

TCH REMOVES PFAS FROM SOIL - BUT WHERE DOES IT GO? REMOVAL AND FATE OF PFAS DURING THERMAL SOIL REMEDIATION
Eriksen, S. and A.S. Kruger. I AquaConSoil 2021, 15-17 June, virtual, abstract only, 2021

Thermal remediation of soil containing 195 mg/kg mixed PFAS compounds was tested at lab-scale by heating 200 g samples to 250-500°C for 8 days. Soil samples, condensate, and volatiles collected on sorbent tube were analyzed for total organic fluorine, total extractable organic fluorine, total fluorine, and 30 PFAS with and without TOP assay. Volatile PFAS compounds and decomposition products were analyzed by mass spectrometry. Heat treatment simulating thermal conductive heating remediation reduced PFAS concentrations by 99.998% at 350°C or higher. Soil treated at 350°C contained traces of PFOS (6-13 µg/kg), but all other PFAS compounds were below the detection limit of 5 µg/kg. The total organic fluorine concentration of the soil was reduced by 100 mg/kg, corresponding to the removal of all PFAS compounds. This indicated that the fluorinated material was removed from the soil rather than converted into other fluorine compounds not analyzed for. PFAS compounds recovered in condensates and sorbent tubes were short-chain PFCA precursors and accounted for 0.5% of the original PFAS content of the contaminated soil samples. The absence of PFSAs and longer chain PFCCAs indicated that the remaining PFAS were thermally decomposed. Mass spectrometry of outgassing vapors identified PFBA and PFPA precursors and numerous perfluorinated degradation products using the SRI-MS technique. Results suggest thermal conductive heating is a viable solution to remediate PFAS-impacted soil.

General News

A REVIEW OF EXIT STRATEGIES AND SITE CLOSEOUT CHALLENGES AT NAVY CLEANUP SITES
Zimmerman, C. and D. Nair. NAVFAC Technical Report TR-NAVFAC-EXWC-SH-2211, 29 pp, 2022

This report identifies specific milestones along the path to site closeout (SC) and an array of approaches available to develop exit strategies that support response complete (RC) and/or SC. Three Navy case studies are provided as examples of sites that have implemented successful exit strategies that resulted in SC.
https://exwc.navfac.navy.mil/Portals/66/Documents/EXWC/Restoration/for_pdfs/t2-tools/A%20REVIEW%20OF%20EXIT%20STRATEGIES%20AND%20SITE%20CLOSEOUT%20CHALLENGES%20AT%20NAVY%20CI-FANIP%20SITES%20FINAL%202022

DEVELOPMENT OF PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ECOLOGICAL RISK-BASED SCREENING LEVELS
Zodrow, J.M., M. Frenchmeyer, K. Dally, E. Osborn, P. Anderson, and C. Divine. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 40(3): 921-936(2021)

Risk based screening levels (RSLs) were developed to evaluate the potential for toxicity associated with ecological receptor exposure to PFAS. Wildlife RSLs were developed using surrogate receptors representative of threatened and endangered species with different habitat types, feeding guilds, and trophic levels. Published uptake and toxicity data were combined with receptor exposure factors to derive RSLs for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife for several PFAS, including PFNA, PFOS, PFDA, PFNA, PFBA, PFBA, and PFBA. Uptake information for surrogate PFAS was considered to calculate RSLs for PFAS with toxicity data and sufficient bioaccumulation data to develop an RSL. Both no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) and lowest observed adverse effect level based wildlife RSLs were calculated to allow for a range of risk estimates appropriate to individual threatened and endangered species and populations of non listed wildlife receptors, respectively. Recommended water quality RSLs protective of aquatic life were developed for 13 PFAS based on published literature reviews, peer reviewed aquatic toxicity studies, and the Great Lakes Initiative methodology. For wildlife receptors, NOAEL RSLs ranged from 0.01 to 3.0 mg/kg for soil, 0.004 to 300 mg/kg for sediment, and 0.0001 to 0.001 mg/L for surface water. Chronic RSLs ranged from 0.0001 to 1.4 mg/L for aquatic life. The no observed effect concentration screening levels ranged from 0.01 to 64 mg/kg and 1 to 100 mg/kg for terrestrial plants and soil invertebrates, respectively.

THERMALLY ENHANCED BIOREMEDIATION: A REVIEW OF THE FUNDAMENTALS AND APPLICATIONS IN SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION
QingWang, Q., S. Guo, M. Ali, X. Song, Z. Tang, Z. Zhang, M. Zhang, and Y. Luo. Journal of Hazardous Materials 433:128749(2022)

This article reviews the fundamentals of thermally enhanced bioremediation (TEB), including its applications in soil and groundwater remediation; temperature effects on the bioremediation of contaminants; thermal effects on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of soil; and the corresponding changes of contaminants bioavailability and microbial metabolic activities. Temperature increases within a suitable range can proliferate enzyme enrichment, extracellular polysaccharides, and biosurfactants production and further enhance bioremediation. The review also systematically evaluates TEB applications by utilizing traditional in situ heating technologies and renewable energy (e.g., stored aquifer thermal energy and solar energy). TEB has been applied as a biological polishing technology post thermal treatment, which can be a cost-effective method to address contaminant rebound in groundwater remediation. Future research perspectives to further improve the basic understanding and applications of TEB for the remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater are presented.

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR PFAS-CONTAINING WASTES
Berg, C., B. Crone, B. Gullett, M. Higuchi, M.J. Krause, P.M. Lemieux, T. Martin, E.P. Shields, E. Struble, E. Thoma, and A. Whitehill. Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association 72(6):540-555(2022)

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) commissioned the PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) to provide new perspectives on treatment and disposal of high-priority PFAS-containing wastes and complement its ongoing research efforts addressing PFAS contamination. During its six-month tenure, the team was charged with identifying and developing promising solutions to destroy PFAS. The PITT examined emerging technologies for PFAS waste treatment and selected four technologies for further investigation: mechanochemical treatment, electrochemical oxidation, gasification and pyrolysis, and supercritical water oxidation. This paper examines the four novel, non-combustion technologies or applications to treat PFAS wastes. The technologies are introduced along with their current state of development and areas for further development. This information will be useful for developers, policymakers, and facility managers facing increasing issues with disposal of PFAS wastes. https://nrdp.nv.gov/unpubs/documents/Bern_et_al_21.pdf

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.

Mention of non-EPA documents, presentations, or papers does not constitute a U.S. EPA endorsement of their contents, only an acknowledgment that they exist and may be relevant to the Technology Innovation News Survey audience.