

**QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE
ROCKY FLATS GROUNDWATER PLUME
TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

January through March 2002

March 26, 2001



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ACRONYM LIST

DOE	Department of Energy
ITS	Interceptor Trench System
HRC®	Hydrogen Release Compound®
MIP	Material Insertion Point
mg/l	milligrams per liter
OU	Operable Unit
PCE	Tetrachloroethene
pCi/l	picoCuries per liter
PU&D	Property Utilization and Disposal
RFCA	Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement
RFETS	Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site
SCFA	DOE Subsurface Contaminant Focus Area
TCE	Trichloroethene
ug/l	micrograms per liter
VOC	volatile organic compound

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report briefly describes the activities and performance monitoring data for the Solar Ponds Plume groundwater collection and treatment system and the Property Utilization and Disposal Yard (PU&D Yard) Plume Treatability Study at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS). As required by the respective decision documents, the remaining groundwater collection and treatment systems are now sampled semi-annually.

This is the final Quarterly Report for the groundwater plume treatment systems. In the future, the results will be compiled in the Annual Report prepared for each calendar year that includes available data for all five groundwater collection and treatment systems. The Annual Report includes available data for the reactive barriers for the Mound Site Plume, the East Trenches Plume and the Solar Ponds Plume, Operable Unit (OU) 1 – 881 Hillside system, and OU7 – Present Landfill Seep collection system. The PU&D Yard Plume Treatability Study results will also be summarized in the Annual Report.

1.1 Site Events

No events impacting the plume treatment systems occurred this quarter. However, little precipitation was received this quarter resulting in low flow rates for the plume treatment systems.

2.0 SOLAR PONDS PLUME TREATMENT SYSTEM

The Solar Ponds groundwater plume contains low levels of nitrate and uranium generally attributed to storage and evaporation of radioactive and hazardous liquid wastes in the Solar Evaporation Ponds from 1953 to 1986. These ponds were drained and the sludge removed by 1995. Six interceptor trenches were installed in 1971 to de-water the hillside north and downgradient of the ponds. The original six trenches were abandoned in place, and the Interceptor Trench System (ITS) was installed in 1981. The ITS was replaced with a 1,100-foot long collection system and passive treatment cell containing iron and wood chips in September 1999. The system components are shown on Figure 1. This system intercepts the water previously collected by the now defunct ITS.

The original system design placed the treatment cell adjacent to North Walnut Creek. With this design, water intercepted by the collection trench would flow by gravity to the treatment cell without detention in the collection trench. Because Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (a Federally Listed Threatened Species) is present at this optimal location for a flow-through treatment cell, the location of the treatment cell was moved 400 feet upgradient to a location immediately adjacent to the collection trench. As a result, the collection trench for this system must hold approximately 11 feet of groundwater to develop sufficient hydraulic head for the groundwater to flow into the treatment cell. This has reduced the amount of water treated.

Maintenance requirements consist of water level monitoring and sample collection. Based on information from other similar systems, the media does not require raking or other maintenance. It is expected that media replacement will be required 10 years after installation.

2.1 Project Status

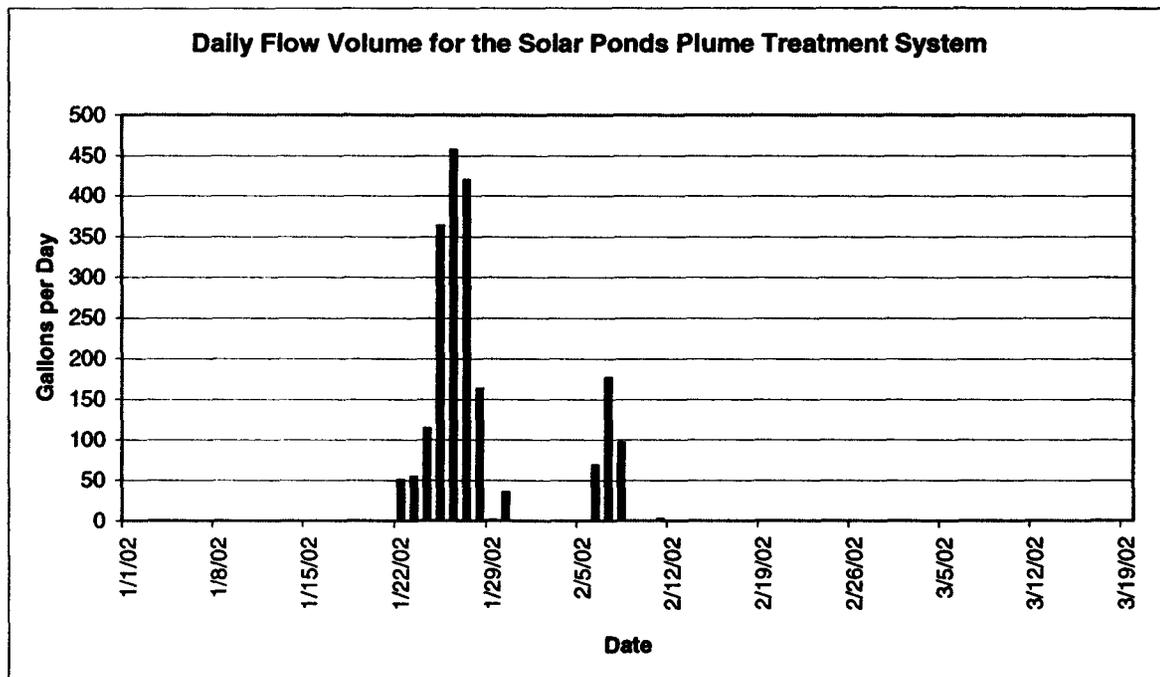
The Solar Ponds Plume system is currently collecting groundwater containing nitrate and uranium from the Solar Ponds Plume. However, some untreated groundwater is also reaching surface water at the discharge gallery. This results in higher nitrate levels in North Walnut Creek than were observed prior to system installation.

Surface water quality continues to be well below applicable standards of 10 picoCuries per liter (pCi/l) uranium and 100 milligrams per liter (mg/l) nitrate specified in the Solar Ponds Plume Decision Document (DOE 1999). The 100 mg/l nitrate standard is a temporary modification of the underlying stream standard of 10 mg/l nitrate in North Walnut Creek (DOE 1999).

2.2 Treatment Effectiveness

Treatment system flow and volume of water are measured and recorded automatically. The daily flow volume treated for the period January through March 19, 2002 are shown in Graph 1. The flow rate this quarter ranged from 0 to 0.9 gallons per minute. As of March 19, 2002, approximately 454,780 gallons of water have been treated since system installation. Of this volume, 1,999 gallons were treated this quarter. During this quarter, most of the flow was water from the Solar Ponds Plume that was stored in the Modular Storage Tanks. Water transfer began in mid-January and continued sporadically through early February. As noted previously, flow is closely associated with precipitation. This quarter continues the lower than normal precipitation trend since system installation.

Graph 1 Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System Flow Volume, January through March 2002



Water levels within the collection trench and downgradient wells are monitored monthly at locations shown on Figure 1 and the water level information will be provided in the Groundwater Plume Treatment Systems 2002 Annual Report.

2.2.1 Treatment System Monitoring

Monthly samples are collected from the treatment system influent, effluent and discharge gallery (Figure 1) Data for this quarter and 2001 are provided in Table 1 Influent and discharge gallery nitrate concentrations remain above average, most likely because of continued drier conditions Uranium activities are also elevated, with the highest activity observed to date in January 2002 Low flow rates during this quarter did not allow for collection of effluent samples

Table 1 Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System Analytical Results

Collection date	SPP Influent		SPP Effluent		SPP Discharge Gallery	
	Nitrate in mg/l	Total Uranium in pCi/l	Nitrate in mg/l	Total Uranium in pCi/l	Nitrate in mg/l	Total Uranium in pCi/l
30-Jan-01	140	25.06	-	-	130	25.66
26-Feb-01	150	26.44	-	-	140	24.51
19-Mar-01	120	25.58	0.07	0.15	110	28.84
13-Apr-01	140	24.43	<0.05	0.003	120	20.2
25-Apr-01	130	24.58	<0.05	0.05	130	28.55
3-May-01	110	24.82	0.13	0.091	150	24.79
8-May-01	150	23.66	5.3	0.11	140	26.6
23-May-01	130	27.97	<0.05	0.002	180	31.16
21-Jun-01	120	25.49	<0.05	0.168	220	50.38
16-Jul-01	150	21.3	0.11	0	130	55.4
10-Aug-01	140	24.51	<0.05	0.1	150	28
26-Sep-01	109	26.22	-	-	202	41.64
31-Oct-01	168	22.64	-	-	257	37.15
30-Nov-01	212	25.67	-	-	268	32.48
28-Dec-01	156	24.07	-	-	211	35.8
29-Jan-02	162	25.19	-	-	209	68
28-Feb-02	198	nr	-	-	236	nr

- not sampled

nr - not received

It appears that the discharge gallery is discharging both groundwater that is bypassing the treatment cell and groundwater derived from the pre-existing downgradient part of the plume that has nitrate concentrations consistently above 500 mg/l The average activity for uranium at this downgradient plume location is 65 pCi/l with a maximum activity of 80 pCi/l The contribution from the downgradient part of the plume results in higher nitrate and uranium concentrations at the discharge gallery than are observed at the treatment system influent

2.2.2 Downgradient Water Quality

Surface water and groundwater are monitored at several locations downgradient of the collection and treatment system Groundwater quality will be reported in the Groundwater Plume Treatment Systems 2002 Annual Report

2 2 2 1 Surface Water Quality

Surface water monitoring stations at GS13 and Pond A-3 are monitored monthly to verify that existing stream standards continue to be met. Monitoring data for 2001 and the available data for the first quarter of 2002 are provided in Table 2 below. Results from the March sampling event have not been received.

Nitrate concentrations are well below the temporary stream standard of 100 mg/l and uranium activities at GS13 are below the surface water standard of 10 pCi/l. Nitrate concentrations and uranium activities are elevated this quarter, but are similar to values observed during other dry periods.

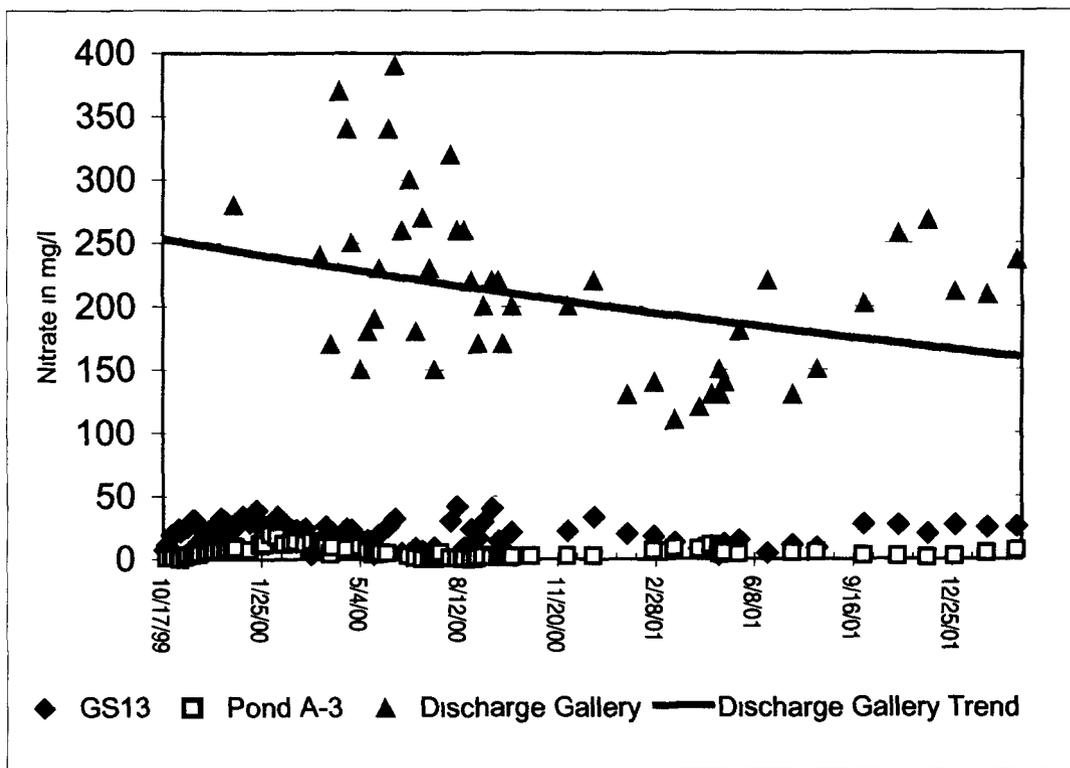
Table 2 Downgradient Surface Water Quality

Collection date	GS13		Pond A-3
	Nitrate in mg/l	Total Uranium in pCi/l	Nitrate in mg/l
30-Jan-01	20	9.15	7.9
26-Feb-01	18	8.85	11
19-Mar-01	13	5.89	8.2
13-Apr-01	7.8	2.999	4.1
25-Apr-01	10	2.936	5.4
3-May-01	2.9	1.328	4.5
8-May-01	12	4.08	5.3
23-May-01	15	5.53	5.6
21-Jun-01	4.3	2.33	2.9
16-Jul-01	11	3.71	2.2
10-Aug-01	8.9	4.4	1.5
26-Sep-01	27.4	9.18	1.9
31-Oct-01	26.5	8.02	4.9
30-Nov-01	20.2	7.89	7
28-Dec-01	26.5	9.9	7.7
29-Jan-02	24.9	12.18	7
28-Feb-02	25.3	nr	9.6
85th Percentile	26.02	9.2	8.08
Standards	100	10	100

nr – not received

Graph 2 below displays the surface water nitrate data since installation of the Solar Ponds Plume system along with concentrations observed at the discharge gallery. The graph also shows that even with the recent elevated concentrations, there is an overall stable trend at GS-13 and Pond A-3. Although there is a wider range in the concentrations observed at the discharge gallery, an overall decreasing trend in discharge gallery nitrate concentrations is evident.

Graph 2 Nitrate Concentrations at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System



GS13 is the performance monitoring location for the Solar Ponds Plume System (DOE 1999) and is located in North Walnut Creek immediately downgradient of the Solar Ponds Plume. Since September 2001, the nitrate concentrations have generally been around 25 mg/l but fluctuate depending upon precipitation and other factors. For the last 3 months where data are available, the nitrate concentration ranged from 25 to 36 mg/l, slightly lower than the last quarter's data.

At Pond A-3, located downstream of GS13, nitrate concentrations over the past year were consistently below 10 mg/l. Nitrate concentrations this reporting period ranged from 7 to 9.6 mg/l nitrate.

The Pond A-4 Outfall (GS-11) is a Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) Point of Compliance for uranium. Samples are collected during the Pond A-4 discharge events and usually contain 3 to 4 pCi/l total uranium, well below the stream standard of 10 pCi/l. No Pond A-4 discharges occurred this quarter. The most recent Pond A-4 discharge was August 16 to 24, 2001, uranium data from the pre-discharge sample and discharge samples are shown in Table 3 and are well below the 10 pCi/l stream standard. These data were also reported last quarter.

Table 3 Recent Uranium Activities at the Pond A-4 Point-of-Compliance (pCi/l)

Dates	U-233, 234	U-235	U-238	Total Uranium
7/30/01	1.07	0.03	0.66	1.76
8/16/01 to 8/19/01	0.93	0.05	0.90	1.88
8/19/01 to 8/22/01	0.95	0.03	0.92	1.9
8/22/01 to 8/24/01	0.79	0.05	0.85	1.69

2.2.2.2 Groundwater Quality

Analytical samples are collected quarterly from the two downgradient wells. These data will be provided in the Groundwater Plume Treatment Systems 2002 Annual Report.

2.3 Conclusions and Planned Changes

The treatment cell is performing as designed. However, water levels in the collection trench fluctuate rather than maintaining constant head at 11 feet, suggesting that water is bypassing the treatment system. Water quality in North Walnut Creek continues to be well below applicable standards for nitrate and uranium despite apparent bypass of the treatment system.

Water levels within the collection trench and nearby wells will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis. Based on the results from over 2 years of monitoring data, water quality sampling will now be conducted quarterly at groundwater wells, GS13, Pond A-3, the treatment system influent, effluent and discharge gallery to measure system performance and the impact to surface water.

3.0 PU&D YARD PLUME TREATABILITY STUDY

A plume of volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated groundwater is derived from a contaminant source located in the PU&D Yard at RFETS. Investigation results indicate that subsurface VOC contamination is present in only a few locations and that the primary contaminant is tetrachloroethene (Kaiser-Hill 2001).

A treatability study is in progress to evaluate the effectiveness of Hydrogen Release Compound[®] (HRC[®]) for enhancing natural attenuation of the VOCs in the groundwater and soil at the PU&D Yard Plume. HRC[®] is a proprietary, environmentally safe, food quality, polylactate ester formulated for slow release of lactic acid upon hydration. The HRC[®] is expected to stimulate rapid degradation of chlorinated VOCs found in groundwater and soil at this location by making low concentrations of hydrogen available to the resident microbes to use for dechlorination. The HRC[®] is expected to be a one-time application. According to the manufacturer (Regenesis), the material is expected to stimulate contaminant degradation at the project site for approximately one year and a half.

The product has been used at other sites to stimulate rapid degradation of chlorinated VOC contaminants in groundwater and soil. This study is evaluating the effectiveness of HRC[®] in the low-flow groundwater regimes common at RFETS (Kaiser-Hill 2001). This project is a cooperative effort between RFETS and the Department of Energy (DOE) Subsurface Contaminant Focus Area (SCFA) and funding is provided by DOE SCFA.

3.1 Project Events

The treatability study is located within the source area and that portion of the PU&D Yard Plume exhibiting the highest groundwater contaminant concentrations (Figure 2). Monitoring well 30900 was installed in this area immediately adjacent to borehole 17497 where the highest concentrations of VOCs in soils were detected. An additional monitoring well (31001) was installed slightly downgradient of the source area in January 2001 as part of this study. Baseline samples were collected from these two monitoring wells prior to insertion of the HRC[®].

Figure 2
PU&D Yard
Groundwater VOC Plume
Project Area

- EXPLANATION**
- PU&D Yard Monitoring Well
 - Groundwater Monitor Well
 - △ UHSU Surface Material
 - Groundwater Monitor Well
 - UHSU Bedrock
 - Groundwater Monitor Well
 - UHSU Bedrock
 - Borehole Locations
 - × Abandoned Monitor Well
 - ◆ Material Insertion Point
 - ▭ Composite VOC Groundwater Plume (concentration equal to MCL)
 - ▭ PU&D Yard IHSS

- Standard Map Features**
- ▭ Buildings and other structures
 - ▭ Landfill Pond
 - ▭ Stream, ditches or other drainage features
 - ▭ Fences and other barriers
 - ▭ Topographic Contour (5 Foot)
 - ▭ Paved roads
 - ▭ Dirt roads

NOTES



Scale = 1" = 2570'
 1 inch represents approximately 214 feet

State Plane Coordinate Projection
 Colorado Central Zone
 Datum: NAD27

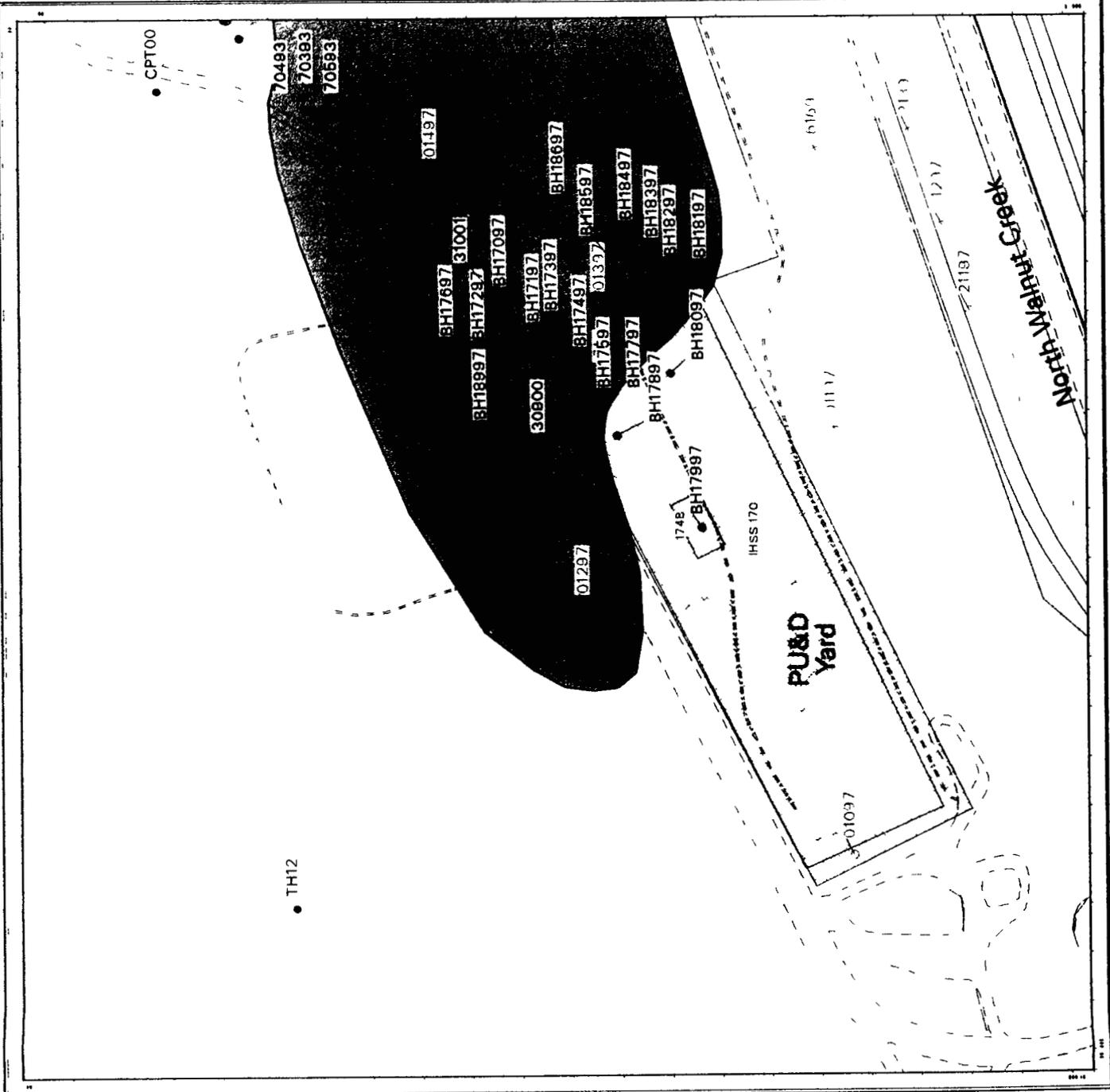
U.S. Department of Energy
 Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site

Prepared by
DynCorp
 THE ART OF TECHNOLOGY



Prepared for
 Kaiser Tull

September 24, 2001



Beginning in February 2001, 16 material insertion points (MIPs) were used to place over 800 pounds of HRC[®] into the subsurface. A 10 feet by 6 feet grid was used for material insertion and was located within the source area of the plume immediately surrounding borehole 17497 (Figure 3). The initial grid consisted of nine points, additional geoprobe boreholes used as material insertion points were spaced between these initial locations biased to the upgradient part of the source area. HRC[®] insertion was completed on March 1, 2001. Subsurface conditions were allowed to stabilize for two months, then monthly sampling was initiated April 30, 2001.

As part of the study, two additional groundwater samples were to be collected if possible from the northwest and southwest corners of the insertion grid (Kaiser-Hill 2001). Sufficient groundwater was present at the southwest corner of the insertion grid (MIP3) to collect a groundwater sample prior to insertion of the HRC[®]. There was insufficient water encountered at the northwest corner of the insertion grid (MIP1) to collect a groundwater sample at this location.

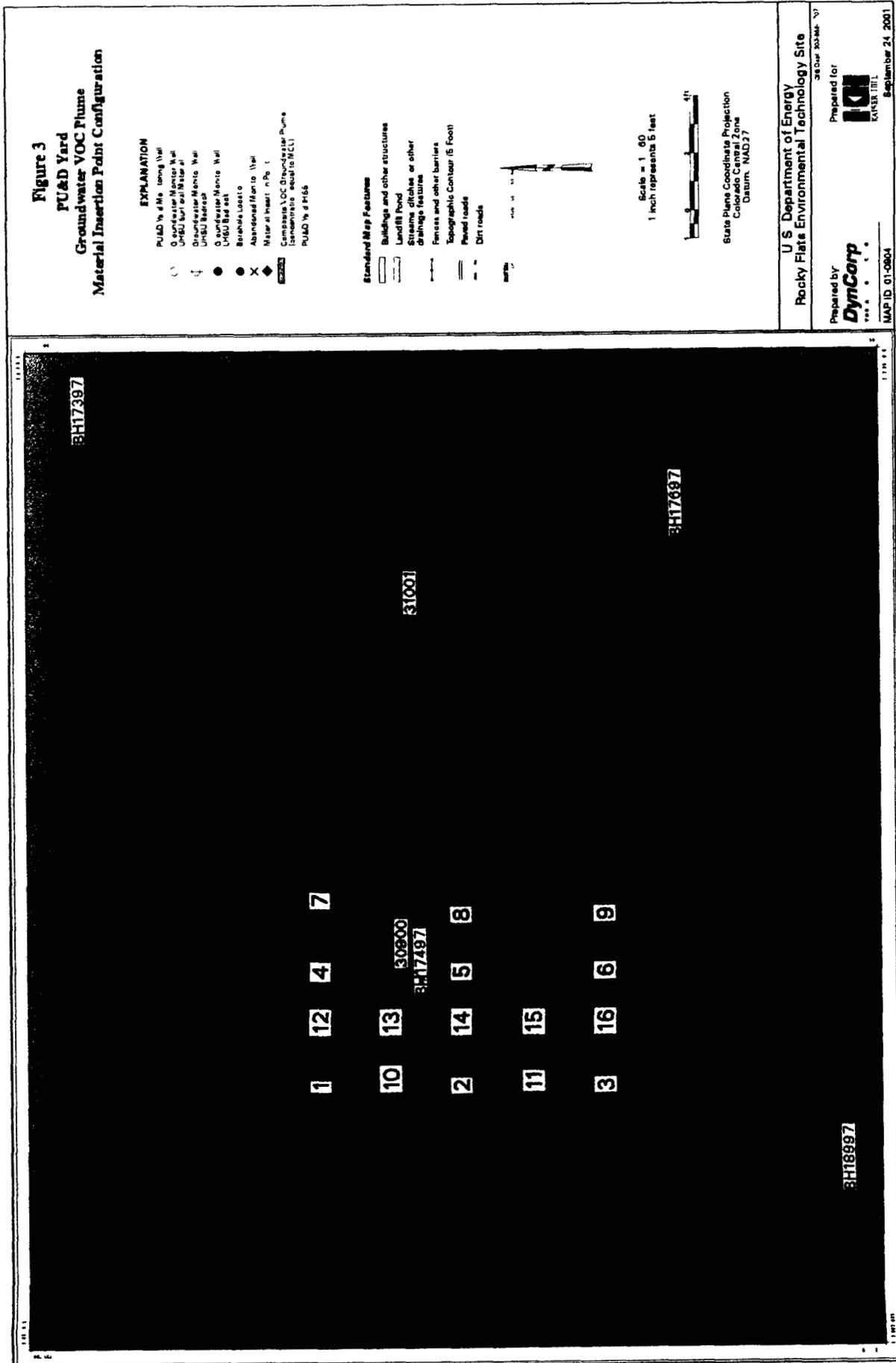
3.2 Preliminary Results

Results from the initial baseline samples and the monthly sampling events through February 2002 are reported below in Table 4 in micrograms per liter (ug/l). For completeness, the previous samples from the pre-existing monitoring well (30900) in the source area are also included. In addition, results from the one time only groundwater sample from MIP3 are also shown below.

Table 4 Preliminary Treatability Study Results (ug/l)

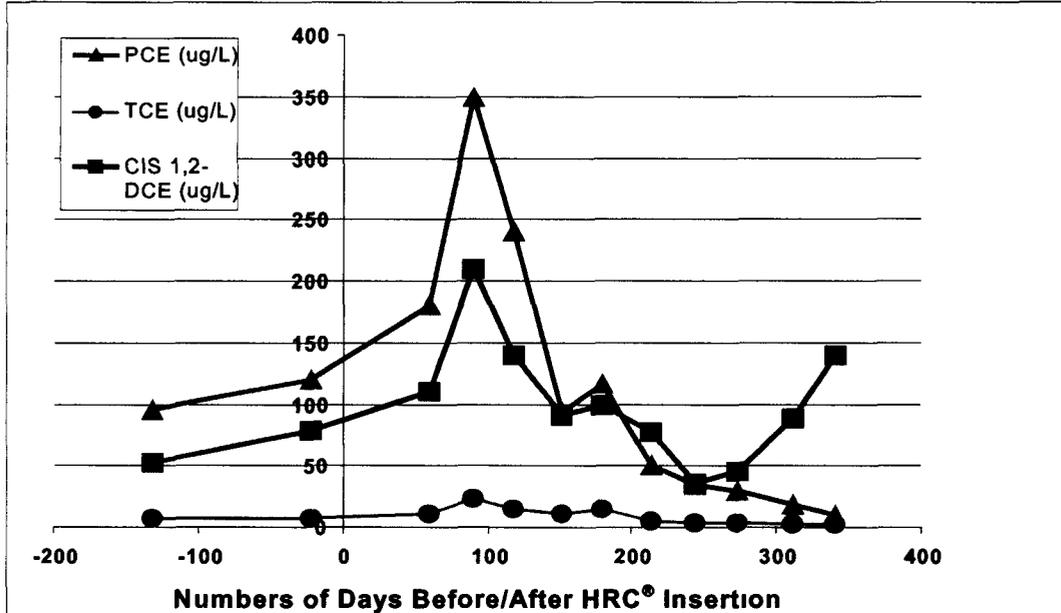
Location	Sample Date	Tetrachloroethene	Trichloroethene	Cis 1,2 Dichloroethene	Trans 1,2, Dichloroethene	1,1-Dichloroethene	Vinyl Chloride
MIP3	2/20/01	4.9	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
30900	10/21/00	96	7.4	53.1	ND	ND	ND
	2/7/01	120	7	78	0.5	0.5	ND
	4/30/01	180	11	110	0.1	0.4	ND
	5/30/01	350	23	210	ND	ND	ND
	6/27/01	240	15	140	0.2	0.5	ND
	7/31/01	93.6	10.6	91.4	0.19	0.31	0.21
	8/28/01	116	15	100	ND	0.39	ND
	10/1/01	50	5	77	ND	ND	ND
	10/31/01	34	3.1	36	ND	ND	ND
	11/29/01	30	3.6	45	ND	0.28	ND
	1/7/02	18.5	2.92	88.6	0.212J	ND	ND
	2/4/02	9.8	1.9	140	ND	0.38	ND
31001	2/7/01	18	5.5	1.2	ND	2.6	ND
	4/30/01	130	20	52	0.1	4	ND
	5/30/01	41	18	4	ND	ND	ND
	6/27/01	120	25	38	ND	1	ND
	7/31/01	105	16.3	189	0.13	1.49	0.12
	8/29/01	81	22	93	ND	ND	ND
	10/1/01	67	7.7	71	ND	0.6	ND
	11/1/01	18	4.8	30	ND	0.65	ND
	11/30/01	15	3.7	24	ND	0.47	ND
	1/7/02	12	3.78	12.1	ND	0.88	ND
	2/18/02	37	9.4	13	ND	3.3	ND
Groundwater Tier I Action Levels		500	500	700	700	700	200
Groundwater Tier II Action Levels		5	5	7	7	7	2

ND - not detected



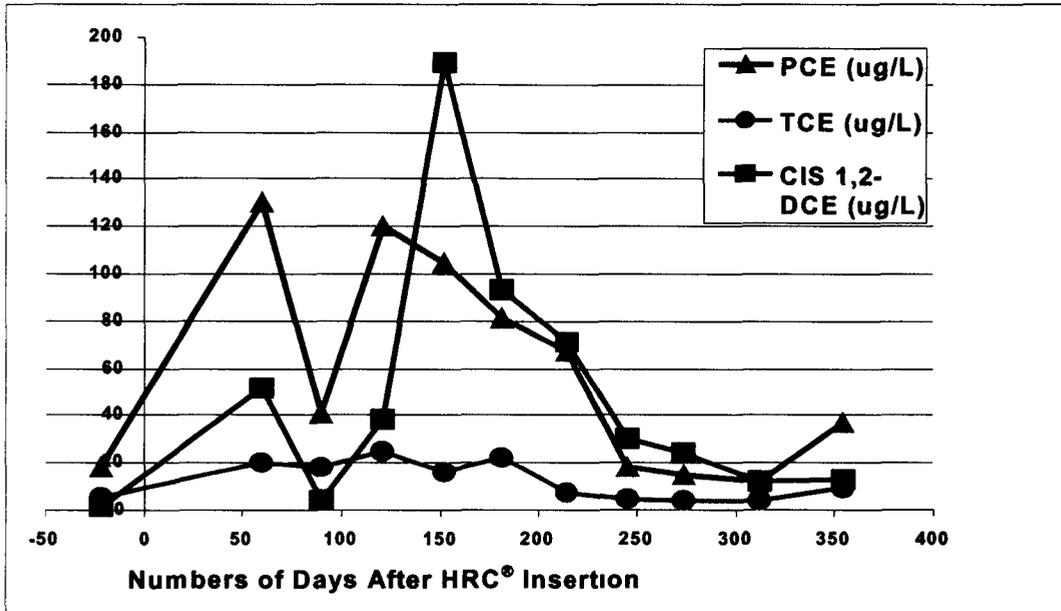
As shown in Table 4 and on Graph 3, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene and cis-1,2 dichloroethene concentrations 30900 increased after insertion of the HRC®, then decreased. Trichloroethene and cis-1,2 dichloroethene are degradation products of tetrachloroethene. Cis 1,2-dichloroethene concentrations at this location have recently increased.

Graph 3 Tetrachloroethene and Degradation Products Concentration versus Time in 30900



As shown on Graph 4, a similar declining trend is observed in the data from 31001 but without a concurrent increase in cis 1,2-dichloroethene. There is also a slight increase in tetrachloroethene concentrations.

Graph 4 Tetrachloroethene and Degradation Products Concentration versus Time in 31001



H

The area around the source well 30900 continues to have low oxidation-reduction potential levels (-54.6) indicating that HRC[®] is still present. The continued presence of the HRC[®] as a food source, the reducing environment, and saturation of electron receptors such as sulfates and iron creates a favorable environment for anaerobic bacteria and favors the degradation of tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene but not the degradation of cis 1,2-dichloroethene. As tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene degrade, higher concentrations of cis 1,2-dichloroethene are occurring in the center of the biological activity. Away from the insertion grid, the oxygen content increases, conditions become more favorable for aerobic degradation and the cis 1,2-dichloroethene is being degraded.

In the downgradient well 31001, oxidizing conditions are returning. The low oxidation-reduction potential in this well has gone from low value of -15.1 in November up to their current levels of 35.6. The data as shown in Table 4 and Graph 4 show the higher tetrachloroethene levels and the lower cis 1,2-dichloroethene levels. The more aerobic conditions will also return to the source area once HRC[®] is consumed. This is an indication that the HRC[®] is being consumed and that the area of anaerobic biodegradation is shrinking. This effect could be offset later this Spring as the water table rises and HRC[®] in the unsaturated soil becomes available again for continued remediation.

As discussed previously, the initial increase in tetrachloroethene groundwater concentrations at both wells is most likely due to one or a combination of the following conditions:

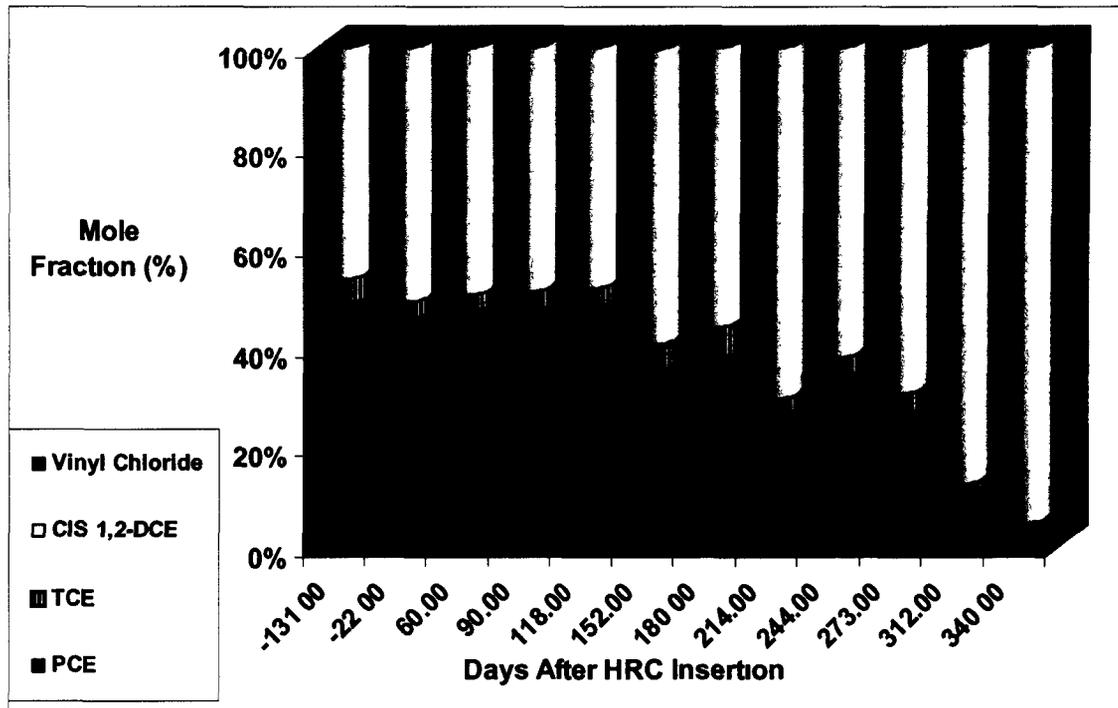
- A change in the surface tension of free phase solvents in the pores that would cause more solvent to be released from the pores
- An increase in the relative solubility of the individual VOCs due to the presence of the lactic acid in the aqueous phase that would allow more VOCs to go into solution
- Other changes in liquid and organic phases caused by changes in pH, temperature, oxidation-reduction potential, etc. caused by addition of lactic acid or by increases in biological activity

The initial increases in concentrations indicate that VOCs were transferred from the soil to an aqueous phase, potentially accelerating both soil and water remediation. Typically, the VOCs trapped in soil below the saturated zone have been the most difficult phase to remediate using traditional remediation methods and continue to act as a contaminant source. If these are being mobilized and then biologically degraded along with the dissolved phase, this will be a much more robust treatment methodology than simply biologically degrading the dissolved fraction.

As shown in Table 4, the presence of other degradation products such as trans 1,2-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethene and vinyl chloride demonstrates that degradation is occurring since these contaminants were not associated with releases at the PU&D Yard. Vinyl chloride is the last degradation product generated prior to the degradation to ethene. The small quantities of ethene produced are expected to offgas and not be detected.

The increase in the ratio of degradation products relative to tetrachloroethene concentrations confirms that degradation is occurring. Graph 5 shows the relative changes of mole fractions of tetrachloroethene and its degradation products in 31001. This trend in combination with the overall reduction of tetrachloroethene indicates that even though there was an initial increase in tetrachloroethene that much of this has been degraded. It is anticipated that over time there also will be a further decrease in these degradation products.

Graph 5 Mole Fraction of Tetrachloroethene Relative to its Degradation Products over Time



3.3 Conclusions and Work Planned

The continued decrease in tetrachloroethene and appearance of its byproducts provide direct evidence that the contaminant plume is being degraded. However, monthly monitoring will continue until sufficient data are collected to establish the effectiveness of the HRC[®] and these data will be provided in the Groundwater Plume Treatment Systems 2002 Annual Report. A treatability study report was completed in October 2001 and provides additional information on the treatability study (Kaiser-Hill, 2001).

4.0 REFERENCES

DOE, 1999, *Final Solar Ponds Plume Decision Document*, RF/RMRS-98-286 UN, June

Kaiser-Hill, 2001, *Final PU&D Yard Plume Enhanced Natural Attenuation Treatability Study Report*, September