

Why Monitor Performance?

W. Allen Marr, P.E., PhD, ASCE Fellow

President and CEO, Geocomp Corporation

125 Nagog Park, Acton, MA, USA, 01720. wam@geocomp.com.

ABSTRACT

This paper provides an overview of the many potential benefits of an effective performance monitoring program for constructed facilities. It also outlines some specific methodologies to quantify these benefits in ways that non-specialists can understand and use. These include quantifying the benefits of monitoring and comparing them to the cost of monitoring. A case is described where the benefits of performance monitoring exceeded the cost by more than eight times. Another example shows that performance monitoring decreased the probability of failure by 40-fold. The goal of the paper is to provide others with the means to better define and quantify the benefits of proposed performance monitoring programs to other members of the Project Team so that effective monitoring can be performed throughout the project life.