Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0043-1354(15)30233-5

DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2015.09.020

Reference: WR 11528

To appear in: Water Research

Received Date: 12 June 2015

Revised Date: 9 September 2015 Accepted Date: 10 September 2015

Please cite this article as: Frank, J., Ruhl, A.S., Jekel, M., Impacts of backwashing on granular activated carbon filters for advanced wastewater treatment, *Water Research* (2015), doi: 10.1016/j.watres.2015.09.020.

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Impacts of backwashing on granular activated

2 carbon filters for advanced wastewater treatment

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7 Abstract

8 The use of granular activated carbon (GAC) in fixed bed filters is a promising option for the 9 removal of organic micropollutants (OMP) from wastewater treatment plant effluents. 10 Frequent backwashing of the filter bed is inevitable, but its effect on potential filter 11 stratification is not well understood yet and thus has been evaluated in the present study for 12 two commercial GAC products. Backwashing of GAC filters was simulated with 10 or 100 13 filter bed expansions of 20 or 100% at backwash velocities of 12 and 40 m/h, respectively. Five vertical fractions were extracted and revealed a vertical stratification according to grain 14 15 sizes and material densities. Sieve analyses indicated increasing grain sizes towards the 16 bottom for one GAC while grain sizes of the other GAC were more homogeneously 17 distributed throughout the filter bed. The apparent densities of the top sections were 18 significantly lower than that of the bottom sections of both products. Comparative long term 19 fixed bed adsorption experiments with the top and bottom sections of the stratified GAC 20 showed remarkable differences in breakthrough curves of dissolved organic carbon, UV light 21 absorption at 254 nm wavelength (UVA₂₅₄) and OMP. GAC from the upper section showed 22 constantly better removal efficiencies than GAC from the bottom section, especially for

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