



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

Power

BACKGROUND

As the population grows, so does the demand for more electric power capacity. This increase in demand has spurred the need for new generating stations and innovative methods of generating electricity from existing power plants. Geosynthetic materials provide solutions to various concerns associated with these types of applications such as ground-water contamination. Geosynthetics have long been used in evaporation, cooling and brine ponds, but are also now being used to line pumped storage ponds.



GSE geosynthetic products.

CASE HISTORIES

GSE has been lining ponds in power plant applications for over 30 years. One of GSE's earlier projects was for a Steam Electric Generating Station in Colorado. This installation consisted of 8 containment ponds ranging in size from less than an acre to over 20 acres. The containment ponds are used to store intermediate quality water, for fly ash recovery and as brine ponds. The ponds are still being used to this day.



GSE HDPE geomembrane is used to line ponds for a power plant.

The customer removed some small portions of the geomembrane and asked us to test them to see how well it was holding up after years of outdoor expo-

sure. The ensuing forensic investigation showed that the material still retained much of the physical properties that it had at the time it was manufactured.¹

A more recent site where GSE geosynthetic materials have been used successfully in a power plant application is the Casa Grande Site in Arizona. This particular installation was a double lined system utilizing GSE 60 mil HDPE geomembrane, GSE HyperNet drainage net and a geosynthetic clay liner. The material was used in each of three 28 acre evaporation ponds for a total footprint of over 84 acres. The GSE HyperNet was installed between the primary and secondary geomembranes for a leak detection layer. GSE HDPE was chosen because of its high chemical resistance and its proven track record in exposed applications.



Double lined ponds - Casa Grande Site.

PUMPED STORAGE POND

Building new power plants is costly. As an alternative to building new power plants, some energy companies are looking to innovative methods to better utilize the full capacity of existing ones. While many generating stations operate at or near capacity during the day when demand is greatest, the same plants have excess generating capacity at night.

Power generators are using pumped storage ponds to store the excess nighttime capacity so that it may be used during the day when demand is greater. The pumped storage pond idea has been around for over 30 years, but relied on an available water source such as a dammed river or natural reservoir. Daming of rivers is increasingly coming under scrutiny due to environmental concerns associated with flooding naturally existing vegetation. By utilizing geosynthetics in constructing manmade reservoirs, they can be constructed in areas that lessen the impact on the environment.

To accomplish this task two large ponds are

constructed; one at a higher elevation relative to the first. During the night, water is pumped from the lower elevation pond to the higher elevation pond. During the day, the water from the higher elevation pond flows back to the lower elevation pond through a turbine creating hydroelectric energy. Both of these ponds are typically double lined with HDPE geomembrane. A geonet layer is installed between the two geomembrane layers to provide a leak detection system.



GSE White is used to line pumped storage ponds.

SOLUTIONS

GSE is the world leader in manufacturing geosynthetic materials that are used in a variety of applications from landfills to leach pads to storage ponds. GSE's product line consists of HDPE and LLDPE geomembranes, geonets, geocomposites, geotextiles and geosynthetic clay liners (GCL). GSE polyethylene geomembranes are available with smooth or textured surface on either or both sides.

GSE INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS PROVIDES SUPERIOR PROTECTION

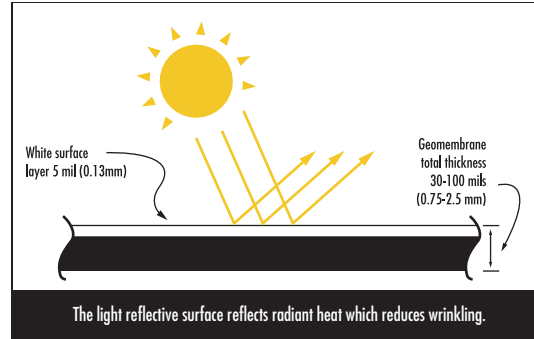
For superior protection and leak detection, GSE Conductive is utilized for either the secondary liner or for both layers of geomembrane. GSE Conductive allows for the entire surface area to be spark-tested after installation including side slopes. Spark testing provides an extra measure of security against material leaching to the surrounding earth and ground water supply assuring that no environmental contamination can occur. For assured long-term containment and environmental protection, the surface can be spark-tested again either annually or at some other



Spark testing can be performed with hand-held equipment.

predetermined interval to ensure the installation remains leak-free.²

In addition to black surfaced geomembrane; white surfaced geomembrane is also available. GSE White surfaced geomembrane speeds installation by reducing the amount of heat gain and therefore wrinkling of the geomembrane during installation.³ Laboratory UV testing indicates this material can have a service life of 18-50 years depending on environmental factors such as elevation and latitude.



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.

Notes:

¹See GSE Forensic Study Case History
²See GSE Conductive Application Sheet for more information APO9
³See GSE White Application Sheet for more information APO8