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Use of Geostatistical 3-D Data Visualization/Analysis in Superfund Remedial Action Investigations

Delivered: September 23, 2011, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, EDT (17:00-19:00 GMT)

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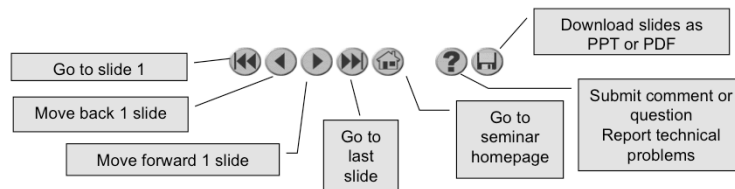
Moderators:

Michael Adam, U.S. EPA, Technology Innovation and Field Services Division (adam.michael@epa.gov or (703) 603-9915)

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With that, please move to slide 3.

Use of Geostatistical 3-D Data Visualization / Analysis in Superfund Remedial Action Investigations

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and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)**

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Overview

- Making the Case: 3-D Visualization / Analysis in Superfund Remedial Action
- Case Study –
 - Introduction to the Time Oil / Well 12A Superfund Site
 - Use of 3-D visualization / analysis to:
 - Identify data gaps and controls on remediation
 - Optimize remedy implementation
- Best Management Practices
- Additional Resources



Making the Case: Why 3-D, Why Now?

- Rapid acceleration of benefit and utility of visualization platforms in the environmental industry
- Conceptual site models (CSMs) support decision making
 - Moving beyond conceptual “cartoons”, pathway-receptor network diagram-based CSMs
 - Geo-referenced geologic, hydrogeologic, and analytical data facilitate resolution of technical challenges
- Reconstruction limits data “interpretation bias”
 - For information value, data must be interpreted, but interpretations can be incorrect or incomplete
- EPA renewed emphasis and new focus areas
 - Renewed emphasis on high quality characterization in support of remedy selection, design and optimization
 - New focus on more meaningful and effective community engagement

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Programmatic Remediation Costs

- Remediation can be an order of magnitude or more higher than other pipeline costs
 - 3-D can help in any stage
- Groundwater, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPLs) - particularly challenging for Superfund Program, reaching Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
 - Small plume footprints - intensive treatment can overwhelm matrix
 - Large plume footprints - intensive treatment of entire footprint is not likely cost-effective
 - Leaves combined remedies and active treatment zones / clean water flushing
 - Target compounds, age of release, and aquifer matrix structure are critical determinants of how easily MCLs can be achieved



Challenge #1 - Technical Disagreements Among Stakeholders

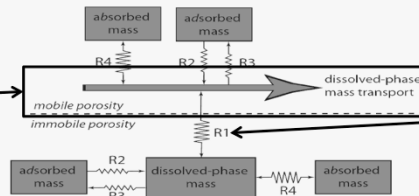
- Often attributable to competing CSMs
 - 3-D visualization / analysis helps us understand the “Rumsfeld Principle”
- Changing Project Managers (PMs), contractors, property owners
 - Variability often compromises quality of data and conclusions
 - 3-D visualization / analysis treats all data equally
- Data type and density versus resources and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 - Analytical and direct sensing quality vs. spatial and temporal measurement density



Matrix, Contaminant, and Temporal Complexities

A Multi-Compartment Model of Solute Transport

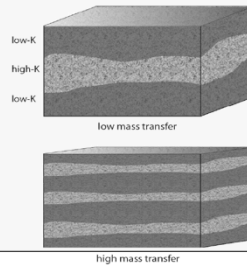
Mass that
“moves” and
what
monitoring
wells see



Back
diffusion
causes
challenges
such as
rebound
and long
cleanup
times

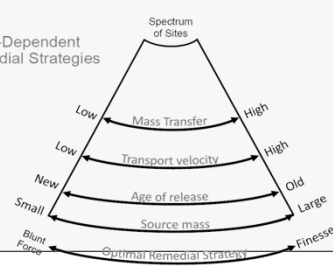
Aquifer Matrix Challenges

Two aquifer blocks with equal:
Average hydraulic conductivity
Mobile porosity
Groundwater transport velocity



In the high-mass-transfer geometry, the rate of diffusive migration into the low-K zones is approximately 10-fold greater than for the low-mass-transfer case.

Scale-Dependent Remedial Strategies



Courtesy of Fred Payne- Arcadis

ARCADIS



Challenge #2 - Social Aspects Can Complicate Technical Problems

- Stakeholder / Community Engagement
 - How to convey technical information in a meaningful way to non-technical audiences?
 - 2-D visualizations have limited capability to integrate chemical, geologic, and hydrogeologic information
 - Disconnected plan view and cross-sectional data subject to significant spatial extrapolation; thus potentially results in differing interpretation
 - Often large quantity of data but require careful consideration of performance metrics, trigger points, combined remedies
 - 3-D visualizations integrate multiple data types into unified representations

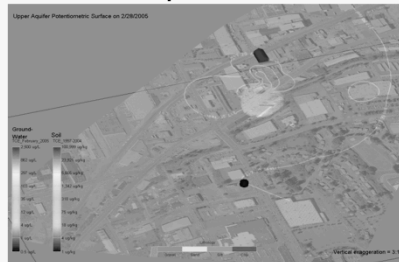




Here is the Same Data Set Integrated with Hydrogeology

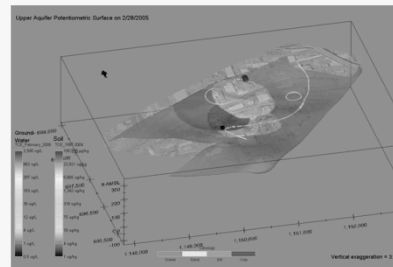
3-D Visualization of TCE Plume Escaping Groundwater Extraction Treatment System (GETS)

Provides easy understanding of threat to
public well



12A Plume and GETS

TCE Plume Configuration and Extent is Controlled by Geology Control must be addressed in management strategies



12A Geology and Plume Morphology

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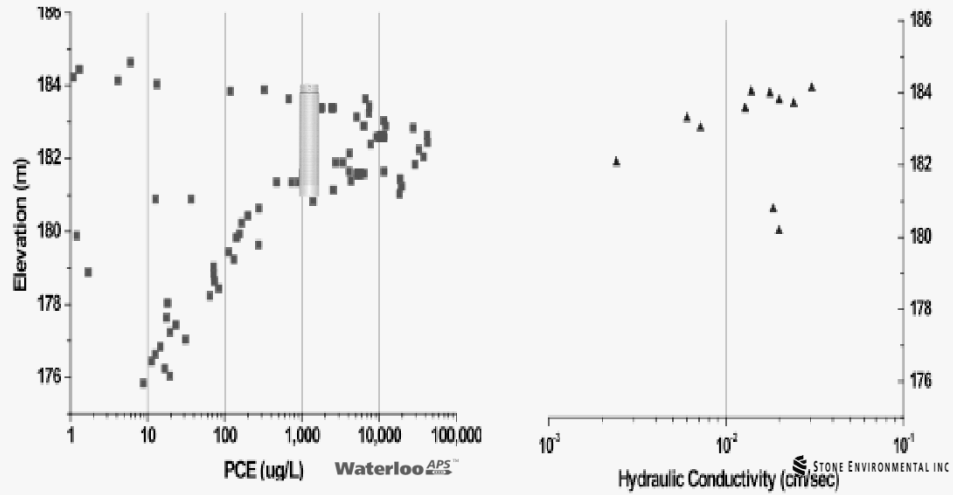


Challenge #3 - Responsible Party Challenges

- Presence of inconvenient truths
 - Responsible Parties / Potentially Responsible Parties
 - core business is not cleaning up contaminated sites
 - Must make business vs. strictly technical decisions
- Can't see the forest because of those pesky trees
 - Reviewers / regulators receive select data that can obscure reality or incur data overload that makes interpretation difficult
- Stakeholders don't always like what data reconstructions in 3-D visualization do to the CSM



Effects Of Depth-Integrated, Flow Weighted Averaging: Well results Biased Lower than Discrete Interval Concentrations



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STONE ENVIRONMENTAL INC.



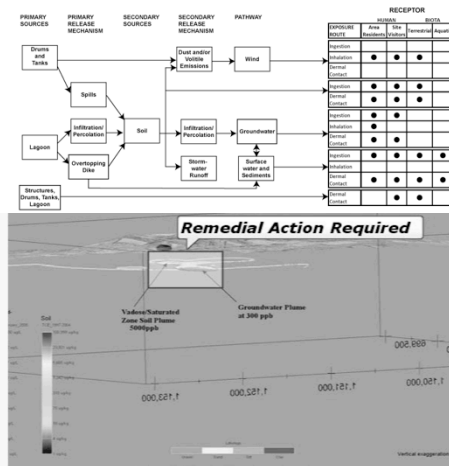
Types of Software for Environmental Data Visualization / Analysis

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
 - Examples – Google Earth Pro, ArcGIS, RockWorks™
 - Map (2-D) view of information
 - Useful in looking at data distributions and details of some data sets
 - Doesn't allow analysis of data with depth or elevation changes
 - Prerequisite to running of most 3-D programs
- **3-D & 4-D visualization / analysis programs**
 - Examples – EarthVision®, EVS / MVS, GMS, RockWorks™, ArcGIS 3D analyst
 - Allows analysis of environmental data as a function of space (3-D) / time (4-D)
 - e.g., hydrogeology, bedrock, vadose / saturated zone distributions, sampling protocols
 - discrete intervals versus lengthy well screens, source to plume linkages
 - Important differentiation in types of data analysis produced by different programs
 - Geostatistical versus subjective correlations
 - Flexible (accepts all site data) versus fixed program structure



Role of the CSM and 3-D Visualization at Time Oil / Well 12A

- CSM life cycle
- Use 3-D data visualization
 - Identify and delineate specific areas that may require action
 - Understand (spatially) key hydrogeologic features controlling fate and transport



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General Environmental Cleanup Steps	CSM Life Cycle	Best Management Practices		CERCLA - Superfund	RCRA	Brownfields	UST	VCUP Varies by State	IRP/ERP	MMRP
		SPP	DWS/ RTMT							
SITE ASSESSMENT	Preliminary CSM ↓ Baseline CSM Characterization CSM Stage			Preliminary Assessment (PA) Site Inspection (SI) National Priorities List (NPL) No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP)	Facility Assessment (RFA)	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)	Initial Site Characterization Initial Response	PA SI	PA SI	PA SI MR Site Prioritization Protocol (NRSPP)
SITE INVESTIGATION AND ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION	Design CSM Stage			Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Removal Actions - Emergency/ Time Critical/Non-Time-Critical	Facility Investigation (RFI) Corrective Measures Study (CMS)	Phase II ESA	SI Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	RI/FS	RI/FS NFRAP	RI/FS
REMEDY SELECTION	Remediation/ Mitigation CSM Stage			Proposed Plan Record of Decision (ROD)	Statement of Basis (SB) Final Decision and Response to Comments	Remedial Action Plan (RAP)	Cleanup Selection	ROD	Proposed Plan ROD	Remedy Selection
REMEDY IMPLEMENTATION	Post-Remedy CSM Stage			Remedial Design (RD) Remedial Action (RA) - Interim and Final	Corrective Measure Implementation (CMI)	Cleanup and Development	Corrective Action - Low-impact site cleanup - Risk-based remediation - Generic remedies - Soil matrix cleanup	RD RA	RD RA - Interim and Final Remedy in Place (RIP)	RD Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) RA RIP
POST- CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES				Operational & Functional Period Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Long term monitoring (LTM) Optimization Long Term Response Action (Fund-led groundwater/surface water restoration)	O&M On-site inspections and oversight	Property Management Long-term O&M Redevelopment Activities (Private- and Public-led)	LTM	O&M LTM	Shakedown period Operating Properly and Successfully O&M LTM	Shakedown period Long Term Management
SITE COMPLETION				Construction Complete (CC) Preliminary or Final Close Out Report (PCOR/FCOR) Site Completion - FCOR Site Deletion O&M as appropriate	Certification of Completion Corrective Action Complete with Controls or without Controls	CC Property Management	No Further Action (NFA)	CC	Response Complete (RC) NFA	RC NFA

Abbreviations:

SPP = Systematic Project Planning
DWS = Dynamic Work Strategies
RTMT = Real Time Measurement Technologies

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response,
Compensation and Liability Act
RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

UST = Underground Storage Tanks

VCUP = Voluntarily Clean Up Programs

IRP/ERP = Installation Restoration Program/
Environmental Restoration Program
MMRP = Military Munitions Response Program

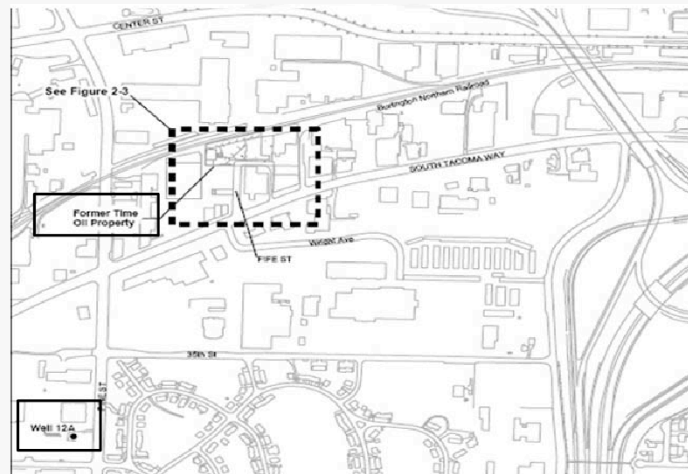
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History and Setting of Time Oil / Well 12A



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History and Setting of Time Oil / Well 12A (Cont)



- In 1981, chlorinated organic solvents (TCE, PCE, DCE, PCA) were detected in groundwater at Well 12A
- EPA investigations linked the contamination found at Well 12A to the Time Oil site



History and Setting of Time Oil / Well 12A (Cont)



- Oil recycling and solvent processing – 1923 to 1991
- Storage and small-scale manufacturing – 1992 to present
- The current owner is Western Moving and Storage

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Well 12A Site Status Summary

- Record of Decisions (ROD) signed 1983
- ROD amendment 1985
- ROD modification 1987
- Five Year Reviews (FYRs) 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008
- Remediation System Evaluation (RSE) completed December 2001
- State operating the groundwater treatment plant since October 2005



Well 12A Site Status Summary (Cont)

- Existing GETS is not providing capture of even the > 500 parts per billion (ppb) TCE plume
 - GETS designed to pump 500 gallons per minute (gpm) current < 100 gpm
- DNAPL and light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) remain on site
- Areas of potential contamination have not been fully characterized
- City of Tacoma wells continue to be impacted by the Time Oil site (Well 12A) plume

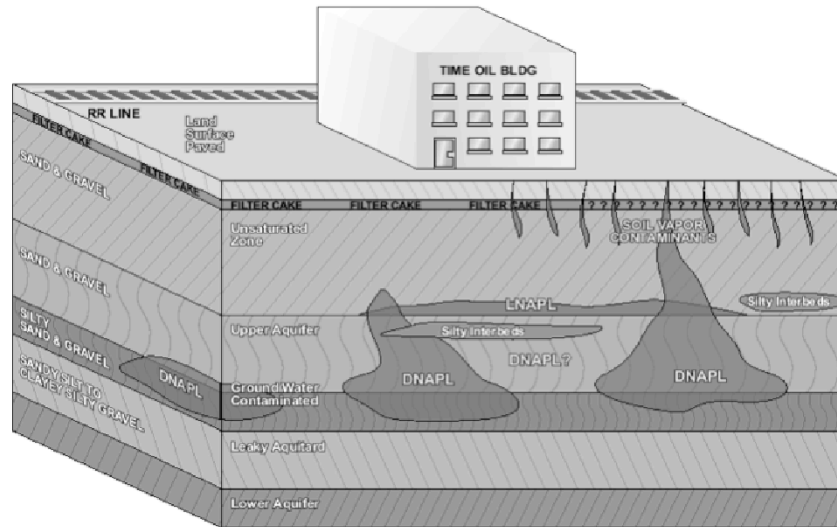


Remedial Action Summary

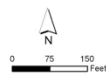
- Groundwater Extraction Treatment System (GETS)
 - 1988 – 2001: 550 million gallons of groundwater extracted / treated, removing 16,000 pounds VOCs
- Vapor Extraction System (VES)
 - 1993 – 1997: Removed 54,100 pounds VOCs
- Filter cake / contaminated soil removal
 - Burlington Northern Railroad excavated 1,200 cubic yards (cy) along rail line
 - VES construction / removed 5,000 cy of filter cake



CSM Update After GETS, VES, Soil / Filter Cake Removal



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- Estimated Extent of Filter Cake or Shallow Contaminated Soil
- Estimated Extent of DNAPL
- Estimated Extent of LNAPL

Figure
Estimated Extent of Source Areas
Time Oil Site

Extents based on observations or inferences; extent to areas of uncertainty (e.g., south and southwest of NAPL) not included here



Desired End State

- Adequate use of robust source removal technologies
- Timely transition to cost-effective 'polishing' step(s)
- Reduce / eliminate need for pump and treat
- Appropriate reliance on monitored natural attenuation (MNA)
- Adaptive, flexible implementation
 - *"Sources begin to reveal themselves as remediation progresses"*



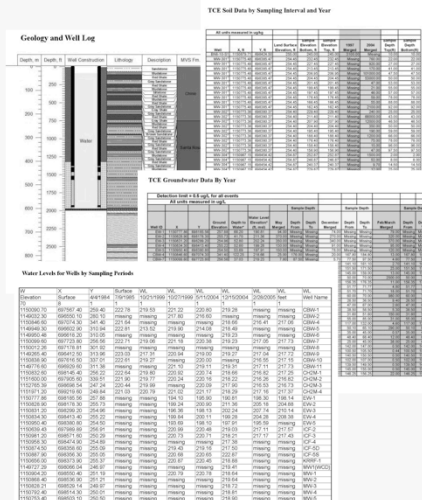
Path Forward

- Identify and transparently document Remedial Action Objectives
 - Realistic / measurable cleanup targets for source areas
 - Exposure Pathways
- Build the 3-D CSM for Visualization / Analysis
- Evaluate CSM and identify data gaps
- Perform field investigation to fill data gaps, if necessary
- Achieve consensus on possible remedial alternatives
- Prepare Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) / Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment



Data Set to be Incorporated into 3-D Visualization

- Over 100 geologic logs from area
- Soil sampling data
 - 1985, 1997, 2004
 - Five contaminants – TCE, PCE, PCA, trans-DCE, cis-DCE
- Groundwater data
 - 2004, 2005, 2008
 - Six contaminants – TCE, PCE, PCA, trans-DCE, cis-DCE, vinyl chloride
- Groundwater level data
 - 1984, 1985, 1999 and 2005



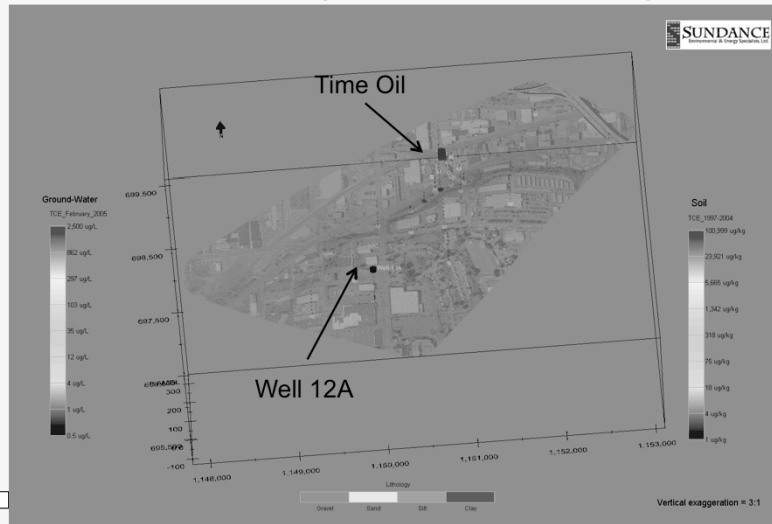
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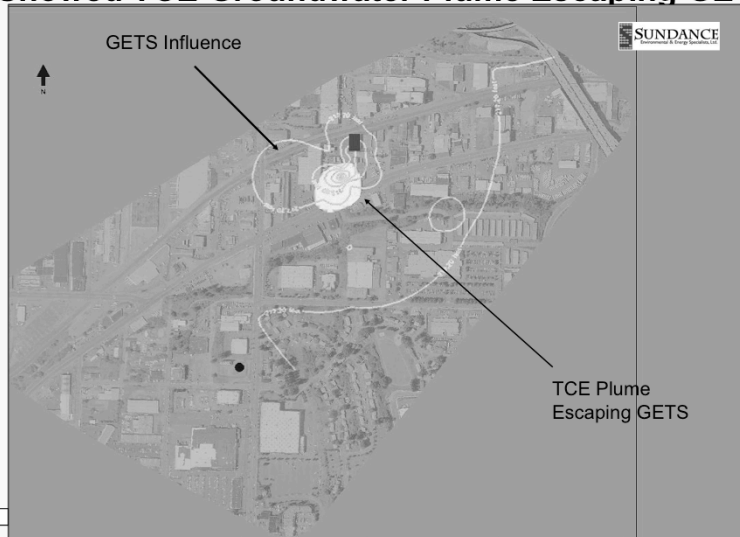


Location Map for Source (Time Oil) and Receptor (Tacoma Well 12A)



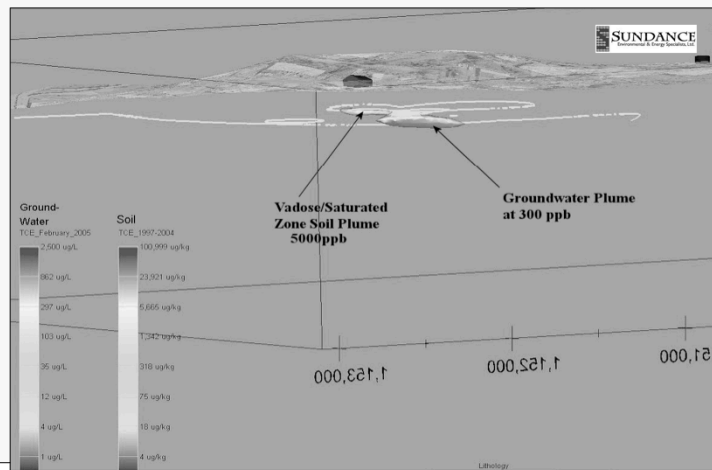


3-D Visualization of Contaminant and Water Level Data Showed TCE Groundwater Plume Escaping GETS





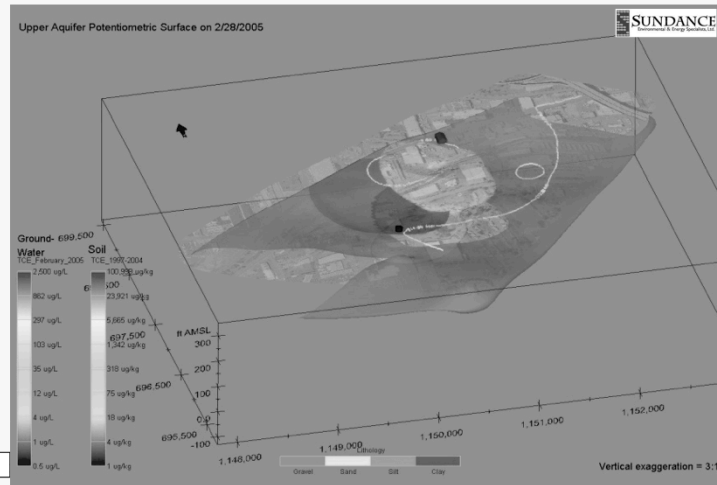
3-D Visualization of Soil, Groundwater Chemistry, and Water Levels Demonstrates Plume Actively Sourced at Vadose / Saturated Zone Interface



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3-D Visualization of Soil Contaminant Data and Geology Indicate Silt Layers Affect Distribution of Contamination at Vadose / Saturated Zone Interface

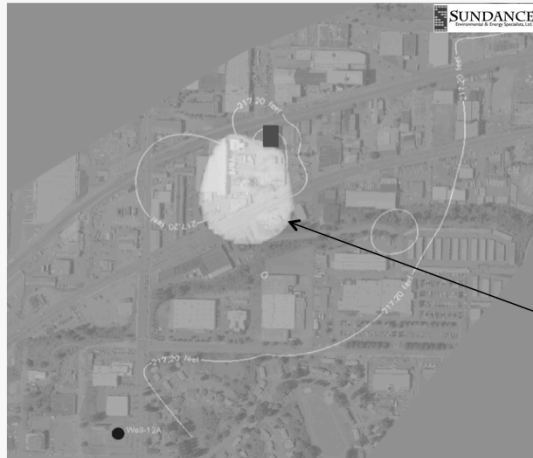


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Key 3-D Visualization / Analysis Findings

Remedy-in-Place Not Controlling TCE Groundwater Plume



Plume Escaping
GETS

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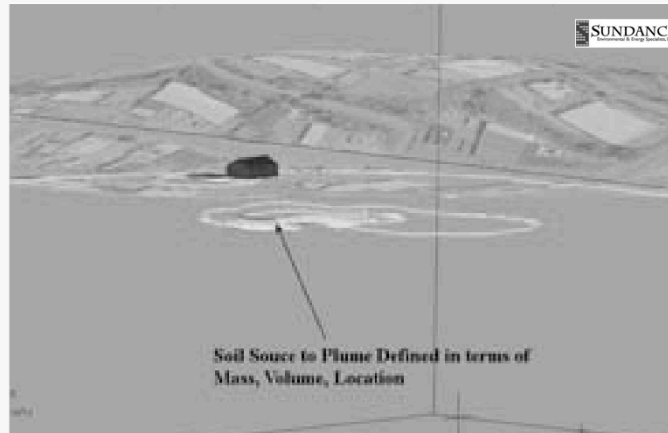
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Key 3-D Visualization / Analysis Findings

Remedy-in-Place Not Controlling Migration of TCE Plume, Nor Reducing Soil

Contaminant Concentrations Actively Sourcing Plumes



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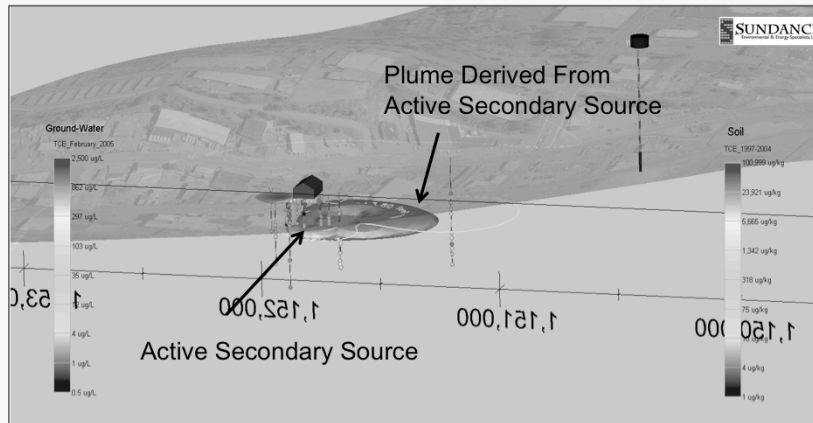
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Key 3-D Visualization / Analysis Findings

Soil Source at Vadose / Saturated Interface Continuing to Source Plume



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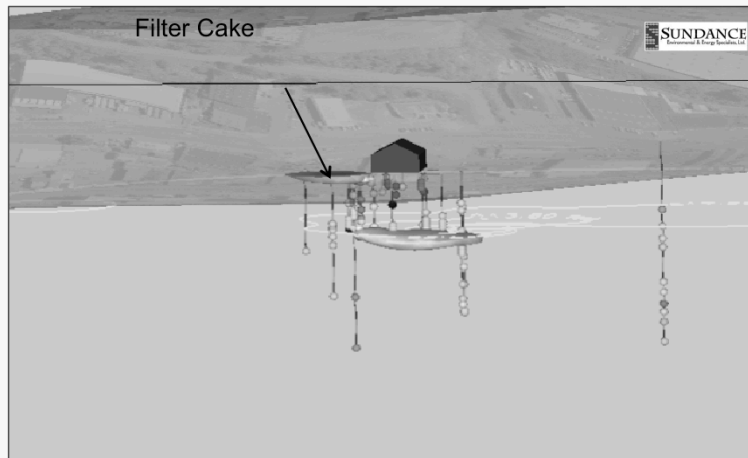
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Key 3-D Visualization / Analysis Findings

Near Surface Filter Cake and DNAPL Beneath Time Oil Building



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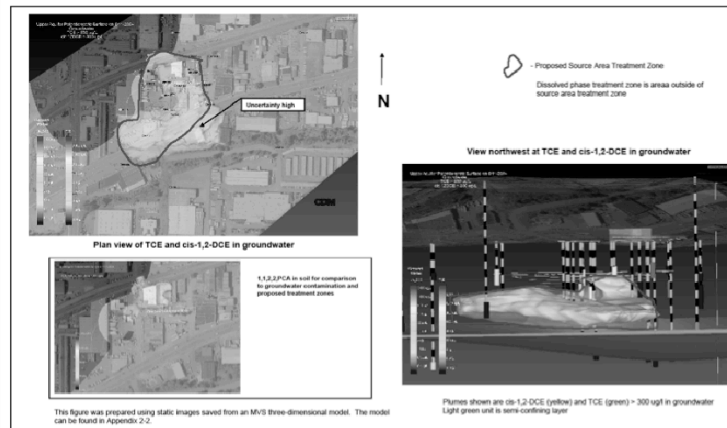
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Key 3-D Visualization / Analysis Findings

Identified Initial Boundaries for Source Treatment to be
Addressed in the FFS



CDM

Well 10A Superfund Site
Tacoma, Washington

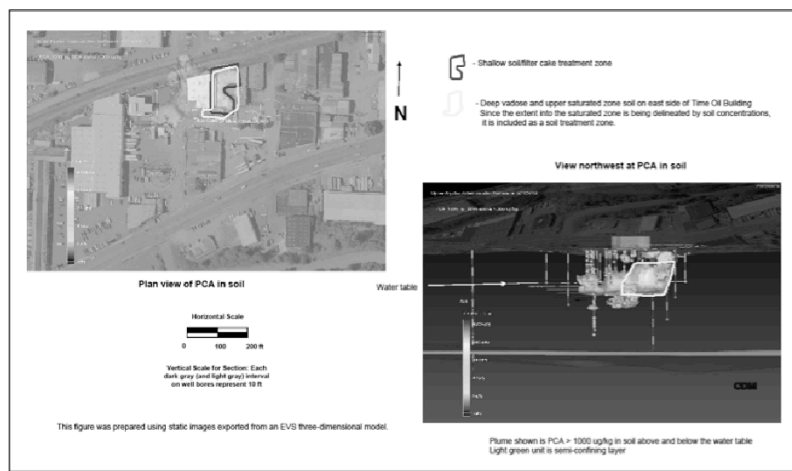
Figure 3-2
Proposed Treatment Zones in Saturated Source Zone and Dissolved Phase Plume

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Remedy Optimization

Treatment Zones: Filter Cake and Soil



CDM

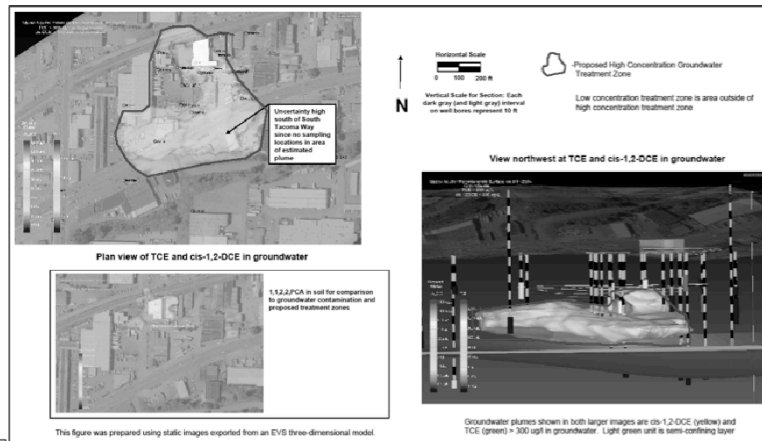
Well 12A Superfund Site
Tacoma, Washington

Figure 3-1
Proposed Treatment Zones in Soil



Remedy Optimization

Remedial Action Objectives: Groundwater



CDM

West 12th Superfund Site
Tacoma, Washington

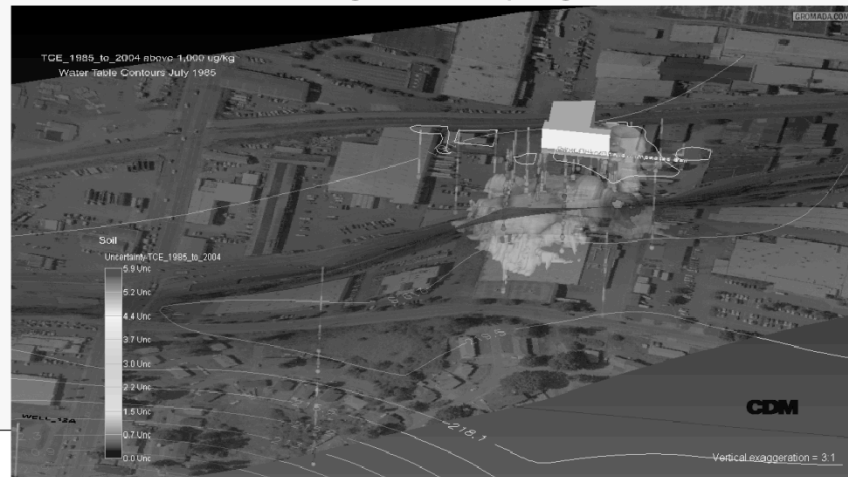
Figure 3-2
Proposed Treatment Zones in High Concentration
and Low Concentration Groundwater Plume

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Remedy Optimization

Uncertainty in CSM Based on Existing Data Drives
Targeted Sampling





Remedy Optimization

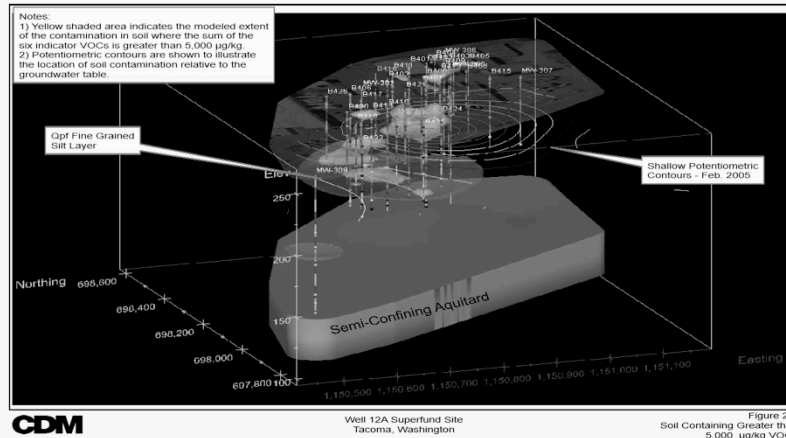
Remedial Design Investigation (RDI) Objectives

- Delineate the soil contamination extent in the vicinity of Time Oil building to reduce uncertainty in the CSM and support delineation of treatment zones
- Assess the need for remediation beneath the former Time Oil building
- Evaluate the total organic carbon (TOC)
- Investigate previously identified geophysical anomalies and potential subsurface



Remedy Design Optimization

Current Visualized Extent of Soil Contamination



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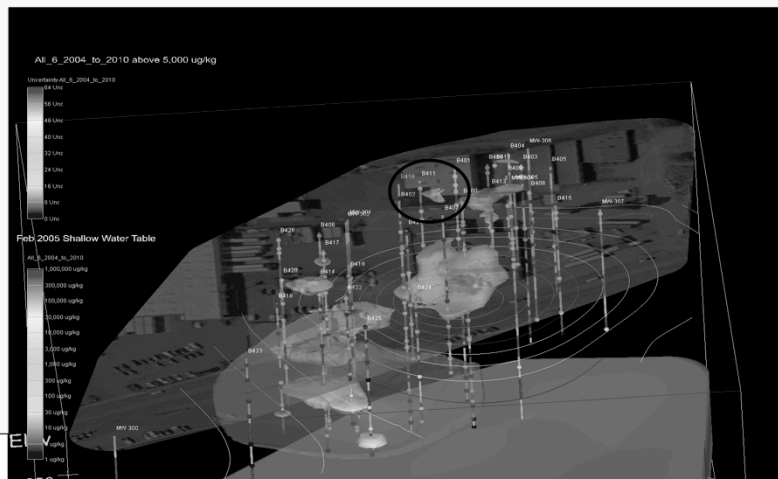
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Remedy Design Optimization

Uncertainties in Contaminant Distribution Beneath Time Oil and Near Surface Silt

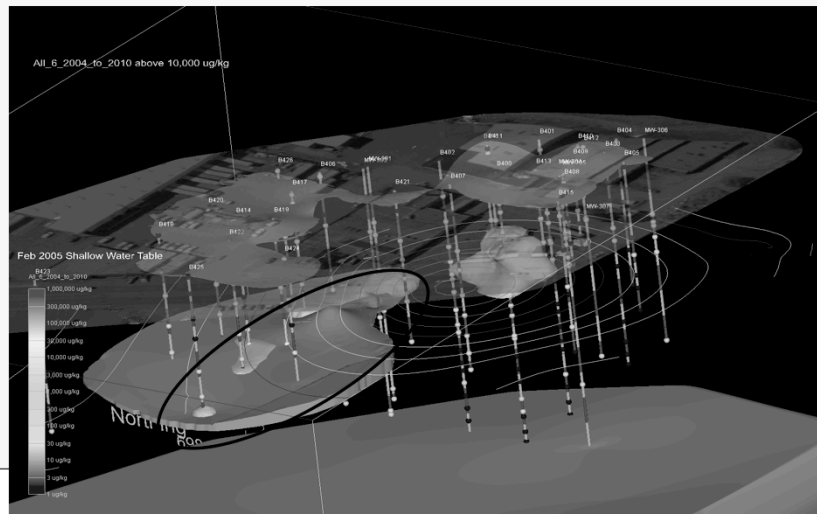


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Remedy Design Optimization

DNAPL in Low Permeability Zone Approximately 50 feet bgs

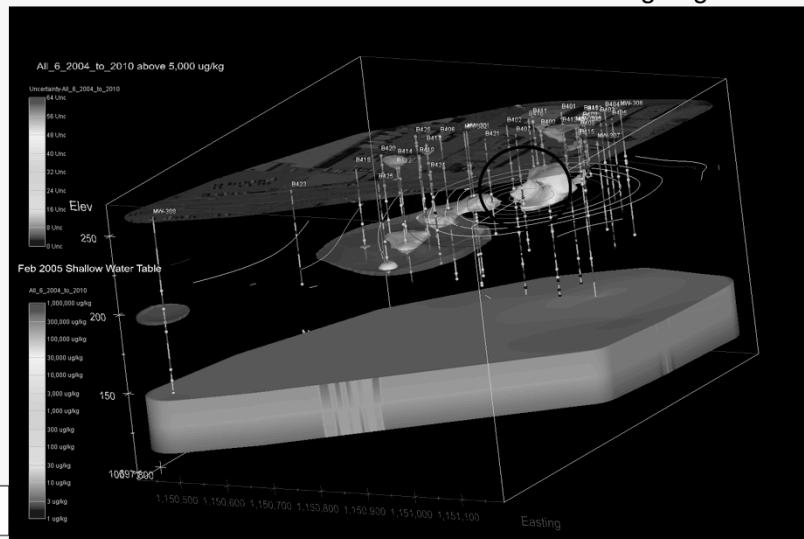


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Remedy Design Optimization

Uncertainties Remain Relative to Remediation of Ongoing DNAPL



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Remedy Design Optimization

Define Extent of Low Permeability Unit and Downgradient Hydraulic Gradients



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What's Next for 12A?

- Measure pre-RA baseline mass discharge for Well 12A source area
- Implement RA to achieve 90% mass discharge reduction goal
 - Excavation, ISTR, EAB
- Two post-RA mass discharge measurements planned
 - 1st ~18 months post-EAB
 - 2nd contingency if additional EAB needed to achieve RA objectives



Best Practices for 3-D Visualization / Analysis

- Maximize the use of existing data to produce Preliminary CSM
 - Identify data gaps for further inquiry
 - Evaluate interim or final remedy performance and opportunities for optimization
- Evolve the CSM during dynamic work strategy (DWS)-based investigations – reduce time, cost and uncertainty
- Integrated data visualizations – ‘The Whole Picture’
- Build to address specific issues with room to grow
 - In our experience the biggest expense tends to be getting data into a usable format
 - Sampling reports for variable media, aquifer testing, groundwater modeling, RI/FS, RA, RD, remedy implementation, long term monitoring, etc.
 - Want hard data versus contractor interpretations



Summary of Best Practices for 3-D Visualization / Analysis

- Step 1 - Identify basic questions to answer with existing data
 - Step 2 - Identify the types of hard data needed to answer questions
 - Step 3 - Determine what component visualizations are needed
 - Step 4 - Sort and document hard data from interpretations
 - Step 5 - Import hard data into database format for building visualization components
 - Step 6 - Use GIS and 3-D data analysis to evaluate sample distributions in map format
 - Step 7 - Evaluate and ensure adequate distribution of geologic log data
 - Step 8 - Use actual (measured) data to ensure objective 3-D visualizations
- * *Note - Be aware of the principal of significant figures; not only for contaminant data; but also geology and hydrogeology*



Best Practices for 3-D Visualization / Analysis

- **Step 4:** Sort and document hard data from interpretations
- Create a matrix for use in documenting data types and sources for reconstructions
 - Major documents
 - Databases

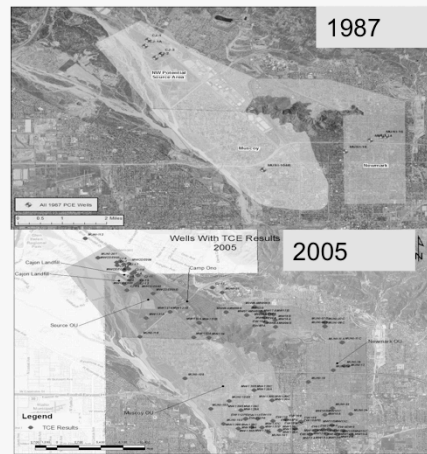
Reference	Type	General				Media Chemistry			Geology / Hydrogeology		
		Site History & Past Use	Source Area Inv	Post 2007 Site Data	Nearby Site Info	Soil Gas	Surface and Subsurface Soil	Groundwater	Geology - Boring Logs/Well Construction/ Geophysical	Geology- 3D model	Hydrogeology and Groundwater Models
Innovative Technology Solutions, Inc. (ITSI), Sept. 2009, Internal Draft, Data Evaluation to Support Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Planning, Source Operable Unit, Newmark Superfund Site, San Bernardino, California (DVD 1 and 2)	D	X	X			X	X				
Stantec, 2008, Draft Newmark Groundwater Flow Model Report Appendix A, Section 4.1, Subsections - Historic Groundwater Levels, Lithologic and Well Construction Data, and Physical Features - All compiled data	DB, HC, S, GIS								X	X	X

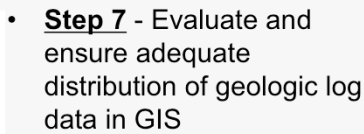
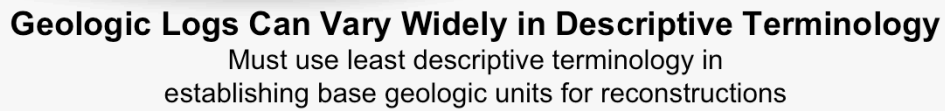
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Best Practices for 3-D Visualization / Analysis

- **Step 6** - Use GIS and 3-D data analysis to evaluate sample distributions in map format
 - Distributions must be sufficient for geostatistical analyses
 - Site-specific, driven by spatial scale
 - Typically, sampling dates with most extensive distribution of chemical data are used first for visualization
 - Quality of data must be considered
 - Temporal data must be time-equivalent

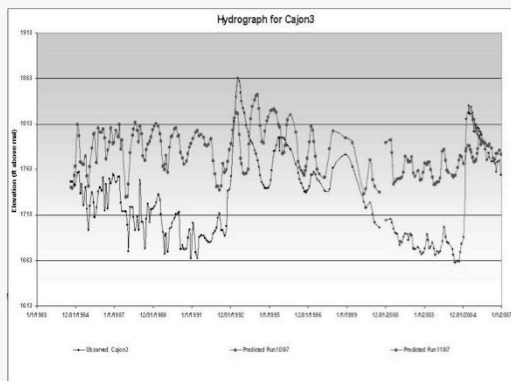




- | Project Name | Project Manager | Project Start Date | Project End Date | Project Status | Project Budget | Project Location | Project Description |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Project A | John Doe | 2023-01-01 | 2023-03-31 | Completed | \$100,000 | New York | Website Redesign |
| Project B | Jane Smith | 2023-04-01 | 2023-06-30 | In Progress | \$150,000 | Los Angeles | Mobile App Development |
| Project C | Mike Johnson | 2023-07-01 | 2023-09-30 | On Hold | \$80,000 | Chicago | Hardware Upgrade |
| Project D | Sarah Lee | 2023-10-01 | 2023-12-31 | Planned | \$120,000 | San Francisco | Marketing Campaign |
| Project E | David Brown | 2024-01-01 | 2024-03-31 | On Hold | \$90,000 | Seattle | Software Integration |
| Project F | Emily White | 2024-04-01 | 2024-06-30 | Planned | \$110,000 | Portland | Product Launch |
| Project G | Chris Green | 2024-07-01 | 2024-09-30 | On Hold | \$70,000 | Denver | Infrastructure Upgrade |
| Project H | Alex Black | 2024-10-01 | 2024-12-31 | Planned | \$130,000 | Phoenix | Customer Portal |
| Project I | Olivia Grey | 2025-01-01 | 2025-03-31 | On Hold | \$60,000 | San Diego | Security Audit |
| Project J | Noah Blue | 2025-04-01 | 2025-06-30 | Planned | \$140,000 | San Jose | AI Integration |



Best Practices for 3-D Visualization / Analysis

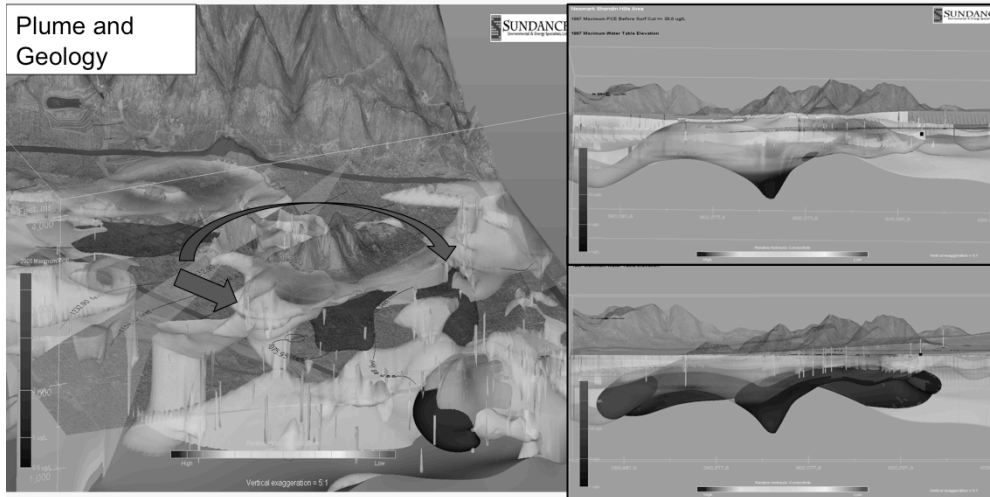


- **Step 8** - Use actual (measured) data to ensure objective reconstructions
 - Example - modeled groundwater level data includes interpretation and assumptions
 - Wet/dry periods should be accounted for when evaluating chemical data



Revenge of the Geologists!

Plume and
Geology



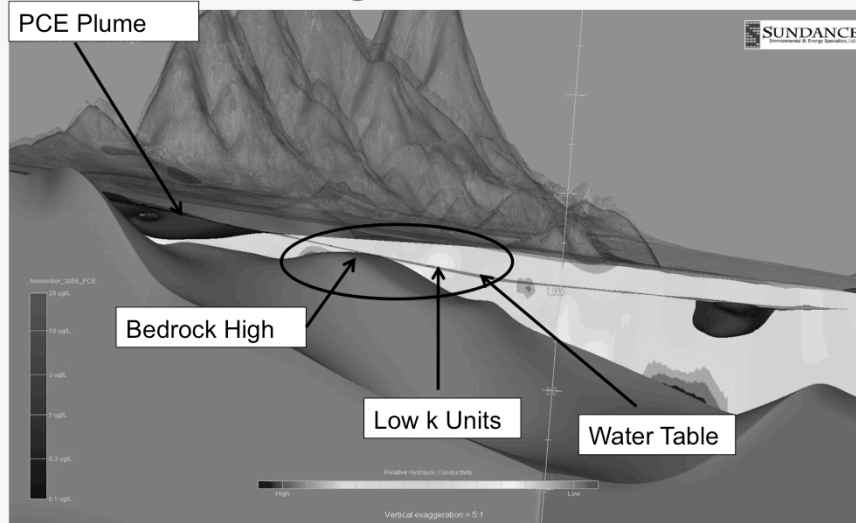
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The Value of Seeing 'The Whole Picture' in 3-D



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3-D Visualization / Analysis – Not Just For Existing Data

- Can be used in dynamic field investigations, when processed in real-time they support
 - Evolution of CSM during data collection efforts
 - Selection of targeted “intelligent” samples to maximize information gain / minimize cost, uncertainty
 - Contaminant type, concentration, exposure pathway, and imminent versus non-imminent exposure risk
 - Sampling density evaluations - how many is enough?
 - Reduce uncertainty / increase confidence - can set limits
 - Confidence required is determined by stakeholders based on site conditions and risk
 - Geostatistical basis also provides optimum new locations



Additional Support Considerations Planned in 2012

- Future webinars - highlighting active 3-D visualization vs. static images
- Documents / Outreach for SF RPMs
 - Continued training / presentations
 - Quality Control - best practices, considerations for procedures / guidelines
 - Contracting strategies for 3-D visualization services
 - Expectations for costs, deliverables, facilitating transfer
 - Updates to Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable (FRTR) Decision Support Tools matrix



Summary and Benefits of 3-D Visualization / Analysis

- Move older sites to completion, facilitate transfer, illustrate Operational & Functional (O&F)
- Optimize existing remedies / new designs
- Aid consideration of performance metrics, short / medium / long-term remediation goals
- Advantages
 - Simple images backed by large understandable databases with confidence calculations
 - Multiple independent data sets (lines of evidence)
 - Agreement or divergence?



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 - Sundance Environmental and Energy Specialists
 - Jackie Burton, PhD: President
 - John Shafer: Principal Scientist
 - CDM
 - Aaron Frantz: Senior Engineer
 - Adam Locke: Principal



Questions?



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Resources & Feedback

- To view a complete list of resources for this seminar, please visit the **Additional Resources**
- Please complete the **Feedback Form** to help ensure events like this are offered in the future

The screenshot shows a web form titled "U.S. EPA Technical Support Project Engineering Forum Green Remediation: Opening the Door to Field Use Session C (Green Remediation Tools and Examples) Seminar Feedback Form". The form includes fields for "First Name", "Last Name", "Daytime Phone Number", "Email Address", and "Date of Seminar". There is a checkbox labeled "Please send a copy of my feedback confirmation as a record of my participation to this address". The form is part of the "EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency Technology Innovation Program".

Need confirmation of your participation today?

Fill out the feedback form and check box for confirmation email.