



**Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago**

Effluent Phosphorus Reduction at the Stickney WRP

November 15, 2017



Background

- **Citizens suit - phosphorus limit of 1.0 mg/L at the three big plants 0.5 mg/L annual**
- **Considerations related to this limitation:**
 - **District will implement EBPR**
 - **Compliance schedules agreed to allow the District to implement necessary operational changes and schedule capital projects**
- **District created multi-departmental phosphorus task forces**



Options for Phosphorus Reduction in Effluent

- Chemical precipitation
- Traditional conversion to EBPR
- EBPR utilizing existing infrastructure and phosphorus recovery

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Chemical Precipitation



Chemical Storage Tanks

Pump House

Spill Containment



Pumping Equipment

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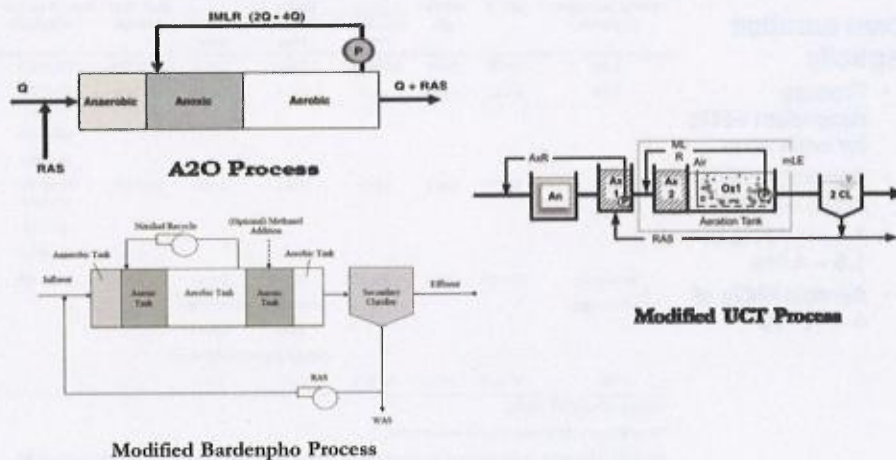
Disadvantages of Chemical Precipitation

- Similar capital costs as phosphorus recovery, but much higher annual chemical costs
- High volume of chemical deliveries required
 - 18 million gallons per year
 - 12 trucks per day
- Sequesters phosphorus in solids in a form that is not readily available for plant uptake

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Traditional EBPR Options



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Infrastructure for Traditional EBPR

- **Baffles**
 - Separation of zones
 - Allows for sludge blanket accumulation
- **Mixers**
 - To keep solids in suspension
 - To occasionally refresh the sludge blanket
- **Recycle Pumps**
 - To recycle between specific zones within each aeration tank

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Infrastructure for Traditional EBPR (continued)

- **Extra aeration capacity**
 - Process dependent HRTs for each zone
 - Anaerobic HRTs of 0.5 – 3 hrs
 - Anoxic HRTs of 1.5 – 4 hrs
 - Aerobic HRTs of 4 – 12 hrs

Design parameter or process	SRT, d ^a	MLSS, g/L	HRT, h ^b			RAS, % of influent	Internal recycle, % of influent
			Anaerobic zone	Anoxic zone	Aerobic zone		
A ² /O	5 to 25	3 to 4	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	4 to 8	25 to 100	200 to 400
UCT	8 to 25	3 to 4	1 to 3	2 to 4	4 to 12	80 to 100	100 to 200 (anoxic) 100 to 200 (aerobic)
VIP	5 to 10	2 to 4	1 to 2	2 to 4	4 to 6	80 to 100	100 to 200 (anoxic) 100 to 300 (aerobic)
Bardenpho (five-stage)	10 to 20	3 to 4	0.5 to 1.5	1 to 3 (first stage) 2 to 4 (second stage)	4 to 12 (first stage) 0.5 to 1 (second stage)	50 to 100	200 to 400
SBR	20 to 40	3 to 4	1.5 to 3	1 to 3	2 to 4		

^aAdapted from WEF, 1998b.

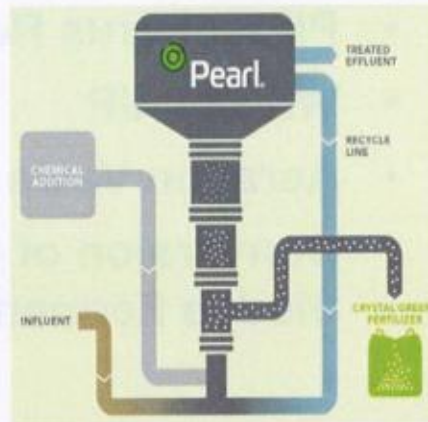
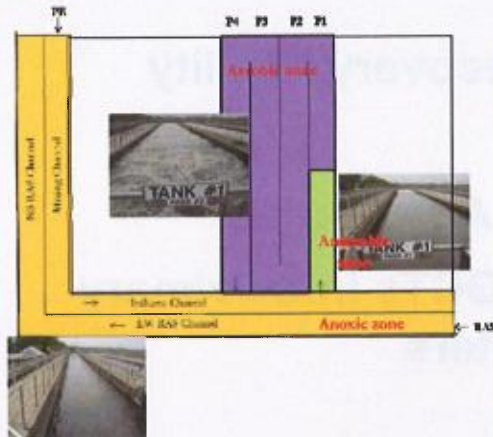
^bTotal SRT, including anaerobic and anoxic zones.

The HRT refers to the retention time of the zones in terms of the average flow. Thus, an HRT of 1 hour refers to the volume that will be filled in 1 hour at average flow.

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EBPR with Recovery



Stickney WRP Operational Optimization for EBPR

- **Operational Changes**
 - Creation of Anoxic and Anaerobic Zones in Aeration Batteries
 - Limiting P-loading variability by equalizing recycle stream flow
 - Optimizing air input to all zones
 - Increased MLSS concentrations
 - Operating preliminary tanks to increase carbon loadings to EBPR process
 - Operating final tanks to minimize NO₃ load from RAS



Stickney WRP Capital Improvements

- **Phosphorus Recovery Facility**
- **WASSTRIP**
- **Aeration Valve Automation**
- **Conversion of GCTs into Primary Sludge Fermenters**

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Additional and Offset Costs

- Citric Acid costs associated with periodic cleaning of Ostara reactors
- Sulphuric Acid costs associated with struvite control in equipment and piping downstream of the centrifuges
- Reduced solids handling costs, including polymer, with improved dewaterability
- Reduced maintenance costs associated with chain-knocking of piping for struvite mitigation

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20-Year Life Cycle Costs

Process	Capital Cost (Mil)	Annual Operating Cost (Mil)	Total Cost (20 yr)
Chemical Precip	\$28.0 (+642)	\$29.10	\$610
Traditional EBPR	\$750+	-	\$750+
EBPR w/ Recovery	\$50.0	\$0.65	\$63.0

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Stickney Compliance Plan (EBPR w/ Recovery)

- Convert plant to EBPR utilizing existing infrastructure
- Recover phosphorus from the sidestream (post-digestion centrifuge centrate)

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RFP Process

- A panel of eight comprised the Selection Advisory Committee (2-Engineering, 2-M&R, 3-M&O and 1-Procurement)
- RFP was advertised June 27, 2012
- Review of RFP included:
 - Technical review of the initial proposal
 - Cost proposal review
 - Interview of proposers
 - Best and Final Offer review

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Proposers

- Three proposers submitted initial proposals and were interviewed.
 - Black & Veatch/Ostara
 - IHC/MutiForm Harvest/Pharmer Engineering
 - Midwestern Electric
- Shortlisted to two proposers for the submittal of a Best and Final Offer
 - Black & Veatch/Ostara
 - IHC/MutiForm Harvest/Pharmer Engineering
- Black & Veatch/Ostara selected

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B&V/Ostara Team Strengths

- **Reliability**
 - Consistent recovery has been shown.
- **Expertise**
 - B&V brought well-known individuals in the phosphorus removal field.
- **Experience**
 - Ostara has greater number of installations.
- **Market**
 - Numerous contracts with buyers already established.
- **Beneficial Reuse**
 - Dollar per ton for product higher with Ostara.

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Benefits of WASSTRIP

- Potential to produce 3X as much product
- Improvements to the solids dewatering process
- Reduction of struvite build-up in the digesters and post-digestion equipment
- Reduction of effluent phosphorus to 0.3 mg/L based by process modeling



Program for Phosphorus Recovery

- Largest of this type of facility to be built
- First time construction and use of reactors of this size
- Agreements based on partnerships for the design and construction of the facility
- Shared risk
- Agreed upon scope of work related to the construction of the facility



History of Implementation

- Construction of the facility began in October 2014
- First reactor receives centrate flow in May 2016 and testing of the system started
- Major outages in January 2017 through February 2017 and June 2017 through August 2017 due to struvite issues with the reactor feed pumps.
 - Issued change order for the design and construction of a sulfuric acid dosing system
 - Implemented interim measures for temporary citric acid washing until permanent automated systems have been constructed
- Completion of reactor testing and acceptance of system for operations in March 2017



Current Operational Status

- Producing 5-8 tons per day of product
- In 2017 the Stickney WRP effluent met the 1.0 mg/L monthly limit for phosphorus, with the exception of February when Ostara was not in operation
- In 2017, the Stickney effluent has geomean 0.47 mg/L for the year
 - Pre-Design modeling indicated an average effluent concentration of 0.6 mg/L phosphorus with recovery only from post-digestion centrate
 - The modeling indicated an average of 0.3mg/L once WASSTRIP is implemented.



Projected Annual Operational Costs

- Projected costs and offsets based on full production with WASSTIP online
- Chemical costs of approximately \$3.7 M
 - Magnesium Chloride - \$1.5 M
 - Sodium Hydroxide – \$2.0 M
 - Sulfuric Acid – \$0.2 M
- Offsets for fertilizer production of approximately \$2.9 M



Outstanding Change Orders

- **Negotiated Changes**
 - Negotiated to approximately 55% of originally requested amounts
 - Unforeseen conditions includes encountering underground interferences, differences between expected conditions and those shown on as-built drawings used in design, etc.
 - Changes from basis of design includes potable water relocation, steam design changes, duct bank reinforcement, etc.
- **WASSTRIP licensing and commissioning**
- **Additional one year operations by OSTARA**
 - Will allow training of additional District operations and maintenance staff
 - Continued optimization as WASSTRIP comes on-line

