



Technology Update & Review – Activated Carbon for Contaminant Control & Site Remediation

Presented by Jean Paré, P. Eng. October 2020

Quality Dedication Expertise

www.chemco-inc.com



Presentation Summary



- Activated Carbon Form, Capture & Treatment Mechanisms
- Back Diffusion and How it affect your site
- Activated Carbon Treatment Capabilities
- Case Studies



www.chemco-inc.com

Typical site remediation technique

- ✓ Dig & Haul
- ✓ Pump & Treat
- ✓ Soil Vapour Extraction under vacuum with or without air/steam injection
- ✓ Chemical Oxidation In Situ/Ex Situ
- ✓ Chemical Reduction In Situ/Ex Situ
- ✓ Monitored Natural Attenuation
- Activated Carbon Sorption & Treatment Technology
- ✓ Enhanced Bioremediation
- ✓ Risk Analysis
- ✓ Stabilization/Solidification
- ✓ Soil Washing
- ✓ Phytoremediation
- ✓ Reactive Barriers
- ✓ Thermal degradation/desorption



Reference Literature



TECHNICAL REPORT

IN SITU ACTIVATED CARBON CASE STUDY REVIEW

Clemson University TigerPrints

All Theses

Theses

8-2018

The Influence of In-Situ Activated Carbon on Biodegradation of Chlorinated Solvents

Kameryn McGee Clemson University, ksmcgee@g.clemson.edu

Activated Carbon-Based Technology for In Situ Remediation

EPA 542-F-18-001 | April 2018

LEFA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Remedial Technology Fact Sheet – Activated Carbon-Based Technology for In Situ Remediation



Introduction

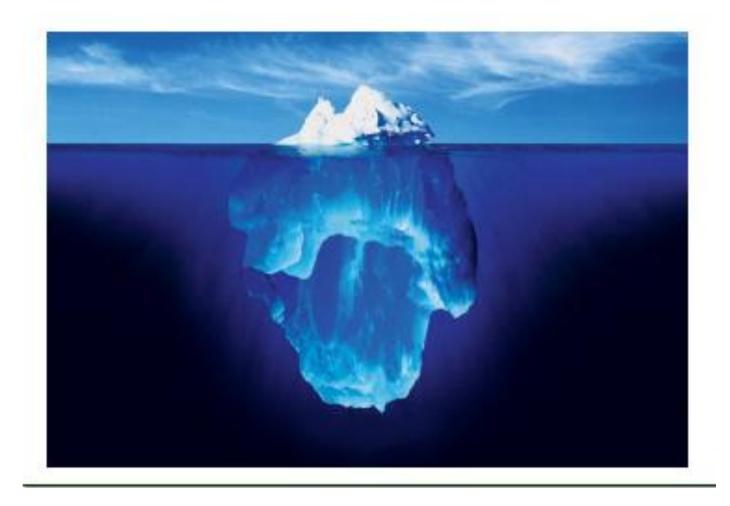
At a Glance

An emerging remedial technology combining adsorption by activated carbon (AC) and degradation by reactive amendments. This fact sheet, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, concerns an emerging remedial technology that applies a combination of activated carbon (AC) and chemical and/or biological amendments for in situ remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated by organic contaminants, primarily petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents. The technology typically is designed to carry out two contaminant removal

& Others



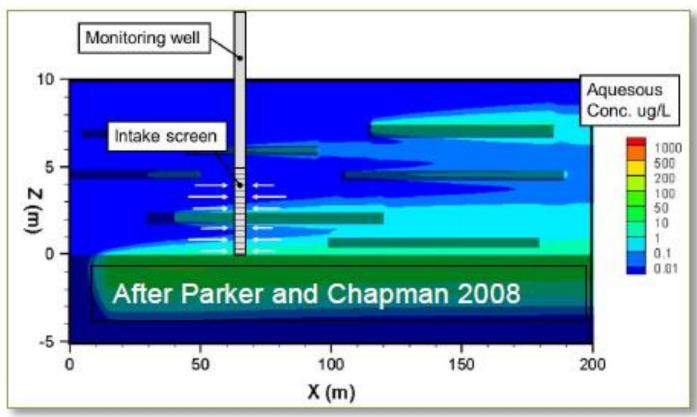
The Back Diffusion Issue





Back Diffusion Visualation

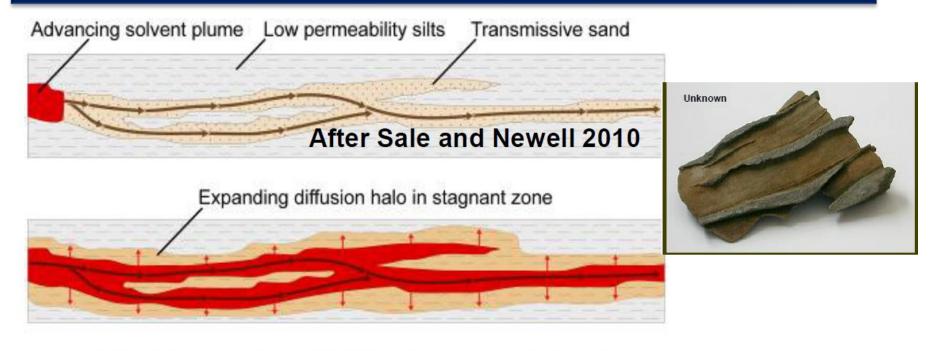
Multilayer Flow Systems



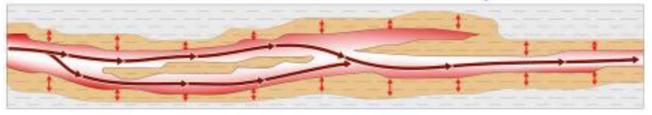


Source: SERDP – Project ERP 1740

Back Diffusion Visualation



Simultaneous inward and outward diffusion in stagnant zones





Source: SERDP – Project ERP 1740

Back Diffusion Visualation



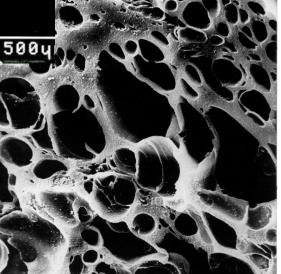
Source – Colorado State University





0222 10K 5004 Granular Activated

Carbon



Pore Sizes

•**Transport pores** are >5 molecular diameters to visible cracks and crevices.

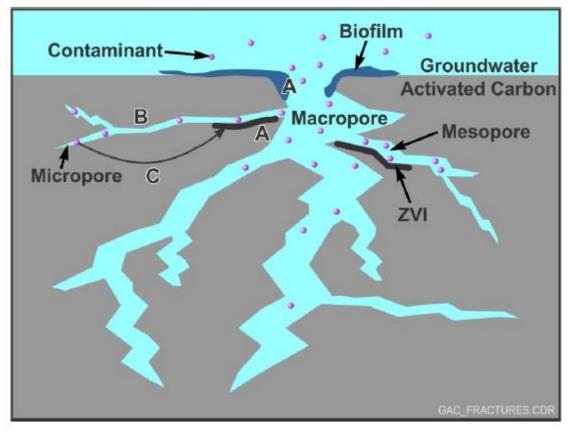
Transport pores are too large to adsorb and act simply as diffusion paths to transport the adsorbate to the adsorption sites.

–Macropores (>50 nm diameter) (=.05 μ)
–Mesopores (2-50 nm diameter)

•Adsorption pores are the smallest pores within the particle, consisting of gaps between the graphite plates.

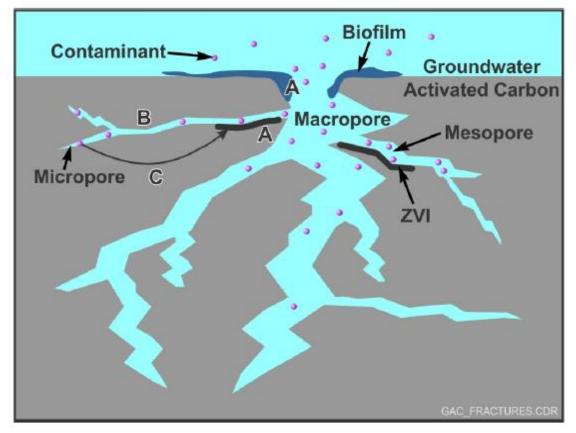
40% of the carbon particle/granule volume -Micropores (< 2 nm diameter) (=.002 μ)

Macro and mesopores are the highways into the carbon particle while micropores are the parking lots.



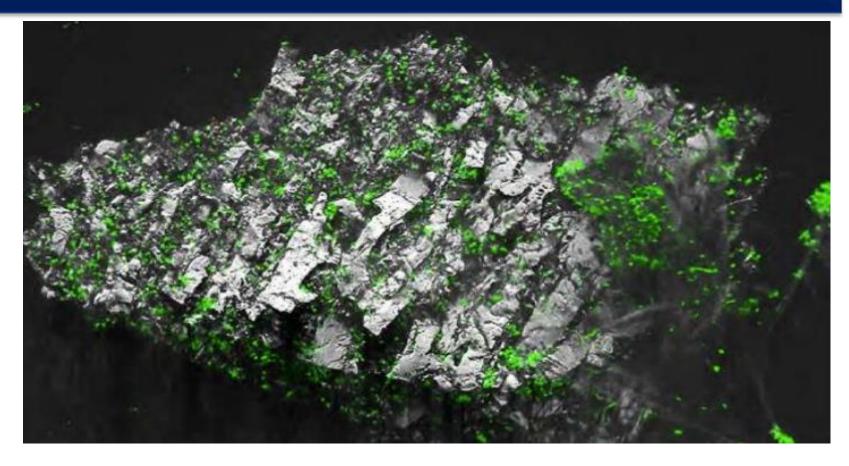
Source – Modified from Fan et al., 2017 and reproduced with permission from Journal of Environmental Management

- Granular Activated Carbon Particle size >90%
 retained by an 80-mesh sieve (177 μ) [ASTM D2862]
 Ax larger than PAC
- Powder Activated Carbon Particle size <40 microns
 (μ)
- Colloidal Activated Carbon Particle size 1-2 microns (μ)
- ✓ 10-slot screen = 256 µ
- 200-mesh sieve (clay) = 75 μ
- ✓ Bacteria = 0.5 2 μ
- Pore throats (*Nelson, AAPG Bull., 3/09*):
 sand >2 μ silt 0.03 2 μ clay 0.005 0.1 μ
- ✓ Mesopore = 0.05 μ ; Micropore = 0.002 μ
- ✓ BTEX molecules = 7 Angstroms (Å) = 0.0007 μ
- ✓ > Water molecule = 3 Angstroms (Å) = 0.0003 μ

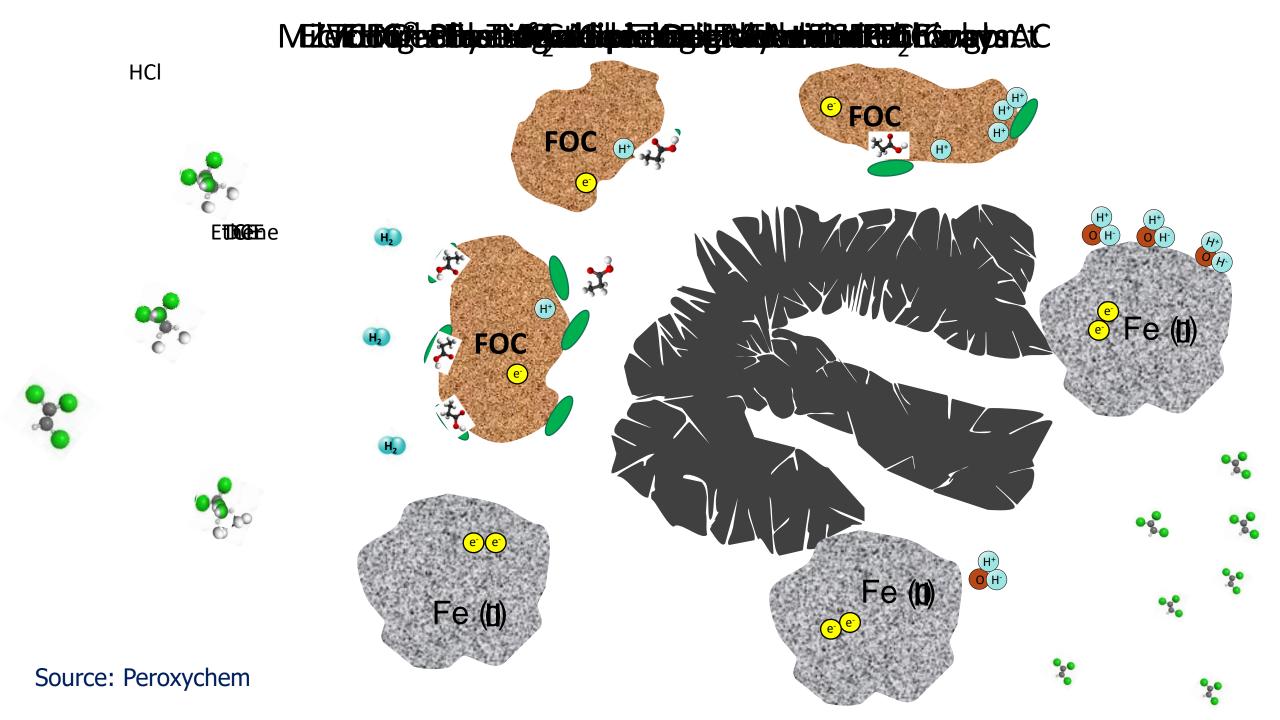


Source – Modified from Fan et al., 2017 and reproduced with permission from Journal of Environmental Management

Activated Carbon Surface Biotic Treatment Mechanism

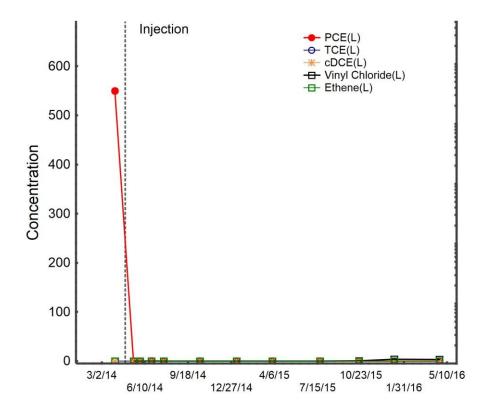


Application of Biofilm Covered Activated Carbon Particles as a Microbial Inoculum Delivery System for Enhanced Bioaugmentation of PCBs in Contaminated Sediments, Birthe Kjellerup and Sarah Edwards, SERDP Project ER-2135



Capture in Action

Typical GW Contaminant Concentration Curves



But what about the soil and the contaminant sorbed ?!?



- Activated carbon (AC) based amendments are being applied for the in situ remediation of a wide range of organic contaminants in groundwater.
- Amendments combine AC for enhanced contaminant sequestration, along with chemical or biological additives to <u>facilitate in situ contaminant destruction</u>.
- Physical adsorption is the dominant removal mechanism under typical subsurface conditions.
- Decreases groundwater mass immediately
- Disrupts groundwater/soil mass equilibrium to help drive desorption
- Concentrated mass accelerates degradation rates
- Various degradation mechanisms are used to treat
 - Bioremediation (aerobic/anaerobic)
 - Chemical reduction/oxidation



Source: AST / NavFac 2019

- Contaminants sorbed deeper into the micropores of the AC are not directly degraded but may back diffuse over time in to the mesopores and/or macropores. The contaminant then comes into contact with the reactive component of the AC amendment and is further degraded.
- Long term treatment amendment needed to cope with the desorption process when they will occur
- Degradation reaction products including dissolved hydrocarbon gases (i.e., methane, ethane, and ethene) might be difficult to observe
- Need to be careful with Benzene & Vinyl Chloride as competitive adsorption may affect long-term effectiveness when the strongly sorbed compounds may displace weakly sorbed compounds resulting in release of the latter

NAPL need to be removed BEFORE amendment application as it could be cost-prohibitive and potentially result in adverse

Source: AST / NavFac 2019 impacts to the aquifer (e.g., reduced hydraulic conductivity)



Compounds Targeted by AC Technology

Example Contaminants Treated by Activated Carbon

(not all Ac Technology treat all compounds listed)

Chlorinated Solvents
 PCE, TCE, DCE
 TCA, DCA
 Vinyl chloride
 Carbon tetrachloride
 Chloroform
 Chloroform
 Chloroethane
 Chloromethane
 Dichloropropane
 Trichloropropane
 Methylene chloride

Others

Carbon disulfide Aniline 1,4-Dioxane TPH BTEX GRO DRO ORO creosote

Oxygenates MTBE

TBA

Perfluorinated

Freon PFOA, PFBA

Chlorobenzenes

Chlorobenzene Dichlorobenzene Trichlorobenzene

<u>Phenols</u>

Phenol Chlorophenols Nitrophenols

<u>PAHs</u>

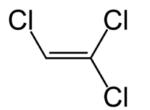
Anthracene Benzopyrene Styrene Naphthalene Pyrene Chrysene Trimethylbenzene

Pesticides

DDT Chlordane Heptachlor Lindane Toxaphene MCPA Bromoxynil

Energetics

Trinitrotoluene (TNT) Dinitrotoluene (DNT) RDX



Commercial AC-based Amendments for In Situ Remediation

Product	Property	Target Contaminant	Reactive Mechanism	
BOS-100®	Granular AC (GAC) impregnated by ZVI	Chlorinated Solvents	Abiotic reductive dechlorination	
BOS-200®	Powder AC (PAC) mixed with nutrients, electron acceptors, and facultative bacteria mix	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Aerobic and anaerobic bioaugmentation	
CAT-100®	BOS-100 [®] and reductive dechlorination bacterial strains	Chlorinated Solvents	Abiotic and biotic reductive dechlorination	
COGAC®	GAC or PAC mixed with calcium peroxide, and sodium persulfate	Chlorinated solvents or petroleum hydrocarbons	Chemical oxidation, aerobic and anaerobic biostimulation	
PlumeStop® & PetroFix®	Colloidal AC suspension with an organic stabilizer, co-applied with hydrogen or oxygen release compounds, nutrients and/or corresponding bacterial strains	Chlorinated solvents or petroleum hydrocarbons	Enhanced biotic reductive dechlorination for chlorinated solvents and aerobic biodegradation for petroleum hydrocarbons	
Carbo-Iron®	Colloidal AC impregnated with ZVI	Chlorinated Solvents	Abiotic reductive dechlorination	
EHC Plus®	Micrometric ZVI and fermentable carbon substrate mixed with Powder AC (PAC) and facultative bacteria mix	Chlorinated Solvents	Abiotic & Biotic reductive dechlorination	
Chemcarb H®	Powder AC (PAC) mixed with nutrients, electron acceptors, and facultative bacteria mix	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Aerobic & Anaerobic biodegradatio n	
Daramend Plus®	Macro ZVI and fermentable carbon substrate mixed with Powder AC (PAC) and facultative bacteria mix	Chlorinated Solvents	Abiotic & Biotic reductive dechlorination	
Bioavailable Absorbent Media (BAM)	bsorbent fixed carbon) derived from a proprietary blend		Aerobic and anaerobic biodegradatio n enhanced via biostimulation	

AC-based Amendments In Situ Application

- Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRBs) for Plume Control
- Hot Spot Applications
 - Adsorptive capability and longevity allows for continued treatment of contaminants as they slowly back diffuse from the solid matrix to groundwater (typically observed at sites with high concentrations of sorbed mass or clays).
- Plume Treatment
 - Designs with multiple reactive zones along the plume for cost effective treatment of large dilute plumes.



AC-based Amendments Installation Methods

- Injection of slurry via direct push technology (DPT)
- Hydraulic or Pneumatic Emplacement (applied to fine-grain formations including clay, weathered and fractured bedrock)
- Direct placement into open excavations or trench PRBs
- Deep soil mixing





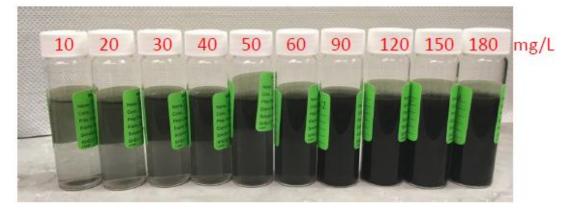
Chemical Assessment of Remedial Performance

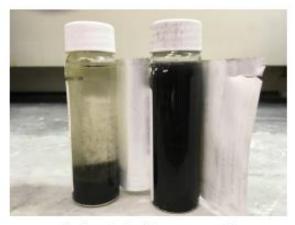
Field

- Monitor contaminant concentrations in separate monitoring wells.
- Amendment may appear in monitoring wells.

Lab

- ✓ Allow carbon to settle prior toanalysis.
- Complete settling not always possible within required hold times.
- If material does not settle, analytical complications are possible.
- ✓ High suspended carbon in monitoring wells interferes with lab analysis starting around 100 mg/L





Right vial did not settle



Source: BV Veritas

Case study 1

BOS 200® Former Underground Storage Tank (UST)

Case Study 1 : Former UST with BOS 200®

Site Background

- **Tenant occupied** light industrial site for over 25 years
- Former diesel fuel UST for truck fleet removed and soil / groundwater remediated in 1998
- Lease expiring and tenant vacating property

Contaminant Situation

- PHC impacts in soil and groundwater (vs current standards)
- Soils a mixture of granular fill, clayey silt, silty clay, silty sand, silt, sand

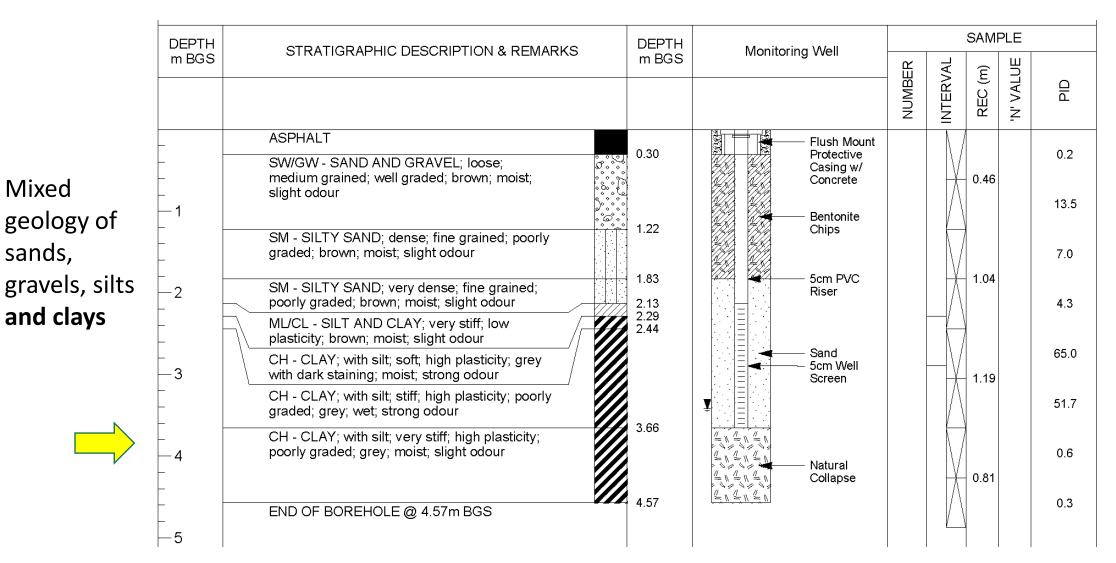
Remedial Objective

- Complete remediation of site prior to lease expiry
- Generic regulatory standards
- Allow for <u>"four quarters clean"</u> verification sampling (therefore prevent back diffusion or "rebound")

Case Study 1 : Former UST with BOS 200[®]



Case Study 1 : Former UST with BOS 200®



Locations	Date	Soil										
		Depth	В	Т	E	Х	F1	F2	F3	F4		
MW07-2	07/2007	2.71-3.05	<0.02	<0.02	0.31	0.34	21	330	170	<10		
101007-2	07/2007	3.05-3.23	<0.02	<0.02	0.12	0.07	<10	220	89	<10		
BH3	11/2012	2.5-3.6	<0.02	<0.05	0.45	<0.05	61	800	350	<50		
BH4	11/2012	3.7-4.8	<0.02	<0.05	1.9	<0.05	72	530	160	<50		
MW01-16	10/2016	2.29-2.90	<0.0068	<0.08	0.040	<0.05	6.9	11 20	454	<50		
MW02-16	10/2016	3.66-4.27	<0.0068	<0.08	0.203	0.297	101	66	56	<50		
MOECC Standards (Table 3)		-	0.32	68	9 .5	26	55	230	1700	3300		

Locations	Date	Groundwater										
		В	Т	E	X	F1	F2	F3	F4			
	08/2007	83	4.5	90	51	550	530	<100	<100			
MW07-2	11/2012	-	-	-	-	190	<100	<100	<100			
	12/2016	5.49	<0.50	2.20	2.90	98	310	<250	<250			
MW01-16	12/2016	1.39	<0.50	2.76	4.36	83	210	<250	<250			
MW02-16	12/2016	1.60	<0.50	3.33	5.71	97	180	<250	<250			
MOECC Standards (Table 3)		44	18000	2300	4200	750	150	500	500			

Obstacles

- **Excavation** approach ("cut & fill") would require **shoring & dewatering**
- Relatively small work area with lots of truck traffic
- Limited disruption allowed = <u>no multiple injection events</u>
 - ISCO or bio alone would have required at least 2 to 3 injection events
- Client anxious to ensure site is remediated before end of lease
 - Therefore, certainty in approach was a priority

Remedial Approach

- Full-scale **BOS 200**® injection program
 - Combined carbon adsorption and anaerobic biodegradation for PHCs

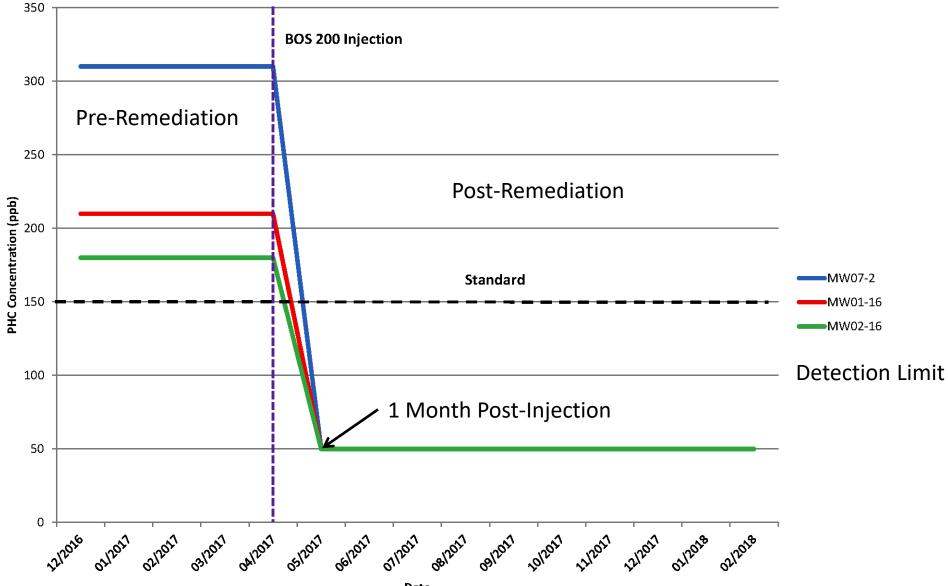


Work Completed

- Impacted area 100 m² by 2 m thick with soil and groundwater impacts
- Approx. 40 temporary injection points advanced via Geoprobe
 - 1.5 m lateral spacing for points
 - Vertical injection intervals from 2.1 to 4.5 mbgs
- 2,000 kg of BOS 200[®], 800 kg gypsum & microbes in 10,000 L of slurry injected
- Completed over 3 working days on-Site

1	Data	Groundwater											
Locations	Date	В	Т	E	Х	F1	F2	F3	F4				
	08/2007	83	4.5	90	51	550	530	<100	<100	Pre-injection			
MW07-2	11/2012	-	-	-	-	190	<100	<100	<100	groundwater			
	12/2016	5.49	<0.50	2.20	2.90	98	310	<250	<250				
MW01-16	12/2016	1.39	<0.50	2.76	4.36	83	210	<250	<250	analytical			
MW02-16	12/2016	1.60	<0.50	3.33	5.71	97	180	<250	<250	data			
N/A	04/2017	04/2017 BOS 200® Injection Event											
	05/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
MW07-2	08/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
101007-2	11/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
	02/2018	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
	05/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	Four rounds			
MW01-16	08/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	Four rounus			
	11/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	of post-			
	02/2018	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	remediation			
	05/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
MW02-16	08/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	groundwater			
101002-10	11/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	44	<100	<250	<250				
	02/2018	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	analytical			
	05/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250	data			
MW03-17	08/2017	1.13	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
	11/2017	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
	02/2018	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	<25	<100	<250	<250				
MOECC Stand	lards (Table 3)	44	18000	2300	4200	750	150	500	500				

F2 PHCs in Groundwater (ppb)



Project Summary:

- Client <u>required certainty</u> prior to end of lease
- Trap & Treat® BOS 200® approach selected

Design work was essential

- Calculation of carbon and sulphate demand
- Designed lateral and vertical injection spacing to ensure uniform distribution in the subsurface
- Full-scale application completed as planned
- Remedial objective achieved **below Generic Standard**
- PHCs remain low (mostly ND) one year after injection event!

Case study 2

Former manufacturing facility, USA

Sand & gravel deposits with till lenses and aquitards

EHC[®] Plus and EHC[®] Liquid Case Study – Confidential Site USA

• Site Background

- Former manufacturing facility where operations ceased in 1990s.
- TCE distributed via sub-grade piping to pits used for degreasing.

Site Hydrogeology

- 7.5 m of fill placed above former canal.
- >60 m of sand and gravel deposits with till lenses and aquitards.
- GW seepage velocity is 0.2 m/day.

EHC[®] Plus and EHC[®] Liquid Case Study – Confidential Site USA

• Key Findings

- TCE in soil gas at property boundary as high as 176,000 $\mu g/m^3$
- TCE in source area soils up to 280 mg/Kg in the fill material.
- Highly aerobic aquifer; no degradation products present
- Maximum TCE in groundwater up to 5.5 mg/L in source area.
- Groundwater plume migrating E/SE away from the river, across road, and into residential area.

Remediation Objectives

- Prevent off-site migration of CVOCs
- Treat portion of the off-site plume and eliminate exposure to down-gradient receptors.

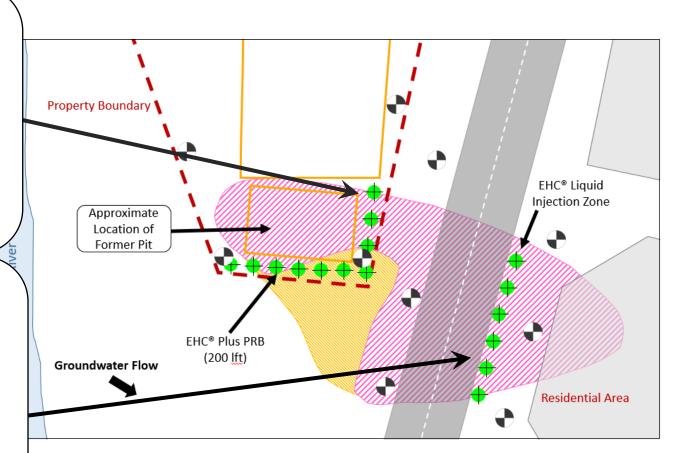
Remedial Approach



- 10,000 Kg of EHC Plus in 10 injection points
- 40 L of SDC-9 DHC culture
- Treatment of CVOCs is via physical, chemical and biological pathways

EHC Liquid Reactive Zone

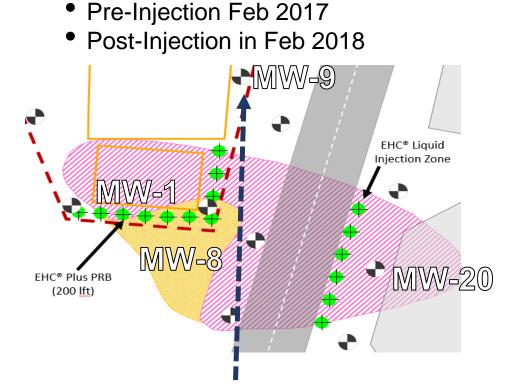
- 10,000 Kg of EHC Liquid in 6 injection points
- 18 L of SDC-9 DHC culture
- Treatment of CVOCs is via biological and abiotic pathways



Environmental Molecular Diagnostics (EMDs) Used

- Molecular Biological Tools (MBTs)
- Compound Specific Isotope Analysis (CSIA)

One Year Performance Monitoring Results



MW-9 Cross-Gradient of EHC Plus PRB

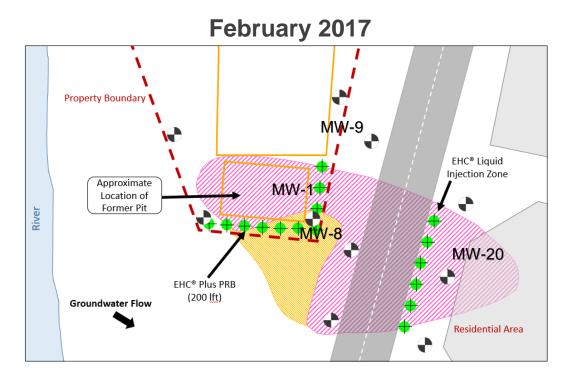
- Well not under the influence of treatment
- Rise in water level due to seasonal change
- Concentration of TCE increased from <0.005 to 0.034 mg/L

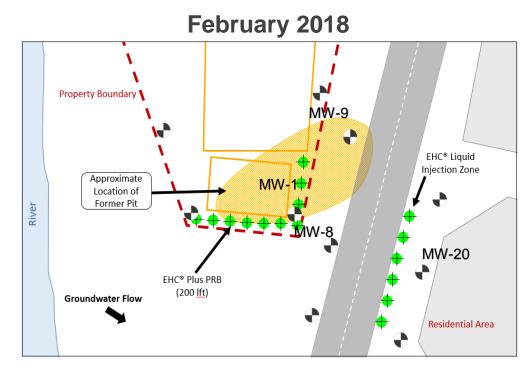
	In the EH	C Plus PRB		ient of the us PRB	Downgradient of the EHC Liquid Reactive Zone		
	M'	W-1	M١	N-8	MW-20		
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	
ORP, mV	126 🔦	-399	125 为	-344	132 为	-362	
Sulfate, mg/L	99.8	16.4	133 🔪	× <10	78 为	21	
VFAs, mg/L	<0.10 🧹	103.2	<0.10 🧹	59.9	<0.10 🧹	0.26	
DHC, cells/ml	5.7E+02	1.6E+05	<5.0+01 🧹	3.9E+06	<5.0+01	3.0E+04	
TCE, mg/L	0.13 📍	<0.005	0.038 为	▲ <0.005	0.26 为	<0.005	
Cis-DCE, mg/L	<0.005 🧹	0.04	0.004 🧹	7 0.072	0.0037 🧹	₹ <0.005	
VC, mg/L	ND 🦂	0.019	<0.002 🧹	7 0.022	<0.002 🧹	7 0.042	
Ethene, mg/L	<0.0001	0.016	<0.0001 🧹	0.032	<0.001 🧹	0.002	

Confirmation of Degradation Occurring

- CSIA confirmation
- MBT's: Increase in DHC populations
- Formation of daughter products

Plume Response to EHC[®] Plus and EHC[®] Liquid Injections





Expected Continued Site Treatment

• EHC[®] Plus PRB: 5-10 years expected

• EHC[®] Liquid Reactive zone 2-5 years expected

- ✓ Prevent off-site migration of CVOCs
- Treat portion of the off-site plume and eliminate exposure to down-gradient receptors
- 72% Mass Removal from combined remedy after one year of treatment

Case Study 2 - Summary & Conclusions

- Highly aerobic aquifer turned anaerobic and reducing in 12 months
- Plume pulled back from the property line and off-site migration of TCE was prevented
- Post injection changes in geochemical parameters, MBTs, and CSIA indicate that chemical and microbiological treatment of TCE and daughter products has occurred in wells MW-1 and MW-8 which were under the influence of EHC Plus.
- Concentration of DHC increased by several orders of magnitude in key wells under the influence of EHC Plus and EHC Liquid.
- EHC Plus and EHC Liquid combined remedy met the site-specific remedial objectives.



Reagent Mixing Station

Conclusions & Lessons learned

Conclusion & Lessons learned

- Perform bench-scale treatability studies to test one or more amendments using site-specific soils and groundwater BEFORE getting to the field
- AC-based amendments have been demonstrated to be an effective technology to address a range of dissolved-phase COCs in groundwater and possibly treat source areas containing residual NAPL.
- Competitive adsorption may affect long-term effectiveness when the strongly sorbed compounds may displace weakly sorbed compounds, resulting in release of the latter and performance assessment
- Post injection monitoring is performed to evaluate the longterm effectiveness of the remedy, identify the need for additional application of amendments, assess progress toward achieving remedial goals and remedial action objectives, and determine if rebound is occurring



Source: NavFac 2019

Conclusion & Lessons learned

- Fast groundwater flow velocity might limit the effectiveness of soluble amendments due to dilution, non colloidal AC-based amendments may be considered since they more likely to adsorb to aquifer contaminants and remain in the target treatment area
- Additional research is needed to better understand the implications of long-term & hydraulics effects from emplacement of the AC-based amendments.
- Long term & extended release TREATMENT amendments (years rather than months) combined with the AC must be favored to deal with sorption-desorption processes for the contaminant trap in the micropore structure.





About us

Canadian Company founded in 1988

Production and warehouses throughout Canada

- ➢ Quebec
- Ontario
- Manitoba
- > Alberta
- British Columbia

• <u>Sectors of activity</u>:

- Industrial and Municipal Potable & Waste Water
- Contaminated Soil and Groundwater
- Air, Odours and Atmospheric Emissions (Activated Carbon, filtering medias)
- Process Water & Thermal Exchange Fluids (Glycols)
- Drilling Fluids (Oil and Gas & Diamond exploration)
- Aircraft De-icing Fluids

www.chemco-inc.com



Excellence & Science through proud Suppliers & Partners

ADVANCED OXIDATION TECHNOLOGY (AOT) Since 2005



www.chemco-inc.com



CANADIAN LEADER IN

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE & SPECIALIZED PRODUCTS

- Chemical Oxidation
- Chemical Reduction
- Co solvent-Surfactant soil Washing
- Enhanced Bioremediation
- Permeable Reactive Barrier Amendments
- Metals Stabilization



Our product and services

Acknowledgements

- AST Environmental
- BV Veritas
- Peroxychem
- SERDP
- Regenesis
- Remediation Product Inc.
- Vertex Environmental Inc.

Thank you for your attention !

Quality

Have a good day !!!

Dedication

Expertise

Contact information E-mail: jean.pare@chemco-inc.com Tel: 418-953-3480

www.chemco-inc.com