Bioremediation of Soils Containing Organic Explosives Compounds Using ZVI/Organic Carbon Reagents

John Valkenburg and Alan Seech (Evonik/USA)

John Valkenburg, MS, PE

11 May 2023 | Sixth International Symposium on Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies



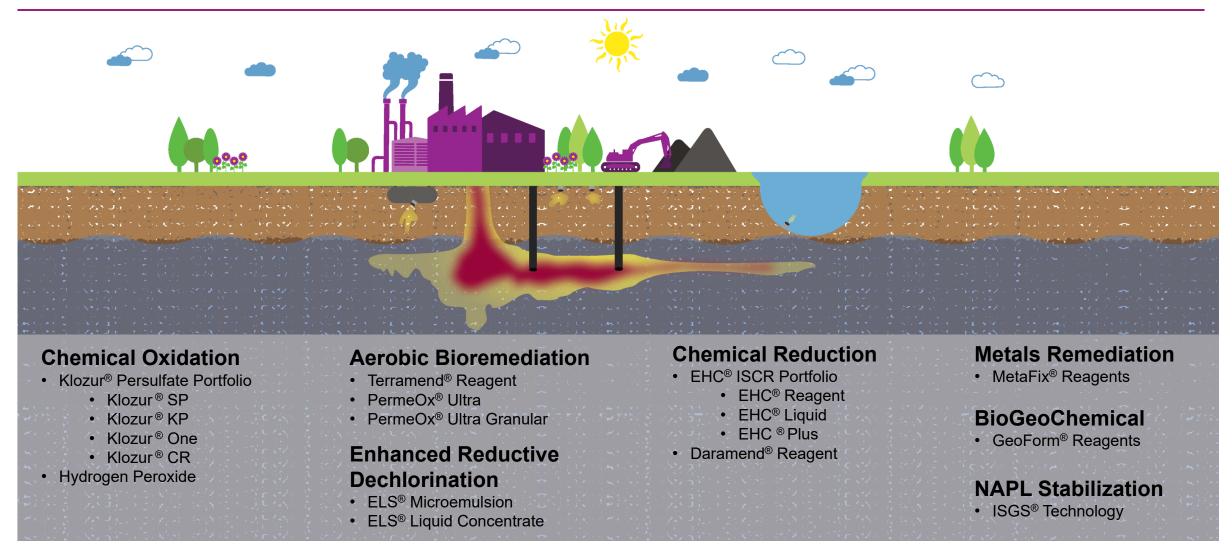
Presentation Outline

- Daramend® Overview
- Treatment Mechanisms
- Daramend® Performance Data, Site Pilot, and Site Full-scale
- Questions and Answers



Evonik Soil & Groundwater Remediation

Field-Proven Portfolio of Remediation Technologies





Daramend® Family of Reagents

| Attribute | Daramend® | Daramend [®] Metals | Daramend [®] Plus |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| High Surface Area Hydrophilic Plant Fiber | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Slow-release Organic Carbon & Nutrients (N, P, S) | ✓ | \checkmark | ✓ |
| Microscale ZVI | ✓ | √ | √ |
| Soluble Sulfate Salts | - | ✓ | - |
| Activated Carbon | - | - | ✓ |
| Emulsifying Agent | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| pH Balanced | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Applicability | Pesticides, cVOCs, organic explosives | Pesticides, cVOCs, organic explosives, metals | Reductive Degradation & Physical Adsorption |



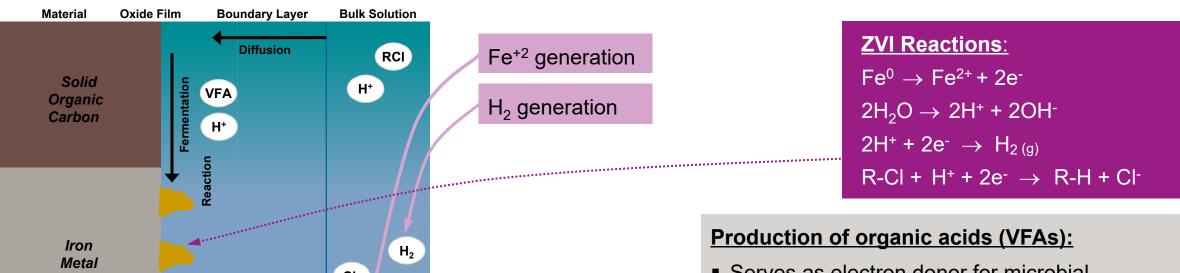
Benefits of Daramend® Formulations

| Component | Benefits |
|--|--|
| High Surface Area Hydrophilic Plant Fiber | Increases soil WHC & bioavailable H ₂ O. Provides surface area for microbes, overcoming acute toxicity. Produces VFAs to increase ZVI reactivity and longevity. |
| Slow-release Organic Carbon & Nutrients (N, P, S) | Promotes enzymatic synthesis, avoids luxury consumption, promotes bacteria & fungi. |
| Microscale ZVI | Strong reducing agent, source of ferrous iron. Provides alkalinity to balance carbon source fermentation. |
| Soluble Sulfate Salts | Provides sulfate for reductive sulfide generation => biogenic iron sulfides. Precipitates soluble heavy metals. |
| Activated Carbon | Strong adsorbent of soluble contaminants. Enable reductions to TCLP for disposal |
| Emulsifying Agent | Promotes desorption of high MW and hydrophobic compounds (i.e., OCPs) to enhance degradation rates. |



Daramend® Treatment Mechanisms

Carbon Fermentation + ZVI Corrosion: Synergy Promotes Multiple Dechlorination Mechanisms



Favorable thermodynamic conditions for dechlorination:

Diffusion

 Combined oxygen consumption from carbon fermentation and iron oxidation → Strongly reduced environment (-250 to -500 mV)

RH

Fe²⁺

■ High electron/H⁺ pressure

- Serves as electron donor for microbial reduction of cVOCs and other oxidized species such as O₂, NO₃, SO₄
- The release of acids keeps the pH down and thereby serve to reduce precipitate formation on ZVI surfaces to increase reactivity
- Increase rate of iron corrosion/H₂ generation



General Daramend Process Overview

- 1. Apply Daramend
- 2. Mixing/Tilling
- 3. Watering
- 4. Reaction processing & monitoring
- 5. More recalcitrant compounds (OCPs) require process cycling
- 6. Typical application rates of 2-5 wt% overall, cycled rates vary



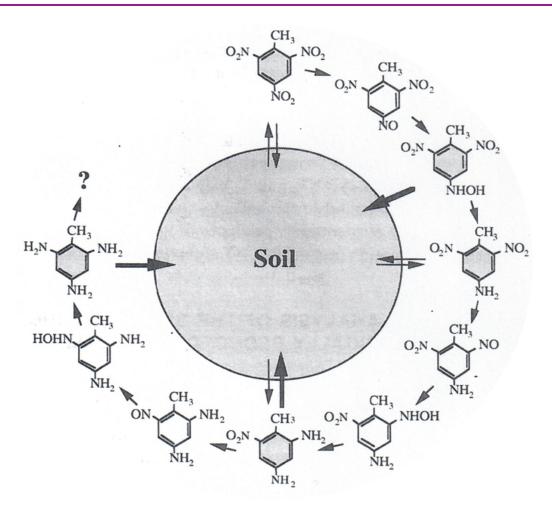
Reductive Degradation of Nitroaromatics

Haderlein, S., Hofstetter, T., and Schwartzenbach, R. In: Biodegradation of Nitroaromatic Compounds and Explosives. 2000. Eds.: Spain, J., Hughes, J, and Knackmuss, H.-J.

- 1. Sequential reductive degradation of nitro groups through to fully reduced amino groups.
- 2. Requires 6 e⁻ for each NO₂ group and 18 e⁻ for each TNT molecule
- 3. Strongly electronegative, long-lasting reducing conditions prevent accumulation of partial breakdown products (i.e., long-lasting organic carbon + ZVI)



Fate of Nitroaromatics During Reductive Treatment



Fate of Organic Explosives in Soil

- 1. NO₂ groups less strongly adsorbed
- 2. NH₂ groups strongly adsorbed
- 3. Some reversibility when NO₂ group is present
- 4. Three NH₂ groups (TAT) is adsorbed irreversibly
- 5. Highlights the importance of preventing accumulation of partial reduction products such as mono and diamino nitrotoluenes
- 6. TAT is not desorbed hydrolysis or silylation
- 7. Supported by soil toxicology studies

Lenke, H., Achtnich, C., and Knackmuss, H.-J. In: Biodegradation of Nitroaromatic Compounds and Explosives. 2000. Eds.: Spain, J., Hughes, J, and Knackmuss, H.-J.

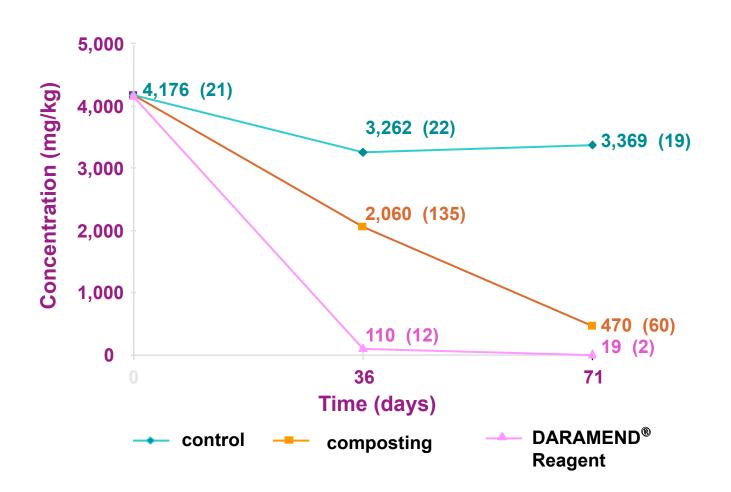


Performance Data Daramend® Reagent for Organic Explosive Compounds



Degradation and Toxicity

TNT and Total Amino Compounds



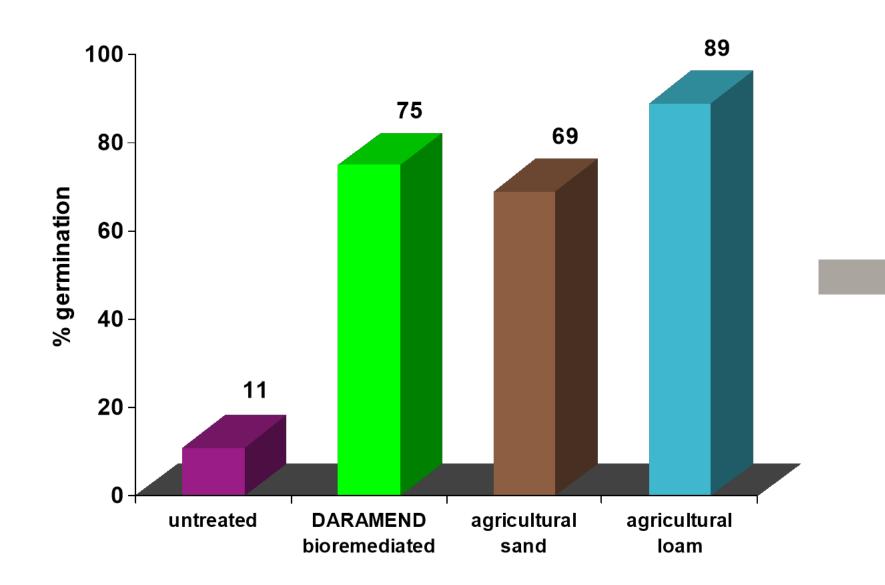
Numbers in parentheses indicate total amino compounds by EPA 8330 Method.

Weldon Springs, MO Site



Degradation and Toxicity

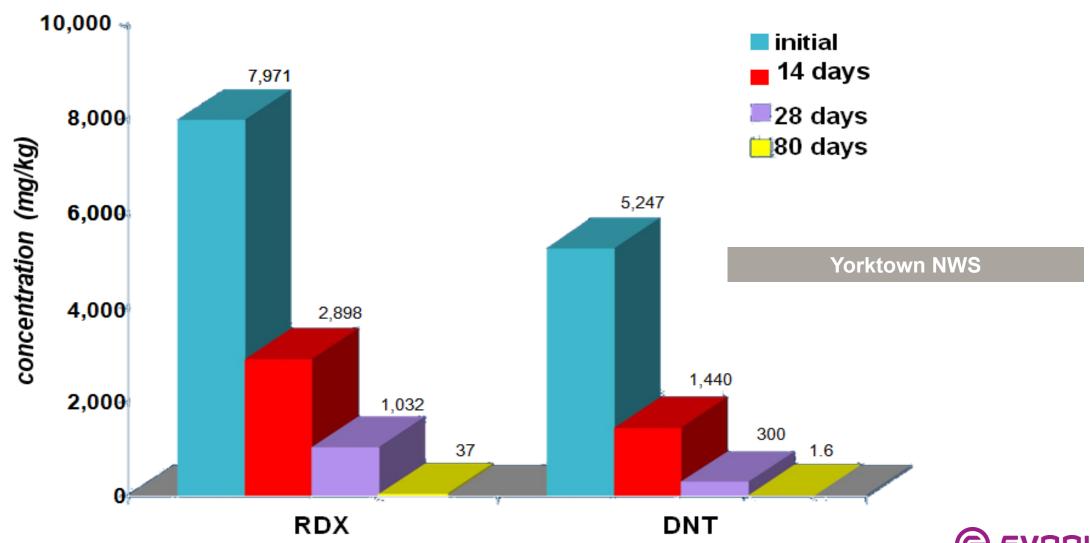
Effect on Tomato Seed Germination in Organic Explosive Contaminated Soil



Raritan Arsenal



Influence of Daramend® Treatment on RDX and DNT in Soil



Pilot Study

Tooele Army Depot Tooele, UT



Project Background

- 1. Tooele Army Depot (TEAD, Near Salt Lake City)
- 2. TNT Washout Facility (SWMU-10)
- 3. ~10,000 CY Soil
- 4. TNT and RDX (up to 2500 and 1000 mg/kg)
- 5. Exposure Pathway
- 6. Treatment Goals (TNT 86 mg/kg; RDX 31 mg/kg)
- 7. Selected Remedy



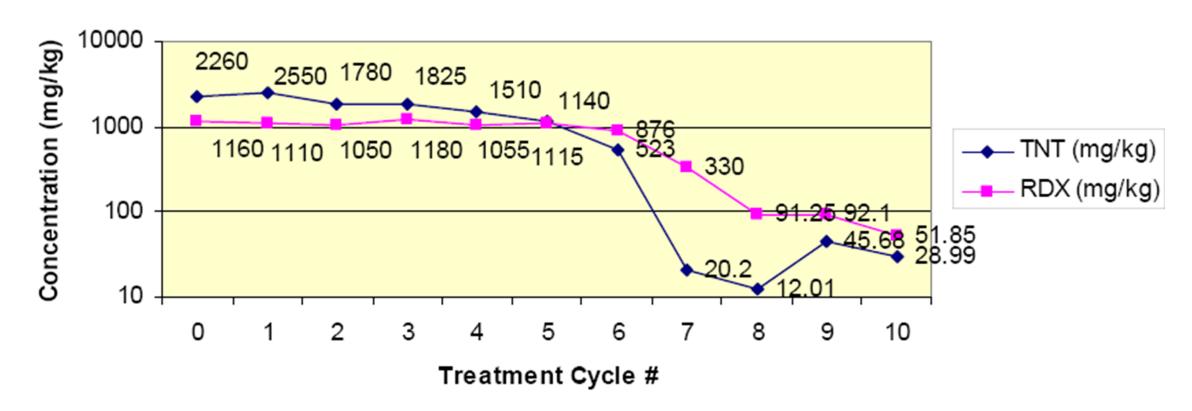
Implementation - Pilot Study

- 7 CY Soil treated in Greenhouse
- Soils initially cool and soil relatively dry
- Increased moisture (62% -92%) and temps (13-40 C) in later cycles
- ORP from +75 at start to -550 mV at end
- Cycles typically 0.5 to 1 wt% DARAMEND®



Pilot Results

Treatment Influence on TNT and RDX Concentrations (Averaged)





Pilot Lessons Learned

Primary

Process Controls

- Maintain soil temp at 25 C or higher
- Target 90% soil WHC

Secondary

Process Observations

- ORP
- Odor
- Soil Consistency
- Fungus



Full Scale Case Study

Tooele Army Depot Tooele, UT

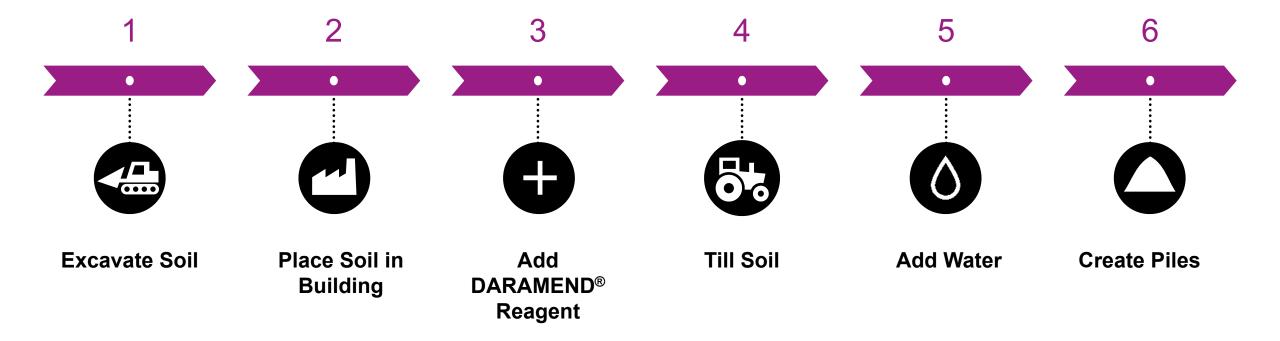


Implementation - Full Scale

- Conducted inside building (2008)
- ~3000 CY/batch
- 3.5 wt% DARAMEND/batch
- 8900 CY treated



Daramend® Implementation Steps – Tooele Site



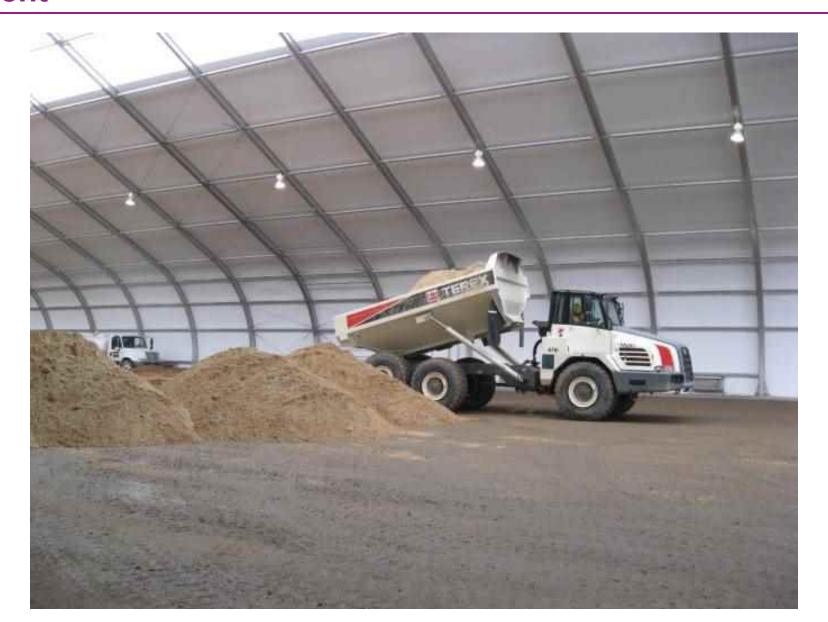


Soil Excavation





Soil Placement





DARAMEND® Addition





Soil Tilling





Water Addition





Create Piles





Fungus





Full Scale Results

- Single DARAMEND® Addition
- Additional declines over time
- Little Process Data Collected
- Slow Water Additions (1 week)
- Product Cost \$62/CY
- 8900 CY treated
- \$4.75 million under budget
- Dosage ~5% of Conventional Composting
 - 3.5 wt % DARAMEND
 - 70 wt % Organic Matter for Compost



Batch 1 Data

| | Treatment Goal | Initial* | Post Treatment* | One Week Post- Treatment** |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| RDX (PPM) | 31 | 563 | 13 | 6 |
| TNT (PPM) | 86 | 802 | 138 | 7 |

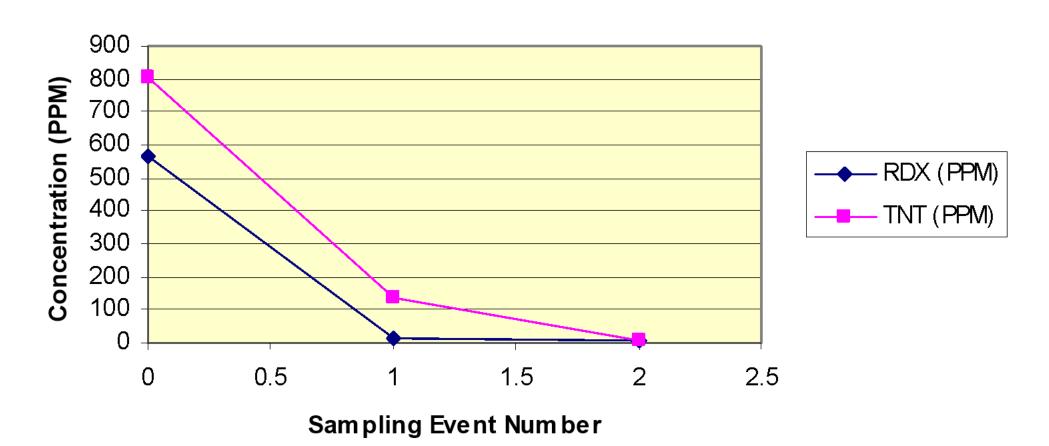


^{*} Average of six samples

^{**} Average of three samples (re-sample of highest areas)

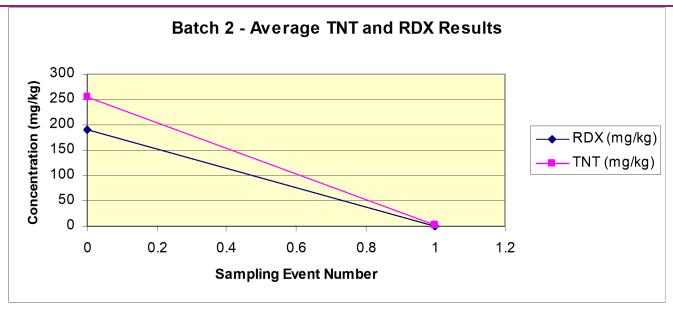
Batch 1 Data, cont.

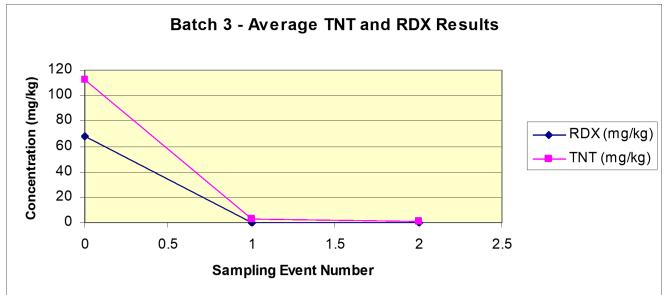
Average TNT and RDX Results





Batch 2 and Batch 3 Results







Daramend® Technology Summary

- √ 25-year track record with a wide range of soil conditions
- ✓ Proven effective for treatment of organic explosive compounds, as well as most chlorinated pesticides, herbicides, cVOCs
- ✓ Economical alternative to off site disposal.
- ✓ Promotes contaminant destruction over sequestration or relocation.
- ✓ Sustainable low carbon footprint approach that enables soil recycling/reuse.



Questions?

John Valkenburg
Technical Sales Manager
John.Valkenburg@evonik.com

Evonik Corporation
Soil & Groundwater Remediation
remediation@evonik.com
www.evonik.com/remediation



