Environment, Energy Security & Sustainability

Addressing an IDW Nightmare in a Snap® Presenters: Larry Jordan (ARCADIS/Malcolm Pirnie) Jennifer Wilbur (Headquarters Marine Corps) May 12, 2011



Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188		
Public reporting burden for the col maintaining the data needed, and co including suggestions for reducing VA 22202-4302. Respondents sho does not display a currently valid (lection of information is estimated to completing and reviewing the collect this burden, to Washington Headqu uld be aware that notwithstanding ar DMB control number.	o average 1 hour per response, incl ion of information. Send comment arters Services, Directorate for Inf ny other provision of law, no perso	uding the time for reviewing insi s regarding this burden estimate ormation Operations and Reports n shall be subject to a penalty for	ructions, searching exis or any other aspect of the s, 1215 Jefferson Davis failing to comply with	sting data sources, gathering and his collection of information, Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington a collection of information if it	
1. REPORT DATE 12 MAY 2011	EPORT DATE 2. REPORT TYPE			3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
Addressing an IDW Nightmare in a Snap?				5b. GRANT NUMBER		
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
				5e. TASK NUMBER		
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) ARCADIS/Malcolm Pirnie,630 Plaza Drive, Suite 200 ,Highlands Ranch,CO,80129				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited						
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at the NDIA Environment, Energy Security & Sustainability (E2S2) Symposium & Exhibition held 9-12 May 2011 in New Orleans, LA.						
14. ABSTRACT						
15. SUBJECT TERMS						
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF: 17. LIMITATION				18. NUMBER	19a. NAME OF	
a. REPORT unclassified	ь. abstract unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified	ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	OF PAGES 12	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98) Prescribed by ANSI Std Z39-18

Project Overview

- Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) has been proactively assessing munitions loading areas as part of the Range Environmental Vulnerability Assessments (REVA)
- ARCADIS / Malcolm Pirnie completed an installation-wide assessment of the groundwater pathway of a large installation on the East Coast of the U.S.
 - Installed eleven 6-inch inside diameter open bedrock wells surrounding the perimeter of the installation
 - Well design replicates receptor wells offinstallation
 - Wells were installed on-installation down gradient of potential loading areas and upgradient of receptor locations
 - Conducted down-hole geophysical survey to identify water producing zones and to determine aquifer properties in the fractured bedrock aquifer



Project Overview Continued



- Project team was initially scoped to sample wells using traditional purge and sample method of removing three well volumes
- Installation requested that all purge water be containerized and stored in one location during characterization
 - Installation is approximately 12 miles in



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Project Overview Continued





- Numerous cost estimates were developed using different techniques to deal with purge water.
- All scenarios were considered cost prohibitive because
 - Access to the area would be difficult due to the large size of the installation and range and training activities which occur boundary to boundary
 - Individual runs to a centralized holding area would be up 40 miles round trip
 - Access to boring locations often limited equipment that could be utilized
 - Because of the size (6-inch I.D) and depth (200 to 502 feet) of the wells the volumes to be removed from each well varied from 720 to 2,100 gallons
- The minimum cost for one sampling event was estimated at ~\$120,000



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Alternative Sampling Methods



- The ARCADIS / Malcolm Pirnie team conducted an evaluation of numerous passive and grab sampling options
- Sampling methods that were evaluated would need to meet numerous criteria for additional evaluation
 - Provide adequate sample volume
 - Because of the large suite of analytes and particularly explosives
 - Either be inexpensive to deploy numerous times or reusable if dedicated to a well and sampling interval
 - Provide defensible reproducible sample results for all anal a down-hole geophysical survey to identify water producing zones and to determine aquifer properties in the fractured bedrock aquifer ytes
 - Can be deployed in open bedrock wells under less than ideal conditions

Alternative Sampling Methods



- Based upon the evaluation conducted for the site-specific set of circumstances of this investigation, the ARCADIS / Pirnie team and project stakeholders narrowed the viable technology to grab-type samplers
 - The passive diffusion-based samplers evaluated were not considered as viable options for sampling the full analyte suite required for this project
 - The large molecule explosives may have difficulty passing through sampler materials
 - Longer equilibration times may be required necessitating additional mobilizations
 - May not produce enough volume for QA/QC samples
 - ARCADIS / Pirnie team has utilized grabtype samplers at other sites and completed reproducibility studies for regulators

Snap Sampler®

- The Snap Sampler® was chosen as the most appropriate grab sampling equipment for the project
 - Samplers are able to be connected in-line to provide adequate volume for the full analyte list
 - The sampler materials are compatible with all of the analytes
 - Sampling materials are robust enough to be utilized for repeated sample collection and also in a open bedrock well
 - Cost savings allowed two sampling events to be completed





Field Methods

- The ARCADIS / Pirnie Team developed standard operating procedures with input from ProHydro, Inc.
- Up to three sampling intervals were chosen from each well based on the results of the down-hole geophysical survey
- Samplers were placed in wells on the first day of the sampling event with the order and time being noted
- The samplers were triggered electronically the following day in the same order
- After being pulled from each well, the samples were decanted into containers and shipped to the laboratory
- At locations where QA/QC samples were collected, half the analytes were collected after the first 24hour period. The samplers were replaced and the remaining analytes were collected the following day

Analytical Results

- Wells were sampled in August and October 2009
- Two explosives and perchlorate were detected at 5 of the 11 locations
 - All concentrations were approximately three orders of magnitude below screening values
 - Perchlorate was detected in the same wells at comparable concentrations during both sampling events
 - Explosives were only detected during the second sampling event
- Wells were sampled using purge methods in Summer 2010 with water discharged to the ground surface based on the results of the Snap Samples
 - Perchlorate results were comparable to previous sampling efforts

Conclusions



- ARCADIS / Malcolm Pirnie evaluated numerous passive-diffusion and grab samplers to provide a cost effective sampling alternative for sampling groundwater
- Based on the analyte list and other site specific conditions, grab samplers and particularly the Snap Sampler® was chosen for use at the site
- The total cost for two sampling events was approximately 1/3 the cost of the most cost effective traditional purge method with waste water handling
- Samplers were very easy to use in the field
- Data collected during two sampling events was defensible and reproducible



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