

MUD MADE RADIOACTIVE

LONDON. — Radioactive ground glass can be used to trace movements of mud in river channels. Such knowledge is of value in disposing of dredged material.

Studies made by Britain's Hydraulics Research Station and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment have shown that finely ground glass containing radioactive scandium oxide moves with the mud when mixed with it in the River Thames.

Engineers had long suspected that mud dredged from the river channel and dock areas of the Port of London, most of which is dumped at sea beyond the estuary, was being carried back up the river by the tide. Radioactive labeling of glass particles showed this theory to be probably correct, some of the material being carried at least two or three miles upstream in the first tidal cycles.

Larger quantities of radioactive material will be needed to trace mud movements over longer distances. Amounts of radioactive glass used in the studies were too small to endanger anyone working on or near the river.