

Answer 9.4

Since Propane and TCE are both water-side controlled [$H \gg 0.01$], from Chapter 9 we expect the rate constants describing their exchange with the atmosphere to have the following ratios:

Thin-Film Model, Water-Side Control

$$\frac{K_{\text{TCE}}}{K_{\text{Propane}}} = \frac{D_{\text{wTCE}}}{D_{\text{wPropane}}}$$

Surface Renewal Model, Water-Side Control

$$\frac{K_{\text{TCE}}}{K_{\text{Propane}}} = \sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{wTCE}}}{D_{\text{wPropane}}}}$$

The channel Reynolds number based on hydraulic radius is $Re_{RH}=13,000$, indicating that the flow is turbulent. As described in the text, empirical evidence suggests that the surface renewal model is more appropriate for turbulent flows. Using this model, $K_{\text{TCE}} = 1.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Given that the atmospheric concentration of TCE is negligible, the flux of TCE to the atmosphere can be represented by the first-order sink, $S = -K_{\text{TCE}}C$, in the mass balance equation for the stream. As a first guess, we assume that this is the only source/sink of TCE along the stream. Assume that the cross-section has uniform concentration, *i.e.* with rapid mixing, $\partial C/\partial y = \partial C/\partial z = 0$. Assume the system is at steady-state ($\partial C/\partial t = 0$). Then, the mass balance equation is $u\partial C/\partial x = -K_{\text{TCE}}C$. With an upstream boundary condition, $C = C_0 = 10 \text{ ppb}$ at $x = 0$, the concentration downstream of the source will be

$$C(x) = C_0 \exp(-K_{\text{TCE}}x/u).$$

Evaluating this at $x = 2000\text{m}$,

$$C(x = 2\text{km}) = 10\text{ppb} \exp(-(1.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1})(2000\text{m})/(0.1\text{ms}^{-1})) = 1.1 \text{ ppb}.$$

The estimated concentration is much less than the measured concentration at this position ($C = 5 \text{ ppb}$). This suggests that there is another source of TCE between $x = 0$ and 2 km .