



PROJECT BRIEF

Pownal Tannery GeoTesting

PROJECT PROFILE

CLIENT:
U.S. EPA

LOCATION:
North Pownal, VT

VALUE:

- Unparalleled engineering support and responsive testing services

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Customized test methods to meet project requirements
- Engineering support to assure US EPA acceptance
- Initial “shake-down” testing within tight time constraints



GEOTESTING

GeoTesting Express (GTX) conducted the “shake-down” testing, as well as quality control testing throughout the project. “Shake-down” testing had to be completed within one week in order to maintain that the landfill would be constructed on schedule. Sludge properties and required construction operations prevented representative samples from being taken using standard sampling techniques. Subsequently, unconfined compressive strengths measured in the laboratory were frequently below the strength criteria. GTX proposed a modified (laboratory-measured) unconfined compressive strength requirement, as well as alternative test methods, the results of which would more accurately correlate to the true in-field strengths. GeoTesting Express’ engineering support and quickness in providing solutions to critical challenges allowed the project team to move the Pownal Tannery Superfund project forward, on schedule and under budget.



BACKGROUND

The U.S. EPA’s Pownal Tannery Superfund Site in North Pownal, Vermont, required the environmentally safe and structurally sound disposal of 55,000 cubic yards of sludge, contaminated with oils, solvents, lead, and chromium. The sludge had been generated by tanning operations between 1937 and 1988, whereby raw discharges were poured into waste lagoons abutting the Hoosic River in Vermont. Cleanup efforts called for the dense, but structurally weak sludge to be stabilized and compacted into a consolidation landfill. The surface of the landfill was to be used for recreation facilities for the Town of North Pownal.