



THE LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

# Inorganic Arsenic Species Characterization and Monitoring

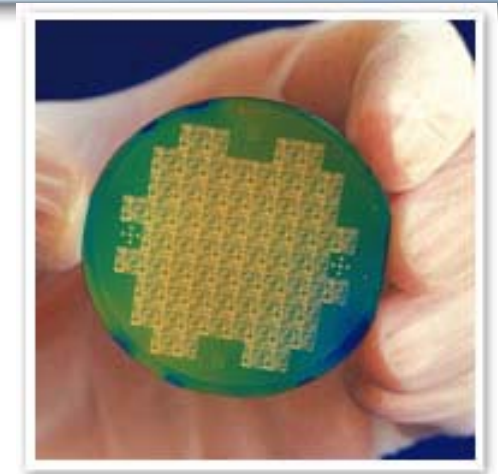
**Mark L. Bruce Ph.D.**  
**Technical Director**

**Engineers' Society of Western Penn,  
Business of Brownfields**

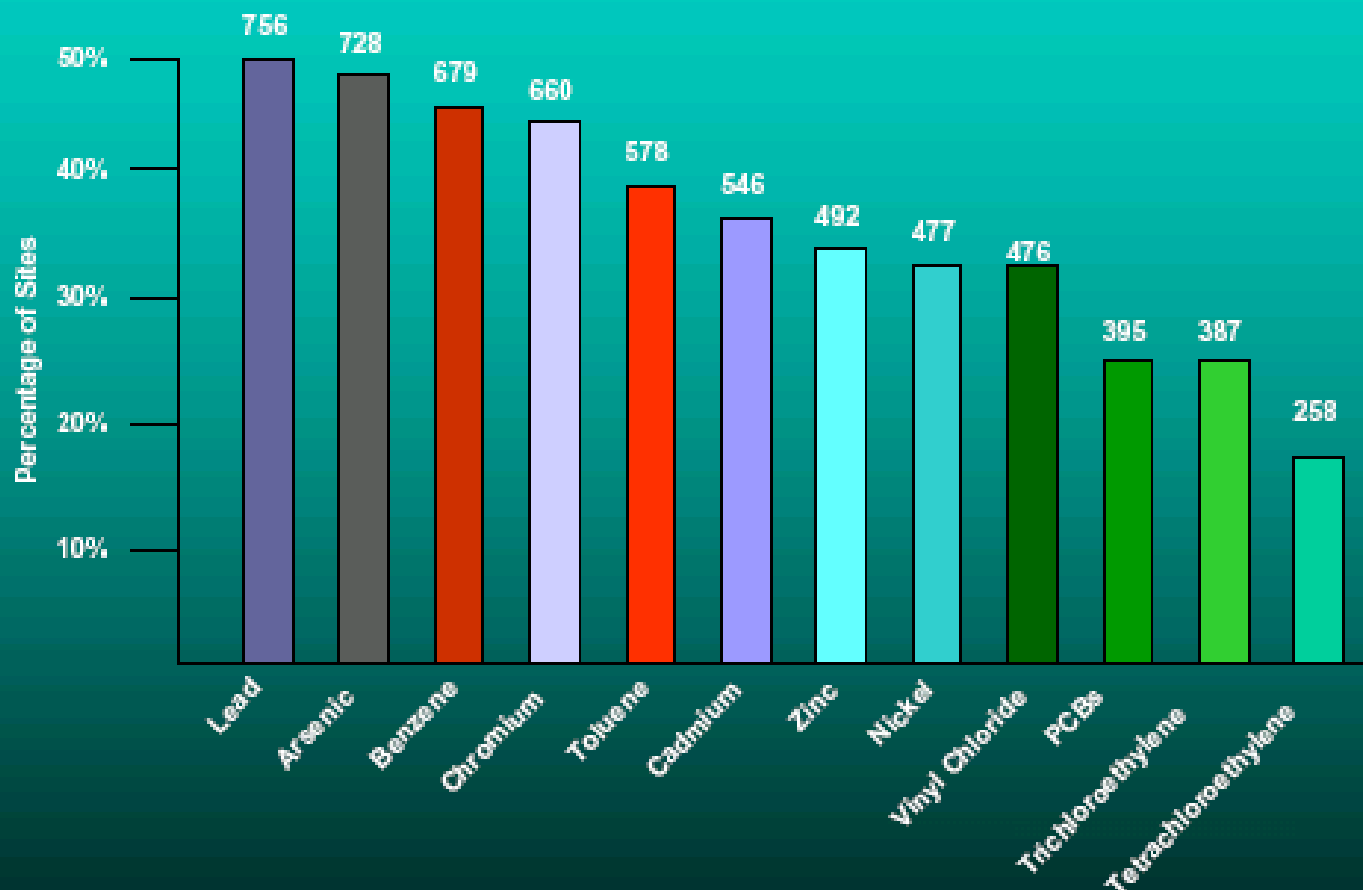
# Arsenic Affects Health Negatively



# Many Ways to Release Arsenic

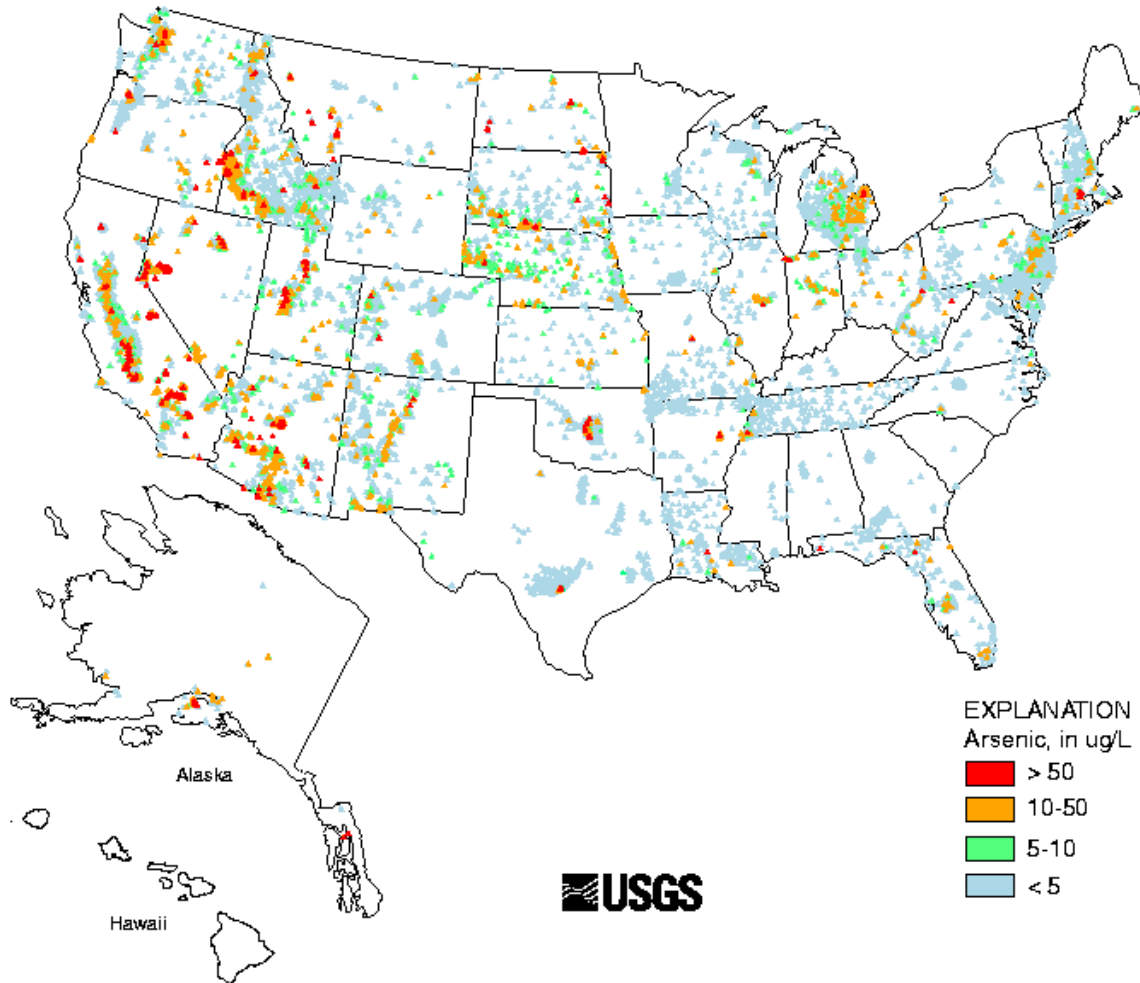


## Arsenic is Common at Superfund NPL Sites



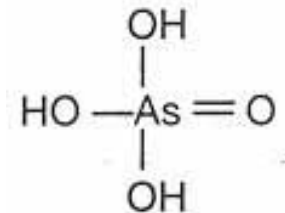
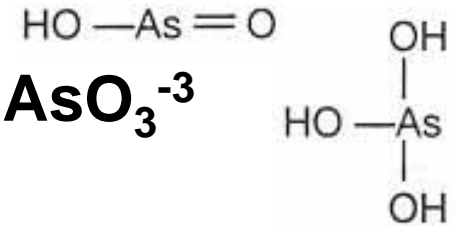
Source: Extrapolated from U.S. EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response. CERCLIS 3 Database. April 2001.  
NPL = National Priorities List

# Arsenic is Common in U.S. Water Supplies



# Inorganic Arsenic Species Found in the Environment

- **Arsenite ( $\text{As}^{3+}$ )**
  - ~  $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{AsO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{HAsO}_3^{2-}$ , and  $\text{AsO}_3^{3-}$
- **Arsenate ( $\text{As}^{5+}$ )**
  - ~  $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_4$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{AsO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HAsO}_4^{2-}$ , and  $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}$
- **More protonation at low pH**
- **$\text{As}^{3+}$  under reducing conditions**
  - ~ flooded soils
- **$\text{As}^{5+}$  under oxidizing conditions**
  - ~ oxygen-rich environments & well-drained soils
- **$\text{As}^{3+}$  more toxic than  $\text{As}^{5+}$**



# Arsenic Regulatory Limits and Goals Drive Cleanups

- **Total arsenic**
  - ~ **Water**
    - potable : 10 ug/L US EPA MCL
    - potable : 4 ng/L Final Public Health Goal - California
    - tap : 45 ng/L EPA Region 9 PRG target
  - ~ **Soil**
    - residential : 390 ug/kg EPA Region 9 PRG
- **Arsenic (III)**
  - ~ **Marine water (chronic) - 36 ug/L AWQC**
- **Modified 7063 Reporting Limits**
  - ~ **water - 2 ug/L As<sup>3+</sup> or As<sup>5+</sup>**
  - ~ **soil - 100-400 ug/kg As<sup>3+</sup> or As<sup>5+</sup>**

## Arsenic Speciation Facilitates Site Assessments

- **Ground water well**
- **Landfills**
- **Co-generation facility**
- **Steel mills**
- **Foundry**
- **Refinery**
- **Lead smelter**
- **Processing plant**

- **Site description**
  - ~ Residential drinking water well
  - ~ New England
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Characterize arsenic content
  - ~ Toxicity
  - ~ Selection of As removal system

- **Site description**
  - ~ Active paper & fly ash landfill
  - ~ Monitoring wells > 10 ug/L total As
  - ~ Nearby commercial & residential development
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Mobility
  - ~ Toxicity

- **Site description**
  - ~ Closed landfill near flood plain of river
  - ~ Industrial area
  - ~ Monitoring wells in wetlands surrounding landfill
  - ~ Reducing environment
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Source determination
  - ~ Mobility

- **Site description**
  - ~ Closed landfill
  - ~ Perimeter ground water monitoring wells
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Source determination
  - ~ Mobility
- **Also monitor redox parameters**

- **Site description**
  - ~ **Waste fired boiler**
    - Wood, tires, landfill gas
    - CCA treated wood waste
    - Stack gas waste
- **NPDES exceedance for total As**
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ **Fate & transport**
  - ~ **Bioremediation management**
  - ~ **Source determination**

- **Site description**
  - ~ **Scrap yard at steel mill**
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ **Distinguish between risk levels for arsenite and arsenate**
    - **Cancer endpoint**
  - ~ **Mobility**
  - ~ **Availability**

- **Site description**
  - ~ **Slag waste disposal area**
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ **Risk assessment**
    - **Cancer vs non-cancer endpoint**
    - **Reg 9 PRG change (late 2004)**
      - **Non-cancer: 22 mg/kg to 0.39 mg/kg**
      - **Cancer: 0.39 mg/kg**

- **Site description**
  - ~ **Closed waste pile**
  - ~ **Capped above ground landfill**
  - ~ **Sand from ceramics production**
  - ~ **Perimeter monitoring wells**
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ **Risk assessment**
  - ~ **Supplement to total and dissolved arsenic data**

- **Site description**
  - ~ **Operating refinery**
  - ~ **Ground water monitoring wells**
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ **Risk assessment**
  - ~ **Natural attenuation**
  - ~ **Mobility**

- **Site description**
  - ~ Century old lead smelter
  - ~ Industrial site, nearby residential area
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Source determination
  - ~ Bioavailability
  - ~ Risk analysis
- **Also monitor particle size**

- **Site description**
  - ~ Mineral processing plant
  - ~ Arsenic contaminated sludge pit
  - ~ Ground water leaching, large plume
- **Arsenic speciation drivers**
  - ~ Monitor oxidative remediation process
  - ~ Mobility
- **Also monitor DO and ORP**

## Target Analytes for modified 7063

- Inorganic  $\text{As}^{3+}$
- Inorganic  $\text{As}^{5+}$
- Water soluble
  - ~ does not include insoluble species  
such as  $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$  and  $\text{As}_2\text{S}_5$
- Does not include  
organo-arsenic species



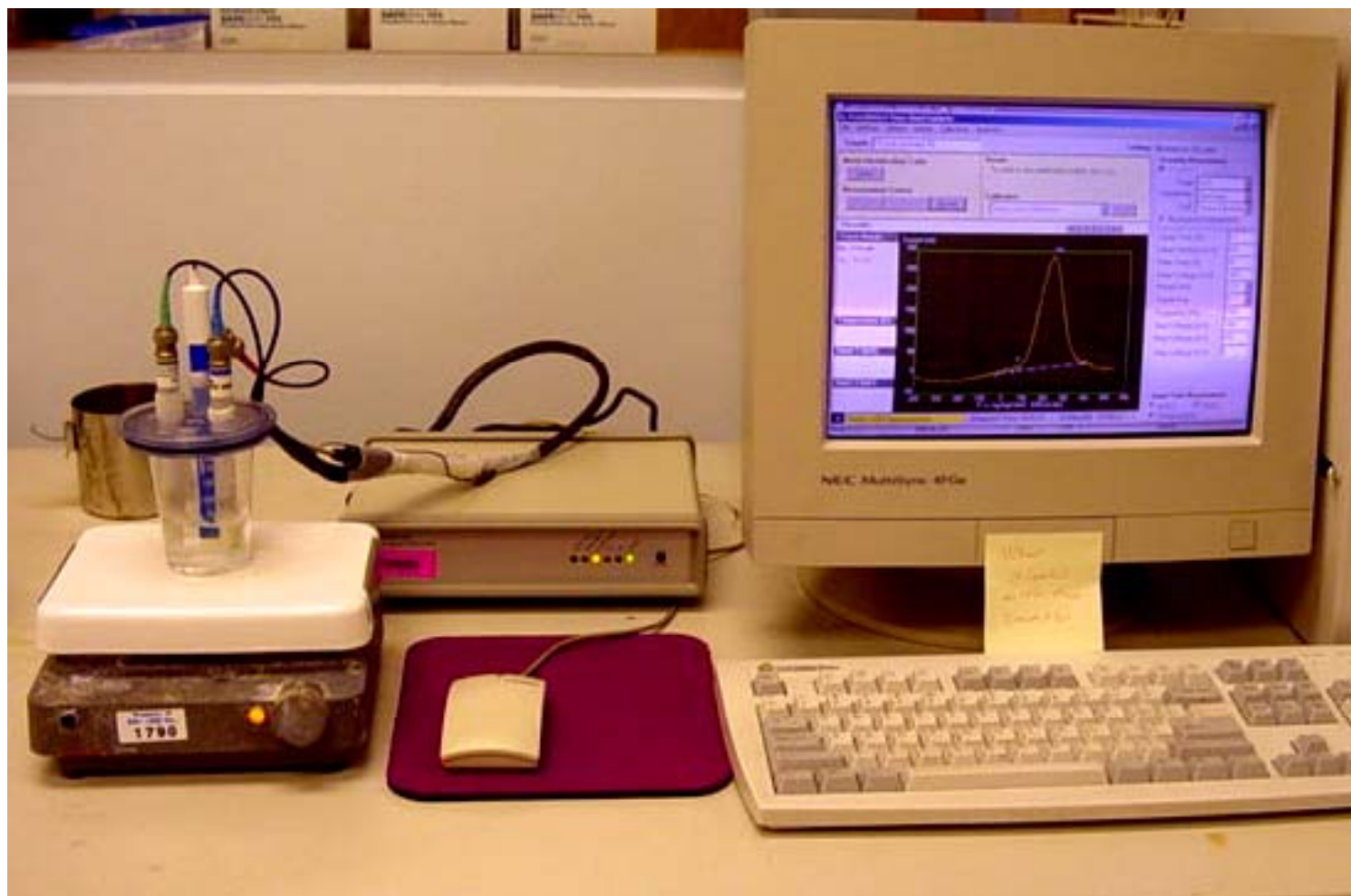
- **EPRI EA-4641 (Battelle)**
  - ~ **Speciation of Selenium and Arsenic in Natural Waters and Sediments**
- **EPA 1632 (OW)**
  - ~ **Chemical Speciation of Arsenic in Water and Tissue by Hydride Generation Quartz Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry**
- **EPA SW-846 7063 (OSW)**
  - ~ **Arsenic In Aqueous Samples And Extracts By Anodic Stripping Voltammetry (ASV)**

- **Water**
  - ~ 1632A
    - pH <2 with HCl\* in the field
    - refrigerated 4°C
    - 28 days
- **Soil/sediment**
  - ~ EPRI EA-4641
    - refrigerated 4°C
    - 28 days

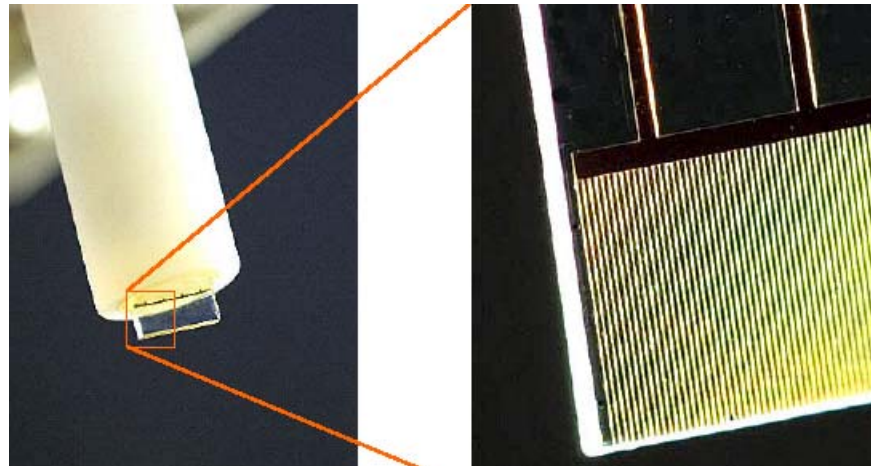
- **Water**
  - ~ **As<sup>3+</sup> (7063)**
    - add HCl electrolyte
  - ~ **As<sup>5+</sup> by difference (Trace Detect & 7063)**
    - add HCl electrolyte
    - reduce to As<sup>3+</sup> with sodium thiosulfate
- **Cleanup (optional)**
  - ~ **Copper remover cartridge**
  - ~ **non-polar SPE to remove electrode fouling organics**

- **Soil / sediment**
  - ~ leach with 0.1 M  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$
  - ~ centrifuge, decant
  - ~ leach with 0.1 M  $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4$
  - ~ combine leachates
  
  - ~  $\text{As}^{3+}$  (EPRI EA 4641 & 7063)
    - add HCl electrolyte
  - ~  $\text{As}^{5+}$  by difference (EPRI & TD & 7063)
    - add HCl electrolyte
    - reduce to  $\text{As}^{3+}$  with sodium thiosulfate

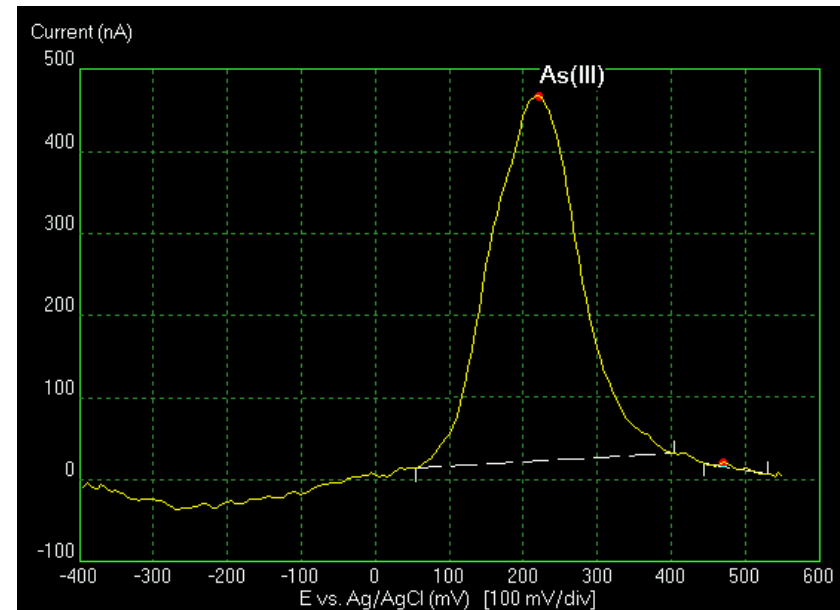
# TraceDetect Nano-Band Explorer



- **Plate gold film electrode**
  - ~ polish
  - ~ rinse
  - ~ plate 60 sec in gold solution while stirring

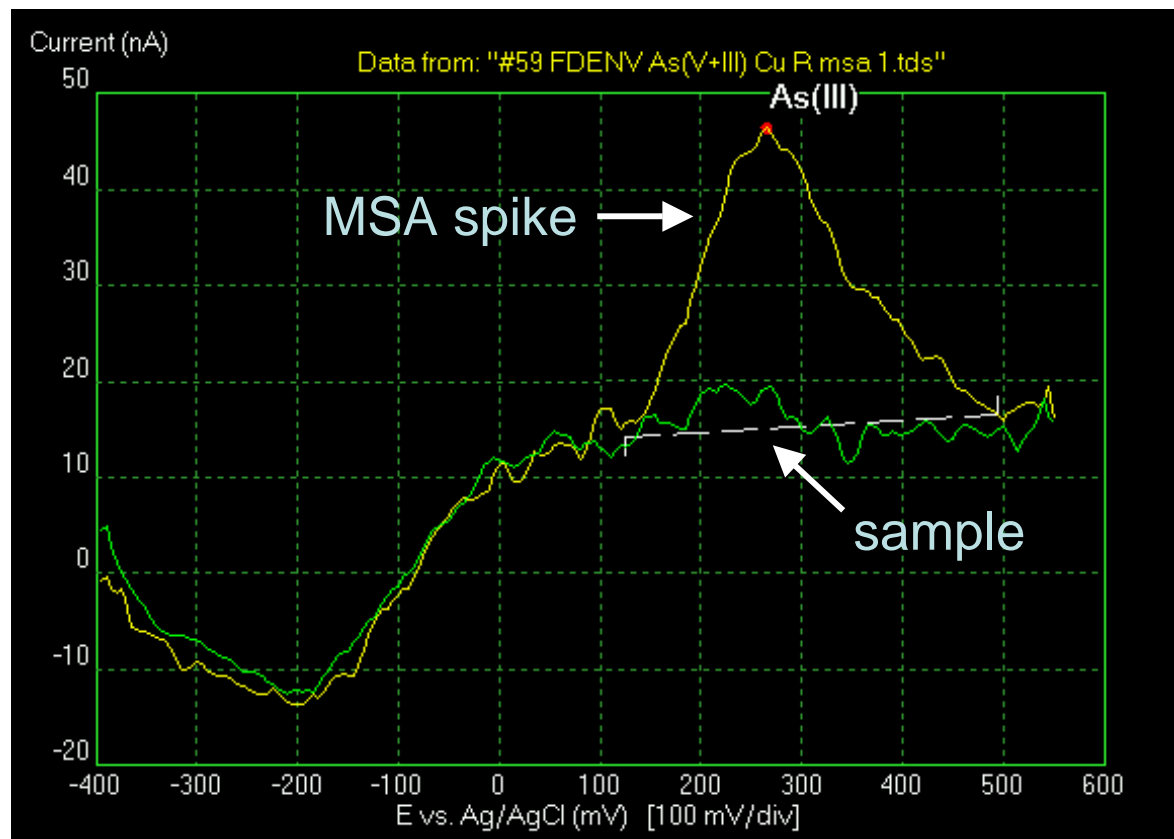


- Analyze standard or sample
  - ~ constant stirring
  - ~ plate  $\text{As}^{3+}$  at - 400 mV
  - ~ strip electrode by sweeping potential (-400 to +550 mV)
  - ~ record current (nA)
  - ~ Arsenic peak at ~250 mV
  - ~ peak height proportional to concentration

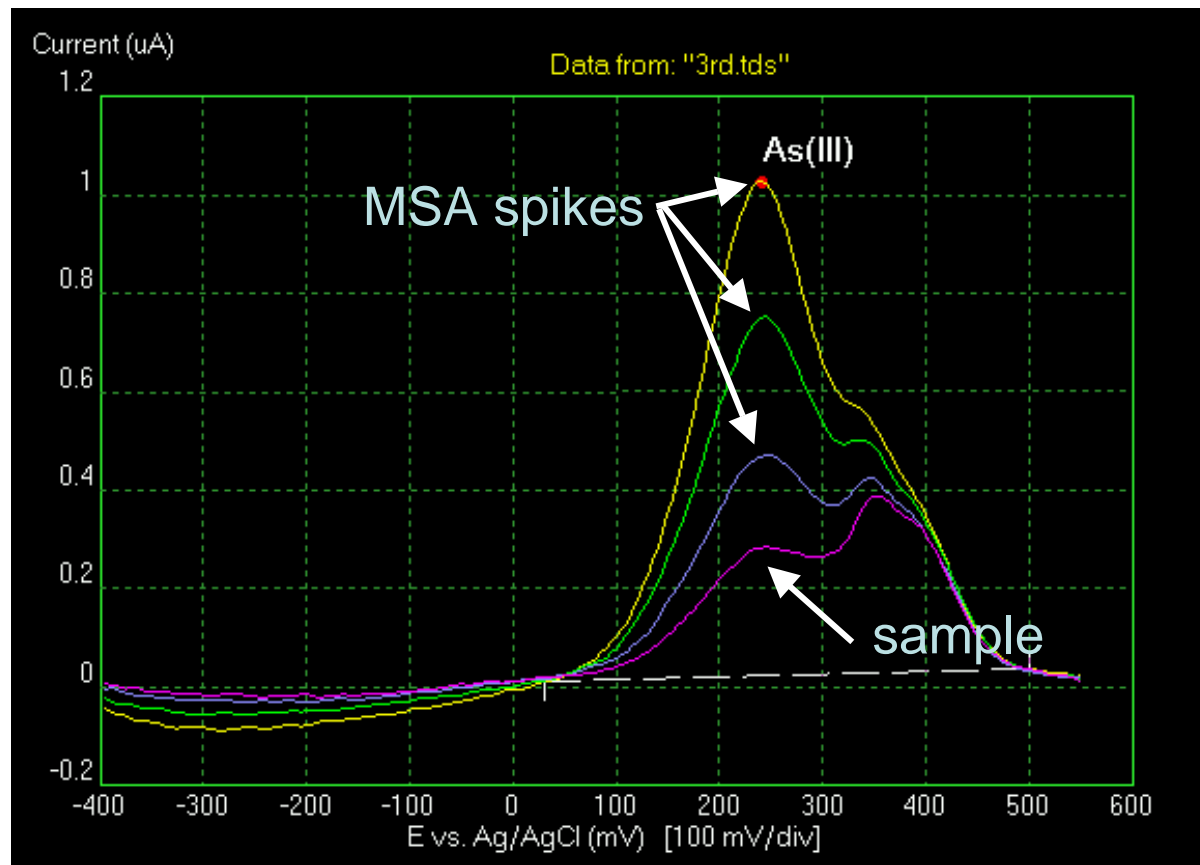


- **Method of Standard Additions (MSA)**
  - ~ rather than Initial Cal and CCVs
  - ~ 3 point MSA for samples with analyte present
  - ~ 1 point MSA for non-detect samples at RL
  - ~ individual sample data sets stand on their own
  - ~ some samples can not support both  $As^{3+}$  &  $As^{5+}$
- **Reporting Limit Check Standard**
  - ~ after samples with low MSA recovery

- sample 1 - ND
- sample 1 + RL MSA spike (1 ppb)



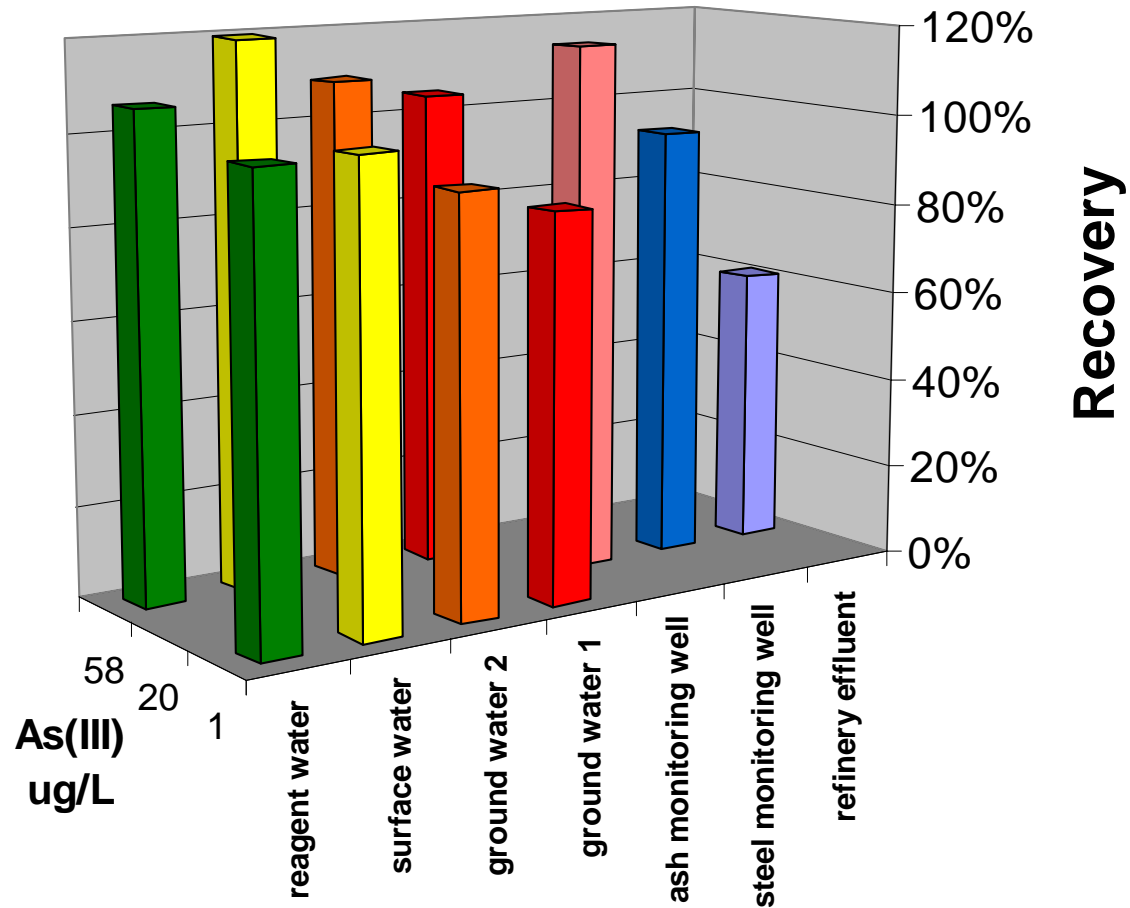
- sample 2 - low level hit
- MSA spikes



# Arsenic (III) Method Performance

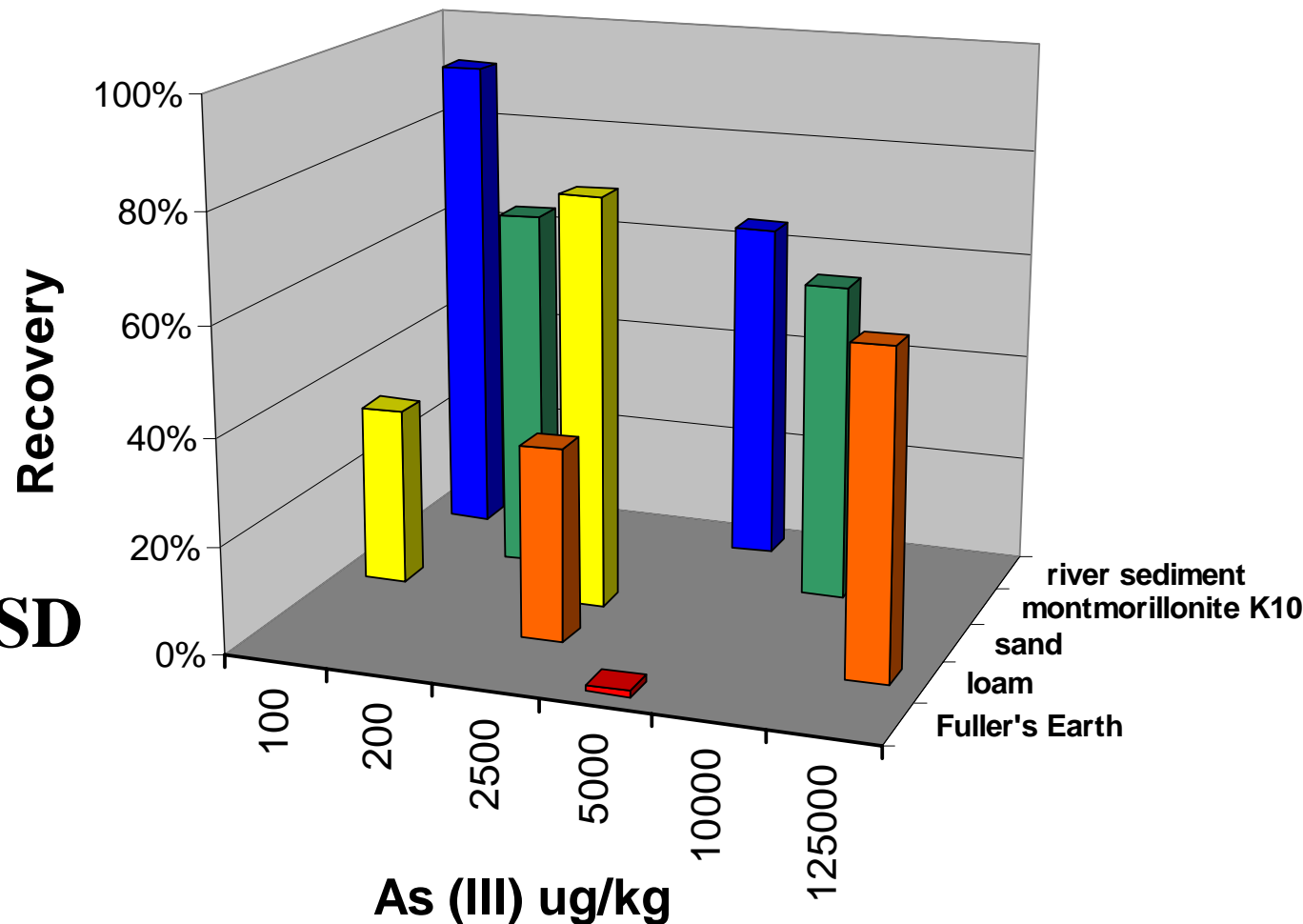
- Water Sample Matrix Spikes**

**avg**  
**102% R**  
**6.1% RSD**



- Soil/Sediment Sample Matrix Spikes**

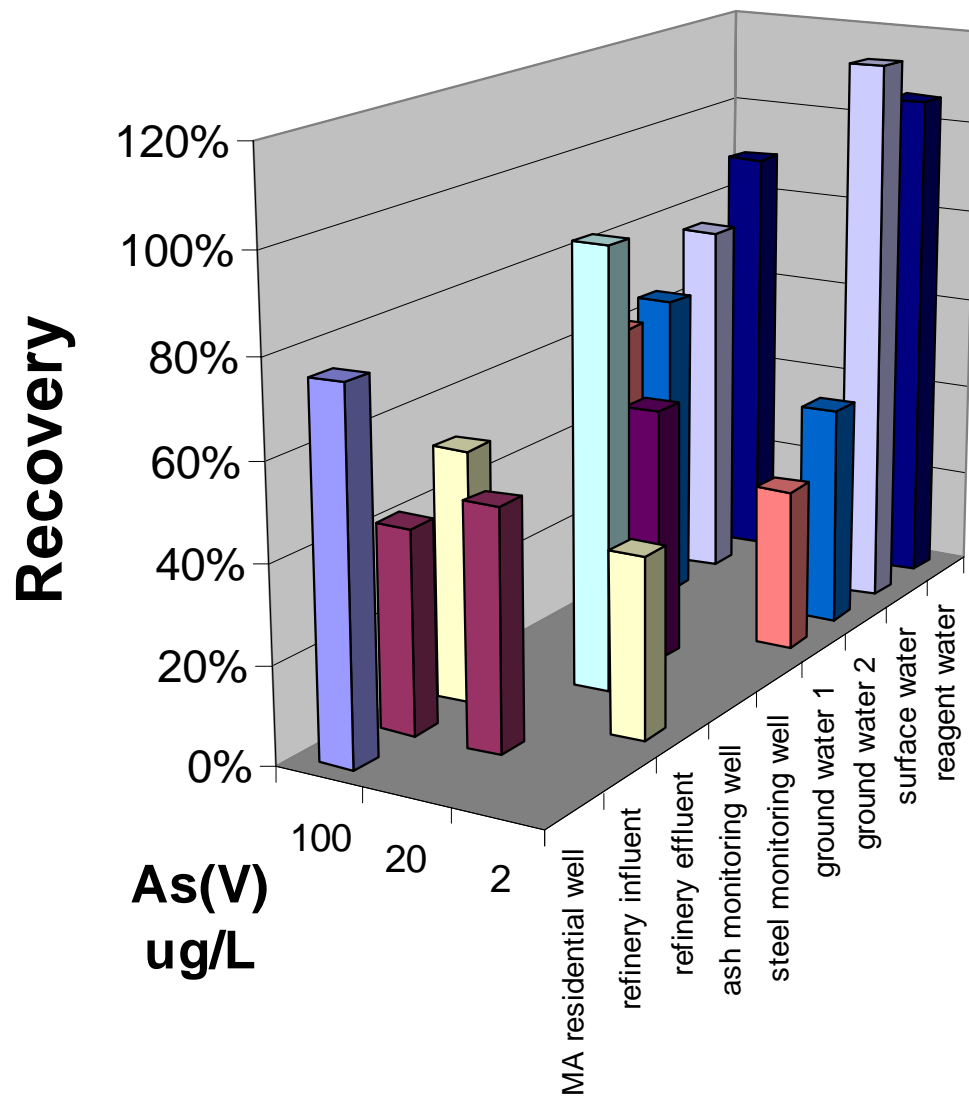
**avg  
61% R  
10.3% RSD**



# Arsenic (V) Method Performance

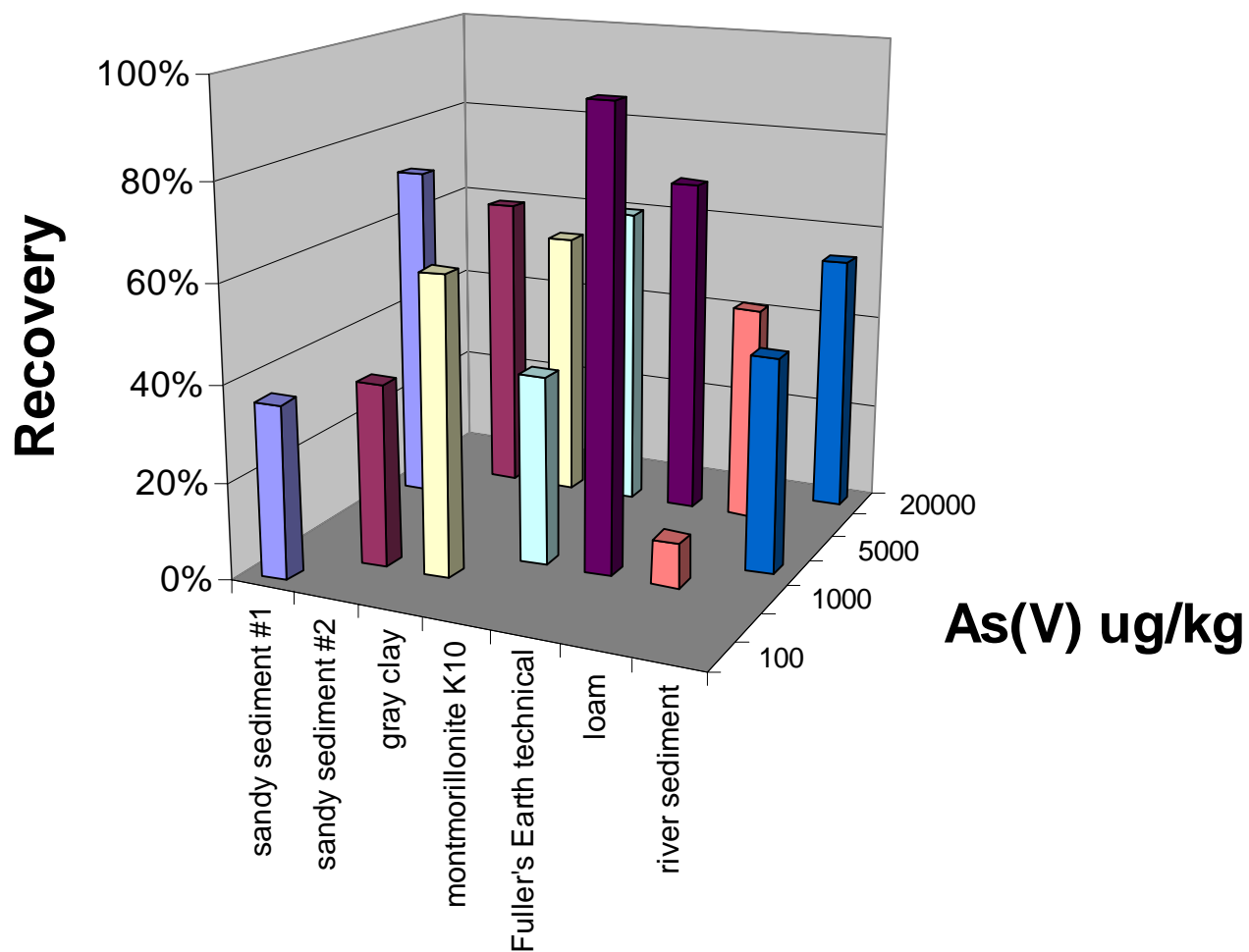
- **Water Sample Matrix Spikes**

**avg**  
**67% R**  
**8.9% RSD**



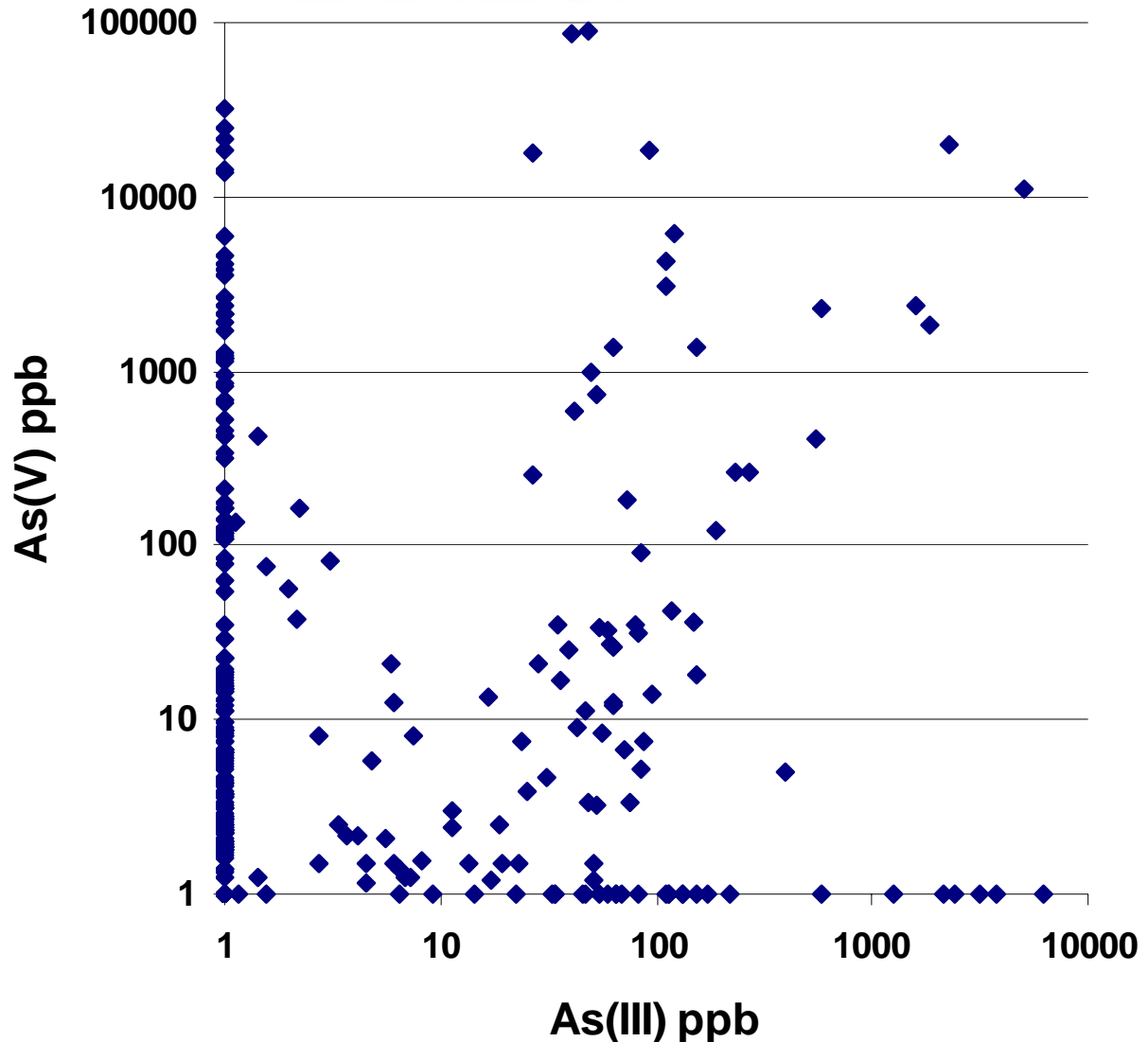
- Soil/Sediment Sample Matrix Spikes**

**avg**  
**53% R**  
**8.2% RSD**



# Wide range of Species Results

- ~500 samples
- No As(III) in most
- No As(V) in some



- **Arsenic Fact Sheet**

~ <http://www.in.gov/isdh/programs/environmental/factsheets/arsenic.htm>

- **CLU-IN Contaminant Focus**

~ <http://clu-in.org/contaminantfocus/default.focus/sec/arsenic/cat/Overview/>

- **Many uses of species data**
  - ~ **Monitoring, fate & transport, risk assessment**
- **Anodic stripping voltammetry of water**
  - ~ **direct determination of As<sup>3+</sup>**
    - reporting limit: 2 ug/L
  - ~ **As<sup>5+</sup> determined by chemical reduction and difference**
    - reporting limit: 2 ug/L
- **Soil/Sediment extracted**
  - ~ **H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> overnight leaching**
    - reporting limit: 100-400 ug/kg
- **Method of Standard Additions**
- **EPA OSW Inorganic workgroup**
  - ~ **Submitted for inclusion in SW-846**

**“The toxicity and fate of waterborne metal contaminants was shown to be highly dependent on chemical form, and it was realized that analytical measurement of these forms would be more meaningful than data for total element concentrations.”**



**Graeme Batley**

**(1989)**

Chief Research Scientist

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

New South Wales, Australia





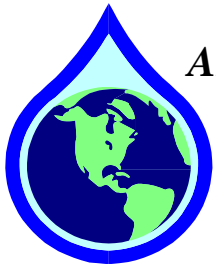
# Acknowledgments



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.



*Analytical and Environmental Services, Inc.*



SCS ENGINEERS



New  
England  
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Technologies

NEET

*EAGON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*



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Rev: 8/6/07

## **TestAmerica North Canton Inorganic Arsenic Speciation Analysis (Anodic Stripping Voltammetry)**

TestAmerica North Canton provides analysis of arsenic (III) and arsenic (V) in water and aqueous extracts of soil and sediment by anodic stripping voltammetry, a new analytical technique for analysis of inorganic arsenic species at parts per billion (ppb) levels.

### **Advantages of Analysis by Method 7063 - modified**

#### ***Low Detection Limits –***

As(III) Water	RL: 2 ug/L	/ MDL: 1.1 ug/L
Soil	RL: 400 ug/kg	/ MDL: 56 ug/kg
As(V) Water	RL: 2 ug/L	/ MDL: 0.85 ug/L
Soil	RL: 400 ug/kg	/ MDL: 42 ug/kg

Reporting limits are similar to total arsenic limits by ICP/MS. This method is sensitive enough to meet most total arsenic and arsenic (III) action levels.

#### ***Improves identification of environmental hazard***

- Arsenic (III) is the most toxic arsenic species commonly found in the environment, and is considered a toxic pollutant across most regulatory programs (air, water, hazardous waste & pollution prevention). It is persistent and harmful to human health and the environment at low levels.
- Speciation analysis can help provide a more accurate risk assessment and facilitate fate and transport evaluations.
- Method 7063-mod differentiates between arsenic (III) and other forms of arsenic. Since many risk calculations assume total arsenic concentrations to be equivalent to arsenic (III), the costs of cleanup can be lowered by proving otherwise.

### **Limitations of the Arsenic Speciation by ASV Method**

***Sampling procedure*** – Sample exposure to air should be minimized to avoid oxidation of arsenic (III) to arsenic (V). Preservation with HCl reduces co-precipitation with iron oxides. (Do not use oxidizers such as HNO<sub>3</sub>.)

***Interferences*** – Antimony and bismuth are chemically similar to arsenic resulting in positive bias. High organic content may suppress sensitivity, requiring sample dilution. High copper concentrations may over ride lower arsenic concentrations requiring sample cleanup.

### **More information**

***Sample volume*** – Water: One 1-Liter plastic bottle per sample. Solid: 2 oz glass jar.

***Sample preservation*** – Water: HCl (ensure no free Cl<sub>2</sub>) preserved and bottle filled to the top to exclude air and cool to 4° C. Solid: cool to 4° C.

***Holding time*** – Currently Method 7063-mod has a 28 day holding time for HCl preserved water samples. Soil and sediment samples when refrigerated at 4° C have a 28 day holding time.

*For more information on Arsenic Speciation analyses, contact your local Account Executive or Customer Service Manager at the email addresses listed to the left.*