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FAQs and Decision Guide for Chlorinated Solvents (ESTCP ER-0530)

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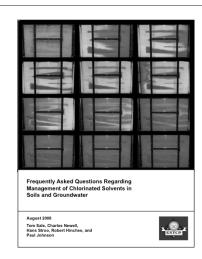
CLU-IN Internet Seminar

March, 24, 2009

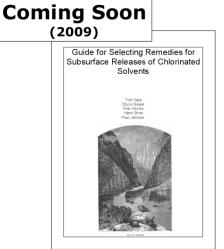
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ESTCP ER-0530

Tom Sale, Chuck Newell, Hans Stroo, Rob Hinchee, and Paul Johnson



Google - Chlorinated Solvents FAQs



Opportunity

Highlight current knowledge in support of sound decision for releases of chlorinated solvents



Better use of resources



Better environment



Audience

Parties participating in the process of selecting remedies for chlorinated solvent releases

- · DoD staff,
- · Consultants,
- Industry
- · Regulators, and
- Community Representatives

CLU-IN Webinar Audience

- Background

 - RegulatorsIndustry
 - Consultants
 - US DoD
- Geographic Dist.

 - 38 States 6 Countries

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1. What is the Problem?

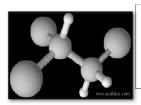
- ...chlorinated solvents are central to modern life
- ... flawed practice was largely a reflection of not clearly understanding
- ... managing the legacy of our past practices
- ... direct exposure pathways largely addressed ...
- ... technical challenges make it very difficult or impossible to completely clean up these...
- ... stakeholders face difficult decisions...
- ... the science and engineering on which remediation practice is based has improved dramatically...
- ...we can be more successful in the future than we have been in the past



1950s chloringted solvent disposal grea

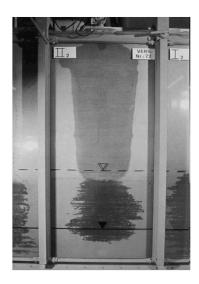
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2. What are chlorinated solvents and why are they of concern?



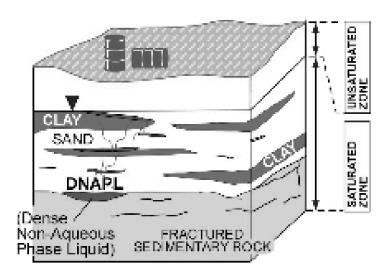
Attributes	Industrial Values	Environmental Challenges
Volatile	Good for cleaning	Readily form vapor plumes in soils
Chemically stable under typical aerobic conditions	Easy to store	Often slow to degrade in aerobic soils and groundwater systems
Non-flammable	Safe from a fire and explosion hazard perspective	Stable under natural aerobic conditions
Slightly soluble in water	Remains in a separate liquid phase when mixed with water (immiscible)	Small releases can contaminate large amounts of water and persist as sources for long periods of time
Densities much greater than water	Easy to separate from water	Can sink through water-saturated media (e.g., aquifers and aquitards), contaminating water deep underground
Low viscosity	Easy to apply to surfaces	Can move quickly through porous media
	•	6

3. What happens when chlorinated solvents are released into the subsurface?

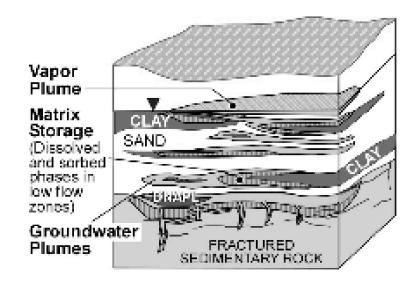


 Dense Chlorinated Solvents in Porous and Fractured Media: Model Experiments By Friedrich Schwille (Translated by James F. Pankow)

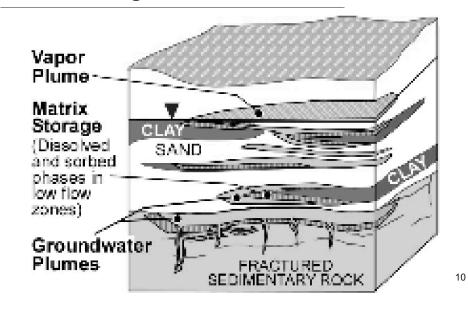
Early Stage



Middle Stage



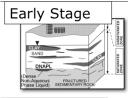
Late Stage



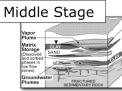
14 Compartment Model

	Source	Zone	Plume		
Phase/Zone	Low Permeability	Transmissive	Transmissive	Low Permeability	
Vapor ★ ↑					
DNAPL 3			NA NA	NA	
Aqueous	◆ (6	s) →	7	s) →	
Sorbed ♦					

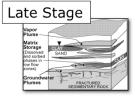
Mapping contaminant distribution and technology performance using the 14-comparment model



	sou	RCE	PLUME		
Zone/Phase	Low Permeability	Transmissive	Transmissive	Low Permeability	
Vapor	LOW	MODERATE	LOW	LOW	
DNAPL.	LOW	HIGH			
Aqueous	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	LOW	
Sorbed	LOW	MODERATE	LOW	LOW	



	SOU	RCE	PLUME		
Zone/Phase	Low Permeability	Transmissive	Transmissive	Low Pemeability	
Mapor	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	
DNAPL	MODERATE	MODERATE			
Aqueous	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	
Sorbed	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	



Zone/Phase	SOUI	RCE	PLUME		
	Low Permostrity	Transmissive	Transmissive	Low Pemeability	
Y/appor	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	
ONAPL.	LOW	LOW			
Aqueous	MODERATE	LOW	LOW	MODERATE	
Sorbed	MODERATE	LOW	LOW	MODERATE	

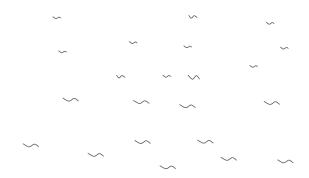
4. What is a chlorinated solvent "source zone"?

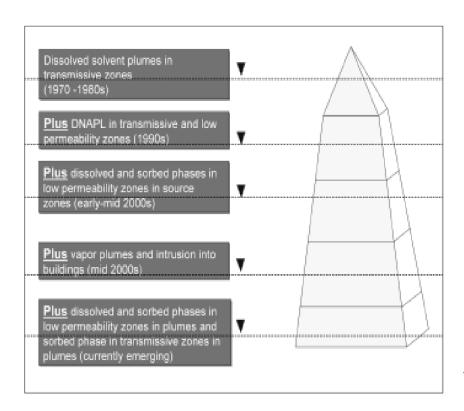
National Research Council report (NRC, 2005) defines a chlorinated solvent source zone as:

- ... a <u>subsurface reservoir</u> that sustains a plume (primarily dissolved groundwater plumes...
- ... the <u>DNAPL-containing region</u> is initially the <u>primary reservoir</u>... <u>also includes</u> high concentration <u>dissolved- and sorbed-phase halos</u> about the DNAPL-containing region...
- ... acknowledges that some chlorinated source zones are depleted of DNAPL, and that the high-concentration halo can be a reservoir that sustains plumes.

5. Why do we keep finding new challenges?

1960 Problem - Submerged?





6. Why is it common for source delineation efforts to miss a portion of a source?

- ... heterogeneous distributions of DNAPL and other contaminant phases
- ... common reliance on groundwater data collected from large screen intervals in transmissive zones
- ... at older release sites, DNAPL may have dissolved away (we are not looking for the right thing)
- ... difficult to resolve where the source ends and the plume begins
- ... decisions are often made using a limited dataset
- ... characterization can be de-emphasized in the rush to...

Source Delineation is Difficult



Comment on monitoring wells for site characterization

Characterization of a Type 3 setting at late stage using conventional monitoring wells

	So	urce	Plume		
Phase / Zone	Low Permeability	Transmissive	Transmissive	Low Permeability	
Vapor					
DNAPL					
Aqueous					
Sorbed					

	Number	1	ctu	al	Total	Max	
Importance		2	1	0			I
	6			6	0	24	1
1	7	- 2	2	3	- 6	14	1
0	- 1		-1		0	0	Grade 16% F
Total	14	2	3	9	- 6	38	1

7. Why is it difficult to clean up aquifers by pumping out the contaminated groundwater?

The National Research Council's 1994 report on groundwater clean-up alternatives concluded: "Remediation by pump-and-treat processes is a slow process. Simple calculations for a variety of typical situations show that predicted clean-up times range from a few years to tens, hundreds, or even thousands of years."

Type 3 setting - Middle stage Source zone pump and treat



8. Why are contaminants in low permeability zones important?



Abrupt contacts between transmissive zones (e.g., sand) and comparatively stagnant low permeability zones (e.g., clay) are common in geologic media.



Excerpts from Recent AFCEE and DuPont Funded Research

Tom Sale / Colorado State University

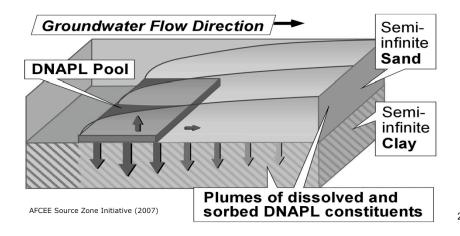




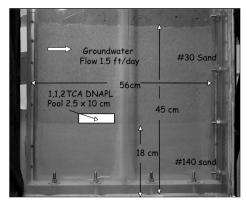


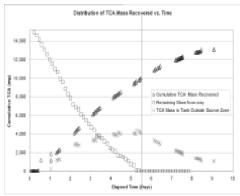


Thought Experiment 1 (Part A) How much of the contaminant move into the low permeability layer?

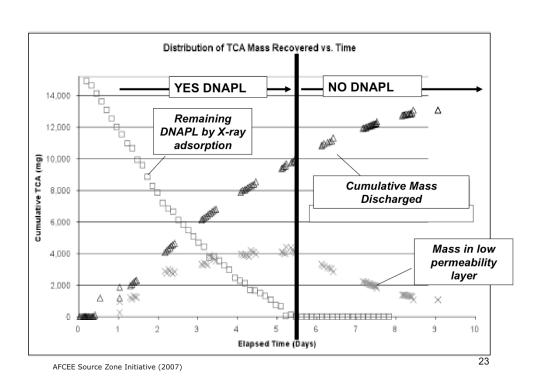


Two layer sand tank study Colorado School of Mines (Tissa Illangasekare and Bart Wilkins)

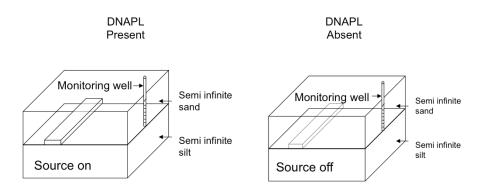




AFCEE Source Zone Initiative (2007)



2 layer model scenario

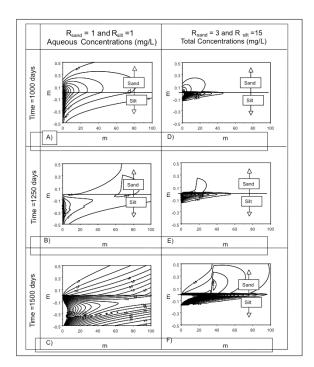


AFCEE Source Zone Initiative (2007)

Concentration profiles in cross-section

1 m by 100 m domain

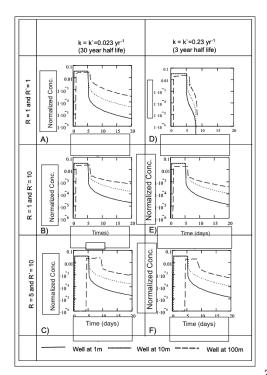
Sale, Zimbron, and Dandy JCH (2008)



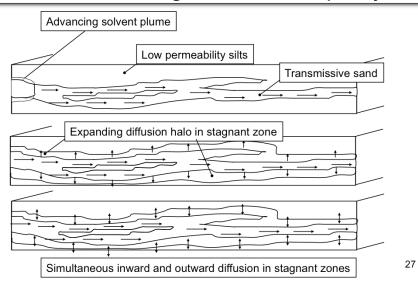
Concentration at a downgradient well as a function of time, reactions rates and retardation

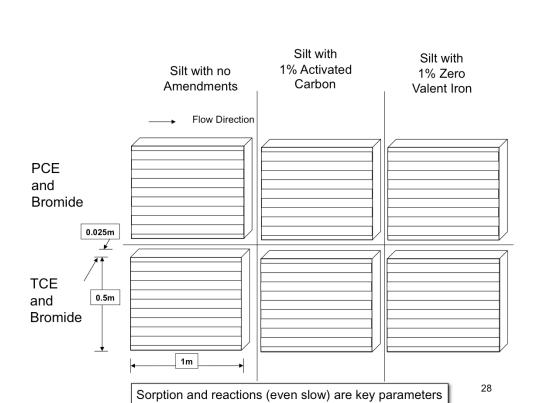
Sale, Zimbron, and Dandy JCH (2008)

See Also Chapman and Parker (2005)



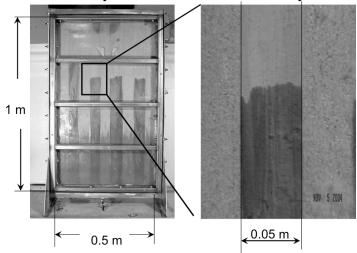
Thought Experiment 2) What is the effect of upgradient flux reduction on downgradient water quality?





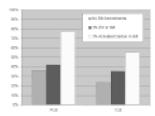
Multiple Layer Studies

Source on for 25 days, Flushing with no source for an additional 53 day, Retained mass at 83 days

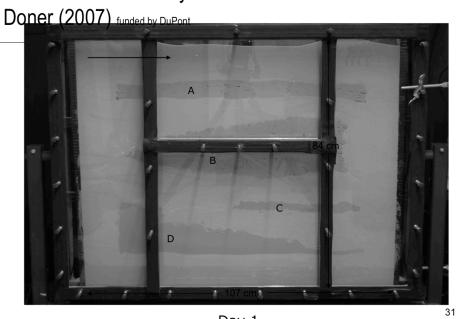


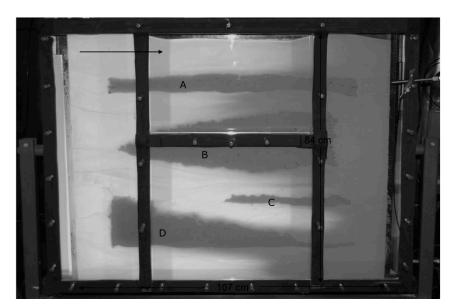
Colorado State University - Julio Zimbron, Leigh Neary, and Rachel Garcia

Percentages of influent contaminant mass driven into the silt layers at the time the source is shut off.

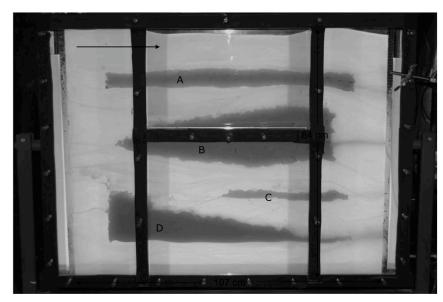


CSU Sand Tank Study Lee Ann

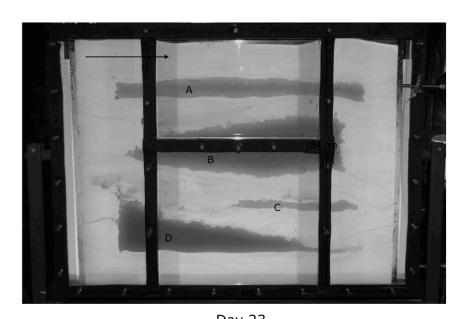




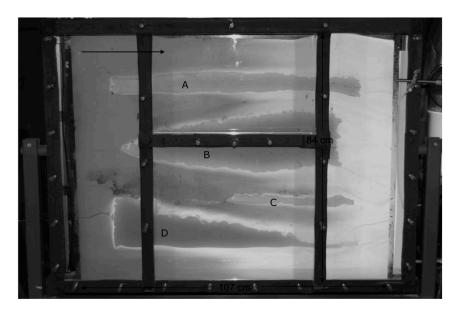
Day 5
Source on for 5 days



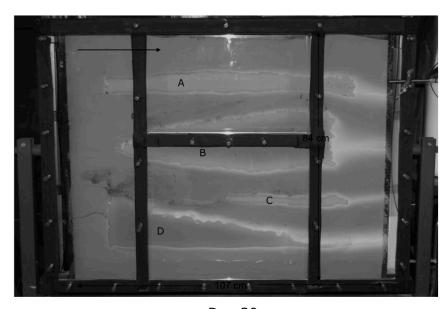
Day 11
Source on for 11 days



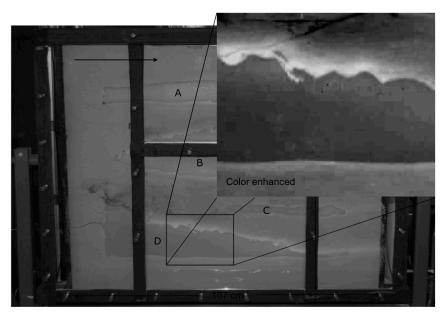
Day 23
Source on for 23 days & shut off this day



Day 26
Source off for 4 days

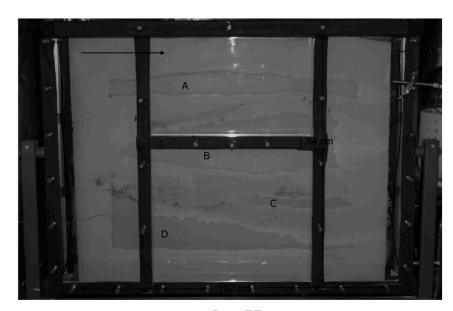


Day 30
Source off for 8 days

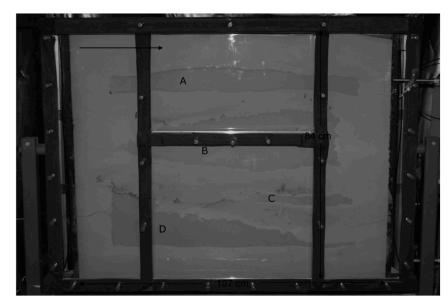


Day 34

Source off for 12 days



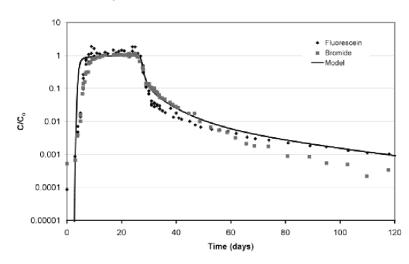
Day 75
Source off for 53 days



Day 132
Source off for 110 days

Effluent Concentrations from Sand Tank With HydroGeosphere Modeling Results (Chapman and Parker UW)

Comparison of Lab versus Model Effluent Concentrations

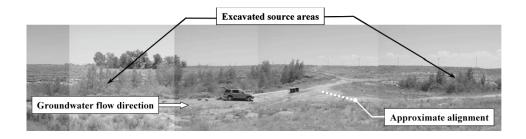


<u>See Back Diffusion – The</u> <u>Movie</u>

Available on CLU-IN Web site

Example

Pueblo Chemical Depot



Introduction

An electrolytic reactive barrier (e barrier) was installed at the Pueblo Chemical Depot (Pueblo, CO, USA) in early 2006 to intercept a plume of groundwater contaminated with energetic compounds (Figure 1). The concept of an ebarrier is that of a permeable reactive barrier driven by low voltage direct current to affect electrolytic degradation of contaminant compounds.

The e-barrier was installed in 15 individual panels consisting of titanium—mixed metal oxide mesh electrodes mounted to vinyl sheet pile (Crane Materials International).



Figure 1. Installation of ebarrier through a plume containing RDX, 2,4,6-TNT, 2,4-DNT and 1,3,5-TNB

Project Objectives

The primary objectives of the Demonstration/Validation are to provide the information necessary in terms of efficacy and cost to evaluate the potential of ebarriers for treatment of groundwater containing dissolved energetic compounds.

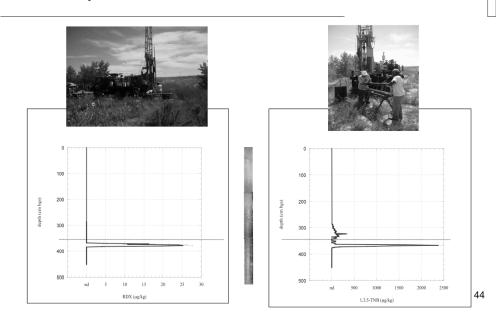
- Secondary project objectives are to:

 1) Evaluate the use of a four electrode set with respect to contaminant flux reduction,
 2) Evaluate the use of commercially available of f-the-shelf vinyl sheet pile as electrode support
 3) Evaluate the use of a solar power supply
 4) Provide the data necessary for Pueblo Chemical Depot to evaluate the use of ebarriers as a replacement alternative to the existing pump and treat system.

Figure 2. The e'barrier is powered by a 2 kW solar array consisting of 16 PV panels (BP Solar) and 3200 AHr battery array (MK Battery). Voltage applied to the e'barrier is controlled using DC-DC converters (Vicor). Power consumption by the e-barrier is currently approximately 350 W.



Example



9. Why are contaminants in the vadose zone important?

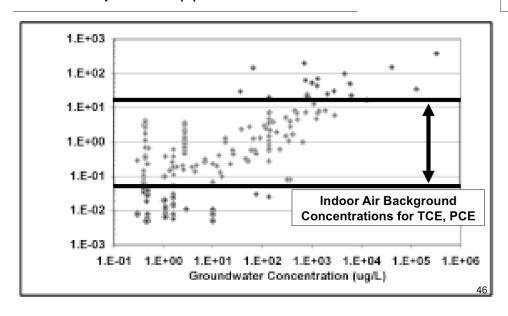
Vadose Zone as SOURCE

- Source compartments from 14 compartment model
- · Most but not all sites dominated by saturated zone sources
- SVE: soil moisture key performance factor

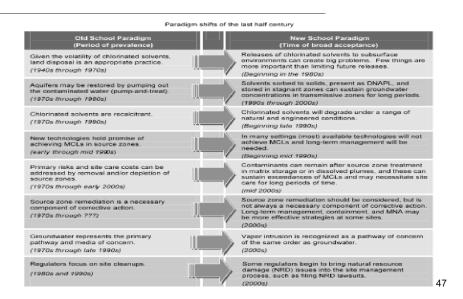
Vadose Zone as PATHWAY

- Indoor air pathway empirical studies and model development
- Confirming impacts difficult
- ESTCP and SERDP key players

9. Why are contaminants in the vadose zone important? (II)



10. What have we learned in the last half century?



10. What have we learned in the last half century?

<u>TIME</u> 1970s	OLD PARADIGM	NEW PARADIGM
	Land Disposal OK	Turns out - not a great idea
	Pump & Treat Restores	Surprise! Doesn't happen
	Bugs won't touch solvents	Some do, sometimes
	New technologies will do it	Probably not to MCLs
	Source removal necessary	Maybe not?
	Groundwater big player	New guy in town: vapors
2000s	Site cleanup is the thing	The resource is the focus

In the end, learning to value that which is:

- attainable
- beneficial

may be our greatest opportunity for future progress.

12. Which <u>in-situ</u> source treatment technologies are receiving the widest use?

Chemical Oxidation

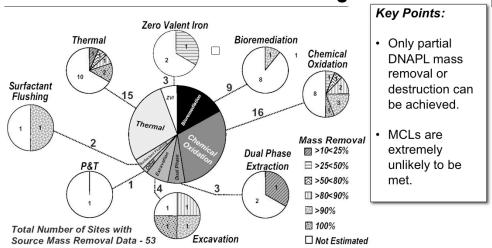
- Permanganate
- Peroxide
- Persulfate
- Thermal
 - Conductive
 - Electrical

12. Which <u>in-situ</u> source treatment technologies are receiving the widest use?

- Bioremediation
 - ·High Solubility Substrate
 - •Low Solubility Substrate
- Chemical Reduction
 - ZVI Injection
 - •ZVI Soil Mixing
- Monitored Natural Attenuation
- Soil Vapor Extraction

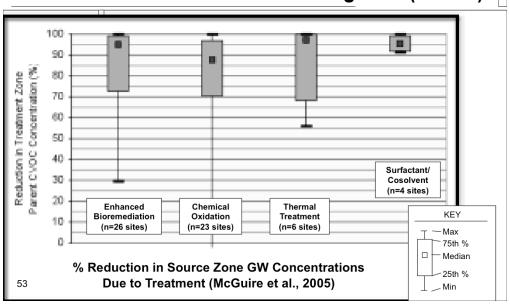


13. What can we expect from common source treatment technologies?



Summary of Source Mass Removal Sorted by Technology (NAVFAC, 2007; based on data from GeoSyntec, 2004)

13. What can we expect from common source treatment technologies? (cont'd)



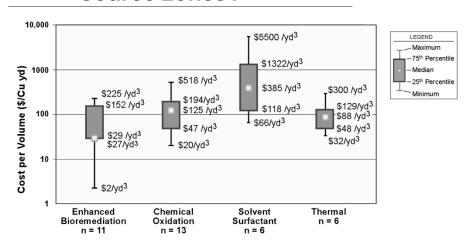
13. What can we expect from common source treatment technologies? (cont'd)

Remediation Rule-of-Thumb:

Well implemented in-situ remediation projects are likely to reduce source zone groundwater concentrations by **about** *one order-of-magnitude* (90% reduction) from pre-treatment levels.

Treatment trains (successive applications of different technologies) may be one approach to reduce concentrations beyond what a single treatment episode can achieve.

14. How much does it cost to treat source zones?



Unit Costs of Source Zone Treatment (McDade et al., 2005)

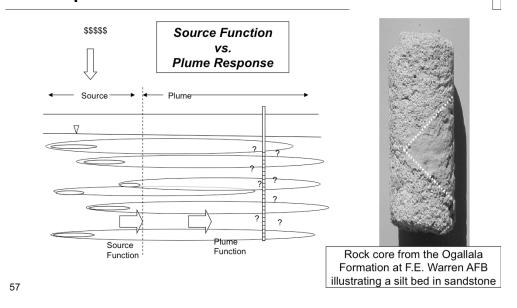
14. How much does it cost to treat source zones? (cont'd)

Very General Rule of Thumb

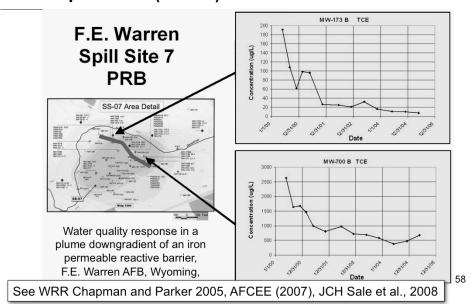
Investments on the order of millions of dollars per acre appear to have the potential to achieve one order of magnitude reductions in chlorinated solvent mass and concentration in source zones.



15. How will reduced loading from sources affect plumes?



15. How will reduced loading from sources affect plumes? (cont'd)



15. How will reduced loading from sources affect plumes? (cont'd)

Rule-of-Thumb:

One order-of-magnitude source reduction...

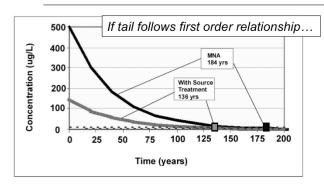
- gives one order-of-magnitude improvement downgradient.

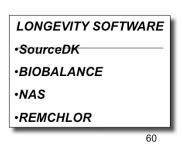
But with fast groundwater flow, low mass storage, and/or active attenuation...

 potentially gives 2-3 orders-of-magnitude improvement downgradient over several years

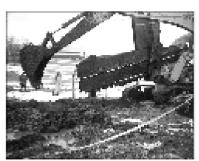
16. What are the effects of source treatment on clean-up timeframes?

- One benefits of source treatment is that time to reach its clean-up goals will be reduced.
- · Quantifying how much is difficult.
- Must account for likely "tails" to source concentration
- May not get "equal benefit for equal work"





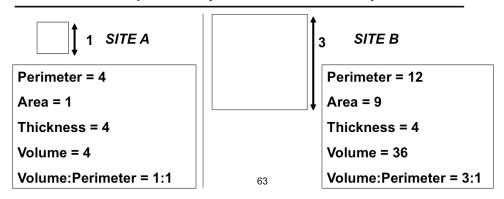
- 17. Which containment measures are receiving the widest use?
 - Hydraulic Containment
 - Permeable Reactive Barriers
 - Biodegradation (e.g., Mulch)
 - Zero Valent Iron
 - Sparge Walls
 - Physical Containment
 - Monitored Natural Attenuation



- 17. What can we expect from containment measures?
- 43 of 52 full scale ZVI barriers are "meeting regulatory expectations"
- 25 of 29 sites with physical barriers have "acceptable performance" in medium term (10 years or less)
- MNA sole remedy (no source treatment) at 30% of 191 MNA sites

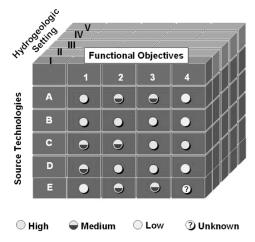


- 20. How does one compare treatment vs. containment?
- Uncertainty (for both options)
- Plume Response takes time
- Cost Comparison (Net Present Value)

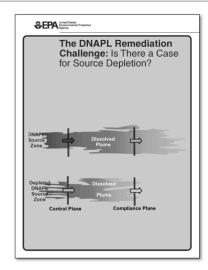


20. How do site characteristics affect clean-up decisions?

- NRC "Cube"
 - Objectives
 - Settings
 - Technologies
- Series of Tables



20. How do site characteristics affect clean-up decisions?



EPA / 600-R-031/143, 2003

Decision Matrix

 Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative factors to assess relative need for source treatment.

Qualitative Decision Chart: RC Approach

Yes, Source Depletion



No, Source Depletion



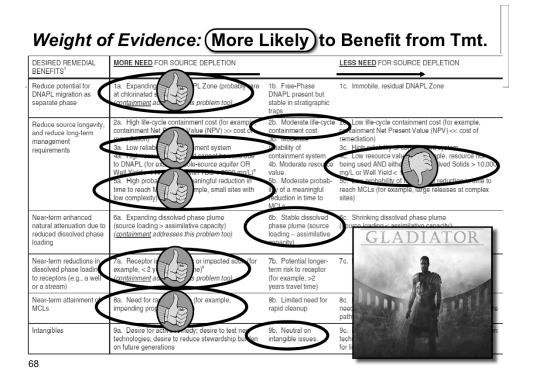


Key Factors for Deciding



Expanding	Immobile
Expanding	Stable
High	Low
High	Low
A Lot	A Little
Yes	No
	Expanding High High A Lot

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22. Taking stock: In the past, why have we not been more successful?

- Poor design
- Poor understanding of what technologies do.
- Misunderstanding the extent and/or distribution
- Poor recognition of the uncertainties inherent in remedial system design
- Stating remedial objectives that can only be achieved over long periods of time

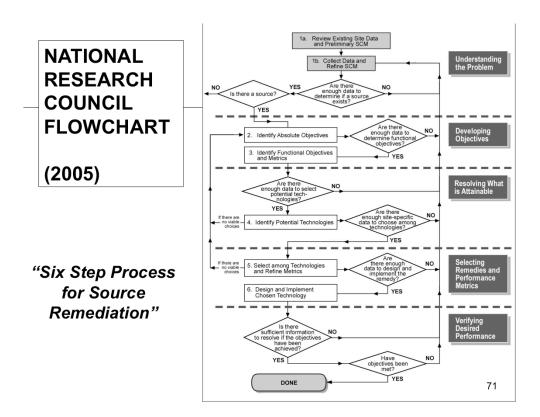
23. How can we set clean-up objectives that are achievable and protective?

NRC Philosophy:

Two different categories of objectives:

- Absolute objectives are objectives that are important in themselves, such as "protect human health and the environment."
- Functional objectives are a "means to an end" and include containing plumes, reducing concentrations and mass flux, managing risks, reducing mass, and potentially decreasing plume longevity.

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24. How can we be more successful at site cleanup?

- 1. Think about *absolute objectives* as long-term goals
- 2. Have an up-to-date understanding of what can be practicably achieved by available technology, and communicate your experiences so that others can gain from your insights
- 3. Develop shorter-term <u>functional objectives</u> that must be met to confirm progress towards the absolute objectives
- Recognize uncertainties. Design a remedial strategy that is updated as new observations and data are recorded

24. How can we be more successful at site cleanup?

- 5. When *source containment* is the chosen remedial strategy, clearly communicate the long-term nature of this to all stakeholders.
- 6. When source treatment is chosen as a part of the remedial strategy, clearly communicate the uncertainties associated with the outcome to all stakeholders.
- 7. Accept that remedial actions will not always lead to achievement of clean-up goals and objectives and learn from these experiences rather than simply viewing them as failures.

24. How can we be more successful at site cleanup?

The Observational Approach:

Originally developed for geotech engineering by Terzaghi & Peck (1948).

- Assess probable conditions and develop contingency plans
 - -Example: plan for adverse outcome
- •Establish key parameters for observation
 - -Example: groundwater concentration, mass flux
- Measure parameters and compare to predicted values
 - -Example: compare to model predictions
- Change the design as needed
 - Example: another round of treatment or go to containment

25. Where can I find more information?

Pankow, J.F. and J.A. Cherry, 1996. Dense Chlorinated Solvents & Other DNAPLs in Groundwater, Waterloo Educational Services Inc., Rockwood, Ontario: http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0964801418/103-1522514-8943817?v=glance&n=283155

Cohen, R.M., and J.W. Mercer, 1993. DNAPL Site Evaluation. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the related Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) are currently funding a number of projects in the area of chlorinated solvent source zone characterization and remediation. The most recent annual report is at: http://www.serdp.org/research/CU/DNAPL%20ANNUAL%20REPORT-2004.pdf.

The ESTCP program convened a workshop to address the research needs in this area. The workshop report is at: http://www.estcp.org/documents/techdocs/chlorsolvcleanup.pdf

Further information on SERDP- and ESTCP-funded research in this area is available at: http://www.serdp-estcp.org/DNAPL.cfm

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http://www.serdp-estcp.org/DNAPL.ctm
The EPA sponsored an Expert Panel to assess the benefits of source zone remediation. Their report, "DNAPL Remediation: Is There a Case for Source Depletion?" is at: http://www.epa.gov/ada/download/reports/600R03143/600R03143.pdf
EPA also recently published a document called "Appropriate Goals for DNAPL Source Zone Remediation", available at: http://gwtf.cluin.org/docs/options/dnapl_goals_paper.pdf
The National Research Council recently published a review of the field: NRC, 2004. Contaminants in the Subsurface: Source Zone Assessment and Remediation, at: http://www.nap.edu/openbook/030909447X/html/332.html
The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Consortium has published several documents on DNAPLs, including: An overview of characterization and remediation technologies: http://www.introveb.org/nocuments/DNAPLs, including:

http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/DNAPLs-1.pdf A regulatory review of the challenges of source zone remediation:

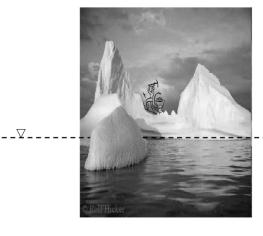
http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/DNAPLs-2.pdf

An overview of bioremediation of DNAPLs:

http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/BioDNAPL-1.pdf

Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment has a web page with a number of documents, software, and other tools for chlorinated solvents and other contaminants, at: http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/products/techtrans/

We need to look at the entire problem... including the parts that are less apparent



Aqueous phase in transmissive zones DNAPL in transmissive zones

Sorbed phase transmissive zones Aqueous phase in low permeability zones Sorbed phase in low permeability zones DNAPL in low permeability Vapor in transmissive zones Vapor in low permeability zones

Discussion





Thank You

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