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Credentialed Surfaces for Water and Environmental Infrastructure: Signed Performance and Compliance Attestations on Water-Coupled Concrete

Water and environmental infrastructure runs on long-lived concrete that contacts seawater, reservoir water, stormwater, and groundwater for decades, yet the structure's performance ratings and environmental compliance status live in disconnected paper records that drift out of date and cannot be checked against the material itself. This article shows how that gap is closed by Credentialed Surfaces, disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/050,895, which carries versioned, policy-evaluable property-surface attestations directly on the material. It draws on sibling portfolio inventions for the cryptographic identity binding (Identity Application), the lineage-recorded provenance and governance chain (Cognition Application), and matched-pair settlement of attestations (Spatial Mesh Application).

What This Application Specifies

This application specifies how Credentialed Surfaces, disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/050,895, applies to water and environmental infrastructure: the dams, sea walls, breakwaters, harbor walls, spillways, intake structures, bridge piers,

and stormwater and water-treatment concrete that spend their service lives in contact with water bodies and under environmental regulation.

The disclosed invention treats a structural material as a carrier of independently credentialed property surfaces. As disclosed, a credentialed structural element carries a credentialed admissibility profile bound to the element by cryptographic signature of one or more credentialing authorities. The profile is composed of a plurality of admissibility surfaces, each declaring property-specific parameters and admission conditions for one property category, and the surfaces compose through declared composition rules into a composite profile that an authority and a management system can evaluate. The disclosure enumerates a water-coupled (water-phase) admissibility surface and an environmental admissibility surface among the property surfaces, alongside structural, thermal, and carbon-sequestration surfaces.

For this domain, the load-bearing surfaces are the water-coupled surface and the environmental surface. The water-phase admissibility surface declares which electrolyte-coupling architecture a water-contacting element operates under, including the open-cell ambient-water-coupled architecture class in which the substrate is in continuous or episodic contact with an ambient water body such as seawater, hydroelectric reservoir water, or a geothermal loop. The environmental and carbon-sequestration surfaces carry attestations such as the methane-avoidance attestation and the biogenic carbon-credit attestations that, as disclosed, are independently queryable by environmental-credit authorities and migrate with the material through the lineage chain.

Crucially, none of the underlying material behavior is presented as new. Structural concrete, pozzolanic and lime binders, seawater durability of pozzolan-rich mixes, freeze-thaw degradation, and carbonation are established prior art. What the disclosed architecture adds is the credentialing layer: signed, versioned, multi-authority

attestations of those behaviors, governed across the material's lifecycle. An energy-storage property-surface, where present on a water-coupled element, is a credentialed attestation layer and not a claim to any internal cell chemistry.

Why It Matters

Water and environmental infrastructure has an attestation problem, not a materials problem. A gravity dam, a coastal breakwater, or a treatment-plant basin is a known, well-characterized concrete structure. The difficulty is that the structure's ratings (structural capacity, the durability basis for its chloride exposure class, its freeze-thaw design assumptions) and its environmental compliance status (carbon accounting for the pour, discharge and exposure conditions, decommissioning obligations) are recorded across paper certificates, mix-design submittals, inspection reports, and registry entries that are physically separate from the asset and from each other.

Over a multi-decade service life those records drift. The structural engineer who signed the original capacity, the testing laboratory that verified the mix, the regulator who set the environmental conditions, and the asset owner who must demonstrate continued compliance each hold a fragment, and reconciling them at an inspection, a permit renewal, a carbon-credit audit, or a decommissioning event is slow and error-prone. When a sea wall is repaired, when a spillway is overlaid, or when a basin is re-lined, the relationship between the new material and the original attestations is typically reconstructed by hand, if at all.

The disclosed architecture matters because it binds each rating and each compliance attestation to the material itself, under the signature of the authority competent for that surface. As disclosed, the set of credentialed authorities expressly includes marine or water-infrastructure authorities and environmental-credit authorities, alongside structural-engineering, building-code, and independent testing authorities. A water-infrastructure authority signs the water-coupled surface within its declared scope; an environmental-credit authority signs the carbon-sequestration surface; an independent

testing authority signs verification. Because each surface is independently credentialed but composes with the others, a regulator or owner can evaluate the live, composite status of an asset against the actual material rather than against a stale folder of certificates.

How It Composes With the Domain

The disclosed water-phase admissibility surface is the natural anchor for water-contacting infrastructure. The disclosure describes an engineered-marine-and-hydraulic-works deployment class operating the open-cell ambient-water-coupled architecture in continuous seawater or fresh-water contact, and enumerates the structures it covers: sea walls, breakwaters, harbor walls, jetties, piers and docks, bridge piers and abutments contacting tidal or marine waters, and tidal-barrage concrete on the marine side; and gravity, arch, buttress, and embankment dams, spillway concrete, powerhouse concrete, intake structures, and surge tanks on the hydroelectric side. Each such element carries a water-phase admissibility surface declaring the water body it is coupled to and the conductivity range of that water, so the operating water condition becomes an attested, queryable property rather than a site assumption.

Durability composes through the same mechanism. The disclosure notes that where the cementitious formulation is pozzolan-rich (volcanic ash, fly ash, calcined clay, metakaolin, silica fume) or lime-binder, ongoing in-service seawater contact admits progressive long-term crystallization of aluminum-tobermorite phases producing structural strength enhancement over decadal-to-centennial time scales, consistent with the historically demonstrated durability of Roman maritime concrete. That behavior is established science; the architecture's contribution is to let the structural admissibility surface declare it as the durability basis and to let an independent testing authority attest the realized state over time. For chloride exposure, marine and saltwater deployments admit a rebar-free composite or, where additional reinforcement

is required, non-corroding reinforcement classes the disclosure enumerates (carbon-, glass-, basalt-, and aramid-fiber-reinforced polymers, and chloride-certified stainless grades), each of which can be declared in the profile.

Environmental compliance composes through the environmental and carbon-sequestration surfaces and the lineage chain. As disclosed, biogenic carbon-credit attestations bound to a substrate migrate with the substrate across material flows and across structural lifetimes, the migration being a credentialed transaction signed by an environmental-credit authority and recorded in lineage. Where the pour or a repair uses substrate processed from diverted organic-waste feedstock, the disclosed methane-avoidance attestation declares the diverted feedstock mass, the feedstock-class methane-emission factor consistent with the displaced disposition pathway, and the resulting carbon-dioxide-equivalent avoidance, signed by the producing apparatus's credentialed identity. For a treatment plant or a reservoir operator that must report greenhouse-gas accounting, these attestations are queryable against the specific structural mass rather than estimated after the fact.

Composition rules turn these surfaces into governed behavior. The disclosure describes a wet-environment storage rule requiring water-coupled admissibility surface attestations to be current before admitting operations near wet surfaces, a freeze-thaw-derated capacity rule that degrades a surface as a function of cumulative freeze-thaw cycles, and a carbonation-tracked-state-of-health rule keyed to cumulative carbonation depth. Each composition rule is itself a signed, versioned artifact in a composition-rule registry, with a version vector and a declared conflict-resolution policy, so the way an asset's surfaces interact is auditable and reproducible. For cold-climate water infrastructure, the disclosure also describes selecting an engineered electrolyte phase for freezing-point admissibility against a deployment climate's design-low temperature, again recorded as an attested parameter rather than a site assumption.

The asset can also report its own physical state. The disclosed substrate operates as a distributed physical-state observatory, detecting wet events through capacitance and leakage changes consistent with moisture intrusion, thermal events, and settling and structural events through impedance and time-domain-reflectometry signature changes. Each observed event is treated as a credentialed observation signed by the management system's credentialed identity, weighted under the governance chain, and recorded in lineage. For a dam or a sea wall, moisture-intrusion and settling observations become signed evidence in the same record that holds the structure's ratings.

What This Enables

A regulator or asset owner can evaluate the live composite admissibility of a water-coupled structure against the material itself. Because the disclosure provides for multi-authority credentialing, with each authority signing the surface within its scope, a permit renewal or a periodic safety review can read current, signed attestations of structural capacity, water-coupled condition, and environmental status in one composite profile rather than reconciling separate paper trails.

Repair and re-lining stop breaking the record. The disclosed continuous re-credentialing primitive admits operational material flows during in-service life (surface-coating refresh, cavity-fill replacement, mortar-joint replacement, topping-slab augmentation, and analogous flows), each a credentialed event signed by an installer authority and re-evaluated against the cumulative composite profile. A breakwater overlay, a spillway resurfacing, or a basin re-lining augments the same credentialed identity instead of orphaning the original attestations, supporting the disclosed metabolic-lifetime model in which the structural element persists while material flows refresh it.

Environmental crediting becomes traceable to specific mass. Because carbon attestations migrate with the substrate and methane-avoidance attestations are independently queryable by environmental-credit authorities, a reservoir operator, a port authority, or a water utility can demonstrate sequestration and avoidance claims against the actual structural mass and its lineage, and an environmental-credit authority can verify them without trusting an after-the-fact estimate.

End-of-life is governed rather than ad hoc. The disclosed cradle-to-cradle lifecycle records end-of-structural-life decommissioning as a credentialed event signed by a licensed demolition or deconstruction contractor under declared scope, producing a demolition-recovery attestation declaring recovered grade, mass, and physical state, followed by recycler-authority re-credentialing at recycled grade. For coastal or hydraulic works subject to removal or replacement obligations, the decommissioning and recovery record is part of the same governed lineage chain as the original ratings.

Boundary Conditions

This is a provisional, architecture-stage disclosure. It specifies a credentialing and admissibility-profile architecture applied to physical materials; it is not a report that any structure has been built, deployed in a dam or sea wall, benchmarked, or field-validated, and it asserts no specific durability lifetime, sequestration tonnage, compliance outcome, or performance figure for any real asset.

The underlying materials science is prior art and is treated as such. Seawater durability of pozzolan-rich and lime binders, aluminum-tobermorite crystallization, freeze-thaw and carbonation degradation, chloride-induced corrosion, and non-corroding reinforcement are established. Nothing here claims a newly discovered material, bond, phase, or physical effect, and no underlying behavior is presented as a basic-science breakthrough. The novelty is located solely in the disclosed combination: the credentialing and admissibility-profile architecture, the multi-authority signature

model, the signed and versioned composition rules, the lineage-recorded governance across the lifecycle, and the resulting new category of credentialed multi-function water-coupled and environmental property-surfaces.

The performance values quoted from the disclosure (water-body conductivity ranges, electrolyte freezing points, exposure classes) are disclosed parameters of the architecture's attestation framework, declared in profiles by competent authorities, not measured results or guarantees. Any attestation is only as good as the authority that signs it and the scope it declares; the architecture governs how attestations are bound, composed, and recorded, not whether a given authority's judgment is correct. Whether an environmental-credit, water-infrastructure, or building-code authority recognizes these attestations is a matter of external regulation and standards adoption, outside the scope of the technical disclosure.

Disclosure Scope

The home inventive step, Credentialed Surfaces, is disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/050,895, which provides the ground truth for the technology described here: the credentialed admissibility profile, the water-coupled and environmental property surfaces, multi-authority credentialing including marine or water-infrastructure and environmental-credit authorities, the signed and versioned composition-rule architecture, the lineage chain and continuous re-credentialing, migrating carbon and methane-avoidance attestations, and the substrate-as-physical-state-observatory primitive. The cryptographic identity binding, the governance and lineage chain, and the matched-pair settlement of attestations are provided by sibling portfolio applications incorporated by reference in that disclosure. The water and environmental infrastructure domain framing in this article (the asset classes, the regulatory and asset-management problem, and the deployment scenarios) is external context describing an enabling application of the disclosed architecture; it is not itself a

patent claim, and references to standards, regulators, durability precedents, or compliance regimes are descriptive context, not assertions of compliance or of any specific real-world result.

Credentialed Surfaces (/credentialed-materials)

All 40 steps → (/inventive-steps)

Building surfaces as credentialed agents that participate in the structure's networking and electrical systems.

Provisional application

PRIMARY TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE

- Credentialed Building Materials: Cryptographic Admissibility for Structural Surfaces (/articles/credentialed-building-materials-cryptographic-admissibility-for-structural-surfaces)

SECONDARY TECHNICAL

- Carbon-Sequestration Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/carbon-sequestration-property-surface)
- Composition Rules Governing Surface Interactions (/articles/credentialed-materials/composition-rules)
- Decommissioning And Re-Credentialing Attestation (/articles/credentialed-materials/decommissioning-and-recredentialing)
- Electrical-Distribution Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/distribution-property-surface)
- End-Of-Storage-Life Attestation (/articles/credentialed-materials/end-of-storage-life-attestation)
- Energy-Storage Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/energy-storage-property-surface)
- Lineage Chain Across Material Lifecycle (/articles/credentialed-materials/lineage-chain-across-lifecycle)
- Authority Signatures Block Binding Property Surfaces To Material Identity (/articles/credentialed-materials/master-credential-binding)
- Multi-Authority Signature Block (/articles/credentialed-materials/multi-authority-signature-block)
- Data Network Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/network-property-surface)

- Profile Versioning Continuity (/articles/credentialed-materials/profile-versioning-continuity)
- Structural Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/structural-property-surface)
- Thermal-Property Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/thermal-property-surface)
- Versioned Admissibility Profiles With Lineage Chain (/articles/credentialed-materials/versioned-profiles-with-lineage)
- Water-Coupled Admissibility Surface (/articles/credentialed-materials/water-coupled-property-surface)

APPLICATIONS · GENERAL

- Credentialed Structural Materials for Construction and Civil Infrastructure: Carrying Strength, Mix, and Provenance as Multi-Authority Attestations (/articles/credentialed-materials/construction-and-infrastructure)
- Carbon-Credit-Bearing Building Materials: Sequestration Attestations That Survive Incorporation, Transfer, and Decommissioning (/articles/credentialed-materials/carbon-credit-materials)
- Building-Product Compliance and Code Approval: Property-Surface Profiles as Machine-Evaluable Admissibility Evidence (/articles/credentialed-materials/building-product-compliance)
- Credentialed Building Materials for Real Estate Valuation, Insurance, and Disclosure: A Property History That Binds to the Asset (/articles/credentialed-materials/real-estate-and-asset-lifecycle)
- Recredentialing Recovered Materials: Verifiable Lineage for Reuse and Decommissioning in the Circular Economy (/articles/credentialed-materials/circular-economy-and-decommissioning)
- Energy and Grid-Coupled Surfaces: Crediting Stationary Storage in Structural Mass Without Trusting the Cell (/articles/credentialed-materials/energy-and-grid-surfaces)
- **Credentialed Surfaces for Water and Environmental Infrastructure: Signed Performance and Compliance Attestations on Water-Coupled Concrete (/articles/credentialed-materials/water-and-environmental-infrastructure)**

Credentialed Surfaces overview → (/credentialed-materials)