

# A Multi-Site Performance Review of Liquid Activated Carbon for Groundwater Treatment

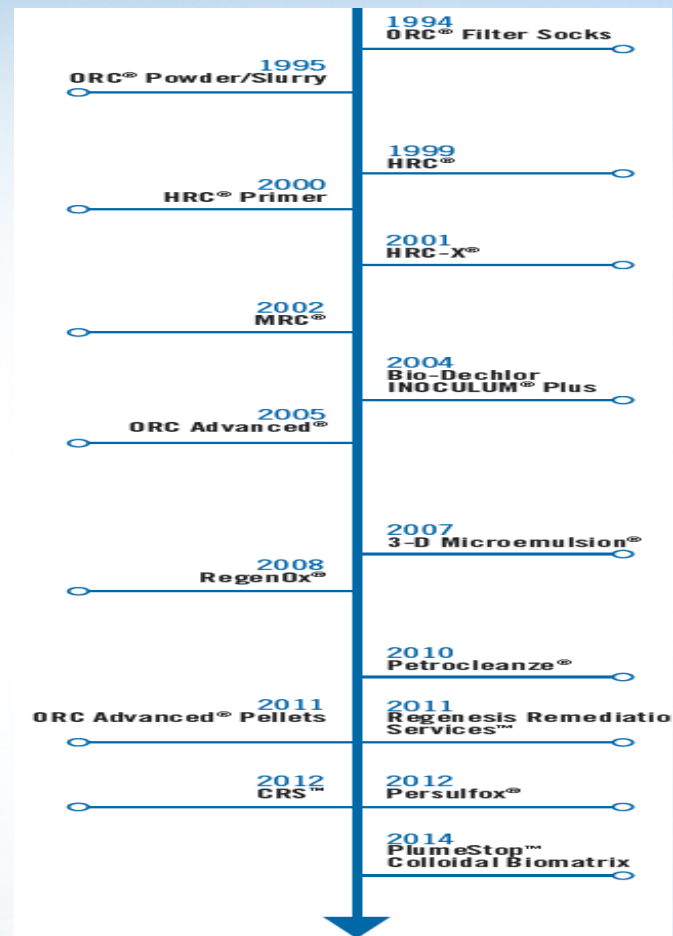
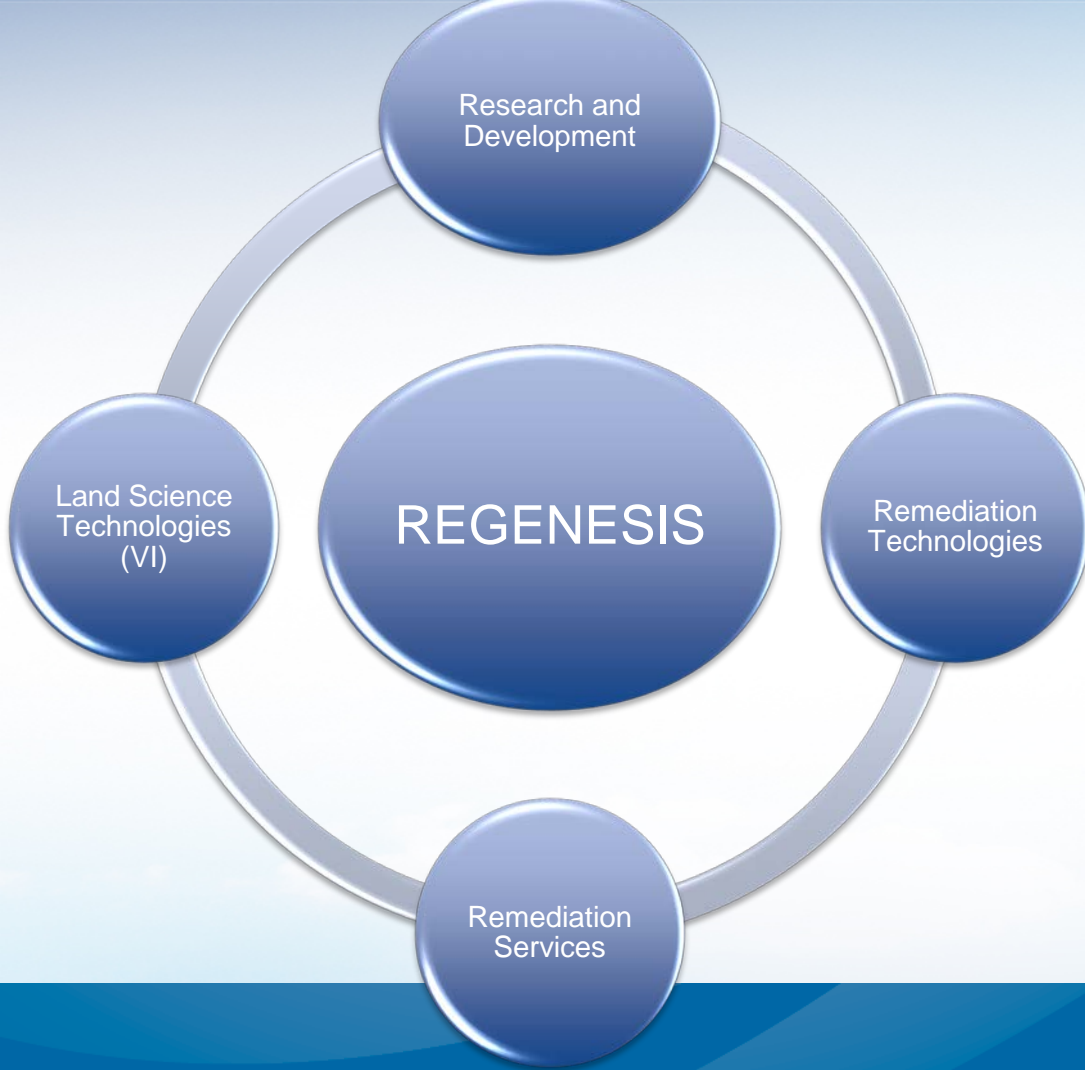
Doug Davis – Director of Remediation Design,  
Central/East Region Technical Services Manager

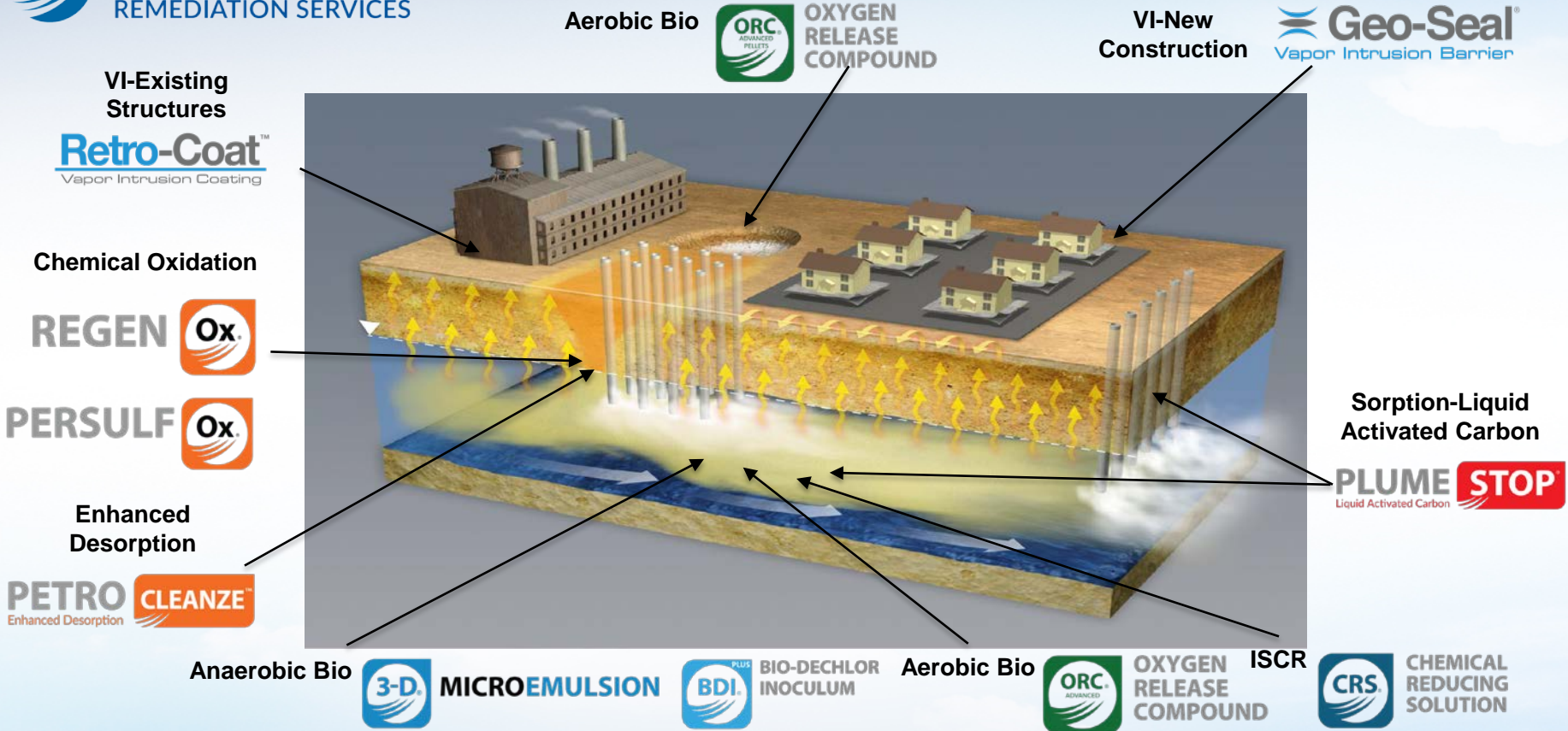


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# Outline

- Introduction
- Background on Technology Development
- Technology Functionality Basics
- Usage Statistics and Aggregate Field Performance
- Case Studies
- Q&A





Aerobic Bio



OXYGEN  
RELEASE  
COMPOUND

VI-New  
Construction



VI-Existing  
Structures



Chemical Oxidation



Enhanced  
Desorption



Sorption-Liquid  
Activated Carbon



Anaerobic Bio



MICROEMULSION



BIO-DECHLOR  
INOCULUM

Aerobic Bio



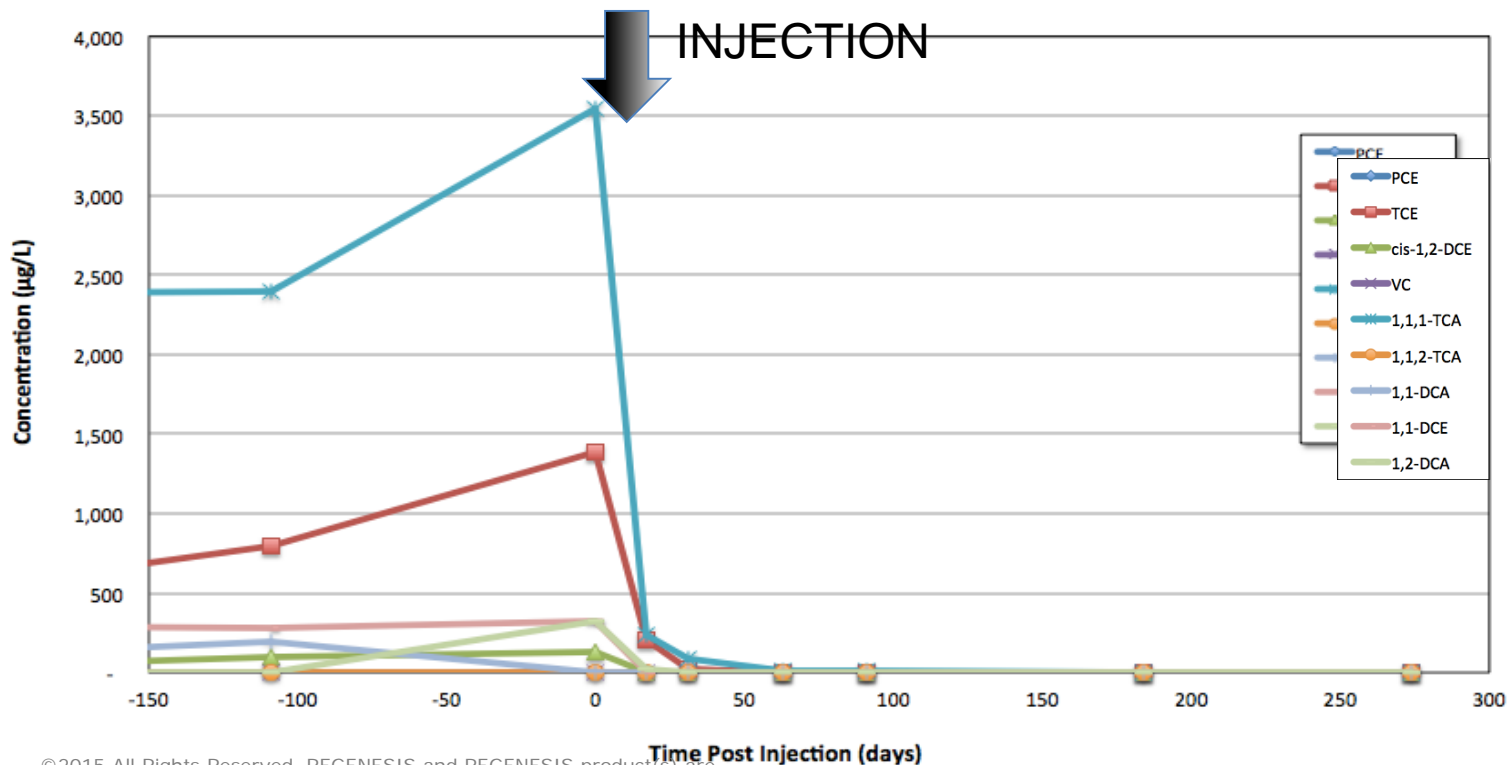
OXYGEN  
RELEASE  
COMPOUND

ISCR



CHEMICAL  
REDUCING  
SOLUTION

## VOC Groundwater Concentrations Following PlumeStop™ and HRC® Injection



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## Established Fact: Concentrations can be Reduced Quickly Through Sorption!

Challenge to REGENESIS<sup>®</sup>

Develop:

- ***Dispersible*** sorbent technology
- Stimulate rapid sorption of contaminants
- Permanently biodegrade contaminants



## Challenge to REGENESIS®

Why a *Dispersible* sorbent?

Granular activated carbon >1,000  $\mu\text{m}$

Powdered > 40  $\mu\text{m}$  but agglomerates  
back to 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$

Pore Throat Diameter-sand/silt 5-30  $\mu\text{m}$

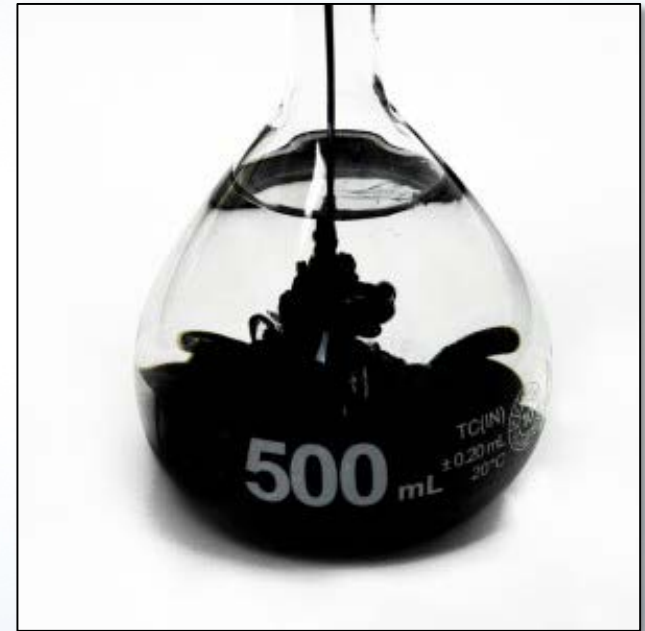
GACs/PACs do not disperse!!



## The Reagent – Timeline

- R&D stages 2007 – 2013
  - Ongoing ancillary research
- Field beta tests 2013 – 2014
  - Early tests still running for long term data
- Commercial launch May 2014
  - Battelle Monterey
- Commercial applications since launch
  - Reviewed in this presentation

**PLUME STOP**  
Liquid Activated Carbon

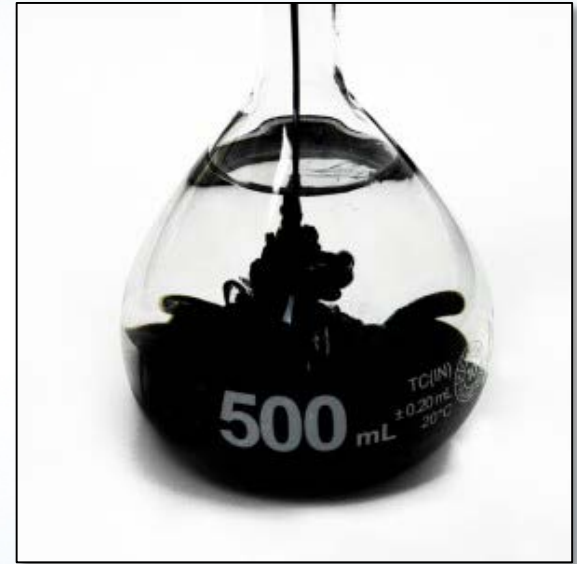




## The Reagent – What Is It?

- A highly dispersive and injectable **sorbent** and **microbial** growth matrix
- **Sorbent**
  - Rapid drop in contaminant concentration
  - Immediate Risk Reduction
- **Microbial Growth Matrix**
  - Accelerated biological destruction of sorbed mass – bacteria grows well on carbon
  - Ability to secure cleanup to much lower targets

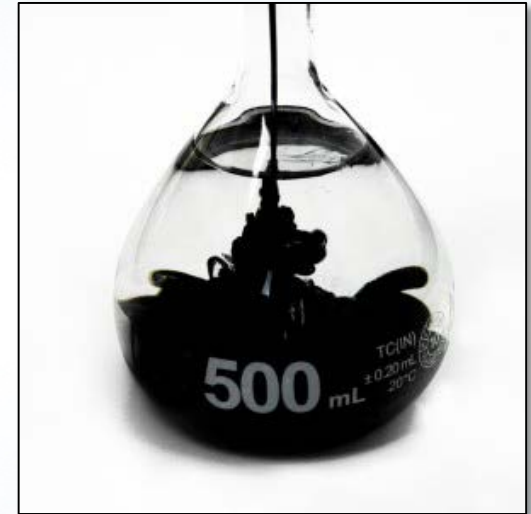
**PLUME STOP**  
Liquid Activated Carbon



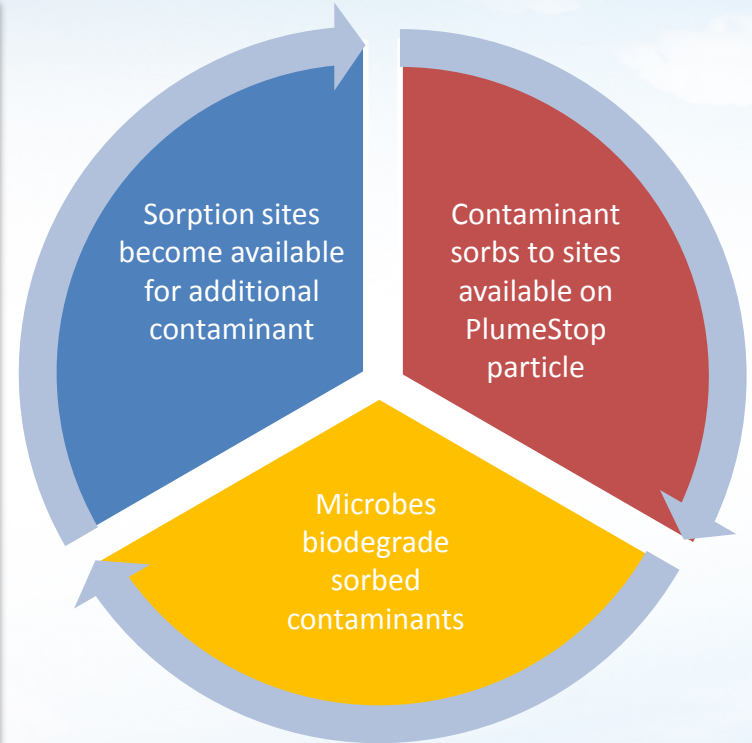
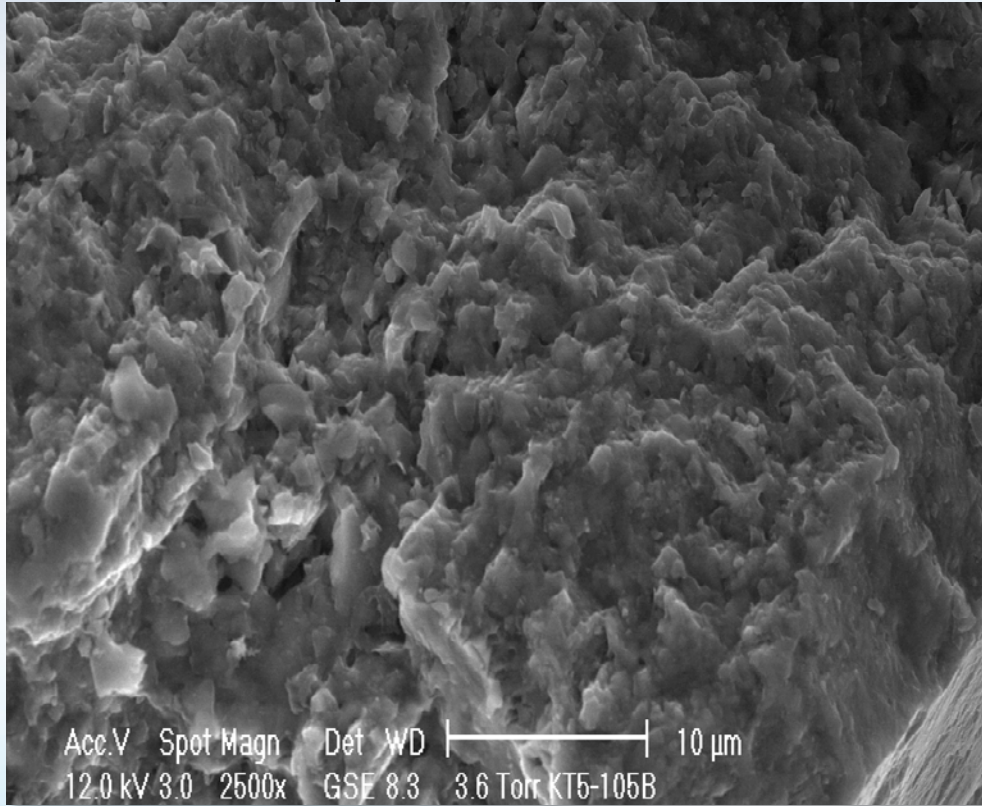
## The Reagent – What Is It?

- Colloidal Activated Carbon
  - Size – 1-2  $\mu\text{m}$
  - Size of a bacterium
  - Huge Surface Area – extremely fast sorption
- Proprietary Anti-Clumping/Distribution Supporting Surface Treatment
  - **Core Innovation**
  - Wide Area, Low-Pressure Distribution through soil without Clogging

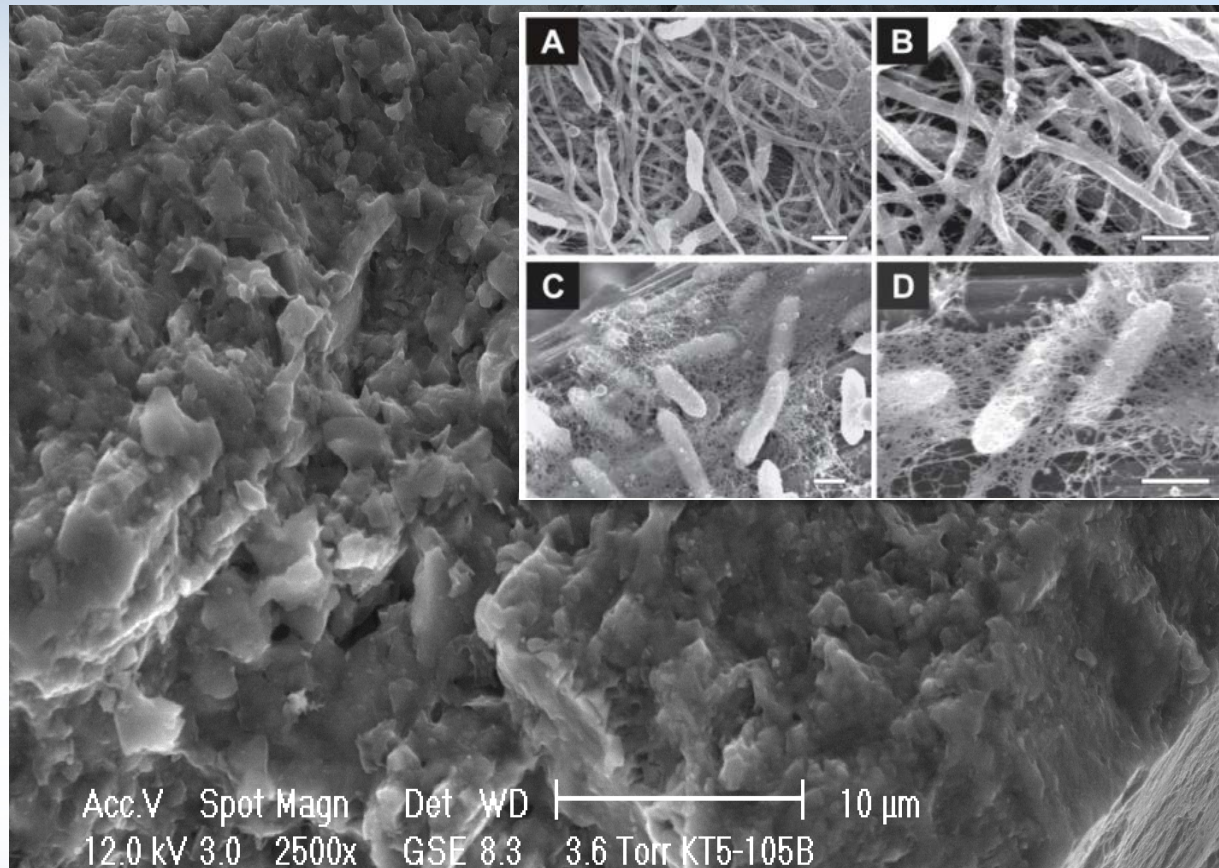
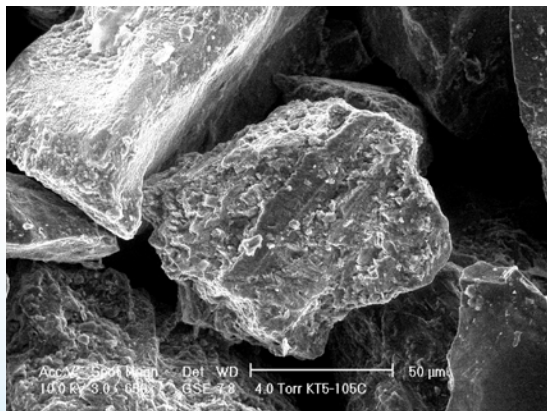
**PLUME STOP**  
Liquid Activated Carbon



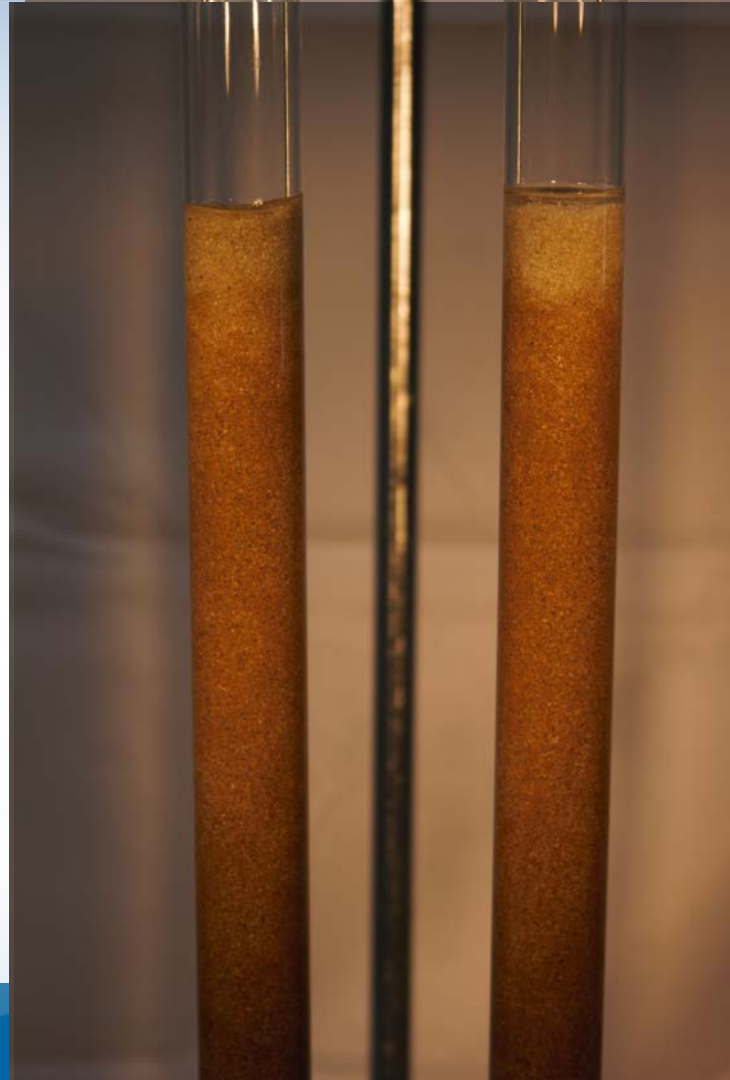
# PlumeStop Mode of Action







PlumeStop



Powdered Activated Carbon

repeat

# Evidence of Dispersive Flow (low pressure application)

Pre-app



Post-app



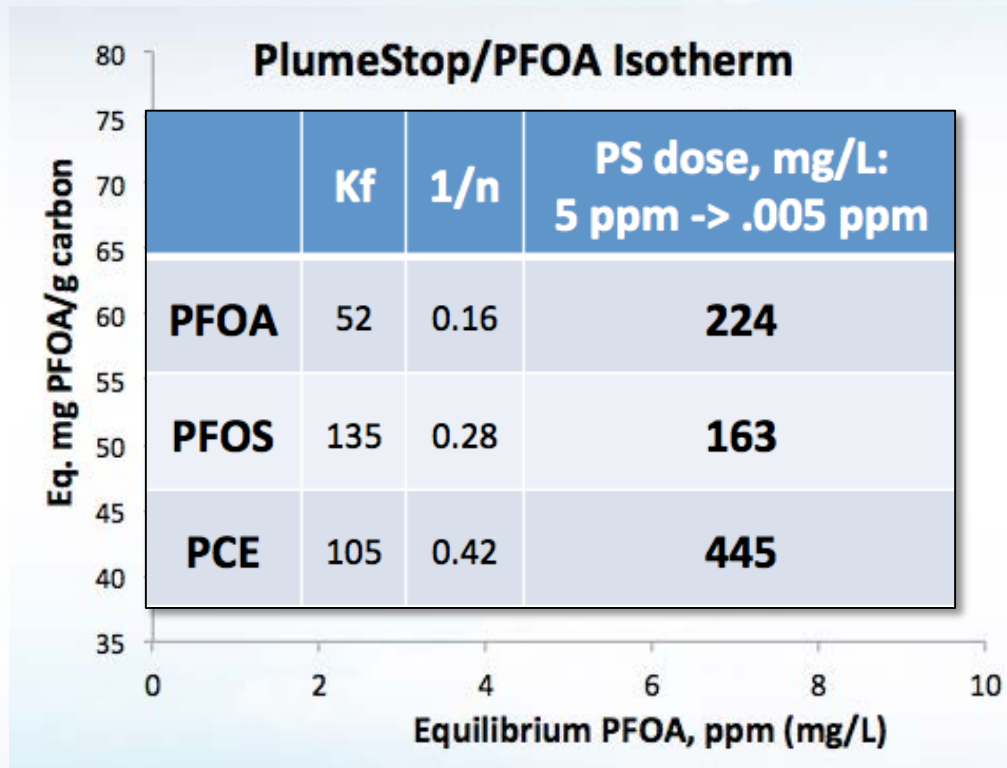
- Distribution of PlumeStop through target zone visually apparent
- Even dispersion evident through permeable strata





## What it Treats

- CVOCs including ethenes and ethanes
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH, BTEX, etc.)
- Polynuclear Aromatics (PAHs)
- MTBE
- Pesticides
- PFCs
- Other Sorptive Contaminants





## How Do We Determine PlumeStop Dosage?

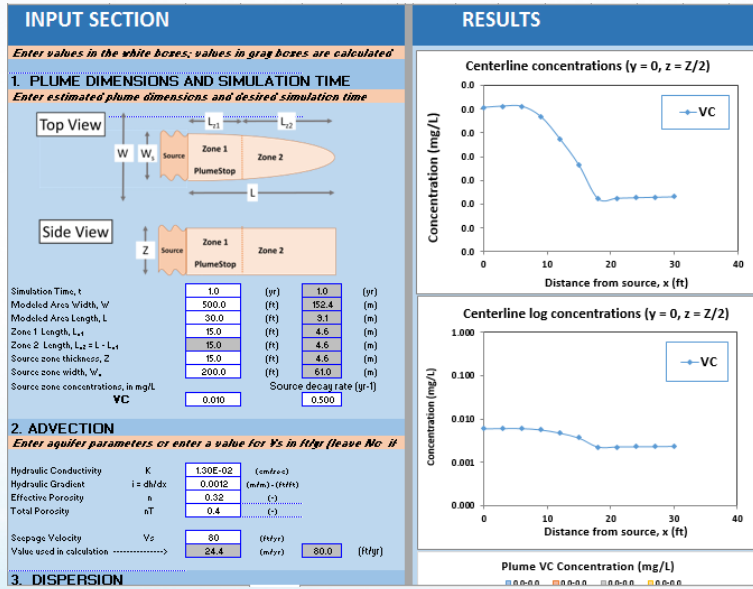
From the isotherms we know how much PlumeStop is needed to secure a concentration in groundwater (static system).

We then set the static system in motion given the groundwater velocity and **contaminant mass flux**.

We then factor in potential contaminant leaching from soil (matrix back-diffusion).

Our pre-remedial design efforts are thus focused on **identifying contaminant transport zones, quantifying mass flux and evaluating leaching potential**

## PlumeStop-Biochlor Model Development



Developed by Professor Arturo Keller - UCSB

PlumeStop isotherms hot-wired into model

Through this effort we can now engineer the fraction organic carbon (foc) requirement to achieve a target concentration at a point of compliance

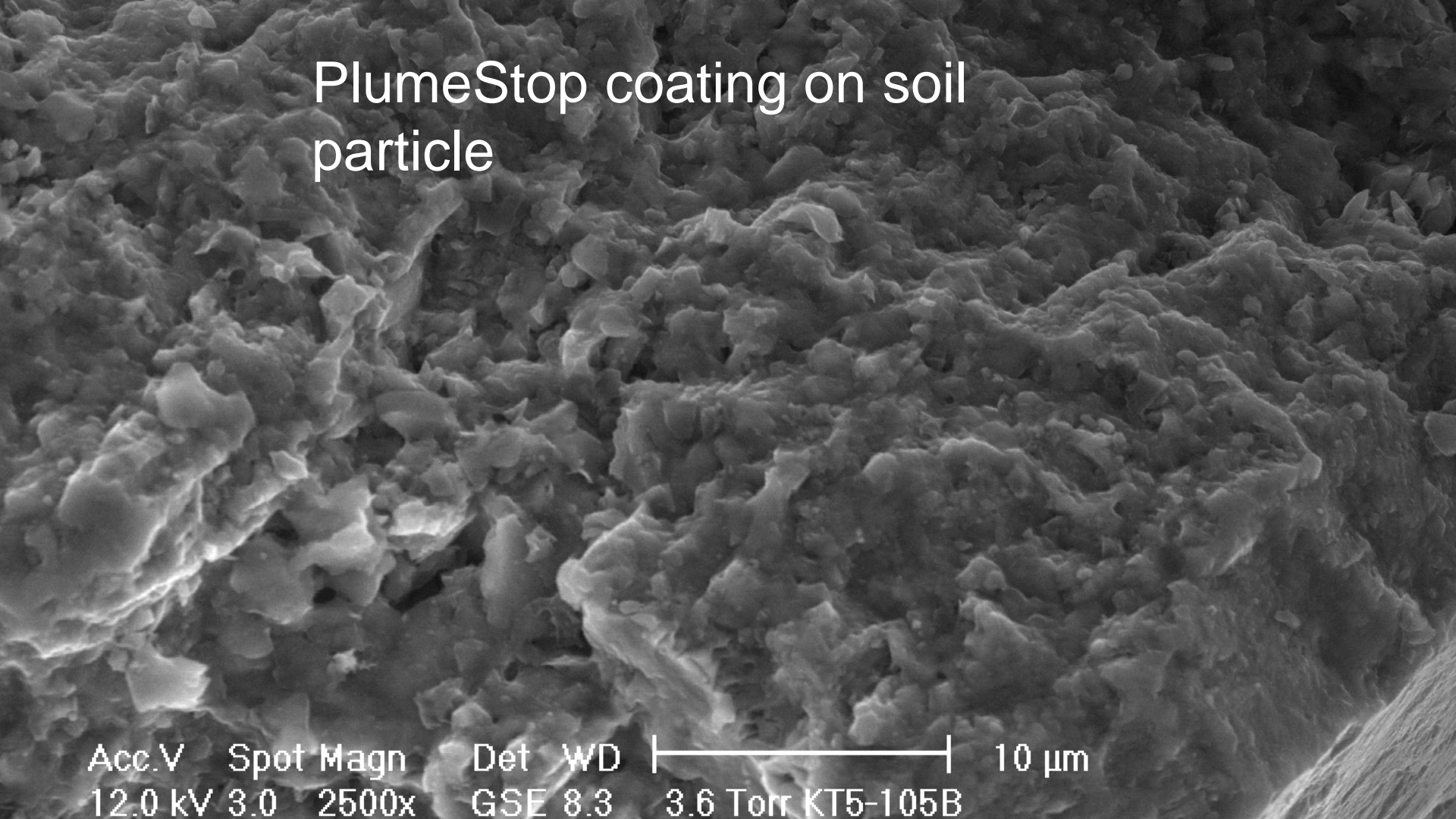
# Contaminants Sorbed, Now What?

## 3 Primary Methods of Contaminant Destruction

- **Aerobic Treatment**
  - Electron Acceptor Addition, Sparging...
- **Anaerobic Treatment**
  - Slow release electron donors
  - Lactate, recirculation systems
- **Monitored Natural Attenuation/Intrinsic Remediation**



# PlumeStop coating on soil particle



Acc.V Spot Magn Det WD |-----| 10  $\mu$ m  
12.0 kV 3.0 2500x GSE 8.3 3.6 Torr KT5-105B



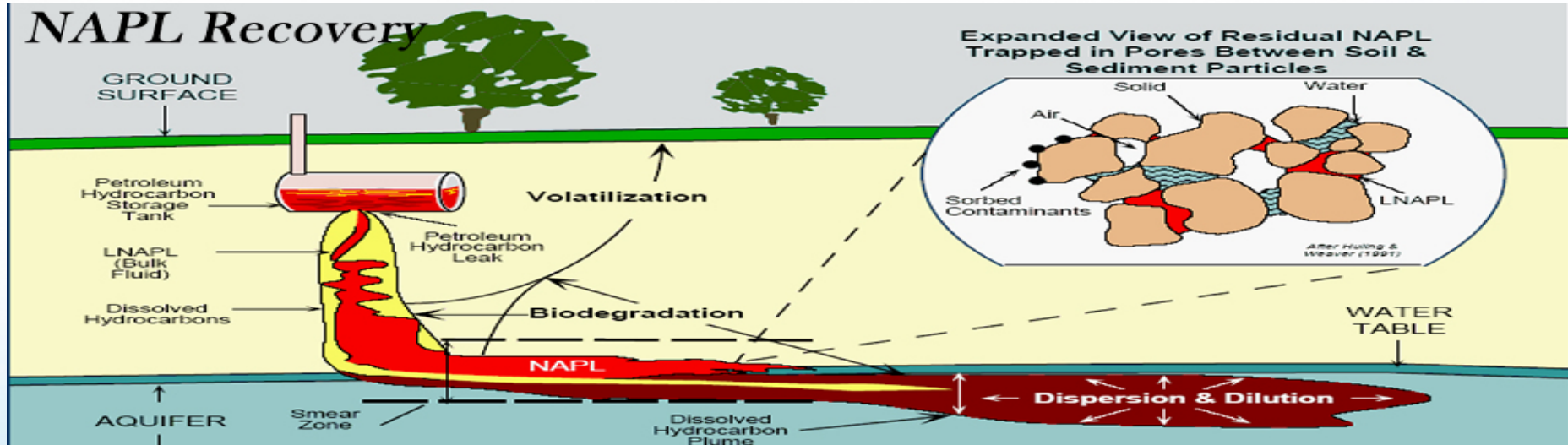
# When/Where to Use PlumeStop?

1. When time is critical
2. As a long-term barrier
3. To achieve stringent cleanup standards
4. To address matrix back diffusion
5. When remediation is “flat lining”



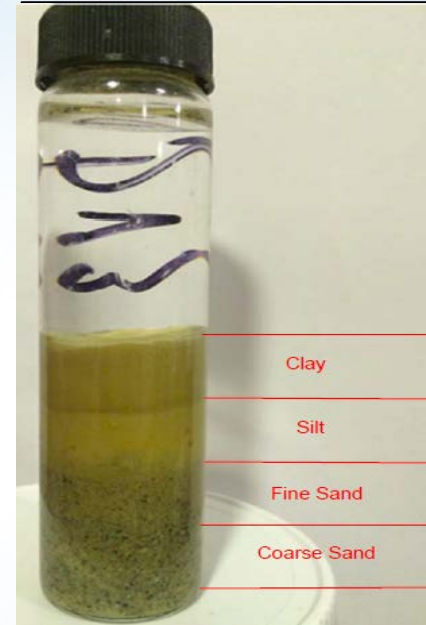
# Pitfalls – Things to Avoid

- High mass/high concentration zones
  - NAPL – too much to sorb, too much to bio
- Low resolution sites
  - Design Verification



# Design Verification Testing (DVT)

- Why is it necessary?
  - Site investigations typically focus on liability and risk assessment
    - Emphasis on contaminant identification, plume dimensions and migration pathways
- What is DVT?
  - **DVT focuses on efficient reagent-contaminant contact**
    - Emphasis on identification of principal impacted strata, contaminant mass distribution and reagent delivery
  - Field-verification of remedial design parameters
  - ID contaminant transport and storage zones
  - Regenesis personnel will perform and/or team w/ consultant to do the work
  - Enables accurate placement of reagents *for maximum interception of contaminant flux*



## Design Verification Testing (DVT)

- DVT can Include Injection Testing for High Volume Delivery Systems

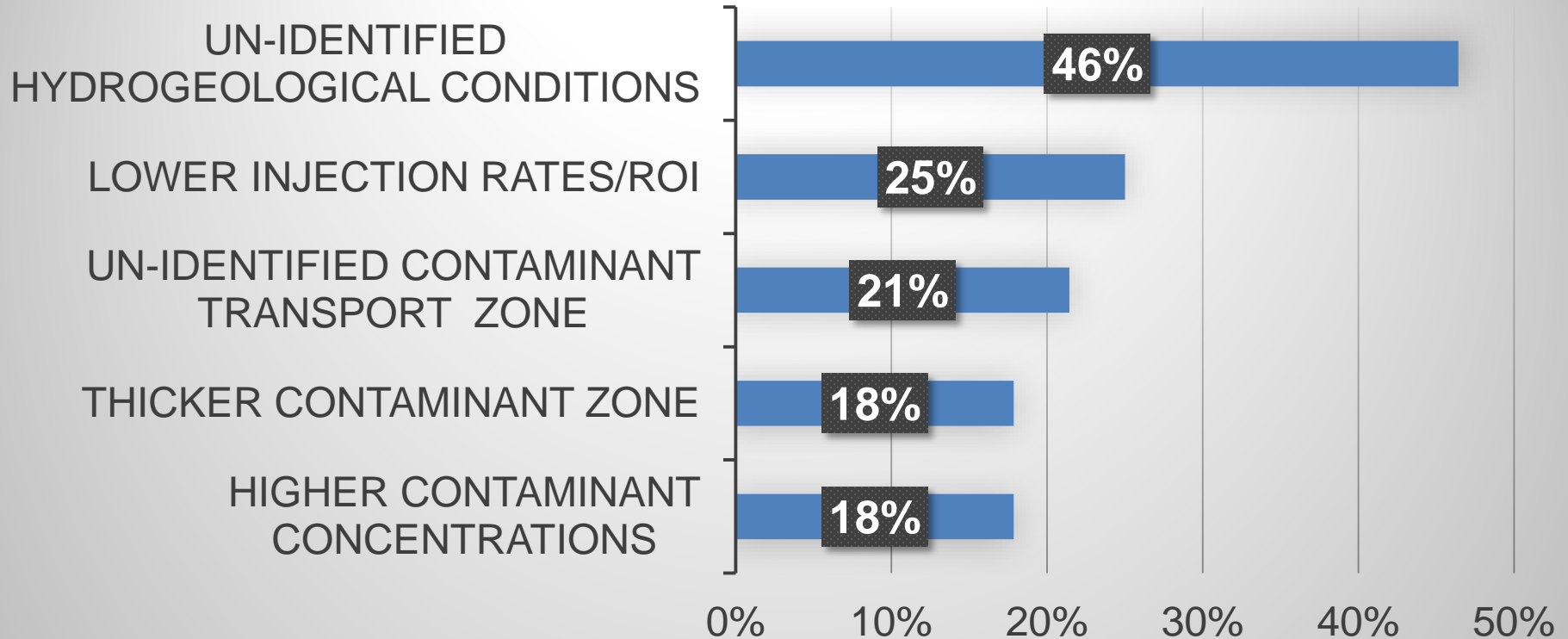
# Regenesis DVT

- When is it undertaken?
  - Prior to planned application
    - Allows time for data analysis and design refinement
- What is the outcome?
  - 80% of tests to date have found unanticipated results
    - $\frac{2}{3}$  of preliminary designs have been modified / refined
  - 80% of design changes have been cost-neutral



Regenesis PlumeStop® strategy of 100% success

## TECHNICAL BLIND SPOTS IDENTIFIED DURING DVT





- performance analytics -



# Where Applied? PlumeStop Applications – as of July 2016

- Number of sites = 67
- Number of states = 24
- Number of countries = 7

## States

– CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MA, MI, MO, NC, NE, NJ, NM, OH, PA, PR, SC, TX, UT, WA, WI, WV

## Countries

– USA, Canada, Italy, Belgium, UK, Sweden, Netherlands

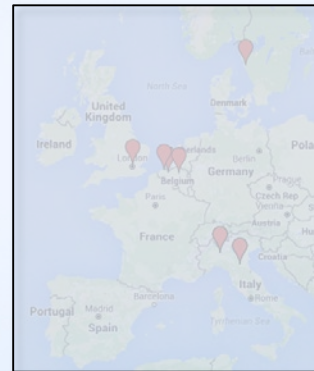
## Scale

- Pilot 26 (39%)
- Full 41 (61%)



# PlumeStop Applications – July 2016

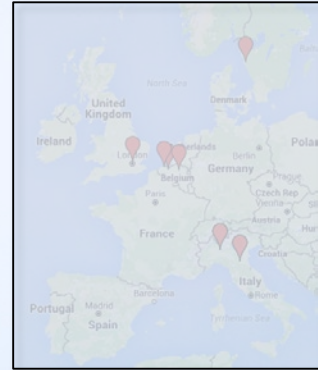
- Principally Hydrocarbons (aerobic bio) = 32
- Principally Solvents (anaerobic bio) = 31
- Comingled / no dominant class = 4
- Other contaminants of note
  - PAH, freon-11, MtBE, TBA, chlorobenzene



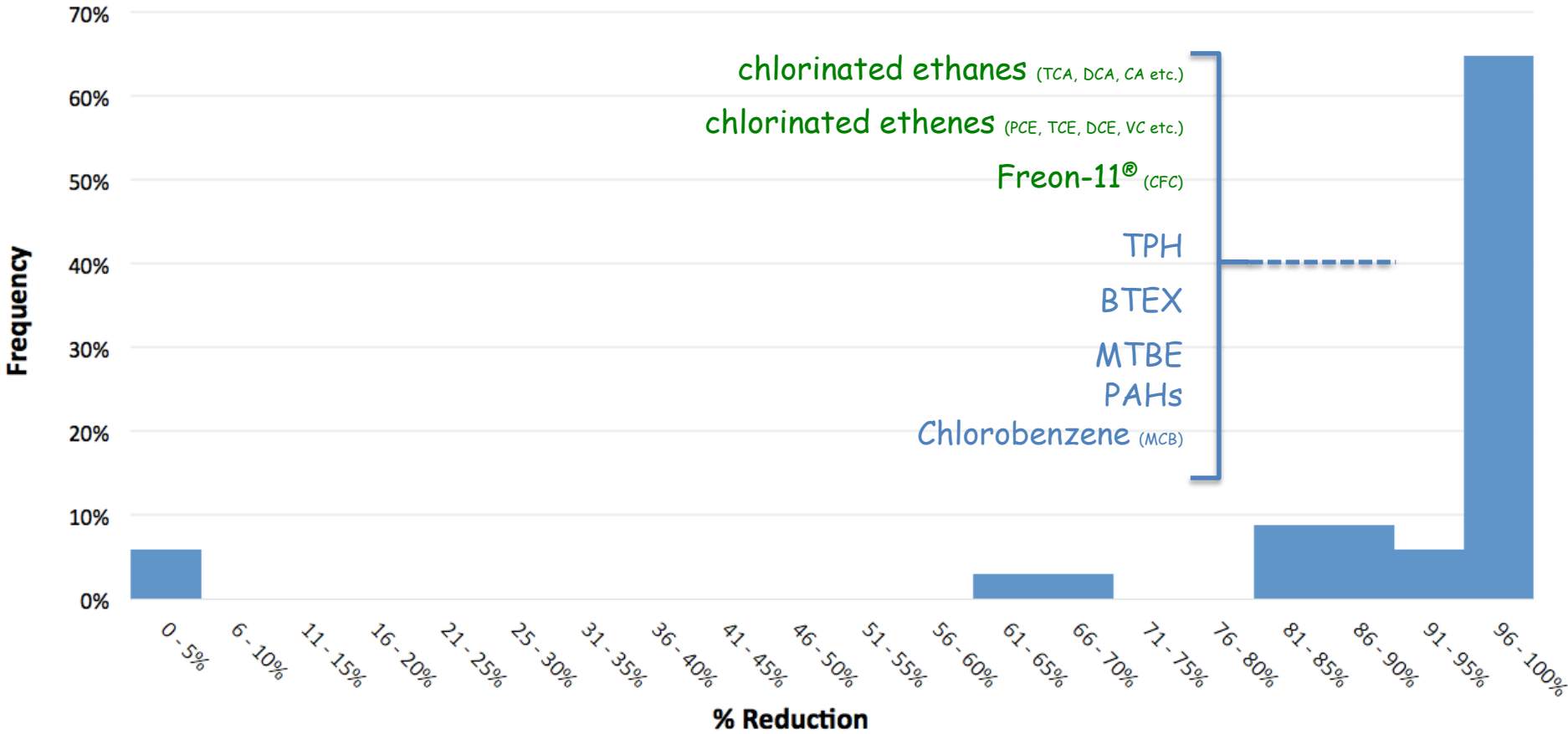


# Data Set Reviewed

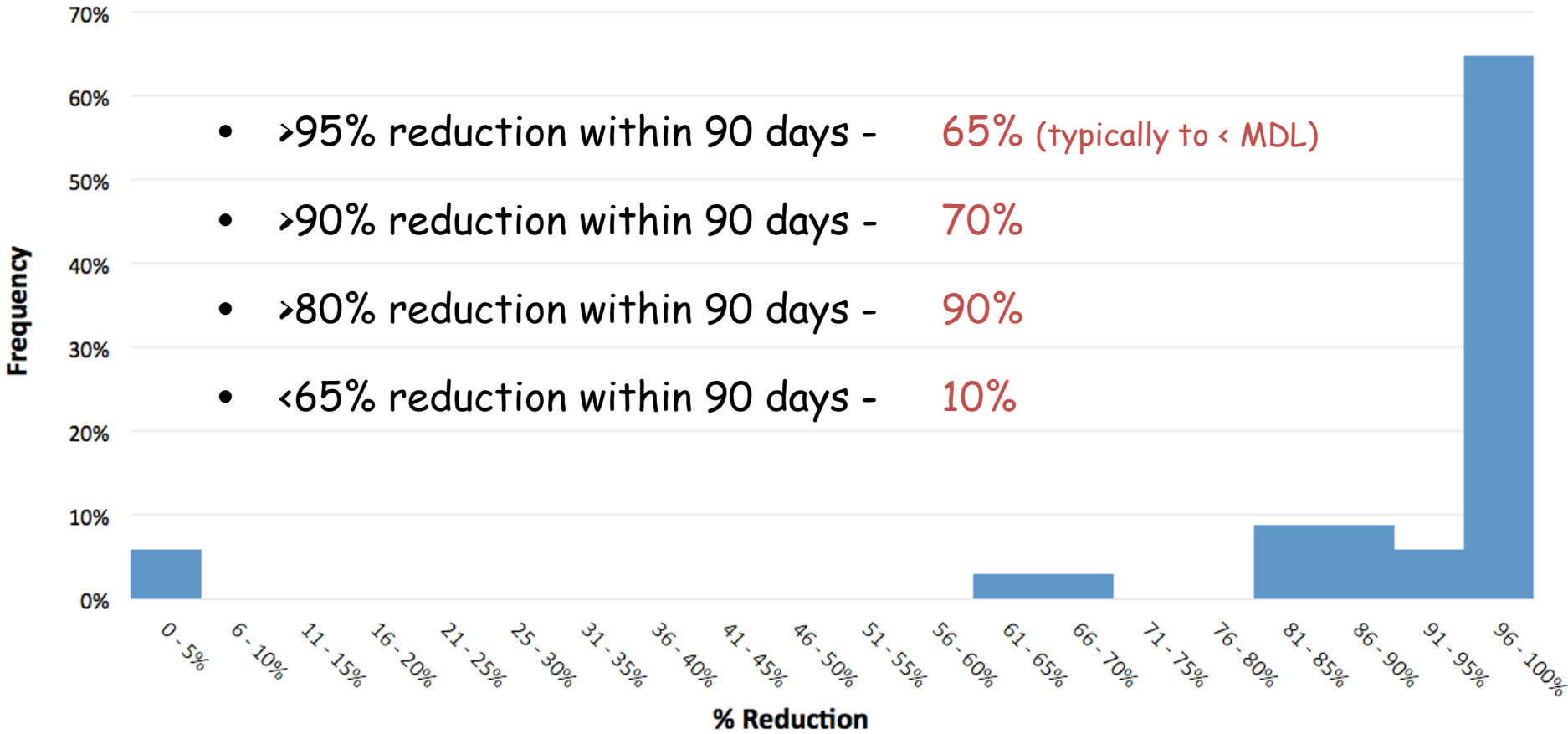
- 24 Project Site Data Sets Reviewed
  - All That We Have Access To Thus Far
  - More Coming/Continuous Feed
- Wells Within Zone of Anticipated Impact
- Total Contaminant Reduction
- Full Data Set Histogram
  - Histogram 1 – Contaminant Capture – Initial 1 to 3 rounds
  - Histogram 2 – Stability to Date – Ongoing (Average 200 days)



# PlumeStop Site Performance - Target Well Reductions First 1 - 3 Monitoring Rounds (n = 34)



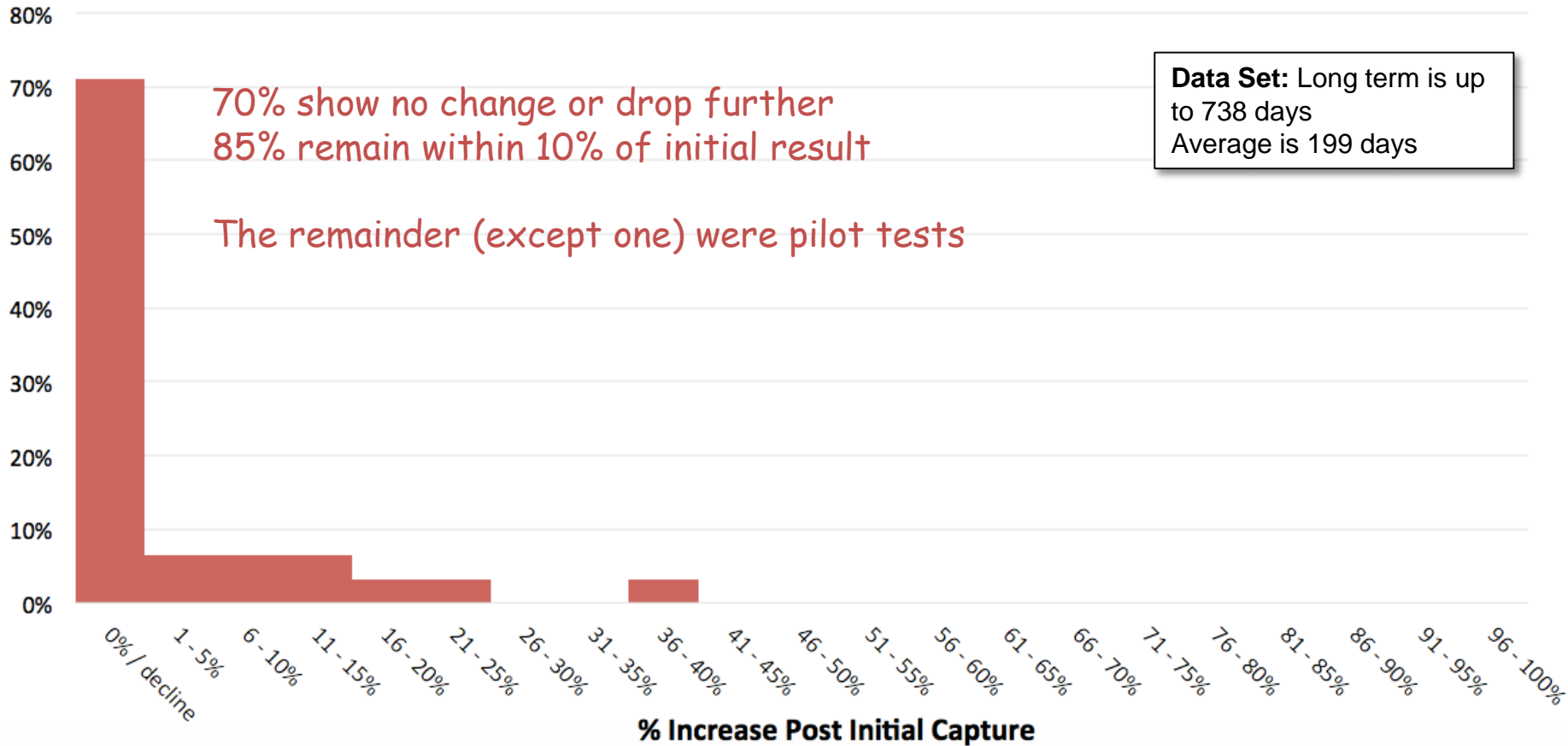
# PlumeStop Site Performance - Target Well Reductions First 1 - 3 Monitoring Rounds (n = 34)



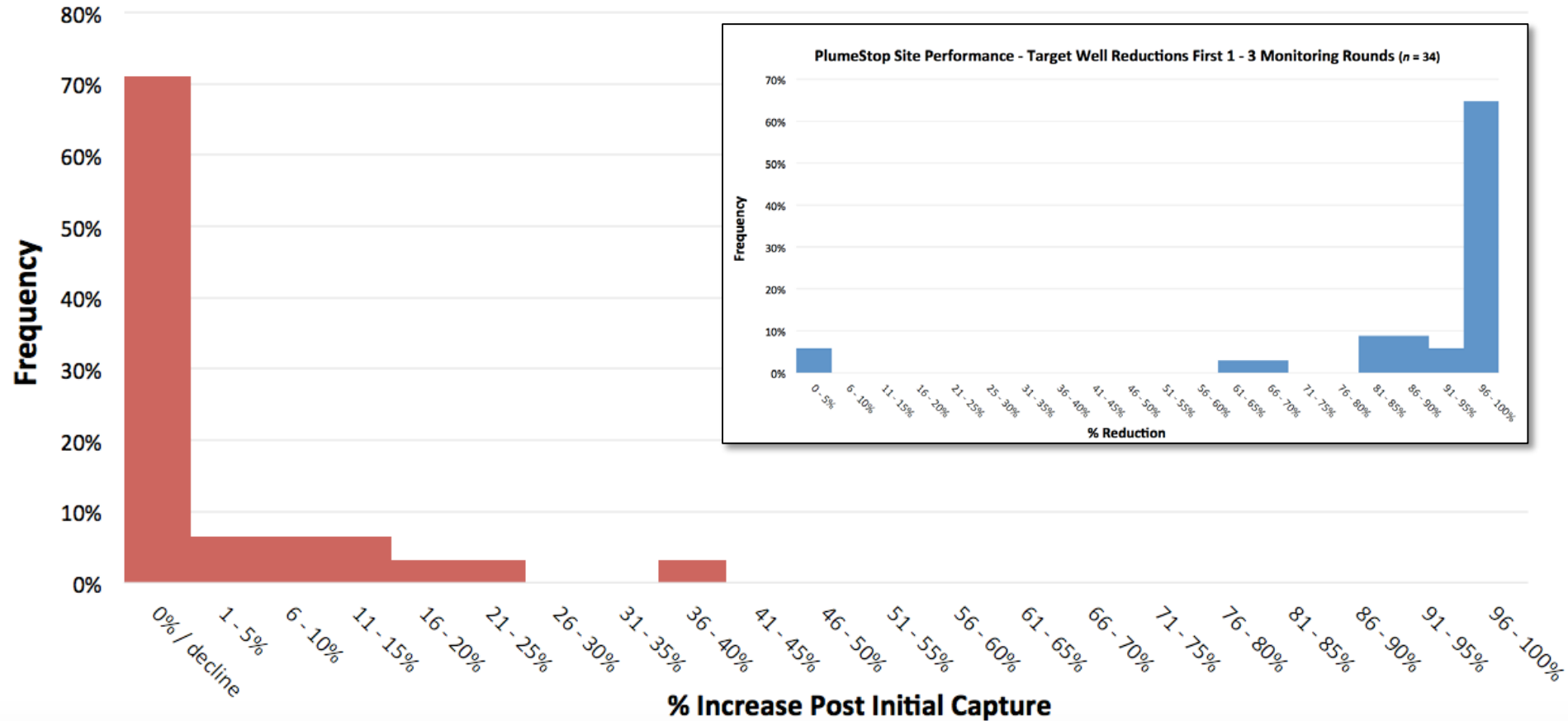
How Stable is this Reduction?  
Will there be Rebound?



## PlumeStop Long Term Performance - April 2016 (n = 31)



# PlumeStop Long Term Performance - April 2016 (n = 31)



(lessons learned)



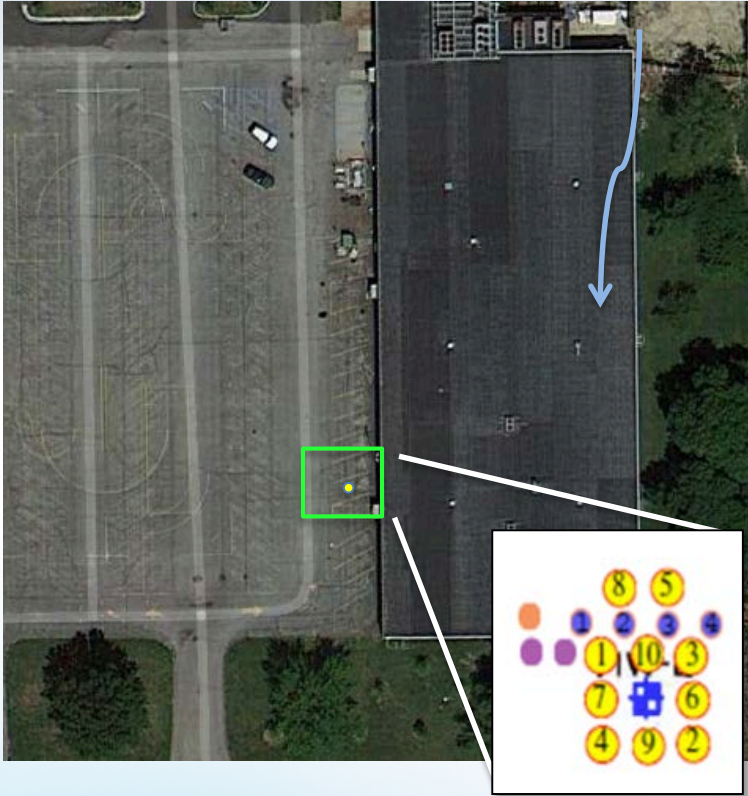
## Field Performance

How fast does it work?

How long does it last?

Is biodegradation occurring?

# Midwest Chlorinated VOC Site



Former electronics facility

Contaminants: TCA, TCE, etc.

- TCE 1,390  $\mu\text{g/L}$
- TCA 3,550  $\mu\text{g/L}$

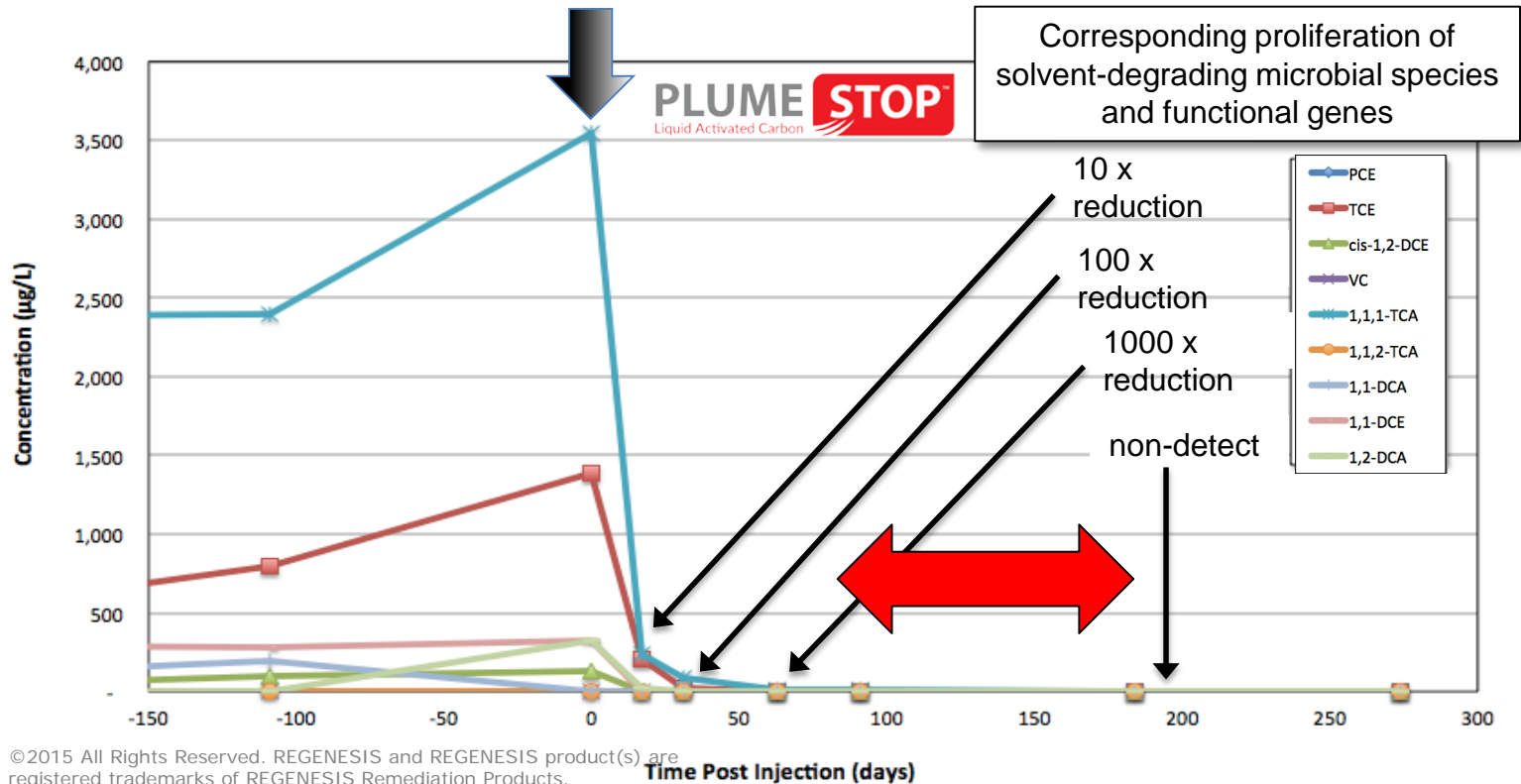
Treatment Area:

- Plume area only, no NAPL
- PlumeStop: 10-pt low pressure injection grid around MW-6
- HRC electron donor applied up-gradient

Site Characteristics:

- Sandy to silty sand;  $v = 12 \text{ ft/yr}$
- DTW = 10-13 ft bgs

## VOC Groundwater Concentrations Following PlumeStop™ and HRC® Injection







## Field Performance

How fast does it work? **92% Reduction in 2 weeks, ND 6 months**

How long does it last? **2 years and counting**

Is biodegradation occurring? **Yes. Sorption saturation should have occurred at 8.3 months due to upgradient contaminant mass flux**

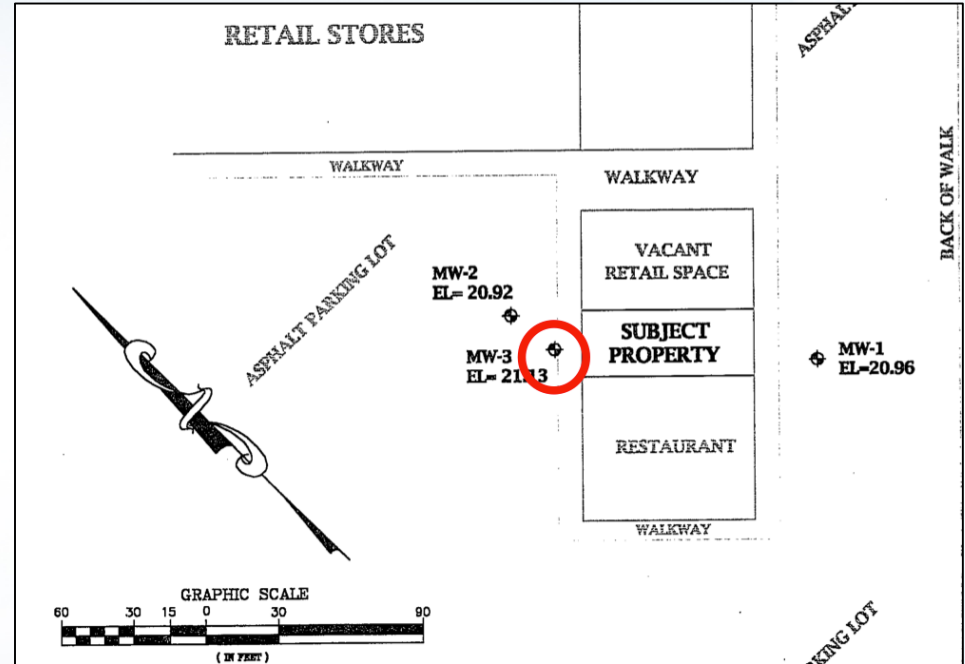
## Field Performance

- Chlorinated solvents
- Post-sorption biodegradation
- Lines of evidence



# California Site

- 'Dune Sand' formation
- 33 ft/year groundwater flow
- High redox conditions (aerobic)
- No attenuation evident
- PCE 550 µg/L
- No daughter products
- PlumeStop
- Electron donor and bacteria



# Historic Data

MW-3 (ppb)

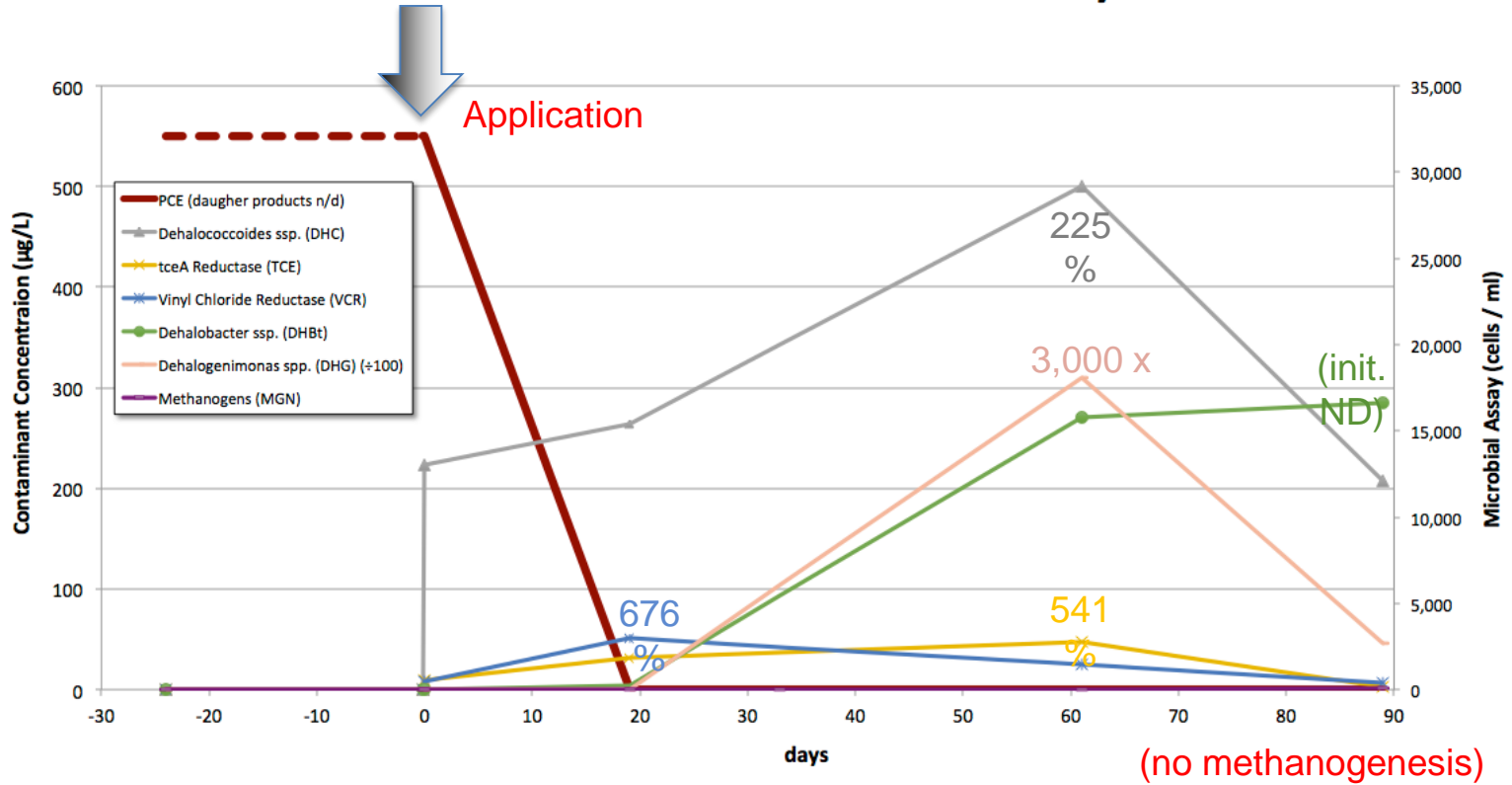
Year	PCE	TCE	VC	1,2 Cis	VC
2001	156	0	0	0	0
2002	94	0	0	0	0
2002.5	242	0	0	0	0
2003	174	0	0	0	0
2004	147	0	0	0	0
2005	122	0	0	0	0
2006	203	0	0	0	0
2007	584	0	0	0	0
2008	310	0	0	0	0
2009	587	0	0	0	0
2010	330	0	0	0	0
2011	501	0	0	0	0
2012	499	0	0	0	0

Steadily increasing PCE

No daughter products

(aerobic conditions)

# Contaminant and Dechlorination Microbial Assay Trends





# Data Summary

- >99% (two OOM) PCE concentration reduction within 14 days
  - 550 µg/L to non-detect (<5 µg/L)
- Optimal dehalorespiration conditions established
  - Redox from +254 mV to -150 mV 'sweet spot'
  - Competing electron acceptors depleted
- Post-inoculation microbial trends
  - Increase then decrease in dechlorination species and enzymes
  - Consistent with solvent metabolism and depletion

# Case Study: Real Estate Development – Time Pressure

- Neighborhood of McCormick Place – Central Chicago
  - New Sports Stadium
  - New Hotel Complex
- Solvent residues
- Tight time window
- High cost implications of delay
- Key remediation requirement: FAST

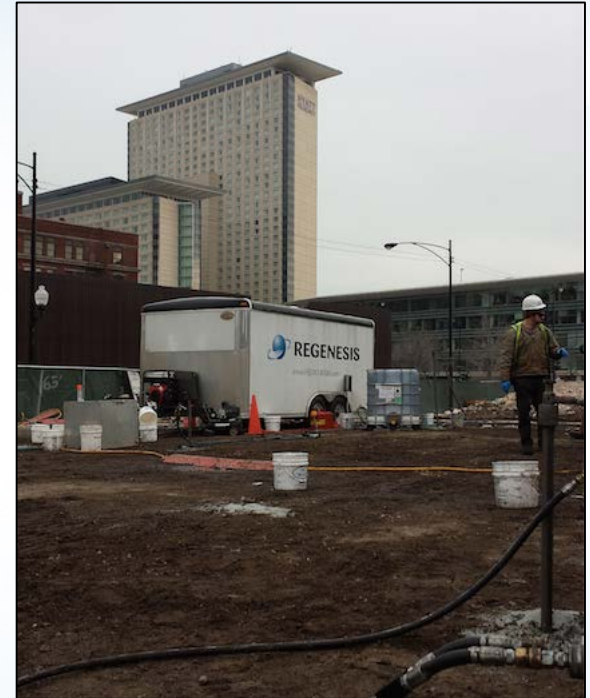


# Site Details

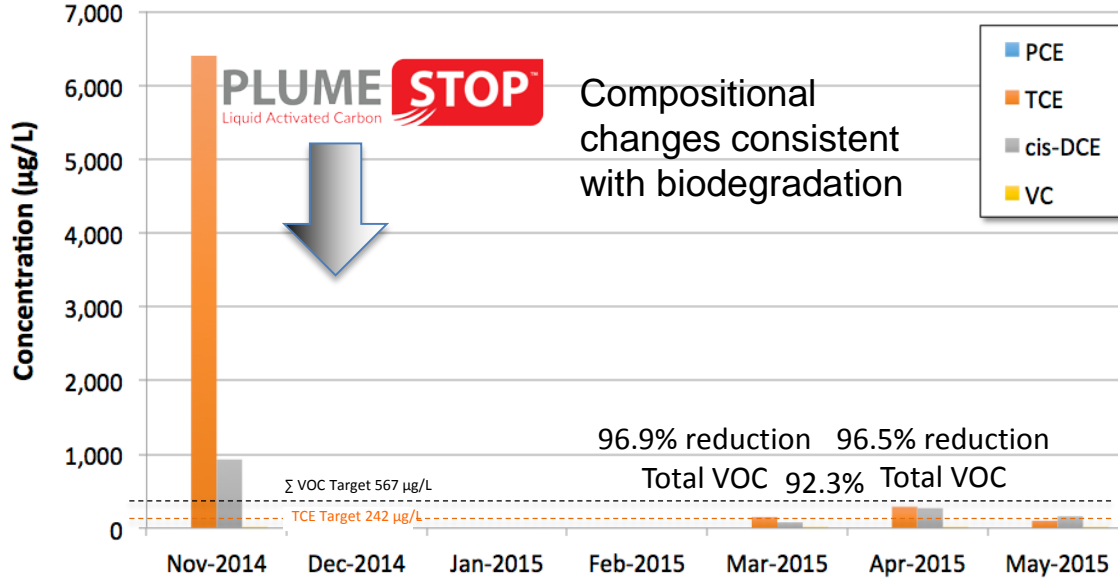
- PCE and TCE – up to 7,440 µg/L
- Sand formation over clay
  - Treatment area: ~25,000 sf
  - Treatment Zone (10' – 22')

Enhanced bio: HRC<sup>®</sup>, BDI<sup>®</sup>

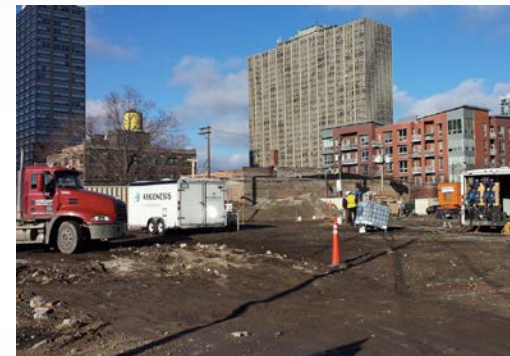
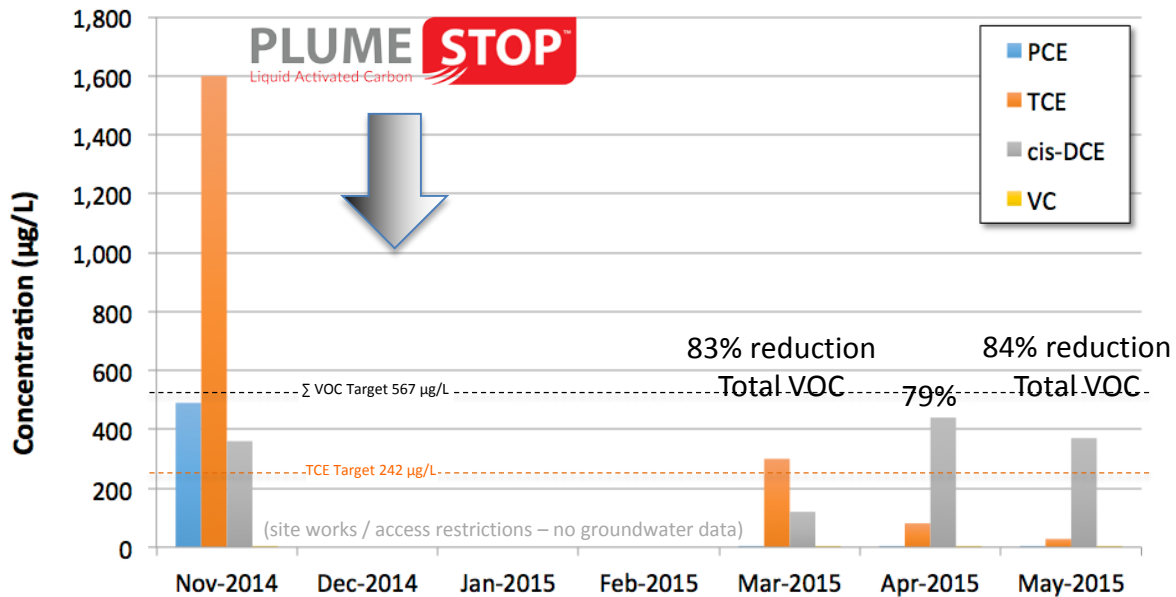
- Sufficient to address the contamination
- PlumeStop
  - Rapid risk reduction and bio process acceleration
  - Take the bio process out of the groundwater phase
- 17 days' fieldwork on site (Chicago winter)
  - 138 direct-push injections – no resident equipment



## Chicago Site - Well AW-3-2 VOC



## Chicago Site - Well AW-3-3 VOC





# Chicago Site – Status (June 2015)

- Rapid reduction in groundwater contamination
  - 80 – 97% from first sampling interval (total solvents)
- Bio conditions established (redox, TOC, microbial numbers)
  - Parent/daughter compound ratio shifts (dissolved phase)
  - (consistent with biodegradation)
- Targets met – third sampling interval (May 2015)
- Evaluating potential for closure (June 2015)



# Case Study

## - Filling Station – BTEX Residues -



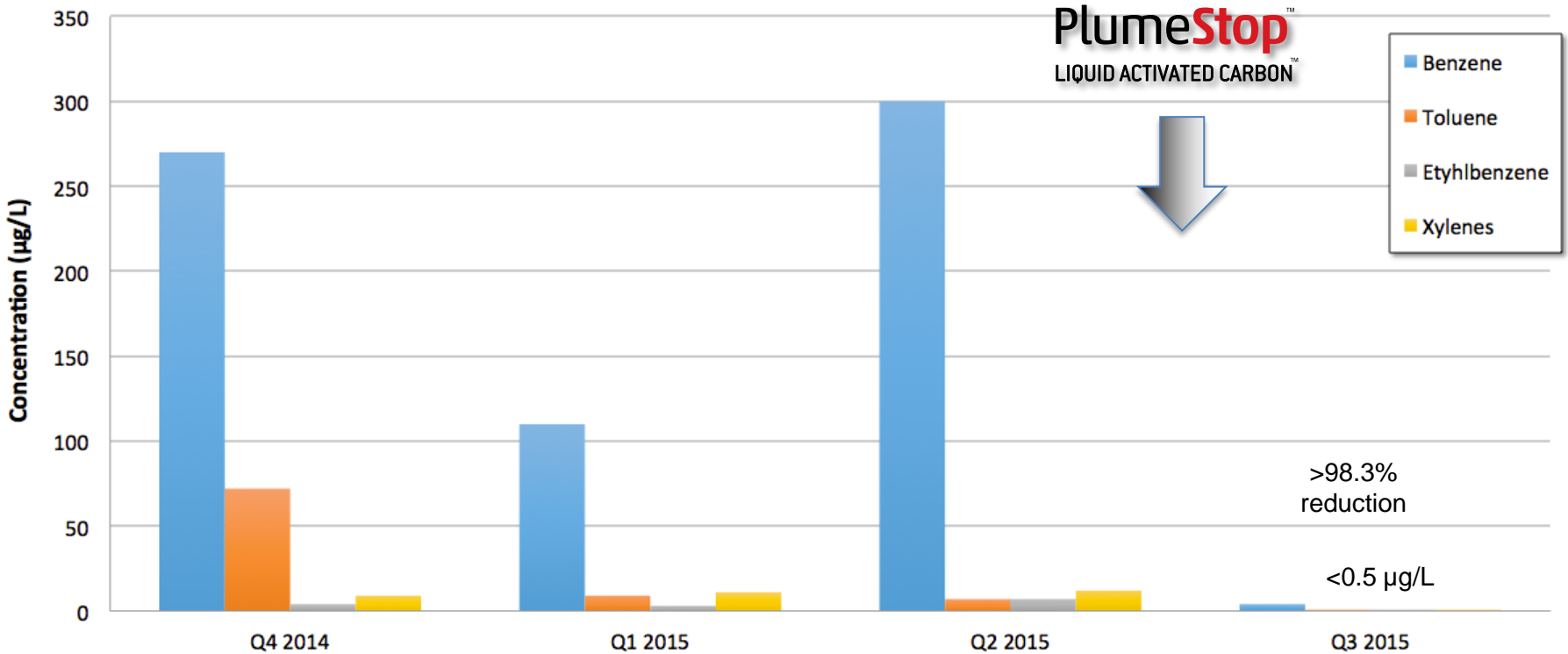
Pennsylvania

# PlumeStop™ - Filling Station

- Former Filling Station
- BTEX residues
- Tight formation
- 9' – 15' below grade
- Clay with Sand (ca.  $3.53 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec)
- Seepage Velocity Zero
- PlumeStop™ and ORC Advanced



# BTEX - Well MW-6R



# Case Study

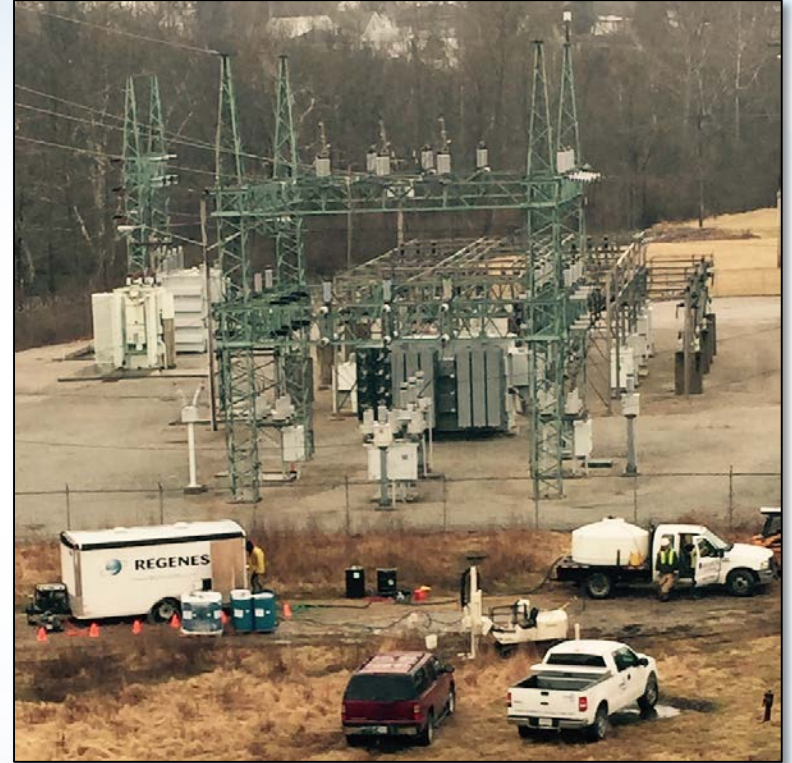
## - Manufactured Gas Plant / PAHs -



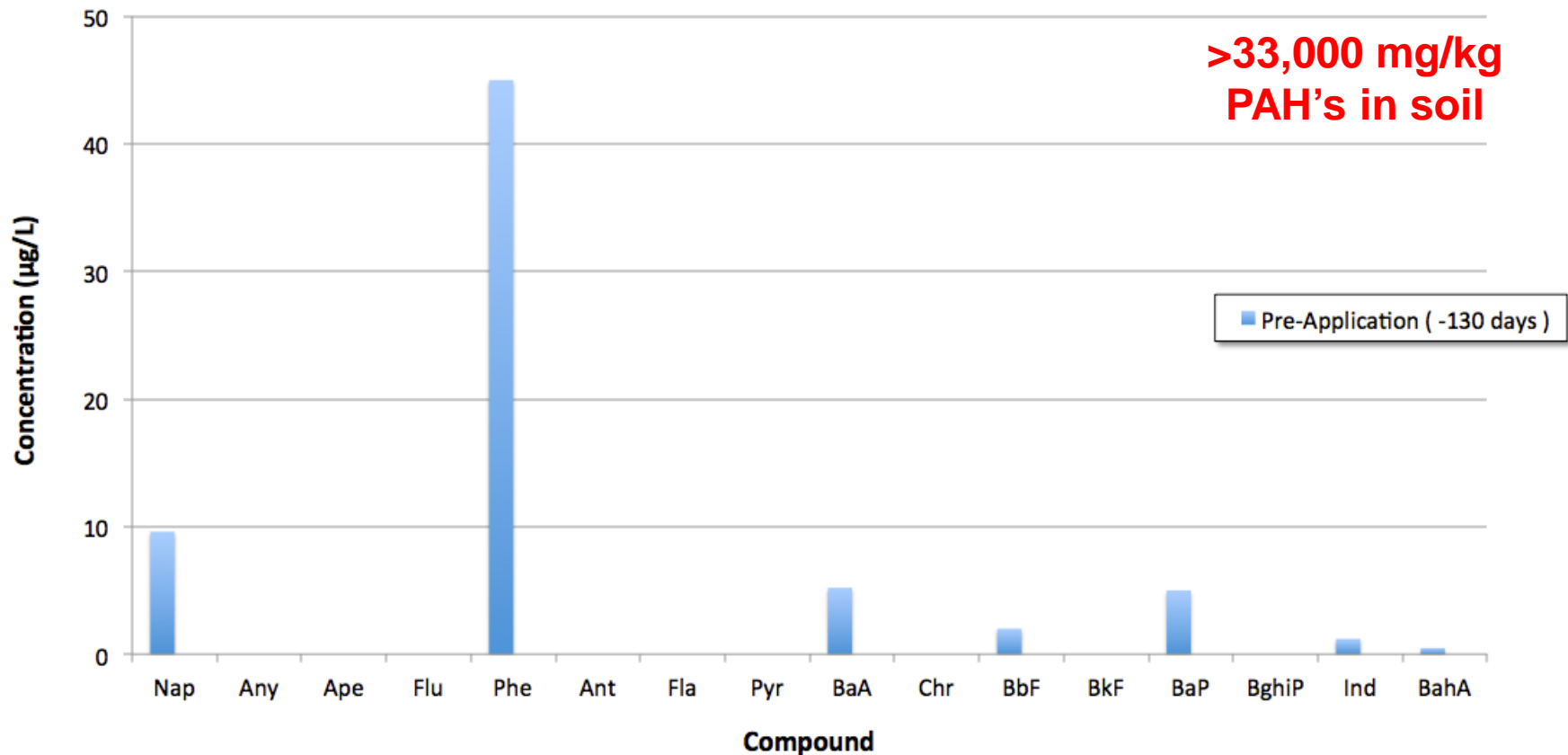


# PlumeStop™ MGP

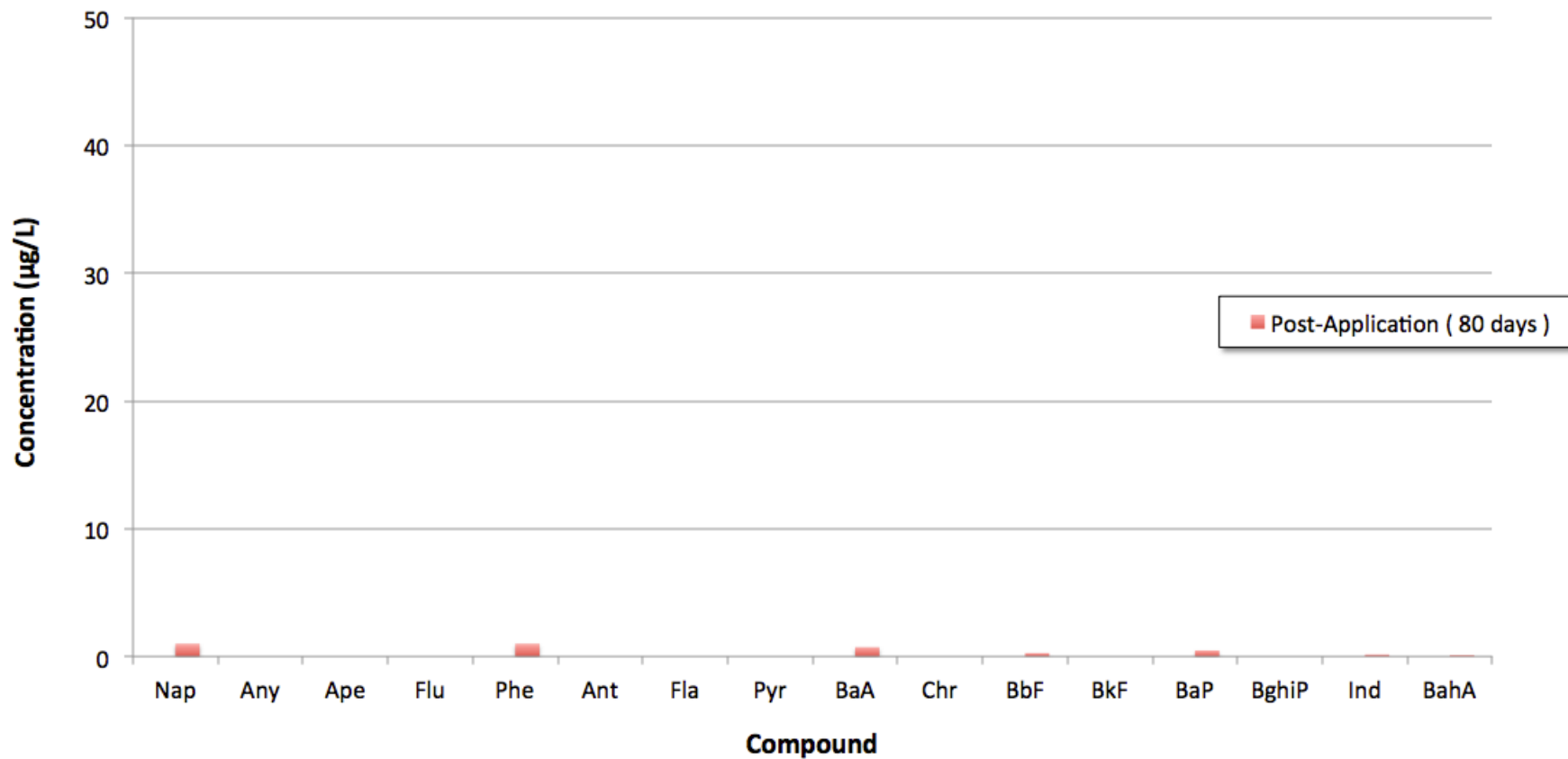
- Silty clay loam transitioning to sand and gravel
- Injection 13.0" – 22" fbgs
- PlumeStop™
- ORC-Advanced®



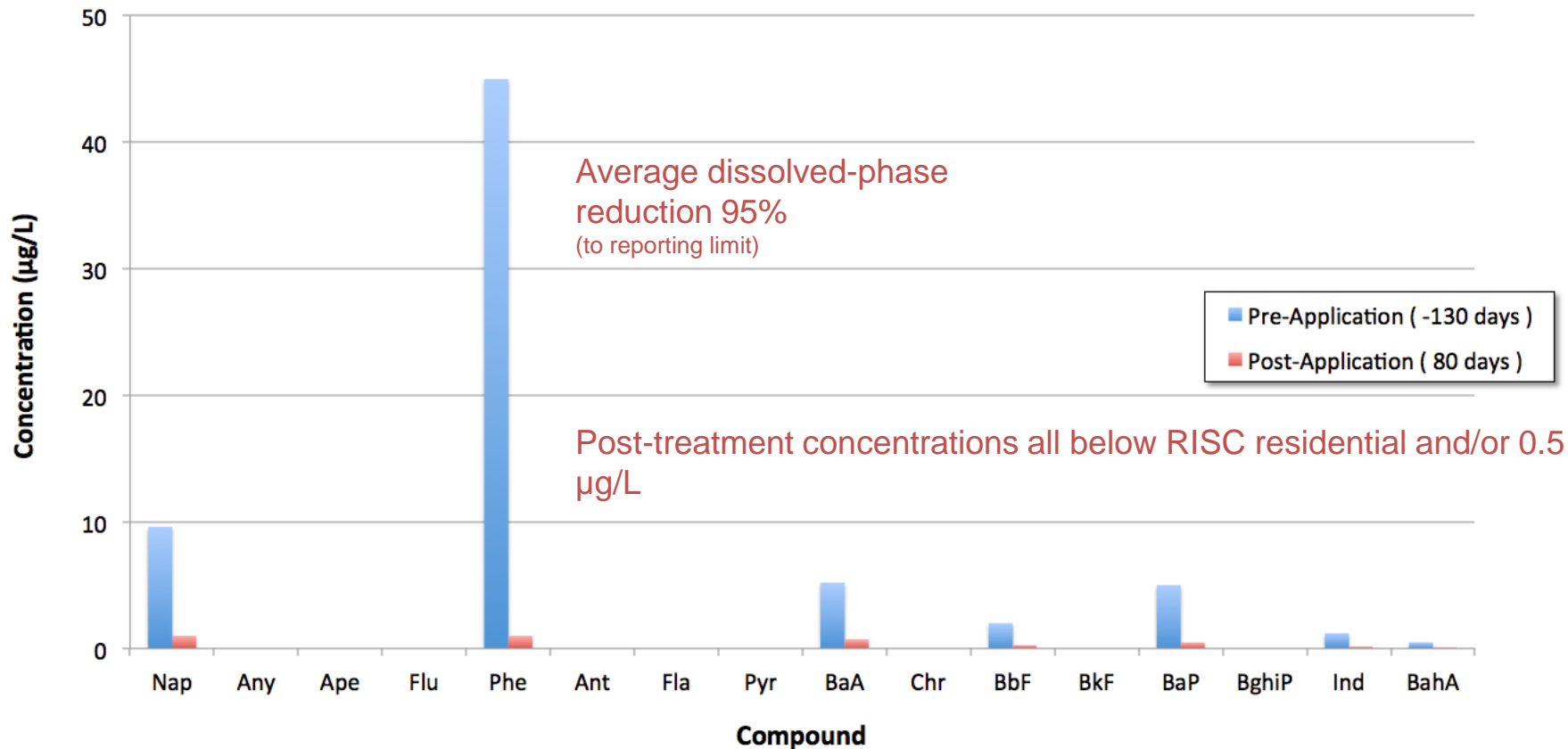
# PlumeStop™ MGP Pilot - initial PAH Results



# PlumeStop™ MGP Pilot - initial PAH Results



# PlumeStop™ MGP Pilot - initial PAH Results





How fast does it work?:

Generally > 80% reduction within 90 days at 90% of sites.

How long does it last?

Indefinitely if electron donor/acceptors present.

Is biodegradation occurring?

Multiple lines of evidence indicate complete biodegradation.



# A Multi-Site Performance Review of Liquid Activated Carbon for Groundwater Treatment

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Technology-Based Solutions for the Environment

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