


ZERO EFFLUENT SOLUTION FOR DETERGENT INDUSTRY

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This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Environmental
Management

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December 2010

University of Moratuwa



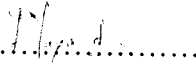
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DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any University or other institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Supervisor's declaration

This is to certify that this thesis submitted by D.H. Dayananda is a record of candidate's own work carried out by her under our supervision. The matter embodied in this thesis is original and has not been submitted for the award of any other degree.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Mahesh Jayaweera, the supervisor Department of Civil Engineering for giving me the first opportunity to work in real industrial environment and his valuable advice, suggestions and encouragement during the Master of Science in environmental management study.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Suren Wijeyekoon, the co-supervisor, Department of Chemical & Process Engineering for his intellectual guidance, assistance and advice rendered for successful completion of this research project.

I am thankful to the course coordinator Dr. Jagath Manathunga for his encouragement and valuable support for the successful completion of this project.

I also wish to sincerely thank Mr. Prasad Suraweera (Puritaz pvt. Ltd.) and Mr. Chinthaka widanapathirena (Industrial Development Board) for giving technical support to me to successfully complete this project.

A major part of my research work has been done at the Environment Engineering Laboratory, Department of Civil Engineering, at the University of Moratuwa. My gratitude is due to the laboratory staff who gave their support in numerous ways in successfully carrying out this project.

I am also grateful to Mr. Dayantha De Silva (the chairman), Mrs. Ransi De Silva (the managing director) and all employees of S & D Associates for their support and assistance.

I wish to thank my loving parents, and my husband for the encouragement given to me to make this study a success.

ABSTRACT

Reuse of industrial wastewater is an important strategy for reducing freshwater consumption and wastewater generation as well as minimizing the potential impact of effluent on the environment. From an economic perspective, wastewater reuse reduces the costs of freshwater consumption and wastewater disposal.

Wastewater is to be adequately treated prior to disposal. Surfactants including detergents are refractory organics that resist conventional treatment methods and therefore need an advance wastewater treatment. However, the cost of wastewater regeneration and treatment rises exponentially with increasing contaminant removal efficiency. In order to balance these competing cost factors wastewater disposal costs vs. wastewater regeneration and treatment cost has to be considered.

This case study of the zero effluent solution provides experience in cost effective management of effluent as a resource, with minimizing the potential impact of effluent on the environment. The overall objective was to recycle wastewater as a resource for liquid detergent manufacturing process. Special attention is being given to control of unpleasant odour, maximization of reuse of surfactants and establishment of proper hygienic conditions in treated effluent.

The results of wastewater characterization showed that the concentration of the organic matter is very high, expressed as COD ranging from 6,200 mg/l to 34,400 mg/l, while the biodegradable portion was very low, since BOD/COD ratio was low. These values indicate that organic compounds are not easily subjected to biological treatment. In order to ensure the maximum reuse of surfactants and other important chemicals only physical treatments were adopted. They were aeration, filtration followed by UV disinfection.

Two major limiting factors in the case of reuse wastewater were identified specific to this case study. (ie. Unfavorable odour experienced in collection sumps and contaminated with pathogenic micro organisms.) The proposed treatment can successfully solve these issues ensuring maximum reuse of important constituents in the effluent. More than this, it can reduce TSS up to 5 μ particle size, which is more beneficial in reuse for production process. The treated effluent is best for use in coloured products.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOD	:	Biological Oxygen Demand
COD	:	Chemical Oxygen Demand
DO	:	Dissolved Oxygen
TSS	:	Total Suspended Solids
VOC	:	Volatile organic chemicals
NTU	:	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
μ S	:	Micro siemens
UV	:	Ultra Violet
gpm	:	gallons per minutes
IDB	:	Industrial Development Board
ITI	:	Industrial Technology Institute
SLSI	:	Sri Lanka Standards Institute
MSDS	:	Material safety data sheets
MPN	:	Most probable number
LABSA	:	Linear alkyl benzene sulfonic acid
ABS	:	Alkyl benzene sulfonate
NPV	:	Net profit value
IRR	:	Initial rate of return
B/C	:	Benefit to cost ratio