

# TRANSMISSIVITY AS A PRIMARY METRIC FOR LNAPL RECOVERY – CASE STUDY COMPARISON FROM SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY DATA

Presented at 21st International Petroleum  
Environmental Conference  
Houston, Texas

October 14, 2014

Presenter: Manivannan Nagaiah, P.E.

Co-Authors: Dennis R. Law, P.E.

Steven Ueland, P.E.

Technical Excellence

Practical Experience

Client Responsiveness

**LANGAN**

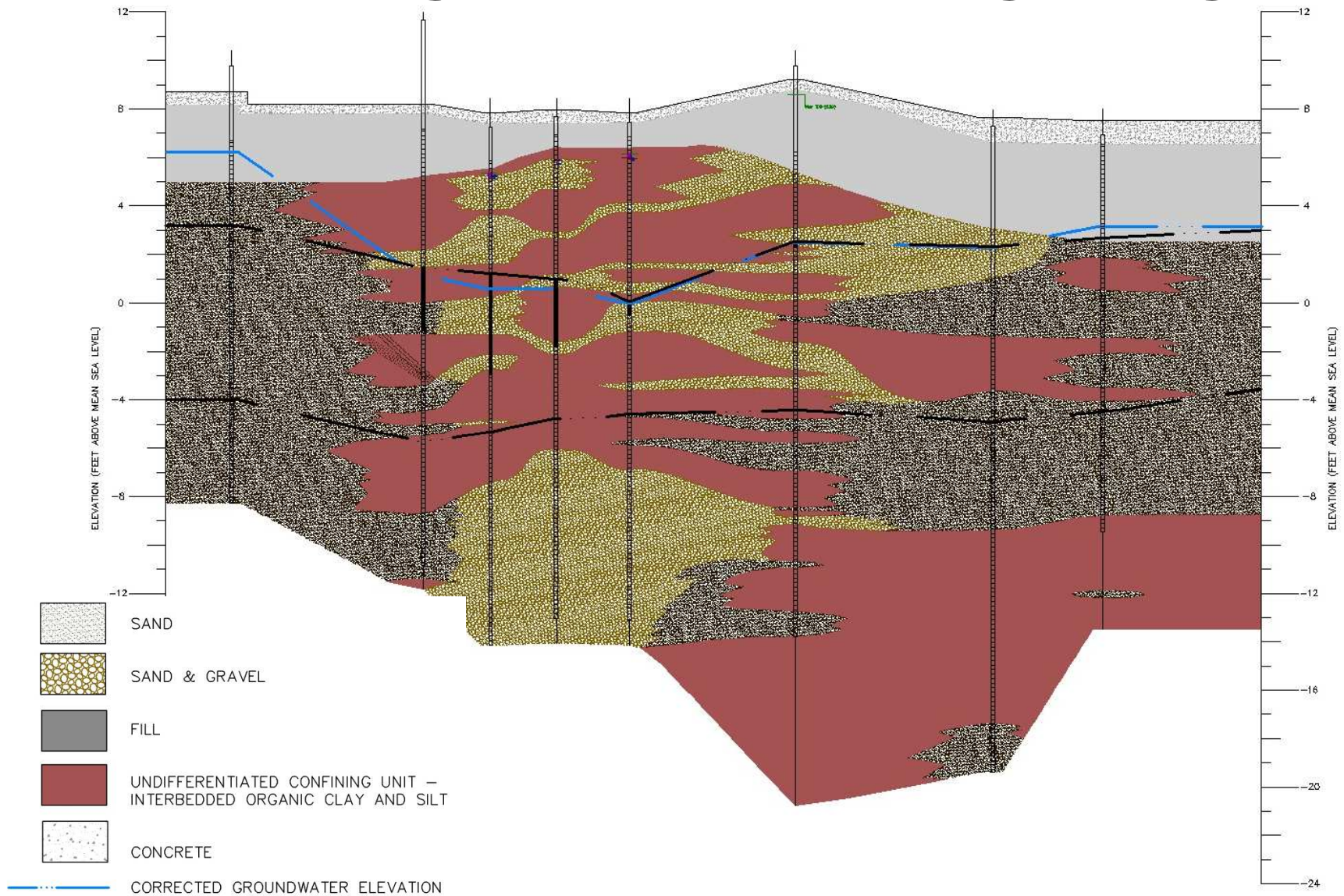
# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Overview and Background
- ▶ Case Study Review
- ▶ Short-Term and Long-Term Data Testing Methods
- ▶ Data Review, Findings and Conclusions

# Site Background – General

- ▶ Active refinery in operation for 100 plus years
- ▶ Site Hydrogeology
  - Groundwater Table – 5 to 22 feet below grade
  - Direction – North to South/Southeast
  - One in two wells contain LNAPL, light-end to heavier petroleum constituents with varying degrees of weathering
- ▶ LNAPL recovery is ongoing for 30 plus years

# Site Background – Hydrogeology

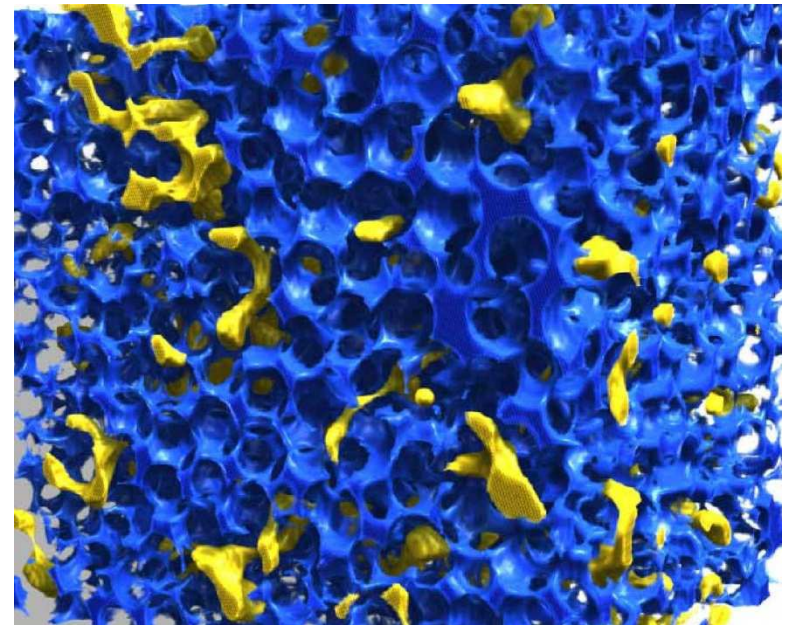


# Case Study Review

- ❑ Pilot Prioritization Approach
  - Identify areas of LNAPL accumulation and remedial action based on level of risk (i.e., receptors, migration impact to groundwater)
- ❑ Establish Baseline Transmissivity (Tn)
  - Baildown Testing
    - Testing methods and data evaluation
- ❑ Establish long-term well-specific or area-specific Tn
  - Long-Term Methods (Recovery Data Analysis)
    - Testing methods and data evaluation
- ❑ Assess trends and continue short-term and long-term evaluation of Tn as a primary metric for site-wide evaluation

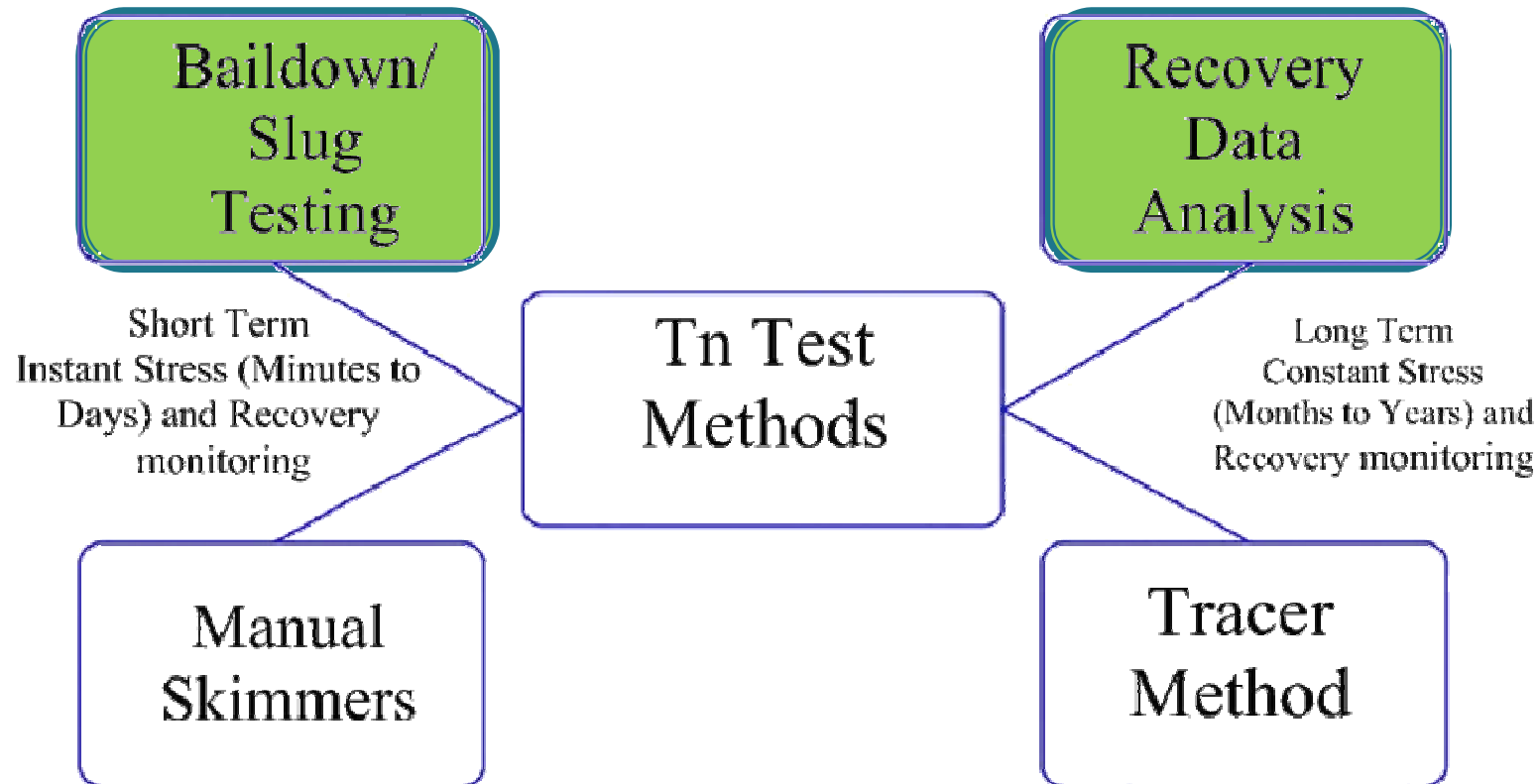
# Transmissivity ( $T_n$ )

- ▶ Estimation of volume of LNAPL at the existing kinematic viscosity that will move in a unit time under a unit hydraulic gradient through a unit width of aquifer [ASTM, 2013]
- ▶ Direct indicator of recoverability (i.e., the aquifer yield and flow of LNAPL from formation to well)
- ▶ Summary metric based on aquifer properties, LNAPL physical properties and LNAPL saturation over a given interval
- ▶ Mass Recovery Rate also proportional to  $T_n$  (i.e., suitable for long-term data)



LNAPL Ganglia at Res.  
Sat. Blue – Water  
Yellow – LNAPL  
Dr. Singh et. al.

# Transmissivity ( $T_n$ ) Estimation






# Case- Study Areas

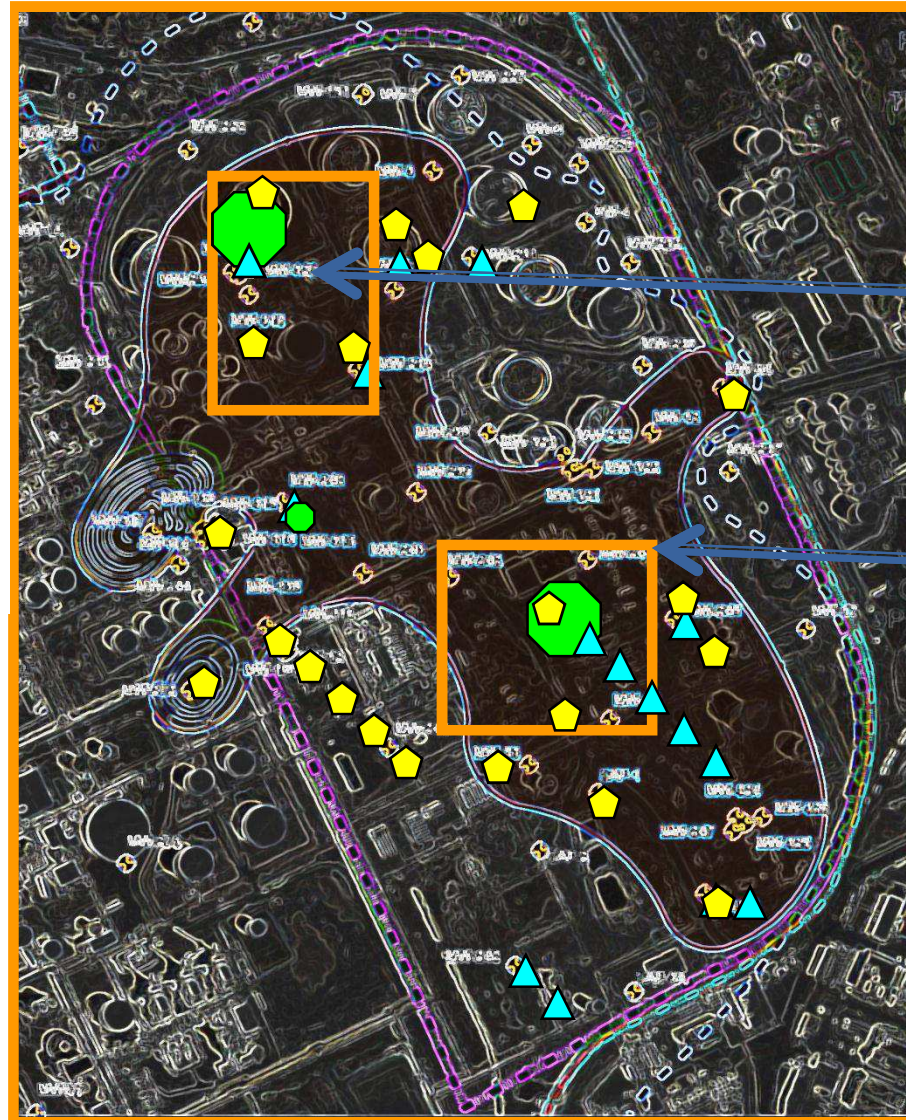
## Plume Size

85 Acres

## Composition

Light End Petroleum  
Hydrocarbons

-  Baildown locations
-  Pilot Testing
-  Skimmer locations



Area 1

Area 2



# Tn Short-Term Data – Baildown Testing

## Selection Criteria:

- Wells with 0.5 foot of LNAPL and in equilibrium
- Wells screened and developed – in communication with surrounding aquifer
- LNAPL from borehole (well plus filter pack) removed using peristaltic pump, bailers or vacuum trucks
- Monitor LNAPL layer recovery over time to up to 100% recovery (critical for data analysis)
- 50 locations site-wide (study limited to 18 wells)



# Tn Short-Term Data- Baildown Testing

## - Data Tools:

### - AQTESOLV

- Similar to groundwater pumping test evaluation

- Adjust for LNAPL Density (Becker and Lyverse, 2002)

### - API Workbook (2012)

- Spreadsheet and solver tool

- Iterative process in establishing Tn

- Suitable for unconfined (decreasing discharge), confined and perched LNAPL (constant discharge) conditions

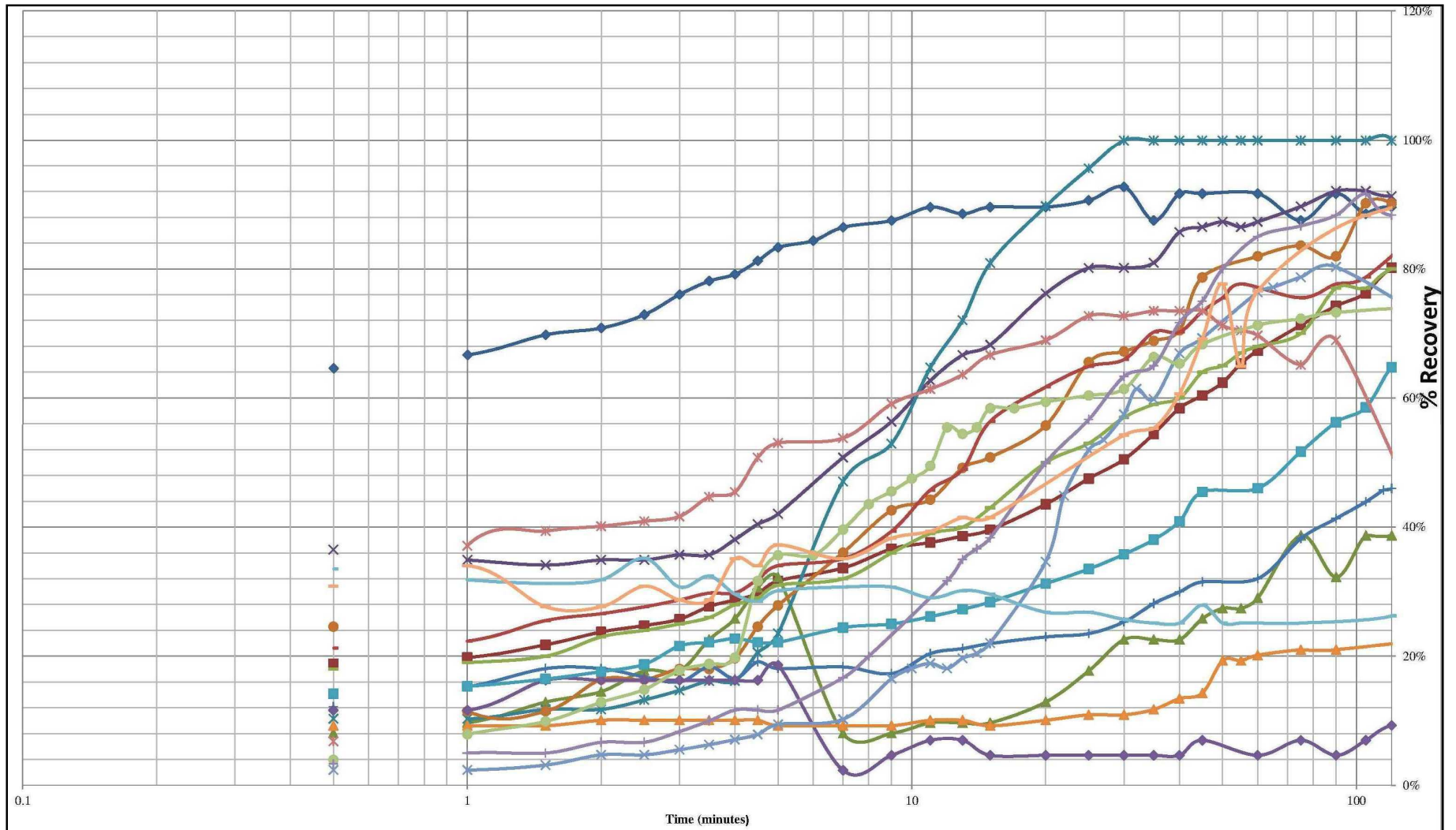
- Methods

- CJ, CBP and BR

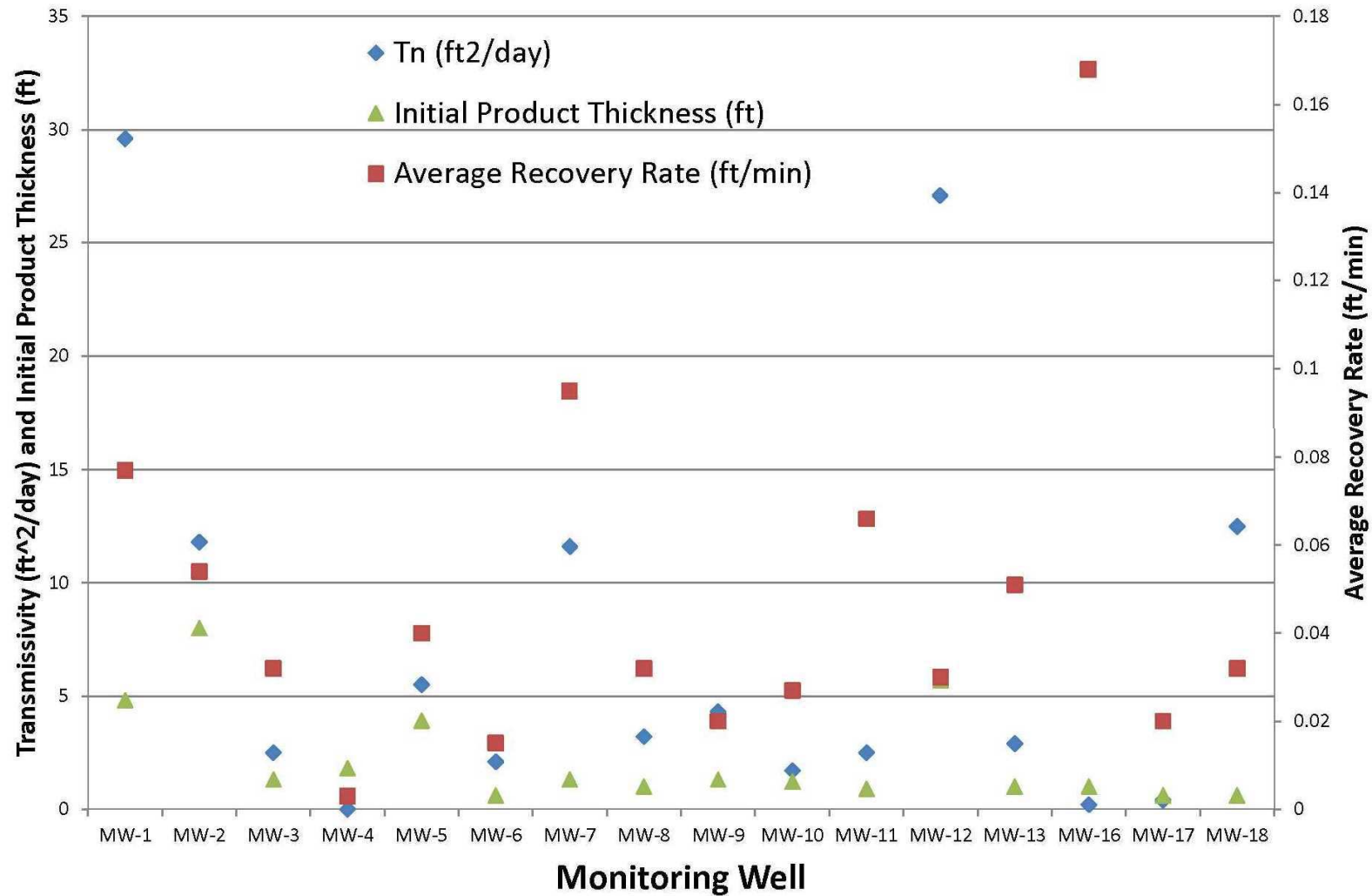
# Tn Short-Term Data- Baildown Testing

- Important items to consider for data evaluation
  - Initial LNAPL Drawdown
  - Purge Volume (theoretical and field)
  - Type of LNAPL Conditions
  - Filter Pack Drainage
  - Drawdown versus Discharge Evaluation
  - Tidal Fluctuations (if you are near a waterbody, river, stream, ocean)

# Baildown Testing Results – Recovery Rate Vs. Time



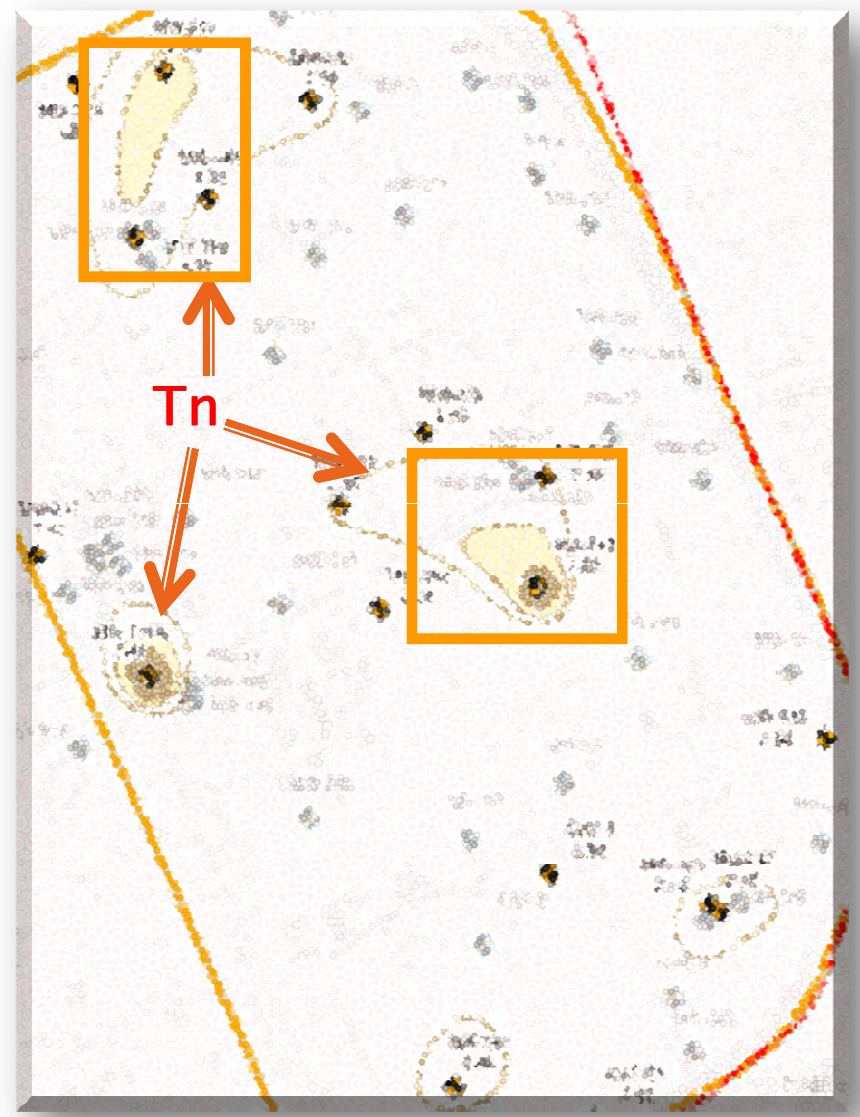
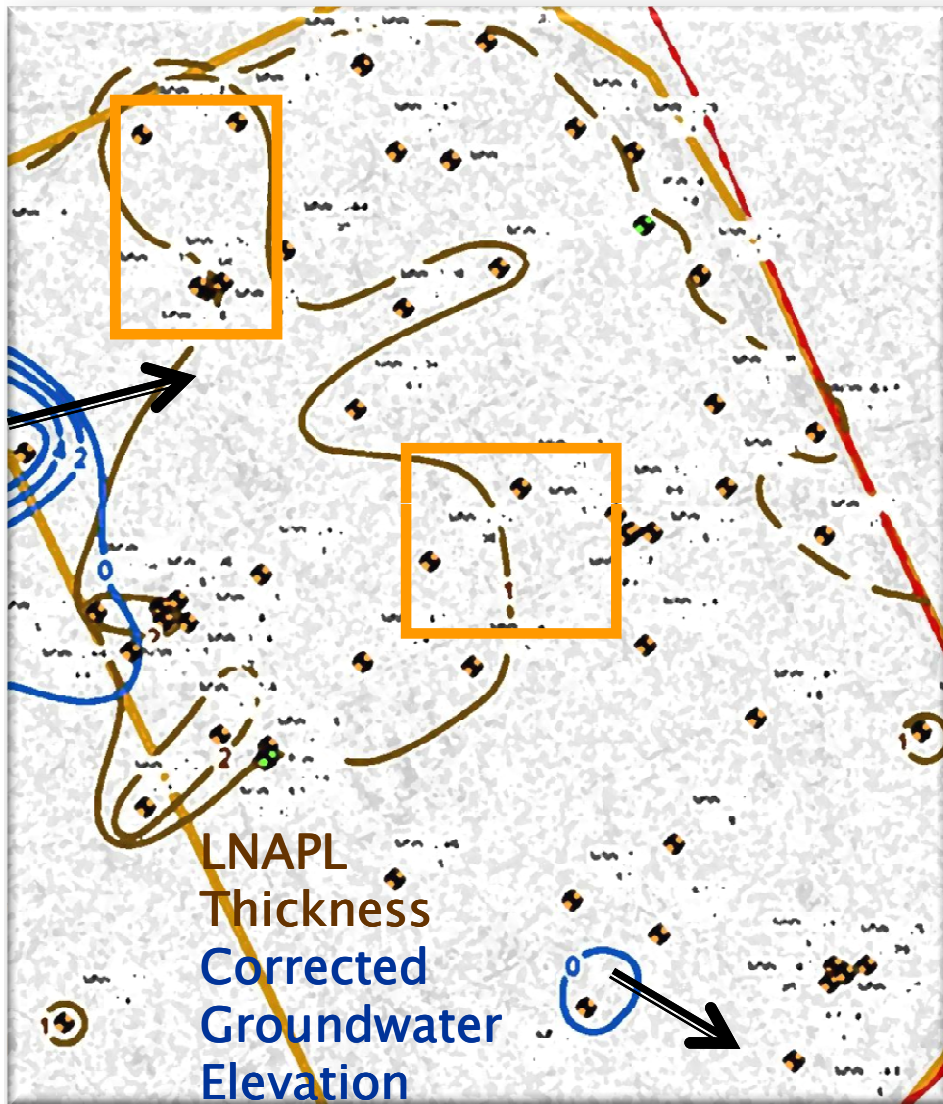
# Baildown Testing Results - Tn



# Baildown Testing and Tn Results

Well ID	Tn (ft <sup>2</sup> /day)	Average Recovery Rate (ft/min)	Initial Product Thickness (ft)	Percent Recovery at 120 minutes (%)
MW-1	29.6	0.077	5.8	~ 85%
MW-2	11.8	0.054	8.0	~ 80%
MW-3	2.5	0.032	1.3	~ 90%
MW-4	0.0	0.003	1.8	~ 25%
MW-5	5.5	0.040	3.9	~ 45%
MW-6	2.1	0.015	0.6	~ 85%
MW-7	11.6	0.095	1.3	~ 60 %
MW-8	3.2	0.032	1.0	~ 75 %
MW-9	4.3	0.020	1.3	~ 80 %
MW-10	1.7	0.027	1.2	~ 30 %
MW-11	2.5	0.066	0.9	~ 80%
MW-12	43.7	0.030	4.5	~ 100%
MW-13	2.9	0.051	1.0	~ 80%
MW-16	0.2	0.168	1.0	~ 25%
MW-17	0.4	0.020	0.6	~ 40%
MW-18	12.5	0.032	0.6	~ 90%

# Apparent LNAPL Thickness Vs $T_n$



# Active LNAPL Recovery Systems



- LNAPL Skimming (Stationary and Mobile)
- Multi-Phase Extraction
- Dual-Phase Extraction
- Vacuum Truck Program (“pulsed” MPE)
- Low-vacuum Extraction

*This presentation limited to skimmer short-term and long-term comparison*



**LANGAN**



# Long-Term Data $T_n$ – Recovery Systems

- ▶ Minimum criteria:
  - Well-operated LNAPL recovery system
  - Effective O&M data collection and analysis
  - Understanding of LNAPL distribution and thickness (bn) of the mobile oil interval
- ▶  $T_n$  estimation from Skimmer ASTM (2013)

$$T_n = \frac{Q_n \ln\left(\frac{R_{oi}}{r_w}\right)}{2\pi s_n}$$

*where*

$T_n$  = LNAPL Transmissivity ( $L^2/t$ ),  $Q_n$  = measured LNAPL recovery rate ( $L^3/t$ ),

$R_{oi}$  = radius of influence (L),  $r_w$  = well radius,  $\ln(R_{oi}/r_w) = 4.6$

$s_n$  = LNAPL drawdown at time t (L), bn = gauged LNAPL thickness

$bnf$  = formation thickness

$s_n = bn(1 - \rho)$  [unconfined]  $s_n = bn\rho/(1 - \rho)$  [confined]  $s_n = bnf$  [perched]

# Case Study Areas 1 and 2 Review

- Identified based on baildown testing Tn at areas near MW-1 and MW-12 and LCSM understanding
- Completed pilot testing and installed full-scale system
- Area 1 – Stationary and Area 2 – Mobile Skimmers:
  - Recovery rate: ~10 to 150 gallons per day
  - Radius of influence: ~ max. 20 feet
  - All wells: unconfined conditions

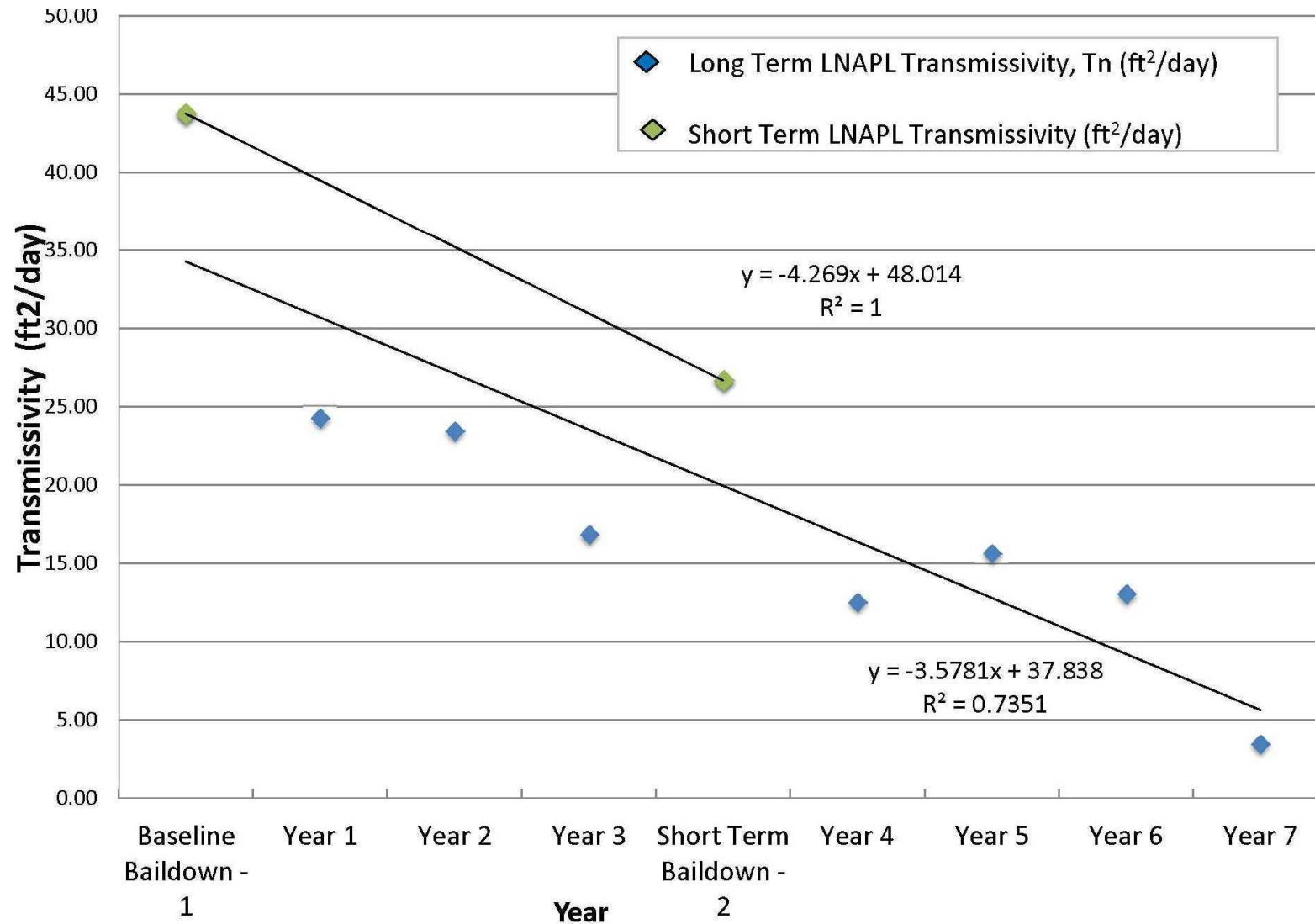
# Area 1 and 2 Summary

- Short-Term Recovery Data Baildown Testing
  - Baildown testing – Baseline and Interim (every three to four years)
  - Data analysis by API workbook
- Long-Term Recovery Data
  - Area 1 from stationary pneumatic skimmers (in operation for seven years)
  - Area 2 from mobile pneumatic skimmers (in operation for two years)
  - O&M data normalized for temporal variations and shutdown conditions
  - Drawdown (sn) based on equilibrium fluid levels and O&M system adjustments

# Area 1 – Short-/Long-Term Results

Well Id	Recovery Rate (cu.ft./day)	Tn (ft <sup>2</sup> /day)
<b><i>Baseline Baildown - 1</i></b>	5.0	43.74
Long-Term – Year 1	4.6	24.25
Long-Term – Year 2	4.5	23.40
Long-Term – Year 3	3.2	16.84
<b><i>Short-Term Baildown - 2</i></b>	3.1	26.67
Long-Term – Year 4	2.4	12.52
Long-Term – Year 5	3.0	15.62
Long-Term – Year 6	2.5	13.01
Long-Term – Year 7	0.7	3.47
<b><i>Short-Term Baildown - 3</i></b>	To be Conducted	

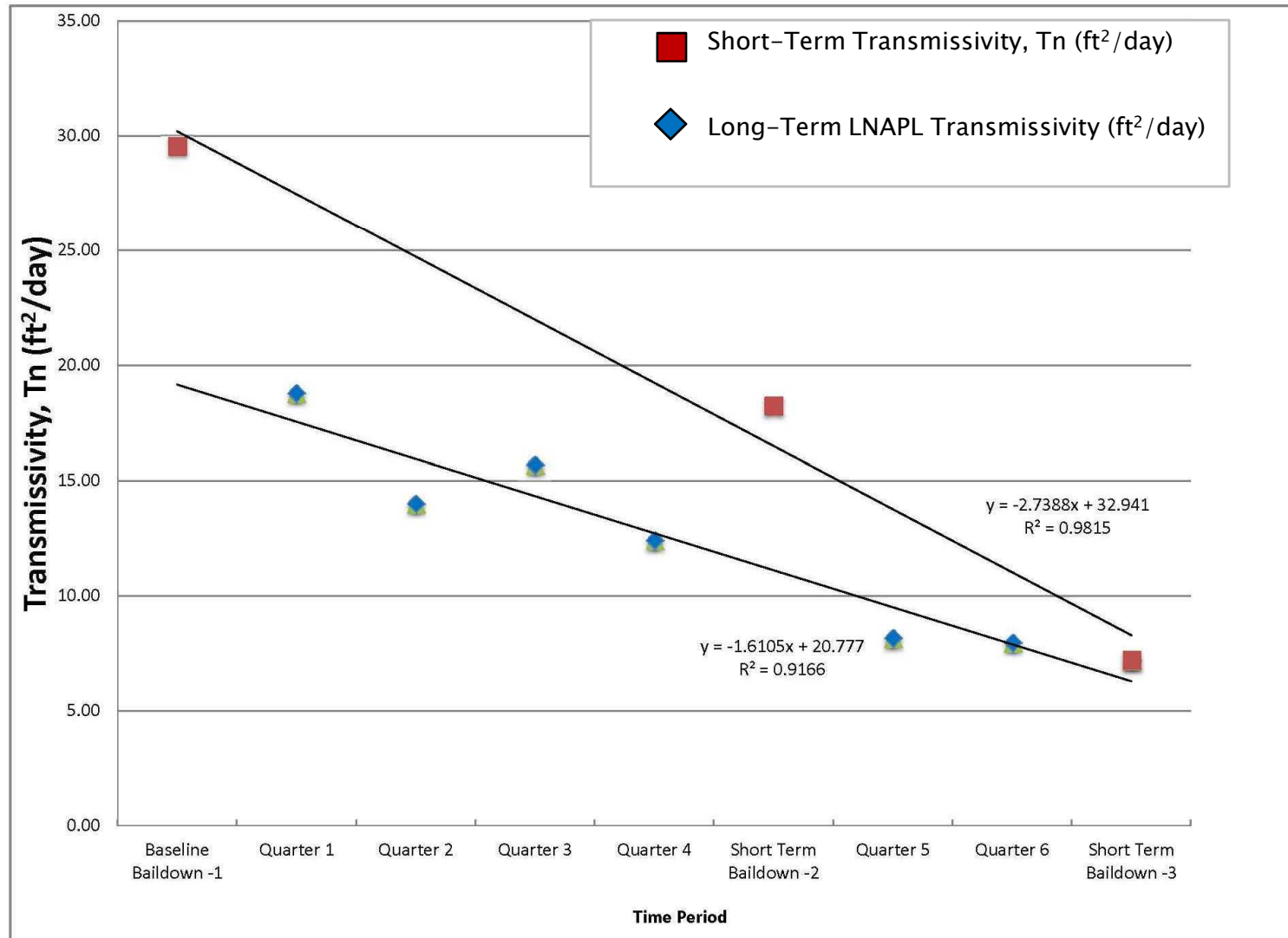
# Area 1 - Skimmer Tn Results



# Area 2 Short-/Long-Term Results

Well Id	Recovery Rate (cu.ft./day)	Tn ft2/day)
<b><i>Baseline Baildown -1</i></b>	8.5	29.6
Quarter 1	5.4	18.8
Quarter 2	4.0	14.0
Quarter 3	4.5	15.7
Quarter 4	3.6	12.4
<b><i>Short-Term Baildown - 2</i></b>	2.6	18.2
Quarter 5	2.3	8.2
Quarter 6	2.3	8.0
<b><i>Short-Term Baildown - 3</i></b>	2.1	7.1

# Area 2 - Skimmer Tn Results



# Findings and Conclusions

- ▶ Comprehensive LSCM is necessary
- ▶ Critical Considerations
  - Evaluate Geology and Preferential Pathways
  - Understand Age, Degree of Weathering and Chemical/Physical Characters of LNAPL
  - Reconcile Aquifer Heterogeneities. A foot of LNAPL in gravel and sand is different than a foot of LNAPL in silt
  - Assess Saturation Levels in Area/Well



# Findings and Conclusions

- ▶ Baildown testing Tn highly dependent on varying factors (i.e., soil and product type, geologic setting, individual well conditions and data evaluation tools)
- ▶ Computed Tn results can vary under similar conditions at different locations. Repeat testing and/or LCSM review is necessary
- ▶ Tn estimation from short-term data relies heavily on careful collection of field data and competent data analysis

# Findings and Conclusions

- ▶ Tn estimation from long-term data depends on system O&M and accurate site-specific parameters
- ▶ Overall, Tn is a streamlined parameter than can be used for design, start-up and shutdown of recovery systems
- Further Analysis
  - Propose using Tn as a resource allocation tool and budgeting (\$s spent versus LNAPL recovery in consideration of program parameters – risk, migration etc.)
  - Tn evaluation ongoing for all other LNAPL recovery systems (MPE, DPE, Vacuum truck etc.)



# THANK YOU

## Contact Information

Manivannan Nagaiah , P.E.  
Langan  
215-491-6541  
[mnagaiah@langan.com](mailto:mnagaiah@langan.com)

Thanks To:  
Bob Bond, PG  
Justin Costa, EIT  
Emily Clark, EIT

Technical Excellence

Practical Experience

Client Responsiveness

**LANGAN**