

Facts on Remediation

GREENPOINT BROOKLYN REMEDIATION PROJECT

Optimizing Recovery

Balancing technologies, flow rates and well locations maximizes the speed of the remediation process, while working within the limitations allowed by mother nature.

Maintaining optimal rates of product recovery is a complex challenge that requires balancing the performance of individual wells with overall system objectives. Determining the best location of recovery wells for both current and longer-term optimal performance is complicated by many factors:

- Geological and hydrological factors make extraction progressively more difficult as more petroleum product is removed and contamination decreases. This is what is called a self-limiting process – that is, yield tends to decrease along with the volume of petroleum products remaining to be removed.
- Wells that are placed too close to one another will compete for petroleum product. There is a risk of breaking the plume into smaller pieces that are harder to recover. Excessive extraction rates can cause the same problem, separating portions of the plume and causing isolated pockets or strings of contamination that cannot be removed by the recovery system.
- The practical impact of these factors as remediation progresses is that additional wells and new equipment are often necessary just to maintain current recovery rates. In addition, increasing extraction in the short run can actually hinder the overall long-term remediation of the area.
- Finally, existing neighborhoods and buildings in the densely populated Greenpoint area limit the space available for placing additional recovery wells.
- All of these factors have been considered in plans for additional wells, which have been proposed and are currently being permitted and constructed.



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