There are numerous examples of how effective Geotube® dewatering technology can be in municipal applications. In Grants Pass, OR, Geotube® dewatering technology was used at a water treatment facility to remove alum sludge from a 2-acre lagoon and a sediment basin. For this project, Geotube® containers were set up in several locations on the facility to take advantage of available space (in one area, the containers were even curved around a bend).

By using Geotube® dewatering technology, the facility was able to manage the dewatering process at its own pace, using its existing staff. The process allowed the facility to dry its alum sludge to 28% TS, which allowed easy removal to a landfill.

In Jekyll Island, GA, 400,000 gallons of anaerobically digested sludge had to be removed from the primary and secondary digesters for digester modifications. The sand drying beds available at the facility would not provide the capacity to do this in the time allowed. The Geotube® containers fit into the facility’s existing drying beds and made the process simple.
Dewatering with Geotube® technology is a three-step process. In the confinement stage, the Geotube® container is filled with dredged waste materials. The Geotube® container’s unique fabric confines the fine grains of the material.

In the dewatering phase, excess water simply drains from the Geotube® container. The decanted water is often of a quality that can be reused or returned for processing or to native waterways without additional treatment.

In the final phase, consolidation, the solids continue to densify due to desiccation as residual water vapor escapes through the fabric. Volume reduction can be as high as 90 percent.

Geotube® MT containers were used in six of the facility’s seven drying beds to increase capacity and dewatering efficiency. By doing this, the operator was able to empty the digesters in the shortest amount of time, while staying well within budgets allotted for the project.

Dewatering was so efficient, in fact, that the operator had to install a sump pump in the drying beds to remove the excess water draining from the Geotube® containers.

“We have done projects ranging from small roll-off applications to Geotube® containers hundreds of feet long,” said Tom Stephens, Vice President of Business Development for TenCate, manufacturer of Geotube® dewatering technology. “Municipal water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities are particularly good applications for this technology, because of its flexibility, simple operation, and low cost.

Stephens said that TenCate Geotube has a presentation that explains the entire dewatering process with Geotube® dewatering technology, along with specific examples of how successful it has been. The presentation can be made by a TenCate Geotube representative to interested groups.

A simple test can be used to determine how well the dewatering technology will work with a particular material. A TenCate Geotube representative can provide suggestions as to the best dewatering approaches.

To learn more, call 1-888-795-0808 or visit www.geotube.com.

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