

Bottom Ash Use in Utility Joint Trench Operation

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Abstract

The use of Bottom ash in backfilling utility joint trenches is the combined efforts of several departments working together to solve two different problems. First problem, find a cheaper alternative to sand; second problem, find cheaper disposal means for bottom ash.

The electric distribution arm of The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co (CG&E), subsidiary of Cinergy Corp., has used sand for years in backfilling joint trench utilities of gas, electric, telephone, and CATV. New regulations were going to require more sand to be used increasing the cost of the joint trench operation.

The By-Products arm of CG&E is always looking for lower cost disposal of its bottom ash.

These two groups have been working on other projects together for years and at an erosion control meeting the two groups were talking about sand when the idea was created, why not use bottom ash in place of sand?

After much testing, discussion and a few trials, it was determined bottom ash was a safe and cheaper alternative to sand in the use in utility joint trenching saving over \$7/ton versus using sand.

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