

The Engineering Institute of Canada Fellow Citation - 2003

Dr. J.F. (Derick) Nixon - A Member of the Canadian Geotechnical Society

Dr. Nixon graduated with a BA and a BAI from Trinity College Dublin University. He obtained a Masters of Science from the same university. He then was awarded a PhD in geotechnical engineering at the University of Alberta. This impressive range of educational interests was completed in a continuous line over quite a short period. Dr. Nixon has subsequently concentrated his career in permafrost engineering and cold region resource development. He is currently a consultant in geothermal engineering with Colt Engineering Corporation and maintains his own company, Nixon Geotechnical Ltd.

Upon completion of his PhD studies, Dr. Nixon worked with Hardy Associates and Hardy BBT for a number of years, and then started his own independent practice. During this time he also spent several years with Esso Resources, with all of his technical energies essentially concentrated in permafrost engineering. Some of the topics Dr. Nixon has turned his attention to include the design and building of structures supported on or within permafrost such as pile foundations, pipelines, gas plants, drilling platforms, roads, airports, dams and failings dams, and ground temperature monitoring systems. It's probably fair to say that Dr. Nixon has been involved with the building of almost all structure that may be conceived of for a cold region environment.

Dr. Nixon's contributions to the engineering field have been very extensive, and he has brought great distinction and recognition of the excellence of Canadian engineering. He is now the internationally acknowledged leader of geothermal analysis and design, as applied to the geotechnical aspects of artic pipelines, permafrost engineering in general and cold region resource development. As you might expect, Dr. Nixon's expertise has carried him to some very diverse geographic areas and cold regions, including most of Europe, North America, China, Russia and a recently constructed road across the Tibetan Plateau. Yet his unique knowledge is broad and recognized enough to have helped solve deep foundation offshore problems near Perth, Australia by freezing. A very creative application of cold engineering - - in reverse.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present one of Canada's internationally recognized geotechnical experts. And now a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Mr. President - Dr. Derick Nixon