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# Wick Drains for Soil Consolidation and Environmental Remediation

- Introduction
- Technology
- Installation
- Project Summary
- Additional Technology



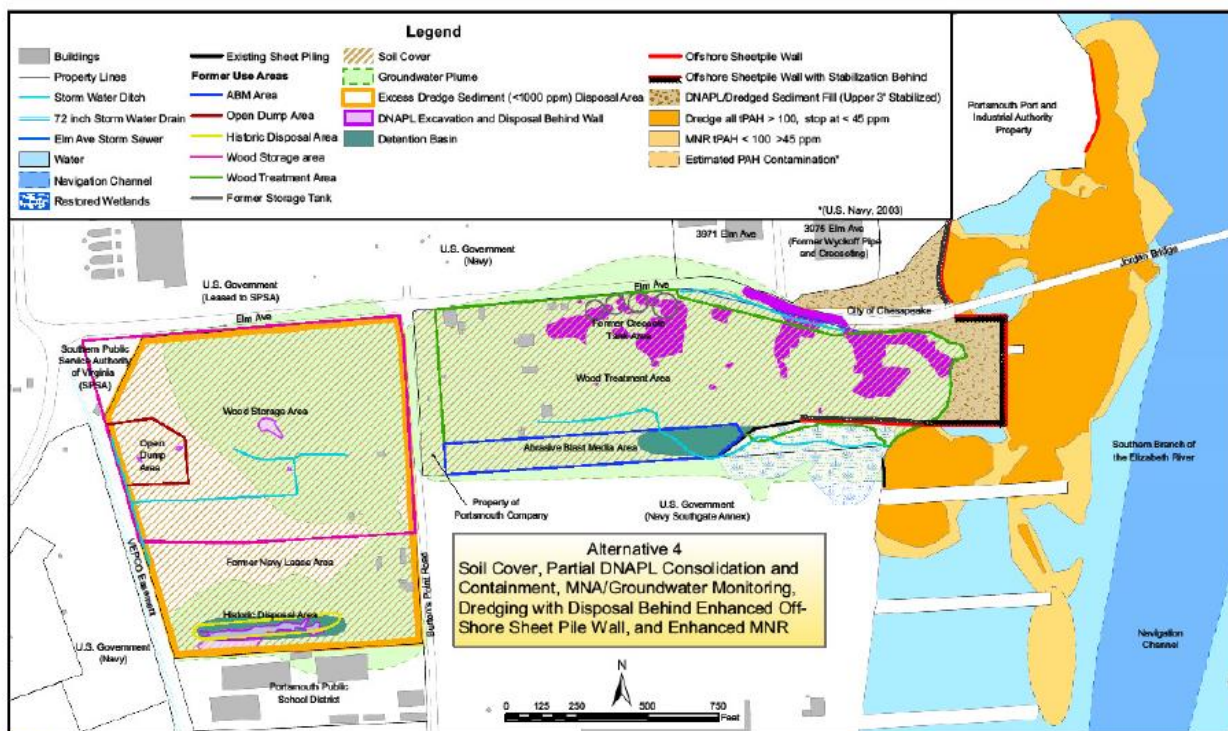
# Atlantic Wood Industries Site Portsmouth, VA

- About 50 acre Superfund site on Elizabeth River
- Approximately 30 acres contaminated sediment
- Surrounded by industrial properties
- 66 year history as wood treating facility
- Naval Shipyard also utilized site

# Atlantic Wood Industries Site

- Contaminants include:
  - Creosote
  - Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
  - Abrasive Blast Media with copper, lead, zinc, arsenic
  - Acetylene sludge byproducts
- Site added to EPA National Priority List (NPL) in 1990

# EPA Selected Remedy



CDM  
December 2007 Record of Decision

Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc. Superfund Site  
Portsmouth, Virginia

Figure 20  
Alternative 4  
EPA's Selected Remedy

# AWI Site Remediation 2009-2017

- Step 1 – Offshore sheet pile wall – **McLean Contracting**
- Step 2 – Water treatment facility
- Step 3 – Dredge contaminated river sediments
- Step 4 – Amend/Treat contaminated DM
- Step 5 – Spread treated dredged fill
- Step 6 – Install PVD/Wick drains - **HB**
- Step 7 - Surcharge site
- Step 8 – Cap to final site grade
- Step 9 – Long term monitoring
- Step 10 – Return to commercial use
  - **Sevenson Environmental Services**

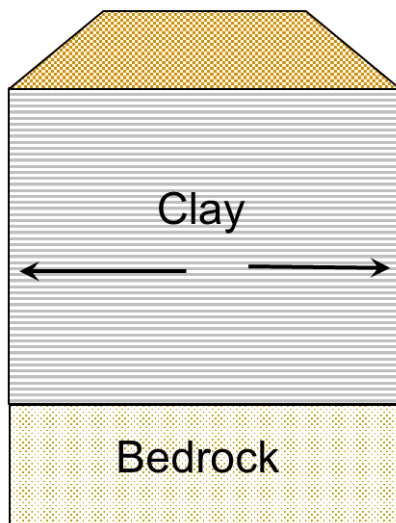
# Vertical Prefabricated Drain Technology

# The Theory Basics

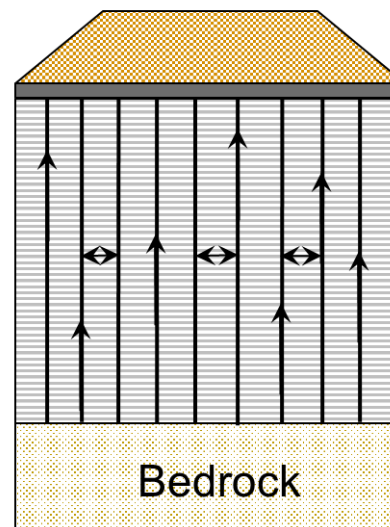
- A structure constructed on a site that is underlain by soft, saturated soils
- Load on the soil is partially supported by incompressible water within the soil matrix
- As time passes, the excess pore water pressure dissipates as the contaminated water slowly drains
- Then, the load share is increased in the soil and consolidation and settlement occurs
- Process can take a very long time

# The General Idea

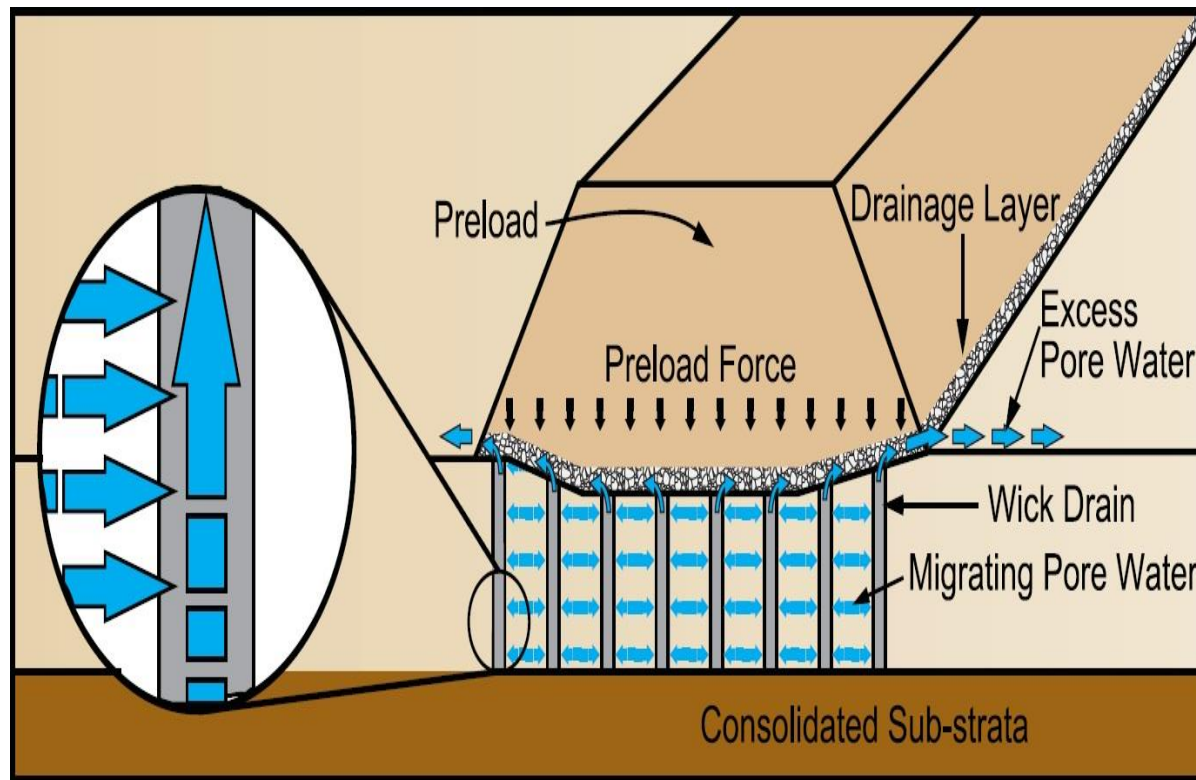
Without Drains

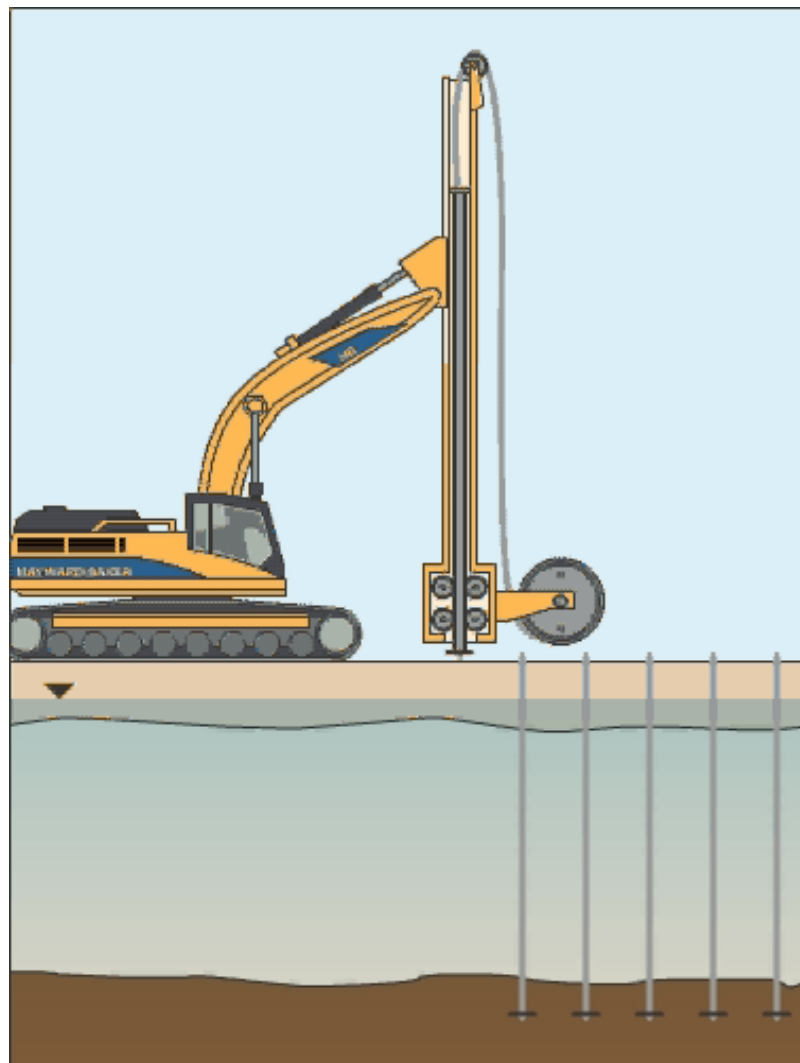


With Drains



# PREFABRICATED VERTICAL DRAINS (PVD or Wick Drains)





# Surcharging

- Surcharge prior to construction is placing a temporary fill upon the area
- Wick drains are used to greatly accelerate the drainage of pore water –with contaminants
- Allows the consolidation to occur much quicker
- Pore water is collected and treated

# The Product

- Wick Drains are a plastic band shaped conduit
- Approximately 4 inches wide by ¼ inch thick
- Composed of a poly strip with drainage channels wrapped in a filter fabric
- Relatively inert to chemical reaction



# Vertical Wick Drain Installation Process

# Installation Methods

- Static Push
- Vibratory Energy
- Preparatory drilling
  - Data Acquisition

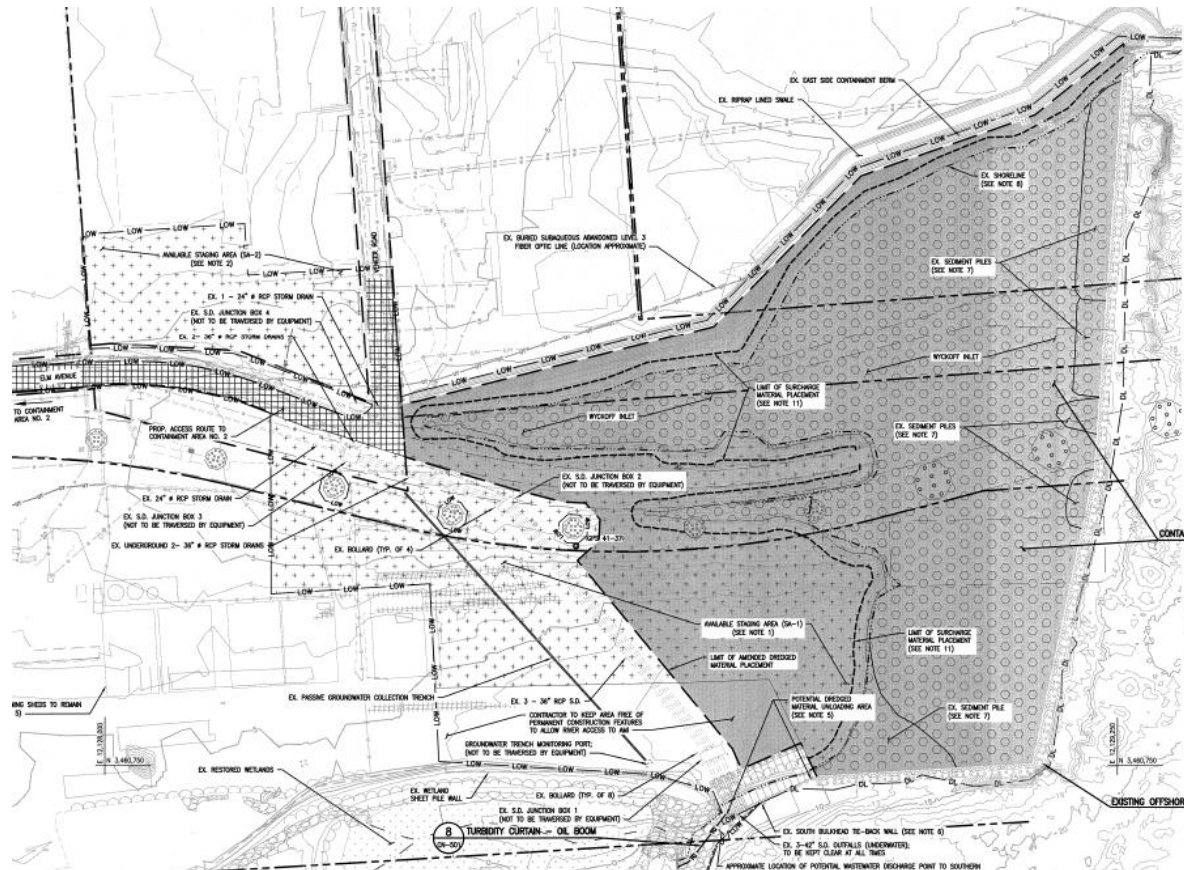


# **Project Summary: Consolidation of DNAPL**

# Environmental Remediation with Wick Drains

- Similar to standard port berth creation
- Required wick drains to accelerate consolidation
- Allows the pore water to be collected
- And, treated at on site facility

# AWI - Site Plan



# AWI North – Prior to Construction



# AWI South – Prior to Construction



# Spreading Sand Drainage Blanket





# Finished Sand Blanket

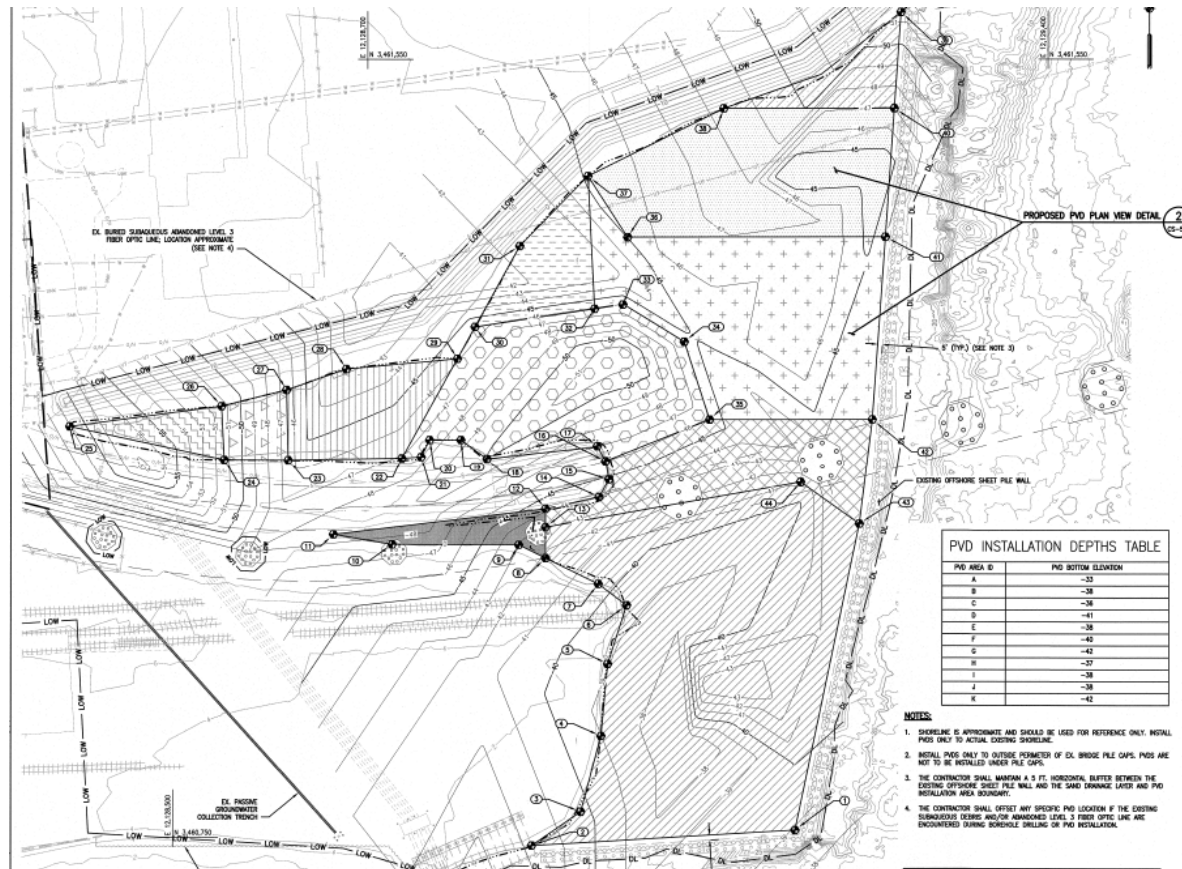
- Shows leaching contaminants to surface



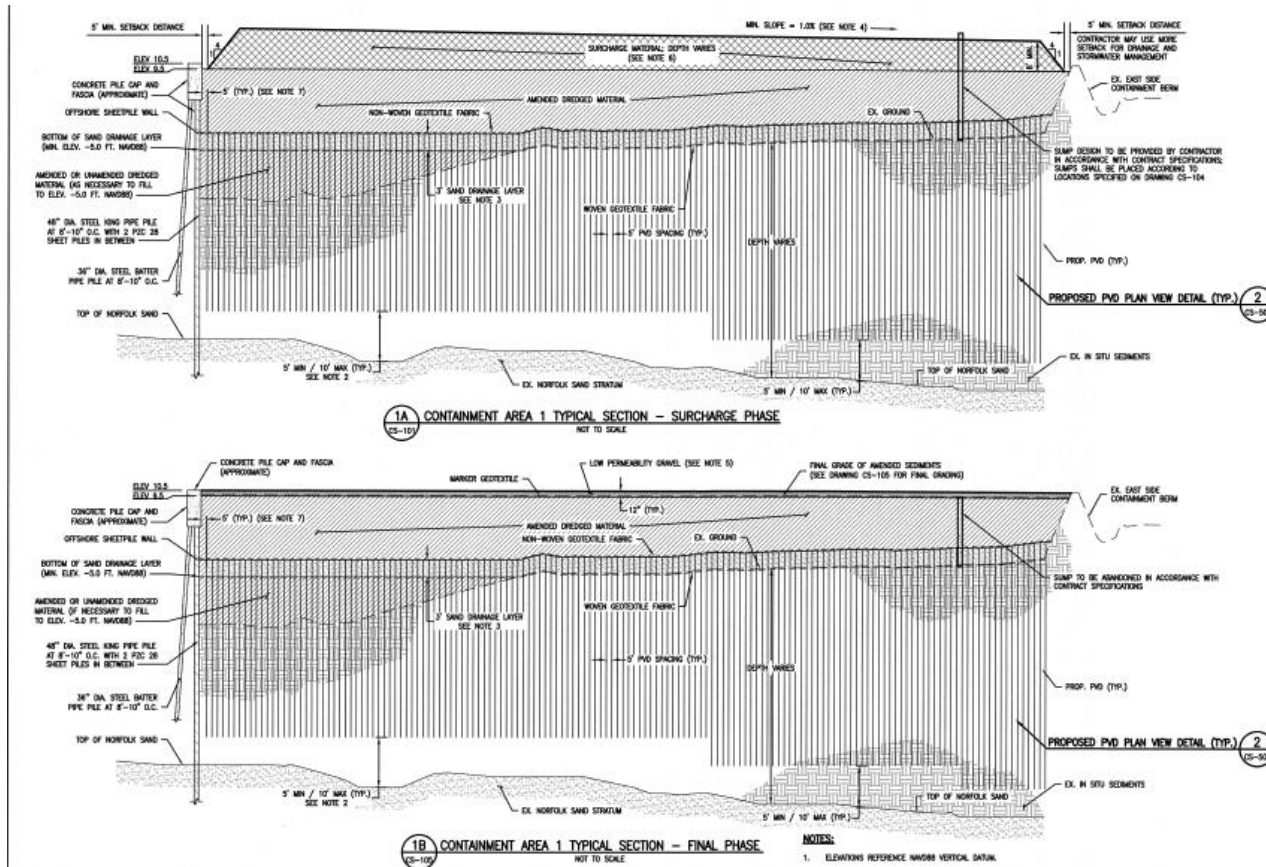
# Dredging of Contaminated Sediments



# PVD Installation Layout Plan



# Wick Drain Section



# AWI- Wick Drain Layout in North Cell



# PVD Layout With Monitoring Wells & Sumps



# Spreading Treated DM



# New Jordan Bridge Foundations Bisect Site



# AWI – South Cell



# DM mixing and wick installation



# AWI- Surcharge on North cell

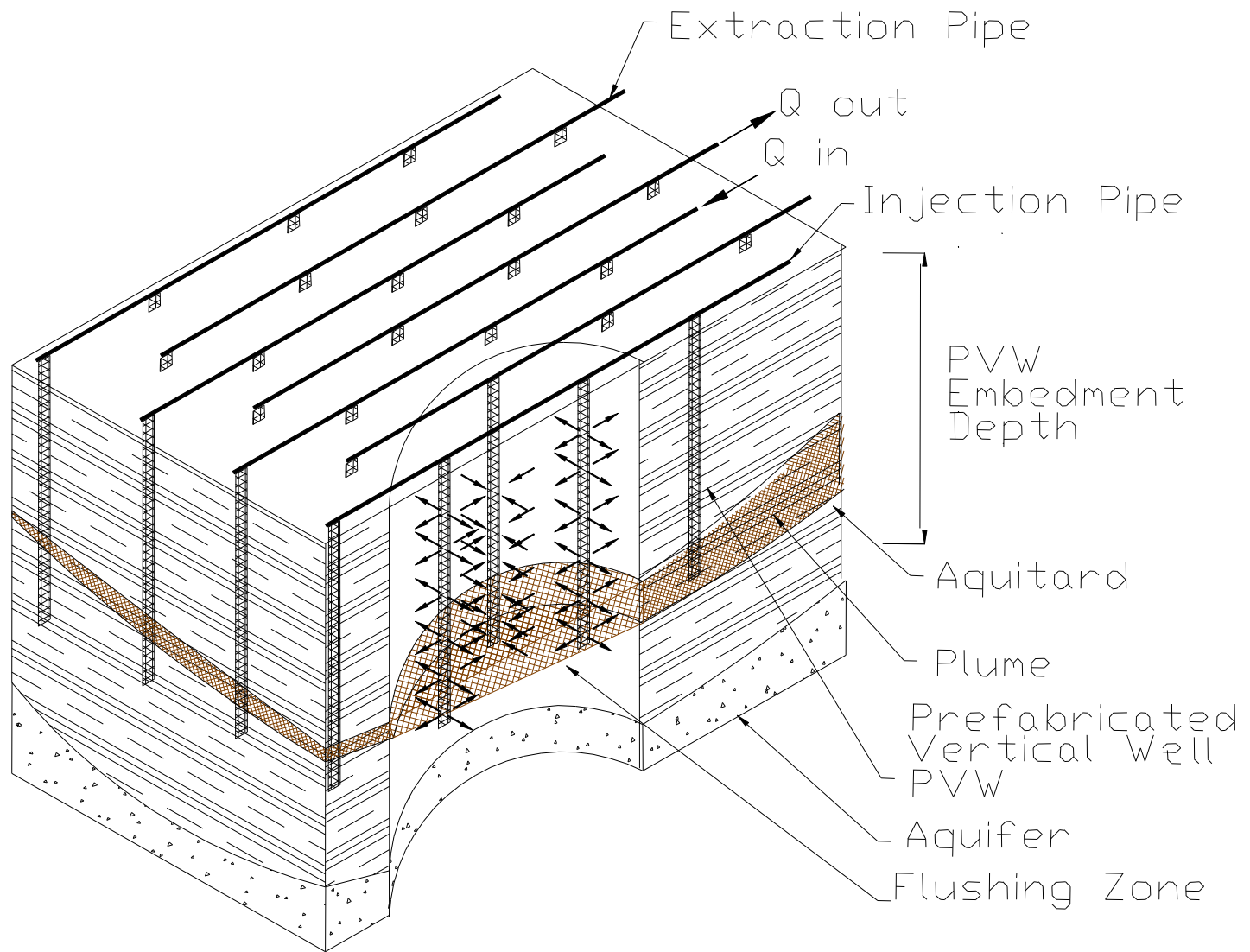


# AWI- Surcharge on South cell



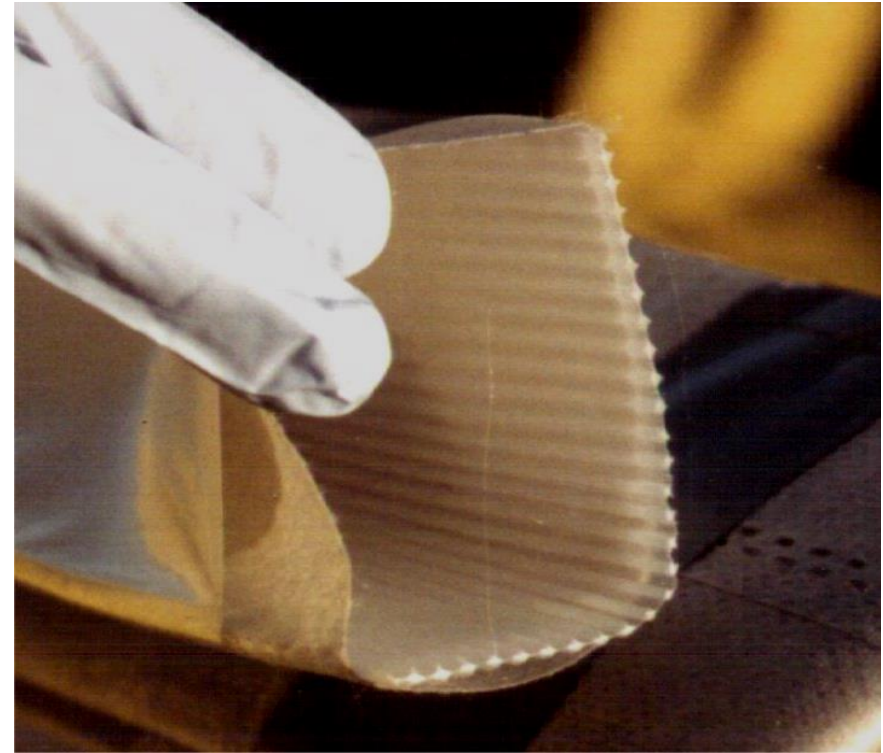
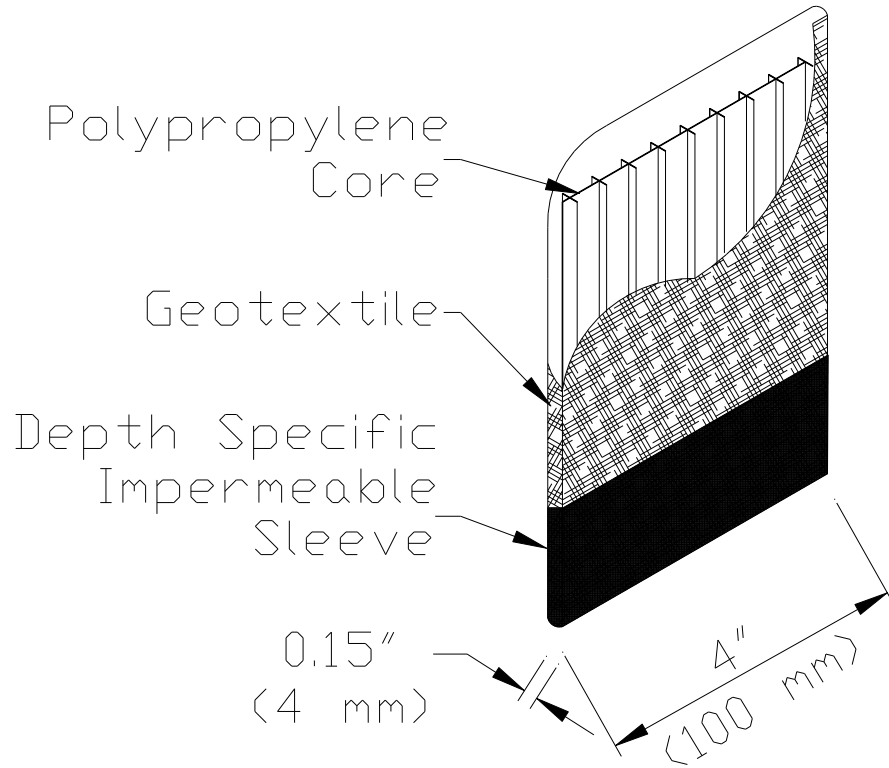
# An Additional Wick Drain Environmental Technology: **WIDE**

- Well Injection Depth Extraction
- Used on ACOE, DOE, USAF test projects
- Developed with WVU, Water Institute
- An efficient means of plume capture and treatment

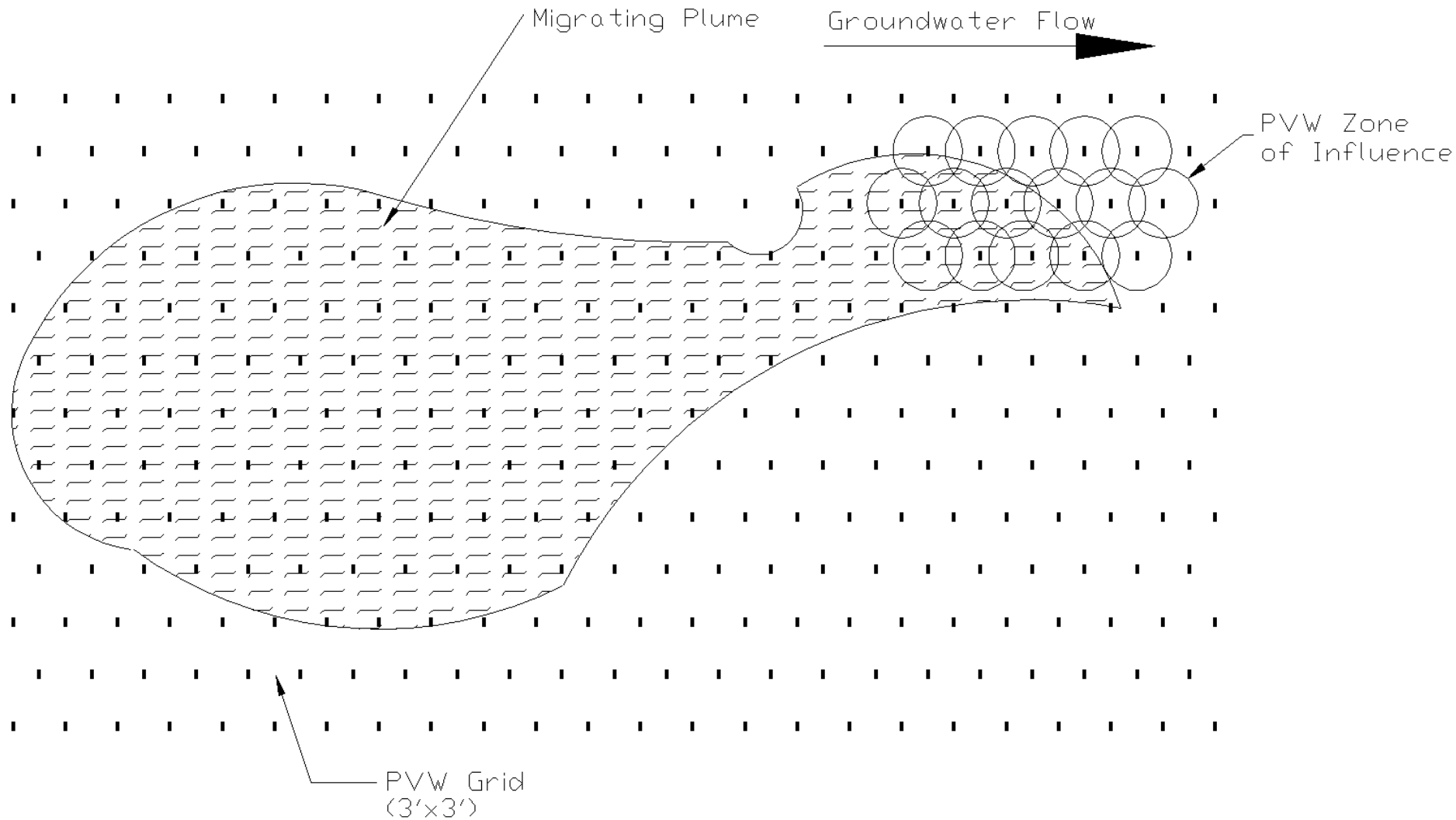


## **Well Injection Depth Extraction (WIDE) Soil Flushing**

# Prefabricated Vertical Well (PVW)



# WIDE System - Conceptual Plan View



# **WIDE System Advantages**

- ✦ **Reduced Drainage Path (2 - 5 ft) for Accelerated Flushing**
- ✦ **Redundancy for Efficient Collection**
- ✦ **Applicability to Diverse Soil Types and Conditions (Low  $k$   $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-8}$  cm/s, High Clay %)**
- ✦ **Target Flushing Area for Source Plume Control**
- ✦ **Cost-Effective, Rapid Installation, Off-the-shelf Components**
- ✦ **Separation of VOC and Metal Waste Streams**
- ✦ **Workers Isolated from Extracted Waste**







# WIDE - System Performance

## Objective

- Groundwater Profile Determination
- Contaminant Transport Path Prediction

## Forecast to Optimize

- Well Spacing
- Pumping Duration
- Pumping Rate



# WIDE System





# Current vacuum extraction option

New modular system

Very efficient

Quick installation



# Summary

- Contaminated dredged materials and soil can be treated on site.
- Wick drains can be utilized to consolidate and stabilize the fine grained dredged material
- Discharged pore water can be collected and treated
- A rehabilitated port facility is created
  
- Injection/Extraction Option available
- Targeted plume remediation

# THINK SAFE

THINK  
SAFE

WORK  
SAFE

GO HOME  
SAFE



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