

## THT312: Water Management in Cold Regions

# Wastewater treatment in cold climate - natural systems

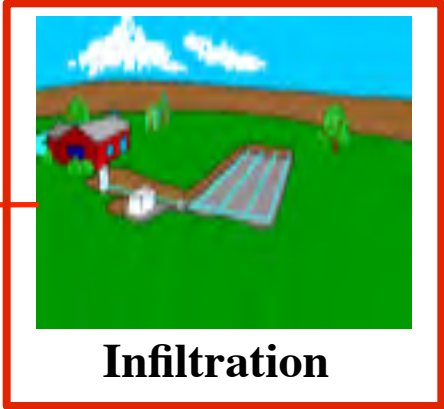
**Petter D. Jenssen**, Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management (MINA), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU),  
[petter.jenssen@umb.no](mailto:petter.jenssen@umb.no),



# Natural systems for wastewater treatment



**Ponds**



**Infiltration**

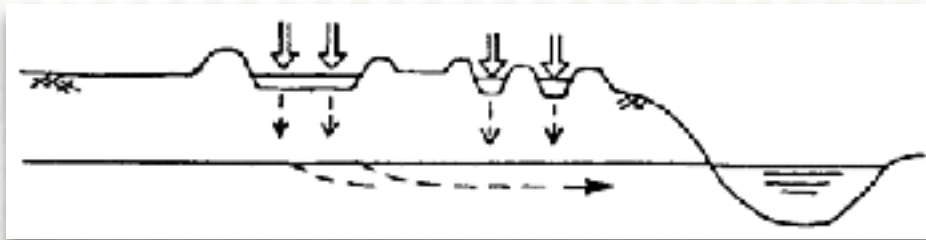


**Constructed wetlands**

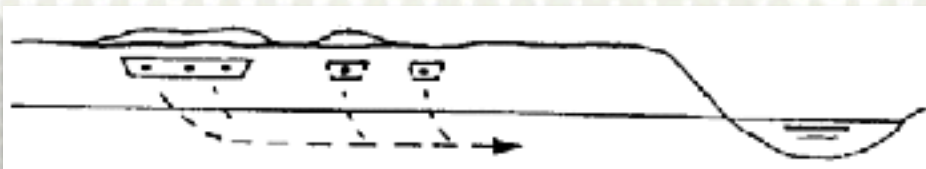


# Infiltration of wastewater into soil

## Open infiltration - dams



## Subsurface systems - trenches/beds

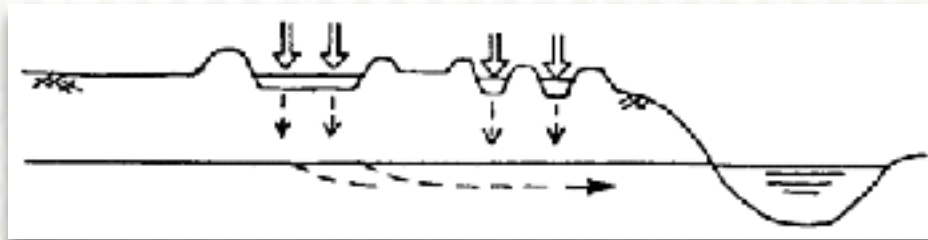


# Infiltration of wastewater into soil

## AREA REQUIREMENT

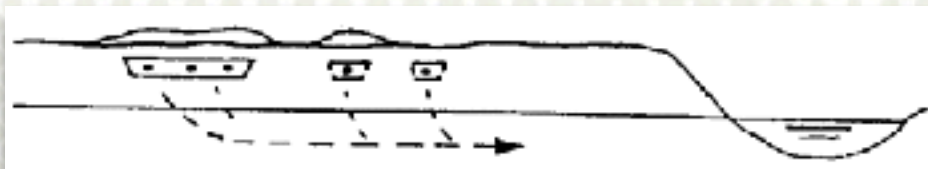
Open infiltration - dams

**1-5m<sup>2</sup>/person**



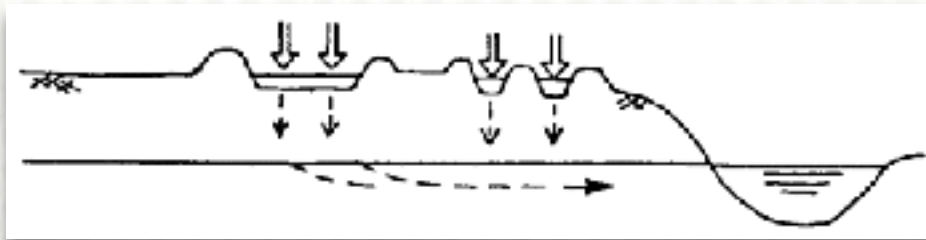
Subsurface systems - trenches/beds

**5-20m<sup>2</sup>/person**

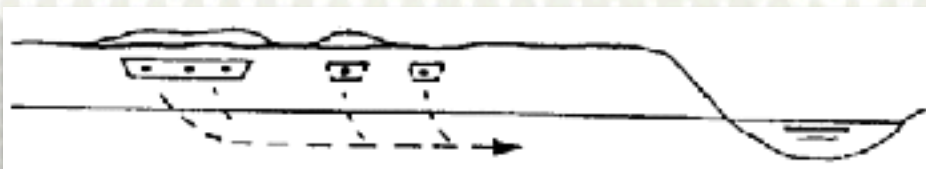


# Infiltration of wastewater into soil

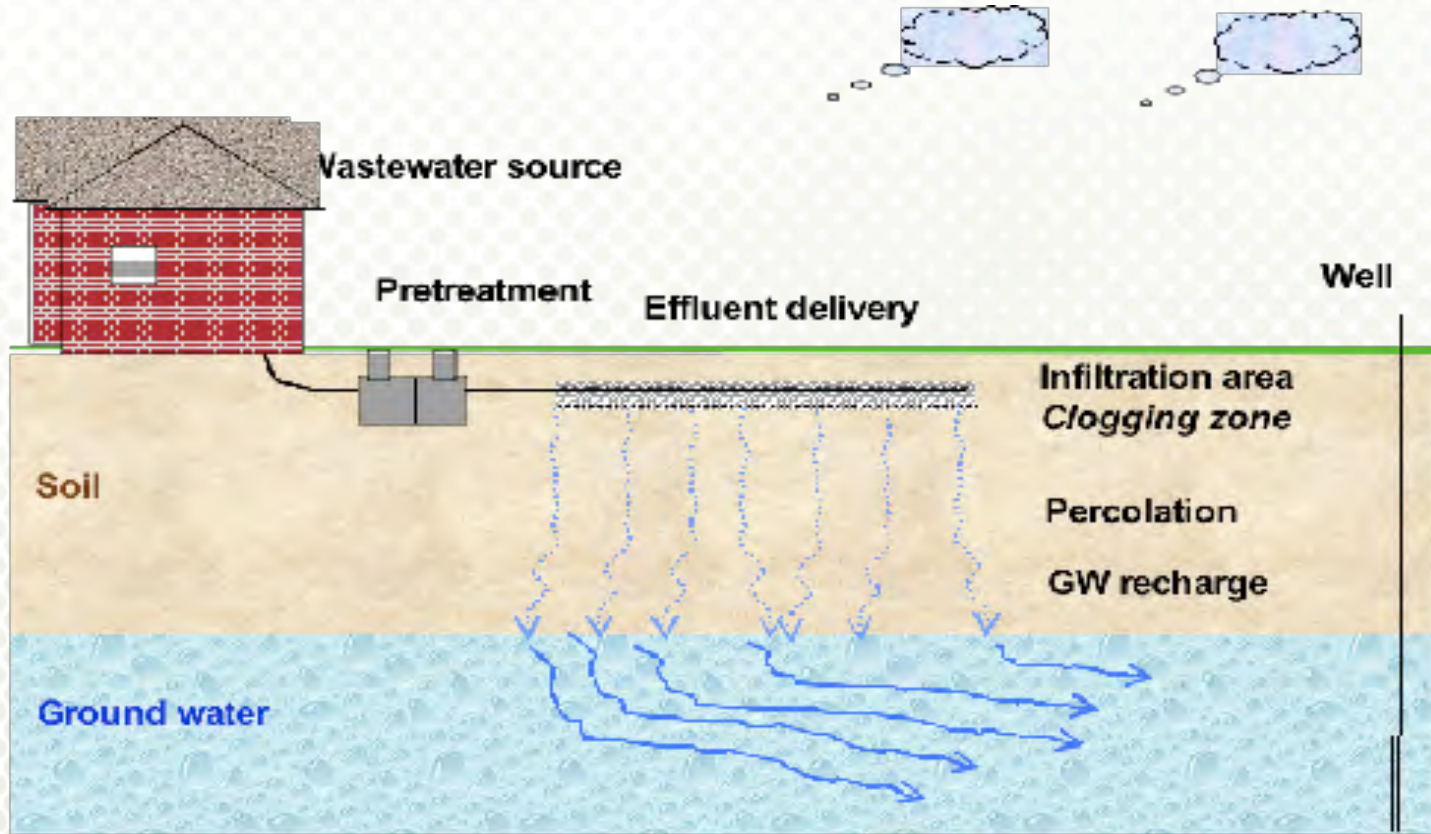
## Open infiltration - dams



## Subsurface systems - trenches/beds



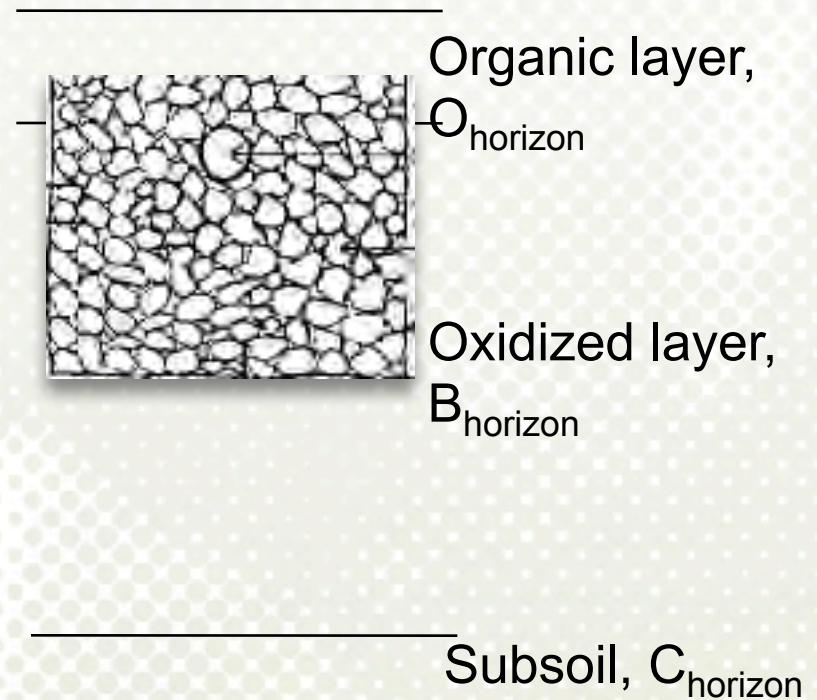
# Traditional buried soil infiltration system



Siegrist et al. 2000



# Traditional buried soil infiltration system



# Buried soil infiltration system - mound



Sand on top of the natural soil



Gravel and distribution pipe in place



Insulation - 5cm of expanded polystyrene



# Purification through sand

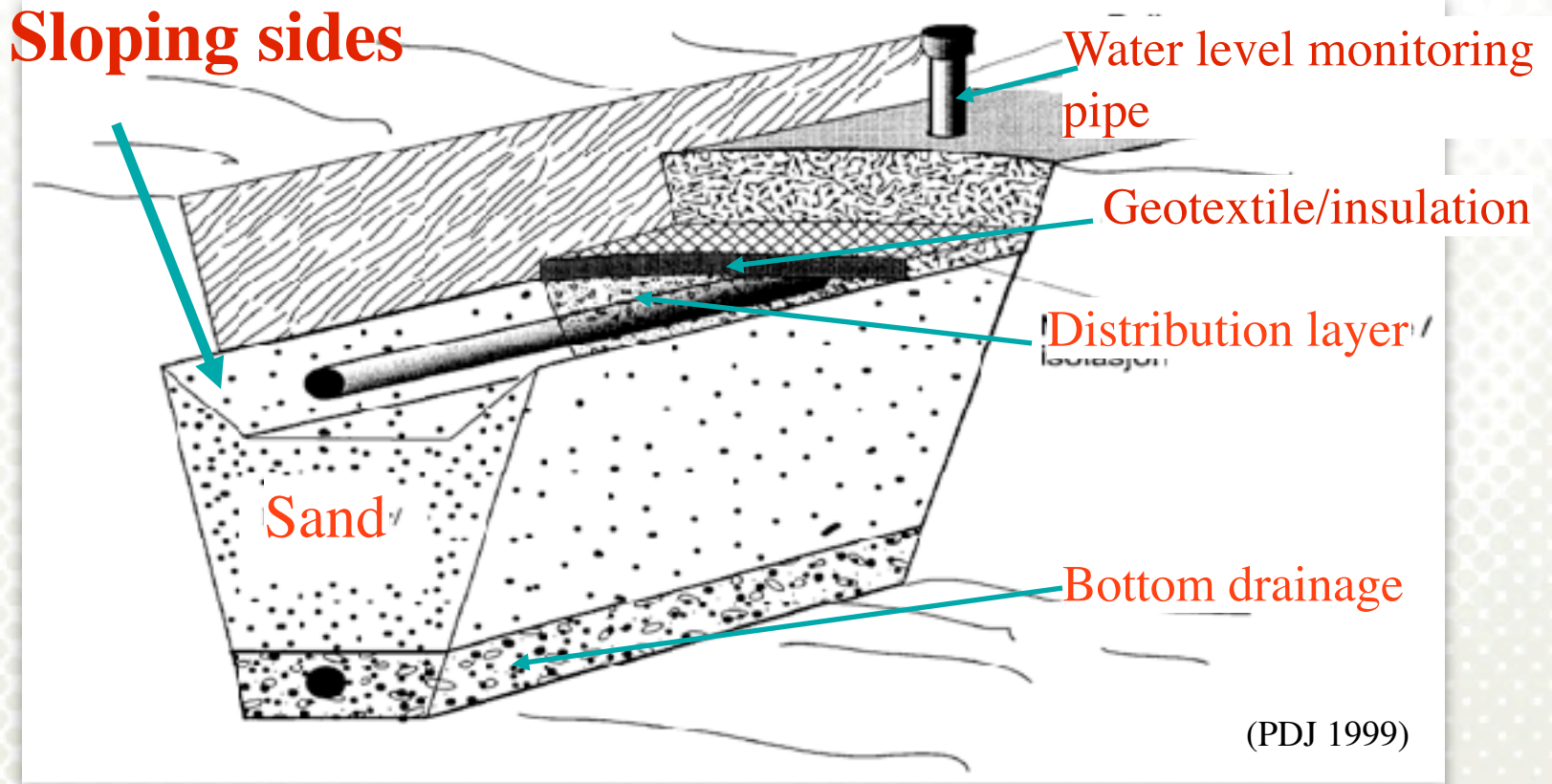


Septic tank effluent

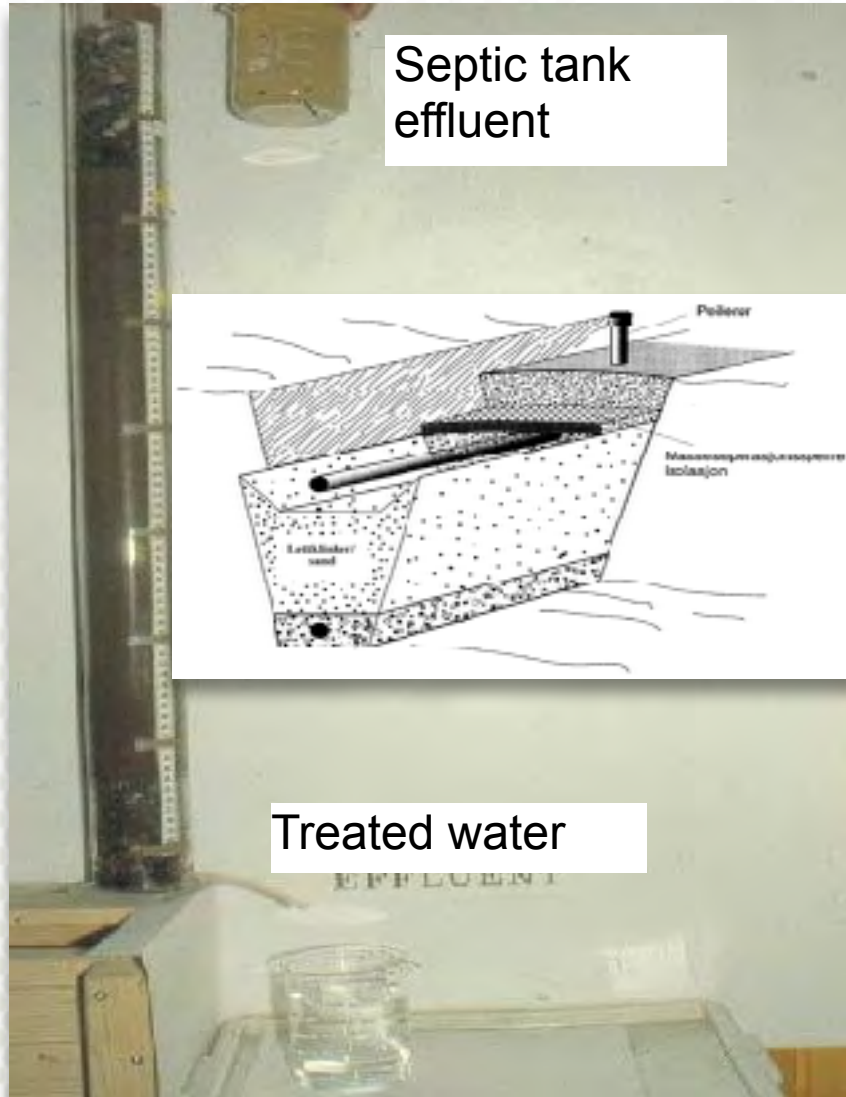
Treated water



# Sandfilter



# Sandfilter - performance



## TREATMENT\*

Organic matter (COD):

>90%

Suspended solids (SS):

> 90%

Phosphorus (P)\*:

0 - 80%

Nitrogen (N)

30% (20 - 50%)

Bacteria:

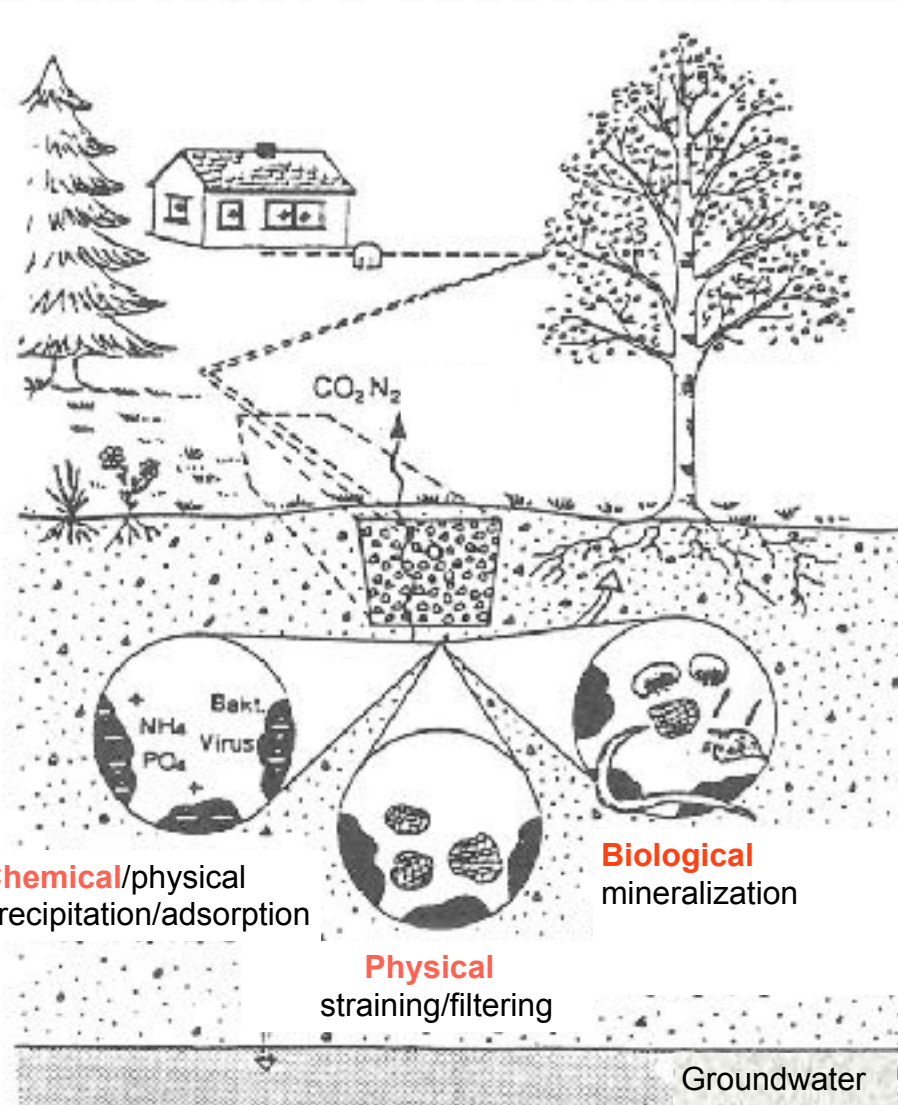
4-6 log reduction

\* Based on 8 - 10 years of operation

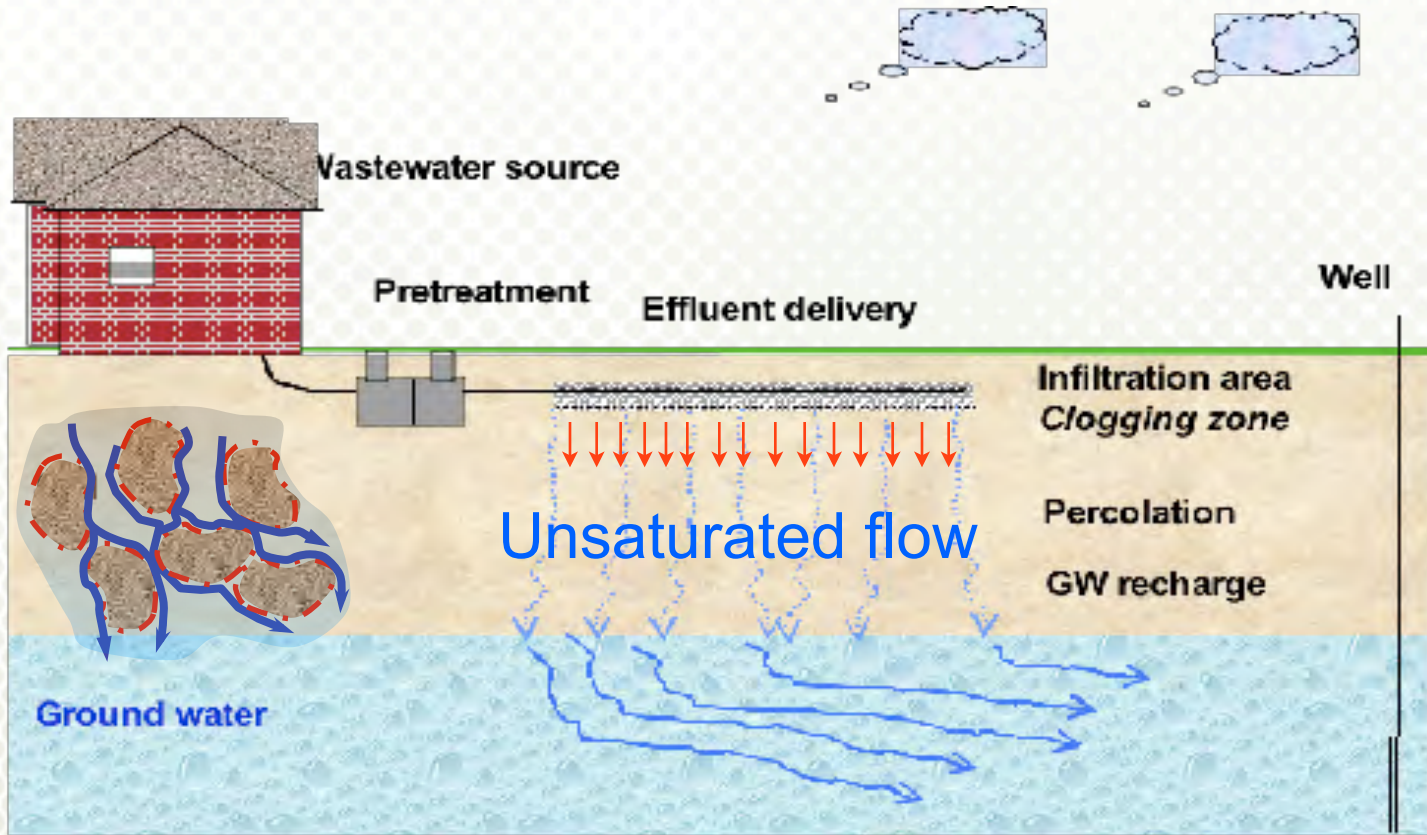


# Wastewater Treatment

## Natural systems - processes



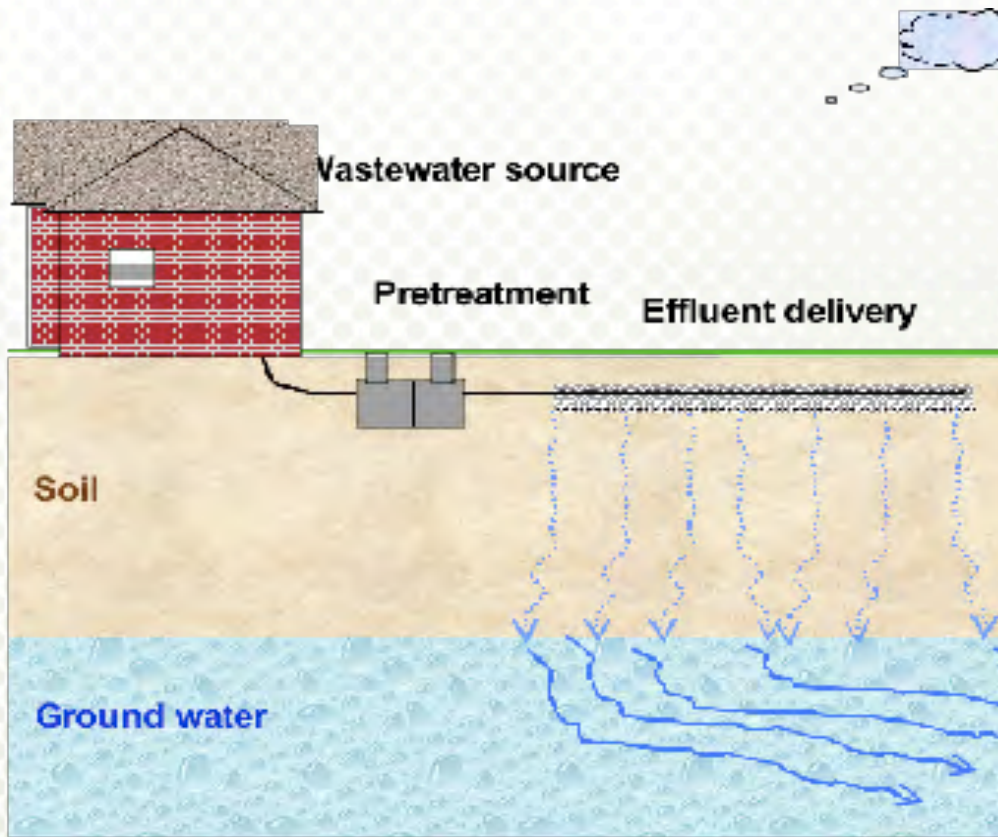
# Traditional buried soil infiltration system



Siegrist et al. 2000



# Traditional buried soil infiltration system



**TREATMENT\***

**Organic matter(BOD):**  
 > 90 %

**Suspended solids (SS):**  
 > 90%

**Phosphorus (P):**  
 > 90 %

**Nitrogen (N)**  
 > 30% (20 - 60)

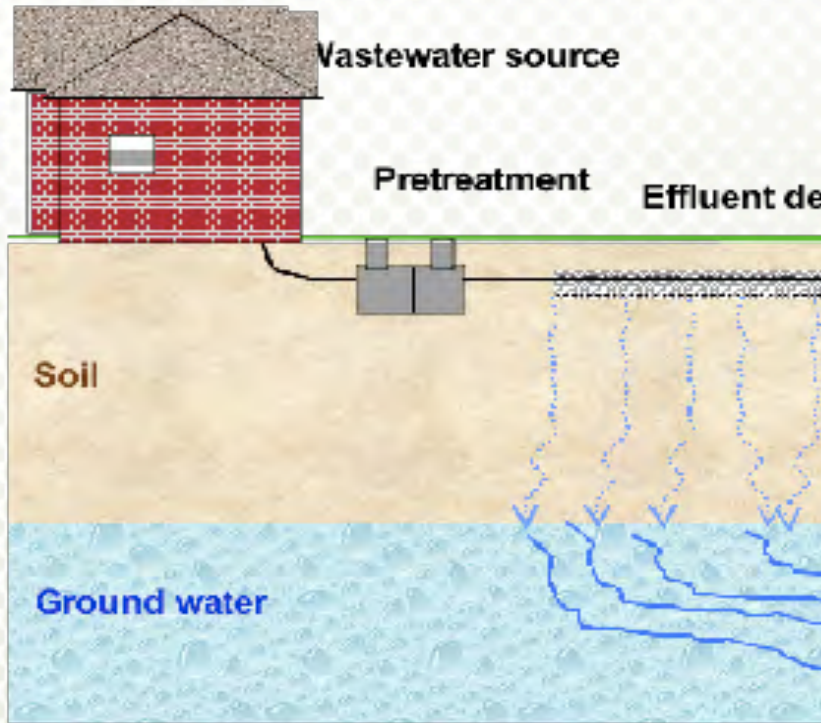
**Bacteria:**  
 4-6 log reduction

(Siegrist et al. 2000)

\*Treatment performance in the unsaturated zone, further treatment will occur in the saturated zone



# Buried soil infiltration system - suitability in the Arctic



(Siegrist et al. 2000)

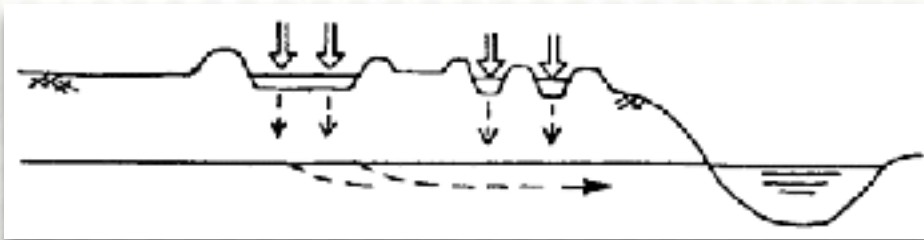
Treatment - BOD, TSS, nutrients	HIGH
Treatment - Hygiene	HIGH
Treatment - Organic micropollutants	HIGH
Investment cost	MEDIUM /LOW
O & M	LOW
Technical complexity	LOW
Suitability arctic conditions	HIGH TO LOW

\*Tr  
furth

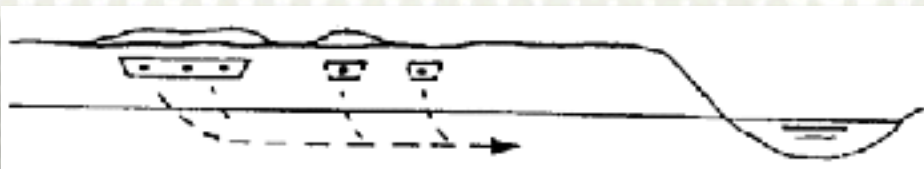


# Infiltration of wastewater into soil

## Open infiltration - dams



## Subsurface systems - trenches/beds



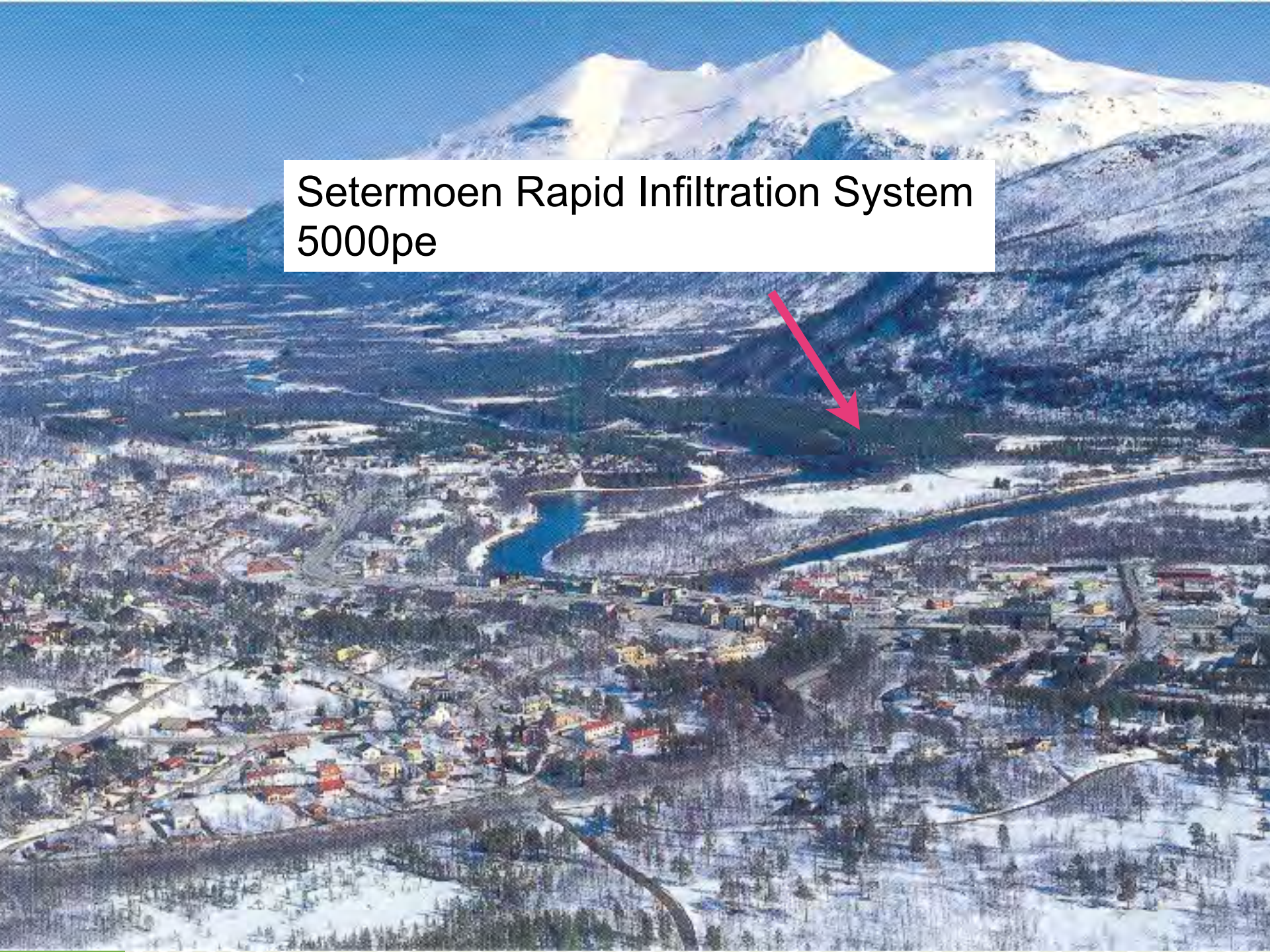


# Setermoen, Bardu municipality, Norway





**Setermoen Rapid Infiltration System  
5000pe**



# Setermoen, Bardu municipality, Norway

*Paper presented at the Soil Science Society of America Onsite Wastewater Conference, Albuquerque NM, 7-8 April 2014*

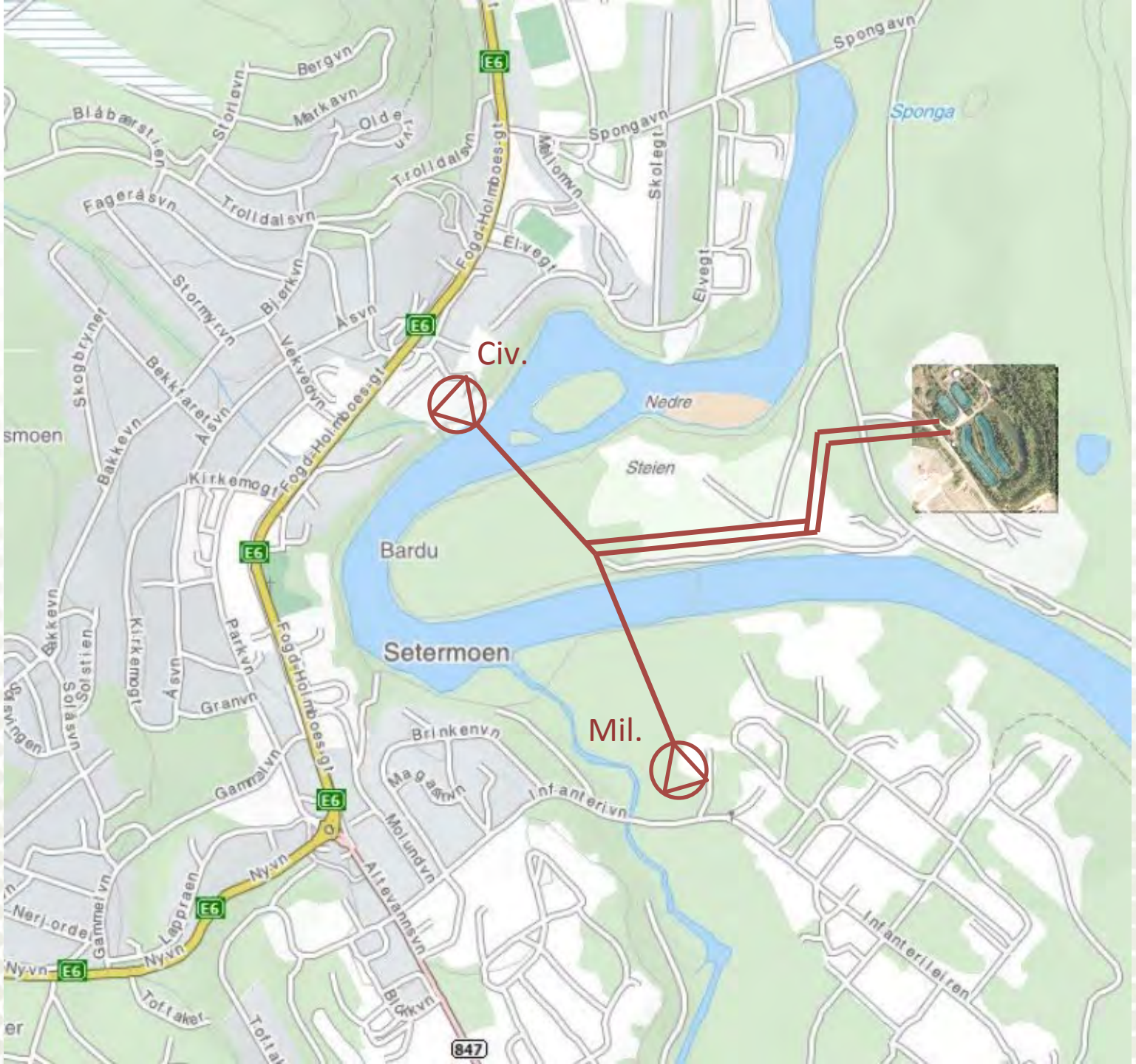
## **Community wastewater infiltration at 69° northern latitude – 25 years of experience**

Jenssen, P.D.\*, T. Krogstad, and K. Halvorsen

Petter D. Jenssen\*, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Science, [petter.jenssen@umb.no](mailto:petter.jenssen@umb.no), Tore Krogstad, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Science, [tore.krogstad@umb.no](mailto:tore.krogstad@umb.no), Kyrre Halvorsen, Trondheim kommune, Norway, [kyha@trondheim.kommune.no](mailto:kyha@trondheim.kommune.no)

### **ABSTRACT**

When Bardu municipality located at 69° northern latitude in Norway were to renew their wastewater treatment facility in the early 80's they chose to pump the sewage effluent from the 5000 inhabitants of Setermoen into a nearby glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposit. Initially the system consisted of two open sedimentation basins succeeded by three 2m deep open v shaped alternating infiltration basins. The deep basins were chosen so that the surface could freeze while the water would still infiltrate below the ice. In year 1996 the municipality decided to install garbage grinders in all homes. This increased the organic load to the system and a new feed basin and a simple surface trickling system was constructed up front of the existing system. The unsaturated zone below the basins is 7m. Since the startup in 1987 groundwater has been pumped regularly from a well adjacent to the infiltration basins. A large groundwater survey (1995 -1998) showed that this well gave representative values of the treated water. The overall treatment performance has been 85-95% for COD, 35-85% for total nitrogen (N) and 99% for total phosphorus (P). Despite an average annual temperature of 10.7°C nitrification with subsequent denitrification can explain the high N-removal. Under each basin the capacity for P-removal is estimated to last 12 years. The system has saved the municipality an estimated 45 million NOK over 25 years compared to investment and operation of a conventional mechanical/chemical treatment system.



An aerial photograph of a wastewater treatment plant. The image shows several large, elongated, teal-colored areas that have been highlighted to represent sludge sedimentation basins. These basins are arranged in a roughly rectangular pattern. In the center of the highlighted area, there is a small, brown, rectangular building. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green vegetation and light-colored earth or gravel paths. A blue dotted line is visible in the lower right quadrant of the image.

**Sludge sedimentation basins**

**Setermoen  
Rapid Infiltration System  
5000pe**

An aerial photograph of a wastewater treatment plant. Two large, oval-shaped basins in the upper left are highlighted in teal and labeled 'Sludge sedimentation basins'. A small brown building is situated between these basins and a larger complex of three elongated basins. These three basins are also highlighted in teal and labeled 'Infiltration basins (1,2,3)'. The basins are numbered 1, 2, and 3 from left to right. A blue dotted line traces a path from the sludge basins, through the building, and across the three infiltration basins. The surrounding area is a mix of green vegetation and grey paved roads.

**Sludge sedimentation basins**

**Infiltration basins (1,2,3) 3**

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**Sludge sedimentation basins**

**Service building**

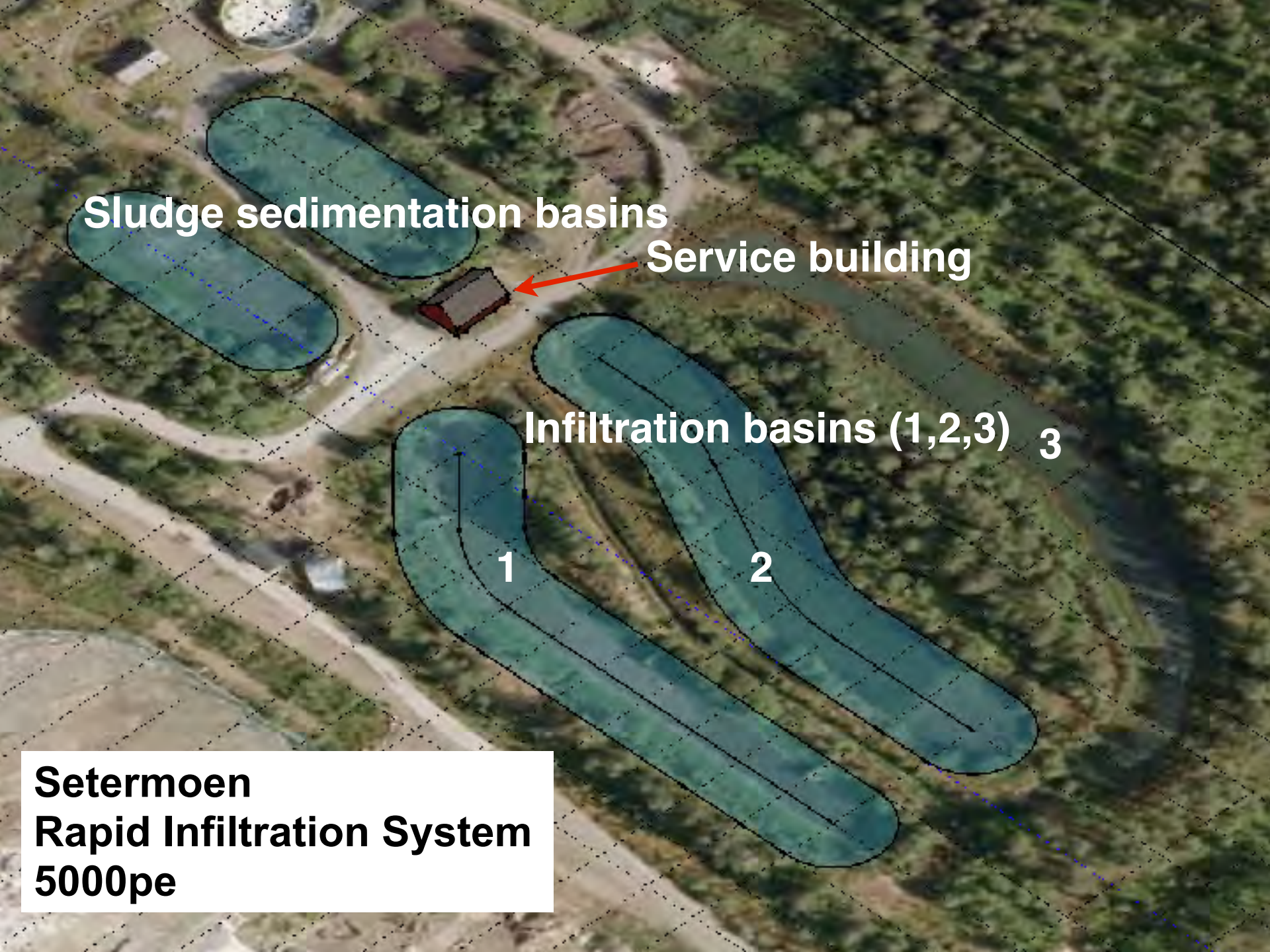
**Infiltration basins (1,2,3)**

1

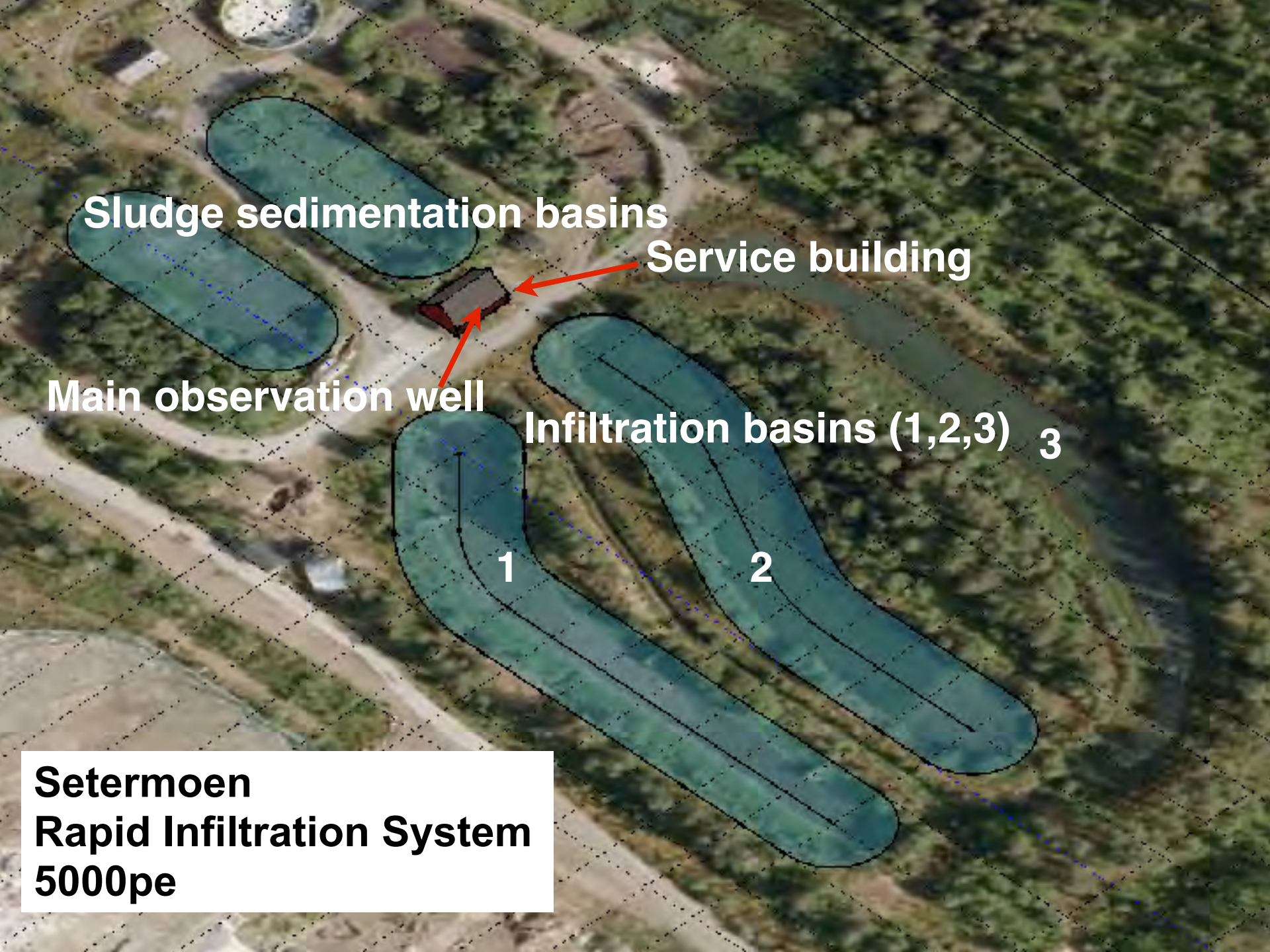
2

3

**Setermoen  
Rapid Infiltration System  
5000pe**







**Sludge sedimentation basins**

**Service building**

**Main observation well**

**Infiltration basins (1,2,3)**

1

2

3

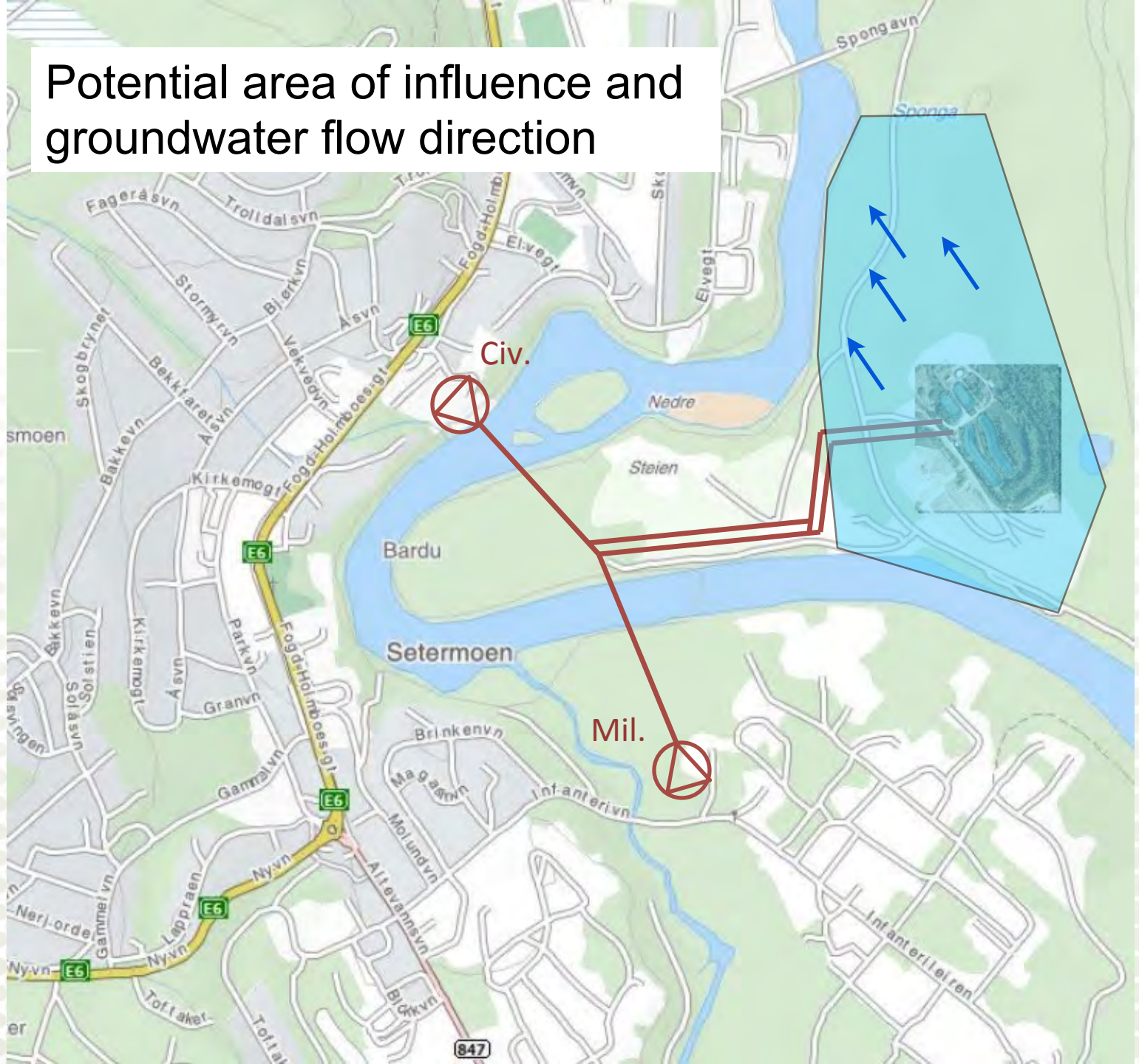
**Setermoen  
Rapid Infiltration System  
5000pe**



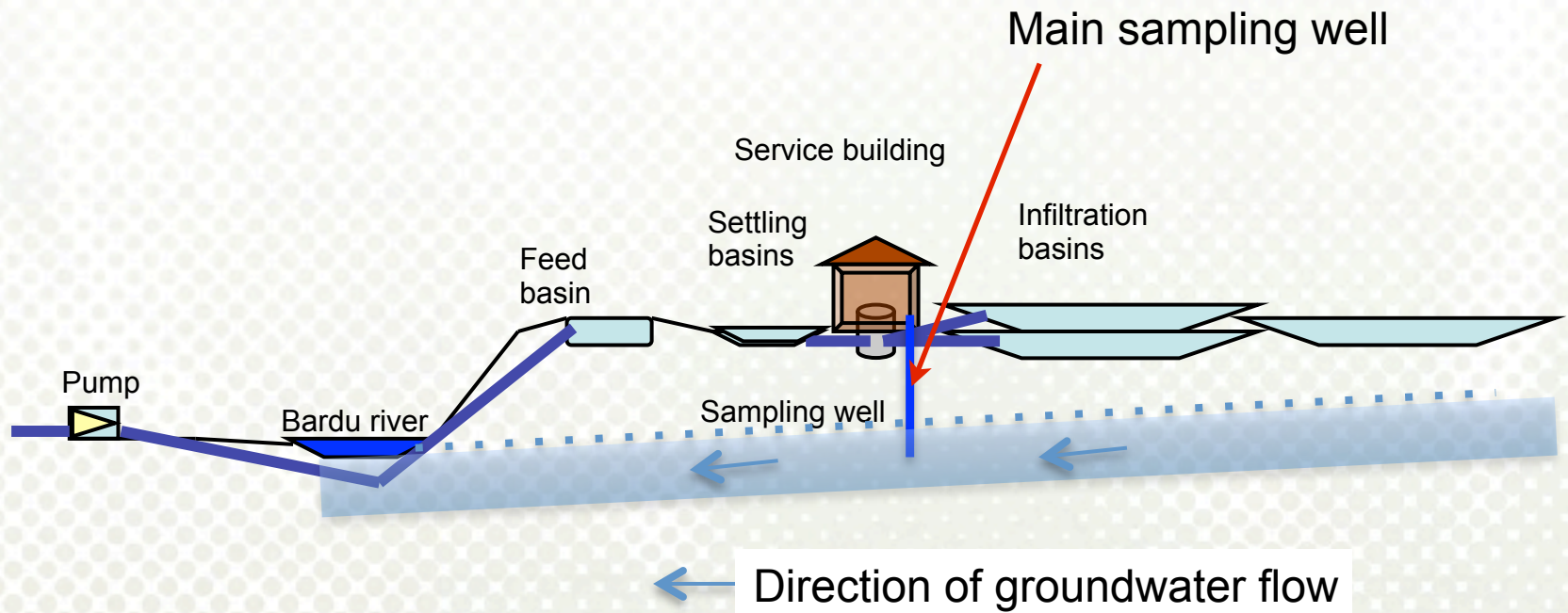
**Direction of groundwater flow**

**Setermoen  
Rapid Infiltration System  
5000pe**

# Potential area of influence and groundwater flow direction

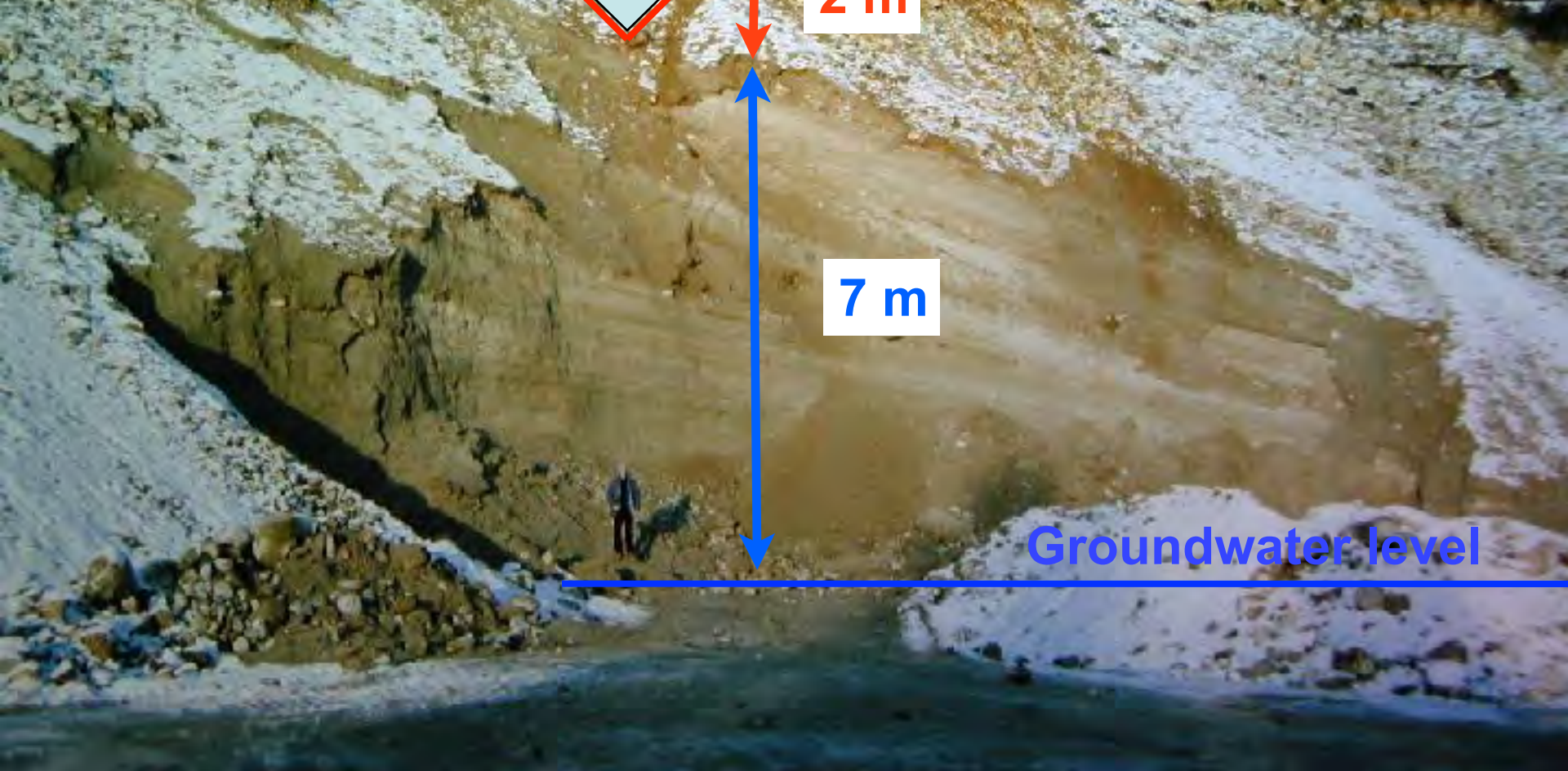


# Setermoen rapid infiltration system Vertical view





Groundwater level



2 m

7 m

Groundwater level

# Setermoen rapid infiltration system

## Average treatment values over 27 år:

1. Phosphorus	> 98%
2. Total nitrogen	> 60%
3. Organic matter (COD)	> 85%
4. Fecal coliforms	< 100 cfu/100ml

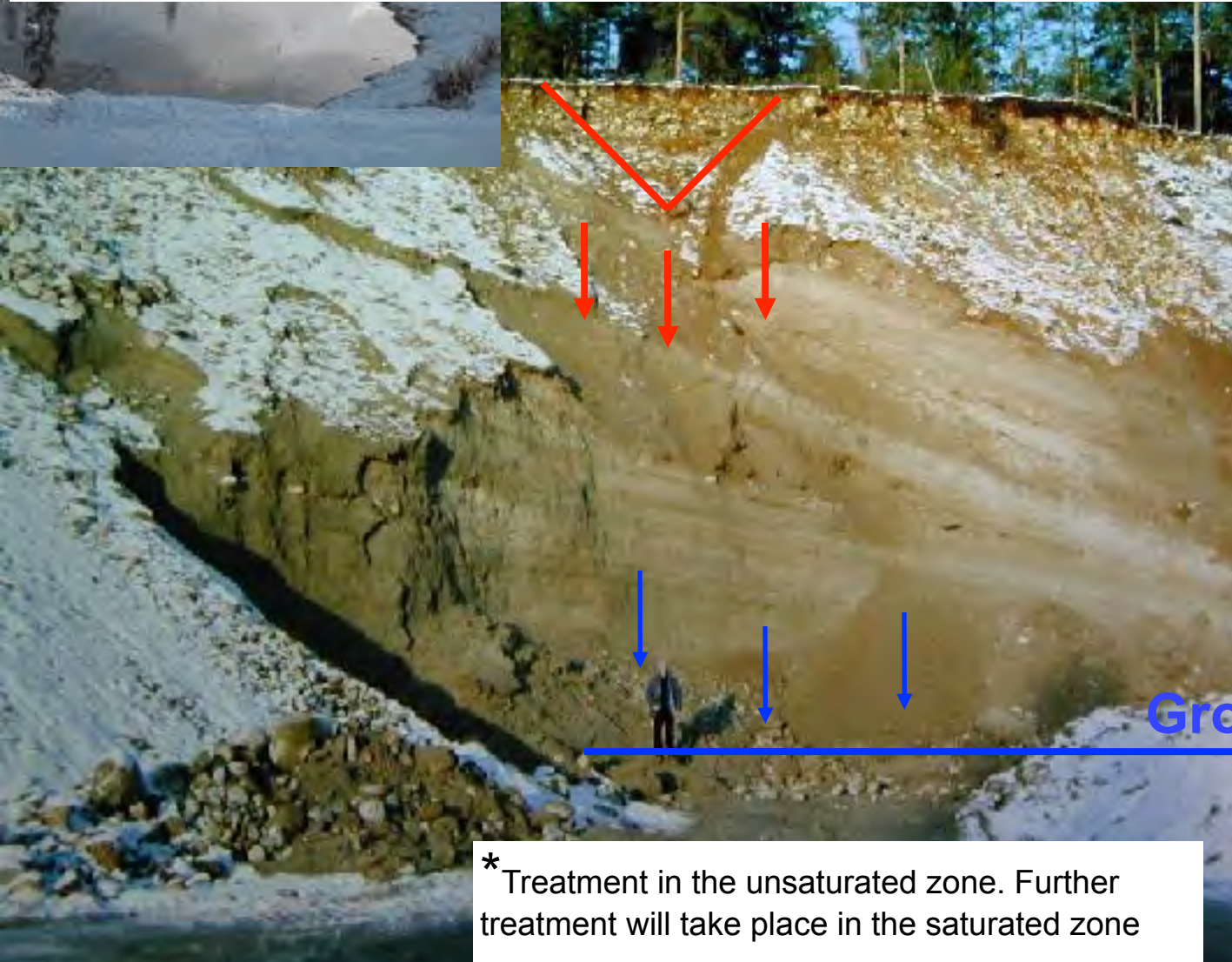
**5. The municipality has saved 45 million NOK compared to mechanical/chemical treatment (ecosystem service)**

Groundwater level

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# Treatment values to be expected in large rapid infiltration systems

(Jenssen & Siegrist 1991)



## TREATMENT\*

Organic matter (COD):

75 - 90 %

Suspended solids (SS):

> 90%

Phosphorus (P):

>99 %

Nitrogen (N)

50 - 70% per level

Bacteria:

4-6 log reduction

\* Treatment in the unsaturated zone. Further treatment will take place in the saturated zone



# Open rapid infiltration systems - suitability in Arctic conditions

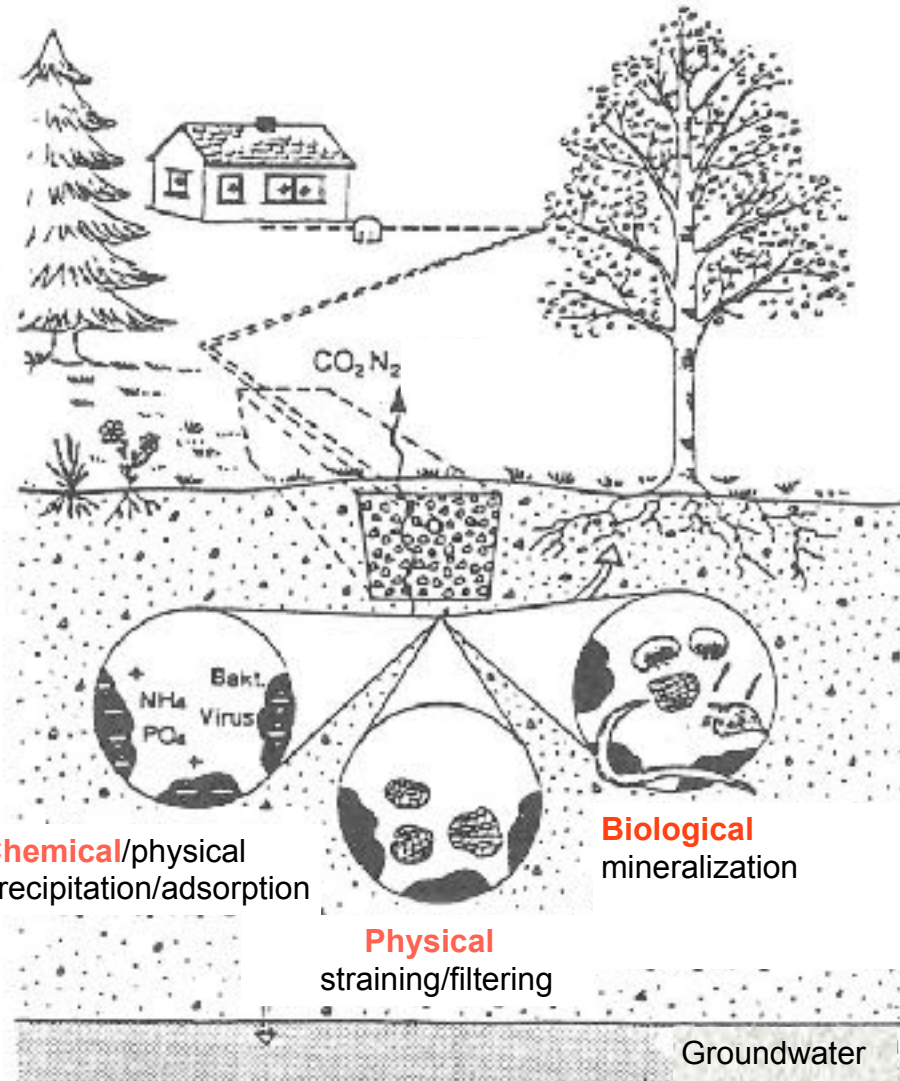
Direction of



Treatment - BOD, TSS, nutrients	HIGH
Treatment - Hygiene	HIGH
Treatment - Organic micropollutants	HIGH
Investment cost	MEDIUM /LOW
O & M	LOW
Technical complexity	LOW
Suitability arctic conditions	HIGH TO LOW

# Wastewater Treatment

## Natural systems - processes



# Removal mechanisms in natural systems

- Removal of organic matter
- Removal of phosphorus
- Removal of nitrogen
- Removal of microorganisms



# Reduction of organic matter by percolation through sand/soils





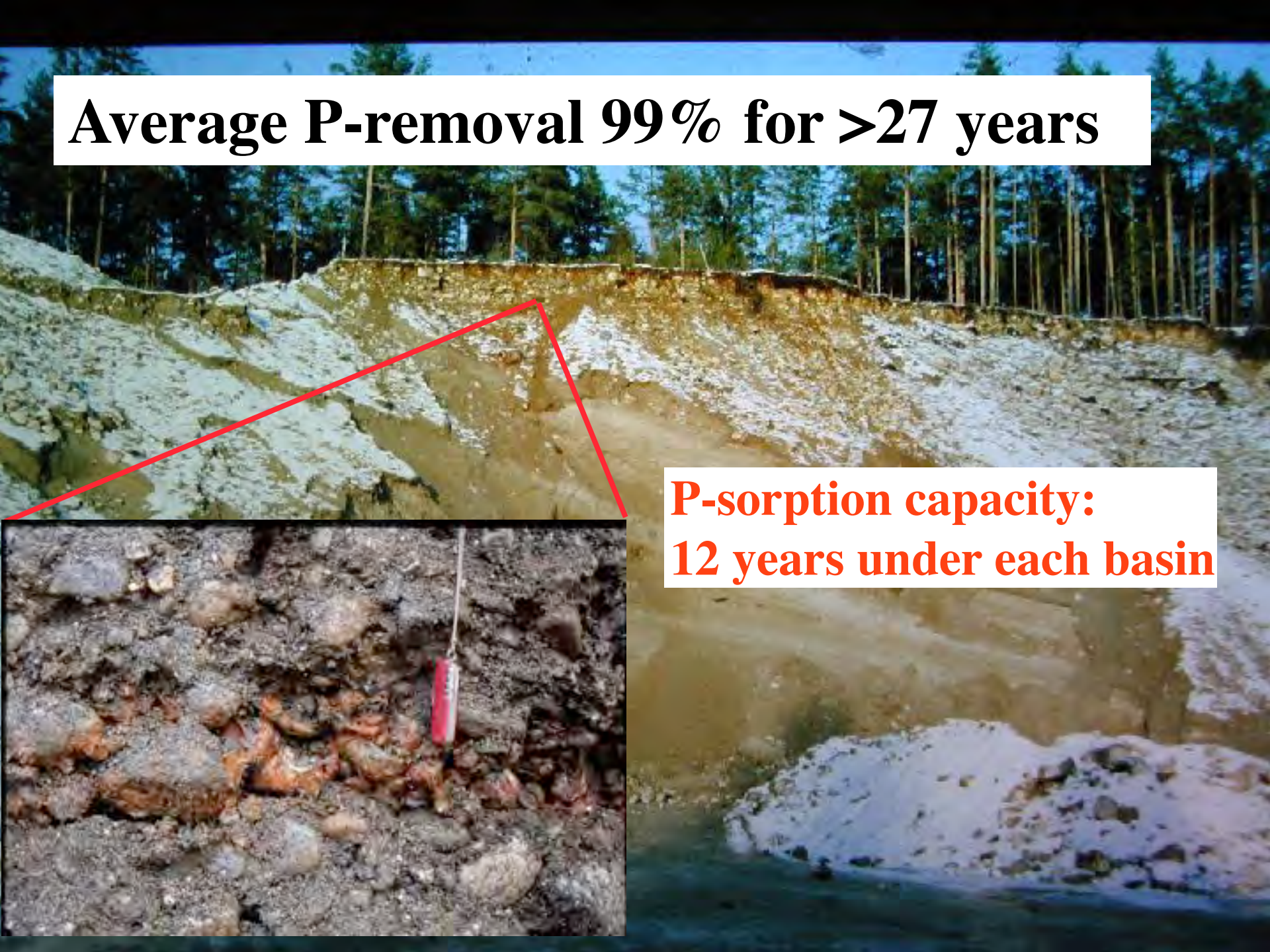
## Reduction of organic matter by percolation through sand/soils

- \* Area for biofilm growth
- \* Retention time

**Average P-removal 99% for >27 years**



**P-sorption capacity:  
12 years under each basin**



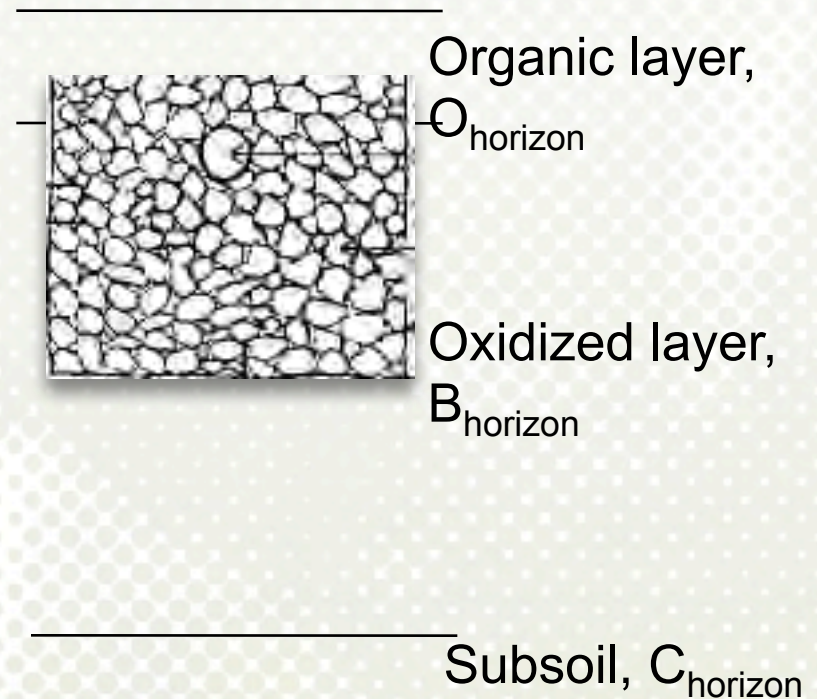
# Phosphorus removal in soils



**Sorption to oxidized surfaces (Fe-, Al- and Ca phosphates)**



# Phosphorus removal in soils depth of infiltration trenches





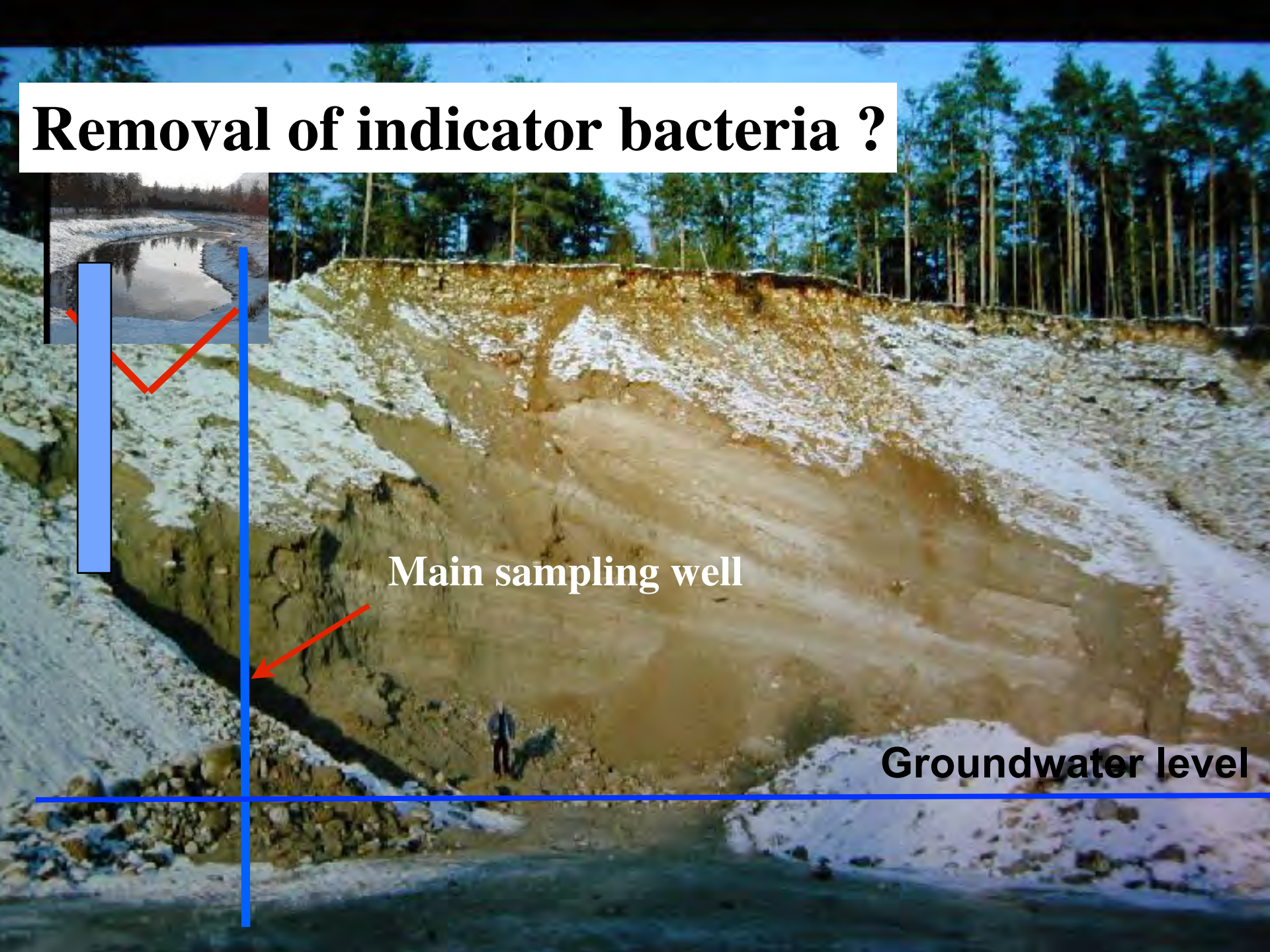
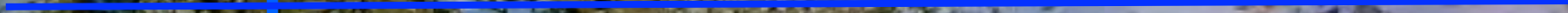
# Removal of indicator bacteria ?



Main sampling well



Groundwater level

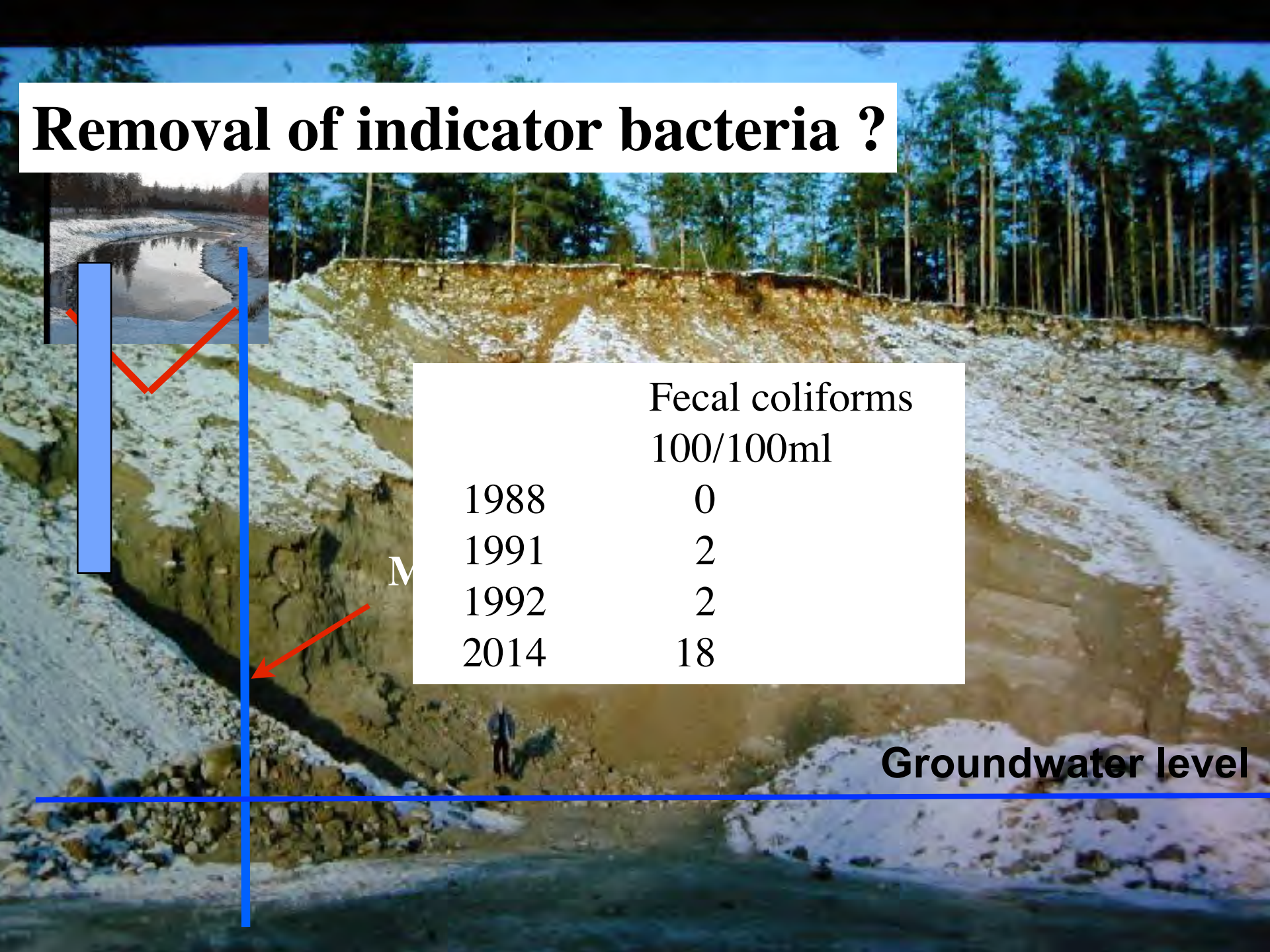


# Removal of indicator bacteria ?

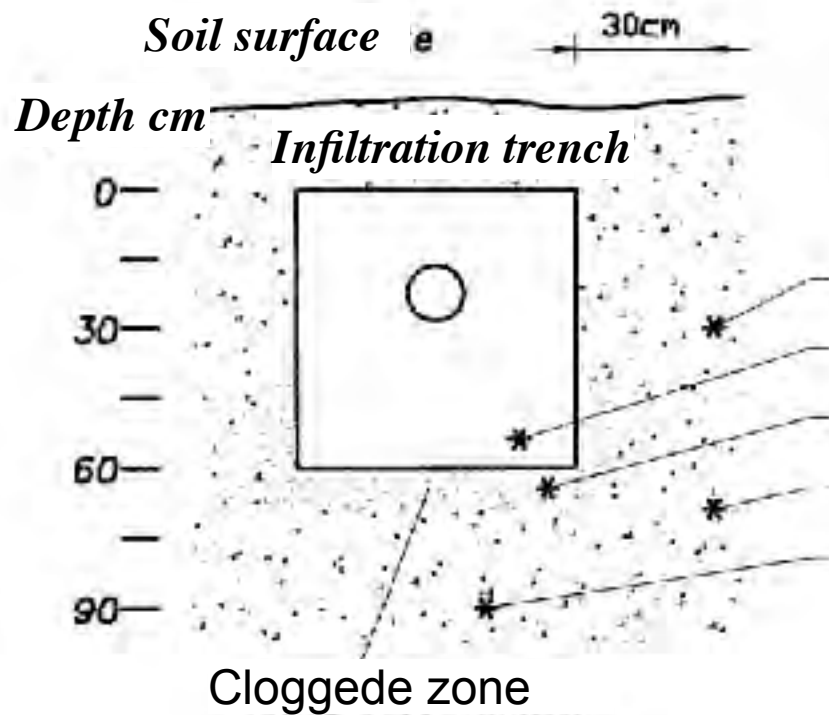


	Fecal coliforms 100/100ml
1988	0
1991	2
1992	2
2014	18

**Groundwater level**



# Infiltration systems bacteria removal

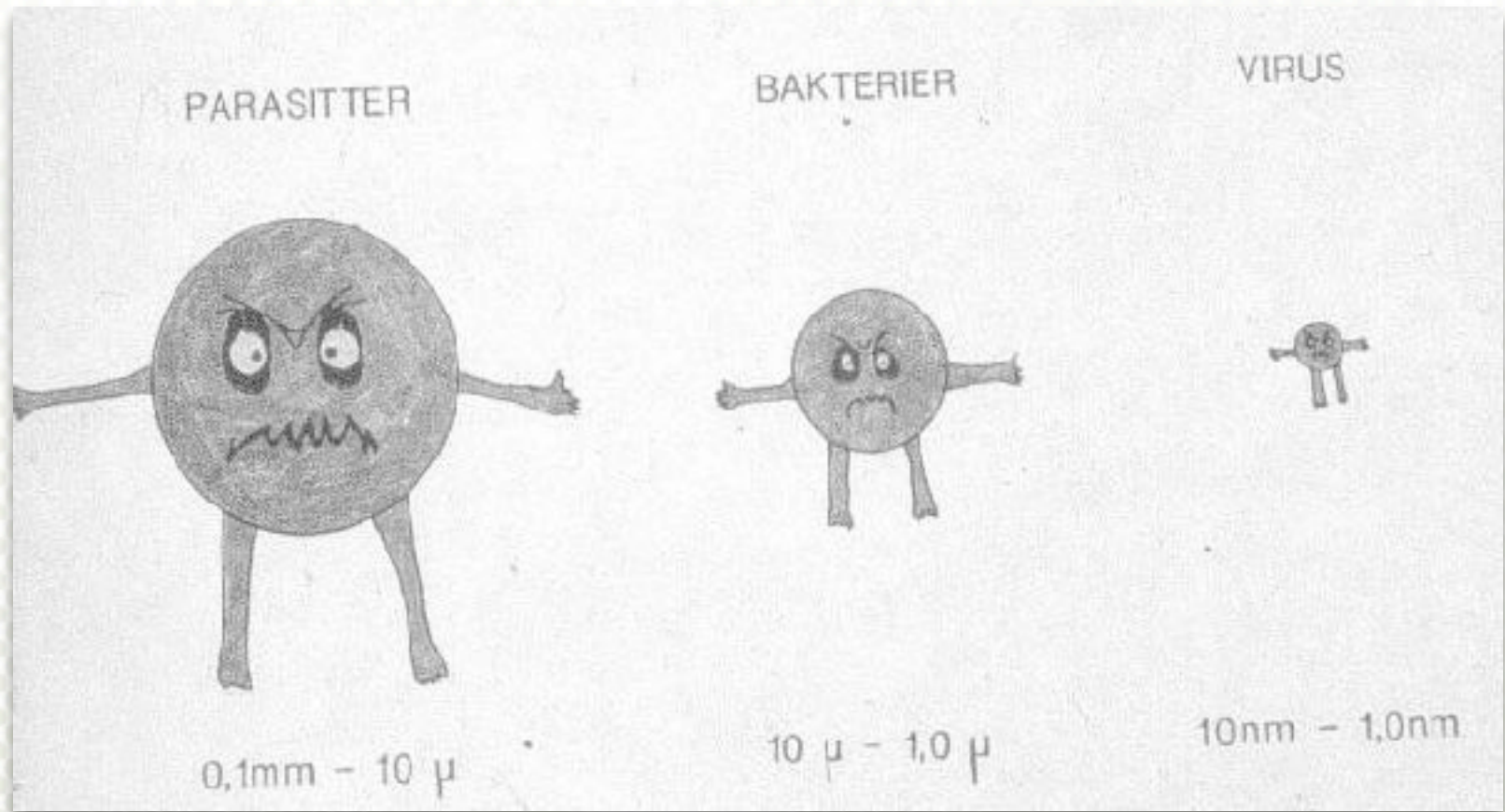


<i>Bacteria/100ml or 100g of soil<sup>d</sup></i>		
E coli	Total coli	Total bacteria
<i>x10<sup>7</sup></i>		
< 200	< 600	< 0,6
1,900,000	5,700,000	3,0
4,000,000	23,000,000	4,400
17,000	23,000	6,7
< 200	< 600	3,7

(McCoy and Ziebell 1975)



# The fate of microorganisms in soil



# The fate of microorganisms in soil

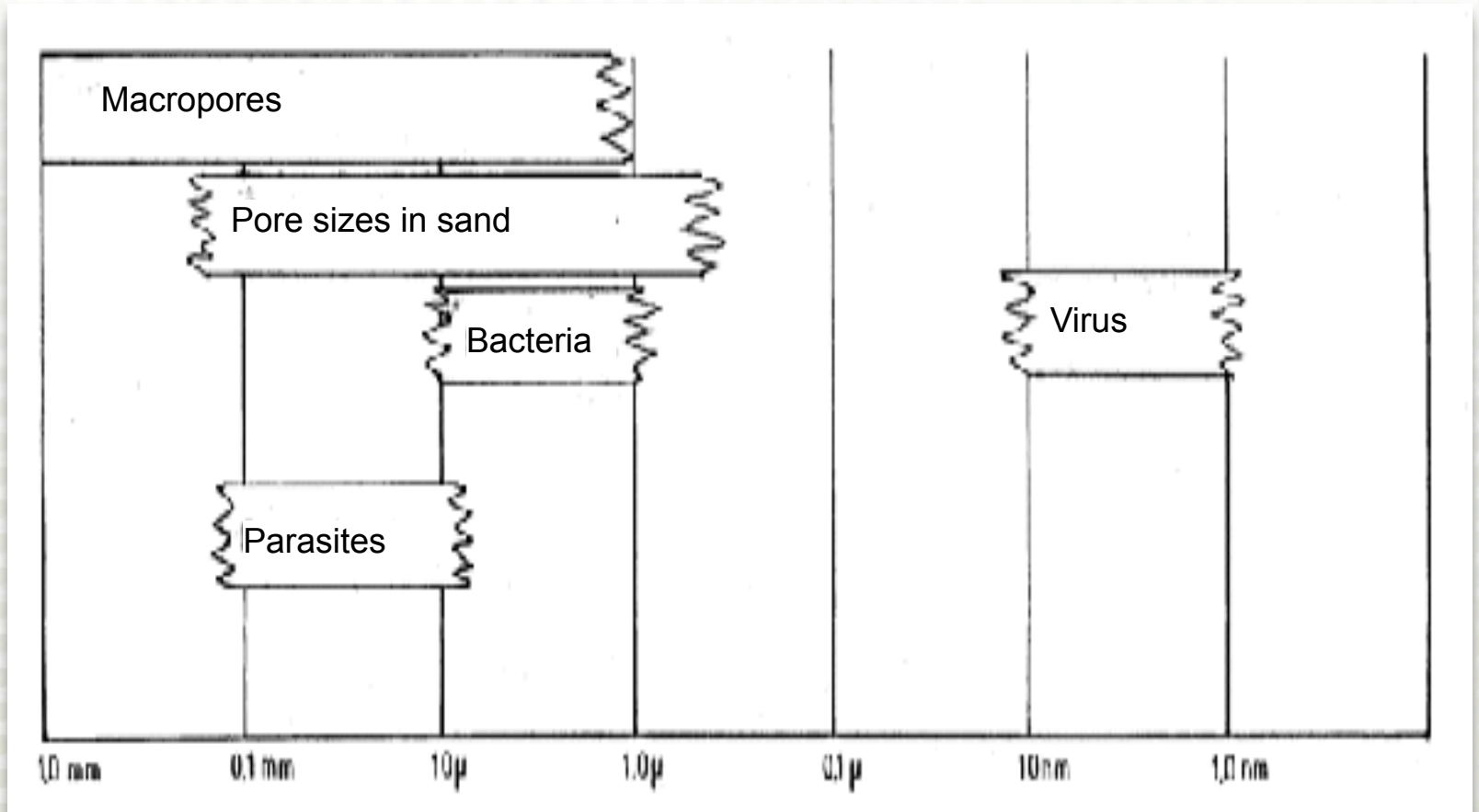
Patogene mikroorganismers skjebne i jord



Straining



# Size of soil pores vs. size of microorganisms

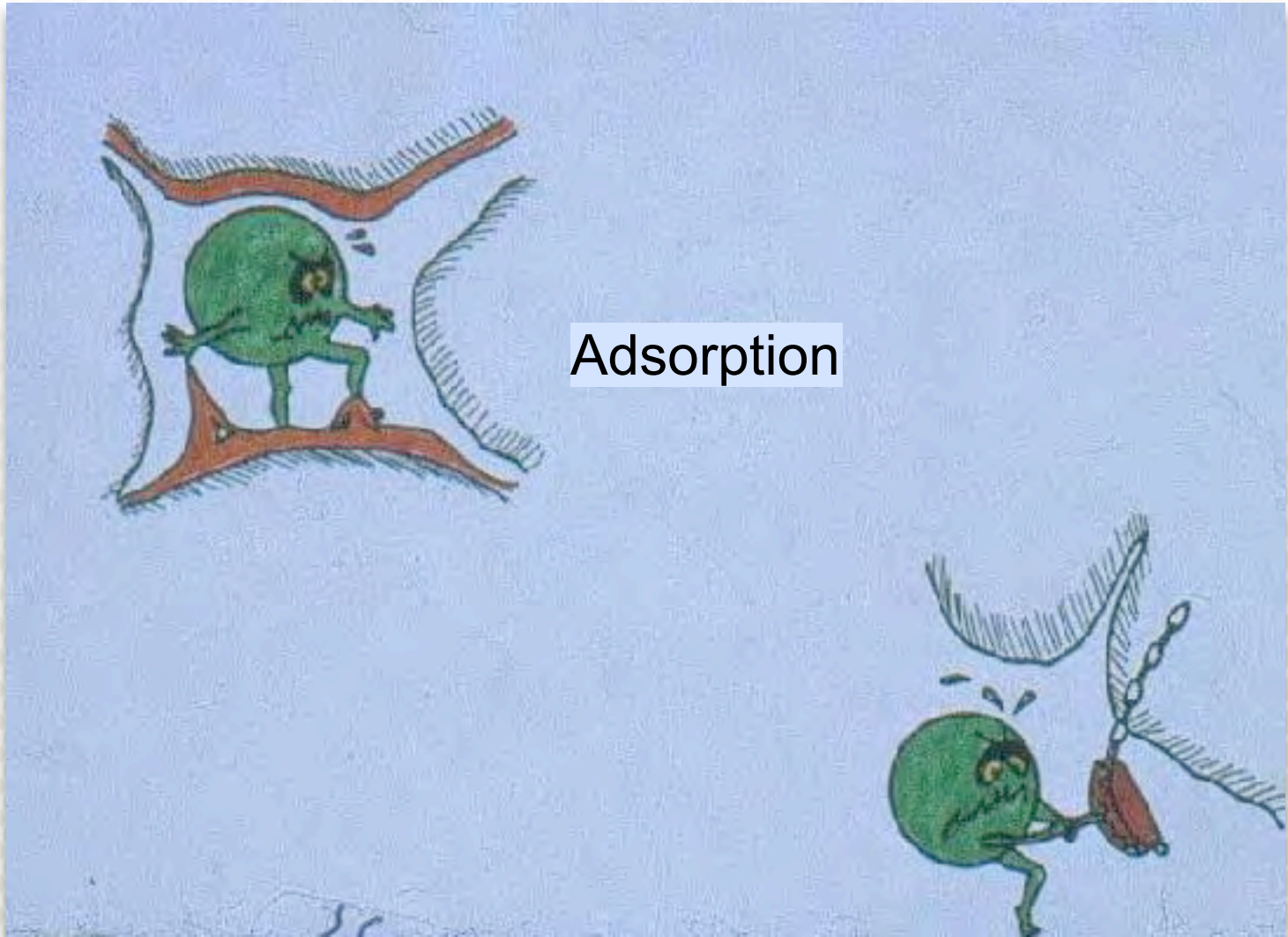


# The fate of microorganisms in soil



Predation

# The fate of microorganisms in soil





# The fate of microorganisms in soil

Death by old age



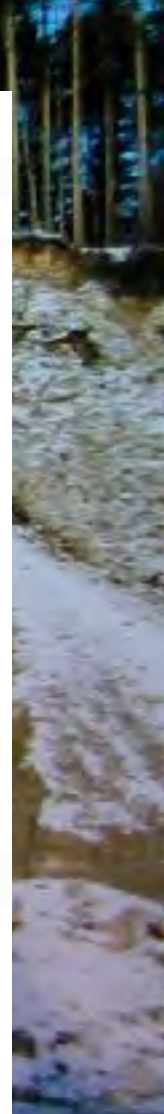
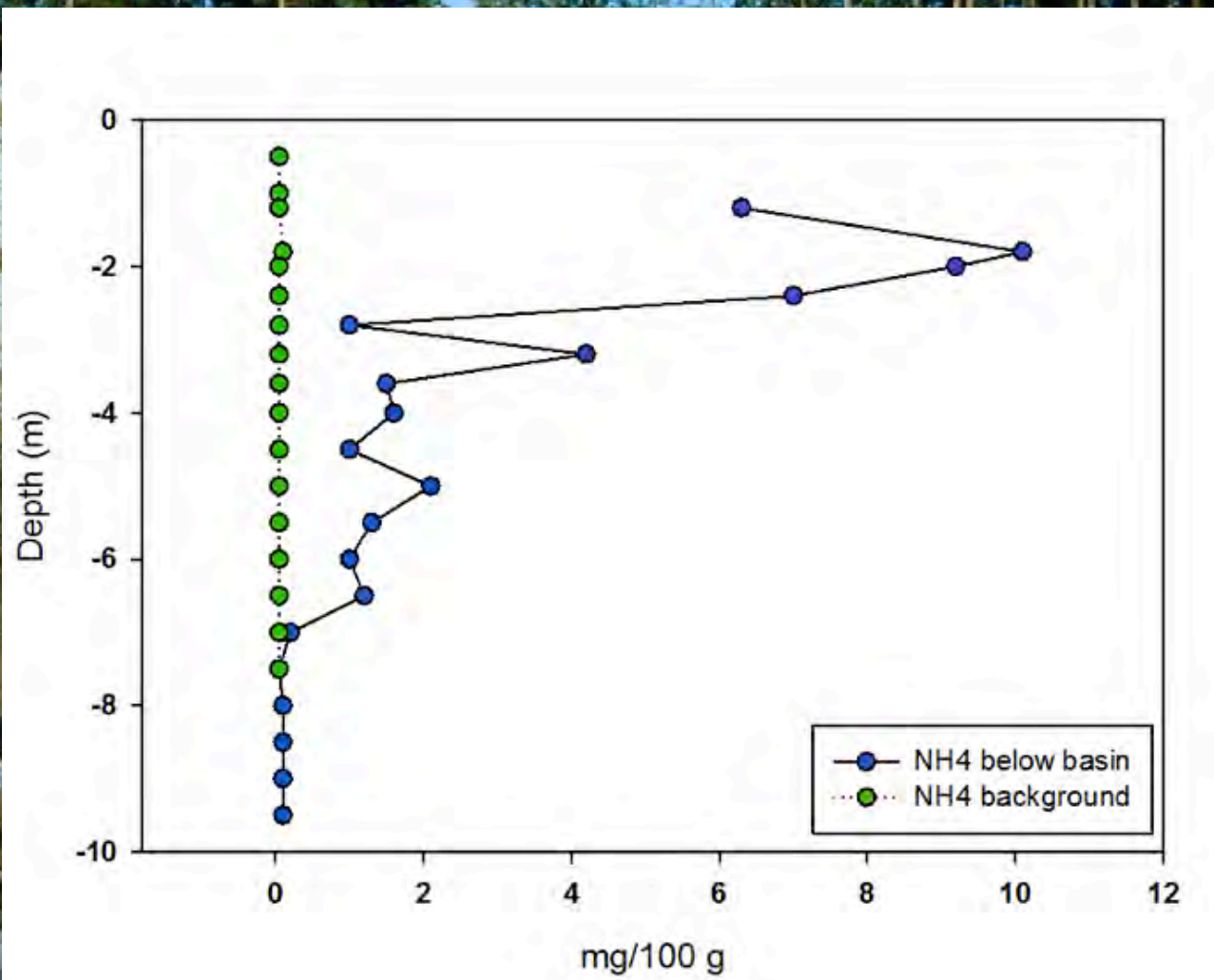
# Removal mechanisms in natural systems

- Removal of organic matter
- Removal of phosphorus
- Removal of microorganisms
- **Removal of nitrogen**

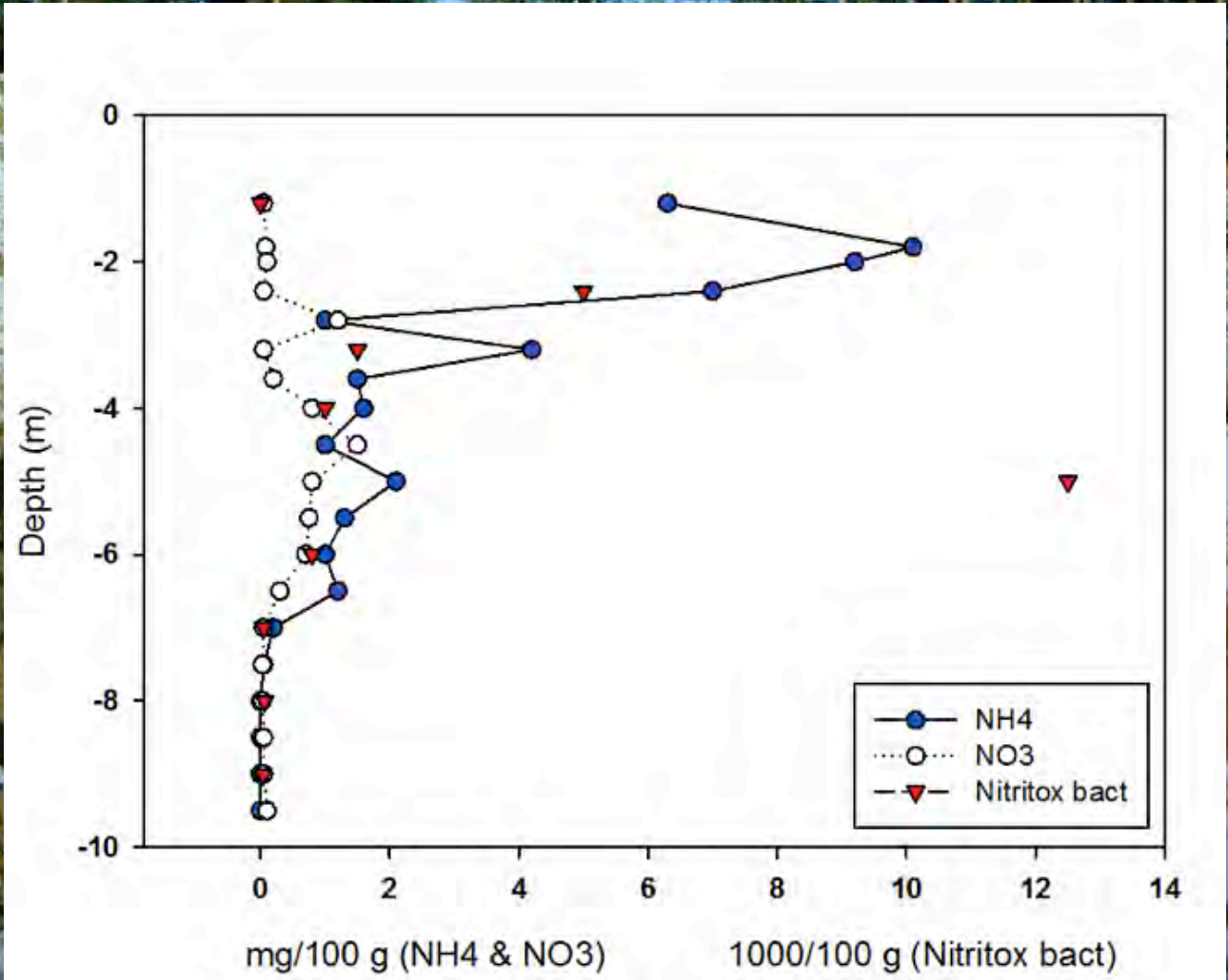
**Total nitrogen removal average > 60%**



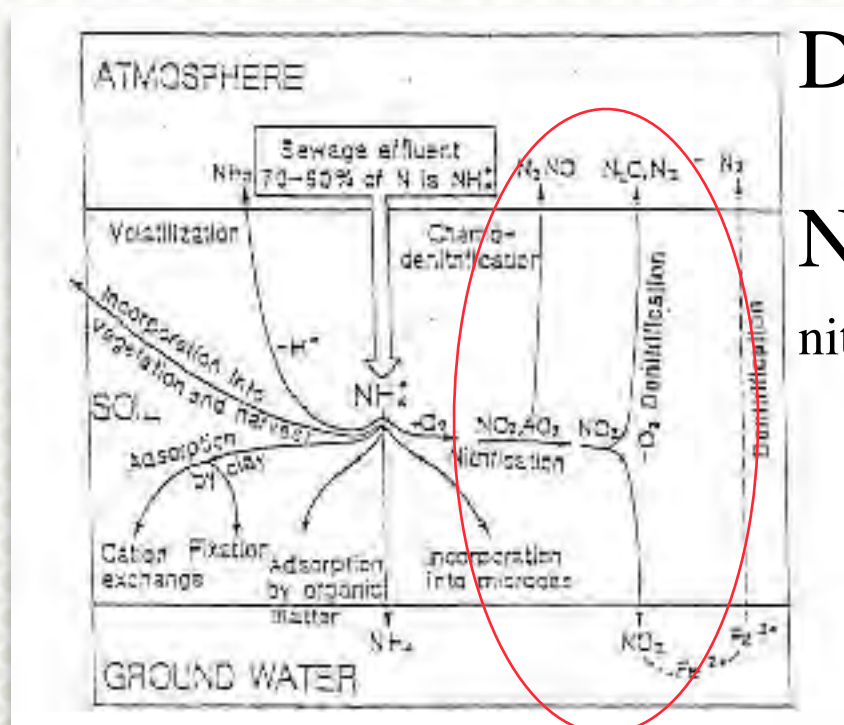
# Total nitrogen removal 35 - 85%



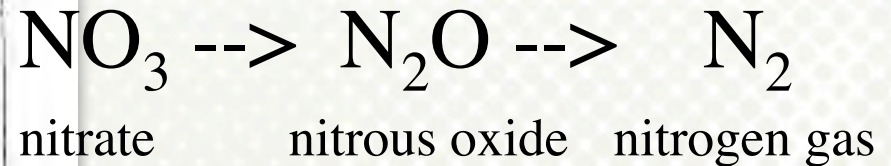
# Total nitrogen removal 35 - 85%



# Nitrogen transformations in soils



## Denitrification

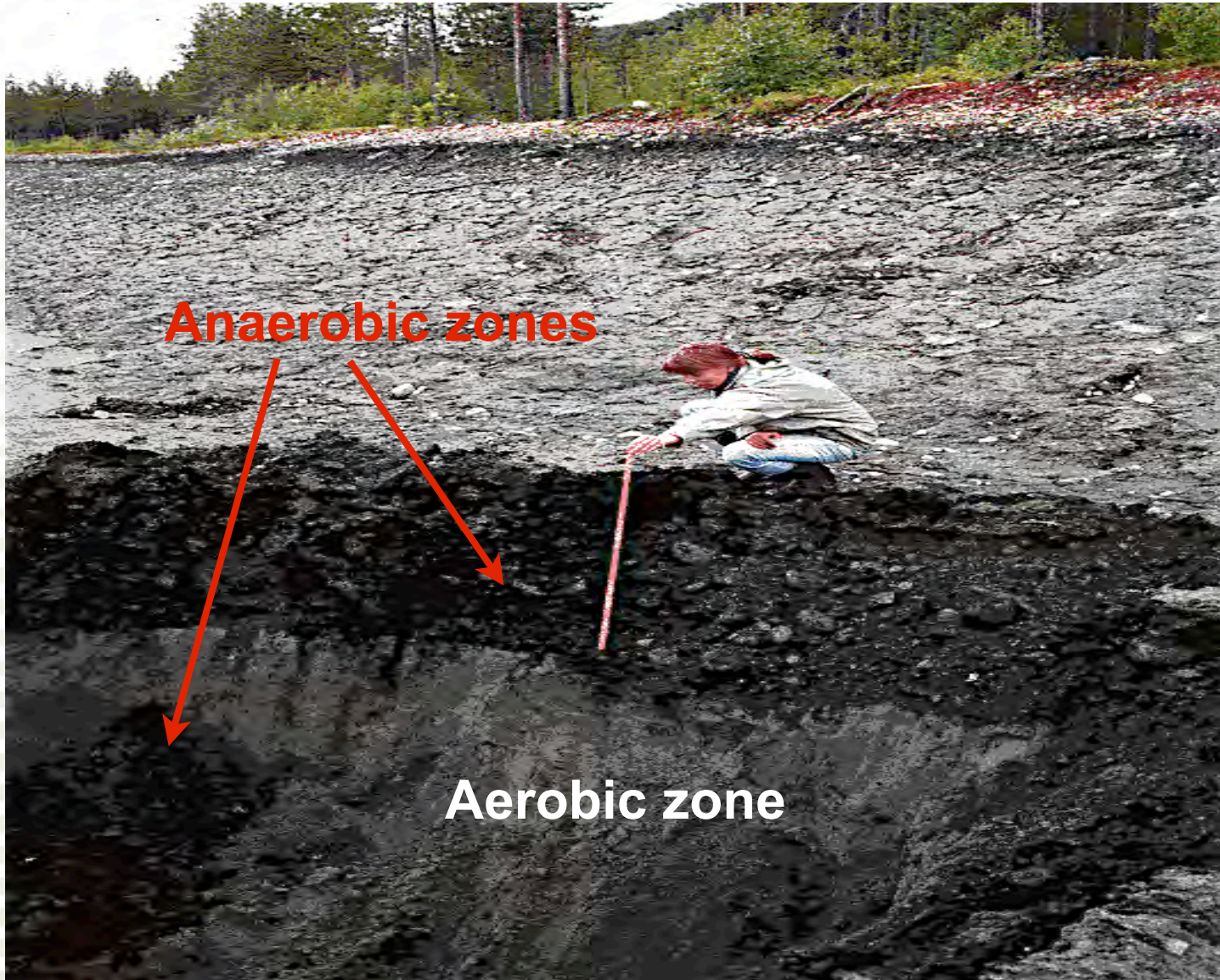


Prerequisites biological denitrification:

1. Anerobic or anoxic conditions
2. Carbon source

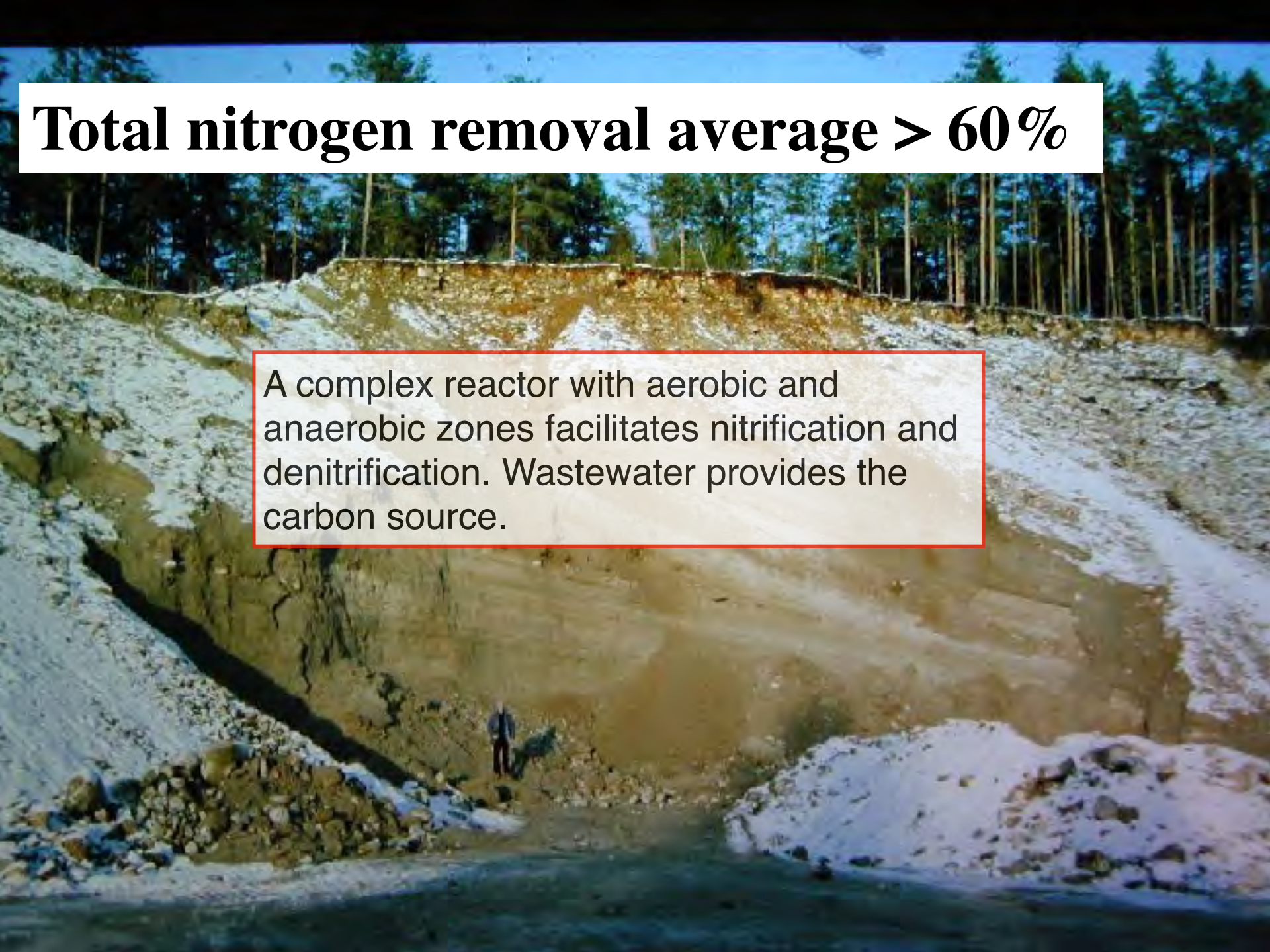
# Setermoen rapid infiltration plant

## Nitrogen removal



**Total nitrogen removal average > 60%**

A complex reactor with aerobic and anaerobic zones facilitates nitrification and denitrification. Wastewater provides the carbon source.

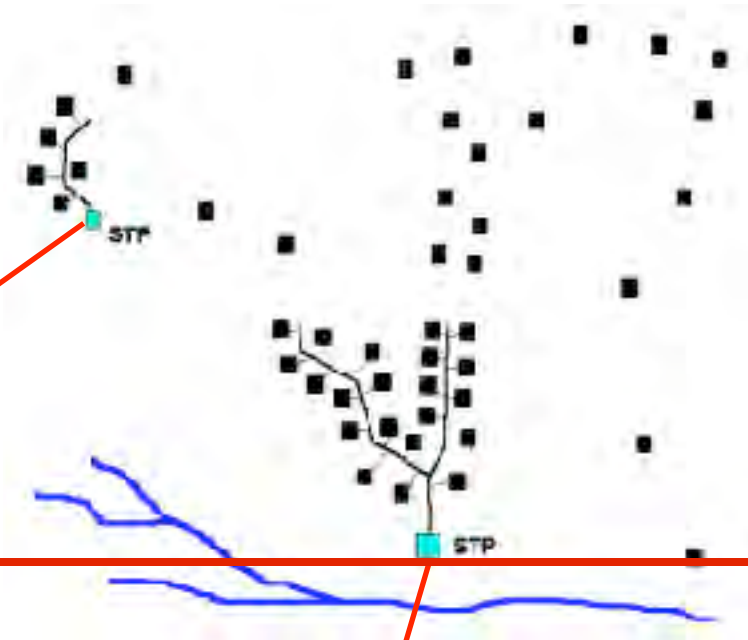




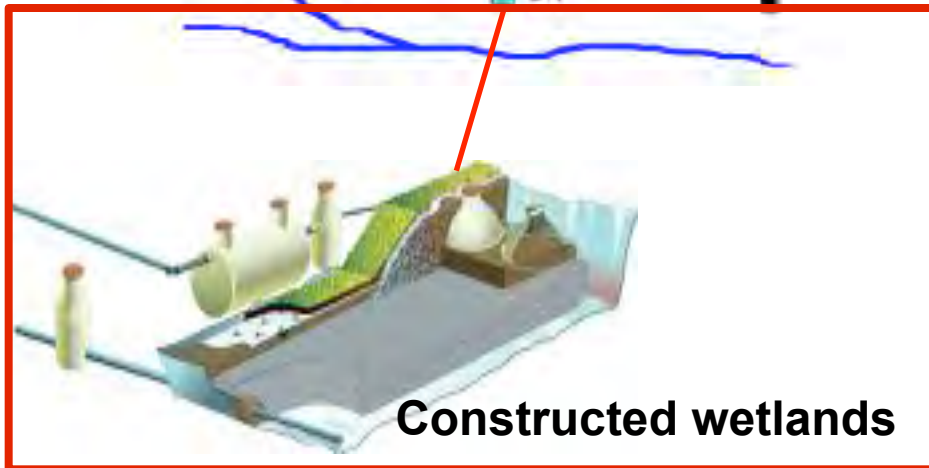
# Natural systems for wastewater treatment



**Ponds**



**Infiltration**



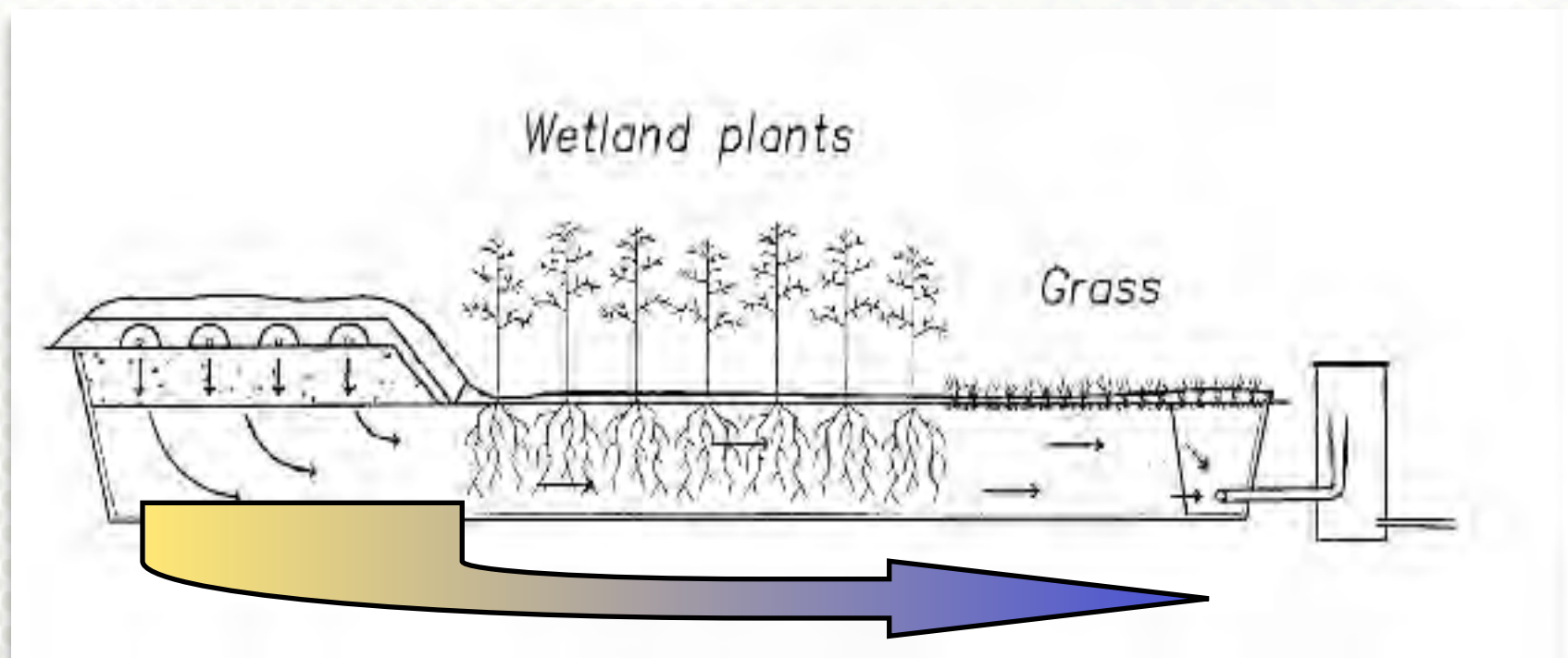
**Constructed wetlands**





Photo: T. Mæhlum

# Constructed wetland flow direction/purification



# Constructed wetland

treating wastewater from 2 homes



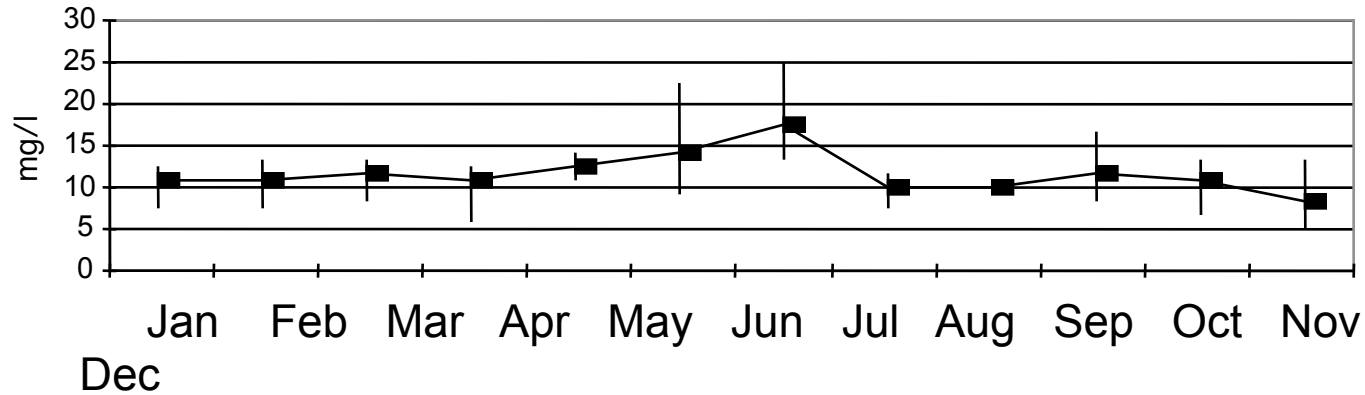
Septic tank

Pretreatment biofilter (PBF)

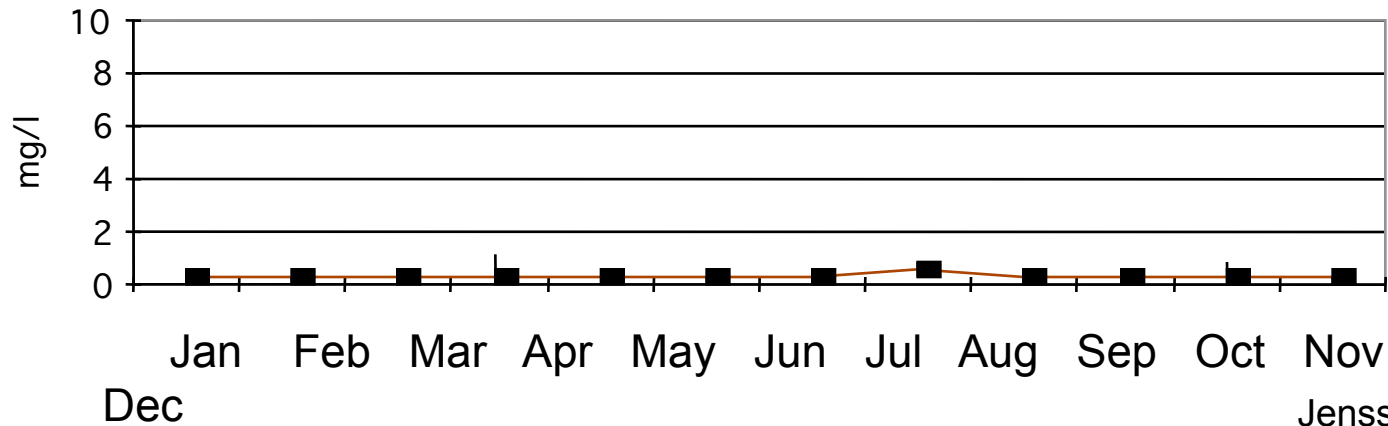
Horizontal subsurface flow  
constructed wetland (HSF)

**maxit**  
*filtralite*

# Total-P monthly average and variation 1991 - 2001 Haugstein multistage constructed wetland



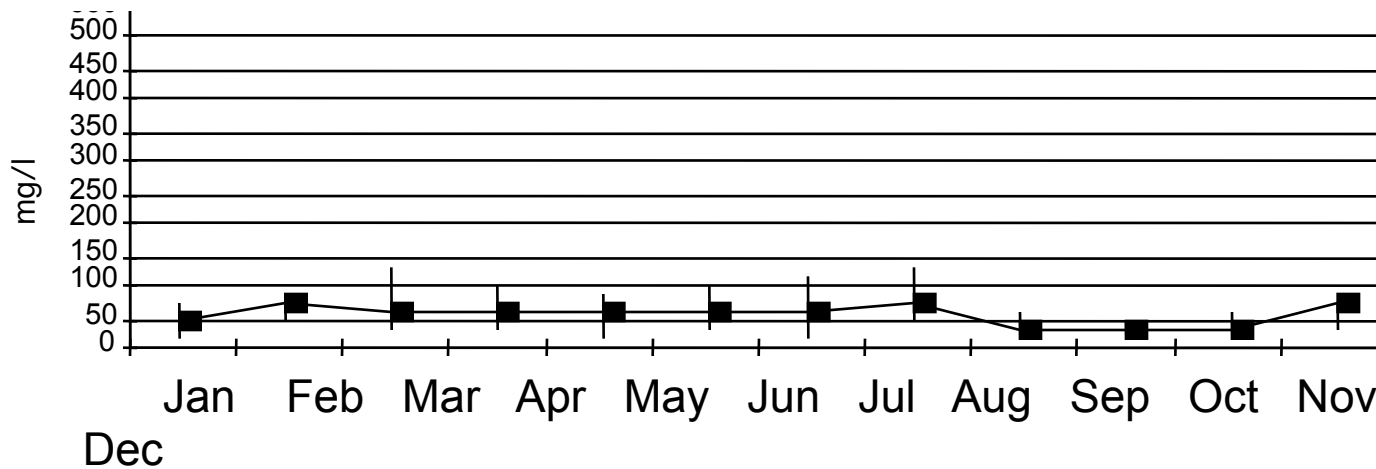
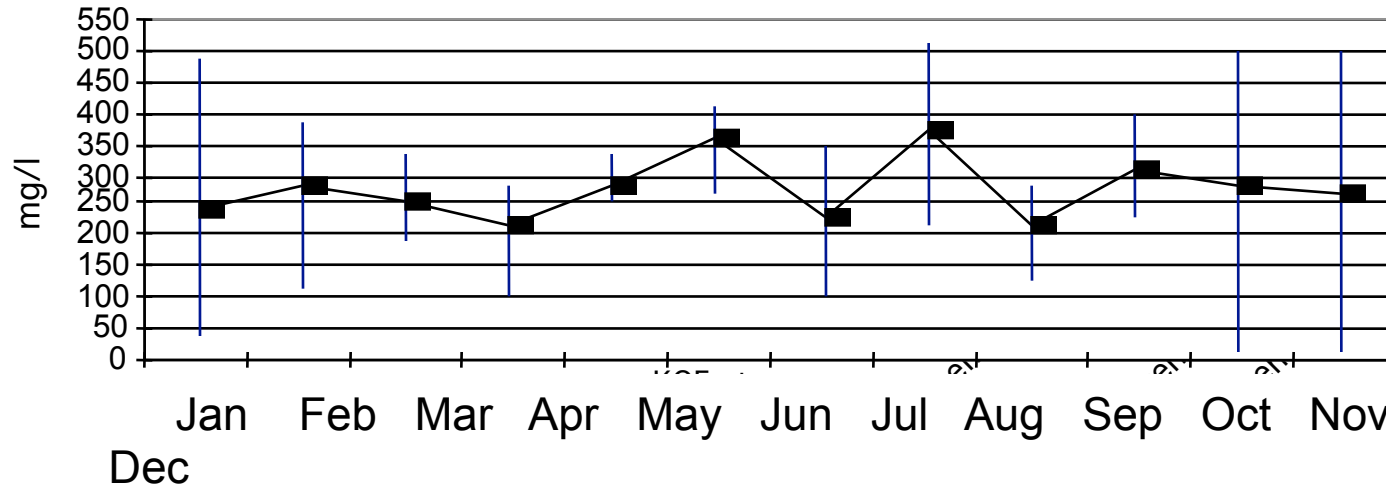
Influent  
(STE)



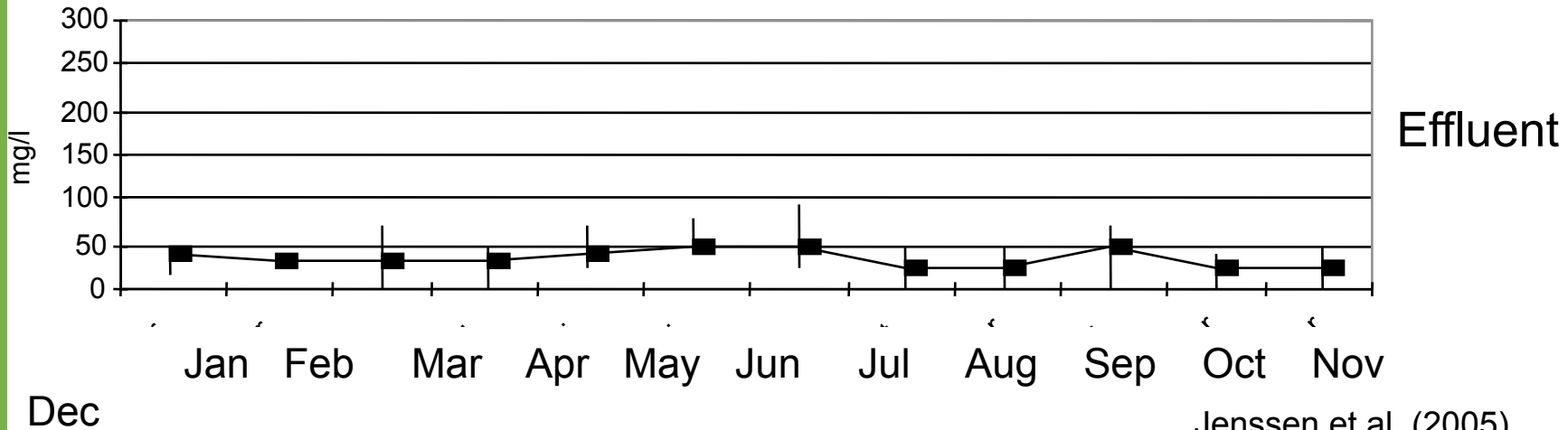
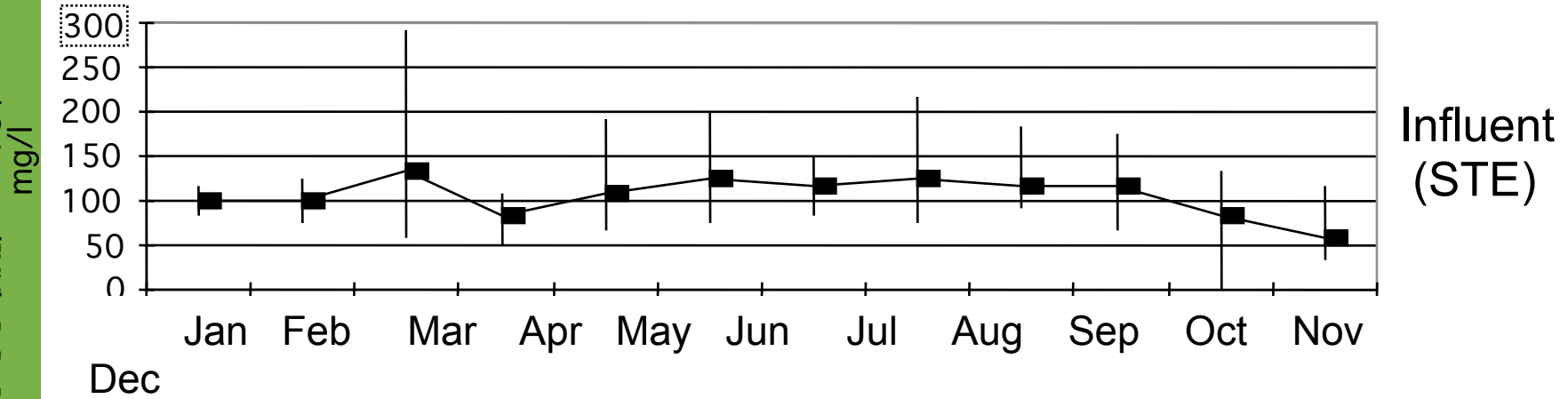
Effluent



# COD monthly average and variation 1991 - 2001 Haugstein multistage constructed wetland



# Total-N monthly average and variation 1991 - 2001 Haugstein multistage constructed wetland





# Constructed wetland

treating wastewater from 2 homes

Septic tank

Pretreatment biofilter (PB)

## Treatment performance:

Organic matter (BOD)	90 %
TSS	>90 %
Phosphorus	90 %
Total nitrogen	40 - 60%
Fecal coliforms	< 100 cfu/100ml

# Constructed wetland - Norway



Domestic WW: 7 - 9 m<sup>3</sup>/person  
Greywater: 2- 3 m<sup>3</sup>/person

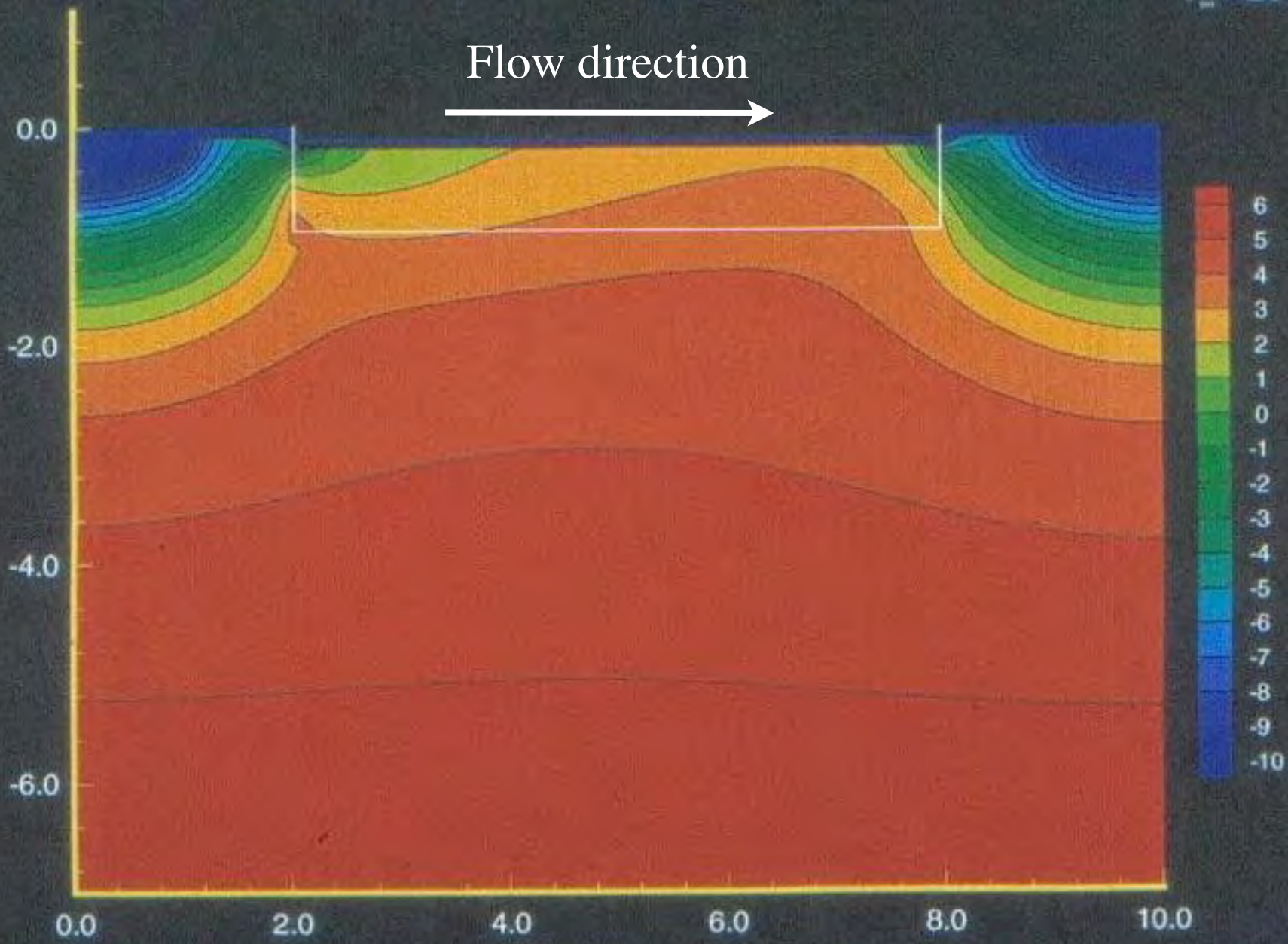
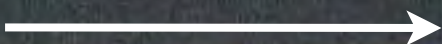


# Constructed Wetland Model N4

14 days

$T_{in} = -20^{\circ}\text{C}$

Flow direction



# Thermal properties of various insulation materials

Table 2. Thermal properties<sup>a)</sup> of various materials and insulation equivalent to the insulation provided by 10 cm of XPS.

Material	Therm. cond (W/mK)	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Eq. thickness to 10 cm XPS (cm)
XPS	0,030*	28-50*	10
Air	0,025		8,3
Water	0,57	1000	190
Ice	2,2	920	733
Snow	0,049 - 1,28	100-800	16 - 426
Peat dry	0,06	100-300	20
Peat fc <sup>b)</sup>	0,29		97
Peat sat <sup>c)</sup>	0,5-1,25	900-1200	167 - 415
Straw dry	0,09		30
Sand Haugstein sat <sup>c)</sup>	1,77#	1710 dry	590
Sand Haugstein fc <sup>b)</sup>	1,78#		590
Leca (0- 4 mm) sat <sup>c)</sup>	0,56#	350 dry	186
Leca (0- 4 mm) fc <sup>b)</sup>	0,07#		23
Leca (2-6 mm) dry	0,12 *	489 *	40
Leca (2-6 mm) wet <sup>d)</sup>	0,18 *	539 *	60

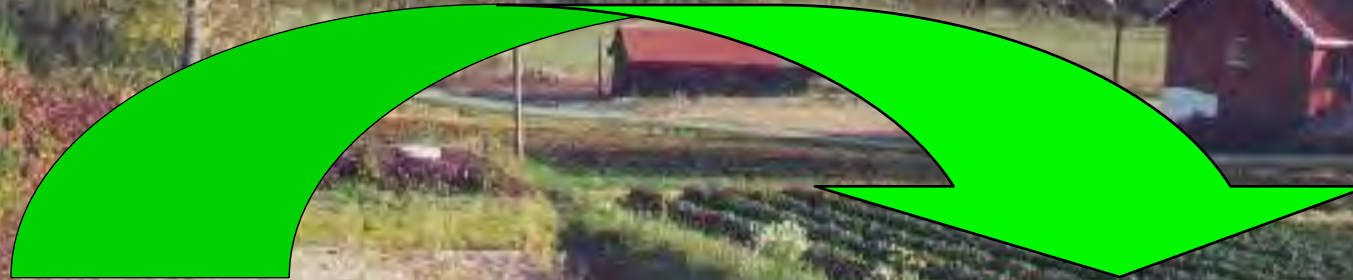
(Jenssen et al. 1996)



Size for domestic  
greywater



# Reuse of P-saturated filter material



The P fertilizer value of P-saturated filter material (FiltraliteP) is comparable to mineral fertilizer.  
(Jenssen et al. 2010)

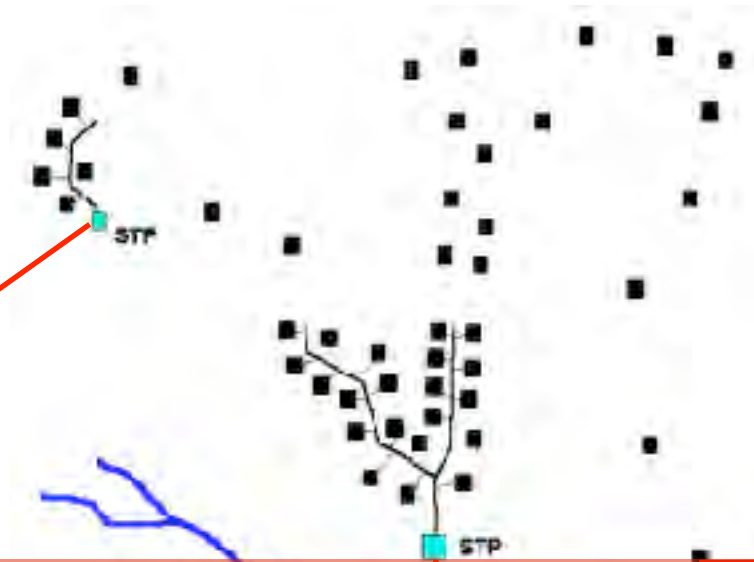
# Constructed wetland treating wastewater from 2 homes

Septic tank

Horizontal s  
constructed

Treatment - BOD, TSS, nutrients	HIGH
Treatment - Hygiene	HIGH
Treatment - Organic micropollutants	MEDIUM ?
Investment cost	MEDIUM /HIGH
O & M	LOW
Technical complexity	LOW
Suitability arctic conditions	MEDIUM

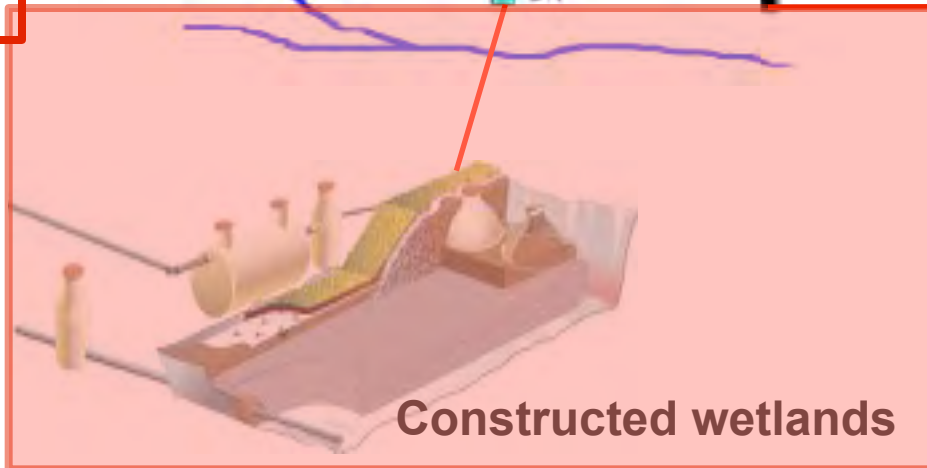
# Natural systems for wastewater treatment



**Ponds**



**Infiltration**



**Constructed wetlands**





# Sewage lagoons/ponds

Iqaluit's Sewage Lagoon  
Baffin Island



Photo: F. Reinhardt

# Sewage lagoons/ponds



Baffin Island  
sewage lagoons

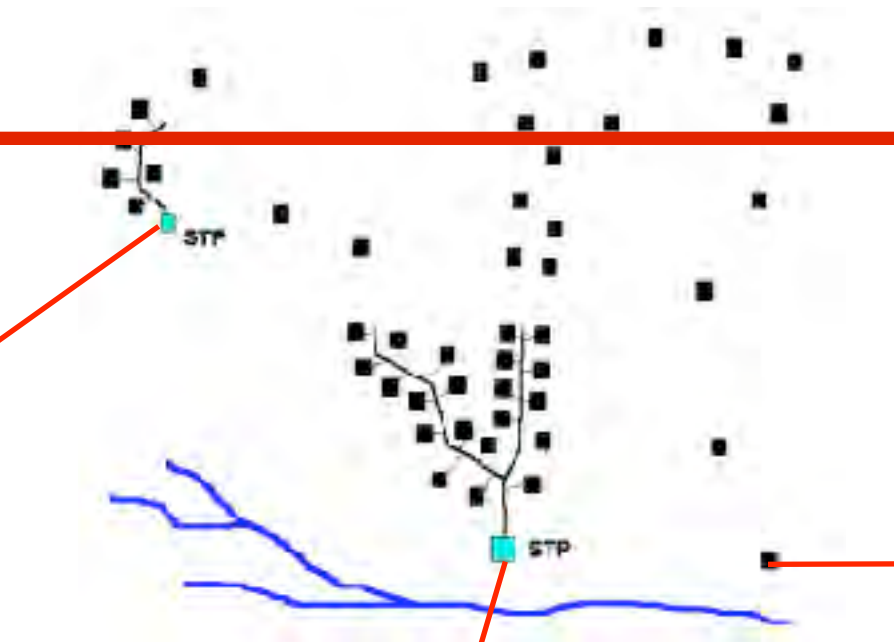
Photo: F. Reinhardt

Treatment - BOD, TSS, nutrients	LOW
Treatment - Hygiene	LOW
Treatment - Organic micropollutants	LOW
Investment cost	LOW/ HIGH
O & M	LOW
Technical complexity	LOW
Suitability arctic conditions	?

# Natural systems for wastewater treatment



**Ponds**



**Infiltration**



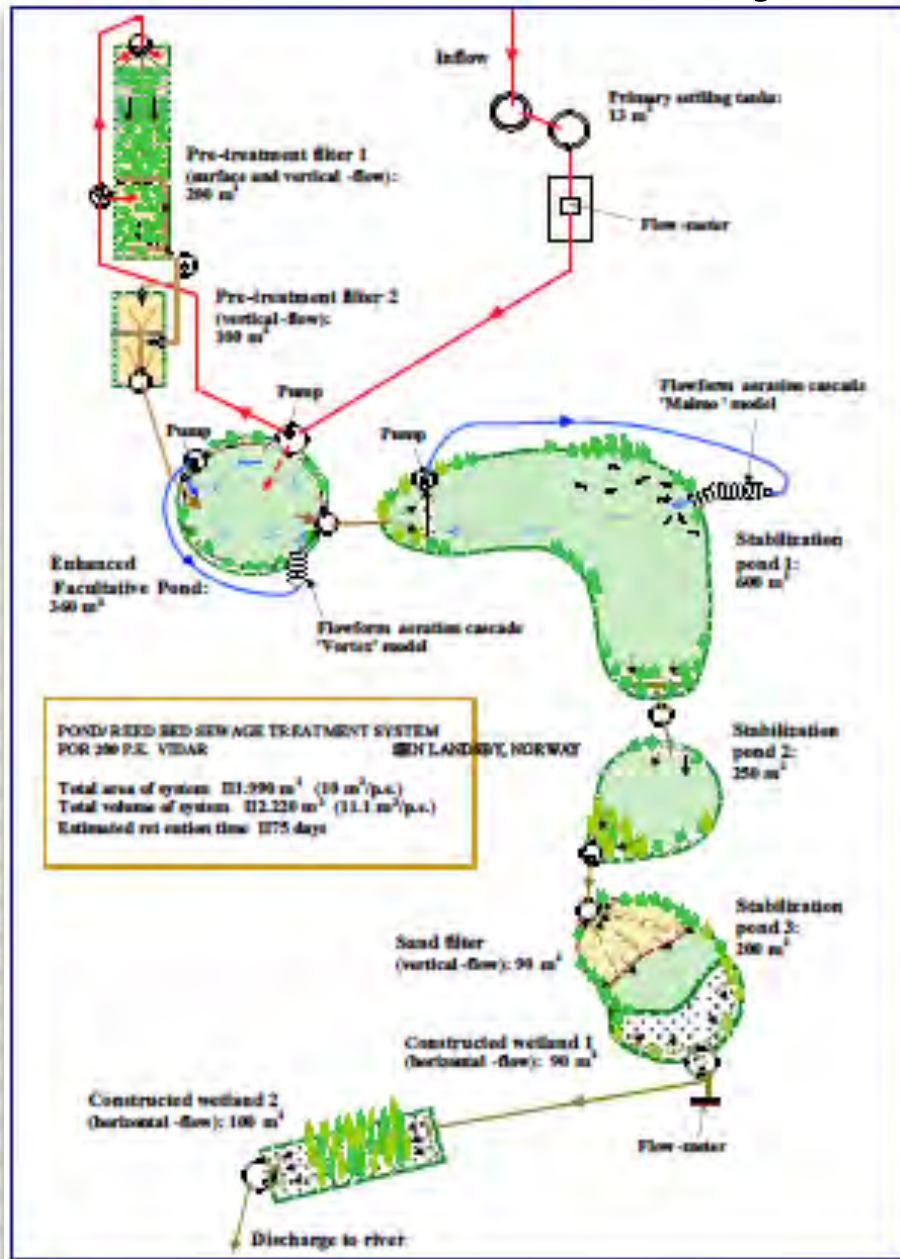
**Constructed wetlands**



# A pond/ wetland system in Norway



# Pond/wetland system - Norway



Effluent load:  
\* 200 people  
\* a dairy  
\* a bakery

System age:  
\* 18 years

Footprint:  
\* 12m<sup>2</sup>/pe

# The pond/wetland system at Vidaråsen Camphill

Constructed wetlands

Ponds

Pretreatment  
wetlands  
Enhanced  
facultative pond



# Treatment results 1996 - 2015

	TOC mg/l	P mg/l	Tot-N mg/l	NH <sub>4</sub> mg/l	TSS mg/l	Fecal coli /100ml
Inlet	76	6.2	47	46		
Out	5	0.24	4	0.11	< 5	<100
Remo- val (%)	93	96	91	99.8		

References: Browne and Jenssen (2004), Pandey (2016)



Treatment re

# Norway's best performing treatment system?

	TOC mg/l	P mg/l	Tot-N mg/l	NH <sub>4</sub> mg/l	TSS mg/l	Fecal coli /100ml
Inlet	76	6.2	47	46		
Out	5	0.24	4	0.11	< 5	<100
Remo- val (%)	93	96	91	99.8		

References: Browne and Jenssen (2004), Pandey (2016)





# The pond/wetland system at Vidaråsen Camphill



Treatment - BOD, TSS, nutrients	HIGH
Treatment - Hygiene	HIGH
Treatment - Organic micropollutants	MEDIUM ?
Investment cost	MEDIUM /HIGH
O & M	LOW
Technical complexity	LOW
Suitability arctic conditions	MEDIUM

References: Browne and Jenssen (2004), Pandey (2016)



# Conclusions



- Natural systems (infiltration, wetlands, ponds) have treatment performance equal to conventional (mechanical/technical) systems
- The phosphorus removal capacity depends on the surface chemistry of the soil/porous media particles
- Natural systems have a low O&M cost and is often cheaper to build than conventional systems
- Natural systems are robust, have a stable treatment performance and tolerate large fluctuations in inflow

# Conclusions



- The Setermoen rapid infiltration plant has for over 25 years consistently removed more than 98% of the total phosphorus and more than 85% of the COD.
- The phosphorus removal capacity is predicted to last 12 years below each basin and the treatment results seems to confirm the prediction.
- Annual removal of total nitrogen has varied from 35 to above 80%. The nitrogen removal seems to have dropped after the municipality introduced garbage grinders.
- The system has saved the municipality an estimated 45 million NOK over 25 years compared to investment and operation of a conventional mechanical/chemical treatment system.

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Thank You !

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