

CONTENTS

1. Introduction to and Basic Parameters of Biological Activated Carbon Technology	1
Definitions	2
Basic Parameters of BAC Systems	3
Step No. 1—Chemical Oxidation, Oxygenation or Aeration	5
Step No. 2—Inert Media Filtration + Biological Oxidation	9
Step No. 3—Reaeration/Reoxygenation	12
Step No. 4—GAC Adsorption + Biological Oxidation ...	13
2. A Review of the Use of Granular Activated Carbon for the Treatment of Drinking Water, Municipal and Industrial Wastewater	19
Introduction	19
Granular Activated Carbon—Basic Principles	20
Selection of Activated Carbons	22
Operative Mechanisms During Water Treatment with GAC	25
Adsorption	25
Desorption	26
Filtration	29
Biological Activity	29
GAC Treatment Units and Associated Systems	30
Filter/Adsorber Applications of GAC	30
Post-Adsorber Applications of GAC	33
Biological Reactor Applications of GAC	37
GAC Regeneration Methods	37
GAC Applications in Drinking Water Treatment	40

Applications in France	41
Applications in Switzerland	44
Applications in the Federal Republic of Germany	45
Applications in the United Kingdom	45
Applications in the Netherlands	46
GAC Applications in Municipal Wastewater Treatment ...	47
GAC in Physical-Chemical Municipal Wastewater Treatment	47
GAC in Tertiary Municipal Wastewater Treatment	48
GAC Applications in Industrial Wastewater Treatment	52

Microbiological Parameters

3. Microbiological Aspects of Biological Activated Carbon ...	61
General Principles of Biological Activity	61
Metabolism	62
Chemical Reactions Involved with Metabolism	63
Conditions Necessary for Promotion of Aerobic Activity	65
Solubility of Oxygen in Water	65
Stoichiometry of Biochemical Oxidations	68
Dissolved Organic Carbon	68
Nitrification	70
Studies of Operational BAC Systems	72
4. European Microbiological Studies in Activated Carbon	
Filters and Adsorbers	89
Introduction	89
European Status as of 1973	89
Summary of European Studies in 1973	95
Current European Microbiological Studies	96
Research Studies at the KIWA	96
Research Studies at the University of Saarlands	110
Conclusions Regarding Microbiological Aspects of BAC Systems	138

Drinking Water Treatment with BAC

5. Biological Processes in the Treatment of Drinking Water	145
Evolution of Drinking Water Treatment Processes	145
Combinations of Physical, Chemical and Biological Processes	146
Objectives of Drinking Water Treatment	147
Removal of Organic Chemicals from Drinking Water Through Biological Treatment	153
Introduction	153
Contrasting Water Treatment Philosophies: USA & Western Europe	157
Treating a Dilute Water Stream	158
GAC Adsorption Preceded by Ozonation as an Organics Removal Technique	162
Biological Drinking Water Treatment Process Details	163
Biological Processes for Treating Groundwater	163
Storage of Surface Waters	170
Biological Sedimentation for Removal of Ammonia	171
Riverbank Filtration	174
Biologically Active Rapid Filtration Media	181
Biological Activated Carbon	182
Slow Sand Filtration	182
Ground Passage of Treated Water	189
Conclusions	189
6. BAC in Drinking Water Treatment—European Applications and Studies	197
Federal Republic of Germany	197
Düsseldorf	197
Wiesbaden	199
Switzerland	200
The Netherlands	203
Case Histories	206
Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany—Pilot Plant Studies and Operational Data	206
Pilot Plant Studies at Düsseldorf for Removing Chlorinated Organics and Determining Benefits of	

Biological Activity in GAC Adsorbers	214
Behavior of Düsseldorf Granular Activated Carbons with Respect to Removal of Organochlorine Materials	223
Bremen Pilot Plant Study	228
Mülheim, Federal Republic of Germany: Pilot Plant Study and Operational Data at the Dohne Plant	254
Rouen-la-Chapelle, France	262

European Plant Visitations

7. Aubergenville Plant (Suburbs of Paris, France)	271
Background	271
1961 Construction	271
1969 Additions	272
Detailed Plant Description	272
Biological Nitrification Systems	274
8. Choisy-le-Roi (Edmond Pepin Plant), Suburbs of Paris, France	275
Background	275
Original Process	275
Biological Removal of Ammonia	276
9. Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany	281
Background	281
River Sand Bank Filtration	282
Ozonation	282
Filtration and GAC Adsorption	283
Final Treatment Steps	284
GAC Regeneration	284
Plant Operational Data	285
10. Morsang-sur-Seine (Suburbs of Paris)	291
General Characteristics	291
Plant Operation	293
First Stage of the Star	293
Second Stage of the Star	294

Results of 15 Month Study Comparing Processes	
#1, #2 & #3	296
Organic Matter	296
Pilot Plant Studies Without Prechlorination	302
Full-Scale Plant Studies Without Prechlorination	302
Influence of Abandoning Prechlorination on Plant	
Operations and Performances	309
Algae Growth	309
Clarification	309
Ozonation	309
GAC Filtration/Adsorption	309
Final Disinfection with Chlorine	309
Effect on Trihalomethane Content	310
Effects on THM Formation Potential	310
Conclusions from This Study	311
Future Plans at Morsang	311
Biological Removal of Organic Materials by Granular Activated Carbon—Results of a Modeling Study at Morsang-sur-Seine	311
11 The Dohne Plant at Mülheim, Federal Republic of Germany	321
Background	321
The Dohne Treatment Process, 1970 to 1977	322
The Dohne Pilot Plant Program	324
Comparison of Treatment with & without Breakpoint Chlorination	324
GAC Adsorption versus Biological Activity	326
Chemical Balancing of Biological Activity	328
Bacterial Counts in the GAC Adsorber Effluents	332
Fluidized Bed Reactors for Ammonia Oxidation	334
The BAC Process as Installed, April 1977	335
Process Performance, April–July, 1977	341
Process Modifications, November, 1977	343
Performance of Modified BAC Plant Process	345
Sand Filter Operations	349
GAC Column Backwashing	350
Bacterial Testing	351
Future Plans at Mülheim	351
12. Rotterdam, The Netherlands—Kralingen Water Treatment Plant	355

Background	355
The Biesbosch Reservoirs	356
The Kralingen Treatment Plant	357
Water Quality	360
Trihalomethane Production and Removal by GAC	362
Biologically Enhanced GAC	365
GAC Regeneration Parameters	367
Colony Counts	367

BAC in Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment

13. Biologically Active Support Media in Municipal Wastewater Treatment	369
Processes Employing Preozonation Followed by GAC	369
Cleveland (Ohio) Westerly Plant	369
El Paso, Texas	374
Israel	377
Windhoek, South West Africa	381
Garland, Texas	383
Orange County (California) Water District (Water Factory 21)	384
South Lake Tahoe, Nevada	389
Processes Not Involving Preoxidation	390
Rocky River (Cleveland, Ohio)	390
Pomona, California	390
The OTV Process	391
Miscellaneous	392
Zürich, Switzerland	395
14. Treatment of Industrial Wastewaters with Biologically Active Support Media	401
/ Textile Wastewaters	402 /
C.H. Maslands & Sons, Wakefield, Rhode Island	404 /
Cone Mills Corporation, Greensboro, North Carolina ...	407 /
Kanebo Company, Nagahama, Japan	411 /
Others	413 /
Meat Packing Wastewater Treatment	413
Pulp & Paper Wastewaters	414
Naval Stores Wastewater Treatment	417
Petroleum Refinery Wastewaters	420

Operating & Maintenance Costs of GAC Systems	493
Costs for Replacement GAC	503
Costs for GAC Regeneration	505
Off-Site Regional GAC Regeneration—Handling and Transportation	505
On-Site GAC Regeneration	505
Summary of GAC Treatment Costs	514
Cost Savings with BAC Systems	516
A Hypothetical Case Example	518
Energy Considerations	519
Sensitivity Analysis and Inflation Effects	521
Effect of Operating Variables on GAC and BAC Treatment Costs	522
Cost Data from Operational European Drinking Water Treatment Plants Using BAC Systems	522
Costs of GAC in Europe	522
Overview of European Experience with GAC	526
Water Treatment Costs at the Dohne Plant, Mülheim, Federal Republic of Germany	527
Water Treatment Costs at the Düsseldorf Water Works, Federal Republic of Germany	532
Capital Costs and Financing at the Kralingen Water Treatment Plant, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	533
Cost Data from Municipal Wastewater Treatment— Stander Water Reuse Center, Pretoria, South Africa	537
Conclusions	538
Appendix. Discussion of Cost Assumptions and Indices for Updating Cost Estimates	539
Construction Costs	539
Operation and Maintenance Costs	541
Updating Costs to Time of Construction	541

Engineering Factors

17. Design and Operational Considerations for BAC Systems	547
Introduction	547
Feasibility Study	547
Initial Studies	549
Initial Screening Tests	549

Batch GAC Isotherm Tests	549
GAC Column Studies	550
Special Considerations for BAC Column Studies	551
GAC Regeneration Studies	556
Review of Impact of Initial Studies Program	556
Preliminary Design	557
Liquid Treatment System Process Flow Diagram	557
Liquid Treatment System Hydraulic Profile	557
Preliminary Adsorber Design	557
Preliminary Site Layout	558
Preliminary Design for GAC System Enhanced	
Microbial Activity	560
Preliminary Reactivation System Design	561
Process and Instrumentation Diagram	561
Review and Revision of Previous Reports	
and Studies	561
Detailed Design	562
Adsorber Design	562
Regeneration System Design	566
Associated Considerations	568
Construction	571
Operation and Maintenance	571
Taking BAC Units out of Service	572
Regeneration Cycles	573
Safety Considerations of GAC Adsorbers	573

Future Outlook for BAC Technology

18. Recent Developments, Summation, Research Needs	
and Future Outlook for BAC Technology	579
Recent Developments—In BAC Drinking Water	
Treatment	579
In Europe	579
In the United States	582
Recent Developments—In BAC Wastewater Treatment	586
In Europe	586
In the United States	589
Summation of the BAC Treatment Process	592
Potential Cost Benefits	592
Probable Mechanisms of Operation	593
Research Needs in BAC Technology	596

The AWWA Research and Technical Practice Committee on Organic Contaminants	596
Future Outlook for BAC Technology	597
Index	603