Gale Associates, Inc. Engineers and Planners

Waterproofing Below Grade in High Water Table Conditions

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# **Presentation Outline**

- Type of Structures and Specific Concerns
- Approaches to Sub-grade Waterproofing
- Design and Product Considerations
- Case Study Examples

# **Sub-grade Structures and Concerns**

- Hydrostatic pressure weight of water
- Storm water
- Capillary action





# **Sub-Grade Structures and Concerns**

- Foundation walls and footings
- Slabs on grade / split / mud
- Sump / elevator pits
- Pile and matt slab foundations
- Retaining walls
- Tunnels
- Parking garages / slurry walls
- Occupied below grade spaces

# **Key Concepts**

- Code requirements
- Tolerance to moisture
- Risk of leakage
- Redundancy in system

**Control of Ground and Storm Water** 

- Footing drains
- Under slab drains
- Dewatering during excavation
- Pumps and wells
- Back up power for pumps





POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SIDE WATERPROOFING

**Positive Side** 

- Bentonite clay
- Composite polymers
- Reinforced fluid
- Sheet membrane
- Cementitious
- Soil injection





Blindside (positive side)

Slabs

- Waste forms (walls and footings)
- Soldier pile and lagging / tie-backs
- Property line construction
- Shotcrete





**Negative Side** 

- Crystalline
- Metallic oxide
- Cementitious
- Injection

- **Integral Concrete Waterproofing**
- Secondary / tertiary redundancy
- Primary waterproofing for duct banks
- Dams, waterways, containment tanks
- .002" crack bridging capability

**Joint Water Stops** 

- Hydrophilic
- Bulb
- Consider joint movement
- Retrofit applications
- New to existing building transitions





**Code Requirements** 

- MA Building Code (5<sup>th</sup> edition): 1224.4; Groundwater Investigation
- 2010 Florida Building Code
- IBC/CT Building Code not less than 12" above the maximum elevation of the groundwater table
- Dampproofing vs. waterproofing
- Occupied spaces

**Geotechnical Data** 

- Design groundwater elevation seasonal highs and lows
- Backfill type and acceptability
- Soil backfill requirements
- Controlled compaction requirements
- Damage control

**Soil / Water Contamination and Testing** 

- Saltwater
- Brackish water / sulfates
- Petroleum
- Other chemicals (dry cleaning PCE, high alkaline, hard and soft water)
- PH testing

#### **Structural Configuration and Behavior**

- Active
- Passive
- System transitions

# **Design Considerations** Environmental Conditions

- Minimum application temperatures
- Freezing temperature; surface and ambient
- Precipitation
- Dust control

# **Design Considerations** Surface Preparation

- Concrete (honeycombing, form oils, form ties and tie wires, curing compounds, finish considerations, cold joints)
- Soil / fills (compaction, correct aggregate size, free draining, no clay in sub-base)
- Forms (soldier pile and lagging, sheet piling joints, tie-backs)
- Priming requirements

#### **Construction Sequence**

- Pits prior to slabs
- Footings / mats prior to walls
- Membrane laps and transitions
- Open time and exposure subject to damage

# **Design Considerations** Remedial Techniques

- Drill and pressure injection (high pressure)
- Exterior soil injection / curtain walling (low pressure)
- Negative side cementitious and crystalline
- Water plugs / patches
- Positive side (Extensive)

# Case Study Example – Florida Courthouse Basement

- Leak sources: slab penetrations and wall/floor joints
- Buoyant pressures caused heaving and buckling during storm related rising water tables
- Existing system: composite HDPE/Bentonite on positive/blind side, well point system







# Case Study Example – Florida Courthouse Basement

- Restoration options: injection, internal trench, raised floor, eliminate floor penetrations
- Lessons learned: design buoyant slab, detail slab penetrations, well-points needed back-up, continuity of waterproofing system

# Case Study Example – Electrical Vault Florida

- Leak sources: wall and floor joints, penetrations and openings
- Issues: storm impact on rising water table, age of existing construction and impractical positive-side solutions
- Existing system: multi-ply membrane without sub-surface drainage, urethane foam seals at penetrations



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# Case Study Example – Electrical Vault Florida

- Restoration options: negative-side crystalline slurry, seal open penetrations with hydrophilic sealant, manage water intrusion
- Lessons Learned: sub-surface drainage, pump system needed as back-up

# Case Study Example – Connecticut Beach Foundation

- Leak sources: slab and wall condensation
- Conditioning and condensate on poorly insulated concrete
- Specified system: bentonite sheet and dual waterstop





10 DETAIL - WATERPROOFING SCALE: 3" = 1'-0"









#### INSTALL VOLTEX CR WITH DARK GRAY (WOVEN) GEOTEXTILE AGAINST CONCRETE

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Hammonasset Beach State Park Visitor's Center Madison, CT



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# Case Study Example – Connecticut Beach Foundation

- Restoration options: ventilation, cementitious or crystalline
- Lessons learned: peer review and dew point analysis could have identified potential issues, add vapor retarder

# Case Study Example – Boston School Parking Garage

- Potential leak sources: pile and matt slab foundation, wall to slab transitions
- Water cut off wall did not function as intended
- Specified system: dual slab Bentonite at blindside, PVC/Bentonite composite on walls and Bentonite/HDPE on plaza













# Case Study Example – Boston School Parking Garage

- Restoration options: injection or negative side
- Lessons learned: prepare for worst case and potential movement, on-site construction monitoring required

# Summary

- Manage Storm and Groundwater
- Code, Tolerance, Risk and Redundancy
- Design Details
- Construction Monitoring

# Negligence

