

CASE STUDIES IN MONITORED NATURAL ATTENUATION

Alistair J Wyness, Principal Hydrogeologist, URS Corporation, Manchester
Richard Bewley, Principal Remediation Scientist, URS Corporation, Manchester

ABSTRACT

Monitored natural attenuation of contaminated groundwater is increasingly being considered as a possible remedial solution, particularly since the alternative remedial options can be very expensive. In the UK, the increasing use of natural attenuation has resulted in the Environment Agency publishing a guidance document, which defines a staged process of investigations and analysis that needs to be followed before a natural attenuation strategy is considered viable. This paper presents three different case studies, focussing on natural attenuation as a remediation option. The first study shows how natural attenuation was demonstrated to be sufficient to protect the environment, while the second study illustrates a situation where natural attenuation is not feasible. The third study shows how a combined positive and passive remedial solution was accepted as the best practicable option.