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Milena Walaszek, Lise Cary, Gabriel Billon, Michaela Blessing, Aurélie Bouvet-Swialkowski, Melinda George, Justine Criquet, Jean Remi Mossmann

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### Dynamics of chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons in the 1 Chalk aquifer of northern France 2 Walaszek M.<sup>1-2</sup>, Cary L.<sup>2\*</sup>, Billon G.<sup>1</sup>, Blessing M.<sup>3</sup>, Bouvet-Swialkowski A.<sup>4</sup>, George M.<sup>1</sup>, Criquet J.<sup>1</sup>, 3 4 Mossmann J.R.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Univ. Lille CNRS, UMR 8516 – LASIRE, Equipe Physico-Chimie de l'Environnement, Lille F-59000, 5 6 France 7 <sup>2</sup> BRGM (French Geological Survey), 59810 Lesquin, France 8 <sup>3</sup> BRGM (French Geological Survey), 45060 Orléans Cedex 2, France 9 <sup>4</sup> Lille European Metropolis, 59040 Lille Cedex, France \*Corresponding author: Tel.: +33 (0)320191548; E-mail address: l.cary@brgm.fr 10

# 11 1. Introduction

12 Chlorinated (aliphatic) hydrocarbons (CHCs) such as the common solvents tetrachloroethene (PCE), 13 trichloroethene (TCE) and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) are among the most common chemicals that pollute groundwaters worldwide (Clement et al., 2000; Witt et al., 2002; Lenczewski et al., 2003; 14 Arianna et al., 2019; Kawabe and Komai, 2019; La Vigna et al., 2019). They are used as industrial 15 16 solvents for a broad range of applications in chemical synthesis, degreasing agents of metal parts, cleaning of electronic components, or textile dry-cleaning (Rivett et al., 1990), and are known or 17 18 suspected to be carcinogenic or mutagenic agents for humans. Natural CHC attenuation occurs under 19 both reducing and oxidizing conditions in groundwater, mainly leading to the formation of less 20 chlorinated compounds such as cis-1,2-DCE, 1,1-DCE, 1,2-DCE and 1,1-DCA. Depending on the physico-chemical conditions, these intermediate products can be further degraded to vinyl chloride 21 22 (VC), ethene and ethane.

During reductive dechlorination, chlorine atoms are sequentially removed and replaced with hydrogen; the transformation proceeds from PCE to TCE, to *cis*-dichloroethene (*cis*-1,2-DCE), to vinyl

chloride (VC), and from 1,1,1-TCA to 1,1-DCA to chloroethane (CA), and finally to non-toxic 25 26 ethene/ethane (Vogel et al. 1987, Wiedemeier et al. 1999). Under anaerobic conditions, 1,1,1-TCA 27 may also be degraded abiotically by  $\alpha$ -dehaloelimination to 1,1-DCE (Vogel and McCarty, 1987). Commonly, 1,2-DCE and 1,1-DCA accumulate due to incomplete reduction; high concentrations of 28 29 co-contaminants can also inhibit dechlorinating bacteria (Maymó-Gatell et al., 2001; Kawabe and 30 Komai, 2019). Under oxic conditions, DCE, VC and TCE can be directly mineralized to CO<sub>2</sub> via oxidative pathways (Clement et al. 2000). As dense compounds, CHCs have a tendency for downward 31 32 migration, transport along fractures, and settling in pools at the base of the aquifer. Less chlorinated 33 daughter products are more mobile in groundwater than PCE or TCE. It has been observed that each 34 of these dechlorination steps is leading to a significant carbon isotope fractionation within the 35 molecules that are involved in the degradation reactions (Hunkeler et al., 1999; Bloom et al., 2000; 36 Sherwood Lollar et al., 2001). Compound- and pathway-specific fractionation factors  $\alpha$  (which define 37 the isotopic fractionation between any two compounds) or the enrichment factor  $\varepsilon$  are determined 38 in laboratory batch or column systems with pure or mixed microbial cultures by applying the Rayleigh 39 equation (Braeckevelt et al., 2012).

40 Numerous studies have explored CHC spatial dynamics, mainly focusing on the remediation of 41 contaminated sites with often identified and finite-source pollutions (Clement et al., 2000; Witt et al., 42 2002; Pooley et al., 2009; Palau et al., 2014; Wanner and Hunkeler, 2015; Arianna et al., 2019). Most 43 studies used classic sampling methods based on pumping at one depth. However, such sampling may 44 be inadequate for characterizing the potential stratification of such pollution. For this purpose, 45 passive diffusion samplers were developed for monitoring CHCs in groundwater (Vroblesky and Campbell, 2001; Divine et al., 2004; Divine and McCray 2004). Such samplers consist of a sealed 46 47 semipermeable membrane (such as low-density polyethylene (LDPE)) full of pure water, whose concentration increases until equilibrium with the ambient concentrations is reached. 48

In the peri-urban area of southwest Lille (Figure 1), with its mixed agricultural and industrial 49 50 activities, the Chalk aquifer used for drinking-water production is threatened by the presence of 51 CHCs. Droughts are more frequent and severe in the region since a few years, and the groundwater level has been lowering since 2017. Therefore, the decrease of water *quantity* in the aquifer and the 52 53 continuing pumping operations cause a decrease in water quality. CHC concentrations in 54 groundwater commonly exceed the European water guideline for drinking water ([PCE] + [TCE] 55 <10  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, (RF, 2007)) thus limiting the use of this resource for drinking-water production (40% of the 56 needs of the 1 million inhabitants of the Lille European Metropolis). A good understanding of CHC 57 dynamics and their spatial distribution in the aquifer thus is a key factor, especially in the case of VC, the most toxic and carcinogenic CHC (Lee et al., 1977; Clewell et al., 1995; Giri, 1995) with the most 58 59 drastic restrictive regulation [VC <0.5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, (RF, 2007)].

60 To our knowledge, no studies have determined the CHC degradation processes in groundwater over 61 time, and in a large number of multiple well fields. In this paper, sharp investigations of the dynamics 62 and degradation processes of CHCs were performed over a large complex area (2,032 ha) in terms of hydrology, geology and contamination sources at the catchment scale composed of several well 63 64 fields. Wells were sampled during eight years to evaluate CHC concentrations, using standard one-65 depth sampling. To assess a possible migration or degradation of the compounds, intensive sampling 66 of some wells along the water column with passive samplers were undertaken as well as compound-67 specific carbon-isotope analyses. Finally, a detailed hydrochemical definition of the area allows 68 strengthening our conclusions.

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### 70 2. Material and methods

### 71 2.1. Geological and hydrogeological context

72 In the study area, the stratigraphic succession of the Paris Basin begins with a highly faulted, more-73 or-less dolomitic, several-hundred-meters-thick succession of Lower Carboniferous limestone and 74 calcareous shale (Cary et al., 2014). This is overlain by marly Cenomanian Chalk, locally called the 75 "Dièves", resulting from the Cretaceous transgression. The "Dièves" is followed by a thick deposit of 76 Turonian marly limestone that evolves upward to white and grey flint-bearing Turonian and Senonian 77 Chalk with phosphate beds. The unconformably overlying Tertiary formations comprise the Louvil 78 Clay (Lower Landenian, 9–12 m thick), the Ostricourt Sand (Upper Landenian, 25–30 m thick), and the 79 Flandres Clay (Ypresian, 10–15 m thick). Throughout the Paris-London Basin, the Tertiary formations 80 confine the underlying Chalk aquifer. Quaternary loess (pre-Weichselian and Weichselian) covers 81 practically the entire basin. The uppermost 5 m in the Lille region consist of Quaternary alluvium of 82 the Deûle canal, mainly comprising heterogeneous sandy/clayey deposits.

The Dièves marl is the impermeable base of the Chalk aquifer. This is constituted by the Turonian-Senonian Chalk at 10–50 m depth, favoured by the presence of highly permeable horizons with open fissures mainly found at 10–15 m depth. The groundwater of the Chalk aquifer circulates in the fault network, which is highly developed in the valleys where the well fields are sited (Cary et al., 2014).

Drinking water for the Lille European Metropolis is pumped from four well fields tapping the Chalk aquifer to the southwest of Lille, the Emmerin (5,346 ha), Houplin-Ancoisne (6,303 ha), Les Ansereuilles (8,298 ha) and Seclin (369 ha) well fields (Figure 1). The Emmerin well field (10 pumping wells) is located at the top of a WNW-ESE anticline. The Houplin-Ancoisne well field (11 pumping wells) lies along the Seclin canal that follows the trajectory of the major NW–SE-trending Seclin Fault; here the Chalk groundwater is locally confined below clayey deposits. The Les Ansereuilles well field (26 pumping wells) is parallel to the highly polluted Deûle canal. The groundwater, which is 94 unconfined southwest of the Deûle, flows northwest to become confined under the alluvial cover 95 that can be 15–20 m thick. In the A12–A15 well area it is locally confined due to the presence of 96 more than 10 m of clay deposited above the Chalk (Cary et al., 2014). The Deûle canal and other 97 small tributaries drain the area, which is affected by quantitative and qualitative pressures of 98 industrial, urban and agricultural origins.

Inverse modelling with the MARTHE software has used potentiometric data from the studied well fields (Bessière et al., 2015). The simulation results show the reversed water pathways from selected starting points (pumping wells) to the probable origin (blue lines on Figure 1). Groundwaterdrawdown areas are centred around the groups of exploited wells. For example, four groundwater drawdowns are identified in the Les Ansereuilles well field: the northern part centred around A16, the northwestern part around A26, the southwestern part around A18, and the southern part around A21.

In all, 363 current and former industrial sites potentially involved in or identified as responsible for CHC pollution are stored in the BASIAS database (https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/dossiers/basias/) of French well fields. More than 20% of these sites are metalworking plants (boiler work, automobile factory, sheet-metal manufacture, foundry, etc.) that use PCE, DCE and TCA for metal cleaning. Industrial laundries, chemical plants, and textile and dyeing factories using these CHCs were also identified in the well fields (Figure 1). The difficulties of waste management and recycling in the past caused the storage of CHCs close to groundwater.

Figure 1: Location of the 22 studied wells, geological formations, modelled water pathways and (suspected)
 industrial sources of chlorinated solvents in the four studied well fields (shown by ellipses).

#### 115 *2.2. Sampling and analyses*

Groundwater was sampled by quarterly pumping in 22 wells from 2011 to 2019, to evaluate the chlorinated-solvent concentrations at one depth. Twelve wells were located in Les Ansereuilles (A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A18, A21, A26, PZ49, PZ55, PZ56, and PZ59), five in Houplin-Ancoisne (H1, H4, H7, H11, and PZ51), four in Emmerin (E5, E7, E8, and PZ61) and one in Seclin (S1) well fields (Figure
1).

121 Among the large panel of studied wells, a more detailed analysis has been performed on three wells 122 (PZ56, PZ59, and PZ61) located in three strategic locations of the well fields (northern and southern 123 parts of Les Ansereuilles, Emmerin, respectively). These wells were sampled along the water column 124 with passive samplers (low density polyethylene diffusion bags filled with ultrapure water: 100 µm 125 thick, 90 cm high, 4 cm large, volume 300 mL), to assess a possible vertical migration of the 126 compounds during a further ten sampling campaigns from 2016 to 2019 during different seasons. 127 The well cross-sections are shown in the Supplementary Information (Fig. SI-1). Deployment of the 128 passive samplers depended on the inflows measured along the water column (PZ56: 6 inflows, 8 129 sampling depths from -19.5 to -52.6 m; PZ59: 3 inflows, 10 sampling depths from -7 to -64.3 m; PZ61: 130 5 inflows, 5 sampling depths from -9 to -23.2 m). Inflows were obtained along vertical profiles using 131 flowmeter measurements (GFTC probe, SEMM logging, France) from the piezometric level to the 132 bottom of the well. Velocity measurements were taken every 0.5 m (Maréchal et al., 2004). During 133 pumped and passive samplings, samples were collected in filled to capacity brown glass bottles, 134 stored in a refrigerated cooler and carried to the laboratory where CHC analyses were made within 24 h. The presence of CHC-degradation marker gases (CO2, methane, ethane, ethene) was 135 136 investigated in November 2017. Compound-specific carbon-isotope analysis was used to gain further 137 insight into the intrinsic biodegradation of chlorinated solvents within the aquifer. To this end, three 138 campaigns in 2017, 2019 and 2020 pumped samples from the six observation wells (Fig. 1); some 139 samples were taken at two depths. In addition, a more detailed *in-situ* hydrochemical definition of 140 groundwater studied physico-chemical parameters. Redox potential Eh (whose values are expressed 141 against the SHE electrode) and dissolved oxygen were recorded with a multiparameter probe (EXO 1, 142 YSI Incorporated, Yellow Springs, Ohio, USA).

The CHC concentrations in sampled groundwater (PCE, TCE, TCA, *cis*-1,2-DCE, *trans*-1,2,DCE, 1,1-DCE,
1,2-DCE, 1,1-DCA, 1,2-DCA and VC) were measured using a HS-GC-MS-MS (Thermoelectron Triplus
Duo-Trace GC Ultra-TSQ Quantum XLS) with a quantification limit of 0.2 μg L<sup>-1</sup> and an accuracy of 5 to
10% depending upon the concentration. Analyses were performed by the Lille European Metropolis
laboratory within one day after sampling the groundwater.

Gases were analysed by the BRGM laboratory using a Trace GC Ultra Thermo Fisher Scientific gas chromatograph (Thermo Scientific, with FID detector). The gases investigated were  $CO_2$  and  $C_nH2_{n+2}$ (n=1 to 2) with injection valves of 25 µL and 250 µL). Detection limits were ±0.0002% for  $C_nH_{2n+2}$  and ±0.001% for  $CO_2$ . Percentages are volumic.

152 Compound specific isotope analysis (CSIA) is an analytical method that measures the ratio of stable 153 isotopes of a contaminant. Stable carbon-isotope ratios of individual CHC compounds were 154 determined by gas chromatography - combustion - isotope-ratio mass spectrometry (GC-C-IRMS) 155 using a Trace GC Ultra gas chromatograph (Thermo Scientific) equipped with a Rtx-VMS column 156 (60 m x 0.32 mm, 1.8 µm film) connected via a GC IsoLink combustion interface to a Delta V Plus 157 isotope-ratio mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). The system was used together with a Combi Pal 158 autosampler where headspace extraction of the water samples was performed by in-tube 159 microextraction (ITEX-2) using a Tenax GR with 80/100 mesh size as sorbent material (ITEX-trap from 160 BGB Analytics); see (Laaks et al., 2010) for further details. Isotopic ratios of each compound are 161 expressed in ‰ difference relative to the VPDB (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite) international standard using the delta notation given by:  $\delta^{13}C = (R/R_{std} - 1)*1000$ , where R and R<sub>std</sub> are the isotope ratios of 162 163 the sample and the VPDB standard, respectively. Analytical uncertainty (including reproducibility and 164 accuracy) for the given compounds is generally within ±0.5‰. Isotopic measurements were performed in triplicate. The method quantification limit was equal to 5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> for TCE and PCE, 15  $\mu$ g 165 L<sup>-1</sup> for *cis*-1,2-DCE and 20 µg L<sup>-1</sup> for all other CHCs. Isotope fractionation can be expressed by 166

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167 enrichment factors  $\varepsilon = \delta^{13}C_o - \delta^{13}C_p$ , where  $\delta^{13}C_p$  is the carbon isotope ratio of the product and  $\delta^{13}C_o$ 168 the carbon isotope ratio of the corresponding precursor (Hunkeler et al., 1999).

### 169 3. Results

The mean concentrations and standard deviations of CHCs from standard sampling (2011 to 2019 data) are provided in the Supporting information in Table SI-1. The CHC concentrations from passive sampling in the wells at each depth (2016-2018 data) are presented in the Supporting information in Table SI-3 and summarized with mean-values by depth in Table SI-2.

### 174 3.1. CHC pollution in the well fields

Groundwater in the southwest of the Ansereuilles well field showed the highest average CHC 175 concentrations (PZ59: 185 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, PZ56: 150 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, A18: 65 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, Figure 2-a). To a lesser extent, CHCs 176 177 were detected in PZ55 and A21 (respectively 30 and 9  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>). Downstream of the Deûle canal, CHC concentrations decreased from 25 µg L<sup>-1</sup> (A12) to 1.4 µg L<sup>-1</sup> (A14). The Houplin-Ancoisne and 178 179 Emmerin well fields were less affected by CHC pollution (H7: 9 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, E7: 2 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, and PZ61: 14 µg L<sup>-1</sup> 180 <sup>1</sup>). No CHCs were detected in A26 and H11. In addition, the distribution of the various CHC compounds differed from one well to the next (Figure 2-b). In the southern part of the Ansereuilles 181 well field, either cis-1,2-DCE or PCE represented more than 60% of the total concentration (PZ59, A18 182 and PZ49: cis-1,2-DCE, A21 and PZ55: PCE). In such highly polluted wells and at these single-depth 183 184 sampling points, the degradation products were often not detected. However, in the northern half of 185 the Les Ansereuilles almost all CHC compounds were detected, the major compound representing <40% of the total mass concentration. In the Houplin-Ancoisne and Emmerin well fields PCE 186 187 dominated, followed by TCE and 1,1,1-TCA., except in E8 where TCA was the major compound. In 188 Seclin, TCE was the only compound detected.

189 Figure 2: (a) Average total CHC concentrations in μg L<sup>-1</sup> in the studied well fields (data from 2011 to 2019).

190 Colours of symbols are shaded according to the CHC concentrations. (b) CHC distribution in percentage (%),

191 each colour represents a CHC compound (H11 and A26 not shown because of the absence of CHCs).

### 192 *3.2. CHC concentrations along depth and over time*

193 Pearson coefficients were computed to investigate possible correlation between piezometric levels 194 and CHC concentrations at multiple depths between 2016 and 2019. Pearson coefficients are significant if R<sub>critical</sub> > 0.7 (with p-value=0.05). Results are presented in Table SI-4. In PZ61, pearson 195 196 coefficients are positive and from 0.73 to 0.97 at -9 m for 1,1-DCE, 1,1,1-TCA, TCE and PCE. For PCE, pearson coefficients are superior to 0.7 and significant at -13 and -19.45m, too. In PZ56, pearson 197 coefficients are positive from 0.72 to 0.99 at -19.5, -25, -31 and -41m for 1,1-DCA, trans-1,2-DCE and 198 199 PCE. At -52.6 m, pearson coefficients are negative from -0.82 to -0.70 for 1,1-DCE, 1,1-DCA, cis-1,2-200 DCE, 1,1,1-TCA, TCE and PCE. In PZ59, peason coefficient is positive (0.95) for cis-1,2-DCE at -10 m 201 and negative (-0.71) for trans-1,2-DCE at -53 m. In PZ61 at -15.75m, high concentration of PCE is 202 observed during the high water-level period (14.0 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in February 2018) while low concentration of 203 PCE is observed during the low water-level period (8.3  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in September 2018).

204 CHC concentrations in PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61 were sampled with PDB along the water column over ten 205 sampling campaigns from 2016 to 2019. All results are shown in Supporting Information (Table SI-3). 206 In PZ56, all CHC compounds were detected in the water column (from -19.5 to -59 m), except 1,2-207 DCA that was below the quantification limit (0.2 µg L<sup>-1</sup>). VC was detected at the deepest point of the 208 water column (-59 m, 0.2 µg L<sup>-1</sup>). TCE, PCE, cis-1,2-DCE, 1,1-DCA and 1,1,1-TCA concentrations 209 decreased with well depth. In PZ59, no CHCs occurred in the first metres of the water column, but 210 were observed from -33.6 to -64.3 m, especially cis-1,2-DCE whose concentration decreased with depth (from 160  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> at -47 m to 70  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> at -64.3 m),. 1,1-DCE and VC were detected, but at low 211 212 concentrations (respectively  $\leq 0.3 \ \mu g \ L^{-1}$  and from 0.2 to 1.1  $\mu g \ L^{-1}$ ). Chlorinated ethanes were not 213 detected, except minor 1,1-DCA with concentrations <2.9 µg.L<sup>-1</sup>. In PZ61, only PCE, TCE and TCA were detected along the water column (from -9 to -23.2 m) with a peak at -13 m and a subsequent decrease with depth (PCE: 10.1 to 3.0  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, TCE: 1.2 to 0.5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, TCA: 0.8 to 0.3  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>).

216 Figure 3 shows the evolution of total CHC and of two predominant CHC compounds concentrations 217 over time at multiple depths sampled in PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61. All depths were not sampled for each 218 campaign, the absence of data at some depths in 2016 and 2019 does not mean that the CHCs were 219 under the limit of detection but were not investigated. In PZ56, CHCs were detected from -19.5 m to 220 the bottom (-59 m) and decreased along depth: the average total CHCs concentrations varied from 221 147  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> at -19.5 m to 42  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> at -59 m. In the first part of the well (from -19.5 m to -47m), CHC 222 concentrations increased over time (at -19.5m, from 86 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in 2017 to 188 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in 2019) while they were quite stable at the bottom of the well (at -59 m, 51  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in 2016 to 36  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in 2018). The 223 224 piezometric level decreased from -14.03 m in August 2016 to -15.88 m in October 2019, with a peak 225 at -13.70 in June 2018. In PZ59, CHCs were detected from -26 m to the bottom (-64.3 m) and concentrations increased from 0.2 µg L<sup>-1</sup> at -26.7 m to 180 µg L<sup>-1</sup> –at 67.3 m. The piezometric level 226 227 decreased from -2.7 m in August 2016 to -5.26 m in October 2019 with a rise at -3.8 in February 228 2018. In PZ61, CHCs were detected from -9 m to -23.2 m. In the first meters of the water column (-9 229 to -15.75 m), CHCs concentrations increased with depth, besides in September 2018 where 230 concentrations decreased along the entire water column. Then from -15.75 m to the bottom of the 231 well, CHCs concentrations decreased along depth from 12.5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>at--15.75 m to 3.9  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>at -23.2 m. 232 The piezometric level decreased from -5 m in August 2016 to -7.7 m in October 2019, with a rise at -233 5.4 m in February 2018.

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Figure 3 : Sum of CHCs and predominant CHC compounds concentrations along the water column and variations of the piezometric level over time (2016-2019) for the wells PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61

### 236 *3.3. Physico-chemical conditions in the wells*

237 Carbon dioxide, methane, ethane and ethene gases were analysed as they provide insight into the 238 final degradation products of CHCs. In PZ56 and PZ61, only  $CO_2$  was detected at 1900  $\mu$ mol.L<sup>-1</sup> (- 239 19.5 m) and 2000  $\mu$ mol.L<sup>-1</sup> (-15 m), respectively. In PZ59, at -40 m, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and ethane were 240 found with 2700, 2.9 and 0.09  $\mu$ mol.L<sup>-1</sup> at -40 m and 2100, 2.1 and 0.04  $\mu$ mol.L<sup>-1</sup>. at -60 m, 241 respectively.

242 The major inflows and redox potential (Eh) were recorded and analysed along the depth of the three 243 wells. The physico-chemical parameters were recorded during three campaigns (February 2017, 244 November 2017 and February 2018). Only November 2017 data are shown on Figure 4, as there were 245 no significant changes between the three campaigns. In PZ56, redox potential increased from 223 mV 246 -20 m to 237 mV at the bottom of the well. In PZ59, redox potential values decreased quickly with 247 increasing depth from 201 mV at -7 m to 84 mV at -30 m and then decreased until 69 mV at the 248 bottom of the well. In PZ61, redox potential values first slightly increased from 241 mV at -10 m to 249 262 mV at -19 m and then decreased until 122 mV at the bottom of the well.

# Figure 4: Depth-specific in-situ groundwater physico-chemistry in observation wells PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61. Redox potential are presented for November 2017.

### 3.4. Compound-specific isotope compositions

Stable carbon-isotope ratios ( $\delta^{13}$ C) of CHC compounds were analysed in wells PZ49, PZ55, PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61 in 2017, 2019 and 2020, and in A18 in 2020. The method relies on differences in reaction rates between molecules with light and heavy isotopes during transformation reactions, which causes an enrichment of heavy isotopes ( $^{13}$ C) in the residual contaminant fraction. Results are presented in Table 1. Considering the range of analytical uncertainties for these compounds (±0.5‰), most wells showed no variation in  $\delta^{13}$ C-values throughout the duration of the monitoring survey.

In PZ49, only *cis*-1,2-DCE was detected with constant  $\delta^{13}$ C values ranging within analytical uncertainty ( $\leq \pm 0.5\%$ ) from -29.8 to -29.6 ‰, between 2017 and 2020. Cis-1,2-DCE concentrations fluctuates from 18.5 to 42 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in 4 years. In PZ56, CHCs and their potential daughter products were detected at the two sampled depths (-19.5 and -47 m). In 2019 at 19.5 m, higher concentrations accompanied more depleted  $\delta^{13}$ C values of PCE, TCE, *cis*-1,2-DCE, 1,1,1-TCA and 1,1-DCE compared to 2017. In 2019, relatively homogeneous concentrations along the water column (from -19.5 to -47 m) were observed together with constant carbon-isotope ratios over depth. At -19.5 m,  $\delta^{13}$ C values of PCE, TCE, *cis*-1,2-DCE, 1,1,1-TCA and 1,1-DCA decreased between 2017 and 2019 (respectively -0.1, -2.1, -0.3, -1.1, -0.5‰) (no analysis at -47 m in 2017). 1,1-DCE was not detected at -19.5 m in 2017. In 2020, TCE and PCE were detected at -19.5 m and only TCE at -47 m, with enriched  $\delta^{13}$ C values compared to 2017 and 2019.

270 In PZ59, only TCE and *cis*-1,2-DCE were detected at -40, -47 and -60 m. For TCE, the  $\delta^{13}$ C was constant 271 between 2017 and 2019 along the water column at around -24‰ (Table 1). Then,  $\delta^{13}$ C values increased for TCE at -40 m (+1.8‰ between 2019 and 2020) and at -60 m (+0.9‰ between 2017 and 272 273 2020). For *cis*-1,2-DCE,  $\delta^{13}$ C values were constant between 2017 and 2020 at -40, -47 and -60 m. Only 274 PCE was detected with an enriched  $\delta^{13}$ C value (+2.2‰), accompanied by a strong concentration 275 decrease in PZ55 and a constant value -23.3‰ (±0.1‰) in PZ61 between 2017 and 2019. In 2020, 276 CHC concentrations detected in A18 (*cis*-1,2-DCE at 3.6 µg L<sup>-1</sup>, and TCE at 0.92 µg L<sup>-1</sup>) were below the 277 quantification limit for isotopic analysis.

- 278Table 1: Stable carbon-isotope ratio  $\delta^{13}$ C (in ‰ vs VPDB, ±0.5‰) and concentrations (µg L<sup>-1</sup>) in the wells279PZ49, PZ55, PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61 at several depths in 2017, 2019 and 2020.
- 280 4. Discussion

### 281 4.1. Les Ansereuilles well field

The CHC distribution in the Ansereuilles well field occurred as three separate sectors according to the drawdown areas (Figure 1). The southwestern drawdown, centred around well A18, presented the highest CHC concentrations, from 55.7  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (PZ49) to 185.2  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (PZ59), consisting of mostly *cis*-1,2,-DCE and a small amount of TCE. As showed on Figure 2-a, wells PZ59 and A18 pump groundwater from an industrial area. Two former industrial laundries were located upstream of the 287 wells (red targets on Figure 2-a). The Lille European Metropolis has identified one of these laundries as a high CHC-polluted site. TCE and *cis*-1,2-DCE were found in the soil of this site (0.2 m deep, TCE: 288 93  $\mu$ g g<sup>-1</sup>, *cis*-1,2-DCE: 2.9  $\mu$ g g<sup>-1</sup>) and high CHC concentrations occur in the directly underlying 289 290 groundwater (*cis*-1,2-DCE: 430  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, TCE: 43  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>; (Arcadis, 2016)). In PZ59, the  $\delta^{13}$ C values of *cis*-291 1,2-DCE (-31.9 to -31.6‰) were depleted compared to TCE (-24.3 to -22.4‰). This isotopic pattern is 292 consistent with isotope enrichment  $\epsilon_{TCE}$  factors being between -18.8 and -6.6‰ (-9.5 to -7.8‰ in 293 PZ59) for reductive dechlorination of TCE (Bloom et al., 2000; Sherwood Lollar et al., 2001; Slater et 294 al., 2001; Aeppli et al., 2009). This may indicate that *cis*-1,2-DCE is a degradation product of TCE 295 (Table 1). In PZ59 (Figure 3), CHCs were found along the water column below -26 m with increasing 296 concentrations for all compounds, suggesting CHC migration without degradation along the well. 297 However VC was found at low concentrations (<1.2 µg L<sup>-1</sup>) and persistent along the water column 298 (Table SI-3). In addition, methane and ethane occurred at -40 and -60 m. The presence of VC, ethane 299 and methane, and the favourable physico-conditions in the well (reducing conditions, Eh <80 mV, 300 Figure 4) suggest reductive dechlorination of a small amount of cis-1,2-DCE until methane. But the 301 highly depleted isotopic signatures of cis-1,2-DCE from -31.9 to -31.6‰ also indicate that this 302 compound is accumulating and further degradation to VC concerned only a small amount of cis-1,2-303 DCE (Table 2). Furthermore, for TCE, decreasing concentrations at -40 m between 2017 and 2020 (22 304 to 8.6 µg L<sup>-1</sup>) and the enrichment of isotopic values in 2020 compared to 2019 (-24.2 to -22.4‰, 305 Table 1) could be the beginning of an active biodegradation as a result of the excavation work of 306 2019 at the polluted site farther upstream (40,000 tonnes of polluted soil excavated). The slightly 307 enriched (compared to PZ59) and steady isotopic signatures of cis-1,2-DCE in PZ49 since 2017 suggest 308 the same degradation process in this well as in PZ59 located further upstream. In the well A18 309 located downstream, only very small amounts of CHC have been detected in 2020, compared to 310 relatively high concentrations last measured in 2017, suggesting that the degradation of CHCs is 311 actively ongoing and almost complete within the well. Due to the successful upstream remediation of 312 the source, no further CHCs should be reaching this well.

The southern drawdown around well A21 was characterized by major PCE contents (29 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in PZ55 313 and 8.8 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in A21). Both wells are also located downstream of several industrial laundries, textile 314 factories and dyeing industries (red and blue targets, Figure 2-a). While no PCE-degradation products 315 316 were found in PZ55, TCE and DCE were detected at low concentrations in A21 (respectively 0.6 and 0.12  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>). The decreasing concentrations of PCE (29 to 5.1  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, Table 1) and the enriched  $\delta^{13}$ C 317 318 values (-28.1 to -25.9‰, Table 1) between 2017 and 2020 in PZ55 indicated biodegradation under 319 reducing conditions in this well, resulting in the DCE found in downstream well A21 (Table 1). The 320 assumption of biodegradation reactions is only valid if the two groundwater layers where sampling 321 took place are directly connected. Another hypothesis for the differences in values observed in well 322 Pz55 for the two different depth intervals that are 14 m apart, might be that there are two different 323 sources of PCE contamination.

324 Finally, the northern drawdown around well A16 was characterized by a mix of different CHC compounds at concentrations ranging from 24.5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (A12) to 1.4  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (A14), including primary 325 326 products (PCE, TCE, 1,1,1-TCA) and all potential degradation products in variable proportions (cis-1,2-327 DCE, trans-1,2-DCE, 1,1-DCE, 1,2-DCE, 1,1-DCA and VC). Well PZ56 was an exception here because of 328 its high CHC concentration (150  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>). A former industrial laundry site, potentially the source of this 329 CHC pollution, lies upstream from the well (red target, Figure 2-a). In PZ56 (Figure 3), CHC 330 concentrations decreased along the water column below -19.5 m with, suggesting migration and 331 dilution of the CHCs in the well. VC was mostly below the quantification limit (0.2  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>) in the water 332 column (Table SI-3). The isotopic signatures of cis-1,2-DCE (-23.2 to -22.9‰, Table 1) compared to 333 TCE (-22.6 to -17.7‰) also indicate that *cis*-1,2-DCE may be a degradation product of TCE in PZ56. However, the depleted isotopic signatures of PCE (-24.9 to -23.9‰) compared to cis-1,2-DCE and TCE 334 335 either suggest that these compounds are not degradation products of PCE, or that the dechlorination 336 reaction of TCE and cis-1,2-DCE is ongoing and isotopic enrichment even exceeds the isotopic 337 signature of PCE. This latter hypothesis is supported by Rayleigh enrichment factors for reductive 338 dehalogenation that are smaller for PCE (EPCE -3.6 to -5.6%; (Slater et al., 2001; Wiegert et al., 2013;

339 Badin et al., 2014)), and increase for each of the consecutive metabolites (-13.8, -20.4, -22.4 for TCE, 340 cis-1,2-DCE and VC, respectively, (Slater et al., 2001)). The depleted isotopic values of 1,1-DCA (-22.1 341 to -21.6‰, Table 1) compared to TCA (-20.2 and -21.3‰ at -19.5 m) indicate that 1,1-DCA is a 342 possible degradation product of TCA. However, no further interpretations are possible, as reported 343 enrichment factors for biodegradation of 1,1,1-TCA to 1,1-DCA can be small (-1.8‰, (Sherwood Lollar 344 et al., 2001)) or quite large (up to -14‰, (Broholm et al., 2014)). Considering the other compounds, 345 an inversion of the TCA isotopic signature at -47 m is noticed (TCA -23‰ at -47 m and enriched to -346 21.3‰ at -19.5 m in 2019), compared to TCE that has an opposite behaviour (highest value at -47 m, 347 -20.5‰, and depleted at -19.5 m, -22.6‰, in 2019). This inversion suggests potentially different TCA 348 sources at these two depths. A surprising result is the isotopic signature of 1,1-DCE (-18.7 and -349 17.5%). These heavy  $\delta^{13}$ C values, compared with the potential primary CHC products (*cis*-1,2-DCE: 350 from 23.2 to 22.9‰, TCE: from -22.6 to -20.5‰, TCA: from -21.3 to -20.2‰), do not allow concluding 351 about a formation of 1,1-DCE by TCE anaerobic biodegradation, nor about an abiotically produced 352 metabolite of 1,1,1-TCA by dehydrochlorination. In addition, the presence of 1,1-DCE as a primary 353 product cannot be excluded due to its use in the plastics industry. In general, the isotopic signature 354 of manufactured solvents is more depleted (<-20‰) (Slater et al., 2001) and the observed  $\delta^{13}$ C value 355 of 1,1-DCE might also be an indicator for ongoing in-situ biodegradation in this well. In a study by 356 Hunkeler et al. (2002), 1,1-DCE transformation was very fast compared to other compounds. Isotope-357 enrichment factors for biodegradation of this compound are between -5.8‰ and -7.3‰ (Hunkeler et 358 al., 2002; Lee et al., 2007), supporting the idea of 1,1-DCE biodegradation in this well. However, as 359 the initial source values are unknown, this shows that the isotope approach has its limitations for an 360 intermediate compound that is simultaneously formed and degraded. With the limited number of 361 monitoring wells and data currently available, we cannot conclude whether TCE was added from 362 additional sources or derives from the dehalogenation of PCE. 1,1-DCE, too, may have been added 363 from another source, or may stem from the dehydrochlorination of 1,1,1-TCA (Table 1).

364 In the Ansereuilles well field, in addition of the importance of the pollution sources, the geology further influences the CHC concentrations in groundwater. The clay deposits at the top of the 365 366 northern wells (A13 to A15) confine the groundwater, causing reducing conditions. As shown on Figure 5, the wells under reducing conditions (redox potentials from 163 mV in A15 to 236 mV in 367 A13, according to Sigg (2000)) had the lowest CHC concentrations (from 1.4 in A14 to 12.3 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in 368 369 A13) with low detection frequency. These low CHC concentrations are consistent with low nitrate 370 concentrations (from below the detection limit in A14 to 8.6 mg  $L^{-1}$ ) which are an evidence of 371 denitrification processes occurring under reducing conditions, while the wells are located in an 372 agricultural area where high nitrate concentrations can be found in the groundwater under oxidizing 373 conditions (for example, 20-40 mg L<sup>-1</sup> in A18, Figure 5). On the contrary, the wells under oxidizing 374 conditions (A10, A11, A18 and PZ56, redox potentials from 315 mV in A18 to 436 mV in PZ56) had the 375 highest CHC concentrations with high detection frequency and high nitrate concentrations. The well 376 A12 is located in a transition zone and present moderately reducing condition (redox potential: 300 377 mV), low CHC concentrations with high detection frequency and high nitrate concentrations. Finally, 378 the well PZ59 that is near a major source of TCE presents high CHC concentrations under reducing 379 conditions along with low nitrate concentration.

# Figure 5: Redox potential (mV), nitrates (mg L<sup>-1</sup>) and total CHC concentration (μg L<sup>-1</sup>) according to location (Lambert 93 X coordinate) in the Ansereuilles well field

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382 *4.2. Emmerin, Houplin-Ancoisne and Seclin well fields* 

The Emmerin well field was separated into two different areas. The first one contains wells E7, E5 and PZ61, with low CHC concentrations ranging from 1.7  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (E7) to 15.8  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> (PZ61). PCE was the most common pollutant in the wells, with lesser amounts of TCA and 1,1-DCE. The second area is around the far western well E8, where TCA dominates followed by TCE, PCE and their degradation products as *cis*-1,2-DCE, 11-DCE and 1,1-DCA. In PZ61, CHC concentrations decreased downward (data in Supporting Information, Table SI-3). The steady isotopic signature of PCE between 2017 and 2020 (-23.3 and -23.4‰) suggested that this compound was not further degraded in the well. The isotopic signature of PCE in PZ61 can be compared to initial pure phase  $\delta^{13}$ C values of PCE ranging from -37.2 to -23.3‰ (van Warmerdam et al., 1995). Being at the upper end of reported values either Pz61 represents source values that have never been subject to biodegradation, or as we don't know the initial source of this contamination, we could also assume lower initial values that have been enriched over time, suggesting degradation further upstream before arrival in the well (Table 2).

396 397

#### Table 2: Overview of CHCs found in the well fields, their potential origins and degradation processes based on the isotopic signatures from 2017 to 2020

398 The Houplin-Ancoisne and Seclin well fields were the least polluted in CHC. We found a mix of CHCs with low concentrations ranging from 0.2 (S1) to 8.8 µg L<sup>-1</sup> (H7). Wells PZ51, H7, H4 and H1 were 399 400 polluted mainly by PCE, TCE and TCA, while only TCE was detected in S1. The low CHCs 401 concentrations can be explained by the minor presence of industrial activities in this area (Figure 1). 402 Then, oxidizing conditions prevail in these well fields, the groundwaters provide conditions for aerobic biodegradation, except for H11 (dissolved oxygen <1 mg/L) where no CHCs were found 403 404 (Figure 2-a). The absence of TCE- and PCE-degradation products such as *cis*-1,2-DCE suggested that 405 reductive dechlorination does not occur, which is consistent with the observed groundwater 406 geochemistry of these wells. 1,1-DCE could be a primary product from the plastics industry as in PZ56, or a product from previous dehydrochlorination of TCA. 407

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### 4.3. Consequences for the further pumping operations

409 TCE, PCE and VC have regulation standards in the French legislation for their presence in drinking 410 water (RF, 2007). In the studied well fields, the sum of TCE and PCE exceeds the threshold 411 concentration of 10  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in many wells (A12, A16, A18, A21, E5, E7, H7, PZ56, PZ59, and PZ61). VC 412 exceeds the concentration limit (0.5  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>) in only two wells (A18 and PZ59) but is present and 413 persistent in most wells. Our study showed that CHC degradation would be a long process in the well 414 fields, even if this occurs in some part of the Chalk aquifer. In addition, the total amount of CHCs in the surrounding soils probably can never been estimated, preventing a prediction of the time needed for natural attenuation of this complex and diffuse—but also with hot spots—pollution. Currently, drinking-water production uses dilution to reach the regulation CHC standards, but the lowering water table makes this solution unsustainable. In order to continue producing drinking water from the existing well fields, the operators need alternative solutions to reach the regulation CHC standards.

421 The simplest solution would seem to be to adapt the pumping depth in the well. However, our study 422 of CHC concentrations in the PZ56 water column showed that TCE + PCE concentrations decrease 423 with depth, whereas VC shows an inverse trend (Table SI-3). Positioning of the pump is therefore 424 tricky and becomes impractical when the groundwater level lowers due to drought periods, as is 425 already frequently the case in this region. Then, an increase of the piezometric level leads to an 426 increase of CHC concentrations in the wells (for example, in the entire water column of PZ61 and in 427 shallower parts of PZ56 and PZ59 (Table SI-4)). The rise of the piezometric level induced by natural 428 recharge and decrease or stopping of pumping mobilize CHC sources present in surface. In order to 429 limit CHC contamination of the groundwater, as second option the water operators should adopt an 430 individual management of pumping wells in order to maintain the water table in the chalk and not in 431 the upper polluted layers. A third option is to create a protection front by discharging groundwater 432 from selected wells to protect the others from CHC plumes. These solutions require a sharp 433 identification in three dimensions of CHC fluxes in groundwater, but above all it involves wasting a 434 significant amount of water in a context of scarcity. A fourth solution would be to treat the water 435 with methods such as reverse osmosis, combinations of oxidants (e.g. ozone and UV), or volatilization with a waterfall (Love Jr and Eilers, 1982; Foster et al., 1991). Overall, the better 436 437 understanding of the CHC behaviours described in this paper and the application of some of these 438 recommendations should undoubtedly ameliorate significantly the exploitation of this strategic resource for the Lille Metropolis 439

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### 440 5. Conclusions

Our study contributes to a better knowledge of CHC dynamics in a large strategic well field that supplies drinking water to the Lille European Metropolis. The distribution and concentrations of CHCs in the study area depends on two main factors. The first one is the past and current industrial activities in the area, causing broad CHC plumes in three dimensions that are further accentuated by pumping. The second one is the confined/unconfined nature of groundwater, causing reductive and/or oxidizing conditions that are favourable, or not, for efficient CHC degradation.

The strong *cis*-1,2-DCE pollution in the southwest of the Les Ansereuilles well field is due to the release of TCE—and its degradation by reductive dechlorination-from a former industrial laundry upstream of the studied wells. In the same well field, other wells are affected to a lesser extent by the release of PCE from several other industrial laundries, textile factories and dyeing industries, which again was partly degraded by reductive dechlorination. In the northern area of the well field, PCE, TCA, TCE and 1,1-DCE were found as primary products and *cis*-1,2-DCE as a degradation product of TCE by anaerobic biodegradation.

The other well fields (Houplin-Ancoisne, Seclin and Emmerin) are less impacted by CHC pollution, and no CHC degradation occurs in the wells as shown by the absence of degradation products, aerobic conditions, and isotopic signature of PCE.

457 The stratification of CHCs along the well-water columns, their steady concentrations over time 458 caused by the large amount of available CHCs, and the little degradation occurring in the wells, all 459 indicate that producing drinking water with a good quality from the well fields will be a major future 460 challenge for water operators, as it is already. As observed in well PZ56, redox conditions and the 461 degree of reductive dechlorination can vary over small distances, showing the importance of high-462 resolution sampling to demonstrate the attenuation of CHCs. Isotopic investigations combined with 463 long-term monitoring of concentrations, taking into account spatial and in-depth heterogeneity, have 464 proven to be an adequate methodology for identifying further CHC plumes and potential polluters

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and demonstrating ongoing biodegradation activity within these plumes. The continuation of this
monitoring strategy would also make it possible to control the efficiency of the remediation
treatment that was recently undertaken.

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- 570









(b)

(a)







Well	Depth (m)	Year of		1,1-DCE	1,1-DCA	Cis-1,2-DCE	1,1,1 -TCA	TCE	PCE
PZ49	-52	2017	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-29.8	-104	_	_
			Concentration (ug L <sup>-1</sup> )	_	-	18 5	-	-	-
		2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	_	-	-29.7	-	-	-
	-47		Concentration (ug L <sup>-1</sup> )	_	-	52.8	-	-	-
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-29.6	-	-	-
			Concentration (ug L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	42.0	-	-	-
PZ55			δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-28.1
	-45	2017	Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	_	-	-	29.0
	-31	2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	_	-	-	-25.9
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	_	-	-	5.1
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-26.5
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	-	6.8
PZ56	-19,5	2017	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-21.6	-22.9	-20.2	-20.5	-24.8
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	15.2	12.8	21	18.6	7.3
		2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-18.7	-22.1	-23.2	-21.3	-22.6	-24.9
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	30.5	33.3	23.2	54.7	33.1	13.0
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-19.4	-23.9
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	17.1	6.5
	-47	2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-17.5	-22.1	-23.1	-23.0	-20.5	-24.4
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	19.9	27.8	17.4	39.7	33.3	11.2
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-17.7	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	10.4	-
PZ59	-40	2017	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.8	-	-23.8	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	135.0	-	22.0	-
		2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.6	-	-24.2	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	104.7	-	10.1	-
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.8	-	-22.4	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	102.0	-	8.6	-
	-47	2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.8	-	-24.3	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	154.7	-	25.9	-
	-60	2017	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.7	-	-23.9	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	142.0	-	28.0	-
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-31.9	-	-23.0	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	136	-	19.6	-
PZ61	-15	2017	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-23.3
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	-	8.9
		2019	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-23.4
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	_	-	13.6
		2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-23.3
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	-	-	-	12.2
A18	-41	2020	δ <sup>13</sup> C (‰)	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Concentration (µg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	-	3.6	0.9	-	-

Table 1: Stable carbon-isotope ratio  $\delta^{13}$ C (in ‰ vs VPDB, ±0.5‰) and concentrations (µg L<sup>-1</sup>) in the wells PZ49, PZ55, PZ56, PZ59 and PZ61 at several depths in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

Table 2: Overview of CHCs found in the well fields, their potential origins and degradation processes based on the isotopic signatures from 2017 to 2020

Well	СНС	Concentrations	Potential origin	δ <sup>13</sup> C	Suspected	
		(µg L <sup>-1</sup> )		(‰)	degradation	
				. ,	process	
PZ59	TCE	9-28	Upstream industrial	-24.2	Reductive	
			laundry	to	dechlorination	
			,	-22.4	(start in 2020)	
					TCE $\rightarrow$ cDCE	
	cDCE	102-155	Reductive	-31.9	Reductive	
			dechlorination of TCE	to	dechlorination	
				-31.6	(limited,	
					accumulation of	
					cDCE)	
					cDCE→VC→CH₄	
PZ49	cDCE	19-42	PZ59 ?	-29.8	No further	
			Reductive	to	degradation	
			dechlorination of TCE	-29.6		
PZ55	PCE	5-29	Upstream industrial	-28.1	Reductive	
			sites?	to	dechlorination	
				-25.9	PCE $\rightarrow$ cDCE	
PZ56	1,1-	20-31	From additional source	-18.7	No process	
	DCE		or reductive	to -	evidenced	
			dechlorination of cDCE	17.5		
			or dehydrochlorination			
			of TCA			
	1,1-	15-33	Reductive	-22.6	No process	
	DCA		dechlorination of TCA	to	evidenced	
				-22.1		
	cDCE	13-23	Reductive	-23.1	Reductive	
			dechlorination of TCE	to	dechlorination?	
				-22.9	cDCE → 1,1-DCE	
	TCA	21-55	No potential source	-23.0	Reductive	
			identified	to	dechlorination	
				-20.2	TCA → 1,1-DCA	
	TCE	17-33	From additional source	-22.6	Reductive	
			or reductive	to -	dechlorination	
			dechlorination of PCE	20.5	TCE $\rightarrow$ cDCE	
	PCE	7-13	No potential source	-24.9	Reductive	
			identified	to	dechlorination	
				-24.4	PCE $\rightarrow$ TCE	
PZ61	PCE	9-14	No source identified	-23.4	No degradation	
				to		
				-23.3		

