SEMINARIO REGIONAL SOBRE APLICACIONES AMBIENTALES DE LOS ISOTOPOS Y RADIACIONES PARA PAISES DE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE IPEN-DOC-

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DESINFECCION DE AGUAS SERVIDAS POR MEDIO DE IRRADIACION UTILIZANDO ACELERADORES DE ELECTRONES

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Abstract

As a result of fast urbanization, problems with pollution have grown to unexpected levels compromising air, water, soil and living organisms. Water has become increasingly scarce day after day partially due to the different contaminants reaching it.

Chlorination as a disinfectant method is not efficient enough for sewage and its use can generate organochloride compounds with values higher than the maximum permissible. Besides, chlorination is recommended for cleaned water only. These are some of the reasons to justify the application of new technologies.

This paper considers the effect of ionizing radiation as a disinfectant method to be applied on sanitary field. An electron beam accelerator, Dynamitron, 1,5 MeV, 25 mA was utilized in this study.

Considering that wastewater microorganism contamination includes an indigenous population of human enteric pathogens and some of them are radioresistant Bacillus species, the use of very low doses of radiation to inactivate all of them is not possible. It was then supposed a minimum and ideal irradiation dose to kill 90% of all microorganisms that could be present in any sewage (D10). This value was 1,0 kGy.

The supposed ideal irradiation dose of 1,0 kGy was applied on samples from secondary effluent and on raw wastewater. In both situations this dose reduced total and fecal coliforms by 3 cycles log. After sample aeration, the irradiation efficiency was enhanced to 4 cycles log. The same dose was tested on Salmonella derby, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella meleagridis and Salmonella infantis added to phosphate buffer. In this case no colonies were formed, showing completely inactivation.

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