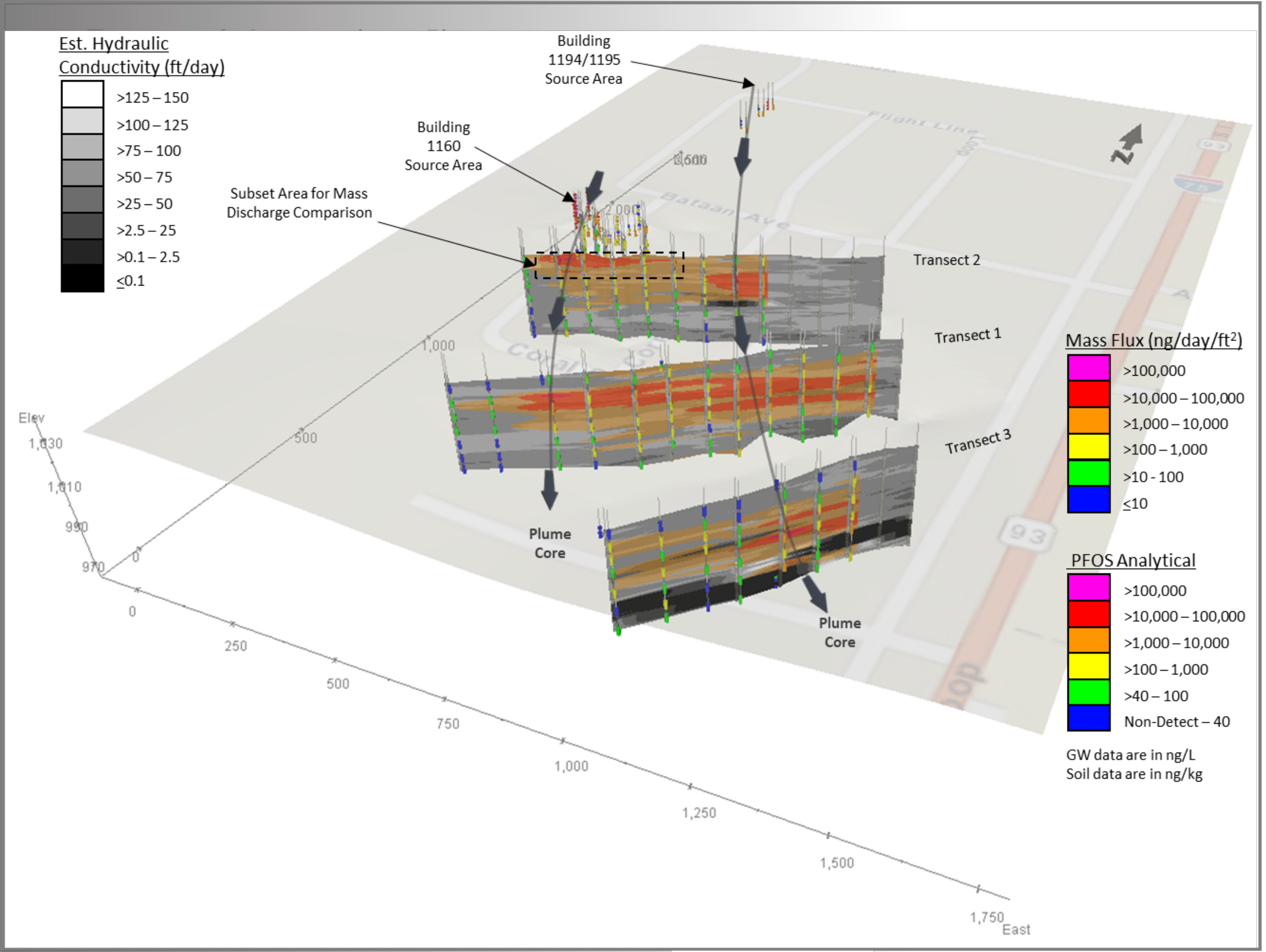
HRSC Technologies and Methods for Mapping PFAS Concentrations and Mass Flux



Federal Remediation Round Table

November 7, 2023

Agenda

- Why does Flux matter?
- HRSC for PFAS RIs
- 4 Key Elements
- PFAS Considerations
- Buckley SFB Example
- Flux monitoring

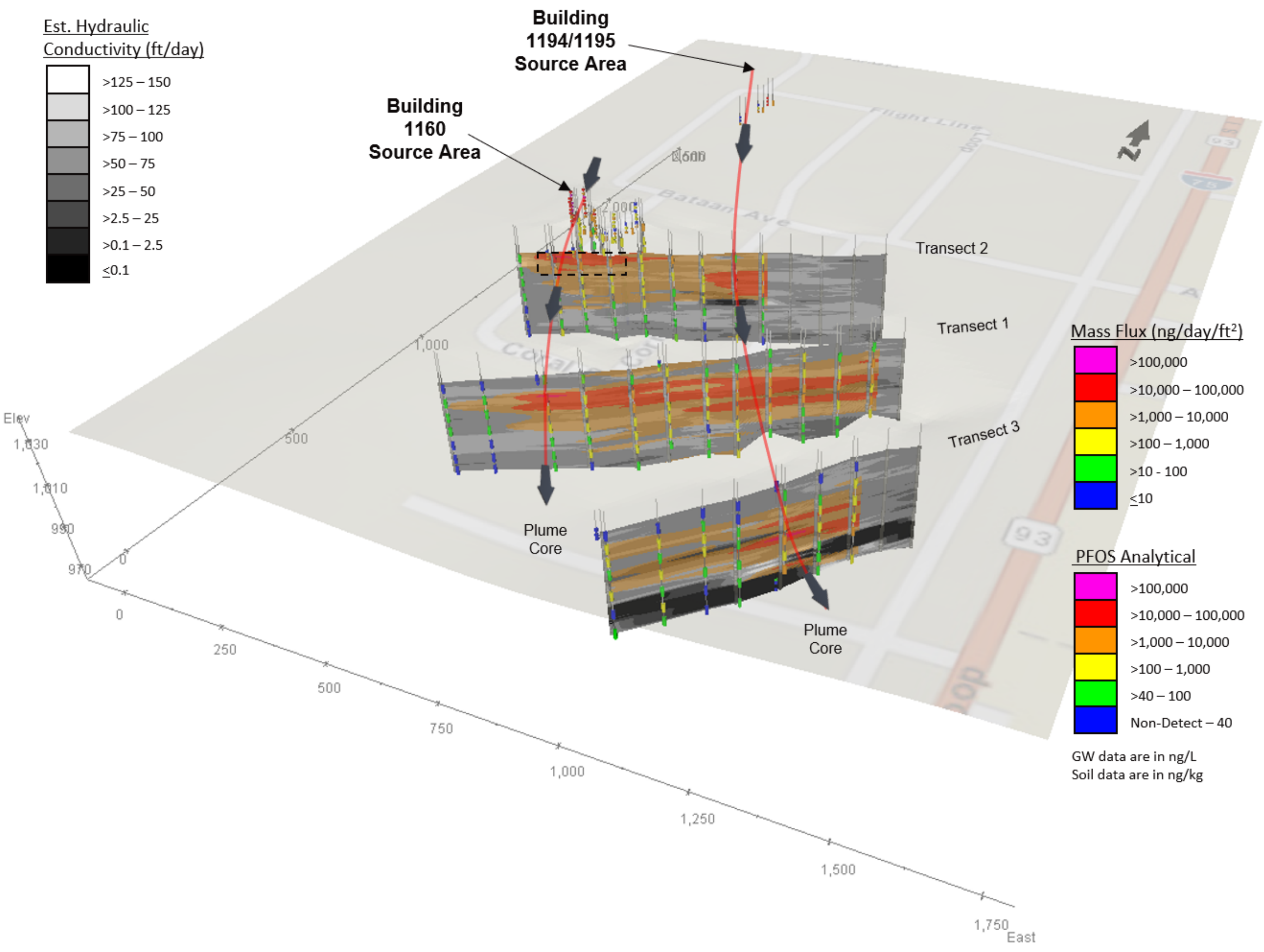
Why Does Flux Matter?

Contaminant maps are only half of the story

- Flux distinguishes mass in high permeability and low permeability zones to better quantify mass transport

Mass Flux describes the concentration of contaminant movement

- Better understanding of risk
- Focus remedies to improve performance and cost efficiency



ESTCP-ER19-5203

Mass Flux and Mass Discharge

Mass Flux:

Mass flow across a unit area

$$\mathbf{J = K\,i\,C} \text{ (mass/time/area)}$$

K = Hydraulic Conductivity

i = Hydraulic Gradient

C = Concentration

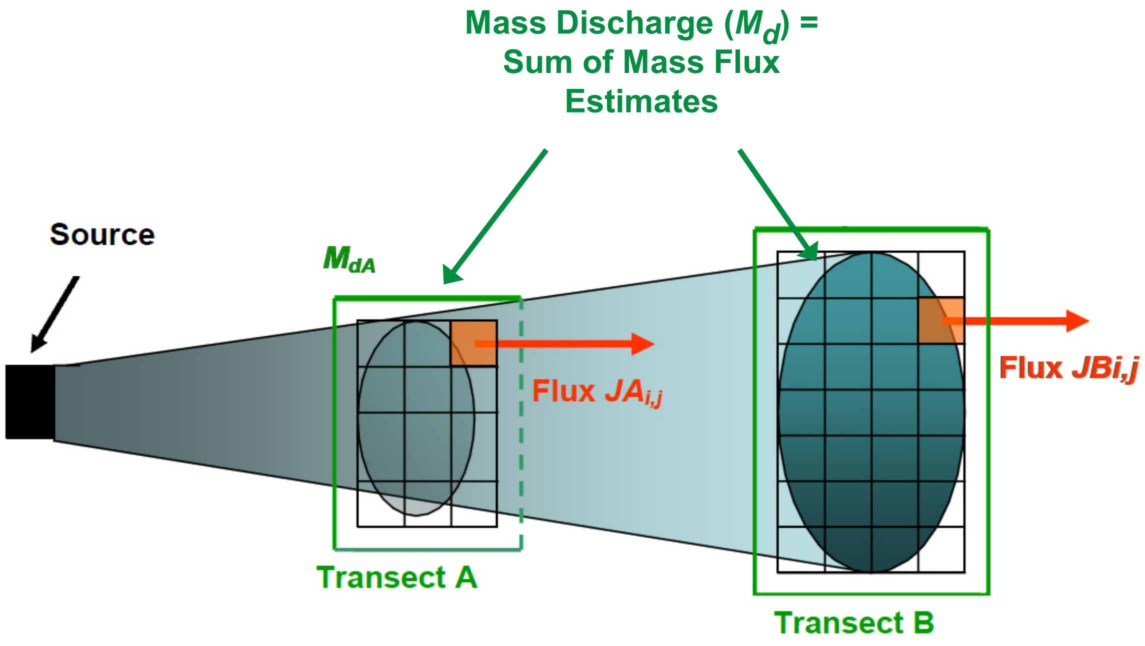
Mass Discharge:

Integrated mass flux

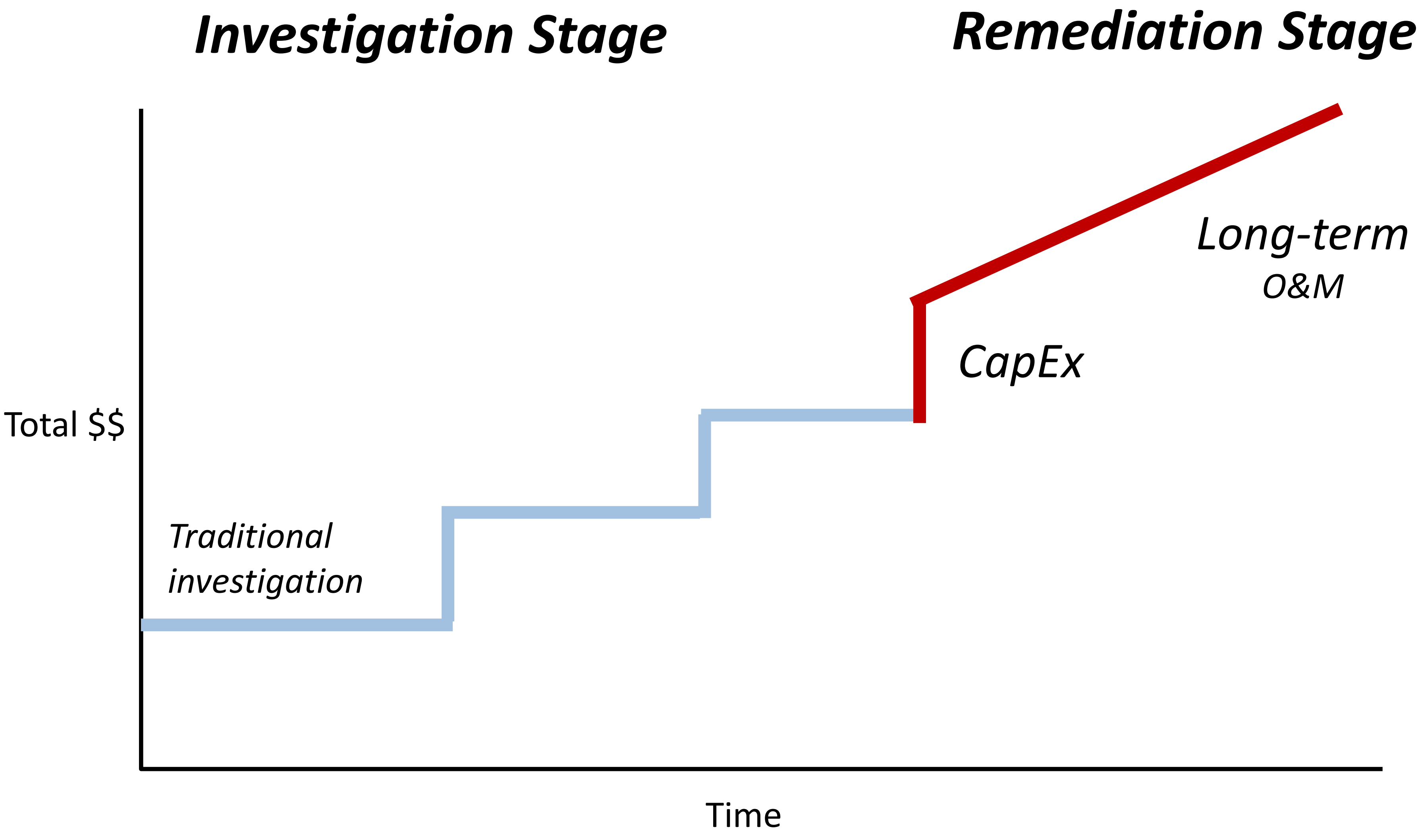
$$\mathbf{M_d = \int_A J\,dA} \text{ (mass/time)}$$

J = Mass Flux

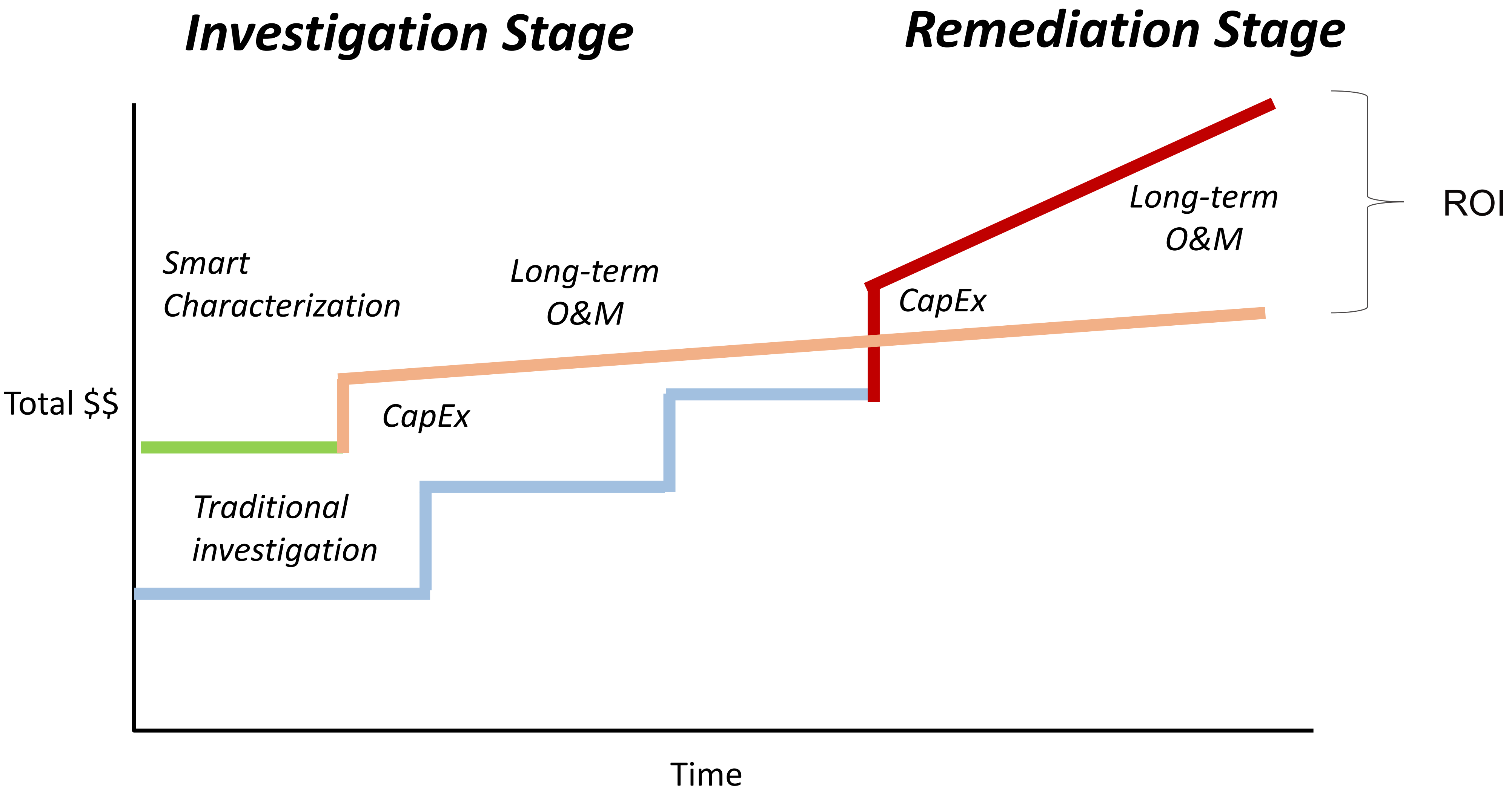
A = Total area



Adapted from ITRC, 2010



Doesn't high resolution mean high-cost characterization?



The return on investigation – life-cycle cost and performance optimization

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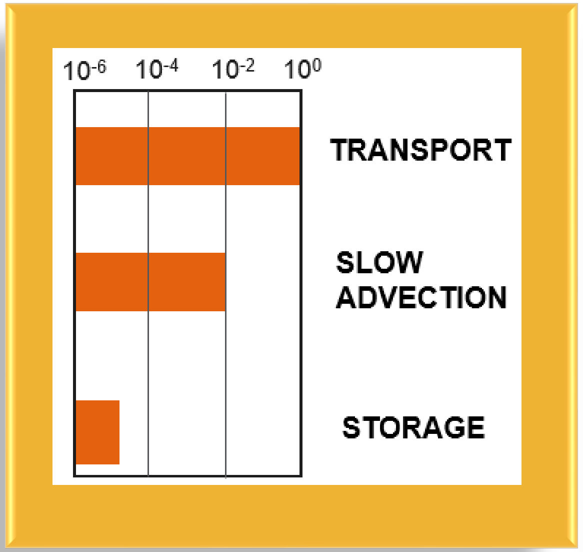
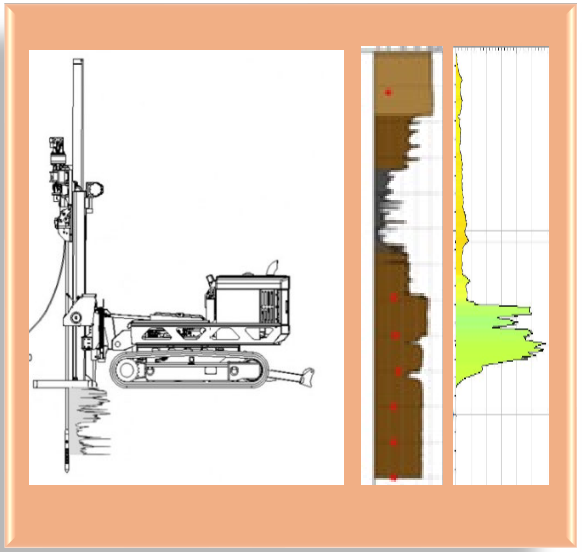
Smart Characterization® : *Find the Flux*

Flux-Based CSM



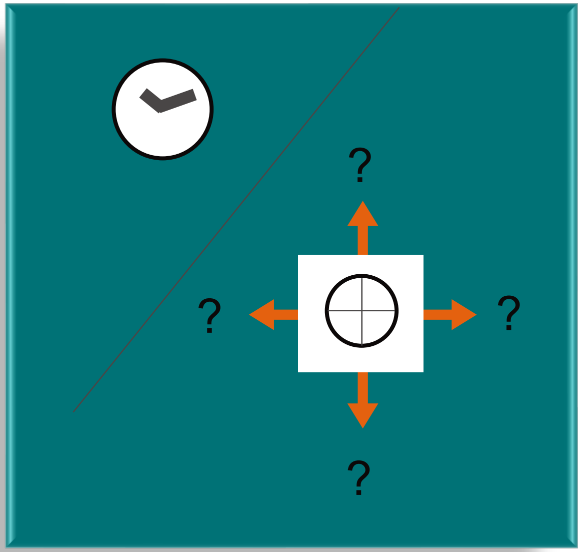
- *Majority of flux in permeable zones*

Right tools to map flux



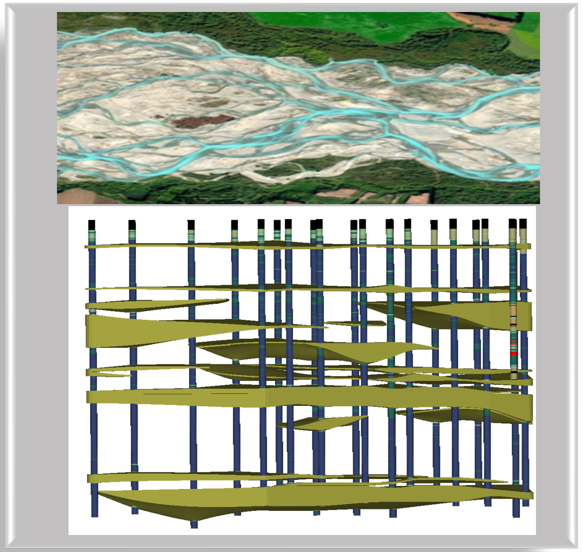
- *Quantitative*
- *High-resolution*

Real-time & adaptive



- *Lower investigation costs*

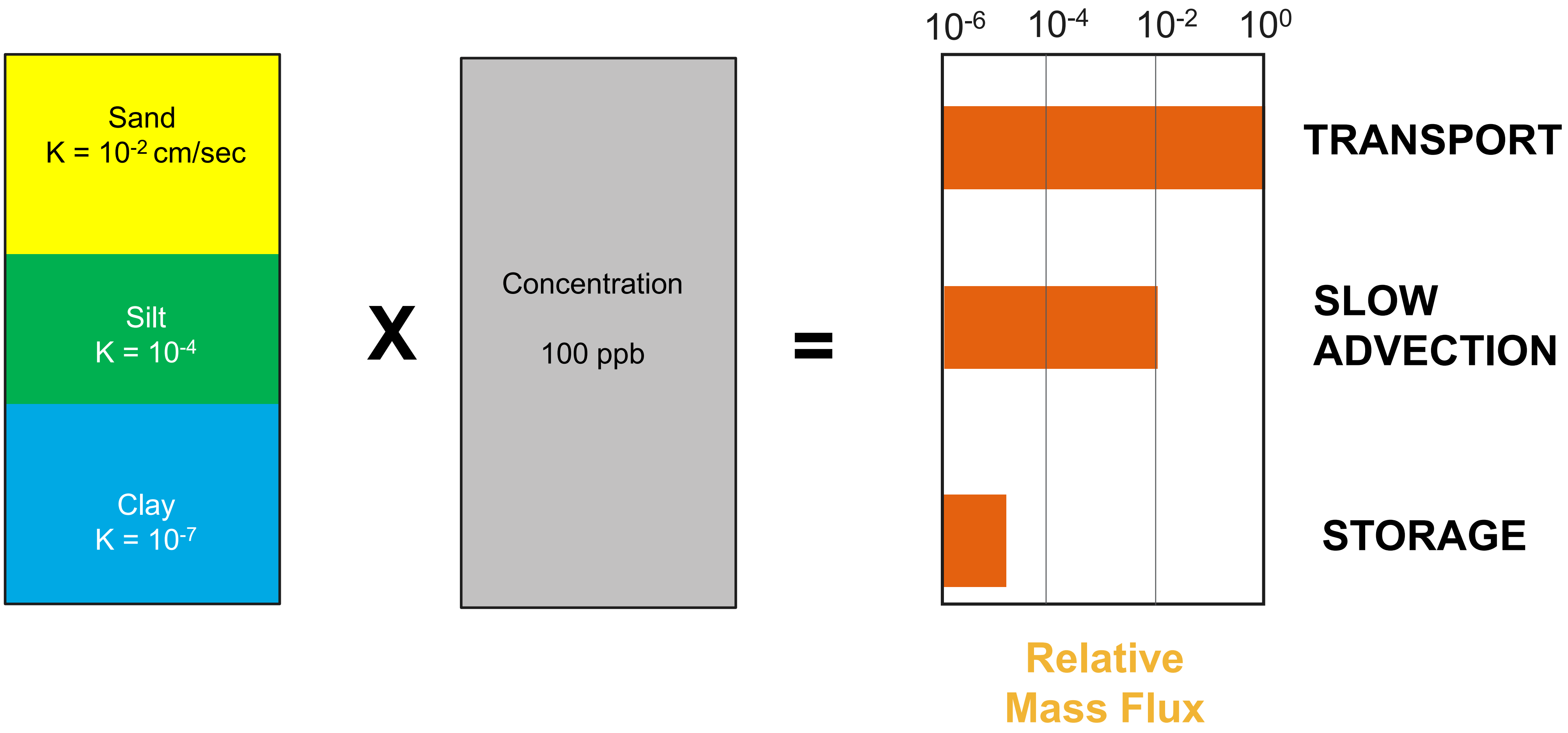
Interpretation



- *3D analysis*
- *Classical geologic approach*

Stratigraphic Flux Framework for Transport

Evaluating mass flux based on the soil types and permeability structure of the aquifer



HRSC for PFAS?

Data Quality Objectives:

PFAS Compounds - Concentration

- Selectivity to accurately measure specific PFAS compounds
- Sensitivity to resolve specific compounds relative to USEPA risk-based screening levels
- Near real-time results to facilitate adaptive characterization

Stratigraphy and Hydraulic Conductivity (K)

- Continuous logging – essential to see facies trends
- Provide consistent and reliable estimates of K

Current PFAS Analytical Options

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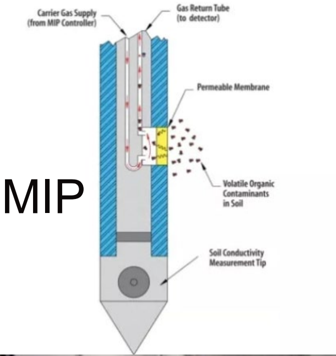
No field screening options

MIP



No PFAS Direct Sensing Technologies Exist

No PFAS Mobile Labs Available

ASD memo requires USEPA Draft Method 1633

Compliant with QSM 5.4 Table B24

- Slow method/surging demand
- Significant Delays
- Up to 6 months for validated data
- High Costs, approx. $375/sample

Solution

Use workflow planning and HRSC sampling methods

- Vertical aquifer profile sampling, hand augers, passive flux meters, etc
- Screening methods with rapid turn-around

Current PFAS Analytical Options - Screening Levels Methods

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Two Categories of Screening Level PFAS Techniques

Non-targeted screening methods – Examples are AOF by EPA 1621 and PIGE

- Total fluorine results, limited value
- RLs in ppb range – too high
- Not field deployable
- Relatively slow and expensive

RL too high and not selective

Targeted Screening Methods – ASTM D8421

- Target compound list – up to 40 compounds
- Easier method, rapid TAT = ~ 3 to 5 days
- Cost ~ $250/sample
- Can meet most characterization DQO requirements

Not real-time as with mobile labs
BUT*…*
Much faster and cheaper than using only 1633

PFAS Analytical Screening Options

ASTM D8421 - Additional Information and Recommendations

- Rigorous multi-lab validation study using 11 environmental waters >>>
- DoD Acceptance: ASD Memo Dated 8/7/23 states “*Other methods for analysis may be considered for screening samples to determine the presence or magnitude of PFAS concentration*” Requires approval.
- Approval process - DMA with ARNG underway
- Used in conjunction with 1633 (USEPA Triad’s collaborative data collection)
- Capacity is strong – Pace, SGS, Elle and several other smaller labs providing this type of service.

Matrices Tested

- Landfill Leachate
- Metal Finisher
- POTW Effluent 1
- Hospital
- POTW Influent
- Bus Washing Station
- Powerplant
- Pulp and Paper
- POTW Effluent 2
- Ground Water
- Surface Water

Implementing Screening

- **Planning Phase**
  - Define DQOs
    - Regulatory requirements
    - Interim data vs final data
    - Pace of work, phased vs. near real-time
    - Quantity and type of samples

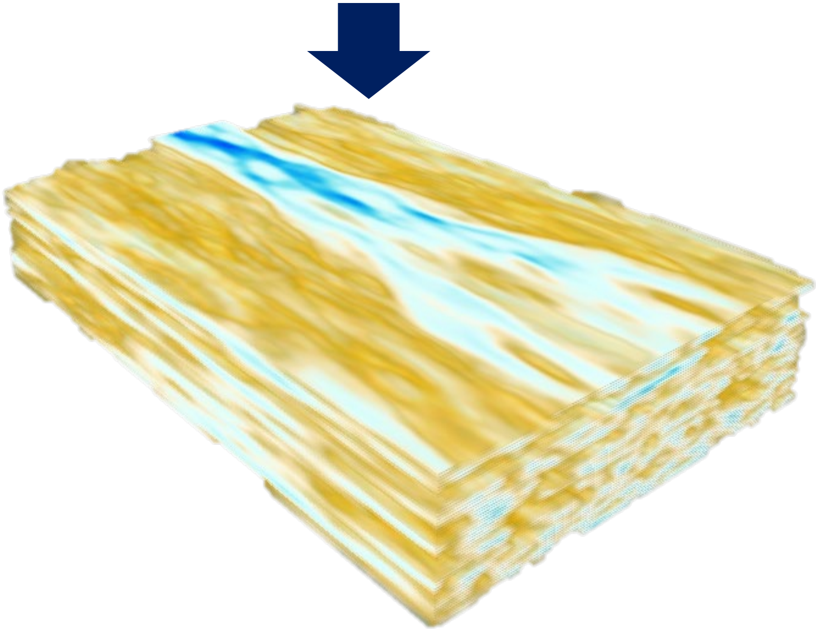
  Does adaptive/screening work make sense?

  - Setup comparison studies
    - Split frequencies
    - Statistics – standard correlations and reliability evaluations
    - Evaluation of comparison data sets, look at reliability
- **Field Work Phase**
  - Digital CSM to aid with data management and presentations
  - Decision logic used for managing adaptive workflow

Geological Soil Description

Aquifers are Created by Complex Depositional Environments:

- Not homogenous
- Highly variable vertically and horizontally
- Features are directionally dependent
- Permeability will vary by several orders of magnitude within short distances



Characterizing aquifer variability key to flux-based CSM

Stratigraphic Logging

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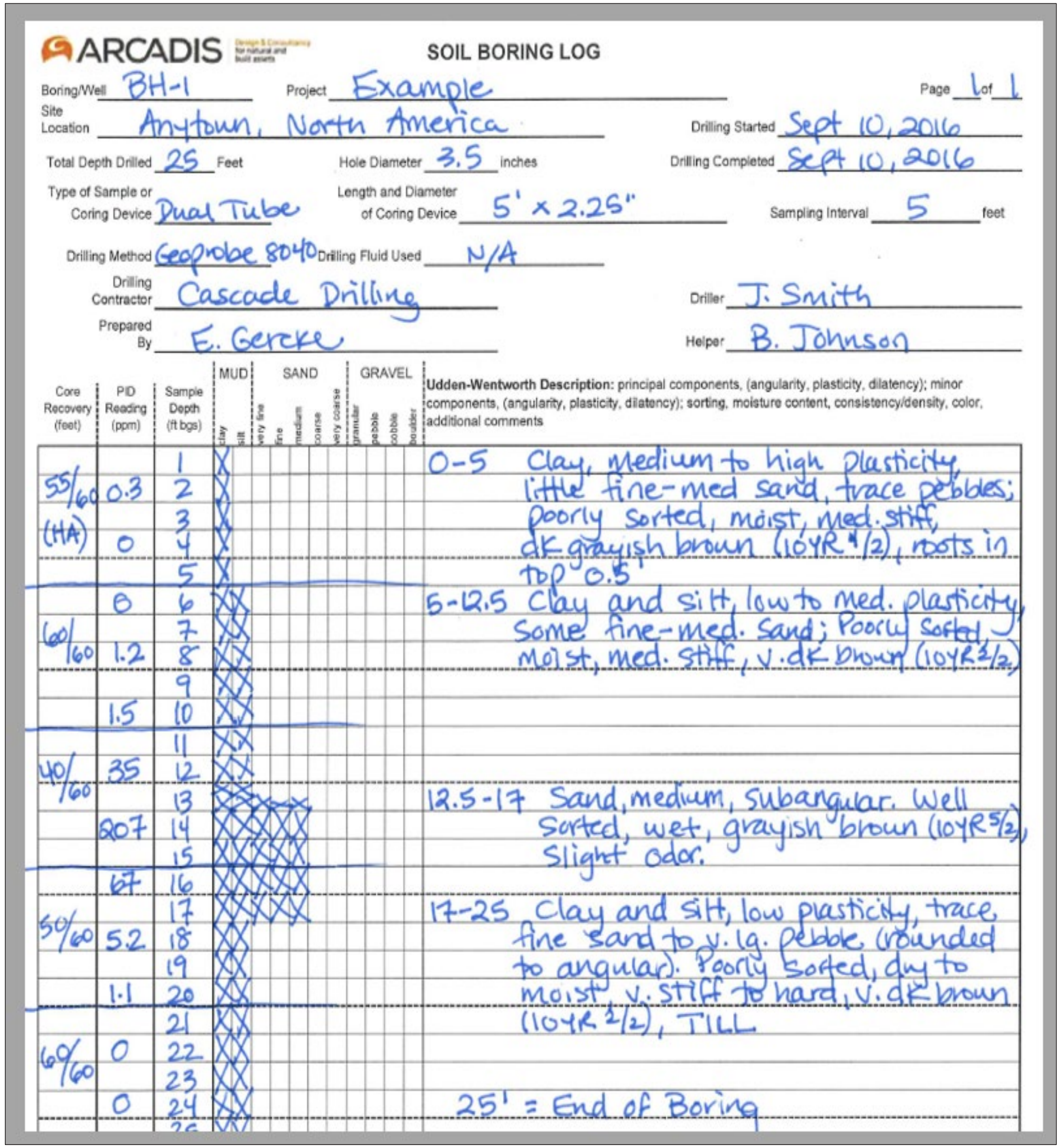
Interpret geology based on transport potential:

- Recommend Udden-Wentworth based soil descriptions
  - **Principal and minor grainsize**
  - **Sorting**
  - Density
  - Plasticity vs dilatency to distinguish silt from clay
- Graphical logs provide good first approximation to transport potential
- Reclassify existing logs using hydrofacies analysis



ARCADIS SOIL BORING LOG

Boring/Well BH-1 Project Example Page 1 of 1

Site Location Anytown, North America Drilling Started Sept 10, 2016

Total Depth Drilled 25 Feet Hole Diameter 3.5 inches Drilling Completed Sept 10, 2016

Type of Sample or Coring Device Dual Tube Length and Diameter of Coring Device 5' x 2.25" Sampling Interval 5 feet

Drilling Method Geoprobe 8040 Drilling Fluid Used N/A

Drilling Contractor Cascade Drilling Driller J. Smith

Prepared By E. Gercke Helper B. Johnson

Core Recovery (feet)	PID Reading (ppm)	Sample Depth (ft bgs)	Udden-Wentworth Description: principal components, (angularity, plasticity, dilatency); minor components, (angularity, plasticity, dilatency); sorting, moisture content, consistency/density, color, additional comments
55/60 (HA)	0.3, 0	1–5	0-5 Clay, medium to high plasticity, little fine-med sand, trace pebbles; poorly sorted, moist, med. stiff, dk grayish brown (10YR 4/2), roots in top 0.5'
60/60	8, 1.2, 1.5	6–10	5-12.5 Clay and silt, low to med. plasticity, some fine-med. sand; poorly sorted, moist, med. stiff, v. dk brown (10YR 2/2)
40/60	35, 207	11–15	12.5-17 Sand, medium, subangular. Well sorted, wet, grayish brown (10YR 5/2), slight odor.
50/60	67, 5.2, 1.1	16–20	17-25 Clay and silt, low plasticity, trace fine sand to v. lg. pebble (rounded to angular). Poorly sorted, dry to moist, v. stiff to hard, v. dk brown (10YR 2/2), TILL
60/60	0, 0	21–24	25' = End of Boring

Sieve Analysis & K estimates

Grainsize and Sorting are the Primary Properties Determining Permeability

- Validate soil descriptions
- Use sieve analysis to verify soil descriptions and estimate hydraulic conductivity
- Best for evaluating coarser-grained sand and gravels
- Limitations with clay rich soils due to flocculation (<20%)

HydrogeoSieveXL: an Excel-based tool to estimate hydraulic conductivity from grain-size analysis

Standard ASTM Sieve Set	Udden-Wentworth Based Sieve Set
3"	1½"
2"	1"
1½"	3/4"
1"	3/8"
¾"	#4
3/8"	#10
#4	#12
#10	#14
#20	#35
#40	#40
#60	#60
#100	#100
#140	#140
#200	#200
Hydrometer	#230
	Hydrometer

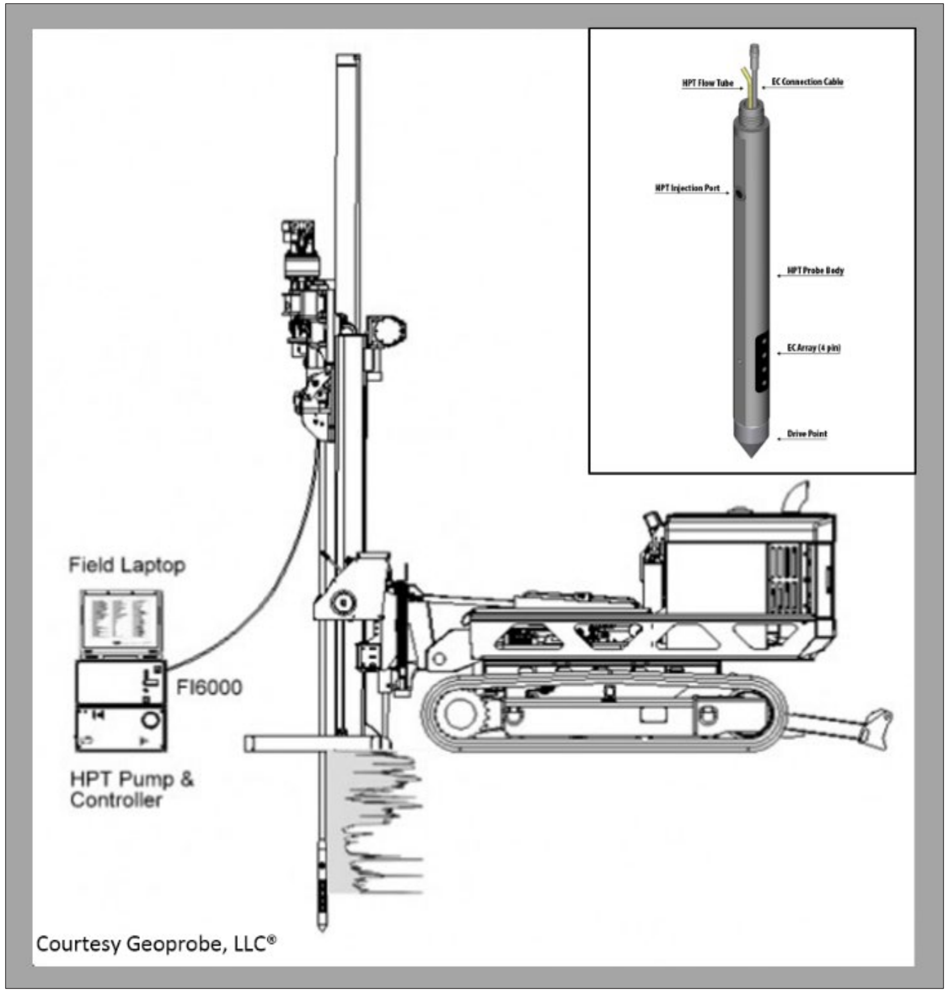
Direct Push Injection Logging Methods

For Shallow Systems (<100 ft bgs), Direct Push Drilling Methods can be used to Advance a Variety of Direct Sensing Equipment

- HPT – Hydraulic Profiling Tool
- APS - Waterloo Advanced Profiling System
- CPT – Cone Penetrometer Testing

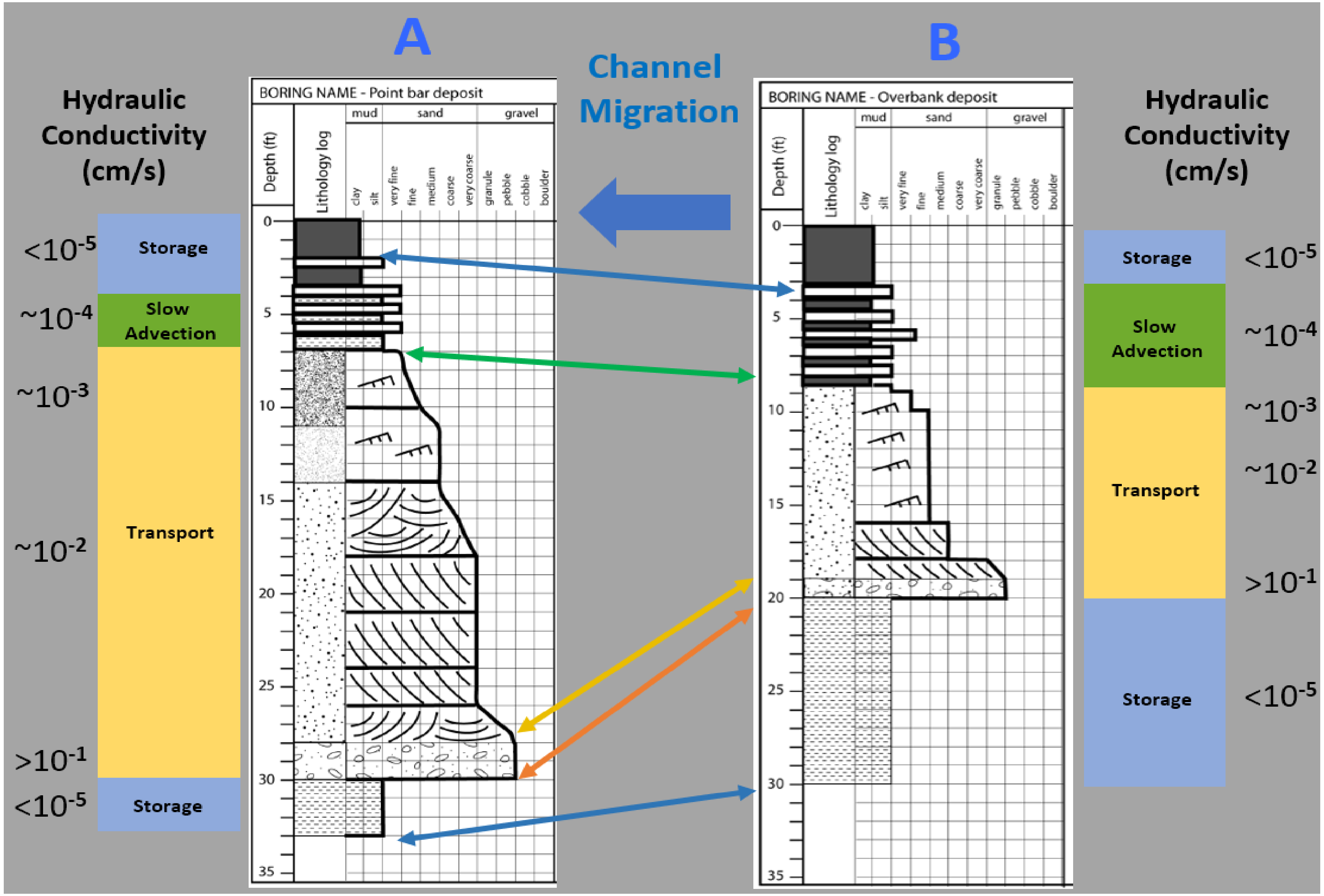
Combination Drilling can Extend Depth of Direct Push Tools

- HPT or APS / Sonic
- Downhole Hammer



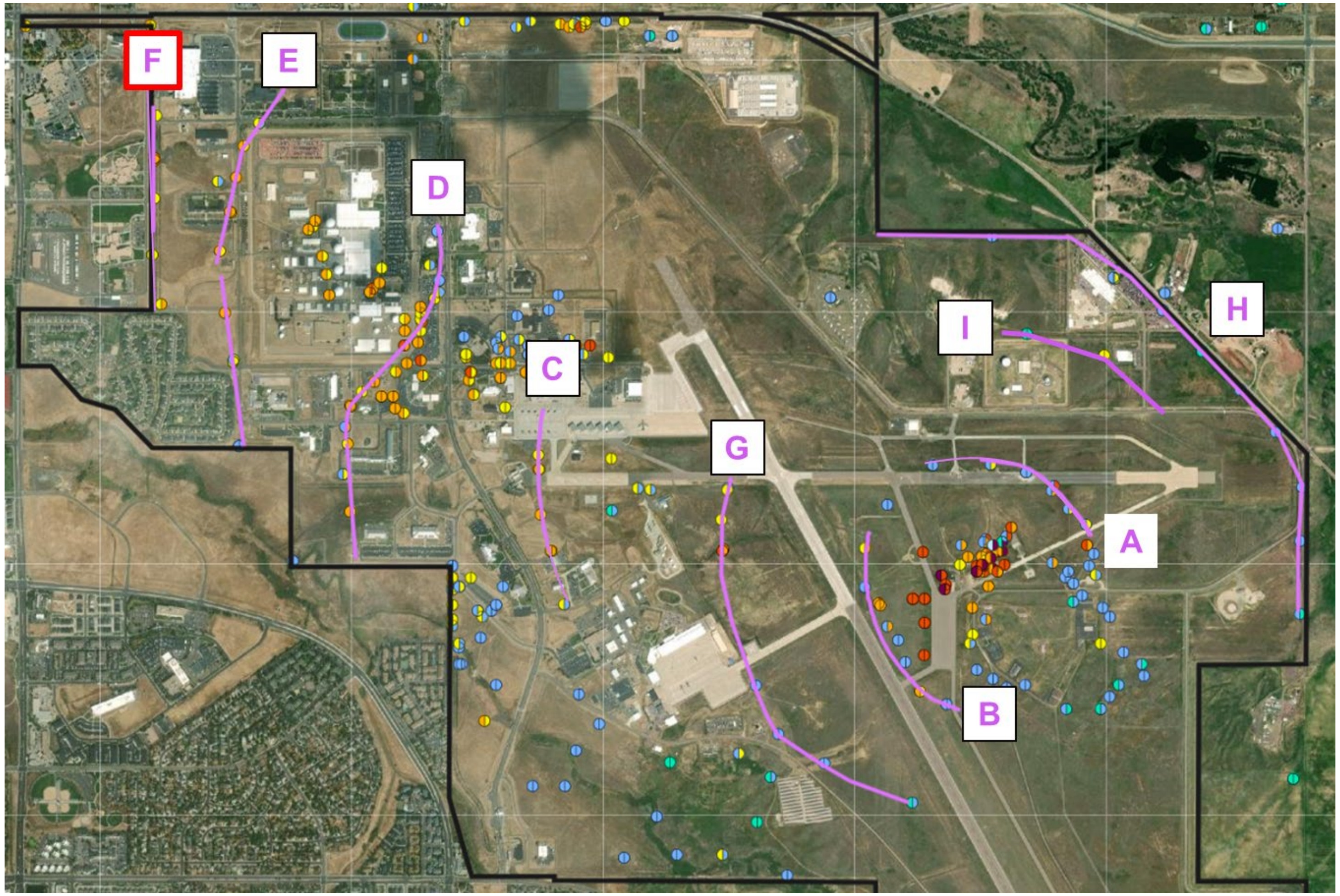
Courtesy Geoprobe, LLC®

Sequence Stratigraphy and Hydrofacies Classification



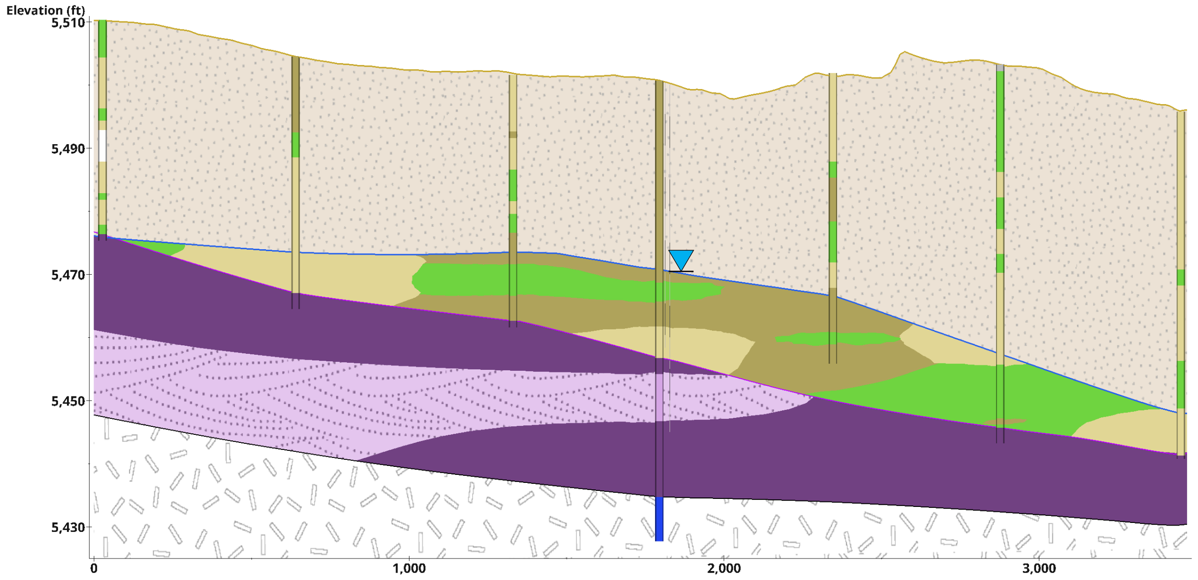
Mass Flux Transects

- Sampling strategy on transects
  - Resolve variability in lithology and concentration distribution
  - Refine resolution to zoom in on hotspot or step-out for delineation
- Applied downgradient of source(s) or at installation boundary to support early decision making
  - Spatial trends between transects along flow can guide extrapolation to RBSLs for delineation during RI
  - Mass discharge provides measure of source strength for ranking and prioritization
  - Mass flux provides target for interim measures
- Sampling strategy on transects
  - Resolve variability in lithology and concentration

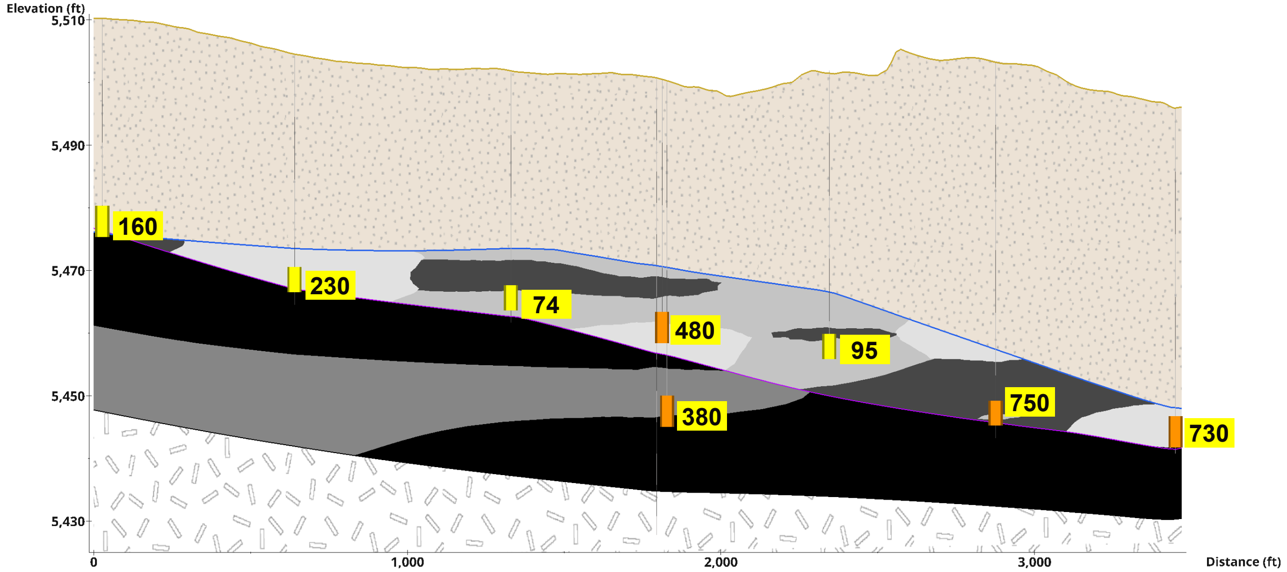


Transect F – PFOS Flux

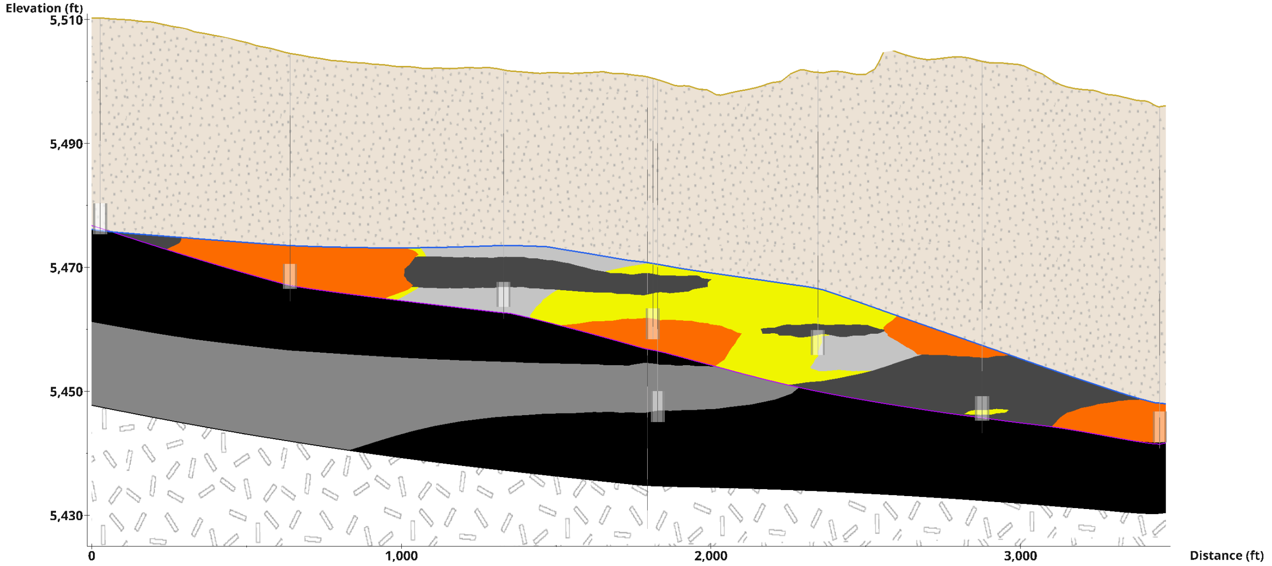
Geology

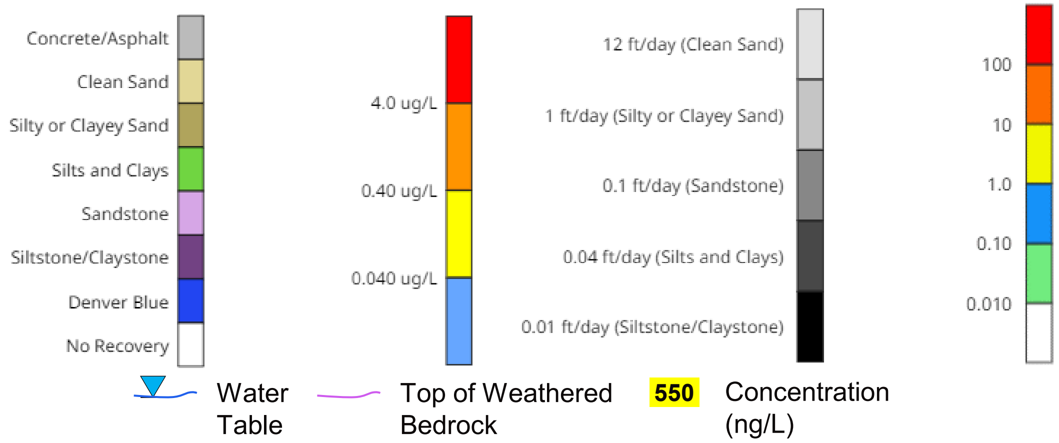


Hydraulic Conductivity and Sample Concentration

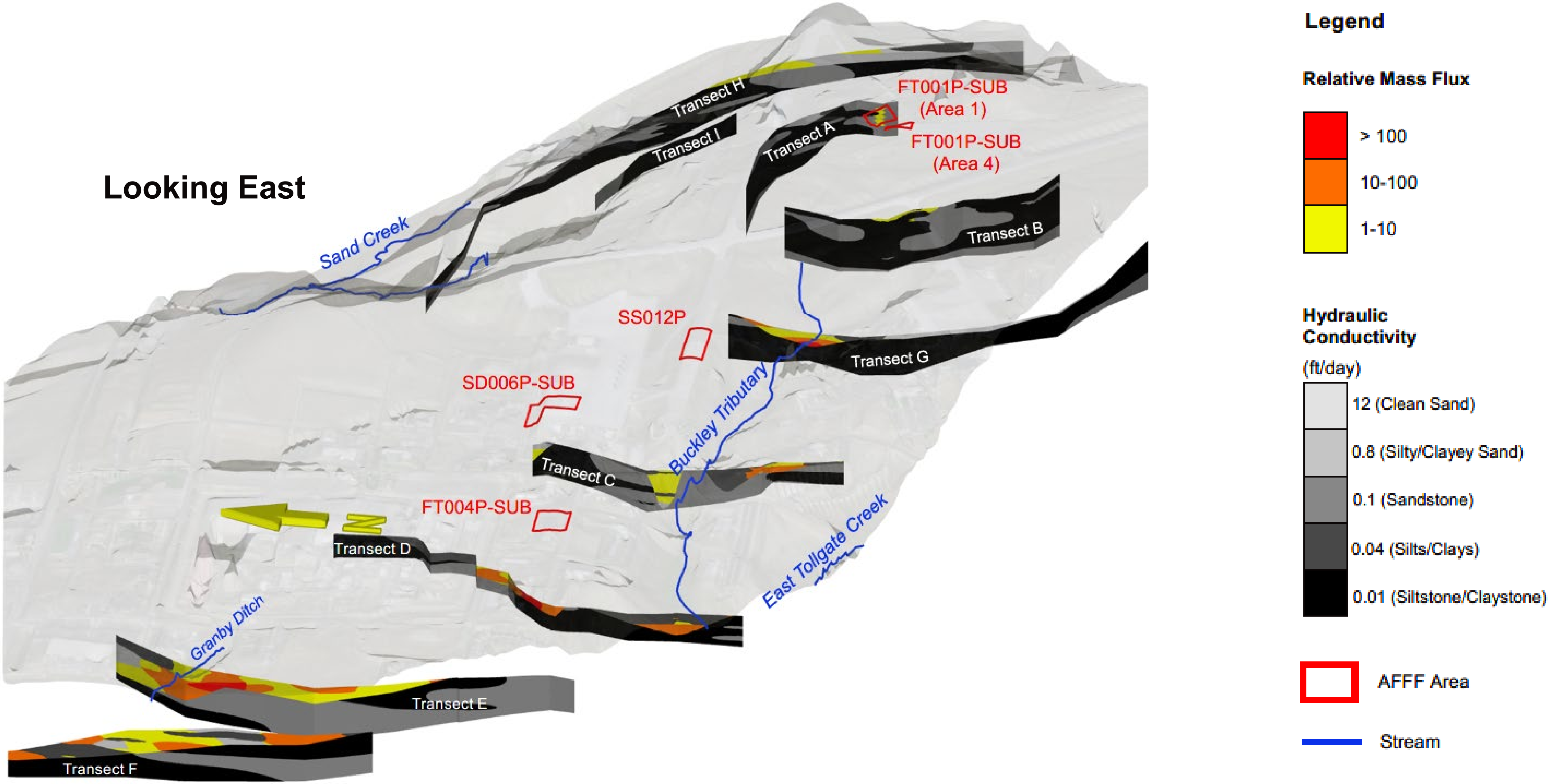


Relative Mass Flux





Stratigraphic Flux – Buckley SFB



Source Evaluation

Site-Specific Leaching Behavior

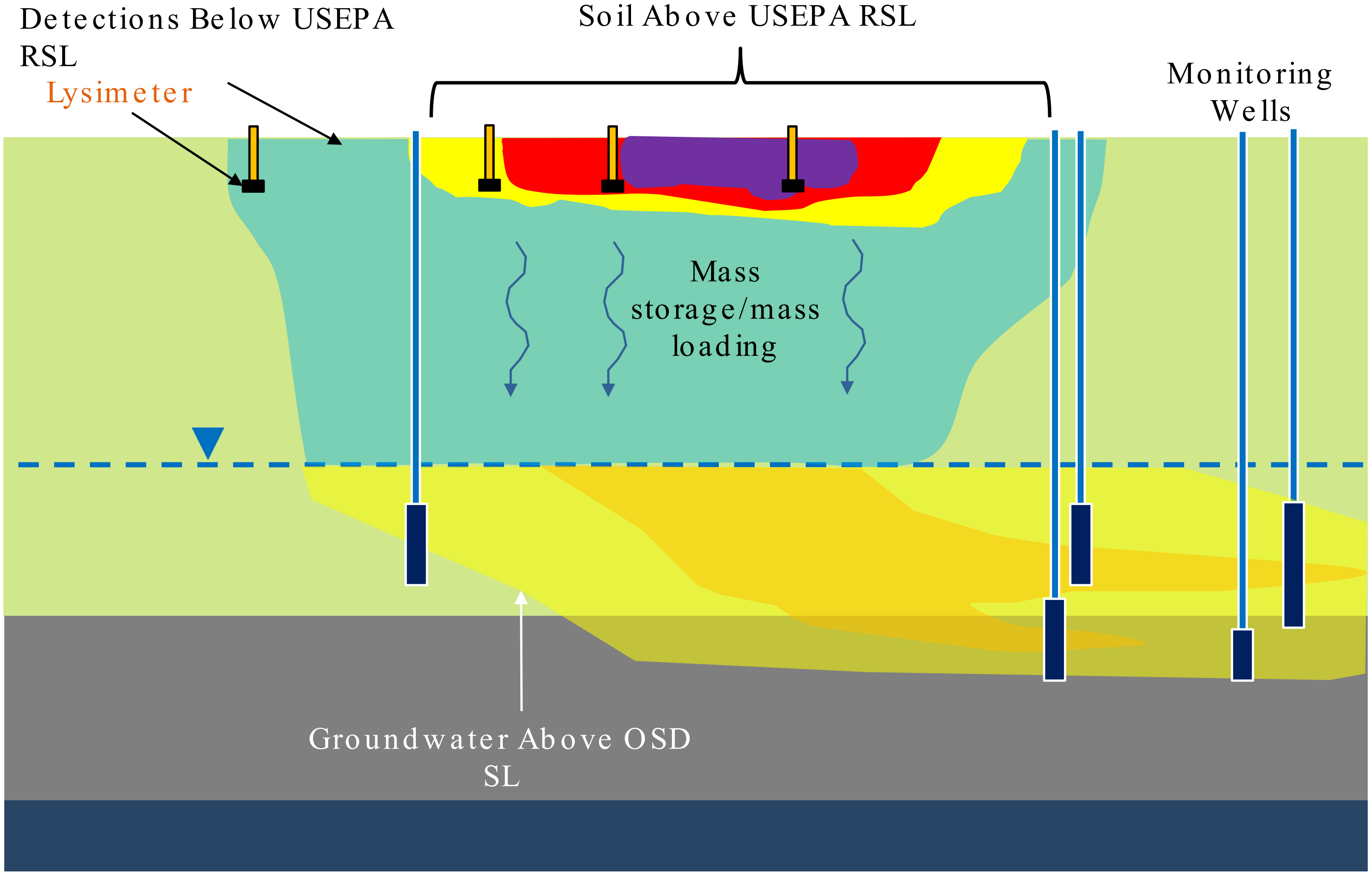
Understanding source strength is key to evaluate if PFAS in soil poses a risk to groundwater

Several methods:

- Ratio of soil concentration to groundwater concentration
- Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP)
- Lysimetry and pore water sampling

Estimate bulk partitioning through regression analyses

- Calculated mass loading at source compared to downgradient mass discharge = bulk attenuation factor
    - Empirical basis for site-specific soil-to-groundwater standard

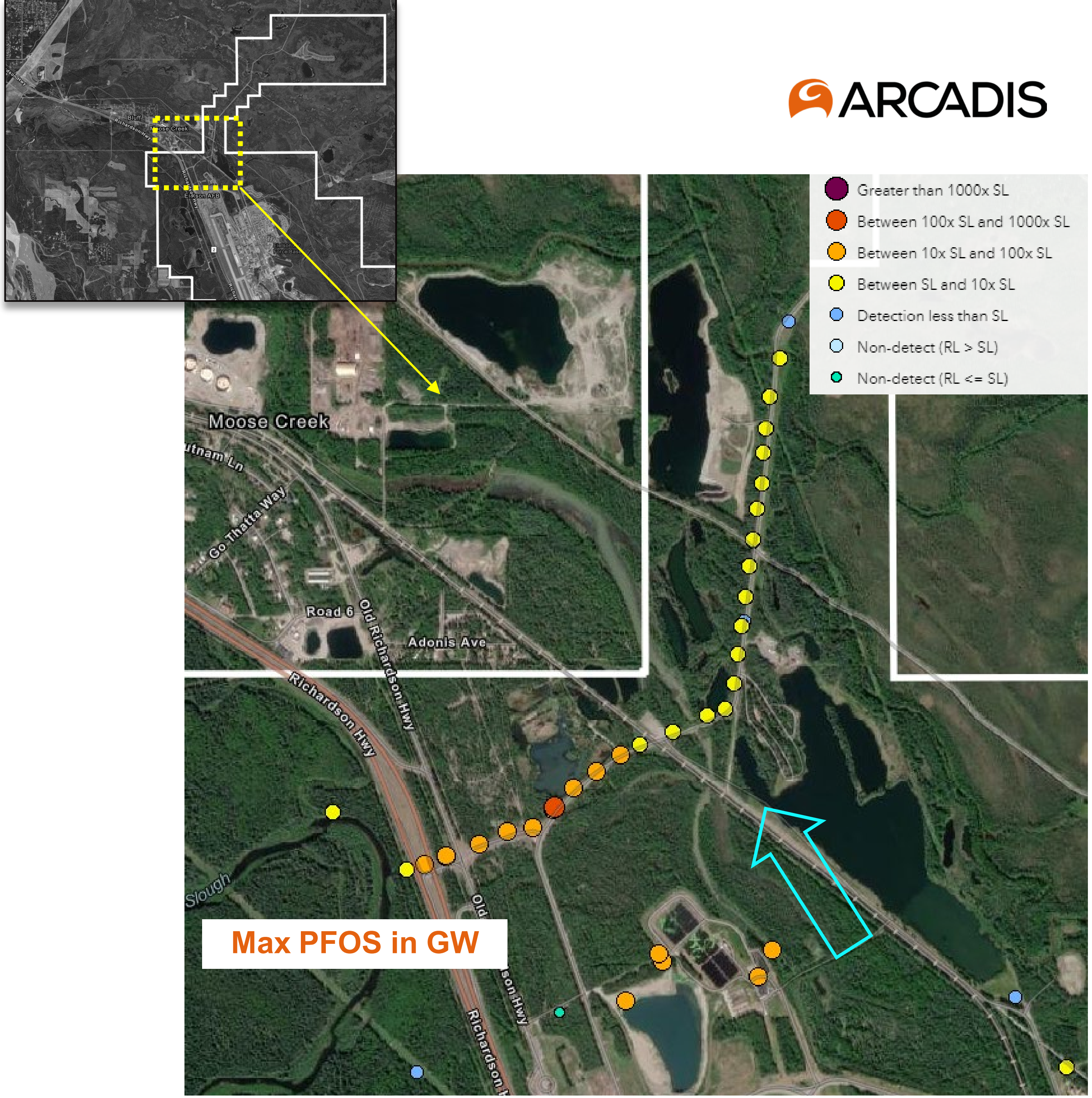


Flux Monitoring

Property Boundary Transects

Property boundary transects – provide useful information and early warning of potential off-site migration

- Vertical aquifer profile (VAP) or monitoring wells are installed during initial phase of RI, when:
    - Plume suspected or confirmed at site perimeter
    - Groundwater flow and transport indicate potential for off-site migration
    - Off-site receptors are less than 1 mile from base perimeter
- Use perimeter results to rank and prioritize EECA/interim actions



Eielson AFB - Transect 2: PFOS in Groundwater

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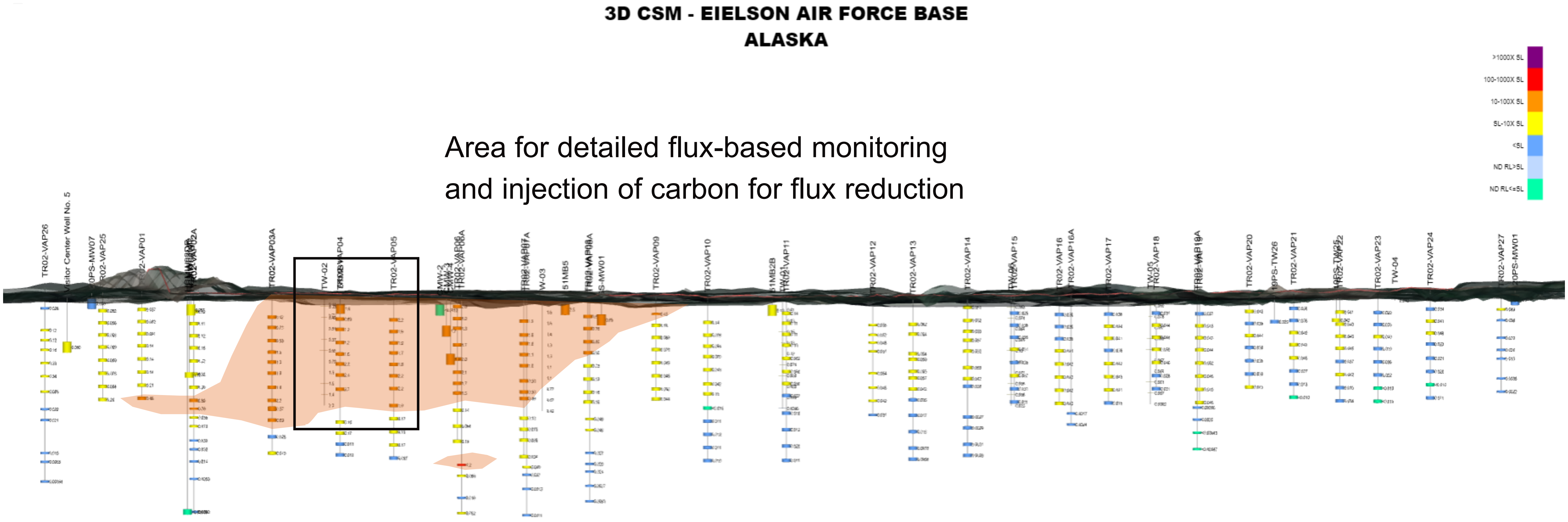
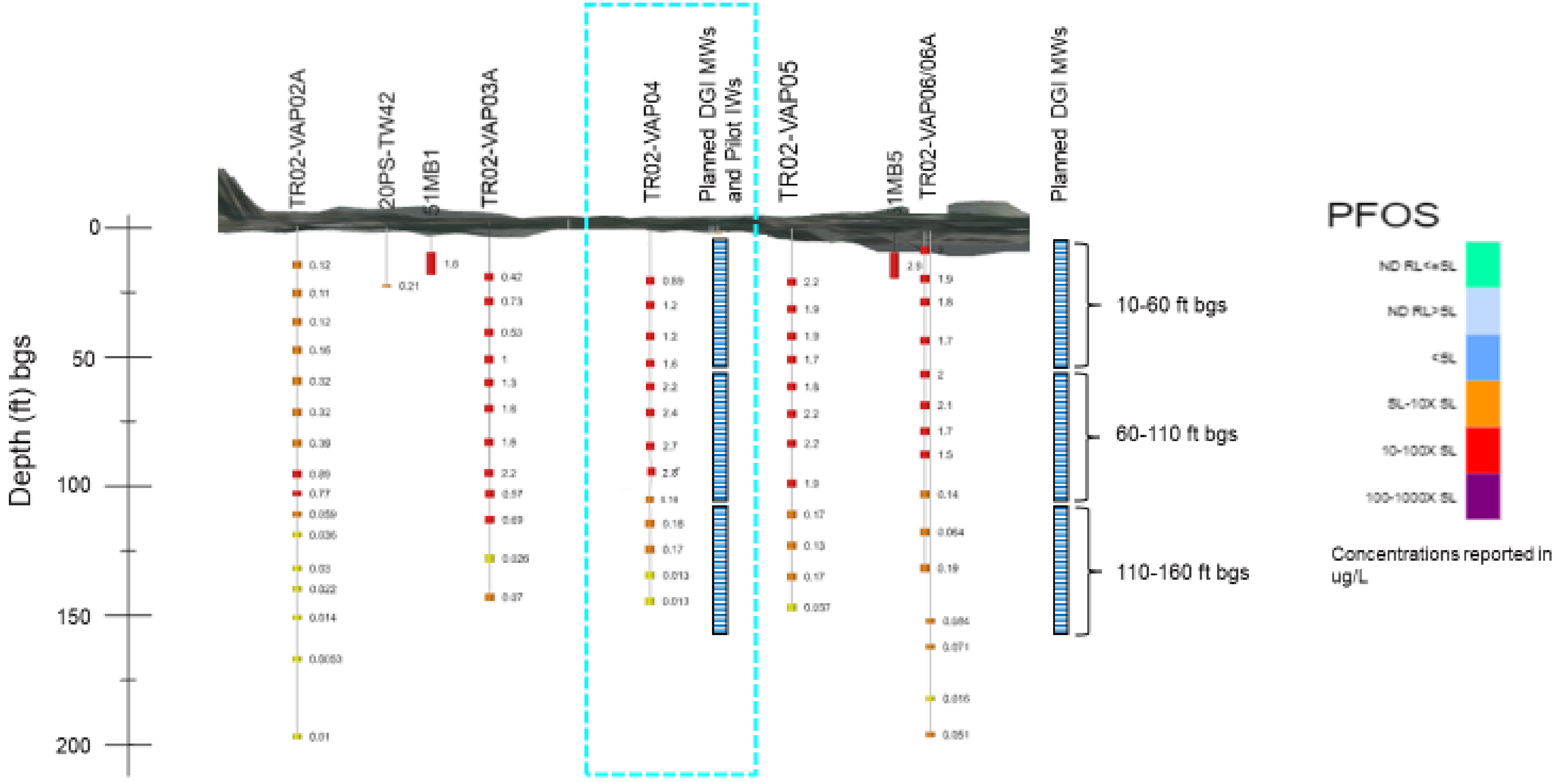


➢ DGI Scope (2024)

- Install 8 monitoring well clusters (24 wells)
- Low flow sampling at each well
- Slug testing at each well
- Deploy 9 passive flux meters (PFMs) per well (216 total)



500 ft wide transect targeting VAP04

- Compare and apply flux results to refine design of carbon injection program
- Monitor mass flux/discharge reduction following carbon injection

Q&A

Contact Us

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Extra Slides

Site Investigation – Adaptive and Flux Based

Adaptive, flux-based investigations are scalable with a la carte components and include:

- Background sampling
- “Prescriptive / adaptive” source area delineation
- “Source strength” characterization
- Perimeter mass flux evaluation
- Storm-water and sediment sampling
- Groundwater-Surface Water Interface (GSI) evaluation
- Surface water and sediment sampling
- Flux-based groundwater monitoring