

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Schoellkopf Wall Evaluation

**Location:**

Niagara Falls, New York

Client:

DeLeuw Cather, Inc.
for
New York State Office
of Parks, Recreation
and Historic
Preservation OPRHP

Client Contact:

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View of Schoellkopf Wall and Niagara Gorge Looking North

A masonry wall, about 100 feet high, is all that remains of the former Schoellkopf Power Plant. The plant collapsed suddenly over 40 years ago from a rock slide next to the plant. The New York State OPRHP operates the property and is evaluating the feasibility of opening the top of the wall as an observatory for the adjacent Niagara Gorge. MMCE assisted in this evaluation by:

- Reviewing reports that describe events surrounding the rock slide and reports written at the time of the slide describing causes of the collapse,
- Reviewing existing geologic data, information related to the character of the surrounding rock mass, stress regime and hydraulic conditions at the site,
- Reviewing information related to existing conditions at the site including as-built details of the power plant, plans describing the extent of demolition and site restoration,
- Developing a program to evaluate the stability of the existing wall and adjacent rock mass, and for installation of inclinometers and piezometers to monitor the rock behavior behind the wall.