



The Pioneer Of Geosynthetics
S I N C E 1 9 7 2

Canals

THE PROBLEM

As clean water becomes more expensive to acquire, the need for secure water containment grows. Over time, concrete-lined canals may crack, resulting in a significant loss of water. Earthen canals are also subject to erosion and leakage problems.

THE SOLUTION

GSE polyethylene geomembrane provide an effective and economical solution to canal leakage and erosion problems. GSE HDPE geomembranes exhibit:

- Long-Term Durability
- Flexibility
- Puncture Resistance
- Optional Textured Surfaces
- Large Roll Widths & Lengths
- UV Stability
- Low Temperature Flexibility
- Thermally Welded Seams
- Flow Improvement
- Reduced Maintenance



GSE geomembranes are available in a smooth or textured surface.

COVERED OR EXPOSED

Geomembrane canal liners may be left exposed or may be protected with a covering of soil or concrete. GSE's UV-stabilized geomembranes can remain exposed for an extended length of time with no expected decline in their level of performance. However, most canal lining systems should be protected against damage from rocks, debris, equipment and vandalism. Some applications require a protective concrete covering over the geomembrane. The protective concrete layer may be cast-in-place with reinforcing steel, pumped into geotextile forms, precast in panels or spray applied.

GSE textured geomembranes can improve concrete stability during its placement on slopes by increasing the friction between the liner and the concrete and the liner and the subgrade.



GSE geomembrane lined canal with an incorporated flow control system.

HDPE & LLDPE GEOMEMBRANES

Polyethylene geomembranes are commercially available in a range of resin densities and quality. However, GSE uses only the best quality high density (HDPE) and linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) resins. These resins exhibit exceptional flexibility, strength and durability, as well as excellent chemical resistance. HDPE geomembranes are best for high wear conditions such as exposed applications and LLDPE geomembranes offer extra flexibility.



GSE White geomembrane liner reduces wrinkles allowing for smooth and consistent shotcrete overlay.

REPAIR OF EXISTING CANALS

GSE geomembranes are suitable for lining over cracked concrete canal linings. Sections of the canal can be repaired at different times if the budget does not allow for a complete relining at one time.

CASE HISTORIES - Reline Using Textured Geomembrane & Shotcrete

For 30 years, the Putah South Canal in Vacaville, CA supplied irrigation water for the Solano Irrigation District. Seepage was a continuing problem which was partially mitigated by lowering the surface height of the canal water by 24 inches (61 cm). A decision was finally made and funds allocated to reline the worst section of the canal - about 4,000 feet (1,500 m). Various methods were considered.

The material chosen was a polyethylene geomem-

brane with a textured surface manufactured and installed by GSE. Installation began at the lowest point of the canal and proceeded up grade. The geomembrane panels were installed transverse to the canal and the panels were fusion welded together. They were then mechanically attached to the existing concrete liner at the top of the canal slopes using hit anchors.



GSE geomembranes provide excellent longevity for canals.

Shotcrete with reinforcing fibers was then spray-applied to a 2 inch (5 cm) thickness. The textured membrane allowed for applying the complete shotcrete thickness at one time instead of in three applications as would have been necessary using a smooth-surfaced geomembrane.

Expansion and contraction joints were added at 12 feet (3.5 cm) centers. One section was completed in 1989; a second section using the same method, was completed in 1993. The lining eliminated water loss.

NEW CANAL WITH GEOMEMBRANE AND CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE

The Pasto Grande Umarzo Canal Project in the mountains of Peru involved constructing 59,000 feet (18 km) of concrete-lined canal in an arid region. The canal supplies drinking and irrigation water for an agricultural community. The canal lining consists of a geotextile cushion and the textured HDPE waterproofing geomembrane. A steel-reinforced, cast-in-place concrete protective covering was later installed to minimize the cost of the surface preparation and to protect the HDPE.

Several sections of the canal, which winds down the mountains, utilized a concrete-lined canal. The cast-in-place concrete was poured directly on top of the geomembrane. Forms were utilized on the steep side slopes.

GSE textured geomembrane was an excellent choice for this difficult and demanding canal lining installation and was able to withstand the traffic and activity necessary to install the protective concrete layer.



GSE geomembranes lined canals help prevent contamination and loss of water.

COMPLETE INSTALLATION SERVICES

No other company offers more experience installing geosynthetic products than GSE. GSE Installation Services is your one-stop source that offers the experience, training, expertise and complete range of geosynthetic products, fabrication and technical support on any project.



GSE installation crew.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have an upcoming project please give us a call. We will provide you with recommendations for material and installation.