

# **GEOTEXTILE TUBES, DESIGN, APPLICATIONS AND CASE HISTORIES**

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# What are Geotextile Container Systems?

- Geotextile Bags
- Geotextile Tubes
- Geotextile Containers

# GEOTEXTILE BAGS



# GEOTEXTILE TUBES

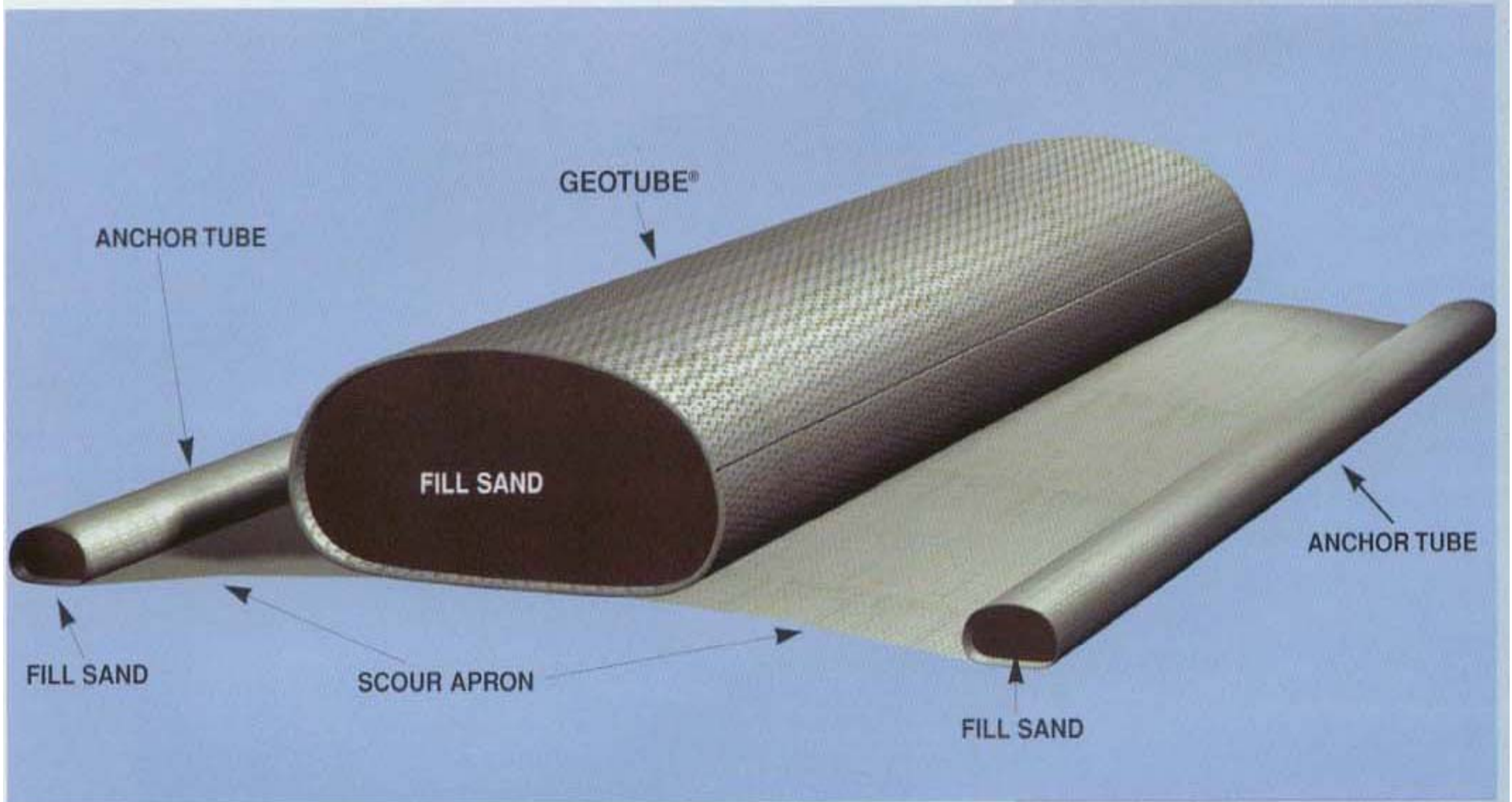




# GEOTEXTILE CONTAINERS



# Typical Marine Installation



Manufactured by sewing multiple sheets of high strength woven polyester or poly-propylene fabrics with high strength seams



# Panels Being Sewn





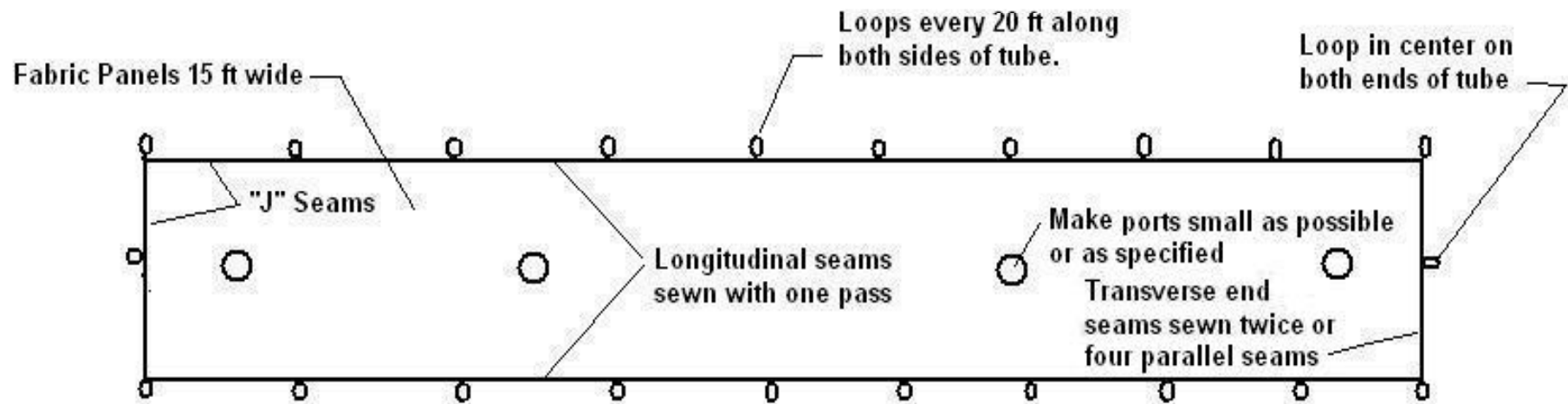
# Rolling Up Tube



# Tube Design Plan View

Circumference and Length as Required  
Circumferences are normally 15, 30, 45, and 60 ft

Loops are nylon or polyester  
2 inch wide seated belt straps



All seams are sewn with one pass parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tube. End seams are sewn twice. All seams are "J" seams. The seams consist of type 401 double lock stitch that is sewn with a double needle Union Special Model #80200Z sewing machine. The machine should be capable of sewing two parallel seams about a quarter inch apart. The thread is High Tenacity 12 ply 12,000 denier passing through the needles and 9 ply 9,000 denier passing through the loopers. Seams are 3.5 to 4.0 stitches per inch. Field Tech Pricise-Rick Smith-910-653-5200 yarn source in NC.

Note: Injection ports as required. Ports located 10 ft from each end and on 50 ft spacing for remainder of the tube or as specified

**Typical Fabrication Plan**



# GETube Design Software

Software is available to calculate fabric stresses during the critical time of filling and installation when the fill material is fluid.

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# Typical Input Data for GETube Computer Program

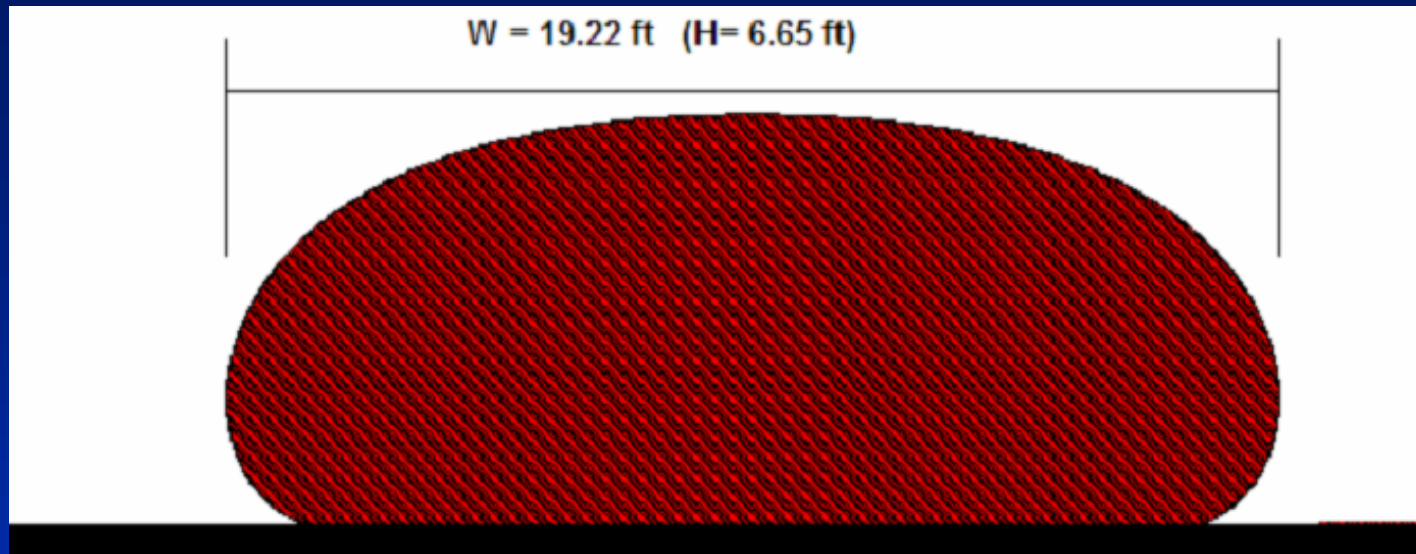
- Material Bulk Specific Gravity, 1.6 to 2.0
- Factor of Safety, 5.0
- Circumference, 30, 45, and 60 ft
- Tensile Strength, 500 to 1000 pli
- Area Opening Size, 20, 30 to 40
- Water Depth

# GETube Input Parameters

Select any two Parameters and the others will be computed

- $C$  = Circumference of the tube
- $H$  = Height of the inflated tube
- $T$  = Tensile Strength of the tube fabric
- $V$  = Volume to which the tube is filled
- $P$  = Excess Pressure above the top of tube
- $R$  = Ratio of the fabric area to tube volume

# Typical Output Data for 45 ft Cir Tube



GIVEN C = 45.00 ft T = 520.00 lbs/in SPG = 1.60 FS = 5.00

DENSITY OF SLURRY	= 99.84 pcf
TUBE CIRCUMFERENCE, C	= 44.98 ft
EX PRESS -TOP OF TUBE, P	= 0.7003 ft (water) 0.3035 psi
WORKING CIRCUM FORCE, T <sub>cir</sub>	= 104.0 lbs/in 1248.0 lbs/ft
WORKING AXIAL FORCE, Tax	= 82.59 lbs/in 991.03 lbs/ft
TOTAL HEIGHT OF TUBE, H	= 6.651 ft
TOTAL WIDTH OF TUBE, W	= 19.22 ft
BASE CONTACT WIDTH OF TUBE	= 15.47 ft
END AREA OF TUBE	= 109.5 sq ft 68.04 % FULL
TUBE VOLUME, V	= 4.057 cu yd/ft 819.3 gal/ft
FABRIC AREA TO VOL RATIO, R	= 1.232 sq yd/cu yd
BASE PRESSURE	= 4.915 psi 11.34 ft (water)
REQ'D CIRCUM STRENGTH T	= 520.0 lbs/in 6240.0 lbs/ft
REQ'D AXIAL STRENGTH	= 412.9 lbs/in 4955.2 lbs/ft

# Filling Methods

- Hydraulic
- Mechanical
- Positive Displacement

# Hydraulic Dredges

- Suction Cutterhead Dredges
- Horizontal Cutterhead Dredges
- Submergible Pumps
- Eductor Dredges
- Positive Displacement Dredges

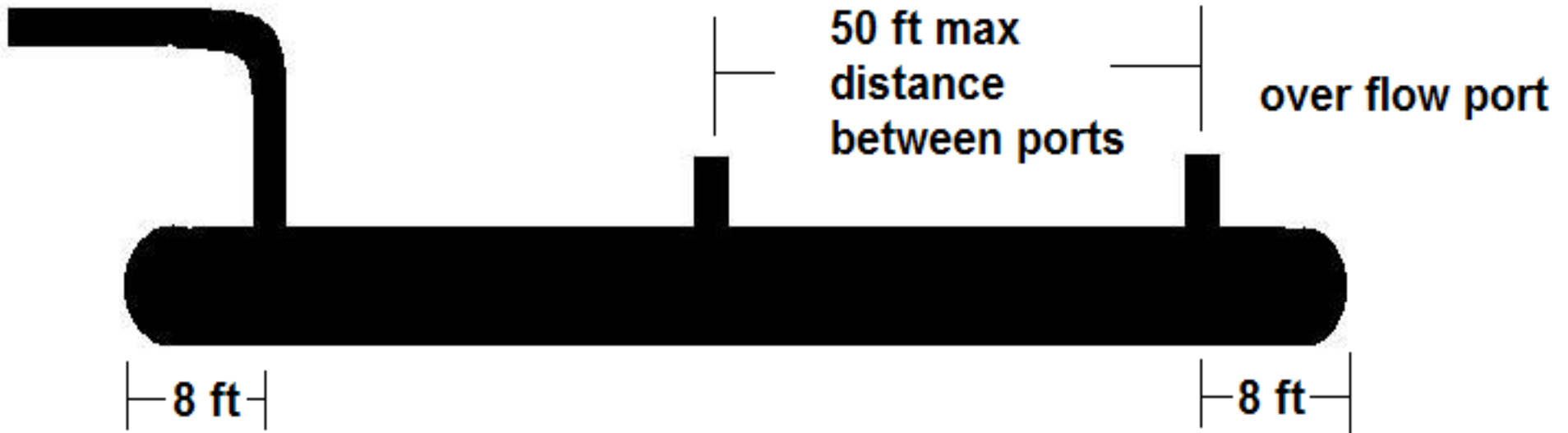


# Mechanical Methods

- Mechanical placement of soft fluid mud using hoppers.
- Mechanical placement of sand into Tubes using hoppers and water flooding the hoppers.
- Mechanical conveyor belts and hoppers.

# Installation Techniques

Input from  
Dredge



Typical Geotextile Tube being filled

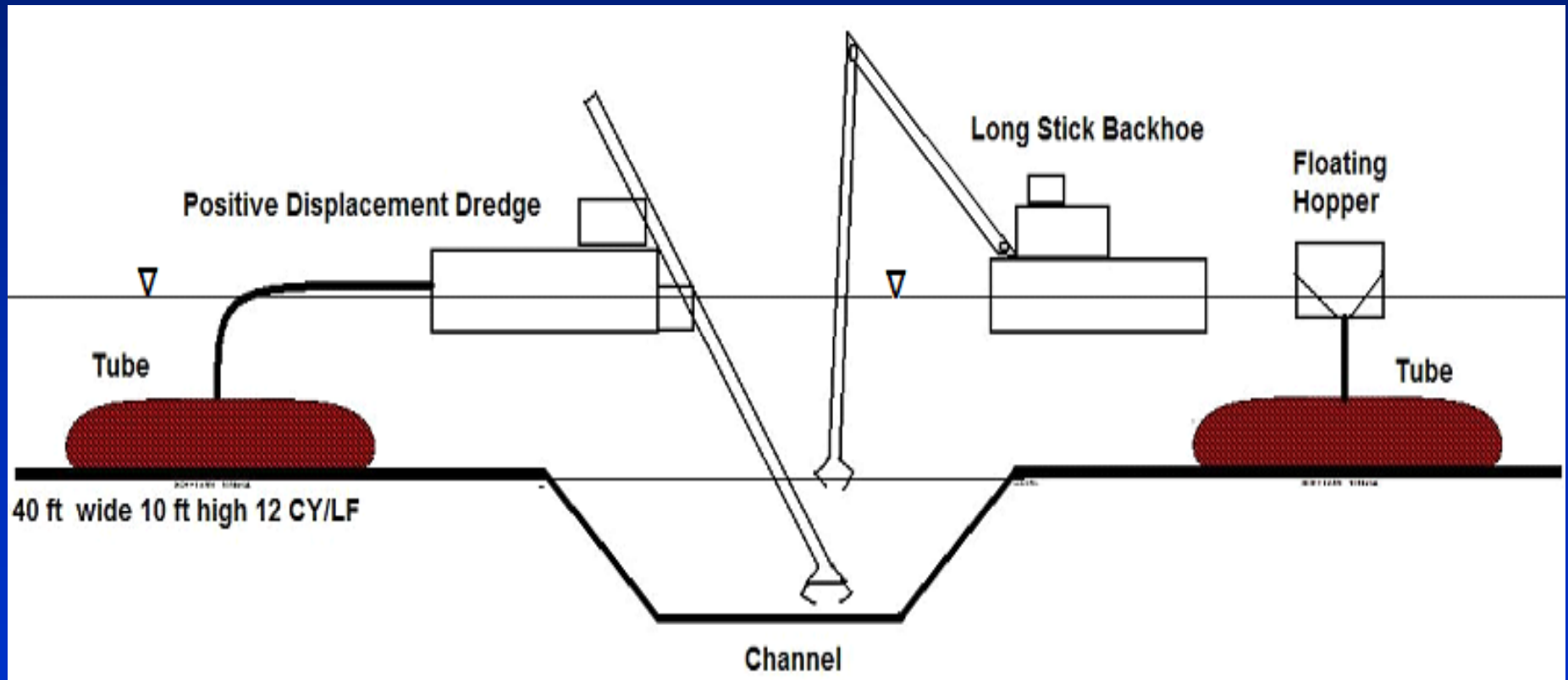
# **Overview of Various Dredging and Tube Filling Methods**

# Hopper Method

When fill material is not available at site, sand can be imported and installed using hopper methods.



# Filling Tubes Underwater



# Dredge Method

Most common  
method of  
filling Tubes.





# Hand Dredge Method

Where large  
pumping  
equipment is  
not available  
small hand held  
equipment can  
be used for  
filling Tubes.



# Alternate Pumping Methods

Pumping methods can be modified to comply with local permits or site limitations.





# Dry Fill Method

Mechanical means of filling Containers or Sand bags.





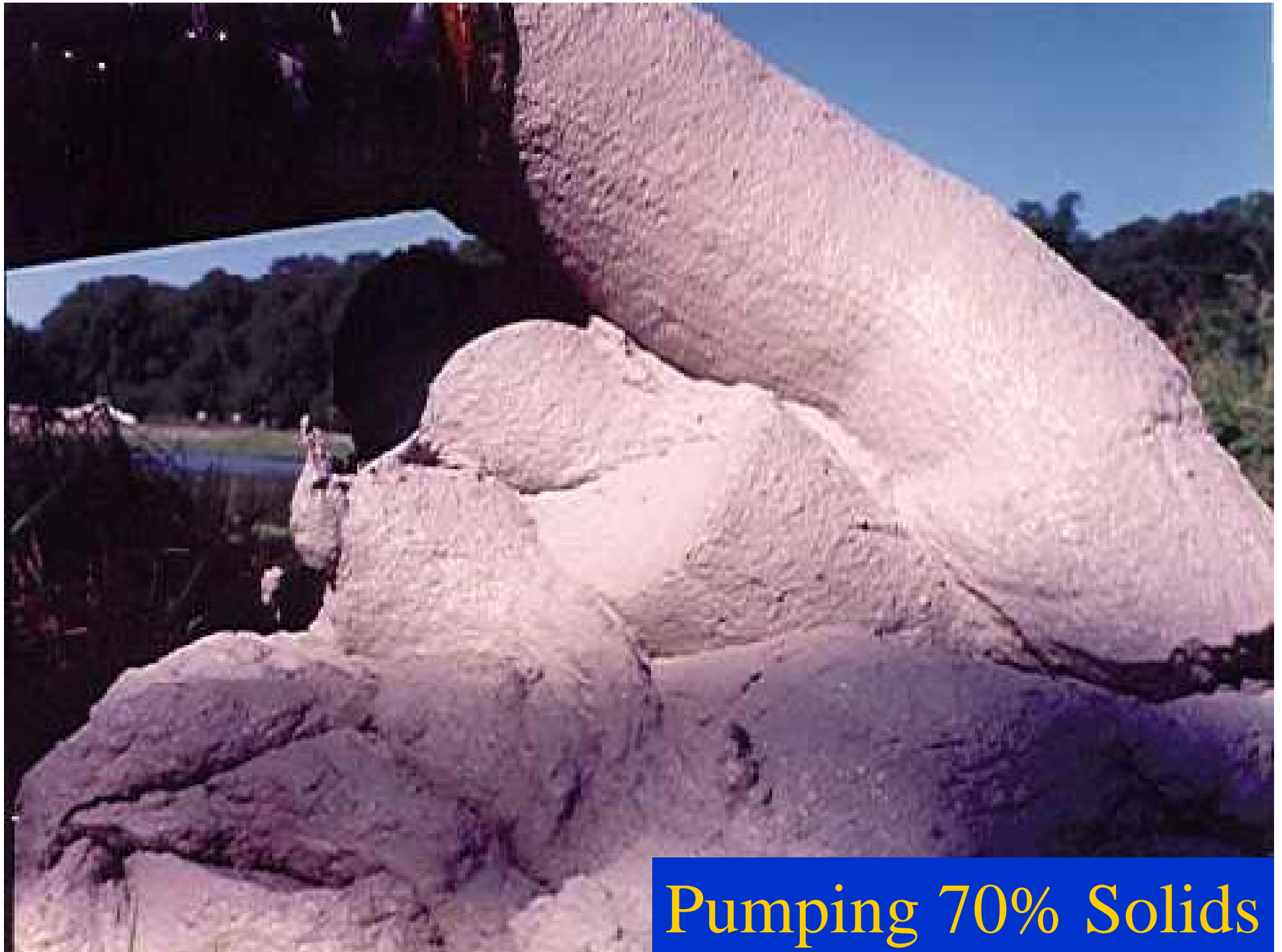
The Dry DREdge™



# Pumps Material at In-situ Density With No Free Water







**Pumping 70% Solids**



# Potential Dewatering Applications

- Fine Grained Dredged Material
- Municipal Sewage Sludge
- Agricultural Waste
- Pulp and Paper Mill Sludge
- Fly Ash
- Mining and Drilling Waste
- Industrial By-Product Waste
- Coal Sludge

# CONTAINMENT AND DEWATERING



CONTAINMENT PHASE

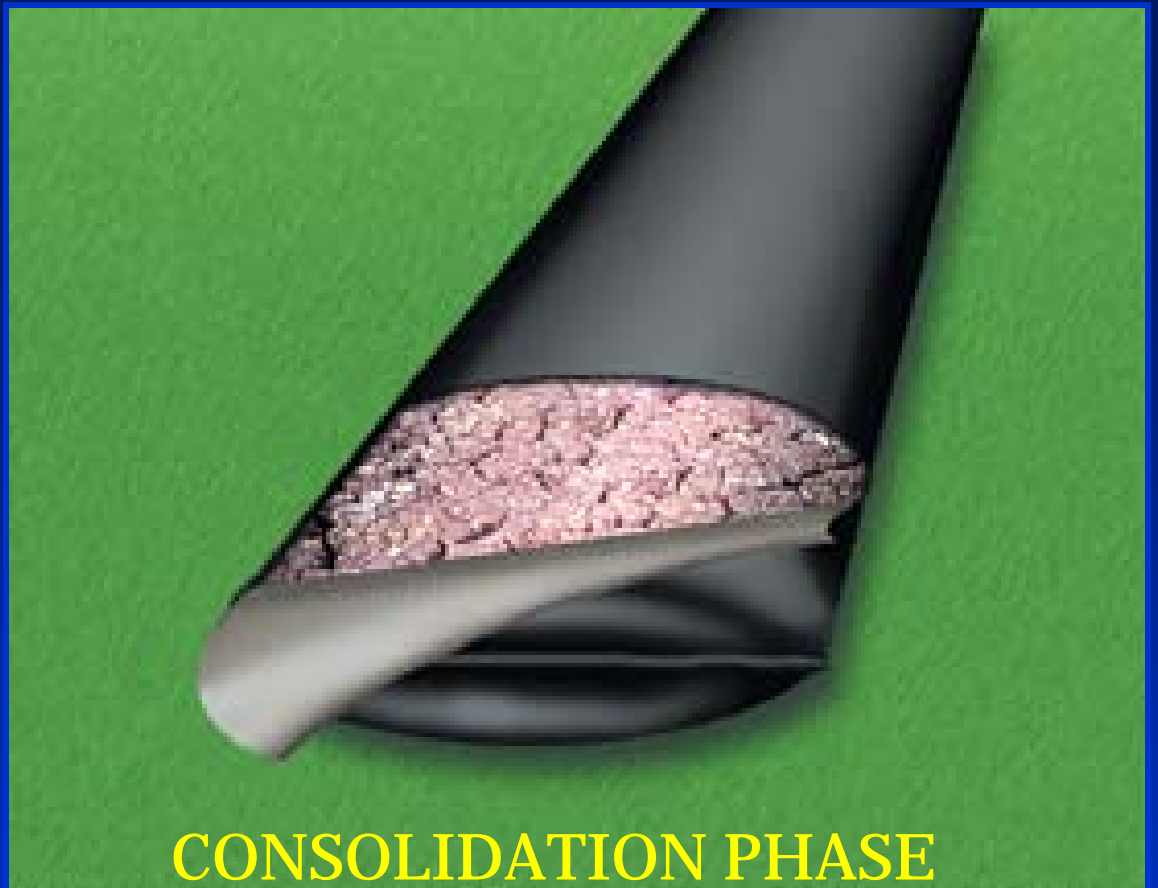


# CONTAINMENT AND DEWATERING



DEWATERING PHASE

# CONTAINMENT AND DEWATERING



CONSOLIDATION PHASE

# **Gaillard Island, AL**

**Mobile District**

**Corps of Engineers**

**Geotextile Tubes filled with**

**fine grained**

**dredged material**



30" Diameter Pipe, Dave Blackman  
6' suction cutterhead dredge





In-situ Slurry Density = 1.3 gr/ml



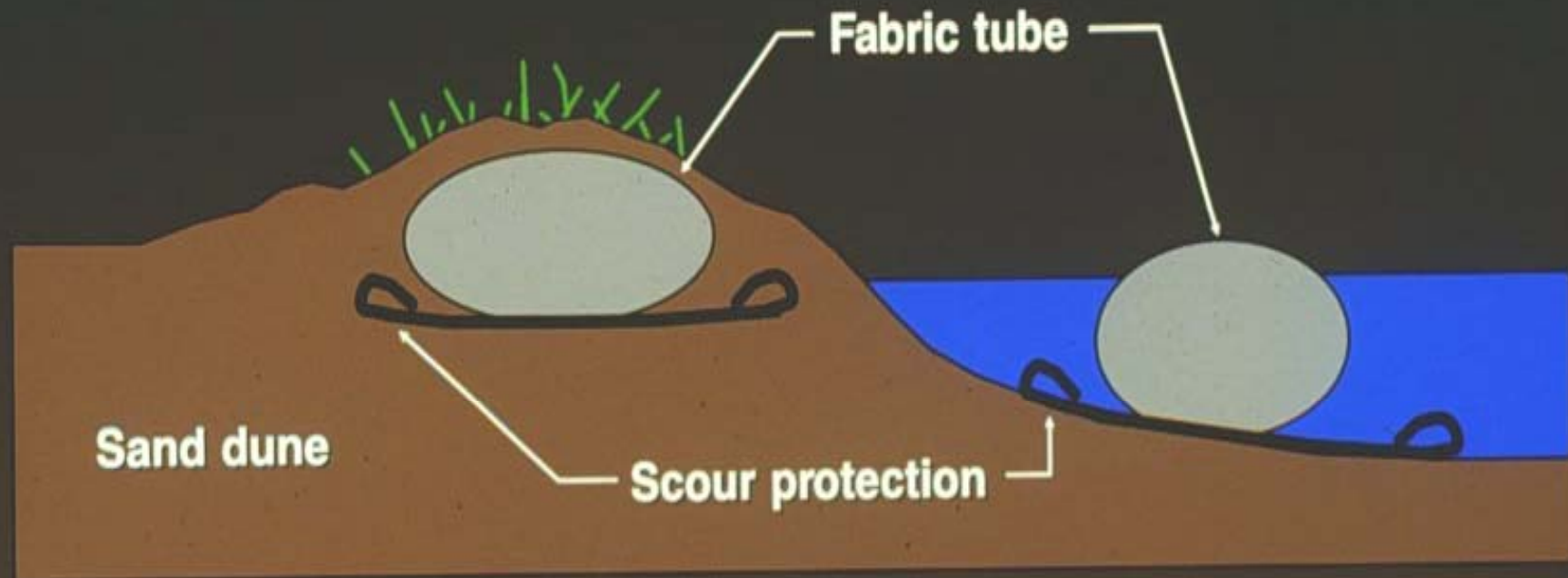


500 ft long tubes after filling





# Slurry Filled Tube Design



# Slurry Filled Tubes





# Tubes after one year





Dried slurry after  
one year





Dried  
slurry after  
one year







Vegetation growth after 30 days

# CULKIN WATER DISTRICT

**Dewatering Alum Sludge**

**Vicksburg, MS**



Culkin Water

Alum Sulfate

Pond

Desiccation

Cracks





# Culkin Water

Alum  
Sludge  
In Hanging  
Bag Test  
Showing  
Clear Water  
Effluent





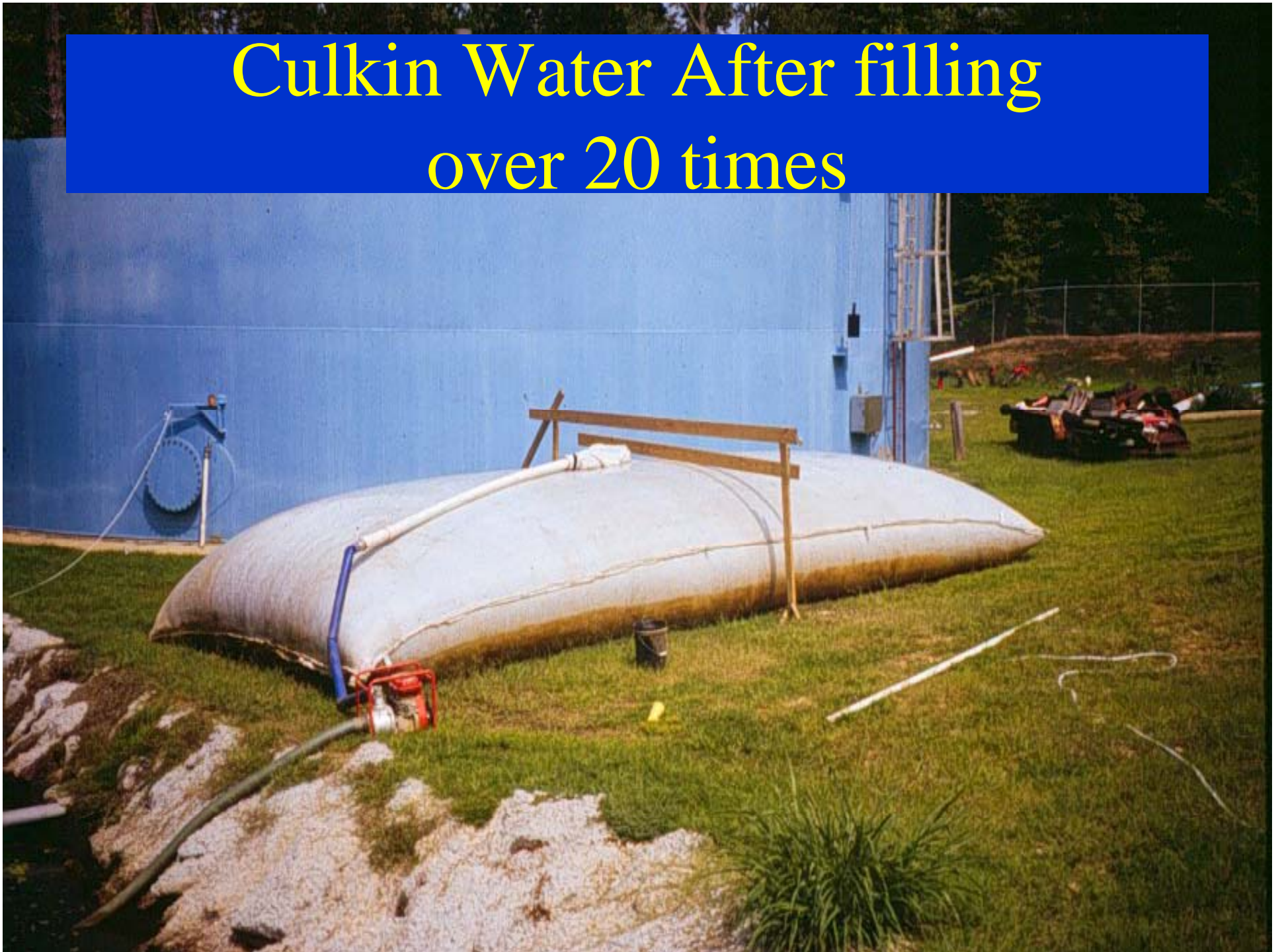
Culkin Water  
Hanging  
Bag Test

Alum Sludge  
Effluent  
Water





# Culkin Water After filling over 20 times





# Culkin Water Measuring Consolidation



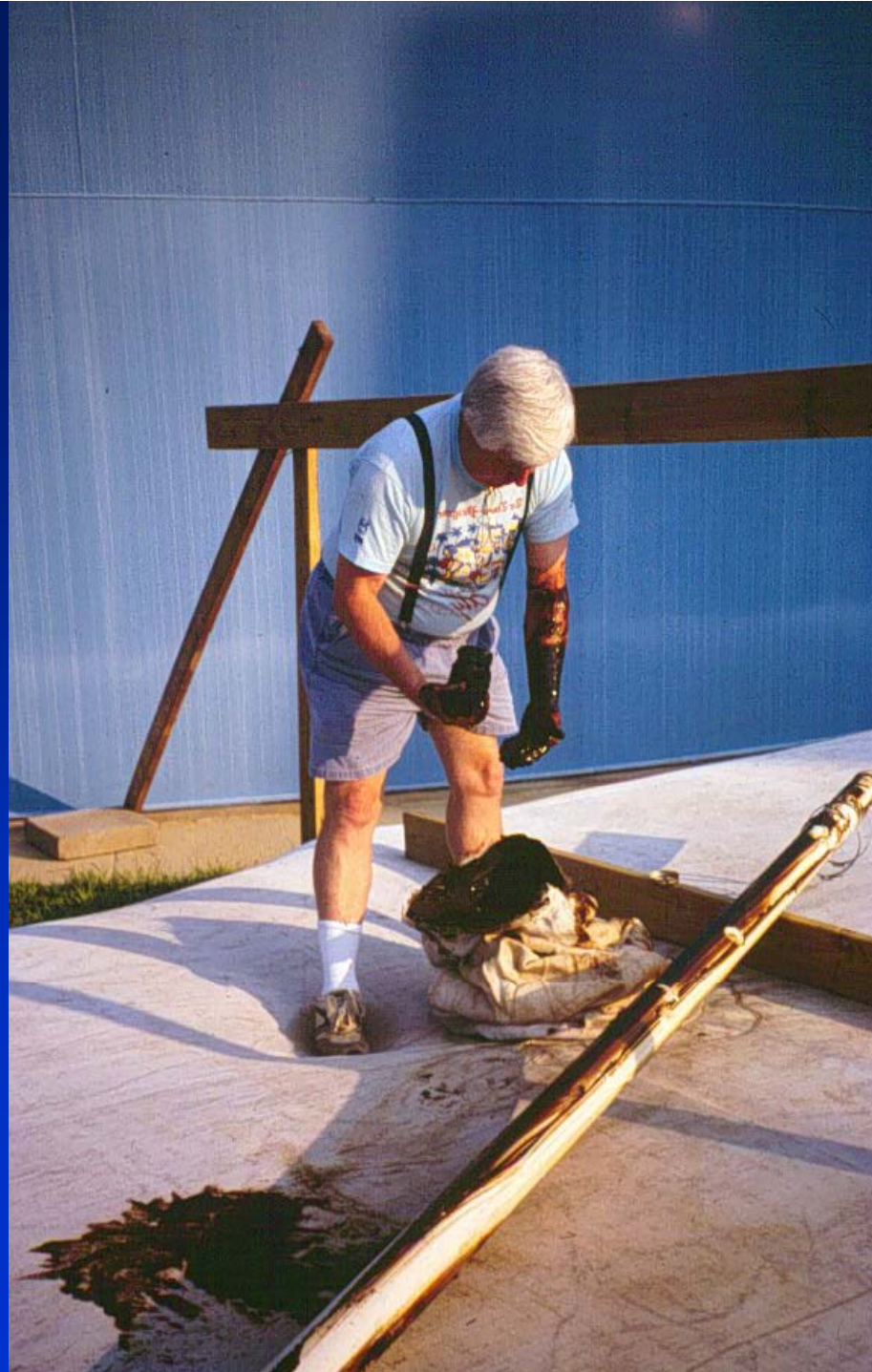


# Culkin Water Quality



**Culkin Water**

**Soil Samples  
Above 50%  
Solids within  
3 to 4 weeks**



# Sewage Sludge Dewatering

Vicksburg, Mississippi  
Sewage Treatment Plant



# Hanging Bag Test





# Fine Grained Sediment





# Sediment Height







Effluent Collection

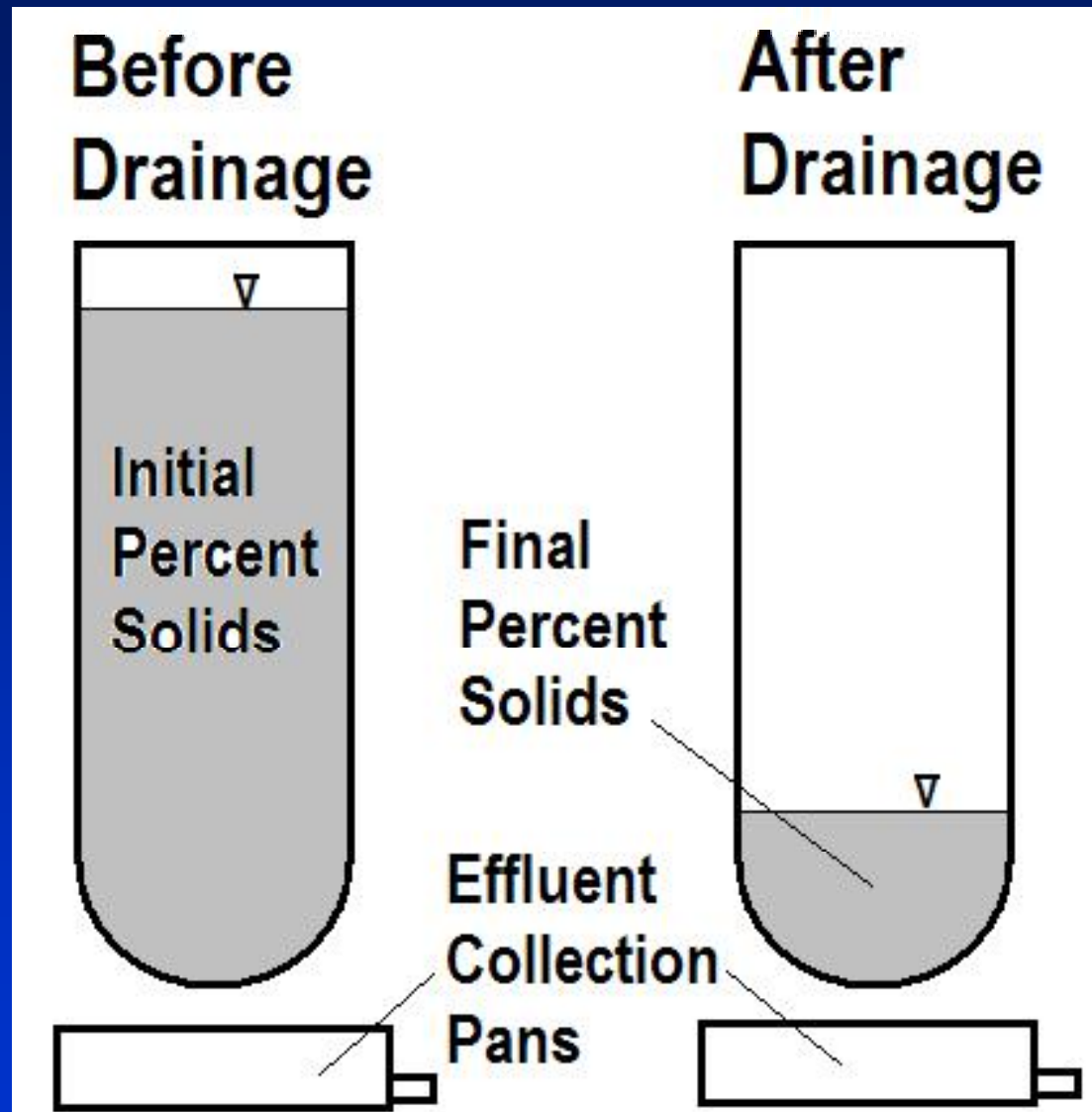




Sampling Effluent



# Hanging Bag Test Method



5 ft Long Hanging Bag Test

# Required Geotechnical Fill Material Properties (Complete)

- Gradation
- Atterberg Limits (LL, PL & PI)
- Geotechnical Classification
- Settling Time
- Determine Polymer Requirements

# Example Calculation for the Shrinkage Factor

$$\text{Shrinkage Factor} = \frac{V_{dw}}{V_o} = \frac{e_{dw} + 1}{e_o + 1} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\gamma_o - 1}{\gamma_{dw} - 1}$$

$$\text{Shrinkage} = \frac{1.4 - 1.0}{1.2 - 1.0} = 2.0 \text{ or } 200\%$$

or reduction  
Factor

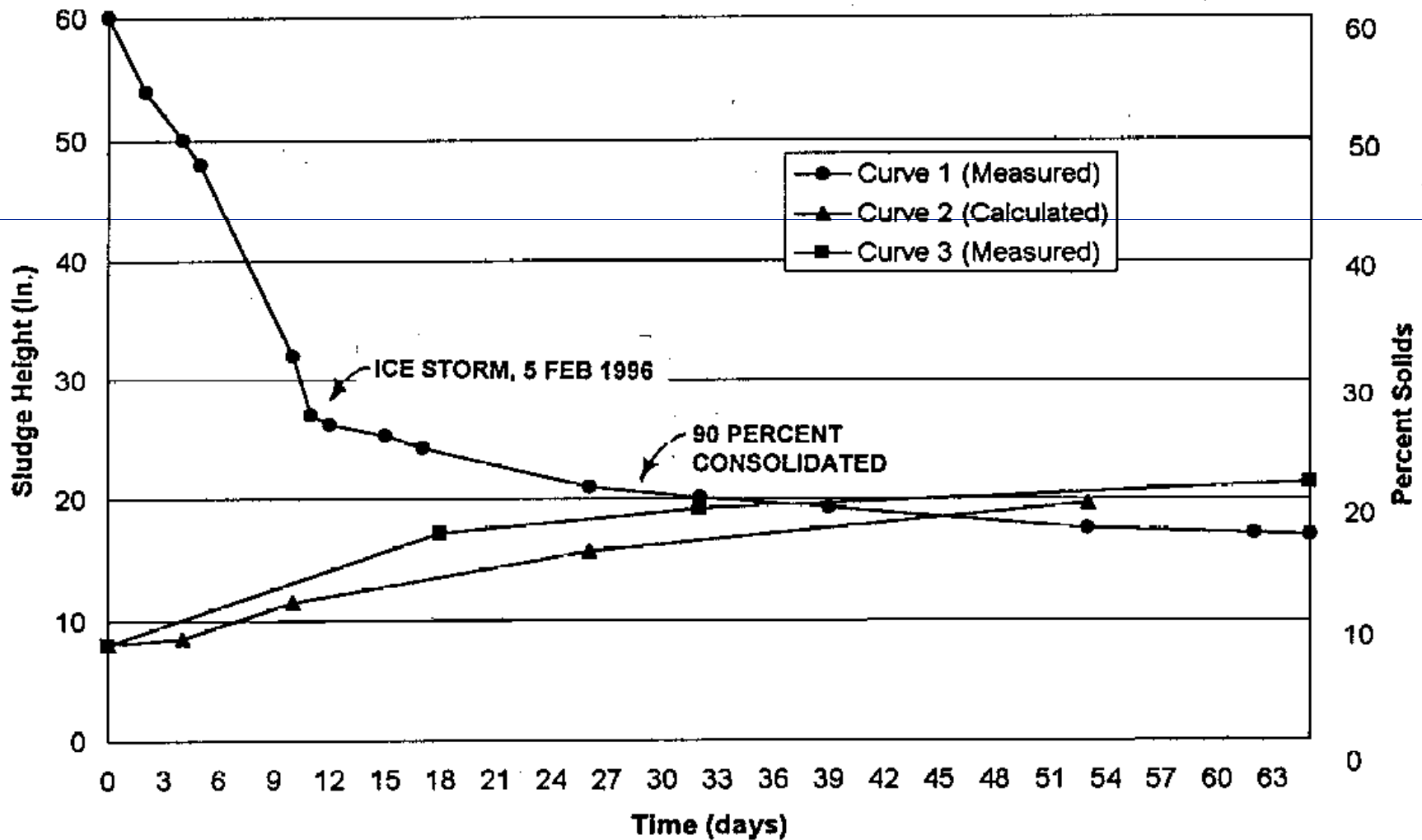




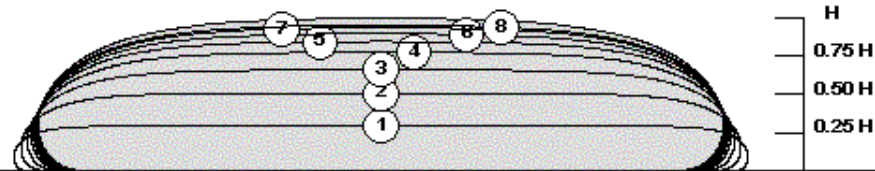
Tube 30 ft Circumference 5ft High

# Target Percent Solids

Geotube - 15 ft wide by 30 ft long



Geotec Associates



ver01a

SOFTCON - 07/10/02

Geotube Circumference=60.00 ft (18.29 meters) - Geotube Pump Height=6.00 ft (1.83 meters)

Incoming Slurry Solids=27.00 % - Density=1.20 gm/cc (74.87 pcf) - Water Content=270.37 %

Selected Final Solids =60.00 % - Density=1.59 gm/cc (99.07 pcf) - Water Content=66.67 %

Initial Volume of Geotube=5.38 Cu yd/ft (13.49 Cu meters/meter) - Specific Grav of Solids=2.61

Stage #	End Height, Hc of Geotube ft (meters)	Width, Wc of Geotube ft (meters)	Volume, Vc at Stage End Cu yd (Cu m)	Percent Original Volume %	Pumped Vol to get Next Stage Cu yd (Cu m)	Cumulative Drained Volume Cu yd (Cu m)
1	1.75( 0.53)	29.17( 8.89)	1.83( 4.59)	34.01	3.55( 8.90)	3.55( 8.90)
2	3.05( 0.93)	28.57( 8.71)	3.04( 7.63)	56.55	2.34( 5.87)	5.89( 14.77)
3	3.98( 1.21)	28.08( 8.56)	3.83( 9.61)	71.22	1.55( 3.88)	7.44( 18.65)
4	4.64( 1.42)	27.76( 8.46)	4.36( 10.93)	81.05	1.02( 2.56)	8.46( 21.21)
5	5.08( 1.55)	27.60( 8.41)	4.70( 11.78)	87.34	0.67( 1.69)	9.13( 22.90)
6	5.38( 1.64)	27.46( 8.37)	4.93( 12.36)	91.61	0.44( 1.11)	9.57( 24.01)
7	5.62( 1.71)	27.30( 8.32)	5.09( 12.77)	94.71	0.29( 0.74)	9.87( 24.75)
8	5.72( 1.74)	27.31( 8.32)	5.17( 12.98)	96.23	0.19( 0.49)	10.06( 25.23)

NOTE: All Volumes are for each Linear Unit (foot or meter) of Geotube



# Dewatering Sewage Sludge

New Orleans Sewage Treatment  
Plant

New Orleans, LA

January, 2000-2004



**Aerial View of Sludge Filled Tube**





Sewage Sludge Filled Tube





1/23/2002

Aerial View of New Orleans Sewage Treatment Plant

# Desiccated Sewage Sludge







Desiccated Sewage Sludge



# MILLENNIUM PLANT, BALTIMORE, MD

Geotextile Tubes used to  
dewater industrial by-  
product waste from  
sludge lagoon.



Installed 2001

## MILLENNIUM PLANT

215 HP Nomad III  
Horizontal  
Cutterhead dredge  
pumping at a rate of  
3,000 gpm at 10%  
solids.





# MILLENNIUM PLANT

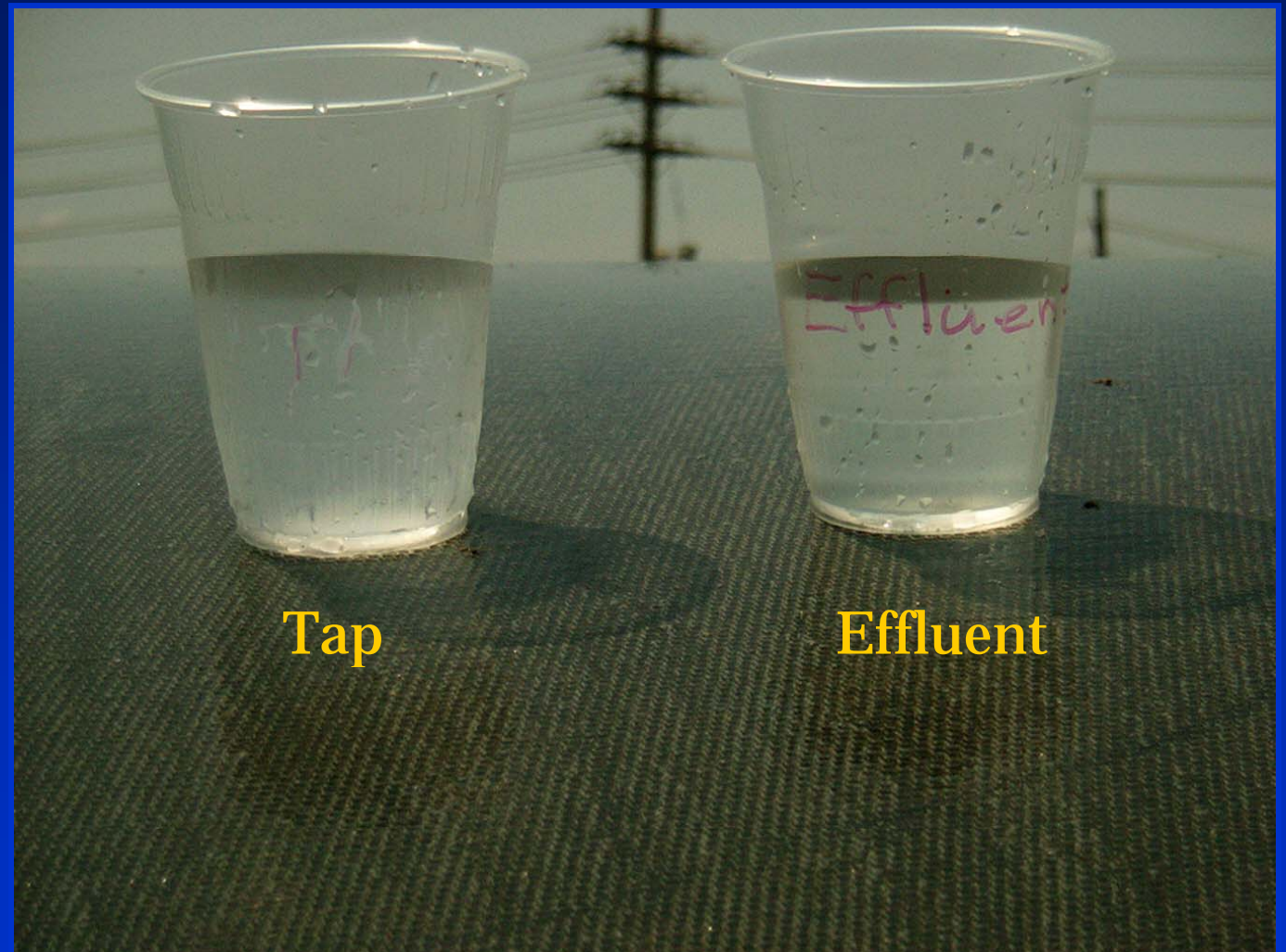
After filling  
and During  
Drainage





## **MILLENNIUM PLANT**

**Tap water on left  
compared to  
effluent water on  
right  
immediately  
following  
collection from  
Geotextile Tube**



**Tap**

**Effluent**

**MILLENNIUM  
PLANT**

Titanium

Sulfate Dioxide

65% Solids





## **MILLENNIUM PLANT**

**Notice  
sediment  
layers over  
6 ft high  
over  
65% Solids**





Wellston,  
Ohio Coal  
Sludge  
30 ft Cir  
100 ft Long  
Geotextile  
tube  
Showing  
Elevation



**Century Mine  
Hanging  
Bag Test**

**Water  
effluent  
quality  
very clear  
with  
polymers**





## Century Mine Hanging Bag Test

Slurry at 63.5%  
Solids second  
day of  
drainage with  
polymers





# 20 ft Long Bag Prior to Filling



# Filling Roll Off Box Bag



# Effluent from Roll Off Box





# 5 CY Roll Off Box Bag



# 20 CY Roll Box Bag Prior to Filling



# 20 CY Roll Off Box Filled





# Geosynthetic Reinforced Inflatable Tube Simulator (GRITS)

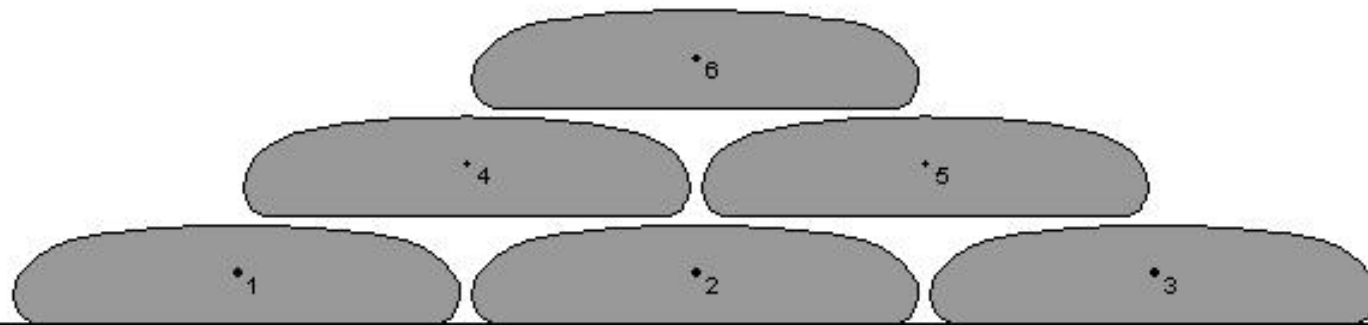
Developed by John B. Palmerton (Deceased  
Spring 2006)

Command ? (enter @ for available list)

Tube 1 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=6.322 ft	Tube 2 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=6.322 ft	Tube 3 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=6.322 ft	Tube 4 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=12.82 ft	Tube 5 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=12.82 ft
Tube 6 Info GFC area=143.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=5.986 ft Max Ten=0 lb/in Top tube el=19.32 ft				

Time=0 sec  
SP G Low Row=1.600  
SP G Mid Row=1.600  
SP G Upr Row=1.600  
Circum=60.00 ft  
Base Fric=10.000 deg  
Tube Fric=10.000 deg  
Base Shear=0 lb/in  
Base Normal=0 lb/in  
Phi Require=0 Deg  
Stack Top el=0 ft

**Friction angle between tubes and base = 10 degrees**  
**friction angle between tubes also = 10 degrees.**

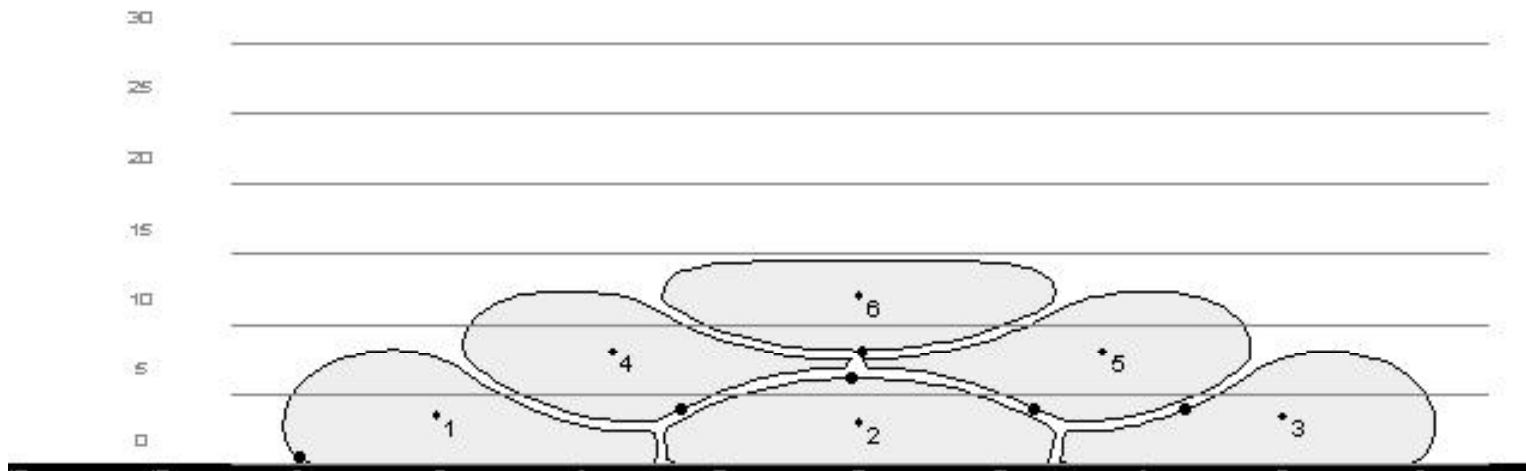


Command ? (enter @ for available list)

Tube 1 Info GFC area=142.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=8.179 ft Max Ten=213.7 lb/in Top tube el=8.512 ft	Tube 2 Info GFC area=139.1 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=6.210 ft Max Ten=379.0 lb/in Top tube el=6.542 ft	Tube 3 Info GFC area=142.0 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=8.079 ft Max Ten=262.0 lb/in Top tube el=8.412 ft	Tube 4 Info GFC area=142.8 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=9.327 ft Max Ten=296.3 lb/in Top tube el=12.77 ft	Tube 5 Info GFC area=142.7 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=9.244 ft Max Ten=295.6 lb/in Top tube el=12.72 ft
Tube 6 Info GFC area=143.1 sq ft Orig Area=143.0 sqft Height=6.481 ft Max Ten=87.22 lb/in Top tube el=14.91 ft				

Time=4.432 sec  
SP G Low Row=1.600  
SP G Mid Row=1.600  
SP G Upr Row=1.600  
Circum=60.00 ft  
Base Fric=10.000 deg  
Tube Fric=10.000 deg  
Base Shear=-264.6 lb/in  
Base Normal=3573 lb/in  
Phi Require=4.234 Deg  
Stack Top el=14.91 ft

**Friction angle between tubes and base = 10 degrees  
friction angle between tubes also = 10 degrees.**





# Ashtabula, OH





# Stacked Tubes, Fly Ash



# **Beneficial Uses Of Dredged Material Filled Geotextile Tubes**

**Coastal and Riverine  
Applications**



# Marine Applications

- Core of a sand dune
- Creation of Wetlands
- Core of Rip Rap Breakwaters
- Core of Rip Rap Jetties
- Underwater Structures
- Diversion Dikes
- Dredge Material Containment

**Existing wetlands**

**Dredged material fill**

**New wetland  
protected area**

**Wind fetch**

**Geotube dike**



# Shoreline Protection

**View of Tubes # 1 & # 2**





# Shoreline Protection

**Tube # 7**

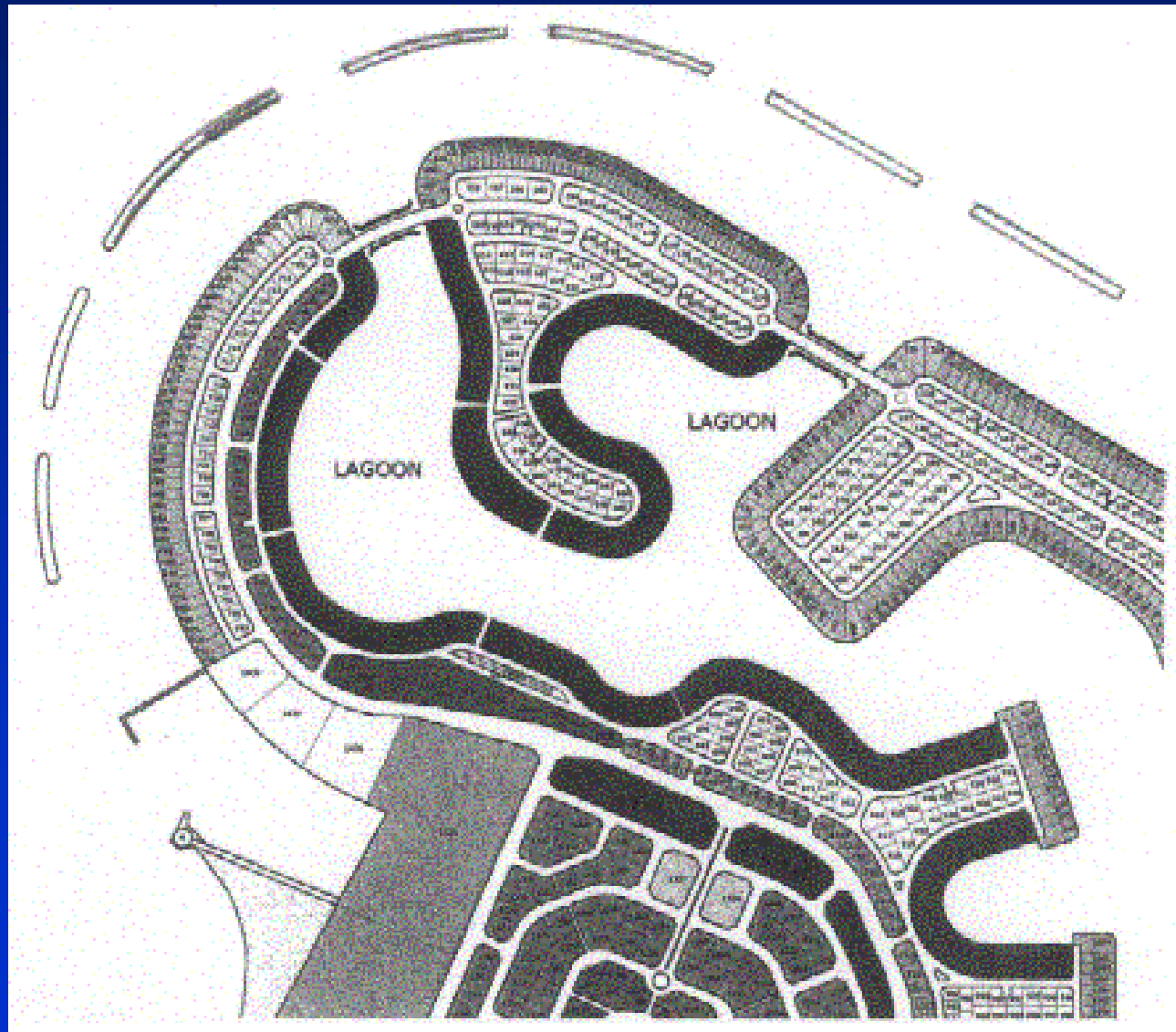


# Shoreline Protection

**Tubes # 8 & # 9**



# Offshore Breakwater Protection, Amwaj Island



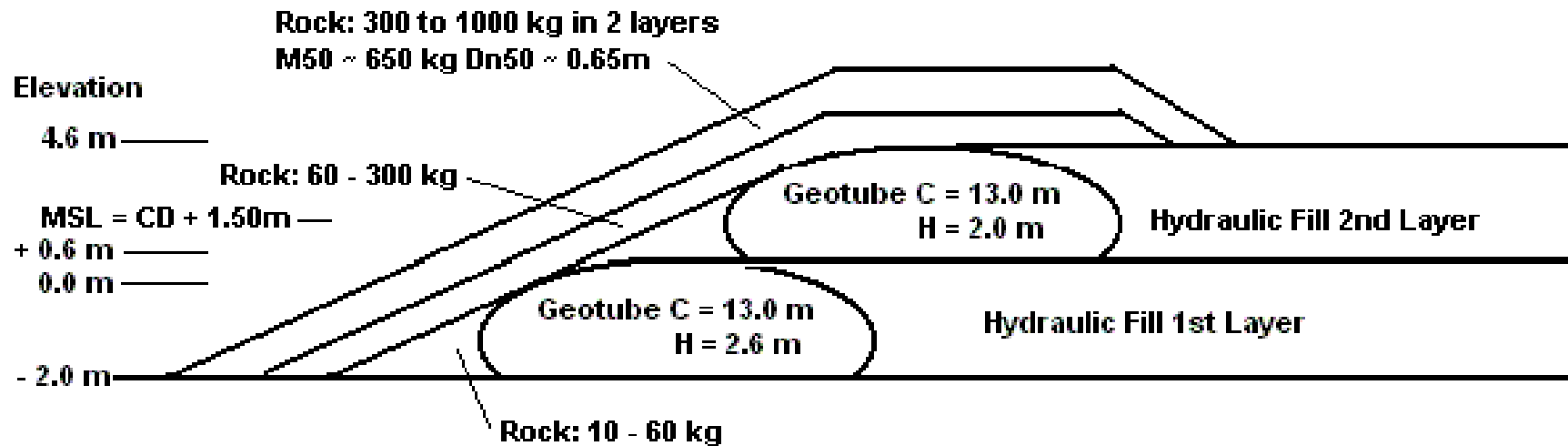


# Tube During Filling, Amwaj Is



# Outside Perimeter Design, Amwaj, Island

## Geotubes in Island Perimeter



# Amway Island





# **Atlantic City New Jersey**

**Tubes used in sand dunes to  
protect Atlantic City  
Boardwalk**

# Pumping sand from the beach with a hydraulic submersible pump







Visqueen used to prevent erosion



# Tube after filling with sand





# Sand filled tube

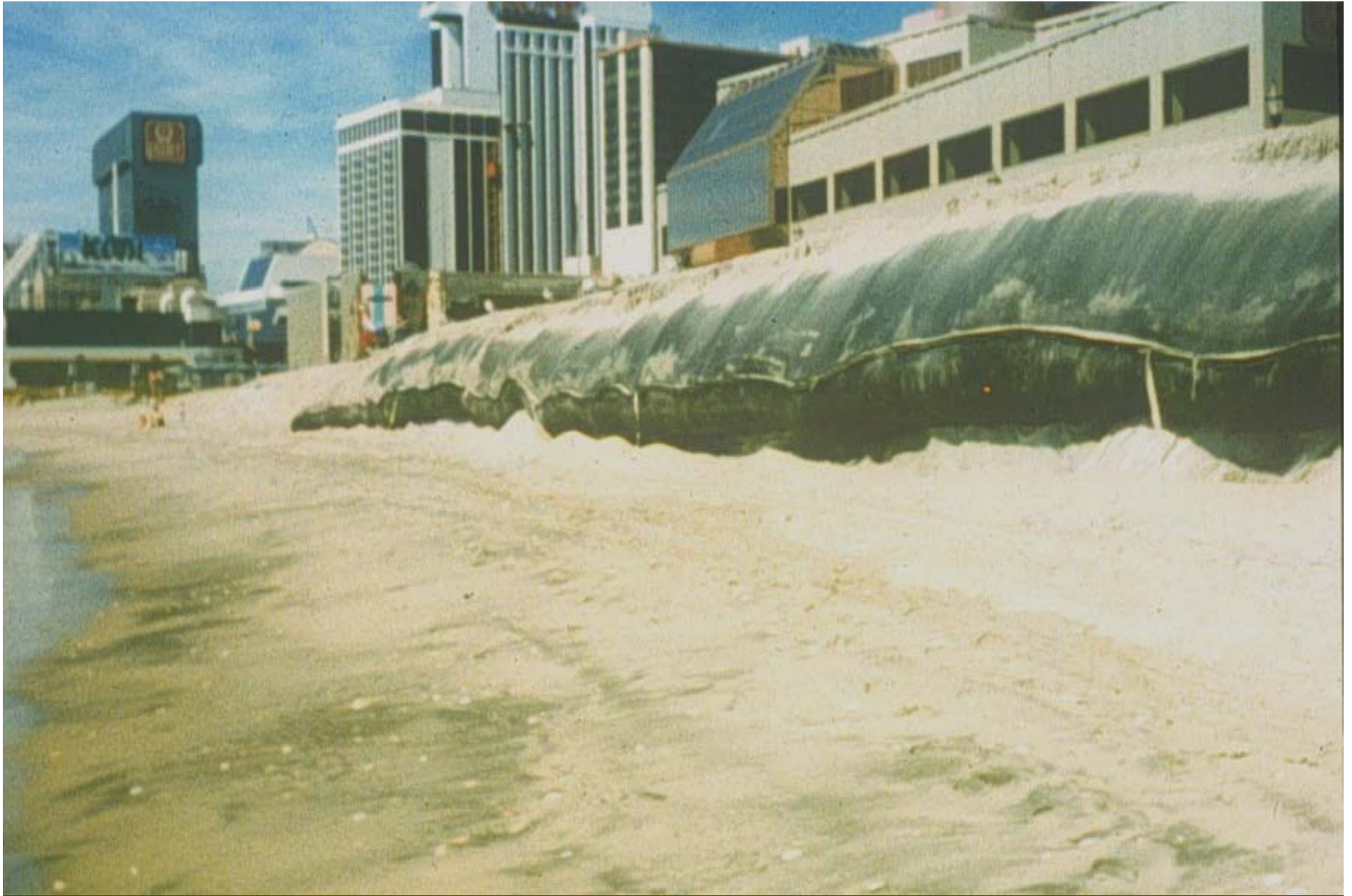






Tubes covered with sand





**Tubes exposed after hurricane**





Erosion after storm





Tubes after cover vegetation



# Sea Isle City, New Jersey

Backhoe and Hopper Fill Method  
Flooded with Water

## Sea Isle City, NJ

Tube being  
filled by  
hopper  
method with  
imported  
sand.



## Sea Isle City, NJ

Sand being  
placed in  
hopper with  
backhoe. Note  
that hopper  
discharges  
directly into  
Tube.





## Sea Isle City, NJ

Tube  
withstands  
heavy wave  
impact at high  
tide.



## Sea Isle City, NJ

Tube and  
scour apron  
intact after  
extreme high  
tide and  
heavy wave  
attack.



**Land Reclamation on  
the North Sea in the  
Netherlands**



# Filling Geotextile Tube at Low Tide





# Filling Geotextile Tube at High Tide





# Parallel Geotextile Tubes in Perimeter Dikes





# High Tide after filling Geotextile Tubes





# Sand Fill behind Geotextile Tube Dike



# **Geotextile Tubes For Inlet Jetties**

**Shrimp Farm Inlet Structure**

**Pacific Coast**

**Mexico**



# Tube Jetty

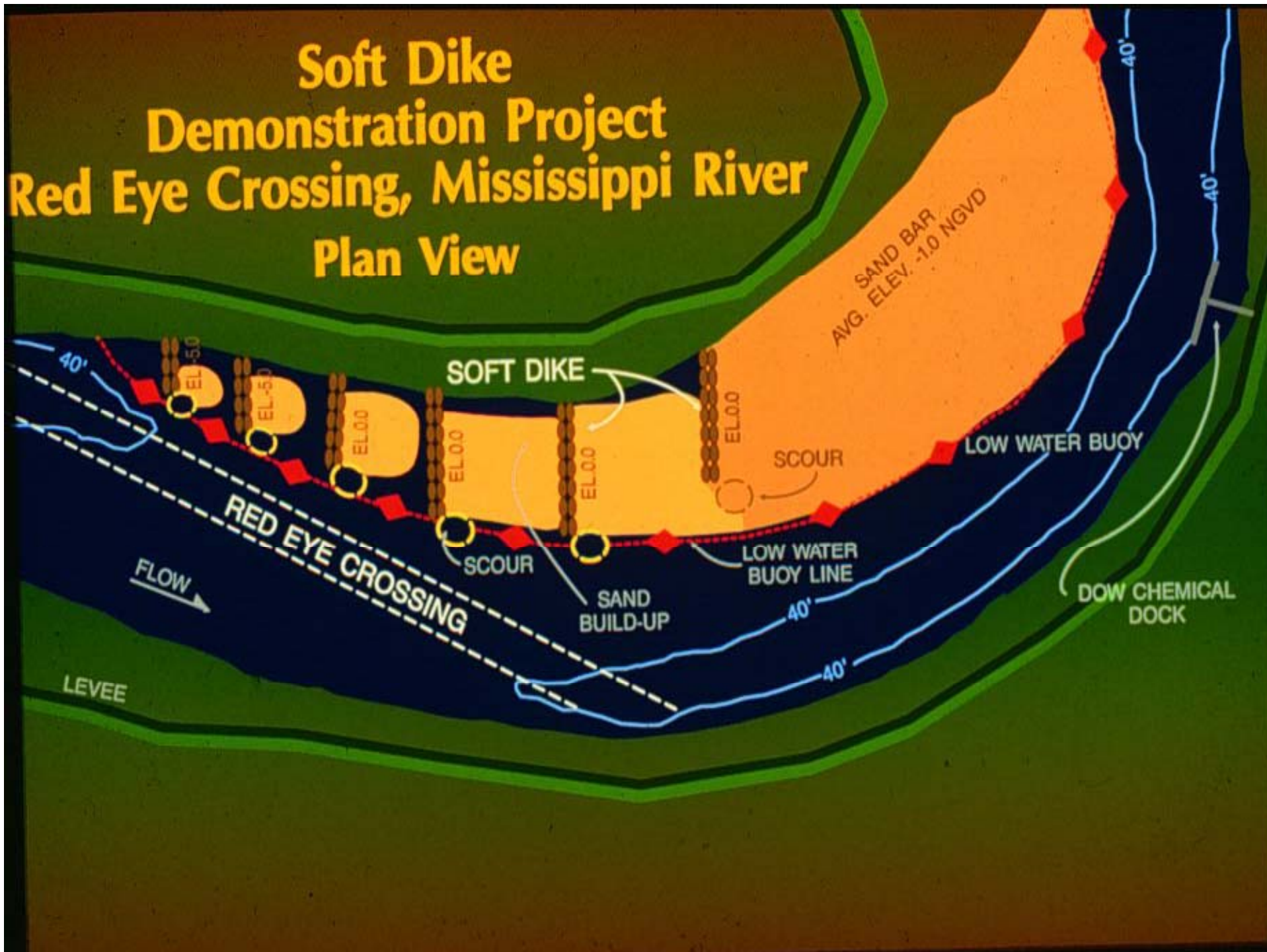


# **Sand Bag and Container Application to Control River Sediments**

**Red Eye Crossing,  
Mississippi River  
Baton Rouge, LA  
1993 to 1994**

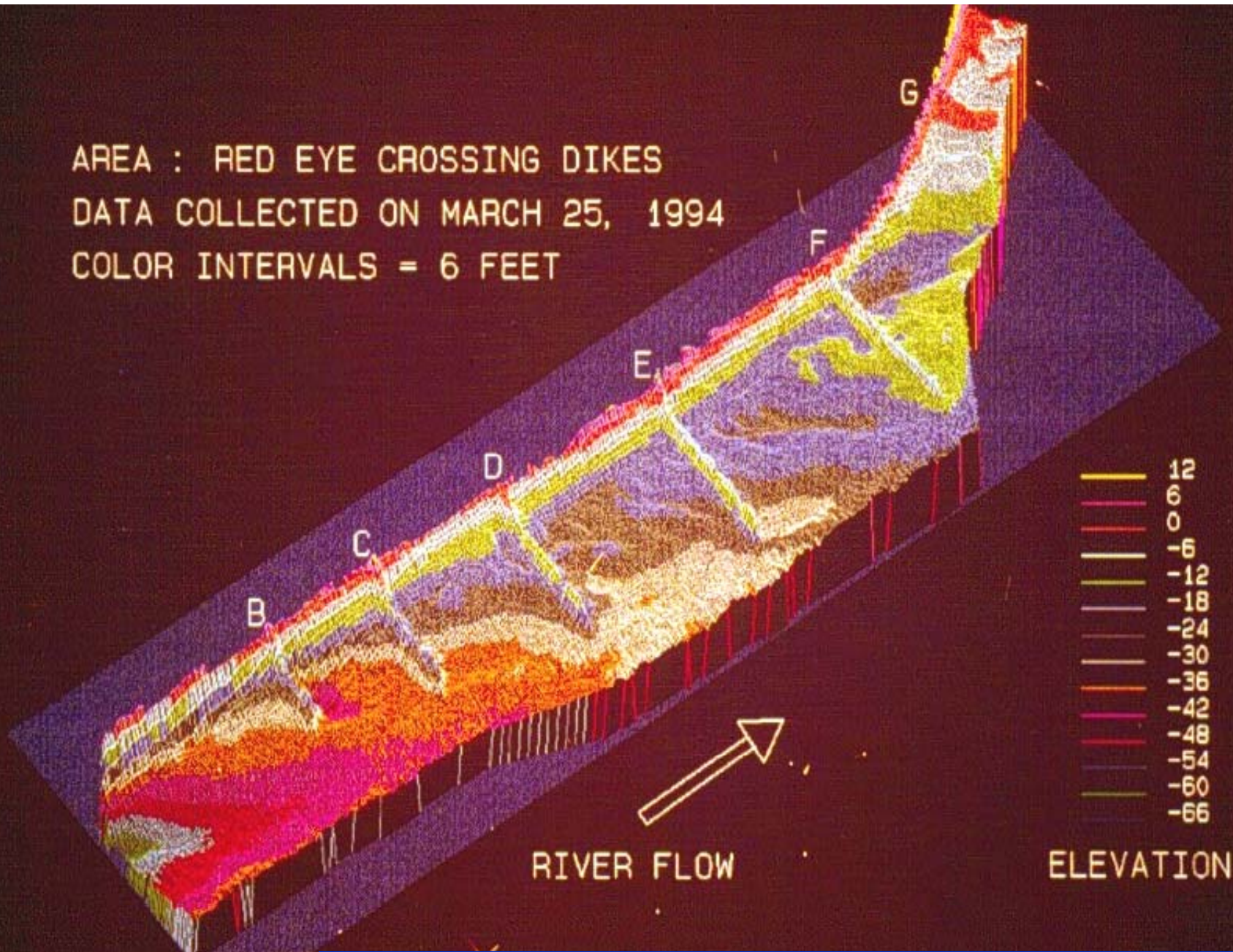


# Soft Dike Demonstration Project Red Eye Crossing, Mississippi River Plan View





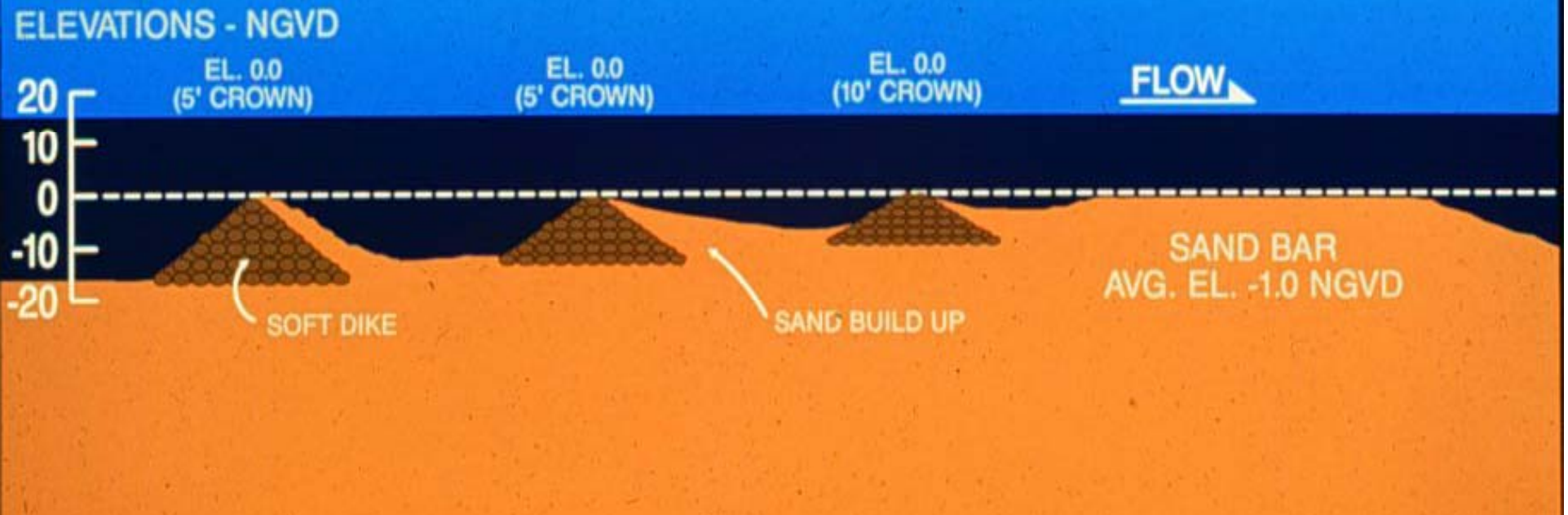
AREA : RED EYE CROSSING DIKES  
DATA COLLECTED ON MARCH 25, 1994  
COLOR INTERVALS = 6 FEET



## Sand Bag and Container Dikes



# Soft Dike Demonstration Project Red Eye Crossing, Mississippi River Cross Section



Three bag dikes and three container dikes



# Filling Sand Bags





# Instrumented sand bag





# Sand Bag Placement



**Dredged material hydraulically or mechanically placed in geocontainers**

**Geotextile liners**

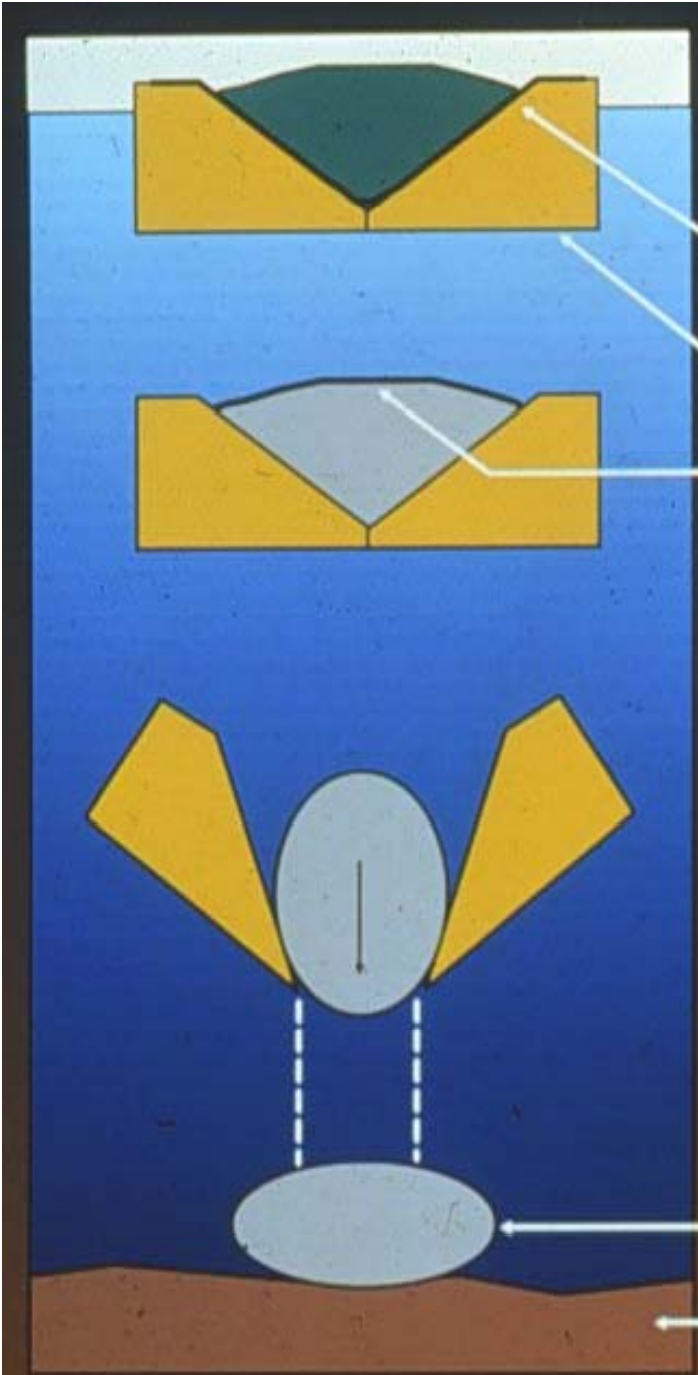
**Split bottom barge**

**Geotextile liner folded over and sewn**

**Split bottom hull opens and drops geocontainers**

**Container intact on bottom**

**Bottom (final destination)**





# Filling Containers





# Sewing Containers Closed



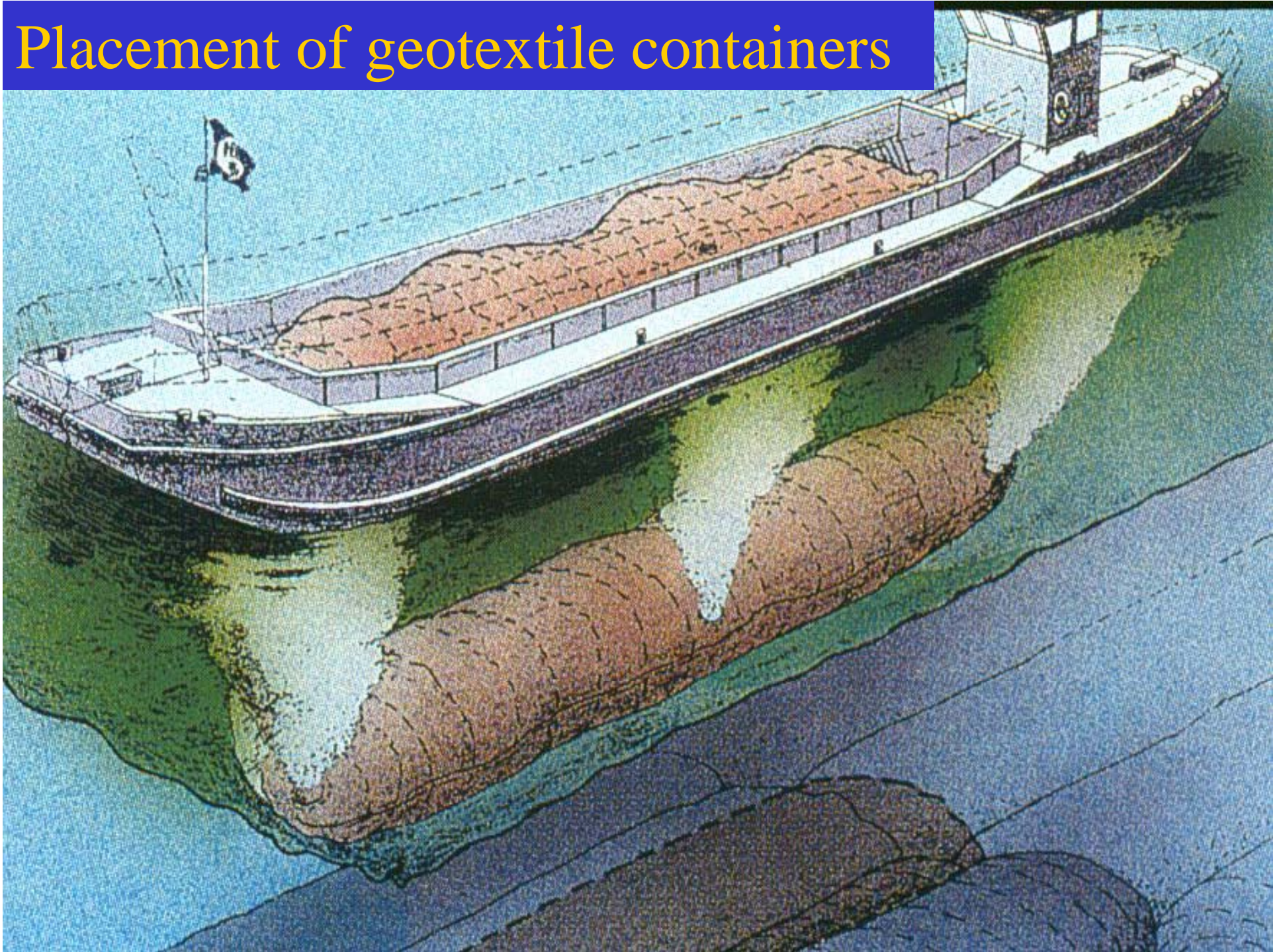




Placement of Containers



# Placement of geotextile containers





# **Split Hull Barge Distinct Computer Model Application**

**John Palmerton**

**601-638-3334**

**[jbpalmer@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbpalmer@bellsouth.net)**





Geocontainers Model Tests

# Split-Hull Scow Container Drop Simulations

1500 CY Example Test Drop

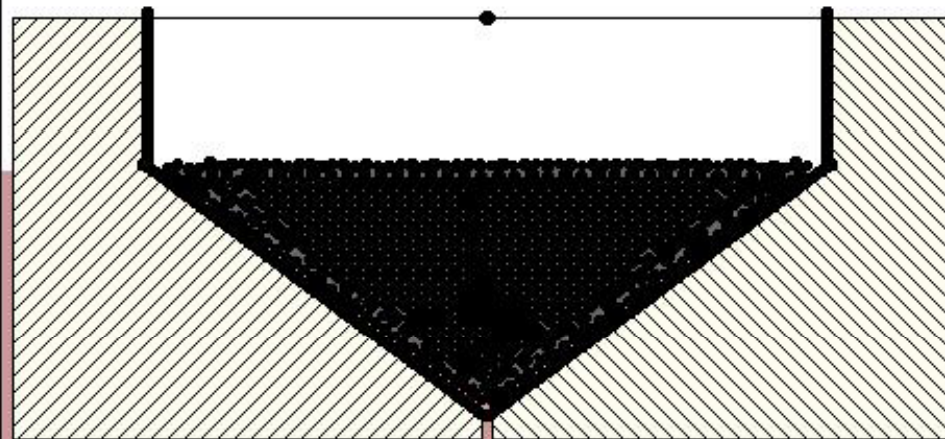
D:\WILLAPA\EXAM2(01).BMP

## INPUT

Water level=12.00 ft  
Sedmnt fric=30.00 deg  
Scow fric=10.00 deg  
Bag density=1.80 g/cc  
Bag wt=1772.18 lb/in  
Current vel=0.00 fps  
TopCurrZone=0.00 ft  
BotCurrZone=0.00 ft  
Drag fac=0.80  
Memb stiff=200.00 lb/in

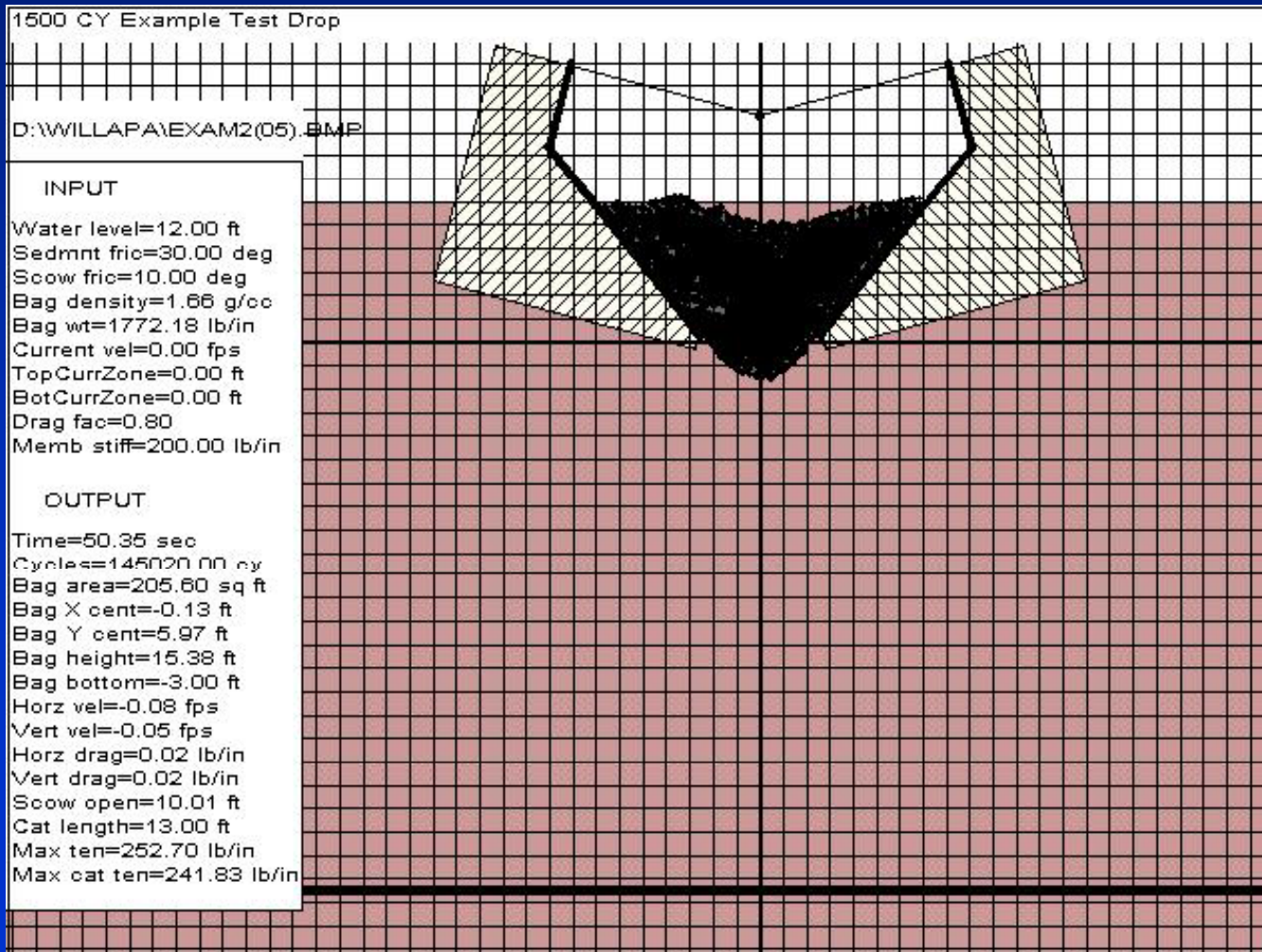
## OUTPUT

Time=0.21 sec  
Cycles=600.00 cy  
Bag area=189.32 sq ft  
Bag X cent=0.01 ft  
Bag Y cent=8.34 ft  
Bag height=11.80 ft  
Bag bottom=0.62 ft  
Horz vel=0.00 fps  
Vert vel=-1.29 fps  
Horz drag=2.98 lb/in  
Vert drag=2.12 lb/in  
Scow open=0.00 ft  
Cat length=0.54 ft  
Max ten=44.39 lb/in  
Max cat ten=0.00 lb/in

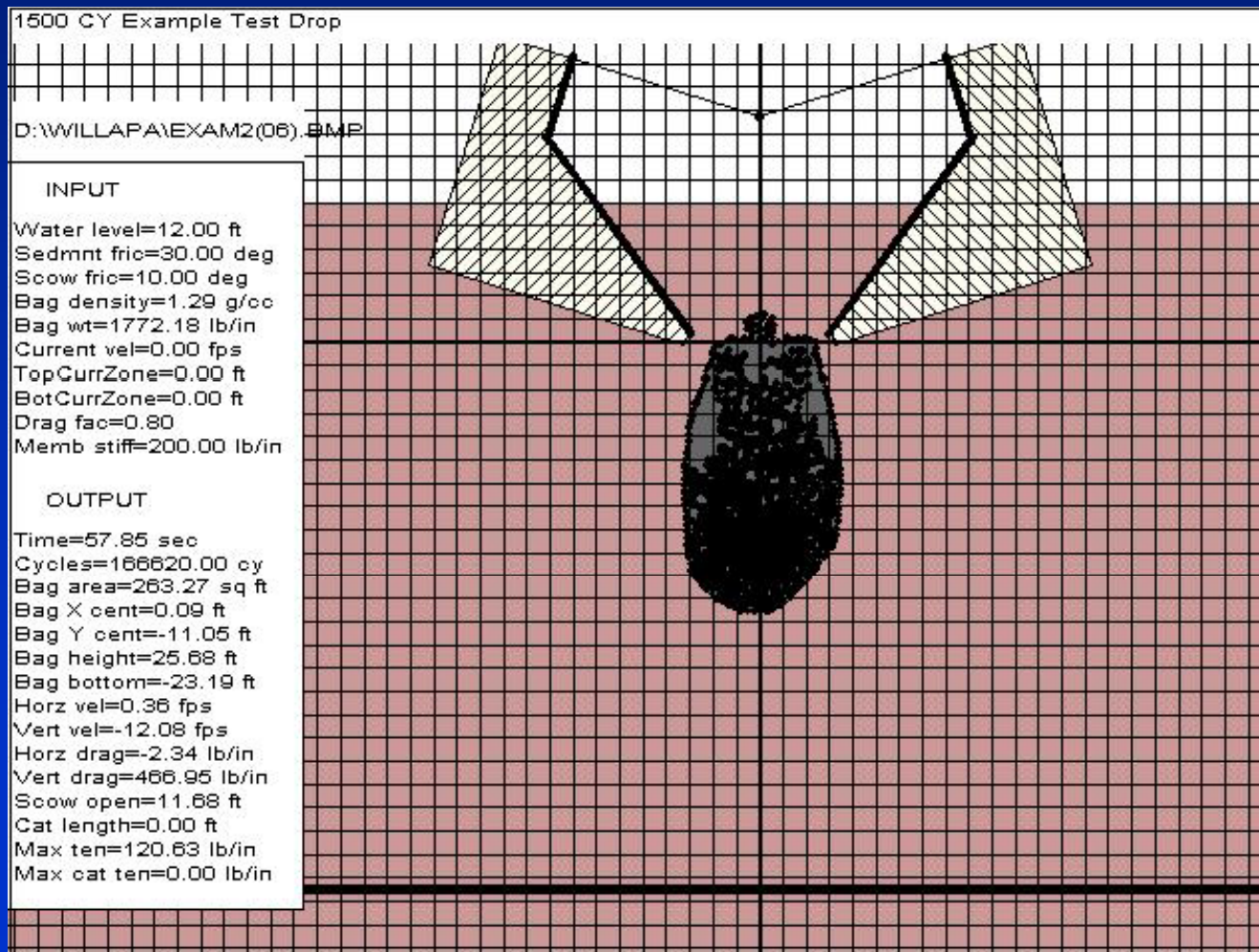




# Split-Hull Scow Container Drop Simulations

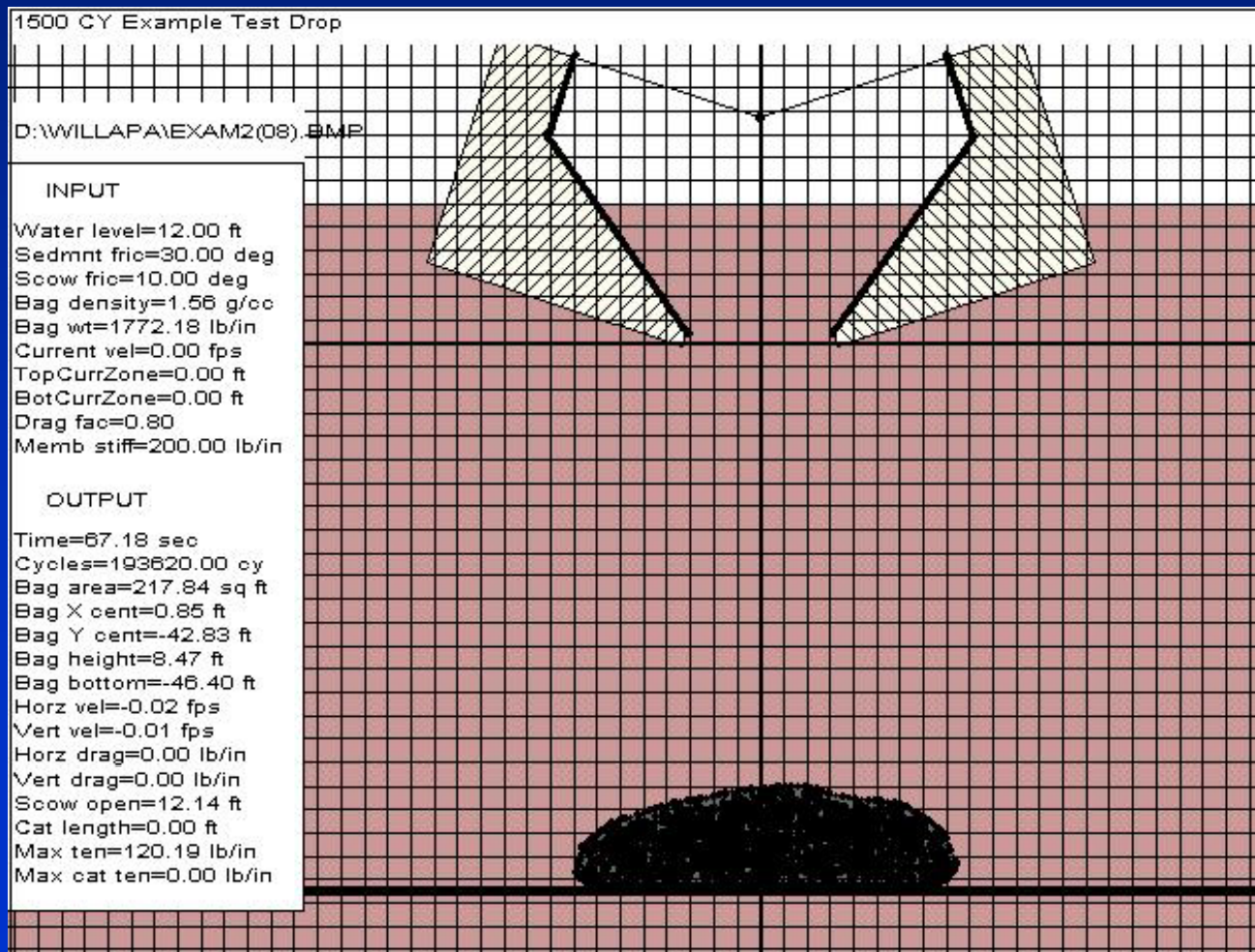


# Split-Hull Scow Container Drop Simulations





# Split-Hull Scow Container Drop Simulations

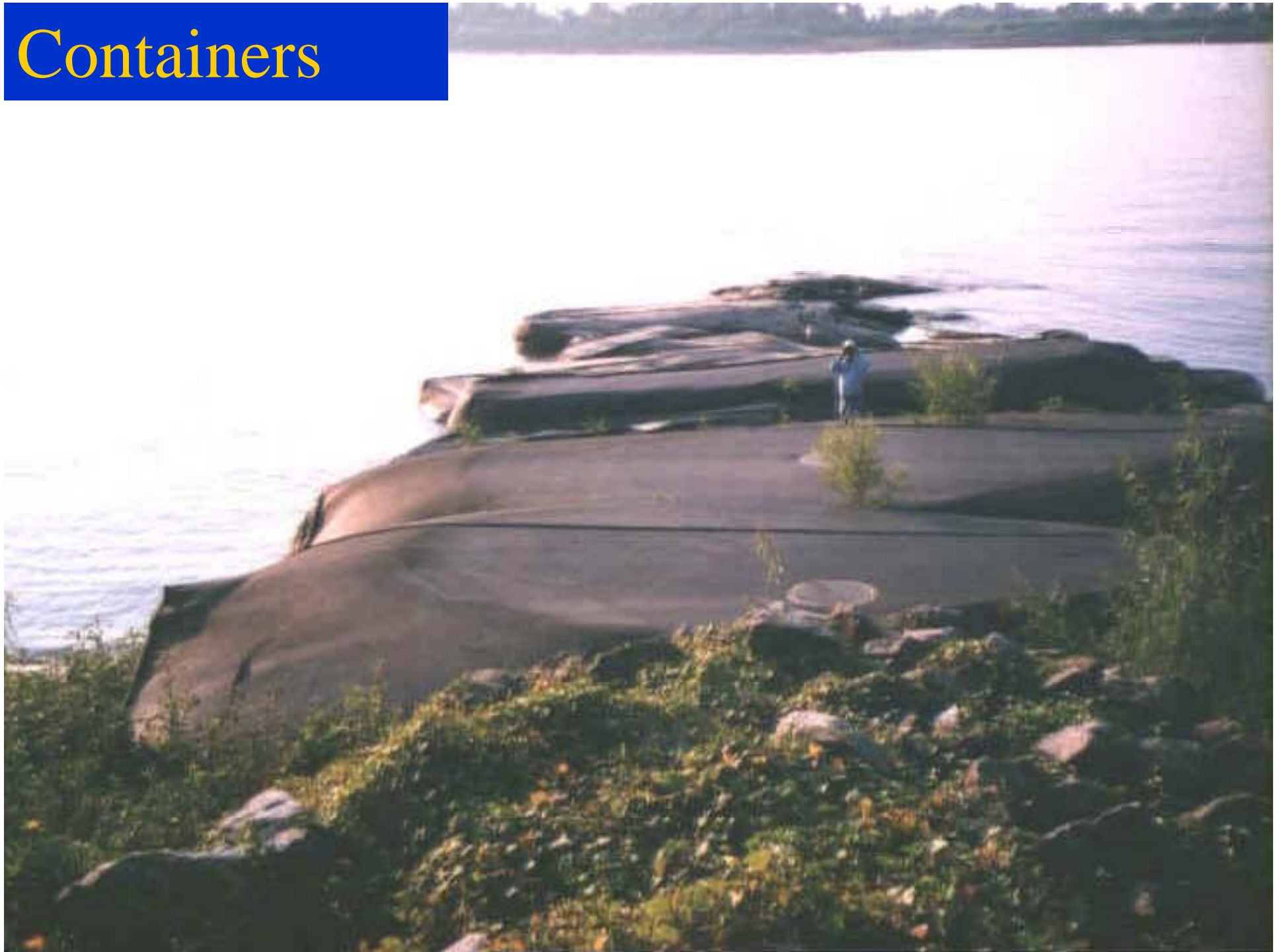


# **Bags and Containers After 6 years**

**Red Eye Crossing  
Baton Rouge, LA  
October 1999**



# Containers



# Bags







**Note influence  
of Bags and  
Containers**

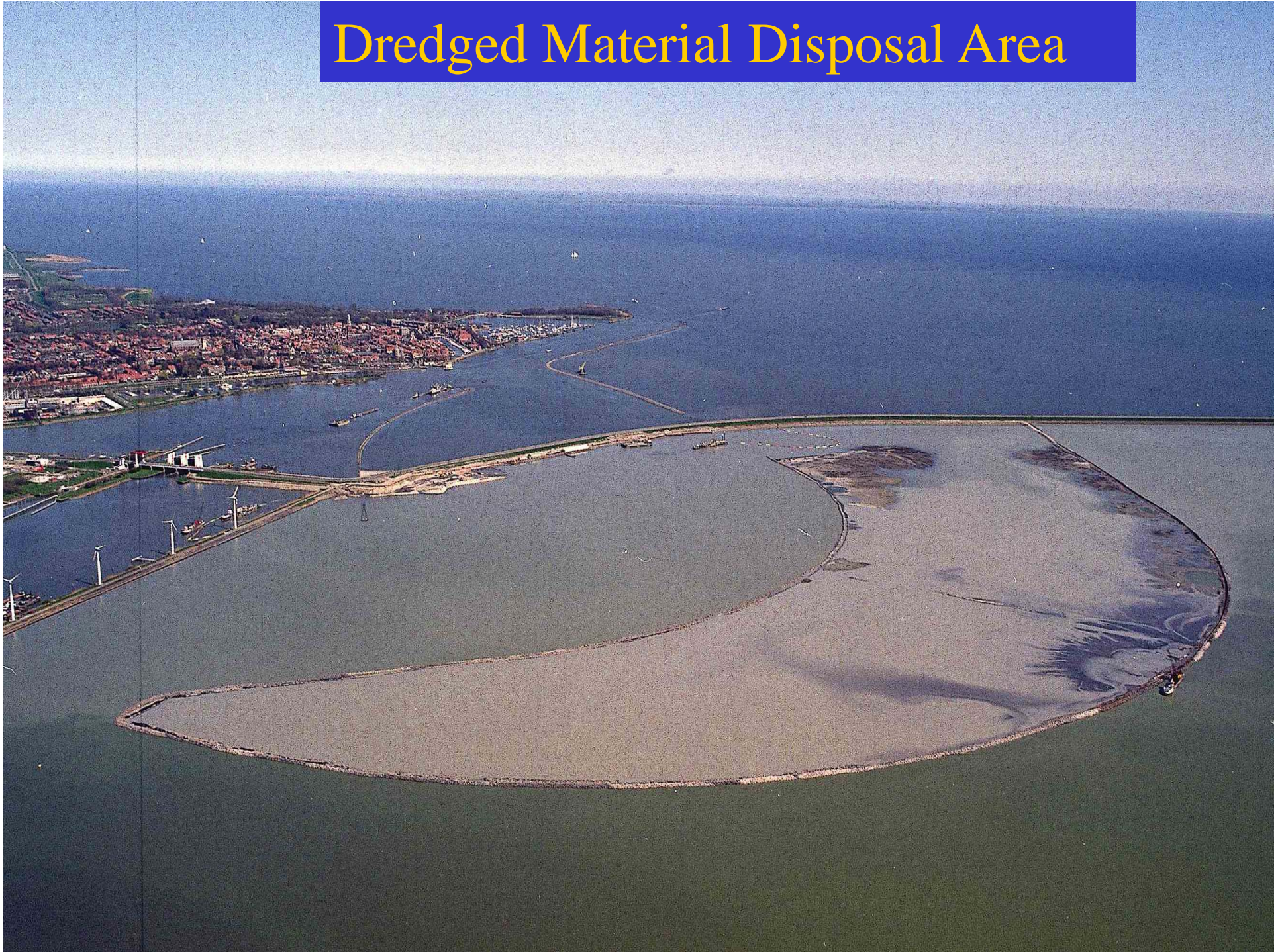
**Naviduct  
Ijsselmer, The Netherlands**

**Geotextile Tubes**

**Used As A Dike Core For  
Land Reclamation**



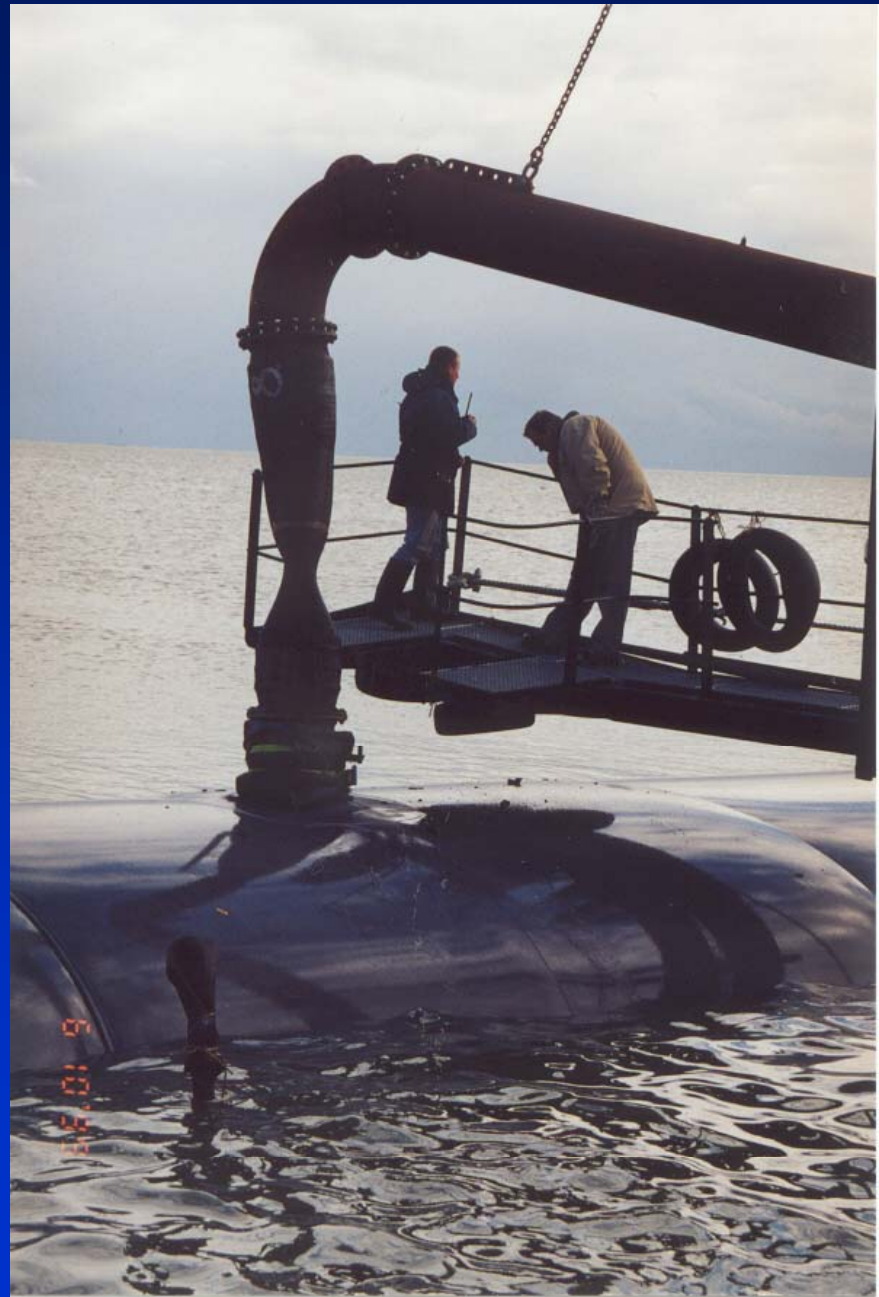
# Dredged Material Disposal Area





# The Naviduct Project

Detail of 0.5 meter  
diameter fill-pipe





# The Naviduct Project

## The fill operation



# The Naviduct Project

**Tube left: filling complete; Tube right: being filled**





# The Naviduct Project

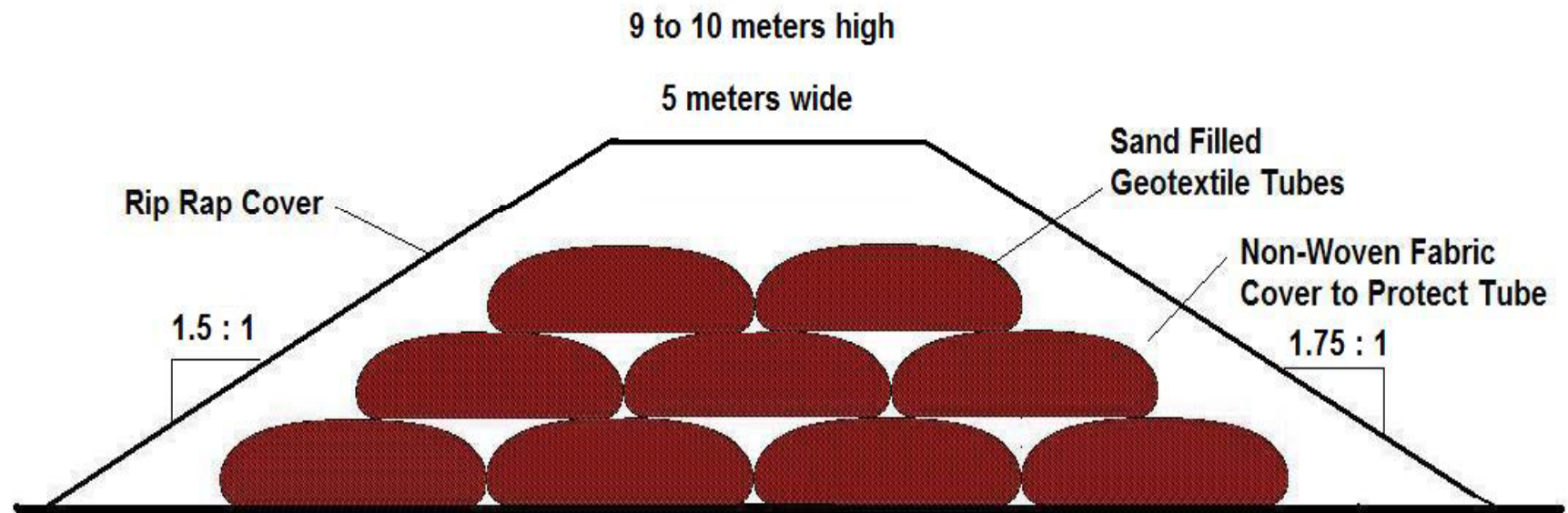
Large scale Rip Rap test covering Tubes





# Rip Rap Covered Tubes in Ecuador





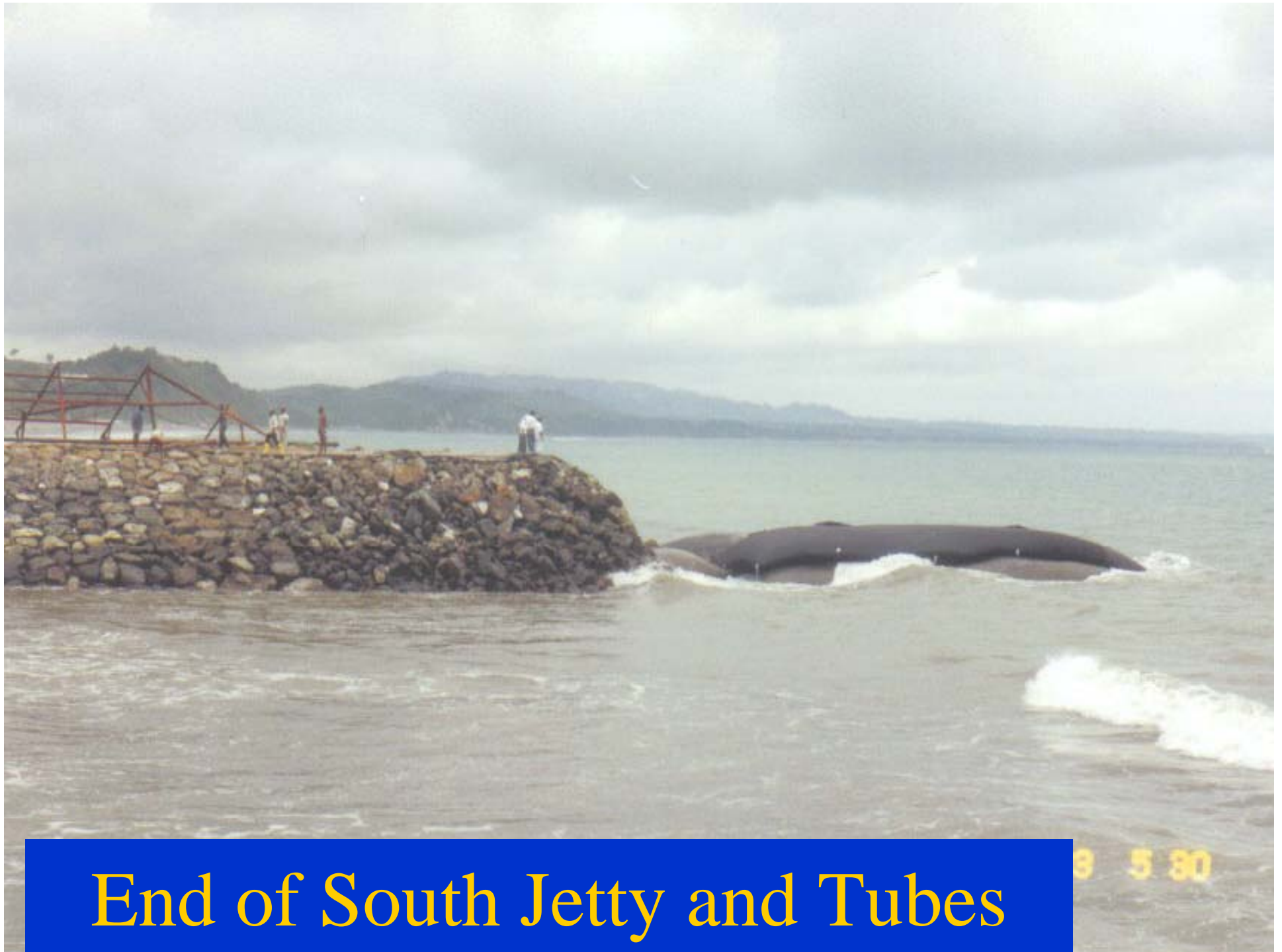
**Rip Rap Covered Geotextile Tube Jetty**  
**Esmeraldas, Ecuador**

# Rip Rap Covered Tubes



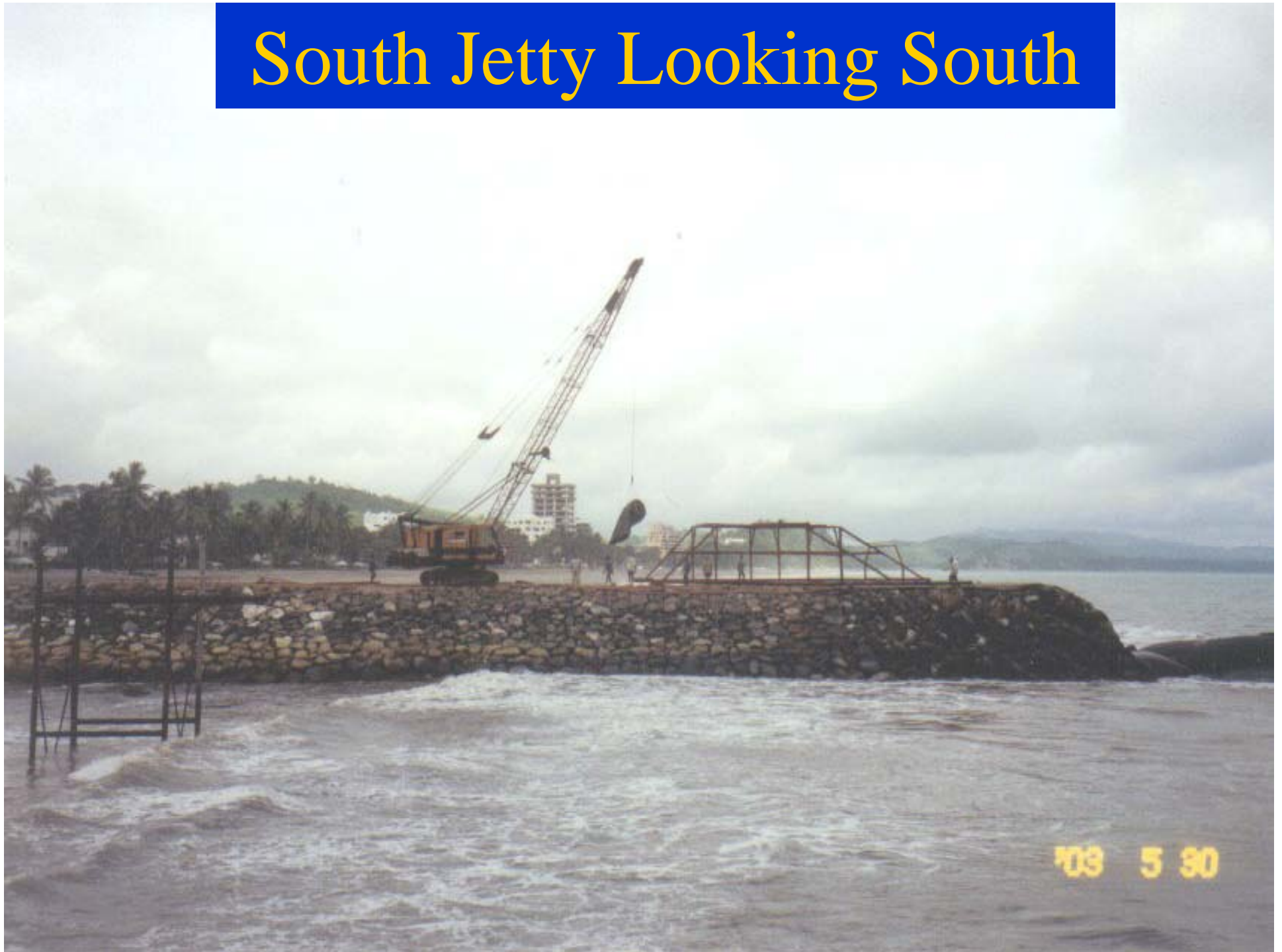
Stack of Three Sand Filled Tubes





End of South Jetty and Tubes

# South Jetty Looking South







Placing Rip Rap on Tubes in North Jetty

