

Geoelectrical mapping of the Soil and Groundwater Contaminated Site: Case Study from Taiwan

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Many site investigations have found that DNAPL is able to penetrate the low permeable layer such as clay or silt-calylayer in subsurface environment. The cumulated DNAPL within the low permeable Layer will gradually diffuse to the high permeable layer to affect the accuracy of investigation and remedial design. As to the deeper zone affected by the penetration of DNAPL, the conventional sampling design investigating only the first unconfined aquifer is no longer suitable for DNAPL investigation. Precisely define the boundary and the distribution of high and low permeable layer is the key to conduct a successful DNAPL investigation. Point information derived from the conventional bore-hole sampling is difficult to be used for locating the DNAPL pollution due to the uncertainty of DNAPL migration and the soluble-phase distribution of the DNAPL partitioned into ground water between the low and high permeable layer. Recently, non-invasive technologies such as geophysical technology have been introduced to provide the plane and space information of pollution in subsurface by integrating few bore-hole data. The most common used geophysical technologies are ground-penetrating radar method (GPR) and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT). Both methods have their limitations on the pollution investigation when there are interferences exist such as building structure or heavy pavement. A new geophysical technology, geophysical well logging has been developed to overcome above limitations. The information of multi-wells logging could be used to interpret the permeability of subsurface, the dominant flow path and the hot-spot for evaluating the distribution of pollution and the efficiency of remediation in different time sequences. This study would first discuss how DNAPL and its soluble-phase components invade into the low permeable layer based on the field observation. Then, the importance of geophysical technology is introduced with comparing to the limitations of bore-hole investigation. Last, the case studies on using geophysical technologies including geophysical well logging are introduced to snapshot the complex profile of DNAPL distribution for improving future application.

Keywords: DNAPL, Electrical resistivity tomography, Soil and groundwater contamination