

# Reducing Time of Remediation at Clay and Fractured Rock Sites: Marrying Permeability Enhancement with Remediation Chemistry



**C.E.R.E.S.**  
Remediation Products

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*C.E.R.E.S. Received the 2021 EBI  
Remediation Products Technology  
Merit Award*



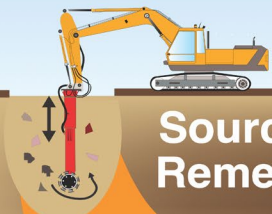
# C.E.R.E.S. Remediation Products



Advanced Chemistries for  
Soil Remediation:  
In-Situ Mixing, Stabilization,  
Sequestration and Chemical  
Reduction.

Innovative Solutions for Groundwater  
Remediation: Permeable Reactive Zones,  
Adsorption Boundaries emplaced by  
Fracking or Permeation Injection and  
Manually Installed PRBs

Ex-Situ Soil Remediation and  
Pre-Treatment for Landfill Disposal



**Source Area  
Remediation**



**Exsitu  
Remediation**

**Remediating  
Chlorinated Solvents,  
Petroleum Hydrocarbons,  
Heavy Metals, and more.**

*Chemical Engineering for Remediation and Environmental Sustainability*



Contact us today

Delivered  
to Clients  
Globally

Approved at  
US EPA and  
State Agency  
site cleanups

# C.E.R.E.S. Products = Solutions

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## Chemical Reduction and Sequestration (Heavy Metals and Organics)

- **Metals Treatment Solution (MTS®)**- the most robust, economical solution compared to current commercially viable chemistries
- **Zero Valent Iron (ZVI)** – Abiotic reduction of chlorinated compounds and others. From 1 micron to mm size available.
- **iPAC- injectable powder activated carbon** – less than 44 micron scale high adsorption carbon for in-situ remediation applications.

## Bioremediation (Chlorinated Solvents, Petroleum & select Metals)

- **Petroleum Treatment Solution (PTS)**- Low cost and very effective biostimulant for petroleum hydrocarbon bacteria
  - **PTS Advanced** - Low cost and very effective biodegradable surfactant
  - **Petroleum Bacteria (PTSBac)**- Bacteria consortium specifically designed for long chain petroleum hydrocarbons
- **Emulsified Vegetable Oil (EVO)**- Effective for chlorinated solvents, nitrate and some metals reduction.

# C.E.R.E.S. Services

TURN KEY services available to perform all aspects of remediation scope of work

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## **Technical Support (free)**

Site Evaluations for remediation feasibility assessment

Data gap evaluations and guidance on design parameters

Preliminary estimates of product demand

Remediation design approach guidance

Bench scale study guidance on reagent dosage and preparation

Product Samples

## **Bench Scale Treat-ability Study Services**

Batch or Column studies

Heavy metals stabilization and sequestration dosage studies

Zero Valent Iron (ZVI) site specific kinetic rates studies

Bioremediation and bioaugmentation performance studies

Ex-situ and In-situ applications for soil and groundwater remediation

Feasibility assessment support

## ***Subcontracted Field Services***

### **Pilot Scale Execution**

Ex-situ or In-situ remediation including soil mixing, injection, trenching,

Pilot scale design in accordance with local agency oversight guidance and requirements

Support preparation of workplans for submittal to local agencies including supporting materials

Permit applications like WDR or similar

Field services available to perform all aspects of pilot test

### **Full Scale Execution**

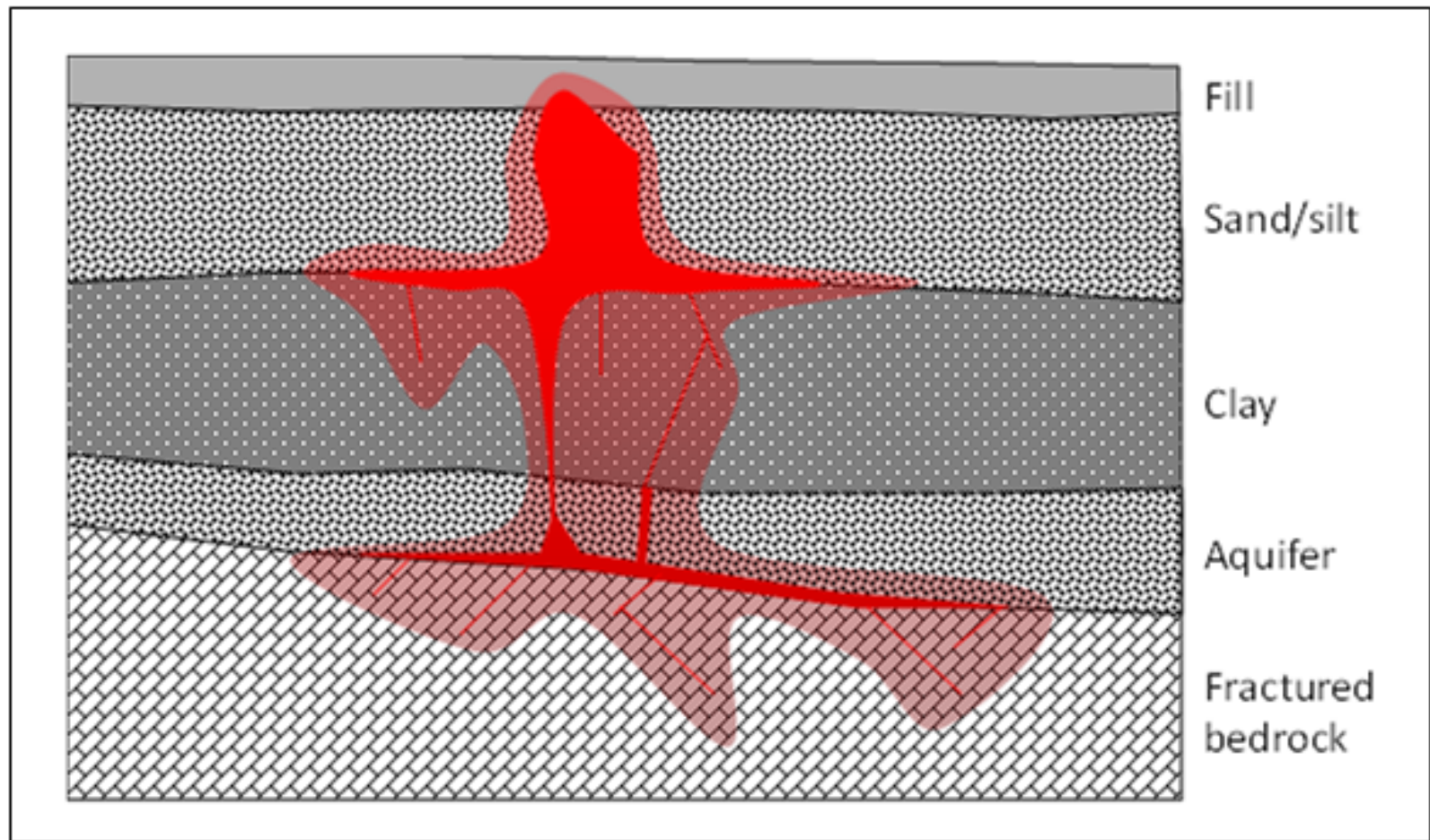
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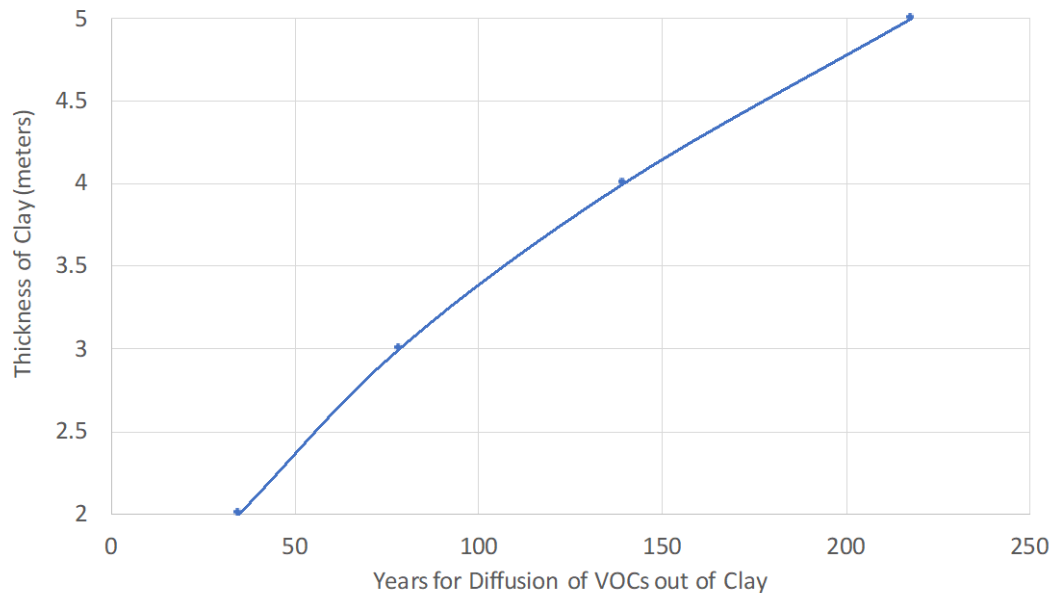
Permit applications like WDR or similar

# Low Permeability Challenges



# Typical Approach at Diffusion Limited Sites

Diffusion of VOCs from Clay to Sand Boundary



**Time of Remediation:**  
10' to 100's of Years to achieve remediation goals if diffusion dominates VOC flux

Assess feasibility of reagents to target contaminants and select most viable reduction chemistry.

Inject in the source area and plume by traditional injection methods. Too often it is bottom up injection based on contractor recommendation.

Observe rebound after 6-18 months and repeat injections. Sometimes 3-4 events over a 10 year period. Everyone is frustrated now...

# Time to Change the Rules: Permeability Enhancement

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## Proppants to the rescue!

- Proppants are sand or similar particulate material suspended in water or other fluid and used in hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

### Benefits Include:

- Keeps fissures open after injection
- Provides high-K pathways for groundwater to move through and VOCs to diffuse into.
- Increases flux rate of VOCs (from adsorbed to dissolved)

# Key Factors to Successful Use of Reagents with Proppants

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## **Physical properties (size)**

- Reagent Size vs fracture aperture
- Reagent density

**Longevity or resiliency** (how long will it last?)

**Application limitations** (what equipment?)

## **Remediation design goals**

- Soil remediation
- Source (hot spot) reduction
- Plume reduction
- Plume control (PRB)

## **Composition (Chemistry)**

Stoichiometric demand

biochemical donor / acceptor demand

## **Secondary Reactions**

Precipitation resulting in the reduction in permeability and effective porosity

Back-diffusion from secondary porosity fissures and fractures

pH induced increases in non-target contaminants





In-Situ Injection and Fracturing  
How do we inject reagents with proppants?

# Injection Design Calculations

- **Permeation Injection** – Injection of soluble reagents into soil. Must move through soil pore throat at low pressure.
- **Fracture Injection** – Injection of suspended solids reagents through created pathways in soil at moderate to high pressures.

## Flow Rate Calculations

$$Q = 2 * \pi * K * L * \frac{\Delta H}{\ln\left(\frac{L}{r_w}\right)}$$

$K = 9.4 * 10^{-8}$  m/s

$L = 4.6$  m (length of well screen)

$r_w = 0.075$  m (borehole radius)

$\Delta H = 11$  m ( $\Delta H$  is maximum injection pressure based on estimated fracture initiation pressure)

$$Q = 2 * \pi * 9.4 * 10^{-8} \text{ (m/s)} * 4.6 \text{ (m)} * 11 \text{ (m)} / (\ln(4.6 \text{ (m)} / 0.075 \text{ (m)}))$$

$$Q = 7.3 * 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3/\text{s} \rightarrow 0.44 \text{ L/min}$$

**Predicted: 0.4 L/min**

**Observed: 0.2 – 0.5 L/min**

Example from silty clay till site injecting 100% soluble substrate via injection wells

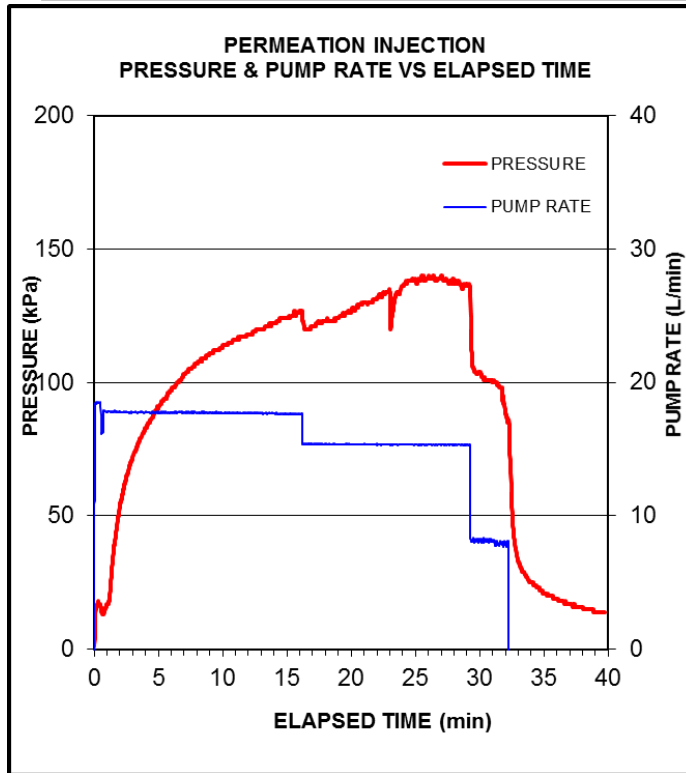
## Reagent Particle Sizing

$$P_s < \sqrt{(K * 1.04 * 108) / 7}$$

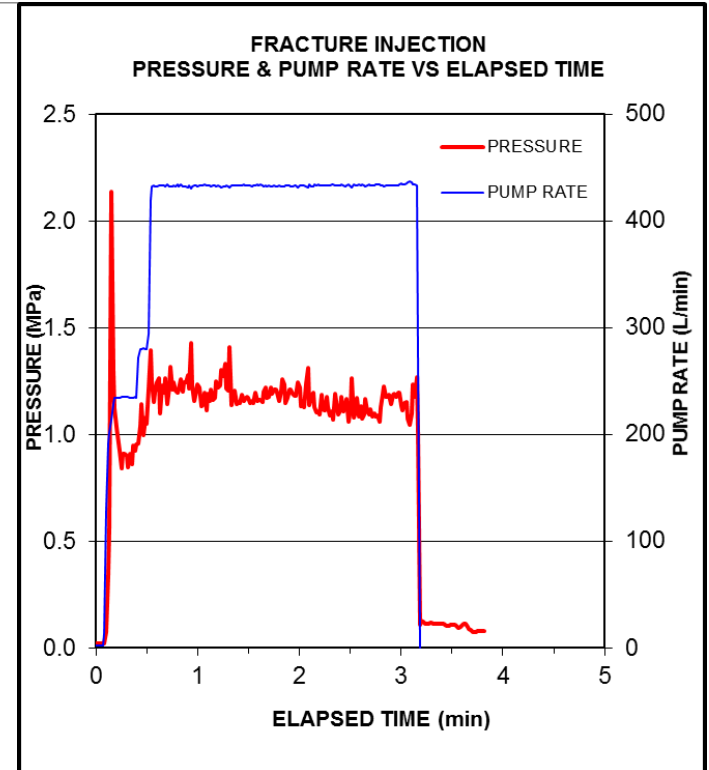
For slurry injections, estimate maximum injectable particle size to determine if permeation injection is possible, if not, then fracture injection for sure!

**To avoid screen out during permeation injection, the particles must pass through the pore throats in the aquifer/soils.**

# Fracture vs Permeation Pressure vs Time Charts



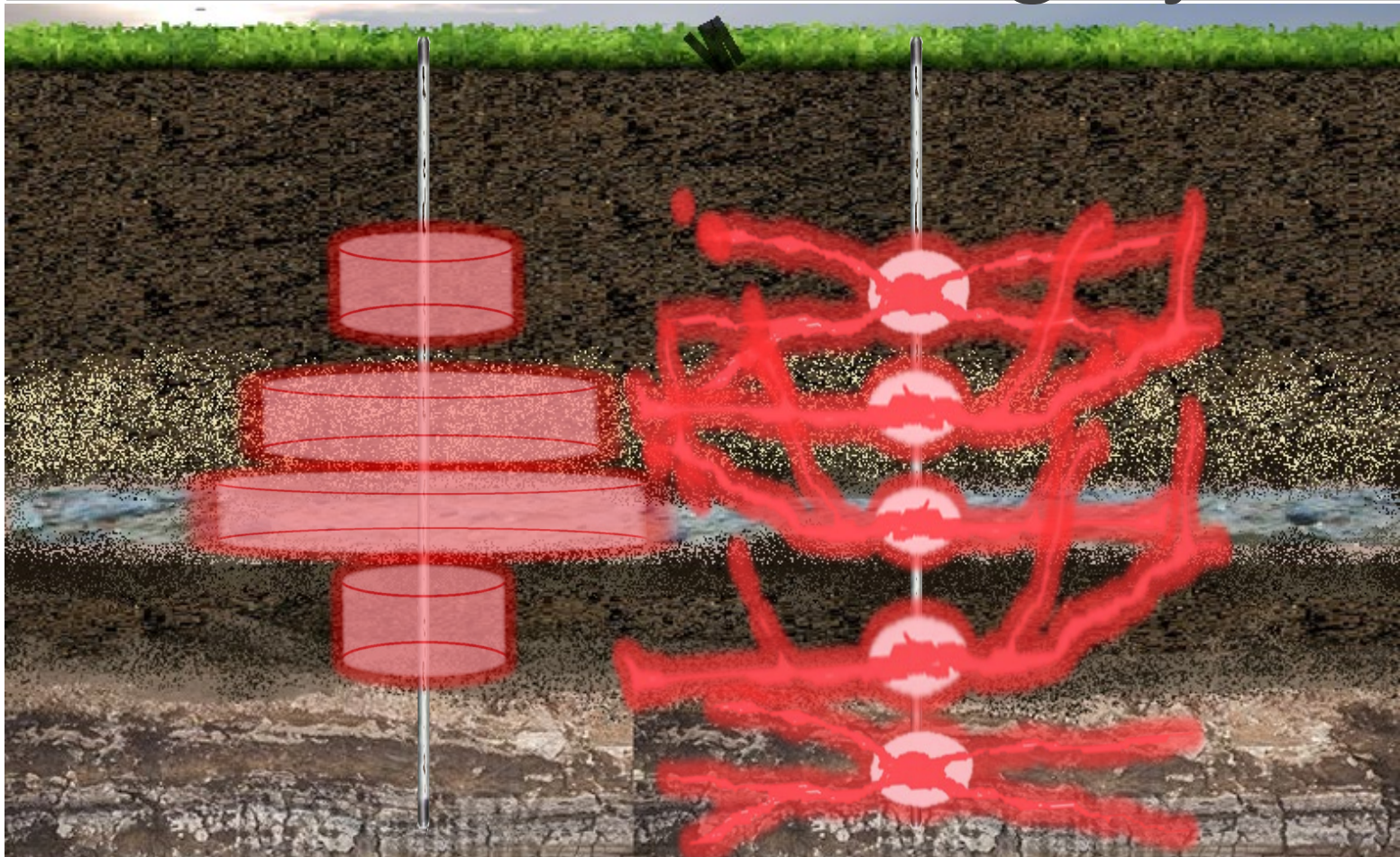
Permeation Injection  
Note: Gradual increase in pressure requiring pump rate reductions.



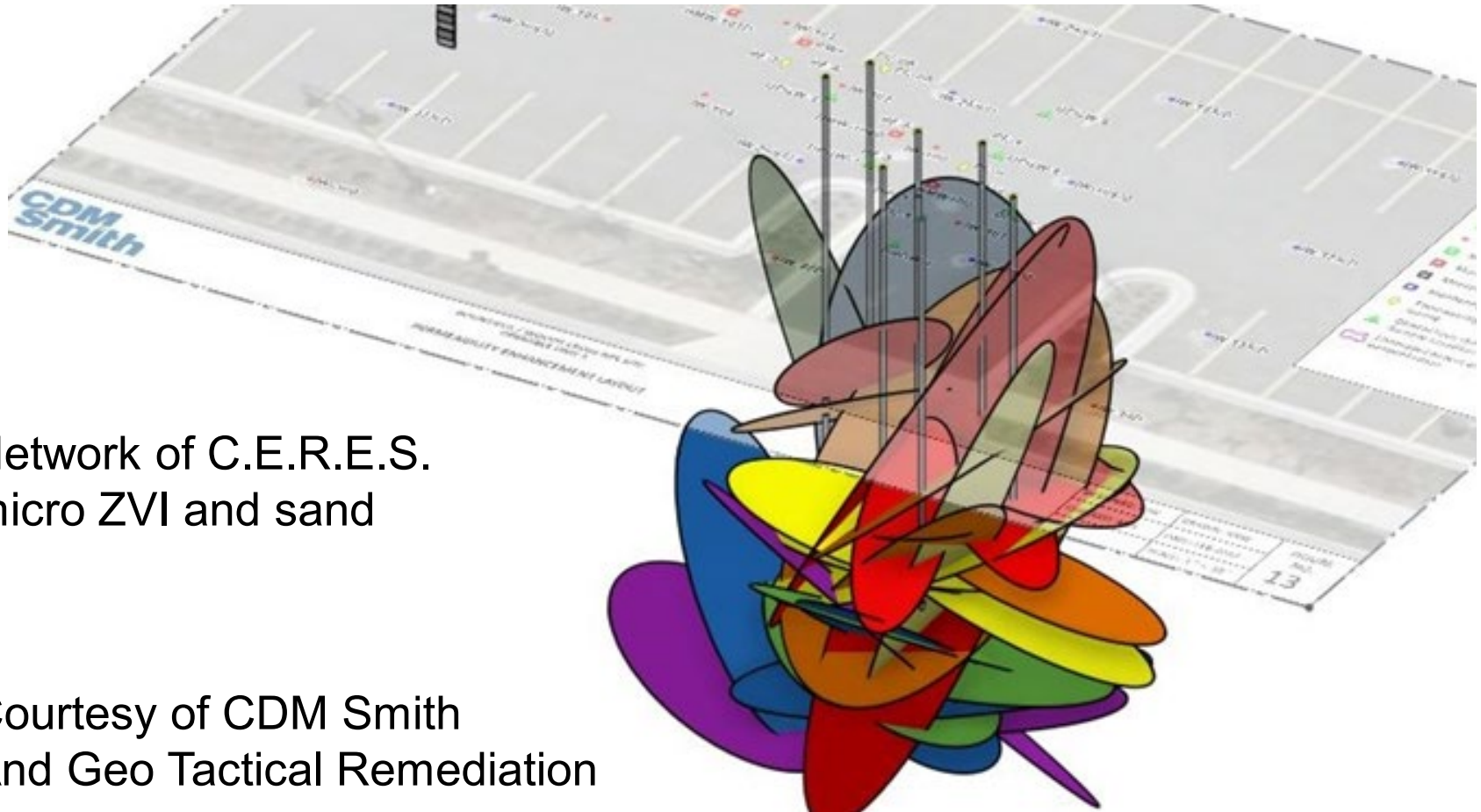
Fracture Injection  
Note: Sharp rise and fall of pressure during initial pumping.

# Idealized Illustrations

## Permiation vs. Fracturing injection



# True 3D Fracture Imaging with Tilt Meter Technology



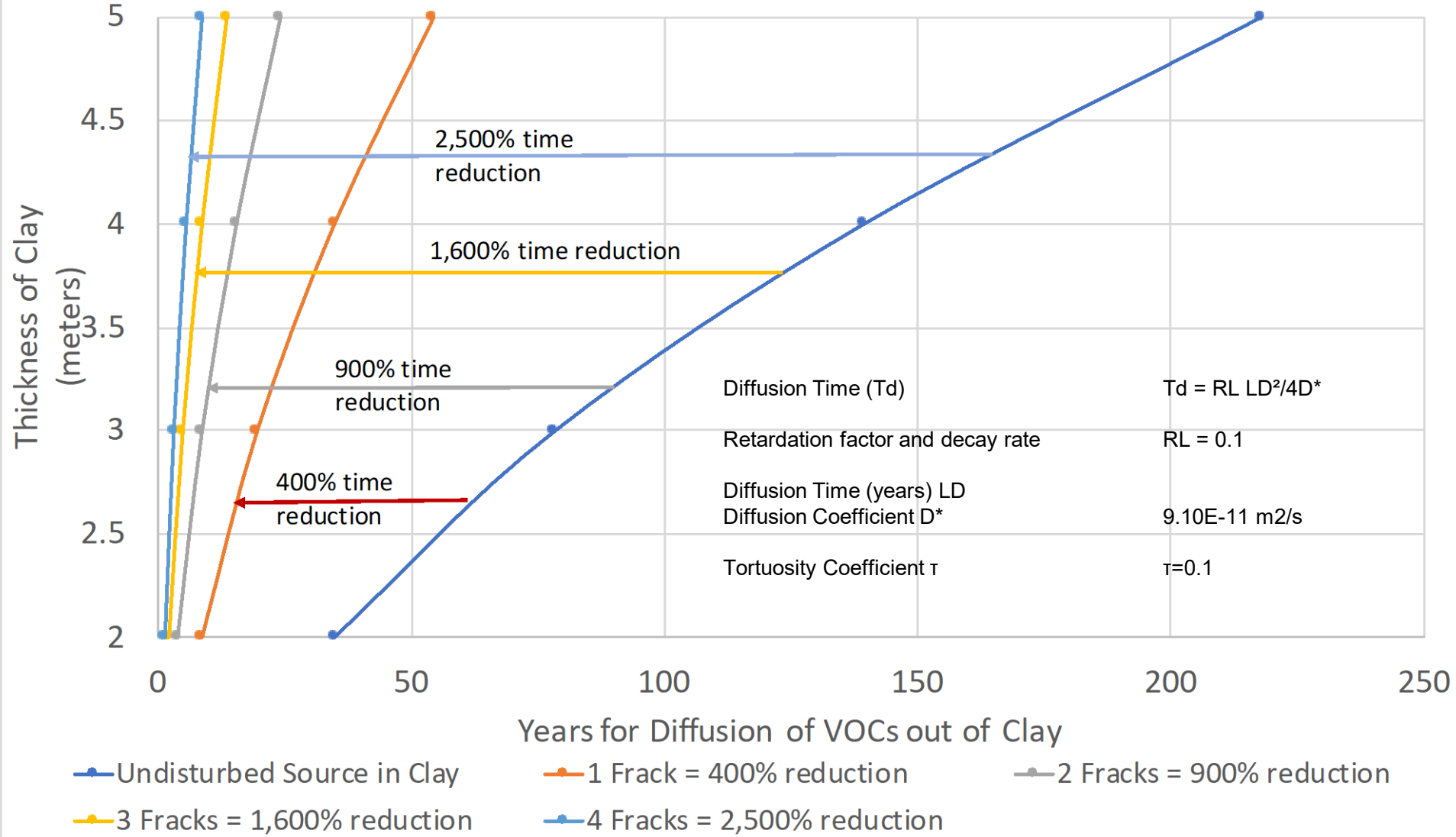
Network of C.E.R.E.S.  
micro ZVI and sand

Courtesy of CDM Smith  
And Geo Tactical Remediation

# Increased Contact Area

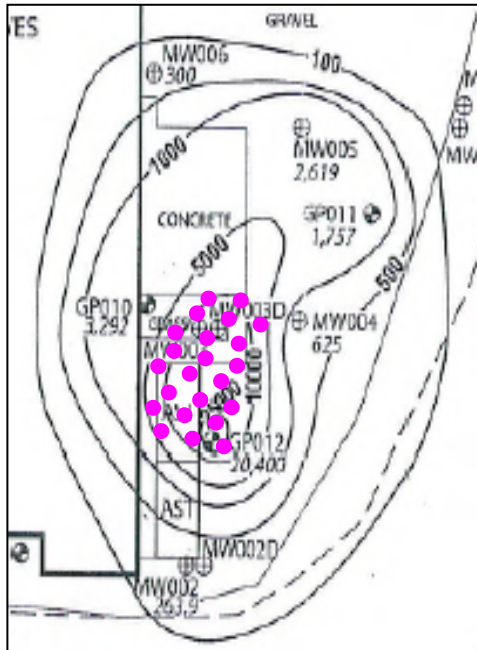
Contact Method	BH Diameter (in)	BH Circumference (ft)	Frac Radius (ft)	Frac Interval (ft)	Frac Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Unit Contact Area per Injection Interval Length (ft <sup>2</sup> /ft)
DP Injection 2.5" OD	2.5	0.7				0.7
DP Injection 3.5" OD	3.5	0.9				0.9
Injection well 6" OD	6	1.6				1.6
Injection well 12" OD	12	3.1				3.1
Injection well 36" OD	36	9.4				9.4
10 ft radius fractures at 5 ft vertical spacing			10	5	315	125
10 ft radius fractures at 2 ft vertical spacing			10	2	315	315
15 ft radius fractures at 5 ft vertical spacing			15	5	705	285
15 ft radius fractures at 2 ft vertical spacing			15	2	705	705
25 ft radius fractures at 5 ft vertical spacing			25	5	1965	785
25 ft radius fractures at 2 ft vertical spacing			25	2	1965	1965

# Reduction of Diffusion Time by Fracking = Reduce Time of Remediation

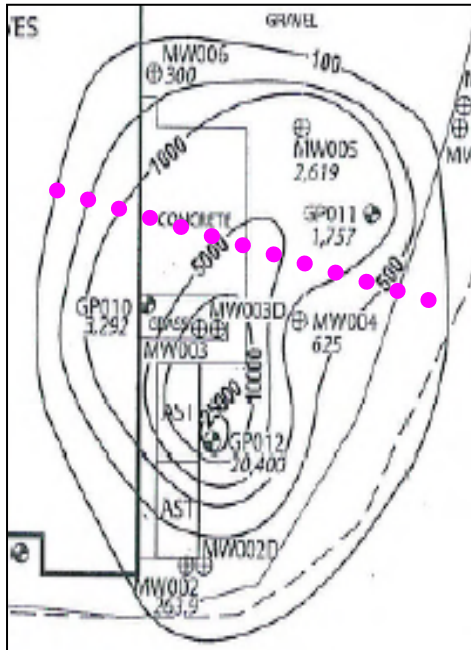


# In-Situ Application Options

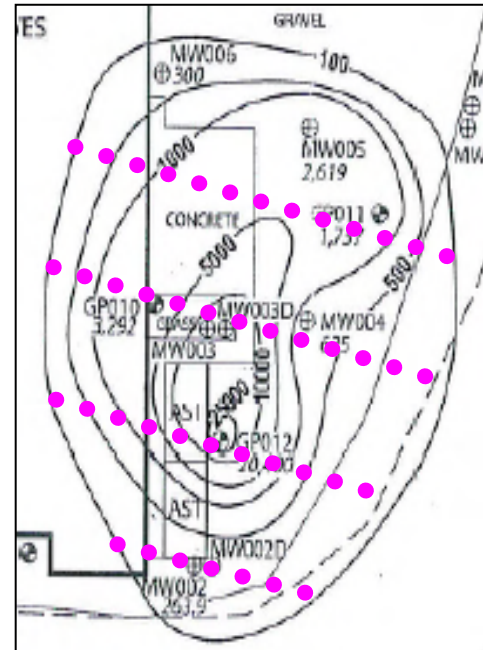
**Source Area/  
Hotspot Treatment**



**Injection PRB for  
Plume Control**



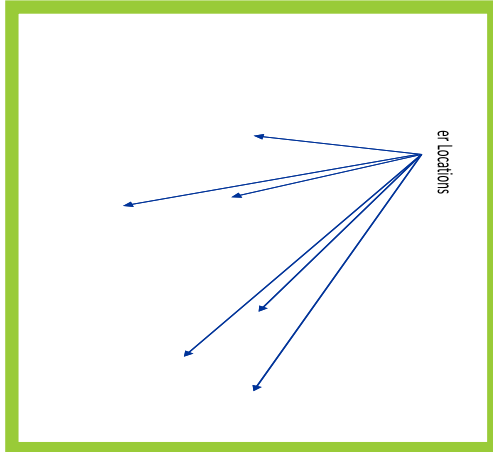
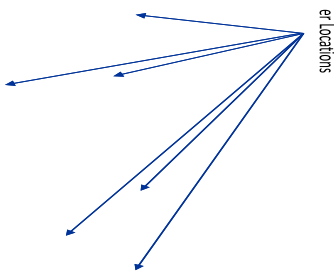
**Plume  
Treatment**





# Key Planning and Application Considerations

1. One injection event or multiple events?
  - Available pore volume vs. injected volume
2. Application method
  - DPT
  - Permanent Injection Wells
  - High Pressure Fracturing
    - Pneumatic or hydraulic fracturing: The creation of cracks
    - Pressure pulse technology (PPT): high-frequency pressure pulses
  - Soil Blending Ex-Situ and In-Situ
3. ROI and number of injection points?
  - **Tiltmeter Mapping of Amendment Fractures**
  - ROI increases with depth...fewer injection points
  - ROI increases with PV displacement
  - \* Spreadsheet Modeling may help in this evaluation



# Radius Of Influence Verification

## Verification of direct product placement:

*Visual observation of fractures in soil cores.*

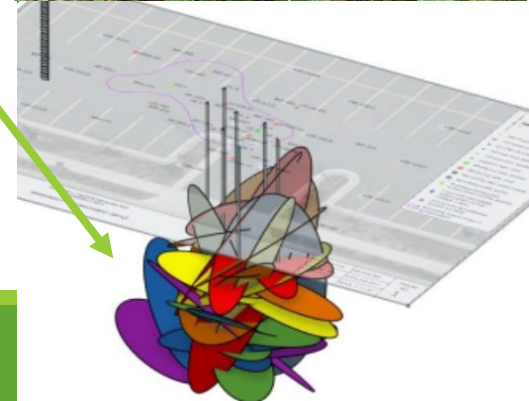
Magnetic separation of ZVI from soil cores.

Monitoring of ground deformation using uplift stakes

***Tiltmeter Mapping of Amendment Fractures***

## Extended zone of groundwater influence:

Groundwater Indicator Parameters (TOC, inorganic, geochemical and redox parameters)



# Case Studies

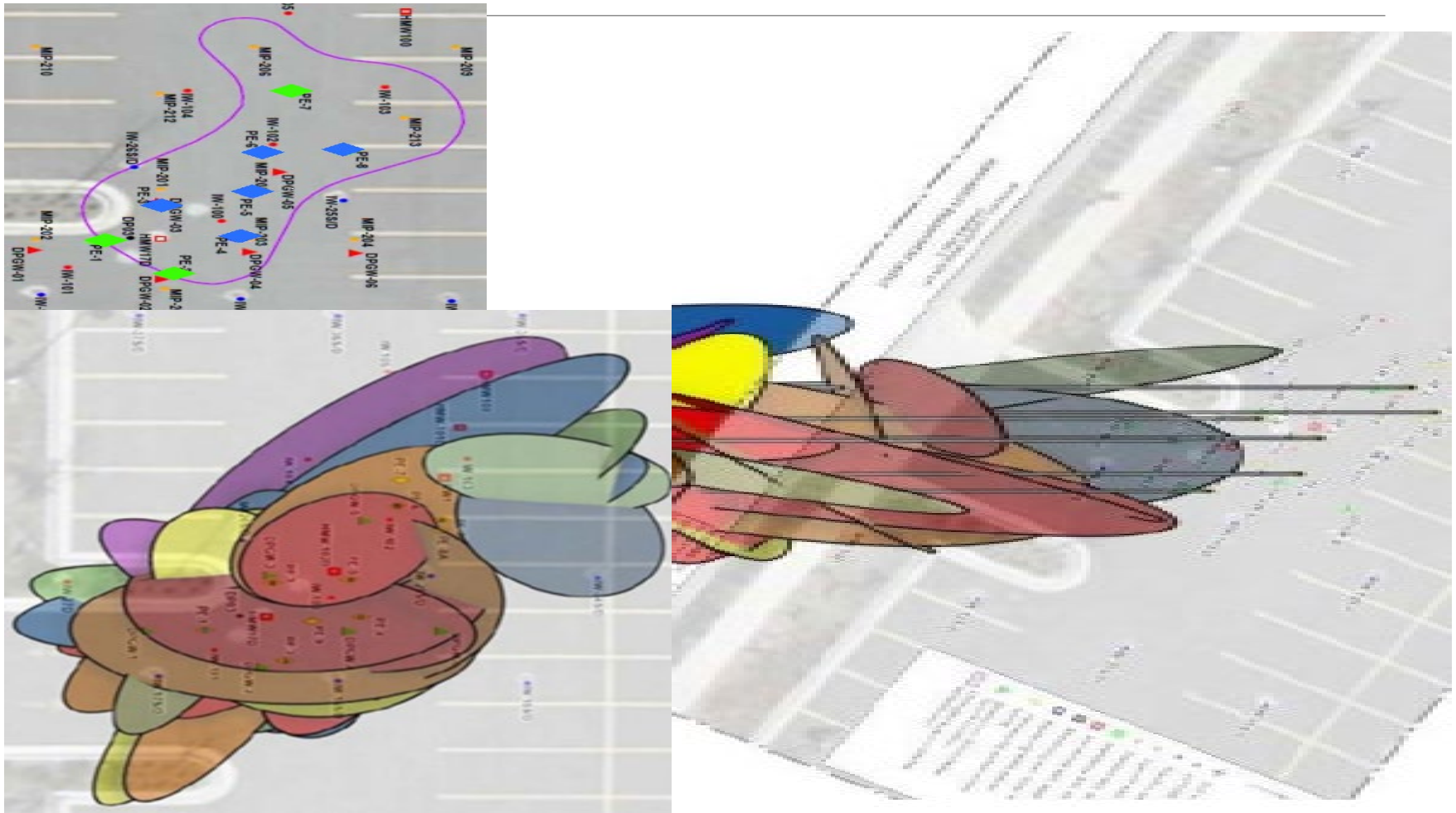
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ORGANIC AND HEAVY METAL IMPACTED SITES

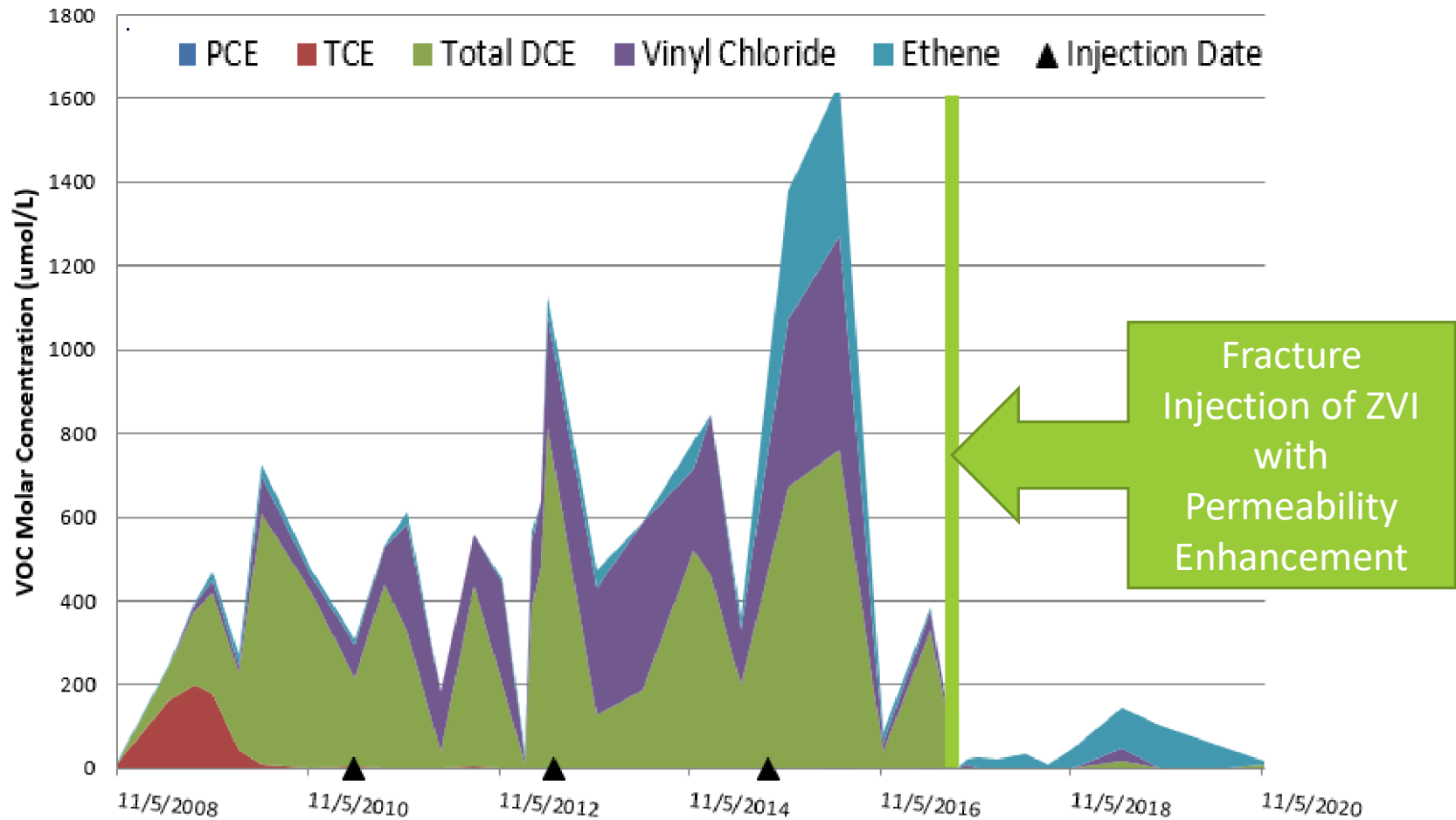




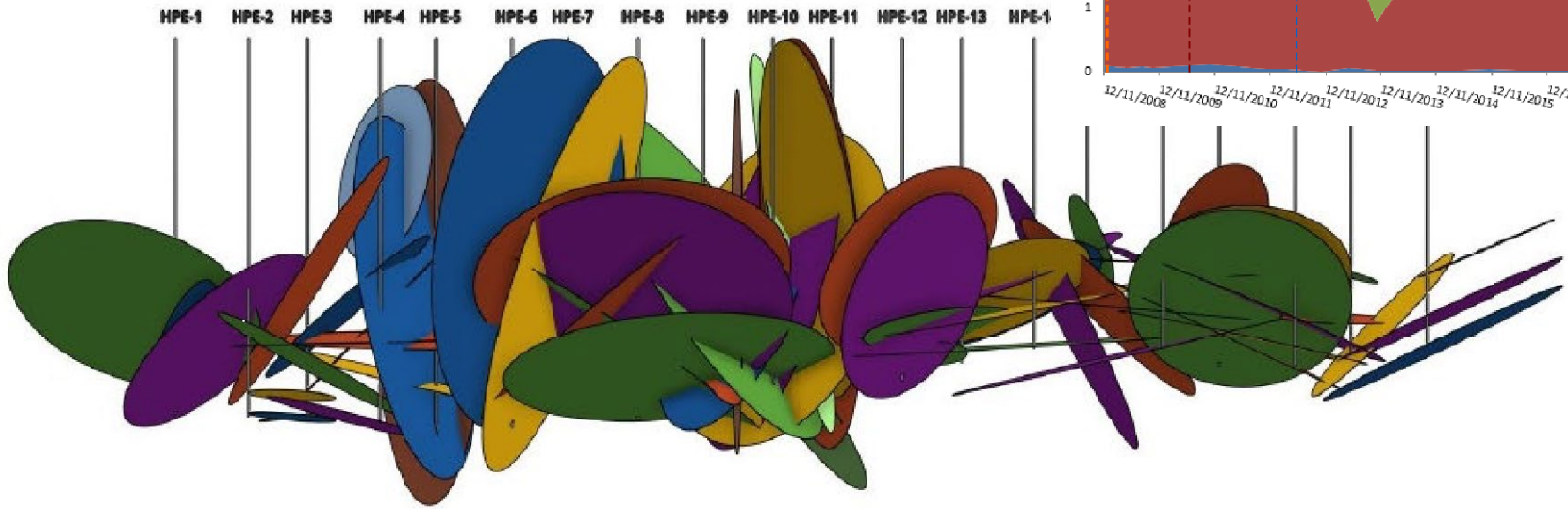
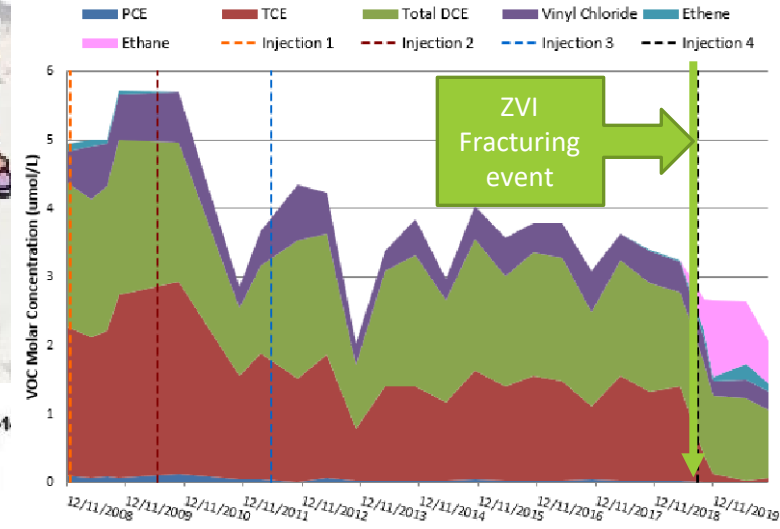
# ZVI Injections at Source with Permeability Enhancement



# ZVI and Permeability Enhancement Results = 99.5% reduction in 7 months



# Plume Area Injections





# Cost Comparisons- Plume

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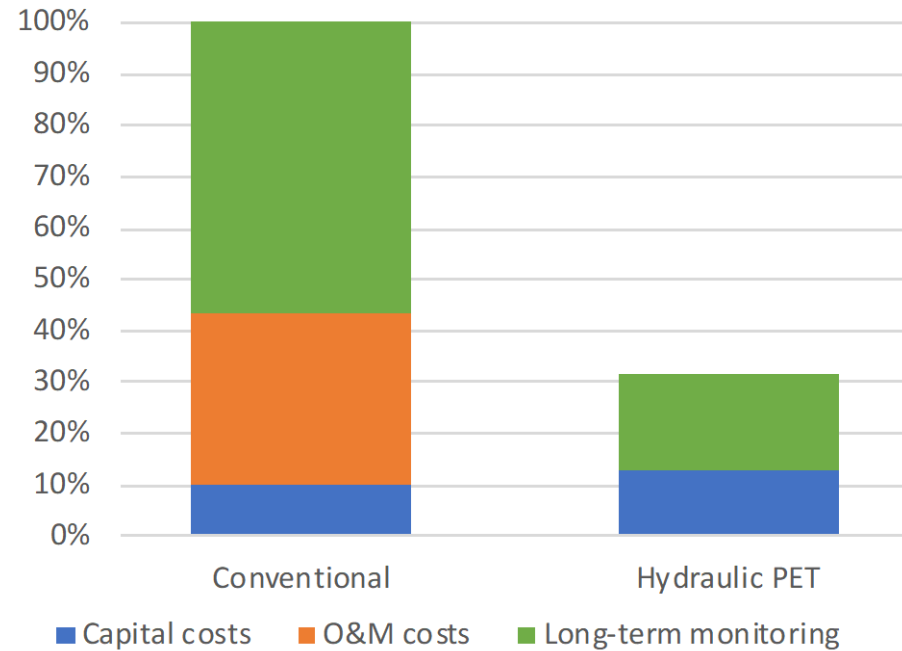
<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Years to MCLs</b>
Continue biobarrier injections	~\$300k per event	10+ years, 3-4 year intervals	70+
Hydraulic permeability enhancement	~\$500k	Single event	<10

Courtesy of CDM Smith

# Cost Comparisons- Source Area

	Conventional Injections	HPE
Mass Reduction	44%	99.4%
Time	1 year	4 months
Net Present Value Total Cost	\$1.47M	\$463K

Conventional vs Hydraulic Cost (Bountiful)



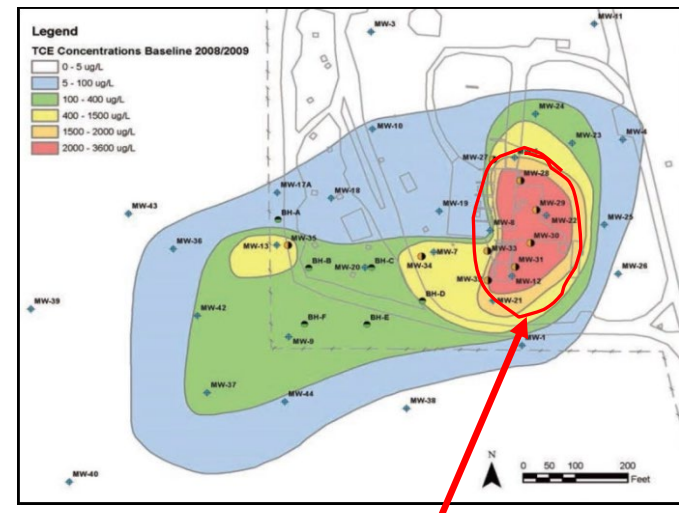
# Sandstone Aquifer Case Study:

Site: Former US Air Force Missile Site in Colorado, USA

Contaminant: Trichloroethylene (TCE) up to 4,000 ppb

Geology: Fractured sandstone and siltstone bedrock

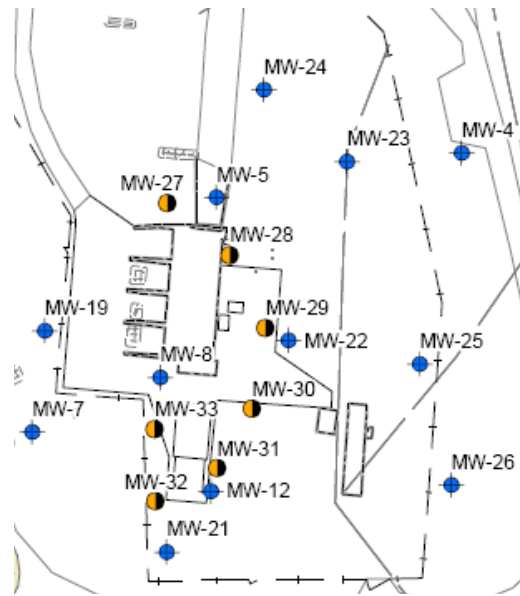
Groundwater Plume in Sandstone aquifer and remediation criteria of 5ug/l



Injection into source area

# Bedrock Fracture Imaging- Tilt Meters

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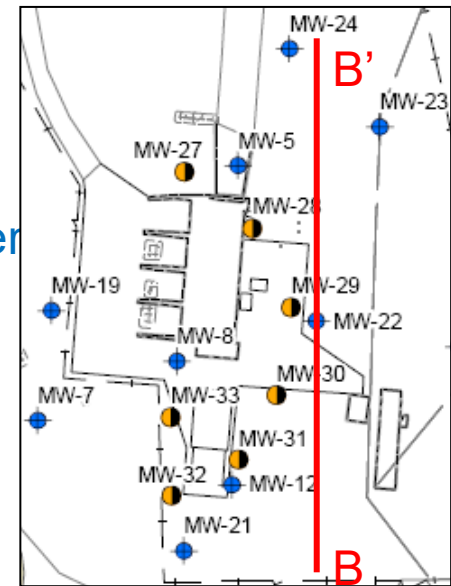
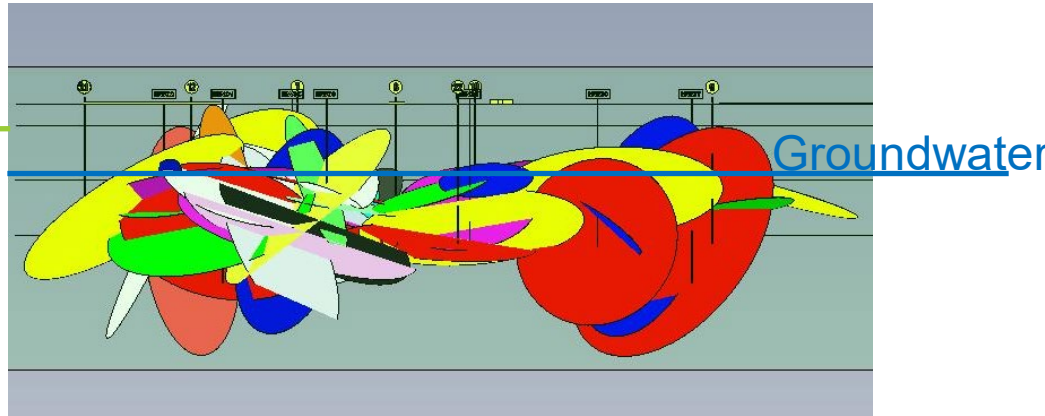


- Fracture imaging conducted at 7 boreholes locations.



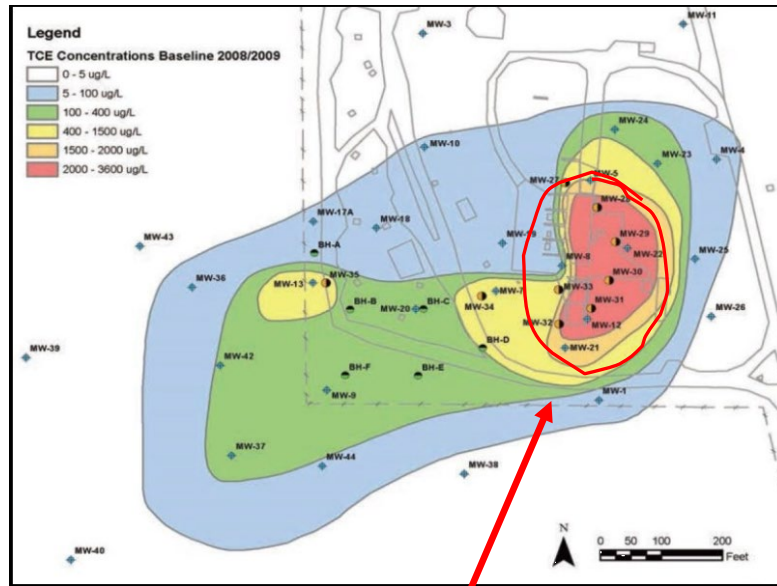
# Fracture Imaging of the ZVI and substrates – Tilt Meters

Silty sand  
Sandstone  
Siltstone

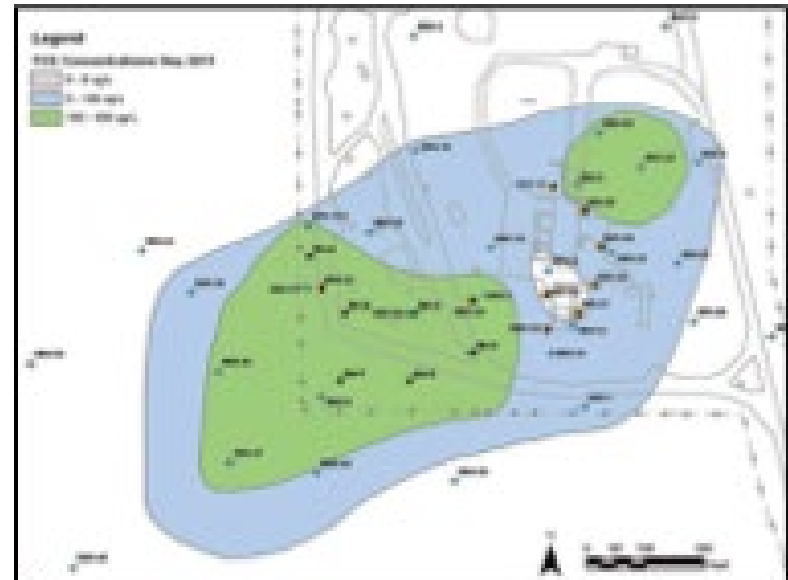


# Source Area Treatment Results

## Source Area / Plume



Injection into source area



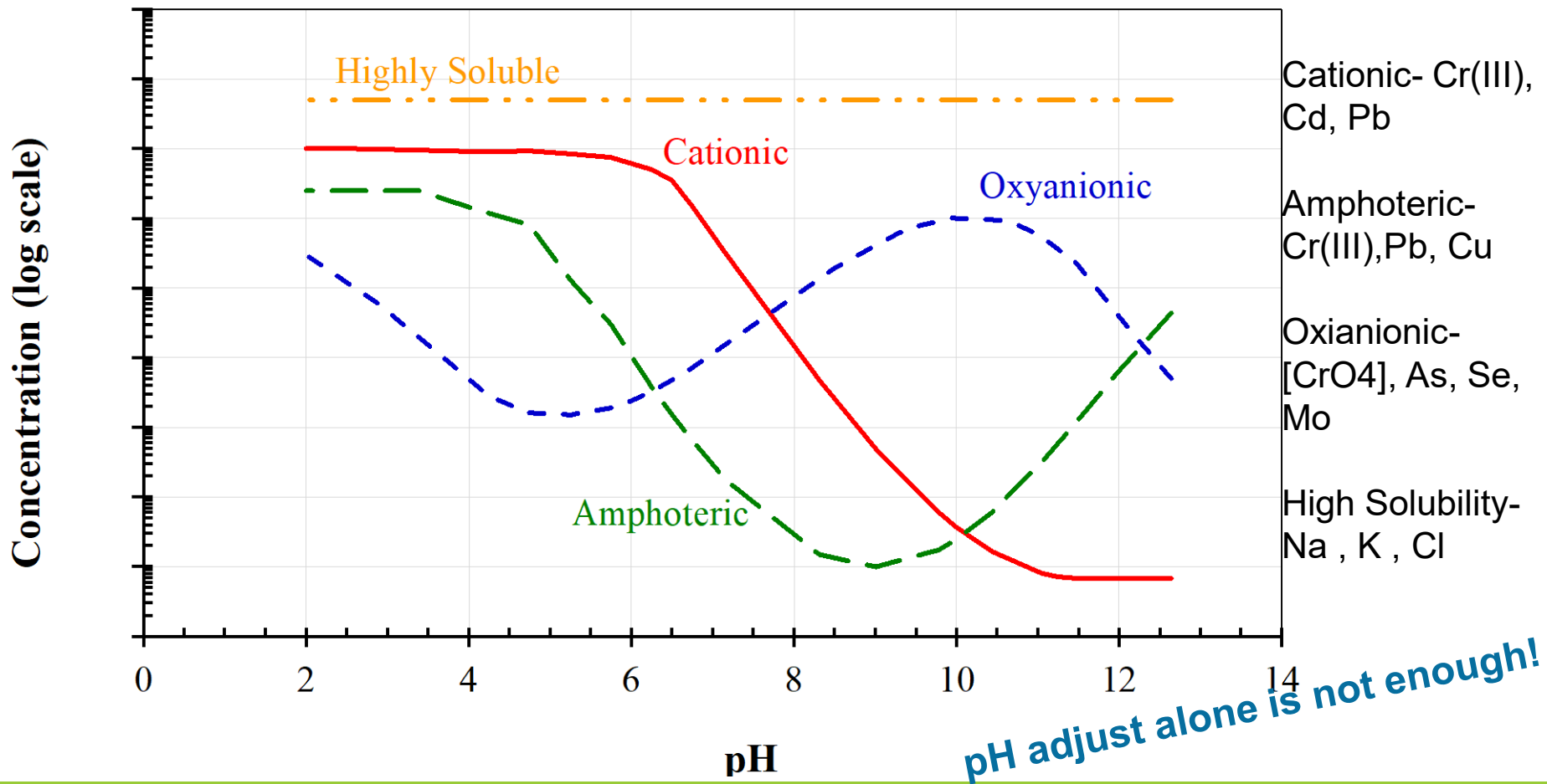
24 Months after Injection

# Heavy Metals Remediation

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TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATION OVERVIEW

# Generic behaviors of several inorganic contaminant types showing generalized minima/maxima as a function of pH

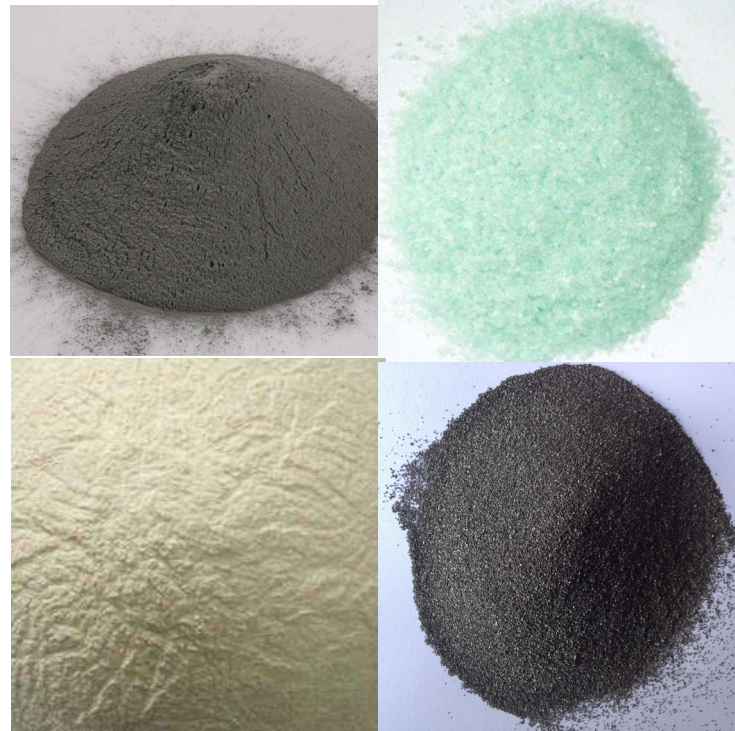




# What is MTS<sup>®</sup>?

It is a suite of Heavy Metals chemical sequestration or reduction chemistries (12 primary proprietary blended formulations) engineered to reduce the leachability of heavy metals in vadose zone soil and saturated zone soils (groundwater).

Oxides  
Hydroxides  
Sulfates  
Iron  
Phosphate  
Sulfides  
Zeolite  
Calcium Carbonate  
Activated Carbon  
Proprietary reagents  
and activators



Site	Contaminant(s)	Starting Leachate Concentration	Final Leachate Concentration	Reduction (%)	Target Goal	Test Condition	Matrix	Reagent dose (%) by wt
1	CrVI	41.3 mg/L	<0.03 mg/L	100%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	1
2	CrVI	3.7 mg/L	<0.010 mg/L	100%	Not established	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	1
	Ni	0.49 mg/L	0.11 mg/L	78%	0.30 mg/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	2
3	CrVI	89 ug/L	3.3 ug/L	96%	10 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	2
4	Co	1.2 mg/L	<0.010 mg/L	100%	Not established	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	2
	Co	>103	<0.385	99.6%	2 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	1.5
5	As	0.57 mg/L	<0.0050 mg/L	100%	0.50 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	5
	CrVI	1.2 mg/L	0.043 mg/L	96%	0.50 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	5
	Pb	0.012 mg/L	<0.0014 mg/L	88%	0.50 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	5
6	Se	22 mg/L	0.011 mg/L	100%	Not established	TCLP	Industrial waste	5.5
	Cd	16 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	99.7%	0.15 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	18
7	Pb	17 mg/L	0.02 mg/L	99.9%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	18
	Zn	830 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	99.999%	280 mg/L	TCLP	Industrial waste	18
8	As	0.027 mg/L	0.0090 mg/L	67%	0.010 mg/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	2
	CrVI	57.2 ug/L	<0.70 ug/L	100%	0.10 mg/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	4
9	Cu	119 ug/L	9.5 ug/L	92%	Not established	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	4
	Ni	24.2 ug/L	<5.0 ug/L	90%	Not established	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	4
	Zn	60.6 ug/L	<2.2 ug/L	100%	Not established	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	4
10	As	102 ug/L	20.2 ug/L	80%	36 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	6
	Pb	761 ug/L	3.67 ug/L	99.5%	8.1 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	6
	Zn	849 ug/L	<4.0 ug/L	100%	81 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	6
11	As	36.1 mg/L	0.80 mg/L	98%	3.75 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	2
12	As	0.31 mg/L	<0.03 mg/L	100%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil and ind waste	13
	Pb	89.0 mg/L	<0.03 mg/L	100%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil and ind waste	13
13	Pb	56.2 mg/L	<0.03 mg/L	100%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	8
14	Cd	8.5 mg/L	0.11 mg/L	98.7%	1.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	6
15	Zn	14,700 ug/L	12.3 ug/L	99.9%	2,000 ug/L	GW leach	Soil and Groundwater	2
16	Pb	99 mg/L	1.6 mg/L	98%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	7
17	Pb	930 mg/L	0.83 mg/L	99.91%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	8
18	Pb	27 mg/L	0.054 mg/L	99.8%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	11
	Cd	131 ug/L	0.20 ug/L	99.8%	5.0 ug/L	GW leach	Soil and Groundwater	3
	Pb	642 ug/L	6.4 ug/L	9900%	15 ug/L	GW leach	Soil and Groundwater	3
19	Zn	39,900 ug/L	12.4 ug/L	99.97%	2,000 ug/L	GW leach	Soil and Groundwater	3
	Pb	20 ug/L	6.7 ug/L	67%	15 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	2
	Pb	350 ug/L	5.1 ug/L	99%	15 ug/L	SPLP	Soil and Groundwater	3
22	Pb	660 mg/L	<5.0 mg/L	100%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	1
	Pb	51 mg/L	0.65 mg/L	99%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	8
	Pb	60 mg/L	0.78 mg/L	98.7%	1.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	5.5
25	CrVI	68.9 mg/L	0.004 mg/L	99.4%	0.02 mg/L	Chinese TCLP	Soil	4
		236	<0.004 mg/L	100%	0.02 mg/L	Chinese TCLP	Soil	5
26	Al	7.83	1.32	83%	4	Chinese TCLP	Soil	7
	As	0.0768	0.0019	98%	0.05	Chinese TCLP	Soil	7
	Pb	0.053	ND	100%	-	Chinese TCLP	Soil	7
	Cd	0.016	ND	100%	-	Chinese TCLP	Soil	7
27	Pb	0.054 mg/L	0.031 mg/L	42%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	11
	Cd	8.10 mg/L	0.27 mg/L	97%	1.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	11
	CrVI	5.71 mg/L	0.034 mg/L	99%	5.0 mg/L	TCLP	Soil	11
28	CrVI	160 mg/L	1.4 mg/L	99.1%	10 mg/kg	Total	Soil and Groundwater	6
		2500 mg/kg	5.3 mg/kg	99.8%	2 mg/L	SPLP		

# Zinc – Heavy Metal Case Study

## PRB Remediation

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Permeable reactive barrier installed via Geoprobe injection to mitigate zinc concentrations to surface water discharge

Site: Redevelopment of Industrial Site

Contaminant: Zinc

Soil Volume: 5,300 m<sup>3</sup>

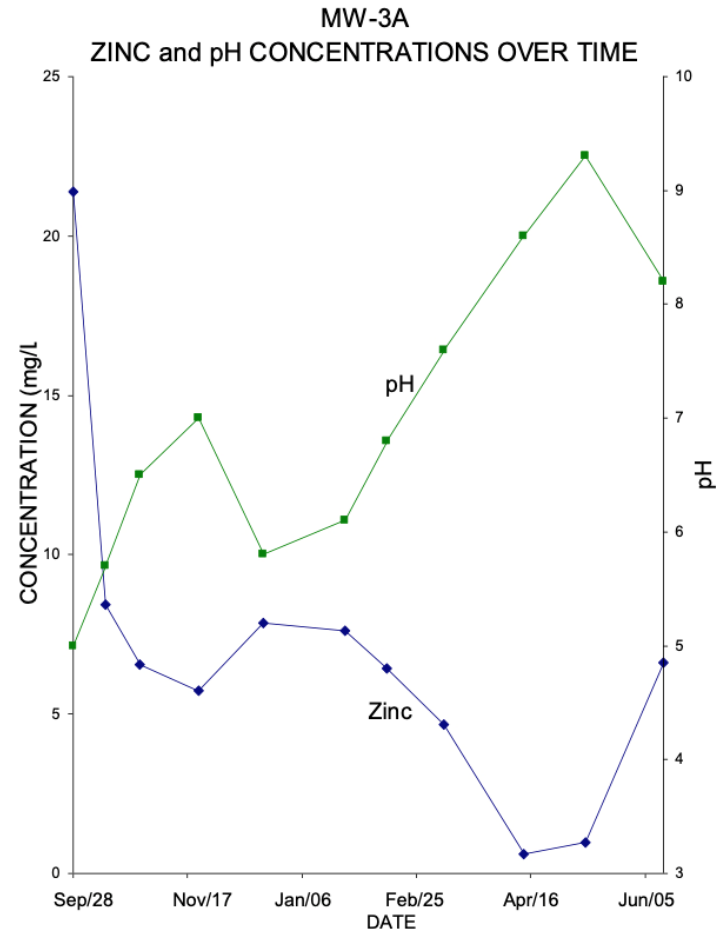
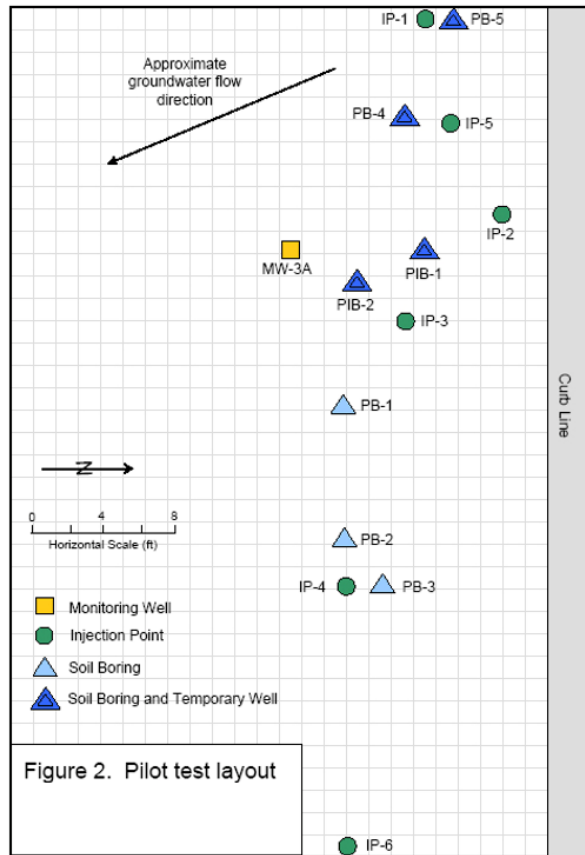
Approach: Injection of reactive barrier

Benefits:

- No removal of soil from site
- Existing redevelopment remained in-tact
- Zinc no longer a surface water discharge concern



# In Situ Zinc - Pilot Test



# Zinc Case Study: PRB Remediation

Pilot Testing (6 injections, 5 borings, 3 monitoring wells)

Visual observations of reagent distribution in soil cores

Soil pH and SPLP measurements in cores

Monitoring well groundwater samples to assess “integrated” effect of heterogeneous reagent distribution

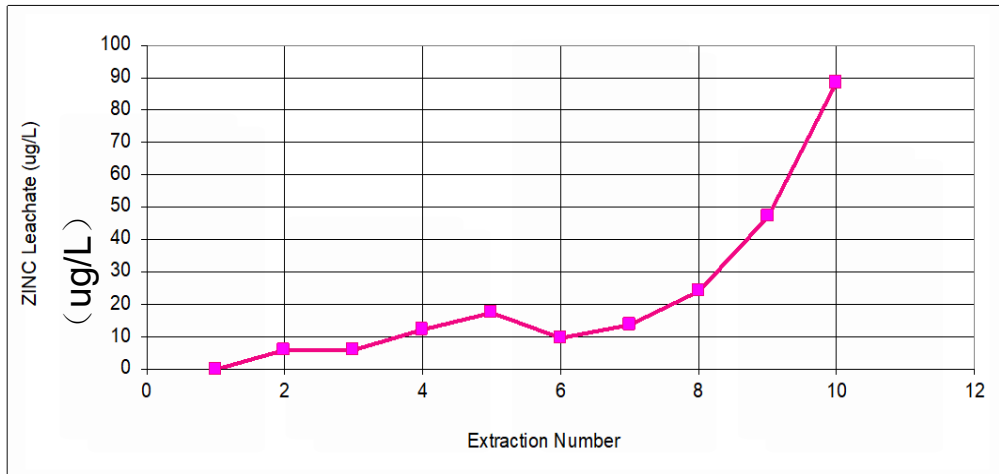
Only 2-days allowed for reagent effects to permeate the injection zone

RESULTS - 0.61 mg/L in the pilot study



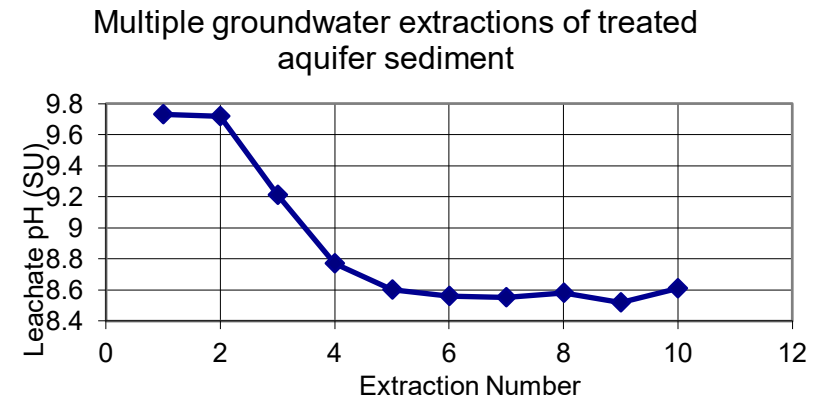
# Simulated Long Term Stability Multiple Extraction Procedure (MEP)

Permeable Reactive Barrier. Goal of 2 mg/L from 20 mg/L.  
**Represents 480 years of groundwater flow**



LEFT: Demonstrates simulated life of reactive barrier stability

RIGHT: Demonstrates long term stability of pH regardless of acid washing



In some cases the encapsulating mineral formed may be susceptible to dissolution under environmental conditions. Also the regulatory agency wants project-specific demonstration of long-term stability.

# Zinc Case Study

## Full Scale Implementation

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45,000 gallons of diluted reagent injected in 63 locations over a 4-week period

### Soil – 97% reduction

83 percent of post-injection soil samples SPLP <0.020 mg/L of zinc

### Surfacewater

- Within 1 year surface water zinc concentrations decreased by 50 to 70 percent
- Surface water goal achieved within 3 years

	Zinc (mg/L)		
Date	MW-1	MW-2	MW-3
Aug-yr0	1.64	---	---
Jul-yr1	0.750	0.389	---
Aug-yr1	2.32	0.999	0.701
Aug-yr2	1.53	0.915	0.434
Sep-yr2	1.27	0.749	0.451
Feb-yr3	0.966	0.746	0.543
May-yr3	0.279	0.315	0.221
Aug-yr3	0.382	0.324	0.230

**No further action for soil, continued groundwater and surface water monitoring**  
**Former 21-acre industrial site redeveloped into apartments**

# Thank you

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