

RBC SERVICES UPDATE

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WHAT'S IN YOUR RBC O&M MANUAL

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We have received thanks from literally hundreds of RBC plant operators for the distribution of our **RBC Service UPDATE Series**. A question most had however, was why they didn't get this type of information from the manufacturer of their respective RBCs in the first place.

The original RBC O&M Manual you received when your units were installed cover just that; operation and maintenance, and what's there is mainly from a mechanical standpoint. There is extremely little or nothing covering process. This is due to the fact that no two plants are alike when it comes to process.

What an RBC manufacturer might explain regarding process for one plant, would not apply for another. So, rather than provide you with the wrong information, they decided to provide you with no information.

When RBC plants were initially designed, the process staging was determined from the influent parameters and effluent requirements provided at the time. As flow and strength increases, the initial staging mode may have become inadequate, resulting in decreased performance from the RBCs. While this does present a problem, it's one you don't necessarily have to live with.

Depending on how many RBCs you have and how they are staged will determine removal rates, particularly in the first stage, and the efficiency of each subsequent stage.

Most RBC tanks included the installation of a baffle system which separates the treatment stages, or progression of removal efficiency of SBOD and ammonia (depending on effluent requirements). The majority of those baffles were said to be removable to modify staging. This feature becomes increasingly important with higher influent organic loadings.

At a number of plants we have contacted, the first stage had already been increased by removing the first set of baffles. Within a short time however, mechanical problems were being experienced with a unit down stream in that bay. In a case such as this, there was an option rather than unknowingly jeopardizing the equipment.

At RBC Services, we make every effort to present those options to you. If you're going to spend money and effort on a project, we believe it should be spent on making a correction, and not on adding another problem.

We'd like to know what you think of our RBC Service UPDATE Series. We value your opinion, which helps us to provide a better service to you. After all, that's our business. And if you ever have any questions or would like to comment on any of the UPDATES, please do not hesitate to call.