Abiotic/Biotic Reduction of Trichloroethene and Perchlorate: Laboratory Treatability Study for a Superfund Site

Anca G. Delgado

Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering

Arizona State University

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Center for Bio-mediated & Bio-inspired Geotechnics

Phoenix-Goodyear Airport North (PGA-N) Superfund Site, Goodyear, AZ



- Added to the NPL in 1983
- Groundwater impacted by trichloroethene (TCE) and perchlorate
- Chromium, cadmium, aluminum, and copper in certain source area soils
- Subunit A Interbedded sands, silty sands, and clayey sands with localized sand and gravel sequences; groundwater depth 90-140 feet bgs; groundwater flow direction northnorthwesterly

Proposed source area remediation



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- Five groundwater pump and treat systems returning cleaned water using reinjection, infiltration and irrigation.
- In situ chemical reduction has been employed on a limited scale.
- Treatability Study: develop design-related insights for a potential remedy for Subunit A source area groundwater (approved by the EPA and contained in the Record of Decision Amendment Sep 2014).

Combined remedy using zero-valent iron and microbial reductive dechlorination



Semi-batch microcosm study – TCE reduction



Microcosms – 25 g soil and 75 mL groundwater

Bio-inspired Geotec

- High ZVI: 15 g L⁻¹ mZVI & 1.5 g L⁻¹ nZVI
- Low ZVI: 2.5 mL spent ZVI from High ZVI microcosms
- Fe (II)" 0.25 g L⁻¹
 - 560 mg/L lactate and 170 mg/L emulsified vegetable oil (biostim)
- SDC-9 and ZARA-10: *Dehalococcoides*

mccartyi bioaugmentation cultures



Semi-batch microcosm study – Perchlorate reduction



= non-detect

SDC-9 and ZARA-10: Dehalococcoides mccartyi bioaugmentation cultures

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Growth of *Dehalococcoides mccartyi* in the presence of ZVI and Fe (II)



Mohana Rangan et al. (in prep.)

Bio-inspired Geotechnics

Microbial communities enriched in microcosms



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Lessons learned from treatability study



- i. Abiotic TCE reduction to ethene and ethane was highly effective at high ZVI concentrations.
- ii. Microbial perchlorate reduction was partially inhibited at high ZVI and Fe (II) concentrations.
- iii. Microbial TCE reductive dechlorination was a significant process at low but not high ZVI concentrations
- iv. Synergy between abiotic and biotic reduction processes was observed under flowthrough conditions.
- v. Biostimulation/bioaugmentation (no ZVI) achieved similar outcomes in terms of complete TCE dechlorination to ethene.





Project team: Srivatsan Mohana Rangan, M.S. Shefali Rao, M.S. Aatikah Mouti, B.S. Gregory Lowry (collaborator) Harry Brenton Laurie LaPat-Polasko Anca G. Delgado (co-PI) Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown (PI)

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Thank you!

anca.delgado@asu.edu delgadolab.org