

Andy Cumming  
NRCB Approval Officer  
Lethbridge, AB  
[andy.cumming@nrcb.ca](mailto:andy.cumming@nrcb.ca)

RE: Arie Muilwijk  
NE 10-9-27 W4

November 26, 2020

Hi Andy,

Thank you for accepting my offer on November 23, 2020 to provide you with a written analysis of the average calculated permeability on page 4 of the Compliance Report – Roller Compacted Concrete for Calf Shelter, Calf/Feeder Pens (dated November 6, 2020), from Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions (“Wood”).

#### Wood information

Wood stated ....“the average calculated permeability through the 150mm thick RCC mat would be  $9.0 \times 10^{-8}$  cm/sec.”

Wood provided:

- Overall area of RCC mat of 10m by 10m
- A 20mm wide crack in both directions in the overall area
- RCC permeability is  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  cm/sec
- Crack permeability is  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  cm/sec

Wood did not provide the methodology used or the calculations that arrived at their stated average calculated permeability.

#### Analysis

An applicable methodology that uses area and permeability is Darcy’s Law:

$$Q = kiA \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(Equation 1)}^1$$

where

Q is the flow rate

k is the hydraulic conductivity/permeability

i is the hydraulic gradient

A is the area

As the information provided by Wood are inputs into Equation 1, I will use Darcy’s Law methodology and provide my calculations in an attempt to duplicate the Wood result for average calculated permeability of  $9.0 \times 10^{-8}$  cm/sec. In this report, I will refer to this value as the overall permeability ( $k_o$ ).

---

<sup>1</sup> Groundwater, Freeze and Cherry, Page 16.

I assumed that the flow rate through the overall area ( $Q_o$ ) will be equal to the sum of the flow rate through the area of the cracks ( $Q_c$ ) and the flow rate through the uncracked area ( $Q_u$ ). In equation form, this assumption reads:

$$Q_o = Q_c + Q_u \quad \text{(Equation 2)}$$

Expanding equation 2 by substituting equation 1 for each Q provides:

$$k_o i_o A_o = k_c i_c A_c + k_u i_u A_u \quad \text{(Equation 3)}$$

Darcy's Law is valid for analysis of liners for solid manure. However, making a reasonable numeric assumption of a hydraulic gradient ( $i$ ) for solid manure is difficult because it requires information (or assumptions) about hydraulic head. Instead, I make the assumption that the hydraulic gradient ( $i$ ) will be the same for the flow rate in the overall area, the cracked area, and the uncracked area:

$$i_o = i_c = i_u \quad \text{(Equation 4)}$$

Substituting equation 4 into equation 3 (all hydraulic gradients would then be  $i_o$ ), then dividing both sides of equation 3 by  $i_o$  yields:

$$k_o A_o = k_c A_c + k_u A_u \quad \text{(Equation 5)}$$

Table 1 lists the data provided by Wood, and the assigned variables and resulting calculations (if any). All of the variables in Equation 5 have a numeric value listed in Table 1, except the variable I am trying to determine ( $k_o$ ).

Table 1. Assigned variables and calculations

Wood data	Variable and Abbreviation	Calculation (if any)
Overall area of RCC mat of 10m by 10m	Area overall ( $A_o$ )	10m x 10m= 100m <sup>2</sup>
Two cracks 20mm wide in overall area	Area of cracks ( $A_c$ )	20mm=0.02m x 2 x 10m = 0.4m <sup>2</sup>
	Uncracked area ( $A_u$ )	$A_u = A_o - A_c = 100 - 0.4 =$ 99.6m <sup>2</sup>
RCC permeability is $1 \times 10^{-9}$ cm/sec	Permeability of uncracked RCC ( $k_u$ )	
Crack permeability is $1 \times 10^{-4}$ cm/sec	Permeability of cracks ( $k_c$ )	

Dividing both sides of equation 5 by  $A_o$  yields

$$k_o = [k_c A_c + k_u A_u] / A_o \quad (\text{Equation 6})$$

Substituting numeric values from Table 1 into Equation 6 and solving

$$k_o = [(1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm/sec} \times 0.4 \text{ m}^2) + (1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm/sec} \times 99.6 \text{ m}^2)] / 100 \text{ m}^2$$

$$k_o = [4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{ cm/sec} + 9.96 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2 \text{ cm/sec}] / 100 \text{ m}^2$$

$$k_o = [4.00996 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{ cm/sec}] / 100 \text{ m}^2$$

$$k_o = 4.00996 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm/sec}$$

My analysis indicates that the overall permeability ( $k_o$ ) for RCC using Darcy's Law is  $4 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec ( $40 \times 10^{-8}$  cm/sec).

Using the methodology and assumptions listed above, I was not able to duplicate the Wood result for average calculated permeability/overall permeability of  $9.0 \times 10^{-8}$  cm/sec.

In closing, please contact me if you have any questions.

*Scott Cunningham*

Scott Cunningham, P.Eng., P.Ag.  
NRCB Environmental Specialist  
[scott.cunningham@nrcb.ca](mailto:scott.cunningham@nrcb.ca)