

ENHANCEMENTS OF VOC REMOVAL BY A SURFACTANT CONTAINING ATOMIZED MIST SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY IS TO PERFORM LABORATORY SCALE RESEARCH ON THE FACTORS CONTROLLING VOC REMOVAL BY A GEOMETRICALLY IDEALIZED ATOMIZED MIST SCRUBBER TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONVENTIONAL SCRUBBING VIA AQUEOUS SOLUTION IN REMOVING VOCs, AND TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION OF USE OF SURFACTANTS TO ENHANCE VOC CONTROL. THE TARGET COMPOUNDS OF THE VOCs INCLUDE N-OCTANE, N-HEXANE, TOLUENE, METHANOL, AND MTBE. SURFACTANTS OF SDS AND TRITON X-100 ARE ADDED IN THE SCRUBBING SOLUTION. RESULTS FROM EXPERIMENTS INDICATE THAT: (1) REMOVALS OF TARGET COMPOUNDS OF N-OCTANE INCREASE IN THE RANGE OF 2.5-5.3 TIMES, WITH THE ADDITION OF SDS. IN CONTRAST, REMOVALS OF TOLUENE AND METHANOL ARE NOT ENHANCED BY THE ADDITION OF SURFACTANTS. (2) REMOVALS FOR N-OCTANE HAS ALSO BEEN ENHANCED BY THE FACTORS RANGING FROM 1.5 TO 3.7 WITH THE ADDITION OF TRITON X-100. (3) REMOVING EFFICIENCIES OF N-OCTANE INCREASE 2 TIMES AND 1.8 TIMES WITH THE INCREASING OF LIQUID-TO-GAS FLOW RATIOS FROM 1/4,500 TO 1/465, AT BEST CONCENTRATION OF SDS AND TRITON X-100, RESPECTIVELY; IN A SIMILAR TEST CONDITION, REMOVALS OF METHANOL AND MTBE INCREASE 1.4-1.5 TIMES; HOWEVER, REMOVALS OF TOLUENE AND N-HEXANE ARE INSIGNIFICANT. (4) REMOVAL RATES OF VOCs ARE PROPORTIONAL INVERSELY TO THEIR INLET CONCENTRATIONS. (5) REMOVALS FOR N-OCTANE ARE REDUCED FROM 62% TO 55% IN A MIXED COMPOUND FEEDING CONDITION, COMPARED TO SINGLE COMPOUND FEEDING CONDITION. (6) REMOVAL RATES ARE INCREASED WITH THE INCREASES OF SCRUBBER LENGTH IN THE AXIAL DIRECTION. BASED UPON THE EXPERIMENTAL DATA FOR N-OCTANE REMOVALS, A PREDICTED MODEL IS DEVELOPED USING THE NON-REGRESSION ANALYSIS BY A STATISTIC SOFTWARE. THE PROPOSED MODEL EQUATION IS OBTAINED BY ASSUMING THAT REMOVAL EFFICIENCY(RE) IS RELATED TO CONCENTRATION OF SURFACTANT(S), LIQUID FLOW RATE(L), GAS FLOW RATE(G), AND INLET VOC CONCENTRATION(V). FROM THE MODEL EQUATION OF , IT IS FOUND THAT REMOVING EFFICIENCY OF THE SCRUBBER IS PROPORTIONAL TO CONCENTRATION OF SURFACTANT AND LIQUID FLOW RATE BUT PROPORTIONAL INVERSELY TO GAS FLOW RATE AND INLET VOC CONCENTRATION. THE REGRESSION MODEL EQUATION IS FURTHER EXAMINED BY THE FISHER'S F-TEST TO ASSESS ITS SIGNIFICANT LEVEL. STATISTIC RESULTS INDICATE THAT THE MODEL EQUATION IS MEANINGFUL, WITH P-VALUE OF 0.01. THEREFORE, THE PROPOSED MODEL MAY BE USED TO INVESTIGATE THE FACTORS CONTROLLING THE VOC REMOVAL, AND PROVIDED A USEFUL TOOL FOR DESIGNING THE FULL-SCALE ATOMIZED MIST SCRUBBER.

Keywords : N-OCTANE, SDS, TRITON X-100, ATOMIZED MIST SCRUBBER, REGRESSION MODEL

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