



Sites contaminated with dense nonaqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) and DNAPL mixtures present significant environmental challenges. Despite the decades spent on characterizing and attempting to remediate DNAPL sites, substantial risk remains. Inadequate characterization of site geology as well as the distribution, characteristics, and behavior of contaminants -- by relying on traditional monitoring well methods rather than more innovative and integrated approaches -- has limited the success of many remediation efforts.

The Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization Team has synthesized the knowledge about DNAPL site characterization and remediation acquired over the past several decades, and has integrated that information into a new document, <u>Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization and Tools Selection (ISC-1, 2015)</u>. This guidance is a resource to inform regulators, responsible parties, other problem holders, consultants, community stakeholders, and other interested parties of the critical concepts related to characterization approaches and tools for collecting subsurface data at DNAPL sites. After this associated training, participants will be able to use the ITRC <u>Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization and Tools Selection (ISC-1, 2015)</u> guidance to develop and support an integrated approach to DNAPL site characterization, including:

- Identify what site conditions must be considered when developing an informative DNAPL conceptual site model (CSM)

- Define an objectives-based DNAPL characterization strategy

- Understand what tools and resources are available to improve the identification, collection, and evaluation of appropriate site characterization data

- Navigate the DNAPL characterization tools table and select appropriate technologies to fill site-specific data gaps

For reference during the training class, participants should have a copy of Figure 4-1, the integrated site characterization flow diagram from the ITRC Technical and Regulatory Guidance document: <u>Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization and Tools Selection (ISC-1, 2015)</u> and available as a PDF at <u>http://www.cluin.org/conf/itrc/IDSC/ITRC-ISC-Figures.pdf</u>.

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Although I'm sure that some of you are familiar with these rules from previous CLU-IN events, let's run through them quickly for our new participants.

We have started the seminar with all phone lines muted to prevent background noise. Please keep your phone lines muted during the seminar to minimize disruption and background noise. During the question and answer break, press #6 to unmute your lines to ask a question (note: \*6 to mute again). Also, please do NOT put this call on hold as this may bring unwanted background music over the lines and interrupt the seminar.

Use the "Q&A" box to ask questions, make comments, or report technical problems any time. For questions and comments provided out loud, please hold until the designated Q&A breaks.

*Everyone* – please complete the feedback form before you leave the training website. Link to feedback form is available on last slide.



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Alec Naugle is a Senior Engineering Geologist in the Groundwater Protection Division at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region where he has worked since 1999. Alec leads a unit that oversees solvent and petroleum hydrocarbon cleanups at Department of Energy laboratories and closed military bases, many of which are undergoing conversion for civilian use. He is also co-chair of the Region's technical groundwater committee, which supports the Board's planning activities related to groundwater quality and beneficial use. Prior to joining the Board, Alec worked as a consultant on various military and private sites in California and the Northeast and as a regulator in the UST program. Alec has been a member of ITRC since 2000 participating in the Permeable Reactive Barriers, Enhanced Attenuation: Chlorinated Organics, and Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy teams. Alec earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and geology from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio in 1986 and a master's degree in groundwater hydrology from the University of California at Davis in 2001. Alec is a Registered Professional Geologist in California.

Tamzen Macbeth is an Associate Engineer at CDM Smith out of Helena, Montana. She has worked for CDM since 2009. Previously, she worked for 7 years at North Wind Inc. Tamzen is an environmental engineer with an interdisciplinary academic and research background in microbiology and engineering. She specializes in the development, demonstration and application of innovative, cost-effective technologies for contaminated groundwater. Specifically, she is experienced in all aspects of remedies from characterization to remediation for DNAPLs, dissolved organic, inorganic, and radioactive contaminants under CERCLA and RCRA regulatory processes. She has expertise in a variety of chemical, biological, thermal, extraction and solidification/stabilization remediation techniques as well as natural attenuation. Her current work focuses developing combined technology approaches, and innovative characterization techniques such as mass flux and mass discharge metrics. Since 2004, Tamzen has contributed to the ITRC as a team member and instructor for the ITRC's Bioremediation of DNAPLs, Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy, Molecular Diagnostics and DNAPL Characterization teams. Tamzen earned a bachelor's degree in Microbiology in 2000 and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering in 2002 both from Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, and a doctoral degree from in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2008 from the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho.

Trevor King is a Remediation Technical Lead with AECOM DNAPL team in Pennsylvania. He has global experience in the planning, implementing and management of environmental and DNAPL remediation projects. He has extensive experience in the development of characterization and closure strategies for soil and groundwater remediation projects, and implementing cost effective remedial actions. Since 1993, Trevor has planned, implemented, and managed a wide variety of environmental projects in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and Puerto Rico. His experience includes project management, developing conceptual site models in support of remedy selection, developing remedial objectives and site closure strategies for remediation projects, and regulatory and client interface. Trevor has two pneumatic fracturing technology patents. His current company-wide responsibilities include project management and remedial strategy and technology evaluations at a national as well as the regional level. Trevor has been active in the ITRC since 2007 and has contributed, as a team member, to three ITRC DNAPL documents. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey in 1993. He is a Professional Engineer in environmental engineering in Delaware.

Jeremy Musson is the Principal for Innovation and Optimization at Pinyon Environmental, Inc., based in Lakewood, Colorado with multiple offices in Colorado and Arizona. Jeremy has worked for Pinyon Environmental, Inc. since 2007 and in the environmental field since 1998. He has experience in the design of site characterization and remediation plans, using innovative state-of-the-art methods, for Brownfield, VCRA, UST, and RCRA/CERCLA projects. Jeremy has been a member of the Interstate Regulatory Council (ITRC) since 2011 on the Green and Sustainable Remediation, Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPL) Integrated Site Characterization, and Characterization and Remediation of Fractured Bedrock teams. He is a trainer for the Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization course. Additionally, Jeremy serves on the Environmental, Energy, Water Resources, and Scholarship committees for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Colorado. Jeremy earned a bachelor's degree in Marine Geology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1998, and has been a listed consultant with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil **Ryan A. Wymore, P.E.**, rejoined CDM Smith in Denver, CO in 2015. He serves as a national resource for evaluation, selection, and implementation of remediation Strategies and solutions. Ryan has specialized in innovative groundwater remediation technologies, particularly bioremediation, monitored natural attenuation and chemical oxidation. Previously, he work at Geosyntec Consultants in 2014-2015, CDM Smith from 2005-2013, at North Wind Inc. from 2001-2005, and at the Idaho National Laboratory from 1998-2001. He has given over eighty presentations at various local, regional, national, and international symposia and meetings. Since 2002, he has worked with various ITRC teams that addressed DNAPLs, bioremediation of DNAPLs, and Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy. Ryan earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1997 a

## The Problem: Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) Sites

- Not achieving cleanup goals
- Spending time and money, but substantial risk remains
- Common site challenges
  - Incomplete understanding of DNAPL sites
  - Complex matrix manmade
    and natural
  - · Unrealistic remedial objectives
  - Selected remedy is not satisfactory



Coal Tar

Restoring sites contaminated by chlorinated solvents to typical regulatory criteria (low partsper-billion concentrations) within a generation (~20 years) has proven exceptionally difficult, although there have been successes. Site managers must recognize that complete restoration of many of these sites will require prolonged treatment and involve several remediation technologies. To make as much progress as possible requires a thorough understanding of the site, clear descriptions of achievable objectives, and use of more than one remedial technology. Making efficient progress will require an adaptive management approach, and may also require transitioning from one remedy to another as the optimum range of a technique is surpassed. Targeted monitoring should be used and re-evaluation should be done periodically.





When we began to address subsurface contamination in the 1970's, many practitioners came from the water supply industry

We used a series of during site characterization and remedial design.

These simplifications in many cases led to inadequate characterization of the site geologic heterogeneity and distribution, characteristics, and behavior of contaminants

This approach has helped to limit the success of many site remediation activities



ITRC's Integrated Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquid Site Strategy (IDSS-1, 2011) technical and regulatory guidance document will assist site managers in development of an integrated site remedial strategy. This course highlights five important features of an IDSS including: **A conceptual site model** (CSM) that is based on reliable characterization and an understanding of the subsurface conditions that control contaminant transport, reactivity, and distribution

**Remedial objectives** and performance metrics that are clear, concise, and measureable **Treatment technologies applied** to optimize performance and take advantage of potential synergistic effects

**Monitoring** based on interim and final cleanup objectives, the selected treatment technology and approach, and remedial performance goals

**Reevaluating the strategy** repeatedly and even modifying the approach when objectives are not being met or when alternative methods offer similar or better outcomes at lower cost



Benefits of using ITRC Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document: Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization (ISC-1, 2015)

Better performing remedies and improved predictability of plume behavior and risks.

Increased spatial precision and accuracy of characterization data, leading to more accurate CSMs.

More defensible knowledge of contaminant distribution.

Improved selection of remedial measures to address subsurface zones that feed plumes and drive up potential exposure.

Use of real-time field screening tools for site characterization that may minimize the number of permanent monitoring wells, thus providing more optimal use of available personnel and financial resources.

Facilitates communication of site conditions and improves enhanced stakeholder understanding and involvement.

Reduced uncertainty in risk evaluation, remedy selection, and site management decisions, leading to better reductions in risk and protection of natural resources.

Use of real-time field screening tools for site characterization that may minimize the number of permanent monitoring wells, thus providing more optimal use of available personnel and financial resources.

# Incorporated into the Solution: New DNAPL Site Characterization Approaches



- ► Heterogeneity replaces homogeneity
- Anisotropy replaces isotropy
- Diffusion replaces dispersion
- Back-diffusion is a significant source of contamination and plume growth
- Non-Gaussian distribution
- Transient replaces steady-state conditions
- ► Nonlinear replaces linear sorption
- ▶ Non-ideal sorption replaces ideal sorption

No associated notes.

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# <sup>12</sup> After this training you should be able to:



- Apply the ITRC document to develop and support an Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization approach
- Understand what characteristics of site conditions must be considered when developing an informative DNAPL conceptual site model (CSM)
- Defining an integrated DNAPL characterization strategy
- Understand what tools and resources are available to improve the identification, collection, and evaluation of appropriate site characterization data
- Navigate the DNAPL characterization tools table and select appropriate technologies to fill site-specific data gaps





Understanding the subsurface behavior of DNAPLs is technically-challenging and methods for site characterization have evolved. The objective of this document is to describe the tools and resources that can improve the identification, collection, and evaluation of appropriate site characterization data to prepare more accurate CSMs. This guidance describes how, with the current understanding of subsurface contaminant behavior, both existing and new tools and techniques can be used to measure physical, chemical, and hydrologic subsurface parameters to better characterize the subsurface. The expected results of using this guidance are more accurate site-specific CSMs, which can then be applied in the ITRC Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy (ITRC 2011).



Heterogeneity replaces homogeneity. Anisotropy replaces isotropy.



**Chapter 2** of this document reviews DNAPL types and the characteristics that control their distribution, fate, and transport in the subsurface. Although these issues are addressed in peer-reviewed literature, they are also summarized in this document because they are crucial to designing an adequate characterization program.



Physical properties of Example NAPLs & reference fluids





Higher density DNAPLs have a greater driving force for downward movement, while in other cases other DNAPLs may be almost neutrally buoyant.

## DNAPL Aqueous Solubility (Cw,sol)

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### Amount of a compound that dissolves in water at equilibrium

DNAPL Component	Density	Solubility	Types of
	(g/mL)	(mg/L)	Sites
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	1.46	1,100	Solvent
Pentachlorophenol	1.98	20	Wood
(PCP)			Treatment
Acid Tar	1.84	Miscible	Refineries
(H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> &			
Hydrocarbons)			
Often different in site groundwater than in the laboratory			
KEYInfluences loss of mass to plumePOINT:and trapped soil water			

Mention effects of pure vs mixed DNAPLs: effect on dissolution etc





- Vapor Pressure (VP $_{sat}$  or  $\mathsf{P}_0)$  Maximum amount of a pure compound that can exist in the gas phase

- Henry's Law (K<sub>H</sub>)

Amount of dissolved organic contaminant that will exist in the gas phase



The properties we have just discussed can "be found" in published literature.

### HOWEVER

It is important to stress that the properties of pure laboratory grade chemicals can be very different from what may be present at a site.



DNAPL Migration is to a large extent controlled by the following DNAPL Properties and the DNAPL interactions with the Sub-Surface Media



#### Wettability

Represents whether a fluid is wicked into or repelled out of the subsurface media, defined by the contact angle  $\theta$  of the DNAPL fluid against the matrix materials in the presence of water.

Wettability is a combined property of the NAPL and the subsurface formation materials, chemistry, presence of co-contaminants

Interfacial Tension

Represents the force parallel to the interface of one fluid with another fluid (usually air or water), which leads to the formation of a meniscus and the development of capillary forces and a pressure difference between different fluids













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These actions may control the longevity long term migration of the dissolved phase plumes at DNAL sites



**Chapter 2** of this document reviews DNAPL types and the characteristics that control their distribution, fate, and transport in the subsurface. Although these issues are addressed in peer-reviewed literature, they are also summarized in this document because they are crucial to designing an adequate characterization program.














Diffusion replaces dispersion.



Anisotropy replaces isotropy Heterogeneity replaces homogeneity











Now that you've heard about DNAPL characteristics and the life cycle of a DNAPL site, we want to discuss a process that we're calling integrated site characterization for DNAPL sites. It's a process that integrates the planning, collection, and evaluation of characterization data. One major highlight of this process is a module on new and existing data collection tools and techniques for DNAPL sites, including the physical, chemical, and hydrologic parameters that they measure.

The integrated site characterization process is presented in Chapters 4 through 6 in pour guidance document. The purpose is to help users prepare more accurate conceptual site models. And that translates to a more effective Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy, which was the subject of our 2011 guidance.



### So, what is integrated site characterization?

Well, basically it's

- A Flexible, iterative, 8-step process to encourage refinement of the Conceptual Site Model over the project lifecycle with information obtained during any phase. That's what's shown in the roadmap on the right side.
- The process was developed to focus on particular aspects that are common to DNAPL site characterization. This includes matching spatial data resolution with the scale of subsurface heterogeneity that is controlling contaminant distribution and movement. As discussed earlier, discounting the effects of heterogeneity on contaminant distribution and matrix diffusion, is a major issue for DNAPL sites and why remedies fail.
- It also includes:
  - · developing clear, actionable data collection objectives, and
  - · selecting appropriate tools for optimal data collection considering site conditions and data needs

I should take a moment to emphasize that data collection objectives are not to be confused with remedial action objectives. Data collection objectives are the reasons why you are collecting the data, what kind of data, how much data, and the quality of the data in order to answer specific questions about site characterization. Remedial action objectives are all about the reasons why remediation is needed and the specific goals for implementing it.

#### NEW CONCEPTS FOR CONTAMNANT FATE AND TRANSPORT

- Heterogeneity replaces homogeneity
- Anisotropy replaces isotropy
- Diffusion replaces dispersion
- Matrix back diffusion must be evaluated as a source
- Lognormal replaces gaussian
- Transient replaces steady state conditions
- Non-linear replaces linear sorption
- Non-ideal replaces ideal sorption



The benefits of integrated site characterization are best understood in light of common problems with DNAPL sites. Often the controlling heterogeneities have not been fully characterized, which has led to inadequate data resolution and undervaluing the need to fully assess contaminant distribution, particularly in storage zones that account for back diffusion. And that has lead to many remedy failures. So the benefits include:

- Reducing uncertainty and enabling development of more accurate Conceptual Site Models
- Improving identification, collection, and evaluation of site characterization data to develop
  appropriate and achievable remedial objectives and more efficient remedies. The ITRC's
  Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy document does a good job summarizing why developing
  appropriate and achievable objectives is so critical...and it is worth noting that the
  integrated site characterization approach we're discussing today is really part of an
  overall Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy. So if you are not familiar with our 2012
  document, you can download it from the ITRC's website.
- Another major benefit is what we call "avoiding costly do-overs" prompted by ineffective remedies. As I said, too often this is the result of *insufficient* data resolution, data gaps, or unfocused characterization objectives.



In this training we're going to present the 8-step approach as three modules. The first is a module for planning your site characterization, which is covered by the first four steps of the ISC module that are shown here. I'll go into more detail about each step later on, but for now I just want to preview what the planning module includes.

- 1. Defining the uncertainties and deficiencies in the Conceptual Site Model
- 2. Identifying data needs and resolution appropriate for site conditions
- 3. Developing clear, actionable data collection objectives
- 4. Designing a data collection and analysis plan

The second module is for selecting your investigation tools, which is based on your data needs and the hydrogeologic environment. Nathan/Jeremy will present that module after I'm done.

The third module is about implementing the investigation. This also includes evaluating and interpreting the data and then circling back to update the Conceptual Site Model. Heather/Ryan will present that module after the Tools Selection module.



So before we go any further, please take a few moments to respond to our poll question.

"Do you have a DNAPL site that is being characterized for the first time or where prior characterization was insufficient?"

There are three possible responses – Yes, I have a site that is being characterized for the first time; or, Yes, my site is being re-characterized, perhaps because it's just a second or third iteration that as planned, or perhaps you're at the remedial design stage and need to have better delineation for targeting the source zone; or perhaps because the initial resolution was insufficient or there were unanswered questions. Or maybe you don't have a site that's being characterized.

Either way, this guidance provides an optimal planning approach for planning a DNAPL site characterization, and minimizing the chances of collecting insufficient or inadequate data.



Most of us are familiar with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's seven step Data Quality Objectives Process. And you might be thinking that integrated site characterization sounds a lot like data quality objectives.

So this slide simply shows that the Data Quality Objectives process is meant to be fully captured within the planning module of integrated site characterization. It's just that we wanted to design an approach that would focus attention on specific DNAPL site problems, such as insufficient data resolution and lack of appropriate objectives.

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Directly from EPA "The DQO Process may be applied to all programs involving the collection of environmental data and apply to programs with objectives that cover decision making, estimation, and modeling in support of research studies, monitoring programs, regulation development, and compliance support activities. When the goal of the study is to support decision making, the DQO Process applies systematic planning and statistical hypothesis testing methodology to decide between alternatives. When the goal of the study is to support estimation, modeling, or research, the DQO Process develops an analytic approach and data collection strategy that is effective and efficient."



Now I'm going to walk through the first four steps of integrate site characterization. In between each step I'm going to switch to a case example of a small drycleaner site that illustrates how each step was applied.

Step 1 is about defining the problem and assessing the uncertainties with the Conceptual Site Model. The challenge is to define the problem in terms of uncertainties to better understand what's missing and what's needed. For example, if the problem is that the extent of contamination is not fully defined, the uncertainty might about low data density in a particular direction, or misunderstanding of groundwater flow direction. If the problem is about ineffective remediation, then their may be uncertainty about the true extent of the source area or presence of undefined preferential pathways.

#### Critically review existing information:

If your site has already been characterized to some degree, and many DNAPL sites have, then it's critical to review what is known or suspected and assess the existing data quality and data gaps. Some of the key areas you'll want to focus on include:

- Lithologic and structural heterogeneity that's what's controlling groundwater flow and contaminant distribution and movement. For example, it includes soil type, permeability, presence or absence of buried channels and aquitards, fractures, fracture density, and depth to base units.
- Vertical sampling resolution for example, was continuous coring done for soil? Were different groundwater intervals sampled? What are the well screen lengths? What are the gaps?
- Historic sources, including the contaminants, and the nature of the source and source area for example was it
  a mixture or pure NAPL release? Is there any data to suggest the remaining presence of DNAPL?
- Chemical signatures in the groundwater data for example, what's the relative abundance of parent and daughter contaminants at different locations. Does that suggest anything about the source, distribution, or attenuation?

As you heard earlier, the use of tools such as the 14-compartment model can help assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing data for each compartment....which can help identify uncertainties and data needs.



In this case example, a dry cleaner site in was initially investigated with 18 soil borings and 5 monitoring wells from 2004 through 2007. Groundwater flow is toward the southeast, and there are commercial and residential buildings nearby. Soil borings were sampled every five feet and monitoring wells were set with ten-foot screens from 15 to 25 feet below ground surface.

The small circles represent soil borings and the triangles are monitoring wells. Red indicates that the results exceeded compliance standards, green means the results were below standards. The black dashed line represents the initial interpretation of the gw plume area. The blue dashed line represents the initial interpretation of the source area.

In 2008, remediation was performed on both the source and plume areas using in-situ chemical oxidation (in the source area) and enhanced in-situ bioremediation (in the plume area). But in 2010, the monitoring data showed that the plume still remained above standards.

So the first problem is that while this may seem like a relatively high number of sample locations, no attempt was made to match the sample resolution with the scale of the controlling heterogeneities. Furthermore, groundwater was sampled using 10-ft well screens, which may not be sufficient to provide sufficient vertical delineation. In our guidance document we caution against the use of monitoring wells for DNAPL site characterization because they tend to average concentrations over large vertical distances, they're an expensive compared to other characterization methods, and once installed, they usually required to be monitored and can bias the site characterization picture for a long time to come. Monitoring wells are best used to monitor contaminants trends once delineation is complete, not for characterization.

The second problem is that no effectiveness evaluation was planned after remediation was conducted in 2008. So when monitoring data showed that the groundwater plume remained above standards two years after remediation, there was no consensus about where the problem lay.

The third problem is that the vapor intrusion pathway had not been assessed despite the existence of nearby residential buildings. This was probably because vapor intrusion has been an evolving concern in recent years and may not have been given much thought when the investigation began in 2004. But now it's a big concern.

In 2011 when the site was revisited, uncertainties remained about the completeness of source and plume delineation, remedy effectiveness, and vapor intrusion threats to nearby residential and commercial building occupants.



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Step 2 in the integrated site characterization planning process is about identifying specific data needs and the spatial resolution needed for data collection.

The first concern is to translate the uncertainties in the conceptual site model into data needs. This is typically straight forward. For example, if there is uncertainty in the contaminant distribution, it might be because you're lacking soil or groundwater data in a particular direction or depth. If plume stability is uncertain, you might need more time-series groundwater data.

The second concern is to determine sufficient spatial resolution. This is a bit more challenging because you may not know the scale of the controlling heterogeneities at your site. What you want is spatial resolution that enables you to assess the nature of the subsurface heterogeneity that is effectively controlling contaminant distribution and transport.

For DNAPL sites it's particularly important to distinguish among transport and storage zones to determine if there may a matrix diffusion problem.

Also, we're using the concept of sufficient resolution rather than saying you must have high resolution. That's because once you have captured the appropriate resolution and know where to look, you may find that you don't need the same resolution everywhere.

The big question is how do I know what level of resolution to characterize to? Ans: While there may be many techniques, including use of geophysical methods, you'll never really know until you've tried. So one way is to pick a small, off-source area and do what is typically considered high resolution, to get a spot assessment of the heterogeneity scale. Keep in mind that contaminant distribution in DNAPL source areas can vary widely over small distances and can easily be missed.

My site has been characterized using conventional techniques. Do I need to redo this work using the higher resolution methods?

- If you think your existing site conceptual model is sound and the site management strategy has been successful, an extensive supplemental site characterization program is not needed.
- If questions remain about key components of the site conceptual model—e.g., hydrogeology; contaminant distribution, fate, and transport properties; and risk—additional characterization using high-resolution techniques can be both beneficial and cost-effective. Some sites may not have been precisely delineated by conventional characterization methods (e.g., soil borings and monitoring wells); in such cases, high-resolution techniques can provide clarity on how to move forward in the site remediation/ management process.



Switching back to the drycleaner case example, there were three primary data gaps identified that naturally flow from the uncertainties. Recall that the uncertainties existed about 1) completeness of source zone and plume delineation, 2) the effectiveness of the insitu remedies that were attempted, and 3) the degree of vapor intrusion threat to occupants of nearby buildings, including commercial and residential structures. So the data gaps that were identified include:

- (1) First, contaminant concentrations in soil and groundwater to bound the source area and plume both laterally and vertically. This was particularly true to the south and west because that is the direction of groundwater flow, and the initial investigation was limited by property access issues in that direction – a fence line along the southern property boundary.
- (2) Second, soil and groundwater data to demonstrate the effect of the in-situ remedy. Recall that ISCO was used in the source area and EISB was used for the plume.
- (3) And third, lack of soil-gas (and potentially indoor air data) to assess potential vapor intrusion threats.



This slide shows the uncertainty in the vertical directions across the plume and source area.



Step 3 in the integrated site characterization planning process is about establishing data collection objectives. The real point here is to emphasize that objectives need to be specific, clear, and actionable, and must consider the data types, data quality, density, and spatial resolution.

### <sup>31</sup> Step 3: Example Data Collection Objectives



Delineate extent of dissolved-phase plume; determine stability and attenuation rate

- Grab groundwater samples at X and Y depths
- Soil borings every X feet to capture subsurface variability
- Delineate to drinking water standards
- Install three to five wells; monitor along axis of flow
  - Quarterly for two years
  - Evaluate C vs T and C vs. distance trends
  - · Specify COCs and geochemical parameters

The idea with developing data collection objectives is to start with a broad statement or question that you are trying to answer about what is needed. Then, continually refine it until you have something that is as clear and detailed as possible. Our IDSS document includes a section about developing remedial action objectives that are Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound, which is what the SMART acronym means. The same idea applies to data collection objectives to make them as SMART as possible.

Here is an example...



Let's take a moment to respond to another poll question:

"Have you ever collected data types that were not optimal for deciding what to do next?"

This might be because your data needs weren't fully determined, as in Step 2, or because your data collection objectives were not clear or specific enough.

### <sup>3</sup> Step 3: Drycleaner Site Data Collection Objectives



Objectives

Case Example

- · Define plume extent exceeding standards
- · Assess remedy progress soil and GW samples
- · Assess shallow soil vapor & VI threat
- Streamline assessment days not weeks
- Data types & resolution
  - Continuous cores; samples at lithologic boundaries
  - · Groundwater samples every 4'
  - Soil gas at 5 and 10 feet

Switching back to the drycleaner case example, these are the broad objectives that were established.

- The key objectives were to define the soil and groundwater volumes exceeding the compliance standards
- Assess remedy progress to date, and
- Assess shallow soil vapor concentrations.
- A key objective was to complete the work in a short time period, not drag out the duration with multiple sampling mobilizations.

These objectives were further refined to identify the data types and resolution, including:

- Continuous coring with a direct push to a depth of about 25 feet
- Soil samples at lithologic boundaries
- Grab groundwater samples every 4'
- Shallow soil gas samples at two depths



Step 4 is where Steps 1 -3 are documented – in a work plan. Goal is to achieve your characterization objectives and manage site specific uncertainties to the point that decisions about the site can be made. Items to consider while figuring out how to collect data include:

•Recognize data limitations

•Select data management tool

•Develop data analysis process

Given the necessary dynamic nature of characterization – consider real-time analyses and how that data will be interpreted!



With the objectives in mind, a plan was developed for the dry cleaner site using the TRIAD approach, two Geoprobes and a mobile laboratory to collect high-resolution samples in the source area, grab groundwater samples, and soil vapor samples across the site.



The drycleaner site plan included 16 direct push, continuous cored boring locations. Borings were planned for advancement to about 25 feet with soil samples to be collected at lithologic boundaries and grab groundwater samples to be collected every four feet. The planned number of soil samples to be collected for laboratory analysis was about 80, and the planned number of groundwater samples was 48.



The plan also included shallow soil gas collection at two depths at 12 locations. Samples depths would be about 5 and 10 feet.

So the overall data collection plan for the drycleaner site was fairly robust. But that's what was needed to capture the effects of the subsurface variability on the distribution of the contaminants in the soil. Groundwater, and soil gas.

Keep in mind, this was essentially do-over. So this planning phase benefited from a lot of prior knowledge about the site, such as lithology, groundwater flow direction, and some initial understanding of contaminant distribution, albeit somewhat in error. This kind of planning done from the start would almost certainly have saved time and money, particularly when it came to the remediation.

## <sup>68</sup> Summary – Integrated Site Characterization



- ▶ Integrated Site Characterization flow chart
  - Planning
  - Tool Selection
  - Implementation
- ► Planning module
  - Step 1: Define problem and uncertainties
  - Step 2: Identify data gaps & resolution
  - Step 3: Develop data collection objectives
  - Step 4: Design data collection & analysis plan
  - · Similar to DQO process; focus on DNAPL sites



# <sup>70</sup> Tools Selection Process: Contents of this Section



- Orientation to the tools matrix
- ► Tools selection framework
- ► Tools matrix functionality
- Case studies
- ► Summary










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### <sup>87</sup> Case Example – Characterization Objectives



Returning to Case Example from prior section – Characterization Objective:

 Delineate lateral and vertical extent of dissolvedphase plume; determine stability and rate of attenuation.

### Goal:

Case Example

- Define boundary exceeding groundwater standards
- Assess remedy progress soil and groundwater samples
- Assess shallow soil vapor impacts

## <sup>88</sup> Case Example – Select Tools Matrix Filters



### Filters

- ► Type
  - Chemistry All
- ► Parameter
  - Contaminant Concentration
- ► Subsurface Media
  - Unconsolidated
- Subsurface Zone
  - All
- ► Data Quality
  - (Q) Quantitative

No associated notes.

Case Example



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## <sup>94</sup> Example #3



**Characterization Objective** – Evaluate potential matrix diffusion issues associated with variations in hydraulic conductivity

- ► Type
  - Hydrogeology
- ► Parameter
  - Hydraulic Conductivity
- ► Subsurface Media
  - Unconsolidated
- ► Subsurface Zone
  - Saturated
- Data Quality
  - All

Examp	ole #3 –	Hydraulic Con	
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Understanding the subsurface behavior of DNAPLs is technically-challenging and methods for site characterization have evolved. The objective of this document is to describe the tools and resources that can improve the identification, collection, and evaluation of appropriate site characterization data to prepare more accurate CSMs. This guidance describes how, with the current understanding of subsurface contaminant behavior, both existing and new tools and techniques can be used to measure physical, chemical, and hydrologic subsurface parameters to better characterize the subsurface. The expected results of using this guidance are more accurate site-specific CSMs, which can then be applied in the ITRC Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy (ITRC 2011).



# <sup>110</sup> Integrated Site Characterization is the Path Forward



- ► Too many DNAPL sites are stalled or unresolved
- Examining DNAPL mobility in heterogeneous environments promoted better remedy selection
- Better characterization builds trust and confidence in site decisions

Better characterization builds trust and confidence in site decisions:

Stakeholder participation Risk mitigation; site restoration Cost optimization



Links to additional resources: http://www.clu-in.org/conf/itrc/IDSC/resource.cfm

Your feedback is important – please fill out the form at: http://www.clu-in.org/conf/itrc/IDSC/feedback.cfm

## The benefits that ITRC offers to state regulators and technology developers, vendors, and consultants include:

✓ Helping regulators build their knowledge base and raise their confidence about new environmental technologies

- ✓ Helping regulators save time and money when evaluating environmental technologies
- $\checkmark$  Guiding technology developers in the collection of performance data to satisfy the requirements of multiple states

 $\checkmark$  Helping technology vendors avoid the time and expense of conducting duplicative and costly demonstrations

✓ Providing a reliable network among members of the environmental community to focus on innovative environmental technologies

#### How you can get involved with ITRC:

 $\checkmark$  Join an ITRC Team – with just 10% of your time you can have a positive impact on the regulatory process and acceptance of innovative technologies and approaches

- ✓ Sponsor ITRC's technical team and other activities
- ✓Use ITRC products and attend training courses
- ✓ Submit proposals for new technical teams and projects