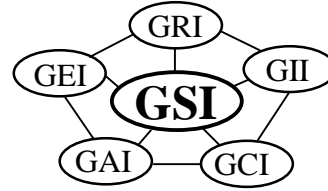


Geosynthetic Institute

475 Kedron Avenue
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TEL (610) 522-8440
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September 28, 2000

Re: Associate Member Status in the Geosynthetic Institute

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Geosynthetic Institute (and its predecessor, the Geosynthetic Research Institute) has existed as a membership organization since 1986. The mission of the institute is to evaluate, monitor and assess all types of geosynthetics used in the environmental, transportation, and geotechnical areas. A Newsletter/Report is attached which describes our most recent activities. Institute membership brings with it a number of beneficial items which we feel are of direct interest to you insofar as your involvement with these materials is concerned.

By action of the GSI Board of Directors we are delighted to offer to state agencies such as yours Associate Member status for the fee of \$1000 per year. (Please note that Member status is \$10,000 per year). The difference in benefits between the two categories is detailed below.

| Benefit Item | Member | Associate Member |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Input as to research project selection | Yes | Yes |
| 2. Guidance and critique of research projects | Yes | Yes |
| 3. Proprietary reports on the results of research projects | Yes | Yes |
| 4. Survey results on specific topics involving geosynthetics | Yes | Yes |
| 5. Access to "Members Only" portion of the Home Page on the world wide web | Yes | Yes |
| 6. Keyword search of the geosynthetic literature on the Website | Yes | Yes |
| 7. Member information posted on the Website | Yes | Yes |
| 8. Direct linkage, i.e., "hot wiring" to the Home Pages of individual member organizations | Yes | Yes |
| 9. Peer review of selected manuals, brochures, reports, concepts, and related technical information | Yes | Yes |
| 10. Direct contact and relations on litigious and insurance matters | Yes | No |
| 11. Voting in GSI matters | Yes | No |
| 12. Eligibility for board of directors | Yes | No |
| 13. Annual traveling in-house seminar | Yes | No |
| 14. Training at GSI laboratories | Yes | No |

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 15. Annual & midyear meeting attendance | Yes | Yes |
| 16. Focus group participation | Yes | No |
| 17. Focus group voting | Yes | No |
| 18. Briefings and tutorials at GSI | Yes | Yes |
| 19. Discounts at conferences and seminars | Yes | Yes |
| 20. Information from all affiliated institutes | Yes | Yes |
| 21. Development of GRI standard test methods/guides/specifications | Yes | Yes |
| 22. Quarterly Newsletter/Reports | Yes | Yes |
| 23. Discounts on publications | Yes | Yes |
| 24. Presentations at GRI conferences | Yes | Yes |
| 25. Document/brochure/project guidance and critique on an as-required basis | Yes | Yes |
| 26. Direct and immediate consultation with GSI personnel and staff at any time via phone, fax or e-mail | Yes | Yes |

While there are indeed several “no” items in the above table, we feel that as a public agency, the “yes” items are at the focus of your geosynthetics activities and are of major interest.

In summary, associate membership will provide you and your department with the latest developments and activities in the field of geosynthetics. You and your colleagues can participate in this process to whatever extent that you feel desirable.

Please consider joining with us in this dynamic and every-evolving technology. Also, note that the words “membership fee” need not be transmitted in our correspondence and we can readily accommodate other wording. Don’t hesitate to call or e-mail to discuss the situation in detail.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Koerner, Ph.D., P.E., NAE
H. L. Bowman Professor of Civil Engineering
and Director – GSI
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