

Anchorage Regional Landfill Leachate Minimization Project

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UAA College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

| Anchorage Regional Landfill |

(aka ARL)



Anchorage Regional Landfill

- Operating since 1987
- Municipal Solid Waste for all Anchorage Municipality
- 300,000 tons per year
- 137 out of 166 acres active
- Remaining Life – 25 years



| Landfills & Leachate |



Leachate collection piping networks

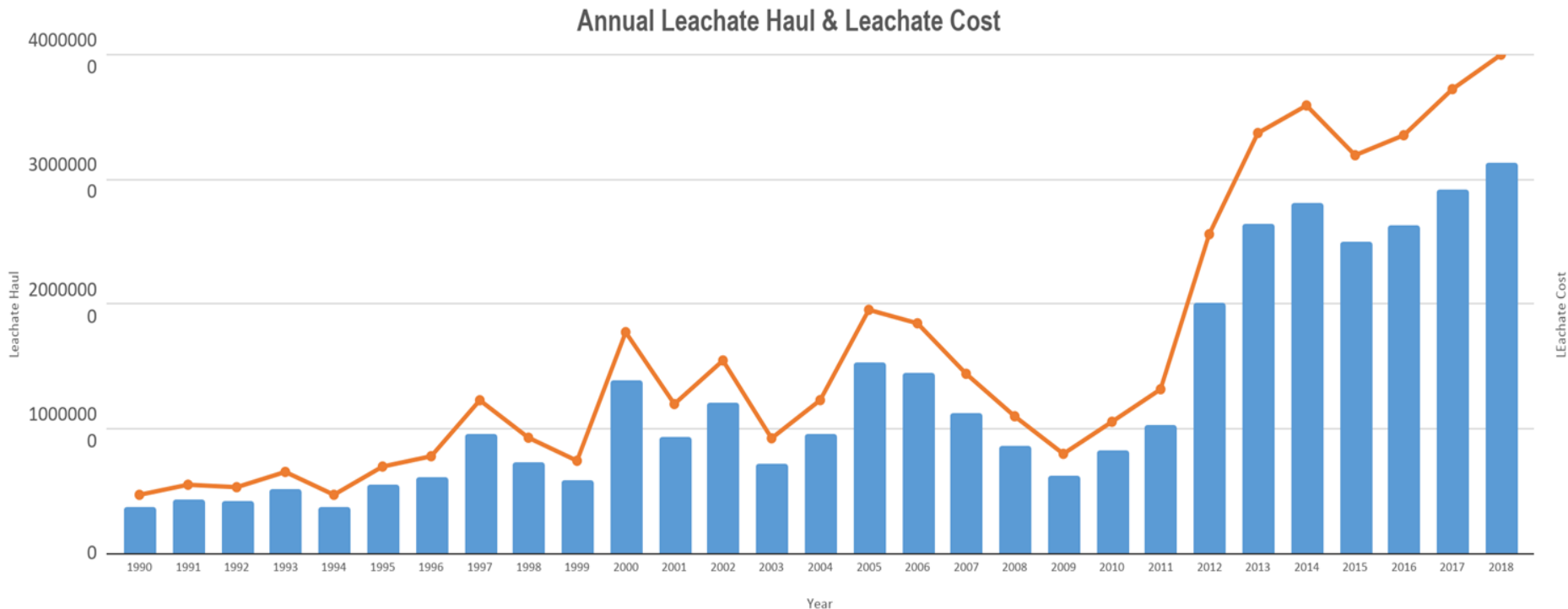
- Carefully engineered structure
- Landfill layers
- Leachate Cycle
- Precipitation & Water content are main contributors



[Anchorage Regional Landfill's Leachate Problem]

→ Past 32 Years: 370 million gallons total leachate generated & \$16 million for transport & treatment

→ Next 25 Years: \$34-\$40 million projected



|Why Leachate is Everyone's Problem|

- Anchorage Regional Landfill – Municipality owned
- ARL is the ONLY landfill servicing Greater Anchorage Area
- Hauling method cannot continue
- Waste was generated by US

| Project Objective |

**Reduction of
Leachate
Generation**

- **Assessing Alternatives**
- **Selecting a Design Alternative**
- **Operational Plan**
- **Leachate Reduction Estimates**

|Project Methodology & Approach|

Two objectives:

1.

Minimization
of Leachate at
ARL

2.

Utilization of
On-Site
Materials

→ Two Facility Actions

1.

Alternative
Cover with
Recycled
Materials

2.

Public
Awareness
Campaign



|Recommended Facility Action A|

Reduce leachate generation → Reduce permeability of Side Slopes

- Street-sweepings for smooth surface on slopes
- Spray waste latex paint
- Prevents approx. 32% precipitation that becomes leachate



[The Experiment]



- Test effectiveness of paint for reducing permeability
- Boxes with interior screens matching exterior slope
- Rainfall simulated
- Runoff → “Precipitation”



[The Box]



Wire Screen & Mesh cover



Box 1 Painted Gravel and Street Sweepings:

Paint Thickness	50 mil
Precipitation	5.96 L
Runoff	1.91 L
% Diverted	32%

- ✓ Smooth slope
- ✓ Minimal Sloughing



Box 2 Previously Painted Gravel

Paint Thickness	75 mil
Precipitation	5.76 L
Runoff	0.21 L
% Diverted	3.65%



- ✓ Rough slope surface
- ✓ No sloughing observed



|Experiment Conclusions|

- Use gravel as a base layer and street sweepings on top to create smooth surface
- Apply paint in layers to prevent sloughing
- Paint should be applied to a thickness of at least 50 mil

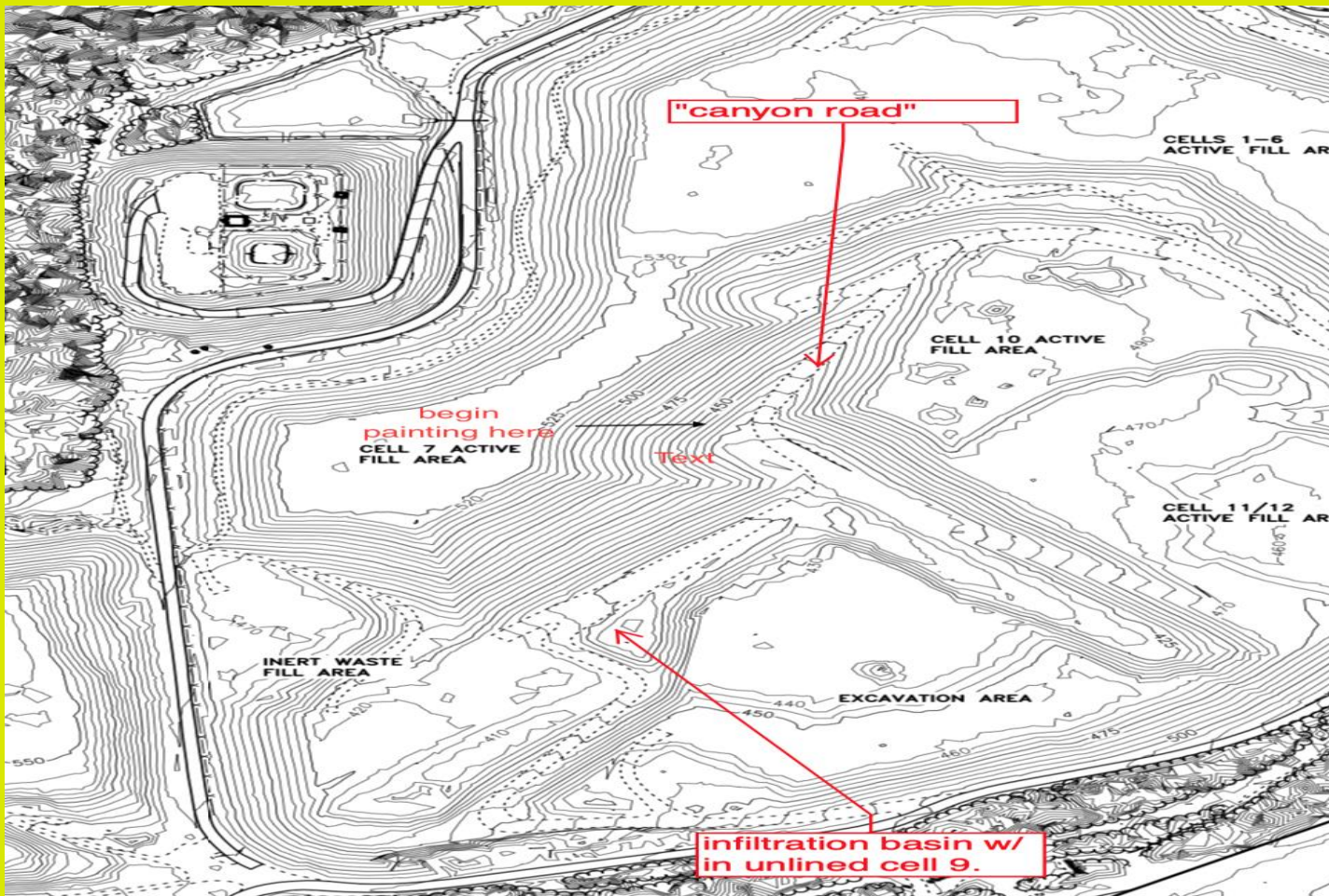


|Timeline of Application|

- Landfill receives about enough material to paint **4 acres/yr**
- **10 years** to completion
- Start in spring when the bulk of street sweeping material is delivered
- Paint should be applied in warm weather



[Application Area]



|Cost Analysis|

Cost Estimates		
Machine to Apply Paint		\$70,000
Labor Estimates		\$16,000
Labor	\$1600/year x 10 years	
Estimated Completion Requirement		\$86,000

→ Using Recycled Waste Materials

- Latex Paint Intake
- Street Sweepings Intake

→ Costs generated include Labor & Specialized Machinery



| Projected Leachate Savings |

- 25% total leachate from seepage through slopes
- Slopes absorb 211,000 gal leachate per acre currently
- **Painted slopes** should absorb **67,000 gal leachate** per acre

	Cumulative Leachate Saved	Cumulative Savings
<u>Year 1 (4 acres painted)</u>	574,000 gal	\$25,000.30
<u>Year 5 (20 acres painted)</u>	8,600,000 gal	\$379,000
<u>Year 10 (36.75 acres painted)</u>	31,00,000 gal	\$1,400,00



|Recommended Facility Action B|

Reduced Liquid Waste Campaign

Help reduce liquid in landfill (3 ways)

What if? 1:2 (residential:commercial)

= **2% waste decrease**



Public Outlook

Overall **positive** response from Feb. 2018 survey of 500 customers:

-60% **composting.**

-**Education** requests

-Mandatory **recycling**



Comparing Similar Strategies

Example: Recycling and Organics
Commercial Waste Reduction Program

= \$25,000-40,000

- Our proposed campaign: **63% less \$**
- Minimal impact on disposal capacity of
SWS and MOA



Cost

15,000 customers:

-\$500 insert

-\$300 Graphic design

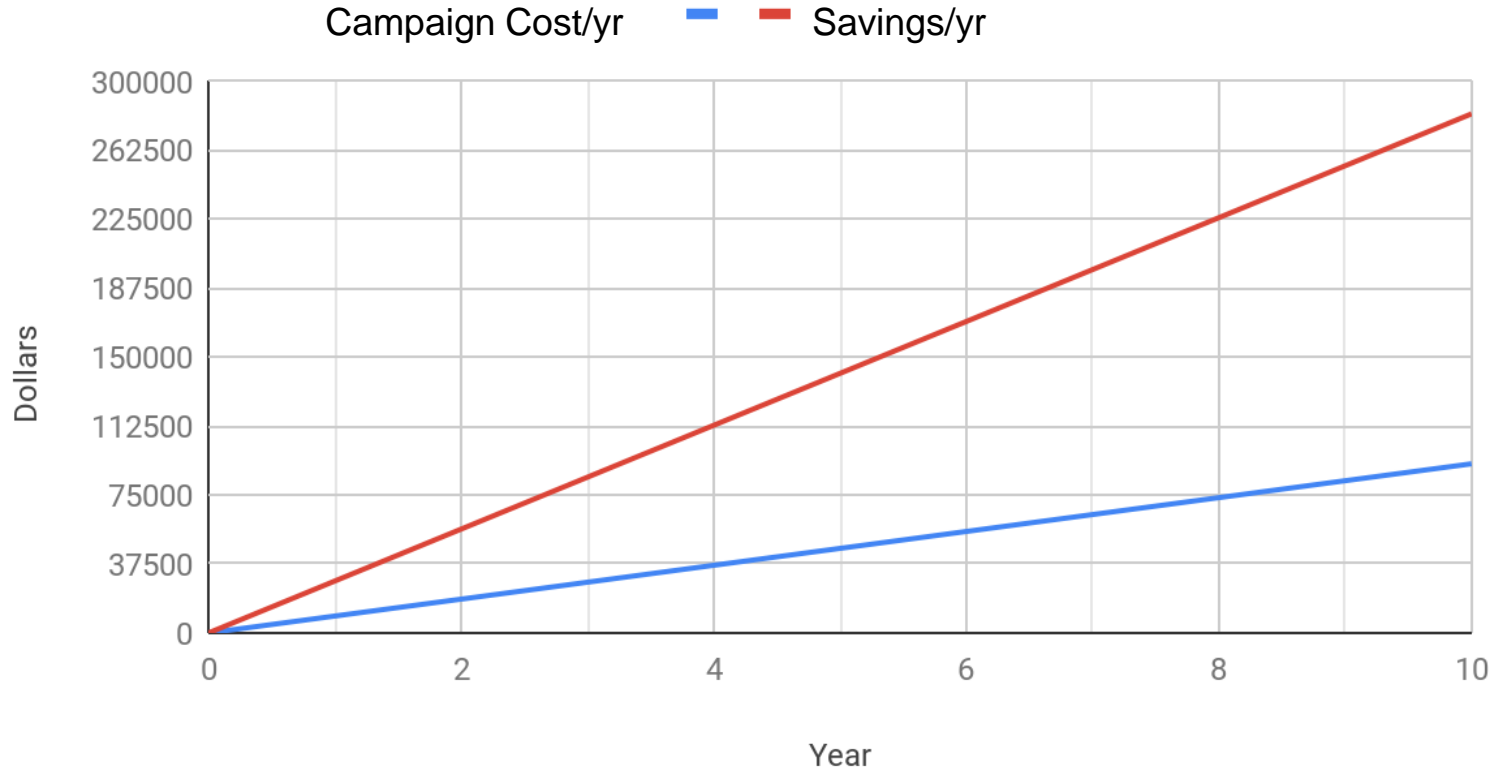
-\$500-\$1000 radio PSAs, 3-5 billable hours

1 year plan total = \$7200 to \$9200.



\$28,230
per year
saved
With a
\$9,200
campaign

Cumulative Campaign Cost vs. Savings



Why?

“Once the water is in, it’s there forever.”

- Target sources of liquids in ARL: precipitation & SWS customers.
- Reduce leachate production by **2% (minimum)**
- Preventative measures: **Reduce the annual leachate hauls and ultimately extend landfill life.**

|Internal Company Operations|



- Initial Hour Estimate – 85 Hours
- Initial Project Cost Estimates - \$5,000
- Halfway Hour Estimate – 100 Hours
- Halfway Project Cost - \$31,000
- Final Hour Total – 210 Hours
- Final Project Cost - \$20,000



Facility Recommended Actions

- Combination of both actions reduces the most leachate
- Ensures happy & involved stakeholders



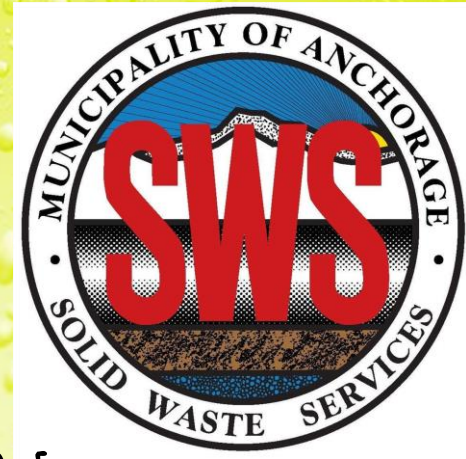
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