

# CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



**At BASF, we don't make Highway 185 in Rivière-du-Loup, Québec. We make it more stable.**

**Customer:** Fransyl Ltée, Montréal, Québec

**End-Use:** Double Highway 185 between the Quebec and New Brunswick Provinces

**Product:** Styropor® Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) Beads

**PROBLEM:** The poor load-bearing clay and peat soil (subsoil) cannot support the weight of approaches and ramps to bridges and overpasses on Highway 185. Due to the nature of the subsoil, the dead load (i.e. weight of the soil, concrete slabs) and dynamic load (traffic load and volume), the soft soil layers deforms, compacts making the approaches and ramps settle and prone to continuous repair.

**SOLUTION:** Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam blocks (2' x 4' x 8') made from BASF's Styropor beads, with a density of 1.25 pounds per cubic feet (20 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) enables conventional fill material to be removed since its density is greater by a factor of 100. Clay has a density of 125 pounds per cubic feet (2000 kg/m<sup>3</sup>). This performance met the Québec Ministry of Transportation's specifications for highway construction. Based on the Ministry's 30 years of successful experience with the product's application and features, Styropor (EPS) helped to stabilize the approaches and ramps minimizing settlement. The total project used 62,000 cubic metres of EPS blocks (1200 Metric Tonnes of Styropor) or 620 truckloads for Fransyl Ltée.

#### **BENEFITS:**

- By minimizing settlement, Styropor EPS foam blocks reduced maintenance costs.
- Enhanced slope stability delivered by the Styropor EPS foam blocks provides safer driving and road conditions.
- Styropor EPS is lightweight, making handling and installation faster and easier, which gives contractors advantages in efficiency and cost savings.
- By employing the lightweight of Styropor EPS, the weight of the approaches and ramps and the load on the subsoil is reduced considerably.

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