

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Site Remediation with Iron NanoParticles

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**Interagency Workshop: Nanotechnology and  
the Environment: Applications and Implications**  
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**Civil & Environmental Eng.**  
**Lehigh University**



# Nanotechnology holds great promise for meeting environmental challenges

A background image of a waterfall with water cascading over rocks. The image is partially obscured by text boxes and a list.

**Pollution Prevention**

**Sensors**

**Treatment/  
Remediation**

- Improve environmental technologies (treatment, remediation, sensing, etc.)
- Improve manufacturing processes (efficiency, waste reduction, etc.)
- Dematerialization

# Environmental Technologies

at the **Nanoscale**

Nanotechnology could substantially enhance environmental quality and sustainability through pollution prevention, treatment, and remediation.

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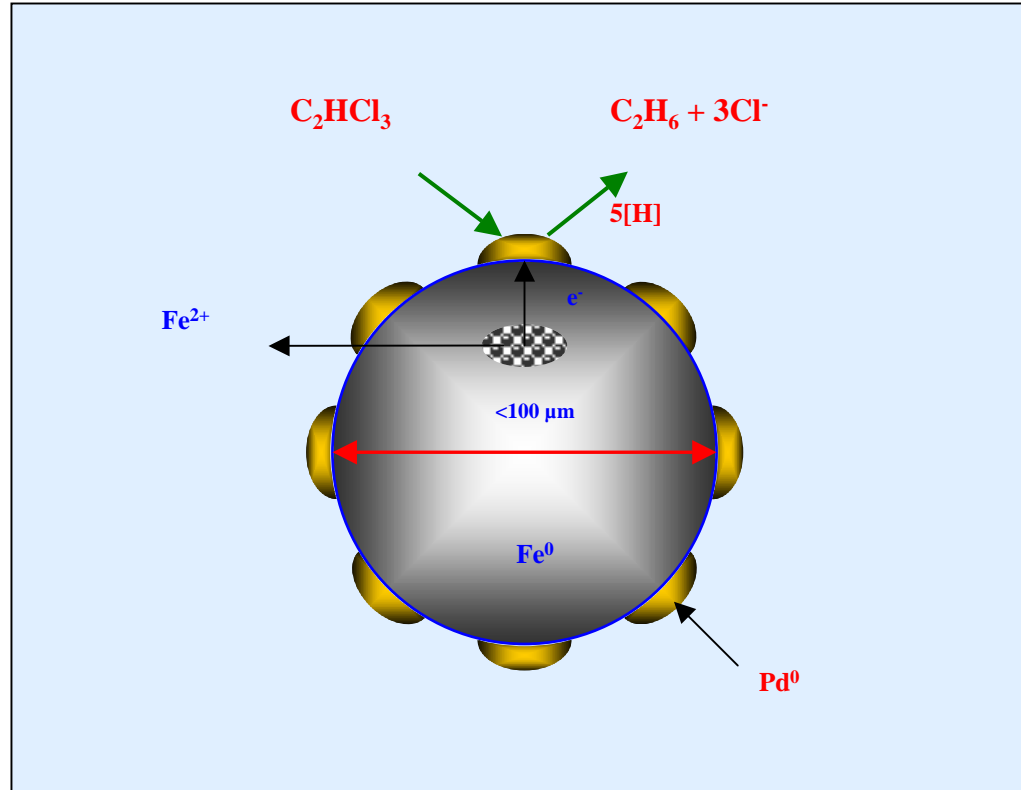
## Site Remediation Industrial Waste Treatment



Brick Flat Pit Sludge Disposal Cell at Iron Mountain Mine



# Environmental Remediation with Nanoscale Iron Particles Lab and Field Experience





# Why Nanoparticles?

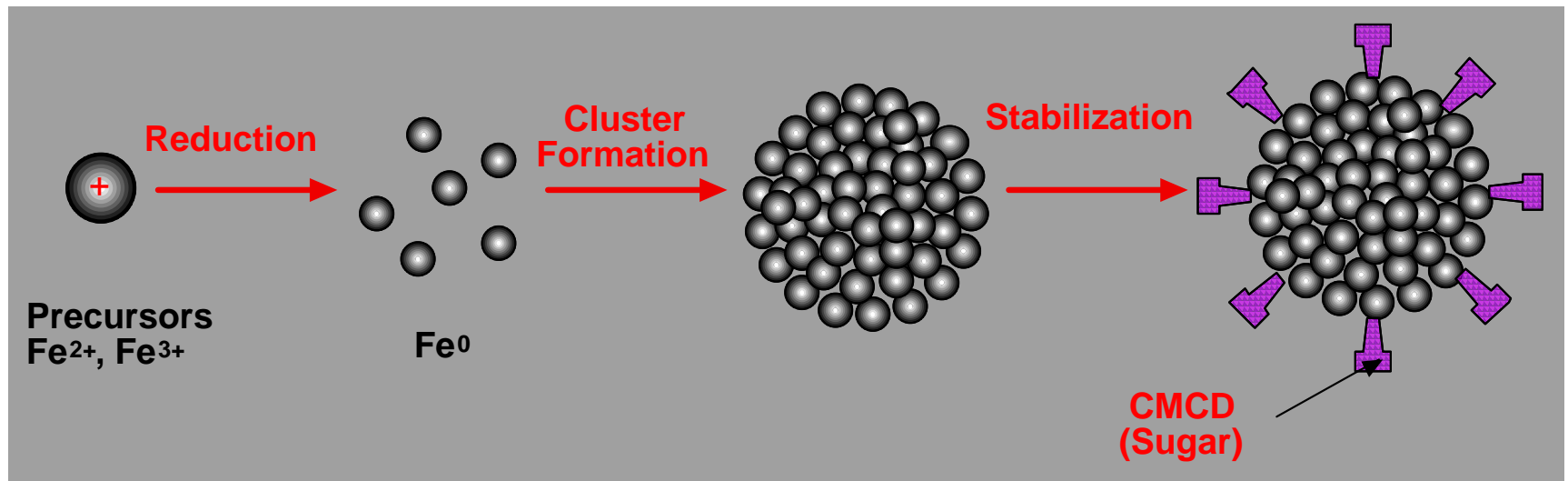
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- **Small size for easy subsurface injection**
- **Large surface area**
- **Extremely high reaction rates**
- **Low temperature reaction**
- **Added Catalytical functions**



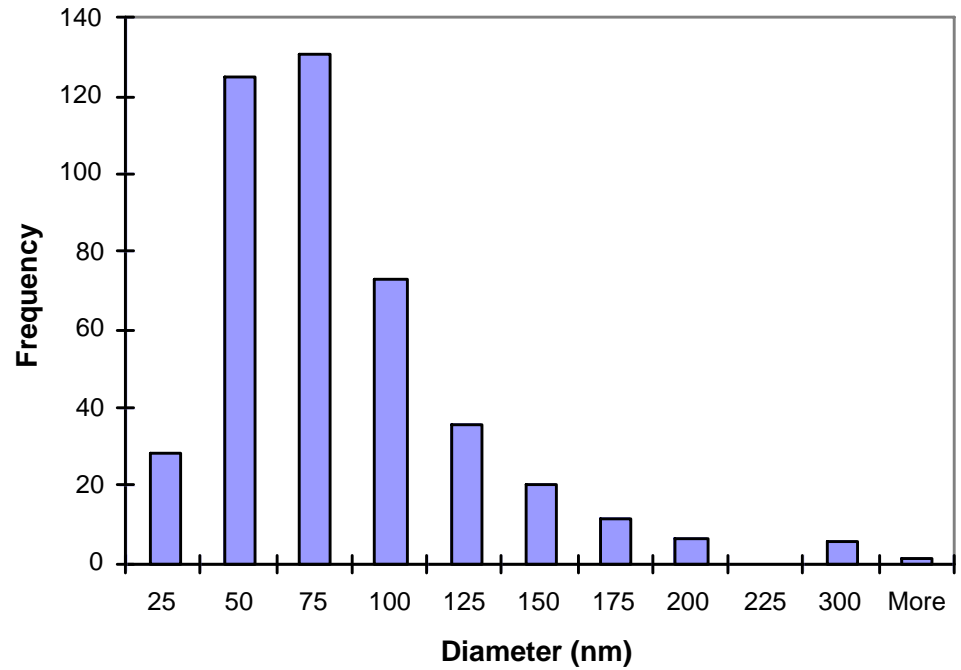
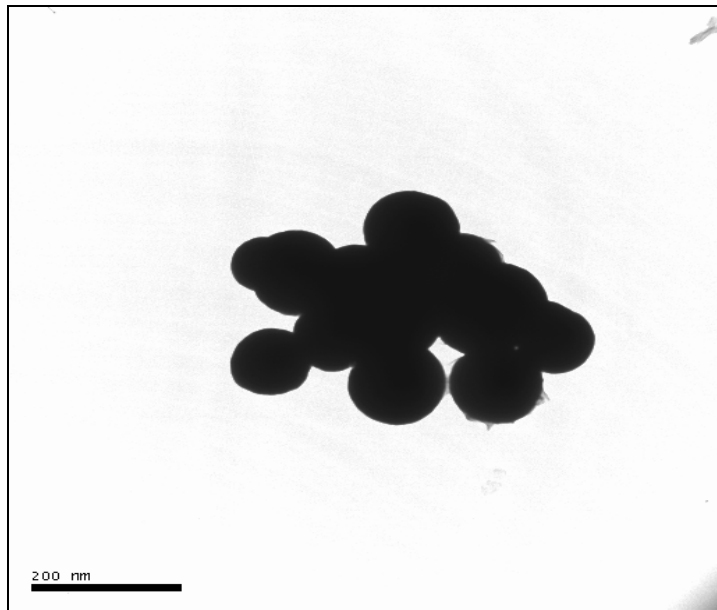
QuickTime™ and a Sorenson Video 3 decompressor are needed to see this picture.

# Methods of Synthesis





# Size (50-100 nm)





# 50 nm nanoparticle

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QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

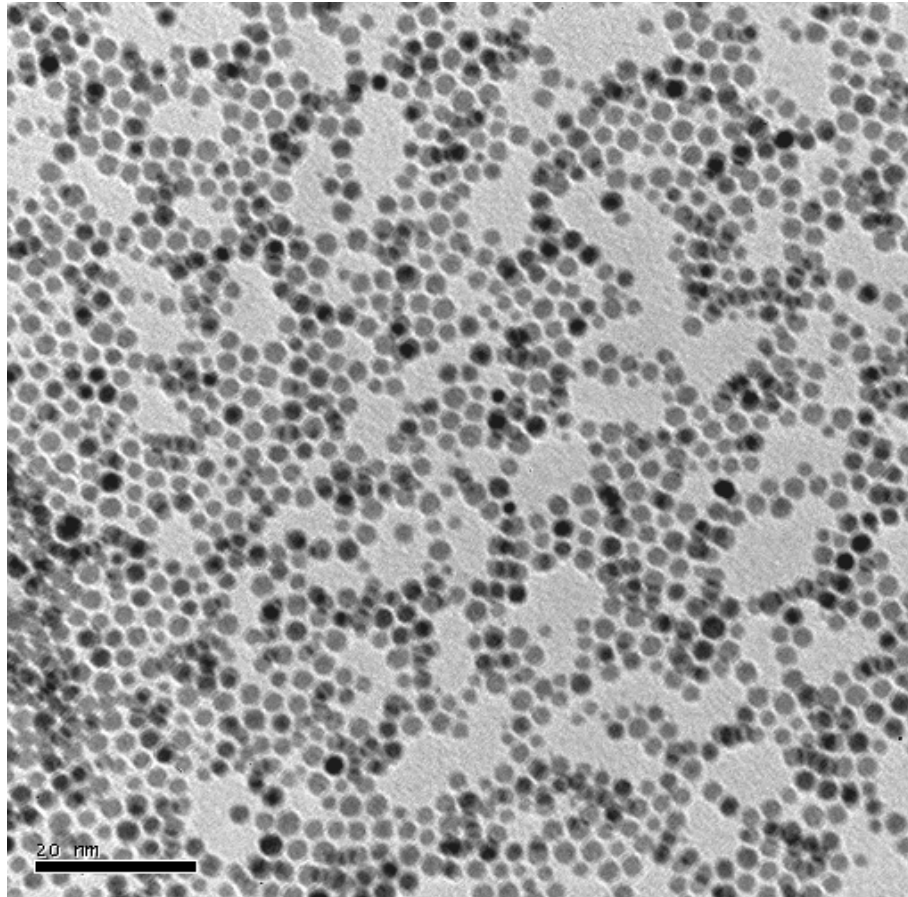


# Iron particles (100-200 nm)

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# Iron particles (3-5 nm)





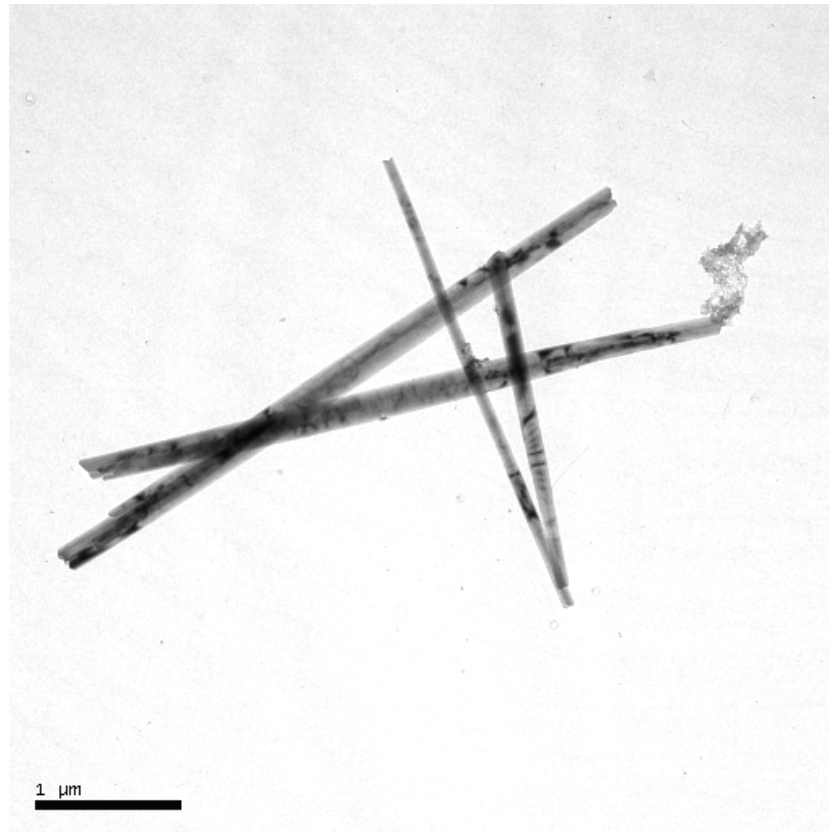
# Nano Iron Wire

(dia 50-75 nm, 10-20  $\mu\text{m}$  long )

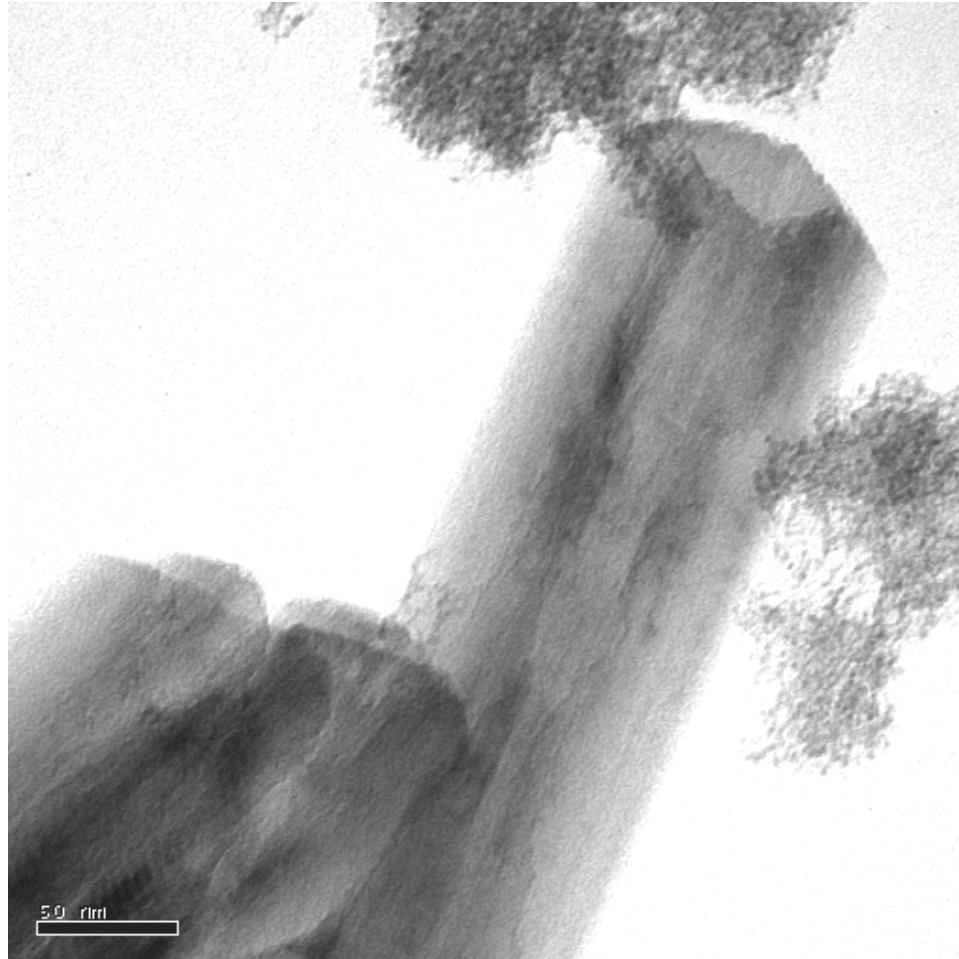
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QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

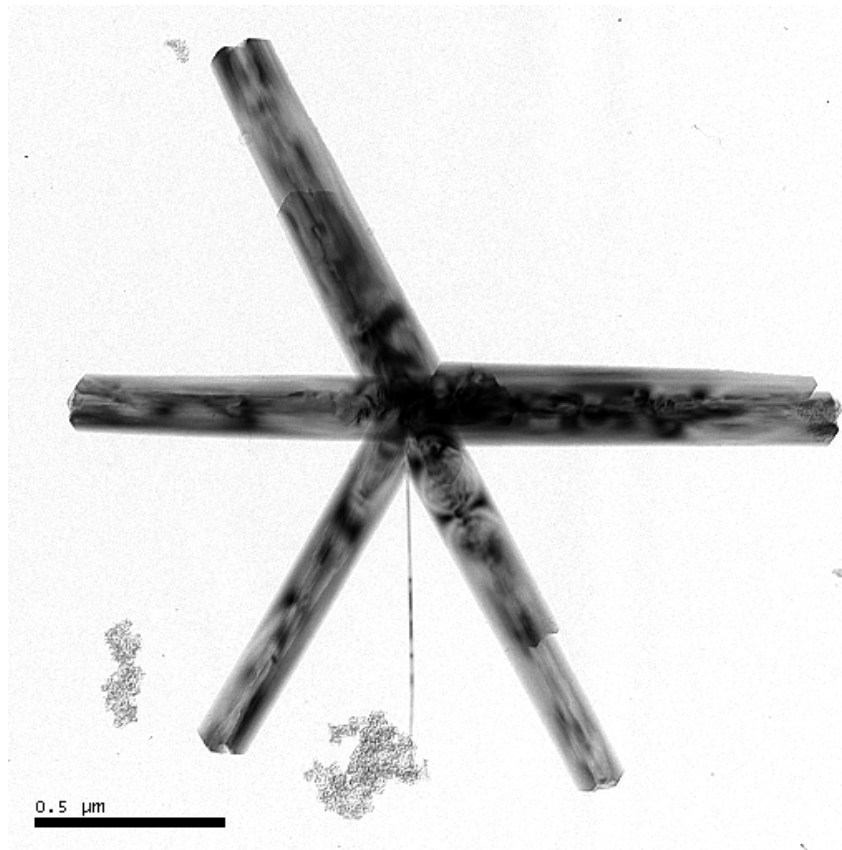
# Iron Rod (dia ~50 nm)



# Iron Tube (~ 50 nm)



# Nano Iron Antenna (~50 nm)







# **Contaminant Transformation With Reactive Iron Nanoparticles**

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**Organic solvents (TCE, PCE)**

**Pesticides (DDT, lindane)**

**Fertilizers (nitrate)**

**Heavy metals (Pb, Hg, Cr, As)**

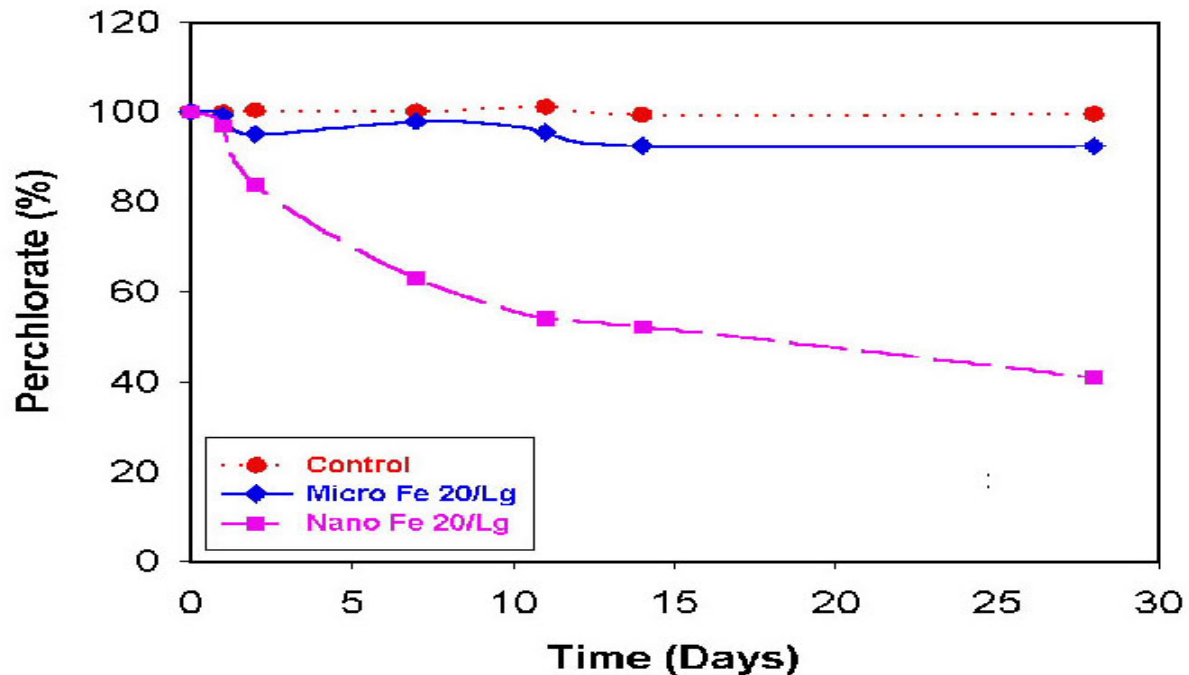
**Explosives (TNT, RDX)**

**Radioactive materials (U)**

**Perchlorate ( $\text{ClO}_4^-$ )**

# Perchlorate Reduction

Perchlorate Level vs. Time @ T = 25 °C



Initial perchlorate concentration 200 mg/L



# Most effective Eh regulator





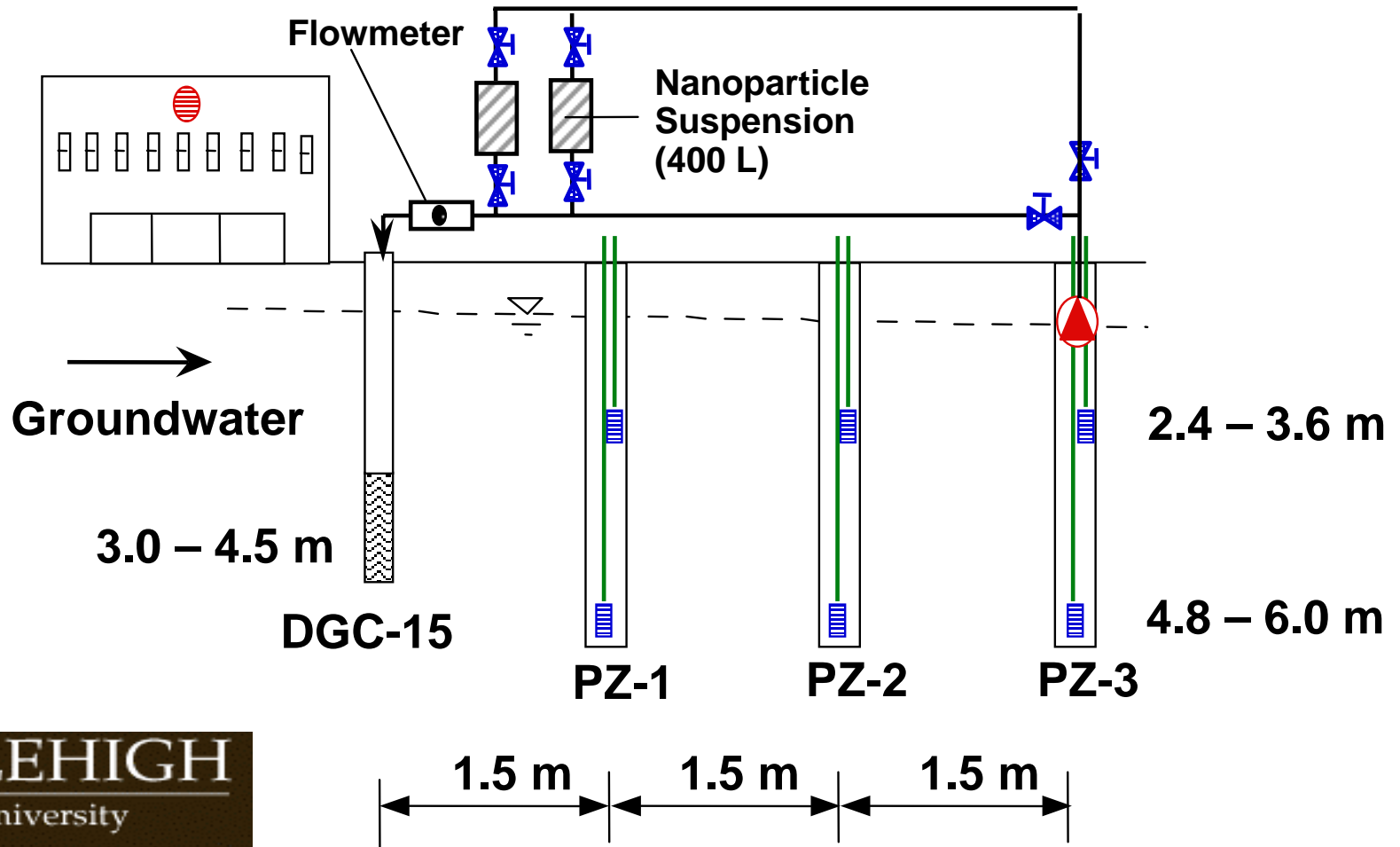
# Field Test -1

**(1.7 kg nanoFe applied, 2000)**

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- **A 27-acre NJ manufacturing site**
- **Continuous production since 1930s**
- **$C_2HCl_3$  (TCE),  $CCl_4$  (CT), etc.**
- **>\$1.0 million has been spent on the site**
- **Active remedy is needed**

# Test Area Schematic



# Setting Up!

- 2-165 gal tanks
- Recirculation from PZ-3S, 3D to DGC-15 or storage tank
- Dedicated low-flow pumps in each well in each well
- Goal = Gravity Feed!

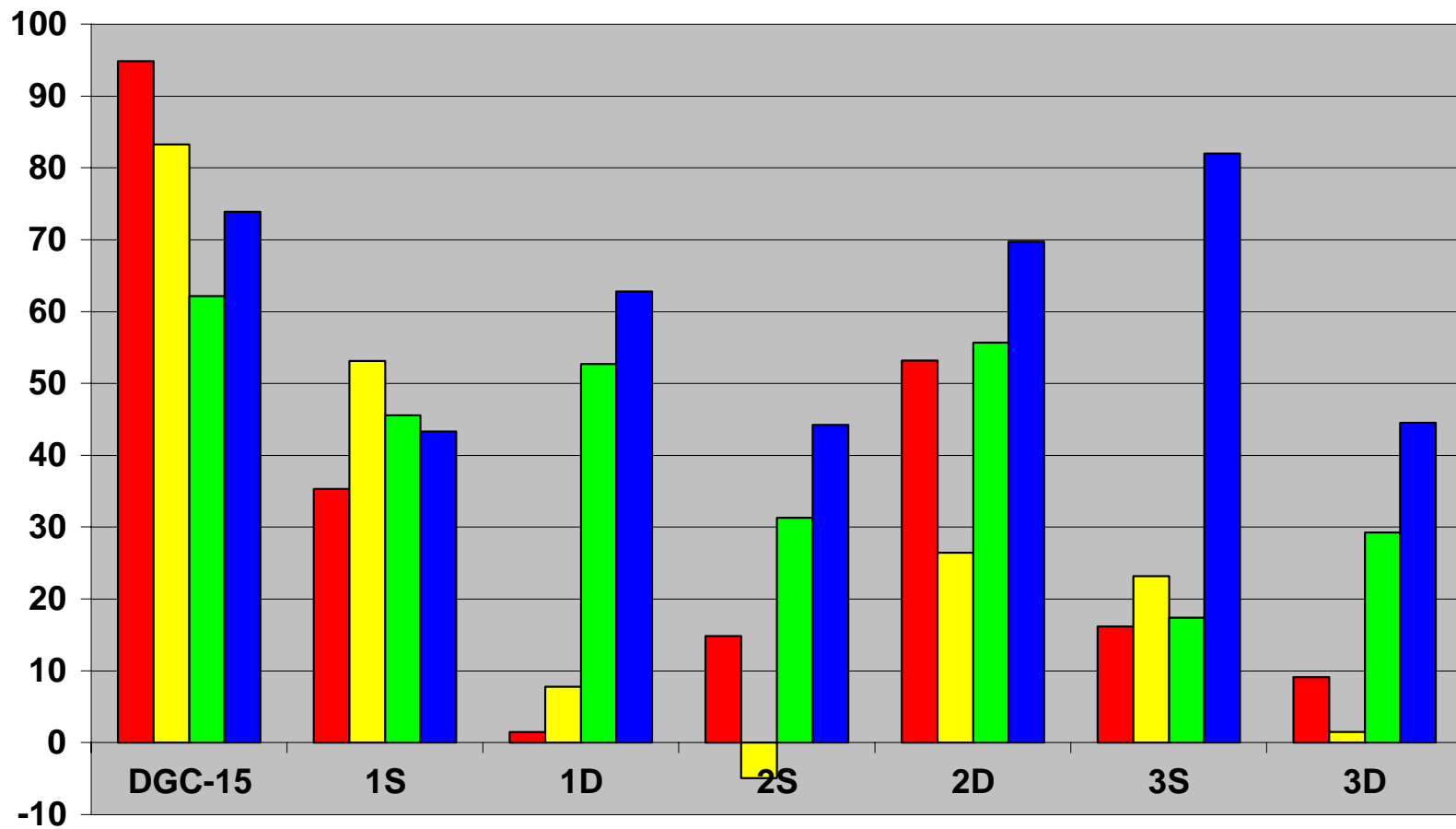


# The Nano Fe Slurry



# TCE Reduction %

Day 1 Day 9 Day 17 Day 22





# **Field Test - 2**

## **(Nano Fe 10 kg, 2002)**

**Total volume injected = 1,600 gallons (6,056 L)**

**Nano Fe concentration = 1.9 g/l**

**Average injection rate = 0.6 gpm**

**Injection Well B-4**

**Monitoring Wells**

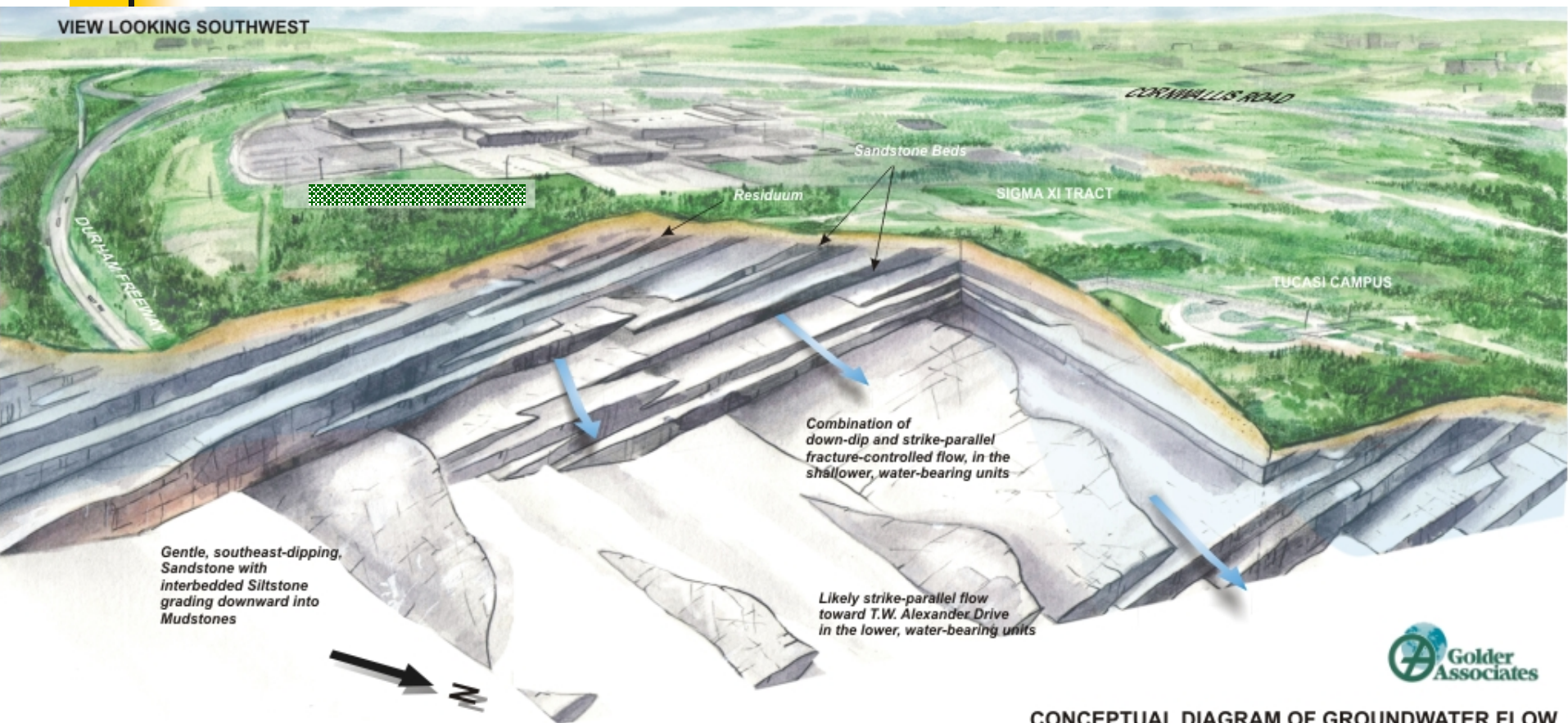
**B-3: 20 feet north of B-4**

**B-2: 40 feet northeast of B-4**

**GW-4: 63 feet north-northeast of B-4**

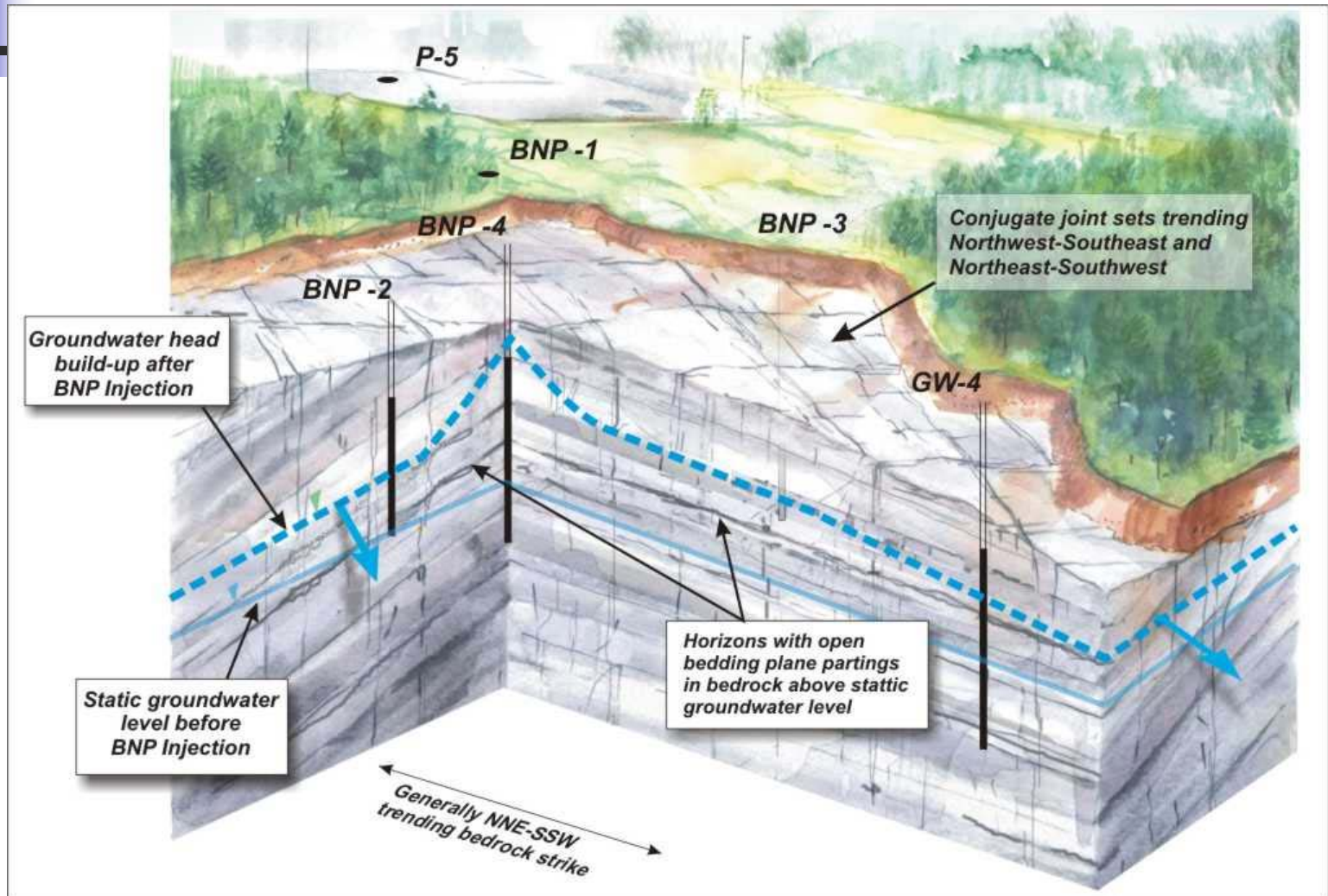
# Conceptual Geologic/Hydrogeologic Model

VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST



CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM OF GROUNDWATER FLOW

# Conceptual Model - Injection Area





# Field Test - 2 (10 kg Nano Fe)

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# Acknowledgments

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# Research Group

