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Test Pond Research Continues

Geoffrey Strack, a civil engineering student at The University of Illinois, is currently researching the durability of PVC geomembranes for his Ph.D. dissertation. EPI will be supplying Geoff with some 15 year old, 20 mil PVC geomembrane from one of our test ponds in Mancelona, Michigan.



The material was installed on November 6, 1986, and left exposed to the weather since then. The samples of 20 mil were removed on November 2, 2001, almost 15 years to the day after installation. EPI will also be supplying Geoff with the test data and archived samples of the original material. These samples have been safely stored for 15 years at EPI waiting for just this opportunity. Geoff's testing of this material should yield valuable information on the durability of PVC geomembranes.

New liners were re-installed in these ponds on November 2nd. One pond of 30 mil PVC and one of 40 mil PVC. Each liner has

chemical seams and dual track thermal seams, with a large portion buried in the anchor



trench. We hope this installation will yield more valuable information about the performance of PVC in another 15 years!

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Two papers on the subject of PVC geomembranes by PGI members have been accepted for presentation at the Seventh International Conference on Geosynthetics next September 22-27 in Nice, France.

The first is a paper on 30 year old PVC geomembrane and is authored by Erik Newman, a student at The University of Illinois, Dr. Timothy D. Stark, professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, and Fred P. Rohe, President of EPI.



Mr. Patrick Diebel of Canadian General-Tower, Ltd., authors the second paper, The Effect of Formulation on the physical properties and durability of flexible PVC geomembranes.