

Mistra TerraClean Annual Report 2019



MISTRA
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with low power consumption for all the samples tested. The prototype was also successfully applied for the removal of 10 different PFAS molecules from synthetic water (supplied by IVL), with more than 95% removal for all molecules: in effect reaching contaminant levels well below the required standards. The results (measured at IVL) indicated that in addition to electric field mediated removal, some PFAS molecules were also disintegrated by the process. This could be a route for permanently mitigating the PFAS issue.

In addition to the above, the FNM group successfully tested novel CDI electrode materials

comprising of nanostructured Boron Nitride coated activated carbon cloth (carried out by RISE Bioscience and Materials) for high voltage CDI operation targeted at removing organic and other toxic pollutants (like pharmaceuticals) in water (Figure 1e). In another work, new boron nitride-based spacers integrated into microfibrillated cellulose (MFC) papers provided by RISE-Biosciences were evaluated for improving the capacitance and hence efficiency of ion removal in the CDI prototypes. The results showed some success with further efforts being put to get a better understanding of the effects.

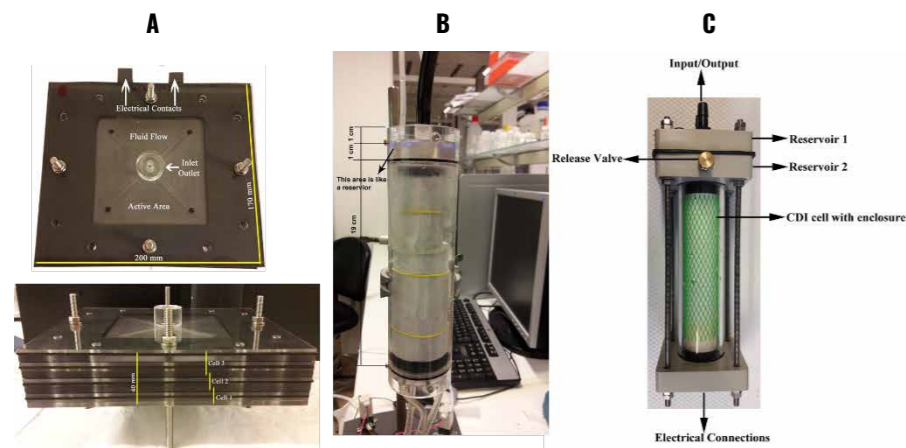
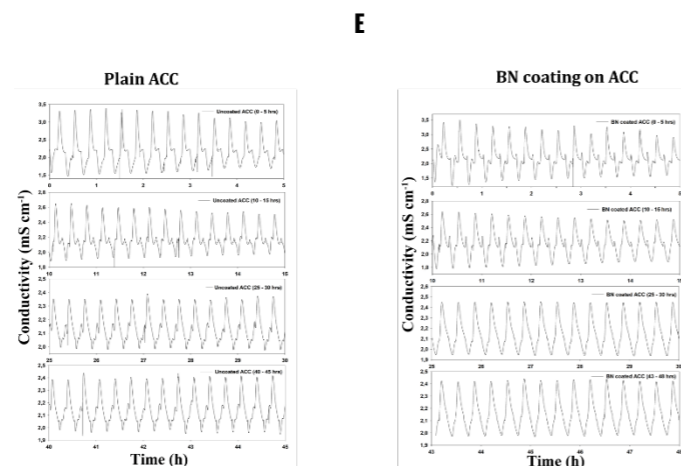


Figure 5: (a) Flat surface CDI unit with three series connected CDI cells; (b) Cylindrical CDI cell with same capacity as the flat surface cell; (c) Cylindrical CDI cell with input-output reservoirs for sensing elements; (d) result of one of the mine effluents after CDI treatment and (e) comparison of high voltage deionization results for boron nitride coated and plain ACC electrodes showing better integrity for BN coated ACC with time.

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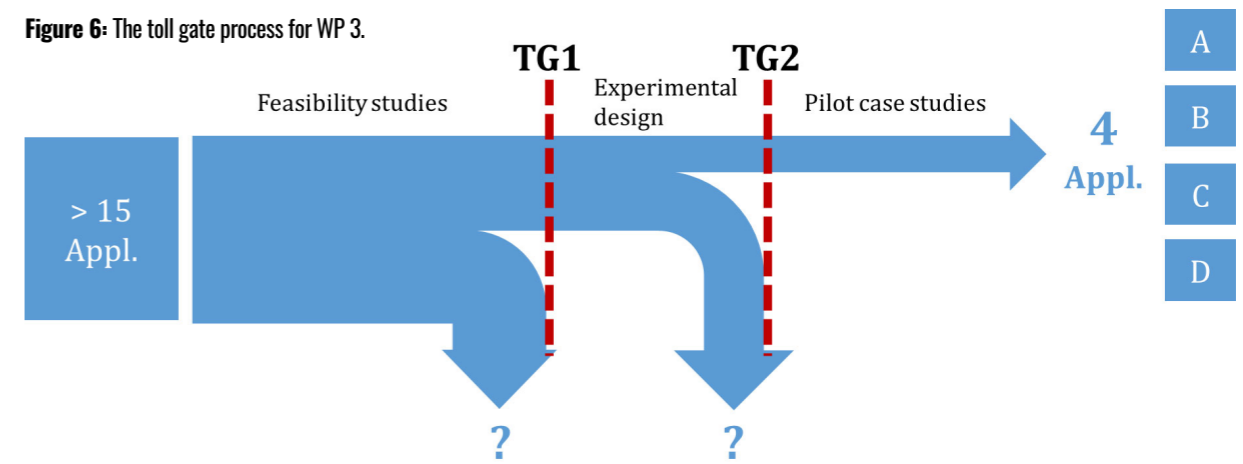
Mine Effluent – 0.73 kWh/m³

Ion Type	Initial Conc (ppm)	% Removed
Ca ²⁺	39	98
K ⁺	6	95
Na ⁺	15	89
Zn ²⁺	0,03	35
Cu ²⁺	0,002	69
Sb	0,001	12
As	0,004	59
Fl ⁻	0,8	68
NO ₃ ⁻	0,1	100
Br ⁻	-	-
Cl ⁻	5	98
SO ₄ ²⁻	30	100



WORK PACKAGE 3 APPLICATION PLATFORM

Figure 6: The toll gate process for WP 3.



In Mistra TerraClean, WP3 is our application platform. After focusing on conducting basic experiments during the first two years of the project, focus shifted in 2019 to preparing for pilot scale experiments. To do so, a tollgate system was proposed (Figure 6).

The purpose of the process is to bring clarity to how and why different materials get the chance to become a subject for pilot studies. This is needed both internally among project partners as well as externally. The decision of when a technology is ready for any of the toll gates lies with the steering group. There are several criteria that needs to be fulfilled before an application is ready for any of the two toll gates. An attempt to formulate these can be seen below.

Toll gate 1

1. Basic chemistry works
 - a. Function demonstrated in lab-scale test
 - b. Sufficient material can be available for testing
 - c. Equipment and method for application (WP2 matters) can be designed for tests.
2. Full scale application can be economically viable
 - a. Upscaling is feasible and expected to reduce cost to reasonable level
 - b. Upscaling is possible within a reasonable timeframe if the method is proven to be applicable for full scale implementation
3. The industry shows an interest in the effect a positive result would have
 - a. Interest both from end user as well as supplier of material and equipment.

Material group	Material	Case A – Flue gas condensate		Case B – Gas	Case C – Mining effluents			Case D – Drinking water	
		Status	Comm	Status	Comm	Status	Comm	Status	Comm
MMC and porous carbonates									
	Upsalite			Planned/ongoing					
Cellulose hybrides (MFC/NFC)									
	Exilva	TGO				TGO			
Activated carbon and porous polymers				TGO	SO2				
	Granulated activated carbon	TGO							
	CDI	TGO				TGO		TG1	PFAS
	Biochar	TGO							
	SX100 (GAC)	TGO				TGO			
	Magnetic carbon	TGO							
Zeolites		TGO				TGO			
ZnO – photocatalysis				TGO	NO2				
Silicates				TGO	SO2				
	Aerogel w chelating agent	TGO				TGO			
	Aerogel	TGO				TGO			
Reverse osmosis		TGO							

WORK PACKAGE 4

HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY, LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

4. The LCA has not pointed at any unsolvable environmental aspects

Toll gate 2

1. We are able to agree upon an experimental design that, when it has been performed, leaves little doubt about the performance of the technology in full scale
 - a. Function demonstrated in pilot test
 - b. Sufficient amount of material is available for testing
2. Equipment and method for application (WP2 matters) is designed for tests.

3. Full scale application estimated to be economically viable and competitive compared to other methods
 - a. Agreement between supplier and user on test design and technical support
 4. The cost of the experiment fits within the budget
 5. The testing can be performed within the time frame of the project

Until today, the situation with respect to toll gates can be seen in the table below. One of the technologies have passed through TG1, but none has passes through TG2.

In Mistra TerraClean, WP4 addresses and assesses human and environmental safety, Life Cycle Assessment, science and society, with the following tasks:

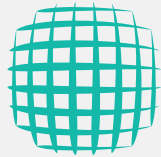
- 4.1 Toxicological appraisal of material production, application, post-consumer fate and management
- 4.2 Toxicological appraisal of material performance in individual case studies in WP3
- 4.3 Societal stakeholder interactions with the program
- 4.4 Long-term/post-program viability

A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) describes environmental aspects and impacts throughout the whole life cycle of a product, i.e. raw material extraction, production, use and end-of-life management. In addition, knowledge about the function of the product is central for comparisons between materials.

When initiating the TerraClean project, it was decided to introduce LCA thinking into the workstreams of both novel chemical synthesis within WP1 and the WP2 device design pro-

cesses. The aim is to ensure that the new materials and devices for water and air cleaning do not entail less benefit for environmental and human health than conventional solutions. This LCA “light”, coupled with toxicological evaluation, will either reveal a lack of foreseeable issues, or where applicable, help to suggest alternatives to circumnavigate potential issues.

During 2019, WP4 has initiated the work with LCA screening of the filter materials and devices. The LCA and toxicological evaluations are based on collection of information and data from the projects. All chemistry and device groups in WPs 1 and 2 have been contacted and offered LCA screening. Most have agreed to this and screening has been performed. WP4 is currently producing material-specific reports covering life cycle analyses of the production, use and regeneration/discard processes as well as toxicological evaluation of process chemicals. These will be used to provide feedback to each group and a time-table for review of eventual consequences and impact on chemistry and de-



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