Wastewater 101: A Brief Overview

WDNR Sensitive Areas and Management Practices Workgroup

Luxemburg, WI

October 21, 2015

WISCONSIN

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. Preliminary Treatment
 - Bar Screens & Grit Chambers
- 2. Primary Treatment
 - Settling/Clarification
- 3. Secondary Treatment
 - Aeration & Sedimentation (Activated Sludge)
- 4. Tertiary/Advanced Treatment
 - Filtration
- 5. Disinfection
 - Chlorine, UV, ozone
- 6. Solids Handling

1. Preliminary Treatment

Remove large debris & grit

2. Primary Treatment

Removes solids that float/settle; ~50% removal

3. Secondary Treatment

- Aeration tanks use air bubbles to suspend microorganisms to break down waste materials
- Microorganisms biologically convert dissolved solids into suspended solids that can settle out
- Final products are clean water, CO₂, more microorganisms, settled solids
- ~85-90% waste removal from water flow

Suspended growth, fixed growth, membrane bioreactors, aerated basins/lagoons.

4. Advanced Treatment

- Removal of suspended solids and nutrients.
 - Phosphorus & Nitrogen
- Chemical addition, biological phosphorus removal, nitrification.
- Filtration & ultrafiltration.

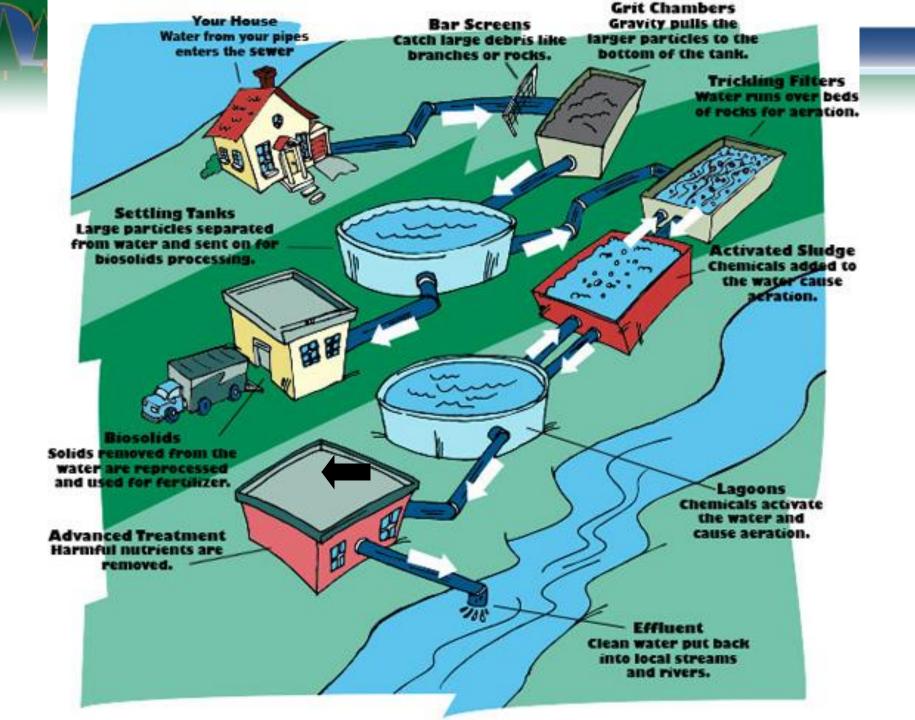
5. Disinfection

- Significantly reduces pathogens (bacteria, viruses)
- Chlorination most popular but use of UV and ozone increasing

6. Solids Handling & Processing

- Sludge conditioning
 - Chemicals & heat for water removal
- Sludge thickening
 - Gravity, flotation, chemicals for solids separation
- Sludge stabilization
 - Reduce odors & pathogens
 - Aerobic/anaerobic digestion
 - Chemicals/lime to raise pH (odor)

- Sludge dewatering
 - Mechanical dewatering
 - Filters, centrifuges, presses, drying beds to remove excess water
 - Beneficial reuse through:
 - Land application
 - Composted for use as a soil conditioner
 - Incinerated for thermal or energy recovery
 - Placed in landfills (burial or cover)



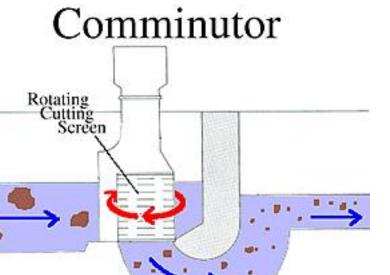
Wastewater Treatment Plant



MANUALLY CLEANED BAR SCREEN



Comminutor (Sewage Grinder)



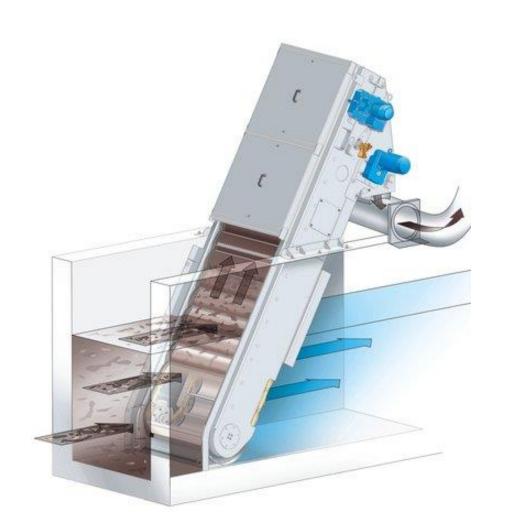


Muffin Monster (Sewage Grinder)

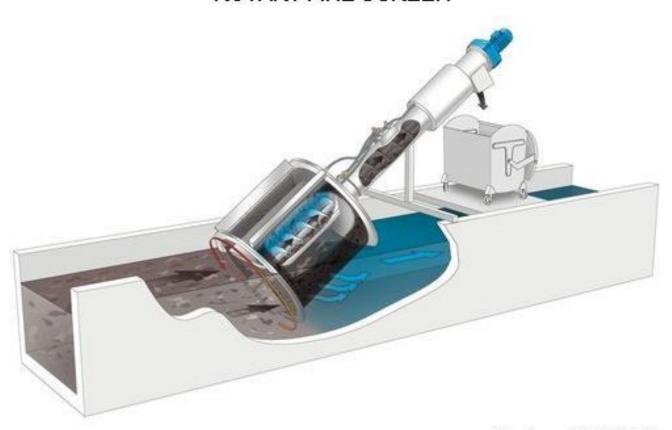




Mechanically Cleaned Bar Screen



ROTARY FINE SCREEN

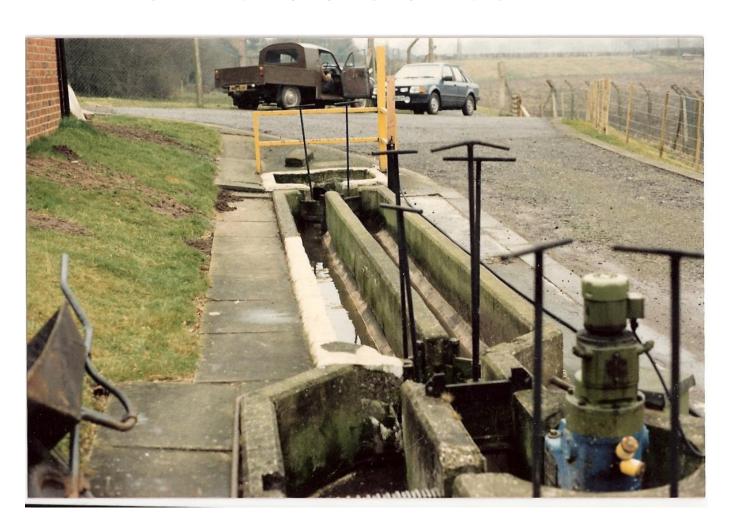


PRELIMINARY TREATMENT Rotary Fine Screens



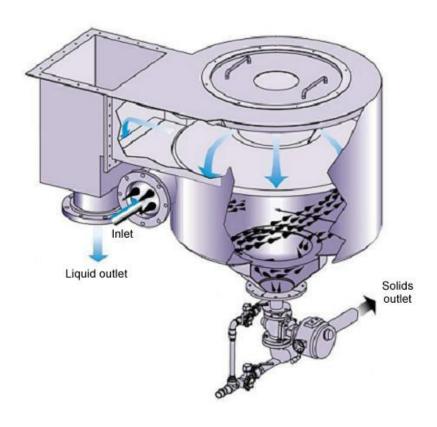


Grit Removal Channels

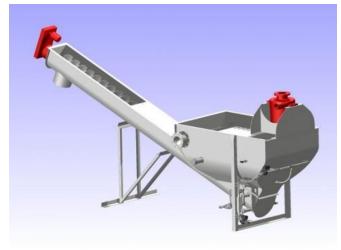


Grit Removal

VORTEX TYPE GRIT SYSTEM





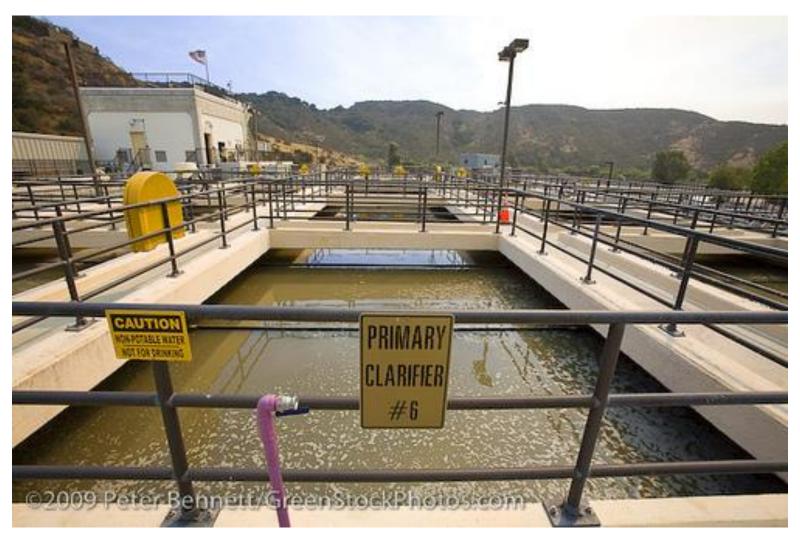


Aerated Grit Removal



PRIMARY TREATMENT

Rectangular Primary Clarifiers

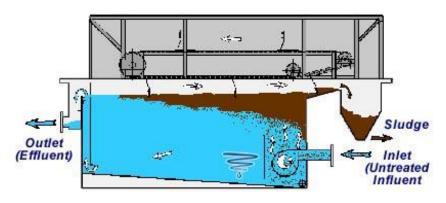


PRIMARY TREATMENT

Circular Primary Clarifiers



PRIMARY TREATMENT Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF)







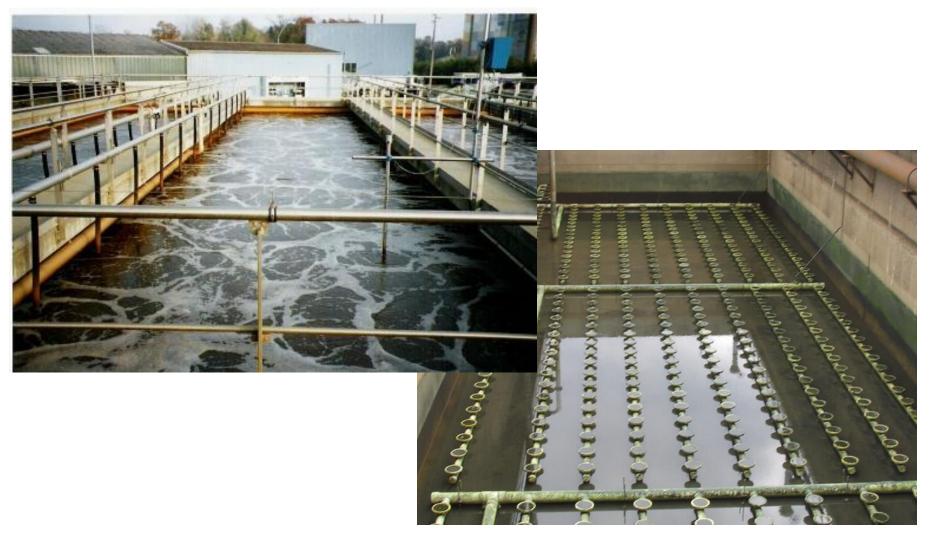
Activated Sludge (Oxidation Ditch)



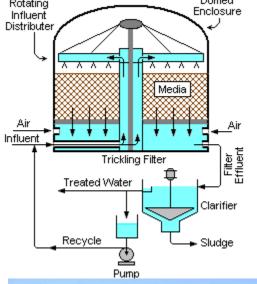
Activated Sludge

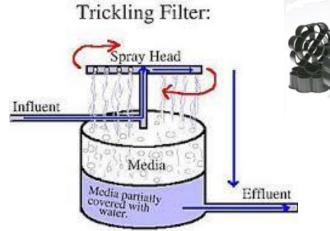


Activated Sludge







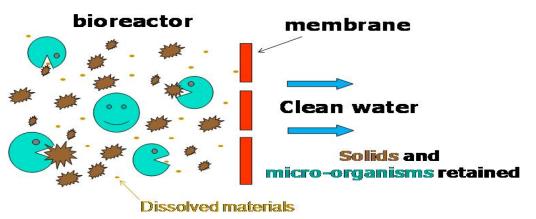








Activated Sludge





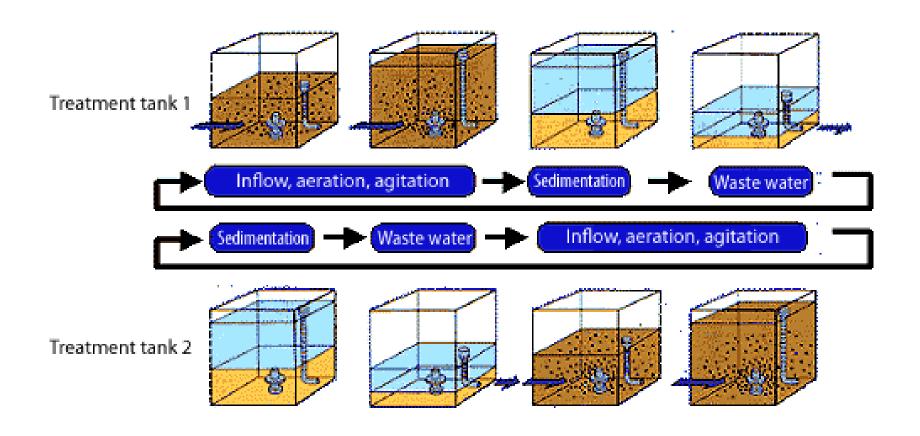




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SECONDARY BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

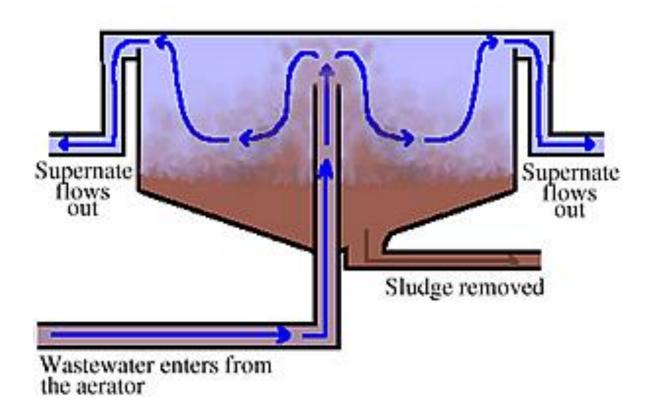
Activated Sludge (Sequencing Batch Reactors)



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FINAL CLARIFICATION

Clarifier



FINAL CLARIFICATION







DISINFECTION

Ultraviolet Radiation



POST AERATION



POST AERATION







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Discharge to River per WPDES Permit



SOLIDS HANDLING & PROCESSING





















SEPTAGE TREATMENT

– Two methods of treatment/discharge:

1. WWTF

- Septage hauler does not need to do anything besides follow rules at each WWTF
- Waste is treated through the WWTF system prior to discharge to the environment

2. Land application

- Surface application requires stabilization with lime
- Incorporation must occur within 6 hours of application
 - Lime stabilization required only if residential setbacks are further reduced
- Injection must occur within 6 hours of application

- -Municipal Waste
 - Surface water discharge:
 - Limits depend on designated use of receiving water
 - ⇒NR 102, Water Quality Standards for Wisconsin Surface Waters
 - ⇒Recreational Use. All surface waters shall be suitable for supporting recreational use and shall meet the criteria specified in sub. (6). A sanitary survey or evaluation, or both to assure protection from fecal contamination is the chief criterion for determining the suitability of a water for recreational use. [NR 102.04(5)]

- ⇒Criteria for Recreational Use. As bacteriological guidelines, the membrane filter fecal coliform count may not exceed 200 colonies per 100 ml as a geometric mean and may not exceed 400 colonies per 100 ml in more than 10% of all samples during any month. Samples shall be required at least 5 times per month. [NR102.04(6)]
- Land application of sludge/biosolids:
 - Limits are defined in federal regulations 40 CFR Part 503, Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge.
 - ⇒Requirements specified in NR 204.

Class A

Parameter	Unit	Limit
Fecal Coliform	MPN/g TS	1000
or		
Salmonella	MPN/4g TS	3
AND, ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROCESS OPTIONS		
Temp/Time based on % Solids	Alkaline Treatment	
Prior test for Enteric Virus/Viable Helminth Ova	Post test for Enteric Virus/Viable Helminth Ova	
Composting	Heat Drying	
Heat Treatment	Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion	
Beta Ray Irradiation	Gamma Ray Irradiation	
Pasteurization	PFRP Equivalent Process	

- WWTFs must also meet vector attraction reduction requirements by implementing one or more treatment processes or land application methods.
- These methods and associated requirements are listed in NR 204.

Class B

Parameter	Unit	Limit
Fecal Coliform	MPN or CFU/g TS	2,000,000
OR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROCESS OPTIONS		

Aerobic Digestion	Air Drying	
Anaerobic Digestion	Composting	
Alkaline Stabilization	PSRP Equivalent	

*Tables from NR 204.07

- Industrial Wastes
 - Pathogens are not a typical component of industrial wastes
 - Pathogen monitoring, limits, and treatment requirements can be added to industrial WPDES permits to address pathogens if waste characterization shows levels of concern
 - Treatment could include a wastewater treatment facility, any combination of available technologies, alkali stabilization, etc...as long as permit requirements are met

- Septage Waste
 - Pathogen control & vector attraction reduction requirements in NR 113
 - Pathogen control (PC):
 - 1. Crop harvesting/grazing restrictions
 - 2. Alkali stabilization with lime addition
 - Vector attraction reduction (VAR):
 - 1. Alkali stabilization with lime addition for surface application
 - 2. Incorporation within 6 hours of application
 - 3. Injection
 - **One method is required for each category**

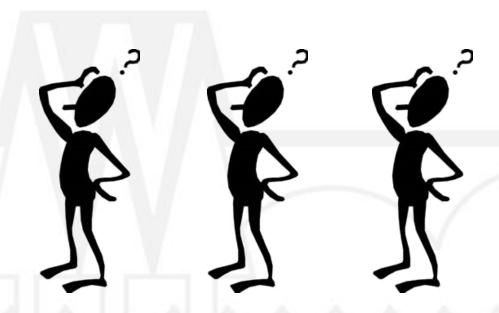
WASTE STORAGE

- Municipal waste/biosolids
 - NR 204 allows it but requirements are very strict and difficult to meet → very rare/does not occur
- Industrial waste
 - 10% exemption for manure pits only allowed for liquid wastewater
 - Manure pit must have been built to NRCS 313 standards
 - Facility samples/monitors wastewater prior to disposal
 - Waste mixture is considered animal waste as long as <10% is industrial waste at the time of removal for land application
 - All other industrial wastes require structural approval under NR 213 and approval is for 100% industrial waste storage (no mixing)

WASTE STORAGE

- Septage waste
 - NR 113 allows 3 different types of septage storage:
 - Capacity of <25,000 gallons
 - Capacity of >25,000 gallons
 - Other (includes manure pits)
 - NR 108/110/113 standards
 - Requires a PE review to certify
 - Manure pits >25,000 gallons of septage/year or >10% septage in mixture
 - NRCS 313 standards
 - Manure pits <25,000 gallons of septage/year or <10% septage in mixture

QUESTIONS



Heidi Schmitt Marquez Northeast Region Wastewater Specialist (920) 662-5145

Heidi.SchmittMarquez@wisconsin.gov