

the facility. Removal of soil and groundwater surrounding the sanitary sewer system was conducted to perform targeted source removal. A pilot study is being conducted both in and outside the removal area to evaluate a potential supplemental groundwater remedy for the site. In the removal area, 3,600 lbs of PlumeStop® and 200 lbs of Sulfidated-MicroZVI™ (S-MZVI™) will be injected into six injection wells placed within the backfill of a newly installed sewer main trench. In addition to serving as VOC treatment in the base of and within the trench, injections will also act as a barrier to treat any VOCs that back diffuse out of the surrounding soil. Outside the excavated area, 3,200 lbs of PlumeStop and 100 lbs of S-MZVI™ will be injected into five injection points placed around monitoring well 35, which exhibits a high dissolved TCE concentration. Groundwater sampling will be conducted immediately before and one month after implementation of the S-MZVI™. Success will be based on the observed decrease in dissolved chlorinated VOC concentrations in groundwater as well as the generation of ethenes and ethanes. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-10/documents/off-site_groundwater_treatment_pilot_study_epa_id_md_034_587_848_october_9_2019.pdf

Research

FACTORS AFFECTING POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBON BIODEGRADATION BY *ASPERGILLUS FLAVUS*

Al-Dossary, M.A., S.A. Abood, and H.T. Al-Saad.
Remediation [Published online 18 August 2020 prior to print]

The ability of fungi isolated from highly contaminated soil to biodegrade PAH compounds was investigated, as was the effect of several parameters on their biodegradation ability. The top-performing fungi, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus fumigatus*, were selected to test their ability to biodegrade PAH compounds as single isolates. After 15 days of incubation, *A. flavus* degraded 82.7% of the total PAH compounds, with the complete degradation of six compounds, whereas *A. fumigatus* degraded 69.8% of the total PAHs, with four aromatic compounds completely degraded. The degradation process was optimal at a temperature of 30°C, pH of 5.5, and with nitrogen in the form of yeast extract. Under these conditions, 95.87% of the total PAHs, including 11 aromatic compounds, were completely degraded after incubation. This suggests that *A. flavus* is a potential microorganism for the degradation of PAH compounds in aqueous cultures.

NEW DATA SET OF POLYCHLORINATED DIBENZO-P-DIOXIN AND DIBENZOFURAN HALF-LIVES: NATURAL ATTENUATION AND RHIZOREMEDIATION USING SEVERAL COMMON PLANT SPECIES IN A WEATHERED CONTAMINATED SOIL

Terzaghi, E., L. Vergani, F. Mappelli, S. Bortol, G. Raspa, E. Zanardini, C. Morosini, et al.
Environmental Science & Technology 54(16):10000-10011(2020)

A new data set of polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin and dibenzofuran (PCDD/Fs) half-lives (HLs) in soil were derived from a greenhouse experiment performed with an aged contaminated soil obtained from a site in Northern Italy under semi-field conditions. Ten different treatments combining seven plant species with different soil conditions along with controls were tested for their ability to stimulate biodegradation over 18 months. The *Festuca arundinacea* plant proved to be the best treatment (~11-24% reduction, depending on the congener), reflecting HLs ranging from 2.5-5.8 years. Simulations performed with a dynamic air-vegetation-soil model confirmed that the HLs were mostly due to biodegradation rather than other loss processes.

EVALUATION OF PFAS TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY: ALKALINE OZONATION

Thomas, R., K. Jenkins, B. Landale, G. Trigger, T.M. Holsen, S. Dore, D. Pope Jr., et al.
Remediation 30(3):27-37(2020)

A treatability study was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of alkaline ozonation to remove PFAS from groundwater at a former industrial site in Michigan. The study involved testing the PFAS-impacted groundwater under alkaline ozonating conditions and a range of experimental conditions. PFAS-spiked samples were used to determine if inorganic ions such as fluoride, sulfate, formate, acetate, and trifluoroacetate were generated or if there were decreases in total organic fluorine resulting from PFAS treatment. Results indicated that decreases in PFAS concentrations were due to a combination of removal and destructive mechanisms with enhanced removal under acidic pH ozonation pretreatment conditions. Short-chain PFAS concentrations increased during the experiments, followed by an overall decrease in concentration under continuous alkaline ozonation conditions. Reductions were also observed in other PFAS, such as 6:2 FTS, PFHxS, PFOA, and PFNA.

HUMIC ACID COATED SAND AS A NOVEL SORBENT IN PERMEABLE REACTIVE BARRIER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF GROUNDWATER POLLUTED WITH COPPER AND CADMIUM IONS

Faisal, A.A.H., M.B. Abdul-Kareem, A.K. Mohammed, M. Naushad, A.A. Ghfar, et al.
Journal of Water Process Engineering 36:101373(2020)

Inert sand was impregnated with humic acid nanoparticles extracted from sewage sludge and used as a permeable reactive barrier to treat Cu- and Cd-contaminated groundwater. Using a one-hour contact time, 0.25 g/50 mL sorbent dosage, pH of 7, a 10 mg/L initial concentration, and 200 rpm agitation speed, the coated sand removed >98% of contamination. The maximum sorption capacity of copper and cadmium reached 87.5 and 18.9 mg/g, respectively.

NATURAL ATTENUATION OF POOLS AND PLUMES OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE AND CHLOROFORM IN THE TRANSITION ZONE TO BOTTOM AQUITARDS AND THE MICROORGANISMS INVOLVED IN THEIR DEGRADATION

Puigserver, D., J. Herrero, B.L. Parker, and J.M. Carmona.
Science of the Total Environment 712:135679(2020)

A study was conducted to assess the role of heterogeneity in the natural attenuation of carbon tetrachloride and chloroform, determine degradation processes within the transition zone, and identify dechlorinating microorganisms using groundwater concentrations, redox-sensitive parameters, and CSIA isotopic and DGGE molecular techniques. The main findings included 1) the role heterogeneity played on contaminant attenuation, 2) heterogeneity can cause highly anoxic environments and dominant sulfate-reducing conditions for more efficient natural attenuation, 3) heterogeneity showed that the transition zone constitutes an ecotone, 4) bacteria size exclusion was governed by the pore throat threshold and determined the penetration of microorganisms into the finest sediments, 5) reductive dechlorination caused contaminant attenuation in groundwater and porewater of fine sediments, and 6) both *A. sulfivorans* and *Clostridiales* bacteria can be biostimulated to dechlorinate contaminants in the source and the plume in the transition zone.

MULTI-OBJECTIVE OPTIMIZATION OF PERMEABLE REACTIVE BARRIER DESIGN FOR CR(VI) REMOVAL FROM GROUNDWATER

Maamoun, I., O. Eljamal, O. Falyouna, R. Eljamal, and Y. Suihara.
Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety 200:110773(2020)

A practical approach was developed to design an optimized permeable reactive barrier (PRB) to remove Cr(VI) from groundwater using either nanoscale zero-valent iron (Fe⁰), bimetallic nanoscale zero-valent iron (Fe⁰/Cu), activated carbon (AC), or sand/zeolite mixture (S/Z). Kinetic analysis and dynamic modeling of the experimental data were implemented to determine the controlling conditions of the reactive performance of the PRB materials. Results revealed that Fe⁰ and Fe⁰/Cu showed high performance in Cr(VI) removal, with final removal efficiency values of 89.7 and 84.1%, respectively. A Response Surface Methodology (RSM)-optimization revealed that Fe⁰ was the most feasible reactive material with respect to optimal conditions regarding the long residency and barrier thickness, with ~95.2% desirability of its optimal solution.

NONIONIC AND ANIONIC SURFACTANT-WASHING OF POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS IN ESTUARINE SEDIMENTS AROUND AN INDUSTRIAL HARBOR IN SOUTHERN TAIWAN

Shih, Y.-J., P.-C. Wu, C.-W. Chen, C.-F. Chen, and C.-D. Dong.
Chemosphere 256:127044(2020)

Various surfactants, anionic sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS), and sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate were used to remove PAHs from heavily contaminated harbor sediments dredged from Kaohsiung Harbor in Taiwan. Desorption/re-sorption equilibrium, kinetics, and washability of PAHs using the selected surfactants were evaluated under different critical micelle concentrations. The desorption rate of high molecular weight PAHs was greater than those of low molecular weight PAHs. SDS was relatively effective in the removal of total PAHs (>50%) compared to the other surfactants. Data suggested that hydrophobic factors affected PAH treatability more than the reactivity of PAH. Since the adsorption of anionic surfactant altered the hydrophobicity of organic matter in the sediment, PAHs preferred transferring from the sediment to the hydrophobic core of micelles in aqueous solution. The nonionic surfactant enhanced the PAH partition in the aqueous phase, increasing micellar solubilization.

EVALUATION OF ZEOLITE AS A POTENTIAL REACTIVE MEDIUM IN A PERMEABLE REACTIVE BARRIER (PRB): BATCH AND COLUMN STUDIES

Rocha, L.C.C. and L.V. Zuquette. | Geosciences 10(2):59(2020)

Natural zeolite was evaluated as a reactive material in a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) to remove inorganic contaminants from groundwater by subjecting zeolite to characterization tests, column experiments, batch tests, and a flushing process to evaluate adsorption and desorption capacities. Results indicated that zeolite has a high cationic exchange capacity and a removal efficiency of 78%. Contaminant transport parameters for K⁺ ions reveal that the zeolite was resistant to ion dispersion in the barrier, indicating that the material has advantageous characteristics for use in a PRB. However, the flushing process of the material was not efficient, indicating that the appropriate use of the zeolite is in clean-up systems in which the adsorbent material can be exchanged after losing its efficiency as a reactive barrier. This article is **Open Access** at <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3263/10/2/59/full>.

General News

ADDRESSING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ON DOD LANDS

Pejchar, L. and M. Davis. | SERDP & ESTCP Webinar Series, Webinar #117, August 2020

On August 20, SERDP and ESTCP sponsored webinars that presented tools to assess conservation efforts and endangered species communities on DoD installations. Specifically, investigators discussed SERDP-funded efforts to evaluate cross-boundary habitat crediting programs and summarize experiments using environmental DNA as a method of documenting pollinator communities. <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Tools-and-Training/Webinar-Series/08-20-2020>

PFAS REMOVAL IN DRINKING WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Speth, T. and J. Burkhardt. | EPA Tools & Resources Training Webinar Series, 35 slides, 2020

This webinar provides an overview of issues with removing PFAS from drinking water and EPA models that are available free to the public. The information generated from the models provides states and utilities with a better understanding of the fundamentals of carbon adsorption and what that means to the operation, performance, and costs associated with the technology. The first part of the webinar covers the background treatment issues. The second portion of the webinar is a step-by-step tutorial on how to download and run the models. See a recording of the webinar on EPA's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs2mf5f8l8I&list=PL7F4VY5A9tGK6D9aM71ev071p0n5B0Tr8&index=1>. For more information about where EPA keeps PFAS treatment performance information, go to EPA's Drinking Water Treatability Database website: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/drinking-water-treatability-database-7db>. For more information about many of the models covered, see EPA's Environmental Technologies Design Option Tool website: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/environmental-technologies-design-option-tool-efdm>.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN SOIL AND SEDIMENTS: OCCURRENCE, FATE, REMEDIATION AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Ahmed, M.B., M.A.H. Johir, R. McLaughlan, L.N. Nguyen, B. Xu, and L.D. Nghiem.
Science of the Total Environment 748:141251(2020)

This review examines the occurrence and toxicological effects with associated risks, fate, remediation practices of PFAS in soil and sediment, and the associated challenges and future outlook.

THE EMERGENCE OF DIGITAL TWINS IN REMEDIATION: HOW PLATFORM SYNCHRONY WILL CHANGE THE MODEL FOR DELIVERY

Horst, J., N. Welty, A. Yanites, F. Appere, M. Dupre, and S. Shaik.
Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation 40(3):14-20(2020)

This article builds upon two previously published articles (see <https://ngwa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gwmr.12222> and <https://ngwa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gwmr.12304>) to discuss how digital twin technology fits into the future of the remediation industry.

NATURE-BASED REMEDIATION: GROWING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HARNESSING OF NATURAL SYSTEMS

Horst, J., S. Drane, and J. Gattenby.
Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation 40(1):14-23(2020)

This article focuses on ex situ, nature-based treatment techniques using engineered wetlands and other plant-based water management, with consideration of the multiple tiers of value they can create. It also considers integrated natural systems that could be relevant for different contaminant types to show how the application of ecosystem-based remediation is an area of growing opportunity for the remediation practitioner and aligned with the goals of improving sustainable outcomes. <https://ngwa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/gwmr.12360>.

LNAPL RECOVERY ENDPOINTS: LESSONS LEARNT THROUGH MODELING, EXPERIMENTS, AND FIELD TRIALS

Lari, K.S., J.L. Rayner, and C.J. Birkhead.
Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation 40(3):21-29(2020)

Key findings from research with a focus on a well-validated, multiphase multicomponent modeling approach were consolidated to achieve estimates of reasonable endpoints for LNAPL recovery. The article discusses recent advances to improve estimates of the fraction of recoverable LNAPL and its transmissivity, key factors that affect the determination of LNAPL recovery endpoints, and how recovery endpoints are affected by natural source zone depletion. Based on the capabilities of the validated model, the paper also provides a basis to optimize LNAPL recovery efforts. <https://ngwa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/gwmr.12400>.

EVALUATING POLYMERIC SAMPLING AS A TOOL FOR PREDICTING THE BIOACCUMULATION OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS BY FISH AND SHELLFISH

Schmidt, S.N., and R.M. Burgess.
Environmental Science & Technology 54(16):9729-9741(2020)

This review evaluated polymeric sampling as a tool to predict the bioaccumulation of PCBs by pelagic and mobile fish and shellfish. The findings provide a tool for environmental managers when assessing and managing risk associated with PCB-contaminated sediments and waters in protecting vulnerable fish and shellfish species.

The Technology Innovation News Survey welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors for correction. Please contact Michael Adam of the U.S. EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation at adam.michael@epa.gov or (703) 603-9915 with any comments, suggestions, or corrections.

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