

RBC SERVICES UPDATE

RBC Services
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WE KNOW THE ABCs & THE XYZs OF YOUR RBCs

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Since 1988, RBC Services has been publishing and distributing the RBC Services UPDATES to some (650) RBC installations nationwide. Our personnel started-up many of those locations and have visited many others for inspections, evaluations and service.

During the past year, a number of RBC operators have commented that there are times when they haven't received an UPDATE for some time. The reason for that is, some of them are written to cover topics specific to a particular manufacturer's unit.

While the RBC process is basically the same, each design is different and has its own mechanical characteristics. Certain UPDATES are sent to only those operating a specific unit. We're still here to help you with any concerns you may have and answer all of your questions – regardless of which type unit you have at your facility.

With the current age of some facilities, many of our Customers have been interested in the current condition of their RBCs. We have conducted many inspections and equipment evaluations. These are followed by complete reports - including specific suggestions, projections, recommendations and pricing for replacement items which may be required.

We've also worked with Customers on larger and longer range projects where the entire RBC section is planned to be replaced to include new RBCs with upgraded applications and equipment. Our involvement provides consulting for key planning and strategies covering installation logistics and financial terms; all in an effort to create a smooth running project from start to finish.

While there are various types of units out there,

RBC Services provides only one type of service –

COMPLETE.

We can satisfy most any requirement when it comes to RBC equipment, service, inspection, evaluation and repair.

Many of you may not be aware of the history of RBC manufacturers in the U.S., so I thought I'd cover that in this UPDATE...a little something for everyone. This is written in a timeline fashion and should be easy to follow. Keep in mind that an RBC is a central shaft with plastic media attached to it. Different manufacturers. Different designs. Same purpose.

In 1969, the first RBCs put into operation in the U.S. were a version of the "Bio-Surf" model as manufactured by Autotrol Corp. Autotrol pioneered the RBC process in the U.S. and was the firm from which the others learned. A facility in Michigan has Autotrol RBCs that have been in operation since 1973 – the first EPA funded RBC project in the US, and they're still running fine.

Autotrol led the industry with innovations such as molded, corrugated media sheets, high density media and the Air Drive concept (Aero-Surf). They sold the RBC product line to Envirex in September 1982. To date however, there are still more Bio/Aero-Surf RBCs operating than any other model. (Envirex will be covered shortly.)

Shortly after Autotrol - 1972, Hormel & Company got into play when they acquired Environmental Pollution Control, Inc., which came up with their own design in 1971. Hormel figured they would contribute by treating the waste resulting from their food processing efforts, and beyond. Their participation in the overall market however, was rather minimal. Hormel sold their RBC design to LYCO in 1981. (I'll cover LYCO shortly.)

The next player was CLOW Corporation, which began selling their "EnviroDisc, Type I" RBCs in 1973. The design changed to "Type II" in 1984. The CLOW RBC product line was sold to Water Reclamation Inc. (WRI) in 1986. After a couple manufacturing improvements, WRI sold the EnviroDisc product line to Walker Process in 1988.

Walker Process is next, becoming involved with RBCs in 1979. They acquired Environmental Equipment Corp., a firm which developed the "BioSpiral" design and were involved at approximately three RBC installations prior to the acquisition by Walker. Walker produced the BioSpiral until 1988, when they purchased the EnviroDisc RBC product line from WRI. Walker then shelved their BioSpiral design and continues to sell the EnviroDisc, the best RBC on today's market.

Previously mentioned, LYCO purchased the RBC product line from Hormel in 1981. LYCO sold their RBC model until 1991, when they were acquired by U.S. Filter. A version of this design remains available today.

As a note, although there is no business relationship, the Klargest RBC which is manufactured in Canada, is very similar to the LYCO RBC. Klargest has several RBC installations in the northeast U.S. The Klargest model was acquired from PJ Hannah, by Seprotech Systems, in 2008.

Returning to Envirex, they purchased the RBC product line from Autotrol in 1982. Envirex continued with innovations like the Submerged Biological Contactor (SBC). Various degrees of submergence – up to 90%, allowed a higher degree of flow and biological loading capabilities.

Envirex was acquired by U.S. Filter in 1995. With two RBC designs under the U.S. Filter name – LYCO and Bio-Surf/Aero-Surf, they were eventually, both manufactured at the same facility.

Currently, Envirex is part of Siemens Water Technologies. What was the LYCO RBC has been modified and is now sold as the "Series 400". Envirex phased out the Bio/Aero-Surf model RBCs (Autotrol) including SBCs in 2006, leaving many owners of that model to make other choices for replacement equipment.

Along the way, in the late 70's and early 80's, there were other manufacturers of RBCs which did not make an impact on the overall industry. A few carried mechanical integrity issues and a lack of process knowledge and they simply discontinued their efforts.

So much for the history lesson... If you might be interested in additional information regarding your particular RBCs, just let me know.

As always, if you ever have any questions or need assistance with your RBC operations, please don't hesitate to give me a call. We have more experience with RBCs than any other company... just ask around. Together, we can get maximum performance from your RBCs.