

# THE GEO-SAMPLER

geotechnics  
geotechnical & geosynthetic testing

25  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

NOVEMBER 2009

As we wind up our 25th anniversary year, we realize we've been reflecting quite a bit on this past quarter-century. And while that seems to set itself up for some sort of a punch line, our thoughts have been really quite sincere. While it is true that we find it hard to believe we made it this far, we are truly humbled by the people and projects we've encountered along this journey. We've had some great experiences and learned a lot, all in the name of absolute integrity in testing.

## STILL ROCKING AFTER 25 YEARS

Our first project had us squarely in the lab. In those days, we were always in the lab. Really, always. And while the heart of our work is still there, with the equipment and apparatus that guide us, it's interesting to consider what goes on in the world outside—how our testing impacts your work. After all, the most important thing about what we do is what it can help you do.

### The roads we travel together

It's amazing what has happened in the span of the past 25 years. Sorry for the bridge pun, but consider the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. By ostensibly doubling the size of the bridge, it opened up new opportunities, cut down on snarling traffic and inspired us all. No wonder it won the ASCE 2008 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

Think also of the engineering marvels of roads in general these days. You know what we're talking about. Every day, millions of motorists just drive all over, the result of hours of hard work. But we're excited that the fruits of our testing make transportation better—from the Blue Ridge Parkway of Virginia to the Mon-Fayette Expressway in Pennsylvania. Turnpikes, runways, expressways, bypasses, taxiways, busways, oh my. As we think of how technology has progressed over the past 25 years, we can only summarize with one thought: We've come a long way, baby. Literally.

### Dam projects around the globe

The Saluda Dam and the Braddock Locks & Dam. The Tom Sauk Dam and the Santee Cooper Dam. The dams of Montana ranging from the Ruby to the Deadmans Basin. They're just a few of the dam projects we're mighty proud to have worked on. In fact, as we consider

how dam engineering has changed over the decades, we're downright flabbergasted at what hasn't: The importance of reliable data and a testing partner you can trust.

### Lucky to have a fill of landfills

Twenty-five years ago, they were dumps. Not anymore. Since then, some of the best thinking in engineering has been buried in various methods of waste disposal. And we

are truly honored to be part of every stage of the progression of landfill technology. From site selection and stability to liners and drainage, the testing of soils, rocks and geosynthetics is intertwined with some pretty amazing feats of construction and engineering. Seneca Meadows, Sarasota County, High Acres, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Lee County, Carbon Limestone—these are just a few of the landfills that have benefited from your thinking and our testing.

We're excited about what the next 25 years will bring to the art and science of waste management. Particularly as liner integrity testing becomes more prevalent. Of course, it's also interesting to consider how our actions today will further environmental stewardship, safety and technological advancement.

### Civil obedience and industrial pride

Racetracks. Casinos. Ballparks. Convention centers. Universities, colleges and schools. Hospitals. Malls. Office complexes. Golf courses. Military facilities. Government

*If you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?*



### In other news:

- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter
- War Dims Hope for Peace
- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- Typhoon Rips through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
- Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge
- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy
- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
- Hospitals Are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors



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buildings. Prisons. Cell towers. The past 25 years of our nation's history rest squarely on the shoulders of the engineers, contractors, consultants and, yes, testing facilities that have made sure our country is built on a solid foundation. As we thought about the impact of your work, we realized that every day, our collective projects touch millions of lives. Makes you wonder what we'll be building together over the next 25 years.

**Power to the energy industry**

Perhaps there's no more dramatic change since we opened our doors in 1984 than those we've seen in the energy industry. Who knew that among all the power stations, coal processing plants and en-



ergy facilities we've been honored to work on that wind would emerge as such a prevalent source of growth for energy? And if you'd told us back then that Geotechnics would be in compliance with NQA-1 Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications, we wouldn't have believed you. Again, we're thrilled that together we've come a long way, baby.

**Trip down memory lane**

This walk through the past reminds us of one very important thing. You. The past 25 years are a direct result of your skills, talents and, quite humbly, confidence in Geotechnics as your testing partner.

We cannot thank you enough for 25 years. We are look forward to 25 more years of testing relationships.

**If you like the newsletter,  
you'll love the book.**

*During this anniversary year, we've done a little more digging into some of the projects that have amazed and delighted us in the past. We think you faithful fans of the GeoSampler might enjoy reading about them, too. To request your very own copy, please contact [info@geotechnics.net](mailto:info@geotechnics.net) or give Randy a call at (412) 823-7600. After 25 years, what he still enjoys most is speaking with you most.*



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