In-situ Thermal Treatment of Trichloroethene at Marshall Space Flight Center

Jason Cole, William J. McElroy, Jason Glasgow (CH2M HILL, Inc.)
Gorm Heron, Jim Galligan, and Ken Parker (TerraTherm, Inc., Fitchburg, MA)
E.F. Davis (NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL)
Background 1

• Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) is the principle propulsion development center for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
  – Located in Huntsville, Alabama MSFC covers ~1,800 acres within the boundary of Redstone Arsenal (U.S. Army).
  – 79 sites regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Resource Conservation and Liability Act (CERCLA).
  – Groundwater has been integrated into one operable unit (OU-3)

• Groundwater Strategy
  – Identify contaminant sources, contributing sites or activities;
  – Characterize major groundwater plumes;
  – Eliminate / Reduce Source Areas; and
  – Monitor to verify treatment effectiveness and continued compliance with regulatory framework.

• [REFERENCE GRAPHIC LOCATOR MAPS]
Background 2

- Five major groundwater plumes and 15 “hot spots” have been identified.
- Chlorinated solvents are the dominant contaminants site wide; trichloroethylene (TCE) is the most abundant and widespread.
- Treatability study program initiated to:
  - assess degree of in-situ technology effectiveness
  - reduce uncertainties in future OU-3 feasibility study.
- Study area selection:
  - Screen source area contaminants
  - Identify potentially applicable in-situ treatment technologies
  - Develop numeric ranking to select study areas and technologies.

- [REFERENCE THERMAL IMMAGRY]
Source Area -13

- Source Area-13 (SA-13) was one of four study areas selected.
- SA-13 history and investigation results indicate that a former drum storage pad area outside of building 4705 was the likely source area of contaminants.
  - TCE is the primary soil and groundwater contaminant
  - Presence of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) suspected:
    - TCE soil concentrations ≥ 260 mg/kg and groundwater ≥ 11,000 µg/l

- In-situ technologies selected for evaluation:
  - In-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO)
  - In-situ Thermal Treatment (ISTT)

- Treatment at SA-13 by ISCO had limited effectiveness.
- On the basis of the ISCO results, NASA made the decision to evaluate ISTT at SA-13.
- [REFERENCE CONCEPTUAL SITE MODEL AND PLAN VIEW MAP]
In-situ Thermal Treatment

- SEE: Steam Enhanced Extraction
- DUS: Dynamic Underground Stripping
- ERH: Electrical Resistance Heating
- SPH™: Six Phase Heating
- ET-DSP™: Electro-Thermal Dynamic Stripping Process
- RF: Radio Frequency
- ISTD™: In-situ Thermal Desorption
SUMMARY OF KEY CSM UNCERTAINTIES

1. Quantity of TCE used and released to the environment
2. Presence of major secondary sources of contamination
3. Presence of NAPL
4. Vertical extent of groundwater contamination

NOTES:
1. Locations and scales are approximate.
SA-13 Lithology

• Regional subsurface lithology consists of weathered clayey residuum overlying karst limestone bedrock:
  – Groundwater occurs in the residuum and bedrock units;
  – Connectivity between units is variable across MSFC;
  – Flow is seasonally affected by downgradient surface water; and
  – Discharges through springs and seepage areas

• Subsurface conditions at SA-13 consist of approximately 35 feet of clayey residuum that transitions to bedrock through a 5-foot thick saturated zone:
  – The water-bearing zone is composed of gravel, sand, silt and clay which overlies weathered limestone bedrock.
  – Permeability of the residuum increases with depth.

• [REFERENCE GAMMA LOG FROM MW00-304]
Residuum Profile...continued
SA-13 In-Situ Thermal TS

• Implement ISTT in “hot spot” of source area to assess technology treatment capability
• In-situ Thermal Desorption (ISTD) process was selected for ISTT demonstration
• ISTD process originally developed by SHELL and licensed to TerraTherm®
  – electrical subsurface heating by thermal conduction
  – concurrent extraction of vapor and groundwater
  – ex-situ treatment of extracted fluids

• [Reference ISTD FIGURES]
SA-13 ISTD System Components

Power distribution system

Heater and vacuum wells

Knockout pot

Heat exchanger

Vapor treatment

Chilled Heat exchanger

Water treatment

Holding Tank

Treated vapor to atmosphere

Extracted Groundwater

Liquid transported to Building 4761 for Treatment

Temperature and pressure monitoring holes

Treatment area foot-print

Groundwater extraction wells
ISTD Overview

Heater-Vacuum Well

Very Hot Thermal Destruction Zone

Heater Wells

Process Trailer

Hexagonal Well Pattern
Heaters
SA-13 In-Situ Thermal TS

• Target treatment zone (TTZ) delineation:
  – Treatment area of approximately 500 square feet.
  – Vertical interval from 15’ to 42’ ft below land surface including 5 feet into underlying bedrock.

• Agencies suggested ISTT implementation as a CERCLA interim action under an Interim Record of Decision (IROD).

• Primary performance objective
  – Reduce estimated mass and average concentrations of TCE in TTZ soil and groundwater by 80% or greater.

• [Reference SITE MAPS/TTZ FIGURES]
SA-13 ISTD Wellfield Layout

- 10 Heater-only wells
- 8 Heater/vapor recovery wells
- 4 Multiphase fluid extraction wells
- 9 Process monitoring wells
  - Pressure
  - Temperature (7 discrete intervals from 12 to 42 feet below ground surface)
- 8 Groundwater performance monitoring wells
  - 6 residuum
  - 2 bedrock

[REFERENCE WELL FIELD LAYOUT PHOTO]
ISTD Process and Instrumentation

Vapor and entrained liquid from well-field

Heat exchanger

Liquid-vapor separator

Blower

Chilling compression unit

NAPL waste tank

Vapor GAC polisher

Holding tank for condensate

Liquid GAC

Water to discharge or holding tank

Temperature

Pressure

Flow

Sampling point

Vapors to stack
Treatment Zone Temperature

Average Treatment Zone Temperature as a Function of Time

(73°C) TCE & Water Co-Boiling Point

MW00-312
MW00-313
MW00-314
MW00-318

Temperature (°C)

Treatment Days
SA-13 System Removals
SA-13 DNAPL (typical photos)
Treatment Results 1

Soil Sample Results MW00-312 / SB05-244

TCE Concentration (mg/kg)
Depth Below Ground Surface (feet)

Post Treatment
Pretreatment
Treatment Results 2

Soil Sample Results MW00-318 / SB05-247

TCE Concentration (mg/kg) vs. Depth Below Ground Surface (feet)

- Pretreatment
- Post Treatment
Treatment Results 3

Soil Sample Results MW00-314 / SB05-246

TCE Concentration (mg/kg) vs. Depth Below Ground Surface (feet)

- Post Treatment
- Pretreatment
Treatment Results 4

Soil Sample Results MW00-313 / SB05-245

TCE Concentration (mg/kg) vs. Depth Below Ground Surface (feet)

- Post Treatment
- Pretreatment
Treatment Results 5

Treatment Zone Average Groundwater Concentration

80% Average Reduction Value = 16,700 µg/L

TCE MCL = 5 µg/L

ISTT System Operation
### SA-13 TCE Removal Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Residuum Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Treatment Concentrations</td>
<td>57.4 mg/kg</td>
<td>77,860 µg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Treatment Mass</td>
<td>39.1 lbs</td>
<td>26.3 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Treatment Concentrations</td>
<td>0.05 mg/kg</td>
<td>2,870 µg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Treatment Mass</td>
<td>0.09 lbs</td>
<td>5.4 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration Reduction</td>
<td>99.9 %</td>
<td>96.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Mass Reduction</td>
<td>99.8 %</td>
<td>~ 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

• The Interim Action removed approximately 400 pounds of TCE.
• First application of ISTT at MSFC and in the state of Alabama.
• Interim remedial action objectives and goals established for ISTT at SA-13 were achieved.
• Technology proved highly effective for:
  – source area mass reduction;
  – chlorinated solvent removal from the saturated and unsaturated residuum; and
  – treatment of heterogeneous subsurface environments.