Compacted Clay Liner

versus Composite Liners

by

Milind V. Khire, Ph.D., P.E.
Composite Liner (2 types)

Geomembrane → Compacted Clay (relatively low k) → Geomembrane

OR

Geomembrane → Geosynthetic Clay Liner → Geomembrane

Composite Liner – Construction Quality Assurance

Good versus Poor

GM Defect

Wetted Area

Good QA
- No gap between GM and clay layer
- Smaller wetted area below defect
- Less than or equal to 1 defect per acre
- Relatively less leakage

Poor QA
- Gap between GM and clay layer due to wrinkles
- Larger wetted area below defect
- Greater than 1 defect per acre
- Relatively more leakage