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Chemical, Microbial and Toxicological Assessment of Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluents during Disinfection by Ozonation

Deniz Nasuhoglu, Siavash Isazadeh, Paul Westlund, Sarah Neamatallah, Viviane Yargeau

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Chemical, Microbial and Toxicological Assessment of Wastewater Treatment Plant

Effluents during Disinfection by Ozonation

Deniz Nasuhoglu, Siavash Isazadeh, Paul Westlund, Sarah Neamatallah, Viviane Yargeau

Department of Chemical Engineering, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, H3A 0C5

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Abstract

Municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) effluents are primary sources of pathogenic microorganisms and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) released into the aquatic environment. Main concerns regarding these pollutants include transmission of waterborne diseases to humans and toxic and endocrine disrupting effects on aquatic organisms. In the coming years, WWTPs are expected to invest billions of dollars in upgrades to meet new regulatory requirements for wastewater from Environment Canada. For this reason, we investigated the performance of ozone when the technology is used for disinfection to overcome multiple risk factors such as disinfection, CEC removal, endocrine activity and toxicity for real effluents collected from three WWTPs. Two secondary effluents required mean specific ozone doses for disinfection of 0.25 and 1.04 gO₃/gDOC whereas the advanced primary effluent required 1.52 gO₃/gDOC to achieve a total colliform target disinfection criteria of 1000 MPN/100 ml (equivalent to 200 MPN/100 ml *E. coli*). At ozone doses for disinfection, CECs with high

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