

## **Home buyer's project #1—Swelling soils**

### **Purpose**

This project will acquaint you with one of the most wide-spread geologic hazards affecting homeowners.

### **Assignment**

Like all of the home buyer's projects, this one should be completed in two steps. First, answer the following questions so that you can assess the potential hazard.

- What are swelling soils?
- What factors increase the risk of swelling soils being present?
- How can you recognize swelling soils if you see them?
- What can you do to limit damage from swelling soils?

Second, determine if homes at the four addresses listed below may be at a high risk from swelling soils using online soil maps and what you have learned about swelling soils.

Regardless of the perceived risk, locate geotechnical or civil engineering firms that can conduct soil tests in each of the four areas. This part is important because soil compositions can only be analyzed with sophisticated equipment. Note, I would only invest in a soil test if swelling soils are common in the area, but I want you to see what is available.

- A. 4821 Ruidosa Dr., Fort Collins, Colorado
- B. 2915 Valencia Dr., Santa Barbara, California
- C. 476, Hunter Rd., Ridgewood, NJ
- D. 60 Commerford Rd., Concord, MA

### **What to turn in**

750–800-word paper that integrates your results. See "Notes on what I expect for the home buyer's projects" for detailed instructions.