# John F. Kennedy Space Center's **Remediation Program** Perspective on 25 Years Of **Challenges, Innovations, and Progress**

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## **Presentation Outline**

- Site Background and History
- Staff
- Remediation Program
- **•** 1994
- Challenges
- Innovations
- Progress
- Case Studies
- Questions





## **Kennedy Space Center**

- Location
  - Kennedy Space Center (KSC) is located within the Merritt Island-Cape Canaveral-Merritt barrier island complex
- Area and Land Use
  - > 140,000 acres (4,750 acres for Space Center operations)
  - Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
    - Created as a buffer zone for NASA launch activities
    - Managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    - > 500 species, 16 Federally endangered
  - Canaveral National Seashore
    - Managed by the National Park Service







## Kennedy Space Center Geology

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- Topographic relief is slight (sea level to 20 feet on Recent dunes)
  - Sand ridges and swales
- Lithology is dominated by varying amounts of finegrained sand, medium sand with shell fragments, fine sand with shell fragments, fine-silty sand, sandy clay with silt and shell fragments to approximately 120 feet below land surface (BLS) – Miocene to Recent

Eocene carbonate bedrock at approximately 150 feet BLS

Depth to groundwater (3-6 feet BLS)

- Groundwater classified as potential drinking water (G-II) based upon total dissolved solids
- Dynamic interaction of groundwater and the surficial geology - wetlands represent ~¼ KSC property

#### **Aerial View of the LC39 Area of KSC**









- NASA's primary launch operations Center
- Construction began in the 1960's to support the Apollo Program
- Apollo Program (1967 1972)
- Skylab Program (1973 1974)
- Space Shuttle Program (1981 – 2011)
- International Space Station flight hardware processing and final checkout





- Launch Services Program
  - Manages unmanned NASA missions
- Commercial Crew Program
  - To provide access to the International Space Station
    - SpaceX Crew Dragon
    - Boeing CST 100 (Starliner)
- Space Launch System
  - NASA's next generation heavy lift rocket
  - Ground processing and support for Orion and SLS
  - > Artemis Program





- Multi-User Spaceport
  - SpaceX operates LC39A processing and launch
  - Boeing operations in the Orbiter Processing Facilities
     – Starliner & X37
  - Blue Origin New Glenn
  - OneWeb satellite manufacturing and processing
  - Space Florida operates the Life Sciences Support Building and the former Shuttle Landing Facility
  - Northrup Grumman OmegA – MLP3, VAB, LC39B









- Spaceport Integration & Services Directorate
  - Medical and Environmental Services Division
    - Environmental Assurance Branch
      - Remediation Group
- "To provide environmentally unencumbered lands for NASA Programs and tenants"
- Remediation Group
  - Michael J. Deliz, P.G., Remediation Program Manager
  - Anne M. Chrest, Remediation Project Manager
  - Lindsay A. Morgan, Remediation Project Manager
  - Ryan P. O'Meara, Remediation Project Manager
  - Dinh X. Vo, Remediation Project Manager



## **Remediation Program**

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#### Regulatory Framework

- Regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and its Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment and Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)
- Overseen by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), therefore the Program is conducted in accordance with Chapter 62-780, F.A.C.
- Toxics Substances and Control Act (TSCA) is managed by the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) Region IV









## **Soil Contamination**



- Common contaminants
  - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - primary sources were painted structures and transformers
  - Metals lead, copper, barium, arsenic, cadmium, chromium – various sources
  - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) various sources
  - Dioxins/furans often associated with PCBs
  - Total petroleum hydrocarbons
  - Volatile organics compounds
     shallow source areas



## **Groundwater Contamination**

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- Most common contaminants in groundwater are chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs)
  - Trichloroethene (TCE)
    - Used for the precision cleaning of spaceflight equipment and metals degreasing
  - Cis-1,2-dichloroethene
  - Vinyl Chloride
  - Trans-1,2-Dichloroethene
  - Tetrachloroethene
- Other contaminants
  - Trichlorfluoromethane
  - Metals lead and antimony
  - Petroleum compounds PAHs and Total petroleum hydrocarbons



> Ammonia



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#### 2 Billion less people on the planet

- Michael and Jessica were the most popular names for newborns in the United States
- Sports World
  - Florida State University won its 1<sup>st</sup> National Championship
  - Buffalo Bills lost their 4<sup>th</sup> straight Super Bowl
  - Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan "injures" her knee
  - Major League Baseball went on strike and there was no World Series

#### Entertainment

- Movie tickets averaged \$4
- Forest Gump and The Lion King were released
- Schindler's List won the Academy Award for Best Picture
- Barney the Dinosaur and Friends premier on network television



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#### There were no Soil Cleanup Target Levels

- Soil impacts at petroleum sites under Chapter 62-770, F.A.C. were delineating "excessively contaminated soil" utilizing organic vapor analyzer headspace
- FDEP Federal Facilities Subsection was utilizing "Soil Cleanup Goals for the Military Sites in Florida"
- Groundwater contamination was being delineated with monitoring wells
- Reports were submitted to the regulatory agencies and you waited for comments
  - Formal responses to comments.....begat additional comments
- KSC had 10 RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plans awaiting EPA review and two FDEP Central District Consent Orders



### Challenges Operational Launch Facility

- Operational launch and vehicle processing facility in a National Wildlife Refuge
  - No Dig Days
  - Tortoise relocations
  - Nesting seasons
  - Weather warnings
    - Lightning







#### *Challenges* Site Inventory

- NASA's largest cleanup program (based upon # of sites)
  - EPA RCRA Facility Assessment = 1990
    - No Further Action or RCRA Facility Investigation
  - During the past 25 years KSC conducted a Center-wide review of all of its facilities, operations, and potential waste disposal practices to determine potential impacts to the environment
    - Center divided into 3 Areas for SWMU Assessments
    - Created Potential Release Locations (PRLs) = 204
      - Locations of Concern (LOCs)
    - Conducted 40 Confirmatory Sampling efforts in the past 3 years
  - > 365 total sites combined into 293 sites
    - SWMUs became parts of SWMUs
    - PRLs became SWMUs
  - Total sites with approved No Further Action (184) or Site Rehabilitation Completion Orders (33) = 217

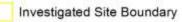
#### KSC Remediation Sites SWMUs and PRLs

Atlantic Ocean

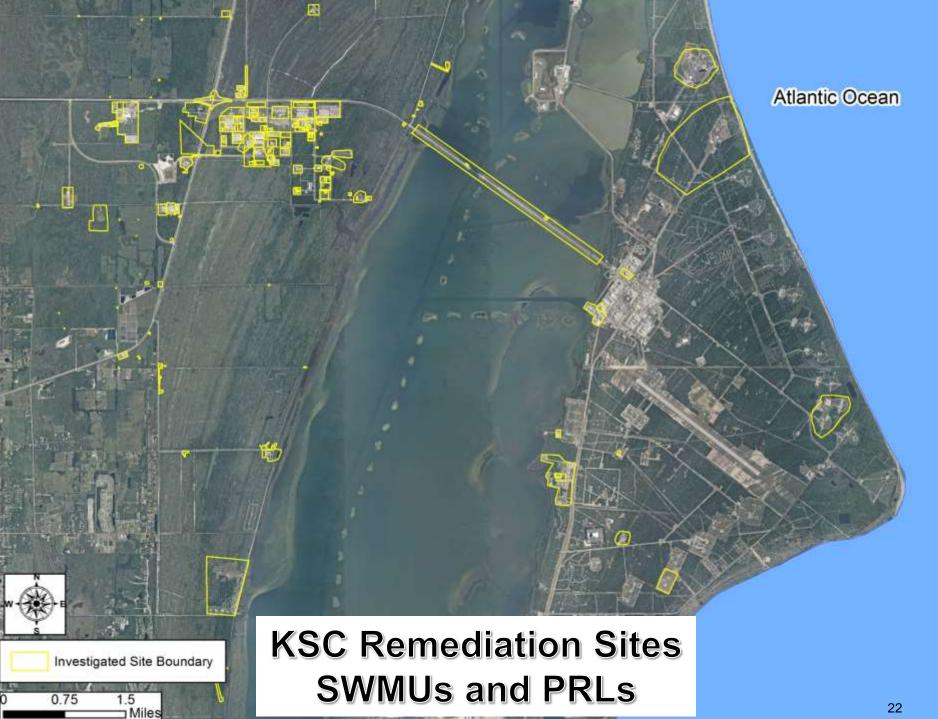
Investigated Site Boundary

2 J Miles

#### KSC Remediation Sites SWMUs and PRLs



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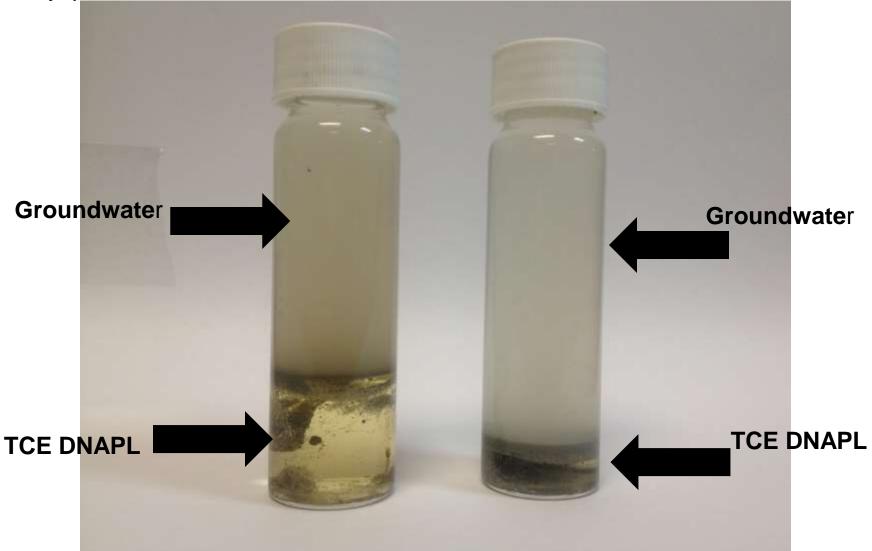
#### Challenges Site Inventory

- Total Active Sites = 76
- Prioritization of Funding
  - Required to demonstrate progress
  - Early Days
    - Studies versus Cleanups ("paralysis by analysis")
      - Studies were considered lower priority
    - Rush to Cleanup
      - Remedy-in-Place, Final Remedy-in-Place, etc.
      - "Getting a Bean"
  - Past 15 Years
    - Pushing back on "Management/Regulatory Driven Cleanup Decisions"
    - Breaking the perception that it did not matter how contaminated a site was in the source area
      - Rush to cleanups led to oversimplified Conceptual Site Models and the potential to miss additional source areas
  - Risk-based prioritization (eliminating direct exposure issues)
    - Potential soil exposure versus no consumption of groundwater

## Challenges Site Inventory

E Start







### *Challenges* Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid

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- Launch Complex 34 TCE\*
- Wilson Corners TCE\* and Freon
- Hypergol Maintenance Facility North TCE\* and Freon\*
- Components Cleaning Facility TCE and Freon\*
- Convertor Compressor Building TCE
- Mobile Launch Platform Rehabilitation Sites/VAB Area TCE
- Central Heat Plant PCE
- GSA Reclamation Yard PCE and PCBs\*
- Former Drum Storage Area TCE

\*visible DNAPL observed at site

## Challenges Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances





### *Innovations* Technologies

- Innovative technology test bed
  - Biopiles
  - Air Sparging with soil vapor extraction
  - 6 Phase Heating
  - Steam Injection
  - Chemical Oxidation Potassium Permanganate
  - Bioaugmentation (KB-1<sup>®</sup>)
  - Emulsified Zero-Valent Iron
  - Sequential Application of In-Situ Chemical Oxidation and Enhanced Bioremediation
  - Bioremediation Utilizing a Partitioning Electron Donor (Butyl Acetate)
  - Solar Powered Groundwater Recirculation Systems



#### Innovations Remediation Team

- KSC Remediation Team (KSCRT)
  - Comprised of NASA civil servants (5)
  - FDEP Remedial Program Manager
  - A representatives from each Consulting firm
  - Team Processes
    - Ground Rules
    - Peer review all of each others work
    - Collaborative decision making
  - Meets 1-2 days every 8 weeks to discuss site progress and make decisions on paths forward
  - Decision Process Document
    - Recipe for implementing RCRA Corrective Actions at KSC
      - Technical approach
      - Screening levels
      - Repository for KSC Reference Values
      - Templates for documents

## *Innovations* High-Resolution Site Characterization

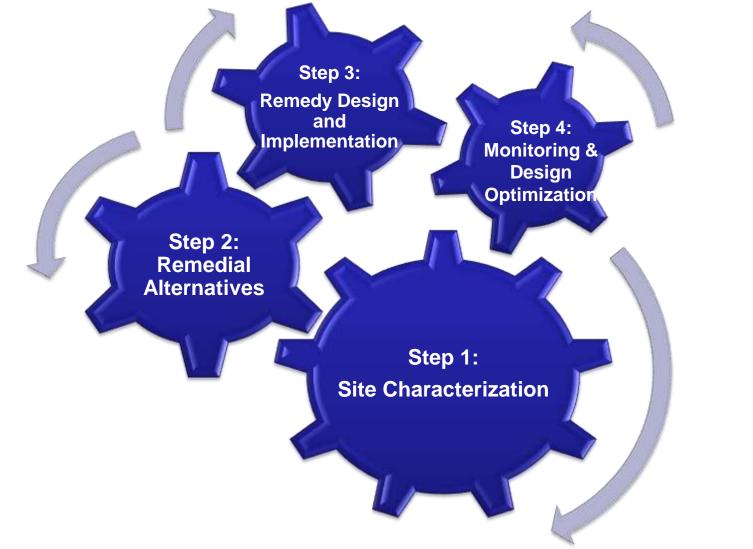
Kennedy Space Center =

- KSC implemented the frequent use of high-resolution site characterization (HRSC) in 2008 following the conclusion that many of the legacy sites at the Center were under assessed horizontally and vertically
  - Unidentified sources were impacting site cleanups
  - "Knife" edges both horizontally and vertically were found repeatedly at numerous sites that were under investigation at the time
  - Previous groundwater delineation efforts had no minimum distance between sampling point (horizontally and vertically)

 As a result a multi-step process was developed by the KSCRT

- Adequate site characterization (includes minimal distances)
- Participate in evaluation of remedial technologies
- Review preliminary designs
- Evaluate efficacy of interim measures

#### Innovations Multi-Step Engineering Evaluation Process





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#### **Plume Nomenclature**

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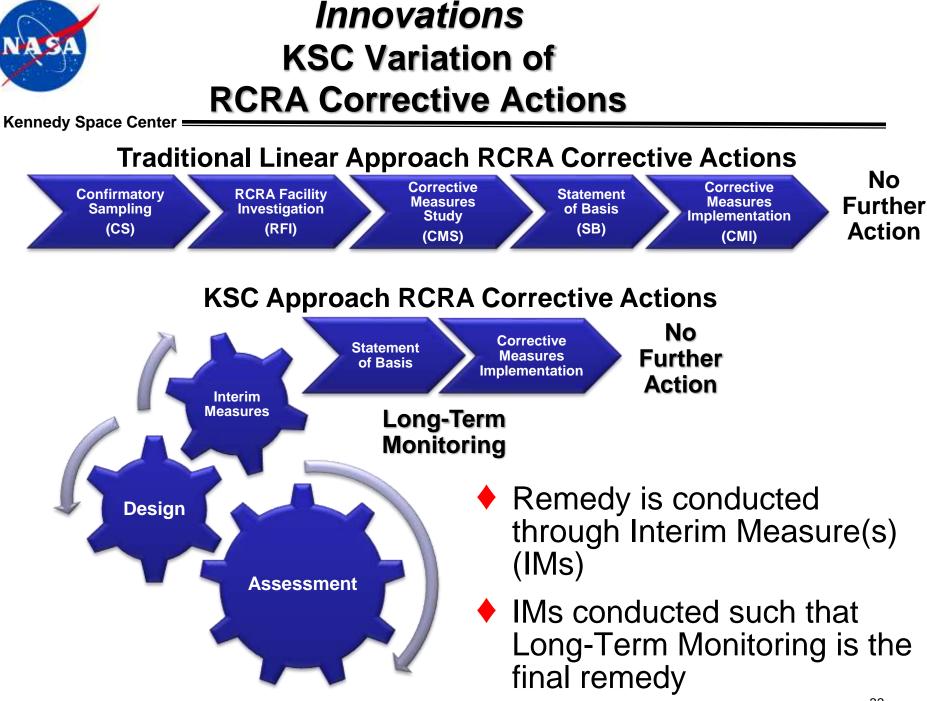
Hot Spot = 10x FDEP Natural Attenuation Default Criteria (NADC)

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High Concentration Plume (HCP) Low Concentratio Plume (LCP)

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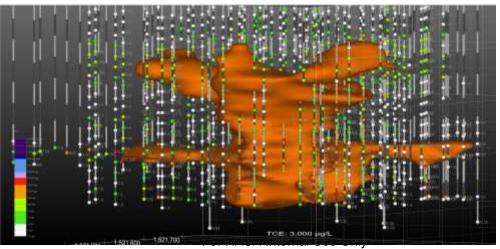


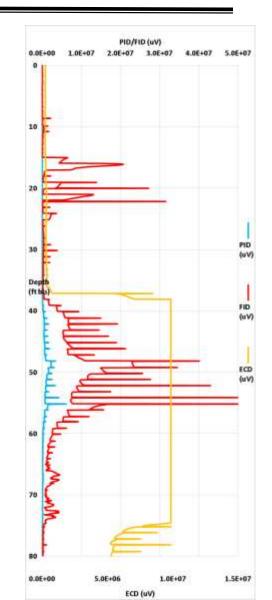
## *Innovations* High-Resolution Site Characterization

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#### HRSC Tool Box

- Direct Push Technology (DPT) and Mobile Laboratories
- Membrane Interface Probe (MIP)
  - Confirm previous or develop new sampling intervals
- Earth Volumetric Software (EVS)
- Hydraulic Profiling Tool (HPT)
- Saturated Soil Sampling

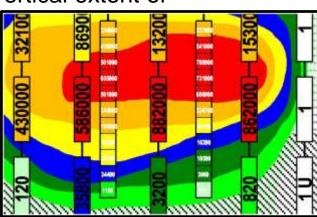






#### Innovations Benefits of High-Resolution Site Characterization

- Since 2008, 24 sites have been assessed/re-assessed utilizing HRSC
  - All phases of the RCRA Corrective Action Program (RFI CMI)
- 8,500 DPT sampling points and 50,000 groundwater samples
- Refined Conceptual Site Models
  - Plume delineation and interpretation based upon DPTs
    - Higher fidelity representation of the plume morphology
    - Reduced uncertainty on the horizontal and vertical extent of contaminant distribution
    - Better understanding of the source mass distribution
      - Horizontally and vertically
    - Better understanding of treatment zones
    - Better ability to predict cleanup timeframes



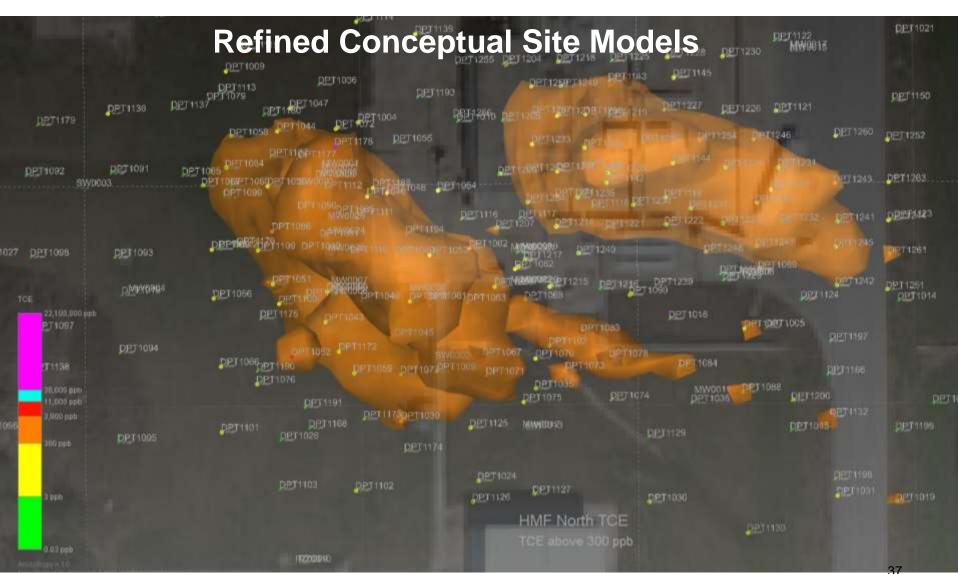


#### Innovations Benefits of High-Resolution Site Characterization

- Refined Conceptual Site Models continued
  - Provides improved technology selection
    - Designs based upon HRSC versus monitoring wells
    - Helps reduce the risk of missing a source area and/or treating the wrong area(s)
  - Improved Budget Planning
    - Engineering estimates more accurately reflect the capital and operations, maintenance, and monitoring costs
      - Allows KSC to decide on treatment areas (source, hot spot, HCP)
    - Better engineering estimates allows more accurate budget planning in the out-years
  - Allows the implementation of a groundwater IM or a series of IMs that reach KSC's goal of transitioning to monitored natural attenuation
    - 30 groundwater cleanups (including expansions) since 2012



#### Innovations Benefits of High-Resolution Site Characterization





## Innovations Benefits of High-Resolution Site Characterization

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- DPTs are being used to adjust designs prior to implementation
  - Interim Measure Work Plans/Designs may be several years old
    - Hot Spots and HCPs migrate over time
    - Currently two air sparge treatment systems are being redesigned to include additional wells based upon the recently collected DPT data

DPTs have been used to determine treatment efficacy

- Easily identifies intervals that are not remediating or are cleaning up at a slower rate
  - Facilitates the potential to adjust flow rates to sparge wells
  - Identifies areas that may require treatment
- Changes in plume morphology over time with treatment
  - Plumes retreating back to source areas
  - DPTs have been determined to be more useful than performance monitoring wells



#### Progress Soil Cleanups

- 81 soil cleanups have been conducted at 62 sites
  - Site volumes ranged from 2 to 107,500 tons
  - Total volume of soil remediated = 281,541 tons (including 6,800 tons of soil with PCB concentrations > 50 parts per million)
    - Approximates a 2 foot dig over 50 football fields





## **Progress** Groundwater Cleanups

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- Active Groundwater Cleanup Technologies Implemented at KSC
  - Air Sparging (17 and 4 Fiscal Year 2020 implementations)
  - Bioremediation (10 and 4 pilot tests)
  - Saturated Source Zone Excavation (9)
  - Pump and Treat for hydraulic containment (4)
  - Soil Vapor Extraction (4)
  - Chemical Oxidation (3 and 1 pilot test)
  - Emulsified Zero-Valent Iron (1 and 1 pilot test)
  - Large Diameter Augers with Steam (1)
  - Electrical Resistive Heating (1 and 1 pilot test)
  - Ozone Injection (1)

(#) = number of sites



## Progress Groundwater Cleanups

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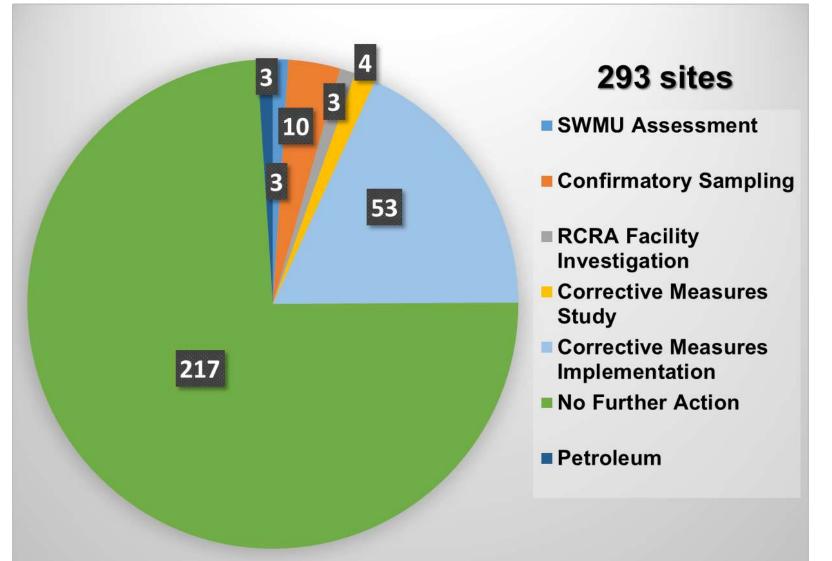
- Air Sparging
  - Converter Compressor Building Area (228 + 145 = 373 ASWs)
  - Launch Complex 34 (160 + 140 = 300 ASWs)
  - Launch Complex 39B (279 ASWs)
  - Hypergol Maintenance Facility North (213 ASWs) contracted
  - Paint and Oil Locker Area (165 ASWs) contracted
  - Launch Complex 39A (140 ASWs)
  - Former Drum Storage Area (137 ASWs)
  - Central Heat Plant (125 ASWs) contracted

All are treating High Concentration Plumes versus Hot Spots

(ASWs) = air sparge wells



#### Progress Site Inventory



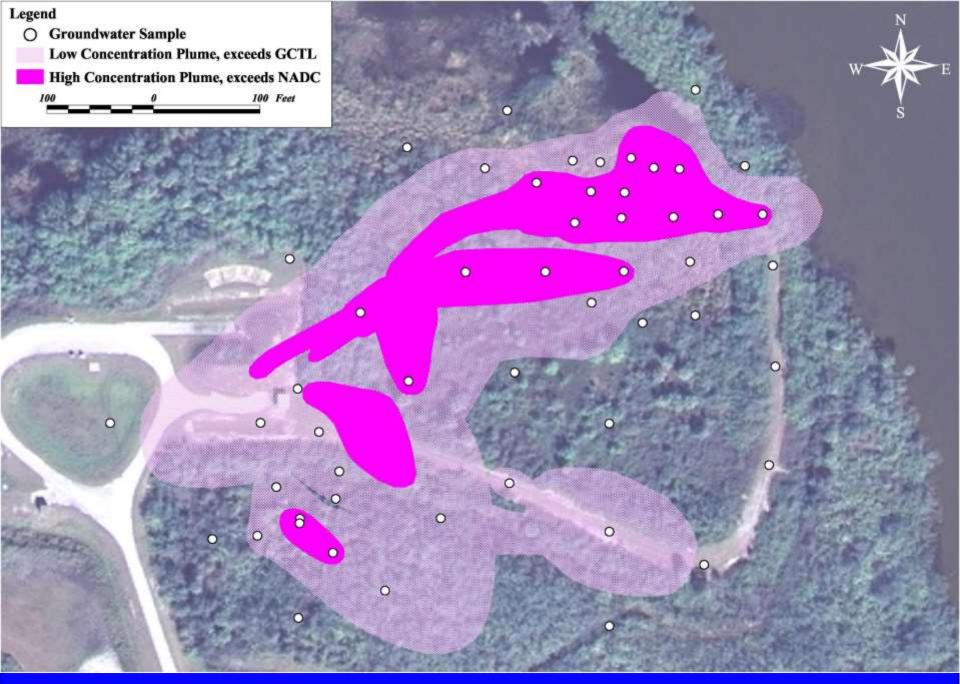


# *Case Studies* Former Drum Storage Area

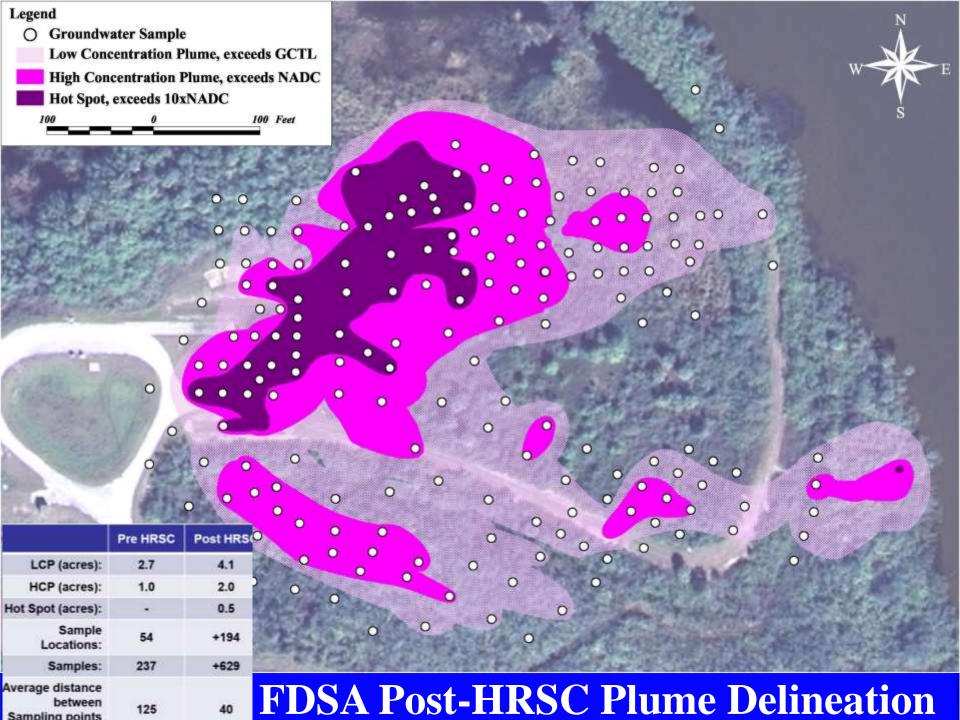
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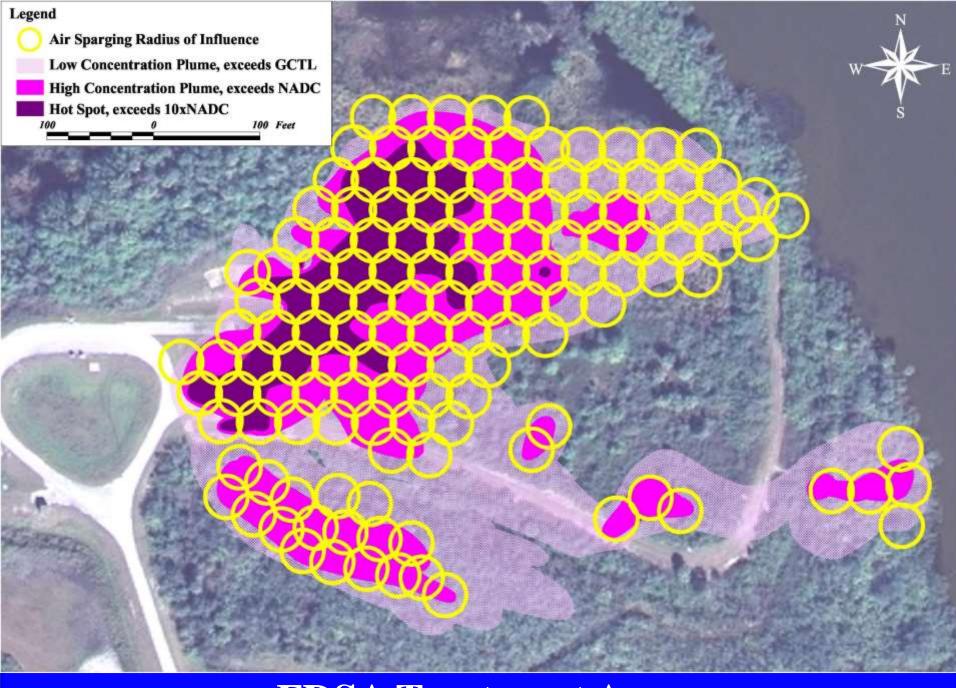
#### Former Drum Storage Area

- A RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) was conducted in multiple phases and delineated a CVOC plume > 2.5 acres in size
- Corrective Measures Study (CMS) selected bioremediation as the preferred alternative
  - Bioremediation pilot study was implemented in 2008
  - Performance monitoring wells identified much higher TCE concentrations than were anticipated
  - KSCRT determined the plume interior was not adequately characterized
- > HRSC was initiated in 2009
  - 195 DPT locations
  - 630 groundwater samples
  - Provided a well defined treatment zone
- Remedy was re-evaluated
- Selected air sparging of the Hot Spot and HCP

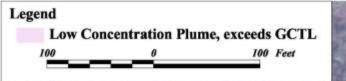


#### **FDSA Pre-HRSC Plume Delineation**





#### **FDSA Treatment Area**





- TCE = 7,500 ppb to 26 ppb
- VC = 4,800 ppb to 39 ppb
- Site is in Long-Term Monitoring

#### **FDSA Current Plume Delineation**



## Case Studies Components Cleaning Facility (CCF) Area South of Facility 516 (516S)

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#### CCF

- RFI delineated a CVOC groundwater plume with a TCE DNAPL source area and three areas with Freon DNAPL
- Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) was conducted in the early 2000's
  - Excavation of shallow TCE source area
  - Air Sparge (AS)/Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) of HCP 56 ASWs and 51 SVE points
  - Hydraulic containment
  - Performance monitoring over time showed increasing CVOC concentrations

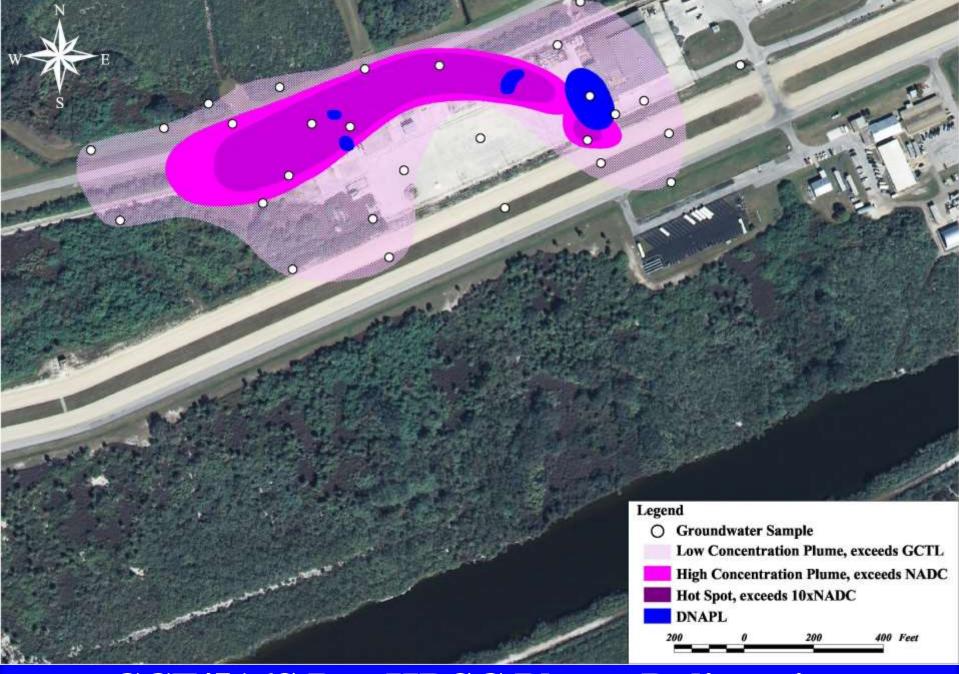
#### ♦ 516S

- Secondary Hot Spot identified south of the Crawlerway
  - HRSC implemented across the entire area (CCF and 516S)
    - 831 DPT locations
    - 5,153 groundwater samples



#### Case Studies Components Cleaning Facility (CCF) Area South of Facility 516 (516S)

- Significantly changed the conceptual site model
  - The CVOC plumes at both sites were connected and that CCF was the source
  - Provided well defined treatment zones
- Adaptive site management
  - Let site conditions dictate additional remedial actions
- Remedial alternatives were evaluated and selected to be implemented as multiple IMs over the past 8 years
  - Air Sparge Cut-Off Wall @ 516S 16 ASWs
  - Air Sparging of Eastern Hot Spot @ 516S 40 ASWs
  - Electrical Resistive Heating of DNAPL Source Zone @ CCF
  - Air Sparging of Western Hot Spot/HCP @ CCF 61 ASWs
  - Air Sparging of Eastern Hot Spot/HCP @ CCF (planned 80 ASWs)



# **CCF/516S Pre-HRSC Plume Delineation**

| Z   |           | 0<br>0<br>8 8 8 |   |
|---|-----------|-----------------|---|
|   |           |                 |   |
|   |           | ••••            |   |
|   | Pre HRSC  | Post HRSC       | Legend<br>O Groundwater Sample  |
| LCP (acres):                              | 14.9      | 34.1            |   |
| HCP (acres):                              | 5.5       |                 | Low Concentration Plume, exceeds GCTL<br>High Concentration Plume, exceeds NADC |
| Hot Spot (acres):<br>Sample<br>Locations: | 3.3<br>82 | 1.0<br>+387     | Hot Spot, exceeds 10xNADC<br>200 0 200 400 Feet                                 |
| Samples:                                  | 208       | +2,631          |   |

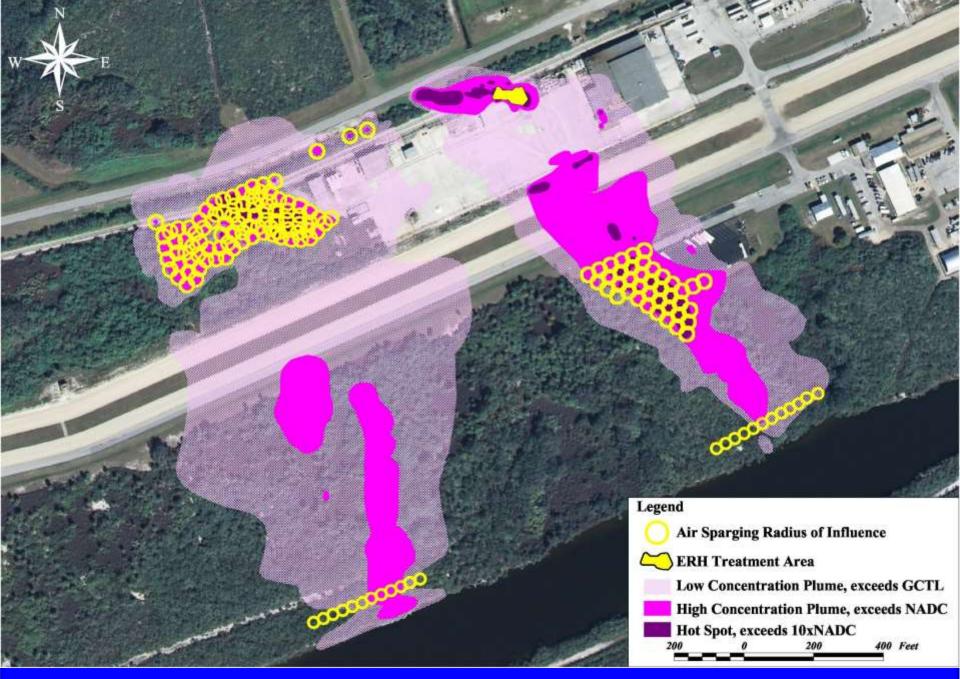
Average distance

between

250

65

#### **Post-HRSC Plume Delineation**



#### **CCF/516S Treatment Areas**



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- Pad constructed between
  1959 and 1961 for the Saturn
  1 and 1B rocket programs
  - Seven launches from 1961-1968
- Remediation history
  - RFI began in 1997
  - Interagency DNAPL Consortium 1999 to 2001 – Pilot Tests
    - Chemical Oxidation with Potassium Permanganate
    - Steam Injection
    - Six Phase Heating
      - Estimated mass removal = 59,500 pounds (4,900 gallons) of CVOCs

Medical and Environmental Services Division





Kennedy Space Center =

- NASA Funded Small Business Initiatives
  - Bioaugmentation (KB-1<sup>®</sup>)
  - Emulsified Zero-Valent Iron
- Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP)
  - Sequential Application of In-Situ Chemical Oxidation and Enhanced Bioremediation

Medical and Environmental Services Division



- Bioremediation Utilizing a Partitioning Electron Donor
- RFI Addendum and CMS estimated that over 100,000 pounds of TCE DNAPL remained in the source zone
  - Under and around the former Engineering Support Building
  - DNAPL source zone and multiple hot spots created a 330 acre CVOC plume
    - 1 mile long



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#### CMS submitted in 2008

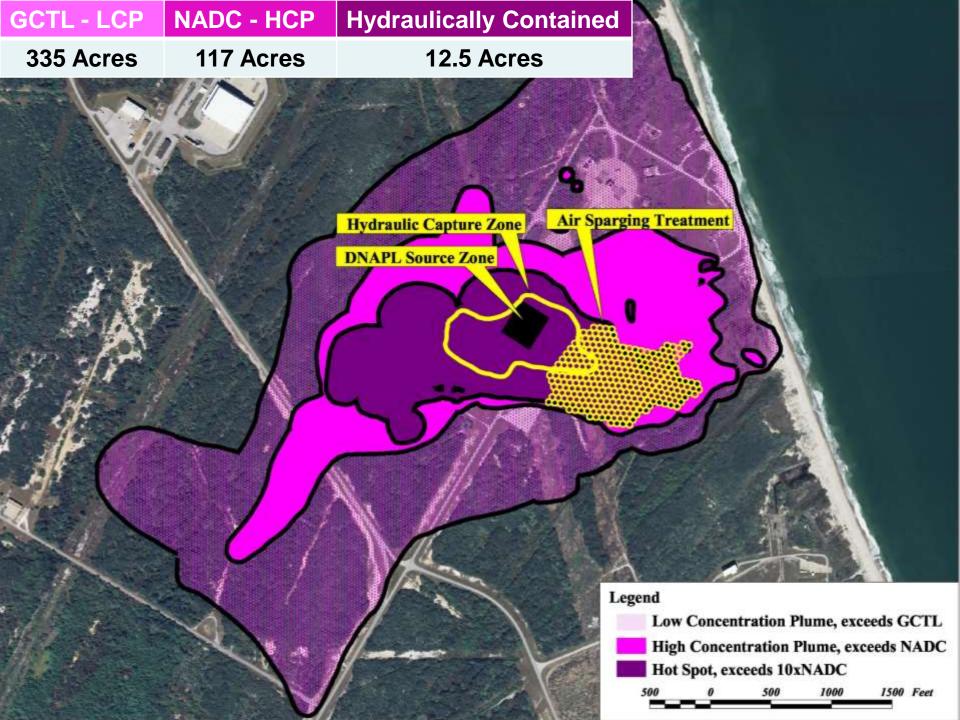
Recommended hydraulic containment of the DNAPL Source Zone and supplemental Hot Spot assessments

HRSC was implemented to support work plan design

- Initial Hot Spot assessments expanded the containment zone
- Hydraulic containment implemented as an IM in 2009
  - Catalytic oxidizer (cat ox) unit destroys CVOC vapors
- Containment system expanded and cat ox refurbished in 2014 following additional HRSC
  - Secondary round of MIPs data and Hydraulic Profiling Tool (HPT) utilized for hydraulic containment treatment system optimization

• 67,000 pounds of CVOCs have been destroyed to date

> 205 million gallons of groundwater

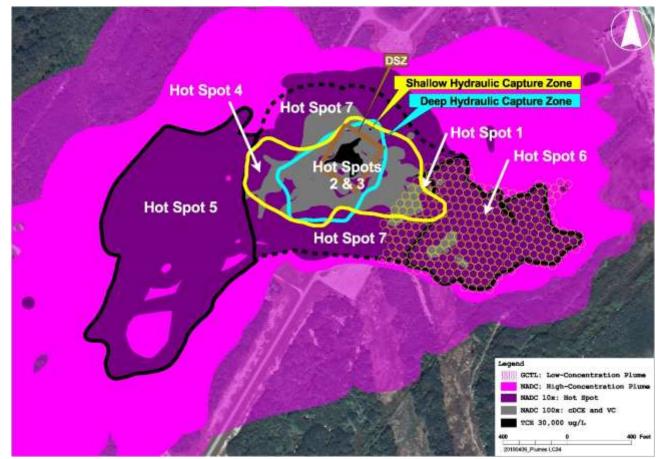




- HRSC continuously refines the conceptual model for one of the most assessed sites in the state of Florida
  - DPT = 4,250 groundwater samples from 665 locations
  - Monitoring Wells = 1,483 groundwater samples from 237 locations
  - MIPs = 52
  - Hydraulic Profiling Tool (HPT) = 8
  - MIPs/HPT Pairings = 6
  - Saturated soil locations = 1,080 from 607 locations
  - > EVS
    - Saturated Soil (DNAPL Source Zone)
    - Groundwater



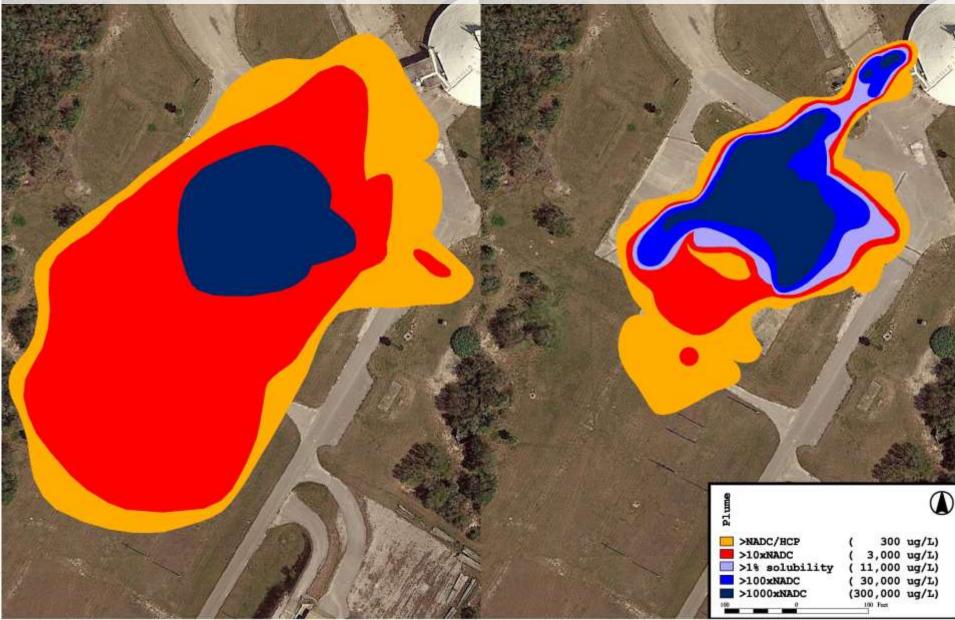
- Air sparge IM was implemented in Hot Spot 6 in 2018
- Soil IMs removed 2,590 tons of PCB-contaminated soil in 2018 and 2019



#### **DNAPL Source Zone**

#### **TCE Prior to HCS (2009)**

#### **TCE Site Characterization (2019)**





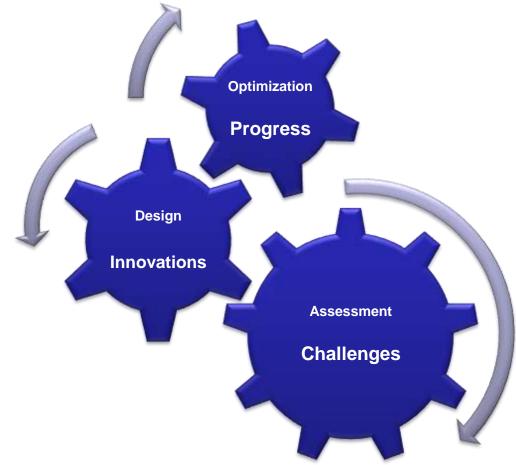
# Conclusions

- Spending the dollars to perform additional assessment has provided significant value to KSC's Remediation Program
  - HRSC has facilitated the development of more accurate CSMs higher level of certainty of contaminant distribution
  - Facilitates effective remedy evaluations and remediation technology selection
  - Enabled KSC to treat larger areas due to the fidelity of the assessments
  - Sites transitioning to monitored natural attenuation following 3-5 years of treatment
- KSCRT and FDEP's flexibility has allowed KSC to implement an aggressive and robust cleanup program
- Remaining DNAPL sites will continue to be problematic
- PFAS will be KSC's next big challenge



# Conclusions

- Assessment/Challenges (DO NOT END WITH DESIGN)
- Design/Innovations (DO NOT END WITH IMPLEMENTATION)
- > Optimization Evaluations/**Progress** (*THROUGHOUT*)





# Thanks

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- NASA Headquarters Environmental Management Division
- KSC Remediation Project Managers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Tim Bahr and John Armstrong

#### KSC Environmental Contractors

- HSW Engineering, Inc.
- > HSA Engineers & Scientists, Inc./G & E Engineering, Inc./ Conestoga-Rovers & Associates
- > Universal Engineering Sciences
- Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
- Tetra Tech NUS, Inc.
- Levine-Fricke, Inc./Arcadis, Inc.
- Jacobs Engineering, Inc.
- Tetra Tech Inc., AECOM Technical Services, Inc., and HydroGeoLogic, Inc.

# Questions

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