

International Association of Geosynthetic Installers

IAGI Newsletter

A Note from IAGI's President - Dennis W. O'Brien

The Approved Installation Contractor (AIC) program has taken many months to organize, with extensive hours spent by dedicated industry experts defining out what constitutes a superior installation company.

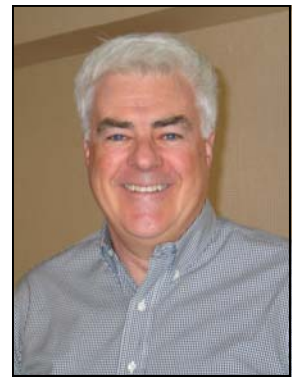
The AIC program requirements finally were completed and applications and instructions are available to the industry. And, now it gives me great pleasure to congratulate our first two member companies to achieve AIC status. Clean Air and Water Systems, LLC (CAAW Systems) and Taylor Geosynthetics, Inc., passed the AIC application process proving that their companies are committed to the geomembrane installation industry and know the importance of better quality workmanship. For more information on these companies see Page 2 of this newsletter.

As this program is in its beginning stages, the IAGI offices are fielding numerous inquiries. At press time for this issue, four companies have begun the AIC application process. This is a busy time of the year in our industry, but the sooner the appli-

cations are received, the more quickly the third party accountant can begin the application review. Once the accountant's busy season begins, the application process will take longer.

Installation companies interested in applying for what will become an engineer-specified designation, AIC, can now find complete program details and submittal form online at www.iagi.org. Applying companies submit the required program criteria, which is then reviewed and verified by a third party accounting firm, Sims & Company CPAs.

AIC program requirements will be updated periodically based upon feedback from IAGI members, consultants, legal council and changes in best management practices in the industry.



Dennis W. O'Brien, IAGI President

We are very excited to see this program off to a great start, and anticipate continued growing industry interest. Please take the time to review the program details and make it a priority for your company to achieve AIC status.

Dennis W. O'Brien



Inside this issue:

IAGI companies achieve AIC	2
Cost-effective marketing tool	3
Industry News	4
Newly Certified Welders	6
Let's poke some holes	7



SMITH-MANUS
surety bonds

Surety bonding for the waste and environmental industries

Call Jim Martin at 1-888-546-7201
jmartin@smithmanus.com
 2300 Regency Road, Lexington, KY 40503

IAGI companies are first to achieve Approved Installation Contractor status



IAGI is pleased to announce that two of its member companies, Clean Air and Water Systems, LLC (CAAW Systems) and Taylor Geosynthetics, Inc., have achieved Approved Installation Contractor (AIC) status.

To be awarded AIC status, geosynthetic installation companies must meet requirements in the following areas: corporate history and business practices, insurance verification, safety training, and professional competence and experience.

CAAW Systems and Taylor Geosynthetics, Inc., are pioneer participants in IAGI's AIC program. Both companies are eager to promote industry growth and encourage better quality workmanship, thus fulfilling the goals of the AIC program.

CAAW Systems is

comprised of individuals with over 70 years combined experience in the geosynthetic installation industry. CAAW Systems is known for its ability to source specification compliant materials from the industry's leading manufacturers and for successful implementation of geosynthetic liner installations. Extensive experience has given CAAW Systems the knowledge required to review plans and specifications, procure project specific materials, and complete installations within required time frames and budgets.

CAAW Systems has successfully completed projects in solid waste landfills, landfill closures, waste water containment, decorative ponds, methane barriers and secondary containment.

Serving the geosynthetics community for 19 years, Taylor Geosynthetics, Inc. has experience in the installation of a variety of geosynthetic products. Services include the installation of liner systems (HDPE, LLDPE, EPDM, PVC and Polypropylene), geotextiles, and GCL products.

With experience in the installation of various products and designs, the Taylor Geosynthetics, Inc. staff has the knowledge and flexibility to work with clients to provide and install complete geosynthetic

systems meeting site-specific requirements.

IAGI strives to provide a forum for geosynthetics installers to advance installation and construction techniques, and to strengthen the knowledge, image and communication within the industry. For more information about IAGI or the AIC program, contact Laurie Honnigford at +1-651-554-1895, e-mail iagi@iagi.com or visit www.iagi.org.

AIC information available online

Installation companies interested in applying for what will become an engineer-specified designation, AIC, can now find complete program details and submittal form online at www.iagi.org.

Developed from dialogs with member installers, member suppliers, outside experts in the containment field, and government officials involved in the geomembrane business, the goal of the AIC program is to promote industry growth and provide better quality workmanship.

Submittal forms for AIC status and completion instructions are available at IAGI's website, www.iagi.org. Applying companies submit the required program criteria, which is then reviewed and verified by a third party.



Manufacturer of Quality Seaming and Testing Equipment

Spare Parts and Service for Most Brands
Technical Services

(888) 324-9353 or (530) 621-3200

www.demtech.net

Ask Demo Dave about our trade-in program.

Cost-effective marketing tool reaches your target market

Reaching a specific market with a targeted message is the goal of every company when it comes to marketing. While brochures, direct mail and advertisements are important elements in a marketing mix, there is another promotional vehicle available that will bring attention to your company without costing you more than a little time – a carefully crafted news release.

The basic news release is an effective tool for developing relationships with the media and communicating with your company's stakeholders and the industry. News releases should be issued when your company has something to announce, such as sponsorship or involvement in events or trade shows; expansions and new facilities; employee successes, such as certifications and promotions; new product or lines or service capabilities; excellent safety performance; new business partnerships or acquisitions; and awards earned.

As with direct mail, the first step in the news release process is developing a targeted list for distribution. Create a list for your company that includes relevant newspapers, trade magazines (print and online versions), and general business press. Also, be sure to include the societies and associations to which you belong. Most of these groups have newsletters which draw from member input and news.

Upon researching each publication and learning its audience is one you hope to reach, find who at the publication should receive your release. Typically, it's the editor, managing editor or special section editor. The internet is a valuable tool for this type of research; the majority of publications have "Contact Us" buttons on their websites that will lead you directly to editor information.

In this age of electronic media, in general, editors prefer to receive news releases via e-mail. Having electronic information simplifies the process for editors as your text arrives ready for edits and layout.

News releases should be written with your targeted audience in mind. Begin the release with the most important piece of information described in the first sentence, with supporting information following. Accuracy is key in news releases, as it builds your credibility with the media and with the readers.

News releases should be clear and concise, not exceeding two double-spaced typed pages. To make it easy for editors to obtain more information, be sure to include the name, phone number, and e-mail address of a contact person at your company available to answer additional questions.

The release date, included before the heading, should state: "For Immediate Release." Before the body of the release, include the date-

line—the city and state of your company's headquarters.

Not every release is guaranteed publication. Publications have space considerations that may prevent them from publishing your announcement. Also, the release may be edited according to amount of space available and for adapting to the publication's style.

As you plan your news release distribution, be aware of publication schedules of the media on your list. Sometimes when an item is selected for publication, the lag time between the receipt of a news release and the actual publication can be two to three months.

To increase possibility of publication, include photos with captions and/or relevant logos. If you do not include photos but have them available, make sure to note that. If you are e-mailing your news release and you have photos, do not send the photos as attachments. Attachments often get stuck in e-mail filters, and thus your message could be lost.

LEAK LOCATION SERVICES, INC.



Geomembrane Leak Location
Using Electrical Leak Location Methods
www.lsi.com (210) 408-1241

Industry News

Geosynthetic specification resource

IAGI member I-Corp International and geosynthetic.net announce geosIndex.com. The site offers free access to its online index of geosynthetic materials, such as geomembrane barriers for heap leach pads, geocomposites for runoff management, and erosion control materials. geosIndex allows users to sort product data by key values: puncture resistance, flow rates, longevity, and much more. This global resource posts data for ASTM, CEN and ISO specification users.



geosIndex helps you locate the right products, manufacturers and distributors to maintain a safe, efficient, environmentally sound operation. No registration is required for Web site use.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Peggs, Elizabeth@geosynthetic.net, +1 561-655-2060, or visit www.geosindex.com.

Fresh Kills landfill transforms to park land

Opened in 1948 on almost 3,000 acres, the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, New York became one of the largest refuse heaps in human history. The name "Fresh Kills" refers to its location along the banks of the Fresh Kills estuary in western Staten Island. The landfill site was closed on March 22, 2001 but was temporarily reopened in order to receive and process debris from the World Trade Center collapse on September 11, 2001.

Fresh Kills currently is in the process of being capped and replanted. According to the New York City Department of City Planning's website, in 2003 Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the selection of an interdisciplinary design team to lead the master planning process for the transformation of Fresh Kills.

The park design goals are as follows:

Transform Fresh Kills into a unique asset.

Create a world-class park through public engagement, creative design and environmental innovation.

Improve quality of life and active recreation opportunities on Staten Island and in the region.

Build an ecologically-sound road system that provides a framework for the park and reduces local traffic congestion.

The field operations team notes that phased development of the Fresh Kills parkland will begin on the three mounds that are already closed and in the areas that were never landfill – over 55 percent of the 2.4-square mile site. Although there are some limitations that come with reuse of a landfill, cities all over the world have successfully converted landfills to parks. Many of these parks opened not long after the landfill cap was in place.

The current phase of the Fresh Kills project is an environmental and land use review, a process expected to take 18 months, ending in 2007. The City and State may be able to begin construction of some parts of the park early in 2007.

To find out more about the Fresh Kills transformation project, visit www.nyc.gov/freshkills.

For Your Geomembrane Needs



500 Garrison Road
Georgetown, SC 29440
www.Agruamerica.com

Anne Steacy
Regional Sales

Telephone: 713 432 0322
Fax: 713 893 6278
Cell: 713 203 9600

E-mail: as-agru@sc.rr.com

The World's Finest Geosynthetic Installation Equipment

Wedge Welders,
Extruders, Test Equipment,
and More



800-575-8171 www.concordgeotech.com
603-659-0909 sjhobbs@concordgeotech.com

IGI will present at Geosynthetics 2007 event in Washington, D.C.

Geosynthetics 2007, the largest geosynthetics event in North America, will provide an outstanding forum for the exchange of new ideas, practices and applications affecting three important sectors of the geosynthetics community – environment, transportation and homeland security.

Geosynthetics 2007 will be held Jan. 16-19, 2007 at the Hilton Washington, Washington, D.C., preceding the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting, Jan. 21-25, 2007.

The conference will feature more than 100 technical papers and dozens of accredited short courses, workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions, and key-

note presentations. The trade show will feature more than 100 companies exhibiting their latest solutions for engineers and the geosynthetics community.

To promote its new installer program, IAGI will present a paper titled "What the IAGI Approved Installation Contractor Can Do For You."

Geosynthetics 2007 participants also can attend the Geosynthetics Institute's GRI 20th Anniversary Conference held in conjunction with Geosynthetics 2007 on Jan. 18, 2007. This event will focus on geosynthetics for homeland defense and mitigating natural disasters.

Geosynthetics 2007 is organized by the Industrial

Fabrics Association International (IFAI) and Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA), held in cooperation with the North American Geosynthetics Society (NAGS) under the auspices of the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS), and the Geosynthetics Institute.

For more information, visit www.geoshow.info or contact Jill M. Rutledge, Secretary-General, IFAI, at +1-651-225-6981, geoshow@ifai.com.

DHL offers preferred pricing



DHL has become IAGI's preferred transportation carrier. As an IAGI member, you are eligible to save up to 25 percent on DHL's following award winning services:

- ◆ DHL Next Day 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ DHL Next Day 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ DHL Next Day 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ DHL 2nd Day
- ◆ DHL Ground
- ◆ DHL International

To open your DHL account

and begin receiving the IAGI member discounts, call +1-800-647-3061 or fax +1-913-982-5923.

For more than 35 years, DHL has built the world's premier global delivery network by trailblazing express shipping in one country after another. Over 225 countries and territories later, DHL is the global market leader of the international express and logistics industry.

If you would like information on joining IAGI, contact Laurie Honnigford, IAGI Executive Director, at +1-651-554-1895 or e-mail iagi@iagi.org.



January 16-19, 2007
Hilton Washington • Washington, D.C.

Discover new technologies and solutions for engineering, the environment, homeland security and transportation applications.

A must-attend event held immediately preceding the TRB annual meeting.

Early registration is Nov. 15, 2007.
Visit www.geoshow.info or contact geoshow@ifai.com.



Heavy-Duty Sewing Machines
for Field Installations and In-House Manufacturing

• Geosynthetics • Geotubes • Custom Applications •

Toll-free: 800-344-9698 Fax: 847-669-4355
E-mail: bags@unionspecial.com www.unionspecial.com

New Members

BALBECK S.A.

Guillermo Solis
General Manager
100 este y 25 Sur Iglesia
Lourdes
San Pedro San Jose
307-2300
Costa Rica
Phone: +1-506-283-1792
Fax: +1-506-225-8885
balbeck@racsa.co.cr

Balbeck has been in the market for more than 12 years and has installed over 250,000 square meters.

Gidrokor Ltd.

18, Khrustalnaya st.
St.Petersburg, 192019
Russian Federation
Phones: +7-812-567-9012,
+7-812-567-9013
Fax: +7-812-567-9068
kasinski@gidrokor.ru
www.gidrokor.ru

Established in 1995, Gidrokor Ltd. remains the largest and

most experienced geomembrane installer on the territory of Russia and CIS. With its advanced engineering approach, the company is capable of "turn-key" development of any kind of geosynthetics projects including base linings, leachate collection pipes and lagoons, vertical cut-off barriers, water reservoirs, mining tails containment, tunnels, secondary containment and concrete protection. Gidrokor Ltd. is an approved member of international installers network of Solmax International Inc. A corporate member of IGS since 2004.

Hydrosol Construction Inc.

Paul Anderson
1201 Chemin Industriel
St-Nicolas, Quebec G7A
1A8
Canada
Phone: +1-418-836-1333
Fax: +1-418-836-9493

Installers of HDPE, PVC membranes and gabions retaining walls.

In the Spring 2006 issue of the IAGI newsletter, a website error was made in the following company's listing. It is corrected below.

Beijing Gaoneng Lining Engineering Co. Ltd

Charlie Zhen, Vice President/Chief Engineer
19B Yuquan Rd.
Beijing 100049 PR
China
Phone: 86-10-88255959
Fax: 86-10-88233169
charliezhen@yahoo.com
www.gnlining.com

Gaoneng is the earliest liner installation company in China. Since 1989 we have installed more than 5,000,000 m² of HDPE, LLDPE, GCL's Geotextiles, drainage composites, pipes in landfills, covers, lagoons, containment, canal/channels, leach heap pads, etc.



These photos are of those testing for Certified Welding Technician status in South Africa.

Top Photo: Wedge Weld. Right Photo: Weld Verification. Far Right Photo: Temperature Check.



Congratulations to **Century Environmental Services** and **Beijing**

Gaoneng Lining Engineering Co., Ltd. who sponsored Certified Welding Technician testing of their employed welding technicians.

IAGI developed a welder's

certification program so installers could define standards of proficiency, recognize the knowledge, experience and skills of installers, and reward those who qualify with industry recognition.

For further information, contact Laurie Honnigford, Managing Director, IAGI at +1-651-554-1895 or e-mail iagi@iagi.org.



Geomembrane CQA—Let's poke some holes: Installment 2

by Glenn T. Darilek, P.E.

In the last issue, we presented some thought-provoking maxims related to geomembrane CQA with the invitation to poke holes in these "pincushions." Dr. Ian Peggs of I-Corp International responded, and brief paraphrases of his responses follow. Two more pincushions also are presented for your response.

Pincushion 1

Engineering is not the quest for perfection; rather it is the practice of using science and reason to obtain that which is efficient, economical, and perfect for the intended purpose.

Peggs – We are seeking perfection for a given purpose. Imperfections must not exceed critical levels, and it is difficult to define these acceptable limits and to ensure they have not been exceeded. Theory alone is not adequate, practical experience is essential.

Pincushion 2

The only function of a geomembrane is to prevent leakage. Engineering and CQA measures associated with geomembrane installations should be judged solely on how well they meet that objective.

Peggs - I agree, but throughout the service life. This requires knowledge of features that might become a problem during service.

Pincushion 3

Geomembrane seams in a properly-designed installation do not provide structural strength and they will not be subject to significant stress. Destructive testing of seams to near-ultimate tensile and peel stress is irrelevant to the function and performance of the geomembrane.

Peggs – I cannot agree that geomembranes and seams are not subject to significant stress (i.e. differential settlement, slope liners, flattened wrinkles, low temperature contraction, whales, etc.). I could not agree more that the measured seam shear and peel strengths are irrelevant to the function and performance of the geomembrane. Shear ductility and peel separation are the only significant parameters.

Pincushion 4

The purposes for specifying thicker geomembranes are puncture resistance and ease of seaming, not to provide increased seam strength. Requiring geomembranes to have seam strengths in proportion to their thickness unnecessarily penalizes the use of thicker geomembranes for increased puncture resistance.

Peggs – You are dead right. The area of the bonding interface and quality of the weld over that interface are completely independent of geomembrane thickness.

Dr. Peggs suggested another very interesting pin-

cushion, which is summarized below:

Pincushion 5

CQA is intended to ensure that what was designed is built. It does not ensure that what is built will perform "perfectly." Thus, if the design is bad, CQA will ensure that a bad design is built. An experienced CQA firm will try to get improvements made, or should decline that project.

I will add another pincushion for your response.

Pincushion 6

The only function of a seam is to join the geomembrane so that it will not leak. A seam that has partial (but not total) separation is fully performing that function. So the peel separation pass criteria should be closer to 100 percent maximum incursion length than zero peel.

Your responses are earnestly requested. Please try to keep the response no longer than the pincushion. Responses will remain anonymous if requested.

Respond to glenn@lsl.com.



PWT
Plastic Welding Technologies
INTERNATIONAL

Greg Yaple
President

Mobile:
(530) 409-6672
(530) 957-5426

Call (800) 635-6693
for new info/instructional DVD

email:
info@plasticweldingtechnologies.com

on the web:
www.plasticweldingtechnologies.com

6125 Enterprise Drive #10
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
Ph. (530) 622-2791
Fax (530) 622-2704



International Association of
Geosynthetic Installers
PO Box 18012
St. Paul, MN 55118
USA

Phone: +1-651-554-1895
Fax: +1-651-450-6167
E-mail: iagi@iagi.org

Helpful checklist for writing your company's news releases

Bring attention to your company without spending more than a little time – carefully craft your company's information for the trade press.

Your company's news release should include:

- ⇒ The release date at the top of the page should state: For Immediate Release.
- ⇒ Begin with a strong headline that summarizes the news release and grabs the reader's attention.
- ⇒ Include the "dateline" – city and state of the company's headquarters.

⇒ The first paragraph should contain the most important information that you want to convey to the reader. The remaining paragraphs should be clear and concise, containing information that supports your first paragraph.

⇒ Product introductions, improvements, new applications, awards and general news developments that affect your product are good angles for news releases. Be sure to include some background information on your company and products.

⇒ If possible, include photos with captions. Photos increase your chances of getting press coverage, particularly in the trade press.

⇒ E-mail the news release with digital photo attachments if possible. In general, editors prefer to receive your information electronically so the text is ready for editing and layout.

For additional news release information, see Page 3 of this issue.

USA
St. Paul, MN 55118
PO Box 18012

