North Tunnel, Hudson Tubes, French Line Dock (1904)

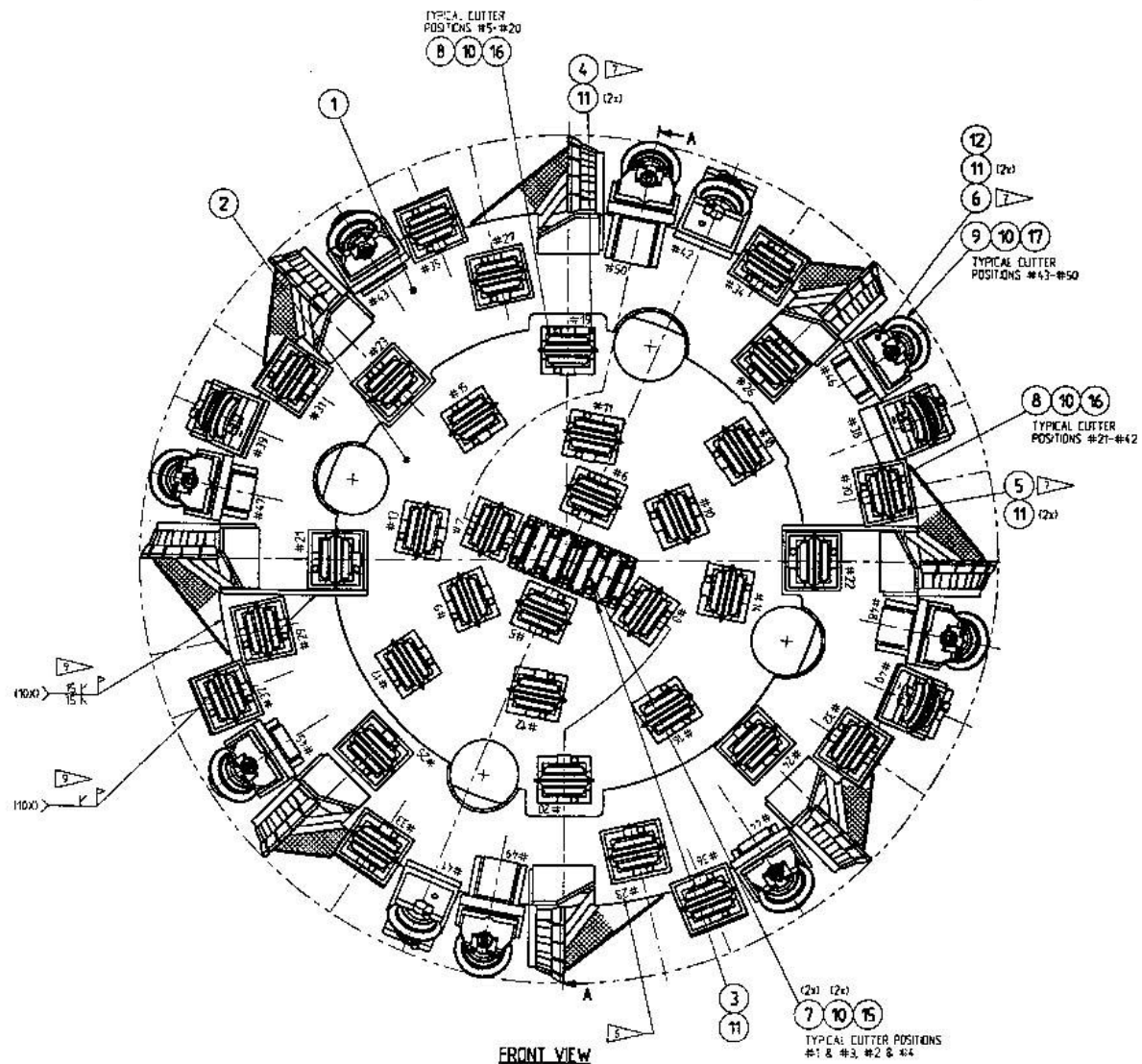


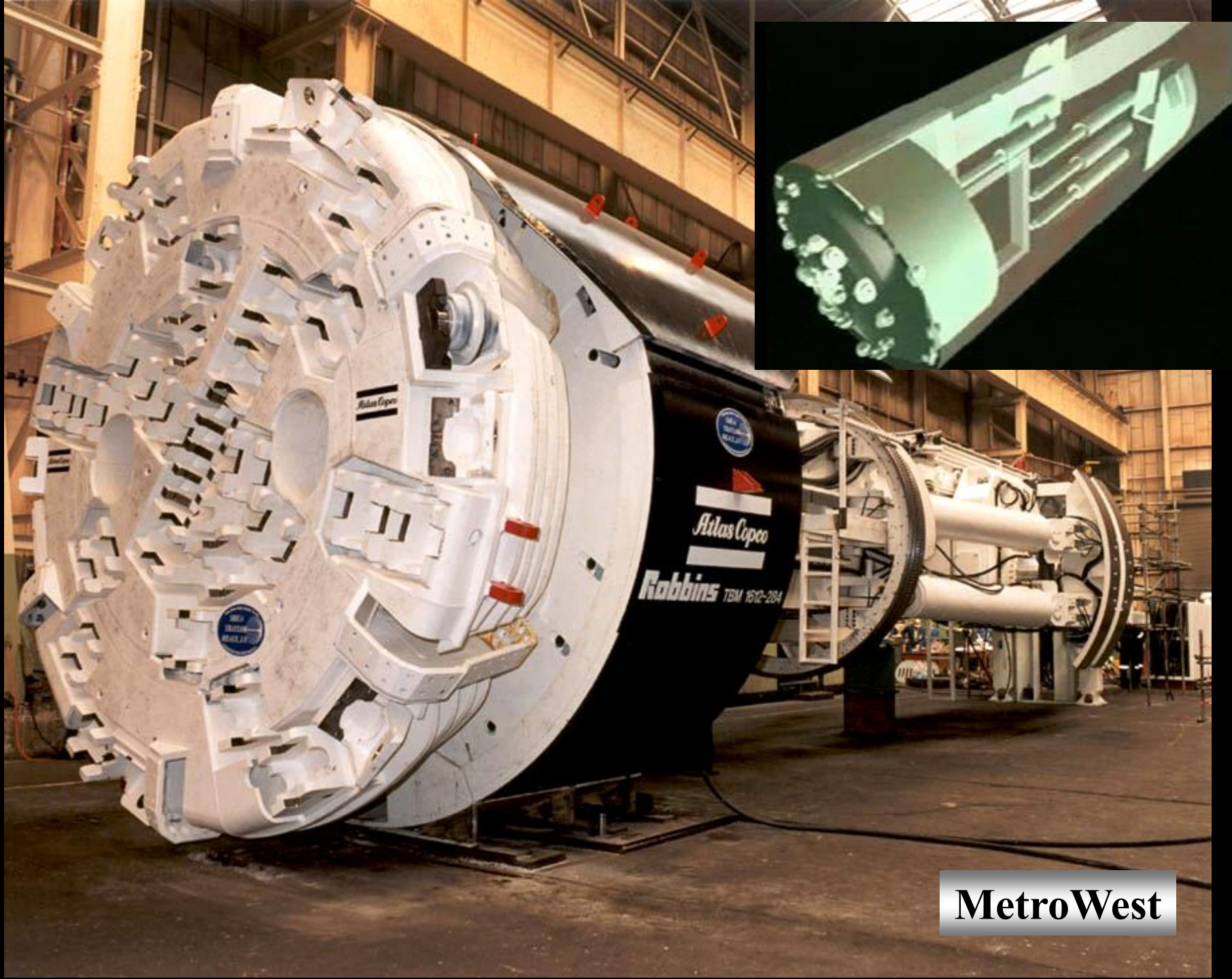
Sorenberg, Switzerland - Herrenknecht TBM

Robbins 235-282 HP Hard Rock Main Beam TBM



Chesterfield, England - 1996

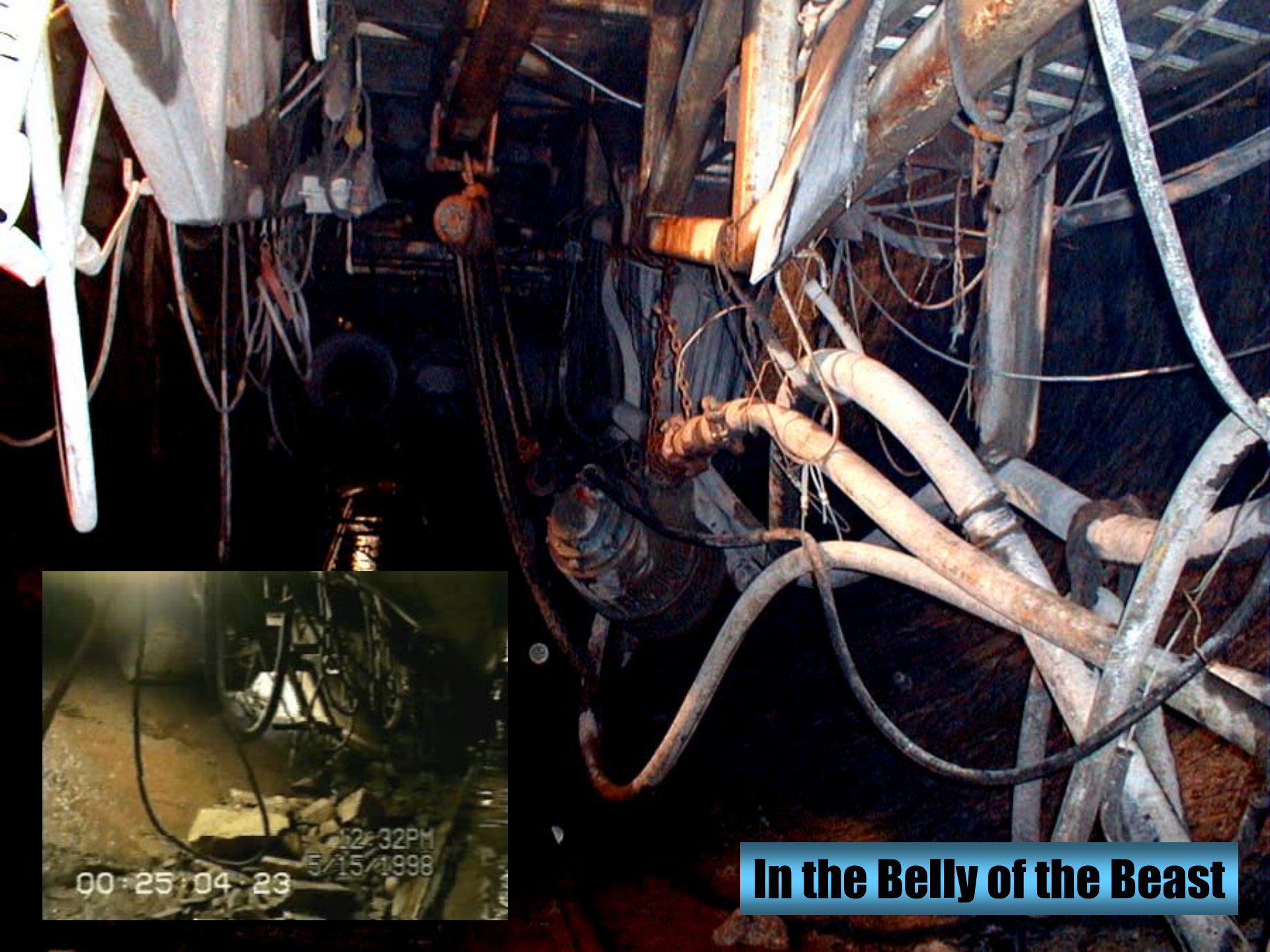




MetroWest



Normal TBM Chips



In the Belly of the Beast

Kerf Pattern in Hard Rock



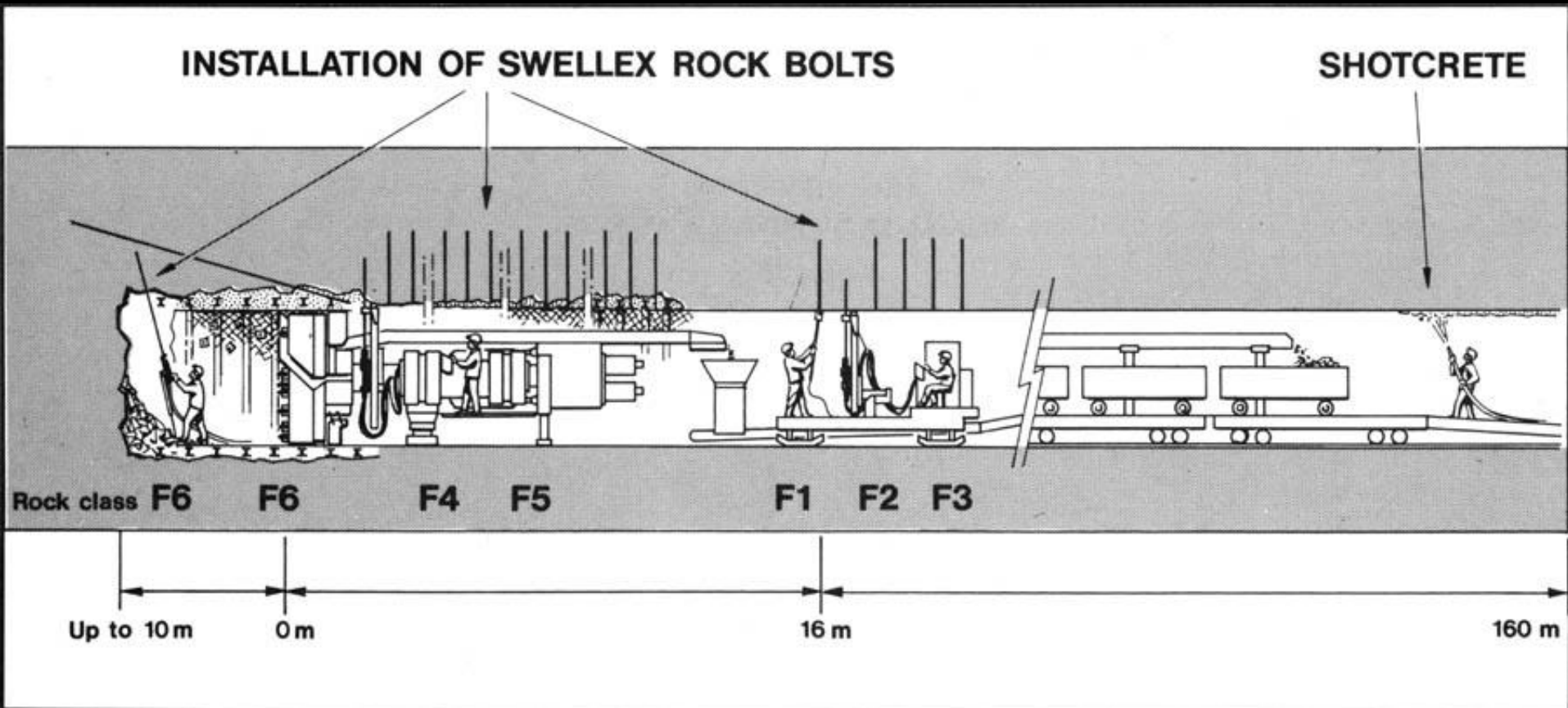


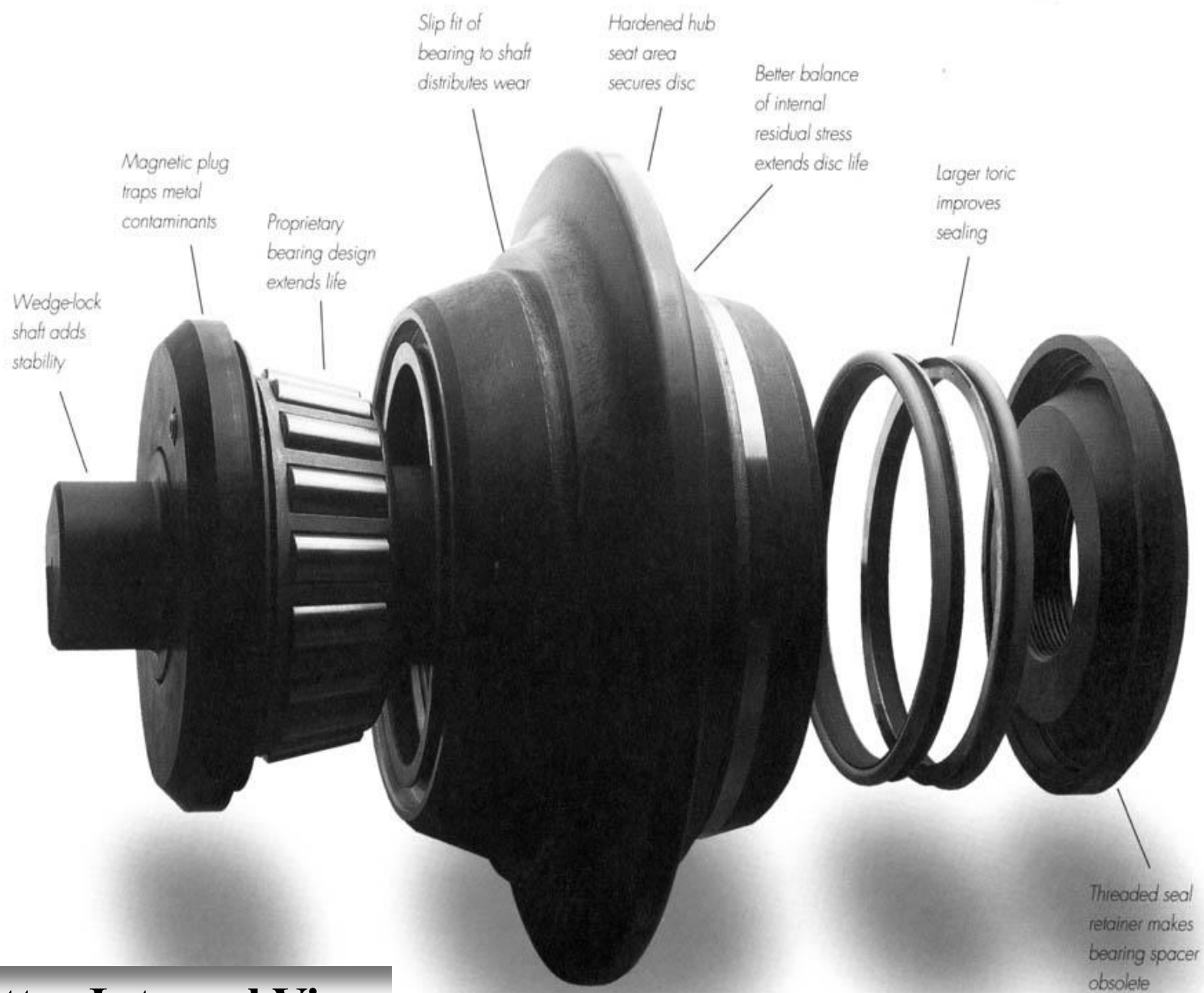
TBM-Bored Tunnel



Swellex Bolts

Swellex Rock Bolts





Cutter Internal View



Before



After



CT3, Drill and Shoot Tunnel



CT3, Scaling Drill and Shoot Tunnel



Brooklyn Tunnel, NYC Water Tunnel No. 3

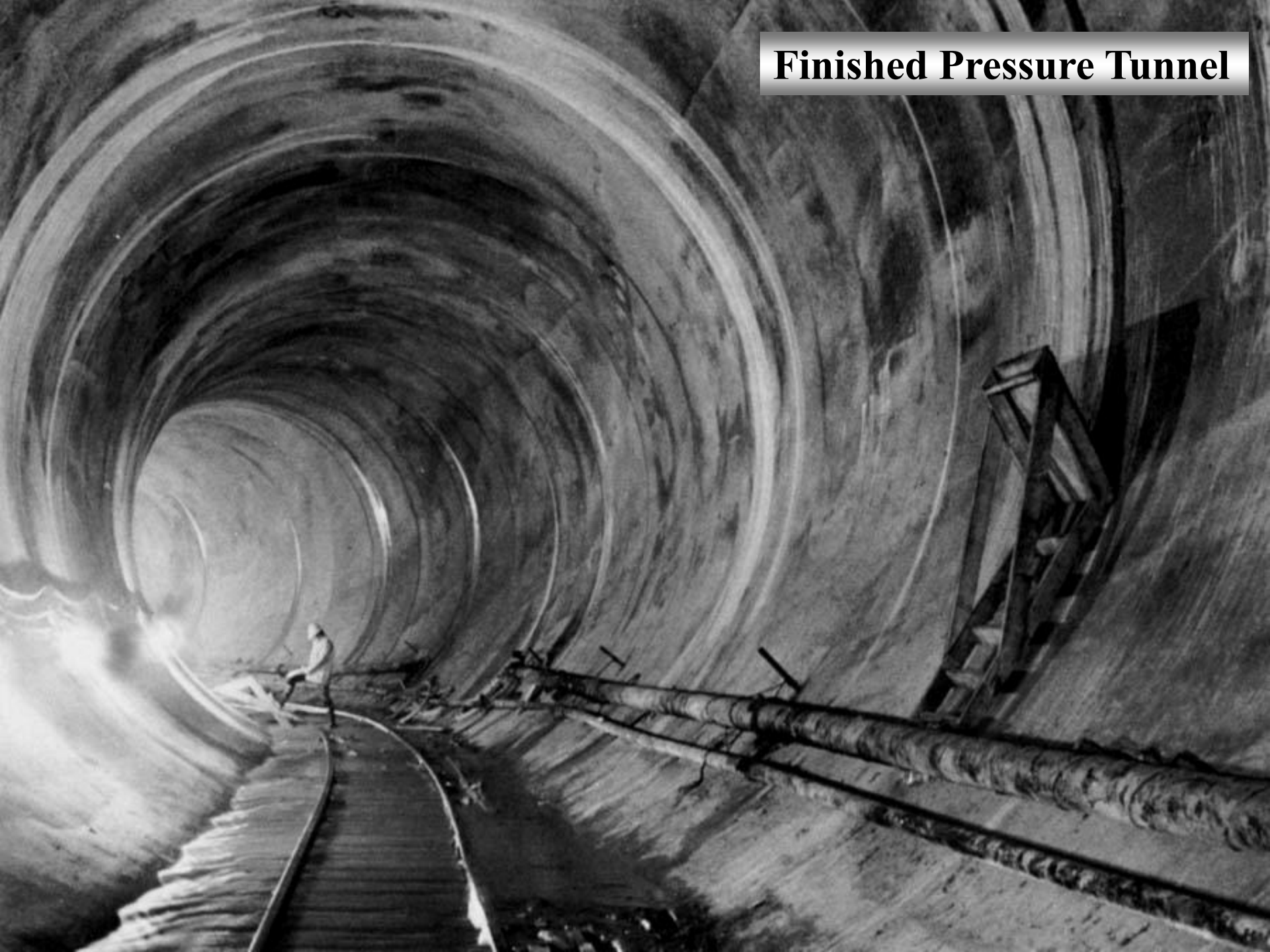


Ready to Pour Shaft 18B



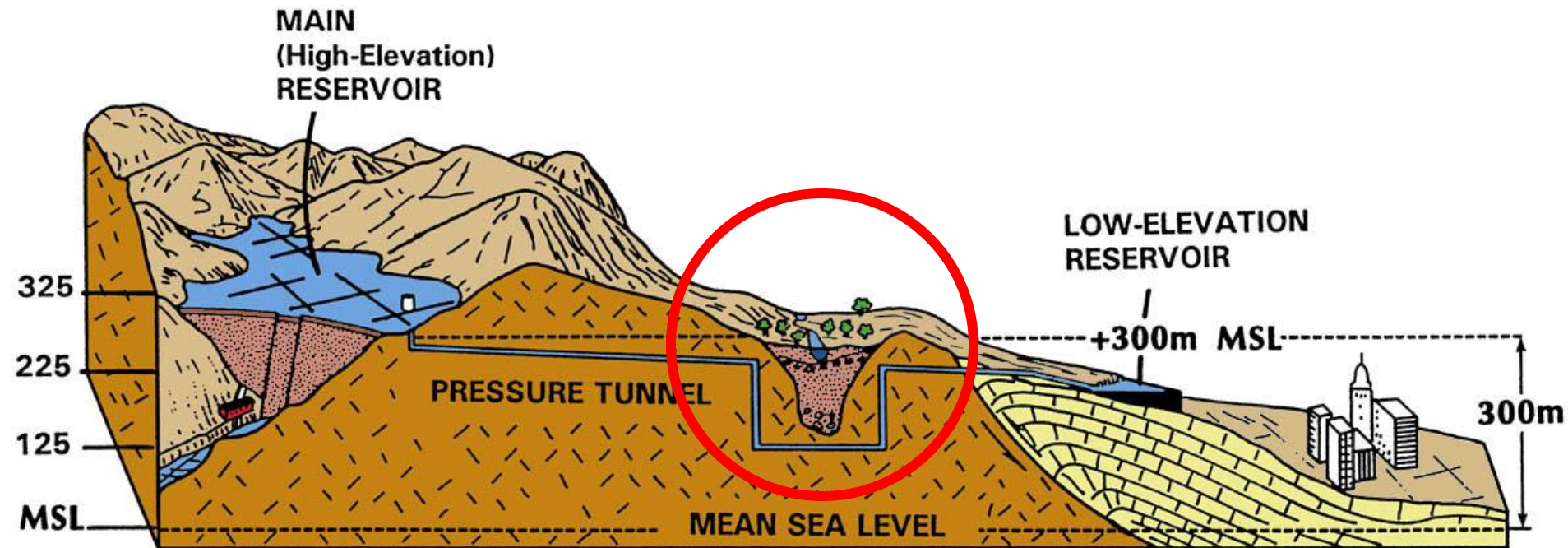
Shaft 18B Forms

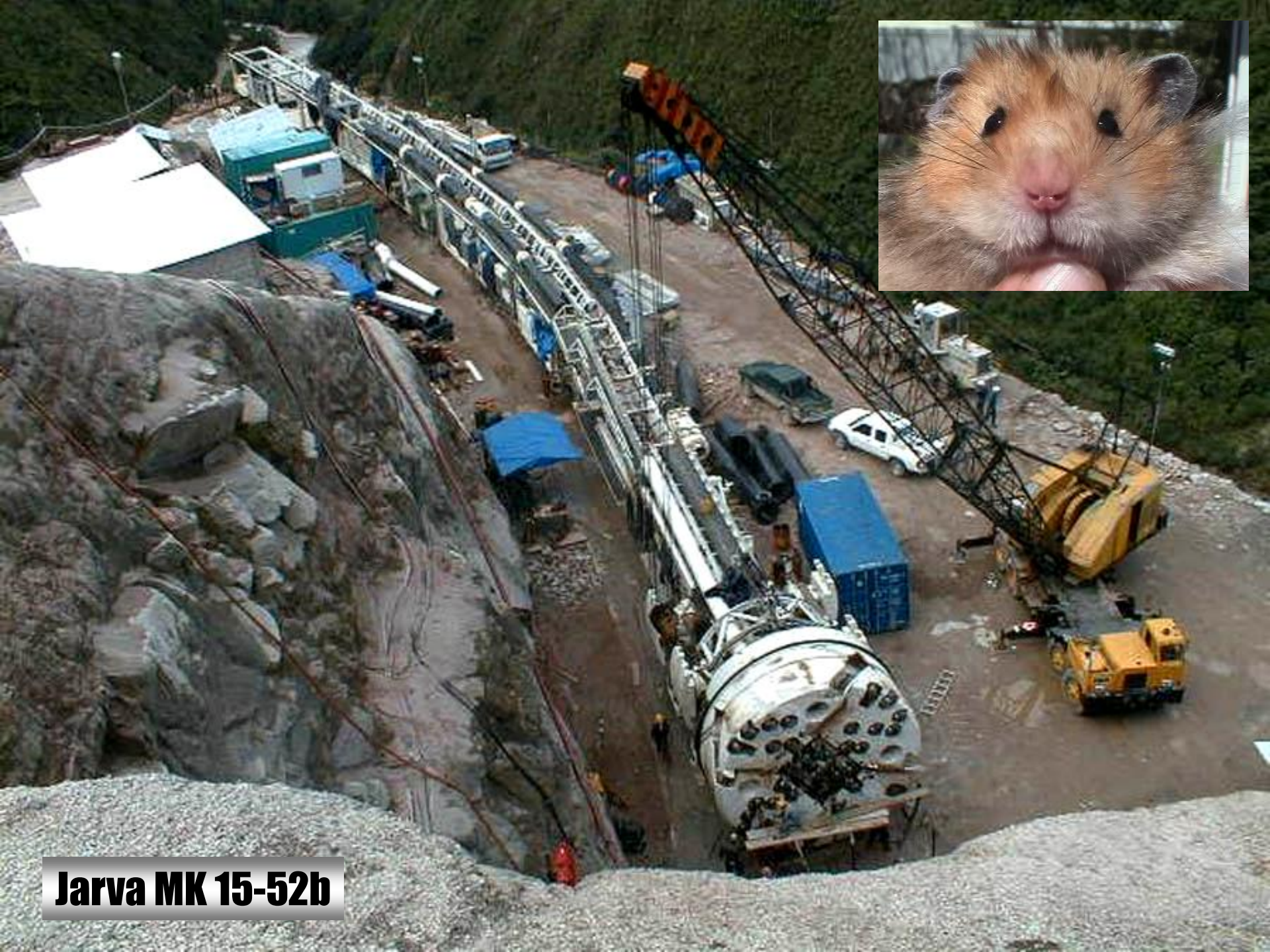
Finished Pressure Tunnel



NYC Aqueduct

Gravity Feed System – No Pumps

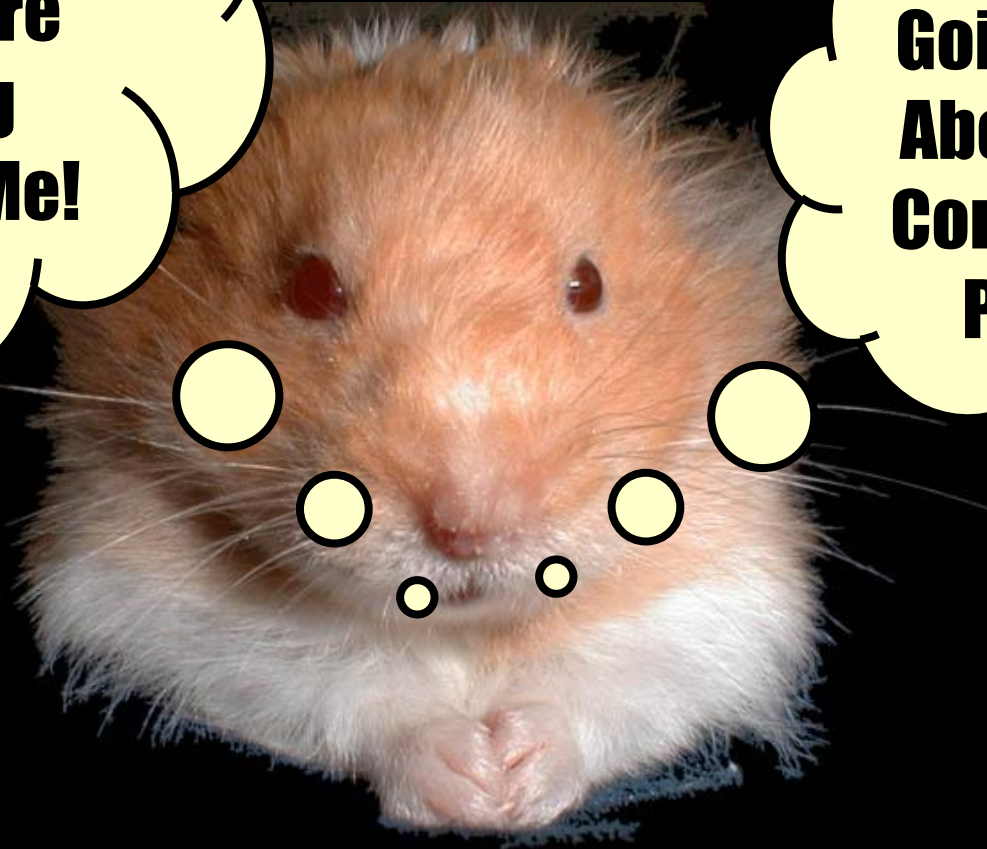




Jarva MK 15-52b

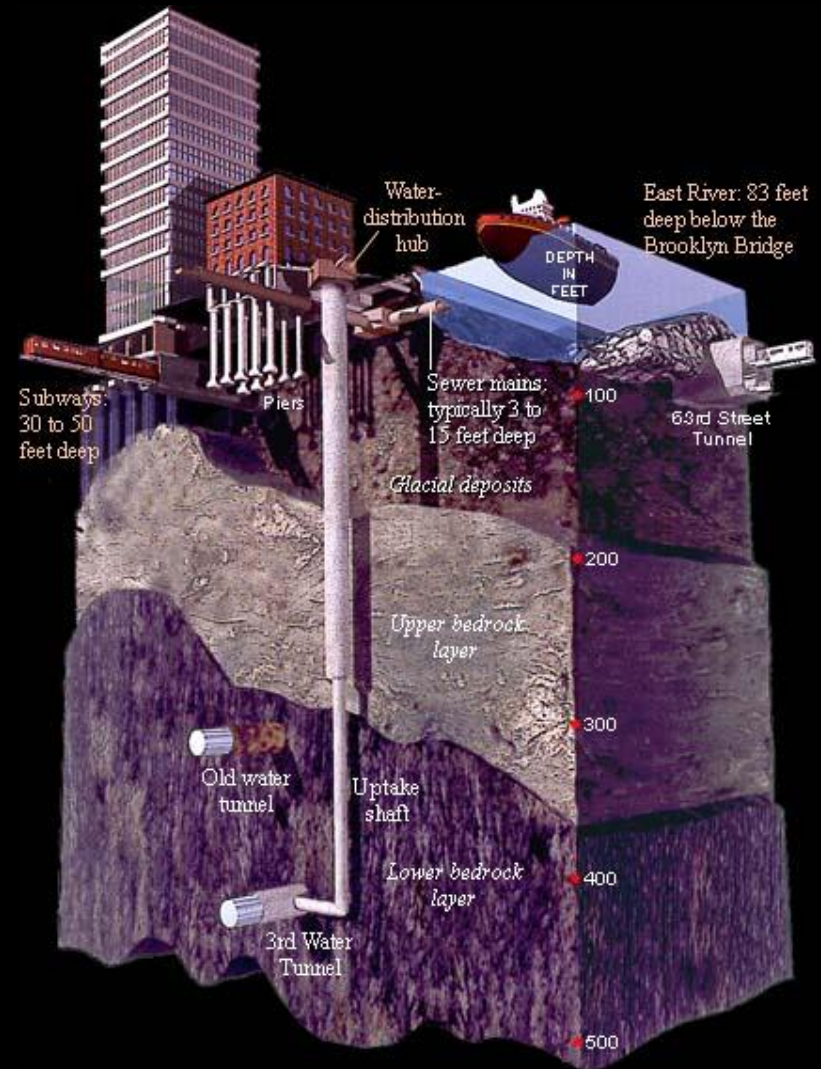
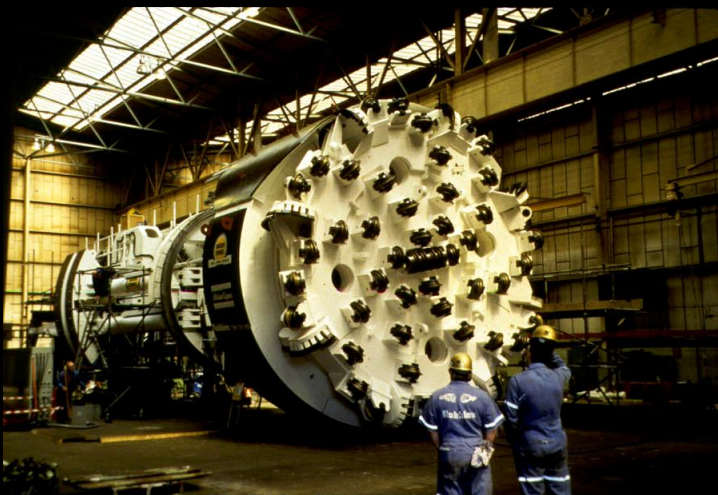
**Remember
Doc, You're
Nothing
Without Me!**

**Finally, He's
Going to Talk
About Mega-
Construction
Projects**



Mega-Construction Projects

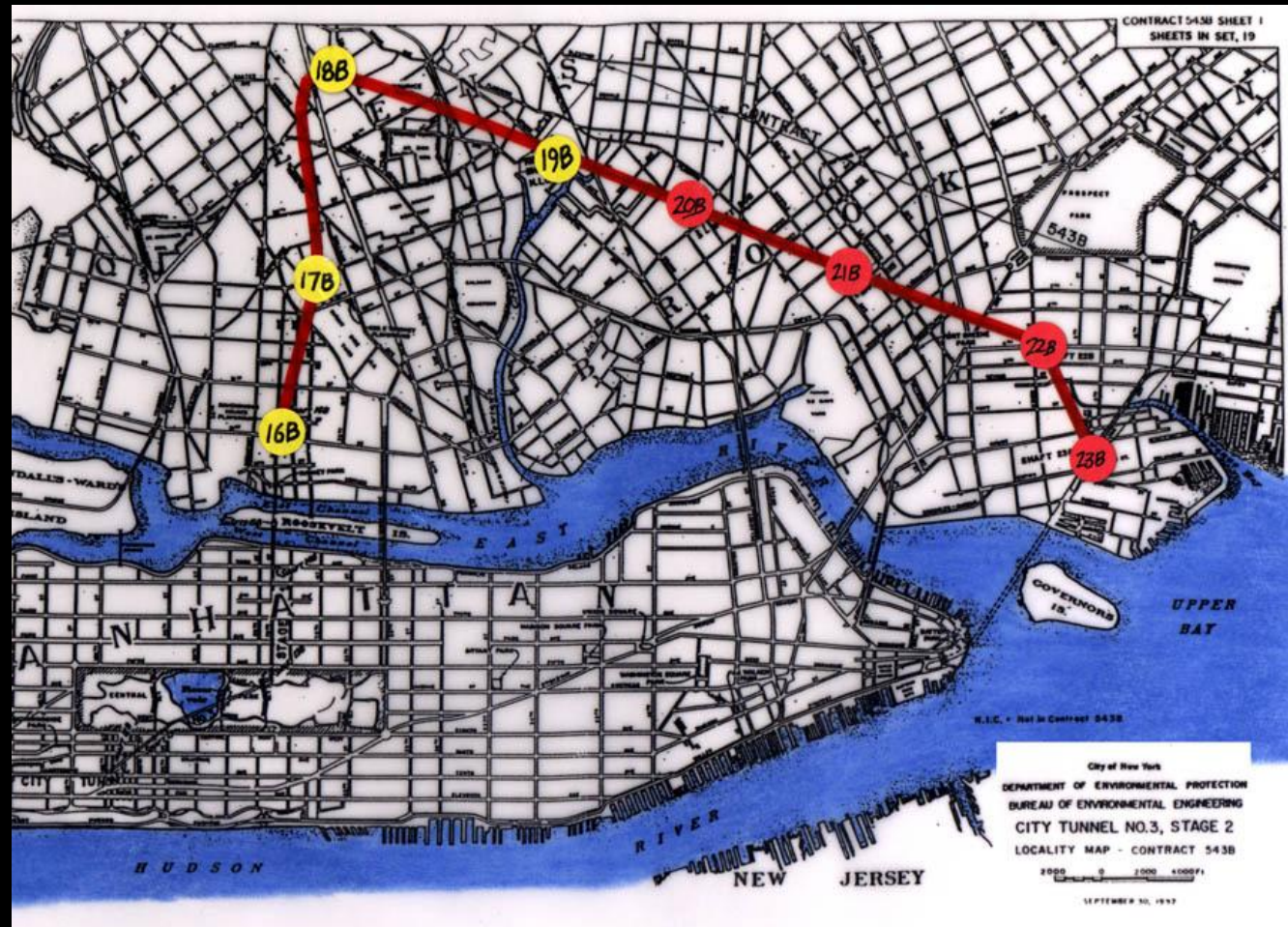
- Queens Water Tunnel
- Con Edison Steam Tunnel
- Manhattan Water Tunnel
- East Side Access Project
- Second Avenue Subway
- IRT #7 Line Extension
- LI Cross Sound Link Tunnel



Construction of the Queens Tunnel

NYC Water Tunnel #3

Oct 1996 – Oct 1999

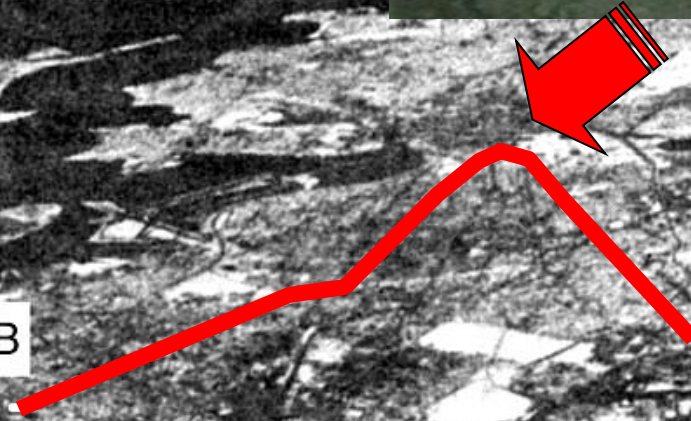


Long Island Sound



16B

19B







Con Edison Utility Tunnel



Con Edison Steam Tunnel TBM

**Robbins HP 215-257 Hard Rock Machine
Capable of 5' stroke**



Robbins HP 215-257

TBM at Con Ed Tunnel

30 Street
and 1st Avenue



Southern Heading



Shallow NW Dip

TBM Starter Tunnel





Starter Tunnel to South Heading

CT3, Stage2 Manhattan Water Tunnel

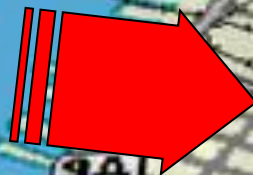


Shaft 26B



10 Oct 2002

Shaft 26B







26B South Heading

Bottom of Shaft 26B

580' Deep



Manhattan Tunnel TBM

**Rebuilt Robbins HP 215-257 hard rock machine
(first used at Con Ed Utility Tunnel on 1st Avenue)**



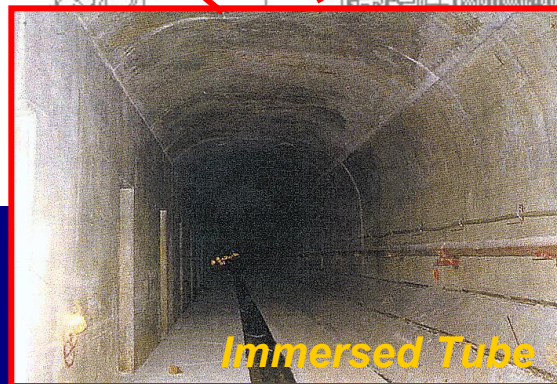
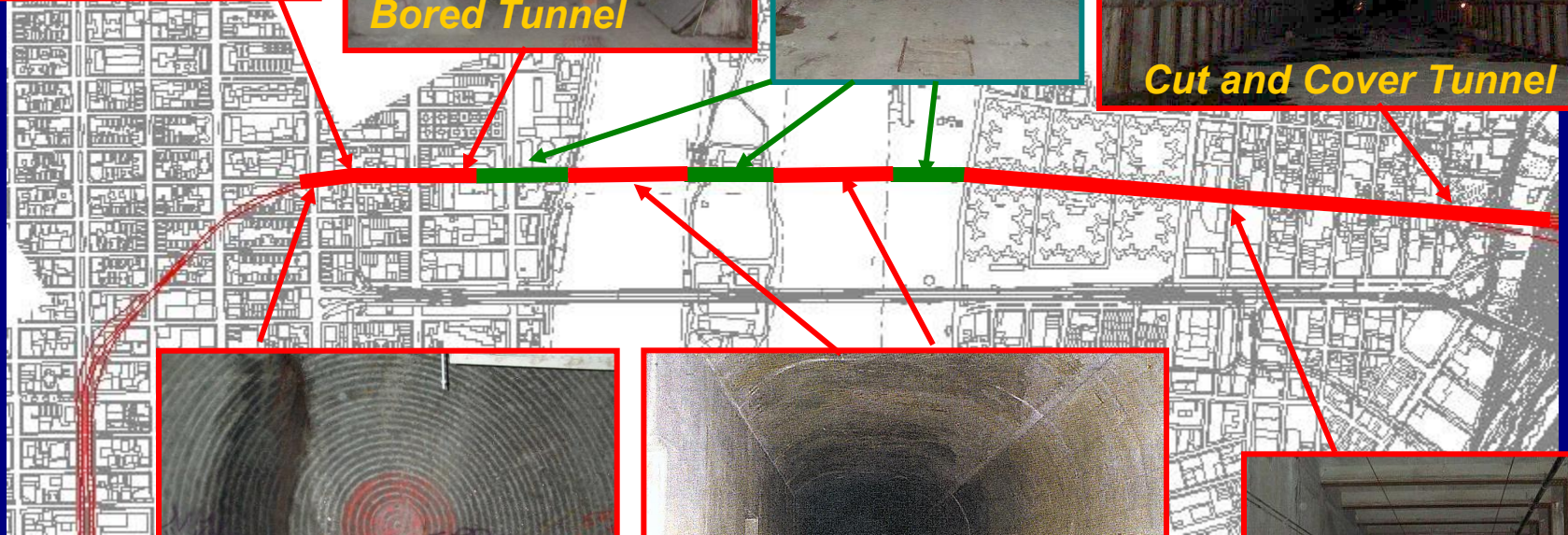
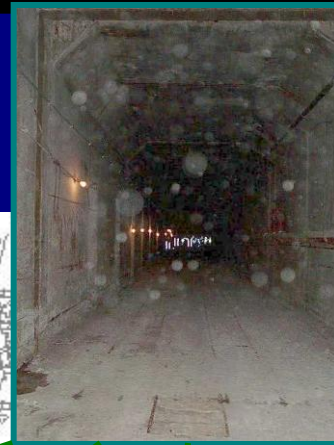
Robbins HP 215-257



East Side Access LIRR/MTA



Existing 63rd Street Tunnel



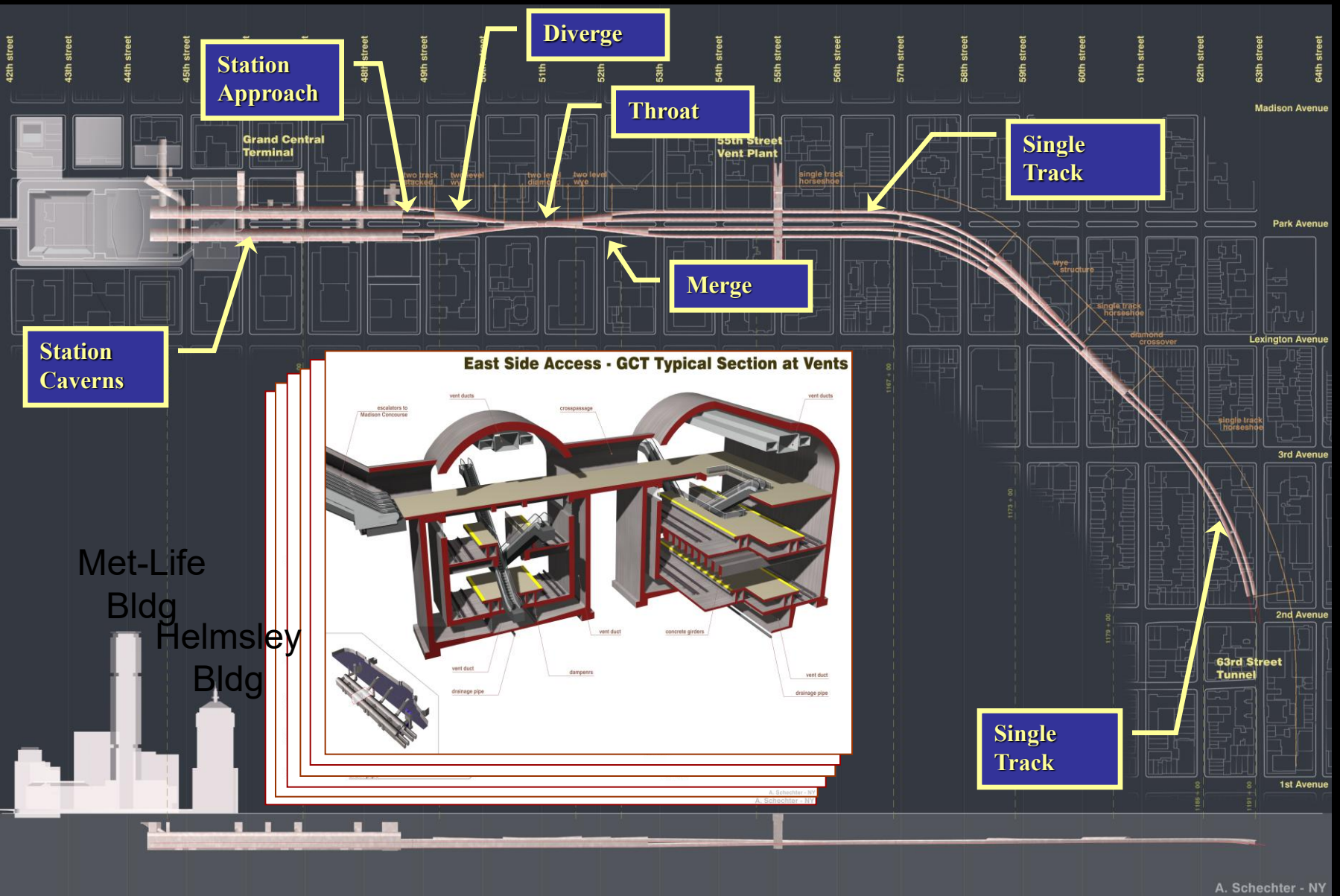


13 Aug 2007

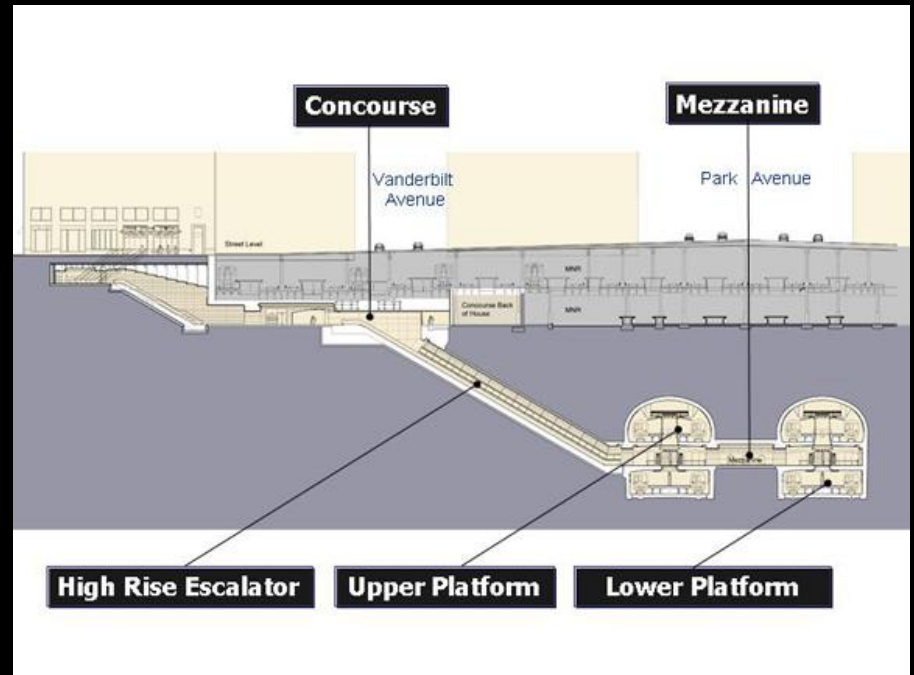
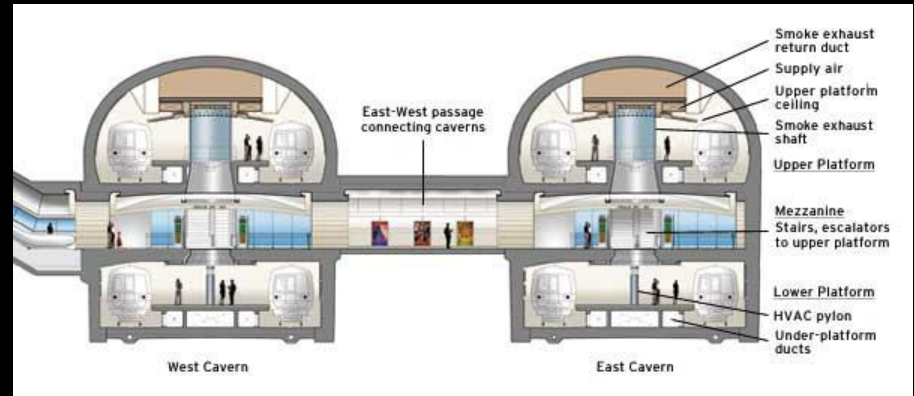


28 Nov 2007

East Side Access Project Plans



Construction Will Take Place **Under** Existing GCT



Second Avenue El



1929 – NYC BOT Proposes
Second Avenue Subway

1931 – Plans Postponed
Depression Era

\$86M → \$249M → \$500M

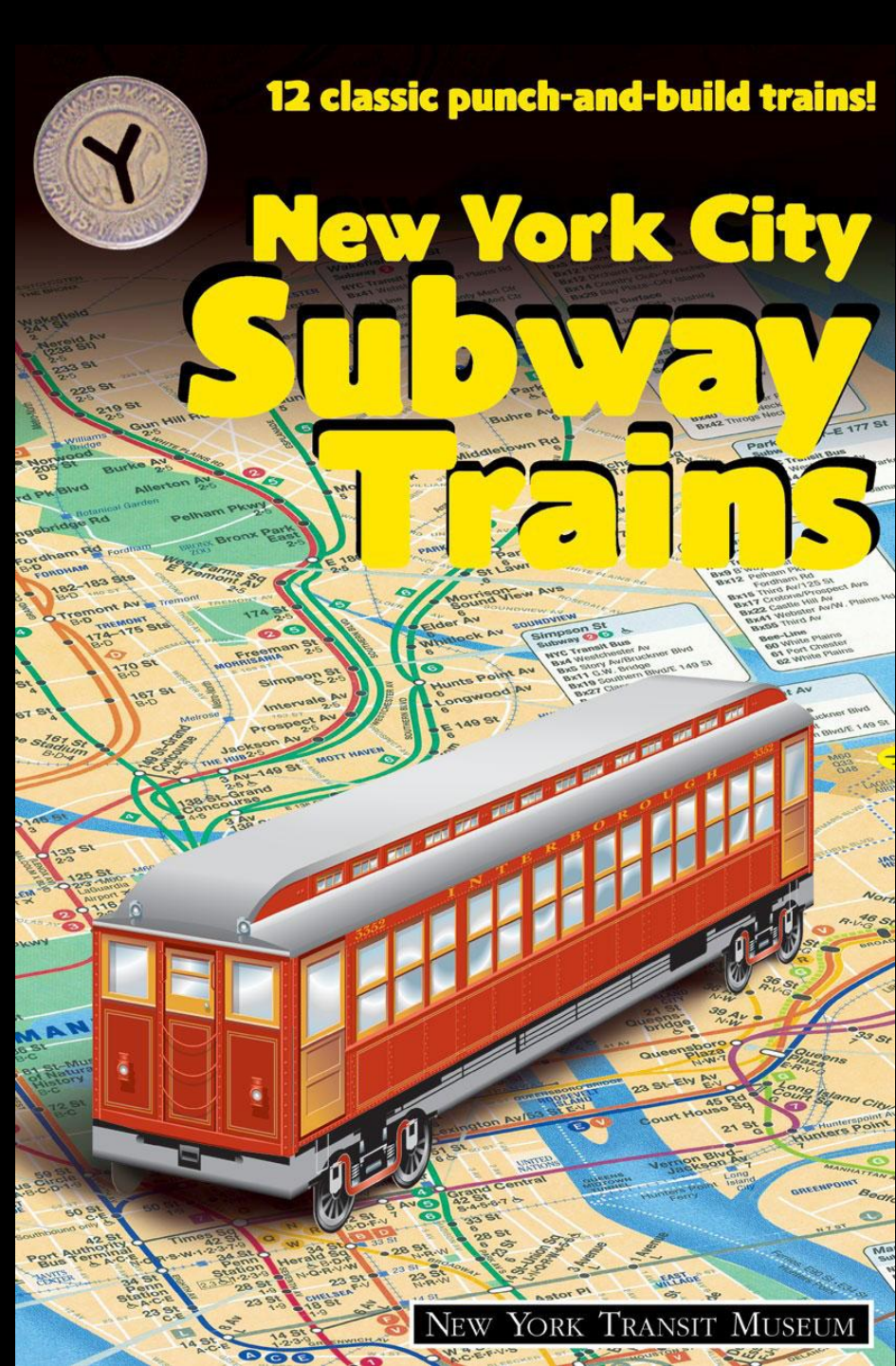
By 1948 – (Abandonment)

Second Avenue Subway

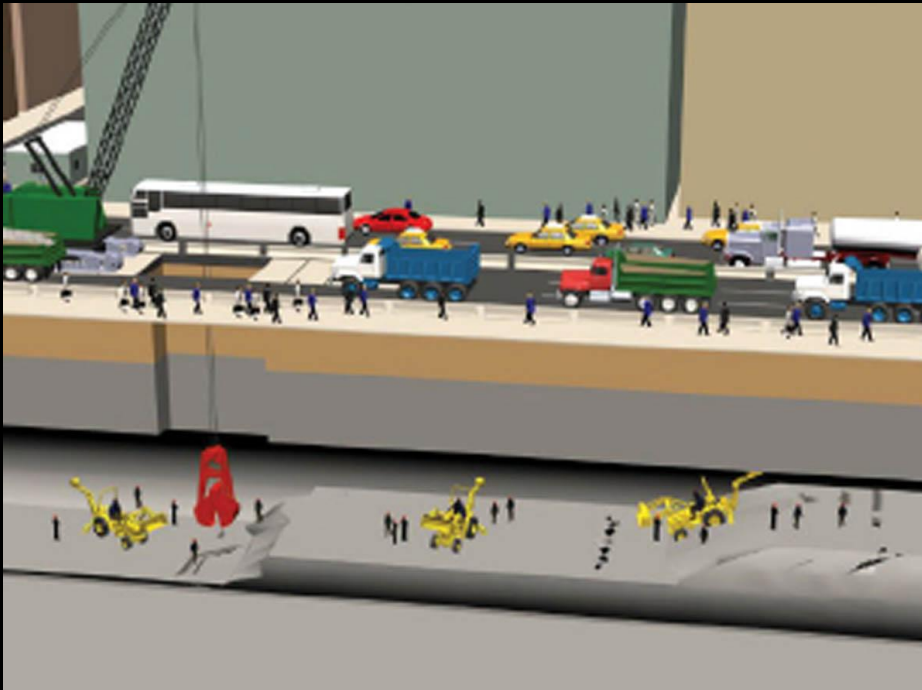
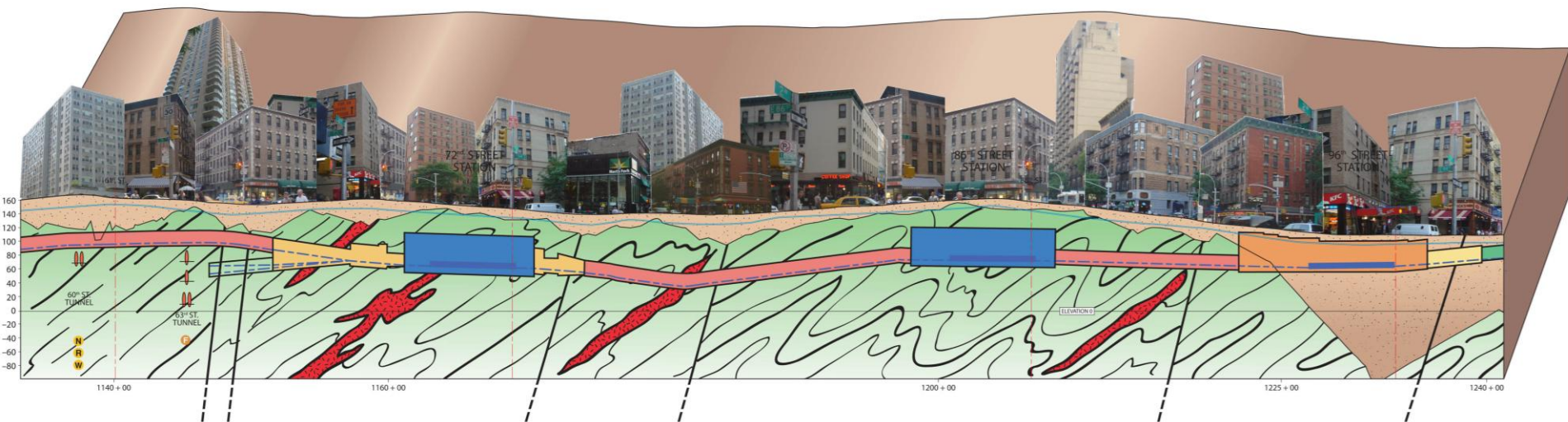


12 classic punch-and-build trains!

New York City Subway Trains



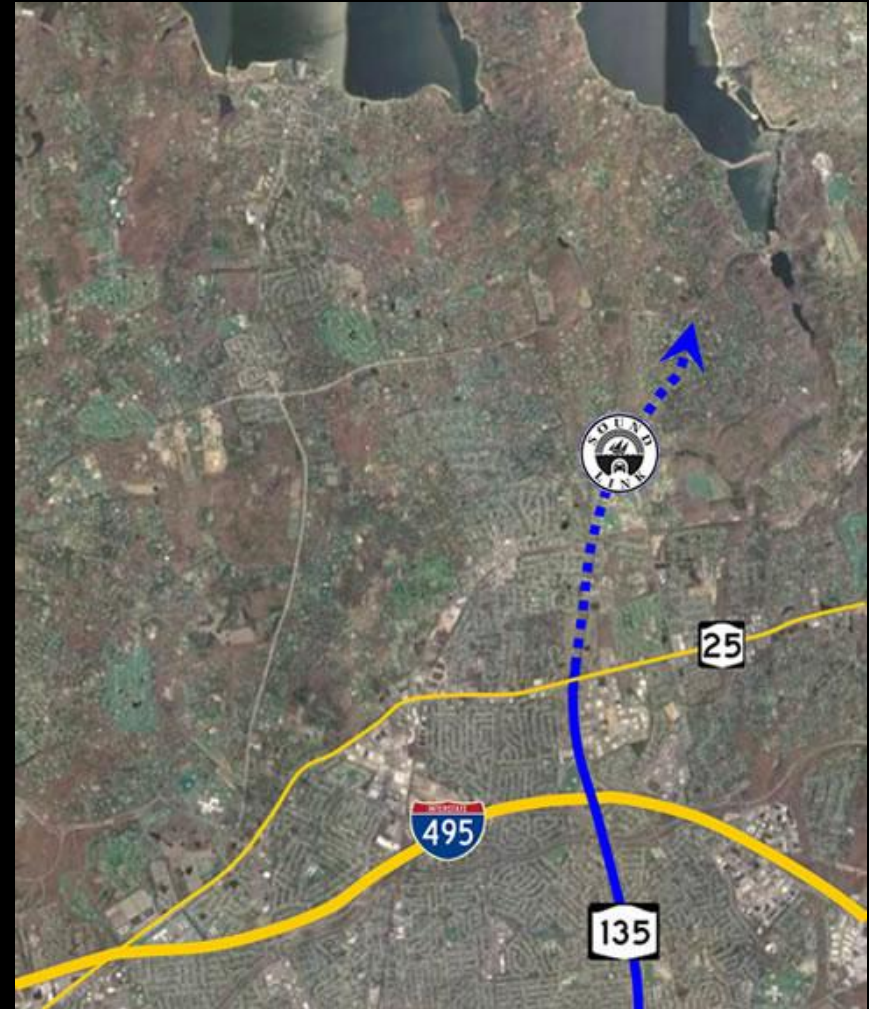
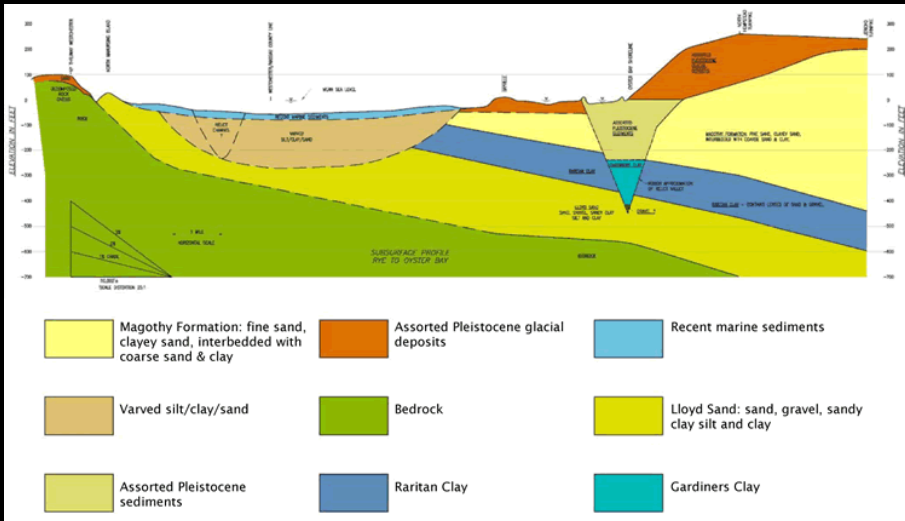
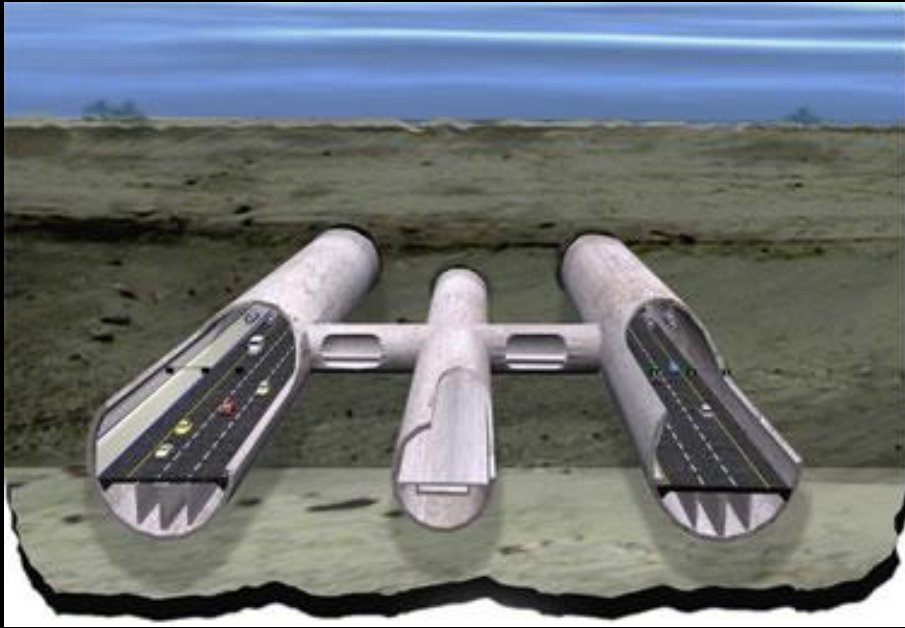
NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM



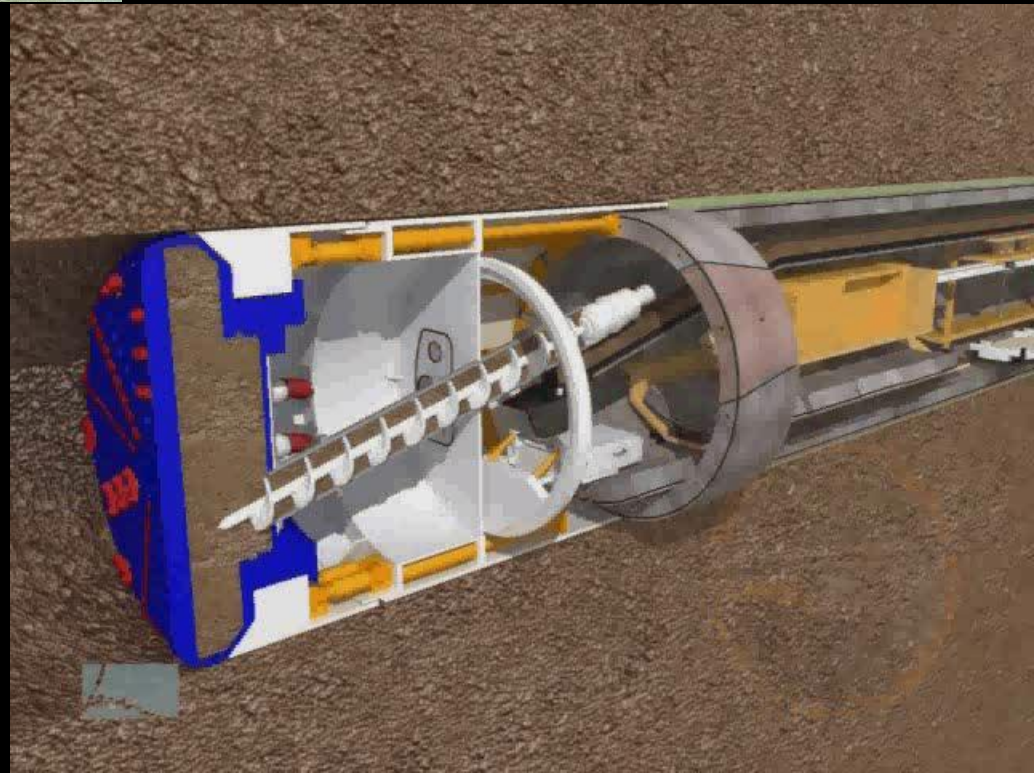
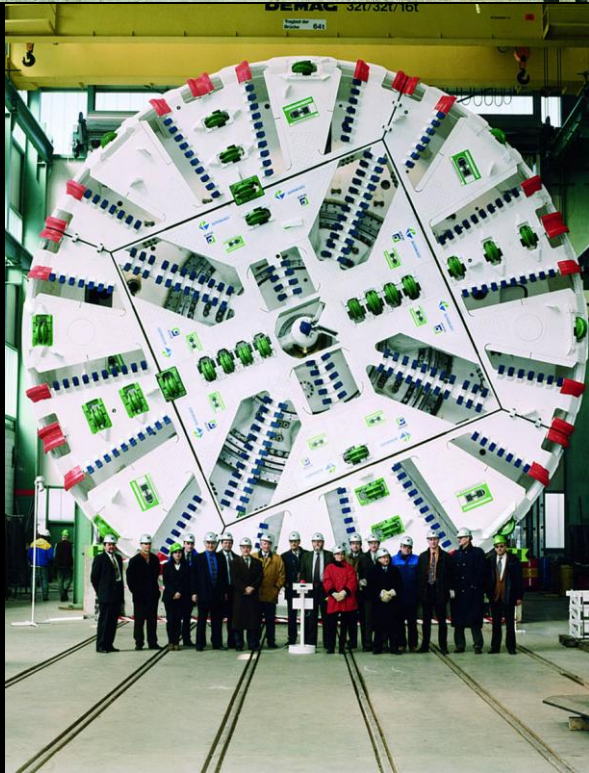
IRT #7 Line Extension



Cross Sound Link Project




Soft Ground TBMs



Queens Tunnel Problems – A Case History



Robbins 235-282 HP TBM

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) cutterhead. It shows various cutting tools, including scrapers and scrapers, mounted on a complex metal structure. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the metallic surfaces and the intricate design of the machine.

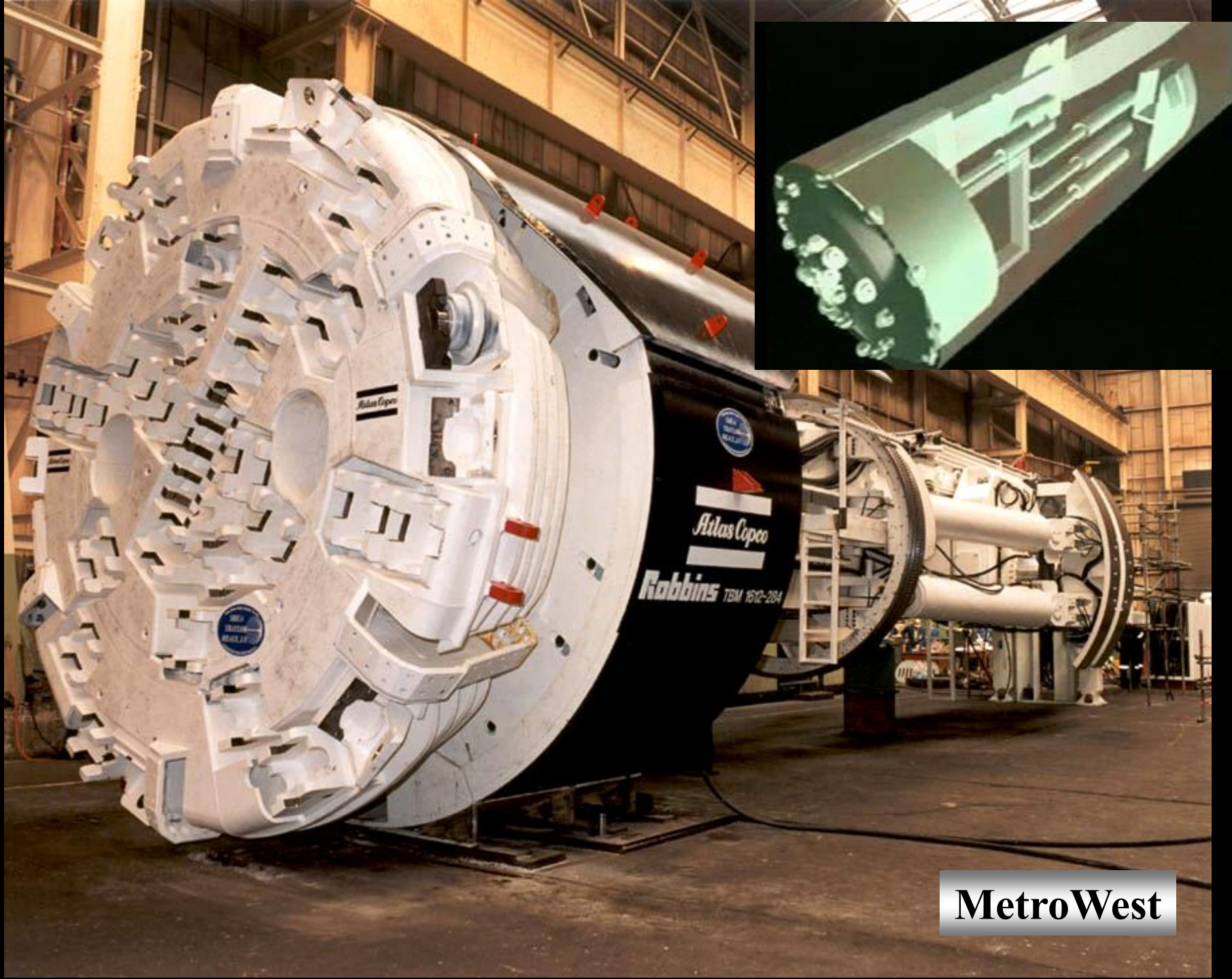
What Are the Geological Controls on Effective Hard Rock TBM Tunneling in Crystalline Terrains?

Low Penetration Rates

Excessive Fines

Blocky Ground

Unstable Headings and Sidewalls



MetroWest

Excessive Fines



Desirable Kerf Pattern in Hard Rocks



Blocky Ground



Collapsed Crown and Sidewalls

The image shows the interior of a tunnel where the crown and sidewalls have collapsed. The structure is supported by a complex network of wooden beams and metal struts. The ground is dark and uneven, and the overall scene is one of structural failure.

Short Stand-up Times

Station 153+30

Faults - Disturbed Ground Zone 59



Station 152+90

Rainy Conditions



Station 140+60

Unforeseen Tunneling Problems




Can Geologic Studies Help Predict TBM Penetration Destiny?



Pre-Bid Analysis Should Include:



- 
- **Published Maps and Reports**
 - **Boring Analysis**

Fractures

Rock Types

Rock Fabrics

Density Studies

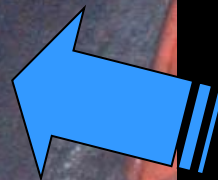
Petrographic Studies

- **Rock Fabric Studies**

Mineralogy

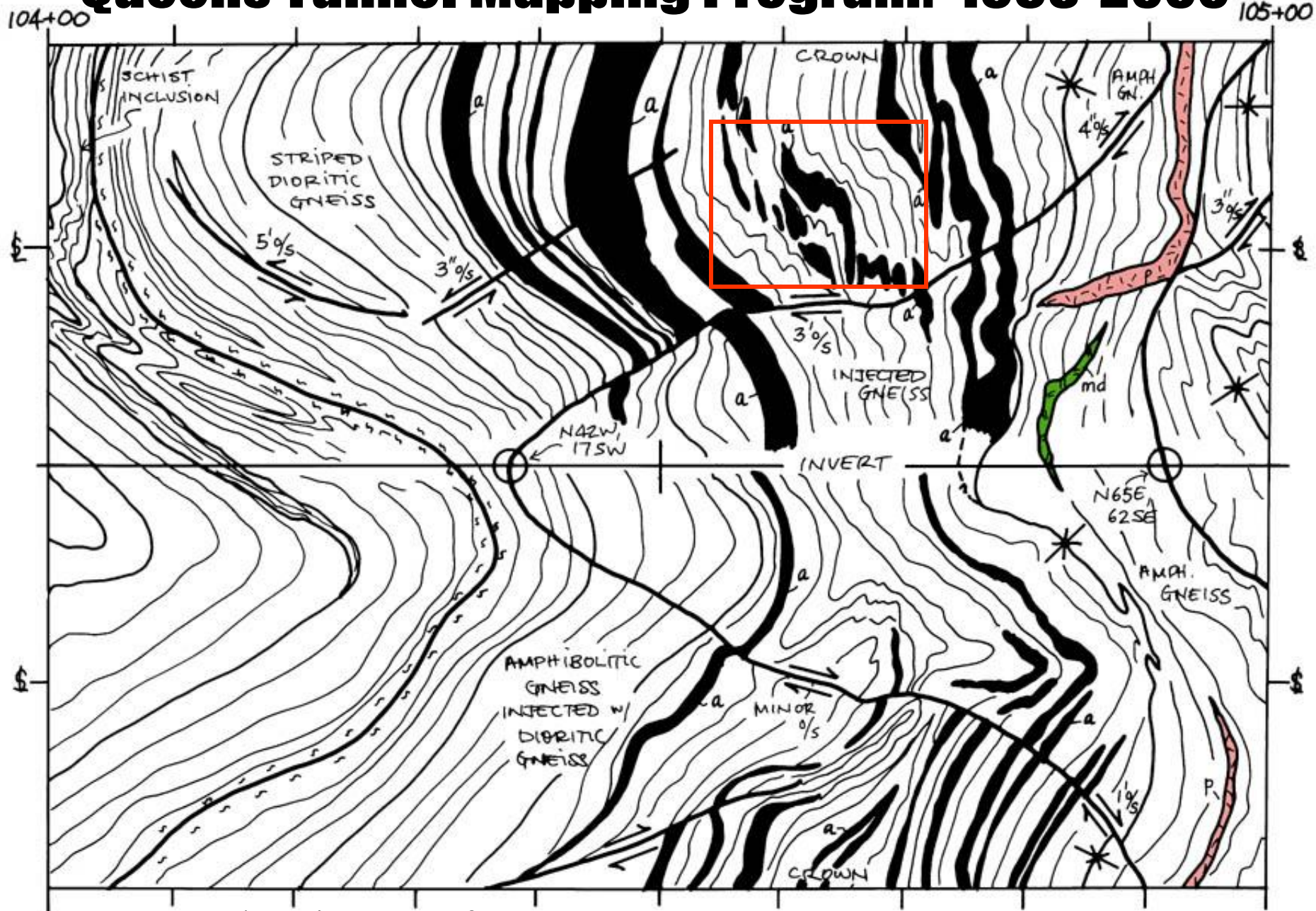
Texture

Orientation



**Merguerian's Queens
Tunnel Field Office**

Queens Tunnel Mapping Program: 1998-2000



- Scale 1 in. = 10 ft

104-302

315

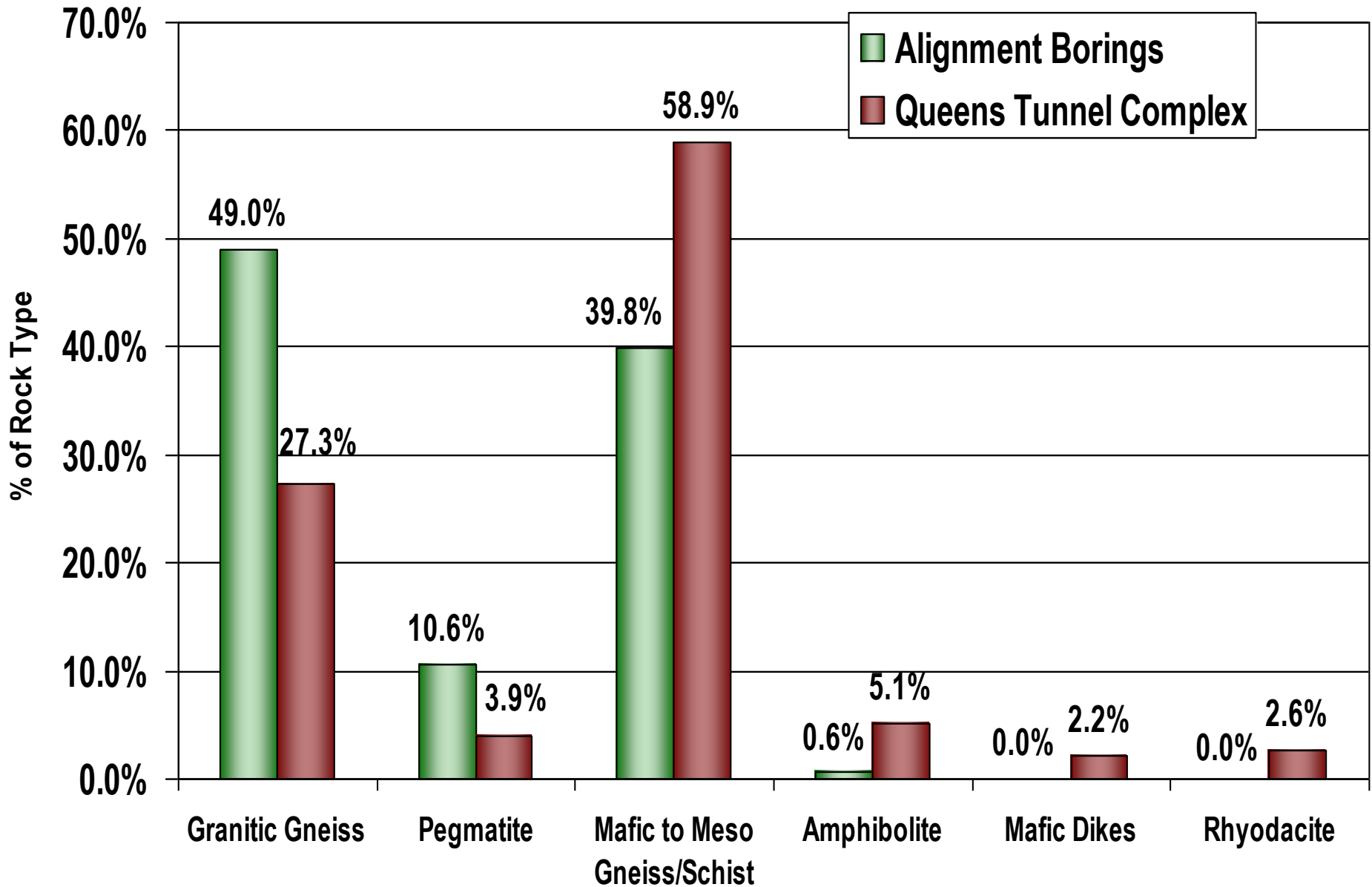
104-55

104-60

104-65

104-70

Comparative Lithologic Analysis



The Queens Tunnel Complex

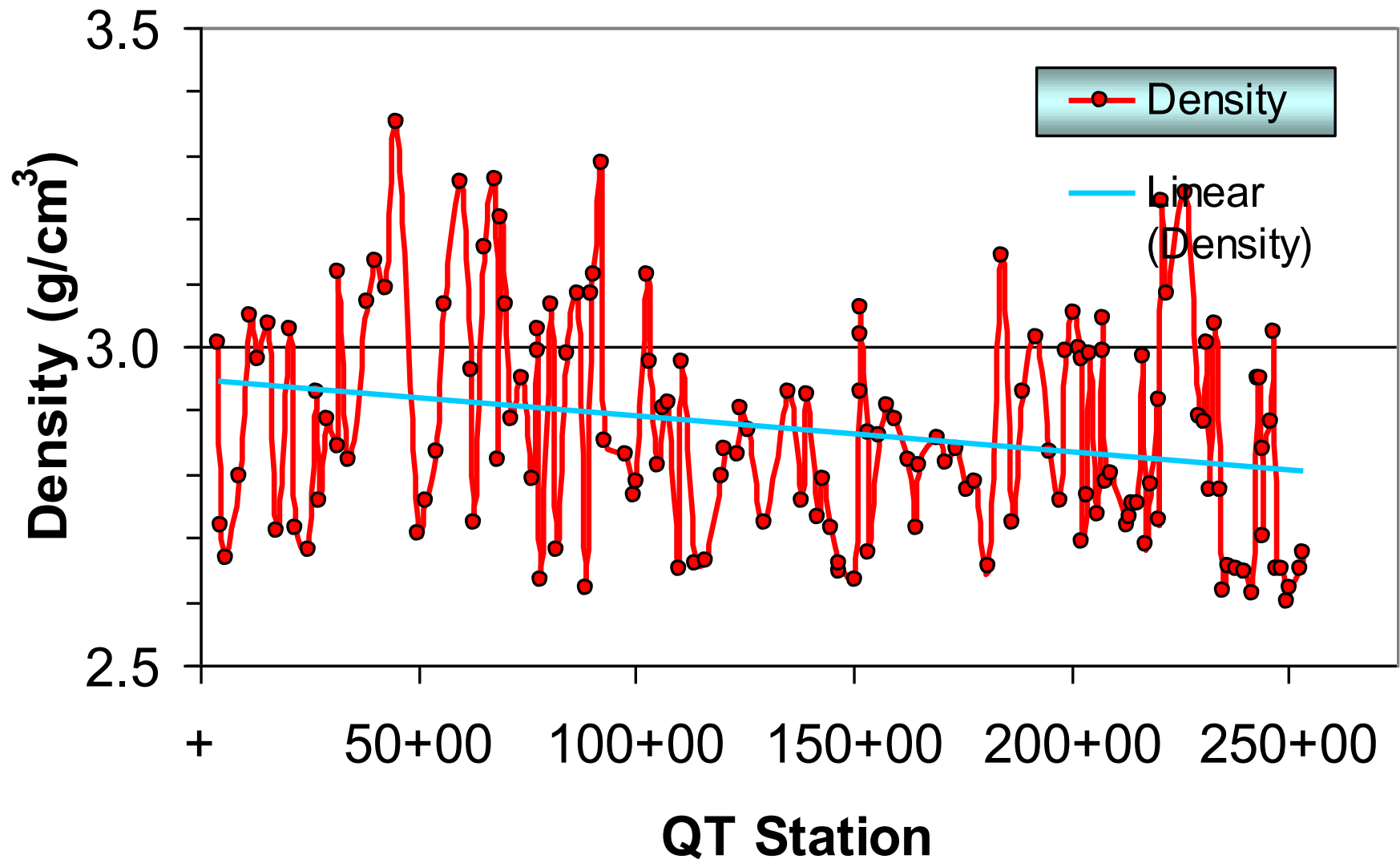
**I. Garnet-Clinopyroxene-Plagioclase Rocks
+/- Hornblende, Quartz, K-feldspar**

II. Leuco- to Mesocratic Gneiss

III. Mafic to Mesocratic Rocks

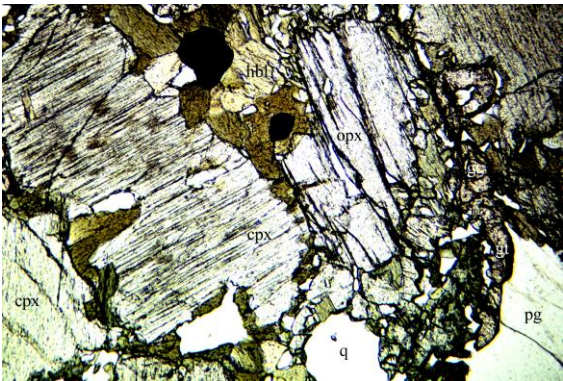
**Leucocratic (0%-35% mafic mineral content),
Mesocratic (35%-65% mafic mineral content), and
Melanocratic (65%-90% mafic mineral content)
gneiss form the bulk of the Queens Tunnel Complex**

Density Queens Tunnel (Mean = 2.87 g/cm³)



• Petrographic Analysis (92 Samples)

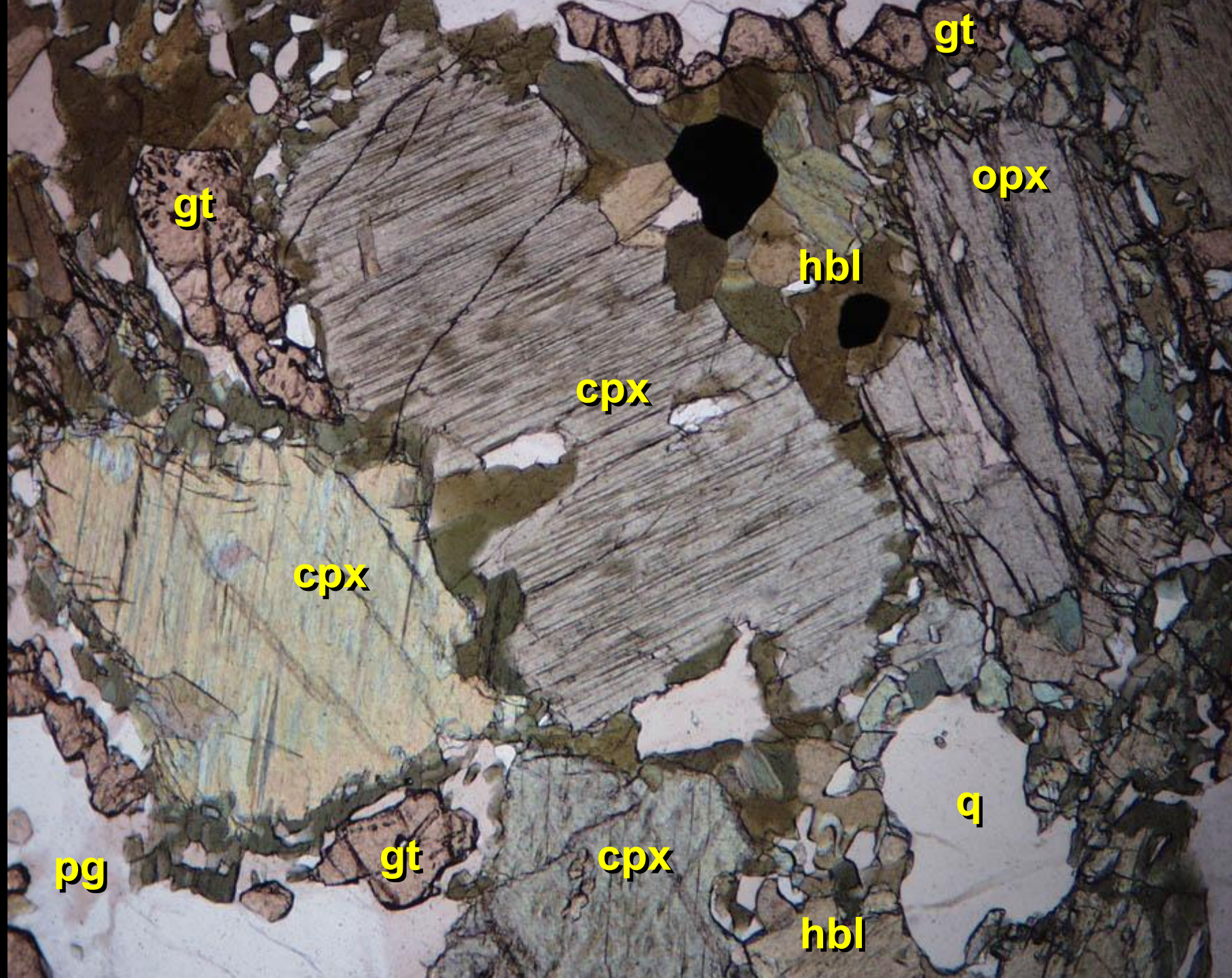
- Texture
- Mineralogy
- Internal Structure
- Metamorphism



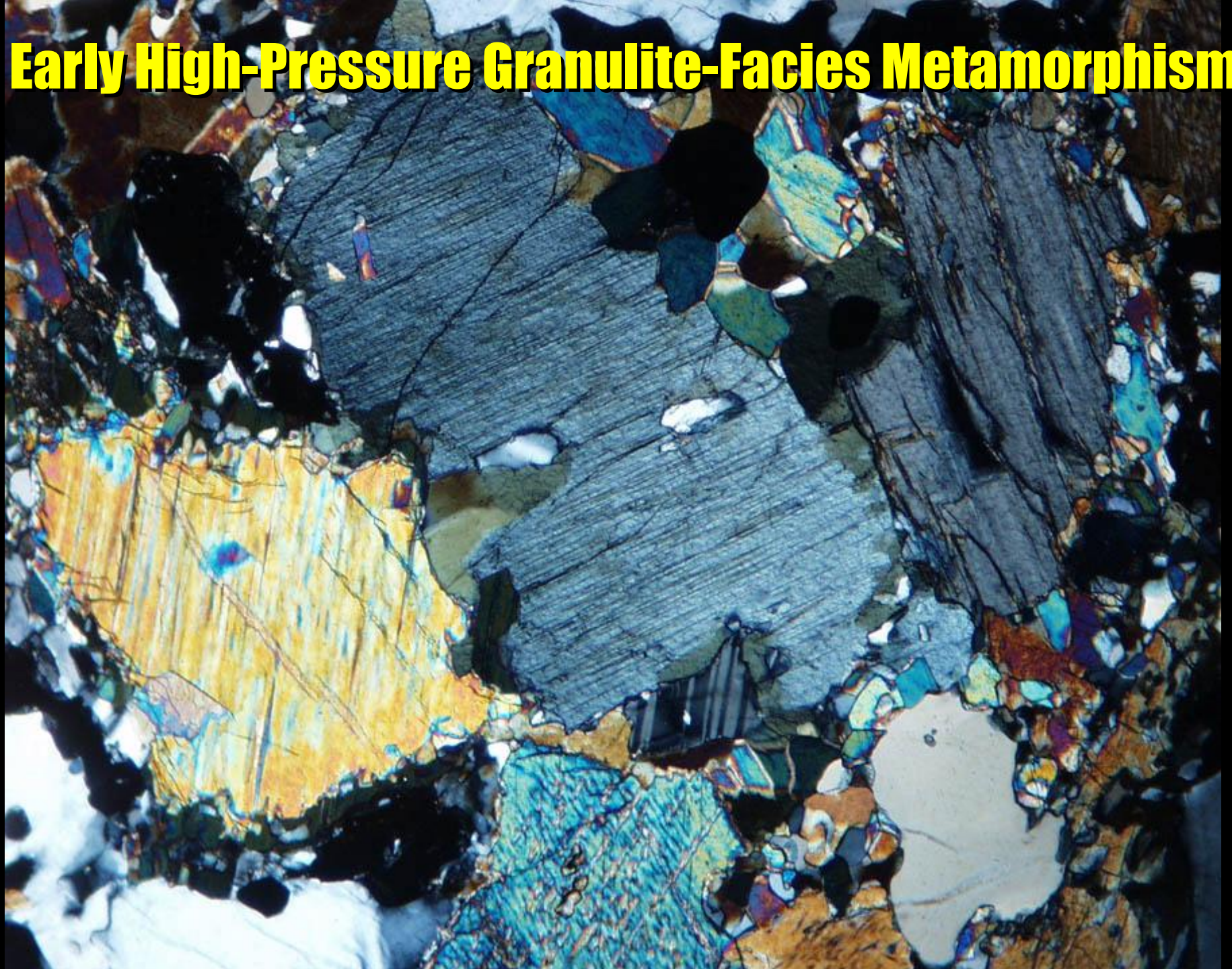
Thin section photomicrograph

Number	Location	Color	Density	Qtz	Kspar	Plagio/ An	Opx	Cpx	Hbld	Bio	Garnet	Opaque
Q109	004+80					M	35	M	M			
Q109	004+80	25	2.72	M		M	35		m	m	m	
Q110	006+42	10	2.66	M	tr+AP	M				m gnbk	tr	tr
Q111	009+25	25	2.79	M		M	m		tr	m	M py encl Q	tr
Q112	011+60	35	3.05	m		M	51	M exsol	m gnkh		M py	
Q114	015+90	45	3.03	m		M	53-39	M exsol	m gnkh		m necklace	tr
Q115	017+70	10	2.71	M	tr AP	M			m bugn sieve	m rbn	m porange	tr
Q117a	022+25	15	2.72	M	tr	m	27		m dgygn	m rbn	m porange sieve	tr
Q119	026+65	45	2.93	m 10	m 15	M	27		M khgn	tr rdbn	m	m
Q123	032+15	60	3.11	m		m	44	m	m gnHB	m rbn	M sieve	tr
Q127	042+67	60	3.09	m		M		M	M gnkh	m red	M	m
Q129	049+95	25	2.71	M	M	M	low			M kh	M	
Q130	051+83	15	2.76	40	tr	M				m obn	M.vermic/sieve	tr
Q133	059+95	55	3.26	m		M	38-29	M	Mkhtan	m	M	m
Q134	062+45	60	3.17	m		M	28-40	Rev Zoning	M	M bugn some	vermic wi Qtz	M fine sieve/vermic
068+10	068+10	5:50		M		M	55	m	m gn		m vermic with pl	tr
070+60	070+60	45		M		M	45+	?	core?	m. Gn	M	m
Q141	071+80	30	2.9	5		M sieve	M sieve		tr gn	M okh	M sieve	2

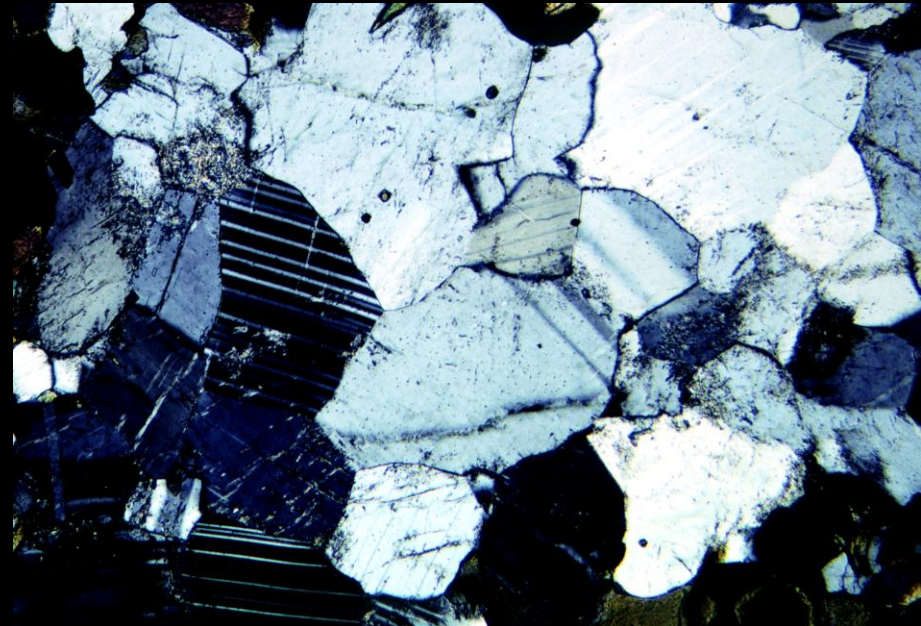
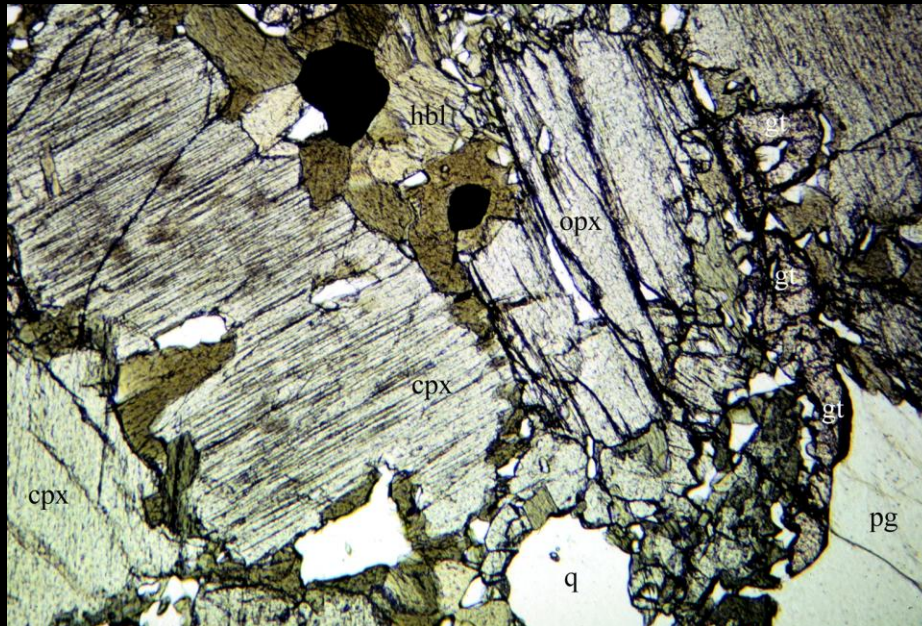
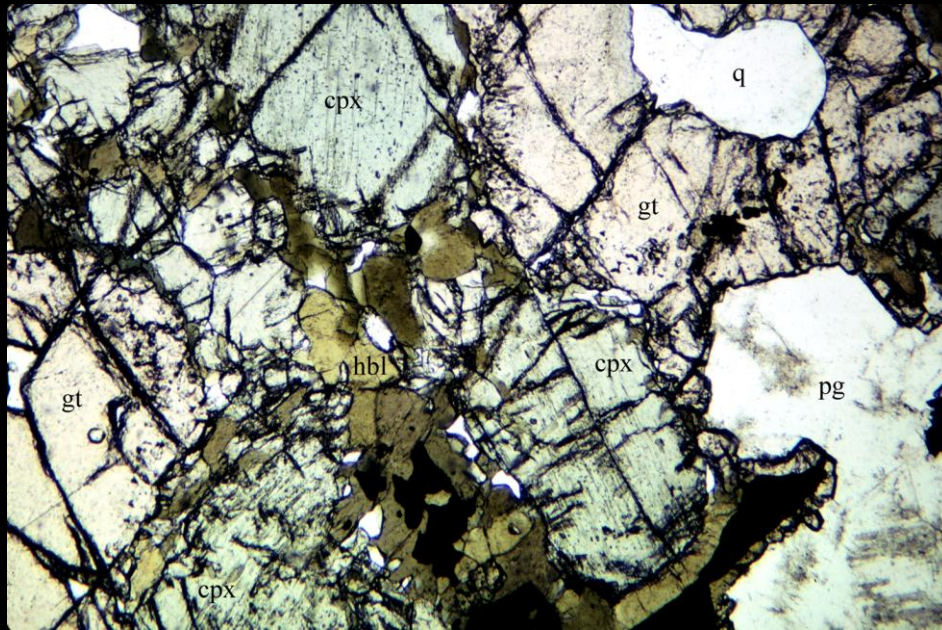
Petrographic Data Sheet



Early High-Pressure Granulite-Facies Metamorphism

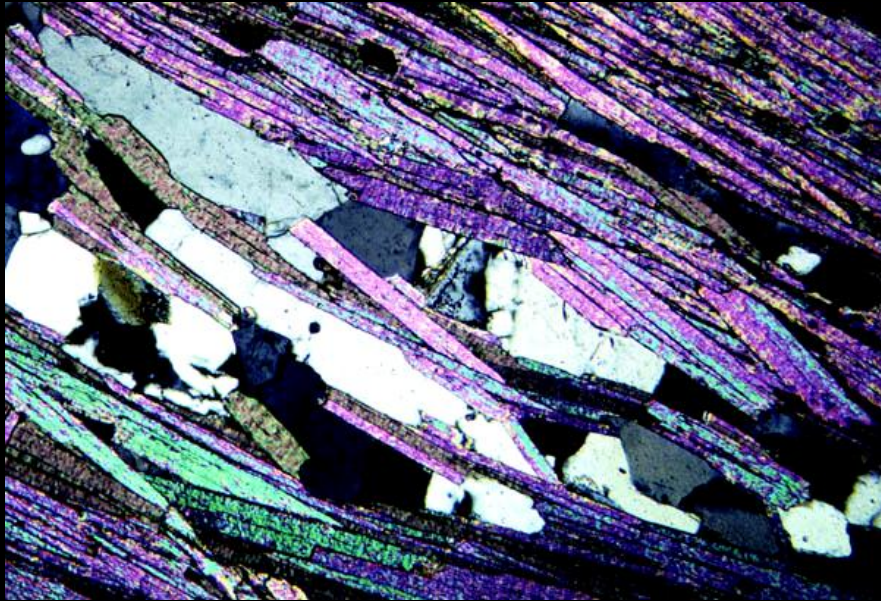


Granulite Facies Gneisses Found in the Queens Tunnel Granoblastic Textures Tough Rocks for Tunneling

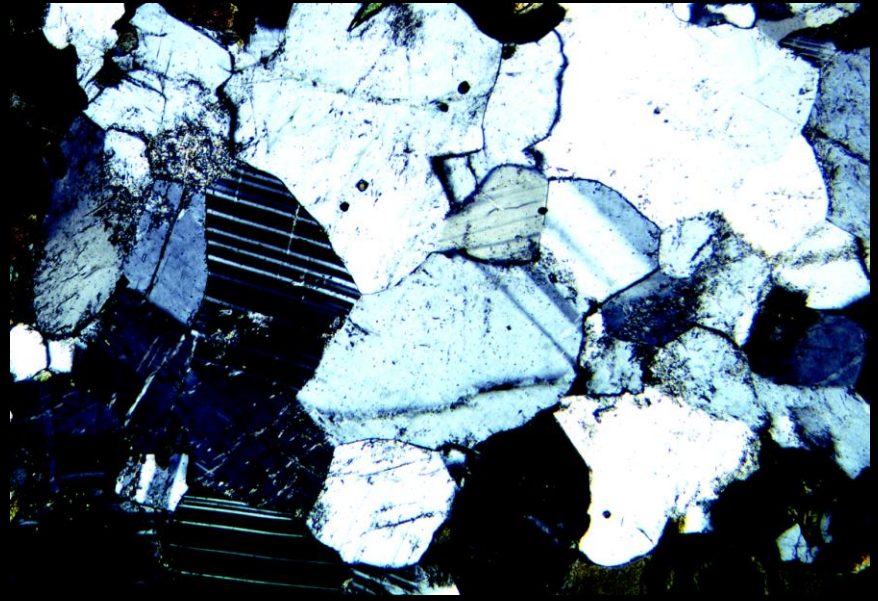


Mica Content of Rock Fabric

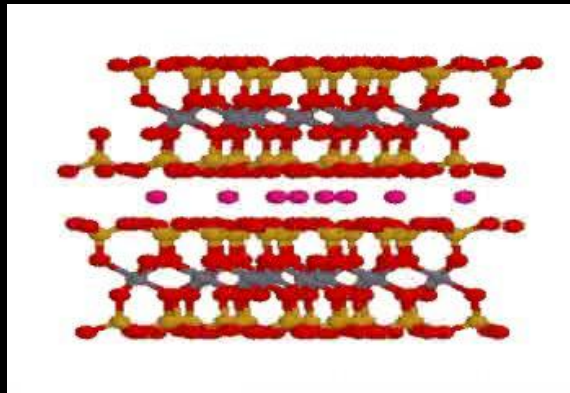
Micaceous (+/- hornblende) penetrative foliation
vs. non-foliated “granoblastic” rock mass



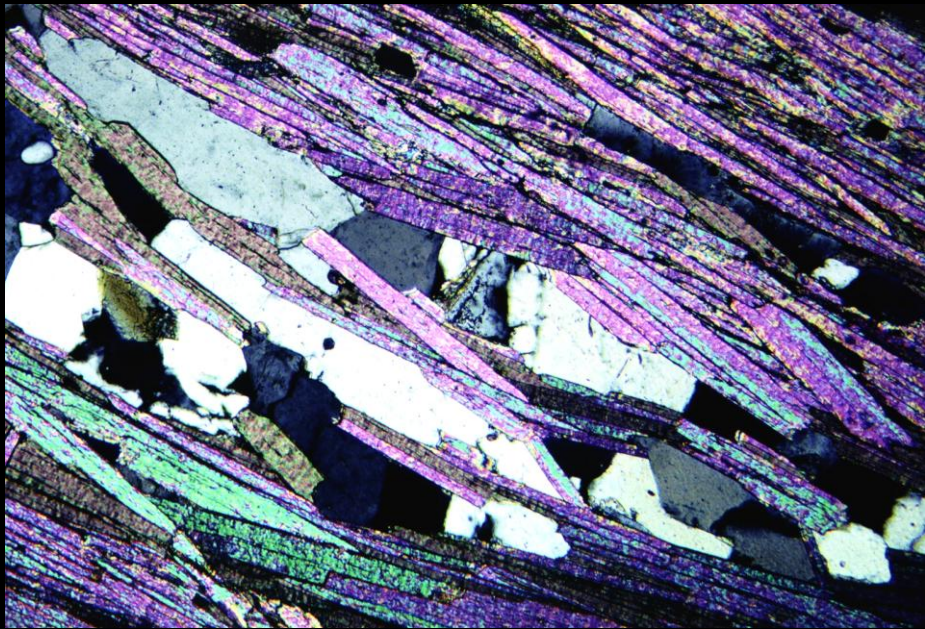
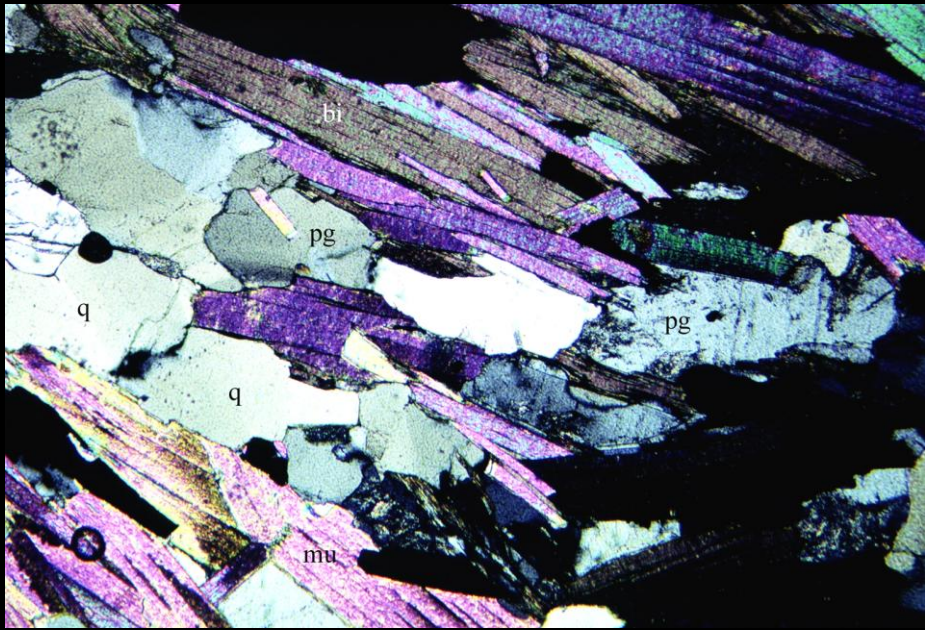
Foliated



Non-Foliated



**In Western Manhattan:
Amphibolite Facies Schists
Well-layered Hartland Fm.
Foliated Textures
Great Rocks for Tunneling
and Excavation!**



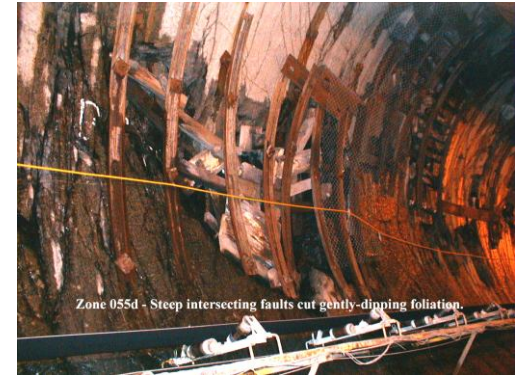
Orientation of Rock Layering

NE strike and moderate 57° dip anticipated

- [Based on borings, Chesman, Tarkoy]**

Highly variable trends found

- Extended reaches of tunnel exhibited gentle dips**



Only one boring (QTL-12) exhibited gentle dips at tunnel horizon

		NE Leg		NW Leg	
Gentle Dips		17/93	18%	44/139	32%
Moderate Dips		34/93	37%	28/139	20%
Steep Dips		42/93	45%	67/139	48%

High Garnet Content

A photograph of a dark, layered rock face, likely a sedimentary or metamorphic rock. The rock shows distinct horizontal banding and is heavily fractured. A small white scale bar with black markings is visible in the lower right quadrant. The overall texture is rough and weathered.

Increased Density and Abrasivity of Rock Mass

This geological map illustrates the structural and lithological features of the Crown Hill area. The map is bounded by coordinates 133+00 to 134+00 on the horizontal axis and 10+00 to 11+00 on the vertical axis. Key features include:

- D2 Shears:** Indicated by wavy lines and labeled "D2 SHEARS".
- D3 Shear Zone:** A prominent zone labeled "D3 SHEAR ZONE" with a "REACTIVATED" fault segment.
- Gray Well-layered Amphibolite Gneiss:** A large, dark brown area labeled "GRAY WELL LAYERED AMPHIBOLITE GNEISS".
- Green Mafic Rocks:** Several green areas labeled "md" (mafic dykes) are scattered throughout the map.
- Structural Features:** Includes "D2 SLEIGHTLY INCLINED", "D3 SLEIGHTLY INCLINED", and "D3 SLEIGHTLY INCLINED" labels. A "CROWN" label is present in the upper right.
- Other Labels:** "F.D. 1'", "18' 0/s", "1' 0/s", "10' 0/s", "12' 0/s", "2' 0/s", "RR" (road), and "CROWN" are also visible.

$$133 + 00$$



Short Stand-up Times



Major Lithologic Contrast



Lava Flows in Woodside?



Download NYC Geology Publications @

www.hofstra.edu

www.dukelabs.com

**What's That
Noise?**



