Acrylic Polymers and their use to control fugitive dust and metals leaching on dry tailing impoundments

Presented by:
Environmental Products and Applications
About: Environmental Products and Applications

- Over 25 years in business
- Have successfully treated over 15,000 acres of mine tailings
- Proprietary Blend Codes
- Manufacturers of Envirotac line of polymers
- Envirotac II, received the moniker “Rhino Snot” when it was deployed in Camp Rhino to combat dust.
Environmentally safe
Applies out of anything that sprays water
98% Effective at controlling dust
Great Tensile Strength
Dries odorless
Applications last for years
UV resistant
Cost effective
The Need to Control Fugitive Dust
Particulate Matter (PM10 & PM2.5)

- What is it?
- Particulates that are suspended in the air and can be breathed deep into the lungs
- Particle size of 10 Microns or less
- Larger particulate falls out of the air quickly, while PM10 & 2.5 emissions remain suspended in the air
How does it effect us?

- Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less can be lodged deep in the lungs, and due to absorption the particulate can reach the bloodstream unfiltered, and can cause serious health problems.

- The effects of inhaling Particulate Matter that have been widely studied in humans and animals and include: asthma, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, premature delivery, birth defects, premature death.
Effects of Fugitive Dust on a Mine Site

It's more than just a nuisance—

- Reduced visibility, safety hazard.
- Health effects on humans and wildlife.
- Increases the need for maintenance on equipment.
- Increases carbon footprint, via constantly running water trucks and spraying water.
- Costly fines.
- Negatively impacts image to surrounding communities.
How acrylic polymers control dust

- When applied acrylic polymers will penetrate into the soil. Upon curing it will bond the soil particles with a nano polymerized grid. This will “laminate” the soil particles in place and prevent the soil from becoming airborne.
Specialized Tailing Equipment
Metal leaching and Acid Rock Drainage (ARD)

- Rain and snow can turn the fine rock and soil deposits acidic and leach off to water sources such as streams or ground water reserves. Also rain and snow may leach metal salts into water supplies.
Why use an acrylic polymer to mitigate or prevent Metal leaching and ARD.

- Acrylic polymers will coat soil and rock particles in a plastic resin film preventing water from saturating the particles.
- Acrylic polymers will keep the soil and rock particles in place and prevent migration.
C-Factor Results:  \(<0.001\)

per- ASTM D 6459 Standard Test Method For Determination of Rolled Erosion Product (RECP) Performance in protecting Hillslopes From Rainfall-Induced Erosion
Case Study: Hazardous Soils Dust Control
Washington Closure Hanford
The Hanford site is a 586 square mile area located in southeastern Washington. The site once hosted various national weapon complexes and at its peak consisted of over 16 active major facilities. While in operation these activities contaminated soils with radioactive materials such as Plutonium and Uranium. It is now one of the largest nuclear cleanup efforts in the world. Environmental Products & Applications was called to eliminate fugitive dust throughout the site with the use of Acrylic Polymers.
Active Operations at the Hanford site included:

- Spraying all inactive areas to prevent fugitive dust.
- Spraying active areas to limit the dust being generated.
- Spraying slopes to prevent sediment loss.
- Spraying Road ways to prevent dust, potholing, ruts, and other common problems presented when soils are not stabilized.
Envirotac ideal for growing vegetation on Tailings

Germination 2-5 days earlier

Reduction in soil losses due to strong precipitation

Presented more than 20% higher germination in grasses

Prevention of sediment losses due to wind erosion
David Johnson-FHI

- Has used Envirotac II for over 17 years on tailings, stock piles, and access roads.
Surface Spray holds up to high winds as shown by the United States Military

Rhinos of MWSS-374 Slather National Forest in Snot
RT: 00;01;48
Video by: Jeremy Fishell
Story and Edit by: MC1 Christopher Okula
Organization: Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division
SB1: Marine Col. Patrick Gramuglia,
   Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

Questions?
Contact: MC1 Okula @ christopher.okula@navy.mil
Mine Haul Roads
Benefits for Haul Roads

Increase compaction
Increases load bearing weight
Repels Water
Not Slippery When Wet
Eliminates need to Re-grade
Texas Commissioners
Roadway Slope Stabilization / Erosion Control
Based on the results of testing using simulated wheel loading on soils treated with the dust suppressants and the field application the following conclusions can be made:

- Envirotac II From Environmental Products was the most effective dust control product, showing a 97% improvement over the untreated baseline.
In-house soils lab
Available Worldwide
Thank You!

John Vermillion
Jeremiah Vermillion

Environmental Products and Applications
La Quinta California