
Journal of Environmental Hydrology

ISSN 1058-3912

Electronic journal of the International Association for Environmental Hydrology

On the World Wide Web at <http://www.hydroweb.com>

JEH Volume 7 (1999), Paper 9, August 1999
12, 1999

Posted August

MODELING OF CHEMICAL AND ELECTRICAL FLOWS IN LOW PERMEABILITY SOILS UNDER ELECTRICAL GRADIENT

*Geonha Kim
Research Institute for Environmental Technology and Sustainable Development
Korea University, Seoul, Korea*

ABSTRACT

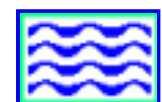
If an electrical gradient is imposed on wet fine-grained soil, contaminant transport occurs by a complex phenomenon called electrokinetics. Even though electrokinetics has been proven to be feasible in bench-scale experimental studies, there is still a lack of thorough understanding of its cleanup mechanisms. A theoretical model is derived for electrokinetic phenomena, a numerical formulation is presented, and a model is validated. Coupled flow theory is applied to derive the governing equations. The model is implemented by computer using finite element methods. Validation is based on one-dimensional experimental data from the literature. The model provides an effective tool to better understand the electrokinetic extraction processes and to optimize operation parameters.

Reference: Kim, Geonha; Modeling of Chemical and Electrical Flows in Low Permeability Soils Under Electrical Gradient, Journal of Environmental Hydrology, Vol. 7, Paper 9, August 1999.

CONTACT:

*Geonha Kim
Research Institute for Environmental Technology and Sustainable Development
Korea University
Anam-dong, Seoungbuk-ku
137-701 Seoul
Korea*

Email : warmheart@netsgo.co.kr



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