



# MODEL 5400 GEOPROBE™ OPERATION

SOP#: 2050  
DATE: 03/27/96  
REV. #: 0.0

## 1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the collection of representative soil, soil-gas, and groundwater samples using a Model 5400 Geoprobe™ sampling device. Any deviations from these procedures should be documented in the site/field logbook and stated in project deliverables.

Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) endorsement or recommendation for use.

## 2.0 METHOD SUMMARY

The Geoprobe™ sampling device is used to collect soil, soil-gas and groundwater samples at specific depths below ground surface (BGS). The Geoprobe™ is hydraulically powered and is mounted in a customized four-wheel drive vehicle. The base of the sampling device is positioned on the ground over the sampling location and the vehicle is hydraulically raised on the base. As the weight of the vehicle is transferred to the probe, the probe is pushed into the ground. A built-in hammer mechanism allows the probe to be driven through dense materials. Maximum depth penetration under favorable circumstances is about 50 feet. Components of the Model 5400 Geoprobe™ are shown in Figures 1 through 6 (Appendix A).

Soil samples are collected with a specially-designed sample tube. The sample tube is pushed and/or vibrated to a specified depth (approximately one foot above the intended sample interval). The interior plug of the sample tube is removed by inserting small-diameter threaded rods. The sample tube is then driven an additional foot to collect the samples. The probe sections and sample tube are then withdrawn and the sample is extruded from the tube into sample jars.

Soil gas can be collected in two ways. One method

involves withdrawing a sample directly from the probe rods, after evacuating a sufficient volume of air from the probe rods. The other method involves collecting a sample through tubing attached by an adaptor to the bottom probe section. Correctly used, the latter method provides more reliable results.

Slotted lengths of probe can be used to collect groundwater samples if the probe rods can be driven to the water table. Groundwater samples are collected using either a peristaltic pump or a small bailer.

## 3.0 SAMPLE PRESERVATION, CONTAINERS, HANDLING AND STORAGE

Refer to specific ERT SOPs for procedures appropriate to the matrix, parameters and sampling objector.

Applicable ERT SOPs include:

ERT #2012, Soil Sampling

ERT #2007, Groundwater Well Sampling

ERT #2042, Soil Gas Sampling

## 4.0 INTERFERENCES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

A preliminary site survey should identify areas to be avoided with the truck. All underground utilities should be located and avoided during sampling. Begin sampling activities with an adequate fuel supply.

Decontamination of sampling tubes, probe rods, adaptors, non-expendable points and other equipment that contacts the soil is necessary to prevent cross-contamination of samples. During sampling, the bottom portion and outside of the sampling tubes can be contaminated with soil from other depth intervals.

Care must be taken to prevent soil which does not represent the sampled interval from being incorporated into the sample. Excess soil should be carefully wiped from the outside surface of the sampling tube and the bottom 3 inches of the sample should be discarded before extruding the sample into a sample jar.

The amount of sample to be collected and the proper sample container type (i.e., glass, plastic), chemical preservation, and storage requirements are dependent upon the parameter(s) of interest. Guidelines for the containment, preservation, handling and storage of soil-gas samples are described in ERT SOP #2042, Soil-Gas Sampling.

Obtaining sufficient volume of soil for multiple analyses from one sample location may present a problem. The Geoprobe™ soil sampling system recovers a limited volume of soil and it is not possible to reenter the same hole and collect additional soil. When multiple analyses are to be performed on soil samples collected with the Geoprobe™, it is important that the relative importance of the analyses be identified. Identifying the order of importance will ensure that the limited sample volume will be used for the most crucial analyses.

## 5.0 EQUIPMENT/APPARATUS

Sampling with the Geoprobe™ involves use of the equipment listed below. Some of the equipment is used for all sample types, others are specific to soil (S), soil gas (SG), or groundwater (GW) as noted.

- C Geoprobe™ sampling device
- C Threaded probe rods (36", 24", and 12" lengths)
- C Drive Caps
- C Pull Caps
- C Rod Extractor
- C Expendable Point Holders
- C Expendable Drive Points
- C Solid Drive Points
- C Extension Rods
- C Extension Rod Couplers
- C Extension Rod Handle
- C Hammer Anvil
- C Hammer Latch
- C Hammer Latch Tool
- C Drill Steels
- C Carbide-Tipped Drill Bit

- C Mill-Slotted Well Point (GW)
- C Threaded Drive Point (GW)
- C Well Mini-Bailer (GW)
- C Tubing Bottom Check Valve (GW)
- C 3/8" O.D. Low Density Polyethylene Tubing (GW, SG)
- C Gas Sampling Adaptor and Cap (SG)
- C Teflon Tape
- C Neoprene "O" - Rings (SG)
- C Vacuum System (mounted in vehicle) (SG)
- C Piston Tip (S)
- C Piston Rod (S)
- C Piston Stop (S)
- C Sample Tube (11.5" in length) (S)
- C Vinyl Ends Caps (S)
- C Sample Extruder (S)
- C Extruder Pistons (Wooden Dowels) (S)
- C Wire Brush
- C Brush Adapters
- C Cleaning Brush (Bottle)

## 6.0 REAGENTS

Decontamination solutions are specified in ERT SOP #2006, Sampling Equipment Decontamination.

## 7.0 PROCEDURES

Portions of the following sections have been condensed from the Model 5400 Geoprobe™ Operations Manual(1). Refer to this manual for more detailed information concerning equipment specifications, general maintenance, tools, throttle control, clutch pump, GSK-58 Hammer, and troubleshooting. A copy of this manual will be maintained with the Geoprobe™ and on file in the Quality Assurance (QA) office.

### 7.1 Preparation

1. Determine extent of the sampling effort, sample matrices to be collected, and types and amounts of equipment and supplies required to complete the sampling effort.
2. Obtain and organize necessary sampling and monitoring equipment.
3. Decontaminate or pre-clean equipment, and ensure that it is in working order.
4. Perform a general site survey prior to site

entry in accordance with the site-specific Health and Safety Plan.

5. Use stakes or flagging to identify and mark all sampling locations. All sample locations should be cleared for utilities prior to sampling.

## 7.2 Setup of Geoprobe™

1. Back carrier vehicle to probing location.
2. Shift the vehicle to park and shut off ignition.
3. Set parking brake and place chocks under rear tires.
4. Attach exhaust hoses so exhaust blows downwind of the sampling location (this is particularly important during soil gas sampling).
5. Start engine using the remote ignition at the Geoprobe™ operator position.
6. Activate hydraulic system by turning on the Electrical Control Switch located on the Geoprobe™ electrical control panel (Figure 1, Appendix A). When positioning the probe, always use the SLOW speed. The SLOW speed switch is located on the hydraulic control panel (Figure 2, Appendix A).

**Important: Check for clearance on vehicle roof before folding Geoprobe™ out of the carrier vehicle.**

7. Laterally extend the Geoprobe™ from the vehicle as far as possible by pulling the EXTEND control lever toward the back of the vehicle while the Geoprobe™ is horizontal.
8. Using the FOOT control, lower the Derrick Slide so it is below cylinder (A) before folding the Geoprobe™ out of the carrier vehicle (Figure 3, Appendix A). This will ensure clearance at the roof of the vehicle.
9. Use the FOLD, FOOT, and EXTEND controls to place Geoprobe™ to the exact

probing location. Never begin probing in the fully extended position.

10. Using the FOLD control, adjust the long axis of the probe cylinder so that it is perpendicular (visually) to the ground surface.

11. Using the FOOT control, put the weight of the vehicle on the probe unit. Do not raise the rear of the vehicle more than six inches.

**Important: Keep rear vehicle wheels on the ground surface when transferring the weight of the vehicle to the probe unit. Otherwise, vehicle may shift when probing begins.**

12. When the probe axis is vertical and the weight of the vehicle is on the probe unit, probing is ready to begin.

### **7.3 Drilling Through Surface Pavement or Concrete**

1. Position carrier vehicle to drilling location.
2. Fold unit out of carrier vehicle.
3. Deactivate hydraulics.
4. Insert carbide-tipped drill bit into hammer.
5. Activate HAMMER ROTATION control by turning knob counter-clockwise (Figure 4, Appendix A). This allows the drill bit to rotate when the HAMMER control is pressed.
6. Press down on HAMMER control to activate counterclockwise rotation.
7. Both the HAMMER control and the PROBE control must be used when drilling through the surface (Figure 4, Appendix A). Fully depress the HAMMER control, and incrementally lower the bit gradually into the pavement by periodically depressing the PROBE control.
8. When the surface has been penetrated, turn the HAMMER Control Valve knob clockwise to deactivate hammer rotation and remove the drill bit from the HAMMER.

**Important: Be sure to deactivate the rotary action before driving probe rods.**

## 7.4 Probing

1. Position the carrier vehicle to the desired sampling location and set the vehicle parking brake.
2. Deploy Geoprobe™ Sampling Device.
3. Make sure the hydraulic system is turned off.
4. Lift up latch and insert hammer anvil into hammer - push latch back in (Figure 5, Appendix A).
5. Thread the drive cap onto the male end of the probe rod.
6. Thread an expendable point holder onto the other end of the first probe rod.
7. Slip an expendable drive point into point holder.
8. Position the leading probe rod with expendable drive point in the center of the derrick foot and directly below the hammer anvil.

**Important: Positioning the first probe rod is critical in order to drive the probe rod vertically. Therefore, both the probe rod and the probe cylinder shaft must be in the vertical position (Figure 6, Appendix A).**

9. To begin probing, activate the hydraulics and push the PROBE Control downward. When advancing the first probe rod, always use the SLOW speed. Many times the probe rods can be advanced using only the weight of the carrier vehicle. When this is the case, only the PROBE control is used.

**Important: When advancing rods, always keep the probe rods parallel to the probe cylinder shaft (Figure 6, Appendix A). This is done by making minor adjustments with the FOLD control. Failure to keep probe rods parallel to probe cylinder shaft may result in broken rods and increased difficulty in achieving desired sampling depth.**

## 7.5 Probing - Percussion Hammer

The percussion hammer must be used in situations where the weight of the vehicle is not sufficient to advance the probe rods.

1. Make sure the Hammer Rotation Valve is closed.
2. Using the PROBE control to advance the rod, press down the HAMMER control to allow percussion to drive the rods (Figure 2, Appendix A).

**Important: Always keep static weight on the probe rod or the rod will vibrate and chatter while you are hammering, causing rod threads to fracture and break.**

3. Keep the hammer tight to the drive cap so the rod will not vibrate.
4. Periodically stop hammering and check if the probe rods can be advanced by pushing only.
5. Any time the downward progress of the probe rods is refused, the derrick foot may lift off of the ground surface. When this happens, reduce pressure on the PROBE control. Do not allow the foot to rise more than six inches off the ground or the vehicle's wheels may lift off the ground surface, causing the vehicle to shift (Figure 6, Appendix A).
6. As the derrick foot is raised off the ground surface, the probe cylinder may not be in a perpendicular position. If this happens, use the FOLD control to correct the probe cylinder position.

## 7.6 Probing - Adding Rods

1. Standard probe rods are three feet in length. If the desired depth is more than three feet, another rod must be threaded onto the rod that has been driven into the ground. In order to ensure a vacuum-tight seal (soil-gas sampling), two wraps of teflon tape around the thread is recommended.
2. Using the PROBE control, raise the probe

cylinder as high as possible.

**Important: Always deactivate hydraulics when adding rods.**

3. Deactivate hydraulics.
4. Unthread the drive cap from the probe rod that is in the ground.
5. Wrap teflon tape around the threads.
6. Thread the drive cap onto the male end of the next probe rod to be used.
7. After threading the drive cap onto the rod to be added, thread the rod onto the probe rod that has been driven into the ground. Make sure threads have been teflon taped. Continue probing.
8. Continue these steps until the desired sampling depth has been reached.

## 7.7 Probing/Pulling Rods

1. Once the probe rods have been driven to depth, they can also be pulled using the Geoprobe™ Machine.
2. Turn off the hydraulics.
3. Lift up latch and take the hammer anvil out of the hammer.
4. Replace the drive cap from the last probe rod driven with a pull cap.
5. Lift up the hammer latch.
6. Activate the hydraulics.
7. Hold down on the PROBE control, and move the probe cylinder down until the latch can be closed over the pull cap.

**Important: If the latch will not close over the pull cap, adjust the derrick assembly by using the extend control. This will allow you to center the pull cap directly below the hammer latch.**

8. Retract the probe rods by pulling up on the PROBE control.

**Important: Do not raise the probe cylinder all the way when pulling probe rods or it will be impossible to detach a rod that has been pulled out. However, it is necessary to raise the probe cylinder far enough to allow the next probe section to be pulled.**

9. After retracting the first probe rod, lower the probe cylinder only slightly to ease the pressure off of the hammer latch.
10. Attach a clamping device to the base of the rods where it meets the ground to prevent rods from falling back into the hole.
11. Raise the hammer latch.
12. Hold the PROBE control up and raise the probe cylinder as high as possible.
13. Unthread the pull cap from the retracted rod.
14. Unthread the retracted rod.
15. Thread the pull cap onto the next rod that is to be pulled.
16. Continue these steps until all the rods are retracted from the hole.
17. Decontaminate all portions of the equipment that have been in contact with the soil, soil gas and groundwater.

## **7.8 Soil-Gas Sampling Without Interior Tubing**

1. Follow procedures outlined in Sections 7.1 through 7.6.
2. Remove hammer anvil from hammer.
3. Thread on pull cap to end of probe rod.
4. Retract rod approximately six inches. Retraction of the rod disengages expendable drive point and allows for soil vapor to enter rod.

5. Unthread pull cap and replace it with a gas sampling cap. Cap is furnished with barbed hose connector.

**Important: Shut engine off before taking sample (exhaust fumes can cause faulty sample data).**

6. Turn vacuum pump on and allow vacuum to build in tank.
7. Open line control valve. For each rod used, purge 300 liters of volume. Example: Three rods used = 900 liters = .900 on gauge.
8. After achieving sufficient purge volume, close valve and allow sample line pressure gauge to return to zero. This returns sample train to atmospheric pressure.
9. The vapor sample can now be taken.
  1. Pinch hose near gas sampling cap to prevent any outside vapors from entering the rods.
  2. Insert syringe needle into center of barbed hose connector and withdraw vapor sample.
10. To maintain suction at the sampling location, periodically drain the vacuum tank.
11. To remove rods, follow procedures outlined in Section 7.7.

## **7.9 Soil-Gas Sampling With Post-Run Tubing (PRT)**

1. Follow procedures outlined in Sections 7.1 through 7.6.
2. Retract rod approximately six inches. Retraction of rod disengages expendable drive point and allows for soil vapor to enter rod.
3. Remove pull cap from the end of the probe rod.
4. Position the Geoprobe™ to allow room to work.

5. Secure PRT Tubing Adapter with "O" - Ring to selected tubing.
6. Insert the adapter end of the tubing down the inside diameter of the probe rods.
7. Feed the tubing down the hole until it hits bottom on the expendable point holder. Cut the tubing approximately two feet from the top probe rod.
8. Grasp excess tubing and apply some downward pressure while turning it in a counter-clockwise motion to engage the adapter threads with the expendable point holder.
9. Pull up lightly on the tubing to test engagement of threads.
10. Connect the outer end of the tubing to silicon tubing and vacuum hose (or other sampling apparatus).
11. Follow the appropriate sampling procedure (ERT SOP #2042, Soil Gas Sampling) to collect a soil-gas sample.
12. After collecting a sample, disconnect the tubing from the vacuum hose or sampling system.
13. Pull up firmly on the tubing until it releases from the adapter at the bottom of the hole.
14. Extract the probe rods from the ground and recover the expendable point holder with the attached adapter.
15. Inspect the "O"-ring at the base of the adapter to verify that proper sealing was achieved during sampling. The "O"-ring should be compressed.

**Note: If the "O"-ring is not compressed, vapors from within the probe sections may have been collected rather than vapors from the intended sample interval.**

## 7.10 Soil Sampling

1. Follow procedures outlined in Sections 7.1

through 7.6.

2. Assemble soil-sampling tube.
  1. Thread piston rod into piston tip.
  2. Insert piston tip into sample tube, seating piston tip into cutting edge of sample tube.
  3. Thread drive head into threaded end of sample tube.
  4. Thread piston stop pin into drive head. Stop pin should be tightened with wrench so that it exerts pressure against the piston rod.
3. Attach assembled sampler onto leading probe rod.
4. Drive the sampler with the attached probe rods to the top of the interval to be sampled.
5. Move probe unit back from the top of the probe rods to allow work room.
6. Remove drive cap and lower extension rods into inside diameter of probe rods using couplers to join rods together.
7. Attach extension rod handle to top extension rod.
8. Rotate extension rod handle clockwise until the leading extension rod is threaded into the piston stop in downhole.
9. Continue to rotate extension rod handle clockwise until reverse-threaded stop-pin has disengaged from the drive head.
10. Remove extension rods and attached stop-pin from the probe rods.
11. Replace drive cap onto top probe rod.
12. Mark the top probe rod with a marker or tape at the appropriate distance above the ground surface (dependent on sample tube length).
13. Drive probe rods and sampler the designated distance. Be careful not to overdrive the sampler which could compact the soil sample

in the tube, making it difficult to extrude.

**Important: Documentation of sample location should include both surface and subsurface identifiers. Example: Correct Method - Sample Location S-6, 12.0' - 13.0'. Incorrect Method - Sample Location S-6, 12.0'.**

14. Retract probe rods from the hole and recover the sample tube. Inspect the sample tube to confirm that a sample was recovered.
  15. Disassemble sampler. Remove all parts.
  16. Position extruder rack on the foot of the Geoprobe™ derrick.
  17. Insert sample tube into extruder rack with the cutting end up.
  18. Insert hammer anvil into hammer.
  19. Position the extruder piston (wood dowel) and push sample out of the tube using the PROBE control on the Geoprobe™. Collect the sample as it is extruded in an appropriate sample container.
- Caution: use care when performing this task. Apply downward pressure gradually. Use of excessive force could result in injury to operator or damage to tools. Make sure proper diameter extruder piston is used.**
20. To remove rods follow procedures outlined in Section 7.7.

## 7.11 Groundwater Sampling

1. Follow Sections 7.1 through 7.6 with the following exception: the Mill-Slotted Well Rod with attached threaded drive point should be the first section probed into the ground. Multiple sections of mill-slotted well rods can be used to provide a greater vertical section into which groundwater can flow.
2. Probe to a depth at which groundwater is

expected.

3. Remove Drive Cap and insert an electric water-level indicator to determine if water has entered the slotted sections of probe rod. Refer to ERT SOP #2043, Water Level Measurement, to determine water level.
  4. If water is not detected in the probe rods, replace the drive cap and continue probing. Stop after each additional probe length and determine if groundwater has entered the slotted rods.
  5. After the probe rods have been driven into the saturated zone, sufficient time should be allowed for the water level in the probe rods to stabilize.
- Note: It will be difficult if not impossible to collect a groundwater sample in aquifer material small enough to pass through the slots (<0.02 inch diameter).**
6. Groundwater samples may be collected with the 20-mL well Mini-Bailer or a pumping device. If samples are being collected for volatile organic analysis (VOA), the 20-mL Well Mini-Bailer should be used. If samples are being collected for a variety of analyses, VOA samples should be collected first using the bailer. Remaining samples can be collected by pumping water to the surface. Withdrawing water with the pump is more efficient than collecting water with the 20-mL well Mini-Bailer.

**Important: Documentation of sample location should include both surface and subsurface identifiers. Example: Sample Location GW-6, 17'-21' bgs, water level in probe rods is 17 feet bgs, and the leading section of probe rod is 21 feet bgs. The water sample is from this zone, not from 17 feet bgs or 21 feet bgs.**

7. Remove rods following procedures outlined in Section 7.7.

## 8.0 CALCULATIONS

Calculating Vapor Purge Volume for Soil-Gas Sampling without Interior Tubing

Volume of Air to be Purged (Liters) = 300 x  
Number of Rods in the Ground

Volume in Liters/1000 = Reading on  
Vacuum Pump Instrument Gauge

## **9.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE/ QUALITY CONTROL**

The following general QA procedures apply:

1. All data must be documented on field data sheets or within site logbooks.
2. All instrumentation must be operated in accordance with operating instructions as supplied by the manufacturer, unless otherwise specified in the work plan. Equipment checkout and calibration activities must occur prior to sampling/operation and they must be documented.

## **10.0 DATA VALIDATION**

This section is not applicable to this SOP.

## **11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

When working with potentially hazardous materials, follow U.S. EPA, OSHA and the REAC site specific Health and Safety Plan. The following is a list of health and safety precautions which specifically apply to Geoprobe™ operation.

1. Always put vehicle in "park", set emergency the brake, and place chocks under the tires, before engaging remote ignition.
2. If vehicle is parked on a loose or soft surface, do not fully raise rear of vehicle with probe foot, as vehicle may fall or move.
3. Always extend the probe unit out from the vehicle and deploy the foot to clear vehicle roof line before folding the probe unit out.
4. Operators should wear OSHA approved steel-toed shoes and keep feet clear of probe foot.
5. Operator should wear ANSI approved hard hats.

6. Only one person should operate the probe machine and the assemble or disassemble probe rods and accessories.
7. Never place hands on top of a rod while it is under the machine.
8. Turn off the hydraulic system while changing rods, inserting the hammer anvil, or attaching accessories.
9. Operator must stand on the control side of the probe machine, clear of the probe foot and mast, while operating controls.
10. Wear safety glasses at all times during the operation of this machine.
11. Never continue to exert downward pressure on the probe rods when the probe foot has risen six inches off the ground.
12. Never exert enough downward pressure on a probe rod so as to lift the rear tires of the vehicle off the ground.
13. Always remove the hammer anvil or other tool from the machine before folding the machine to the horizontal position.
14. The vehicle catalytic converter is hot and may present a fire hazard when operating over dry grass or combustibles.
15. Geoprobe™ operators must wear ear protection. OSHA approved ear protection for sound levels exceeding 85 dba is recommended.
16. Locations of buried or underground utilities and services must be known before starting to drill or probe.
17. Shut down the hydraulic system and stop the vehicle engine before attempting to clean or service the equipment.
18. Exercise extreme caution when using extruder pistons (wooden dowels) to extrude soil from sample tubes. Soil in the sample tube may be compacted to the point that the extruder piston will break or shatter before it will push the sample out.
19. A dry chemical fire extinguisher (Type ABC) should be kept with the vehicle at all times.

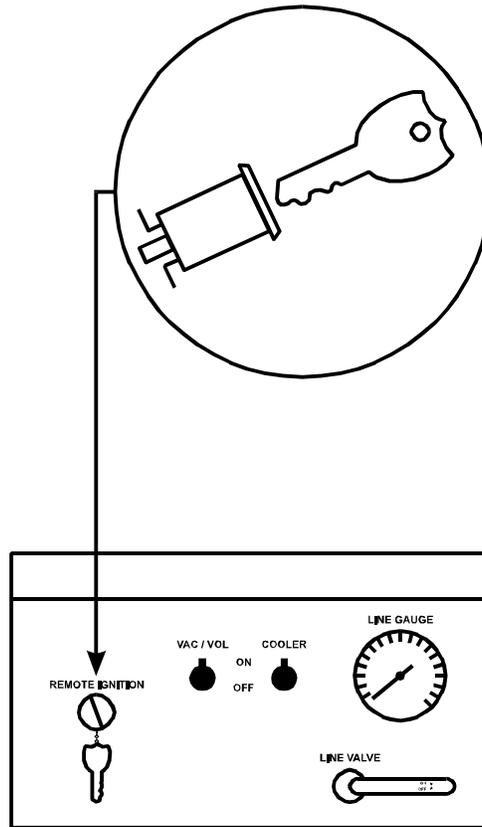
## **12.0 REFERENCES**

1. Model 5400 Geoprobe™ Operations Manual. Geoprobe™ Systems, Salina, Kansas. July 27, 1990.
2. Geoprobe™ Systems - 1995-96 Tools and Equipment Catalog.

# APPENDIX A

## Figures

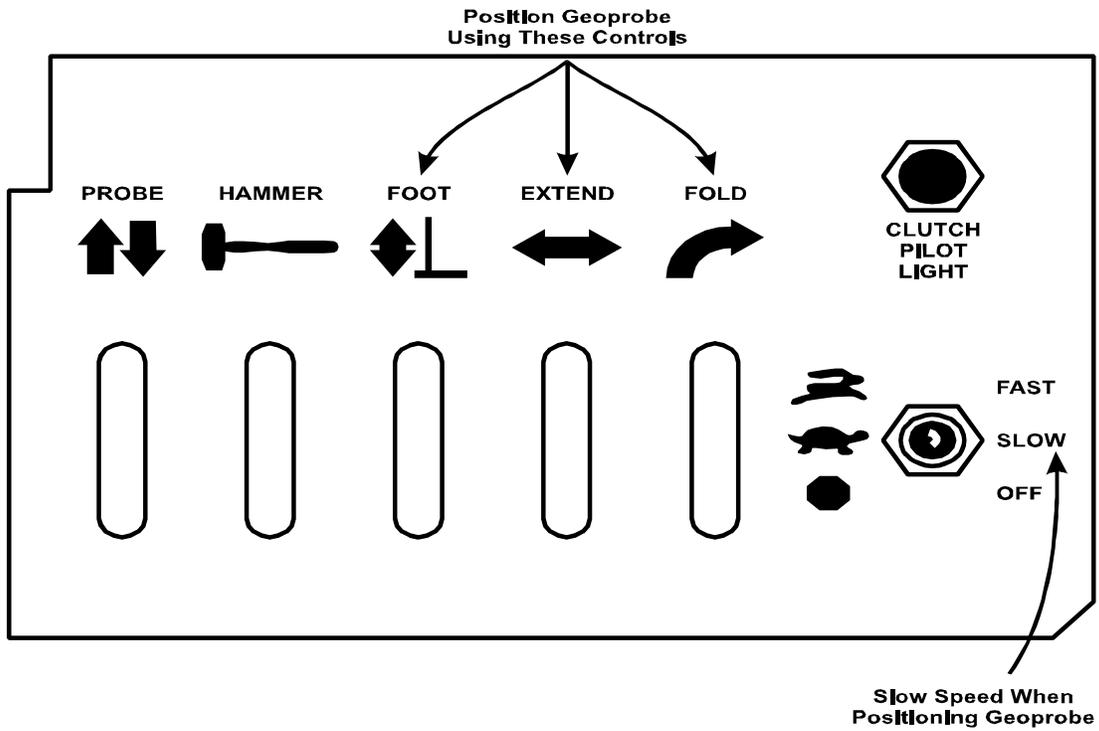
FIGURE 1. Electrical Control Panel



# APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

## Figures

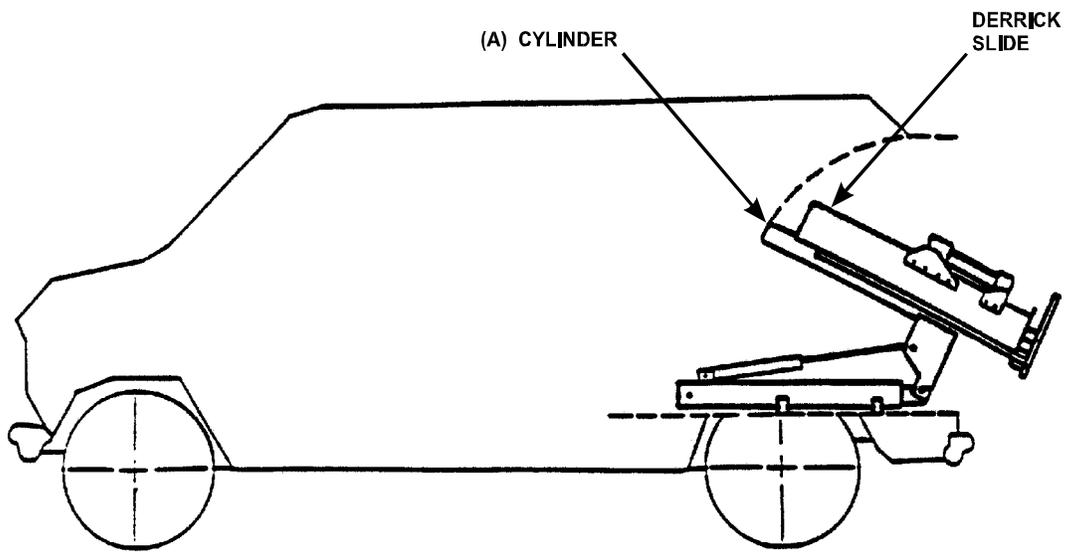
FIGURE 2. Hydraulic Control Panel



## APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

### Figures

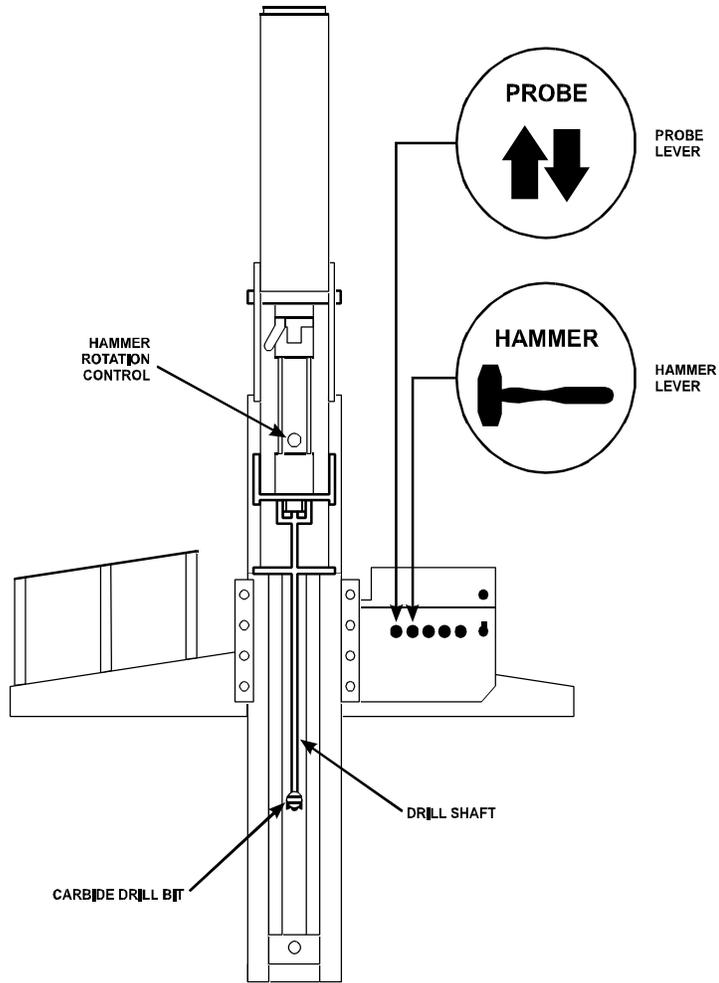
FIGURE 3. Deployment of Geoprobe™ from Sampling Vehicle



# APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

## Figures

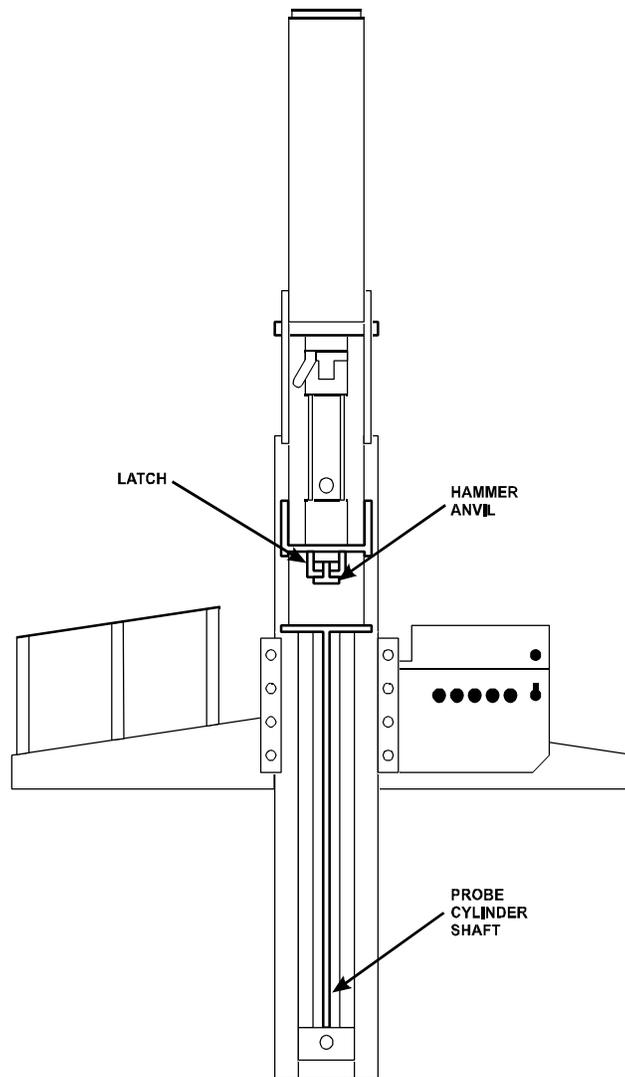
FIGURE 4. Geoprobe™ Setup for Drilling Through Concrete and Pavement



# APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

## Figures

FIGURE 5. Inserting Hammer Anvil



# APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

## Figures

FIGURE 6. Probe Cylinder Shaft and Probe Rod - Parallel and Vertical

