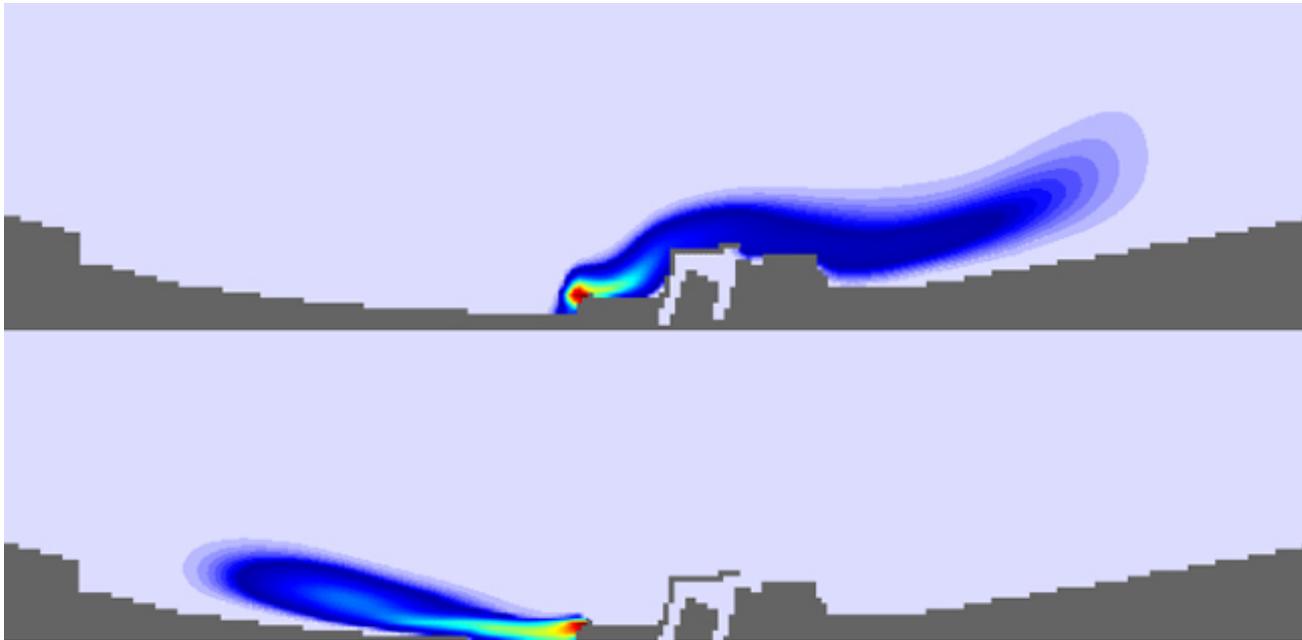


Tracer Testing of Plume Movement

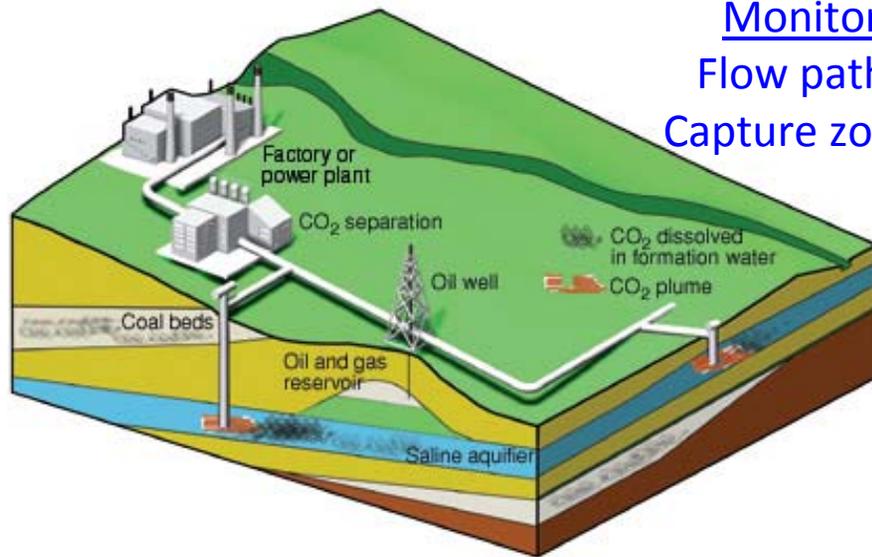
Julianna Fessenden and Paul Reimus, Los Alamos National Laboratory



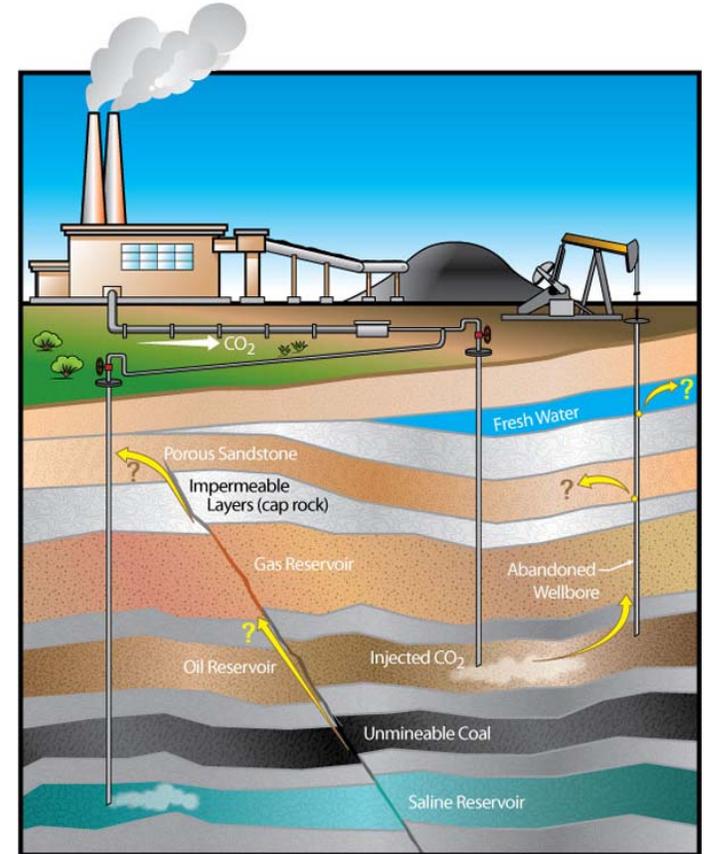
Plume modeling (atmosphere, reservoir, groundwater)

Purpose of Tracing Plumes

Monitor species of interest within reservoir



Monitor
Flow paths
Capture zones



Monitor species of interest outside reservoir

Monitor
Breaches
Extent of movement

Desirable Tracer Characteristics

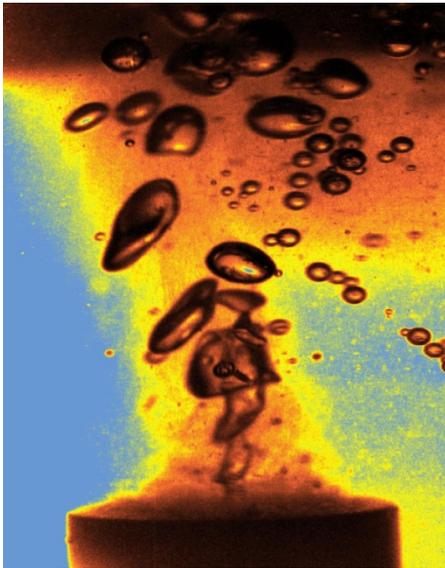
- (1) Inexpensive (measurement, analytical)
- (2) Low detection limits, no analytical interferences
- (3) Quick, easy to sample and measure
- (4) Non toxic, readily permitted
- (5) Both sorbing/non-sorbing tracer use



Perfluorocarbon Tracer deployment
NETL facilities

Classes of Tracers

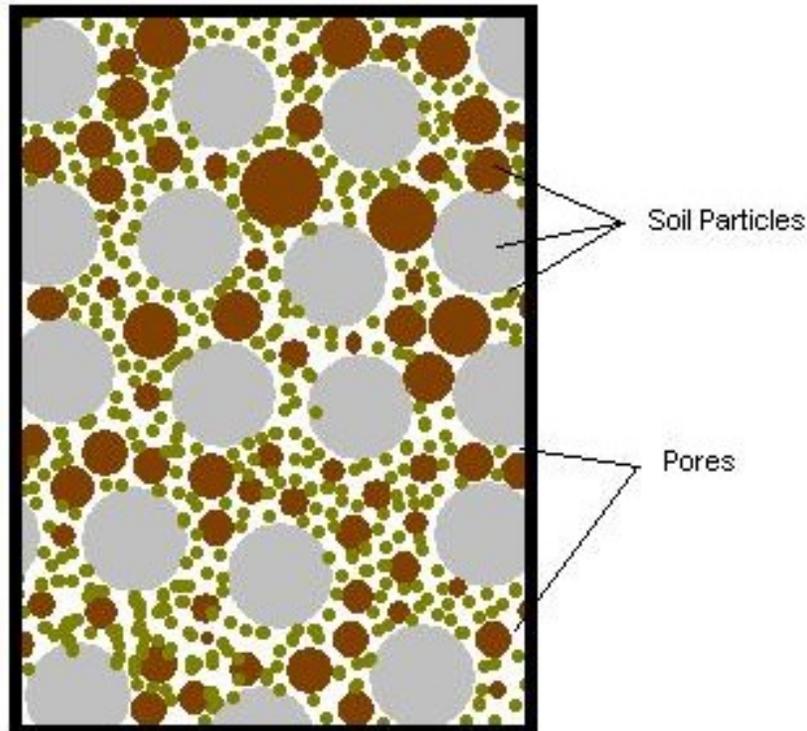
- (1) Gas Phase
- (2) Liquid Phase
- (3) Organic, inorganic, aqueous
- (4) Conservative/nonreacting
- (5) Reactive with mineral surfaces or soluble in non-carrier phase
- (6) Degrading (Bio or Thermal)
- (7) Artificially introduced or naturally present



All tracers will partition into liquid and gas phases
-T,P, Depth Dependent

Information Gathered from Tracers

- (1) Reservoir volume
- (2) Flow dispersion/geometry/sweep efficiency
- (3) Porosity
- (4) Surface area, interfacial area
- (5) Matrix diffusion and natural flow pathways



Types of Tracers (examples)

Environmental = isotopes, trace elements, major/minor ions

Inorganic ions – salts (Br, Cl, I)

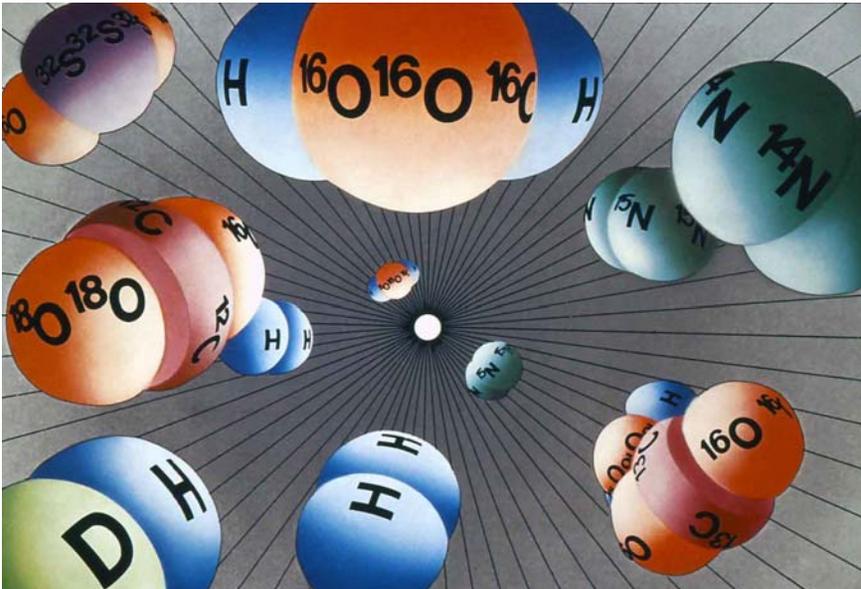
Organic – alkanes, sulfonates

Aqueous – alcohols, surfactants (biodegradation)

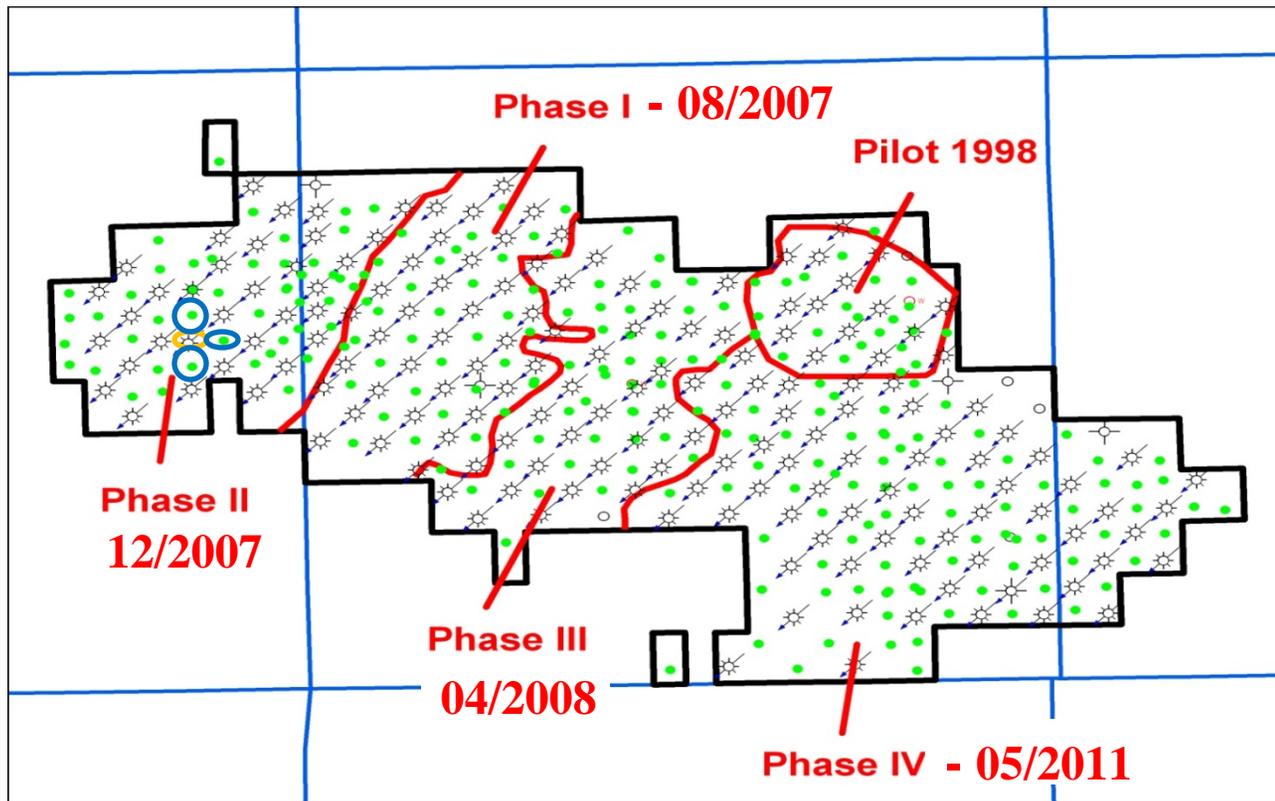
Inert Gases – Nobel gases, SF₆

Fluorescent compounds – organic aromatic rings, perfluorocarbons

DNA strands, fullerenes/buckyballs



Case Study - Aneth Experiment (SWP)



Well type

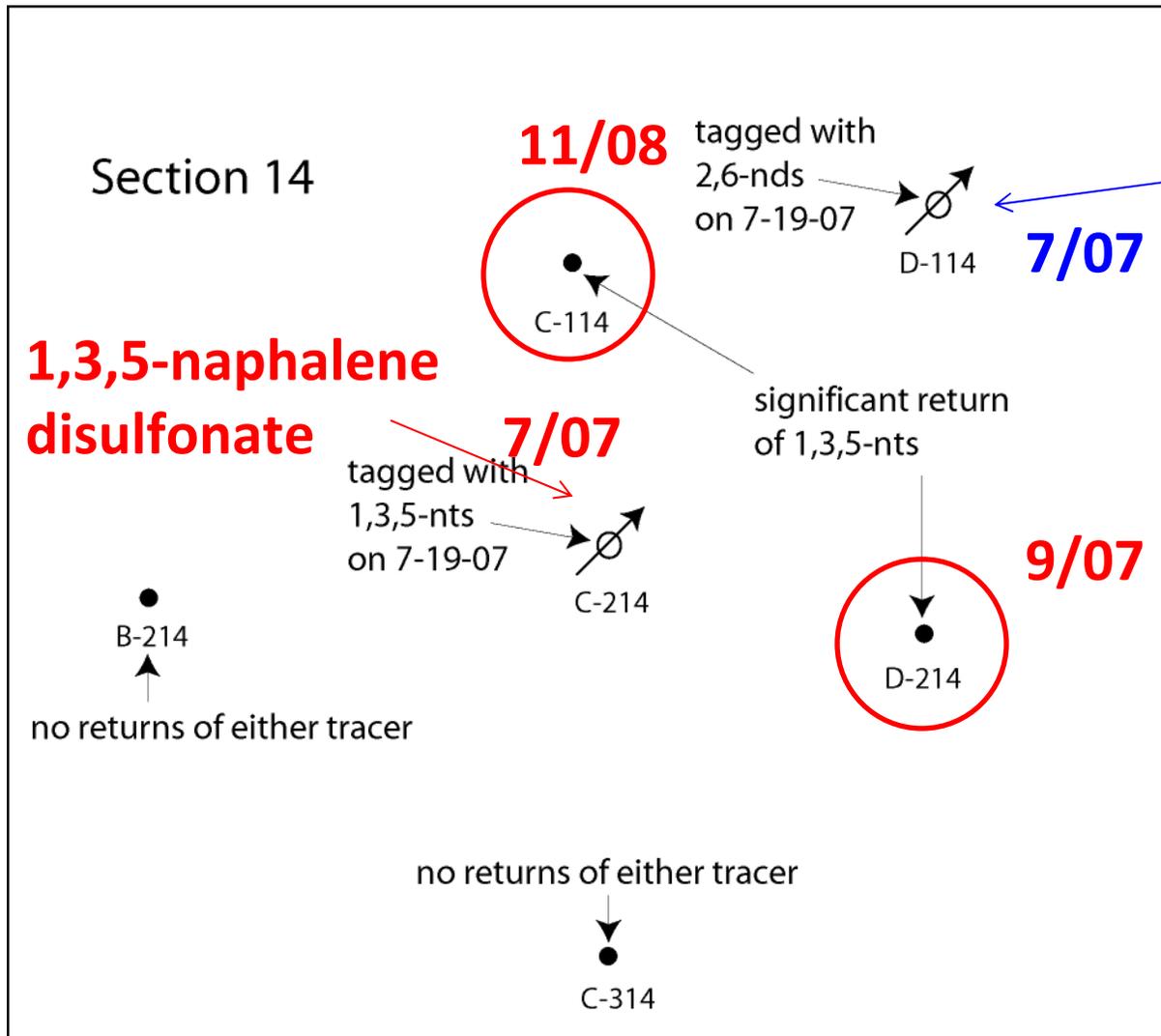
- Oil Well
- ☼ Water injection well
- ⊕ Dry hole
- ⊛ Water source well
- Well type not available

- Phase Boundaries
- ▭ Aneth Unit
- ▭ Township

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



SW Partnership – Water Tracer Test



2,6-naphthalene disulfonate

Measure water flooding
Inert tracer trace fluids