



Welcome to the CLU-IN Internet Seminar

NARPM Presents...Using Science to Find Solutions at Superfund Sites - The Benefit of EPA and USGS Collaboration

Sponsored by: U.S. EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Delivered: April 19, 2012, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, EDT (17:00-19:00 GMT)

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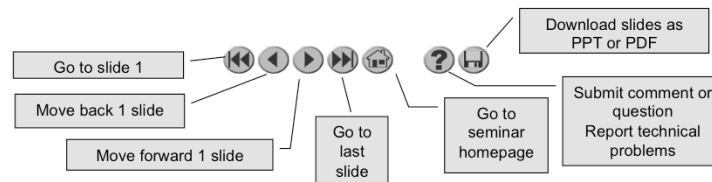
Moderators:

Jean Balent, U.S. EPA, Technology Innovation and Field Services Division (balent.jean@epa.gov or 703-603-9924)

Visit the Clean Up Information Network online at www.cluin.org

Housekeeping

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- Q&A
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Although I'm sure that some of you have these rules memorized from previous CLU-IN events, let's run through them quickly for our new participants.

Please mute your phone lines during the seminar to minimize disruption and background noise. If you do not have a mute button, press *6 to mute #6 to unmute your lines at anytime. Also, please do NOT put this call on hold as this may bring delightful, but unwanted background music over the lines and interrupt the seminar.

You should note that throughout the seminar, we will ask for your feedback. You do not need to wait for Q&A breaks to ask questions or provide comments. To submit comments/questions and report technical problems, please use the ? icon at the top of your screen. You can move forward/backward in the slides by using the single arrow buttons (left moves back 1 slide, right moves advances 1 slide). The double arrowed buttons will take you to 1st and last slides respectively. You may also advance to any slide using the numbered links that appear on the left side of your screen. The button with a house icon will take you back to main seminar page which displays our agenda, speaker information, links to the slides and additional resources. Lastly, the button with a computer disc can be used to download and save today's presentation materials.

With that, please move to slide 3.

***Using Science to Find Solutions at
Superfund Sites—The Benefit of
EPA and USGS Collaboration***

NARPM Presents

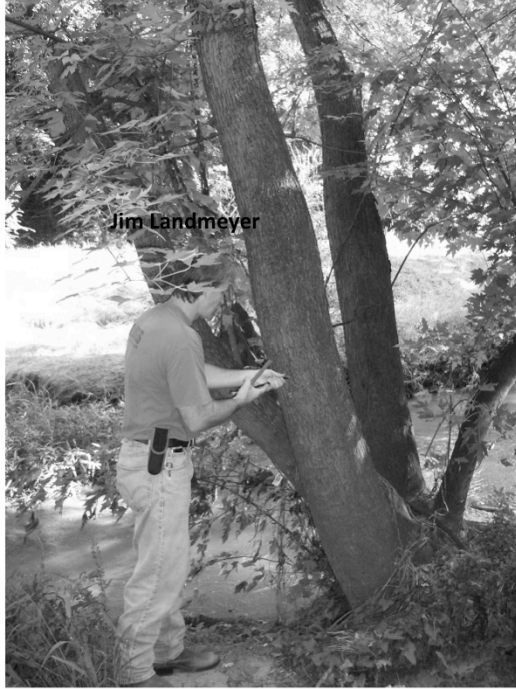
April 19, 2012





Rusty Kestle

Scott Miller



Jim Landmeyer



Challenges for RPMs at Superfund Sites:

- “low-hanging” fruit has been picked
- Who are the PRPs?
- Are there potential VI issues?

- Case Study at the Capital City Plume (CCP) Site, Montgomery, AL



In 2008, EPA Region IV asked the USGS the following question:

“Why are PCE and TCE concentrations in groundwater at the Capital City Plume (CCP) Site not going down?”



...almost 17 years had gone by since initial detection of PCE in a PSW

1991-92	PCE was detected in public-supply well 9W in April 1991 at a concentration of 7.1 µg/L and at 21 µg/L in wells 9W and 9E in May 1992; both wells are in the upper part of the shallow aquifer; detections were reported by the MWWSSB. ³
1992	Well 9W was taken out of service because of PCE contamination.
September 1993	Workers were overcome at about 25 feet below land surface by vapors during soil excavation for the RSA Energy Plant at the northeastern intersection of Monroe Street and McDonough Street. Contaminated soil was excavated and removed. ⁴
October 1993	ADEM Phase I Investigation. ⁴
November 1993	ADEM Phase II Investigation. ⁴
February 1995	The ADEM preliminary assessment confirms detection of PCE in shallow groundwater near the RSA Energy Plant. ⁴
1996	The RSA Tower is built between the intersection of Monroe Street, McDonough Street, Lawrence Street, and Madison Avenue, near the RSA Energy Plant. ADEM recommends that the CCP Site be considered for the Superfund list.
1997	Well 9E was taken out of service because of PCE detections. ⁴ A CPI ceases printing operations at the southeastern intersection of Washington Avenue and Lawrence Street.
2000	The USEPA proposes to list the CCP Site on the NPL. The USEPA begins a remedial investigation (RI). ⁵
2001	The USEPA collects additional soil samples at the RSA Energy Plant.
2002	PCE is detected in Cypress Creek during USEPA sampling. City of Montgomery begins Feasibility Study. ⁶ A CPI relocates from the southeastern intersection of Washington Avenue and Lawrence Street to a location on Moulton Street.
2003	The Montgomery County Commission initiates an Environmental Site Assessment of a piece of property once occupied by a CPI at the southeastern intersection of Washington Avenue and Lawrence Street. A CPI that used various offset printing presses ceased operation at the intersection of Washington Avenue and McDonough Street.
2007	The City of Montgomery initiates a groundwater sampling event. Results indicate continued detections of PCE in wells. ⁸



U.S. Geological Survey

- Department of the Interior bureau
- Science organization – no regulatory or land management responsibilities
- Impartial data
- **Mission**
 - The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

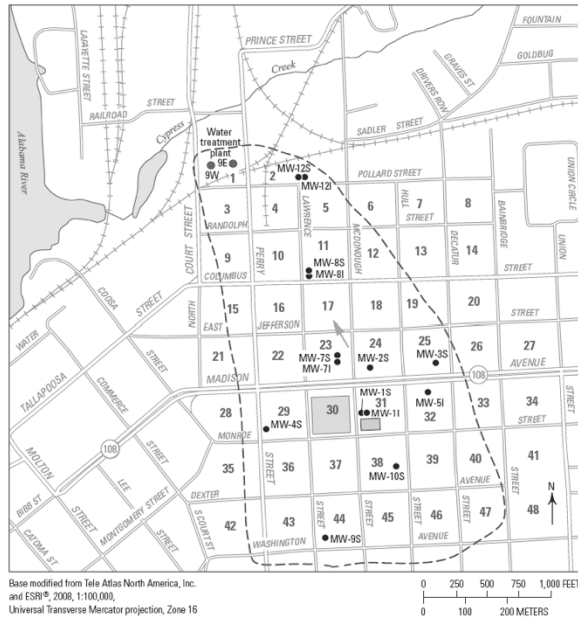


“...**source** of contamination not known...”

A common problem at some
Superfund sites



Objective Approach - 2008



Topographic and hydrologic divides.

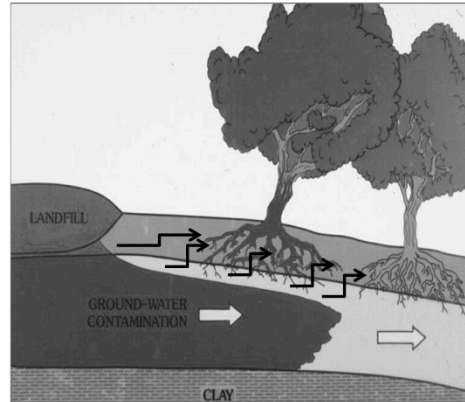


Base modified from Tele Atlas North America, Inc. and ESRI® 2008, 1:100,000, Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16



Basic concept:

- Tree roots take up water, gasses, and associated contaminants from the subsurface.
- The contaminants move up the trunk.
- Tree coring provides a sample of the groundwater and soil gas beneath the tree.




Method has been peer-reviewed and published

USGS
science for a changing world

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Measurement and Monitoring for the 21st Century Initiative

**User's Guide to the Collection and Analysis of Tree
Cores to Assess the Distribution of Subsurface
Volatile Organic Compounds**



Scientific Investigations Report 2008-5088

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey



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FEATURE
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Phytoforensics, Dendrochemistry, and Phytoscreening: New Green Tools for Delineating Contaminants from Past and Present

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Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri, United States

Don A. Vroblesky

United States Geological Survey, Columbia, South Carolina, United States

Jean-Christophe Bilouin

Environnement International, Paris, France

ABSTRACT: As plants evolved to be extremely proficient to mass transfer with their surroundings and survive as earth's dominant biomass, they also accumulated and store trace contaminants from surroundings, using a variety of complex chemical applications and analytical methods have been utilized to gain information about a wide range of contaminants in the biosphere and, water, and air, with information available on both past (dendrochemistry) and present (phytochemistry). Collectively these sampling approaches provide rapid, cheap, ecologically friendly, and overall "green" tools termed "Phytoforensics".



approaches have been developed to assess contamination extent and occurrence/persistence history. Emerging to assist that, noninvasive and cheap tools as an alternative damage to previous property or ecological systems are pursued.

Vascular plant family structure, substrate composition and associated root network of trees both with transpiration surface area. The vertical area of both stems and leaves of tree woody plants have greater surface area than the footprint of soil's land surface. The extensive network linking the soil surface and atmosphere provides all nutrients, water, and CO₂ necessary for the growth of the vast majority of the earth's terrestrial biomass. The bridge between the substrate and air provided by vascular plants in the largest biologically mediated engineering process on terrestrial earth, and the creation of a terrestrial biosphere. The active transport of groundwater to soil into root systems is fueled by capillary action, thus providing for water and mineral energy. Over 90% of annual precipitation is evaporated back to the atmosphere, increasing plant species mass transferred water flux of trees from combined. Based on an understanding of plant's interactions with surroundings, plants have been used as indicators of their environment for millennia, back to Roman times when yellow and red pigments indicated the presence of all different groundwater levels and a good location for placement of drinking wells.

As plant responses vary, time and space of a given spatial collection of groundwater basins, as depicted in Figure 1. This concept has been applied to recent research and applications using plants as bioindicators to map environmental pollution's termed "Phytoforensics" or "Phytochemistry". These methods target organic contaminants in plant tissues as indicators of soil

*plant interact intimately with their environment, extracting water, CO₂, nutrients and micronutrients from their surroundings even when their life depends on present or future cooperation. Extraction processes also collect contaminants from air, including water, air, and soil, bioactive sampling and analysis.

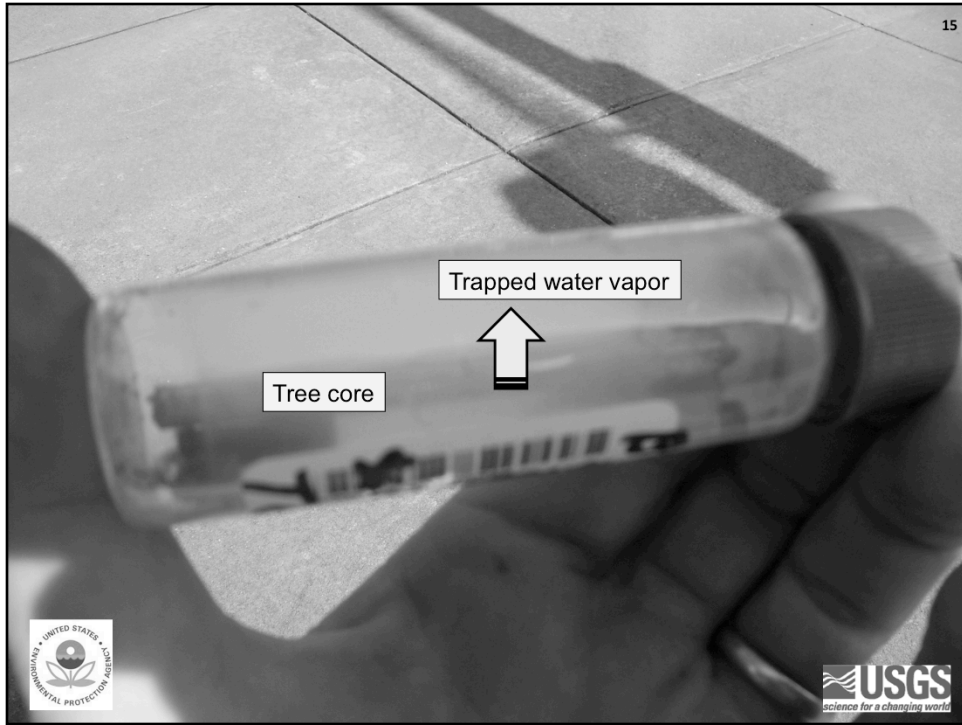
Published: June 14 2011

ACS Publications © 2011 American Chemical Society 4014

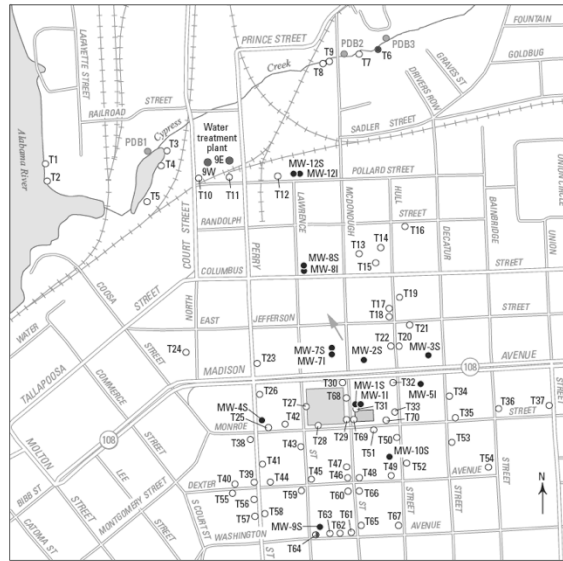
doi:10.1021/10.1021/acs.est.1000000







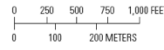
Data -2008



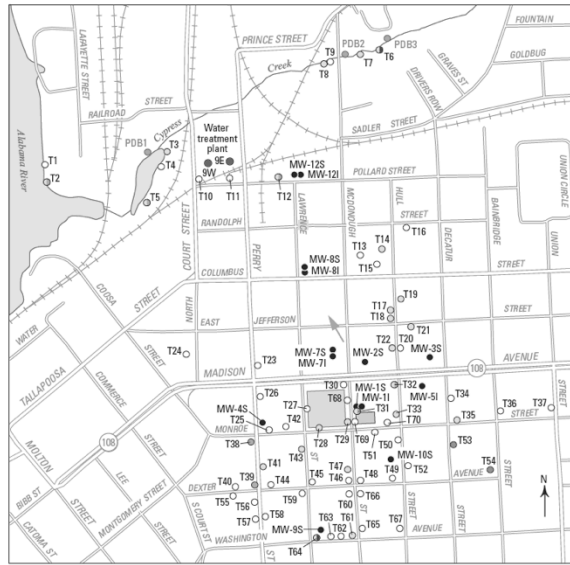
- T40 Tree-core and identifier, August 2008
- PDB1 Passive diffusion bag (PDB) sampler and identifier



Base modified from Tele Atlas North America, Inc. and ESRI® 2008, 1:100,000. Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16



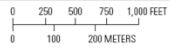
Data - 2008



- Tree-core identifier with VOC detected above MFL in vial headspace containing a tree core
- T19 Trichloroethylene (TCE)
 - T20 Perchloroethylene (PCE)
 - T22 TCE and PCE
 - T6 TCE and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE)
 - T33 Benzene or toluene



Base modified from Tele Atlas North America, Inc. and ESRI® 2008, 1:100,000, Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16

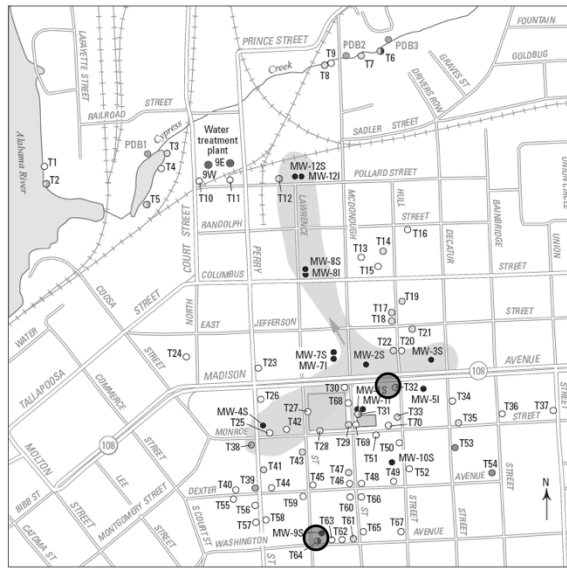


Result

1. PCE and TCE detected **upgradient** of previously mapped groundwater “plume” locations



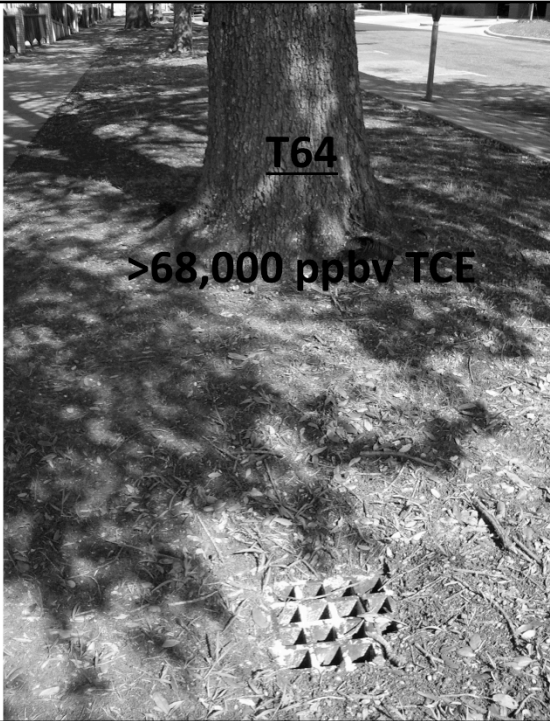
Data - 2008



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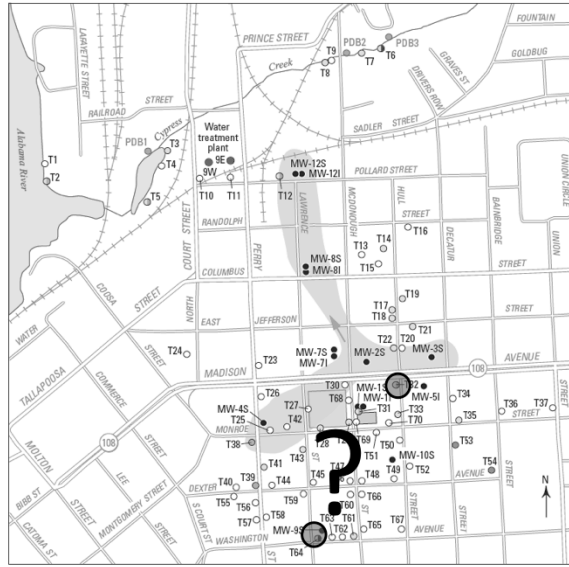
T64

>68,000 ppbv TCE



2008

22



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Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16



1887

23



Looking at Land Use History



1912

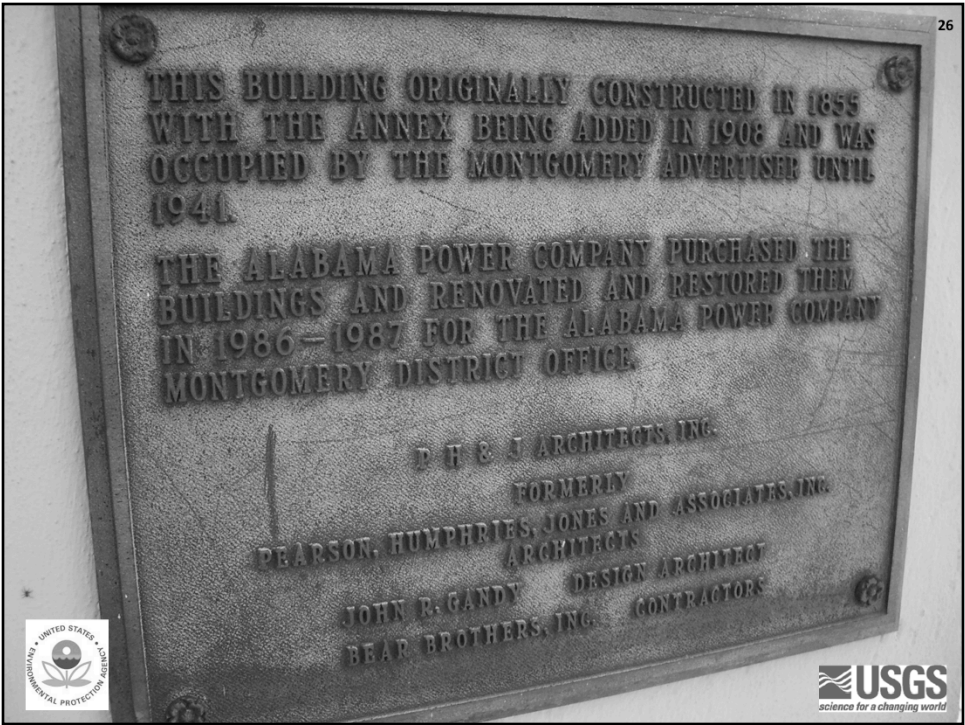
24



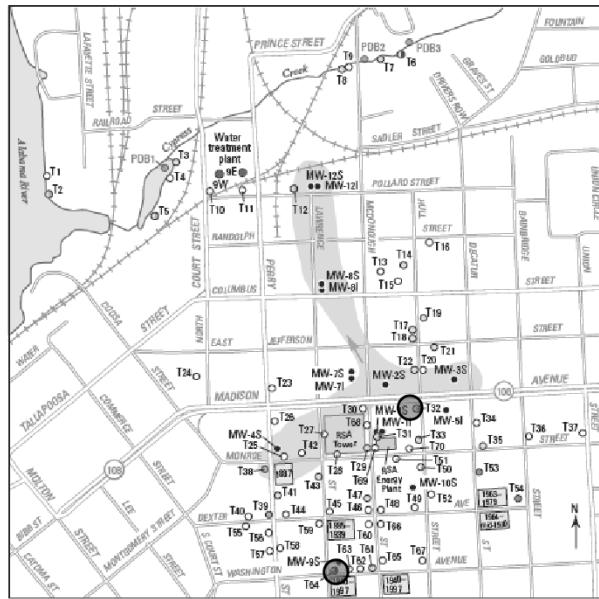


Dexter Ave.





Data - 2008



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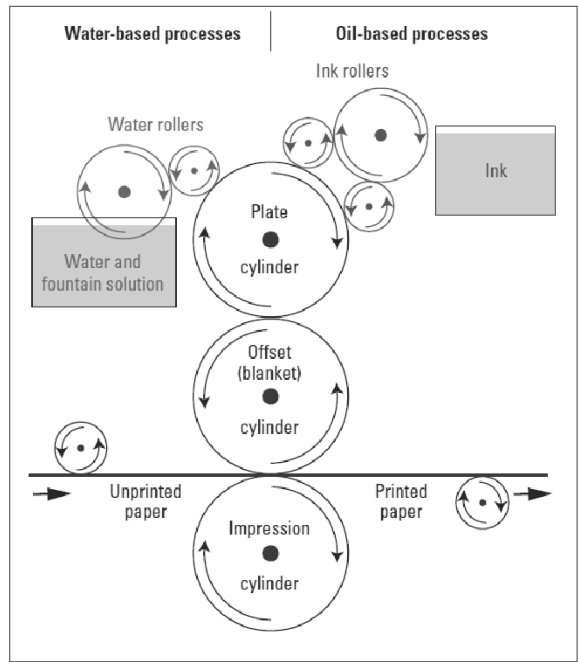
Result

1. PCE and TCE detected **upgradient** of groundwater “plume” locations
2. PCE and TCE detected near locations of former **printing** operations



How would Printing be related to PCE and TCE?





Blanket wash

- 1) Toluene
- 2) Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK)
- 3) Glycol Ethers
- 4) Xylene (mixed isomers)
- 5) Tetrachloroethylene
- 6) Methyl Isobutyl Ketone (MIBK)
- 7) Methanol
- 8) 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (TCA)
- 9) Dichloromethane
- 10) Ethylene Glycol



Fountain Solutions



Result

1. PCE and TCE detected **upgradient** of groundwater “plume” locations
2. PCE and TCE detected near locations of former **printing** operations
3. PCE and TCE were used by printing operations



What was done with the daily waste stream?

- “...dumped down drain...”
- “...washed in machine...”
- Floor sumps
- Picked up by Safety Kleen starting in late 1960s

(quotes from responses to EPA Section 104(e) Information Requests)



Result

1. PCE and TCE detected **upgradient** of groundwater “plume” locations
2. PCE and TCE detected near locations of former **printing** operations
3. PCE and TCE were used by printing operations
4. Disposal down **drains**



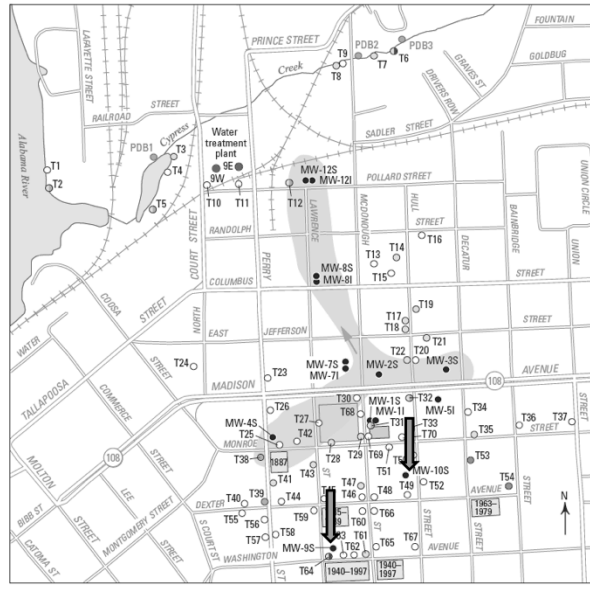
How did this behavior result in
contamination of the subsurface
nearby and, ultimately, groundwater?

Surface — soil — groundwater
pathway



2008

36

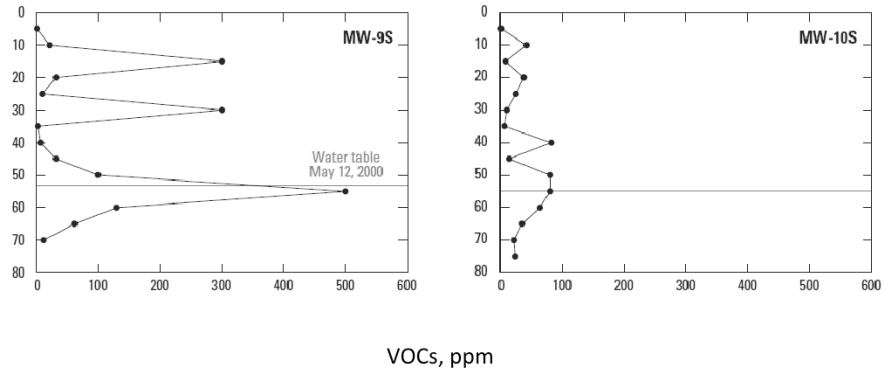


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Data -EPA RI, 2000

37



2008



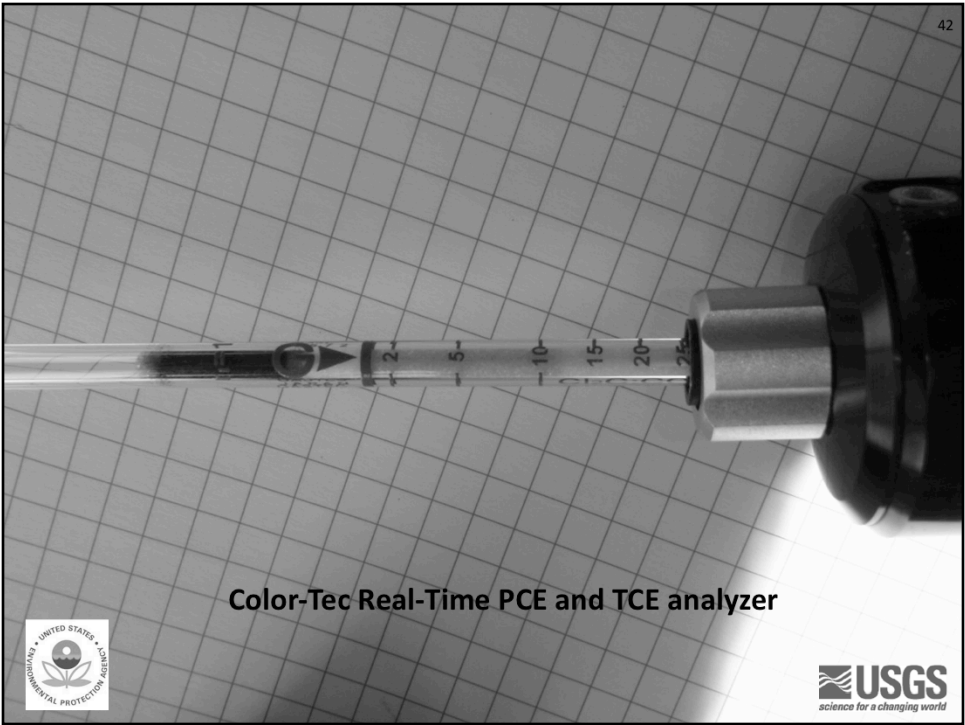
Older subsurface
drainage
grate





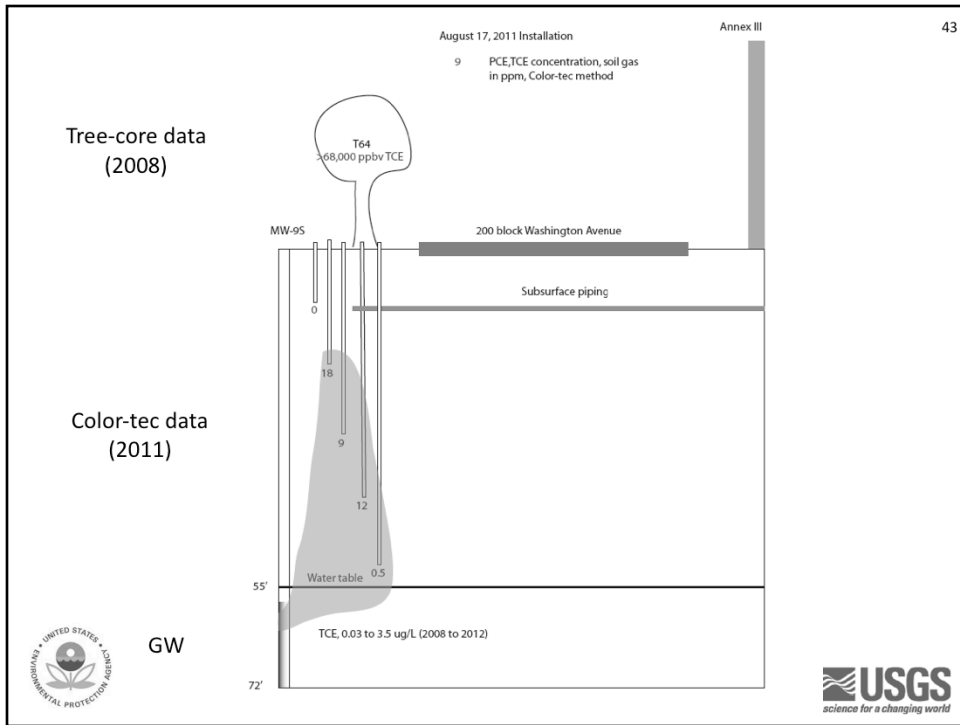






Color-Tec Real-Time PCE and TCE analyzer



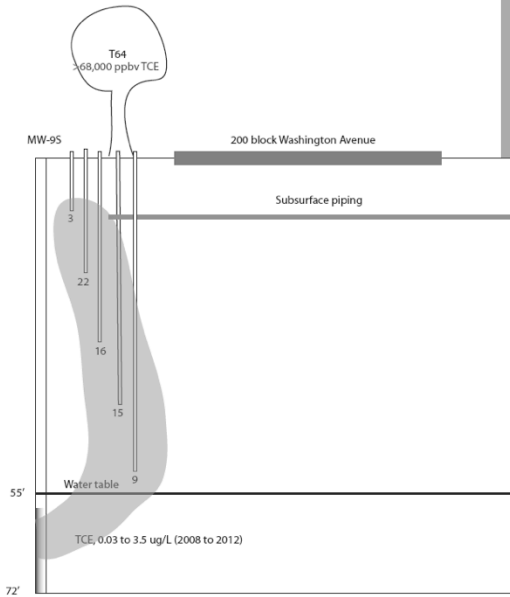


February 28, 2012

Annex III

44

9 PCE,TCE concentration, soil gas
in ppm, Color-tec method



Color-tec data
(2012)

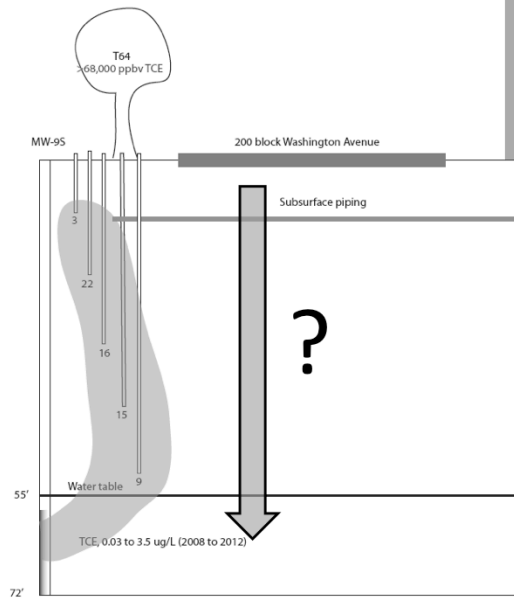


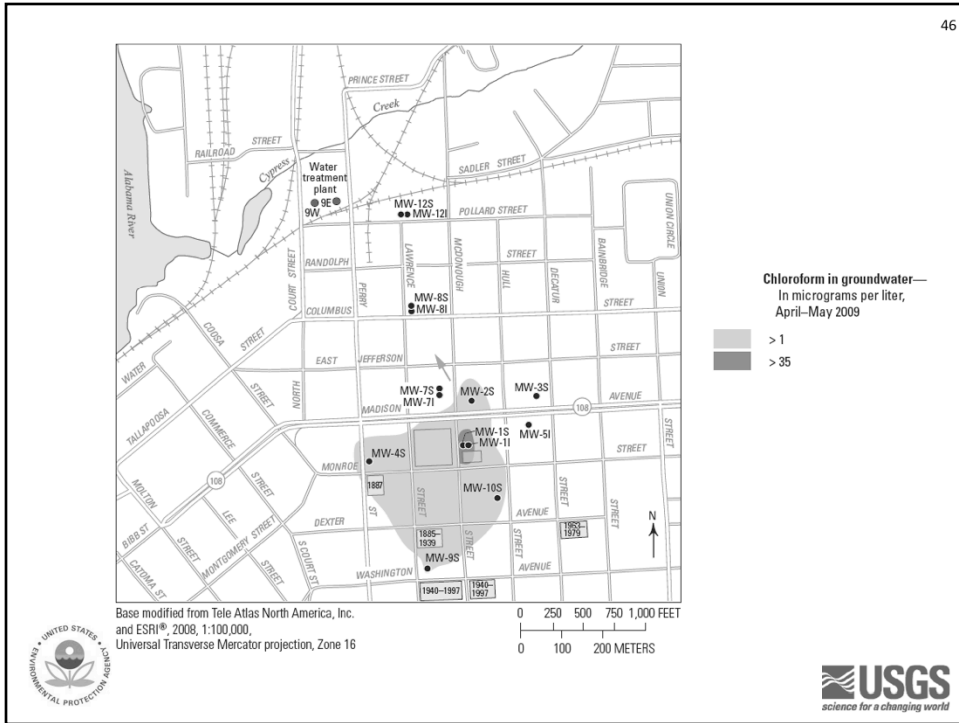
February 28, 2012

Annex III

45

9 PCE,TCE concentration, soil gas
in ppm, Color-tec method





Chloroform in groundwater?

- Chloroform added to water at the water plant
- Treated water has 2 to 44 ug/L
- MW-1S = 37.3 ug/L
- MW-1S has pH near 7.3 (all other wells less than 6)



Chloroform in groundwater?

- How did treated municipal water get to the water table?
- Possible cracks, root penetration (leakage) in sewer system
- Common to many municipal SS around the country.

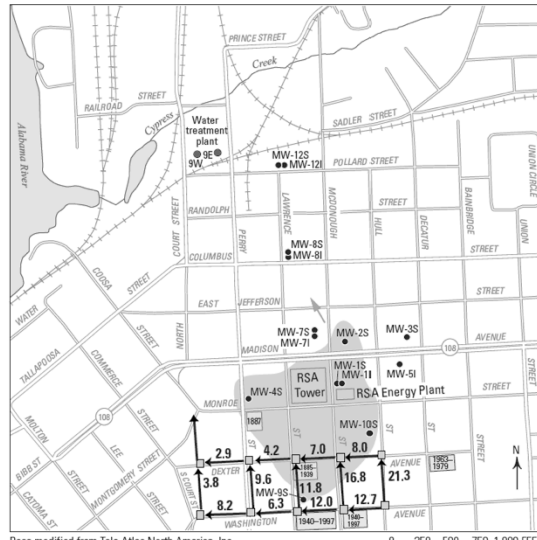




So what?

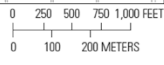
A tracer of what has been put into the sewer (treated water and/or wastes) at **land surface** in upgradient area can enter the **water table**





2.9 Sanitary sewer system gradient, in percent, flow direction, and subsurface junction box

Base modified from Tele Atlas North America, Inc. and ESRI®, 2008. 1:100,000. Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16



What about the timing of the release(s)?

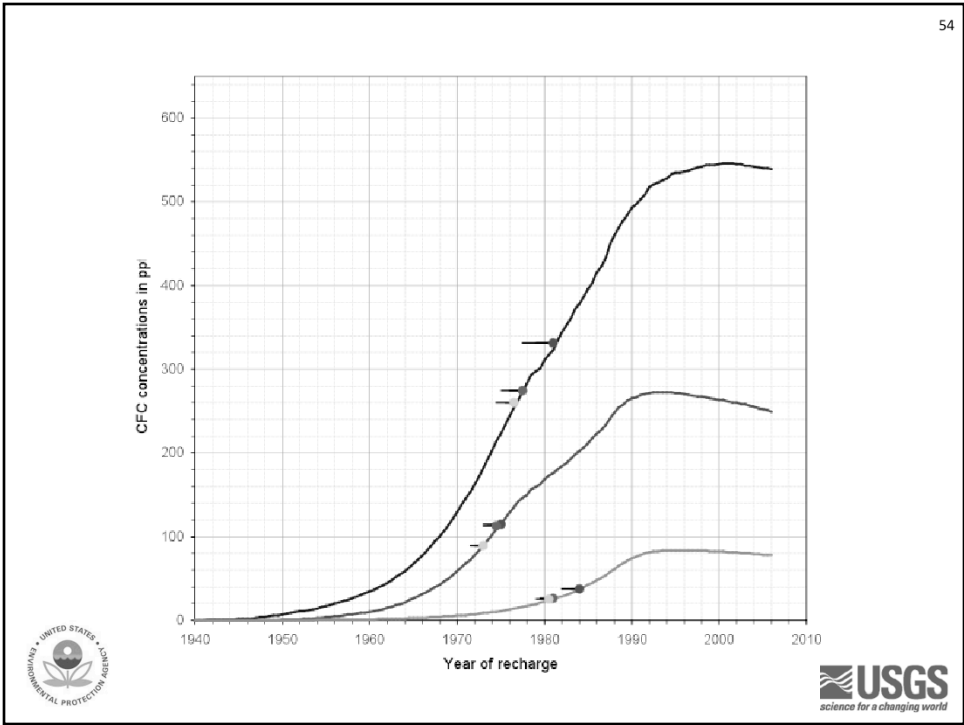
- Years businesses operated related to age of plume?



CFCs in groundwater

- CFC (-11 and -113) are man-made
- All water older than 1940 has 0 ug/L CFCs
- If detected in water, it is no older than 1940
- CFC are in recharge everywhere





CFCs in groundwater at CCP Site

- Present in only the **shallow** well
- Not present in all wells
- In groundwater at concentrations greater than possible for equilibrium with CFC-enriched air
- CFCs are enriched over urban areas (USGS Fact Sheet 022-02)

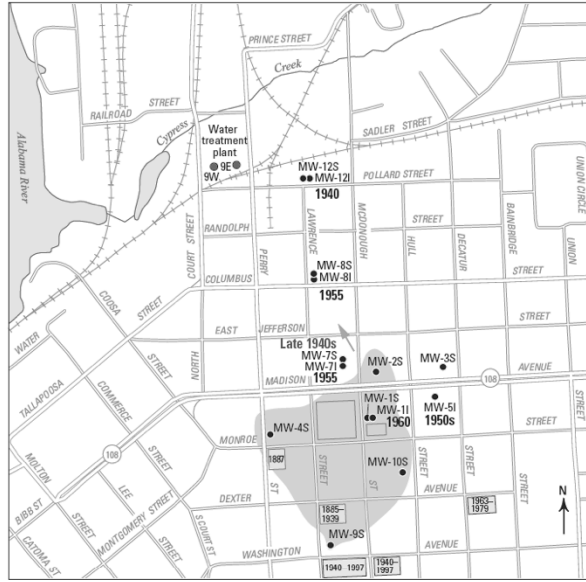


CFCs in groundwater

So what?

CFC-enriched water is further evidence of stormwater or sewer pipes leakage from land surface to groundwater, and the timing of occurrence.



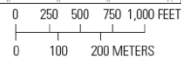


Groundwater recharge date,
based on CFC concentration,
May 2010

Late 1940s Shallow well
1955 Intermediate well



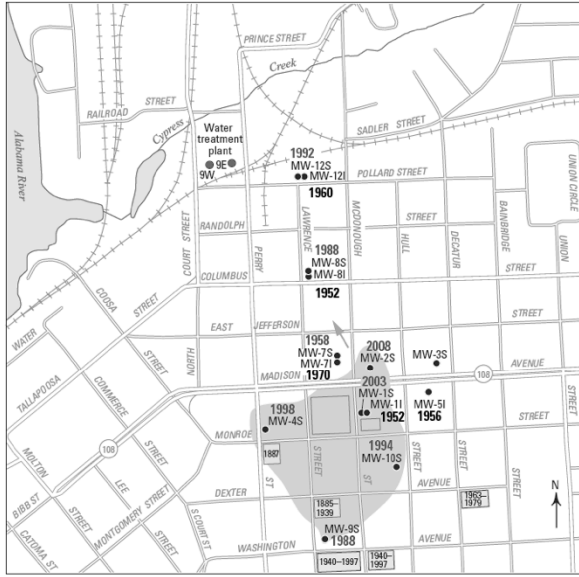
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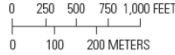
SF₆ in groundwater

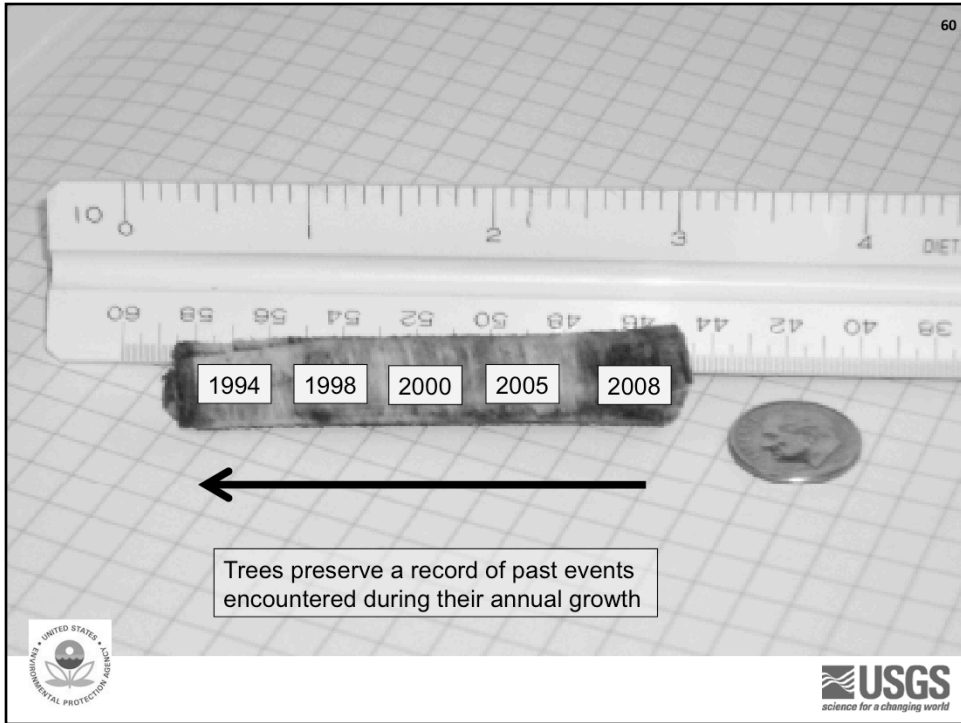
- Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) is a gas present at trace levels in the atmosphere that has natural and anthropogenic sources
- the detection of SF₆ in groundwater indicates the presence of water recharged since the 1970s





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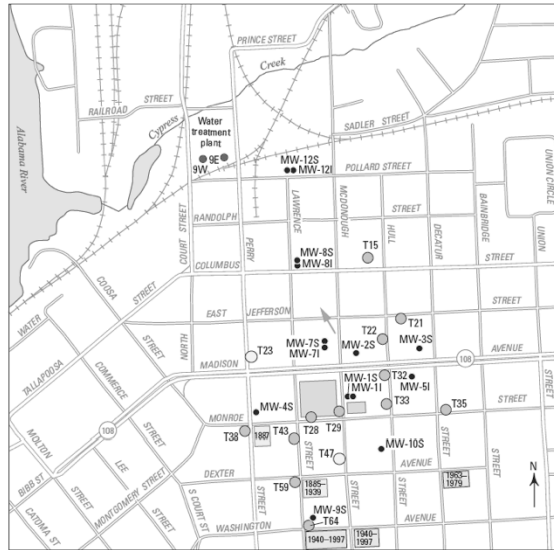


Contaminants preserved?

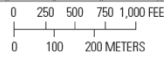
- Inorganics, yes
- Organics, no
- But
- PCE and TCE leave behind Cl-, yes

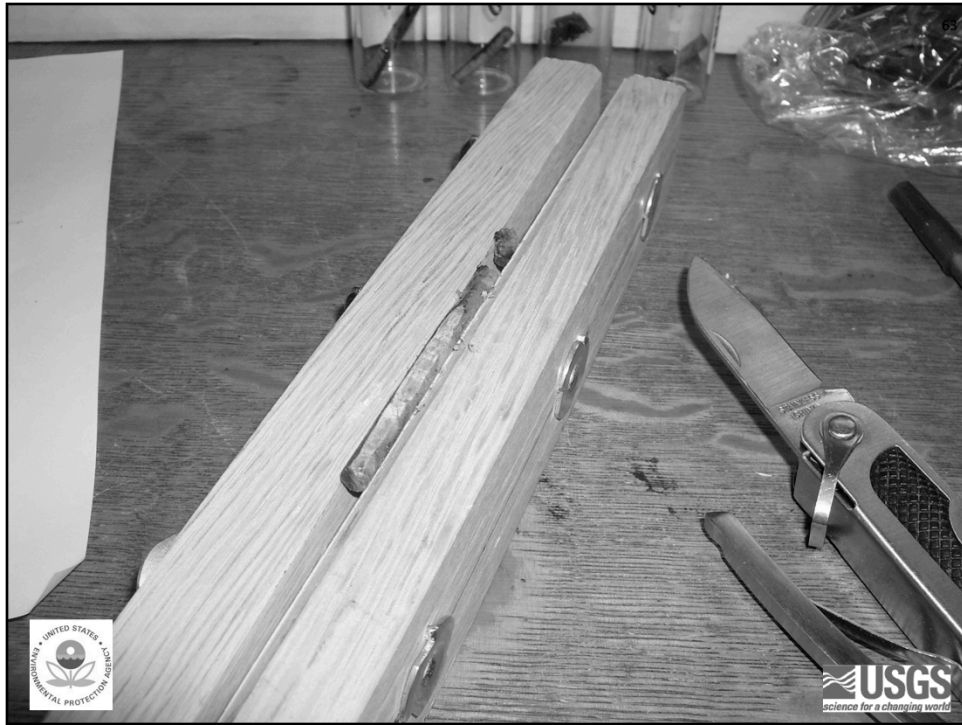
- Caveat – some inorganics are transported within the tree over space and time



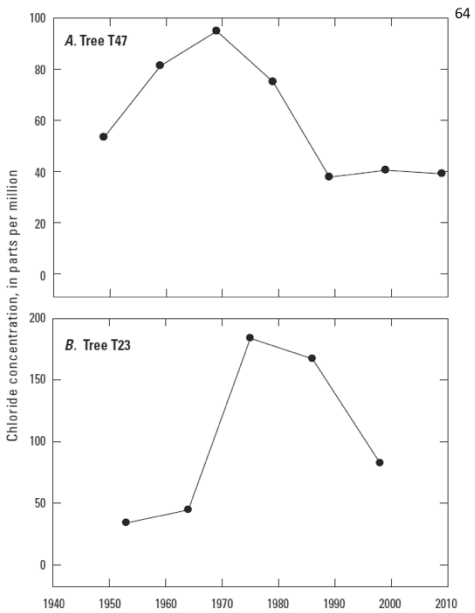


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2009

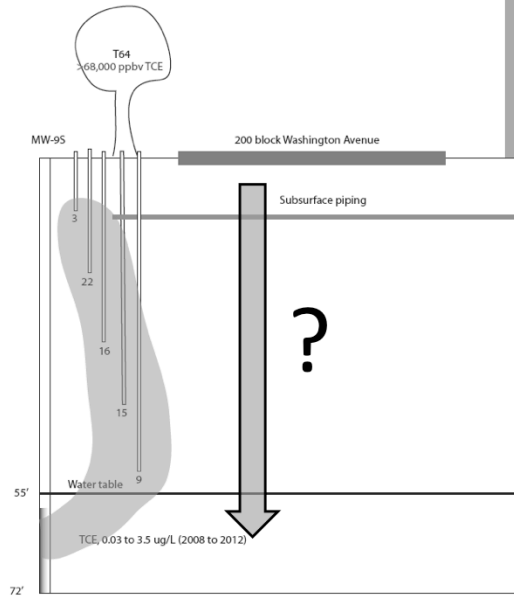


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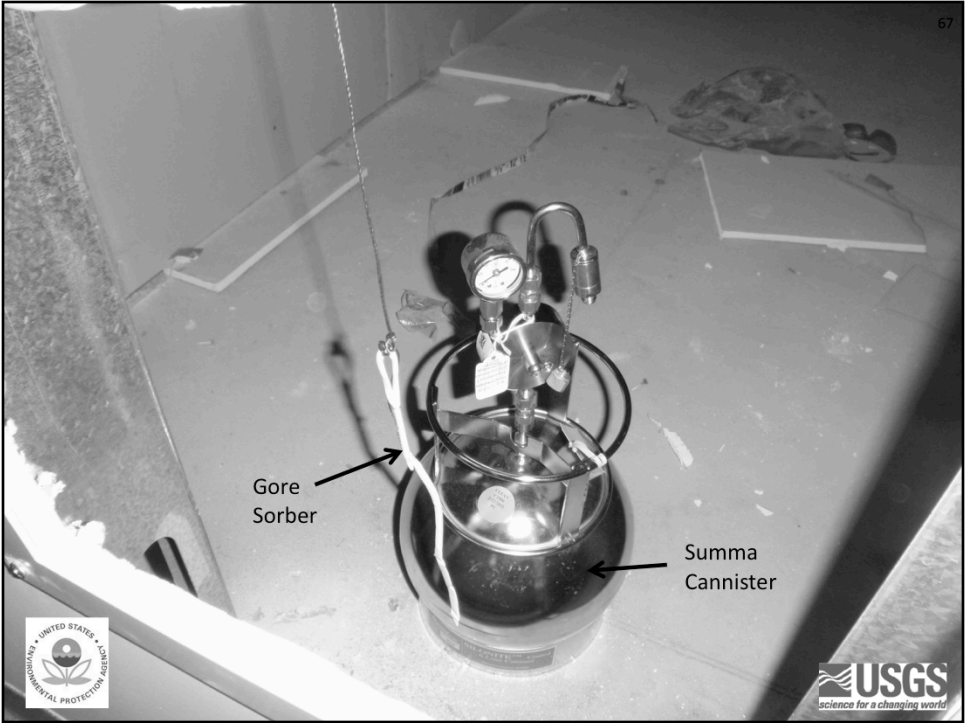
Annex III

65

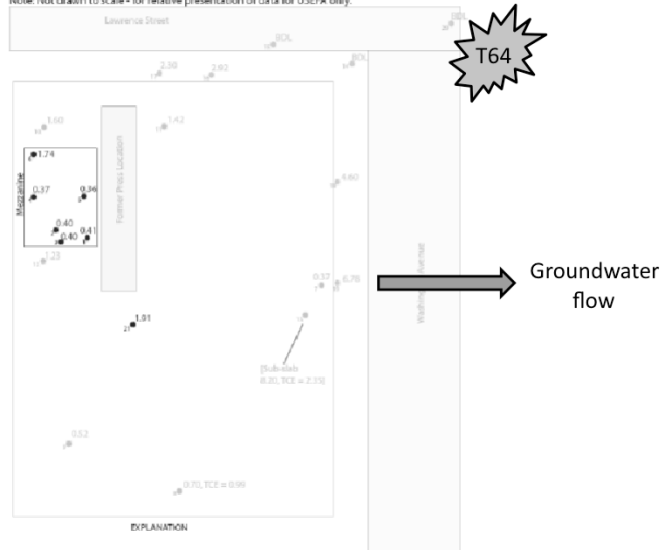
9 PCE,TCE concentration, soil gas
in ppm, Color-tec method







Note: Not drawn to scale - for relative presentation of data for USEPA only.

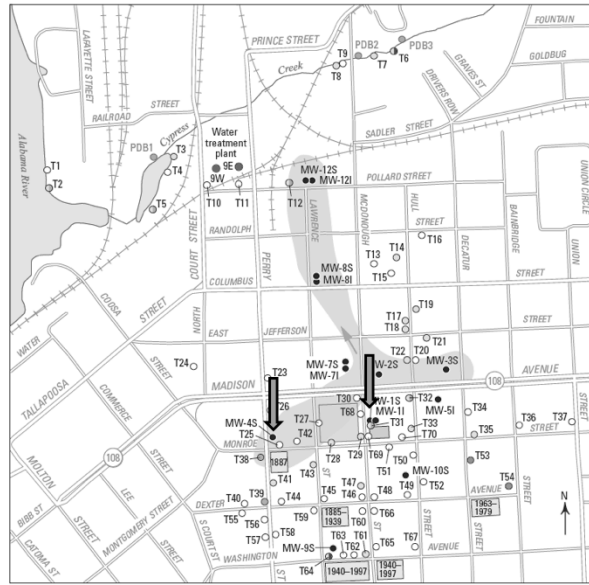


What about downgradient?



2008

70

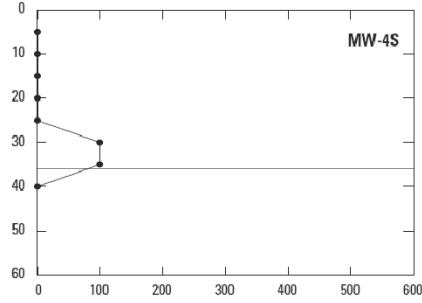
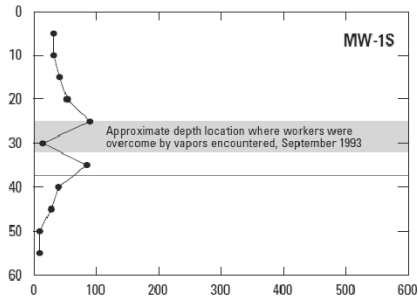


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Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 16



Data - EPA RI, 2000

71



VOCs, ppm

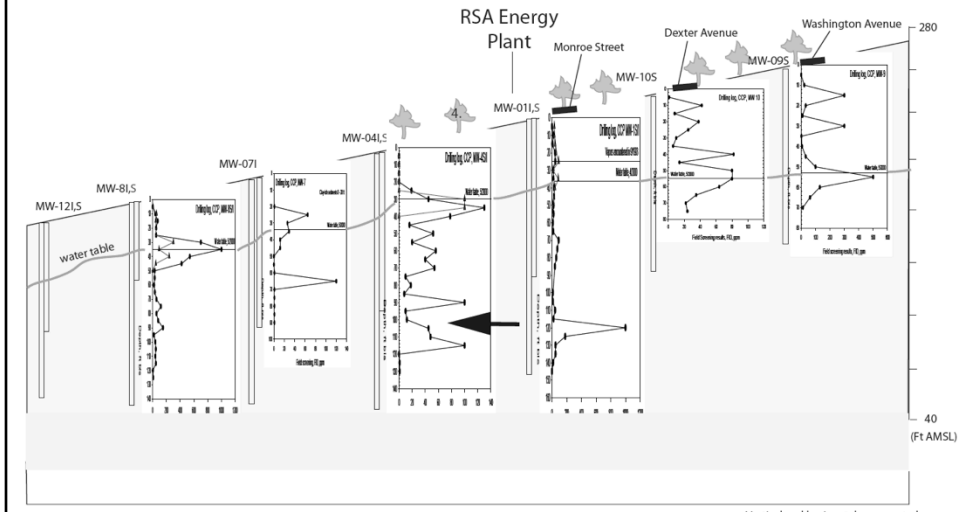


Result

1. PCE and TCE detected **upgradient** of groundwater “plume” locations
2. PCE and TCE detected near locations of former **printing** operations
3. PCE and TCE were used by printing operations
4. Disposal down **drains**
5. **Soil-gas** more contaminated by PCE/TCE upgradient



Conceptual Model



Vertical and horizontal exaggerated.
Final figure will have common datum.

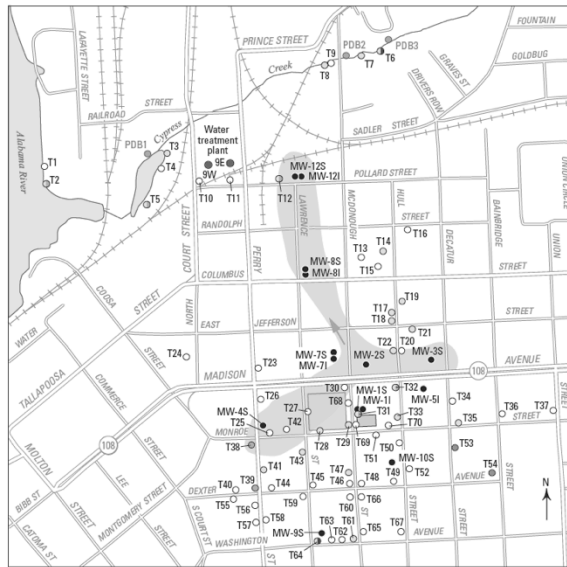


Groundwater sampling

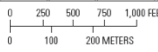
PCE and TCE



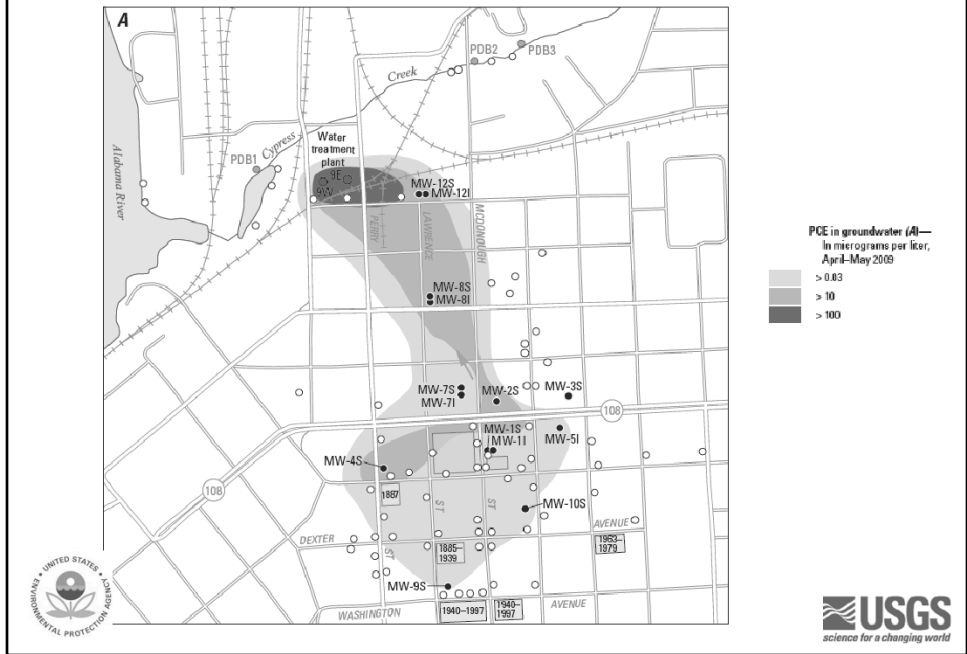
Data - 2008

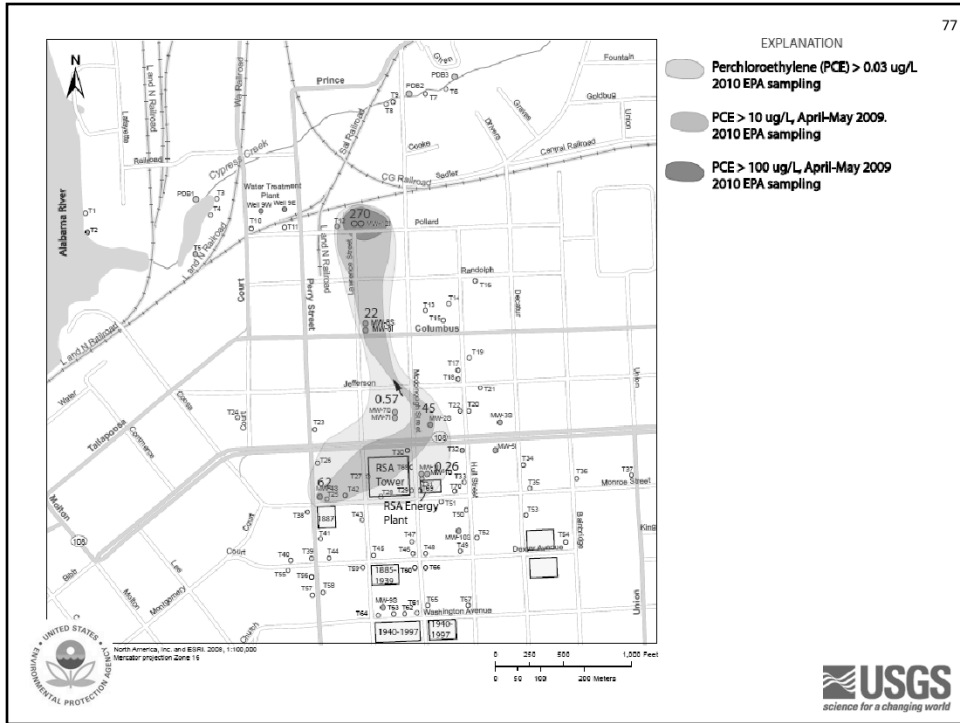


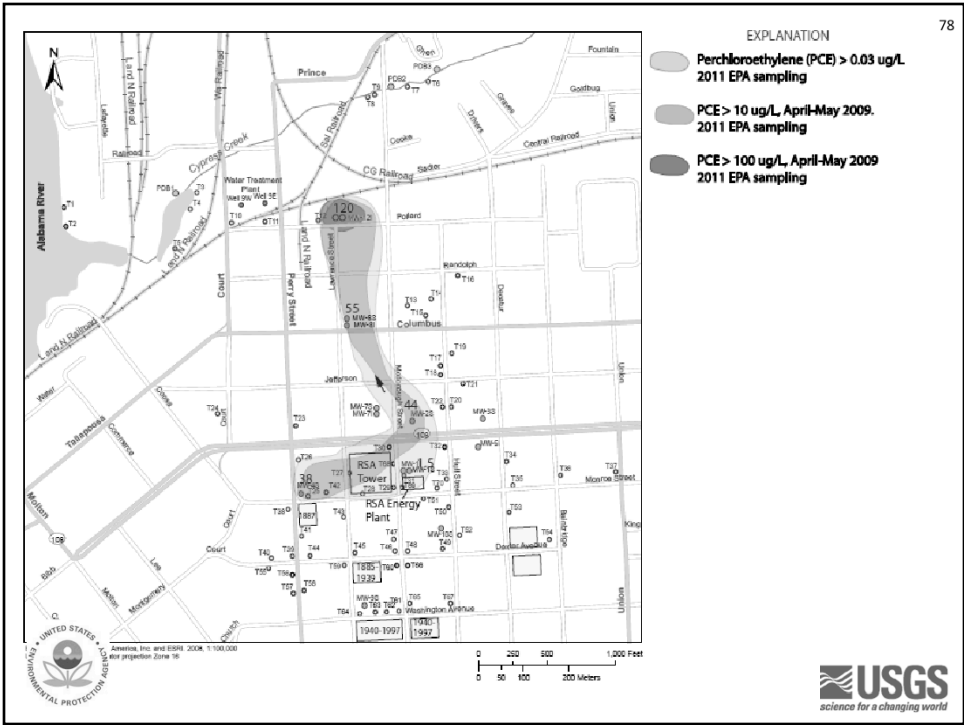
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PCE Data - USGS, 2009







TCE Data - USGS, 2009

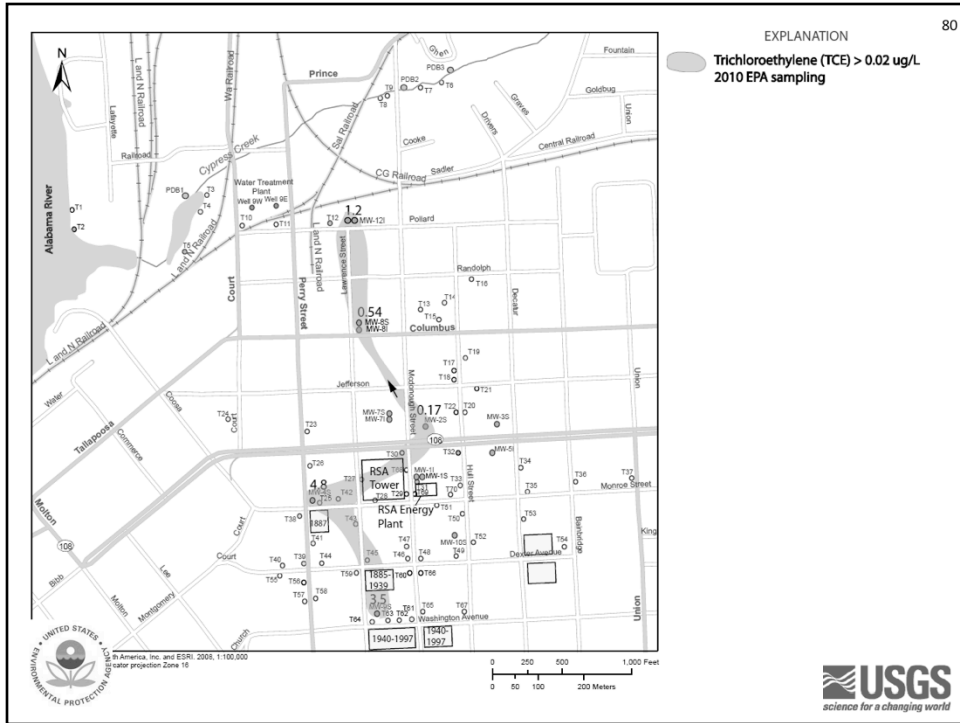


TCE in groundwater (B)—
In micrograms per liter,
April–May 2009
■ > 0.02



EXPLANATION

Trichloroethylene (TCE) > 0.02 ug/L
2010 EPA sampling

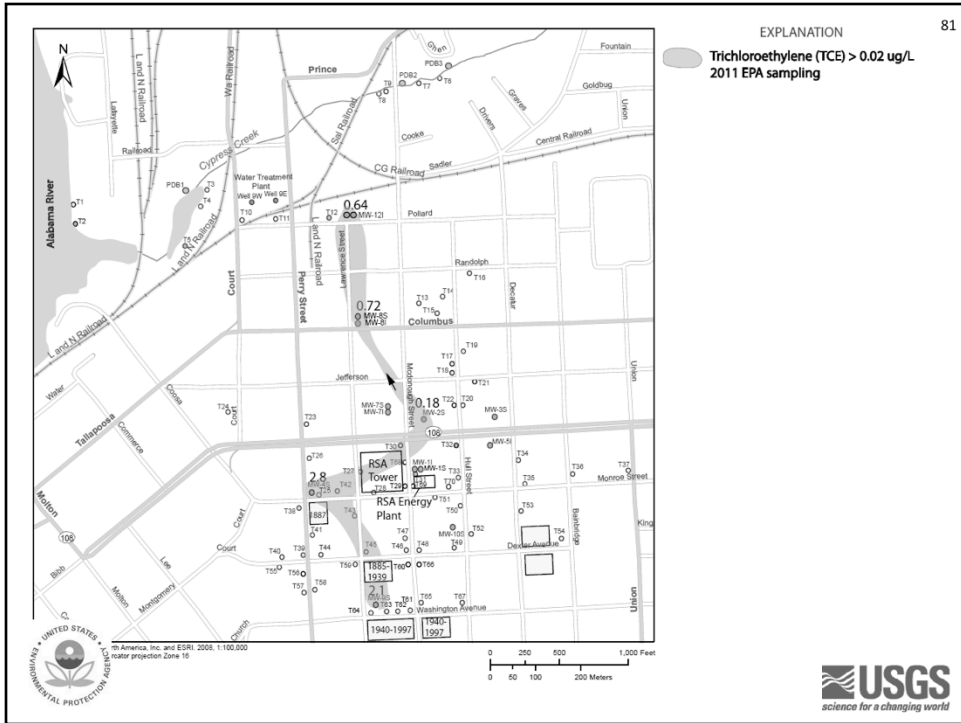


© 2010 Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, IBM Corp., Intel, Intergraph, iSat, Intel, Esri, Inc. and ESRI 2008, 1:100,000
 North American Datum of 1983
 UTM projection Zone 16



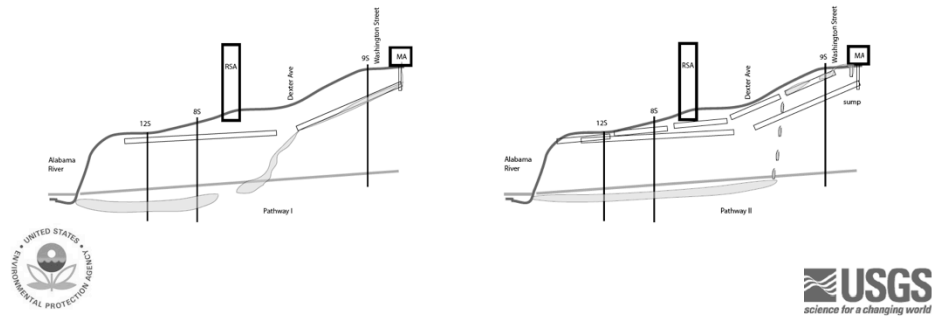
EXPLANATION

Trichloroethylene (TCE) > 0.02 ug/L
2011 EPA sampling



To recap

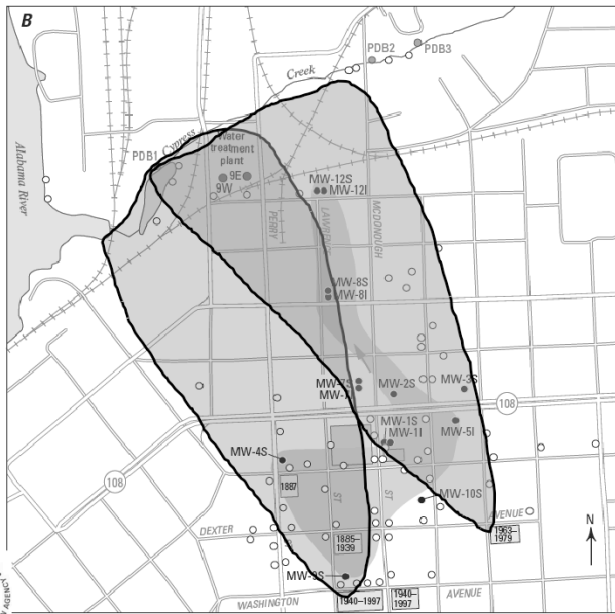
- **Where?** Potential source(s) and locations
- **How?** Pathway (land surface to groundwater)
- **When?**



PCE Data - USGS, 2009



TCE Data - USGS, 2009



TCE in groundwater (B)—
 In micrograms per liter,
 April–May 2009
 > 0.02



Science-based Data:

- Tree cores
- Geoprobings, geophysics, ground and downhole
- Vapor Implants
- PID, portable field GCs
- Color-Tec field results
- Chloroform as tracer of recharge
- CFCs, SF₆ to age date groundwater
- Dendrochronology
- Air sampling
- Soil-gas sampling



EPA and USGS Collaboration

- IAG
- Need-specific Work Authorizations
- Access through USGS contact to ALL the USGS capabilities and expertise across 50 states



Other EPA-USGS examples:

- **Region VII**; Riverfront Superfund site, New Haven, Missouri
- **Region IV**; Alabama Plating Site, Vincent, AL
- **Region V**; Co-location agreement
- **Region III**; Standard Chlorine of Delaware





<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5148/>



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 feedback 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:", and "Email Address:". Below the email address field, there is a checkbox labeled "Please send a copy of my feedback confirmation as a record of my participation to this address." The form also features a "Date of Seminar:" dropdown menu with "December 15, 2009" selected. The EPA logo and "Technology Innovation Program" are visible at the top of the page.

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