

Data from batch reactors were collected for the vapor phase sorption and degradation of three compounds, benzene, xylene, and trichloroethylene, in an unsaturated soil from Texas. These data were used to determine both sorption and degradation coefficients. The results indicate VOCs are sorbed and then removed by degradation as they pass through the soil in the vapor phase. In turn, these coefficients were used in a fate and transport model to evaluate the significance of vapor removal in the overall distribution of the VOCs in soil. This information has great potential for use in the bioremediation of soils contaminated with VOCs.

Demographic and social correlates of NIMBY

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Abstract

Recent studies and public opinion polls suggest that environmental attitudes cut across socioeconomic and demographic lines. With one notable exception — a study which shows significant differences by age — the recent, more rigorous research has found that environmental concerns are widely distributed in the population. However, these studies basically aim at generalized environmental issues that effect the respondents only in a hypothetical sense. The present study focuses on a population faced with a real prospect of a new hazardous waste facility. Thus it differs from other studies in two important ways: (1) It targets a community confronted firsthand by a proposed site, and (2) it measures a more specific or narrow set of environmental concerns (NIMBY or Not-In-My-Back Yard attitudes) than is typically measured by public opinion polls.

Drawing on survey data from four communities surrounding a proposed hazardous waste facility near Houston, an exploration of public attitudes is made to assess the similarities between NIMBY and studies of generalized environmental issues. A multivariate analysis is conducted to determine the relative and direct effects of social and demographic variables on NIMBY attitudes, and a test of the age cohort hypothesis is made.
