



Metals & Organic contaminant Removal using Reactive Mineral for Groundwater Remediation

Remtech East, Niagara Falls, ON
June 2022

Presented by
Jean Paré, P. Eng.





Presentation Agenda



- ✓ ***About us***
- ✓ ***Acknowledgement***
- ✓ ***Chemical Reduction – Technology Review***
- ✓ ***Biogeochemical process – Technology Review***
- ✓ ***Case Studies***
- ✓ ***Conclusions***



About us



Canadian Company founded in 1988

Production and warehouses throughout Canada

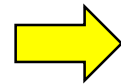
Quebec

Ontario

Alberta

British Columbia

Sectors of activity:



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



Our Services



Specialized Products Supply

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



124, rue de Hambourg
Augustin-de-Desmaures, QC G3A 0B3



Excellence & Science through proud Suppliers & Partners



ADVANCED OXIDATION TECHNOLOGY (AOT) *Since 2005*





Acknowledgement

- ✓ **Dan Leigh, Evonik, Technology Applications Manager - In Situ Reductive Technologies**
- ✓ **Alan G. Seech, Ph.D., Evonik, Soil & Groundwater Remediation Lead**
- ✓ **Josephine Molin, Evonik, Technology Director Persulfates**



Tuesday Platform

A SESSIONS - Primrose A	
8:00	Abiotic Dechlorination by Natural Ferrous Minerals. <i>C.E. Schaefer, D. Nguyen, E. Berns, and C. Werth.</i> Charles Schaefer (CDM Smith Inc./USA)
8:25	Mineral Phases from In Situ Biogeochemical Processes: The Key to Abiotic Natural Attenuation? <i>P.G. Tratnyek, A.S. Pavitt, and R.L. Johnson.</i> Paul Tratnyek (Oregon Health & Science University/USA)
8:50	Development of a ¹⁴C Assay to Quantify Abiotic Transformation Rates for Chlorinated Ethenes in Water Supply Aquifers. <i>D.L. Freedman, A.A. Ramos Garcia, A. Pullen, J.T. Wilson, B. Wilson, and T. Kuder.</i> David Freedman (Clemson University/USA)
9:15	Combined Enhanced Biotic-Abiotic Transformation of Carbon Tetrachloride and Chloroform at the Field Scale: A Biogeochemical Perspective. <i>S.D. Justicia-Leon, J. Martin Tilton, C. Divine, S.M. Ulrich, D.L. Freedman, and K. Clark.</i> Shandra Justicia-Leon (Arcadis/USA)

Tuesday Platfo

A SESSIONS - Primrose A	
10:30	In Situ Biogeochemical Reductive Dechlorination: Performance in Complex Low Permeability Formation. <i>J. Studer and N. Glenn.</i> James Studer (InfraSUR, LLC/USA)
10:55	Biogeochemically Enhanced Treatment of Chlorinated Organics and Metals. <i>D. Leigh, A. Seech, and J. Molin.</i> Daniel Leigh (Evonik/USA)
11:20	Using a ¹⁴C Assay to Measure Abiotic Degradation of TCE by Magnetic Materials in Aquifer Sediment from the Western USA. <i>J.T. Wilson, B. Wilson, D.L. Freedman, and A. Ramos Garcia.</i> John Wilson (Scissortail Environmental Solutions, LLC/USA)



Chemical Reduction Technology Review



In Situ Technologies – Key Drivers



- ✓ Remedial objectives - **Time versus Money**
- ✓ Access to the contaminant of concern (underground infrastructure, public utilities, building, road, etc.)
- ✓ Polishing step to meet low remedial objectives or Risk-Based Criteria
- ✓ **Sustainable Development Contribution** versus remote off-site disposal, environmental footprint, air emission from trucking, etc.)
- ✓ **Improvement of contaminant removal rate** versus natural attenuation



Chemical Reduction In Situ/Ex Situ – Application range



Chlorinated Compounds

- ✓ PCE, TCE, cDCE, 11DCE, VC
- ✓ 1122TeCA, 111TCA, **12DCA**
- ✓ CT, CF, **DCM**, **CM**

Herbicides, Pesticides

- ✓ Toxaphène, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Pentachlorophenol

Energetics

- ✓ TNT, DNT, RDX, HMX, Perchlorate

Metals and metalloids

- ✓ As, Cr, Pb, Zn, Cd, Hg, Cu, Cr, Ni, Sb, Co

Under aerobic conditions you can target

HAP, phthalates, perchlorate, petroleum hydrocarbon

- **In Red:** need to have an organic substrate and/or a ZVI/fermentable carbon combination



ISCR Terminology



Electron Donor: reducing agents including elemental iron (ZVI), reactive minerals (iron sulfides), fermentable organic carbon (many)

Electron Acceptor: contaminants including pesticides (DDT, Dieldrin), herbicides (2,4-D), chlorinated solvents (PCE, TCE, CT), nitroaromatic explosive compounds (TNT, DNT), and heavy metals (arsenic, chromium)

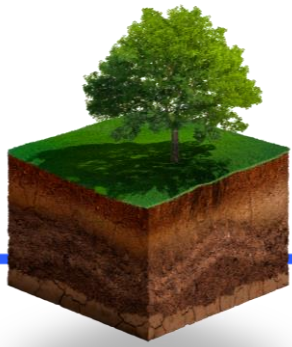
Biogeochemical Transformation : Processes where contaminants are degraded by abiotic reactions with naturally occurring and biogenically-formed minerals in the subsurface



Common Chemical Reducing Agents



- ✓ **Zero valent iron (“ZVI”) is still the most common reductant** used in situ for environmental remediation applications.
- ✓ Almost all other reductants are proprietary but most involve the use of some form of ZVI, other zero valent metals, or polysulfide compounds, sometimes mixed with a fermentable carbon substrate.
- ✓ Until 2004 it wasn't known that chlorinated VOCs were more effectively destroyed by reductant chemicals over oxidants.



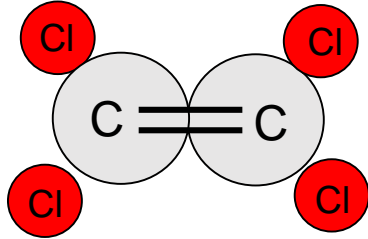
Chemical Reduction-Mechanism

Mechanism	Material	Description
Direct Chemical Reduction	ZVI or Carbon Substrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redox reaction at iron surface where solvent gains electrons and iron donates electrons• Abiotic reaction <i>via</i> beta-elimination
Indirect Chemical Reduction	ZVI or Carbon Substrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surface dechlorination by magnetite and green rust precipitates from iron corrosion
Stimulated Biological Reduction	Carbon Substrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anaerobic reductive dechlorination involving fastidious microorganisms• Strongly influenced by nutritional status and pH of aqueous phase
Enhanced Thermodynamic Decomposition	Carbon Substrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energetics of dechlorination are more favorable under lower redox conditions generated by combination of ZVI and organic carbon

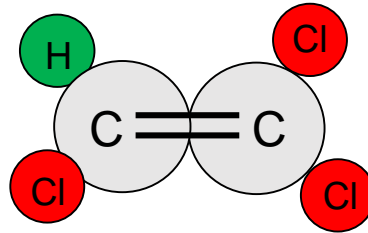
Direct Dechlorination Reactions with ZVI

β elimination (abiotic) pathway

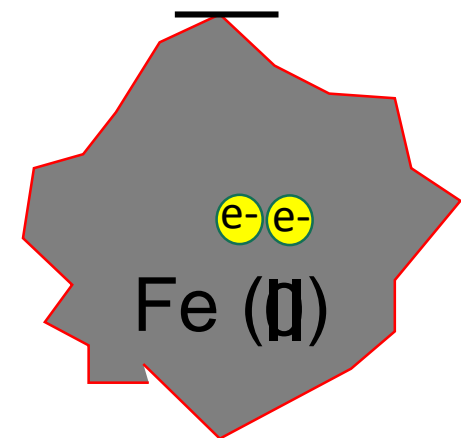
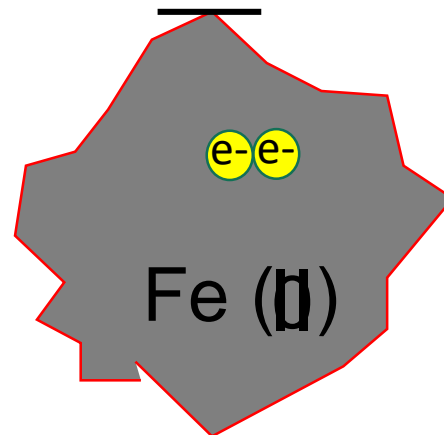
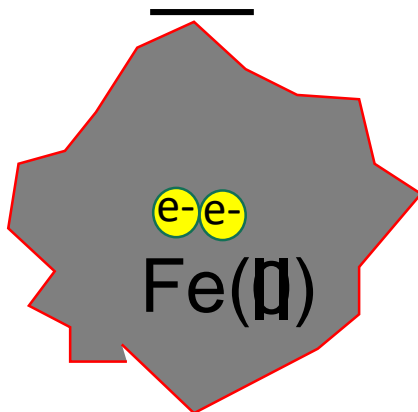
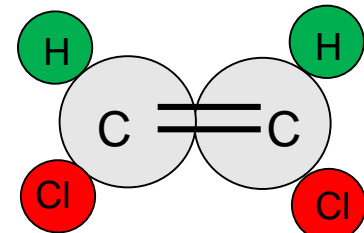
~~Tetrachloroethylene~~



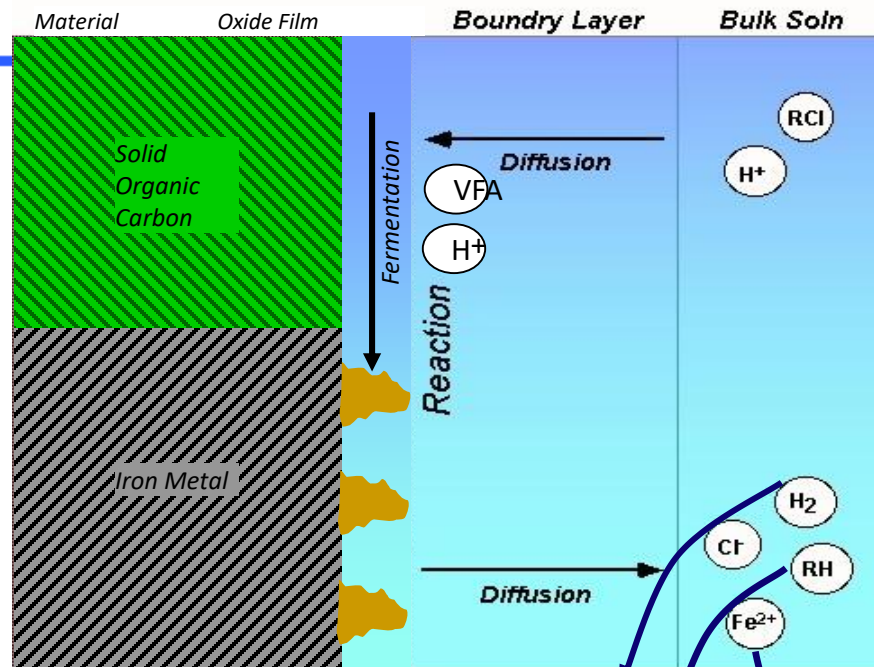
~~Chloroacetylene~~



~~Dichloroethylene~~



Carbon + ZVI Synergies Generate Multiple Dechlorination Mechanisms: ISCR



1. Direct Iron Effects:

Hydrocarbon generation:

2. Indirect Iron Effects: Dissolved iron precipitates to reactive minerals

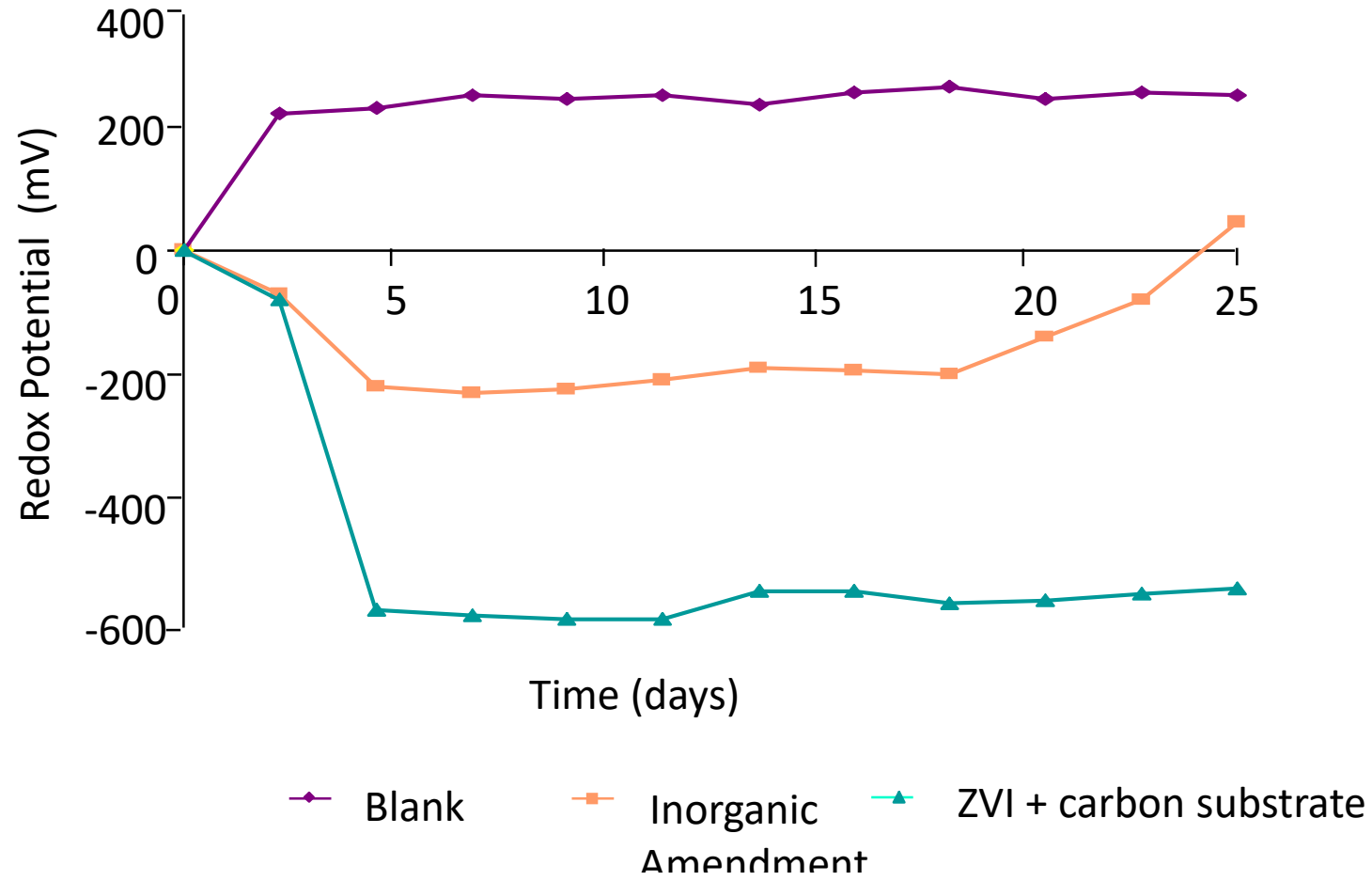
3. Biostimulation:

- Serve as electron donor and nutrient source for microbial activity
- VFAs reduce precipitate formation on ZVI surfaces to increase reactivity
- Facilitate consumption of competing electron acceptors such as O₂, NO₃, SO₄
- Increase rate of iron corrosion/H₂ generation

4. Enhanced Thermodynamics:

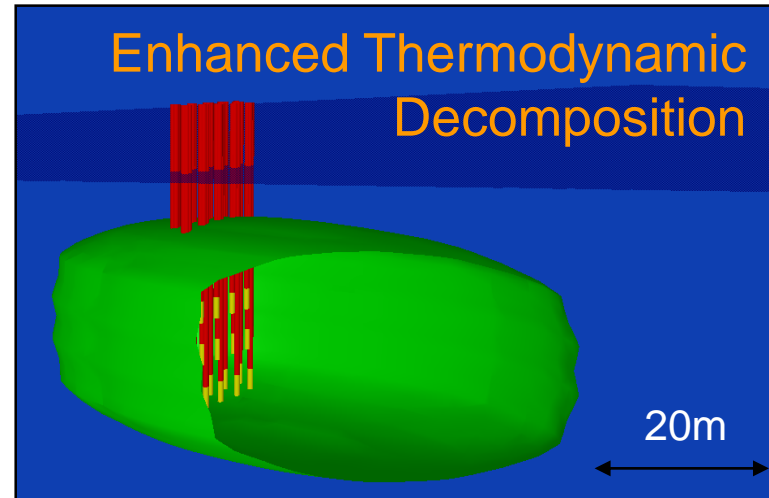
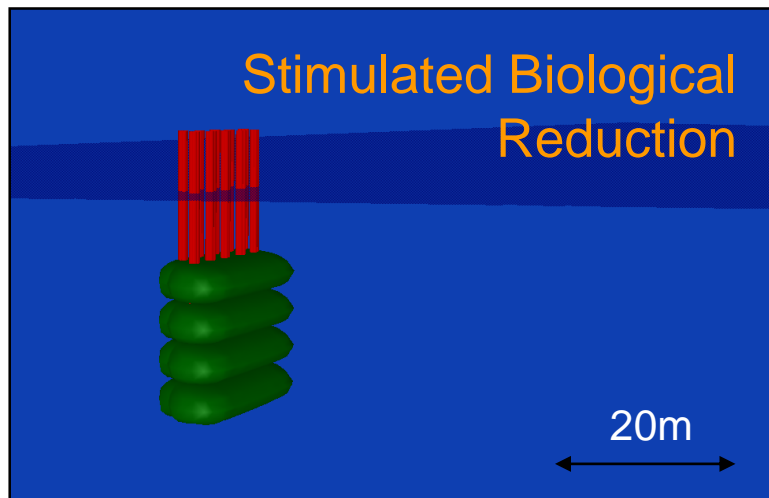
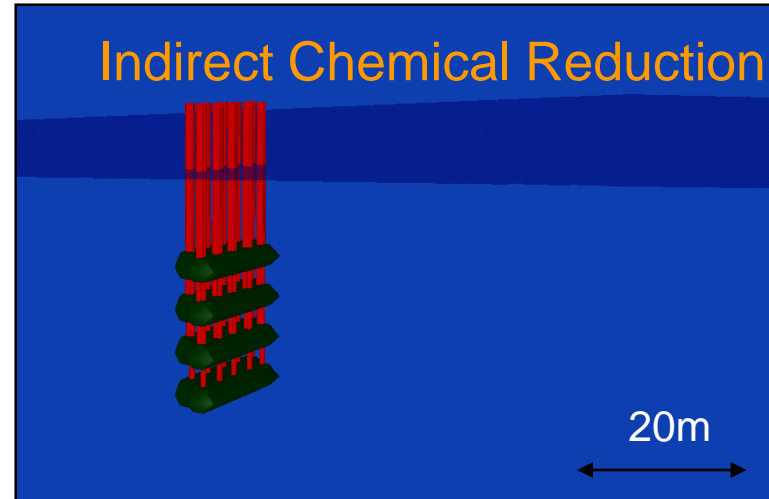
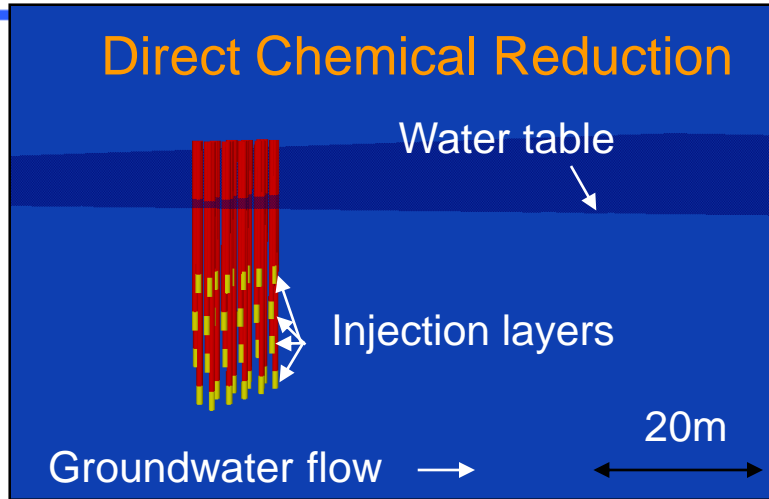
- Very low redox reached by addition of fermentable carbon and ZVI (-500 mV)
- Two processes simultaneously reduce Eh
- Enhances kinetics of dechlorination reactions via higher electron/H⁺ pressure

Redox Potential evolution during a reductive phase treatment period





ZVI + Carbone Synergies brings multiples dechloration mechanism





Common Chemical Reducing Agents



- ✓ Sugars
 - ✓ Molasses
 - ✓ high fructose corn syrup
 - ✓ Whey
 - ✓ Fatty acids
 - ✓ Lactate
 - ✓ Butyrate
 - ✓ Propionate
 - ✓ Emulsified Vegetable Oils
-
- ✓ Soybean Oil
 - ✓ Complex Fermentable Carbon complex
 - ✓ Lecithin
 - ✓ Polylactate
 - ✓ Zero Valent Iron (ZVI)
 - ✓ Soluble Iron Compounds
 - ✓ Reactive Minerals

Biogeochemical process Technology Review



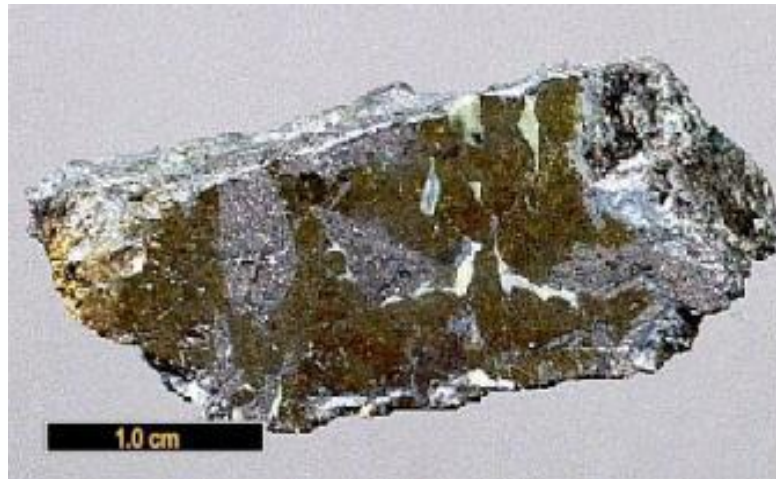
Biogeochemical Transformation

- ✓ USEPA Definition: *Processes where contaminants are degraded by abiotic reactions with naturally occurring and biogenically-formed minerals in the subsurface.*
- ✓ Reactive minerals include iron-sulfides (e.g. pyrite, mackinawite, greigite) and oxides (e.g. magnetite)

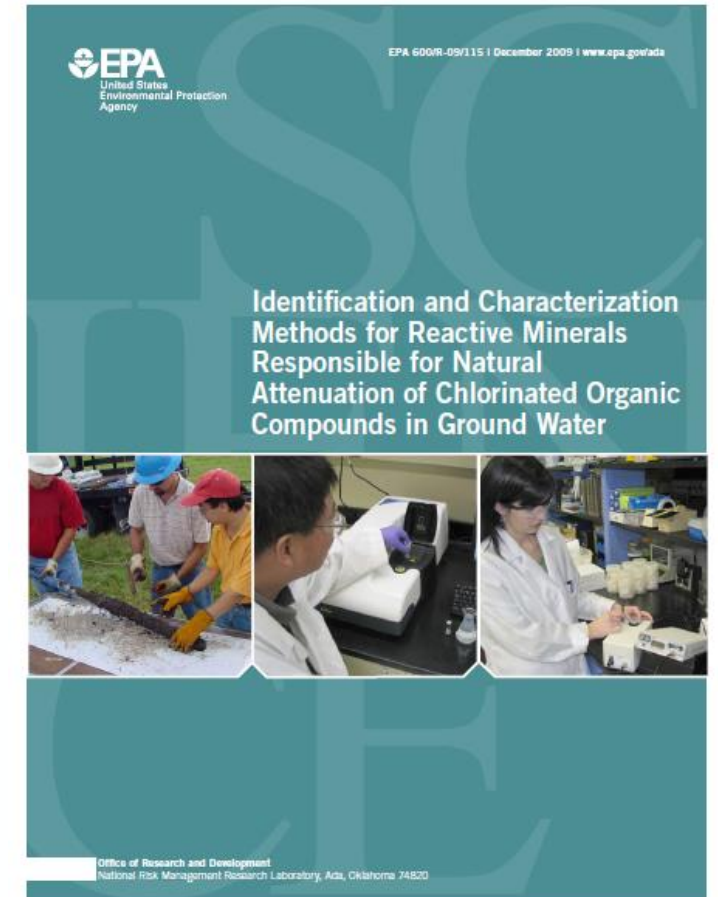
Focus on Iron-Sulfide Minerals

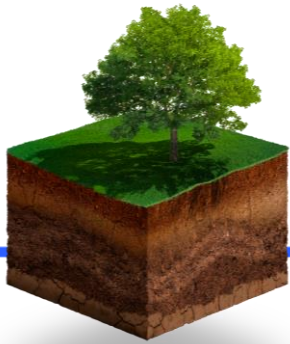


Pyrite (FeS_2)



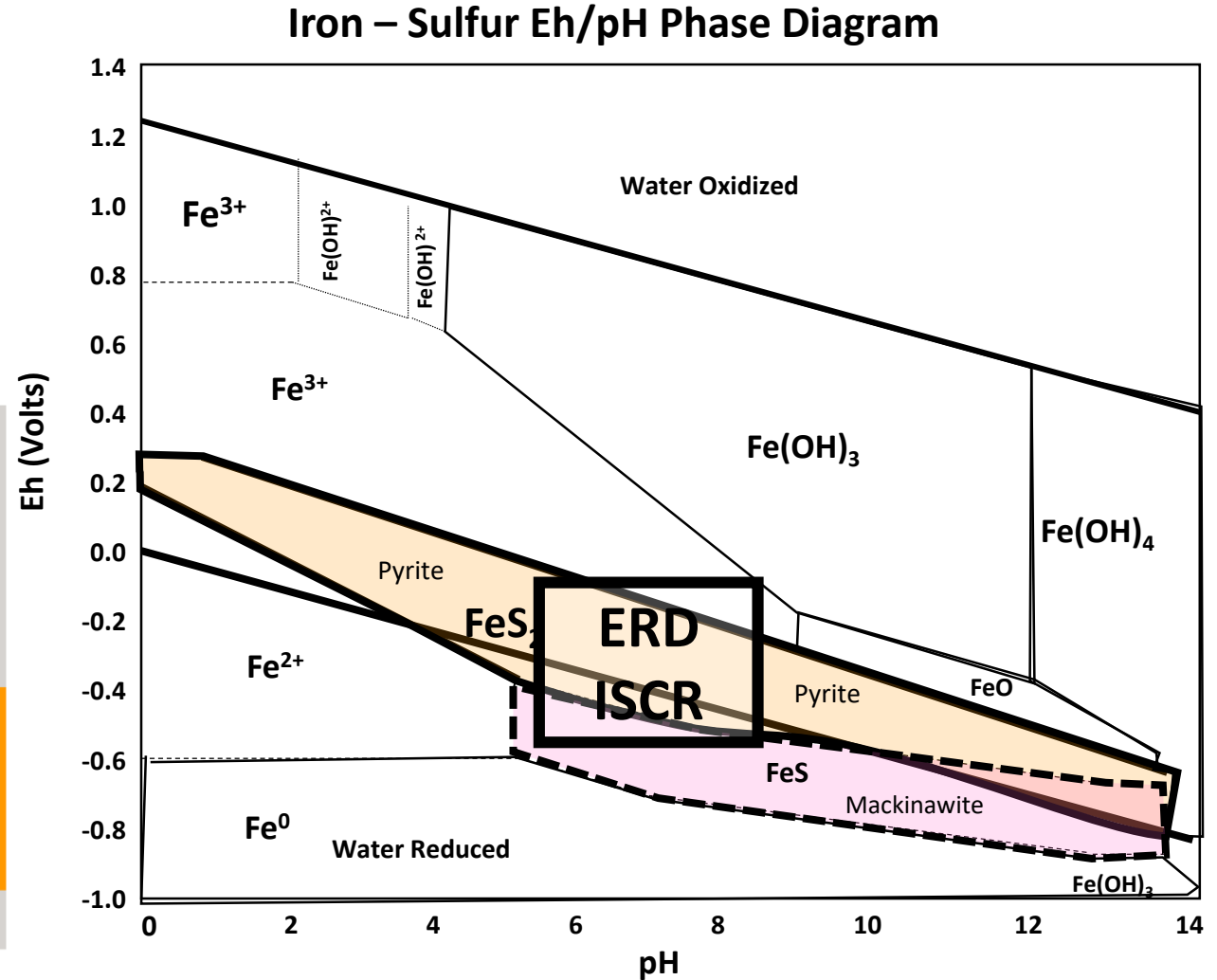
Mackinawite ($\text{Fe}_{(1+x)}\text{S}$)





Iron-sulfide minerals form, and are stable under ERD/ISCR conditions

FeS minerals conveniently form, and are stable in the same Eh, pH range as biological reductive dechlorination (ERD) and In Situ Chemical Reduction (ISCR)



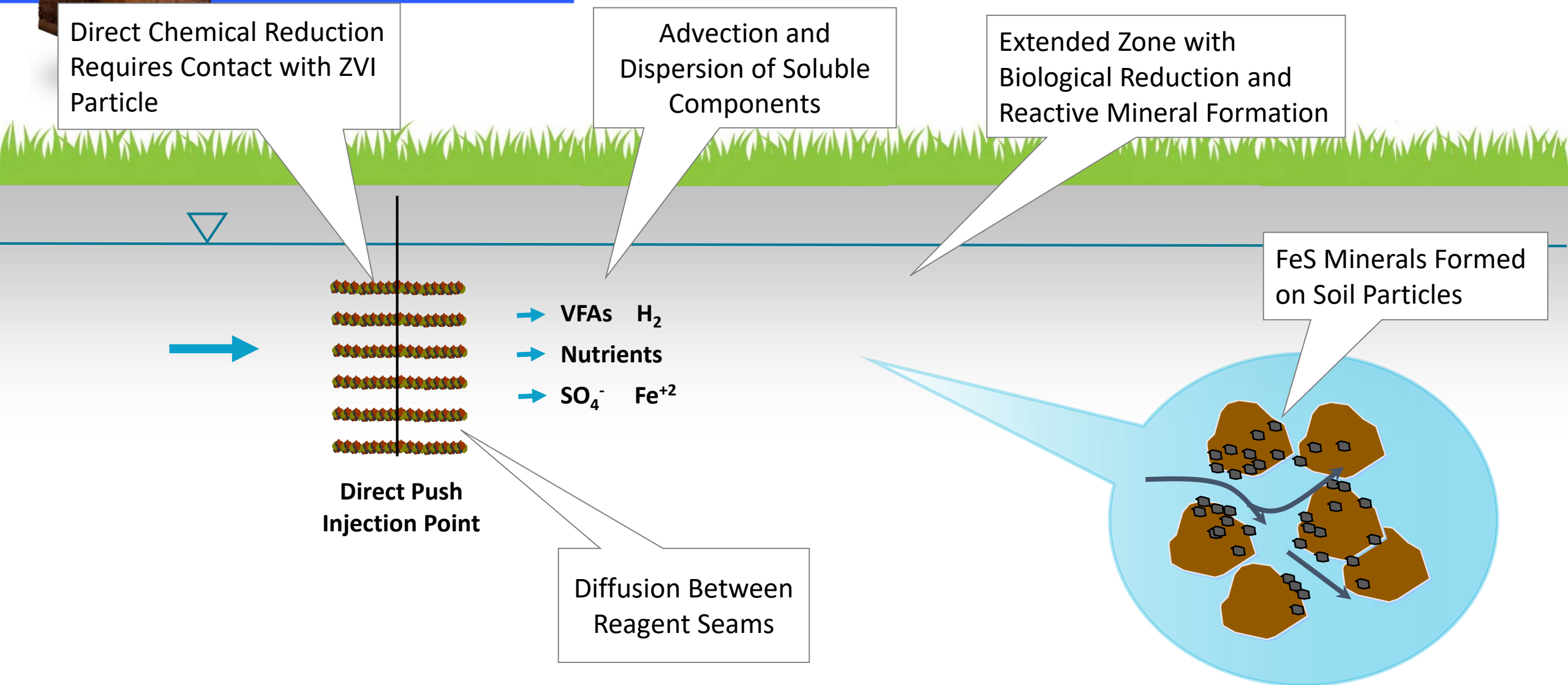
Eh Range for Reduction of Various Electron Acceptors

Condition	Electron Acceptor	Redox Reaction	Eh ⁰ (Volts)	Product
Aerobic	Oxygen	$O_2 + 4H^+ + 4e^- \rightarrow 2H_2O$	+820	
Anaerobic	Nitrate	$2NO_3^- + 12H^+ + 10e^- \rightarrow N_{2(g)} + 6H_2O$	+740	
	Arsenic (V)	$H_3AsO_4 + 2H^+ + 2e^- \rightarrow H_3AsO_3 + H_2O$	+559	
	Manganese (IV)	$MnO_2(s) + HCO_3^- + 3H^+ + 2e^- \rightarrow MnCO_3(s) + 2H_2O$	+520	
	Iron (III)	$FeOOH(s) + HCO_3^- + 2H^+ + e^- \rightarrow FeCO_3 + 2H_2O$	-50	Fe(II) in Solution
Optimal range for Dechlorination	Sulfate	$SO_4^{2-} + 9H^+ + 8e^- \rightarrow HS^- + 4H_2O$	-220	HS ⁻ in Solution
	Methanogenesis	$CO_2 + 8H^+ + 8e^- \rightarrow CH_4 + 2H_2O$	-240	

Redox Potential (Eh⁰) in Millivolts @ pH = 7 and T = 25°C

AFCEE, NAVFAC, ESTCP, Principals and Practices, 2004*

Improved Distribution Properties





Sulfidation Increases ZVI reactivity and Longevity

“Sulfidation” ... can refer to any modification or transformation of a metal-based material by exposure to sulfur compounds of various oxidation states...”

Geoform™ ER In Situ Sulfidation Process:

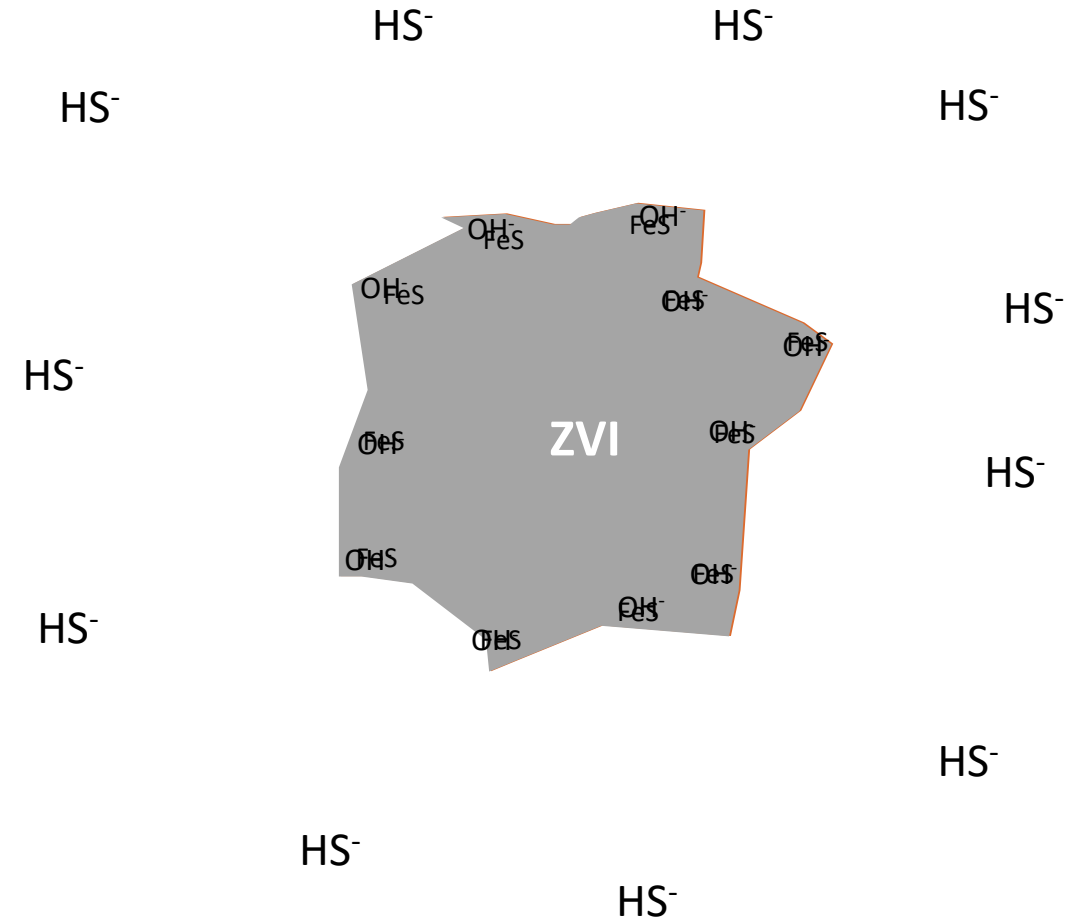
ZVI, sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) and organic carbon (OC) are distributed in aquifer

ZVI reacts with water to generate OH^- on surface

Sulfate is biologically reduced to sulfide (HS^-)

Sulfide replaces OH^- on ZVI

Fe^{2+} (ambient, supplied or from ZVI oxidation,) combines with HS^- to form FeS coating on ZVI



Key Advantage 1

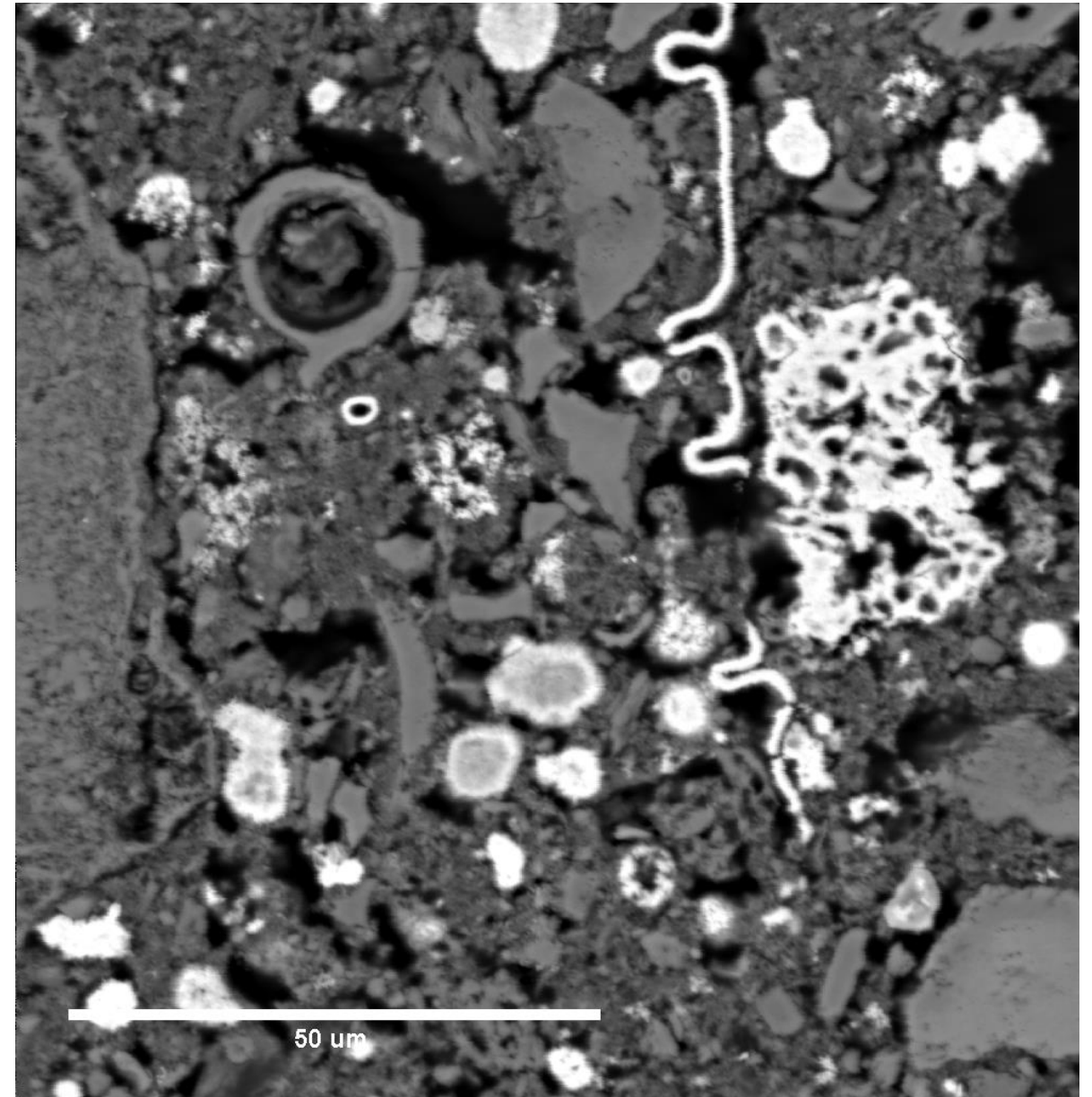
Expanded Surface Area for Abiotic Pathway Without Aquifer Occlusion

- **Produces a very large surface area:**
3,000 mg/L $\text{SO}_4 + \text{Fe}$ generates:
3 μM coating $\sim 0.21 \text{ M}^2$ per Liter
 $\sim 73.5 \text{ M}^2$ per M^3 of aquifer (@35% porosity)
- **Produce a very small volume:**
 $\sim 2.7 \text{ g FeS}$ per Liter (@ $\text{SO}_4 = 3,000 \text{ mg/L}$)
 $\sim 1.9 \text{ g FeS}_2$ per Liter (@ $\text{SO}_4 = 3,000 \text{ mg/L}$)

Volume FeS $\sim 0.56 \text{ cm}^3$ per Liter

Volume FeS₂ $\sim 0.37 \text{ cm}^3$ per Liter

$\sim 0.1\%$ of aquifer pore space

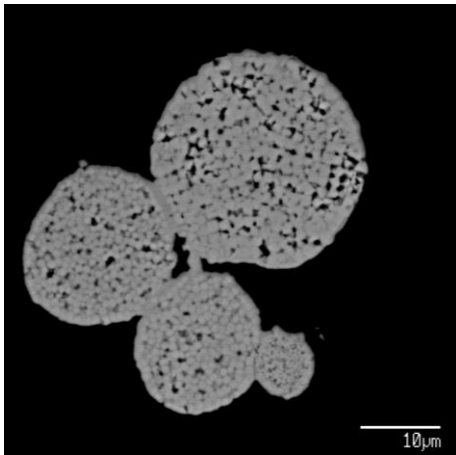
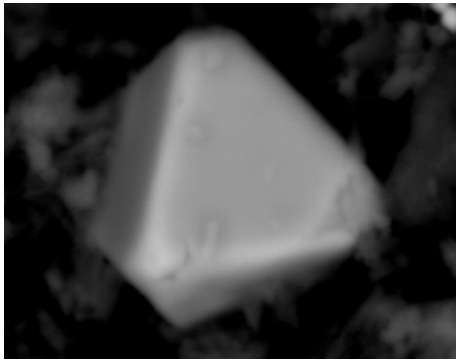




Iron-Sulfide Minerals Occur in Several Forms

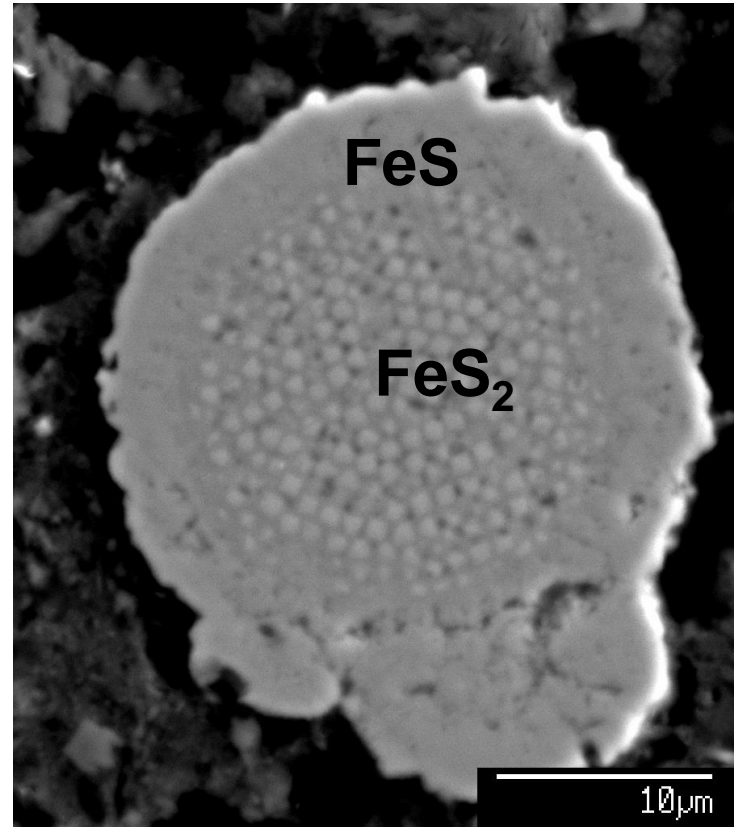
Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) Images

Euhedral Pyrite (FeS_2)

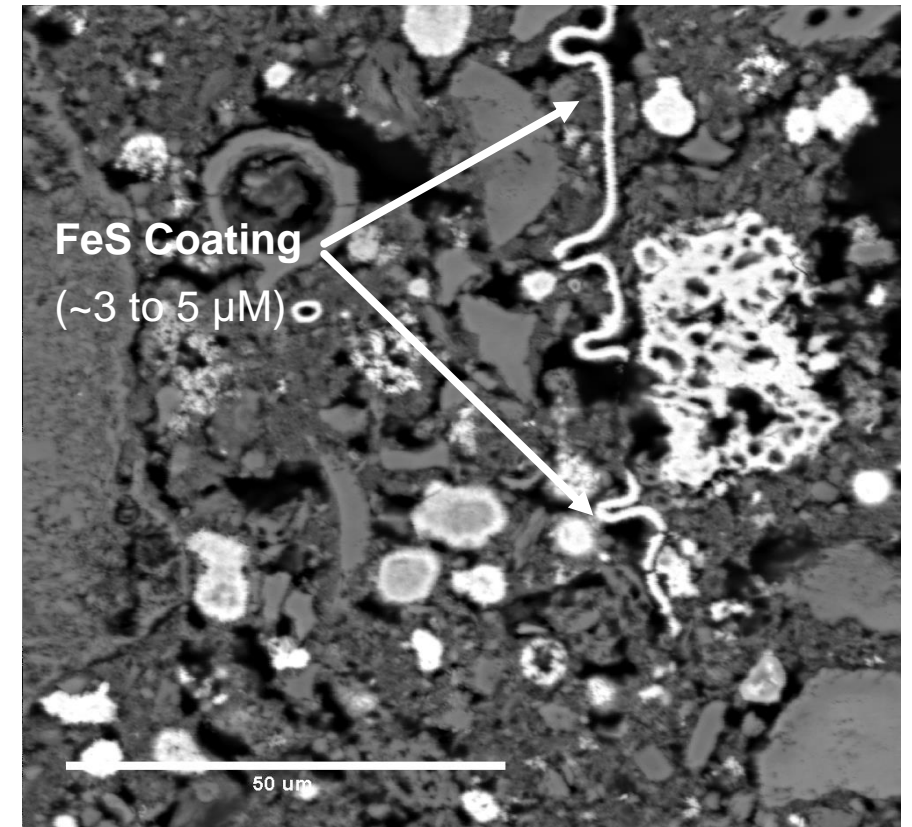


Framboidal Pyrite (FeS_2)

Framboidal FeS_2 and FeS Coating

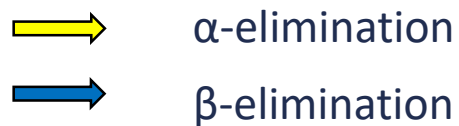
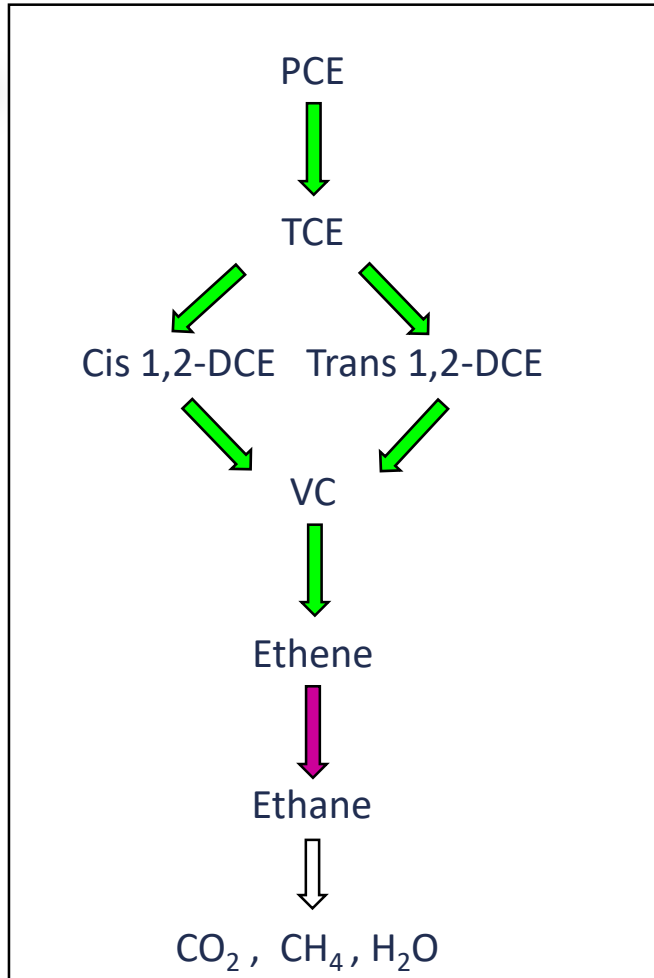


Fe replacement, FeS coating and nano scale FeS_2

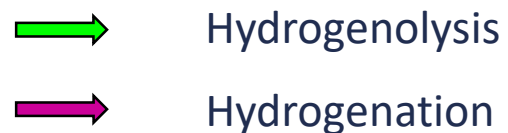
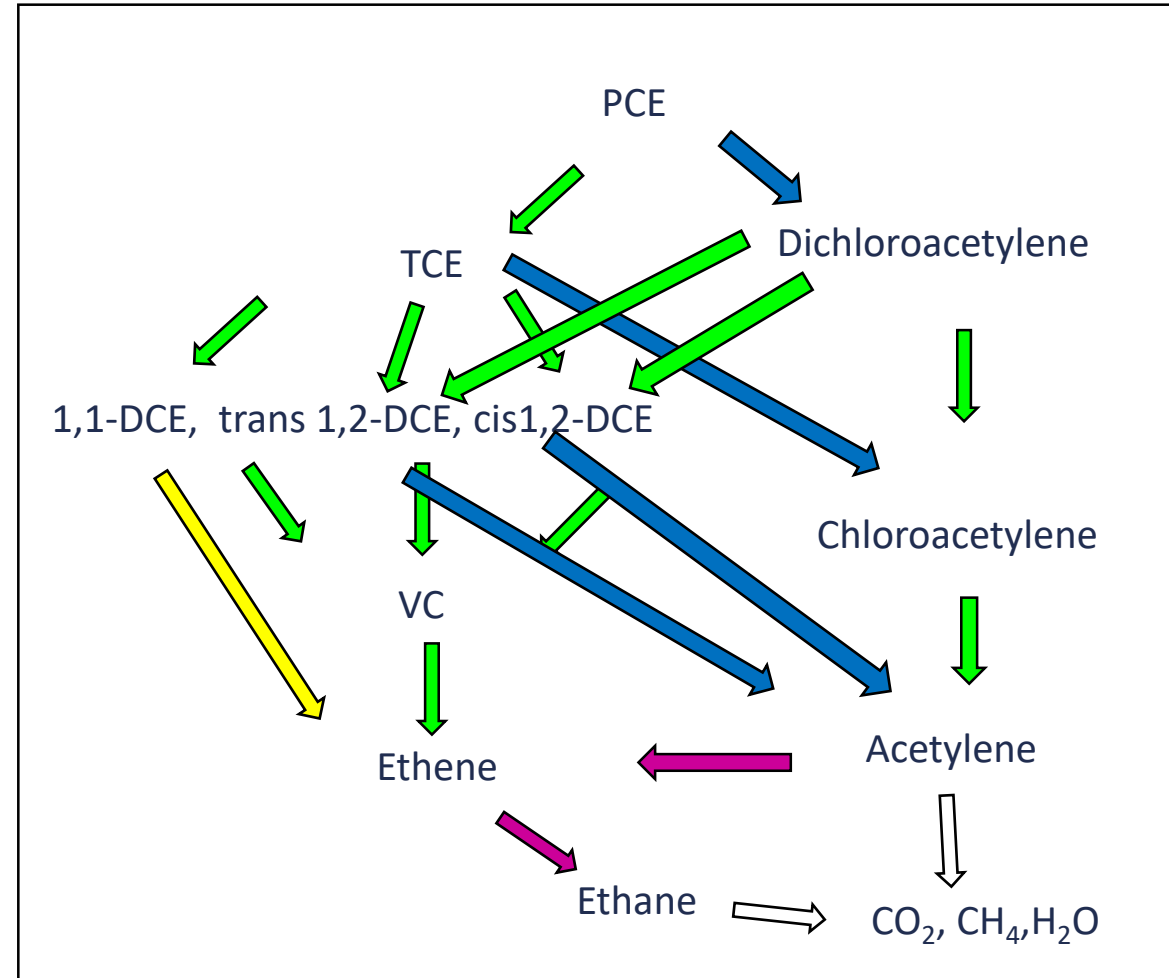


Biotic and Abiotic Reductive Pathways

Biotic



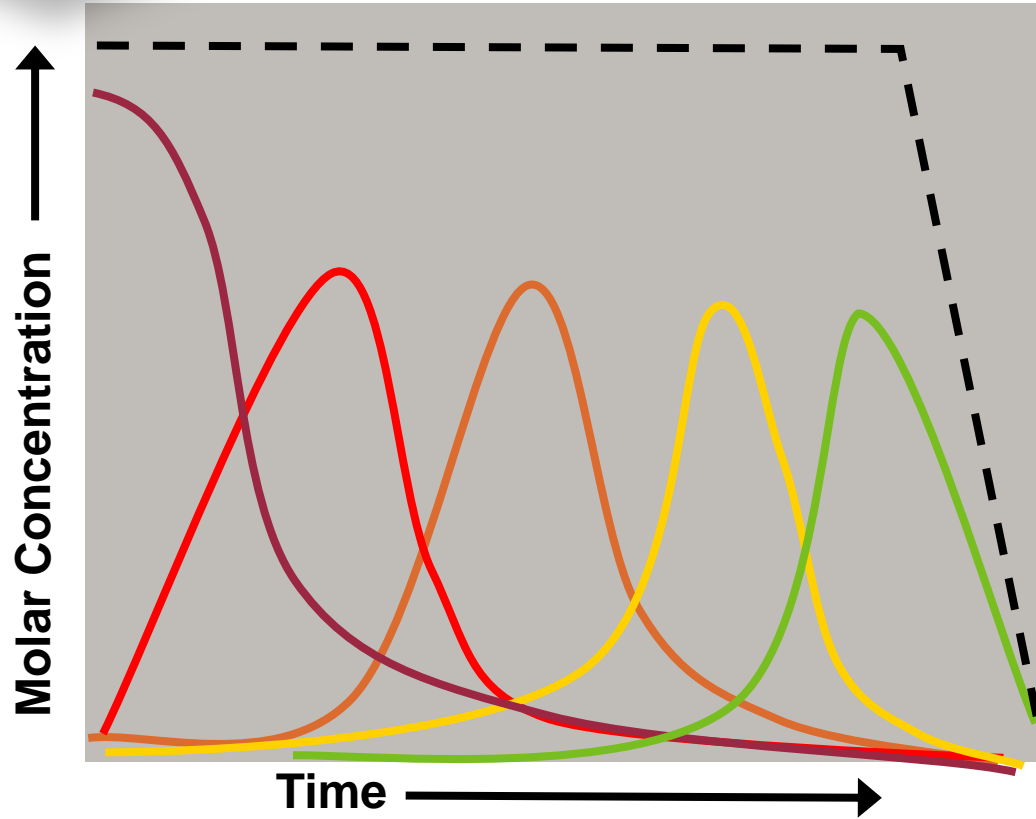
Abiotic



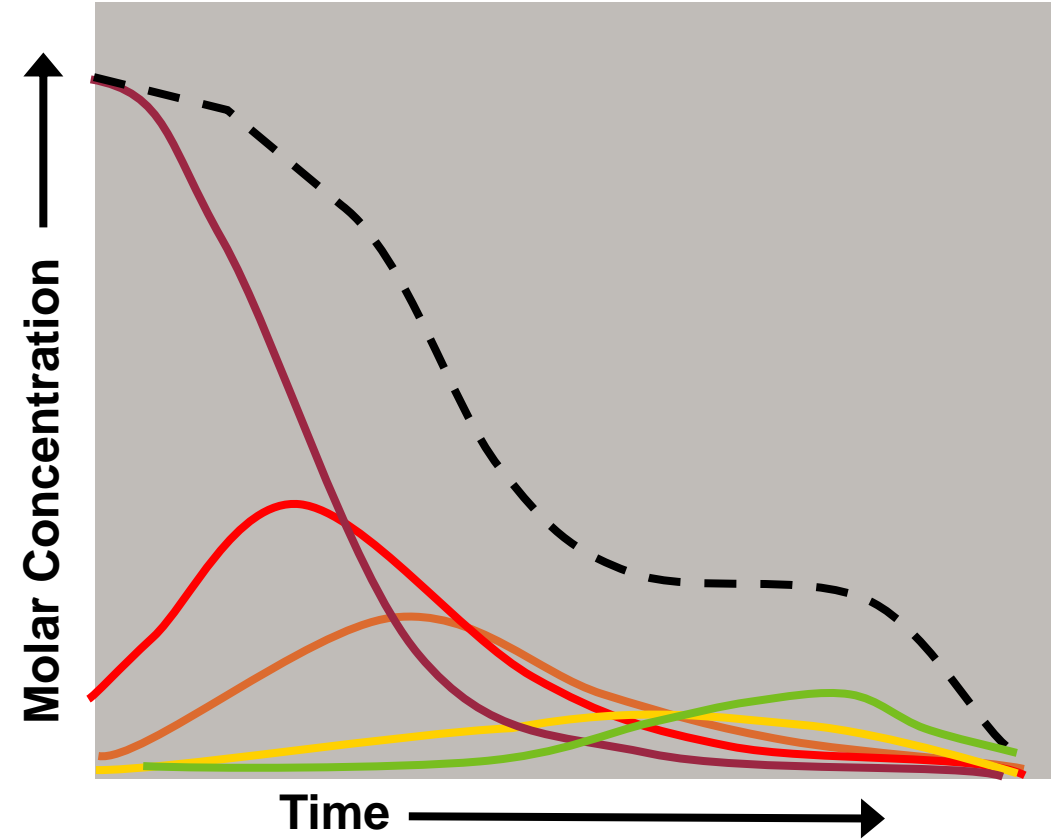


Anticipated Change in Chlorinated Ethene Molar Concentration

Biological Degradation (Chlororespiration)



Abiotic / Biogeochemical Degradation (β elimination)





Key Advantage 2 - Biogeochemical Process Treat Metals

- Heavy metals and metalloids are a common groundwater contaminant
- Heavy metals are often associated with chlorinated organic plumes
- Some naturally occurring metals increase or decrease in groundwater during the establishment of reducing conditions by ERD and ISCR.

Solid	Arsenic As[V]	→	As[III]	Soluble
Solid	Manganese: Mn [IV]	→	Mn[II]	Soluble
Solid	Iron Fe[III]	→	Fe[II]	Soluble
Soluble	Chromium Cr[VI]	→	Cr[III]	Solid

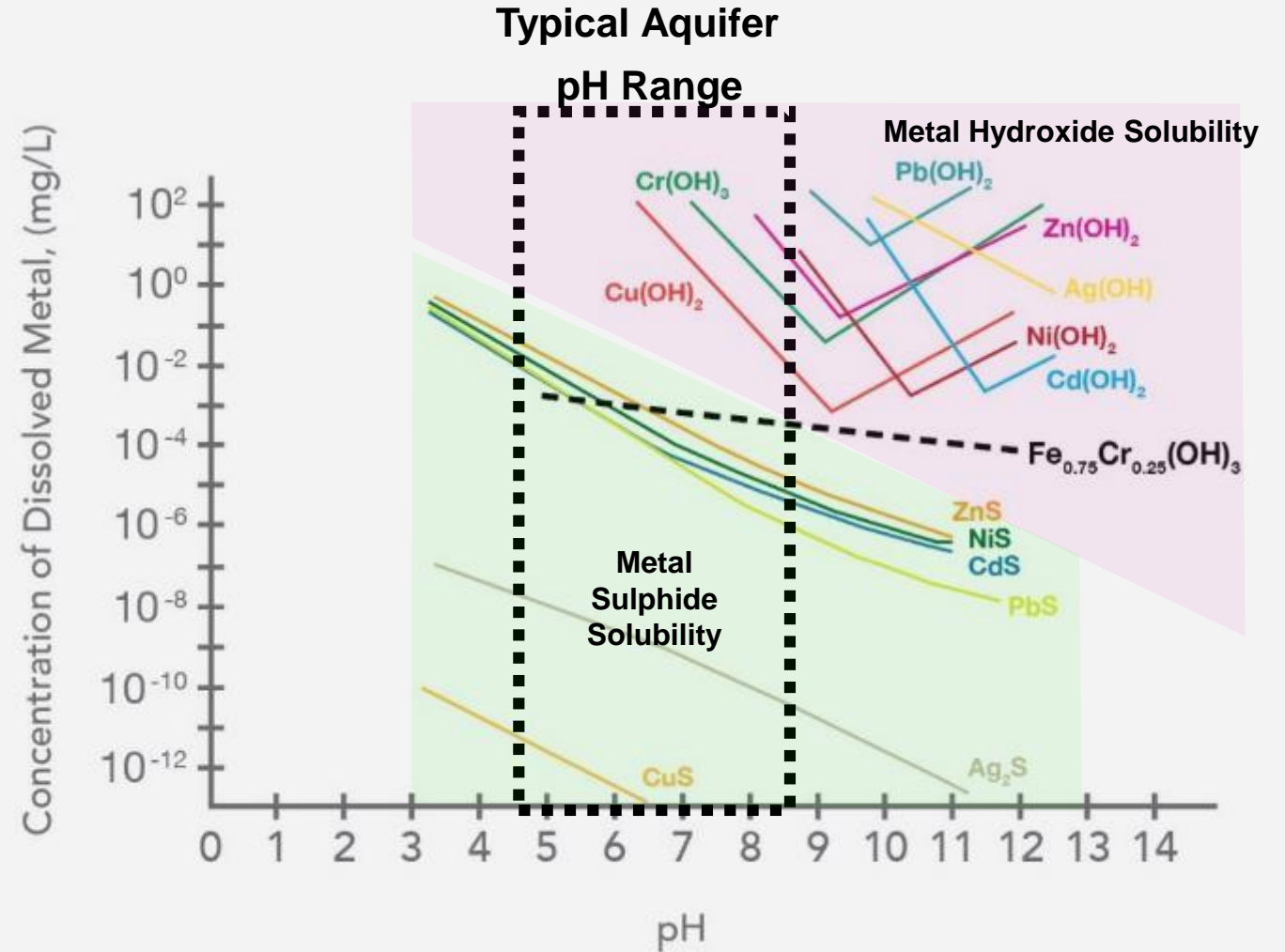
Many metals can be precipitated as sulphides / iron-sulfides

Arsenic (Arsenopyrite, FeAsS_2), Zinc (sphalerite, ZnS), Iron (pyrite (FeS_2), mackinawite (FeS), Cobalt (CoS), Lead (PbS , galena)



Metal-Sulfides are less soluble than metal hydroxides under typical aquifer pH

Aqueous Solubility & Stability of Heavy Metals as Hydroxides, Iron Oxyhydroxides, and Sulfides



Case Studies

Case Study:

Evaluation of Biogeochemical Treatment Using Non-Standard Analytical Techniques

Site Conditions:

- Aerobic aquifer
- Ambient Sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) ~ 200 mg/L

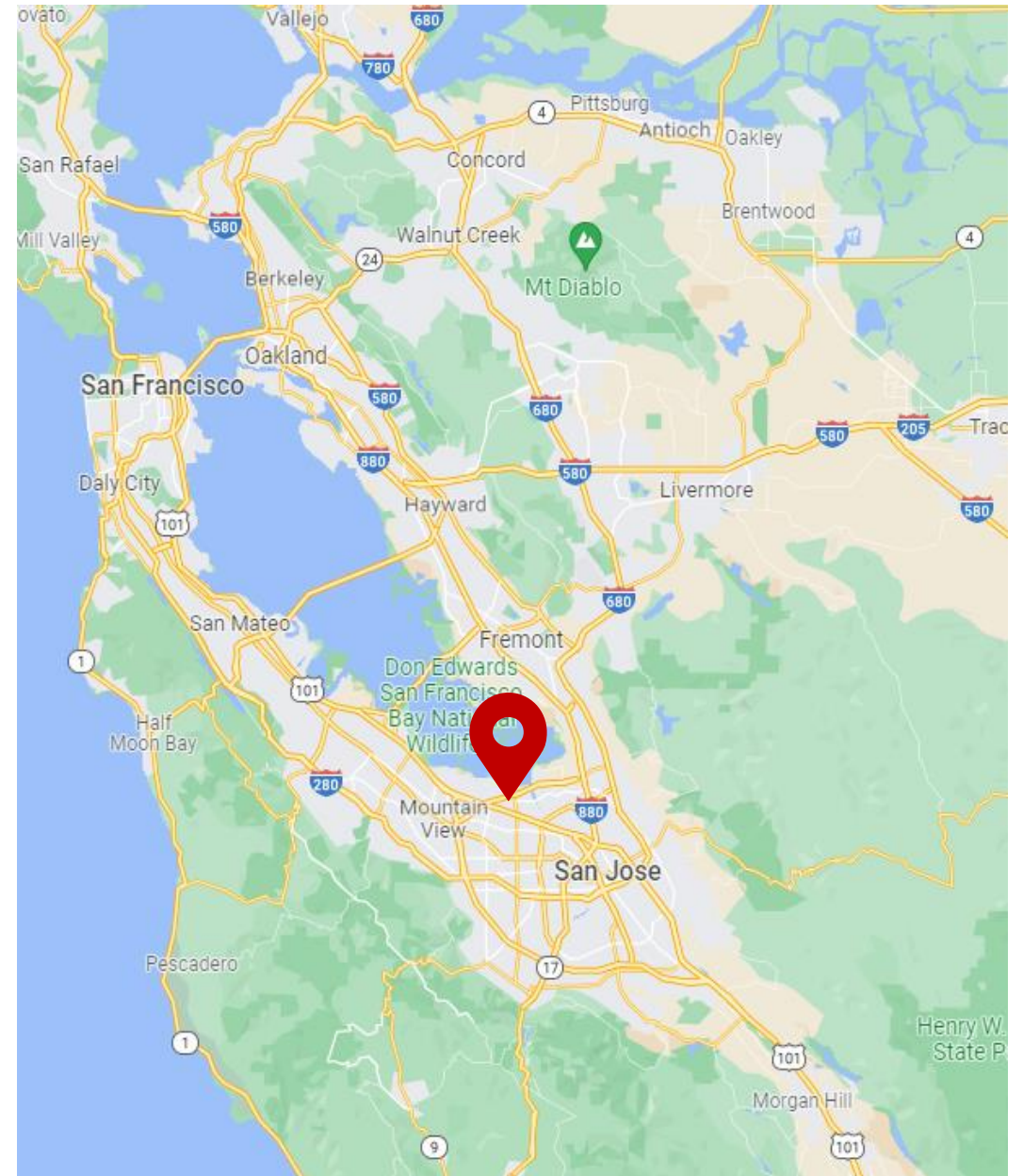
Applied:

- EHC[®] = ZVI + OC (no added SO_4^{2-})
- GeoForm[™] ER = ZVI + OC + SO_4^{2-} + Fe^{2+}

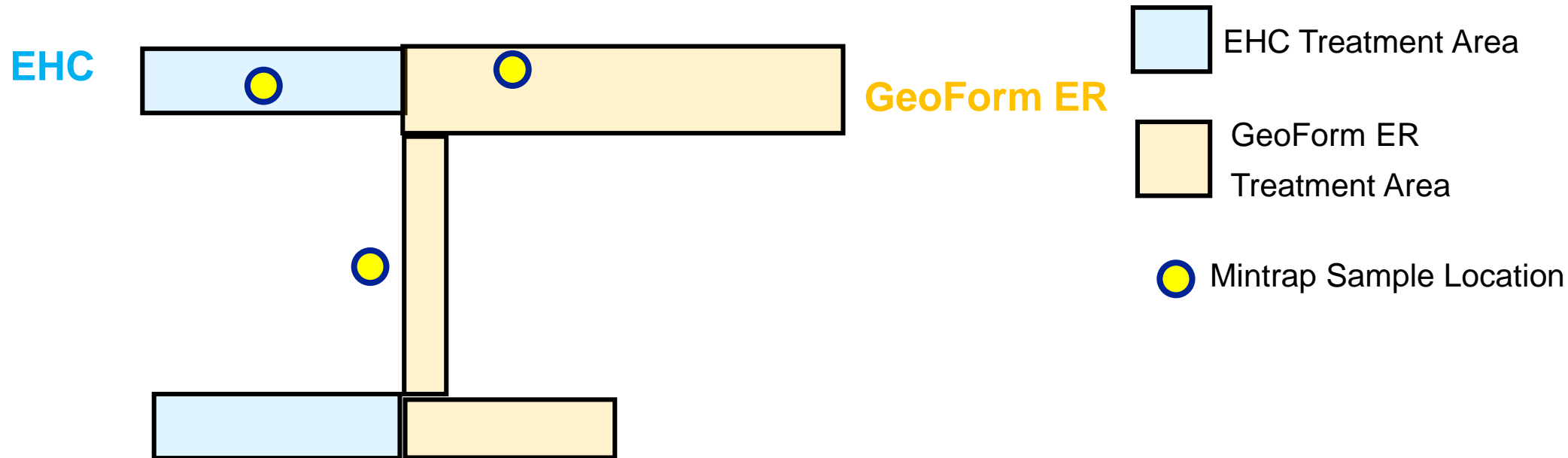
Mintrap[™] Installed before treatment and collected \sim 4 months after treatment.

Samples Analyzed for:

- Total iron and sulphur
- AMIBA
- SEM-EDS - Scanning Electron Microscopy-
Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy



EHC[®] and GeoForm[™] Extended Release Application



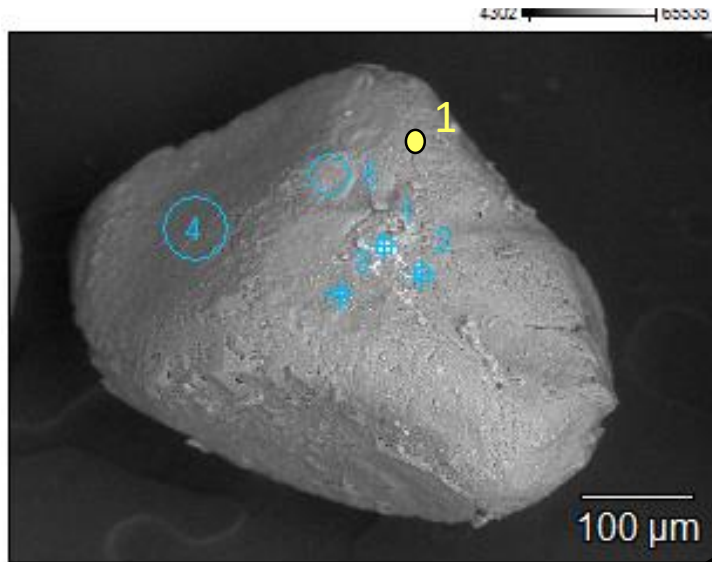
Mintrap™ samples from EHC® and GeoForm™ Extended Release Application



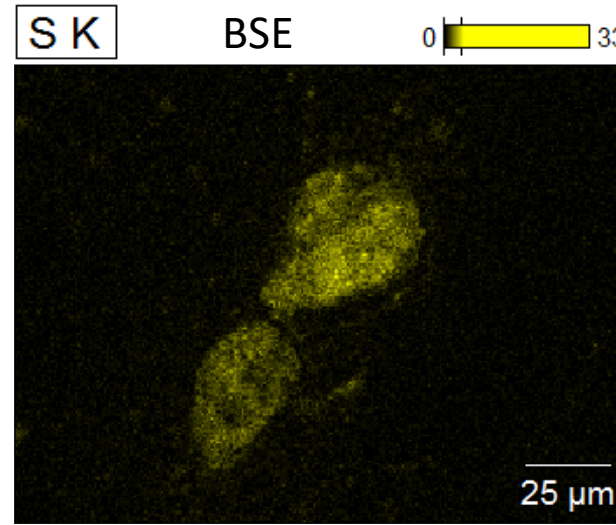
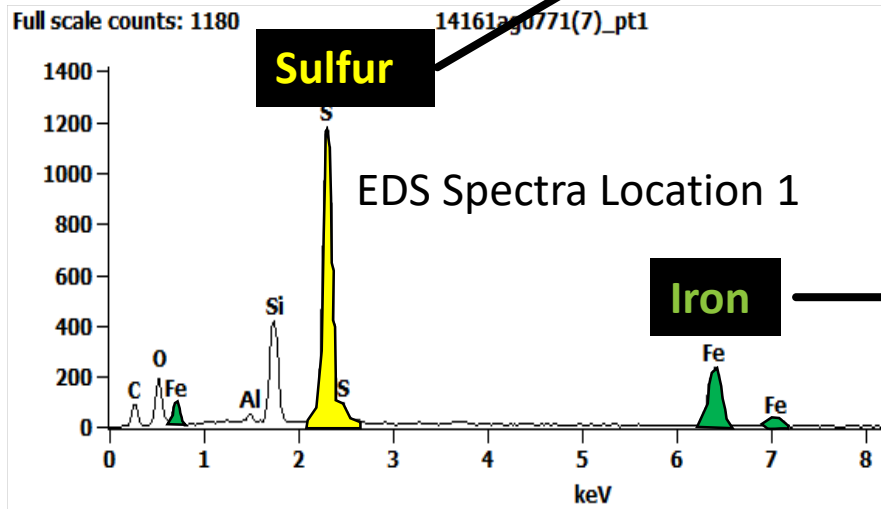
Ulrich, S., Martin Tilton, J., Justicia-Leon, S., Liles, D., Prigge, R., Carter, E., Divine, C., Taggart, D., & Clark, K. (2021). *Laboratory and initial field testing of the Min-Trap™ for tracking reactive iron sulfide mineral formation during in situ remediation. Remediation. 1–14.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/rem.21681>

SEM-EDS Results - Following GeoForm™ ER Application

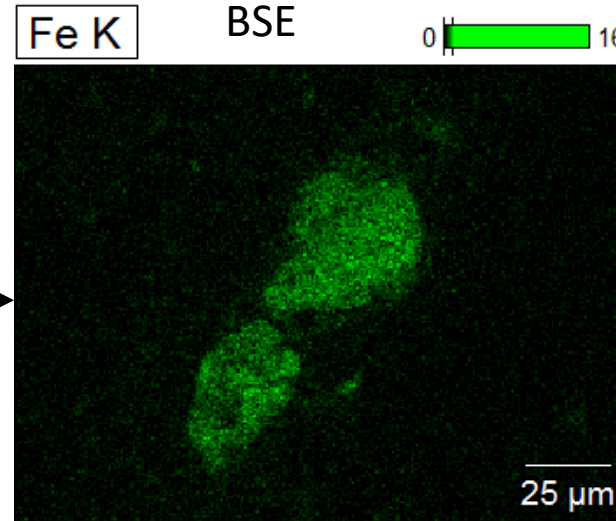
Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)-Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS)



SE EDS Location map
(SE – Secondary Electrons – Show Morphology)

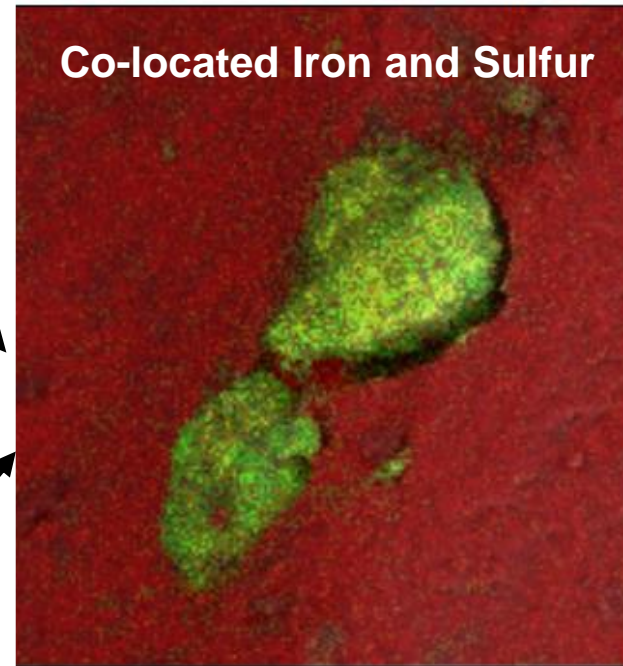


(BSE – Backscatter Electrons)
(Identifies Elements on Surface)



AMIBA Results	
AVS (FeS)	CrES (FeS ₂)
51%	49%

BSE

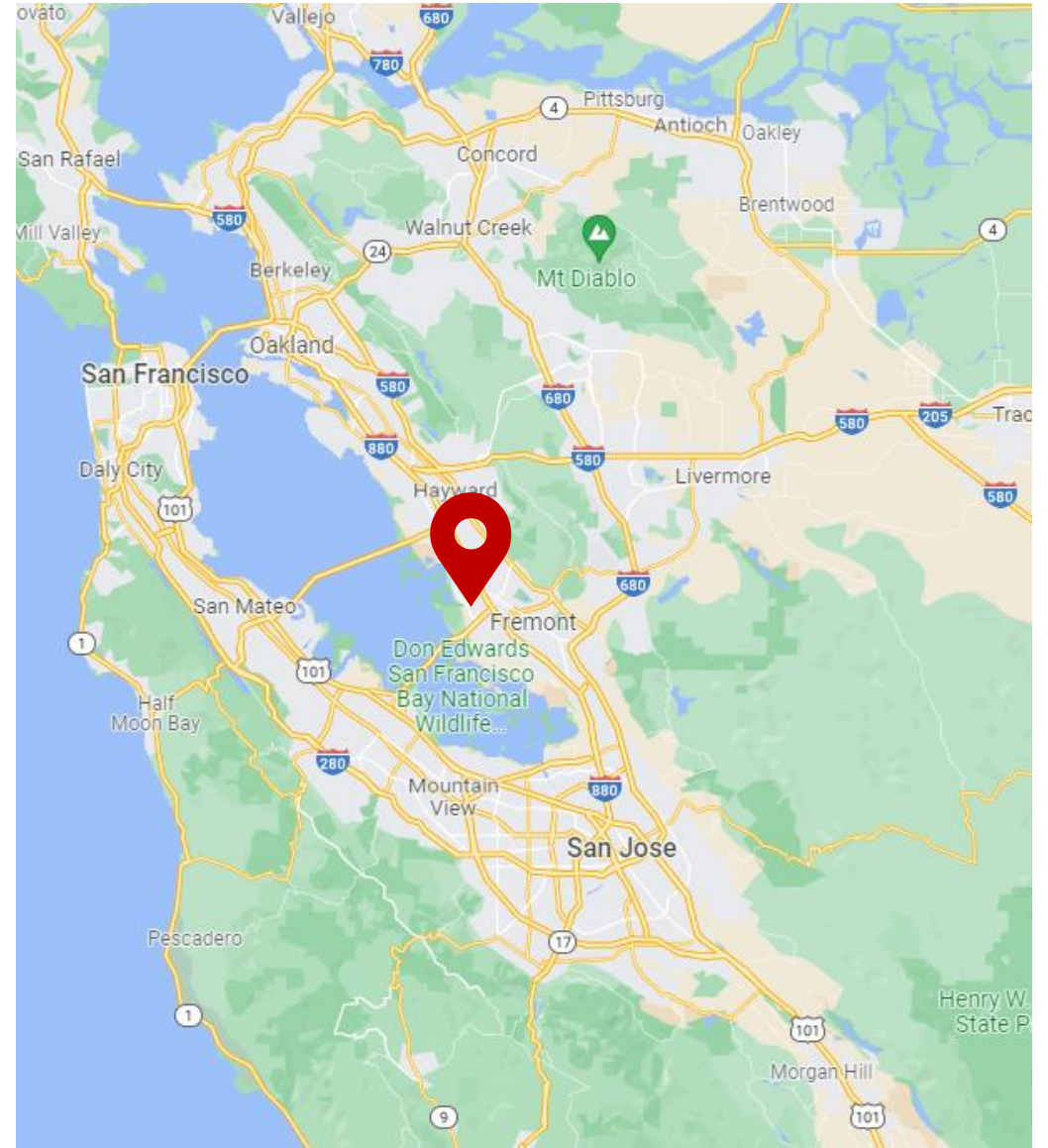


X-ray overlay map
red = Si,
green = Fe,
yellow = S.

Case Study:

Combined ISCR and BGCR Treatment of Chlorinated Organics

- Site Overview
 - Elevated sulfate groundwater (~ 400 to 700 mg/L)
 - High Concentration TCE
 - Permeable Reactive Barrier Application
 - Mixed plume (TCE, 1,2-DCA, CF)
 - One recalcitrant hot spot treatment
- Both properties being developed
- Client wanted aggressive approach
- Evaluated biogeochemical enhanced treatment for both sites



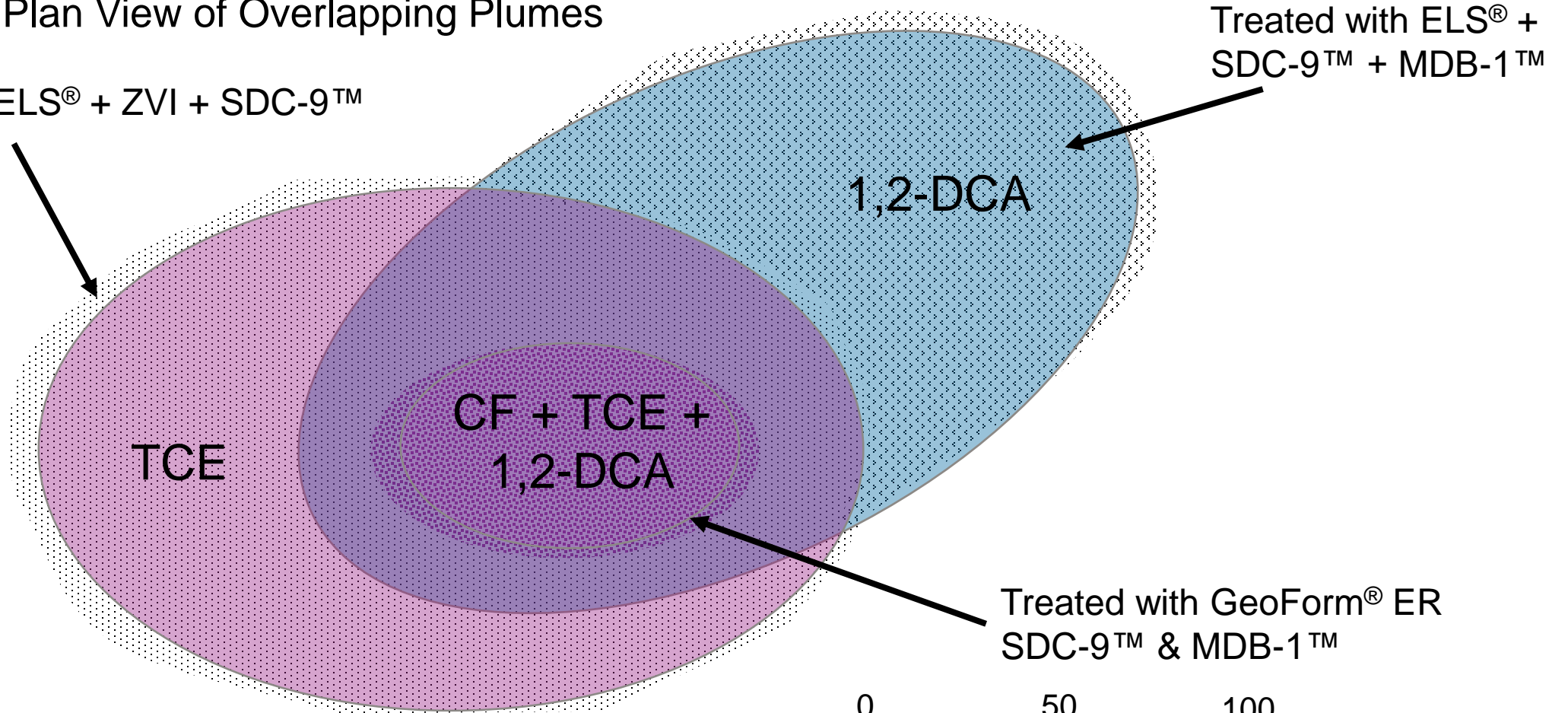
Case Study: BGCR Treatment of Mixed Chlorinated Organics

Sequential Treatment of Mixed Plume

Conceptual Plan View of Overlapping Plumes

Treated with ELS[®] + ZVI + SDC-9[™]

Treated with ELS[®] +
SDC-9[™] + MDB-1[™]



Treated with GeoForm[®] ER
SDC-9[™] & MDB-1[™]

0 50 100

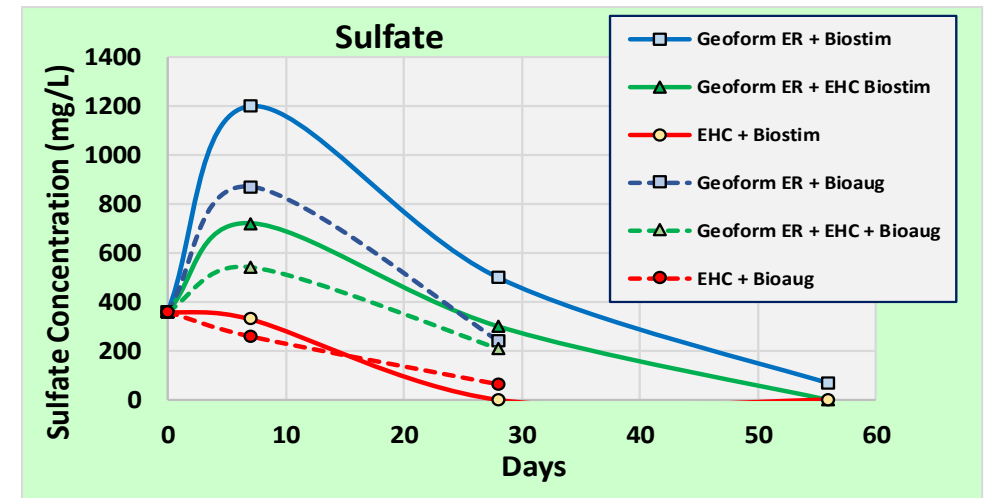
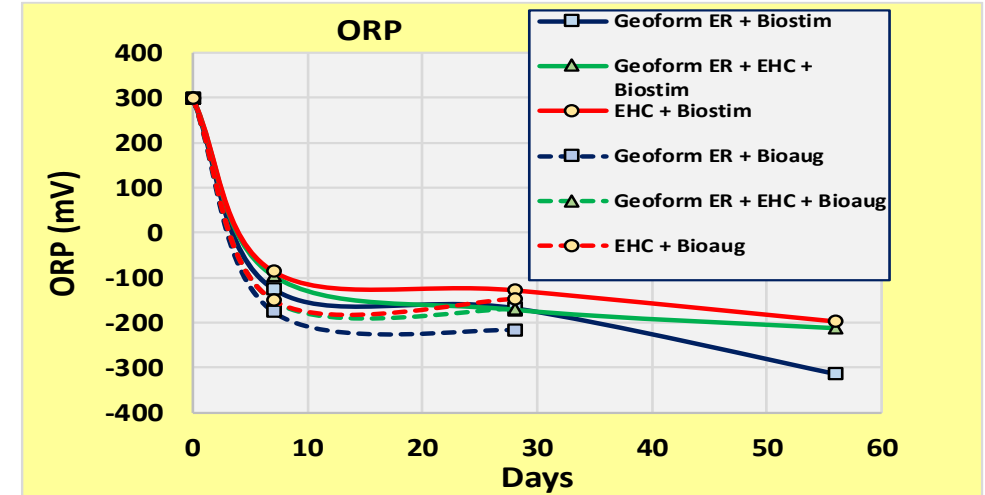
Approximate Scale Feet

SDC-9[™] and MDB-1[™] are microbial consortiums provided by Aptim

Case Study: Chlorinated Ethene (CE) Treatment at Bay Area Site

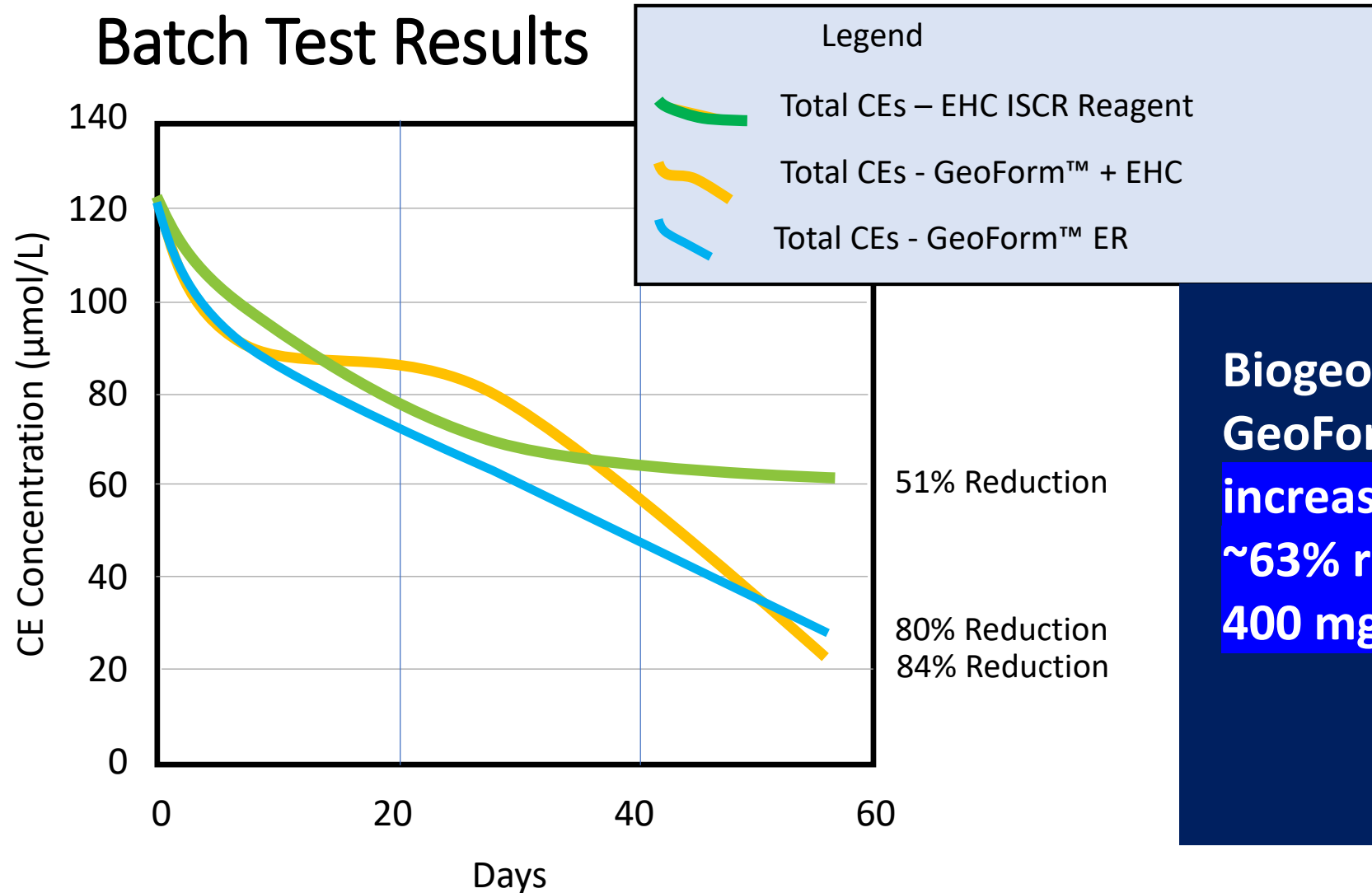


- **Bench Test compared:**
 - EHC[®] ISCR Reagent (no added sulfate)
 - GeoForm[®] Extended Release + EHC[®]
 - GeoForm[®] Extended Release
- EHC[®] similar to GeoForm[®] ER except EHC[®] does not contain ferrous iron and sulfate as does GeoForm[®] ER
- With ambient sulfate (~ 400 mg/L)
- With and without bioaugmentation (SDC-9[™])



Case Study - Chlorinated Ethene (CE) Treatment at Bay Area Site

Batch Test Results

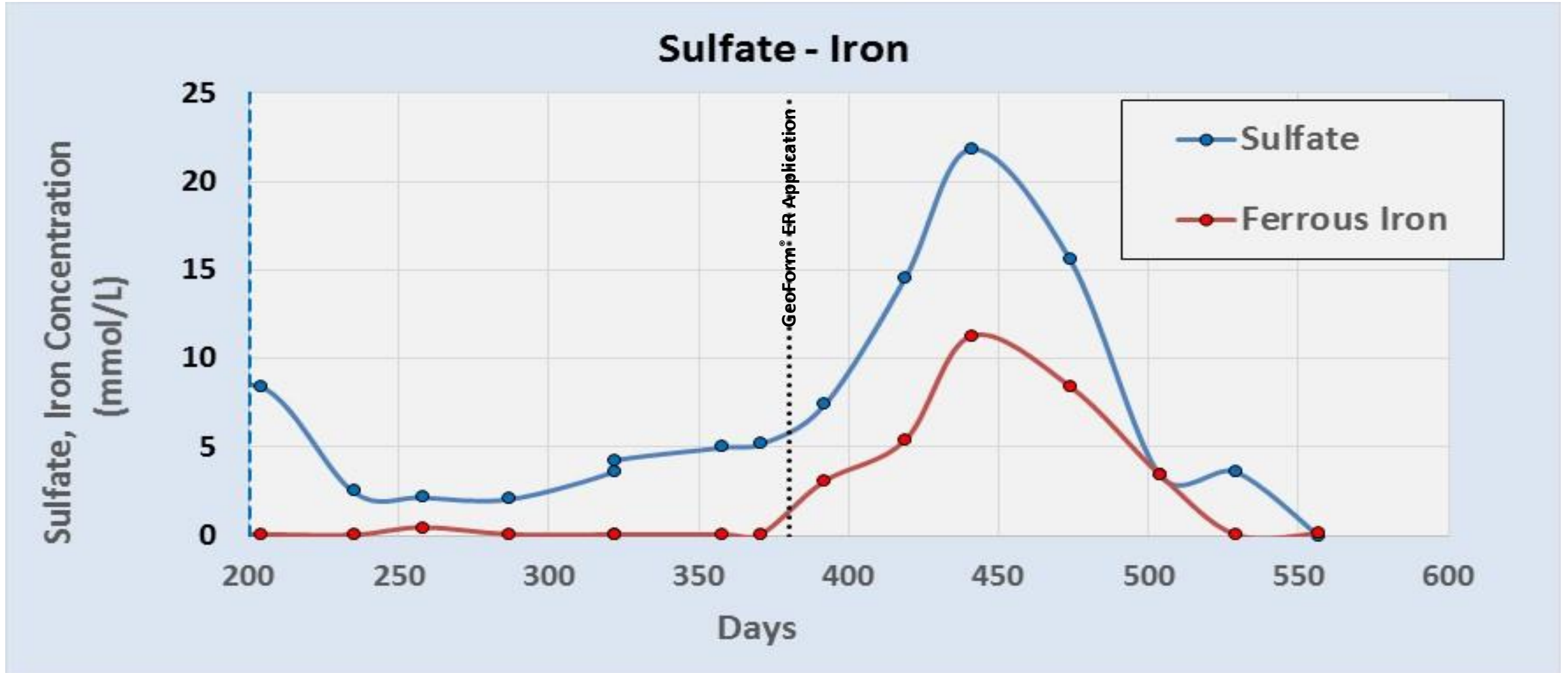


Biogeochemically enhanced GeoForm® Extended Release increased CE degradation rate ~63% relative to EHC® (ISCR) (with 400 mg/L ambient sulfate).

GeoForm® Extended Release Increases EHC® Degradation Rates

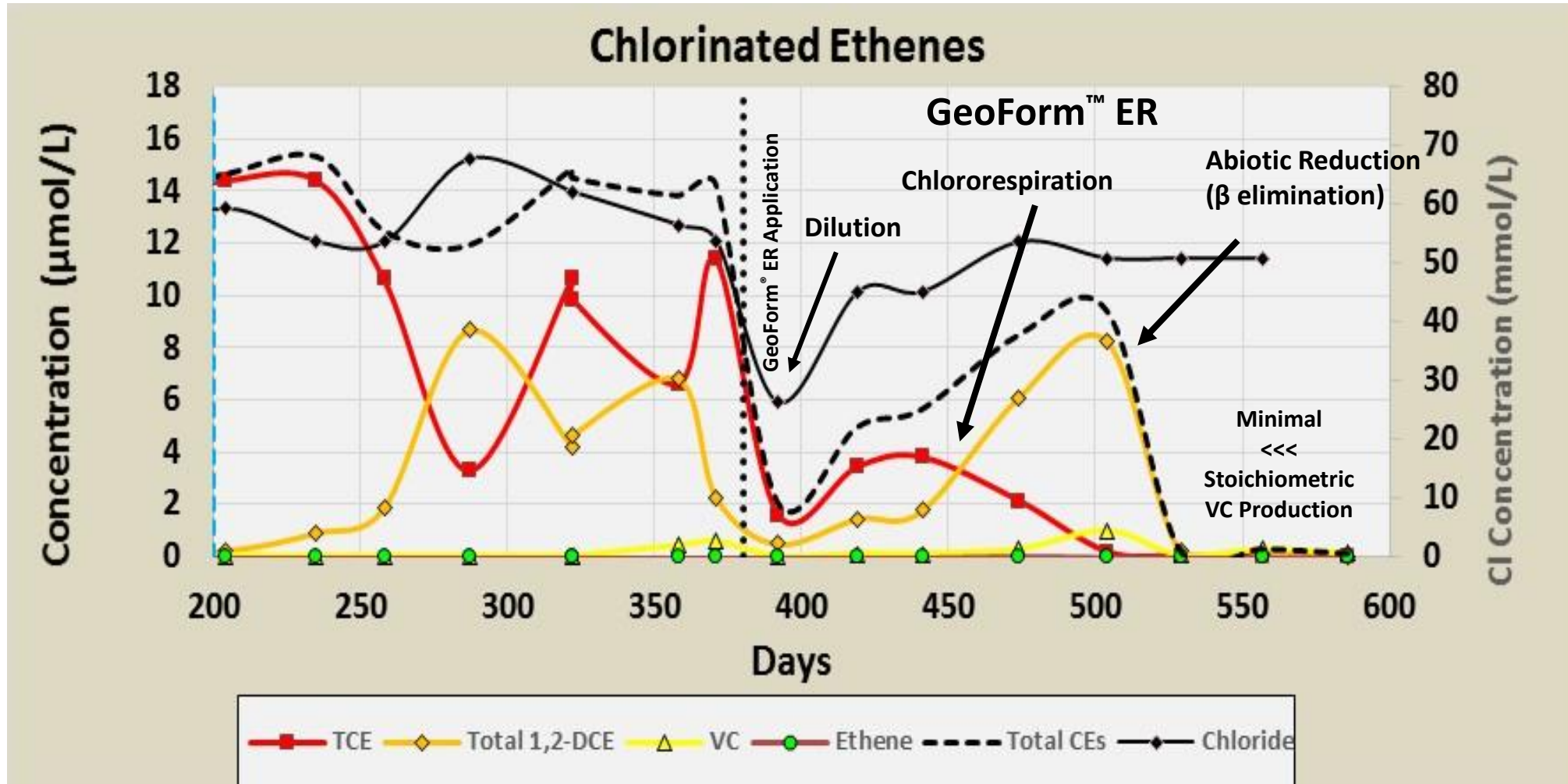
Case Study: Mixed Chlorinated Organics at Bay Area Site

Sulfate & Iron Temporarily Increase Following GeoForm™ ER application



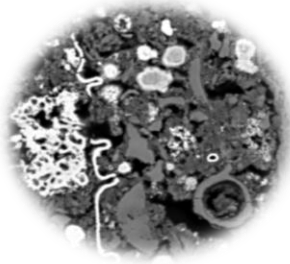
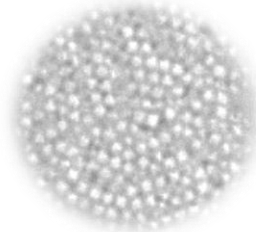
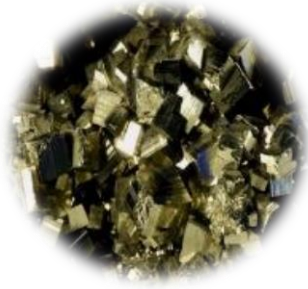
Case Study: Mixed Chlorinated Organics at Bay Area Site

Biogeochemical Treatment of Chlorinated Ethenes (CEs)



Conclusions

Presentation Summary



- Biogeochemical Reduction (BGCR) is a **naturally occurring process**.
- BGCR processes occur with, and will **improve ERD and ISCR processes**.
- **Most site conditions can be modified** to optimize BGCR processes.
- BGCR processes **enhance the reactivity and longevity** of Zero Valent Iron (ZVI)
- BGCR **sequesters & stabilize toxic metals from groundwater**.



*Thank you for your attention !!
Questions ?!?*

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June 2022

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