

3-D Microemulsion® Factory Emulsified Technical Description

3-D Microemulsion (3DME®) is comprised of a patented molecular structure containing oleic acids (i.e., oil component) and lactates/polylactates, which are molecularly bound to one another (figure 1). The 3DME molecule contains both a soluble (hydrophilic) and insoluble (lipophilic) region. These two regions of the molecule are designed to be balanced in size and relative strength. The balanced hydrophilic/lipophilic regions of 3DME result in an electron donor with physical properties allowing it to initially adsorb to the aquifer material in the area of application, then slowly redistribute via very small 3DME “bundles” called micelles. These 3DME micelles spontaneously form within sections of the aquifer where concentrations of 3DME reach several hundred parts per million. The micelles’ small size and mobility allow it to move with groundwater flow through the aquifer matrix, passing easily through the pore throats in between soil grains resulting in the further redistribution of 3DME within the aquifer. This allows for advective distribution of the oleic acids which are otherwise insoluble and unable to distribute in this manner, allowing for increased persistence of the lactate/polylactates component due to their initial attachment to the oleic acids.

Due to its patented molecular structure, 3DME offers far greater transport when compared to blended emulsified vegetable oil (EVO) products, which fail to distribute beyond the limits of pumping. 3DME also provides greater persistence when compared to soluble substrates such as lactates or simple sugars. The 3DME molecular structures capitalize on the best features of the two electron-donor types while at the same time, minimize their limitations. 3DME is delivered to the site as a ready-to-apply emulsion that is simply diluted with water to generate a large volume of a 3DME colloidal suspension.

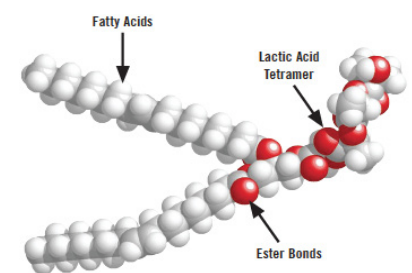
Suspension of 3DME generated by this mixing range from micelles on the order of .02 microns to .05 microns in diameter, to “swollen” micelles, (termed “microemulsions”) which are on the order of .05 to 5 microns in diameter. Once injected into the subsurface in high volumes, the colloidal suspension mixes and dilutes in existing pore waters. The micelles/microemulsions on the injection front will then begin to sorb onto the surfaces of soils as a result of zeta potential attraction and organic matter within the soils themselves. As the sorption continues, the 3DME will “coat” pore surfaces developing a layer of molecules and in some cases a bilayer. This sorption process continues as the micelles/microemulsion moves outward and disassociates into their hydrophilic/hydrophobic components. The specialized chemistry of 3DME results in a staged release of electron donors: free lactate (immediate); polylactate esters (mid-range) and free fatty acids & fatty acid esters (long-term). Material longevity of three years or greater has been seen at most sites as determined from biogeochemical analyses.

For a list of treatable contaminants with the use of 3DME, view the Range of Treatable Contaminants Guide.



Example of 3-D Microemulsion

FIGURE 1: THE 3-D MICROEMULSION MOLECULAR STRUCTURE



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Chemical Composition

- Fatty acid esters
- Water
- Lactate oligomers
- Sodium lactate
- Proprietary surfactants

Properties

- Density – Approximately 1.0 grams per cubic centimeter (relative to water)
- pH – Neutral (approximately 6.5 to 7.5 standard units)
- Solubility – Soluble in Water
- Appearance – White emulsion
- Odor – Not detectable
- Vapor Pressure – None
- Non-hazardous

Storage and Handling Guidelines

Storage

Store in original tightly closed container

Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place

Store away from incompatible materials

Recommended storage containers: plastic-lined steel, plastic, glass, aluminum, stainless steel, or reinforced fiberglass

Handling

Avoid contact with eyes, skin, and clothing

Provide adequate ventilation

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment

Observe good industrial hygiene practices

Applications

- 3DME is diluted with water prior to application. Resulting emulsion has viscosity similar to water.
- Easily injects into formation through direct push injection points, injection wells or other injection delivery systems.

Application instructions for this product are contained in the 3DME FE Application Instructions.

Health and Safety

Material is food grade and relatively safe to handle. We recommend avoiding contact with eyes and prolonged contact with skin. OSHA Level D personal protection equipment including vinyl or rubber gloves, and eye protection are recommended when handling this product. Please review the 3DME FE Material Safety Data Sheet for additional storage, usage, and handling requirements.



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