Americhem: A Public, Private, and Scientific Collaboration

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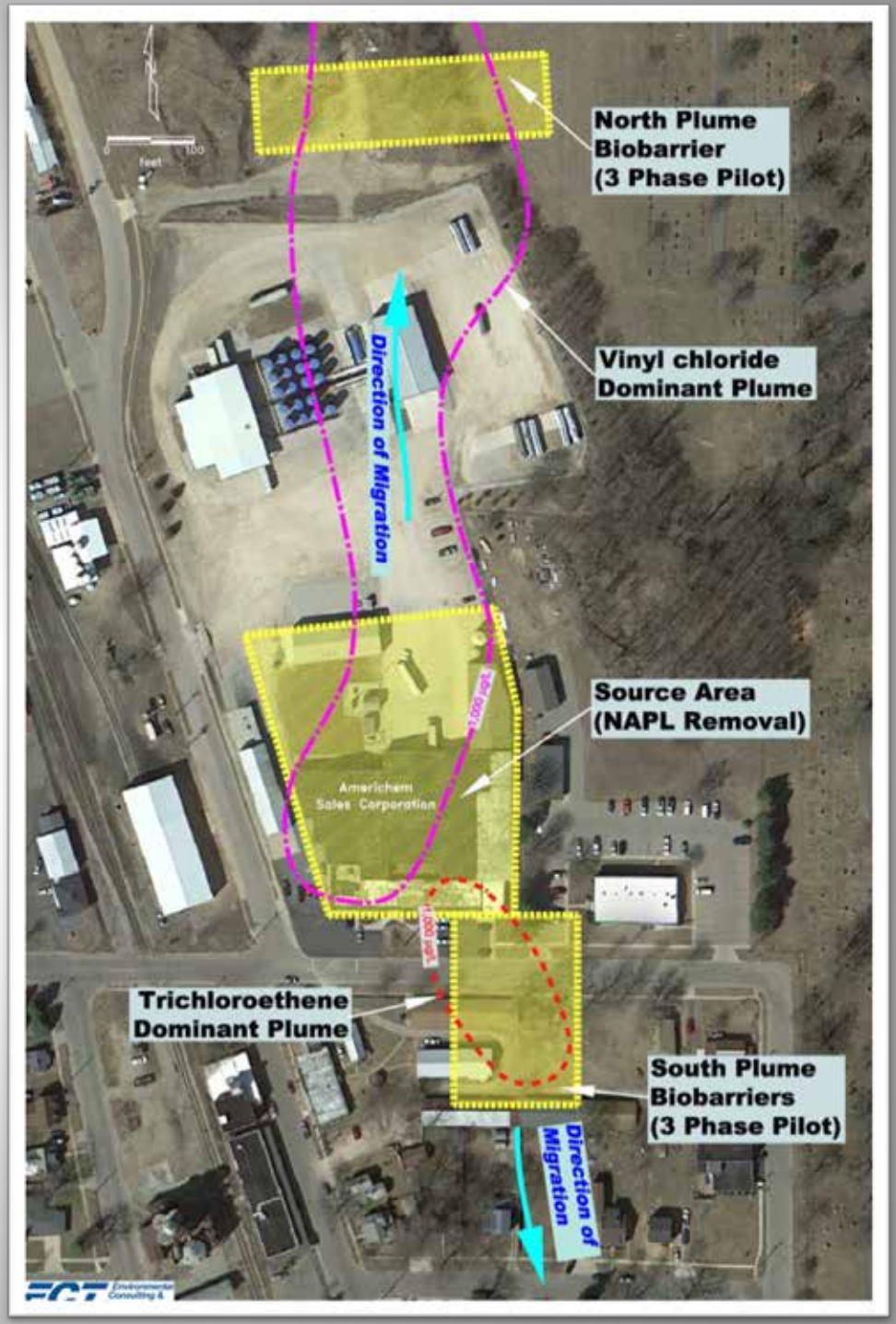
Case Study Overview

- Collaboration between State and Private Sector to Facilitate Re-use and Remediation
- Covenant Not to Sue
- Collaboration both Administrative and Technical
- Remediation Tailored to Site Logistics Yet Still Technically Effective
- Some Innovations in Approach and Deployment

Setting

- Chemical Distributorship
- Mason Esker
- Bifurcated Plume
  - North Plume – VC
  - South Plume – TCE
  - Source – Everything
- Americhem Sales
  - Due Diligence in ‘97
  - Discovery of NAPL Mass
- MDEQ Takes Lead



Original Site

- Old tank farm tight to the facility, **NO** containment and rusted tanks.
- Old fuel island with no containment
- No security

The "Old" Americhem

Even fresh paint would not help this situation.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

In the Matter of:

MDEQ Reference No.: CNTS-ERD-97-003

The Acquisition of the Americhem Company Property; 340 North Street, Mason, Michigan

By Americhem Properties, L.L.C., Americhem Sales Corporation and Mr. Bruce Whetter

Proceeding under the authority vested in the Attorney General by the State of Michigan

Administrative Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue

Struggles & Early Road Blocks

- Lack of Local Understanding
- No Community Involvement
- Engaging in Community outreach programs
- Turning Around a Company on life support
- Employees with no understanding of RD or ISO programs

Business, government team up to remove spilled chemicals

Lansing State Journal file photo

Squeaky clean: President Bruce Whetter stands in front of chemical storage tanks installed in 1998 at the Americhem Corp. site in Mason. Americhem and the state are cooperating to clean up contamination at the site.

State grant helps clean up contaminated Mason site

The Start of "Going Green" in 1998!

Taking care of the toxins

Americhem changes

The Mason company is trying to recover from contamination problems with these changes:

- Buried tanks, which had leaked pollution, are no longer used. They were drained, filled with sand and capped with concrete.
- A new 450,000 gallon above-ground bulk chemical storage center with individual lines to and from each tank, which should make leaks less likely and improve the quality of chemicals.
- A new expanded oil storage building has a 500,000-gallon capacity.
- Two computerized 100,000-pound truck scales includes controls for safely handling chemicals.

KATHY KIELISZEWSKI/Lansing State Journal

Cleaning up chemicals: Americhem President Bruce Whetter stands in front of the company's newly installed chemical tanks at the Mason plant. The company is spending $750,000 to remove pollution.

KATHY KIELISZEWSKI/Lansing State Journal

Cleaning up chemicals: Americhem President Bruce Whetter stands in front of the company's newly installed chemical tanks at the Mason plant. The company is spending $750,000 to remove pollution.

Americhem clearing up contamination

Mason plant makes progress with major chemical cleanup

By Sally Trout
Lansing State Journal

MASON — A Mason chemical company is spending $750,000 to clean up pollution discovered last year.

The cleanup is part of $2.5 million in improvements to Americhem Sales Corp.'s startup and distribution system.

Early in 1997, soil tests found chemically tainted samples at the Mason site. The testing was part of an environmental assessment required for sale of the plant.

"My heart just dropped when I saw the boring results," said Bruce Whetter, who was a consultant to Americhem and the prospective buyer at the time.

Today, monitored wells suck toxic chemicals from the ground 24 hours a day. More than 4,500 gallons of chemicals floating on top of ground water have been recovered.

Three chemicals — which include benzene, toluene, vinyl chloride, trichloroethylene, ethylbenzene and xylene — are trucked away for incineration.

The root of the contamination problem: undetected leaks in old storage tanks.

Efforts to assess the problem and start the cleanup began within 24 hours through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Americhem money has paid for studies of the contamination problem and the cleanup under way through an agreement with state environmental officials.

"The investigation money is used up now and work still remains to be done," said Barbara Cowles, DEQ analyst.

"We are now applying for a $2.2 million grant from the state Legislature to complete a bedrock study and other necessary work."

Cowles estimates that chemicals are floating in soil 5 to 8 feet thick above the water table.

"The chemical deposit does not extend much beyond the building boundary and a little to the north under the old Americhem tank farm," she said.

There's no evidence of contamination in any city water well or in private wells near the site, she said.

Will the current cleanup efforts work?

Lawrence Fischer, director of Michigan State University's Institute of Toxicology, says probably so.

Standards used by the DEQ

Please see CLEANUP, 2B

KATHY KIELISZEWSKI/Lansing State Journal

Monitor: Don Chamberlain, a maintenance worker at Americhem Sales Corp. in Mason, checks the chemical level in an underground monitoring well.

Cleanup: Company clearing toxins

Continued FROM 1A

Front page of Lansing State Journal July 17, 1998. Page 1 of 1

State of Michigan
Michigan Department
of Environmental Quality
Environmental Response Division

No. 36104

Fiscal Year , 2002

Pay to the Order of Mason Area Residents $ 1,380,000.00

One Million Three Hundred Eighty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars

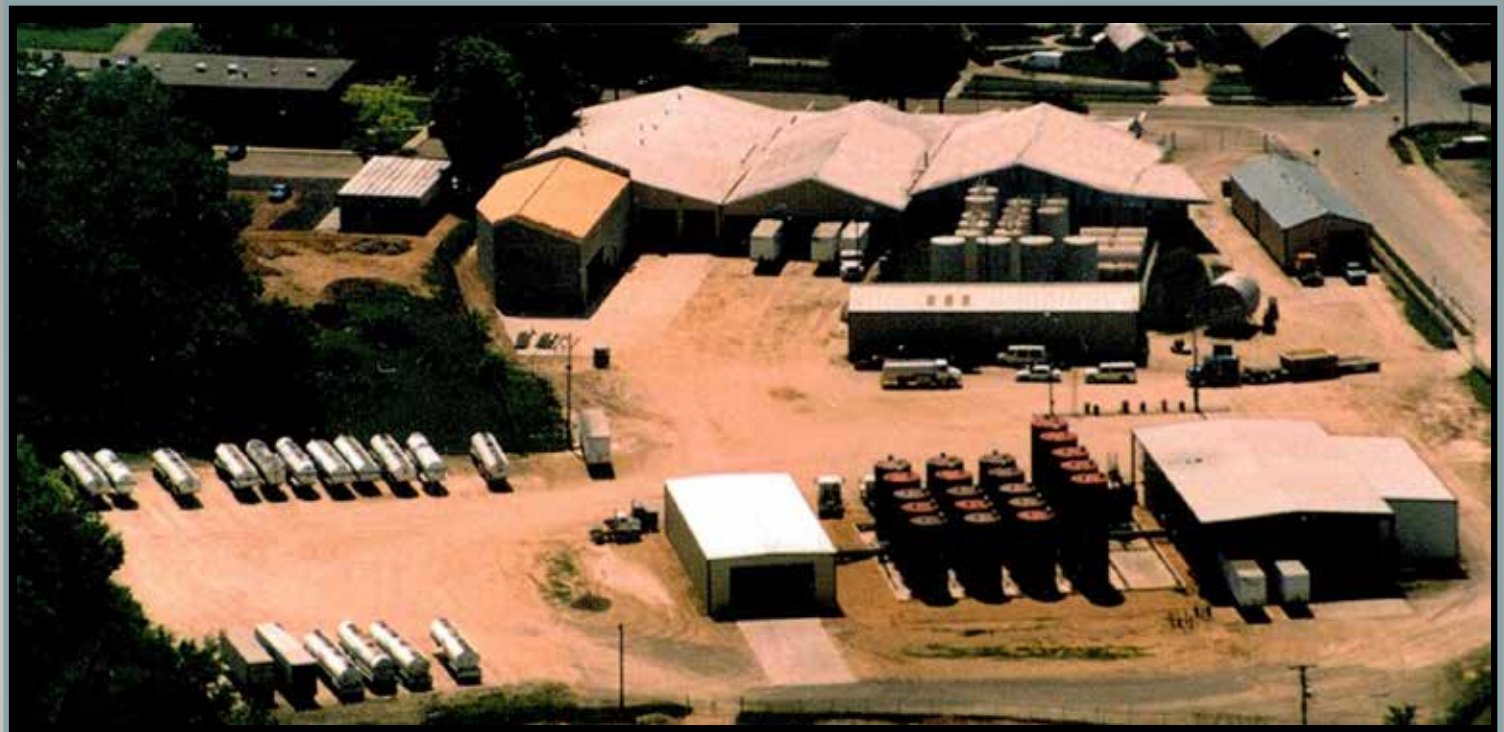
Department of Treasury
430 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48922

Memo ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP OF GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

Paul Dewese

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PAUL DEWEESE
INGHAM AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES

New Site



- Now a safe distance between the new solvent tank farm, scale house and solvent building.
- Product was transferred to the new tank farm & the old tank farm/fuel island was removed.

Americhem Sales Corporation 19.5 acres located in Mason, Michigan

Overhead view showing a very safe distance between office/warehouses and the new tank farm/buildings, as well as old tanks removed.

Speech given to the NACD (National Association of Chemical Distributors) members on safe site layout and safety practices.

On site 12,000 gallon diesel fuel island with computerized inventory system and fuel pump and fuel containment, although not required.

Digital Inventory Control

Fully integrated information system with digital inventory control system for both solvents and base oils.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS
1560 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1250
Arlington, VA 22209

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathee E. Baker
703/527-NACD(6223)

AMERICHEM SALES CORPORATION RECEIVES NACD'S FIRST ANNUAL RESPONSIBLE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS℠ ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ARLINGTON, VA – September 29, 2006 – Americhem Sales Corporation, of Mason, MI, is the recipient of NACD's 2006 Responsible Distribution Process℠ Achievement Award. Americhem Sales Corporation, a member of NACD since 1999, was recognized by NACD for demonstrating outstanding performance of its Responsible Distribution Process℠ (RDP) program during its on-site third-party verification this spring. Bruce L. Whetter, President of Americhem Sales Corporation, was present to receive the award. The award was presented by Doug Kutz, Chair of NACD's Responsible Distribution Process℠ Committee, during the biannual RDP Code Coordinator Reception in Indianapolis, IN.

"The RDP Committee is proud to recognize Americhem Sales Corporation as the first recipient of this award," RDP Committee Chair Doug Kutz said. "Bruce Whetter and his team at Americhem not only have established themselves as high achievers, they have been and continue to be terrific ambassadors for the RDP program."

This year was the first year in which NACD presented the RDP Achievement Award. The RDP Committee intends to recognize a member company each year to encourage continued excellence among NACD members in their commitment to the Responsible Distribution Process℠.

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NACD and its more than 250 chemical distribution member companies have established themselves as leaders in health, safety, security, and environmental performance through implementation of the *Responsible Distribution Process℠ (RDP)*, established in 1991 as a *condition of membership* in NACD. RDP is a third-party verified management practice. For additional information, visit NACD's Web site — http://www.nacd.com. For additional information about the Responsible Distribution Process℠, visit www.ResponsibleDistribution.com.

AMERICHEM SALES CORPORATION RECEIVES NACD'S FIRST ANNUAL RESPONSIBLE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS-ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NACD PRESENTS 2010 DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

La Quinta, CA – December 1, 2010 — Bruce Whetter, President, Americhem Sales Corporation, Mason, Michigan was named the 2010 Distributor of the Year by the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) today. Whetter's 13 plus years of service to the Association in many different leadership roles has been an outstanding example of his steadfast commitment to the chemical distribution industry.

Whetter's leadership roles included Chairmanship of the Professional Development Committee, and serving on the Membership and Responsible Distribution Committees. He is currently completing his term as President of the Central Region.

Whetter received the award today during a General Session of NACD's Annual Meeting, where he was commended for his unwavering commitment to the mission and goals of the Association and consistently promoting the benefits of NACD and Responsible DistributionTM. He was also recognized for strong and positive leadership both on the regional and national level and for always putting the Association first. Last year's award winner and the outgoing Chairman of NACD, Bruce Schechinger, President, BHS Marketing LLC, presented the award to Whetter. In doing so he said, "When we see somebody like Bruce Whetter, who works tirelessly, using the core principles of Responsible DistributionTM, it makes us all proud. Bruce Whetter is truly the Distributor of the Year."

THANK YOU FROM BRUCE L. WHETTER

NACD's 2010 Distributor of the Year

Dear NACD Membership,

Our annual meeting last year at La Quinta is quite a memory for me and will be for the remainder of my life. It was quite a roller coaster week. To be released from the hospital after missing such a wonderful meeting and then be named the 2010 Distributor of the Year was a tremendous honor and heartwarming experience for me, Susan, my brother, our team members at Americhem Sales and my family. I truly didn't know what to say at that moment. I want you to know how thankful I was standing there in front of you receiving such an honor. Had I been prepared, I would have thanked so many of you for your constant efforts working on committees, on boards, behind the scenes and helping build such a dynamic organization like the NACD.

I want to thank all of you for the confidence you have shown in me by naming me the 2010 NACD Distributor of the Year. I look back on being called up to the stage in utter disbelief, as I have witnessed so many outstanding recipients receive this great honor over the years and never dreamed that I would qualify. So much has been accomplished by the previous award winners. Our organization has constantly improved over the years and will continue to do so with the excellent staff we have in place at this time. I believe that our team members at ASC understood the importance of Responsible Distribution and embraced it instantly when it was presented to them. Their never ending desire to be the best has allowed me the time to volunteer my strengths over the years to the NACD. I have enjoyed every minute helping our organization and our members, in my small way, to embrace the mission and goals of the NACD.

When Americhem Sales received the first ever Responsible Distribution Excellence Award in 2006, I thought nothing could be any better than that feeling of total pride. I remember that feeling. Now, this feeling is similar, total humility and thankfulness to God. I am so proud to be a member of NACD and now being a part of the "Distributor of the Year" family of NACD members is an honor I will cherish for a life time.

Thank you so much and thank you for your support.

Bruce L. Whetter, President & CEO, Americhem Sales Corporation

ON SITE 24/7 SURVEILLANCE SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM

AMERICHEM Sales Corporation

Pollution Prevention- P2

Tier II, Biennial Waste, Storm Water, SPCC Plan & PIPP

Internal Audits & Certification Audits

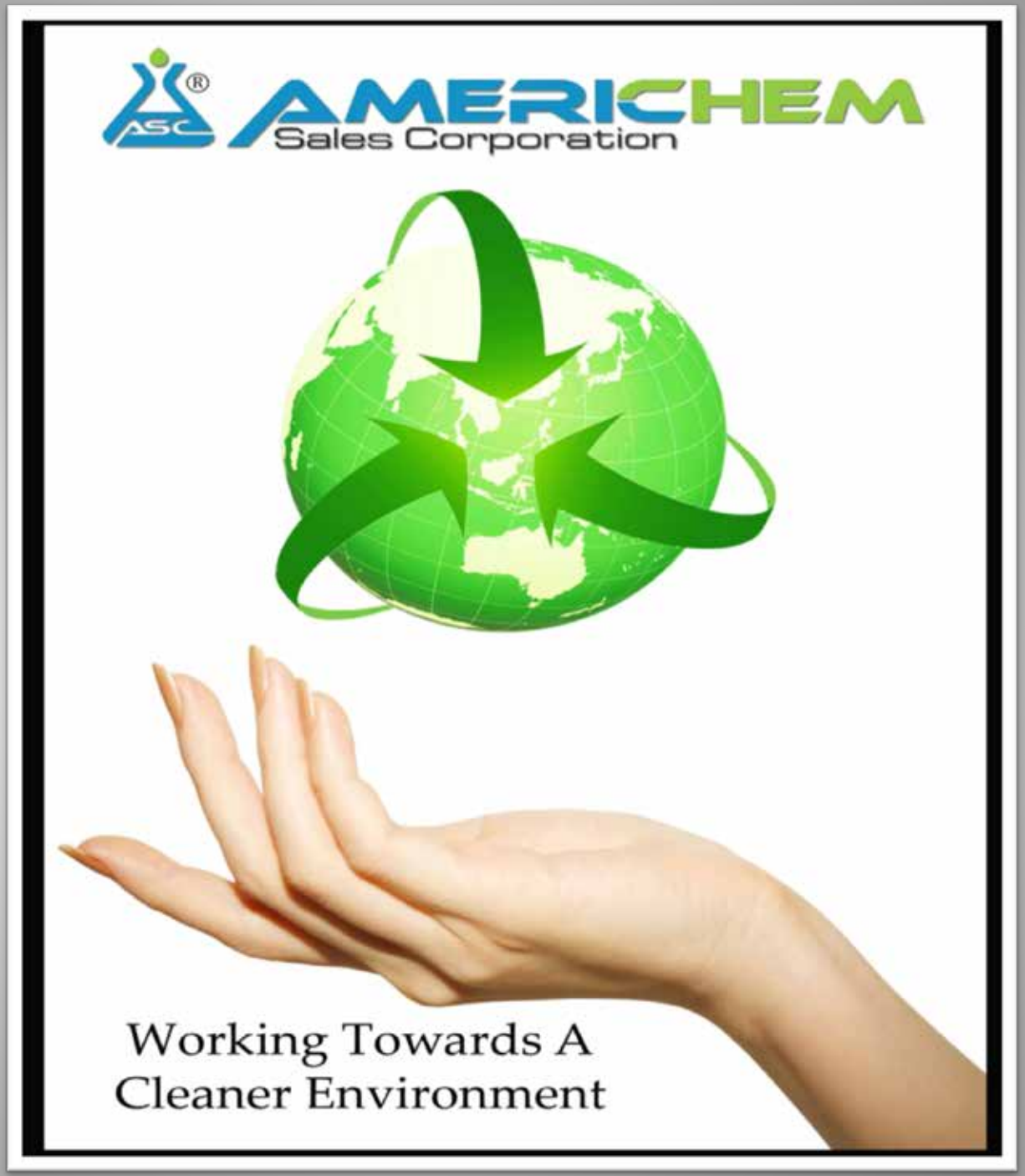
Internal Audits & Certification Audits

Working Towards A Cleaner Environment

TSCA-TRI Reports & NPDES

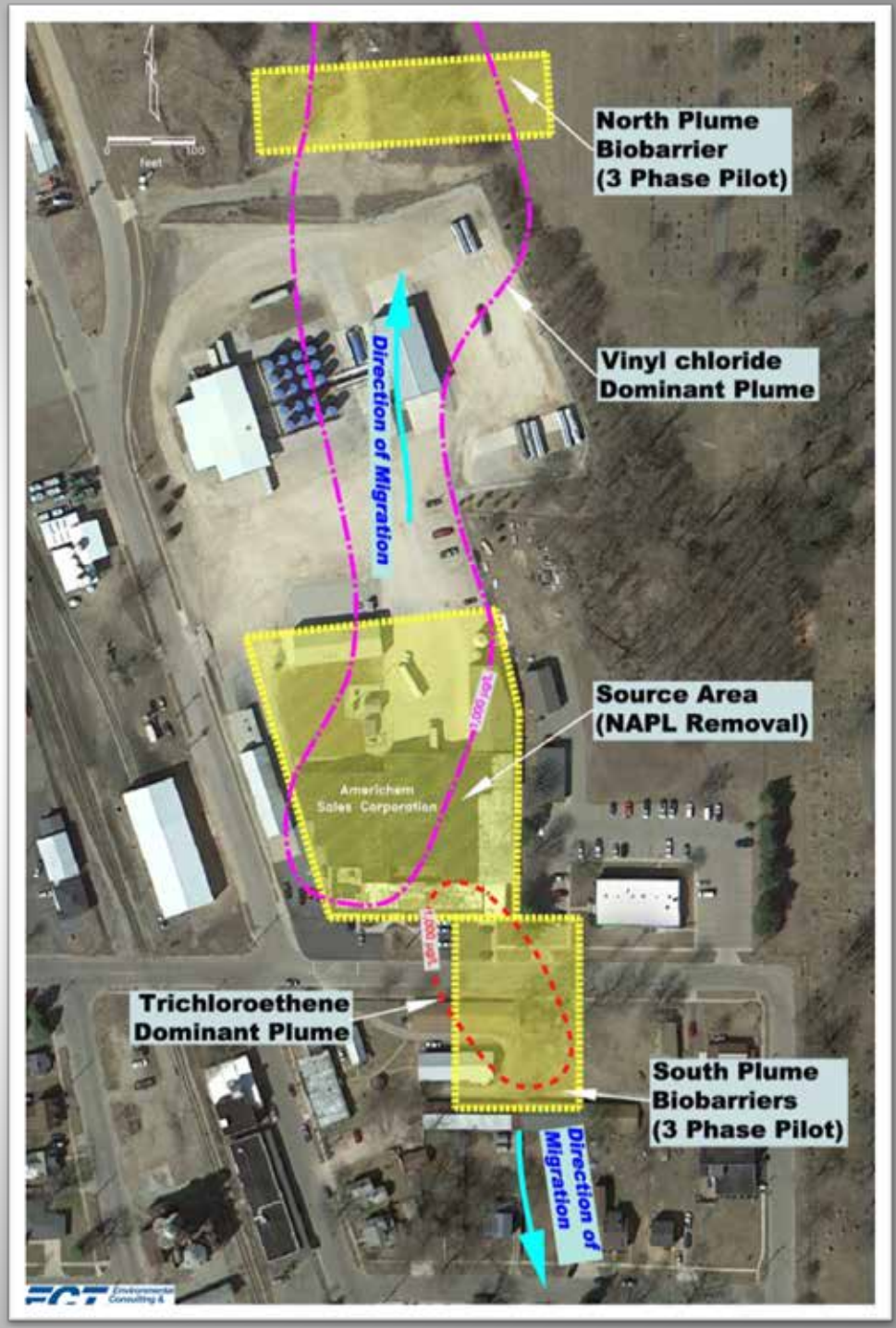
Employee Training, Evacuation Plans, 300 Log-Accidents

Veteran Owned Small Business


AMERICHEM
Sales Corporation
Working Towards A
Cleaner Environment

Remedy

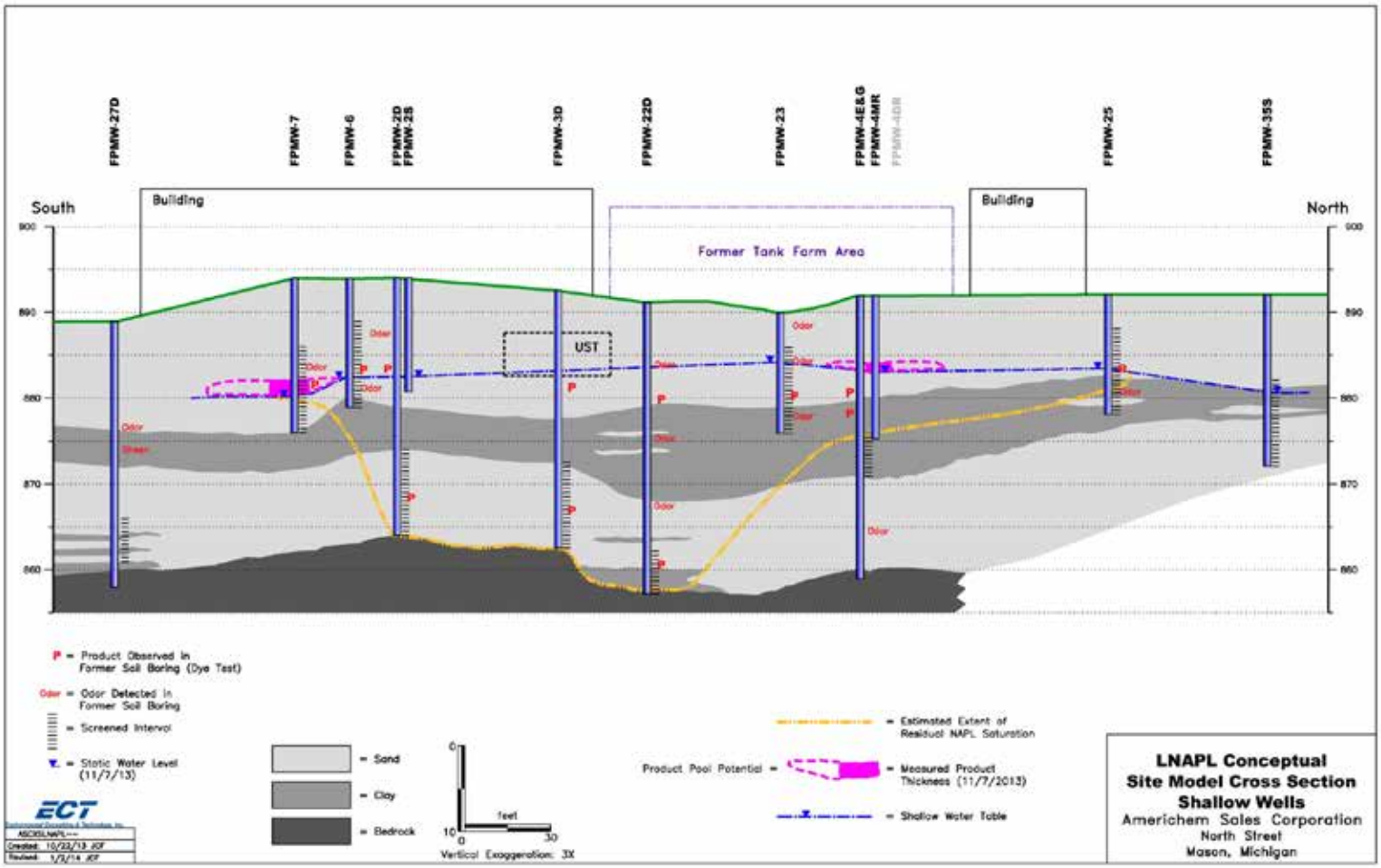
- Key Factors
  - Chemical Distributorship
  - Mason Esker
- Bifurcated Plume
  - North Plume – VC
  - South Plume – TCE
  - NAPL Mass
  - Source – Everything
- Treatment Train
  - NAPL Recovery
  - SVE
  - Insitu Biostimulation
    - North Plume
    - South Plume
    - Source Area



Contributors to Remedy

- Americhem/Bruce Whetter
- Warner Norcross Judd
- MDEQ
- Attorney General
- Roy F. Weston
- Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.
- M.Dybas & Associates LLC

Source Area Cross Section - Shallow Wells

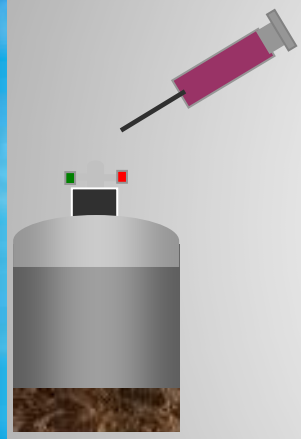


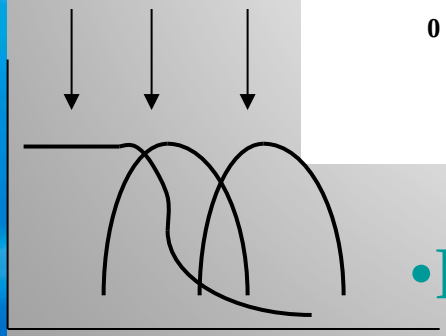
Old School v. New School

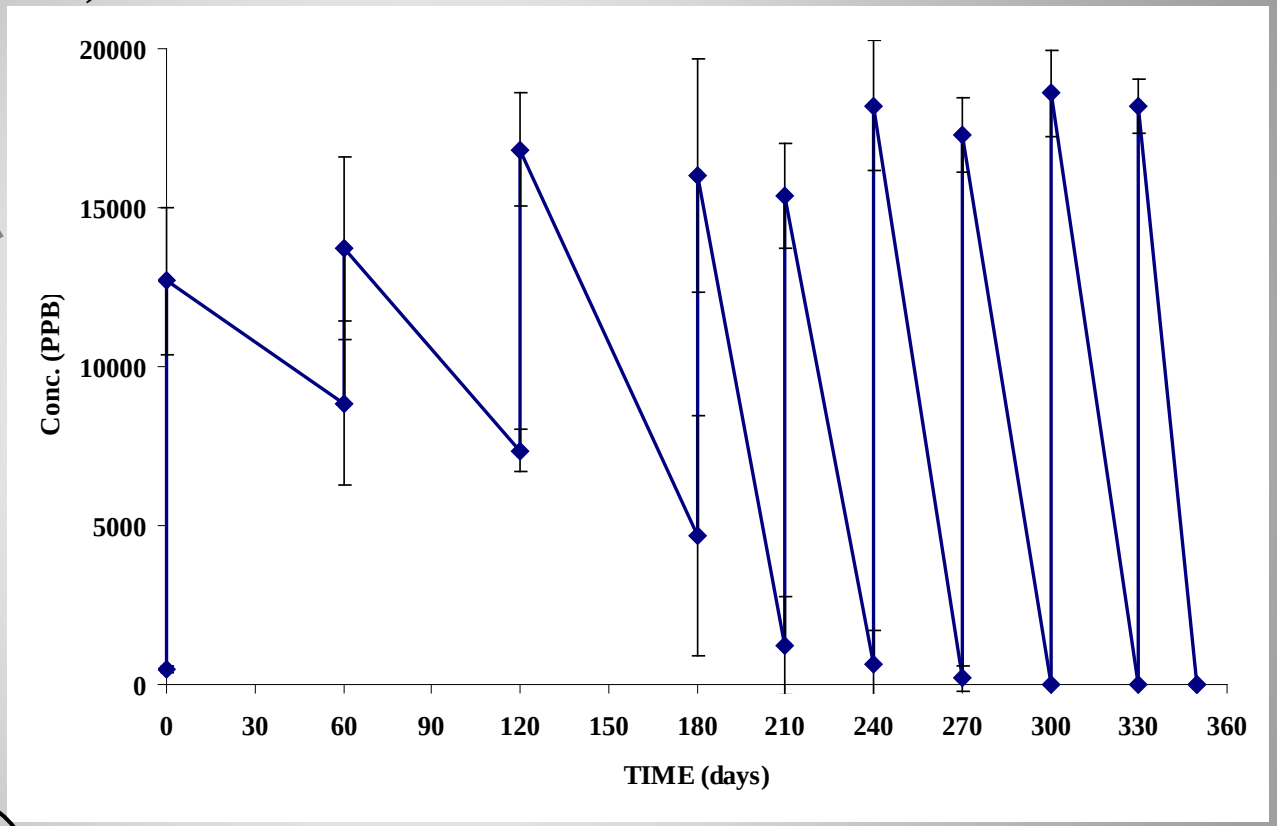
Enrichment of Dechlorination Activity

Pulse Feeding

(20% waste/fill)



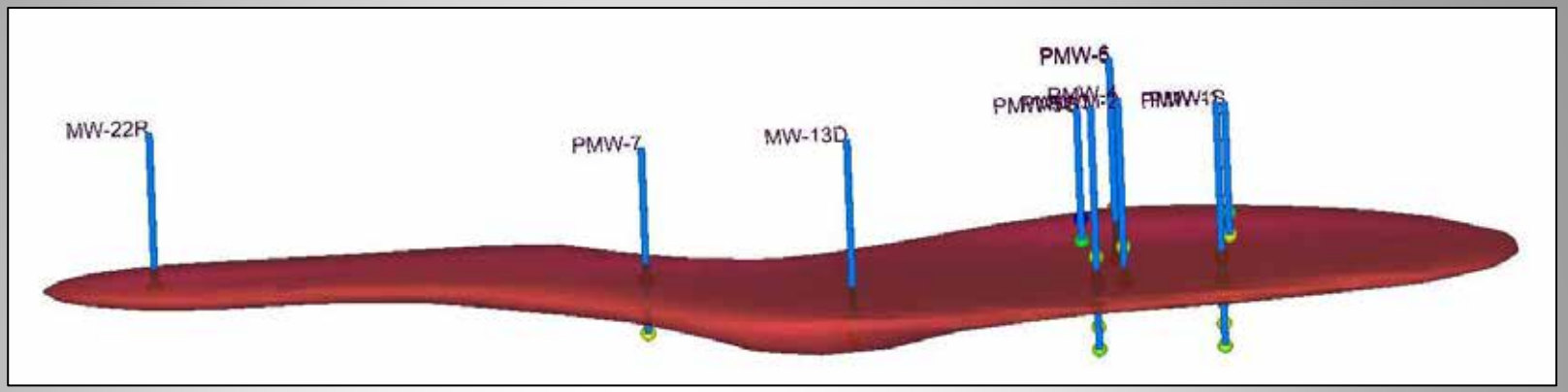




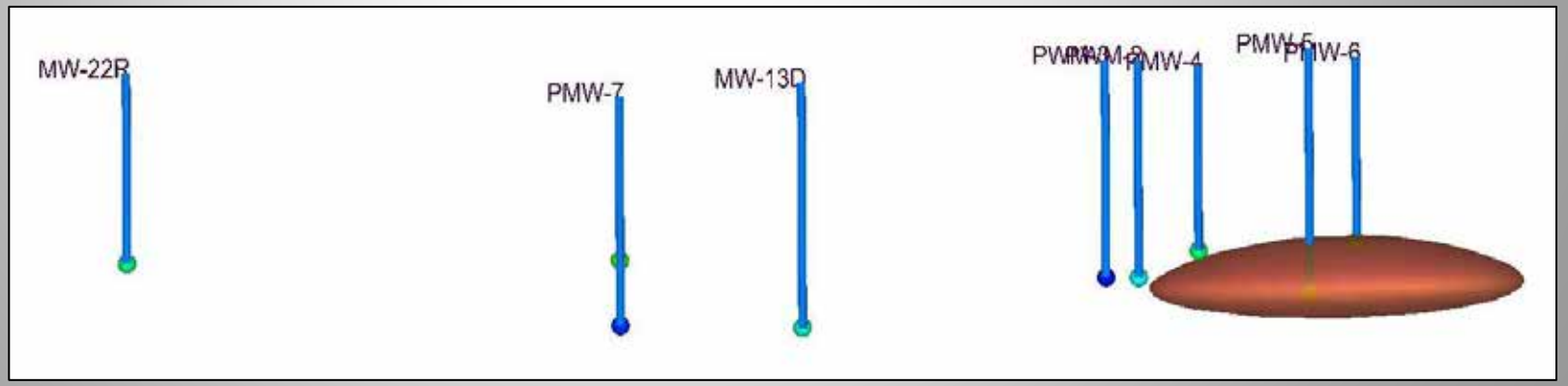
- Repeated low nutrient, high TCE
- Site H_20 (NO_3 and SO_4)

Vinyl Chloride Plume

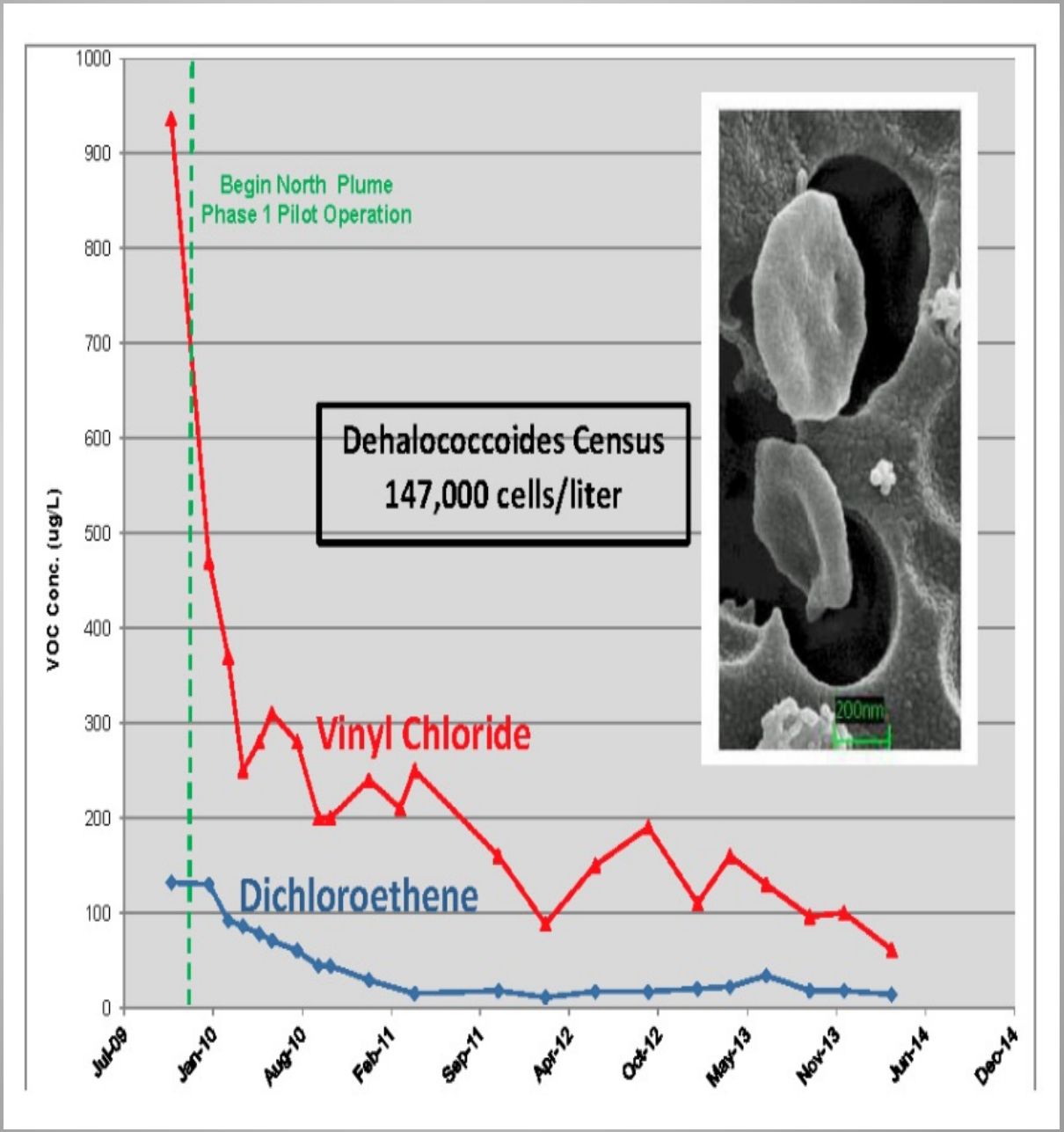
Before



After



Americhlor Dehalos



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