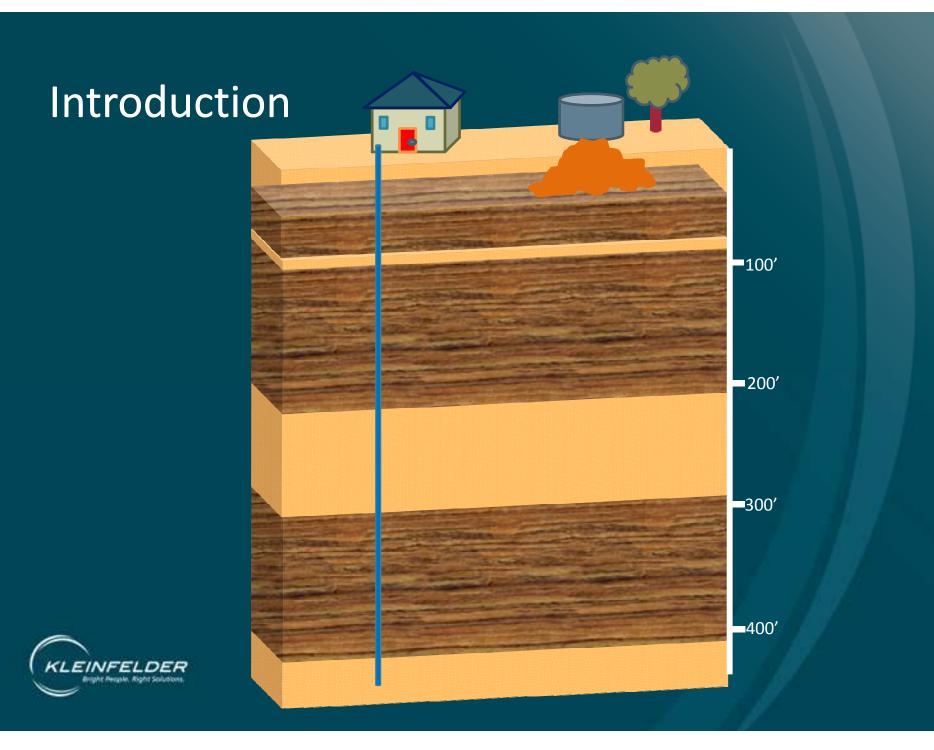


# Multiple Lines of Evidence Approaches to Vertical Communication Evaluation

Jason Chan, PE
November 12, 2013
20<sup>th</sup> International Petroleum Environmental
Conference
San Antonio, TX





#### Outline

- C Introduction
- C Multiple Lines of Evidence
  - Soil Logging
  - Gamma Logging
  - Potentiometric Monitoring
  - Geochemical Analysis
  - Aquifer Pumping Tests
- C Key Takeaways



#### Introduction

#### C Relevance

- Exposure pathway protection / elimination
  - Deep aquifer systems can be shown to be naturally protected
  - Surficial spills would not create a risk to potential receptor
- Path to spill closure
  - Risk-based approaches can be taken
  - Deed recordation / land use classification
- Targeted remediation
  - Focus on actual receptors and pathways
  - Remediation approach can be refined



### Soil Logging

- Physically identify and categorize aquitard materials
- Geology
  - Sand
  - Silt
  - Clay
  - Bedrock
  - Caliche
  - Peat
  - Fill

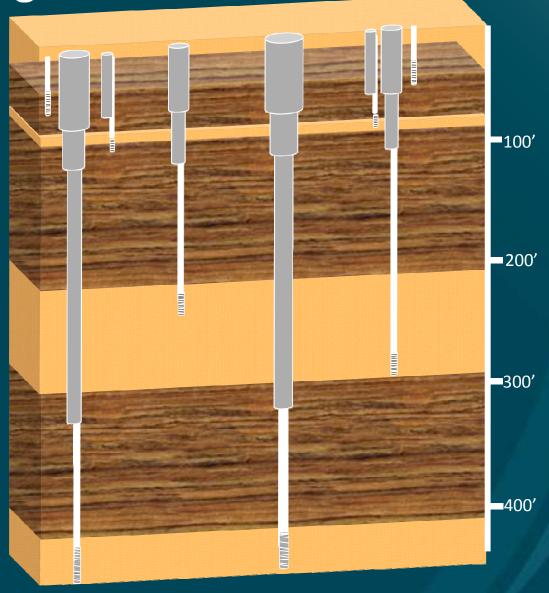




C Dynamic soil sampling interval protocol



# Soil Logging





### Gamma Logging

- C Radiation detection of varying strata
- C Downhole probe detects gamma radiation of soils in monitoring wells
- C Real-time logging

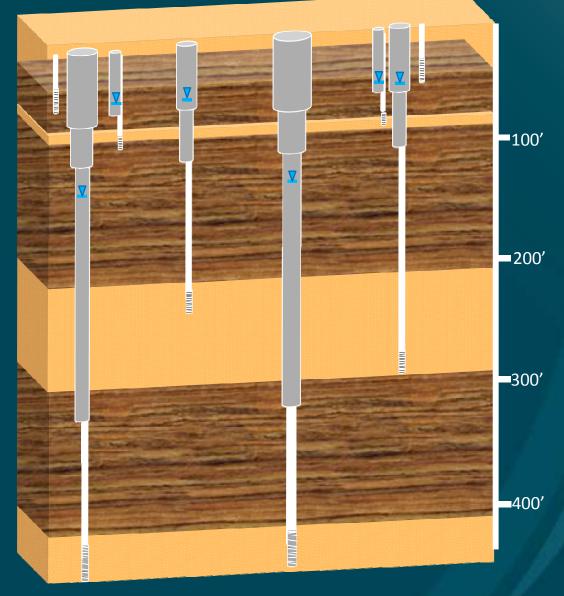




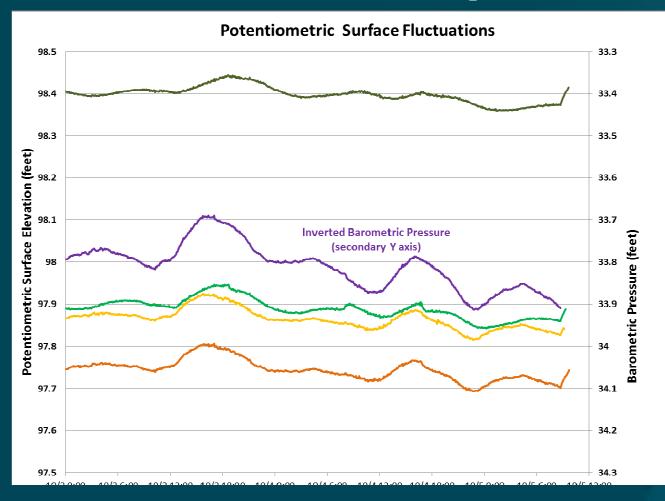
- Data logging pressure transducers deployed in monitoring wells over long-term period (several months)
- Assess natural changes due to barometric pressure
- Watch for potential "drainage" from shallower aquifer into deeper aquifer
- Weather monitoring to record intensity and duration of rainfall events
- Recharge rates after rainfall events may differ based on regional aquifer outcroppings



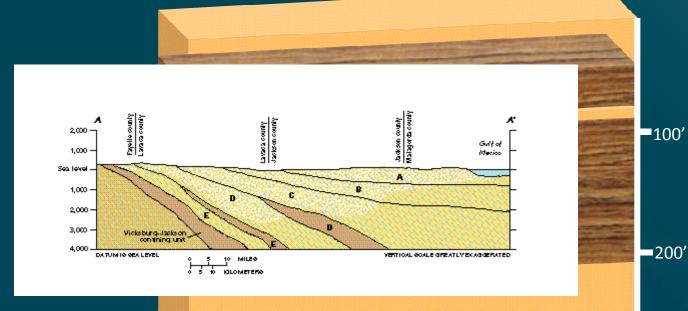












C Rise in potentiometric surface in deeper units may rain events at regional outcroppings.

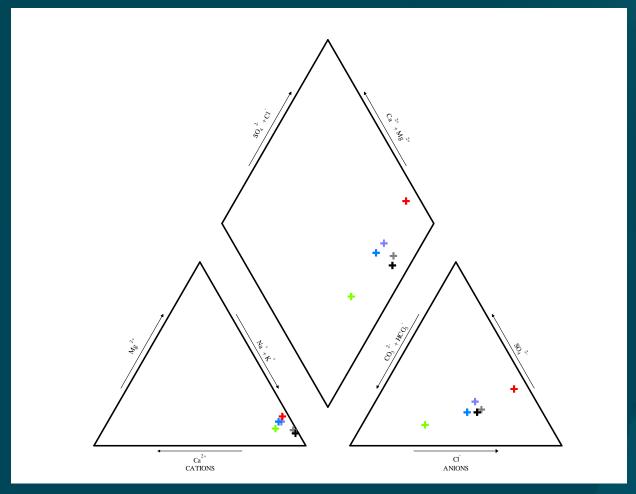


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# **Geochemical Analysis**





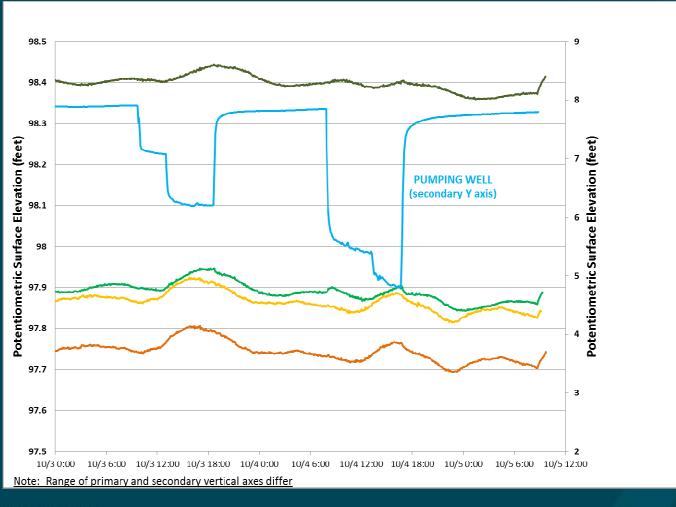
### **Aquifer Pumping Tests**

- Stressing deeper aquifer to observe hydraulic response in shallower aquifers
- Combine with geochemical analysis to determine if water chemistry changes during course of pumping
- Simulate impossibly worst-case scenario of continuous high pumping rate over the course of a few days





# **Aquifer Pumping Tests**





#### Key Takeaways

- Tools are available to assess vertical communication, or lack thereof
- Refined assessment leads to refined remediation and project approach strategies
- Potential for reducing project lifecycle and overall project cost
- All avenues to explore physical, chemical, mechanical
- You cannot prove a negative but you can show many lines of evidence for it!



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