

A 24-factorial design was used to evaluate the effect of several factors, including current density, initial PFAS concentration, electrolyte concentration, treatment time, and their interactions during electrochemical degradation of PFAS using boron-doped diamond (BDD). The study also determined the generation of fluoride of fluoride in wastewater samples. The study indicated that the tested method can effectively degrade PFAS in both water and wastewater and suggests that increased treatment time is needed to account for the presence of other oxidizable matrices.

BIODEGRADATION OF WEATHERED PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS USING ORGANIC WASTE AMENDMENTS

Yousefi, K., A. Mohebbi, and J. Pichtel.
Applied and Environmental Soil Science 2021:6620294(2021)

This study investigated aged crude petroleum-contaminated soil remediation from well fields via simulated landfarming using selected soil amendments over 15 weeks. Soil was treated in combination with plant compost, papermill sludge, activated carbon, and molasses. The greatest percentage removal (40%) of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) occurred in the molasses treatment, followed by a 29% reduction in the plant compost treatment. Findings indicate that it is possible to conduct landfarming of aged petroleum deposits successfully. Common and inexpensive amendments, such as molasses and plant compost, are recommended when feasible.
<https://downloads.hindawi.com/Journals/aess/2021/6620294.pdf>

EXPERIMENTAL AND NUMERICAL ASSESSMENT OF LIGHT NON-AQUEOUS PHASE LIQUID (LNAPL) SUBSURFACE MIGRATION BEHAVIOR IN THE VICINITY OF GROUNDWATER TABLE

Onas C., E.A. Olojobaju, and M.M. Amro.
Environmental Technology & Innovation 23:101573(2021)

A numerical approach is presented to describe and predict the fate of LNAPL contaminant transport in the subsurface. A multiphase flow concept was adopted that considered oil and gas LNAPL phases using diesel and crude oil as the hydrocarbon contaminants and unconsolidated sand as the porous matrix. The study experimentally simulated surface and subsurface imbibition contaminant flow scenarios. Mass balance equations and constitutive functions from important phenomena that influence subsurface LNAPL contaminant flow are discussed. Extended Darcy's law combined with van Genuchten model was applied in the 2D numerical model description for mass balance equation and constitutive relationship, respectively. The numerical simulation was executed using COMSOL Multiphysics® v. 5.5. The numerical simulation results correlated with the experimental results and suggest that exposure time, fluid viscosity, density, contaminant supply, the amount released, and the hydraulic properties of the porous matrix are the most important parameters in LNAPL contaminant subsurface migration. This study concludes that if the fluid thermodynamic properties and hydraulic properties of the porous matrix are known, the numerical model can accurately predict the migration behavior of hydrocarbon contaminants.

CHARACTERIZATION AND PERFORMANCE OF LACTATE-FEEDING CONSORTIA FOR REDUCTIVE DECHLORINATION OF TRICHLOROETHENE

Li J., A. Hu, S. Bai, X. Yang, Q. Sun, X. Liao, and C.-P. Yu.
Microorganisms 9:751(2021)

This study investigated the performance of stable TCE-dechlorinating consortia by monitoring TCE-related metabolite variations and explored their underlying assembly mechanisms using 16S rDNA amplicon sequencing and bioinformatics analyses. Results indicate that lactate can be an effective substrate for stimulated bioremediation of TCE-contaminated sites. The reduction of the stochastic forces or enhancement of the deterministic interventions may promote more effective biostimulation.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8065584/pdf/microorganisms-09-00751.pdf>

A NEW RANDOMIZED BINARY PRIOR MODEL FOR HYDRAULIC TOMOGRAPHY IN FRACTURED AQUIFERS

Poduri, S., B. V.N.P. Kamthammettu, and S. Goruguntla.
Groundwater 59(4):537-548(2021)

A novel pilot-point-based hydraulic tomography (HT) inversion procedure is presented that considers a binary prior model developed using a randomized algorithm to delineate preferential flow paths and estimate hydraulic properties in a fractured aquifer. The algorithm discretizes the domain into grid cells, assigning a binary label to each cell, traversing the grid randomly, and choosing the optimal grid configuration. The binary prior model guides the placement of pilot points and constrains aquifer parameters during pilot-point-based HT inversion. Multiple pumping tests were conducted at selected ports using a 2D fractured granite roadblock, and the pressure responses were monitored under controlled lab conditions. The binary prior algorithm was implemented in C++ by supplying the forward groundwater model, HydroGeoSphere. The resulting parameter distributions were assessed by: (1) visual comparing the K- and S_o-tomograms with the known topology of the fractures; and (2) comparing model predictions with measurements made at two validation ports that were not used in calibration. A performance assessment revealed that HT with the randomized binary prior model could recover fracture-connectivity and predict drawdowns in fractured aquifers with reasonable accuracy.

CONTAMINANT DIFFUSION THROUGH A NOVEL COEXTRUDED VAPOR BARRIER

DiBattista, V. and K. Y. Kim.
Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering 146(12)(2020)

Organic contaminant diffusion through a novel multilayer coextruded vapor barrier was examined for BTEX, TCE, and PCE. The vapor barrier was composed of linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), high-density polyethylene (HDPE), ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH), a tie layer (TL), and a degradation layer (DL). Parameters for the LLDPE, HDPE, TL, and DL were developed using material-specific diffusion tests. Contaminant-specific permeation coefficients (Pg) for these materials ranged from 1.4 to 9.2x10⁻¹¹ m²/s. The diffusion parameters of the EVOH were inferred from testing of a thin (0.0889-mm) LLDPE/TL/EVOH/TL/EVOH membrane (contaminant-specific Pg values ranged from 1.9 to 7.0x10⁻¹⁴ m²/s). The individual layer parameters were used to develop a single set of parameters for each contaminant for the entire vapor barrier. Modeling various vapor intrusion scenarios showed that the multilayer vapor barrier resulted in significantly predicted decreases in airspace concentrations compared to HDPE or no barrier.

UNSATURATED PFOS AND OTHER PFAS IN HUMAN SERUM AND DRINKING WATER FROM AN AFF-IMPACTED COMMUNITY

McDonough, C.A., S. Choyke, K.E. Barton, S. Mass, A.P. Stirling, J.L. Adgate, and C.P. Higgins. I Environmental Science & Technology 55(12):8139-8148 (2021)

Raw water samples from several wells and blood serum samples were collected in 2018 from 220 adult residents of El Paso County, Colorado, to investigate the spatial variability of PFAS exposure in communities near an AFF source zone. C6 and C8 PFASs were predominant in serum and water. PFASs were highest in the water district nearest the source zone. A novel PFAS, unsaturated perfluorooctane sulfonate, was detected in >90% of water and serum samples at low concentrations (<1.9 ng/mL in serum). Drinking water wells nearest the source zone displayed increased prevalence of perfluorooctyl sulfonate precursors not detected in serum. Serum-to-water ratios were the greatest for long-chain PFASs and were elevated in the least impacted water district. Additional serum samples collected from a subset of study participants in June 2019 showed that PFAS concentrations in serum declined after exposure ceased. Findings demonstrate that AFF-impacted communities are exposed to complex, spatially variable mixtures of PFASs.

USE OF A NOVEL BIOMARKER, BOTRYOCOCCANE, TO MONITOR BIODEGRADATION OF TWO LACUSTRINE-SOURCED CRUDE OILS

Douglas, G.S., J.H. Hardenstine, R. Kamath, D. Kong, R.E. Hoffmann, and S. McMillen.
Remediation (Published online 5 August 2020 prior to print)

A detailed chemical characterization of lacustrine-sourced crude oils and a technical basis for measuring the effectiveness of bioremediation efforts for crude-impacted soil are provided in this study. The study demonstrated that the novel isoprenoid hydrocarbon botryococcane can be reliably measured using a gas chromatography/flame ionization detection methodology due to its stability and relatively elevated concentration in lacustrine oils. Thus, it can be used to monitor the progress of ongoing soil bioremediation activities at remote sites.

General News

REMEDICATION MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL AND WIDESPREAD PFAS CONTAMINATIONS

Held, T. and M. Reinhard on behalf of the German Environment Agency, Report No. FB000332/ENG, 310 pp, 2020

This document was prepared as guidance to provide support to German regulatory authorities to select, evaluate, and determine appropriate and fitting remedial solutions for localized and wide-spread cases of PFAS contamination. Due to the varying properties of the individual PFAS constituent compounds, any evaluation of technical remedial options should be based on the primary PFAS constituent compound of concern. Relevant remedial options, advantages and disadvantages, technical and German legal requirements, and the sustainability of each respective option are discussed. The work also incorporates the results of two German-wide technical workshops that were held in 2018 and 2019.
https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/5750/publikationen/2020_11_11_texte_205_2020_handbook_pfas.pdf

PHYTOREMEDIATION AND MICROORGANISMS-ASSISTED PHYTOREMEDIATION OF MERCURY-CONTAMINATED SOILS: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Tiodar, E.D., C.L. Viscar, and D. Podar.
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 18:2435(2021)

This article reviews the current understanding of the uptake, translocation, and sequestration of Hg in plants to highlight and explore new avenues in phytoremediation research, discusses different phytoremediation strategies (phytostabilization, phytoextraction and phytovolatilization), and surveys research aimed at identifying suitable plant species and associated-microorganisms for use in phytoremediation of Hg-contaminated soils. The article also investigates the potential use of transgenic plants in Hg-phytoextraction and reviews recent research on exploiting the beneficial interactions between plants and Hg-resistant microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) that secrete plant growth promoting compounds. Lastly, the article highlights areas where more research is needed into the effective use of phytoremediation at Hg-contaminated sites.
<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/5/2435/pdf>

A REVIEW OF RECENT VAPOR INTRUSION MODELING WORK

Verginelli, I. and Y. Yao. | Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation 41(2):138-144(2021)

This paper reviews vapor intrusion modeling studies published from 2010-2020. While research in the late 1990s and the early 2000s focused on basic vapor transport phenomena and attenuation in the subsurface, topics addressed in recent years has focused on more complex scenarios, including the blocking effect of building footprint and surface pavements, soil and source heterogeneity, the role of capillary fringe, weather conditions such as rain, indoor-outdoor pressure differences, and temperature, building features, screening distances, and building pressure cycling. A brief description of these models and the main findings are reported. Generally, recent modeling considers the influence of natural factors, which are relatively easy to quantify and include in the model. Less attention was given to factors involving human activities, such as preferential pathways, indoor environment structure, and background sources. The latter, however, may play a key role in determining exposure to people of concern at sites contaminated with volatiles. Thus, future modeling studies should be oriented to address these issues.

GUIDE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAMPLE COLLECTION PLANS FOR RADIOCHEMICAL ANALYTES IN OUTDOOR BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE MATERIALS FOLLOWING HOMELAND SECURITY INCIDENTS

Hall, K., J. Griggs, T. Stilman, K. Snead, S. Hudson, and L. Nguyen. EPA/600/R-20/097, 50 pp, 2020

This document provides a framework to develop and implement an approach to sample collection during the cleanup of outdoor building and infrastructure materials after a radiological contamination incident. The document incorporates processes that include quantitative and qualitative assessments at each stage of cleanup decision-making: from initial scoping and stakeholder outreach to evaluation of cleanup options and implementation of the chosen alternative. The elements in this document provide a general guide for preparation of homeland security incident-specific sample collection plans, which are needed to collect data once a contaminated site has been turned over to EPA, and must be in compliance with EPA requirements regarding quality assurance, quality control, and data quality objectives. Information in this document can be used to develop a systematic and integrated methodology for sample collection to meet data use needs and site disposition objectives. This framework is designed to assist incident commanders, project managers, state and local authorities, contractors, and enforcement divisions responsible for the sample collection approach.
https://cfpub.epa.gov/s3/public_report_report.cfm?id=349143&file=CFSEPR&simplesearch=0&showprint=2&sortby=pubDate&htmltype=Native&pubid=349143&search=sample+collection

EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE-HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS PUBLISHED IN REMEDIATION

Simon, J.A. | Remediation 31(3):3-6(2021)

This Editor's Perspective highlights four innovative and emerging remediation technologies recently published or scheduled for publication in the *Remediation Journal*: -Surface-active foam fractionation for PFAS treatment. -PFAS groundwater treatment using alkaline ozonation. -PFAS groundwater treatment with sorbents applied through horizontal wells. -Oleophilic biobarrier (OBB) reactive cap for controlling sheens and dissolved-phase discharges in surface waters. *Read page 1 at*
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/rem.21690>

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