

Selected Papers from the Proceedings of Geo-Chicago 2016

GSP 271



Geo-Chicago 2016: Sustainable Geoenvironmental Systems

EDITED BY Anirban De, Ph.D., P.E.; Krishna R. Reddy, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE; Nazli Yesiller, Ph.D.; Dimitrios Zekkos, Ph.D., P.E.; and Arvin Farid, Ph.D., P.E.

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Preface

Geo-engineers and geo-scientists have been playing a major role in providing, protecting, and preserving infrastructure and the environment. Many innovative technologies and practices are constantly being developed and implemented. Evolving global climate change and exploding world population are leading to major concerns such as extreme geohazards, increased environmental pollution, and rapid depletion of natural resources. These new challenges can be addressed with new and innovative concepts, materials, energy sources, technologies, and practices. Sustainability and resiliency have become essential in the development of new materials and infrastructure systems. *Geo-Chicago 2016: Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment* held in Chicago August 14-18, 2016, provided a unique opportunity to highlight recent advances, new directions, and opportunities for sustainable and resilient approaches to design and protect infrastructure and the environment.

The Geo-Chicago 2016 Conference attracted a significant amount of interest and in the end more than 350 papers were accepted for publication. The papers are divided into five Geotechnical Special Publications (GSPs) that capture the multidisciplinary aspects and challenges of sustainability and resiliency, energy and the geoenvironment.

The first GSP, *Sustainability and Resiliency in Geotechnical Engineering*, addresses major broad issues related to sustainability and resilience in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering, including carbon sequestration as well as characterization, analysis, monitoring, and response to geohazards and natural disasters, including earthquakes and landslides. Advances in emerging technologies and materials such as bio-mediated soils and nanomaterials are also presented.

The second GSP, *Geotechnics for Sustainable Energy*, tackles the new and innovative ways of storing and extracting energy in and from geotechnical media and structures such as shallow and deep ground, piles and foundations, and landfills. The second GSP also presents the challenges of the energy storage and extraction at the field and lab scales as well as its numerical and experimental modeling.

The third GSP, *Sustainable Geoenvironmental Systems*, addresses recent advances in landfill engineering and geosynthetics used for geoenvironmental systems, as well as advances in sustainable barrier materials and systems. The third GSP also presents studies into slopes, dikes, and embankment, the application of ground improvement in geoenvironmental applications, and the geoengineering of mine wastes and industrial byproducts.

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The fourth GSP, *Sustainable Materials and Resource Conservation*, describes the properties and applications of new, recycled, and residual materials, detailed/improved characterization of soils with laboratory and field testing methods, and effects of chemicals and other environmental factors on properties and behavior of soils. The fourth GSP also presents the approaches and use of modeling and simulations in geoengineering.

The fifth GSP, *Sustainable Waste Management and Remediation*, addresses various aspects of remediation, contaminated materials, containment, policy, and education. In addition, international perspectives are included to provide further context on challenges and innovations in geoenvironmental engineering on a global scale.

Following standards of practice of the Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers, each paper published in these Geotechnical Special Publication (GSPs) was peer reviewed by at least two anonymous, qualified, technical reviewers (and in some cases three or four reviewers) and selected for publication by the proceedings editors. An advanced document management service was utilized in order to assure anonymity and maintain uniformity of standards. As such, the papers contained in these proceedings are eligible for discussion in the ASCE Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering and for ASCE awards.

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Acknowledgments

The success of Geo-Chicago 2016 is credited to the session chairs and authors of the technical papers and also plenary session presenters for their valuable contributions to the geotechnical literature. The commendable quality of the Conference's technical content and these proceedings are also the result of the efforts of the hundreds of reviewers. We thank the session chairs, authors and reviewers for generously contributing their valuable time and expertise, in many cases, under time pressure and demanding deadlines.

The following individuals served as the conference program committee. They deserve special acknowledgment and recognition for their extraordinary efforts in making this Conference a reality and a resounding success:

- Conference Chair – Krishna R. Reddy, University of Illinois at Chicago
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The Editors sincerely appreciates the help and patience of Ms. Helen Cook and Mr. Brad Keelor of Geo-Institute of the ASCE for their help in managing the paper submissions and organization of the conference.

We hope that these GSPs will serve as valuable references to all working in geoengineering.

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Contents

Advances in the Design, Testing, and Evaluation of Geosynthetics Used for Geoenvironmental Systems

The Allowable Design Strength of a Geomembrane Liner for the Anchor Trenches of MSW Landfills: A Reliability-Based Approach 1
K. V. N. S. Raviteja and B. Munwar Basha

Critical Evaluation of the Long-Term Shear Strength of Geosynthetic Clay Liners 11
Shahin Ghazizadeh and Christopher A. Bareither

Damage Analysis of Geomembranes through a 3D Optical Profilometer.....24
Prashanth Vangla, Ishan Boro, and Madhavi Latha Gali

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Geofoam Unit Cells with Fly Ash.....35
A. H. Padade, S. Dutta, M. B. Nadaf, B. Ram Rathan Lal, and J. N. Mandal

Sustainable Geomembrane Recycling and Down-Cycling.....44
Timothy D. Stark, David LaFiura, and Scott Fought

Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S) Transport through Simulated Interim Covers with Conventional and Co-Extruded Ethylene-Vinyl Alcohol (EVOH) Geomembranes 51
Jongwan Eun, Mehmet Yilmaz, James M. Tinjum, and Craig H. Benson

Quantification of Diffusive Transfers in Multicomponent Geosynthetic Clay Liners 59
Nathalie Touze-Foltz

Results of Geosynthetic Interface Shear Round Robin Tests.....69
Henning Ehrenberg, Kent P. von Maubeuge, Gary T. Torosian, Lars Vollmert, and Carl Stoewahse

The Hydration of Low-Quality GCL Overlying a Sandy Soil.....81
Tuğçe Özdamar Kul and Ali Hakan Ören

Advances in Landfill Engineering

Analysis of Gas Pressure at Layered Landfills with Horizontal Wells.....91
S. J. Feng, Q. T. Zheng, and L. Y. Gao

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Composition Effects on the Shear Strength Behavior of Synthetic Municipal Solid Wastes 101
Hasan Firat Pulat and Yeliz Yukselen-Aksoy

The Design and Installation of a Prototype Heat Extraction System at a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill 111
Nazli Yeşiller, James L. Hanson, and Kevin B. Kopp

Dynamic Properties of Municipal Solid Waste from a Dump Site in Delhi, India 121
B. J. Ramaiah, G. V. Ramana, Edward Kavazanjian Jr., and B. K. Bansal

Estimation of Landfill Methane Emissions Using Stochastic Search 131
Tarek Kormi, Nizar Bel Hadj Ali, Tarek Abichou, and Roger Green

The Geotechnical Challenges of Designing Structures at a Closed MSW Landfill 141
Ryan White and Arlan H. Rippe

Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) Surveys and Geophysical Well Logs at a Leachate-Recirculation Landfill, Northern Illinois 150
Philip J. Carpenter and Krishna R. Reddy

Measuring Temperatures in an Elevated Temperature Landfill 162
Scott M. Luettich and Nicholas Yafrate

Methane Oxidation as Measured with Gas Push Pull Testing 177
Haykel Melaouhia, Bently Higgs, Tarek Abichou, and Roger Green

Mimicking a Bioreactor Landfill and Monitoring MSW Decomposition under Aerobic Conditions 189
Bhagawan S. Patil, C. Agnes Anto, and Devendra Narain Singh

Numerical Modelling of the Densification of Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Using Dynamic Compaction 202
Saptarshi Kundu and B. V. S. Viswanadham

Performance of Compacted Soil Barriers under the Advective Gas Flow Condition 212
S. Rajesh, Anees A. Naik, and Vishwajeet Khan

Phytocaps for Landfill Emission Reduction in Australia 222
Tarek Abichou, Tarek Kormi, Aidan Marsh, and Cheng Wang

Progression of Elevated Temperatures in MSW Landfills 232
Navid H. Jafari and Timothy D. Stark

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Proposed Methodology for the Evaluation of Alternatives for the Remediation/Closure of Waste Dumps in Indian Cities 244
Amit Kumar, Manoj Datta, Arvind K. Nema, and Gunjan Rateria

Quality Control of Non-Woven Geotextiles Used in a Drainage System in an Old Remedial Landfill 254
Eugeniusz Koda, Anna Miszkowska, and Sylwia Stępień

Shear Strength of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Beyond the Raw Values of "Cohesion" and Friction Angles 264
Jaime J. Díaz-Beltrán, Juan J. Iguarán-Fernández, Joan M. Larrahondo, and Luis A. Jaramillo

Slope and Settlement Movements of an MSW Landfill during Elevated Temperatures 275
Navid H. Jafari and Timothy D. Stark

Spatial Classification of Elevated Temperatures in MSW Landfills 285
Navid H. Jafari and Timothy D. Stark

The Influence of Waste Composition on the Physico-Biochemical-Hydraulic Characteristics of the Degradation Process of Municipal Solid Waste 297
X. Fei and D. Zekkos

The Use of Geosynthetic Reinforcement for Enhancing the Stability of the Geomembrane–Soil Interface along the Slopes of Cover Systems of MSW Landfills 307
Riya Bhowmik, Reshma Sukumar, Manoj Datta, and J. T. Shahu

Advances in Sustainable Barrier Materials and Systems

A Permeable Reactive Barrier Installed in Acid Sulfate Soil Terrain.....319
Udeshini Pathirage and Buddhima Indraratna

Advances in the Membrane Behavior of Bentonite-Based Barriers 329
Gretchen L. Bohnhoff, Kristin M. Sample-Lord, and Charles D. Shackelford

An Improved Method for the Quality Control of Compacted Clay Liners in Ohio 339
Haifeng Zhang, Habib Kaake, and Liang Bo Hu

Characteristics of Retaining COD from Leachate by Using Crushed Shales and Clay Mixes as Landfill Liners 349
W. Chen and Z. D. Zhu

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Comparison of the Hydraulic Conductivity of GCLs with That of Bentonitic Mixtures 358
A. Hakan Ören, Tuğçe Özdamar Kul, Merve E. Koç, and Havva Demirkıran

Desiccation Cracking Behavior of Geofiber-Reinforced Expansive Clay 368
Uma Chaduvula, B. V. S. Viswanadham, and Jayantha Kodikara

Evaluation of Limiting Nutrients in a Deep Geological Repository.....378
Scott Briggs, Brent Sleep, Jennifer McKelvie, and Magdalena Krol

Evaluation of Na-Bentonite-Polyacrylte Mixtures to Enhance the Chemical Resistance of Geosynthetic Clay Liners.....388
Joseph Scalia IV and Craig H. Benson

Evaluation of Prototype Geosynthetic Clay Liners in Landfill Cover Applications.....398
Marat Goldenberg and Krishna Reddy

Experimental Studies on Coal Gangue as a Landfill Liner Material 408
Min-Chan Xu, Qing-Bo Wen, Ya-Ting Yang, Meng Gong, Yan-Xia Nie, and Liming Hu

Geotechnical Characterization of a Soil-Water Treatment Sludge Mixture 418
Edy L. T. Montalvan and Maria Eugenia G. Boscov

Hydraulic Conductivity of Polymer Modified Bentonite Filter Cakes in Calcium Chloride Solutions 428
Sheng-Qiang Shen, Yan-Jun Du, Fei Wang, and Wei-Wei Ren

Hydraulic Conductivity of Bentonite-Polymer Geosynthetic Clay Liners in Coal Combustion Product Leachates.....438
Hulya Salihoglu, Jiannan N. Chen, William J. Likos, and Craig H. Benson

Influence of Alkaline Alteration on the Shear Characteristics of a Bentonite-Sand Mixture.....448
Yasutaka Watanabe and Shingo Yokoyama

Laboratory Characterization of the Saturated Conductivities of Compacted Clay-Organobentonite Mixtures 458
M. Ghavami, S. Javadi, and Q. Zhao

Pore-Scale Imaging of Polymer-Modified Bentonite in Saline Solutions 468
Kuo Tian, William J. Likos, and Craig H. Benson

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Sawdust Stabilization of Lateritic Clay as a Landfill Liner to Retain Heavy Metals.....478
Isaac I. Akinwumi, Oluwapelumi O. Ojuri, Daniel Edem, and Adebanji S. Ogbiye

Soil-Water Characteristic Curves for Compacted Lateritic Soil-Bentonite Mixtures Developed for Landfill Liner Applications.....488
Agapitus A. Amadi and Kolawole J. Osinubi

Viscosity of Polymer-Modified Bentonite as a Hydraulic Performance Index.....498
Weijuan Geng, William J. Likos, and Craig H. Benson

Water Vapor Sorption of Polymer-Modified Bentonites.....508
Idil Deniz Akin and William J. Likos

Wet and Dry Effects on the Hydraulic Conductivity of a Polymer Treated GCL Prototype.....518
Michela De Camillis, Gemmina Di Emidio, Adam Bezuijen, and Daniel Verastegui Flores

Vertical Barriers for Geoenvironmental Applications

Compressive Modulus of Soil-Bentonite Mixtures for Cutoff Walls from CPTU Data.....528
Xue P. Li, Guo J. Cai, Song Y. Liu, Jun Lin, and Anand J. Puppala

Hydraulic Conductivity of Phosphate-Amended Soil-Bentonite Backfills.....537
Yu-Ling Yang, Yan-Jun Du, Krishna R. Reddy, and Ri-Dong Fan

Hydraulic Conductivity of Soil-Bentonite Slurry Walls.....548
J. C. Evans and H. Huang

Microbially-Induced Calcite Precipitation for Sealing Rock Fractures.....558
Nicholas A. Bucci, Ehsan Ghazanfari, and Huijie Lu

Modified Fluid Loss Test to Measure the Hydraulic Conductivity of Heavy Metal-Contaminated Bentonite Filter Cakes.....568
S. Y. Liu, R. D. Fan, Y. J. Du, and Y. L. Yang

A Soil-Bentonite Slurry Wall for the Containment of CCR-Impacted Groundwater.....578
Yu-Ling Yang, Krishna R. Reddy, and Yan-Jun Du

The Use of Filter Press Tests in Soil-Bentonite Slurry Trench Construction.....590
Daniel G. Ruffing, Jeffrey C. Evans, Vincent A. Spillane, and Michael A. Malusis

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Slopes, Dikes, and Embankments

A New Discretization Model to Include the Effect of Spatial Variability in the Reliability Analysis of Earth Slopes 598
Subhadeep Metya, Gautam Bhattacharya, and Robin Chowdhury

Calculation of the Earth Pressures Acting on Vertical Retaining Walls from Layered and Finite Filling 608
Xiaobin Zhang and Zhiduo Zhu

Centrifuge Modeling of the Progressive Failure of a Soil Slope under Cyclic Loading Conditions 618
Yaliang Wang and Ga Zhang

Computation of the Probabilistic Critical Centers and Reliability Indices of MSW Landfill Slopes Using the Spencer Method of Slices.....628
B. Munwar Basha, K. V. N. S. Raviteja, and Arukonda Sahithi

Effect of Building Loads on the Stability of Hill Slopes 638
Dhiraj Raj and Yogendra Singh

An Embankment Design over Dynamically Compacted Fill and Soft Lake Plain Clay 648
Mickey L. Snider and Corina T. Farez

Multiscale Modelling of the Slope Stability of Block-in-Matrix Materials 658
Clairet I. Guerra, Jeisson J. Pinzón, Luis F. Prada, and Alfonso M. Ramos

Prediction of the Slope Stability of Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Using the Reliability Analysis 668
Sampurna Datta and G. L. Sivakumar Babu

Steel Grid Reinforced Fly Ash Slopes 678
Maheboobsab B. Nadaf and J. N. Mandal

The Unsaturated Shear Strength of Dual Porosity Soil 688
Alfrendo Satyanaga, Harianto Rahardjo, and Eng Choon Leong

Ground Improvement

The Behavior of Sand Columns in Soft Expansive Clay: Experimental Study 698
Rakesh Kumar, Sareesh Chandrawanshi, and Satish Jain

Costly Oversights in Geotechnical Practice 707
Robert G. Lukas

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The Design and Monitoring of Ground Improvement for the National Exhibition and Convention Center, Shanghai, in Soft Soil.....718
Weidong Wang, Jiangbin Wu, Yun Hu, and Yunting Huang

The Durability of Chemically Treated Soils Subjected to Cycles of Wetting and Drying 728
Ryan D. Starcher, Sarah L. Gassman, and Charles E. Pierce

Effects of Shredded Rubber Tires as a Fill Material on the Engineering Properties of Local Memphis Loess 738
Andrew Assadollahi, Brian Harris, and Jodie Crocker

Encased Stone Columns for Soft Ground Improvement 746
Sushovan Dutta, M. B. Nadaf, Ram Rathan Lal Birali, and J. N. Mandal

Fatigue Behaviour of Lightly Stabilised Granular Materials from Flexural and Indirect Diametral Tensile Testing 756
Carthigesu T. Gnanendran and Dalim K. Paul

Geotechnical Properties of Lime Treated Gypseous Soil with Fly Ash—A Micro-Level Study 767
Arvind Kumar Jha, Mandeep Raj Pandey, and P. V. Sivapullaiah

Ground Improvement by the Freezing Method for Underground Space Utilization 778
Alireza Afshani and Hirokazu Akagi

Hydrotest Performance of Storage Tanks Supported on Deep Soil Mix Columns and Aggregate Column Ground Improvement Systems.....787
Brian J. Freilich, Bradley D. Campbell, and A. E. (Eddie) Templeton

Influence of the Initial Water Content on the Engineering Properties of Carbonated Soil Admixed with Reactive MgO.....797
Guang-Hua Cai, Song-Yu Liu, Jing-Jing Cao, Guang-Yin Du, and Ning-Ping Wang

Laboratory Investigation on the Effect of Sand Columns on the Shear Strength of Soft Soil.....807
Javad Nazari Afshar, Khashayar Hemmati, and Salar Azimi

Mechanical Behavior of Ultrafine Cement-Grouted Sands under Unsaturated Conditions 816
L. Sebastian Bryson and Ryan Ortiz

Numerical Modelling of Prestressed Geogrid Reinforced Soil for Adjacent Square Footing.....827
Soukat Kumar Das and N. K. Samadhiya

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Piecewise-Linear Modeling of Combined Vacuum and Surcharge Preloading at the Second Bangkok International Airport.....836
Keith Doyle and Tong Qiu

Plate Load Tests on Granular Soils Reinforced with Waste Tire Fibers.....845
Sanjeev Naval and Arvind Kumar

Reliability Estimate of the Compaction Characteristics of Iron Ore Tailings Treated Tropical Black Clay as Road Pavement Sub-Base Material.....855
K. J. Osinubi, A. O. Eberemu, P. Yohanna, and R. K. Etim

Soil Water Retention-Based Methodology for the Classification of Expansive Soils 865
Morteza Khorshidi and Ning Lu

Stabilizing Dispersive Soil Using Brown Coal Fly Ash and Hydrated Lime 874
S. Premkumar, J. Piratheepan, P. Rajeev, and A. Arulrajah

Study of the Mechanical Behavior of a Clayey Soil with the Insertion of Polyethylene Terephthalate Flakes 885
N. S. L. Louzada and M. D. T. Casagrande

The Sustainable Design of Granular Columns Based on Laboratory Model Tests 893
Selçuk Demir, Farhad R. Mokarram, and Pelin Özener

Time-Rate Variation of the Shear Wave Velocity (Site Stiffness) Following Blast-Induced Liquefaction.....904
Siavash Mahvelati, Joseph T. Coe, Armin W. Stuedlein, Philip Asabere, and Tygh N. Gianella

Use of Geocells to Protect Buried Pipelines and Underground Utilities in Soft Clayey Soils.....914
A. Hegde, S. Kadabinakatti, and T. G. Sitharam

Geoengineering of Mine Wastes and Industrial Byproducts

A Dynamic Contact Angle Measurement Technique for Water-Repellent Coal Fly Ash (CFA) 925
Jenberu L. Feyyisa and John L. Daniels

Compaction and Shear Strength Behavior of Fresh and Aged Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Steel Slag.....939
Irem Zeynep Yildirim and Monica Prezzi

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Dynamic Properties of Moderately Expansive Soil Stabilized with Class C Fly Ash 949
Troyee Tanu Dutta and Sireesh Saride

Engineering Behavior of Soils in Electrolyte Solutions 959
Shrikant T. Shinde and Ashish Juneja

Hydraulic Behavior of Maryland RAP Materials Used in Highway Shoulders 969
Mustafa Hatipoglu, Zorana Mijic, Asli Y. Dayioglu, Ahmet H. Aydilek, and Bora Cetin

Stabilization of Red Mud by Lime and Gypsum and Investigating Its Possible Use in Geoenvironmental Engineering 978
S. S. Kushwaha and D. Kishan

The Use of Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation to Reduce Trace Element Leaching from Fly Ash 989
Brina M. Montoya, Shahin Safavizadeh, and Ashley Meredith

Water Quality Risk Assessment from Roadway Substructures Employing Fly Ash 998
Brigitte L. Brown, Craig H. Benson, Tuncer B. Edil, and Sabrina L. Bradshaw

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