



## Integrated Biogeochemical / Electrochemical Method for Remediation of Contaminated Groundwater

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Bioremediation & Sustainable Technologies  
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# Presentation Outline



## 💧 Problem Statement

- Overview of Available ISCO Technologies
- Why Do We Need Another?

## 💧 What is Provect-“EBR<sup>®</sup>”?

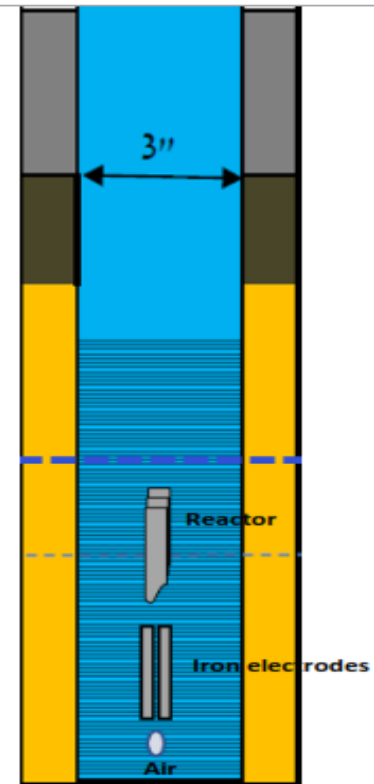
- What is Provect-EBR?
- How does it Work / Mode of Action?
- Remote System Control and Real-Time Monitoring
- Applications to Date

## 💧 Case Studies

- CHCs: Confidential Site (Tel Aviv, Israel)
- MTBE: Operating Gas Station, Sonol Kiryon Site
- MTBE/BTEX: Operating Gas Station, Neve Tdizek Site

## 💧 Summary and Conclusions / R&D Needs

provect “EBR<sup>®</sup>”  
ISCO GENERATOR



# ISCO = Breaking Chemical Bonds



- 💧 Oxidant must be able to accept electrons
  - Capacity = Equivalent weight (MW / No. electrons)
- 💧 Ultimate end point is mineralization
  - Partial oxidation is common

Bond Type	Volts (eV)
Carbon-Carbon (single) Long chain hydrocarbons PAHs, DRO, GRO	2.5
Carbon-Carbon (one and a half) Aromatic Type - BTEX and PCP	2.0
Carbon-Carbon (double) HVOCs, PCE, TCE, DCE, VC	1.5
Carbon-Hydrogen (Alkanes)	1.0

# Summary of ISCO Technologies



stronger oxidizer

Oxidation Potentials	Volts
Fluorine (F <sub>2</sub> )	2.87
Hydroxyl radical (OH●)	2.80
Persulfate radical (SO <sub>4</sub> ●)	2.60
Ferrate (Fe <sup>+6</sup> )	2.20
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	2.08
Persulfate (S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> <sup>-2</sup> )	2.01
Hydrogen peroxide (H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> )	1.78
Permanganate (MnO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	1.68
Chlorine (Cl <sub>2</sub> )	1.49

<https://sites.google.com/site/ecpreparation/ferrate-vi>

### Fenton's

- Treats wide range of contaminants
- Short subsurface lifetime
- Difficult to apply in reactive soils

### Persulfate

- Treats wide range of contaminants
- Sulfate radical forms slower than the hydroxyl radical, allowing a larger radius of influence

### Provect-OX

- Generates Ferrate (Fe IV, V, VI possible)
- Treats wide range of contaminants
- Extended *in situ* lifetime w/ continual production
- Avoids Rebound

### Ozone

- Treats wide range of contaminants
- Short subsurface lifetime
- Limited use in saturated zone

### Permanganate –

- Treats limited range of contaminants
- Partial oxidation of TPHs, etc
- Long subsurface lifetime
- Potential effects on hydrogeology

Reactive Oxidant Species (ROS)

Higher oxidation potential = stronger the oxidizer

# Why We Need A New ISCO Technology



- 💧 **Longevity:** Conventional ISCO amendments and means of generating ROS are limited by distribution, kinetics, and short environmental half-lives ( $10E^{-9}$  to  $10E^{-6}$  seconds) = need to be continuously generated / applied.
- 💧 **ISCO PRBs:** PRB applications using existing ISCO (candles, KPS, etc) are limited
- 💧 **Sustained, *In Situ* Production of ROS could yield effective PRBs** especially for COIs not conducive to ISCR/ZVI such as 1,4-dioxane, MTBE/TBA, perchlorate, (PFAS?) plumes.

## APPENDIX A. Comparative Analysis of Various Options for an Example PRB @ 50 m long x 5 m deep (4 to 9 m bgs) x 3 m wide.

Technology	Process	Benefits	Detriments	Materials	Example Construction O&M&M costs (USD)
Provect-EBR	<i>In situ</i> ISCO (Fenton's) generator	Longevity 5 to >7 years; Treats COIs without intermediates; Remote monitoring control panel and software included	Limited application outside Israel; Mostly used to date for MTBE and refined petroleum products	8 EBR wells spaced 5.5 m apart	8-well EBR system, installed = \$125K 8x, 4-inch diam wells = \$24K Engineering/startup = \$30K Annual OMM = \$30/yr TOTAL = \$209

# Provect-”EBR®” ISCO PRB

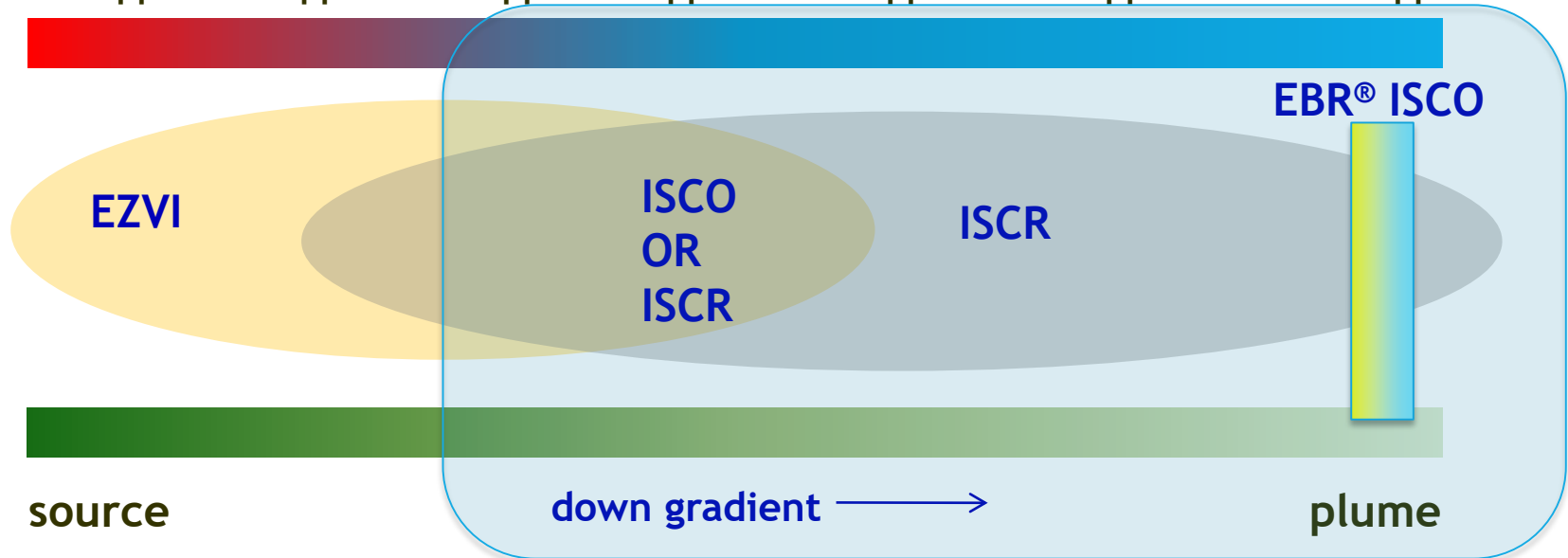


**In Situ ISCO Generator** to continuously produce Fenton’s type ROS yields an effective PRB technology for:

- Challenging lithologies (deep aquifers, clayey soils, fractured rock)
- Situations where sorption/sequestration is not considered an effective response
- Alternatives to hydraulic containment (long term O&M&M)

## Contaminant Concentration

> 100 ppm    50 ppm    10 ppm    1 ppm    0.5 ppm    0.1 ppm    < 0.05 ppm



# What is Provect-“EBR®”



Electro Bioremediation (EBR) well(s) contain an air sparge plus 3 electrodes:

- 💧 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> production
- 💧 Fe<sup>2+</sup> release
- 💧 O<sub>2</sub> production

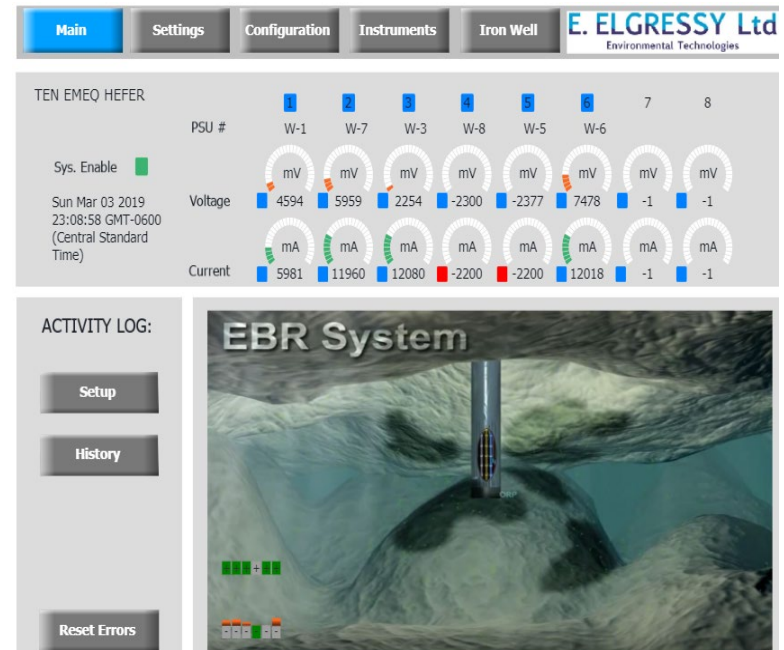


Computerized controller



Reactor

Computerized control panel for remote system / adjustment and real-time performance monitoring



US Patent No. 9,975,156 B2

# How Does EBR Work?



**The EBR Well Generates Reactive Oxidant Species (ROS)** in a manner similar to other Electro-Fenton's (EF) type systems (Nazari *et al.*, 2019; Rosales, *et.al*, 2012; Sires *et al.*, 2014; Yuan *et al.*, 2013):

**Production of O<sub>2</sub>:** electrolytic reduction of water on a catalytic electrode yields molecular oxygen, O<sub>2</sub>

**Production of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>:** two-electron reduction of oxygen on a cathode surface generates H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

**Release of Iron:** H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> interacts with ferrous iron (Fe<sup>2+</sup>) released from a third cell to yield hydroperoxyl (HO<sub>2</sub>·)/superoxide (O<sub>2</sub>·) and hydroxyl radicals (OH·), and likely ferrates





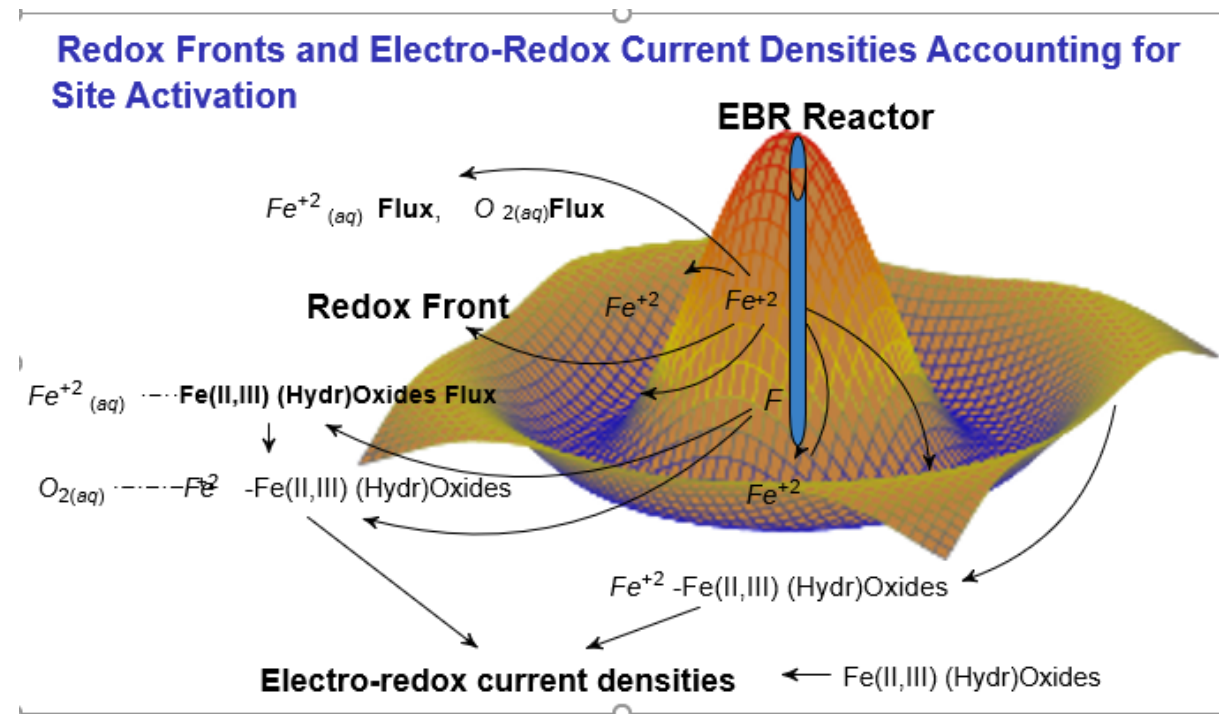
# How Does EBR Differ From EF?



**Fe<sup>2+/3+</sup> Nanoclusters:** At neutral pH EBR uniquely generates “low” Fermi Level (highly oxidized) Fe(II/III) oxyhydroxide nanoclusters (2 nM) as the sacrificial Fe source corrodes within the well (Ai *et al.*, 2013; Elgressy 2019).

Subsurface distribution of Fe nanoclusters throughout the aquifer is driven by:

- Induced redox fronts
- Electro-redox current densities
- Electroosmosis
- Electrophoresis
- Dynamic coupling between EBR wells
- **Equilibration of differences in Fermi level energies self-generated self-propagated**



# How Does EBR Differ From EF?

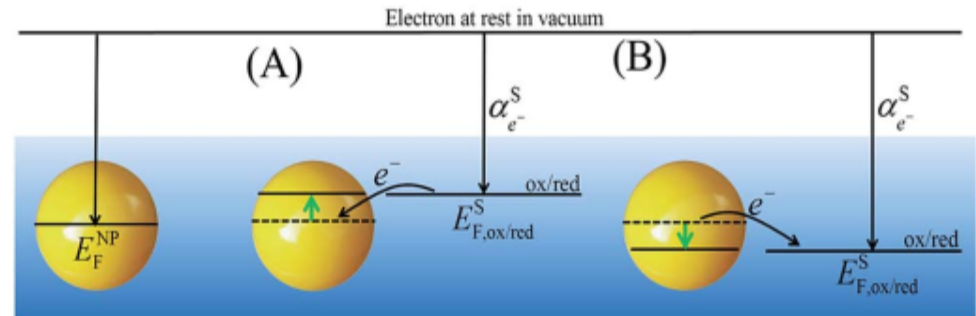


**Fe<sup>2+/3+</sup> Nanoclusters:** A critical and unique feature of the EBR is use of geophysical mechanisms to enhance subsurface distribution of low Fermi level Fe nanoclusters and propagate catalysis *in situ* to continuously generate reactive oxidants throughout its effective ROI.

**Electrochemical Potential of an e<sup>-</sup>** is the difference in potential between the oxidized and reduced species (Peljo *et al.*, 2017; Scanlon *et al.*, 2015)

**Fermi Level** is a thermodynamic “value” to define the electrochemical potential of an electron in a redox couple in solution

At +850mV (“low” Fermi Level electrochemical potential) electrons are essentially freely transferred from Fe<sup>3+</sup> to Fe<sup>2+</sup>



**Scheme 3** Redox equilibria for metallic NPs in solution showing the capabilities of metallic NPs to be (A) charged and (B) discharged upon Fermi level equilibration with an excess of a single dominant redox couple in solution.

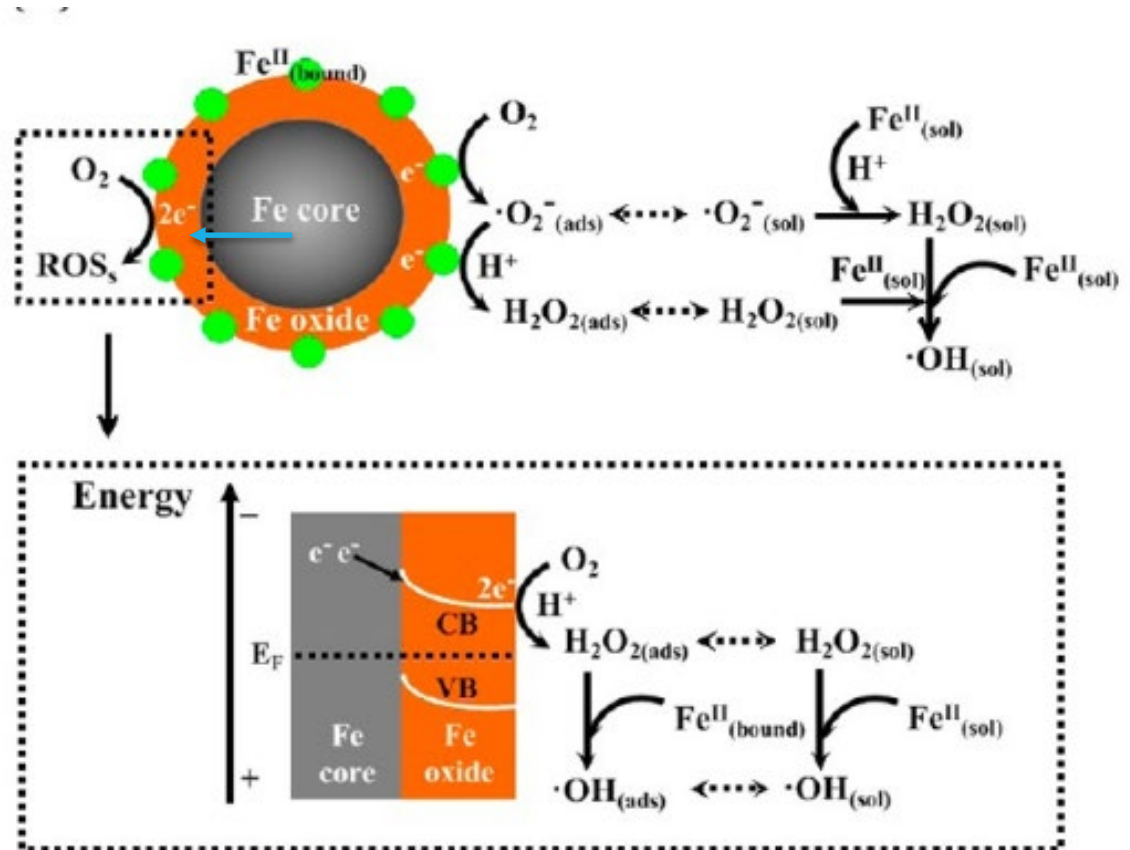
# In Situ Generation of ROS



As Fe (hydro)oxides within the aquifer ROI equilibrate their Fermi level electrochemical potentials they continuously catalyze *in situ* generation of new ROS from dissolved molecular  $O_2$  via two kinds of molecular oxygen activation pathways (Ai *et al.*, 2013):

- On the Fe core via rapid two-electron-reduction molecular oxygen activation (may eventually be blocked by the formation of iron oxide coatings), then

- Surface bound ferrous ions catalyze the single-electron-reduction molecular oxygen activation pathway



# Summary of EBR Reactions



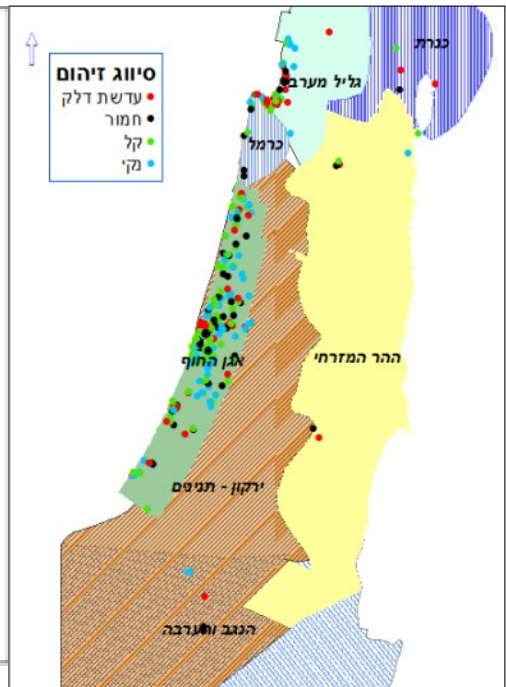
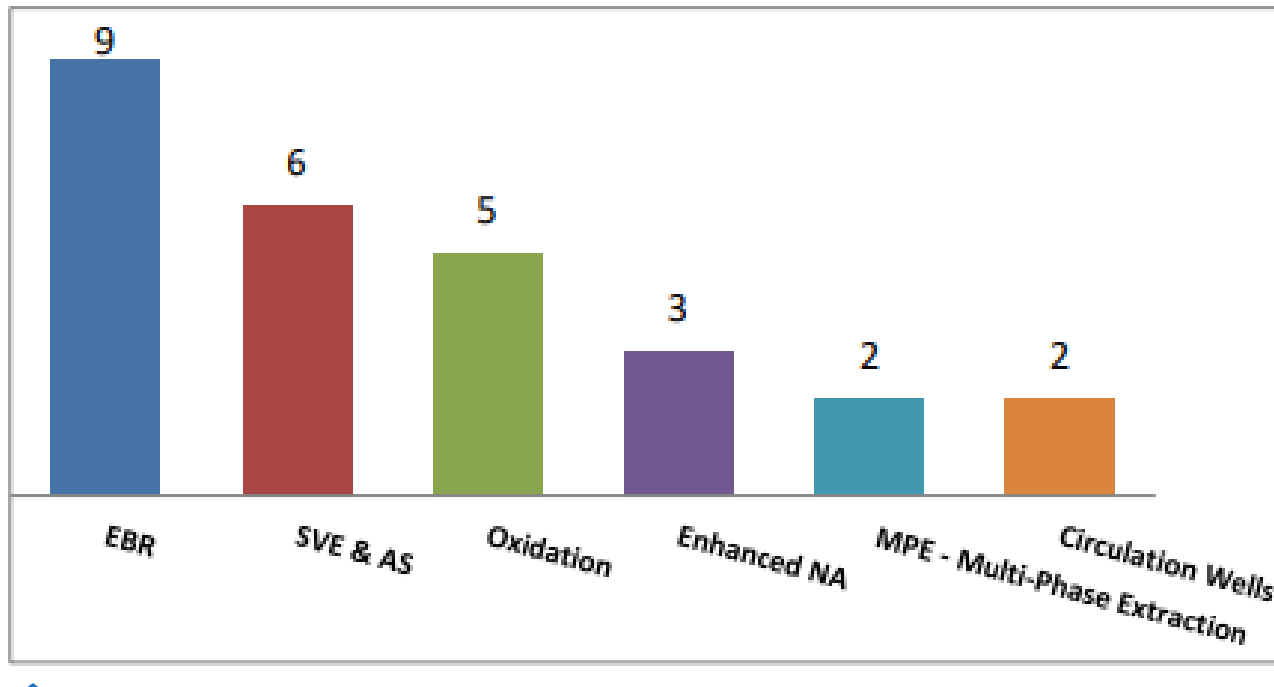
- Generation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$
- Release of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$
- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  interacts  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  to yield ROS  $\text{HO}_2\cdot/\text{O}_2\cdot$  and  $\text{OH}\cdot$  (ferrate?)
- Release of  $\text{O}_2$  and low Fermi Level  $\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$  nanoclusters
- Self-propagation throughout ROI (less confined by lithology)
- Continuous *in situ* production of ROS catalyzed by  $\text{O}_2$  activation from equilibration of Fermi levels of Fe
  - Transition from ISCO to bioremediation (using oxygen and iron as electron acceptors) and RNA using abiotic transformations.
  - Process controlled remotely with real-time monitoring



# Where has it been Used?



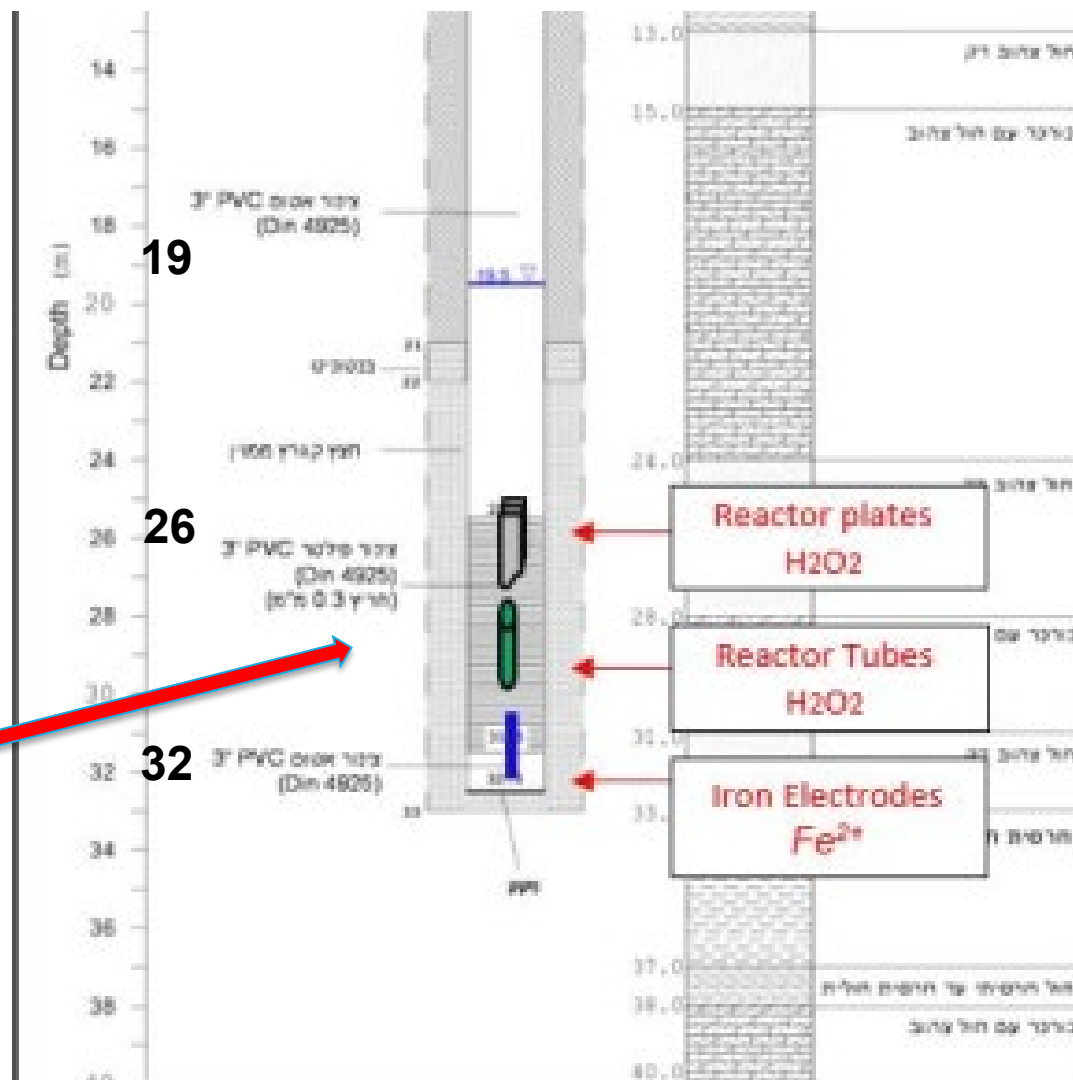
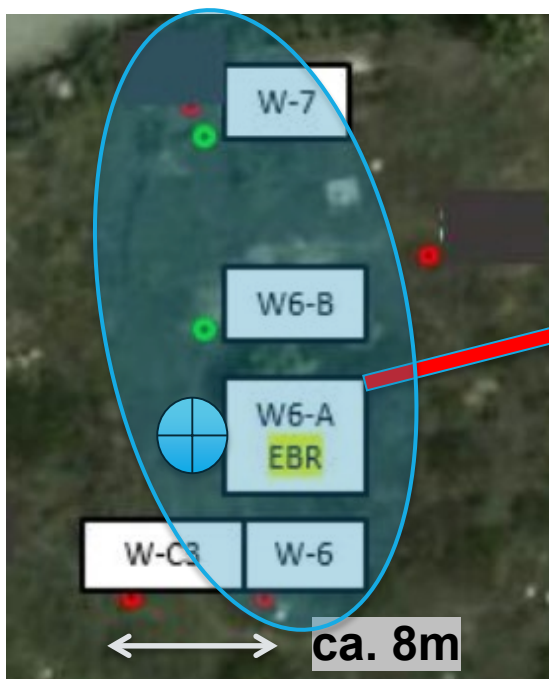
- ◆ In 2017 , Israel had 27 gas stations undergoing active remediation
- ◆ EBR technology was employed at 9 (33%) + 2 chlorinated solvent sites
- ◆ Today, 7 sites are in clean-closure monitoring after 1 year of operation
- ◆ EBR is ISO-certified and approved by the Israeli Water Authority
- ◆ No PRB Applications. No USA applications.



# Case Study - Solvent Site



- DTW 19.5 m bgs
- Sandy aquifer impacts
  - PCE max. 257 ug/L
  - TCE max. 25,146 ug/L
  - DCE max. 47 ug/L



# CVOC Removal (60 days; ppb)



CVOC (ug/L)	Time (Days)	Well 6 (10 m up)	Well 6a EBR Well	Well 6b (5 m down)	Well 7 (20 m down)
<b>PCE</b>	0	8.7	257	<2	<2
	30	2.4	<2	<2	<2
	60	<2	5	<2	<2
<b>TCE</b>	0	752	25,146	74	24
	30	201	<2	6	14
	60	37	15	4	<2
<b>DCE</b>	0	14	47	<1	<1
	30	2.6	<1	<1	<1
	60	1.6	8	<1	<1

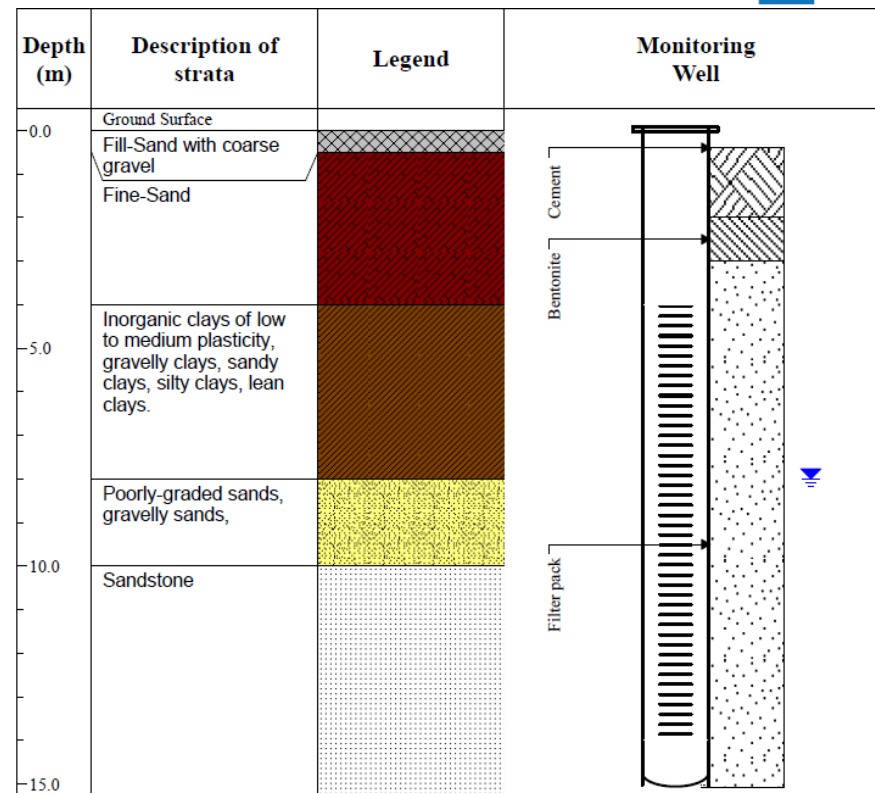
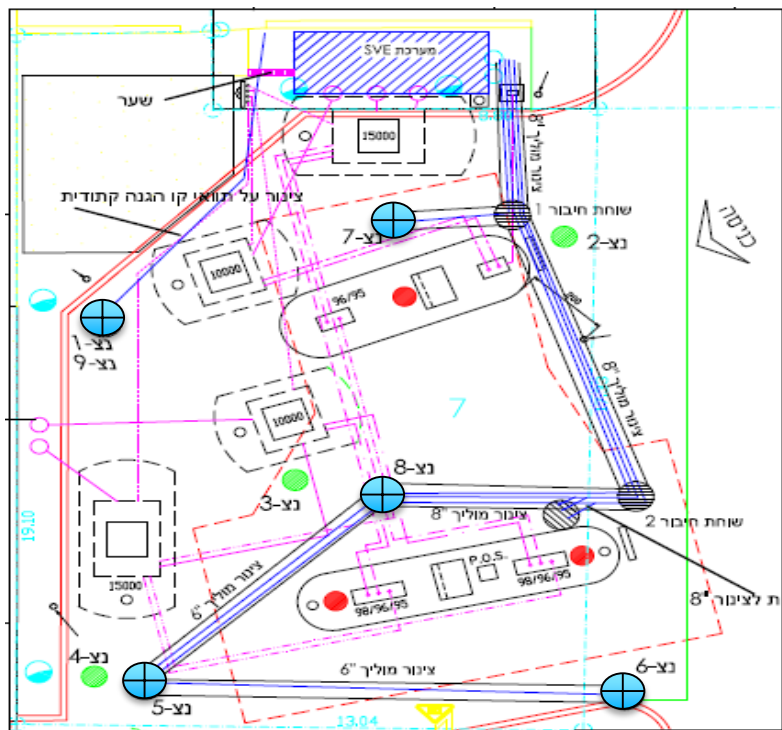
- 💧 Single EBR Well + Control Panel and remote monitoring < \$45K installed
- 💧 ROI observed 20 m downgradient within 30 to 60 days.
- 💧 >99% CVOC removal within 30 days

# Case Study – Neve Tzedik Site



## Operating Gasoline Station

- Groundwater at 7 to 8 m bgs
- sandy aquifer with si cl lenses
- MTBE >50 mg/L; TPH >100 mg/L
- 242 m<sup>2</sup> impacted area



 5 EBR/SVE Systems (2017)

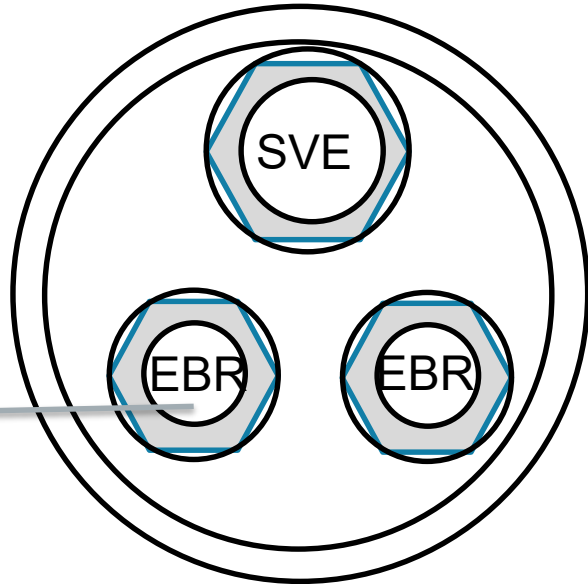
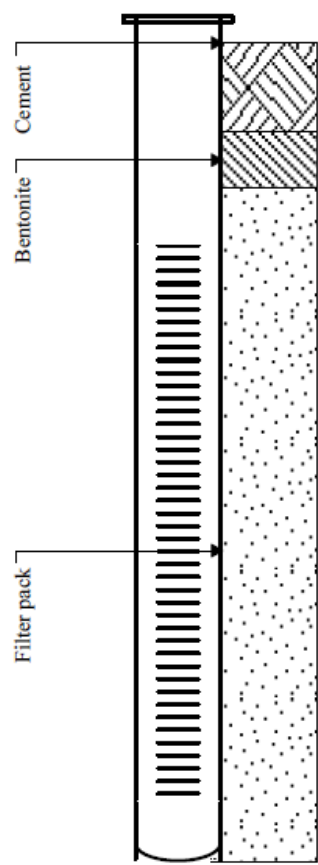
 Monitoring wells

18m

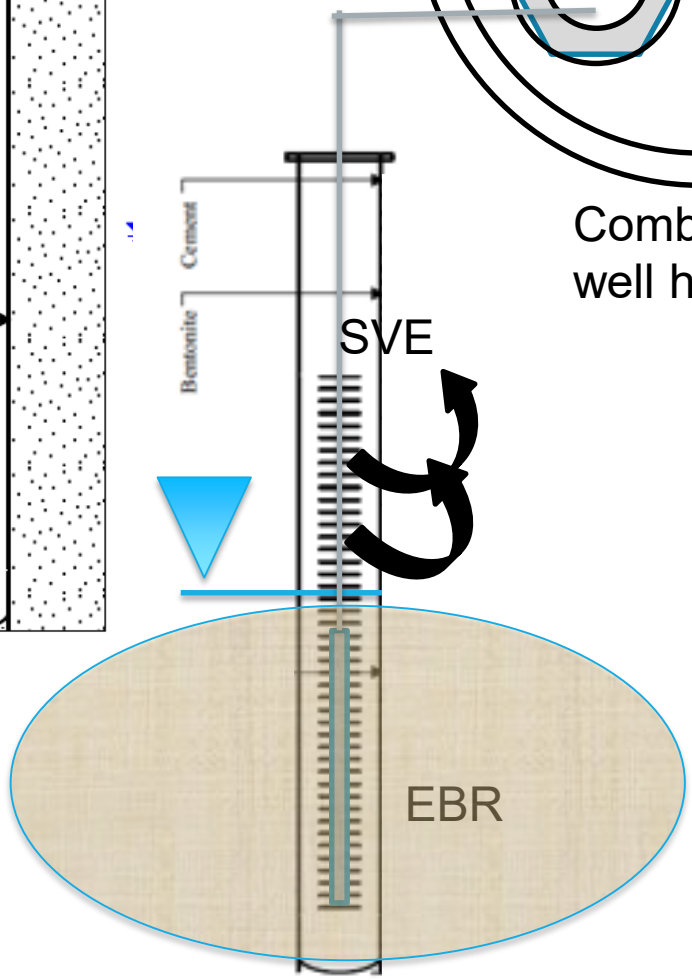


Depth (m)	Description of strata	Legend
0.0	Ground Surface Fill-Sand with coarse gravel Fine-Sand	
5.0	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays.	
10.0	Poorly-graded sands, gravelly sands,	
15.0	Sandstone	

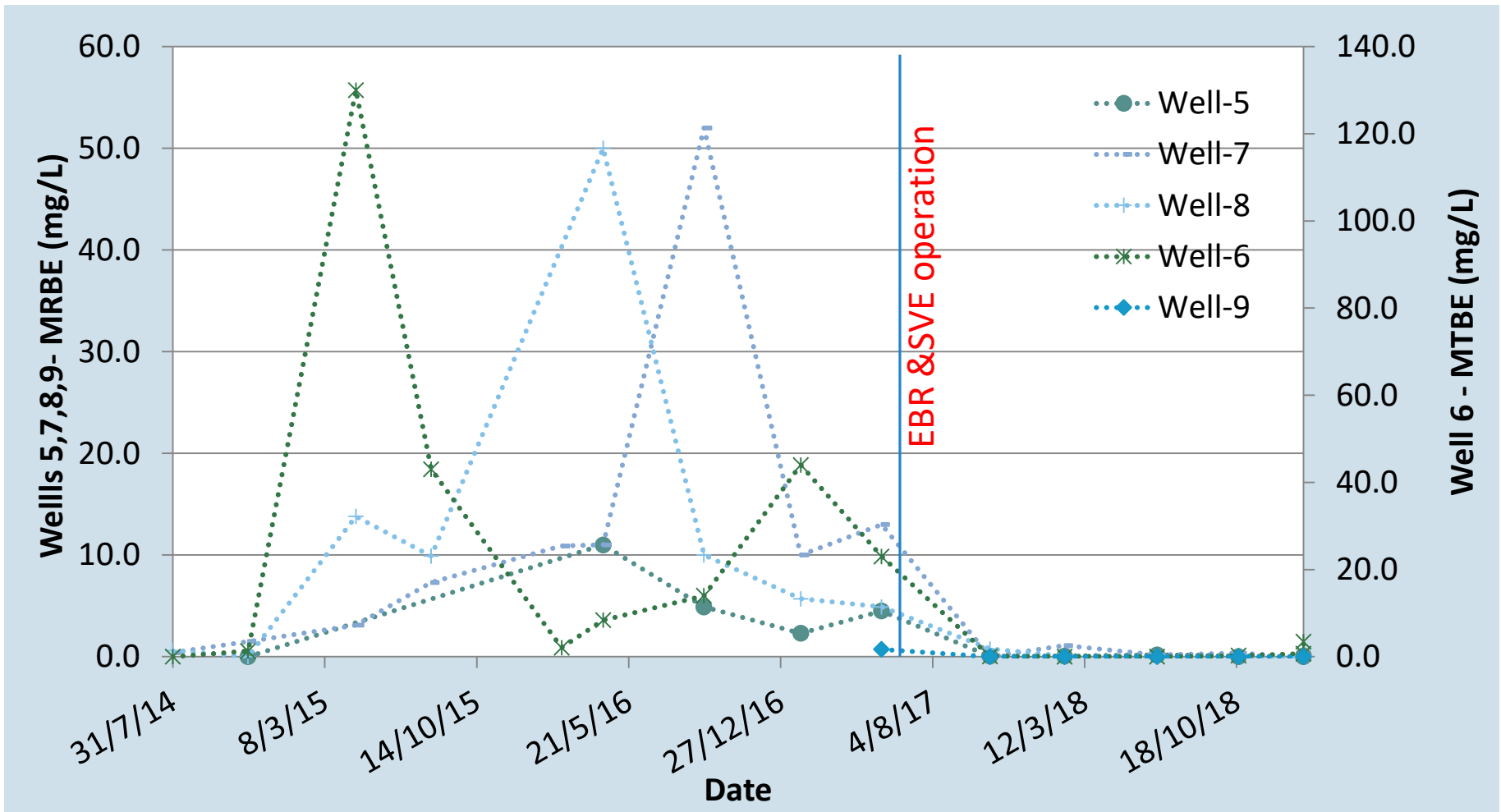
### Treatment Well



Combined well head

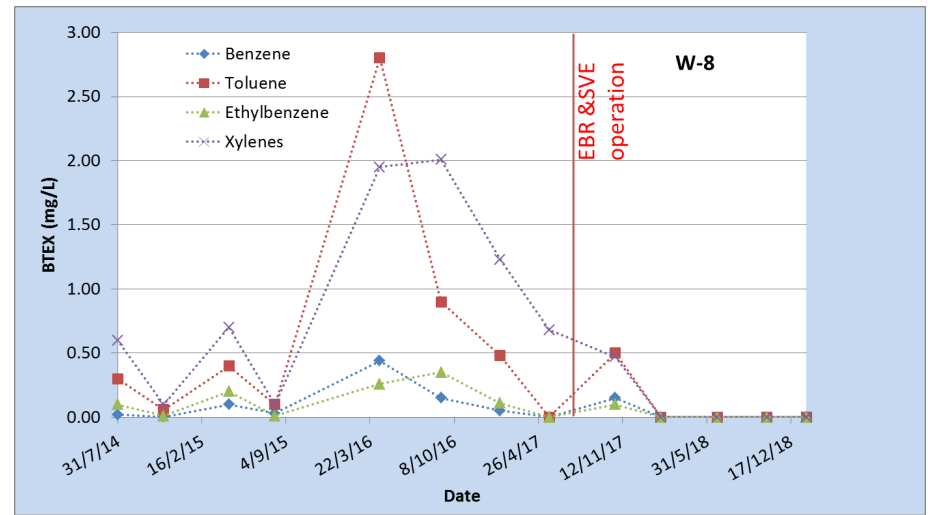
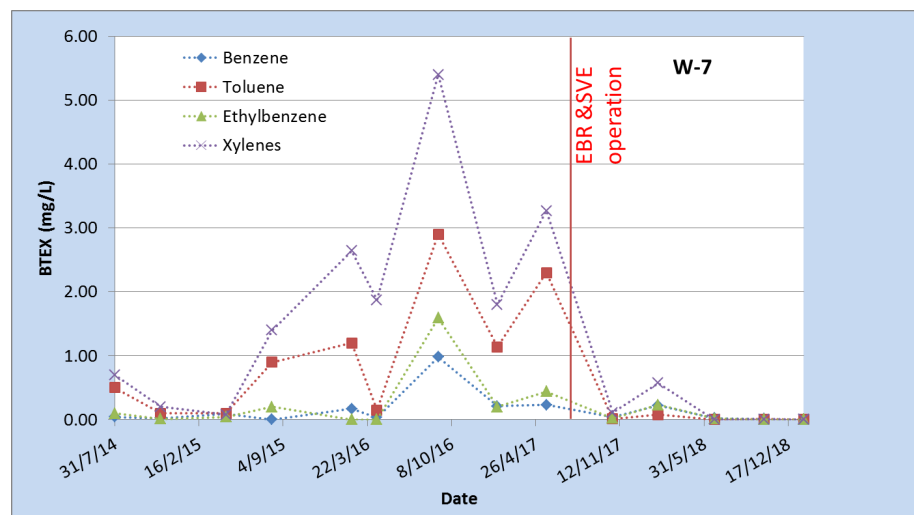
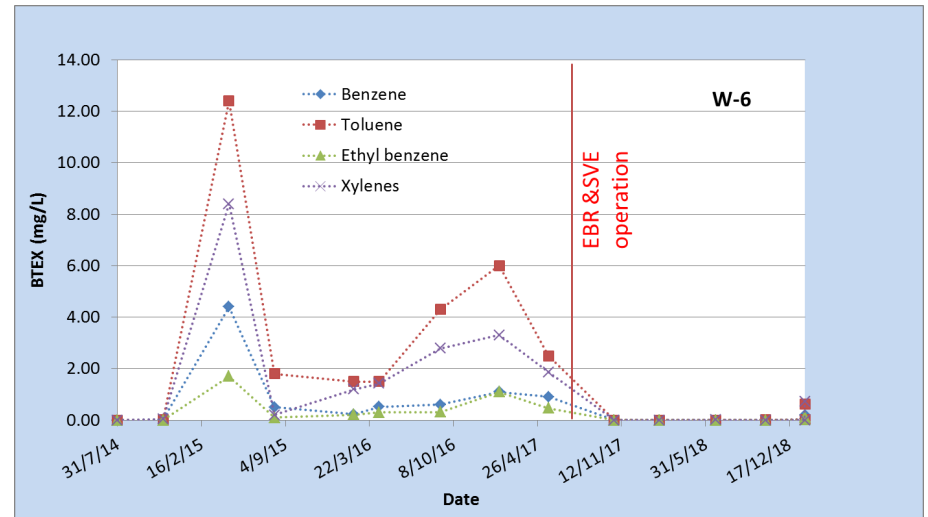
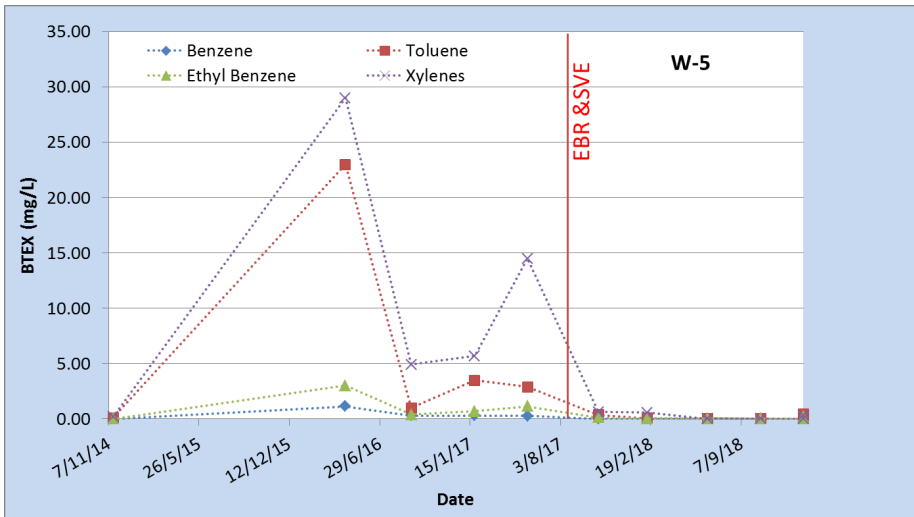


# MTBE Concentration (mg/L) in Water



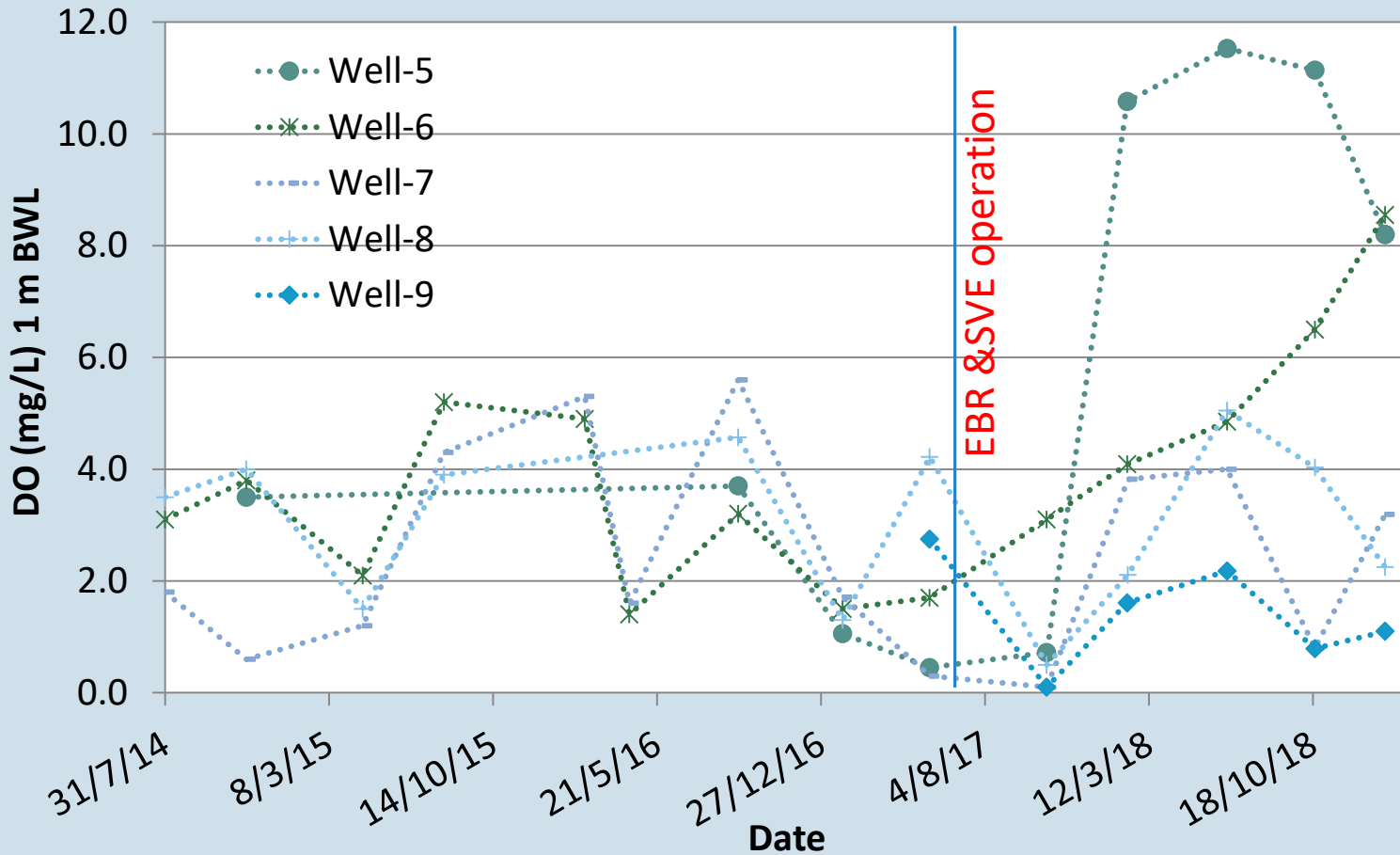
💧 MW-6 ca. 130 ppm to < 5 ppb within 12 months

# BTEX Concentrations (mg/L) in Water

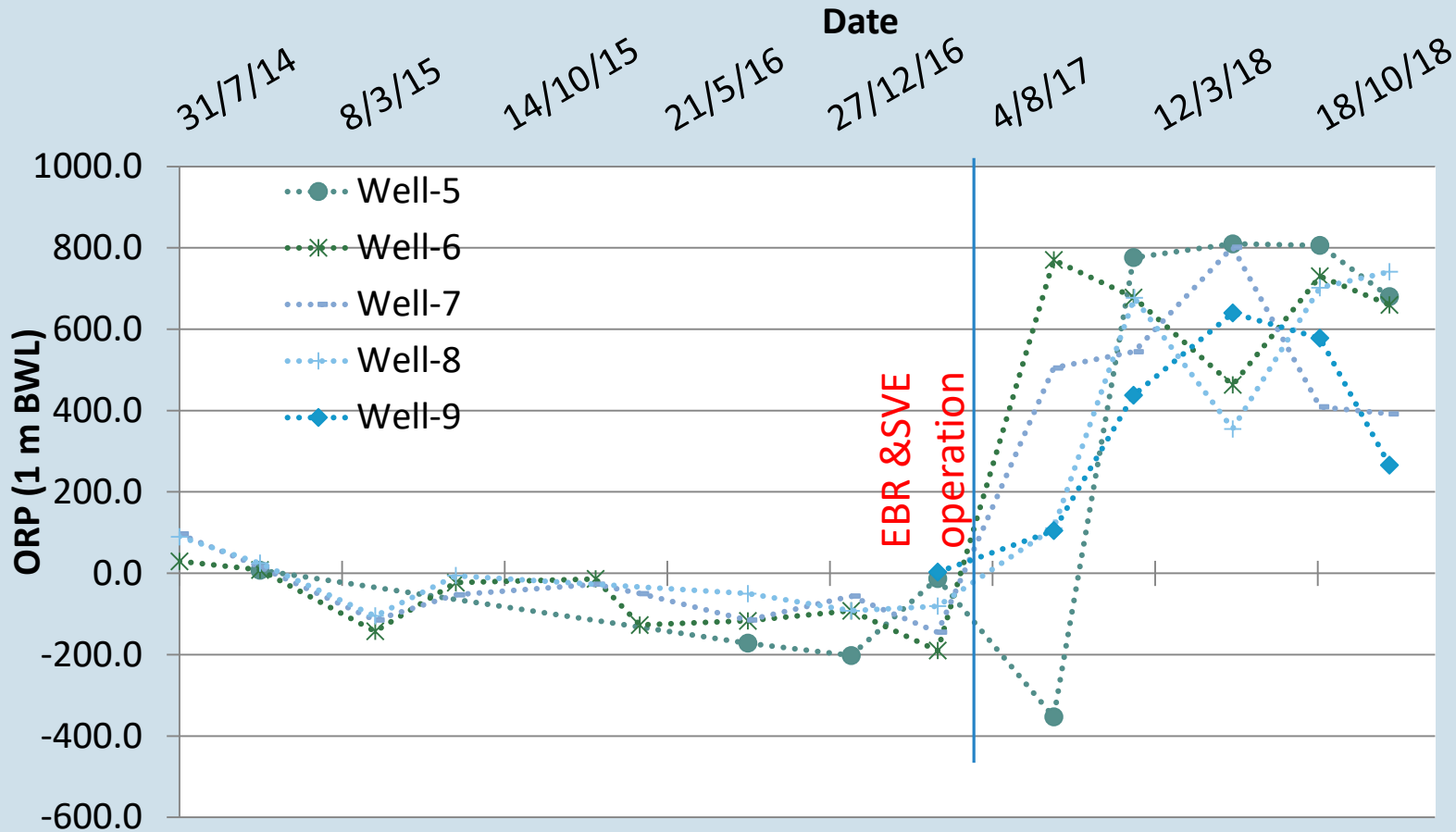


💧 MW-5 ca. 25 ppm to < 5 ppb within 12 months

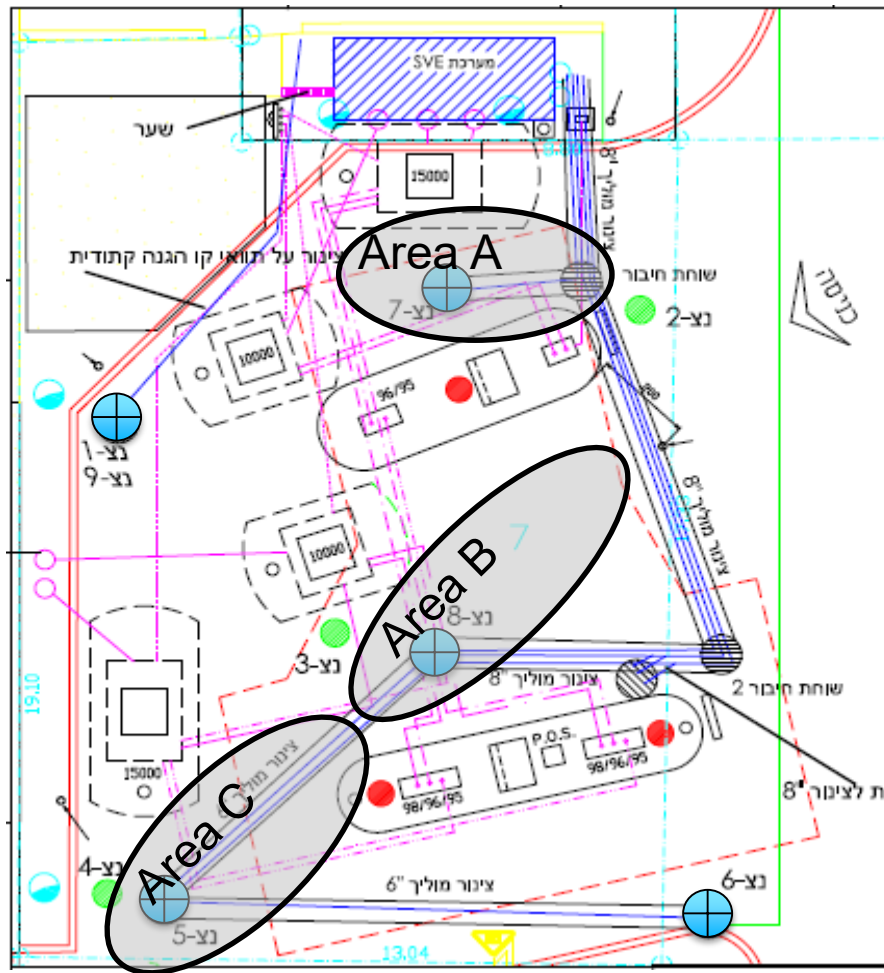
# Dissolved Oxygen (DO)



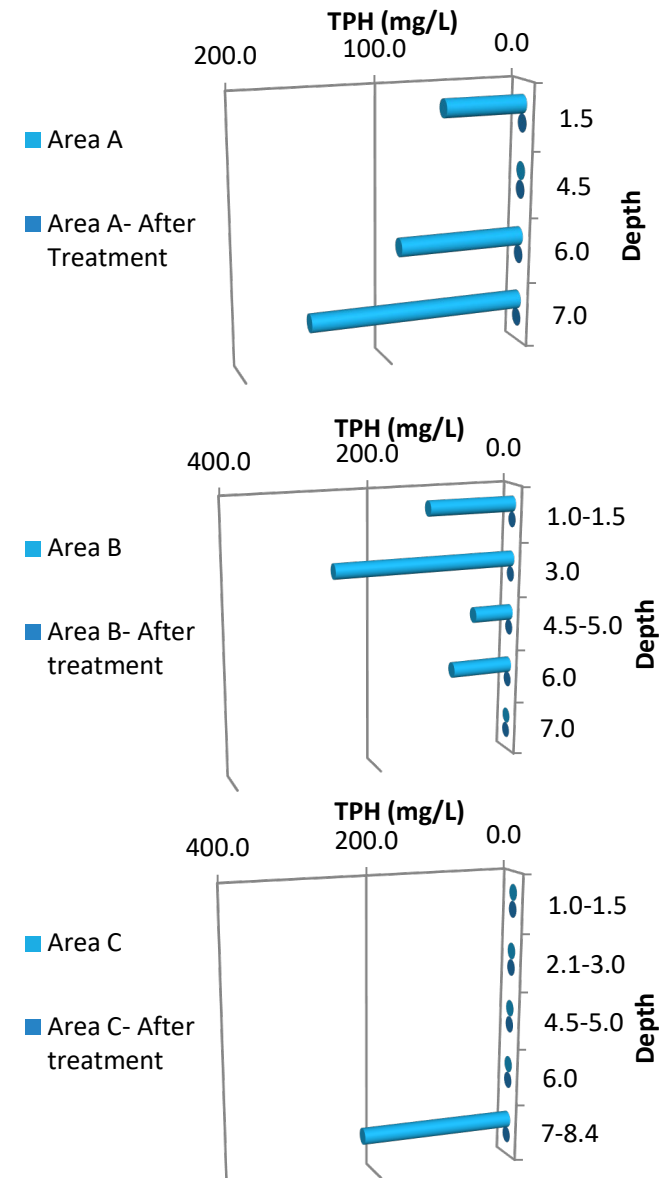
# GW field parameters (ORP)



# Soil / Groundwater BTEX (18 mo)



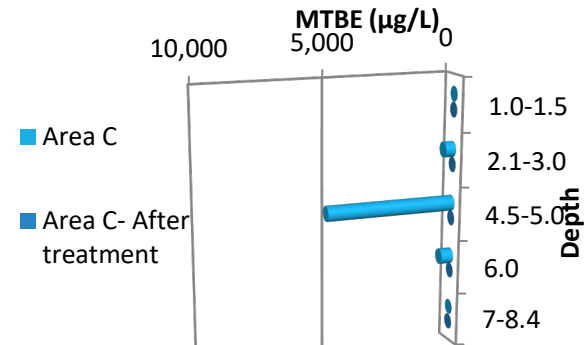
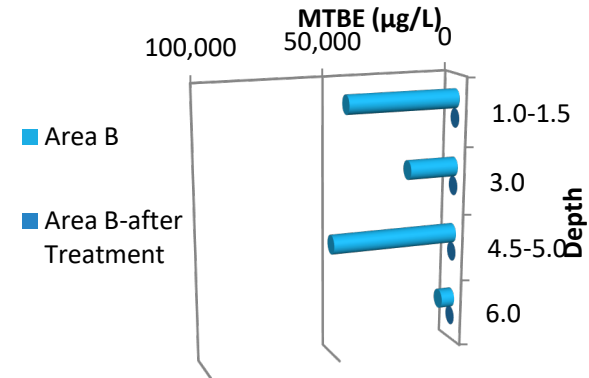
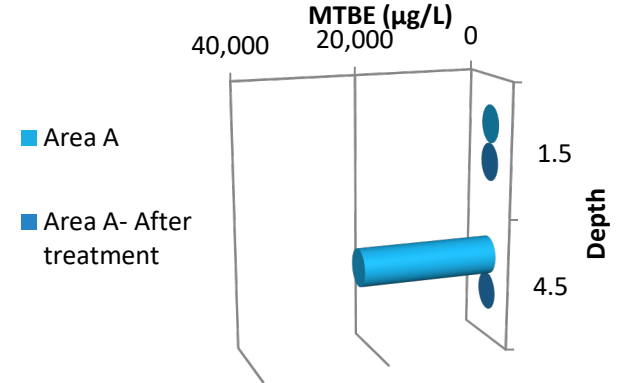
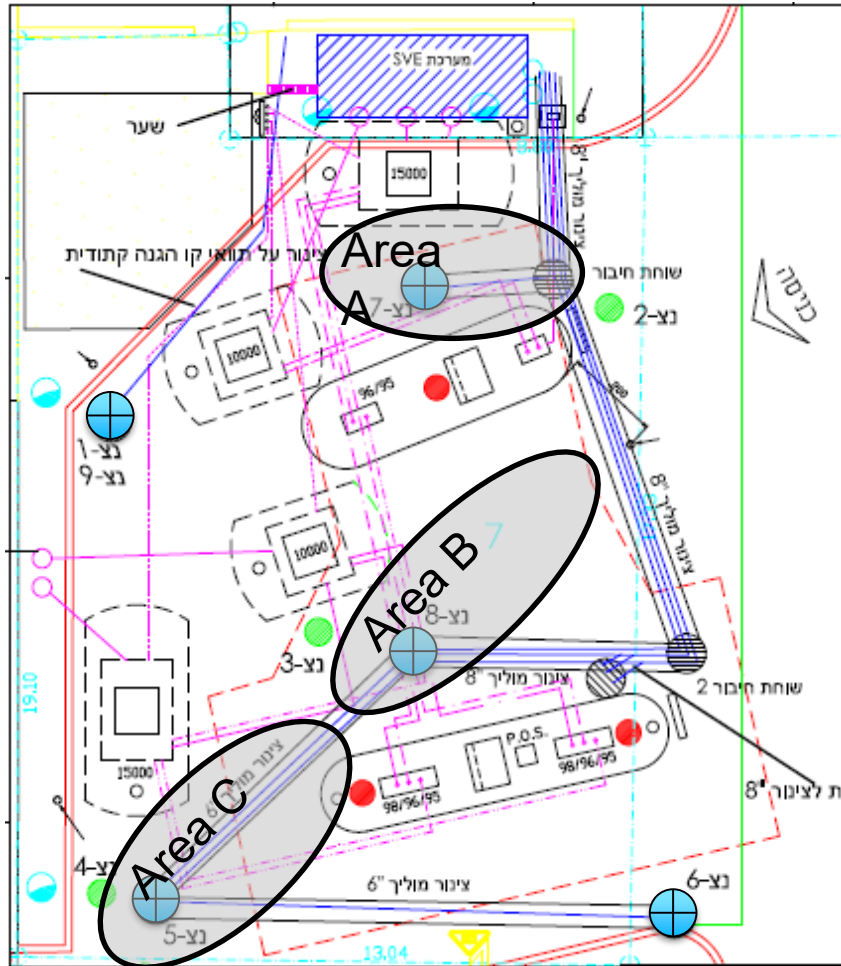
From > 200 ppm to < 2 ppm



# Soil / Groundwater MTBE (18 mo)



- From >50 ppm to < 0.05 ppm
- 5 EBR Wells, Control Panel, O&M < \$150K

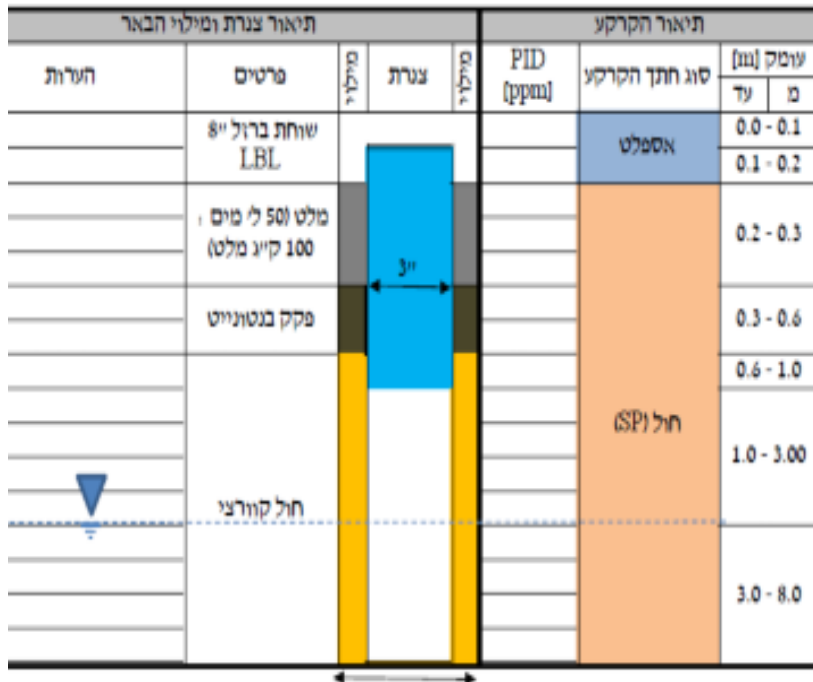
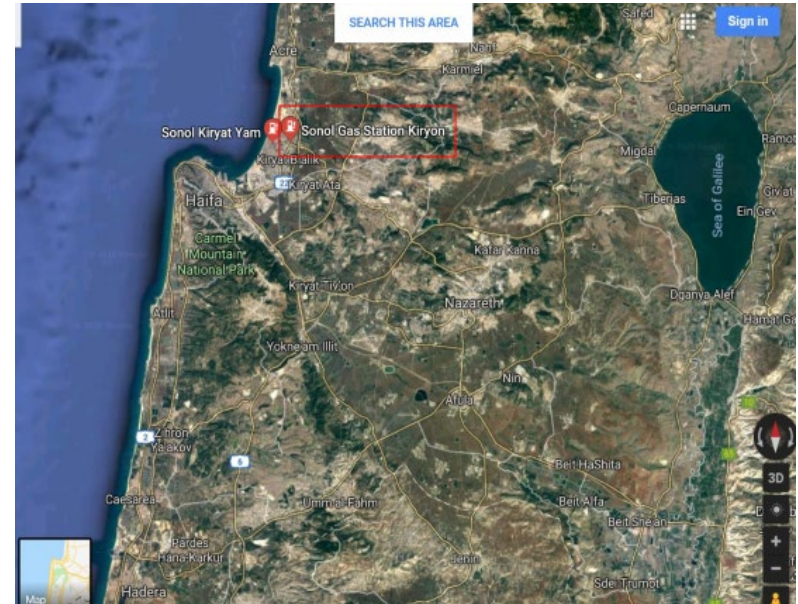


# Case Study – Sonol Kiryon Site



## Operating Gasoline Station

- Groundwater at 3 m bgs
- sandy aquifer
- MTBE > 17 mg/L
- ca. 300 m<sup>2</sup> impacted area





# Case Study – Sonol Kiryon Site



5 EBR (May 2018)



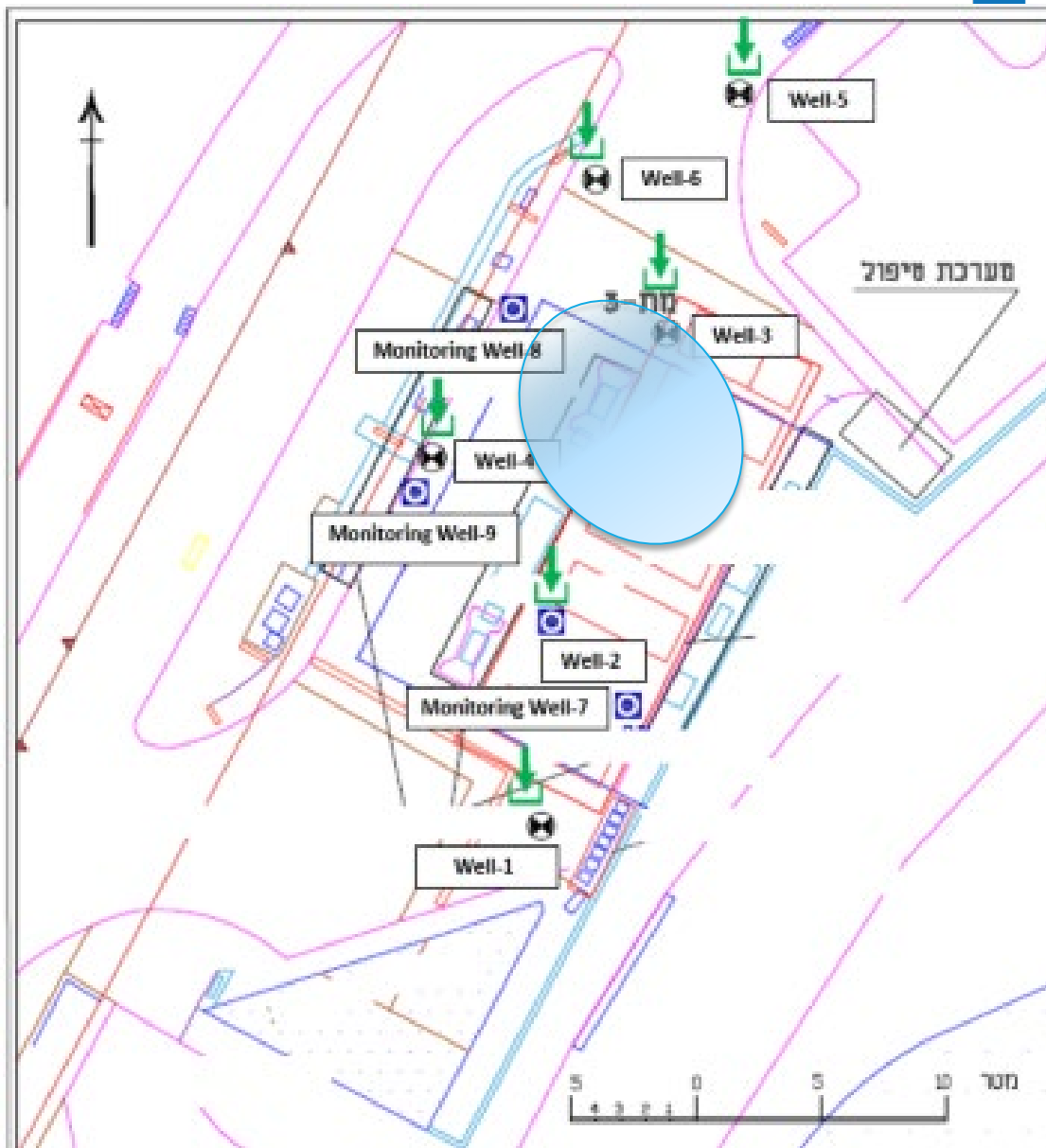
5 Monitoring Wells



4 New Monitoring Wells



LNAPL Present



# Groundwater MTBE (5 months)



GSI MANN-KENDALL TOOLKIT for Constituent Trend Analysis								
Evaluation Date:		12/2018			Job ID:			07-2018 Sonol Hakirion
Facility Name:		SONOL HAKIRION			Constituent:			MTBE
Conducted By:		E Elgressy Ltd			Concentration Units:			mg/L
Sampling Point ID:		Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Well 5	Well-6	
Sampling Event	Sampling Date	MTBE CONCENTRATION (mg/L)						
1	10/2/2014	7.9	26	188	62			
2	18/6/2014	5.4	30	94	50			
3	17/11/2014	5.8	8.6		LNAPL Lens	70	24.5	
4	19/10/2015	0.98	60		20	10	39	
5	28/2/2016	1	15	LNAPL Lens	21	0.4	15	
6	6/7/2016	1.9	6.4		8.9	1.3	6.1	
7	10/10/2016	1.19	2.1		6.6	0.82	5.5	
8	22/2/2017	2.2	2.2		12	7.7	0.59	
9	14/6/2017	1.08	10.1		22	14	1.66	
10	23/10/2017	0.45	12		17	0.25	1.46	
11	21/5/2018		7					
12	25/10/2018	0	0	LNAPL Lens	1.5	0.05	0.09	
13								
14								
15	Activation of EBR 15/07/2018							
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
Coefficient of Variation:		1.03	1.13	0.47	0.87	1.94	1.29	
Mann-Kendall Statistic (S):		-31	-30	-1	-23	-16	-30	
Confidence Factor:		99.2%	97.8%		97.7%	94.0%	100.0%	
Concentration Trend:		Decreasing	Decreasing		Decreasing	Prob. Decreasing	Decreasing	

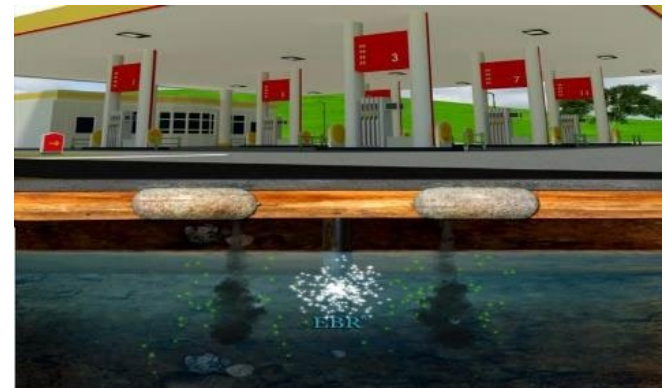
5 months EBR operation (as of December, 2018)

# Groundwater COIs ug/L (7 months)



Well	Date	MTBE	Benzene	Xylenes	TBA	CFUs/ml
MW-7	5/2018	11,000	0.21	60	--	--
	12/2018	50	<5	<5	7,100	24,000
MW-8	5/2018	5,000	<5	<5	--	--
	12/2018	2,800	<5	40	114,000	7,700
MW-9	5/2018	7,000	<5	<5	--	--
	12/2018	120	<5	<5	5,600	100,000

- Toluene, Ethylbenzene <5 ppb
- 6 EBR Wells, Control Panel, O&M < \$180K



# Learn More About EBR MOA

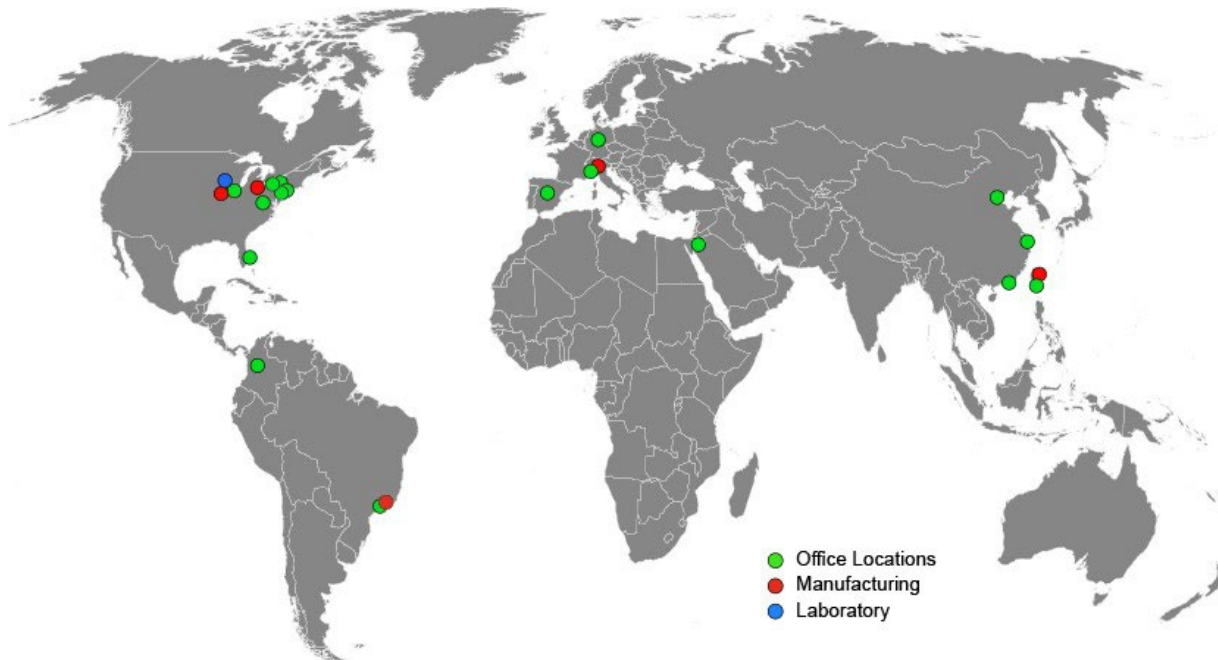


**Provect** “EBR”  
ISCO GENERATOR



# Provectus Environmental Products

- ◆ Complimentary Site Evaluation
- ◆ Complimentary review of quarterly field performance data with every project
- ◆ Laboratory Treatability Studies
- ◆ Turn-Key, Pay-for-Performance Contracting Options
- ◆ Project Specific Guarantees and Warranties



- ◆ USA (Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin)
- ◆ Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Spain and Taiwan



# Future R&D / Continued Studies

**Validate ROI and Effective Propagation Time, Vertically and Horizontally**  
(ESTCP submittal Mueller, Shi, Ginn, and Tratnyek 2019)

- ORP / Measurements (indirect)
- COI Reductions (indirect)
- Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Fe<sup>3+</sup> measurements: Particle size (BEM) and mineralogy (XRD patterns, TEM micrographs, XPS spectra and high-resolution scan); possible using variations of Bradley and Tratnyek (2019).
- Self-Potential Method (direct): passive geophysical analysis based on the natural occurrence of electrical fields resulting from the existence of source currents in the conductive subsurface (Fachin *et al.*, 2012)
- Electrical Resistivity Tomography (direct): measures variations in electrical conductivity associated with changes in pore water ionic strength or water phase saturation.
- Lab-fabricated oxygen microprobes/sensors (direct): validate the distribution of ROS.
- Simple and Predictive Models: facilitate PRB design and implementation