

Successful Remediation of a Chlorinated Ethane Plume in Groundwater

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- Pragmatic approach to Site remediation
- One must work with Site hydrogeology for successful remediation
- Adjust approach to fit budget and schedule
- Rebound is good in basketball but unwelcomed in remediation
- Persistence pays off to obtain Site closure

Use of Laboratory Data

Guided Project

Over 1000 samples were analyzed

 The analytical laboratory was an integral team member on this project

Laboratory QA/QC matters



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Origin of Release

- A 5,000 gallon capacity underground storage tank containing used oil was removed in 1991
- The UST closure assessment documented 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) in the closure samples ranging from 20 milligrams per kilogram (mg/Kg) to 160 mg/Kg
- The 1,1,1-TCA was an additive in the cutting oil used at the Site



Initial Assessment - 5 Years

- Alarm
- Denial
- Budget impacts
- Additional opinions
- Delayed decisions

Site Hydrogeology

- After three environmental consultants rendered their opinion on the site stratigraphy we have:
 - 12 feet silty sandy clay overlaying
 - 4 8 feet sand or sand and gravel overlying
 - Silty sand to approximately 25 feet below ground level





Vacuum-Enhanced Groundwater Recovery

- The first remediation system installed consisted of a vacuumenhanced groundwater recovery system
- Included one recovery well located in the UST cavity
- The remediation system began operation in 1996
- The groundwater was processed through an oil/water separator, shallow tray air stripper, then primary and secondary granular activated carbon filters
- The remediation system operated from 1996 through 2001

Remediation System Schematic Diagram





1,1,1-Trichloroethane vs Time MW-3



Remediation System Performance

- VOC plume at MW-3 was not decreasing
- Pump and Treat systems are expensive to operate
- The remedial approach at the Site was reevaluated



Insitu-Bioremediation

- A new remedial approach was implemented at the Site
- Reductive dechlorination
- A lactate-based carbon substrate (HRC) manufactured by Regenesis was utilize as a carbon source
- 9100 pounds of HRC was injected into 94 injection points in 2001

Natural metabolic process where microbes use halogenated compound as an electron acceptor:

- Microbes called "reductive dechlorinators" replace chlorine with hydrogen atoms on CHs
- PCE is biodegraded via the following sequence:

$$PCE \longrightarrow TCE \longrightarrow DCE \longrightarrow VC \longrightarrow Ethene$$



TCA Degradation Pathway



Reductive Dechlorination Geochemistry

- Drive aquifer anaerobic to support RD
- Reduce electron acceptor "interferences"
 - DO drop
 - Nitrates drop
 - Iron/manganese increase
 - Sulfate drop
- Keep aquifer reduced
 - Allows for complete dechlorination
 - Allows for desorption

- Gradually release lactic acid to the groundwater
- Converted by bacteria to pyruvic acid, then to acetic acid, with hydrogen being the byproduct
- Chlorine atoms in the contaminant molecules are progressively substituted with hydrogen atoms

Reductive Dechlorination Reaction (continued)

- Excess Hydrogen causes
 - Lactic acid to convert to butyric acid
 - Pyruvic acid coverts to propionic acid

 The excess butyric acid and pyruvic acid can act as hydrogen reservoirs for future reductive dechlorination reactions

Field Parameters - ORP

Oxidation Reduction Potential



Analytical Methods to Support Reductive Dechlorination

- Dissolved gases method AM20GAX
- Volatile fatty acids method AM23G
- Volatile Organic Compounds method SW 846 8260B
- Anions method SW 846 9056A
- Metals method SW 846 6010B
- Alkalinity method E310.1
- Total Organic Carbon method SW 846 9060A

Dissolved Gases Method AM20GAX



Volatile Fatty Acids Method AM23G - ion chromatography



Volatile Fatty Acids Method AM23G

Volatile Fatty Acid Reporting Limits

Compound Name	Acetic Acid	Propionic Acid	Butyric Acid	Pyruvic Acid	Lactic Acid	n-Pentanoic Acid	i-Pentnaoic Acid	n-Hexanoic Acid	i-Hexanoic Acid
Low Level PQL (ppm)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20
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VOCs vs Time MW-3



Site Divesture

- The manufacturing Site was closed in 2002 and put up for sale
- Recommended that the up-gradient source of 1,1,1-TCA be evaluated
- Comprehensive investigation was performed
- 320 mg/L of 1,1,1-TCA was identified in monitoring well MW-10 screened in the shallow aquifer



















MW-10 Source Area Removal

- 1,1,1-TCA concentrations in MW-10 were too great to cost effectively implement reductive dechlorination
- A dual-phase extraction (DPE) system was installed on MW-10 utilizing the existing remediation system components
- The DPE system operated on MW-10 for 9 months
- A total of 350,000 gallons of groundwater and 90 pounds of VOCs were recovered during the 9 months
- The DPE system was shut down and a rebound monitoring program was implemented

1,1,1-Trichloroethane vs Time MW-10



MW-10 Remedial Action

- Due to rebound observed in the groundwater from MW-10, additional remedial actions were required
- Risk based corrective actions were utilized that included institutional controls (deed restriction preventing groundwater consumption and industrial property use only)
- Site specific targets levels (SSTLs) were derived for soil and groundwater clean-up levels
- Even though SSTLs were developed through the risk-based process, the 1,1,1-TCA concentration (50 mg/L) in MW-10 exceeded the SSTL

MW-10 Remedial Action (continued)

- Reductive dechlorination was selected for the remedial approach to address the groundwater plume emanating from the MW-10 source area
- 1400 pounds of HRC was injected into 20 points in December 2006
- Due to rebound an additional 3200 pounds of a lactate-based carbon substrate (3DME) was injected into 55 points in March 2008







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Laboratory Data Guided the Remediation Project

Work with Site hydrogeology

 Avoid rebound issues by proper dosing (amount and frequency)

Be persistent with recommendations