



Advances in Long-term Monitoring Technologies for Supporting Bioremediation

Haruko Wainwright, Ken Williams

06/05



**EARTH &
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES**

Nuclear Weapon Production Sites

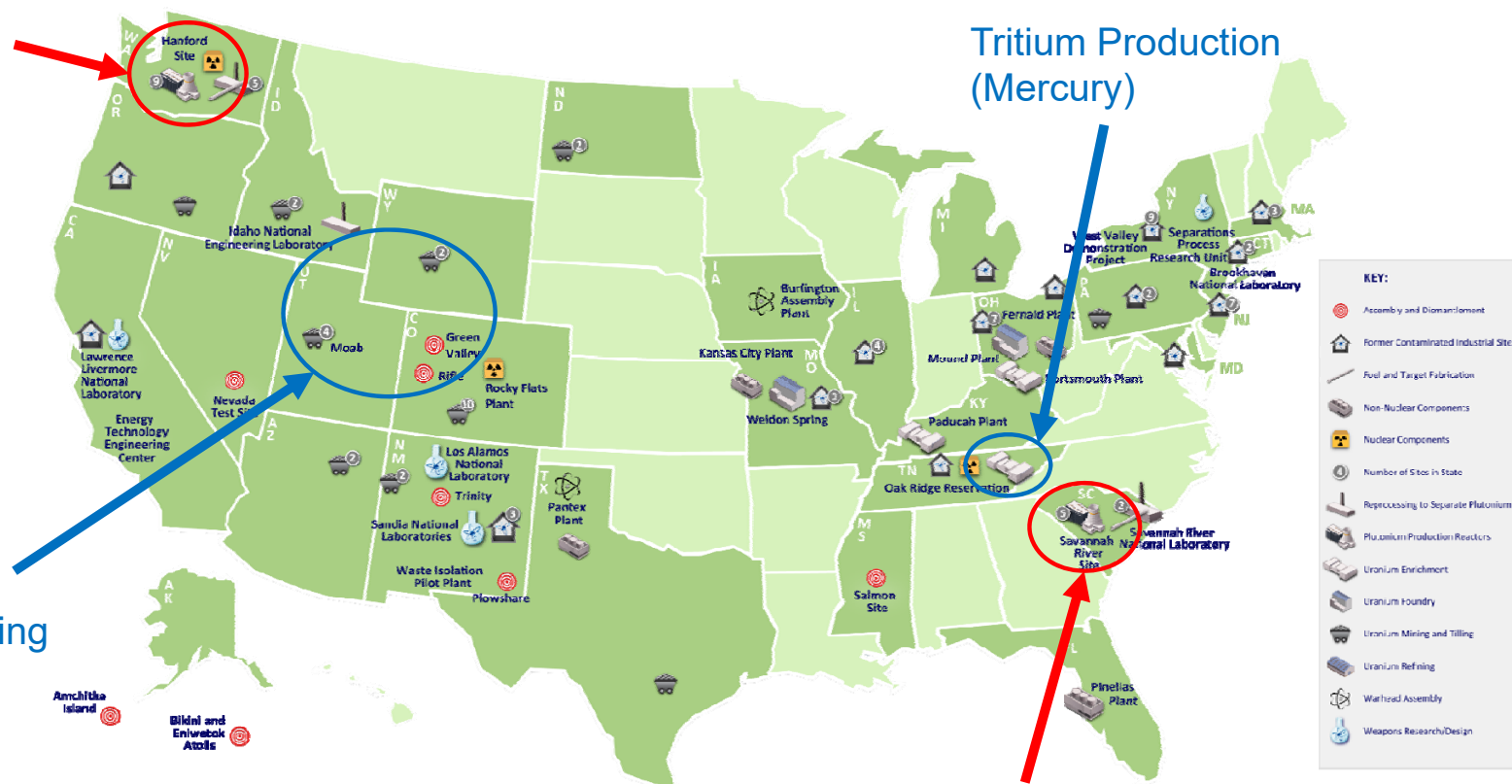


Nuclear Weapon Production Sites

Plutonium Production

Tritium Production (Mercury)

Uranium Mining/Milling

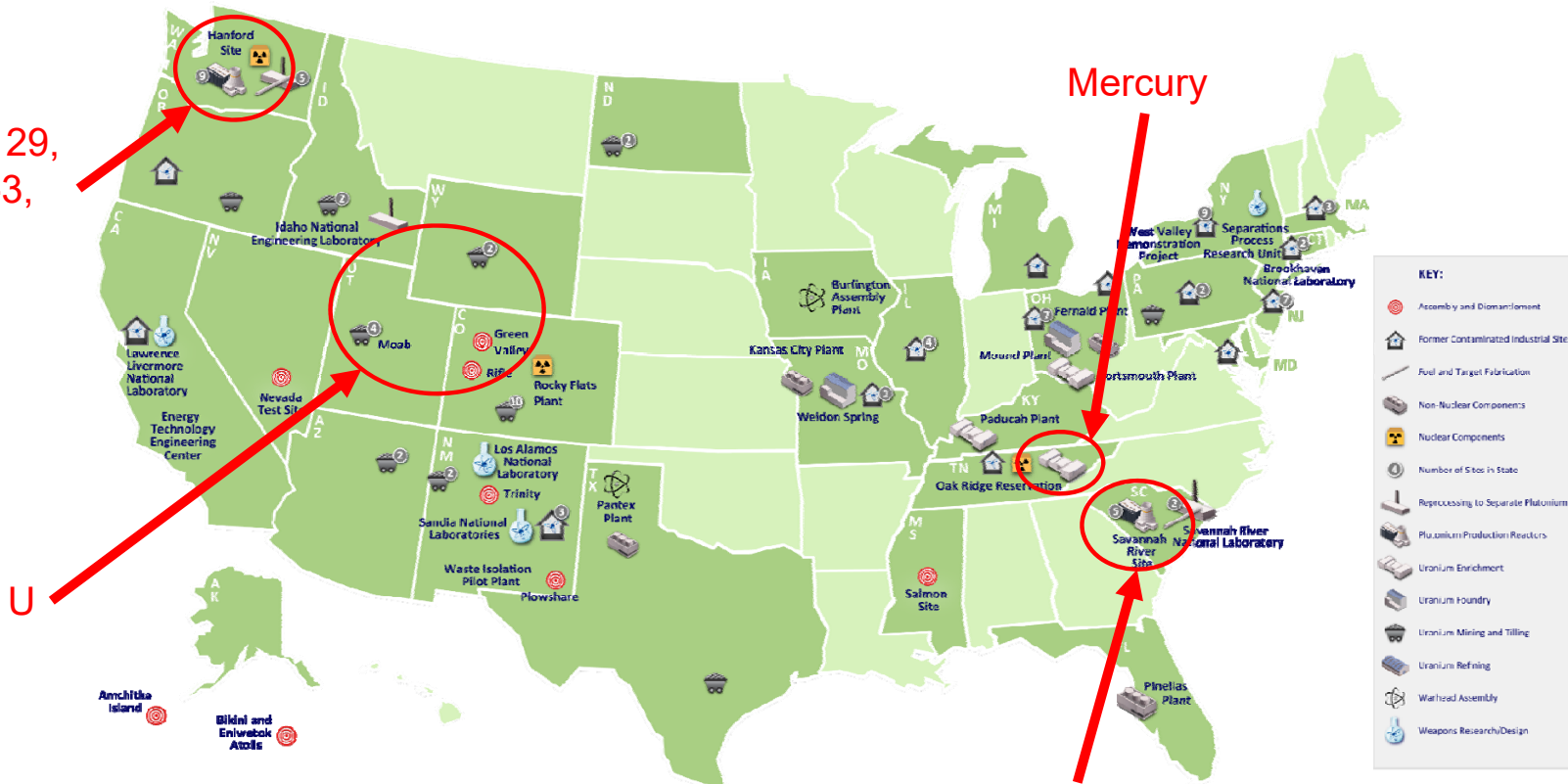


Plutonium Production



Key/Priority Elements of Existing Contamination

Tc-99, I-129,
Sr-90, H-3,
U, Cr



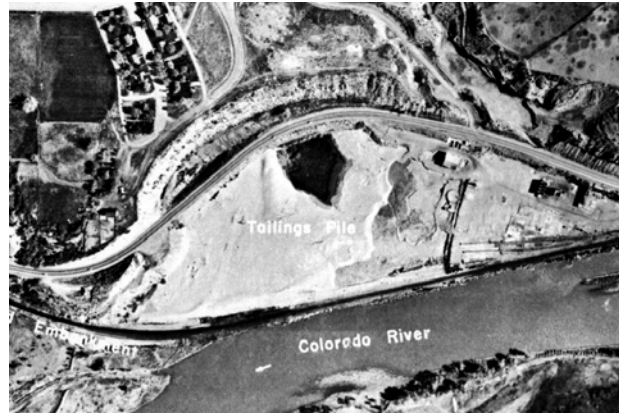
Tc-99, I-129,
H-3, U



Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal



Hanford 300 Area



Rifle, CO



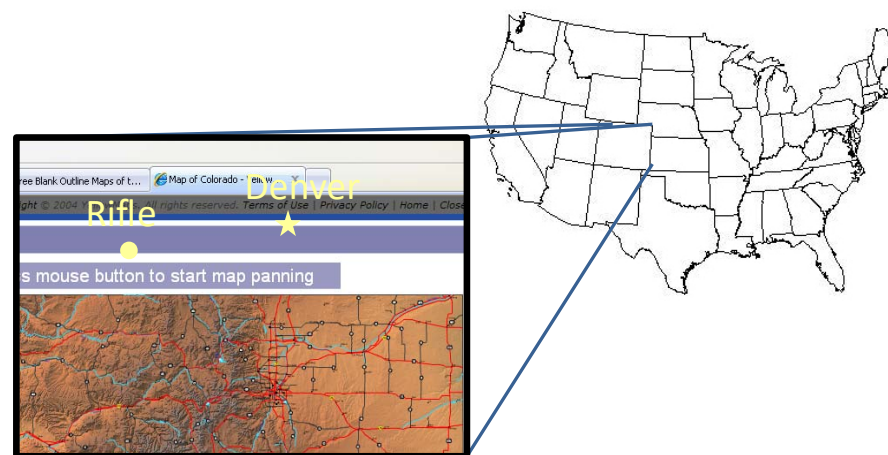
Savannah River Site F-Area



DOE's Rifle Site

- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- Uranium/vanadium ore processing facility: 1924-1958
- 761,000 tons of ore processed
- 2,000 tons of U concentrate

Rifle, CO: Mill site in ca. 1957



- Tailings were consolidated & stabilized late 1950's & 60's
- Site stabilized; surface cover added and closure in 1996
- **GCAP: *Natural flushing*** of residual groundwater U(VI) ca. 0.5-1.5 μ M

Prime Site for U Bioremediation

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Oct. 2005, p. 6308–6318
0099-2240/05/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.71.10.6308–6318.2005
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Vol. 71, No. 10

Geomicrobiology Journal, 28:519–539, 2011
Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC
ISSN: 0149-0451 print / 1521-0529 online
DOI: 10.1080/01490451.2010.520074

Microbiological and Geochemical Heterogeneity in an In Situ Uranium Bioremediation Field Site

Helen A. Vronis,^{1*} Robert T. Anderson,¹ Irene Ortiz-Bernad,¹ Kathleen R. O'Neill,¹
Charles T. Resch,² Aaron D. Peacock,³ Richard Dayvault,⁴ David C. White,³
Philip E. Long,² and Derek R. Lovley¹

Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003¹; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352²; S. M. Stoller Corporation, Lafayette, Colorado 80026⁴; and Center for Biomarker Analysis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37932³

Acetate Availability and its Influence on Sustainable Bioremediation of Uranium-Contaminated Groundwater

Kenneth H. Williams,¹ Philip E. Long,² James A. Davis,³ Michael J. Wilkins,²
A. Lucie N'Guessan,² Carl I. Steefel,¹ Li Yang,¹ Darrell Newcomer,²
Frank A. Spane,² Lee J. Kerkhof,⁴ Lora McGuinness,⁴ Richard Dayvault,⁵
and Derek R. Lovley⁶

¹Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

²Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington, USA

³U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California, USA

⁴Institute of Marine and Coastal Science, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA

⁵S.M. Stoller Corporation, Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

⁶Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA

Mineral Transformation and Biomass Accumulation Associated With Uranium Bioremediation at Rifle, Colorado

LI LI,^{*,†} CARL I. STEEFEL,[†]
KENNETH H. WILLIAMS,[†]
MICHAEL J. WILKINS,[‡] AND
SUSAN S. HUBBARD[†]

Earth Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, MS 90-1116, Berkeley, California 94720, and Department of Earth and Planetary Science, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720

Received January 4, 2009. Revised manuscript received May 21, 2009. Accepted May 27, 2009.

Geophysical Imaging of Stimulated Microbial Biomineralization

KENNETH H. WILLIAMS,^{*,†,‡}
DIMITRIOS NTARLAGIANNIS,[§]
LEE D. SLATER,[§] ALICE DOHNALKOVA,^{||}
SUSAN S. HUBBARD,[‡] AND
JILLIAN F. BANFIELD^{†,‡}

Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey 07102, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352



ELSEVIER

Current Opinion in Biotechnology

Volume 24, Issue 3, June 2013, Pages 489–497



Bioremediation of uranium-contaminated groundwater: a systems approach to subsurface biogeochemistry

Kenneth H Williams¹ ✉, John R Bargar², Jonathan R Lloyd³, Derek R Lovley⁴

Fundamental Understanding of Microbiology

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14486

Unusual biology across a group comprising more than 15% of domain Bacteria

Christopher T. Brown¹, Laura A. Hug², Brian C. Thomas², Itai Sharon², Cindy J. Castelle², Andrea Singh², Michael J. Wilkins^{3,4}, Kelly C. Wrighton⁴, Kenneth H. Williams⁵ & Jillian F. Banfield^{2,5,6}

LETTER RESEARCH

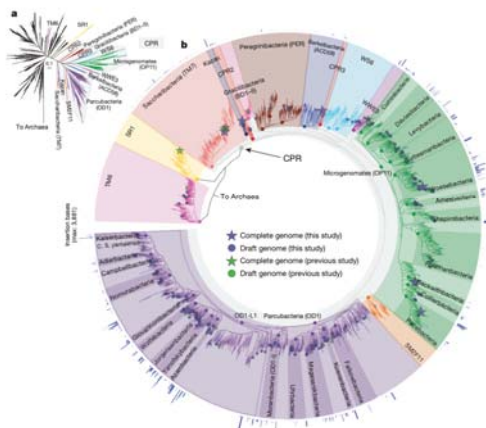
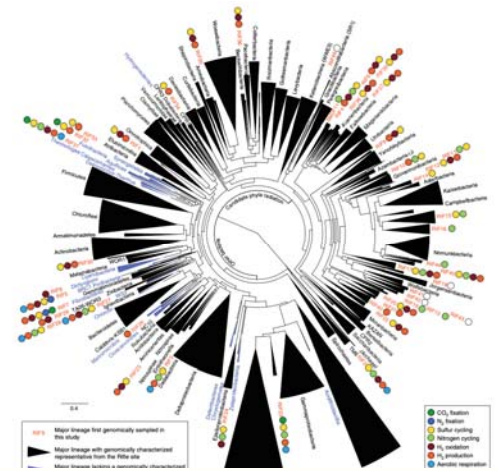


Figure 1 | Phylogeny and genomic sampling of the CPR. a, b, Subsets of a maximum-likelihood 16S rRNA gene phylogeny (Supplementary Fig. 1) showing the CPR, a monophyletic radiation of candidate phyla (a), and genomic sampling of candidate phyla (b). Proposed names for phyla within the superphyla Parcubacteria and Microgenomates are explained in Extended Data Table 1. Many CPR 16S rRNA genes encode insertions (length shown by blue bars, combined length for multiple insertions).



nature COMMUNICATIONS

ARTICLE

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DOI: 10.1038/ncomms13219

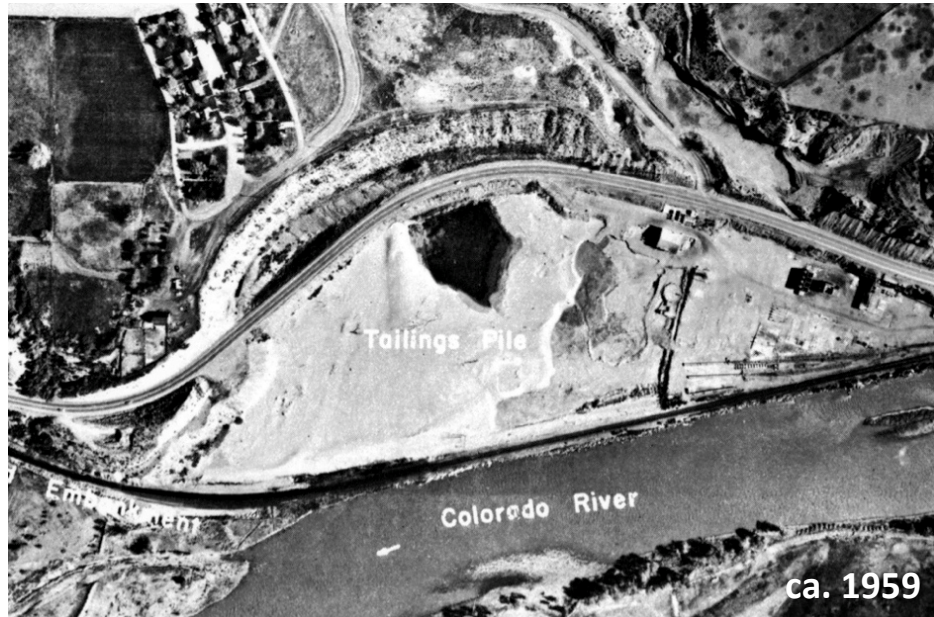
OPEN

Thousands of microbial genomes shed light on interconnected biogeochemical processes in an aquifer system

Karthik Anantharaman¹, Christopher T. Brown², Laura A. Hug¹, Itai Sharon¹, Cindy J. Castelle¹, Alexander J. Probst¹, Brian C. Thomas¹, Andrea Singh¹, Michael J. Wilkins³, Ulas Karaoz⁴, Eoin L. Brodie⁴, Kenneth H. Williams⁴, Susan S. Hubbard⁴ & Jillian F. Banfield^{1,4}



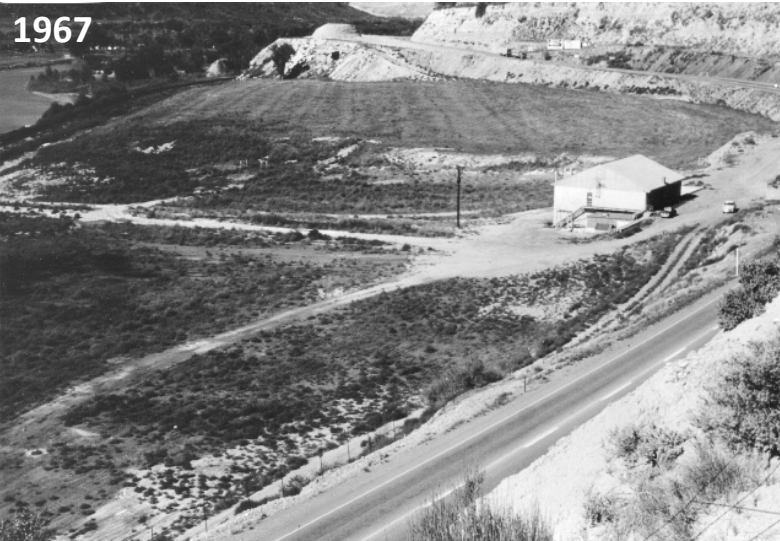
Milling History: 1950



Union Carbide Corporation



Milling History: 1960 - 1996



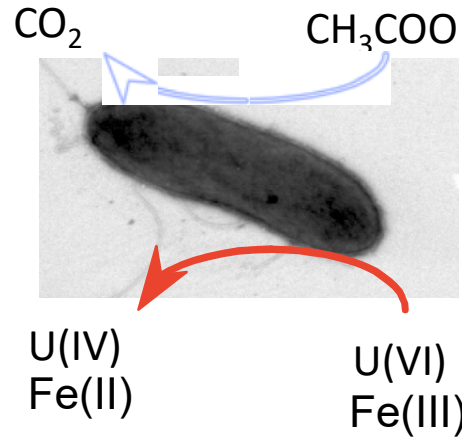
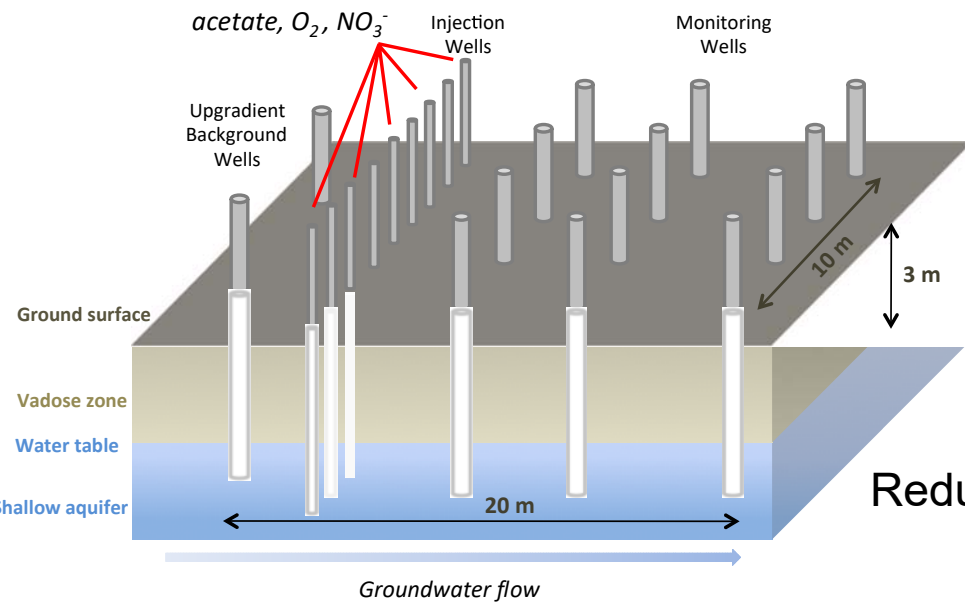
**Tailings consolidated and stabilized by 1967;
new ores processed at New Rifle site after 1958**



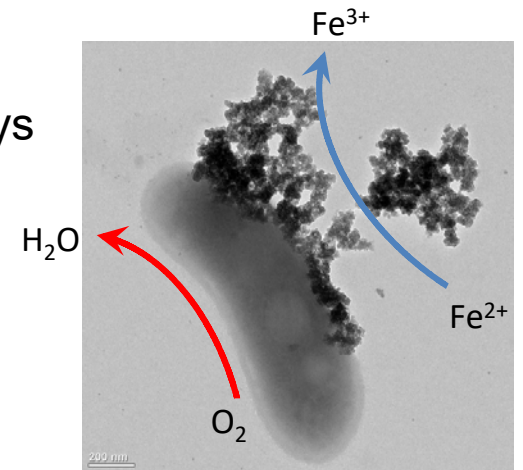
**Site 'closure' and
remediation
finished in 1996.**



Bioremediation Experiments



Reductive vs. oxidative pathways

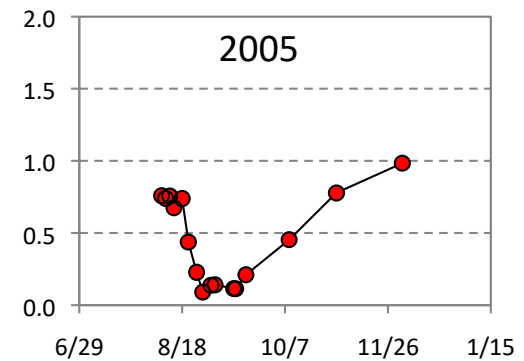
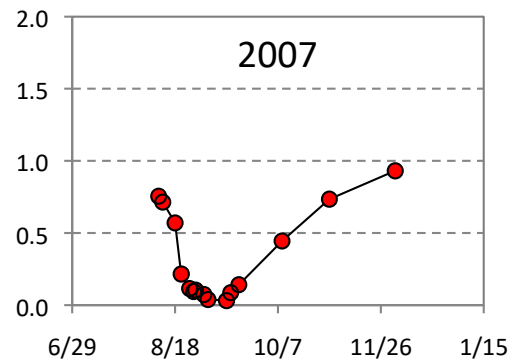
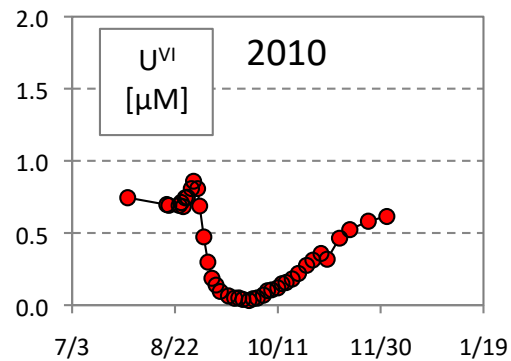
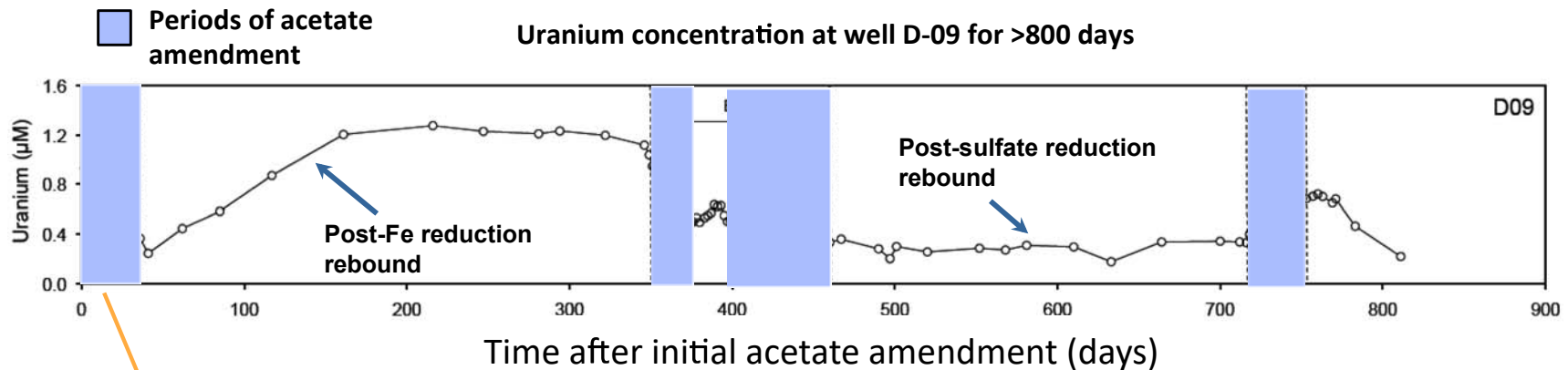


Courtesy: Clara Cha

- **Amplify** pathways of interest (microbial, geochemical, mineralogical)
- Enable **high resolution sampling**
- Experimentally **tractable timelines**



Bioremediation: Acetate Injection

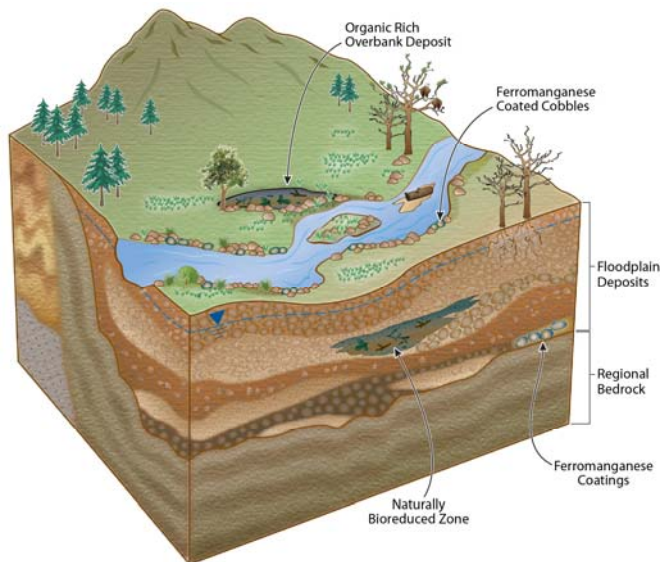


Very repeatable U removal across space and time; [U] remains low so long as acetate remains.

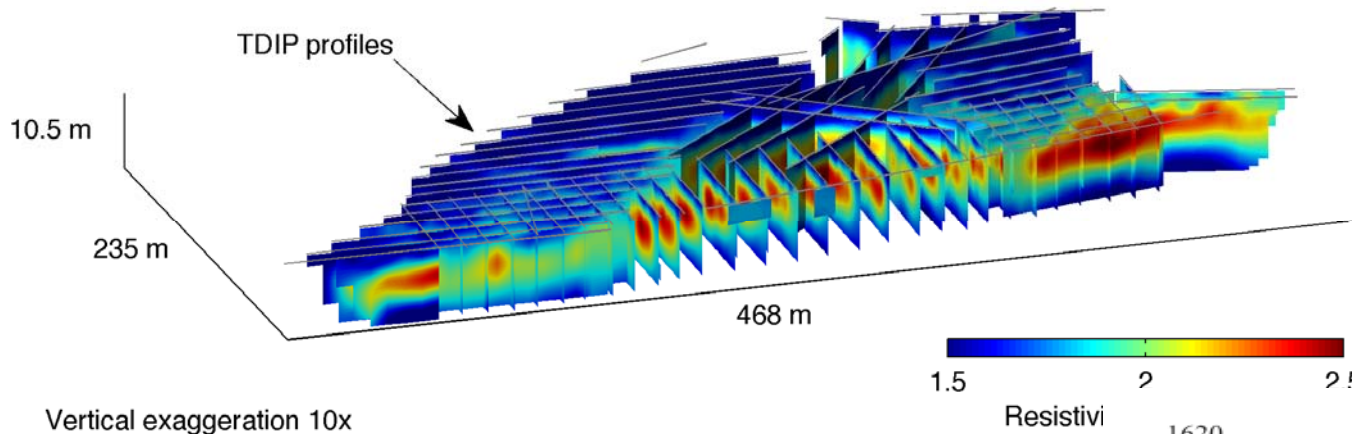


Naturally Reduced Zones

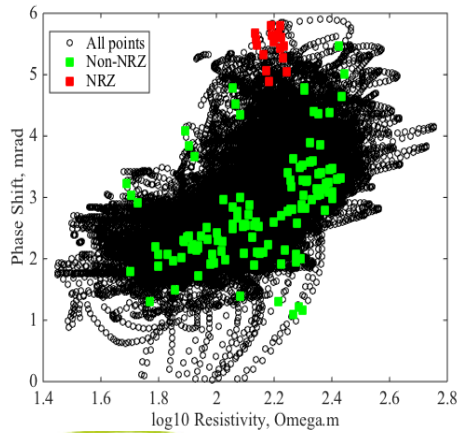
- Drilling delineated regions of refractory organic carbon accumulation (e.g. twigs, roots, cones, etc.)
- Visibly reduced sediments (e.g. FeS)
- Elevated uranium levels *likely* due to same processes catalyzed by acetate injection



3D Mapping of NRZ

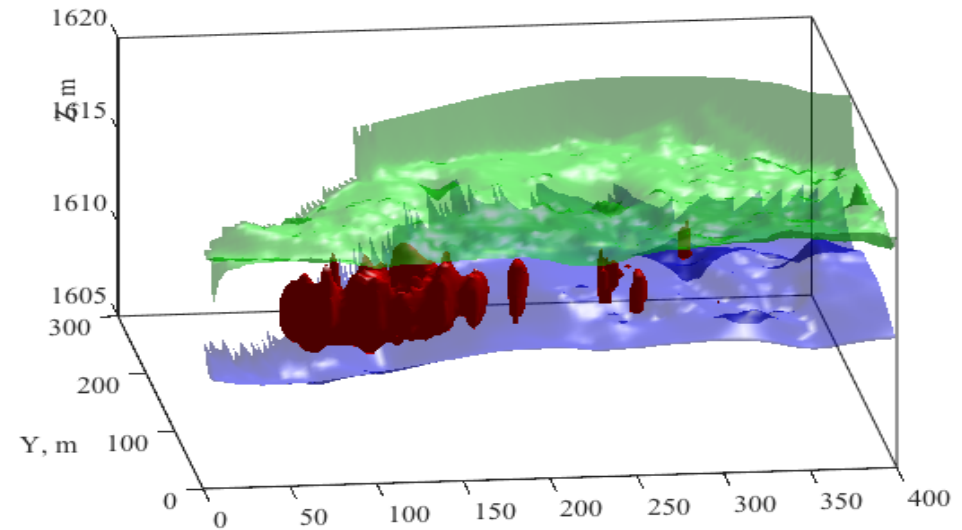


Vertical exaggeration 10x



- Induced polarization method
- Phase shift
- Resistivity

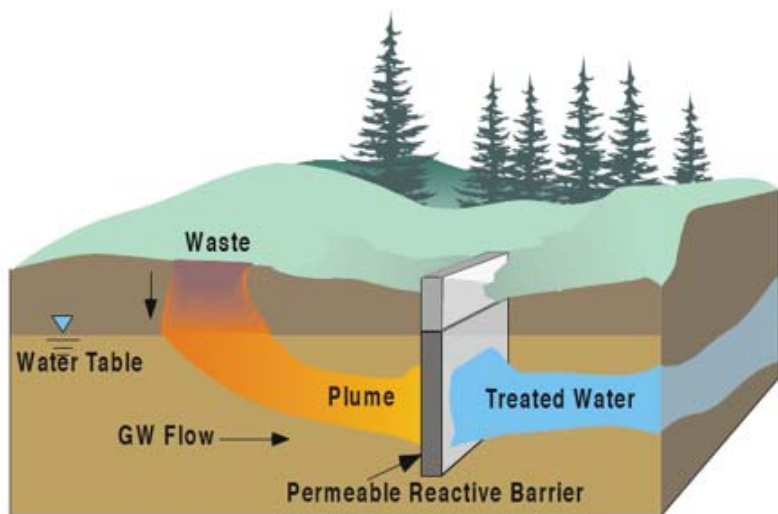
Mapped NRZs



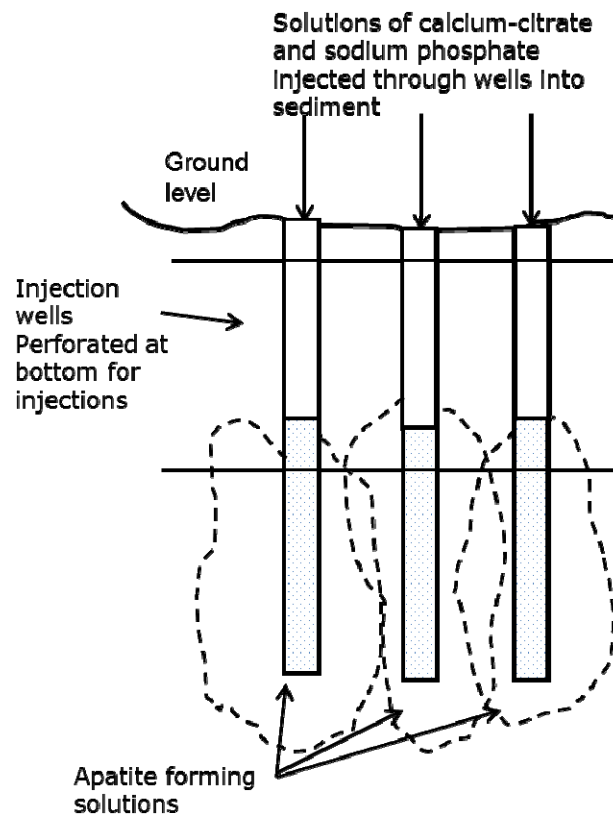
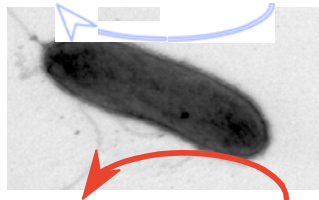
Wainwright et al., 2015; Yabusaki et al., 201

More Effective Alternative?

Apatite-based “Chemically Induced” Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) Technology



Citrate degradation



Slow release: $\text{calcium}-(\text{citrate})_2 + \text{sodium phosphate} \rightarrow \text{apatite}$

Hydroxyapatite as a PRB Material

- 3-dimensional lattice of calcium phosphate, $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$
- Very stable; extremely low solubility.
- Can sequester a wide variety of radionuclides, heavy metals and other contaminants through substitution into the structure or sorption onto the surface as metal phosphate compounds.
- Immobilization and sequestration of uranium as an oxidized (U^{6+}) form → less prone to (re)oxidative dissolution
- Can be formed in situ by solution injection in the subsurface (No need to trench)



Experiment Design

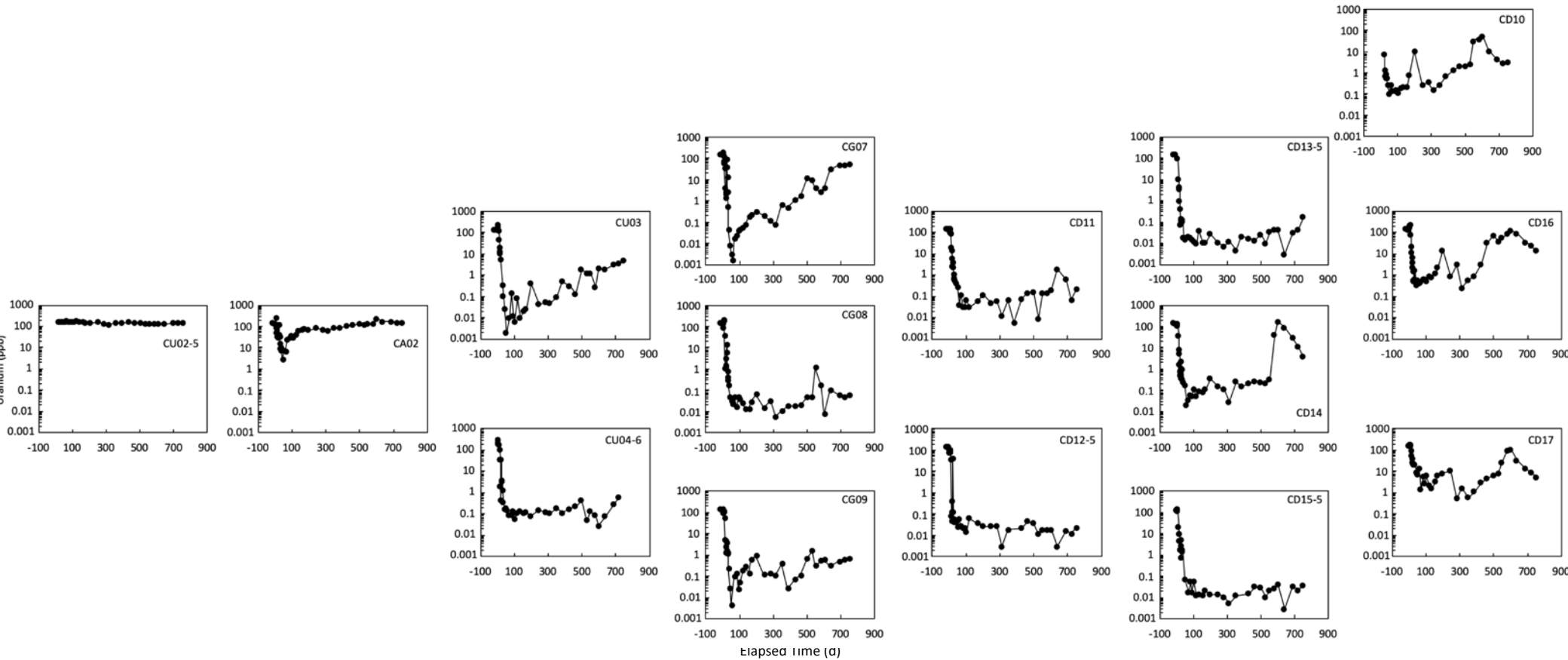
Upgradient control well [CU02]

Injection well [CG08]

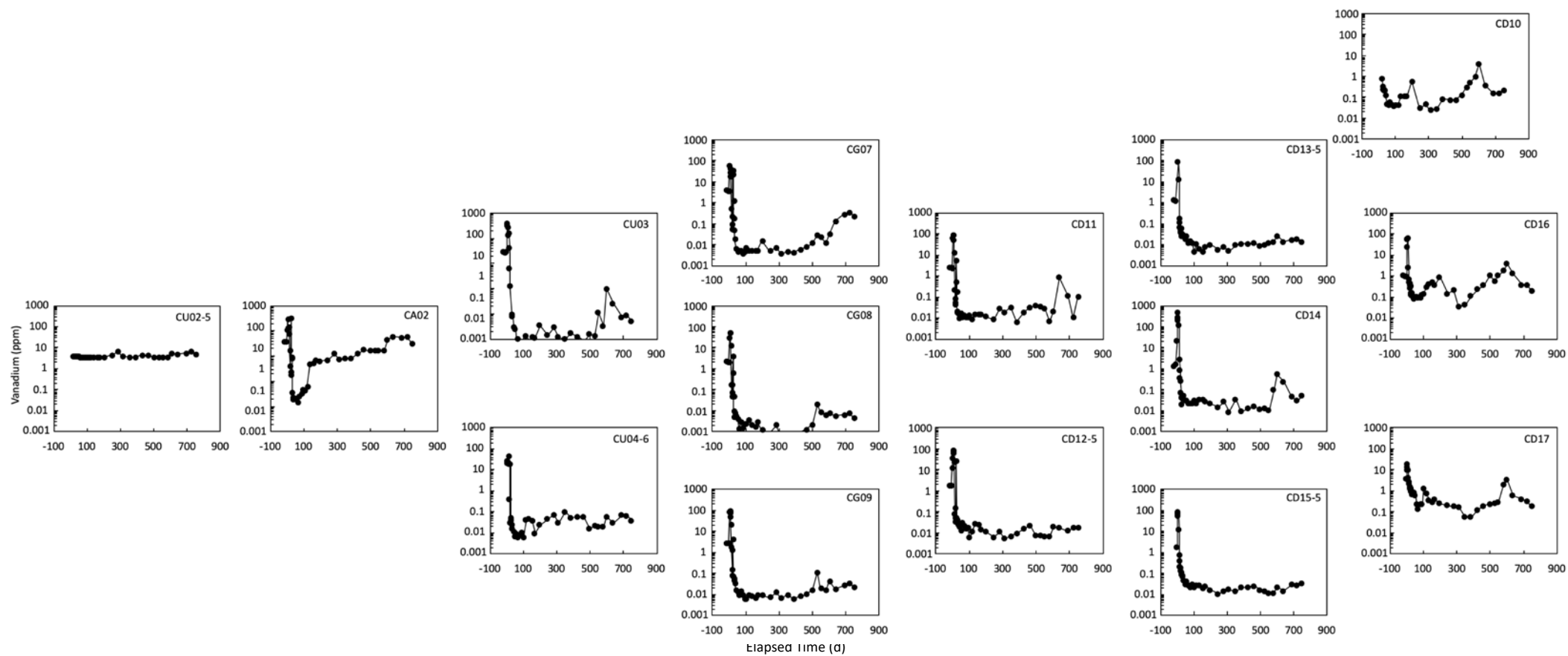
flow direction



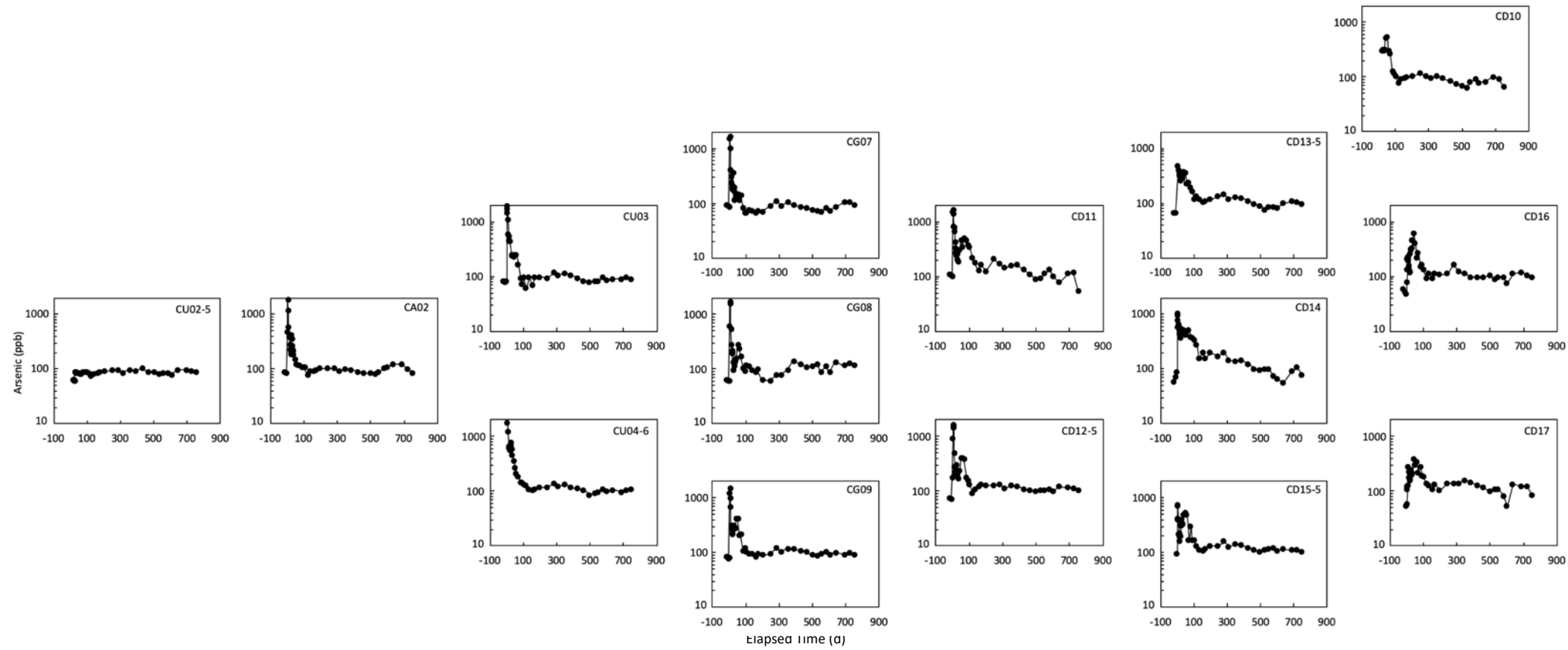
Uranium (ppb)



Vanadium (ppm)

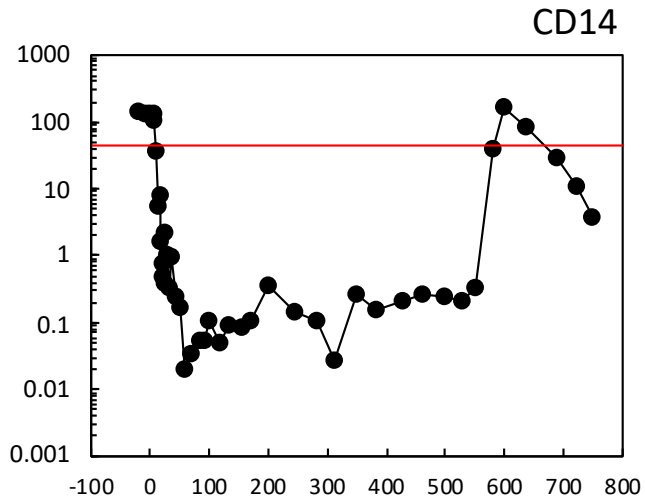
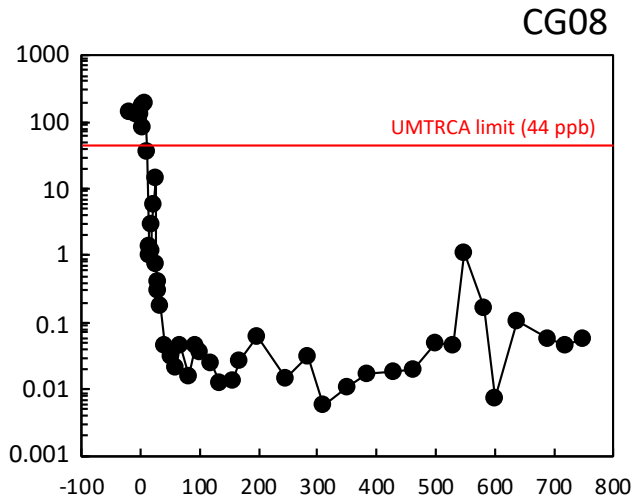
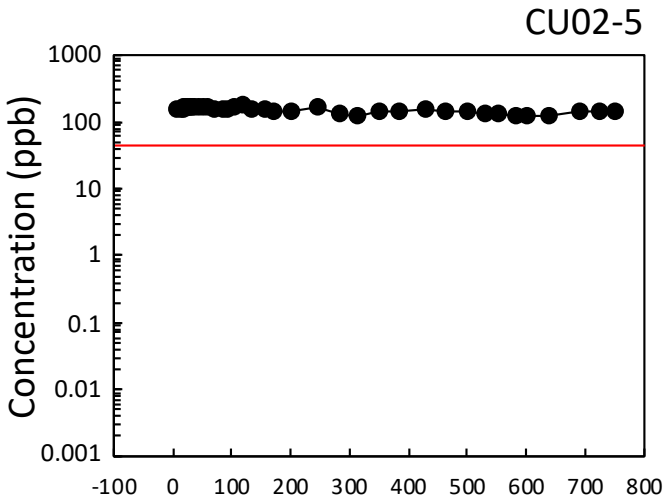


Arsenic (ppb)



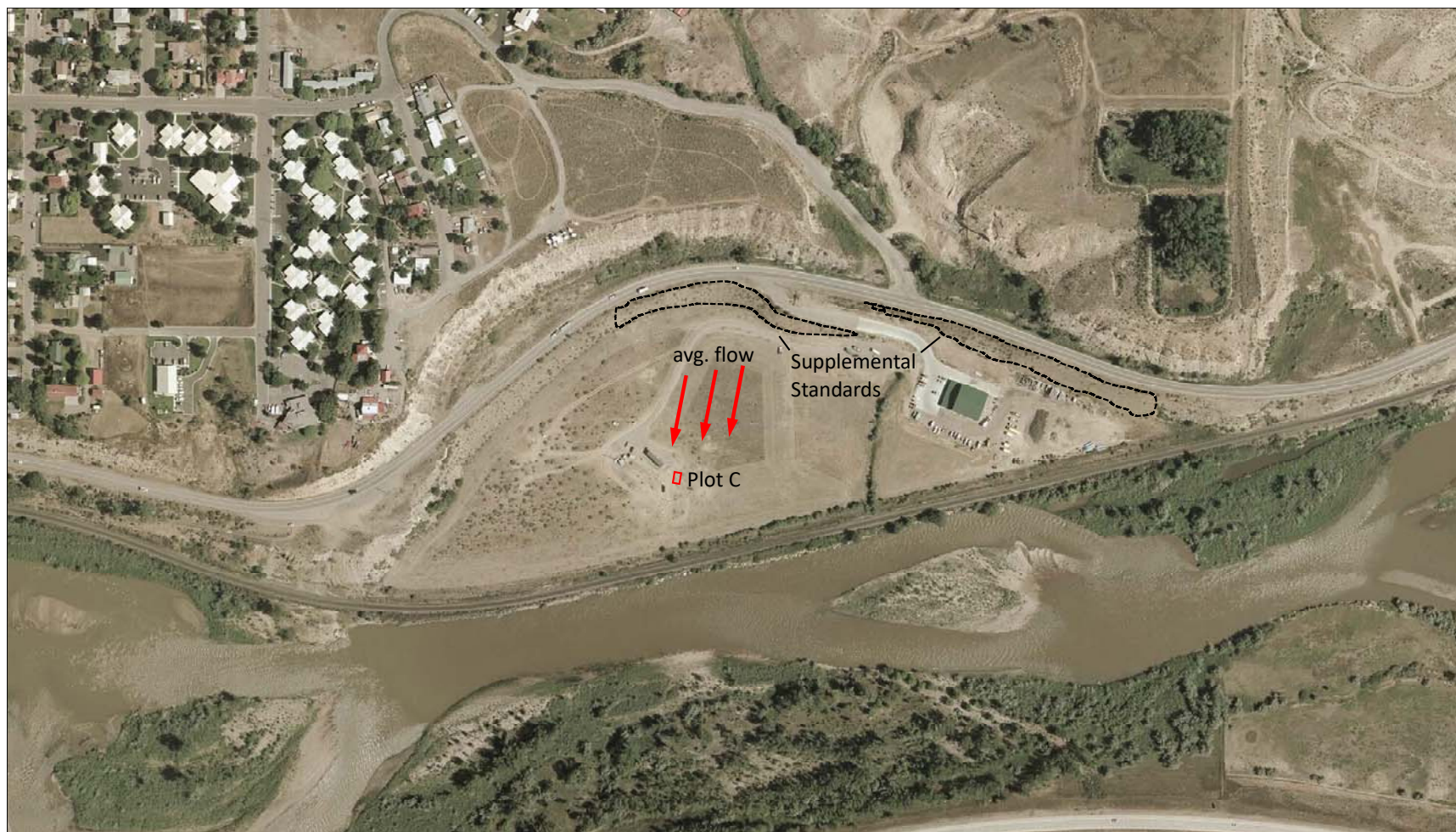
Uranium (ppb)

avg. flow
→



Elapsed Time (d)

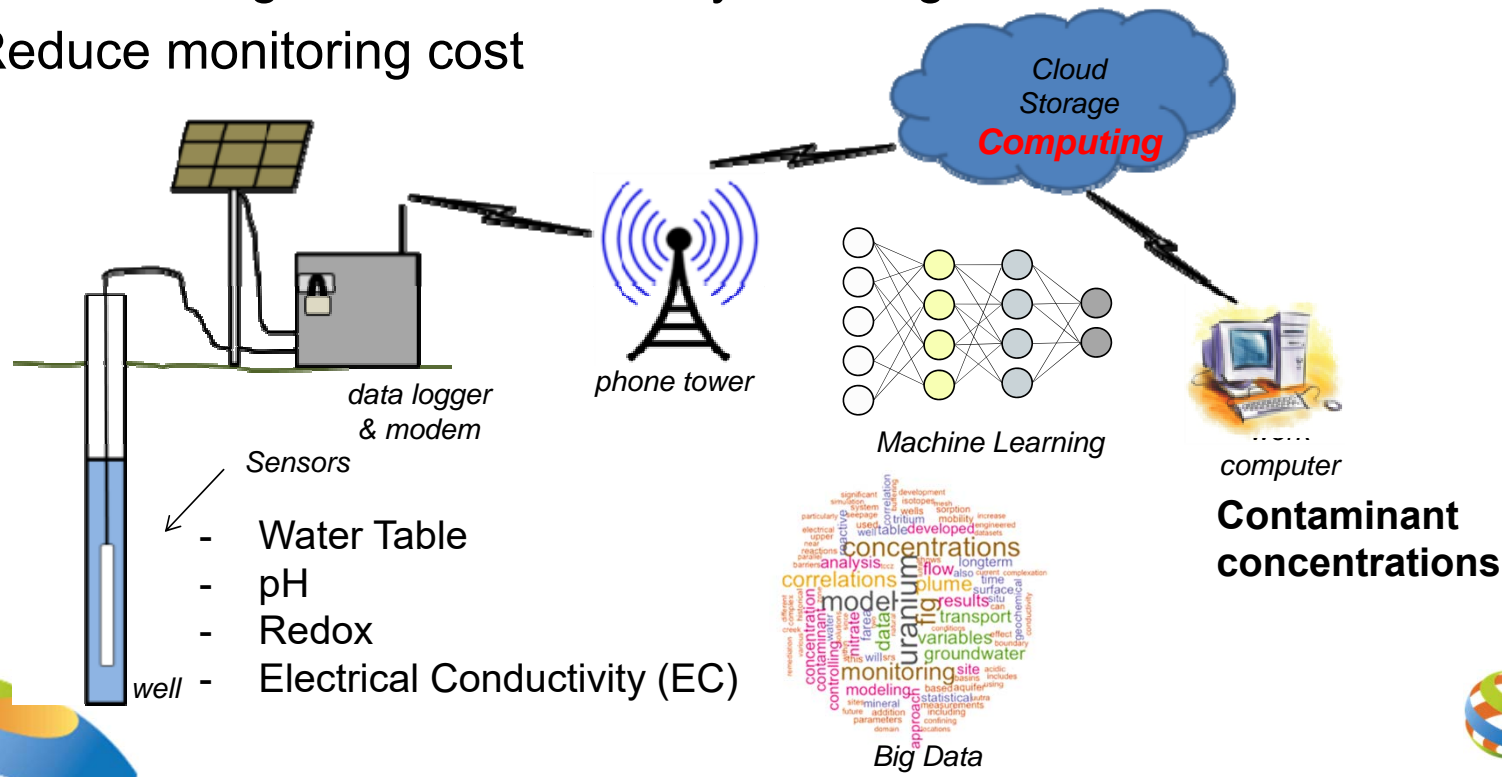
Residual Contaminants: Groundwater Flow Direction



New Paradigm of Groundwater Monitoring

- **Low-cost in situ sensors, wireless network, cloud computing**

- Autonomous continuous monitoring
- Detect changes real-time = Early Warning
- Reduce monitoring cost



Importance of Long-Term Monitoring

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OPINION OPINION COLUMNISTS

Activists ignore the science that says Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge is safe

By VINCENT CARROLL | The Denver Post
PUBLISHED: June 16, 2017 at 12:00 pm | UPDATED: June 16, 2017 at 2:36 pm

14



Andy Cross, Denver Post file

- Ensure public safety
- Prepare for liability issues
- Tackle fake news

Beneficial for both residents and site operators

Good example: Monitoring data proves that the site is safe to dismiss false claims



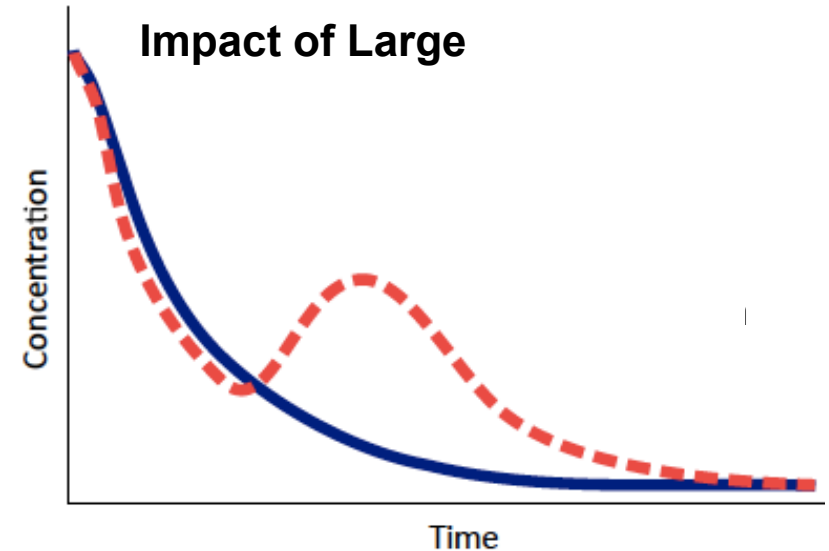
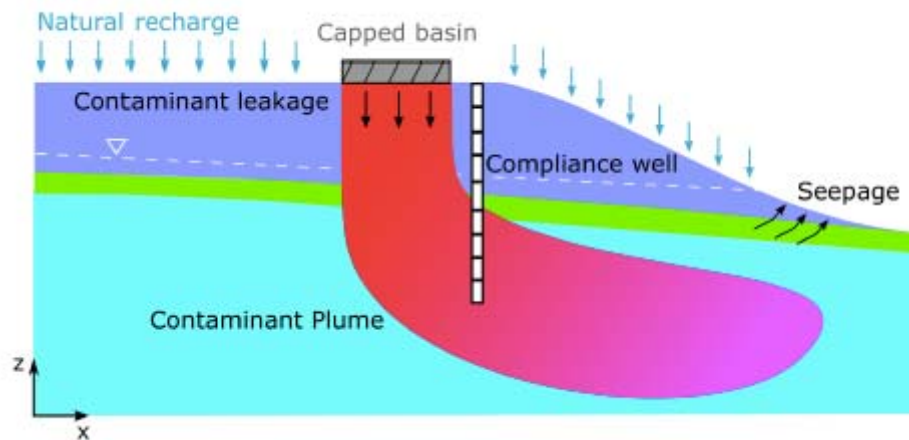
Climate Change Impact: What to expect?



Climate change impact on residual contaminants under sustainable remediation

Arianna Libera^{a,*}, Felipe P.J. de Barros^a, Boris Faybishenko^b, Carol Eddy-Dilek^c, Miles Denham^d, Konstantin Lipnikov^e, David Moulton^e, Barbara Maco^f, Haruko Wainwright^b

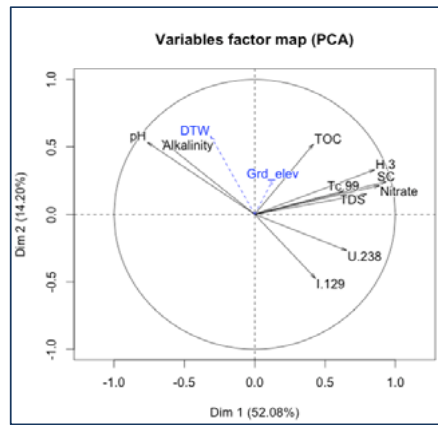
^a Sony Astani Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA
^b Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, USA
^c Savannah River National Laboratory, Aiken, SC, USA
^d Panoramic Environmental Consulting, LLC, Aiken, SC, USA
^e Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, USA
^f Wactor & Wick LLP Environmental Lawyers, Oakland, CA, USA



Importance of

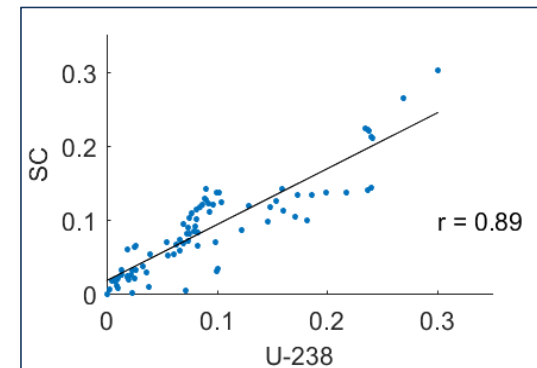
- **Surface capping: Limit infiltration through the source zone**
- **Source-zone monitoring to detect re-mobilization**

Data Analytics Workflow

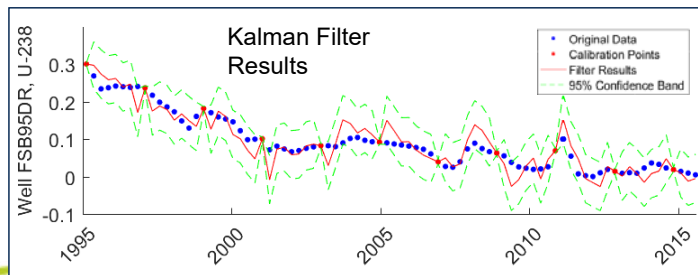


Exploratory Data Analysis

Quantification of Correlations

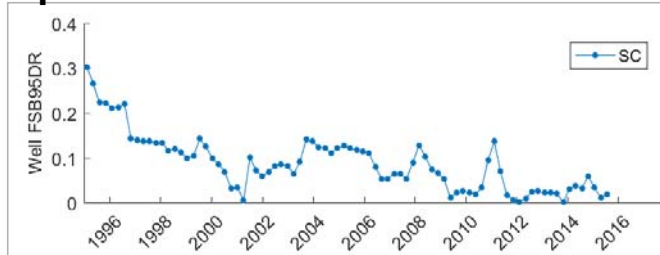


Contaminant Concentration Estimation
Machine Learning

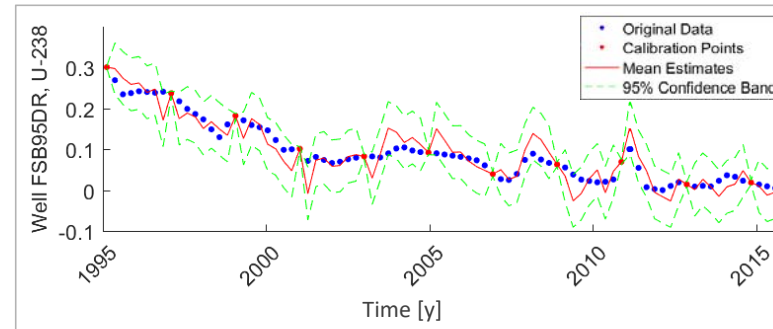
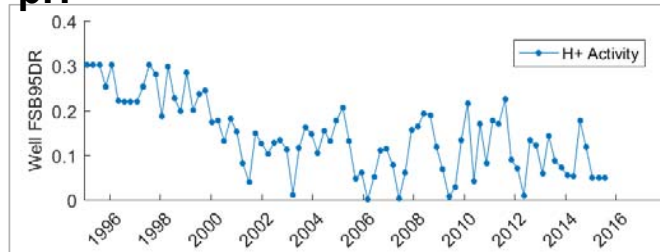


Kalman Filter: Application at Savannah River Siste

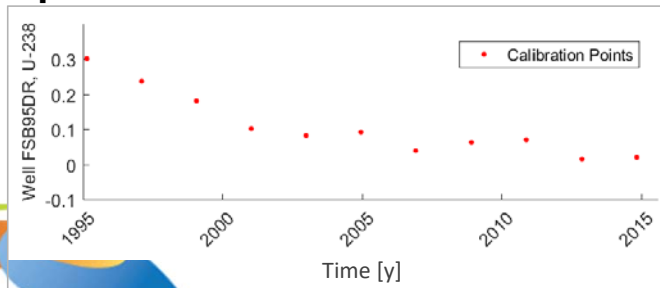
Specific Conductance



pH



Sparse Direct Measurements

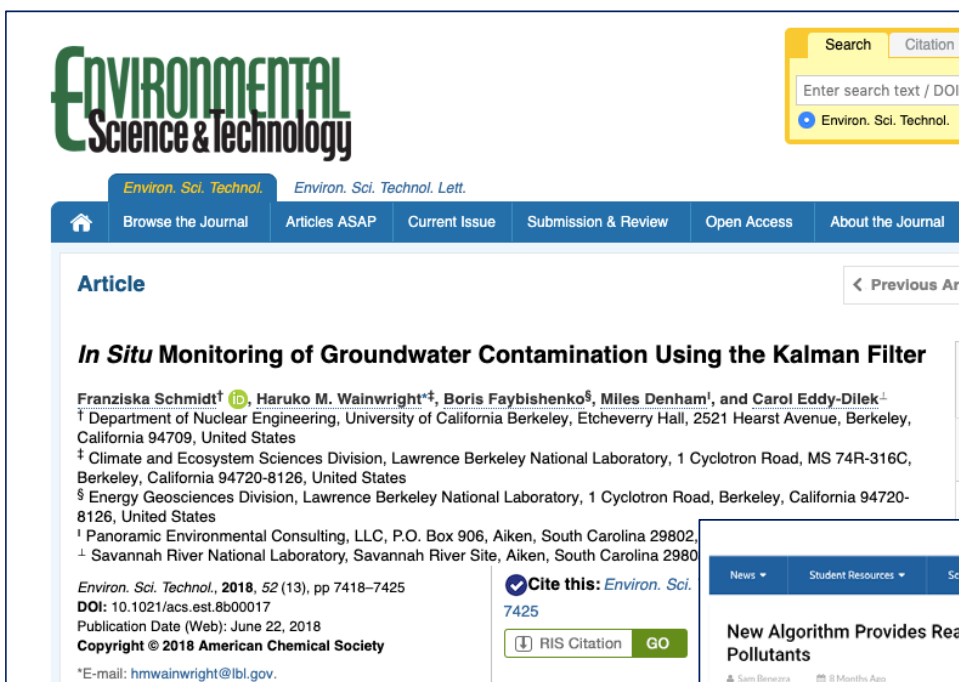


- Confidence interval captures validation points
- Mean estimate captures natural fluctuation

Schmidt et al, 2019 EST



Big Interest in ML x Environment



ENVIRONMENTAL Science & Technology

Environ. Sci. Technol. Environ. Sci. Technol. Lett.

Article

In Situ Monitoring of Groundwater Contamination Using the Kalman Filter

Franziska Schmidt[†], Haruko M. Wainwright^{*‡}, Boris Faybishenko[§], Miles Denham[¶], and Carol Eddy-Dilek[‡]

[†] Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California Berkeley, Etcheverry Hall, 2521 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, California 94709, United States

[‡] Climate and Ecosystem Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, MS 74R-316C, Berkeley, California 94720-8126, United States

[§] Energy Geosciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, Berkeley, California 94720-8126, United States

[¶] Panoramic Environmental Consulting, LLC, P.O. Box 906, Aiken, South Carolina 29802

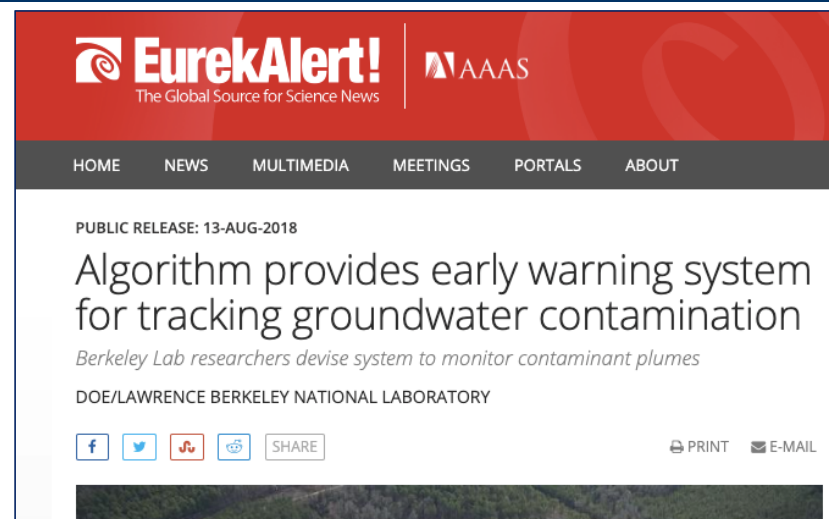
[‡] Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Environ. Sci. Technol., 2018, 52 (13), pp 7418–7425
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Publication Date (Web): June 22, 2018
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*E-mail: hmwainwright@lbl.gov

Cite this: *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2018, 52, 7418–7425

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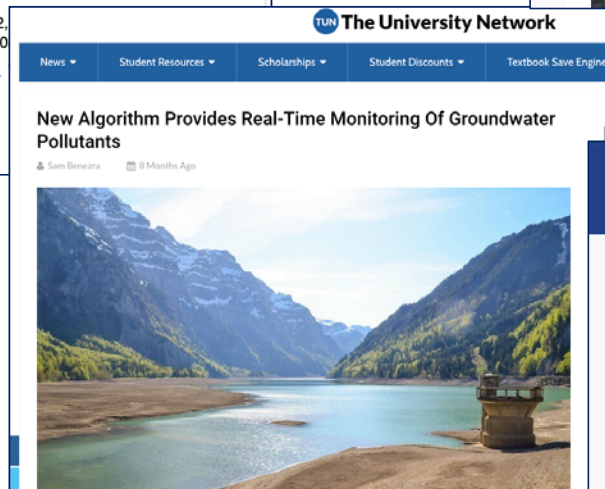
PUBLIC RELEASE: 13-AUG-2018

Algorithm provides early warning system for tracking groundwater contamination

Berkeley Lab researchers devise system to monitor contaminant plumes

DOE/LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

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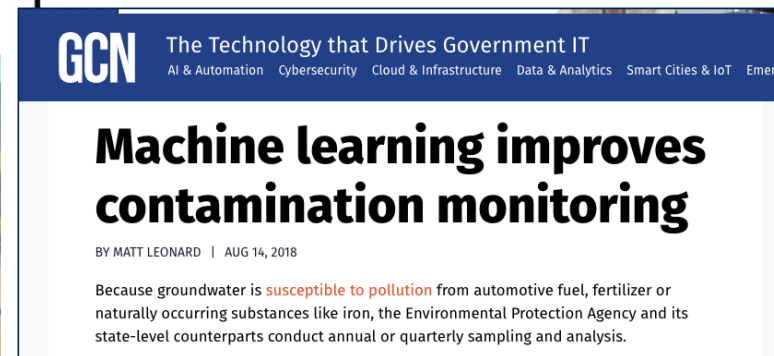



The University Network

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New Algorithm Provides Real-Time Monitoring Of Groundwater Pollutants

Sam Benevise 8 Months Ago



GCN The Technology that Drives Government IT

AI & Automation Cybersecurity Cloud & Infrastructure Data & Analytics Smart Cities & IoT Emerg

Machine learning improves contamination monitoring

BY MATT LEONARD | AUG 14, 2018

Because groundwater is susceptible to pollution from automotive fuel, fertilizer or naturally occurring substances like iron, the Environmental Protection Agency and its state-level counterparts conduct annual or quarterly sampling and analysis.



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Efficiency & Environment

Scientists develop new method to track groundwater pollutants in real-time

It is expected to reduce the frequency of manual groundwater sampling and lab analysis and therefore cut the monitoring cost

Advanced Long-term Monitoring Systems (ALTEMIS)

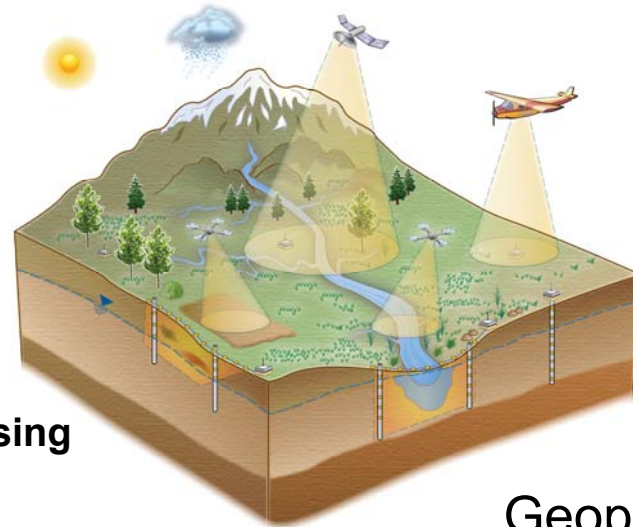


ML/AI

- R/Python packages
- Historical data analysis
- Well placement optimization



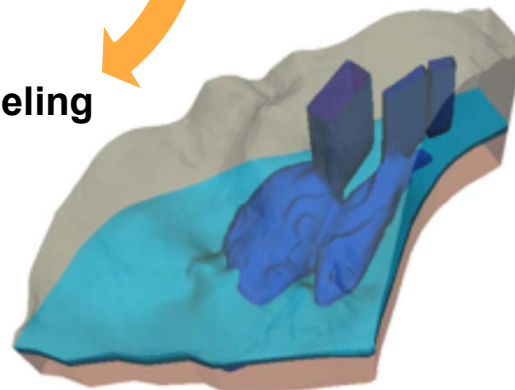
Sensing



- Remote sensing
- Wetland
 - Surface Barrier

Geophysics
Fiber optics

Modeling



Summary

- **Bioremediation of Uranium or Heavy Metal in general**
 - Control redox conditions to reduce solubility: Microbial stimulation
 - Problem with rebound/remobilization
 - Naturally reduced zone: organic rich layer
 - Persistent plume
 - Permeable reactive barrier: Create stable co-precipitates
 - Successful immobilization for 2+ years
- **Monitoring for Bioremediation**
 - Critical to understand the variability of bioremediation effects
 - Groundwater flow direction changes, multiple sources
 - Stability of immobilized contaminants need to be monitored for an extended time
 - New technologies (AI/Sensing/Modeling capabilities) have a great potential to improve the risk quantification at contaminated sites

Thank You!

Contact

Haruko Wainwright

HMWainwright@LBL.gov

Ken Williams

KHWilliams@lbl.gov

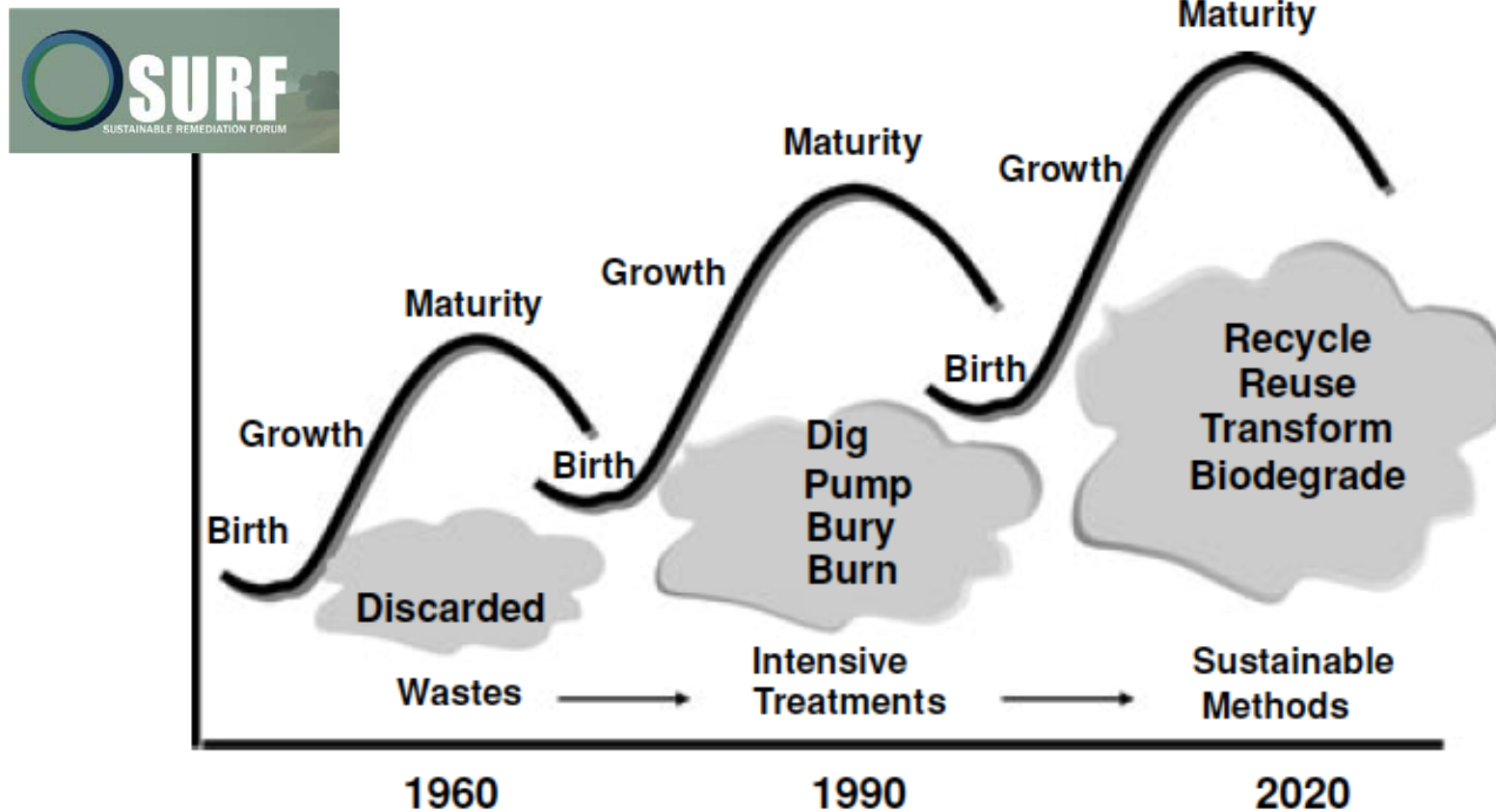
Acknowledgment

DOE Office of Science

DOE Office of Environmental Management



Environmental Remediation: Evolution



Sustainable Remediation Forum (SURF), "Integrating sustainable principles, practices, and metrics into remediation projects", *Remediation Journal*, 19(3), pp 5 - 114, editors P. Hadley and D. Ellis, Summer 2009



Sustainable Remediation: Net Environmental Impact

- Reuse/recycle
- Reduce energy, water use and waste
- **Passive remediation**
- **Monitored natural attenuation**
- **Longer institutional control with alternative/attractive end-use**



Former Reilly Tar & Chemical Corporation Plant



Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

