European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

IMPEL

COMMON FORUM

NICOLE
Network for Industrially Co-ordinated Sustainable Land Management in Europe

EIONET

Working Group Contamination

Extracción de vapores del suelo (SVE)

Informe final

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Introducción a IMPEL

La Red de la Unión Europea para la Implementación y Cumplimiento de la Legislación Ambiental (IMPEL) es una asociación internacional sin ánimo de lucro en la que participan todos los países de la Unión, países de la AEE (Área Económica Europea) y países candidatos, así como la Comisión Europea (COM), es una red de autoridades medioambientales cuyo principal objetivo es el intercambio de información y experiencias en el otorgamiento de autorizaciones, realización de inspecciones y aplicación de la legislación medio ambiental, con el fin de lograr una mejor aplicación de la legislación en todos los países de la Unión que se lleva a cabo mediante proyectos.. La asociación está registrada en Bélgica y su sede legal se encuentra en Bruselas, Bélgica.

IMPEL se creó en 1992 como una red informal de reguladores y autoridades europeas relacionadas con la aplicación y el cumplimiento de la legislación medioambiental. El objetivo de la Red es crear el impulso necesario en la Comunidad Europea para avanzar en la aplicación más eficaz de la legislación medioambiental. El núcleo de las actividades de la IMPEL se centra en la concienciación, el desarrollo de capacidades y el intercambio de información y experiencias sobre la aplicación, el cumplimiento y la colaboración internacional en materia de cumplimiento, así como en la promoción y el apoyo de la viabilidad y la aplicabilidad de la legislación medioambiental europea.

Con el paso de los años, IMPEL se ha convertido en una organización considerable y ampliamente conocida, siendo mencionada en una serie de documentos legislativos y políticos de la UE, por ejemplo, el 7º Programa de Acción Medioambiental y la Recomendación sobre criterios mínimos para las inspecciones medioambientales.

Los conocimientos y la experiencia de los participantes en IMPEL hacen que la red esté especialmente cualificada para trabajar en los aspectos tanto técnicos como normativos de la legislación medioambiental de la UE.

La información sobre la red IMPEL también está disponible en su página web: www.impel.eu

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Resumen ejecutivo

Palabras clave
Extracción de vapores del suelo, Remediación sostenible, Suelo, Aguas subterráneas, Política del suelo, Remediación, Medio ambiente, No a la ocupación de terrenos naturales, Polución, Contaminación Ambiental, Emplazamientos contaminados, Monitoreo, Pruebas de campo.

Público objetivo
Autoridades competentes en materia de aprobación/aplicación/seguimiento de técnicas de descontaminación, operadores industriales, agencias de protección ambiental, organismos de protección de la naturaleza, cuerpos de inspección ambiental, instituciones de vigilancia e investigación ambiental, universidades técnicas, asociaciones ambientales, ONG, compañías y asociaciones de seguros, consultores ambientales.

Como parte de su programa de trabajo para 2020, la Red IMPEL ha puesto en marcha este proyecto "Water and Land Remediation" (2020/09), relativo a los criterios de evaluación de la aplicabilidad de las tecnologías de remediación.
El proyecto Water and Land Remediation toma como punto de partida las definiciones y los pasos clave de la aplicación de las tecnologías de remediación y se centra en los procesos técnicos relacionados con las tecnologías de remediación. El objetivo final del proyecto es elaborar un documento que proporcione criterios para la evaluación de la propuesta que se haga de la aplicación de la tecnología de remediación, para entender la viabilidad, qué hacer en las pruebas de campo y en la aplicación a escala real. El anexo 1 recoge una serie de casos prácticos que pueden ayudar al lector a anticiparse a los problemas que pueda encontrar y ver si la solución aportada es aplicable a su emplazamiento, a sabiendas de que cada emplazamiento contaminado difiere de los demás y de que siempre es necesario un enfoque específico para cada emplazamiento.
El objetivo del proyecto Water and Land Remediation para 2020-2021 fue centrarse en dos tecnologías de remediación, la oxidación química in situ y la extracción de vapores del suelo.
Por último, el proyecto Water and Land Remediation pretende fomentar la aplicación de tecnologías de recuperación del suelo y las aguas subterráneas en el propio emplazamiento tanto "in situ", sin excavar como "on site", excavando el suelo para tratarlo en el mismo lugar y, a desincentivar el uso de técnicas que implican el traslado del suelo y las aguas contaminadas para su tratamiento en otros lugares como son, Dig & Dump (excavar y eliminar en vertedero) y, Pump & Treat (bombear y tratar), que son técnicas ampliamente utilizadas en Europa pero que no son sostenibles a medio-largo plazo.

El suelo y el agua son recursos naturales y, cuando es técnicamente factible, deben ser recuperados y no desechados.

Agradecimientos

Este informe ha sido revisado por un amplio equipo del proyecto IMPEL y por el equipo de expertos en agua y suelo de IMPEL, la red COMMON FORUM, la red NICOLE, el grupo de trabajo sobre contaminación de EIONET y un grupo de revisores externos.

Descargo de responsabilidad

Esta publicación ha sido elaborada en el marco del proyecto IMPEL Water & Land Remediation con el apoyo de organizaciones interesadas en la gestión de suelos contaminados. Redactado y revisado por un equipo de autores, el documento que se presenta pretende servir como fuente de información primaria para tender un puente y ampliar el conocimiento existente en países y regiones europeas. Con el objetivo de apoyar la toma de decisiones en común sobre las posibilidades de la tecnología de remediación concreta que pretende facilitar.

El contenido que se presenta aquí se basa en la bibliografía pertinente, la experiencia de los autores y los casos prácticos recopilados. El documento puede no ser extensivo a todas las situaciones en las que se ha aplicado o se aplicará esta tecnología. Los casos prácticos (véase anexo) son contribuciones voluntarias reconocidas. El equipo de autores no ha realizado ninguna tarea de evaluación o verificación de los informes de los casos prácticos.

Además, algunos países, regiones o autoridades locales pueden haber puesto en marcha una legislación, normas o directrices particulares para delimitar las posibilidades de aplicación de la tecnología.

Este documento NO pretende ser una directriz o un documento de referencia de MTD para esta tecnología. Los entornos pedológicos, geológicos e hidrogeológicos de los emplazamientos contaminados en toda Europa muestran una amplia diversidad. Por lo tanto, el diseño y la aplicación específicos para cada emplazamiento son fundamentales para el éxito de la rehabilitación de los suelos contaminados. Por lo tanto, cualquier recomendación presentada podría aplicarse, aplicarse parcialmente o no aplicarse. En cualquier caso, los autores, los colaboradores y las organizaciones involucradas no pueden ser considerados responsables.

Las opiniones expresadas en este documento no responden necesariamente las de los miembros individuales de las redes firmantes. IMPEL y sus redes asociadas recomiendan encarecidamente que las personas/organizaciones interesadas en aplicar la tecnología en la práctica contraten los servicios de profesionales medioambientales con experiencia.

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Glosario

TÉRMINO	DEFINICIÓN	FUENTE	PÁRRAFO
punto de cumplimiento	Lugar (por ejemplo, suelo o agua subterránea) donde se comprobará el cumplimiento de los criterios de evaluación y, que no se excedan los valores establecidos.	ISO EN 11074	3.4.5
análisis de cumplimiento o control del rendimiento	Investigación o programa de inspección, pruebas o seguimiento continuo para confirmar que se ha aplicado correctamente una estrategia de rehabilitación (por ejemplo, que se han eliminado todos los contaminantes) y/o, cuando se ha adoptado un enfoque de contención, que éste continúa funcionando al nivel previsto.	ISO EN 11074	6.1.5
contaminante[1]	Sustancia o elemento resultado de la actividad humana.	ISO EN 11074	3.4.6
Emplazamiento contaminado[2]	Lugar en el que hay contaminantes que no deberían estar allí.	ISO EN 11074	2.3.5
contaminación	Sustancias o elemento presentes en el medio ambiente como resultado de la actividad humana	ISO EN 11074	2.3.6
eficacia[3]	<método de rehabilitación> medida de la capacidad de un método de rehabilitación para alcanzar el rendimiento requerido	ISO EN 11074	6.1.6
emisión	Liberación directa o indirecta de sustancias, vibraciones, calor o ruido desde fuentes individuales o difusas de la actividad en el aire, el agua o el suelo	IED	Artículo 3 (4)
nivel de calidad ambiental	Conjunto de requisitos que debe cumplir en un momento dado un lugar determinado o una parte concreta del mismo, tal como se establece en la legislación de la Unión	IED	Artículo 3 (6)
Coeficiente de Henry	Coeficiente de partición entre el aire y el agua del suelo	ISO EN 11074	3.3.12
método de tratamiento [4]*in situ'*	método de tratamiento aplicado directamente en el entorno tratado (por ejemplo, al suelo o las aguas subterráneas) sin extraer la matriz contaminada del suelo	ISO EN 11074	6.2.3
lixiviación	disolución y movimiento de las sustancias disueltas por el agua	ISO EN 11074	3.3.15

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[1] No se supone en esta definición que el daño resulte de la presencia de contaminación.

[2] No se supone en esta definición que el daño resulte de la presencia de contaminación.]

[3] En el caso de un método basado en procesos, la eficacia puede expresarse en términos de las concentraciones residuales de contaminante alcanzadas.

[4] Nota: La norma ISO CD 241212 sugiere como sinónimo: "técnica (de remediación) in situ" [Nota 1 del artículo: Dicha instalación de remediación se establece sobre el propio terreno y la acción de tratamiento del contaminante tiene como objetivo aplicarse directamente en el subsuelo]. 1

Poluto (Contaminante daniño para el medio ambiente)	sustancia(s) o elemento(s) dañinos presente(s) en el suelo (o en las aguas subterráneas) que, debido a sus propiedades, cantidad o concentración, causa(n) impactos adversos en las funciones del suelo	ISO EN 11074	3.4.18
polución o contaminación dañina para el medio ambiente	la introducción directa o indirecta, como resultado de la actividad humana, de sustancias, vibraciones, calor o ruido en el aire, el agua o el suelo que puedan ser perjudiciales para la salud humana o la calidad del medio ambiente, provocar daños en los bienes materiales o deteriorar o interferir en los servicios y otros usos legítimos del medio ambiente	IED	Artículo 3 (2)
objetivo de descontaminación	término genérico para cualquier objetivo, incluidos los relacionados con requisitos técnicos (por ejemplo, concentraciones de contaminación residual, rendimiento técnico), administrativos y legales	ISO EN 11074	6.1.19
estrategia de descontaminación[5]	combinación de métodos de saneamiento y trabajos relacionados con ellos para alcanzar objetivos específicos relacionados con la contaminación (por ejemplo, concentraciones de contaminantes residuales) y otros objetivos (por ejemplo, relacionados con la ingeniería) y para superar las dificultades específicas del emplazamiento.	ISO EN 11074	6.1.20
valor objetivo de rehabilitación	Indicación del rendimiento que debe alcanzarse con la recuperación, normalmente definido como objetivo relacionado con la contaminación expesado en términos de concentración residual.	ISO EN 11074	6.1.21
zona saturada	zona del suelo en la que el espacio poroso está completamente lleno de líquido en el momento considerado	ISO EN 11074	3.2.6
suelo	capa superior de la corteza terrestre, situada entre la roca madre y la superficie. El suelo está compuesto de partículas minerales, materia orgánica, agua, aire y organismos vivos.	IED	Artículo 3 (21)
gas del suelo	gas y vapor contenido en los espacios porosos de los suelos	ISO EN 11074	2.1.13
zona no saturada	zona del suelo en la que el espacio poroso no está completamente lleno de líquido en el momento considerado	ISO EN 11074	3.2.8

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[5] La elección de los métodos puede verse limitada por una variedad de factores específicos del lugar, como la topografía, la geología, la hidrogeología, la propensión a las inundaciones y el clima.

TABLA DE CONTENIDO

1   INTRODUCCIÓN

IMPEL, la Red de la Unión Europea para la Implementación y Cumplimiento de la Ley Ambiental está elaborando, en el marco del proyecto Water and Land Remediation (WLR), una serie de directrices centradas en las tecnologías de remediación de suelos y aguas subterráneas más comunes y utilizadas. Estas directrices resumen la información más actualizada sobre estas tecnologías de remediación que podría ayudar a las distintas partes interesadas, como los propietarios de los terrenos, comunidad circundante, directores de proyectos, los contratistas, reguladores y otros profesionales, a comprender toda la información que emana de cada proyecto de remediación. En la redacción de las directrices se utiliza la información proporcionada por los colaboradores que han participado en su redacción, la información ha sido obtenida de fuentes científicas revisadas y, de informes oficiales.

La guía que se presenta recopila los conocimientos más recientes sobre una de las tecnologías de remediación más utilizadas: la extracción de vapores del suelo (SVE).

1.1   Antecedentes de la técnica SVE

La extracción de vapores del suelo –SVE-, que comprende el conjunto de tecnologías conocidas como el venteo del suelo "soil venting", el venteo in situ del suelo "in situ soil venting", la extracción al vacío del suelo "soil vacuum extraction" o la extracción al vacío "vacuum extraction", ha sido una de las tecnologías de remediación de suelos más utilizadas [FRTR 2020]. Debido a su amplio uso en las últimas décadas, la SVE es, hoy en día, una tecnología aceptada, bien establecida y efectiva para la remediación de suelos contaminados con compuestos orgánicos volátiles (en determinados emplazamientos, también es aplicable a los semivolátiles) en la zona no saturada (o vadosa) del suelo [Suthersan 1999].

Un esquema típico de un proceso SVE se presenta en la Figura 1.1. El SVE aprovecha la alta volatilidad de los contaminantes para transportarlos mediante un flujo de aire, creado en el suelo por la inducción de condiciones de vacío generadas por sopladores/bombas. Este movimiento de aire/vapor arrastra los contaminantes hacia pozos de extracción que los transfieren a los sistemas de tratamiento de gases situados sobre la superficie, donde son recuperados o tratados adecuadamente. Los mecanismos de tratamiento más comunes son la adsorción en carbón activado y la destrucción por oxidación catalítica o térmica [EPA 2018, Soares 2012]

La SVE es una tecnología de remediación versátil y puede aplicarse sola, centrándose exclusivamente en la volatilización y recuperación de los contaminantes o combinada con otras tecnologías de remediación que introducen otros mecanismos de eliminación de contaminantes como la biodegradación (por ejemplo, la ventilación del suelo o "bio"venteo y, la aspersión aire o "bio"aspersion, cuando se aplica a las zonas no saturadas y saturadas, respectivamente) o la desorción (SVE térmica mejorada, que utiliza procesos de calentamiento como la resistencia eléctrica o la inyección de aire caliente/vapor para aumentar la tasa de volatilización de los contaminantes y facilitar la extracción). El flujo de aire/vapor que crea la SVE en la zona no saturada del suelo promueve la volatilización de los contaminantes aumentando su movilidad en el suelo y mejora el transporte de los contaminantes volátiles hacia los pozos de extracción [Suthersan 1999, EPA 2018]. Las tasas de flujo de aire / vapor más bajas, como las que se usan generalmente en la ventilación del suelo, favorecen la biodegradación de los compuestos degradables a través de la aireación que se produce en la matriz del suelo.

1.2   Aplicabilidad SVE

En relación con las propiedades del emplazamiento, la SVE es generalmente eficaz en suelos permeables con contenidos bajos/moderados de materia orgánica y humedad y, con profundidades de agua subterránea dentro del rango de 2 a 30 m.

Considerando el tipo de contaminantes, la SVE demostró su eficacia para compuestos orgánicos volátiles (VOC) halogenados y no halogenados, una eficacia limitada para los compuestos orgánicos semivolátiles (SVOC) halogenados y no halogenados, algunos contaminantes emergentes (excepto para el 1,4-dioxano o las sustancias per --y polifluoroalquilo (PFAS)) y los combustibles; y no es aplicable a contaminantes inorgánicos, radionucleidos y las municiones [FRTR 2020, EPA 2018].
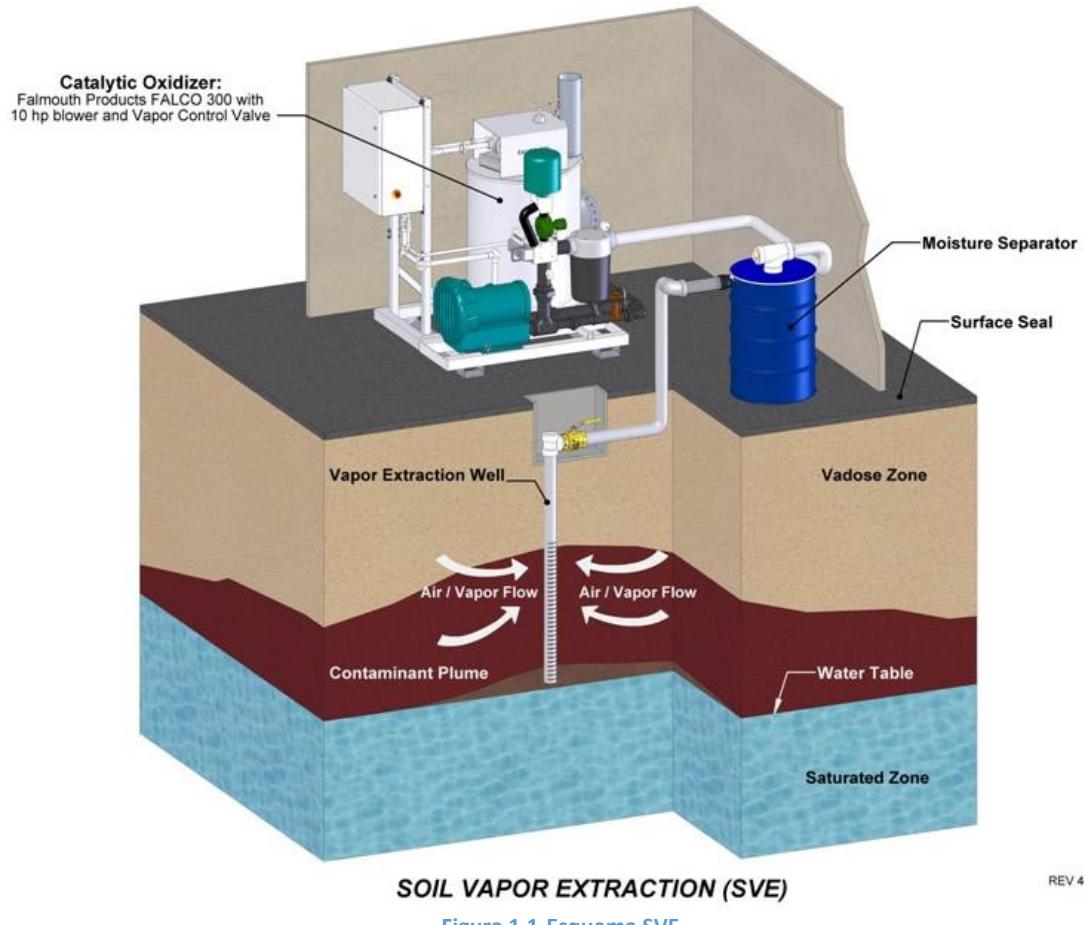

Figura 1.1-Esquema SVE.

1.3   Aplicación de la SVE

La implementación de un sistema SVE para la remediación de un emplazamiento contaminado requiere del uso de sopladores/bombas de vacío, la instalación de pozos de extracción (verticales u horizontales) y las respectivas tuberías de transferencia que se encargarán de la extracción de los contaminantes del suelo hasta la superficie para su posterior tratamiento. El tratamiento del flujo de aire contaminado requerirá el diseño/construcción/permisos de las instalaciones y los equipos apropiados para lograr los objetivos fijados de tratamiento de emisiones con el fin de cumplir con la legislación nacional/regional. Teniendo en cuenta las experiencias previas, el tiempo de operación y mantenimiento de equipos para que sea efectiva la técnica SVE, se encuentra en un rango que varía de 1 a 3 años [FRTR 2020].

2 DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA TÉCNICA

2.1 Descripción general del proceso

La extracción de vapor de suelo (SVE) es una tecnología in situ para la recuperación de suelos contaminados en la zona no saturada. Se basa en la extracción de contaminantes volátiles mediante el "venteo" (o depresión) de esta zona. La condición previa para el éxito de la técnica es que el suelo tenga suficiente permeabilidad.

La SVE puede llevarse a cabo con o sin inyección de aire. En caso de que no haya inyección de aire activa, el aire fresco penetra en el suelo desde la atmósfera a través de la superficie del suelo. La circulación del aire modifica el equilibrio químico entre las diversas fases (gas, agua intersticial, partículas del suelo), potenciando la volatilización de contaminantes volátiles de las fases sólidas y/o líquidas. Los vapores extraídos se someten a un tratamiento de gases.

Todo el proceso debe ser controlado y gestionado por un sistema de monitorización sistemático (por ejemplo, los caudales de aire, la concentración de contaminantes, la temperatura y la humedad).

2.2 Sistema técnico y componentes

El sistema de ventilación, que se colocará in situ, consta de los siguientes equipos principales de proceso:
- pozos de extracción verticales (u horizontales) (llamados "pozos de drenaje") para acceder a la capa de suelo contaminado.
- pozos (o puntos) de inyección verticales (u horizontales) para mejorar/controlar el flujo de aire en el área que se va a remediar y, en especial, en los límites del emplazamiento, con válvulas (y caudalímetros) para conectar todos los componentes del sistema.
- Un separador de condensados o eliminador de nieblas para proteger el sistema de limpieza contra la humedad y las aguas subterráneas movilizadas por el flujo de aire.
- una unidad de soplado/vacío (para generar la presión negativa necesaria para inducir el flujo de vapor del suelo hacia los pozos de extracción).
- un sistema de tratamiento de gases (para eliminar los contaminantes de los vapores del suelo extraídos).

Los mecanismos de tratamiento más comunes son la adsorción en carbón activado y la destrucción por oxidación catalítica o térmica. En la Figura 2.1 se presenta un esquema típico de un sistema SVE y sus componentes. Dado que las sustancias inflamables (por ejemplo, la gasolina) son contaminantes relevantes, resulta crucial desarrollar un plan de salud y seguridad y tener en cuenta las restricciones en relación a las tecnologías de tratamiento de los gases de salida.
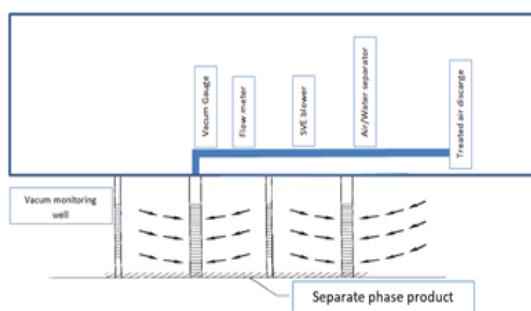

Figura 2.1-Componentes de la planta SVE

2.3 Tratabilidad de los contaminantes

La eficacia de la técnica SVE está generalmente probada para los compuestos orgánicos volátiles (COV). También puede ser adecuada su aplicación para compuestos orgánicos semivolátiles (SVOC), dependiendo de las condiciones del lugar y/o en combinación con otras tecnologías. Por lo general, también se requiere que los contaminantes no estén fuertemente adsorbidos a la fase sólida de las capas del suelo.

Las aplicaciones típicas de la técnica son para compuestos aromáticos (BTEX), fenoles, gasolina, HC <12, disolventes clorados (cloroformo, VC, DCM, DCA, DCE, TCA, TCE, TC, PCE) y clorobencenos (con baja sustitución). Por lo tanto, los sistemas SVE se aplican a menudo en plantas petroquímicas, estaciones de servicio, y talleres / industrias de metalurgia y procesamiento de metales (desengrase y limpieza en seco).

Los factores determinantes en la aplicación de SVE son las propiedades de los contaminantes, especialmente la distribución entre fases y el entorno geológico del emplazamiento, en particular la estratigrafía y las propiedades de las capas geológicas como la permeabilidad, la porosidad y la heterogeneidad.

Algunas características de los contaminantes son muy importantes para la eficiencia y eficacia del proceso. La presión de vapor de un compuesto es la presión parcial de ese compuesto en equilibrio con su líquido (NAPL). Por lo tanto, es una medida del equilibrio L-V. La SVE es adecuada para sustancias con presión de vapor > 0,5-1,0 mmHg. El punto de ebullición está relacionado con la presión de vapor y determina la aplicabilidad o no de SVE, ya que es adecuada para sustancias con un punto de ebullición inferior a 250-300 °C. La constante de Henry representa la relación de la concentración de una determinada sustancia en fase gaseosa y de la misma sustancia en fase acuosa. La SVE es adecuada para sustancias con constante de Henry > 0,001 atm m3/mol.

2.4 Entorno geológico

La geología, la estratigrafía de las capas del suelo y las propiedades de las capas del suelo son muy importantes para la eficacia y la eficiencia de la aplicación de la SVE. Por lo tanto, es crucial comprender el entorno geológico del emplazamiento para desarrollar un modelo conceptual del emplazamiento congruente (consulte el capítulo 3.1).

Entre las propiedades del suelo, los parámetros clave son la porosidad, la permeabilidad, el contenido de agua (en los poros) y la heterogeneidad. El flujo de aire en las capas del suelo se produce a través de los espacios porosos interconectados existentes en el suelo, por lo que una mayor porosidad aumenta el flujo de aire a través del suelo. Por otro lado, un contenido de humedad muy bajo determina una mayor adsorción de algunos parámetros al suelo.

La presencia de zonas que se caractericen por una textura y una permeabilidad significativamente diferentes puede determinar el flujo de aire y, por lo tanto, afectar el proyecto y causar cortocircuitos (por ejemplo, flujos de aire preferenciales en áreas de falta de homogeneidad o en las proximidades del conducto de aspiración). Otro factor importante que podría restringir el flujo del aire es el nivel de la capa freática. La depresión inducida en los pozos de extracción puede provocar una subida del nivel piezométrico (una depresión de 0,2 atm induciría un aumento de aproximadamente 2 m) e inundar parcialmente los pozos y el sistema SVE. Se consideran condiciones favorables una profundidad hasta el nivel freático de aproximadamente 3 m, por el contrario, las profundidades inferiores a 1,5 m no son aconsejables.

Además, un mayor contenido de carbono orgánico en el suelo, COS, por ejemplo, en la turba, puede dificultar la SVE. (En relación con el contenido en COS, la desorción y la volatilización son cada vez más reducidas y probablemente también la permeabilidad disminuirá sustancialmente).

Los parámetros que se resumen a continuación podrían ser la clave para una aplicación eficaz:
- alta permeabilidad de las capas geológicas;
- composición homogénea del suelo, es decir, ausencia de capas y estratos de diferente textura, ausencia de vías preferentes de flujo de aire resultantes de la presencia de infraestructuras subterráneas;
- ausencia de estratos o capas de turba con alta capacidad de absorción de contaminantes orgánicos;
- ausencia de contaminantes atrapados en aguas estancadas;
- ausencia de cobertura impermeable de capas relativamente poco permeables;
- ausencia de aguas subterráneas poco profundas

2.5   Consideraciones para el diseño del sistema

El diseño del SVE consiste en la definición de:

a) Parámetros de funcionamiento del sistema:
- Tasa de extracción de aire
- Grado de vacío en el pozo de extracción
- Radio de influencia (ROI)

b) Definición de los componentes del sistema:
- Número de pozos de extracción y su posición
- Construcción de los pozos
- Ventilador de extracción
- Separador agua-aire
- Instrumentación de la unidad de tratamiento de vapores (con intercambiador de calor)

Para el diseño de la SVE se realizan pruebas piloto sobre el terreno. Estas pruebas deben incluir al menos 1 pozo de extracción y 3 puntos de control (posiblemente multinivel en caso de heterogeneidad del emplazamiento) en los que se mida el grado de vacío alcanzado. Para que una prueba piloto sea útil es necesario, en primer lugar, realizar una prueba para ajustar el caudal de extracción actuando sobre la válvula de regulación normalmente situada en el conducto de aspiración. Para cada posición de la válvula (correspondiente a un determinado caudal de extracción), hay que esperar unos 30 minutos para que el sistema se estabilice y, medir:

- Grado de vacío en el pozo de extracción;
- Grado de vacío inducido en los puntos de monitoreo;
- Caudal de aire extraído;
- Composición y temperatura del gas extraído.

Las mediciones se repetirán para diferentes grados de apertura de la válvula. La permeabilidad intrínseca del suelo (k) se puede estimar con las mediciones recogidas durante la prueba piloto.

Uno de los criterios de diseño más importantes es el radio de influencia, que se basa en las medidas recogidas durante la prueba piloto. En ausencia de una base de datos basada en casos concretos ya finalizados, es el método más fiable para diseñar una intervención a escala real.
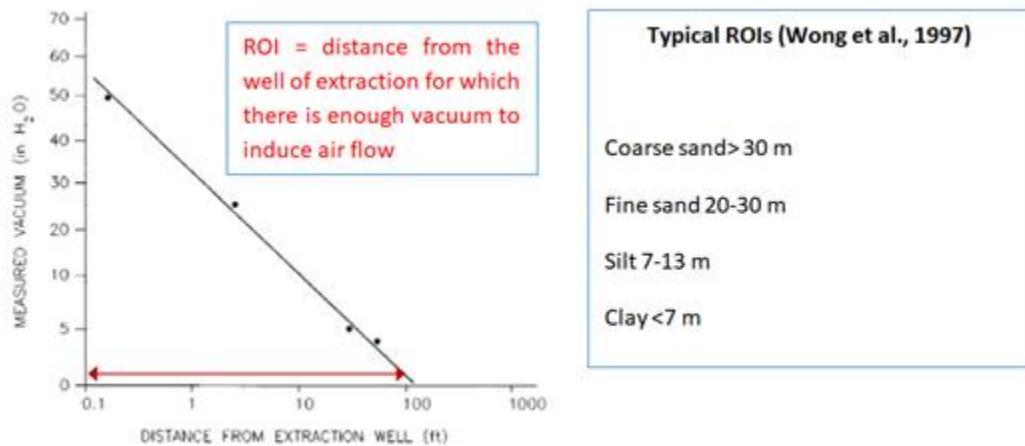
Figura 2.4-Radio de influencia

Una vez definido el radio de influencia, se trazan una serie de círculos de radio igual al de influencia, previendo un solapamiento parcial, para evitar que queden zonas sin tratar adecuadamente.
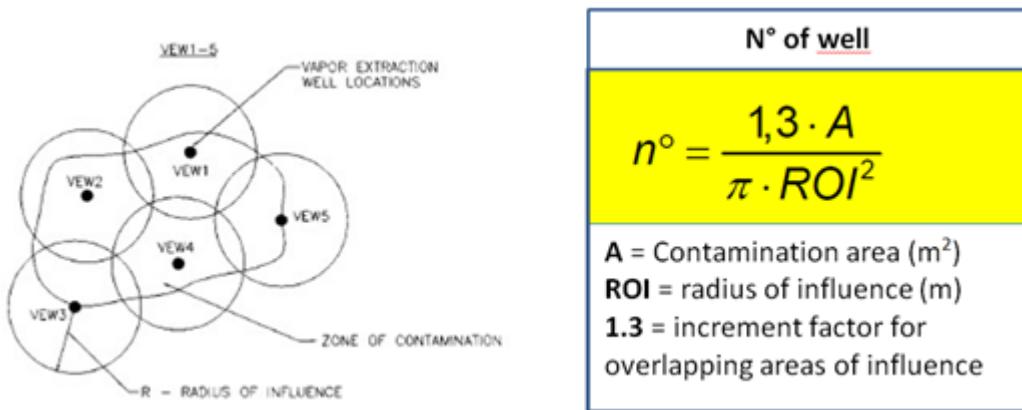
Figura 2.5-Número de pozo

Una vez definida la profundidad del pozo, H, (generalmente igual a la profundidad de la contaminación) y conocido el radio de influencia asociado al vacío, es posible establecer las tasas de extracción de aire.

EXTRACTION RATES

$$\frac{Q}{H} = \pi \frac{k}{\mu} P_w \left[\frac{1 - \left(\frac{P_{atm}}{P_w}\right)^2}{ln\left(\frac{R_w}{R_i}\right)} \right]$$

H = fenestration length (m)
k = intrinsic permeability (cm^2)
Pw = well pressure (g / cm / s^2)
Patm = pressure atm (g / cm / s^2)
Rw = well radius SVE (cm)
Ri = radius of influence (cm)
Q = well air flow ($cm3$ / s)
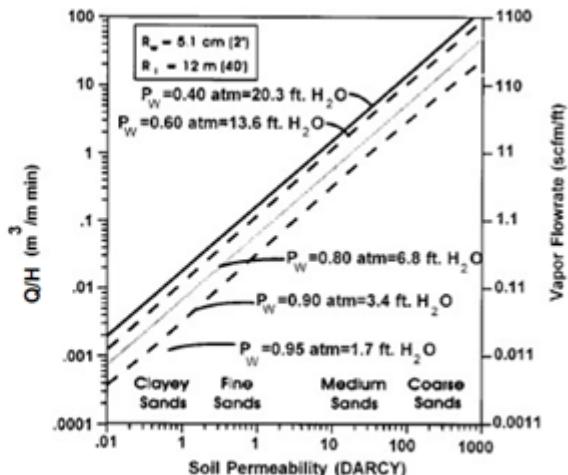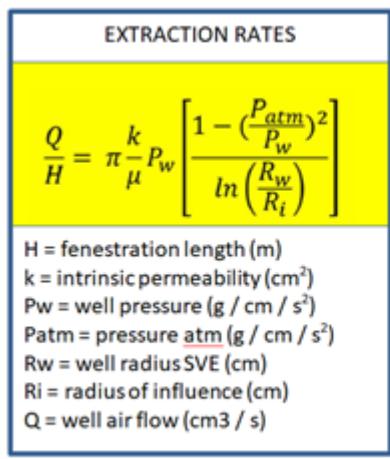
Figura 2.6 Tasas de extracción

Los valores típicos de diseño para la tasa de extracción a partir de los estudios piloto y aplicaciones son de 20-200 m^3/h; los valores típicos de diseño para la depresión de la boca del pozo a partir de estudios y aplicaciones piloto son de 0,5-1 atm.

Los vapores extraídos se someten a diferentes tratamientos en función de las concentraciones. En cuanto a las sustancias inflamables que resultan relevantes como contaminantes de interés, el parámetro más importante es el límite inferior de explosividad LIE (LEL en inglés). El carbón activado y la oxidación catalítica son aplicables si C (vapor) <25% LIE; se recomienda la oxidación térmica si C (vapor) <25-50% LIE; los biofiltros son aplicables si C (vapor) <10% LIE.

3 ESTUDIO DE VIABILIDAD

Los criterios principales para seleccionar esta tecnología son la permeabilidad al aire del medio poroso y la volatilidad de los contaminantes. A continuación, la tecnología debe examinarse más detenidamente teniendo en cuenta la variedad de una serie de factores específicos del emplazamiento.

3.1 Condiciones y modelo conceptual del emplazamiento

Numerosas condiciones físicas y químicas del emplazamiento tienen un impacto importante en la eficacia de la SVE como alternativa de remediación. Estos parámetros se analizan en las secciones siguientes, junto con los datos de caracterización del emplazamiento pertinentes que deben recopilarse para valorar la viabilidad y el diseño de la SVE.

La Figura 3.1 resume estos datos de caracterización del emplazamiento. Nunca se insistirá lo suficiente en la importancia de la recopilación de datos al inicio del proceso. Aunque el conocimiento del emplazamiento nunca será perfecto (porque las herramientas de caracterización, los recursos financieros y los métodos de muestreo tienen limitaciones prácticas), cada uno tiene la responsabilidad de reunir y documentar las líneas de evidencia que convergen hacia una imagen coherente del emplazamiento. Esta imagen, o modelo conceptual, del emplazamiento es necesariamente polifacética y multidisciplinar, ya que abarca diversos tipos de datos. El modelo conceptual también es dinámico, en el sentido de que evoluciona a medida que se dispone de datos adicionales. Es importante reformular continuamente el modelo conceptual del emplazamiento a medida que los nuevos trabajos de campo aportan nueva información.

El modelo conceptual debe partir de una descripción (hidro)geológica del emplazamiento y caracterizar la(s) fuente(s) primaria(s) de contaminación, el patrón de liberación de la masa contaminada (cantidad de contaminantes liberados) y, en particular, la extensión vertical y horizontal de la distribución de los contaminantes en la zona vadosa. Hay una serie de aspectos clave para la caracterización de la zona vadosa para la extracción de vapores del suelo. En resumen, estos incluyen:

- tipo/condición de la cubierta superficial (p. ej., asfalto, vegetación);
- presencia y dimensiones de estructuras o servicios públicos enterrados
- topografía
- tipo de suelo, distribución y profundidad
- profundidad del nivel freático y su fluctuación estacional
- contenido y variabilidad de la humedad del suelo
- espesor de la franja capilar
- permeabilidad al aire y cómo varía ésta dentro del área de interés
- contenido de carbono orgánico y variabilidad del mismo

Cualquiera (o una combinación) de estos elementos clave del emplazamiento pueden influir en gran medida en la eficacia de la SVE y/o presentar una seria limitación para la SVE. A menudo, los datos de caracterización del emplazamiento potencialmente importantes para la aplicación de tecnologías SVE no se recopilan porque los responsables de registrar los datos de las perforaciones del suelo y de los pozos de observación no son conscientes de la importancia de esos datos o no se les insta a reconocerlos y registrarlos sistemáticamente.

Comprender la naturaleza de los horizontes superficiales es fundamental. Se deben registrar los indicios de las características del subsuelo, como las capas arenosas o pedregosas en una matriz de textura más fina, o los macroporos, que podrían servir como vías preferentes de flujo de aire. Los colores y el moteado del suelo pueden indicar la zona en la que el nivel freático fluctúa estacionalmente. En lugares urbanos o industriales, se debe determinar, si es posible, el contacto entre el suelo/relleno alterado y el suelo nativo. Los métodos

estándar de caracterización del suelo deben ser empleados para estos fines por personal entrenado en su uso (Breckenridge, Williams y Keck 1991; USEPA 1991h).

Parámetro	Método de recolección	Método analítico
Permeabilidad a la fase de aire (escala de campo)	Prueba de bomba neumática	Ver Cho and DiGiulio (1992)
Permeabilidad a la fase de aire (escala de campo)	In situ o sin perturbaciones de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro de la muestra de suelo habitual	Ver párrafo 4-2d y apéndice D Corey (1986)
Estratigrafía/heterogeneidad	Perforación del suelo y/ o pozo de prueba	Observación visual; Breckenridge; Williams, and Keck (1991); USEPA (1991h)
Tamaño del grano	Cuchara partida (muestra de suelo tomada con los martillos de caída automática, el muestreador de cuchara partida es un tubo dividido en dos mitades iguales a lo largo) u, otra muestra de suelo	ASTM D422-63 (1998)
Porosidad	Muestra de suelo inalterada de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro	Calculado a partir de la densidad aparente seca
Densidad aparente seca	Muestra de suelo inalterada de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro	ASTM D2850
Contenido en carbono orgánico	Cuchara partida	SW-846 9060 Churcher and Dickhout (1989)
Contenido en humedad (saturación)	Registro de neutrones a través de tubos de acceso.	Medidor de neutrones ASTM D3017, ASTM D5220
	Tensiómetros	Casel and Klute (1986)
	Muestra de suelo inalterada de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro	ASTM D2216-92
Retención de humedad del suelo (curva de saturación de presión capilar)	Muestra de suelo inalterada de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro	Klute (1986); ASTM D2325-93
Retención de humedad del suelo en el entorno seco	Muestra de suelo inalterada de 50 a 75 mm de diámetro	Método psicrómetrico (Jones, Gee and Heller)
Temperatura del suelo	Termómetro, termopar	Medidor portátil
Profundidad del nivel de agua subterránea y variaciones estaciones	Pozos de control del nivel freático, medidor de nivel de agua o medidor de interfaz y elevaciones del nivel del pozo inspeccionado	ASTM D4750
Contenido de hidrocarburos	In situ	Downwey and Hall (1994); ASTM

voláitles en el gas del suelo		D3416-78
Contenido de O_2 el gas del suelo	In situ	Medidor portátil; celda electroquímica.
Contenido de CO_2 en el gas del suelo	In situ	Medidor portátil; adsorción por infrarrojos
Tasa de respiración microbiana	In situ	Hinchee et al.1992

Figura 3--Resumen del 1

3.1.1 Naturaleza y alcance de la contaminación

Durante la caracterización del emplazamiento, se deben determinar las propiedades químicas del medio y la naturaleza y extensión de la contaminación para evaluar la viabilidad de SVE. Los contaminantes más susceptibles de ser sometidos a SVE son los COVs, que incluyen la gasolina, el queroseno, muchos componentes del gasóleo, los freones y los disolventes como el PCE, el tricloroeteno y el cloruro de metileno.

La figura siguiente presenta varios grupos de contaminantes y clasifica su susceptibilidad a la SVE.

Grupos de contaminantes		Ejemplo de contaminantes	Efectividad
Orgánicos	COVs Halogenados	Tetracloroeteno, Tricloroeteno	a
	SCOVs Halogenados	Para-diclorobenceno	b
	COVs No Halogenados	Gasolina	a
	SCOVs No Halogenados	Diesel	a
	PCBs	Aroclor-1242	c
	Pesticidas	Clordano	c
	Dioxinas/furanos	2,3,7,8-Tetracloridibenceno-p-dioxina	c
	Cianuros orgánicos		c
	Corrosivos orgánicos		c
	Explosivos	2,4,6 Trinitrotolueno	c
Inorgánicos	Metales volátiles	Mercurio, tetraetileno de plomo	c
	Metales no volátiles	Níquel, cromo	c
	Amianto		c
	Materiales radioactivos		c
	Corrosivos inorgánicos		c
	Cianuros inorgánicos	Cianuro de sodio	c
Reactivo	Oxidantes		c
	Reductores		b

Figura 3.2 --Efectividad de SVE por grupos de contaminantes

3.1.2 Características geométricas de la fuente

- La extensión de la contaminación debe determinarse en tres dimensiones durante la fase de caracterización del emplazamiento del proyecto para seleccionar las tecnologías más apropiadas. En lo que respecta a la SVE, hay que caracterizar tanto la zona no saturada como la zona saturada.
- La profundidad de la contaminación afecta a la viabilidad y al diseño de los sistemas SVE. Si la contaminación se limita a la superficie del terreno, se favorecerán otras tecnologías distintas a la SVE. Si la contaminación se ubica en la profundidad de la zona saturada, la SVE por sí sola no será viable. En los lugares donde la SVE es aplicable, la profundidad de la contaminación influirá en el tipo de pozo. (horizontal o vertical), la distancia entre pozos proyectados y otros factores de diseño.
- El volumen de suelo contaminado influye en la viabilidad de la SVE. Si el volumen es pequeño, otras alternativas, como la excavación y la eliminación fuera del emplazamiento, pueden ser más rentables económicamente. El volumen de suelo contaminado también influye en muchos aspectos del diseño del sistema, como el número de pozos, el tamaño de los sopladores y la capacidad del sistema de tratamiento de gases de salida.
- Se deben considerar las fuentes potenciales de contaminantes en fase de vapor que existan fuera del emplazamiento (fuentes externas) a la hora de determinar la viabilidad y el diseño de los sistemas SVE. Si una contaminación importante de la fase de vapor pudiera migrar al emplazamiento desde fuentes externas durante la SVE, el diseño del sistema deberá incluir pozos de inyección de aire o algún otro medio para impedir que esto ocurra.

3.1.3 Presencia de NAPL (Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids)

El investigador del emplazamiento debe determinar si hay presencia de NAPL. El producto libre en las muestras de agua subterránea sería una indicación de NAPL. Los NAPL compiten con la humedad del aire y del suelo por el espacio de los poros dentro de la zona no saturada, reduciendo la permeabilidad de la fase aérea. Además, los NAPL constituyen una fuente continua de contaminantes. Se han registrado niveles de saturación residual en la zona no saturada de entre el 15 y el 50 por ciento del espacio instersticial poroso disponible (USEPA 1989c).

Si se tiene la sospecha de que hay presencia de DNAPL (de las siglas inglesas Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids, Líquidos Densos en Fase No-Acuosa), puede existir la posibilidad de que la aplicación de la SVE aumente, en lugar de reducir el riesgo de migración de DNAPL hacia unidades hidrológicas más profundas. Este podría ser el caso, por ejemplo, si las DNAPL se encuentran en un lecho rocoso fracturado por encima del nivel freático. Se ha teorizado que la inducción del flujo de aire hacia un pozo de extracción en un entrono de este tipo podría ir acompañada por un contraflujo de DNAPL a una mayor profundidad en el sistema de fracturas, y quizás hacia la zona saturada (USEPA 1993g). En tal situación podría ser aplicable una suspensión por falta de viabilidad técnica.

3.1.4 Resultado del estudio de gases del suelo

Por su propia naturaleza, los contaminantes que son susceptibles de SVE son susceptibles de ser medidos durante los estudios de gas del suelo. Con frecuencia, la medición de gases del suelo en el campo es una forma útil de caracterizar la naturaleza y el alcance de la contaminación del suelo en un emplazamiento. A menudo, las mediciones de campo de las concentraciones de contaminantes de los gases del suelo, corroboradas por un número limitado de análisis de laboratorio, son suficientes para la caracterización del emplazamiento. Sin embargo, rara vez se puede obtener una buena correlación cuantitativa entre las concentraciones gases del

suelo y las concentraciones presentes en el suelo. Esto es particularmente cierto cuando hay concentraciones más altas de contaminantes presentes debido a NAPL residuales. Al contrastar las concentraciones de gas del suelo y de la muestra de suelo, es útil tener en cuenta que los resultados de la muestra del suelo representan los contaminantes en todos los compartimentos del suelo, mientras que el gas del suelo mide solo aquellos en forma de vapor. Los estudios de gas del suelo también pueden proporcionar una indicación de las concentraciones de contaminantes que pueden esperarse inicialmente en los gases de salida de los SVE.

3.1.5 Permeabilidad al aire

La permeabilidad al aire, es decir, la capacidad del suelo para permitir el paso del aire, es uno de los parámetros más críticos que afectan a la viabilidad y al diseño de los SVE. Es una función de las propiedades de la matriz sólida y del contenido de humedad. La permeabilidad al aire tiene una gran influencia en las tasas de flujo de aire y en las tasas de recuperación de contaminantes. Los suelos de grano grueso suelen exhibir grandes valores de permeabilidad al aire y patrones de flujo de aire más uniformes. Los suelos con permeabilidades al aire menores de aproximadamente 10 -10 cm/s pueden no ser aptos para SVE (USEPA 1993d).

3.1.6 Heterogeneidades y vías preferenciales

Las heterogeneidades juegan un papel importante en la distribución de contaminantes dentro de la zona no saturada y están causadas por variaciones espaciales en el tipo de suelo, la estratificación, la porosidad y el contenido de humedad. Durante el funcionamiento de un sistema SVE, estas variaciones pueden influir en los patrones de flujo de aire y, en última instancia, en las tasas de recuperación de contaminantes dentro de la zona no saturada. Por ejemplo, si la zona no saturada consiste en capas alternas de suelo de grano grueso y fino, el flujo de aire puede estar limitado a los estratos de grano grueso. Los contaminantes suelen eliminarse de los estratos de grano más fino a un ritmo mucho más lento. Las perforaciones del suelo, la penetrometría de cono y los exámenes del perfil del suelo en las caras facies de los testigos de los sondeos son algunos de los métodos de obtención de información sobre heterogeneidades físicas.
En algunos casos, los servicios públicos subterráneos, como el alcantarillado de aguas pluviales y sanitarias, o el material de relleno asociado a estos elementos pueden producir un cortocircuito en el flujo de aire asociado a un sistema SVE. Como resultado, el flujo de aire puede concentrarse a lo largo de estos elementos en lugar de en la zona que requiere tratamiento. Además, estos elementos pueden proporcionar vías de migración para líquidos y vapores en fase libre dentro de la zona no saturada. Como resultado, la orientación y la geometría de estos elementos pueden condicionar la dirección en la que migran los líquidos o los vapores. A menudo, no existen planos de obra de los servicios públicos subterráneos, por lo que también se debe consultar a personas familiarizadas con el emplazamiento. También deben tenerse en cuenta los sótanos de los edificios cercanos y otras particularidades que puedan afectar el flujo.

3.1.7 Topografía

La topografía y la naturaleza de la superficie del suelo afectarán a la SVE. Una superficie impermeable tenderá a mejorar el flujo de aire horizontal y a aumentar el radio de influencia. Una superficie permeable hará lo contrario y aumentará la cantidad de aire atmosférico que entra en el subsuelo. Las limitaciones propias de la superficie, como los edificios, las carreteras y los servicios públicos, pueden hacer que la SVE sea una alternativa de remediación atractiva en comparación con otras opciones. Si hay pavimento en la superficie del suelo, se debe examinar su integridad. Se deben observar las grietas y, si posible, sellarlas.

3.2   Usos de ensayos a escala de laboratorio en el diseño de remediación de SVE

Para determinar los parámetros de diseño. Ball y Wolf (1990) recomiendan la realización de ensayos en columna en el laboratorio para determinar los parámetros de diseño de los sistemas SVE que abordan contaminantes individuales en suelos isotrópicos homogéneos en pequeñas zonas. Su metodología consiste en empaquetar una columna con suelo de la zona, aplicar un flujo de aire representativo y medir las concentraciones de contaminantes del efluente en función del número de intercambios de volumen de aire de los poros. A continuación, se ajusta una ecuación de caída exponencial a estos datos, y el valor del parámetro de ajuste se utiliza en la predicción de la tasa de emisión para el sistema SVE a escala real. Con esta información, se puede estimar el tiempo y el coste total de la rehabilitación del suelo.

Ensayos en columna para determinar la eficacia de los SVE. La USEPA (1991c) recomienda la realización de ensayos en columna para la selección de solución definitiva cuando existe alguna duda sobre la eficacia de la SVE en un emplazamiento concreto. Este paso puede omitirse cuando la presión de vapor de los compuestos objetivo es de 10 mm Hg o superior. Las pruebas de columna tampoco son factibles para sitios con lecho rocoso fracturado o rellenos heterogéneos formados por grandes fragmentos de escombros.

Estos estudios tienen un costo relativamente bajo e implican el paso de alrededor de 2.000 volúmenes de aire a través de la columna (durante aproximadamente 6 días de funcionamiento). Cabe señalar que esta equivalencia depende de las condiciones del suelo, como la permeabilidad y el contenido de humedad. Por ejemplo, En un suelo arenoso y seco, los 2000 volúmenes de aire de los poros podrían eliminarse en tan solo un año, mientras que una arcilla limosa y húmeda podría requerir más de 6 años. Sin embargo, en la mayoría de los casos, los escenarios de flujo específicos del emplazamiento se situarían en algún punto del rango de 3 a 6 años. La razón para realizar pruebas en columna es estudiar la cinética de difusión del suelo. Se ha encontrado que la liberación de contaminantes casi siempre se limita a la difusión dentro de los primeros 1000 volúmenes equivalentes de aire contenido en los poros, lo que indica que el equilibrio se alcanza con relativa rapidez. Por lo tanto, un período de estudio correspondiente a 2.000 veces el volumen de los poros permite cuantificar la cinética de la difusión.

Las concentraciones de contaminantes en el gas del suelo se controlan durante la prueba, y una reducción del 80 por ciento o más indica que SVE es potencialmente viable para el emplazamiento y que debería evaluarse más a fondo con ensayos en columna adicionales. Si se consiguen reducciones superiores al 95 por ciento, el suelo residual de la columna debe analizarse para cuantificar la contaminación residual. Si las concentraciones están por debajo de los objetivos de descontaminación, se pueden omitir los ensayos en columna para la selección del método de tratamiento y realizar a continuación las pruebas de permeabilidad al aire.

Los ensayos en columna no son necesarios para la mayoría de las aplicaciones de SVE, pero pueden ser útiles en determinadas circunstancias, por ejemplo, venteo y/o biodegradación de contaminantes recalcitrantes (difíciles de degradar). Los ensayos en columna suelen utilizar de 2 a 8 kg de suelo contaminado (por ejemplo, con dimensiones de columna que van desde 5 a 10 cm de diámetro y desde 30 a 60 cm de longitud) y se ejecutan hasta que los resultados sean asintóticos, con una duración y un coste que dependen de las características del suelo y de los contaminantes. Las mediciones realizadas antes de los ensayos en columna pueden incluir la densidad aparente, el contenido de humedad y los análisis de las concentraciones de contaminantes en la matriz del suelo, en el lixiviado y en el espacio de cabeza. Se pueden probar diferentes tasas de flujo de aire para comprobar la respuesta de las tasas de eliminación de contaminantes al flujo de aire. Las mediciones realizadas durante las pruebas incluyen las presiones de aire de entrada y salida, las concentraciones de contaminantes en el efluente, las tasas de flujo de aire y la temperatura. Después de la prueba, se miden las concentraciones de contaminantes en la matriz del suelo y en el lixiviado "test TCLP" ("TCLP" por su nombre en inglés, Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) se miden para compararlas con

los objetivos de descontaminación. En la figura 3.3 se muestra un esquema de un equipo de ensayo en columna.
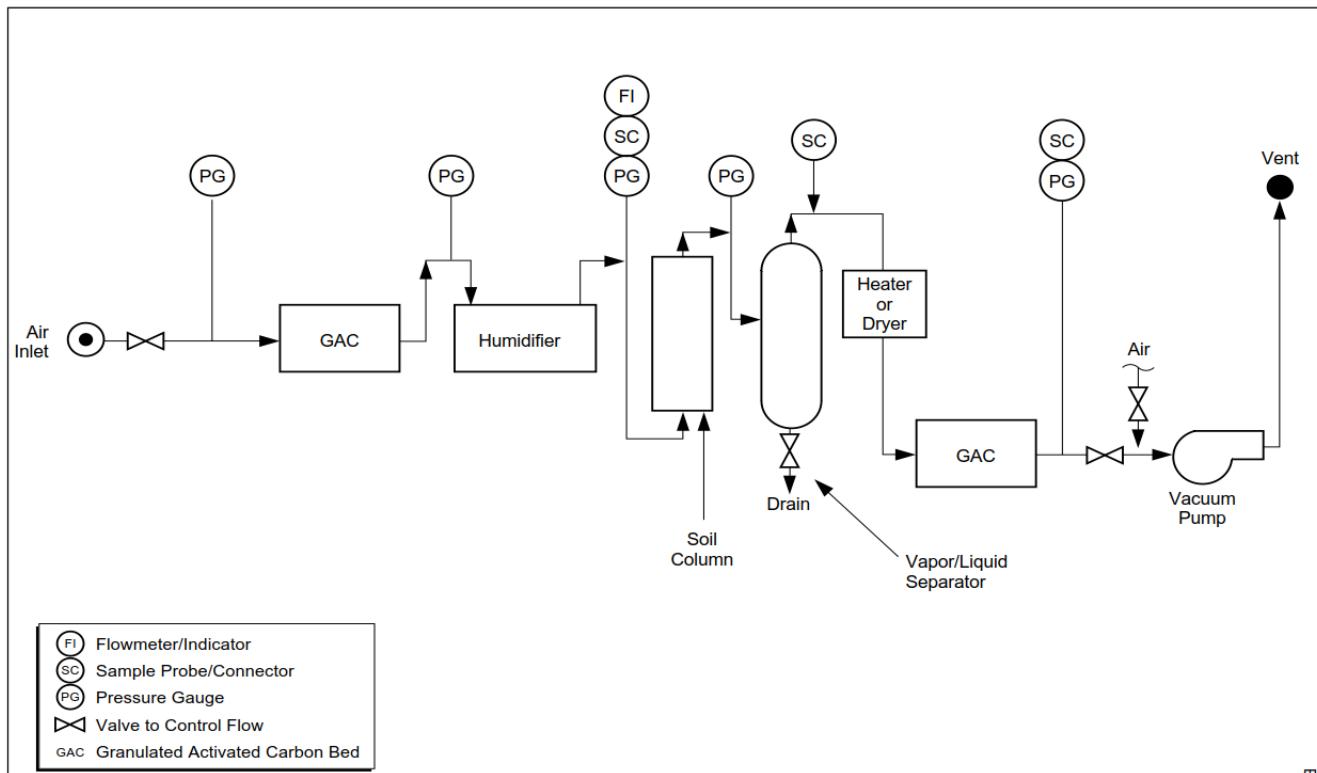

Figura 3.3 --Diagrama de un aparato de prueba de columna

La figura 3.4 presenta las ventajas e inconvenientes de los ensayos en columna. Aunque los ensayos en columna no suelen ser la única fuente de datos de permeabilidad al aire, pueden ser un recurso útil para complementar los ensayos de permeabilidad al aire in situ.

Por ejemplo, mientras que las pruebaska (permeabilidad al aire) in situ generalmente se pueden realizar solo en un número limitado de ubicaciones, los testigos de sondeo no alterados se pueden recoger con frecuencia en muchas ubicaciones y profundidades, incluso en las mismas ubicaciones donde se realizan las pruebas de ka "in situ", de modo que se puede examinar la correlación entre los datos de laboratorio y los datos "in situ". Si los resultados están bien correlacionados, los datos de laboratorio se pueden utilizar para generalizar los resultados "in situ" a toda el área de muestreo.

Ventajas	Desventajas
Puede acelerar el proceso SVE para permitir la evaluación del máximo potencial de eliminación de contaminantes	El aire de extracción siempre tiene buen acceso a los contaminantes a través de la columna. El flujo de aire a las dierentes zonas varia ampliamente en ell campo.
Da información de orden de magnitud sobre los coeficientes de partición necesarios para el modelo matemático	Los procesos de difusión a menudo no se modelan correctamente.
Las mediciones del orden de magnitud de la permeabilidad al aire pueden obtenerse con	Debido a las diferencias en la escala y en el flujo de aire, vs, la orientación del núcleo, deben obtenerse

muestras "inalteradas"	resultados más representativos de la permeabilidad al aire mediante mediciones de la permeabilidad al aire sobre el terreno
Puede permitir el análisis de muestras estrechamente espaciadass	Se deben formular y validar procedimientos estándar.

Figura 3.4 --Ventajas y limitaciones de los ensayos en columna

Los ensayos en columna se realizan mejor utilizando muestras de testigos de sondeo no alterados (intactos). Las muestras de testigos no alterados se pueden obtener tomando la muestra con la máquina de sondeo, el tubo metálico se hinca a golpe o presión y, la muestra de suelo queda dentro del tubo de PVC interior al tubo metálico o, mediante extracción de testigo continua. Las muestras de testigos deben guardarse en fundas rígidas y deben registrarse con la denominación y ubicación de la muestra. Las muestras deben guardarse selladas y refrigerarads en el momento de la recogida para evitar la volatilización y la degradación de los contaminantes. Los procedimientos típicos de perforación recuperan los testigos de suelo en una orientación vertical o casi vertical. El flujo típico de aire durante la SVE, aunque ciertamente tridimensional, no es vertical y la permeabilidad horizontal al aire es probablemente más interesante. Este hecho debe tenerse en cuenta a la hora de decidir si se recolectarán testigos verticales para la prueba.

En el laboratorio, los testigos pueden ser introducidas en columnas de ensayo, o los tubos del testigo se pueden incorporar a la configuración de la columna. Si se han obtenido muestras alteradas, las muestras se deben volver a empaquetar hasta alcanzar una densidad final que se aproxime a las condiciones de campo. Si el ensayo está diseñao para simular el flujo vertical a través de un perfil estratificado, las capas se pueden incorporar durante la colocación del suelo. Se debe contemplar la posibilidad de recoger testigos no alterados orientados horizontalmente si la prueba pretende simular el flujo de aire horizontal.

El equipo de ensayo suele incluir un sistema de suministro de vacío o de suminstro de aire, dispositivos de medición de flujo y equipo de medición de presión. También puede contar con dispositivos de medición de la humedad del suelo (por ejemplo, tensiómetros). Todas las conexiones entre el sistema de suministro de aire, las paredes de la columna y la muestra de suelo deben ser estancas. Algunas columnas incorporan una camara de aire inflable en el espacio anular entre la muestra del testigo y la pared de la columna para evitar fugas a lo largo de los lados de la muestra de suelo. Las concentraciones de contaminantes pueden medirse en la fase sólida o vapor. Dado que las mediciones en el suelo requieren un muestreo destructivo, los puntos de medición se limitan a las concentraciones iniciales y finales. El muestreo de vapores permite la medición de series temporales de concentraciones en los contaminantes, pero suele requerir de un sofisticado equipo de medición in situ (por ejemplo, cromatógrafos de gases). Las mediciones en la fase vapor deben estar respaldadas por las concentraciones iniciales y finales del suelo.

Los resultados de los ensayos suelen expresarse como la concentración de contaminantes frente al volumen total de aire intercambiado Para relacionar los ensayos en columna con las aplicaciones de campo, el intercambio de aire se expresa típicamente en unidades de volumen de poro.

El cálculo de los volúmenes de poro requiere la medición de la porosidad y las dimensiones de la muestra, así como la tasa de flujo y el tiempo transcurrido. Los resultados se pueden usar para evaluar la tasa de eliminación del contaminante y, las concentraciones residuales estimadas. También se pueden determinar los coeficientes de partición, siempre que las concentraciones de equilibrio se midan simultáneamente en cada fase, junto con la fracción orgánica de carbono (foc).

3.3 Viabilidad de la SVE

- Los contaminantes con constantes de la Ley de Henry bajas son difíciles de tratar mediante SVE. En determinadas condiciones, se puede considerar la posibilidad de mejorar la volatilidad mediante aire caliente, inyección de vapor u otras tecnologías de calentamiento del subsuelo.
- La SVE no es eficaz en la zona saturada, y los tubos de los pozos de extracción deben colocarse para tener en cuenta las variaciones estacionales en la elevación del nivel freático. En algunos lugares, se puede considerar bajar el nivel freático mediante bombeo para disponer de mas terreno para tratamiento mediante SVE.
- El marco geológico y el grado de heterogeneidad lateral y vertical deben tenerse en cuenta a la hora de diseñar el sistema para garantizar la eliminación eficaz del vapor en todas las partes del tramo objetivo. Por ejemplo, es más fácil inducir el flujo a través de una capa arenosa en comparación con un estrato de limo o arcilla. Además, una capa de arcilla podría impedir la extracción de vapor, en partes del tramo contaminado, si un pozo no se ejecuta teniendo esto en cuenta.
- Los suelos con un alto porcentaje de finos y un alto grado de saturación de agua requerirán ejercer mayores presiones de vacío, aumentando los costos y/o dificultando la eficacia y la uniformidad del tratamiento.
- Los suelos con permeabilidades o estratificaciones muy variables pueden dar lugar a una extracción desigual del flujo de gas de las zonas contaminadas. Después de que un sistema SVE se interrumpa o pare finalmente (de forma temporal o permanente), también puede producirse un rebote de contaminantes desde las zonas de menor permeabilidad en las que los procesos de transferencia de contaminantes de la masa afectada fueron menos eficaces con el tiempo. El diseño/colocación de los pozos de extracción y/o las operaciones de SVE (por ejemplo, los ciclos de los pozos de extracción, la operación por pulsos), así como la posible necesidad de fracturación, deber ser tenidos en cuenta para abordar las diferentes permeabilidades/estratificación y el potencial de rebote.
- El diseño del sistema SVE debe permitir la medición del flujo de aire y de las concentraciones de contaminantes en los pozos de extracción individuales (frente a las mediciones compuestas en la soplante). La falta de mediciones de pozos individuales no permitirá una evaluación u optimización adecuada del rendimiento. Cuando se trata de litologías heterogéneas, no es raro que uno o unos pocos pozos de extracción perforados en una zona más permeable acaparen la mayor parte del flujo total de aire. A medida que la capacidad de eliminación de contaminantes disminuye con el tiempo, resulta más ventajosa la opción de interrumpir el flujo o cerrar pozos de extracción individuales con tasas de eliminación de contaminantes más bajas.
- Se recomienda la instalación de puntos de medición de vacío en un número representativo de ubicaciones a lo largo de la zona de tratamiento, asi como a distintas distancias de los pozos de extracción y a distintas profundidades dentro de las unidades de suelo para las zonas de tratamiento más profundas. Las mediciones de vacío en un número suficiente de puntos de sondeo de gas permiten una extrapolación general de las tasas de flujo de aire y los patrones de distribución en toda la zona de tratamiento.También se pueden recoger mediciones de los niveles de ventilación (p. ej., oxígeno) y de concentración de contaminantes para evaluar la influencia de la recarga y el progreso de eliminación de contaminantes, así como para identificar posibles "zonas muertas" de tratamiento ineficaz que pueden requerir una mayor intervención para abordar su tratamiento.
- La infiltración de agua procedente de la lluvia y/o el afloramiento del nivel freático en el sistema SVE puede plantear varios problemas operativos. Las tuberías de transferencia deben tener una pendiente hacia los pozos de extracción o puntos de recogida ubicados estratégicamente para evitar el bloqueo de la tubería. La elevación por succión de grandes volúmenes de agua subterránea poco profunda o el arrastre de la infiltración de la precipitación dentro del sistema pueden sobrecargar el separador de

aire/agua y causar una corrosión severa y el bloqueo de las partes internas de la soplante (lo que requerirá su reemplazo). Durante los períodos de fuertes lluvias o de aguas subterráneas poco profundas, puede ser necesario desconectar el sistema SVE o reducir el flujo de aire/vacío para evitar estos problemas.

- El tratamiento de los gases residuales es a menudo necesario y aumentará significativamente el coste de las operaciones de SVE. Por ejemplo, los líquidos residuales pueden requerir tratamiento/eliminación, el carbón activo granulado (CAG) agotado tendrá que ser regenerado o eliminado, y la oxidación térmica/catalítica puede requerir importantes costes de electricidad/gas para su funcionamiento. La planificación del proyecto a largo plazo debe permitir una flexibilidad suficiente para modificar o interrumpir el tratamiento del aire a medida que las concentraciones de contaminantes en el afluente disminuyan con el tiempo (por ejemplo, el uso de equipos de alquiler, el control frecuente del afluente según los requisitos del contrato para el tratamiento).
- La eficacia del SVE tiende a disminuir con el tiempo y eventualmente alcanza condiciones asintóticas o de meseta. Las condiciones asintóticas/de meseta pueden ser efecto de la eliminación de la masa de contaminantes principalmente de las zonas de mayor permeabilidad, mientras que los mayores retos se encuentran en la eliminación de la masa de contaminantes de las zonas de menor permeabilidad, las áreas con mayor humedad, o las de mayor adsorción de contaminantes en la matriz del suelo. Se recomienda una evaluación adicional del diseño y las operaciones del sistema SVE si esto ocurre en un lugar concreto. El análisis del efecto que las concentraciones persistentes de contaminantes pueden tener en las concentraciones de aguas subterráneas o en la intrusión de vapores debe realizarse utilizando herramientas de modelización adecuadas. Se deben realizar pruebas de rebote y mediciones de la concentración de vapores en los puntos de medición de vacío para evaluar los niveles de contaminación residual en toda la zona de tratamiento a fin de tomar decisiones acertadas con respecto a la necesidad de una mayor optimización del sistema o su cierre.
- La eficacia de SVE se puede mejorar mediante el uso de programas de funcionamiento por ciclos. Cuando el sistema está apagado, los contaminantes pueden difundirse en el espacio poroso y luego ser arrastrados cuando el sistema está activo.
- La temperatura de los gases de salida puede limitar las opciones de tratamiento. Debe tenerse en cuenta la posibilidad de incluir intercambiadores de calor para reducir la temperatura antes del tratamiento.

4   PRUEBAS DE CAMPO

Para las aplicaciones SVE, es fundamental caracterizar adecuadamente el subsuelo desde la perspectiva del flujo de aire. Aunque la predicción de las distribuciones de aire reales no es viable en este momento, las características básicas de las distribuciones de aire se pueden predecir para geologías sencillas (por ejemplo, entornos altamente permeables y homogéneos y, entornos con grandes heterogeneidades a macroescala, como pueden ser capas de arcilla en suelos arenosos) y, por lo tanto, el reconocimiento visual de los testigos de sondeo del suelo suele ser muy valioso para las aplicaciones de la SVE.

Al final de la fase de caracterización del emplazamiento y antes de las fases de evaluación y prueba piloto, los datos de caracterización del sitio deben utilizarse para definir una zona objetivo de tratamiento y proponer un modelo conceptual de distribución del aire en el emplazamiento.

La prueba piloto de SVE deberia proporcionar datos fiables para el diseño final del sistema en lo que respecta a:

- definir la zona objetivo de tratamiento
- proponer un modelo conceptual para la distribución del aire en la zona de tratamiento
- índices de flujo de aire sostenibles
- tasa total de extracción de gas
- previsión de los índices de eliminación de vapores contaminantes
- orientación preferida del flujo de aire subterráneo
- radio efectivo de influencia y determinación de si las distancias entre pozos resultan prohibitivas desde el punto de vista de los costes y, en caso afirmativo, determinar la distancia mínima entre pozos de inyección que no suponga un coste efectivo.
- proponer la profundidad, ubicación y detalles de construcción de los pozos
- número de pozos de extracción de vapor necesarios
- tecnología de tratamiento de vapores para los gases de salida del sistema
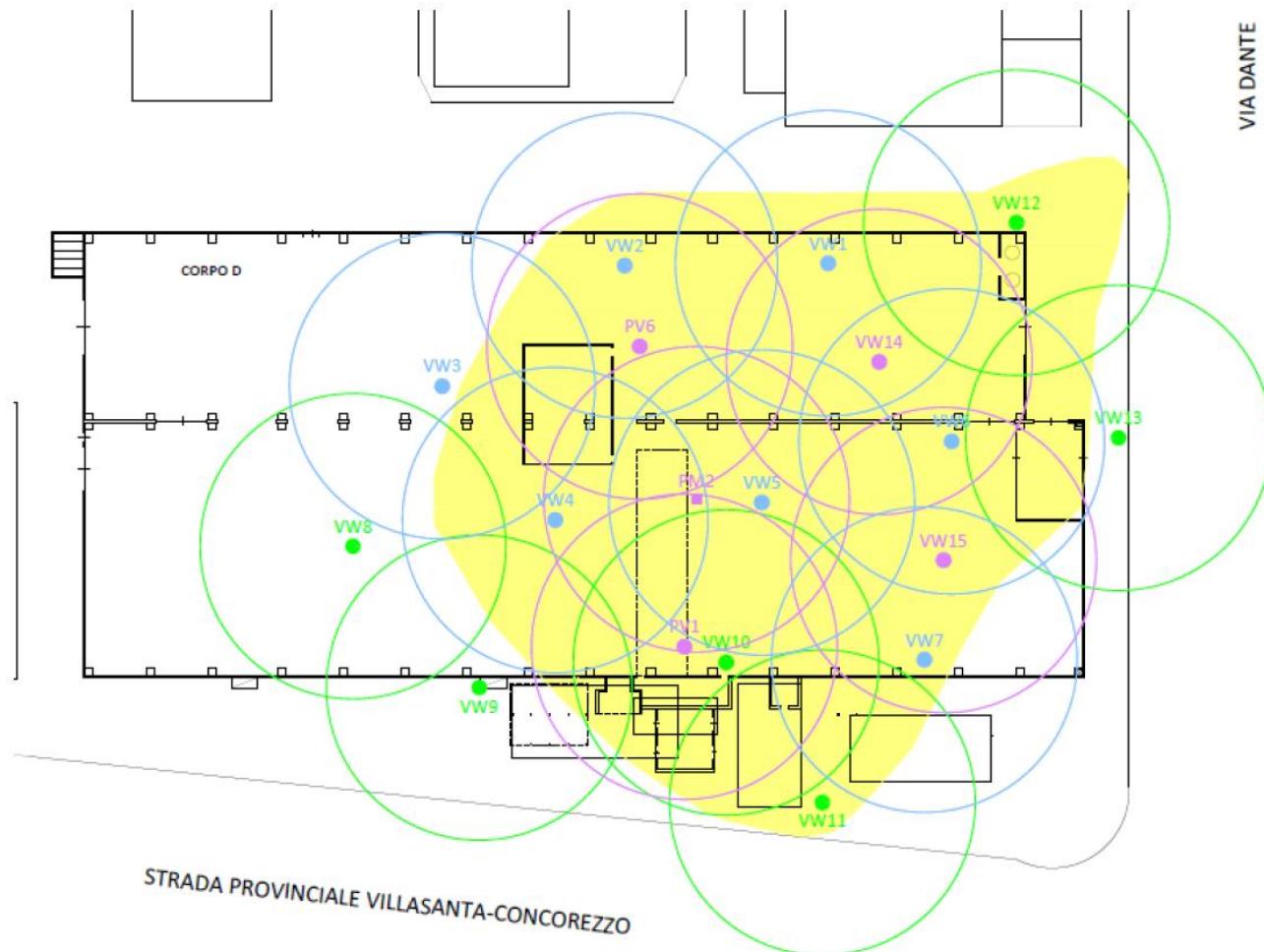
Figura 4.1 --Radio de influencia después de la prueba Piloto (Confalonieri et al., Ver Anexo 1)

Los principales determinantes de estos parámetros de diseño de SVE son (1) la naturaleza y el alcance de la contaminación en el suelo, (2) la distribución de la permeabilidad (es decir, las heterogeneidades) en el suelo y (3) las concentraciones de contaminantes en el gas extraído del suelo. Se supone que esta información estará disponible a partir de un modelo conceptual evolutivo del emplazamiento.

Además de proporcionar datos para el diseño del sistema a escala real, una prueba piloto correctamente realizada debería ayudar al consultor a determinar si se pueden cumplir las previsiones de tiempo establecidas para conseguir terminar el proyecto en plazo, dadas las tasas de eliminación de vapores que se pueden alcanzar.

ACTIVIDAD	PREGUNTAS RESPONDIDAS
Prueba de presión/caudal de inyección	¿Es posible lograr el caudal deseado con presiones razonables?
Prueba de trazador de helio	¿Cuál es la aproximación de la extensión lateral de la distribución del aire?¿Hay indicaciones de las direcciones que se prefieren?
Muestreo as del suelo/gas de salida muestreo	¿Cuál es la tasa de volatilización?¿Existen riesgos para la seguridad evidentes?
Mediciones de OD	¿Cuál es la aproximación de la extensión lateral de la distribución del aire?¿Hay indicaciones de direcciones de preferencia?

4.1   Prueba piloto convencional

Los datos convencionales de caracterización del emplazamiento son importantes para evaluar la SVE; sin embargo, estos datos son relativamente fijos y no proporcionan datos adecuados para el diseño a escala real. En particular, el comportamiento dinámico de la tasa de extracción de masa de contaminantes es difícil de predecir sin realizar una prueba piloto de SVE. El comportamiento de la extracción se rige en gran medida por el volumen de suelo contaminado, las fracciones del volumen de suelo caracterizadas como advectivas frente a las difusivas, las características de transferencia de contaminantes de las zonas fuente limitadas por la difusión, la ubicación de las pozos de extracción en relación con las fuentes y la existencia de NAPL. La siguiente explicación no considera un NAPL, aunque una zona de concentración persistente que vuelve a una concentración de equilibrio casi idéntica después de múltiples períodos de extracción es un indicador de la presencia de NAPL.

Cuanto antes se realicen las pruebas piloto en el proceso de planificación de remediación (preferiblemente como parte de la caracterización del emplazamiento), es menos probable que se necesiten modificaciones de diseño posteriores a la puesta en marcha del sistema Las pruebas piloto se recomiendan especialmente en los emplazamientos más grandes y complejos.

El diseño de la prueba piloto requiere especificar una tasa de extracción de gas total deseable o la duración de la extracción. Lo ideal es que la prueba piloto extraiga el equivalente a uno o más volúmenes de poros completos de gas del suelo contaminado. El objetivo de esta prueba es hacer funcionar el sistema el tiempo suficiente para observar el descenso inicial de la concentración de COVs extraídos y las reducciones de la concentración en las sondas de gas del suelo a distintas distancias. Esto proporcionará una primera estimación de las limitaciones de transferencia y del radio de remediación efectiva de un solo pozo [DiGiulio y Varahan, 2001a.]. Como regla general, la tasa y la duración de la prueba piloto se pueden basar en el volumen total (V) de suelo contaminado según el modelo conceptual del emplazamiento, la porosidad del suelo y el contenido de humedad del suelo, como se indica a continuación:

$Q = V_{suelo}(1-S)$

En la figura siguiente se muestran las concentraciones de vapor de TCE durante 3 días de extracción a 64 Nm3 /hr en un pozo situado cerca del centro de una zona en la que se sospecha que hay vapores de TCE. La concentración extraída decayó rápidamente durante las primeras horas de la extracción, de acuerdo con la tasa estimada de extracción e intercambio de gases del suelo. La concentración de TCE siguió un descenso mucho más lento durante la extracción posterior que se asociada con las limitaciones de transferencia de masa por difusión en una unidad de arcilla confinante ubicada en el centro de la zona vadosa (no saturada). Estas observaciones indican que el sistema piloto era adecuado para servir como sistema a escala real en este pequeño emplazamiento. También se demostró que el uso de carbón activado resulta rentable para el tratamiento en el exterior de los vapores del gas extraido.
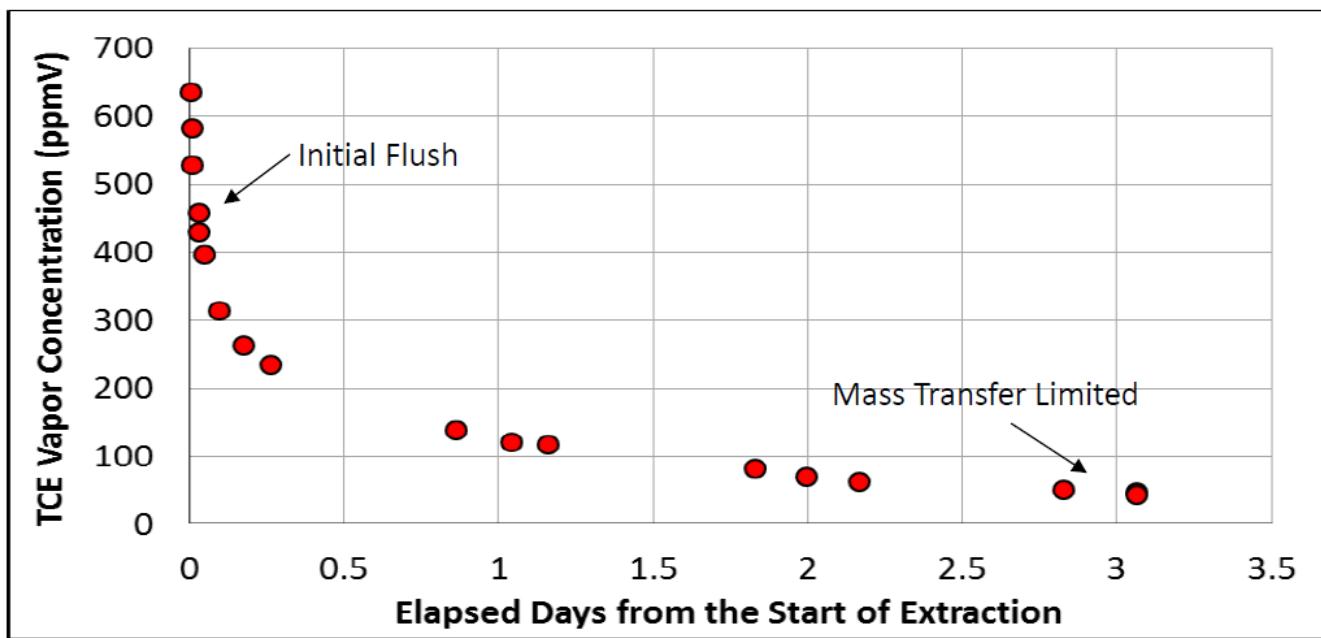
Figura 4.2 --Ejemplo de datos de concentración de vapor de una prueba piloto SVE

Para permeabilidades del suelo bajas, puede ser que se necesite un segundo pozo para conseguir el flujo deseado o que se necesite un periodo de lavado más largo para identificar las dificultades de transferencia de masa. Como se describe más adelante, se consiguió información adicional sobre las limitaciones de transferencia de masa midiendo el rebote de la concentración de vapor de TCE en el pozo tras el cese de la extracción. Además, si la concentración de vapor de TCE hubiera sido más alta inicialmente y hubiera persistido en un valor sustancialmente más alto después del descenso inicial, sugiriendo la existencia de un DNAPL, la adsorción mediante carbono activo podría no haber resultado económicamente rentable para una tasa de extracción de masa más alta.

Los puntos de control y seguimiento también pueden instalarse a diferentes profundidades, incluyendo debajo de la losa superficial, si procede, y dentro del rango del radio de influencia (por ejemplo, 3-15 m) de un pozo piloto de extracción, si no estuviera disponible debido a actividades anteriores de caracterización del emplazamiento. Cada ubicación de control y seguimiento podría tener múltiples puntos anidados a lo largo de la extensión vertical de la zona vadosa, dependiendo de la profundidad del agua subterránea y de la estratificación geológica.

Como se ilustra en la figura siguiente, los puntos pueden situarse por encima, por debajo y dentro de las presuntas fuentes contaminantes. Durante las pruebas piloto, estas ubicaciones se utilizan para medir tanto la concentración de vapor como las respuestas de vacío.
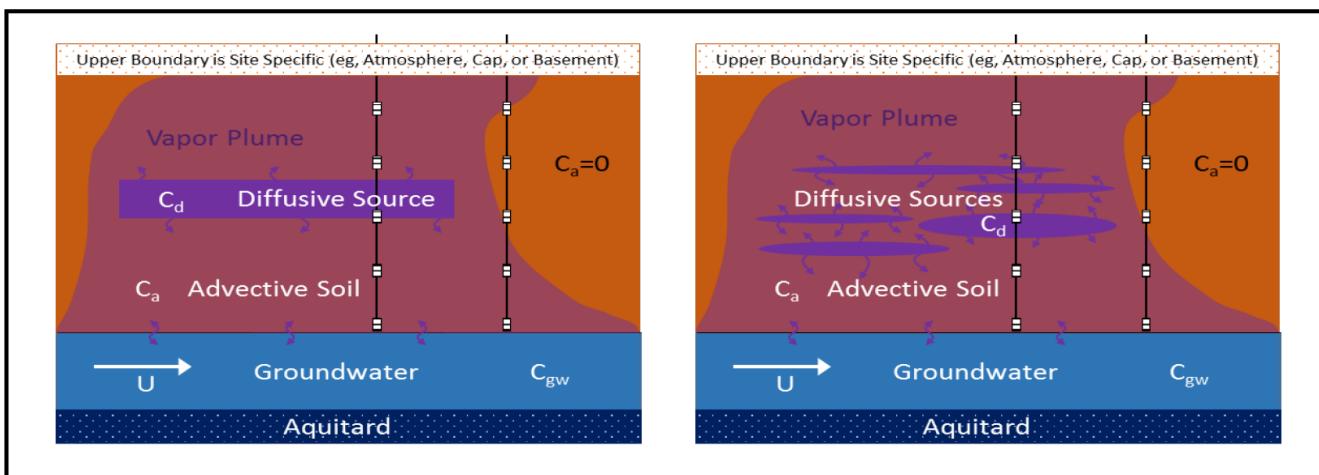
Figura 4.3 --Escenarios conceptualizados para transferencia de materia limitada por difusión y puntos típicos de control de gas en el suelo

La validez de los datos de vacío depende en gran medida de la permeabilidad de los suelos y no se puede confiar en estos datos para evaluar el radio de influencia de la SVE. Más importante es la respuesta de la concentración de vapor. En arenas permeables, una respuesta de vacío muy pequeña puede estar asociada a un flujo de aire relativamente alto, mientras que una respuesta de vacío significativa en una arcilla no proporciona ninguna evidencia de que un flujo apreciable esté asociado al vacío. Sin embargo, los datos de monitorización del vacío pueden utilizarse para evaluar la extensión lateral del flujo frente a la vertical, así como el impacto de las condiciones de superficie (por ejemplo, una fuga de baja permeabilidad a través de una losa o de una superficie de suelo abierta a la atmósfera) en el flujo de los caudales superficiales del suelo.

Durante las pruebas piloto, se recomienda un programa de vigilancia exhaustivo de la concentración de vapores de COV para identificar las tendencias en los puntos de vigilancia de los gases del suelo. Estas tendencias se pueden correlacionar con el volumen de poros del suelo arrastrado durante la prueba piloto para proporcionar una base para determinar el espaciamiento de los pozos de extracción en el diseño a escala real, basado en la frecuencia de lavado deseada (es decir, en la tasa de intercambio de volumen de poros), como se trata en la siguiente sección. Se recomienda el uso de un cromatógrafo de gases de campo por parte de un operador experimentado para aumentar de forma económicamente efectiva el conjunto de datos de COV del gas del suelo.

A menudo, la descarga directa de los gases residuales sin tratamiento es inaceptable por motivos de salud, seguridad o por preocupación de la población. Si las condiciones indican que es necesario, se pueden implementar tecnologías de tratamiento de los gases residuales como el carbón activado, la oxidación térmica u otras tecnologías relevantes. para mejorar la calidad del gas residual para su liberación a la atmósfera.

4.1.1 Equipo de prueba piloto convencional

El equipamiento para estudio piloto SVE puede constar de los siguientes equipo [Farallon 2019], o equivalentes:

- Un soplador regenerativo montado sobre una plataforma, de 1 caballo de fuerza como mínimo (equivalente a un Rotron DR 404) con capacidad para 130 cm de vacío de columna de agua y caudales de hasta 3 m3/minuto.
- Un separador de humedad equipado con indicador de vacío, válvula de alivio de vacío y válvula de drenaje.

- Un colector compuesto por una serie de válvulas, indicadores de vacío, con un caudalímetro capaz de controlar los caudales de aire de extracción que vayan desde 0,02 a 3 m3/segundo y el vacío que va desde 2,5 a 200 cm. de columna de agua.
- Acopladores flexibles recubiertos de caucho, mangueras flexibles y/o conexiones de cloruro de polivinilo "Schedule 40" para conectar el equipo desde el pozo de extracción SVE hasta el punto de descarga de vapor.

Los pozos de observación deben tener conexiones estancas que terminen en una válvula de bola para la conexión a un manómetro de vacío (vacuómetro) para controlar el grado de vacío observado durante las actividades del estudio piloto. En la Figura a continuación se presenta un diagrama del proceso y de la instrumentación.
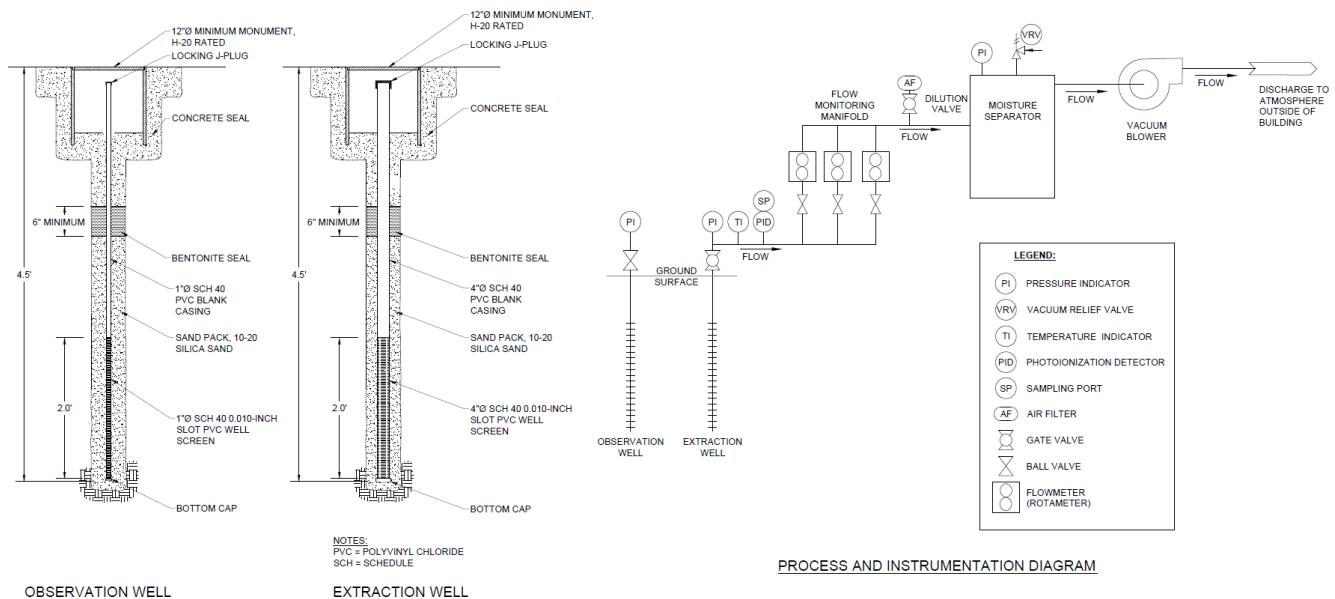
Figura 4.4 ---Ejemplo de diagrama de proceso e instrumentación (Farallon Consulting)

4.1.2 Prueba escalonada de vacío creciente de la SVE

La prueba piloto SVE debe realizarse de modo escalonado utilizando al menos tres escalones de caudal de aire. La duración de cada escalón de la prueba debe ser, como mínimo, el tiempo que tardan los parámetros medidos en los puntos de control del vacío en alcanzar el estado estable. Mientras se mantienen constantes el caudal y el vacío aplicados en el pozo de extracción de vapores (se deben realizar mediciones frecuentes para garantizar esta condición) se deben realizar mediciones de presión en el pozo de extracción y en todos los puntos de control de vacío del suelo. El registro de control debe ser frecuente al principio de la prueba piloto (cada cinco a diez minutos); el intervalo de tiempo entre las lecturas de vacío puede aumentar en el transcurso de la prueba.

Para la prueba piloto se recomienda un mínimo de un pozo de extracción de vapores del suelo y tres puntos de control de vacío, ubicados a diferentes distancias del pozo de extracción. Se recomiendan pozos de extracción de vapores del suelo y puntos de control específicos para este fin, no obstante, también pueden ser aceptables los pozos de control de aguas subterráneas si su ubicación y construcción son adecuadas. La aprobación del uso de pozos de control de aguas subterráneas para los pozos de extracción para la SVE o puntos de control y seguimiento se hará en cada caso concreto. Como regla general, los puntos de control de vacío deben estar ubicados a una distancia de 1,5 a 3 metros, de 3 a 7 metros, de 7 a 12 metros y, a más de 12 metros del pozo

de extracción de vapor. Los puntos de control de vacío deben instalarse de forma radial desde el pozo de extracción de vapor (es decir, con una separación de 120o) en lugar de sobre una línea, para así evaluar mejor las posibles vías preferentes del flujo de aire en el emplazamiento. Si la contaminación del suelo se extiende a través de varias unidades de permeabilidad variable, cada unidad estratigráfica debe ser evaluada por separado mediante su propio pozo de extracción de vapor del suelo y tres puntos de monitoreo de vapor.
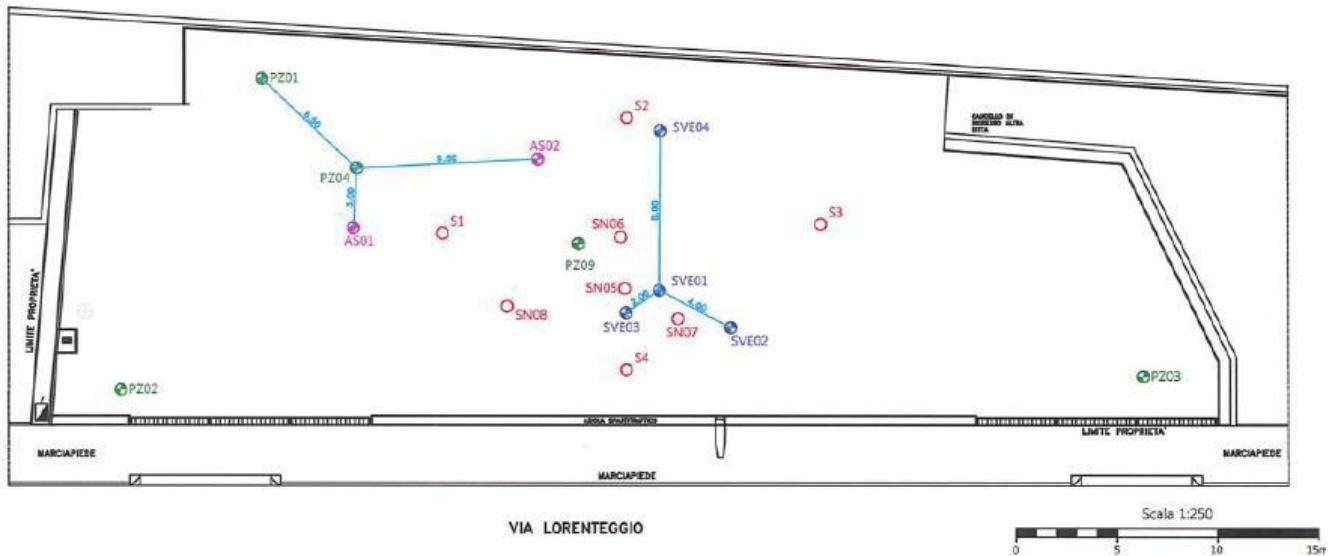
Figura 4.5 --Posicionamiento típico a 120° del punto de monitoreo de SVE (Confalonieri et al., Ver Anexo 1)

Un pozo de extracción de aire típico consiste en un pozo vertical de 2,5 a 10 cm de diámetro con una zona enrejillada de 0,3 a 1,5 metros; no obstante, estos parámetros deben determinarse para cada emplazamiento concreto.

Antes de llevar a cabo la prueba escalonada de SVE, se tomarán lecturas de vacío de referencia en los pozos de observación. Se recomienda también un análisis de los vapores orgánicos en campo que deberá realizarse con un detector de ionización de llama (FID) o mediante la combinación de un detector de fotoionización (PID) y un explosímetro.

La prueba escalonada de SVE se lleva a cabo aumentando gradualmente el vacío aplicado al pozo de extracción de SVE. La cantidad máxima de vacío que puede aplicarse al pozo de extracción SVE depende de la distancia desde la parte superior del filtro ranurado del pozo que queda al descubierto hasta la parte superior del nivel freático. Basándose en la curva de aspiración para una soplante regenerativa de 1 caballo de fuerza, el vacío máximo previsto a aplicar al pozo de extracción SVE será de 2,5 metros de columna de agua [Farallon 2019]. Se aplicarán sucesivos escalones de incremento del vacío correspondientes al 30, 70 y 100 por ciento de la capacidad máxima de vacío para la soplante. Durante cada etapa de la prueba escalonada, deben ser monitoreados los siguientes parámetros en intervalos de 15 minutos, como mínimo, hasta conseguir su estabilización (menos del 5 por ciento de diferencia entre dos mediciones), alternativamente puede optarse por una duración máxima de 2 a 3 horas para cada escalón de aplicación del vacío:

- Vacío aplicado al pozo de extracción SVE
- Caudal de extracción del pozo de extracción SVE
- Temperatura del vapor extraído
- Mediciones de compuestos orgánicos volátiles en el flujo de vapores extraídos con un detector de fotoionización
- Grado de vacío alcanzado en los pozos de observación
- Las lecturas de vacío se registrarán como lecturas de presión manométrica

minutes	Pid ppm	Lel %	O2 %	CO2 %	Depress mbar	V m/s	T °C	Q mc/h
0	480.1	18	21.3	1.22	-286.0	7.74	1.4	47
10	2147.0	16	21.5	3.45	-258.0	6.57	0.8	47
30	2371.0	13	20.9	3.16	-249.0	6.23	4	43
60	4106.0	13	20.9	2.7	-236.0	6.77	4.1	50
90	4469.0	10	20.9	2.26	-232.0	7.46	4.6	53
120	5000.0	10	20.9	2.08	-229.0	8.27	5.2	57
180	5000.0	9	20.9	1.83	-225.0	9.03	5.9	64
240	5000.0	9	20.9	1.62	-222.0	9.53	6.9	67
300	5000.0	8	20.9	1.44	-220.0	9.6	7	72

Figura 4.6 --Ejemplo de tabla de seguimiento (Confalonieri et al., Ver Anexo 1)

Las muestras de vapor podrían recogerse en botes Summa y/o en bolsas Tedlar y/o en un soporte similar y equivalente, y enviarse para análisis de laboratorio al final de cada escalón de prueba, cuando se alcance la máxima concentración de los vapores de extracción, medida con el detector de fotoionización.
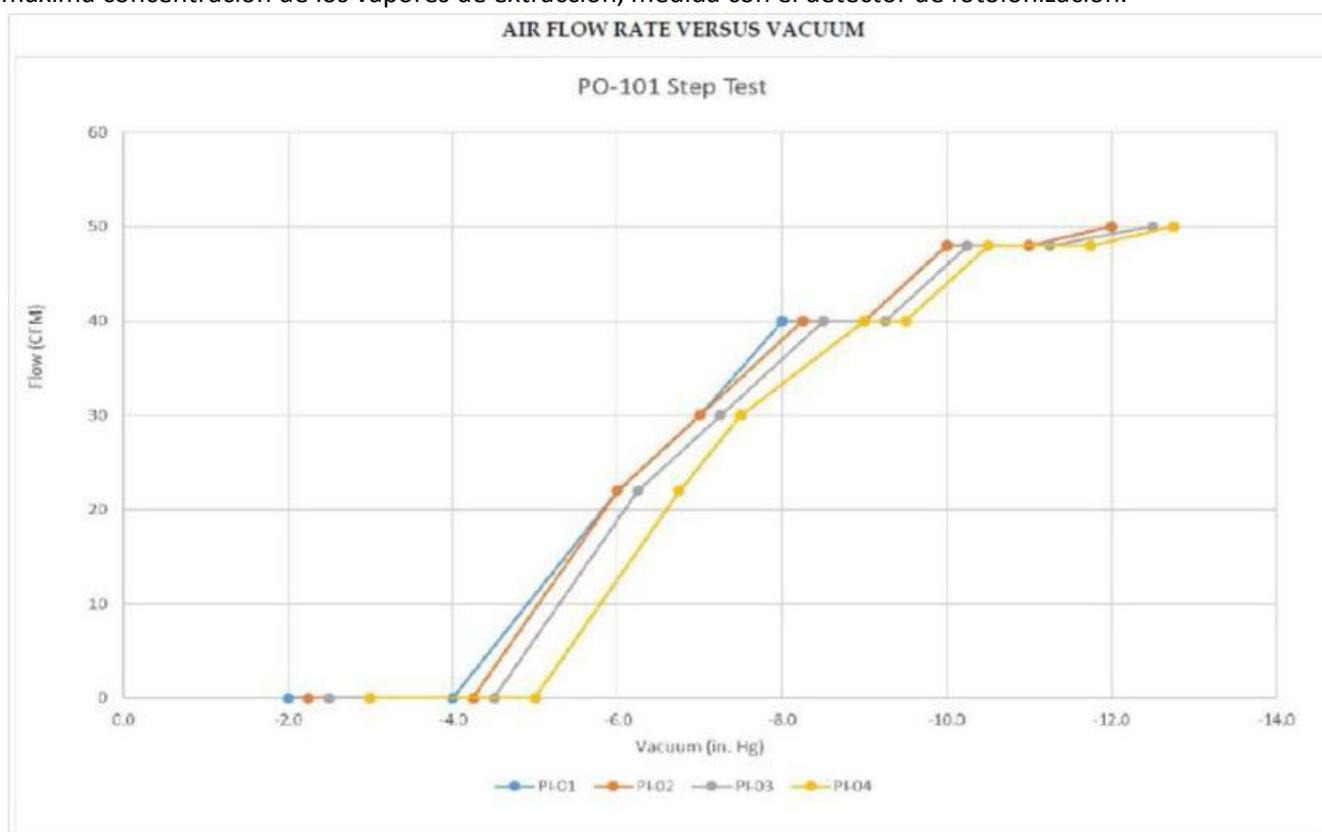

Figura 4.7 --Ejemplo de prueba escalonada de vacío creciente SVE (Menozzi et al., Ver Anexo 1)

4.1.3 Prueba de vacío constante SVE

A partir de los resultados de la prueba escalonada SVE, se podría determinar el grado de vacío y el caudal de extracción ideales para completar la prueba de vacío constante SVE, que es el segundo componente del estudio piloto SVE. El vacío y el caudal óptimos deberían determinarse a partir del vacío y el caudal observados en el pozo de extracción, de la recuperación de vapor, de la respuesta obtenida en los pozos de observación y de la influencia en los niveles de agua subterránea. El caudal óptimo también podría determinarse a partir del radio de influencia determinado en el ensayo escalonado.

La prueba de vacío constante SVE debe realizarse inmediatamente después del ensayo escalonado y durante aproximadamente 24 horas. Los parámetros de control registrados durante el ensayo escalonado también se controlarán y registrarán a intervalos de 15 minutos durante la prueba de vacío constante SVE:

- Vacío aplicado al pozo de extracción SVE
- Caudal de extracción del pozo de extracción SVE
- Temperatura de los vapores extraídos
- Mediciones de compuestos orgánicos volátiles del flujo de vapor extraído, con un detector de fotoionización
- Grado de vacío alcanzado en los pozos de observación
- Las lecturas de vacío se registrarán como lecturas de presión manométrica

Lo ideal es realizar de una prueba piloto para cada sistema de remediación, tanto en lo que se refiere a la remediación a largo plazo como al criterio económico. Pero en algunas situaciones, las opciones de realizar pruebas piloto no resultan viables y hay otras opciones disponibles. Aunque es posible que finalmente no resulten tan eficaces como ejecutar algunas pruebas preliminares antes de la instalación del sistema de remediación, se sabe que proporcionan resultados aceptables.

4.2 Ensayo de distribución y recuperación de helio

Aunque el ensayo de trazador de helio no es una práctica habitual debido al escaso suministro, uno de los puntos fuertes de esta prueba es que se puede repetir fácilmente, normalmente con demoras de solo unas pocas horas entre ellas. Esto permite evaluar rápidamente los efectos de cambios en el proceso (por ejemplo, la distribución del flujo de aire desde varios pozos)

El helio es el gas trazador más comúnmente utilizado, ya que es relativamente económico, está fácilmente disponible y hay instrumentación analítica disponible para uso en el campo. Los detectores comunes pueden captar concentraciones de helio del 0,1 % a 100 %. Viene calibrado de fábrica, por lo que no se puede calibrar en el campo, pero se deben hacer comprobaciones con estándares de helio para verificar que el instrumento funciona correctamente. Por lo general, las muestras de vapores se deben recoger en bolsas o botes Tedlar. El detector de helio se conecta directamente al contenedor de la muestra para la medición. Como alternativa, el detector de helio se puede adaptar para realizar un muestreo continuo. El muestreo continuo es muy conveniente cuando se mide el gas de salida de SVE donde hay una corriente de flujo continuo.

Los ensayos de recuperación de trazadores aquí descritos pueden realizarse como parte de una prueba piloto o durante el funcionamiento a escala real. La prueba es muy sencilla de realizar e interpretar. Básicamente, se introduce en el suelo un trazador inerte (normalmente helio) a una velocidad constante y conocida y se controla la concentración de trazador en el aire de salida de la SVE. Después de un cierto tiempo (por ejemplo, una hora o menos para muchos sistemas), la concentración del trazador en el gas de salida comienza a aumentar, sigue aumentando y finalmente alcanza una meseta estable. El porcentaje de aire que se captura se puede calcular multiplicando el caudal SVE por la fracción de helio en el aire SVE una vez que la concentración se ha estabilizado y dividiendo ese número por la tasa de inyección del trazador, como se muestra a continuación.

$$\% \text{ Recuperación} = \frac{\text{Caudal SVE}}{\text{Tasa de inyección del trazador}} \times \% \text{ Trazador (He) en el gas de salida} \times 100$$

% Recuperación = Tasa de flujo X % Trazador (He) en el gas de salida X 100

Una técnica de campo más fiable para calcular la recuperación es medir primero el "100 % de concentración de recuperación" en el gas de salida de la SVE, consiste en inyectar directamente el helio en el colector múltiple de la SVE (se debe tener cuidado de que el flujo sea el mismo en ambos casos, ya que las contrapresiones de los dos sistemas son significativamente diferentes). En este caso el porcentaje de recuperación será simplemente la concentración de helio medida en el gas de de salida de la SVE dividida por el "100% de la concentración de recuperación".

Si se utiliza helio como trazador, la concentración de la inyección debe mantenerse por debajo del 10 % en volumen para evitar los efectos de flotabilidad en la zona vadosa. Para garantizar un flujo constante de helio bajo condiciones variables de contrapresión, se debe utilizar un medidor de flujo de lectura directa calibrado, junto con un manómetro y una válvula de regulación para proporcionar una contrapresión alta y constante en el medidor de flujo.

La prueba de recuperación del trazador está diseñada para servir de "bandera roja" para el rendimiento del sistema. Si la recuperación de helio es baja, entonces es posible que el aire (y el helio) hayan quedado atrapados por debajo del nivel freático bajo estratos de menor permeabilidad y podrían estar desplazándose lateralmente fuera del alcance del sistema SVE.

En algunos casos, es posible que no retorme helio al pozo debido a la presencia de capas continuas. La presencia de estas capas también debería ser detectable mediante la monitorización de la presión del agua subterránea durante el arranque y apagado del sistema. Por lo tanto, se recomienda que la prueba de recuperación de helio se lleve a cabo junto con las mediciones de la presión del agua subterránea.

Si la recuperación de helio es alta (p. ej., > 80 %), entonces el sistema SVE está funcionando bien y es poco probable que la migración lateral de vapores sea un problema.

4.3 Monitoreo de gases del suelo
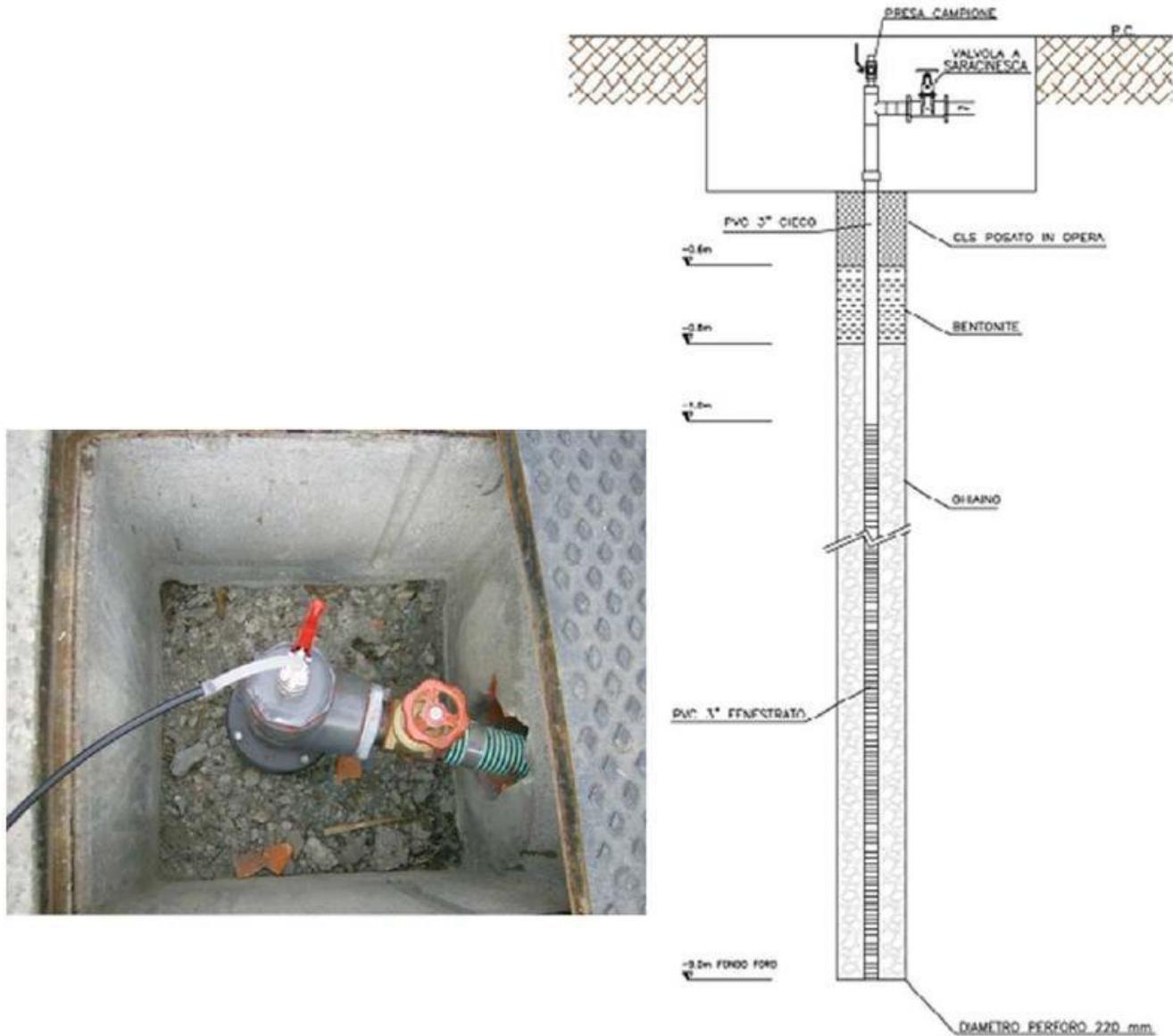
Figura 4.8 --Ejemplo de instalación de la sonda Nesty (Trezzi et al., Ver Anexo 1)

Durante la prueba piloto, se deben recoger muestras de gas del pozo de extracción de vapores del suelo en cada escalón de caudal para un posible análisis de laboratorio. La frecuencia y el número de muestras enviadas para análisis de laboratorio deben establecerse en función de las condiciones específicas del lugar; se considera que como mínimo, debe enviarse para el análisis de laboratorio una muestra, recogida en el escalón en el que se haya obtenido la lectura más alta con la instrumentación de campo. El muestreo de vapores debe realizarse en el punto de extracción de vapores desde un punto de muestreo situado entre el cabezal del pozo y la soplante. Para recoger las muestras de laboratorio para los análisis de COV, CO_2 y O_2 se puede utilizar una bolsa de tedlar, un tubo de carbón vegetal o un bote tipo Summa, siendo preferible este último. El método analítico debe ser aprobado por el personal técnico del proyecto. Los tubos Draeger se utilizan habitualmente para medir el CO_2, y también se pueden utilizar para controlar la concentración de COV. Si no se pueden

obtener unos determinados requisitos mínimos de información debido a las condiciones específicas del emplazamiento, esto debe ser justificado o analizado.

El aumento de las concentraciones de contaminantes en el gas de salida y la tasa de extracción de SVE pueden utilizarse para determinar una tasa de eliminación de la masa contaminada. Por supuesto, las mediciones que se llevan a cabo durante la corta duración de una prueba piloto no son indicativas del rendimiento a largo plazo. Sin embargo, de manera general se puede suponer que los datos de la prueba piloto representarán la tasa máxima de eliminación del sistema. En ese contexto, si las tasas de eliminación de la masa contaminada durante la prueba piloto (p.e., al finalizar) son demasiado bajas, debería preocupar bastante la viabilidad de la SVE en el lugar.

4.4   Equipos básicos para la prueba de campo SVE

Una prueba piloto para un sistema de extracción de vapores del suelo incluye un pozo de extracción ubicado dentro del área contaminada, uno de construcción similar ubicado en un área conocida sin contaminación, y una serie de pozos de observación. Otras partes importantes de la configuración de la prueba piloto puede incluir :

- un soplador (aspirador) portátil o extractor de vacío
- puntos de muestreo de pozos
- instrumentos de medición para los pozos de extracción
- equipo de toma de muestras

Los instrumentos de medición comunes incluyen:

- un medidor de fotoionización (PID), que mide la cantidad de compuestos volátiles que se liberan
- varios vacuómetros o medidores de flujo de aire para ayudar a determinar el radio de influencia de cada pozo de extracción
- medidores de temperatura para ayudar a determinar la temperatura del vapor del suelo, que puede afectar la tasa global de flujo de aire

El equipo de muestreo puede incluir:

- Bolsas tedlar y bombas de aire portátiles para recoger muestras de afluentes o efluentes
- tomamuestras desechables (tipo bailer) para la recogida de muestras de agua o de productos de los pozos de observación

4.5   El pozo de extracción

Los pozos de extracción son una parte integral de una prueba piloto del sistema de remediación SVE. Estos pozos son una forma de eliminar la contaminación de la zona vadosa mediante la creación de un gradiente de presión negativo. La contaminación es "aspirada" hacia el pozo de extracción porque hay una menor presión en el pozo de extracción. La clave en cualquier plan de remediación que utilice la extracción de vapor como técnica de eliminación es determinar la variación en el gradiente de presión se necesita para que sea eficaz. Una prueba piloto es una forma común de determinar dicha información.

Por supuesto, si sólo se toman muestras en los pozos de extracción, la imagen que se obtendrá será incompleta. Aunque las observaciones en los pozos de extracción proporcionen información sobre cómo cambian las condiciones en el lugar de extracción, es posible que esta información no vaya mucho más allá. Por eso resultan tan importantes los pozos de observación. Los pozos de observación, que se controlan de forma similar a sus correspondientes pozos de extracción, proporcionarán información como: la fluctuación de las aguas subterráneas, los gradientes de presión de vapor e incluso cambios en la migración de la pluma

contaminada. Tomando muestras y mediciones periódicas, tanto en los pozos de observación como en los de extracción, un científico puede obtener una imagen más completa y específica que la que podría proporcionar cualquiera de las dos partes por separado. Lo ideal es que las mediciones realizadas incluyan la medición del nivel del agua subterránea con una sonda piezométrica, el espesor de cualquier producto en fase libre medido con una sonda de interfase y la concentración de COVs determinada por un medidor de fotoionización. Las muestras tomadas deben incluir muestras de aire del conjunto afluente y efluente, así como cualquier gas residual asociado al tratamiento propuesto del vapor extraído. Las muestras recogidas deben ser examinadas en un laboratorio para realizar análisis como los de compuestos orgánicos volátiles (COV) y los hidrocarburos totales del petróleo (HTP). Las necesidades específicas de análisis variarán de un país a otro, por lo que conviene ponerse en contacto con la autoridad reguladora para obtener orientación en caso necesario.

4.6   Propuesta de ensayo piloto: requisitos mínimos de documentación

1. Descripción de los procedimientos de campo, los resultados de la prueba piloto, incluida la determinación del radio de influencia efectivo, y un análisis sobre la composición de los contaminantes y los índices de eliminación de vapores.

2. Datos estáticos (antes de la prueba):
- datos estáticos del nivel del agua con una precisión de 0,3 cm si los pozos de control se usan como puntos de control de vacío o puntos de extracción de vapor;
- temperatura del suelo y del aire;
- presión estática (centímetros H2O) y condiciones atmosféricas (presión y temperatura)

3. Datos del ensayo recogidos en el punto de extracción (en intervalos de tiempo específicos):
- caudal de aire;
- elevaciones del nivel del agua con una precisión de 0,3 cm (si se usa un pozo de control);
- concentraciones de COV, CO2 y O2;
- Mediciones de FID (o PID y explosímetro);
- presión;
- temperatura del suelo y del aire.

4. Datos del ensayo recopilados en el punto de control de vacío (en intervalos de tiempo específicos):
- vacío (centímetros H2O);
- elevación del nivel del agua (con una precisión de 0,3 cm).

5. Figuras
- mapas del emplazamiento (dibujados a escala) que representen la ubicación de la(s) fuente(s), los puntos de control de extracción y vacío, los edificios, el área pavimentada y las zanjas de servicios públicos, extensión de la contaminación del suelo y del agua subterránea y, el nivel freático el día de la prueba piloto;
- perfiles geológicos transversales del emplazamiento que ilustren las principales características geológicas, la distribución de los contaminantes y la ubicación de los puntos de extracción y control;
- Diagramas de construcción de los pozos de extracción y los puntos de control de vacío.
- esquema de construcción que ilustre el diseño del colector, incluyendo los siguientes elementos: tuberías, instrumentación, válvulas, puertos de muestreo y cualquier otro componente del sistema de prueba piloto.

6. Gráficos:

- vacío normalizado (vacío del punto de control/vacío del punto de extracción) frente a la distancia del pozo de extracción para cada escalón de caudal (trazado en papel semilogarítmico);
- vacío aplicado (centímetros de H2O) frente al flujo de aire en el pozo de extracción para cada escalón de caudal de aire;
- concentración total de vapores de COV en función del tiempo;
- elevación del agua subterránea en función del tiempo

4.7   Alternativa a la prueba piloto

Lo ideal es realizar de una prueba piloto para cada sistema de remediación, tanto en lo que se refiere a la remediación a largo plazo como al criterio económico. Pero en algunas situaciones, las opciones de realizar pruebas piloto no resultan viables y hay otras opciones disponibles. Aunque es posible que finalmente no resulten tan eficaces como ejecutar algunas pruebas preliminares antes de la instalación del sistema de remediación, se sabe que proporcionan resultados aceptables.

La primera alternativa a la realización de una prueba piloto consiste simplemente en instalar un sistema de remediación temporal en el emplazamiento y comenzar el proceso de remediación de inmediato. Los avances tecnológicos actuales han producido sistemas SVE más pequeños y versátiles, y muchos se ofrecen en régimen de alquiler. Estos sistemas móviles más pequeños permiten realizar cambios en caso necesario.

La segunda alternativa a la realización de una prueba piloto consiste utilizar información de referencia de carácter general sobre el emplazamiento para estimar las características del mismo. Si se conoce la litología y la extensión básica de la contaminación, se puede utilizar el análisis granulométrico para estimar la permeabilidad del suelo y, eventualmente, el flujo de aire. Este método es adecuado para zonas con cantidades relativamente pequeñas de contaminación. Las desventajas del método estriban en que a veces los parámetros físicos y químicos percibidos no son homogéneos en todo el emplazamiento y, hay una clara dificultad para evaluar las condiciones geológicas en medios estratificados. Además, si el sistema de recuperación implica emisiones a la atmósfera, no se dispondrá de estimaciones de concentraciones atmosféricas de modo previo a la aplicación del sistema.
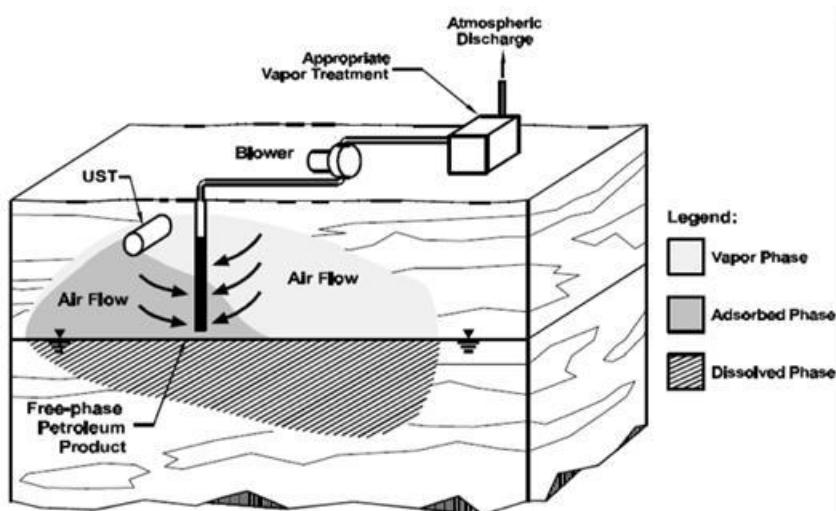

Figura 4.9 – Esquema con un soplador

Estos pasos no tienen por qué llevarse a cabo de manera secuencial.

5 CONTROL DEL RENDIMIENTO

El seguimiento se realiza durante la fase operativa para evaluar el progreso de la remediación y para verificar el cumplimiento de los criterios de descontaminación.

El plan de seguimiento debería incluir un muestreo más frecuente en la puesta en marcha del sistema y, hacia el final para la confirmación de la descontaminación. La frecuencia e intensidad del muestreo pueden reducirse durante el seguimiento de la fase operativa, una vez que el sistema esté optimizado [USACE 2002].

5.1 Control de la fase operativa

A continuación, se hace una breve descripción de los principales parámetros que es necesario tener en cuenta durante el control rutinario.

5.1.1 Parámetros químicos

- El análisis químico del gas del suelo es necesario para evaluar la efectividad del proceso de remediación. El gas del suelo debe recogerse en pozos de extracción individuales y con sondas de gas. Durante la fase operativa, los instrumentos de campo, como los detectores de llama o de fotoionización, suelen utilizarse para realizar mediciones frecuentes o continuas de la cantidad total de COV. Las mediciones realizadas con los instrumentos mencionados deben considerarse únicamente como métodos de investigación, debido a sus respuestas inespecíficas y a las siguientes limitaciones [EPA 2001]:
  - o El alto potencial de ionización de muchos COV comunes hará que no se detecten con una lámpara PID convencional.
  - o Los efectos de la matriz de gas como la humedad, el dióxido de carbono y los alcanos (especialmente el metano) pueden reducir la respuesta del PID. Sin embargo, cuando la humedad relativa es muy alta, cercana al 100 %, el vapor de agua puede condensarse en el sensor y provocar una respuesta falsa positiva. Esta señal se debe a una fuga de corriente entre los electrodos del sensor [RAE System 2013].
  - o El alto contenido de halógenos de muchos COV comunes dará lugar a la subestimación o a la no detección de COV utilizando un FID.
- Las mediciones de VOC y de caudal en el afluente del sistema SVE, y tal vez en los pozos de extracción individuales, deben utilizarse para calcular las tasas de elimincación de la masa de contaminantes del suelo no saturado.
- Las concentraciones de contaminantes suelen medirse en los gases de entrada y salida (afluente y efluente) del sistema de tratamiento de los gases residuales (antes y después de los recipientes de carbón) para evaluar la eficacia del sistema de control de emisiones al aire.
- Análisis químico del agua subterránea: la remediación en la zona vadosa no debe llevarse a cabo de modo independiente de las condiciones del agua subterránea. De hecho, el suelo no saturado puede ser recontaminado por la acción capilar y por las fluctuaciones del nivel freático. Las concentraciones de contaminantes en las aguas subterráneas también deben analizarse para evaluar la transferencia de masa desde la fase acuosa al gas del suelo

5.1.2   Parámetros físicos

- Medición de la temperatura del suelo y de los vapores: Los datos de temperatura del vapor pueden ayudar a evaluar la eficiencia del sistema de control del vapor, y permitir la normalización de los datos de caudal, como se explica a continuación. Las temperaturas del suelo podrían ser un indicador de los procesos de biodegradación que ocurren en la zona vadosa.
- Humedad relativa: el contenido de humedad reduce el volumen del espacio poroso que contribuye al flujo de fluidos. Por lo tanto, un alto nivel de humedad puede reducir la permeabilidad al aire y el flujo de aire a través de la zona vadosa y, por la misma razón, influir en los resultados del control de los gases del suelo. Además, la humedad relativa del gas extraído puede reducirse para proteger el soplador y así favorecer la eficacia del sistema de control de las emisiones de vapor (ya que la capacidad de adsorción del carbón activado se reduce considerablemente cuando la humedad relativa es superior al 50%). La humedad relativa de la corriente de vapores suele poder reducirse mediante un sistema de calentamiento del aire [USACE 2002]. A menudo, el soplador instalado suministra el calor necesario. El calentamiento de la corriente de vapor está limitado por la temperatura más alta admisible para el uso de carbón activado.

- Niveles de agua: deben controlarse en la zona del pozo o pozos de extracción para determinar la cantidad de afloramiento de agua que se produce como resultado del vacío aplicado. Es necesario prestar especial atención a la fluctuación del nivel freático porque podría aumentar la transferencia de masa de contaminantes entre las fases sólida, líquida y gaseosa. Además, el afloramiento de aguas puede provocar un exceso de humedad en la zona de tratamiento, reduciendo la capacidad de adsorción del carbón activo. Este problema puede mitigarse mejorando la separación de la humedad y/o bombeando activamente el agua subterránea para contrarrestar el afloramiento in situ [USACE 2002].

- Medición del caudal: los datos del caudal de cada pozo, junto con el dato correspondiente de vacío aplicado, pueden proporcionar información sobre la permeabilidad al aire de la zona vadosa. Se recomienda normalizar los caudales a una temperatura y presión estándar para poder comparar fácilmente los datos recogidos en diferentes sondeos.

- Medición de vacío/presión: la medición del grado de vacío (depresión) en diferentes ubicaciones y profundidades proporciona una indicación de las vías de flujo de aire. Los gradientes de presión determinados a partir de las mediciones de vacío deben ir acompañados con estimaciones de la conductividad del aire horizontal y vertical para evaluar los tiempos de recorrido o la velocidad [Truex 2013].

5.1.3   Meteorológico

Los datos meteorológicos (por ejemplo, la precipitación, presión barométrica, temperatura ambiente) deben registrarse y tenerse en cuenta para una evaluación correcta de los resultados del seguimiento.

- Precipitación: las precipitaciones, que limitan el transporte de contaminantes volátiles en el suelo no saturado, pueden tener un efecto significativo en el rendimiento de la SVE/BV (BV Bioventing) en los resultados del control de los gases del suelo. Por lo tanto, el muestreo de gas del suelo no debe realizarse después de una jornada con lluvias importantes (12 mm o más de lluvia en un período de 24 horas). El período de espera deberá basarse en las curvas de drenaje del suelo [CalEPA 2015].

- Presión barométrica: Las fluctuaciones de la presión atmosférica inducen el movimiento de gases entre la atmósfera y el subsuelo. El movimiento de gas en la zona no saturada inducido por las fluctuaciones naturales de la presión atmosférica se denomina bombeo barométrico. Cuando la presión atmosférica disminuye, los gases son arrastrados hacia arriba desde el subsuelo hacia la atmósfera. A la inversa, cuando la presión atmosférica aumenta, el aire fresco es empujado hacia abajo dentro del subsuelo [Kuang 2013]. El efecto de las fluctuaciones de la presión barométrica en el transporte de gases atmosféricos puede resultar más evidente durante los periodos de parada.

5.2 Confirmación de la descontaminación y retirada del sistema

El objetivo del proceso de remediación es, en general, la consecución de unos estándares de calidad predeterminados para diferentes matrices ambientales. El criterio de cierre definitivo de un sistema SVE suele basarse en el cumplimiento de un estándar de concentración en el suelo de la norma que se aplique o basado en un análisis de riesgos. Sin embargo, el muestreo de suelos es costoso y potencialmente conflictivo; además, el seguimiento de la contaminación residual requiere el análisis de un gran número de muestras porque el suelo, al ser un medio no mezclado, es heterogéneo [USACE 2002]. Por lo tanto, antes de iniciar un estudio de muestreo de suelos a gran escala, se deben tener en cuenta otros parámetros (líneas de evidencia) para evaluar el progreso de la remediación y para evaluar si es probable que se hayan alcanzado los objetivos de recuperación.

5.2.1 Posibles líneas de evidencia a considerar para la confirmación de la descontaminación

- Muestreo del suelo: costoso y conflictivo. El empleo del muestreo del suelo para confirmar la descontaminación y proceder al cierre del sistema debe considerar cuidadosamente la distribución heterogénea de las concentraciones del suelo en un emplazamiento y las incertidumbres asociadas al muestreo de COV en suelos [USACE 2002].
- Tendencia de la concentración de vapores extraídos: La concentración de COV en los pozos de extracción puede proporcionar un indicador de la masa de contaminantes eliminada y una indicación del progreso de la recuperación. Por lo general, tras unos meses de funcionamiento, la tendencia de los datos muestra un rápido descenso, tras el cual las concentraciones se aproximan a niveles asintóticos (véanse las figuras 5.1 y 5.2). En muchos casos, la consecución de las condiciones asintóticas se considera decisiva para establecer los límites de rendimiento de la tecnología y el cierre de los sistemas de venteo. No obstante, la observación de bajas concentraciones asintóticas de vapor en el gas efluente es una condición necesaria pero no suficiente para demostrar el progreso alcanzado en la eliminación de contaminantes de los suelos contaminados. Una asíntota en el efluente puede estar, de hecho, relacionada con el diseño del venteo (por ejemplo, el espaciamiento de los pozos) o con las condiciones de operación (por ejemplo, la tasa de flujo) por separado o además de la limitación de velocidad del transporte de vapores [EPA 2001].
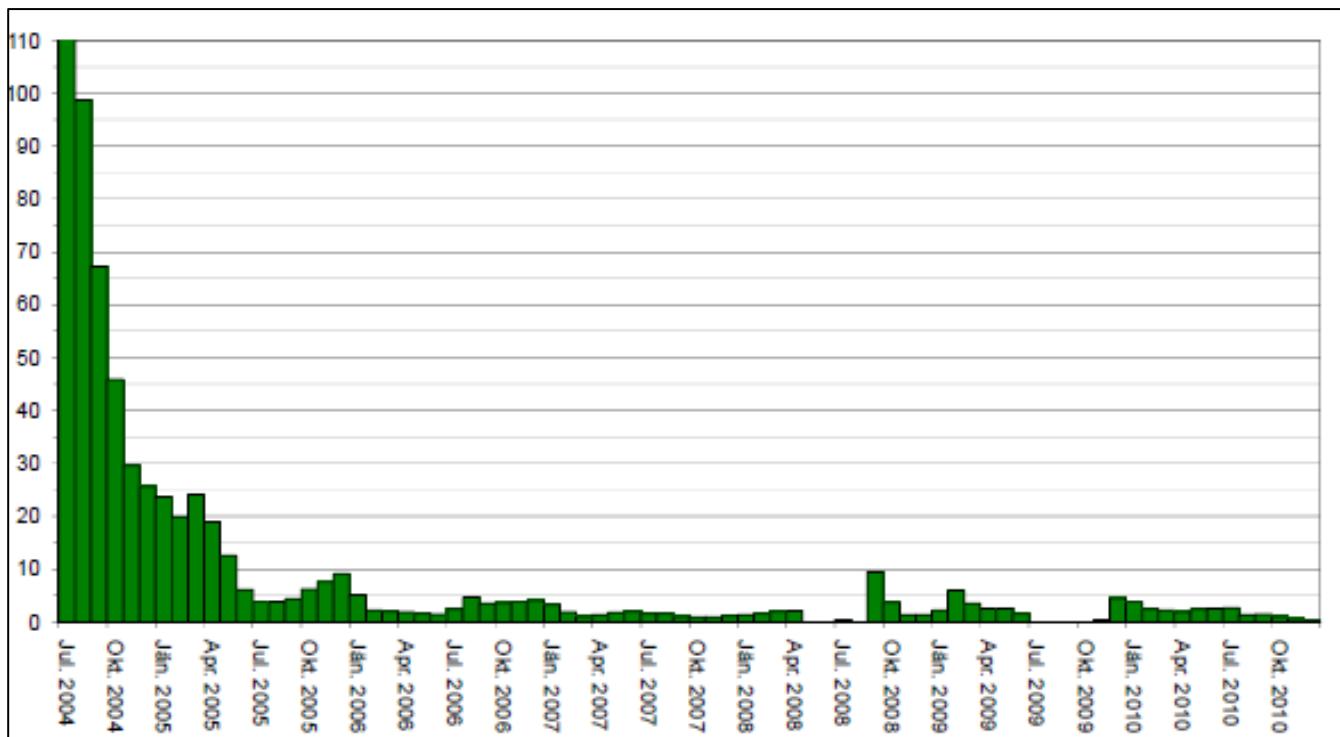
Figura 5.1 Evolución de la eliminación de la masa de contaminantes (SVE): kg PCE/día
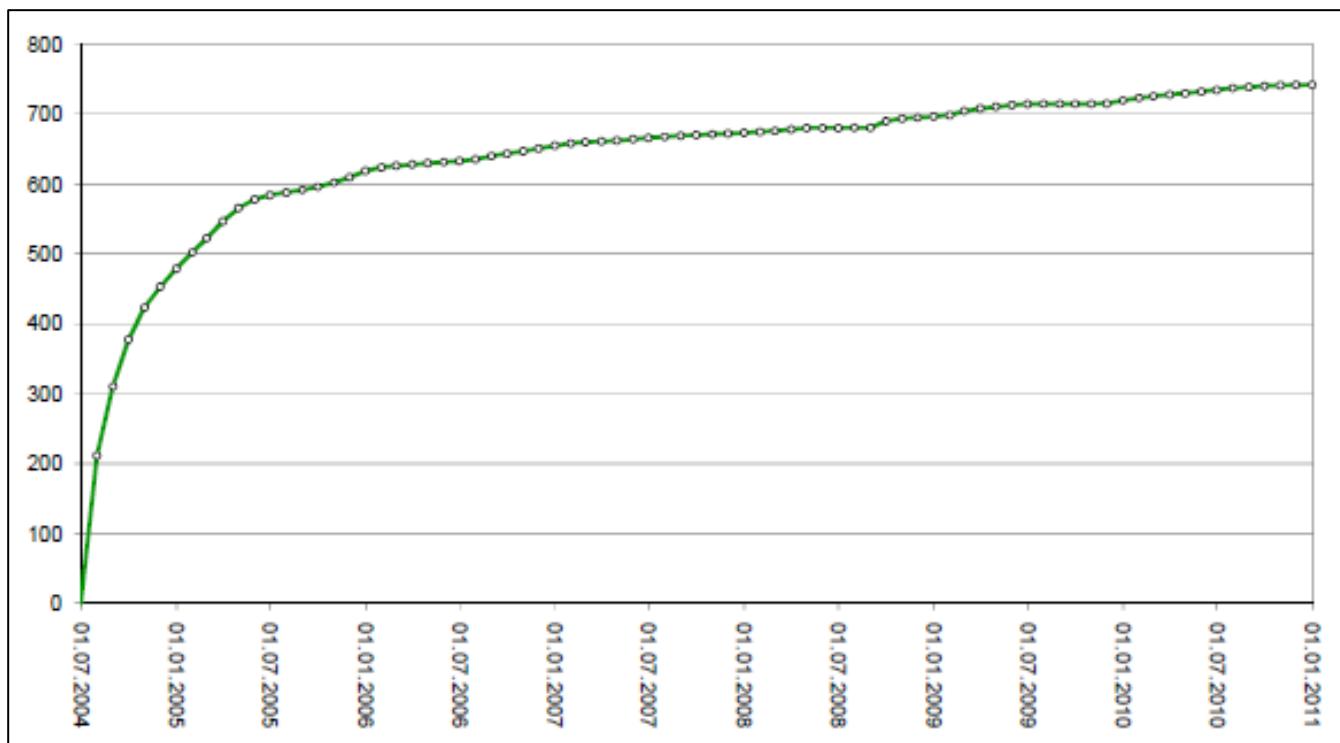

Figura 5.2 – Evolución en la eliminación de masa de contaminantes (SVE): kg PCE (total a lo largo del tiempo)

- La extracción de vapores es más eficaz en las partes del suelo situadas en las proximidades o entre los pozos que son purgados completamente, por lo tanto, las concentraciones de COV pueden alcanzar niveles asintóticos muy bajos al mismo tiempo que una cantidad significativa de masa contaminante permanece en los suelos, especialmente cerca de las zonas de estancamiento.

- La llegada a niveles de concentración asintóticos en los vapores extraídos puede implicar, además, que durante el venteo del suelo se está produciendo una transferencia de masa de velocidad limitada. Si las tasas de extracción de aire superan la tasa de transferencia de masa difusiva entre las diversas fases (sólida, líquida y gaseosa) en la zona no saturada, las concentraciones de contaminantes en los vapores extraídos pueden disminuir sin haberse eliminado toda la masa de contaminantes del suelo y del agua de los poros [USACE 2002].

- Control y seguimiento de los gases del suelo: la recogida de muestras de gases del suelo resulta menos costosa y, dado que el aire es un medio mixto, generalmente representa datos más integrados (es decir, de una zona más amplia). Por lo tanto, el control de los COV en las sondas de gas del suelo es probablemente un método más eficaz y eficiente para evaluar el progreso de la descontaminación que los descritos anteriormente en los puntos a) y b). No obstante, el muestreo de gases del suelo debe seguir un procedimiento estándar que tenga en cuenta la influencia de las condiciones del terreno (p.ej., litología, humedad) y los parámetros de muestreo (p.ej., caudal de muestreo, volumen de muestreo) en los resultados de seguimiento. Las sondas de gas del suelo deben instalarse también en zonas alejadas de los pozos de extracción, más difíciles de descontaminar, para rastrear la contaminación residual.

- Efecto rebote: durante la fase operativa, generalmente se observa una disminución de las concentraciones de COV en el gas del suelo como consecuencia de la transferencia limitada de masa (efecto de falta de aporte) y de la dilución con el aire ambiente. Por lo tanto, cuando se detiene el sistema SVE, las concentraciones de COV pueden aumentar debido a la difusión entre las diferentes fases y zonas del suelo no saturado. Este fenómeno, normalmente descrito como rebote, puede considerarse un indicador fiable de la eficacia del tratamiento. Un rebote mínimo o la ausencia de rebote, tampoco en las zonas estancadas, tras un cierto periodo de parada del sistema indica que probablemente se ha eliminado la masa contaminante disponible. El periodo de tiempo necesario para alcanzar el equilibrio es específico del contaminante y del tipo de suelo. Los suelos arenosos generalmente alcanzan el equilibrio en varias semanas, mientras que en los suelos muy estratificados pueden ser necesarios varios meses. Se recomienda realizar pruebas de estabilización (rebote) anuales [AFCEE 2001].

5.2.2 Procedimiento de muestreo propuesto para la clausura

El criterio de cierre definitivo para un sistema SVE generalmente se basa en la consecución de unos estándares establecidos de concentración de contaminantes en el suelo. Sin embargo, como se ha comentado anteriormente, dado que el muestreo de suelos es costoso y potencialmente conflictivo, antes de iniciar un estudio de muestreo de suelo a gran escala, se controlan otros parámetros (líneas de evidencia) para evaluar si es probable que se hayan alcanzado los objetivos de descontaminación. De ahí que se proponga el siguiente procedimiento de confirmación de la descontaminación, basado en un proceso de verificación en tres pasos.

- alcanzar un objetivo de concentración de gas en el suelo durante la fase operativa;

- alcanzar un objetivo de concentración de gas en el suelo tras una parada temporal del sistema;

- comparación de los resultados del muestreo del suelo con los criterios de descontaminación establecidos.

6 CONCLUSIONES

La extracción de vapores del suelo (SVE) es una tecnología in situ adecuada para reducir la concentración de contaminantes volátiles en la zona no saturada.

En general, la SVE ha demostrado su eficacia con los compuestos orgánicos volátiles (COV) y puede contribuir a la remediación en los casos de compuestos orgánicos semivolátiles (SCOV). En proyectos concretos, cuando se rehabilitan lugares contaminados por disolventes clorados, como los cloroetilenos (PCE y TCE), o productos petrolíferos volátiles, como la gasolina, la SVE suele aplicarse en combinación con otras tecnologías.

6.1 Eficacia, ventajas e inconvenientes.

Los factores clave que determinan la eficacia de SVE son:

- La permeabilidad al aire en el suelo (afecta la cantidad de aire y vapor que puede moverse a través del suelo);
- La estructura y estratificación del suelo (son importantes porque pueden afectar la forma en que los vapores fluyen en el suelo durante la extracción);
- la humedad del suelo (puede limitar el flujo gaseoso a través de los poros);
- la profundidad del nivel freático.

Las principales ventajas son:

- Eficacia conocida, herramientas fácilmente disponibles, instalación sencilla;
- Pocas molestias para las actividades del lugar: el diseño de un sistema SVE es bastante flexible para adaptarse a cualquier condición del emplazamiento y a los entornos construidos, ya que la construcción de pozos resulta poco intrusiva y se puede adaptar;
- Tiempos de tratamiento cortos (6 meses a 2 años en condiciones óptimas): los tiempos de tratamiento dependen en gran medida de las condiciones del emplazamiento, por lo tanto, en comparación con otras tecnologías, son relativamente cortos, normalmente pueden durar desde unos pocos meses hasta algunos años, con una eliminación efectiva de la masa de contaminantes de hasta al 90% para compuestos muy volátiles y alrededor del 30-40% para compuestos semivolátiles;
- Fácil de operar, relativamente barato y económicamente rentable en comparación con otras tecnologías adecuadas para la remediación de contaminantes volátiles (costes competitivos: alrededor de € 15-60 / tonelada de suelo contaminado);
- Aplicable a lugares con productos libres, se puede combinar con otras tecnologías. El vacío inducido en las capas del suelo controla la migración de vapores subterráneo y protege los edificios y las infraestructuras subterráneas contra la intrusión de contaminantes volátiles inflamables o tóxicos.

Las principales limitaciones son:

- Es difícil obtener reducciones de concentración superiores al 90%;
- Poca eficacia en lugares con baja permeabilidad o en suelos heterogéneamente estratificados.

6.2 Control operativo para la aplicación SVE

Entre las principales comprobaciones preliminares que se deben realizar para evaluar la aplicabilidad de la tecnología, se deben definir las características geométricas, litológicas e hidrogeológicas del medio no saturado y se debe haber evaluado cualquier aumento o disminución del nivel freático. Plantear un modelo tridimensional de la zona no saturada a tratar resulta útil para estimar la masa total del contaminante o contaminantes de interés antes de la remediación para permitir su comparación con las tasas de remoción de masa, con los cambios en la eficiencia a lo largo del tiempo y con la remoción global de masa al concluir la aplicación.

Los principales parámetros a verificar durante la construcción son: el radio de influencia (R) y el radio de tratamiento (ROT). Otros parámetros que deben verificarse y que afectan al funcionamiento son: las fluctuaciones del nivel de las aguas subterráneas, los sistemas de admisión de aire, la eficacia en el tiempo del sistema para el tratamiento de los gases extraídos, antes de su liberación a la atmósfera. El sistema debe mantenerse bajo control durante su funcionamiento, también para determinar el momento adecuado para la finalización del tratamiento.

Al final de la intervención de remediación a través de SVE, es necesario proceder a algunas comprobaciones para evaluar el posible cierre de la intervención. Para ello, es necesario que el operador evalúe una serie de informaciones y proceda a presentar a las Autoridades un informe sobre el estado ambiental constatado tras las prospecciones realizadas, y a continuación presente a las Autoridades todos los elementos útiles para cotejar que la remediación puede haber alcanzado sus objetivos.

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European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Annex 1

Soil Vapour Extraction – Case studies

IMPEL Project no. 2020/09

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.1

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site is located in the military airbase of Biên Hòa, Dong Nai, Vietnam.

During the US-Vietnam War (1955-1975), millions of litres of herbicides were dropped over Vietnam: The Rainbow agents. Those Rainbow Agents were sprayed throughout the Operation Ranch Hand to clear thick jungle, by defoliating crops and forest. Bien Hoa Airbase was a joint operating base for the South Vietnam Air Force and the United States Air Force. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, 98 000 barrels of Agent Orange, 45 000 barrels of Agent White and 16 000 barrels of Agent Blue were stored at Bien Hoa Airbase [1].

As a consequence, the Biên Hòa airbase is currently the largest dioxin hotspot in Vietnam [2].

Nowadays, it is estimated that between 408,500 and 495,300 m³ of dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment are present in the site [3]. This is almost 4 times the volume of the last airbase that underwent treatment (Danang).

More than four decades after the Vietnam War ended (in 1975), the stability and bioaccumulation of dioxins still affect the inhabitants. Measures had to be taken to improve living conditions for residents, starting with the remediation of dioxin contaminated soil. In 2018, at the request of the Government of Vietnam (GVN), the U.S. Government agreed to cooperate on dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airbase Area. Haemers Technologies was invited to perform a pilot remediation in the process of the technology selection for the full-scale project.

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[2]: USAID, FACT SHEET: DIOXIN REMEDIATION AT BIEN HOA AIRBASE AREA, consulted 16/12/2020, https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/documents/fact-sheet-dioxin-remediation-bien-hoa-airbase-area
[3] USAID. 2016. Environmental Assessment of dioxin contamination at Bien Hoa Airbase

2.2 Geological setting

There are mainly two types of soils that need to be remediated : low-humidity soil as well as high-humidity muds from swamp-like areas.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Agent Orange was proven to cause severe health issues, including birth defects, neurological problems and cancers. Agent Orange is a mixture of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic. Traces of dioxins were also found in some Agents. Indeed, dioxin 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) can be formed by condensation of 2,4,5-trichlorophenol during 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic synthesis.

Hereafter is shown the breakdown of a sample taken from the site (Contaminated sample column). The "treated sample" column refers to the sample after a lab test. The increase in secondary contaminants after treatment is most likely due to the sample heterogeneity.

	Contaminated sample	Treated sample	Unit
Dry matter	94,9	99,7	% (dry matter mass)
2,3,7,8-Tétra CDD	2800	630	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,7,8-PentaCDD	14	84	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexa CDD	13	27	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,6,7,8-HexaCDD	20	42	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,4,7,8 -Hexa CDD	3,5	7,5	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,4,7,8,9-Hepta CDD	99	46	ng/kg $_{DM}$
Octa CDD	450	200	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,7,8 Penta CDF	1,7	3,2	ng/kg $_{DM}$
2,3,4,7,8-Penta CDF	1,2	2,8	ng/kg $_{DM}$
2,3,7,8-Tétra CDF	75	28	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,7,8,9 - Hexa CDF	<1,0	<1,0	ng/kg $_{DM}$
2,3,4,6,7,8 - Hexa CDF	2,3	1,9	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,4,7,8 Hexa CDF	1,5	2,0	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,6,7,8 Hexa CDF	<1,0	1,4	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,4,7,8,9 -Hepta CDF	<5,0	<5,0	ng/kg $_{DM}$
1,2,3,4,6,7,8 -Hepta CDF	9,4	<5,0	ng/kg $_{DM}$
Octa CDF	<10	<10	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OTAN/CCMS (lower limit)	2820[4]	685	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OMS 1998 (lower limit)	2830[4]	727	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OMS 2005 (lower limit)	2830[4]	726	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OTAN/CCMS (upper limit)	2820[5]	685	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OMS 1998 (upper limit)	2830[5]	727	ng/kg $_{DM}$
I-TEQ-PCDD/F-OMS 2005 (upper limit)	2830[5]	727	ng/kg $_{DM}$

2.4 Regulatory framework

Haemers Technologies was invited by the Vietnam Government to perform a pilot project in the context of the technology selection for the Bien Hoa airbase remediation led by USAID and GVN.

The soil concentration limits after treatment have been defined as following:

- Industrial use: 1,200 ppt
- Urban area: 300 ppt
- Sediment: 150 ppt

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The treatment proposed by Haemers Technologies is a thermopile (ex-site thermal treatment). The thermopile is a small pilot-scale pile of 500 tons (11m x 14m at its base). In a thermopile, the soil is heated by conduction until it reaches the temperature of volatilization of the pollutants (a process known as thermal desorption). The vapours are then extracted to be treated. In the pile are installed 15 heating tubes and 13 exchanger tubes that transfer thermal energy to the soil. The vapours are extracted by 15 perforated tubes that are connected to a 15 kW blower in order to generate a low but constant depression sucking the gasses out. The typical depression generated is in the order of -0.2 mbar.
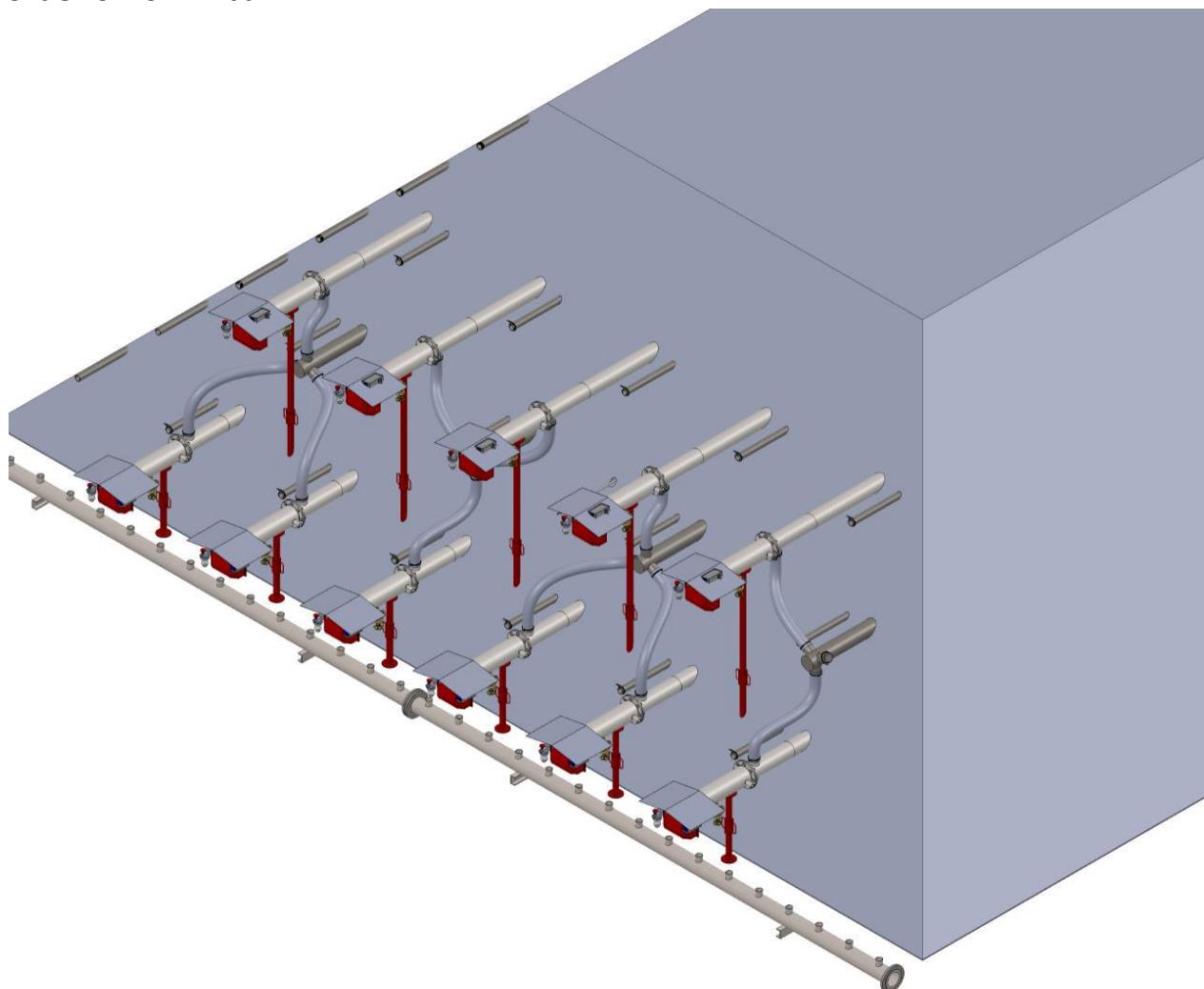
3.2 Injection system

In thermal desorption treatment, there is no injection system. The gases are generated when the contaminants and the water are vaporized due to the thermal energy transfer.

3.3 Radius of influence

The treatment is effective on the whole pile. Lab tests have shown that if the soil reaches 350°C and that the temperature is maintained for at least 5 days, the target treatment concentrations are met.

The main factor of influence is the interdistance between heating wells in the pile, but they only affect the **heating time**, i.e. the time needed to reach 350°C. The treatment effectiveness is unchanged.

In this case, the soil vapour extraction wells are approx 1.2m apart. This short range is not the actual radius of influence of each well, as this radius varies in the course of the treatment. As temperature increases, soil is drying out, affecting the permeability to vapours. Therefore, the actual radius of influence of each pipe is likely much larger than 1.2m, even if the applied negative pressure is very low (in the order of 0.2mbar). E

The high density of soil vapour extraction wells is commanded by the necessity to collect all vapours despite the low negative pressure and avoid fugitive emissions.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

The contaminated vapours are sucked from the pile and transit through the Vapor Treatment Unit (VTU). Contrary the approach taken by USAID at Danang which used activated carbon, Haemers Technologies uses a Thermal Oxidizer in order not to leave any waste requiring further treatment.
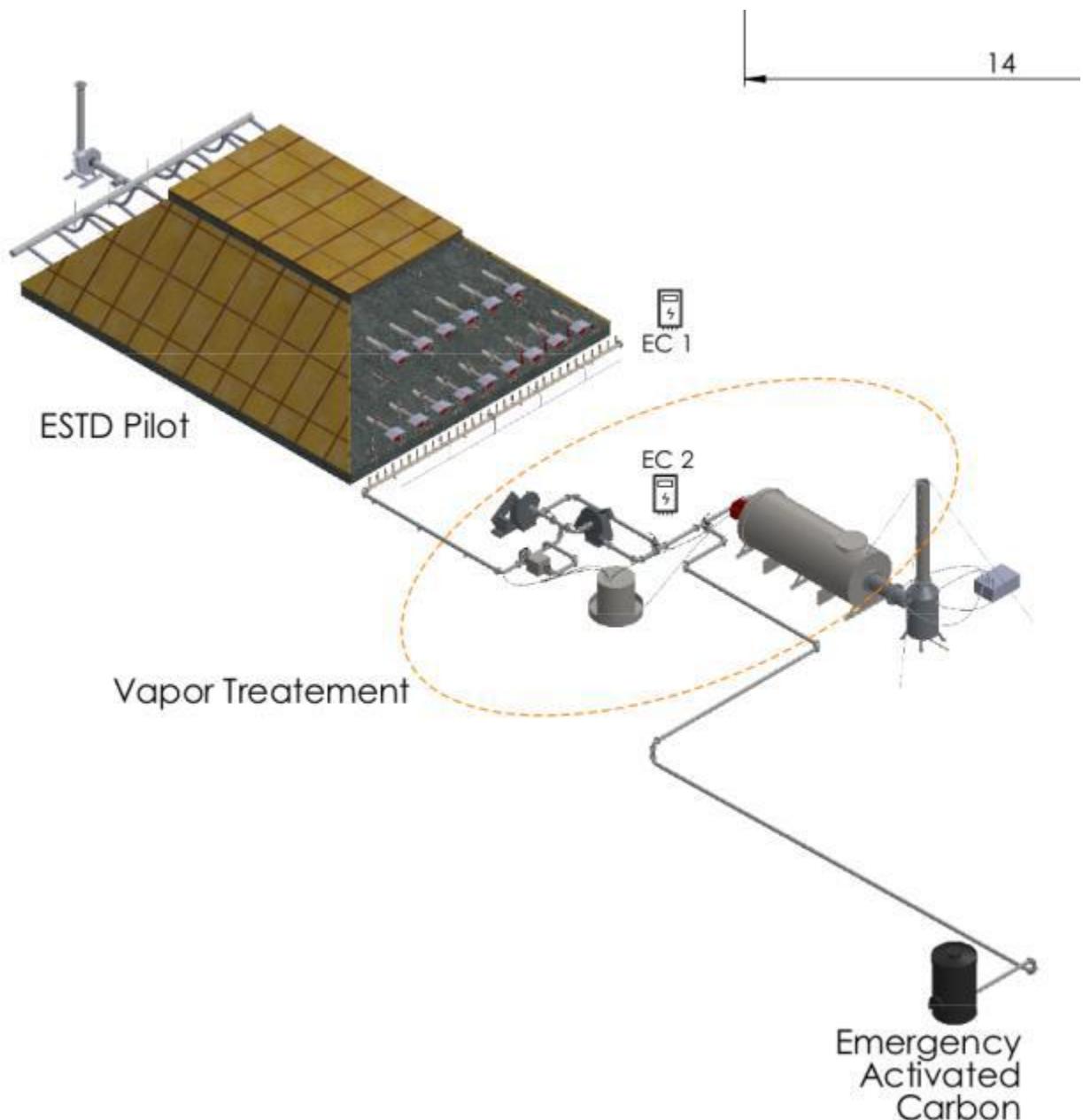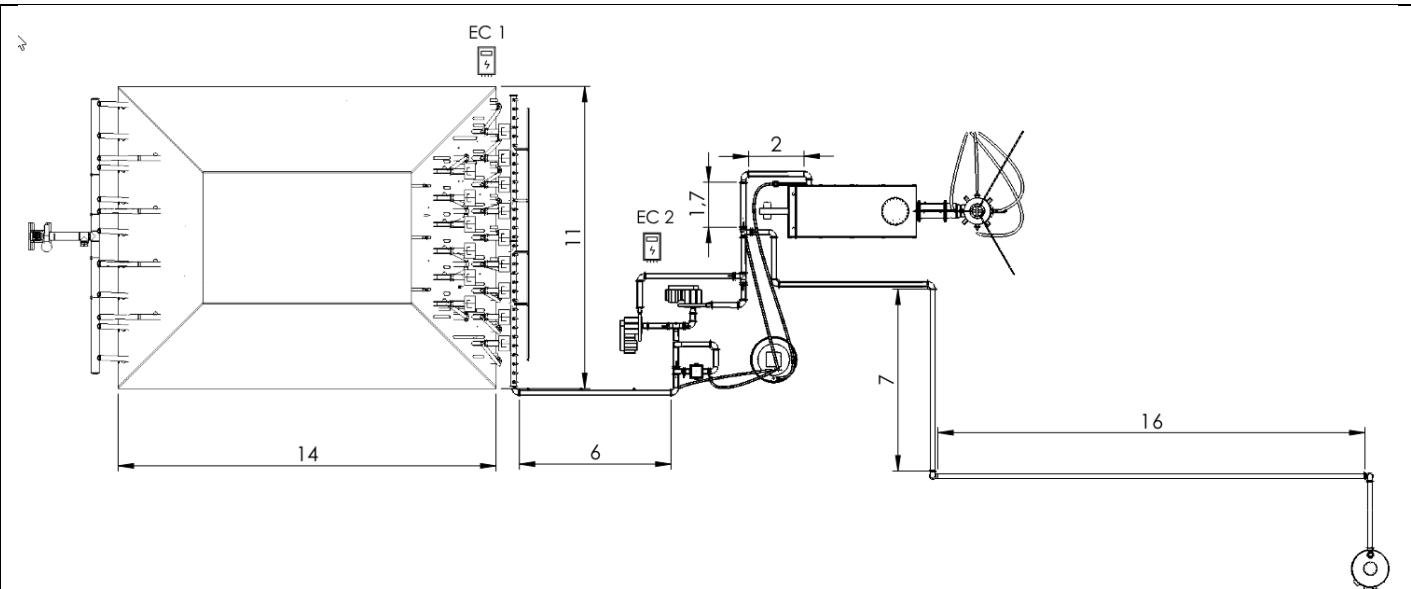
Before entering the Thermal Oxidizer, the vapours may circulate through an Arsenic filter if needed.

The vapours are then directly incinerated in order to destroy all PCDD and PCDF's. Proper oxidation guarantees compliant air emissions. It has to be noted that condensation will certainly happen along the network. To reduce liquid formation, the network is thermally insulated. Nevertheless, the liquid formed can be reinjected in the Thermal Oxidizer. To reach a destruction rate efficiency over 99,99%, the following criteria must be fulfilled in the oxidation chamber [4][5]:

1. Temperature of minimum 1100°C (preferably 1200°C)
2. Oxygen content of min 6% (preferably 10%)
3. Residence time of minimum 1 second (preferably 2 seconds)
4. High Turbulence (Re>>2500).

It is well known that dioxin compounds reformation can happened in the cooling phase, in a temperature range between 200°C and 500°C. Dioxins can be reformed in the presence of oxygen, chlorine (Cl2) and hydrocarbons [6]. Other parameters such as presence of dust and/or presence of metals, can also promote the dioxins/furans formation. To avoid the reformation process, the vapours are directed towards a cooling quench tower to a temperature below 180°C before being released in the atmosphere.

In case of issue, a back-up activated carbon tank is also present.

[4] Gao, Y. &. (2015). Assessment of Reynolds Averaged Navier–Stokes Modeling of Scalar Dissipation Rate Transport in Turbulent Oblique Premixed Flames. Combustion Science and Technology, 18

[5] Jacob E. Temme, T. M. (2015). Measurements of Premixed Turbulent Combustion Regimes of High Reynolds Number Flames. 53rd AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meetin (p. 21). Kissimmee, Florida : AIAA SciTech Forum.

[6] Buekens, A. (2001). Dioxins from thermal and metallurgical processes: recent studies for the iron and steel industry,. Chemosphere 42, 729-735.

3.5 Control parameters

Of course, the dioxin content in the soil is analyzed before and after treatment to assess the treatment effectiveness. However, thermal desorption has already been implemented at the Danang airport and has been proved to be effective against dioxin contamination.

The parameters that are continuously monitored during the treatment are the following:
• The temperature at the coldest points in the thermopiles
• The emissions at all chimneys to guarantee regulatory compliance
• The depression in the pile to ensure proper extraction
• The temperature in the Thermal Oxidizer
• The oxygen content in the Thermal Oxidizer
• The temperature of gases at the quench tower output to avoid dioxin reformation

4. Full-scale application

The pilot project was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the full-scale application has not started yet.

5. Enhancements to SVE

5.2 Any other enhancement

The Thermal Oxidizer in combination with a heat exchanger can be used to improve the overall thermal efficiency of the thermal desorption process by recovering energy and preheating the combustion air and the vapours themselves.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

Post treatment monitoring consists of soil analysis.
Monitoring is based on the extracted vapours as well as temperatures inside the soil.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

The biggest hurdle in this project was the heavy burden of procedures and authorizations required to perform the actual projects, due to the high sensitivity of the site with respect to its danger and history, as well as the military control over all operations.

7.2 Additional information

Even if the project is not finished, it has already been established that thermal desorption is effective against dioxin contamination. The addition of a Thermal Oxidizer improves the Danag process, given that:
• Soil is indeed treated according to standards
• The exhaust gas after thermal oxidation are compliant (no reformation of dioxin)
• No solid nor liquid waste is generated, not needed further off-site disposal

7.3 Training need

Training needs are specific both the heating and extraction system, as well as to the Health and Safety measures to be taken on site.
Additional communication is required given the nature of the contaminants in order to fully inform operators and local community about the safety of the process for their own health.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
VTU Vapor Treatment Unit	VTU Vapor Treatment Unit
ppt	part-per-thousand

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.2

1.1 Name and Surname	Jean Rhone, Mathieu Petitjean, Alain Duchene, Hatem Saadaoui, Jan Haemers
1.2 Country/Jurisdiction	Belgium
1.3 Organisation	Haemers Technologies
1.4 Position	Innovation Engineer
1.5 Duties	R&D
1.6 Email address	innovation@haemers-tech.com
1.7 Phone number	+32 2 786 39 43

2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site is located in the North of France. It used to be a manufacturing site producing different chemicals, acids and catalysers. Many soil and water investigations were carried out from 1998 to 2015. They showed a presence of impacts of many pollutants in multiple spots of the 0.32 km². The results of those analyses were not different from classic industrial pollution and the main pollutants found were hydrocarbons, BTEX, PAH and heavy metals. The site is located next to agricultural fields and the soil is mainly made of backfills and loam. Once the analyses confirmed the concentrated polluted spots, a "Plan de Gestion" (remediation plan) was drafted, leading to various site uses and different remediation target concentrations.
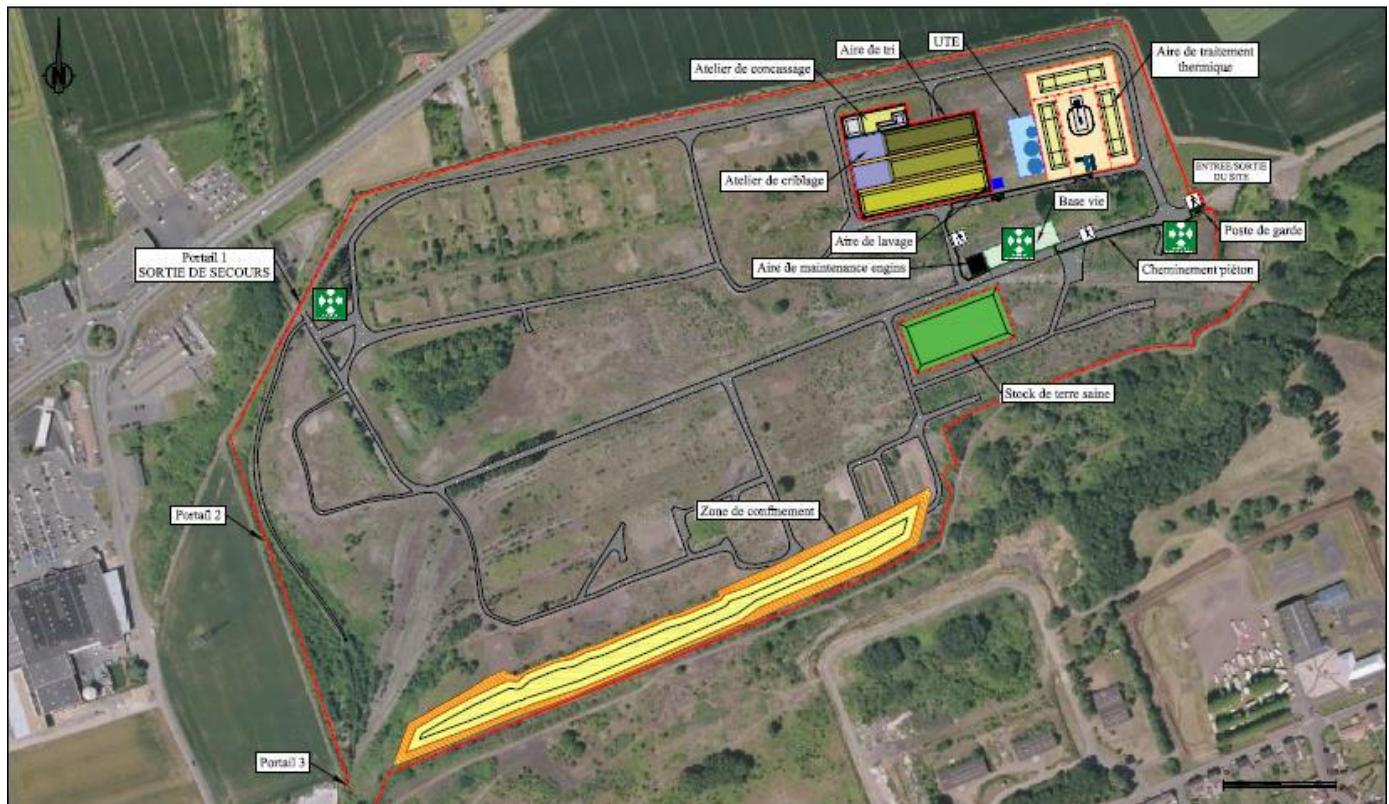
2.2 Geological setting

The whole site covers about 34 hectares. It is located between a commercial area and an agricultural area. Indeed, agricultural fields are present at North and East of the site.
The main issue with high concentrated spots on a large area is the difficulty to treat all the spots onsite and therefore an Ex-Situ Thermal Desorption (ESTD) was selected. Soils with hydrocarbons concentrations higher than the remediation target were excavated and stored in a single location and eventually erected in several polluted soil piles.

Item	Value	Units
Average Soil Density	1.8	kg/m^3
Average Porosity	0,3	V_V/V_T
Moisture Content	0,24	W_{water}/W_{soil}

The thermal treatment area is isolated from groundwater with a waterproof geotextile placed at a depth of 0.4 m. The site's topography was designed to have no accumulation of rainwater in the area. Slight slopes were designed and a rainwater collecting system was constructed to send the rainwater to the water treatment plant.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The contaminants are the COCs identified hereafter:

Contaminant Type	Number of samples	Average concentration (mg/kg DM)	Targets (mg/kg DM)	
C_5-C_{10}			Clay/loam	250
			Backfill	100
C_5-C_{40}	218	4145,5	Clay/loam	2000
			Backfill	1000
BTEX	218	1,16	Benzene	1,5
			Toluene	5
			Ethylbenzene	10
			Xylene	40
HAP	218	30,3	50	

Soils with hydrocarbons concentrations higher than the remediation target were excavated and stored in a single location and eventually erected in several polluted soil piles. The treatment area was chosen to be able to run 2 piles simultaneously, with a third one in mobilization/demobilization.

Because of the client's concern about Mercury (Hg) soil concentration, a classic ESTD treatment was chosen with the addition of an ad-hoc Vapor Treatment Unit situated at in the middle of the treatment area.

2.4 Regulatory framework

The site has been owned by different companies over the course of the last century. A prefectural order was issued in 2015 for the soil remediation in the context of a remediation plan (one commercial and activity area and one park and walking area). The owner issued Golder Associates to be the prime contractor. The contractor chosen by Golder Associates was Seché EcoService, which partnered with Haemers Technologies.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

No pilot-scale application was performed

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The treatment proposed by Haemers Technologies is a rotating thermopile (ex-situ thermal treatment). Each pile consists of 2000m³ of polluted soil.

In the pile are installed 75 heating tubes and 25 exchanger tubes that transfer thermal energy to the soil. The vapours are extracted by perforated tubes that are connected to a blower in order to generate a low but constant depression sucking the gas out. The typical generated depression is in the order of -0.2 mbar.
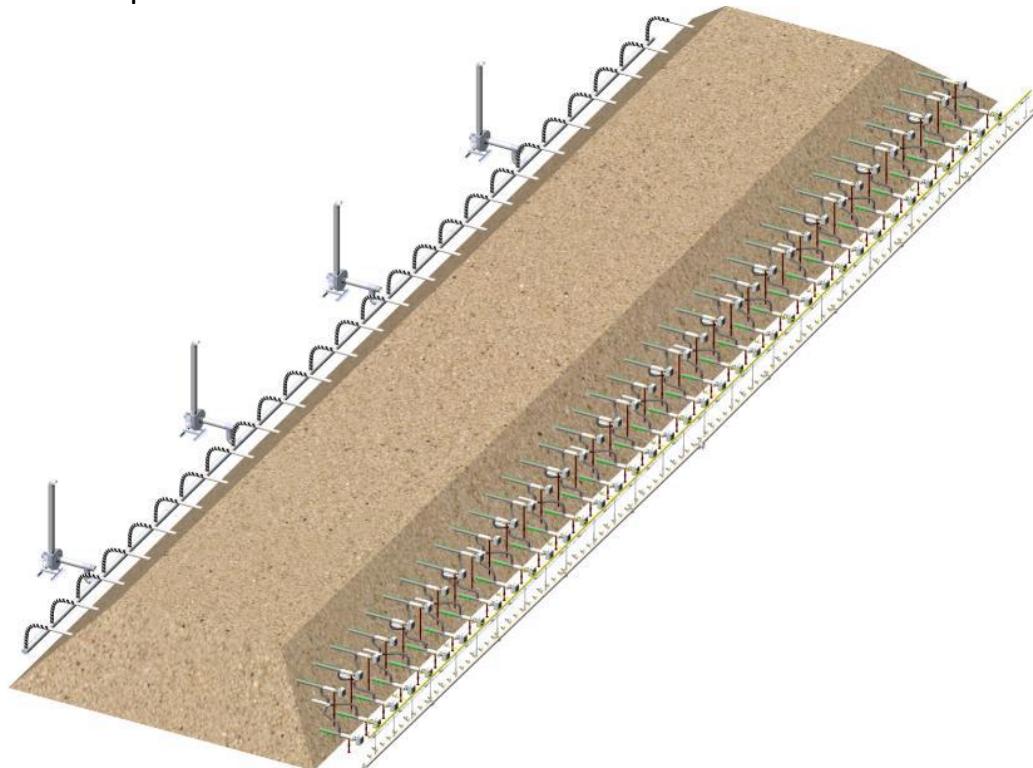
4.2 Injection system

In thermal desorption treatment, there is no injection system. The gases are generated when the contaminants and the water are vaporized due to the thermal energy transfer.

4.3 Radius of influence

The treatment is effective on the whole pile. Lab tests have shown that if the soil reaches 200°C and that the temperature is maintained for at least 3 days, the target treatment concentrations are met.

The main factor of influence is the interdistance between heating wells in the pile, but they only affect the heating time, i.e. the time needed to reach 200°C. The treatment effectiveness is unchanged.

In this case, the soil vapour extraction wells are approx 1.5m apart. This short range is not the actual radius of influence of each well, as this radius varies in the course of the treatment. As temperature increases, soil is drying out, affecting the permeability to vapours. Therefore, the actual radius of influence of each pipe is likely much larger than 1.5m, even if the applied negative pressure is very low (in the order of 0.2mbar).

The high density of soil vapour extraction wells is commanded by the necessity to collect all vapours despite the low negative pressure and avoid fugitive emissions.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

The contaminated vapours are sucked from the pile and transit through the Vapor Treatment Unit (VTU). The VTU is able to handle the off gases of two simultaneous piles. This way, a rotating schedule was implemented where two piles are in treatment while the third is dismantled and the next one is built.

The VTU aims to treat the contaminant's vapours coming from the piles' treatment to stay within national environmental release norms. The VTU is composed of various elements designed to achieve the treatment. Most of the VTU's installation is focused on the contaminant's vapours suction and condensation. The other part is focused on direct treatment through adsorption or thermal oxidation.

The following Figure presents the contaminated vapours flow from the Pile to the VTU.
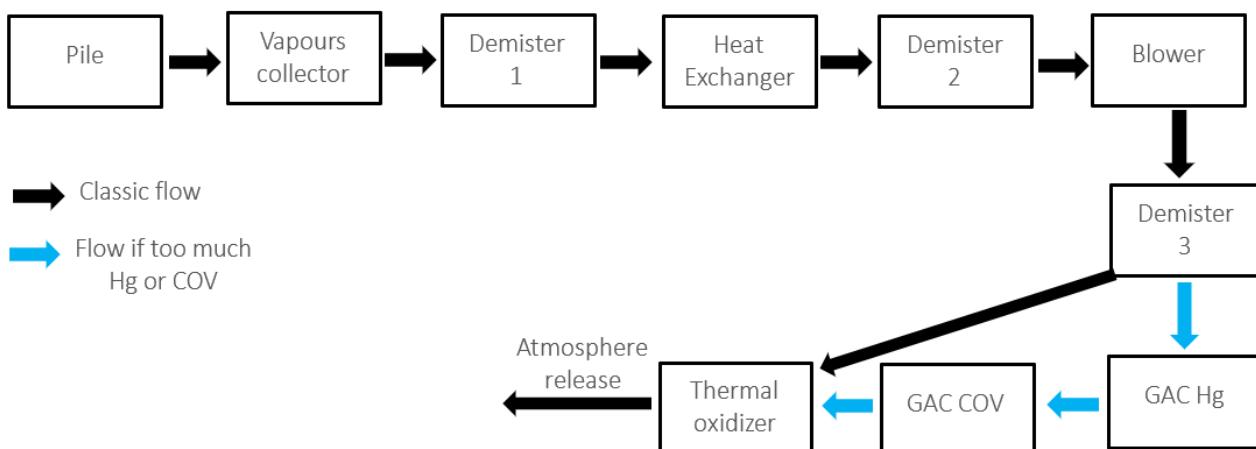
The VTU consists of three demisters and a heat exchanger. The non-condensable vapours (mainly air and light hydrocarbons) are sent to a thermal oxidizer (operating at 820°C), with a residence time of 2 seconds. If high concentration of Mercury is detected, the vapours are routed to a sulphured Activated carbon filter.

The process is partly duplicated to be able to continue the thermal treatment during maintenance of each VTU element. A Programmable Logic Controller was used to automate the switch between the two line.

The next figure will show the duplicated VTU scheme.
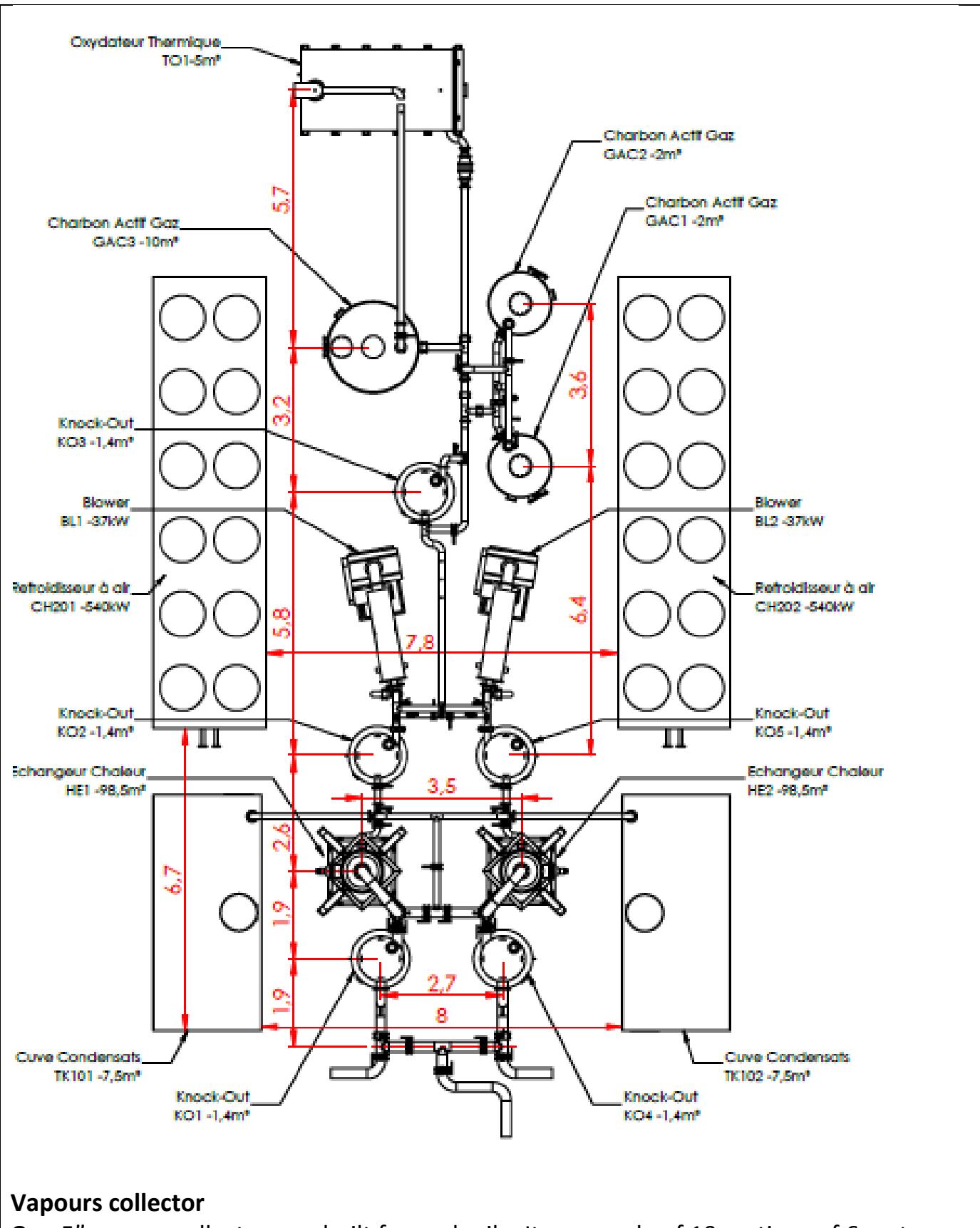
Vapours collector
One 5" vapour collector was built for each pile. It was made of 10 sections of 6 meters

each. Each collector has a low cant in order to collect the condensates. The collector is connected to an underground tank. Vapour flexible are connected to the collector as shown in the next picture.

The underground tank is connected to an 8" vapour collector that goes to the VTU as shown in the next picture.

Water collected on the underground tanks is sent to the condensate tanks.

Demisters

A demister equipment is made to remove liquid droplets from gases.
Condensates are collected at the bottom of the tank and sent to be treated by Seché ES.
One demister is placed at the VTU entry in order to remove the droplets formed on the 8" collector. One is then placed after the heat exchanger to remove the droplets formed during the vapours' cooling. The final demister is placed after the blower. Indeed, pressure changes in the blower can also create droplets. The aim was to remove humidity before entering the thermal oxidizer.

Heat exchanger

Installation of one heat exchanger was mandatory for two main reasons: vapour cooling before the blower, water removal using condensation process. In a tubular exchanger, vapours pass through copper thin pipes and gets cool down by water passing between the pipes. Each of the heat exchanger has a 98.5 m² exchange surface. Water is then cooled down using a dry air cooler (540 kW). Glycol was added to the water to prevent freezing during winter. The next pictures show the heat exchanger and the dry air cooler.

Blower

The blower is the most important part of the VTU. Its aim is to depressurize the pile by vacuuming the air and the contaminated vapours. Each of the two blowers was designed to vacuum two piles simultaneously. Thus, each blower has a maximum flow capacity of 3,200 m³/h. They are set using one frequency regulator. The maximum acceptable temperature at the input is set to 80°C. The next picture shows one blower.

GAC Hg

Mercury traces were found in previous soil analysis. Exxon suggested Haemers Technologies to provide a solution in order to prevent any mercury atmospheric releases. Two sulphurous activated carbon tanks of 3 m^3 and one Hg analyser (VM-3000) were added to the VTU. The aim was to analyse the vapours after the blower in order to know the mercury concentration. If the concentration was over the norms, an electrovalve redirected the vapour flow to the activated carbon. Another sampling point was placed after the activated carbon in order to assess the mercury removal. The chosen activated coal has an apparent density of 0.63 kg/l and a sulphur concentration of 13-16%. The following picture shows the mercury tanks.

GAC COV

Vapours should be treated through the thermal oxidizer. However, in case of thermal oxidizer breakdown, an activated coal tank of 10 m^3 was added. In case of thermal oxidizer breakdown, the flow was redirected to this new tank. The outlet was connected to the thermal oxidizer's chimney. An activated coal with the following specifications was chosen: apparent density of 0.475 kg/l and US Standard Mesh granulometry of 4*8. It was chosen to remove COV from the vapours. The following picture shows the tank and its chimney connection.

Thermal oxidizer

The thermal oxidizer is the key equipment for the vapour treatment. Indeed, the other equipment (expect for the GACs) were not chosen for the hydrocarbons removal but mainly to remove the water from the vapours for a better thermal oxidation. Its aim was to remove the pollutants from the vapours and to release clean gases. A residency time of minimum 2 seconds was calculated in order to have an efficient pollutants thermal oxidation. The thermal oxidizer is 5 m^3 and has a 3 meters chimney. It is designed to resist to a maximal temperature of 1,000 °C. A 850 kW burner is connected to the thermal oxidation chamber and fuelled with gas. The burner power is regulated depending on the temperature inside the thermal oxidizer. The normal conditions to have the best pollutants removal efficiency were fixed from 780°C to 820°C. The next picture shows the thermal oxidizer.

4.5 Control parameters

The VTU operation is monitored by a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC). The following key data is monitored:
- Vapor temperatures at all steps of the process
- Pile depression to ensure proper aspiration of the vapours
- Pressure points at all steps of the VTU
- Mercury content after the blower
- Gas emissions at the Thermal Oxidizer chimney (COV, CO, NO_x, PM2.5, PM10, PCDD, HCl, HF, SO_2)

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

Post treatment monitoring consists of soil samples analysis.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

Special care needs to be taken when operating in countries where below-zero temperatures can be reached. In the case of this project, glycol needed to be mixed with water in the cooling sections.
• It can be beneficial to perform more advanced analysis than the ones provided by the end customer. In particular, the presence of acidic compounds is not relevant per se to the remediation but can damage the equipment.

7.2 Additional information

The success of remediation is determined by the compliant pollutants content in the soil after treatment as well as compliant emissions throughout the treatment.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
VTU	Vapor Treatment Unit

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.3

1.1 Name and Surname	Luca Sacilotto
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1.4 Position	Senior Managing Consultant
1.5 Duties	Project management of contaminated sites and brownfield assessments for industries; development and implementation of complex remedial projects addressing a wide variety of contaminants in several hydrogeological settings.
1.6 Email address	lsacilotto@ramboll.com
1.7 Phone number	+39-3341319233

2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site extends over a surface of around 90,000 m^2, of which around 82,000 m^2 is paved or covered by buildings (buildings cover an area around 41,000 m^2).

The plant began the production of freezers and refrigerators for food preservation in 1967, production which is still ongoing even if at a reduced rate. The contamination of the site was discovered in 2009 during site characterization activities, and exceedances of the CSC have been identified in deep soils (depth > 1 m bgl) for organochlorinated compounds (vinyl chloride, 1,2-Dichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloropropane), and in groundwater for the following compounds:

- Non-Volatile Metals: Iron, Manganese;
- inorganic compounds: Nitrite, Sulphate;
- BTEX: Toluene, Benzene;
- chlorinated aliphatic compounds: Tetrachlorethylene, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Chloroform, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloropropane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane.

Furthermore, local areas of buried wastes were found at the site, and removed during subsequent intervention, but it cannot be excluded that additional buried wastes are still present.

2.2 Geological setting

Only the shallow portion of soil and groundwater, till a depth of about 15 m b.g.l., was investigated during the site characterization. The subsoil is formed by alluvial deposit formed by interbedded sandy and silty layers as indicated below, overlaying a silty aquitard (see figure below). At a regional scale, a thin semiconfined aquifer contained in a conglomerates formation is present at 70 m b.g.l.
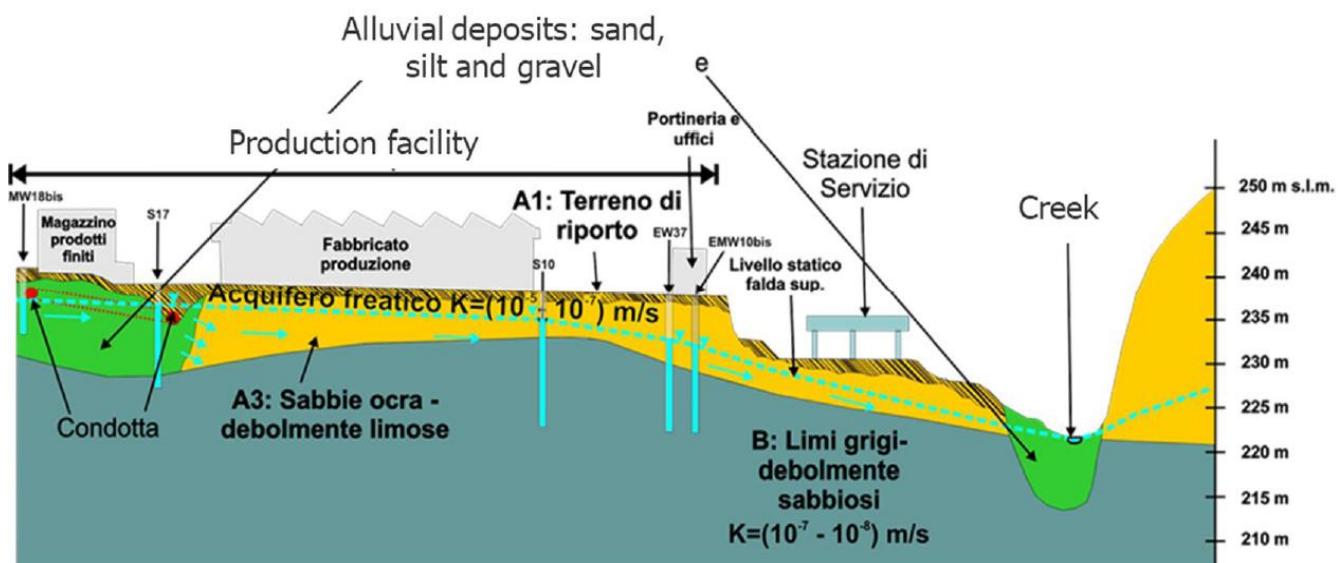
The figure represents the hydro-geological cross-section of the site along the groundwater flow main direction (North-East to South-West).

During site characterization, shallow groundwater levels were ranging between 2 and 9 m b.g.l. (on average 4 m b.g.l.), with flow direction mainly from the upgradient hill (North, North-West) to South, South-Est, towards a Creek; however, groundwater flow at the N-E corner of the facility is affected by the presence of an intubated stream existing at the northern portion of the facility with direction from N-E to S-W, generating a local depression of the groundwater table. Backfilling materials used in the past in earth moving activities for underground installation of the intubated stream appear to be characterized by a low permeability, even if presence of more permeable alluvial materials (sand and gravel) is documented along the pipe at depths between around 8 and 11 m b.g.l. Average groundwater gradient was estimated equal to 3% and hydraulic conductivity (k) ranges between 10-6 (North-West side) and 10-8 m/s (North-Est side), with an average value of 5x10-7 m/s.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Soil:

- vinyl chloride: 0.42 ÷ 0.45 mg/kg
- 1,2-Dichloroethane: 7 ÷ 672 mg/kg
- Trichloroethylene: 20 ÷43 mg/kg
- 1,2-Dichloropropane: 27 ÷ 154 mg/kg

Groundwater:

Non-Volatile Metals:
- Iron: 3.1 ÷ 41,400 µg/l
- Manganese: 0.89 ÷ 18,500 µg/l

BTEX:
- Toluene: 0.05 ÷ 200 µg/l
- Benzene: 0.053 ÷ 56 µg/l

Chlorinated aliphatic compounds:
- Tetrachlorethylene: 0.05 ÷ 38 µg/l
- Trichloroethylene: 0.05 ÷ 31,000 µg/l
- Vinyl Chloride: 0.031 ÷ 410 µg/l
- Chloroform: 0.018 ÷ 69 µg/l
- 1,2-Dichloroethane: 0.018 ÷ 4,800,000 µg/l
- 1,2-Dichloroethylene: 0.054 ÷ 22,000 µg/l
- 1,2-Dichloropropane: : 0.019 ÷ 89,000 µg/l

2.4 Regulatory framework

Clean-up goals for soil and groundwater were defined in the Risk Assessment, and are included in the on-going remedial plan, approved in 2012 (the updated approval in 2017 did not modify them).

According to Italian regulation, although the remedial targets are defined on a Risk Assessment basis inside the facility (SSTLs or CSR), groundwater quality at the end of remedial action must comply with regulatory limits (CSC, much more conservative than calculated SSTLs) at the downgradient boundary of the site. Therefore, once reduced the concentration below the CSR for inhalation risk inside the facility, the ultimate clean-up goal for groundwater is to reduce and control the off-site migration at the Southern and Eastern borders of the site. In particular, a general conformity of the Southern border of the site is registered, with an exception at one piezometer at the south-eastern site boundary, where concentrations for TCE are slightly over the potable limit (10 µg/L) and one order of magnitude above the regulatory limit (CSC = 1.5 µg/L). Along the Eastern border, one piezometer exceeds regulatory limits both for 1,2-DCA and 1,2DCP, with a contamination 2-3 orders of magnitude above the respective regulatory limits (CSC for 1,2-DCA = 3 µg/L; CSC for 1,2-DCP = 0.15 µg/L).

3. Pilot-scale application in field

No pilot test was performed

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The SVE system is composed of two extraction wells and an horizontal trench, and it is combined with an Air Sparging (AS) system which includes four wells. The characteristics of the installed systems are as follows:

- N.2 SVE wells (namely SVE1 and EMW30 both 7 meters deep, with a screened interval from 3 to 7 m bgl. SVE1 is 4"diameter, and EMW30 3");
- N.1 horizontal trench (100 meters long, with a diameter of 200 mm);
- N. 4 AS wells (one close to the trench and EMW30, namely AS1p, and three close to SVE1, namely AS14, AS15, AS16). AS wells are 15 meters deep, and with a 2" diameter. They are all screened in the interval 14-15 m bgl;
- the SVE system is powered by a blower "MAPRO 36/21" (5.5 kW, 220V, triphase 50 Hz);
- the AS system is powered by a scroll compressor "Atlas Copco SF2" (2.2 kW, 220V, triphase, 50 Hz).

4.2 Injection system

As previously mentioned, four injection wells are installed to circulate air in groundwater (Air Sparging) with the scope to strip contaminants that would then be collected by the SVE system. Air is injected at an average pressure of 1 bar.

4.3 Radius of influence

The theoretical value of ROI, calculated in the design phase for the Air Sparging was estimated as 5 to 10 meters.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

As for off-gas treatment, there are two granular activated carbon (GAC) filters (1 cubic meter each) in series connection.

4.5 Control parameters

- Air flow and extraction rates
- Air pressure measurements
- Water levels
- Dissolved oxygen and contaminant concentrations in groundwater
- Oxygen, carbon dioxide and contaminant concentrations in SVE off-gas or soil vapour
- Mass removal

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

– Low permeability soils difficult to treat through AS technology.
– The presence of heterogeneous subsoil is a big challenge for this types of in-situ technologies.

7.2 Additional information

To assess the success of remediation is fundamental to perform:

- trend analysis of each contaminant monitored over time with respect to the initial baseline value
- quantification of extracted mass over time

7.3 Training need

To ensure the achievement of remediation goals is fundamental to perform a good operation and maintenance of the overall system. To do that is important that the system is managed by trained personnel. Despite a general training can be done from webinars and e-learning to obtain a targeted training specific for the single system installed few on-the job session, especially in the first weeks of system running, can be a good way to have site personnel sufficiently trained with respect to the specific performances of the system installed.

Glossary of Terms

A glossary will help a you to maintain the level of precision necessary for key terms and maintain consistency across the text. We found out that sometimes terms that sounds similar like "contaminated" and "polluted" are used in the same way as synonyms in some country, while in other they have different meanings (due to legislation or for other reasons). So fill in this glossary for your key elements and of course for acronyms.

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
SSTLs or CSR	Site Specific Target Level, which are named CSR in Italian regulation, are concentration target levels defined according to Risk Analysis procedure

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.4

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

Since its first installation (1970), within the site have been produced compressors for refrigerators and air conditioning units. The analysis of the production processes within the facility highlighted the use in the past of potentially polluting substances such as heavy metals and chlorinated solvents, mainly PCE, TCE and Cr IV. The production was active up to 2018 and then the assembly lines have been dismantled.

2.2 Geological setting

Site soil consists largely of silts and clays interbedded with thicker layers of fine sands. This succession mainly consists of silty-clayey layers with two major sandy layers of different thickness, ranging from few centimetres to about 1 meter, located in the following ranges of depth:
  • Level 1: between 10 and 15m b.g.s.
  • Level 2: between 25 and 30m b.g.s.
The depth to ground water is approximately 5-7 meters below ground surface.
The following image depict the geological setting of the first two meters of soil subjected to ventilation through the SVE system.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The main compounds of concern are:
- tetrachlorethylene (PCE),
- trichloroethylene (TCE),
- cis 1,2-dichloroethylene (cis 1,2-DCE),
- trans 1,2-dichloroethylene (trans 1,2-DCE),
- 1,1-dichloroethylene,
- chloroform,
- vinyl chloride (VC),
- freon-11,
- freon-113

2.4 Regulatory framework

The administrative path of the remediation process started on 2001 when the client informed the Public Authorities of a potential contamination resulting from the presence of chlorinated solvents in groundwater detected during a series of investigations carried out in order to verify the quality of the subsoil at the Site. Subsequently, the following activities have been done: Site Characterization, Preliminary Remediation Design, Final Remediation Design for the treatment of the contamination from groundwater. In 2016 an ambient-air survey highlighted the absence of risks for workers to be exposed to contaminant chlorinated vapours stemming from the contaminated groundwater.

Nevertheless, the client, as a preventive and precautionary measure for workers decided to install a Soil Venting system (same technology of a classical SVE system) to brake any possible migration pathway of contaminated vapours from the groundwater to the productive building.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

Before the installation of the full scale system, a pilot scale application has been performed to estimate the effective radius of influence that potentially can be achieved from each extraction well. The test was carried out connecting, through flexible pipes, one vertical well of 4" diameter, 2 m depth screened from 0.5 m below ground level to 2 m depth, with a blower for vapour extraction (with filters and silencers). In addition, the system included a condensate separator to remove water from the extracted gas before to pass through the blower and a granular activated carbon unit (200 L) to treat the contaminated vapour streams before the emission in atmosphere. Moreover, the well head of the extraction well was equipped with a pressure gauge and connected to the extraction system through a flexible pipe. Along the extraction line (2" diameter) there was a manual adjustment valve, vacuum gauge, sampling points and two asameters for air flow measurement.

3.3 Radius of influence

Examples of vacuum measurements at wellhead (left) and monitoring point (right)

Two tests were performed to estimate the radius of influence: step test and long duration test.

For the step test increasing flow rates have been considered with values centred around the design value:

- 26 m^3/h
- 40 m^3/h (design value)
- 50 m^3/h
- 80 m^3/h
- 125 m^3/h

During each step test, the following parameters were monitored:

- suction depression at the blower,
- depression on the wellhead of the suction point,
- depression induced on the soil gas monitoring points,
- flow rate of extracted gases,
- VOC concentrations.

On the basis of the step test outcomes a flow rate of 60 m^3/h has been sustained

constant for about 48 hours during which the same parameters of the step tests have been monitored.

Plotting in semi-logarithmic graph the depressions induced in the monitoring points at different distances from the extraction well and considering a cut-off pressure of 1% of the depression measured at the wellhead (Johnson and Ettinger, 1994), namely 0.12 mbar, a ROI of about 120 m has been estimated from the suction shaft considered for pilot test.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

During the pilot scale application in field, off gas were treated by a granular activated carbon unit of 200 L to treat the contaminated vapour streams before the emission in the atmosphere.

3.5 Control parameters

To assess the effectiveness of the treatment the following parameters were monitored during the pilot scale application:

- suction depression at the blower,
- depression on the wellhead of the suction point,
- depression induced on the soil gas monitoring points at different distances from the extraction well,
- flow rate of extracted gases,
- VOC concentrations.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The full scale SVE system basically consist of 5 extraction wells, 4 of which within the productive building and 1 in the external area still within the site boundary. Each vertical extraction well is of 4" diameter, 2 m depth screened from 0.5 m below ground level to 2 m depth. Each vacuum well is connected to the vacuum unit through HDPE underground and aboveground pipes of 2", 3" and 4" to take into account pressure drop along the line.

The vacuum unit is basically composed of 2 vacuum blowers (one as backup blower), air flow rate 230 Nm^3/h each, with filters and silencers, 1 condensate separator to remove water from the extracted gas before to pass through the blower and 1 electrical panel to control the blowers. Outside the vacuum unit there are 2 granular activated carbon units (1 m^3 each with about 600 kg of carbons) and a chimney for treated gas emissions. Each well head is equipped with a pressure gauge and along each of the 5 extraction lines there are from the bottom to the top: sampling port, flow meter, pressure gauge, regulation valve, on/off valve.

Examples of instruments along each extraction line

The system is completed by 32 monitoring points spatially distributed to cover the overall treated area.

To assess the different performances for different monitoring system we installed:

- N. 9 "nesty probes", 7 of which in external area and 2 within the facility;
- N. 23 "vapor pin" within the facility.

Nesty probe

Vapor Pin

4.3 Radius of influence

As a result of pilot test an extraction flow rate of about 50 m^3/hour for each of the 5 extraction wells has been set and a ROI of about 50 m has been associated with each extraction well in order to cover the planar extension of the groundwater plume which has basically an orientation north-south. The following image depict the expected ROI (brown dotted lines) from each extraction well (green squares).

System layout with expected ROI
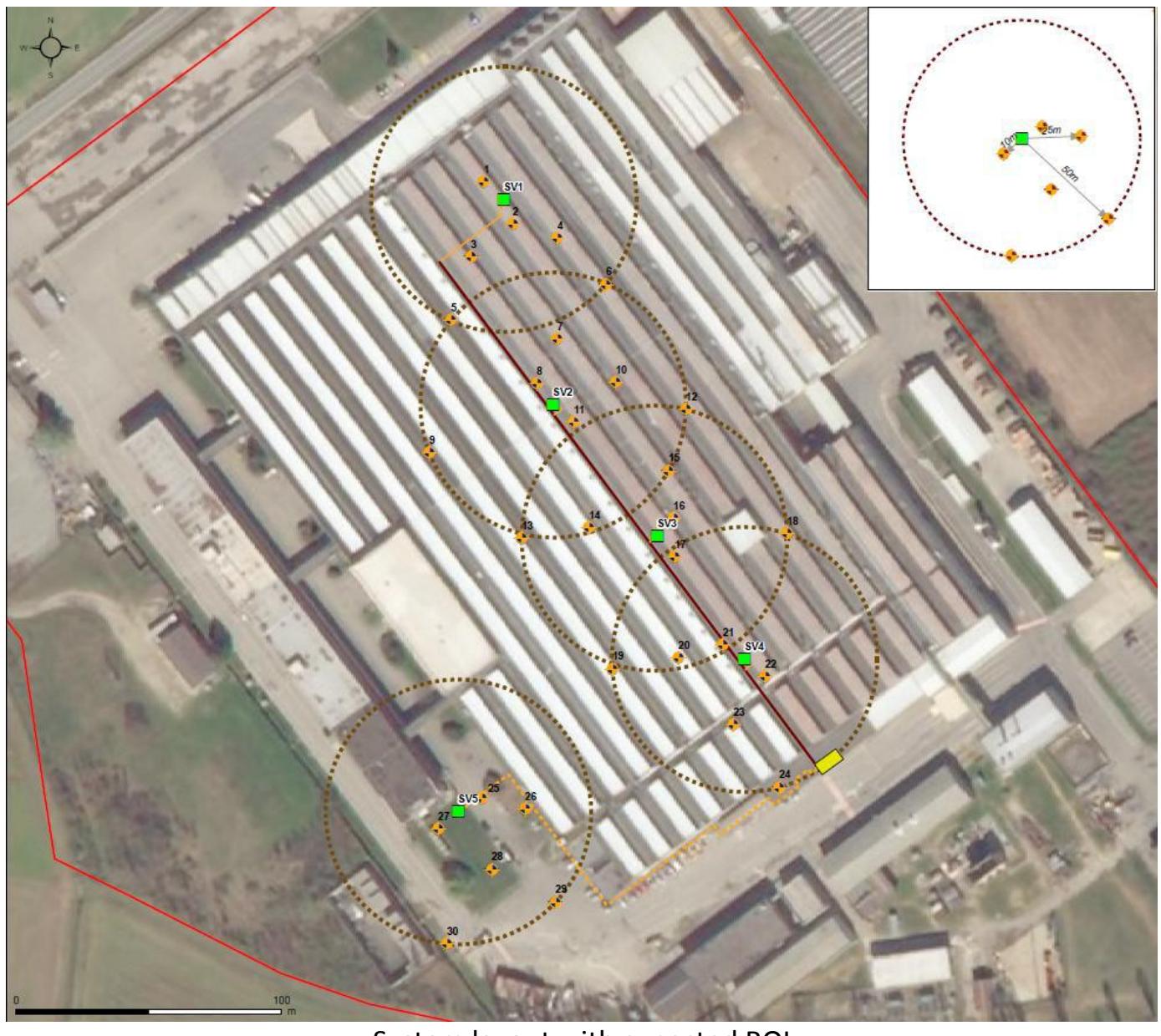
4.4 Off gas Treatment

Off gas treatment is basically composed of 2 granular activated carbon units (1 m^3 each with about 600 kg of granulated activated carbons) and a chimney for treated gas emissions in the atmosphere.

4.5 Control parameters

To assess the effectiveness of the treatment the following parameters were monitored with the following frequency

With a weekly basis:

- flow rate of each extraction well,
- temperature and pressure/ suction depression both upstream and downstream the blower,
- the occurrence of condensate waters,

With a 3 months basis:

- VOC, O_2, CH_4, CO_2 and depression induced at each monitoring point,
- soil gas concentration for each monitoring point, well heads and off gases before the emission in atmosphere

5. Enhancements to SVE

No pneumatic and/or hydraulic fracturing systems has been employed to enhance the SVE application which was designed only to ventilate and hence brake any possible pathways of contaminated streams from the groundwater to the productive building.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

The treatment is still ongoing but as a long term monitoring plan it can be scheduled monitoring campaigns on a six months basis on each soil gas control point available at the site and an ambient-air monitoring survey on a year basis to verify if any changes with respect to the status achieved at the end of ventilation.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

1) Methodology and procedures

Before the installation of a full scale system perform a pilot test to verify, with field data, the design hypothesis related to ROI extension and flow rate achievable from each extraction well since due to local heterogeneities not all wells perform at the same way.

2) Technical aspects

Prior the installation of the extraction wells perform a detailed screening and review of historical maps of the areas that need to be treated with a sub slab ventilation to assess the occurrence of any subsurface services which can reduce the extension of expected ROI, hence reducing the overall efficacy of the system.

3) Legislative, organizational aspects

To be compliant with regulation limits for off gas emission is key the periodic check of the efficacy of the treatment system to avoid the emission in atmosphere of contaminated gases.

7.2 Additional information

To assess the success of remediation is fundamental to perform:
- trend analysis of each contaminant monitored over time with respect to the initial baseline value
- quantification of extracted mass over time

7.3 Training need

To ensure the achievement of remediation goals is fundamental to perform a good operation and maintenance of the overall system. To do that is important that the system is managed by trained personnel. Despite a general training can be done from webinars and e-learning to obtain a targeted training specific for the single system installed few on-the job session, especially in the first weeks of system running, can be a good way to have site personnel sufficiently trained with respect to the specific performances of the system installed.

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site is a gas station in peripheral area south of a city of central Italy, along a road with medium vehicular traffic.

2.2 Geological setting

The geological structure of the area is characterized by the presence of soils of volcanic origin and deposits of alluvial origin.

In the area under examination the volcanic deposits of the Pleistocene age produced by the volcanic systems of Lazio emerge.

From a geomorphologic point of view, the site is located on the slope in a hilly area artificially terraced for the construction of the square.

Hydrography essentially consists of a series of ditches which, with dendritic branching, flow north-east. They have a torrential regime, with superficial outflows that occur during intense rainfall and of a certain duration, mainly in the winter season.

The area is characterized in general by soils with variable permeability, both in relation to the variety of soils constituting the stratigraphic succession, and to the frequent variability of the lithological and structural aspects found within the individual units that make up this succession.

The site stratigraphy is characterized by the presence of the following two main units:
- Anthropic material - Mixed material, essentially consisting of medium sand with the presence of gravel/pebbles, which extends from 0 m from ground level. about 3 m b.g.s.;
- Silt and Clays - Cohesive deposit made up of silts and clays with local intercalations of coarser sandy lenses, found up to the maximum investigated depth (10 m b.g.s.).

Literature data allow us to hypothesize the presence of a significant underground water circulation at high depths: in a well surveyed about 400 m south of the gas station area, a water table level of 78 m a.s.l. is reported, corresponding to a depth from the ground surface at the site of about 45-50 m.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Contamination affected unsaturated soil, with BTEX, C≤12 and C>12 as CoCs, found at a depth of 3.4 m b.g.s.

2.4 Regulatory framework

In Italy the environmental regulatory system is regulated by Legislative Decree No. 152/2006 and for fuel stations by the Ministerial Decree No. 31/2015.

The target values for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, C<12 and C>12 are set equal to 50, 50, 50, 50, 250 and 750 mg/kg, respectively, for soils with commercial use.

For the implementation of SVE technology (as well as for the implementation of any remediation plan) the approval by local authorities is needed.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The execution of the pilot test, placing vertical wells SN03 and SN04 (5 meters depth, screened between 1 and 5 m b.g.s.) in depression by a blower, showed that:

- by varying the extraction rate (from 30 to 1000 L/min) within point SN03, rather small depressions were detected in the monitoring points, in any case lower than the value of 0.5 mbar (the maximum value was 0.3 mbar observed in SN04 with an extraction rate of 1000 L/min) indicated by literature as the minimum depression to have an induced influence from the well being extracted ("cut off" value);
- during the test a further test was performed by putting in depression point SN02: also in this case, depressions were observed within the point SN03 lower than the value of 0.5 mbar (the maximum value was 0.2 mbar observed in SN03 with an extraction rate of 2330 L/min);
- no condensation accumulation was detected during the test inside the separator.
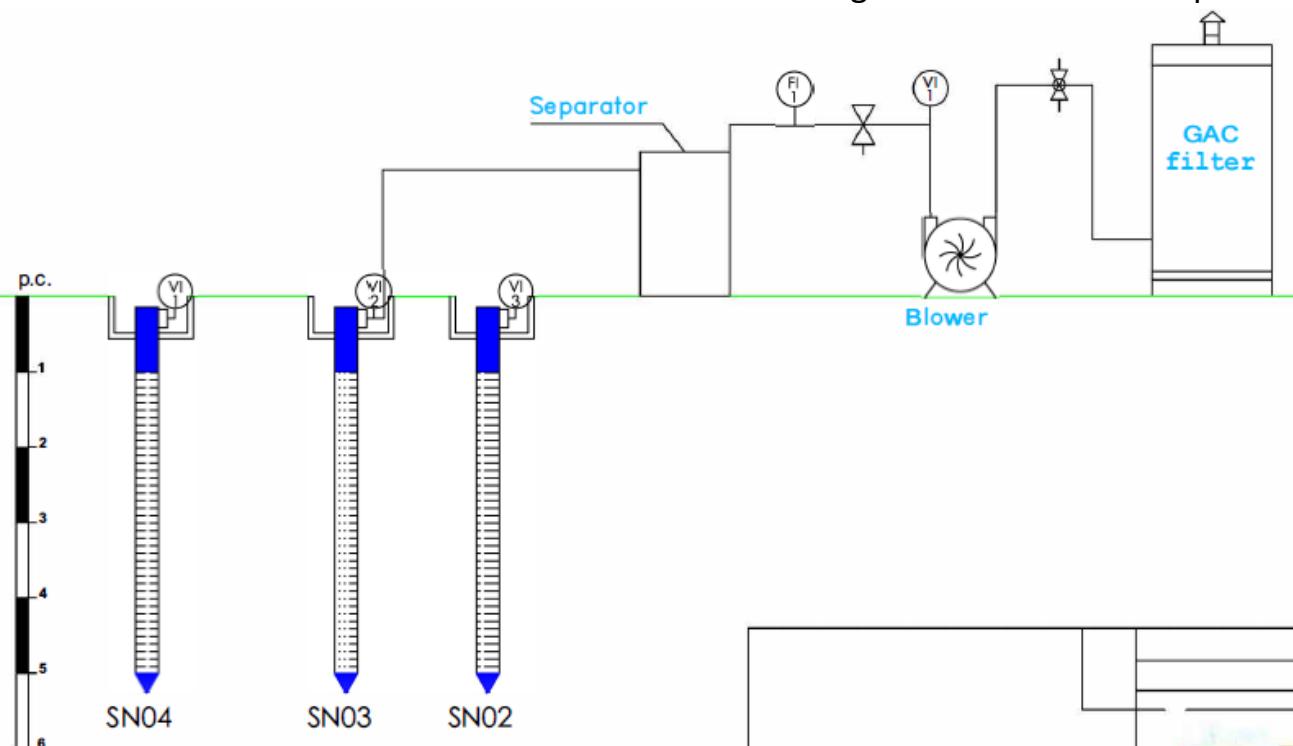
The results obtained by means of the pilot study performed allowed to confirm the applicability of the SVE system to the site. The high permeability of the subsoil to vapor flows, in fact, made it possible to extract significant quantities of air without inducing significant depressions.

3.3 Radius of influence

The project parameters, obtained on the basis of the pilot study specifically performed on the site, are the following:

- Radius of influence, ROI: 3.0 m;
- Maximum flow rate of extracted air for each SVE point, QEa: 70 m^3/h;
- Working depression at each point, dPp: - 50 mbar.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

For the abatement of pollutants present in the extracted air was set, downstream of the air/liquid separation system, a pair of iron with epoxy treatment filters, filled with activated carbon in pellets, (H 1400 mm x D 780 mm).

3.5 Control parameters

During the test, the data listed below were recorded:

- extraction rate;
- dPp work-related depression and dPi-induced depression;
- VOC, CH$_4$, CO$_2$ and O$_2$ in the extraction well.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system
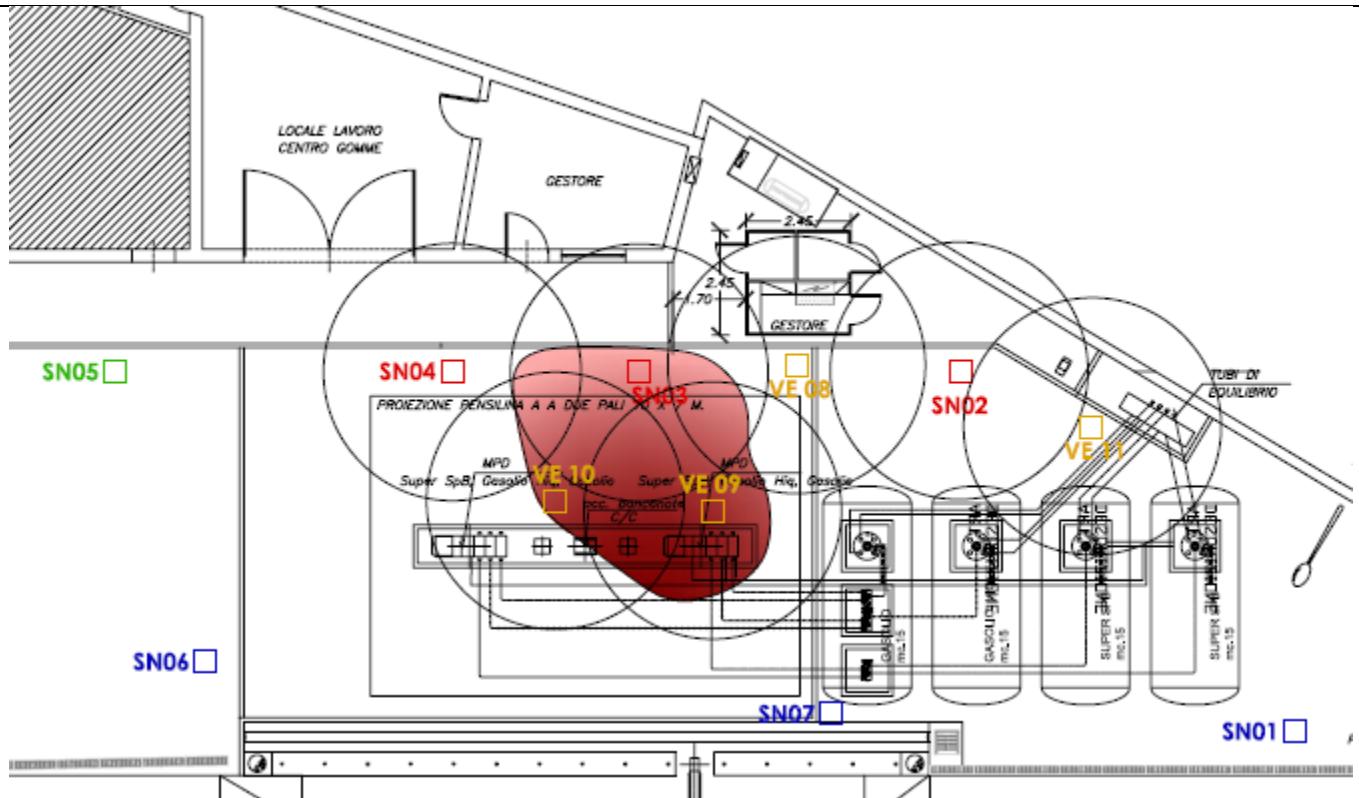
A blower is used to extract air from the remediation points; the extracted air favours the removal of contaminants from the solid phase to the gas phase. The air extracted from the same points is conveyed inside a condensate separator (S1) which separates the condensate from the gaseous flow.

The gaseous flow, once dehumidified and the particulate removed, passes through the blower which generates the vacuum. Downstream there is the air handling unit consisting of two filters in series, containing activated carbon. In any case, the processing unit is equipped to be arranged with the filters in parallel in case the incoming flow shows compatible VOC concentrations.

In order to maximize the treatment of the unsaturated soil and to reduce the moisture content of the extracted air ", the plant is also provided with an evacuation, treatment and discharge system for the percolating waters that accumulate preferentially in the SN02 and SN03 piezometers.

Two additional extraction points located outside the contaminated area were installed, with the aim of enhancing the recall of vapours from the subsoil to further safeguard the human targets located in the building next to the gas station.

The number of SVE points is therefore equal to 7. Specifically, the existing piezometers SN02, SN03 and SN04 and the new points VE08, VE09, VE10 and VE11 were used, see the picture below.

The suction from the points was operated by a pump capable of reach a vacuum of at least 150 mbar, and a flow rate of not less than 500 m^3/h, in order to guarantee an air flow, for each extraction point, of at least 70 m^3/h, with a nominal power of about 5.50 kW.

4.3 Radius of influence

Considering the ROI determined through the pilot test and the areal distribution of the contamination, the number of extraction wells and their spatial location were defined. A correct ROI value of 3 m was therefore adopted as a precaution.
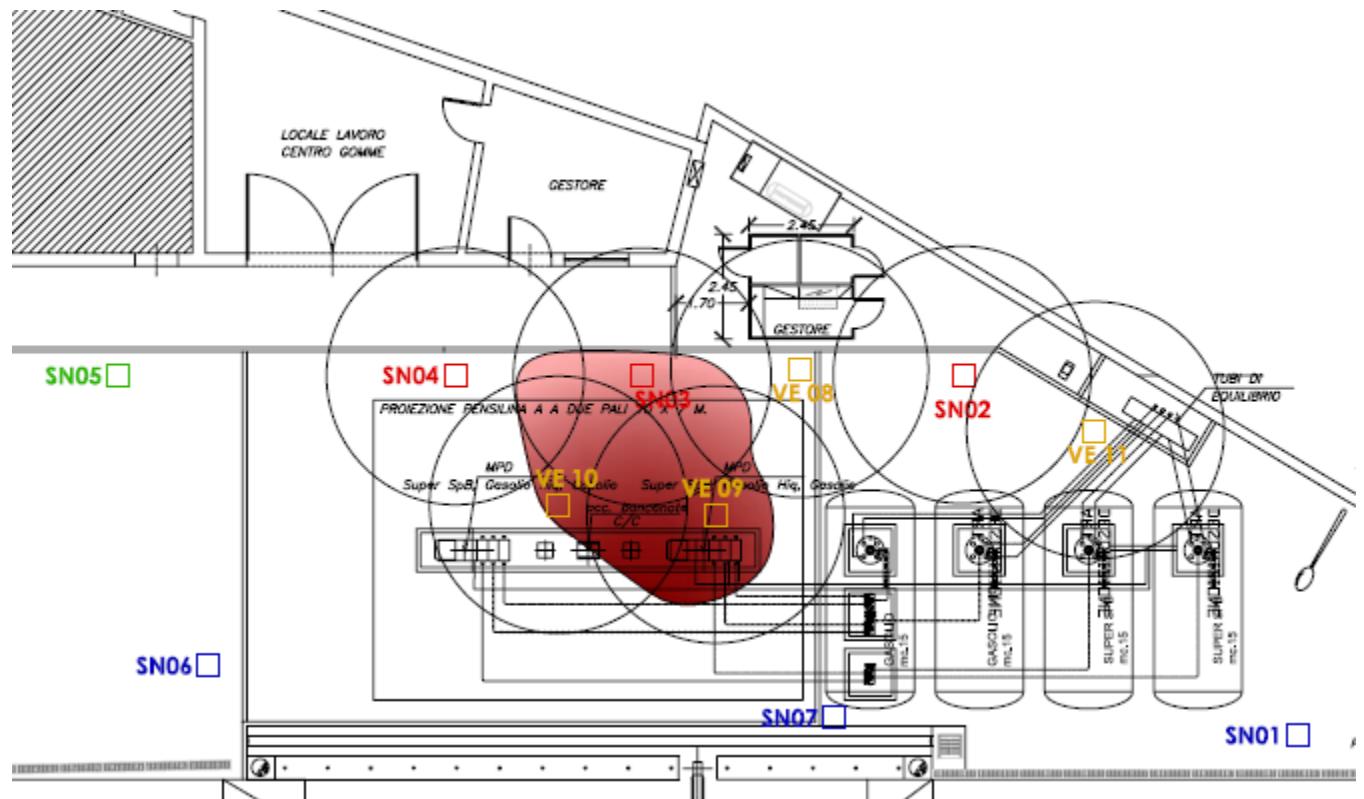
4.4 Off gas Treatment

Same of pilot test

4.5 Control parameters

Before starting the system, at Time Zero, a complete monitoring was carried out. In particular, the following activities were carried out on all the extraction wells present on site (VE02, VE03, VE04, VE08, VE09, VE10 and VE11):

- measurement of the VOCs present in the extraction points;
- sampling of off air and analysis of parameters such as BTEX and TPH.

During the start up of the system, the following measurements were carried out on a weekly basis:

- measurement of the VOCs extracted from the points and leaving the stack (ppm);
- vacuum induced by the blower (mbar) in the extraction points;
- flows at each extraction point;
- depression induced on the water inside the extraction points.

The start up took about 30 working days and ended with the testing of the air and water treatment system by sampling and laboratory analysis of the vapours entering and leaving the system.

Then, on a monthly basis, control visits were carried out on the plant in order to verify the correct functioning of the system and monitor the operating parameters of the plant (measurement of VOCs, induced depressions, extracted air flows, extracted water flows) making any new adjustments if necessary.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

The periodic monitoring of the SVE system (between 2018 and 2020) provided for:

- control, maintenance and monthly monitoring of the systems and verification of the correct functioning of the system;
- verification and reading of the operating parameters of the system (flows, temperatures, pressures, etc.);
- possible fine-tuning, in the case of variations detected with respect to the operating parameters;
- sampling of air inlet and outlet from the treatment system and analysis of the BTEX and TPH parameters.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

In presence of a VOC contamination located in a small part of unsaturated soil with a coarse texture the SVE technology can be a viable system to reach the remediation goals.

The intervention was successful - Authorities certification obtained after two years of remediation.

7.2 Additional information

The keystone issue for a successful remediation is to gain a right conceptual site model, with a proper definition, in terms of extent, soil texture and presence of preferential flow pathways of the underground contamination source, in order to find adequate technology to properly address and remediate the CoCs.

7.3 Training need

Firstly e-learning/webinars in order to understand the theoretical fundamentals of the technology, following training on the job so to gain experience with facing real problems.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
BTEX	Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene
C≤12	Light hydrocarbons
C>12	Heavy hydrocarbons
VOC	Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are organic chemicals that have a high vapour pressure at ordinary room temperature

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.6

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

Approximately 23,000 kg of acetone was released from a rail car during unloading in July 2016 at a facility that stores, repackages, and distributes chemical products to wholesalers and industrial users.

The Property is irregular in shape, covers an approximate area of 125,000 square meters (m²) and is located in a industrial area, with a neighbouring residential area located to the south. This residential neighbourhood is located within 35 meters (m) from the Property limit at its closest proximity. A series of railway sidings are present at and in the western portion of the Site.
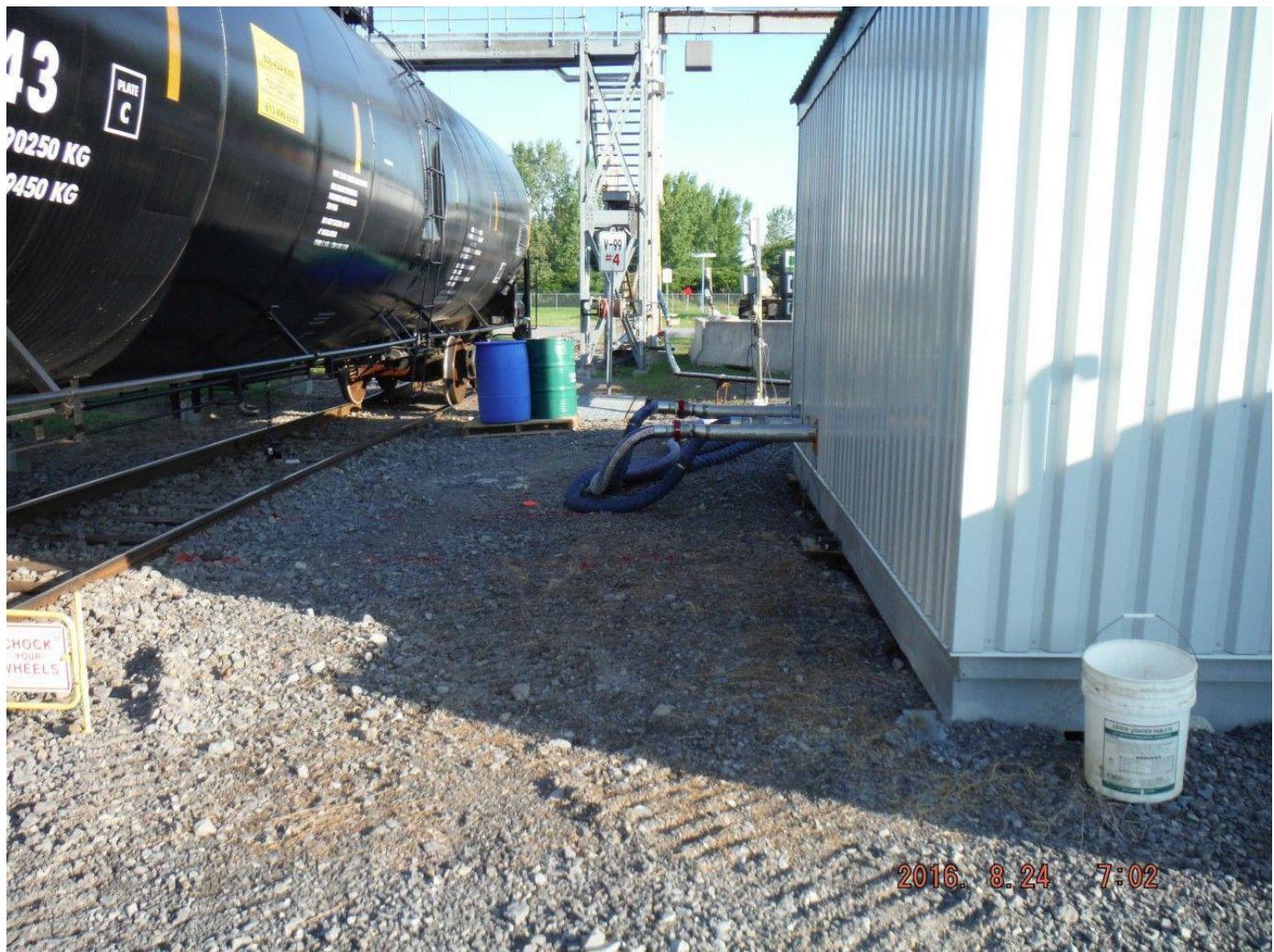
2.2 Geological setting

The Site stratigraphy in the area of the spill consisted of very shallow fill material extending to 0.6 m below ground surface (mBGS), followed by a layer of natural deposits silt with traces of clay or clay with traces of silt to approximately to approximately 4.5 mBGS. A layer of course material composed of sand and gravel measuring approximately 0.3 m thick rests on a grey fractured limestone with fair to excellent rock quality (RQD >95).

Native soils were composed of an initial deposit of silty clay, becoming at around 3 m below ground surface, a deposit composed of more sandy material, either being described as silt with some sand and traces of gravel, or as sand with some silt and gravel.

During intrusive investigations, odours were strongest near the surface (0.6 m to 1.2 m deep) and again near the bottom (4.3 m to 4.9 m deep).

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Acetone (primary)
Secondary contaminants:
Ethylbenzene
Toluene
Xylene

2.4 Regulatory framework

Following implementation of a Pilot Scale test at the Site that demonstrated effective operating conditions for SVE, a remedial objective of 28 mg/kg was established for acetone in soil, based on similar land use regulatory standards. For the secondary contaminants, existing standards for industrial/commercial land use were selected as remedial objectives (Ethylbenzene = 50 mg/kg, Toluene = 30 mg/kg, Xylene=50 mg/kg).

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

One shallow vertical extraction well screened to impart vacuum within the impermeable (shallow) layer of soil were installed throughout the treatment area. The effective radius of influence for these wells was approximately 3 metres. The shallow wells were equipped with 4-inch diameter PVC screens and risers, and terminated near the surface. Two existing 2-inch diameter vertical wells were used to extract vapours from the more permeable and deeper sand and gravel layer as the screened intervals for these wells intercepted the more permeable layer and extended to the top of bedrock/soil interface. The effective radius of influence measured during pilot testing for these wells was approximately 20 m.

A self contained mobile SVE equipment trailer was mobilized to the treatment area. The equipment included a high vacuum, high flow vacuum blower capable of producing up to 100 cubic feet per minute, and a vacuum of 10 inches of mercury, distribution header moisture separator, piping, valves and gauges, barometer, and vacuum gauges. The system was equipped with remote monitoring to the system control panel which could be programmed to run several configurations and on with definable operating timeframes.

3.2 Injection system

No injection of air or other substances were permitted.

3.3 Radius of influence

Radius of Influence

The radius of influence (ROI) for each pilot test is estimated based on the vacuum response measured at the SVE monitoring probes and nearby wells, as well as past experience gained from operating SVE systems in similar soils. A probe response of 0.5 to 1.0 percent of the applied SVE wellhead vacuum is generally considered significant in ROI estimation. Due to the soil heterogeneity at the site and surface conditions, a wide range of vacuum response was observed. While vacuum response was achieved in the distant monitoring wells, response at the probes installed in the tighter material was inconsistent and likely masked by fluctuations in ambient barometric pressure.

Upper Zone

As expected, the soil heterogeneity limited flow and vacuum response in certain directions due to pockets of tight native clays and silts that exist in the subsurface. In the upper zone, the monitoring probes showed a better response to the north compared to the south of SVE-01. The northern portion of the Site showed that an ROI of 3-4 meters would be achievable. The southern portion of the Site showed an ROI of less than 2 meters. ROI estimates showed very similar results when operated between 4 and 10" Hg vacuum. In this zone, the readings indicated that applying a less powerful vacuum may be more beneficial to achieving the best ROI as the 4" Hg vacuum showed the highest induced vacuum readings. The data also suggests that a period of hot, dry weather may have caused desiccation of shallow soils and well seals and resulted in short circuiting of ambient air from the surface. Hydration of surface soils in the pilot test area was successful in reducing the short-circuiting effects.

Lower Zone

The lower, more permeable zone showed a more significant ROI compared to the Upper Zone. Based on the readings taken, operating at 6" Hg vacuum would provide the greater ROI with distances exceeding 20 meters. Of note, operating at higher vacuums dropped the ROI significantly, to a distance of only 6-8 meters. The extended ROI observed in the lower zone test is likely due to the higher permeability lenses and gravel observed at the top of bedrock in soil borings within the impacted area.

Air Flow Rate versus Vacuum

Initially, for each step test, the unit was operated for short durations at various flow

rates and corresponding vacuum levels for the purpose of determining the SVE performance over the operating range of the blower and selecting the appropriate flow rate for the test (based on SVE flow rate and wellhead vacuum levels). Flow rate versus vacuum curves were constructed from these step test data to assist in the selection of the most desirable operating range for a full-scale system. An example of the results is shown in the figure below.

Upper Zone
The step test showed a desirable operating range between 25-40 CFM with an applied vacuum of 4-6" Hg.

Lower Zone
The step test at PO-101 (see Figure below) displayed good performance without a drop off up to a flow of 40 CFM with an applied vacuum of 8" Hg

AIR FLOW RATE VERSUS VACUUM
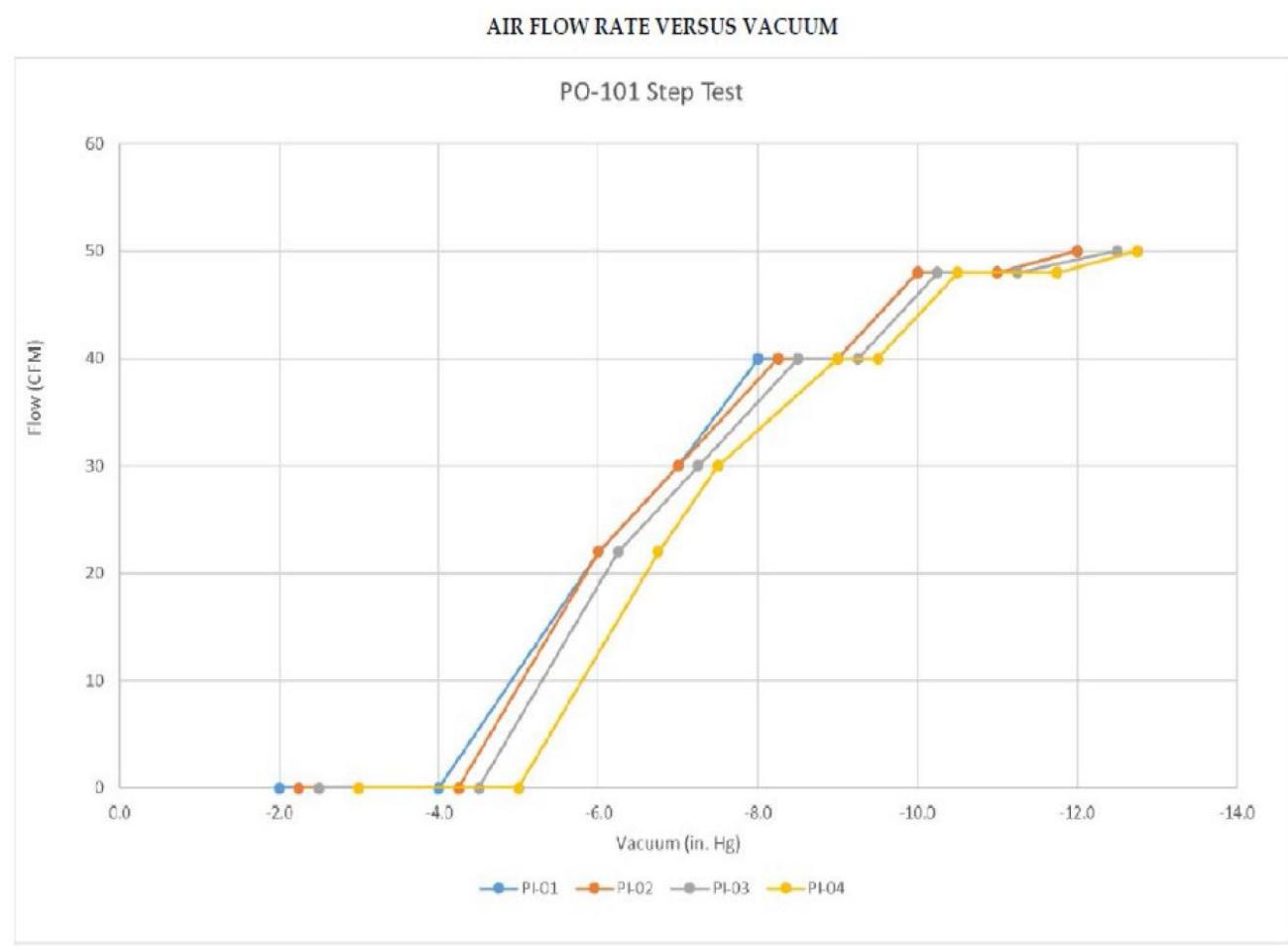
3.4 Off gas Treatment

Extracted vapour treatment was completed using a 205 L drum of activated carbon during the short duration pilot testing period. No samples were collected of the air emissions during the pilot test.

3.5 Control parameters

Soil analytical results were collected prior to and following each treatment phase to evaluate compliance with remedial objectives. These results were also used to configure the following phase of treatment (progressive reduction of treatment area).

Groundwater samples were collected and submitted for analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) within and downgradient of the treatment area to monitor for potential releases to groundwater from treatment activities.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

A total of 8 shallow vertical extraction wells screened to impart vacuum within the impermeable (shallow) layer of soil were installed throughout the treatment area. The effective radius of influence for these wells was approximately 3 m. The shallow wells were equipped with 4-inch diameter PVC screens and risers and terminated near the surface.

Five 2-inch diameter wells were used to extract vapours from the more permeable and deeper sand and gravel layer as the screened intervals for these wells intercepted the more permeable layer and extended to the top of bedrock/soil interface. The effective radius of influence measured during pilot testing for these wells was approximately 20 m.

A self contained mobile SVE equipment trailer was mobilized to the treatment area. The equipment included a high vacuum, high flow vacuum blower capable of producing up to 100 cubic feet per minute, and a vacuum of 10 inches of mercury, distribution header moisture separator, piping, valves and gauges, barometer, and vacuum gauges. The system was equipped with remote monitoring to the system control panel which could be programmed to run several configurations and on with definable operating timeframes.

4.3 Radius of influence

Based on the collected field data, the radius of influence of the deeper extraction wells measured was between 9.7 and 18 m, while the radius of influence of the SVE wells was between 5.1 m and 9.9 m.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

Discharge vapour monitoring of the system was performed in between and after the two 1,800-pound vapour phase carbon treatment vessels weekly by GHD using a photo ionization detector (PID) for measurement of undifferentiated VOCs.

Air Sampling

In addition to the field PID readings collected above, air samples were collected at the sample port located between the two vapour phase carbon treatment vessels to monitor their performance to ensure that air emissions were below the regulatory limits.

Additional air samples were collected over the course of the SVE treatment in the extracted vapour flow before being treated to evaluate the extracted acetone mass through the vapour stream.

Compliance

PID measurements in between and after the two vapour phase carbon treatment vessels showed readings of 0 ppm throughout the active SVE treatment period.

A dispersion model using SCREEN3 software was completed to assess compliance of air emissions equivalent to 2.5% of the regulatory limit for a 4-min exposure and 1.3% of the regulatory limit for a 1-hour exposure. Analytical results of samples collected throughout the treatment period identified concentrations of acetone reached approximately 1.1% of the permissible exposure rates.

Based on the PID measurements and analytical results from the air samples, air emissions did not present any exceedance of the applicable regulation during the operations of the SVE system.

4.5 Control parameters

Soil analytical results were collected prior to and following each treatment phase to evaluate compliance with remedial objectives. These results were also used to configure the following phase of treatment (progressive reduction of treatment area). Groundwater samples were collected and submitted for analysis of VOCs within and downgradient of the treatment area to monitor for potential releases to groundwater from treatment activities.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

Post treatment groundwater monitoring will be completed three times per year for a minimum of 3 years to evaluate potential impacts to groundwater.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

SVE was an effective method for remediation of highly volatile contaminants at this Site. The addition of an impermeable ground cover layer effectively controlled short circuiting in the area of highest concentrations immediately adjacent to the spill area.

7.2 Additional information

Success of remediation will be assessed in the post-remediation monitoring program.

7.3 Training need

Designing a remediation system requires experience. This cannot be easily built up through workshops, webinars and so on. Designing and implementation of a successful remedial system should be undertaken by an experienced company and scientists.

Glossary of Terms

A glossary will help a you to maintain the level of precision necessary for key terms and maintain consistency across the text. We found out that sometimes terms that sounds similar like "contaminated" and "polluted" are used in the same way as synonyms in some country, while in other they have different meanings (due to legislation or for other reasons). So fill in this glossary for your key elements and of course for acronyms.

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
VOC	Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are organic chemicals that have a high vapour pressure at ordinary room temperature
CFM	Cubic feet per minute

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.7

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

A gas station operated at the site located in Israel for many years.

As part of the change in the designation of the land, from a gas station for a commercial activity area, soil sampling was carried out in the area where underground fuel tanks were located, in order to make sure that the soil was not contaminated.

2.2 Geological setting

The following is a description of the geological section in the area:

0-10 meters - loess and limestone.

10-300 meters - cardboard, gray mahogany cardboard.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The following are the various contaminants that are suspected in the soil due to the type of activity carried out at the site. These are pollutants that originate from fuel components:

- TPH
- BTEX
- MTBE
- PAH

2.4 Regulatory framework

- The subject of soil contamination investigation is the responsibility of a government ministry - the Ministry of Environmental Protection - Department of contaminated soils.
- The soil investigation performed according to the professional guidelines of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, which approves the sampling plan before execution and the conclusions and recommendations given according to the sampling findings.
- The concentrations of the pollutants discovered were compared to the permitted concentrations according to the threshold values document for industrial areas in the State of Israel.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

- The system in the ground includes 17 Vertical wells
- The pumping was done using a vacuum truck.

3.2 Injection system

- Details of the SVE pilot system infrastructure:
- The system in the ground includes 17 wells with a diameter of 3 inches, to three different depths: 7, 11 and 16 m below the ground.
- The large number of wells and the varying depths allows to "capture" of all the contaminated soil area.
- Each well is constructed so that at its bottom is a fluted section (strainer) 5 m long.
- The pumping was done using a vacuum truck, which was connected to well manifold, so that at each stage the effect of using a single well or several wells simultaneously could be examined by using the SVE system regulating taps.
- The system also included a clean air inlet tap to prevent the creation of underpressure in the pumping wells.

3.3 Radius of influence

- The radius of impact was determined by performing pumping until the pressure stabilized, measuring the underpressure in the well being pumped with varying flow rates and measuring the underpressure in the other wells to examine the radius of impact.
- The soil at the site was found to have effective conductivity in the tested flows and the underpressure created allowed the suction of the gases above the ground. At a flow of 150 cubic meters/h, a negative pressure of 74 millibars was measured and the impact radius reached up to 10 meters from the suction well.
- Since the average distance between the wells ranged from 4 to 6 m, there was compatibility between the remediation method, the site characteristics and the existing pilot remediation infrastructure.
- According to the pilot findings, it appears that when operating the pump from all the wells, the entire contaminated soil cell intended for treatment will be underpressure and therefore no additional wells need to be installed.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

In order to select the appropriate treatment technology for the airflow from the SVE system, a number of technologies defined as "BAT")best available technology (by the EPA were examined:

1. adsorption on activated carbon
2. thermal oxidation
3. biological filter
4. vapour condensation

Due to the high daily load of organic hydrocarbons, we recommend gas treatment with a thermal oxidation- **catalytic oxygen** method suitable for the treatment of emission stream at concentrations higher than several hundred PPM. Laboratory tests found no evidence of the presence of chlorinated hydrocarbons which can be a limiting factor when using this technology due to the fear of causing damage to the catalytic converter.

3.5 Control parameters

- To estimate the load of hydrocarbons pumped from the wells when the SVE system is working, performed gas sampling of several wells together and from a number of individual wells in which high PID values were detected. Some of the samples were performed on canisters sent for TO-15 analysis.
- In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment for the gas pumped from the wells treated by the thermal oxidizer, a sampling was performed on the stack of the treatment facility.

4. Full-scale application

The full-scale system is compatible with the system built in the pilot and described in the previous sections

4.5 Control parameters

- Throughout the period the system operates, there was regular monitoring once every two weeks of parameters of the system and the soil and once every few months a performed laboratory analysis of TO-15 to the concentrations in the gas stream pumped from the soil.
- The following is the test that is performed every two weeks:
1. The VOC concentration measured in the well by the PID.
2. Checking the flow in the pumped stream.
3. Measuring the pressure in the well.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1   Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring
In order to test the effectiveness of the treatment after its completion, a "rebound effect" test was performed, which included shutting down the system for about a month and a half and restarting it for two months. The test revealed that the concentrations did not rise and there was no change in the concentrations in the various wells after reopening, with respect to values measured before closing. These findings indicate that the treatment performed on the soil is effective and the volatiles that were adsorbed to the soil have already been treated.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

From the results of the cost-benefit analysis, it can be seen that due to the low concentrations pumped from the soil during the period when the concentration of contaminants decreased, led to high power consumption to operate the system, significantly, as more energy has to be invested in heating the catalyst.

Increased use of electricity to heat the catalyst in the converter causes that per kilogram of pollutant treated emitted into the air during the power generation process at the IEC power plant about half a kilogram of nitrogen oxides and half a kilogram of sulphur oxides.

As the treatment of the site with the SVE method achieved, and the meaning of continued pumping and gas treatment has low efficiency on the one hand and on the other hand requires a lot of energy, its significant environmental consequences with regard to electricity generation emissions.

7.2 Additional information

The SVE system operated for about 9,000 hours during which it handled about 5,641 liters of hydrocarbons.

As part of the treatment, about 4,000,000 cubic meters of soil gases were extracted from the ground in the treated area of about 2,000 cubic meters.

7.3 Training need

Training through workshops, preferably by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in order for the remediation processes to comply with the regulator's guidelines.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.8

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

CHIMICOLOR is the former operator of a 1,500 m² site located in the town of La Garenne Colombes, in the outskirts of Paris, whose activity involved industrial painting on various supports.

The site is located in a mixed residential and tertiary district, bounded by:
- Apartment buildings on the west side;
- Apartment buildings on the south sides and is separated by a road and pedestrian crossing alley to access the entrance to a residential parking lot;
- A street on the north side, then apartment buildings beyond that street.

According to the information collected, the site was mainly occupied by the following activities:
- 1928 - 1971: Exploitation of the site by a company which carried out the repair and the assembly of electric refrigerators;
- 1971 - 1992: Operation of the premises by a company specializing in the chemical and electrochemical treatment of metals;
- 2001 - 2012: the company CHIMICOLOR becomes the operator of the site and carries out printing activities on aluminium plates, chemical colouring of aluminium plates, stainless steel engraving and screen printing. The cessation of activity took place in 2012.

The site deconstruction work was carried out between May and July 2014. The facade of the building in the north-west part has been preserved as well as the old administrative buildings.
In addition, during the month of July 2014, the soils located to the right of the south-eastern part of the site had been the subject of earthworks to a depth of 1.2 m.
The area to be cleaned up was in the south-eastern part of the land, covering an area of approximately 250 m².

2.2 Geological setting

According to the geological map of Paris and the data from the basement database (BSS), the geological context in the sector considered is as follows:

- Old quaternary alluvium;
- Limestone of Saint-Ouen made up of marls and limestone banks over a depth of 10 to 15 m;
- Then the sands of Beauchamp, with a thickness of 6 to 7 m.

The various investigations carried out on the site revealed the following average lithological section:

- From 0 to 1 m: predominantly sandy embankments;
- From 1 to 8 m: a layer of sands becoming marly from a depth of 4 m;
- From 8 m: limestone.

According to information taken from the subsoil database (BSS) and the hydrogeological map of the Paris basin, several water tables are present under the treatment area:

- The Saint-Ouen limestone aquifer, whose piezometric level was established at about 16 m deep;
- The Beauchamp sands aquifer, the piezometric level of which was established at about 24 m deep.

According to the groundwater quality monitoring campaigns carried out in 2012 and 2013, the water levels at the site were recorded between 15.7 and 16.4 m deep in the limestone water table of Saint-Ouen. Due to the location of the site in a bend of the Seine, 2 km north-west and south-east of the site, the flow direction is variable, with a very low hydraulic gradient.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The investigations carried out on the site before the start of the works made it possible to characterize the impact on the right of the area to be decontaminated.

The results summarized below indicated the presence of a tetrachlorethylene impact (PCE):

- In soils. This impact mainly concerned surface soils down to a depth of 1 m (contents at the level of the S6B hole of the order of 4.3 mg/kg). The maximum level (6.7 mg/kg) was observed between 4 an 5 m deep at the level of a borehole located at the level of the former product storage area. The vertical extension of the pollution in the soils was not delimited beyond 6 m of depth but the detection of PCE in the groundwater seemed to suggest that this impact had locally migrated towards the groundwater;
- In soil gases at the level of the most superficial horizons between 0 and 5 m deep. The various campaigns carried out had made it possible to measure PCE contents of between 7.5 and 1,435 mg/m^3;
- In groundwater in the area of structures located in the area but also on a structure outside the site right-of-way. Studies prior to 2014 revealed PCE contents varying between 3,900 and 8,300 µg/l. According to the groundwater quality monitoring campaigns dating back to 2015 at the site, the PCE contents varied between 100 and 4,100 µg/l. Previous studies had also revealed the presence in small quantities of PCE degradation by-products including trichloroethylene (contents between 0.37 and 8.5 µg/l) and dichlorethylene (content of 4.9 µg/l).

2.4 Regulatory framework

The decontamination work was undertaken with the aim of improving the quality of the underground environment (unsaturated zone) before the construction of residential buildings.

As part of this project, the decontamination objectives initially selected, on the basis of data relating to the state of the available environments, were as follows:

- Partly southeast of its site => Excavation of part of the land. According to the predictive analysis of the residual risks carried out in January 2014 by a consulting firm, the only measurement of excavation of the earth at a depth of 3 m was supposed to make it possible to obtain an admissible residual risk within the framework of the redevelopment project of the site (service provided by SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE in December 2015).

- Forced extraction of PCE present in the soils and in the gaseous state in the air from the soil between the final excavation slope (-3 m compared to the natural ground) and the roof of the limestone of Saint-Ouen (located approximately 8 m deep). The objective of this operation was not to achieve compatible residual risks (which had already to be reached after the excavation work carried out to a depth of 3 m) but to pursue the elimination of the pollution more in depth, with a view to improving the quality of the environments. The initial objective was to achieve an 80% reduction in the mass content of PCE determined in soil gases before the start of treatment with SVE. To achieve this goal, the SVE treatment was scheduled to work over a period of 3 to 6 months.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

We did not carry out a pilot sizing test prior to the implementation of the soil vapour extraction treatment.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

In view of the environmental, geological and hydrogeological context of the site, to treat the source of soil pollution in the area of the former chemical storage area of the CHIMICOLOR plant at La Garenne Colombes, the choice fell on the implementation of an in situ treatment by SVE. This technique had the most relevant technical and economic interest in meeting the objectives of a rapid improvement in the quality of the subsoil.

The forced extraction of gases from the soil was accomplished using 9 wells implanted up to 6 meters deep from the bottom of the excavation, including 2 m in solid tubes and 4 m in screened tubes.

This configuration was determined from the pollution and soil characterization data made available and using sizing assumptions such as:
- The absence of a surface coating (concrete or coated slab) in line with the impacted area;
- A soil permeability estimated at 5.10^{-6} m/s;
- Unit extraction rates of 2 to 15 m^3/h;
- A vacuum at the head of each well less than 150 mbar;
- A provisional treatment period of 6 months.

The unit has been sized so as to be able to ensure a maximum total extraction flow of 660 m^3/h for a maximum total depression of 350 mbar, compatible with the assumptions stated above.

The installation of the treatment wells was carried out in such a way as to densify the footprint of the treatment wells in the area of the highest impact (premises for chemical etching, storage of products).

The plan below shows the location of SVE wells and treatment facilities.

Layout plan for wells and facilities
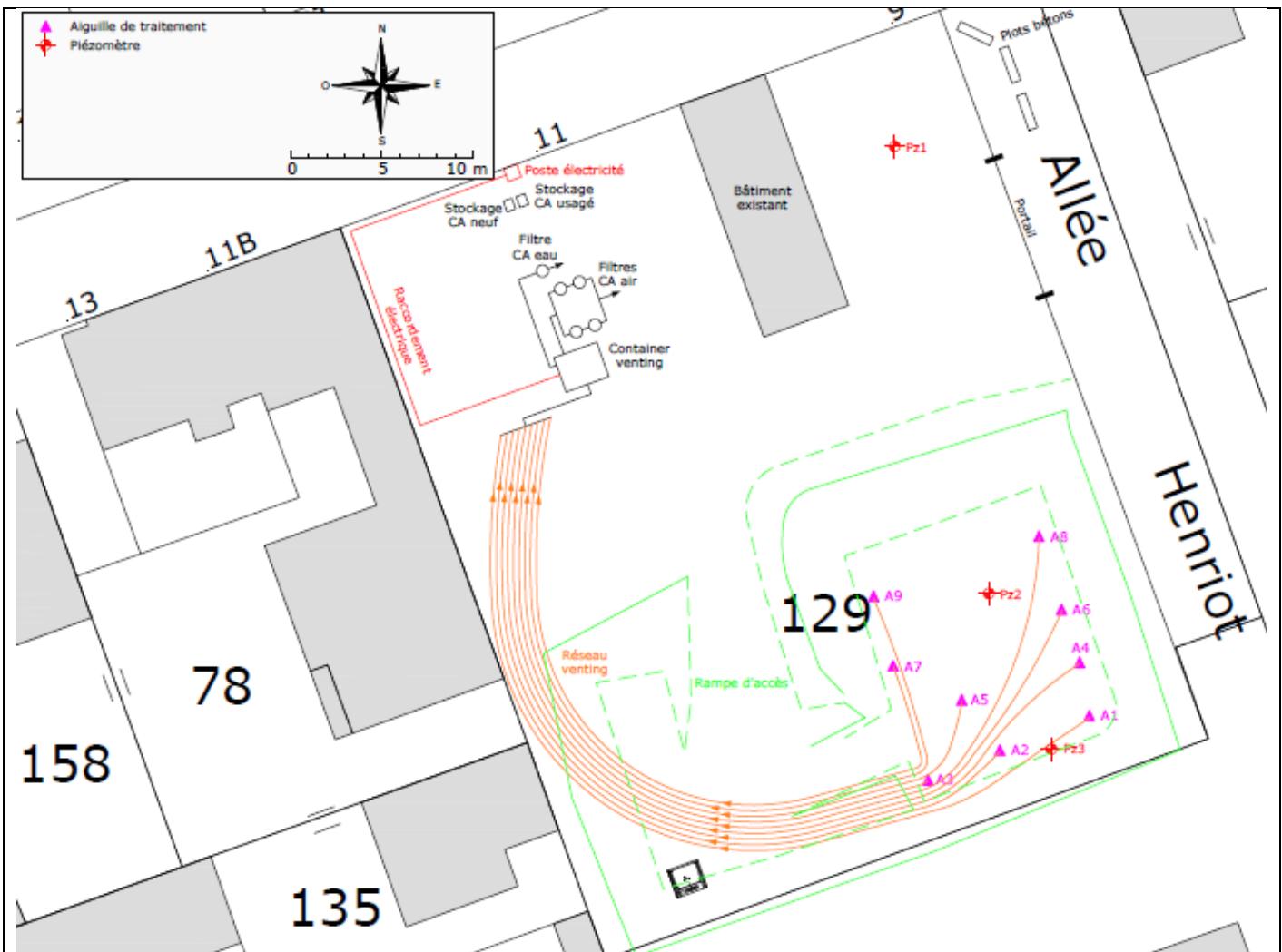
Photograph of SVE treatment facilities

4.3 Radius of influence

Prior to the commissioning of the treatment, SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE implemented SVE tests in order to determine the characteristics specific to each well (optimal depression/flow rate) and to estimate the permeability of the unsaturated zone to the areas to be treated and thus determine the radius of influence of each well. These data were intended to confirm the sizing of the installation and optimize its performance.

Two types of SVE tests were carried out:
- Staged tests;
- A so-called "long-term" test carried out for 30 hours.

Staged tests

The objective of a step-by-step test is to determine the optimum vacuum/flow rate pair of the wells. During these tests, the air from the ground was extracted in stages of increasing depressions ranging from 200 to 350 mbar recorded at the level of the extractor. Five successive stages lasting 15 minutes were performed for each hand.

Vacuum/flow and vacuum/VOC content pairs for well A9
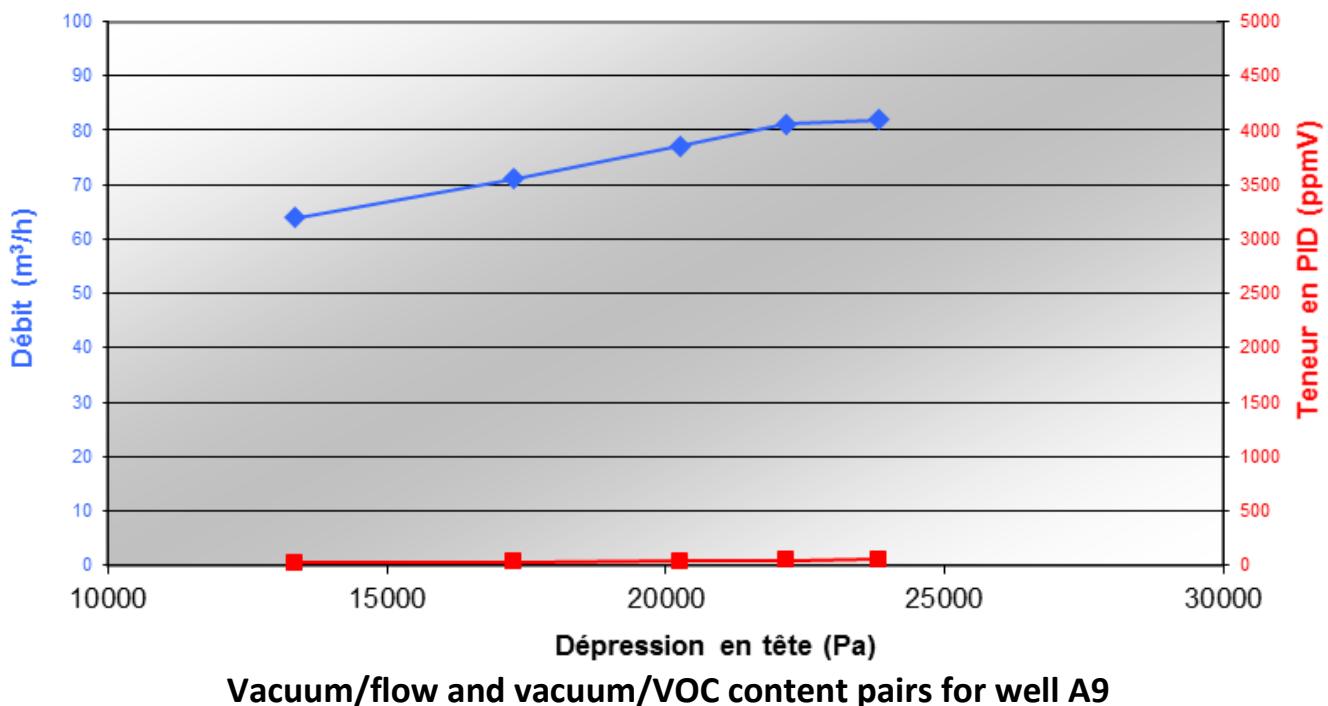
During the tests, regular monitoring (every 5 minutes) of the following parameters was

carried out:

- Extractor depression;
- Pressure difference in the flow measurement system (diaphragm device);
- Temperature, humidity and semi-quantitative VOC contents of the extracted gases.

For each well, vacuum/flow and vacuum/VOC content pairs could be determined. By way of example, the figure below corresponds to the depression/flow rate and depression/VOC content pairs measured from well A9.

The extraction flow rate increases steadily, going from 64 Nm^3/h for a depression of 13.367 Pa to 81 Nm^3/h with a depression of 22.167 Pa. From this last value, and despite an increase depression, the extraction flow hardly increases any more. For 23 833 Pa of depression, the observed flow rate is 82 Nm^3/h. An asymptote is then observed. The optimum pressure/flow rate pair of the well is therefore of the order of 80 Nm^3/h for a depression applied at the head of the structure of the order of 22.000 Pa. Well A9 is considered to be a productive well.

The semi-quantitative VOC contents in the gases extracted from this well are not very high compared to the other well tested. The minimum measured concentration is 24 ppmv at step 1 and the maximum concentration is 50 ppmv at step 5.

A summary of the measurements carried out at each well during the stepwise tests is presented in the table below. They correspond to the optimal extraction rate associated with a given depression.

Aiguilles	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9
Dépression optimale appliquée à l'ouvrage (mbar)	190	150	200	<140	240	200	190	230	220
Débit d'extraction optimal (Nm^3/h)	57	37	44	40	43	36	41	41	81
Teneurs semi-quantitatives PID moyennes (ppmv)	623	429	143	3319	168	335	79	92	37

So-called "long-term" test
The advantage of the "long-term" test is that it can estimate the effective permeability

to air of the soils of the unsaturated zone in line with the zone to be treated. This parameter is essential for determining the radius of influence of each well under operating conditions.

The test was carried out on well A5 which was located in the centre of the area to be treated. The other 8 wells were located between 3.4 and 9.6 m from well A5.

A fixed vacuum of 240 mbar was applied for 30 hours from well A5 and semi-quantitative measurements of VOCs and depressions were carried out at close frequency at the start of the test (every 5 minutes) and less frequently by thereafter, on each control well. The defined value of the applied vacuum (240 mbar) was determined by the step test. For well A5, the optimum depression is not known (it is less than 14,000 Pa). On the other hand, at such a depression, we were sure to apply to the well its optimum flow rate estimated at around 40 Nm^3/h.

Estimation of effective air permeability

In order to determine the effective permeability to air of the treatment zone (ka expressed in m² or permeability K expressed in m/s), various analytical solutions (more or less complex) are proposed in the literature. The configuration of the extraction well and the control wells of the area to be treated made it possible to use the adaptation of Dupuit's solution. This simplified relation derived from that for groundwater flow is used to represent the radial flow of air in steady state.

As the adaptation of Dupuit's solution was only valid in a steady state, the test was extended until the differential pressure values were obtained which were stable over time at the level of the control wells.

The calculated effective air permeability is 9.10-4 m/s. The value obtained is greater than the value used during sizing (5.10-6 m/s). This difference made it easier to reach the objectives by allowing more air volume to be extracted from the ground than expected.

Estimation of influence radii

By definition, the theoretical influence radius (R1000) of SVE wells corresponds to the radius in which the soil air (pore volume) is renewed at least 1000 times per year. The radius of influence depends on several factors including the geometry of the extraction system, the air permeability of the soil, the water content of the soil and the type of surface coating. Typically, R1000 can range from 2m (for fine soils) to 30m (for granular soils) for a single extraction well.

It should also be noted that the radii of influence of the wells are greater if the ground surface is waterproof (covered with bitumen or concrete), which is not the case in the treatment area of the CHIMOCOLOR site.

A calculation tool internal to SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE makes it possible to

determine the estimated permeability values by taking advantage of the adaptation of Dupuit's solution. This same tool makes it possible to predict the extractable flow by considering the permeability value, the characteristics of the tested well (depth, length of the screened interval, etc.) and the depression applied at the head of the well. If the flow rate measured at the end of the long-term test is of the same order of magnitude as the calculated flow rate, then the estimated permeability value can be validated.

The results obtained at the end of the long-term test are presented in the table below.

Work	Applied depression	Estimated permeability	Measured extraction flow	Flow calculated according to permeability
AT 5	240 mbar	9.10^{-4} m/s	107.4 Nm^3/h	168.1 m^3/h

The permeability value estimated during the long-term test is consistent with regard to the nature of the soils (sands, marls, limestone).

The flow calculated from the permeability estimate is greater than the measured extraction flow (approximately 60 m^3/h). The geology of the soils could suggest the presence of preferential flows. They are liable to vary the depressions at the head of wells and the unit flows. In addition, the flow rate of 107.4 m^3/h measured during the "long-term" test is also greater than the flow rate of 43 m^3/h measured on well A5 during the step tests. These two measured flow rates show the high productivity of well A5 and are much higher than the unit flow rates taken into account for the sizing (between 2 and 15 m^3/h), which goes in the direction of better efficiency of the treatment.

The permeability thus obtained makes it possible to estimate the radius of influence of each well under operating conditions.
The table below compiles the values of the influence radius obtained under operating conditions of the SVE treatment.

Summary of the radius of influence calculated under operating conditions

Work	Depression applied at the well head (mbar)	Measured extraction flow (Nm³/h)	Radius of influence (m)
A1	27.8	29.9	7.1
A2	29.5	24.5	6.7
A3	32.3	33.8	7.3
A4	43.6	28.9	7
AT 5	28.2	32.1	7.2
A6	41.4	21.3	6.4
A7	36.5	31.0	7.1
AT 8	27.8	36.5	7.5
A9	27.6	28.5	7

The radius of influence obtained from the long-term test and the first operating data are between 6.4 and 7.5 m. Knowing that the maximum distance between two wells is 5 m, the calculated radius make it possible to validate the dimensioning of the SVE well network (number and positioning), namely a total coverage of the area of 250 m² in the south-eastern area of the site.

The mapping of the influence radius of SVE wells is presented in the following plan.
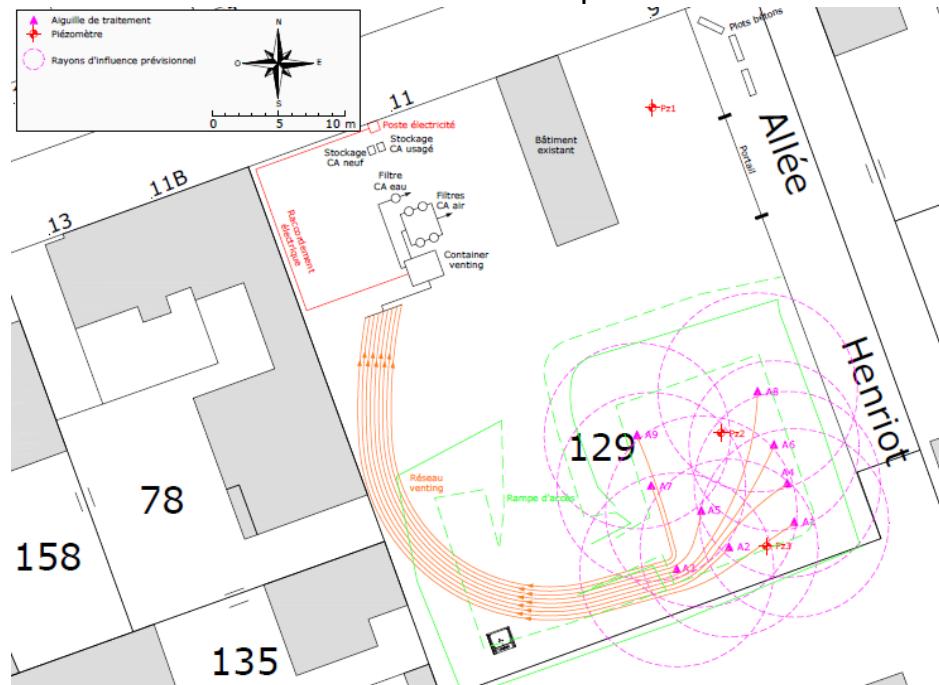
4.4 Off gas Treatment

The technical-economic analysis, based on the projected mass balance of the treatment, made it possible to demonstrate that the treatment of the gases extracted on activated carbon was the most economical solution, while allowing a significant reduction in the contents of volatile pollutants.

The initial choice of SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE fell on a filtration line made up of two series of two 200-liter activated carbon filters arranged in parallel and connected in a common outlet (capacity of 80 kg of activated carbon per filter). When the activated carbon from the filters placed at the head reached saturation, said filters were emptied, tipped over at the end of the filtration line and then supplemented with healthy activated carbon. Such a device made it possible to measure the VOCs content in the air flow at the outlet of each barrel in order to effectively control the gaseous discharge into the atmosphere and free us from any exceeding of the limit value. In addition, this gaseous effluent treatment device guaranteed reduced downtime for the installation in order to change the activated carbon.

The contaminated activated carbon was evacuated to an approved treatment channel (hazardous waste storage facility).

4.5 Control parameters

The figure, below, presents in the form of histograms, the air extraction volume flow rates recorded during monitoring as well as the curve representing the evolution of the cumulative volume of extracted air during the period devoted SVE treatment.

Evolution of the extraction volume flow rates of the treatment unit and the total volume of extracted air
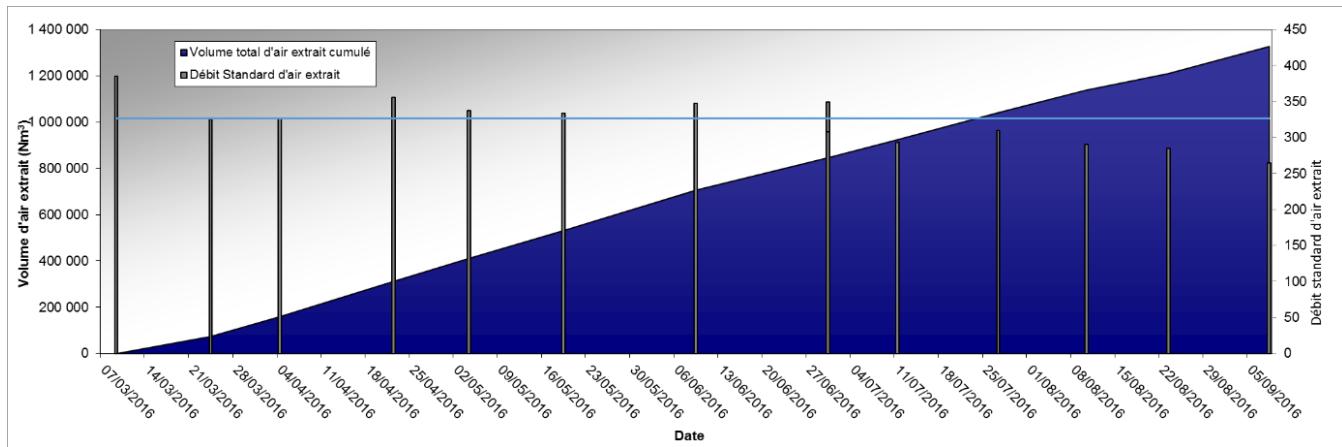
At the end of the operating period of the SVE unit:
- The average volume flow rate of air extraction estimated over the six months of operation is 327 Nm^3/h (blue line shown in the figure above);
- The total volume of air extracted from the ground is estimated to be approximately 1,328,000 Nm^3.

The figure below shows the evolution of the volume contents of VOCs measured by means of a photo ionization detector (PID) in the air flow extracted from each of the treatment wells as well as in the global air flow input to the unit during the operating period of the SVE treatment.

Evolution of the volume contents of VOCs in the air flow extracted from each treatment well
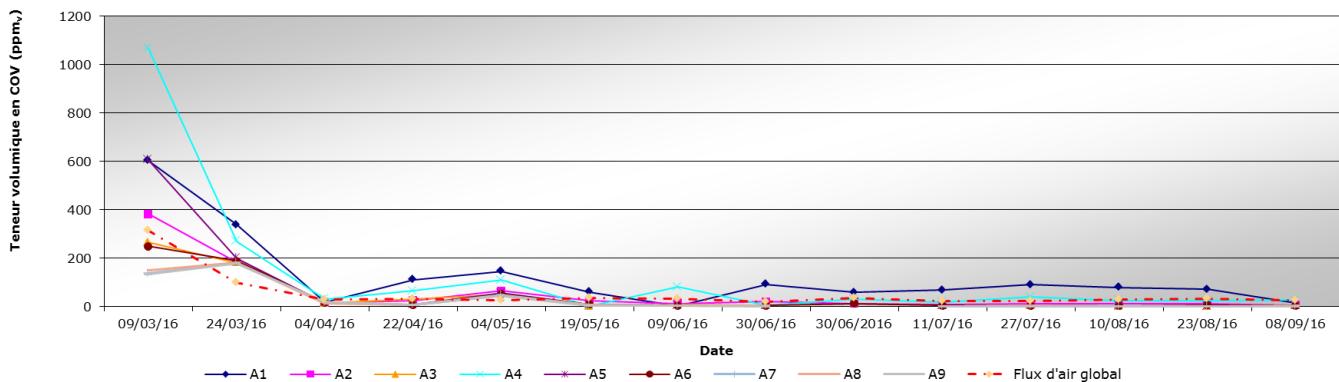
The volumetric VOC contents remained relatively stable after the significant decrease observed during the first month of treatment. After 6 months of treatment, the extracted air streams exhibited contents ranging between 1.1 ppmv for well A9 and 26.6 ppmv for well A4.

Monthly, air sampling, on a suitable sampling support (activated carbon tube) was carried out at the inlet of the activated carbon filtration device. This sampling made it possible to determine, through the performance of laboratory analyzes, the mass contents of VOCs in the overall air flow extracted from the ground via the treatment wells.

The table below compiles the analytical results obtained from the samples taken during the period devoted to SVE treatment.

Mass content of VOCs in the extract air flow

	09/03/2016	04/04/2016	04/05/2016	09/06/2016	11/07/2016	10/08/2016	08/09/2016
Unité	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^3	mg/Nm^4
1,2-dichloroéthane	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
1,1-dichloroéthène	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
cis-1,2-dichloroéthène	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
trans 1,2-dichloroéthylène	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
dichlorométhane	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
1,2-dichloropropane	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
1,3-dichloropropène	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
tétrachloroéthylène	1490,8	193,6	107,4	101,0	66,6	74,2	99,2
tétrachlorométhane	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
1,1,1-trichloroéthane	0,7	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,6
trichloroéthylène	2,0	0,3	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2
chloroforme	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
chlorure de vinyle	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
hexachlorobutadiène	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
bromoforme	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ	<SQ
TOTAL COHV	1493,5	194,1	107,6	101,2	66,7	74,4	100,0
Teneur PID lors du prélèvement	315,0	32,1	26,0	27,0	28,0	29,0	30,0
Pourcentage d'abattement sur les COHV totaux par rapport au 09/03/2016	NA	87%	93%	93%	96%	95%	93%

<SQ: below the quantification threshold

NA: Not applicable

During the follow-up on September 8, 2016, i.e. before stopping the treatment device, the tetrachlorethylene content (a compound present at 99% in the air flow since the start of the treatment) had significantly increased compared to the levels determined from the samples from July 11 and August 10, 2016.

The total COHV content determined during the monitoring of September 8, 2016 was 100 mg/Nm^3 and revealed a reduction percentage of 94% compared to the content measured on March 9, 2016, the day treatment was started.

An indicative value of the total mass of pollutants extracted could be calculated on the basis of analytical monitoring and air volumes extracted from the soil by the SVE system. The calculations only take into account the organic compounds analyzed.

The table below shows the detail of the estimate of the masses of VOCs extracted from the ground, in gaseous form, by the SVE device, on the basis of the data collected from the start of the treatment until its stop, the September 08, 2016. The average concentration over each period was calculated from the two air samples taken at the inlet of the activated carbon filters and limiting the monitoring period.

Mass balance of pollutants extracted from the ground by the SVE device since the start of treatment

Paramètre	Unité	1er mois de suivi Du 09/03/2016 au 04/04/2016	2ème mois de suivi Du 04/04/2016 au 04/05/2016	3ème mois de suivi Du 04/05/2016 au 09/06/2016	4ème mois de suivi Du 13/06/2016 au 11/07/2016	5ème mois de suivi Du 11/07/2016 au 10/08/2016	6ème mois de suivi Du 10/08/2016 au 08/09/2016
Volume d'air extrait période	Nm^3	158 680	251 512	294 716	217 678	216 489	188 984
Concentration moyenne en COHV sur la période (échantillonnage mensuel)	mg/Nm^3	843,8	150,8	104,4	84,0	70,6	87,2
Masse totale en COHV extraite période	kg	134	38	31	18	14	16
Taux d'extraction journalier	kg/j	5	1	1	1	0,5	0,6
Masse totale extraite cumulée	kg	134	172	203	221	235	251

As of September 8, 2016, the date of termination of the SVE treatment system, it is estimated that approximately 251 kg of VOCs were extracted from the soils in gaseous form.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

Following the six months of treatment and in accordance with the acceptance strategy for the decontamination works, a statement of the quality of the soil gases was carried out monthly for 3 months from each treatment well in order to quantify the level of pollution. of soil gases by VOCs and to monitor the possible evolution of the levels, once the device has been shut down.

Evolution of the volume contents of VOCs in static conditions from the initial state (09 March 2016) until the last monitoring campaign of the reception phase (06 December 2016)
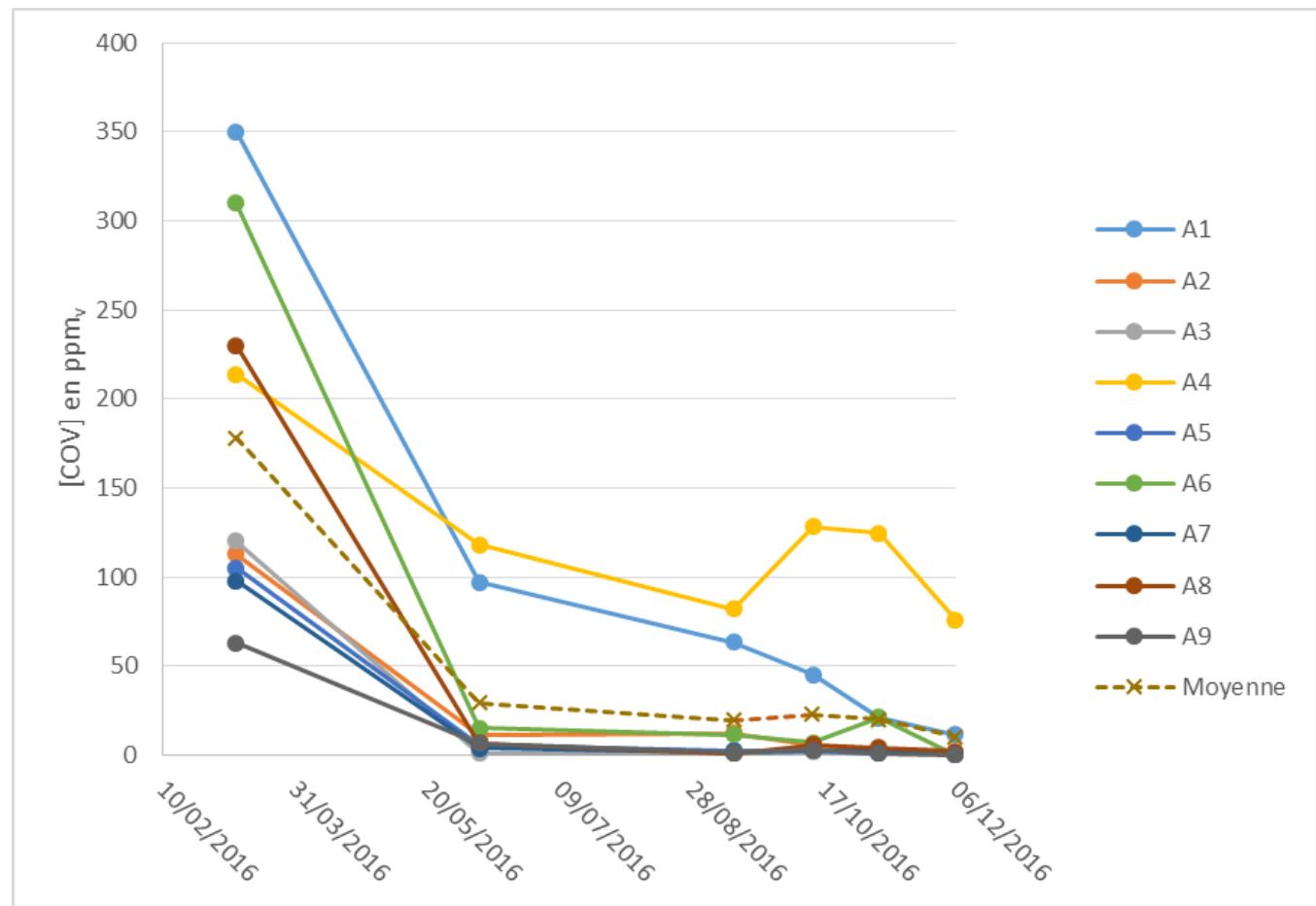
Evolution of the VOC mass contents under static conditions from the initial state (09 March 2016) to the last monitoring campaign of the reception phase (06 December 2016)
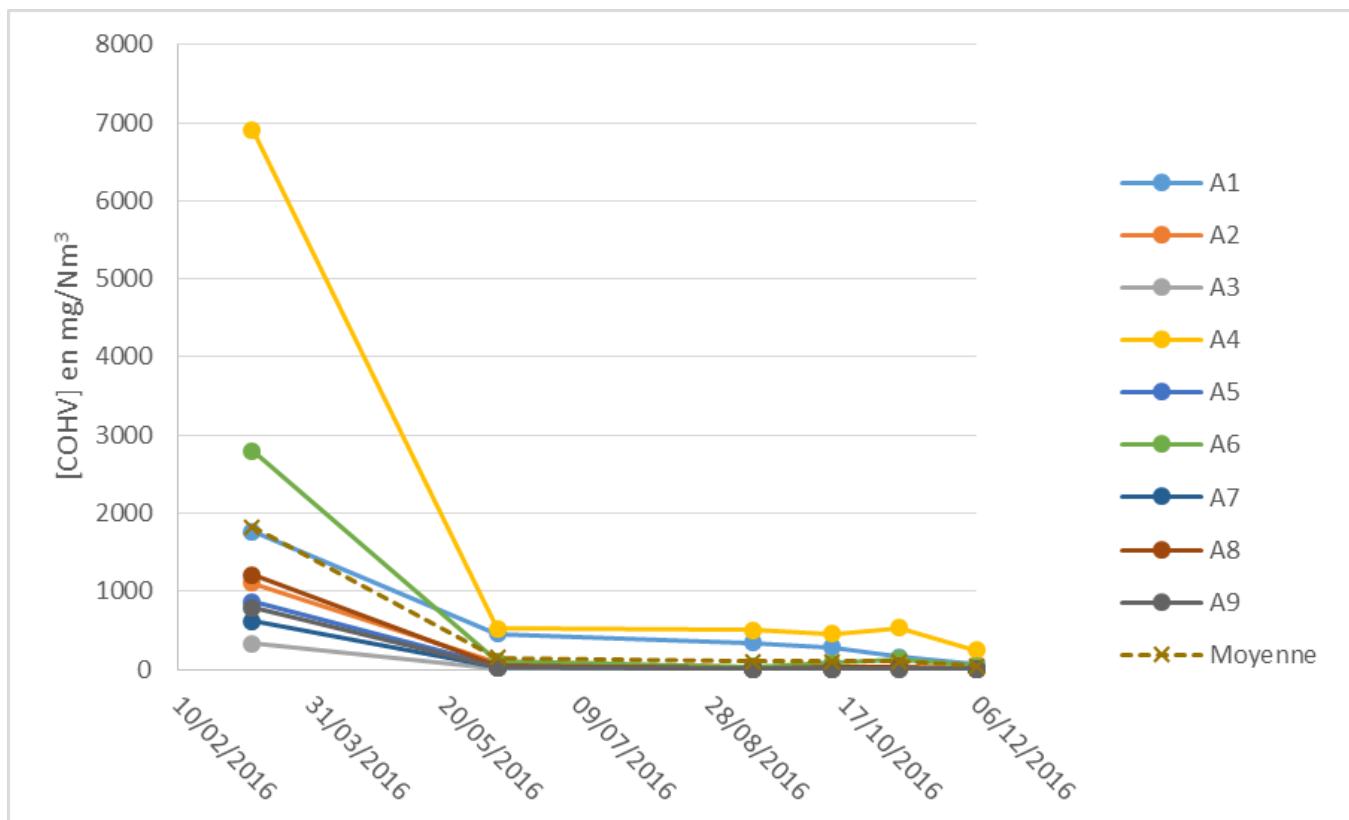
After 6 months of treatment, the average VOC content in the soil gases sampled from the 9 SVE wells was 108.23 mg/Nm^3. This value remains relatively high. Despite everything, in comparison with the value obtained before the start-up of the installations, the reduction rate of the average of the total VOC contents amounts to 94%. The results obtained demonstrated good efficacy of the treatment.

The VOC contents in the soil gases sampled from each of the 9 wells ranged, after 6 months of treatment, between 3.04 mg/Nm^3 for well A3 and 507.36 mg/Nm^3 for well A4. All the wells exhibited an abatement rate greater than 93%, with the exception of well A1 which exhibited an abatement rate of 81% for a measured concentration of 338.04 mg/Nm^3.

The treatment of soil gases by SVE was stopped at the end of the soil gas sampling campaign carried out on September 13, 2016, in accordance with the work acceptance strategy. The operating mode consisted of keeping the installation shut down for a period of 3 months. During this period, and in a manner identical to the samples taken

during the initial state and after 3 and 6 months of treatment, soil gas samples at the 9 wells were taken and analyzed on a monthly basis.

After 3 months of stopping treatment, the average VOC content in the soil gases sampled from the 9 SVE wells was 42.86 mg/Nm^3. This value is lower in comparison with the value obtained after stopping treatment, on September 13, 2016 and in comparison with the values obtained after one and two months of stopping, on October 13 and November 7, 2016. In the end, the reduction rate for the average VOC content is 98%, which corresponds to a significant reduction rate, clearly higher than the target (80%). The VOC contents in the soil gases sampled from each of the 9 wells range, after three months of shutdown, between 1.97 mg/Nm^3 for well A9 and 245.04 mg/Nm^3 for well A4. All the wells had an abatement rate greater than 97%.

At the end of the final soil gas quality monitoring campaign carried out on December 6, 2016, tetrachlorethylene still remains the majority compound. We can also note that 1,1,1-trichloroethane was measured in trace amounts at wells A4, A5, A6 and A8. Likewise, trichloroethylene was also measured in trace amounts in the area of wells A1, A4, A5, A6, A8 and A9.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.9

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site where the SVE clean-up project was carried out is confidential.

The site is located in the Ile-de-France region, in France. The site covers an area of several hectares and corresponds to a multidisciplinary research and innovation centre. The activities carried out concern many fields such as nuclear energy, life sciences, material sciences, climate and environment, technological research and education.
The area of the site mainly affected by the presence of VOCs (mainly trichloroethylene – TCE) in the subsoil is located in the extreme south-eastern part of the centre.

2.2 Geological setting

The geological and hydrogeological information collected during the previous studies are reported in the following table.

Geological information	Hydrogeological information
The horizons intersected by the wells on site are successively: • a very poorly permeable cover formation, corresponding to plateau silts and grindstone clays, with a thickness of around 12 m; • the Fontainebleau sands, corresponding to very well classified fine sands (particle size of 500 to 600 µm); the thickness of Fontainebleau sands formation is around 50 m; a carbonate and clayey horizon, with a thickness generally between 1 and 2 m, is present in the upper part of the Fontainebleau sands formation, at a depth of the order of 14 to 15 m.	**Aquifers:** formation of the Fontainebleau sands **Static level:** the free surface of the water table is intercepted at a depth of 40 m. **Flow direction/gradient:** the flow of the groundwater table is directed towards the south **Hydrodynamic data:** no data is available

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Under the effect of the diffusion within the Fontainebleau sands, which are very permeable to air and which are isolated from the atmosphere by a confining geological layer of a dozen meters thick, a halo of VOCs (mainly trichloroethylene - TCE) was formed within the pore space of the Fontainebleau sands, in the sector of the main source zone identified, that is to say in the extreme south-east of the site.

The TCE halo partially dissolves on contact with groundwater. The plume of VOCs, multi-source and multi-pollutant, affects groundwater at the scale of the site.

Pollution characterization data remain unknown, namely:

- the position of the historical area of solvent infiltration in the subsoil;
- The nature and quantities of the VOCs that have reached the subsoil;
- the nature of the polluting events that led to the infiltration of VOCs into the subsoil.

2.4 Regulatory framework

The main objective of the client is to improve the quality of groundwater and overall improve the quality of the underground environment, with a view to reducing the sources of pollution of the underground environment in accordance with the French national methodology for the rehabilitation of sites and soils polluted.

To achieve this, the client commissioned the company SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE to carry out the forced extraction of TCE present in the gaseous state in the air from the soil between 15 and 40 m deep, within the Fontainebleau sands formation, in the south-eastern part of the site.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

We did not carry out a pilot sizing test prior to the implementation of the soil vapour extraction treatment.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The forced extraction of gases from the ground was accomplished from the three wells named   F51, PG-05 and PG-08. These wells are respectively 50 m, 20 m and 30 m deep in relation to the surface. The screened intervals of these wells intercept the Fontainebleau sands.

The treatment unit was dimensioned so as to be able to ensure a maximum extraction flow rate per well of the order of 150 to 200 m^3/hour. In addition, given the configuration of the screened intervals of the PG-05 and PG-08 wells, SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE has provided specific plugs and wellheads in order to selectively extract gases from the soil in the Fontainebleau sands formation overlying or underlying the carbonate and clay horizon generally intersected between 14 and 16 m deep.

Layout plan for wells and facilities

Geological and technical section of the PG-05 well
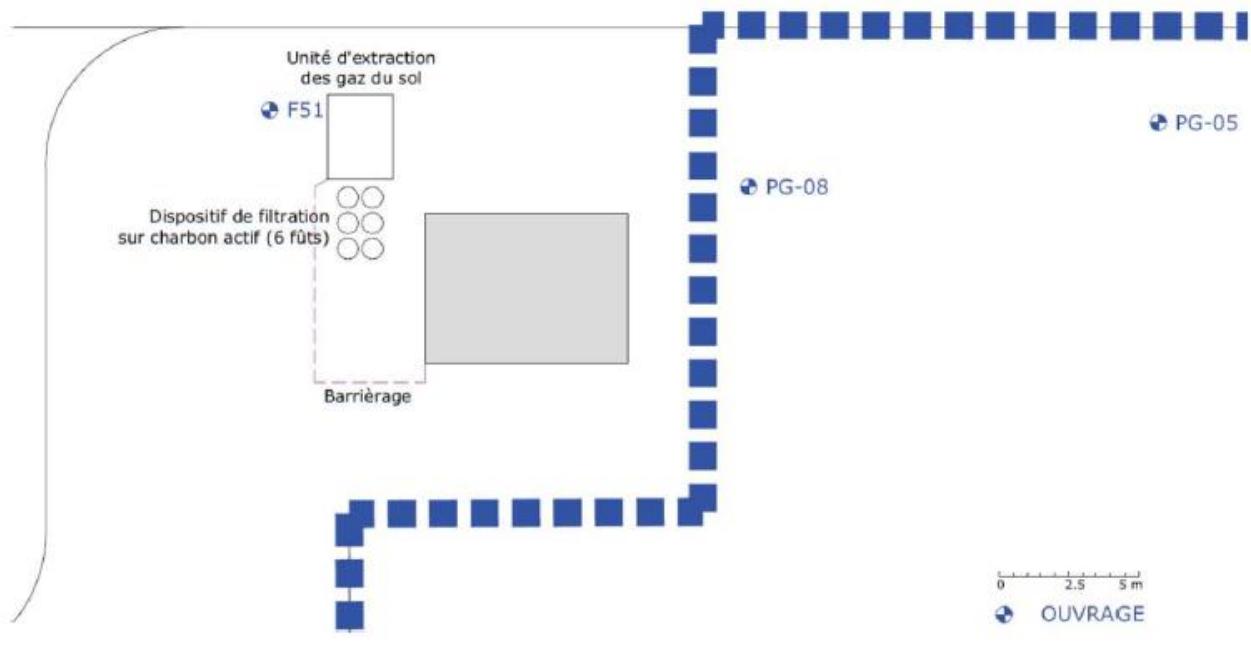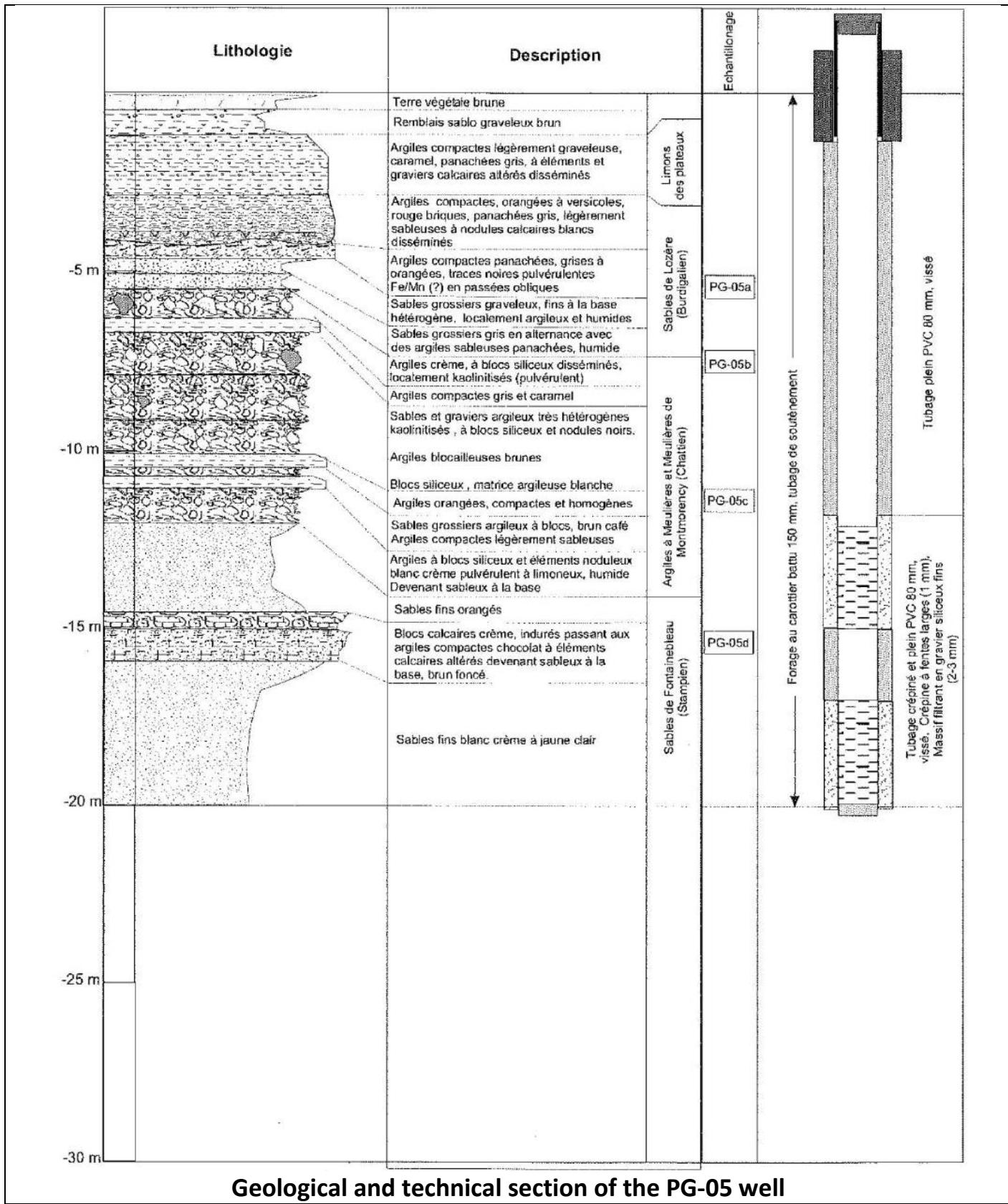
4.3 Radius of influence

We did not determine the radius of influence of the treatment wells in the context of this project.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

The technical-economic analysis, based on the forecast mass balance of the treatment, has shown that the treatment of gases extracted on activated carbon is the most economical solution, while allowing a significant reduction in the content of volatile pollutants.

The choice of SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE fell on two parallel filtration lines, each of the lines being made up of three 200-liter activated carbon filters arranged in series (capacity of 75 kg of activated carbon per filter). When the activated carbons from the two drums placed at the head reached saturation, said drums were emptied, tipped at the end of their respective filtration line and then supplemented with healthy activated carbons. The soiled activated carbons were packaged in big bags. Each big-bag will be completed with 400 to 600 kg of activated carbon.

The VOC content in the air flow at the outlet of each drum has been measured to effectively control the gaseous discharge to the atmosphere and to avoid any exceeding of the discharge criteria.

4.5 Control parameters
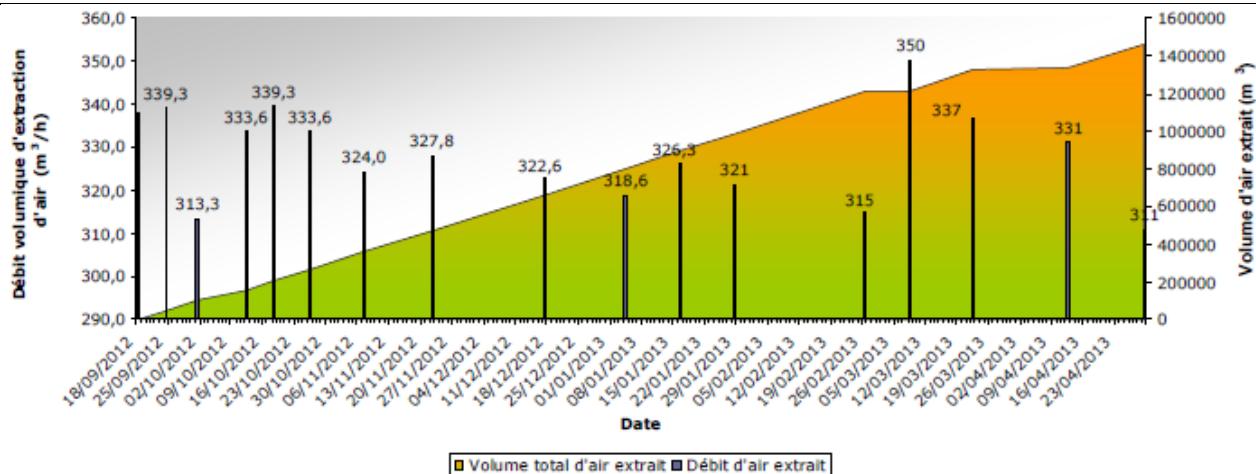
Evolution of the extraction volume flow of the treatment unit and the total volume of air extracted from the ground

Evolution of the air extraction volume flow of each treatment well
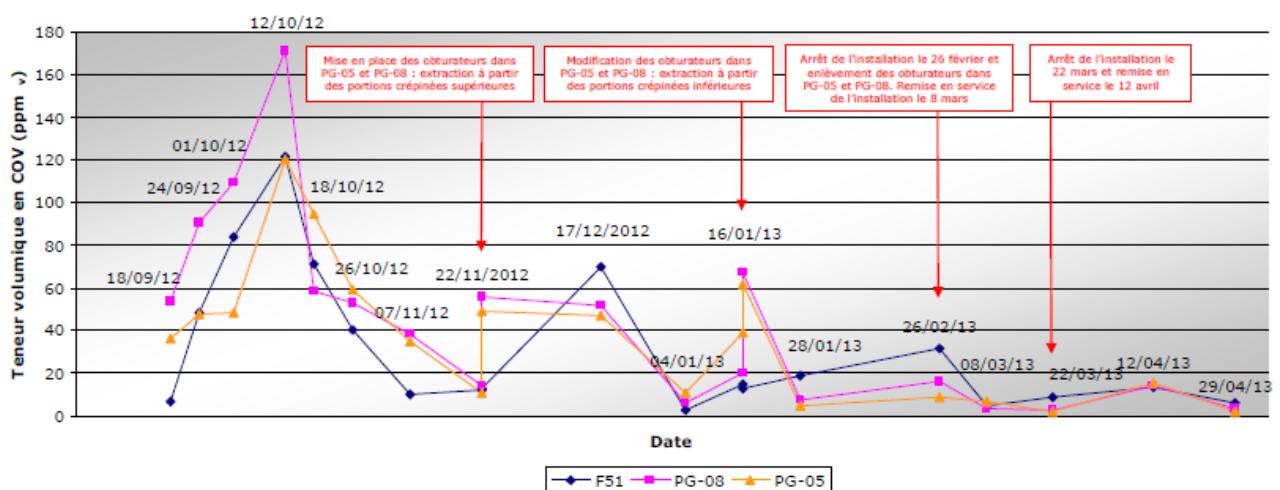
Evolution of the volume contents of VOCs in the air flow extracted from each treatment well
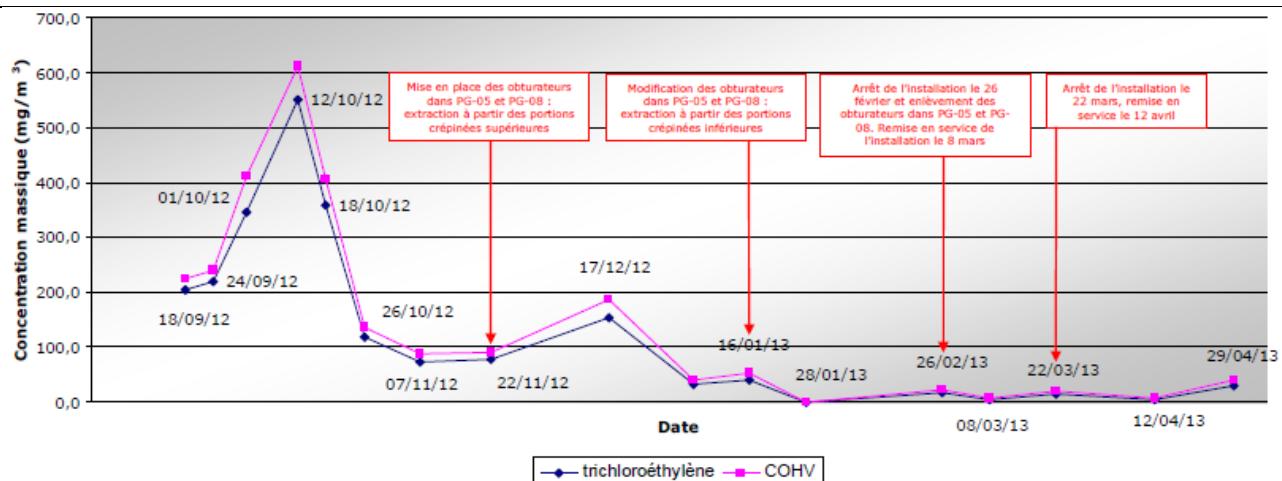
Evolution of the mass content of trichlorethylene in the air flow extracted from the ground
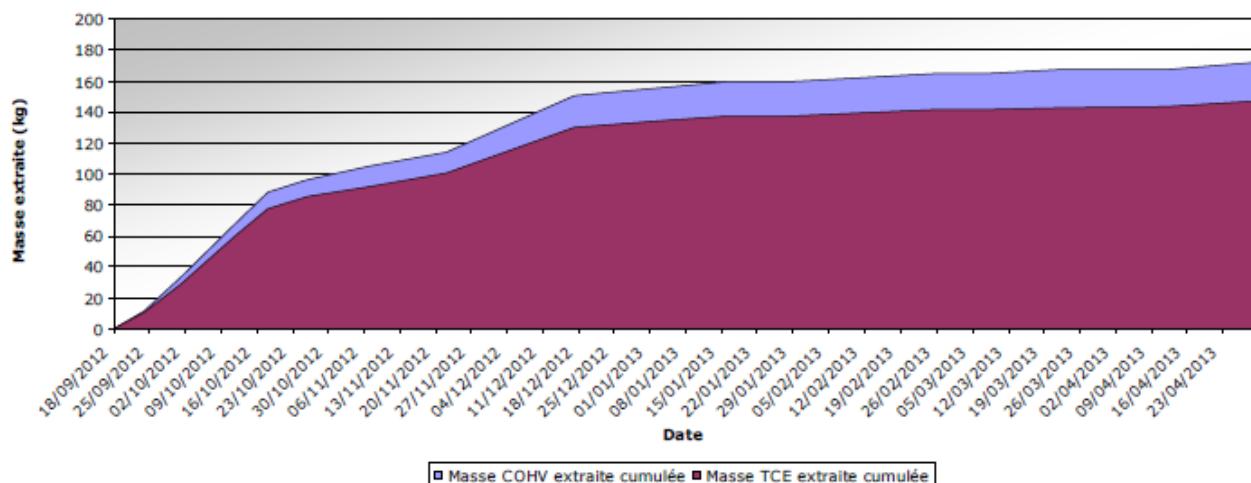
Evolution of the masses of VOCs and TCE extracted from the ground by the soil vapor extraction treatment, according to analytical monitoring

5. Enhancements to SVE

5.2 Any other enhancement
Apart from the use of shutters and specially designed well heads during treatment for the PG-05 and PG-08 wells (as a reminder, in order to carry out a selective extraction of gases from the soil in the Fontainebleau sands formation overlying or underlying the carbonate and clay horizon generally intersected between 14 and 16 m deep), SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE has not implemented other improvements to the SVE system.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt
Controlled project, without particular constraints to be met. The SVE treatment made it possible to achieve the asymptote of recovery of TCE in the horizon of the Fontainebleau sands. The client did not communicate to SUEZ RR IWS REMEDIATION FRANCE the analytical results from the groundwater monitoring but had nevertheless shared the information that the quality of the groundwater at the level of the piezometer located directly downstream of the treatment zone was improved.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.10

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The Site is an ex industrial plant operating from the '50s to 2009, when it has been re-located because the area has become almost completely residential.

The remediation procedure for the Site started at the beginning of the 2000s, because a facility downstream from the Site was found to be impacted by an incoming chlorinated solvents contamination. Since 2000 soil and groundwater were largely investigated and a remediation activity was performed from 2011 to 2013.

In 2017 pilot tests were undertaken in order to address the PCE contamination detected in soil and groundwater. The selected technologies are Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination for GW and SVE for soil. Due to good results achieved in pilot tests, a full scale remediation was performed at the beginning of 2019 and it's still ongoing.

Site Aerial map with monitoring wells

2.2 Geological setting

Site soil consists of gravel and sand, interbedded with thin layers of sandy silt. The depth to groundwater is approximately 20 meters below ground surface (bgs).

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The main contaminant is tetrachlorethylene (PCE), detected in soil and groundwater. Trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2 dichlorethylene (1,2-DCE) and Vinyl chloride (VC) are also present, as PCE degradation products.

In soil PCE was detected in concentration of about 1000 mg/kg. PCE in soil gas was up to 4900 mg/m^3.

The remediation target for the Site was calculated by a human health risk assessment and for the soil matrixes is a soil gas target (because of the vapour inhalation risk) and it is equal to 110 mg/m^3 for PCE, at the sub slab pins installed underneath the building and 2000 mg/m^3 at the soil gas probes installed outdoor.

2.4 Regulatory framework

The main environmental law in Italy is the Legislative Decree no. 152/2006 (D.Lgs 152/06) that in Part four, Title fifth sets specific rules for remediation of contaminated sites.

The reference legislation establishes some threshold values (CSC D.Lgs 152/06 and limits DM31/15) for the main contaminants both in soil and groundwater; if during the characterization there are one or more exceedance of threshold values, the site is defined "potentially contaminated", and a human health risk assessment can be developed to estimate the risks deriving from the potential sources of contamination detected on site (defined by the samples with exceedance) and to calculate risk-based site-specific threshold limits (CSR). The legislature also fixes which are the values of acceptable risk for the assessment.

If the estimated risks are lower than acceptable values, the site is defined "not contaminated", and no remediation is needed. If the estimated risks are higher than acceptable values, the site is defined "contaminated", and remediation is needed. The risk based site-specific threshold limits (CSR) are the remediation targets.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

A SVE pilot test was performed in a not vertical well drilled with a 10° plunge (from vertical), up to 16.5 m bgs, right underneath the underground tank that were the primary contamination source; the screened interval is positioned from 8 m to 16.5 m bgs, to target the residual contamination below the source area as indicated by previous investigations.

The test was conducted connecting the well (SVEa) to a blower and then applying a vacuum on the extraction well. Vapor flow rate, vacuum and VOC, O_2, CO_2 and CH_4 concentrations were measured in the extraction well and in 4 nearby soil gas probes.

A stepped rate test and a constant rate test was conducted on the test well. In the stepped rate test, each step was carried out for 30 minutes, at increasing flow rates (70, 95, 124 and 164 m^3/h). During the constant rate test the maximum flow rate (164 m^3/h) was used for a longer time (300 minutes).

Vacuum and VOC, O_2, CO_2 and CH_4 concentration measured in soil gas probes was used to assess the Radius of Influence ("ROI") of the SVE.

3.5 Control parameters

Vapor flow rate, vacuum and VOC, O_2, CO_2 and CH_4 concentrations were measured in the extraction well and in 4 nearby soil gas probes during the test.

In the graph below the VOC measured during the constant rate test. 5000 ppm is the over range value of the field gas detector.
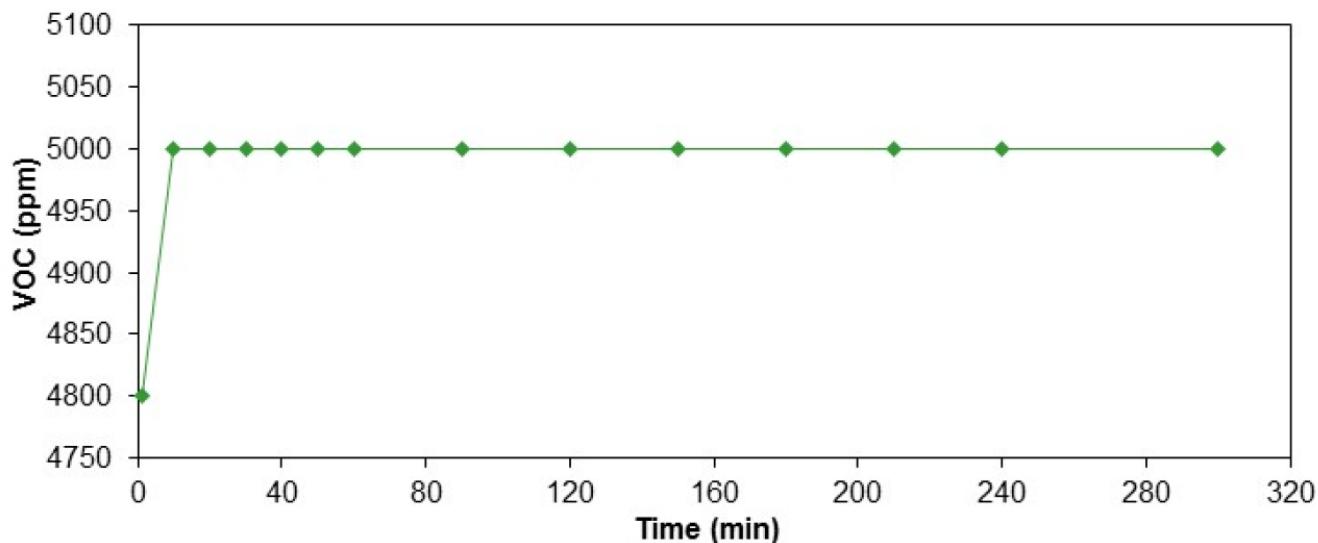
4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The SVE system used included the following equipment:

- 1 non vertical well (SVEa), 3" in diameter, 16 m b.g.s. deep, 10° inclination;
- 3 vertical wells (SVEb÷SVEd), 3" in diameter, 9 m b.g.s. deep and located 12.5 m one from the other;
- 3 venting trenches, about 30 m long, located at 1 m bgs under the building basement floor and with a 7 m distance one from the other; each trench is composed by a HDPE pipe, screened, 4" in diameter, draining gravel, a protection sand layer and concrete;
- a blower and related vessels and piping, connected to a vapour treatment unit,
- vapour treatment unit composed of 3 Granular Activated Carbon ("GAC") filters.
- In addition, a HDPE vapour membrane was installed in the basement of the building to prevent subsoil vapour intrusion in the building basement and to increase the effectiveness of SVE action.

The schematic of the extraction venting trench is below.
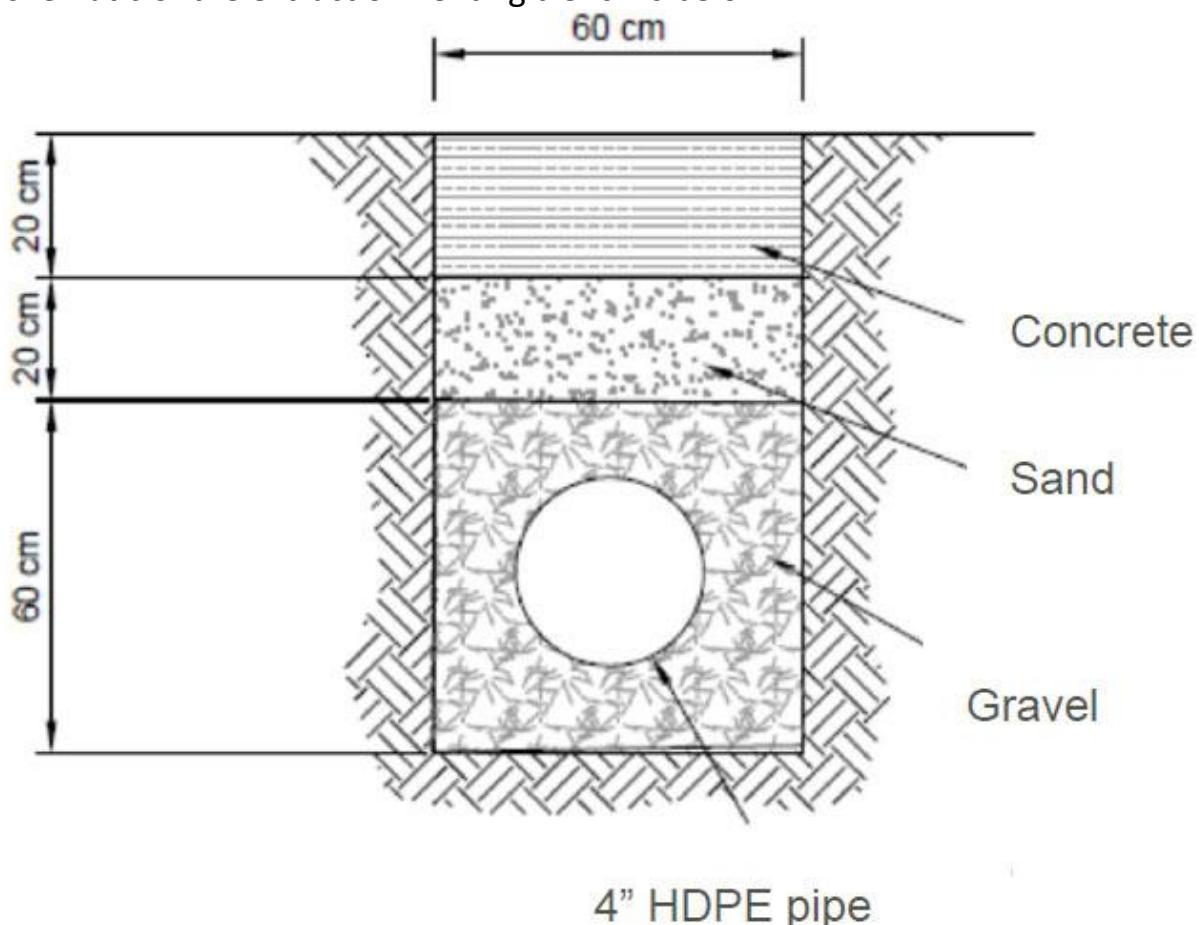
4.3 Radius of influence

Radius of influence (ROI) was calculated on the basis of induced vacuum and the pilot test results. The extracted flow is different for each extraction well in order to achieve the desired ROI: about 11-14 meters SVEa, about 7 meters SVEb-d.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

Activated carbon adsorption was used to remove all contaminants from the air stream; filters consist in 3 iron tanks, 150 cm high (270 cm with legs), 127 cm diameter, containing 800 kg of GAC each, connected in series.

The replacement of the GAC is scheduled based on the routine monitoring of VOC at the inlet and outlet of the system (see Chapter 4.5).

Off gas monthly monitoring at GAC filters outlet showed 0 ppm values over all the operational period, thus confirming the effectiveness of the off-gas treatment.

4.5 Control parameters

In addition, the SVE system has been equipped with a device that allows the continuous remote control of the operating parameters.

The PCE concentration decreased of 1 to 2 order of magnitude after 1 year of operation of the system and now is less than 10 ppm. Soil gas concentrations achieved remediation goal in all monitored soil gas probes.
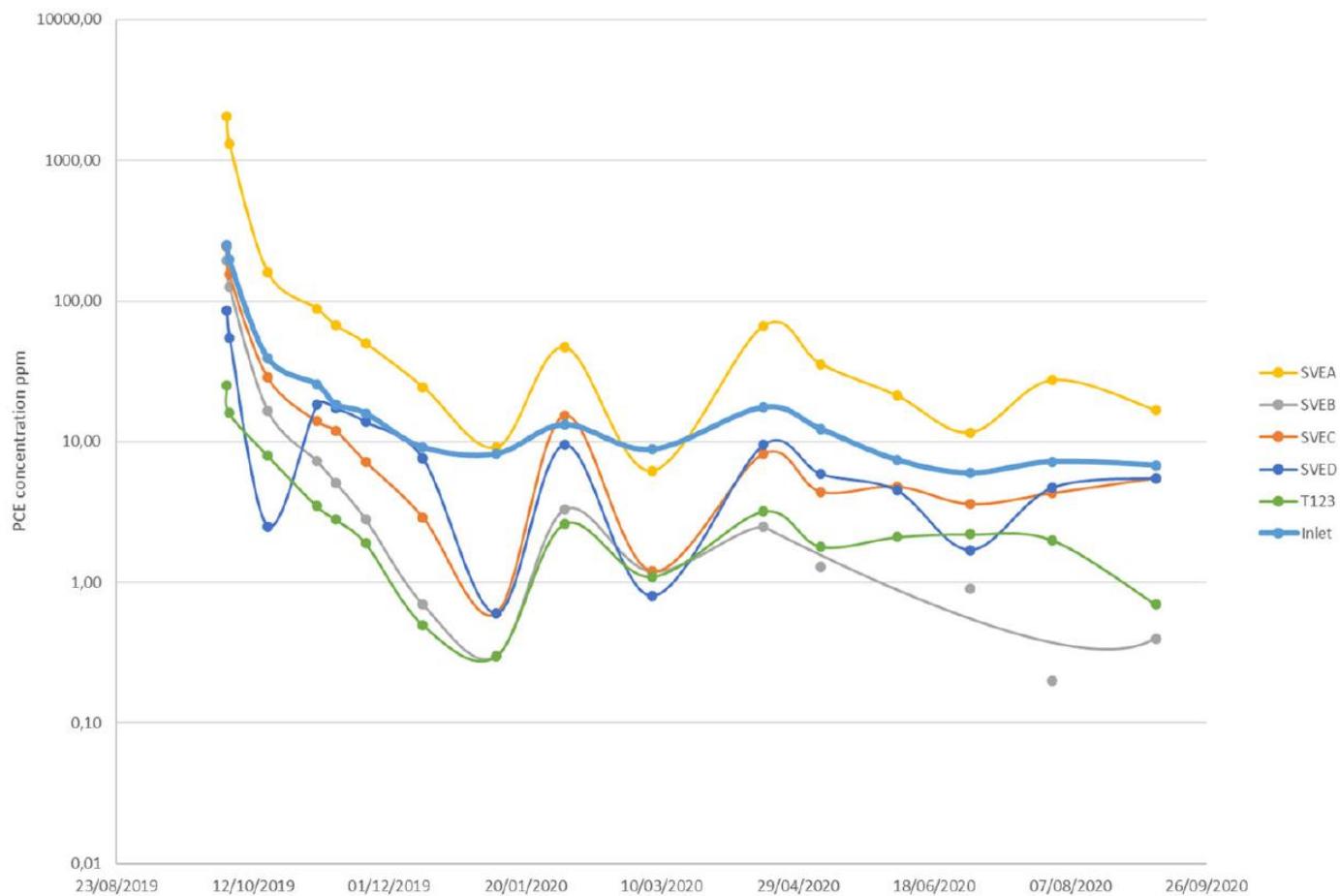
6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1   Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring
In compliance with the Remediation Plan, the SVE system was operated for 12 months up to asymptotic concentrations. After the shutdown of the system soil gas and sub slab sampling round was undertaken in order to verify the effectiveness of the SVE operation; further sampling campaigns are planned biannually for 2 years to confirm the reduction of the contaminants concentration in soil gas. Results of the first soil gas and sub slab sampling undertaken after shutting down the SVE system showed concentrations below detection limits in all samples.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt
During the remediation design it was invested in understanding deeply the Site Conceptual Model and in particular the secondary source; thus the remedial action targeted specifically and successfully the impacted source.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.11

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1.5 Duties	
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1.7 Phone number	

2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The area is located on the eastern outskirts of the city of Naples, in an area characterized by a high population density and the presence of numerous industrial activities, most of which are abandoned. In particular, there are hydrocarbon management activities, dedicated almost exclusively to storage, as refining activities have now ceased, manufacturing industry, engineering, production of services.

The area is located within the Eastern Naples SIN, established in 1998.

There is a protocol for the entire area of the SIN "Program agreement for groundwater remediation" which provides that the P.A. takes over the remediation of the groundwater in place of the responsible parties who adhere to it (once the health risk for workers is excluded).

There are also technical protocols for environmental characterization activities developed by the PA.

In the past, the site was annexed to a large fuel storage area, currently it carries out storage and sale of automotive fuels.
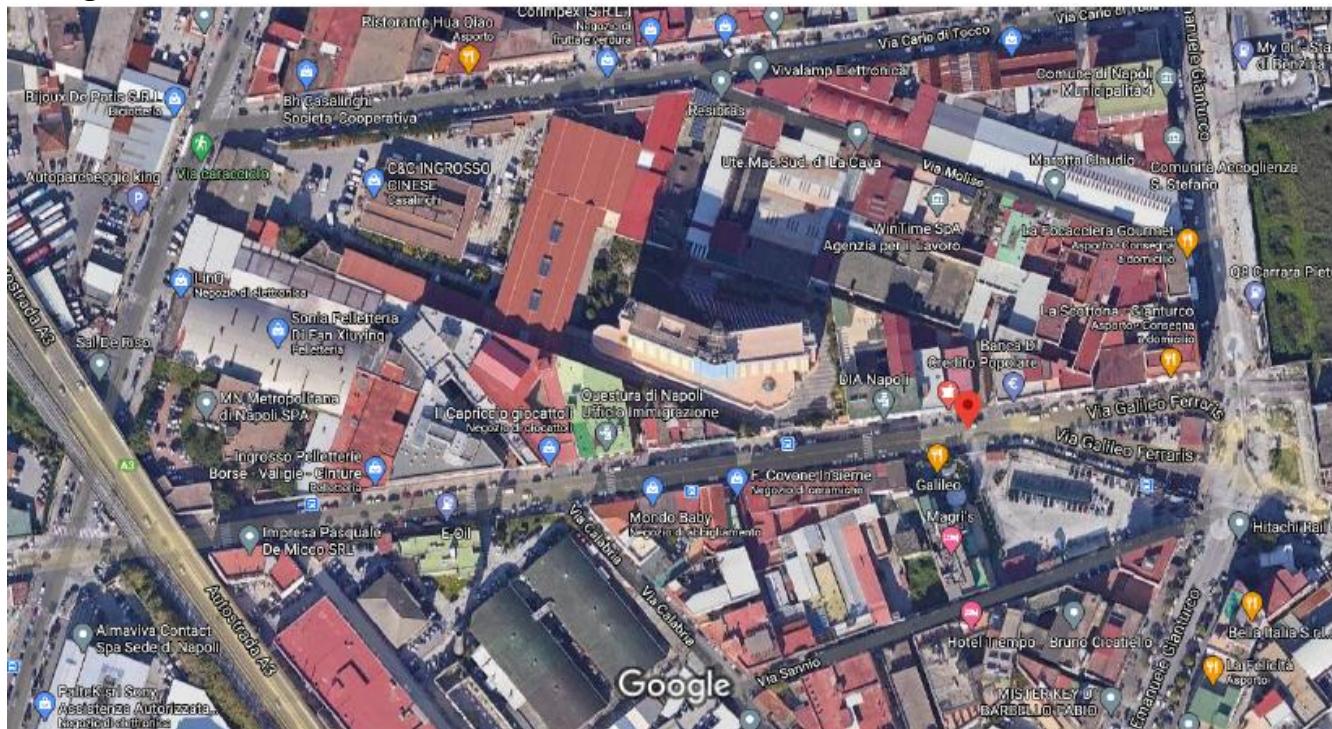
2.2 Geological setting

the stratigraphic structure of the area can be schematized as follows:

- from 0.0 to approx. 2.0 ÷ 3.0 m depth: heterogeneous fill soil, with sandy and gravelly granulometry
- from approx. 2.5 ÷ 3.0m at about 5.0m depth: sandy silt and silt, cohesive
- from 4.0 ÷ 5.0m to 12.0m depth: sand, subjected to a silty level

There is an exchange between the superficial and the deep aquifer with an active underground water circulation. The structure of the aquifer is very complex: the pyroclastic and sedimentary materials that constitute it present continuous granulometric variations both in the areal and vertical sense.

The consequence of the granulometric heterogeneity and the permeability characteristics of the soils present is the difficult identification of low permeability levels with sufficient continuity to divide the aquifer into several distinct layers. The pitch therefore tends to be typed in several levels, corresponding to coarse and variously interconnected materials, but always maintaining a unique character. The current subsidence, in most of the territory under examination, is less than 3-5 m from the ground level.

Contamination affects both the unsaturated and saturated phase of the subsoil.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

SOIL CONTAMINATION CONCENTRATIONS RANGE detected up to 6 meters deep from the ground level:

- Hydrocarbons C <12 400 mg/kg - 6500mg/kg
- Hydrocarbons C> 12 1300 mg/kg - 4600mg/kg
- Benzene 3 mg/kg - 118 mg/kg
- Ethylbenzene 100 mg/kg
- Total Xylenes 80 mg/kg - 400 mg/kg

RANGE OF CONCENTRATIONS CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER:

- TOTAL hydrocarbons 600 µg/l - 12000 µg/l
- Benzene 130 µg/l - 900 µg/l
- Toluene 17 µg/l - 2850 µg/l
- Ethylbenzene 100 µg/l - 330 µg/l
- Total xylenes 12 µg/l - 825 µg/l
- MTBE 50 µg/l - 6000 µg/l

2.4 Regulatory framework

D.Lgs. 152/2006

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

Installation of an extraction well and a monitoring well both located within the contaminated area.

Execution of the test, with a portable system assembled for ventilation tests, consisting in:

- a Blower (aspirator) with flameproof execution side channels, being hydrocarbons, with a power of 3 KW, 50 Hz;
- a 200 L activated carbon filter for air;
- Mineral-based activated carbon for air drawn into cylinders with a high degree of activation of the type Chemviron Carbon 207E 4x8 US mesh.
- step test at different air extraction rates, for each of which the monitoring induced depression on wells, concentrations of VOC, CO_2 and O_2, both through the wells monitoring, which exits the system.

The pilot test was conducted by inducing two different, corresponding depressions steps respectively at two different values of extracted air flow rates: the test began with a flow rate Q1 = 450 m^3/h and subsequently continued with a flow rate Q2 = 350 m^3/h.

3.3 Radius of influence

In order to calculate the radius of influence, the distance at which the vacuum is 10% of the vacuum applied to the extraction well is considered.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

a 200 L activated carbon filter for air: mineral-based activated carbon for air drawn into small cylinders with a high degree of activation of the Chemviron Carbon 207E 4x8 US mesh type.

3.5 Control parameters

A step test was carried out at different air extraction rates, for each of which the depression induced on the monitoring wells, the concentrations of VOC, CO_2 and O_2, both through the monitoring wells, and at the outlet were evaluated. from the system.

The maximum concentration of polluting vapours extracted occurred in the first 30 minutes of the test, beyond which there was a drastic lowering of the same, up to values close to those of the natural subsoil.

With the decrease in extracted flow, a very modest increase in vapours in terms of VOC was observed, certainly not very significant.

The test was interrupted after about 8 hours due to the temporary exhaustion of the polluting load.

A good response of the system was instead obtained from the variation of the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, which caused a decrease in O_2 and an increase in CO_2. This data indicates a modest but continuous presence and action of indigenous microorganisms, which oxidize organic substances by consuming oxygen and producing water and carbon dioxide.

From the calculations carried out it was possible to evaluate the optimal operating flow rate equal to approximately Q = 400 m^3/h, with a radius of influence for each ventilation shaft equal to approximately 12 m.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The air extraction system (EVS) has provided for n. 3 ventilation shafts of 2 "pushed up to a depth of 3 m, and made up as described below:

- Blower (aspirator) with explosion-proof side channels (being hydrocarbons) with a power of 5.5 KW.
- "water trap" (for condensation of the extracted vapours);
- 200 litres active carbon filter for air;
- n. 3 gate valves to regulate flows and capacities;
- vacuum gauges with scales from 0 to 100 mbar and from 0 to 1000 mbar;
- PVC pipes with high decompression resistance;
- wellhead that can be inspected, with quick couplings, for measuring the gases and depressions induced on each ventilation shaft;
- connection to the blower of the wells with pipes of adequate diameter;
- all the pipes have been conveyed into a regulation barrel with valves for regulating the flows
- dilution valve before entering the blower.

4.3 Radius of influence

In order to calculate the radius of influence, the distance at which the vacuum is 10% of the vacuum applied to the extraction well is considered.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

The vapour treatment system (VOC) includes n. 1 filter containing activated carbon for air based on mineral drawn in cylinders with high degree of activation of the Chemviron Carbon 207E 4x8 US mesh type.

Below is a description with the characteristics of the activated carbon:
- Activation process = Steam;
- Density = 0.46 g/cc;
- Compacted material density = 0.50 g/cc;
- Packaging humidity = 3% by weight;
- Total specific surface (BET method) = 1100 m^2/g;
- Ash content = 8% by weight;
- Hardness = 97%;
- Iodine index = 1000 mg/g;
- Carbon tetrachloride index = 60% by weight;
- Benzene index = 35% by weight;

the average concentration of volatile organic substances to be removed is about 1g/m^3; the plant has a capacity of 400 m^3/h, the total amount of volatile organic substances to be removed is about 400 g/h per hour. Every 100 kg of carbon have an adsorbing power of about 10 kg of organic substance. The abatement system, therefore, consisting of a 600 kg battery of activated carbon, has an autonomy of about 2 months.

4.5 Control parameters

Control	Frequency	Parameters	Point of monitoring
Startup (7-10 days)	daily	Flow Extraction pressure Steam concentration	Extraction well Pipeing Emission
After startup	Every 2 weeks	Flow Extraction pressure Steam concentration	Extraction well Pipeing Emission

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

In order to verify the dynamics of the remediation process and the proper functioning of the installed system, monitoring/maintenance visits are scheduled on a monthly basis, including I following works:

- General maintenance of plants and calibration of installed systems;
- Replacement and disposal, when necessary, of spent activated carbon;
- Measurement of VOC, CO_2 and O_2 leaving the ventilation system and regulation of induced depressions;
- Sampling of the incoming and outgoing air from the abatement system. Organic substances birds are analyzed on a quarterly basis for the entire duration of the remediation. The data is developed and processed using specialized software.

Monitoring of the soil gas, after a three-month stop of the EVS, to implement a new risk analysis three years after the start of treatment.

volatile organic substances analyzed: Benzene - Toluene - Ethylbenzene - Xylenes (BTEX), MTBE and total hydrocarbons.

Samples are taken by means of a low flow pump and adsorption on activated carbon vials

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

In case of contamination even of the saturated one, a technology that is effective for both matrices (unsaturated and saturated) is preferable

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.12

|	
1.1 Name and Surname	Daniela Fiaccavento
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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

In July 2011, due to a road accident between a little van and a petrol tanker, 8 m^3 of unleaded gasoline spilled onto the road, affecting neighbouring land and some stretches of moats adjacent to the road
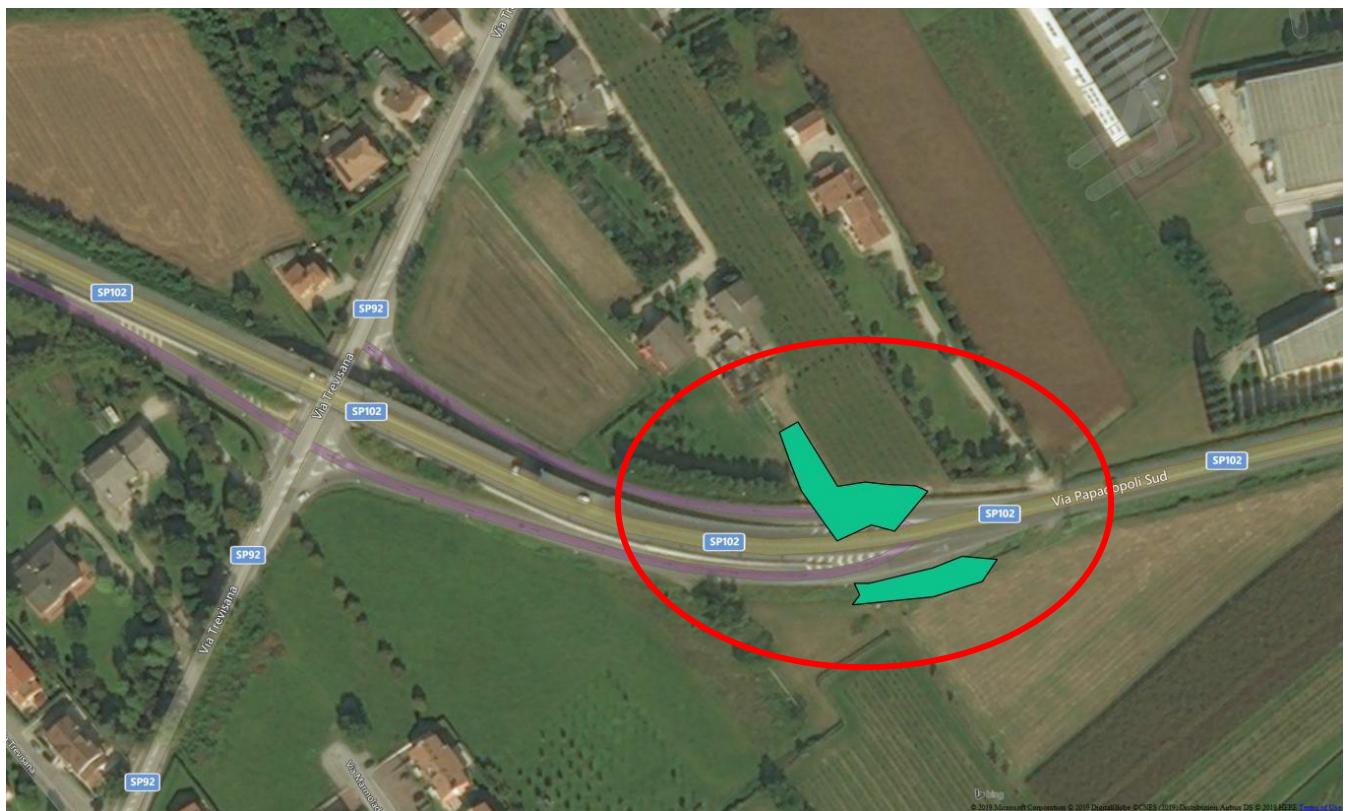
After the development of the site-specific risk analysis, the contaminated area to be remediated was that shown in the figure below.

The area of contaminated soil was around 1000 square meters, 700 in the field and 300 under the road. The subsoil was contaminated up to four meters depth, only in one survey up to 5 meters.
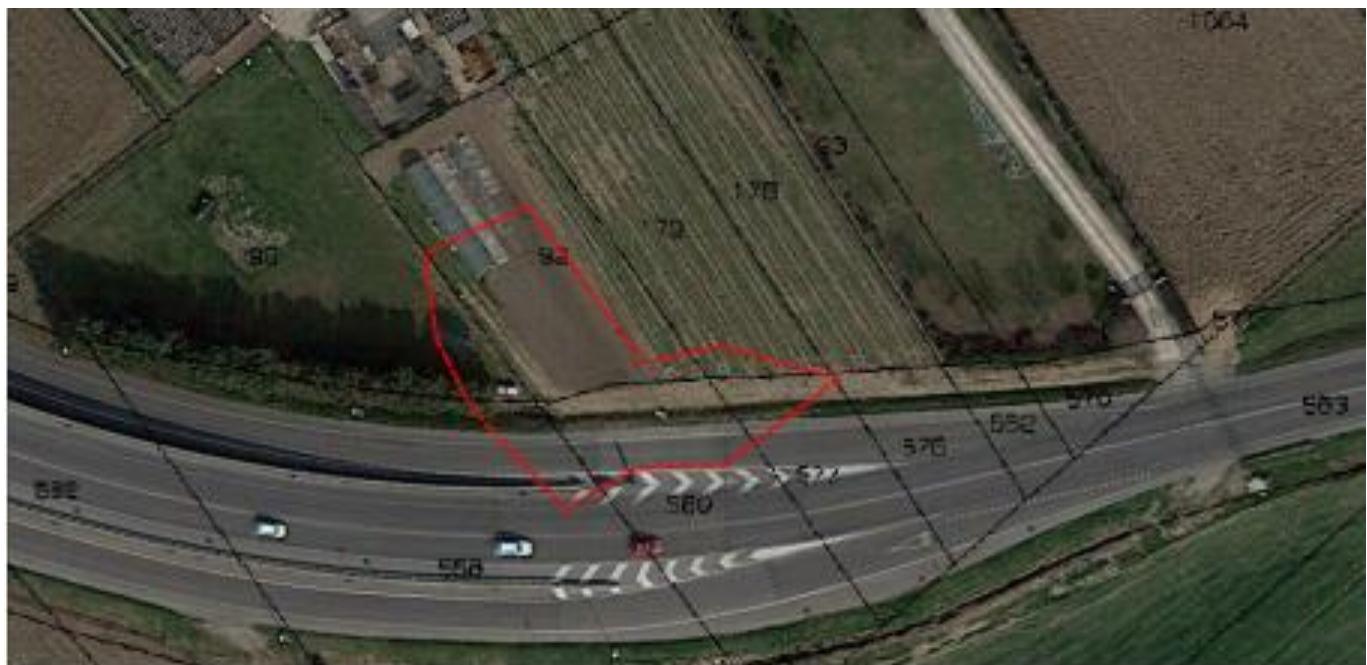
2.2 Geological setting

Under the first 20 centimeters of topsoil, the site presents 2/3 meters of alternation of sandy silts and silty sand and then, till 8 meters depth, fine and medium gravels in a sandy matrix.

The depth to ground water is approximately 2.5/3.0 meters below ground surface.

Below is reported the Shepard Diagram in which is collocated the types of soil of three surveys at different depth.
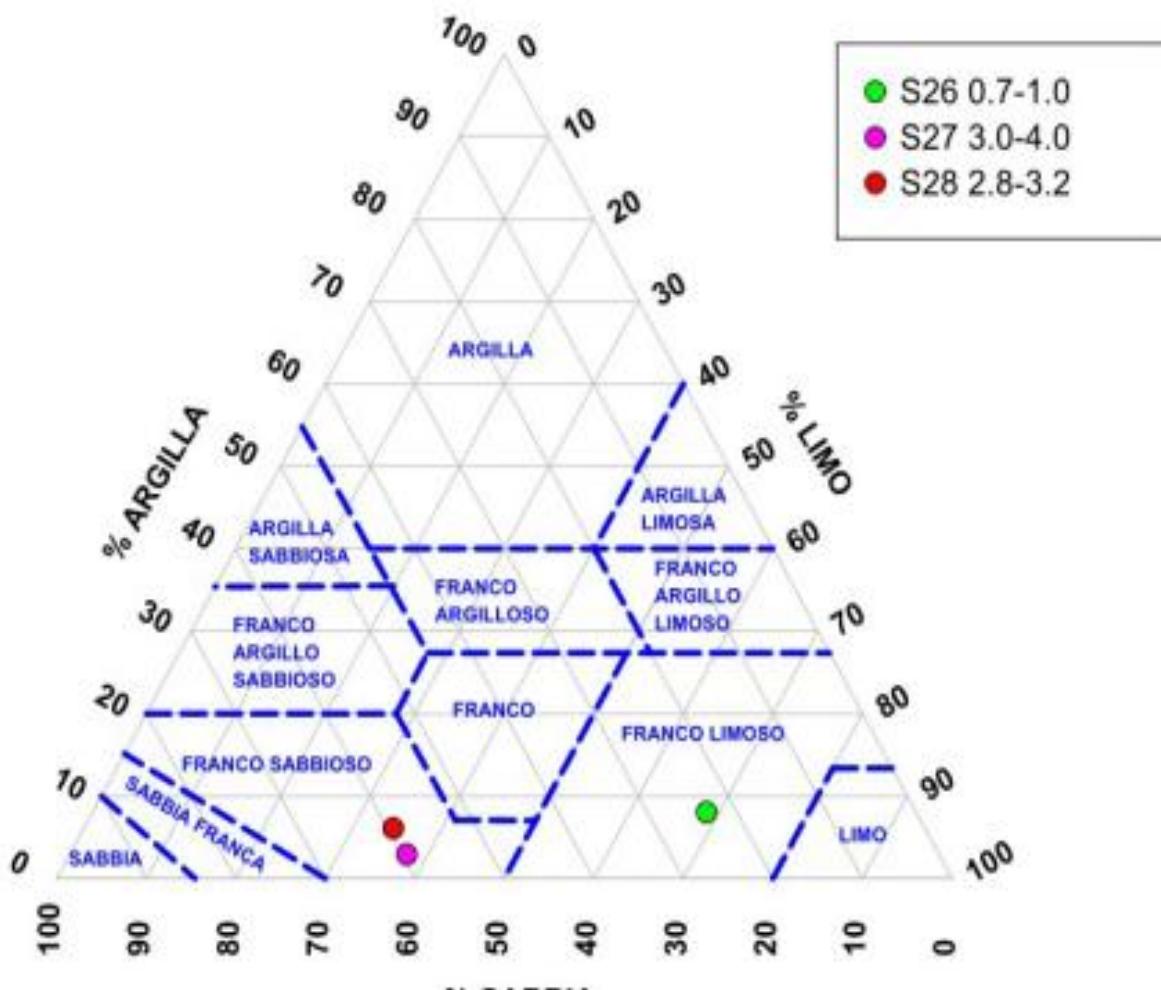
Shepard Diagram

In the figure below is reported a stratigrafy of a soil survey.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

Organic Compounds typical of unleaded petrol: benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene, styrene, MtBE (methylterbutyl ether), also mesaured in soil gas sampling from well realized in to the subsoil.

In Italy is defined as contaminant also light hydrocarbons (C<12) and heavy Hydrocarbons (C>12), which is specified according to MADEP Method (Aliphatics C5-C8, Aliphatics C9-C12, Aromatics C9-C10 and Aromatics C11-C12 for light Hydrocarbons and Alyfatics C13-C18, Alifatics C19-C36 and Aromatics C13-C22 for heavy Hydrocarbons).

In the two tables below are reported The maximum concentration, in mg/kg, for each contaminants of concern, in the surface soil (0÷1 meter deep) and in the subsoil (under 1 meter deep).

Table 1. Max Concentration in surface soil for each CoC

Benzene	Etilbenzene	Stirene	Toluene	Xileni	MTBE	C<12	C>12	CTOT C<>12	ALIFATICI C5-C8	ALIFATICI C9-C18	ALIFATICI C19-C36	AROMATICI C9-C10	AROMATICI C11-C22
8,1	71,0	2,3	169,0	590,0	28,0	3150,0	422,0	3180,3	1619,1	105,5	145,7	1087,7	0,0

Table 2. Max Concentration in subsoil for each CoC

Benzene	Etilbenzene	Stirene	Toluene	Xileni	MTBE	C<12	C>12	CTOT C<>12	ALIFATICI C5-C8	ALIFATICI C9-C18	ALIFATICI C19-C36	AROMATICI C9-C10	AROMATICI C11-C22
14,5	44,1	-	352	519	31,9	4980	37,6	5010,6	3921,4	17,5	29,8	1041,6	0,20

2.4 Regulatory framework

The Italian law provides for remediation of contaminated sites specific targets for urban soil and subsoil, for each contaminants of concern (CSC col. A tab. 1 All. 5 Parte Quarta Titolo V del D. Lgs. n. 152/06).

With the application of a site based risk analisys, whose risults have been reported by the company in the specific document approved by the responsible Institution, it has been defined new target levels for soil.

It has been defined target concentrations for each contaminants also in soil gas, to evaluate the performance of the Soil Vapor Extaction plant.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

It wasn't realized a pilot scale application before the full scale plant.

Pilot test were realized after the installation of the full scale plant, before its full operation.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

Because of the fact that the ground water was positioned from 2.5 to 3.5 meteres of depth, the project of SVE was based on a system of horizontal wells, like in the two figures above.
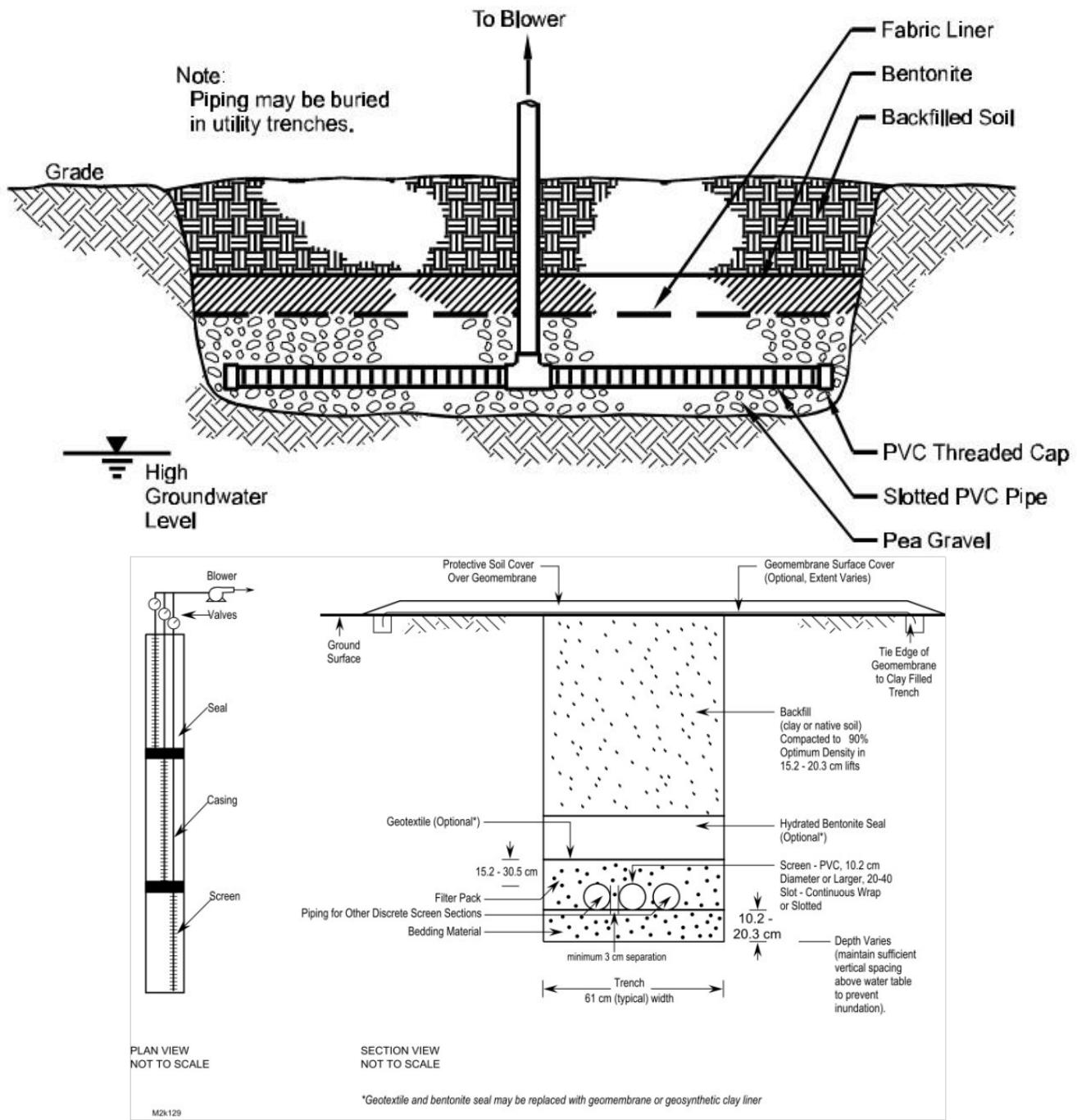
*Typical constraction scheme of an horizontal extraction well, view in plan and in section*

Two horizontal lines were been made, one parallel to the road (line 1), the other ortogonal the road, forward the house (line 2), as shown in the next figure.
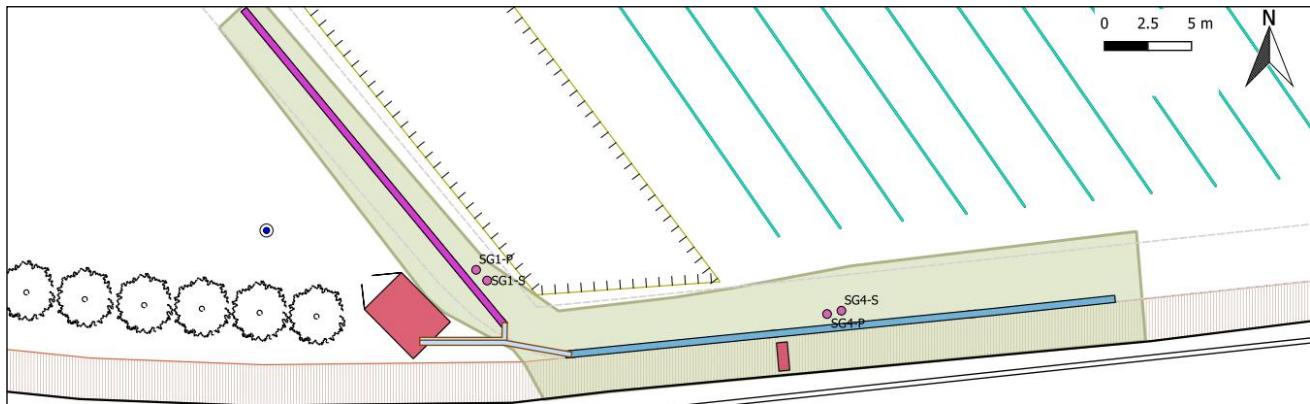
In the following table are reported the technical caractheristics of the two lines of SVE

	Line 1			Line 2	
width	0.4m			0.4m	
depth	1.1m			1.3m	
length	38m			26m	
Number of sections/exctraction wells	3			2	
Denomination of wells	SVE L1A	SVE L1B	SVE L1C	SVE L2A	SVE L2B
Blind section	1m	12m	24m	1m	12m
Screened section	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m

In the figure below is reported the plant scheme, which represents both extraction lines and the off-gas treatment system.
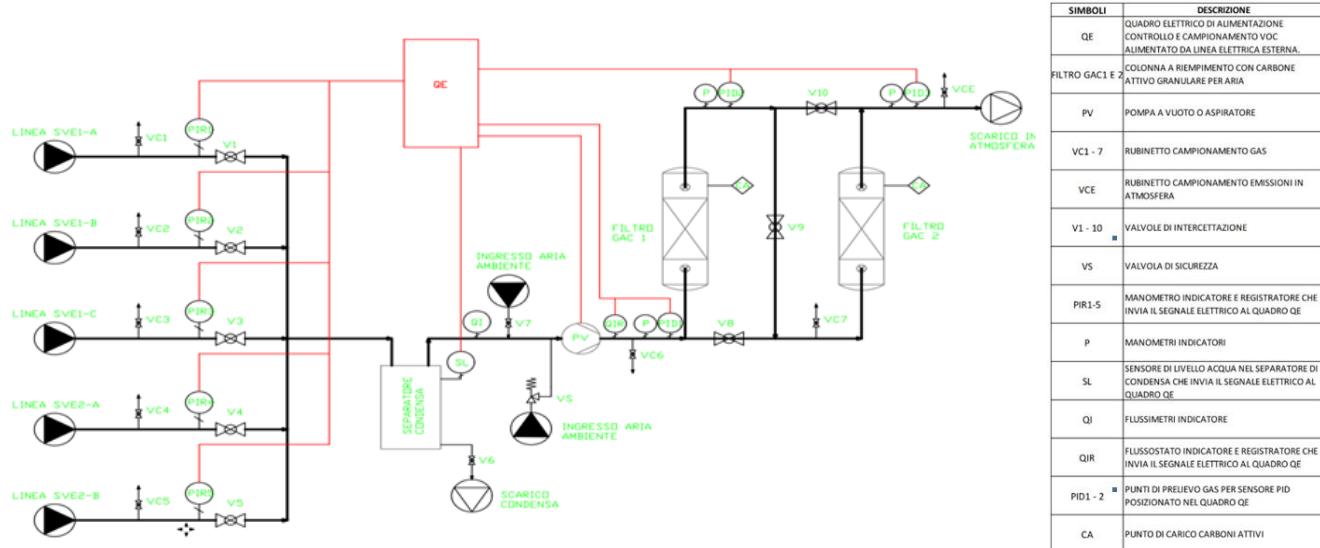
Once extracted, the contaminated vapor was dealed to a treatment unit, based on activated carbon adsorption (see the section "off-gas treatment")

After the beginning test (explained in the following section) SVE system started in january 2018 and was stopped before soil testing, performed in march 2019, even if the target in soil gas concentrations had already been reached in September 2018.

4.3 Radius of influence

The radius of influence were verified directly during the functioning of the plant through the measurement of the depression induced at the edge of the site.

The field test was realized in the following way:

1. installation of high sensitivity differential pressure sensors (±300 Pa) in three monitoring wells (located like in the following figure) and reset of the instrument (zero adjusted - 0 Pascal);
2. recording of basic value;
3. pump start with all 5 extraction lines open;
4. continuous recording of flow rate and depression values
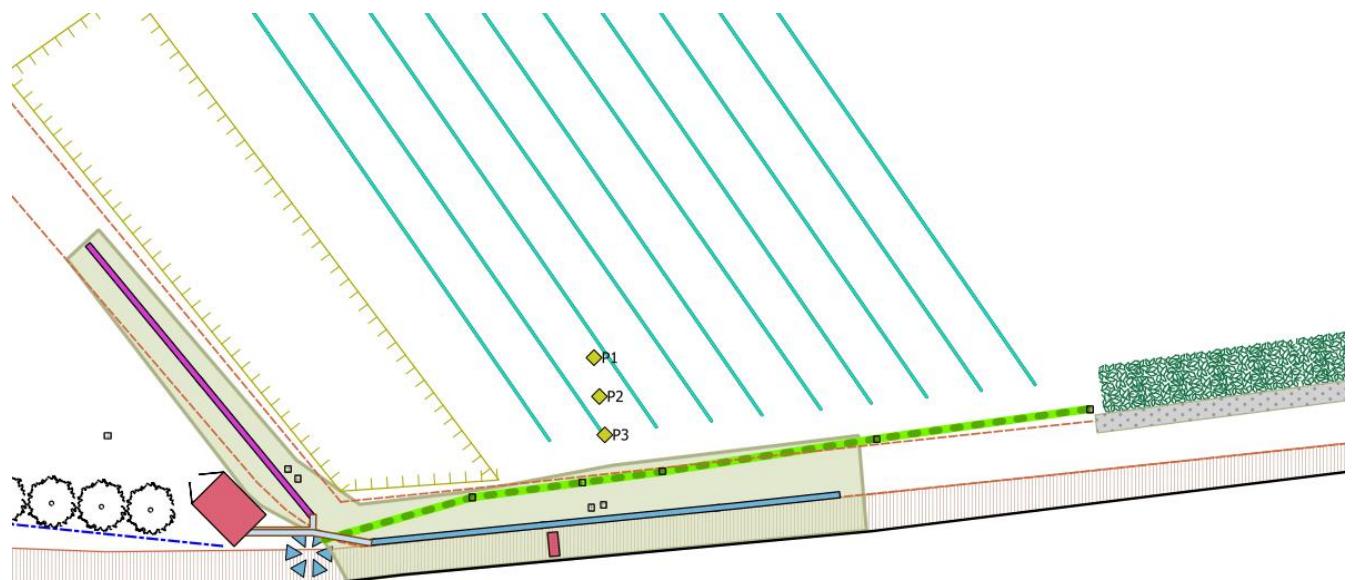
Location of pilot test wells

It was measured an appreciable induced depression, with a calculated radius of influence (6.5 m and 8.4 m) that in both cases exceeded the intervention distance, equal to 3-4 m, from the axis of extraction lines.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

The vapor treatment unit consists of an activated carbon unit of two modules with a capacity of 250 kg each arranged in series. The details of each module are shown below.

lenght plates	1.6 m
area plates	1.2 square meter
Air flow	100 mc/h
Air velocity in the filter	1.4 m/s
Contact time	1.2 s

The activated carbon will be of mineral origin, physically activated with steam. Such materials are suitable for air flows with concentrations of about 2000 ppm and have an adsorption yield of about 10%.

Yield of carbon absorption	10%
Amount of coals needed	25,600 kg
Carbon consuption rate	5.5 kg/h
Carbon filter (2+250kg)	500kg
Filter charge duration	3.8 days

In the case in point, the project data to evaluate the duration of the filters is summed below.

| Media soil gas concentration	2,500 mg/mc
Extraction flow	100 mc/h
Contaminant flow	0.25 kg/h
Total amount of contaminant to be removed	1,048 kg
Filter charge duration	80 days

To achieve the target of remediation, it has been used around 2,000 kg of activated carbon.

4.5 Control parameters

In order to continuously monitor emissions within the legal limits provided, it has been installed a continuous control system for the measurement of VOC at the effluent discharge through a PID.

To assess the progress of the remediation, soil vapour samples were collected from four soil gas wells, located near the soil vapour extraction line; the wells were realized in couple, two surface wells (up 1 meter deep) and two wells to monitoring soil gas in the subsoil (up to 2.5 meters deep)

The following figure shows the concentrations in the wells before starting of SVE and after some months of its functioning. The concentrations are also referred to the target concentrations defined through risk based analysis ("CSR" in the figure).
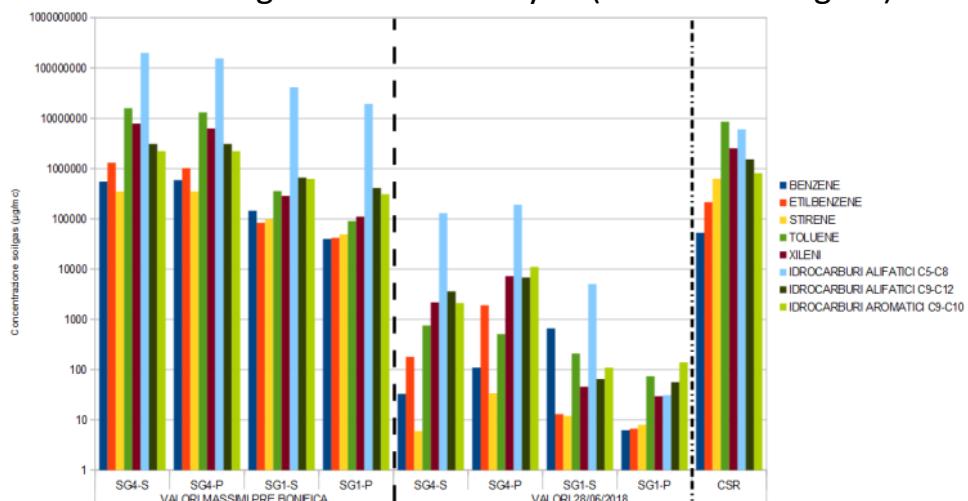
To collect soil gas sample were used stell canister or glasses bottle-vacuum (0.5 or 1 liter) with flow reduction to 50 ml/min. The soil gas chemical analysis were leaded with the MassDEP-APH 2009 method.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

In 2018 were leaded two campaigns of monitoring soil gases from wells, in both cases after turning off the plant to evaluate a possible rebound effect.

Once the achievement of the soil gas target concentration had been verified, test activities on the soils were carried out, realizing four soil probes 5 meters deep. In each samples (five for each probes) it has been verified the achievement of the legal limits for each contaminant of concern.

After this test two other soil gas investigation campaigns were carried out, to confirm that the soil gas targets (concentration limits) have been reached.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

The case study described in this work was the first case in which it has been used a SVE exctraction in fine soil (like sandy loam) and with a groundwater near the surface.

So, we found ourselves evaluating another plant solution, compared to other cases, with horizontal wells instead of the "classic" vertical wells.

In addition, unlike what the current legislation provided, reference soil gas concentrations were defined through risk analysis with the aim of assessing the progress of the remediation system.

7.3 Training need

I think that it would be very important to create and maintain a continuous training, not only with webinars and workshops, but also with creation of technical guidelines, and almost with training on-the job and sharing experiences with technicians from other organizations.

7.4 Additional remarks

In this paragraph I describe the experimentation performed in June 2017 to monitor the trend of concentration of contaminants in soil gas. This experimentation wasn't directly connected with the functioning of SVE, but it was carried out to collect more nformations about the behaviour of soil gas during a certain observation period.

Going into specifics, the purpose of the experiments was:

- Evaluation of the comparability of different measurement methods
- Evaluation of the temporal variations on a sub-hourly scale of the Cov concentrations in the aeriform matrices
- Evaluation of the relationships and possible differences between surface probe and deep probe
- Possible indications of the possible perturbations induced by the sampling to the state of motion soil gas.

At the first, a high sampling frequency PID was installed in the deep probe, while the pressure differential trend was monitored in the surface probe.

A second Pid, identical to the first, was also installed for the measurement of volatile compounds in a free atmosphere. During this period, two campaign of soil gas samples were carried out, both with vacuum bottle and with dynamic flux chamber (in the figure below).

In the same period it has been installed a micrometeo control unit composed by a:

triaxial ultrasonic anemometer;
- rain gauge;
- thermohygrometer;
- differential pressure sensors

Continuous field measurements and laboratory analyzes of soil gases showed daily variability in concentrations; in addition, if the measurements are made at times favourable to the accumulation of contaminant, the detected concentrations will be higher than at other times of the day.

More details and explanation can be found at the following link https://www.arpae.it/dettaglio_documento.asp?id=7277&idlivello=1171

These experiments were carried out thanks to Copernico srl (UD), www.copernicon.it the consulting company in the field of remediation of contaminated sites that followed the remediation activities from characterization to testing. The images, graphics and tables shown in the present questionnaire are taken from the project documents drafted by Copernico.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.13

1.1 Name and Surname	Aldo Trezzi
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1.4 Position	Principal
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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

Large Industrial Chemical site (more than 100 ha) active since 1901.

Actual main production: Fluorinated Compounds

Historical productions involved large use of CrVI and CHCs, mainly Chloromethanes.

The area of interest for the application of the SVE system is about 7,000 m^2 and is impacted by mainly Chloromethanes both in the vadose zone and in the saturated zone.

2.2 Geological setting

From 0 to 1-2 m bgl typically is present filling material.
From 1-2 m bgl to 18-20 m bgl the soil consists mainly of gravel with sand and silt.
The depth to ground water is approximately 9 m bgl.
The following images show the geological setting from 0 to 10 m bgl.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The main compounds of concern are:
- Tetrachoromethane
- Trichloromethane
- Trichlorofluoromethane

Max concentration detected in unsatured soil:
- · Trichloromethane: 23.00 mg/kg

Regarding the unsatured soil, the only VOC detected in the area was the Trichloromethane, with a concentration of 8.9 mg/kg in the first meter b.g.l., 6.7 mg/kg between 2 and 3 meter b.g.l. and 23 mg/kg between 4.5 and 5.5 meter b.g.l.. Italian law threshold concentration value (CSC) for Trichloromethane is 5 mg/kg, and also the risk concentration value (CSR) defined by the risk analysis for Trichloromethane is 5 mg/kg.

Max concentration detected in the groundwater (2009-2012):
- · Tetrachoromethane : 170,000 µg/l
- · Trichloromethane: 290,000 µg/l
- · Trichlorofluoromethane: 10,000 µg/l

2.4 Regulatory framework

Clean-up goals for soil and groundwater were defined in the Risk Assessment, and are included in the on-going remedial plan, approved in 2012. According to Italian regulation, although the remedial targets are defined on a Risk Assessment basis inside the facility (SSTLs or CSR), groundwater quality at the end of remedial action must comply with regulatory limits (CSC, much more conservative than calculated SSTLs) at the downgradient boundary of the site. Therefore, once reduced the concentration below the CSR for inhalation risk inside the facility, the ultimate clean-up goal for groundwater is to reduce and control the off-site migration.

Nonetheless, scope of the SVE system is to remediate the unsatured soil: reduce as much as technically possible the presence of VOCs in the soil gas and obtain concentration of the VOC compounds in the soil below the calculated risk concentrations (< CSR).

Other technologies have been applied to remediate the saturated zone.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system
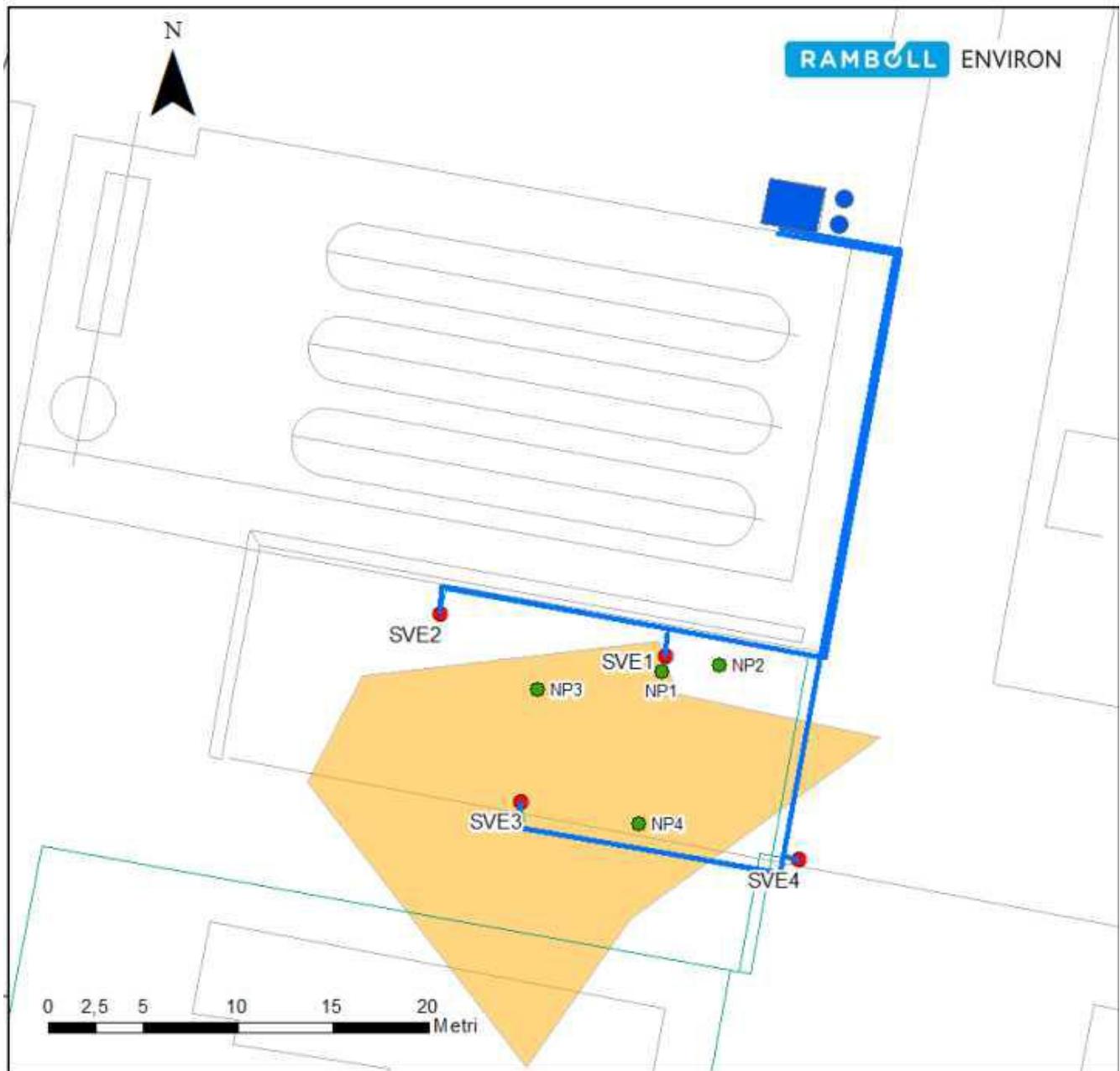
Before the installation of the full scale system, a pilot scale application was performed to estimate the effective Radius of Influence (ROI) of each extraction well, operating Flow Rate & Vacuum per each extraction point. The test system consisted in #4 SVE points (screened from 1 to 9 m bgl), # 4 Nesty Probes Points (each equipped with #4 NP located

at different depths), #1 vapour/water separator tank, #2 air blowers connected in parallel (Each blower: 350 mc/h @ ΔP 150÷175 mbar); #2 granular activated carbon filters connected in series (1,300 litres each) in order to remove the VOC from the vapour stream before the emission in atmosphere.
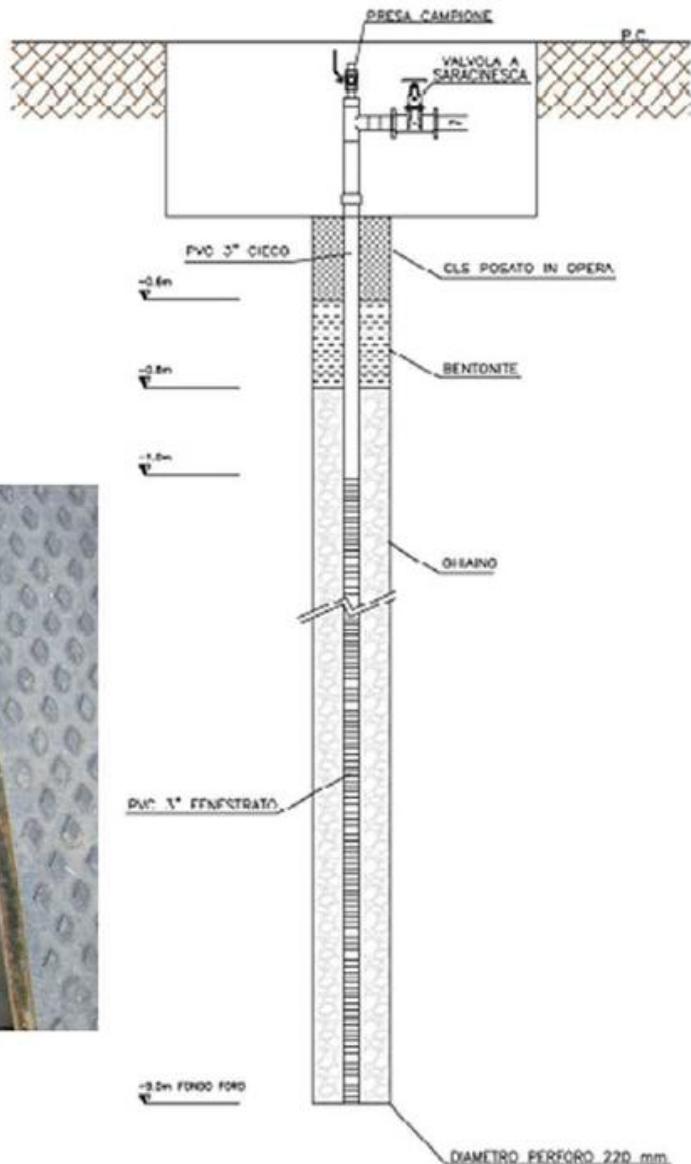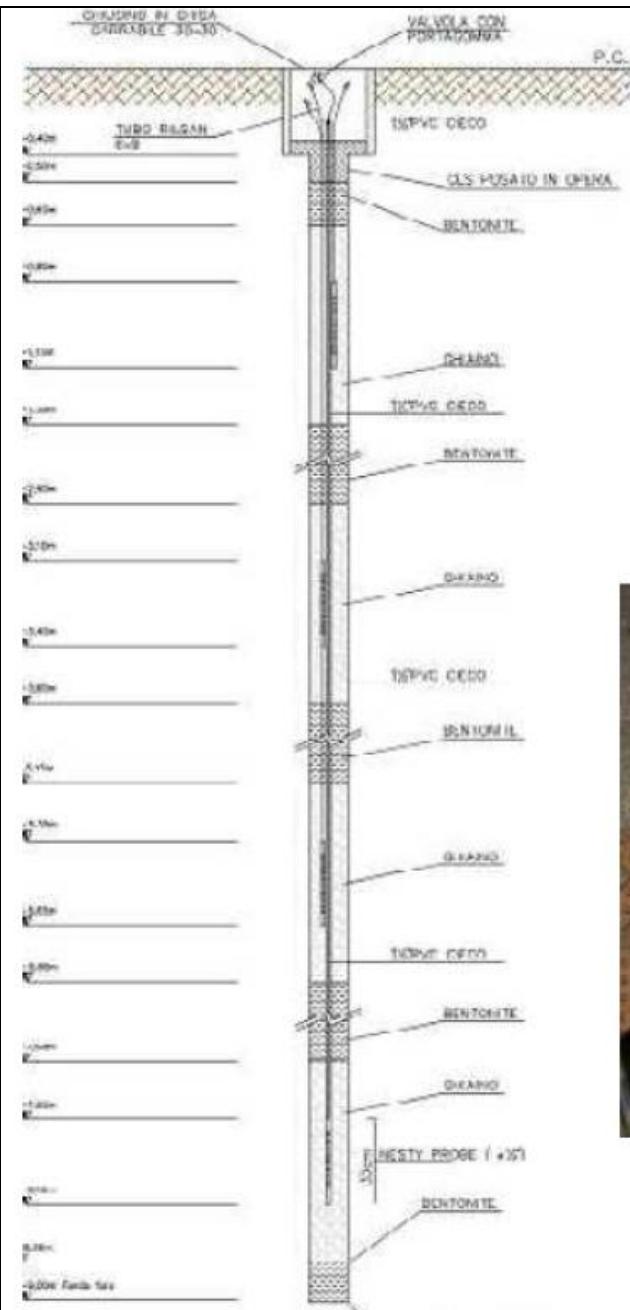
Nesty probes
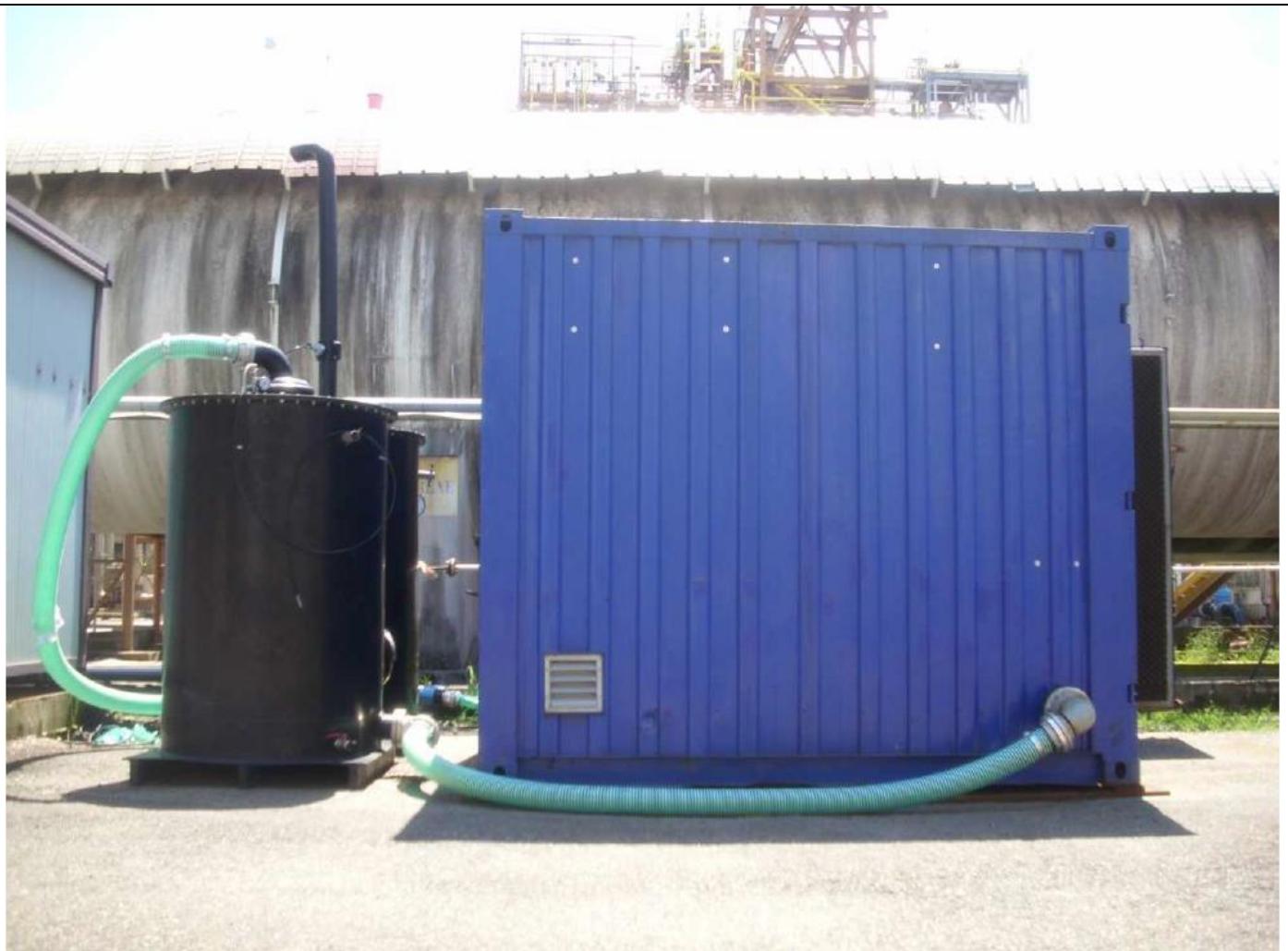
3.3 Radius of influence

Tests performed:
- n. 2 step vacuum test
- n. 5 long-term tests at constant vacuum

Results:
- · ROI = 9 ÷10 m (cutoff -2.5 Pa)
- · Flow rate each SVE ~ 130 mc/h
- · Vacuum @ SVE head: ~ - 30 mbar

Moreover:
- · n. 4 SVE points showed a good overlap of influence areas covered by each point
- · granular activated carbon filters showed good removal of contaminants present in the extracted vapours
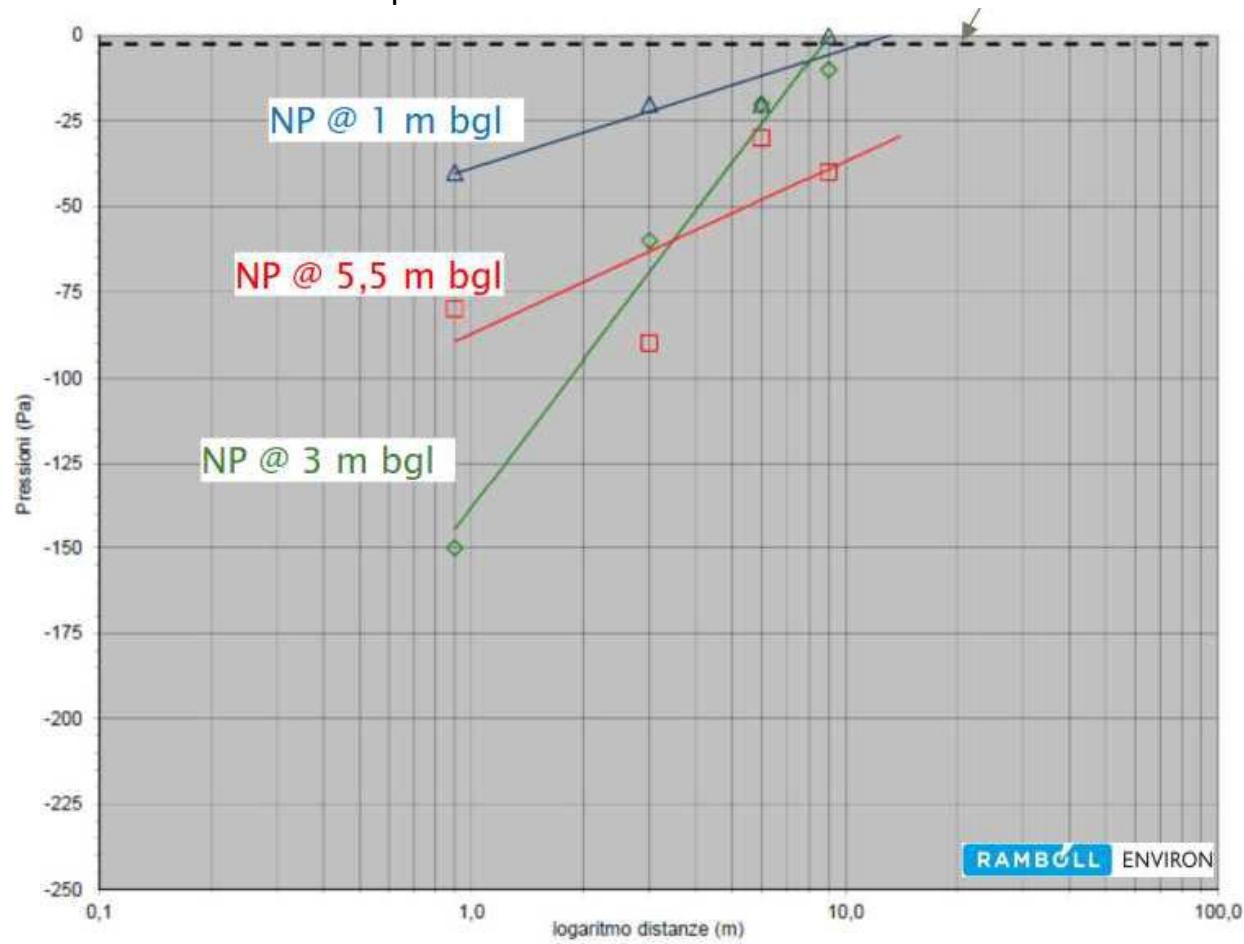
3.4 Off gas Treatment

During the pilot test the extracted vapours were treated by # 2 granular activated carbon filters connected in series (1,000 litres each).

3.5 Control parameters

To assess the effectiveness of the treatment and evaluate the ROI, the following parameters were monitored during the pilot scale application:
- ΔP in/out blower;
- Vacuum at the wellhead of the suction point/points;
- Vacuum induced at the soil gas monitoring points (Nesty Probes) at different distances and depths from the extraction well/wells;
- Flow rate of extracted gases;
- VOC concentrations before and after treatment;
- O_2, CH_4, CO_2 monitoring at each SVE extraction and NP monitoring point before VOC sampling.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The Full Scale SVE has been designed considering the Pilot Test results (ROI, flow rate per each extraction point, vacuum to be applied at each extraction point) and taking into account the whole area to be remediated:

- n. 18 SVE points;
- distance between extraction points: L=2(ROI) cos30 = 17 m
- Design flow rate = 2340 mc/h
- N. 4 blower (750 mc/h @ ΔP 150 mbar - each)
- N. 4 Granular Activated Carbon filters (4000 l – each – 2 duty/2 standby)
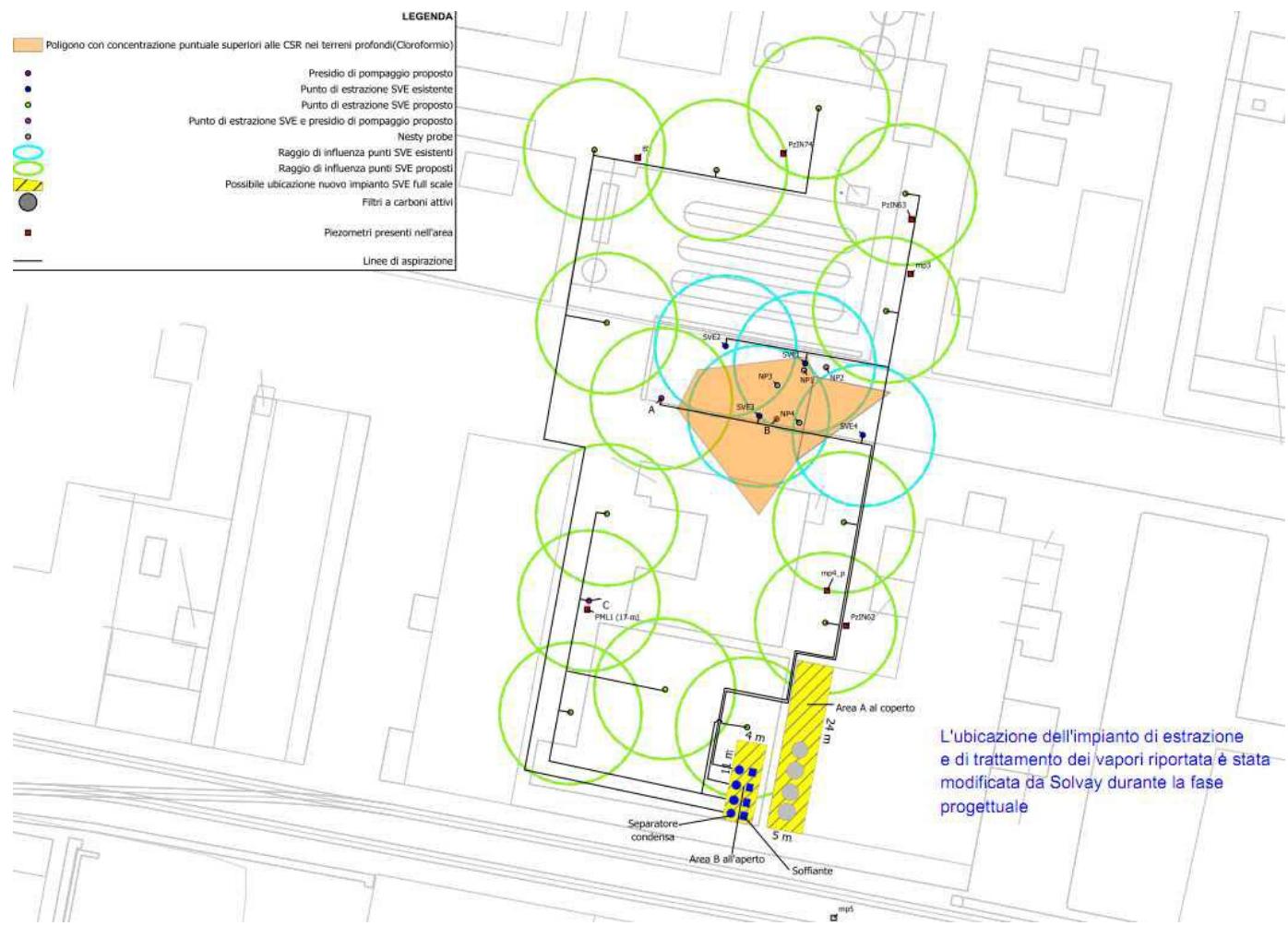
4.3 Radius of influence

The SVE Full Scale ROI is in line with the result of the SVE Pilot Test: about 9-10 m.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

As for off-gas treatment, #4 Granular Activated Carbon filtres (4000 l - each- 2 duty/2 duty/2standby) were installed

4.5 Control parameters

To assess the effectiveness of the treatment the following parameters were monitored with the following frequency

Every two days:
- Monitoring of emissions into the atmosphere with short term tubes

On a weekly basis:
- Air flow and extraction rates
- ΔP in/out blowers, vacuum inducted in each SVE extraction point
- Temperature in/out blowers
- VOC analysis before vapour treatment for each blowers
- Measure of piezometric level in monitoring points present in the area

Every two weeks
- VOC analysis of the treated vapours

On a quarterly basis:
- VOC, O_2, CH_4, CO_2 and vacuum induced at each SVE extraction and NP monitoring point

After the first three years monitoring plan has been modified in agreement with Authorities, and all the activities conducted on a weekly basis until 2016 were then conducted every two weeks. The above monitoring activities allowed also to calculate the VOC mass removal

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

The long term monitoring shows the effectiveness of the remediation technology applied.

The monitoring data collected allow to calculate quite a high CHCs mass removed from the unsaturated soils and show a clear evolution (depletion) over time of the CHCs concentrations measured at the SVE points.

In fact, considering both the pilot plant (active in the period May 2011 - May 2013) and the Full Scale plant (August 2013 - January 2019), the SVE system removed about 5238 kg of CHCs:

- Tetrachoromethane: 3171 kg
- Trichloromethane: 1814 kg
- Trichlorofluoromethane: 253 kg

From the results of quarterly analyses of VOC content in the vapour extracted from the extraction points in the area of the SVE intervention, isoconcentration maps for the above mentioned three contaminants in soil gas could be drawn.

These maps show a progressive decrease in concentrations over time after starting the SVE system.

Following the achievement of the technological limit of the SVE application (asymptotic value of the extracted mass) Stop & Go tests were performed. The tests showed a negligible rebound of the concentration and consequently the SVE system was stopped and confirmatory soil samples were taken which all showed CHSs concentrations below the CSR and also the CSC values.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

Although the characterization surveys, performed initially by drilling boreholes, indicated only few CSC excedances of the CHCs concentration in the soil samples, the application of the SVE system allowed to remove a high mass of VOCs. In order to properly size remediation interventions, it is therefore important to carry out a more detailed characterization of the potential contamination sources in the unsaturated soils using advanced investigation techniques such as, for example, Soil Gas Survey, Membrane Interface Probe Investigations, Passive Soil gas Survey, etc..

7.2 Additional information

To assess the success of the remediation it is necessary to perform:
- trend analysis of each contaminant monitored over time with respect to the initial baseline value.
- quantification of extracted VOC mass over time

7.3 Training need

To ensure the achievement of remediation goals it is necessary to perform a good operation and maintenance of the overall system. To do this it is important that the system is managed by trained personnel.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
VOC	Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are organic chemicals that have a high vapour pressure at ordinary room temperature
CHCs	Chlorinated Compounds
SSTLs or CSR	Site Specific Target Level, which are named CSR in Italian regulation, are concentration target levels defined according to Risk Analysis procedure

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.14

1.1 Name and Surname	Ewa Szczebak
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1.4 Position	Senior Environmental Specialist
1.5 Duties	Environmental consulting regarding soil and groundwater investigation, remediation, risk assessment. Project management.
1.6 Email address	ewa.szczebak@arcadis.com
1.7 Phone number	

2. Site background

## 2.1 History of the site

The site is an active railway area with 4 main tracks and some crossovers. Soil and groundwater was contaminated in 2010 due to a spill of app. 800 Mg of petroleum products (mostly diesel) after a train crash. The maximum admissible concentrations for soil and groundwater are exceeded for light and heavy petroleum hydrocarbons and BTEX.

2.2 Geological setting

Site soil consists largely of fine and medium sands, locally overlaid by sandy loam. Uppermost soil layer is man-made fill (consisting of sandy loam with crushed bricks) and railroad ballast below the tracks. The depth to groundwater is approximately 7 meters below ground surface on the railway area and approximately 5 m bgs on the outflow.
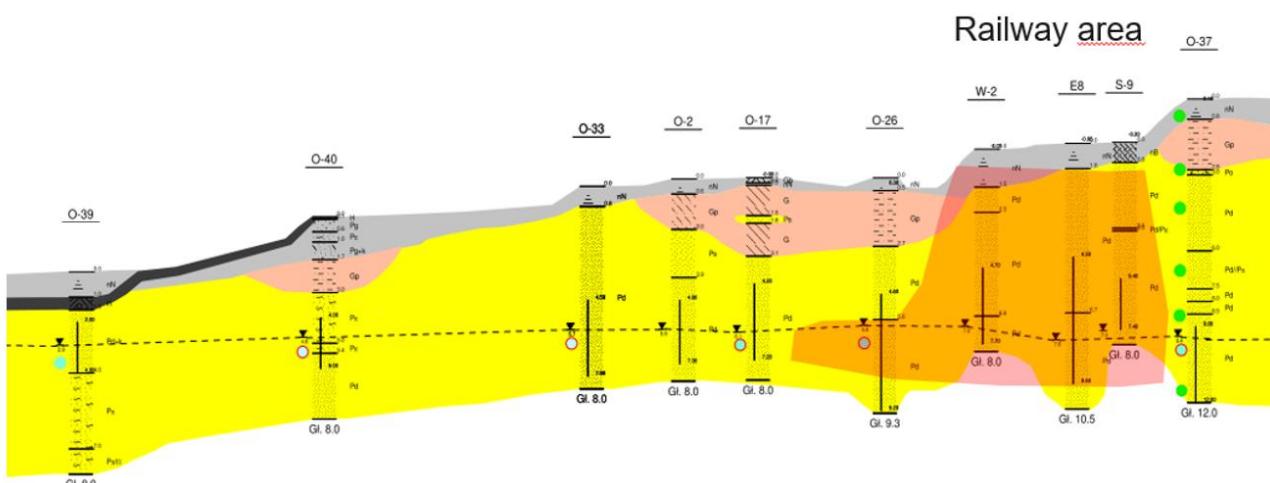
2.3 Contaminants of concern

The contaminants of concern detected in soil:
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons fraction C6-C12: BDL – 10,600 mg/kg
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons fraction C12-C35: BDL – 40,000 mg/kg
- Toluene: BDL – 57 mg/kg
- Ethylbenzene: BDL – 426 mg/kg
- Xylenes: BDL – 1,240 mg/kg

The contaminants of concern detected in groundwater:
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons fraction C6-C12: BDL – 4,990 mg/L
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons fraction C12-C35: BDL – 1,490 mg/L
- Benzene: BDL – 0.5 mg/L
- Toluene: BDL – 29 mg/L
- Ethylbenzene: BDL – 76 mg/L
- Xylenes: BDL – 200 mg/L

2.4 Regulatory framework

Due to a damage in environment after the spill of hydrocarbons the administrative procedure has been initiated. The first step was the extensive site investigation executed in a few rounds, including soil and groundwater sampling, monitoring wells installation and observation of groundwater and LNAPL behaviour. Based on the laboratory results of soil and groundwater samples, exceedances of relevant environmental standards were assessed. Remediation Action Plan was submitted to the Regional Environmental Agency, with the aim of remediation – achievement of soil and groundwater standards. After few a years of remedial system operation (LNAPL skimming enhanced with groundwater drawdown, and venting barrier on the outflow) the law in Poland has changed and the risk-based approach has been implemented. Therefore, the application for remediation based on human health and environmental risk-assessment was submitted to the Regional Environmental Agency. The proposed remedial goal is to limit the migration of contaminated groundwater.

The SVE system is a part of venting barrier, consisting of air sparging (AS) system and soil vapour extraction (SVE) system. Due to close distance between barrier and office building, the SVE system is operating to prevent potential vapour intrusion into the building.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The main goal for the SVE system was to extract contaminants in the gas phase in the area of air sparging system operation. Therefore, pilot tests were carried out on the injection wells screened in the aquifer. Since the geology of vadose and saturated zone is similar (fine sand along the whole profile), the radius of influence of extraction wells was established according to AS pilot tests.

3.2 Injection system

One injection well and three monitoring points were installed in a line for the field test of air sparging (AS) technology. The location of the test was based on future potential venting barrier location. Distance between the injection well and monitoring points was between 1.6 and 2.5 m and it was adjusted due to the presence of underground utility lines (i.e. power line, optic fiber, sewer system). The air was injected by a blower, to a depth of 1.7 – 2.0 m below the groundwater table.

3.3 Radius of influence

Radius of influence (ROI) at around 5 meters was calculated for the air sparging test (air injection into one well and observations in 3 points). The observed parameters were: groundwater level and pressure versus distance. A groundwater level increase of 0.1 m was considered as the boundary of the effect of AS well. Scheme of AS test is presented below.
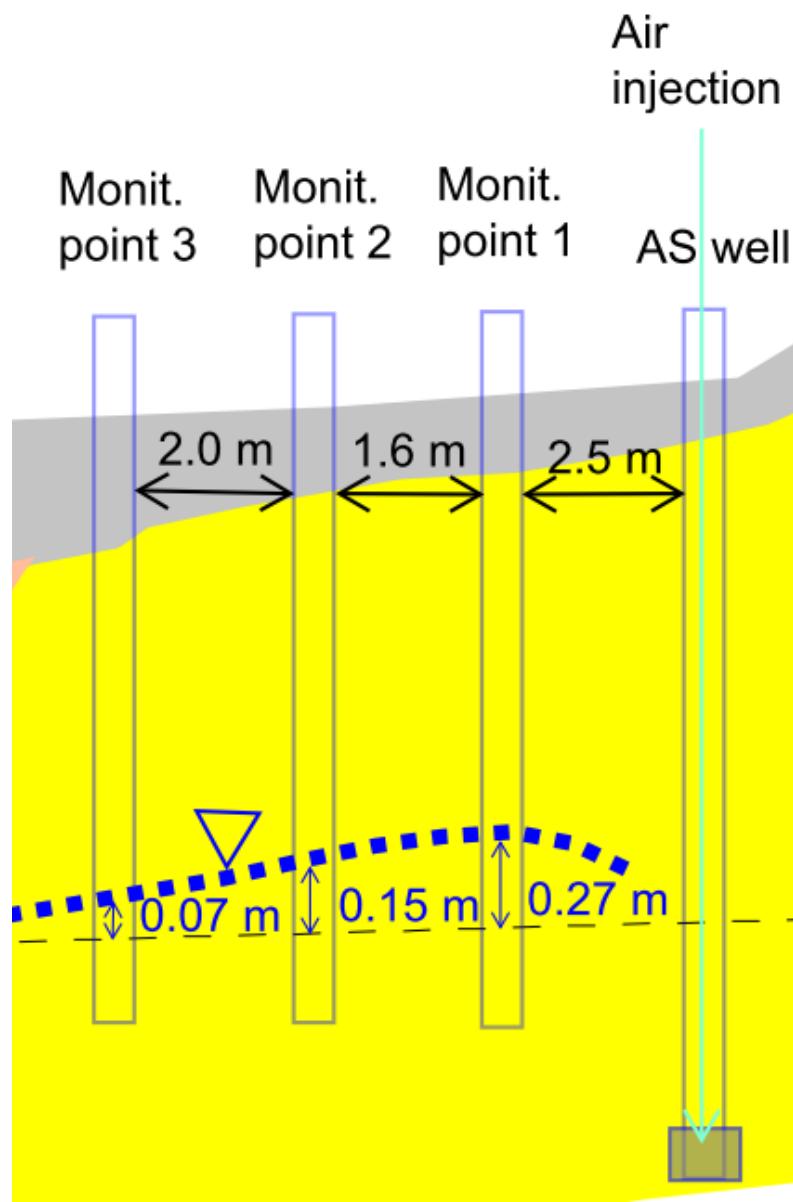
3.4 Off gas Treatment

No off gas treatment was installed for the pilot test, because the test was based on air injection, not extraction.

3.5 Control parameters

For the pilot scale of AS system, it was useful to monitor the oxygen concentrations in monitoring points and in surrounding GW monitoring wells. The increase of oxygen in groundwater was fast and direct proof of effectiveness of air injection.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The SVE system includes the following equipment: a metal container measuring 3 m wide by 10 m long by 3 m high; 11 horizontal vapour extraction wells; and one air compressor. In addition, the system includes a filter with activated carbon to treat the contaminated air.

The soil vapour extraction system consists of eleven 2-inch diameter horizontal wells screened at depth of app. 4.0 – 4.2 m bgs. The wells are combined with pipelines and work as two separate lines, set between two lines of air injection wells.

The SVE system works at intervals alternately with AS system, time of each interval is half an hour.

4.2 Injection system

The air sparging system includes the following equipment: a metal container measuring 3 m wide by 10 m long by 3 m high; 13 horizontal air injection wells; and one blower. The AS system consists of thirteen 2-inch diameter horizontal wells screened at depth of approx. 7.0 – 8.2 m bgs. The wells are combined with pipelines and work as two separate lines, set between two lines of vapour extraction wells.
The AS system works at intervals alternately with SVE system, time of each interval is half an hour.

4.3 Radius of influence

Radius of influence (ROI) was calculated for the air sparging test (air injection into one well and observations in 3 points) at around 5 meters. The observed parameters were: groundwater level and pressure versus distance. A groundwater level increase of 0.1 m was considered as the boundary of the effect of AS well. Scheme of AS test is presented below.
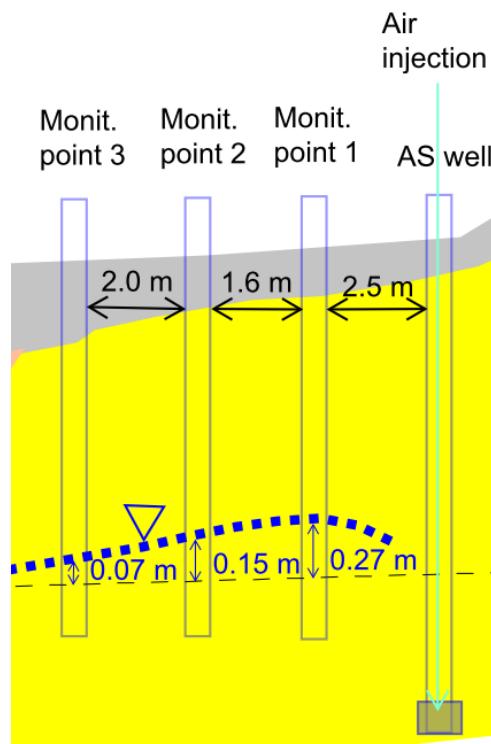
4.4 Off gas Treatment

Activated Carbon Adsorption is used as treatment method for off gas. A vertical filter with a capacity of 1 cubic meter is installed in the container. Granulated activated carbon is used as air emissions treatment.

4.5 Control parameters

- PID measurements are taken once a year in extraction points to check the effectiveness of vapour extraction.
- Periodically a PID measurements in the off-gas are taken to control the effectiveness of soil gas treatment.
- Water levels are measured regularly to control proper work of AS system.
- Contaminant concentrations and basic physical-chemical properties are measured in GW twice a year as part of groundwater monitoring programme for the site.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

PID measurements have been taken once a year in extraction points to check the effectiveness of vapour extraction.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

1. **methodology and procedures**: before the installation of full-scale system, the hydrogeological data from 1-2 years of measurements (dependent on the local hydrogeology conditions) should be gathered and analyzed. It would help to avoid a situation of eventual groundwater level rise causing flow of the groundwater into extraction wells (i.e. danger of equipment damage). And for the AS system it would help to install injection wells to a reasonable and cost-effective depth.

2. **technical aspects**: the system generates a lot of heat, therefore the building where the equipment is installed should be adequately designed to decrease the indoor temperature in the summer (i.e. ventilation). Location of wells and related interdistance for the full scale system are determined also by the local conditions (i.e. underground utility lines, land accessibility). Therefore, it should be considered when designing the system to keep the proper influence area.

3. *regulatory aspects*: it would be much easier to conduct pilot studies of proposed remedial technology before the submission of Remediation Action Plan (RAP). Since after the entry into force of the new regulation, formally you should submit a RAP just after a contamination is acknowledged. Therefore, understandably, most of the clients prefers to submit the RAP before field tests. Then, if field test results show a lack of effectiveness of the proposed technology, RAP should be amended.

7.3 Training need

Training would be recommended both for consultants (for better understanding of the methodology and its needs) and for the authorities (for better understanding of the capabilities of SVE and the need of field tests prior the full scale system installation). Workshops and presentations about case studies are an effective learning tool.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
AS	Air Sparging
BDL	Below Detection Limit
BGS	Below Ground Surface
BTEX	Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylenes
GW	Groundwater
LNAPL	Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
RAP	Remedial Action Plan – an official document submitted to the authority for approval
ROI	Radius of Influence

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.15

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The area in question is an active industrial production site that carries out engineering activities and is located in Northern Italy.

The site was divided into three portions for different distribution and characteristics of the secondary sources and managed with different remediation approaches.

Unlike the other sites managed through reductive dehalogenation processes, the one in question provided for treatment through AS/SVE for the following reasons:

- in this portion there is no natural anaerobic degradation process of the chlorinated organic compounds;
- the speed of the local water table is significantly higher than the other two source areas (at least double) and would not allow an adequate residence time of the injected substrate in the intervention area, effectively nullifying its effectiveness.

There are no specific protocols for the management of the site, but the control and technical evaluation activities in support of the Municipality (proceeding administration appointed by the Region for the management of contaminated sites) are carried out by ARPA. ARPA Lombardia is an environmental protection agency established in 1999 that deals with the prevention and protection of the environment, supporting regional and local institutions in multiple activities: from the fight against atmospheric and acoustic pollution to interventions for the protection of surface and groundwater, from monitoring electromagnetic fields to investigations on soil contamination and remediation processes.

2.2 Geological setting

From the hydrogeological point of view, the site is characterized by a single undifferentiated aquifer, which rests on a rocky substrate about 35 m from ground level, as shown in the section below.

The hydraulic conductivity, in the portion of the site of interest is of the order of 3-4 * 10^{-5} m/s, resulting in a rather high water table speed, with flow direction from West to East. The average subsidence of the aquifer is about -13 m from ground level.
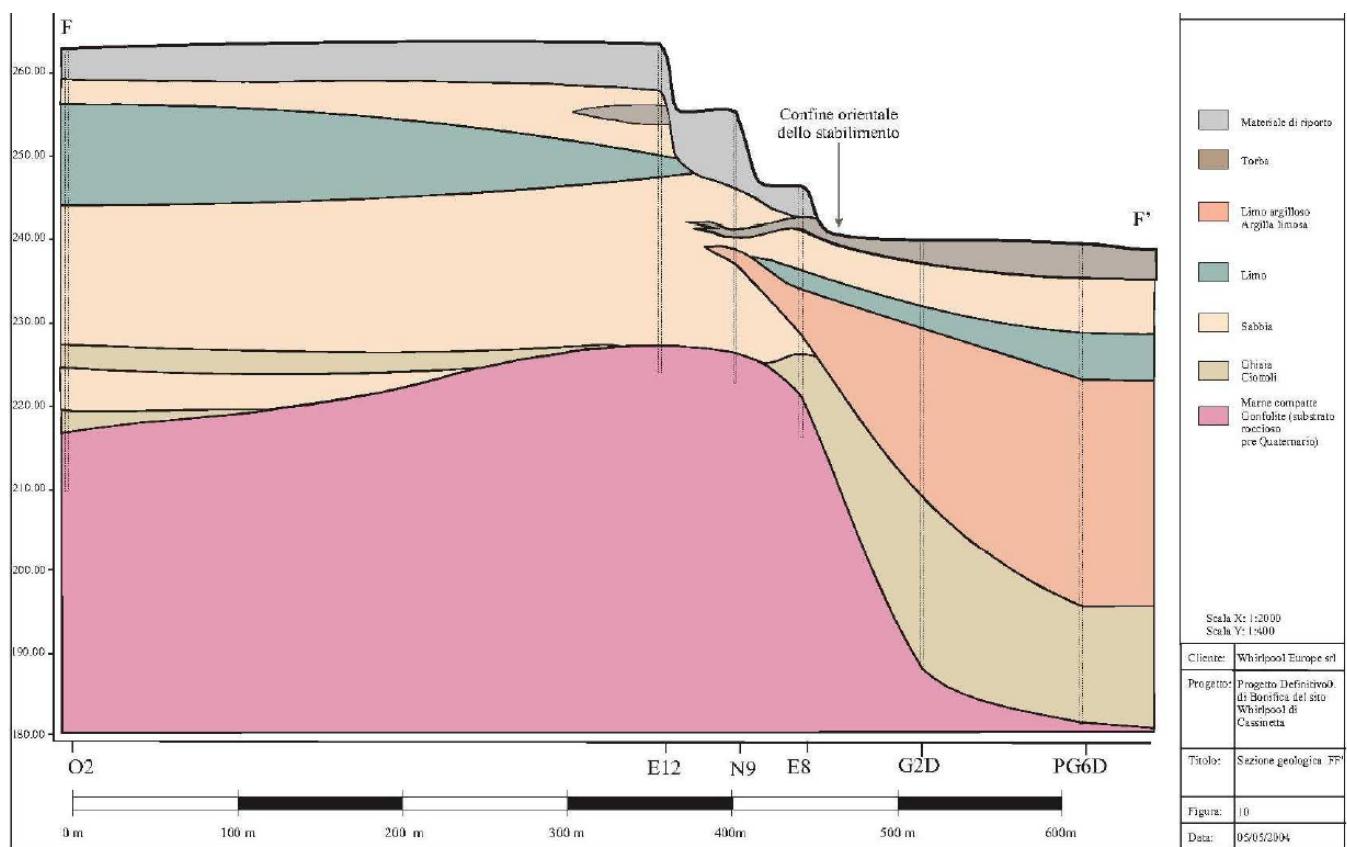
2.3 Contaminants of concern

Due to the production activities carried out, the groundwater was contaminated by chlorinated solvents, mainly tetrachlorethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2-dichloropropane (DCP), cis 1,2-dichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethane and vinyl chloride. In detail, TCE, DCP and PCE are to be considered primary pollutants, as they were actually used in the production processes of the plant during the 1960s and 1980s, while the other compounds are the products of the partial natural degradation of the previous ones.

The concentrations are very high, for some compounds in the order of mg/l. In particular, at the time of the start of the treatment in question were recorded maximum TCE values of 7.1 μg/l, DCP of 4 μg/l, PCE of 4100 μg/l and summation of organohalogen compounds of 4110 μg/l (thus demonstrating that most of the contamination is due to PCE), compared to regulatory limits for groundwater, respectively, of 1.5 μg/l, 0.15 μg/l, 1.1 μg/l and 10 μg/l for the summation.

The characteristic contaminants are essentially found in the saturated part of the subsoil, while in the unsaturated zone they were not detected in significant concentrations, thus excluding the presence of hot spot of contamination in the unsaturated zone.

2.4 Regulatory framework

The procedure was conducted pursuant to Legislative Decree 152/2006.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The technique involved the combination of an air injection system at the bottom of the saturated area, Air Sparging (AS), and a system for extracting the vapours produced (Soil Vapour Extraction - SVE).

In detail, the first is aimed at stripping volatile contaminants present in groundwater, favouring their passage into the vapour phase and therefore their migration into the unsaturated portion of the soil, from which they are then removed thanks to the SVE system in the atmosphere following appropriate treatment.

The pilot scale tests were carried out in the period between April 2008 and June 2009, autonomously from the party without the adversary of ARPA.

3.2 Injection system

As in the saturated area, compressed air was injected.

3.3 Radius of influence

The range of influence was obtained from direct tests in the field, evaluating the depression exerted in the control wells. Support model simulations were not used.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

The gas treatment system is similar to that which was then implemented in the full-scale plant, described in detail in sheet 4.4.

3.5 Control parameters

The monitoring of the pilot plant consisted in the quantification of chlorinated compounds both in the air extracted from the SVE wells installed in the unsaturated state, and in the groundwater taken from the wells in the saturated state.

At the end of the pilot plant, quantities greater than l.q. only for TCE and PCE (expressed in mg/l) were found in waters, while the other chlorinated compounds possibly present showed negligible concentrations.

From the data found in the extracted gases it emerged that:

- the extraction of vapour phase contaminants from the SVE wells from the unsaturated soil was efficient and allowed the achievement of concentrations of chlorinated compounds in the vapours of up to 1 g/m^3;
- the quantity of extracted contaminants is significantly greater in the deepest unsaturated wells among those used, that is, in those cracked near the capillary fringe compared to that of the more superficial wells;
- - the contaminants present in the extracted vapours essentially come from the stripping of groundwater and not from the presence of contaminants in the unsaturated zone; in fact, in the absence of compressed air injection, concentrations of contaminants were found to be considerably lower in the interstitial vapours than those detected with the AS system on.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

4 SVE wells were used and installed in the unsaturated domain, of which 1 was existing and 3 were installed new, headed about 1 m above the surface of the aquifer (indicatively therefore up to an altitude of 12 m) and cracked for 5 m.

Each SVE well was combined with a pair of AS wells, which were bored in the immediate vicinity of the saturated domain.

The figure shows the plan of the AS/SVE system built on the site. In it are indicated:

- in blue the wells connected to the AS plant (the PAS1S-1D pair had been used in the small-scale intervention);
- in red the wells connected to the SVE plant (SVEFT3S was used for the pilot plant);
- in green the piezometers that are planned to be used as water monitoring points.
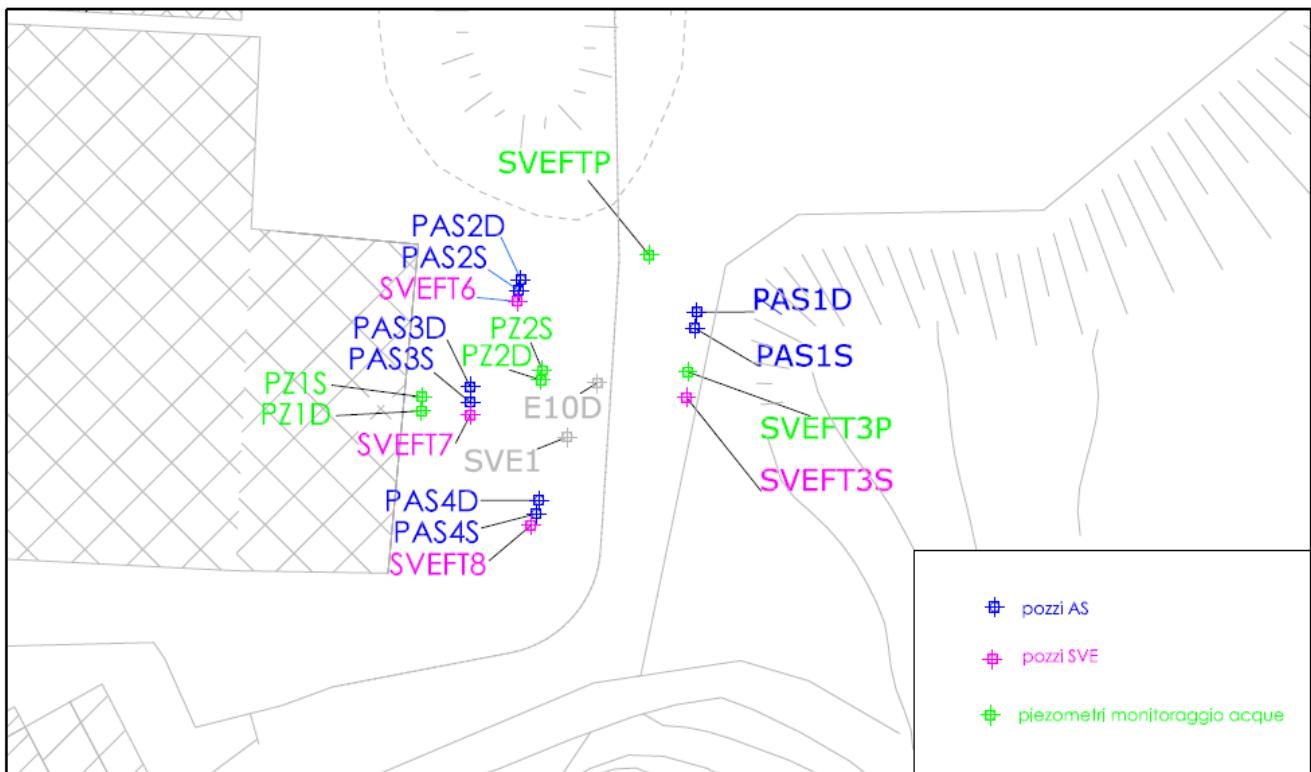
In detail, the SVE system consisted of the following components:

- 1 centrifugal aspirator with 2.5 - 3 kW power, with a flow rate of 150 Nm^3/h at a depression of 120 mbar;
- 4 steam extraction pipes from as many SVE wells;
- 4 wellhead connections, designed for the measurement of air flows, depression and the taking of steam samples;
- 4 butterfly valves to control the flow rates of each suction well;

- 4 vacuum gauges;
- 4 valves for fine adjustment of the extracted flow rates;
- 1 manifold for collecting the suction pipes arriving from the wells;
- 1 dust collector filter for atmospheric air;
- 1 condensate separator, with relative booster pump;
- 1 activated carbon filter for condensate treatment;
- 2 activated carbon filters for air, connected in series and intended for the treatment of vapours;
- connection pipes, valves, various fittings, measurement and regulation sections, pneumatic quick couplings;
- command and control instrumentation (electrical panel in common with the AS system) which allowed manual or automatic operation;
- 1 container housing the entire system (shared with the AS system).

The system has been designed to guarantee a flow rate of continuously extracted vapours equal to at least double the flow rate of the air blown into the groundwater, and therefore overall capable of sucking at least 120 Nm^3/h.

In the event of operating anomalies, a GSM telephone dialer was arranged who could send the error reports to specialized personnel able to restore the functionality of the system.

All quick-connect points have been prepared for taking steam samples and for inserting the following portable field instruments online:

- digital or analogical vacuum gauges for measuring depression;
- PID probes for indirect detection of VOC concentration;
- anemometers for measuring the extracted airflow.

The full-scale plant was started up in March 2013.
Here are some pictures of the AS/SVE system.

4.2 Injection system

4 pairs of groundwater insufflations wells (AS) were built, of which, n. 1 was existing and n. 3 were newly installed, each capable of guaranteeing the injection for 5-10 minutes of approximately 30 Nm^3/h of air at an injection pressure of at least 3 bar.

Approximately, for each side-by-side, a well has a depth of 25 m from b.g.l. and the other 30-35 m from ground floor; given the nature of the compounds, with a density greater than that of water, the cracked section is located on the bottom and has a length of about 50 cm.

The AS system consisted of the following components:
- 1 rotary compressor (able to guarantee air flows of at least 70-100 Nm^3/h at a pressure of 4 bar, imposing a maximum pressure of 10 bar);
- 1 storage tank for compressed air (volume 270 l), equipped with a 0-16 bar pressure gauge and safety valve for venting overpressures;
- 1 airtight compressed air delivery pipe to the distribution system, equipped with a pressure regulator (0-10 bar);
- 8 independent insufflations pipes;
- 8 wellhead connections;
- 8 analogical flow meters and 8 pressure gauges;
- 8 timed solenoid valves for air distribution in AS wells;
- 8 manual ball valves for regulating the airflow on the individual wells;
- connection pipes, valves and various fittings, measurement sections by means of float flow meters and flow regulation;
- command and control instrumentation (electrical panel in common with the SVE system);
- 1 container housing the plant (shared with the SVE system).

Downstream of the storage tank, the compressed air passed through a de-oiler filter equipped with a timed vent valve, which allowed the elimination of any oily condensate formed in the machine, preventing it from entering the groundwater.

In order to ensure the efficiency of the insufflations process, the system was set to automatically blow about 30 Nm^3/h of air into a pair of wells for a duration of 5-10 minutes, while the other three pairs remained inactive.

4.3 Radius of influence

The range of influence was defined based on the evaluation of the pilot test.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

Before the final discharge into the atmosphere, the extracted vapours were subjected to purification treatment with the following characteristics:

- number of filters 2;
- total filter volume 800 l;
- quantity of GAC (granular activated carbon) 360 kg total;
- filter section 800 mm
- filtration speed 0.11 m/s
- total contact time 14.4 s.

These characteristics, established on the basis of what was verified with the pilot scale test, ensured compliance with the limits set by Legislative Decree 152/06 for each of the site-specific gaseous compounds.

The protocol provided for the replacement of spent activated carbon and its subsequent dispatch for disposal/regeneration in authorized external plants to be carried out before the reduction in the efficiency of the vapour treatment system would not allow compliance with the emission thresholds.

4.5 Control parameters

The monitoring plan included:
- monitoring of the vapours extracted from the SVE wells and entering/leaving the vapour treatment plant;
- periodic inspection, maintenance, and adjustment of the AS/SVE system;
- the collection and analysis of water samples, measurement of chemical-physical parameters of the water (dissolved oxygen, redox potential, pH, temperature) in 9 piezometers, available in the intervention area as well as 1 new downstream (G16) made at approximately 110 m away from the treatment area, aimed at evaluating the influence of the AS treatment on the measured solvent concentrations with respect to a blank campaign at the initial time

In fact, immediately after the start-up of the SVE plants (in March 2013) and before the start-up of the AS system, a sample of vapours was taken from each of the suction wells, analyzed for chlorinated solvents, which constituted the "blank" as not yet influenced by the simultaneous start of the insufflations of air in the saturated portion of the local subsoil. After that, the AS system was also started.

The location of the monitoring points of the 9 monitoring piezometers is visible in the following figure.

The monitoring during the execution of the intervention took place on a quarterly basis.
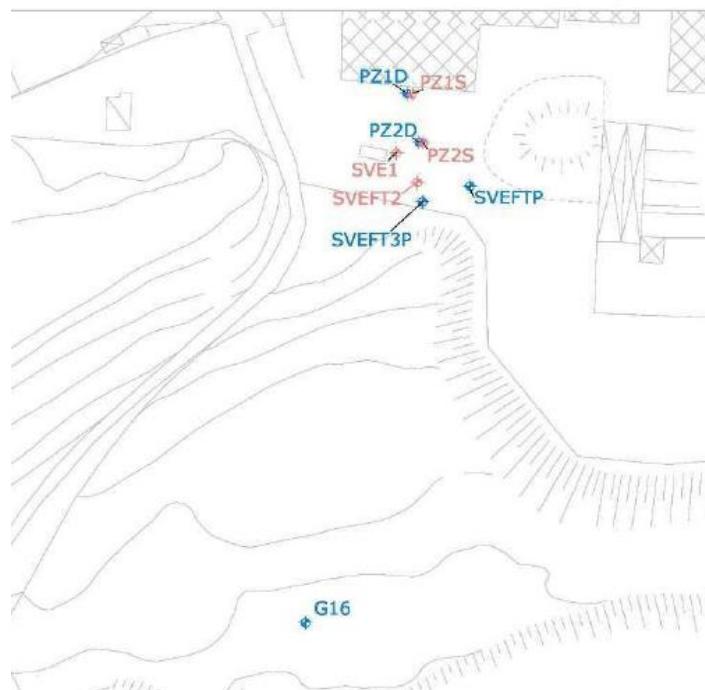
5. Enhancements to SVE

5.1 Pneumatic and/or hydraulic fracturing

Discontinuous operating periods of the plant have been implemented, as described in § 6.1, in order to intervene on rebound phenomena and periodically evaluate the plant's cost/benefit effectiveness.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

From the evaluation of the monitoring data, it was found that the wells from which the greatest extraction of contaminants takes place are SVEFT7 and alternatively SVEFT8. From the start of the intervention in July 2017, considering the total flow rate detected on the delivery section of the blower and the concentrations detected, it was possible to estimate the mass of contaminants extracted during the execution of the AS/SVE intervention equal to approximately 645 kg of organochlorinated solvents, consisting mostly of PCE.

On the occasion of the monitoring in July 2017 it emerged that:

- in the water taken from the piezometers of the deep portion of the aquifer, a clear reduction in the concentrations of contaminants present, up to over 90% of the initial values, and in particular of PCE and TCE, emerged;
- even in the waters taken from the piezometers of the surface portion of the aquifer, a decrease in concentrations was found even up to over 90% of the initial values;
- in the waters of the G16 piezometer, located downstream from the intervention area, fluctuating concentrations were recorded after treatment but with a decreasing trend, however with still considerable residual values. This was probably due to the considerable distance from the intervention area and the presence of a peaty horizon at a depth of about 6 m which could have limited the impregnation of the contaminants thus allowing their release over time. It was considered that it would have been necessary to wait a very long time before having an effect similar to that obtained in the intervention area. Following the concentrations detected in this piezometer, hydraulic containment was active downstream to it;
- overall, the concentration of contaminants in the extracted vapour stream decreased significantly over time, but detectable concentrations were still present in the extracted stream.

In general, from the examination of the results of the analyzes performed and the graphs that show its trend, the decrease in the concentrations of the summation of chlorinated solvents with respect to t0 emerged over time and the asymptote conditions seemed to be reached in the intervention area.

In May 2018 and up to December 2018, the AS/SVE systems were therefore shut down, and new monitoring was carried out starting from the end of the following month. There was thus an increase in concentrations in the groundwater of the intervention area, in

particular in the more superficial PZ1S and Pz2S piezometers.

It was therefore considered useful to restart the plant again for a further period of six months in order to allow further massive extraction of the contaminants present, until July 2019. The monitoring carried out following the reactivation of the plant certifies the removal of a mass of contaminants equal to 16 kg over a period of approximately 7 months.

The analytical results of the PZ1S and PZ2S piezometers show, in the period following the reactivation of the system, still significant concentrations of chlorinates in the PZ1S and PZ2S piezometers.

The AS/SVE intervention was deactivated in July 2019 and a new monitoring took place 6 months after the shutdown.

Overall, the removal of approximately 660 kg of PCE has been estimated during the operating period (2013-2020), with a decreasing trend over time.

In 2020, the authorities accepted the request to shut down the system because from the cost-benefit ratio of the treatment it emerged that it was no longer the best intervention technique at sustainable costs. This decision was reinforced by the fact that there is a hydraulic barrier at the border, and therefore an operational safety device (MISO).

The monitoring of groundwater after the works, downstream of the closure of the intervention, was prescribed on a quarterly basis until the remediation of the control piezometers provided for the area is completed, and then for another 2 years every six months.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

The remediation intervention allowed the removal of part of the contaminants, but did not prove decisive, as can be seen from the analysis of the analytical data on groundwater. It can be hypothesized that the specific geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the site have reduced the effectiveness of the scheme, in particular for the fine lithology of the area (peat, silt and clayey sand) and for the scarce subsidence that with seasonal fluctuations, prevented as a matter of fact the volatilization of the contaminants in the interstitial spaces of the unsaturated portion and the subsequent removal.

It could have been appropriate to undertake an evaluation of the behaviour of the plant, both for the purposes of designing it and predicting its behaviour, also to optimize its management, by means of a two-phase numerical modelling simulation, which considered the behaviour of air and water in the aquifer, evaluating the phase passage of pollutants over time and as a function of air injection/gas extraction, such as Petrasim.

7.2 Additional information

The Final Reclamation Project was based on a double criterion to establish the achievement of the reclamation:

a) limits in the treatment area that ensure compliance with the legal values (CSC) on the legal boundary of the site derived from the application of groundwater transport models used for the Risk Analysis. In detail, the reclamation limit concentrations were calculated using the Ogata Banks model, both for the deep aquifer and for the superficial aquifer, applying the appropriate values of the hydrogeological parameters for each, obtained through dedicated calibration.

The following table summarizes the concentrations (µg/l) admissible at the end of the remediation operations.

TCE	PCE	DCP	DCE	DCA	VC
2.57	17.85	1498	42.69	29.57	2.98

b) technical remediation limit, was considered reached when the decrease in the concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater stabilized around an asymptotic value of the reduction in the concentrations of chlorinated solvents below the limit values calculated with the Ogata Banks model. In particular, following the identification of the achievement of the asymptote (verified by evaluating the analytical results of 3 subsequent samplings), provisions had been made for the suspension of the remediation activities and the subsequent execution of verification samplings on a quarterly basis and then half-yearly.

7.3 Training need

There is a need for specific training for more in-depth design assessments, such as the use of two-phase numerical models to design and manage an AS/SVE system adequately and in a site-specific manner.

7.4 Additional remarks

Here are some indications on costs:

1	Organizzazione, supervisione attività / Report finale	€	9.000,00
2	Realizzazione pozzi e piezometri	€	52.000,00
3	Installazione impianti / Demobilizzazione impianti a fine intervento	€	12.600,00
4	Gestione e monitoraggio intervento	€	47.600,00
		€	**121.200,00**

Glossary of Terms

A glossary will help a you to maintain the level of precision necessary for key terms and maintain consistency across the text. We found out that sometimes terms that sounds similar like "contaminated" and "polluted" are used in the same way as synonyms in some country, while in other they have different meanings (due to legislation or for other reasons). So fill in this glossary for your key elements and of course for acronyms.

| Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
AS	Air Sparging
GAC	Granular activated carbon
l.q.	Limit of quantification
MISO	Operational safety device
PID	Photoionization detector
PLC	Programmable logic controller
SVE	Soil Vapour Extraction
VOC	Volatile organic compound

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.16

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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The area in question coincides with a discontinued fuel point of sale (classified as an unhealthy 2nd class industry pursuant to the Municipal Hygiene Regulations), located along Via Lorenteggio in Milan in a city context with mixed tertiary, commercial and residential use.

The site is identified by map 18 of Sheet 505 of the NCT of the Municipality of Milan.
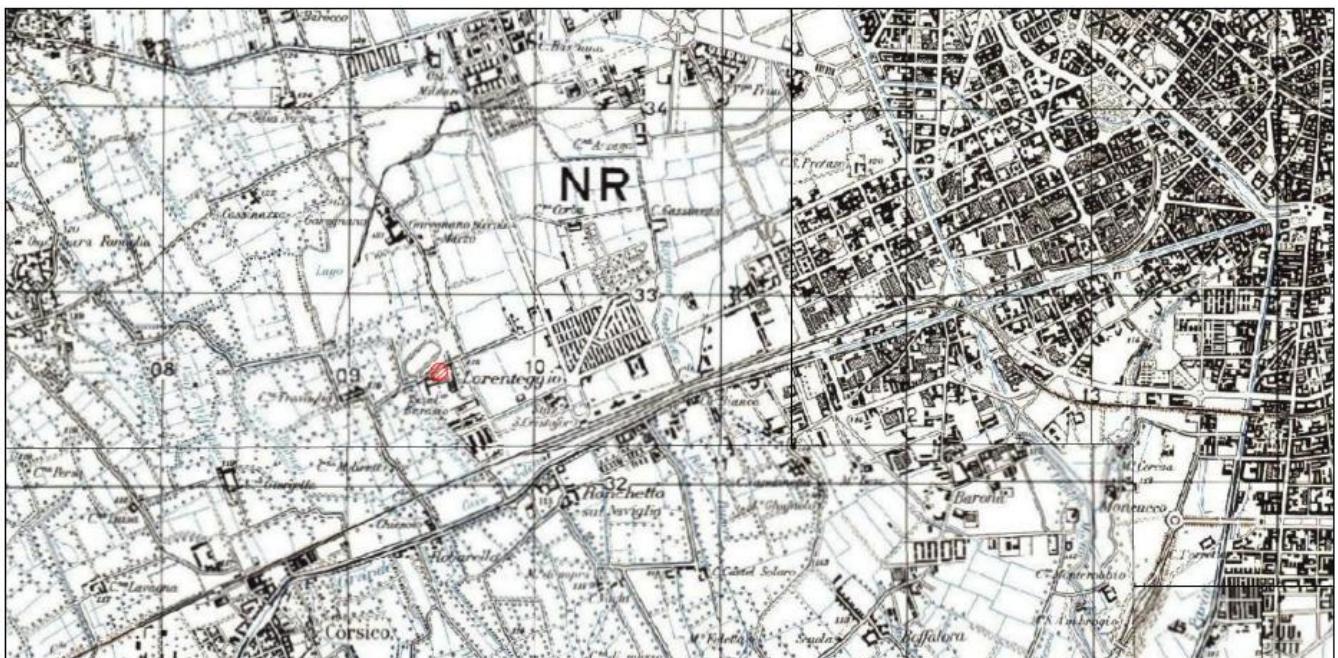
The site does not fall within the perimeter of a SIN and is not affected by any protocols stipulated with the PA.

The plant was located in an area owned by a third party, used with a lease agreement and with the obligation to return it to the owner upon definitive cessation of the activity.

Currently, after the characterization and implementation of the remediation work (not yet completed), the site - after being returned to the property owner- looks like an entirely asphalted area equipped with a public car park at ground level.

The commercial settlement in question, following the temporary cessation of the sale of fuels requested by the managing oil company (with a note dated 03/24/2011) approved by the Municipality of Milan (with note prot. 266874/2011 of the Ufficio Carburanti del Settore Attuazione Mobilità e Trasporti), ceased all activities in 2011.

The site was therefore subject to cleaning and inerting the tank fleet, with interventions

carried out in April 2011.

Subsequently, in application of municipal regulations, the site was the subject of a preliminary environmental investigation campaign carried out in conjunction with ARPA. The results of this preliminary environmental check have shown that the reference CSCs have been exceeded and initiated the procedure pursuant to Title V, which saw the presentation, approval and execution of the Characterization Plan as a first step.

2.2 Geological setting

The stratigraphy of the site reconstructed with the surveys delineates a soil of mainly sandy matrix. In detail, the lithological sequence found can be summarized as follows:

- mixed material - Mixed material, essentially consisting of medium sand with the presence of gravel and pebbles that extends from 0 m from ground level about 2 m from ground level;
- silty sand and sand with gravel - fluvioglacial alluvial deposit consisting of alternating levels of silty sand and sand with gravel, extending from 2 m from ground level to 16 m from ground level.
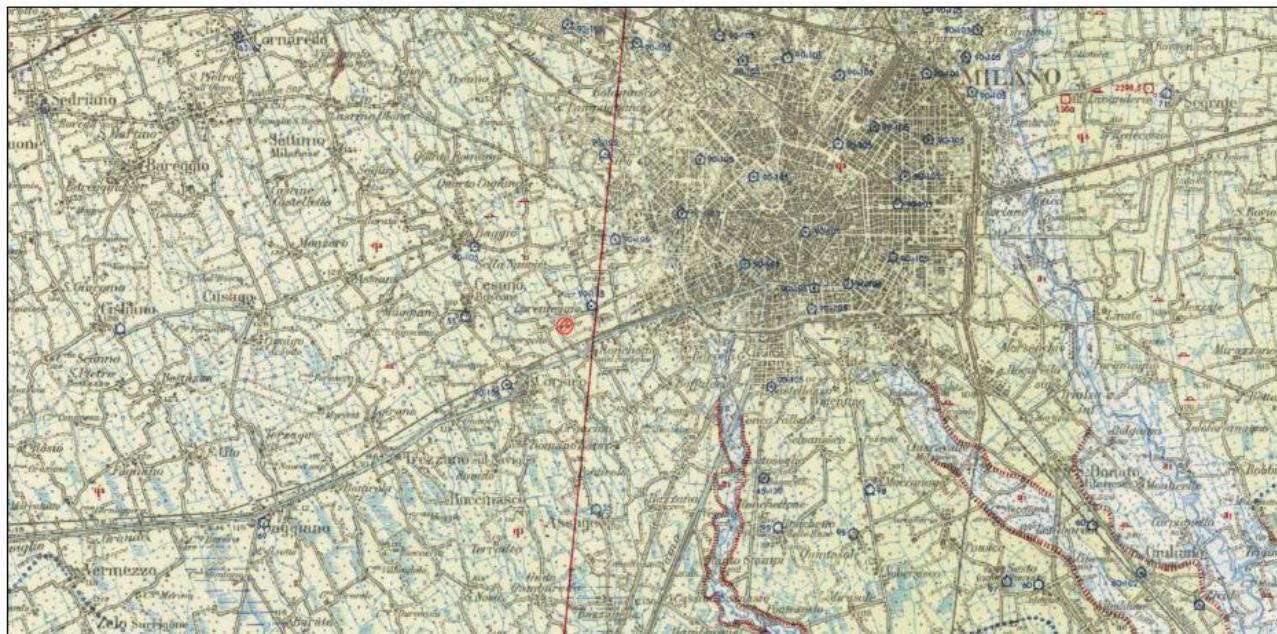
The environmental characterization survey carried out made it possible to identify a free aquifer with high permeability, contained within the alluvial deposit with gravels. The measurements of the piezometric levels performed during the characterization phase indicate an average groundwater depth of about 8.00 m from the p.c., i.e. a water table level that is around 109 m a.s.l.

Over time, the phreatometric checks carried out during the groundwater monitoring campaigns have highlighted the persistence of constant conditions in the direction of flow and periodic variations in the subsidence in a range of about 2 m.

The level measurements, together with the data deriving from the altimetry survey,

made it possible to reconstruct during the characterization phase the trend of the water table, which shows a prevailing flow direction towards ESE and an average hydraulic gradient of approximately 0.16 %.

The direction of flow of the water table was always confirmed by the phreatometric data acquired during the monitoring carried out on the site.

The average transmissivity of the aquifer calculated on the basis of the Pilot Tests described below equals to 0.1 m^2/sec.
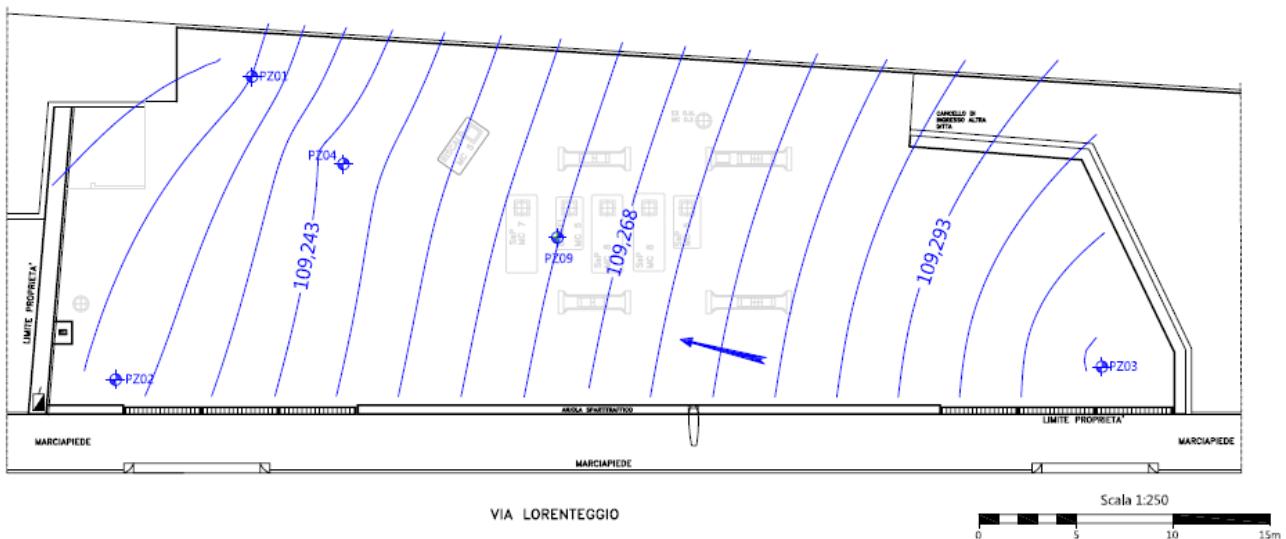
The contamination detected was in the deep soil (SP), starting from the level of the basement level of the underground tanks (about 4 - 5 m from the local p.c.); the local water table was also contaminated.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The preliminary environmental investigation phase (IA), carried out at the same time as the removal of the tank park, concerned: walls and bottom of the excavation resulting in the removal of existing tanks on site, bottom of the resulting excavation after the removal of a small tank for the storage of used oils.

Analytical tests were carried out on the samples taken, aimed at determining the concentration values of heavy and light hydrocarbons (C <12 and C 12 - 40), IPA, BTEXS, Pb and MTBE.

The results of the analytical assessments were compared with the acceptability limits (CSC) set by current legislation (in particular table 1, column A of annex 5 to title V of part IV of Legislative Decree 152/06 and subsequent amendments and additions, considering that the area in question will be returned to the property once the decommissioning of the PV is completed) for the quality of the soil/subsoil matrix with respect to possible contamination.

The results of the control analyzes carried out by ARPA showed the presence of exceedances of the CSCs in particular for petroleum hydrocarbons (C> 12).

This evidence led to the continuation of the proceedings pursuant to Title V of Part IV of Legislative Decree 152/06, the communication of which was made in advance by the obliged party pursuant to art. 249 of the same Legislative Decree 152/06.

The site was therefore the subject of a Characterization Plan assessed and approved during the dedicated Services Conference and subsequently authorized by the Municipality of Milan with the PG 790255/2012 deed of 04/12/2012.

The results of the characterization showed that the reference CSCs were exceeded (col. A of Tab. 1 of annex 5 to Title V of part IV of Legislative Decree 152/06) for parameters C <12, C> 12, BTEXS (benzene, toluene, xylenes, ethylbenzene) in the unsaturated soil matrix and for the parameters (Tab. 2 of Annex 5 to Title V of Part IV of Legislative Decree 152/06) total hydrocarbons n-hexane, benzene, xylenes in addition to MtBE and EtBE (with reference to the values indicated by ISS, used at the time, not being regulated at that date) for the local groundwater matrix.

Pending the continuation of the procedure, an intervention by MISE was activated, implemented through a system for the extraction of water from the local groundwater (the discharged water was initially collected and disposed of as liquid waste, awaiting authorization from the competent authority to discharge it into the public sewer system).

The obliged subject therefore presented (pursuant to Article 242 and following, as

Ministerial Decree 32/2015 was not yet in force) a risk analysis report and related remediation project to be implemented with the simultaneous intervention on the groundwater matrix (by P&T) and on unsaturated soil/subsoil (by SVE and AS).
The risk analysis and remediation interventions were evaluated and approved in the Services Conference and then authorized by the Municipality of Milan.

2.4 Regulatory framework

- "Linee Guida Serbatoi Interrati" ARPA - Lombardy, Milan - April 2004;
- Law 9 December 1998, n. 426;
- Legislative Decree 11 February 1998, n. 32;
- Legislative Decree 3 April 2006, n. 152 "Norme in materia ambientale";
- Legislative Decree 16 January 2008, n. 4 "Ulteriori disposizioni correttive ed integrative del decreto legislativo 3 aprile 2006, n. 152 ";
- Law 28 January 2009, n. 2;
- Legislative Decree 3 December 2010, n. 205";
- Law 9 August 2013 n. 98;
- DM 31/2015
- D.G.R. Lombardy 10 February 2010 n. 8/11348;
- ISPRA (formerly APAT), October 2010 "Protocollo ISPRA-INAIL (ex-ISPESL) per la valutazione del rischio associato all'inalazione di vapori e polveri, in ambienti aperti e confinati nei siti di bonifica – Rev.0";
- ISPRA (formerly APAT), June 2009 "Appendice V – Applicazione dell'Analisi di Rischio ai Punti Vendita Carburante ai Criteri metodologici per l'applicazione dell'analisi assoluta di rischio ai siti contaminati" (Appendix V);
- ISS/ISPESL database (update 2018);
- ASTM E2081-00 (2004), "Standard Guide for Risk-Based Corrective Action", ASTM International
- APAT, June 2008 "Documento di riferimento per la determinazione e la validazione dei parametri sito-specifici utilizzati nell'applicazione dell'analisi di rischio ai sensi del D.Lgs. 152/06";
- APAT, March 2008 "Criteri metodologici per l'applicazione dell'analisi assoluta di rischio ai siti contaminati rev. 2".

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The remediation approach involved the application of a Pump and treat (P&T) intervention on groundwater (with subsequent reintroduction in the hydrogeological upstream groundwater) and a joint intervention of air sparging (AS) and soil vapour extraction (SVE) on unsaturated soil.

In order to assess the applicability) of the AS (Air Sparging) technologies for the aquifer and SVE (Soil Vapour Extraction) for the unsaturated soil to the site under examination, pilot tests of AS and SVE were performed.

These results showed that neither the introduction of air into the groundwater nor the extraction of air from the subsoil have significant effects on groundwater levels at the design flow rates of the plant.

On the scale of the pilot test, n. 4 points for the execution of the Soil Vapour Extraction test were prepared by core destruction perforation and pushed to a depth of 6 m from the local p.c., then equipped with 2" PVC piping.
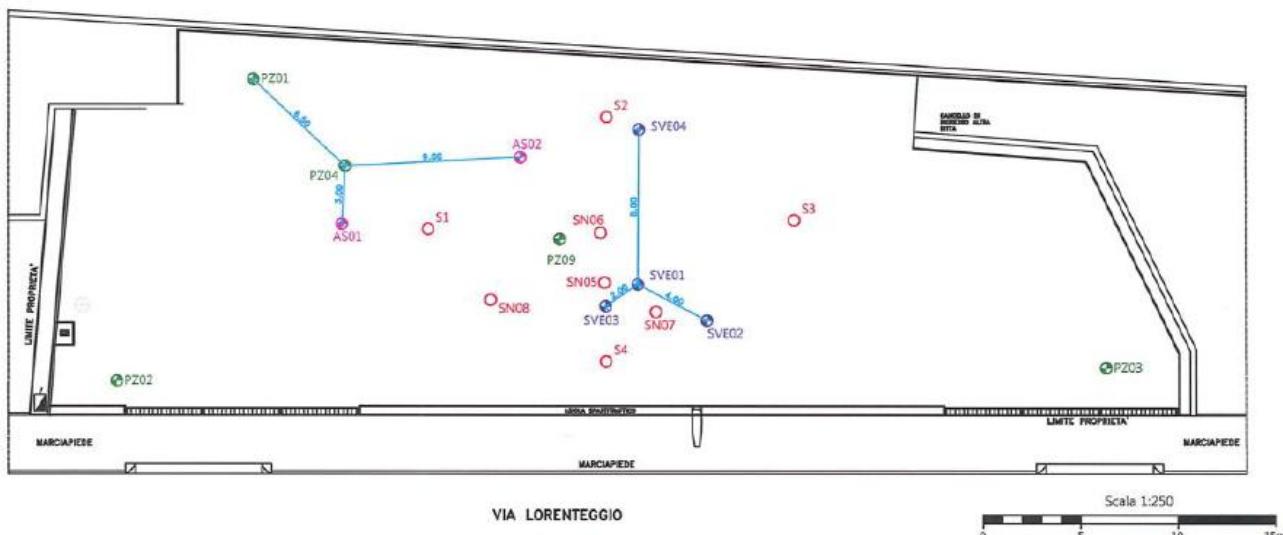
LEGENDA

○ Sondaggi realizzati per la caratterizzazione ambientale del sito

● Piezometri realizzati per la caratterizzazionde ambientale del sito

● Punti di Air Sparging da realizzare

● Punti di SVE da realizzare

In order to assess the applicability of the SVE technology to the site in question and determine the range of action induced in the ground by the suction of air, a step test was conducted by placing a point in suction and using other wells as monitoring points.

3.2 Injection system

In the pilot scale application, specially drilled wells were used (boreholes pushed up to 6 m from the local p.c., equipped with a 2" PVC pipe) and the carrier gas used was atmospheric air (the same then used at the real scale).

3.3 Radius of influence

In the pilot scale application, a step test was carried out, placing the SV01 point in suction with increasing flow rate steps and using points SV02, SV03 and SV04 as monitoring points.

The extraction and blowing system used a dry vane compressor. For the treatment of interstitial vapours extracted from the subsoil, activated carbon cartridges for air were used.
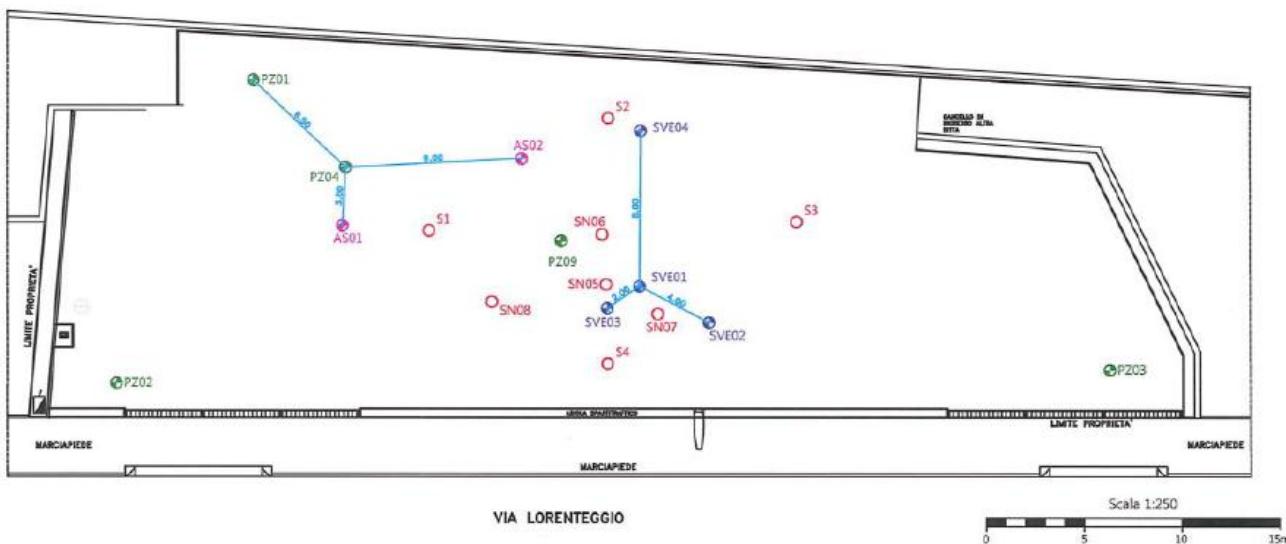
The extraction of unsaturated air at point SV01 induced, at the maximum flow rate used (80 m^3/h), a depression of the order of 15 mbar at the suction point and a maximum of 0.3 mbar in the SV02 located 4 m from the extraction point.

As the extraction rate varied, there was a sharp increase in the amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) extracted from point SV01, with maximum values of the order of 300 ppm.

Considering, in accordance with the industry guidelines, the value of 0.25 mbar as the minimum significant depression to have an influence on the suction side, it is possible to establish a range of action of the SVE, at the maximum tested flow rate, between 2 and 3 m.

In order to verify the applicability of the AS technology to the site under examination, determine its range of action and verify the combined effect AS + SVE, a step test was carried out to blow air inside point AS01, using points SV02, SV03, SV04, AS02, PZ04 and PZ01 to monitor the test parameters. In the combined test point SV01 was placed under

suction, with a constant flow rate and set by determining the flow rate steps of the air introduced in point AS01.

A second test carried out on AS and SVE kept the flow of air extracted from point SV03 constant, while in connection with point AS01, flow rate steps of injected air were set.

At the end of the SVE tests, exploiting the oxygenation of the soil induced by the recall of air, a BV test was performed by monitoring the indicator parameters of any possible bacterial activity capable of decomposing the hydrocarbon components.

The parameters used for the dimensioning of the SVE system were chosen according to the results of the pilot test, which can be summarized as follows:
- Calculated radius of influence, ROI: 2.7 m from the vapour extraction point;
- Depression applied to each point SVE, PEa: from -10 to -20 mbar;
- Extraction rate for each SVE point, QEa: about 70 Nm^3/h.

From the results of the pilot tests and from the definition of the Conceptual Model of the site, the parameters for calculating the duration of the remediation were defined:
- Extraction rate for each SVE point, QEa: about 70 Nm^3/h;
- Air inlet pressure at each point AS: QIa: about 300 mbar Nm^3/h;
- VOC concentration entering the remediation system, Ci: 430 mg/Nm^3;
- Estimated volume of the source of contamination, V: 800 m^3;
- Concentration of contaminants in the source of contamination, Cc: 8802 mg/kg.

The overall duration of the reclamation of the subsoil was estimated in the project in the order of 3 years.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

For the pilot plant, a capture system was used consisting of activated carbon cartridges, which were then disposed of (code EER 19.13.02).

3.5 Control parameters

The pilot scale monitoring and sampling plan evaluated the concentration variations of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) using a portable PID photo ionizer and estimated the triggering of bacterial activity in the soil by evaluating the variations of O_2 and CH_4.

To assess full-scale applicability, the following were measured, as the operating flow rates vary:

- extraction flow, depression and VOC concentration on the air extraction line.
- depression and VOC concentration on monitoring points

In the AS and combined AS and SVE test the following were monitored:

- inlet flow rate and pressure on the air inlet line
- extraction flow, depression and VOC concentration on the air extraction line.
- VOC concentration, temperature, dissolved oxygen and groundwater level at the monitoring points during the first test
- depression and VOC concentration on the monitoring points during the second test
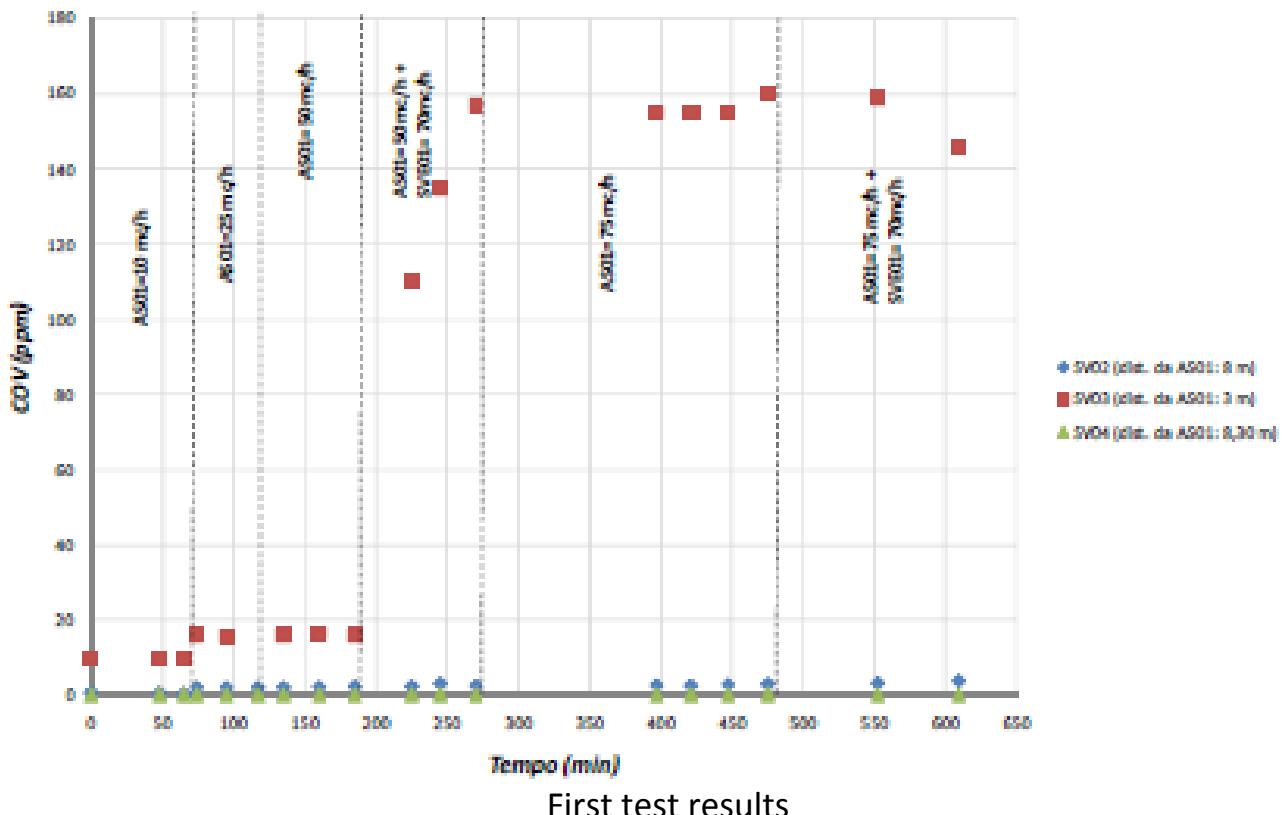
First test results
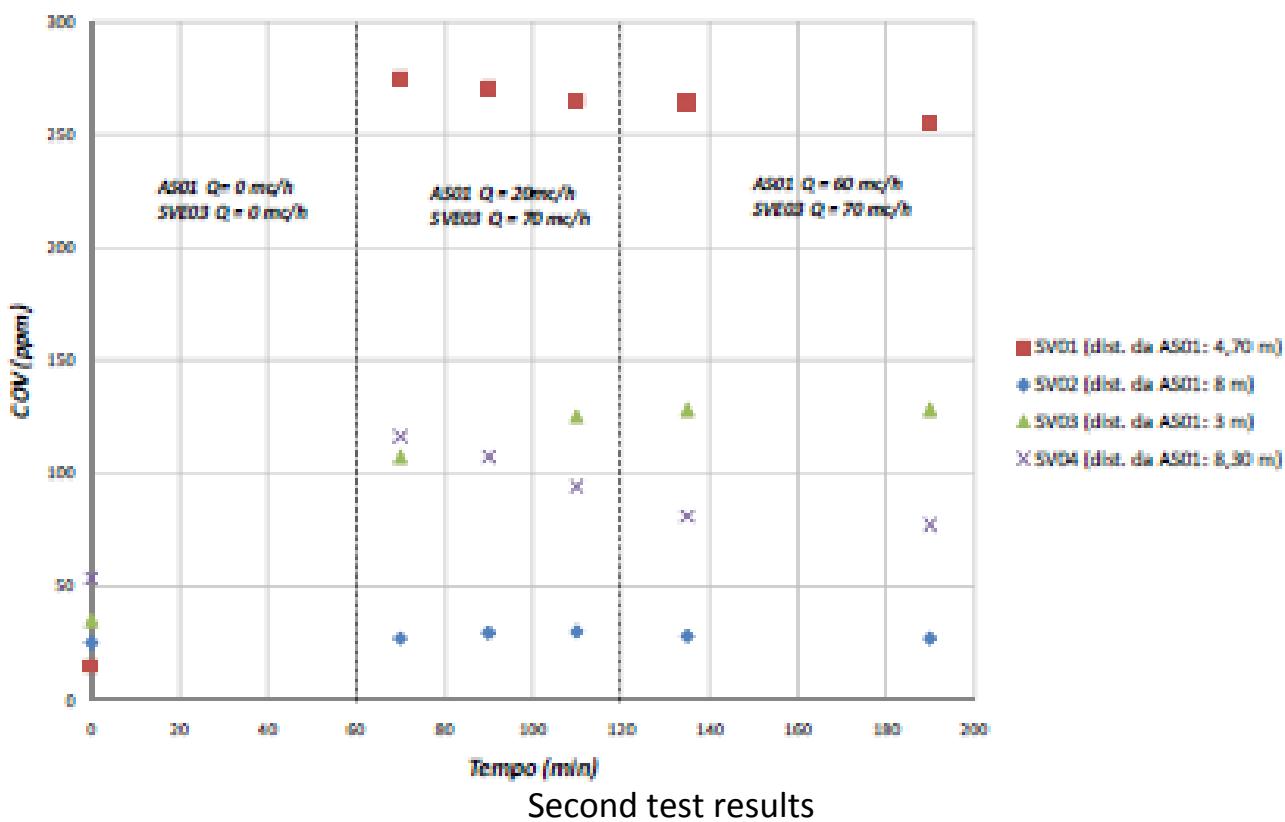
Second test results

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system

The number, spatial location, and construction characteristics of the vapour extraction points were defined in consideration of the ROI determined through the pilot tests, the areal and vertical distribution of the contamination, without neglecting the litho-stratigraphic structure of the site.

The parameters used for the dimensioning of the SVE system were chosen according to the results obtained from the pilot test; in particular, the following project parameters were assumed:

- Calculated radius of influence, ROI: 2.7 m from the vapour extraction point;
- Depression applied to each SVE point, PEa: from -10 to -20mbar;
- Extraction rate for each SVE point, QEa: about 70 Nm^3/h.
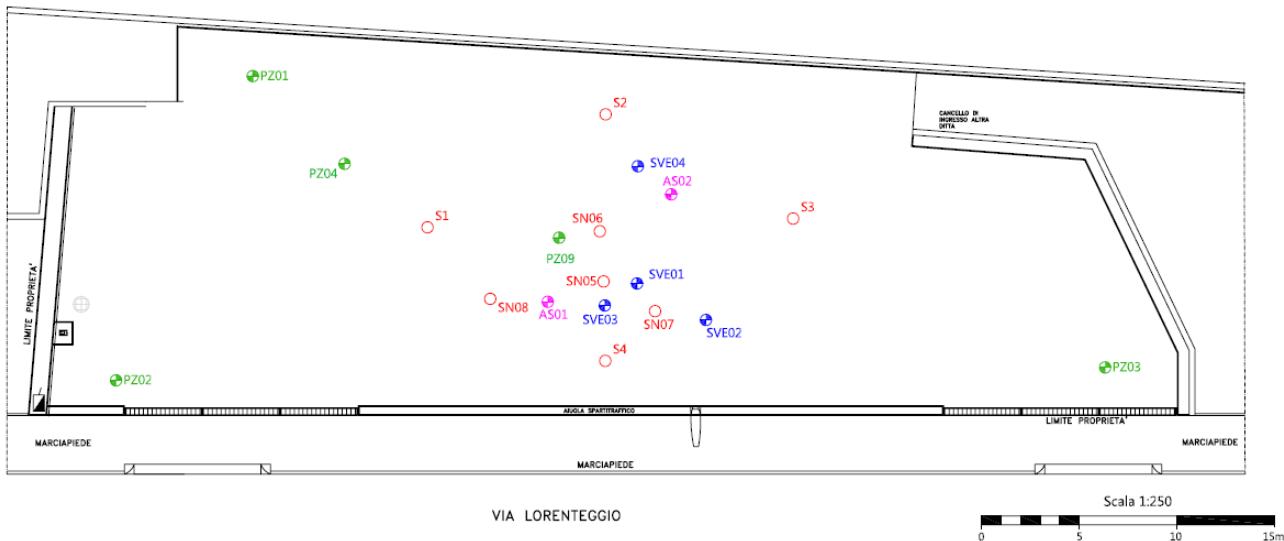
The vapour extraction system consists of 10 points, all made by means of core destruction drilling, with the housing in the sounding hole of a non-toxic PVC pipe with a diameter of 2", installed at a maximum depth of 9 m from the ground level (in particular, some SVE wells were built up to 9 m deep and with a filter section between 7 and 9 m from the local ground level; some SVE wells pushed up to 7 m deep and with a filter section between 5 and 7 m from the local ground level; some SVE wells pushed up to 4 m deep and with a filter section between 2 and 4 m from the local ground level).

LEGENDA

- Ghiaietto siliceo
- Tappo di bentonite in pellets
- Tubo HDPE Ø 2" fessurato

Chiusino carrabile 40x40 cm
Piano Campagna
Pozzetto in cls
Tappo di testa
Testa filetto gas
Perforo Ø 178 mm
Bolacca cemento-bentonite
Tappo di fondo

Punti SVE in area con contaminazione tra 7 e 10 m

Punti SVE in area con contaminazione tra 5 e 7 m

Punti SVE in area con contaminazione tra 2 e 4 m

The steam extraction lines consist of 2 HDPE pipes (ø between 1" and 3") collected upstream of the condensate separator in a manifold; each line was equipped with a flow meter, vacuum gauge, regulation valve and sampling valve for the aspirated flow. A vacuum gauge and a dilution valve was installed at the manifold.
The flow extracted from the subsoil is divided into the two aeriform and liquid phases by means of two air/water separators ("condensate traps") with a capacity of 200 liters.

The condensation water accumulated inside the separators, if necessary, can be sucked up and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of current legislation on waste (Legislative Decree 152/06 and subsequent amendments).

SVE system operation diagram

Remediation systems layout

4.2 Injection system

In the full-scale application, atmospheric air was used as a carrier gas and the system was built with the installation of n. 10 SVE wells.

The ventilation system has provided for the installation of 2 side channel blowers (regenerative blower), by means of which to induce a depression in correspondence with the vapour extraction wells created/positioned in order to treat specific portions of unsaturated subsoil, favouring the desorption of the contaminants from the solid phase to the gas phase.

The criterion underlying the design choice to use two blowers was based on the opportunity to alternate the steam extraction points on two separate lines, allowing some flexibility in managing the system and letting it operate during partial maintenance.

In particular:
- BLOWER 1 - afferent to 8 steam extraction points, capable of reaching a depression between -200/-250 mbar, for a total flow rate of approximately 560 Nm^3/h, in order to guarantee an equal air flow for each extraction point at about 70 Nm^3/h;
- BLOWER 2 - afferent to 7 steam extraction points, able to reach a depression between -200/-250 mbar, for a total flow rate of about 500 Nm^3/h, so as to guarantee an equal air flow for each extraction point at approximately 70 Nm^3/h.

The blowers, each connected to a group of suction points, work individually alternately according to on/off cycles controlled by a timer.

4.3 Radius of influence

The operating range of influence used in the project was assumed to be equal to the ROI obtained from the pilot tests, i.e. 2.7 meters for each single ventilation point.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

The vapours extracted from the subsoil have been collected and conveyed to condensate traps, where the separation between the interstitial gas and any water vapour present in the extracted air flow takes place; the condensate water is removed from the separators by means of special booster pumps and sent to a water treatment system before being discharged into the sewer system.

The interstitial vapour, once dehumidified, passes through an anti-particulate filter before passing through the blower that generated the vacuum and only then is sent to the air handling unit.

To reduce the pollutants present in the extracted interstitial gases, a pair of filters in series with granular activated carbon was installed.
The treatment unit has also been provided with arrangements that allow the filters to be arranged in parallel in the event that the inlet flow shows compatible VOC concentrations.

The exhaustion time of the activated carbons used for the treatment of interstitial gases, estimated on the basis of very conservative theoretical calculations, was set in the project as approximately 87 days and was verified with the results of the analyzes carried out on the outgoing air samples from the plant from the respective plants.

This check made it possible to program the replacement of the carbon pack of the filters according to the actual site-specific conditions.

4.5 Control parameters

To evaluate the effectiveness of the SVE intervention in the three dimensions, checks were carried out during the start-up phase of the plants and subsequently with periodic checks.

The reclamation plant and the state of the sites were periodically subject to visits aimed at:

- verify the correct functioning of the systems;
- perform routine maintenance of the system;
- schedule any extraordinary maintenance interventions;
- monitor the operating parameters of the plant and possibly remodel the adjustments;
- check the quality of the flows entering and leaving the water and air treatment system.

Before starting the plant, or at T_0, a complete monitoring of the groundwater was carried out, with detection of the static piezometric level and measurement of the chemical/physical parameters with particular attention to dissolved oxygen values.

At the first start-up of the SVE/AS plant, the appropriate adjustments were made on the operating parameters (extracted/injected flows, pressures/depressions, etc.) and the simultaneous monitoring of the subsoil response (concentration of VOC - O_2 - CO_2 in the interstitial vapours, induced elevations in the aquifer, dissolved oxygen levels in groundwater, etc.) and the efficiency of the treatment systems.

During the setting up, the following measurements were therefore carried out every 2 days:

- relief of depressions in the vapour extraction points and on the manifold;
- survey of the VOC concentrations and the volumetric percentages of O_2 and CO_2 in the vapour extraction points;
- survey of the concentrations of VOCs entering and leaving the air treatment system;
- measurement of extracted flow and injection rates;
- pressure relief at the injection points;
- piezometric survey in correspondence with all wells/piezometers installed on-site;
- measurement of chemical-physical parameters with particular reference to dissolved oxygen (OD).

The set-up took about 10 days and ended with the testing of the air treatment system by sampling and laboratory analysis of the vapours entering and leaving the system.

The above analytical results allowed to validate the use of the portable photo ionizer (hereinafter PID) as a subsequent tool for controlling the quality of the effluent.

Check-ups were carried out on a monthly basis on the system in order to verify the correct functioning of the system and monitor the operating parameters of the system (extraction/injection flow rates, pressures/depressions, VOC - O_2 - CO_2 concentration in the interstitial vapours, OD concentration in groundwater, piezometric levels, etc.) making any new adjustments if necessary.

During operation, routine maintenance of the plant parts was performed (filter cleaning, etc.) and, if necessary, extraordinary maintenance (replacement of activated carbon, waste disposal, etc.).

On an annual basis, samples were taken from an absorber vial to be sent to the laboratory to analyze the gaseous flow in and out of the air treatment system.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

Following the injection of atmospheric air into the saturated subsoil and the ventilation of the vadose portion, mobilization and removal of the volatile organic compounds present and oxygenation of the subsoil were obtained.

The increased availability of oxygen favours the aerobic biodegradation processes of hydrocarbons.

For this purpose, periodic respirometric test campaigns (every six months) were carried out during operation, which consists of monitoring the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations for a sufficiently long period of time (48 hours) after the shutdown of the systems' ventilation, in order to evaluate aerobic activity in the unsaturated subsoil.

In practice, once the system is turned off, the oxygen present in the interstitial gases will tend to be consumed more rapidly the greater the aerobic biological activity present. On the contrary, the concentrations of carbon dioxide will tend to increase more rapidly the more intense the aerobic biodegradative activity is in place.

On the basis of the data collected, it is possible to estimate average biodegradation rates of contaminants per soil mass in the unit of time.

A soil gas control network has not been envisaged on the site, whose proceedings began before the issuance of the Ministerial Decree 31/2015 and the National Guidelines (LG SNPA) on the soil gas matrix.

7. Additional information

7.2 Additional information

The project goal of the site remediation was indicated as definitively achieved when the concentrations of pollutant compounds adsorbed to the deep soil and dissolved in groundwater reach the relative CSR values set out in the following tables:

Tabella 1. Obiettivi di bonifica per suolo e sottosuolo

Sostanza indicatrice	u.m.	Obiettivi di bonifica
Piombo	mg/kg	100[1]
Benzene	mg/kg	0,29[2]
Etilbenzene	mg/kg	0,94[2]
Stirene	mg/kg	0,5[1]
Toluene	mg/kg	0,5[1]
Xilene	mg/kg	30,24[2]
Sommatoria organici aromatici (da 20 a 23)	mg/kg	1[1]
Idrocarburi Leggeri C ≤ 12	mg/kg	60,8[2]
Idrocarburi Pesanti C > 12	mg/kg	117,7[2]
Piombo Tetraetile	mg/kg	0,01[3]
MTBE	mg/kg	10[4]
ETBE	mg/kg	10[4]

[1] colonna A (siti ad uso verde pubblico, privato e residenziale) Tabella 1 dell'Allegato 5 Titolo V Parte Quarta del D.Lgs. 152/06 (CSC per i terreni)

[2] CSR approvate con Determina Dirigenziale Comune di Milano n. 596/152 del 24 novembre 2014

[3] parere ISS del 17/12/2002 n. 49759 IA.12

[4] parere ISS del 2001 n. 57058 IA/12

Tabella 2. Obiettivi di bonifica per le acque sotterranee

Sostanza indicatrice	u.m.	Obiettivi di bonifica
Benzene	µg/l	1[1]
p-Xilene	µg/l	10[1]
Idrocarburi Totali (espressi come n-esano)	µg/l	350[1]
MTBE	µg/l	40[2]
ETBE	µg/l	40[2]

[1] CSC di cui alla Tabella 2 dell'Allegato 5 al Titolo V, Parte Quarta del D.Lgs. 152/06 come riportato nella Determina Dirigenziale Comune di Milano n. 596/152 del 24 novembre 2014

[2] Parere ISS del 12/09/2006 N. 45848, come riportato nella Determina Dirigenziale Comune di Milano n. 596/152 del 24 novembre 2014

Tabella 3. Ulteriori sostanze monitorate per le acque sotterranee

Sostanza indicatrice	u.m.	Obiettivi di bonifica
Piombo	µg/l	10[1]
Etilbenzene	µg/l	50[1]
Stirene	µg/l	25[1]
Toluene	µg/l	15[1]
Piombo tetraetile	µg/l	0,1[2]

(1) CSC di cui alla Tabella 2 dell'Allegato 5 al Titolo V, Parte Quarta del D.Lgs. 152/06
(2) Parere ISS 17/12/2002 n. 49759 IA.12

The project envisaged that the remediation testing would be required when, for three subsequent monitoring, compliance with the remediation objectives for groundwater determined by the Site-Specific Risk Analysis and Compliance (CSC) was found at the PoC and at the same time the SVE plant had extracted zero VOC concentrations for a period of at least 3 months.

Upon verification of the above conditions, 3 monthly on/off cycles of the groundwater reclamation and sampling plants were carried out.

Following the positive outcome of the three monitoring sessions carried out in the shutdown cycles, the shutdown of the plants and the subsequent testing of the deep soil matrix was envisaged. It was proposed to carry out some probes with sampling of unsaturated matrix for verification of compliance with the CSRs defined by the risk analysis.

From the end of June 2018 to the end of July 2018, when the remediation systems were shut down, the SVE plant extracted an average flow rate of interstitial gases from the subsoil equal to about 12,000 m^3/day.

In the same period, the AS plant, by means of a side-channel compressor, had blown atmospheric air into the saturated subsoil with an operating pressure of about 0.3 bar and an average flow rate of 240 m^3/h.

From August to October 2018, the SVE and AS plants operated intermittently to allow the implementation of the reclamation test plan.

The duration of the reclamation of the subsoil was estimated at about 3 years, with the start-up of the plants on 27 July 2015. The operation of the reclamation plants ended in July 2018.

In the subsequent period up to January 2019, the testing activities of the environmental matrices of the subsoil were carried out. These showed compliance with the remediation objectives for groundwater and unsaturated soils in the south-east sector of the site, with the exception of the area central of the site where residual

concentrations of heavy hydrocarbons C> 12 persisted.

The checks carried out on the groundwater matrix, on the other hand, showed compliance with the CSCs of reference to the POC of the site (this situation was verified over time through the monitoring of the groundwater).

The outcome of the testing on unsaturated soil, implemented as per the approved test plan, therefore highlighted the persistence of values exceeding the established remediation objectives.

The analyses carried out by the ARPA Laboratory, on the samples taken in contradiction, show the failure to achieve the remediation objectives for the hydrocarbon parameter C> 12 in a sample taken in the depth range between 5 and 6 m from the local p.c. (the ARPA Laboratory quantifies a value of 458 mg/kg dry matter, compared to the remediation target set at 117.7 mg/kg, as defined by the reference CSR).

Similarly, the Party's data shows the non-compliance with the remediation objectives for the hydrocarbon parameter C> 12 only in two samples taken both in the same vertical survey verified by ARPA, one between 3 and 4 m deep from the local p.c. (with 880 mg/kg, compared to the CSR of 117.7 mg/kg) and one between 5 and 6 m of depth from the local p.c. (with 300 mg/kg, compared to the CSR of 117.7 mg/kg).

The checks were carried out after the period of operation of the reclamation plant in unsaturated soil. The south-east sector of the former PV shows the achievement of concentrations lower than the reclamation objectives, while in the center of the site, residual concentrations were determined in Heavy hydrocarbons C> 12 exceeding the CSR, distributed between the depths of 3 and 7.5 m from p.c..

The almost zero values of the VOCs measured in the interstitial gases extracted from the unsaturated subsoil with the SVE plant and the weak biodegradative activity determined with the respirometric test showed that the remediation systems, consisting of an SVE, AS and P&T plant, have exhausted their effectiveness in cleaning up contamination.

Faced with this evidence, it was proposed to launch a soil gas monitoring campaign on the site to measure the real flow of volatile substances present in the subsoil in order to apply the measured data as part of a risk analysis review.

For the verification of the real flow coming from the subsoil it was initially proposed to use some of the existing SVE wells for the soil gas monitoring network. In view of the observations made by ARPA (which assessed the dimensions and depths of the filtering sections of the proposed SVE wells as non-compliant with the specifications of the LG SNPA), the installation of 3 soil gas probes of the "nesty probe" was therefore proposed.

The monitoring activities of the soil gas matrix, which will be carried out for an annual duration with seasonal campaigns (quarterly sampling), will be used to obtain direct data to be used for a review of the risk analysis.

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.17

1.1 Name and Surname	Confalonieri Massimiliano, Panzeri Paola, Canepa Paola
1.2 Country/Jurisdiction	Italy
1.3 Organisation	ARPA Lombardia
1.4 Position	Dirigente RUO BARAE
1.5 Duties	
1.6 Email address	m.confalonieri@arpalombardia.it
1.7 Phone number	+39 335 531 8045

2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The site covered by this questionnaire is known as EX BRENNTAG DEPOSITO and is located in an industrial area north-west of Milan, in the municipality of Bollate.
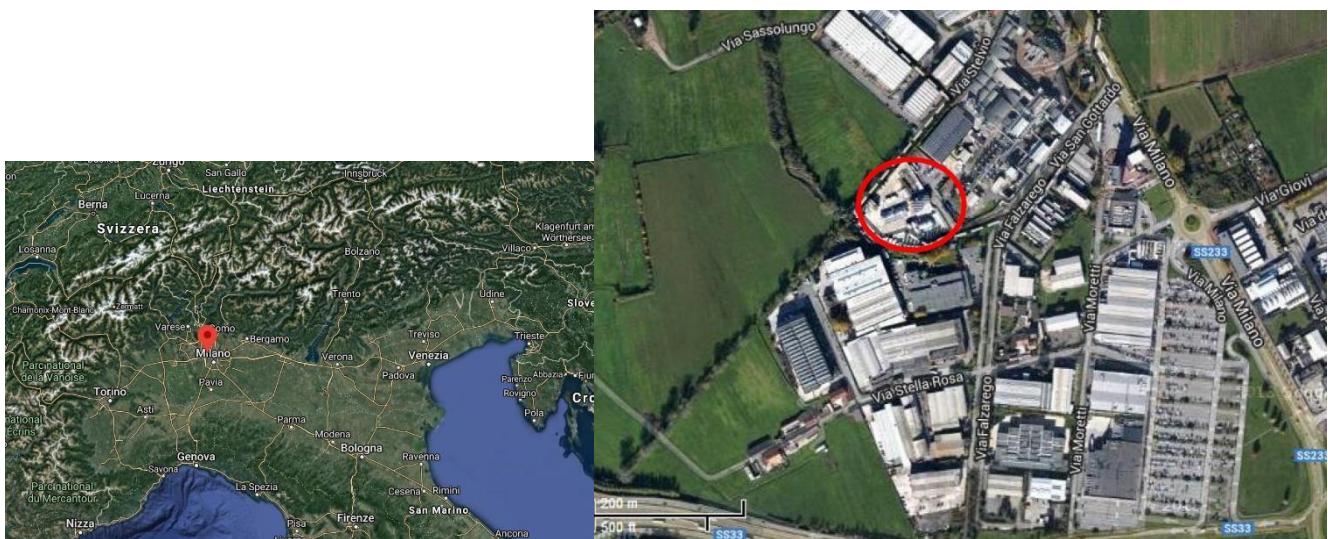
The area is not part of a Site of National Interest.

The company, active since the late 1950s, deals with the storage and distribution, wholesale and retail, of chemical substances and is one of the Industries at Risk of Major Accident subject to Legislative Decree no. 105/2015 called "Seveso III Decree".
The deposit initially covered only a limited part of the current surface and consisted of 10 vertical 30 m^3 above ground tanks, located along the southern border, and 11 (plus 5 installed after a few years) buried tanks of 30 m^3 each. (some of which divided into two compartments), arranged along the western border; all these tanks have now been removed and demolished. From notes of the time, it seems that the products stored were the following:

- Underground tanks: dichloroethane, MEK, Acetone, Ethyl alcohol, Methyl alcohol, Isobutyl acetate, Ethyl acetate, IPA, Heptane, Octane, Toluene, Hexane, Cyclohexane, Trieline, Tetrachloroethane, Sulphuric ether, Solvent naphtha from petroleum, THF, MIBK
- Above Ground Tanks: Ethyl glycol, Butyl glycol, Ethylene Glycol, Propylene Glycol, Propylene Glycol USP, Methyl glycol, Methyl glycol Acetate, Cyclohexanone and Cyclohexanol

The deposit has undergone various modifications over the years; was expanded in 1968

(10 tanks of 50 m^3 above ground), in 1974 (25 tanks of 50 m^3 underground) and in 1985 (7 tanks of 50 m^3 above ground, 6 horizontal tanks of 50 m^3 above ground (subsequently demolished) and 1 tank of 100 m^3 horizontal above ground) when it has reached the maximum storage capacity.

Over time, phthalates, n-paraffins, dichloropropane and various types of esters have been added to the products mentioned. In the mid-1990s, however, chlorinated products were eliminated, with the exception of dichloropropane, which was eliminated at a later time.

It should be noted that in the mid-1990s some above ground tanks located along the border of the site with the Guisa stream were removed and in 1998 the underground tanks arranged along via San Gottardo, to the left of the entrance to the industrial area, were removed.

2.2 Geological setting

The area under study is located in the central sector of the Milanese mid-plain and is characterized by a sub-flat morphology, with topographic altitudes degrading towards the South, linked to fluvioglacial and fluvial deposition of the Quaternary age. The morphological structure of the territory consists of extensive fluvioglacial plains. To the south of the industrial site, the Guisa stream flows eastwards. The site insists on Postglacial Unity (Upper Pleistocene - Holocene), consisting of fluvial deposits with no alteration profile and poorly developed soil, less than one meter thick. From a lithological point of view, the deposits are generally made up of slightly silty sands, with interspersed gravels with a clastic support or a sandy matrix, generally loose.

In the area under examination, the hydrogeological units follow one another, from the most superficial to the deepest, according to the following scheme:
Aquifer Group A: consisting of deposits in high-energy braided fluvial facies. Lithologically it is mainly composed of coarse gravelly-sandy sediments with a medium-coarse sandy matrix with subordinate sandy intervals from medium to very coarse, with high porosity and permeability; locally there are decimetric levels of clay and silty clays and horizons consisting of cemented and conglomerate gravels. The thickness varies from a minimum of 26-30 m up to a maximum of 40-45 m and its lower limit is placed in correspondence with the first truly continuous clayey levels;
Aquifer Group B: consisting of deposits in braided fluvial facies. Lithologically it is mainly composed of coarse sediments represented by medium-coarse sands, pebbly sands and gravels with a sandy matrix with high porosity and permeability; downwards the granulometry of the sediments decreases and the cemented horizons (sandstones and conglomerates) and the levels of fine clayey-silty sediments become more frequent. The overall thickness is around 45 m on average with minimum values around 35 m and maximum values of 55 m.
Aquifer Group C: consisting of deposits in continental/delta transitional facies. Lithologically it consists of fine to medium sands and silty clays with peaty horizons interspersed with gravel-sandy levels with greater permeability. The overall thickness is unknown as the lower limit was not reached by the drilling of the deepest wells in the area. In the permeable levels there are intermediate and deep aquifers, of the confined type, whose vulnerability is mitigated by the presence of continuous clayey layers on the roof, but connections and feeding by the highly vulnerable upper free aquifer cannot be excluded.
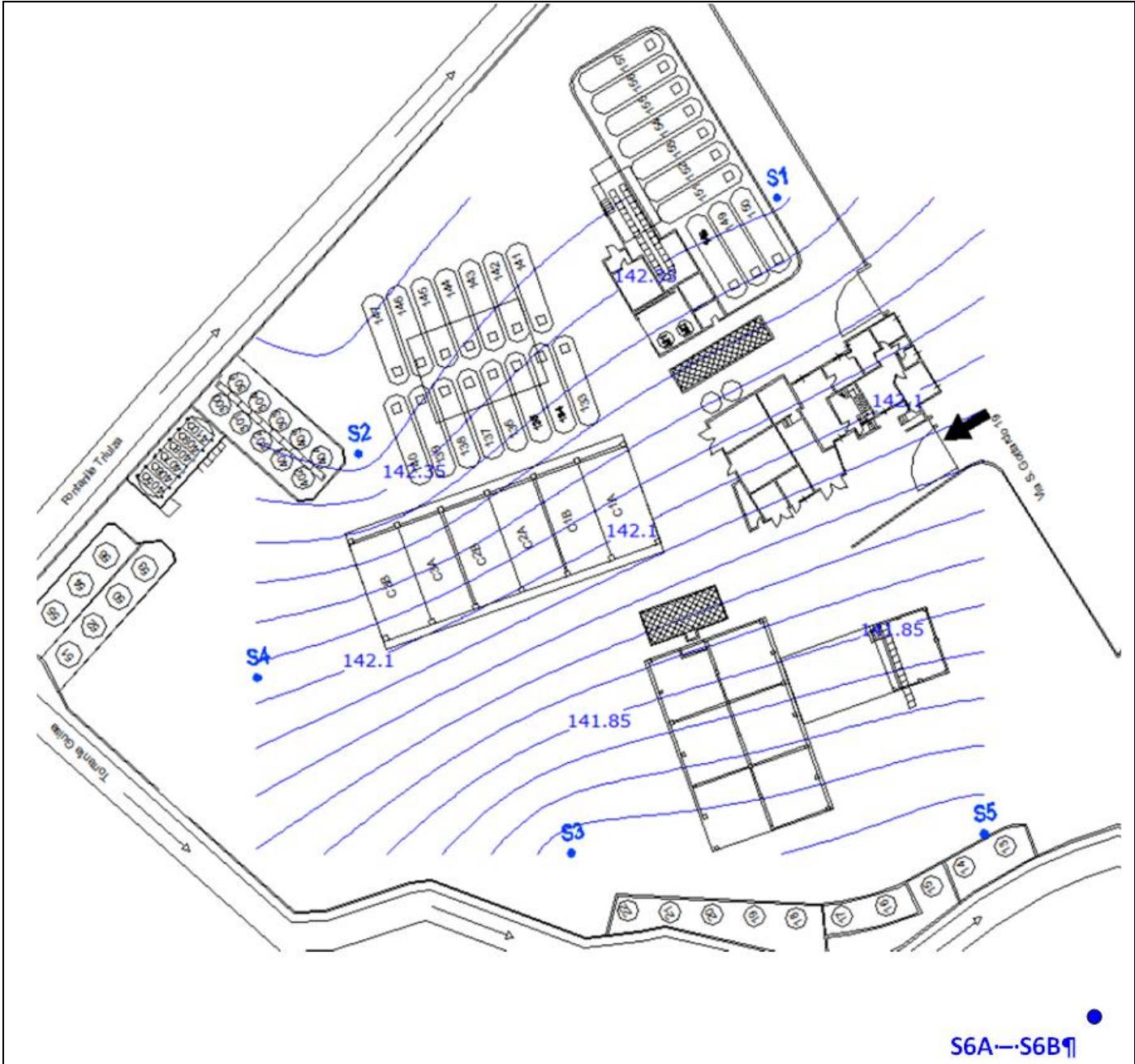
The aquifer groups A and B described above are the seat of the main free-type or locally semi-confined aquifer, characterized by subsidence around 20-30 m from the ground level, traditionally captured by the collection wells for drinking water purposes of old construction and from private wells (information taken from the document "Componente geologica, idrogeologica e sismica del Piano di Governo del Territorio" of the Municipality of Bollate, drawn up in 2010 by the "Studio Idrogeotecnico").

Specifically, in the area in question, it is possible to identify 2 distinct layers, separated from each other by a clay lens placed at a depth of 20 m; the static level of the surface

aquifer is around 8 m deep.

The image above shows the isopiezometric map drawn up in 2014 (the static levels were measured on 28/02/2014) for the additions to the site characterization plan; we deduce that the direction of the water table is NNE-SSW, with a gradient of about 1.6 ‰. The figure shows the 7 piezometers that make up the monitoring network and which were grounded in 1994.

The characteristics of the monitoring points are summarized below:

| ID	Diameter - inches	Depth - m	volumetric flow (19/03/2014) - l/s
S1	4"	20	
S2	4"	15	0.5
S3	4"	20	0.2
S4	4"	18.5	
S5	4"	18	0.4
S6A	2"	20	
S6B	2"	38	

The S2, S3 and S5 piezometers are equipped with submersible pumps for the continuous pumping of water; these piezometers are part of the Pump and Treat (P&T) system which has been active since 21/09/1994. The plant consists of:

- a 30 m^3 tank for the collection and homogenization of the water extracted from the reclamation wells;
- a stripping tower for water purification;
- two activated carbon filters, with 80 kg carbon load, positioned in series, for the treatment of gases coming from the stripping tower;
- two activated carbon filters (4,000 kg + 1,000 kg approx.) for the treatment of wastewater leaving the stripping tower;
- a sand filter (approx. 1,000 l) to protect the activated carbon filter for water treatment.

The plant is also designed for the collection and purification of rainwater.

The treated water is discharged into the Guisa stream, which flows immediately downstream of the area.

2.3 Contaminants of concern
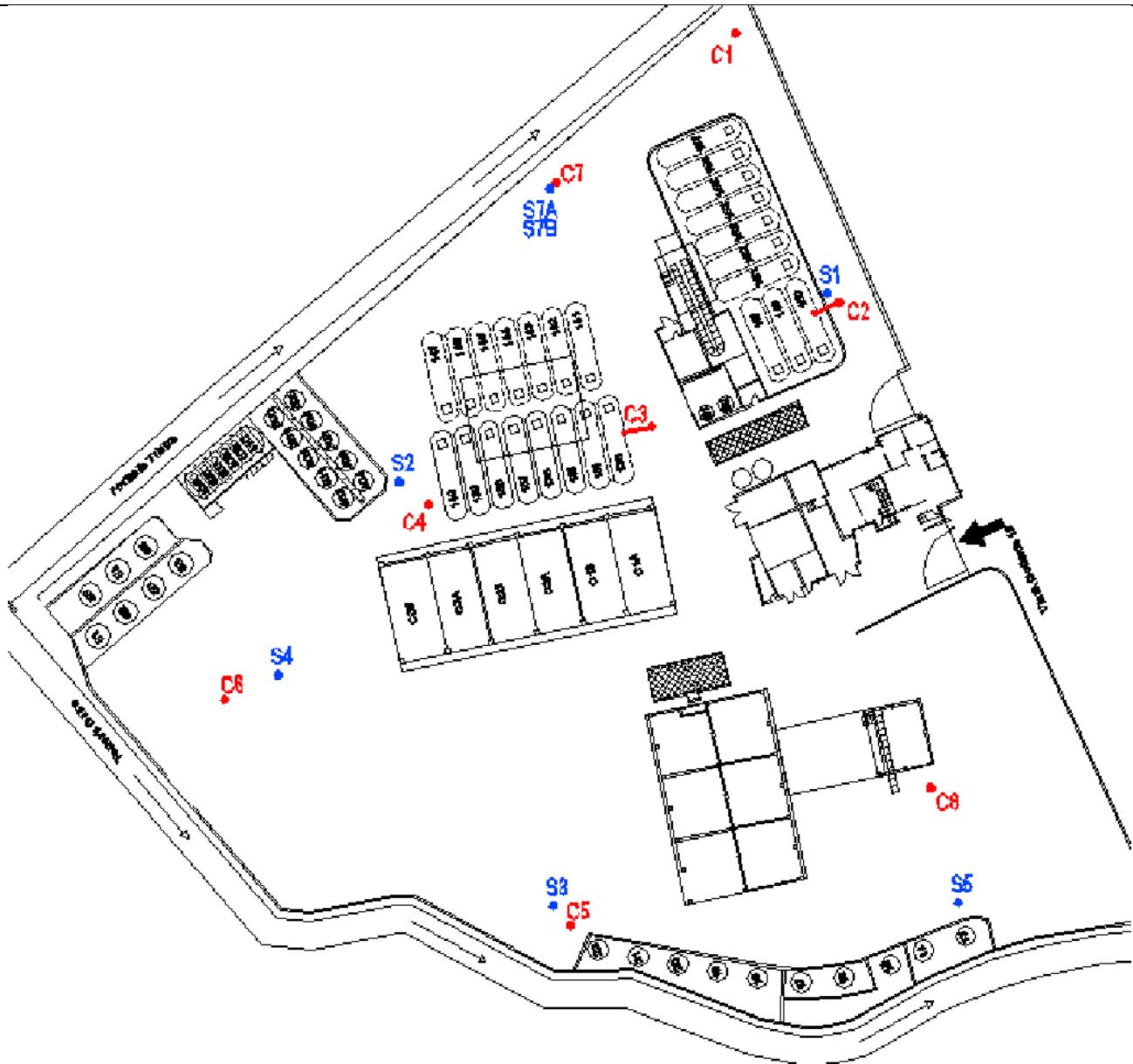
The site is characterized by contamination by chlorinated solvents, affecting both the land and the groundwater. The following figure shows the location of the surveys carried out (in red) for the characterization of the land and the location of the piezometers making up the groundwater monitoring network underlying the site (in blue). During the characterization activities, two additional piezometers, 2" each, respectively about 20 m deep (identification code S7A) and 40 m (identification code S7B) were installed with the aim of creating a monitoring point of the surface water

table (S7A, to be compared with S6A) and a monitoring point of the deeper aquifer (S7B, to be compared with S6B). Each bore reached a depth of about 6 m from ground level and for each of them 3 soil samples were taken, one of superficial soil (between 0 and 1 m from b.c.), one intermediate and one in the last meter of the survey.

The analysis on the soil samples taken showed a contamination in correspondence of the C8 survey, both for the superficial and deep soil:

- surface soil (sample taken between 0.2 and 1 m from bw): Hydrocarbons C <12, Benzene and Tetrachlorethylene
- deep soil (sample taken between 2.3 and 2.7 m from b.c.): Trichloromethane and Trichlorethylene.

The maximum concentrations measured (taken from the Operational Remediation Plan, presented in December 2015) are shown in the following table.

Contaminants	Maximum concentrations (mg/kg)
Hydrocarbons C <12	2,120
Benzene	4.11
Tetrachlorethylene	50.7
Trichloromethane	10,536
Trichlorethylene	26,076

It has been estimated that the contamination affects an area of about 200 m^2, located at a depth of 5 m, for a volume of about 1000 m^3.

As regards groundwater, both the most superficial and the deepest aquifers present contamination by chlorinated solvents, but with significant differences in the concentrations of PCE (main contaminant) which are lower in the deeper aquifer where the concentration could also be linked, in part, to an upgradient contribution.

2.4 Regulatory framework

The reference limits considered are those contained in Legislative Decree 152/06, Tab. 1, Col. B (intended industrial use).

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

In the area reclamation project and related additions, the construction of an SVE (Soil Vapor Extraction) treatment plant was proposed, in the area around survey C8, characterized by the presence of soils contaminated mainly by chlorinated solvents. In the Reclamation Project it was proposed to combine the SVE also with an AR (Air Sparging) treatment for groundwater. It should be emphasized that on the site, as reported above, an operational safety system is already in operation consisting of 3 points of extraction of the groundwater, which are then sent to a treatment plant. This system will remain in operation also during the SVE/AS treatment.

Between 9 and 10 November 2016, the drillings were carried out for the preparation of the test field for the pilot test, which was carried out between 14 and 16 November. During the execution of the test the first SVE point made (later called SVEold) showed problems and, consequently, on 2/12/2016 a second SVE point was made to replace it. On 11/01/2017 the pilot test on the new point was repeated.

The technical-constructive characteristics of the survey points making up the test field are summarized in the following table:

Point	well	Diameter	Depth (m)	Screen (m)
SVE and SVE old	40X40	3"	4	1-4
SGS1	30X30	6 mm (rilsan)	1.5	1.2-1.5
SGS2	30X30	6 mm (rilsan)	1.5	1.2-1.5
SGS3	30X30	6 mm (rilsan)	1.5	1.2-1.5

The SVE point represents the aspiration point for the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) test and the SGS points were used as soil gas monitoring during the SVE tests.

The following figure shows the location of the survey points of the test field. In the image, the AS point is also indicated, which represents the air blowing point for the Air Sparging test (AS) and the MAS points, used as groundwater monitoring during the AS tests.
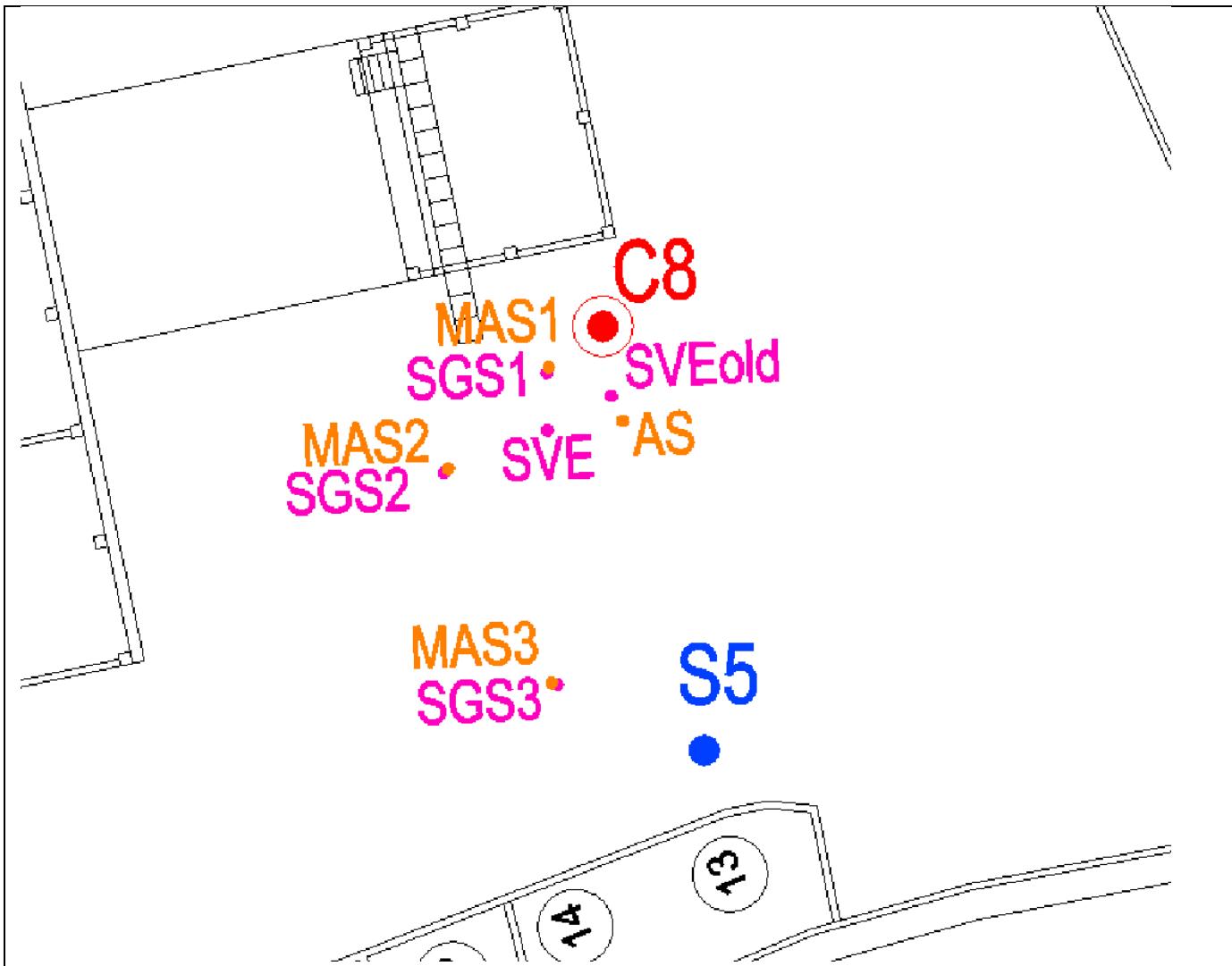
The following table shows the stratigraphy of the SVE point.

Depth (cm from ground level)	Description
0-30	Concrete slab
30-180	Filling consisting of slightly silty sands and gravels with some brick, brown color
180-300	Coarse sands and gravel with pebbles, gray/black color
300-400	Coarse sands and gravels, ocher color

The pilot test on the new SVE point was carried out on 11/01/2017.

The pilot tests were carried out by installing, at the SVE point (see image below), an aspiration system equipped with an activated carbon filter consisting of a rotary blower, regulation valves and vacuum-tight pipes.

The pilot test was performed by sucking air from the SVE point and monitoring, with field instruments, the following parameters:

- VOC (volatile organic compounds) of interstitial gases with the use of a Portable Photoionizer (PID);
- concentrations of oxygen, carbon dioxide, Lel (Lower Explosive Limit) of interstitial gases with a portable IR instrument;
- depressions induced by the rotary blower with a digital pressure gauge (thermo anemometer).

The parameters were measured at the monitoring points arranged around the suction point at distances varying between about 2 m and 8 m from the central point; the following table shows the name of the monitored points and the distance from the SVE point:

Monitoring point	Distance from SVE (m)
SVEold	2.4
SGS1	1.9
SGS2	3.7
SGS3	8.4

The SGS points intercept the horizon between 1.2 and 1.5 m from ground level.

The SVEold point has filters between 1 and 4 m.

First of all, a rapid flow step test was performed, increasing the pump flow in order to identify the flow rate to be used in the constant flow test. The constant flow test was then carried out and lasted for 5 hours, in order to verify the trend of the parameters in the subsoil, following the activation of an SVE system. The rotary pump was set at an average flow rate of 47 mc/h.

The parameters measured at the extraction point and at the monitoring points are summarized in the following tables.

SVE

Tempo	Pid	Lel	O2	CO2	Depress	V	T	Q
minuti	ppm	%	%	%	mbar	m/s	°C	mc/h
0	480.1	18	21.3	1.22	-286.0	7.74	1.4	47
10	2147.0	16	21.5	3.45	-258.0	6.57	0.8	47
30	2371.0	13	20.9	3.16	-249.0	6.23	4	43
60	4106.0	13	20.9	2.7	-236.0	6.77	4.1	50
90	4469.0	10	20.9	2.26	-232.0	7.46	4.6	53
120	5000.0	10	20.9	2.08	-229.0	8.27	5.2	57
180	5000.0	9	20.9	1.83	-225.0	9.03	5.9	64
240	5000.0	9	20.9	1.62	-222.0	9.53	6.9	67
300	5000.0	8	20.9	1.44	-220.0	9.6	7	72

SVE old

Tempo	Pid	Lel	O2	CO2	Depress
minuti	ppm	%	%	%	mbar
0	1824.0	47	21.3	4.99	0.0
10	1867.0	40	21.5	4.99	0.0
30	2042.0	27	20.9	4.39	0.0
60	2015.0	27	20.9	3.81	-0.9
90	1140.0	2	20.9	0.04	-7.5
120	285.9	2	20.9	0.07	-15.0
180	211.6	0	20.9	0.04	-20.0
240	112.7	0	20.9	0.04	-22.0
300	93.6	0	20.9	0.07	-24.0

SGS1

Tempo	Pid	Lel	O2	CO2	Depress
minuti	ppm	%	%	%	mbar
0	544.3	0	21.3	4.99	-5.8
10	261.1	5	21.5	4.99	-6.5
30	61.3	2	20.9	0.07	-7.0
60	266.0	0	20.9	0.07	-7.5
90	125.5	4	20.9	2.05	-8.5
120	93.2	0	20.9	1.62	-9.5
180	88.5	0	20.9	1.65	-9.5
240	73.2	0	20.9	1.11	-10.0
300	73.8	0	20.9	1.25	-10.0

SGS2 Tempo minuti	Pid ppm	Lel %	O2 %	CO2 %	Depress mbar	SGS3 Tempo minuti	Pid ppm	Lel %	O2 %	CO2 %	Depress mbar
0	1872.0	14	21.3	4.99	-6.6	0	4852.0	9	21.3	0	0.0
10	2492.0	20	21.5	11	-16.0	10	5000.0	5	21.5	0	0.0
30	2030.0	16	20.9	4.82	-22.0	30	3866.0	4	20.9	0	0.0
60	2550.0	14	20.9	4.53	-36.0	60	4670.0	5	20.9	0.04	0.0
90	2903.0	11	20.9	4.1	-38.0	90	5000.0	4	20.9	0	0.0
120		10	20.9	3.67	-39.0	120	5000.0	4	20.9	0	0.0
180					-41.0	180	5000.0	0	20.9	0	0.0
240					-43.0	240	5000.0	0	20.9	0	0.0
300					-45.0	300	5000.0	0	20.9	0	0.0

The missing data are due to the presence of condensation in the pipes that did not allow the use of the instrumentation.

Data analysis:

- the Pid highlights the increase in values at the SVE point and the simultaneous decrease in the monitoring points, in accordance with the recall of contaminants at the suction point;
- the Lel decreases in all points;
- oxygen stabilizes at 20.9%;
- carbon dioxide shows a tendency to decrease over time;
- the depressions show a greater response to pumping in SGS2 than in SGS1, closer to the SVE point, probably due to the conformation of the subsoil in the area in question; in point SGS3 there are no effects induced by pumping.

During the test, due to local conditions, the extracted flow rate varied from 47 mc/h (set at the beginning) to approximately 70 mc/h. With this capacity, considering what is highlighted by the data, the effects of the vacuum induced by pumping can be observed in the control points SVEold, SGS1 and SGS2 while the point SGS3 does not show variations. The range of influence, therefore, is between 4 and 8 m.

3.3 Radius of influence

During the pilot test, performed by sucking air from the central point called SVE, the induced depressions in the monitoring points, called SVEold, SGS1, SGS2 and SGS3, were measured and arranged as illustrated in par. 3.1. The effects of the vacuum induced by pumping are observable in the control points SVEold, SGS1 and SGS2 while the point SGS3 shows no variation. The range of influence, therefore, is between 4 and 8 m.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

In the SVE point, an extraction system with an activated carbon filter was installed.

3.5 Control parameters

During the pilot test, as reported above, the following parameters were monitored with field instruments:

- VOC (volatile organic compounds) of interstitial gases with the use of a Portable Photo ionizer (PID);
- concentrations of oxygen, carbon dioxide, LEL (Lower Explosive Limit) of interstitial gases with a portable IR instrument;
- depressions induced by the rotary blower with a digital pressure gauge (thermo anemometer).

The recorded data made it possible to identify the air permeability of the soil and the range of influence of the suction system sized for a suction point.

4. Full-scale application

4.1 Extraction system
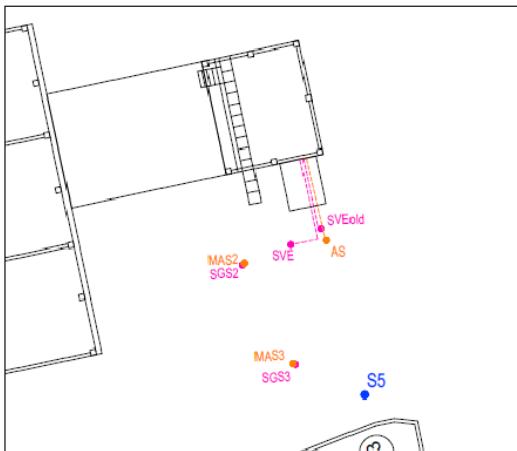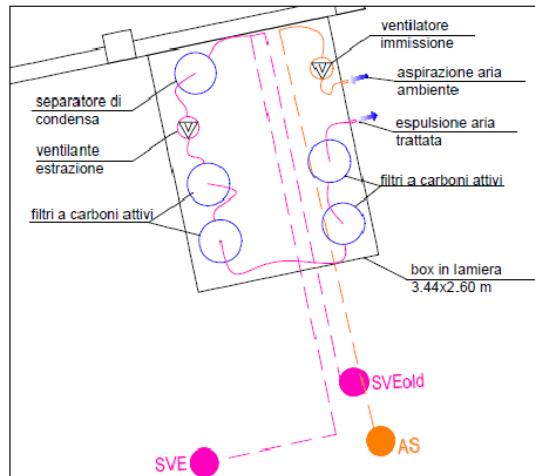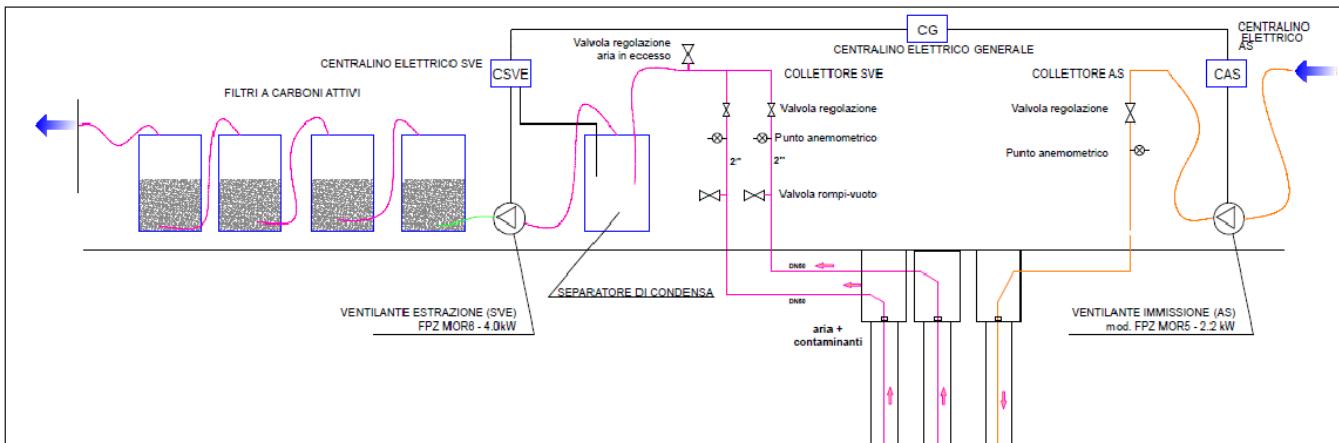
The plant and its monitoring were started on 14/03/2019.

On the basis of the pilot test performed, it was assumed, as a precaution, a range of action equal to 4 m for the SVE point; consequently it was decided to equip two points for the extraction of vapours, namely the point called SVE and the point called SVEold. During the work, specific calibration tests will be conducted in order to set the optimal configuration for the system.

The SVE and SVEold extraction wells made have the following characteristics:

- drilling up to 4 m deep;
- installation of piezometer (diameter 3 "), depth 4 m, fenestrated between –1 and – 4 m from the ground floor;
- cementation from p.c. at -1 m;

- installation of calibrated siliceous gravel from –1 m to –4 m from p.c.

The wellhead of the vertical intake is connected to the manifold, mounted at the plant box, which is connected to the separator and subsequently to the aspirator and filter (see image below, which also indicates the Air Sparging system).

4.3 Radius of influence

Based on the monitoring of the lowering measured during the pilot test at the control points (SVEold, SGS1, SGS2 and SGS3) the influence range is between 4 and 8 m; consequently, as a precaution, a radius of influence equal to 4 m was considered.

4.4 Off gas Treatment

Activated carbon filter
Downstream of the suction system, two containers of activated carbon weighing about 50 kg each were placed in series.

4.5 Control parameters

In order to monitor the effectiveness of the SVE/AS system, periodic monitoring of the system and sampling of interstitial gases has been prepared.

With regard to the monitoring of the plant, a fortnightly frequency of checks has been established during the first 2 months of activity, monthly up to 6 months, and quarterly up to 12 months of plant activity. During the checks, measurements of the main flow parameters of the system are carried out with field instruments capable of determining air flow (anemometer), temperature, VOC concentration (PID), differential pressure between the fixed probes in the ground and the atmosphere (Magnehelic).

Samplings of soil gases by means of activated carbon vials were also provided. On 14/03/2019 "zero" sampling took place, coinciding with the start-up of the plant. A further 4 samplings were scheduled during the 12 months of reclamation, foreseen by the project.

5. Enhancements to SVE

5.1 Pneumatic and/or hydraulic fracturing

As mentioned above, an AS (Air Sparging) plant was associated with the SVE for the treatment of groundwater underlying the site. The plant consists of a piezometer, for the injection of atmospheric air into the groundwater, with a depth of 9 m. Three piezometers (called MAS1, MAS2 and MAS3) were also created at a distance of 3, 6 and 9 m from the first one for the introduction of air, as monitoring points. The latter were carried out at the points provided for the monitoring of soil gases (SGS), within the same drilling, in such a way as to optimize economies.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

The monitoring plan provided for a sampling of soil gases upon activation of the plant and 4 samplings during the remediation.
For the sampling of soil gases, activated carbon vials are used for the determination of C <12 hydrocarbons, with relative speciation, Benzene, Tetrachlorethylene, Trichloromethane and Trichloroethylene.

7. Additional information

7.2 Additional information

Initially, it was planned to carry out a test through soil sampling, after 12 months of treatment, to verify the state of contamination and evaluate any further actions.

To date, the treatment of the land is still ongoing, since, following a failure of the plant which occurred in 2020, it was decided to extend the treatment for a further year.

At the time of testing, soil samples must be taken from two cores carried out near point C8, at depths of 0-1 m and 2-3 m. The analytical set must include:

Sample 0-1 m: C <12 hydrocarbons, with relative speciation, Benzene, Tetrachlorethylene

Sample 2-3 m: Trichloromethane, Trichloroethylene.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
SIN	Contaminated site of national priority list
PA	public administration

1. Contact details - CASE STUDY: SVE n.18

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1.2 Country/Jurisdiction	Italy
1.3 Organisation	Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente (ARPA) della Lombardia
1.4 Position	Dirigente RUO BARAE – Tecnico UO BAE MI-MB
1.5 Duties	
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2. Site background

2.1 History of the site

The area in question is located in the territory of the Municipality of Villasanta (Monza and Brianza province), north of the Milan urban area and is geographically located in the high Lombard plain, immediately south of the pre-Alpine moraine hills.

The site was affected by the presence of an industrial plant built in 1971 and dedicated to the production of air conditioning equipment. Industrial production has ceased but the site retains its industrial use and the area is occupied by commercial and/or logistics activities.

The main production cycles concerned:
- mechanical processing of metals;
- oven painting with organic solvent paints;
- electrophoresis painting.

Both painting processes, discontinued in 1994, were supported by a waste water treatment plant. The main structures present were made up of:
- a purification plant (decommissioned in 1994) with two masonry tanks, a settler and a sludge drying tank;
- a thermal power plant, currently fuelled by methane;
- 5 underground tanks located about 10 m from the south west corner of the thermal power plant, n. 4 of which containing fuel oil and n. 1 containing diathermic oil. All fuel oil tanks would have been removed in 1991 during the construction of the underpass. The diathermic oil tank was removed and replaced with a new double-walled tank positioned along the east side of the thermal power plant. This latter tank also seems to have been removed in 1992 with the construction of the thermal power plant;
- 2 electrical transformer cabins, one located in the thermal power plant and one inside body C. The one in the thermal power plant has a single transformer and is currently not in use, with a concrete containment tank in good condition. The one inside body C is in use. Transformers with PCB-containing oils were reclaimed and replaced in 1989

The site was affected by a remediation procedure according to the regional regulations in force at the time that began before the entry into force of the Ministerial Decree of 25 October 1999, n. 471. Later, the process has been developed according to the ordinary operational and administrative procedures laid down by Legislative Decree 3 April 2006, n. 152.

Since the area is not included in the case of SIN or SIR in implementation of the regional

delegations, the competent authority in charge of the administrative acts is the municipal administration.

*Lombardy – Monza Brianza Province*   *Villasanta – site location*
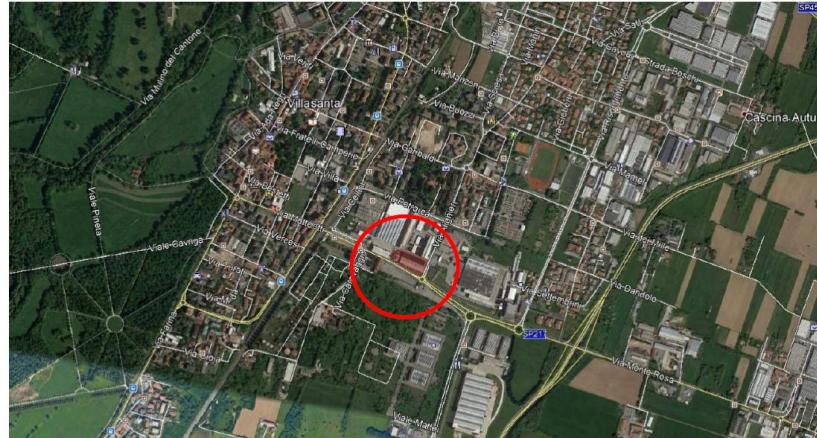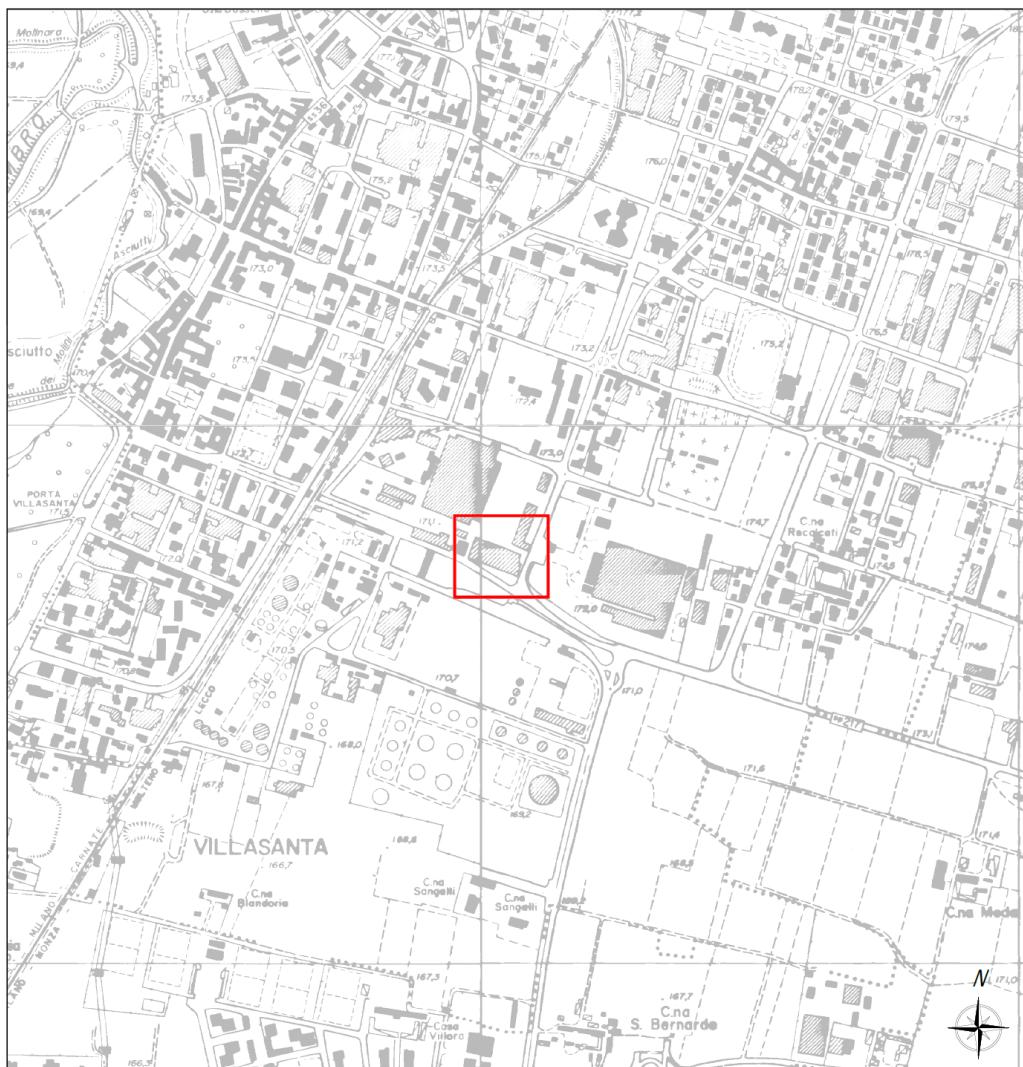
Villasanta – site location (Technical Regional map 1:10:000)

2.2 Geological setting
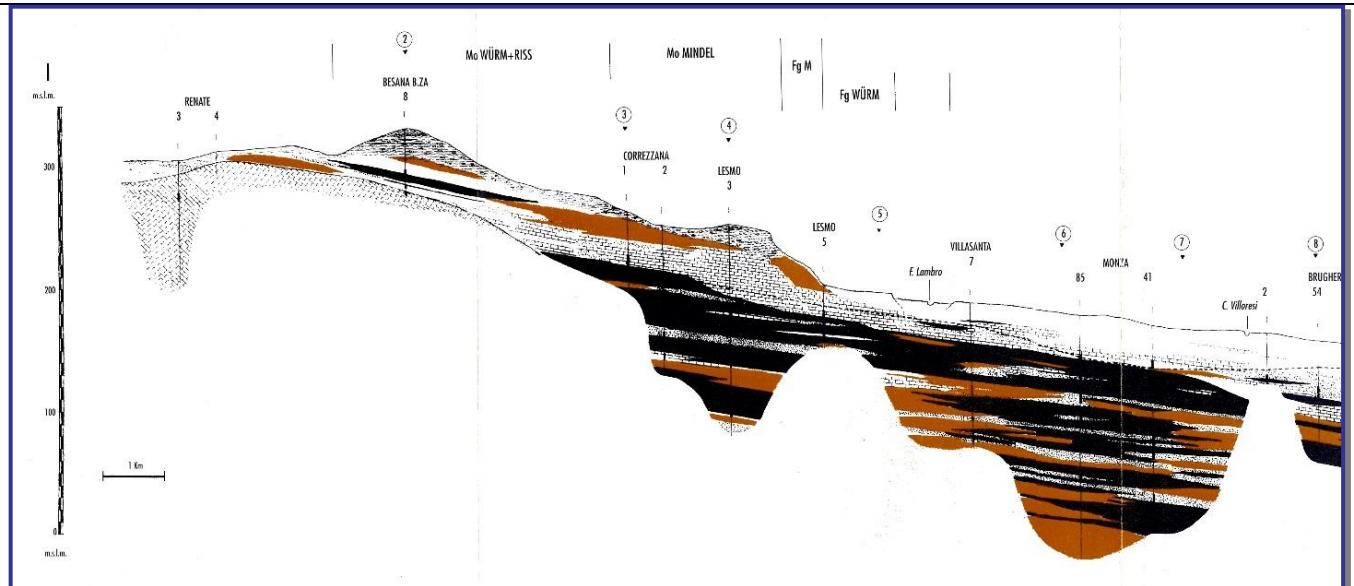
NS hydrogeological section of the central area and the Lambro basin (from: Provincia di Milano, 1995)
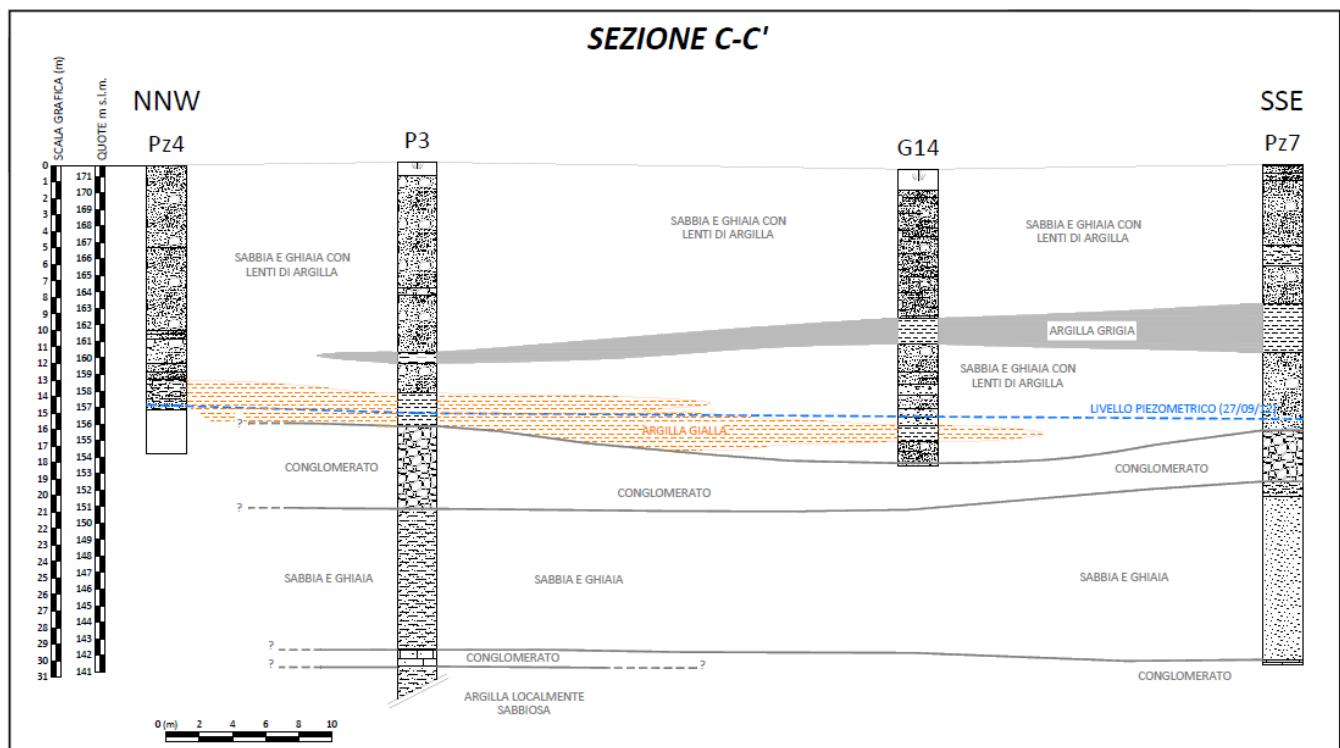
Stratigraphic detail of the intervention area

The western border of the municipal area coincides with the path of the Lambro river.

Geologically, the subsoil of Villasanta can be included within the Fundamental Level of the Plain (LFP), traditionally characterized by deposits of late Pleistocene fluvial-glacial origin, consisting of sands and gravels with pebbles that form the Lombard plain.

Near the banks of the Lambro, more recent sediments develop which can be associated with the depositional activity of the watercourse itself. From a petrographic and lithological point of view, the origin of the Lambro deposits is strictly attributable to the portion of the pre-Alpine chain which, within the reference hydrographic basin, crops out in correspondence with the Larian triangle between Como and Lecco. This can be distinguished due to the outcrop of Mesozoic geological units of a predominantly calcareous nature.

The presence of the Lambro river also affects the alluvial sediments, whose deposition over time has given rise to real paleo-riverbeds with high transmissivity values.

In general, in the area under examination, the subsoil is characterized in the superficial portion by the presence of mainly gravelly-sandy lithology horizons, with high permeability and thickness values. Proceeding in depth, the progressive lithological variations due to the prevalence of fine-textured lithologies (clays, silts and fine sands) determine a reduction in permeability. Under these conditions, the aquifer horizons are limited to isolated lenses of relatively permeable material and of modest thickness.

The hydrogeological structure traditionally described by authors on the basis of the permeability characteristics has led to the identification of three main hydrostratigraphic units having the following characteristics:

- first aquifer: consisting of prevailing gravels and sands, with subordinate fractions of silts and gravelly-sandy horizons locally cemented. These sediments can be traced back to the recent and ancient alluvial and fluvioglacial deposits from Würm (upper Pleistocene) which constitute the Fundamental Level of the Plain (LFP). This unit contains the upper part of the traditional aquifer, characterized by relatively high hydraulic conductivity values between 10^{-3} and 10^{-4} m/s. The characteristics of the aquifer are those typical of a free, unconfined water table;

- second aquifer: consisting of gravels and silty sands and conglomeratic horizons. These lithotypes are traditionally attributed to the ancient fluvioglacial deposits of Mindel and Riss (lower Pleistocene) which on the surface give rise to the characteristic "ferretto" terraces of the foothills and hills of Brianza. The permeability of the aquifer which has hydraulic conductivity values of an order of magnitude lower than those of the first aquifer and equal to about 10^{-4}-10^{-5} m/s. This aquifer can contain a free aquifer or, in the presence of horizons that are not very permeable to the roof, locally semi-confined, generally in connection with the one above. Where the piezometric load differences between the two aquifers are more significant, water exchanges between the aquifers may occur due to the phenomenon of drainage;

- third aquifer: characterized by predominantly fine-textured soils, such as silts and clays with fine sand levels. These deposits are attributed in literature to the so-called Villafranchian clays. Due to the clear prevalence of fine-grained lithotypes, the hydraulic conductivity values in sandy lenses are approximately 10^{-4}-10^{-6} m/s. The sandy lenses themselves are home to confined and protected aquifers.
- In the area of Monza and Villasanta the hydrogeological characteristics of the subsoil are particularly different compared to the adjacent areas, in particular due to the presence of a high structure (Monza ridge) which causes the Villafranchian substrate to rise with a consequent reduction in the thickness of the aquifers. This hydrogeological situation makes it possible, in the sector east of the Lambro river, to interconnect the first and second aquifers with consequent possible mixing between contaminated aquifers and good quality aquifers.

The superficial aquifer (groundwater) is contained in the sediments that form the gravelly-sandy-silty unit and the conglomeratic unit (Ceppo auct.). As already mentioned, the two units are only locally separated by semi-permeable deposits which can give rise to differences in the piezometric level, although, in general, compared to the adjacent western area, the traditional aquifer is substantially undifferentiated.

In the area under examination (Villasanta) the presence of a suspended aquifer supported by a discontinuous silty-clayey lens and contained in deposits with a prevalently gravelly-sandy texture was also ascertained.

2.3 Contaminants of concern

The site is characterized by the presence of contamination:

Soil and subsoil

The characterization investigations on the entire site have shown overall compliance with the CSCs envisaged for the specific intended commercial and industrial use.

On the basis of historical investigations and analyses carried out by means of soil gas survey, the presence of tetrachlorethylene was ascertained in the entire horizon thickness unsaturated underlying the building in which the main painting cycles and degreasing of materials was carried out.

The figure below shows the values measured in the interstitial gases during the characterization phase and before the application of the SVE technology.
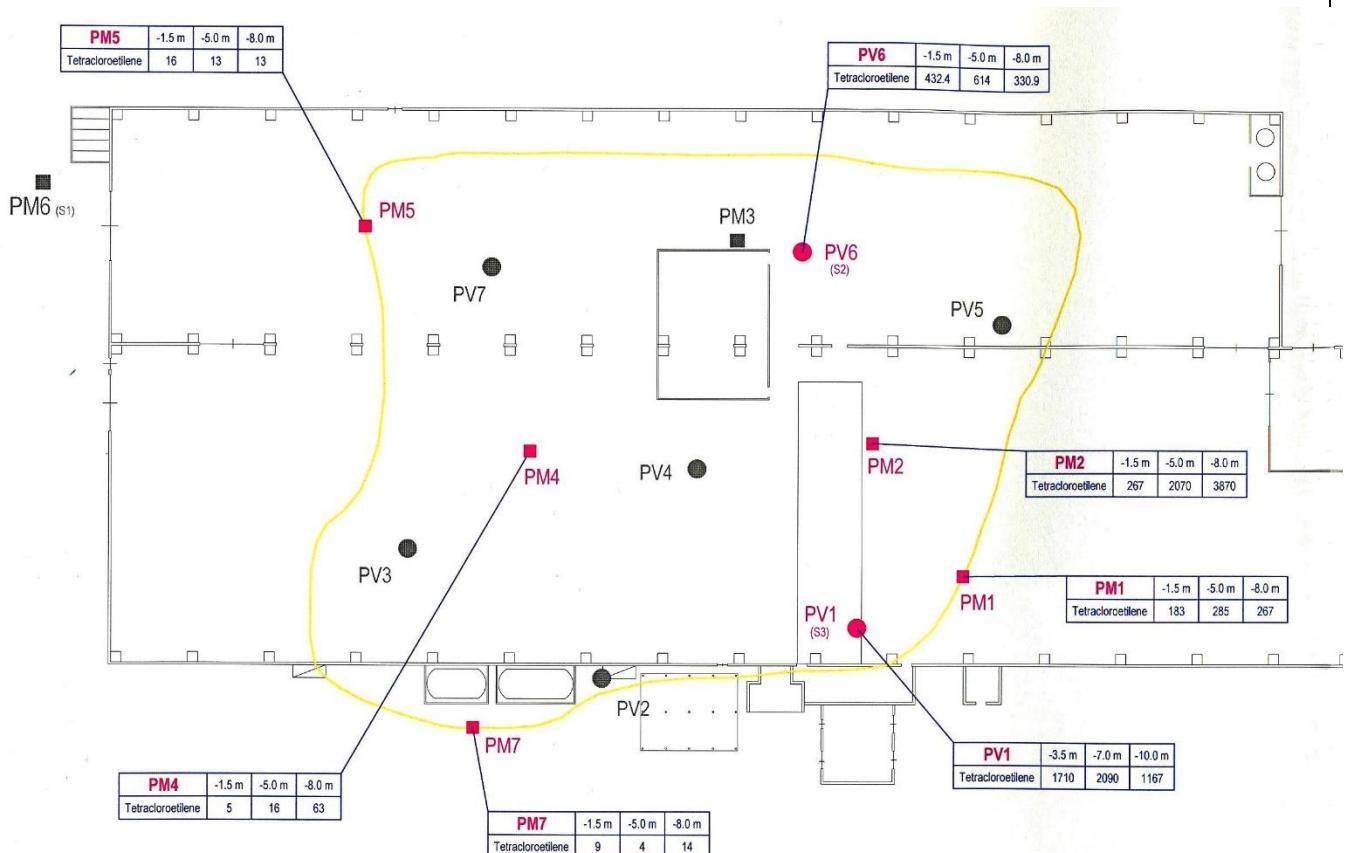
Groundwater

Contamination of the groundwater in the area is essentially and almost exclusively due to tetrachlorethylene (PCE), with associated low concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE) and chloroform (TCM). The presence of this substance in concentrations up to

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400 times the CSC is well above the background value that is generally found in most of the area north of Monza and which roughly corresponds to the values found "at the entrance" to site, in the hydrogeologically upstream piezometer, between 6.5 and 48µg/l.

High concentrations were detected in 2002throughout the south-eastern portion of the plant, in correspondence with some wells, with values up to 473 µg/l. The origin of the contamination has been traced back to the washing and degreasing of pieces using PCE, a solvent stored in underground tanks present in the building subject to the renovation.

CodiceSIF	denonint	data	PCE
0152390026	Well 3	11-mar-04	180
		14-set-04	198
		07-apr-05	61.14
		23-mar-06	28.7
		22-mag-07	286
		25-lug-08	340
0152390043	Well 5	11-mar-04	28
		14-set-04	168
		07-apr-05	27.6
		23-mar-06	22.2
		22-mag-07	22
		25-lug-08	7.5
0152390054	Pz 1 (upgradient)	11-mar-04	48
		14-set-04	39
		07-apr-05	21.7
		23-mar-06	8.6
		22-mag-07	6.5
		25-lug-08	6.7
0152390065	Pz 2 (downgradient)	11-mar-04	11
		14-set-04	19.37
		07-apr-05	3.99
		23-mar-06	5.8
		22-mag-07	4.2
		25-lug-08	4.2
0152390066	Pz 3 (upgradient)	11-mar-04	4.6
		14-set-04	3.2
		07-apr-05	3.04

		23-mar-06	4.69
		22-mag-07	7.1
		25-lug-08	0.7
0152390067	Well 6 (pumping well)	11-mar-04	200
		14-set-04	213
		07-apr-05	64.32
		20-mar-06	42.29
		22-mag-07	38.6
		25-lug-08	320

The map shows the points of the monitoring network in the configuration active in 2010
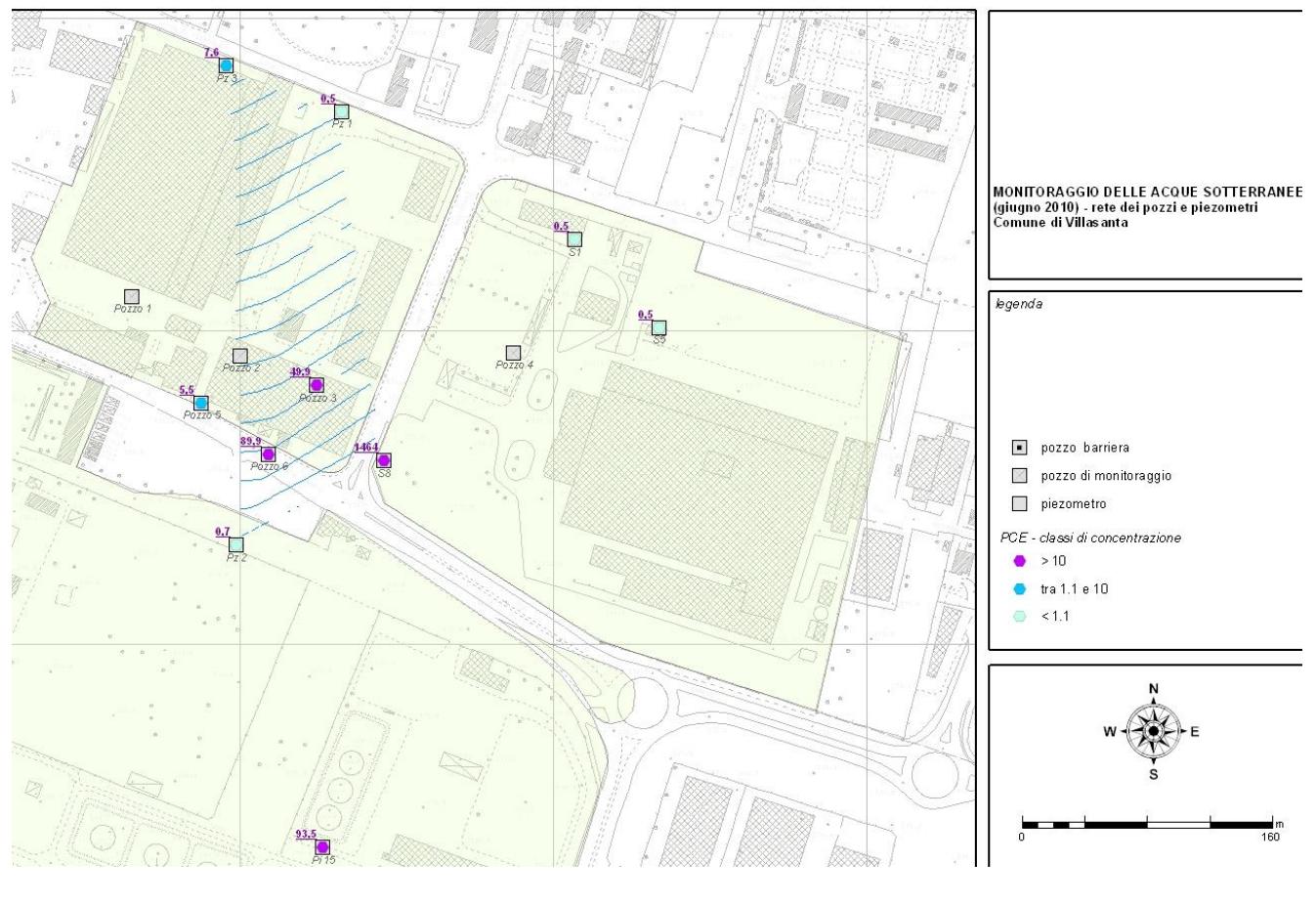
2.4 Regulatory framework

The remediation process of the area had been started before the national legislation on the remediation of contaminated sites came into force (Legislative Decree 22/97 and Ministerial Decree 417/99), applying the reference standards already existing in the Lombardy Region before 1997.

During the verification of the interstitial gases carried out at the building called " former Battery Department " or " former Building B ", located in the south-east portion of the plant, the presence of PCE was detected in the interstitial gases and in excess concentrations to the regulatory limits even in groundwater.

In light of this, the company has sent its notice pursuant to dell ' art. 242, paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree 152/06 to the competent local authorities in February 2011. Following this communication, the Characterization Plan of the area on which the former Building B stands was drawn up and sent to the Authorities, subsequently approved in the Conference of Services in May 2011 by the competent Authority.

In July-August 2012 a new interstitial gas sampling campaign was carried out; with the results obtained, relative to the PCE concentrations, it was possible to redefine the spread of contamination in the subsoil, the starting point for the elaboration of the Risk Analysis.

The site-specific Health and Environmental Risk Analysis document was favourably assessed with prescriptions by the Authorities during the Service Conference in October 2012.

Therefore, in 2012 an additional document with acceptance of Conference of Services prescriptions that defines the CSR for soil gas and groundwater as remediation targets was prepared.

Following approval of the remediation objectives, equal to 71 mg/m 3 of PCE in soil gas for the unsaturated portion of land, a remediation project of the total subsoil was drawn, which also included the portion of the aquifer assessed in the Conference of Services in March 2013 with related observations and additions by the Authorities.

3. Pilot-scale application in field

3.1 Extraction system

The technology applied for the remediation of the area consisted of the combination of an extraction plant (SVE) for unsaturated soil, associated with an Air-Sparging (AS) plant for the remediation of groundwater (saturated).

In consideration of the geological-stratigraphic structure of the soil, characterized by the alternation of horizons with coarse and medium fine textures, the design of the SVE plant was carried out on the basis of data already available on site, having been active in a network of wells for interstitial gas measurement.

For the correct sizing of the AS system, a pilot module was instead prepared.

In relation to the local stratigraphic succession and in particular to the presence of clay lenses in the area to be reclaimed, the overall system of SVE and AS was created with the following characteristics:

- n. 18 suction wells of which:
  - n. 5 "shorts" (PV1, PM2, PV6, VW14 and VW15) → with filtering section between pc and the roof of the first clay lens, used for the remediation of unsaturated soil, possibly still polluted.
  - n. 7 "intermediate" wells (VW1 - VW7) → with filtering section between the first and second clay lens, necessary to concentrate the recall of polluting vapours in this area, where the effect of AS will be greater and where the vapours will concentrate;
  - n. 6 "long" wells (VW8 - VW13) → with filtering section between 6 and 14-15 m deep, or in any case one meter above the height of the phreatic surface, will instead have the function of area limiting the diffusion of the AS effect and treat the vapours deriving from the groundwater.
- n. 6 insufflations wells (AS1 - AS6) located inside the former Battery Department, in the area of maximum PCE concentration in interstitial gases. In the pilot scale application, the construction of a well for insufflations of groundwater (AS/G14) and n. 6 monitoring wells positioned around the AS;
- n. 2 SVE systems, consisting of a condensate separator, a side channel aspirator and an activated carbon filter, of which:
  - plant 1 to which the "short" wells are connected;
  - plant 2 to which the "intermediate" and "long" wells are connected;
- n. 1 AS system consisting of a blower in correspondence with each AS well, capable of blowing air at the established flow rates and pressures.
- n. 3 monitoring wells, necessary especially in the initial start-up phase, to check the

influence rays of the venting wells.

The system was initially launched in the pilot phase and after two months, once the functional and monitoring data of the system itself had been acquired, it came into operation at full capacity.

The data collected during the monitoring made it possible to regulate flows and depressions of the plants. The results obtained from monitoring with colorimetric vials, on the other hand, gave a more precise indication of the presence of PCE in interstitial gases. Over time, the outermost wells were closed, particularly in the westernmost area where the PCE values were zero, in order to concentrate the area of influence of the SVE in the most critical areas.
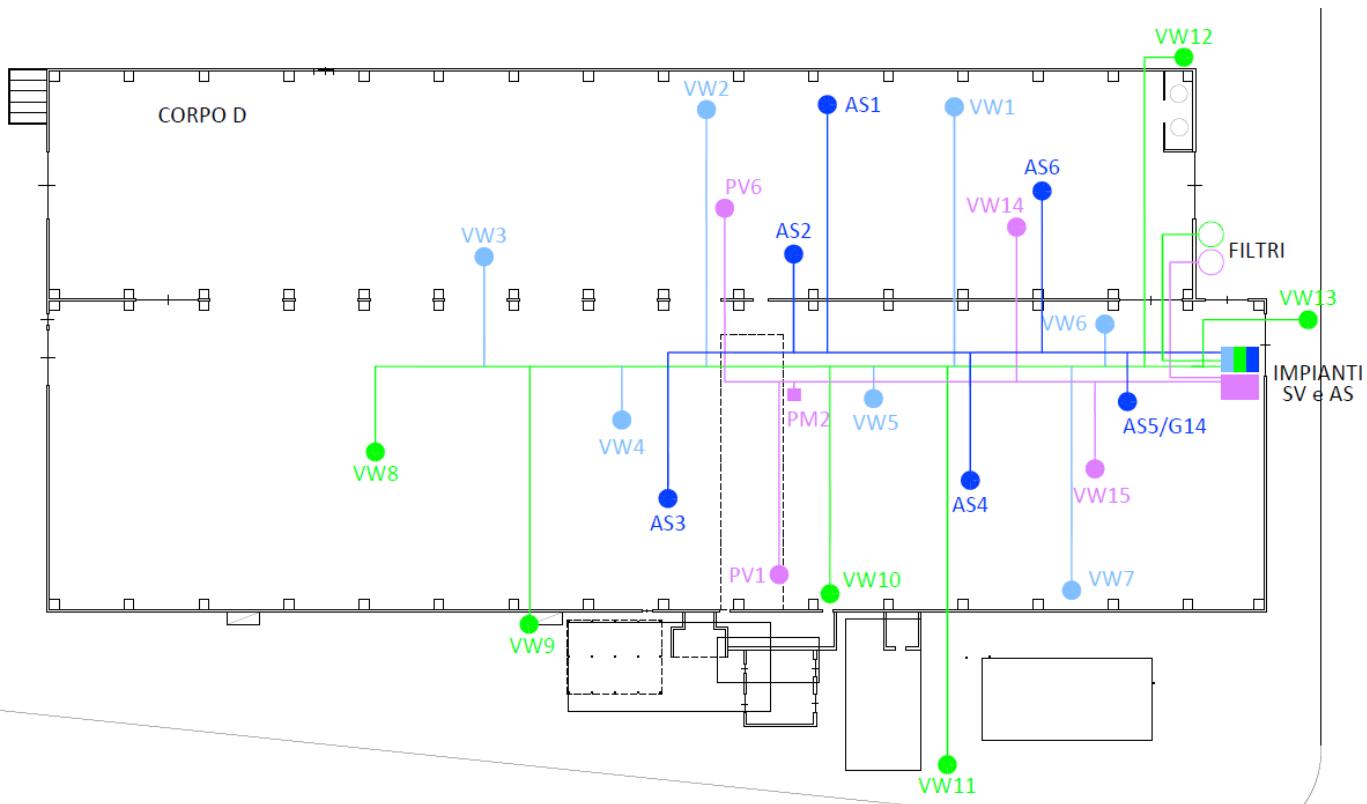

Position of the AS and SVE wells

3.2 Injection system

The AS plant was divided into n. 6 insufflations wells (AS1 - AS6) located in the area of maximum PCE concentration in interstitial gases.

In the pilot scale application, a well for insufflation of groundwater (AS/G14) and n. 6 monitoring wells were constructed positioned around the AS.

The carrier gas used was air, injected through diffusers to maximize the flow and increase the area exposed to the treatment. Thanks to the diffusion of high air flow, distribution was homogeneous in the contaminated area and the stripping effect of the volatile contaminants (PCE) from groundwater which are then extracted by SVE was amplified.

AS pilot module

3.3 Radius of influence

AREA DI INTERVENTO

POZZETTI SOIL VENTING SUPERFICIALI

POZZETTI SOIL VENTING INTERMEDI

POZZETTI SOIL VENTING PROFONDI

RAGGI DI INFLUENZA POZZETTI
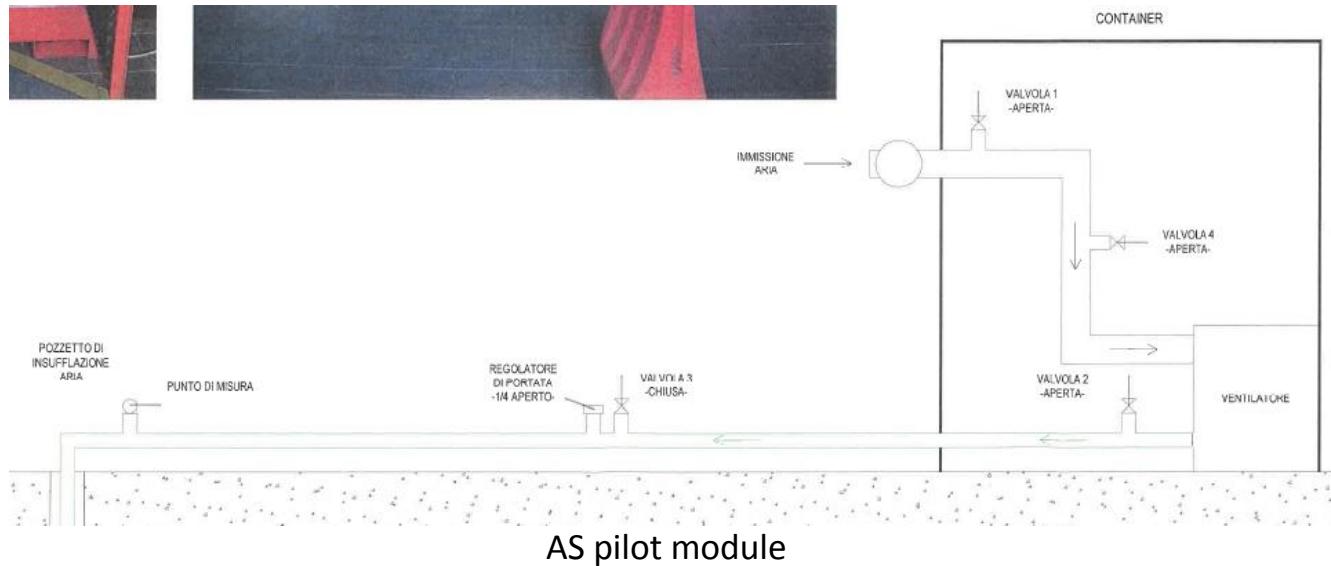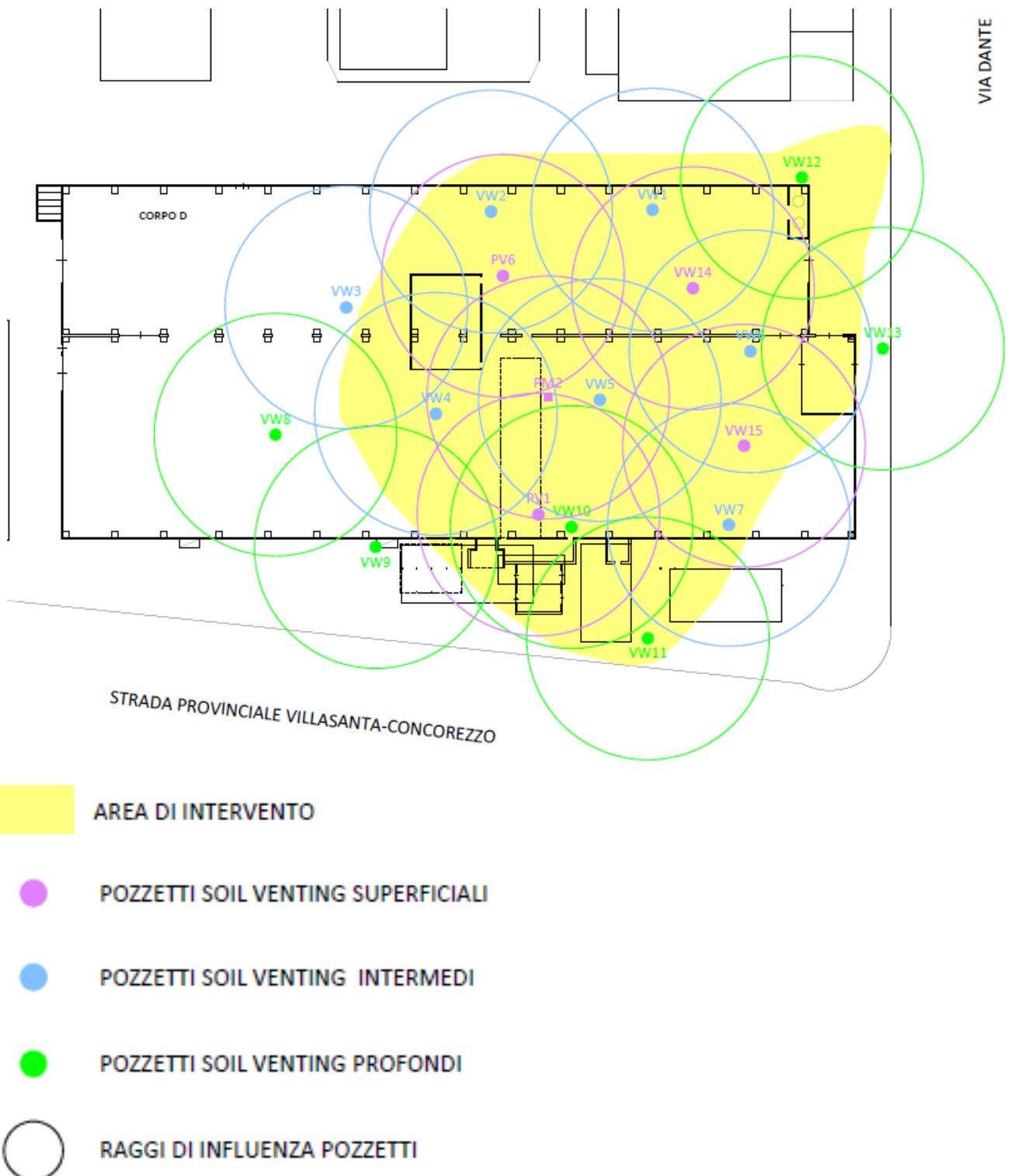
On the basis of the bibliographic data already present for the site and in particular those derived from the implementation of the previous reclamation project, from the stratigraphic observations carried out during the investigations and from the pilot test carried out and described in the previous chapter, it was possible to hypothesize a range of influence for each suction pit equal to 15 m.

The location of the suction points has been selected in such a way that the respective rays of influence are sufficiently coalescing and there are no unaffected areas within the area to be reclaimed.

3.4 Off gas Treatment

As a real pilot phase was not foreseen for the development of the SVE system (it should be remembered that there was a monitoring system of interstitial gases built in application of regional legislation on site for some time and before the planning of the reclamation interventions), the gaseous effluent treatment system corresponds to that envisaged by the operational reclamation interventions when fully operational.
In this regard, see the answer to question 4.4

4. Full-scale application

4.2 Injection system
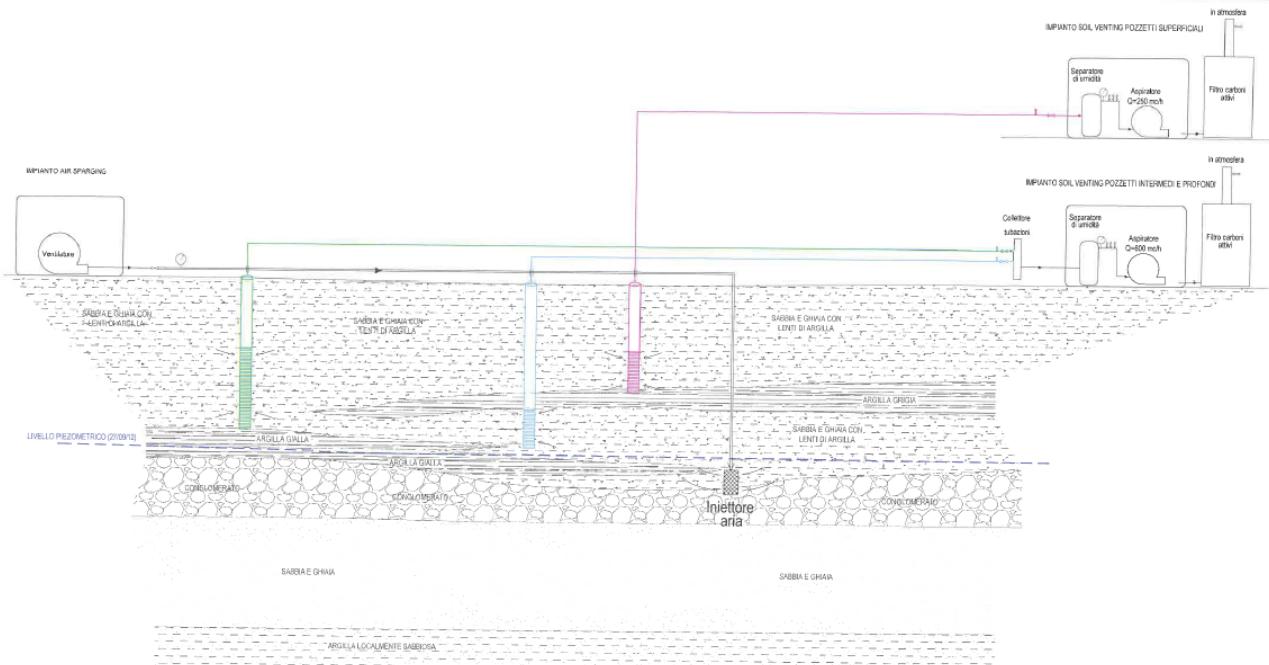
4.4 Off gas Treatment

Based on the characteristics and functions of the wells, these were connected to two separate suction systems integrated with attached activated carbon filters.

The vapours deriving only from the "short" suction wells with an indicative flow rate of 250 m³/h were collected in plant 1.

The vapours deriving from the "intermediate" and "long" suction wells were collected in plant 2 with a total suction flow rate of 650 m³/h (approximately 50 m³/h for each suction well).

A condensate separator was provided prior to the connection to the activated carbon filter.

The following are the characteristics of the activated carbon filter:

- Estimated gas flow: 650 m^3/h;
- Filtering surface: 3.0 m^2;
- Filter material volume: 7.0 m^3/h;
- Contact time: 38.77 s;
- Filtration speed: 0.06 m/s;
- Active carbon quantity: 4,000 kg;
- Filter layer height: 2,800 mm;
- Inlet/outlet pipe diameter: 100 DN

4.5 Control parameters

Describe the monitoring plan designed to evaluate the effectiveness of SVE in the three dimensions. List the control parameters considered.

The direct verification of the radius of influence of the venting wells was carried out through 3 monitoring wells with a depth of 8 m from a pc, equipped with a 2 "PVC pipe, blind for the first 2 m and micro-slotted at -2 m at the bottom of the hole. The perforation-pipe cavity was filled with selected silicon gravel in the micro-cracked sections and with cement/benthonite grout in the blind top sections.

The monitoring operations include both on-site analyses, using portable instrumentation, and laboratory gas chromatographic analyses, by taking air samples from activated carbon vials, in order to calibrate the analyses performed on site.

The following parameters were determined on site, both refer to the entire system (measurement point at the collector) and to the individual wells:

- Air speed (m/s) by means of hot wire anemometer;
- Air temperature (° C) by means of a thermo hygrometer;
- Air humidity (%) by means of a thermo hygrometer;
- Depressions realized in the suction wells (mbar) by means of a digital manometer;
- SOV concentrations present in the air stream (ppm) by PID;
- PCE concentrations (ppm) through the use of colorimetric vials of suitable Gastec or similar scale, through sampling at the suction points.

6. Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

6.1 Post treatment and/or Long Term Monitoring

The system was launched on October 8, 2013; the start-up phase took place in the following two months, during which the SVE and AS plants were activated by successive steps. From 4 December 2013, the plants operated at full capacity until 2 October 2017. During the entire period of operation of the reclamation plants, the functionality checks of the plants themselves and the monitoring of interstitial gases were regularly carried out in correspondence with the SVE wells.

The data collected during the monitoring made it possible to regulate flows and depressions of the plants.

The results obtained from the monitoring with colorimetric vials, on the other hand, gave a more precise indication of the presence of PCE in interstitial gases. Over time the outermost wells were closed, particularly in the westernmost area, where the PCE values were zero, in order to concentrate the area of influence of the SVE in the most critical areas.

As described in the last Technical Report drawn up in August 2017 before the shutdown of the plants, from the results of the monthly monitoring, it was found that:

- in a large area of that subjected to remediation, including the west, north-central and south-east corner, the PCE values in the measured soil gases reached concentrations close to or equal to zero, starting from July 2014;
- the wells located in the two limited areas of the central-eastern (VW6, VW13, VW14) and central-southern (VW10, VW11) zones also had values below the limit of 10.47 ppm of PCE and close to zero.
- the only point where the PCE was found in concentrations in soil gases close to the reclamation objective, was the VW12, located north-east of the former Battery Department;
- in correspondence with this well, sampling was then carried out by means of ac vials and laboratory analyzes. The analytical data confirmed compliance with the limits set downstream of the risk analysis.

Given the trends in PCE concentrations in the monitored SVE wells, in October 2017 the plants were shut down and the first phase of soil testing was started, by carrying out n. 2 on/off cycles of the systems to check for any rebound phenomena.

As indicated in the act of approval of the subsoil remediation project for the Carrier plant in Villasanta, the remediation objectives for the unsaturated soil matrix can be considered achieved when "... the results of the interstitial gas tests will attest to concentrations lower than 71 mg/m^3 of PCE in all the monitoring wells for at least two

campaigns carried out in different seasonal climatic conditions... "

The first test of unsaturated soil was carried out in 2018 with the two semi-annual sampling campaigns in June and November.

Given the negative results obtained during the second sampling in November 2018, the SVE plants were restarted until April 2019 for a total period of about 5 months and then the absence of rebound phenomena was verified through ignition/shutdown cycles.

The second phase of testing of unsaturated soil was therefore launched, carried out with the two six-monthly samplings respectively in July 2019 and January 2020. The results of the activities carried out in the two testing campaigns certified compliance with the authorized remediation objectives.

7. Additional information

7.1 Lesson learnt

The interventions that affected the site were carried out by an American multinational which, in line with its corporate policy, paid particular attention in terms of financial resources in the choice of the best performing remediation technology for the type of pollution (PCE) and for the particular site specific conditions (contamination of the unsaturated and saturated, with the presence of more contaminated horizons).

The use of interstitial gas sampling techniques and identification of remediation objectives with concentrations referring to the aeriform matrix present in the unsaturated soil represents one of the first cases of application in Lombardy (the first sampling had already been carried out before 2010, in the absence of guidelines and regulatory guidelines).

It is therefore a reference case study for the development of the pore gas measurement methodology that has been progressively implemented.

The SVE technology, associated with an AS plant and a Pump & Treat system, has been found to be effective in reducing the level of contamination present in the soil and groundwater.

At the administrative level, it is necessary to highlight the difficulties in defining the remediation objectives, considering that the legislation and technical guidelines in force at the time made the use of values in interstitial gases as a reference for site certification with little applicability.

From a technical point of view, it should be noted that the first soil characterization carried out with traditional techniques (sampling of soil by continuous core drilling and laboratory analysis) did not show that the table limits were exceeded, underestimating the actual state of contamination of the site.

The use of data from the measurement of interstitial gases in the second phase of characterization, however, made it possible to ascertain an effective contamination of the unsaturated soil, identifying at the same time the secondary source responsible for the contamination in the groundwater.

Glossary of Terms

Term (alphabetical order)	Definition
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
SIN	Contaminated site of National Priority List
SIR	site of regional importance
CdS	Conference of Services
CSC	Contamination Threshold Concentrations
CSR	Risk Threshold Concentrations
SVE	Soil Vapor Extraction
AS	Air Sparging
PCE	Perchlorethylene (= Tetrachlorethylene)
TCE	Trielin (= Trichlorethylene)
TCM	Chloroform (= Trichloromethane)
P&T	Pump and Treat