



## **IN-SITU BIOLOGICAL PERCOLATING SYSTEM FOR THE TREATMENT OF HYDROCARBON IMPACTED GROUNDWATER**

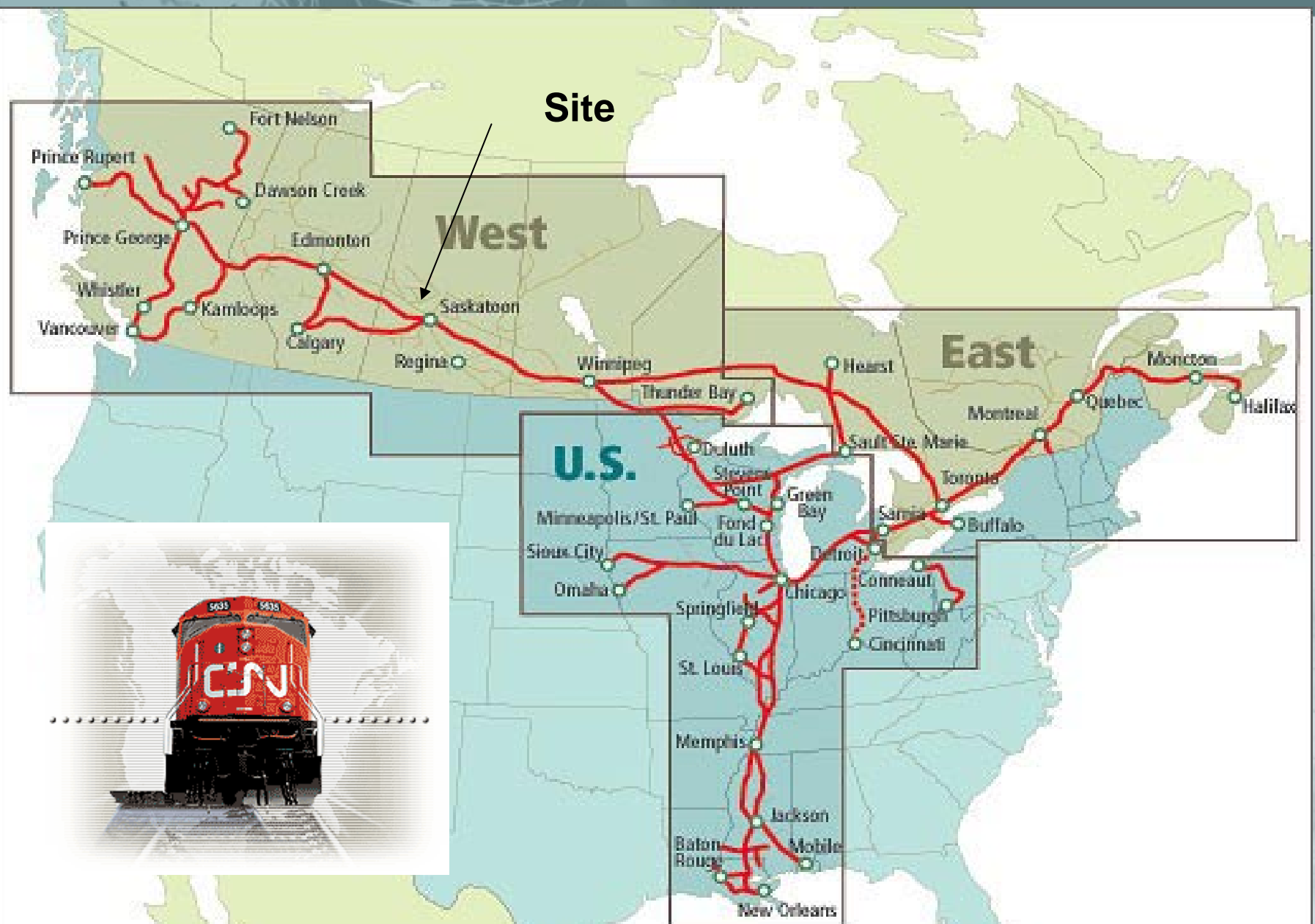
**M. Jillian Mitton, P.Eng Golder Associates Ltd  
Brian Pimblett, P.Eng. Canadian National Railway Company**



- Site History
- Geology/Contaminant Situation
- Remediation System
- BPS Design
- BPS Installation
- BPS Performance Data



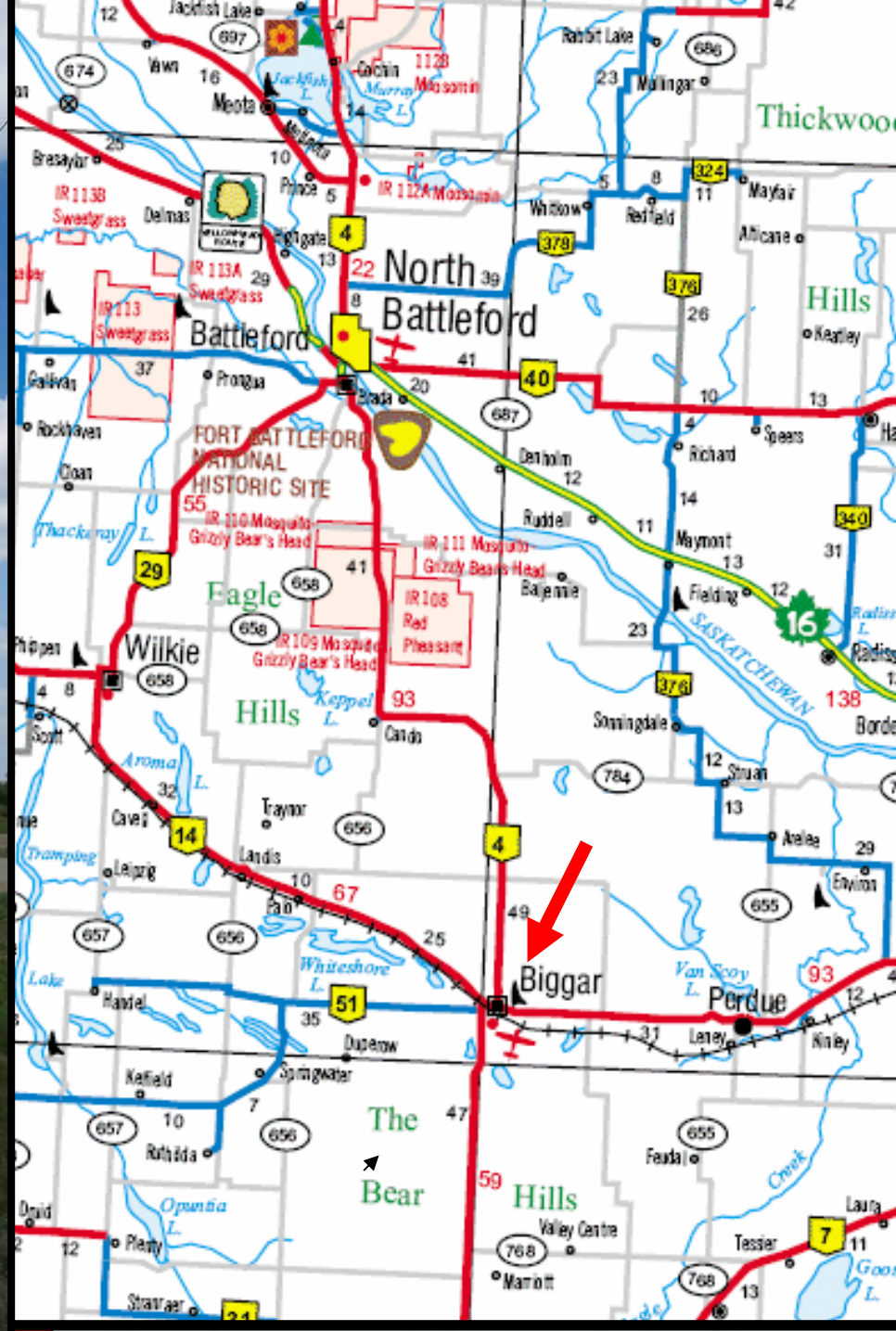
# CN Operating Regions







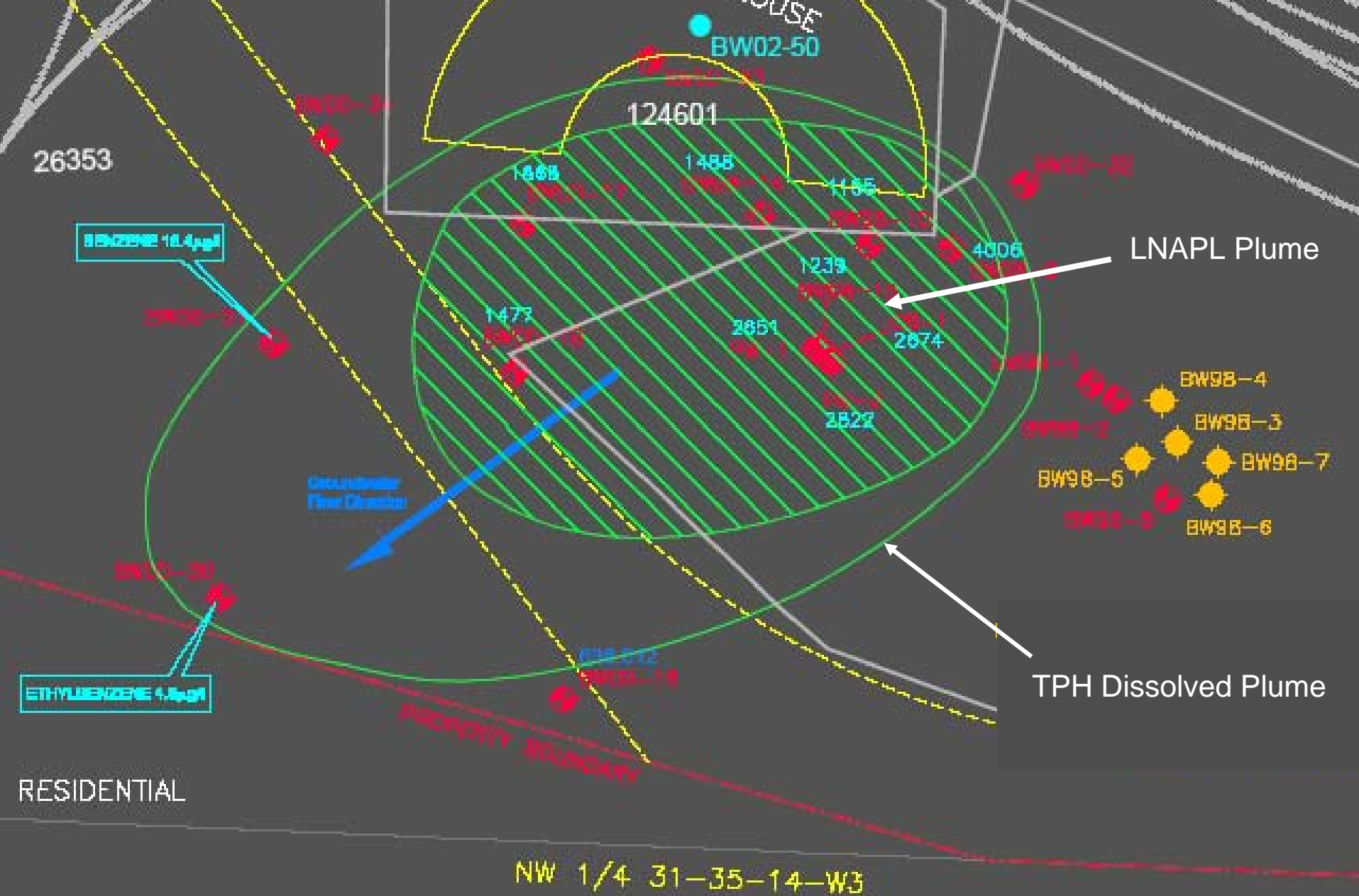
**BIGGAR MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
PAST & PRESENTS  
GIFT SHOP  
105 3rd AVE WEST



# History

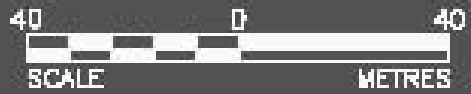
- Former Roundhouse (locomotive maintenance activities)
- CN's main above ground fuel storage tanks from 1960's to 1980's
- Now a poultry rearing operation
- Phase I & II investigations between 1997 to 2001





**LEGEND**

- MONITORING WELL
- BOREHOLE





# Geology/Contaminant Situation

- > than 24 m of clayey silt (till) with alternating beds of sand, silt and gravel.
- water table between 15 and 18 m belowground surface.
- hydraulic conductivity of  $1.6 \times 10^{-5}$  m/s.
- approximately 500,000 liters of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) in the form of diesel fuel is present in the subsurface over an area of 16,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Groundwater recovered on-site for livestock watering
- Dissolved BTEX groundwater plume migrating toward property boundary

# Assessment of Remedial Options

- Two insitu remediation options were considered
  - Conventional pumping
  - Vacuum Enhanced Recovery (VER)
- Pilot Testing in 2002 determined that both technologies were feasible but higher recovery rates were predicted for the VER option
- A VER System was installed in 2003/2004



**Legend**

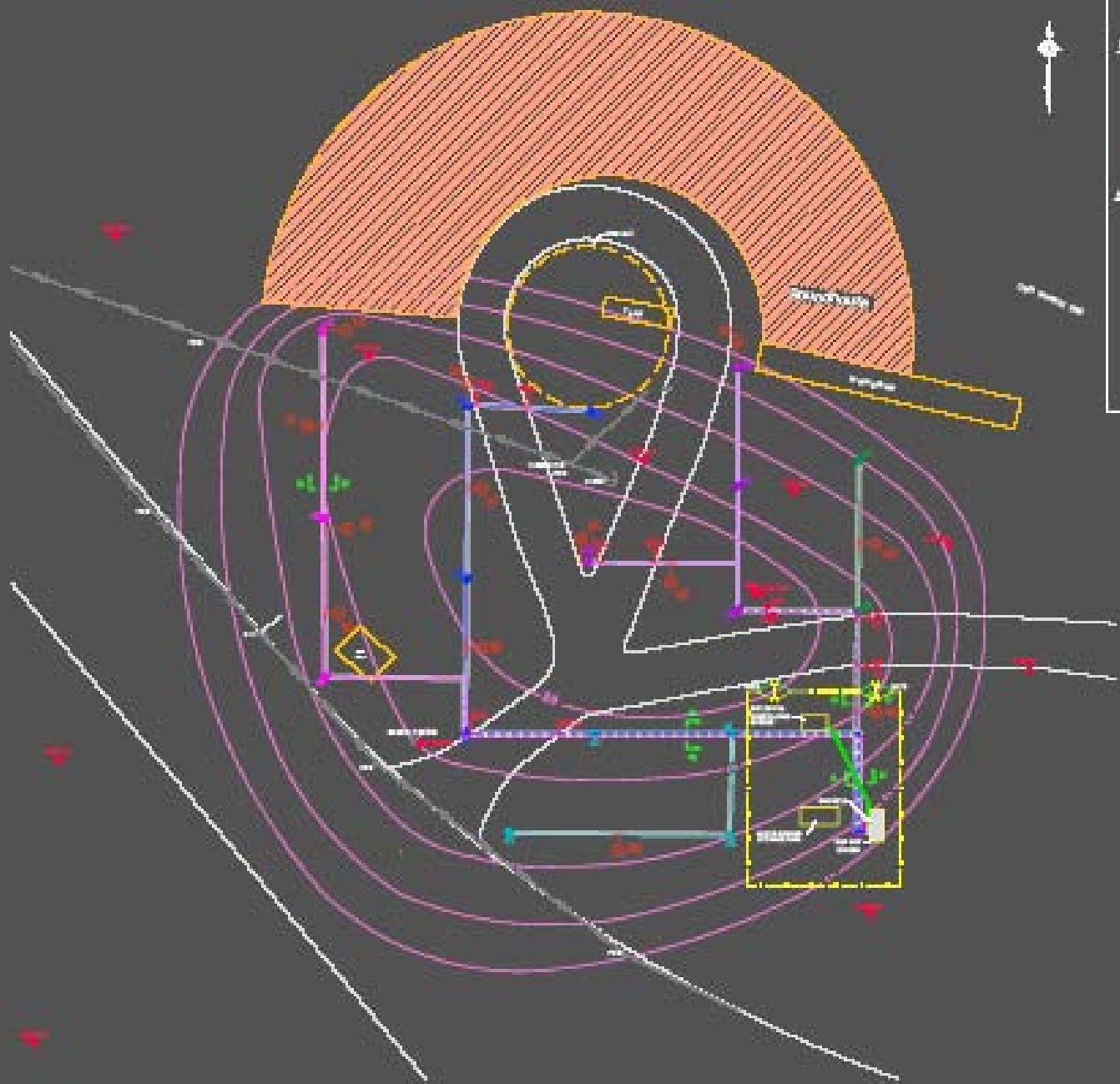
-  Existing Well
-  Proposed Existing Well
-  Projected Fault
-  Reservoir (2000' Thickness Contour @)
-  Recovery Piling

**Approximate Contours**

-  Reservoir 1
-  Reservoir 2
-  Reservoir 3
-  Reservoir 4
-  Free
-  Sand Logging Matrix (example 1)
-  Sand Logging Matrix (example 2)



1000' Contour



# VER System Components

- 40 Hp Liquid ring vacuum pump
- Inlet manifold air/water and diesel
- Air/liquid separator
- Settling Tank
- Oil/water separator
- Air compressor
- Diesel AST
- Biological Percolating System



# VER System Installation



**Non winterized system  
7 months/year**















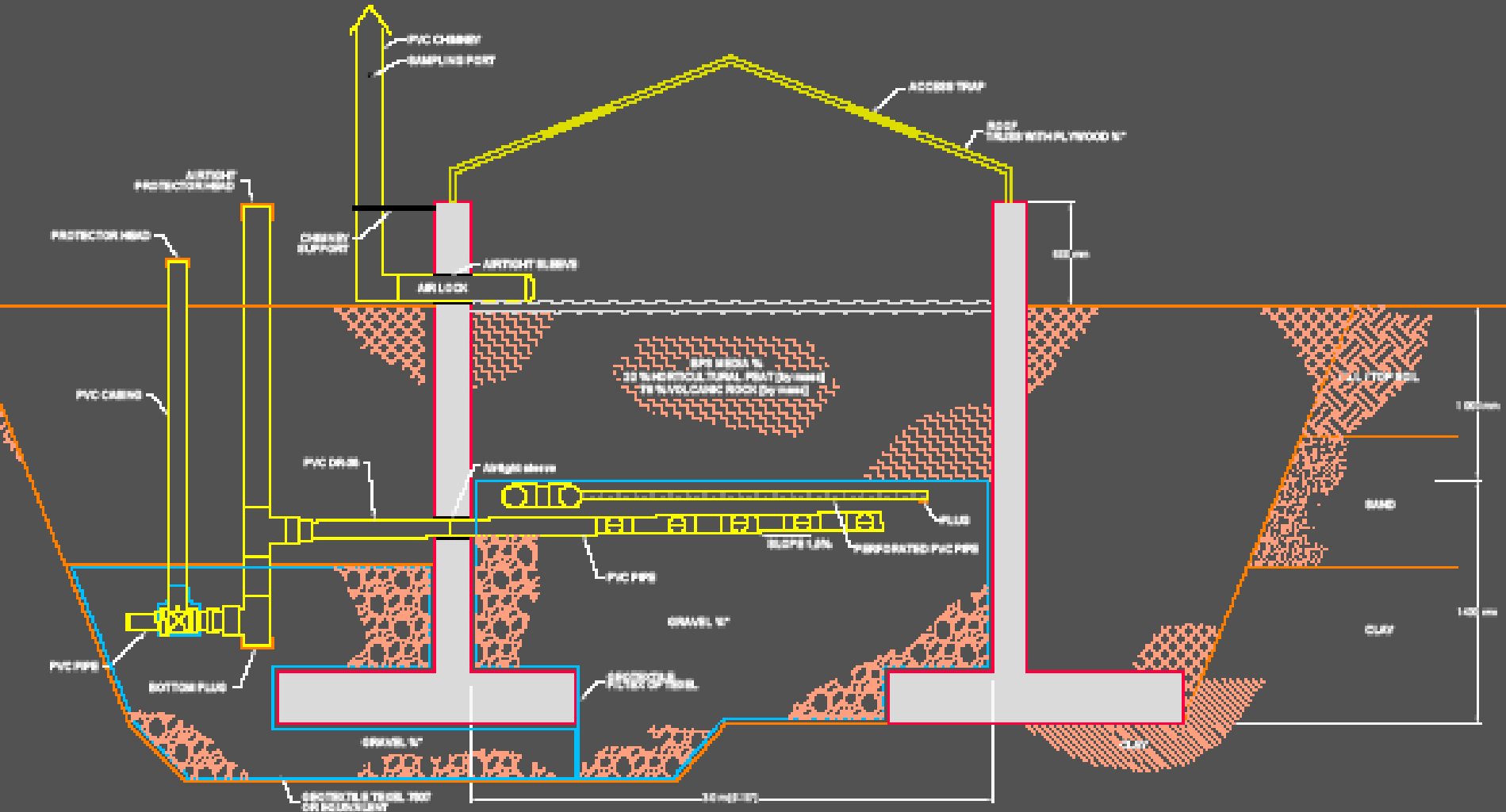




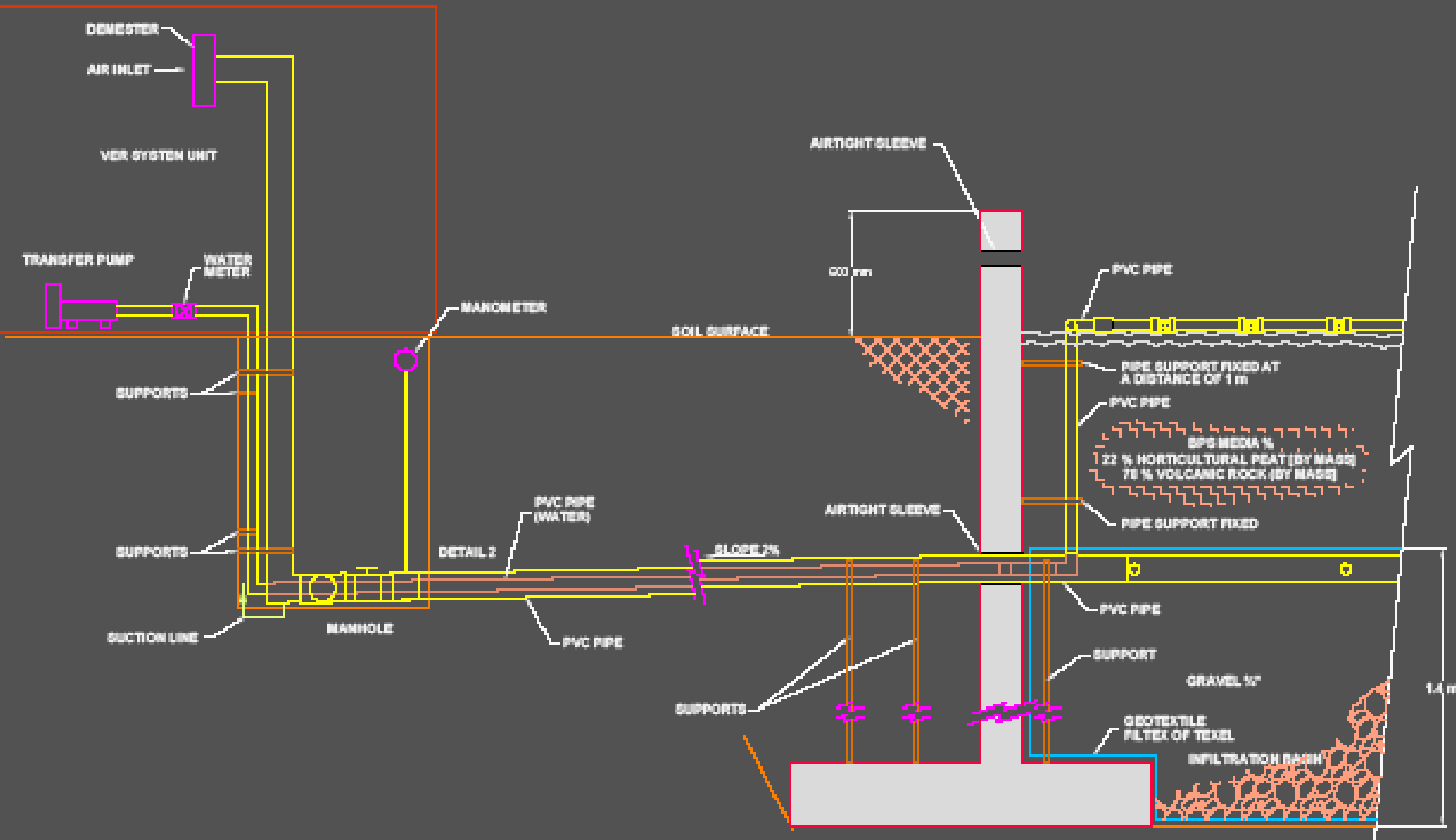
# Biological Percolating Filter (BPS)

- A BPS was selected as the preferred effluent treatment and became operational in May 2004. The advantages of biofiltration are:
  - Less expensive than treating effluent water with activated carbon;
  - Reduced energy and maintenance costs; and
  - Ideal for remote locations and provides a “close loop” operating system.

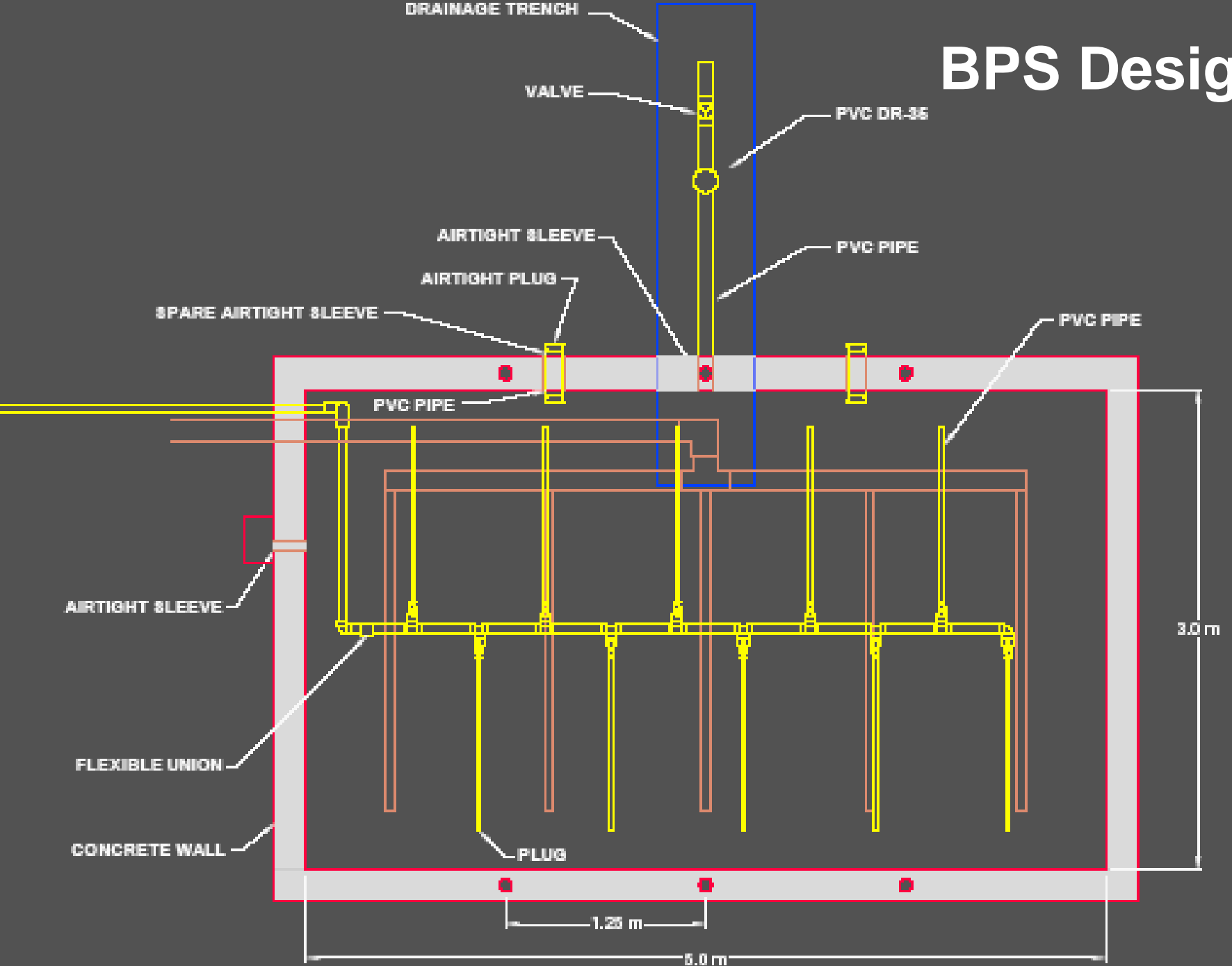
# BPS Design



# BPS Design



# BPS Design





# BPS Installation



# BPS Installation

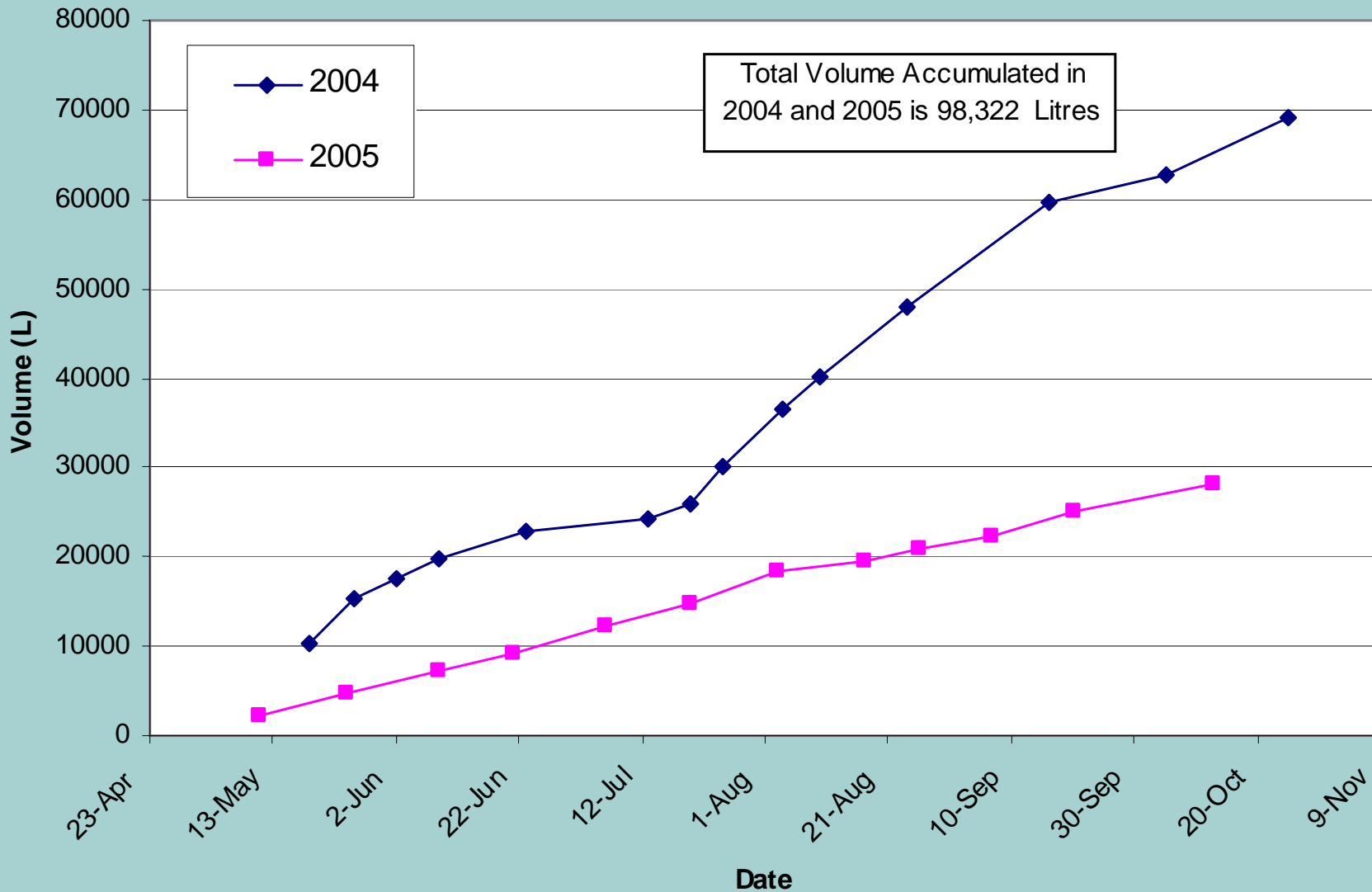




# Percolating Filter System For Treatment of Extracted Vapours and Water



# Cumulated Product Volume Versus Time

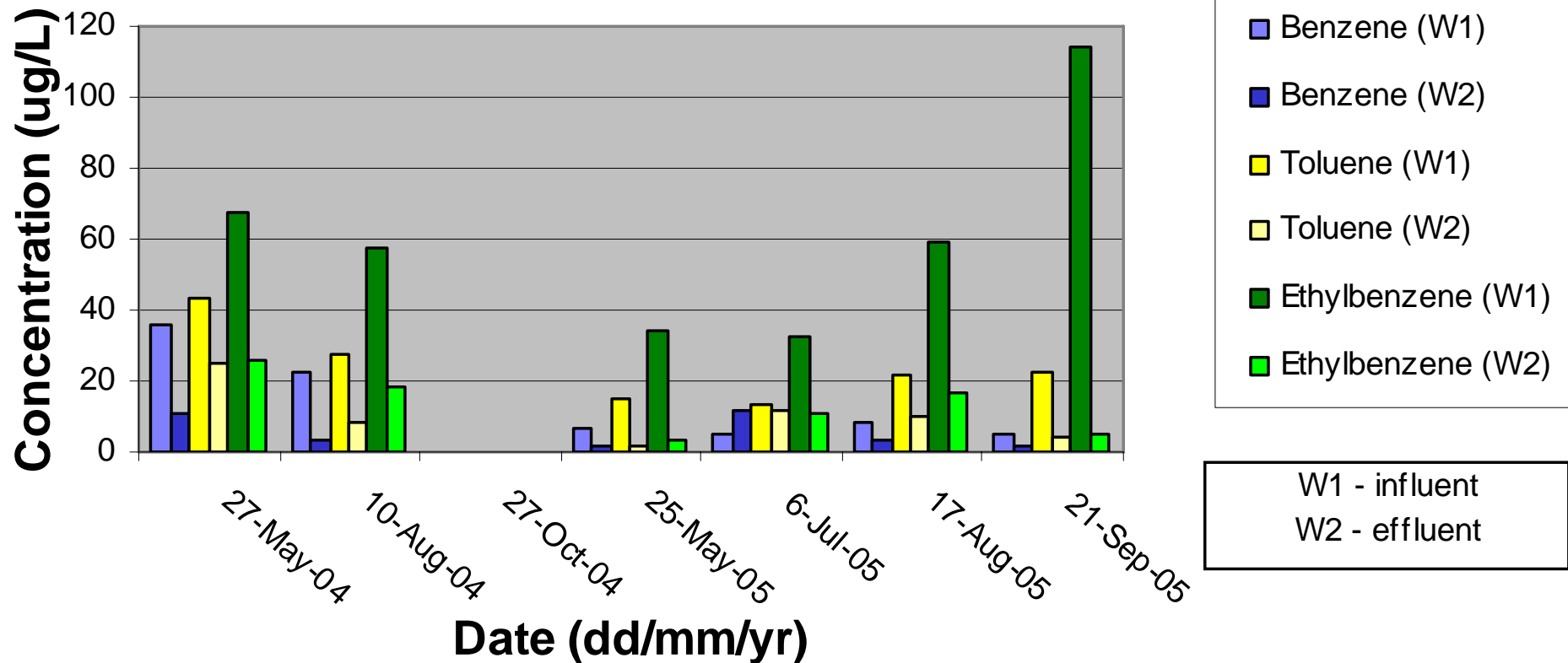


# VER Performance

Year	Vapour (L)	Aqueous (L)	Product (L)	Total (L)
2004	666	24.9	69,065	69,756
2005	413	44.8	28,089	28,566
Total	1079	69.7	97,154	98,322

# BPS Performance

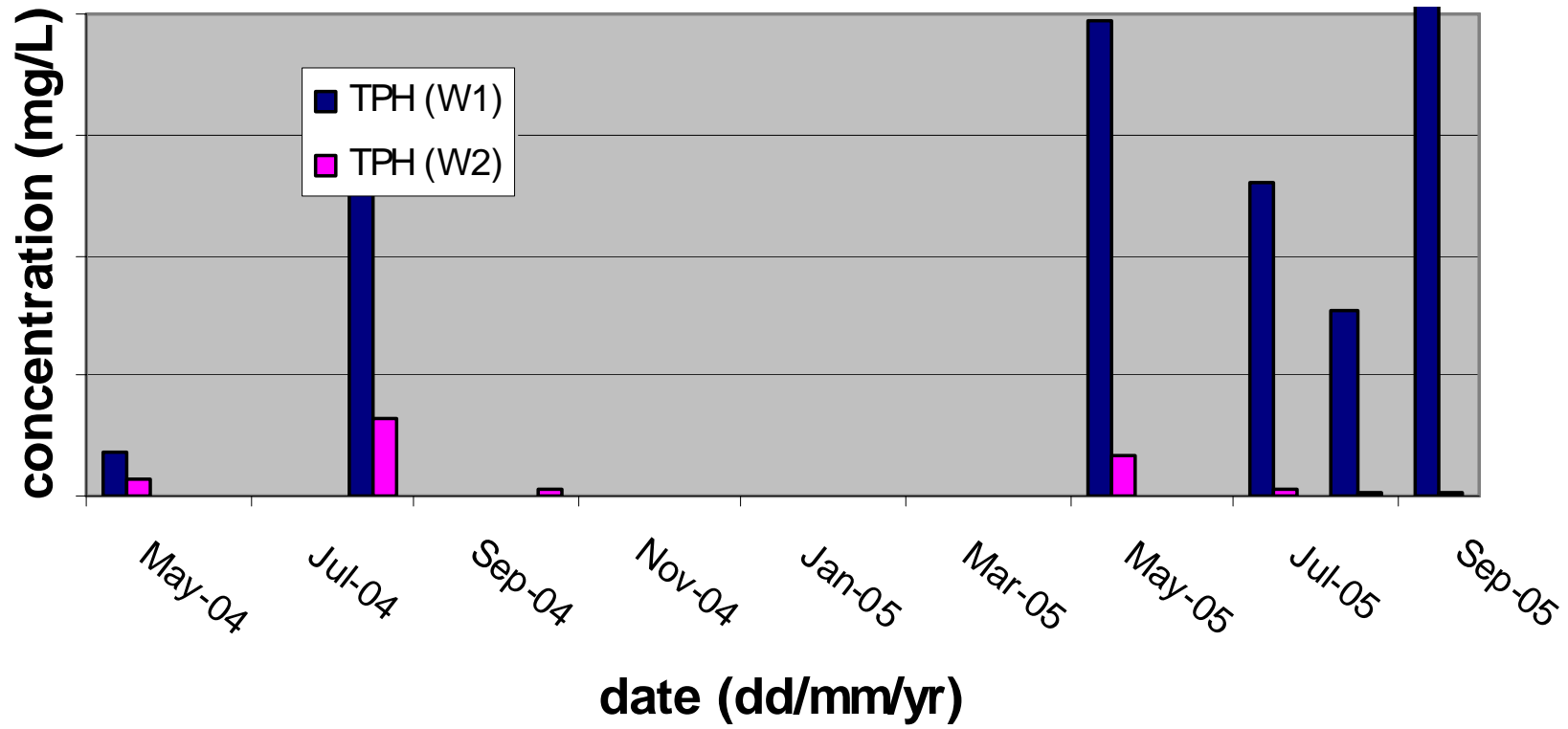
## Benzene, Toluene and Ethylbenzene Influent and Effluent Concentrations





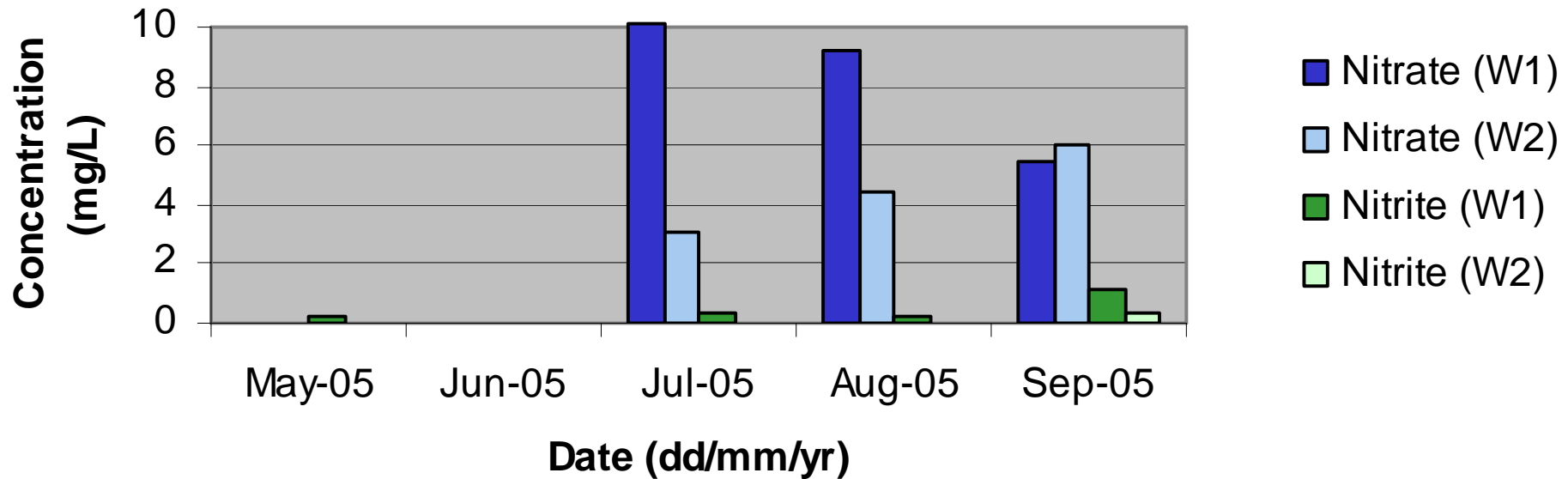
# BPS Performance

## Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon Influent and Effluent Concentrations



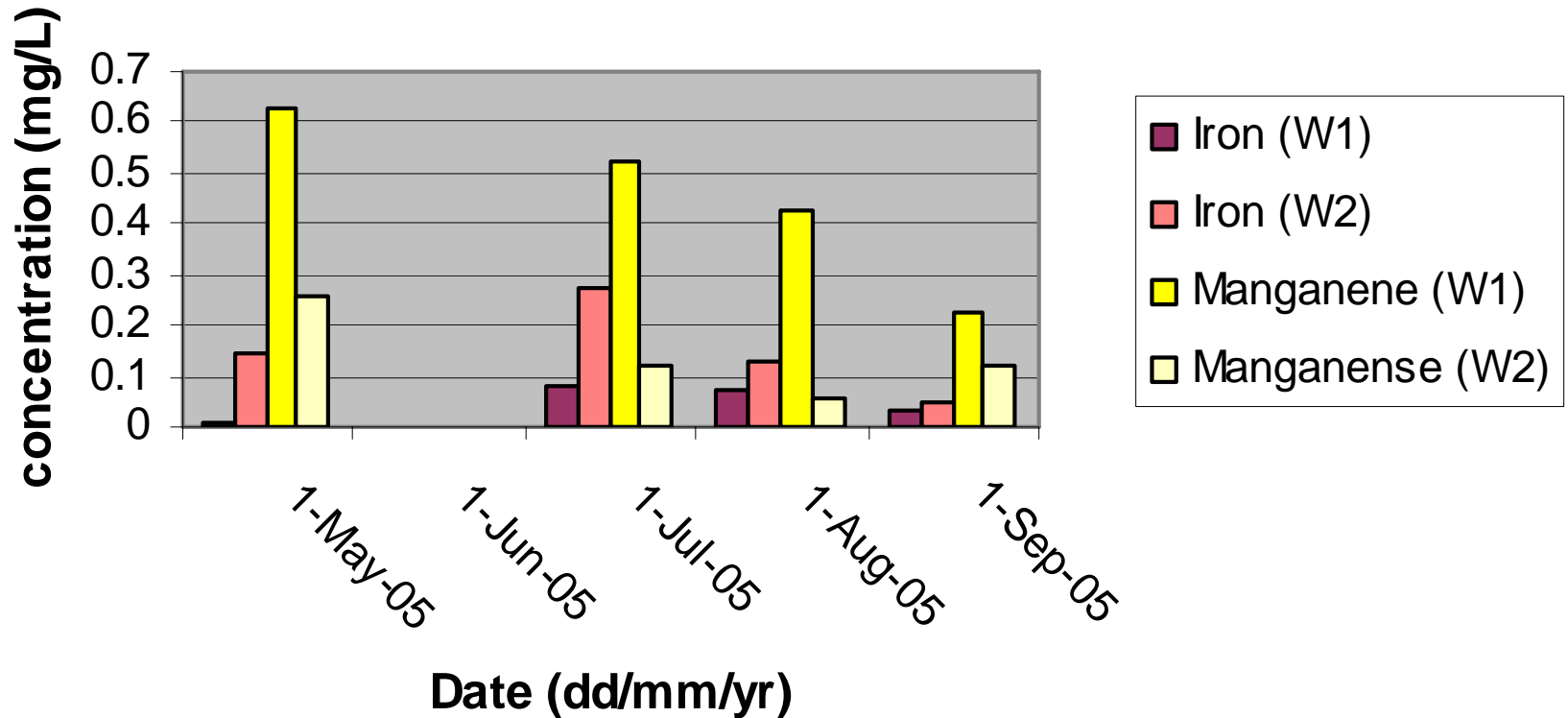
# Nutrient Concentrations

## Nitrate and Nitrite Influent and Effluent Concentrations



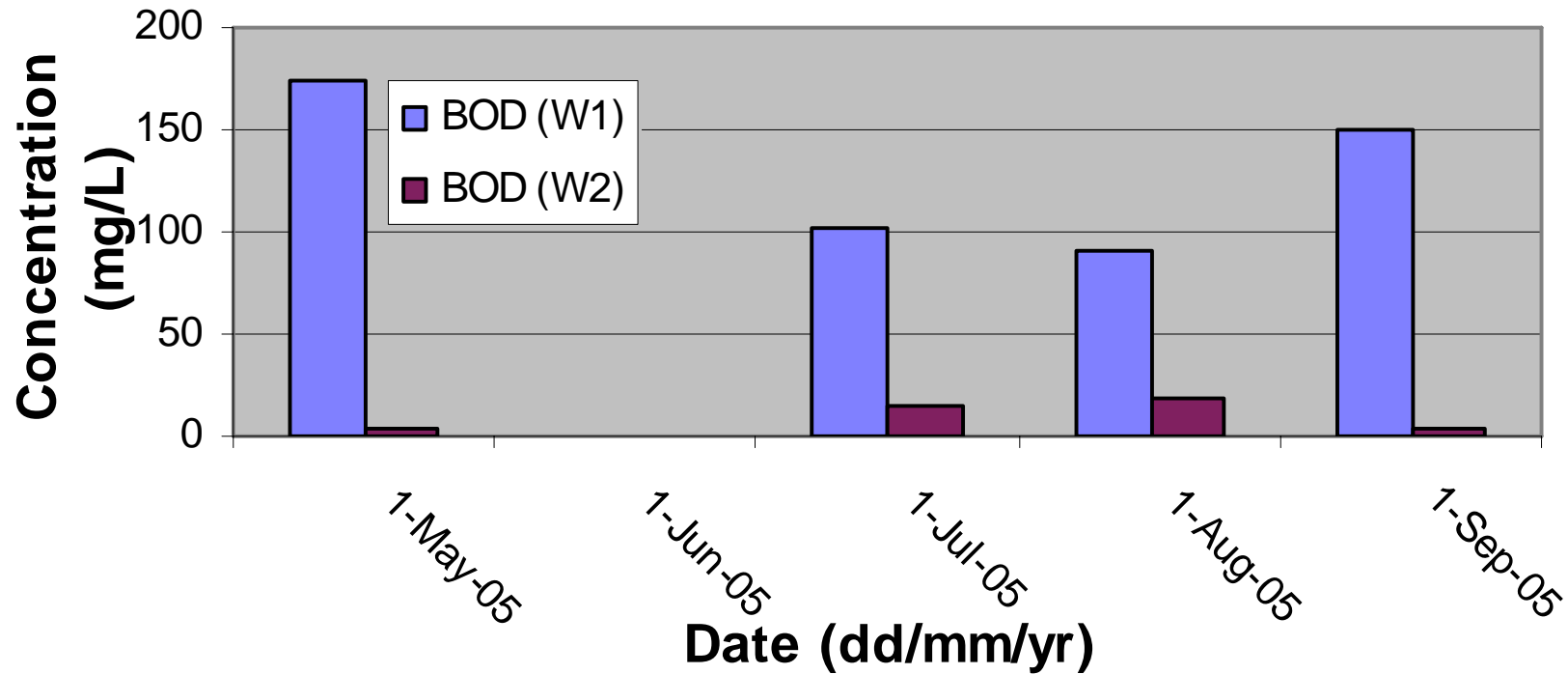
# Iron and Manganese Concentrations

## Iron and Manganese Influent and Effluent Concentrations



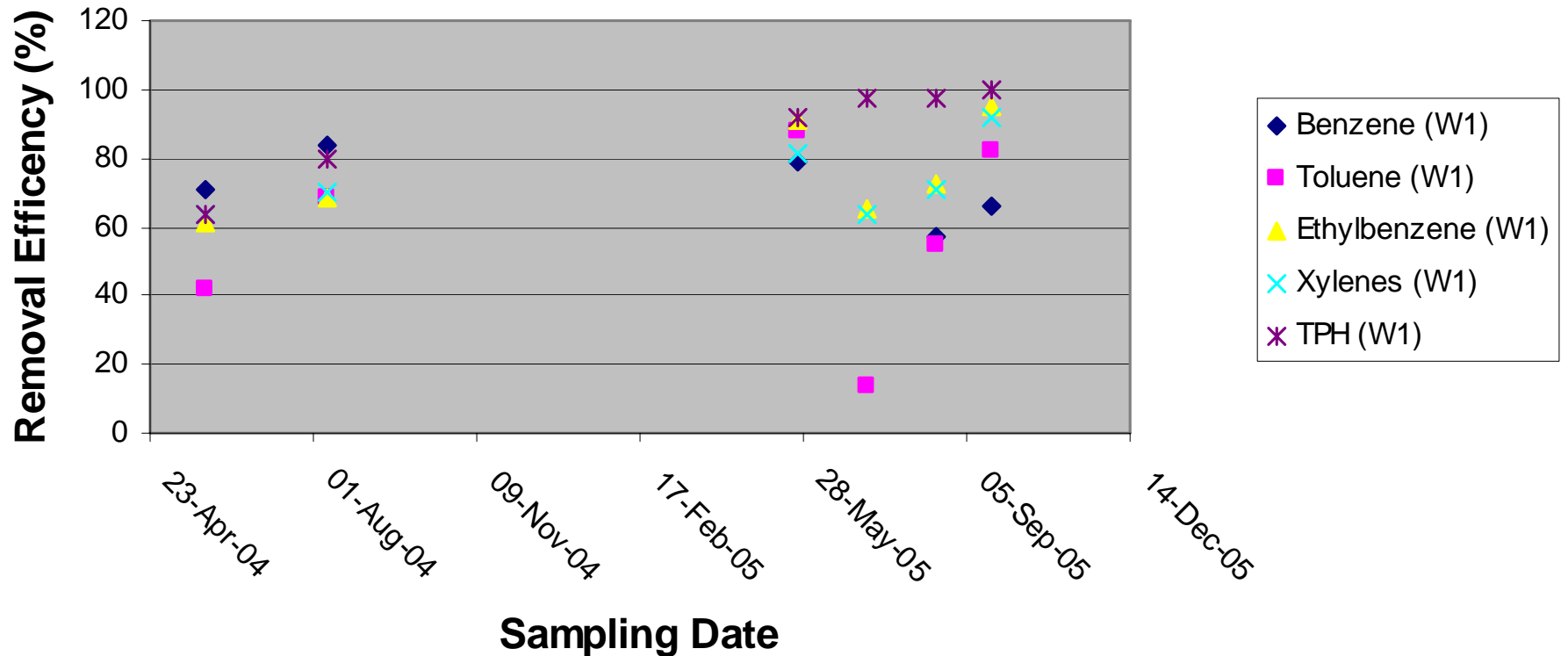
# Biological Oxygen Deman

## Biological Oxygen Demand Concentrations



# BPS Performance

## BPS Treatment Efficiency 2004/2005





# Conclusions

- The VER system continued to recover approximately 10,000 litres per month in 2004 and 5000 litres per month in 2005 of diesel from the subsurface during the operating period
- Approximately 85% of the recovered diesel was sold locally as heating fuel
- The results for the 2004/2005 operating period showed that the treatment level of the BPS steadily improved over a six month operating period as biomass grew and acclimatized in the filter matrix.
- Chemical concentrations of pH, conductivity, alkalinity, total dissolved solids, sulphate, chloride, sodium, calcium, potassium did not change during treatment
- Nitrate/Nitrite concentration were reduced

# Conclusions

- Iron concentrations increased, manganese concentration decreased
- Results in 2004/2005 demonstrated an average 80% mass removal of dissolved hydrocarbons by the BPS and suggests that a fully acclimatized BPS is capable of meeting the potable groundwater or groundwater ingestion guidelines for benzene, toluene, xylenes and petroleum hydrocarbon fractions at this Site.
- Ethylbenzene potable guideline was not achieved
- BPS has offered a cost effective treatment option for this Site



**QUESTIONS**