

# IMPORTANCE OF ADAPTIVE TECHNICAL APPROACHES

Case Studies from a 10-Year Performance-Based  
Remediation Contract

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# AGENDA

- › Background – Former Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina
- › Case Study #1 – Chlorinated solvent site; Building 505
- › Case Study #2 – Petroleum contaminated site; FOLTA
- › Case Study #3 – Landfills with metals in groundwater
- › Case Studies Summary

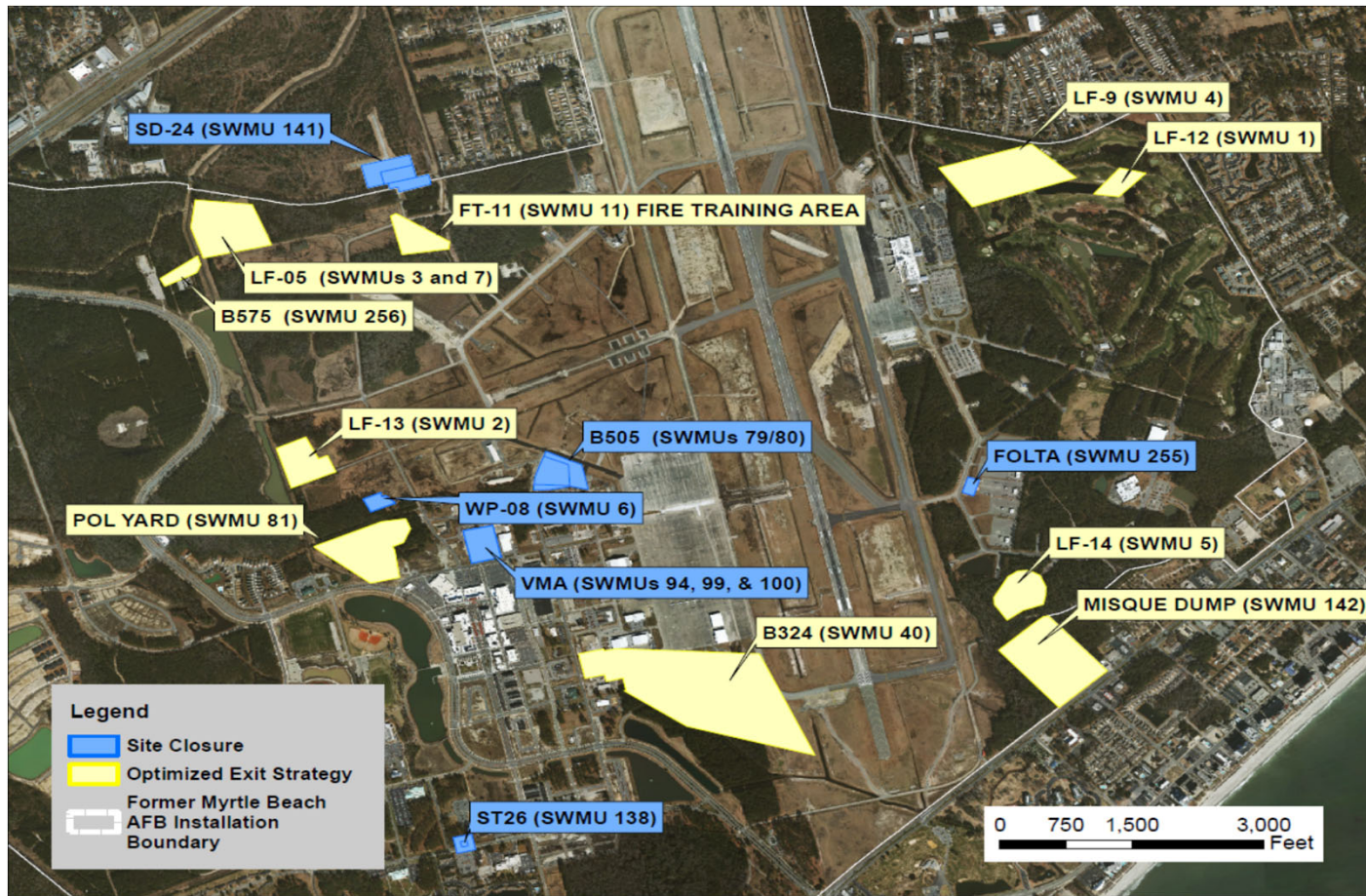


# BACKGROUND

- › The former Myrtle Beach AFB was closed in 1991
- › Environmental remediation conducted under RCRA Administrative Order
- › APTIM, including legacy companies CB&I, Shaw Environmental, and IT Corporation, have performed environmental investigation and remediation activities at the former Myrtle Beach AFB since the mid 1990s
- › APTIM was awarded a 10-year Performance Based Remediation contract by AFCEC in March 2008 covering 16 sites. Performance Objectives are as follows:
  - 6 Site Closure sites; defined as unrestricted use/unlimited exposure (MCLs for groundwater)
  - 10 Optimized Exit Strategy sites
- › The period of performance was extended by 2-years to enable achievement of Site Closure for 2 sites



# FORMER MYRTLE BEACH AFB

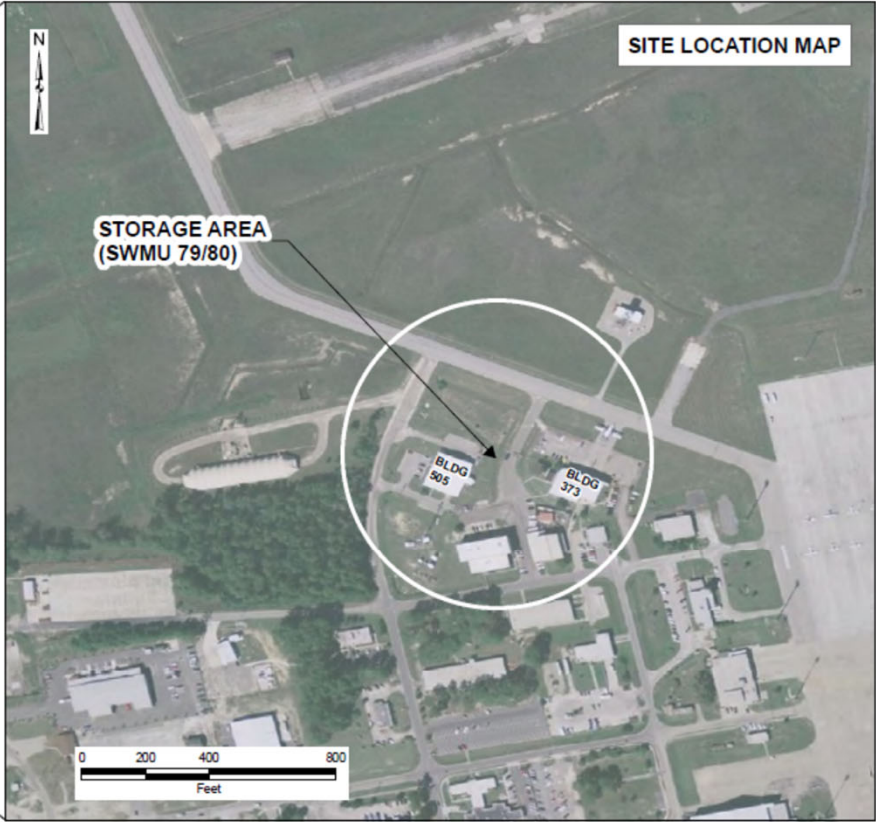


# CASE STUDY #1

## BUILDING 505



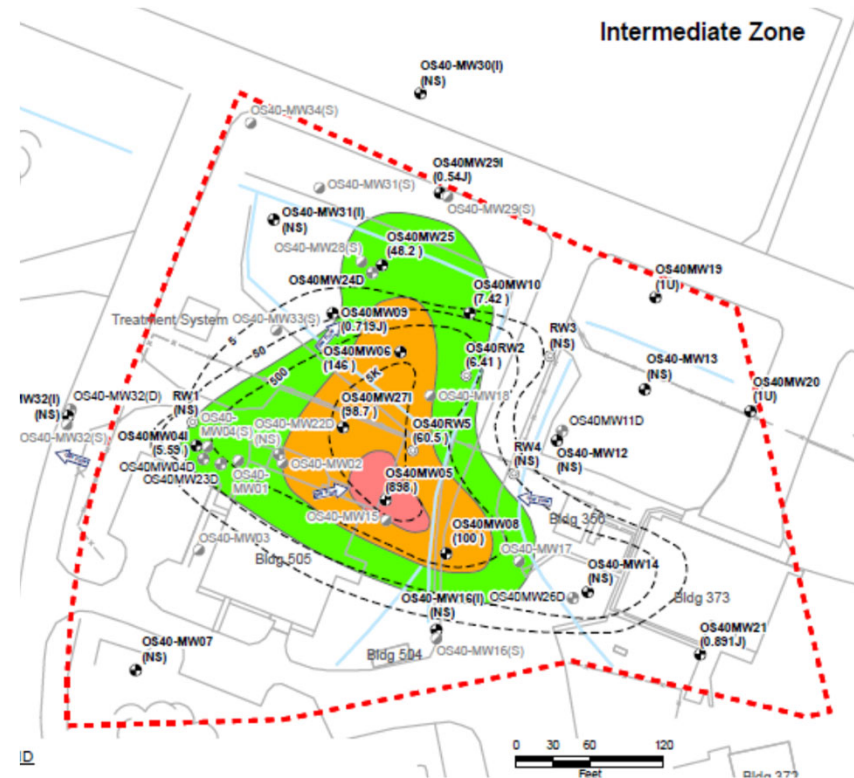
# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Baseline (2008) Conditions

- › TCE/cis-DCE/VC in shallow, intermediate, and deep groundwater
- › Selected remedy – P&T and MNA
- › ~9-years of groundwater extraction and treatment prior to PBR award
  - ~50 kg of solvents removed
- › Partial dechlorination to cis-DCE
- › Total chlorinated VOCs ~1,400 ug/L (898 ug/L max TCE; 296 ug/L max cis-DCE)
- › 14 wells impacted > MCLs



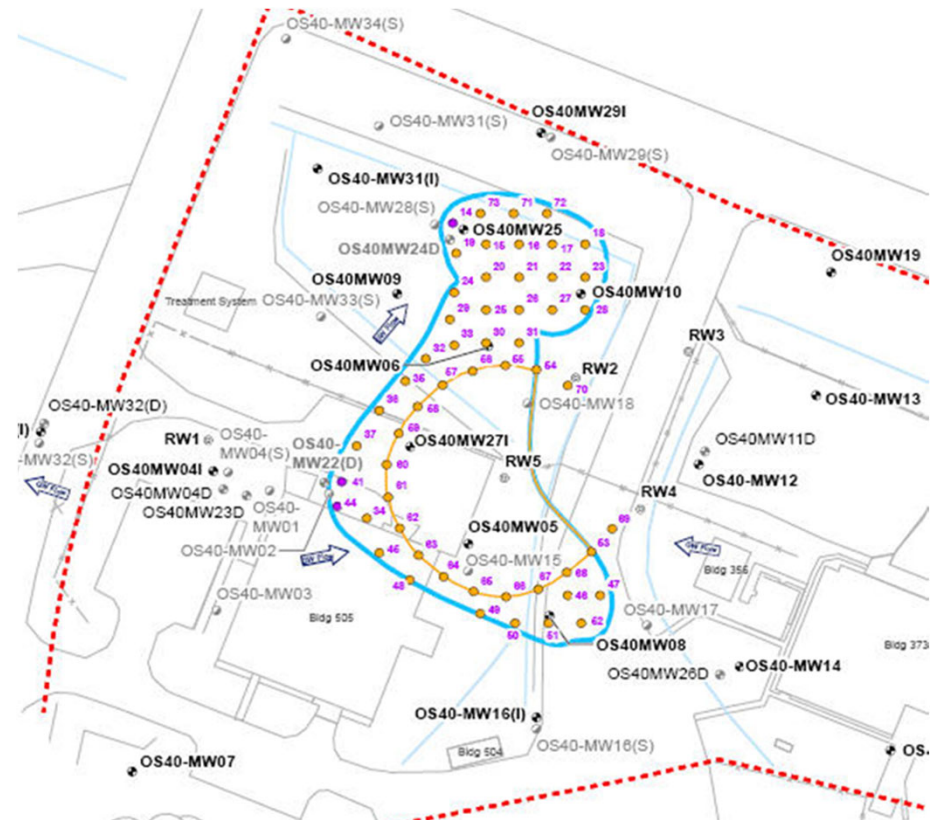
TCE Plume in Intermediate Zone - 2008



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Initial Technical Approach under PBR

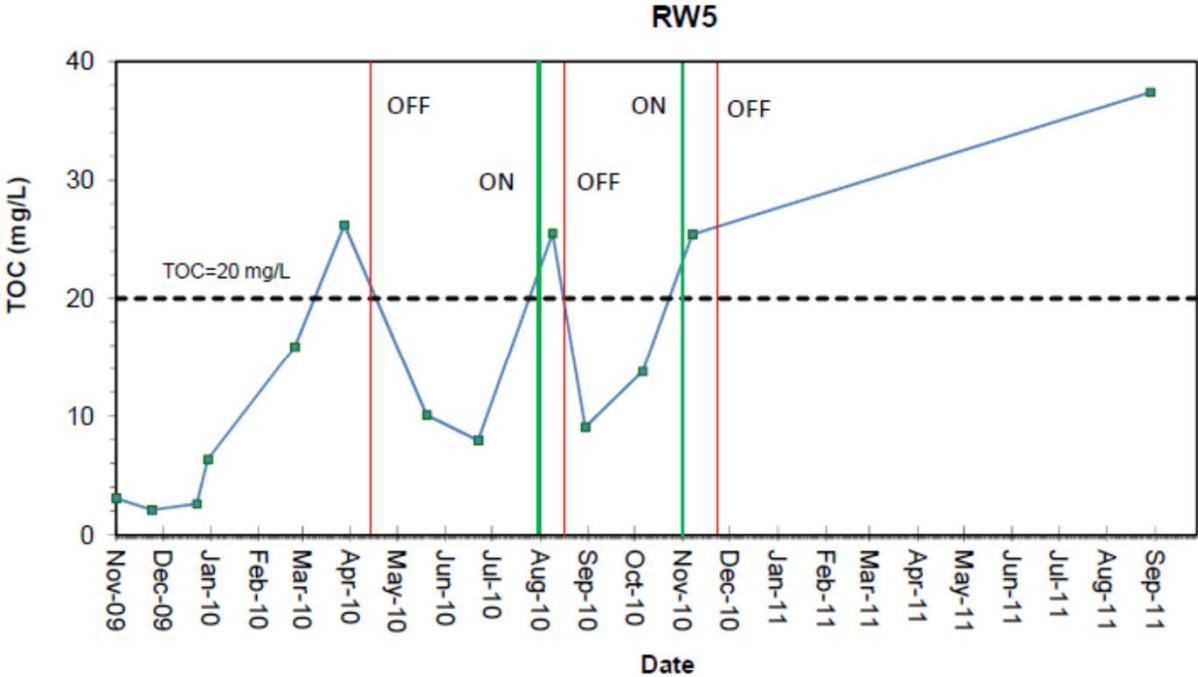
- › In situ enhanced biodegradation to target the bulk of the contaminant mass; implemented in 2009 and 2012
  - LactOil® ~5,500 lbs (500 mg/L target)
  - Lactate ~6,500 lbs (500 mg/L target)
  - SDC-9 ~850-L targeting  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/L
- › Continued groundwater extraction from plume center (RW05) for mass removal, hydraulic control, and to facilitate distribution of amendments
  - Injection points were placed based on 120-day capture zone





# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

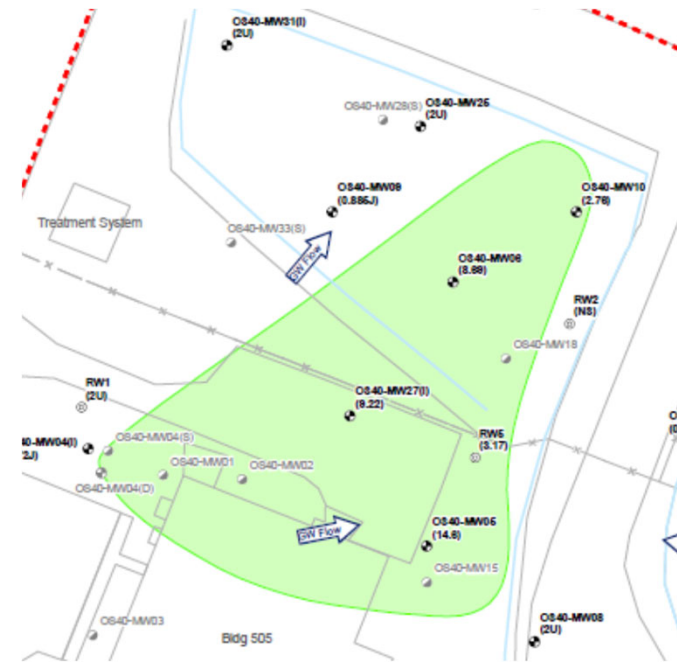
- > Suspended groundwater extraction from RW05 upon TOC breakthrough defined as TOC > 20 mg/L



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Results Following Initial Approach

- › Achieved >95% reductions in TCE
  - Maximum TCE 26 ug/L (one well RW05)
  - Maximum cis-DCE 65 ug/L (below MCL)
  - Maximum VC 15 ug/L
  - Maximum ethene/ethane 25/53 ug/L
- › Significant reduction in plume magnitude and extent including completion of shallow zone remediation
- › Plume primarily converted to VC in intermediate zone with the exception of TCE in RW05



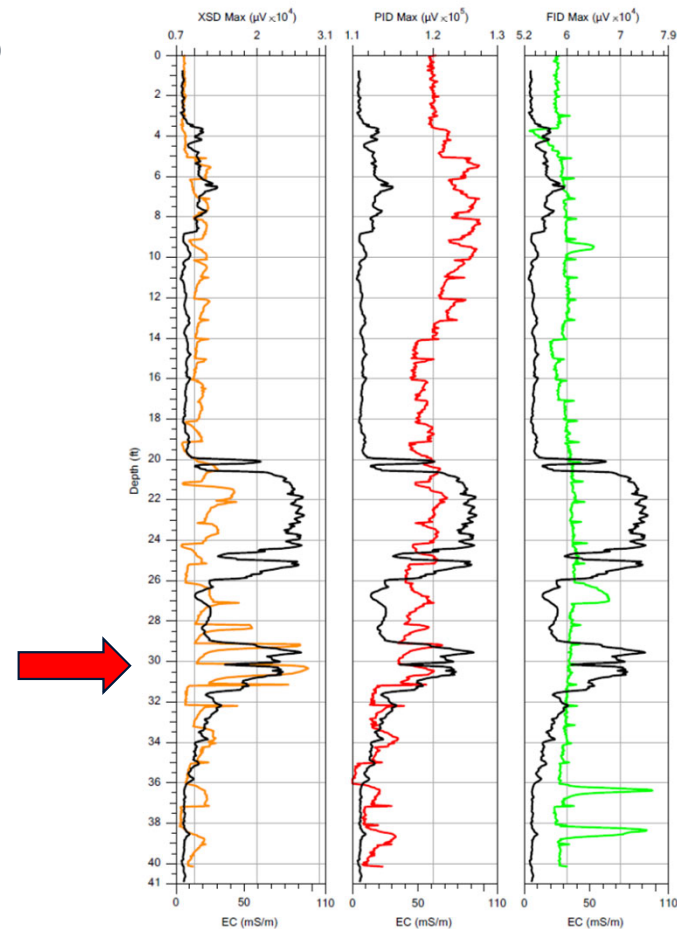
VC Plume in Intermediate Zone - 2012



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Phase I Remedy Optimization

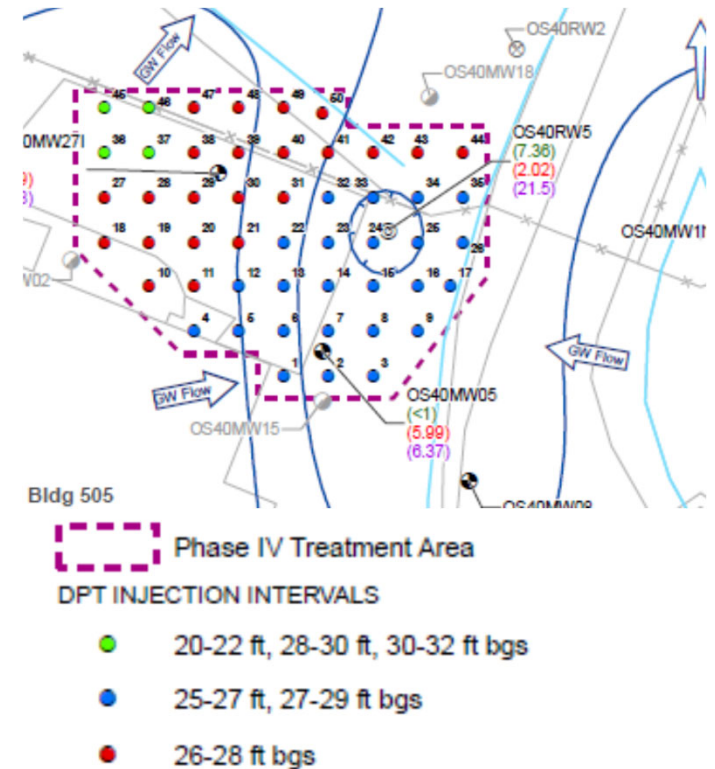
- › Conducted HRSC in 2014 utilizing low-level MIP and HPT to identify secondary source of residual TCE
- › Identified clay stringers at the bottom of the intermediate zone (~20-32 ft bgs) with residual CVOCs contributing to prolonged remediation due to matrix diffusion
- › Targeted follow-on remediation to address impacted zones in 2015/16
  - ~1,380 lbs of emulsified lecithin substrate (ELS<sup>®</sup>) to target 2,000 mg/L in situ; and
  - ~6,000 lbs of ZVI (0.2% of aquifer mass)



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Phase I Remedy Optimization Results – 2017

- › Achieved further reductions in plume extent
  - Two additional wells below MCLs
- › Only two wells remained with MCL exceedances
  - TCE from max 898 to <1 ug/L
  - cis-1,2-DCE from max of 491 to 4 ug/L
  - VC from max of 63 to 15 ug/L
- › VC concentrations slightly above MCL



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

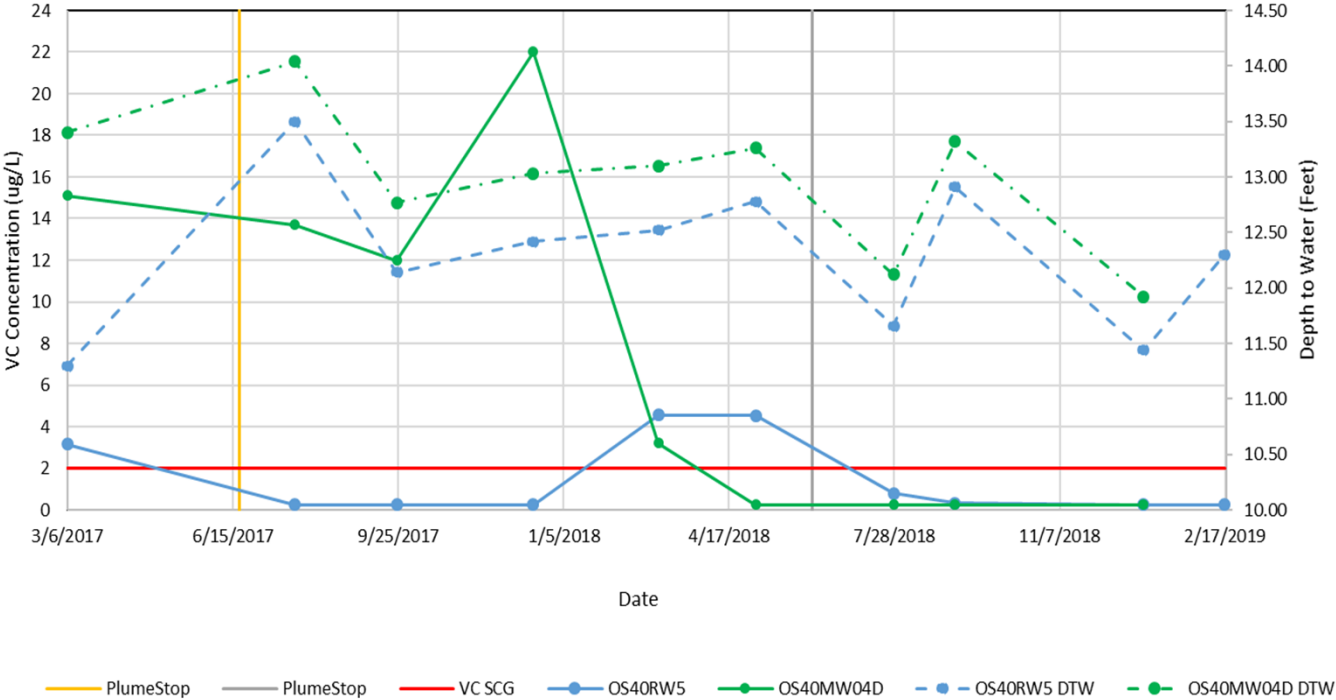
## Phase II Remedy Optimization

- › Injected PlumeStop<sup>®</sup>, HRC<sup>®</sup>, and SDC-9 in 2017 to remediate low-levels of VC around two remaining wells
  - PlumeStop<sup>®</sup> 8,200 lbs
  - HRC<sup>®</sup> 1,380 lbs
  - SDC-9 ~20 liters
- › The Regenesis product PlumeStop<sup>®</sup> was selected to distribute activated carbon in situ for adsorption of the VC, followed by biodegradation via enhanced reductive dechlorination
- › Limited follow-up injection in 2018



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

Trends in Vinyl Chloride Concentrations vs. Water Levels in OS40-MW04D and OS40-RW5 Building 505 (SWMUs 79/80)



# CASE STUDY #1: BUILDING 505

## Site Closure achieved

- › Achieved 4 consecutive sampling events of all CVOCs below MCLs as of February 2019
- › Abandoned 33 monitoring/recovery wells
- › Abandoned P&T system and groundwater extraction infrastructure
- › Obtained SCDHEC approval of NFA in April 2019



P&T System



System and well abandonment

# CASE STUDY #2

## FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION TRAINING AREA (FOLTA)







# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Initial Technical Approach

- › Completed excavation of ~2,500 tons of contaminated soil to remove the bulk of the contaminant mass in 2008/09
  - Phased excavation to address discovery of free product and an unexpected culvert with fuel contamination
  - Lateral limitations due to site infrastructure
- › Injected dilute hydrogen peroxide in 2010 to facilitate chemical oxidation and aerobic bioremediation of area not addressed by excavation
  - ~33,000 gal via 18 injection wells



Excavation with shoring



Culvert with fuel contamination

# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Results Following Initial Approach

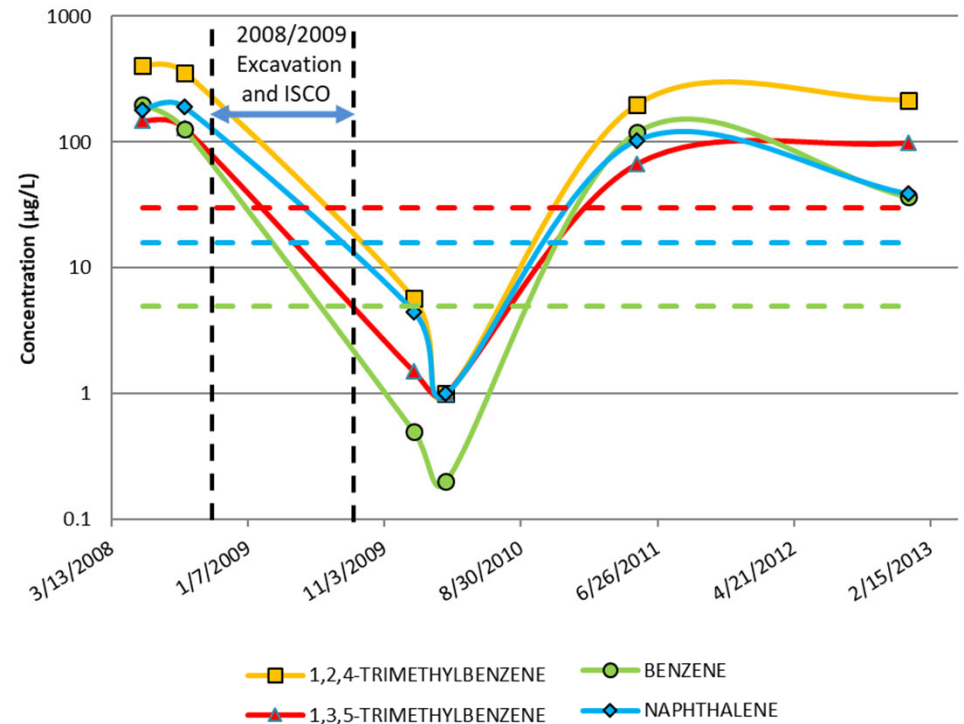
› Achieved cleanup goals of all site contaminants in first post excavation and injection monitoring event in March 2010

BUT...

› Significant rebound observed by May 2010

- Benzene 120 ug/L
- Naphthalene 103 ug/L
- 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene 198 ug/L
- 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene 67 ug/L

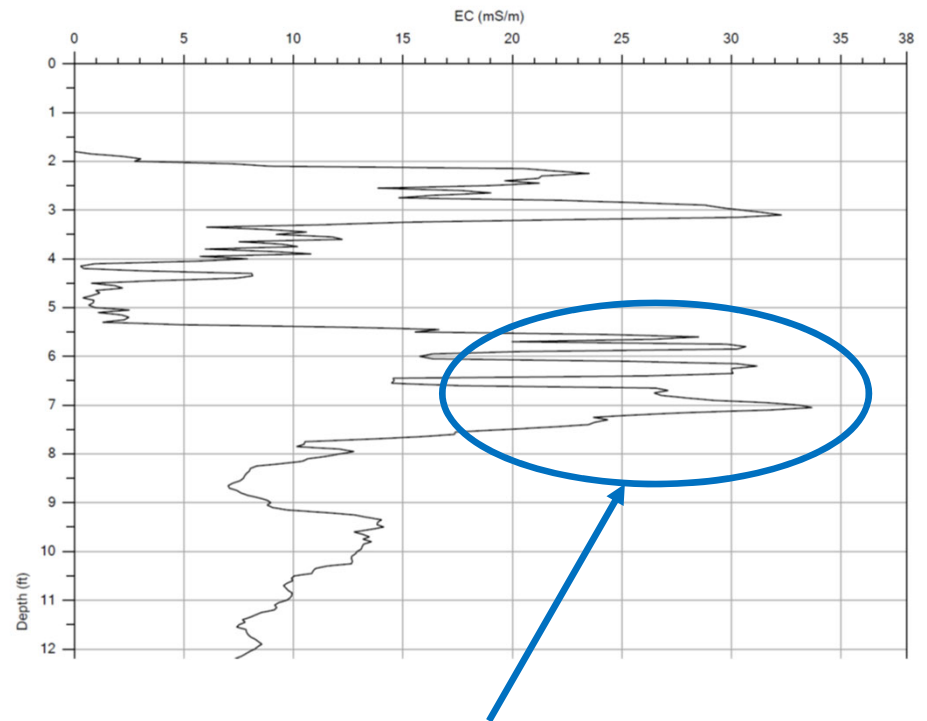
› Concentrations ultimately rebounded to levels close to pre-excavation and ISCO



# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Remedy Optimization Phase I

- › Conducted HRSC in 2011 utilizing soil conductivity logging and discrete interval groundwater sampling
- › Identified clay stringers at the bottom of the shallow zone with residual contaminants contributing to prolonged remediation due to matrix diffusion
- › Targeted follow-on remediation to address impacted zones in 2012/13 using catalyzed hydrogen peroxide – ~20,000 gal injected over two events



Clay stringers identified beyond lateral extent of excavation

# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Phase I Remedy Optimization Results – 2013

- › Contaminant concentrations decreased as a result of the two rounds of ISCO, but remained above cleanup goals
- › Factors contributing to insufficient treatment
  - Matrix diffusion from clay layers in saturated zone
  - Inadequate distribution and contact between ISCO amendments and low conductivity contaminated zones
  - Limited half-life of hydroxyl radicals



ISCO Injections

**Back to the drawing board...**



# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Phase II Remedy Optimization

- › Direct-injection not likely to be successful in remediating the site regardless of amendment being delivered.
- › Revised approach in 2014:
  - In situ soil mixing with activated persulfate to target residual source ~3,745 lbs of persulfate mixed to depth of 15-ft by ERFS
  - Sulfate enhanced anaerobic bioremediation as polishing step; injected ~8,000 gal of diluted EAS®



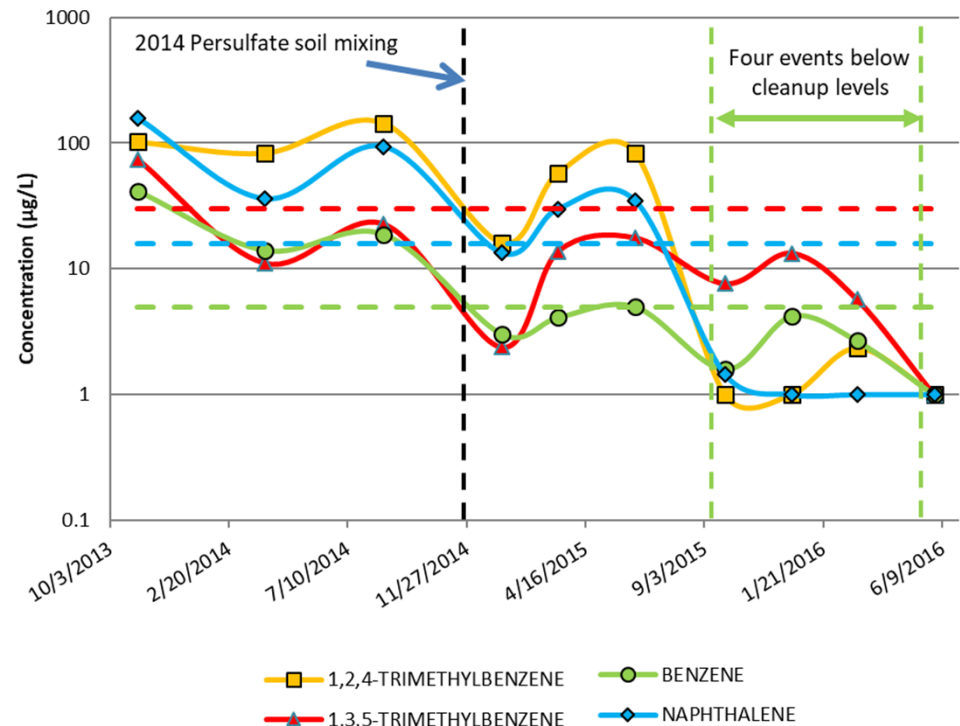
Soil mixing with Persulfate at FOLTA



# CASE STUDY #2: FOLTA

## Phase II Remedy Optimization Results – 2015/2016

- Concentrations of site contaminants decreased below their cleanup goals and did not rebound (4 consecutive events)
  - Benzene < 5 ug/L
  - Naphthalene < 16 ug/L
  - 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene < 30 ug/L
  - 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene < 30 ug/L
- Completed well abandonment activities and site closure documentation in September 2016 with approval of NFA by SCDHEC



# **CASE STUDY #3**

# **GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF**

# **ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER**





# GEOCHEMICAL MECHANISMS CONTROLLING TRACE ELEMENT CONCENTRATIONS IN GROUNDWATER

- › Many natural processes can cause elevated trace element concentrations (e.g., suspended particulates, pH effects, redox effects, TDS and complexation effects).
- › Contamination may be the source of trace elements if natural processes cannot explain the observations.
- › Geochemical signatures of each natural and anthropogenic process can be identified.

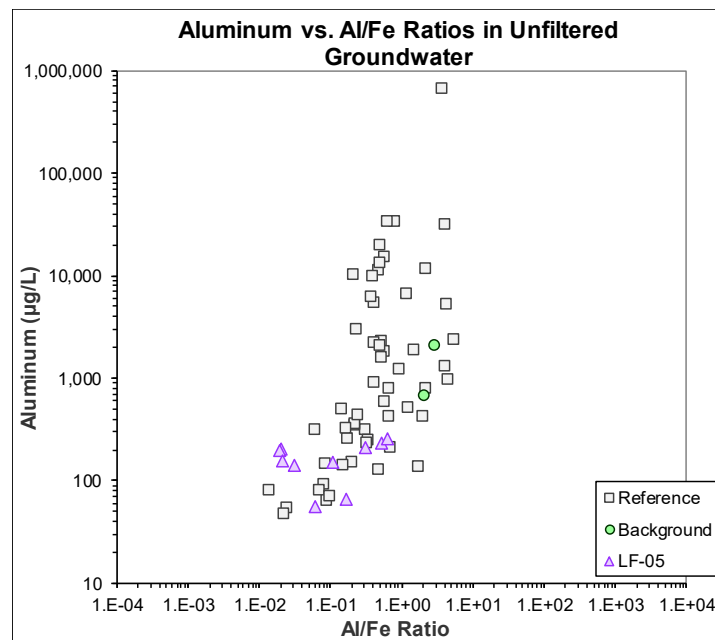
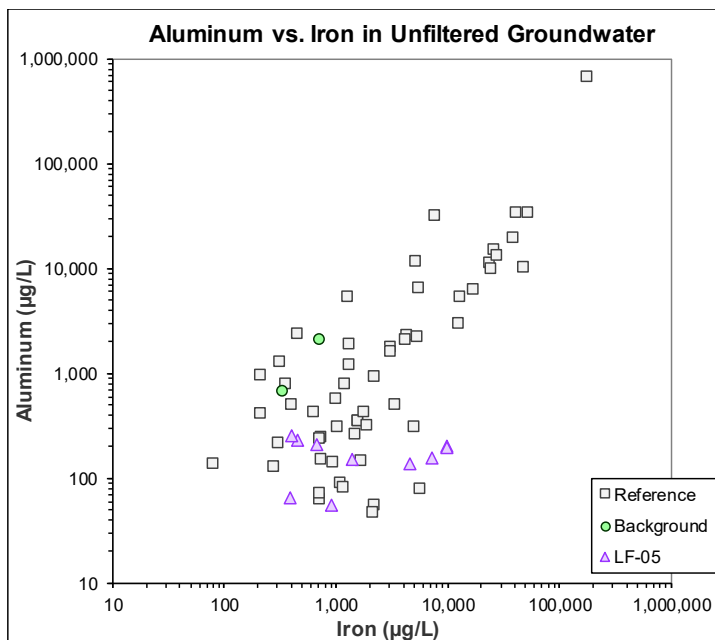


# EFFECTS OF SUSPENDED PARTICULATES

- › Most common suspended particulates in groundwater are clay minerals, hydrous aluminum oxides, aluminum hydroxides; and iron oxides, iron hydroxides, iron oxyhydroxides
- › In circumneutral-pH water, Al concentrations  $> 1$  mg/L indicate suspended Al-bearing minerals (clays)
  - (–) surface charge
  - Strong affinity to adsorb cations (e.g.,  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ )
- › In circumneutral-pH, moderate to oxidizing redox conditions, Fe concentrations  $> 1$  mg/L indicate suspended iron oxides
  - (+) surface charge
  - Strong affinity to adsorb oxyanions (e.g.,  $\text{HAsO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{AsO}_4^-$ )



# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF05



## LF05 Samples:

**pH:** 5.80 to 7.14  
median = 6.39

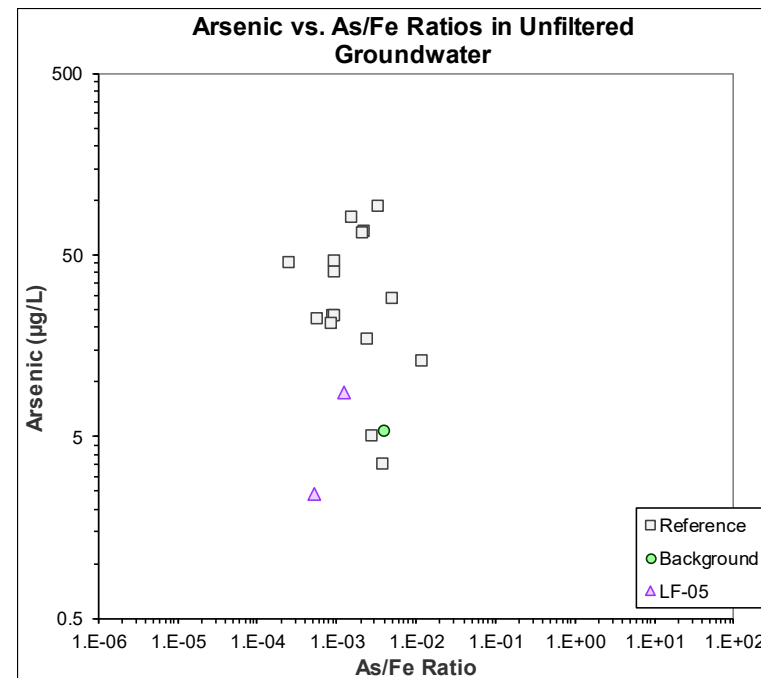
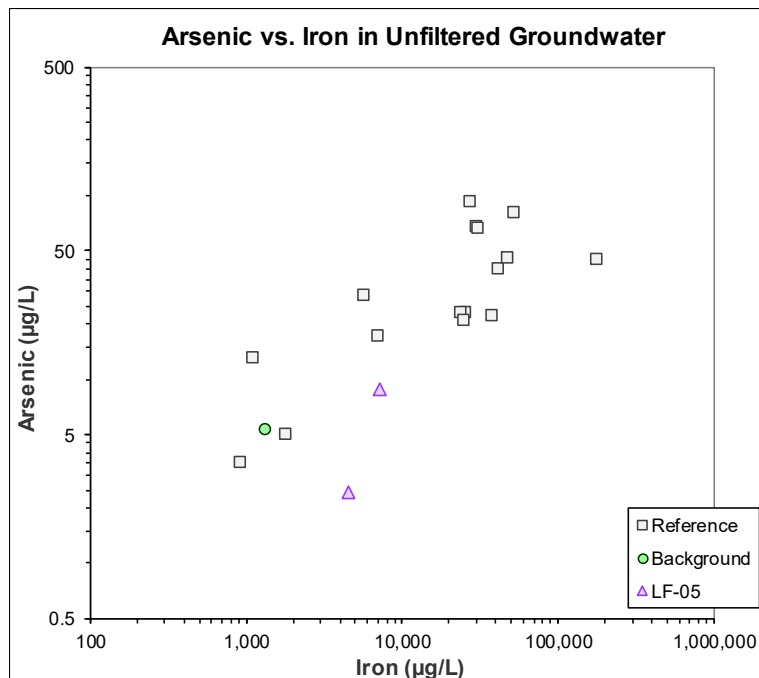
**DO:** 0.32 to 1.77 mg/L  
median = 0.75 mg/L

**ORP:** -97.2 to +140 mV  
median = -14.5 mV

**Turbidity:** 0 to 8.8 NTU  
median = 0 NTU



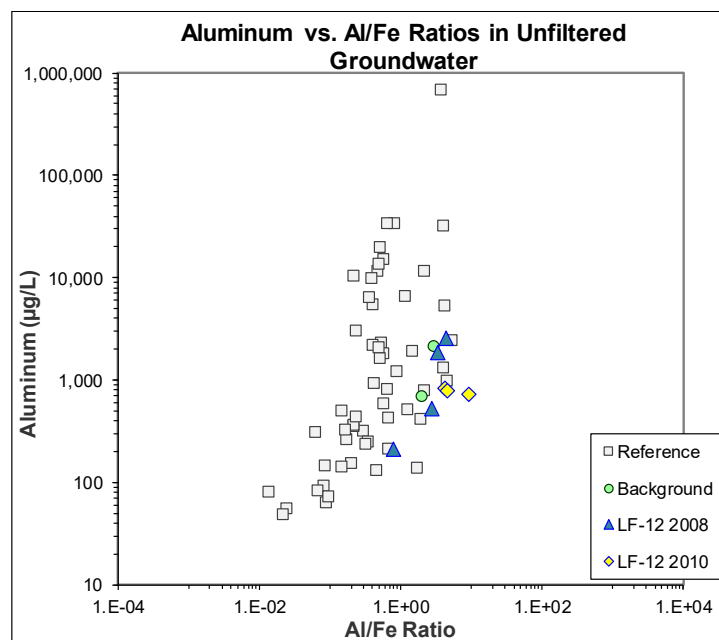
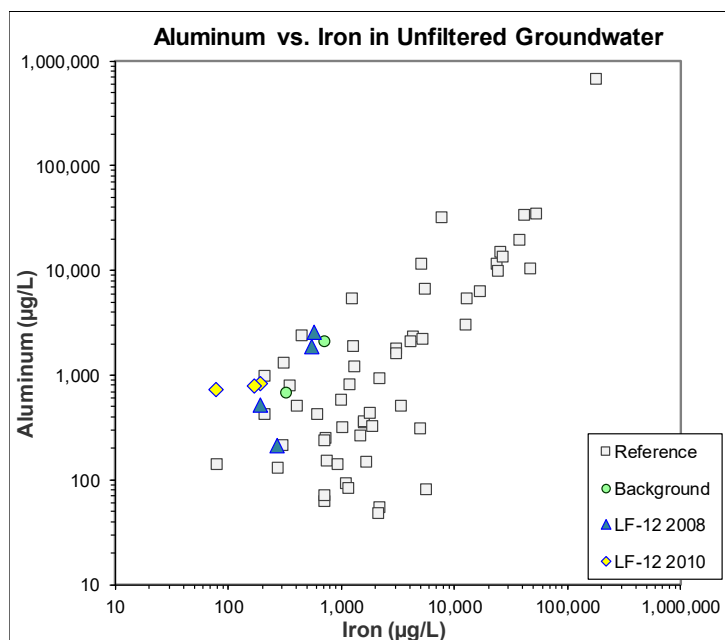
# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF05



Site samples have low arsenic concentrations and As/Fe ratios that are consistent with the background and reference samples' As/Fe ratios, indicating no arsenic impacts from anthropogenic sources.



# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF12



## *LF12 Samples:*

**pH:** 5.01 to 5.62  
median = 5.33

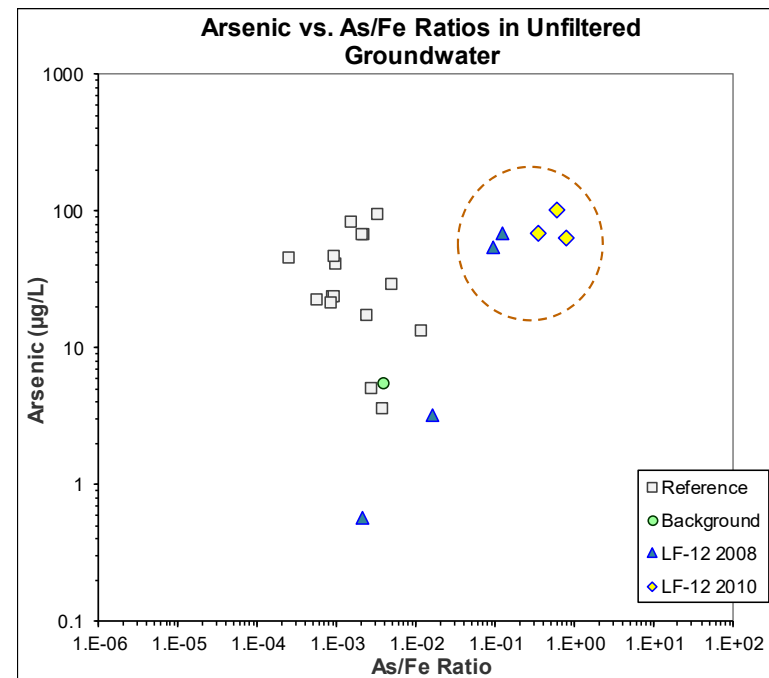
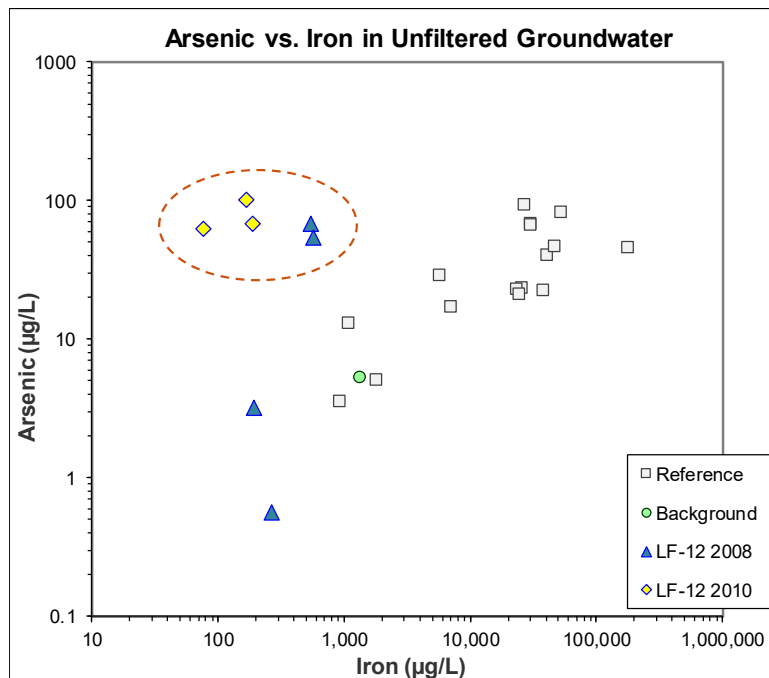
**DO:** 0.54 to 6.14 mg/L  
median = 4.34 mg/L

**ORP:** -83.4 to +129 mV  
median = +26.6 mV

**Turbidity:** 1.9 to 43.4 NTU  
median = 24.0 NTU



# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF12



Five LF12 site samples have As/Fe ratios that exceed the range of background and reference samples' As/Fe ratios. Groundwater at these locations contains excess arsenic from an anthropogenic source.



# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF12

- › LF12 is within the boundary of the Whispering Pines Golf Course
- › Confirmed prior usage of arsenical herbicides by maintenance crew including:
  - Monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA):  $\text{CH}_4\text{AsNaO}_3$   
*No Fe in compound*
- › Anomalously high As/Fe ratios provide signature for arsenical-herbicide impact.

Published in final edited form as:

*J Agric Food Chem.* 2005 May 4; 53(9): 3556–3562. doi:10.1021/jf047908j.

## **Arsenic Transport and Transformation Associated with MSMA Application on a Golf Course Green**

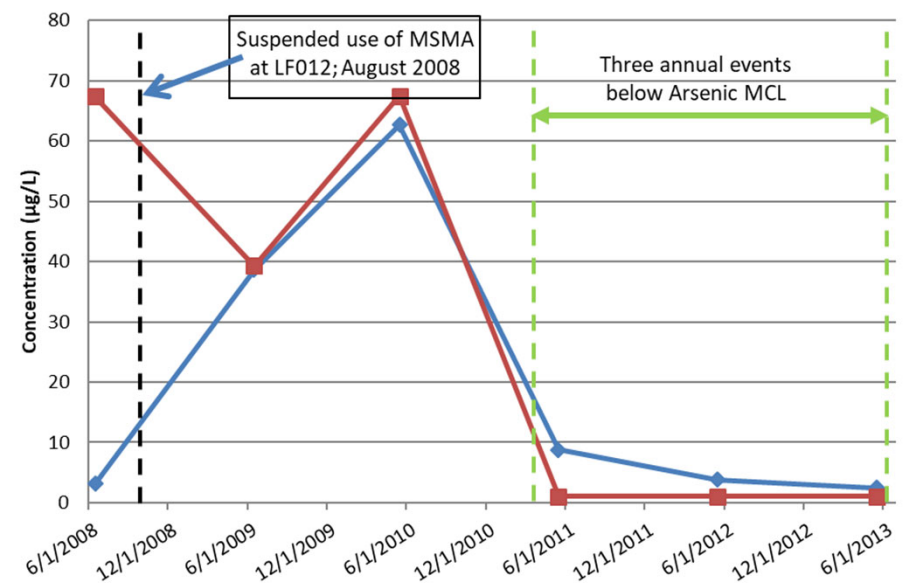
Min Feng<sup>†</sup>, Jill E. Schrlau<sup>†</sup>, Raymond Snyder<sup>‡</sup>, George H. Snyder<sup>§</sup>, Ming Chen<sup>§</sup>, John L. Cisar<sup>‡</sup>, and Yong Cai<sup>\*,†</sup>



# CASE STUDY 3: GEOCHEMICAL EVALUATIONS OF ARSENIC IN LANDFILL GROUNDWATER – LF12

- › Golf Course maintenance crew agreed to suspend further usage of arsenical herbicide MSMA
- › Monitoring was continued on annual basis
- › Arsenic concentrations decreased below the MCL of 10 ug/L ~2-years following suspension of MSMA usage
- › Concentrations remained below MCL for 3 consecutive annual events
- › SCDHEC approved request for No Further Monitoring and well abandonment in 2013

**Arsenic Concentrations in Groundwater at LF012**





## CASE STUDIES SUMMARY

- › Multiple approaches were required to achieve low ug/L cleanup levels. Remedial design selection/optimization corresponded with continuous updates to CSMs over the life of the project.
- › Supplemental investigations using HRSC, implemented following removal of the bulk of the contaminant mass, played a critical role in identifying zones with residual contamination.
- › Maintaining flexibility regarding selection of investigation and remediation technologies was critical for project success. Several technologies implemented over the 12-year project duration had not been developed or were not commercially available when the project was started.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- › **AFCEC** – Catherine Jerrard and Adalberto Ramirez, and Air Force support contractors Richard Souza and Sean Eldredge
- › **South Carolina DHEC** – Meredith Amick and Bruce Crawford
- › **APTIM Project Team** – Tony Tingle, Ken Hurley, Sam Smith, Kevin Page, Brian McInturff, Karen Thorbjornsen, Tim Roth, Jack Briegel, Simon Vainberg, Mike Martinez, Sue Templeton, Stephanie Bellard, Matt Sieger, and Evelyn Parent
- › **Remediation Amendments** – Regenesys, JRW Bioremediation, PeroxyChem, and EOS Remediation
- › **Injection Services** – Cascade, RedoxTech, ERFS, and Regenesys



## Groundwater Geochemical Evaluations Explained:

- › Thorbjornsen, K. and J. Myers, 2008, “Geochemical Evaluation of Metals in Groundwater at Long-Term Monitoring Sites and Active Remediation Sites,” *Remediation*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 99-114.
- › Thorbjornsen, K. and J. Myers, 2007, “Identifying Metals Contamination in Groundwater Using Geochemical Correlation Evaluation,” *Environmental Forensics*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 25-35.
- › Thorbjornsen, K. and J. Myers, 2006, “A Geochemical Evaluation Technique for Identifying Metals Contamination in Groundwater,” *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds*, Monterey, California, May 21-25.



# QUESTIONS

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**Expect the Extraordinary.**