

Electrochemical Destruction of PFAS in Water



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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) is everywhere!



Source: Adapted from EWG 2021





Common PFAS treatment requires disposal

GAC

Pros:

Industry standard
Lowest CapEx
Spent GAC is reactivated
Established supply chain
Familiarity of disposal

Cons:

Fast breakthrough
Ineffective for smaller-chain PFAS
High OpEx
Incineration or landfill

Pros:

- •Regenerable options
- Smaller infrastructure footprint
- •Effective for wider range of PFAS

IX

Cons:

- Limited capacity
- •PFAS specific are expensive
- •Less common
- •High OpEx
- Incineration or landfill

RO

Pros:

- •Removal of all-chain compounds
- •Comprehensive process

Cons:

Energy intensive
Mineral stripping
Highest OpEx and CapEx
Incineration or landfill





Electrochemical Advanced Oxidation Processes (eAOP) are a Subset of AOPs



Source: Adapted from Sharma et al. 2011





eAOPs 101

Electrodes placed in water

- Heavy Metal Oxide Electrodes (SnO₂, Pt, TiO₂, IrO₂, etc.)
- Boron Doped Diamond (BDD)

Electric potential above 1.23 V applied Surficial voltage at which water splits to product O_2 and H_2 DIRECT pollutant ELECTROLYSIS Mixed oxidant production with ANODE increasing voltage Radical е MEDIATED ELECTROLYSIS Øxidant **Microbes** precursor 4 PFAS /OCs 0V 15V $Cl_2 O_3 OH' O_2^- e^-$ **Sclarity**



LIGHT.

ULTRASOUND

OR CHEMICAL

ACTIVATION

Activated oxidants

Stable oxidants =

product ==

pollutarit

BULK

product

pollutant

product

pollutant

product

product

pollutant

PFAS destruction is necessary but costly!



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USA



Aclarity: most powerful, least expensive destruction solution on the market

- High oxidation potential
- 1/10th cost BDD
- Low energy (<0.5 kWh/gal)
- Long-lasting electrodes (years)
- No moving parts
- Low maintenance
- No chemical storage
- Modular, stackable
- Suitable for low and high flows



Electrode Material	Overpotential (V)
Aclarity	2.5+
BDD	2.2-2.6+
Ti/SnO ₂ -Sb ₂ O ₅	1.9-2.2
Ti/Pt	1.7-1.9
IrO ₂ /Ta ₂ O ₅	1.5-1.8
RuO ₂ /TiO ₂	1.4-1.7







Novel reactor design and electrodes



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PFAS at ppb range

PFOA brine pilot:

- Influent PFOA= 300 µg/L
- Treated via Aclarity Mobile Pilot System= 132 µg/L in closed loop for 80 minutes
- 0.36 log or 66% removal
- 890 A/m²
- 0.078 kWh/gal



PFAS at ppt range

PFAS pilot:

- Influent PFAS= 150 ng/L, each starting between 27 and 58 ng/L
- Treated via Aclarity Mobile Pilot System= 8 ng/L in closed loop for 180 minutes
- 1.5 log removal
- 605 A/m²

0.144 kWh/gal



Source: Alpha Analytical (report 5/4/20 with Aclarity samples);

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, "State-by-State Regulation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water" (July 2019)

Note: EPA and MA levels are the sum of individual levels, shown here as the average allowed for each; median used if state has different limits for individual chemicals

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Aclarity Mobile Pilot: 1-day pilot test for fullscale sizing









PFAS Destruction Economics

Example bench testing results with porous anode

- Initial concentration of PFAS: 50 ng/L
- Target concentration of PFAS: 5 ng/L
- Volume treated: 5 gallons
- Voltage: 15 V
- Amperage: 56 A
- Testing time required: 180 min

Conversion to full-scale using

Porous Anode:

- Design flow rate: 20,000 GPD
- Reactor CapEx + 10% redundancy: \$325K
- Electrical cost per year: 0.093kWh/gal, \$69K/yr
- Replacement cost per year: \$32.5K

Solid Anode:

- Design flow rate: 20,000 GPD
- Reactor CapEx + 10% redundancy: \$160K
- Electrical cost per year: 0.110kWh/gal, \$82.6K/yr
- Replacement cost per year: \$16K

Aclarity





PFAS mineralization and byproducts study

Aclarity method for PFAS destruction:

- C-F bonds broken by free electrons
- Fragments mineralized by OH•
- CO2, HF, F⁻, and leftover products in very small quantities





Ongoing PFAS pilots

Water Matrices:

- Landfill leachate
- Oil and Gas AFFF
- Military fire pit effluent
- Groundwater remediation
- Wastewater brines
- Municipal drinking water residuals









UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Tyndall Air Force Base	•
Air Combat Command	and the second





AES is proven in different use cases



Looking Forward

Applications

- Pharmaceuticals, reuse, pesticides
- Reduction processes– perchlorate, nitrate, hexavalent chromium, etc.

Engineering

- Testing 7-cell reactors to be ready for sale Q4 2021
- Manufacturing solid electrode reactor for high turbidity applications
- Find where economy of scale ends

Sales Channel Partners

- 1 day pilots for sizing full-scale systems
- Expanding partnerships with engineering firms, OEMs, and technology providers

Fundraising

- Awarded \$1M NSF SBIR Phase II, raised \$700K Seed VC
- New hires: Director of Industrial Sales, VP Finance, R&D Engineer II







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