

THE IMPACT OF OPEN DUMPING METHOD IN NGIPIK LANDFILL INVESTIGATED WITH ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY TOMOGRAPHY (ERT) AND VERY LOW-FREQUENCY ELECTROMAGNETIC (VLF-EM)

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ABSTRACT: The open dumping is a dangerous yet common landfilling method in the developing countries. In Indonesia, 90% of landfills across the country still apply the open dumping method. A minimum construction cost and time, by disposing the waste directly to the ground pit, make the open dumping method as the easiest waste disposing option. However, this method potentially causes uncontrolled leachate deployment which result in groundwater contamination. To assess the risk of this method, this research employed geophysical measurements in Ngipik landfill, Gresik – East Java, which has been operated since 2002 with open dumping method. The geophysical measurement is the quickest method to investigate contamination mapping in a large area without drilling many wells to investigate water contamination. Very low-frequency electromagnetic (VLF-EM) method is one of the most used methods to investigate groundwater contamination, because of the easy operating and flexible equipment, while the electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) investigation is a quick and excellent method to map the contamination in the landfill area. In this study, 10 profiles of VLF-EM and 7 profiles of ERT investigation are employed to evaluate the leachate deployment in Ngipik landfill area. A 3D image of both methods is presented in the dry and rainy season to map the leachate plume in the landfill area. A laboratory-scale investigation is conducted to interpret the leachate resistivity on the field. The result shows that the leachate has been deployed up to 25 meters in some profiles nearby the waste mound. The water quality of surrounded wells has also affected by the leachate agreed to the geophysical method. Finally, this research proves that, VLF-EM and ER methods are effective to analyze the leachate plume in the landfill area.

Keywords: VLF Electromagnetic, Electrical Resistivity Tomography, Landfill, Leachate, Contamination.

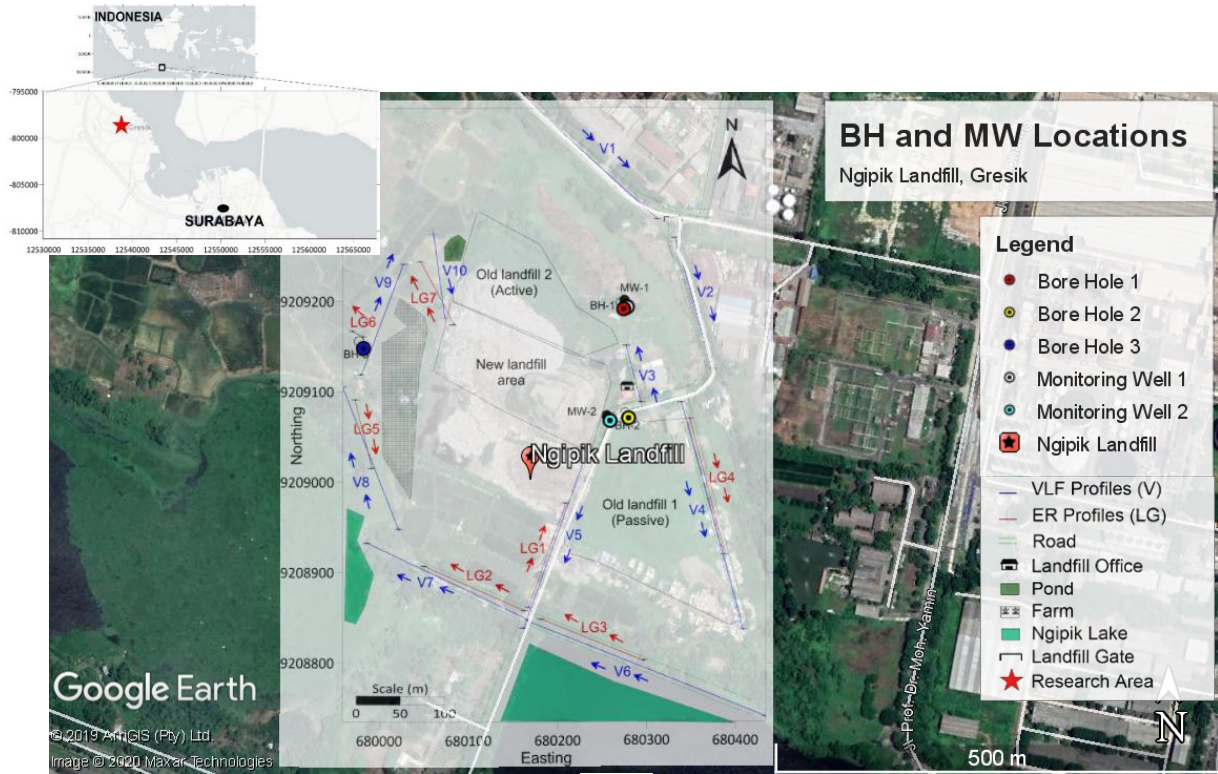
1. INTRODUCTION

The open dumping method is a major cause of waste contamination. This method is common in developing countries, such as Indonesia. The open dumping is a waste disposing method which employed without additional barrier beneath and without the leachate collection system [1]. This method induces an uncontrolled leachate deployment which causes groundwater contamination. The Ngipik landfill, located in Gresik – East Java, Indonesia, employs this method since 2002. The landfill has been operated for nearly 17 years and it is currently overloaded. The new landfill area will be constructed nearby the old one. However, the uncontrolled leachate from the open dumping landfill needs to be examined. To figure out the impact of the open dumping landfill in surrounding area, this research uses geophysical methods.

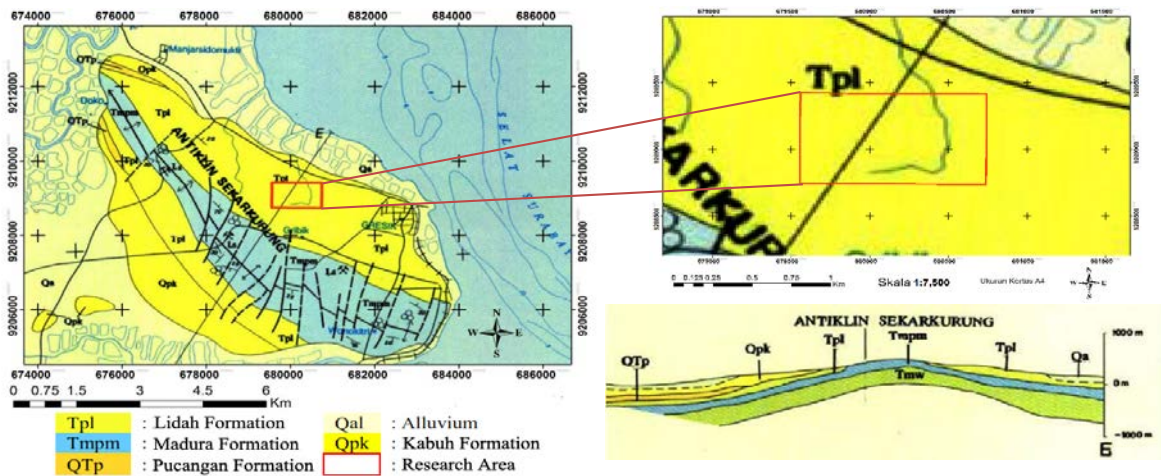
The resistivity and/or electromagnetic geophysical methods are extensively used for detecting geological and geophysical phenomena, including contamination detection and mapping. The previous researchers stated that the electrical resistivity of leachate is lower than the clean water [2-4]; thus, the anomaly can be used to identify the contamination in soil and groundwater.

The VLF-EM is an electromagnetic method, that uses 10–30 KHz bandwidth radio signals from worldwide network transmitter station [4]. Because of the easy operation of the instrument, speed of the field survey and low operation cost, this method is considered as one of the most used among the electromagnetic methods [5]. It is primarily used for the mineral exploration and geological structures' investigation [6,7]. It is also applied for detecting and mapping water contamination [3,4,8].

The electrical resistivity (ER), also known as electrical resistivity tomography (ERT), is



(a)



(b)

Figure 1. (a) Location map of Ngipik Landfill site, the bore holes, monitoring wells, VLF-EM and ER profiles. The arrow shows the direction of the measurement; (b) Geological map of Ngipik Landfill region and the E cross section across the investigated area [24]

Table 1. Profiles summary by VLF-EM and ER investigation

Profile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
VLF-EM	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10
Length (m)	180	145	55	250	190	275	200	160	130	95
ER	-	-	-	LG4	LG1	LG3	LG2	LG5	LG6	LG7
Length (m)	-	-	-	155	124	124	124	77.5	15.5	77.5
Electrode space (m)	-	-	-	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	0.5	2.5

conducted by injecting the electric current to earth sublayers and measure the potential difference at some investigated points. This method uses the electrical properties of each sublayer to examine the resistivity variance in earth materials [9]. This method is mainly used for detecting some fissures or holes in the underground layer in relation to the geological structures [10]. The application of ER extended to the environmental pollution investigations, such as investigating the pipeline leak incidents, verify the sewage leakage, and detect the soil contamination [11-14].

While the length of ERT line affects the result of the investigated subsurface depth, the VLF-EM length of line is not affected by the line length because VLF-EM uses the electromagnetic signals while the ERT depends on the electric current by every electrode. However, the use of both methods is to complete the line data since some area of the landfill are inadequate to be installed by the electrodes of ERT. ERT and VLF-EM methods have been conducted by several researchers to map the contamination of an area. However, the study about the contamination during dry and rainy season is limited.

Generally, this work aimed at investigating the leachate deployment in Ngipik landfill, by employing 10 profiles of very low electromagnetic (VLF-EM) method and 7 profiles of electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) investigation (Fig. 1a), in the dry and rainy season. For validation purposes, the water quality tests from previous research [15] were analyzed as well. It is necessary to investigate the leachate deployment in the area to assess the risk of open dumping landfill. By instance, there are 10 profiles of geophysical measurement summarized in Table 1. As there are many versions of the leachate resistivity value, the laboratory-scale resistivity measurement is conducted to obtain the resistivity of the soil submerged by the leachate and clean water, as mentioned in the previous research [15]. The result from the laboratory-scale investigation was then used to verify the leachate resistivity on the field.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Ngipik landfill is in Gresik regency and lies about 23 km to the northwest of Surabaya, the capital city of East Java province, Indonesia. The study area is located between 7° 9'10.60" South and 112° 37'55.41" East in the international grid (Fig. 1). The area of the domestic waste landfill is nearly 7.4 hectare, including about 1.8 hectares of the new area to be constructed. This landfill served about 1.3 million residents, and it receives 187.42 tons/day domestic wastes [16].

The geological position of the landfill is in Lidah Formation (Fig. 1b), which composed of clay,

little fossil content and sandstone clay [15] Lidah Formation has a thick clay content on the layer as proven by 30 m depth drilling gathered in this research. The result indicated that the soil mostly consists of clay and silt (~51% and ~44%, respectively) and a little amount of sand (~4%), high plasticity (with PI mostly more than 50%), and the porosity is around 50% in average.

This landfill was constructed in 2002 and started its operation in 2003. The construction of the dumpsite was only carried out by digging up two-meter depth pit, then piled up the waste without any barrier underneath. The waste mound is placed in the clay soil deposits which was employed without treatment or compaction before the waste dumped. The Ngipik landfill had been operated without a proper leachate collection system, hence the leachate spreads in the surrounding refuse mound (Fig. 2) and – hypothetically– goes directly into the soil and groundwater.



Figure 2. Uncontrolled leachate spreads around the waste mound in Ngipik Landfill

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Very Low Frequency – Electromagnetics (VLF-EM)

A total of 10 profiles with 5 meters of station to station distance was conducted for leachate deployment mapping in Ngipik landfill. The profile length varies between 55 and 275 meters from V1 to V10 (Fig. 1). The summary of the profiles conducted with each method is listed in Table 1. The measurement was conducted in the landfill area around the waste mound, because it is impossible to do the investigation through the waste mound, which reaches the height of about 12 meters without the soil covering.

After gathering the field measurement data, the VLF-EM data is interpreted with several filters to remove the noise and disturbance to the electromagnetic waves. The VLF-EM uses a very low frequency (around 20 kHz); hence, the data is very sensitive to the geologic noise. The geologic noise depends on the complexity of the causative

geologic structure. Therefore, the noise is impossible to remove by the conventional filtering techniques [17]. In this research, the VLF-EM data is filtered with noise assisted – multivariate empirical mode decomposition (NA-MEMD), to increase the accuracy of the signal from the VLF-EM data, and to remove the noises. The data was then filtered with Fraser, Karous-Hjelt filtering and inversion. The last step is the interpretation of the data present in the 2D layout in this paper.

3.2 Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)

The ERT method is based on the measuring of the electrical resistivity distribution to the subsurface, using current transmitting into the ground by two electrodes (A and B), and measures the potential difference between the second pair of the electrodes (M and N) [18]. By nature, different materials have different electrical properties. This method can describe the underground environment [14]. The electrical penetration is proportional to the separation between the electrodes and provide information about the stratification of the ground [19]. This study uses 7 profiles of ER investigation with 2.5 and 5.0 meters distance between the electrodes. The length of the profiles varies from 15.5 to 155 meters from LG1 to LG7. The shortest profile, LG6 is conducted near the Bore Hole – 3, *BH-3*. The LG6 has difficulty to obtain longer profile because of the site condition. Thus, this profile, the shortest one, taken with the distance of the electrodes of 0.5 meter. The profiles' length, investigated with both methods, can be observed in Table 1.

Several electrode arrays are available for subsurface resistivity studies, such as dipole-dipole, pole-pole, Wenner, and Schlumberger arrays. The arrays' selection depends on the geology, the depth of investigation, and field feasibility. The type of array can also influence the final resistivity image, because each array has different sensitivity, depth of investigation, and resolution power [20]. The combination of Wenner and Schlumberger is used in this study, for both laboratory-scale resistivity measurement and field investigation, because the Wenner-Schlumberger array maps the lateral resistivity distribution in the homogeneous subsurface and are able to detect the inhomogeneity of the sublayers [21]. Other researchers conducted several arrays of the ER method for their study and found that Wenner-Schlumberger array has lower error rate data [14]. For the last step for smoothing

the data, this study uses RES2DINV from ABEM Instruments (1998) to process the apparent resistivity gathered from field investigation and to interpret the ER data.

3.3 Water Quality Sampling and Analysis

Samples were collected from monitoring well, *MW* and bore hole, *BH* around the landfill. *MW-1* and *MW-2* are the monitoring well of Ngipik landfill, *BH-1* and *BH-2* are the bore hole where the soil sample were taken next to the monitoring wells (Fig. 1). *BH-3* is taken about 200 meters from the waste mound to investigate how far the leachate deployed. Water samples were collected twice on August 2016 (dry season) and January 2017 (rainy season). Water quality test is also conducted on field by using pH Meter by CONSTANT instrument.

3.4 Laboratory-Scale Electrical Resistivity Test

The Laboratory-scale electrical resistivity test was conducted to obtain the resistivity value of soil with leachate content, and another one with water content. There are two soil samples: a soil sample submerged by leachate and another one submerged by clean water. The samples were observed with electrical resistivity test by using Wenner-Schlumberger arrays in tube sample with diameter 3.72 cm and high 7.27 cm, for several liquid contents. Then, as ERT test, the data modulated using RES2DINV from ABEM Instruments (1998).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In laboratory-scale resistivity test, the resistivity of the clay soil submerged by the landfill leachate is less than 2.5 ohm-m, while for the submerged one with the clean water, the resistivity is higher in around 2.5 ohm-m to 3.5 ohm-m (Fig. 3). This result corresponds to the previous research, that the resistivity of soil submerged by the leachate is lower than that of the clean water. The organic and inorganic chemicals in the leachate increase the total dissolved solids in the rock's pore fluid, then it decreases the resistivity of the sublayer [2,4,22]. The clean water submerged soil reach stable value when the clean water content is 33.5% while the leachate content is around 32%. Viscosity of leachate is mostly higher than water, yet the viscosity does not significantly affect the velocity of the liquid in groundwater as reported in [22].

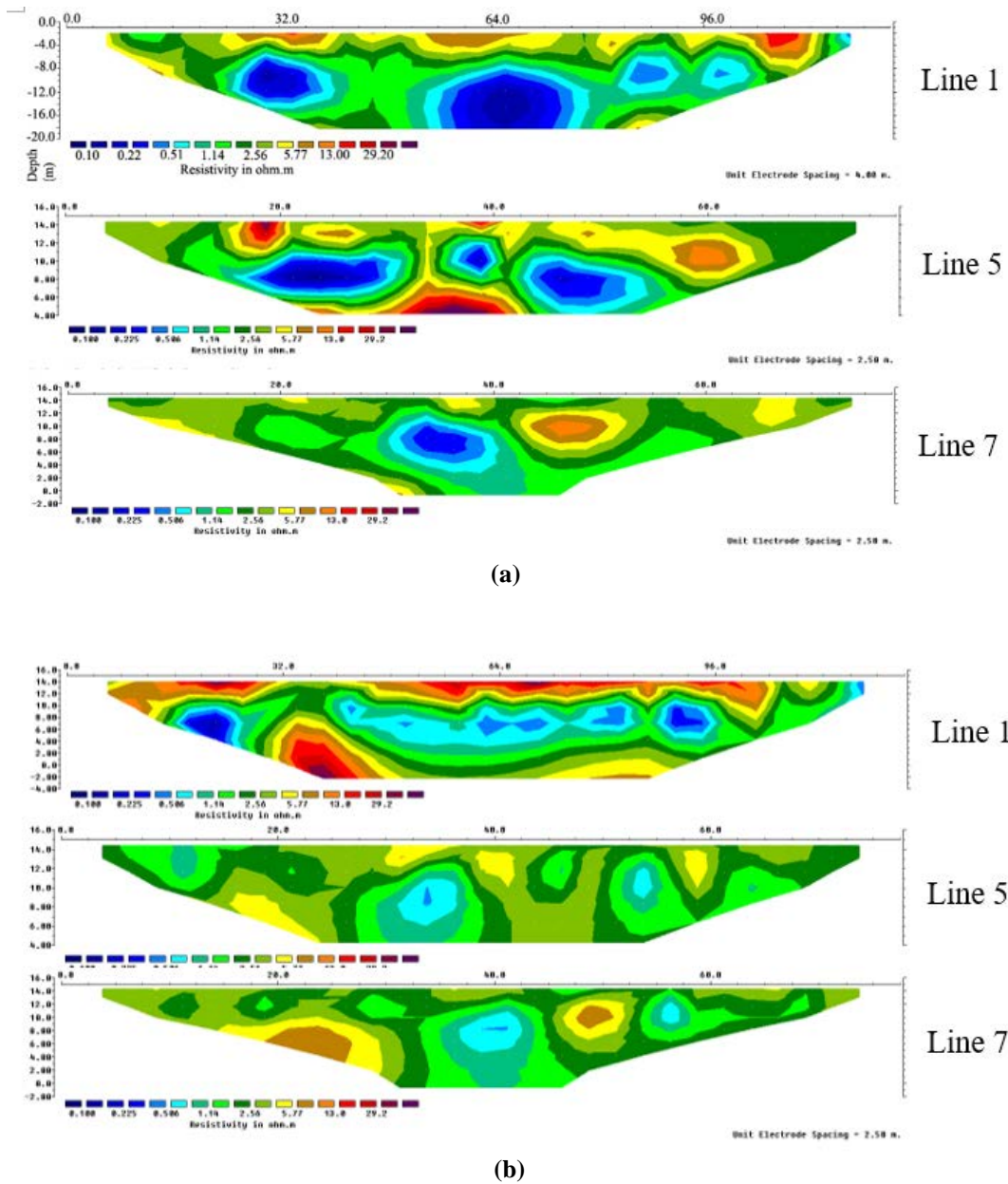


Figure 4. (a) Subsurface condition of ERT investigation on dry season; (b) Subsurface condition of ERT investigation on rainy season

Table 2. Water contents by pH-meter measurement on field

Sample	pH	Conductivity (mS/cm)	TDS (ppm)	Salinity (ppm)
East lake	7.38	0.884	590	421
West lake	7.29	0.966	636	460
MW-2	7	6.320	4450	3340
MW-1	6.95	3.110	2080	1460
Leachate	8.2	11.570	7430	5750

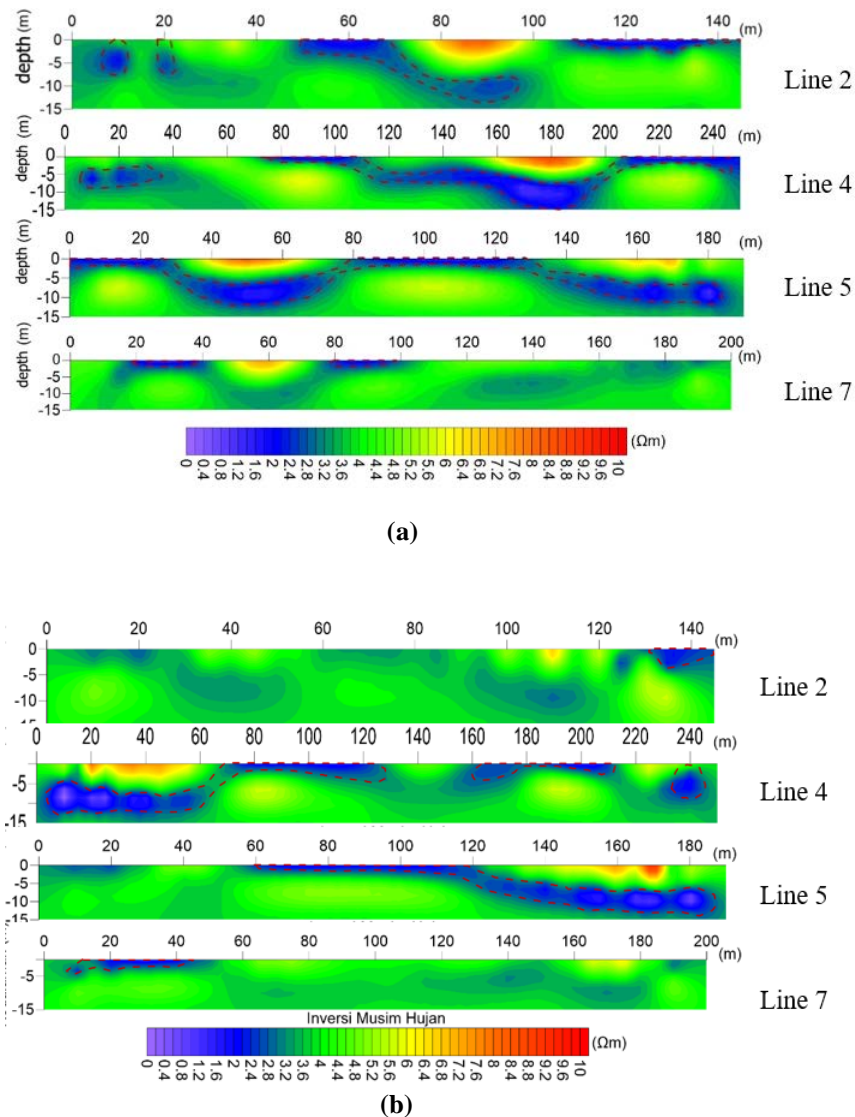


Figure 5. (a) Subsurface condition of VLF-EM investigation on dry season; (b) Subsurface condition of VLF-EM investigation on rainy season

Moreover, water which has the lower viscosity, assumed to need more weight to stabilize the resistivity value in the soil rather than leachate. The low resistivity resulted in high conductivity. This is proved as well by the conductivity test towards the landfill leachate on the field. The conductivity of leachate is 11.57 mS/cm, while the conductivity of clean water from the surrounding lakes are below 1 mS/cm (Table2).

The low resistivity data are shown in dark blue color. The brighter the color, the higher the resistivity of the survey area. The result of electrical resistivity tomography, *ERT* investigation shows

that several lines have leachate deployment to a maximum depth of 20 meters, as observed on Line 1 of ERT, *LG 1*, on the dry season (Fig. 4a). *LG 1* is located between the old and new landfill (15 m in the northwest and 60 m in the northeast direction, respectively). However, on the rainy season (Fig. 4b), the leachate showed in blue color scattered and covered in a light blue color, which indicates that the resistivity is increasing in rainy season. Line 5 (*LG 5*) is located next to the new landfill (100 m in the southwest direction), which also has the same pattern from dry and rainy seasons, especially, dark

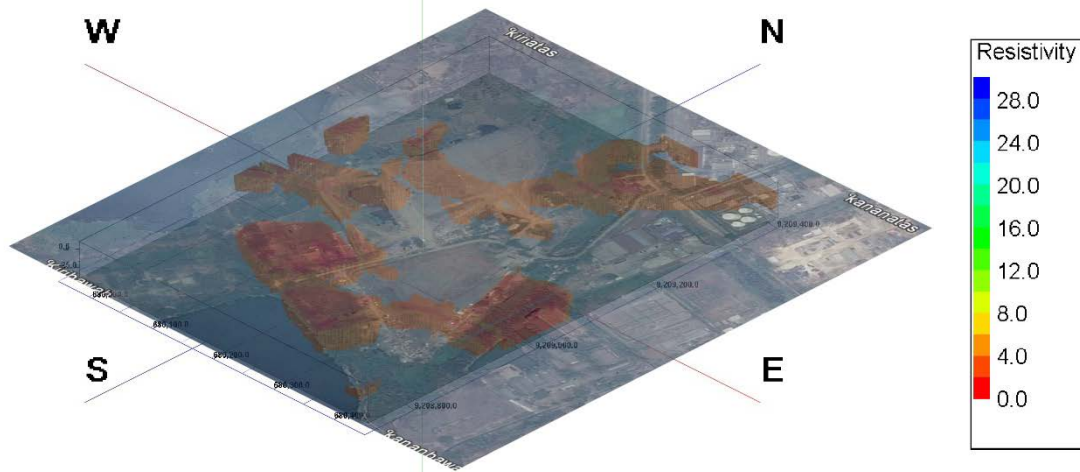


Figure 7. 3D image of leachate mapping on dry season in Ngipik Landfill

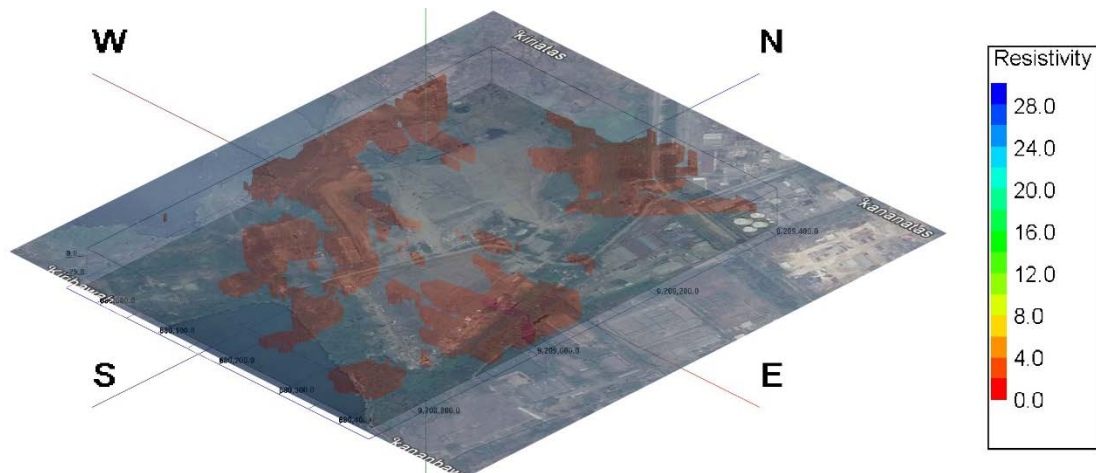


Figure 8. 3D image of leachate mapping on rainy season in Ngipik Landfill

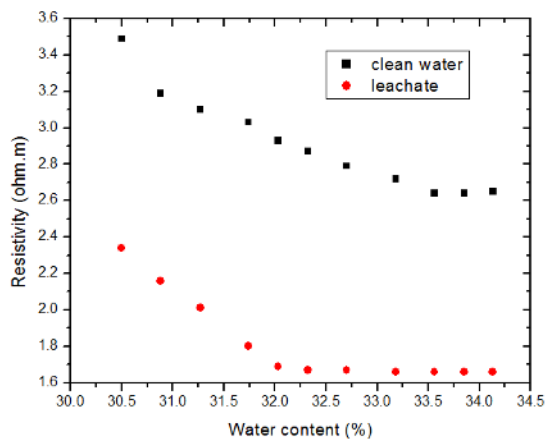


Figure 3. Resistivity correlation with water content for soil submerged by clean water and leachate [15]

blue color in dry season in around 12 m – 15 m depth and light blue color in rain season. Line 7 (LG 7), located on the west side of the active and new landfill (10 m in the west directions), also has the same pattern between the dry and rainy season especially on 6 m – 10 m depth. It is agreed with the

VLF-EM investigation results, that the blurring dark blue color (or light blue color) means that the resistivity of the investigated area is increasing, as shown in line 2, line 4, line 5, and line 7 of rainy (Fig. 5b) and dry seasons (Fig. 5a). All the investigated area has leachate on them, based on the VLF-EM investigation.

The area has a shallow water table. The depth of water table in rainy season is around -0.50 m from the ground surface. The leachate, that disappears from the ERT investigation in wet season, is assumed to be caused by its dilution by the rainwater, so that the resistivity increases. This is supported by the conductivity data on the field, that the increase in resistivity decreases the conductivity (Fig. 6). Previous researcher describes the dilution process of leachate in groundwater and confirms the quality of leachate decreases in wet season as reported in [23].

The 3D images are interpreted from ERT and VLF-EM investigations on rainy and dry seasons by interpolating the data on all lines. In the dry season,

Table 3. Water and leachate contents

No	Parameters	Unit	BH-1	MW-2	BH-3	Leachate	1	2
1	pH	-	7.15	7.35	7.75	8.05	6-9	6-9
2	TSS	mg/L	20	202	90	280	400	100
3	TDS	mg/L	3040	1380	860	3750	4000	-
4	COD	mg/L O ₂	44	44	24	2480	300	300
5	BOD	mg/L O ₂	25	26	14	1512	150	150
6	Nitrite	mg/L NO ₂ -N	0.921	6.241	0.135	1006	3	-
7	Nitrate	mg/L NO ₃ -N	8.8	6.15	0.86	1058	30	-
8	Ammonia	mg/L NH ₃ -N	1.53	127.25	26.85	1020.44	5	-
9	Total N	mg/L NH ₃ -N	11.25	140.35	27.84	1031.02	-	60
10	Cadmium	mg/L Cd	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.08	-	0.1

¹ Indonesian Ministry of Public Works Regulation No.3, 2013

² Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry No.59, 2016 Regulation

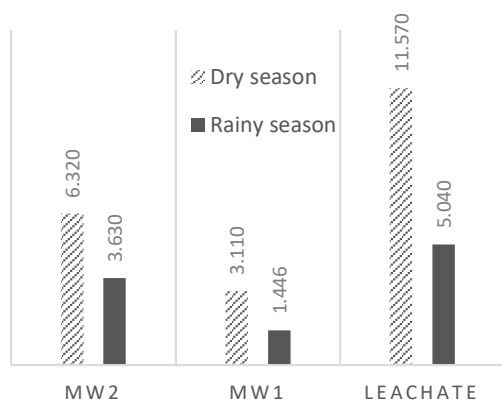


Figure 6. Conductivity (µS/cm) of water sample on rainy and dry Season

the leachate plume was seen below the waste mound (Fig. 7), while in the rainy season, the leachate was seen in the surrounding landfill area. It is assumed that the rainfall runoff around the waste mound and caused the leachate spread around the landfill area (Fig. 8), instead of under the waste mound. Hence hypothetically, in the wet season, the water table rise and increases the hydraulic conductivity of the soil under the landfill; Induce the water stuck under the refuse pit then the leachate plume will spread in the groundwater. This phenomenon called water mounds [23].

To prove the deployment data from the VLF-EM and ER investigations, water and leachate investigations were conducted. The water samples were taken from the bore hole, *BH* and monitoring well, *MW* around the landfill area. There are BH-1, BH-3, MW-1, MW-2, and Ngipik lake as well (Fig. 1). Table 3 shows the result of the water investigation from laboratory and Indonesian regulations, for the contents of water allowed to be discharged in the ground. Two Indonesian regulations are stated in the table to give a full assessment of the water quality, because some parameters are not regulated in another regulation, such as cadmium, nitrite, nitrate, ammonia, and

total dissolved solids (TDS). The new regulation, 2, gives a lower limit for total suspended solid (TSS), which is 100 mg/l but does not mention the limitation for TDS. Some parameters of leachate have already exceeded the regulation, and many others nearly exceed the limitation. The chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of the leachate, 2480 mg/l and 1512 mg/l respectively, have exceeded the limitation by both regulations many fold the acceptable value. The nitrate and ammonia contents also exceeded the allowable concentration. Other parameters, such as TSS, TDS, and cadmium has close value to the limitation (Table 3).

The water quality of BH-3 has better quality than that of other water samples, for example, the TDS, COD, BOD, nitrite, and nitrate values are less than the BH-1 and BH-2. The BH-3 is located far from the waste mound; hence, the BH-3 hypothetically has been less influenced by the leachate contamination. This is agreed by the data of ERT investigation on Line 6 (Fig. 5), which was observed not to detect any leachate. Line 6 is located 0.5 meter from BH-3 and has 15.5 meters of length. Hence, the result of Line 6 could represent the contamination in BH-3. This also proves that the ERT is reliable as the leachate plume investigation on the landfill area.

The contents of water samples from BH-1, MW-2, and BH-3 have close value to the contents of the leachate, such as TSS of MW2, TDS of BH-1, nitrite, and ammonia of MW-2 and BH-3 have even exceeded the regulations (Table 3). To ensure the result, water quality measurements were conducted in the field as well by using the water pH-meter. The sample is taken from MW-1, MW-2, West and East lakes, and the leachate itself. The results show that the conductivity, TDS, and salinity of MW-2 have a close value to the leachate. Even the result of MW-1 was not as close as the MW-2 in terms of the leachate, but the parameters have already increased to almost one-third of the leachate contents (Table 3). It indicates that water from the site has been

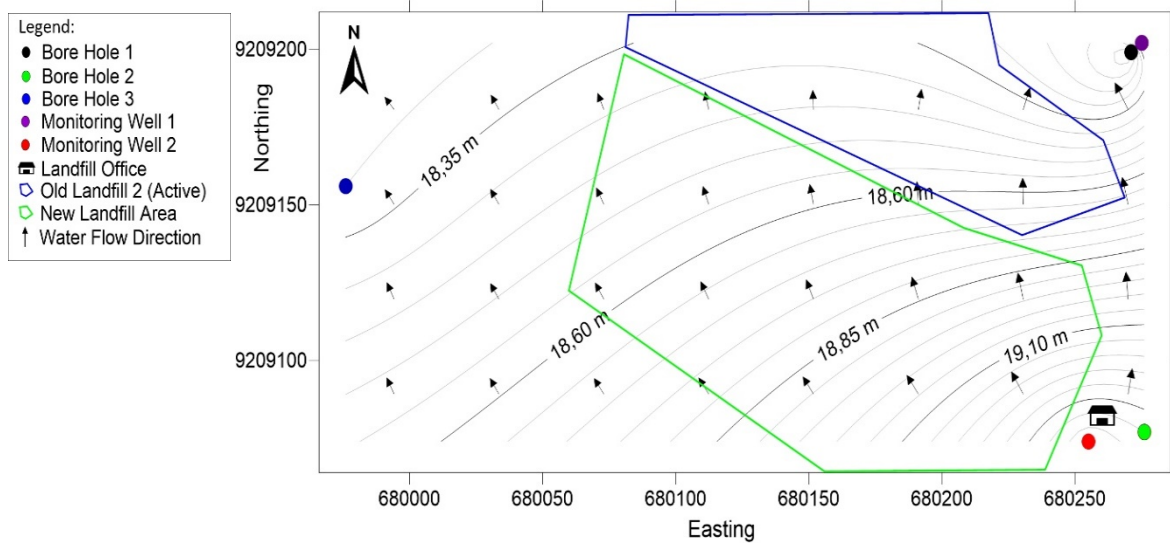


Figure 9. Local flow net map of unconfined aquifer (water table) based on wells in the study area

affected by the leachate contents. These results confirm the geophysical investigation, that the landfill area has been deployed by the leachate from the landfill.

The water samples from the lakes have quite different results from the leachate contents. This is suitable for the results from the VLF-EM investigations in line 7, that there is no leachate deployment around the lake, because the groundwater flows from the lake to the landfill area (Fig.9).

5. CONCLUSION

The VLF-EM and ER investigations were combined well in this research and gave the supporting data in the results successfully. The results completed one and another method conducted in this research, because the leachate has plumed up to 21 meters depth in the ER investigation, completing the maximum 15 meters limitation of VLF-EM data result. The water quality tests agree well with the geophysical result, because the water content from MW-2, the nearest well from the landfill, almost approaches the leachate contents, which proves that the leachate has affected water quality from the wells. This indicates that the clay deposits beneath the landfill without any improvement are not enough to retain the leachate plumes. In summary, the wet season spreads the leachate around the waste mound by the shallow water table. Even though there is a dilution potential, the groundwater contamination is at the high risk. In dry season, the high-quality leachate seeps under the waste mounds. Then the soil is at the high risk of contamination. Therefore, an appropriate

subsurface improvement should be assessed in the future research.

For first countermeasures of the Ngipik Landfill area, the leachate collection system is highly recommended. Leachate then should be concentrated and processed in leachate pond. The open dumping method should be strictly banned, because of the environmental pollution effects, that have been explained by the results of this study.

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