

# A TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM TO HARNESS SPEED AND CERTAINTY IN GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION:

RAPID RISK REDUCTION AND ACCELERATED BIOREMEDIATION FACILITATED BY A  
COLLOIDAL BIOMATRIX

Ashley Cedzo, Northwest District Technical Manager



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# Biodegradation Principles

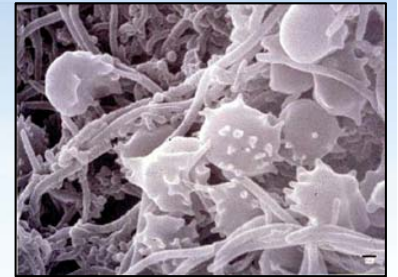
- Bacteria live on surfaces – biofilms
  - Think slime not Pac-Man
- They have to wait for their growth substrate



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half-life degradation

Question to our R&D group: "How do we increase microbial efficiency rates."

## R&D Efforts

2007: Began to focus on use of particulate sorbents to bind dissolved contaminants *in situ*.

- Surfactant modified zeolites
- Organo-clays
- Activated carbons



## Findings

Activated carbon and other sorbent particulates do not disperse in the aquifer waters.

- Granular Activated Carbon particles:  $> 1000 \mu\text{m}$
- Powdered Activated Carbon particles:
  - 40 to 100 micrometers diameter
  - Agglomerate to  $>1000 \mu\text{m}$  in water
- Soil Pore Throat Diameter Silts/Sands  
Est. Range: 3- 30  $\mu\text{m}$





# Challenge to REGENESIS



Development of:

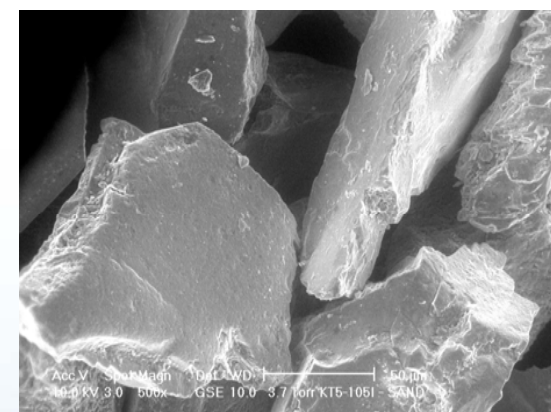
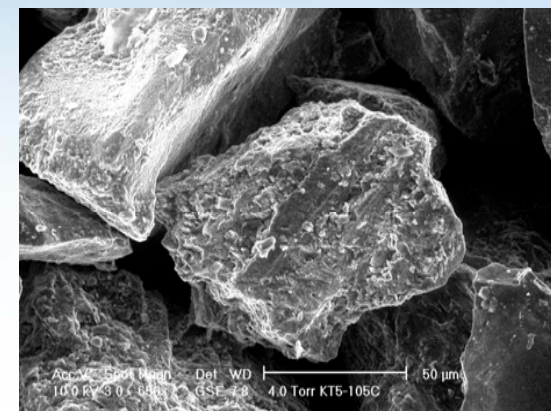
- Flow-able and dispersible sorbent
- Stimulates rapid sorption of contaminant
- Permanently biodegrades contaminants

## PlumeStop® is a Technology Platform

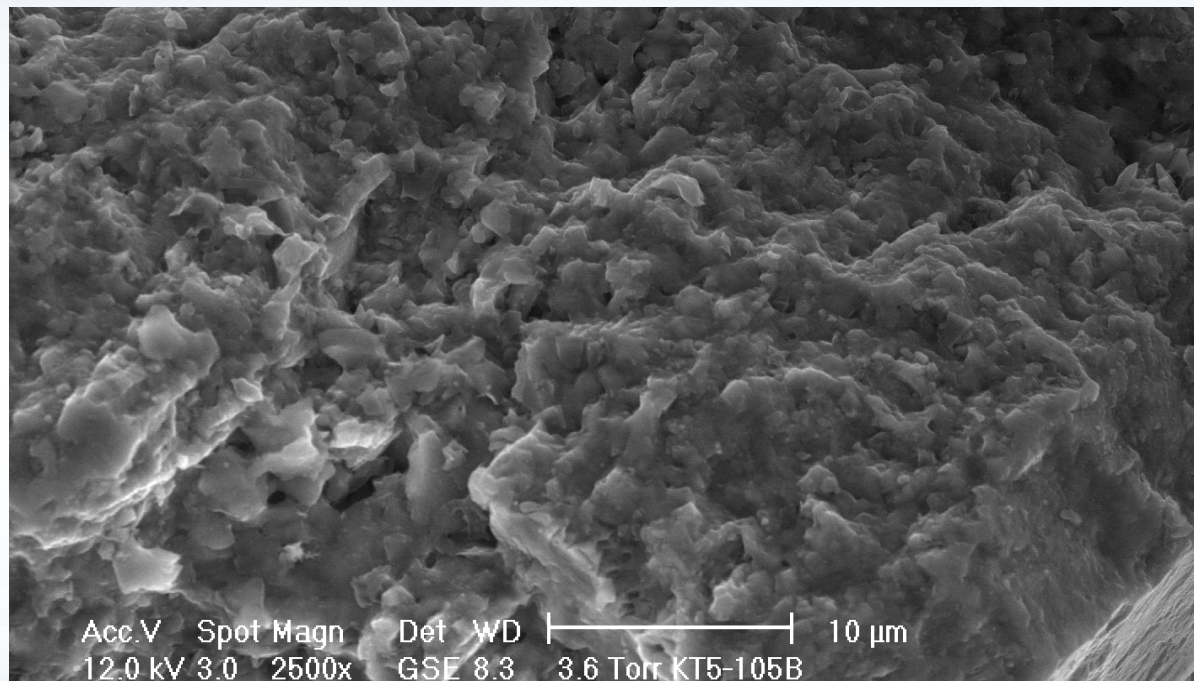
PlumeStop BioMatrix (PlumeStop) was specifically designed to eliminate rebound, mitigate matrix back diffusion and meet stringent groundwater standards.

PlumeStop provides the first ever colloidal biomatrix for contaminated sites that rapidly reduces contaminant concentrations while enhancing bioremediation of a wide range of contaminants.

It reduces risk by being the first wide-area distribution, high-volume, sorptive media to be applied directly into groundwater.



## PlumeStop Coating on Soil Particle



## What the Reagent is

- Colloidal activated carbon (1 – 2  $\mu\text{m}$ )
  - Size of a bacterium – suspends as ‘liquid’
  - Huge surface area – extremely fast sorption
- Proprietary anti-clumping / distribution supporting surface treatment (patent applied for)
  - Core innovation
  - Enables wide-area, low-pressure distribution through the soil matrix without clogging
- Low-solubility / controlled availability matrix nutrients
  - Support in-matrix contaminant biodegradation
  - Does not impact groundwater / eutrophication

**PLUME STOP**  
Liquid Activated Carbon



## What it Treats

- CVOCs including ethenes and ethanes
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH, BTEX, etc.)
- MTBE, pesticides, and more

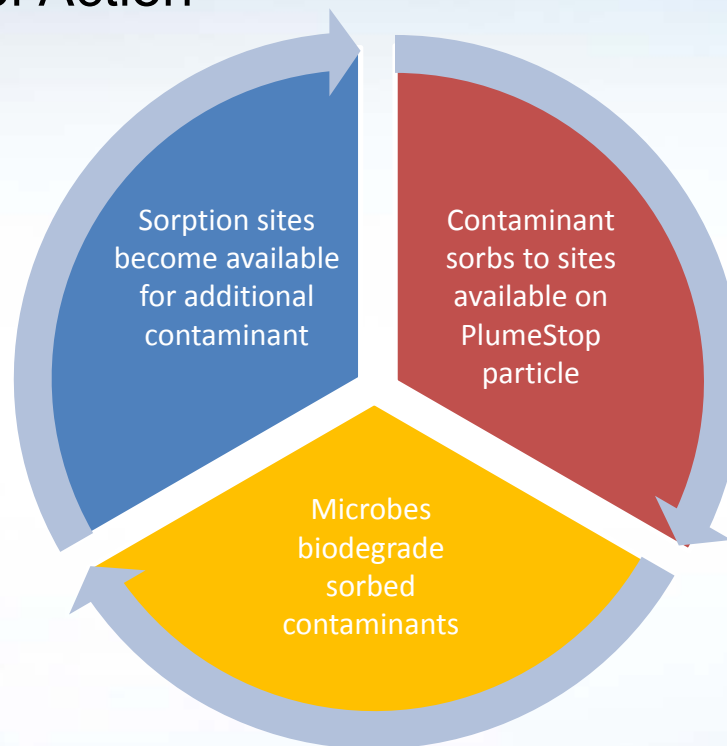


# Contaminants Sorbed, Now What?

## 3 Primary Methods of Contaminant Destruction

- Aerobic Treatment
  - Electron Acceptor Addition, Sparging...
- Anaerobic Treatment
  - Slow release electron donors
  - Lactate, recirculation systems
- Monitored Natural Attenuation/Intrinsic Remediation

## PlumeStop Mode of Action



## When/Where to Use

1. When time is critical
2. As a long-term barrier
3. To achieve stringent cleanup standards
4. To address matrix back diffusion

## Pitfalls – Things to Avoid

- High mass/high concentration zones
  - NAPL – too much to sorb, too much to bio
- Low resolution sites
  - Design Verification – “Infeasability Testing”

## How are we Different than other Carbon Approaches?

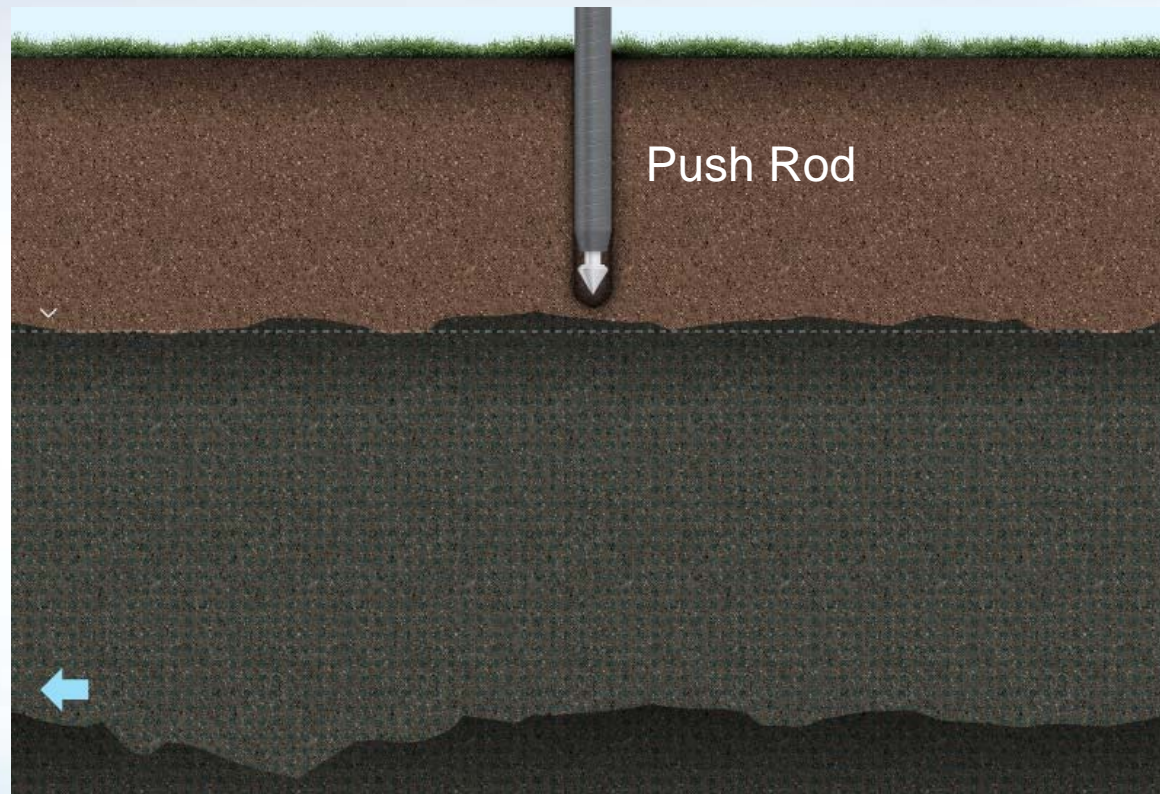
Injecting granular or powder activated carbon requires fracturing of aquifer formation (grain displacement) due to large particle size and agglomeration.

Results in:

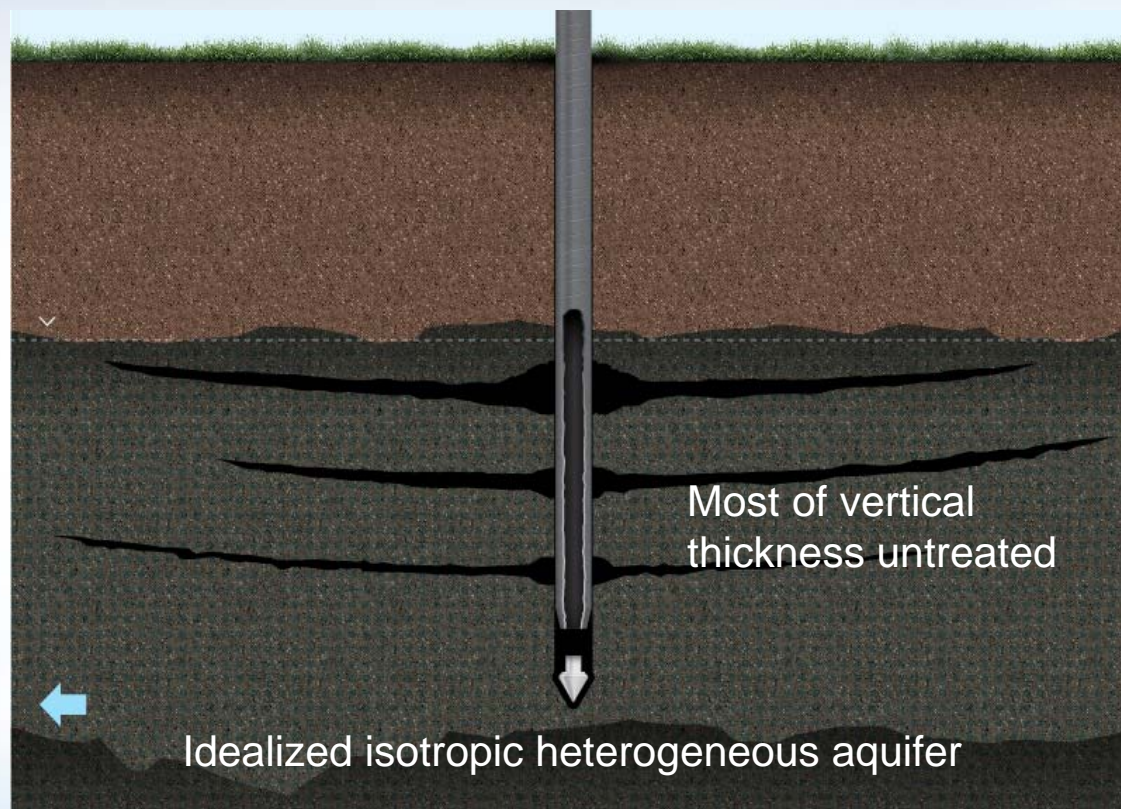
- Inefficient placement
- Only partial treatment of subsurface
- Can compromise monitoring wells



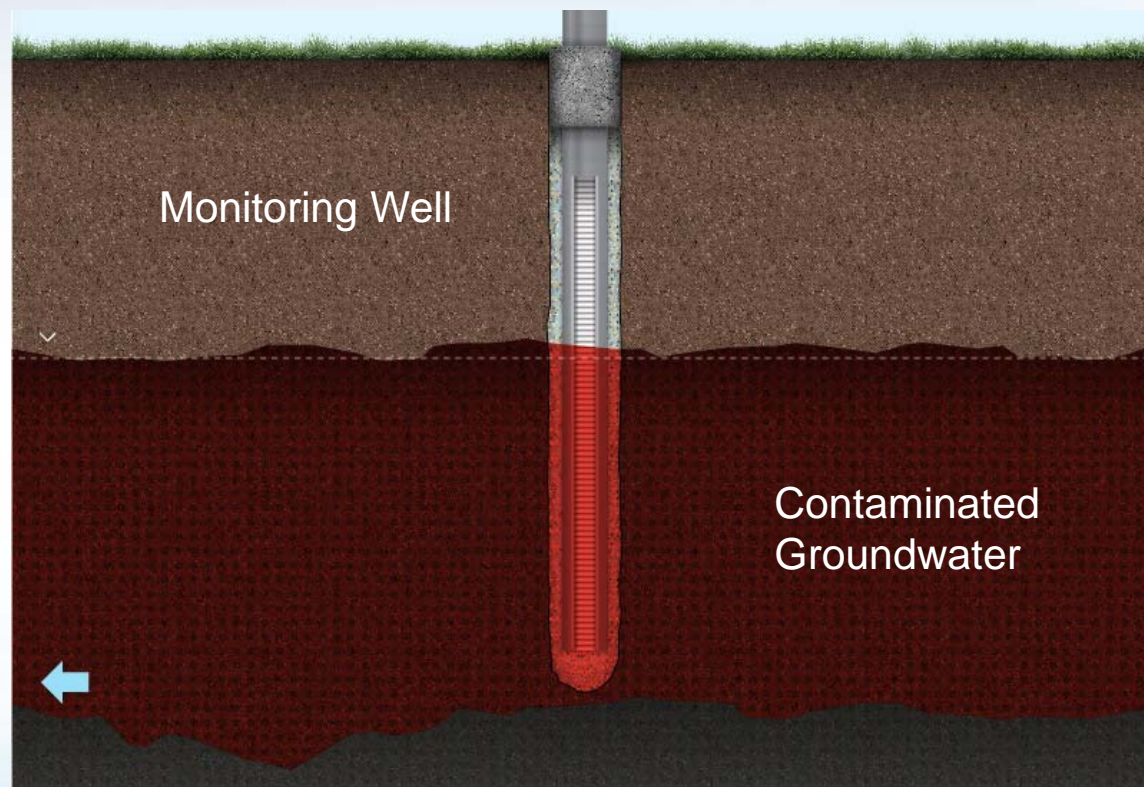
## Fracturing Carbon: Only Partial Treatment of Subsurface



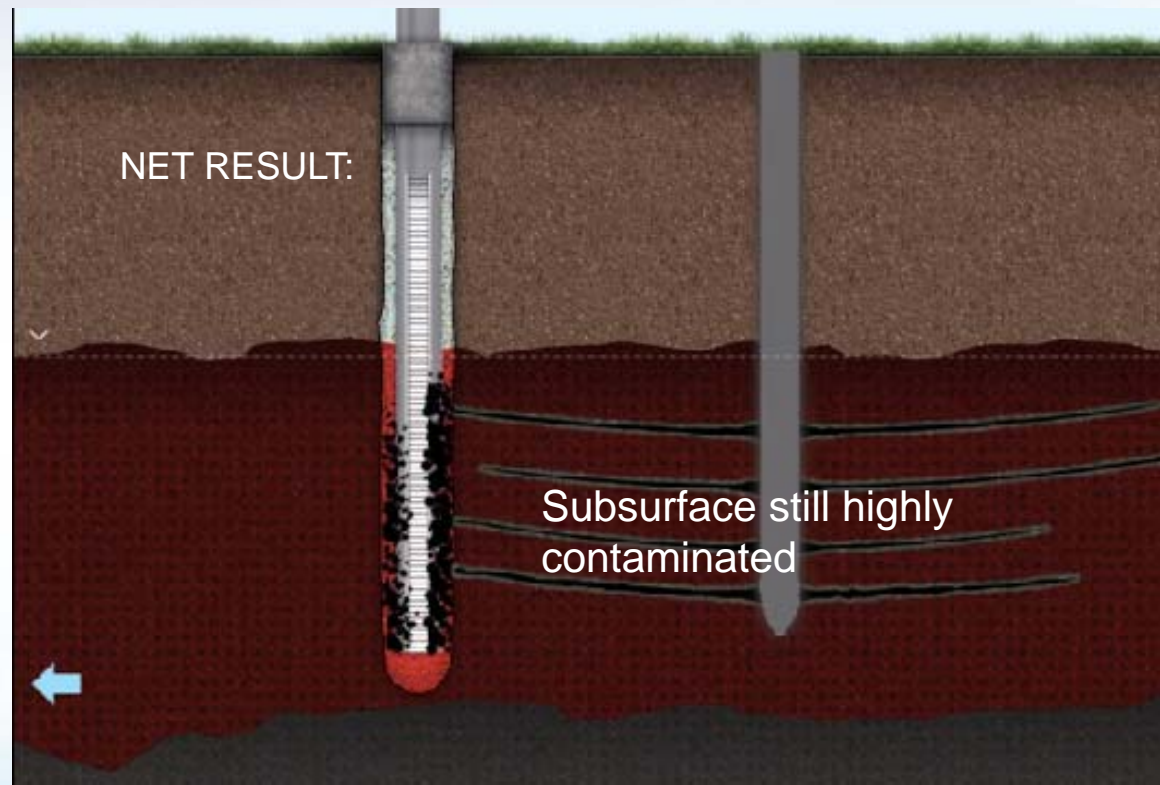
## Fracturing Carbon: Only Partial Treatment of Subsurface



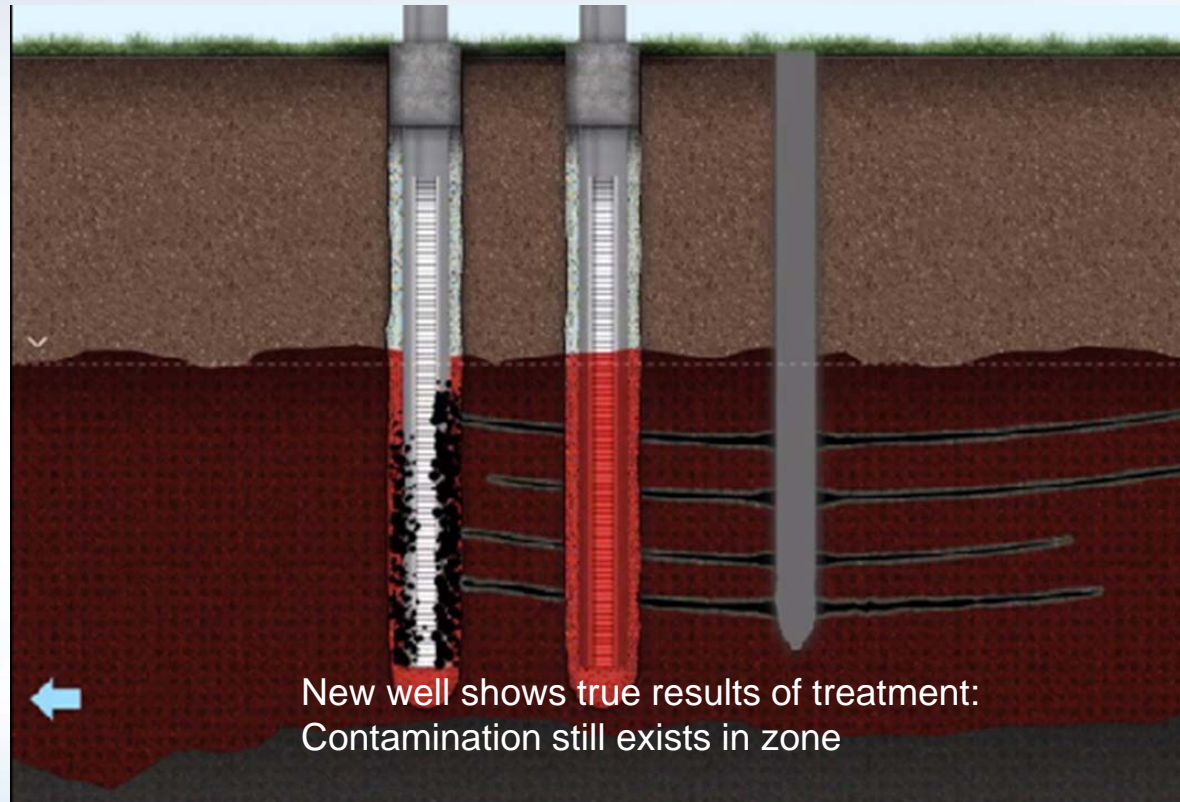
## Fracturing Carbon: Compromises Monitoring Wells



## Fracturing Carbon: Can Effect Monitoring Wells



## Post-Fracture Monitoring Requires New Well



## Effective Distribution

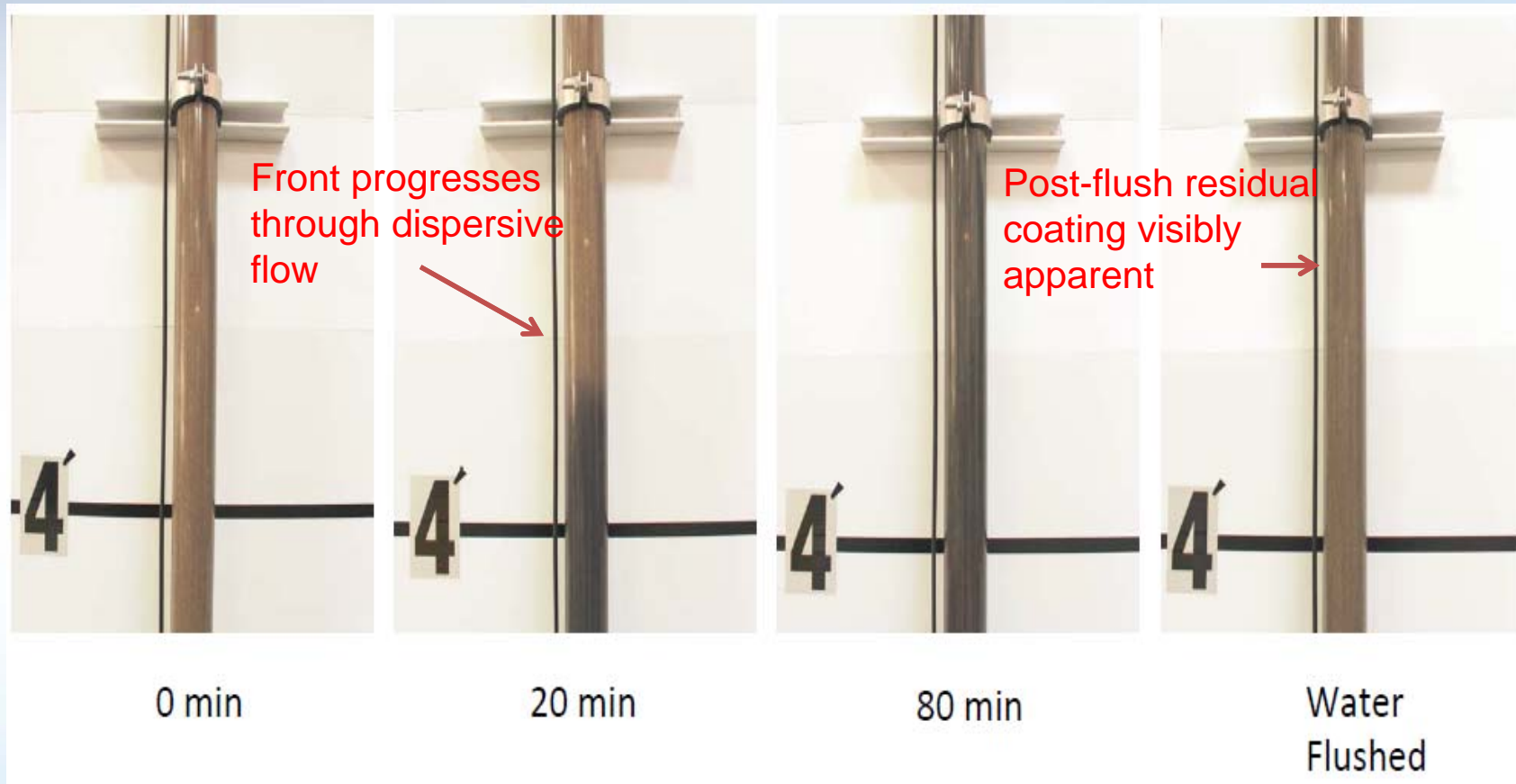
- To get more details on this topic read [Technical Bulletin 1.1 Distribution through a Permeable Medium](#)
- Long Column Study
  - 16 foot length (5m) (ID 2"; 5 cm)
  - Fine to medium silica sand (210 – 420  $\mu\text{m}$ )
  - 20% porosity (est.) (pore volume 0.5 gal; 2 L)



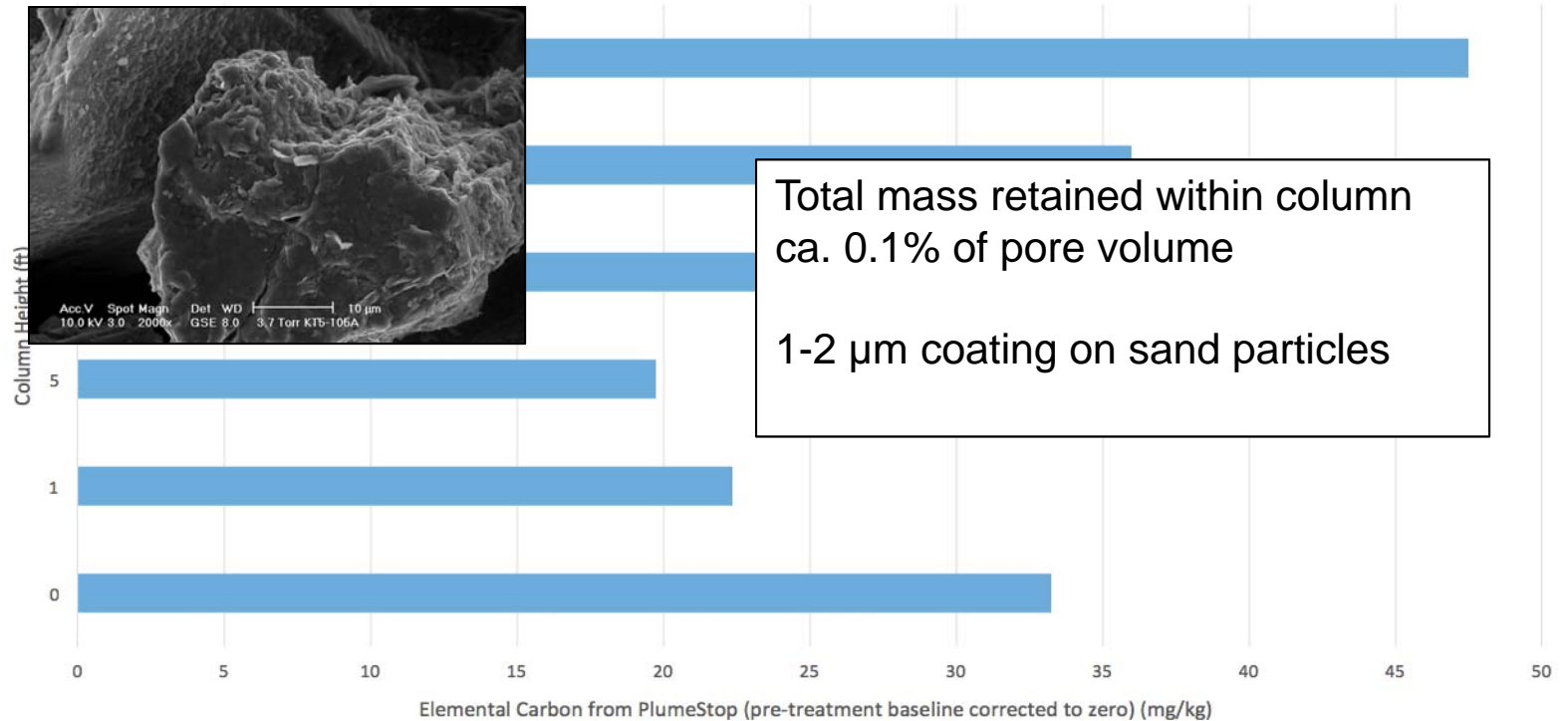


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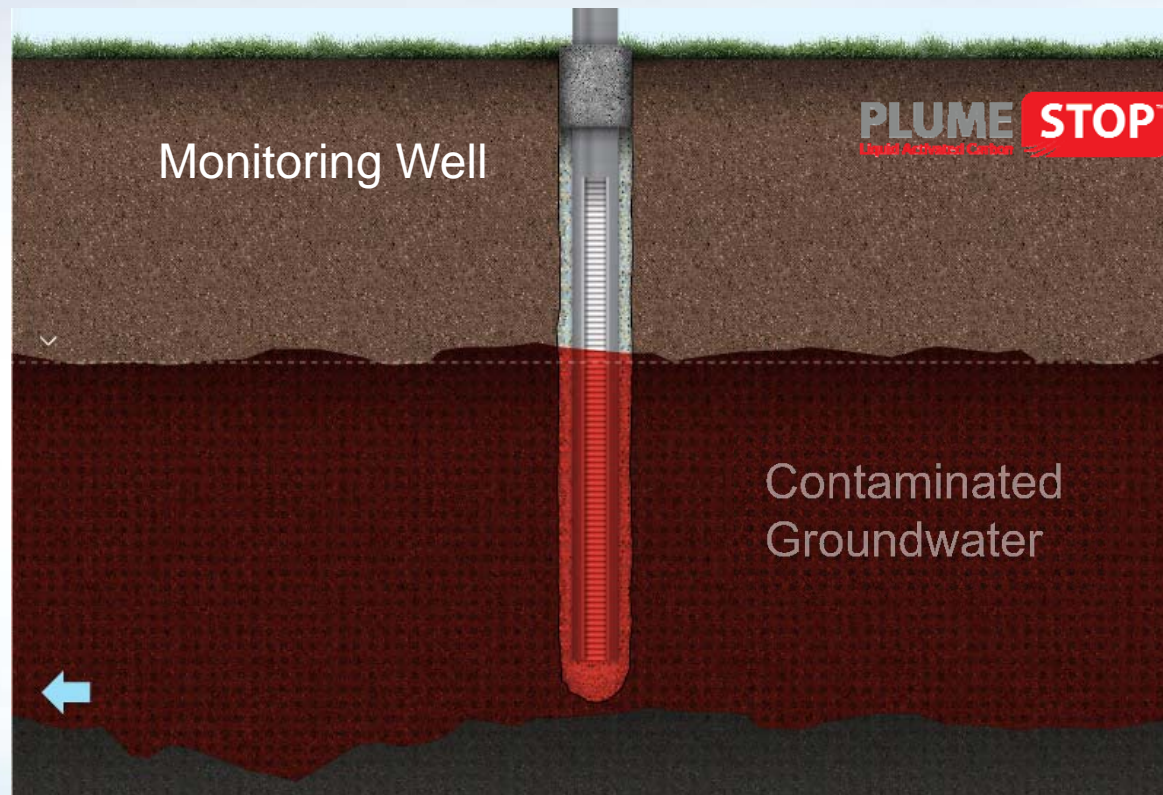




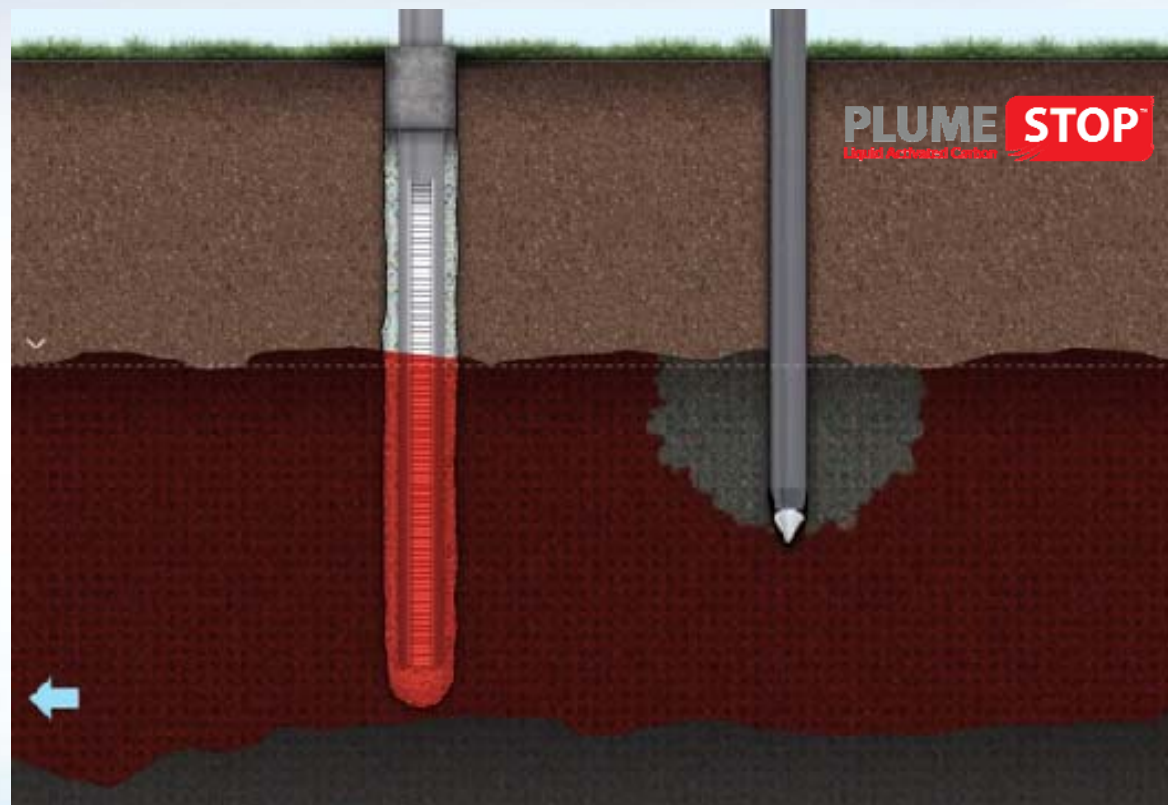
## Elemental Carbon Analysis (from column-dissection post-application)



## PlumeStop Flows into Subsurface



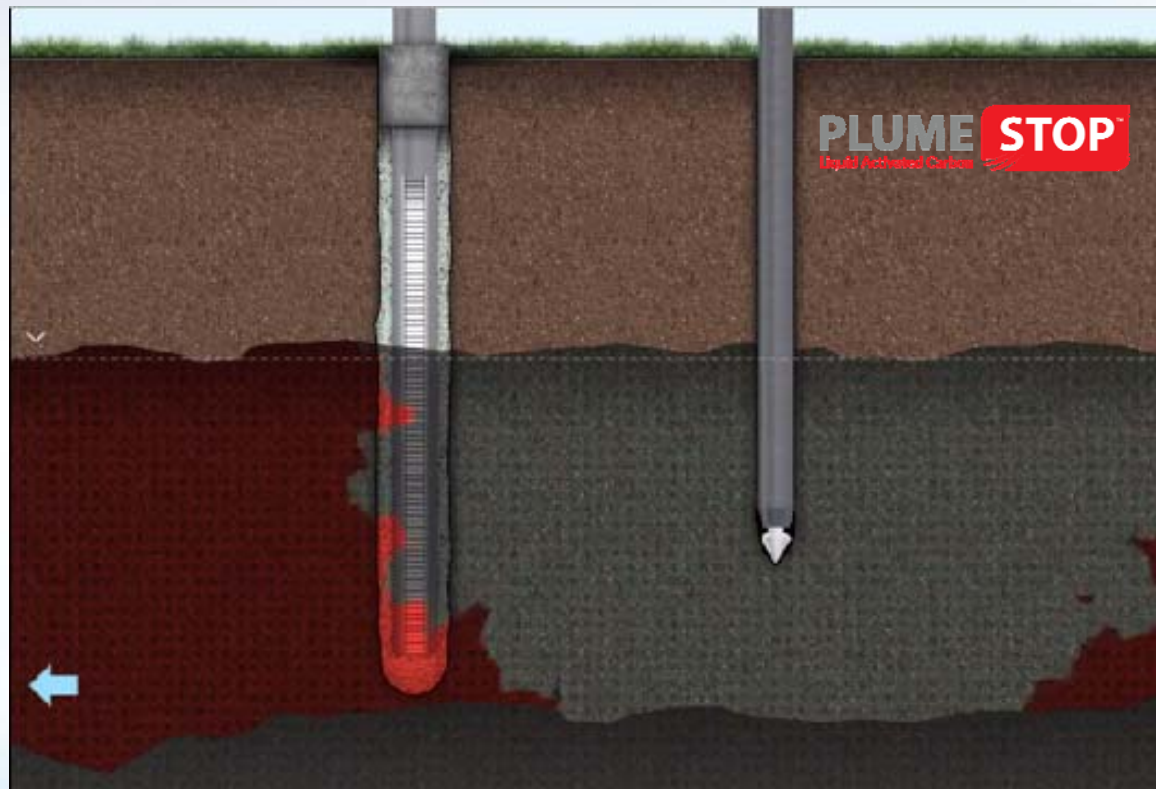
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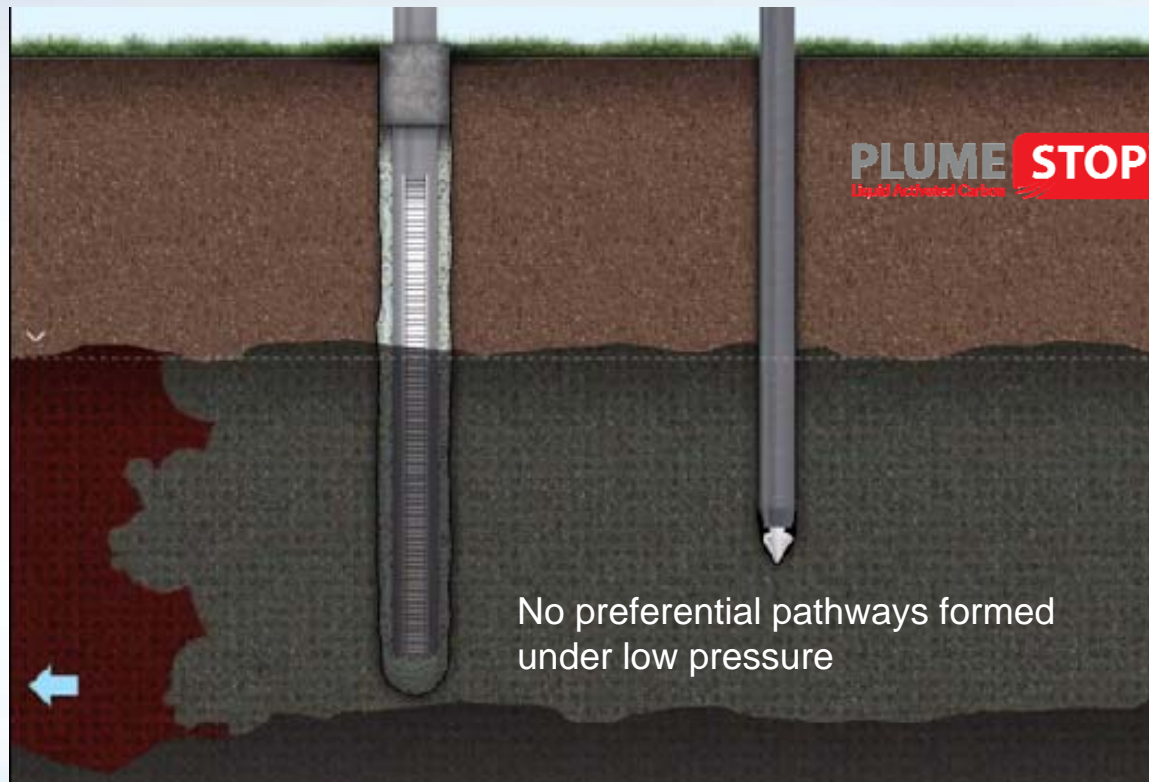


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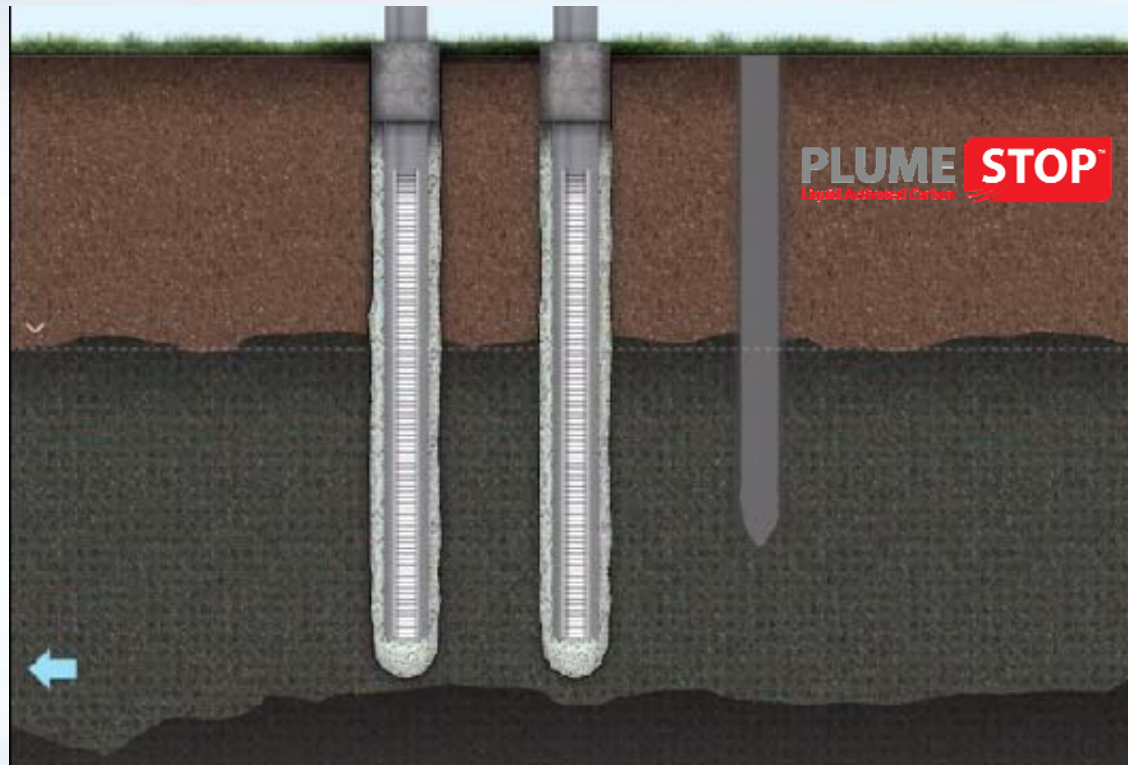


## Low Pressure Injection- Flows into Subsurface





## Low Pressure Injection Does Not Compromise Monitoring Wells



## Evidence of Dispersive Flow (low pressure application)

Pre-app



Post-app



- Distribution of PlumeStop through target zone visually apparent
- Even dispersion evident through permeable strata

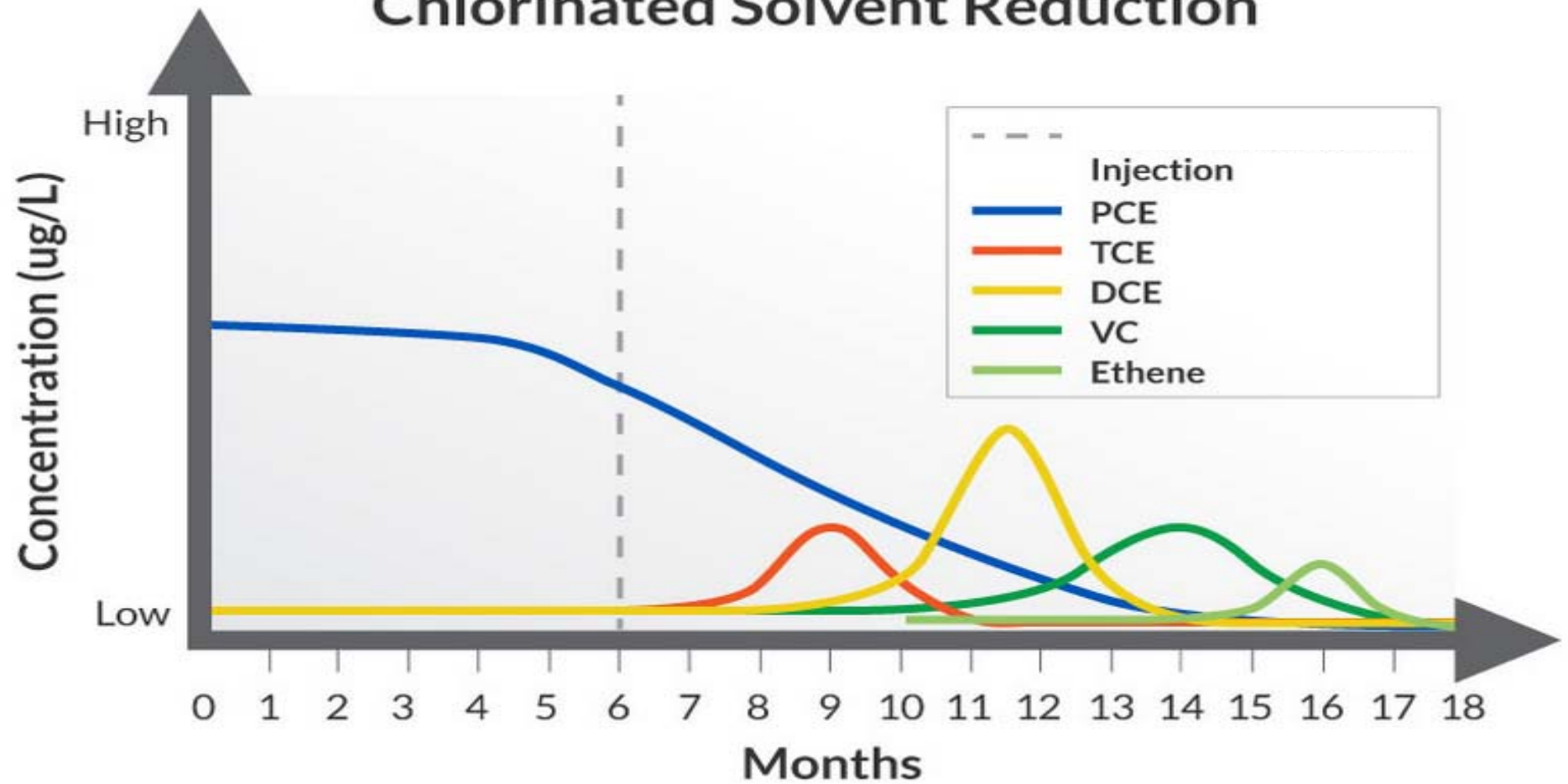




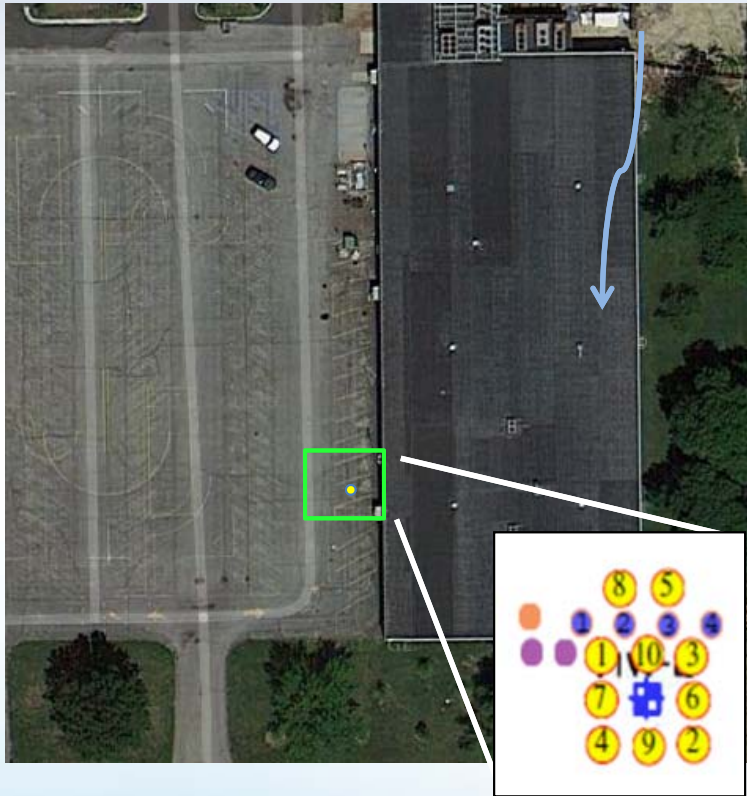
## Field Performance

How fast does it work?  
How long does it last?  
Is biodegradation occurring?

## Chlorinated Solvent Reduction



## Midwest Chlorinated VOC Site

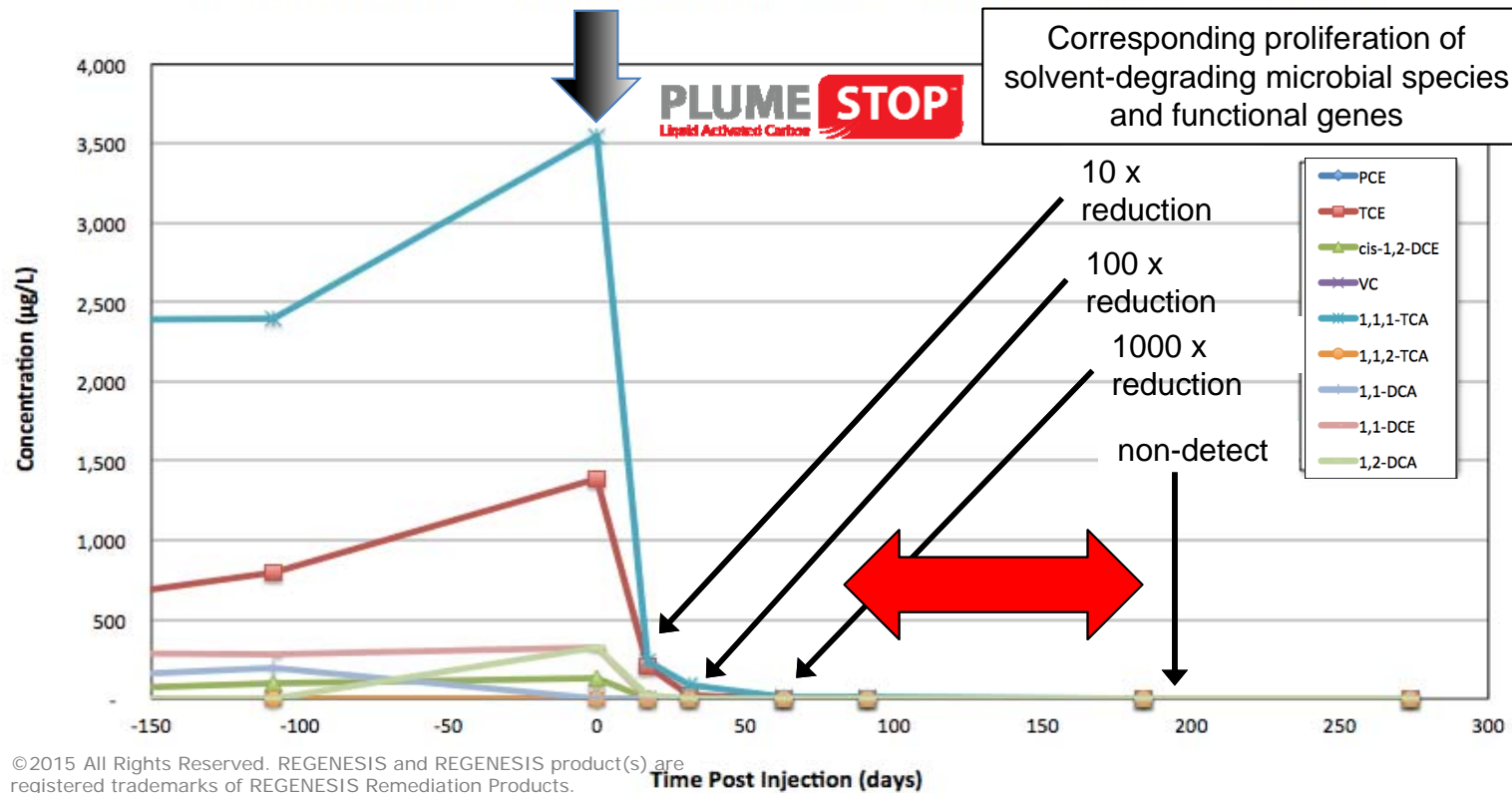


- Former electronics facility
- Contaminants: TCA, TCE, etc.
  - TCE 1,390  $\mu\text{g/L}$
  - TCA 3,550  $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Treatment Area
  - Plume area only, no NAPL
  - PlumeStop: 10-pt low pressure injection grid around MW-6
  - HRC electron donor applied up-gradient

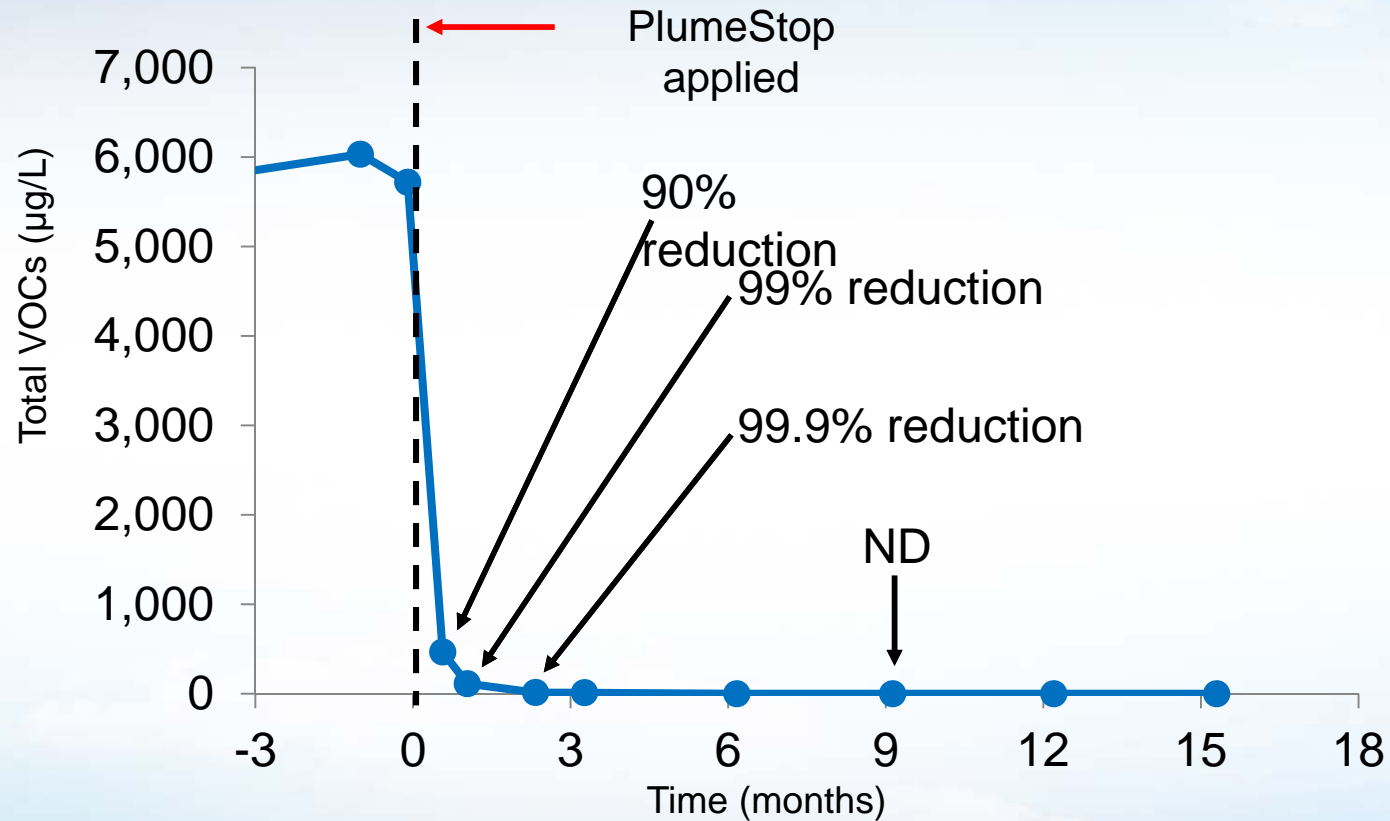
## PlumeStop - Parameters at Midwest Project

- Sand to silty-sand
- Depth to groundwater 3 – 4 m (10 – 13 feet)
- Seepage velocity 3.7 m/yr (12 ft/yr) to the southwest

## VOC Groundwater Concentrations Following PlumeStop™ and HRC® Injection



## Groundwater Data: CVOC site





## Performance

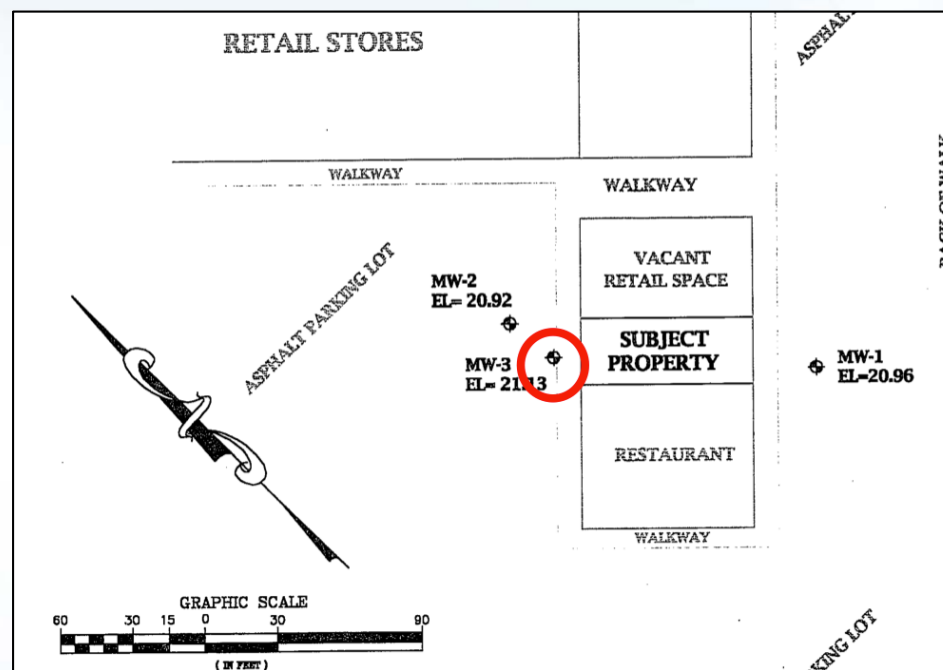
- Chlorinated solvents
- Post-sorption degradation
- Lines of evidence



Closed

## California Site

- 'Dune Sand' formation
- 10 m/year groundwater flow
- High redox conditions (aerobic)
- No attenuation evident
- PCE 550 µg/L
- No daughter products
- PlumeStop
- Electron donor and bacteria



## Historic Data

MW-3 (ppb)

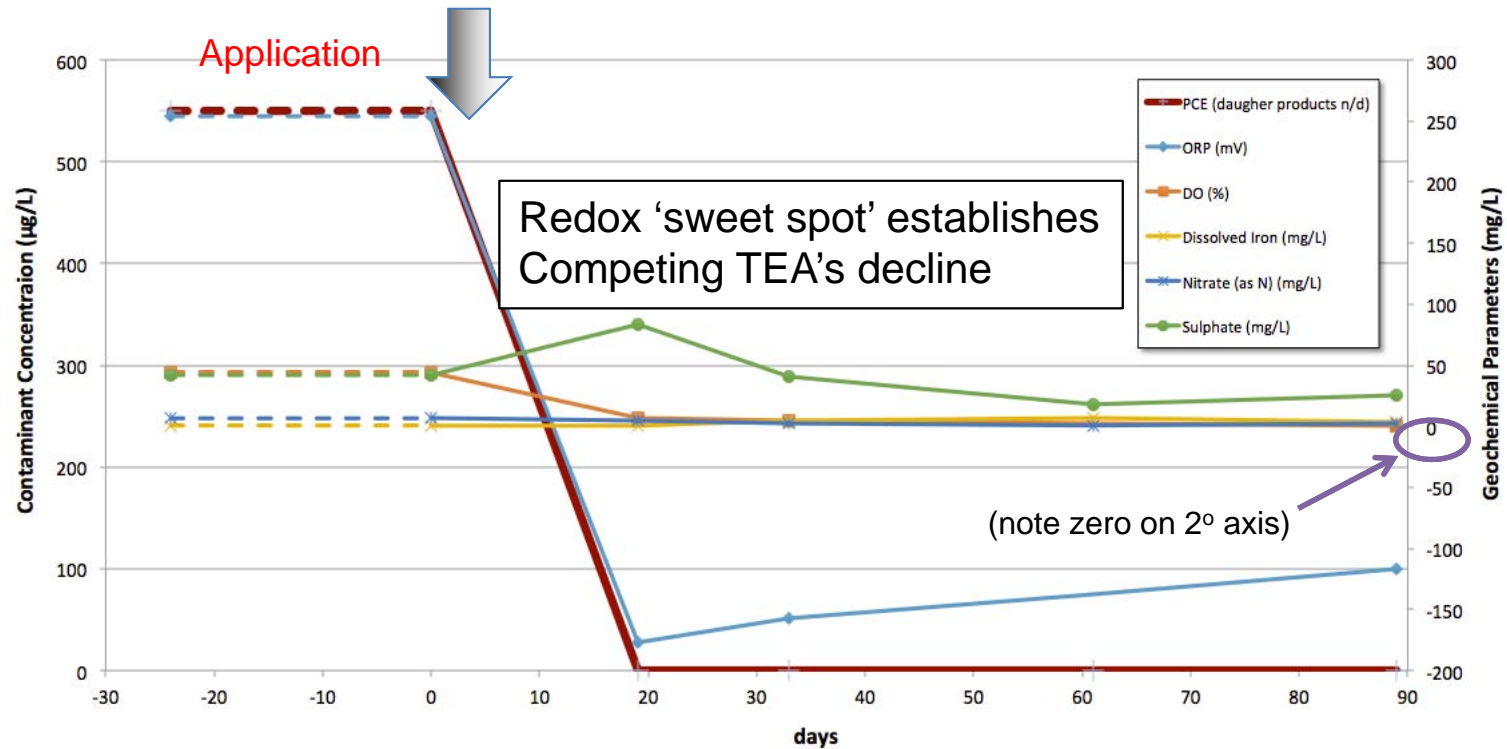
Year	PCE	TCE	VC	1,2 Cis	VC
2001	156	0	0	0	0
2002	94	0	0	0	0
2002.5	242	0	0	0	0
2003	174	0	0	0	
2004	147	0	0	0	
2005	122	0	0	0	
2006	203	0	0	0	
2007	584	0	0	0	
2008	310	0	0	0	
2009	587	0	0	0	
2010	330	0	0	0	
2011	501	0	0	0	0
2012	499	0	0	0	0

Steadily increasing PCE

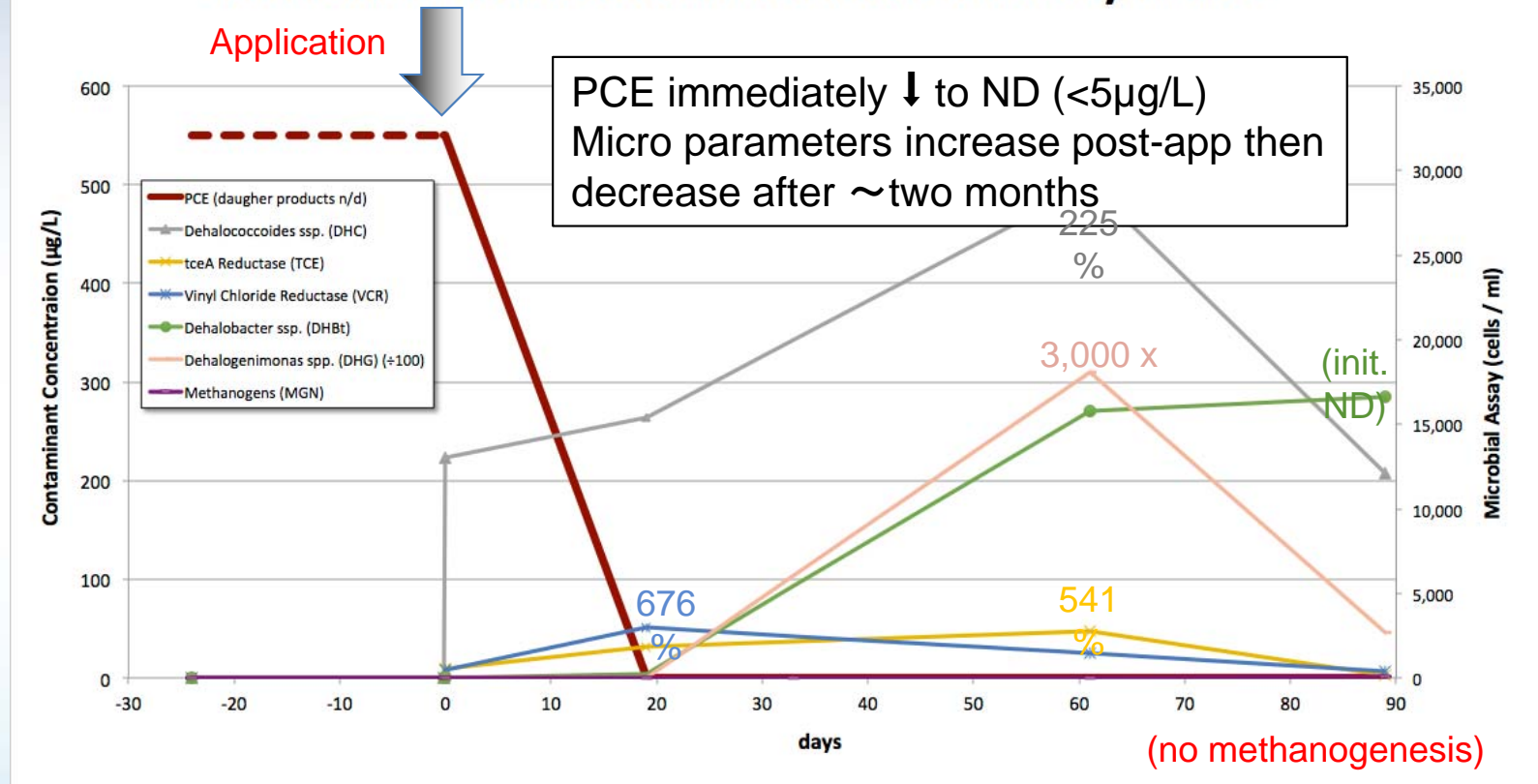
No daughter products

(aerobic conditions)

## Contaminant and Geochemical Trends

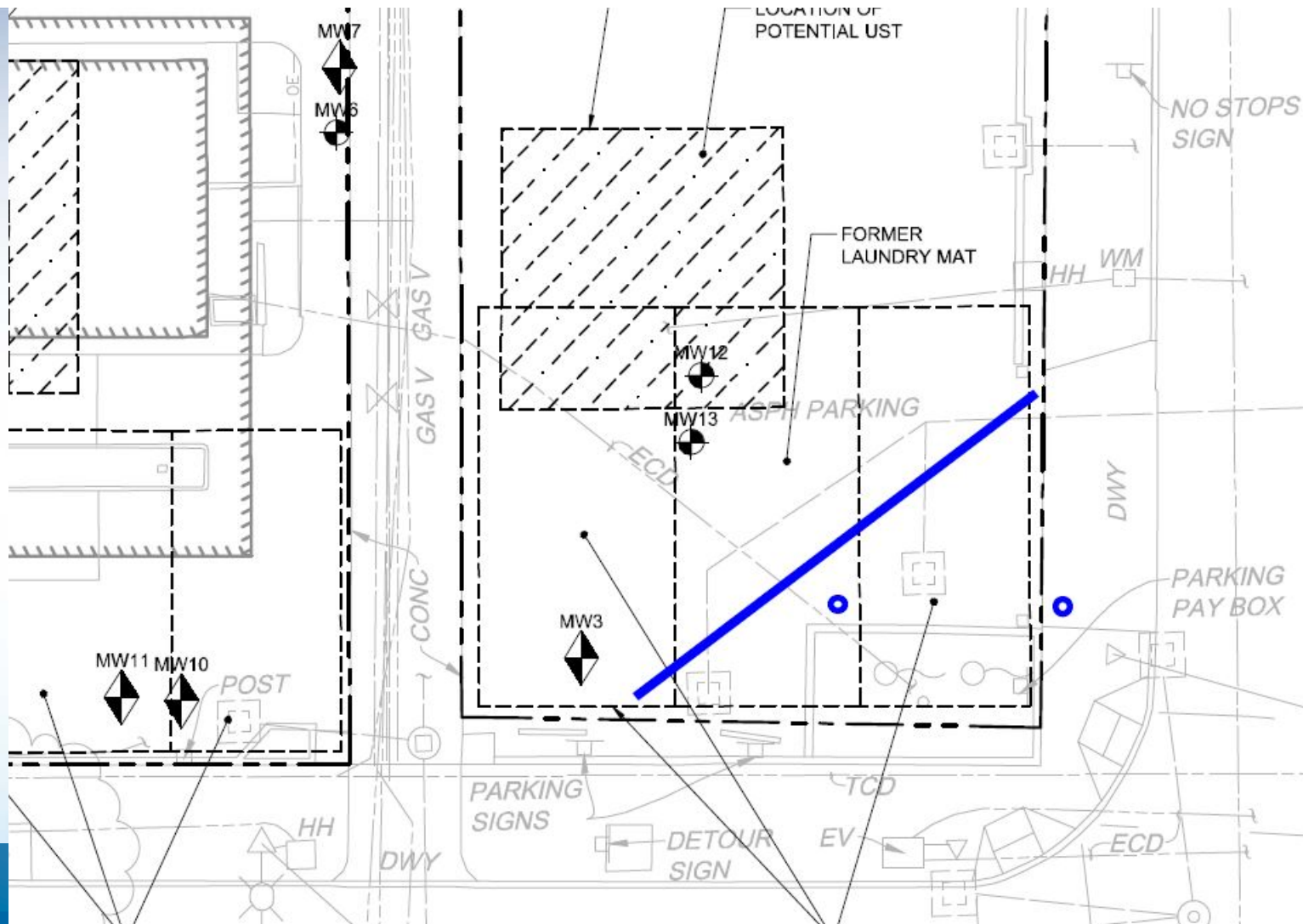


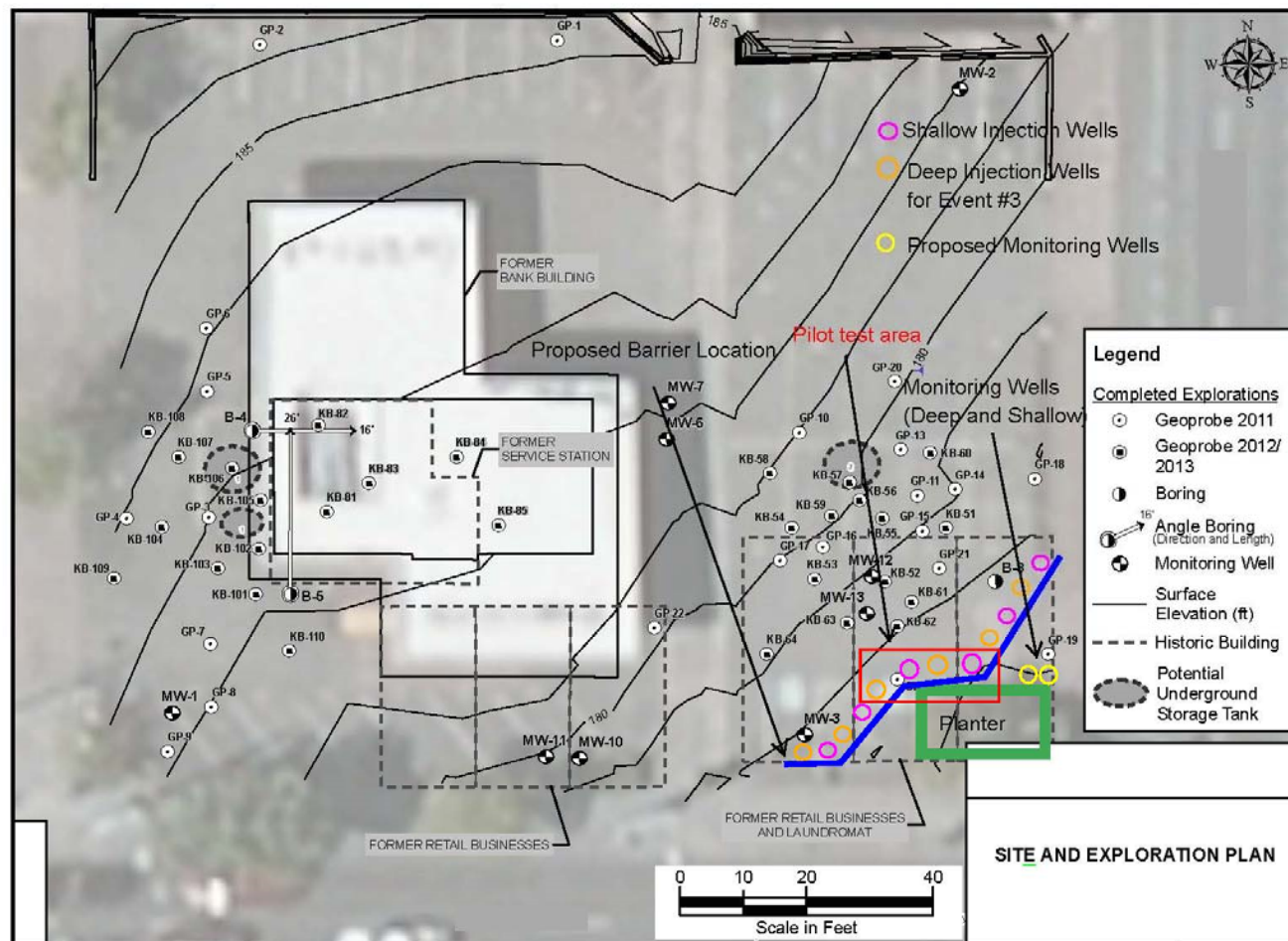
## Contaminant and Dechlorination Microbial Assay Trends



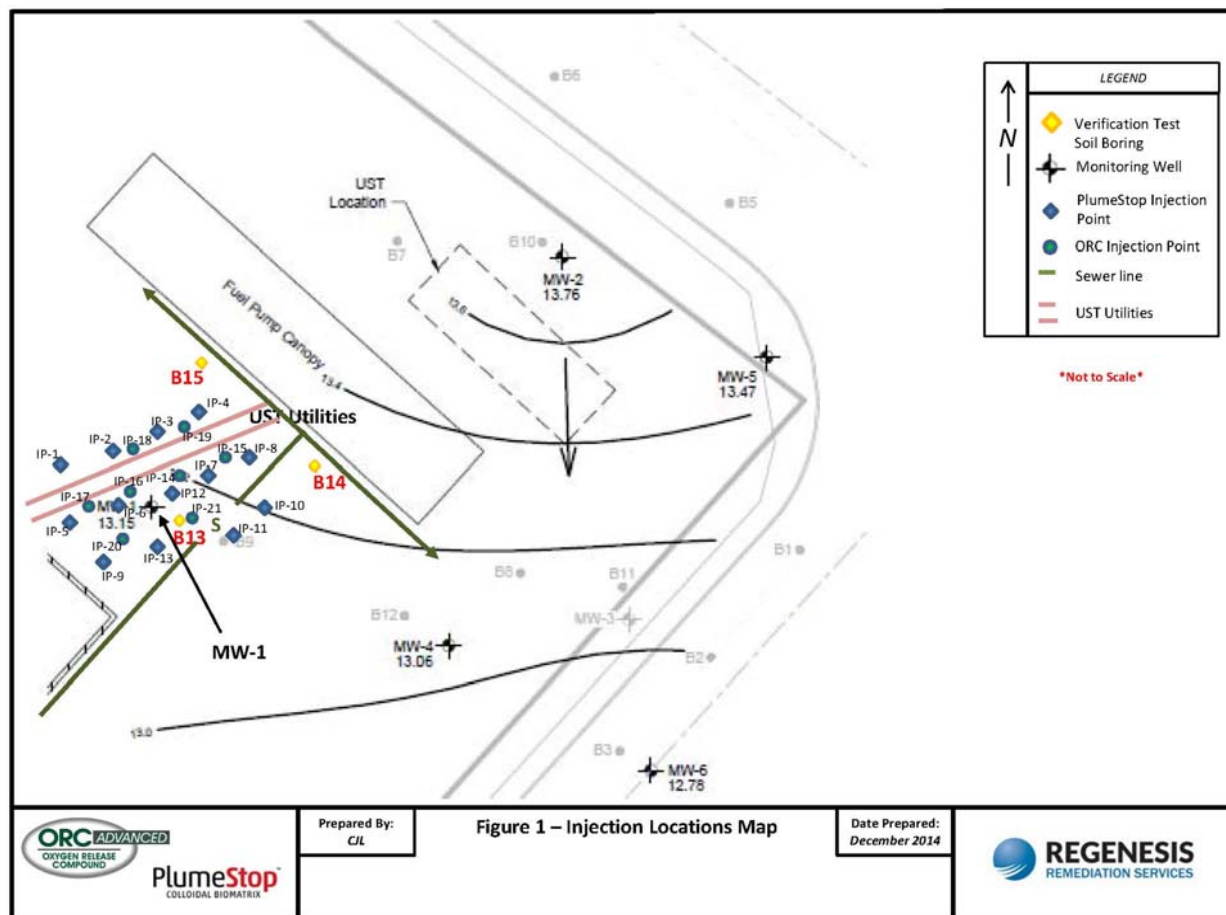
# Northwest Case Studies:

- 1) Mixed Plumes- Former dry cleaner and service station
- 2) Active gas station

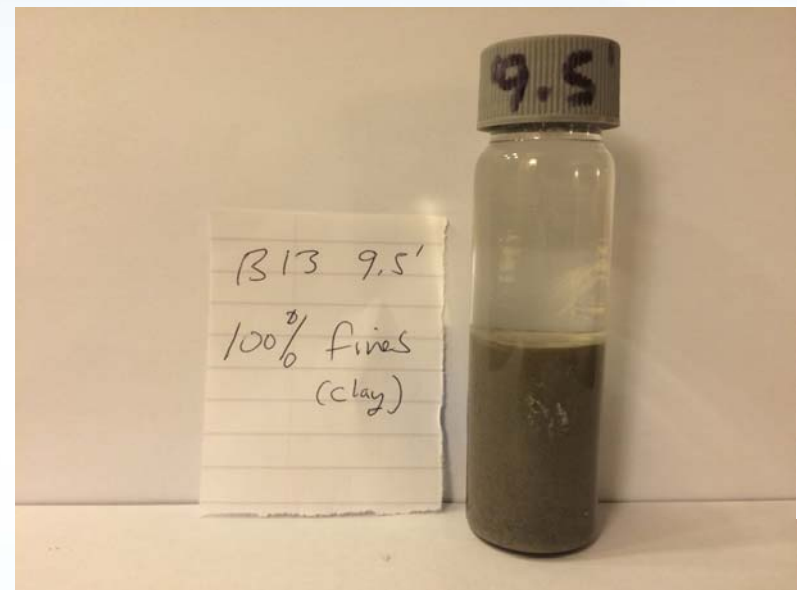
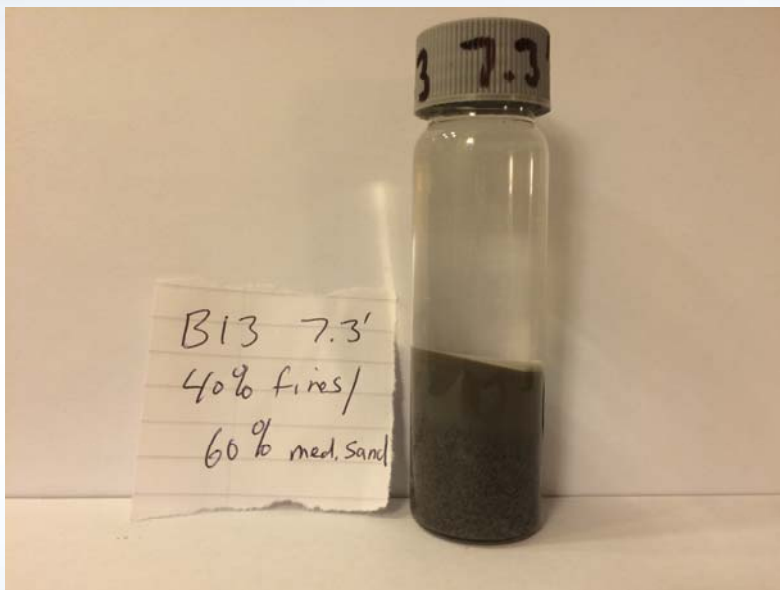








## Soil Settling Tube Tests (aka Field Hydrometers)





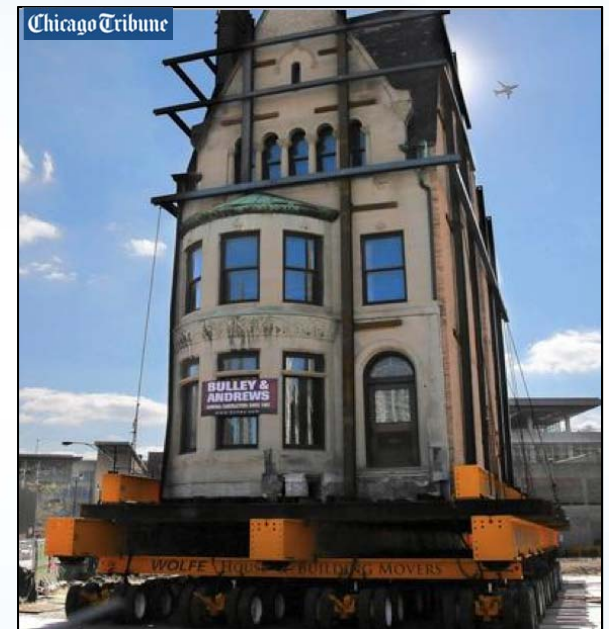
## Case Study: Real Estate Development – Time Pressure

- Neighborhood of McCormick Place – Central Chicago
  - New Sports Stadium
  - New Hotel Complex
- Solvent residues
- Tight time window
- High cost implications of delay
- Key remediation requirement: FAST



## Case Study: Inner City Development – Time Pressure

- Why the tight time window?
  - Weren't the solvent residues known?
- Access restrictions – historic buildings
  - Precluded early start
- Problem was moved aside



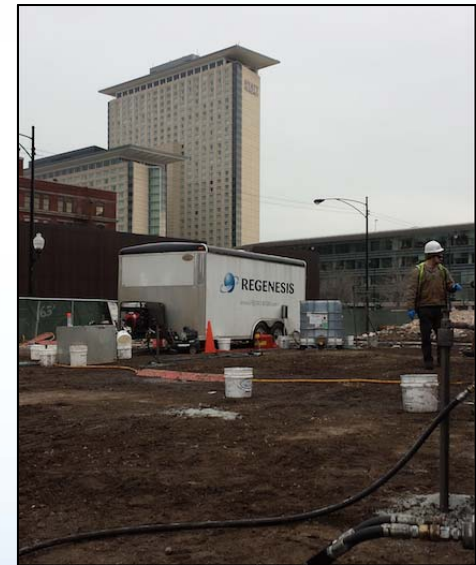
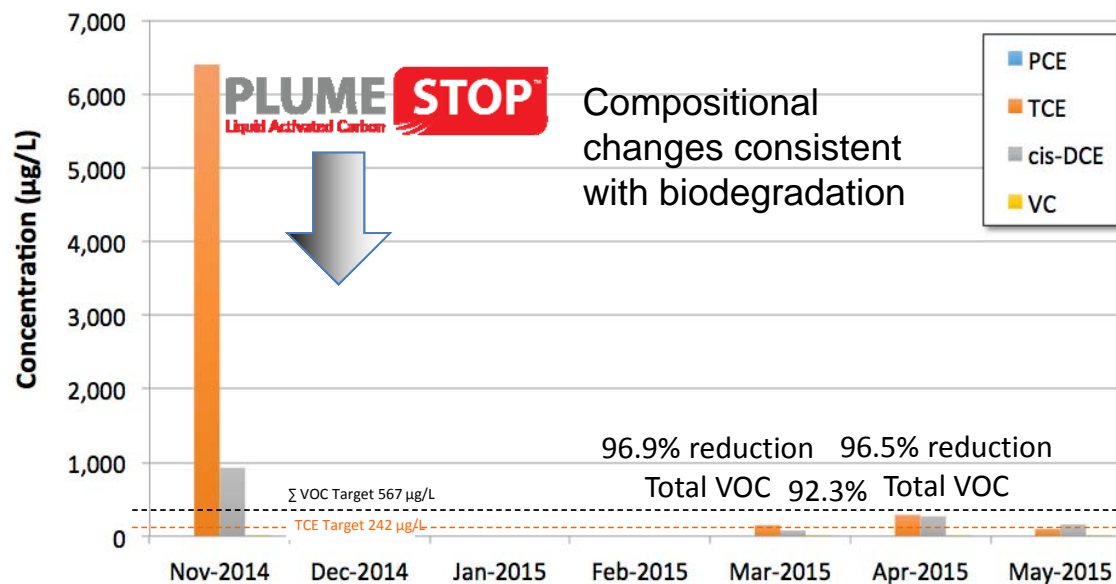
## Site Details

- PCE and TCE – up to 7,440 µg/L
- Sand formation over clay
  - Treatment area 300 m x 500 m – (1,000' x 1,600')
  - Treatment Zone 3 – 7 mbgl - (10' – 22')

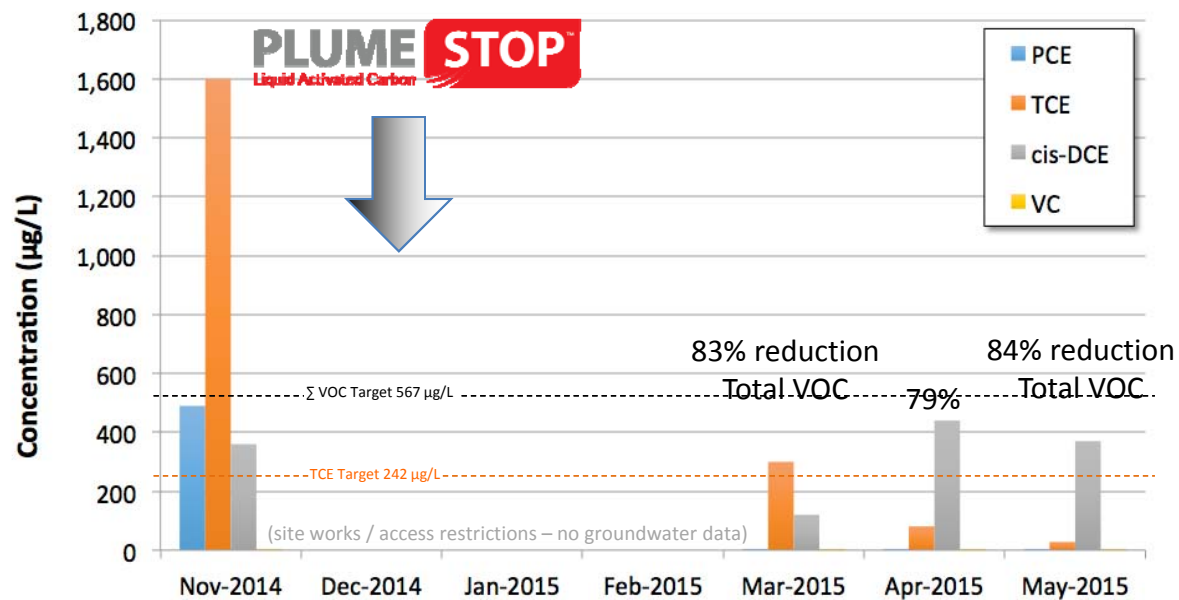
Enhanced bio: HRC<sup>®</sup>, BDI<sup>®</sup>

- Sufficient to address the contamination
- PlumeStop
  - Rapid risk reduction and bio process acceleration
  - Take the bio process out of the groundwater phase
- 17 days' fieldwork on site (Chicago winter)
  - 138 direct-push injections – no resident equipment

## Chicago Site - Well AW-3-2 VOC



## Chicago Site - Well AW-3-3 VOC





How fast does it work?:

Generally > 90% reduction within 30 to 60 days.

How long does it last?

Indefinitely if electron donor/acceptors present.

Is biodegradation occurring?

Multiple lines of evidence indicate complete biodegradation.

## PlumeStop – When To Use?

1. When time is critical
2. For control of migrating contamination
3. To secure stringent clean-up targets
4. As a long-term means of addressing matrix back-diffusion
5. When remediation performance is flat-lining

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