

IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION AND ADAPTATION OF A LARGE-SCALE, LONG-TERM ISCO REMEDIATION PROJECT



Annalisa Gallinari and Neil Marchand | October 17 2025



NSD Presenters



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Outline

- Site Overview
- Project Timeline
- Remediation Plan
- Site Preparation
- Injection Method, Capacity and Strategy
- Data Management
- Optimization
- Bioremediation Polishing
- New Challenges

Site Overview

70 years of industrial activity

Ore transported by train to furnace and port facilities, active from 1956 to present.

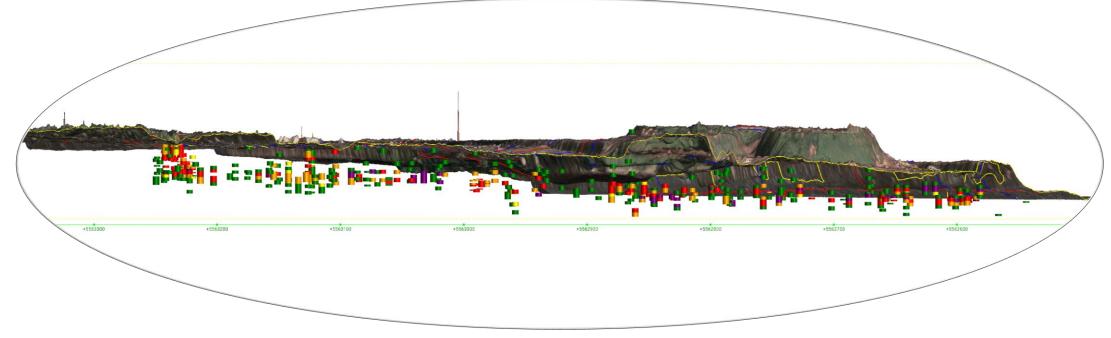
Hydrocarbon contamination

Mainly diesel, affecting soil (sandy) and groundwater.

20-year remediation plan

Currently in 7th year of operation on an area of almost 200 000 m².

Large-scale







1990s

• First evidence of contamination

2010

- Contamination noticed in receptor
- Emergency reponse
- Hydraulic barrier

2013

- Pilot tests
 - ISCO
 - ISCD

2016

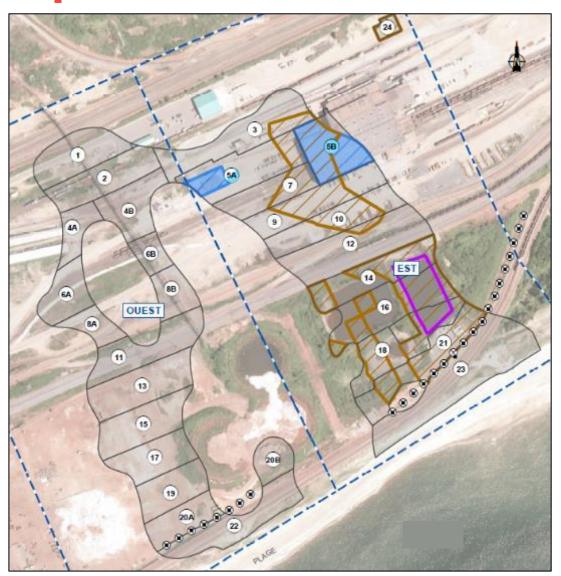
 Remediation action plan development

2019

Start of remediation work



NSIP Remediation Plan



ISCO: Saturated Zone (2019 to 2038)

4 phases of 5 years each (zones 1 to 24)

Bioventing: Vadose Zone

- Zone 24 (2019 2023)
- Locomotive shop sector (2029 2033)
- Settling ponds (2034 2039)

Hydraulic barriers

- 2011 2038
- Limit impact to the receptor
- Groundwater monitoring (2019-2039 zones 1 to 24)

ISCD (2029 - 2033)

- Locomotive shop sector
- Heating plant sector

ISCO Summary 2019-2031



ISCO (2025) - completed

ISCO (2026)

ISCO (2027)

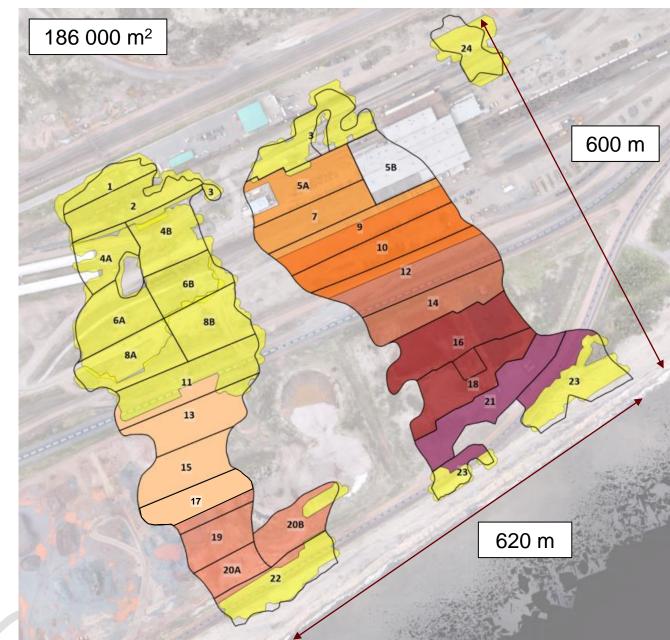
ISCO (2028)

ISCO (2029)

ISCO (2030)

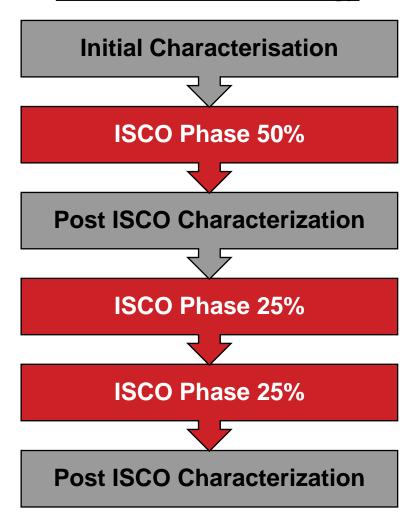
ISCO (2031)

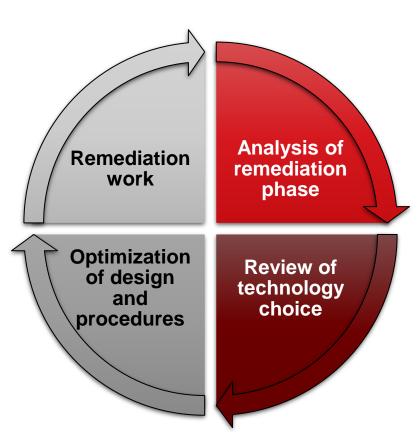
8A Remediation Zone



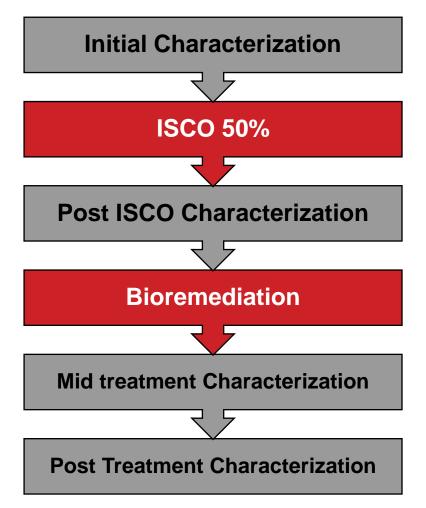
>>>> Project cycle

Remediation Plan Strategy





Current Strategy



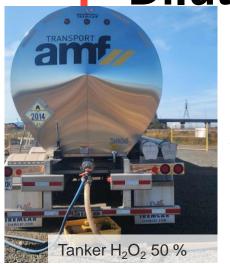
Drilling Management

- 400 points drilled every year
- Around 3000 points drilled since 2019



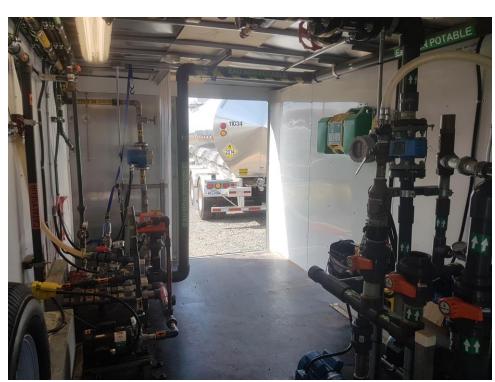


Dilution and Injection

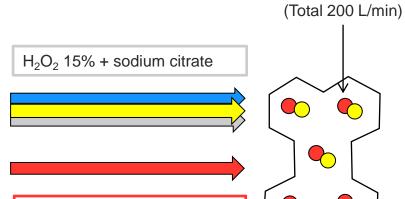










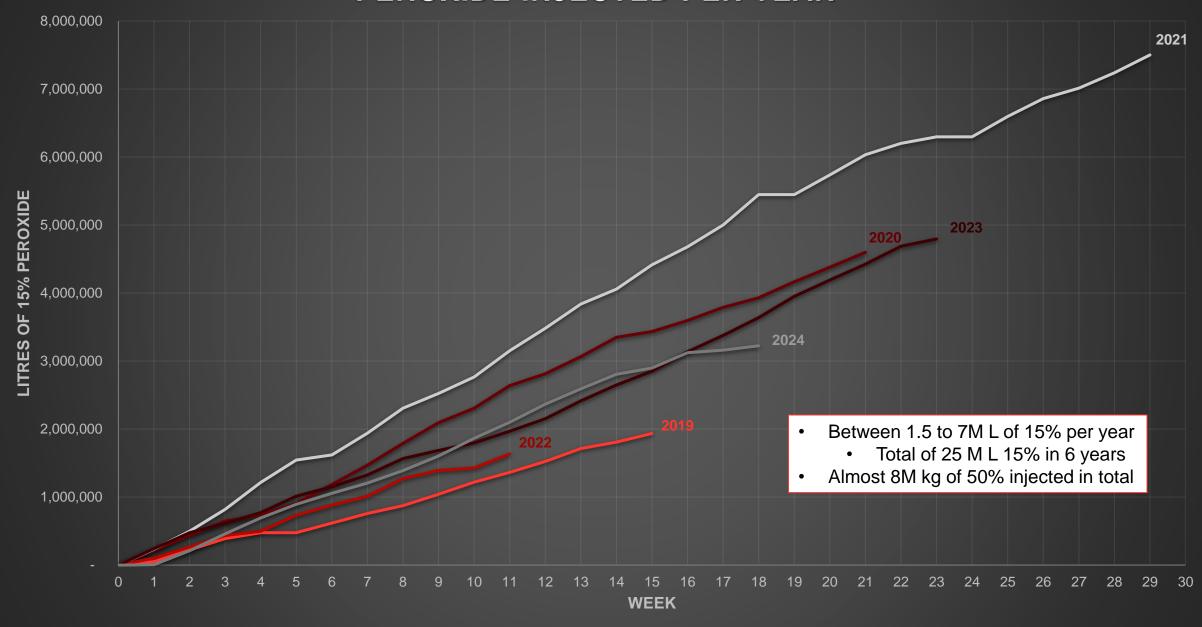


Acidified ferric sulfate

40 L/min per injection point

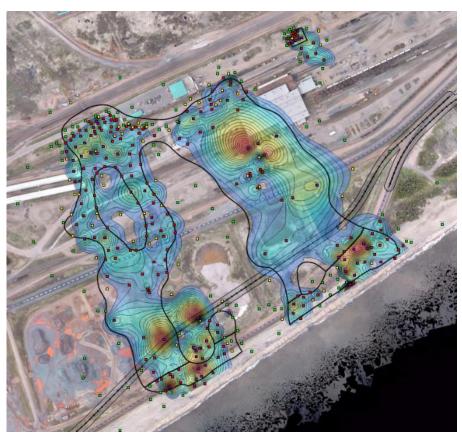


PEROXIDE INJECTED PER YEAR



NSDData Management

- Extent of treatment area refined each year through a pre-treatment characterization program
 - Modeled to reduce uncertainty
- Nomenclature established at the beginning of the project to include
 - Treatment zone
 - Cell (5 injection points, 3 monitoring points)
 - Phase (50-25-25%)
- Rigorous environmental monitoring framework
 - 2000 soil and water samples per year

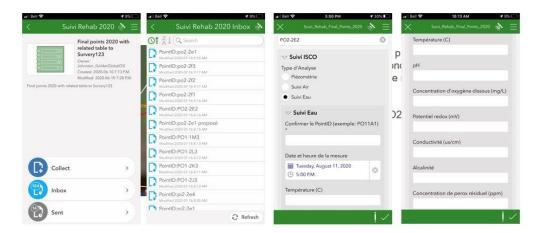






NSDData Management

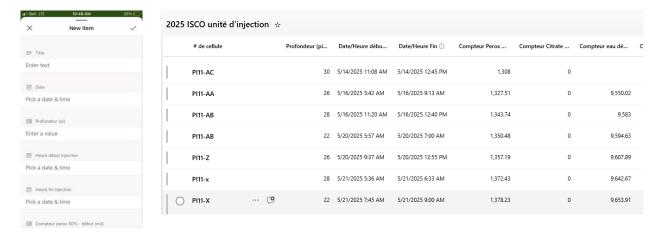
 Survey 123 for ISCO process monitoring (pH, temperature, residual peroxide, CO₂, etc.)



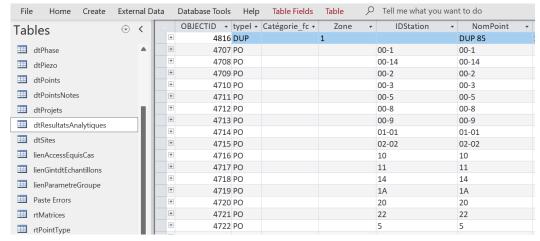
 Fieldmaps and ArcGIS Collector for georeferenced data visualization



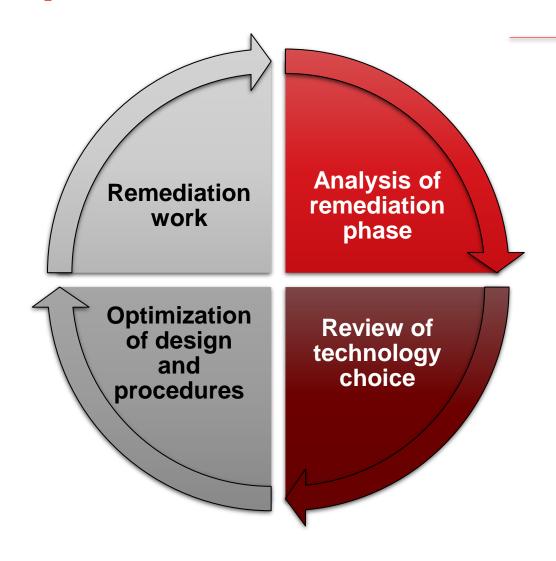
 Sharepoint lists for ISCO operational monitoring (volumes, flow rates, pressures)



 Access database to manage laboratory data and streamline figure production



ISCO Optimization



Drilling optimization

Updates to chemical components

Transition from 3 ISCO phases to 1 phase followed by biological polishing treatment

The Injection Well Story



NSD Problem Solving Process





Problems:

Preferential pathways and product daylighting



2019
Direct Push installation of steel rods

Solution

2019 SCH40 PVC installed with direct push

Solution

2020 SCH80 CPVC installed with auger drilling

Solution

2021
Double well installation
Drill modification:

4-speed head

Problems:

Slow flow rate

Preferential pathways and product daylighting

Leaky rods due to corrosion







Drilling time









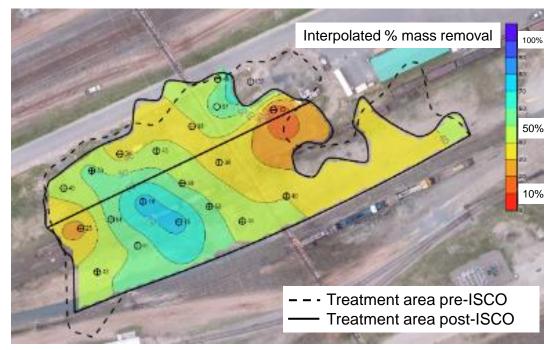
115 Chemical Optimization

- Sodium citrate powder to liquid, then liquid concentration reduced from 40% to 30% to improve handling on site
- Acidified ferric sulfate solution modified to enhance performance (decrease pH)



Injection Strategy Change

- Treatment progress is evaluated annually based on characterization data collected at different treatment phases
- Decreased mass removal after first phase of injection
- Addition of a biological polishing treatment phase

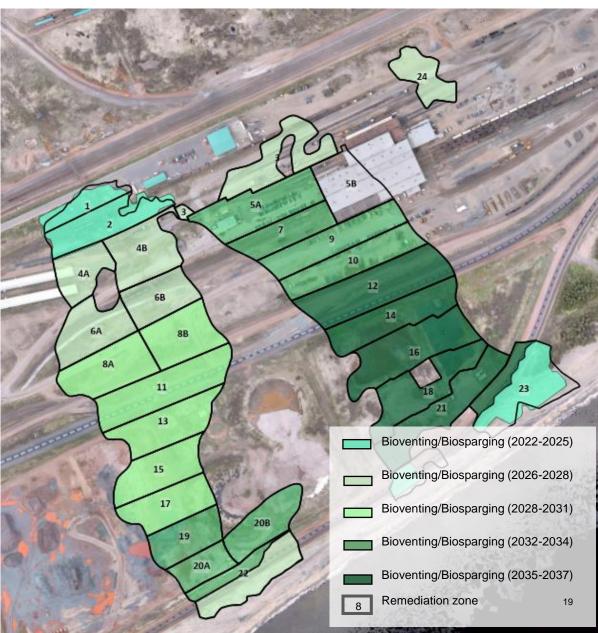


4.89		7	CF	97	×	0				
6.71	(GP) GRAVIER fin, un peu de sable fin à moyen, brun-gris, humide	8	CF	85		θ×			AC	
3.97		9A	CF	OF		ϕ	×		AC	
7.63	(SP) SABLE fin, un peu de gravier fin et grossier, gris foncé, saturé	9B	0	95		0	×		AC	
	iin et grossier, gris fonce, sature	10	CF	98			×)	AC	
3.06 8.54 0 0 0 0 0 2.65 0 0 0 0	(GP) GRAVIER fin, un peu de sable fin, gris, saturé	11A	CF	90			×)	AC	
8.95	(SM) SABLE SILTEUX, traces de	11B					×)	AC	
1.85	gravier fin, gris	12	CF	100			×		AC	
9.75	FIN DU FORAGE									L

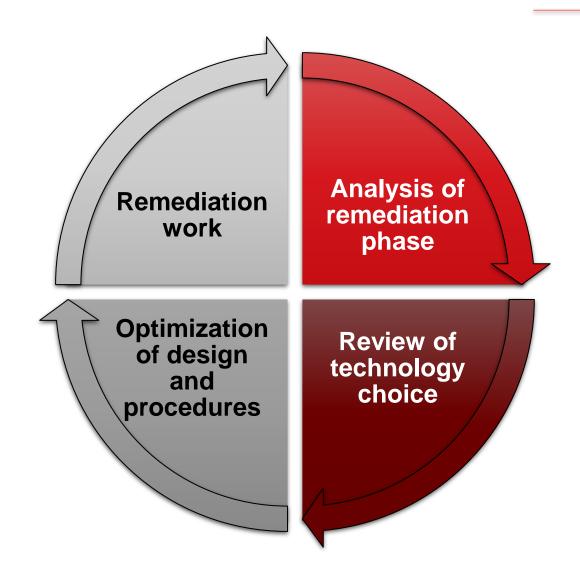
Integration of Bioremediation

- Feasibility study underway since late 2022
 - 3 zones
 - 4 units
 - 120 double treatment well





NSD Bioremediation Optimization



Winter operation to optimize treatment season

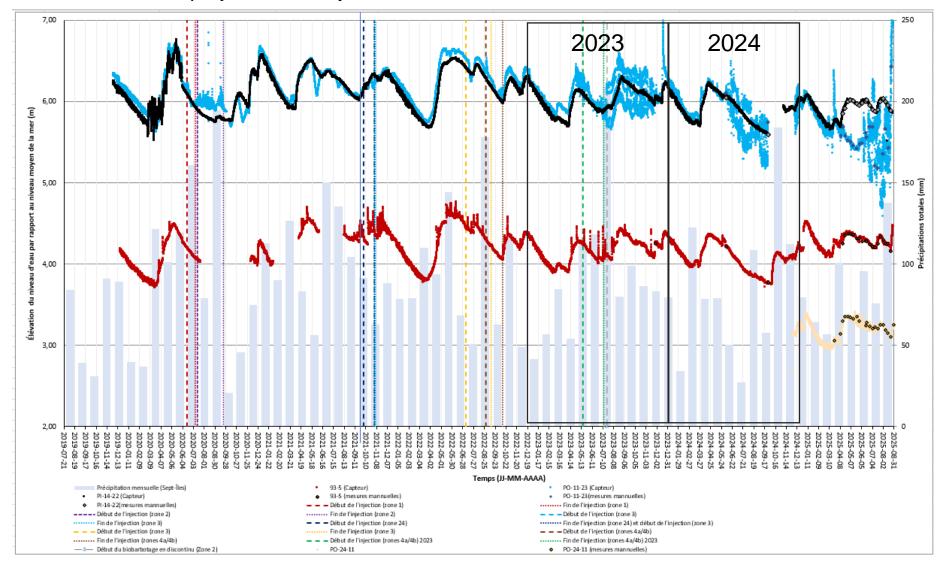
Nutrient injection strategy optimized

Continuous optimization throughout the year based on site conditions (cycling, flow rates)

Responds to climate change challenges of ISCO

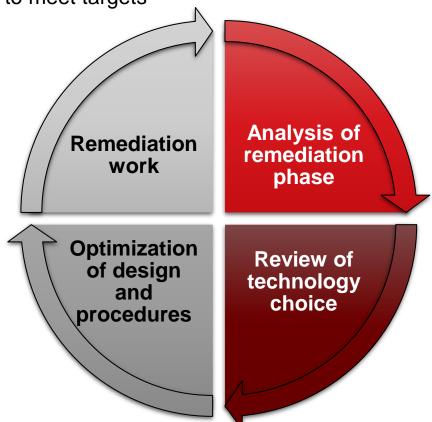
Climate Change Challenges

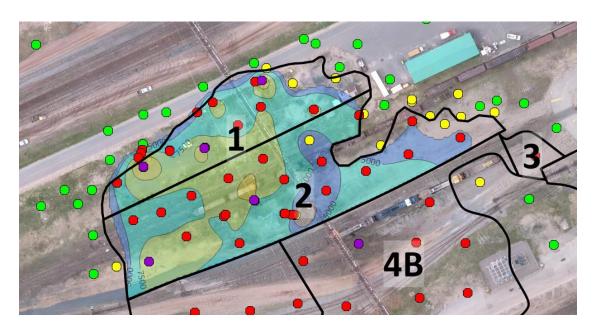
- Decreasing water levels making it increasingly difficult to target contamination in the water table fluctuation zone with ISCO
- Important to consider in a project over 20 years

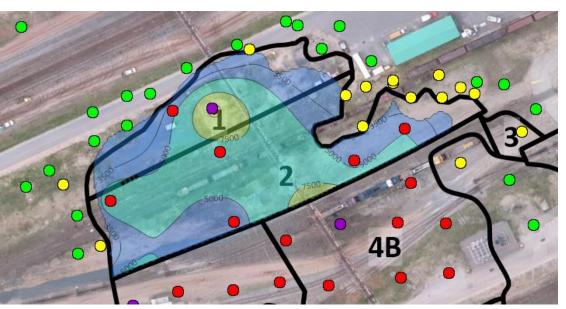


Conclusion

- Continuous improvement approach vital for long-term, large-scale projects
- Integrated, multidisciplinary, design-build team is one of the keys to success
- Future focus: Customized treatment strategy for each zone to meet targets









THANK YOU

