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## Assessment of Seismic Site Effect for Rawabi First Palestinian Planned City

### Final Report



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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

#### **1.2 Problem Statement**

#### **1.3 The scope of assessment of seismic site effect (ASSE)**

### **2. GEOPHYSICAL SEISMIC STUDY: Site Investigations**

#### **2.1 Local Geology**

#### **2.2 Cavities in Rock**

#### **2.3 Methodology and Data Analysis**

##### **2.3.1 Geophysical experiment**

##### **2.3.2 Detection of Seismic Waves**

##### **2.3.3 Data Acquisition and Analysis**

#### **2.4 Safe Cover Thickness over Caves**

#### **2.5 Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **3. SEISMIC SITE AMPLIFICATION**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

#### **3.2 Methodology and Data Analysis**

##### **3.2.1 Nakamura's Technique**

##### **3.2.2 Microtremor Measurements**

##### **3.2.3 Spectral Analysis Results**

#### **3.3 The Fundamental Natural Period of Proposed Building in Rawabi City (stage 1 – phase 1)**

#### **3.4 Conclusions**

### **4. LANDSLIDING AND SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

#### **4.2 Purposes**

#### **4.3 Procedures**

#### **4.4 Landslides**

#### **4.5 Slope Stability Analysis**

##### **4.5.1 Geometrical Description of Critical Sections**

##### **4.5.2 Geotechnical Parameters**

##### **4.5.3 Slope Stability Software (GeoStudio 2004 slope/w)**

##### **4.5.4 Factor of Safety**

##### **4.5.5 Procedure of Analysis**

##### **4.5.6 Results of Slope Stability Analysis**

##### **4.5.7 Analysis of the Results**

- 4.6 Conclusions**
- 4.7 Recommendations**

## **REFERENCES**

- Appendix no. 1**
- Appendix no. 2**
- Appendix no. 3**
- Appendix no. 4**
- Appendix no. 5**

## List of Figures

**Figure 1.1:** Geographic setting of Rawabi in the West Bank (Source: [www.rawabi.ps](http://www.rawabi.ps))

**Figure 1.2:** Seismic activity in the Dead Sea Transform region; the map shows locations of historical earthquakes [11-14]. Also shown is the most recent earthquake of 11 February 2004, ML 5.2.

**Figure 1.3:** Seismic Hazard Map and Seismic Zone Factor (Source ESSEC)

**Figure 1.4:** Rawabi Site Plan and the study area (Stage 1 and Stage 2).

**Figure 2.1:** Sketch location map of the study area, also shown are the distribution of the seismic profiles.

**Figure 3.1:** Locations of selected sites for microtremor measurements

**Figure 3.2:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 1.

**Figure 3.3:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 2.

**Figure 3.4:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 3.

**Figure 3.5:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 4.

**Figure 3.6:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 5.

**Figure 3.7:** Spectral amplitude and spectral ratio for site 6.

**Figure 3.8:** Spectral ratio for site 7.

**Figure 3.9:** Spectral ratio for site 8.

**Figure 3.10:** Spectral ratio for site 9.

**Figure 3.11:** Spectral ratio for site 10.

**Figure 3.12:** Spectral ratio for site 11.

**Figure 3.13:** Spectral ratio for site 12.

**Figure 4.1:** Locations of all three sections across Hai 1.

**Figure 4.2:** Critical sections in Hai 1

**Figure 4.3:** Critical sections in Hai 2

**Figure 4.4:** Critical sections in Hai 4

**Figure 4.5:** Slope stability analysis for section 1 upper zone (Minimum factor of safety = 7.6).

**Figure 4.6:** Slope stability analysis for section 1 lower zone (Minimum factor of safety = 22).

**Figure 4.7:** Slope stability analysis for section 1 overall zone (Minimum factor of safety = 7).

**Figure 4.8:** Slope stability analysis for section 2 upper zone (Minimum factor of safety = 10).

**Figure 4.9:** Slope stability analysis for section 2 lower zone (Minimum factor of safety = 15.6).

**Figure 4.10:** Slope stability analysis for section 2 overall zone (Minimum factor of safety = 8).

**Figure 4.11:** Slope stability analysis for section 3 upper zone (Minimum factor of safety = 8.3).

**Figure 4.12:** Slope stability analysis for section 3 middle zone (Minimum factor of safety = 15).

**Figure 4.13:** Slope stability analysis for section 3 lower zone (Minimum factor of safety = 18).

**Figure 4.14:** Slope stability analysis for section 3 overall zone (Minimum factor of safety = 7.4).

**Figure 4.15:** Slope stability analyses for basic and seismic loads for the critical case which is section 2 overall stability case (minimum factor of safety = 3.6)

- Figure 4.16:** Typical virtual section showing increases in the backfill materials and marl layer.
- Figure 4.17:** Slope stability analysis for basic load minimum F.S. = 7 and for basic loads and seismic loads minimum F.S. = 4.7 for 2-story extra excavations and loads for upper zone.
- Figure 4.18:** Slope stability analysis for basic load minimum F.S. = 10 and for basic loads and seismic load minimum F.S. = 5.5 for 2-story extra excavations and loads for overall zone.
- Figure 4.19:** Slope stability analysis for basic load minimum F.S. = 6.2 and for basic loads and seismic loads minimum F.S. = 4.5 for 2-story extra excavations and loads and adding 22-story building on the top.
- Figure 4.20:** The section through Hai1, Hai3 and Hai 5.
- Figure 4.21:** The section through Hai1, Hai3 and Hai 5 as drawn using GeoStudio (slope/w).
- Figure 4.22:** Slope stability analyses in section through Hai1, Hai3 and Hai 5 for basic loads
- Figure 4.23:** Slope stability analyses in section through Hai1, Hai3 and Hai 5 for basic plus seismic loads

## **Tables of Tables**

**Table 2.1:** Summary of results obtained from the seismic profiles.

**Table 3.1:** Results list of dominant frequencies, amplifications and natural Periods.

**Table 4.1:** Loading conditions for slope stability analysis.

**Table 4.2:** Geotechnical parameters for different types of soil.

**Table 4.3:** Minimum factor of safety required for each loading conditions.

**Table 4.4:** Results of slope stability analysis for the three selected sections Through Hai No.1.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary concisely details the assessment of seismic site effect (ASSE), study that was carried out by Earth Sciences and Seismic Engineering Center (ESSEC) at An-Najah National University for the construction of Rawabi City (First Palestinian Planned City). The aim of the study is to avoid or mitigate the seismic site effect, such as: landslides, amplification and faulting systems.

Seismic refraction technique was used to investigate the city of Rawabi Site. More than 30 seismic profiles have been shot to figure out the subsurface geology and to delineate if there are cavities beneath the selected landfill site. The underground seismic models beneath the profiles show different velocities to two or three layers; the first layer represents the soil cover (weathered surface material) with maximum thickness of about 5 m overlaying a layer of sediment material (marly and clay- marly materials) or directly on consolidated carbonate materials of limestone, chalky limestone, and dolomite limestone. The underground seismic models and the time-distance results don't show clear cavities at shallow depths except slight morphological variations at bottom of marly layer which may indicate small voids. The shear wave velocity values ( $V_s$ ) varies between 500 m/sec and 1500 m/sec for marly materials and hard limestone respectively. Based on thicknesses of layers and the values of  $V_s$  for each layer, the type of soil profile at the foundation levels varies between  $S_B$  and  $S^1_C$ .

The effects of local geology on ground-motion amplification and building damage were studied in Rawabi City (first stage – phase 1). Nakamura's method of microtremor analysis

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<sup>1</sup> See the soil profile table in Uniform Building Code 1997, International Building Code (IBC) , Arab Building Code 2006 or Jordanian Building Code 2005.

was applied in this investigation. The measurements showed large differences in amplification between few selected sites. Calculating the natural period of the proposed common buildings ( $T_b$ ) in the studied area (buildings with 8 stories in Hai 1 – 6 and buildings with 15 stories in the city center), by using the equivalent static analysis method.

The values of  $T_b$  obtained were closed to the site dominant natural period ( $T_s$ ) in few locations. In the other hand Reducing the marly stratum level in city center area by 10 – 20

meters as proposed in the master plan, will affect positively in reducing the seismic amplification factor measured at city center area. In other words, the city center site resonance will be avoided. For the other areas (Hai 1 – 6), the amplification factor is relatively small.

Chapter Four presents slope stability analysis to the proposed site of Rawabi City to assist safety condition regarding slope instability and landsiding. The study models all expected cases such as excavation, building loads, backfill materials behind retaining walls and embankments and expected seismic loads. Analysis was carried for given sections through Hai 1 and for virtual sections according to topography and local geology through the rest of the site. Results show that the stability of slopes within the site is safe. However, it is recommended to construct the buildings on the hard limestone bedrock layer and using backfill materials as according to standards. Furthermore, it is recommended to carry out slope stability analysis for real slopes within the site as they provided from the owner.

