Introduction to Near Surface Environmental Geophysics — Webinar — • —

Region 5 Superfund Chicago, Illinois



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A Practical Guide for Commonly Used Methods & Applications

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Presentation Goals:

Reveal options for several geophysical methods to characterize subsurface at hazardous waste sites

Basic background how methods work

How to plan/request subsurface surveys

Avoiding interpretation pitfalls

What is "Near Surface" Geophysics

A class of geophysical instruments, generally portable, capable of collecting data quickly within tens of feet below the ground surface

 Investigation ranges vary dependent on type of tool used & site conditions

 Deeper surveys require bulkier, more powerful equipment, some requiring acres of space

Environmental Protection Agency SUPERFUND REMOVAL SITE Inauthorized Persons Keep Out.

Types of Near Surface Targets

Buried metal (ferrous & non-ferrous)
 Clues to burial depths, if known: type of backhoe, bulldozer, etc. used for burial

Contaminant plumes

- Plume conductivities greater or less than in situ background matrix most likely detectable
- Generally several inches or more in thickness

Characterization of geology
 Soils, clay, sand, bedrock, major voids
 Characterization of hydrogeology



Physical Properties Measured

Velocity (acoustic & EM)
 Seismic (acoustic)
 Radar (EM)

Electrical Impedance
 Electromagnetics
 Resistivity

Magnetic Magnetics Passive method

Density Gravity Passive



Radioactive decay
 Natural gamma
 Passive method

Geophysical Property Functions Associated Tools Passive methods Magnetometer Magnetics Gravimeter Gravity Electric* & Electromagnetic (EM) Resistivity meters Electrical resistivity* EM Induction (EMI) Fixed & mixed EM freq's Frequency Domain Time Domain EM tools Time Domain EM Radiation (EMR) Ground penetrating radar Acoustic Seismic system tools Seismic Refraction Reflection

Common Geophysical Tools/Targets Rapid Near Surface Data Collection

Magnetometer Detects Ferrous metals Electromagnetics Measures Ground Conductivity Metal Detection (Ferrous & Non Ferrous) Ground Penetrating Radar EM microwave pulses to image subsurface Measures changes in material properties

 Tanks, Drums, Wells, Foundations, Landfills

Stratigraphy changes, Soil moisture changes, Contaminate plumes, Distinguish metal types, shapes

Stratigraphy changes, Contaminate plumes, Burial pits, tanks, drums Approximate depths to anomalies

Common Geophysical Tools Deeper - More Expansive – Time Intensive Data Collection

Seismic

 Stratigraphy changes due to reflecting/refracting sound waves

Electrical Resistivity

 Stratigraphy changes due to ground conductivity changes

Gravity

 Measures gravitational acceleration Stratigraphy, contaminant plumes

Void detection

Stratigraphy

Detection Limits^{*} for Geophysical Tools **DETECTION LIMIT* METHOD** Magnetometer Based on ferrous mass 40' Gravimeter Based on size of void 40' **Electrical Resistivity** 100'+ Line length, power source Electromagnetic (EM) Fixed Freq. Domain 15' **EM 31** Variable Freq. Domain GEM 2 surface to 30' Time Domain EM 61 15' Freq. & soil dependent 0 - 40' - GPR Seismic Line length, power source 50'+ Refraction Line length, power source Reflection 50'+

* Variable limits dependent on site conditions & equipment capabilities

Common Environmental Geophysical Survey Tools

Gradient Magnetometer

Detects Ferrous Metal (minor response from some fired clays)



Data logger stores data Real time on-screen output GPS (optional) 2 sensors define gradient mag Hand carried / vehicle mount 0-40' BGS dependent on mass Passive sensors no Tx /Rx Report out: contour, quasi 3D Fanny-pack batteries Brass counter-weight Above ground area / influence



Ground Surface

Subsurface

Cyclone Fence Ground Surface

Subsurface

Steel Buildina

Metal Detector \neq Magnetic Method



photo credit: Wikipedia

METAL DETECTORS use internal power to create a electromagnetic field to locate metal

MAGNETOMETERS are passive instruments and only sense ambient magnetic fields

Typical GPR: Cart Platform Images of Subsurface Estimates Depth to Targets Confirm Buried Tanks - Shapes



Must have contact w/ ground Hand pushed / vehicle towed GPS (optional) Data logger stores data Real time on-screen output Uses EM energy, batt. power Antenna contains Rx & Tx Antenna size shows frequency Freq's: high/shallow, low/deep Cart adjusts to antenna size Above ground area / influence 0-30' BGS depends on freq's Report out: single x-sec or 3D

EM31 Fixed Freq. Domain

Conductivity & Metal Detection (Ferrous & Non Ferrous Metal)





Walk Boom Pointed Forward Not as Shown

Detection Limit Range

Hand carried / vehicle towed GPS (optional) Uses EM energy, batt. power Rx & Tx antenna at each end Two readings taken @ once Gnd. cond. = Quad. phase Metal detection = In-phase Fixed frequency = fixed depth Data logger stores data Real time on-screen output Coil angle sets depth limit Vertical angle $\approx 12'$ depth Horizontal angle $\approx 8'$ depth Report out: contour maps

GEM2 – Multi Frequency Domain

Conductivity & Metal Detection (Ferrous & Non Ferrous Metal)



Detection Limit Range



Multiple EM Pulsed Frequencies



Targeted Intervals Displayed

Hand carried / vehicle towed Data logger stores data Multiple simultaneous readings Multi frequency / multi depths GPS (optional) Gnd. cond. = Quad. phase Metal detection = In-phase No horizontal angle like EM31 On-screen data view allowed not practical (older units only) Antenna: Tx & Rx at each end Antenna: bucking amid Tx-Rx Uses EM energy, batt. power Typically 5-6 frequencies used Report out: contour maps, 3D Surface area interference 15'

EM 61 High Sensitivity Metal Detector Detects Any Metal





Hand push/pull - vehicle tow GPS (optional) Backpack: batt. & controller Data logger stores data Real time on-screen output Uses EM energy 3 antennas (coils): 2 Tx & Rx Coils allow shallow/deep data Detection depths 0-15' BGS Report out: contour map Above ground area / influence

Above Ground Detection Limit to 15' AGL



*Sting is a trademark of AGI

Direct Current Resistivity

Detects Changes in Subsurface Conductivities by measuring voltages from currents applied

Resistivity array batt. powered Programmed internal switching Often duplicated for more detail 100' bgs pending cable length, DC power, opposing transmission materials Elevation tool for electrodes Tape measures Electrodes Sting* controller / processor Cabling for electrodes Not optimal congested areas Report out: pseudo-sections



Seismic Refraction

Commonly Used Environmental Surveys Records 1st Arrivals of P-Wave

P-wave: pressure or primary wave, rest of wave ignored Records first refracted energy Finds depth to GW, bedrock, weathering zone Close-up of geophone Sound source: plate & hammer Geophones and cabling Sensitive to external noise Geophones in ground Seismograph linked to laptop Not optimal congested areas Report out: seismic record

Micro Gravimeter

Measures Material Density Maps Voids and Intrusions



Must have contact w/ ground Time intensive data collection Susceptible to vibration / wind Unit stores data, batt pwr'ed Real time on-screen output Passive sensor - no Rx & Tx Report out: contour map Corrects tides by unit location DoI* depends on mass Non unique measurements



 $DoI^* = Depth of Investigation$

Borehole Geophysical Methods for Existing 2" Monitoring Wells When are existing 2" wells a focus for borehole geophysics? Legacy wells prior to federal intervention Five year reviews Common available options Optical camera (sidewall/downhole views) Natural gamma Ground conductivity (non-metal casing)

Modeling for Interpretation Two kinds of simple models Forward Inverse Models depend on input conditions and data Models can be very helpful in visualizing the site Models are not reality

Geophysical Methods Advantages

Non-intrusive
Rapid data collection
Detects a variety of targets
Screens large areas
Fills in data gaps

Geophysical Methods Limitations

Methods require a specialist
Physical contrasts must exist
Resolution varies by method & depth of target
May be expensive
Interpretations are non-unique

Correct Interpretation









Real Life Situation

Reality: Buried Seat Belt Buckles





GEOPHYJICAL JURVEY DEJIGN

JIM URSIC - U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - CHICAGO, ILLINDIS Planning – Reviewing Geophysical Surveys



Survey Design Rationale

Establishes a plan Find potential pitfalls Maximize benefit Minimize surprises Property line issues Archeological sites Utility lines Customize requests



Pre-survey Planning: Garbage IN – Garbage OUT

Inadequate background information & planning dooms a survey before it starts:

- Requires more time in the field
- Increases costs
- Missed targets
- Questionable data



Define Problem

List issues of concern Can geophysics help? Data confirmable? How will results benefit your plan?



Background Paperwork Review

Site history
Previous studies
Geology
Geohydrology
Geographic issues
Health, safety & QAPP issues



Background Maps/Image Review

Sanborn or other Public Maps

 Historical site records & buildings



Topographic Maps– Terrain conditions

Geologic Maps

 Indirect conditions

Aerial Images - internet

 Indirect conditions

Sanborn Map Example: Anacortes, Washington State



Sanborn UMI



Topographic & Geologic Maps





Example of Aerial Photo Details

Following up from previous slide's topographic map

Background Photo Review



Recent Site Photo



Circa 1990 Aerial Photo

Same Building





Historical Site Photo



Circa 1960 Aerial Photo
Photo Interpretation

May 7, 1981: Color Infrared

Sept 25, 1936: B & W





Remote Sensing & Imagery Analysis Services (RSIAS) Office of Environmental Information (OEI), RTP North Carolina



Lammers Barrel Beavercreek, Ohio

Formerly Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center

April 5, 1988: Color http://intranet.epa.gov/gis/remotesensing.html

Other Issues To Consider

Property boundaries Consent for access Traffic & pedestrians Vegetation status "Noise" issues Utility location Archeological sites



National Historic Preservation Act

Why should we care?
It's the law
It's EPA's policy
It's a good idea



Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C 470 & Subsequent Amendments

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (for Hazardous Waste Sites) "Handling Drums & Containers"

1910.120 (j) (1) (x) "A ground-penetrating system or other type of detection system or device shall be used to estimate the location and depth of buried drums or containers"



Analyze Background Information to Determine..

Area to be surveyed
Size - number of suspect targets
Potential problems
Site reconnaissance needed?



Match Most Favorable Geophysical Techniques to Problem



What method(s) contrast most from background?

 Can instrument operate over site terrain?

Know depth confines "Noise" issues

Dealing With Noise Issues

Accounting for unwanted Interferences
Power lines, fences, cars
Apply a "walk-away" test
Start at source
Walk-away until readings normalize – note distance





Target Contrasts & Background What physical properties are associated with: Target elements Natural background elements surrounding target Is their enough physical contrast between both? What is the extent of problem Iateral limits & vertical depths **Ground Surface** Subsurface Target

High Contrast Target

Low Contrast Target

Matching Methods to Target Elements

Determine what physical property is associated with target element Is metal part of target element? Metal ferrous or non-ferrous Is geologic structure critical to target element? Location of bedrock, clays, permeable formations Contaminate plume present? Low or high plume conductivity Groundwater location Landfill boundaries Voids

Further Defining Methods

Once physical method is selected:
What are the limitations of the selected method
Is method easily operated in the site environment
Are there nearby objects that cause interference
How to document results for replicating survey, if necessary







Optimize Data Collection Routine

Establish how data will be collected
Traverse pattern
Grid spacing
Axis labeling
Data Location ID (ft/M)



Key Issues For Collecting Data

Systematic collection (grid or lines)
Spacing dependent on target size
Accurate grid or line establishment
Method to ensure location accuracy
Maintain good field notes
Take plenty of photographs!

Data Collection Grids

"Data Grid" Recent Instrument Technology

Continuous or Rapid Succession Measurements

Data Grid for 1970's 80's Instrument Technology



(modified from Benson et al., 1988)

Consider Analogy Between Data Density & Photographic Pixels



Detection Probability (Using Individual Station Measurements)

At = Area ft² of Target (Circle)

As = Site Area $ft^2 is 1 Acre$

 $\bigcirc \quad \text{At} = \text{Area of Target} \\ 43$

As = Area of Site 43,560

Probability of Detection	As/At = 10	As/At = 100	As/At = 1000
100	16	160	1600
98	13	130	1300
90	10	100	1000
75	8	80	800
50	5	50	500

Number of data points required

(modified from Benson et al., 1988)

Determining Grid Spacing

 $\frac{\text{Area of Site in ft}^2}{\text{Area of Target in ft}^2} = a \text{ in ft}^2$ $a \times \text{Probability Factor} = \text{Sampling Points (Approx.)}$ $\frac{\text{Area of Site in ft}^2}{\text{Sampling Points}} = b$

 \sqrt{b} = Grid Spacing in Feet

Probability Factors100% = 1.62575% = 0.898% = 1.350% = 0.590% = 1.0

Typical Acquisition Traverses

<u>Modes</u>

Alternating mode Most often used Random mode Used for small or large areas Parallel mode Irregular shaped sites Work from one base line

Details

Areas broken into rectangular shapes **Irregular** boundaries Use multiple base lines Positioning methods Station to Station Timed – collection Wheel encoder **GPS**

Random Survey Pattern



Small Back Yard Example

Alternating Traverses



Parallel Traverse – No GPS



Solid Line: Recording

Alternating Traverse Grid Setup No GPS Guidance

Layout grid markers at desired spacing Flagging (plastic) Spray chalk or paint Ropes Wooden stakes Large sites require multiple marker lines



Data Recorder Types/Methods

Station distance position X, Y, set by distance Time X, Y, distance set by a time unit Encoder wheel X, Y, distance - a unit of wheel revolution GPS X, Y set by longitude and latitude

Data Recorders: Correction Issues for Positioning

Timed devices: - spacing issues Corrections for pace (use pause key) **GPS** devices Use proper datum, projections, units Correct for errors Wheel encoder devices Resolve distance errors (calibrate)

Time - Continuous Data Acquisition Issues for Y Axis Example

Operator inputs start & end points per line Unit auto "fits" data to input distance Assumes same pace **Obstacles** usually slows pace Use data pause features as needed



Global Positioning Systems

- Accuracies vary by method & equip. used
- Here are 2 analogous examples:
- Some on a scale to be within 120' of an airport threshold, as an example
 - Others on a scale to be within centimeters from the center of runway
 - Use proper datums, projections & units





Several GPS Methods

Stand alone GPS receiver Differential correction (DGPS) Real time using beacons, base stations Post processing GPS values RTK Survey Grade Tx base station, Rx at rover, satellites 3 Grades of GPS accuracy & cell phone Recreational, mapping, survey, Cell Phone, 25' 80' cm

How a Differential GPS Service Works



Integrating GPS to Other Systems

 Most geophysical instruments will connect and integrate GPS systems
 Will record & tie all data to lat-long

What if you want to traverse specific routes? Two possible options:
 Trimble AgGPS 132 parallel swathing
 Field Analysis & Sampling Tool (FAST)

FAST Field Analysis & Sampling Tool

- System integrates a field laptop to GPS and instrumentation
- Free downloadable program for EPA staff
 - OS limited to Windows XP
 - Requires non-EPA imaged field laptop
- Operator traces their traverses over pre-loaded grid using laptop screen
- System can be programmed for XRF, various radiation tools and other tools

Trimble Parallel Swathing Lightbar Guidance

- Center: on line
- Left: move left
- Right: move right
- Outer edges yellow: nearing line end
- Outer edges red: at line end
- Advances to next spacing





Geophysical Tool Options Which Method is Applied First? Dependent on site goals • <u>Generally</u>......First Methods having larger sensing areas Rapid data collection times Generally.....Second Methods with more definitive sensing capabilities

Check List For Considering Geophysical Survey

Define problem
Research history
Find area of concern
Note site conditions
Describe target(s)
Estimate depth

Will geophysics help? List methods that will show most contrast How will you use this information?

A Note About Contracting Geophysical Jobs

Use source that is knowledgeable about all geophysical methods Write contract to assume several "what if" scenarios to deal with special issues Obtain copies of raw data & notebooks Be aware that interpretation & reports may be optional

Geophysical Data Examples

Mag Data Example of Rubble Landfill



Waukesha, WI



Aerial View

Example of Rubble Landfill Mag Data



Waukesha, WI



Aerial View

Black=traverse lines; Red=neg. contours; Blue=pos. contours
More Rubble Landfill Mag Data



Waukesha, WI



Aerial View

Black=traverse lines; Red=neg. contours; Blue=pos. contours



Ontario, Canada





Lot During Excavation

Photo Reference Points



GEM 2 EPA/OSU Test Site Waterman Farm, Columbus, Ohio



Direct Push Soil Conductivity



Source: USGS Keyesport, Illinois 7.5 Minute Topographic Map Contour Interval = 5 feet



Wenner Array Sensor

GeoProbe[®] Electrical Conductivity Direct Push



Direct Push Unit Powered by Skid Steer

Direct Push Conductivity Data



EM61 Metal Detection - Data



Abandoned Gas Station, East St. Louis, Illinois

EM-61 Data Closed USCG Station



N. of Hancock, MI



GPR Data - Buried Storage Tanks



3-D GPR





Marquette, MI 30 m by 6 m area 6 - 8 m depth

Source: Grumman Exploration

GPR Leaking Tank - Upper Michigan



Backyard in Michigan – Stressed Vegetation Area

Default "Bone" GPR Image



"Prism" Option GPR Image



Seismic Refraction Example







2 dimensional measurement configuration for a resistivity profile

2 Dimensional Resistivity Profiling: Dipole-dipole Array



Earth Resistivity Example

One Example for Confirmatory Methods

Magnetics Rapid Data Collection Establish Amount of Mass General Lateral Dimensions

Electromagnetics Detailed Lateral Dimensions Generalized Depth Information (dependent on Tx & Rx range) GPR Depth to Target Top of Target Shape (dependent on soil conditions) (Questions Provider Should Ask You)

- How big is the site?
- Composition of targets?
- Orientation & size of targets, if known
- Depth or burial method of targets, if known
- Describe terrain & site conditions
- Explain special circumstances

Provider Submits Plan (Questions You Should Ask)

- Why are selected method(s) appropriate?
- What tool & configurations will be used?
- Method to ensure data location accuracy?
- What deliverables will be provided?
- Will data be presented for the layperson?
 - How can I relocate area at a later date?

Limitations

Subject to cultural noise

Detection of small objects reduced with depth

Depth estimates most difficult for non-homogenous masses

Masses cannot be uniquely characterized



Brief Comments Concerning 2" Monitoring Wells

Monitoring Wells - Need for Doing the Job Efficiently EPA Studied Wells At 22 Sites & Concluded:

Borehole Sensing Methods for Ground-Water Investigations at Hazardous Waste Sites

S. W. Wheatcraft, K. C. Taylor, J. W. Hess, T. M. Morris - Environmental Monitoring System Laboratory - U.S. EPA Las Vegas, NV EPA/600/2-86/111 December 1986



Summary Common **Borehole Geophysical Topics** Requires access by a pre-existing hole Tools capable of detecting Stratigraphy changes Porosity Fluid flow Casing/annulus integrity/hole diameter Limited by well construction method & presence -absence of fluids Open hole, plastic or metal casing Diameter of well may limit some tool use Presence of fluids will limit what tools can be used

Natural Gamma

- Lithology
- Shale intervals

Correlation



Video

Wellbore/casing condition

Investigate foreign objects in borehole

Record stratigraphy



Electro-Magnetic Induction Locate certain contaminant plumes Stratigraphy Ferrous/nonferrous cultural objects Quality of borehole fluid



Electromagnetic Induction Tool Plan View



1,4-Dioxane Plume Tracking

Plume X-Section



Broken Inner Casing





Failed apron

Still locked outer casing broken hinge



Nested wells one missing cap others not secured

Missing lock bent from nearby traffic



Outer casing subsided no cover, cap, faded ID



Lock missing, faded ID



Inner casing heaved



Inner casing heaved can't open



Outer/Inner casing sawed off, no well ID, original reference point removed

Well in grade school playground red circle shows items removed from inner casing, no lock, well cap



Missing locks, fading IDs



6" well, no external ID or stick-up marker



No lock, ID fading



Six inch well, bent



Missing inner well cap


Broken lock



Broken lock

Wide photo shot snow plow damage



Close up of snow plow damage

Lock missing, attempt made to secure cap with wire





Outer casing found lose enough to be lifted out of ground

No lock or inner cap. Damage before or after guard posts?



No lock or inner well cap, wasp nest, subsiding of grouting materials



Annulus plug weathered & cracked



Security wire mesh fence pilfered



Common Problems from the Field

Locate well: GPS, metal detector, chisel, heat, hammer, socket & wrench



Where is that well?



Questions?