



4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302-1502
703-379-2480;
Fax: 703-379-7563
www.agiweb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2011

Contact: Megan Sever
msever@agiweb.org

EARTH: Geotextile Structures – From Sludge to Shoreline Protection to Surfing

Alexandria, VA – What do geology and textiles have in common? More than you might think. Since the 1980s, coastal, ocean and hydraulic engineers have been reinforcing coastlines and cleaning up contaminated water from dredge materials and other sludges and slurries with a revolutionary fabric that combines the strength of certain textiles with geoscientific know-how. So far, geotextile structures have been an integral tool in protecting our delicate coastlines; however, the relative infancy of the innovation leaves many questions unanswered about how these geotechnical marvels will interact with the natural environments they are built to protect.

November's issue of EARTH magazine digs deeper to find out more about the advancements and challenges facing geotextiles in the future. How will differing environments of wind, sun and surf affect the utility of geotextile structures? And, if these tubes should rip or fail, how dangerous are geotextile structures for fragile ecosystems and even human activities? For more information on the featured article, click [here](#) or go online to <http://www.earthmagazine.org/earth/article/5c6-7db-b-e>.

Geotextile structures not your bag? Check out more stories in this month's issue of EARTH magazine to learn more about unearthing the ghosts at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico; and to hit the road with author Castlen Kennedy as she travels 4,200 kilometers cross-country in a natural gas powered SUV to test the alternative to traditional petroleum-fueled vehicles. The November issue of EARTH magazine is available online now at <http://www.earthmagazine.org/digital/>.

###

Keep up to date with the latest happenings in Earth, energy and environment news with EARTH magazine online at <http://www.earthmagazine.org/>. Published by the American Geosciences Institute, EARTH is your source for the science behind the headlines.

The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.