

# Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility Leak Cleanup

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**New Mexico Tech Engineering  
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# Site History

- The Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) is located in the northwestern portion of the base and began operation in 1953.
- BFF was the fueling area for the installation and received bulk shipments of fuel from railcars and trucks.
- An underground pipeline extending from the fuel off-loading area to the fuel pump house gradually leaked jet fuel into the ground.
- The leak was discovered in 1999 and KAFB sealed off the underground pipe and removed it from service.
- The KAFB fuels facility was replaced in 2011 with all above-ground piping and tanks along with state-of-the-art leak detection technology.

# 1999 Leak Photos at BFF

Metal Stair Step

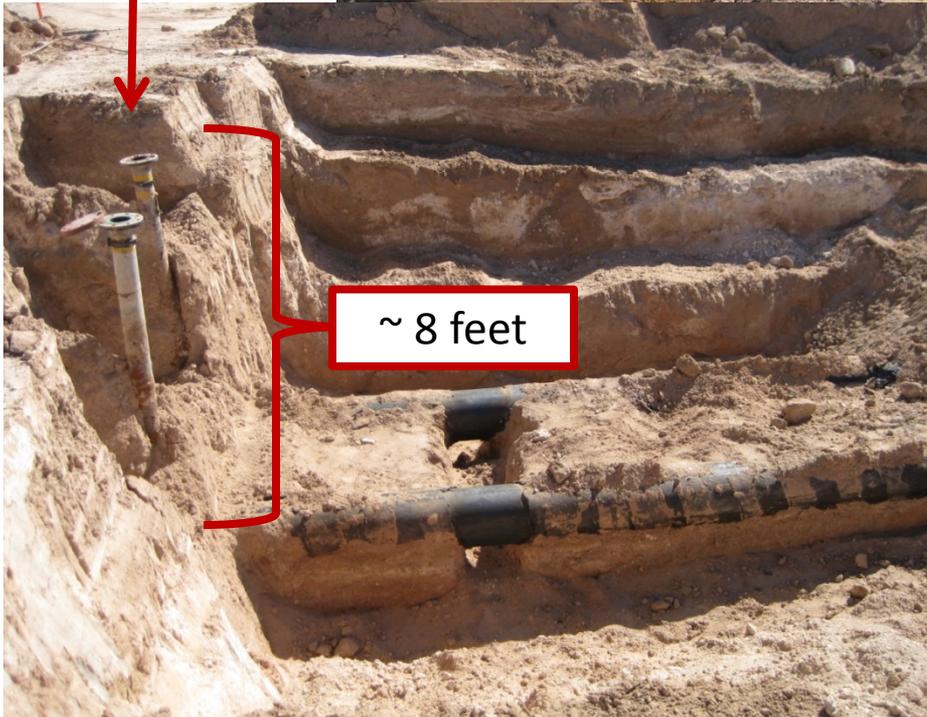


# Removal of Piping 2010 Photos



Hole in Bottom of Transfer Pipe

Pipe Connect into the Pump House Building

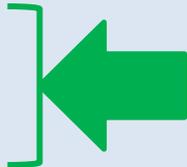


~ 8 feet

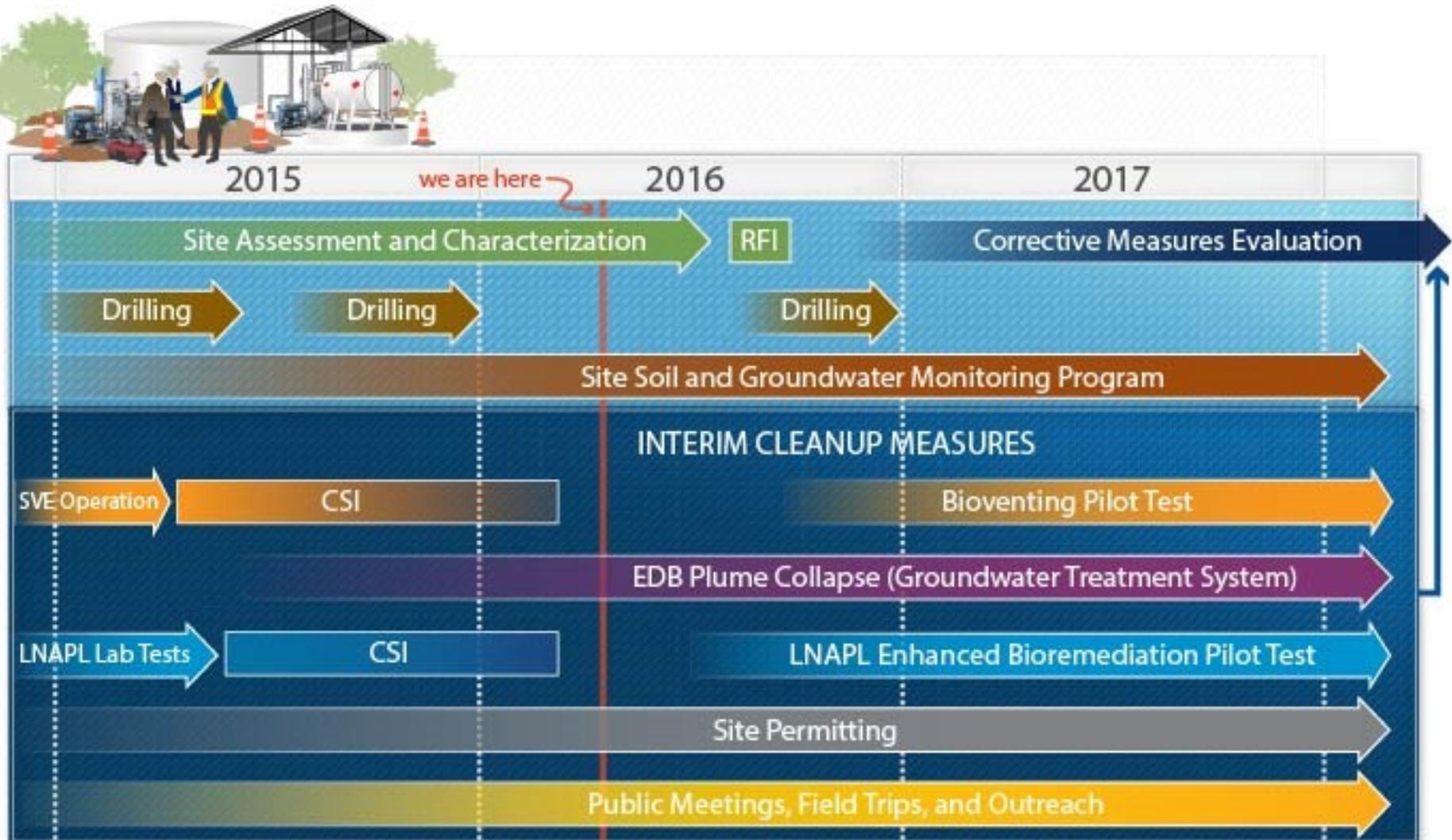


Pipe Bent when Removed from Trench

# Regulatory Framework

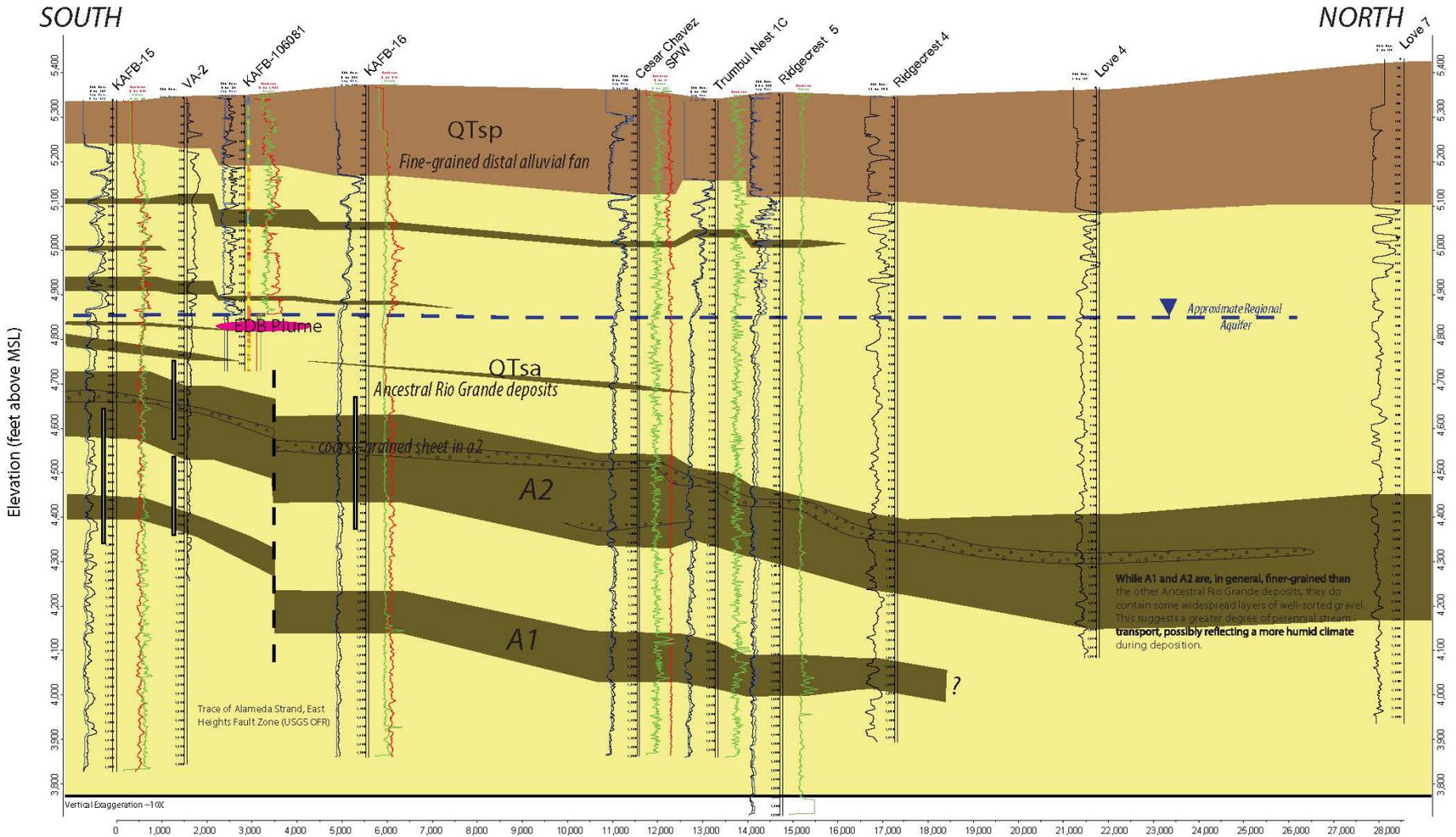
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) governs the fuel leak site through the administration of two federal acts:
    - Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA)
    - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
  - Site activities are being completed under the Corrective Action provision of RCRA and KAFB's permit:
    - Site Investigation
    - Interim Measures (IMs)
    - Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME)
    - Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI)
-  The BFF project is here

# Timeline



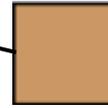
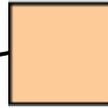


# Regional Scale Geology

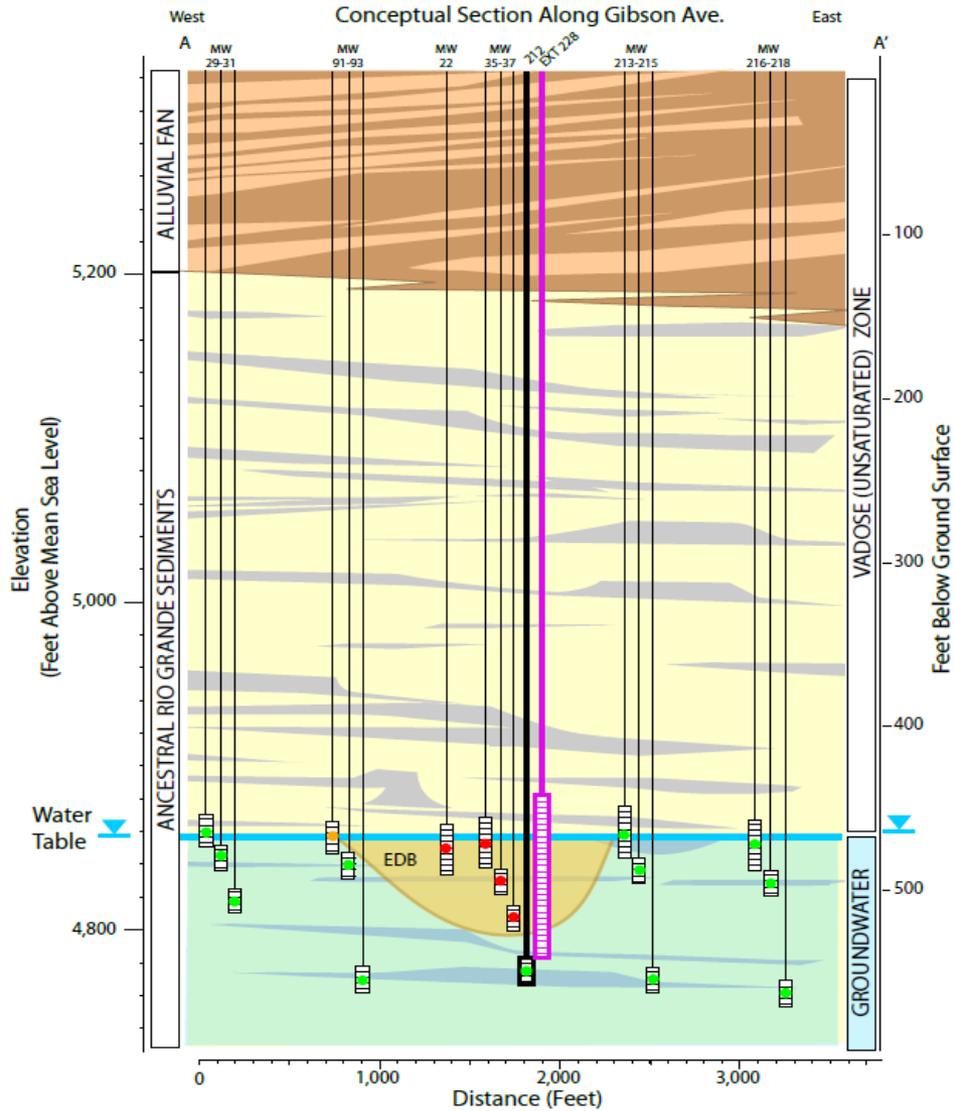


# Understanding the Geology

Alluvial Fan Deposits

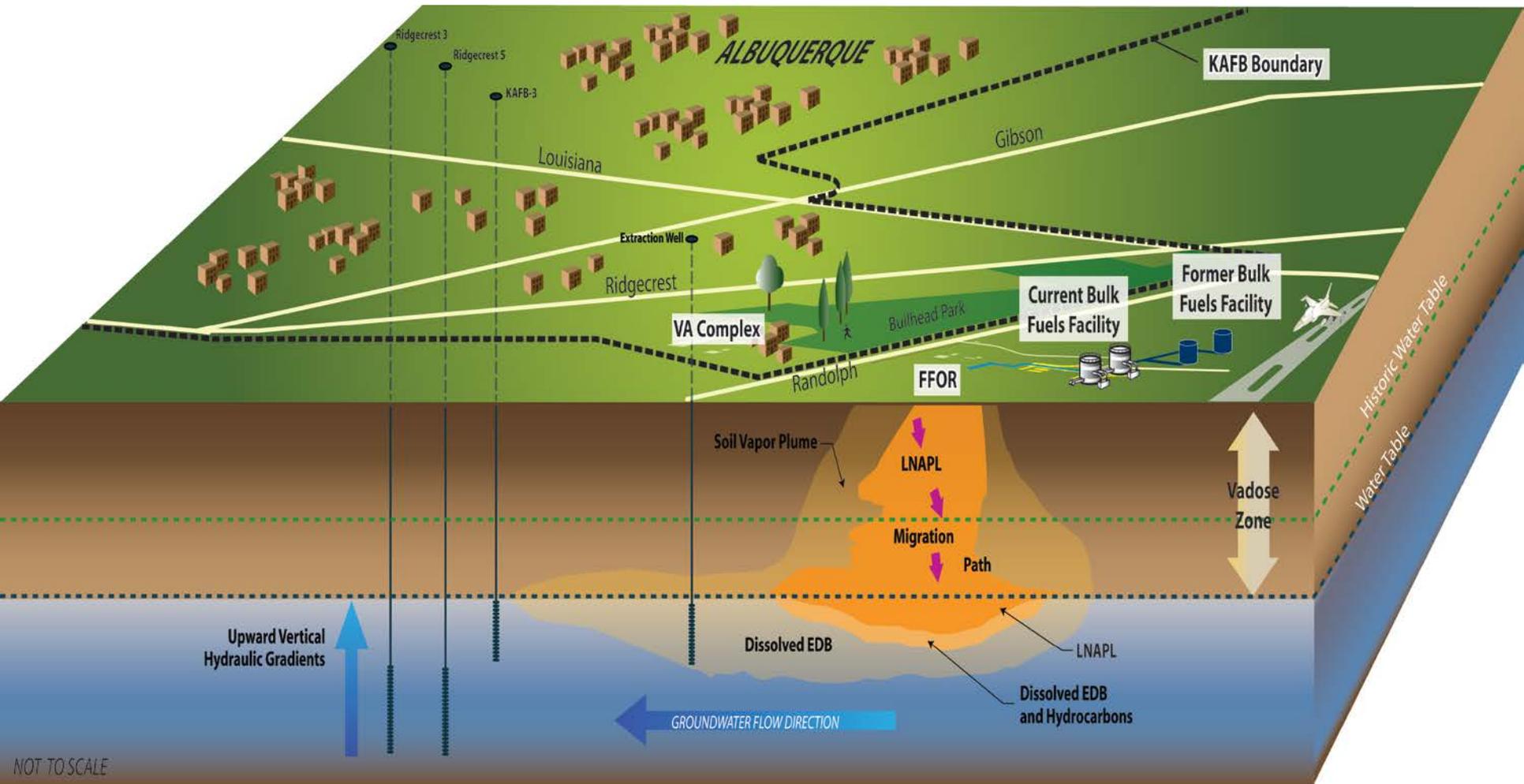


Ancestral Rio Grande Braided River Deposits



# Conceptual Site Model

## *A dynamic understanding*



NOT TO SCALE

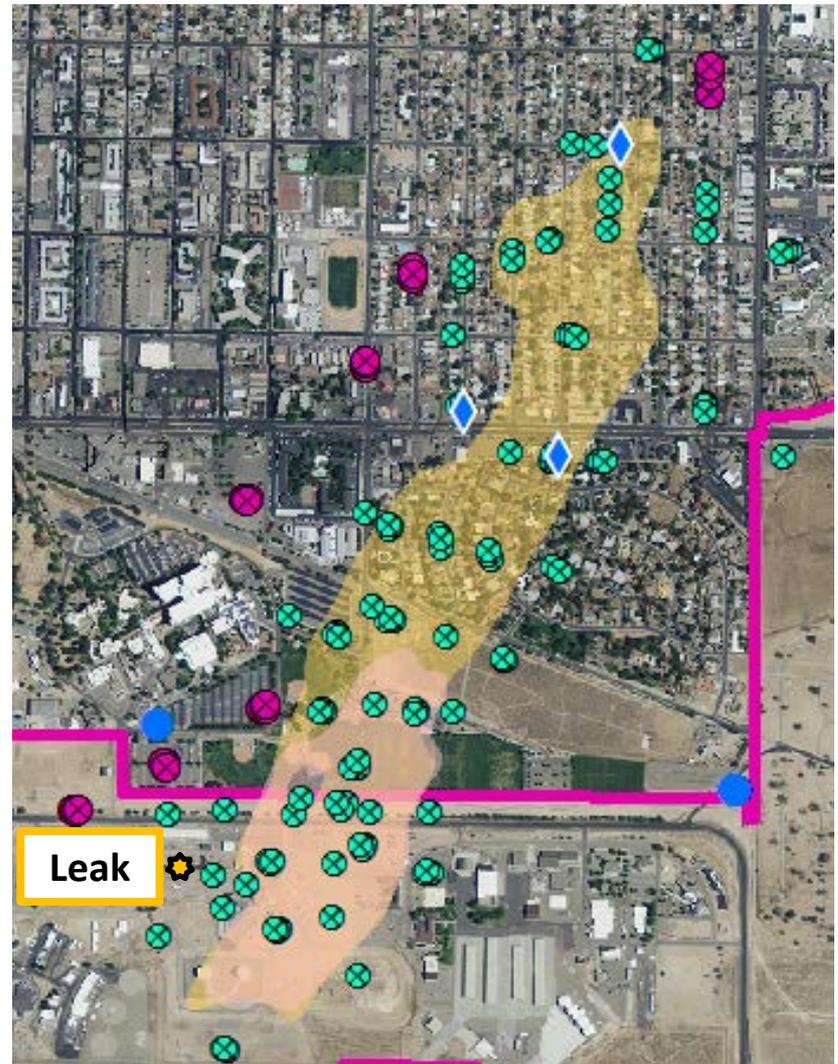
# Conceptual Site Model

## *A dynamic understanding*

- As we continue to collect data, we are able to further refine the conceptual site model
  - *Vadose zone*: Results of ongoing respiration and rebound test results inform understanding of active aerobic hydrocarbon degradation, limited microbial activity, and hydrocarbon “hot spots”.
  - *Groundwater*: Sample results from the four newest groundwater monitoring wells indicate a final data gap remains in the northwestern edge of the EDB plume.

# Plume Anatomy

- No biodegradation



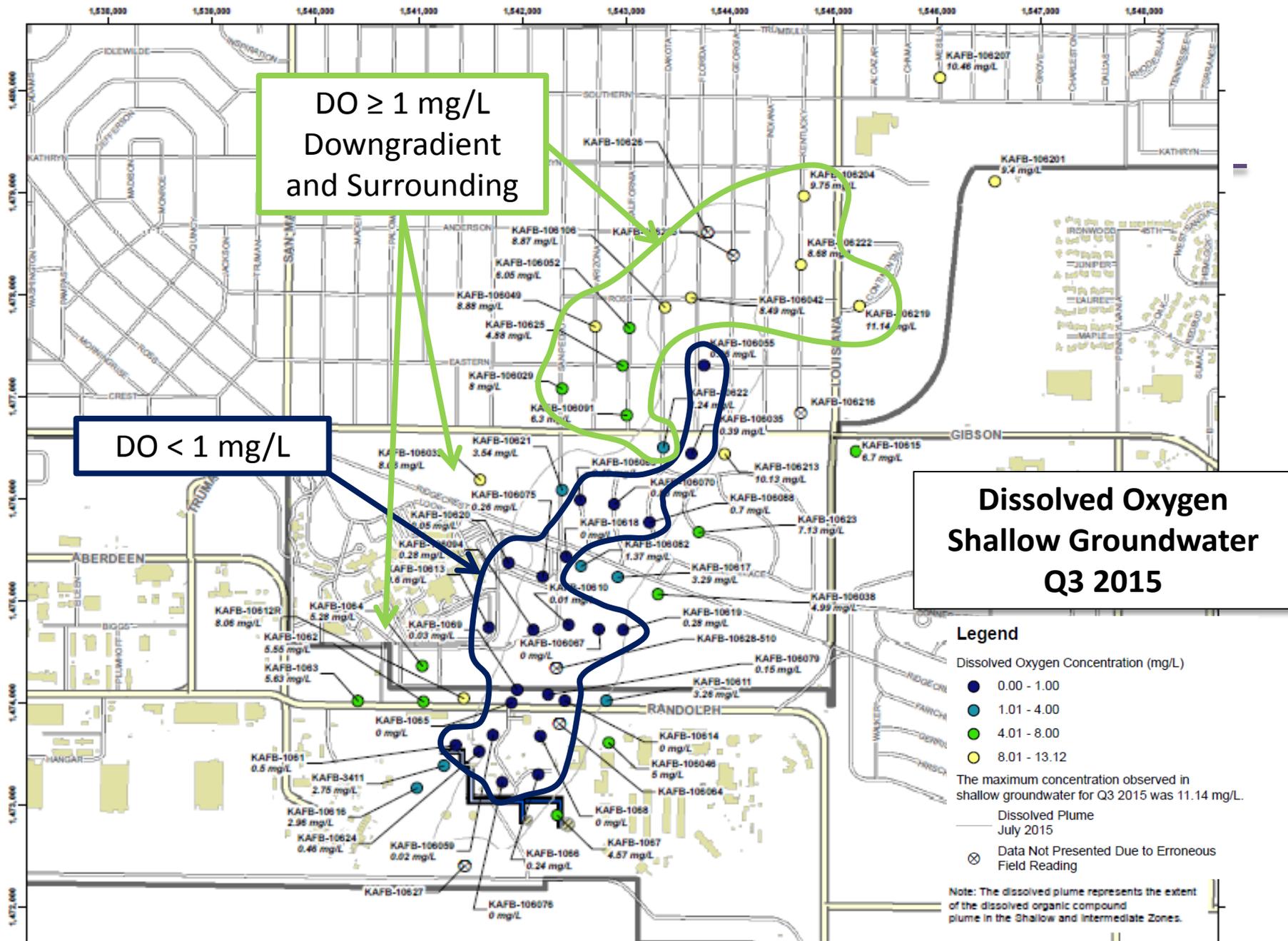
# Plume Geochemistry

## Redox Conditions

- Lines of evidence for redox conditions:
  - Dissolved oxygen  $< 1$  mg/L  $\rightarrow$  anaerobic
  - Dissolved oxygen  $\geq 1$  mg/L  $\rightarrow$  aerobic
  - Anaerobic redox conditions require further definition through evaluation of nitrate, manganese, iron, sulfate, and carbon dioxide.

### **Redox Take-Away:**

Understanding redox conditions is crucial for understanding the occurrence and degradation of plume constituents.



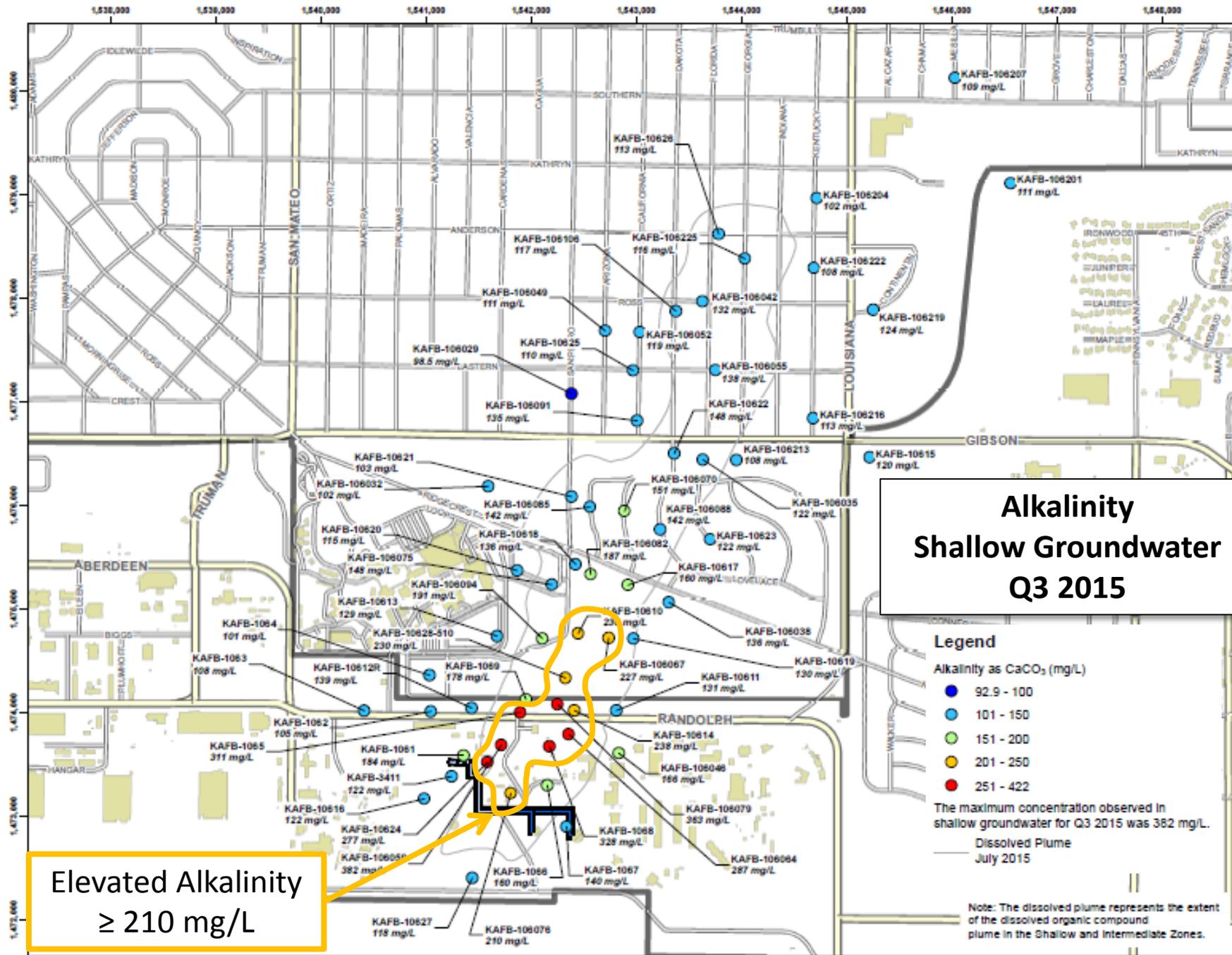
# Plume Geochemistry

## Degradation

- Hydrocarbons can undergo biological degradation
- Lines of evidence for biodegradation
  - Elevated alkalinity (> 210 mg/L)
  - Elevated bromide
  - Redox conditions
  - Decreased O<sub>2</sub> and hydrocarbon concentration

### **Degradation Take-Away**

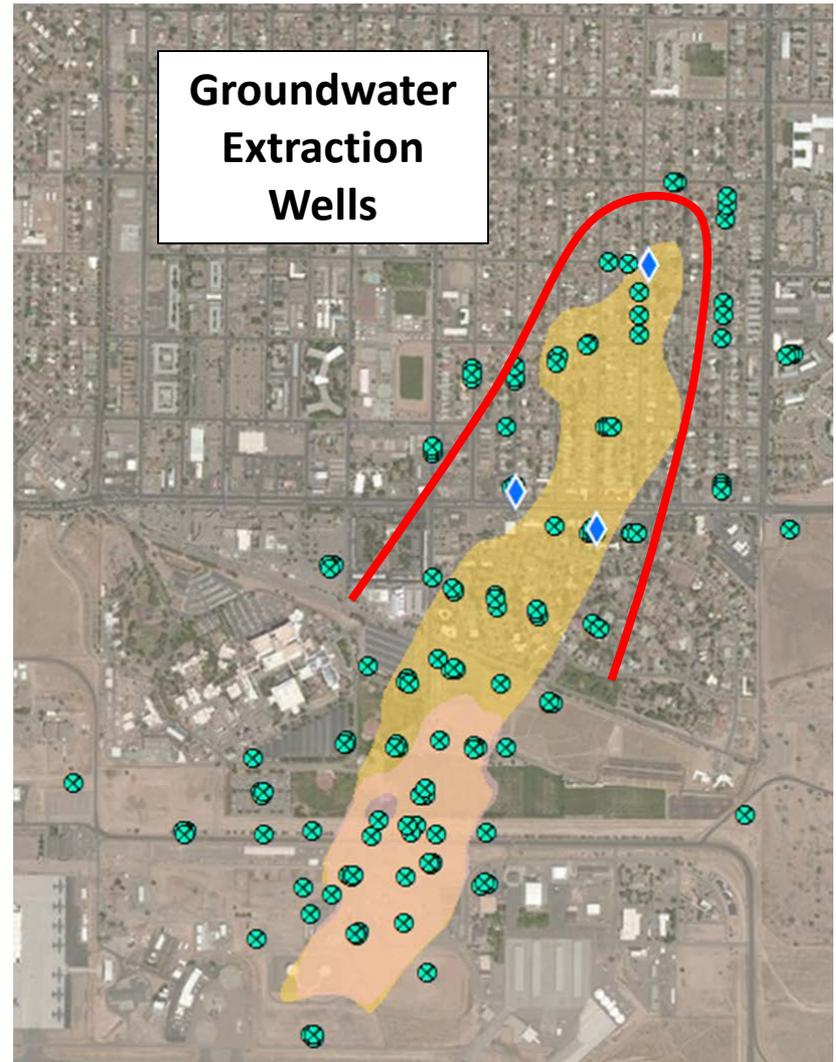
Multiple biodegradation processes can occur and each process results in different degradation rates for individual hydrocarbon compounds.



# Interim Measure Strategies at BFF

Source Removal

near the dissolved plumes



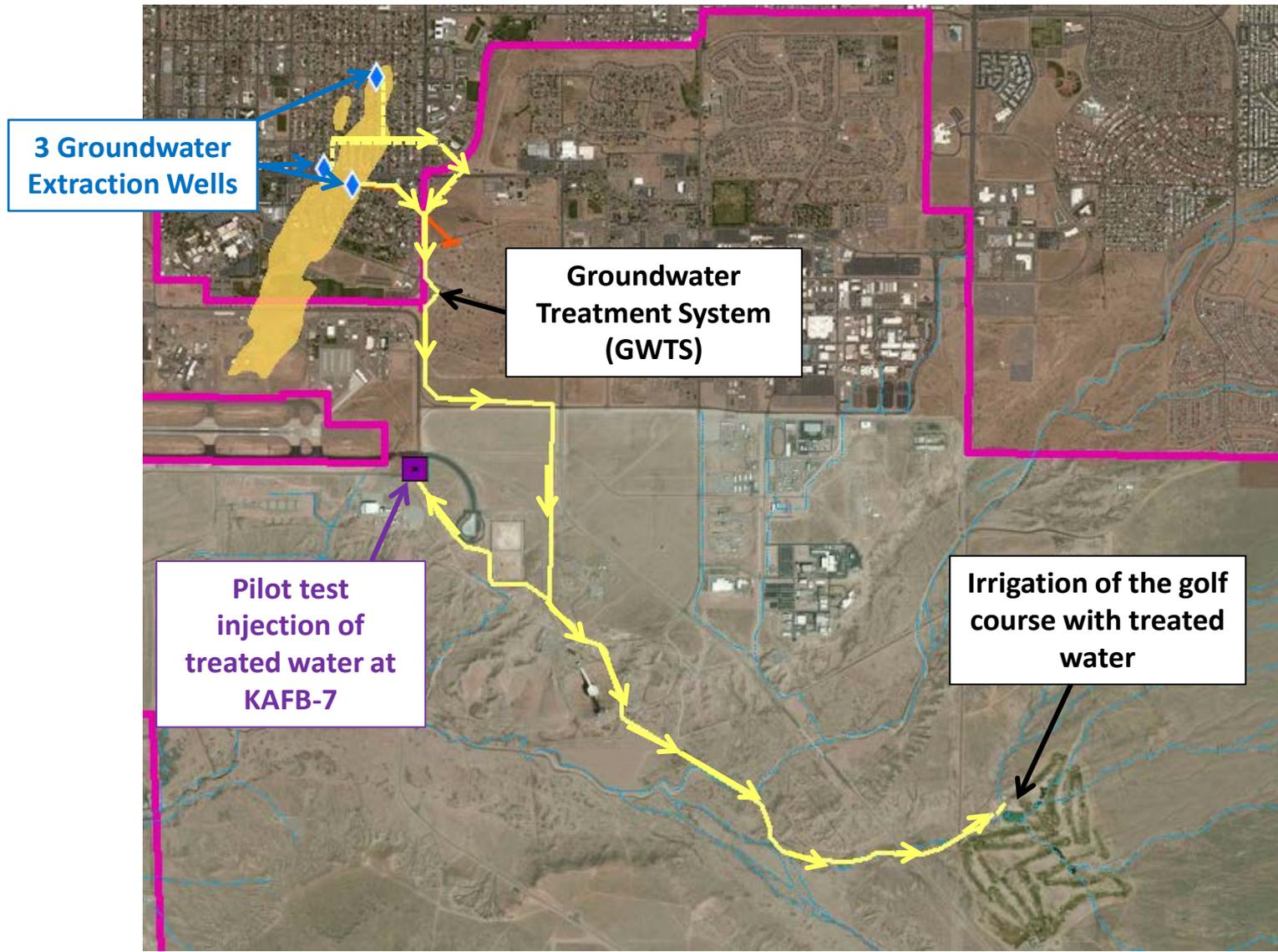
# Groundwater Remediation

- Technical working groups met to resolve two issues:
  - Source control (primary and secondary)
  - Protection of human health and the environment through cleanup to regulatory standards
- Technologies evaluated include:
  - Pump and treat
  - Air sparging
  - Permeable reactive barriers
  - Monitored natural attenuation
  - Enhanced bioremediation - recirculation

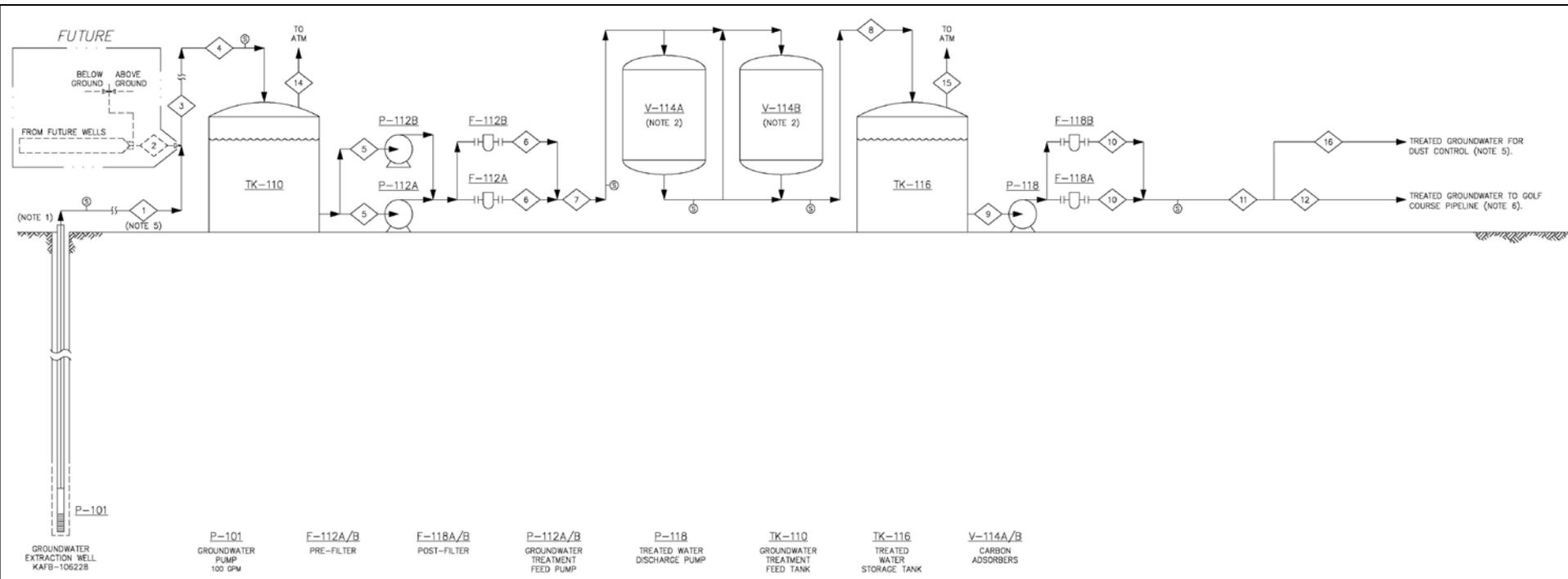
Remediation is **NOT** one-size fits all. Key factors include:

- Site geology and hydrology
- Depth of contamination
- Infrastructure requirements
- Cost

# EDB Plume Collapse



# GWTS Process Flow Diagram



STREAM NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
COMPONENT	KAFB-106228 TO GWTS	FUTURE WELLS TO GWTS	WELL FIELD TO GWTS	INFLUENT TO FEED TANK	GWTS FEED PUMPS	PRE-FILTER	CARBON ABSORPTION INLET	TREATED WATER	DISCHARGE PUMP	POST-FILTER	TREATED GROUNDWATER	TREATED GROUNDWATER		GROUNDWATER TREATMENT FEED TANK VENT	TREATED WATER STORAGE TANK VENT	TREATED WATER TO DUST CONTROL CONNECTION		
LIQUID FLOW (DESIGN)	gpm	300	400	400	200	400	400	400	400	400	400	400				100 (NOTE 4)		
LIQUID FLOW (average)	gpm	100																
AIR FLOW	acfm (scfm)																	
ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE (EDB) (NOTE 3.4)	µg/L	2	2	2	2	2	2	LT 0.05	LT 0.05	LT 0.05	LT 0.05	LT 0.05						
PRESSURE	psig (ATM)	25	25	25	25	5	25	25	5	25	25	25		(12.05)	(12.05)			
TEMPERATURE	°F	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58		68	68			
DENSITY (AT 70°F)	lb/ft <sup>3</sup>	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4		0.061	0.061			

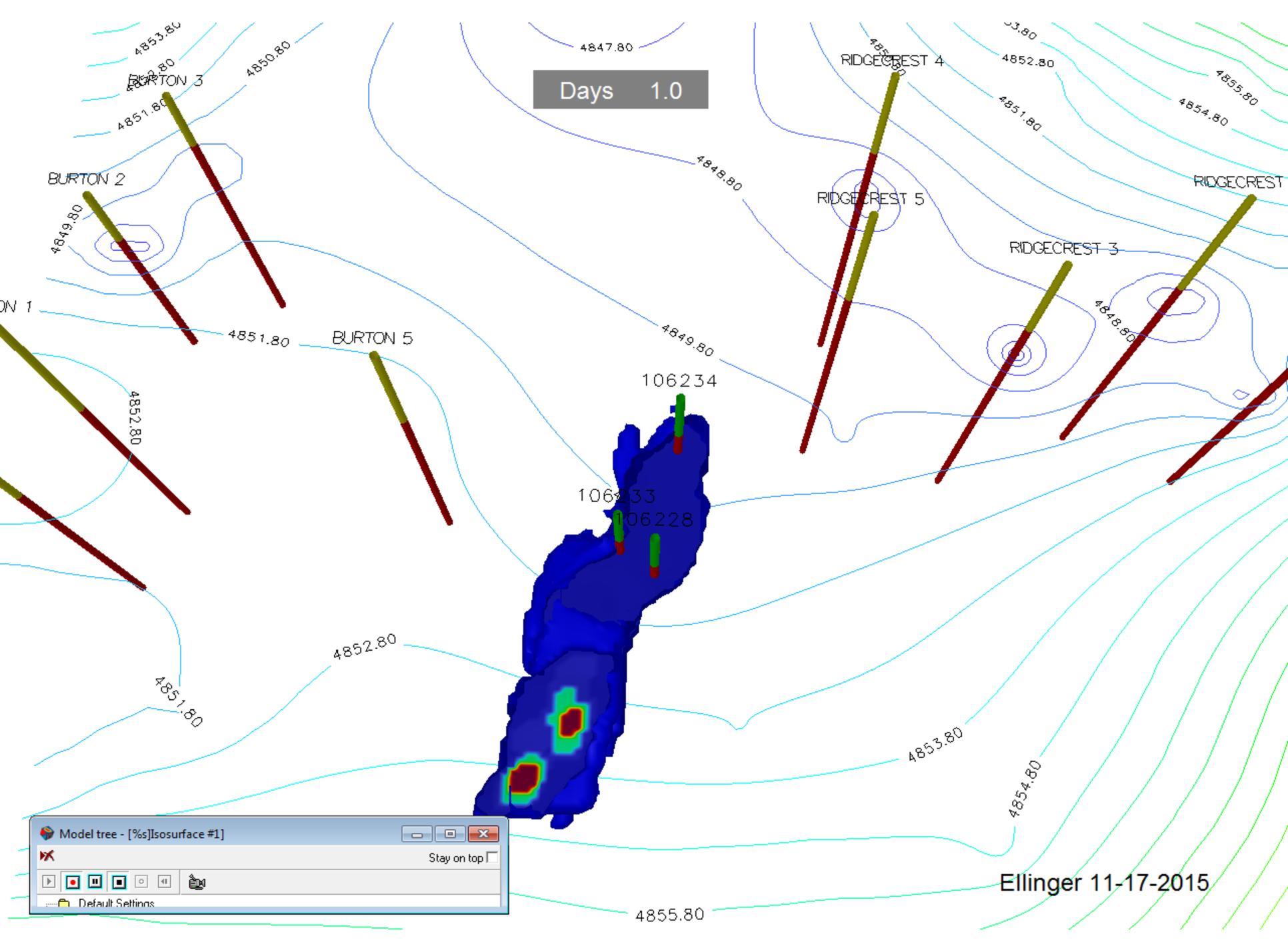


# GWTS Operation

- The full-scale GWTS came online, with three extraction wells, in December 2015
- Current extraction rates average at 400 gallons per minute
- Treated water is discharged at the KAFB Golf Course main pond or KAFB-7



Days 1.0



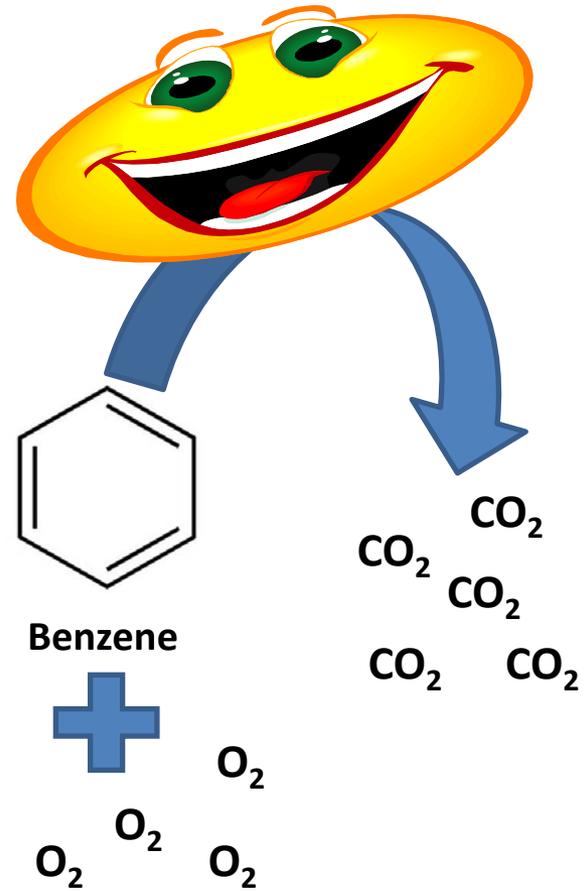
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# Bioremediation



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# Testing for Biodegradation

## **In Situ Respiration Testing**

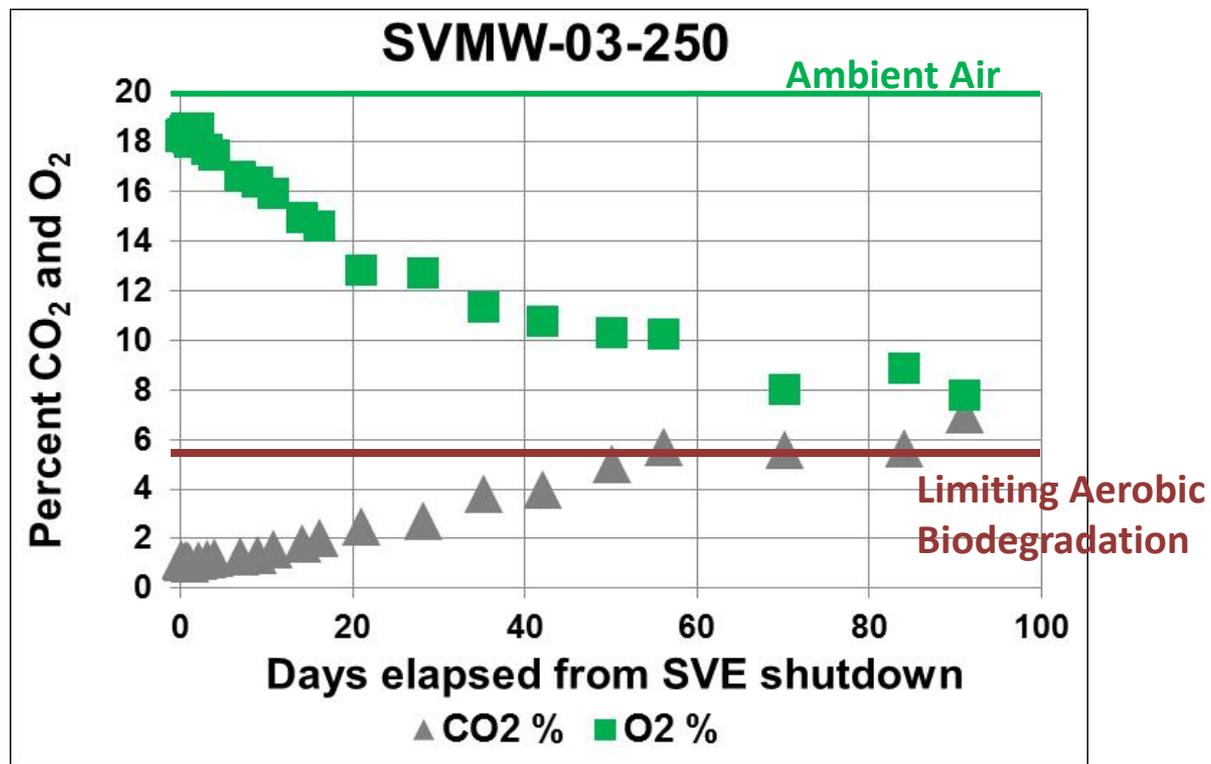
- Measure concentrations of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and hydrocarbons over time

## **Laboratory Microcosm Studies**

- Experiments run in a laboratory using groundwater and soil from the site
- Identify potential technologies for degradation of hydrocarbons, including EDB

# In Situ Respiration Testing Preliminary Observations

- Changes in O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> indicates aerobic hydrocarbon degradation
- Some locations indicate microbial activity limited due to relative humidity

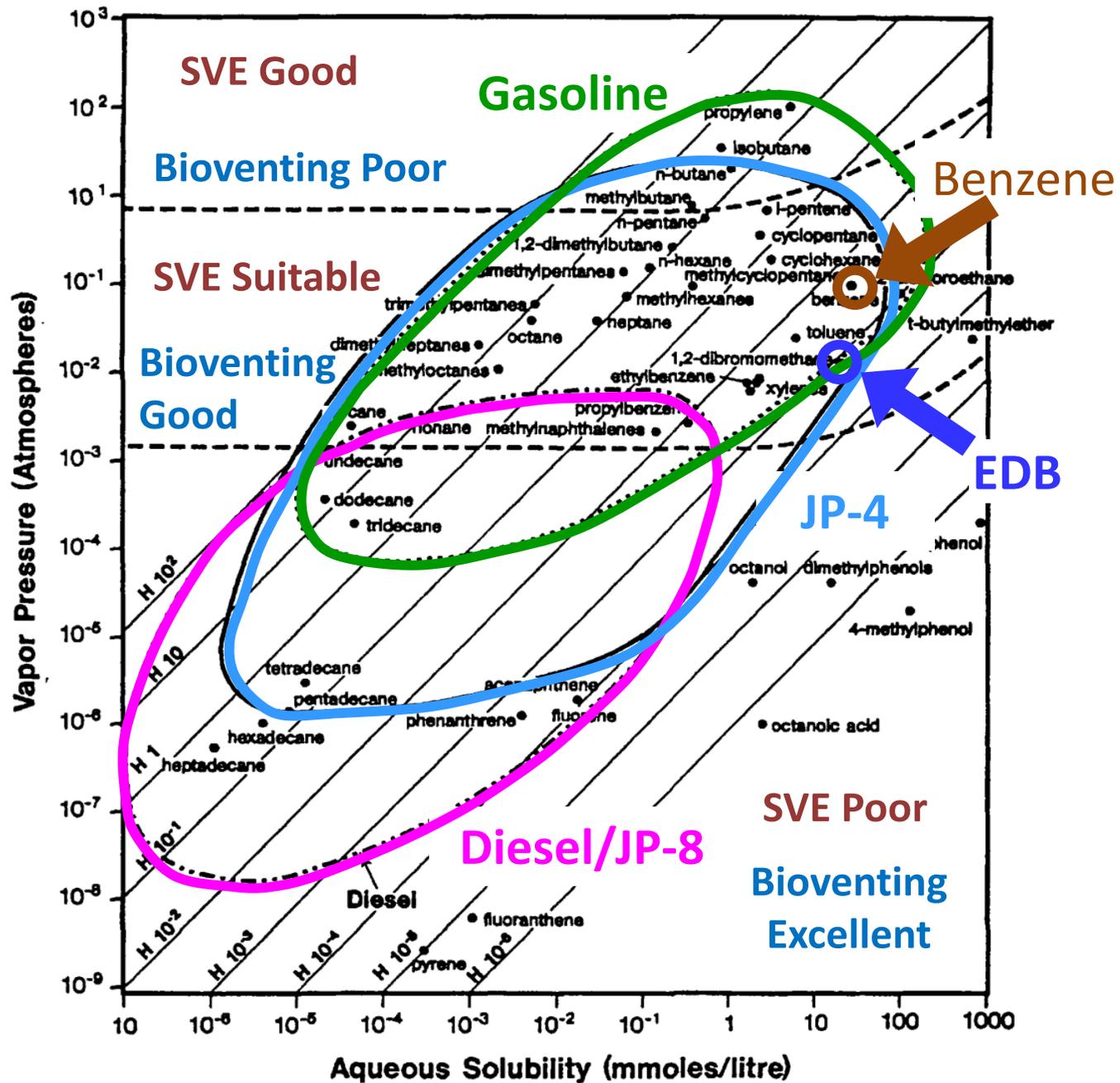


# Vadose Zone Remediation

- A technical working group specific to the vadose zone was tasked with addressing:
  - Source removal
  - Protection of human health and the environment
- Currently evaluating multiple technologies:
  - Soil Vapor Extraction
  - Bioventing
  - Natural attenuation

Remediation is **NOT** one-size fits all and evolves as the contaminant is cleanup overtime. Key factors include:

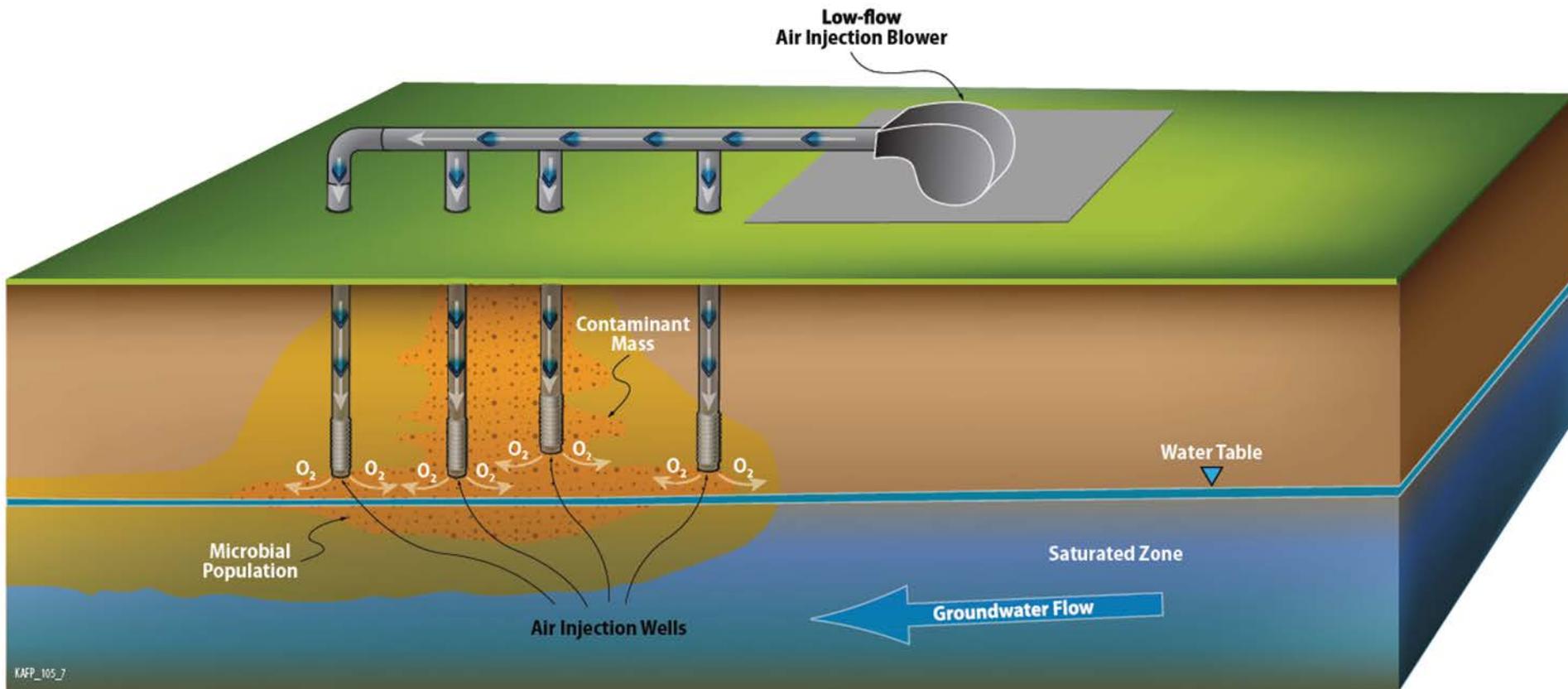
- Natural Conditions (aerobic vs anaerobic)
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Sustainability and Cost



H = Henry's Law Coefficient (atm · m<sup>3</sup>/mole)

# Bioventing

In-situ remediation technology that enhances the activity of indigenous bacteria to degrade contaminants of concern in the vadose zone by injection air or adding amendments



# Laboratory Microcosm Testing



**Two Areas of Plume Studied**

collected groundwater from  
the same well

# Microcosm Summary

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## Side Gradient

### Aerobic

- Complete BTEX and nearly complete EDB degradation

### Anaerobic

- Complete EDB degradation when *Dehalococcoides* added
- Minimal EDB degradation with added lactate, sulfate, Fe, and/or nutrients

## Source Area

### Aerobic

- Completed BTEX and partial EDB degradation

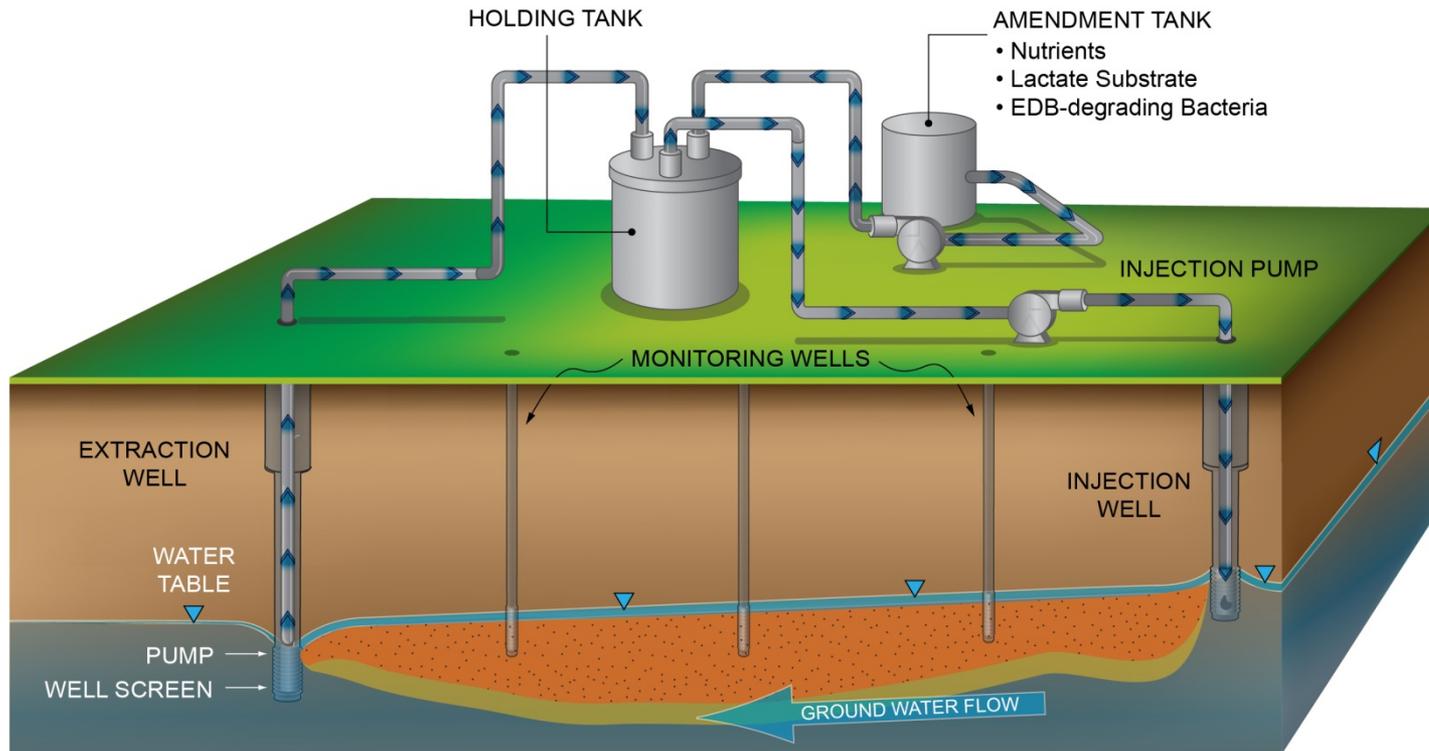
### Anaerobic

- Completed EDB degradation when *Dehalococcoides* added
- Minimal EDB degradation with added lactate, sulfate, Fe, and/or nutrients

# Anaerobic Biodegradation

## Groundwater Recirculation

- Pump groundwater and add amendments in phases
- Inject amended water up-gradient to create a recirculation cell
- Supports anaerobic degradation of EDB



# What's in Store for 2016?

- Drilling and installation of four data gap groundwater monitoring wells (Summer)
- Drilling, installation, and testing of a 4<sup>th</sup> extraction well south of Gibson (Summer/Fall)
- Construction and operation of anaerobic biodegradation interim measure (Summer)
- Aquifer testing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> extraction wells (Fall/Winter)
- Design and construction of bioventing interim measure (Winter)
- Continuous coring in the source area (Winter)

# About Kate

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Laboratory and the Pentagon

# About Diane

- Grew up in northeastern Colorado
- Received Bachelor's of Science in Geology from New Mexico Tech in 2003
- Received Master's in Hydrology from New Mexico Tech in 2006
- Worked in Dr. Bruce Harris' soils lab throughout undergrad and most of grad school
- Internship at Sandia National Labs in geomechanics lab
- Started her career in environmental consulting in 2005
- Started working for the New Mexico Environment Department in August 2015



# Discussion

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