



SOIL STABILIZATION AND SOIL DRYING FOR THE WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRY

E. J. Breneman, L.L.C. has extensive experience in the gas and oil industry, stabilizing well over 100 pads for well drilling, water impoundments, compressor stations as well as the Cracker Plant in western Pennsylvania. Additionally, we have stabilized well over 500 miles of roadways and lease roads utilized by gas and oil operators. As the energy industry expands into alternate sources such as wind and solar farms, E. J. Breneman is actively involved in introducing these processes to wind and solar operators. Stabilizing access roads, crane pads, turbine pads, solar panel pads and laydown areas provides significant savings to the industry.

Soil stabilization and soil drying allows operators to utilize existing soils by converting unsuitable soils to suitable soils by introducing Portland Cement or Quicklime. This eliminates the need to remove unsuitable soil and replace with aggregate or suitable material thus eliminating material that has to be landfilled. Additionally, the impact on the road system of the surrounding communities is lessened by reducing truck traffic required by using materials already on site. By utilizing the stabilization process, the amount of stone required on access roads, pads and laydown areas can be significantly reduced providing additional savings. The stabilization process is a permanent alteration to the soils which provides a long-term maintenance savings once the site is operational.

Soil stabilization and soil drying are a natural fit for the solar and wind industry as they provide an environmentally friendly process utilizing existing materials and reducing the amount of manufactured materials required thereby saving fuel, ancillary damage to surrounding roads and conserving landfill space. They truly are a green construction alternative to a green alternative energy sector.

From a construction aspect, soil stabilization and soil drying allow contractors to stay on schedule. Rather than waiting for soils to dry out after a rain or snow event, stabilization can continue the day after a rain event and once an area is stabilized and sealed the area will remain stabilized. This provides a safe platform for operations to work from without being in the mud.

As the industry begins to ramp up and site selection includes many areas with significant amounts of unsuitable soils, the proposed use of stabilization is increasing. While many wind and solar farms are in the initial stages of design, bidding or construction, we have seen an increase in requests for pricing.

To date we have completed work on the Cassadaga Wind Farm in upstate New York and have priced over 15 additional wind farms in New York, Ohio and Michigan. Additionally, we have priced over 10 solar farms in Ohio and New York. Most of these projects have not yet started construction or are in the initial stages of construction.

Contact us to see how these processes can produce an environmentally friendly construction method while reducing down days caused by weather and providing significant cost savings and a safer site.

For additional information:

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