

Bentonite Slurry Construction Product Expertise with Economical Solutions



PROJECT DETAILS

Potash Corp Rocanville West Expansion

Contractor: RECON

LOCATION

Potash Corporation of
Saskatchewan Inc. (Potash Corp)

PRODUCTS USED

PREMIUM GEL®

Bentonite Drilling
Slurry and Additives

BACKGROUND:

The Potash Corp Rocanville West Expansion Project was designed to increase the production capacity of the Rocanville potash mine. During the potash mining and refining process a bi-product is produced that consists of salt tailings and brine, in a matrix of trace silts and clay. The excess salt and fines removed during the mining processes are stored at the Rocanville facility in what is referred to as the Tailings Management Area (TMA). In 1998 a 4.6 km (2.86 mile) slurry wall extending 15-20 m (49–65 ft) below grade was installed on east, south and west sides of the TMA to prevent the salt tailings and brine from contaminating existing ground water and aquifers.

Remedial Construction Services (RECON) operated as the slurry wall contractor chosen to construct the 10,800 m (6.51 mile) slurry wall. The new slurry wall extends 25-55 m (82-180 ft) below existing elevations, which is significantly deeper than that constructed in 1998. Once constructed, the Rocanville facility will house the second largest slurry cut off trench ever constructed with over 342,000 square meters (3,681,257 ft²) of wall.

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CHALLENGES:

Supplying product in a shortened timeframe with an aggressive production schedule.

Potash Corp Rocanville West Expansion project was designed to be a 4 year project, beginning in June 2009 and concluding in November 2012. During this time however, operations would only be able to take place 6 out of the 12 months each year due to the extreme winter climate. Given the yearly shutdown, the actual working timeframe drops to approximately 24 months. RECON would need over 230 tons of CETCO PREMIUM GEL® bentonite per week to fuel their aggressive production schedule and fulfill the 20,000 tons the job requires.

SOLUTION:

CETCO supplied the PREMIUM GEL bentonite in 3,800 lb super sacks. Trucking the bentonite provided a more economical solution with greater versatility and delivering super sacks on pallets made it easier and faster for RECON to unload the product.

RESULT:

CETCO has consistently provided RECON with the highest quality bentonite delivered on time, allowing them to make un-interrupted progress.

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