



# **REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES THROUGH BIO-OXIDATION**

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# What is Bio-oxidation?

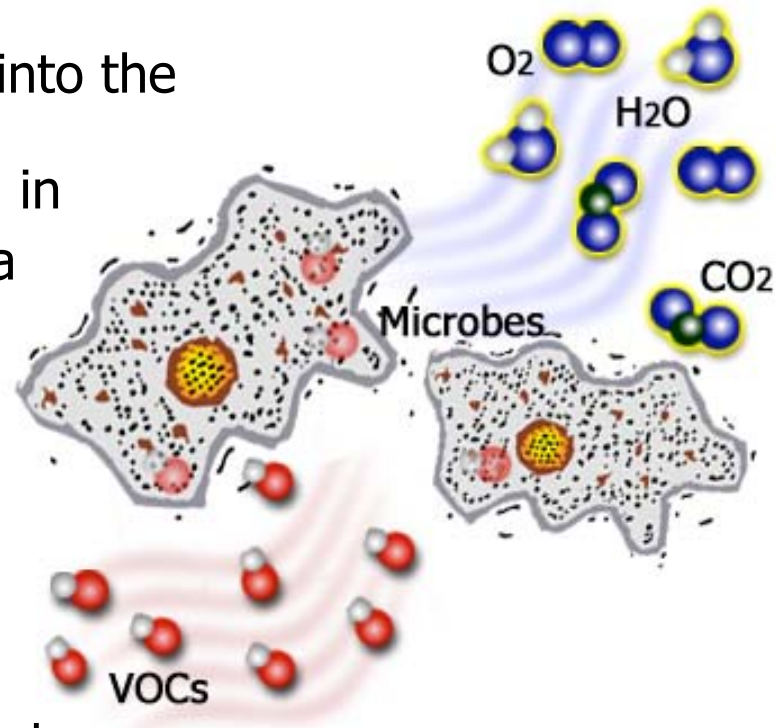
*Sustainable solutions for pollution control.*

Bio-oxidation is a biological air pollution control technology that utilizes bacteria & fungi to biologically absorb and digest vapor phase VOCs and odorous compounds commonly found in industrial and municipal applications.

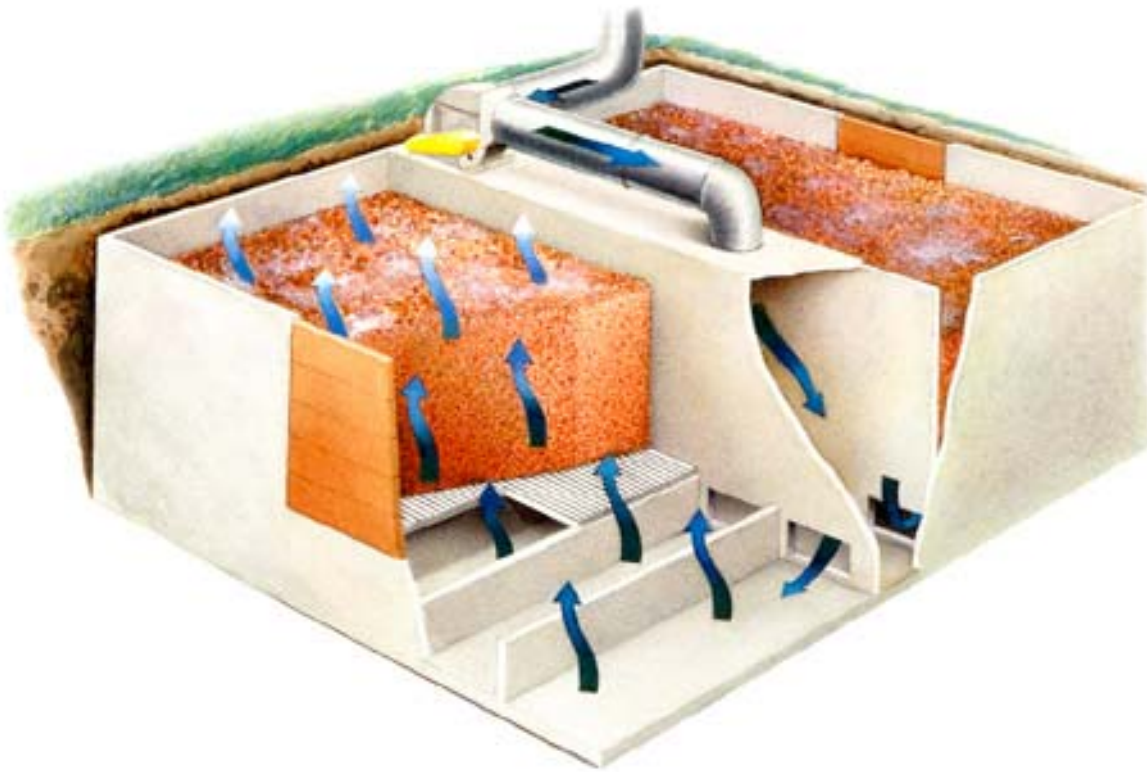


# How They Work?

Contaminated air streams are pulled into the system via induced-draft fans, the contaminants first encounter bacteria in an aerated sump and inorganic media with biofilm growth. The final treatment occurs in a compost media, where they are captured and digested by a community of naturally-occurring microbes. The contaminants are utilized as a food source for the microbes and exhausted into the atmosphere as small amounts of carbon dioxide and water vapor.



# “Conventional” Biofilters



## System Design

- Very Large Footprint
- Bed Compaction & Replacement
- Limited Surge Loading Capability/Efficiency
- Limited Upper VOC Concentration Capability (<2,000 ppm)



# BRI Engineered Bio-oxidizers

## **Multiple Treatment Stages**

- Aerated sump to capture and treat water-soluble compounds
- Inorganic media for biofilm growth to harbor additional bacteria
- Organic compost to capture and digest remaining VOCs

## **Structured Compost Media**

- Increases effective surface area
- Eliminates compaction and channeling
- Significantly reduces the size over conventional biofilters

## **Design and Controls**

- Common sump for nutrient distribution
- Biotrickling filter for conditioning the airstream
- Automated controls



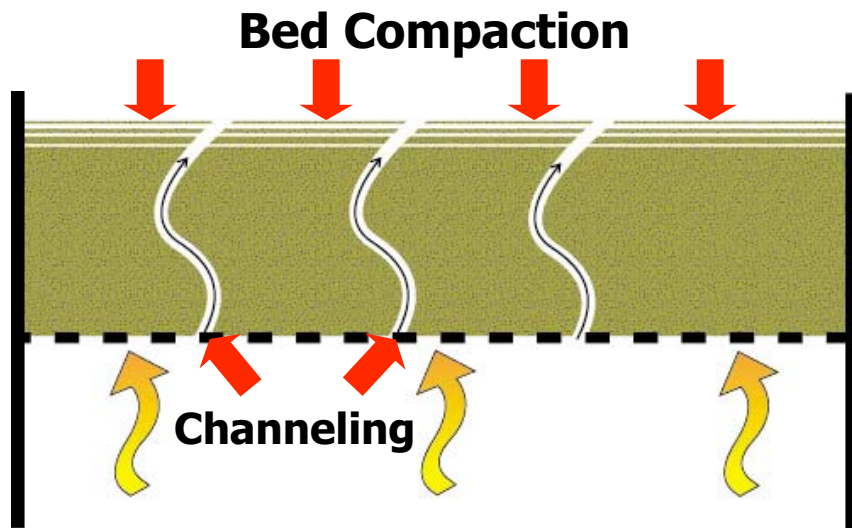
# Footprint Comparison

When you compare a traditional biofilter to a Bio\_Oxidizer it's like comparing a **parking lot** to a **parking space**

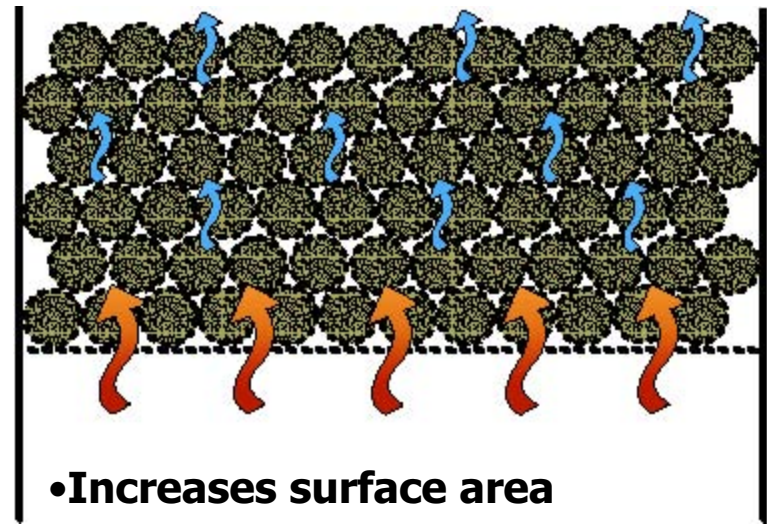


# MEDIA MATTERS!

## Conventional Biofilter Media

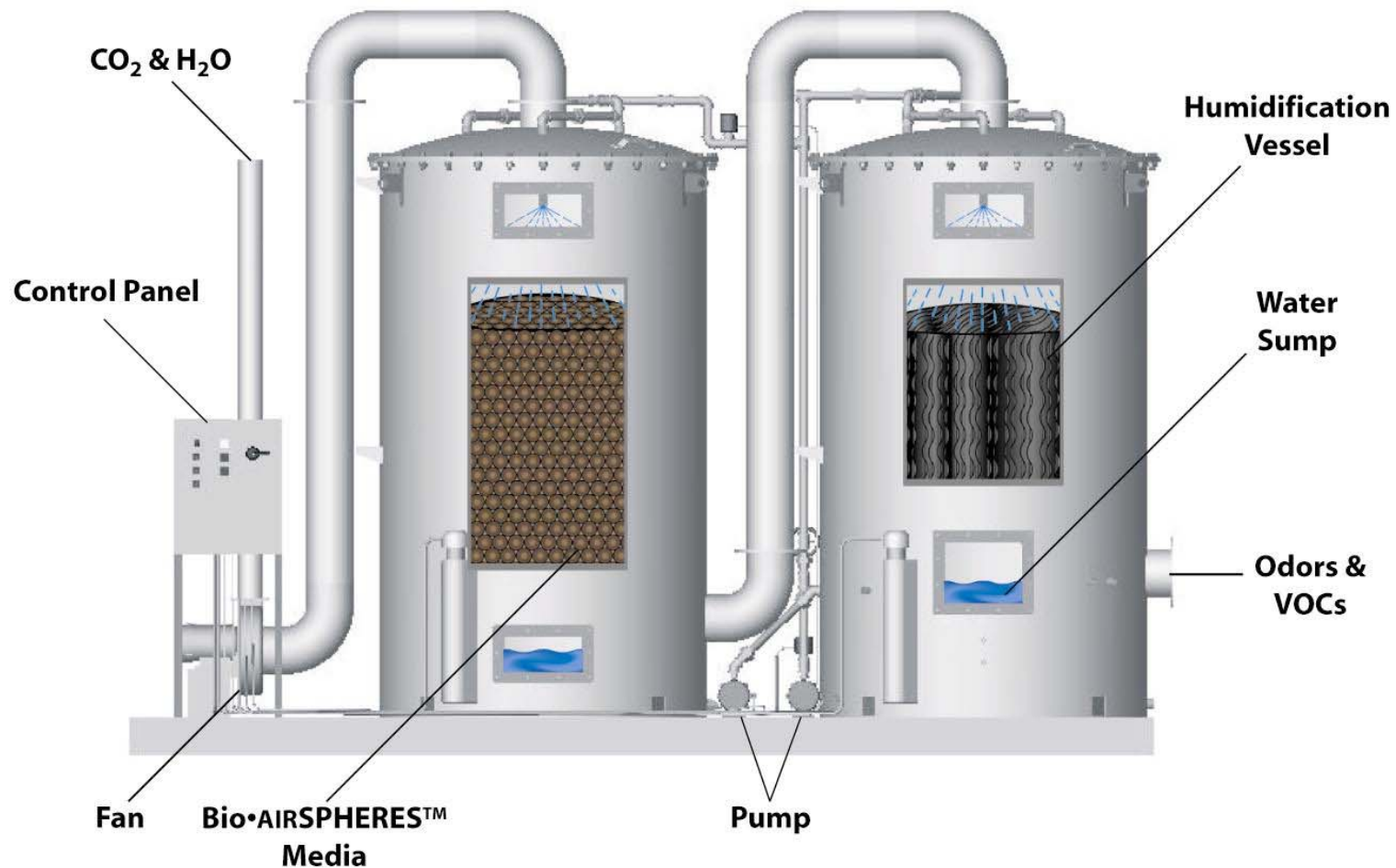


## BRI Patented Bio•AIRSPHERES™



- Increases surface area
- Prevents Compaction
- Reduces channeling effects
- Ensures even moisture distribution

# Sample Dual Vessel System





# System Internals



- Sprinkler Heads and Cross Flow Media
- Bio\_AIRSPHERES™





# Alternative Technologies

**Carbon  
Filtration**

**Concentrators**

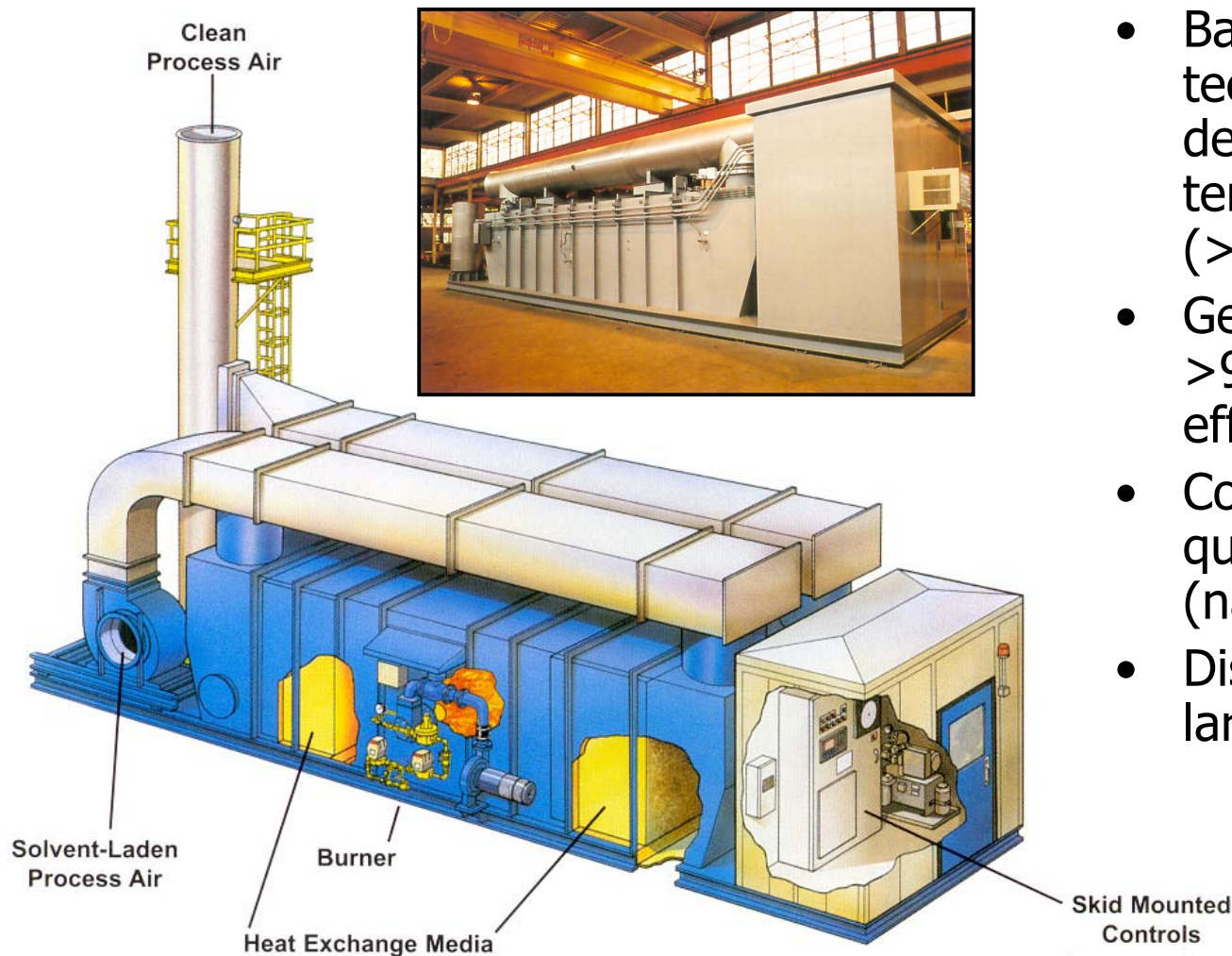
**RTO'S**

**Masking  
Agents**

**Scrubbers**

***Thermal & Catalytic Oxidizers***

# Thermal/Catalytic Oxidization



- Basic Incineration technology, VOC's destroyed at high temperatures ( $>1400^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- Generally achieves  $>95\%$  destruction efficiency.
- Consumes significant quantities of fuel (natural gas).
- Discharges  $\text{NO}_x$  and large quantities of  $\text{CO}_2$ .



# Carbon Filtration

- Absorbs VOC's.
- Requires "offsite" regeneration of carbon which is expensive and generates NOx.
- Humidity reduces absorption
- Not suitable for water-soluble compounds







# Summary of BRI Bio-oxidizer Advancements

- Small Footprint, Compact
- Fungal Based Microbial Ecosystem
- Surge Loading Capability
- Modular, Flexible & Expandable Design
- Few Moving Parts
- Low O&M - Easy Operation
- Easy Installation
- Decentralized VOC Treatment

# Bio-Oxidizer for Soil Vapor Extraction





# GC Analyses of 'Off-gases'

	<b>Non-BTEX VOC (PPMV)</b>	<b>BTEX (PPMV)</b>	<b>Total VOC (PPMV)</b>
<b>Mean</b>	51,466	18,382	69,467
<b>Std. Deviation</b>	± 103,182	± 21,805	± 123,012
<b>Min</b>	8,540	70	17,240
<b>Max</b>	520,310	104,100	624,410
<b>N</b>	23	23	23



# Results from GC Analyses

	Contaminant	ppm in (avg.)	ppm out (avg.)	Dre
March	BTEX	100	16	
	MTBE	11	5	
	TPH (Gasoline)	1700	720	
	TOTALS			396.44
April	BTEX	78.5	13	
	MTBE	9.7	5	
	TPH (Gasoline)	1700	770	
	TOTALS			370.25
May	BTEX	89.8	7.4	
	MTBE	5	3	
	TPH (Gasoline)	750	490	
	TOTALS			156.95



# NATURAL GAS PROCESSING FACILITY



## **Situation:**

- Solution needed in anticipation of upcoming regulatory change
- Reduce BTEX compounds to below 10 tons/year HAPs
- Airflow under 10cfm
- VOC loadings in excess of 80,000ppm

## **Approach:**

- System installed: 3 biofilters in series with 9 layers of Biomatrix
- Total footprint, 4 x 12'

## **Results:**

- 94% removal of non-BTEX compounds
- 99% removal of BTEX compounds
- 95% total VOC removal efficiency



# Vent Gas Analysis Summary

**94.3% average removal of Non-BTEX VOCs**

**Methane**

**Ethane**

**Propane**

**i-Butane**

**n-Butane**

**i-Pentanes**

**n-Pentane**

**i-Hexane**

**n-Hexane**

**Heptanes+**

**Iso-Octane**

**99% average removal of BTEX compounds**

**Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylenes**

**TOTAL VOC removal average = 95.1%**

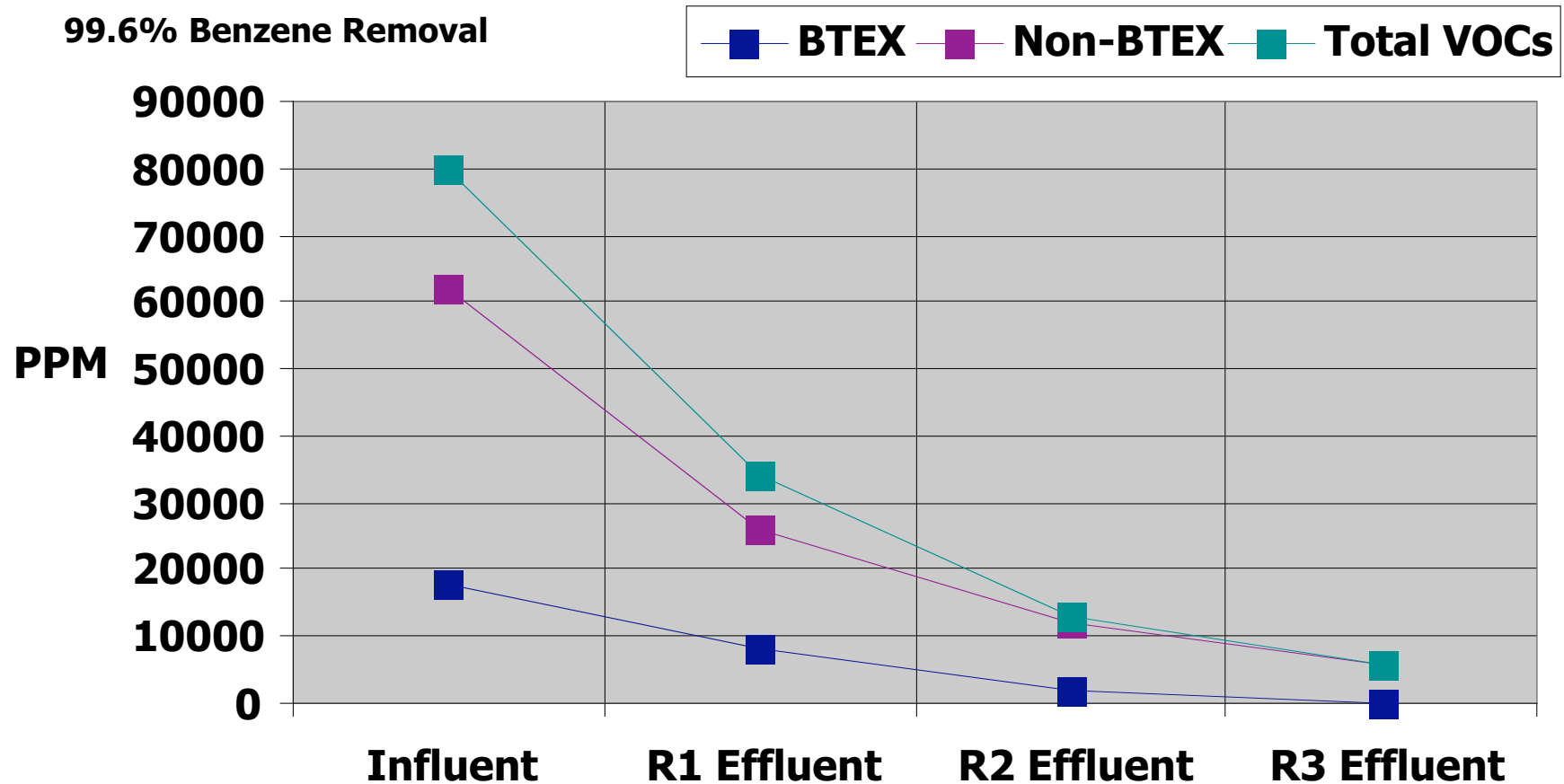
# Glycol Dehydrator Vent Gas - GC Analysis

Compound (PPMV)	Influent	Effluent	% Removal
Methane	166,260	0	100.0 %
Ethane	18,190	60	99.7 %
Propane	267,130	28,270	89.4 %
i-Butane	6,360	0	100.0 %
n-Butane	13,170	350	97.3 %
i-Pentanes	14,730	280	98.1 %
n-Pentane	1,900	110	94.2 %
i-Hexane	7,760	60	99.2 %
n-Hexane	3,260	30	99.1 %
Heptanes +	17,520	360	97.9 %
Iso-Octane	4,030	50	98.8 %
<b>Total - Non BTEX VOCs</b>	<b>520,310</b>	<b>29,570</b>	<b>94.3 %</b>
Benzene	78,880	570	99.3 %
Toluene	25,220	450	98.2 %
Ethylbenzene	0	0	
Xylenes	0	0	
<b>Total BTEX</b>	<b>104,100</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>99.0 %</b>
<b>Total VOCs</b>	<b>624,410</b>	<b>30,590</b>	<b>95.1 %</b>

# Glycol Dehydrator Vent Gas

**99.0 % BTEX Removal**

**99.6% Benzene Removal**







# Other Applications for Bio-Oxidizers

## **VOC INDUSTRIAL**

- Paint Manufacturing Facilities
- Paint Applicators - Spray Booths
- Wood Product Facilities
- High Tech – Chip Manufacturing
- Die Casting – Oil Mist Emissions

## **ODOR CONTROL**

- Pulp & Paper
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- Breweries
- Animal Processing/Rendering

# Brown Stock Washer Emissions



## **Situation:**

**System needed to treat a combined air stream including H<sub>2</sub>S plus and other organic constituents**

## **Approach:**

**Provided small footprint system to enable installation inside facility**



# Removal Efficiencies

## Methanol(MeOH) and Formaldehyde(HCHO)

<u>Date</u>	<u>MeOH*</u> <u>Removal (%)</u>	<u>HCHO*</u> <u>Removal (%)</u>	<u>pH</u>
12/13/2001	99	97	7.4
01/10/2002	94.3	88.7	6.7
02/07/2002	99	99	7.3
02/21/2002	99	97	7.4
03/14/2002	85.2	99	6.9
04/10/2002	35.7	94.9	6.1
04/17/2002	60.7	99.7	4.2
05/14/2002	99.9	99.9	7.4
06/04/2002	99.9	99.9	7.1
07/30/2002	99.9	97.5	7.0
08/06/2002	99.9	99.9	7.1
08/20/2002	99.9	N.D.	7.5

# Particleboard Facility

## Press Vent Emissions

### **Situation:**

**Installation to meet Formaldehyde & Methanol removal required for upcoming MACT regulations**

### **System Loading:**

**Methanol (12-50ppm)  
Formaldehyde (4-20ppm)**

### **Approach:**

**40,000cfm in 4 vessels to fit customers available footprint**

### **Results:**

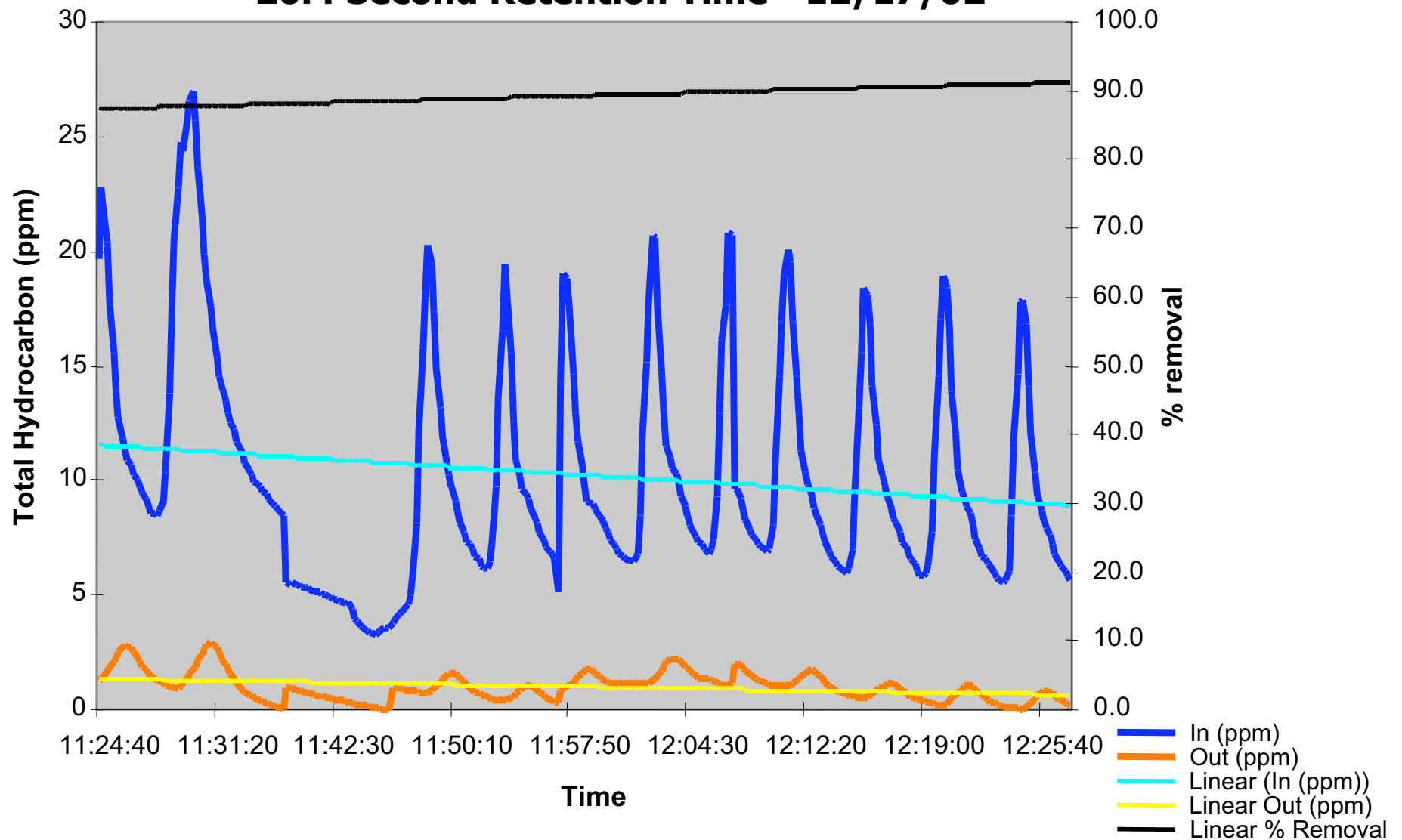
**Met proposed MACT of >90% removal. Tested bio-oxidizer removal capability for Total VOCs (>80%) by reducing airflow into system.**





# Total Hydrocarbon Removal -- Particleboard Press

20.4 Second Retention Time - 12/17/02



# Verification & Sizing

- **Pilot systems available**
- **Slip stream airflows up to 1,000cfm**
- **30-90 day testing at Customers facility**



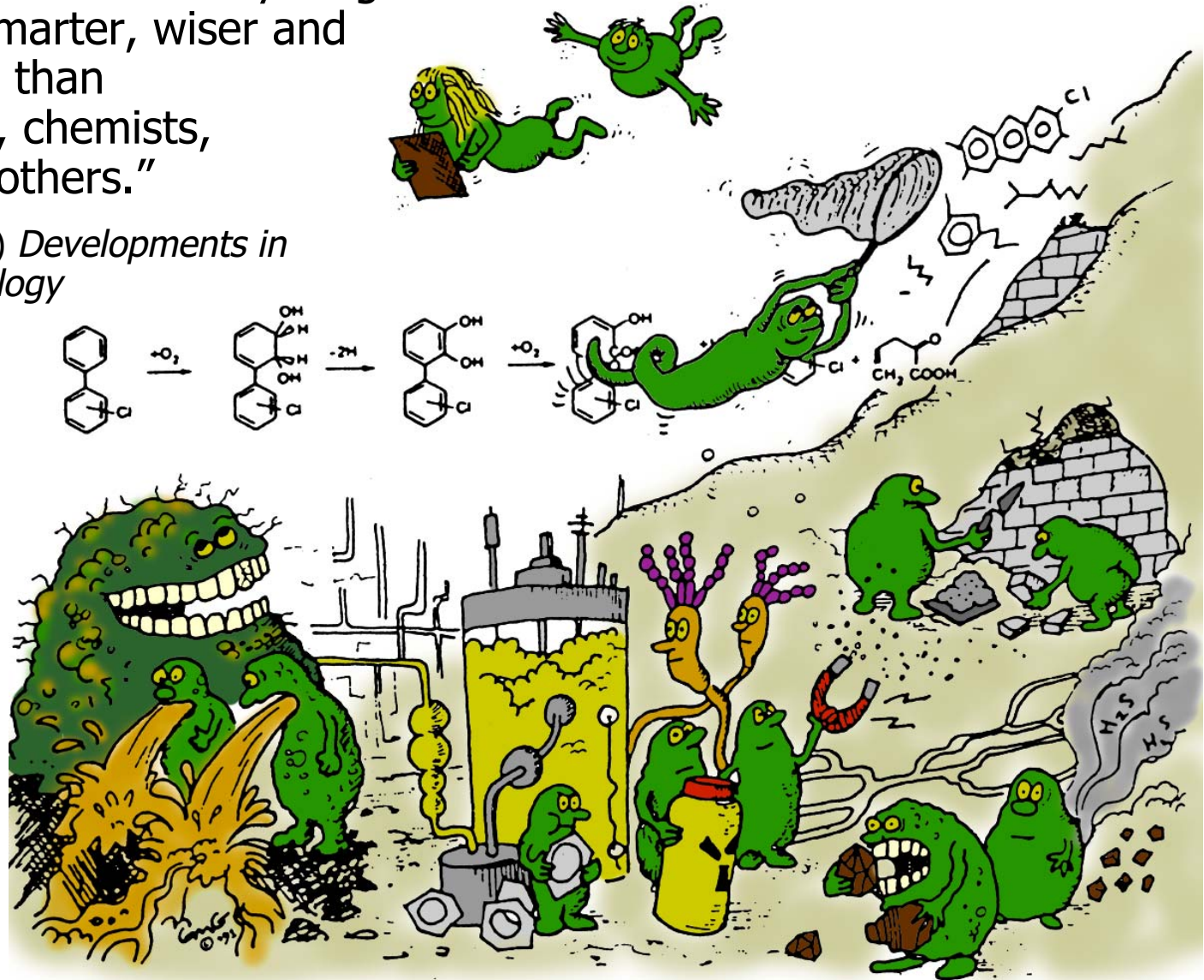


# SUMMARY

- Smaller Footprint than Conventional Biofilters
- Lower Capital Costs
- Significantly Lower Energy Requirements
- Less maintenance, fewer moving parts
- Treats combined air streams of H<sub>2</sub>S AND VOC's
- No Combustion By-Products (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>)
- Significantly lower CO<sub>2</sub> generation than incineration-type technologies
- Odor Reduction obtainable in <24 hours
- Systems designed to achieve desired removal efficiencies
- Sustainable Technology

Microbes can and will do anything:  
microbes are smarter, wiser and  
more energetic than  
microbiologists, chemists,  
engineers and others."

Perlman, D. (1980) *Developments in  
Industrial Microbiology*





# Questions and/or Comments



# THANK YOU!