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Publication date: 2015

Document Version Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):

Nielsen, M. A., Trapp, S., Clausen, L. P. W., Kalisz, M., Krupanek, J., Stalder, M., ... Bartke, S. (2015). Effective and reliable site investigation at large sites by the use of initial screening methods. Poster session presented at AquaConSoil 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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Effective and reliable site investigation at large sites by the use of initial screening methods

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Background

Conventional site investigations (soil and groundwater sampling), may involve uncertainties due to insufficient historical data or sampling density due to limited budgets.

Initial screening methods can be applied faster and with higher sampling density to target other screening methods for the most relevant areas.

Initial screening methods can be applied as a part of the screening strategy in a step wise approach.

Tree coring and soil gas sampling are rapid, low-invasive and cost-efficient initial screening methods.

Initial screening methods are well suited at large sites or at sites with insufficient historical information, and also at sites where conventional drilling is risky (urban, swampy, military sites).

Stepwise method application



The Szprotawa test site

- A former military airbase contaminated with jet fuel and BTEX in high risk areas 50-70 mg/kg, outside 2.15 mg/kg.
- Geology: relatively homogeneous; a silty cover, followed by sediments, sands and gravels. Groundwater table 0.2-7 m (typically 2-3 m) bgs.



Outcome from the site investigation

- The stepwise approach can lead to more effective and reliable site investigations
- More areas are investigated, more data are available
- Initial screening methods can minimize the risk of overlooking hot spots or unknown sources



MIP (Membrane Interface Probe) and LIF (Laser Induced Fluorescence) provided 3D information



Spatial distribution of the high risk area derived from LIF sensing

The use of multiple (initial) screening methods can deliver more data for the design of remediation strategies

Literature: http://www.timbre-project.eu/ Effective and reliable site characterization at megasites by the use of pre-screening methods. (2015). Algreen, M.; Kalisz, M.; Stalder, M.; Martac, E.; Krupanek, J.; Trapp, S.; Bartke, S. Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res, In press



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Acknowledgement: Financial support by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme FP7, project TIMBRE.