# Seasons of change: NSZD rates across (12) sites using new high-data density technology

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# Natural Source Zone Depletion Explained



#### CRC CARE Technical Report no. 46

The role of natural source zone depletion in the management of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) contaminated sites

### **Concentration Gradient Method**



#### Fick's First Law of Diffusion -

rate of diffusion is proportional to the concentration and surface area

#### CRC Care 2018

#### $1. J = D_v^{eff}(\frac{dC}{dZ})$

- / = steady state diffusive flux (g/m<sup>2</sup>-soil/s)
- $D_v^{\text{eff}}$  = effective vapour diffusion coefficient (m<sup>2</sup>/s)
- $\frac{dC}{dZ}$  = soil gas concentration gradient (g/m<sup>3</sup>-m)

2. Jimpacted - Jbackground = Jcorrected

3. Theoretical stoichiometric conversion: benzene–CO<sub>2</sub>  $2C_6H_6 + 15O_2 \rightarrow 12CO_2 + 6H_2O$   $2C_6H_6 \cdot 2^*(12.011 \text{ g/mol}^*6 + 1.008 \text{ g/mol}^*6) = 156.223 \text{ g/mol}$  $12CO_2: 12^*(12.011 \text{ g/mol} + 15.999 \text{ g/mol}^*2) = 528.096 \text{ g/mol}$ 

When 156 g of  $C_6H_6$  are consumed, 528 g  $CO_2$  are produced  $\textit{Stoich}_{CO_2}$  = 156 / 528

**4. Natural Source Zone Depletion** NSZD = *J*<sub>corrected</sub>\**Stoich*<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub>

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# Why $CH_4$ and why high data density?



- Early attenuation processes dominated by methanogenic degradation
- "Signal shredding"
- Lag between peak subsurface gas concentrations and peak surface efflux.

### Soil Sense

8.27" 20.99 cm



- Three solid-state sensor packs that provide constant soil feedback to EMS/client
- Continuously estimate within-soil hydrocarbon vapours carbon dioxide, methane, oxygen, temperature, barometric pressure, and relative humidity
- Features
  - NDIR technology
  - LoRa, LTEM, Satellite enabled
  - Fits into existing boreholes
  - Flush mount for active sites where Solar is not an option
  - Continuous remote data access
  - Single setup cost, no maintenance
- Soil Sense estimates **biological activity** and **hydrocarbon concentrations** every 30-mins
- Transmit data via LoRa gateways linked to cellular or satellite networks
- Can be used in remote areas (solar power) or developed areas (long-life batteries), with yearly servicing.

# <image>



### Soil Sense



# Low sampling frequency (point-in-time is the "pits")



# Soil Sense collects 48 measurements per day



# The Sites



USDA



# Guidance values



# Convert Flux to Hydrocarbon Depletion (GUIDANCE)

### CONVERT FLUX TO HYDROCARBON DEPLETION (SITE-SPECIFIC)



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# NSZD through space

- NSZD estimates

   incorporate methane and
   paired CO<sub>2</sub> production/O<sub>2</sub>
   consumption
- More representative estimates of biological activity.



# 12 sites76 Soil Senses228 Sensor packs92,662,066 data points!









# Plume volume

### Typically stable over seasons

- Active site
- Additional sensor install and equilibration
- Site with high-water table and fall ice-up.

# How do sites compare?



# DONT ALWAYS KNOW THINGS

N I DO, I KNOW NOTHING

# Where are we now?

- High density continuous measurements
  - Diurnal and seasonal nuances, site-driven variation
  - $CH_4$  may make up the bulk of NSZD in some sites
- Soil moisture
  - Implications for fluid transfer and PHC distributions
- Site-specific estimates
  - Theoretical stoichiometry may not represent site processes
- Stay-tuned for next year!
  - FEA
  - Bayesian prediction networks
  - AgTech
  - Winter is coming.









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### Pyroelectric Infrared Detectors in Soil Sense







### CONCENTRATION GRADIENT METHOD ("CGM") – CLASSIC SITE



Adapted from CRC CARE 2018

# Concentration Gradient method ("CGM") – classic site



### CGM – Step 1: Calculate Flux from Soil







### CGM– Step 2: Convert Flux to Hydrocarbon Depletion (GUIDANCE)

 $J = D_V^{\text{eff}} \left(\frac{\text{dC}}{\text{dZ}}\right)$  corrected  $NSZD_{point} = J_{corrected} * Molar Ratio$  $J = 3.8 \times 10^{-7} \frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{s}} * 64 \frac{9\text{CO}_2}{\text{m}^3\text{m}}$  $= 2.43 \times 10^{-5} \frac{9CO_2}{m^2s} * 0.3 * 86400$  $J = 2.43 \times 10^{-5} \frac{9CO_2}{m^2 s}$  $= 0.63 \frac{9C_6H_6}{m^2d}$ Convert to g – Representative Hydrocarbon  $2C_6H_6 + 15O_2 \rightarrow 12CO_2 + 6H_2O_2$ Molar Ratio =  $\frac{78.11 \frac{9C_6H_6}{mol}}{44.11 \frac{9C_0}{mol}} * \frac{2 \text{ mol}_{C_6H_6}}{12 \text{ mol}_{C_0}} = 0.3$ 



# EMS Soil Sense Every 30 Minutes All day, every day

### **Direct Hydrocarbon Detection**

IR Active Hydrocarbons

### Hydrocarbon Depletion

• CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>

### **Environmental Data**

• Temperature, Relative Humidity, Pressure



### EMS SOIL SENSE Frenched Power

 Ideal for active sites with existing infrastructure

### Battery Power

 Well suited for sites with wildlife or malfeasance concerns.

### Solar Power

Perfect for remote sites, hard to access.





# Vertical placement parameters

# EMS SOIL SENSE Design flexibility



#### Waterproof

 Sensor packs can survive being submerged in areas with a fluctuating water table.

### **Ideal Design**

- Sensor Pack 1 near surface
- Sensor Pack 3 above LNAPL
- Sensor Pack 2 mid way between 1 & 3

### Site Variability

- Borehole permeability
- 1 and 2 D modelling of gas fluxes

# Old dragon rendering Facility



# Old dragon rendering Facility



# Old dragon rendering Facility

