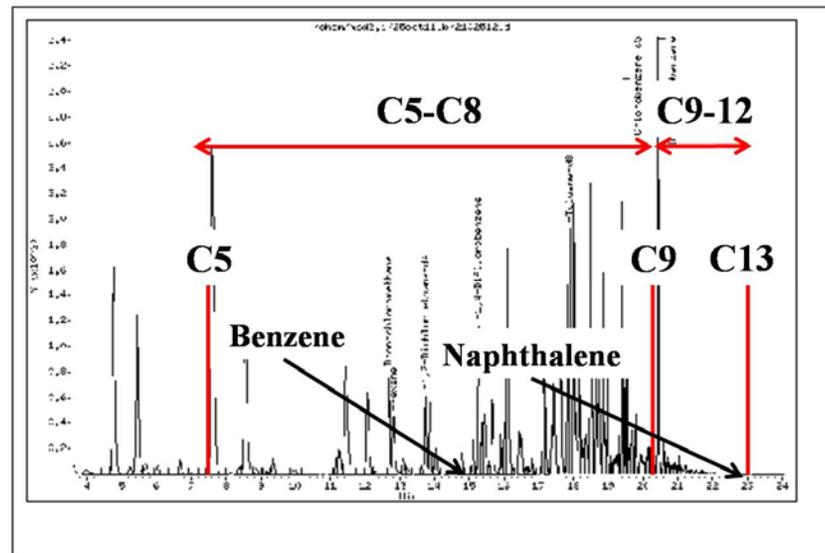
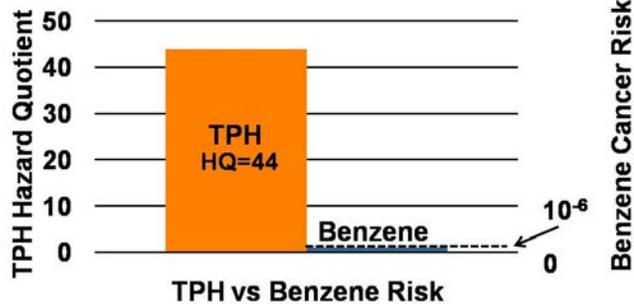


Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Facts, Fallacies and Implications



Roger Brewer, PhD
roger.brewer@doh.hawaii.gov
Hawai'i Department of Health, HEER
July 2015 (9am Hawaii Time)

Acknowledgments

- **Lots of regulators, consultants and oil company scientists over the past twenty years;**
- **Field study discussed funded through HDOH grant from USEPA Region IX.**

Third in Vapor Intrusion Webinar Series (recorded):

- 1. Climate-Based Vapor Intrusion Risk Regions and Region-Specific Screening Levels (HDOH, February 2015);**
- 2. Collection and Interpretation of Active and Passive Soil Gas Samples (M. Schmidt & H. O'Neill, March 2015);**
- 3. Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Review (HDOH, July 2015);**
- 4. Long-Duration Indoor Air Samples and High-Purge Subslab Soil Gas Samples (coming this fall???)**

PVI Webinar Outline

- **Vapor Intrusion Basics;**
- **Evolution of Vapor Intrusion Science;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion FACTS;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Semi-FACTS;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Fallacies;**
- **Implications.**

Hawai'i DOH PVI References

Vapor Intrusion Action Levels: *Evaluation of Environmental Hazards at Sites with Contaminated Soil and Groundwater*

<http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/hazard/>

VI Field Investigations: *Technical Guidance Manual*: Hawai'i Department of Health,

<http://www.hawaiidoh.org/>

***Field Investigation of the Chemistry and Toxicity of TPH in Petroleum Vapors, Implications for Potential Vapor Intrusion Hazards (see also Brewer et al 2013)*: Hawai'i Department of Health**

<http://www.hawaiidoh.org/>

Recent Additional PVI References

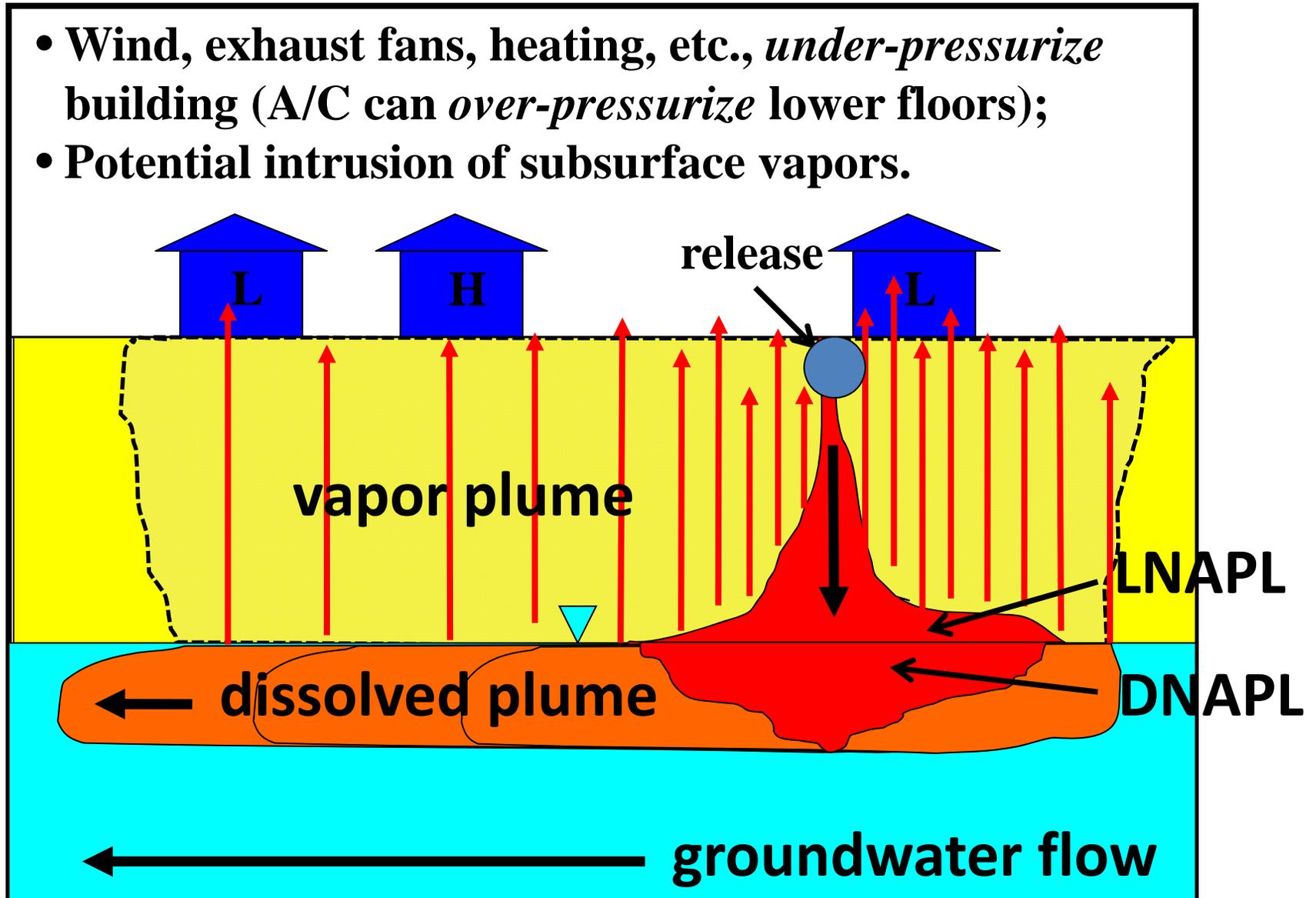
Technical Guide for Addressing Petroleum Vapor Intrusion at Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites (June 2015): US Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 510-R-15-001.

Petroleum Vapor Intrusion: Fundamentals of Screening, Investigation, and Management (October 2014): *Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC).

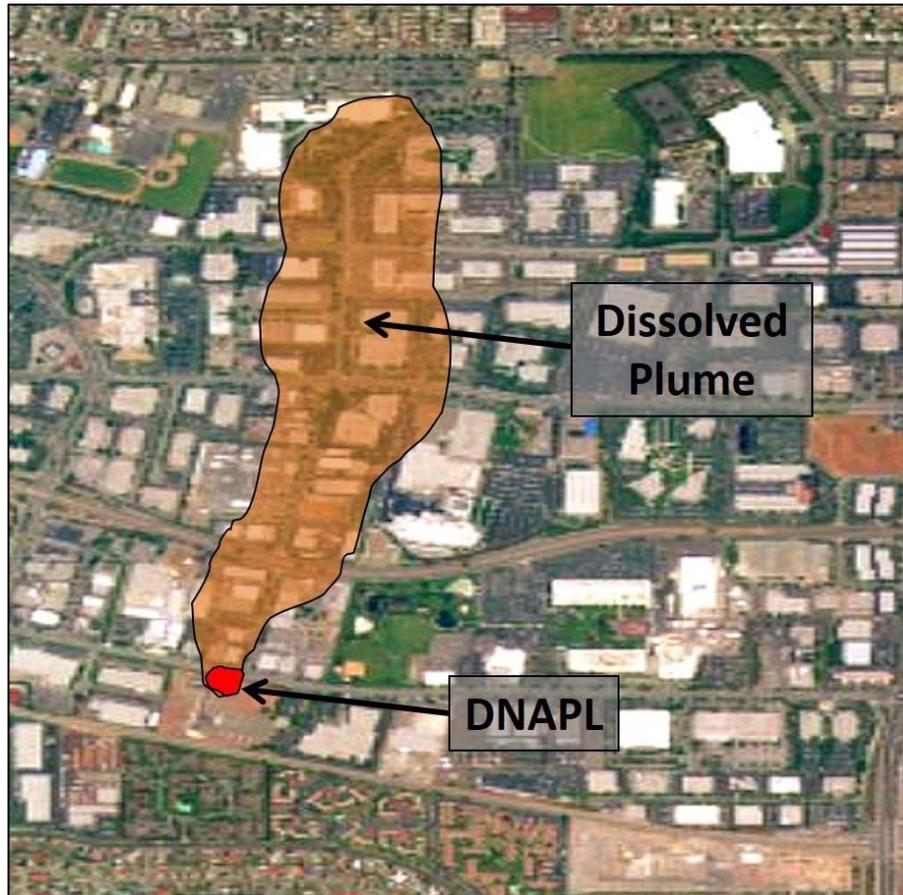
***Public-private coalition of regulators, consultants and industry representatives.**

Vapor Intrusion Basics

- Wind, exhaust fans, heating, etc., *under-pressurize* building (A/C can *over-pressurize* lower floors);
- Potential intrusion of subsurface vapors.



Evolution of VI and Chlorinated Solvents



Pre-1990s

- VI not considered;

Mid-1990s

- Possible VI risk from DNAPL;

Early 2000s

- VI risk from high-concentration dissolved plumes;

Mid 2000s

- VI risk from lower-concentration dissolved plumes;

Current

- Better understanding of building leakage and ventilation, attenuation factors, spatial and temporal heterogeneity, more representative samples, etc.;
- High-risk VI problems rare.

Evolution of VI and Petroleum



Pre-1990s

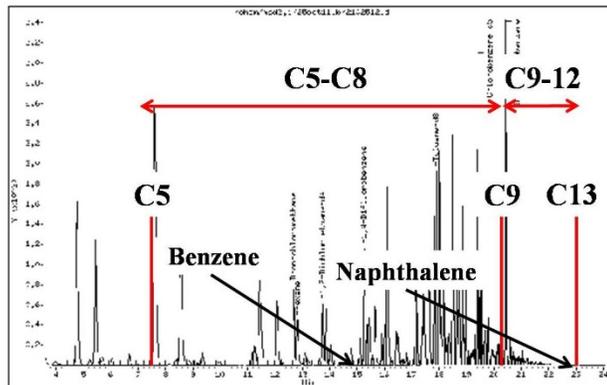
- VI not considered;

Mid-1990s

- Possible VI risk from shallow (<15ft) LNAPL (lower risk than solvents);
- Risk-based evaluation of TPH carbon ranges (mostly for soil);

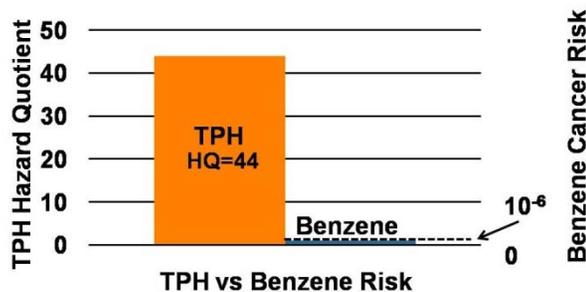
Early 2000s

- Natural degradation limits on vapor transport widely recognized;
- Solvent models “don’t work”;
- Minimal risk from dissolved plumes;



Current

- Additional supporting data for reduced VI risk compared to solvents;
- Field studies of petroleum vapor plume chemistry;
- Updated guidance.



PVI Webinar Outline

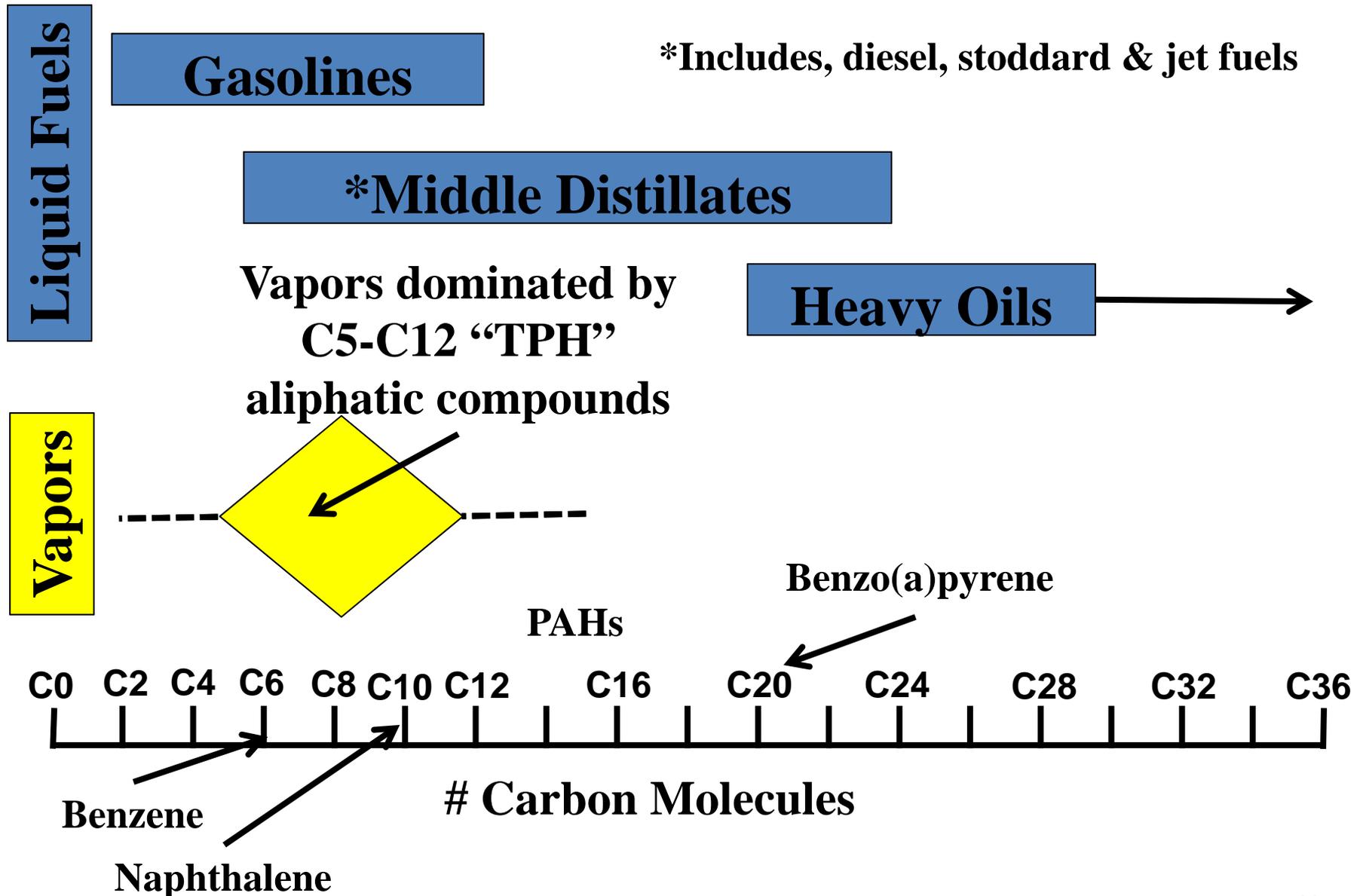
- **Vapor Intrusion Basics;**
- **Evolution of Vapor Intrusion Science;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion FACTS;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Semi-FACTS;**
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Fallacies;**
- **Implications.**

Petroleum Vapor Intrusion *FACTS

- Both *chlorinated solvents and petroleum* can pose vapor intrusion risks under some circumstances;
- Total number of *petroleum-release sites* far outweighs number of solvent-release sites;
- Petroleum fuel vapors are dominated by *aliphatic* compounds (vs BTEXN);
- Natural *biodegradation* of petroleum vapors significantly reduces potential vapor intrusion risks;
- Models used for solvents significantly *over predict* vapor concentrations away from source area;
- *Field data* required to more accurately assess vapor intrusion risks (e.g., soil gas +/- indoor air).

*Strong agreement between HDOH, USEPA & ITRC guidances¹⁰

Chemistry of Liquid Fuels vs Soil Vapors



Petroleum Vapor Intrusion *SEMI-FACTS

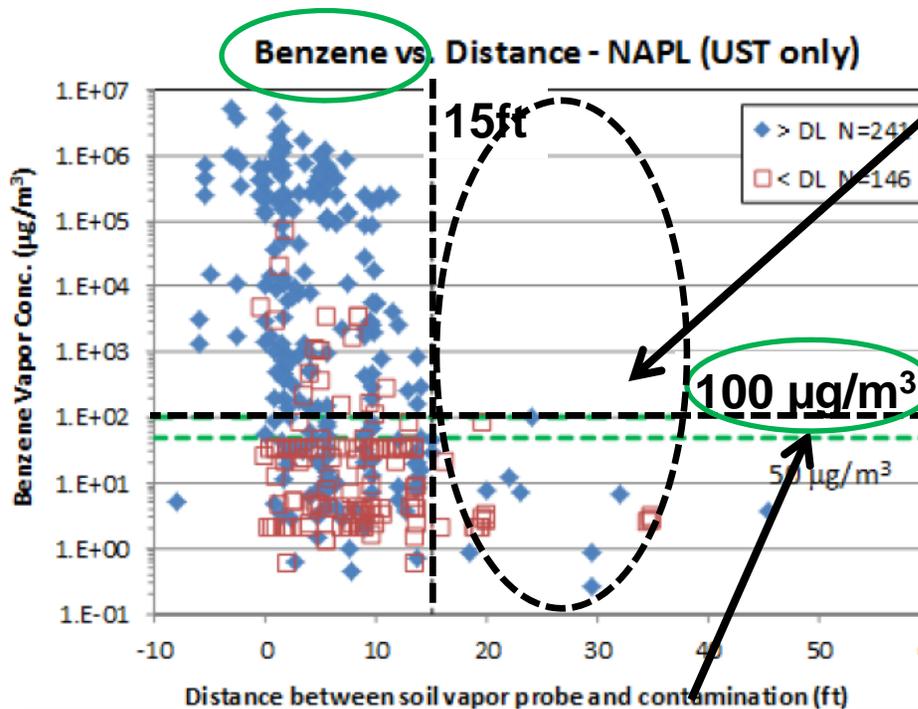
- ***Free product* in vadose-zone soil or on groundwater required to pose significant PVI risks;**
- **Small *de minimis volumes* of contaminated soil (e.g., 10 cyds?) or small areas of free product on groundwater (e.g., <100ft²?) do not pose significant, *long-term* PVI risks, regardless of concentrations (not discussed in USEPA or ITRC PVI documents);**
- **Vapors unlikely to exceed potential PVI levels of concern greater than *15-30ft* from the source (“Vertical Separation Distance”);**
- **“Lateral Separation Distance” default = 100ft.**

***General agreement between HDOH, USEPA & ITRC guidances¹²**

USEPA Vertical (Separation) Method LNAPL Source UST/AST Sites

LNAPL Source

Feb 2015



Benzene Vertical Separation Distance

- **Problem: MINIMAL DATA POINTS Beyond 15ft!!**
- How did they conclude that benzene vapors $>100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ won't migrate $>15\text{ft}$ from source?
- Looked at 0-15ft trends from source (not clearly discussed in USEPA or ITRC PVI documents).
- Appears adequate for use in Hawai'i

Subslab PVI screening level = $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (HDOH = $310 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Assumes subslab attenuation factor of 0.003 (reasonable for cold climates).

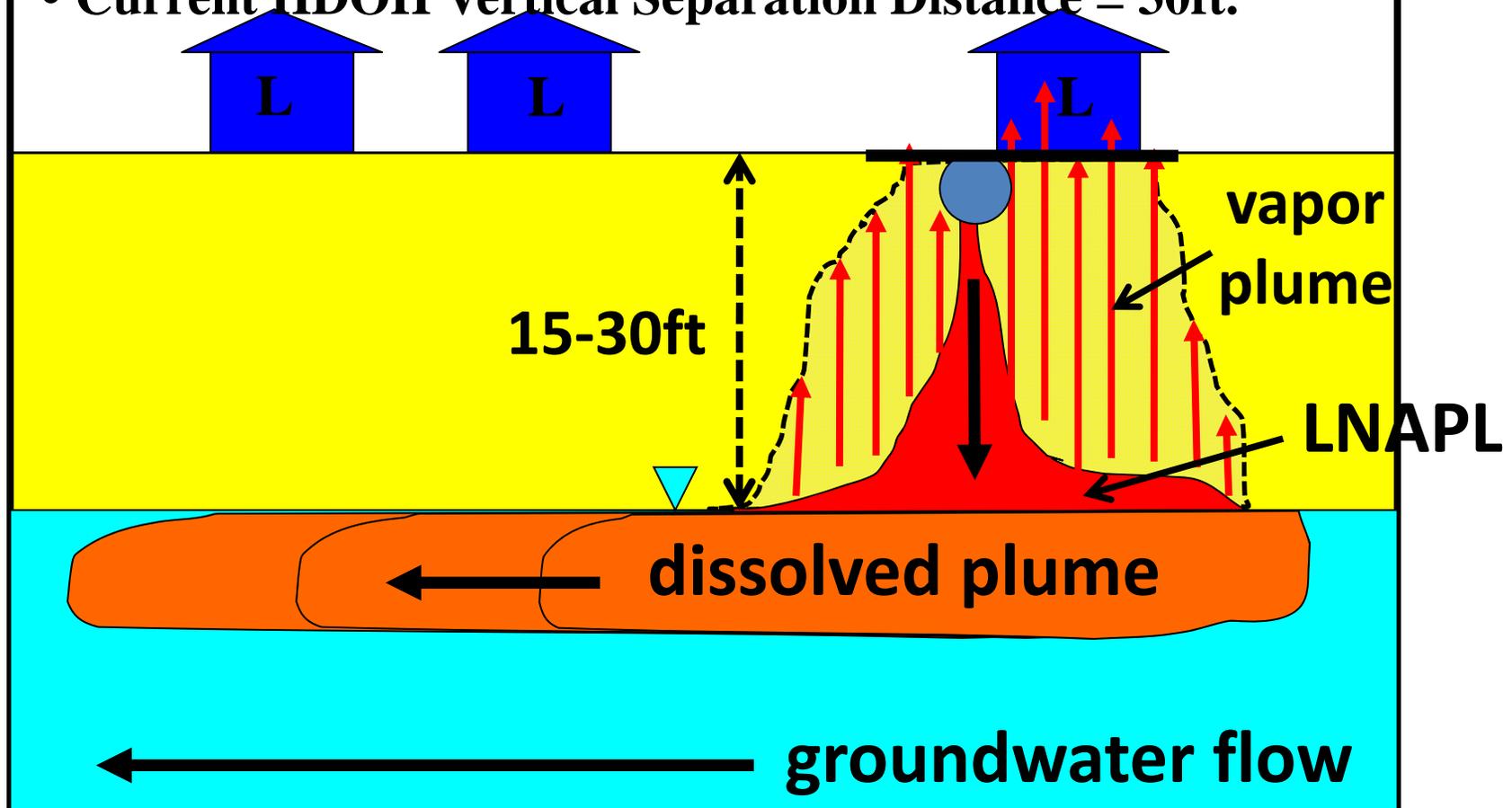
KEY

POINTS

- Vertical screening distance = 15 feet for LNAPL UST/AST sites (18 feet industrial sites)
- Benzene requires the greatest distance to attenuate

Additional PVI Considerations

- Much smaller vapor plumes than chlorinated solvents;
- Primary risk from shallow free product and anaerobic buildup of vapors under structures;
- Current HDOH Vertical Separation Distance = 30ft.



Petroleum Vapor Intrusion *FALLACIES

- 1. Diesel fuel is not volatile and does not pose a PVI risk (Hint: If you can smell it then it's volatile);**
- 2. Risk-based indoor air and soil gas action (screening) levels cannot be developed for the non-BTEXN, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) component of vapors;**
- 3. Benzene or other individual aromatics always drive PVI risks over TPH;**
- 4. TPH compounds in vapors will not migrate >2-3ft from source above potential levels of concern for PVI (vs 15ft for benzene).**

***Common past misconceptions still sometimes mentioned in PVI workshops¹⁵**

Fallacy #1: Diesel Fuel is Not Volatile

- 1. Diesel fuel is not volatile and does not pose a PVI risk (Hint: If you can smell it then it's volatile).**



- Diesel included as a potential PVI concern in USEPA 2015 PVI guidance;**
- Implied to not be sufficiently volatile for potential PVI concerns in 2014 ITRC guidance.**

HDOH Field Study: Chemistry and Toxicity of Petroleum Vapors

- **Soil vapor samples collected at five sites on O'ahu;**
- **Focus on jet fuels and diesel (supplement to USEPA PVI database for gasoline sites);**
- **Reviewed other published data (including PVI database);**
- **Results discussed in Appendix C of 2014 ITRC PVI guidance.**

Field Investigation of the Chemistry and Toxicity of TPH in Petroleum Vapors, Implications for Potential Vapor Intrusion Hazards (December 2012): Hawai'i Department of Health, HEER,
<http://www.hawaiiidoh.org/>

Brewer et al, 2013, *Risk-Based Evaluation of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Vapor Intrusion Studies*: International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Volume 10, pp 2441-2467.
<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/10/6/2441/>

Soil Vapor Sample Collection

Summa Canisters (C5-C12)



Sorbent Tubes (C12-C18)



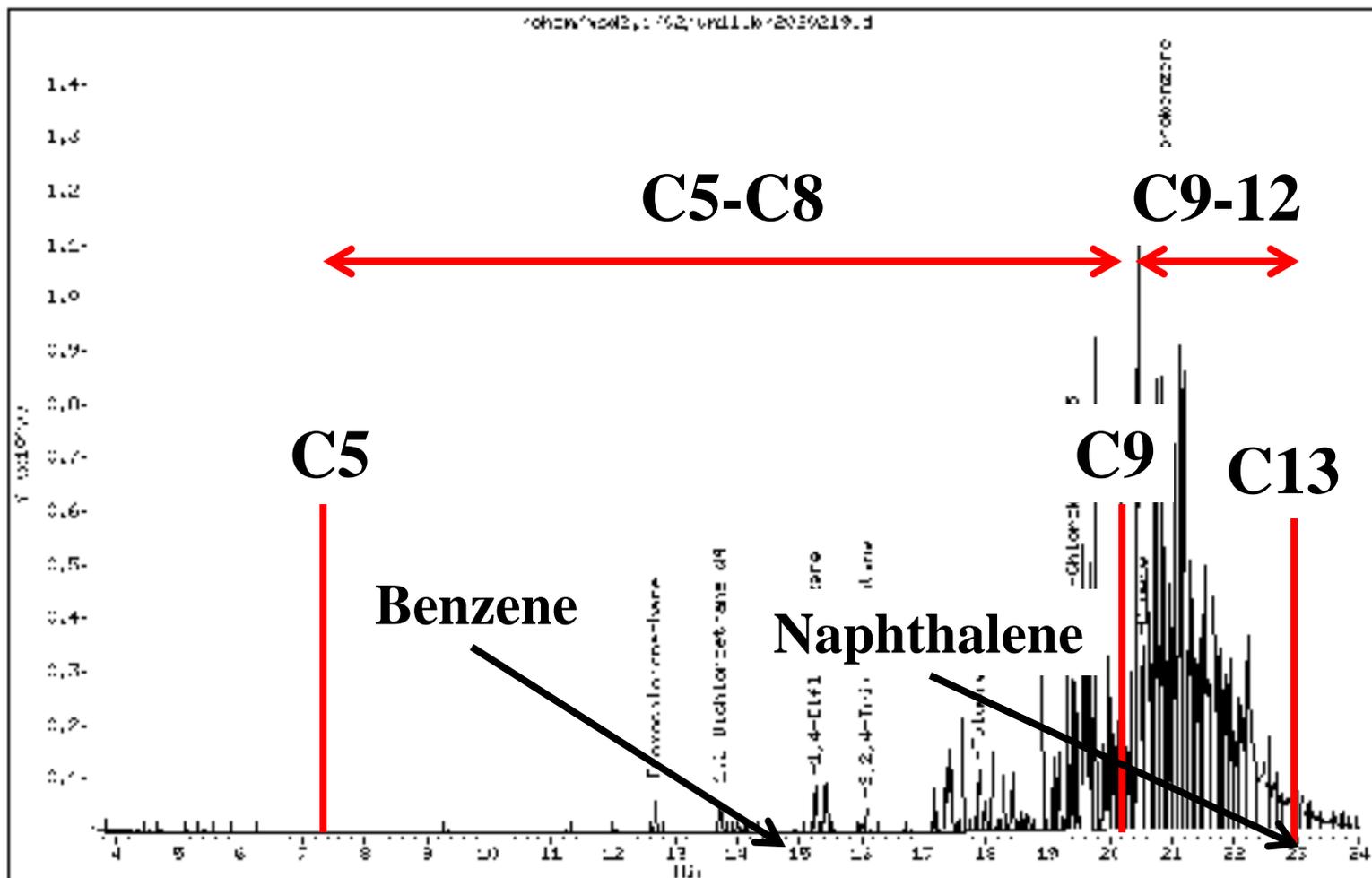
- **Most samples collected 5 to 15+ft from source;**
- **Each Sample:**
 - **TPH (total), TPH carbon ranges, BTEXN;**
 - **Calculated weighted TPH toxicity factor;**
 - **TPH to Benzene ratio (assess risk driver).**

TPH Dominates BTEXN in Vapors

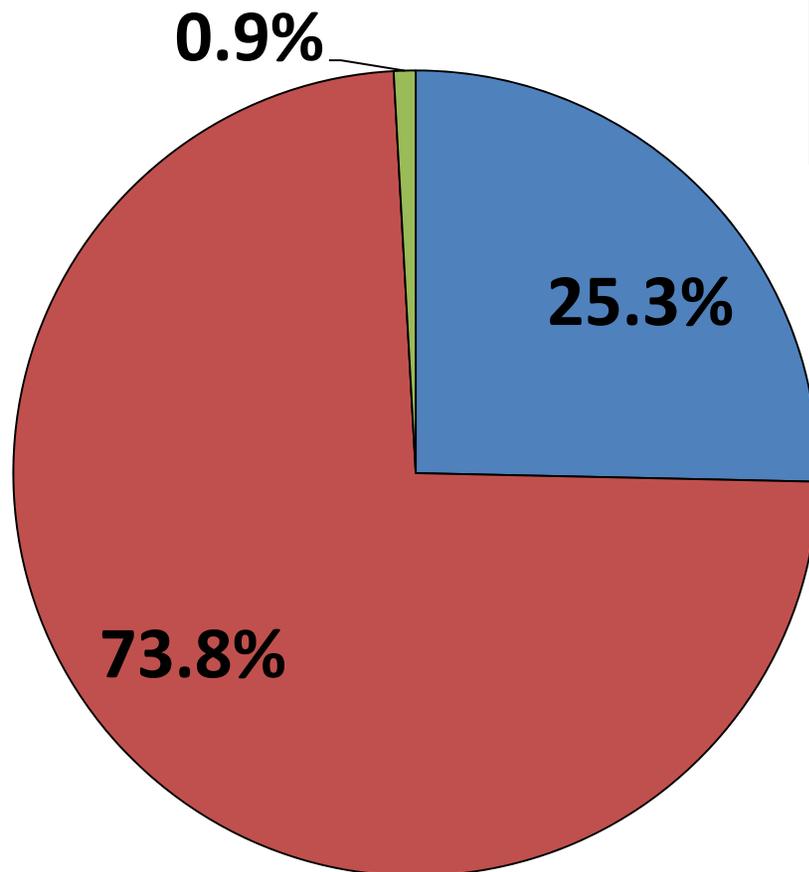
Site/Fuel Type	Average Soil Gas Composition		
	¹ TPH	^{2,3} BTEXN	TPH:Benzene
¹ USEPA PVI Database (mostly gasoline)	>95% (estimate)	<5% (estimate)	300:1 (median)
Site A: (mostly AVGAS)	99.6%	0.4%	1,500:1
Site D: (mostly JP-4)	98.3%	1.7%	9,000:1
Site E: (mostly diesel)	99.9%	0.1%	19,000:1

1. Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, excluding BTEXN.
2. Toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes and naphthalene data not consistently included;
TPH:Benzene ratio highly variable between samples (5:1 to >450,000:1).
3. Total BTEXN normally dominated by xylenes.

Gas Chromatograph of Diesel Soil Vapors (Study Site E)



Study Site E TPH Carbon Range Makeup (diesel)



**Average TPH in Soil Gas
(sum of C5-C12)**

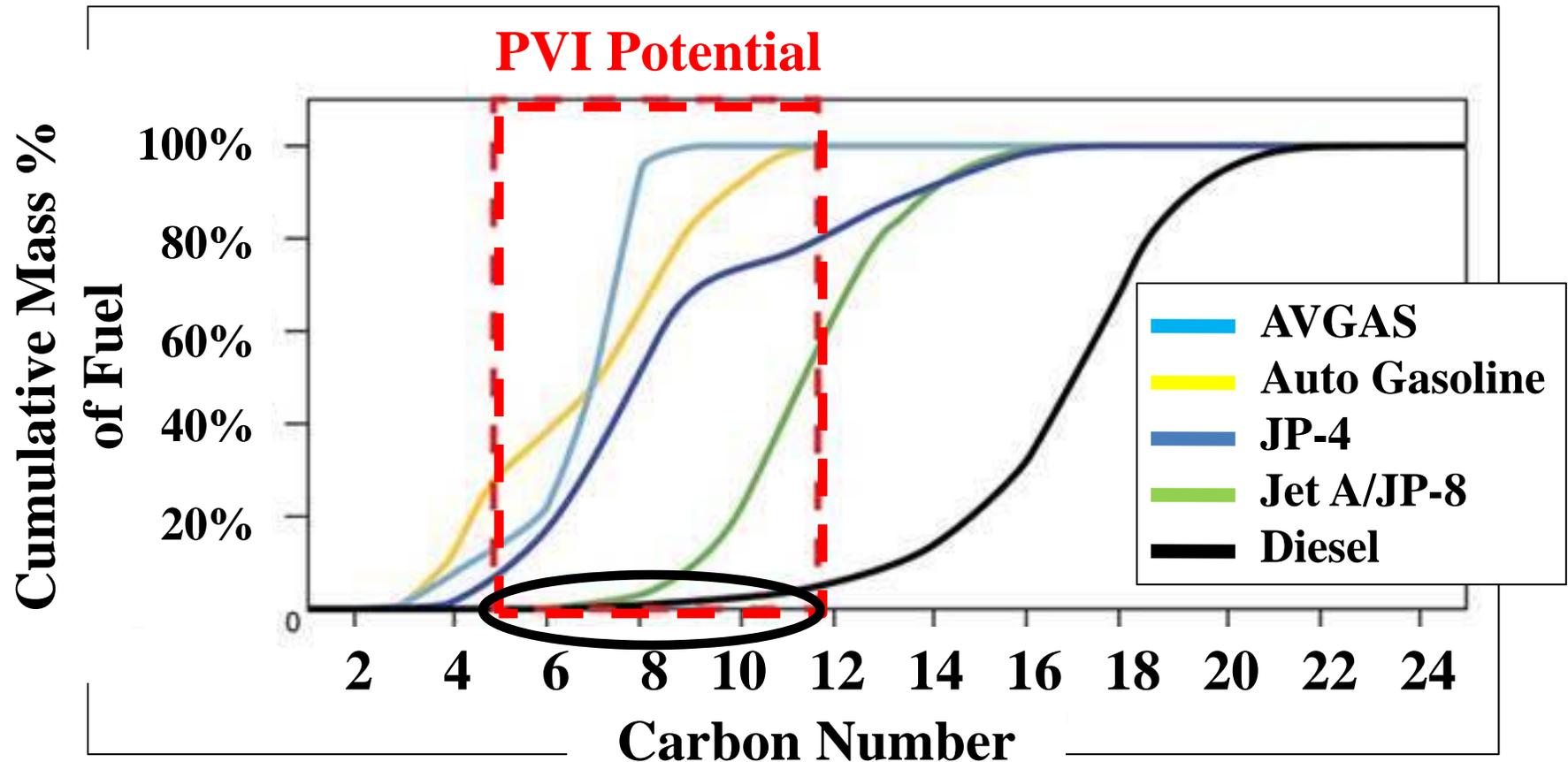
= 2,900,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

For example only; concentration varies
Ave naphthalene <200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

- C5-C8 Aliphatics
- C9-C12 Aliphatics
- C9-C10 Aromatics

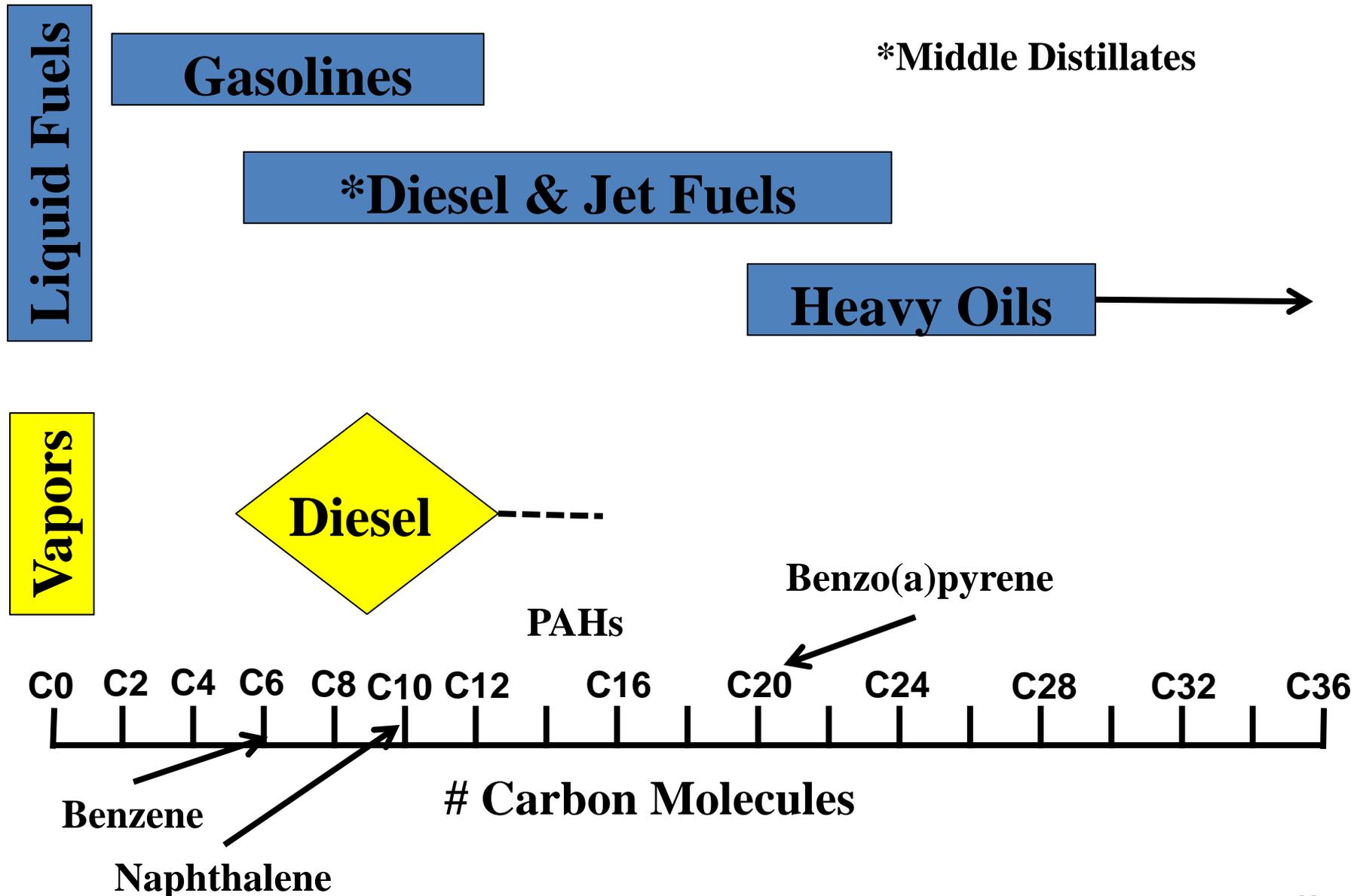
Based on TO-15 Summa Data

Small but Important Component of Diesel Fuel (after ITRC 2014)



- C5-C12 component of diesel generates vapor plume;
- TPH vapors high enough concentrations to pose PVI risks;
- Important to ask lab to report TPH in air or soil vapors as sum of C5-C12+ for all fuel types (not “TPHg” or “TPHd³³”).

Chemistry of Liquid Fuels vs Vapors



Diesel is Volatile

- **Significant vapors from diesel and other middle distillates;**
- **Dominated by C9-C12 TPH aliphatics;**
- **Lower TPH concentrations compared to gasoline;**
- **Potential PVI risks from shallow (<15ft) free product;**
- **Naphthalene was typically ND or very low and not a risk driver at study sites.**

PID Factoid (low readings at site):

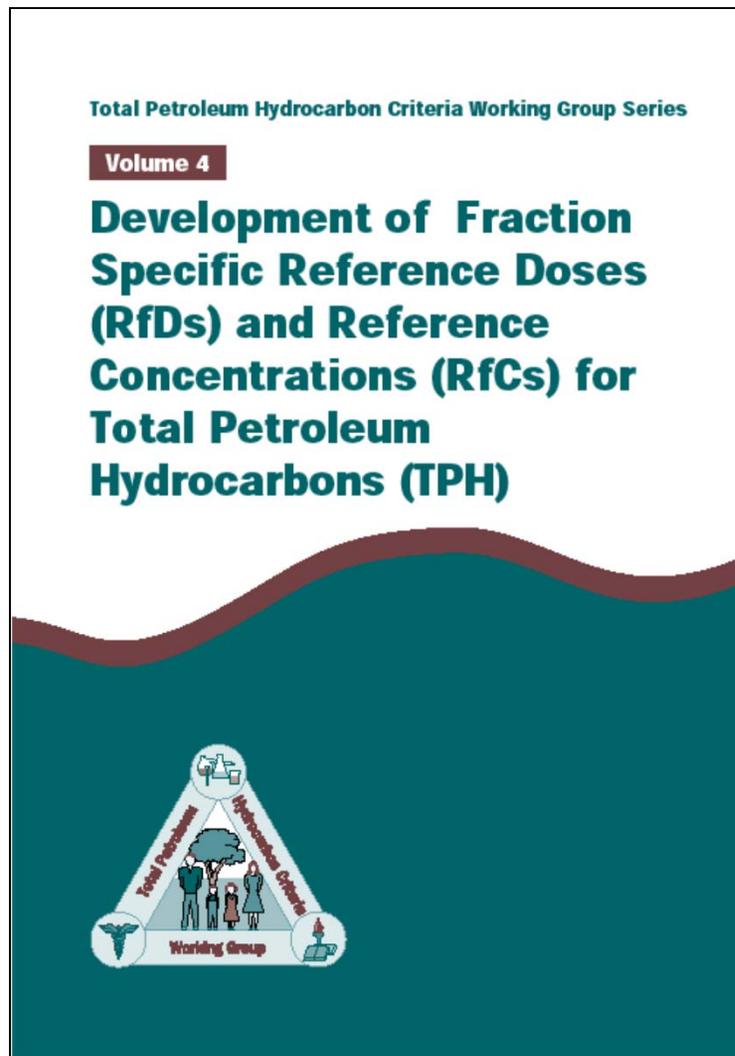
- **PIDs respond primarily to aromatics;**
- **Poor response to aliphatic-only vapor plumes.**

Fallacy #2: No TPH Action Levels for PVI

- 2. Risk-based indoor air and soil gas action (screening) levels cannot be developed for the non-BTEXN, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) component of vapors.**

Toxicity of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

TPH Working Group (mid/late 1990s)



Published TPH Toxicity Factors

- Massachusetts DEP (1997+)
- USDHHS (1999)
- Washington DOE (2006)
- California EPA (DTSC 2009)
- USEPA (2009)

- Several states publish risk-based screening levels for TPH (mostly for soil);
- Only California and Hawai'i have TPH indoor air and soil gas screening levels for PVI?

*USEPA Inhalation Toxicity Factors for Vapor-Phase Carbon Ranges

*As used in Hawai'i

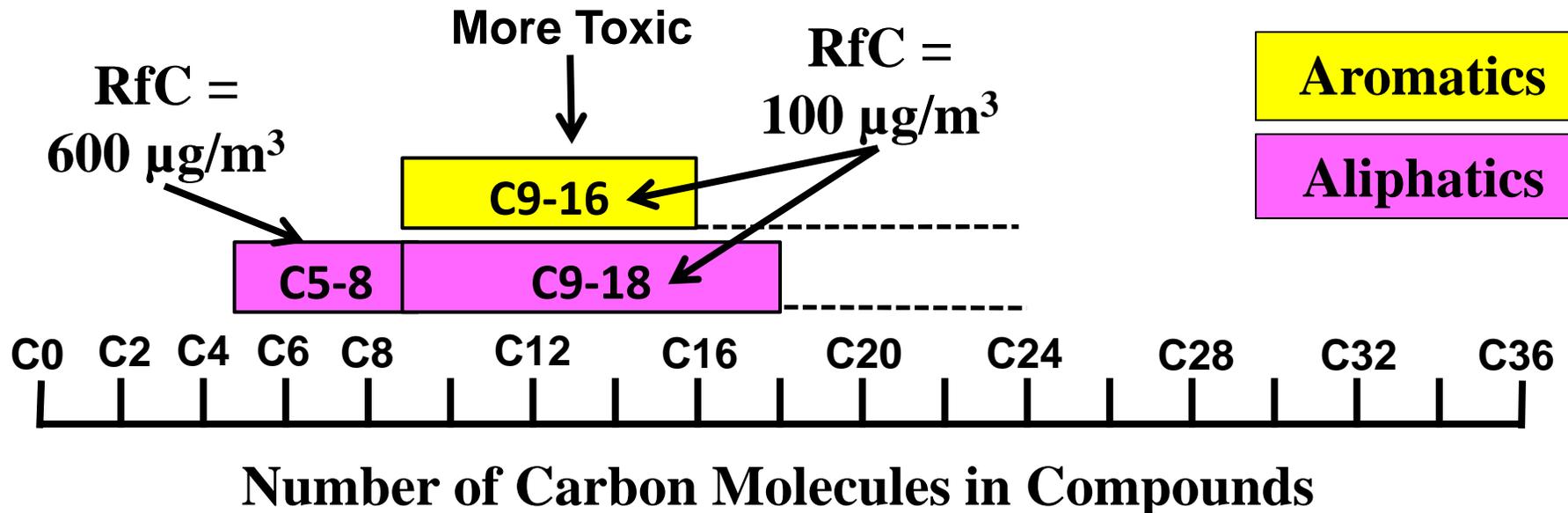
Gasolines

Middle Distillates

Fuel Oils

Aromatics

Aliphatics



TPH = Sum of Aliphatics + non-BTEXN Aromatics

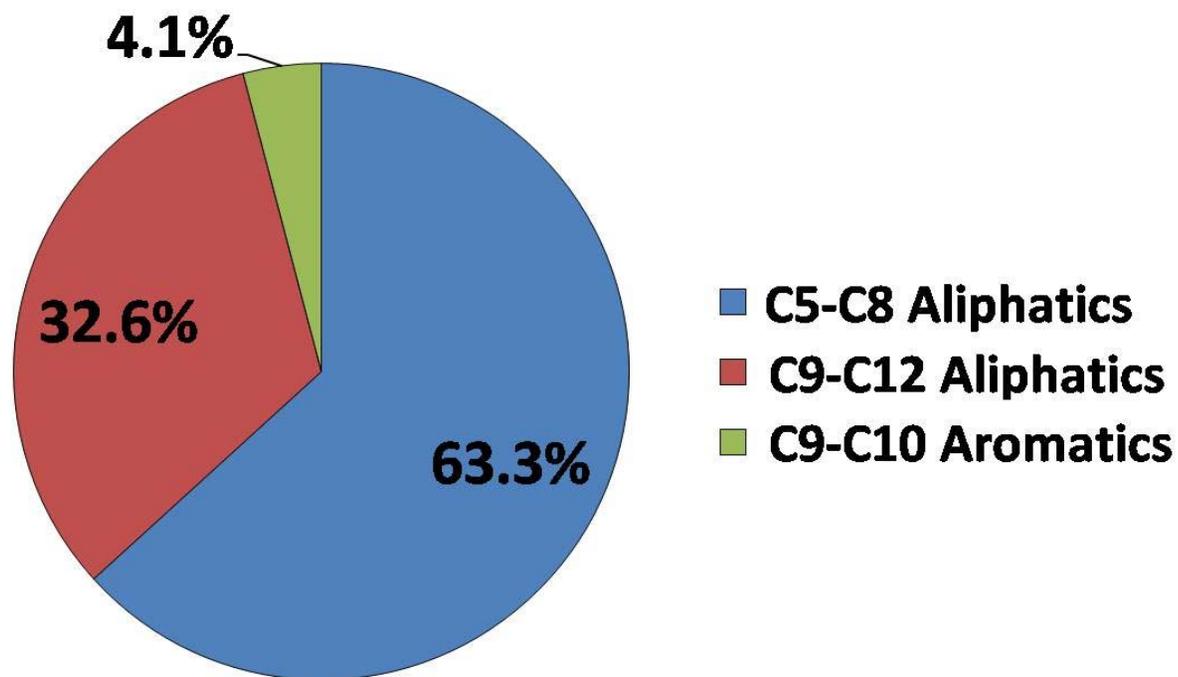
TPH Carbon Range Action Levels

Carbon Range	¹Inhalation RfC ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	²Indoor Air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	³Subslab Soil Gas ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
C5-C8 Aliphatics	600	630	630,000
C9-C18 Aliphatics	100	100	100,000
C9-C16 Aromatics	100	100	100,000

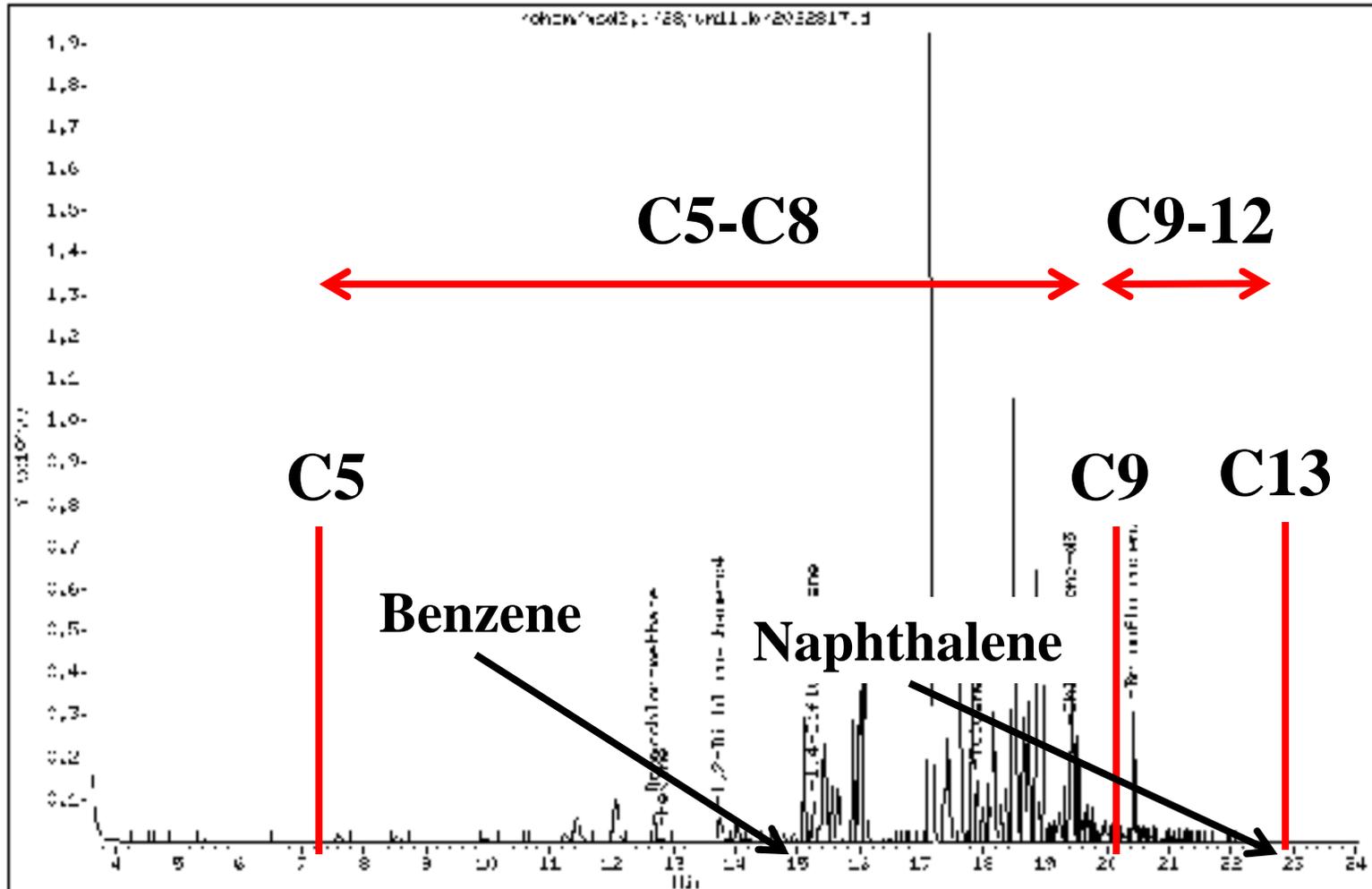
- 1. After USEPA 2009; variably aromatic RfCs presented.**
- 2. Residential exposure (see also USEPA Regional Screening Levels).**
- 3. Assumes 1/1,000 vapor attenuation factor.**

Weighted Indoor Air & Soil Gas TPH Action Levels

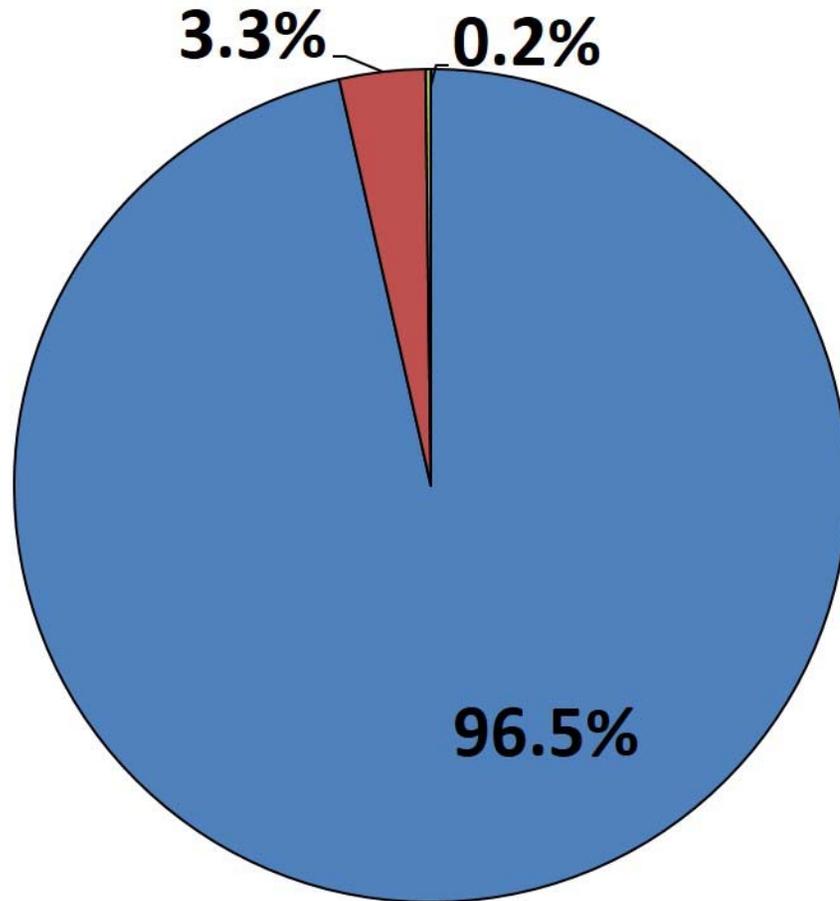
- Calculate site-specific, weighted Inhalation Reference Concentration based on TPH carbon range makeup (see Brewer et al, 2013);
- Reduces need for site carbon range data (\$\$\$)
- Use default carbon range makeup for generic screening levels.



Gas Chromatograph of AVGAS Soil Vapors (Study Site A)



Weighted TPH Action Levels for AVGAS Soil Vapors (Site A)

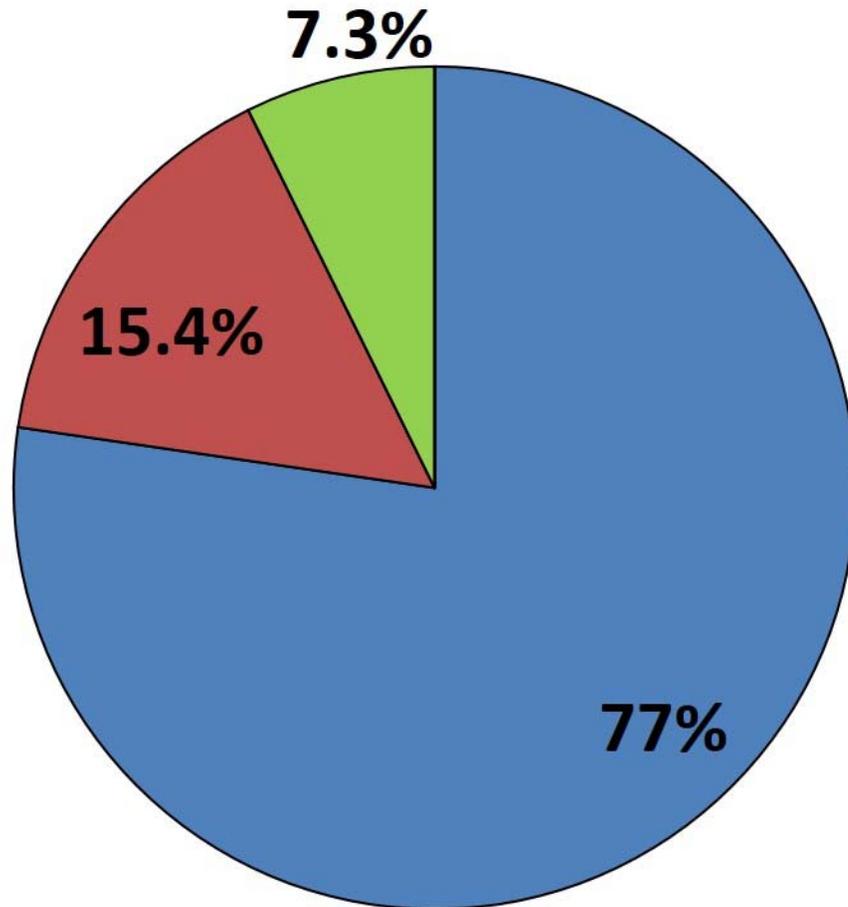


Weighted RfC = 510 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Indoor Air_{res} = 530 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Soil Gas_{res} = 530,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Ave TPH: Benzene = 1,500:1

Residential action levels; subslab soil gas

- C5-C8 Aliphatics
- C9-C12 Aliphatics
- C9-C10 Aromatics

***Weighted TPH Action Levels for Gasoline Soil Vapors (average of USEPA PVI Database)**



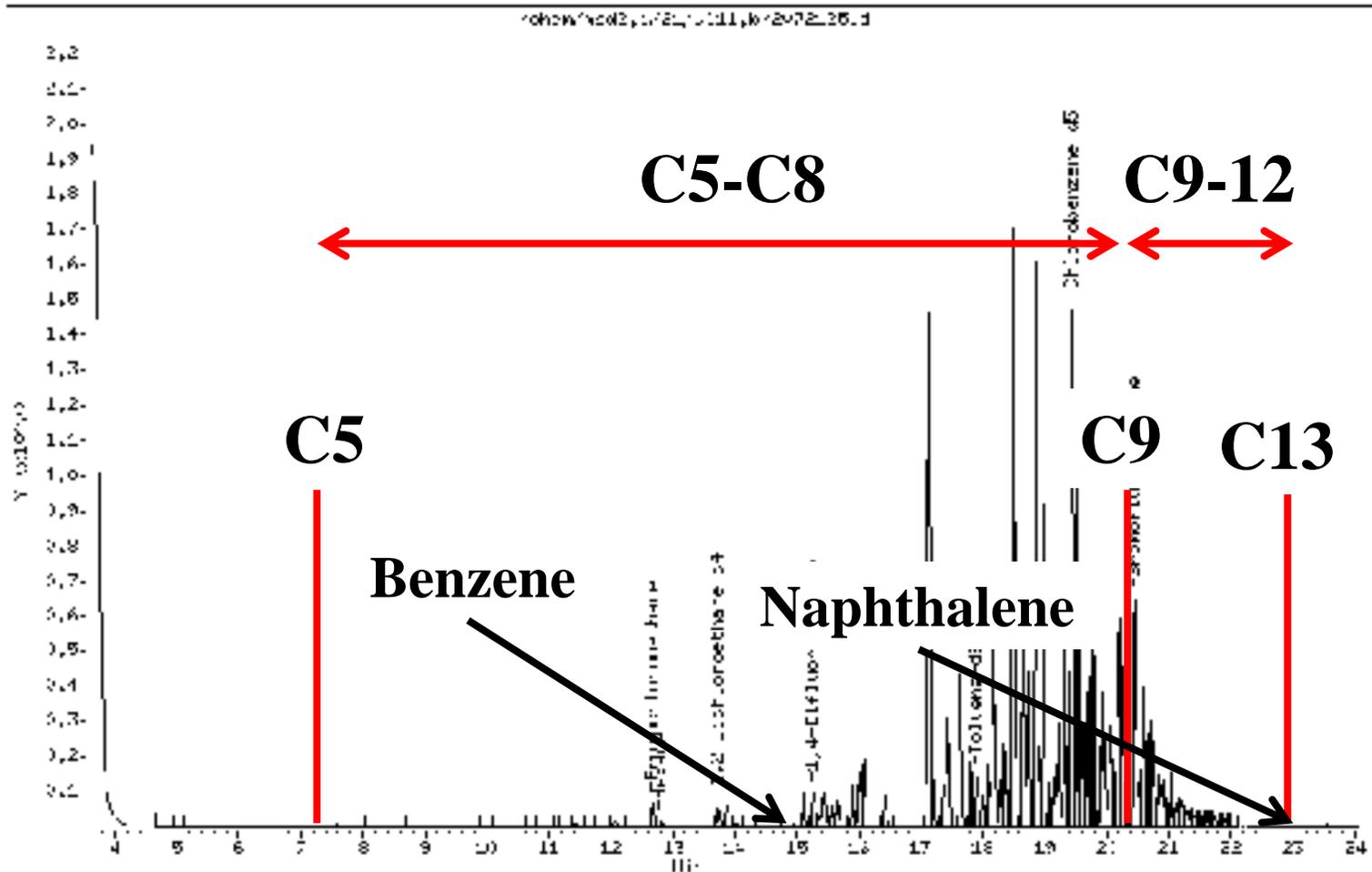
Weighted RfC = 275 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Indoor Air_{res} = 290 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Soil Gas_{res} = 290,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Med TPH: Benzene = 300:1

Residential action levels; subslab soil gas

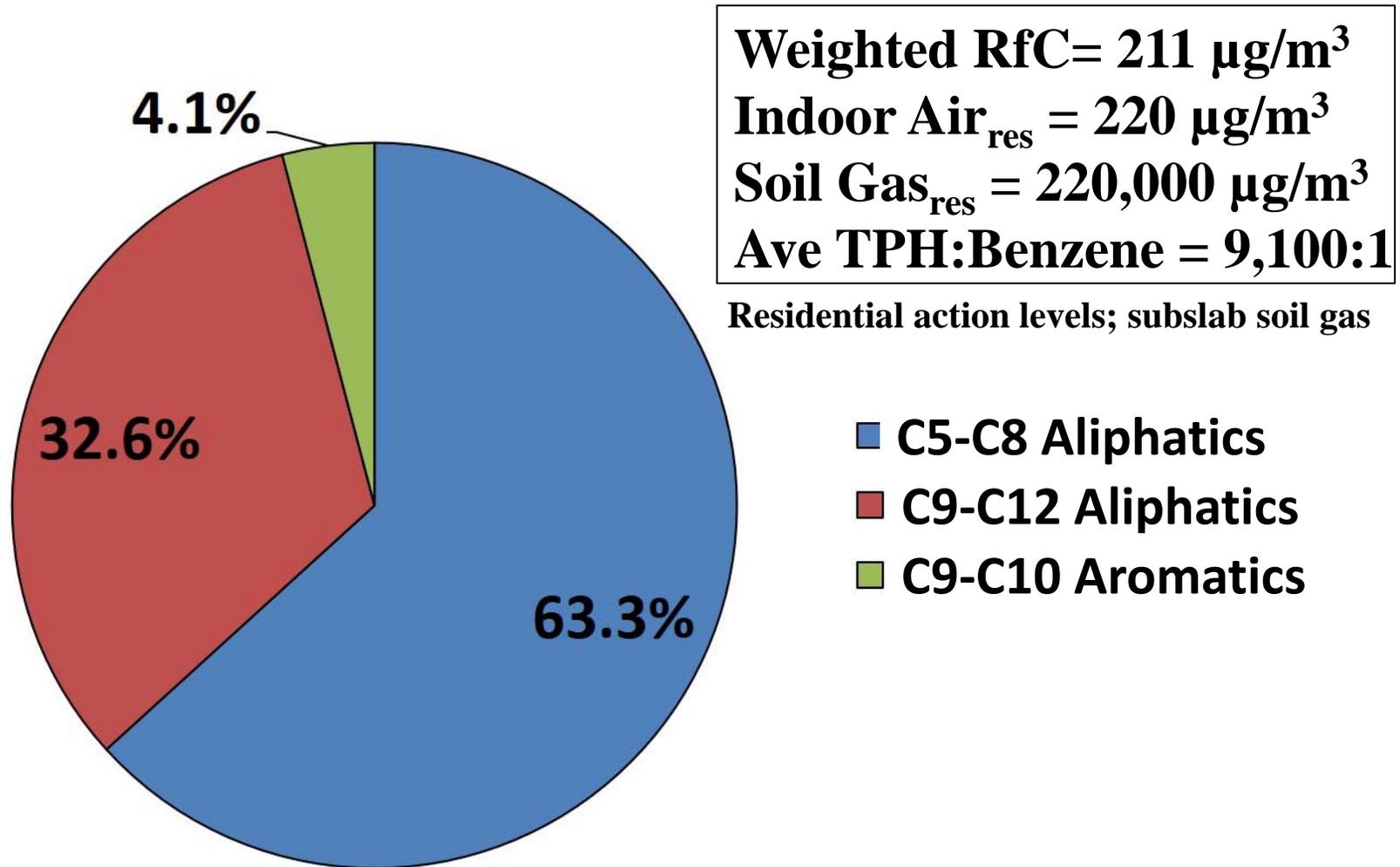
- C5-C8 Aliphatics
- C9-C12 Aliphatics
- C9-C10 Aromatics

- *Average of 35 samples from 10 of 48 USEPA PVI database sites;**
- Mix of diesel or kerosene vapors at some sites (high C9-C12 aliphatics)?**

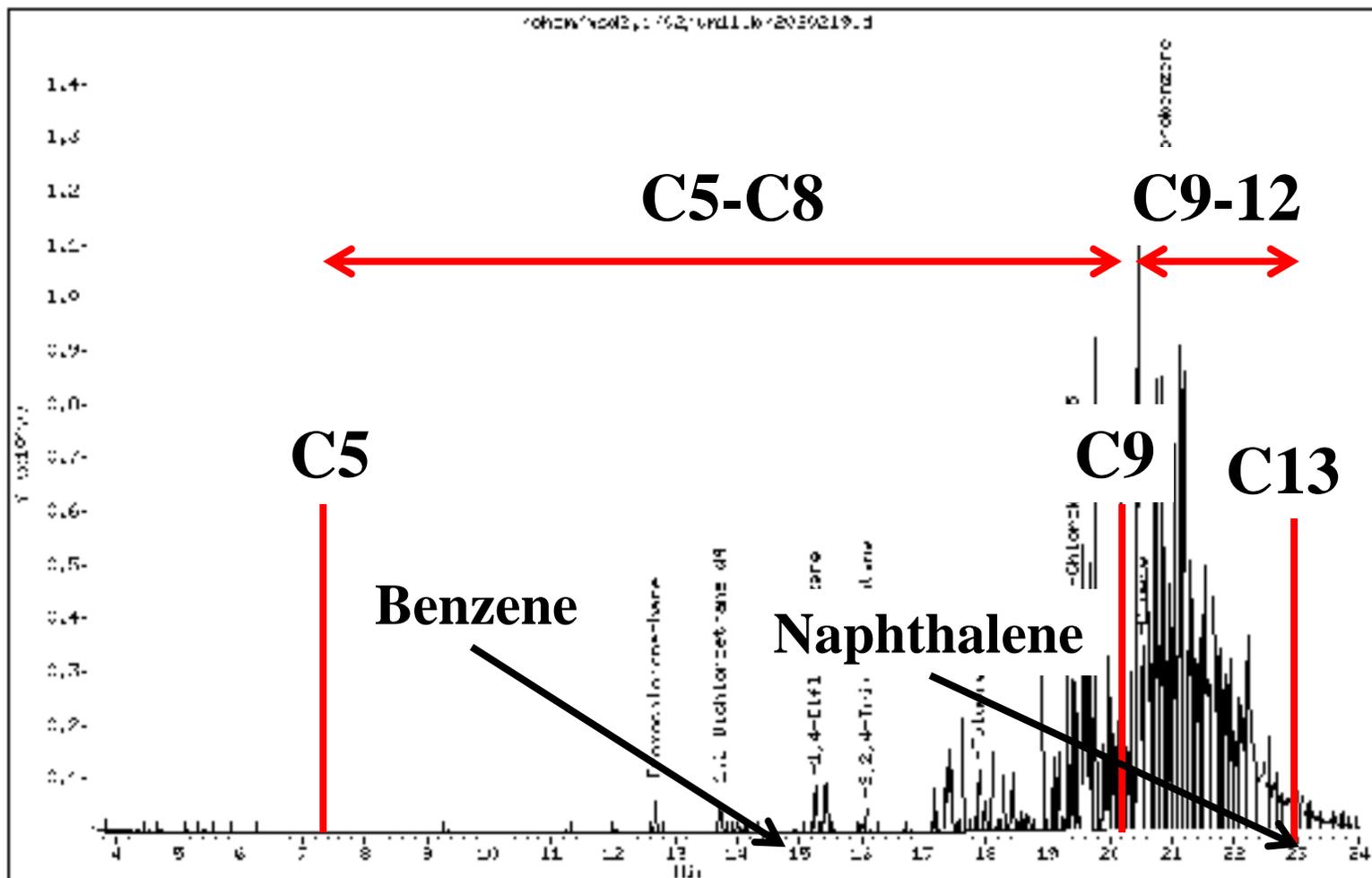
Gas Chromatograph of JP-4 Soil Vapors (Study Site D)



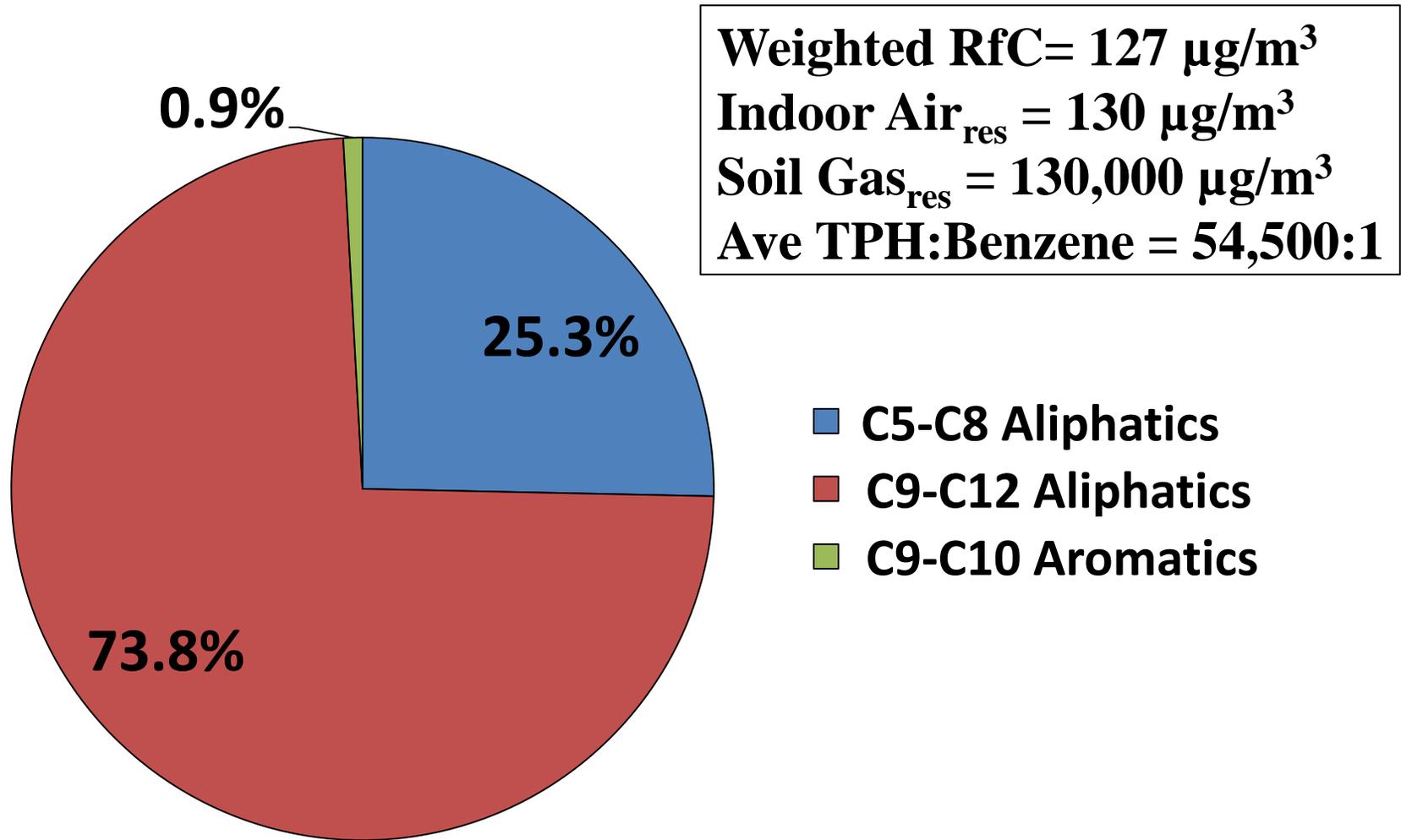
Weighted TPH Action Levels for JP-4 Soil Vapors (Site D)



Gas Chromatograph of Diesel Soil Vapors (Study Site E)

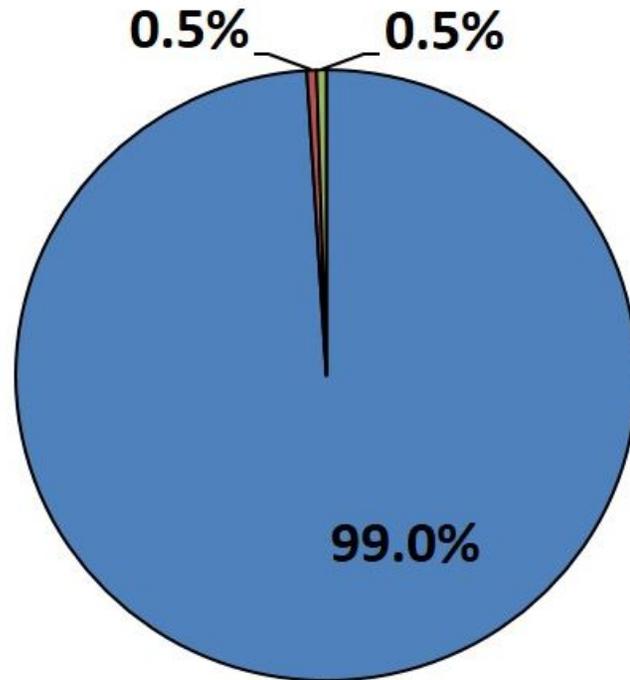


Weighted TPH Action Levels for Diesel Soil Vapors (Site E)



Based on TO-15 Summa Data

Default HDOH TPH Action Levels – Gasoline Vapors (based on published data, including Biovapor 2010, etc.)



- C5-8 Aliphatics:
- C9-12 Aliphatics:
- C9-10 Aromatics:

***Weighted RfC= 571 ug/m³**
Indoor Air_{res} = 600 ug/m³
Soil Gas_{res} = 600,000 ug/m³

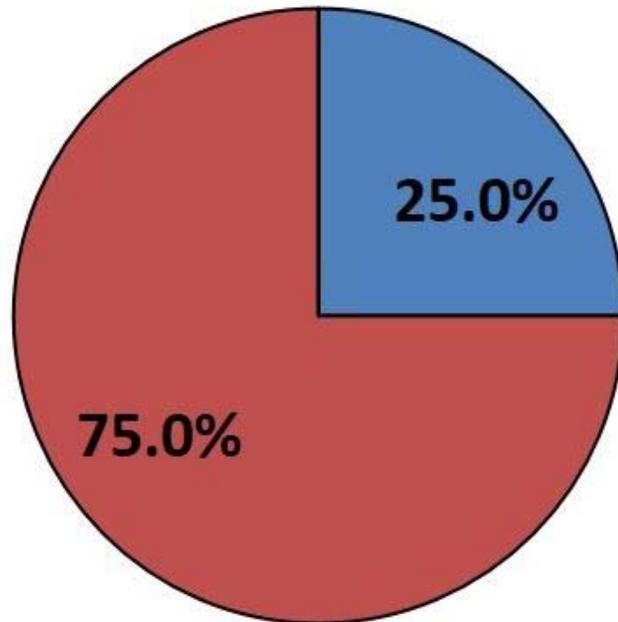
Residential action levels noted; subslab soil gas

- **Vapors dominated by lower-toxicity, C5-C8 aliphatics;**
- **Minor heavier aliphatics and aromatics.**

**Gasoline Odor Recognition Threshold:
0.2 to 1.0 ppmv (750 to 4,000 ug/m³)**

Default TPH Action Levels – Diesel Vapors

(based on 2012 HDOH field study and published data)



- C5-8 Aliphatics:
- C9-12 Aliphatics:
- C9-10 Aromatics:

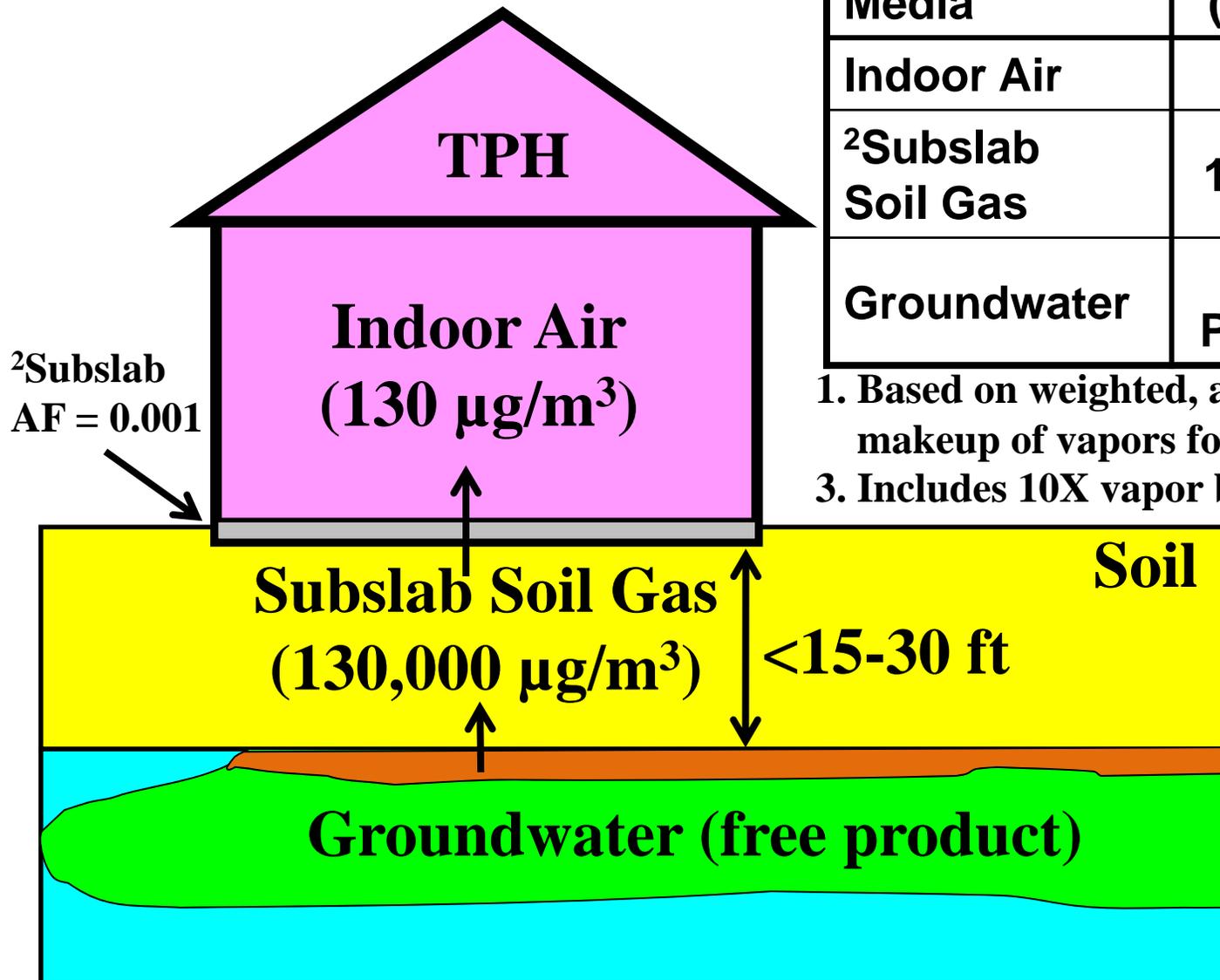
***Weighted RfC= 126 ug/m³**
Indoor Air_{res} = 130 ug/m³
Soil Gas_{res} = 130,000 ug/m³

Residential action levels noted; subslab soil gas

- **Dominated by higher-toxicity C9-C12 aliphatics;**
- **Used as default in HDOH vapor intrusion guidance;**
- **Apparent mix of gasoline and diesel vapors common at many petroleum sites.**

Diesel Odor Recognition Threshold:
0.5 to 1.0 ppmv (3,500 to 7,000 ug/m³)

HDOH Default TPH PVI Action Levels



Media	¹ TPH (µg/m ³)	Benzene (µg/m ³)
Indoor Air	130	0.31
² Subslab Soil Gas	130,000	310
Groundwater	Free Product	³ 1,900

1. Based on weighted, assumed carbon range makeup of vapors for diesel.
3. Includes 10X vapor biodegradation factor.

Fallacy #3: Just Check the Benzene...

3. Benzene or other individual aromatics always drive PVI risks over TPH.



- **No specific discussion of PVI risk drivers in either the USEPA or the ITRC guidance documents;**
- **Focus on benzene examples in documents and training workshops does not imply that that TPH (or other VOCs) can be ignored.**

Determining the PVI “Risk Driver”

- **Risk Driver = No significant risk from other chemicals when risk posed by this chemical is addressed;**
- **Example:**
 - **Soil contaminated with high concentrations of lead and very low concentrations of dioxins;**
 - **Cleanup to meet lead action levels also addresses dioxin contamination;**
 - **Cleanup to meet dioxin action levels only does not fully address lead contamination;**
 - **Lead is the “risk driver”;**
- **Could TPH in vapors still pose a PVI risk when benzene action level is met (i.e., can TPH “drive risk” over benzene)?**
- **At some ratio of TPH to Benzene TPH will begin to be the main risk driver.**

TPH:Benzene “Critical Threshold Ratio” (generic or site-specific)

$$\text{Critical Threshold Ratio} = \frac{\text{TPH Action Level}}{\text{Benzene Action Level}}$$

Default HDOH TPH:Benzene CTR

Media	¹ TPH Action Level ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	² Benzene Action Level ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	TPH:Benzene Critical Ratio
Indoor Air	130	0.31	420:1
Subslab Soil Gas	130,000	310	

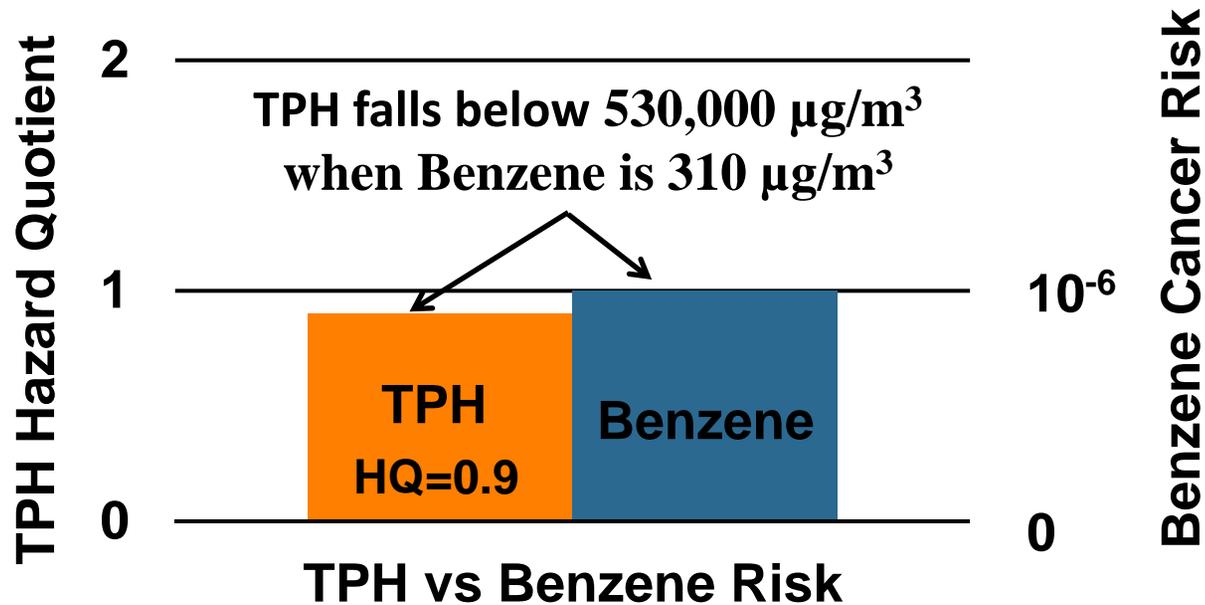
1. HDOH default; based on noncancer HQ = 1 (collect TPH carbon range data to develop site-specific TPH action levels);
2. Based on 10^{-6} excess cancer risk.

**Begin considering TPH as potential PVI risk driver
when site-specific TPH:Benzene ratio >420:1**

Site A PVI Risk Driver (AVGAS)

Critical TPH:Benzene Ratio = 1,710:1

Average Measured TPH:Benzene Ratio= 1,513:1

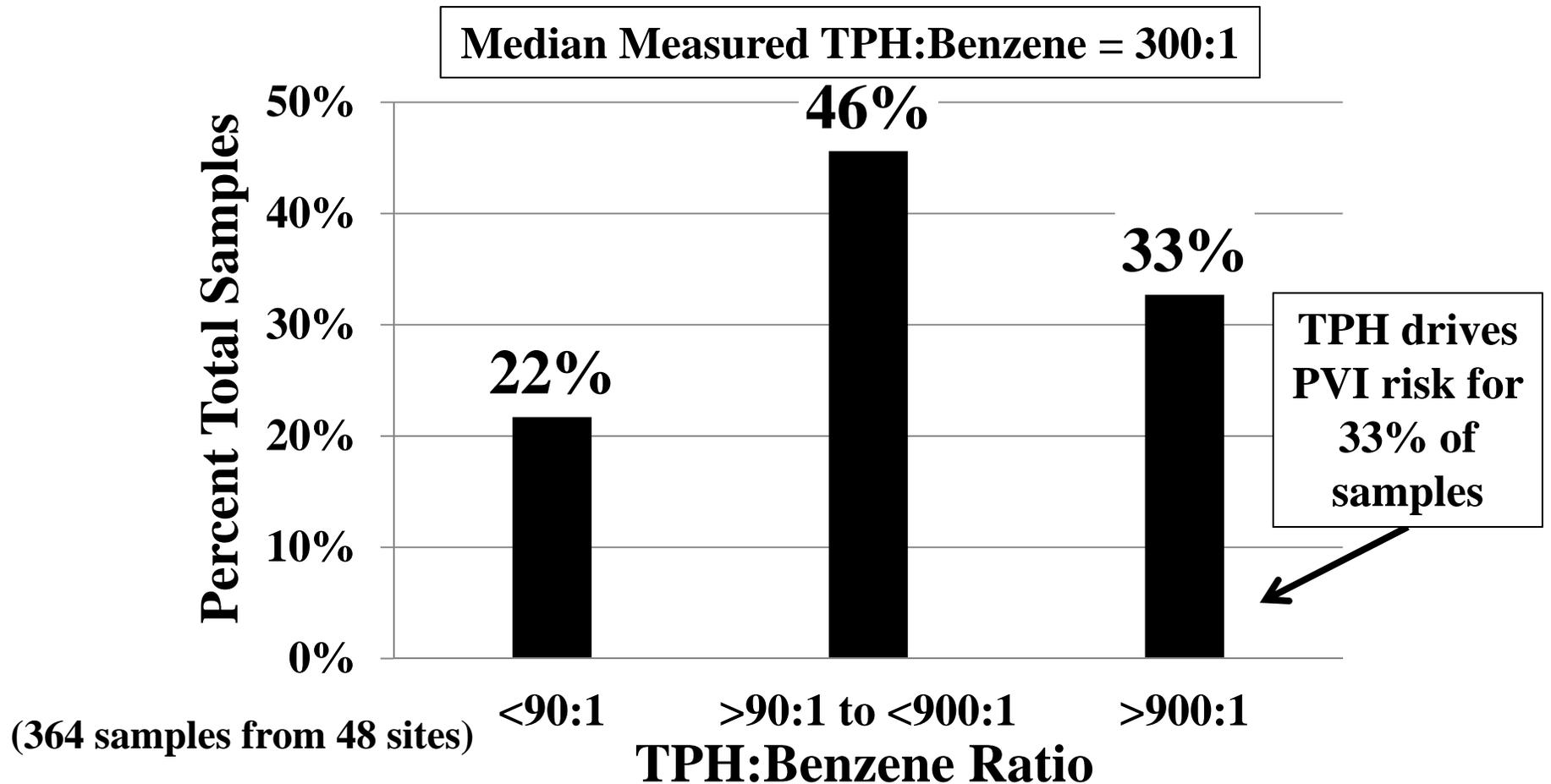


Based on TO-15 Summa Data

**Benzene adequate to evaluate vapor intrusion hazards
provided that a target 10^{-6} cancer risk is used.
(TPH noncancer $\text{HQ} < 1$ when benzene risk = 10^{-6})**

USEPA PVI Database Risk Drivers (gasoline sites)

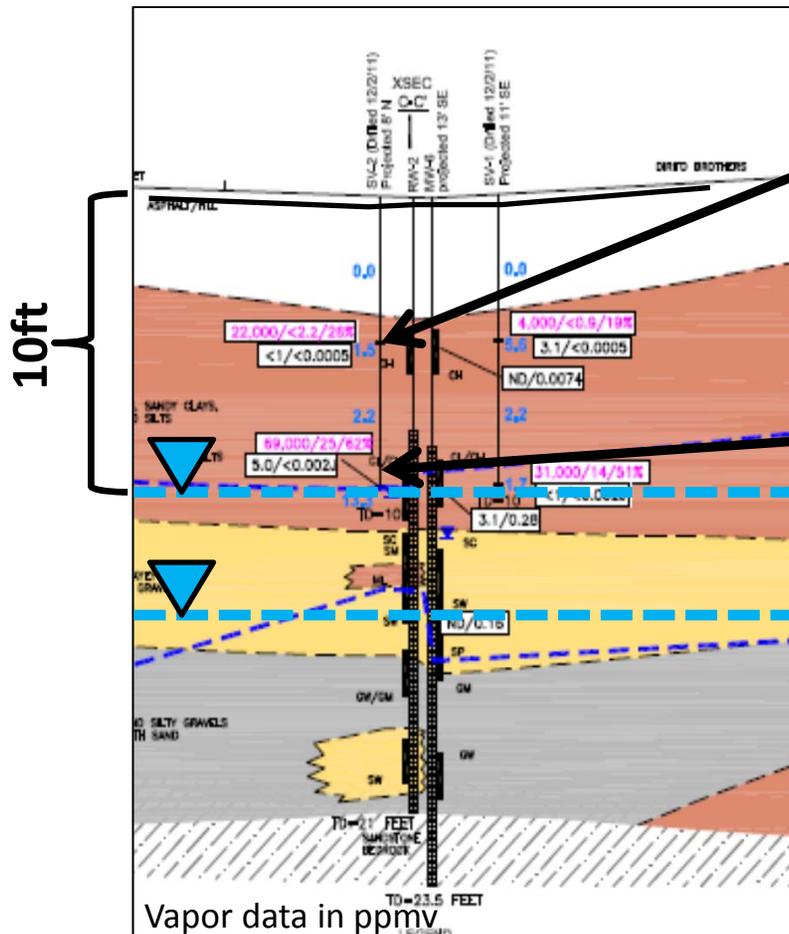
$$\text{TPH:Benzene Critical Threshold Ratio} = \frac{290 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3}{0.31 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3} = 900:1$$



- TPH noncancer HQ>1 possible for 79% of samples even when benzene risk = 10^{-5} ;
- Suggests important to use 10^{-6} benzene cancer risk for PVI screening and remediation.

Example Gasoline Site in California (Part 1)

- Groundwater-only source (low-benzene gasoline);
- Carbon range makeup: 80% C5-C8, 20% C9-C12
- TPH RfC = $308 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (indoor air screening level = $320 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$);
- Critical TPH:Benzenes Ratio = 1,000:1 ($320 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3/0.31 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$);
- TPH PVI risks over benzene.



5ft Above Source

TPHg = $99,000,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 Benzene = ND ($<7,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
 TPH:Benzenes = $>13,000:1$

At Source:

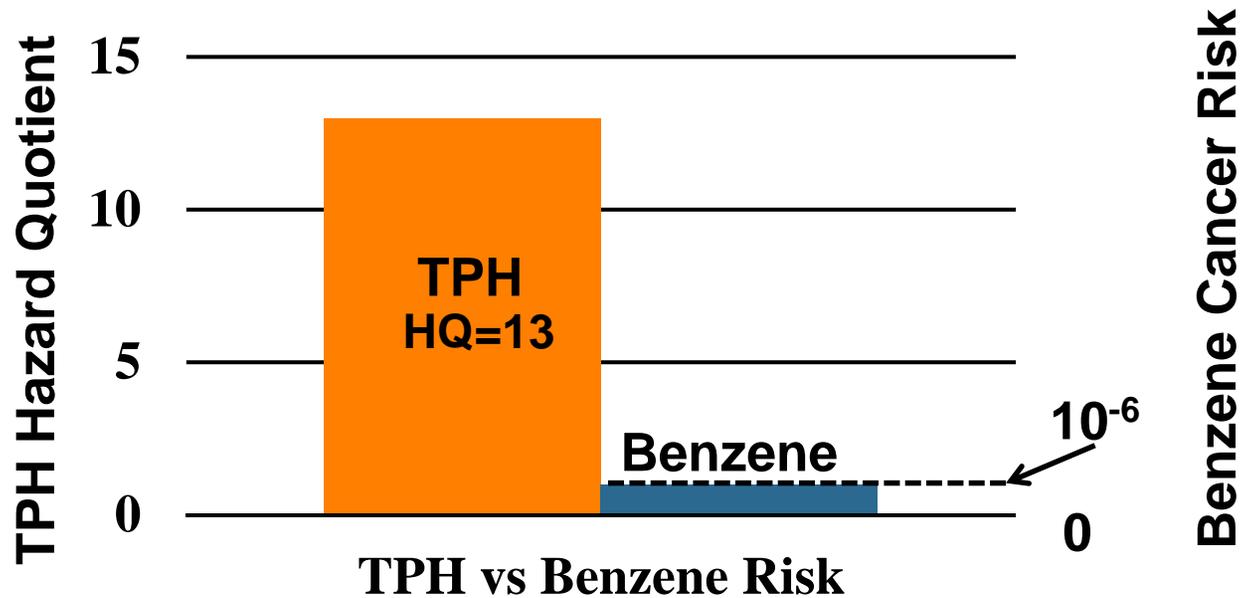
TPHg = $310,000,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 Benzene = $80,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 TPH:Benzenes = $4,000:1$

TPH predicted to still be
 4X to 13X above PVI
 action level when benzene
 PVI action level met.

Site D PVI Risk Driver (JP-4)

Critical TPH:Benzene Ratio = 710:1

Average Measured TPH:Benzene Ratio = 9,100:1



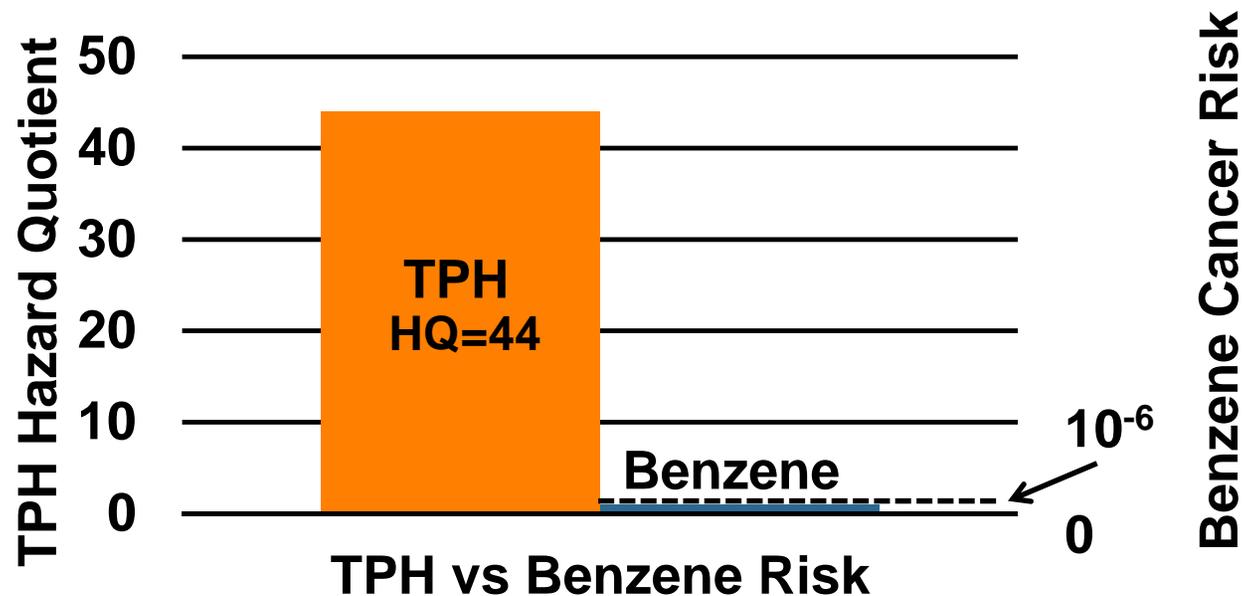
Based on TO-15 Summa Data

**TPH *always* drives potential vapor intrusion hazards.
(TPH noncancer HQ>1 even when benzene risk = 10^{-6})**

Site E PVI Risk Driver (Diesel)

Critical TPH:Benzene Ratio = 410:1

Average Measured TPH:Benzene Ratio = 54,000:1



Based on TO-15 Summa Data

**TPH *always* drives potential vapor intrusion hazards.
(TPH noncancer HQ>1 even when benzene risk = 10^{-6})**

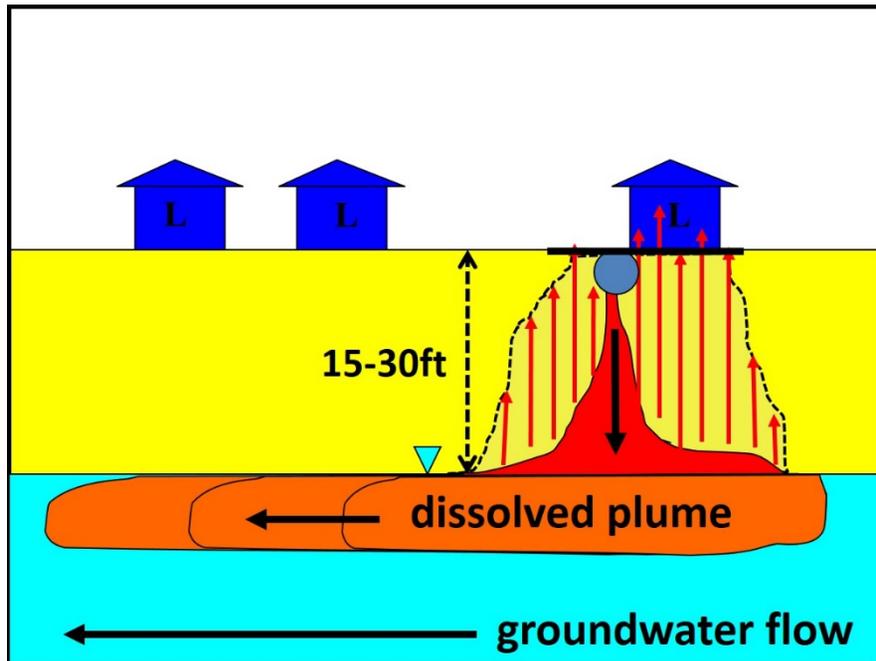
TPH vs Benzene as Vapor Intrusion Risk

	Vapor Intrusion Risk Driver	
	TPH Drives Risk	*Benzene Drives Risk
Site/Fuel Type		
USEPA PVI Database (mostly gasoline)	X	X
Site A (mostly AVGAS)	X	X
Site D (mostly JP-4)	X	
Site E (mostly diesel)	X	

*Assuming a target, 10^{-6} cancer risk is used for benzene.

Fallacy #4: TPH Vapors Quickly Gone

4. TPH in vapors will not migrate >2-3ft from source above potential levels of concern for PVI (vs 15ft for benzene).



Hypothesis:

- Aliphatics more quickly removed from vapor plume by degradation;
- Aromatics (e.g., benzene) ultimately drive risk away from source;
- Easily testable in the field.

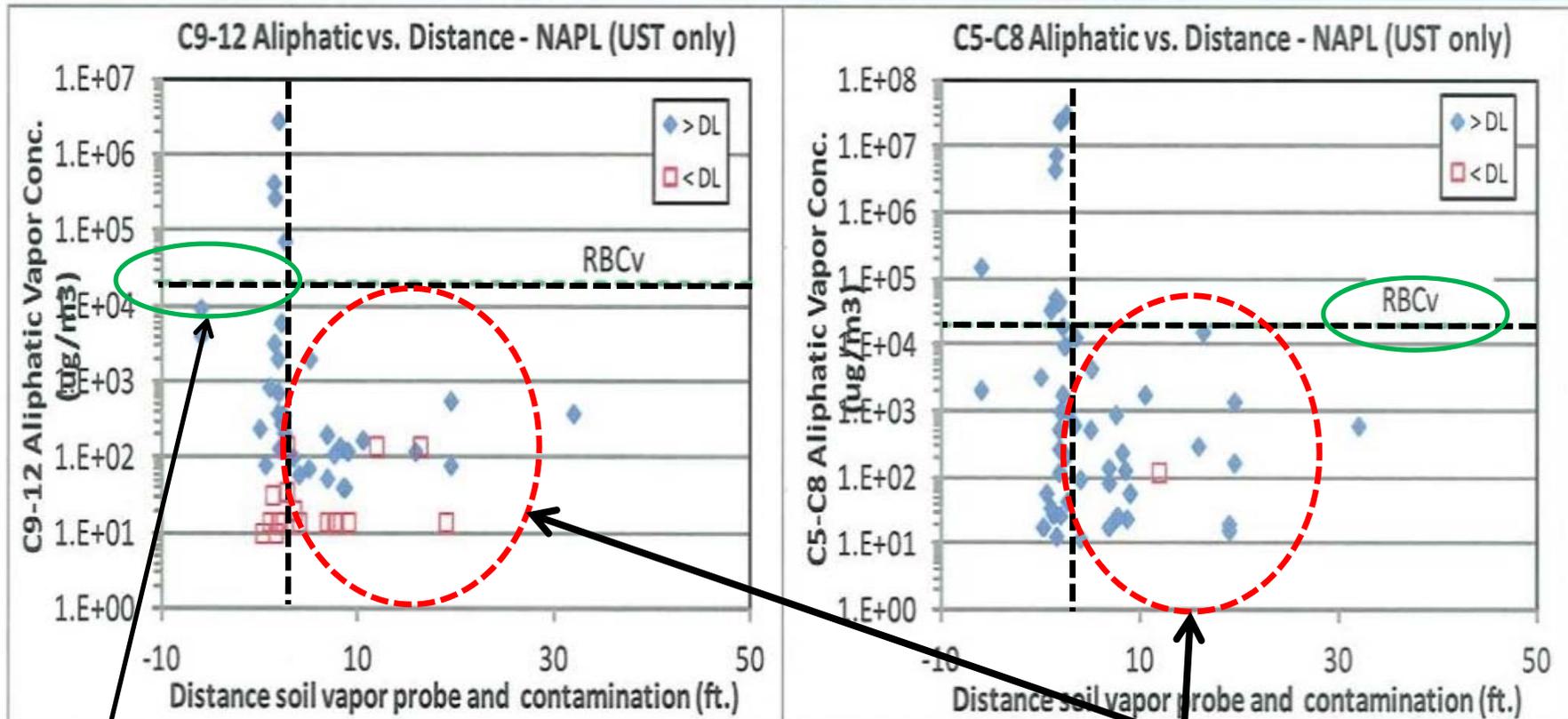
TPH Vertical Separation Distance

- Assumes *TPH subslab PVI screening level = 20,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$* (Not included in ITRC or USEPA PVI documents)
- 2-3ft vertical separation distance proposed in early drafts of ITRC PVI guidance and referenced publications;
 - Based on very *limited field data*;
 - Models that assume a *higher, relative degradation rate for aliphatic vs aromatic compounds* in vapor plumes;
 - Predicts *relative enrichment* of vapors in BTEX away from source (i.e., TPH:Benzene ratio *decreases* as aliphatics are more rapidly removed);
 - 2-3ft vertical separation distance not supported by field data;
 - BTEX enriched vapor plumes *not observed* in field data (*opposite* suggested in Brewer et al 2013 but also limited data).

Field Data vs TPH Vertical Separation Distance

(Hers & Truesdale 2012; Lahvis & Hers 2013)

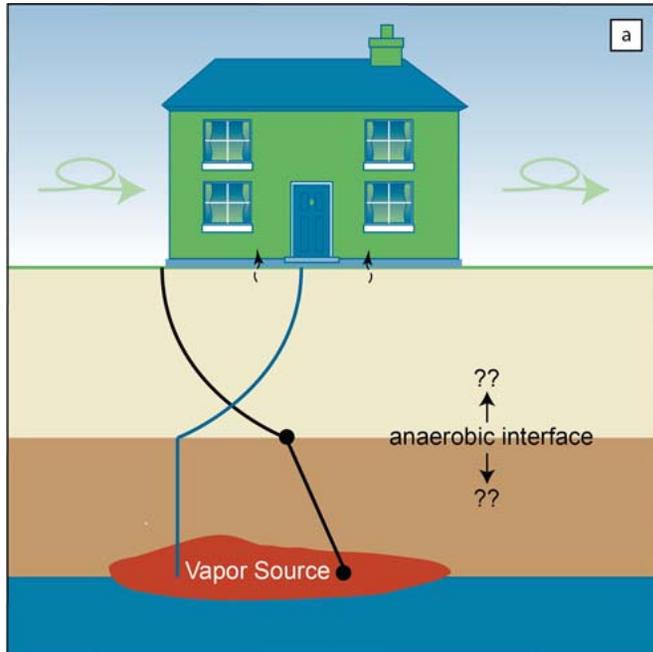
VERTICAL DISTANCE METHOD – NAPL (UST sites)



- TPH PVI screening level = 20,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (HDOH = 130,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
- Not discussed in ITRC PVI guidance.

- Very little data >3ft from source,
- Corresponding BTEX data not presented;
- Not reliable for generic separation distances

Model-Based Separation Distances (e.g., Biovapor) (refer ITRC PVI webinar training)



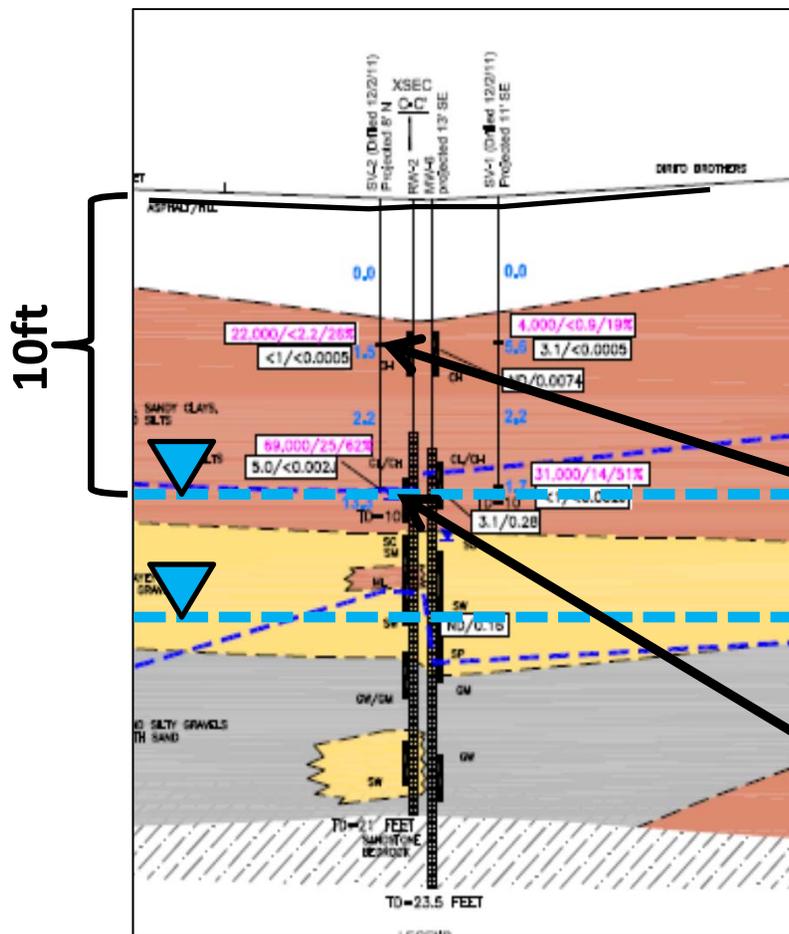
(from ITRC 2015 PVI webinar)

Vapor Intrusion Models

- Models are great learning tool;
- Use to assist development of remedial actions and long-term management plans;
- “Models tell you exactly what you tell them to tell you.”
- Significant variability within and between sites;
- Model results can be highly inaccurate;
- Always confirm F&T PVI models with field data.

TPH Soil Vapor Field Data

- HODH field study: TPH significantly $>130,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ five- to ten-plus feet from source (free product present);
- Similar observations at other sites in Hawai'i and from mainland;
- Default TPH vertical separation distance of 2-3ft isn't protective;
- 15-30ft separation distance appears adequate for most sites.



Example California Gasoline Site (Part 2)

- TPHg significantly above 20,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 5ft from source;
- Apparent relative *enrichment* of TPH with respect to benzene with distance.

5ft Above Source

TPHg = 99,000,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 Benzene = ND (<7,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
 TPH:Benzenes = >13,000:1

At Source:

TPHg = 310,000,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 Benzene = 80,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 TPH:Benzenes = 4,000:1

Where's the Benzene?

- **Preferential biodegradation of aromatics relative to aliphatics (inconsistent with laboratory studies)**
- **Preferential removal of aromatics from vapors due to partitioning into soil moisture (higher solubility);**
- **Original release of low-benzene gasoline;**
- **Most likely latter based on lack of consistent trend of relative *aliphatic:aromatic enrichment* in vapors away from source areas (limited data reviewed).**

Benzene Vertical Separation Distance Applies to TPH for Screening Purposes

**ITRC PVI Guidance: Appendix F (F.12):
“Based on reviews of the PVI database,
maximum vertical screening distances derived
for other individual, indicator compounds (e.g.,
benzene) are also considered to be adequate for
noncompound-specific TPH fractions.”**

PVI Summary and Implications

- ***Natural degradation* significantly reduces vapor intrusion risks from petroleum in comparison to chlorinated solvents;**
- ***Shallow (<15ft) petroleum free product* in soil or on groundwater can pose potential PVI risks;**
- **Vapor plumes from *jet fuels and diesel* are lower concentration than for gasoline, but can still pose potential PVI concerns;**
- **Petroleum vapors are dominated by *TPH aliphatics*;**
- **Risk-based *indoor air and soil gas action (screening) levels* can be developed for TPH (site-specific or generic);**
- ***Benzene usually drives PVI* risk for older releases of gasoline (high benzene);**
- ***TPH usually drives PVI risk* for middle distillates and newer low-benzene gasoline releases;**
- ***Small pockets of residual contamination* do not pose a long-term, PVI risk regardless of concentration (limited mass);**
- **PVI concerns can typically be addressed by *removal of gross* contamination.**

Questions (use Zoom comment box)?

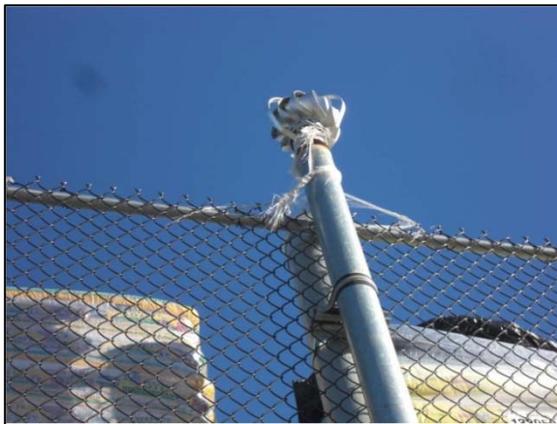
PVI Remediation: Former Gasoline Tank Farm (Honolulu)



Treatment of Grossly Contaminated Soil



Liquid Boot membrane.



Passive subslab venting.



Final Lowe's Store