

Problem 9.7

Between midnight and 2 am, illegal dumpers empty two five-gallon drums containing 2 kg of Toluene into a shallow abandoned well. Within 24 hours the Toluene is distributed vertically over the shallow (5 m thick), sandy aquifer. Evidence of the dumping is discovered two days later, and you are asked to assess the risk to a drinking well located 1 km directly downstream, if no remediation is done. Previous tests on this aquifer indicate the following:

Mean pore velocity, $u = 1 \text{ m/day}$

Isotropic, Homogeneous Dispersivity, $K = 0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$.

Porosity, $n = 0.3$

Solids density, $\rho_s = 2.6 \text{ g/mL}$.

Toluene partitions rapidly to aquifer solids and has a solid-water partitioning coefficient of

$$K_d = 0.5 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{toluene}} / \text{kg}_{\text{solid}}}{\text{g}_{\text{toluene}} / \text{L}_{\text{water}}}$$

Assume that the partitioning of Toluene is everywhere in equilibrium.

- Write an appropriate transport equation.
- Estimate the total concentration, $C(t)$, at the drinking well.
- Estimate the peak concentration in the pore water at the well and the duration of exposure.

