Questions & Answers
Stevens Feed & Supply (Former)
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03-57-002621

When backfilling with clay and silt, it can be difficult getting the compaction necessary to avoid settlement problems later on--and this is because large voids can be present in the subsurface which would create the very sort of secondary hydraulic conductivity problem you are trying to avoid. Would it not be better to specify a so-called "road gravel" mix, which is actually a well-graded (poorly sorted) mix of gravel, pea gravel, and sands of various sizes? Because its effective porosity is so low, it hasn't got a whole lot of permeability either (I bet not much more than 10-4 cm/s), and is much easier to place and compact.

> Commerce will not specify the source of backfill material. Rather, as indicated in the bid specifications, the remedial consultant shall demonstrate that the backfill has similar permeability to the native soil to prevent a preferred pathway for residual contaminant migration. In addition to qualifying the nature of the backfill, the remedial consultant shall document that adequate backfill compaction activities were conducted.

Will the "adequate surface restoration (including topsoil, seeding, mulching and follow-up)" be PECFA reimbursable?

> These costs will likely be eligible for reimbursement, if they are integral to the remedial effort. Note that the bid specification only reference these specific activities in the event excavation activities are conducted along the “steep bank” of Spring Run Creek and would only cover costs for these specific activities along the bank (i.e., not for the balance of the excavation area). Such activities along the bank would likely be considered integral to the remedial effort in the context of erosion control.