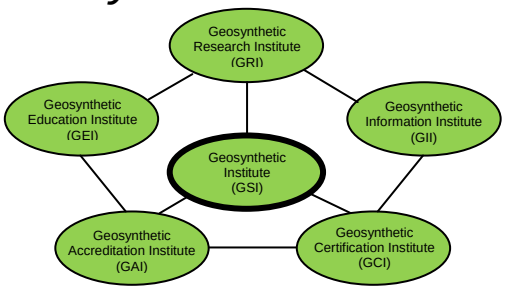
The GSI Newsletter/Report

Geosynthetic Institute



Vol. 29, No. 2 **June, 2015**

This quarterly newsletter, now in its 29th year, presents the activities of GSI and its related institutes to all who are interested. It is available on the institute's home page at www.geosynthetic-institute.org. It also serves as a quarterly report to its member organizations. Details are available by contacting George R. Koerner or Marilyn Ashley at phone (610) 522-8440; fax (610) 522-8441 or e-mail at gkoerner@dca.net or mvashley@verizon.net.

Activities of GSI's Directors and Officers

1. We have received 22-proposals for this year's GSI Fellowships. It is by far the most to date and due mainly to accepting proposals from masters as well as doctoral students. The Board of Directors have just been sent the entire "batch" for review…more later.
2. Our webinar activity is evenly split between ASCE (primarily domestic engineers) and GSI (geosynthetic interest to all). Acceptance is quite varied in both groups and reasons are not obvious. Contact us for a listing and if you want a topic streamed into your office(s) let us know accordingly.
3. In our two certification areas (GS's in Waste Containment and MSE Walls) we offer sets of six consecutive webinars which cover the equivalent of a full day course. It has been marginally successful and replaces our in-house courses which have been drawing poorly.
4. A new multi-authored 27-chapter book on "Geotextiles" will appear in the fall as published by Woodhead Publishing Co., a division of Elsevier in Holland. Twenty of the authors are GSI members and Bob Koerner is the editor. We look for a meaningful contribution to the literature in this regard.
5. George will have an on-line conference call with the GAI-LAP participants. It will be on July 8, 2015 so please save the date. Time and call in data will be forthcoming. See the GAI section for details.
6. The nine person GSI Board of Directors is presently as follows:

Term Ends 2015

- John Workman - Waste Management Inc. (Owners and Operators)
  e-mail: jworkman@wm.com
- Mark Wayne – Tensar Earth Technology (Geotextiles and Geogrids)
  e-mail: mwayne@tensarcorp.com
- Sam Allen – TRI Environmental Inc. (At-Large)
  e-mail: Sallen@tri-env.com

Term Ends 2016

- A. N. Desai – BTRA & GSI-India (Agencies)
  e-mail: btra@vsnl.com
- Edgard Chow – Kuraray (Resin Producers)
  e-mail: edgard.chow@kuraray.com
- Kent von Maubeuge - NAUE GmbH & Co. KG (International-1)
  e-mail: kvmaubeuge@naue.com

IN THIS ISSUE

Term Ends 2017

- Tony Eith - CEC Consultants , Inc.
  (Consultants and Testing Labs)
  e-mail: teith@cecinc.com
- Nathan Ivy - AGRU America Inc.
  (Geomembranes and GCL's)
  e-mail: nivy@agruamerica.com
- Moreno Scotto - Maccaferri
  (International - 2)
  e-mail: moreno.scotto@gmail.com

Overview of GRI Projects (Research)

The following projects are all funded by GSI membership dues unless specifically noted. Most are long-term projects for which we are well positioned to accomplish. Those projects marked with an asterisk have written papers available; please ask and we will send them accordingly. Contact George Koerner (gkoerner@dca.net), Grace Hsuan (g.hsuan@coe.drexel.edu) or Bob Koerner (robert.koerner@coe.drexel.edu) for details and/or discussions.

1. **In-Situ Temperature Monitoring of Liner and Cover Geomembranes in Dry and Wet Landfills*** - George Koerner is measuring the in-situ temperature behavior of liner and cover geomembranes and has installed multiple thermocouples for long term measurements in both wet and dry municipal solid waste landfills in Pennsylvania. The project has been extended into its 17th-year and has resulted in an extremely authoritative set of real-life data which is being used by many researchers in their geomembrane lifetime predictions. George has presented an updated paper in Berlin at the 10th IGS Conference.
2. **Flow Behavior of Innovative Leachate Collection and Removal Systems (LCRS's)** – Several new geocomposite drainage systems are being compared to traditional geonet composites. The project is in its second year and will be a multi-year effort. It is likely that a Standard Guide will be developed on this topic.
3. **Flow Behavior of Fully Degraded Waste*** - This is a field project on investigating the drainage of highly degraded MSW placed directly on leachate collection systems. The leachate collection materials consist of both natural soils and geosynthetic drains. The experimental setup has been dismantled and a second paper was presented by George Koerner in Berlin at the 10th IGS Conference. A very recent draft White Paper was sent to members and "shot down" immediately. That said, we do indeed listen to our membership!
4. **GT Flow Behavior of CCR Materials -** This new laboratory project examines the behavior of four geotextile filters to fly ash, bottom ash, coal desulphurization material and well graded sand for control. George Koerner has just started the project.
5. **Field Exposed Lifetime of Geogrids Used at the Facing of Landfill Berms** - The facing of mechanically stabilized earth landfill berms (and other walls and slopes as well) is often using a wrap-around configuration leaving the geogrid exposed to the atmosphere. A project being conducted by George Koerner is presently investigating two different geogrid's behavior over time. A 50-year time frame is envisioned! The long-term behavior will eventually be compared to UV laboratory exposed data as noted in Item #8 below.
6. **Laboratory Exposed Lifetime of Geomembranes*** - GSI is using three UV-fluorescent devices to estimate the projected exposed lifetime of six different types of geomembranes. Presently being incubated are HDPE, LLDPE, fPP, EPDM, PVC (N.A.) and PVC (Euro.). Some of the products have exposure times of 70,000 light hours at 70°C and a replicate set of samples are being incubated at 60°C. Some will take at least 90,000 light hours (~ 12.3 years). The third sequence at 80°C was started on 1/1/2010. They, of course, degrade much faster and are complete. Ongoing data is being reported to manufacturers and resin producers. GRI Report #44 is available on results to date. Our GSI-8 Webinar gives preliminary data using the elevated temperature incubation and extrapolation modeling for lifetime prediction in the lab and in the field.
7. **HDPE Geomembrane Lifetime as a Function of Thickness** - This often encountered question is being evaluated by exposure at 80°C in a QUV weathering device per ASTM D7238. Formulations are exactly the same and only the sample thicknesses vary. These thicknesses are 2.76, 2.44, 1.58, 1.08, 0.77 and 0.48 mm. Parameters being evaluated in this decade long study are change in thickness and presence of crazing or cracking. Time will tell!
8. **Laboratory Exposed Lifetime of PVC (European) Geomembranes** - Of late, we have been attempting to distinguish between PVC geomembranes manufactured in North America versus Europe. Of course, the differences are in the type of plasticizers used in the formulations as well as thickness. In this regard we have been evaluating five different European formulations for four years using three dedicated UV-fluorescent devices and the results are very impressive. The study is being conducted for CARPI Tech, a GSI member organization.
9. **Laboratory Exposed Lifetime of Geogrids** - The UV-fluorescent exposure of two different

polypropylene biaxial geogrids which are used at the exposed faces of welded wire mesh MSE structures is ongoing. The various geogrids were incubated at 80, 70 and 60°C until halflife was achieved for strength and elongation. Laboratory lifetime predictions at 20°C as well as field predictions for Phoenix, Arizona are provided in GRI Report #44.

10. **Laboratory Exposed Lifetime of TRM Filaments** - We are also using UV-fluorescent exposure of four different turf reinforcement mat filaments to assess their lifetime capabilities. They have been incubated at 60°C, 70°C and 80°C. A final report to the manufacturer (Propex) has just been submitted.
11. **Laboratory Exposed Lifetime of Geotextiles** - A similar UV study as with geomembranes (Items 6, 7 and 8), geogrids (Item 9) and TRM filaments (Item 10) has been conducted on various geotextiles. Woven monofilaments, woven slit films, nonwoven heat bonded and needle punched types are included. In the latter are four different weights of needle punched nonwovens. All data and laboratory and field lifetime predictions are included in GRI Report #44.
12. **Laboratory Exposed Geotextile Yarns** - A new effort on behalf of a member organization (TenCate) is evaluating polypropylene yarns with and without long-term antioxidants. It will be interesting to observe differences in behavior insofar as long-term strength and elongation. As with all of our long-term exposure research, incubation is using UV-fluorescent devices per ASTM D7238.
13. **Retaining Wall Failure Evaluations* -** We presently have GRI Reports 38, 39, and 40 addressing mechanical stabilized earth (MSE) walls using geosynthetic reinforcement which document 82-failures. Our data base has now grown to 141, then 171, and now 257! *Readers, we have a very serious situation in this regard!* The failures are either excessive deformation or collapses. We have presented one-day courses on this topic along with inspector training and development insofar as a field inspectors certification program; see the certification section of this Newsletter/Report. We have just recently presented the findings at two geotechnical conferences; one in Williamsburg and the other in Hershey. A paper was published by the Journal of Geotextiles and Geomembranes in October, 2013 and the publisher (Elsevier) reports that 700 requests have been made to date. It was voted as being the best paper of 2013 by the journal.
14. **pH Between Masonry Block Wall Units*** - George Koerner has been measuring the pH between three types of masonry blocks for over six years to monitor the values. Concern here is over PET geogrids which are known to be sensitive to very high alkalinity environments. Indeed, the values started high, but over time are now down to eight and lower. George has a paper in this regard.
15. **Landfill Failure Analysis** - Since our originally reported paper on ten landfill failures in a 2000 publication, we have accumulated ten more. All 20-failures have been analyzed using the ReSSA Code and are now available to members and associate members as GRI Report #41. The latest failure in this regard is in Easton, Pennsylvania. It is under investigation presently.
16. **Slow Pressurization of HDPE Geomembranes in Axi-Symmetric Testing* - The** ASTM D5716 method of testing geomembranes in a 3-D axi-symmetric mode uses a pressure rate of 6.9 kPa/min (1.0 psi/min). While such a rate is reasonable for most geomembrane types, it is very fast for HDPE which is semi-crystalline and cannot readily stress relax. To investigate slower rates we have initiated a project with rates as low as 6.9 kPa/month (1.0 psi/month)! The last test, just now begun, is at a rate of 6.9 kPa/six months (1.0 psi/six months) and it will take about five years to conclude. A preliminary paper was presented at Geosynthetics '15 in Portland.
17. **Shrinkage of GCLs Under Wet/Dry Cycling** - George Koerner has been evaluating shrinkage of various GCLs in boxes on the overhead roof of GSI. The study is on behalf of CETCO and may be extended for other manufacturers.
18. **Temperature Behavior Under Different Geosynthetic Layers -** Since exposed lifetime of geosynthetics is influenced by sunlight the lifetime of layers directly beneath the uppermost one (heat only, but no sunlight) is of interest. George Koerner has set up such a scenario on behalf of Watershed Inc., a GSI member.
19. **Idiosyncrasies of GM's in Field Situations -** Stemming from many Techline questions three-mini projects will be commenced this summer. They are (i) the influence of notch/scratch depth on mechanical properties, (ii) the influence of notch/scratch orientation during testing, and (iii) the influence of seam orientation during testing. All are "neat projects" in need for answers…
20. **Generic Specifications** - A major continuing effort is ongoing with respect to the development and updating of GRI's generic geosynthetic specifications. The current status of these specifications is as follows:

<u>Completed and Available on our Website</u>
GM13 – HDPE Geomembranes
GM17 – LLDPE Geomembranes
GM18 – fPP and fPP-R Geomembranes
GM21 – EPDM and EPDM-R Geomembranes
GM22 – Exposed Temporary Covers
GM25 – LLDPE-R Geomembranes

GM19 – Geomembrane Seams
GM28 – CSPE-R Geomembranes
GT10 – Geotextile Tubes
GT12 – Geotextile Cushions
GT13 – Geotextile Separators
GCL3 – Geosynthetic Clay Liners
GS15 – Geocells

Working; Available Upon Request
GTXX – Turf Reinforcement Mats (tabled)
GSXX – Polymeric Marine Mattresses (tabled)

Delayed; Available Upon Request
GGXX – Bidirectional Geogrids
GGXX – Unidirectional Geogrids
GNXX – Geonet Drainage Composites
GCXX – Other Drainage Geocomposites
GSXX – High Strength Reinforcement Geotextiles

The complete set of completed specifications are available to everyone (members and nonmembers) on the open section of our Home Page. Please download and use them accordingly. There is a brief tutorial accompanying each specification. Also note that this is where the latest modification will always be available. Of note is that GRI-GM13 for HDPE geomembranes has been upgraded for stress crack resistance and asperity height.

21. **Other GRI Standards** - There are several GRI Standards in various forms of preparation. These include the following:
    - A practice on field seaming inspection emphasizing the electrical leak location system (ELLS).
    - Three standards on GCL joining so as to prevent/monitor panel separation.
    - A guide as to recommended testing of drainage geocomposites.
    - A practice explaining the use of MARV for geotextiles
    - A transverse rib bending test for homogeneous geogrids

Progress within GII (Information)

Our GSI Home Page is accessed as follows:

<<http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org>>

It has been revised and is being maintained through the fine efforts of Marilyn Ashley. Everyone (members and nonmembers) can access the open part, which has the following menu:

- **Introduction to GSI**
- **Prospectus**
- **Associate Membership (Agencies)**
- **Members by Focus Groups**
- **GSI Publications**
- **GRI Specs, Guides, White Papers**
- **Laboratory Accreditation**
- **Product Certification**
- **Newsletter/Reports**
- **Internet Courses**
- **GSI Members Links**
- **GSI Member Meetings**
- **Courses at GSI**
- **Insp. Cert. Programs**

To go further one needs a members-only password. Your contact person (see the last section of this Newsletter/Report if you do not know who it is) must get a password from Marilyn Ashley. Marilyn can be reached by e-mail at mvashley@verizon.net. When you get into this section, the following information is available. This includes:

- **GRI Test Methods**
- **GRI Reports**
- **GRI Technical Papers (Citations)**
- **Notes of GSI Meetings**
- **Links to the GSs World**
- **Keyword Search for Literature**
- **Example Problems**
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The Keywords Section contains about 35,000 citations which is the majority of the geosynthetics literature published in English. The proceedings of the 10th IGS conference in Berlin has just been added. It's quite easy to use provided that you have a specific topic, or area, in mind. This is the section of the website that we (and others we are told) use the most in our daily activities.

In addition to the information provided in our home page as just mentioned, Jamie Koerner (Special Projects Coordinator) is performing various surveys of pertinent topics in geosynthetics. If you have topics in need of the current status please advise accordingly. The following are the most recent.

#31 - On the Need for a Better Test Method Than Wet or Dry Sieving to Obtain the Characteristic Opening Size for Geotextile Filter Design Purposes
#32 - Status of Lined and/or Unlined Panels Used in Aquaculture Farming

Progress within GEI (Education)

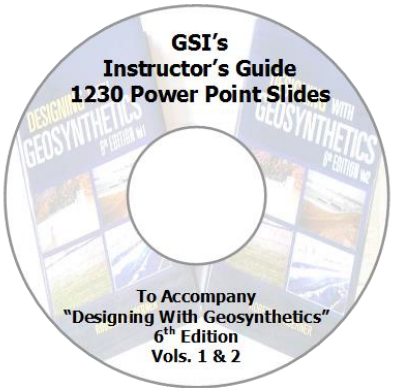
Free CD

We sent a broadcast e-mail to everyone stating that many power point presentations were available and would be sent upon request. Many persons replied asking for all of them. Therefore, we put all 63 presentations on a CD which was sent to all GSI contact persons. That said, we have copies still available so do ask and we will mail it to you immediately. Topic areas are all types of geosynthetics, plus walls/slopes, landfills, specifications, and miscellaneous.

6th Edition of Designing With Geosynthetics

The 6th Edition of Designing With Geosynthetics continues to sell well in all three of its formats; hardback, softback and e-book… the latter is really cheap; i.e., $3.50 for each volume! The two volume set can be purchased through GSI, Xlibris, Amazon and Barnes and Noble. A special link is available on the cover page of our website. All proceeds go to GSI.

Our most recent activity in this regard is to develop a power point presentation for the entire 914-page book. This is what it looks like and it does indeed contain 1230 nonencrypted ppt slides. Even further this might (?) morph into a full academic year "Distance Education Course" hosted by Drexel University.



Call or e-mail if you want a copy. It is free to all, but we need your postal address.

GRI Reports

To date, we have 43 GRI Reports available to members and associate members. These reports vary in length from 30 to 200 pages and beginning with Report #25 they are on the password protected section of our home page. Prior to that date only the abstract is available online. All of them, however, are available in hard copy. The most recent reports are as follows:

- #39 – Methods of Stabilizing Excessively Deformed MSE Walls
- #40 – On the Prevention of Failures of Geosynthetic Reinforced MSE Walls and Recommendations Going Forward
- #41 – Analysis and Critique of Twenty Large Solid Waste Landfill Failures
- #42 – Lifetime Prediction of Laboratory UV Exposed Geomembranes Based on a Correlation Factor (due January 2, 2012)
- #43 – An Analysis of the Most Difficult Q & A's of the First 2500 Submittals to the GMA Techline (just published)

Announcement of our most recent report!

- #44 - Exposed Lifetime Predictions of 19-Different Geosynthetics in the Laboratory and in Phoenix, Arizona

Courses

Due to lack of attendance for day-long courses at GSI we have not scheduled further in-house dates. That said, our two certification courses are available on-line via a series of six, ninety-minute, interconnected webinars. Contact Jamie Koerner at jrkoerner@verizon.net if you want information and details.

GSI Webinars (90 minutes long)

(Second Wednesday of Every Month)
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Eastern Time Zone)
Registration at
www.geosynthetic-institute.org/webinar.htm
1.5 Professional Development Hours; Cost $250

W15 – July 8, 2015 "In-Situ Stabilization of Slopes Using Geosynthetics and Soil Nails"
W1 – August 12, 2015 "MSE Wall Failures Data Base"
W2 – September 9, 2015 "MSE Wall Back Drainage Design"
W3 – October 14, 2015 "MSE Wall Remediation"
W4 – November 11, 2015 "MSE Wall Inspection"
W14 – December 9, 2015 "Lifetime Predictions of Exposed and Nonexposed GSs"
W17 – January 13, 2016 - "GSs in Erosion Control"

Note: These webinars are also recorded and are therefore available "on-demand", anytime and anyplace

ASCE Webinars

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Eastern Time Zone)
Registration at www.asce.org/webinars
1.5 Professional Development Hours; Cost $400

ASCE 1 – July 31, 2015 "Geotextile Filter Failures"
ASCE 2 – August 24, 2015 "GSs in Paved and Unpaved Roads"
ASCE 3 – September 24, 2015 "MSE Walls Using GS Reinforcement"

GSI Fellowships

GSI Fellowships for the 2015-'16 academic year are being presently reviewed by the GSI Board of Directors.

Activities within GAI (Accreditation)

The Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute's (GAI) current mission is focused on a Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) for geosynthetic test methods. George Koerner is in charge of the program. The GAI-LAP was developed for accrediting

geosynthetic testing laboratories on a test-by-test basis. GAI-LAP suggests that laboratories use ISO 17025 as their quality system model. In addition, the program uses the GSI lab as the reference test lab and operates as an ISO 17011 enterprise. *It should be emphasized that the GSI lab does not conduct outside commercial testing.*

It should also be made clear that GAI-LAP does not profess to offer ISO certification, nor does it "certify" laboratory results. GAI-LAP provides accreditation to laboratories showing compliance with equipment and documentation for specific standard ASTM, ISO or GRI test methods. In addition, GAI-LAP verifies that an effective quality system exists at accredited laboratories by way of proficiency testing.

There have been significant additions to the number of GAI-LAP tests. Presently, there are 245 GAI-LAP test methods available for accreditation. Please consult our home page for a current listing.

As of June, 2015, the following laboratories are accredited by the GAI-LAP for the number of test methods listed in parenthesis. Contact personnel, telephone numbers and e-mails are also listed.

1[A] - TRI/Environmental Inc. (135 tests)
Jarrett Nalson -- (512) 263-2101
Sallen@tri-env.com

3[A] - Golder Associates (45 tests)
Henry Mock -- (770) 492-8280
dalexander@golder.com

4[C] - Geosynthetic Institute (116 tests)
George Koerner -- (610) 522-8440
gkoerner@dca.net

8[B] - Propex Operating Co., Ringgold (18 tests)
Todd Nichols -- (800) 258-3121
todd.nichols@propexglobal.com

9[B] - Lumite (16 tests)
Rebecca Kurek -- (770) 869-1700
rpage@lumiteco.com

13[A] - TRI Env. Inc. (Precision Labs) (97 tests)
Cora Queja -- (714) 520-9631
cqueja@tri-env.com

14[A] - Geotechnics (49 tests)
J. P. Kline -- (412) 823-7600
JPkline@geotechnics.net

20[A] - GeoTesting Express, MA (47 tests)
Gary Torosian -- (978) 635-0424
gtt@geotesting.com

22[B] - CETCO Hoffman Estates (13 tests)
Barbara Gebka – (847) 851-1500
jim.olsta@cetco.com

24[B] - CETCO Lovell (10 tests)
Roger Wilkerson -- (307) 548-6521
roger.wilkerson@cetco.com

25[B] - Ten Cate, Pendergrass (12 tests)
Beth Wilbanks -- (706) 693-2226
b.wilbanks@tencate.com

26[B] - Agru America Inc. (20 tests)
Grant Palmer -- (843) 546-0600
gp@agruamerica.com

29[e] - FITI Testing and Research Institute (68 tests)
Hong-Kwan Kim -- 82-2-3299-8071
hoganKim@fiti.re.kr

31[D] - NYS Dept. of Transportation (9 tests)
Tom Burnett -- (518) 457-4704
tburnett@dot.state.ny.us

32[A] - Geo-Logic Inc. (6 tests)
Ken Criley -- (530) 272-2448
criley@geologic.com

34[B] - GSE Environmental Richey Road (36 tests)
Rich Schaefer -- (281) 230-6890
r.schaefer@gseworld.com

37[B] - GSE Environmental Chile (19 tests)
Mauricio Ossa -- 56-2 6010153
Mossa@gseworld.com

38[C] - Sageos/CTT Group (103 tests)
Eric Blond -- (450) 771-4608
eblond@GCTTG.com

40[B] - GSE Environmental (14 tests)
Bruce Pressley -- (843) 382-4603
bpressley@gseworld.com

41[A] - SGI Testing Service, LLC (19 tests)
Zehong Yuan -- (770) 931-8222
ZYuan@interactionspecialists.com

42[C] - NPUST (GSI-Taiwan) (61 tests)
Chiwan Wayne Hsieh -- 011-886-8-7740468
CWH@mail.npust.edu.tw

43[A] - Ardaman & Associates (22 tests)
George DeStafano -- (407) 855-3860
gdestafano@ardaman.com

44[B] - PGI and Fiber Web, Inc. (9 tests)
Kim Thomas -- (615) 847-7155
Kim.Thomas@fiberweb.com

45[B] - Ten Cate Geosynthetics Malaysia SDN Bhd. (23 tests)
Gan Wee Hunn -- (603) 519 28576
wh.gan@tencate.com

46[B] - TAG Environmental Inc. (13 tests)
Colin Murphy -- (705) 725-1938
colin_murphy@tagenv.com

47[B] - GSE Syntec (10 tests)
Andrew Barker – (410) 327-1070
abarker@synteccorp.com

49[B] - Engepol Geossinteticos (14 tests)
Carolina Polomino -- (55) 51 3303-3916
carolina@engepol.com

50[B] - ADS, Inc. Hamilton (7 tests)
Terry McElfresh -- (513) 896-2065
terry.mcelfresh@ads-pipe.com

51[B] - Solmax International Inc. (22 tests)
Simon Gilbert St. Pierre -- (450) 929-1234
simonGSP@solmax.com

53[B] - Polytex Autofagasta (19 tests)
Ximena Parra Pizarro -- 011 56 57 42 90 00
XPanna@polytex.cl

55[B] - Atarfil Geomembranes (19 tests)
Gabriel Martin Sevilla -- 34 958 439 200
gmartin@atarfil.com

56[B] - Polytex Santiago (13 tests)
Marta Tenorio F. Jeff -- 011 56-2-627-2054
MTenorio@polytex.cl

57[B] - Ten Cate Cornelia (13 tests)
Melissa Medlin -- (706) 778-9794
m.medlin@tencate.com

58[B] - Propex Operating Co.Hazelhurst (16 tests)
Ron (Jeff) Bercher -- (229) 686-5511
Ronald.Bercher@propexglobal.com

59[B] - Firestone (9 Tests)
Janie Simpson -- (864) 439-5641
SimpsonJanie@firestonebp.com

60[B] - Polytex Lima (12 tests)
Elias Jurufe -- 51 16169393
Ejarufe@polytex.cl

61[B] - Raven Industries (17 tests)
Clint Boerhave -- (605) 335-0288
Clint.Boerhave@ravenind.com

62[B] - Solmax International Asia (14 tests)
Teoh Pei Ching – (450) 929-1234
pcteoh@solmax.com

63[A] - TRI Environmental, Inc.; DDRF (5 tests)
Joel Sprague -- (864) 242-2220
JSprague@tri-env.com

64[B] - Agru America (NV) (14 tests)
Chris Adams -- (775) 835-8282
ca@agruamerica.com

65[C] - Bombay Textile Rsearch Assoc. (BTRA) (24 tests)
Riyaz Shaikh
(0) 022-25003551
btra@vsnl.com

66[B] - Rowad International Geosynthetics Co. Ltd (14 tests)
Asad Ullah Khan -- +966-3-812-1360
asad@rowadplastic.com

67[A] - MicroBac Hauser Division (10 tests)
Heather Smalley – (720) 406-4806
heather.smalley@microbac.com

68[B] - Glen Raven Technical Fabrics LLC (4 tests)
Richard Greeson -- (336) 229-5576
rgreeson@glenraven.com

69[B] - GSE Environmental (12 tests)
Siriporn Chayaporenlert – 6638-636638
Siripornc@gseworld.com

70[A] - RSA Geo Lab LLC (48 tests)
Raza Ahmed – (908) 964-0786
geolab13@yahoo.com

71[B] - Plasticos Agricolas y Geomembranas S.A.C. (15 tests)
Jhoana Carolina Diaz Martinez – 073-511814-511829
calidad@pqa.peru.com

72[B] - Tensar Corp. GA (5 tests)
Mignon Kittler (770) 968-3255
mkittler@tensarcorp.com

73[B] - Gai Loi JSE (9 tests)
Paul Wong 84-650-362-5825
paul905677@gmail.com

74[B] - Agru Amercica Inc.
Mark Locklear (843) 221-4412
ml@agruamerica.com

75[B] - GeoMatrix S.A.S.
Javier Diaz Cipagauta (571) 424-9999
jdiaz@geomatrix.com.co

76[B] - Tehmco (Chile)
Patricia Rojas Perez (562) 589-2800
projas@tehmco.cl

78[B] - PQA Mexico
Cesar Agusto Arcila (669) 954-8202
calidadmexico@pqa.com.co

79[A] - TRI Geosynthetic Testing and Services (21 tests)
Crystal Chen 86-512-6283-1396
Cchen@tri-env.com

80[B] - Texel (Canada) (8 tests)
André Parent (418) 387-4801
andre.parent@texel.ca

81[B] - GSE Germany (18 tests)
Evelyn Kroeger 49-40-767420
ekroeger@gseworld.com

82[B] - CARNO ATC (1 test)
Mary Lynn Smith (770)-427-9456
marylynn.smith@cardno.com

83[B] - GSE Egypt (12 tests)
Ahmed Abdel Tawab 202-2-828-8888
atawab@gseworld.com

[A]Third Party Independent [C]Institute
[B]Manufacturers QC [D]Government

If anyone desires more information on the GAI-LAP, its test methods, the associated laboratories, etc., a directory is published in December of each year. It is available on GSI's home page at http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org (Accreditation).

George R. Koerner

The annual GAI-LAP meeting will be held online this year on July 8, 2015. We hope this will improve attendance at meeting.

The following will be discussed.

1. A brief introduction and background of the GAI-LAP program, e.g.,

   (a) Program started in 1995
   (b) Accredit only geosynthetic labs
   (c) ISO 17025 is our model
   (d) On-site audits (Years 1, 5, 10, etc...)
   (e) Proficiency tests every year
   (f) Our Goal is Cv < 10 for each test

2. The newest members are as follows, further details can be found in the latest GAI-LAP directory.

   - TRI China
     Contact: Crystal Chen
   - Texel
     Contact: André Parent
   - GSE Germany
     Contact: Evelyn Kroeger
   - CARNO ATC
     Contact: Mary Lynn Smith
   - GSE Egypt
     Contact: Ahmed Abdel Tawab

3. The Demographics of the current GAI-LAP organizations will be discussed:

   25 independent labs
   35 manufacturer QC labs
   5 centers (ISO 17011, research or government)
   65 total active
   Also:
   38 are GSI members
   37 international labs

   This demographics shows an ever increasing interest in the program, particularly from international laboratories.

4. There are 240 possible tests for accreditation (178 ASTM, 53 ISO, 1 FTM, 8 GRI). The number of accredited tests per lab varies as follows;

   1 min., 27 ave. 160 max.

   There has been a rapid rise of new test methods, with a near tripling of methods covered in a nineteen year period since the inception of the program. New tests being added appear to be outside the ASTM D35 arena with a huge surge in the number of textile related tests last year.

5. Proficiency testing is still the hallmark of the GAI-LAP. Of the 3707 proficiency test results submitted

this year, only 19 first submittals were outliers representing 1% of the total. All outliers were resolved. Results of the proficiency tests were shared at the meeting. Electronic and hardcopy of the 2015-16 proficiency test results are available upon request.

The GAI-LAP proficiency test program would not function without samples to test. The GAI-LAP would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contribution of geosynthetics for the 2014-15 proficiency samples:

- **GM**: GSE
- **GT**: Propex
- **GG**: Tensar
- **GP**: ADS
- **GCL**: CETCO
- **EC-TRM**: TenCate

6. The GAI-LAP Customer Survey was again sent out to all program participants and the findings are as follows:

   13% return; the following are results (5 best to 1 poorest)
   (a) Information exchange = 4.5
   (b) Conflict resolution = 4.3
   (c) Proficiency Testing = 4.8
   (d) Directory and Internet = 4.0

   Overall = 4.4
   Overall results to date: 2014 (4.1), 2013 (4.1), 2012 (4.1), 2011 (4.1), 2010 (4.3), 2009 (4.4), 2008 (4.4), 2007 (3.9), 2006 (4.0), 2005 (4.0), 2004 (4.1), 2003 (4.1), 2002 (4.2)

   We feel that the program has had a very good year in 2015 thanks to a great effort by its participants!

7. Major corrective action and Lab observation for the year were as follows: traceability, shipping, handling, not following procedures and reporting issues.

George R. Koerner

Activities within GCI (Certification)

GSI presently has two separate inspector certification programs. One (begun in 2006) is focused on QA/QC of field inspection of waste containment geosynthetics and compacted clay liners. The other (begun in 2011) is focused on MSE Wall, Berm and Slope field inspection. See our website at www.geosynthetic-institute.org under "certification" for a description and information on both of them. They are both similar in that a perspective candidate must…

- Be recommended by a professional engineer who knows, and can attest to, at least six months of acceptable experience performing CQA activities with either geosynthetic liner or cover systems or MSE walls, berms, or slopes using geosynthetic reinforcement.
- Submit a completed application and be approved by the Geosynthetic Certification Institute to take the exam.
- Must successfully pass a written examination (70% of the questions is the passing grade) proctored by GCI or a GCI designated organization and graded by the Geosynthetic Certification Institute to become a certified inspector.
- Must pay a one-time fee which covers a five-year period upon completion of the above items. The fee is $500 for five-years of certification.

Program #1 - Inspection of Liner Systems for Waste Containment Facilities

This program now in its eighth year has been recommended, and in some cases required, by solid waste owners, state regulators, and design consultants for proper QCA in field installation of both geosynthetic materials and compacted clay liners. The statistics to date are as follows.

Inspector Certification Test Results
2006 – 2015

Year	Geosynthetic Materials		Compacted Clay Liners		Commentary
	No. of people taking exam	No. of people failing exam	No. of people taking exam	No. of people failing exam	No. of people failing both exams
2006	141	5 (3%)	128	12 (9%)	2
2007	82	11 (13%)	73	12 (16%)	7
2008	95	25 (26%)	89	20 (22%)	13
2009	36	7 (19%)	36	2 (5%)	2
2010	59	12 (20%)	54	7 (13%)	5
2011	54	6 (11%)	53	3 (6%)	1
2012	34	5 (15%)	28	3 (11%)	3
2013	32	4 (12%)	30	1 (3%)	1
2014	45	1 (3%)	42	3 (7%)	0
2015	33	4	30	3	1
TOTAL (to date)	**611**	**80 (13%)**	**563**	**66 (12%)**	**35 (~ 6%)**

The 5-year renewal period for those having taken the exam in 2009 is ongoing and about 60% have renewed accordingly. This is felt to be encouraging from our perspective.

The corresponding course for this certification program is available in a series of six-90 minute webinars. Contact Jamie Koerner at jrkoerner@verizon.net for details and arrangements.

Program #2 - Inspection of MSE Walls, Berms and Slopes

The official launch of the program was on December 1, 2011 with a course and the examination afterward. More recently a somewhat revised course on November 29, 2012 was presented. The corresponding course for this certification program is available in a series of six-90 minute webinars. Contact Bob Koerner at robert.koerner@coe.drexel.edu for details and arrangements.

While a field inspector cannot require proper design or instruct a contractor how to build the wall, flaws can be identified for possible design modification or mitigation action. Furthermore, and at minimum, construction practices can be observed and corrected if inadequate or improper. Please contact George Koerner at gkoerner@dca.net or Jamie Koerner at jrkoerner@verizon.net for questions or additional information.

The status of the program is shown in the following table.

Inspector Certification Test Results
MSE Walls and Berms
(2011-2015)

Year	Course Location	MSE Wall And Berms	
		No. of People Taking the Exam	No. of People Failing the Exam
2011	GSI Course	7	0
2012	GSI Course	6	0
2013	GSI Course	2	0
2014	GSI Course	3	0
2015	GSI Course	4	0
TOTAL		**22**	**0**

The GSI Affiliated Institutes

It has long been realized that the information generated within the GSI group should have a timely outlet to all countries, and in all languages. To this end, GSI has created affiliated institutes in two countries (Korea and Taiwan), and potentially others in the future. These affiliated institutes are full members of GSI and are empowered to translate and use all available information so as to create similar institutes and activities in their respective countries.

GSI-Korea was formed on February 9, 1998 as a collaborative effort between FITI Testing and Research Institute (a quasi-government organization) and INHA University (through its Geosynthetics Research Laboratory). It is presently in the transition of being held entirely within INHA University.

INHA University is located in Incheon and the geosynthetics laboratory is led by Professor Han-Yong Jeon. Dr. Jeon has 10-students working on geosynthetic-related projects and is extremely active both nationally and internationally. His active participation at conferences worldwide is very admirable. He has provided research and development in many geosynthetic subjects including geotextiles, geomembranes, geocells, additives for GCLs, recycled plastics for formulations, etc.

GSI-Taiwan was formed on August 18, 2000 and is wholly contained within the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Nei Pu, Pingtung (southern Taiwan). It completely parallels GSI in that it has specific units for research, education, information, accreditation and certification. The Director is Dr. Chiwan Wayne Hsieh who is a Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Dean of the R & D Office. GSI-Taiwan has an Taiwanese consortium of geogrid/geotextile manufacturers who work toward producing quality products according to the draft GRI geogrid specifications and the associated test methods. As such, GSI-Taiwan is a GAI-LAP accredited laboratory for 59 geosynthetic test methods. Dr. Hsieh has 10-students working on geosynthetic-related projects and is extremely active nationally and internationally. GSI Taiwan has hosted three very successful internal conferences to date and has also held a much broader one, namely, GSI-Asia in Taichung, Taiwan.

GSI-India under the direction of Dr. A. N. Desai has just been formed. The hosting organization is the Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA) which is world known for its excellence in textile R & D and is currently branching out into all forms of geosynthetics. We are delighted in this regard and, as a side-note, Dr. Desai has just been elected to GSI's Board of Directors. (See associated writeup on the "Global Geosynthetics Summit" in the December, 2014 Newsletter/ Report).

Items of Interest

Please note that this section will no longer be carried in these quarterly GSI Newsletter/Reports. This is due primarily to limit the length of the reports which have grown considerably over time.

Overlapping ASTM/ISO Test Methods

It is generally recognized that generic test methods for all geosynthetic products are essential to manufacturing, design, permitting, specifying and acceptance organizations so as to provide for an

successful project at a reasonable cost. Even further, it is very desirable that such test methods are generated and accepted on a worldwide basis. Conflicting test methods, even if very subtle in details (such as specimen dimensions, testing equipment details, laboratory environments, incubation details, etc.) are often expensive, time consuming and sometimes controversial to accommodate. Furthermore, they tend to bring about confusion in many circumstances.

The above said, if an individual owner or agency desires specific test methods it is of course their right to do so. However, it does have the effect of limiting local, national and international commerce and trade. In order to provide the greatest platform for the industry in its entirety many feel that geosynthetic test methods should come from international organizations such as ASTM or ISO. The purpose of this column is not to prefer one over the other but rather to encourage these two organizations to completely harmonize their test methods to one another or to avoid duplication altogether. In this regard the duplication of some test methods (many with quite different procedures or even subtle changes) are the following:

Geosynthetic Type	Description of Method	ASTM Designation	ISO Designation
geotextiles	grab tensile strength	D5034	13934-2
geotextiles	wide width tension	D4595	10319
geotextiles	seam strength	D4884	10321
geotextiles	CBR puncture strength	D6241	12236
geotextiles	permittivity	D4491	11058
geotextiles	opening size	D4751	12956
geotextiles	transmissivity	D4716	12958
geomembranes	thickness	D5199	2286-3
geomembranes	density	D792	1183-1
geomembranes	tensile strength	D6993	527-3
geomembranes	tear strength	D1004	34-1
geomembranes	puncture strength	D4833	12236

For the above limited number of test methods it is still manageable to have correlations between the different test designations but it should be noted that there are 240 actual tests available to be accredited by GSI's Laboratory Accreditation Program. If the trend of duplicative test methods continues to perpetuate through many or all of these tests it will become a major burden for all involved with little or no value added for the industry.

That said, there are ongoing activities to normalize the situation and bring consensus among the two organizations. We certainly applaud these activities and congratulate the people involved for taking the time and expense to facilitate such agreements for the sake of us all.

Bob & George Koerner

GSI's Member Organizations

We sincerely thank all of our sponsoring organizations. Without them, GSI simply could neither happen nor exist. The current GSI member organizations and their contact members are listed below. **Our newest members are Altakomol Alhadith Cont. Co. of Saudi Arabia with Carlos Lasserre; INOVA Geosynthetics/AERO Aggregates with Archie Filshill; Sotrafa Agrualura y Geosinteticos of Spain with Jose Miguel Munoz Gomez; and Kaytech Fabrics Co. of South Africa with Garth James. Thanks to all and welcome to GSI!!!**

GSE Environmental
Boyd Ramsey]/Aigen Zhao
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
David A. Carson
Chemours Technology/
E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
John L. Guglielmetti/David W. Timmons
Federal Highway Administration
Silas Nichols/Daniel Alzamora
Golder Associates Inc.
Mark E. Case/Tim Bauters
Tensar International Corporation
Mark H. Wayne [BoD]/Joseph Cavanaugh
Bonar Inc. (formerly Colbond)
Richard Goodrum
Geosyntec Consultants
Steve Poirier
LyondellBasell Industries
Fabio Ceccarani/Rob Olivero
TenCate Geosynthetics
John Henderson/Chris Lawson
CETCO
Scott Solotorovsky/Michael Donovan
Huesker, Inc.
Sven Schröer/Dimiter Alexiew/Lilma Schimmel
NAUE GmbH & Co. KG
Kent von Maubeuge [BoD]/Alexander Naue
Polymer Group Inc. (formerly Fiberweb)
Brian H. Whitaker/Arthur Cashin
TRI/Environmental Inc.
Sam R. Allen [BoD]/Joel Sprague
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
David L. Jaros
Chevron Phillips Co.
Yingying Lu
AECOM (formerly URS Corp.)
John Volk/Ron Hager
Solmax Géosynthétiques
Robert Denis/Guy Elie/Daniel Tan Su Ming
CARPI, Inc.
Alberto M. Scuero/John A. Wilkes
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Tony Eith [BoD]
Agru America, Inc.
Paul W. Barker/Markus Haager/Nathan Ivy [BoD]
Firestone Specialty Products
Jeff PanKonie/William Johnson
INHA (GSI-Korea)
H.-Y. Jeon
Waste Management Inc.
Greg Cekander/John Workman [BoD]

NPUST (GSI-Taiwan)
Chiwan Wayne Hsieh
GeoComp/GeoTesting Express
W. Allen Marr/Richard P. Stulgis/Gary T. Torosian
GEI Consultants
Michael A. Yako
GSE Chile, S.A.
Mauricio Ossa
Atarfil, S. L.
Mario Garcia Girones/Emilio Carreras Torres/ Gabriel Martin
Republic Services Inc.
Joe Benco/Tony Walker
GSE Europe
Stefan Baldauf/Catrin Tarnowski/Peter Riegl
InterGEO Services Co.
Şükrü Akçay/Phil McGoldrick
Raven Industries, Inc.
Gary M. Kolbasuk
CTI and Associates, Inc.
Te-Yang Soong/Kevin Foye
Advanced Earth Sciences, Inc.
Kris Khilnani/Suji Somasundaram
Carlisle Syntec, Inc.
Paul Markel/Krista Gonzalez/Julie Sitch/ Matt Leathermann
EPI, The Liner Co.
Daniel S. Rohe/Mark Wolschon
Geo-Logic Associates
Monte Christie
Weaver Consultants Group, Inc.
Mark Sieracke
Aquatan (Pty) Ltd.
Piet Meyer
Jones Edmunds, Inc.
George Reinhart/Tobin McKnight
Afitex-Texel
Pascal Saunier
EVAL Americas (Kuraray)
Edgar Chow (BoD]
Brawler Ind./GeoProducts
Marlyn Waltner/Al Florez
BRTI (GSI-India)
A. N. Desai [BoD]
Watershed Geosynthetics LLC
Michael Ayers
ThermaGreen
Tim Walter/Blu Alexander/Ken vander Velden
Maccaferri
Massimo Ciarla/Moreno Scotto [BoD]/Pietro Rimoldi
Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd.
Anton Bain
Ardaman & Assoc.
Nadim Fuleihan/Thomas S. Ingra/Jan Wildman
Tecnologia de Materials (TDM)
José Ferreyros
American Wick Drain
Scott Morris/Craig Phelps
Altakamol Cont. Co.
Carlos Lasserre
INOVA Geosynthetics/AERO Aggregates
Archie Filshill
Sotrafa S. A.
Jose Miguel Munoz Gomez
Kaytech Fabrics Group Ltd.
Garth James

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Delaware Solid Waste Authority
Thomas A. Heck
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Michael Behrens
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Robert J. Phaneuf
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
David E. Burns
New York State Department of Transportation
Robert Burnett/James Curtis
California Water Resource Control Board
Leslie Graves/Nadine Langley/Simone Halbert
New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
Michael J. Burlingame
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Steve Socash
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Richard B. Tedder
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Jay Swihart/Peter Irey
Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
Margie Ring/Xuede (Dan) Qian
Environment Agency of U. K.
Richard Moss
Florida Dept. of Transportation
Ben Watson
National Design, Construction & Soil Mechanics Center
Stephen D. Reinsch
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
Donald Brunson
Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection
Paul Emond
Dept. of Water Affairs of South Africa
Kelvin Legge
Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation
Kerry Petrasic

In The Next Issue

- Activities of the GSI Directors and Board
- Overview of GRI (Research) Projects
- Activities within GII (Information)
- Progress within GEI (Education)
- Activities within GAI (Accreditation)
- Activities within GCI (Certification)
- The GSI Affiliate Institutes
- The GSI Centers-of-Excellence
- Items of Interest
- Retrospective of 25-GRI Conferences
- GSI's Member Organizations