



Drilling planned on Ohio River near Milton-Madison Bridge piers

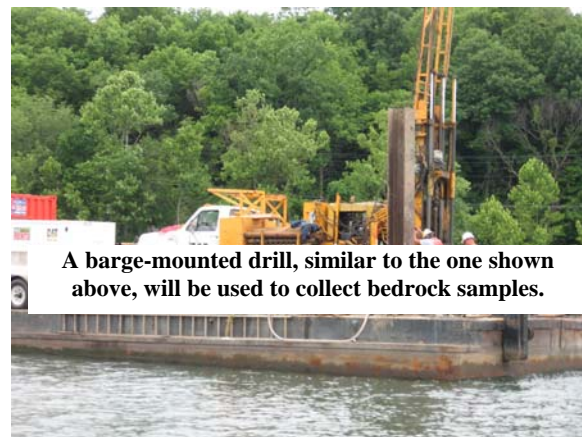
Work to obtain bedrock core samples will not disrupt traffic

LOUISVILLE, KY (September 18, 2009) — Crews from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) will collect soil and bedrock samples on the Ohio River next week near the US 421 bridge piers. The work, performed from a barge, is not expected to disrupt bridge traffic and will take two to four weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Bedrock core samples will be obtained using a large drilling rig mounted on a barge. The barge will be positioned alongside bridge piers and drill coring will collect soil and bedrock samples on the river bottom, adjacent to the base of the piers. The drill is expected to core approximately 40 feet into bedrock.

Once collected, core samples will be lab tested for strength. Engineers want to know more about the bedrock around the existing piers which may be reinforced if superstructure replacement is chosen as the selected bridge alternative.

Similar drilling took place last January when crews working on the bridge drilled through the piers themselves and into bedrock. Those core samples were tested and the drill holes then filled with concrete.



A barge-mounted drill, similar to the one shown above, will be used to collect bedrock samples.