

Efficient wastewater treatment

A zero liquid discharge operation

Application and system design

This zero liquid discharge wastewater treatment plant is located inside the water treatment facility section of a major specialty chemicals producer. This wastewater plant processes treated sewage water via UF (ultrafiltration) pretreatment, cartridge filtration, and RO membrane desalination. The desalinated water is afterwards treated by degasification and ion exchange mixed beds installed with Lewatit® MonoPlus S 108 H and Lewatit® MonoPlus M 800 to prepare the boiler feed water. The installation is a twostage system with a capacity of 38 m³/h. The feed water to the RO has a TDS in the range of 600-1100 mg/l. During two years operational time the permeate has an average TDS of 25 mg/l, and after the mix bed the requested quality of <0.1mg/I TDS and 0.02 mg/I silica is achieved. The concentrate is further treated by high-pressure RO and an evaporation step to achieve the zero liquid discharge operation.

At a glance	
Industry	Chemical industry
Application	Wastewater treatment
Location	Nagda, India
Product	48 pieces Lewabrane® RO B400 FR
	2000 Lewatit® MonoPlus S 108 H
	4000 Lewatit® MonoPlus M 800
Production	38 m³/hr
capacity	
Water type	High content of salts and organics
Installation	April 2016

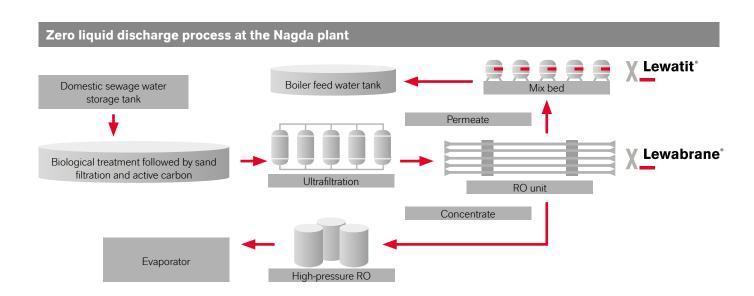


Membrane performance

The installation was originally designed around "ultralow energy" seawater elements. However projections with LewaPlus® design software showed that the requested permeate quality could be achieved with Lewabrane® RO B400 FR elements operating at lower pressure. After start-up, the predicted advantages of the Lewabrane® BWRO membranes were confirmed during routine daily operation. The RO feed pressure with Lewabrane® RO B400 FR was in average 10 bar the last two years and a sysetm salt rejection of 97%, (similar to the rejection with the seawater RO elements). The new Lewabrane® elements also provided an increased silica rejection (of around 95%), which increased the cycle time between regenerations for the ion exchange system. After two years in operation, and although monthly cleaning is required, the rejection level is still in the order of 96.5%.

Conclusion

The results underline the advantages of a highly cross-linked membrane. The rejection is higher than low pressure seawater (SW) elements even after several years and frequent cleaning. The operational pressure could be reduced by around 20% compared to the previously installed element type. Apart from that, this process is an example of how the usage of ion exchange resins (IXR) and RO allows one to create a zero liquid discharge process.



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