Application of Optimization Algorithms to Groundwater Pump and Treat Systems

Karla Harre, Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center
Dave Becker, US Army Corps of Engineers HTRW CX

Rob Greenwald and Yan Zhang, Geotrans, Inc.
Kathy Yager, EPA Technology Innovation Office
Dr. Barbara Minsker, University of Illinois
Dr. Chunmiao Zheng, University of Alabama
Dr. Richard Peralta, Utah State University

Presentation Outline

- **Project overview**
  - **Background and objectives**
  - **Project design**
- **Results from 3 Department of Defense (DoD) Sites**
- **Findings and lessons learned**
- **Next steps**

Background

- 1999 EPA hydraulic optimization simulation study
  - Indicated potential savings of millions of dollars at 2 of 3 sites
  - Focused on containment sites where reductions in pumping lead to substantial life-cycle cost savings
- Limitation of hydraulic optimization
  - Cannot optimize contaminant concentrations or clean-up times

Project Team

- ESTCP and EPA provided funding for demonstration of transport modeling optimization algorithms
- Diverse project management team
  - Navy, EPA, USACE, GeoTrans, Dr. Barbara Minsker
- Transport optimization modelers
  - Dr. Richard Peralta, Utah State University
  - Dr. Chunmiao Zheng, University of Alabama

Project Goals

- Primary project goal
  - Compare results of:
    - Two groups applying transport optimization algorithms
    - One group applying traditional trial&error = scientific control
  - Determine if the optimization algorithms provide improved solutions versus trial & error, and are cost effective to apply
- Secondary project goal
  - Provide useful information to the installation, ideally in the form of an improved strategy to be implemented

Optimization Codes and Teams

- **SOMOS Code, Utah State University**
  - **Simulation Optimization Modeling System**
  - **Multiple algorithms – genetic algorithm, simulated annealing, tabu search, and artificial neural network**
  - **Artificial neural network can be trained to replace a time-consuming simulation model during optimization**

Optimization Codes, Cont'd.

- **MGO Code, University of Alabama**
  - **Modular Groundwater Optimizer**
  - **Multiple algorithms, including genetic algorithm, simulated annealing, and tabu search**
- **SOMOS and MGO Codes compatible with MODFLOW/MT3D (and others with modification)**
- **Trial & Error, GeoTrans, Inc (Scientific Control)**

Project Design

- Selected 3 DoD demonstration sites
- Approach at each site
  - Review each site model
  - Develop 3 optimization "formulations," consisting of:
    - An "objective function" (to be minimized)
    - A set of constraints that must be satisfied
  - Formulations based on input provided by installation
  - Each group independently solved each of the 3 formulations

Example Formulation

- Identify optimal well locations and pumping rates so as to minimize project cost subject to the following:
  - Pumping cannot exceed current treatment capacity
  - Clean-up goal must be achieved at property boundary within 3 years
  - Limits on individual well extraction and injection rates
  - Limits on interior plume growth in hot spots

Demonstration Sites

Site Name	Pump rate (gpm) and Cost ($/yr)	# Wells	Contam-inants	Groundwater Model Info.
Tooele Army Depot	8000/750K (operating)	15 ext. 13 inj.	TCE	4 layers 10 min. RT
Umatilla Army Depot	1300/430K (operating)	3 ext. 3 inj.	RDX/ TNT	5 layers 10 min. RT
Hastings (Former Blaine NAD)	4000/2M (in preliminary design)	10 ext.	TCE/ TNT	6 layers 2 hours RT

RT = Run Time, NAD = Naval Ammunition Depot

Optimization Formulations

	Minimization objective (constraints)		
Site Name	**Form. 1**	**Form. 2**	**Form. 3**
Tooele Army Depot	$$ (POE)	$$ (POE/POC)	$$ (POE/POC/ source term reduction, conc. <50 @ yr 9
Umatilla Army Depot	$$ (cleanup)	$$ (cleanup, increase to total pumping ok)	Minimize residual mass in layer 1, cleanup
Hastings (former Blaine NAD)	$$ (cleanup)	$$ (cleanup, subtract 2400 gpm treatment costs)	Minimize total pumping (containment)

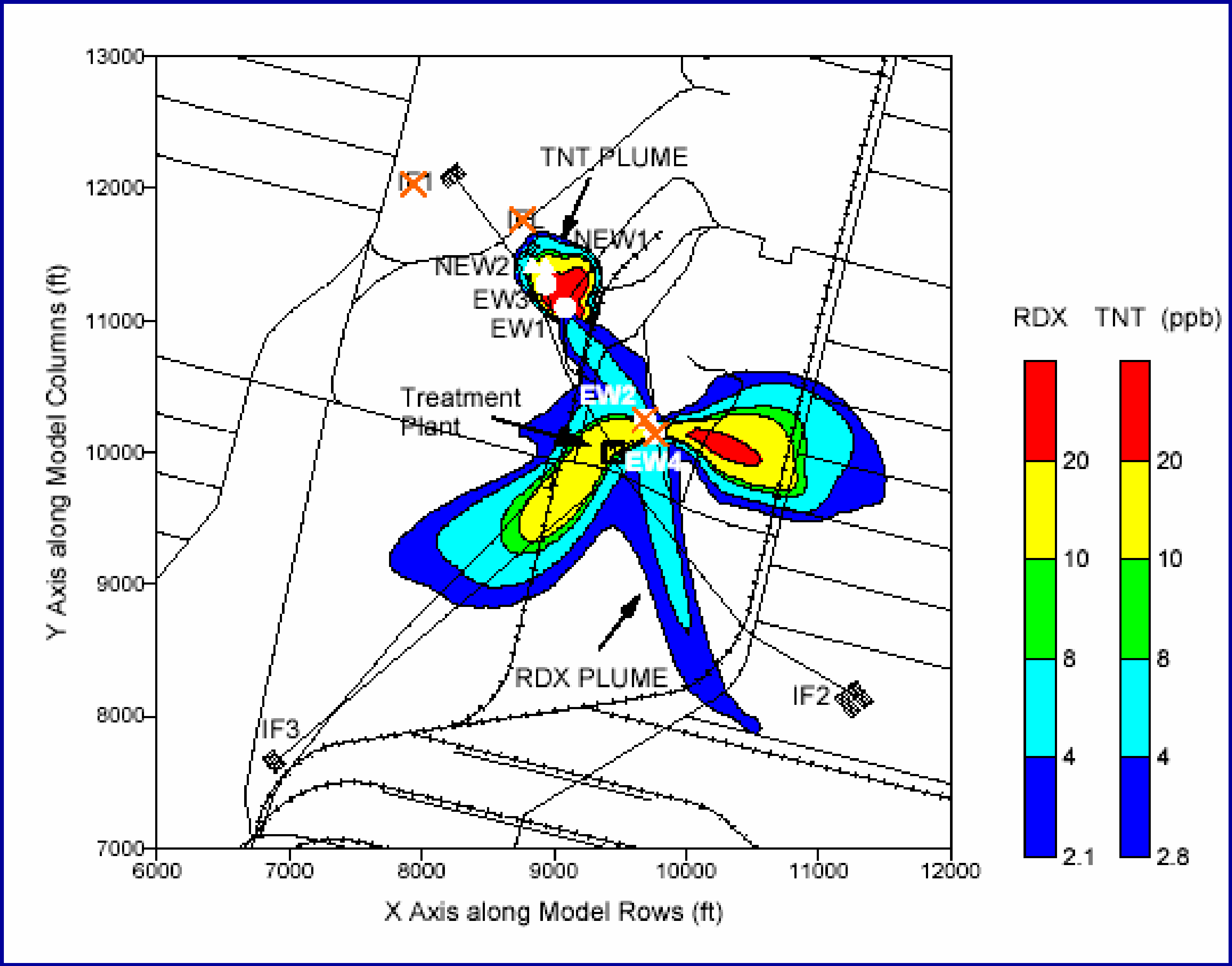
POE = Point of Exposure, POC = Point of Compliance

Results

Algorithms Average ~20% Improvement

	Percentage Improvement Using Optimization Algorithms (over Trial and Error)		
Site Name	**Form. 1**	**Form. 2**	**Form. 3**
Tooele	**3 to 13**	**11**	**Infeasible**
Umatilla	**23**	**15**	**50**
Hastings	**10 to 20**	**15 to 33**	**5 to 26**

Sample Results, Umatilla



Findings/Lessons Learned

- Transport optimization algorithms….
  - Found 3 to 50% improved solutions over trial & error, average 20% (Improvement to 50% if fixed costs are removed)
  - Had corresponding cost savings that varied depending on complexity of site
    - At Hastings (Blaine), up to $10 million in cost savings possible
    - At Umatilla, up to $600,000 in cost savings

Findings/Lessons Learned

- **Applying optimization algorithms can reveal useful information about site/model**
  - **Have no preconceptions; "think outside the box"**
  - **For example, at Umatilla, identified possible savings from shutting down wells in RDX plume**
- **Good to evaluate and update existing flow and transport models before optimization**
  - **Though reasonably good, the models at all 3 sites were refined before optimization (not a trivial step)**

Findings/Lessons Learned

- **Optimization algorithms….**
  - **Allow thousands more simulations**
    - **For example, 39 trial & error runs vs. 5000 runs under the MGO optimization code for one formulation**
  - **Are estimated to cost $40-100K per site ($0-40K over trial & error design)**
    - **Range varies with site complexity, model size, and # of contaminants**
    - **Does not include transport model development**

Findings/Lessons Learned

- **Optimization algorithms…**
  - **Can assist sites in screening alternative strategies (e.g., aggressive pumping vs. containment only)**
  - **Have potential application during the design and operation of P&T systems**
  - **Require development of formulations, which helps project team quantify and understand objectives**
- **Some simplification of cost functions required**

Findings/Lessons Learned

- More complex models (longer simulation times, more contaminants) require more expertise to overcome excessive computing times
  - Iterative, sequential approach
    - e.g., Optimize well locations with fixed pumping rates first, then optimize pumping rates at fixed well locations
  - Complicated sites with extended clean-up times more likely to benefit from optimization

More Information

- Project information, codes available to public via web
  - http://www.frtr.gov/estcp
  - Project Technical Report, including details for all three demonstrations
  - Cost and Performance Report
  - Optimization codes (SOMOSweb, MGO) available
- Outreach
  - Previous training via internet seminar
  - Previous 2.5-day in-person training through IGWMC
  - Workshop at Optimization Conference in Dallas, June
- Case study / site follow-up being pursued