

Impact of the presence of a natural biofilm on mobility and reactivity towards tetrachloroethylene (PCE) of NZVI used for nanoremediation.

Marc Crampon, Jennifer Hellal, Caroline Michel, Christophe Mouvet,
Guillaume Wille, Patrick Ollivier

► **To cite this version:**

Marc Crampon, Jennifer Hellal, Caroline Michel, Christophe Mouvet, Guillaume Wille, et al.. Impact of the presence of a natural biofilm on mobility and reactivity towards tetrachloroethylene (PCE) of NZVI used for nanoremediation. . 7th European Bioremediation Conference (EBC-VII), Jun 2018, Chania, Greece. hal-01793637

HAL Id: hal-01793637

<https://hal-brgm.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01793637>

Submitted on 16 May 2018

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

IMPACT OF THE PRESENCE OF A NATURAL BIOFILM ON MOBILITY AND REACTIVITY TOWARDS TETRACHLOROETHYLENE (PCE) OF NZVI USED FOR NANOREMEDIATION

Crampon Marc¹, Hellal Jennifer¹, Michel Caroline¹, Mouvet Christophe¹, Wille Guillaume¹ and Ollivier Patrick¹

¹Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières BRGM, 3 avenue Claude Guillemin – BP36009 - 45060 Orléans Cedex 02 – France

Corresponding author email: M.Crampon@brgm.fr

ABSTRACT

Remediation techniques for toxic/persistent contaminants in groundwater are often technologically difficult. Nanoparticles (NP) like nZVI (Zero-Valent Iron) applicable as *in-situ* reduction or oxidation agents for groundwater treatment give promising results. This study aims to evaluate the mobility and the reactivity towards PCE, a frequent groundwater contaminant, of nZVI in the presence or absence of biofilm by column assays mimicking aquifer conditions.

Biofilms were grown on sand using environmental groundwater samples as inoculum in nitrate reducing conditions. For mobility assays, suspensions of nZVI were injected into the columns and the outlet Fe concentrations monitored. Biofilm-nZVI interactions were characterized using SEM/STEM observations of sand after the NP breakthrough. Biofilms were further characterized using molecular approaches. For reactivity experiments, three columns were used to study the impact of the presence of a biofilm and of nZVI on the dechlorination of PCE in the nZVI reactive zone.

The predicted travel distances of nZVI are found to be 1.5 to 25 m for a 10 m d⁻¹ flow. The presence of biofilm in the column decreased the total porosity of column from around 30% to around 15%. Though the recoveries of nZVI at the column outlet in the presence or absence of biofilm were similar, the analysis of the sand suggested nZVI-biofilm interactions (correlation TOC vs Fe concentrations, presence of aggregates). These interactions are confirmed by the SEM/STEM observations. Concerning reactivity experiments, it appeared that the dechlorination of PCE was slightly higher in the absence of biofilm (65% of PCE transformed into Cl⁻ vs 60% in the presence of biofilm), but anaerobic corrosion, characterized by evaluating the formation of H₂ within the porous media, was greatly diminished in the presence of biofilm, suggesting (i) interactions between nZVI and biofilm, and (ii) a better longevity of nZVI in the presence of biofilm, and thus a better reactivity towards contaminant over time.

It appears finally that reactive NP, even if they can represent a source of emerging contamination, are very useful for *in situ* groundwater treatment. However, the presence of biofilm in the porous media could modify the mobility and reactivity of nZVI and should be considered when designing a nanoremediation treatment.

Acknowledgements: We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided to the PIVOTS project by the Région Centre – Val de Loire (ARD 2020 program and CPER 2015 -2020) and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (CPER 2015 -2020 and public service subsidy to BRGM).