



Interview

PETER BOND, SENIOR PROJECT DIRECTOR AT LEDCOR

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Leducor was awarded the construction of two major commercial development projects in Tsawwassen, British Columbia (Canada). Could you tell us more about them?

P.B.: The Tsawwassen First Nation, the first of the First Nations self-governing municipalities, developed a comprehensive community plan that accommodates residential, industrial, retail and mixed use developments. The construction of the Tsawwassen Mills and Tsawwassen Commons shopping malls is part of this plan. They are located on a 13.7 hectare site in the Fraser River Delta, an area at high earthquake risk, in which the upper 11 metre layer of the soil profile consists mainly of silty sand. Stone columns were installed to mitigate soil liquefaction at the Tsawwassen Mills site and wick drains were installed in soft clay layers at Tsawwassen Commons.

What were the main challenges of the projects and how did Geopac respond to them?

P.B.: The main challenges for both projects were twofold. The size of the projects made the logistics of providing so much material and keeping the schedule flowing difficult. From a geotechnical point of view, Leducor was looking for a reputable contractor with the necessary resources to install vertical wick drains and stone columns. Geopac stood out by offering the most cost-effective solution. Rather than using dry bottom feed vibro replacement, as initially planned, Geopac proposed to use the wet top feed vibro replacement method. This allowed the other contractors to work at a steady rate and enabled the company to hand over the projects on schedule.

One year after, how do you consider your partnership with Geopac?

P.B.: Throughout the project, Geopac’s teams worked extremely well with our geotechnical engineer. By proactively making proposals and adapting to change, they helped remove the pressure and mitigated the issues inherent in this type of project. Upon completion of the Tsawwassen Mills stone column works, we renewed our confidence in Geopac to carry out the wick drain job at the Commons. We are known to have a very high standard of safety, second to none. Geopac met and, for the majority of the project, even exceeded our safety requirements.

Geopac. As a subsidiary of Menard in Canada, Geopac offers proven expertise in ground improvement. For more than 40 years Geopac has provided its clients with soil improvement solutions for projects of varying size and complexity. At Tsawwassen Mills, Geopac mobilised five vibro rigs to meet the challenging schedule requirements. At Tsawwassen Commons, Geopac provided a custom-built, wick drain installation rig to achieve a record depth of 45 metres in the Fraser River Delta soils.