In order for railroads to meet their revenue and earnings growth objectives it is a vital necessity for them to concentrate on service reliability. A large part of reliability is the assurance that track, a railroad’s biggest asset, is in excellent condition. Excellent track condition requires an emphasis on a simple basic—drainage maintenance.

Loram provides highly productive drainage maintenance services which result in increased benefits and reduced costs—and that means a healthy railroad that is better able to meet revenue and earnings growth objectives.

Water is the enemy. It can be costly. It is sometimes difficult to measure and see the damage from poor drainage maintenance. A seemingly dry right-of-way may not convey a problem. Unseen water trapped below the surface often goes undetected. Fouled ballast itself is often difficult to see and detect as a problem.

The costly results of poor drainage:

- Track profile deterioration which can increase the frequency of surfacing operations by a factor of ten.
- The need for track alignment accelerates.
- Track buckling can increase by as much as 10% to 30% as a result of a corresponding decrease in the lateral strength of the shoulders.
- Slow orders after tamping and track disturbance are greatly increased.
- The need for herbicide applications can increase due to vegetation growth in the ballast. Ballast must be cleaned or organic growth residue will provide the basis for further plant growth.
- Fouled shoulder ballast causes a reduction in the strength of the interlocking ballast. This loss creates the need for tighter alignments at the shoulder, or more costly ballast.

The Complete Drainage System

Loram wishes to acknowledge the use of drawings and diagrams from A Track Substructure Seminar presented by Dr. Ernest T. Selig, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts and President, Ernest T. Selig, Inc.
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Good Business Starts With The Basics

Why? Reliability, productivity, experience, cost-effectiveness...it makes a few of the reasons. Since its inception in 1954 Loram has been involved with the maintenance and rehabilitation of the railhead. We have been producing shoulder ballast cleaning machines since 1958 when we produced the shoulder ballast cleaner. Our experienced personnel will work with you to develop a practical, cost-effective drainage program for your property.

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