

DECOVALEX Task F: Case Study in Integrating Insight and Experience from the International Community in GDSA

U. S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Fall Workshop
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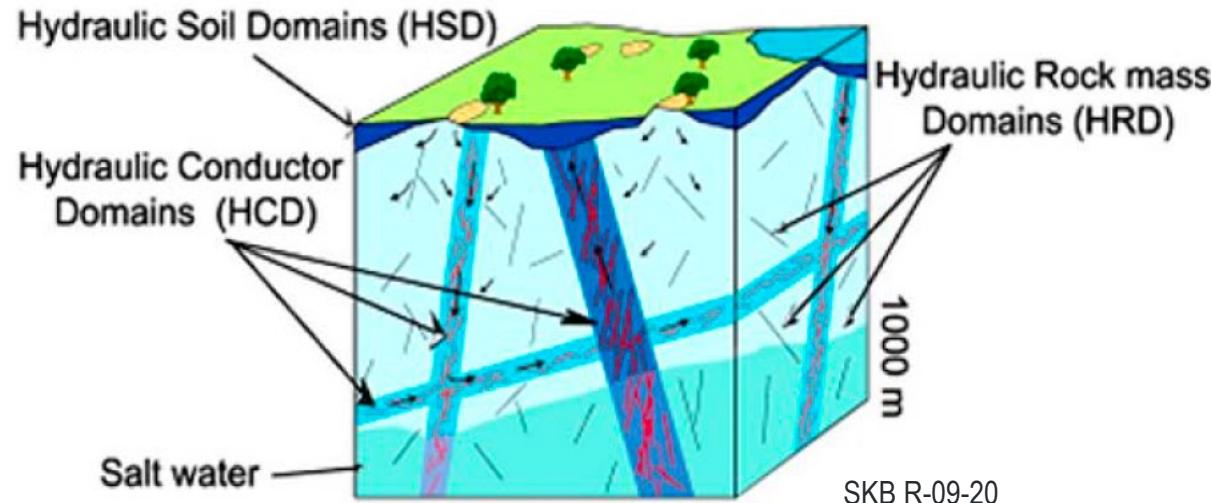
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Outline

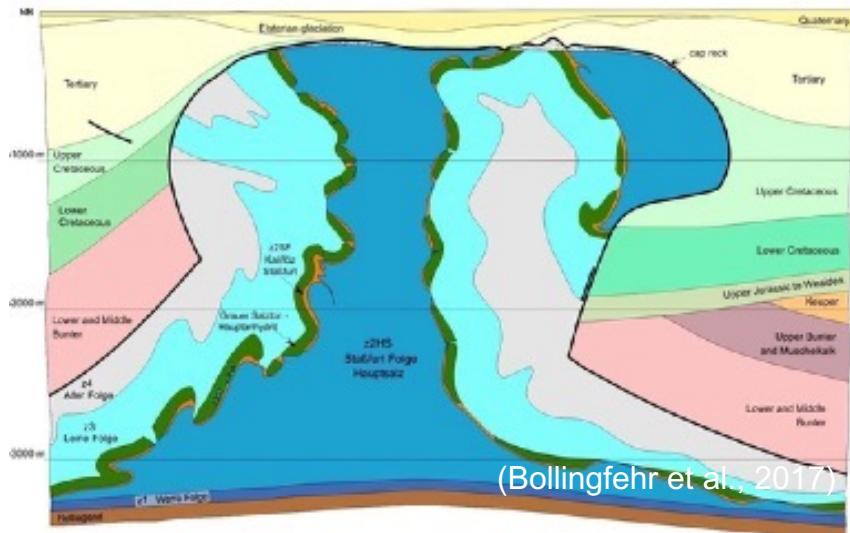
- DECOVALEX (Development of COupled models and their VALidation against Experiments) Task F Structure
- Crystalline Benchmarks
- Crystalline Reference Case
- Salt Reference Case

Task F Objectives – Comparison of Performance Assessment Models and Methods

Crystalline



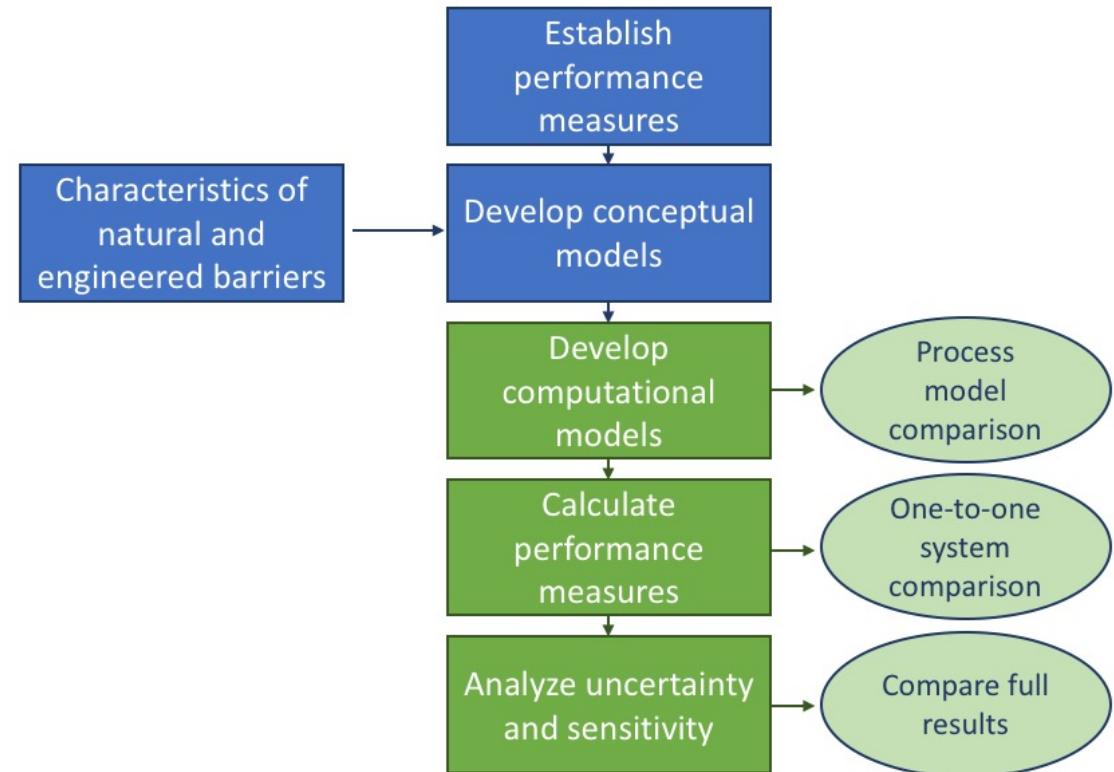
Salt Dome



- Capability development
 - Software
 - Workflow
 - People
- Influence of modelling choices
 - Model fidelity
 - Omission/inclusion of processes
 - Coupling
- Compare to other uncertainties
 - Stochastic fracture network
 - Uncertain inputs
 - Scenario uncertainties

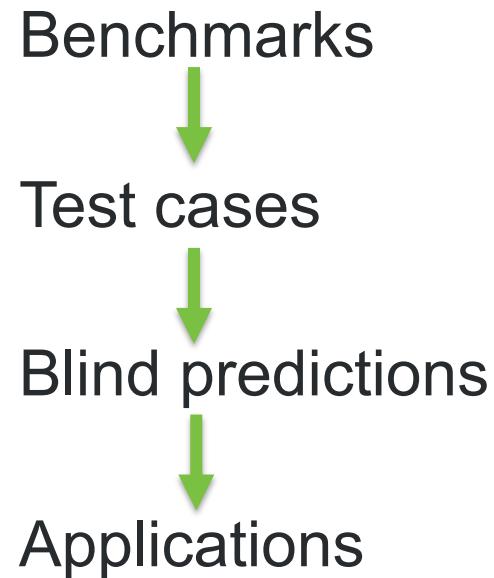
Task F Structure

- Step 0 - Reference Case Definition
- Step 1 – Benchmarks/Process Models
 - Relatively simple problems that address a subset of features and/or processes
- Step 2 - Deterministic Reference Case
 - Addresses coupling between processes and results in multiple performance measures
- Step 3 - Uncertainty Propagation
 - Uncertainty in performance measures resulting from propagation of uncertainty
 - Sensitivity of performance measures to uncertain model inputs (correlation, regression)
- Step 4 - Sensitivity Analysis Methods
 - Interested teams may also compare methods of sensitivity analysis (variance decomposition, etc.)

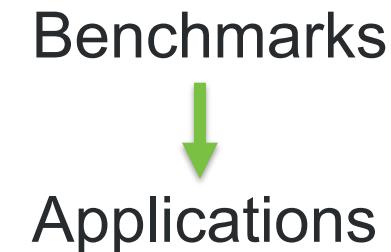


Task F is Atypical

Typical DECOVALEX Task



Task F



Teams

Crystalline

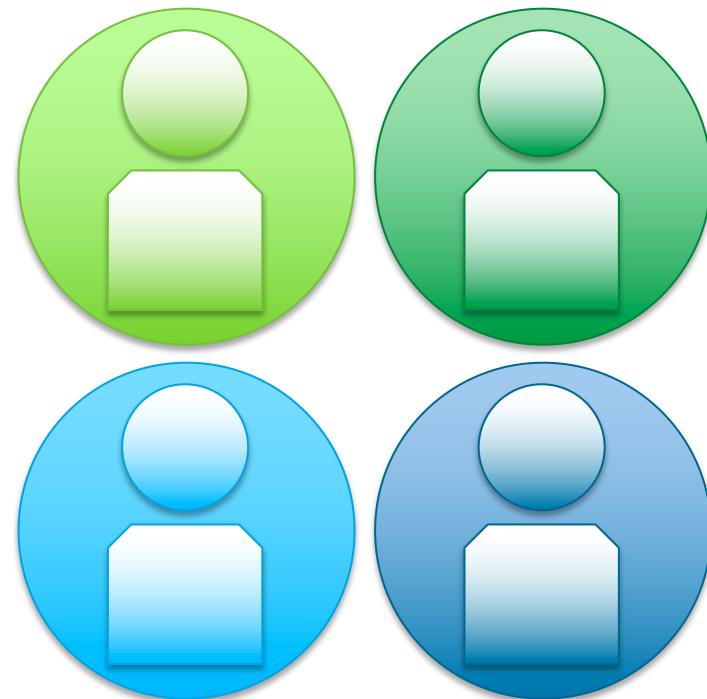
										
Canada REGULATOR	Canada IMPLEMENTER	Czech Republic IMPLEMENTER	Germany GEOSCIENCE ADVISOR	Germany REGULATOR	Germany SAFETY CONSULTANT	Korea IMPLEMENTER	Sweden REGULATOR	Taiwan IMPLEMENTER	United States IMPLEMENTER	

Salt

				
Germany REGULATOR	Germany SAFETY CONSULTANT	Netherlands IMPLEMENTER	United Kingdom SAFETY CONSULTANT	United States IMPLEMENTER

Benefit to Program

- Integration of features and processes
 - Generation and upscaling of discrete fracture networks
 - Dual continuum fracture-matrix diffusion
 - Salt reconsolidation
- Confidence building
 - Software benchmarking
 - Comparison of modeling approaches
 - Mutual learning
- Next generation of repository scientists
 - Reference case development
 - Numerical implementation and simulation
 - PFLOTRAN software development
 - Uncertainty and sensitivity analysis



Crystalline Benchmarks

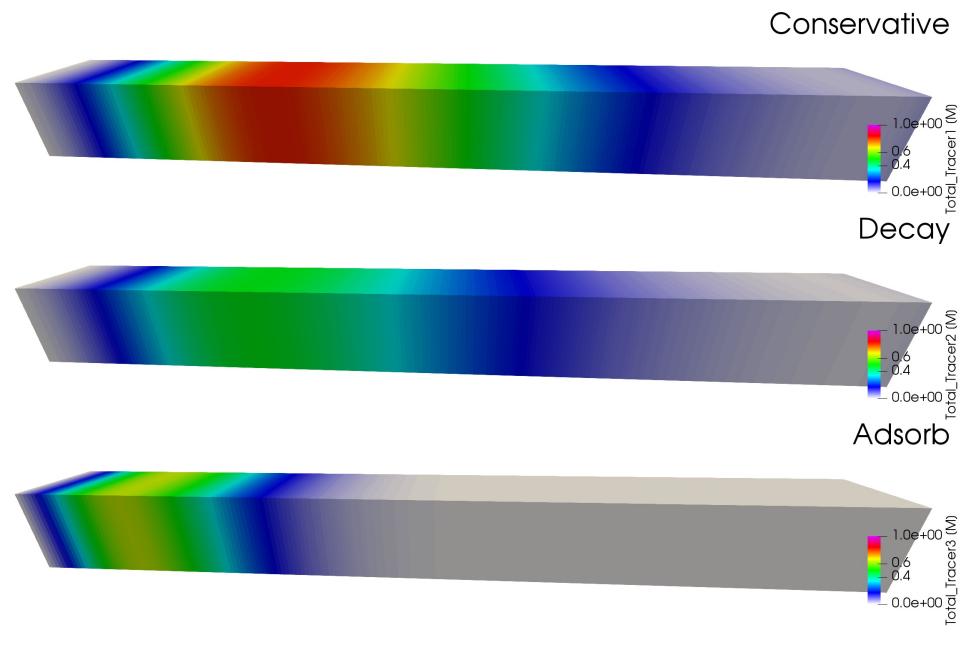
Crystalline Benchmarks and Test Cases

Test Cases
Steady-state flow
Transient advection/dispersion
Matrix diffusion
4-fracture network (deterministic)
Stochastic fracture network
Radionuclide source term
Buffer and canister processes

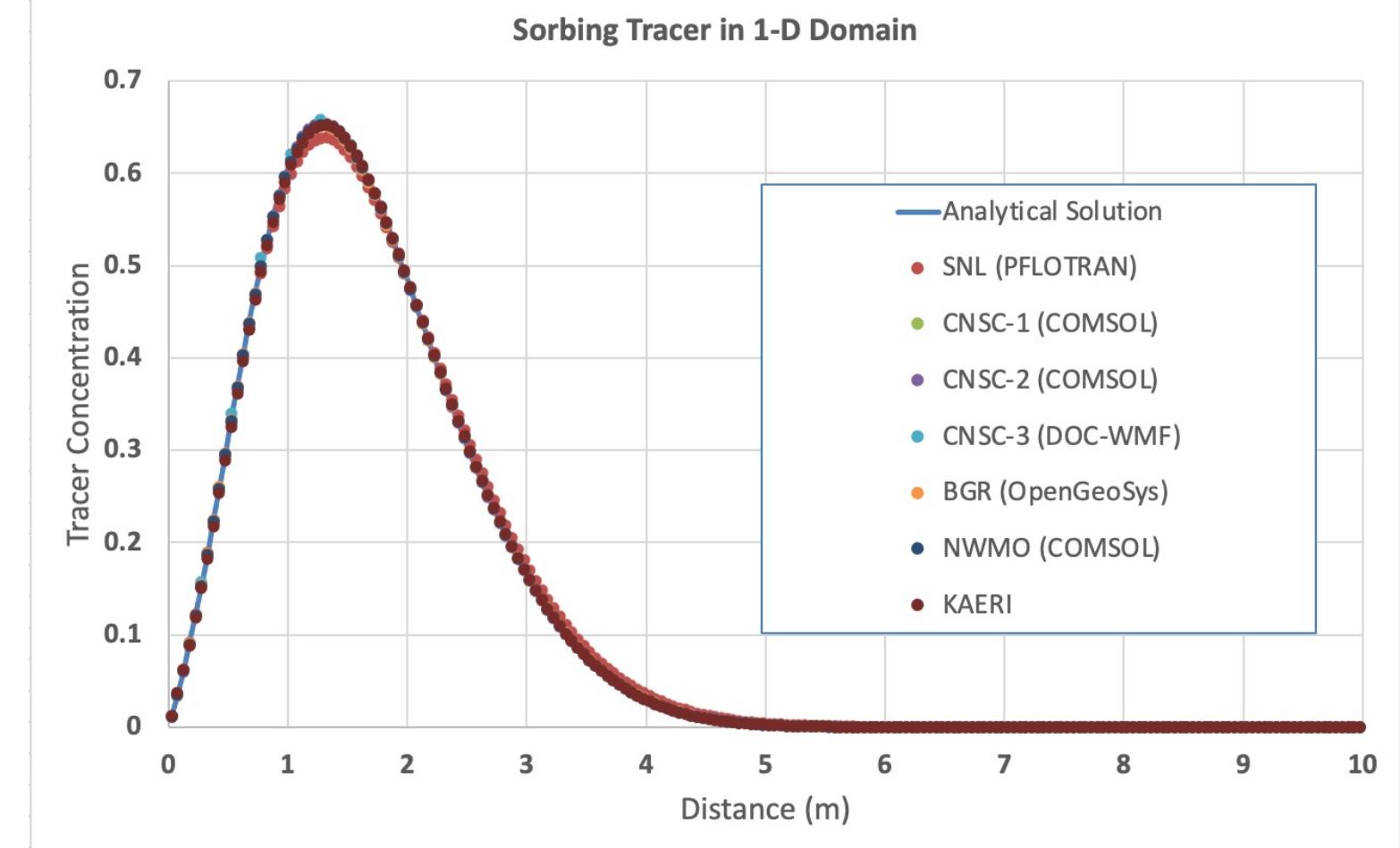
Crystalline Benchmarks and Test Cases

Test Cases	
	Steady-state flow
	Transient advection/dispersion
	Matrix diffusion
	4-fracture network (deterministic)
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	Buffer and canister processes

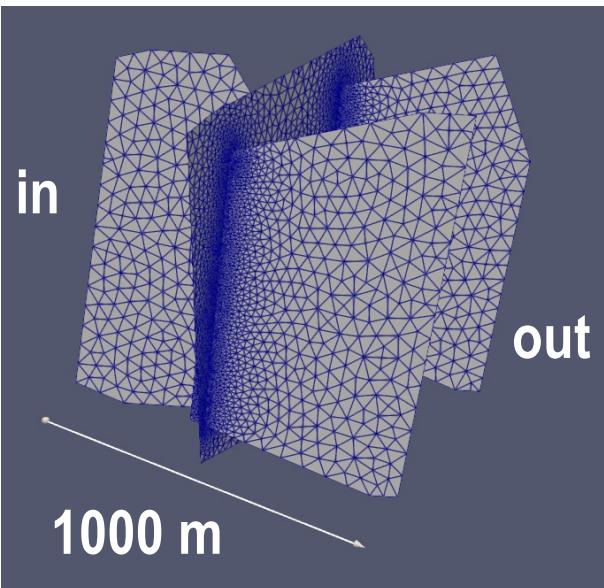
Transient Advection and Dispersion



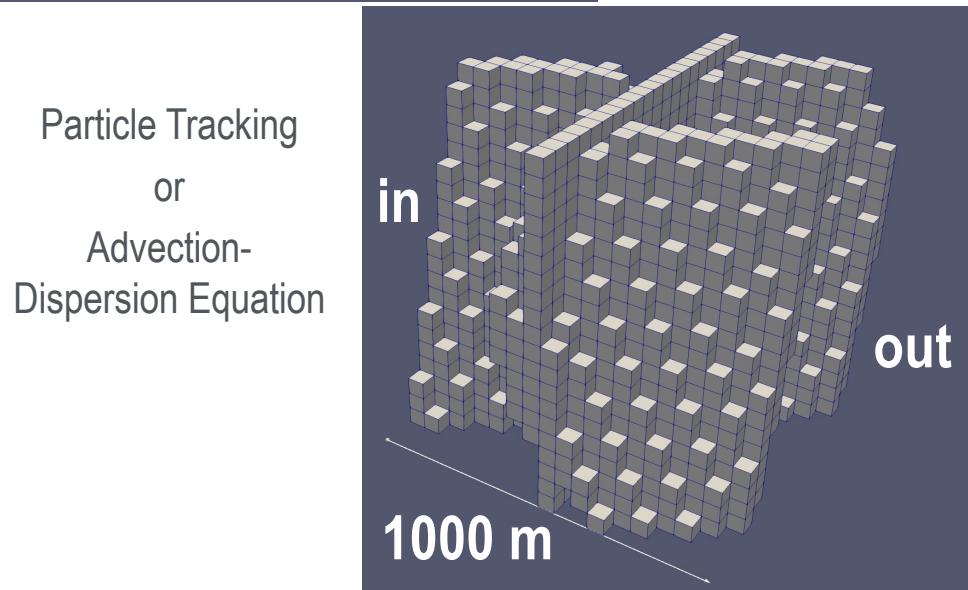
- **Conservative**
- **Decaying**
- **Adsorbing**



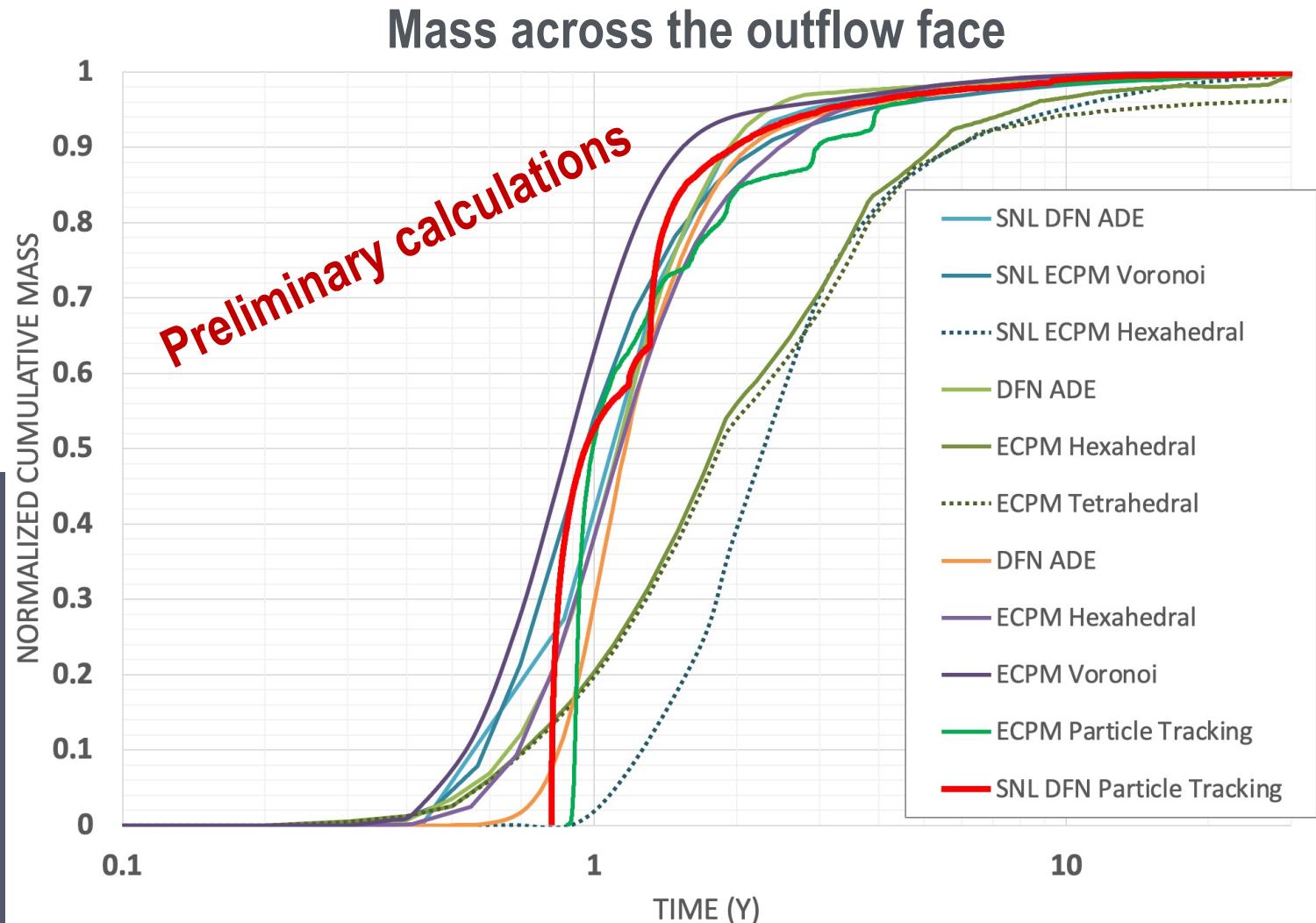
4-Fracture Network



Discrete Fracture
Network (DFN)
or
Equivalent
Continuous Porous
Medium (ECPM)



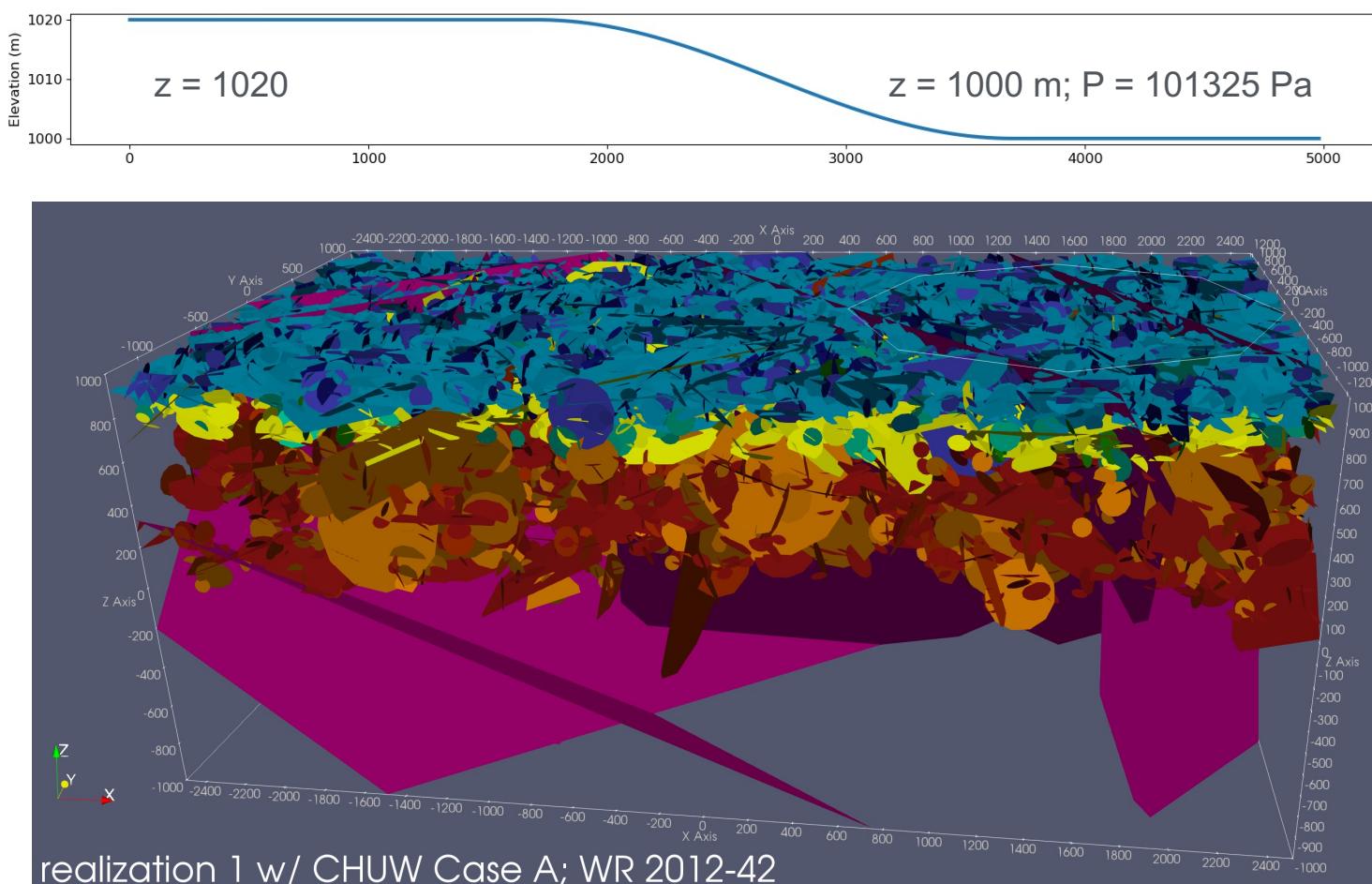
Particle Tracking
or
Advection-
Dispersion Equation



Crystalline Reference Case

Crystalline Reference Case – Natural Barrier System

- Loosely based on Olkiluoto
 - Deterministic fracture zones based on Brittle Fracture Zones (WR-2017-32)
 - Stochastic discrete fracture network based on Central Hydraulic Unit West (WR-2012-42)
 - 3 depth zones each with 3 fracture sets
 - Can relate fracture transmissivity to normal and shear stress (WR-2016-08)



Crystalline Reference Case – Engineered Barrier System

- KBS-3V emplacement concept
 - Spent nuclear fuel
 - Copper canister
 - Cast iron insert
 - Bentonite buffer in boreholes
 - Bentonite backfill in drifts

Initial simulations –
Tracer transport in steady state flow field

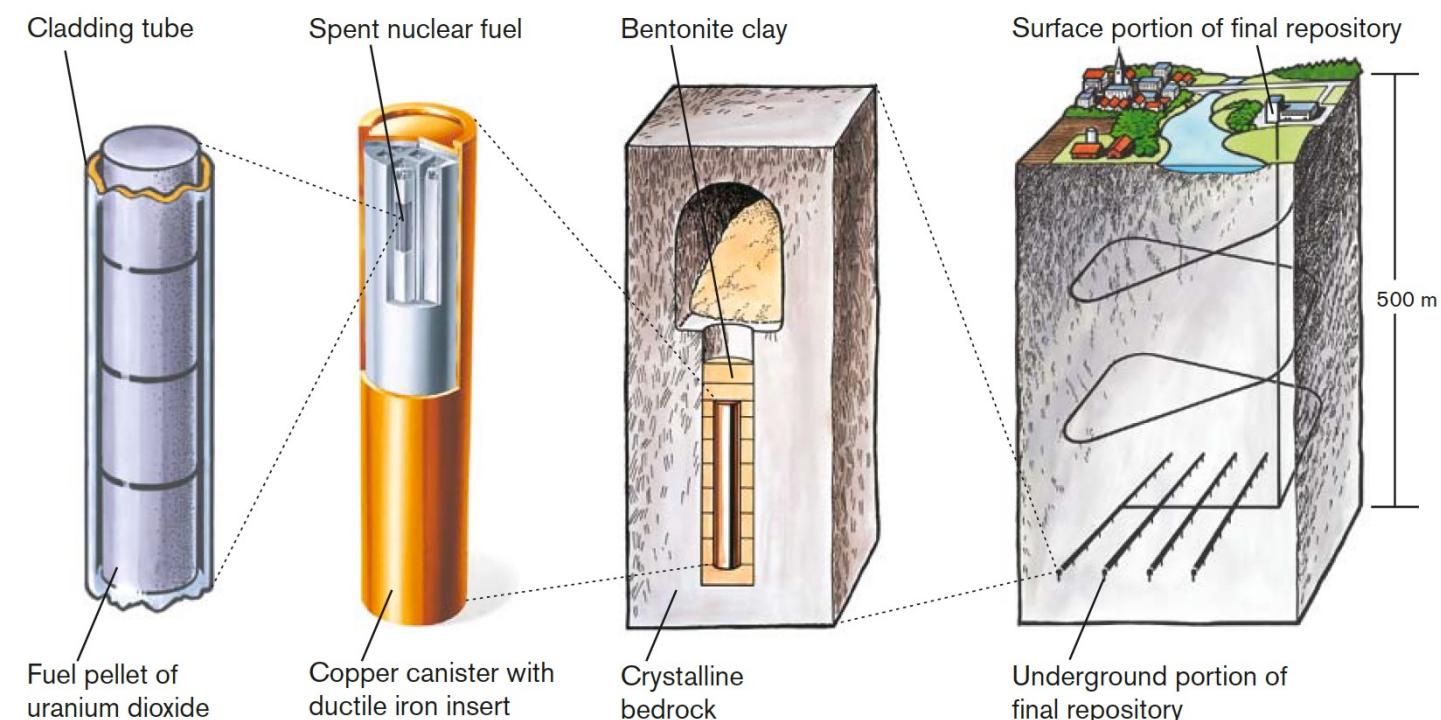


Figure S-1. The KBS-3 concept for disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

Later Challenges – Canister Failure Mechanisms & Feedbacks

CANISTER FAILURE	Priority 1	2	3	4	Sorption models in buffer?
Corrosion	3	4	-	1	
Shear	2	2	4	-	
Anything w/ glacial	3	1	-	4	
Pinhole	2	1	2	2	

FEEDBACKS	Number of Interested Teams	Suggested Priority
Buffer erosion	6	1
Canister corrosion	4	1
Glacial on hydrologic boundary condition*	8	2
Glacial on Stress/Transmissivity	6	2 (optional)
Seismic on Stress/Transmissivity	4	-skip-
Thermal overpressure on transmissivity	5	1.5? (optional)

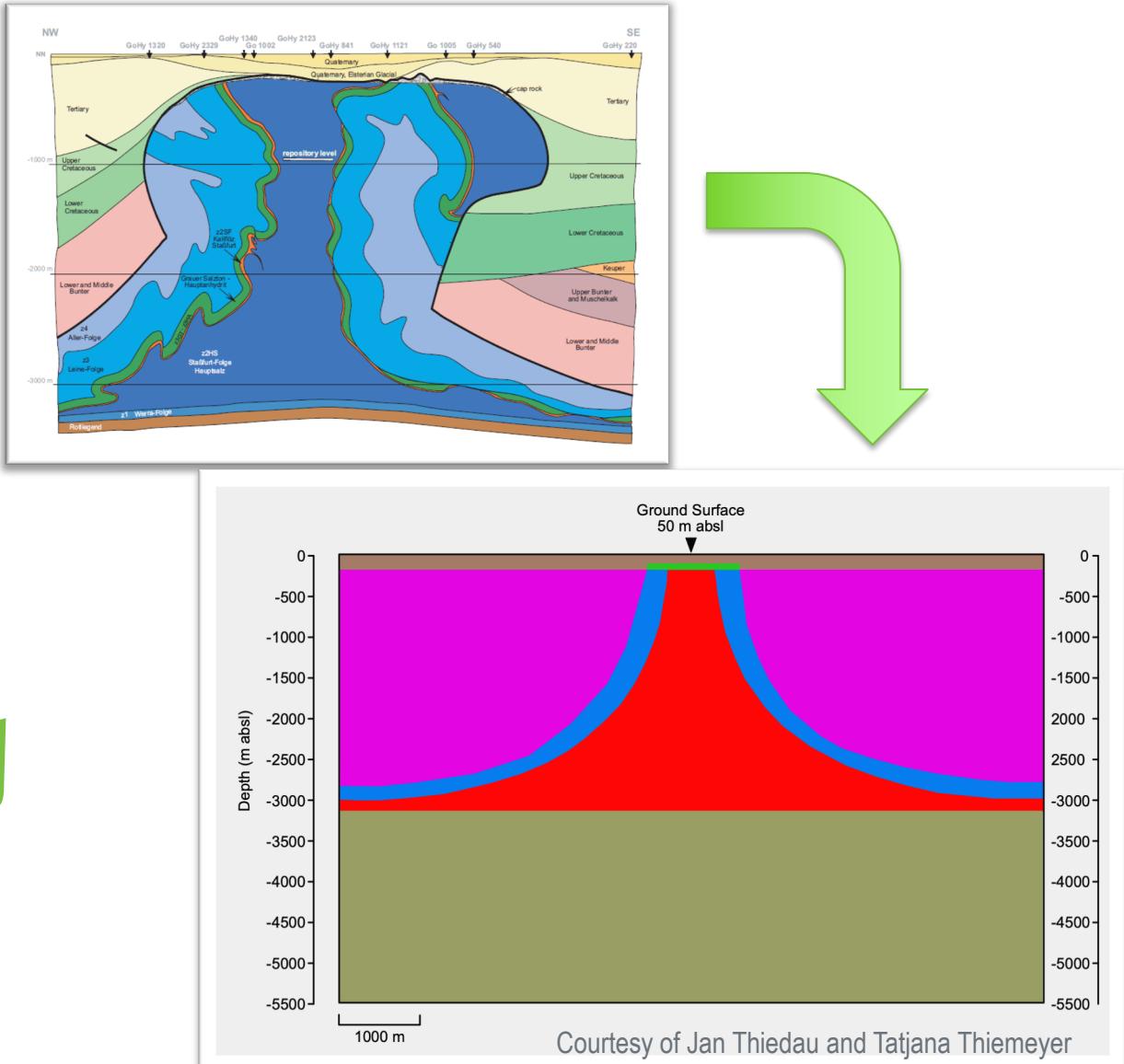
*and/or sea level change

Domal Salt Reference Case

Salt Reference Case – Natural Barrier System

- Salt dome
 - Low porosity ($\phi \leq 0.1$ vol-%)
 - Low permeability ($k \leq 10^{-22} \text{ m}^2$)
 - No flowing groundwater (~ 0.1 vol-% brine)
 - High thermal conductivity ($\geq 5 \text{ W/m} \cdot \text{K}$)
 - Openings creep closed ($> 10^0 - 10^2 \text{ yr}$)
 - Crushed salt heals to intact salt

Simplified geometry

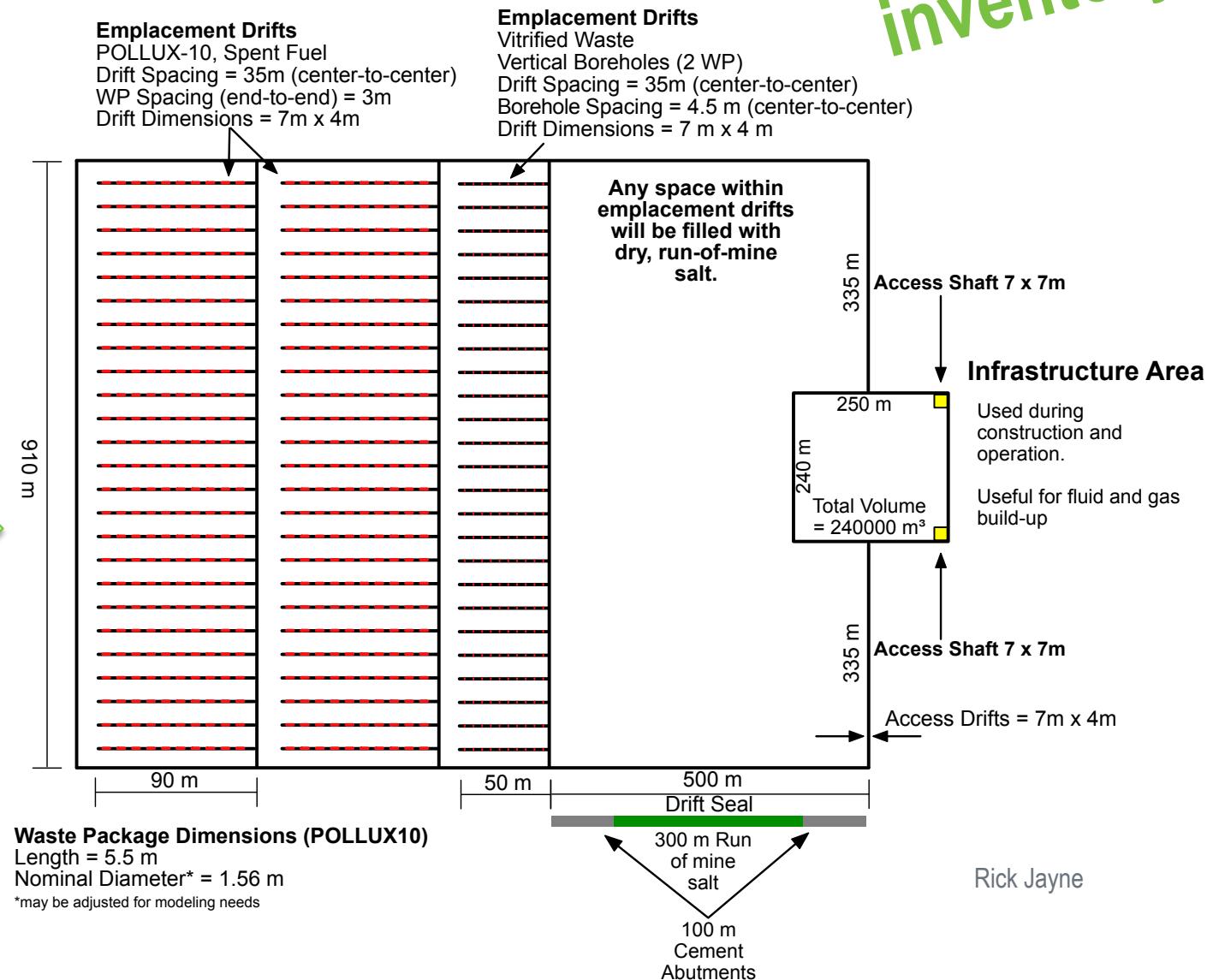
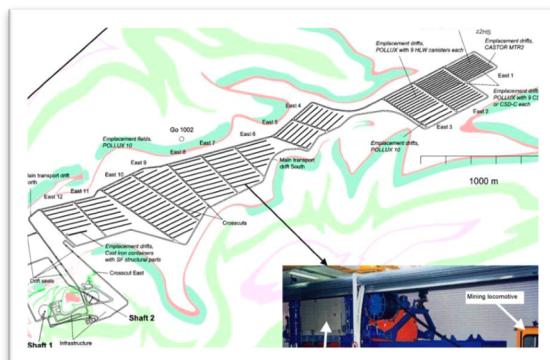


Salt Reference Case – Engineered Barrier System

Small inventory

- Features borrowed from Germany, Netherlands, United States

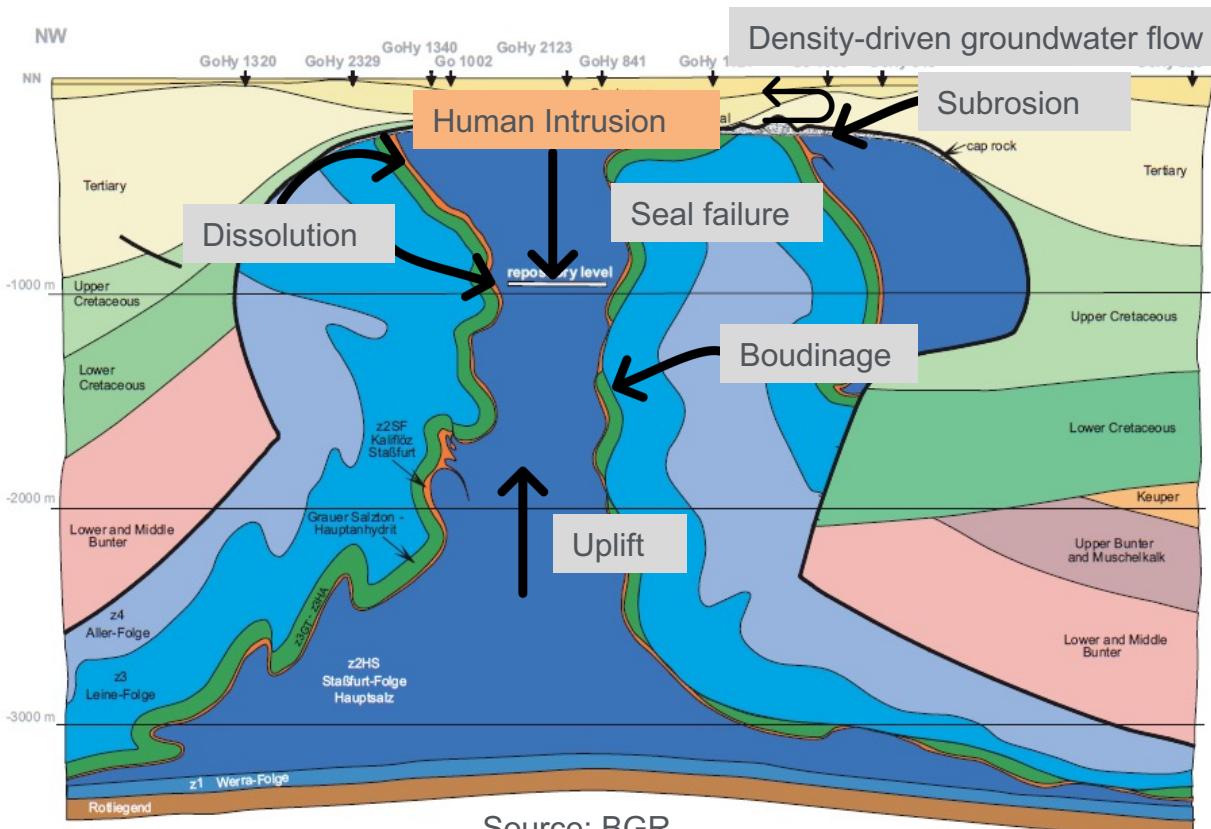
- Glass waste form
- Spent nuclear fuel
- Cast iron canister
- Crushed salt backfill in drifts
- Gravel in infrastructure area
- Drift seals
- Shaft seals



Staged Model Development for Shaft Seal Failure Scenario

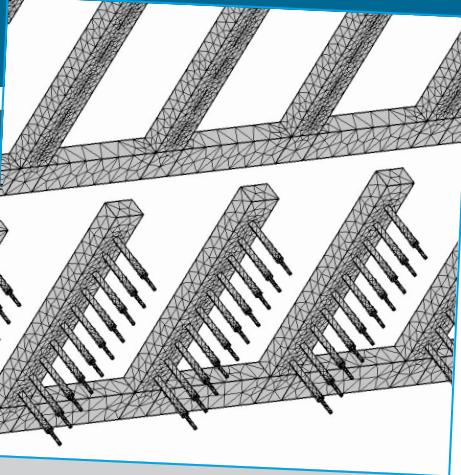
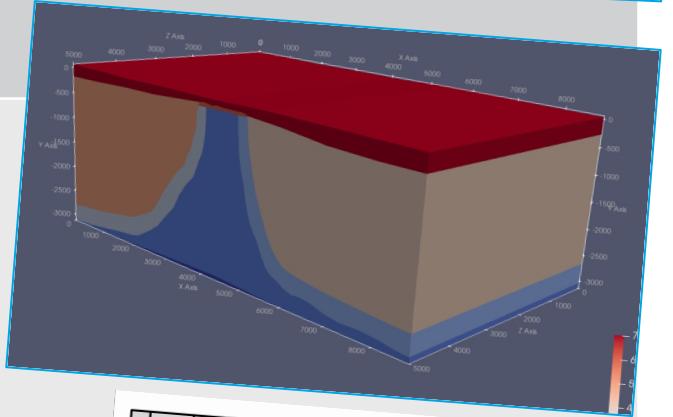
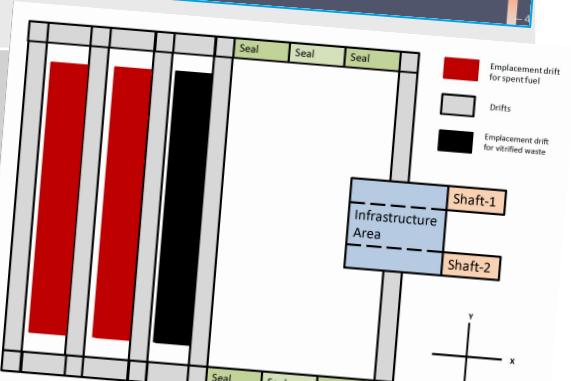
- What if the shaft seals fail at 1000 y?
 - Modeled as permeability increase
- Staged model development
 1. Flow + radionuclide transport
 2. + multiphase flow
 3. + drift convergence
 4. + heat flow and temperature-dependence of drift convergence
 5. + model uncertainty in backfill consolidation model
 6. (+ gas generation)

Failure scenario?



Jens Wolf, Salt Scenario Online Workshop 11-13 August 2020

Diverse Modeling Approaches

Team	Modeling Tool	Modeling Approach
	COMSOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed representation of repository• Neglect impermeable host rock? 
	PFLOTRAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geologic meshing• Include all volumes/materials 
 global research for safety	LOPOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “<u>Looped structures in repositories</u>”• Segmented model 

Summary

- Comparison of performance assessment models and methods
 - Crystalline and salt reference cases
- Build confidence
 - Address uncertainty introduced by modeling approach
 - Incorporate features, events, and processes identified in international programs
- Develop
 - Simulation and analysis capability
 - Next generation of repository scientists

References

LaForce, T., K. W. Chang, F. V. Perry, T. S. Lowry, E. Basurto, R. S. Jayne, D. M. Brooks, S. Jordan, E. R. Stein, R. C. Leone and M. Nole, 2020. *GDSA Repository Systems Analysis Investigations in FY2020*. SAND2020-12028R, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

LaForce, T., E. Basurto, K. W. Chang, R. S. Jayne, R. C. Leone, M. Nole, F. V. Perry and E. R. Stein, 2021. *GDSA Repository Systems Analysis Investigations in FY2021*. M2SF-20SN010304062; SAND2021-11691R, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

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