

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL GEOTECHNICS COMMITTEE MEETING

GeoDenver 2000

6 AUGUST 2000, 5:30-7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Beth Gross (Chair). In attendance were the following: Akram Alshawabkeh (Northeastern University), Mohan Bonala (Kansas State University), Susan Burns (University of Virginia, VA), Jeff Dunn (GeoSyntec Consultants, Walnut Creek, CA), Jeff Evans (Bucknell University), Gary Foose (University of Cincinnati), Mo Gabr (North Carolina State University), Kimberly Gates (North Carolina State University), Beth Gross (GeoSyntec Consultants, Austin, TX), Ning Lu (Colorado School of Mines), Juan Quiroz (West Virginia University), Charles (Chuck) Shackelford (Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO), Chris Swan (Tuffs University), and Nazli Yesiller (Wayne State University).

Activities completed by the EGC during the past year were discussed.

a) Short Courses. Three short courses co-sponsored by the EGC were held this year.

Waste Containment Systems was offered by David Daniel, Craig Benson, and Chuck Shackelford in Denver during November 1999. (informal sponsorship)

Geosynthetic Clay Liners was offered by Chuck Shackelford and Craig Benson in Fort Collins during January 2000. (informal sponsorship)

Unsaturated Soils in Engineering Practice was offered by Del Fredlund, Ward Wilson, Sandra Houston, Craig Benson, Ny Chang, Chuck Shackelford, and Fernando Marinho on 4 August 2000 prior to GeoDenver 2000. (formal sponsorship)

b) Conference Sessions. The EGC sponsored two sessions, chaired by Chuck Shackelford, on flow and transport in unsaturated soils at GeoDenver 2000. The proceedings of these sessions and other sessions on unsaturated soils were compiled in *Advances in Unsaturated Geotechnics*, Geotechnical Special Publication No. 99, edited by Chuck Shackelford, Nien-Yen Chang, and Sandra Houston.

At the last meeting of the EGC (Urbana, June 1999), there was discussion of co-sponsoring sessions on groundwater control for construction at containment systems with the Groundwater Committee at the 2001 ASCE National Convention in Houston. This idea has since been dropped.

c) Conferences. At the last meeting of the EGC, there was discussion of co-sponsoring Geoenvironment 2010 with the Geosynthetics Committee and IFAI/NAGS. This conference may be part of Geosynthetics '05 or a separate conference. This conference is still being considered, as described below.

Future activities were discussed.

a) Short Courses. Three one-day short courses are proposed by the EGC.

Geoenvironmental Aspects of Unsaturated Soils, taught by Chuck Shackelford, Craig Benson, and others, is tentatively proposed for the October 2001 ASCE National Convention in Houston.

Geosynthetic Clay Liners taught by Chuck Shackelford and Craig Benson, is proposed for 2001/2002.

Alternate Cover Systems, taught by Craig Benson and others, is proposed for the November 2002 ASCE National Convention in Washington D.C.

b) Conference Sessions. The EGC proposes to sponsor sessions at the 2001 and 2002 ASCE National Conventions. These sessions are described below. The EGC also proposes to sponsor sessions at the Pan America/GI Congress scheduled for the summer of 2003. Potential sessions for this conference were not discussed.

Proposals were due for the 2001 Convention by July 2000. Beth Gross will contact Bob Gilbert to see if there is time/space for the EGC to sponsor one or two sessions. Potential Topics are: Remediation of Contaminated Sites in Soft Soils (Akram Alshawabkeh = session organizer) and Brownfield Site Redevelopment (Beth Gross = session organizer).

For the 2002 Convention, the following sessions on Containment Systems for In-Situ Remediation (i.e., a mini-conference) are proposed:

Low-Permeability Barriers (Mo Gabr = session organizer)

Low-Permeability Treatment Barriers (Jeff Evans and Chuck Shackelford = session organizers)

High-Permeability Treatment Fences (Susan Burns and Beth Gross = session organizers)

Subaqueous Barriers (Beth Gross and Chuck Shackelford = session organizers)

Alternative Cover Systems (Beth Gross = session organizer)

Relevant sessions may be co-sponsored by the Geosynthetics Committee. Mo Gabr, who is on the EGC and the Geosynthetics Committee, will coordinate this effort. The papers for these sessions will be compiled into a GSP edited by Beth Gross and other session organizers.

Sessions on air-based remediation (e.g., air sparging) are also proposed for the 2002 Convention. These sessions will be organized by Susan Burns. These sessions may be combined with other remediation-related sessions (e.g., remediation of contaminated sites in soft soils, with Akram Alshawabkeh as session organizer) to generate enough papers for a GSP.

There has not yet been a call for proposals for the conference. Beth Gross will coordinate the development of the proposals with the session organizers after a call for proposals has been released.

c) Conferences. The EGC discussed the potential for co-sponsoring two conferences.

UNSAT 2004, co-sponsored with the Soil Properties Committee as a GI specialty conference in summer/fall 2004. (UNSAT-2002, sponsored by the Brazilian Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the Federal University of Pernambuco, and the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, is scheduled for March 2002 in Recife, Brazil.) Beth Gross, Chuck Shackelford, and Molly Gibbs, who is on the EGC and the Soil Properties Committee, will take the lead in developing a proposal for this conference. The following ideas were generated on the conference:

2.5 days long

at Boise State University

co-sponsor with Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)

topics: laboratory and field measurement of properties, modeling, alternative cover design, field verification of site conceptual model/engineered cover systems

maybe include geotechnical aspects in parallel tracts

results in several GSPs

speakers include engineers, geologists, soil scientists, hydrologists

Geoenvironment 2010, co-sponsored with the Geosynthetics Committee and IFAI/NAGS in Feb or March 2005. John Bowers, who is Chair of the Geosynthetics Committee and

on the EGC, and John Paulson, who is on the Geosynthetics Committee, will draft a letter to IFAI and GI to request cooperation. If the response is favorable, an organizing committee will be established from the GI.

The Shallow Foundations Committee of the GI is proposing a mini-conference on expansive clay soils and vegetative influences on shallow foundations for the 2001 National Convention. The proposal was forwarded to the EGC so that we could coordinate potential sessions/papers with this committee. The topic was not considered relevant to the EGC; therefore, no action will be taken.

Akram Alshwabkeh volunteered to coordinate the awards nominations for the EGC. He indicated that he would email the awards information to the EGC members by the end of the month, and that the nomination forms would need to be returned to him by early September.

Beth Gross recommended that EGC members submit project-orientated articles to GeoStrata. She will contact John Paulson, who is on Editorial Board for the magazine, regarding potential articles etc.

Susan Burns volunteered to develop the EGC website. Beth Gross will provide her with the committee roster, meeting minutes, and other information.

Larry Holm briefly described the proposed budget process for the GI. He also indicated that the GI has budget for special projects (e.g., Dave Elton's GeoMagic CD).

Larry Holm indicated that the GI is compiling a list of codes and standards under development. This list should be available in the next couple of weeks. The EGC may consider participating in the development of relevant codes and standards.

EGC members should help increase the membership of non-engineering geo-professionals in the GI. We should also encourage all EGC members to be involved in committee activities. To this end, the EGC roster is being updated to remove members who do not have an interest in actively participating in committee activities. Please contact Beth Gross if you no longer want to participate in the EGC or if you want to recommend someone to serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held at the 2001 National Convention.

Submitted by Beth A. Gross, Chair of EGC  
5 September 2000