

The Metropolitan

*Water Reclamation District*

of Greater Chicago

**WELCOME  
TO THE NOVEMBER EDITION  
OF THE 2016  
M&R SEMINAR SERIES**

# BEFORE WE BEGIN

- **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**
  - PLEASE FOLLOW EXIT SIGN IN CASE OF EMERGENCY EVALUATION
  - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) LOCATED OUTSIDE
- **PLEASE SILENCE CELL PHONES OR SMART PHONES**
- **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WILL FOLLOW PRESENTATION**
- **PLEASE FILL EVALUATION FORM**
- **SEMINAR SLIDES WILL BE POSTED ON MWRD WEBSITE (www.MWRD.org: Home Page ⇒ Reports ⇒ M&R Data and Reports ⇒ M&R Seminar Series ⇒ 2016 Seminar Series)**
- **STREAM VIDEO WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MWRD WEBSITE (www.MWRD.org: Home Page ⇒ MWRDGC RSS Feeds)**

# Heather M. Phillips, P.E., BCEE

**Current:** Wastewater Operations Manager, City of Olathe, Kansas,

**Experience:** Ms. Phillips has 15 years of experience in the wastewater industry, 11 as a design engineer and 4 in operations with the City of Olathe, Kansas.  
At Olathe, she has managed the Industrial Pretreatment Program, the Fats, Oil & Grease program.

**Education:** B.S and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the Kansas State University

**Professional:** Professional Engineer registered in the State of Kansas  
Class IV operator in Kansas  
Board Certified Environmental Engineer by AAEES  
Member of Water Environment Federation

**Publication:** MOP 31, An Introduction to Process Modeling for Designers  
MOP 35, Biofilm Reactors  
MOP 8 , Design of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants  
The Nutrient Roadmap, WEF  
Numerous journal and conference papers

# Biological Phosphorus Removal at the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility

by Operations Staff &

Heather M. Phillips, P.E., BCEE  
Wastewater Operations Manager

#OlatheProud





CANADA

Lake Itasca

Yellowstone

Snake

Missouri

Minneapolis

ROCKY MTS.

Platte

Omaha

Colorado

UNITED STATES

Illinois

Ohio

APPALACHIAN MTS.

St. Louis

Cumberland

Memphis

Mississippi

New Orleans

Gulf of Mexico

**Kansas**

Colby

Hays

Salina

Manhattan

Kansas

Topeka City (Kansas)

Leavenworth

Kansas City (Missouri)

Great Bend

Hutchinson

Wichita

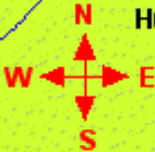
Emporia

Neosho

Flint Hills

Pittsburg

Dodge City



Mt. Sunflower (4,039 ft)

Arkansas River

Republican River

Missouri River

Atchison

Kansas River

Missouri

Missouri

Missouri

- Key**
- ★ State Capital
  - City
  - - - State boundary

100 miles

MEXICO

# Olathe, Kansas

“Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Service”

City Population – 129,241

428 Miles of Sanitary Sewers

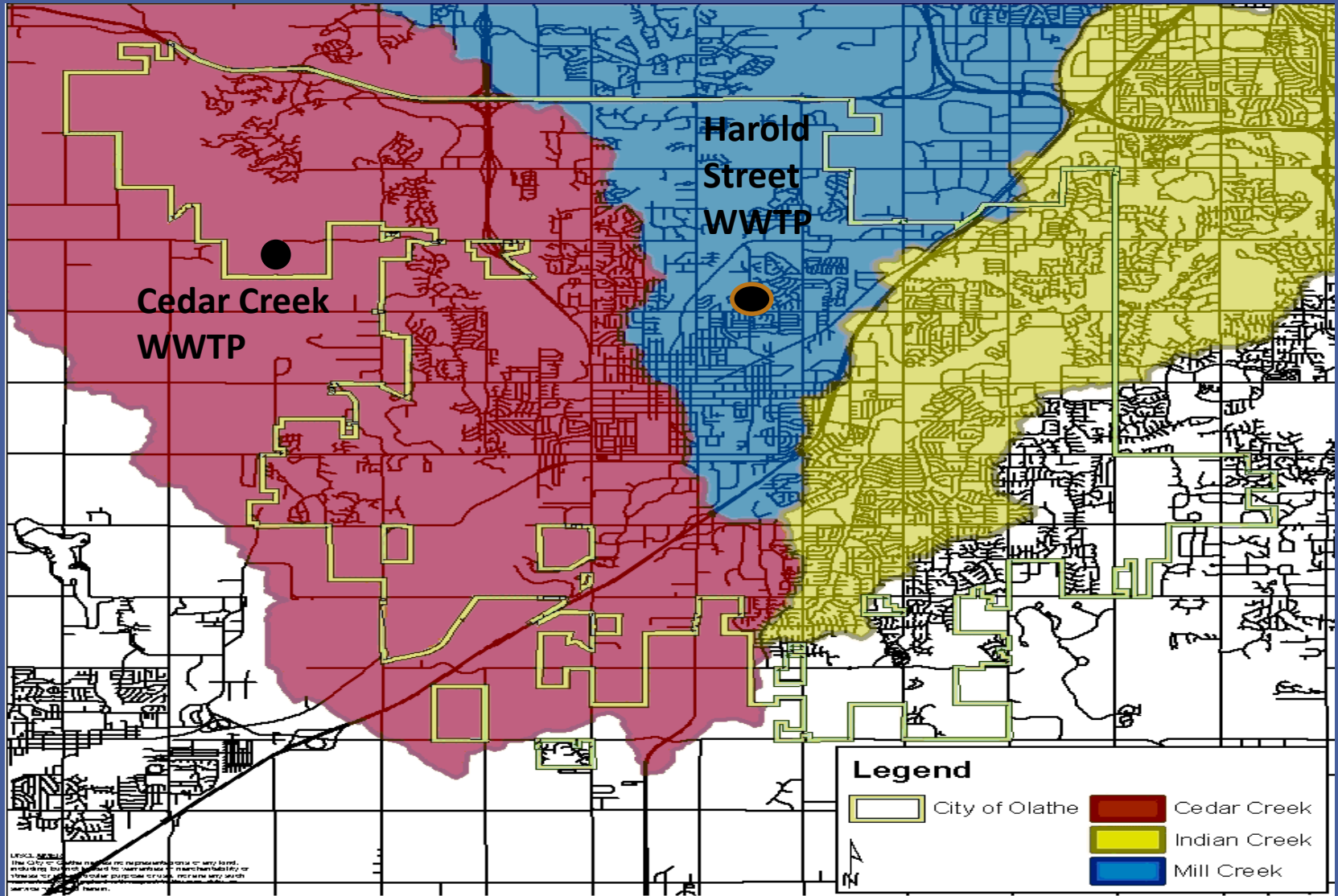
2 Wastewater Treatment Facilities & one non-discharging lagoon

Some parts of City served by Johnson County Wastewater





# Wastewater Basins







# Cedar Creek WWTF Facility Plan

- 2 Oxidation Ditches
- 3 Clarifiers
- 1 Gravity Thickener
- 1 Centrifuge

Digesters, Tertiary Filters, Heat Drying?



2 Trains  
5-Stage BNR with  
MLSS Fermenters



Primary Clarifiers



Primary Sludge Fermenters



Extraneous Flow Basin

- Phase 1 Improvements – 2010
- Phase 2 Improvements ~ 2023
- Phase 3 Improvements ~ 2030
- Phase 4 Improvements ~ 2033

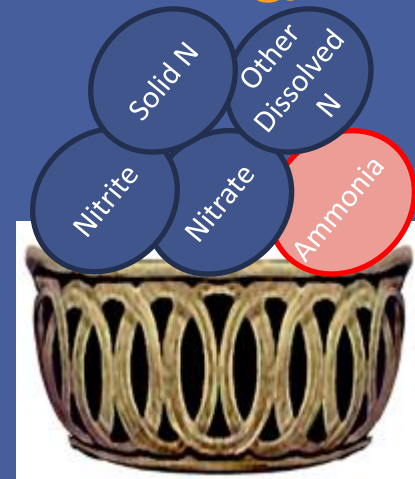
# BNR Permit Limits

Monthly ammonia limits (varies 1.4 – 4.8 mg/L)

**8.0 mg/L Total Nitrogen**

1.5 mg/L Total Phosphorus  
(both annual average)

**TOTAL NITROGEN**  
**< 8 mg/L**









# WASTEWATER PLANT HE, KANSAS



#OlatheProud

EPA National Biosolids Award 2006

NACWA Peak Performance 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001....



# Preliminary Treatment

1

## INFLUENT PUMP STATION



2

## PRELIMINARY TREATMENT



### Screens

*Remove large debris.*



### Vortex grit basins

*Remove sand and abrasive material.*

# Throttling Gate to Avoid Cascades



Throttling gate at the aeration basin influent will back this water level up in the headworks to avoid cascade aeration (and destruction of carbon substrate)

# Biological Treatment

3

## BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT



### Aeration Basins

*Remove organic pollution and nutrients.*



### Clarifiers

*Remove solids.*



# Submerged Baffle Walls



Fermenter Effluent

Prevent short-circuiting and allow scum to pass.

(photos taken 10 days before startup, with clean water)



First Oxidation Zone Influent



First Anoxic Zones



De-Oxidation Zone

Oxidation Zone



# Fermenter to Generate our own Carbon Source

Overflow gate to anaerobic zone

(wet weather step feed)

Coated walls to protect concrete from low pH

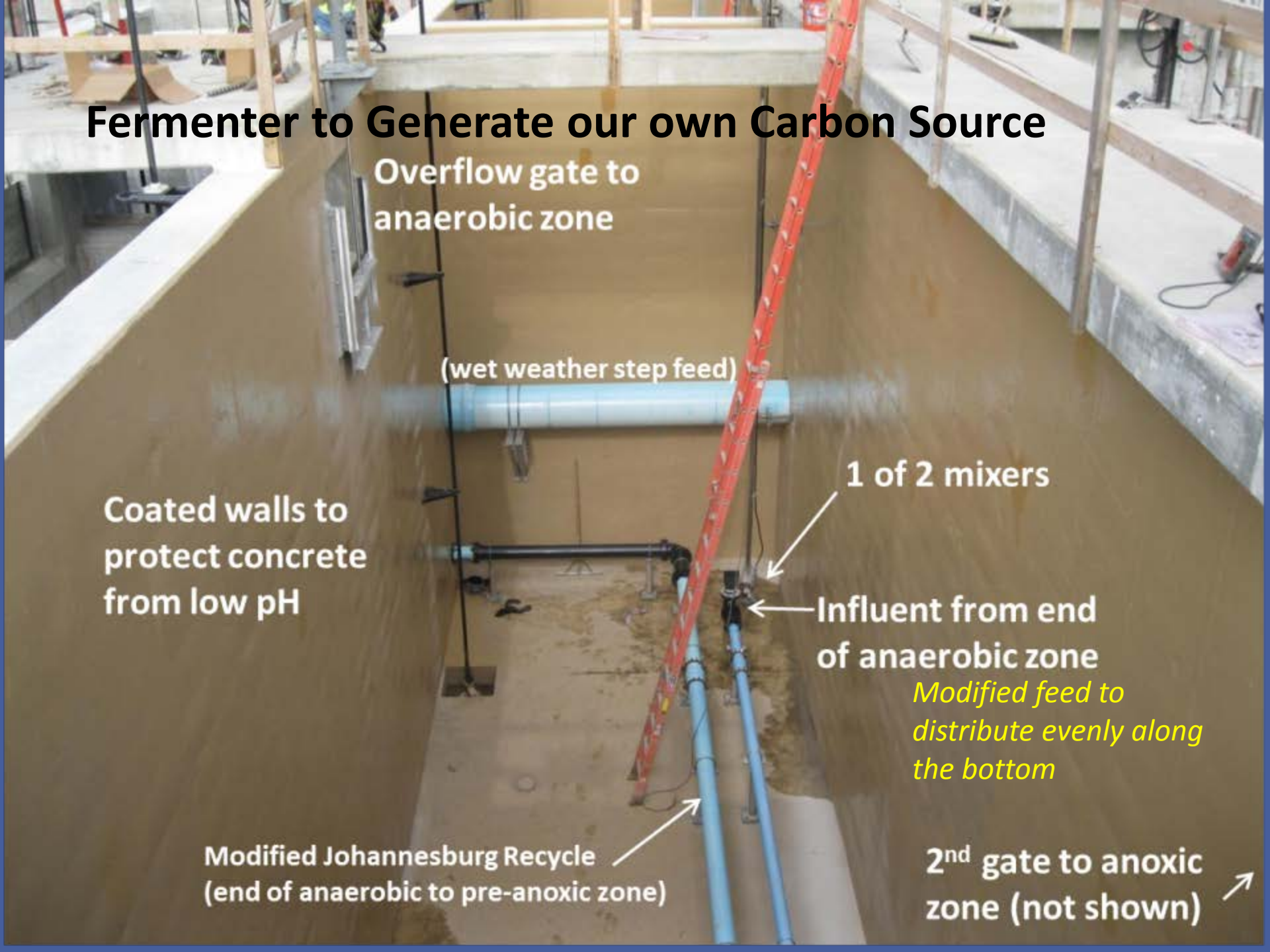
1 of 2 mixers

Influent from end of anaerobic zone

*Modified feed to distribute evenly along the bottom*

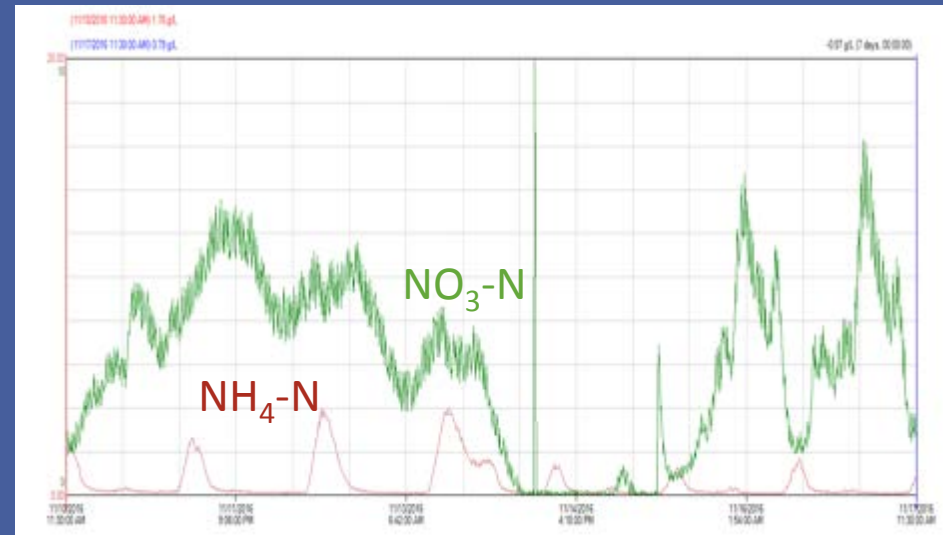
Modified Johannesburg Recycle (end of anaerobic to pre-anoxic zone)

2<sup>nd</sup> gate to anoxic zone (not shown)



# Online Instruments

- Ammonia
  - End of First Oxidation
  - End of Second Oxidation
- Nitrate
  - End of First Anoxic
  - End of Second Anoxic
- Phosphate
  - End of Anaerobic
  - Final Clarifier Effluent
- MLSS
- Dissolved Oxygen
- ORP



*Our I&C Department has full-time maintenance techs and SCADA programmers.*

# Disinfection & Re-aeration

4

## DISINFECTION



Ultraviolet Lamps  
*Sterilize pathogens.*

## REAERATION



Diffusers  
*Add air.*





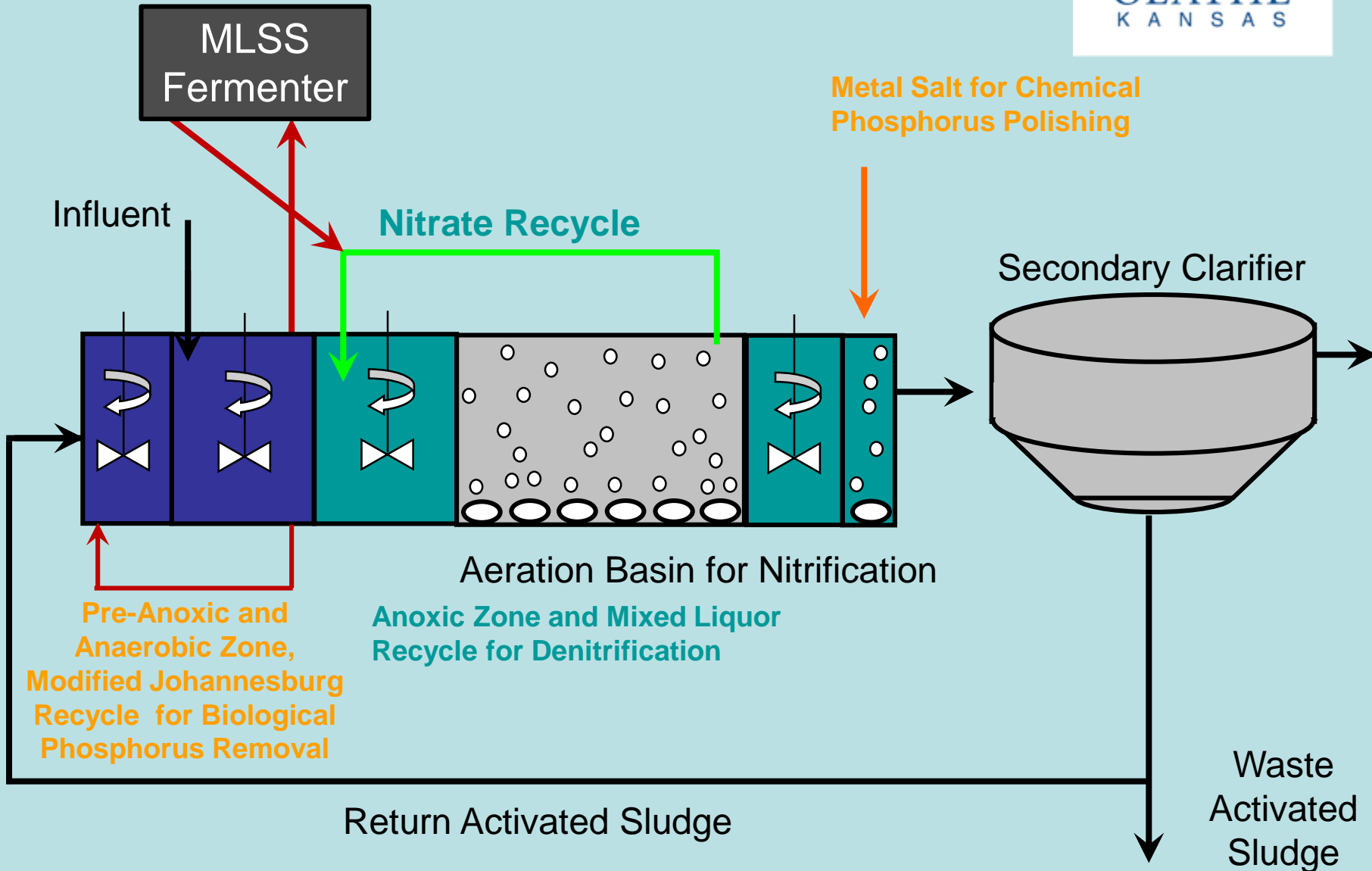




**#OlatheProud**  
to compost and  
reuse our biosolids  
from the Harold  
Street Facility.



# CEDAR CREEK PROCESS





# Name 6 things that kill BNR...

0

**Over Wasting**

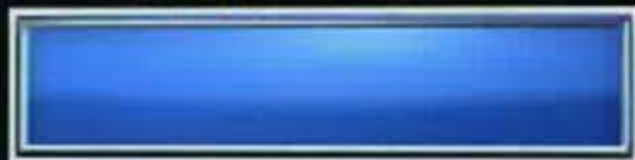
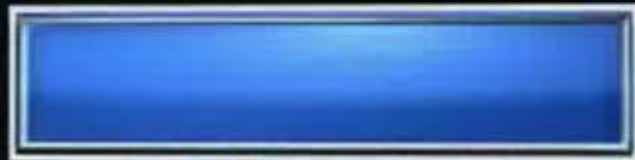
**Illicit Discharges**

**Over Aeration**

**Dial Turners**

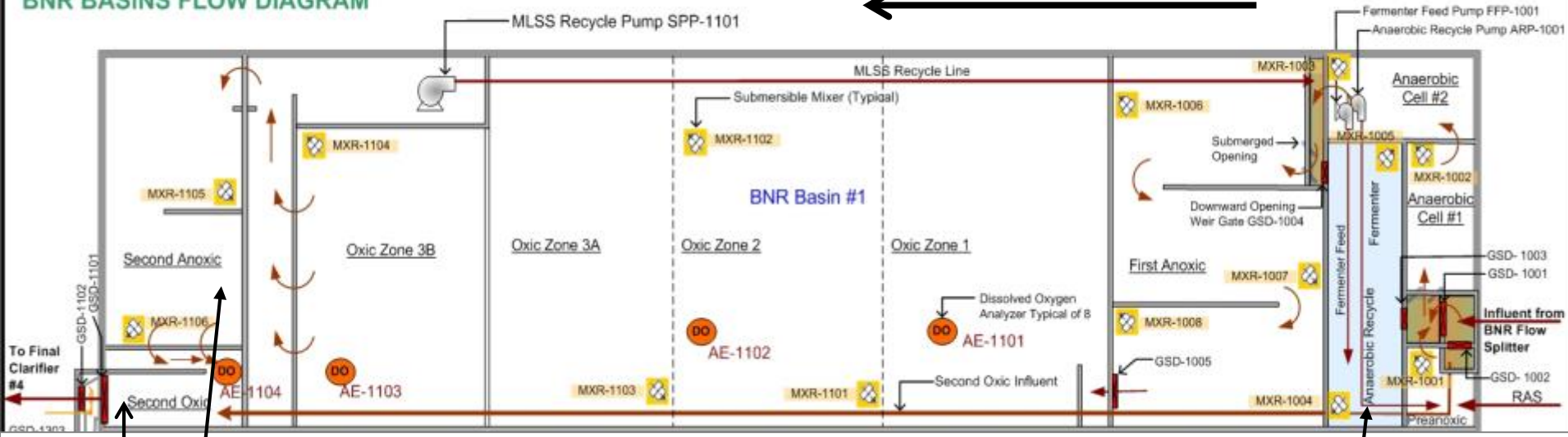
**Low BOD**

**Wet Weather**



**CITY OF OF OLATHE, KS  
CEDAR CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
BNR BASINS FLOW DIAGRAM**

Flow ←



**Second Anoxic Zone**  
 DO = 0 mg/L  
 ORP: -100 to 0 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N < 5 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 1 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P < 1 mg/L

**Oxic Zones 3a and 3b**  
 DO = 1.5 mg/L  
 ORP > 100 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N > 5 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 1 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P < 1 mg/L

**Oxic Zone 2**  
 DO = 2 mg/L  
 ORP > 100 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N > 5 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 2 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P < 2 mg/L

**Oxic Zone 1**  
 DO = 2 mg/L  
 ORP > 100 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N > 2 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 5 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P < 5 mg/L

**First Anoxic Zone**  
 DO = 0 mg/L  
 ORP: -100 to 0 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N < 2 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 5 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P > 5 mg/L

**Anaerobic Zone**  
 DO = 0 mg/L  
 ORP < -200 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N = 0 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 15 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P > 15 mg/L

**Second Oxidic Zone**  
 DO = 2 mg/L  
 ORP > 100 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N < 5 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N < 1 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P < 1 mg/L

**Secondary Effluent Limits:**  
 TN < 8 mg/L  
 TP < 1.5 mg/L

**Fermenter**  
 DO = 0 mg/L  
 ORP < -200 mV  
 NO<sub>3</sub>N = 0 mg/L  
 NH<sub>3</sub>N > 5 mg/L  
 PO<sub>4</sub>P > 15 mg/L  
 sCOD > 200 mg/L



# Phosphorus Accumulating Organisms

## Anaerobic Conditions:

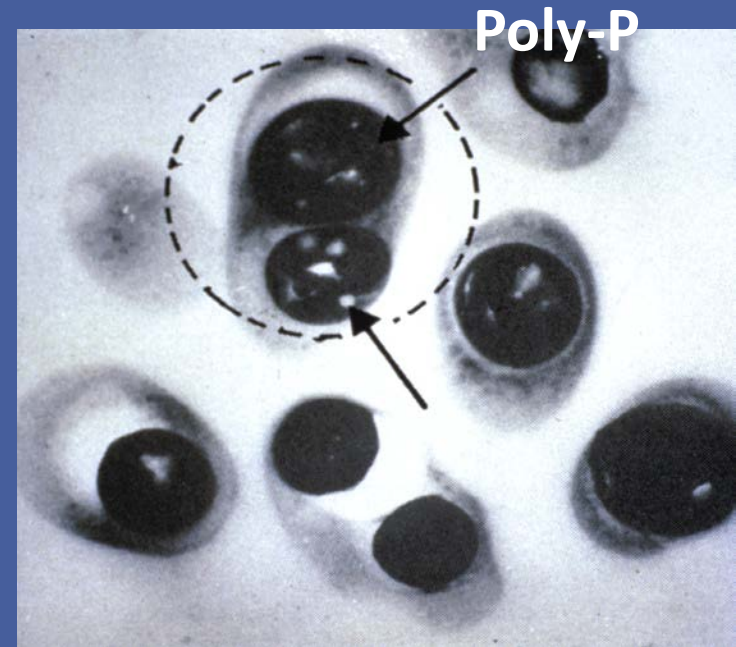
- VFA must be present.
- Phosphate is released.
- PAOs survive by storing PHB.

## Aerobic Conditions:

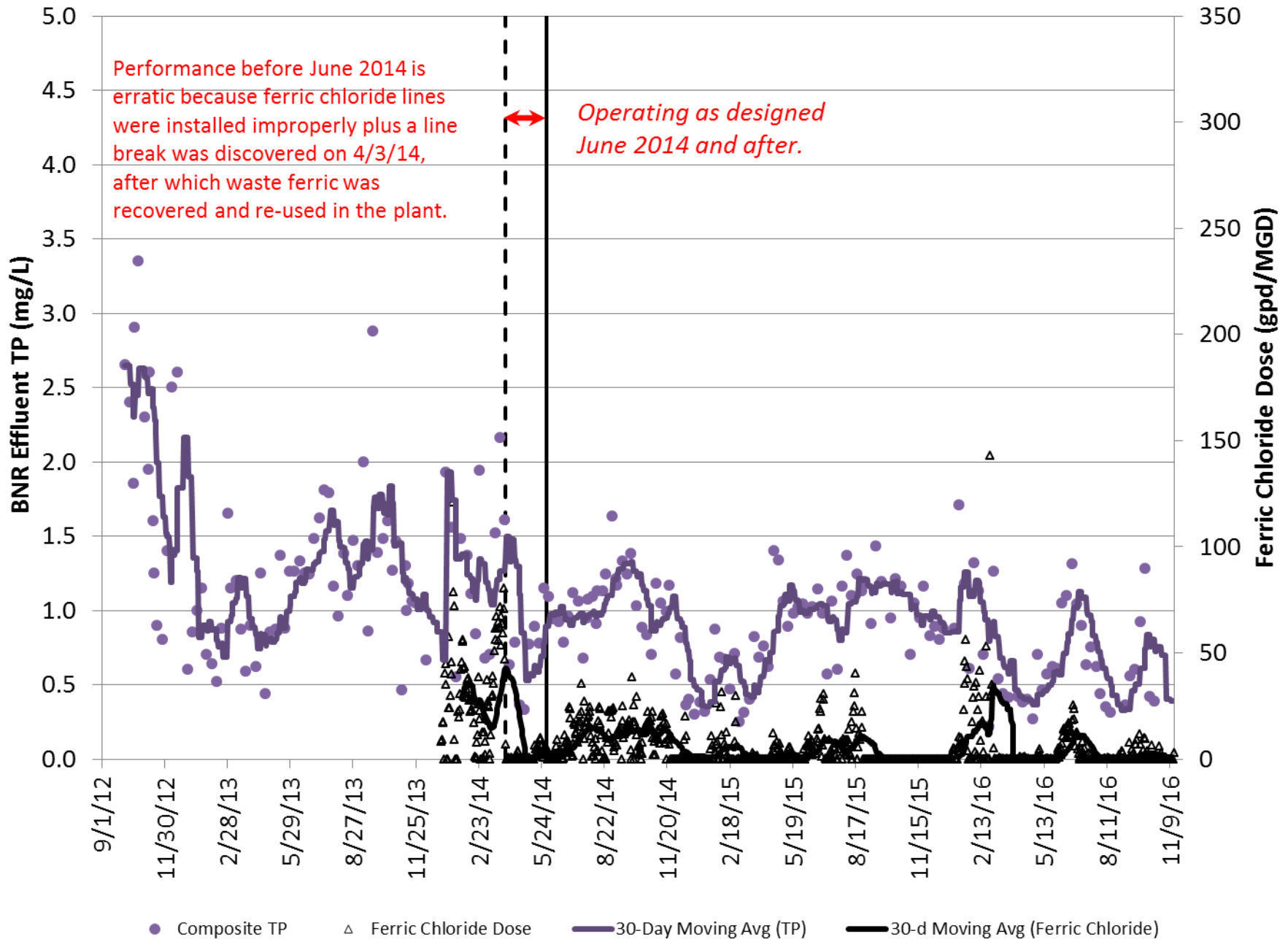
- Luxury phosphorus uptake.

PHB

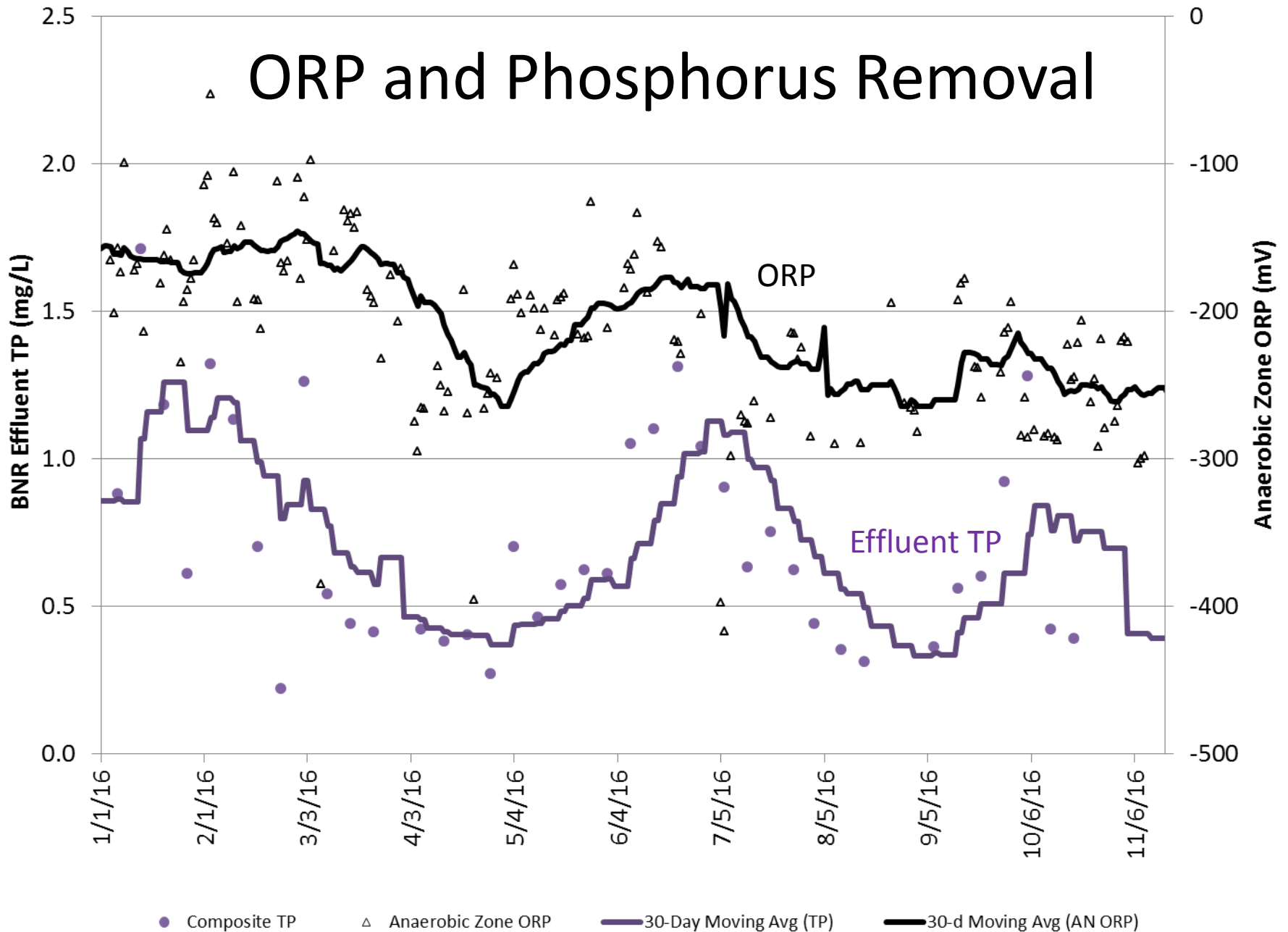
Poly-P



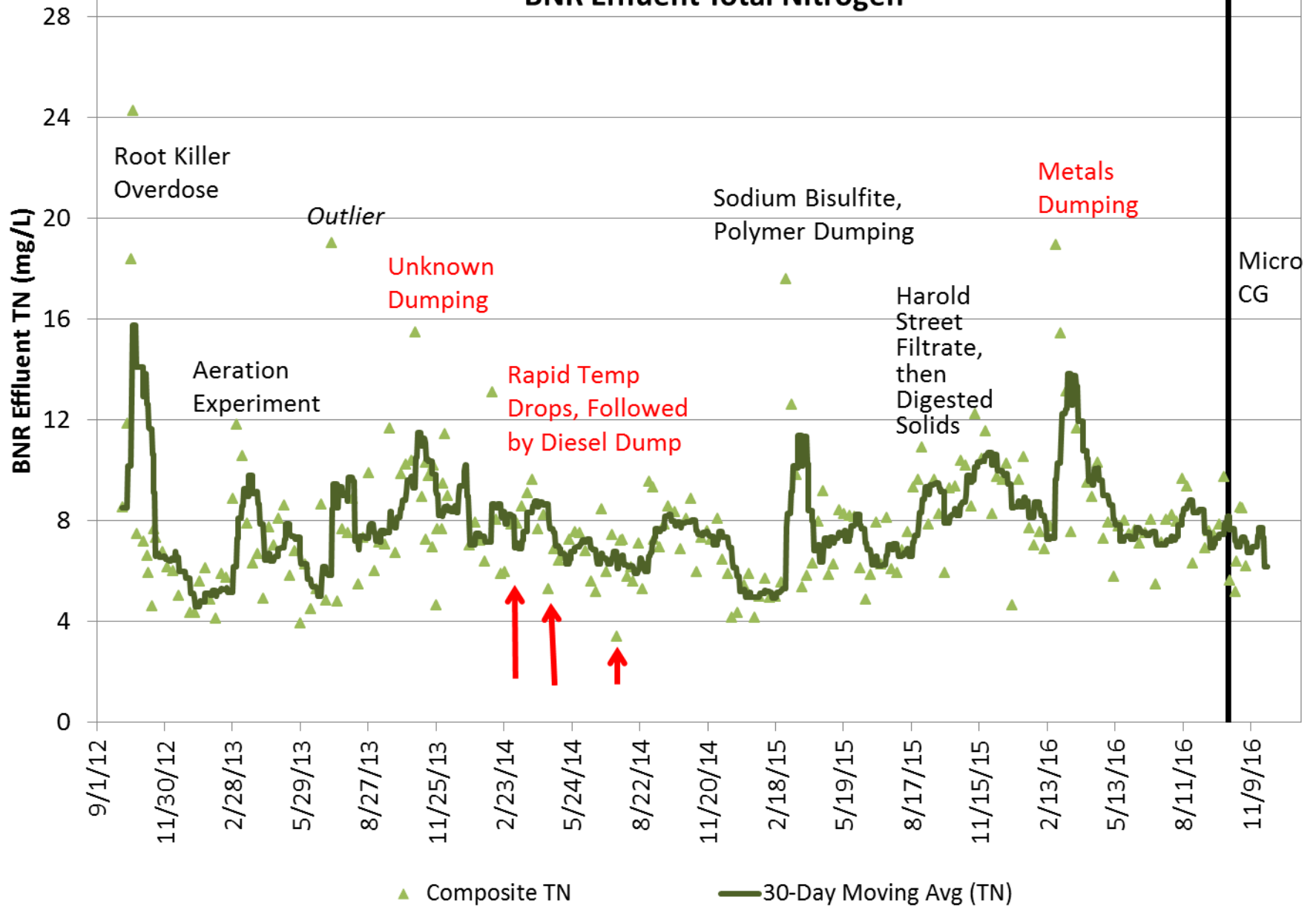
Slide credit: Dr. James Barnard, Black & Veatch  
Mechanism: Fuchs & Chen 1975



# ORP and Phosphorus Removal



# BNR Effluent Total Nitrogen







Weekend operator smelled something in the entire plant, and nitrification was lost by Monday.

Exactly 3 months later, operators smelled the same odor, quickly diverted flow, and saved the process.

Exactly 2 months later, it happened again.




Alarm Screen

CEDAR LAKE  
7.86 pH  
9.50 pH SP



**CEDAR LAKE**



CEDAR LAKE PLC  
14 9 54

CEDAR LAKE RADIO STATUS IS  
RADIO LINK OK

CEDAR LAKE E STOP STAU S IS  
E STOP ENABLED

DEFFENBAUGH RUN STAU S IS  
RUN ENABLED

CEDAR LAKE FLOW TOTALIZER  
0 X 1000

CEDAR LAKE FLOW  
0 GPM

PUMP 1 PUMP 2 PUMP 3

Previous Screen

Close Window

Plant Over

pH Meters in Lift Stations will Call Out as Early Warning





pH Loggers – Deploy in Manholes Outside Industries

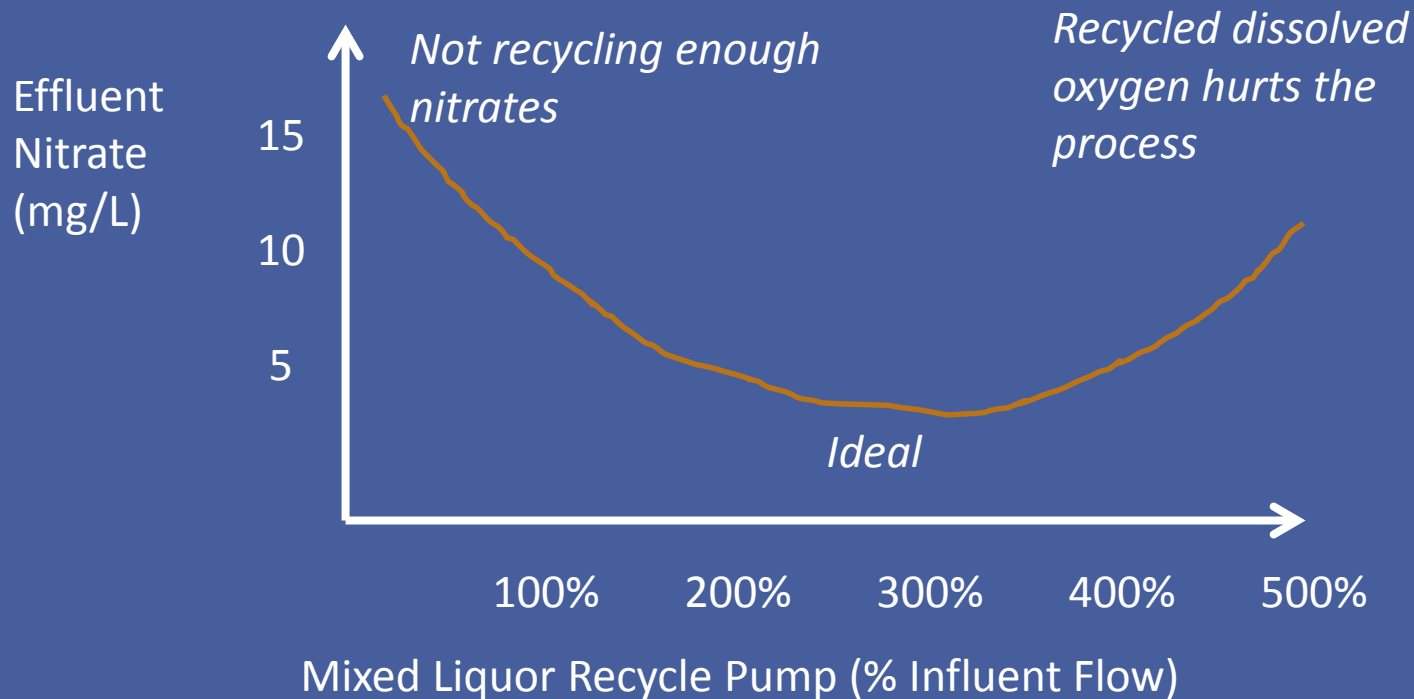
# Denitrification



The solution to pollution is...

# Mixed Liquor Recycle

- Recycles nitrates
- Also recycles dissolved oxygen





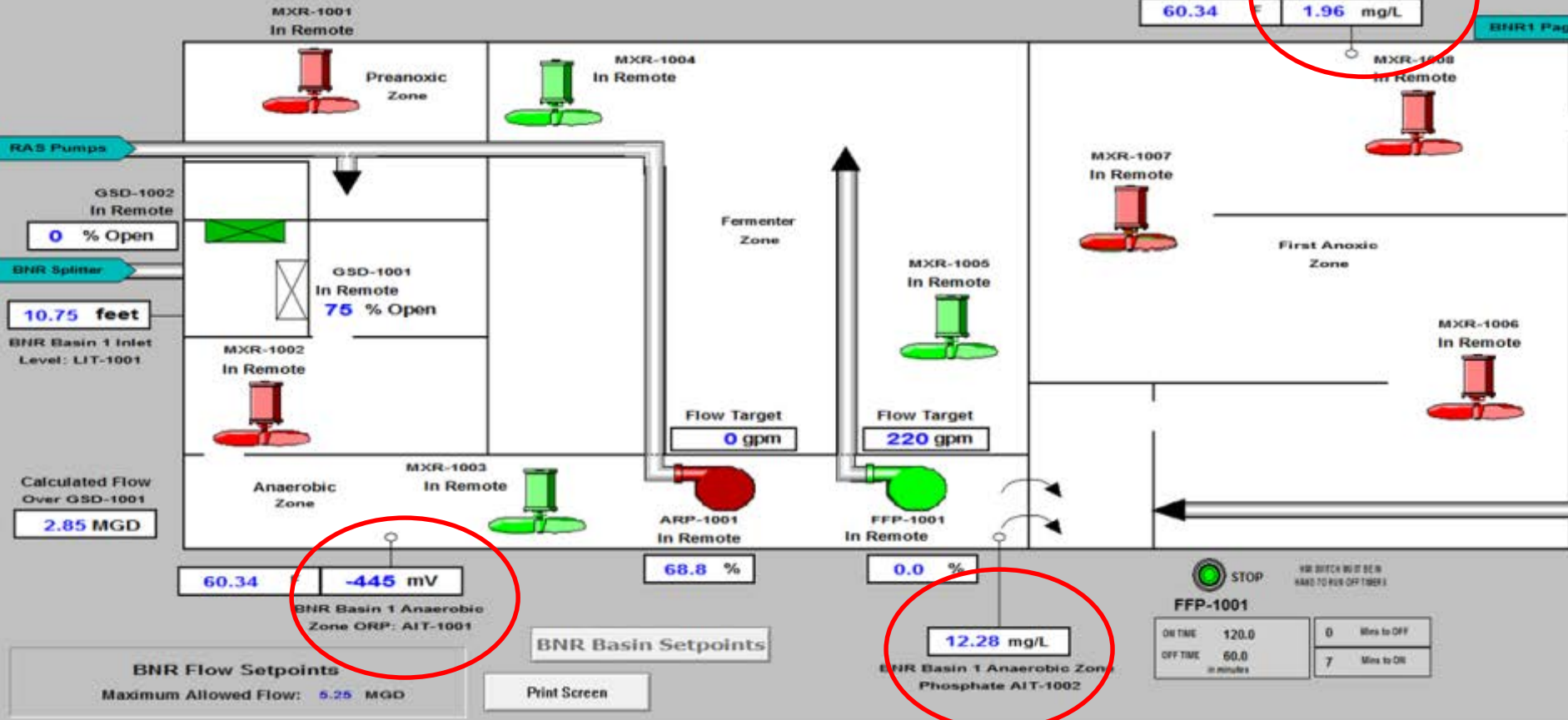
# Alarms

# BNR Basin No. 1

# Main Menu

Some nitrates left, so recycle set correctly.

BNR Basin 1  
First Anoxic Zone  
Nitrate AIT-1003  
60.34 1.96 mg/L



Good anaerobic conditions.

Good phosphorus release.

# Membrane Diffusers – can turn off



# Alarms

## BNR Basin No. 1

Zone 3B Ammonia AIT-1106

57.45 F 0.72 mg/L

Zone 1 MLSS AIT-1105

1935 mg/L

# Main Menu

BNR1 Page 1

FeCl

Zone 2 D.O. AIT-1104

1.50 mg/L

Zone 2 Ammonia AIT-1108

0.08 mg/L

Clarifier 4

Low DO recycled.

Complete nitrification

MicroCG working

BNR Basin 1 Second Anoxic Zone Nitrate AIT-1107

1.52 mg/L

Print Screen

MLSS Recycle

D.O.: AIT-1101  
2.84 mg/L

D.O.: AIT-1102  
2.73 mg/L

90.0 %  
SPP-1101 In Remote

VBI-1101 In Remote  
D.O. Control Oxid Zone 1  
Air Flow FIT-1101  
370 scfm  
418 sp

VBI-1102 In Remote  
D.O. Control Oxid Zone 2  
Air Flow FIT-1102  
499 scfm  
548 sp

VBI-1103 In Remote  
D.O. Control Oxid Zone 3A  
Air Flow FIT-1103  
95 scfm  
136 sp

VBI-1104 In Remote  
D.O. Control Oxid Zone 3B  
Air Flow FIT-1104  
111 scfm  
136 sp

VBI-1105 In Remote  
D.O. Control Second Oxid Zone  
Air Flow FIT-1105  
21 scfm  
14 sp

Aeration Setpoints

BNR Basin Setpoints

Aeration Header Pressure PIT-1404  
8.56 psig

Blowers



# Alarms

# Ferric Chloride

## FeCl to Influent Manhole

Hydrogen Sulfide Cono.: 1.0 mg/L

Influent Flow Averaging: 10 min.

Instantaneous: 2.84 MGD

Averaged: 3.25 MGD

<sub>2</sub> H S Removal Ratio: 3.5

FeCl Unit Conversion: 1.01

Calc. FeCl Feed Rate: 2.53 gph

### Duty Pump

PDM-2201 PDM-2202

Stroke Length Setpoint: 25 %

## FeCl to BNR Basin 1

Effluent Phosphorous Concentration

Auto (AIT-1501): 0.06 mg/L

Manual: 1.00 mg/L

Target Effluent Phosphorous Concentration: 1.00 mg/L

BNR Flow Averaging: 15 min.

Instantaneous: 1.19 MGD

Averaged: 2.53 MGD

Mole Ratio: 8.00

FeCl Unit Conversion: 1.82

Calc. FeCl Feed Rate: 0.00 gph

Stroke Length Setpoint: 60 %



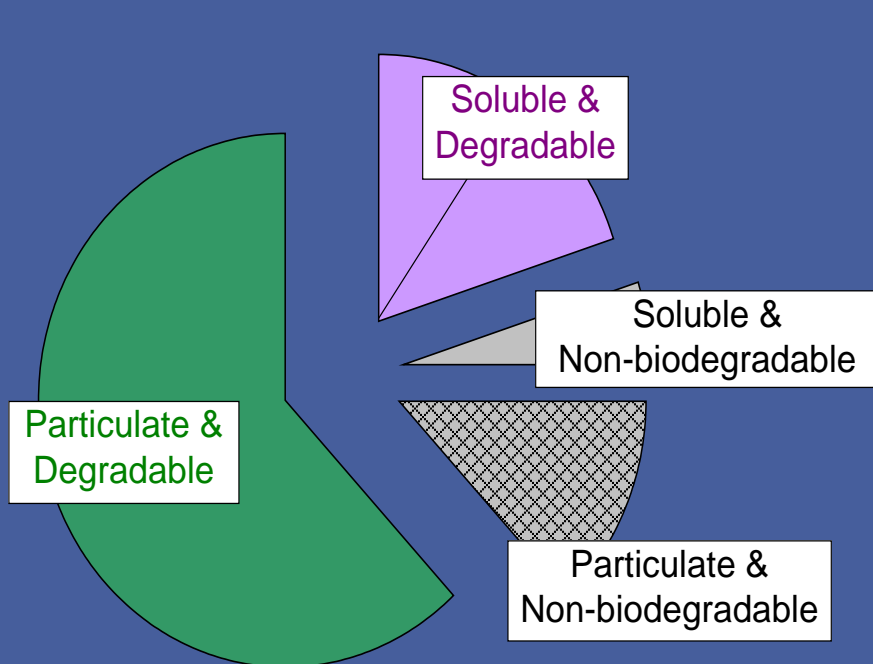
Limit of Technology



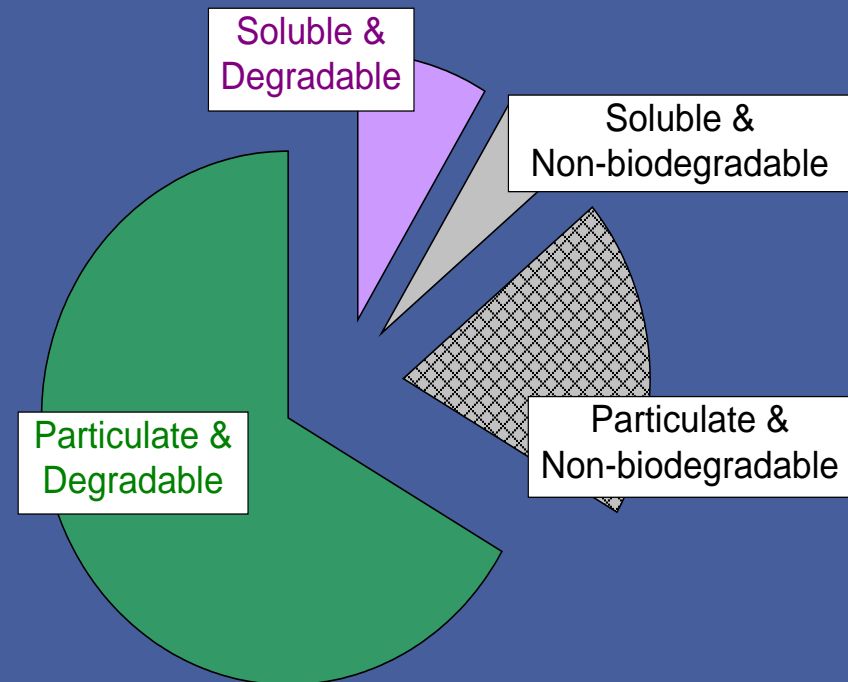
Ferric OFF

# Why a Fermenter?

BNR will work.



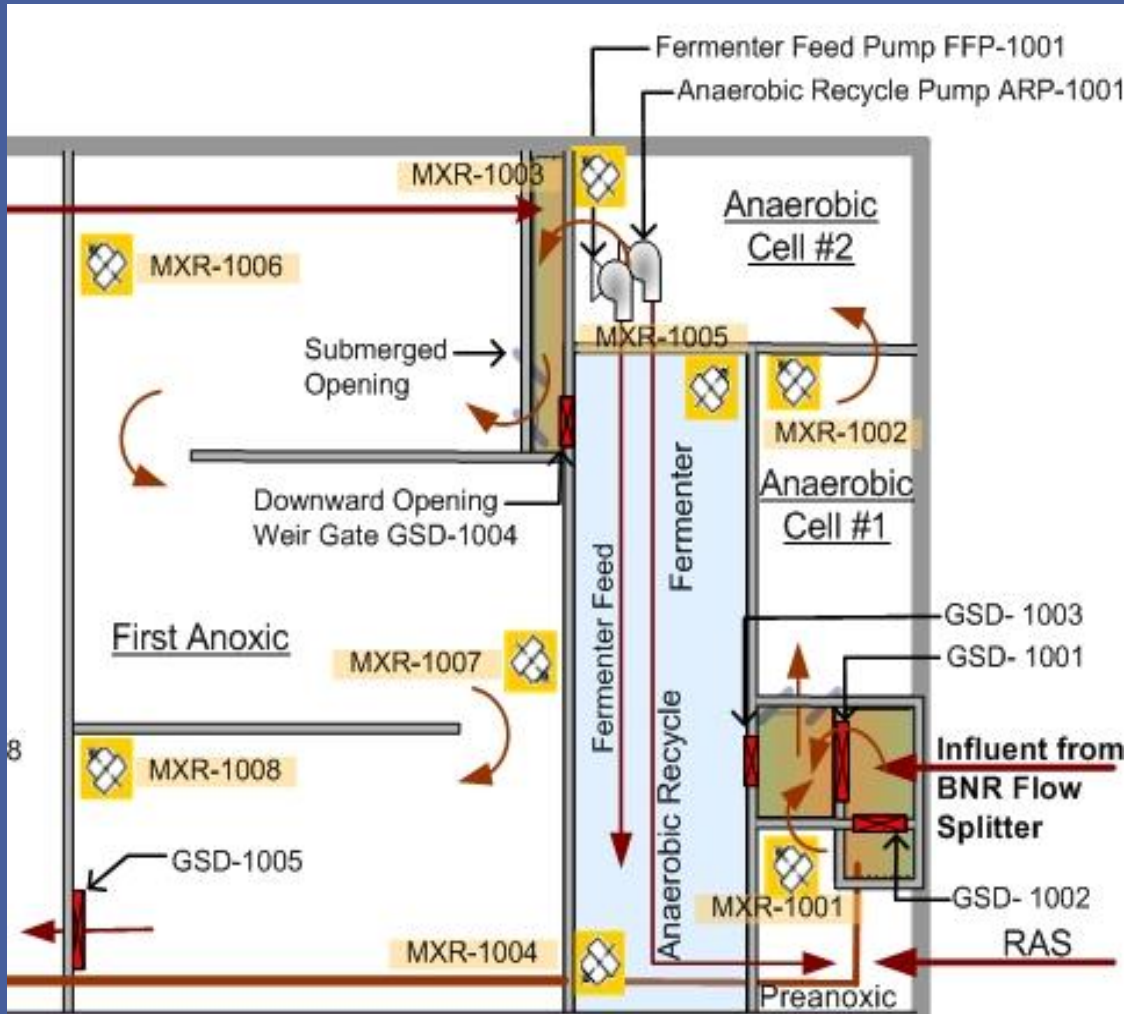
BNR will not work. Chemicals or a fermenter required.



## Wastewater Chemical Oxygen Demand

Methods for Wastewater Characterization in Activated Sludge Modeling (Melcer *et al.*, 2003)

# Fermenter Flow Path



- Pump into Fermenter (from end of AN zone)
- Intermittent mixing
- Overflow out of Fermenter
  - To AN Zone
  - Or AX Zone



# Fermenter

Overflow gate to anaerobic zone

(wet weather step feed)

Coated walls to protect concrete from low pH

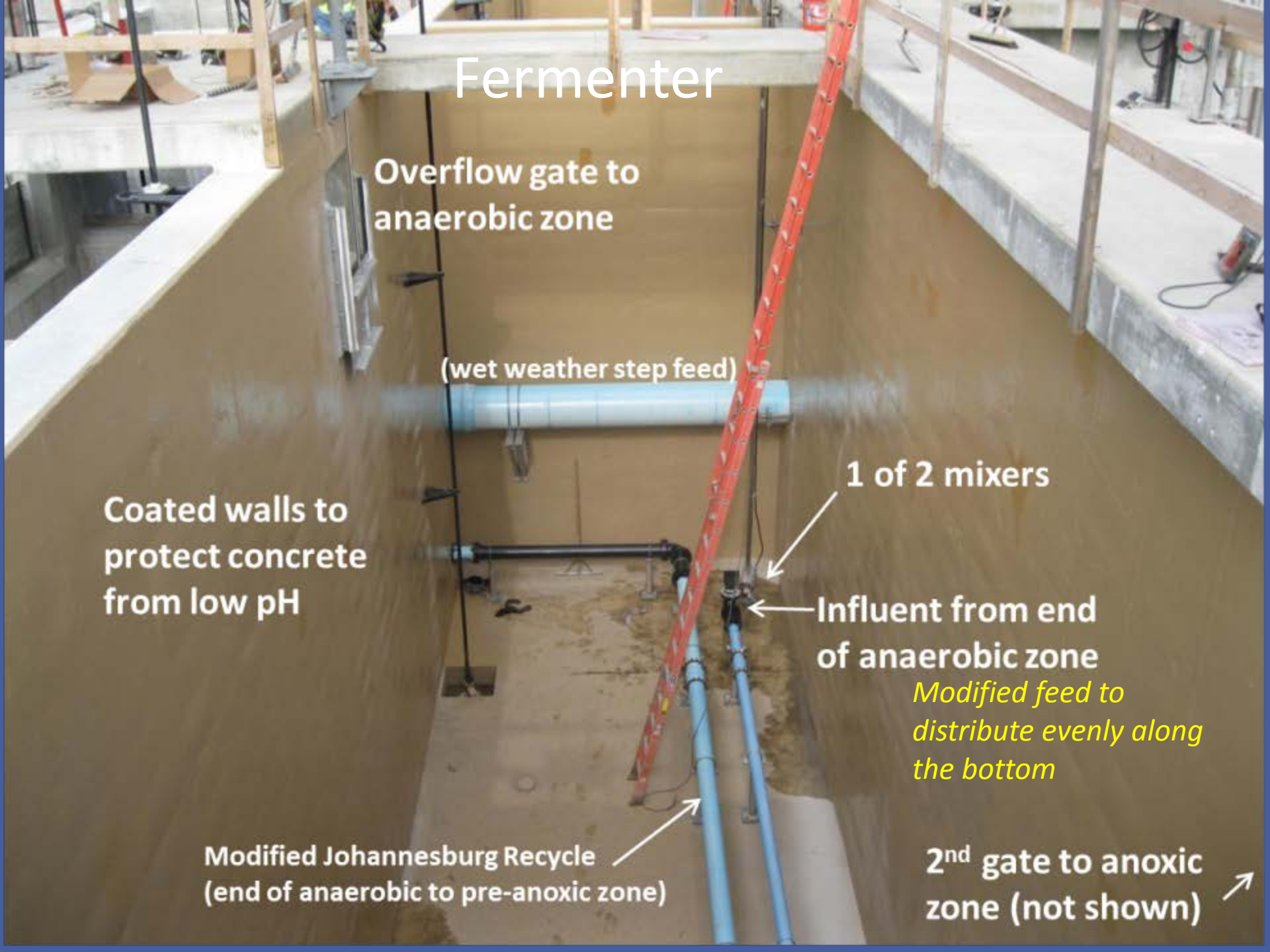
1 of 2 mixers

Influent from end of anaerobic zone

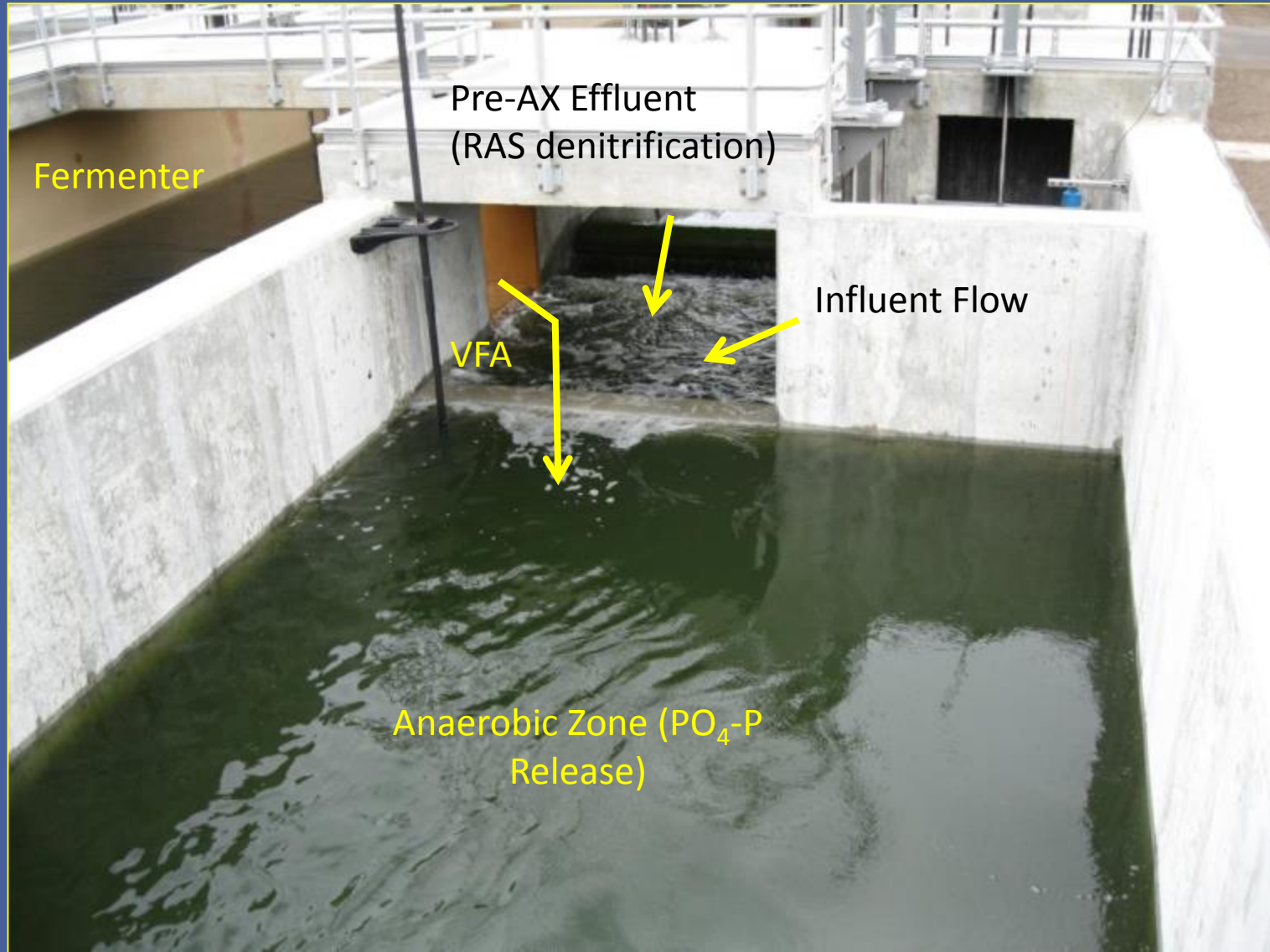
*Modified feed to distribute evenly along the bottom*

Modified Johannesburg Recycle (end of anaerobic to pre-anoxic zone)

2<sup>nd</sup> gate to anoxic zone (not shown)



# BNR Influent



# Fermenter Operations

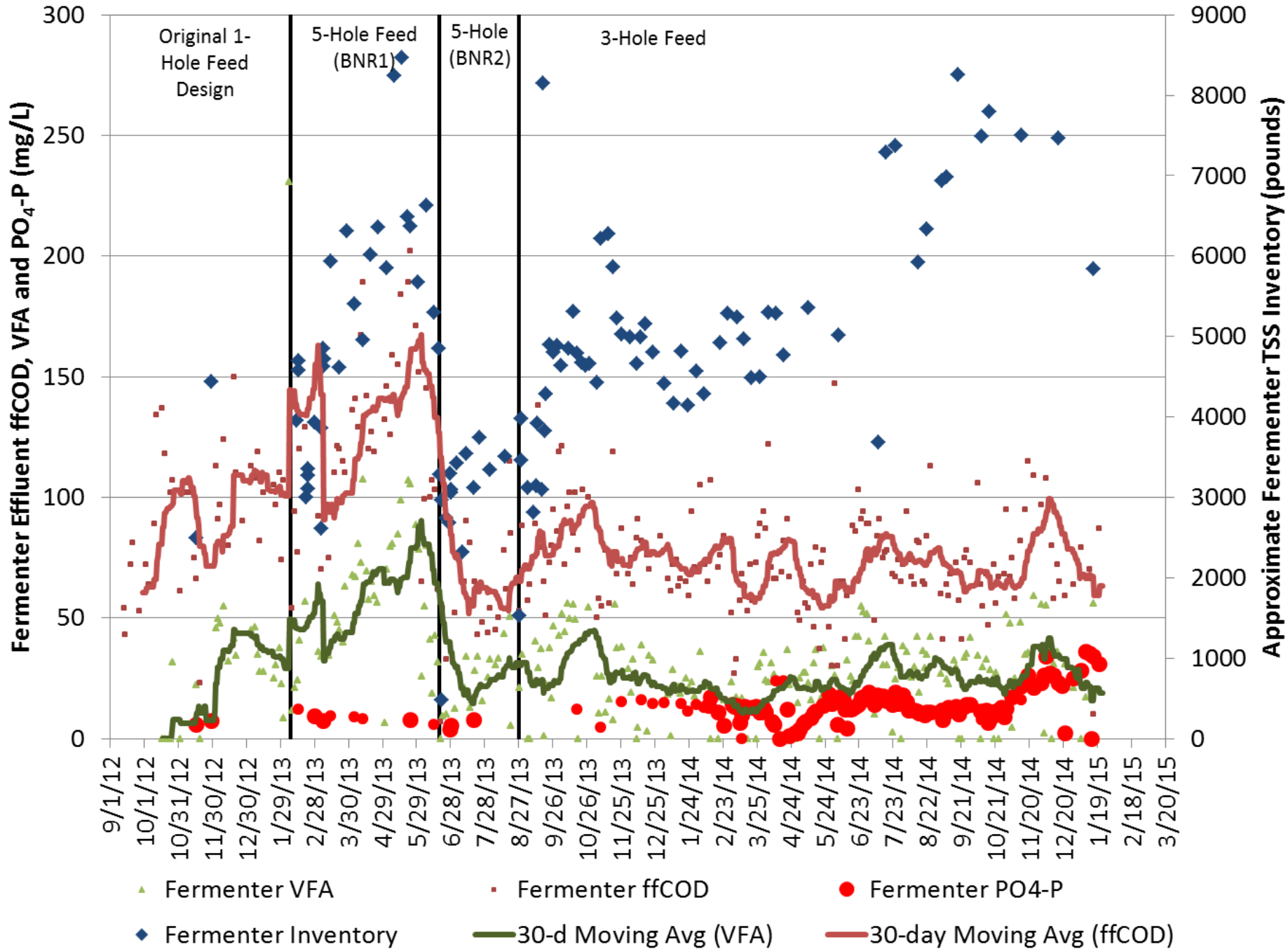
- Feed Pump
  - On 2 hours, off 1 hour to prevent washout.
  - Average HRT Approximately 14 hours.
- Mixers
  - On 2 times per day for 1 min.
  - 2 mixers offset by about 1 hour.
- TSS Inventory (Manual Grab Samples)
  - Top, Middle, Bottom – both sides.
  - Feed, Effluent.
  - Target 2 to 5 days SRT but control is difficult.



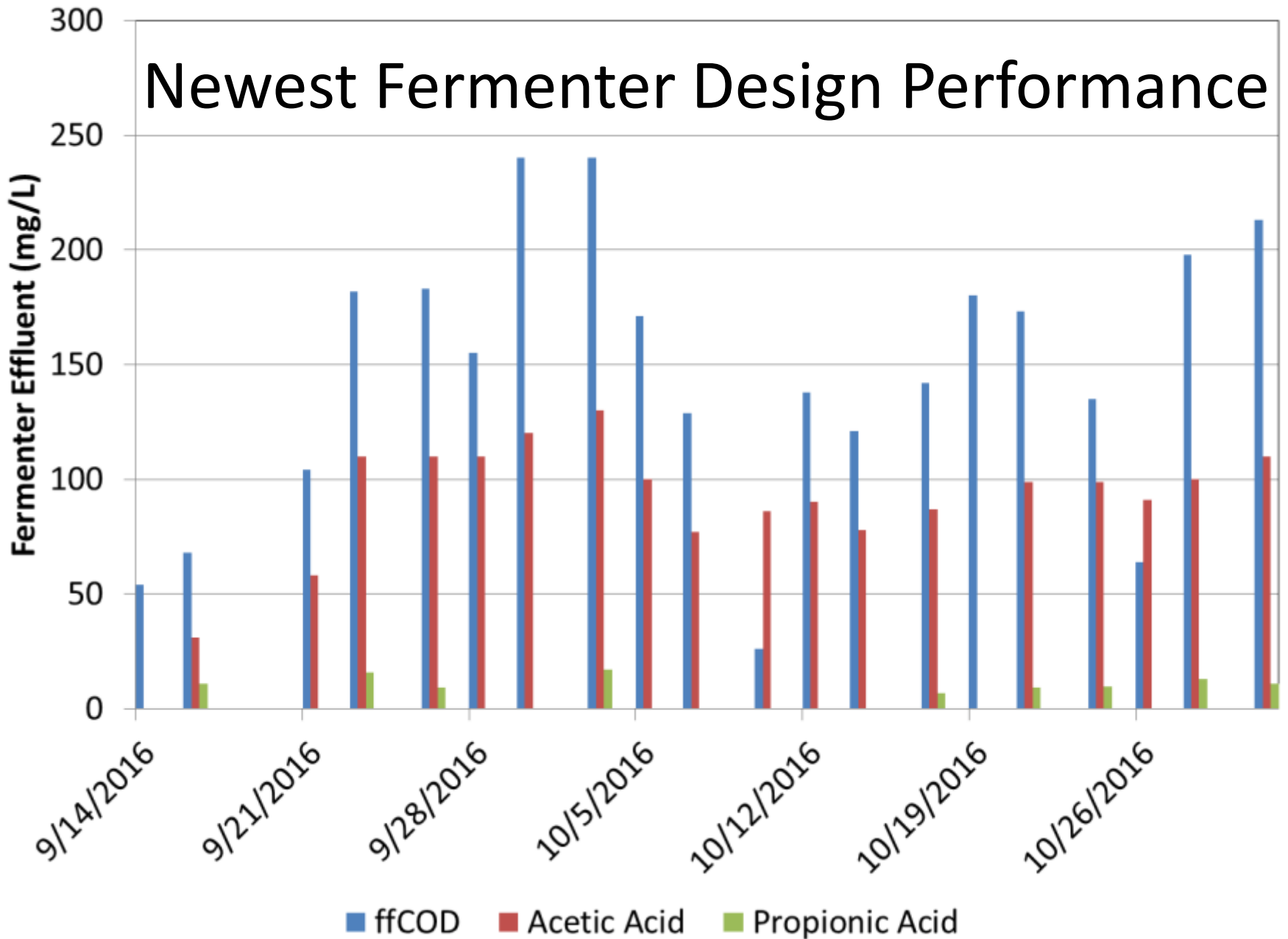
# Fermenter Sampling

- ORP (manual) – 5x per week
- Fermenter effluent grab – 3 x per week
  - ffCOD, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid
  - $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$
- Solids profiling – 2x per week
- pH profiling – 2x per week
- Microscope as needed
- Batch testing as necessary





# Newest Fermenter Design Performance

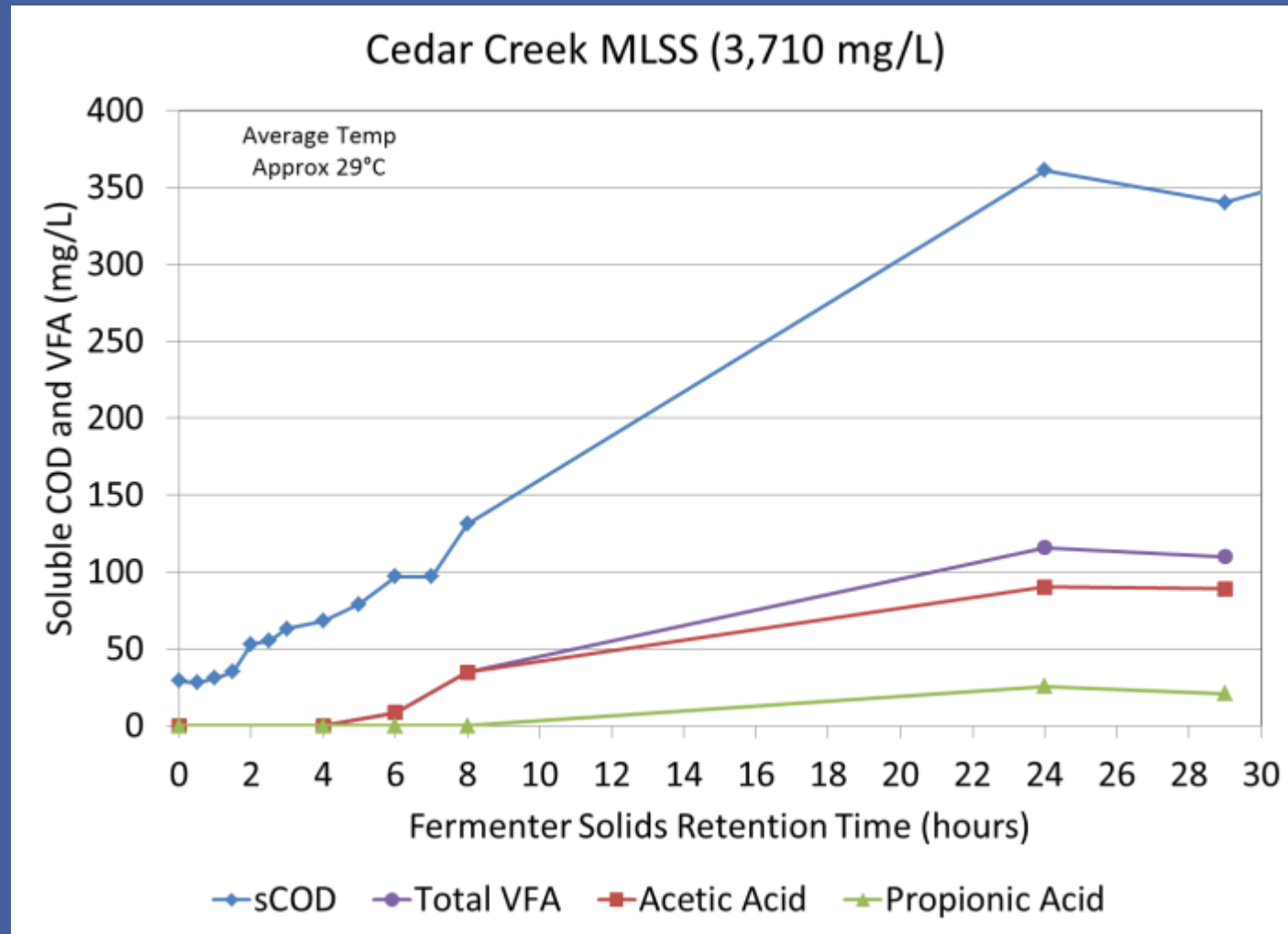




# Batch Fermentation Tests

Summer 29°C  
TSS = 3710 mg/L  
after 24 hours,

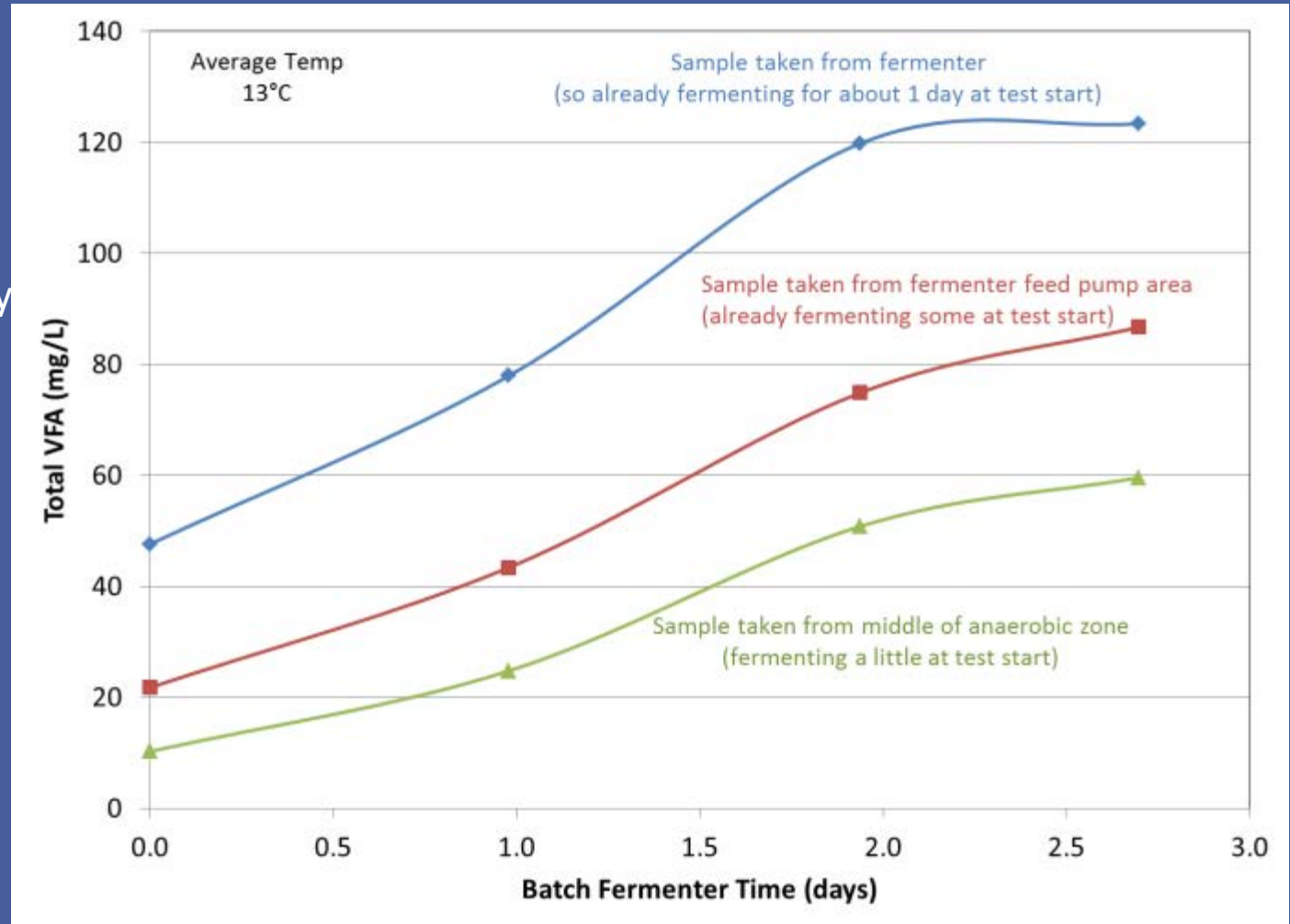
VFA = 116 mg/L  
 $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  = 20 mg/L  
 $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$  = 22 mg/L  
pH = 6.5



# Batch Fermentation Tests

Winter 13°C  
(tests done seasonally  
to optimize)

VFA = 60-123 mg/L  
 $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  = 15-20 mg/L  
 $\text{PO}_4\text{-P}$  = 20-27 mg/L  
pH = 6.2 – 6.5



# WERF Study - ongoing

- Led by Northeastern University (Dr. April Gu)
- City of Henderson, Nevada
- City of Naperville, Illinois
- City of Olathe, Kansas
- Clean Water Services - Hillsboro, Oregon
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Lake County Illinois
- Metro Wastewater Reclamation District – Chicago
- Metro Wastewater Reclamation District – Denver
- Black & Veatch
- AECOM
- Dynamita (Imre Takacs)
- Woodard Curran



## June 2015 On-Site Testing:

*Nick Tooker, Yuqi Wang – Northeastern  
Jenny Warren – City Intern, KU undergrad  
Katie Jaegar – City Intern, KSU undergrad*





# Imported Nutrients





# Centrate Management



Cedar Creek  
WWTF's  
"Temporary"  
Centrate EQ  
Line

# Typical Leadership Philosophy



Upper  
Management

Middle Management  
Middle Management  
Middle Management  
Middle Management  
Middle Management

Operators, Maintenance & Lab Techs



# Olathe's Leadership Philosophy



**Operators, Maintenance & Lab Techs**

**Front-Line Supervisors**

**Middle Management**

**Upper  
Management**

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kansas Department of Health & Environment  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
Black & Veatch  
Grimm Construction

## City of Olathe:

Operators: Daniel Marez II, Frank Moreno, Patrick Karashin, Kenny Deeter, Greg Breault, Les Newton, Carl Cook, Tony Kurkowski, Colin Smysor

Supervisors: Joe Foster, Richard Jones, Tim Whorton, Tim Kurkowski

Maintenance: Floyd Koder, Roman Rodriguez III, Scott Gibson, Steven McNolty II, Nate Volle, Doug Courtney, Mark Higgs, Bart Rehagen, Brad Beemer, Byron Anderson, Chad Jones, Chris Rosauer, Roman Rodriguez, Tito Mwela, Chris James

Laboratory: DeWayne McAllister, Bill Crandall, Dan Laneville, Darla Geary, Jennifer Bauman, Melissa Krayca, Ed Turner

Interns! Jenny Warren, Katie Jaeger, Alison Cioffi, Krista Long, Levi Hogan

# WASTEWATER PLANT HE, KANSAS



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EPA National Biosolids Award 2006

NACWA Peak Performance 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001....