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## Title

Citric Acid-Modified Fenton's Reaction for the Oxidation of Chlorinated Ethylenes in Soil Solution Systems

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27	
28	Abstract

29 Fenton's reagent, a solution of hydrogen peroxide and ferrous iron catalyst, is used for an 30 in-situ chemical oxidation of organic contaminants. Sulfuric acid is commonly used to 31 create an acidic condition needed for catalytic oxidation. Fenton's reaction often involves 32 pressure buildup and precipitation of reaction products, which can cause safety hazards 33 and diminish efficiency. We selected citric acid, a food-grade substance, as an acidifying 34 agent to evaluate its efficiencies for organic contaminant removal in Fenton's reaction, 35 and examined the impacts of using citric acid on the unwanted reaction products. A series 36 of batch and column experiments were performed with varying  $H_2O_2$  concentrations to 37 decompose selected chlorinated ethylenes. Either dissolved iron from soil or iron sulfate 38 salt was added to provide the iron catalyst in the batch tests. Batch experiments revealed 39 that both citric and sulfuric acid systems achieved over 90% contaminant removal rates, 40 and the presence of iron catalyst was essential for effective decontamination. Batch tests 41 with citric acid showed no signs of pressure accumulation and solid precipitations, 42 however the results suggested that an excessive usage of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> relative to iron catalysts  $(Fe^{2+}/H_2O_2 < 1/330)$  would result in lowering the efficiency of contaminant removal by 43 44 iron chelations in the citric acid system. Column tests confirmed that citric acid could 45 provide suitable acidic conditions to achieve higher than 55% contaminant removal rates.

46 Key Words: Fenton's reaction, citric acid, hydrogen peroxide, organic contaminant

47

#### 48 Introduction

49 Contamination of soil and groundwater by chlorinated hydrocarbons imposes 50 significant threats to water resources and public health. One of the techniques used to 51 remediate chlorinated hydrocarbon contamination in soil and groundwater is in situ 52 chemical oxidation with Fenton's reagent. Ferrous iron and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are injected into an 53 acidic subsurface system to decompose contaminants in place. Normally,  $H_2O_2$  is a relatively low-activity oxidant. However, under acidic conditions (pH = 3 to 5).  $Fe^{2+}$ 54 55 dissociates H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to form unstable and highly reactive hydroxyl radicals (•OH), as shown in Eq. 1, which actively mineralize organic contaminants ( $C_aH_bX_c$ ) into CO<sub>2</sub>, water, and 56 inorganic salts, (Eq. 2; Walling, 1975; Sun and Pignatello, 1992). The Fe<sup>2+</sup> is then 57 catalytically regenerated by the  $Fe^{3+}$  reaction with  $H_2O_2$  (Eq. 3). 58

$$Fe^{2+} + H_2O_2 \rightarrow Fe^{3+} + OH^- + \cdot OH$$
(1)

$$C_aH_bX_c + Fe^{2+} + xH_2O_2 \rightarrow Fe^{3+} + cX^- + aCO_2 + 2H_2O + bH^+$$
 (2)

$$\mathrm{Fe}^{3+} + \mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}_2 \to \mathrm{Fe}^{2+} + \mathrm{H}^+ + \mathbf{\cdot}\mathrm{HO}_2 \tag{3}$$

59 Under less acidic conditions (pH > 6), the iron catalyst precipitates as  $Fe(OH)_3$ , 60 and instead of generating the hydroxyl radical, the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> decomposes into oxygen, water, 61 and heat, which can create hazardous operation condition. Therefore, it is critical to 62 provide proper acidic conditions to achieve optimum and safe decontamination when 63 Fenton's reaction is employed (Walling 1975; Hickey et al., 1995).

64	Recent studies on Fenton's reaction are concentrated on improving the
65	remediation technique by minimizing the addition of extrinsic materials into subsurface
66	systems and by using environmentally benign chemicals. Deliverability of natural iron
67	catalyst as a means of minimizing the extrinsic chemical addition was examined
68	extensively by many researchers (Ravikumar and Gurol, 1994; Kong et al., 1998; Watts
69	et al., 1999; Teel et al., 2001; Kwan and Voelker, 2002; Teel and Watts, 2002), and
70	showed that $H_2O_2$ could initiate Fenton's reaction in the presence of naturally occurring
71	iron minerals, such as goethite and magnetite in soil. Those studies proved that an iron-
72	mineral-catalyzed $H_2O_2$ system could be successfully applied to field problems under
73	acidic conditions when soils contain 0.5 to 5 wt% of iron minerals.

74 The Fenton's reactions for degradation of organic compounds have also been 75 studied in the presence of naturally-occurring organic acids, such as humic and fulvic 76 acids (Voelker and Sulzberer, 1996; Paciolla et al., 1999). Organic acids contain a high 77 density of functional groups, which can conjugate metal ions to form ion complexes. The 78 acids can affect the effectiveness of Fenton's reaction by providing an iron source and by 79 creating proximity between the catalytic iron and organic contaminants for the reaction 80 (Lindsey et al., 2003). Paciolla et al. (1999) confirmed that iron-sorbed humic acid produces •OH through the reaction with  $H_2O_2$ . Complexes of Fe<sup>2+</sup>-fulvic acid increase the 81 82 Fenton's reaction rate at pH = 5, consuming more  $H_2O_2$  than without fulvic acid (Voelker 83 and Sulzberger, 1996). Sun and Pignatello (1992) examined the oxidation of 2,4dichlorophenoxyaetic acid (2,4-D) with  $H_2O_2$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  chelated to various organic acids 84 at pH = 6, and showed that when  $Fe^{3+}$  forms chelate with organic acid, the chelated  $Fe^{3+}$ 85 was more active in generating  $\cdot$ OH and decomposing 2,4-D than the precipitated Fe<sup>3+</sup>. 86

87	This study investigates whether Fenton's reaction can be initiated by using an
88	organic acid such as citric acid, a food-grade substance, instead of sulfuric acid as an
89	acidifying agent. Citric acid is biodegradable and, when injected into subsurface
90	systems, it could be nutrients for microbes participating in biodegradation of
91	contaminants, as well as an acidifying agent for the chemical oxidation. Citric acid
92	makes a pH buffer at $pH = 3$ ( $pK_a = 3.08$ ), at which Fenton's reaction actively occurs.
93	Citric acid has a strong ability to chelate metal ions and keep them in solution at those
94	values of pH where the metals would otherwise precipitate (Li et al., 2005). Citric acid,
95	however, can adversely affect the effectiveness of Fenton's reaction. Citric acid can
96	inhibit organic compound decomposition by scavenging the $\cdot$ OH (Voelker and
97	Sulzberger, 1996) and by separating the •OH formation sites from the pollutants (Lindsey
98	and Tarr, 2000).

99 The objectives of this study are to evaluate the applicability of citric acid as an 100 acidifying agent for Fenton's reagent and to ascertain optimum conditions for effective 101 citric-acid modified Fenton's reagent as an organic contaminant decomposing technique.

102

### 103 **Experimental Procedures**

# 104 Chemicals and Analyses Bench-scale experiments were performed to evaluate the

105 effectiveness of Fenton's oxidation for remediating soils contaminated with chlorinated

- 106 ethylenes, including trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and cis 1,2-
- 107 dichloroethylene (DCE) (98%, Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI.). The organic compound
- 108 concentrations in liquid and soil were measured using a GC-MS, using EPA Method

109	8260B, by an EPA certified laboratory. Various concentrations (3%, 15%, 30%, and
110	50%) of $H_2O_2$ solutions (EMD Chemicals, Gibbstown, NJ.) were used for a possible
111	range of H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> injection. Citric acid (2-Hydroxy-1,2,3-propanetricarboxylic acid) and
112	sulfuric acid stock solution were prepared at concentrations of 0.5 M and 1.0 N ,
113	respectively. Iron sulfate salt (FeSO <sub>4</sub> ·7H <sub>2</sub> O) was used as a source of Fe <sup>2+</sup> . A silty clay soil
114	was collected for this study from the campus of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
115	near Building 51L. The sample was air-dried and sieved through a 2-mm mesh before
116	use. Soil characteristics are listed in Table 1. Sorption coefficients in the table were
117	measured for the selected soil assuming linear sorption.
118	Batch Experiments Batch tests were conducted to examine whether or not Fenton's
119	oxidation decompose the organic compound in the aqueous solutions with 12
120	combinations of three acidifying agents (sulfuric acid, citric acid, and deionized water)
121	and four iron sources (FeSO <sub>4</sub> , filtered soil solution, soil, and no iron). The 12 acidified
122	solutions were prepared by diluting two concentrated acid solutions (sulfuric acid and
123	citric acid) and deionized water as a control, with $FeSO_4$ solution (50 mg $Fe^{2+}L^{-1}$ ) for one
124	set and deionized water for three sets. While one set was further diluted by $FeSO_4$
125	solutions, the other three sets of the deionized water-diluted solutions were mixed with
126	(1) deionized water for a control (no iron), (2) acid solutions with the soil sample (2 g) as
127	an iron catalyst source, and (3) filtered soil solutions, respectively.
128	The filtered soil solutions were prepared by mixing 15 g of soil with 150 mL of
129	the diluted sulfuric acid solution, citric acid solutions, and deionized water separately on
130	a mechanical shaker overnight, and by filtering the supernatants of the soil solutions with
131	0.45 $\mu$ m filters. In order to make consistent organic compound concentrations, a

concentrated organic compound aqueous solution (PCE, TCE, and DCE) was prepared
and spiked into the 12 acidified solution sets described above with different acids and
iron sources. Each 12-acidified solution batch had 5 subsets for varying H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
concentration (0 to 4% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>). The final volume of each acidified solution was about 25
mL including 2 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solutions. There was no head space left in 25 mL reaction
bottles.

Final concentrations of acids in the acidified solutions were 24 mN for citric acid and 16 mN for sulfuric acid. The pH values of the acidified solutions were near 3 while the control solutions without acid had a pH value of about 7. Final organic compound concentrations ranged from 800 to 1200 µgL<sup>-1</sup> for the three contaminants.

Reactions were allowed to continue for more than 24 h at 4 °C under dark
conditions. The sample bottles were visually observed to ascertain reactions occurring
and to identify reaction products before instrumental analysis.

145 **Column Experiments** The column experiments similarly involved the two different acid 146 solutions (sulfuric acid, and citric acid) and a control solution without acid. Soil samples 147 of 160 g were packed in three glass columns (2.5 cm diameter  $\times$  15 cm length). The soil 148 columns were treated in three steps: (1) wetting and contaminant emplacement with an 149 organic compound solution, (2) acidification with the three acid solutions (sulfuric acid, 150 citric acid, and control) spiked with organic compounds, (3) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> injection for organic 151 compound decomposition. A 10-pore volume ( $10 \times 25$  mL) of an organic compound stock solution (PCE, TCE, and DCE, 1300–5000  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>) was flushed through the 152 columns in a rate of 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> to uniformly wet the columns and to emplace the 153

154	organic compounds thoroughly. The organic compound stock solution for the column
155	experiment was prepared with a CaCl <sub>2</sub> solution (0.005 M CaCl <sub>2</sub> with FeSO <sub>4</sub> , 50 mg Fe <sup>2+</sup>
156	$L^{-1}$ ), instead of deionized water, in order to prevent soil dispersion. The volume of the
157	organic compound solutions injected for the contaminant emplacement was determined
158	by the retardation factors ( $\approx$ 3.0), which were calculated based on the sorption
159	coefficients estimated in preliminary measurements (Table 1) and an assumed soil
160	organic carbon content $(0.5\%)$ , so that the organic compound concentrations in the
161	column would be uniform throughout the column.

162 In order to acidify the soil, each contaminated soil columns was additionally injected with 1 pore volume (25 mL) of citric acid solution (CA; 0.5 M citric acid with 163 FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 50 mg Fe<sup>2+</sup>L<sup>-1</sup>), sulfuric acid solution (SA; 1 N sulfuric acid with FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 50 mg 164  $Fe^{2+}L^{-1}$ ), and CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution (0.005 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> with FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 50 mg Fe<sup>2+</sup> L<sup>-1</sup>) as a control, 165 166 respectively. Each of there three solutions had the same concentration of organic 167 compounds. The concentrations of the acid solutions were predetermined to have column 168 soil solutions of pH = 3, only for sulfuric acid and citric acid. The organic compound 169 concentrations in the injected acid solutions were the same as the concentration in the 170 initial organic compound stock solution.

As a final step, one pore volume of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (30% stabilized H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> diluted with deionized water, FeSO<sub>4</sub> added) was injected into each acidified columns (CA and SA), while the same volume of CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution was injected into the control column. Liquid and gas effluent were collected separately with tedlar bags for the first one hour, after which the columns were closed and kept in a refrigerator. Similar to batch tests, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reactions inside the columns were allowed to proceed for 24 h before the columns 177were opened for soil sampling and contaminant analysis. Liquid samples from the tedlar178bags and soil samples collected from the glass columns were directly analyzed for179organic compound concentrations, whereas, due to limited gas volume collected, the180organic compound concentrations in the gas samples were calculated using the measured181concentrations of liquid in the effluent bag based on Henry's constant. Mass balance of182organic compounds was calculated to demonstrate the removal efficiency of the organic183compounds with  $H_2O_2$  injections.

184

#### 185 **Results and Discussion**

186 Batch Experiments Batch samples were visually observed to examine the occurrence of 187 reaction products and gas accumulation resulting from the Fenton's reaction. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> added 188 to sulfuric acid solutions with iron catalyst resulted in gas accumulation and solid 189 precipitation in the glass bottles. The pressurization and solid precipitation in a system 190 with  $H_2O_2$  addition have been considered a potential hazard and a deliverability-191 deteriorating factor of Fenton's technique for subsurface remediation. On the other hand, 192 no signs of gas accumulation or solid precipitation were observed in the citric acid 193 batches, suggesting that the citric acid addition alleviated the adverse impacts which 194 would have occurred with traditional sulfuric acid application. 195 Figure 1 shows the results of TCE removal with two acidified solutions (citric 196 acid and sulfuric acid), and deionized water at varying  $H_2O_2$  additions (0 to 4%). Figure

197 1a depicts the case without iron catalysts in the system while Fig. 1b shows the result

198 with the application of FeSO<sub>4</sub>. The comparison of Fig. 1a and 1b shows that the addition

of FeSO<sub>4</sub> as a catalyst significantly improved the  $H_2O_2$  performance in removing TCE. Even in the deionized water batch (pH = 6) with iron, the removal rate reached nearly 100% with less than 1%  $H_2O_2$ . The results showed that in the pH range of 3 (citric acid and sulfuric acid) to 6 (deionized water), the key component of TCE removal efficiency with  $H_2O_2$  oxidation was the iron catalyst, and citric acid acts as effectively as sulfuric acid does, suggesting the scavenging of •OH by citric acid was not significant in the given condition.

206 Figures 1c and 1d show difference in TCE removal rates with the two acid 207 solutions (citric acid and sulfuric acid), and deionized water when two filtered soil 208 solution (Fig. 1c) and soil (Fig. 1d) were utilized as naturally available iron sources. In 209 the filtered soil solutions (Fig. 1c) with TCE and acid solutions (citric acid and sulfuric), 210 nearly 100% of TCE were removed with less than 1% of  $H_2O_2$  addition, while the 211 deionized (acid-free) water needed 4% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution to completely remove TCE. This 212 result indicates that water-soluble iron for the  $H_2O_2$  reaction was sufficiently available, 213 and that acidic conditions enhanced the dissolution of soil soluble iron, resulting in higher 214 efficiency in organic contaminant removals.

For Fig. 1d, two grams of soil samples was mixed with 25 mL organic compound solutions to assess the role of the local soil as a source of the iron catalyst as well as a scavenger for oxidants. Figure 1d shows the citric acid batches (pH = 3) had nearly 100% TCE removal by less than 2% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution, whereas the deionized water batches (pH = 7.6) had 64% organic compound removal by more than 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution. The removal rate was slower for the sulfuric acid solution than the citric acid, because the pH in the sulfuric acid solution after soil mixing was higher (pH = 6) than with the citric acid (pH = 222 3.6). The removal rates with the actual soil were lower compared with other cases of 223 different iron sources (FeSO<sub>4</sub> or filtered soil solution), confirming the oxidant demand 224 from oxidizable components of the soil reduced the removal efficiencies.

- Figures 2a and 2b show the results from repeated tests of citric acid added Fenton's oxidation for *cis*-1,2-DCE (Fig. 2a) and PCE (Fig. 2b). In this study, the chlorinated ethylenes generally showed decreasing susceptibility to  $H_2O_2$  oxidation in an order: DCE > TCE > PCE, which is consistent with the previous studies (e.g., Tang and Huang, 1997). PCE removal rates with the filtered soil solution were higher than that with FeSO<sub>4</sub> solution, suggesting that the concentration of iron mobilized by citric acid from the soil would be higher than that supplied by FeSO<sub>4</sub> solution (50 mg Fe<sup>2+</sup> L<sup>-1</sup>).
- Based on the results of the batch experiments, we found that (1) citric acid could act as an effective agent for lowering pH in soil solution to provide appropriate conditions for Fenton's reaction, (2) oxidant scavenging by citric acid was insignificant, and (3) availability of soluble soil iron was enhanced by adding acids.
- 236 The removal efficiencies with citric acid in the batch tests consistently showed 237 that as the concentration of  $H_2O_2$  increases beyond 1%, the efficiencies of the Fenton's 238 reaction in the organic contaminant removal decreased (see Figs. 1B, 1D, and 2), even 239 though increasing removal efficiency was expected to have higher  $H_2O_2$  concentrations. 240 This pattern of decreasing removal efficiencies with increasing concentration of  $H_2O_2$  (> 241 1%) was observed repeatedly in preliminary and subsequent duplicative tests with citric 242 acid, while this phenomenon was not observed in tests involving the sulfuric acid and 243 deionized water.

244 Possible explanations for this declining efficiency of organic contaminant 245 removals could be a reaction between  $\cdot$ OH and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and the formation of iron chelates 246 between citric acid and iron species in the solutions. Potential reactions occurring in the 247 citric acid-modified Fenton's system with excessive  $H_2O_2$  are listed in the Table 2. As shown in Eq. 1, Fenton's reaction initiates with reactions between  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $H_2O_2$  with 248 second-order rate constant of 63.0 M<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> (Gallard et al., 1998), which generates •OH and 249  $Fe^{3+}$ . When the concentrations of  $H_2O_2$  and iron species are stoichiometrically balanced, 250 251 iron species would play the role of catalyst. With excessive input of  $H_2O_2$  (> 1%), however, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> either competes for •OH with organic contaminants (Table 2, Eq. 4), or 252 reacts with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (Eq. 5) to generate hydroperoxyl radicals (•HO<sub>2</sub>). As indicated by higher 253 254 reaction rates,  $H_2O_2$  more actively reacts with •OH (Eq. 4), and the excessive  $H_2O_2$  is 255 quickly consumed to generate  $\cdot$ HO<sub>2</sub>. Furthermore, the  $\cdot$ HO<sub>2</sub> preferably reacts with Fe<sup>2+</sup> to oxidize it to  $Fe^{3+}$  (Eqs. 6 and 7) even though the reaction rate (Eq. 6) are slower than 256 for •OH oxidation of  $Fe^{2+}$  to  $Fe^{3+}$  (Eq. 8). Overall, the presence of excess H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> would 257 have  $Fe^{3+}$  to be a dominant species in the Fenton's system and fast consumption of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 258 259 as previously reported by (Barb et al., 1951; Yoon et al., 1998).

260 Citric acids form more stable iron chelates with  $Fe^{3+}$  as indicated by a stability 261 constant (log K) of 11.85, compared to  $Fe^{2+}$  with log K = 3.2 (Furia, 1972). When  $Fe^{3+}$ 262 forms complexes with chelators, the activity of  $Fe^{3+}$  to dissociate H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> usually becomes 263 low and it is inversely proportional to the stability of the chelations. The relations 264 between the stability of chelates and the activity of iron species was presented by Sun and 265 Pignatello (1992), which showed that the activity of iron chelates to transform 2,4-D 266 decreases in order of tartaric > oxalic > citric, and the decreasing activity corresponds to increasing stability constants (log K) of the three acids (log K = 7.49, 9.4, and 11.85, respectively) (Furia, 1972). Therefore, the strong chelates of citric acid–Fe<sup>3+</sup> result in low activity of Fe<sup>3+</sup>, inhibiting the iron species from getting reduced back into Fe<sup>2+</sup>, and eventually Fe<sup>3+</sup> will be sequestered from the Fenton's catalytic cycle.

Based on the batch system of this study, an optimum ratio of  $[Fe^{2+}]$  and  $[H_2O_2]$  at 1:330 (M:M) was estimated, and the ratio would become smaller with higher organic contaminant concentrations.

274 **Column Experiments** During the column experiments, three mechanisms of organic 275 contaminant removal can occur: (1) volatile organic contaminant stripping with gas 276 (mainly  $O_2$ ) generated from  $H_2O_2$  decomposition, (2) liquid flushing of contaminants with 277 injected H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution, and (3) *in situ* chemical oxidation via Fenton's reaction. Mass 278 balances were calculated to find contributions from the different removing mechanisms. 279 Results are presented in Table 3 in terms of the relative contributions from the three 280 potential mechanisms. The percentages of contaminants removed by Fenton's reaction 281 were calculated by subtracting total mass of organic contaminants recovered by liquid 282 and soil analysis from initial organic contaminant mass, based on assumptions that there 283 were no other significant means of organic contaminant loss including biodegradation, 284 irreversible sorption, and volatilization.

Liquid flushing was the most efficient organic contaminant removal mechanism, when CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution was injected without adding acidifying agents into the column (73% for DCE, and 74% for TCE, and 50% for PCE). The higher flushing removals of DCE and TCE result from the higher water solubility of those compounds. Calculated simply by using Henry's constants based on assumption that the organic contaminants in gas
were in equilibrium with those in liquid, we found that the percentages of organic
contaminants removed by air stripping was negligibly small (< 1% of total organic</li>
compounds), which is quite different from the results of Chen et al. (2001).

293 The total organic compound recovered by liquid and left in soil in the control 294 columns reached 81 to 100%, which indicated compound mass losses due to other than 295  $H_2O_2$  reaction (biodegradation, volatilization loss, and other experimental losses) were 296 less than 8% for TCE and PCE and less than 20% for DCE. The highest volatility of 297 DCE may result in the larger loss. The total recovered mass in the acid-treated columns 298 was less than 48%, meaning that more than 52% of mass were missing. This mass loss is 299 about 2.5 times of what was measured from the corresponding control columns. This 300 result suggested that the balance of contaminants masses were removed by the Fenton's 301 reaction with acids, and the Fenton's oxidation with citric acid is as effective as sulfuric 302 acid in destroying the organic contaminants. The citric acid columns showed 4–6% 303 higher removal rates with the Fenton's reaction than the sulfuric acid columns. The 304 higher efficiency by the citric acid columns might be caused by lower pH. The pH values 305 in the liquid effluents were 3.5 for citric acid columns and 5.8 for sulfuric acid columns.

306 Overall, for 160 g of soil contaminated with organic compounds with a

307 concentration range of 1,300–5,000  $\mu$ gL<sup>-1</sup> (480–870  $\mu$ g kg<sup>-1</sup> soil), 25 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

308 solution (3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) was injected into acidified soil columns to achieve the organic

309 contaminant removal rates of 50 to 65%. However, note that the experiments specifically

310 address the efficiencies with respect to the reactants used and the chemistry of the soils

311 collected for this study, and the results do not address site-specific hydrogeological

312 characteristics (e.g. heterogeneities in composition and permeability, cracks and layering)

313 of this particular soil, which must be considered when applying any remediation

technology.

315

#### 316 Conclusions

Citric acid has been examined for Fenton's reaction in terms of its possible role as an acidifying agent and a scavenger of hydroxyl radicals. Batch and column experiments performed with three types of organic contaminant demonstrate that the citric-acidmodified Fenton's reaction shows the organic contaminant removal efficiencies similar to the traditional sulfuric acid-aided Fenton's reaction. However, beyond a threshold concentration of  $H_2O_2$  with respect to the molar ratio with  $Fe^{2+}$  ( $Fe^{2+}$ :  $H_2O_2 = 1$ : 330), the

323 efficiency of  $H_2O_2$  in removal organic contaminants decreases.

324 A citric-acid-modified Fenton's reaction does not show significant gas 325 accumulation and solid precipitations, which can cause flow path blockages, hamper 326 continuous reagent injection, and would result in hazardous operational conditions for 327 decontamination activity. Further studies on the reduction of gas accumulation and solid 328 precipitation need to be performed to understand the mechanisms. In addition, 329 subsequent to completion of Fenton's reaction, the residual citric acid could stimulate 330 microbial activities near the injected area initiating reductive dechlorination. Long-term 331 experiments need to be performed to verify the potential biological activities that could 332 lead to subsequent biodegradation of contaminants.

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338	
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Acknowledgment

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- 401 Tables and Figures
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- 408 two acidified) with the varying concentrations of  $H_2O_2$ . No iron catalyst was added in
- 409 (a), and FeSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O in (b), filtered soil solution in (c), or two grams of soil in (d) was
- 410 added as an iron source for catalysts. 24 h reaction time at  $4^{\circ}C$
- 411 Figure 2. Batch test removal efficiencies (%) of DCE (a) and PCE (b) in citric acid
- 412 solutions with the varying iron sources and concentrations of  $H_2O_2$ . 24 h reaction time at 413  $4^{\circ}C$

Table 1. Soil Analysis 415

Classification	Silty Clay
Soil pH	7.9
Alkalinity	1.56%
Total Fe Content	35000 mg kg⁻¹
Sorption Coefficient ( $K_d$ , L kg <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>cis</i> -DCE: 0.48
	TCE: 0.84
	PCE: 1.66

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Table 2. Second-order rate constants for  $Fe^{3+}$  generation reactions with excessive  $H_2O_2$ 417

$H_2O_2 + OH \rightarrow HO_2 + H_2O$	$^{1}k=3.3\times10^{7} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	(4)
$\mathrm{H_2O_2} + \mathrm{Fe}^{3+} \rightarrow \mathrm{Fe}^{2+} + \mathrm{H^+} + \mathrm{HO_2} \cdot$	$^{2}k=2.0\times10^{-3}$ M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	(5)
$HO_2 \cdot +Fe^{2+} \rightarrow Fe^{3+} + HO_2^-$	$^{3}k=1.2\times10^{6}$ M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	(6)
$HO_2 \cdot +Fe^{3+} \rightarrow Fe^{2+} + H^+ + O_2$	$^{4}k=3.3\times10^{5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	(7)
$\cdot \text{HO} + \text{Fe}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{3+} + \text{HO}^{-}$	${}^{5}k=3.2\times10^{8} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	(8)

<sup>1</sup> Christensen et al. (1982), <sup>2</sup> Pignatello (1992), <sup>3</sup> Rush and Bielski (1985), <sup>4</sup> Haber and Weiss (1934), 418

419 <sup>5</sup>.Stuglik and Zagórski (1981)

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#### 421 Table 3. Mass balance (%) of volatile organic compounds in column experiments

	DCE			TCE			PCE		
Mass Balance (%)	CC	CA	SA	CC	CA	SA	CC	CA	SA
Removed with Liquid	73	38	44	74	28	36	50	15	22
Left in Soil	8	6	4	19	9	7	51	18	19
Removed with Gas	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Total VOC measured	81	44	48	93	36	43	101	33	38
<sup>1</sup> Unrecovered VOC	19	56	52	8	64	58	<1	67	62

422 423 <sup>1</sup>Calculated by subtracting the total VOC measured from 100%. VOC: volatile organic compound, DCE:

cis 1,2-dichloroethylene, TCE: trichloroethylene, PCE: tetrachloroethylene, CC: CaCl<sub>2</sub> 0.005 M, CA: citric

424 acid 0.5 M, SA: sulfuric acid 1 N.



