

The Challenges of Field Application of Polyurea; Interior and Geotextile Applications

Dudley J Primeaux II, PCS
Lee Bower

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Application Considerations

- Project submittal work
 - 2 projects, over 1 year each in submittal work
- Travel distance to project
 - Not always in “back yard”
- Site Access / work schedule
 - Getting equipment in place
 - Other trades, location operation
- Installation challenges
 - Environmental and site issues



Polyurea Spray Projects

- **Project #1**, Wall Coating / Encapsulation
 - Project size: 90,000 ft² (8360 m²)
 - Applied film thickness: 100 mils (2.5 mm)
- **Project #2**, Polyurea/Geotextile Secondary Containment Lining
 - Project size: ~410,000 ft² (~38,090 m²)
 - Applied film thickness: 70 mils (1.8 mm)



Travel Distance

From Contractor Location to Project

- **Project #1**
- Cincinnati, Ohio to Amarillo, Texas
 - 1100 miles, or 1770 km (~ 20 hours)
- **Project #2**
- Ft. Myers, Florida to Albany, New York
 - 1400 miles, or 2250 km (~ 24 hours)
- **For Comparison:**
- Hirtshals, Denmark to Villach, Austria
 - 1610 km, or 1000 miles



Safe Travel / Arrival



Pure Polyurea Systems

- **Project #1, Wall Coating / Asbestos Encapsulation**
 - Fast set, aromatic system
 - High thermal properties, coal-fired power plant
 - Hard, low surface energy finish, ease of cleaning
- **Project #2, Polyurea/Geotextile Liner**
 - High elongation, good tensile, vehicular traffic
 - Flexible at low temperatures
 - Very low linear shrinkage, < 0.1%
 - Enhanced color stability
 - Not a hybrid system, true polyurea
- Not all polyurea systems are the same!



Site Access

- **Project #1**

- 11th Floor of coal fire power plant, 3 buildings
- No freight elevator, equipment placements
- Most of plant in operation



Site Access

- **Project #1**

- 11th Floor of coal fire power plant, 3 buildings
- No freight elevator, equipment placements
- 2 spray units used, relocate in each building
- Material supplied in totes / IBC's



Site Access

- **Project #2**

- “wide open” area



Application location,
~ 410,000 ft² / 38,000 m²



Site Access

- **Project #2**

- “wide open” area
- Active fuel storage area
- 2 trailer units used, staged
- Material supplied in drums, 4 truck loads
- Rolls of geotextile to move / place



Surface Preparation

- **Wall Coating / Encapsulation**

- SSPC-SP 1, Solvent Cleaning
- Used LP WC with hand brushes (SSPC-SP 2, Hand Tool Cleaning)
- Removed loose debris and coal dust
- Minimized asbestos paint disruption / removal
- Excellent bonding noted



Surface Preparation

- **Polyurea / Geotextile Lining**

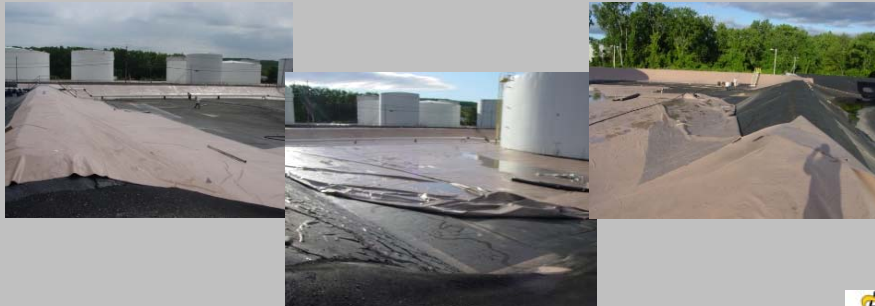
- SSPC-SP 3, Power Tool Cleaning
- “Bobcat” fitted with power-roller brush
- Removed loose gravel, knocked down asphalt heave
- Geotextile covered the asphalt substrate



Application Issues

- **The Mighty Wind!**

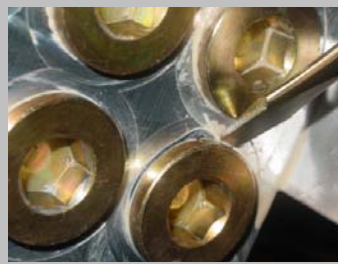
- Lifted a previously applied section
- Poor termination technique



Equipment Issues

- **Project #1**

- Blown resin heater plugs, factory equipment issue
- Off-ratio application, clean-up
- Proper training prevented application problems



Equipment Issues

- **Project #2**

- Broken Clevis', proportioner
- Off-ratio application of material, re-spray / repair
- Prepared, had replacement parts!



Myth of Polyurea & Moisture

- **Project #1**

- Complete delamination of wall area
- Substrate temperature **not** above dew point
- Thin sheet of ice present (invisible)
- Remove, prep & re-spray



Myth of Polyurea & Moisture

- **Project #1**

- What is the required substrate temperature to dew point temperature difference?
- Substrate **MUST** be 5°F (3°C) above, and rising, the dew point temperature!
- Moisture and / or ice on substrate will inhibit bonding of polyurea



Myth of Polyurea & Moisture

- **Project #2**

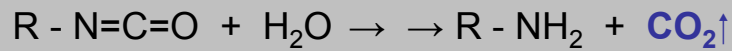
- Foaming of applied polyurea
- Water in Resin drums, loose bungs & rain
- Infamous “purple” liquid
- Cut-out and repair



Myth of Polyurea & Moisture

- **Project #2**

- Eventhough a **Polyurea**, if you put / get water in the system, it may react and cause issues.....



Spray in Progress



Polyurea Spray Projects

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Project Completion

- **Project #1**
 - Completed in 26 days, 7 days ahead of schedule!
 - Used various high output and low output spray guns
 - Most time spent moving equipment



Project Completion

- **Project #2**

- Completed in 47 days, on schedule!
- Used single type configured spray gun



Conclusion

- Don't always just start
 - Lots of preparation & pre-conferences
- Properly planned / scheduled projects
 - Can be easily completed on-time
- Prepared training / spare parts
 - Reduces downtime and re-work
- Professional Work !!!



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