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U.S. EPA Guidance In-Situ Capping – Chapter 5.0

- As of 2004, capping had been selected as a component of the remedy for 15 Superfund sites
- Chapter 5.0 of U.S. EPA's Contaminated Sediment Guidance provides detailed information and guidance on the appropriate factors for evaluating remedy selection and on remedial design and construction

Highlight 5-1: Some Site Conditions Especially Conducive to In-Situ Capping	
•	Suitable types and quantities of cap material are readily available
	Anticipated infrastructure needs (e.g., piers, pilings, buried cables) are compatible with cap
	Water depth is adequate to accommodate cap with anticipated uses (e.g., navigation, flood control)
	Incidence of cap-disrupting human behavior, such as large boat anchoring, is low or controllable
•	Long-term risk reduction outweighs habitat disruption, and/or habitat improvements are provided by the cap
•	Hydrodynamic conditions (e.g., floods, ice scour) are not likely to compromise cap or can be accommodated in design
•	Rates of ground water flow in cap area are low and not likely to create unacceptable contaminant releases
,	Sediment has sufficient strength to support cap (e.g., higher density/lower water content, depending on placement method)















	Hiahliaht Box 7-4
	Highlight 7-4: Sample Elements for Comparative Evaluation of Net Risk Reduction
	Elements Potentially Reducing Risk
•	Reduced exposure to bioavailable/bioaccessible contaminants
•	Removal of bioavailable/bioaccessible contaminants
•	Removal or containment of buried contaminants that are likely to become bioaccessible
	Elements Potentially Continuing or Increasing Risk
For N	INR:
:	Continued exposure to contaminants already at sediment surface and in food chain Potential for undesirable changes in the site's natural processes (e.g., lower sedimentation rate) Potential for contaminant exposure due to erosion or human disturbance
For Ir	n-Situ Capping:
	Contaminant releases during capping Continued exposure to contaminants currently in the food chain Other community impacts (e.g., accidents, noise, residential or commercial disruption) Worker risk during transport of cap materials and cap placement Releases from contaminants remaining outside of capped area Potential contaminant movement through cap Disruption of benthic community
For D	redging or Excavation:
	Contaminant releases during sediment removal, transport, or disposal Continued exposure to contaminants currently in the food chain Other community impacts (e.g., accidents, noise, residential or commercial disruption) Worker risk during sediment removal and handling Residual contamination following sediment removal Releases from contaminants remaining outside dredged/excavated area Disruption of benthic community









Cap Siting – Screening

- Navigation/Future Use
 - Conduct analysis similar to that used to define bridge heights and navigation depths
- Contaminant Stability
 - Significance of advection, deep bioturbation or other "fast" transport processes
- Sediment Stability
 - Conduct morphological analysis similar to bridge design
 - Supplement with geophysical measurements and assessments
 - Assess potential for exposure and risk of buried contaminants
- Buried Infrastructure
 - Evaluate need for access and danger of removal options
- Debris
 - Evaluate advantages of avoiding difficulties (resuspension/residual) of debris removal
- Water Depth
 - Evaluate both positive and negative aspects of depth reductions













*(Specific DEC Concern) Show equipment photo here

*(Specific DEC Concern) – resuspension less than for dredging and only surficial few inches exposed to resupension







Shear Stress Computations

For wide channels the Shear Stress, τ , at a specific cross-section is calculated by:

$$\tau \approx \gamma_w \cdot D \cdot S$$

 $> \gamma_w$ is the unit weight of water;

- D is the hydraulic radius of the river (for a wide channel equals the depth)
- \succ S is the slope of the River

 τ assumed proportional to flow conservative (overestimates τ)





Cap Armoring Criteria

- Top layer stability
 - Design velocity or stresses (e.g. 100 year flood)
 - $d_{50}(ft) = 1/4 \tau_c$ (lb/ft²) (Highway Research Board)
- Non-uniform size distribution $d_{85}/d_{15} > 4$
- Angular shape
- Maximum particle size <2 d₅₀
- Minimum particle size > 0.05 d₅₀
- Thickness > $1.5 d_{50}$
- Adjacent layers:d₅₀ (layer 1) / d₅₀ (layer 2) < 20
 To avoid washout of finer material
- Transition zone length: 5 times cap thickness










Velocity – In SMU 1 and 2 the recommended barrier wall is assumed to reduce velocity to 1 cm/yr, we evaluated a maximum velocity as double the assumed groundwater velocity with a barrier in place and for 0 cm/yr assuming the wall controls all upwelling in SMU 1 and 2. In the other SMUs we evaluated the maximum velocity predicted for each SMU which was typically found within 20 feet of the shore line. We also looked at velocities within 300 feet from shore and then greater than 300 feet from shore where the velocities were expected to be less than 2 cm/yr.

Concentrations – Average concentrations and maximum concentrations were evaluated in each SMU. Porewater sampling data was used where available. This was in SMU 1 and 7. In the other SMUs initial porewater concentrations were calculate from maximum and average sediment concentrations in the upper 100 cm, the area which is expected to have the most significant impact on the cap. We also looked at the maximum sediment concentrations at all depths, in most cases the sediment concentrations in the upper meter contained the maximum concentrations in those cases where the concentration at depth was higher we found no?? Exceedences (Caryn to double check-I did this in Atlanta but not since then). Sediment concentrations were divided by a site specific partitioning coefficient which was developed based on a Koc value determined from the porewater sampling and a SMU specific foc value developed from sampling results.





















Capping Operations

EPA/OSRTI Sediment Remedies: Capping – Technical Considerations for Evaluation and Implementation

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EPA Sediment Remedies Internet Seminar





Processes Critical to Successful Cap Implementation

- Control Sources First
- Equipment Selection for Placement
- Resuspension During Placement
- Slope Stability
- Bearing Capacity/ Displacement
- Mixing
- Consolidation
- Operational Capabilities

Resuspension During Placement

- Data collected at a few sites.
- Comparatively less than dredging resuspension.
- Can be managed and controlled.

Reference work sponsored by EPA Cincinnati Lab.





Placement to Avoid Displacement

- The Capping Placement Rule of Thumb:
 - Place cap in thin layers
 - Gradually build up the required cap thickness
- How Thin?
 - Not over 6 inches per lift
 - 1 to 2 inch lifts have been placed







Mixing Due to Placement

- Some surficial mixing of cap and CS will occur
- Placement of thin layers helps to minimize mixing
- Consider mixed layer in design



Consolidation

- Consider consolidation in monitoring placement operations and cap thickness over time.
- Use post-consolidation conditions for long term design evaluations.

Operational Capabilities

- Ability to place thin lifts
- Ability to place uniform thicknesses
- Ability to monitor placement



Placement Equipment and Techniques

- Conventional Placement
 - Hopper dredge
 - Pipeline
 - Barge
- Spreading Methods
- Submerged discharges





Placement Approach

Approach would depend on:

- Geotechnical properties of the CS
- Thickness of the cap component
- Water depth
- Hydrodynamics
- Slopes







90 m water depth













- Mock's Pond
- •Fabric, 2ft sand
- •8 lifts of 3 in.
- •8 in pipeline
- •16 ft diffuser
- •Photos by RETEC








PPT by Hartman





We employed conventional and simple placement techniques, even to place relatively thin caps

(Cap Thicknesses (Measured by core samples)		
Cap	Target	Observed	
	Thickness -in	in±σ	
Sand	12	9.3±3.2	
Aquablok	4	5.8±1.9	
Sand	6	5.3±1.8	
Apatite	6	5.2±1.8	
Sand	6	4.4±1.6	
Coke	1	1 (mat)	
Sand	6	6.4±1.4	

A summary of cap thicknesses and standard deviations as measured by hand cores after placement













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Capping Operations Plan

Lay out in detail how the cap will be constructed.

- Specific areas for cap placement
- Equipment and Placement Methods
- Sequence of placement (components and by area)
- Logistics
 - Sources for cap material
 - Transport of cap material to the site (rail, truck, barge, etc.)
 - Access and Staging Areas
 - Scheduling and Time Constraints (daily, weekly, seasonal)
- Construction Monitoring

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Cap Monitoring and Management Plan

- Construction/ Long Term/ Severe Event
- Approaches Bathy and Cores
- Cap Construction
 - Resuspension; cap thickness; mixing and displacement
- Long Term
 - Physical stability; chemical isolation;
- Severe Event
 - Triggers for storms, ice, etc.
- Written plan with management actions



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