# Source Removal- Policy and Practice in the FDEP

Robert C. Cowdery, P.E.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Section
Division of Waste Management
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

# Distinction Between Policy and Practice

- Policy- Address Source of Contamination as Primary Remedial Target
- Practice is Limited by Numerous Constraints
   Lithology- Heterogeneity, Impermeability
   Access- Many Sites Still Active, Little Space
   Cost-Need to Strike Balance
   Safety- Fire/Explosion; Stray Voltage

# The Trick is Determining (in Advance) When Source Removal is Achievable Under the Existing Constraints

The Florida Drycleaning Solvent Cleanup Rule Gives the FDEP the Authority to Focus on Source Area Contamination and Allow Natural Attenuation to Address Peripheral Contamination

#### Natural Attenuation

- Natural Attenuation Default Concentrations
- Evidence of Natural Attenuation
- Focus on Biological Attenuation
- Time Limit to Achieve Site Cleanup Target Levels

## Source Removal Strategy

• Begins During Assessment

-DNAPL Assessment is Much more Detailed and Intensive

-Focus on Suspect Areas

DC Machine

PCE Storage Areas

Septic Tank/ Drainfield

"Out Back" (A Perennial Favorite)

# **High Density Sampling**

# Provides an Accurate Picture of Contaminant Distribution

# **High Density Sampling**

- Cluster Wells
- Multi-Level Samplers
- High-Frequency Soil Sampling
- Tracer Tests
- Remote Sensing (LIF, Raman, CPT)

# Remedy Selection

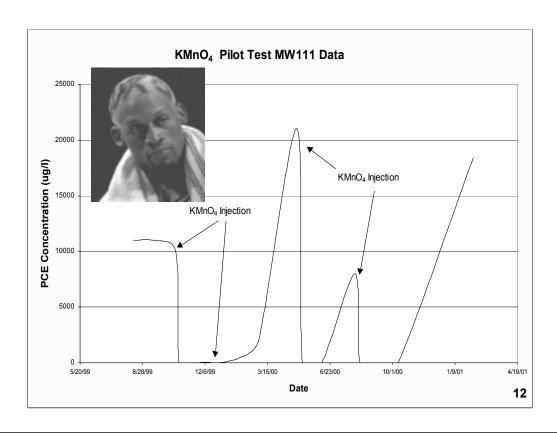
- ISCO- Losing Favor
- Cosolvent Flushing
- Co-Oxidation- New Technology
- Excavation-Vadose and Saturated Zones

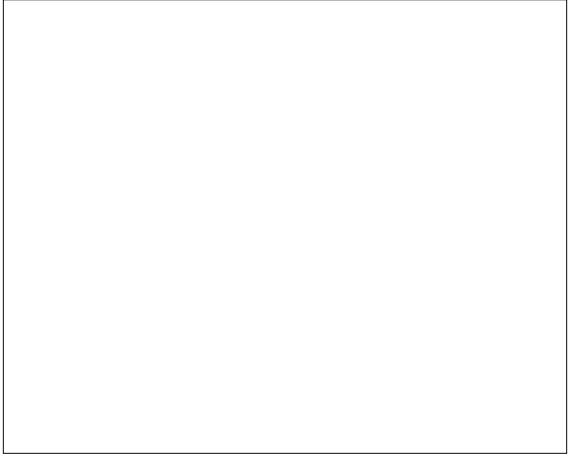
# **Pilot Testing**

- Cosolvent Flushing
  - Containment of Cosolvent
  - Remedy Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness of Fluid Treatment

# **Pilot Testing**

- ISCO
  - Rebound...and Rebound...and Rebound....
  - Soil Oxidant Demand
  - Plume Displacement
  - Trace Metal Contamination





# **Pilot Testing**

- Co-Oxidation
  - Promising Technology, but Untested
  - May Still Suffer Rebound
  - Improves Contact Between Oxidant and PCE

#### Co- Oxidation

- Hybrid of ISCO and Cosolvent Flushing
- Mixture of Permanganate and Cosolvent (tert-Butyl Alcohol)
- Improves Mass Transfer and Solubility of PCE
- Gets PCE into Aqueous Phase for Oxidation
- Patented Technology Still Under Development

#### Co- Oxidation

- Faster than Permanganate Alone
- Less Infrastructure Required Than Cosolvent Flushing
- Less Space Required Than Cosolvent Flushing
- Contaminant Destroyed In-Situ-No Aboveground Treatment
- Extraction of Co-Oxidant Typically Required
- Safety Issues- Combination of a Strong Oxidizer and an Organic Molecule

# Many Sites are Not Suitable for Source Removal at This Time

- Heavy Soils/ Fractured Limestone
- Limited Space/Access
- Areas Beneath Operating Facilities

#### Source Containment

- Hydraulic Containment- It's Hard to Like
  - Cost
  - Space Requirements
  - Infrastructure and Logistics
  - OM&M
  - Disposal of Treated Water

# **Biological Containment**

- Lower Cost
- Small Footprint
- No O&M, Reduced Monitoring
- No Extracted Water to Treat/ Dispose

## **Biological Containment**

- Intent is to Isolate the Source from Surrounding Groundwater
- Goal is to Establish a Biological Barrier That Can be maintained for a Long Time
  - Low Capital and O&M Costs
  - Monitoring for Effectiveness, not Source Reduction

## Areas of Potential Savings

- Design and Installation- Cut Off the Plume
- Substrate Injection based on Site-Specific Criteria
- O&M- Milk Run Approach to Substrate Injection
- Monitoring- LIMITED number of Wells, Less Frequently
- Emphasis on Indicators of Biological Activity, Not Contaminant Reduction

## Areas of Potential Savings

- Semi-Annual or Annual Monitoring
- Indicators of Biological Activity (ORP, pH. Chloride)
- Wells in Barrier and Downgradient, not in Source Area
- 8021 Analysis to Track Barrier Effectiveness, not "Remediation"

# Adopting Biological Containment is not Conceding Defeat

You are Just Waiting for a Bigger and Stronger Opponent to Die of Old Age

## Major Source Removals in 2002-2003

- Butler Cleaners- Co-Oxidation
- Sages Cleaners- Cosolvent Flushing
- Johnson's Cleaners- KMnO4 Reinjection
- One-Stop Cleaners- KMnO4 Reinjection