WESTCAS 2011 Winter Conference

WERF-City of Los Angeles Targeted Collaborative Research

Claudio Ternieden Assistant Director of Research February 24, 2011



Who is and... What Does WERF Do?

- Not for Profit Foundation Focused on Water Environmental Research
- Provide Peer-Reviewed Research That Advances Science and Technology to Find Solutions for Wastewater and Water Quality Issues
- Deliver Results That Subscribers Can Use
- Foster Partnerships and Collaborations Between Subscribers, Water Sector Organizations, Policy Makers, Regulators, and NGOs



Who Supports WERF Research?

- WERF's 300+ Subscribers:
 - ✓ Public Utilities (WW and SW Agencies)
 - Environmental and Engineering Firms
 - ✓ Industry
 - Equipment Manufacturers
 - ✓ State Regulators
- Federal Funding
- Partnerships and Collaborations



Partnerships

- Water Research Foundation (WRF)
- Global Water Research Coalition (GWRC)
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA)
- United Kingdom Water Industry Research
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
- Water Environment Federation (WEF)
- Water Reuse Foundation
- WERF Subscribers through "TCR" (*Targeted Collaborative Research*)



Terminal Island Renewable Energy- TIRE L.A. Biosolids Slurry Injection Project

- Nation's first full scale application of deep well injection technology
- Utilizes abandoned/depleted oil & gas reservoirs
- Uses proven technology widely used in the petroleum industry
- Converts biosolids to bio-methane through deep subsurface placement, thermal treatment & biodegradation, while sequestering GHG's
- Uses the generated methane in fuel cell units to produce green power
- Offers a long-term solution with superior economics
- Environmentally-sound with renewable energy benefits



Biosolids Processing Summary



Regional Oil Fields



Overview of Permit

- Class V, Experimental
- > Up to 5 years, in two phases:
 - Phase I: 6 months start up (~120 tpd)
 - Phase II: 4.5 years operation (up to 200 tpd)

- > Three formation zones
- Daily injection period: Up to 16 hrs
- Biosolids: 120 to 400 wt per day
- Liquids: up to 400,000 gallons per day



PROJECT FEATURES

- A 5-years demonstration project
- Uses a multiple casing, heavily protected delivery well for the placement of biosolids;
- Natural heat deep in the earth biodegrades the material to methane and carbon-dioxide;
- Placement zone is protected by at least a dozen impermeable confining layers and major fault lines: Isolation, Protection, and Confinement;



PROJECT FEATURES

- 2 (existing) + 1 (new) wells for injection and monitoring
- Wells are being monitored by a series of state of the art technologies, including:
 - Geophones, tilt meters, gamma ray, density meters, pressure, temperature, micro-seismograms, etc.
 - Signal from USGS, and area of review (3 wells)
- Extensive lab analysis: gas, formation fluid, pathogens, etc.
- **Depressurization period (8-10 hours)**
- Phased approach in increasing the process capacity, up to 200 tons and

150,000 gal per day



TIMELINE/STATUS

- Project broke ground April 2007
- Monitoring wells drilled in June and July 2008
- Equipment successfully tested with brine and effluent August 2008
- Start-up phase successfully implemented ahead of schedule
- Digested sludge successfully injected since August 2008



TIMELINE/STATUS

- First biosolids successfully and continuously injected September 2008
- Project has met and exceeded all environmental requirements
- All regulatory requirements met
- Improved air quality, protected water quality, and odor free operations
- Provided substantial cost savings to tax payers
- Successful fast-track, targeted renewable energy project even with the many environmental, and regulatory challenges
- Close to 80,000,000 gallons of cumulative slurry injected



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- WERF and City of LA partnering to develop a joint Targeted Collaborative Research (TCR) for organizations wishing to examine and advance this technology for potential local application
- Work together to fund research utilizing WERF's management processes and technical peer review oversight
- WERF is accepting expressions of interest and will host a webseminar to discuss how the existing demonstration project can be expanded utilizing WERF's TCR process



Other TCR Opportunities

- Nutrients Research
- Trace Organics in Biosolids
- Zero Liquids Discharge Technology Demonstration in Colorado
- WERF's New Research Challenges
 - Next Generation Wastewater Reuse
 - Remote Detection/Sensors
 - Wastewater as a Resource
 - Energy in Wastewater



For Additional Information

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www.werf.org

Project Web Site: http://www.lacity.org/SAN/ biosolidsems/TIRE.htm/



www.werf.org







GEOLOGY

Injection target: 3,800 to 5,300 ft
56-ft-thick sand found at 5,150
injection zone porosity: 22.0%
Permeability: 280-900 mD
Formation Capacity:
1 million barrels in 5-years



5165

Sidewall Core Sample at 5,165 ft.







SFI#1