Design and Construction of Engineered Sediment Caps Using Activated Carbon Amendments for the Y Jetty/Lang Cove Remediation Project

Presented by Ross Pickering, Anchor QEA, LLC WEDA Pacific Chapter – October 28, 2021





Presentation Overview

- Y Jetty/Lang Cove site description and background
- Granular activated carbon (GAC) amendments and mechanisms
- Engineered cap design criteria
- Construction challenges
- Cap monitoring sampling data





Esquimalt Harbour

- Vancouver Island, British Columbia
- Pacific homeport of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)

Vancouver

Bellingham

PUGET

SOUNE

• Crown-owned harbour, including seabed







Yarrows Shipyard/Y Jetty Lang Cove Then and Today

- RCN established residence in Esquimalt Harbour in the 1840s
- Esquimalt Marine Railway built in 1890s in Lang Cove
- Esquimalt Marine Railway purchased by the Yarrows Shipyard in 1914
- Department of National Defence (DND) purchased Yarrows Lands in 1995



Then







4 | Design and Construction of Engineered Sediment Caps

Yarrows Shipyard/Y Jetty Project Components

- Mechanical dredging
- Dredge material processing
- Demolition
- Y Jetty dock structural modifications to protect active DND utilities
- Shoreline excavation, capping, and backfilling across project site





Site Contaminants

- Elevated PAH and PCBs (hydrophobic organic compounds [HOCs]) >12ft bml
- Dredging and capping in nearshore areas
- Capping with GAC
 - Meet permissible exposure limit (PEL) values
 - Surface water quality criteria
 - Reduce overall cap thickness





^{6 |} Design and Construction of Engineered Sediment Caps





Bioavailability Reduction Using Carbon Amendments

- Reduced bioaccumulation of HOCs in benthic organisms
- Reduced flux of HOCs into water column and uptake in food web
- Reduce overall cap thickness





Cap Design with Sand/GAC Chemical Isolation Layer

- Sand/GAC chemical isolation layer
 - Limits the vertical movement of dissolved contaminants
 - Reduces bioavailability of contaminants
- Erosion protection layer
 - Prevents the chemical isolation layer from being eroded (filter and armour)





Contaminant Isolation Design Analyses

- Optimize dredge design and cap
- Reible model: predict future porewater concentrations; compare to PEL and surface water criteria
- Model output used to identify cap layer thicknesses and activated carbon (AC) amendment needed
- Erosion protection model (wind, wave, and propwash modeling)





Cap Design Details

Layer	Material	Minimum Thickness (cm)	Overplacement Allowance (cm)	Maximum Total Layer Thickness (cm)
Contaminant Isolation	Fine gravel (BC MoT granular base) with GAC amendment	30	15	45
Filter	200-mm clear	30	15	45
Armor	0.3- to 0.6-m riprap (existing riprap armour)	100	50	150
	Total	160	80	240
		Optimized Dredge Thickness (cm)		100

- Chemical isolation layer: 1 ft. sand/GAC layer cover with 6-inch overplacement
- Target ranges for cap areas: 1% to 3% or 3% to 5% GAC dry weight
- Filter and armour erosion protection layers
- Top layer of habitat substrate



Cap Construction – Procurement and GAC Soaking



GAC supersacks were soaked in watertight containers on mixing barge and agitated to remove entrained air (24 hrs)



Cap Construction – GAC and Sand Material Blending



- Sand and GAC blended uniformly with excavator on mixing barge
- Blend ratio determined by dry weight calculation of sand and GAC
- Confirmed percent GAC by and analytical laboratory
- Blended sand/GAC placed within 8 hours



Cap Construction – Sand/GAC Material Placement by Conveyor





Conveyor mounted on low draft/maneuverable barge for restricted access placement due to shallow water and working tides



Cap Construction – Shoreline Slope







Cap Construction – Hydrographic and Topographic Surveying



Daily/nightly progress surveying and engineering review to confirm areas and minimum thicknesses of multiple cap layers



^{16 |} Design and Construction of Engineered Sediment Caps

Cap Construction – Shallow Subtidal (Crane/Clamshell)





Cap Construction – Pre- and Post-Cap Completion





Key Implementation Challenges

- QA/QC process during preparation and blending GAC/sand
- GAC soaking and blending operations on material barge
- Challenging nearshore equipment access (tides) and day/night work crews required
- Surveying and review coordination of multiple cap layers
- Debris and piling fields during nearshore dredging
- Adjacent harbour projects and ongoing DND operations



Year 1 Cap Monitoring Sampling

- Multimedia sampling to monitor cap performance
- Three sample locations in AC cap area
- PCBs and PAHs tested
 - Surface water results are nondetect or in line with background sample data
 - Solid phase (bulk cap material) results are nondetect
 - Very low-level detections in porewater





Conclusions



- In situ treatment using carbon amendments has progressed from an innovative sediment remediation approach to a proven, reliable technology
- Accurate placement of AC has been demonstrated using a range of conventional construction equipment







Thanks to:

Department of National Defense Mike Bodman

Public Services and Procurement Canada Rae-Ann Sharp Kristen Ritchot Dave Osguthorpe

Anchor QEA, LLC Matt Woltman Tom Wang Derek Ormerod Sylian Rodriguez Katy Gross

Ross Pickering, P.E. rpickering@anchorqea.com