

Underground Concrete Containment Vaults 1997 NOVA Award Nomination 44

Underground Containment Vaults Built with Precast Arch-Box Units

The use of prefabricated modular components to build underground concrete storage vaults for liquids makes large buried concrete vaults an economical reality. The sealed vaults act either as primary storage for a liquid or as a protective containment for tanks made of other materials and used to store liquids. These vaults are constructed of patented precast arch-box units which were initially developed for set-in-place construction of highway bridges. Modular end walls allow for future expansion, and paving over the surrounding fill permits heavy vehicle traffic above the vault since the units can support highway design loads. Tanks in buried concrete vaults give the best features of aboveground and underground storage for hazardous liquids. Tanks and piping within the vault are exposed for easy inspection and maintenance, while a below-grade location permits greater flexibility in site planning, insures maximum protection from accidents and vandalism, and provides temperature stability.

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