

# IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRODE DESIGN IN MEETING REMEDIAL GOALS

John LaChance | October 15, 2015

**RemTech 2015**

October 14-16, 2015 - Fairmont Banff Springs



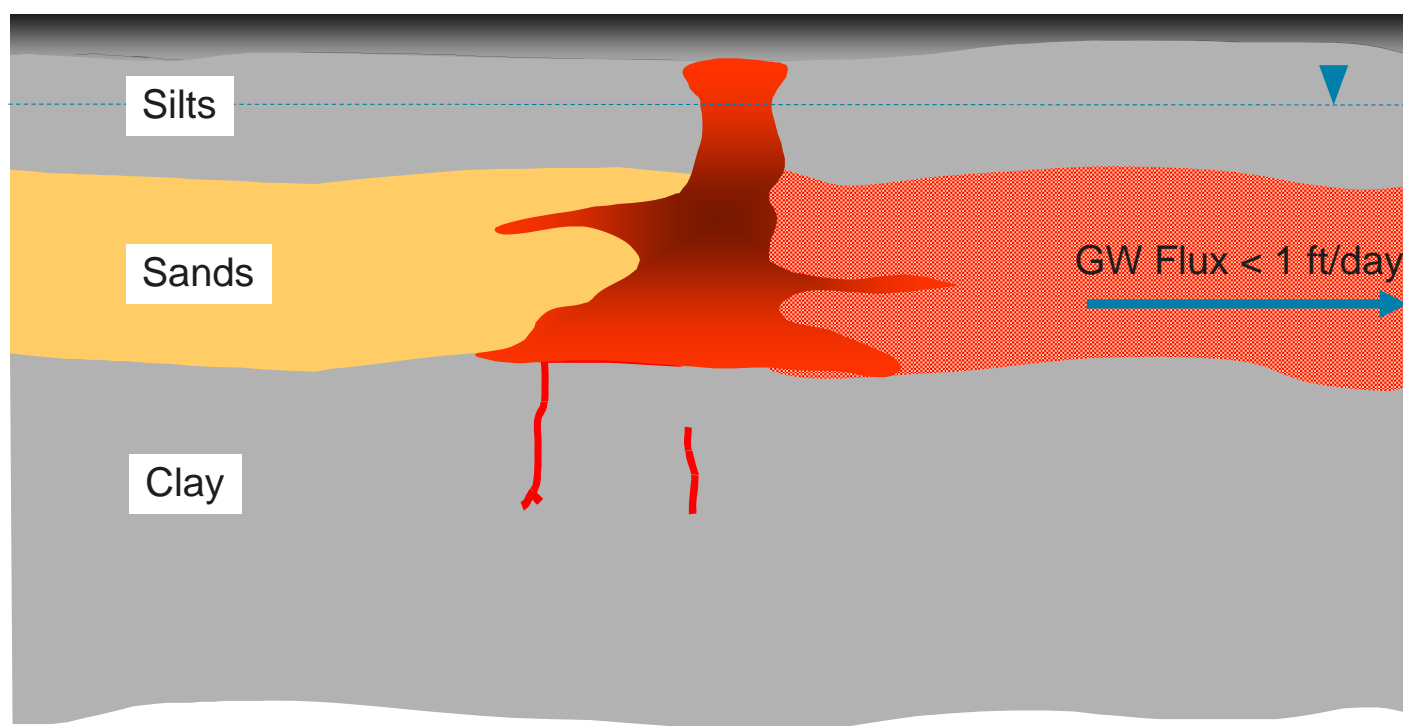
# Maximizing Your Potential for Meeting Remedial Goals: *The Importance of Electrode Design and Installation at a Site with Varying Treatment Depths*

- Introduction and Problem Statement
- Case Study
  - Site Background
  - Analysis of Electrode Design Options
  - Results
- Summary

## Outline

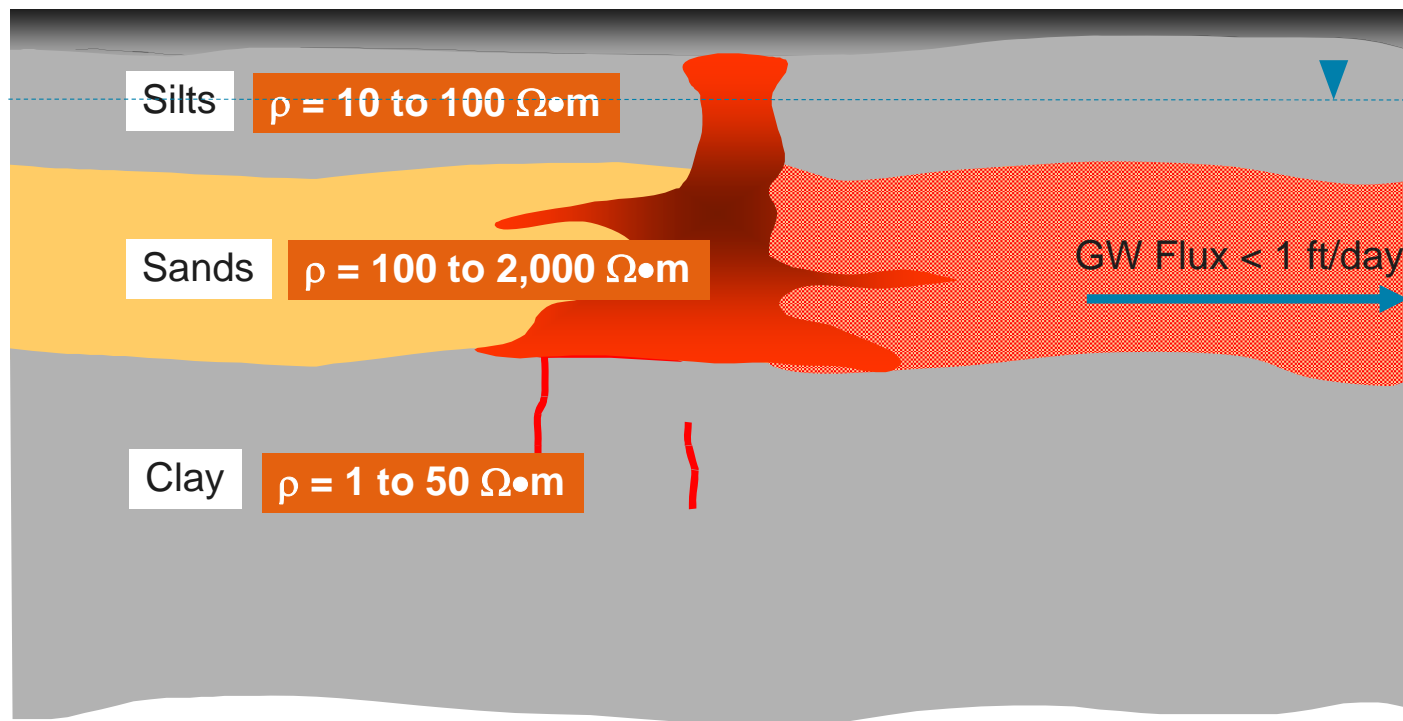
*“Not all designs are created equal”*

## Introduction – Problem Statement



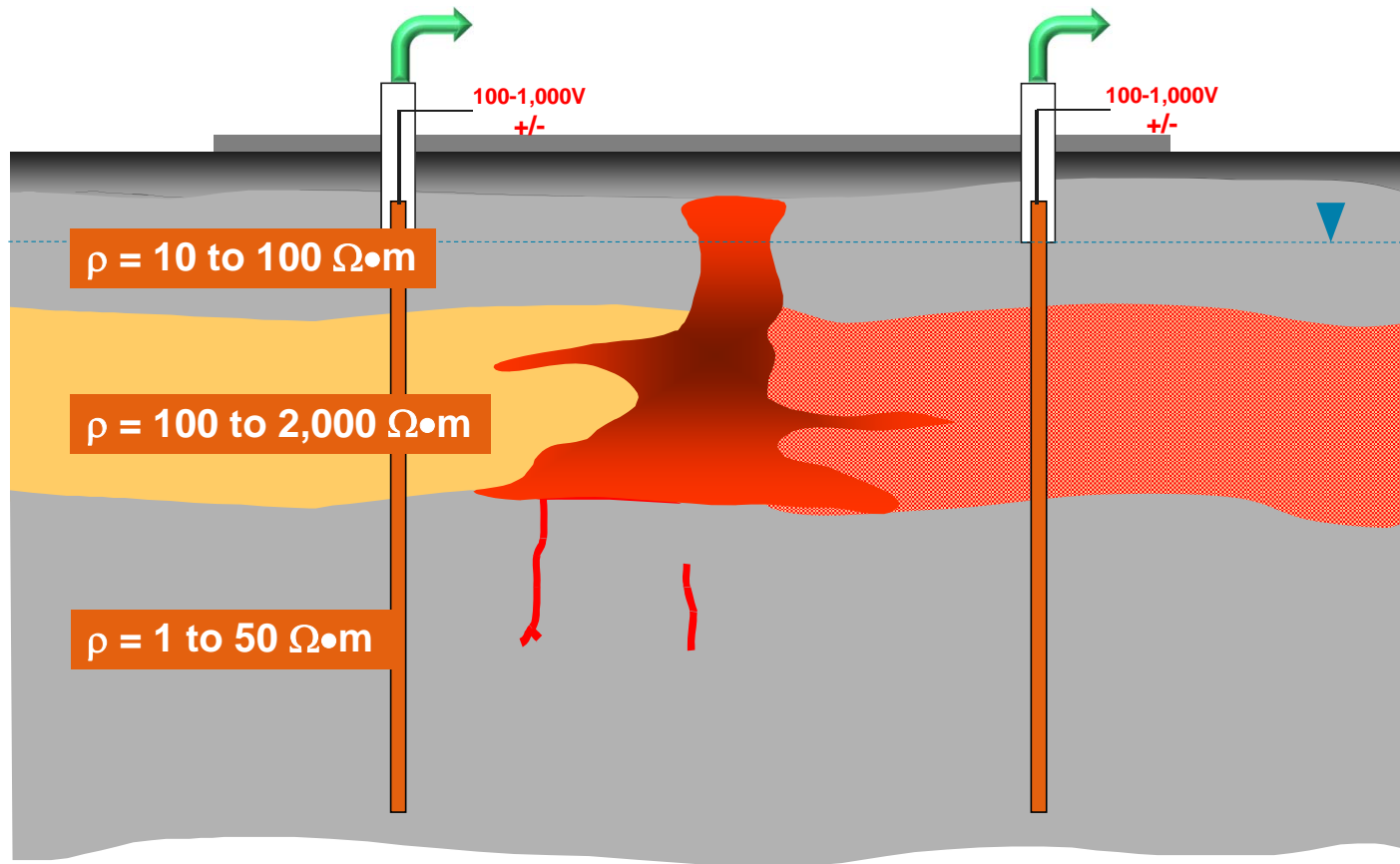
**CVOC  
Source  
Zone to be  
Treated  
With  
Electrical  
Resistance  
Heating  
(ERH)**

## Introduction – Problem Statement



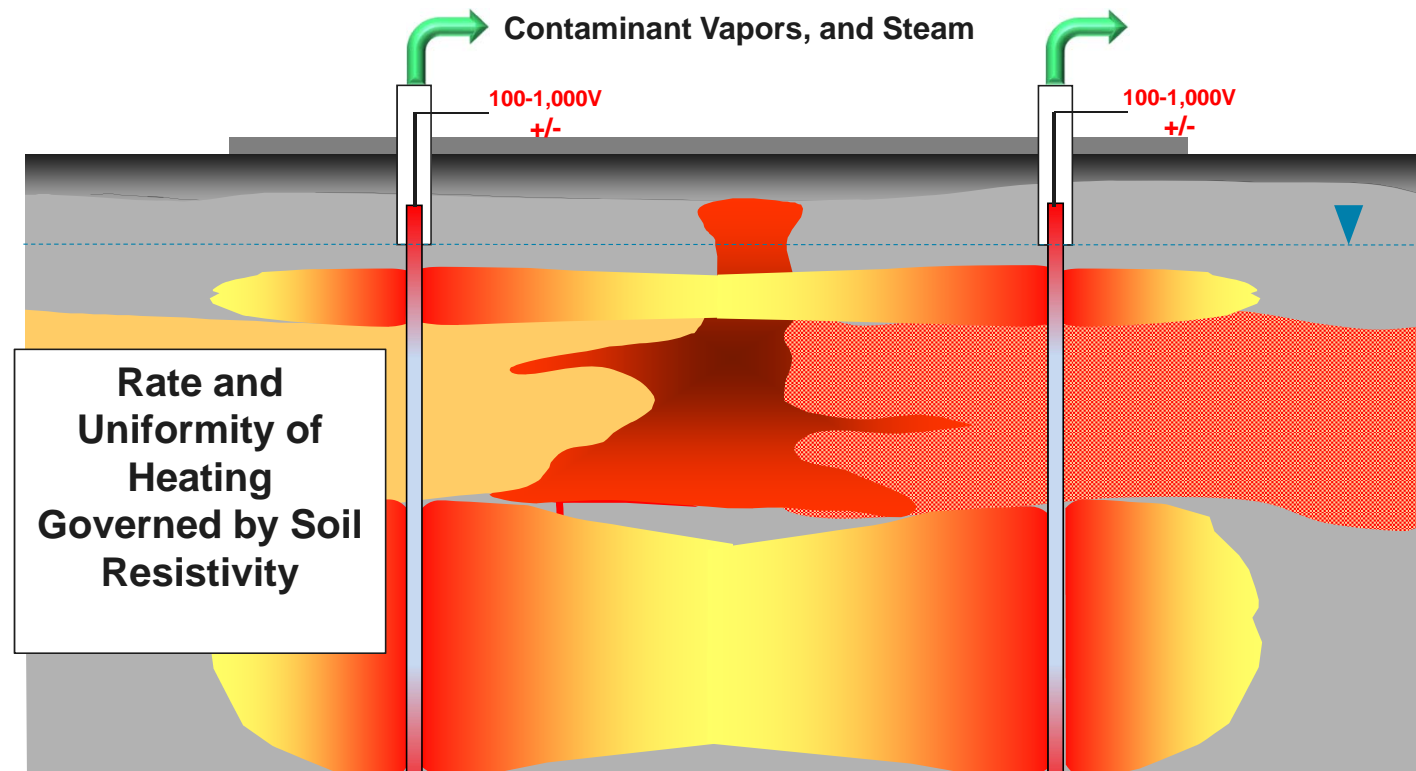
**CVOC  
Source  
Zone to be  
Treated  
With  
Electrical  
Resistance  
Heating  
(ERH)**

## Introduction – Problem Statement



But is one  
long  
electrode  
the best  
approach?

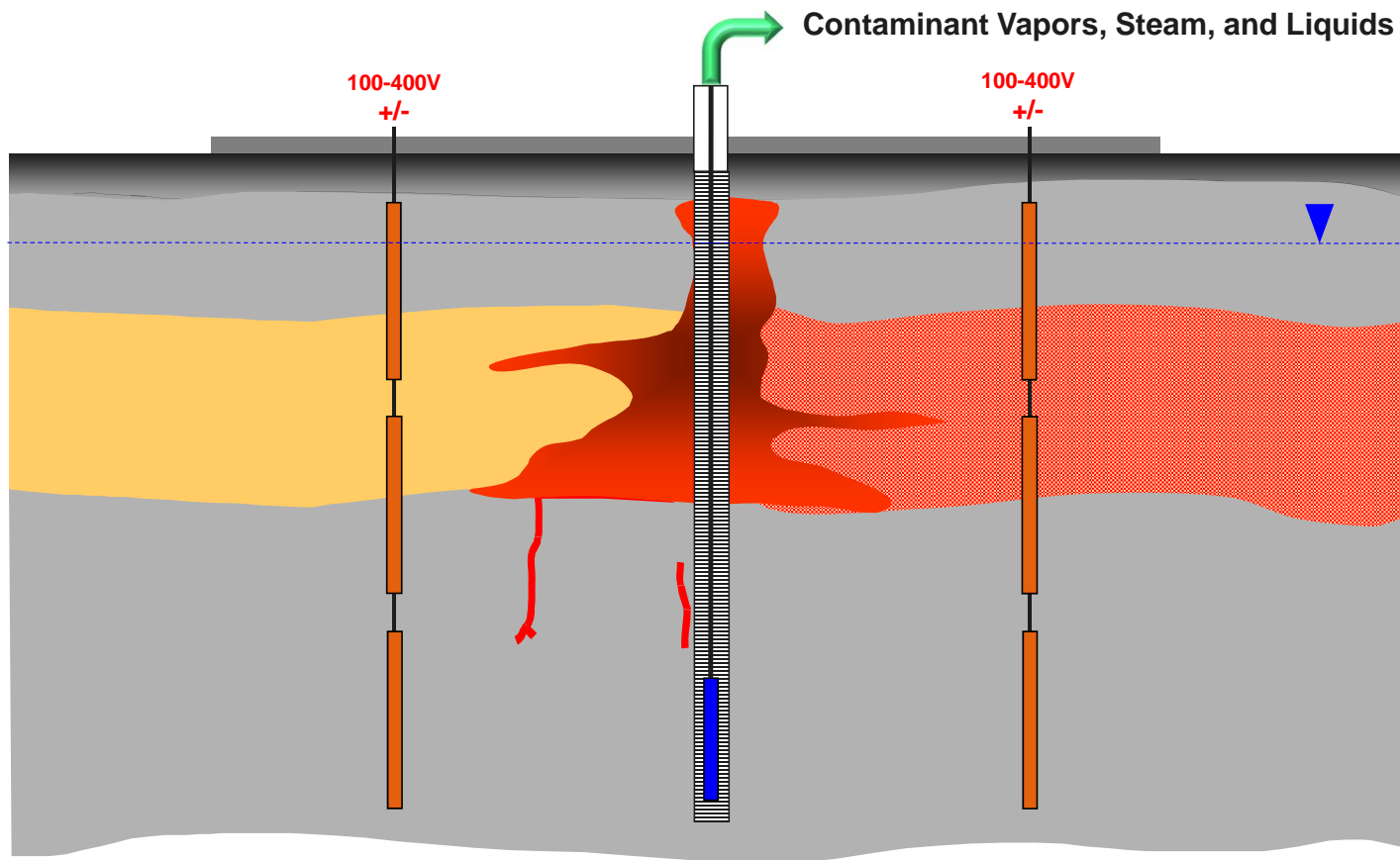
## Introduction – Problem Statement



The challenges of using one long electrode: may be cheaper to install but harder to control.

***Non-Uniform and Potentially Insufficient Heating***

## Alternate Approach: Finite Length Stacked Electrodes

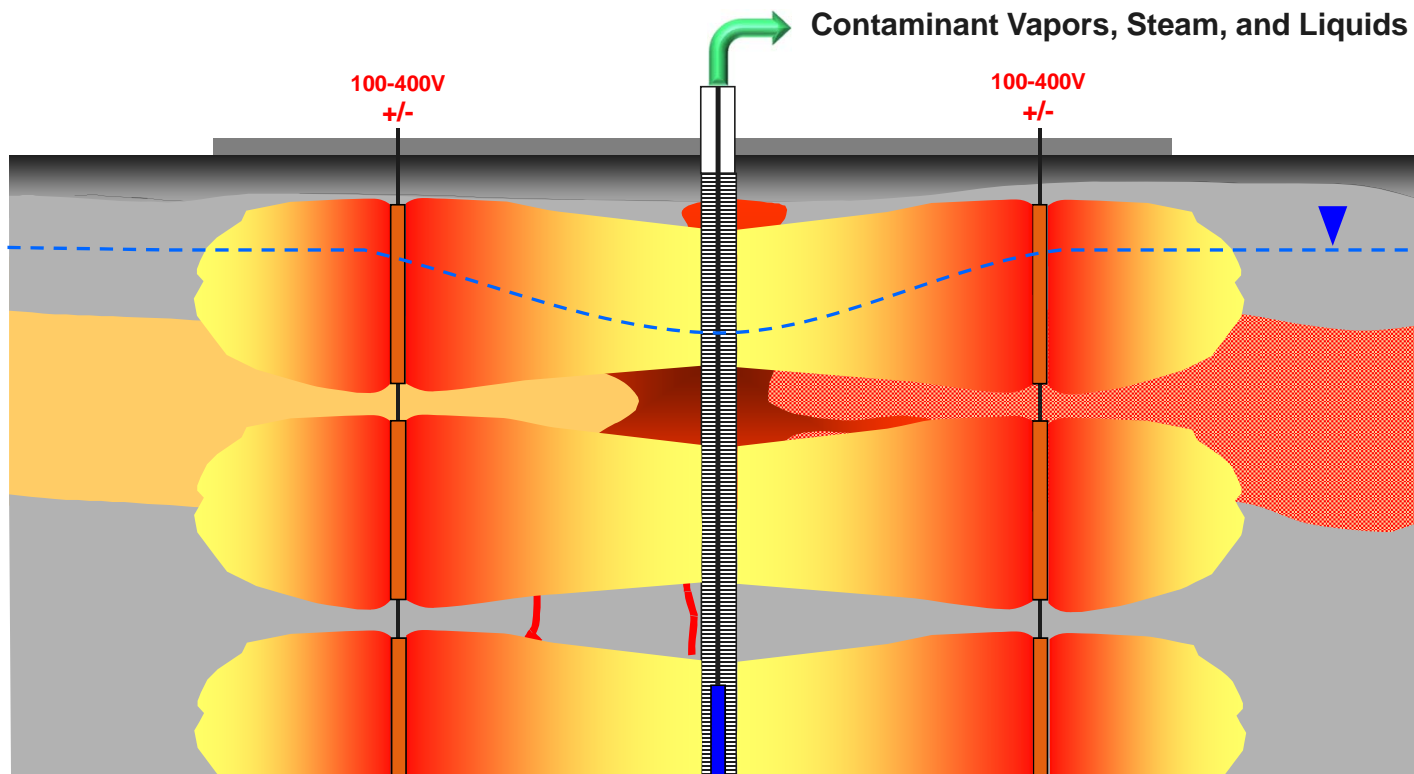


**ElectroThermal-Dynamic  
Stripping Process  
(ET-DSP™)**

**McMillan-McGee Corp.**

**Calgary, AB**

## Alternate Approach: Finite Length Stacked Electrodes



**ElectroThermal-Dynamic  
Stripping Process  
(ET-DSP™)**

**McMillan-McGee Corp.**

**Calgary, AB**

*More Uniform Heating and Control*



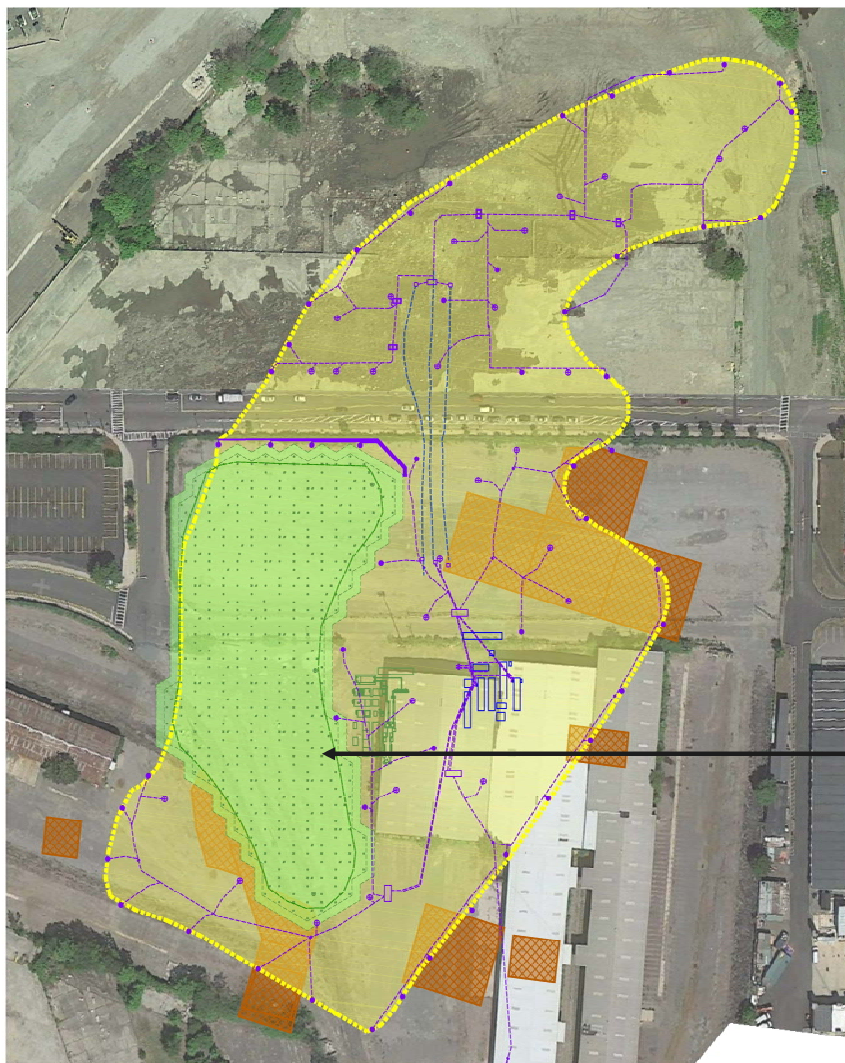
# ET-DSP™ Electrode Design



(McMillan-McGee)

# **Case Study: ET-DSP™ Site Boston, MA**

## **Site Background**



**Thermal  
Treatment Area  
= 8,900 m<sup>2</sup>  
(2.2 acres)**

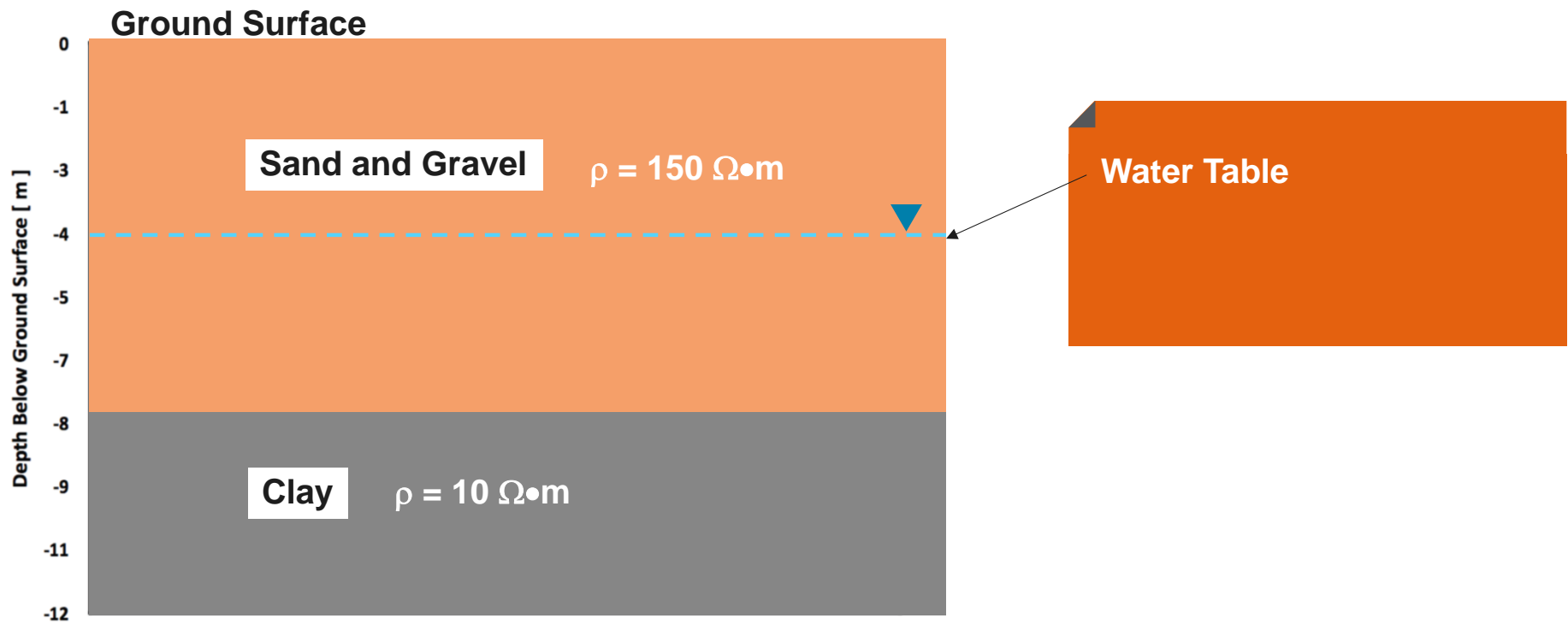
### Site Remedy:

- Thermal for CVOC Source Zone
- Directed Groundwater Recirculation for CVOC Plume
- Excavation of Metals and TPH Hotspots

# Site Geology

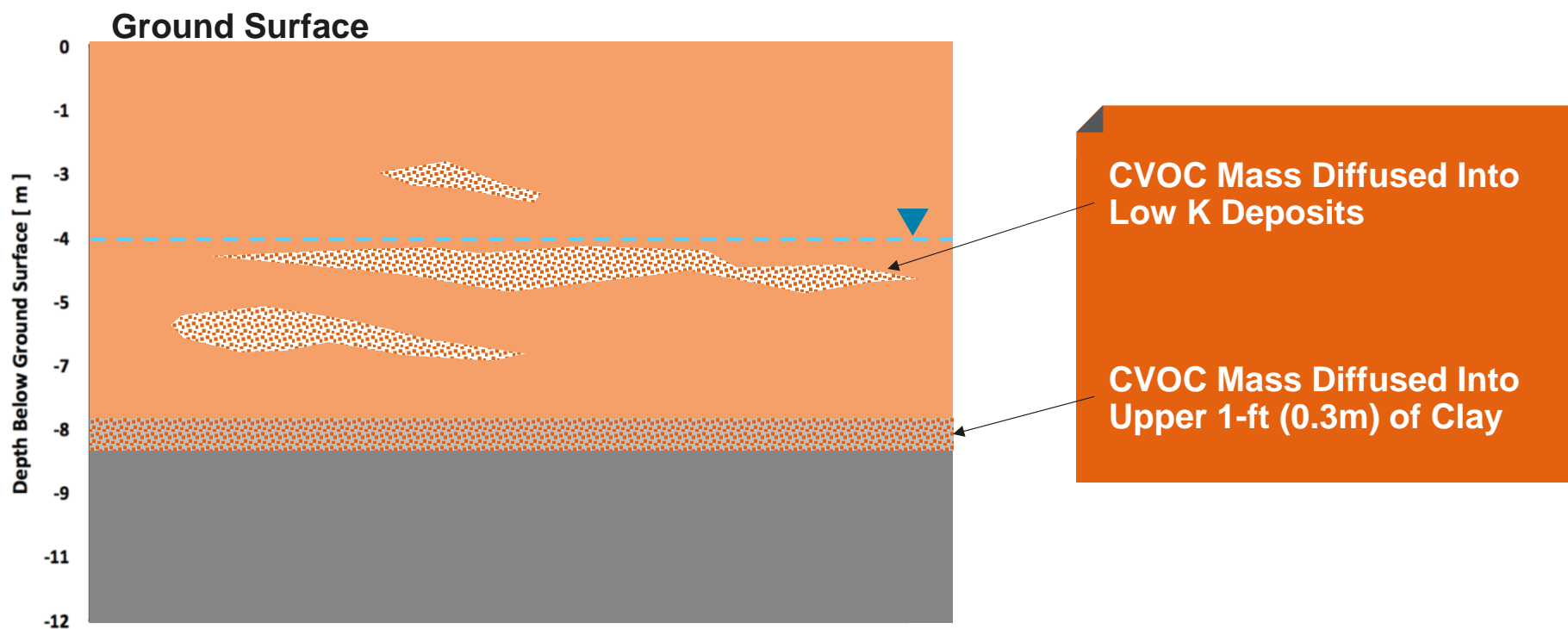


# Conceptual Site Model

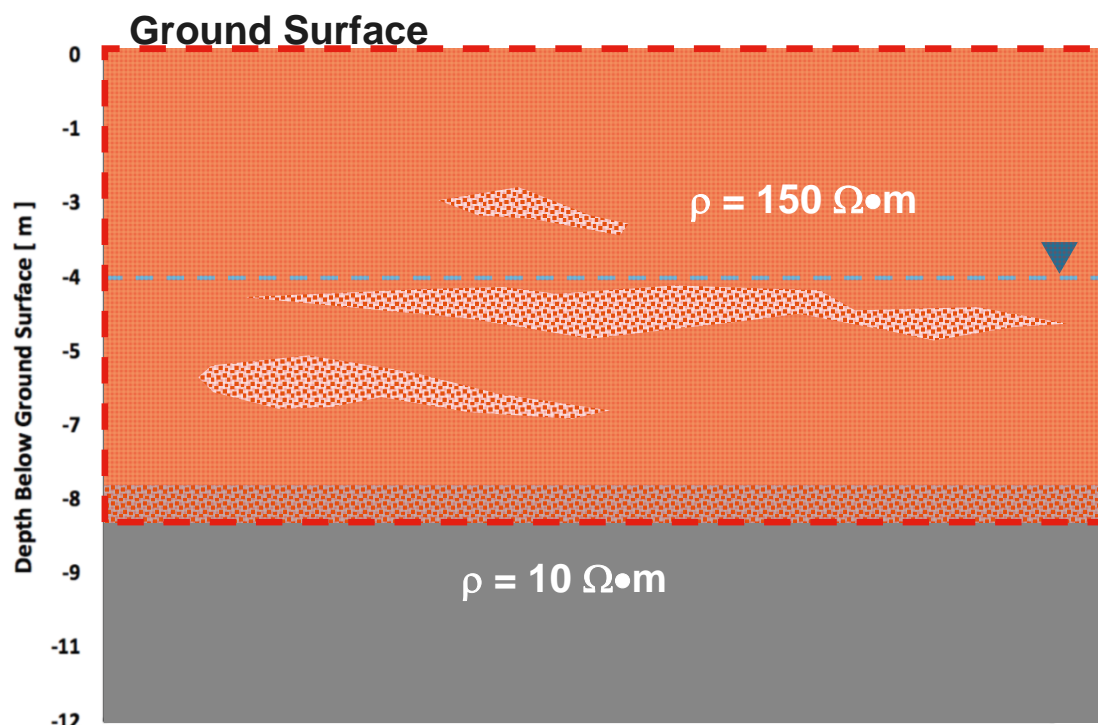




# Conceptual Site Model



# Conceptual Site Model



## Target Treatment Zone

### Remedial Goals:

- Heat to  $\sim 100^{\circ}C$
- Boil off 10 to 20% of PV of Water
- Reach 2 - 20  $\mu g/L$  in Groundwater
- Treat 0.3 m Into Top of Clay

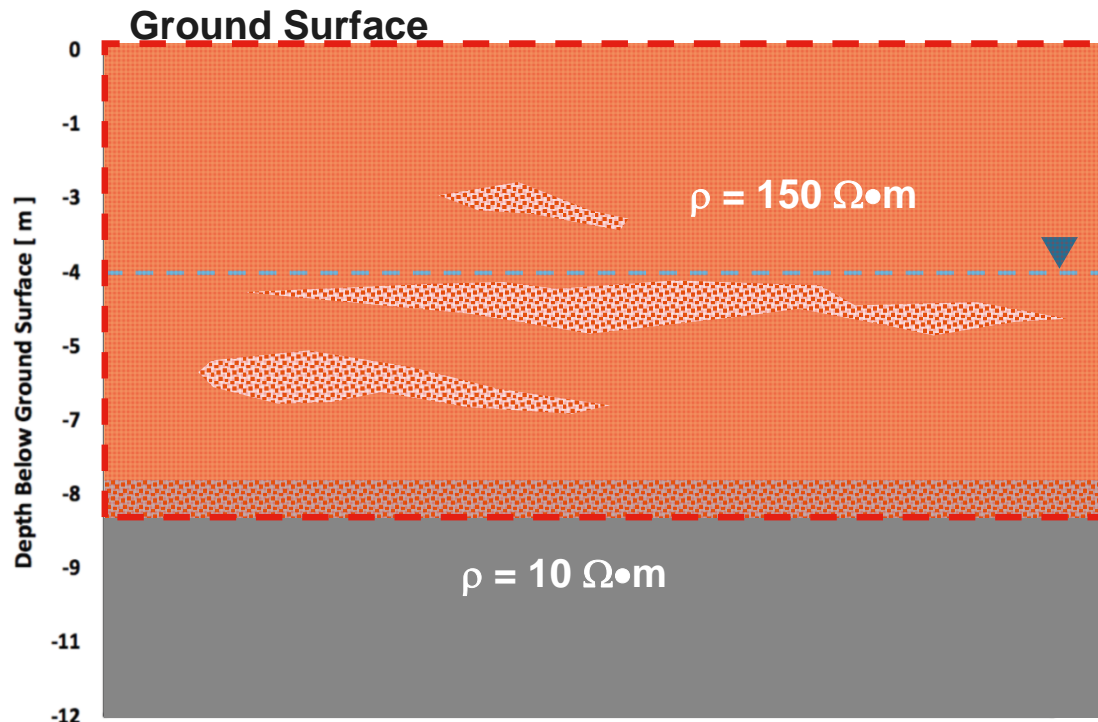
*How to Ensure Uniform and Adequate Heating Given Resistivity Contrasts?*

# **Case Study: ET-DSP™ Site Boston, MA**

## **Electrode Design and Analysis**



# Conceptual Site Model



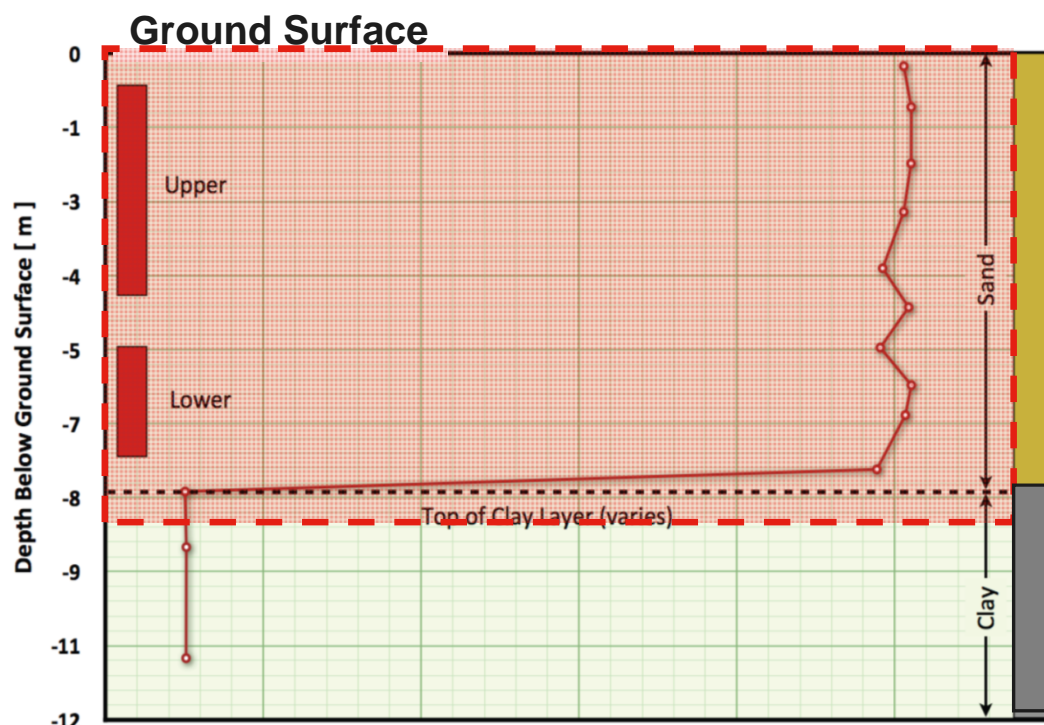
## Target Treatment Zone

### Remedial Goals:

- Heat to  $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$
- Boil off 10 to 20% of PV of Water
- Reach 2 - 20  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in Groundwater
- Treat 0.3 m Into Top of Clay

*How to Ensure Uniform and Adequate Heating Given Resistivity Contrasts?*

# Ideal Electrode Design

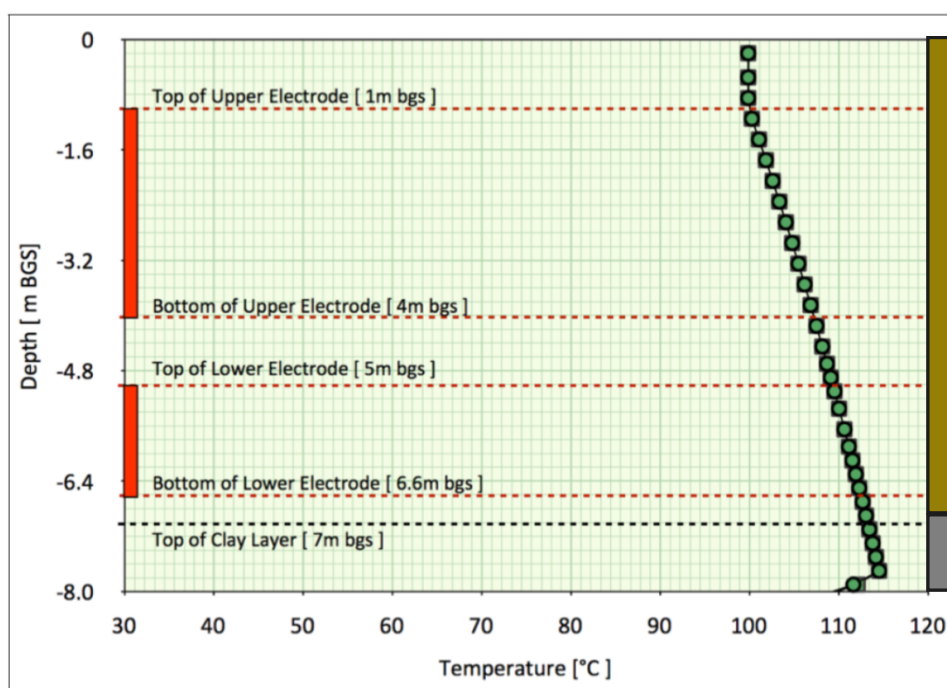


## Two Electrode Approach:

- Allow for potential increase in resistance as vadose zone dries
- Ability to target lower zone separately
- Thermal conduction and some currently flow heats clay

*How to Ensure Uniform and Adequate Heating Given Resistivity Contrasts?*

# Simulated Temperature After 210 Days of Heating

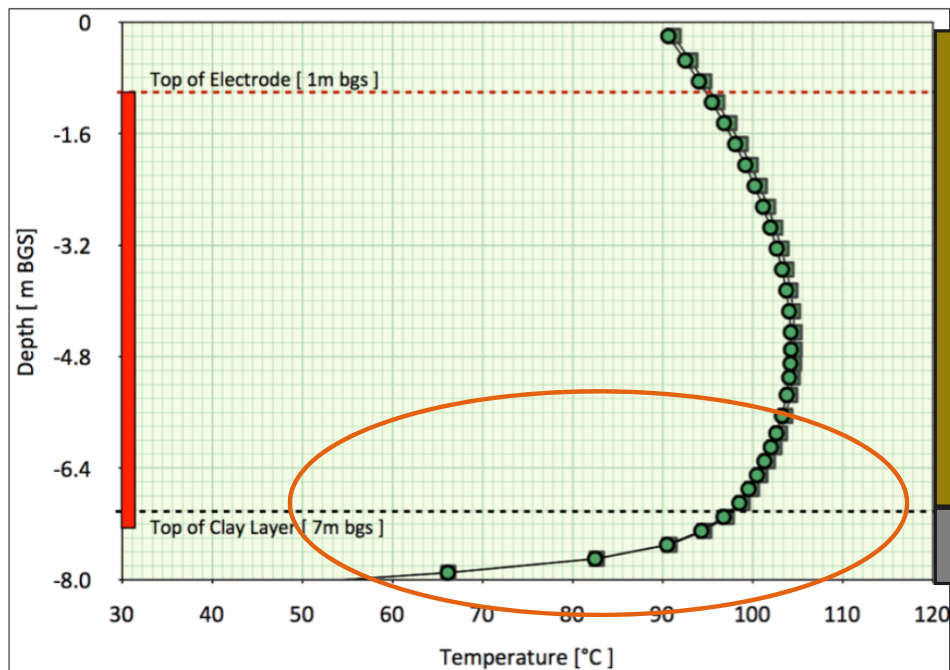


## Two Electrode Approach:

- Allow for potential increase in resistance as vadose zone dries
- Ability to target lower zone separately
- Thermal conduction and some currently flow heats clay

***How to Ensure Uniform and Adequate Heating Given Resistivity Contrasts?***

# Simulated Temperature After 210 Days of Heating

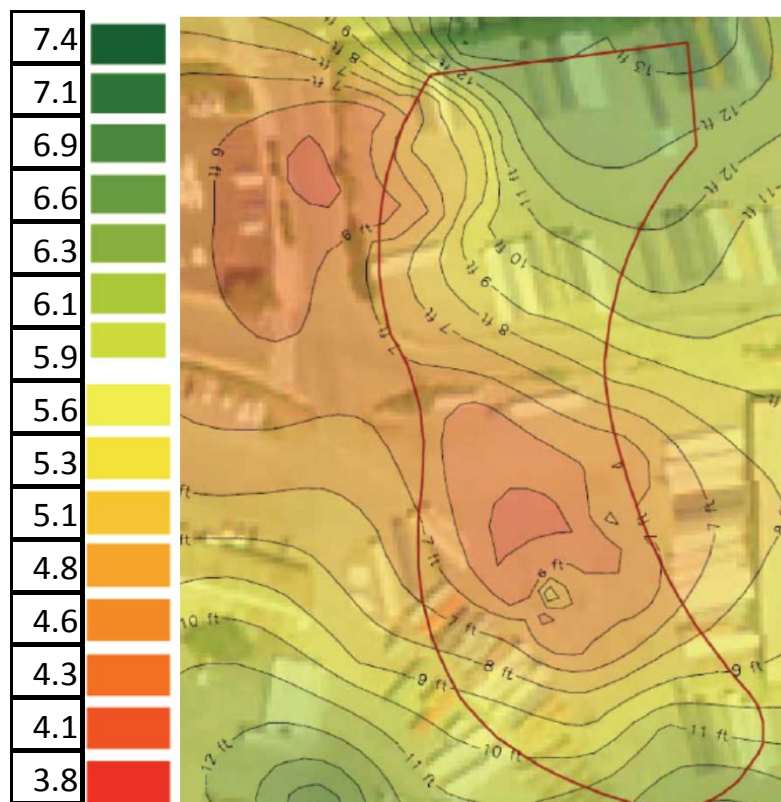


## One Electrode Approach:

- Short-circuiting occurs and current flow is directed through clay
- But because of lower resistance, clay does not heat up sufficiently
- Insufficient heating of lower sands does not result in optimal thermal conduction heating of clay.

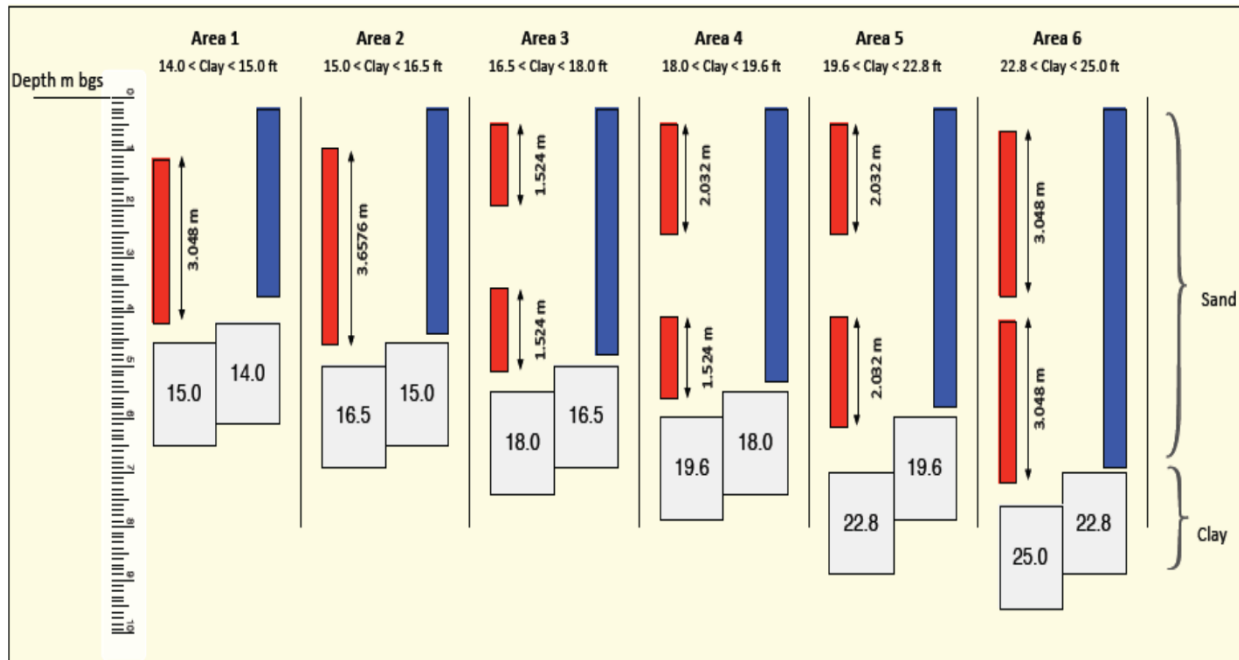
***Short-Circuiting Leads to Insufficient Heating***

m BGS



**Electrode Design Based  
on Mapping of Clay  
Surface**

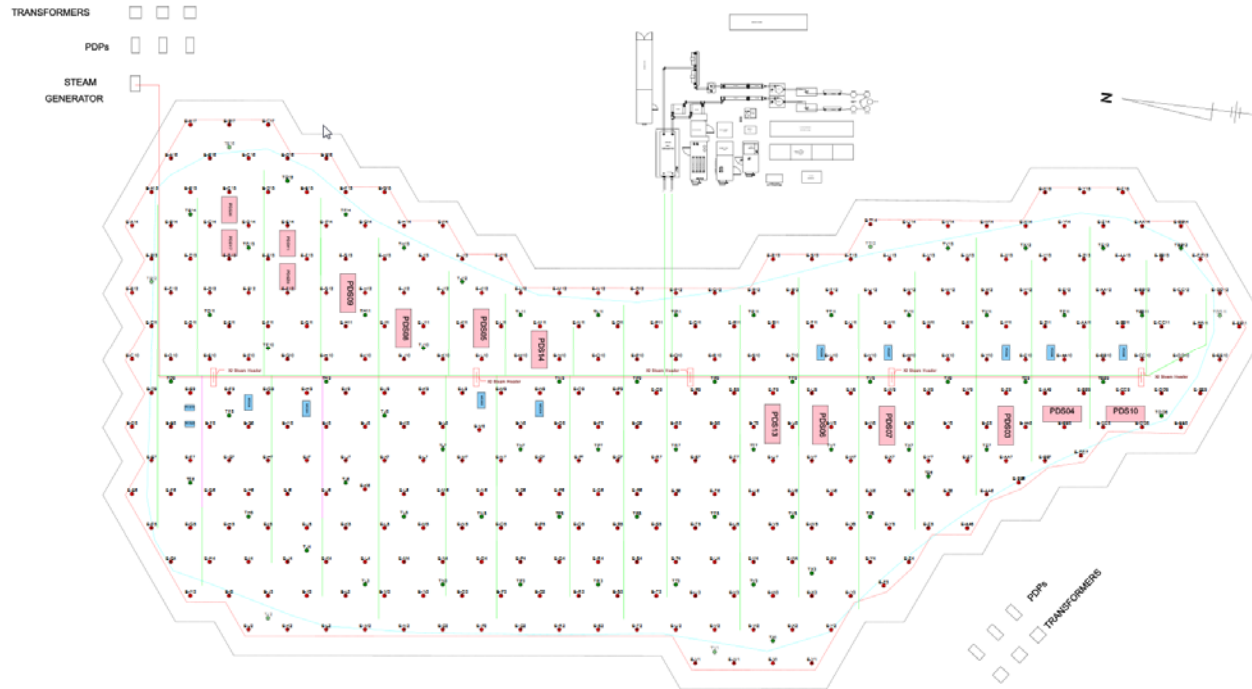
***CSM: Clay Surface Gently Variable***



### Electrode Design:

- Site Divided Into 6 Areas
- Custom Design for Each Area
- Bottom Electrode 0.3 m From Top of Clay

***Avoid Short-Circuiting and Ensure Uniform Heating***



### Electrode Layout:

- 335 Locations
- 576 Electrodes
- 104 MPE Wells
- 70 Temperature Monitoring Locations
- 394 Sensors Within Treatment Zone

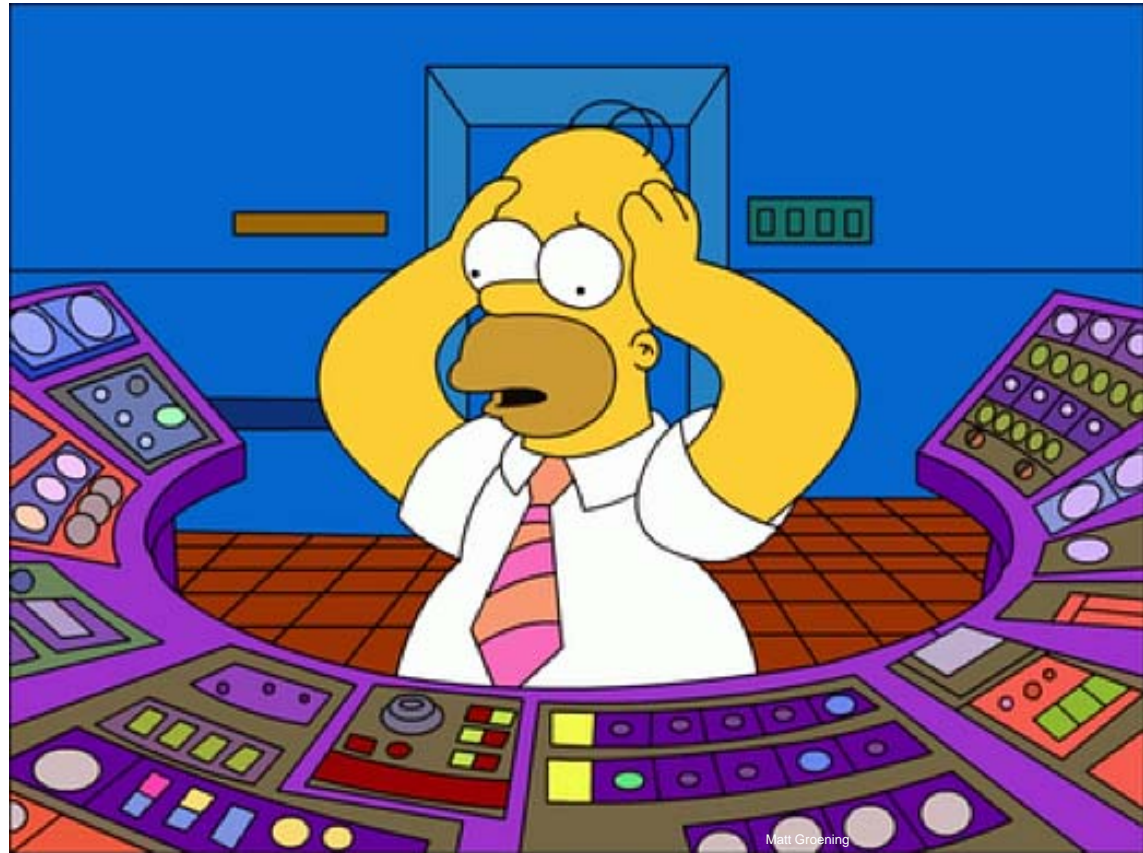
***Short-Circuiting Leads to Insufficient Heating***

# Case Study: ET-DSP™ Site Boston, MA

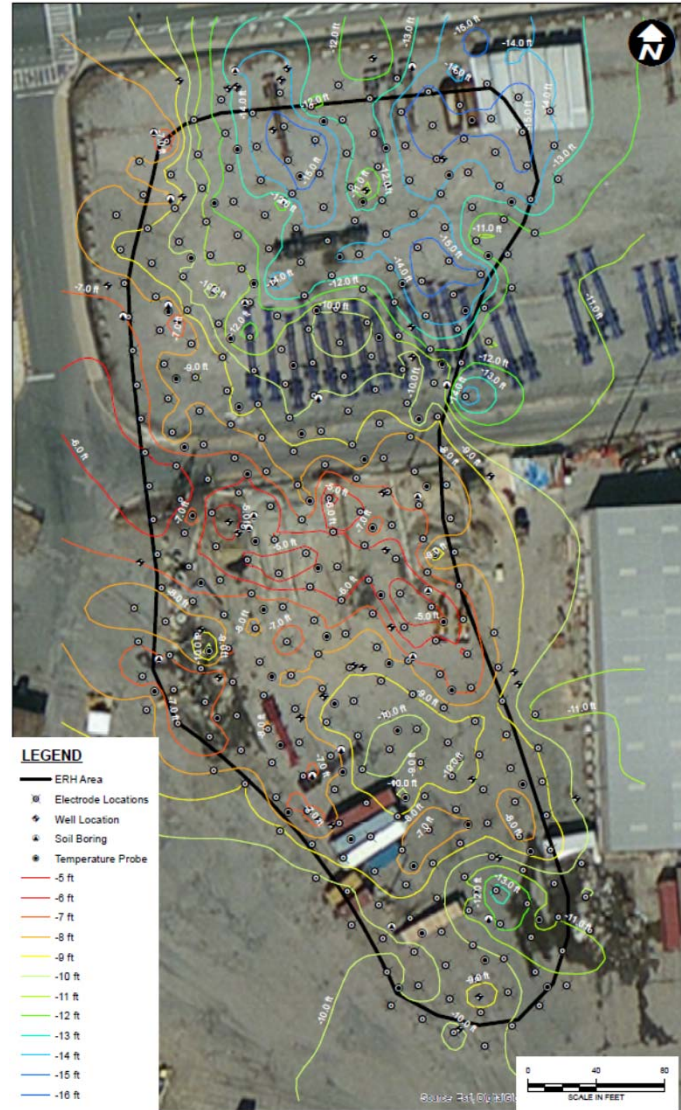
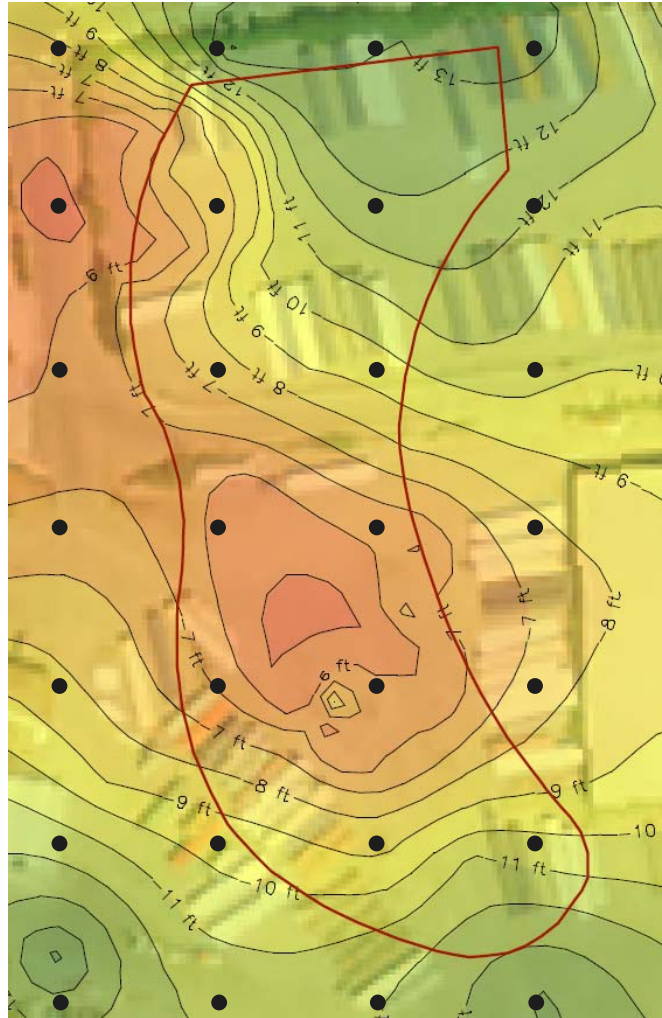
## Results



# Unfortunately, Sometimes Things Don't Go as Planned



m BGS



Site conditions more variable than anticipated

Required custom electrode configurations

Design and manufacture in real-time!



# ET-DSP™ System Construction Photos



© Arcadis 2015

Electrodes



**Installation of  
Electrodes**





**Completed Well  
Field and  
Vapor Cover**

2014.10.21 15:24



**Extraction and  
Treatment  
System**

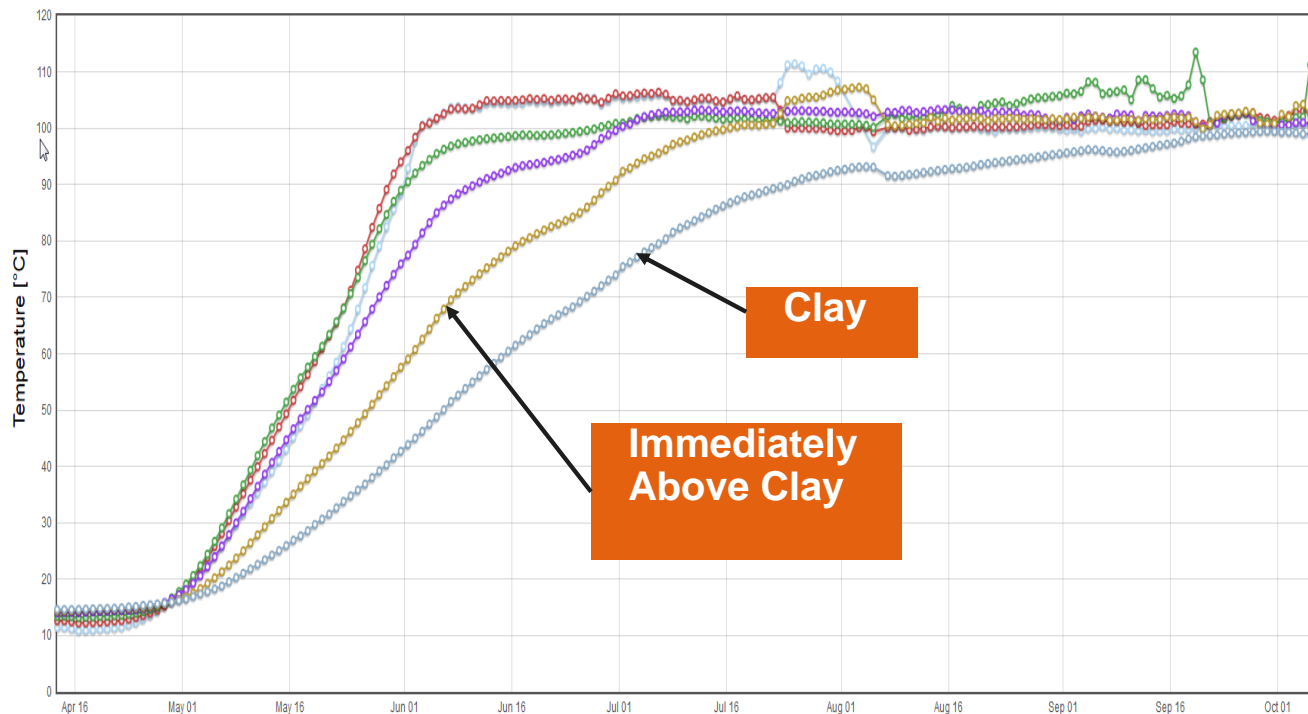
2014.12.10 16:27





**Completed  
ET-DSP™  
System**

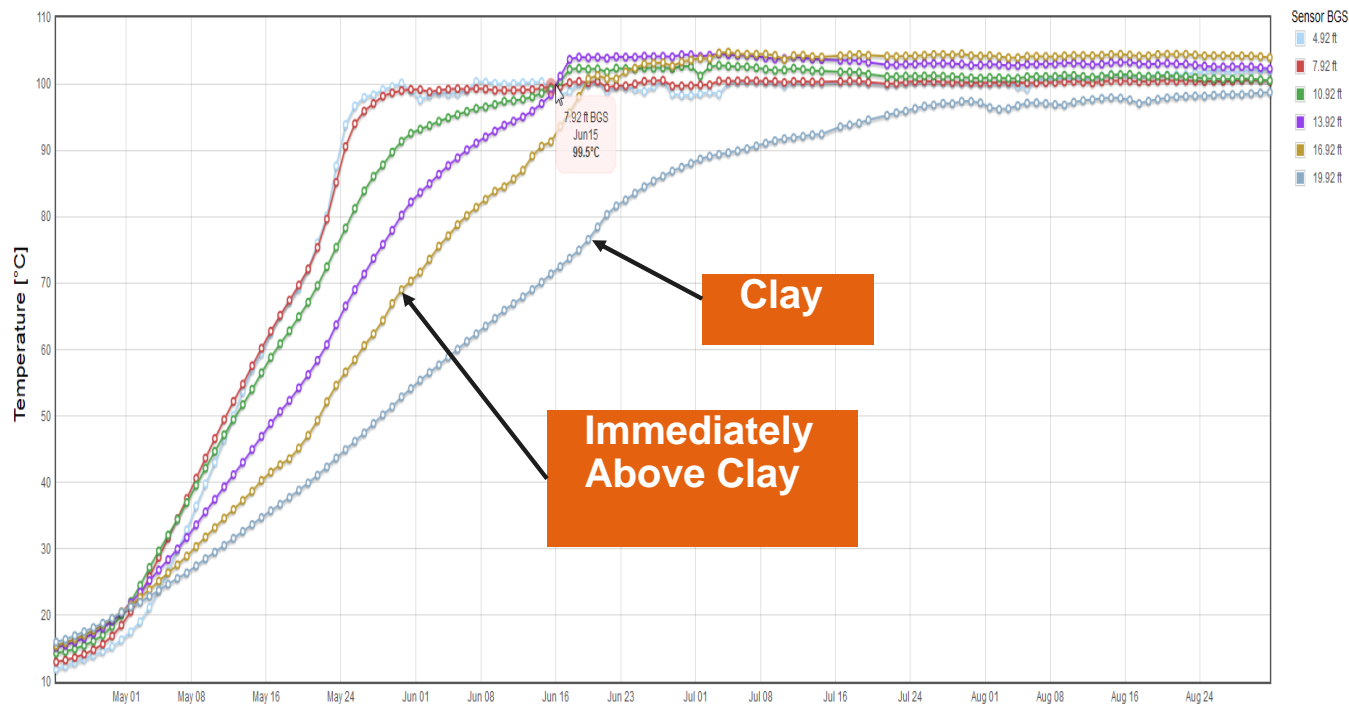
# Observed Temperatures After 170 Days of Heating



***Proper Electrode Design Results in Uniform Heating***

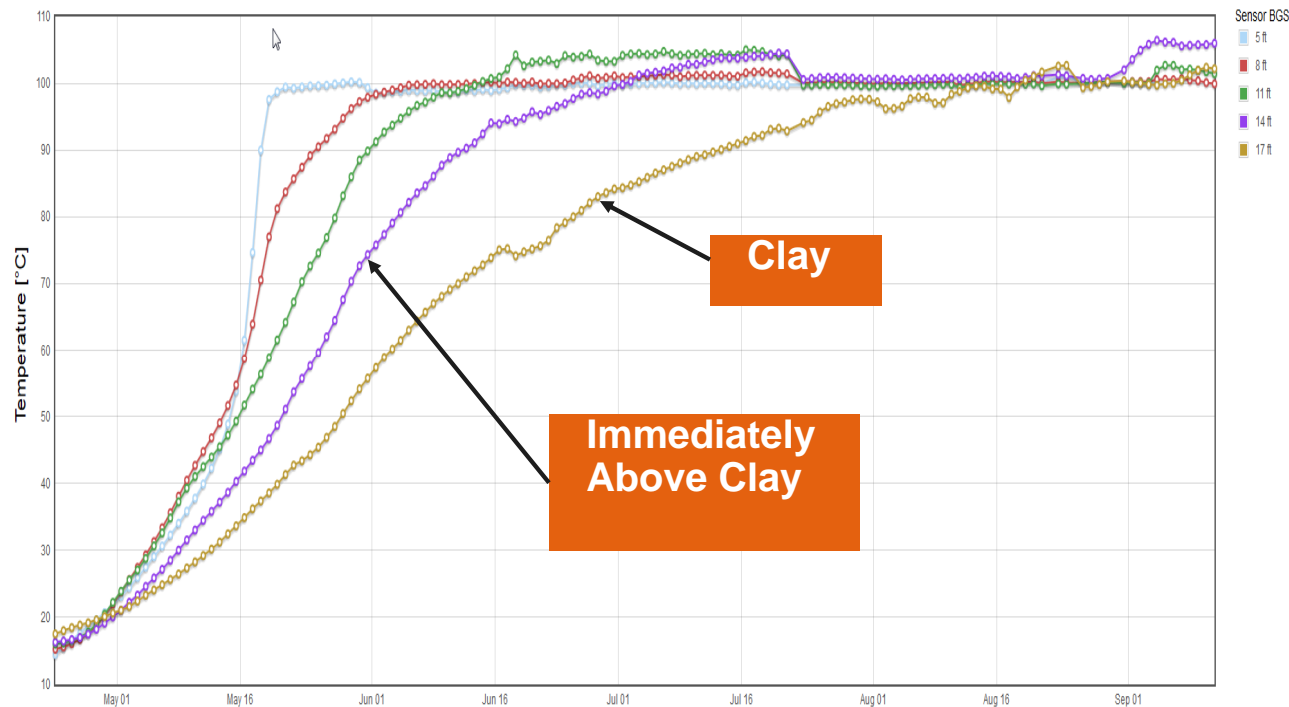


# Observed Temperatures After 170 Days of Heating



***Proper Electrode Design Results in Uniform Heating***

# Observed Temperatures After 170 Days of Heating



***Proper Electrode Design Results in Uniform Heating***

# Summary

## Summary

Identification of Key Issues and Proper Analysis of Problem Required for Effective Design and Performance

Sites are more complicated than they seem....

In critical aspects, allow for field verification of assumptions (e.g., depth to clay); and

Be prepared to modify design if required based on actual field conditions to preserve design aspects critical to success.

**Temp goals achieved in  
<180 days:**  
**100% >90C (394 sensors)**  
**>90% > B.P. (355 sensors)**

