



# Yellowstone River at Huntley, MT

**Bridge Scour Countermeasure Failure Investigation** 

**Russell Brewer, P.E.** 





- Total pier scour estimated at 18.2-feet
- Estimated Scour plots below the bottom of the footing elevations at piers 3, 6, and 7
- Footings "keyed" about 2-feet into Hard Blue Sandstone
- Structure placed on District Emergency Watch List (NBIS Item 113 Code 3)

## EAST ELEVATION

#### 9-23-1998 UW Inspection











# What Happened? MDT Scour Team

- Implement POA due to CM Failure
- Review Available Data
- Request Additional Data
- Determine what led to CM Failure
  - Design Features
  - Construction Techniques
  - Hydraulic Forces
  - Other Factors



**Determine Mechanisms of failure:** 

- Design Features
  - Review Plans









#### **Determine Mechanisms of failure:**

- > Design Features
  - Review Plans
- > Construction
  - Method of Construction
  - Review Placement of ACB's





#### Challenges

• Site access

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- Water depth at low flow = 9-feet
- How to isolate the work area?

#### **Contractors Solution**

• Earthen Cofferdams



**Excavate to Depth** 

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## ACB Mattress "keyed" in around edges?

**Place ACB Mattress** 

**ACB Mattress anchored US and DS?** 

Block protrusion minimized?

#### **Determine Mechanisms of failure:**

- Design Features
  - Review Plans
- Construction Techniques
  - Review Methods of Construction
- Data Requested
  - Bathymetric Survey





#### **Determine Mechanisms of failure:**

- Design Features
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- Data Requested
  - Bathymetric Survey
- Hydraulic Forces
  - Flood Flow



## ≊USGS



#### **Determine Mechanisms of failure:**

- Design Features
  - Review Plans
- Construction Techniques
  - Review Methods of Construction
- Data Requested
  - Bathymetric Survey
- Hydraulic Forces
  - Flood Flow
  - Hydraulic Modeling







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#### **Contractors Solution**

- Earthen Cofferdams
- Excavate to Depth









## **Conclusion:**

- > ACB Failure combination of factors.
  - Minimal Survey
  - ACB Elevations not specified
  - Plan Interpretation
    - Contractor
    - Construction PM
    - **Designer**
  - ACB's placed above channel thalweg.
  - Material beneath ACB mobile and likely washed away.
  - Experience





#### Initial Site Survey/Evaluation

- Better description of what is going on underwater.
- Aid in CM Selection process.
- Allow for more detailed hydraulic modeling
- Allow for better plan preparation

#### Design

- Define final elevations of countermeasures.
- Extend depth of mattress "key" to minimum of exposed Footing Height.

#### > Construction

- Technique and Experience
- Plan Interpretation
- Better communication
  - Construction Project manager
  - Design Engineer
  - Contractor.

