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# The application and behaviour of iron oxides nanoparticles as an alternative electron acceptor for biodegradation of BTEX

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#### Site Characterization

#### Introduction

The main aim of this study is a verification of migration characteristics and remedial efficiency of the new types of iron oxide NPs (Nano-Goethite) using advanced procedures for monitoring both total iron and vertical stratification of contamination, including detail water sampling after infiltration. A stabilized slurry of coated nano-Goethite has been developed in the framework of the NanoRem project, progressing with particle design. A special coating procedure is applied, which provides the particles with better mobility, helping to target microbial contaminant degradation. The aim of the study is to test their mobility and reaction characteristics and to optimize their performance. One of the contamination plumes at the Spolchemie site was chosen as a NanoRem case study site to test iron oxide nanoparticles (NPs) for *in situ* remediation of BTEX. Site is situated in Ústí nad Labem, geologically in heterogeneous quarternary terrace of the river Bílina with hydraulic conductivity **K**= 1×10<sup>-5</sup> m/s.

## **Pilot Application - Results**







Tracer tests made during infiltration of nanoGoethite confirmed the mobility of FeOx NPs. The distribution was not homogenous vertically although the distribution infiltration each horizon. during proportional was to





A number of ground water monitoring campaigns have been undertaken before application and the regular monitoring of contaminants, inorganic species and present micro- organisms is ongoing.



Application of 300 kg of nano-Goethite took place in Spolchemie LNAPL NanoRem site, Czech republic. Concentration of injected suspension was approx. 5 g/l, total injected volume was approximately 60 m<sup>3</sup>. Continual direct**push (DP)** application to 6 DP-probes (8 application horizons per each) took 85 hours.

- Monitoring system contains 2 narrow hydrogeological monitoring wells (45 mm diameter) and **3 micropump wells** (each equipped in 5, 7 and 8 m bgl). - Monitoring of groundwater (GW) includes GWL measurement, physicochemical parameters measurement and following laboratory analysis: BTEX, total and dissolved iron, TOC, TIC, selected inorganic parameters and concentration of microorganisms.









AW6A-32

DP-2

The document figures the total removal of BTEX in the subsurface after NanoGoethite reactor created Although application. the concentration of BTEX are still very high, even on the wells of outflow line, the differentials between wells in inflow and outflow area are evident and the trend has been confirmed by long term monitoring.

AW6A-36



#### 0.0 18.11.2015 22015 A.11.2015 27.1.2016 21,10,2015 15.10.2015 18.10.2015 28.6.2016

#### catechol-2,3-dioxygenase

### Conclusions

The mobility of stabilized nanoGoethite and its distribution was confirmed in the most of aquifer horizons. The differences of BTEX concentration between wells in inflow area (AW6A-30, AW6A-31 and AW6A 32) and outflow zone (AW6A-35 and AW6A-34) of the pilot site are clearly visible not only in the layer with maximum groundwater velocity speed but also in all of the monitored depths.

Benzylsuccinate synthase gene level was slightly affected (increased) by the application and remained rather stable throughout the experiment but the level of the enzyme for the aerobic BTEX degradation pathway catechol-2,3-dioxygenase remained low even after 8.5 months after Nano-Goethite injection.



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