



## **Risk assessment of contaminated sites to water resources: The role of the contaminant mass discharge approach**

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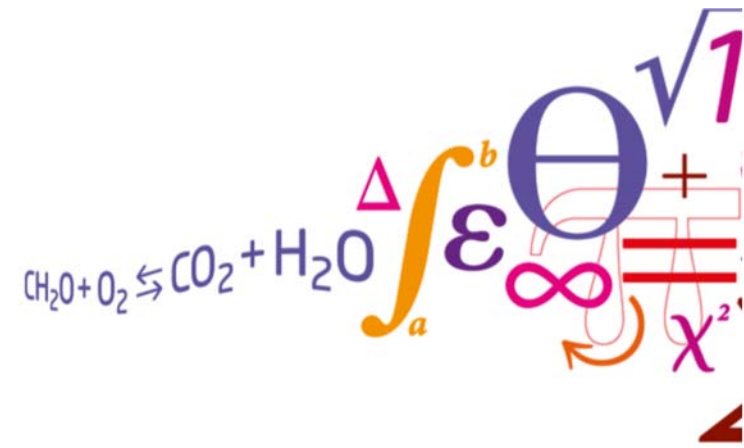
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# Risk assessment of contaminated sites to water resources: The role of the contaminant mass discharge approach

Professor Poul L. Bjerg and many others

September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

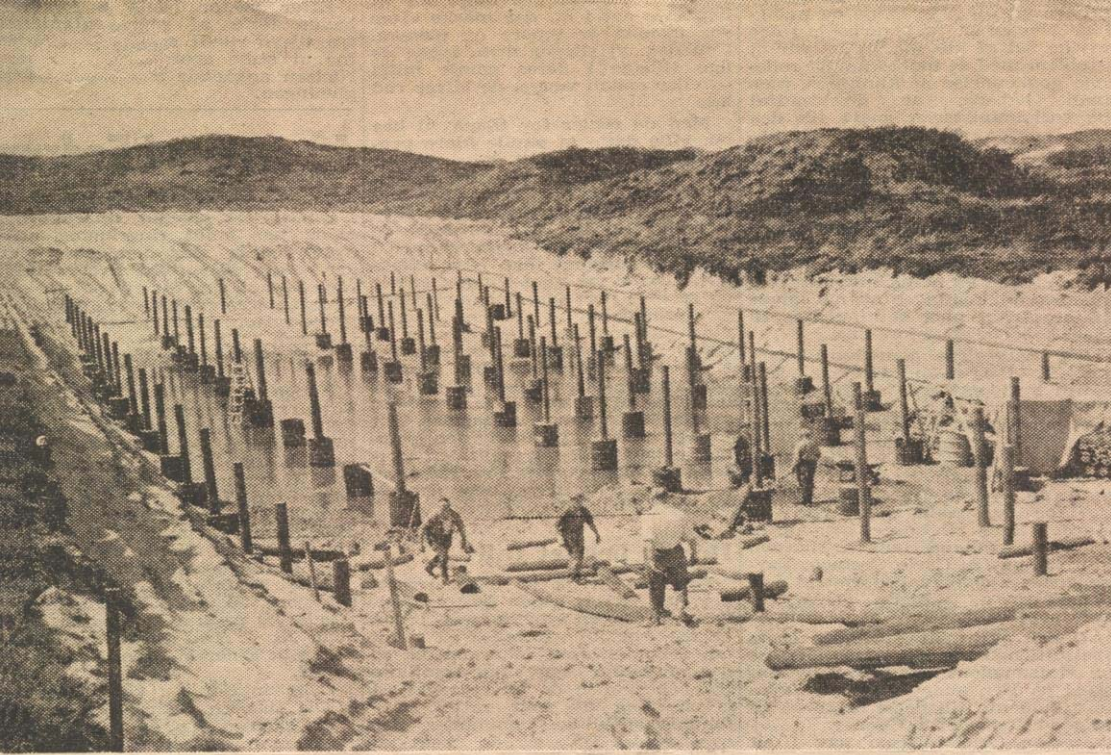


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Department of Environmental Engineering

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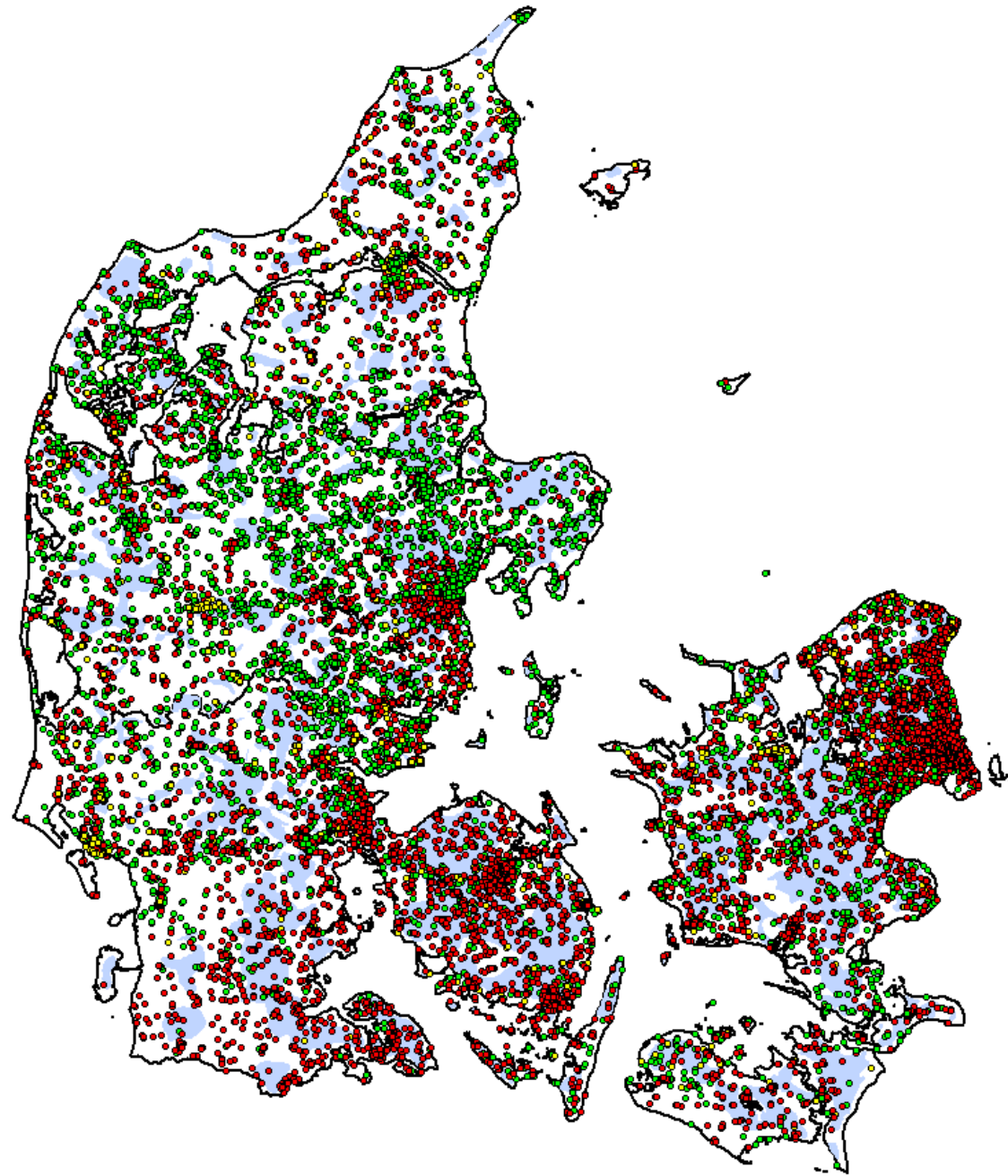




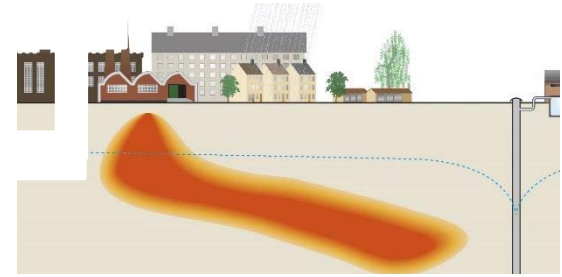
*Dette hul i jorden bliver sikkert landets hidtil dyreste. Det skal bruges til udtømning af spildevand fra „Grindstedværket“.*



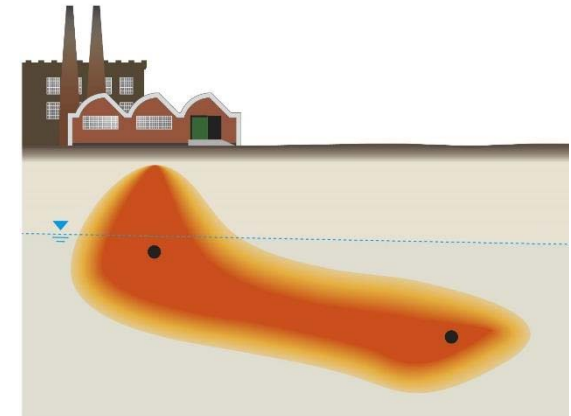
# Contaminated sites in Denmark



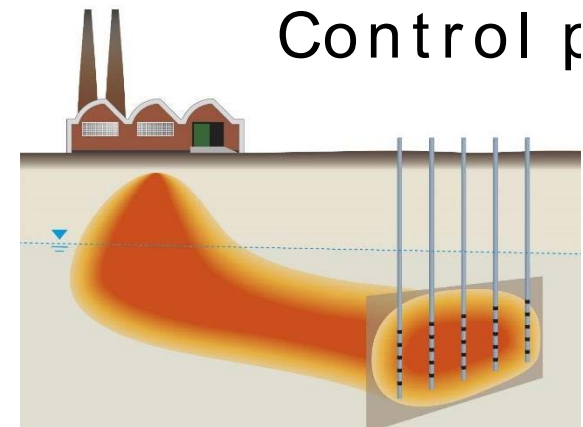
Risk assessment  
groundwater resources



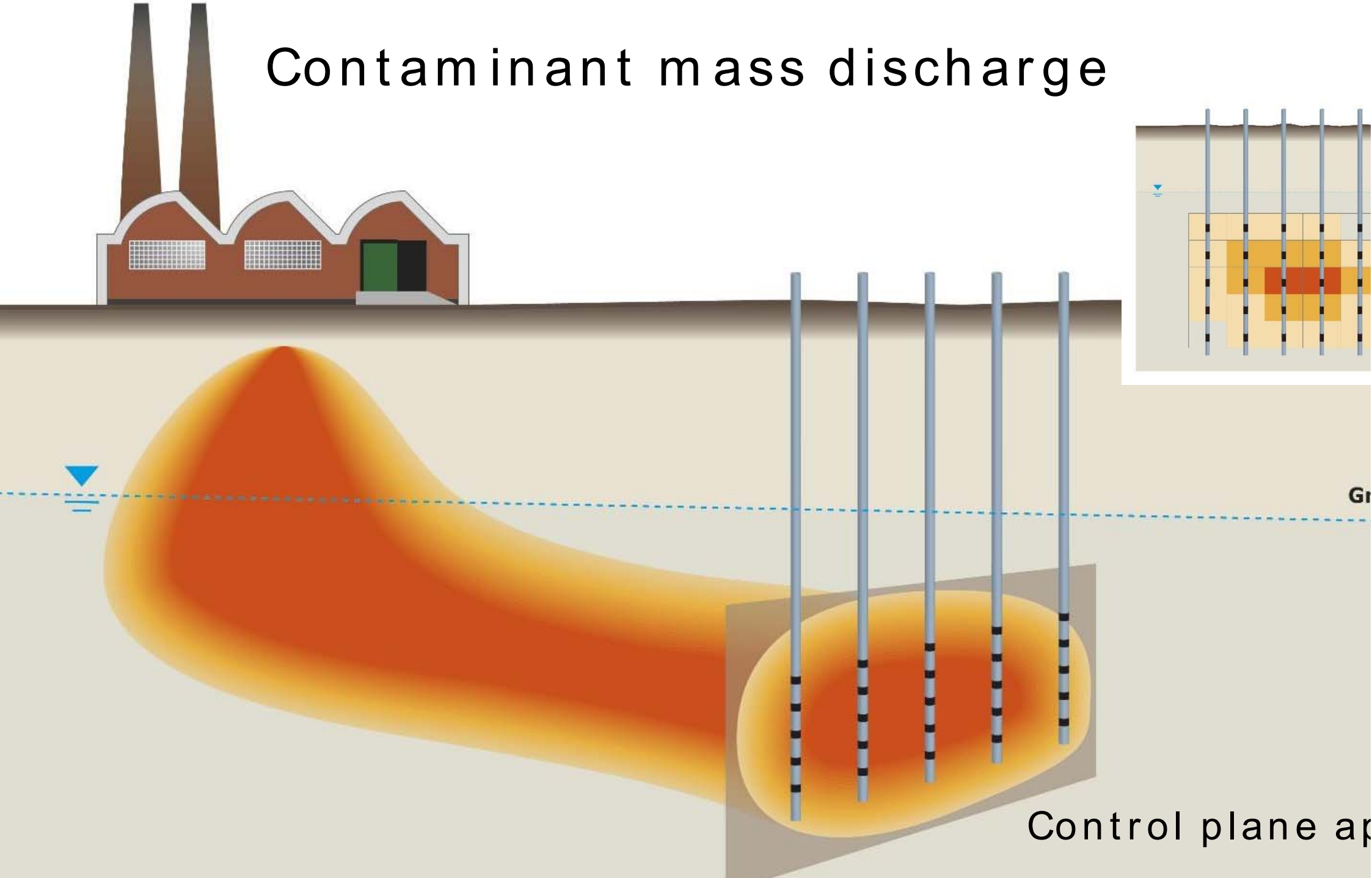
Point of compliance



Control point



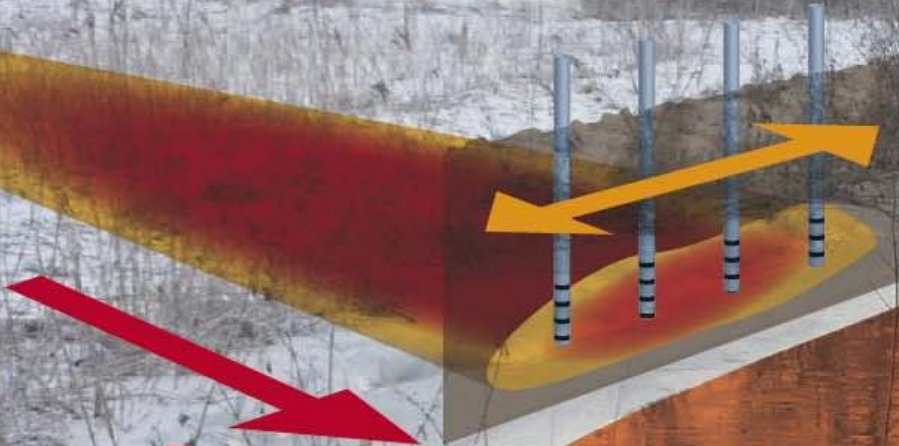
# Contaminant mass discharge





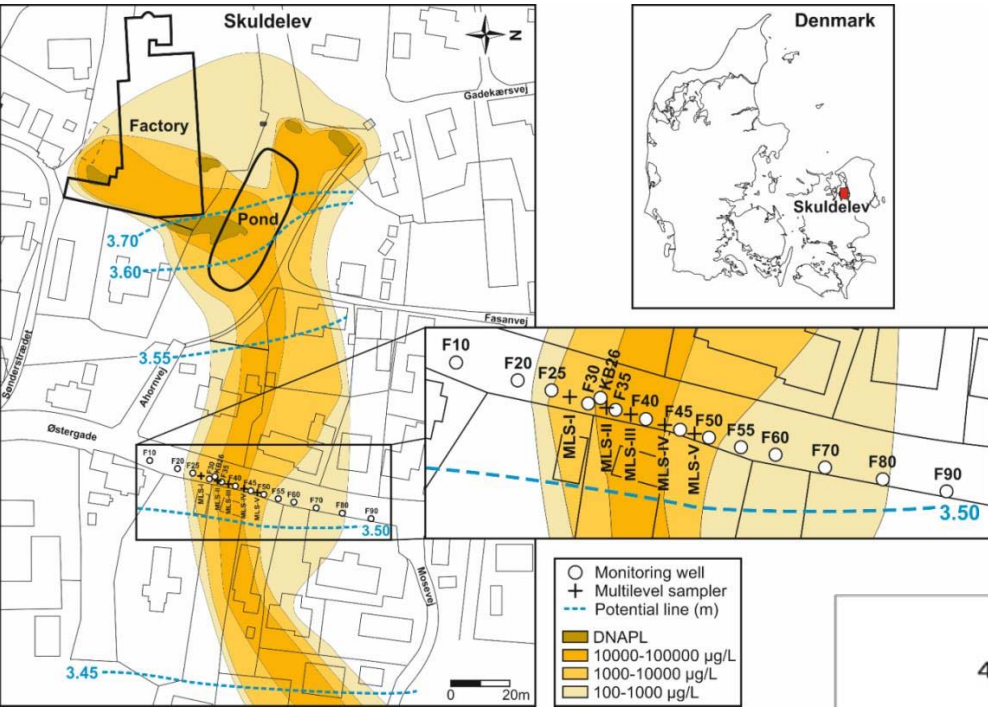
Plume width =  $L$

Waterflow in stream =



$C_{mix} = J/A$





# Otte tons gift skal væk fra Skuldelev

Region Hovedstaden er begyndt på oprydningen i Skuldelev. Formålet er at sikre, at hverken mennesker eller grundvand kommer i kontakt med de opløsningsmidler, som Stelton hældte i kloakken igennem tre årtier.

brikbygning lige ud til gadekærens skrænter. Her brugte man klarede opløsningsmidler til at affedte metallet som blev til de kendte og prisbelønnede produkter i rustfrit stål. Når metallet var affedt blev opløsningsmidlerne skyllet ud i kloakket. Og det måtte virksomheden gerne, for dengang havde man ikke den viden man har i dag: At klarede opløsningsmidler kan adlægge menneskers helbred.

dekæret i Skuldelev strømmer grundvandet mod øst, ud mod Roskilde Fjord. Undervejs løber det under en lang række boliger og tæt forbi Skuldelev Vandværk. Vores opgave er at undgå at det kommer i grundvandet. Og at undgå at folk kommer i kontakt med det, siger Mads Terkelsen.

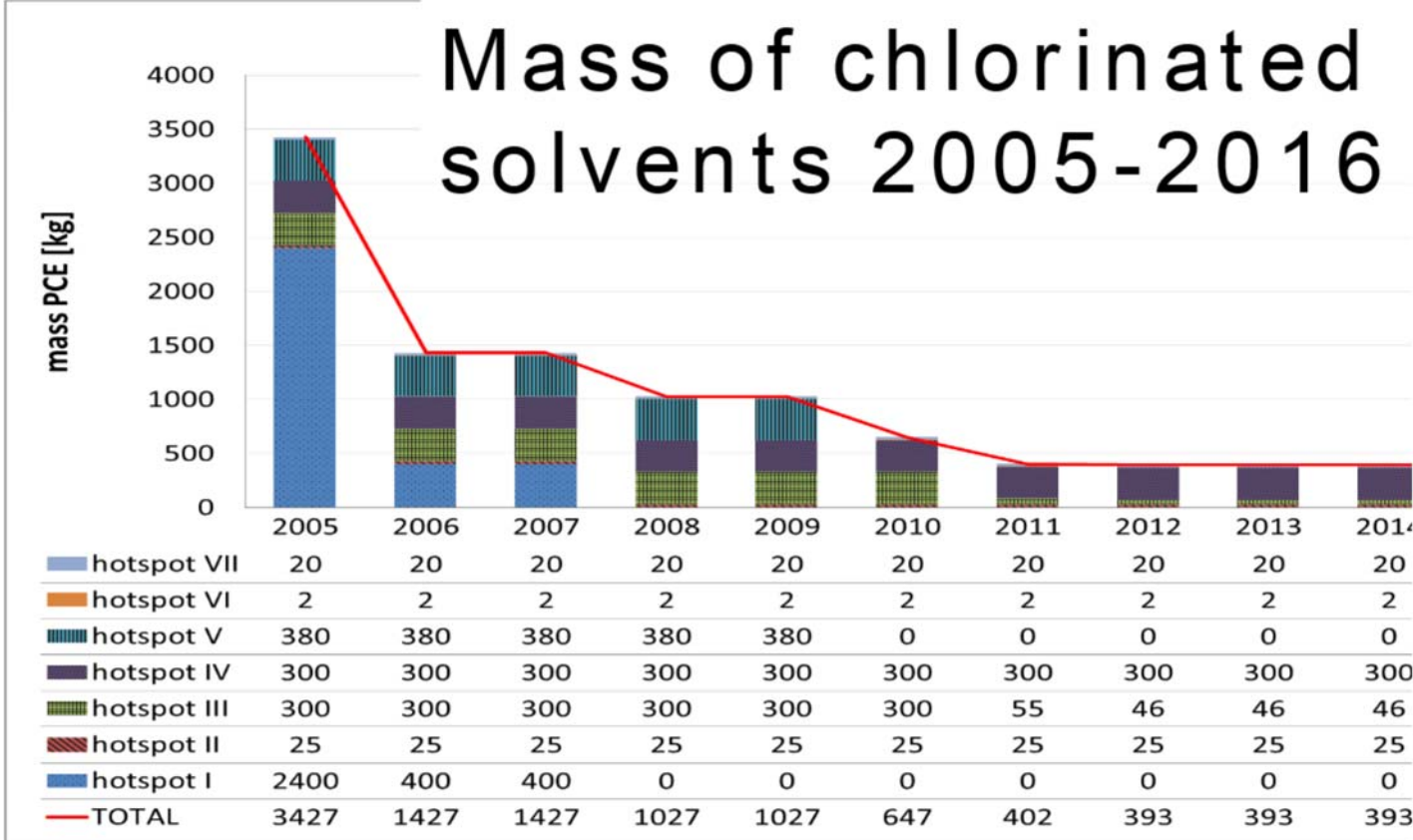
## Malerhjerne

Undersøgelserne viser, at forureningen ligger som

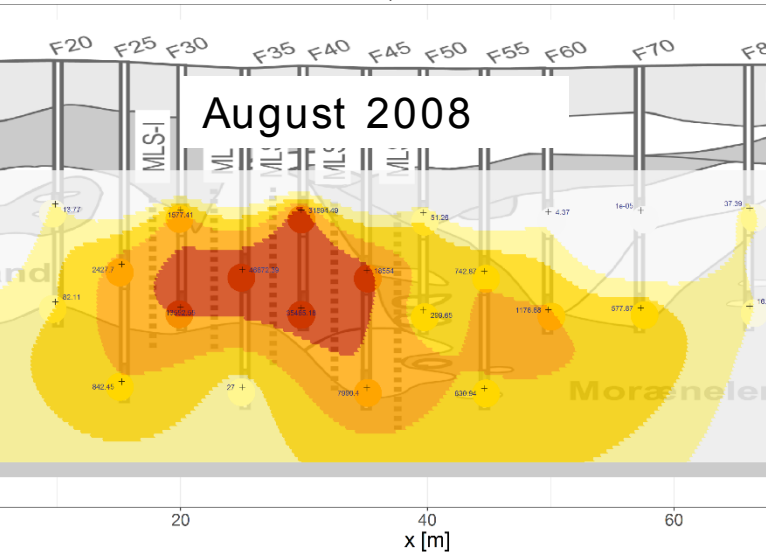


Courtesy NIRAS and the C

## Klar til kogning i Skuldelev

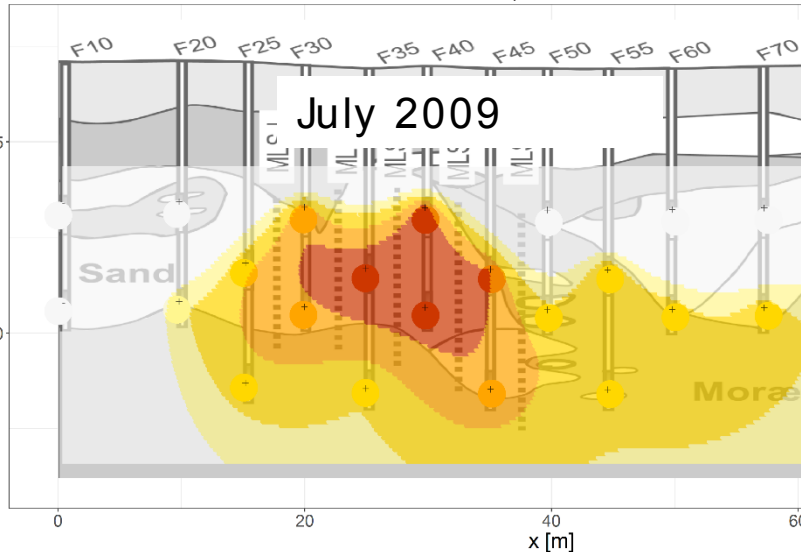


August 2008  
PCEeq Concentration



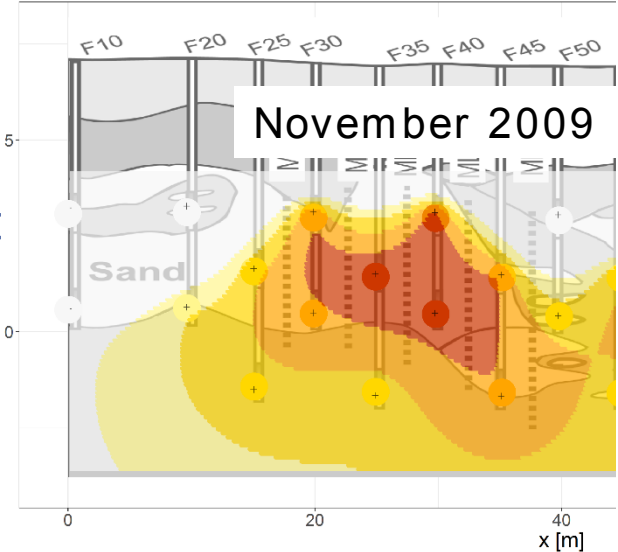
J = 4.9 kg/year

July 2009  
PCEeq Concentration



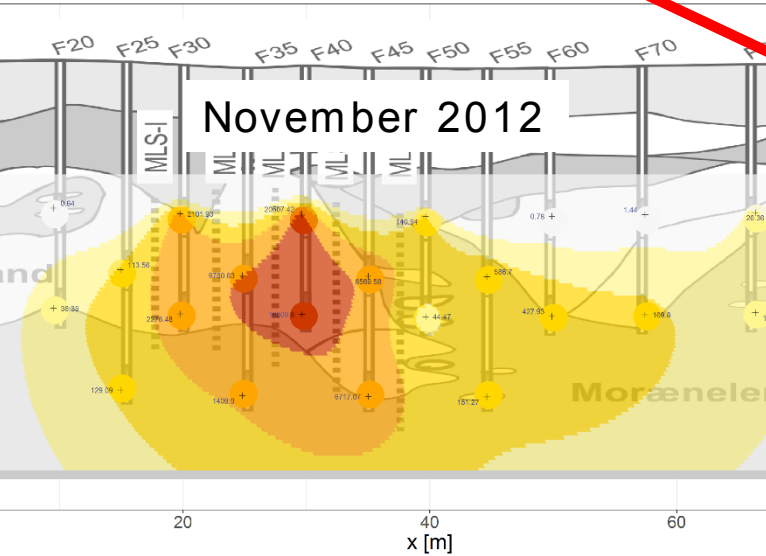
J = 4.1 kg/year

November 2009  
PCEeq Concentration



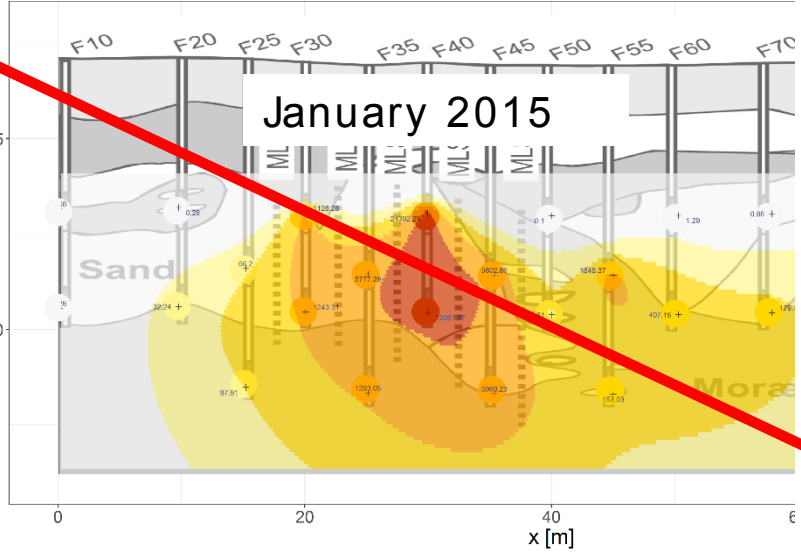
J = 3.3 kg/year

November 2012  
PCEeq Concentration



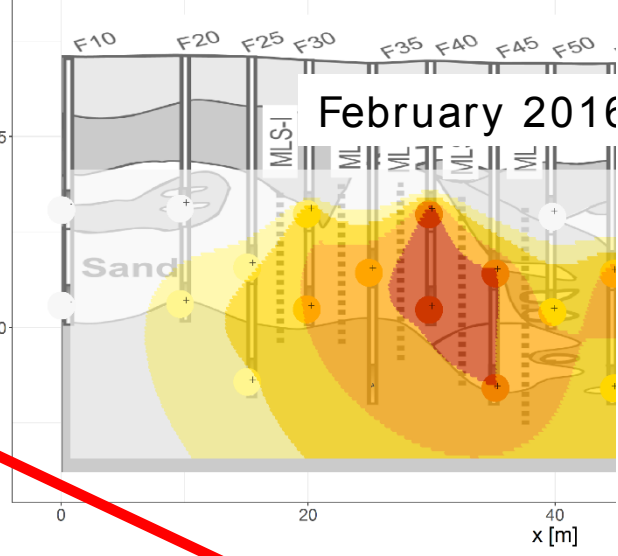
J = 2.0 kg/year

January 2015  
PCEeq Concentration



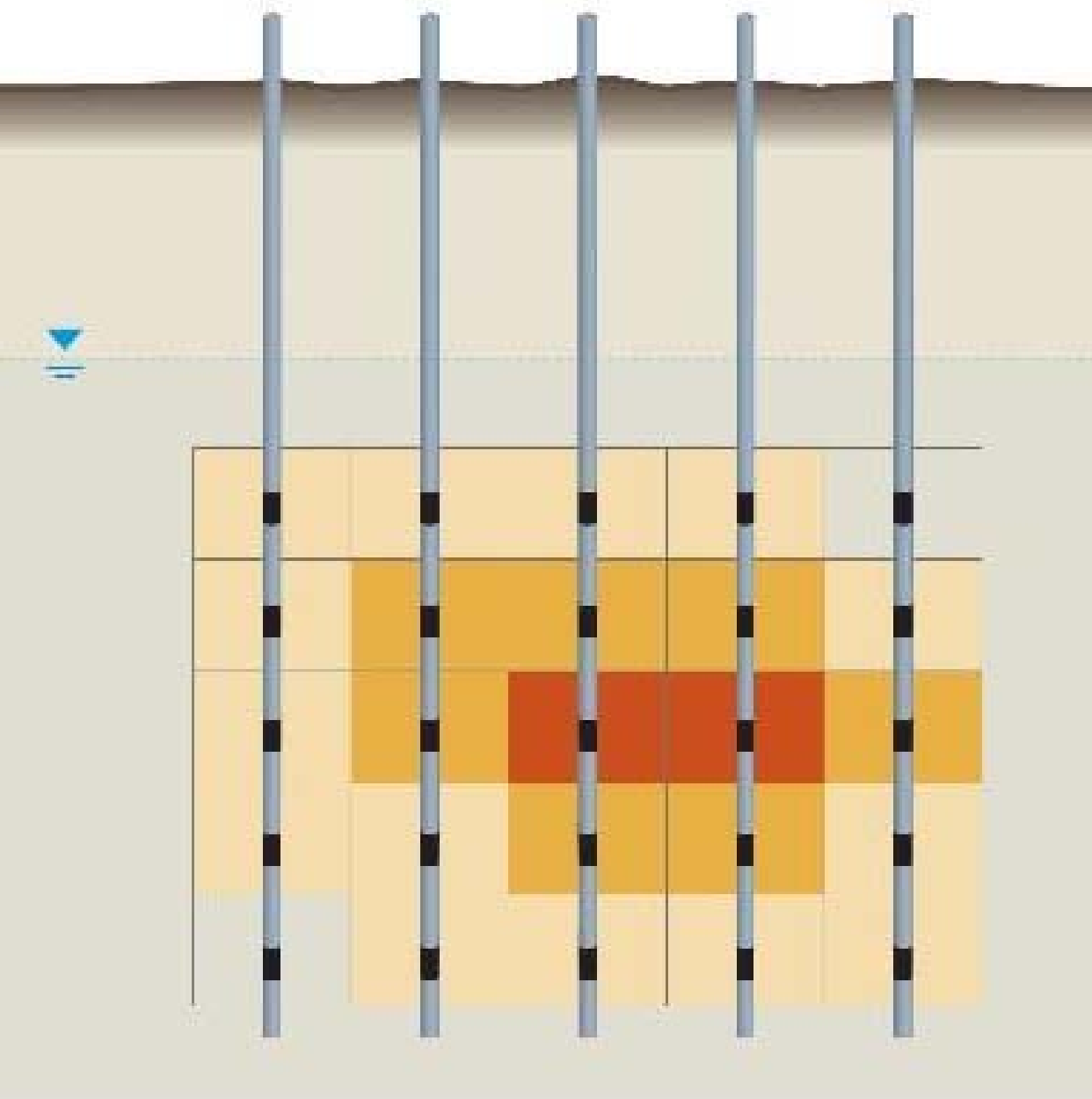
J = 1.6 kg/year

February 2016  
PCEeq Concentration



J = 1.8 kg/year

# How to determine contaminant mass discharge



Contaminant mass discharge

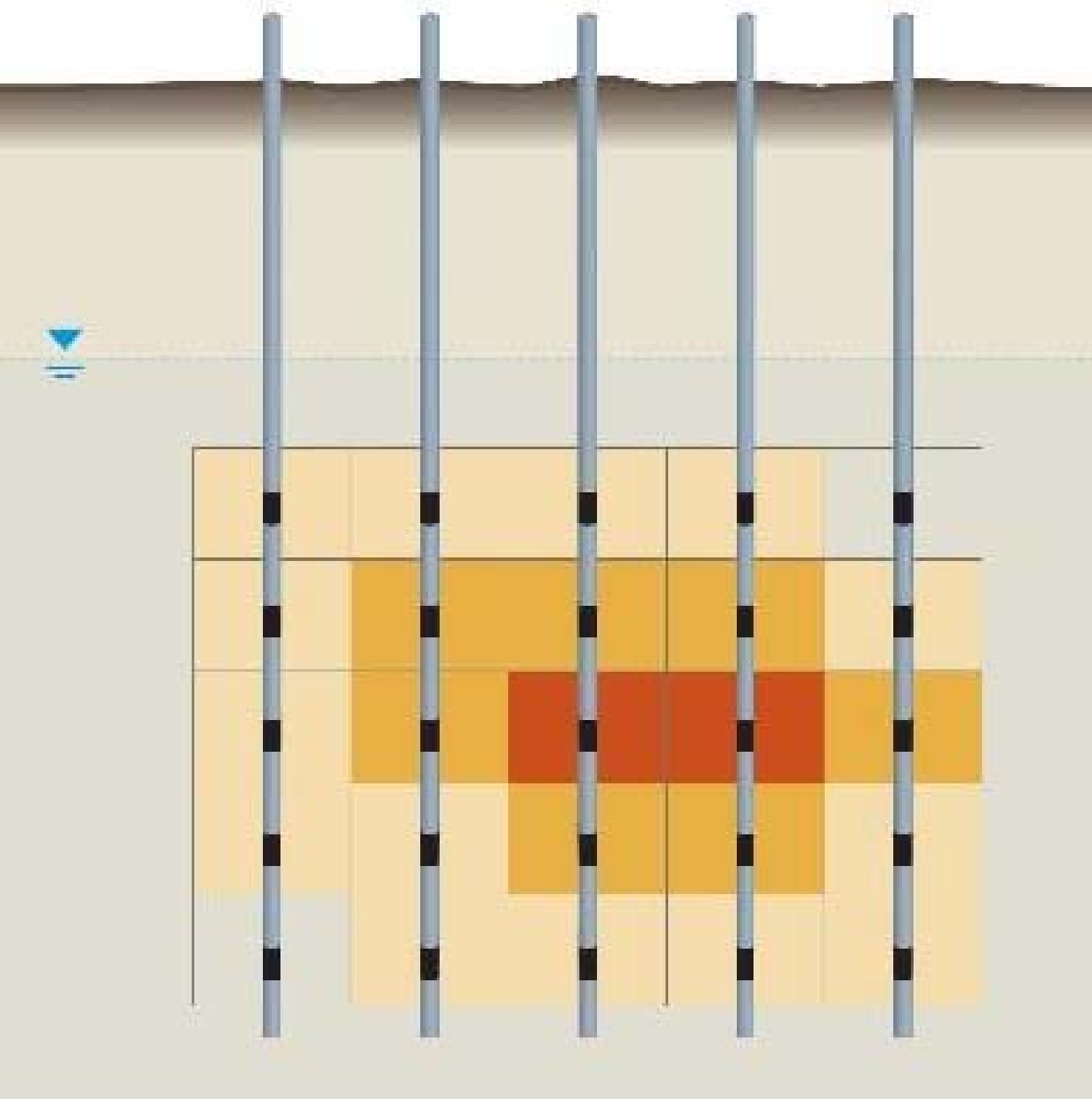
$$J = \text{Flow} * \text{Concentration} *$$

$$J = K * I * \text{Concentration} * \text{Area}$$

$K$  = Hydraulic conductivity

$I$  = Hydraulic gradient

# Contaminant mass discharge



Contaminant mass discharge

$$J = \text{Flow} * \text{Concentration} *$$

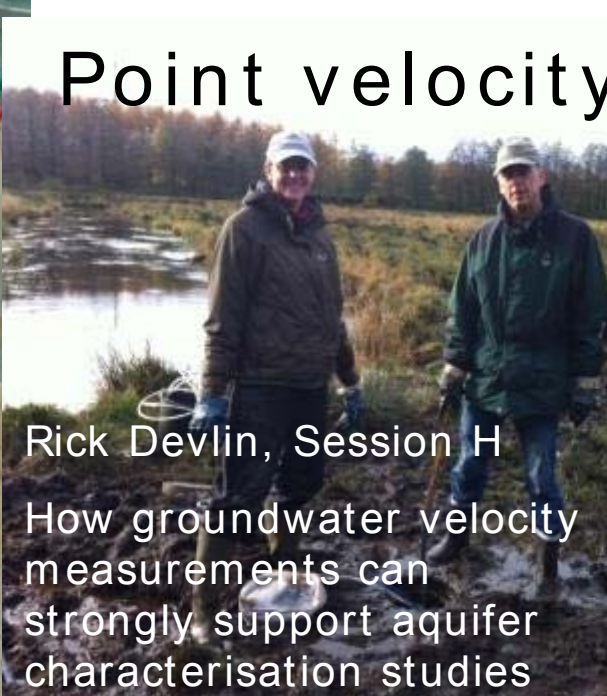
$$J = \text{Mass flux} * \text{Area}$$

$$J = K * I * \text{Concentration} * \text{Area}$$

$K$  = Hydraulic conductivity

$I$  = Hydraulic gradient

# Point velocity probes



Rick Devlin, Session H  
How groundwater velocity measurements can strongly support aquifer characterisation studies



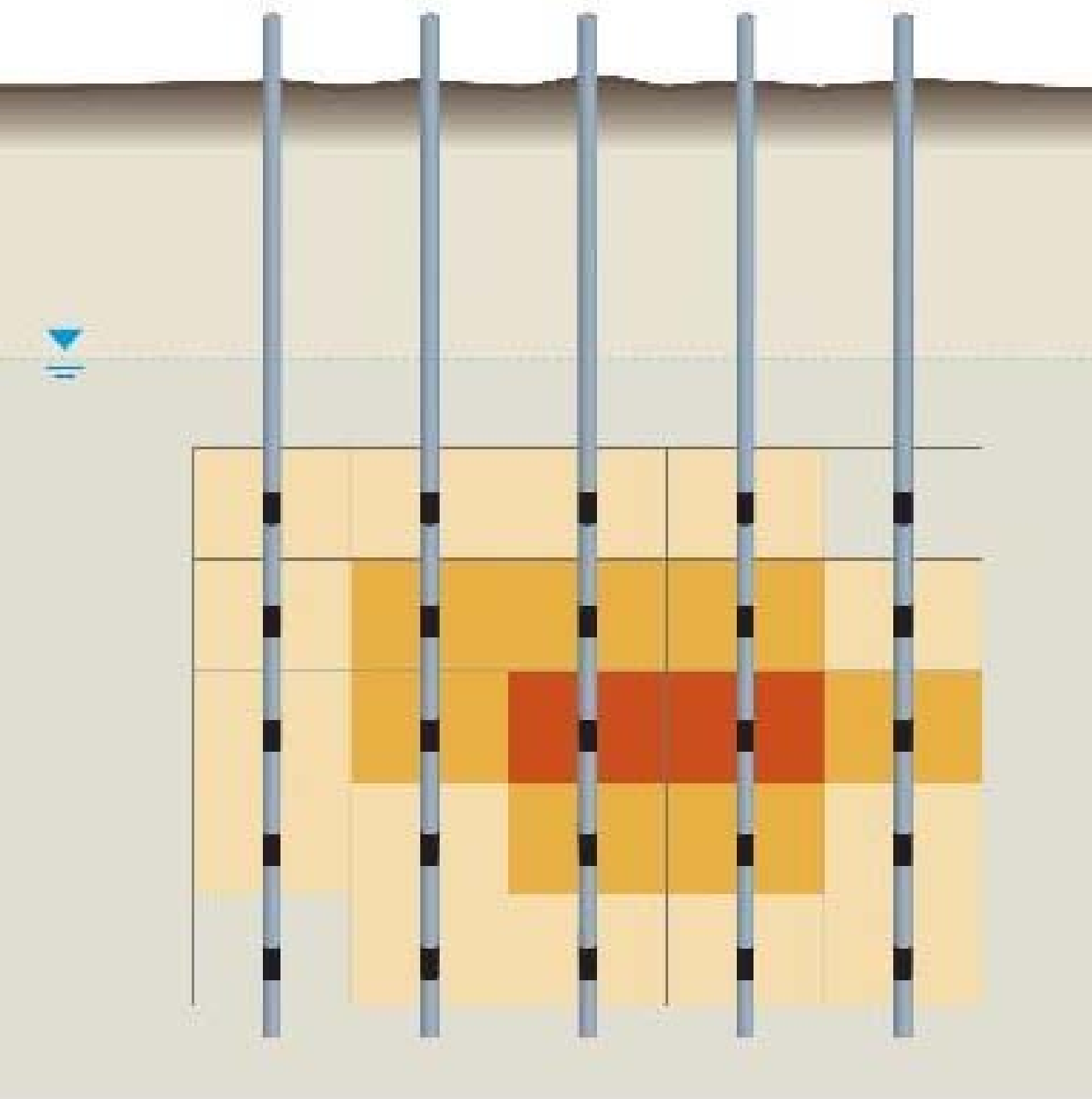
Rønde et al. (2017). Contaminant mass discharge to streams: comparing direct groundwater velocity measurements and multi-level groundwater sampling with an in-stream approach. *Journal of Contaminant Hydrology*. 206, 43-54.



Passive meters



# How to determine contaminant mass discharge



Contaminant mass discharge

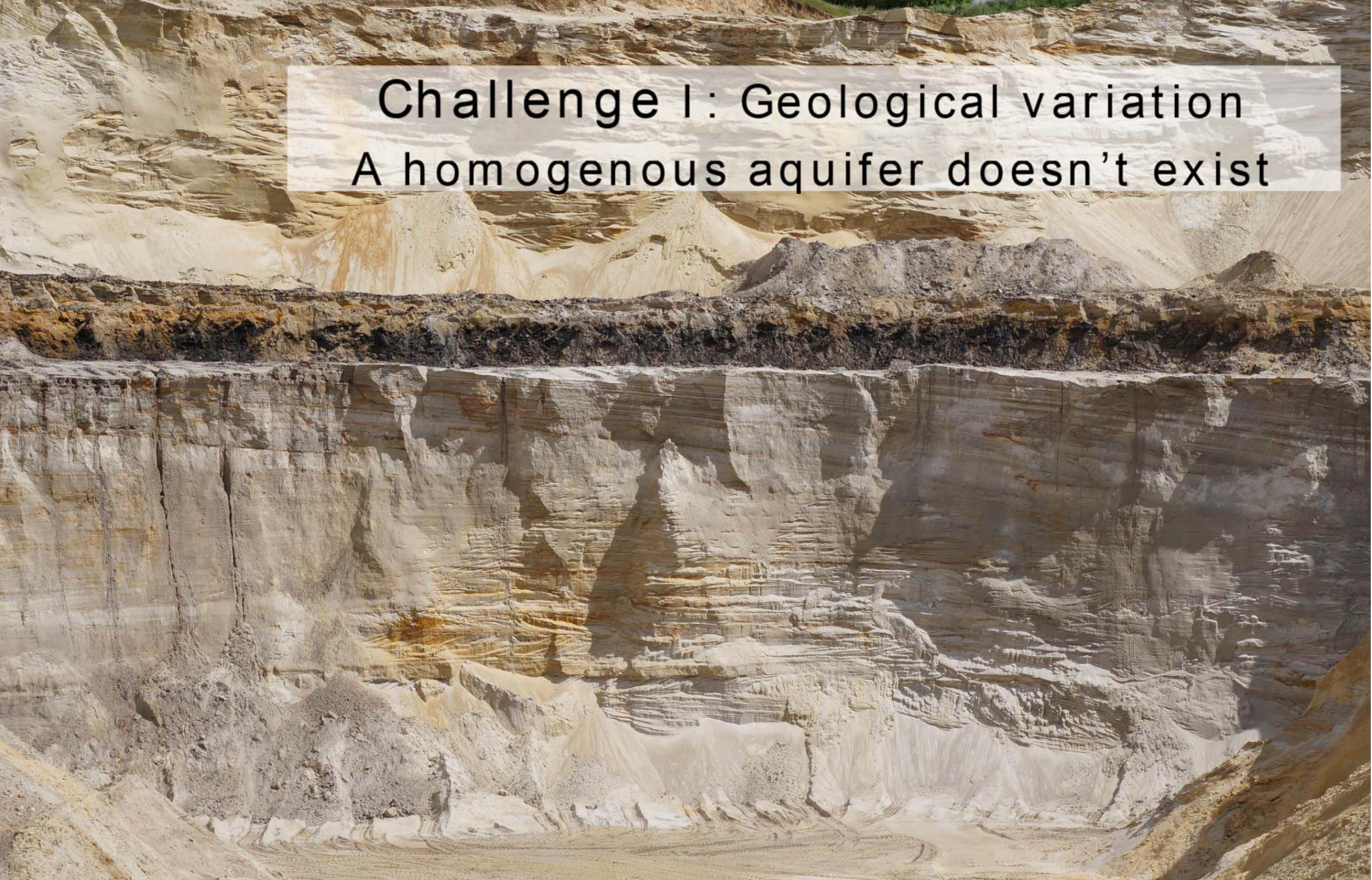
$$J = \text{Flow} * \text{Concentration} *$$

$$J = K * I * \text{Concentration} * \text{Area}$$

$K$  = Hydraulic conductivity

$I$  = Hydraulic gradient

Challenge I: Geological variation  
A homogenous aquifer doesn't exist





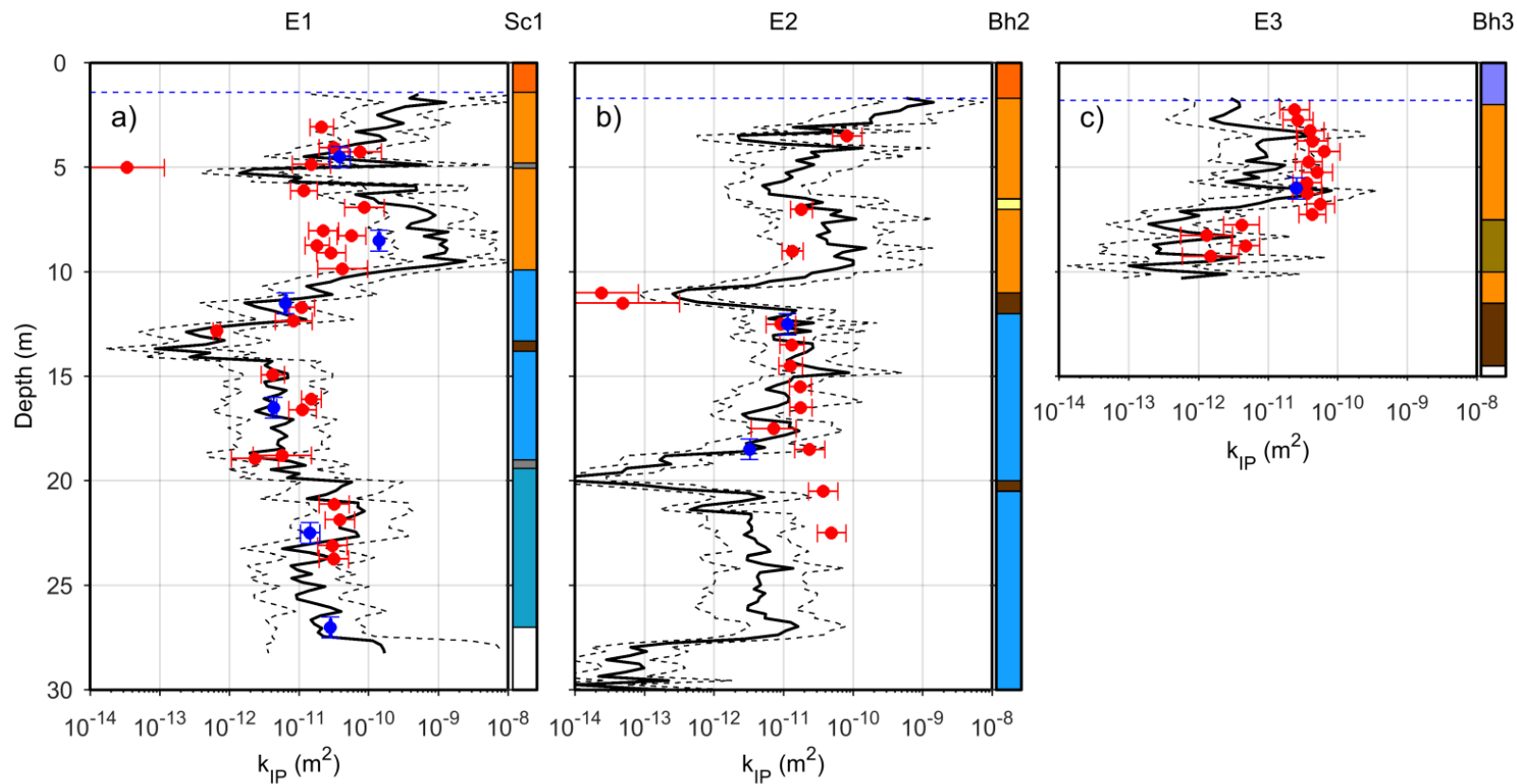
- Heterogeneity, uncertainty and are key questions
- Kitanidis (2015) Persistent questions of heterogeneity, uncertainty and in subsurface flow and transport, *Water Resources Research*, 51, 5904.



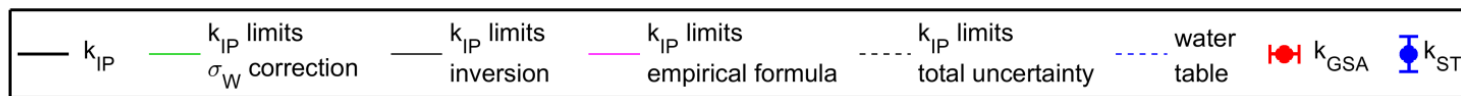


- Heterogeneity, uncertainty and are key questions
- Kitanidis (2015) Persistent questions of heterogeneity and uncertainty in subsurface flow and transport, *Water Resources Research*, 51, 5904.

# Spatial variability in hydraulic conductivity is a fa



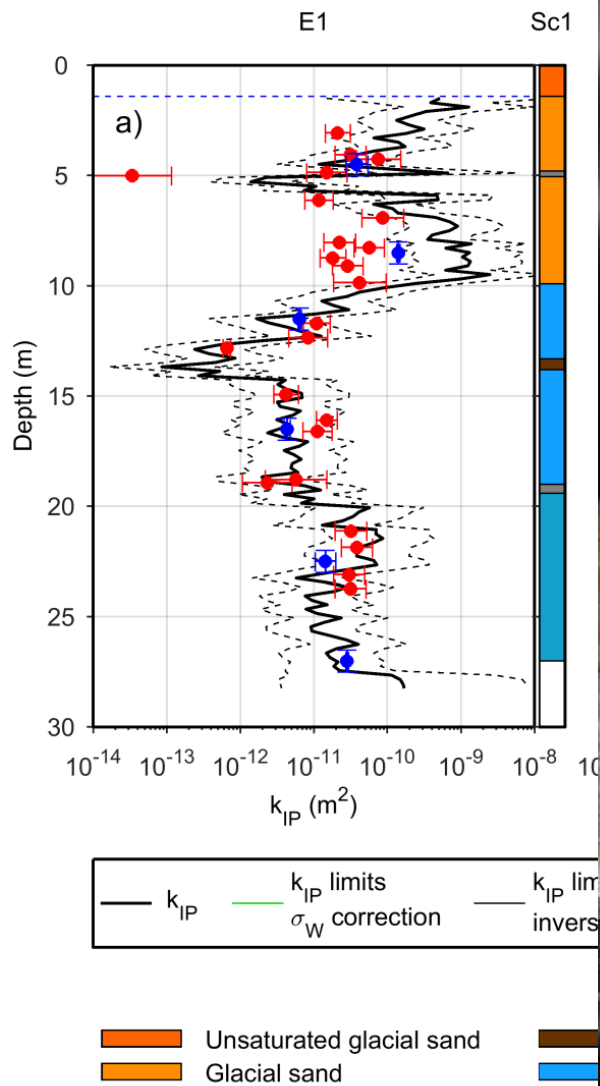
- Heterogeneity, uncertainty and are key question
- Variations in hydraulic conductivity are orders of magnitude in mildly heterogeneous aquifers



### Borehole Legend



Fiandaca et al. (2018). Water Resources Research. 54, 2851–2870.

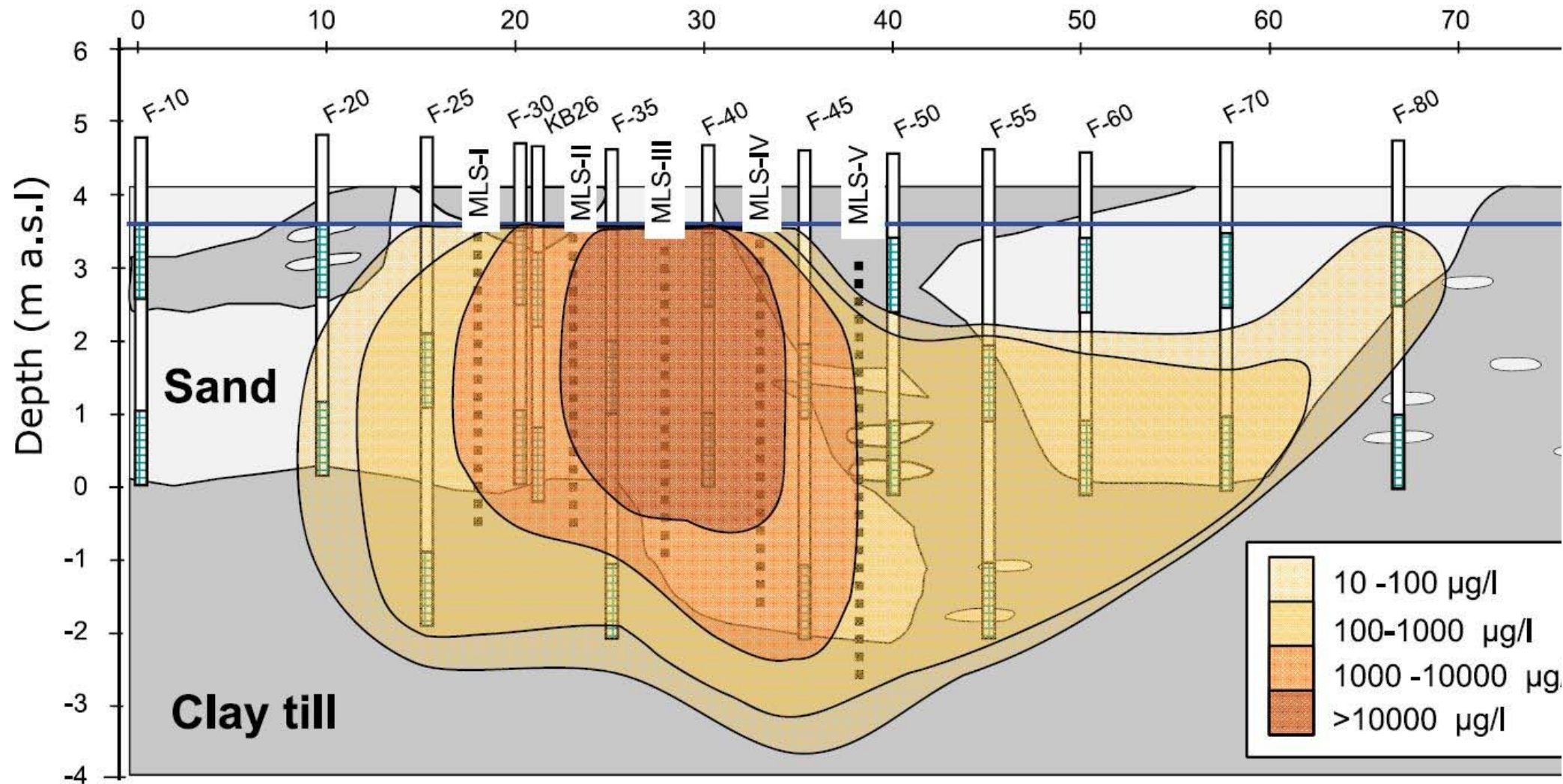


- Heterogeneity, uncertainty and scale are key questions
- Variations in hydraulic conductivity are over several orders of magnitude in mildly heterogeneous aquifers
- We still lack methods to determine the "true" hydraulic conductivity

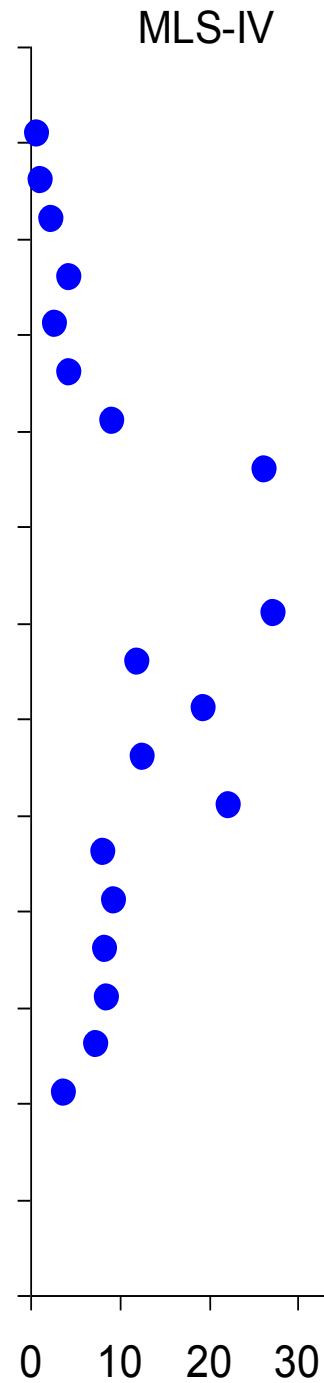
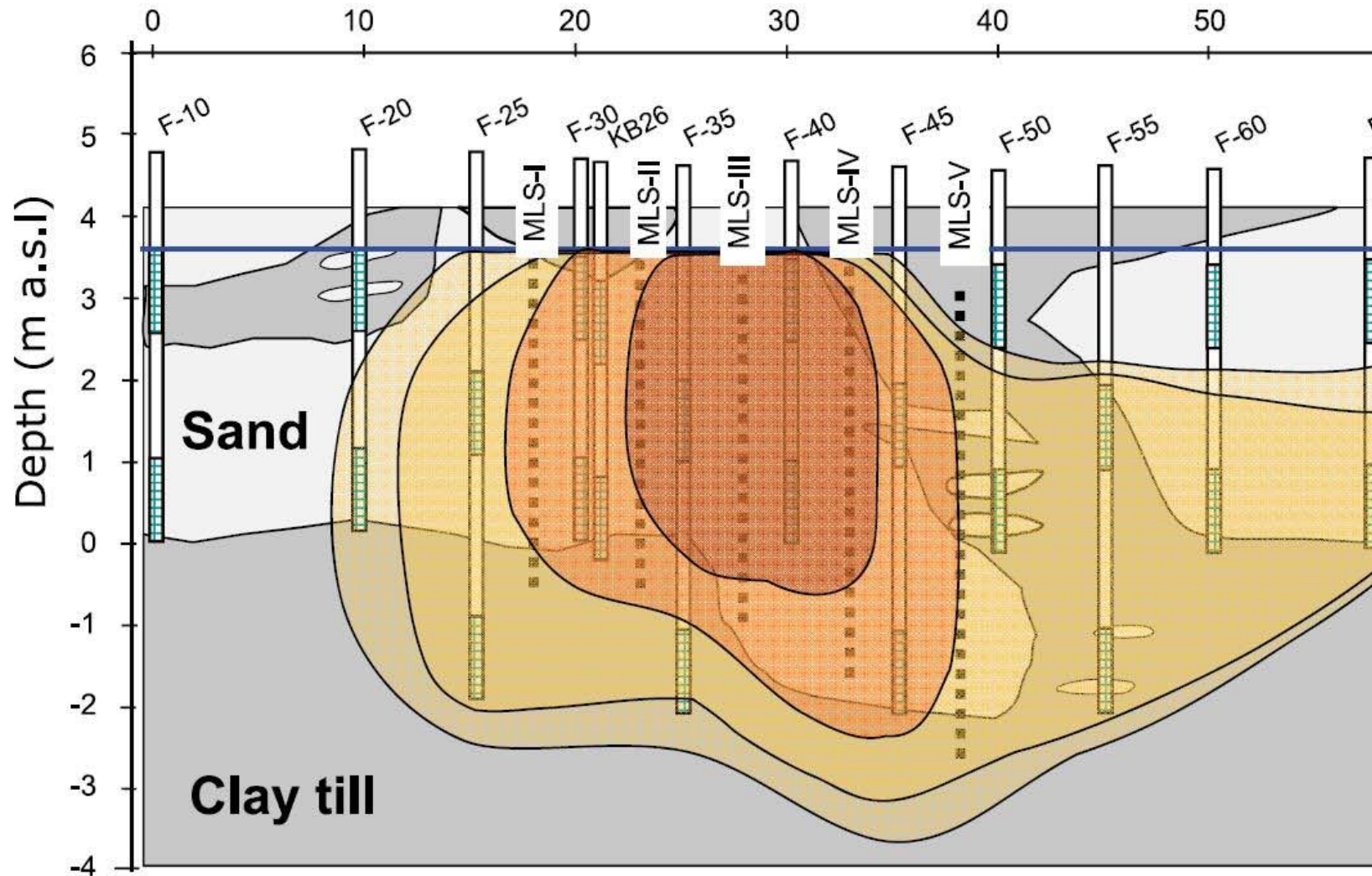


# Challenge II: Steep chemical gradients in plume

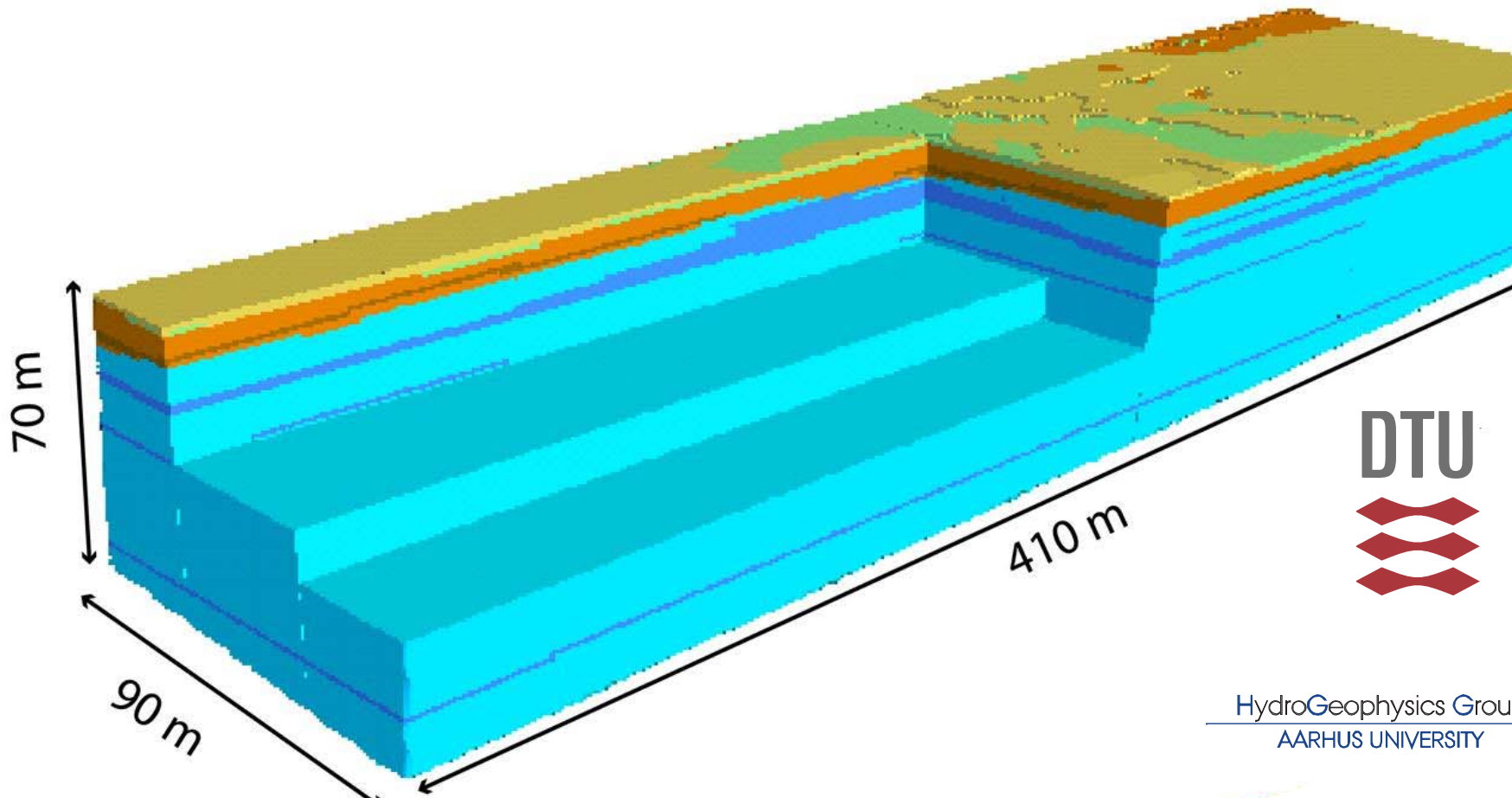
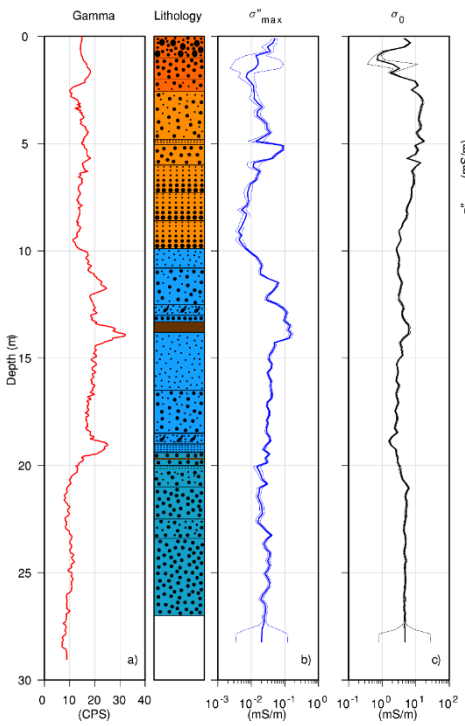
We need many sampling points to delineate the plume



# Large spatial variation in concentrations



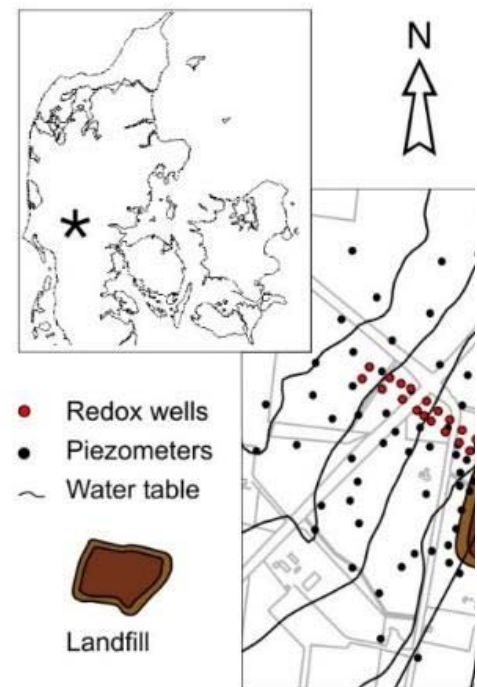
# Geology, geophysics and contamination



HydroGeophysics Group  
AARHUS UNIVERSITY



# Grindsted L

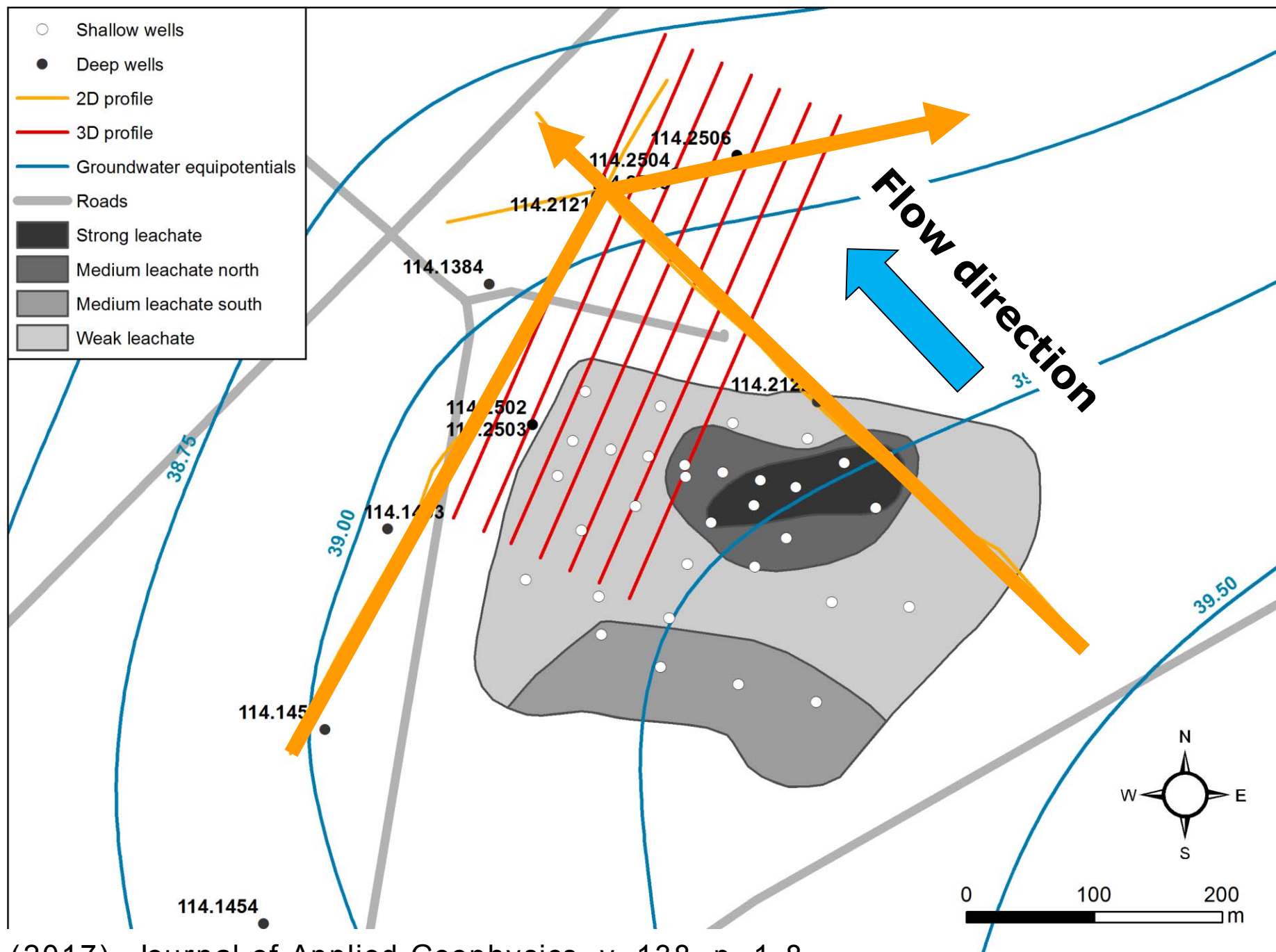


Inorganic compounds  
Dissolved organic carbon  
Xenobiotic organic contaminants



Bjerg 1992



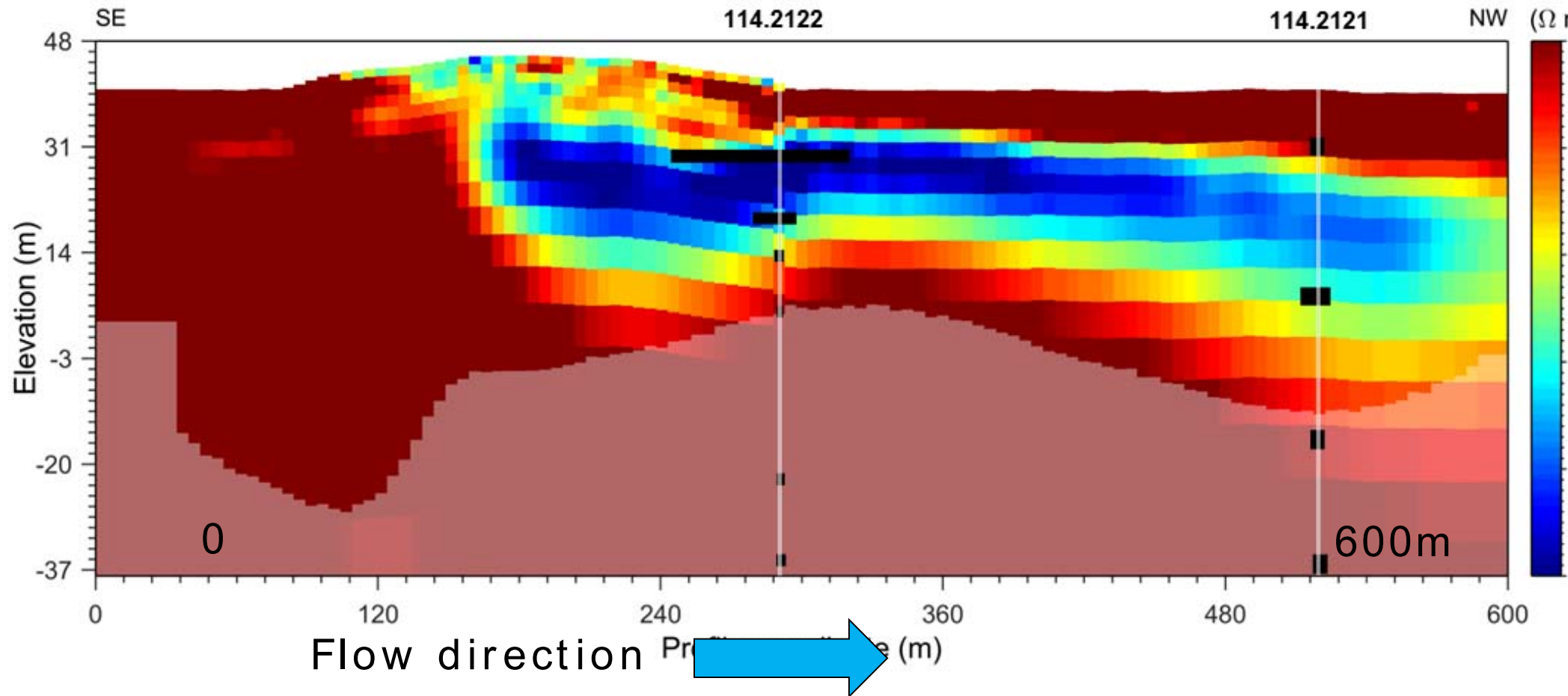


Maurya et al. (2017). Journal of Applied Geophysics, v. 138, p. 1-8.

Direct current  
Induced  
polarization,  
DCIP

# Landfill leachate plume Along flow line

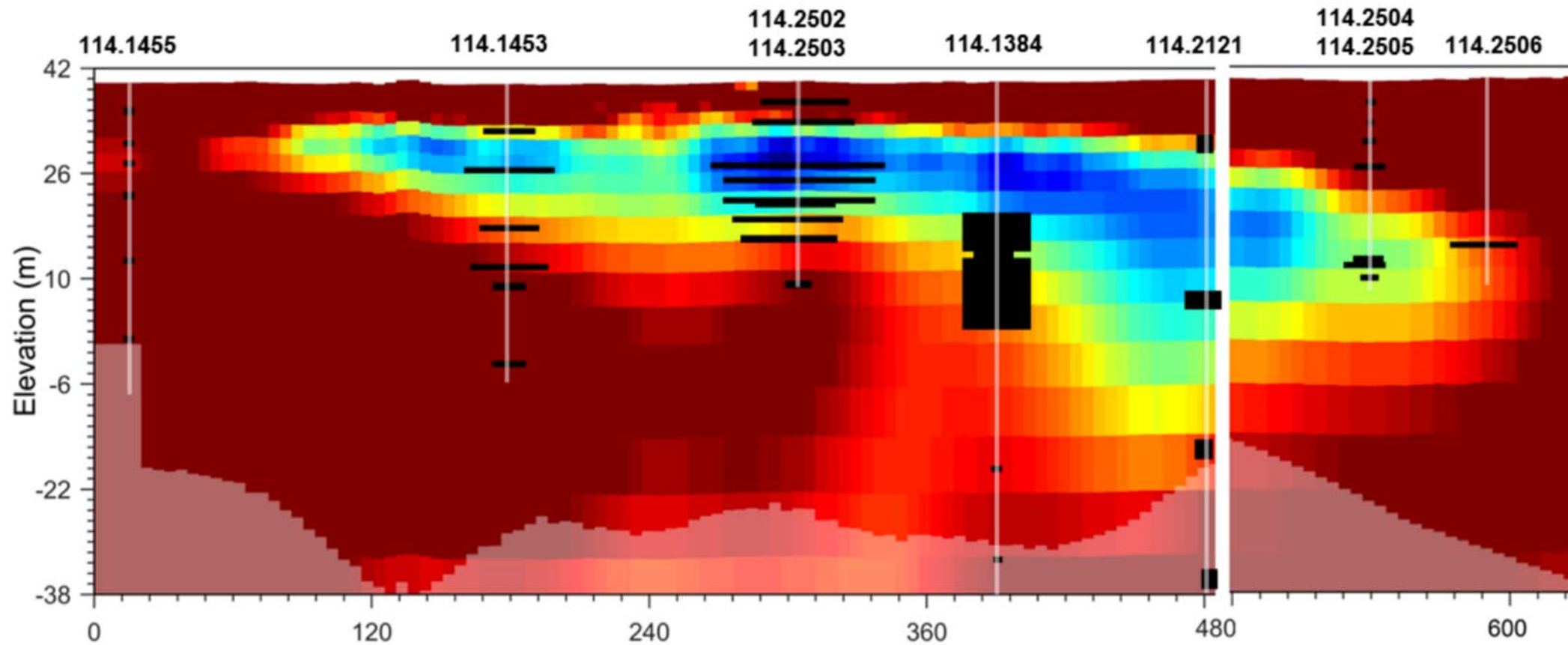
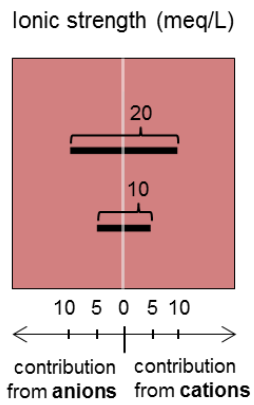
## Resistivity - ionic strength

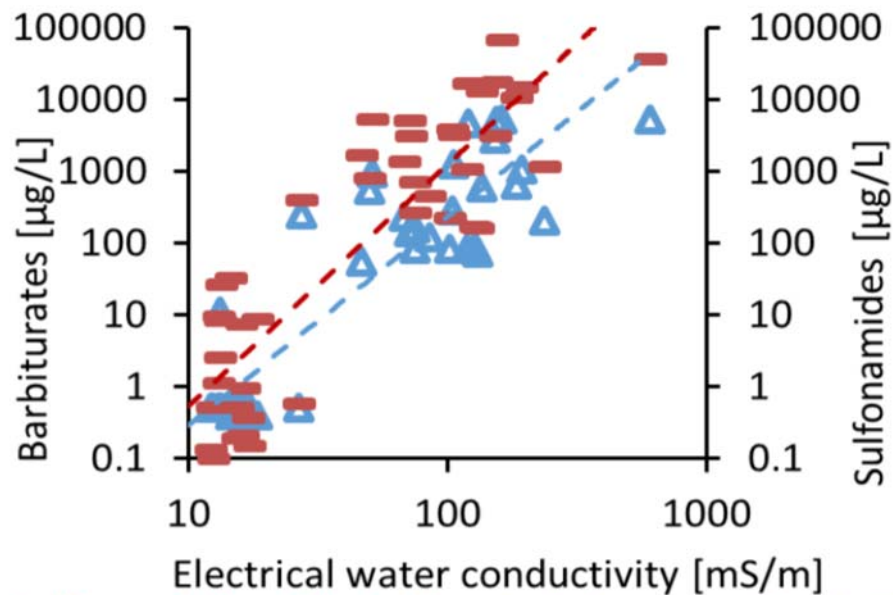
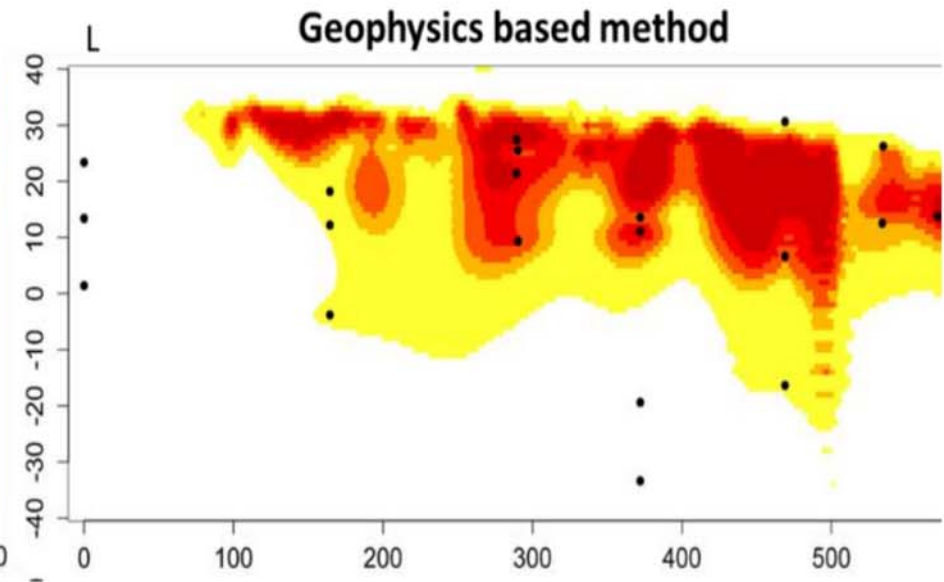
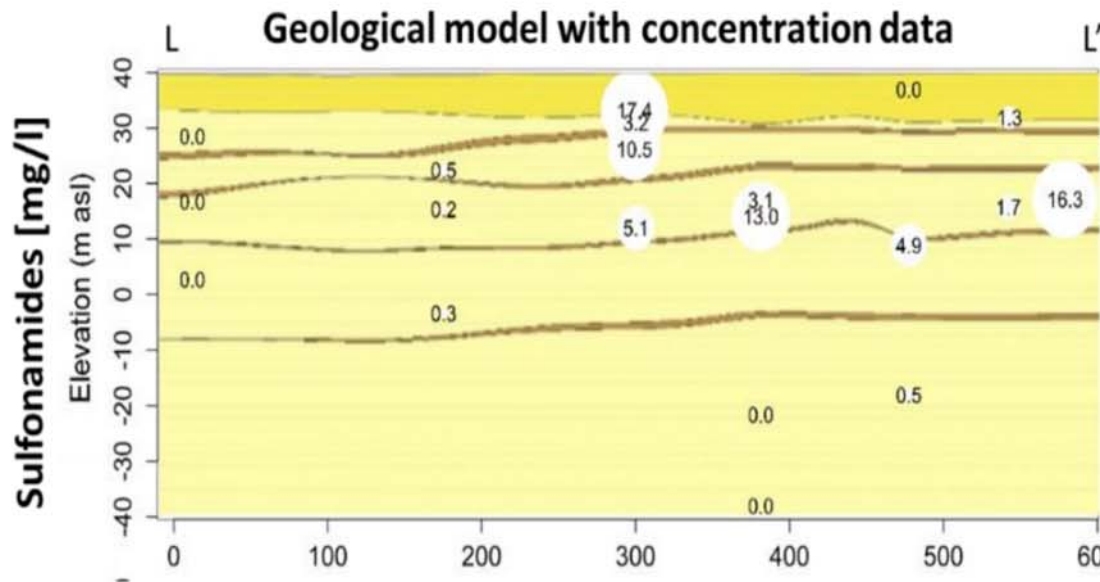


Direct current  
Induced  
polarization,  
DCIP

# Landfill leachate plume Cross section

## Resistivity - ionic strength



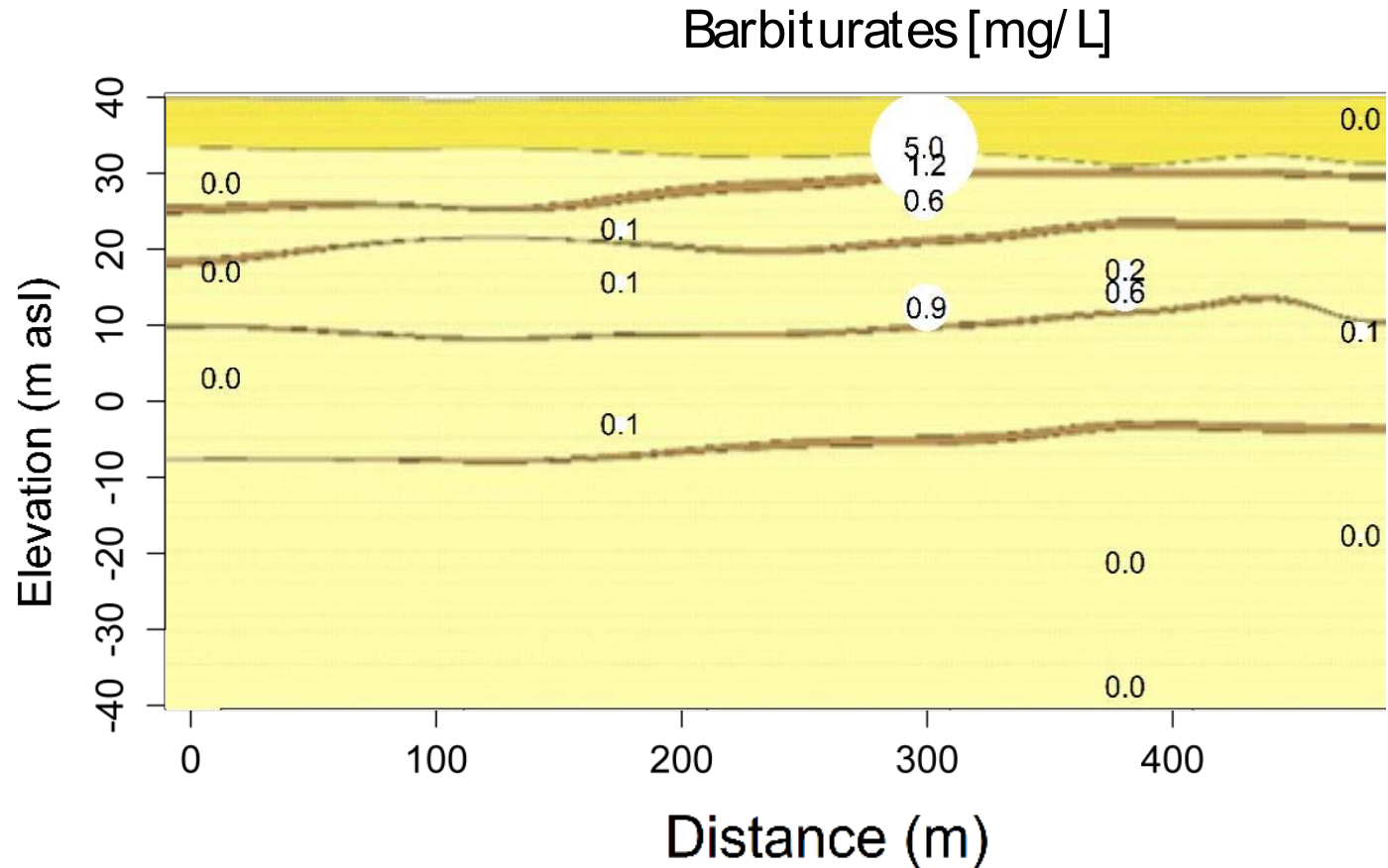


Sulfonamides:  $R^2 = 0.82$  Barbiturates:  $R^2 = 0.77$

Contaminant	Contaminant mass discharge kg/ year	Contaminant concentration based method	Geophysics based method
Sulfonamides		750	
Barbiturates		88	

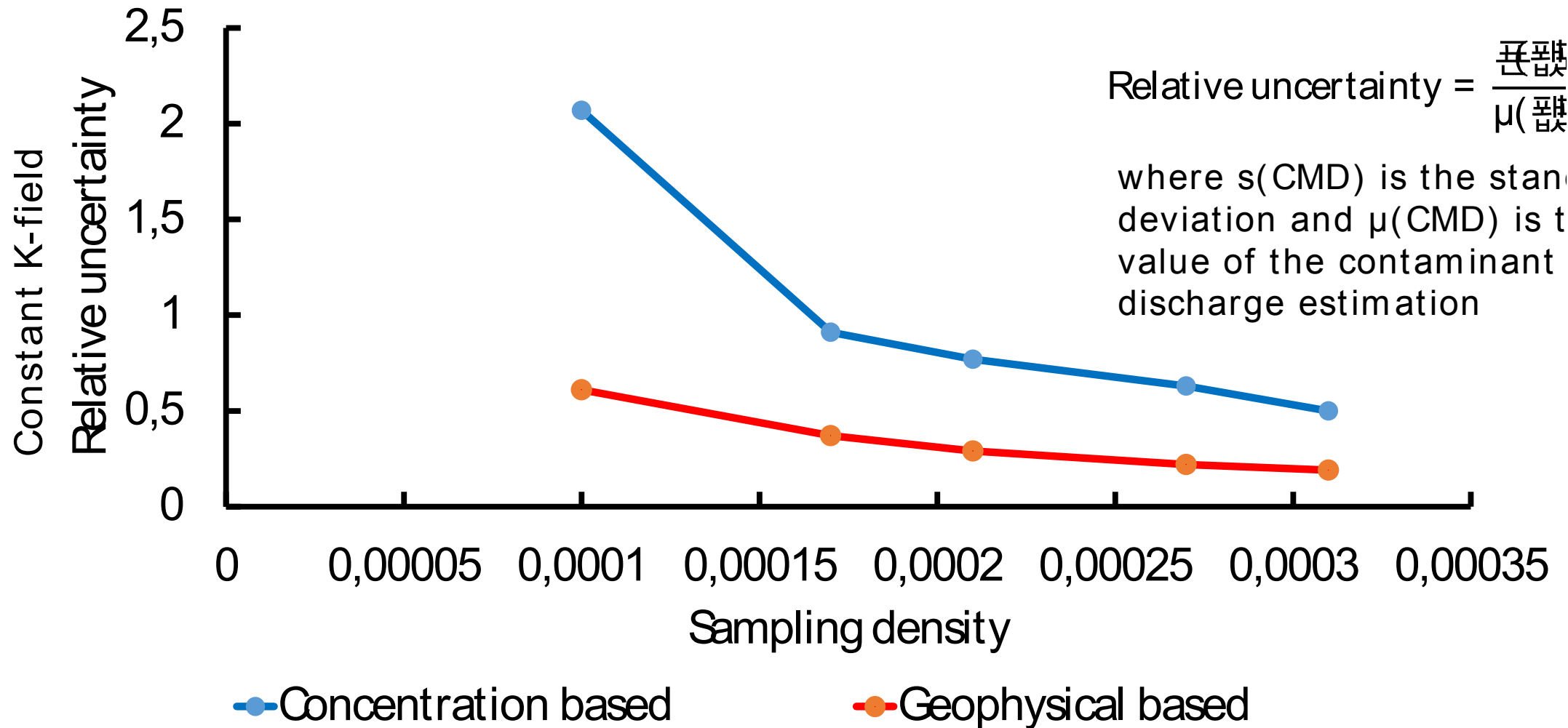
# Sampling density and uncertainty

- Number of samples pr.  $m^2$  control plane
- Grindsted landfill plume:  $48000 m^2$
- 20 sampling points
- Sampling density:  $0.0004 \text{ samples}/m^2$
- We don't know the true number



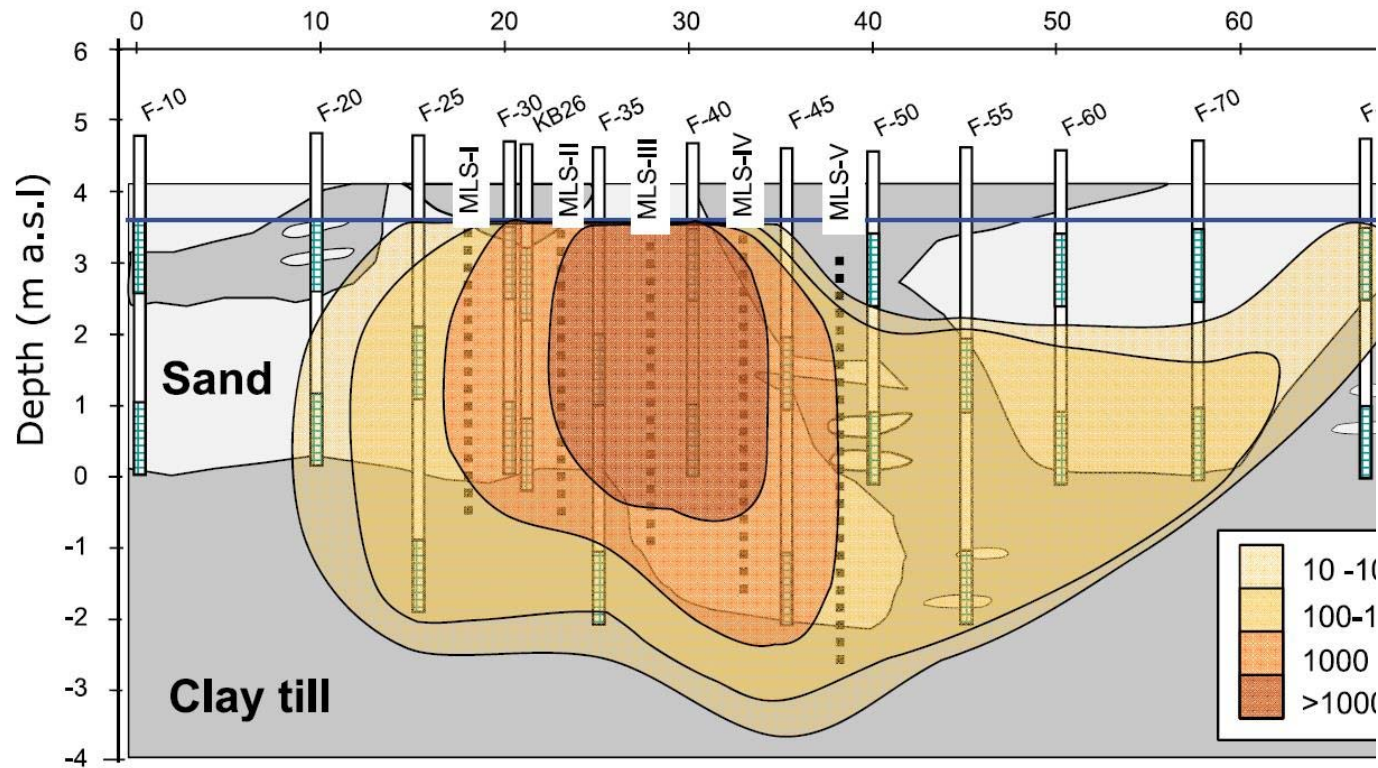
- Quaternary me
- Miocene mica
- Miocene mica

# Uncertainty analysis: Barbiturates



# Sampling density and uncertainty

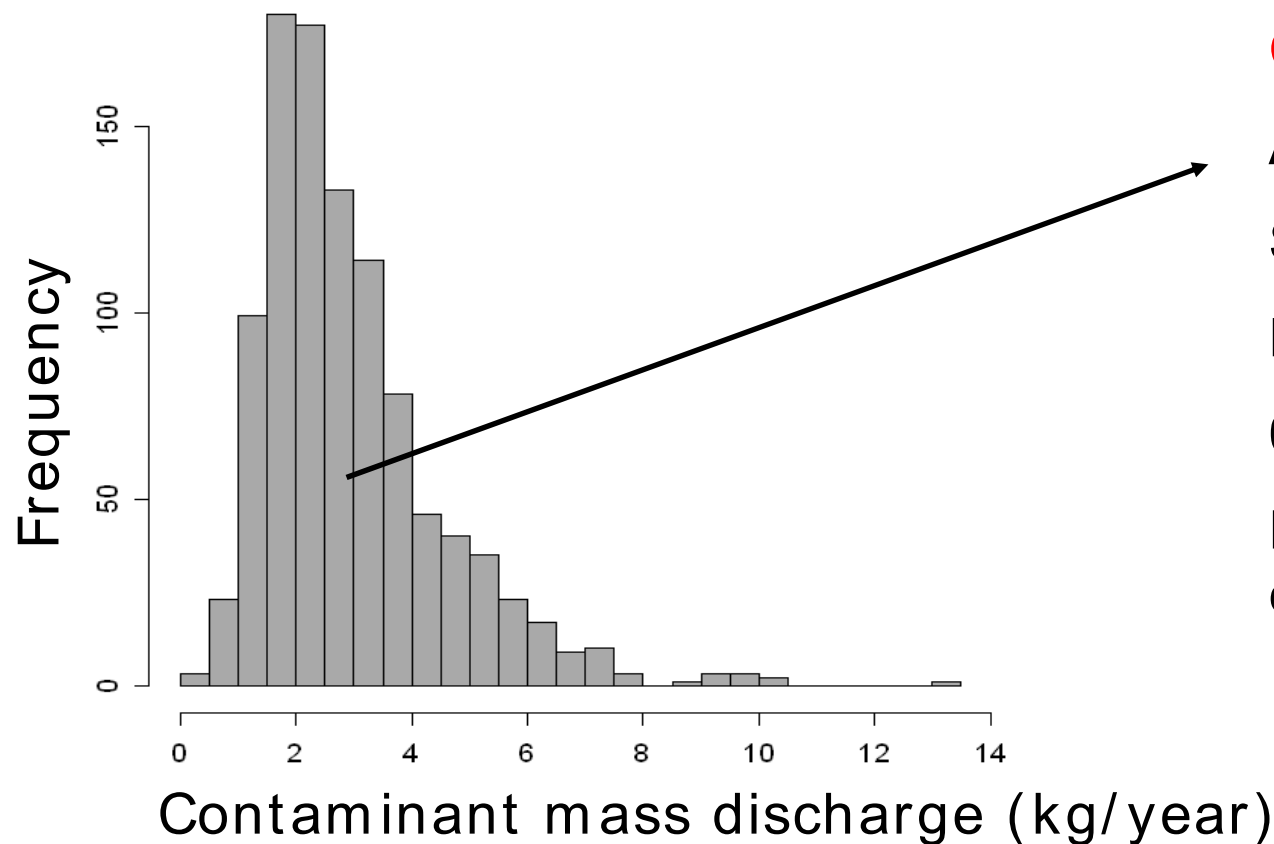
- Number of samples pr.  $\text{m}^2$  control plane
- Skuldelev plume:  $380 \text{ m}^2$
- 121 sampling points
- Sampling density:  $0.3 \text{ samples/m}^2$
- We don't know the true number



Troldborg et al. (2012), Water Resources Research, VOL. 4

# High sampling density: high certainty!

- Advanced statistics



Contaminant mass discharge

Average 3.0 kg/year

Standard deviation 1.5 kg/year

Relative uncertainty 50%

0.05-0.3 sampling points pr. m

Hydraulic conductivity and  
concentration field included



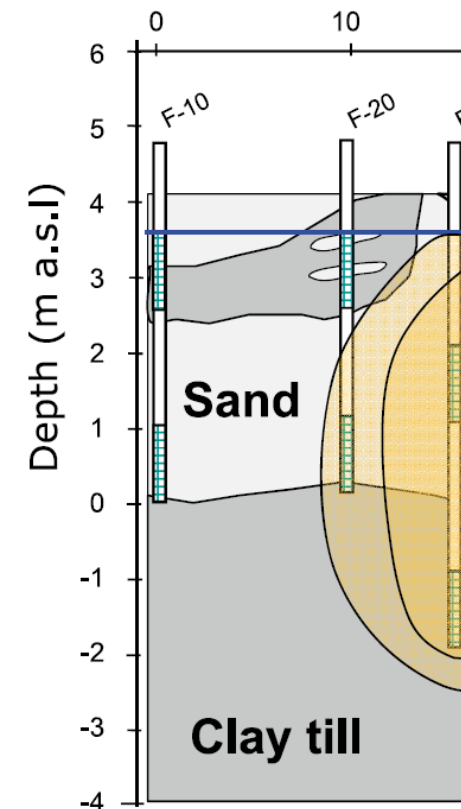
# Contaminant mass discharge and uncertainty?

Absolute values of contaminant mass discharge

- Conceptual errors
  - Delineation of plume incomplete
  - Full break through at control plane
  - Bias in **hydraulic conductivity** or hydraulic gradient

Relative uncertainty

- Sampling density – more wells decreases uncertainty
- Hydraulic conductivity field
  - Larger variability larger relative uncertainty
- Concentration field
  - Distance from source – smoothing effect at larger distances
- 0.1 sampling points pr.  $m^2$  to obtain 50% relative uncertainty in a mildly heterogenous aquifer



# Contaminant mass discharge in fractured me

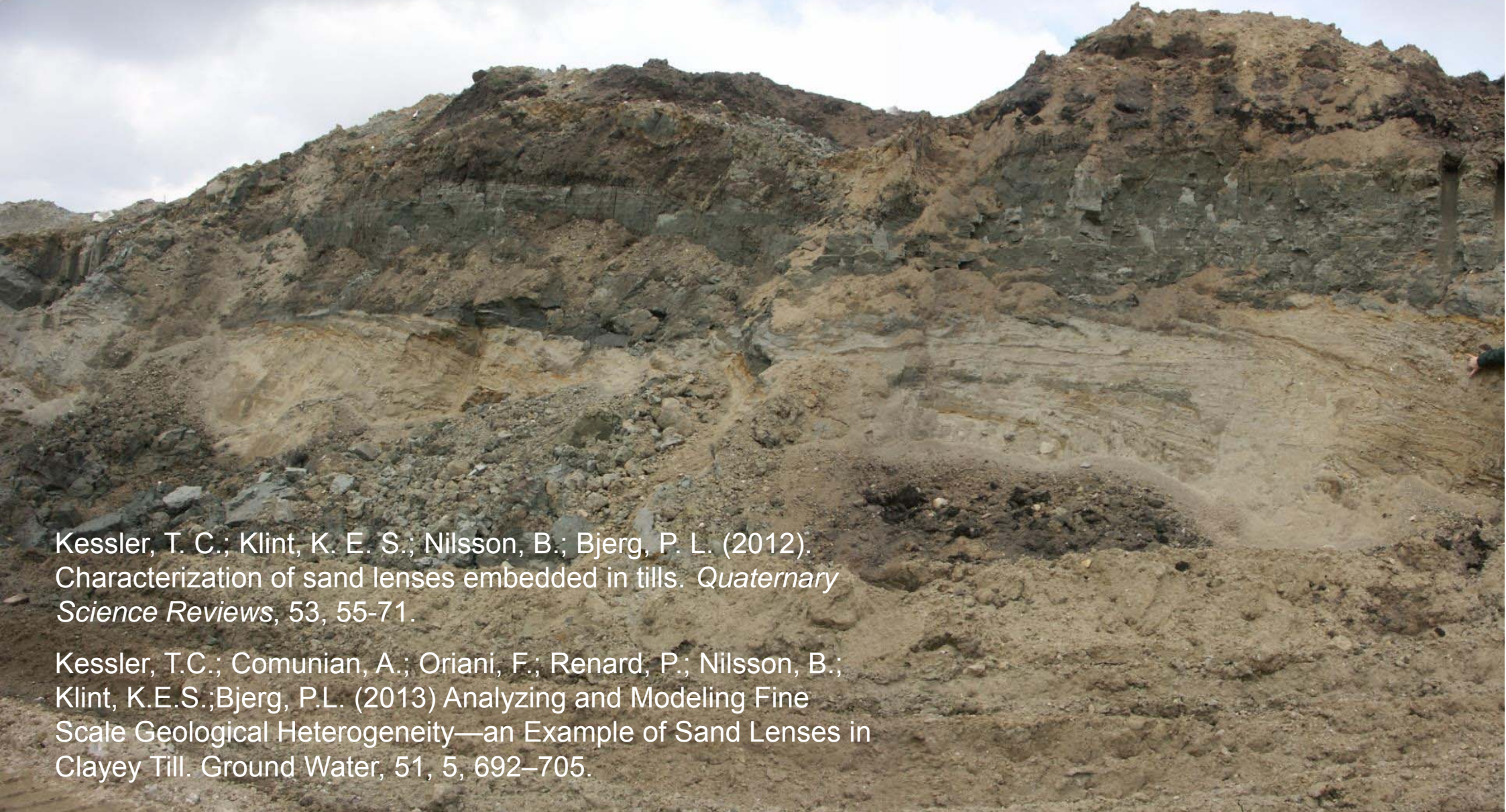


Chambon (2010). *Journal of Contaminant Hydrology*, 112, 77-90.



Mosthaf et al.. *Journal of Hydrology*

# Heterogeneous clayey till setting?

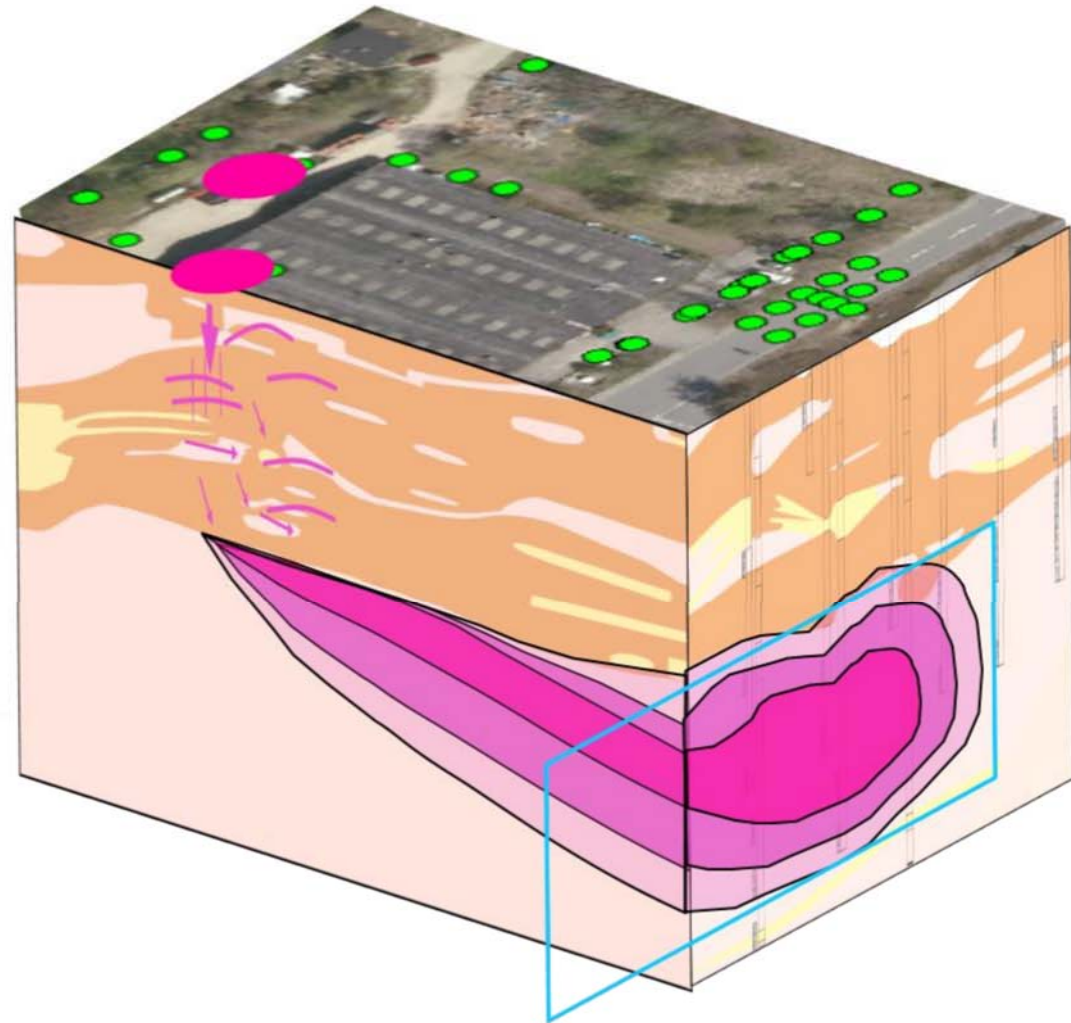


Kessler, T. C.; Klint, K. E. S.; Nilsson, B.; Bjerg, P. L. (2012).  
Characterization of sand lenses embedded in tills. *Quaternary  
Science Reviews*, 53, 55-71.

Kessler, T.C.; Comunian, A.; Oriani, F.; Renard, P.; Nilsson, B.;  
Klint, K.E.S.; Bjerg, P.L. (2013) Analyzing and Modeling Fine  
Scale Geological Heterogeneity—an Example of Sand Lenses in  
Clayey Till. *Ground Water*, 51, 5, 692–705.

# How to determine contaminant mass discharge for a heterogenous clayey till setting?

- Contaminant mass in clay till system?
- Contaminant mass discharge and timeframe for leaching into underlying aquifer?
- Relationship with contaminant mass discharge measured in underlying aquifer?

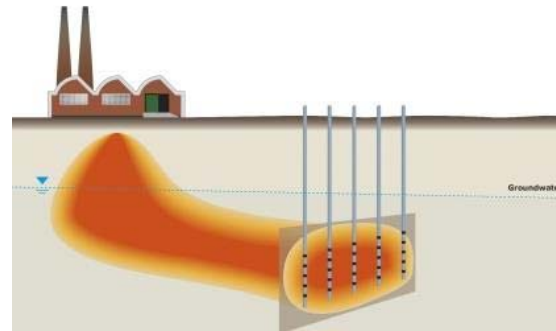


# Communication of risk, uncertainty and contaminant mass discharge

- Communication of uncertainty and risk?
- How do we include uncertainty in risk assessment?
- Contaminant mass discharge or concentrations?
- Report contaminant mass discharge (and uncertainty) and concentration in point of compliance



# Summary



## 1. Contaminant mass discharge is a useful metric

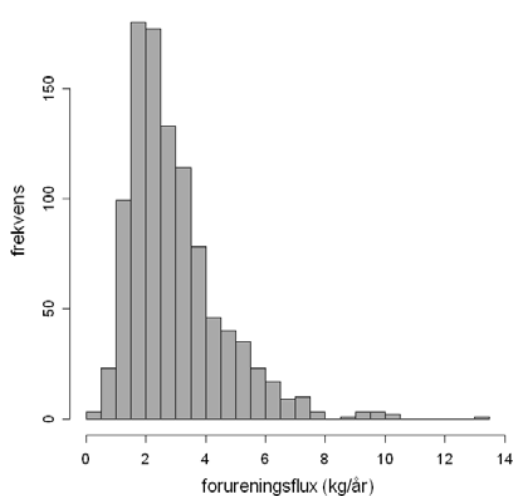
- Supplements concentrations in point of compliance
- Hydraulic conductivity and gradient
- Concentration field in control plane

## 2. Challenges

- Geological heterogeneity
- Spatial variability in hydraulic conductivity
- Steep concentration gradients

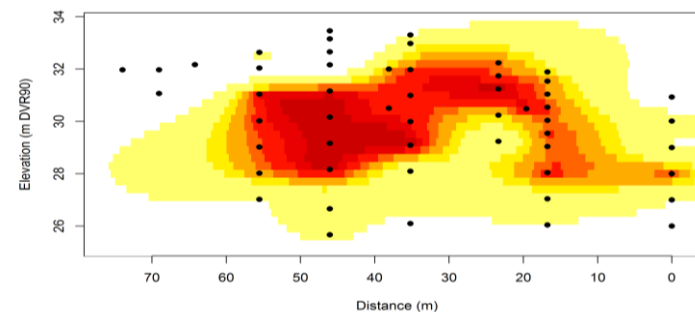
## 3. Innovative field methods

- New methods for direct determination of contaminant mass discharge or velocity
- Direct push techniques (conc. and hydraulic conductivity)
- Hydraulic conductivities from geophysical data



## 4. Uncertainty

- Reducing uncertainty by use of geophysical data
- Sampling density and uncertainty



## 5. Future work

- Uncertainty analysis
- Fractured and heterogeneous media
- Communication of uncertainty and risk

# Acknowledgements



GEOlogical, geophysical and  
CONtaminant monitoring technologies for  
contaminated site investigation.

## Research institutions



## Industry partners

