Speedway, Indiana WWTP Biosolids Upgrade Storage Nitrification-Dentrification Reactor Results in Ammonia Loading Reduction

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March 13, 2013





Emerging Opportunities for Sustainable Resource Recovery

Residuals and Biosolids 2013

Speedway WWTP

- **1954** 4 mgd trickling filter facility
- 1972 upgraded 7.5 mgd secondary treatment using an innovative pure oxygen activated sludge facility – UNOX
- **1991** addition of nitrification towers
- 2001 replaced Zimpro process with Anaerobic Digestion
- 2001 added BFP for thickening and dewatering

→ Red arrows are flow measurement points

→ Purple arrows are ammonia measurement points



Trouble With Ammonia

- NPDES permit requirement
 - 1.5mg/l summer
 - 1.6 mg/l /winter.
- Between 2008 and 2010, approximately 30 percent of the daily discharges exceeded the permitted ammonia level
- Why so much ammonia?

Industrial Discharge

- Septage and biosolids processor discharges filtrate with an average NH3-N concentration between 40-50 mg/l
- Pretreating the filtrate by breakpoint chlorination or chloramination to achieve less than 20 mg/l ammonia
- Monochloramines are rapidly formed through the reaction of chlorine with ammonia. Chloramines, like chlorine, are biocides and kill bacteria by penetrating their cell walls and disrupting their metabolism.
- Research indicates that the addition of monochloramines upstream of (fixed-film) filters will reduce the biological growth on the filters².
- What impact if Industry ceases breakpoint chlorination?





Pat Stevens & Kevin Enfinger, Water Environment Technology, May 2012 – Sewer Sociology



Raw Influent Ammonia Load





Ammonia Sources

Location	Average Concentration mg/I	Maximum Concentration mg/I	Average Loading Ib/d	Maximum Loading Ib/d
Raw Sewage	9.92	30.2	460	1,824
SIU stream w/o pretreatment	32	41	23	100
BFP Filtrate recycle	1,023	3,460	386	1,069
Total			869	2,993

Ammonia Removal Processes

- Typically the preliminary treatment and UNOX systems remove 53 percent of the ammonia load.
- The remaining ammonia is oxidized by the existing nitrification towers, which were designed to remove 687 lbs of ammonia/day.
- Insufficient ammonia reduction for peak loads



Alternative Evaluation³

- Modify the UNOX process to increase nitrification
- Eliminate anaerobic digestion
- Equalization tank for the filtrate to allow the ammonia load to be distributed over 24 hours instead of the 8 operating hours
- Construct biosolids nitrification denitrification reactor to reduce the ammonia in the recycle stream

Biosolids Nitrification/Denitrifcation

- Research⁴ indicated dual digestion process would:
 - increase the volatile solids destruction between
 46 and 65 percent;
 - reduce ammonia by 80 percent and
 - improve the dewaterablity of the biosolids.

Dual Digestion

- Estimated to reduce NH3 from 2,000 mg/L to between 150 and 400 mg/l in the filtrate from the dewatering operations.
- A reduction in the ammonia load to the plant will reduce the peak day ammonia load from the biosolids process by 440 pounds/day of ammonia
- It was also evident that influent ammonia in the raw sewage continues to impact the ability of the plant to oxidize the ammonia sufficiently to meet permit limits during the Indianapolis 500 race.



- Storage Nitrification Denitrification Reactor
- Manufacturer: Thermal Process Systems
- Developed for oxidizing NH3 from ThermAir process (Advanced Thermophilic Biosolids Treatment)
- Transfer O2 in high solids applications
- First application for an anaerobic biosolid



















SNDR Temperature

- Nitrifying and denitrifying bacteria are highly temperature dependent
- Ideal range is 90 to 100 F
- >103 too extreme
- Air is added to control temperature

- Design is based on:
 - Biological solids
 - Volatile fatty acid oxidation
 - Net nitrification/denitrification oxygen requirements
- Mixing is controlled by jet pump
 - Operates at various speeds depending on oxic or anoxic mode
 - Provides better oxygen transfer during oxic and mixing in anoxic

- Pump and Blower equipped with VFD
- Typically air on 75% of time
- Process controlled by pH and ORP
- Able to meet the high uptake demand on initial feed cycle and lower oxygen demand in anoxic cycle
- Vary blower and recycle rate independently

- pH is primary control
- Secondary control: foam, temperature & ORP
- During oxic cycle, alkalinity is consumed and pH decreases and ORP increases
- Switch to anaerobic cycle air tourned off, pH increases and ORP decreases

SNDR Bower Speed, ORP, PH, T

SNDR_BLOWER_SPEED	CURRENT SNDR PD BLOWER SPEED
SNDR_ORP	CURRENT SNDR ORP VALUE
SNDR_pH	CURRENT SNDR pH VALUE
SNDR_TEMP	CURRENT SNDR TEMPERATURE

SNDR Liquid Level, OPR, pH, Temp

SNDR_LIQUID_LVL	CURRENT SNDR LIQUID LEVEL
SNDR_ORP	CURRENT SNDR ORP VALUE
SNDR_pH	CURRENT SNDR pH VALUE
SNDR_TEMP	CURRENT SNDR TEMPERATURE

- Oxygen demand is based on CBOD and NOD
- Better process stability when feed cycle is long
- Semi Batch operation turn blower off before and after a transfer of anaerobic sludge into the SNDR to force a denitrification cycle
- When blower cycled back on use ORP to simultaneously create nitrification and denitrification in the storage tank

- Secondary signals for Temperature, ORP and Foam and Liquid levels
- Liquid and air flows controlled independently to sustain optimum reactor performance
- Hydraulic foam control nozzles connected to the recirculation pump
- Volume and pressure of flow breaks down the foam

SNDR Blower Speed, Temp, **Foam and Liquid Levels**

27/02/2013 09:00:00 From:

06/03/2013 09:00:00 To:

Common axis:

Update graph

SNDR_BLOWER_SPEED	CURRENT SNDR PD BLOWER SPEED
SNDR_FOAM_LVL	CURRENT SNDR FOAM LEVEL
SNDR_LIQUID_LVL	CURRENT SNDR LIQUID LEVEL
SNDR_TEMP	CURRENT SNDR TEMPERATURE

SNDR Foam and ORP

SNDR_FOAM_LVL	CURRENT SNDR FOAM LEVEL
SNDR_ORP	CURRENT SNDR ORP VALUE

Biofilter Blower & Temp SNDR Dilution Damper & Temp

From: 27/02/2013 09:00:00 To: 06/03/2013 09:00:00 Common axis:

Update graph

BIOFILTER_BLOWER_SPEED	CURRENT BIOFILTER OFFGAS FAN SPEED
BIOFILTER_TEMP	CURRENT BIOFILTER TEMPERATURE
SNDR_DILUTION_DAMPER_POS	CURRENT SNDR DILUTION DAMPER POSITION
SNDR_TEMP	CURRENT SNDR TEMPERATURE

Odor Control

- pH, Temperature and foam control mixing reduces the free ammonia in the head space and maintains it as liquid ammonium (NH₄⁺)
- Temperature and free ammonia concentration amenable to biofiltration

Biofilter

- Second strep is adsorption and biolgoical treatment in a fixed film growth bed biofilter
- Mesophillic operation –Temp 80 to 100 F
- Off gas fan pulls air from SNDR through scrubber and then the biofilter
- Two layers of media: inorganic haydite stone – allows growth of bacteria for treatment of H2S and mercaptans
- Upper layer is organic shredded root wood.

Biofilter

Water Panel

Results

- Better air quality in BFP building much less H2S
- Sludge feed to BFP is more consistent due to completely mixed storage tank
- Sludge easier to dewater

Industrial Discharge

- UNOX system increased ammonia removal
- Nitrification Tower ammonia removal stayed about the same
- Industry is paying the surcharge for ammonia discharge – which is less expensive for their operation than breakpoint chlorination was

Filtrate Ammonia, mg/l

Ammonia Loading from Filtrate

Ammonia, Raw, PI, Filtrate, mg/l Influent Ammonia, 800 40 mg/l **Primary Influent** 35 700 **Ammonia, mg/l** ³⁰ ³⁰ Ammonia, mg/l 600 BFP Filtrate Ammonia, mg/l 500 400 Influent & PI 15 300 10 200 5 100 0 0 11/3 12/23 2/11 4/1 5/21 7/10 8/29 10/18 12/7 1/26 2012

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Effluent Ammonia, mg/l

Effluent Ammonia, mg/l

Effluent NH3, mg/l

Effluent Ammonia Loading

Parameter	Prior to SNDR 2011	SNDR in Operation 2012
Flow, M Gallons total over period	1,111.8	834.4
Total BOD Loading Lbs (influent load)	1.289.395	1.137.989
Total Ammonia Loading Lbs (influent load)	79,767	71,357

Parameter	Prior to SNDR 2011	SNDR in Operation 2012
Diagolido to DED		
Gallons, total	6,175,400	4,733,900
% Solids BFP feed	1.8	2.1
Dry Tops produced		
total	402	447

Parameter	Prior to SNDR 2011	SNDR in Operation 2012
% Solids BFP Cake Average before BFP optimization	16.7	16.7
% Solids BFP Cake Average after BFP Optimization	16.8	19.8
TSS, filtrate, mg/l average, before BFP Optimization	66.6	331.9
TSS, filtrate, mg/l average, after BFP Optimization	88.9	80.4

Parameter	Prior to SNDR 2011	SNDR in Operation 2012
NH3, filtrate, average mg/l	489.2	29.6
TVSS Primary and WAS, % total volatile solids	69.8%	67.1%
TVSS Digested Biosolids, % total volatile solids	53.9%	51.1%

References

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- 3. Commonwealth Engineers, 2009, Preliminary Engineering Report
- Kumar, Nitin; Novac, John; Murthy, Sudhir; <u>Sequential</u> <u>Anaerobic-Aeration Digestion for Enhanced Volatile Solids</u> <u>Reduction and Nitrogen Removal</u>, 2006 WEF, Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference
- 5. TPS literature
- Stevens, Pat; Efinger, Kevin, Water Environment Technology, May 2012

Questions

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