During Compaction

Pressures of up to 230 psi can be exerted by vibratory sheep's foot compactors. Disaggregated bedrock particles are sufficiently strong to easily support heavy equipment.

Individual particles engender a high specific surface area.

Following Construction

Water percolates thru the embankment during winter months and exchanges cations with the disaggregated siltstone/claystone particles.

10-25 Years Later

Disaggregated Siltstone → Clayey Mush

- High water retention
- High water content
- Low strength