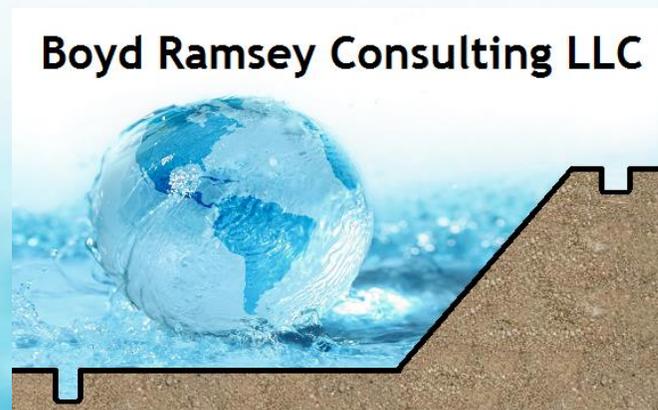


# LES GEOSYNTHETIQUES AU SERVICE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE



Selection and proper installation of geomembrane barriers: What to use, how to install it and what are reasonable expectations for performance.

Sélection et installation appropriée des barrières géomembranes : quoi utiliser, comment l'installer et quelles sont les attentes raisonnables en matière de performance

Marrakech Maroc 9 juin 2023



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**How do you choose what material you use for your geosynthetic barrier application?**

**How do you choose who and how your geosynthetic barrier is installed?**

**What information and resources are available to make the sustainability case for geosynthetics?**

# Material selection criteria – Designing with Geosynthetics

Material Property	Weighting Factor
Durability:	
Chem. Resistance	7
UV Resistance	10
Expected Lifetime	10
Stress Crack Resistance	10
Mechanical:	
Tensile Strength	4
Tensile Elongation	8
Tear Resistance	8
Puncture Resistance	9
Impact Resistance	9
Shear Strength	5
Exp./Cont.	4
Barrier:	
WVT	4
SVT	1
Installation/Maintenance:	
Placement	7
Seaming	10
Drainage Sensitivity	8
Repairs	8
Total Benefit	n/a
Installed Cost (Dollars per sq. meter)	n/a
Benefit/Cost Ratio	n/a

## GRI White Paper #12

The Development of a Benefit/Cost Ratio Matrix for Optimal Selection of a Geosynthetic Material

<http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org/papers/paper12.pdf>

# Koerner, R. M., *Designing With Geosynthetics*, 6th Edition, Volumes 1 and 2

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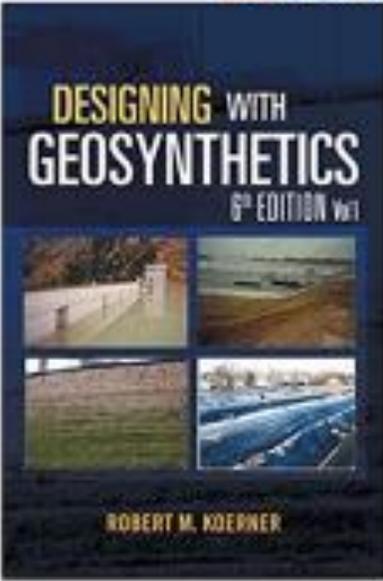
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**DESIGNING WITH GEOSYNTHETICS**  
6th EDITION Vol. 1  
ROBERT M. KOERNER

## Designing with Geosynthetics - 6th Edition Vol. 1 Paperback –

January 16, 2012  
by Robert M. Koerner (Author)  
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Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions	ISBN-10
526 pages	English	XLIBRIS	January 16, 2012	6 x 1.32 x 9 inches	1462882889

# Material selection criteria



**GeoAfrica 2017 Conference**  
Marrakech, Morocco 08 – 11 Octobre 2017



## **Geomembrane selection criteria: an update for today's products**

B. Ramsey; Boyd Ramsey Consulting LLC, Houston, Texas, USA [boydramsey@me.com](mailto:boydramsey@me.com)

# Barrier Decision Checklist - Ramsey

**What happens if it leaks?**

**How long should it last?**

**What will it be exposed to?**

**How "tough" is the material?**

**Can we repair it?**

# Barrier Decision Checklist - Ramsey

## **What happens if it leaks?**

Action Leakage rates, Leak detection &  
Permit values

## **How long should it last?**

Accelerated Aging criteria (OIT, exposures,  
SIM)

## **What will it be exposed to?**

EPA 9090 or other chemical testing

## **How "tough" is the material?**

Puncture Strength

## **Can we repair it?**

Crosslinking, exposed weldability

# Barrier Decision Checklist - Ramsey

**Water reservoir**

**Landfill**

## **What happens if it leaks?**

Action Leakage rates, Leak detection &  
Permit values

## **How long should it last?**

Accelerated Aging criteria (OIT, exposures,  
SIM)

## **What will it be exposed to?**

EPA 9090 or other chemical testing

## **How "tough" is the material?**

Puncture Strength

## **Can we repair it?**

Crosslinking, exposed weldability

# Barrier Decision Checklist - Ramsey

## Water reservoir

We lose a little water

A few years

Water and sunlight

Easily damaged/punctured

Yes

## What happens if it leaks?

Action Leakage rates, Leak detection & Permit values

## How long should it last?

Accelerated Aging criteria (OIT, exposures, SIM)

## What will it be exposed to?

EPA 9090 or other chemical testing

## How "tough" is the material?

Puncture Strength

## Can we repair it?

Crosslinking, exposed weldability

## Landfill

Very bad things

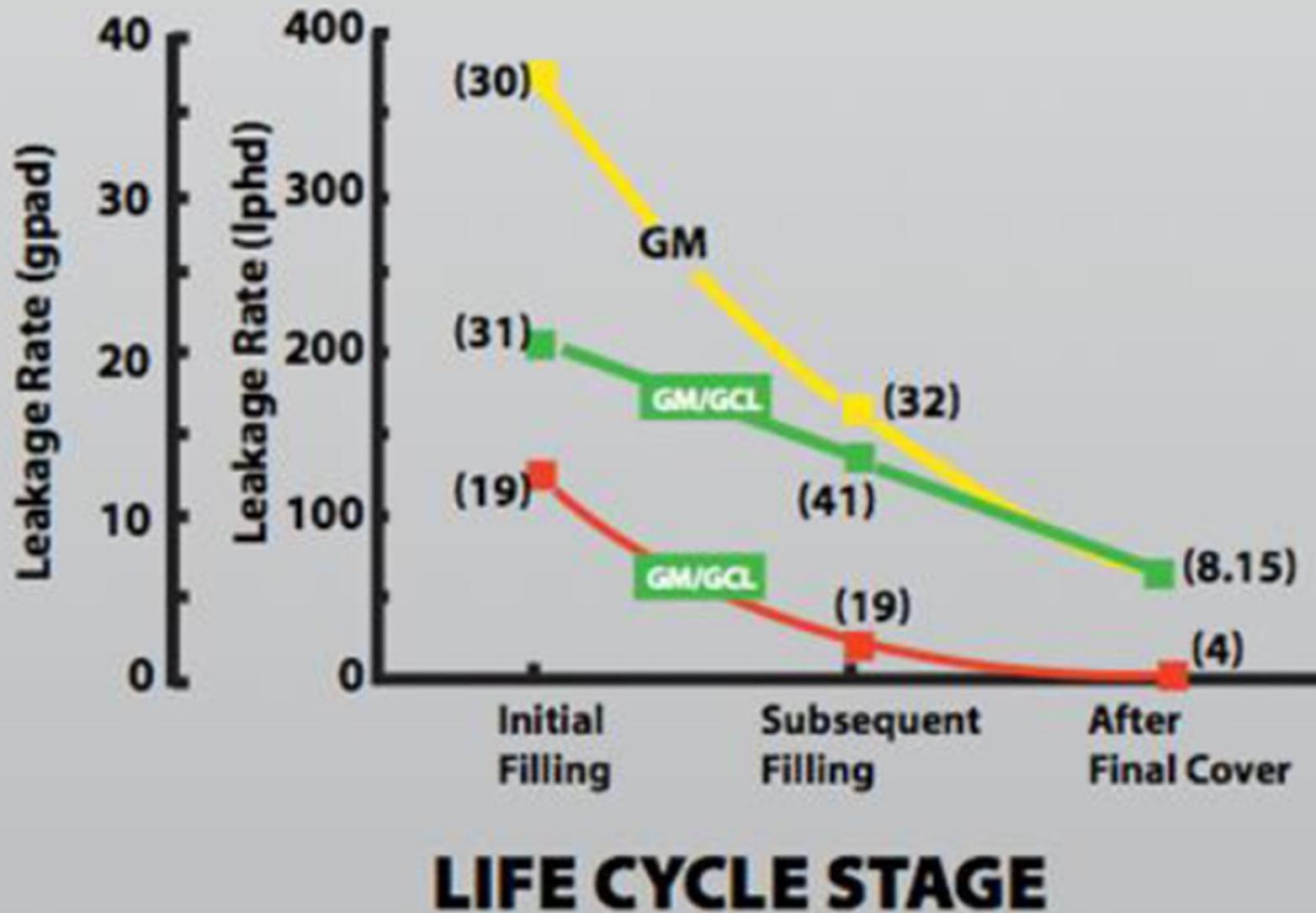
Forever

Don't know, could be anything

High Puncture Strength

No, under lots of waste





Bonaparte, R, Daniel, D.E. and Koerner, R.M., "Assessment and Recommendations for Improving the Performance of Waste Containment Systems", EPA/600/R-02/099 EPA National Risk Management Research Laboratory,

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/M1217/ML12179A248.pdf>

















<https://www.cfg.asso.fr/>

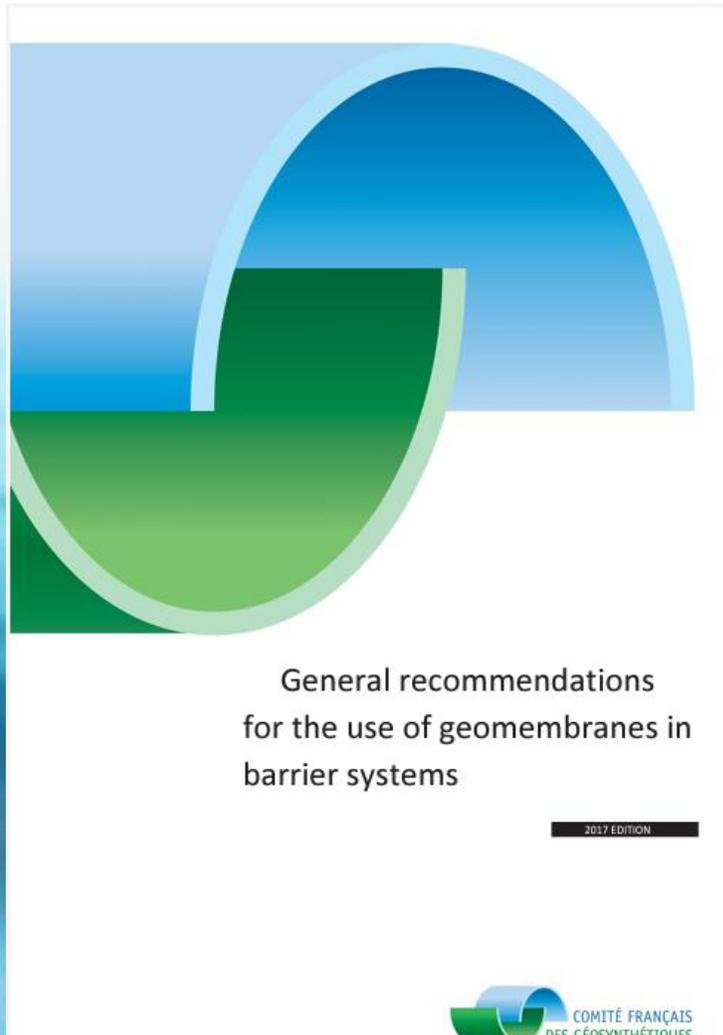
The screenshot shows the website interface for the Comité Français des Géosynthétiques. At the top left is the logo. To its right are login fields for 'Nom d'utilisateur' and 'Mot de passe', with an 'OK' button. Below these are links for 'LinkedIn', 'Inscription à la Newsletter', and a 'Rechercher' search bar. A horizontal menu contains the following items: 'Les Géosynthétiques', 'Nos missions', 'Les membres', 'Publications', 'Événements', 'Partenaires & Organisations', and 'Photothèque'. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'Vous êtes ici : Accueil » Publications » Guides de recommandations » Utilisation des normes de dimensionnement dans la conception des ouvrages avec géosynthétiques : géotextiles & produits'. A sidebar on the left is titled 'Guides de recommandations' and lists a guide on dimensioning. The main content area features a blue header for the selected guide: 'Utilisation des normes de dimensionnement dans la conception des ouvrages avec géosynthétiques : géotextiles & produits'. The text below states: 'Ce « Guide d'utilisation des normes de dimensionnement dans la conception des ouvrages avec géosynthétiques : géotextiles et produits apparentés » est destiné à familiariser le plus grand nombre d'utilisateurs avec les solutions géosynthétiques et les normes de dimensionnement qui leur sont associées. Il est composé à ce jour de deux fascicules.'

<https://www.cfg.asso.fr/publications/guides-de-recommandations/utilisation-des-normes-de-dimensionnement-dans-la-conception>

# Comité Français des Géosynthétiques: Guides de recommandations

- Guide d'utilisation des normes de dimensionnement dans la conception des ouvrages avec géosynthétiques : géotextiles et produits...
- N° 9 - Recommandations pour l'emploi des géotextiles dans le renforcement des ouvrages en terre
- N° 10 - Recommandations générales pour la réalisation d'étanchéité par géomembranes
- N° 11 - Recommandations générales pour l'utilisation des géosynthétiques dans les centres de stockage de déchets
- N° 12 - Recommandations générales pour la réalisation d'étanchéité par géosynthétiques bentonitiques
- N° 13 - Recommandations pour l'utilisation des géosynthétiques bentonitiques en installations de stockage de déchets
- Recommandations générales pour l'emploi des géosynthétiques comme dispositifs retardant la remontée des fissures dans les chaussées
- Géosynthétiques et érosion
- Présentation de méthodes de détection et de localisation de défauts dans les dispositifs d'étanchéité par géomembranes
- Guide pour la réalisation des planches d'essais pour endommagement
- Recommandations pour l'emploi des Géosynthétiques dans les systèmes de Drainage et de Filtration
- Recommandations pour la protection contre le poinçonnement des géomembranes

# N° 10 - Recommandations générales pour la réalisation d'étanchéité par géomembranes





Figure



So where do things go **wrong/mauvais/bad/horrible?**



# So where do things go **wrong/mauvais/bad/horrible**?

- Designing things that cannot be built.
- Not paying proper attention to subgrade quality and preparation
- Choosing the low bid for installation
- Not using a qualified and well trained quality assurance firm/program
- Not planning for errors/barrier damage/leaks
- Not restricting access to exposed barrier – or having a fill plan/program
- Not keeping a record/history of the site
- Not completing maintenance/inspections on a scheduled timetable

# Designing things that cannot be built.



Guidance on the Design and Construction of Leak-Resistant Geomembrane Boots and Attachments to Structures  
R. Thiel, Thiel Engineering, Grass Valley, CA, USA  
G. DeJarnett, Envirocon, Houston, TX, USA

# Not paying proper attention to subgrade quality and preparation

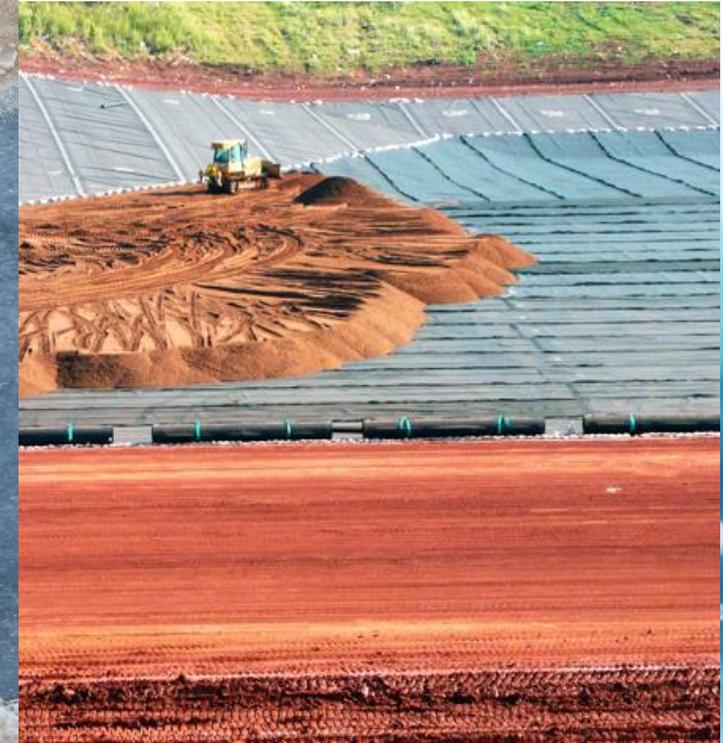


# Choosing the low bid for installation

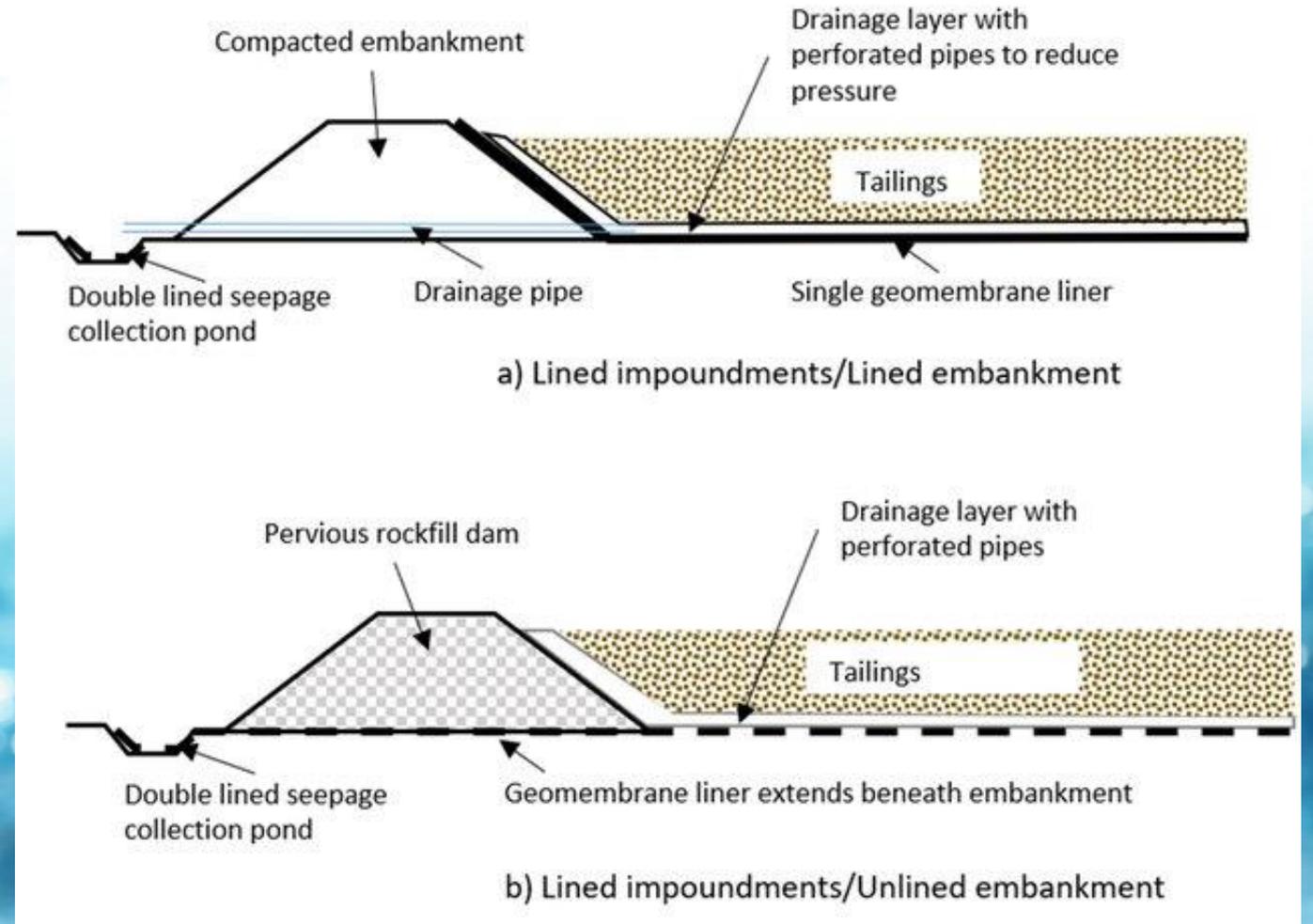


# Not using a qualified and well trained quality assurance firm/program

- Everyone does a better job when they are being watched.

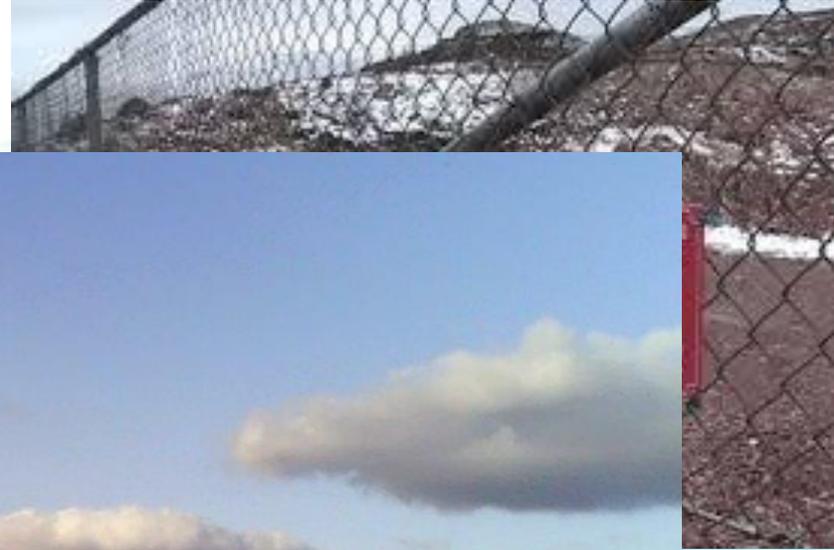
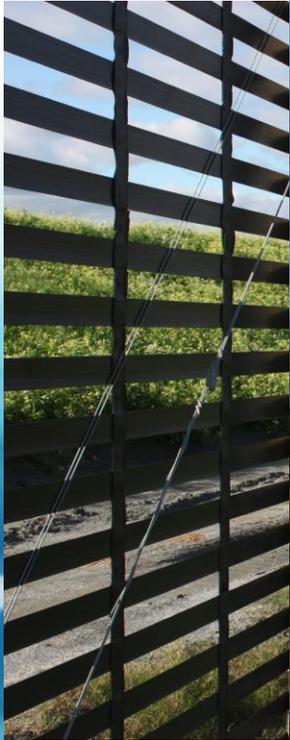


# Not planning for errors/barrier damage/leaks

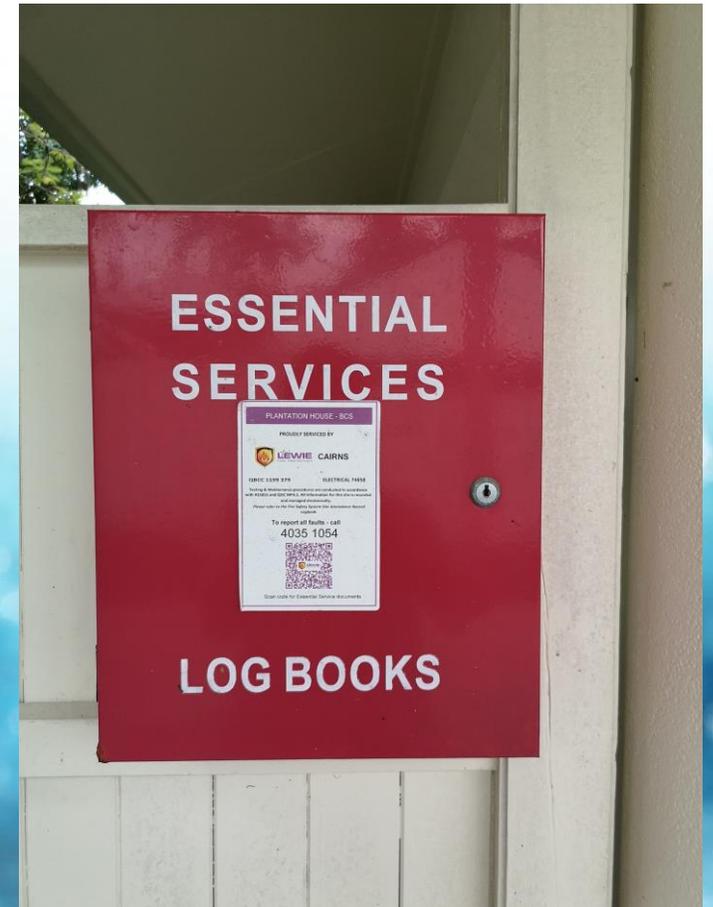
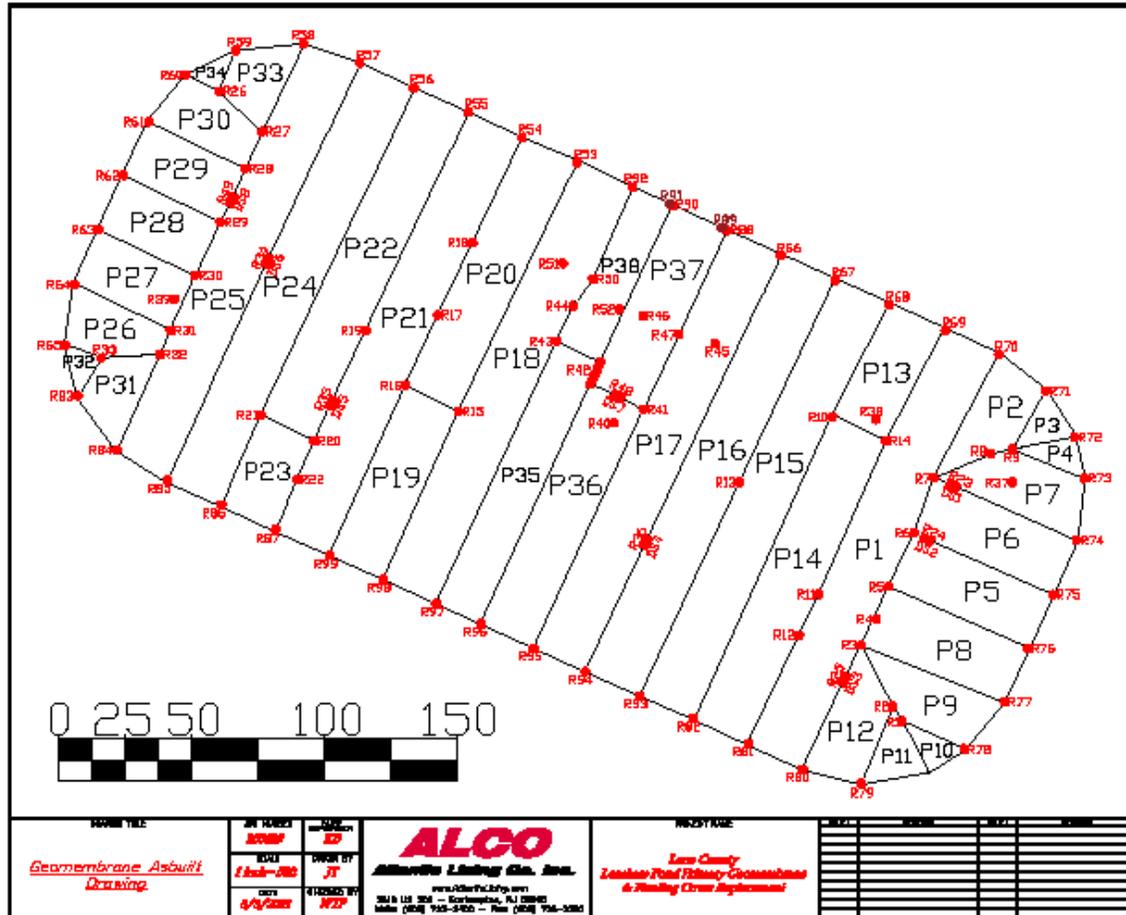


Tuomela, A, et.al.(2021). Using Geomembrane Liners to Reduce Seepage through the Base of Tailings Ponds—A Review and a Framework for Design Guidelines. Geosciences. 11. 93. 10.3390/geosciences11020093.

Not restricting access to exposed barrier – or having a fill plan/program



# Not keeping a record/history of the site



# Not completing maintenance/inspections on a scheduled timetable



What can I do to build my project to the best performance?

- Use a well trained quality assurance firm/program
- Buy good materials and installation from experienced and dependable manufacturers and suppliers
- Conduct Electronic Leak Detection Surveys – if possible both prior to and after cover placement.
- Include the barrier system in training for employees working on the site.
- Do preventative maintenance/inspections on a scheduled timetable

- Sustainability video = BR/PK



# Boyd Ramsey Consulting LLC

