



### **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

### LESSONS LEARNED AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

IWC 24 - W03

At a glance ...

wsp

#### IWC 2024 – WSP's Schedule

-				
Sunday PM Ballroom 8		Ballroom 8	Workshop 03	Industrial Water Reuse - New Technologies and Lessons Learned
		Moderator	Robert Kimball, PE. BCEE.	
		Moderator	Karen Budgel, PE.	
		Moderator	Ed Greenwood, P.Eng. BCEE.	
	Monday AM	Ballroom 8	Session M4	Water Treatment Project Delivery: Create a Gameplan for Success
			Production Expansion and Changing Discharge Limits at Grifols	
			Paper 24-10	Therapeutics, North Carolina, USA Calls For Wastewater Treatment
			Plant Upgrades	
		Discusser	Linea Miller, EIT.	
	Tuesday AM	Ballroom 8	Session T4	IWC's First Ever Food and Beverage Session
		Discussion Leader	Bill Malyk. P.Eng. BCEE.	
		Paper 24-44	Novel Zwitterionic Membranes Enable High-Strength Food & Beverage	
			Wastewater Treatment & Reuse	
		Discusser	Ed Greenwood, P.Eng. BCEE.	
	Tuesday PM	Ballroom 8	Session T8	Solutions in Brine Management – Applications for Mining
			IWC EC Rep	Ed Greenwood, P.Eng. BCEE.
				An Effective Selenium Passive Removal Process that Meets Mine
			Paper 24-57	Closure Challenges - Removal of Nitrate and Selenium from Mine-
			Influenced Water Using a Saturated Rock Fill (SRF) Process	
		Authors	Maria Boria, PMP, CIP, and Tom Rutkowski, PE.	
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# Workshop Overview 2024

Primary objective is knowledge transfer – Identify drivers of water conservation, water reuse, water recycle

Topics include:

- Navigating the challenging and changing water treatment technology landscape
- Common problems (design issues and performance issues)
- Emerging membrane and brine concentration/minimization technologies
- Optimizing cost and reliability
- Case Studies (success stories and cautionary tales)

Participants will leave the workshop with a broad understanding of:

- The industrial water reuse landscape
- Available reuse technologies
- How to apply commonly used reuse strategies
- Common issues that can occur when applying reuse strategies

### **Speakers**



### Workshop Agenda 2023

Introduction / Background	
Roadmap	
Basis of Design	
BFD / Mass Balance	
Technology Selection	
Case Studies	
Review and Wrap-up	

### Water, Water, Water ...

### Nevada is one of the driest states in the US

 $\circ$  18 of the last 24 years, Nevada was extremely impacted by drought conditions





Lake Mead

### Nevada Water

### Major water users in Nevada: Municipal, Industry, Resorts

• Casinos, golf courses, dairy farms, mining, manufacturing, hydroelectricity



## Nevada Water

Sources of Water

- 70% from Colorado River (90% in Southern Nevada) which is stored in Lake Mead
  - Colorado River supplies source water for 7 states only 1.8% is allocated to Nevada
- 30% from groundwater (10% in Southern Nevada)

Over 100 years ago, the Colorado River allocation was negotiated, and Nevada received only 1.8% of the allocation which is still the current allocation

• Population in 1920: 78,000

• Population in 2023: 3,200,000 (41x higher)

WHERE THE WATER GOES:

Who Shares the Colorado River?



A total of 16.5 million acre-feet per year is apportioned among the seven states that share the Colorado River, as well as the country of Mexico.

# Saving Water in Nevada

### Recycling and Reuse

- Mandatory seasonal water restrictions
- Rebate Programs
  - oWater Efficient Technologies
    - High efficiency toilet retrofits
    - Efficient showerhead
  - Retrofitting standard cooling towers with high-efficiency drift elimination technologies
  - Converting grass to artificial surface or Water Smart Landscaping
  - •Water Smart Homes



\*Nevada Colorado River water consumptive use for customers.

### Water Reuse in Nevada

- Approximately 40% of water is used indoors and almost all of it is recycled for direct or indirect use
  - Direct reuse is used for irrigation of park, golf courses
  - Indirect reuse water is recycled back to Lake Mead for "return-flow credits"
    - Return-flow credits have allowed Nevada to use nearly 60% higher than the allocated amount of the Colorado River



### Industrial Water Reuse in Nevada Thacker Pass Lithium Mine



### Water Reuse Background

Why?	<ul> <li>Drivers, benefits, drawbacks of water reuse</li> </ul>
When?	<ul> <li>Decisions on implementation timelines and when the time is right</li> </ul>
What?	Uses and technology drivers of water reuse in industry
Where?	<ul> <li>Geographic and location specific water reuse opportunities</li> </ul>
How?	Strategies for water reuse in industry

### Why? – Scarcity and Economy





# Why? – Industry Drivers

- •Water supply is costly or poor quality
- Water supply is restricted (water rights, droughts, or groundwater issues)
- Government, stockholder, or stakeholder pressures to achieve sustainability by reducing water usage
- •May even receive rebates
- Effluent has low barriers to be recycled



# When? – Is it practical now?

• Desalination and reuse, including direct reuse, is happening now!



Timeline -1965: Singapore independence -1970s: DPR first proposed -1974: "toilet to tap" piloted -1998: NEWater study completed -2002: 1<sup>st</sup> NEWater plant operational



The first of NEWater's treatment plants went into operation in 2002 Image: DW / Roxana Isabel Duerr



## What? – Industrial Water Reuse Applications

Food industry may have the most practical applications





CDM GE Water 2010, GE is now Veolia



Frito Lay has a 1 mgd activated sludge-filtration-reverse osmosis plant which has a 75% recovery (reuse) rate in Casa Grande, AZ. Reject is placed in evaporation ponds

Driver: No water rights available, stockholder pressure

### What? – Industrial Water Reuse Applications

•JR Simplot Potato Flake Manufacturing, Caldwell, ID



CDM GE Water 2014, GE is now Veolia

J.R. Simplot has a 1.5 mgd activated sludge-filtration-reverse osmosis plant which has a 80% recovery (reuse) rate in Caldwell, ID. Reject is placed in evaporation ponds

Driver: No water rights available, stockholder pressure

## What? – Industrial Water Reuse Applications

•Water Reuse at NM Refinery



Two (2) 500 gpm RO units which take reject from a primary RO unit and extract more clean water for refinery use. Able to achieve 75-92% recovery in secondary RO system.

Driver: Expensive poor quality, public water

# Where? – Industrial Opportunities

• Unit process by process conservation

Make water do more than one pass through process

- •Reuse treated sewage effluent
- Reuse wastewater effluent with inorganic contaminants (cooling water, boiler blowdown, Demin regen/rinse)
- Reuse wastewater effluent with organic contaminant
- Drill wells and use brackish or non potable water (with treatment, if necessary)
   Reuse stormwater

### How? – General Strategies of Reduction & Reuse

#### Benchmarking: Define Water Supply and Current Use

-Water balance where the supply to discharge balance is closed to within 10-15% -Water "Audit" to examine large single water users -Identify "wasting" to conserve water

#### Water Sources: Define Available Water Sources

-Fresh groundwater is reserved for emergency withdrawal -Brackish or saline GW may be available -Treated sewage effluent may be available (and be high quality)

#### Water Use Reduction: Define Goals

- -Use the water balance to identify major water users
- -Compare to available water sources -Optimize operation









### **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

### LESSONS LEARNED AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

IWC 24 - W03

### Water Reuse Roadmap



# Now that you want to reuse wastewater ... Where do you start?

### Roadmap – Step by Step – Concept to Design

- 1. Design Basis
- 2. Block Flow Diagram & Mass Balance
- 3. Treatment Technology Selection
- 4. Vendor Interviews
- 5. RFP
- 6. Bid Evaluation
- 7. Detailed Scope Review
- 8. Budget

### Roadmap – Step by Step

Step 1	Design Basis	des all water sources and all reuse water users rstand all the goals (i.e. restrictions on waste) des all relevant info that influences the design
Step 2	BFD and Mass Balance	down the treatment steps (building blocks) s on pretreatment requirements reliability into the design
Step 3	• Cons • Less • Stay	der all alternative approaches (new and old) proven approaches may require piloting focused on the project's goals
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### Step by Step – From Concept to Design

• Vendors can assist with developing preliminary designs Drill down into advantages and disadvantages Step 4 Vendor Discuss potential upset conditions and contingency plans Interviews Includes Design Basis, BFD and MB ۲ • Prepare Equipment Specs Step 5 Define scope by Owner/Contractor/Vendor RFP Breakdown Scope and Responsibilities ٠ • Understand Risks (i.e. who owns process guarantee?) Step 6 Rid Rank Vendor(s) technically and commercially **Evaluation** © International Water 🐷 ference® 2024. No part of this content may be reproduced in whole or in part in any manner without the permission of the copyright owner.

### Step by Step – From Concept to Design

Step 7
Step 7
Budget
Develop Preliminary Dwgs with Vendor
Review project goals, design basis with Vendor
Review process upsets, contingency plans with Vendor
Obtain Contractor Quotes
Design Review, HAZOP, FMEA
Value Engineering



### Step 1 - Design Basis



The Design Basis is the most critical step

- $\rightarrow$  It defines the problem and the solution
- → Simple problem simple solution simple design basis
- Difficult problem difficult solution difficult design basis



### Step 1 - Design Basis

1) Start with a Water Audit for the Facility

- Understand the current and future water sources and water needs
- Sample and Analyze all the sources of water and wastewater

#### Fresh Water Sources

- Potable (City Water)
- Well water
- River water
- Seawater
- Other

Wastewater Sources

- Various industrial processes
- Plant drains (wash water)
- Blowdown from cooling towers
- Blowdown from boilers
- Sewage
- Other





#### Example Water Audit





# Step 1 - Design Basis

2) Quantify the flows and water quality requirements for each need

- Cooling Towers
- Boilers
- Process Water
- Wash Water
- Irrigation Water



Prosonic Flow W 400

#### 3) Identify the major contaminates in each water source and wastewater stream

- Oil and Grease (Emulsified and Free)
- Suspended Solids (Settleable and Colloidal)
- Organics (Biologically Degradable and Recalcitrant)
- Salts (high and low solubility)
- Heavy Metals, Toxins, etc.





Type of

Contaminant

### Step 1 - Design Basis

Suspended Solids	
pended Solids) mg/L 4	3
NTU 10	08
ty Index) - 5	5
Organics/Biological	
ganic Carbon) mg/L 5	0
l Oxygen Demand) mg/L 82	25 0
ical Oxygen Demand) mg/L 33	33
ns mg/L 33	33
Dissolved Salts (Anions)	
mg/L 198	813
e) mg/L 28	89
mg/L 2	2
mg/L 82	2.0
mg/L 1	1
ite) mg/L 23	3.9
mg/L 2	4
Dissolved Salts (Cations)	
mg/L 0.0	66
mg/L 8	7
um) mg/L 0.1	13
mg/L 1.	.4
mg/L 0.2	23
ese) mg/L 0.1	15
mg/L <l(< td=""><td>OQ</td></l(<>	OQ
) mg/L 5.	.1
mg/L <l0< td=""><td>00</td></l0<>	00
Other	
solved Solids) mg/L 428	866
@ 25 C uS/cm 492	200
- 8.	.5
y (as CaCO3) mg/L 24	34
s (as CaCO3) mg/L 37	86

Filtration	Media (Sand, Multi, Carbon, Greensand, Biological Cloth (Disc. Bag, Belt, Cartridge) Membrane (Microfilter, Ultrafilter)	
Oxidation/Disinfection	Chemical (Chlorine, Peroxide, Ozone) Ultraviolet Light Advanced Oxidation (Hydroxyl Radical)	
Desalination	Membrane (NF, RO) Ion Exchange (Cation, Anion, Mixed) Electrodionization (EDI) Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR) Evaporators & Crystallizers (Falling Film, MEE, BC) Multistage Flash Distillation (MSF)	

Design Basis

### Step 1 - Design Basis

- 4) Consider the opportunities for reuse. For example ...
  - Treated wastewater can be reused in Cooling Towers or Boilers as make-up
  - Treated Process Wastewater can often be used in place of fresh water sources
  - Irrigation needs (agriculture/industrial/municipal)
  - All of the above ... "Designer Water"
- 5) Consider the obstacles for reuse
  - Cost (capital/operating)
  - Space (footprint)
  - Existing plant infrastructure restraints (locations of sources and needs, access to underground drains)
  - Unknowns (treatability study, bench top tests, technology pilot)
  - Disposal of byproducts (i.e. RO Concentrate)

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### Step 1 - Design Basis

#### Other Factors (i.e. RO creates a concentrated waste brine)

Option	Consideration
1. Blend with WWTP effluent and irrigate on site	consider impact on soil (i.e. SAR)
2. Blend with WWTP effluent and discharge to sea or river	need a permit
3. Blend with WWTP effluent and send to sewer	minimal cost but there are limits
4. Evaporation pond	need space and \$
5. Deep well injection (Class 1 or 5 disposal well)	need a permit and expensive (\$\$\$)
6. Evaporation & crystallization	can be very expensive (\$\$\$\$\$)
6. Haul offsite for evaporation or disposal by others	can be very expensive (\$\$\$\$\$)

#### Avoid brine concentration ... if you can

Once you create a concentrated brine the disposal options are limited and/or costly.

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# Step 1 - Design Basis

To complete the Design Basis List All Other Factors and Requirements

- Neighbors complain about noise or odors
- City requires buildings and/or equipment to be < 30 ft tall
- The only place to put the Reuse Plant is in the parking lot ... or on the roof???
- Not enough power at the site ... diesel generator?
- Freeze protection?
- Stormwater?

### Result: Basis of Design for Treatment and Reuse

- Design Flows (peak, average)
- Feed Water Quality (max, min, average)
- Treatment Requirements (e.g., cooling tower makeup, boiler feed makeup, fresh water offset, etc.)
  - Site Specific Limitations
  - Footprint
  - Power
  - Cost
  - Residuals disposal
  - Etc.





# Step 2 - Block Flow Diagram

- Start with the product water quality that is needed
- Build the Block Flow Diagram of treatment steps from the last step forward
- Each treatment step is pretreatment for the step that follows







# Step 2 - Block Flow Diagram

- Add Flowrates
- Don't forget the waste











Note: Evaporation Ponds were installed in 2013 and were used to collect and store the RO Reject. For the first 2-3 years of the Water Reclamation Plant operation the ponds gradually filled up with RO Reject. However, the Evaporation Ponds were too small to be a permanent solution.

# Brine Concentration Technology Selection



Note: In 2015, McCain decided to replace the Evaporation Ponds with a Brine Concentration system, an Evaporation system and a Crystallizer system. The Brine Concentration system is referred to as the Scavenger RO (SRO) and is a simple two stage RO with Seawater RO membranes. In 2018, McCain decided to install a Softening System and another Brine Concentration step upstream of the MEE and Crystallizer to reduce flow/loading to the evaporation system. This would help with equipment redundancy of the MEE and Crystallizer during maintenance (i.e. HX tube cleaning) and reduce operating costs (evaporator steam consumption).



# Step 3 – Technology Selection

HERO vs. CCRO			
	HERO	CCRO	Comments
Description	High Efficiency RO system operates at very high recovery. Includes Ion Exchange softening followed by RO operating at a high pH	High Recovery RO operates in semi batch mode - continuous feed and permeate flowrate with batch RO reject cycling between concentration mode and purge mode	-
Key Advantages	Operating at high pH: - minimizes silica scaling - silica is very soluble at high pH - minimizes biological fouling - biological cells don't like high pH	Large TDS swinges on conc side of membrane: - minimizes scaling - salts redissolve when TDS drops - minimizes biological activity - biological cells don't like rapid TDS changes Adjustable operating parameters offer ability to tune CCRO for varying conditions	Both processes have key advantages over conventional RO HERO very effective for high silica CCRO very effective if feed water quality is unknown or may change in future
Key Disadvantage	Ion Exchange can be very expensive when TDS and Hardness levels are very high	Membrane systems are single stage system with fewer membranes in each housing - larger more expensive systems than conventional RO	HERO less competitive when TDS and hardness is high. CCRO less completive for primary RO.







# **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

# **NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

IWC 24 - WO3



### ZwitterCo Awarded \$1.25M Grant from Department of Energy

#### Oct 7, 2019

"The focus of the grant is to accelerate the development and commercialization of innovative treatment technologies that will transform the energy sector's produced water from an environmentally hazardous waste to a recoverable resource..."



#### ZwitterCo Wins Breakthrough Technology Company of the Year Award at 2023 Global Water Summit

May 10, 2023

ZwitterCo was named the winner in the Breakthrough Technology Company of the Year category during the Global Water Awards ceremony at the 2023 Global Water Summit hosted by Global Water Intelligence (GWI) Magazine.

# Various Notes From Three IWC Papers

Driving High Recoveries in Water Reu Applications with Novel, Zwitterioni Membranes	ISE C			
CHRIS ROY and JUDY LEDLEE, Ph.D., P.E. ZwitterCo Woburn, MA		TWC 23-44 Full-Scale Implementation of Novel, Zwitterionic Membranes for Water Reuse in High-Strength Wastewaters		
		CHRIS ROY ZwitterCo Woburn, MA	Novel Zwitt	IWC 24-44
			Strength	Food & Beverage Wastewater Treatment & Reuse
				CHRIS ROY and ANDREW HUNT ZwitterCo Woburn, MA

### What are Zwitterionic Membranes?



Ref. IWC 23-44, Roy (2023)

# **Zwitterionic Membrane Rejection**



# **Zwitterionic Membrane Production**



- Recent advancement in zwitterionic membranes
- Utilizes standard polyamide RO chemistry = same salt rejections
- > Adds permanent zwitterionic barrier resistant to organic fouling

Ref. IWC 24-44, Roy (2024)



Membrane rolling equipment at ZwitterCo ZWITTERCO

Ref. https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffkart/2023/11/30/zwitterco-buildsinnovation-center-to-scale-up-membranes-for-industrial-wastewater-treatment/

# Why are Zwitterionic Membranes Resistant to Fouling?



Ref: (Singh, 2015)

**Fig. 13.** Zwitterionic mechanism of antifouling: The hydration layer formed by the electrostatic hydrogen bonds between the water molecules and zwitterions prevent the attachment of the extrapolymeric substance (EPS) produced by the microbial cells. The EPS helps the microbes in attaching to the coatings. However, in the case of zwitterionic coatings, the hydration layer prevents this attachment and inhibits antimicrobial attachment to the device.

Figure 2: a) An SEM cross sectional image of a zwitterionic membrane active layer that shows the smoothness of the membrane surface. b) Contact angle measurements comparing the hydrophilicity of zwitterionic membranes to other commonly available membrane materials



Ref. IWC 23-44, Roy (2023)

# FLOWSHEET (MEAT PROCESSING)



### CLEAN WATER PERMEABILITY (POULTRY PROCESSING)



#### QUESTIONS

- Are these charts over a 2 to 3 week period?
- What is the CWP Baseline in (gfd/psi) or (Imh/bar) and why did the permeability increase in figure 15?
- Membranes typically have a breaking period after which the membrane permeability stabilizes (assuming operation is below the critical flux). Have you found this to be the case with your SF Zwitterionic membranes?
- Have you done any accelerated fouling studies over longer periods of time to try and characterize the performance of the membranes over several years of operation in different applications?
- Have you done any membrane autopsies (SEM with EDS/EDX) to identify any potential "irreversible foulants" that may have remained on the membrane after piloting (after several intensive chemical cleans)? Note SEM would allow comparison of the membrane surface before and after, and EDS/EDX would identify the chemistry of any remaining foulants.

# IWC 24-44D - DISCUSSER FINAL COMMENTS

1) In today's world of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle", zwitterionic SF membranes have the potential to change the face of industrial wastewater treatment. Directly filtering wastewater with O&G, and generating valuable "coproducts" ... without biological treatment will save our clients:

- Space (biological treatment plants have large footprints)
- CAPEX (biological treatment projects have large capital budgets)
- OPEX (biological treatment plants consume a lot of power and chemicals)
- Complexity (biological treatment plants require knowledgeable operators)
- 2) Controlling membrane fouling is a concern
- 3) IWC is looking forward to the Author's responses ... and your next paper in 2025

#### QWI DESALDATA

#### Overview

- This schematic of a technology's journey towards commercialisation charts the initial excitement that surrounds a new technology, followed by disillusionment as practical difficulties set in, before a final move towards commercialisation and mainstream acceptance.
- Brine management is currently a key driver of adoption. Almost all
  of the technologies making the slow ascent to mainstream use are
  primarily used in brine concentration, with the notable exception
  of semi-batch reverse osmosis.
- The time needed to create reliable and affordable manufacturing methods for materials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes, means that these are among the slowest technologies to mature. However, 'operational R&D' such as semi-batch or counter-flow reverse osmosis system configurations are likely to take off much more quickly.

#### Commercialisation of new technologies in desalination & brine concentration









# **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

# **NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

IWC 24 - WO3

# Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis for Brine Concentration

- New technology with potential to change the water reuse flowsheet for brine concentration
- Only two full scale plants in operation (2023)
- Many clients are piloting

# **Options for Brine Disposal**

# Deep Well Injection (Development)

- DWI facilitated through Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program
- Regulated through EPA or primacy granted States
- Six class types of DWI
  - (I) Industrial and Municipal, (II) Oil & Gas related, (III) Solution Mining, (IV)Shallow Hazardous & Radioactive, (V) Non-Hazardous Fluids/Drinking Water, (VI) CO2 Sequestration
- Class I most regulated, can be used for RCRA hazardous wastes
  - Composition determines RCRA
    - e.g. Organic wastes/solvents (flammable, explosivity) and Inorganic (ppm levels of arsenic)
- Takes Time and \$
  - Application, Review (6 mos. minimum) followed by 30-day public comment periods
  - Millions \$ to develop & drill
  - Thousands \$ for monitoring & annual O&M
- <u>https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/study\_uic-</u> class1\_study\_risks\_class1.pdf

Brine Disposal Options



### Class I Injection Well

#### Client

Nebraska Public Power District

**Project Location** 

Sutherland, Nebraska

**Key Elements** 

- Disposal of 300 gpm at a depth of 3600 ft
- Water management options evaluation
- Permitting
- Surface infrastructure design
- Yard piping design
- Wellhead construction assistance
- Aquifer testing analysis

# Other Options to Consider

### **Concentration & Evaporation**











**Reverse Osmosis** 

**Brine Concentrator** 

Crystallizer

Spray Dryer

Evaporation Ponds

_	1/10 energy as evaporators	Proven technology	Goes to Dryness	Goes to Dryness	Static Process
	High water recoveries possible	High water recoveries possible (MVR)	Can treat water with high levels of TDS (up to 0.1%)	Rugged technologyslurries with up to 20% solids as well as and mixed salts	Cost Effective
•	Lower capital cost and O&M cost vs. evaporators	Can configure to recovery a distillate or evaporate (atmospheric)	Ideal for crystallization of pure saltsresale	Mechanically Simple	Possible benefit to birds
-	TDS Limited (up to 40,000 mg/L)	High energy consumption	May end up with unwanted low volume distillate	May not be economical without waste heat (I.e. use large amounts of natural gas)	Large footprint
-	May need pre-treatment (e.g. Multimedia filtration, phys-chem)	Does not go to dryness, produces a concentrated brine solution	High capital cost	Throughput	Climate dependent
-	Fouling & scaling potential	Process issues (e.g. foaming) – BC need solids pretreatment	Process & Technology is complex	Potential air emissions depending on configuration	Potential bird hazard

#### Brine Concentration Relative Costs

 New Membrane Technologies vs. Thermal Evaporation

Reference: Arena, J.T.; Bartholomew T.V.; Mauter, M.S.; Siefert, N.S. Dewatering of High Salinity Brines 625 by Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis. Proceedings of the 2017 AWWA-AMTA Membrane 626 Technology Conference and Exposition. February 13-17, 2017, Long Beach, CA, USA



Energy consumption of RO, MVC, OARO water treatment and theoretical minimum work with respect to feed TDS concentration and recovery

 U.B. DEFARTMENT OF
 T.V. Bartholomew et al., "Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis for High Salinity Brine Treatment," submitted to Desalination, under review.

 G.P. Thiel et al. Desalination 346 (2015), 94-112.
 A. Koren, et al. Desalination 98 (1994), 41-48.

### Just a Few Years Ago ...

#### QWI DESALDATA

#### Assessing the cost of brine concentration

As the concentration of a solution increases, the energy required to separate the remaining free water rises exponentially. This means that the final step to ZLD (crystallisation) can represent the majority of a ZLD system's total energy consumption.

Conventional brine concentration technologies rely on thermal processes, but new reverse osmosis (RO) configurations are able to produce brine rejects of up to 175,000mg/I. Membrane processes do not require a phase change, which reduces both costs and operational complexity.



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# Why OARO? $\rightarrow$ Brine Disposal is \$\$\$



https://www.osmotic-engineering.com/brine-concentration

 https://ftsh2o.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/FTS-Industrial-Brochure\_FTSIND-1020.pdf

# What is OARO (Osmotically Assisted RO)?



- RO used to purify water
- OARO used to concentrate brine
- RO has three streams
- OARO has four streams
- Sweep is added to decrease the Osmotic Pressure

### SWRO vs OARO (Osmotically Assisted RO)



RO is limited by the osmotic pressure ... related to the difference in the TDS (72+40)/2 - 0.9 = 55 g/L

### SWRO vs OARO (Osmotically Assisted RO)


# OARO by Gradiant

#### Osmotically-Assisted RO Process



Ref: Stover. R. and Boyd, M. (2023). Don't Throw that Brine Away! Desalinate it with OARO, IWC 23-62



- CFRO (Counter Flow RO)
- Full Scale OARO plant operating in Saudi Arabia since ???
- Several papers at IWC 23-62, 22-??



# SAWACO (Water Utility in Saudi Arabia)

BRINE, NOT WASTE: UNLOCKING BRINE'S POTENTIAL WITH SAWACO'S CFRO SOLUTION. By Eng. Nizar Kammourie, CEO, SAWACO Water Group. As the world faces the impending crisis of water scarcity, the demand for pioneering and efficient methods of producing fresh water is on the rise. The World Health Organization predicts that by 2025, half of the world's population will be experiencing water shortages due to the changing climate. This dire prediction has put the spotlight on the RO desalination process, which has the potential to meet the freshwater needs of entire countries.



SAWACO, a leading provider of potable water in Saudi Arabia, has collaborated with Gradiant to bring the new CFRO technology solution to seawater desalination. This innovative Cascade Flow Reverse Osmosis technology (CFRO) provides a sustainable approach to freshwater production.

For more details about CFRO Technology, please click this link ..

#### Ref. https://www.sawaco.com/Home/DisplayAllNews

# Gradiant – SAWACO



# OARO by HYREC



#### Hyrec-Maven

The first OARO Plant in the world is under construction in Indonesia to be completed by Q1 of 2023. The plant will produce 25,000 m3/day of desalinated water and 220,000 tons per year of food grade sea salt. Hyrec started working on this project in 2018.

#### ref: https://hyrec.com/processes/

# OARO by Steritech



- Partnered with Aquatech
- Piloting in North America

### https://www.sterlitech.com/blog/post/osmosis-assisted-reverse-osmosis-a-promising-brine-desalination-technology?srsltid=AfmBOooWkrvUPcG1M2GVbNu8cji0iMgPgZKaxEMNhqo3gRbjrQ8wlsaC

# OARO by Steritech



 https://ftsh2o.com/fluid-technology-solutions-fts-h2o-completes-delivery-of-innovative-osmoarotm-systemto-standard-lithium-ltd/

# OARO Water / Mass Balance



Water/Mass Balance		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Stream		OARO	OARO	RO	RO	RO	RO Reject	OARO	Total In	Total Out
		Feed	Flux	Feed	Flux	Perm	/ Sweep	Reject		
Flow	m3/d	1000	500	1000	500	500	500	500	1000	1000
TDS	mg/L	70,000	7,000	36,285	363	363	65,570	133,000		
TDS	kg/d	70,000	3,500	36,285	181	181	32,785	66,500	70,000	66,681
Recovery			50%		<b>50</b> %					
Rejection			90%		99%		Balance			
Ave Feed/Reject TDS			101,500		50,928		500			
Ave Perm/Sweep TDS			50,928		363		72,207			
Ave Difference in TDS			50,573		50,565		36,104			

## **OARO** Water / Mass Balance



# Results of a Recent Study: UHPRO vs. OARO

#### Recovery, Product Quality and Pretreatment

 OARO systems achieve significantly higher recovery but may require more intensive pretreatment and are challenged to meet product water requirements

	Goal/Criterion		UP-RO	OARO		
Parameter		Dupont	Hydranautics	FTSH2O	Hyrec	Gradiant
No. of OARO stages				7	4	7
Recovery, %	Maximize	59.4	61.3	78.7	79.6	75.9
Brine TDS, g/L	Maximize	114	125	230	230	247
Product TDS, mg/L	<u>&lt;</u> 400	18	63	9	<400	66
Product Boron, mg/L	<u>≤</u> 1.0	0.5	0.7	Not pro	vided	1.3
Pretreatment		G	MF or UF	UF O	nly	GMF or UF

#### OARO Brine Precipitation Management

OARO use has been focused on treating low-scaling brines

- Brine mining concentrating monovalent rich streams produced by nanofiltration
   Lithium concentration
- In OARO brine (~80% recovery), several salts are supersaturated
- Brine must be stored for up to 5 days prior to barging
- AWC tested candidate scale inhibitors on the simulated brine



#### Ops Complexity, Technology and Safety Risk

- OARO systems have higher operational complexity and greater technical risk (limited full-scale systems)
- UHP-RO systems represent greater safety risk (greater operating pressure in UHP stage)
- OARO systems are proprietary; dependent on a single supplier

Parameter	UHP-RO	OARO
Operational Complexity	Low to Moderate	High
Technology Risk	Low to Moderate	High
Safety Risk	Higher	Lower

#### Summary

AMTA

 Unique project requirements necessitated the need to maximize desalination system recovery

AMTA

AMTA

- ♦ UHP-RO and OARO systems were evaluated for this purpose
- Although OARO systems can achieve significantly higher recoveries, other factors over-ride their consideration for this project, including space requirements, technology maturity and concerns meeting product quality
- ♦ UHP-RO recommended for implementation
- Inhibition of mineral precipitation during brine storage could be a significant issue; exacerbated by OARO increased recovery

ref: AMTA 2024 J. Lozier

#### QWI DESALDATA

#### Overview

- This schematic of a technology's journey towards commercialisation charts the initial excitement that surrounds a new technology, followed by disillusionment as practical difficulties set in, before a final move towards commercialisation and mainstream acceptance.
- Brine management is currently a key driver of adoption. Almost all
  of the technologies making the slow ascent to mainstream use are
  primarily used in brine concentration, with the notable exception
  of semi-batch reverse osmosis.
- The time needed to create reliable and affordable manufacturing methods for materials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes, means that these are among the slowest technologies to mature. However, 'operational R&D' such as semi-batch or counter-flow reverse osmosis system configurations are likely to take off much more quickly.

#### Commercialisation of new technologies in desalination & brine concentration









# **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

# **LESSONS LEARNED**

IWC 24 - WO3



# Case Study

- Who: Navajo Refining Co. (NRC) (100,000 bbl/d complex)
- When: 2015 Design, 2016 Startup
- Where: Artesia New Mexico ... a very arid region

Why Water Reuse:

- Water scarcity  $\rightarrow$  Site needed to improve water footprint
- Pressure to become a ZLD site → Wastewater was either irrigated onsite (high TDS), sent to POTW (high COD) or injected into a disposal well (hazardous)
- Regulatory pressure to stop irrigation  $\rightarrow$  Disposal options were complex/costly

Challenges for Water Reuse:

- Groundwater supply was high in TDS, silica and hardness
- Existing well water RO system was struggling

# 2017 Paper Selected "Best of IWC"

IWC 17-18

#### A Unique High Recovery Secondary RO to Resolve Refinery Source Water and Brine Disposal Issues

ED GREENWOOD, P.ENG. Amec Foster Wheeler Cambridge, Ontario

SCOTT DENTON The HollyFrontier Companies Artesia, New Mexico

JOHN CHRISTIANSEN, P.E. Amec Foster Wheeler Houston, Texas

DAN KWIECINSKI, P.E. Amec Foster Wheeler Albuquerque, New Mexico

ROBERT KIMBALL, P.E. Amec Foster Wheeler Denver, Colorado Abstract: Wood Environment and Infrastructure designed and constructed a unique high recovery Secondary RO system at a Refinery in New Mexico to resolve source water and wastewater disposal limitations. The new system is directly coupled to the Primary RO System and operates beyond the solubility limits for Silica and Calcium Sulfate by using a unique high recovery three stage array with both permeate and concentrate recycle loops to optimize performance.

# Wastewater Disposal is Complex

- Salty wastewater (RO Reject) was irrigated onsite
- ► Oily wastewater is treated by Refinery's WWTP then discharged to the City
- Other more challenging wastewaters are pumped into deep disposal wells



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### Design Basis – Integration with the Existing Equipment

- ► Recovery of the Primary RO limited to between 60% 75%
- Fluxrates were ok, however, feed flows were low and stages were unbalanced with respect to concentration polarization
- Pretreatment of the Feed was limited (pH Control)
- ► O&M issues with corrosion of the permeate piping
- ► Post treatment of the Permeate was limited (FDD)

Overall the performance was acceptable ... because the RO Reject was irrigated



### Water Quality

Primary RO Reject (Secondary RO Feed)					
Flow	gpm	500			
TDS	mg/L	4864			
Calcium	mg/L	692	High		
Magnesium	mg/L	219	High		
Sodium	mg/L	424			
Bicarbonate	mg/L	1027	High		
Chloride	mg/L	454			
Sulfate	mg/L	1963	High		
Silica	mg/L	43	High		
pН		7.8			

### **Obstacles for Treatment and Reuse**

#### Understanding Scaling

- Calcium Carbonate
- Calcium Sulfate
- Silica



### Calcium Carbonate Scaling

Effective methods of control:

- pH Adjustment
- Antiscalant addition

→ Adjust the pH until the Langlier Saturation Index (LSI) is negative. Shift equilibrium away from  $CaCO_3$ precipitation

 $Ca^{++} + HCO_3^- \leftrightarrow H^+ + CaCO_3$ 



Rhomboidal calcium carbonate crystals with underlying silica fouling.

### Silica Scaling

Silica is present in two forms:

- Non-reactive / Colloidal / Particulate
- Reactive / Soluble

→ Optimized Antiscalant selection and use



Silica fouling.

### Calcium Sulfate Scaling

Background:

- Generally not pH dependent
- Antiscalants may have limited effectiveness
- Relatively slow rate of precipitation
- → Optimize design to minimize concentration polarization / maximize cross flow velocity



### **Issues with Concentration Polarization**







## Comparing Options (2 Stage vs. 3 Stage)



## 3 Stage RO Design Selection

A robust three stage SRO system was added (PRO+SRO total 5 stages) with focus to minimize concentration polarization

- Automated feed pH control to control CaCO3 scaling
- Optimized membrane antiscalant to control Silica and CaSO4 scaling (PWT SpectraGuard)
- ► Low fouling membranes specifically selected for Navajo SRO → ESPA2-LD
- 34 mil feed spacer
  - Lower pressure drop
  - Greater resistance to colloidal fouling
  - Higher turbulence / Lower concentrate polarization





Element Position from 6M 1st stage to 6M 2nd stage



Picture and Charts ref. paper by Bates, Bartels



#### Chart 1: Flux and Delta P element comparison of 34-mil LD spacer to 28-mil spacer

### 3 Stage RO Design Selection

Custom RO Design Features (not included in standard RO designs)

- Permeate recycle for continuous operation and feed pressure balancing
- Concentrate recycle for recovery optimization
- Interstage flux balancing valves for optimization of transmembrane pressures and crossflow velocities
- Enhanced instrumentation and control features for monitoring interstage performance
- Fully-automated permeate flush sequence
- Fully-automated CIP system with temperature control
- Performance analysis and monitoring tools



# Results – Water Reuse Project

Project Execution: On Budget ... (\$6M)
X On Schedule ... Delays with Permitting

Water Quality: Product water quality requirements

Challenges:

- ✓ RO scaling issues resolved with custom design approach
- ✓ Wastewater flow for disposal to injection well reduced from 500 gpm to 150 gpm





# Startup Results

	SRO Reject	SRO Reject
Source File	SRO Design Basis	SRO Start-up Cardinal Labs
рН	7.5	7.5
Temp	25	25
TDS, mg/L	14123	7240
Ca, mg/L	2446	1120
K, mg/L	15	10
Mg, mg/L	744	408
Na, mg/L	596	455
Sr, mg/L		17.6
CI, mg/L	1216	1050
CO <sub>3</sub> , mg/L	0	0
HCO <sub>3</sub> , mg/L	2697	646
F, mg/L	12	7
SO <sub>4</sub> , mg/L	6558	4060
SiO <sub>2</sub> , mg/L	170	115

# Lessons Learned

- Robust Designs are difficult to procure if equipment buying decisions are based on low price – The best technical solution won't win a competitive bid
- Equipment vendors shy away from performance guarantees
- Cost reduction is a necessary task on every project. If a design feature that adds reliability also adds cost it is often not implemented.

Understand all the risks ... and the options.

If you don't the result could be an unreliable (or under designed) system.





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# **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

# **LESSONS LEARNED**

IWC 24 - WO3
#### **Case Studies – Reuse Complications & Solutions**

- •Case Study #1: Cheese manufacturing facility implementing irrigation reuse
- •Case Study #2: Sugar cane manufacturing facility implementing process reuse



# Case Study #1: Cheese Manufacturing Facility

- Facility located in water scare area of Idaho
- •Dairy can be a water-intensive process
- •Getting pressure from stakeholders to reduce freshwater usage to achieve sustainability goals
- •Facility decided to use treated process wastewater for irrigation of feed crops
- Installed new WWTP and discharged effluent for irrigation



### Case Study #1 – Great idea, but...

•Effluent quality was not meeting discharge goals

•Poor effluent quality caused issues with:

- •Blinding off surface due to high BOD and high TSS loading resulting in stormwater issues (inadequate infiltration)
- •Odor issues formal complaints from neighbors
- •Nitrate concentration increasing in the groundwater
- •So, what went wrong?

#### Case Study #1 – Let's take a closer look



Parameter	RAW WW	LRAL Effluent	ASB + Clarifier Effluent	Target Effluent		
Flow (MGD)	1.4					
COD (mg/L)	5,140	1,413	100	25		
TSS (mg/L)	1,000	605	80	25		
Nitrate (mg/L as N)	-	200	180	10		

# Case Study #1 – Evaluation of existing WWTP

•Problem #1: Variable water quality sent to LRAL

- •Equalization Basin appears to have adequate volume for flow equalization
- •Minimal quality equalization due to significant short circuiting in basin due to close proximity of influent and effluent pipes
- Insufficient water quality equalization resulted in variable pH and organic loading being sent to LRAL

#### **Recommendations:**

- Relocation of effluent piping in EQ Basin
- Addition of aerators in EQ Basin to provide adequate mixing

# Case Study #1 – Evaluation of existing WWTP

• Problem #2: No sludge wasting from system

- •The LRAL was designed to have only manual campaign style sludge removal (expected annually)
- The system generated more sludge than expected when denitrification occurred in the BIOLAC. WAS was sent to the LRAL causing thermal stratification of sludge and upset conditions
- •Since no ability to waste sludge from the entire system, solids build up in the causing process upsets in LRAL and BIOLAC systems

#### **Recommendations:**

• Install a new sludge wasting and management system to remove WAS from BIOLAC and manage MLSS in BIOLAC

# Case Study #1 – Evaluation of existing WWTP

• Problem #3: Insufficient capacity for denitrification and clarification

- •The BIOLAC system was designed to operate with aerobic and anoxic zones for complete denitrification however undersized for nitrogen load and complete denitrification did not occur in the BIOLAC system.
- Insufficient area for denitrification in the BIOLAC system and an oversized clarifier caused denitrification to occur in the clarifier causing solids to lift resulting in TSS issues

#### Recommendations:

- Operate BIOLAC system aeration only ASB
- Addition of anoxic system after BIOLAC for complete denitrification
- Addition of new properly sized clarifier after denitrification for improved TSS removal



# Case Study #1 – Lessons Learned

- Original system did not consider a conservative and complete design basis
- System saw higher values of BOD, TSS, and nitrogen
- Able to update the system to achieve the discharge goals and successfully reuse water
- Used waste stream from cheese manufacturing process and feed into denitrification step for carbon source – reuse waste stream and saved on chemical costs
- Captured methane from digestor to fuel WWTP boilers
- Upgraded system operational system 2009 and successfully achieving irrigation limits and helping achieve their sustainability goals

#### Case Study #2 – Sugar Cane Processing Facility

- •Sugar cane processing facility located in Florida
- •Surplus of water onsite to manage
- •Driver for Reuse: Reduce fresh water supply and eliminate surface water discharge
- •Original water management and reuse plan designed in 1970s
- •Water usage has increased and surplus of water due to recent storm events



# Case Study #2 – Water Reuse Evaluation

#### •Project Goals:

- Continue to reuse water with no surface water discharge
- Achieve groundwater limits at compliance well
- Increase water management system to handle higher than 0.3 MGD (up to 3 MGD)

#### •Evaluation included:

- Design basis development including site wide sampling and characterization over a 1-year period
- Groundwater modeling
- Alternatives analysis
- Design for selected alternative (currently in design and permitting stage)



#### Case Study #2 – Water Reuse





# Case Study #2 – Design Basis

• Flow Data:

- Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) provided monthly flow data for Mill Effluent (sent to Pond 1) and IWW Pond Effluent
- Other source flows from flow monitoring and estimations based on site water balance
- Water Quality Data:
  - DMRs provided monthly water quality data for Mill Effluent and IWW Pond Effluent
  - DMRs provided quarterly data for GW monitoring and compliance wells
  - Created Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP) for sources around the site as well as Ponds 1, 5, 6, and 8 (5 sampling events)
- Treatment Goals:
  - Original plant reuse goals
  - Groundwater compliance

### Case Study #2 – Flows



### Case Study #2 – Design Basis – Ponds

Parameters	Units	Mill Effluent	Pond 1	Pond 5	Pond 6	Pond 8	Pond Effluent	Effluent Reuse Goal
Sodium	mg/L	274	716	645	700	528	400	
155	mg/L	859	4,414	141	113	72.5	59	50
рн	S.U.	6.4	5.10	7.31	7.68	7.88	7.9	
	mg/L	2,921	4,304	3,350	2,923	2,298	1,844	
Phosphorus	mg/L	14	27.0	24.8	20.0	13.5	12	
IKN	mg/L	79	59.5	32.0	31.9	24.1	28	
Nitrate	mg/L as N	NS	0.440	0.425	0.425	0.350	NS	
Nitrite	mg/L as N	NS	0.440	0.425	0.425	0.350	NS	
ROD	mg/L	5,120	2,143	171	139	79.0	236	50
	mg/L	NS	6,105	737	606	487	NS	
100	mg/L	NS	1,458	164	146	117	NS	

"NS" indicates not sampled

### Case Study #2 – Design Basis – Ponds

Parameters	Units	Mill Effluent	Pond 1	Pond 5	Pond 6	Pond 8	Pond Effluent	Effluent Reuse Goal
Sodium	mg/L	<mark>274</mark>	<mark>716</mark>	645	700	528	400	
155	mg/L	859	4,414	141	113	72.5	59	50
рН	S.U.	6.4	5.10	7.31	7.68	7.88	7.9	
	mg/L	<mark>2,921</mark>	<mark>4,304</mark>	3,350	2,923	2,298	1,844	
Phosphorus	mg/L	14	27.0	24.8	20.0	13.5	12	
TKN	mg/L	79	59.5	32.0	31.9	24.1	28	
Nitrate	mg/L as N	NS	0.440	0.425	0.425	0.350	NS	
Nitrite	mg/L as N	NS	0.440	0.425	0.425	0.350	NS	
ROD	mg/L	5,120	2,143	171	139	79.0	236	50
	mg/L	NS	6,105	737	606	487	NS	
IOC	mg/L	NS	1,458	164	146	117	NS	

"NS" indicates not sampled

### Case Study #2 – Sodium

Groundwater infiltration occurs in the IWW impacting groundwater and groundwater is used as process makeup water
Closed loop system with no monovalent management which created high sodium concentrations in reuse water as well as groundwater

#### •GW Limit = 160 mg/L



## Case Study #2 – Sodium



# Case Study #2 – Design Basis Conclusions

Created a closed loop reuse with no management of monovalent ions
 → Sodium issue

- •IWW Ponds are now undersized. Originally designed for 0.3 MGD, now sends 1.5-3.0 MGD to IWW Ponds
- $\rightarrow$  Insufficient retention time and reduced BOD/TSS removal
- •IWW Ponds originally designed as a series of 6 anaerobic ponds followed by 2 aerobic ponds for bulk BOD reduction however, aerators have not been operational in over a decade
- $\rightarrow$  Limited BOD reduction

#### Case Study #2 – Alternatives Analysis Goals

•Goal #1: Point source treatment/management of high sodium streams

•Goal #2: Increase IWW Pond System hydraulic capacity or decrease flows sent to the IWW Pond System

### Case Study #2 – Sodium Management



# Case Study #2 – Sodium Management

•Five Alternatives Evaluated

- Alternative 1: Offsite Disposal
   → Not logistically feasible: Greater than 1,000,000 gal/day liquid waste and not feasible for transportation
- Alternative 2: Enhanced Evaporation Pond
- Alternative 3: Pretreatment + RO + Brine Management
- Alternative 4: Vibratory Shear Enhanced Processing (VSEP) Membrane System + Brine Management
- Alternative 5: Deep Well Injection

### Case Study #2 – Enhanced Evaporation











Sprayers – floating or on berm

**Sprayerless** 

**ECOVAP** 

evaporation (WAIV)

#### Advantages: Highly automated, low operating cost

Disadvantages: Wildlife risk and overspray exposure, public perception, large area requirement, scaling, salt management, Florida climate not optimal for evaporation

#### Case Study #2 – RO



# Case Study #2 – RO

#### •Advantages:

- •Continuous operation at design flows regardless of climatic conditions
- •No risk to wildlife or public perception issue
- •Smaller footprint than evaporative technology
- •Produces high quality effluent

- •Disadvantages:
  - •High capital cost
  - Requires sludge disposal and disposal of liquid secondary waste
  - •High labor cost
  - •High power requirements

#### Case Study #2 – VSEP



#### Case Study #2 – VSEP



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# Case Study #2 – VSEP

#### •Advantages:

- •Continuous operation at design flows regardless of climatic conditions
- •No risk to wildlife or public perception issue
- •Smaller footprint than evaporative technology
- •Produces high quality effluent
- •Limited to no pretreatment required

- •Disadvantages:
  - •High capital cost
  - Requires sludge disposal and disposal of liquid secondary waste
  - •High labor cost
  - •High power requirements
  - Emerging technology
  - •Requires treatability and pilot testing

#### Case Study #2 – Deep Well Injection



## Case Study #2 – Deep Well Injection

#### •Advantages:

- •Removes high sodium streams from management system
- Highly automated limited operator intervention required
- •Small footprint
- Nearby facilities demonstrated success with injection wells
- •Lower capital cost than RO alternatives

- •Disadvantages:
  - •Requires sludge disposal
  - •Dual-zone monitoring required

#### Case Study #2 – Increased Hydraulic Management

Three Alternatives Evaluated

- IWW Pond Expansion
- New Pond Construction
- Deep Well Injection

#### Case Study #2 – Increased Hydraulic Management



Advantages: Low cost, low power requirements, can manage additional stormwater Disadvantages: Large footprint, larger wildlife exposure risk

#### Case Study #2 – Deep Well Injection



## Case Study #2 – Deep Well Injection

#### •Advantages:

- •Removes high sodium streams from management system
- •Highly automated limited operator intervention required
- Small footprint
- •Nearby facilities demonstrated success with injection wells
- Allows additional flexibility for water management onsite
- Additional cost to increase injection well size minimal compared to pond expansion

- •Disadvantages:
  - •Requires sludge disposal
  - •Dual-zone monitoring required

## Case Study #2 – Alternatives Screening

**Evaluation Criteria Definitions** 

Hydraulic Capacity – Hydraulic capacity for the system.

**Treatability Testing Requirements** – Length and duration of treatability testing, extent of and complexity of bench and pilot testing required, amount of water required and other impacts to schedule and budget for process testing.

**Maintainability and Operability** – Ease of inspectability, readily accessible maintenance points, process monitoring and troubleshooting, availability of required spares, preventative maintenance requirements, downtime for routine and nonroutine maintenance; process complexity, operational and maintenance labor requirements (time and skill levels), capability to for continuous operations (24/7) attended or unattended.

Footprint Required – Area needed for treatment system.

**Sustainability** – Power requirements and usage, chemical usage, sludge/residuals generation, and ecosystem impacts; hazards related to chemical reagent shipments onsite storage and use, secondary waste characteristics and volume; impacts with regard to public exposure and wildlife exposure, or environmental impacts from treatment system.

**CAPEX** – Capital costs associated with the design, construction, and physical assets (i.e., equipment, building) required for treatment installation.

**OPEX –** Annual operation and maintenance costs for power, chemical usage, operations and maintenance allowance. Labor is not included.

Secondary Waste - Volume of secondary waste (salt, sludge, RO brine, etc.) that requires offsite disposal.

**Safety** – Personnel safety hazards such as low clearances, trip hazards, noise, pinch points, elevated platforms, space-constrained walkways/work areas. Process hazards such as extreme (high or low) process temperatures or pressures, risk of exposure to electrical or mechanical energy, chemical hazards (corrosivity, volatility, fumes).
# Case Study #2 – Alternatives Screening

Criteria	Scoring	Guidance
Hydraulic Capacity	8 to 10	Highest hydraulic capacity
(10% Weighting)	5 to 8	Ranking relative to low and high ratings
	0 to 5	Lowest hydraulic capacity
Treatability Testing Requirements	8 to 10	Testing not required or can be accomplished in a relatively simple one-to-two-week bench test. Proven models available so that testing is not typically required.
(5% Weighting)	5 to 8	Testing required and can be accomplished in 3 months or less.
	0 to 5	Testing required and typically bench testing followed by pilot testing. Testing requires more than 3 months.
Maintainability & Operability (15% Weighting)	8 to 10	No unusual components, ready availability of spares, maintenance required on minimal components (such as only a pump or two) with low level of mechanical maintenance, minimal downtime for maintenance and cleaning cycles, easily accessible maintenance points. No more than intermittent operator attention required. Treatment complexity low and does not require speciality skilled operator.
	5 to 8	No unusual components, ready availability of spares, standard level of mechanical maintenance, minimal downtime for maintenance and cleaning cycles, easily accessible maintenance points. Treatment system has multiple unit ops and requires full-time operator(s).
	0 to 5	System requires speciality equipment for maintenance, has multiple unit ops, and requires full-time speciality operator(s).
Footprint Required	8 to 10	Low footprint. May be able to install in existing facility. Less than 20,000 sq. ft.
(15% Weighting)	5 to 8	Ranking relative to low and high ratings.
	0 to 5	Large footprint. Greater than 100,000 sq. ft.

# Case Study #2 – Alternatives Screening

Criteria	Scoring	Guidance			
Sustainability	8 to 10	Net negative carbon footprint due to low or no power, no chemicals, no sludge, environmentally pleasing layout, reduces impact at site.			
(5% Weighting)	5 to 8	Ranking relative to low and high ratings. May have one element that is higher or another element that is lower. For example, a high power usage, but no chemicals are needed.			
	0 to 5	High power requirements and usage, high chemical usage, high sludge/residuals generation, potential hazards related to chemical reagent shipments onsite storage and use, potential impacts with regard to public exposure and wildlife exposure, or environmental impacts from treatment system.			
CAPEX	10	Lowest capital costs			
(15% Weighting)	2 to 8	Scored based on capital cost ranking			
	0	Highest capital costs			
OPEX	10	Lowest estimated annual operating cost			
(15% Weighting)	2 to 8	Scored based on annual operating cost			
	0	Highest operating cost			
Secondary Waste	10	Lowest volume of secondary waste that requires offsite management			
(15% Weighting)	2 to 8	Score based relative to the highest and lowest volume of secondary waste			
	0	Highest volume of secondary waste that requires offsite management			
Safety (5% Weighting)	8 to 10	Minimized risk of personnel injury - noise, pinch points, low clearances, elevated platforms, space-constrained work areas/walkways, reduced impact to public, wildlife and environment from treatment process, chemicals, and residuals. Minimized process-related hazar chemical hazards (corrosivity, fumes, volatility), extreme process temperature or pressure, confined space entry, electrical and mechar hazards			
	0 to 8	Ranked relative to top scorer and the standards for "10" score			

### Case Study #2 – Alternatives Scoring



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### Case Study #2 – Solution









# **INDUSTRIAL WATER REUSE**

# **LESSONS LEARNED**

IWC 24 - WO3



# Case Study

- Who: McCain Foods Mehsana
- When: 2014
- Where: Gujarat, India ... a very arid region

Why Water Reuse:

- Severe water scarcity  $\rightarrow$  Aquifer was drying up
- A true ZLD site  $\rightarrow$  No surface water in the area  $\rightarrow$  No where to discharge effluent
- Population Growth  $\rightarrow$  Increased Demand for McCain's Products  $\rightarrow$  Plant Expansion

Challenges for Water Reuse:

- Even with water reuse it would be difficult to support the site's need for clean water. Target RO Recovery 75% increased to 87% - Every Drop Counts
- Production Required a Reliable Source of Clean Water

#### 2018 Paper

IWC 18-09

A Case Study of Industrial Water Reuse and ZLD: Four Years of Operation and Lessons Learned

> ED GREENWOOD, P.ENG., BCEE Wood ple Cambridge, Ontario

BILL MALYK, P.ENG., BCEE Wood ple Cambridge, Ontario Abstract: One food processor rose to the challenge of water scarcity with a unique high recovery water reclamation plant. To meet the needs of production the RO system was designed with a water recovery rate of 87%. A few years later the RO was upgraded to over 93%. Since then, operators have dealt with a major wastewater treatment plant upset, issues with brine management and several other plant expansions and upgrades. Four years of operating data and lessons learned are presented in this paper.



# Case Study

- Who: McCain Foods Mehsana
- When: 2015
- Where: Gujarat, India ... a very arid region

Why Water Reuse:

- Severe water scarcity  $\rightarrow$  Aquifer was drying up
- A true ZLD site  $\rightarrow$  No surface water in the area  $\rightarrow$  No where to discharge effluent
- Population Growth  $\rightarrow$  Increased Demand for McCain's Products  $\rightarrow$  Plant Expansion

Challenges for Water Reuse:

- Even with water reuse it would be difficult to support the site's need for clean water. Target RO Recovery 75% increased to 87% - Every Drop Counts
- Production Required a Reliable Source of Clean Water

# McCain Foods – DESIGN BASIS

#### • Flowrates:

Parameter	Units	Secondary Clarifier Effluent	RO Feed Flow	RO Permeate Flow
Flow with All Trains in Operation	m3/d	1500	1350	1181

#### Influent Water Quality (Secondary Clarifier Effluent):

Parameters	Units	Average	Design Basis	Parameters	Units	Average	Design Basis	Parameters	Units	Average	Design Basis
Temperature	°C	28.0	30.0					Boron	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05
Residual Chlorine	ma/L	0.2	0.3	Total Hardness (as CaCO3)	mg/L	263	300	Copper	mg/L	< 0.04	< 0.04
TOC	ma/l	77.0	100	Carbonate (as CaCO3)	mg/L	1338	10	Iron	mg/L	<0.08	<0.08
	mg/L	21.7	50	Bicarbonate	mg/L	0.0	1100	Lead	mg/L	< 0.005	<0.005
T 1	NTU	51.7	100	Chloride	mg/L	573	610	Manganese	mg/L	< 0.02	< 0.02
	NIU		100	Fluoride	mg/L	0.5	0.5	Mercury	mg/L	<0.0005	<0.0005
COD	mg/L	216	300	Nitrates (as NO3)	mg/L	<0.1	300	Selenium	ma/L	< 0.001	<0.001
BOD	mg/L	27	40	Sulphate (as SO4)	ma/L	75	100	Zinc	ma/l	< 0.01	<0.01
TSS	mg/L	115	300	Sulphide (as H2S)	ma/l	< 0.05	0.05	Sodium	ma/l	387	400
TDS	mg/L	3485	4000	Calcium	mg/L	44	50	Strontium	mg/L	< 0.05	< 0.05
Ortho-Phosphate	mg/L		10	Magnesium	mg/L	37	40	Bromide	mg/L	<0.1	<0.1
Total Phosphorus	mg/L		10	Potassium	mg/L	300	350	Oil & Grease	mg/L	1.05	2.00
Cyanide (as CN)	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	Silica (as SiO2)	mg/L	19.3	25.0	Soluble Phosphorus	mg/L		1.00
pH	pH units	7.7	7.7	Aluminum	mg/L	< 0.02	< 0.02	TKN	mg/L		1.00
Conductivity	ms/cm	9.2	2.5	Barium	mg/L	<0.5	<0.5	Ammonia-N	mg/L		1.00

# McCain Foods – DESIGN BASIS

#### Product Water Quality (Equivalent to Potable)

Parameter	Units		Comments
Colour	TCU	< 15	Performance Requirement
Turbidity	NTU	< 0.1	Performance Requirement
рН	-	8.2 - 9	Performance Requirement
Total Hardness (as CaCO3)	mg/L	< 5	Performance Requirement
Chlorides (as Cl)	mg/L	< 250	Performance Requirement
TDS	mg/L	< 100	Performance Requirement
Calcium (as Ca)	mg/L	< 75	Performance Requirement
Magnesium (as Mg)	mg/L	< 30	Performance Requirement
Manganese (as Mn)	mg/L	< 0.05	Performance Requirement
Sulphate (as SO4)	mg/L	< 500	Performance Requirement
Nitrate (as NO3)	mg/L	< 45	Performance Requirement
Fluoride (as F)	mg/L	< 1.5	Performance Requirement
Potasium (as K)	mg/L	< 15	Performance Requirement
P Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	mg/L	0	Performance Requirement
M Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	mg/L	< 100	Performance Requirement
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	mg/L	< 100	Performance Requirement
Boron (as B)	mg/L	< 5	Performance Requirement
E.Coli	/100mL	0	Performance Requirement
Total Coliform	/100mL	0	Performance Requirement



#### McCain Foods – DESIGN BASIS



Note: Evaporation Ponds were installed in 2013 and were used to collect and store the RO Reject. For the first 2-3 years of the Water Reclamation Plant operation the ponds gradually filled up with RO Reject. However, the Evaporation Ponds were too small to be a permanent solution.





# Technology Selection

Tertiary MF/U	F verse MBR		
	Tertiary MF/UF	MBR	Comments
Description	Reuse existing biological treatment and secondary clarifier with minimal or no changes	Upgrade biological treatment and replace secondary clarifier	Tertiary MF/UF is usually less expensive because less changes are required. If WWTP remains the same less training is required.
Biological Treatment	No changes - if flow and loading remains the same	Potential for higher MLSS Higher RAS flow	If flow or loading increases MBR can be less expensive (smaller bioreactor) MBR with higher MLSS has potential to handle upsets better than clarifier
Solids Separation	Clarifier does most of the work UF/MF polishes secondary effluent	MF/UF does all the work (higher solids loading)	Tertiary MF/UF will have lower solids loading so it will operate at higher flux and require fewer membranes Tertiary MF/UF will therefor be less expensive
Upset	Clarifier upsets (filamentous) can foul MF/UF membranes and impair performance.	MBR upsets are caused be the same conditions (low DO, low nutrients, etc.) as conventional activated sludge process.	Very similar MF/UF becomes the bottleneck in both processes. Severe upsets can damage membranes in both (depends more on membrane than process)





### Lessons Learned

1) During the Start-Up period (1-2 months) the WRP feed water quality was off-spec (TSS 40-200 mg/L). The UF handled the upset with no impact to performance.

2) During the Start-Up period McCain production needed more water for washing/rinsing equipment than what was available from the WRP.

3) During Start-Up both the 5 micron and 0.5 micron cartridge filters following the GAC required <u>very</u> frequent changes. It took much longer than anticipated to rinse the GAC (and much more water).

4) At Start-Up the GAC removed approx. 40-50% of the TOC. TOC removal is 10-30% is typical now and RO membrane life was approx. 8-10 years.

### Lessons Learned

5) The UF membranes are 10+ years old (2014 to present).

6) Controlling organic fouling/biofouling is the biggest challenge for operators.

7) In 2017, a major upset in the WWTP occurred. Suspended Solids levels (MLSS) in the feed to the WRP rose to 2000-6000 mg/L for 3-4 weeks. The WWTP upset occurred during a severe flood in the region and was caused by a lack of sludge wasting from the AS process.

→ Once sludge wasting resumed and WWTP upset condition passed both the WWTP and the WRP performance returned to normal without any damage to the WRP membranes. However, during the upset the UF membrane system became a bottleneck for the WRP and significantly reduced the amount of water provided to McCain's Production Plant. For more info see IWC-18-09.

# Case Study – Brine Concentration

Who: McCain Foods Mehsana

When: Two Projects ... 1<sup>st</sup> start-up in 2016 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> start-up in 2019

Where: Gujarat, India ... a very arid region

#### Why Brine Concentration:

- Over time the raw wastewater TDS levels have decreased
- Increased demand for McCain's products  $\rightarrow$  Another plant expansion
- Severe water scarcity  $\rightarrow$  Every Drop Counts

Challenges for Water Reuse:

- Production Required a Reliable Source of Clean Water
- Equipment must operate and always perform adequately ... even during upsets

# Brine Concentration Technology Selection



Note: In 2015, McCain decided to replace the Evaporation Ponds with a Brine Concentration system, an Evaporation system and a Crystallizer system. The Brine Concentration system is referred to as the Scavenger RO (SRO) and is a simple two stage RO with Seawater RO membranes. In 2018, McCain decided to install a Softening System and another Brine Concentration step upstream of the MEE and Crystallizer to reduce flow/loading to the evaporation system. This would help with equipment redundancy of the MEE and Crystallizer during maintenance (i.e. HX tube cleaning) and reduce operating costs (evaporator steam consumption).



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# Treatment Technology Selection

HERO vs. CCRO				
		HERO (IX + high pH RO)	Lime Softening + CCRO	Comments
	Description	High Efficiency RO system operates at very high recovery. Includes Ion Exchange softening WAC followed by RO operating at a high pH	High Recovery RO operates in semi batch mode - continuous feed and permeate flowrate with batch RO reject cycling between concentration mode and purge mode. Includes lime softening clarifier.	-
	Key Advantages	Operating at high pH: - minimizes silica scaling - silica is very soluble at high pH - minimizes biological fouling - biological cells don't like high pH	Large TDS swinges in feed: - reduce scaling - salts redissolve when TDS drops at beginning of cycle - reduce biological activity - biological cells don't like rapid TDS changes - adjustable recovery (cycle duration) offers ability to "tune" CCRO for varying feed conditions	Both processes have key advantages over conventional RO HERO very effective for high silica CCRO is very attractive if feed water quality is unknown or may change in future
	Key Disadvantage	Ion Exchange can be very expensive when TDS and Hardness levels are very high	CCRO is a single stage system with fewer membranes in each housing so they are larger and more expensive systems than conventional RO	HERO less competitive when TDS and hardness is high. CCRO less completive for primary RO.

#### Scavenger RO 1x100% (50% Recovery)





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### Lessons Learned

1) Evaporators & Crystallizers are very expensive systems and the solution with the lowest capital cost may not always be as robust or reliable.

2) Local vendors can provide superior service during start-up and commissioning. Vendors that provide service remotely (from a different country) can require multiple visits and this can cause delays.

3) There are many technologies to concentrate brine. Process designers must understand the differences and be unbiased to select the most appropriate technology for each application.

4) Combining separate technologies in one flowsheet may require separate contracts with different vendors ... especially if the vendors provide competing technologies.



# Lesson Learned ... 2017 Major Upset

NORMAL OPERATION



#### 2013 and Earlier









Biological Treatment Upset in late 2017:

- Rainiest monsoon season of the decade
- Reduced sludge wasting to Drying Beds
- MLSS too high
- F:M too low
- Filamentous growth

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### 2017 Major Upset – Monsoons & Floods


















UF - Membrane Autopsy









## Case Study – WWTP, WRP and ZLD Expansion

- Who: McCain Foods Mehsana
- When: Startup in 2025



Where: Gujarat, India ... a very arid region

Expand All Water and Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure:

- Increased demand for McCain's products → Another plant expansion (more wastewater created & more reuse water needed)
- Very limited space

Challenges for Water Reuse/Brine Concentration and Evaporation:

- Equipment must operate at all times and always perform well ... Even during upsets!
- Space Constraints Expand everything without a shutdown of the WWTP
- Minimize impact to McCain Foods Production

## Major Expansions & Upgrades

- New production line increases process water need. Reuse water need grows from 1180 to 1700 m3/d. Key challenges are the growing water footprint and shrinking space on site.
- New (larger) pretreatment equipment ... rotary drum screens and primary clarifier
- New UASB, biogas scrubber and biogas flare
- New activated sludge basin with fine bubble aeration to replace aeration lagoon and secondary clarifier
- New MBR to replace tertiary UF
- Additional trains of GAC, primary RO and secondary RO to expand capacity of WRP
- No changes to Closed Circuit RO (brine concentrator RO)
- New MVR evaporator / crystallizer system to expand on existing MEE treatment capacity
- Other water/wastewater infrastructure systems and equipment (SWD, SWTP, OWS, etc.)



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#### Site Layout – Space Constraints



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