IWA Regional Conference on Wastewater Purification & Reuse

Book of Abstracts

Organized by

Municipal Enterprise for Water and Wastewater of Heraklion
Technological Educational Institute of Crete
Decentralised Administration of Crete
Technical University of Crete
Region of Crete
Book of Abstracts

IWA Regional Conference on Wastewater Purification & Reuse 2012

28th, 29th & 30th of March
Heraklion, Crete, Greece

EDITED BY

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0092 - A NEW DISINFECTION SYSTEM FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT: PERFORMIC ACID FULL SCALE TRIALS EVALUATIONS
P. Ragazzo, N. Chiucchini, V. Piccolo, M. Ostoich

0093 - AUTOTROPHIC PATHOGENIC PARASITES ANO ADVANCED POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH ENHANCEMENT OF HOLLOW-FIBRE APPLICATION OF BIOAUGMENTATION TO IMPROVE ADVANCED GAUSI MICROWAVE ENHANCED BIODEGRADABILITY OF FOOD PROCESSING THERMOSENSITIVES COPOLYMERS

A. Graillot, C. Faur, S. Monge, D. Bouyer, J. Robin

0102 - A STUDY ON THE HIGH-FLUX MBR SYSTEM USING PTFE FLAT SHEET MEMBRANE WITH CHEMICAL BACKWASH

0103 - REMOVAL OF METAL IONS BY A THERMAL SWING ADSORPTION PROCESS INVOLVING NEW THERMOSENSITIVES COPOLYMERS
A. Graillot, C. Faur, S. Monge, D. Bouyer, J. Robin

0104 - MICROWAVE ENHANCED BIODEGRADABILITY OF FOOD PROCESSING WASTEWATER SLUDGE
S. Beszédes, L. Ludányi, M. Ábel, C. Hodúr, G. Szabó

0105 - ADVANCED TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER BY A2/O-BAF PROCESS
Dr. Yongzhi Chen, Dr. Chengyao Peng, Prof. Yongzhen Peng, Prof. Shuying Wang, Xin Li, Dr. Weitang Zhang

0106 - Benefits of Ultrafiltration in tertiary filtration treatment for re-use purposes: field experience
O. Lorain, I. Duchemin, J. M. Espenan

0107 - ENHANCEMENT OF HOLLOW-FIBRE MEMBRANE MODULE PERFORMANCE BY CONFIGURATION VARIATION
J. Lee, H. Yang, H. Chul Hur, B. J. Cha, S. D. Chi

0108 - EVALUATION AND PREDICTION OF WATER POLLUTION BY SURFACE RUNOFFS FROM ADJACENT WAYS OF RAILWAY STATIONS
Svetlana Teplykh, Ashot Sargsian

0109 - APPLICATION OF BIOAUGMENTATION TO IMPROVE THE REMOVAL EFFICIENCY OF LONG CHAIN ALKANES IN COAL GASIFICATION WASTEWATER
Y. S. Liu, H. J. Han

0110 - WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY BY HYBRID AUTOMATION USING THE EXAMPLE OF BREWERIES
Verena Blomenhofer, Dr. R. Benning, Prof. A. Delgado

0111 - WASTEWATER REUSE: WHAT SOLUTIONS FOR WHAT OBJECTIVES?
Kader Gaid

0112 - ADVANCED TREATMENT OF ORGANIC COMPOUND AND AMMONIA BY ELECTROCHEMICAL OXIDATION USING BDD ANODE
Mr. C. M. Chung, K. Yamamoto

0113 - THE STUDY ON THE HUMIC ACID SEPARATION USING PLASMA AIR FLOATATION
Dr. S. M. Ryu, E. J. Hong, J. S. Park, S. R. Yoo, T. Lho

0114 - REMOVAL OF AMMONIA AND UREA FROM UREA PLANT WASTEWATER BY PЕRVAPORATION
Dr. Mausumi Mukhopadhyay

0117 - POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE NON-POTABLE USE OF IMPROPERLY TREATED GREYWATER
P. Naicker, N. Rodda, Dr. A. O. Olaniran

0118 - Analysis of reclaimed water application for irrigation USING MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS
António ALBUQUERQUE, Helena MARECOS DO MONTE, Flora SILVA, Victor CAVALEIRO, Antonio CAVALHO

0120 - SITE SELECTION FOR reclaimed water INFILTRATION USING GIS TOOLS
H. Silva, H. M. Marques Do Monte, A. Albuquerque, V. Cavaleiro, Antonio Cavalcino

0123 - RAPID CULTIVATION OF AEROBIC GRANULAR SLUDGE BY BONE GLUE AUGMENTATION AND CONTAMINANTS REMOVAL CHARACTERISTICS AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURE
Dr Shuo Wang, Pr Wexin Shi, Pr Shuili Yu, Dr Xuesong Yu

0124 - PATHOGENIC PARASITES AND ENTEROVIRUSES IN WASTEWATER: SUPPORT FOR A REGULATION ON WATER REUSE
Dr. Elayse Maria Hachich, Ana T. Galvani, Jose A. Padula, Nancy C. Stoppe, Suzi C. Garcia, Vilma MS Bonanno, Dr. Maria Inês Z. Sato
ORAL PRESENTATIONS
ANALYSIS OF RECLAIMED WATER APPLICATION FOR IRRIGATION USING MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS

António ALBUQUERQUE, Helena MARECOS DO MONTE, Flora SILVA, Victor CAVALEIRO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approximately 60% of the population of the Cova da Beira region (Portugal) lives in rural communities with less than 2,000 inhabitants and the wastewater treatment systems in the region are mainly septic tanks, constructed wetlands and trickling filters. The daily reclaimed water discharged into streams could be mainly reused for landscape irrigation of public parks and lawns and golf courses, which often means offsetting potable water for nonpotable purposes. However, those applications may require a polishing treatment to remove mainly pathogens, and trace elements.

A one-year monitoring campaign was carried out in a biological aerated filter (BAF) that treats the sewage of 4,000 inhabitants. The research included the measurement of the effluent flow-rate and its characteristics in terms of pH, temperature, conductivity, BOD\textsubscript{5}, COD, TSS, TN, NH\textsubscript{4}-N, NO\textsubscript{2}-N, NO\textsubscript{3}-N, TP, Na, Mg, Ca, K, Cl, B, As, Cd, Co, Cr, Hg, Ni, Pb, Zn, total coliforms (TC), faecal coliforms (FC), E. Coli and faecal streptococcus (FS).

Results show that the effluent concentrations of BOD\textsubscript{5}, COD, TN, TP, K, Ca and phytotoxic elements (Na and Cl) are compatible with the international guidelines for irrigation reuse (crop cultures and golf courses). Values of conductivity are not a risk to soil salinity, but TC, FC, E. Coli and FS values are not compatible with the reuse guidelines and, therefore, a final disinfection must be implemented to decrease the pathogenic content. The low nitrate concentrations (<5 mg/L) are suitable for irrigation and constitute a very low risk for groundwater contamination.

GIS-based multi-criteria analysis was performed combining land use maps, reclaimed water characteristics and economic, environmental and technical criteria. The results showed that approximately 180,000 m\textsuperscript{3} of treated wastewater annually discharged in the local stream could be reused for irrigation of all crops classified as class A or 31% of the cultures classified as class C (according to the Portuguese Standard 4434), located at a distance of about 1.8 km from the BAF.

The use of reclaimed wastewater in rural areas of the Cova da Beira region brings other advantages such as the reduction of the residual pollution load discharged in water streams and the reduction of water abstraction volumes for irrigation, which are important environmental and economics benefits, especially in periods of water shortage.
SITE SELECTION FOR RECLAIMED WATER INFILTRATION USING GIS TOOLS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the region of the Beira Interior some sources of water do not present characteristics suitable for some uses due to the discharge of not well treated effluents or because are over-exploited (namely aquifers). However, the water demand will grow in this region to meet socio-economic activities under development (the Cova da Beira irrigation plan, irrigation of golf courses and green areas, spas and distribution for human and industrial consumption), which will lead to the search of alternative sources of water. In this context, the treated wastewater is being seen as a source of water to be used and not a waste to be eliminated.

After a monitoring campaign of two years in the wastewater treatment plant of Vila Fernando (Guarda), which included a constructed wetland system, the characteristics of the final effluent suggest that it could be used for the recharge of aquifers, not only because it is an area that uses essentially groundwater sources, but because other uses seem to be not relevant and would require a polishing treatment for the secondary effluent, which would higher the costs of operation.

From six thematic maps and economic, environmental and technical criteria, it was selected a study area of 6687.1 ha, and, after manipulation of complex information using GIS tools, based on the overlapping areas of exclusion and inclusion in each thematic maps and using algebra of maps operations, it was obtained a Suitable Map with a favorable area for infiltration of 6.4 ha (Figure 1). An area of 1 300 m² would be enough to set up four infiltration basins (18x18 m each), that would work in alternating cycles of filling-infiltration-cleaning-filling.

Figure 1 – Suitable map for reclaimed water infiltration
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