

Demonstrating Synergies in Combined Natural and Engineered Processes for Water Treatment Systems



Managing water safety - Water quality assessment framework and tools for risk assessment

Challenges of water quality assessment

Requires specific knowledge and tools:

- Assessment of potential contamination of source
- Assessment of treatment efficiency
- Assessment of treated water

Regulatory standards, and non-regulatory quality criteria

- Evaluate systems / contamination sources and potential threats and customize water quality assessment accordingly
- Look beyond regulatory frameworks and its water quality criteria, as

Knowledge on system hydrology and dynamics (All above have to be related to the intended use, regulatory framework or water quality guidelines, more detail is given in Deliverable 4.2)

Water quality assessment framework



Figure 1: Water Quality Assessment Framework

Knowledge of the chemical, microbiological and hydrological status and dynamics are essential for designing monitoring efforts and provide input for source management (or dialogue with external source managers) and treatment evaluation or designations

risks are not solely determined by regulated parameters. Emerging issues of today might be regulated tomorrow. Non-governmental water quality guidelines are available [1, 2]

Solutions (for cNES applications)

- Use reference data of similar systems and situations (e.g. demonstration sites, data on treatment techniques or source contamination).
- Build a community with parties using similar techniques to enable first hand data and knowledge transfer (http://www.aquanes-h2020.eu/, https://www.watershare.eu/)
- Define key treatment processes and evaluate its robustness
- Use innovative tools if they provide additional and relevant information or have advantages in efficiency or speed. See: Deliverable 4.3.
- Use tiered approaches and event specific monitoring in order to use funds and capacity efficiently
- Use data processing tools for better data interpretation
- Apply gathered information for Water Safety Planning or scenario studies to test system resilience

Tools and reference data

• Interpretation of (on line) monitoring data of water quality or treatment

Source assessment	System conditions	Evaluation	Output
Wastewater / Combined sewer overflow	Hydrology (dynamics)	Temporal and spatial concentration dynamics (point sources, diffuse sources discontinuous sources, trends)	information on monitoring (what, where, when)
	Physical conditions (Temp., turbidity, etc.)		
	Aqueous chemistry (pH, EC, Eh, TOC, DOC, etc.)		
Surface water	Pollutants and other parameters		information on treatment
	Use characteristics		options
Groundwater	Emission routes		information
	phys-chem properties		on source
Rain water	Toxicity (if avaialble)		management

Figure 2: Source Assessment

Knowledge on treatment efficiency for chemical and microbial contamination in source water supports treatment monitoring design, treatment management and potential adaptation of treatment(trains)

operation can be difficult. Data visualization and interpretation software supports operators and managers to gather useful information for decisions making. Open source software (R) is an affordable solution. This is described in Deliverable 4.1

• The assessment of microbial water contamination in water treatment systems is challenging because. 1) Microbial contamination has a very dynamic character. 2) Water quality criteria are often below practical detection limits. An interactive web based tool is developed that estimates microbial loads and removal efficiencies through water treatment schemes.



Treatment technology	Treatment conditions	Evaluation	Output
BF, MAR/SAT	Hydraulic retention time	Treatment efficiency (fate of chemical and microbial parameters)	Advice on monitoring (what, where, when)
Constructed wetland	Physical conditions (Temp., turbidity, etc.)		
Disinfection	Aqueous chemistry (pH, EC, Eh, TOC, DOC, etc.)		
Advanced oxidation	Pollutants and other parameters	T	
Filtration techniques (AC, membrane, etc)	Contaminantion from treatment materials	Treatment robustness (vulnerability of treatment(steps) for changes in water quantity quality of physical properties)	
	Transformation products / (re)colonization		
Coagulation sedimentation	phys-chem properties		Information on treatment management
Other	Toxicity (if avaialble)		

Figure 3: Treatment Assessment

Figure 4: web based interactive QMRA tool

• The assessment of chemical water quality is challenging due to the wide array of chemicals present and sophisticated analytical techniques required to measure them. An interactive web based provides chemical contamination loads and removal efficiencies through water treatment technologies

Literature

[1] WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality - 4th ed.; World Health Organisation: Geneva, Switzerland, 2011; p 568. [2] Baken, K.; Sjerps, R. The Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC): refinement of the concept and application to drinking water; BTO 2016.069; KWR Watercycle Reserach Institute: Nieuwegein, The Netherlands, 2016; p 50.

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