



# BNR Instrumentation & Controls Selection Adventure



WRF Project #5087: Implementation of Innovative Biological Nutrient Removal Processes through Improvement of Control Systems & Online Analytical Measurement Reliability & Accuracy

# WRF Project 5087 Co-Pls

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## Woodard & Curran

Northeastern University University of Massachusetts Amherst

## ΗΔΤCΗ



# Acknowledgements

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## **Utility Partners**

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## **NEWEA Session Team**



**Nick Tooker, PE, PhD** University of Massachusetts Amherst



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Sue Guswa, PE Woodard & Curran



Paul Dombrowski, PE Woodard & Curran







# What type of water professional are you?

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## What type of water professional are you? (or what type of place do you work?)

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# WRF Project Overview

Maureen Neville, PE Jacob Fortin Woodard & Curran





Evaluate the technologies, configurations, performance, operations & maintenance (O&M) requirements, and costs of Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) control systems and online instruments to:

- Synthesize the current state of the art
- Develop a framework for the practical and cost-effective implementation of BNR control systems with online instruments
- Serve and expand WRF's subscribers



## **Benefits for Users**

Gain a **baseline understanding** of insitu sensor and wet chemistry analyzer technology

Learn from the experiences at different WRRFs and connect with those utilities Streamline the decision-making process and focus evaluation on most applicable systems

Promote successful implementation through an evaluation framework to weigh benefits and costs Receive operationsfocused, hands-on training utilizing a process simulator



# **Project Tasks**

- 1. Literature Review for BNR Control Strategies & Online Instrumentation
- 2. Utility Survey
- 3. Sensor Testing
- 4. BNR Instrumentation & Controls Selection Adventure App
  - Survey Results & Case Studies
  - Instrument & Control System Matrices
  - Decision Flowcharts & ROI Calculator
  - Data Validation SOP

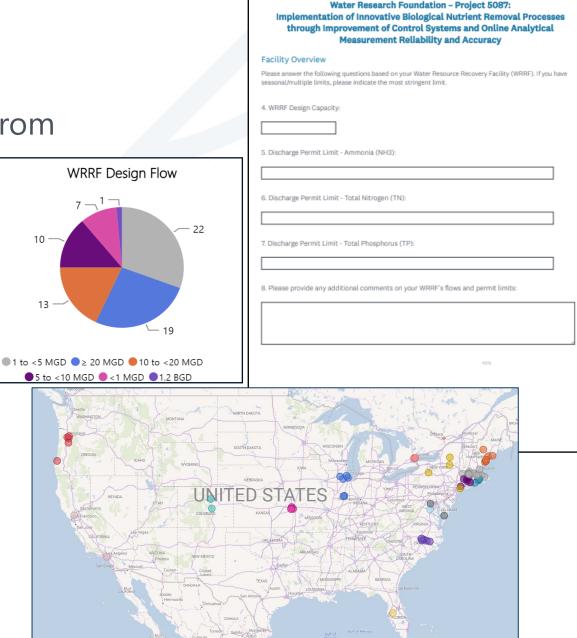
- Project Overview
- Acknowledgements
- Acronyms & Abbreviations
- References

- 5. LIFT Webcast
- 6. Interactive Operator-Focused Training on Advanced BNR Controls



# **Utility Survey Overview**

- Collect quantitative & qualitative data from WRRFs including:
  - Permit Limits
  - Control Systems in Place
  - Sensors/Analyzers for Monitoring/Control
  - O&M Practices
  - Maintenance Time, Effort, and Cost
  - Improvements Noticed
  - Control System Benefits or Challenges
  - Sentiment Towards Systems









# Which BNR control systems do you use at your facility?

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## Utility survey: control systems utilized by WRRF respondents

Dissolved Oxygen 65	SRT 31	Other 17	Supplement Carbon Addition 15	al AV
RAS/WAS Pumping	IMLR Pumping 23	Supplement Alkalinity Addition 15	al Timer- Based Aeration Control 10	RA SN SR W
53	Metal Salt Addition 17	ABAC 7	Polymer Addition 5	AVN
			SNE	)

#### Legend:

3

- ABAC Ammonia based aeration control AVN Ammonia versus nitrate
- IMLR Internal mixed liquor recycle
- Return activated sludge RAS
- Simultaneous nitrification-SND denitrification
- SRT Solids retention time
- WAS Waste activated sludge







# Which sensors/analyzers do you use at your facility?

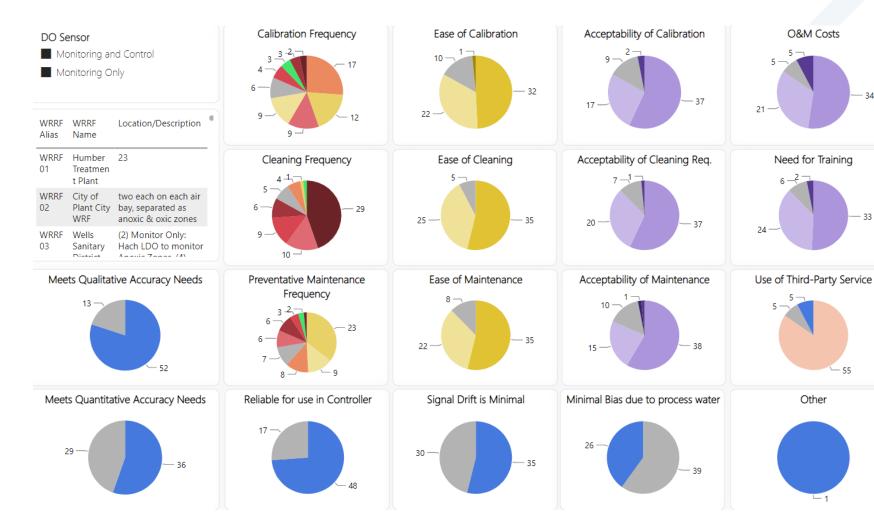
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# Utility survey: sensors/analyzers utilized by WRRF respondents

Dissolved Oxygen Sensor	Suspended Solids Analyzer 30	ORP Sensor 23	Ortho- phosphate Analyzer 21	Ammonium Sensor 20	COD Carbonaceous oxygen demand ORP Oxidation reduction			
65	Temperature Sensor 29	Turbidi Senso			potential Nitrite Sensor 5 COD/BOD Analyzer			
pH Sensor 34	Nitrate Sensor 25	Ammoniu Analyzer 11	9 COD/E m Senso	BOD or 4 te	Other Sensor 2 Conductivity Sensor 1			
			4					

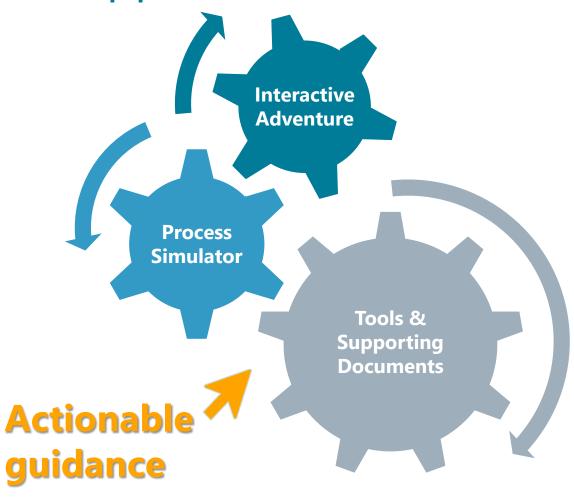


# Utility Survey: Overall summary & key outcomes



- DO sensors are most common
- O&M is critical and can be expensive
  - Weekly cleaning common
- BNR controls are worth it...but there are challenges

## Project Deliverable: BNR I&C Selection Adventure App



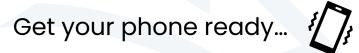
Woodard & Curran

- Set of usable tools easy entry point
- Target audience
  - Operators, engineers & utility directors
  - Small, medium & large WRRFs
- Interactive website
  - Presents the breadth and applicability of BNR control systems and associated online instruments



# Selection Adventure App

Allie Greenfield, PE Woodard & Curran





# Let's Try it!

## BNR Instrumentation & Controls Selection Adventure App

**SCAN** 

ME!







Which biological nutrient removal (BNR) control systems and sensors/analyzers might be right for your Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)? This BNR Instrumentation & Controls Selection Adventure App helps you decide! Please answer a series of short multiple-choice questions to lead you to a customized list of potential options and a set of tools that you can use to complete your selection assessment. The tools include:

- Control system summary matrix
- Instrumentation summaries
- · Utility survey results
- Case studies
- Decision flowcharts
- Return on investment calculator
- Data validation SOP
- Training opportunities
- · Project overview
- Acknowledgements
- Acronyms & abbreviations
- References

S.

This is your adventure, and you get to choose your route. The more questions you answer, the more customized the suggested BNR control system options will be for your WRRF. At any time, you can take a shortcut directly to your final destination that contains all of the project



Take a Shortcut Directly to the options list & tools →



Project #5087: Implementation of Innovative Biological Nutrient Removal Processes through Improvement of Control Systems & Online Analytical Measurement Reliability & Accuracy

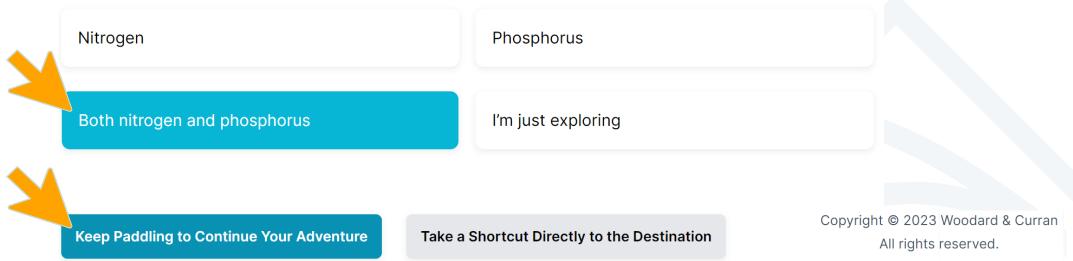




Start the Adventure! Please answer the following question to jump into your canoe and head down the river:

Question 1/3

What is your reason for being here today (choose one)?



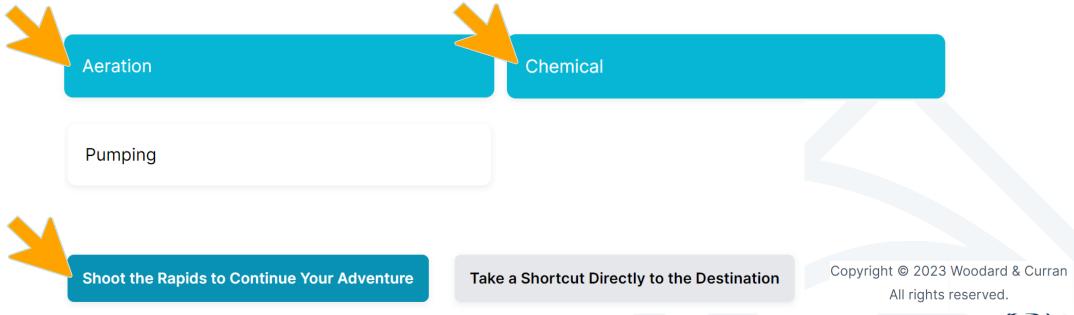




Keep paddling! Please answer the following question to continue the adventure:



What systems do you want to control (chose all that apply):







Shoot the Rapids! Please answer the following question to get to the scenic lookout:

Question 3/3 What best describes your vision for a BNR control system (choose one)?

I want minimal instrumentation to maintain

I want lots of control and the ability to optimize performance and minimize chemical & energy costs. I'm OK with additional capital and O&M costs associated with the instruments

The middle ground between these two visions

Land the Canoe at the Scenic Lookout Point

Take a Shortcut Directly to the Destination

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Water Research

You made it to the scenic lookout point where you can view your customized list of potential BNR control systems for your WRRF based on your choices along the river:

#### **Dissolved Oxygen (DO)**

DO control is an aeration control system where a DO setpoint is compared to measured DO within the aerobic zone of the BNR tanks, and based on the difference between those values, a controller adjusts the airflow rate by opening or closing modulating control valves along the air delivery piping and/or turning up or down the aeration device(s).

#### Simultaneous Nitrification & Denitrification (SND)

SND is an aeration control system where the DO setpoint is low, typically less than 1 mg/L, to drive both nitrification and denitrification reactions within the same reactor. The DO setpoint is compared to measured DO within the aerobic zone, and based on the difference between those values, a controller adjusts the airflow rate by opening or closing modulating control valves along the air delivery piping and/or turning up or down the aeration device(s). Ammonium and nitrate are typically monitored, too.

### Timer-based Aeration Control (also called intermittent or cyclic aeration)

Internal Mixed Liquor Recycle (IMLR) Pumping with a nitrate analyzer/sensor

Timer-based peration control is an peration control

MLR numping control optimizes the volume of



#### Scenic Lookout Point:

You made it to the scenic lookout point where you can view your customized list of potential BNR control systems for your WRRF based on your choices along the river:

#### Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

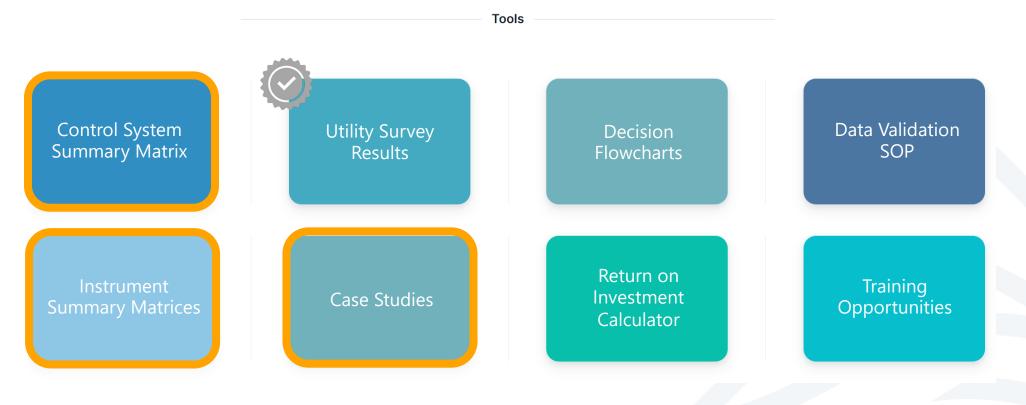
DO control is an aeration control system where a DO setpoint is compared to measured DO within the aerobic zone of

> Woodard & Curran



#### The Final Destination:

These tools and supporting project documents will aid you in completing your adventure and selecting your BNR control system. Click on each tool to view, download, and print the associated electronic hardcopy (pdf) or spreadsheet file (xls) (ROI calculator).





## **Control System Summary Matrix**

Aeration

# Pumping

## ✓ Description

Control SystemDescriptionDissolved Oxygen (DO)DO control is an aeration control system where a DO setpoint is compared to measured DO within the aerobic zone of the BNR tanks, and based on the difference between those values, a controller adjusts the airflow rate by opening or closing modulating control valves along the air delivery piping and/or turning up or down the aeration device(s).		<ul> <li>Outcomes &amp; Performance</li> <li>Improve energy efficiency</li> <li>Better control of DO concentrations returned to non-aerated zones within bioreactors (improving denitrification and EBPR performance)</li> </ul>	Potential configurations Feedback control with DO setpoints with direct aeration control, flow-based control, or pressure-based control	<ul> <li>Related Instrumentation<sup>1</sup></li> <li>DO sensor(s)</li> <li>Airflow meters and/or pressure indicators</li> </ul>	Additional Considerations Combine with flow-based most-open- valve (MOV) control or floating- pressure-based control of the blowers to optimize energy savings Programming should include maximum and minimum DO setpoints to mitigate risk of performance impacts from over- or under-aeration and the ability to alarm potentially-faulty instrument readings and unstable control	
AvN™		Aerobic SRT	Metal Salts	✓Additiona	l Considerat	tions
			Polymer			

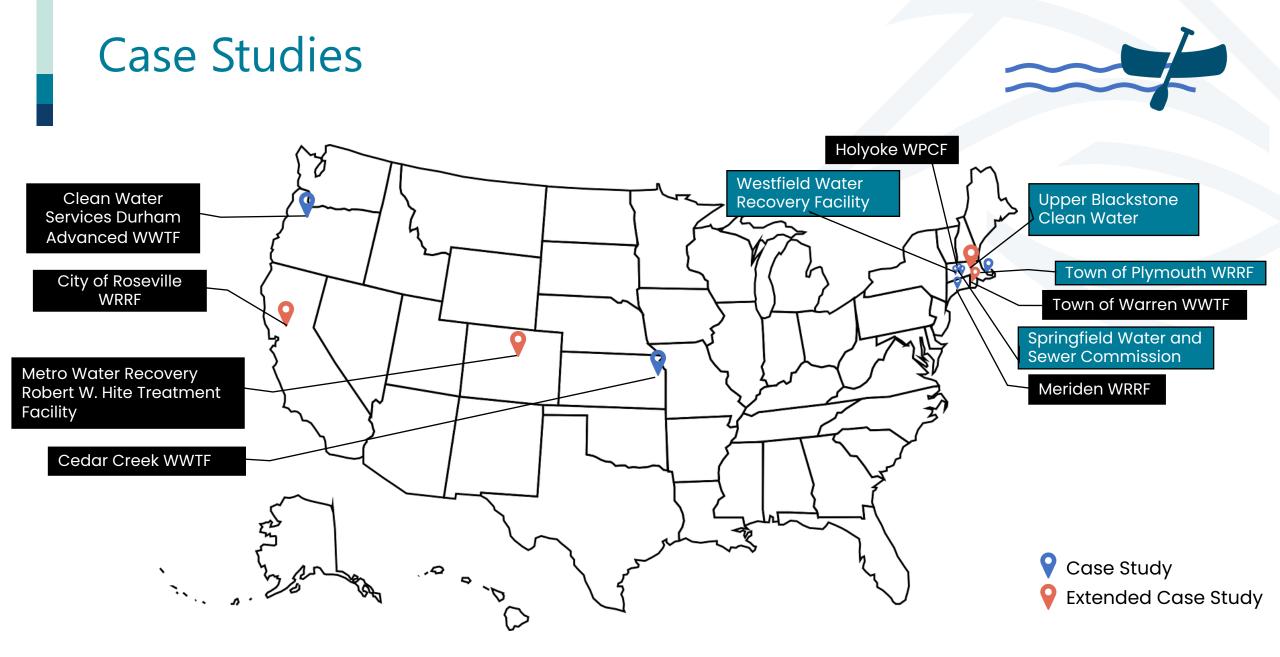


## Instrumentation Summary Matrices

### **Dissolved Oxygen Instruments**

Product Details				Performance		O&M Requirements			Costs		
Sensor/ Analyzer	Type/ Mechanism	Manufacturer	Model	Detection range	Manufacturers recommended calibration frequency	Inspection & Maintenance as Part of the Service Contract	Maintenance by the User	Pre-filtration required (if any)	Reported interferences	Any other needs (cooling water, compressed air, other)	Instrument Cost
	Electrochemical - Lead Silver Galvanic sensor	ECD	DO90 Trace DO2								
		Hach	LDO sc Model 2	0.0 - 20.0 mg/L					None		
	Sensor Optical	YSI	IQ SensorNet FDO		Factory calibrated; no calibration needed.	No routine servicing.		None			
		Endress + Hausser	Oxymax COS61								
Sensor		In-Situ	RDOX; 750w2 Portable Monitor - OxyTechw2 RDO; MPX4 Multiparameter Sonde	0.0 - 60.0 mg/L			Replace sensor caps every two years.		Alcohols >5%; hydrogen peroxide > 3%; sodium hypochlorite (commercial bleach) > 3%; gaseous sulfur dioxide; gaseous chlorine. Do not use in organic solvents.	None	\$2,000-\$3,000
		Horiba	LAQUA-DO2000						None		







# Case Studies, continued

## **BNR Systems:**

- MLE (with and without S2EBPR), AO & A2O
- 4- and 5-Stage Bardenpho
- ► HPO
- ► SBR
- Step Feed

## **Control Systems:**

- Aeration
  - DO, ABAC & timer-based
- Pumping
  - SRT, IMLR & RAS/WAS
- Chemical addition
  - Carbon, alkalinity & metal salts

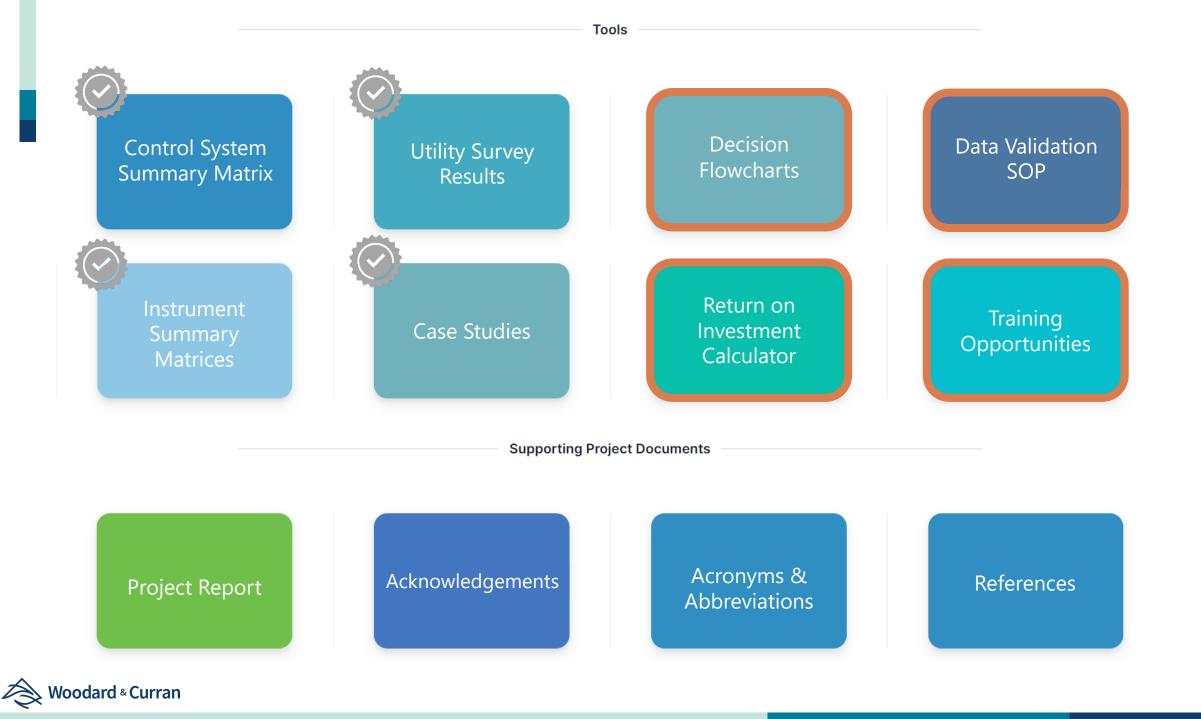




# Decision Flowcharts

Sue Guswa, PE Woodard & Curran







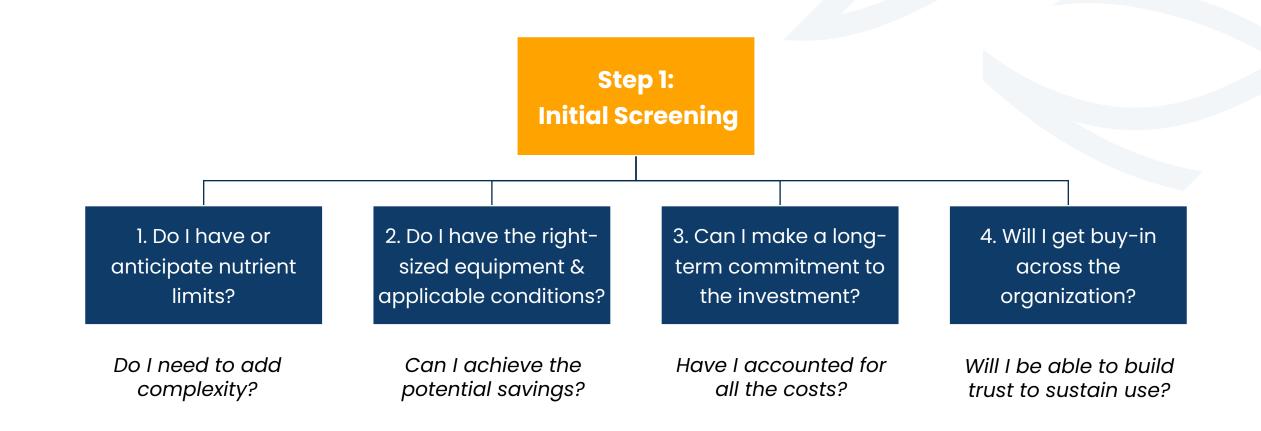
The *Decision Flowcharts* tool and related *Return on Investment Calculator* tool are intended to help you answer the question:

Should I invest in BNR instrumentation & controls for my WRRF?



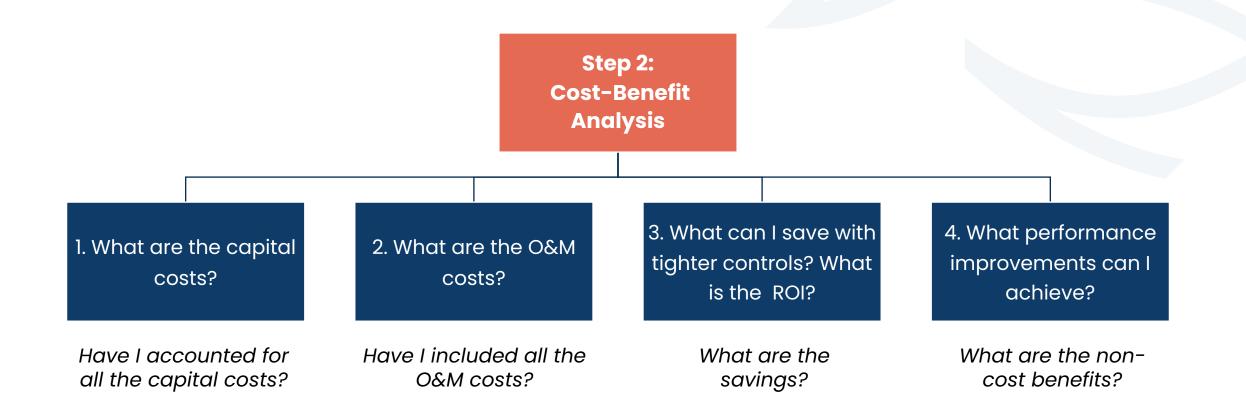


# Step 1: Initial screening approach





## Step 2: Cost-Benefit Analysis





# **Tool: Return on Investment Calculator**

### Capital Costs

- Controls
- Instrumentation
- Other Costs

## • O&M Costs

- Controls
- Instrumentation
- Data Validation & Management

## O&M Savings

- Energy
- Chemicals
- Labor
- Sludge
- Other

#### 1. Capital Costs:

#### A. Controls: Program Startup & Subtotal **Development** Installation Commissioning (sum of cost Cost **Purchase Cost** Cost Other ( Control System Annual O&M Savings: ABAC (proprietary system) \$25,000 Two options are available for estimating the annual O&M savings: Option 1 allows for direct entry of quantities of materials saved and associated up

#### B. Instrumentation:

ISE A

Accessories				Option 2 Annual Savings - Percent Savings Calculator						
		Cost			Item	Total annual budget:		\$	2,000,000	
	Instrument	(transmitter,	Installation		Labor as percent of total	40	%	\$	800,000	
		cleaning units,	(Percent of		Electricity as percent of total	30	%	\$	600,000	
		etc.)			Sludge Disposal as percent of total	25	%	\$	500,000	
Instrument(s)	Cost (Total)		Other C	Chemical as percent of total	5	%	\$	100,000		
olved Oxygen sensor	\$6,000	(Total) \$3,000			Other as percent of total	0	%	\$	-	
mmonia sensor	\$8,000					ОК				
						Percent Savings			Savings	
					Labor	0	%	\$	-	
					Electricity	15	%	\$	90,000	
					Sludge Disposal	0	%	Ś	-	
Net Annual Savin	gs & Retur	n on Inves	tment:							

Net Annual Savings =

Return on Investment (ROI) =

(ROI) =

ROI = Capital Costs/(Annual Savings - Annual O&M Costs)

Net Annual Savings = Total Annual Savings - Total Annual O&M Costs - Annual Capital Recovery Costs

Option 2 estimates savings based on overall WRRF budget, estimated breakdown

Snippets of Downloadable Excel file

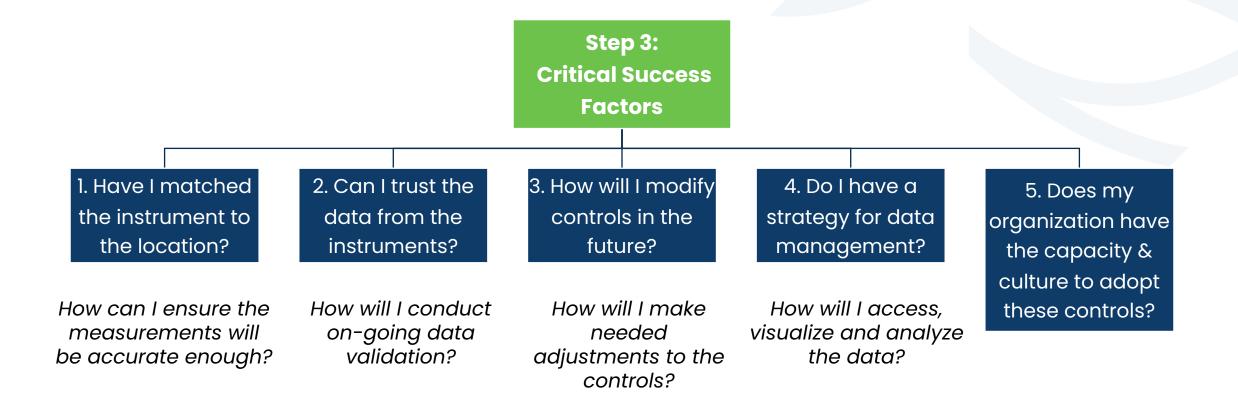
Years

\$26,500

4.0



## Step 3: Evaluation of critical success factors approach





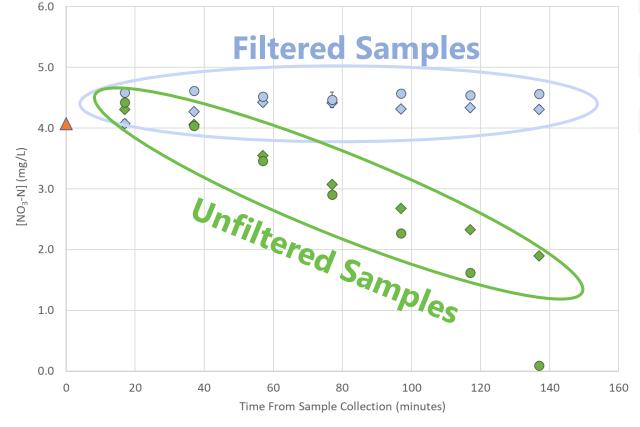
# **Tool: Data Validation SOP**

 Starting point for utilities as they build their own SOP

1. Sample2. SampleCollectionAnalysis

ample 3. Matrix alysis Adjustments

- Field testing conducted at UMass Amherst
  - Routine sensor cleaning (1-2 times/week)
  - Immediate filtration is critical



▲ Initial Value 🔹 12 °C Filtered 💿 18 °C Filtered 🔶 12 °C Non-Filtered 💿 18 °C Non-Filtered

Nitrate Concentration as a Function of Time After Sample Collection With and Without Filtration and Refrigeration



# Thank You!

Woodard & Curran

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- Paul Dombrowski, PE, Woodard & Curran: PDombrowski@WoodardCurran.com









# Panel Discussion

Moderator: Nick Tooker

Michael Andrus, PE, Upper Blackstone Clean Water Jeff Gamelli, City of Westfield Matthew Nolen-Parkhouse, Veolia Jesse Freeman, Woodard & Curran





Case Study: Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Michael Andrus, PE Deputy Director UBCW



### **UPPER BLACKSTONE CLEAN WATER**

- Serves 250,000 population
- 30 MGD dry weather flow (120+ MGD during wet weather)
- BNR plant with 4 A<sup>2</sup>O trains
- Nutrient Limits
  - TN: 5 mg-N/L
  - TP: 0.1 mg-P/L (0.45 mg/L interim)
- Regional Biosolids Incinerator
- Discharge to the Blackstone River





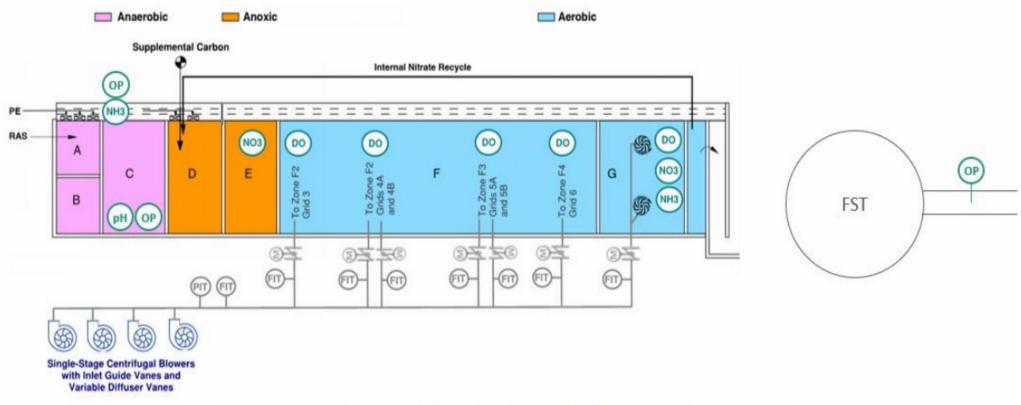


Figure 3. BNR Process Schematic with Instrument Locations.

Source: Modified from Neville, et. al., September 2019.

#### **INSTRUMENTATION SOLUTIONS**

- Nitrack Controller Micro C pacing for Nitrogen
- DO Probes, Iris valves and MOV control for aeration
- pH Meters for Alkalinity and pH control
- Phosphax Analyzer for Phosphorus (monitoring)





# **THANK YOU!**

### Michael Andrus, PE | Deputy Director MAndrus@UBCleanWater.org





Case Study: Westfield Water Recovery Facility

Jeffrey Gamelli Deputy Superintendent City of Westfield



# Westfield WRF

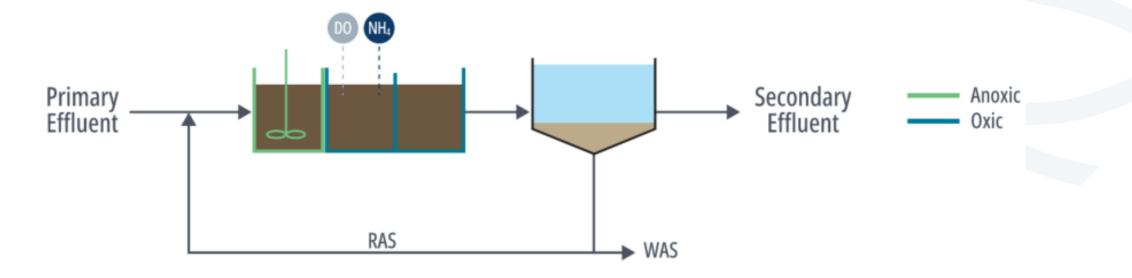
- ► Flow:
  - Design ADF: 6.1 mgd
  - Typical ADF: 3.4 mgd
- Permit Limits:
  - Ammonia: 3 mg/L (summer limit)
  - Total Nitrogen: 407 lbs/day rolling annual average (equivalent to 8 mg/L at permitted design flow)
  - Total Phosphorus
    - 0.46 mg/L April 1 October 31
    - 1 mg/L TP November 1 March 31
- BNR Process:
  - Conventional Activated Sludge Modified AO
- Controls:
  - Aeration control: Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Control, Ammonia-based Aeration Control (ABAC)
  - Chemical addition: Supplemental Alkalinity Addition, Metal Salt Addition, Return Activated Sludge (RAS), Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) Pumping



Source: City of Westfield Water Recovery Facility, October 2023.



# Westfield BNR Instrumentation



Sensors & Analyzers	
Automatic Control System:	DO Sensor, Ammonium Sensor
BNR Monitoring:	DO Sensor, pH Sensor, Ammonium Sensor, Phosphate Analyzer, Suspended Solids Sensor, Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) Sensor, Temperature Sensor





# Case Study: Plymouth WRRF

Jesse Freeman Lead Operator Woodard & Curran



# Plymouth WRRF

- Design Flow:
  - 3 mgd average annual daily flow
- Permit Limits:
  - Nitrate (as N): 10 mg/L
  - Total Nitrogen: 10 mg/L
- BNR Process:
  - Sequencing batch reactor (SBR)
- Controls:
  - Aeration: Timer-based aeration control
  - Chemical Addition: Supplemental alkalinity & metal salts

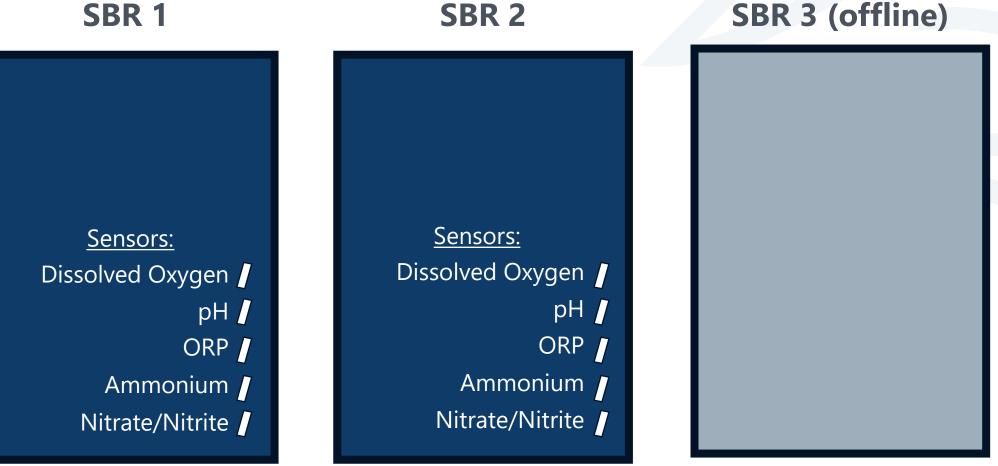


Source: Microsoft Bing, June 2023.



# Plymouth BNR Instrumentation (monitoring only)

SBR 1



And Suspended Solids Sensor located in Chlorine Contact Tank





Case Study: Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

Matt Nolen-Parkhouse Assistant Project Manager Veolia



### Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

- Flow (CSO Facility):
  - 67 mgd design ADF
  - 40 mgd typical ADF
- Permit Limits:
  - 2,794 lbs/day TN (5 mg/L at 67 MGD)
- BNR Process:
  - Hybrid step feed process with two anoxic zones and IMLR from last aerobic zone to first anoxic zone
- Controls:

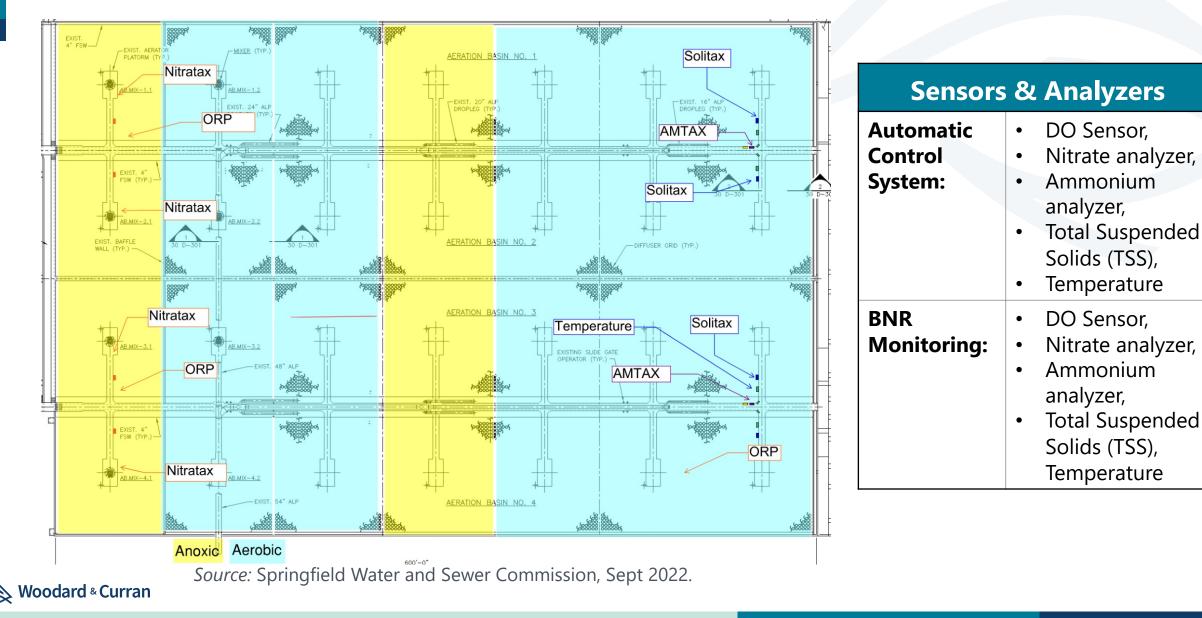
Woodard & Curran

- Aeration: Hach RTC-N (Proprietary control, Ammonia Based Aeration Control (ABAC)/ Dissolved Oxygen (DO))
- Pumping: Internal Mixed Liquor (IMLR) control (flow-paced)





# Springfield BNR Instrumentation







(i) Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

# Panel Discussion

Moderator: Nick Tooker

Michael Andrus, PE, Upper Blackstone Clean Water Jeff Gamelli, City of Westfield Matthew Nolen-Parkhouse, Veolia Jesse Freeman, Woodard & Curran





# Simulator Training

Paul Dombrowski Woodard & Curran



# Simulator BNR Control Training Exercises

- The WRF Project 5087 Simulator contains the following BNR control schemes, allowing users to interactively experiment with different control options and training exercises:
  - SRT control (via WAS)
  - DO control via airflow
  - Ammonia-Based Aeration Control (ABAC) of DO setpoints
  - PO<sub>4</sub>-P control via metal salt addition
  - NO<sub>3</sub>-N control via supplemental carbon addition and IMLR pumping
- Simulator has both steady-state and dynamic influent flow functionality, illustrating how operational changes affect effluent quality under diurnal and wet weather flow conditions



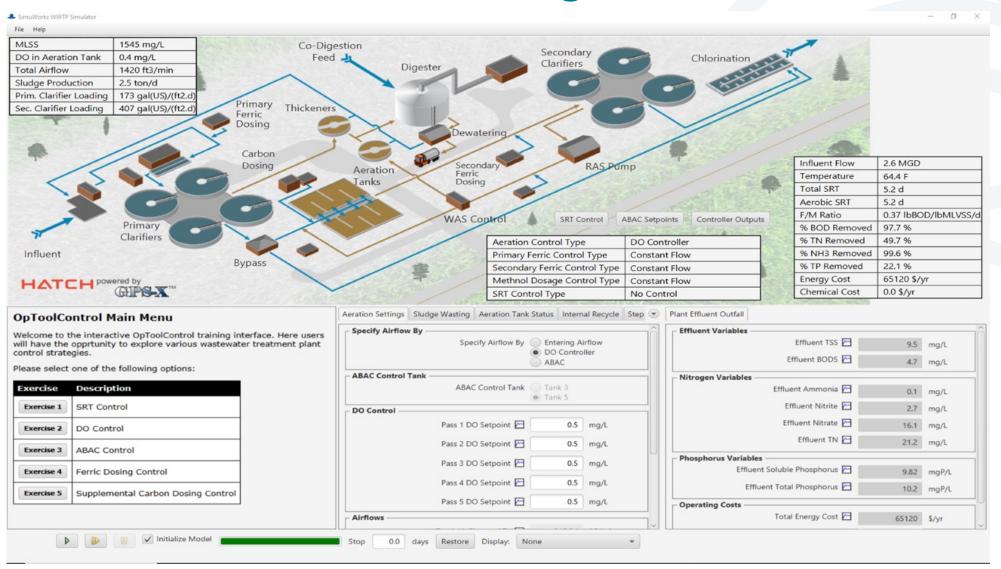
# **Simulator Introduction**

The SimuWorks<sup>™</sup> simulator is an interactive hands-on training tool based on GPS-X<sup>™</sup> from Hatch (formerly Hydromantis)

- SimuWorks<sup>™</sup> has been available for over a decade and part of WEFTEC Operations Challenge since 2016
- WRF Project 5087 Simulator incorporates various instrumentation and control options that allow:
  - Open Simulation Mode to develop and run interactive simulations
  - Prepared, self-paced exercises that walk the user through how sensors and controls can improve operation, performance and cost.



# Simulator BNR Control Training Exercises



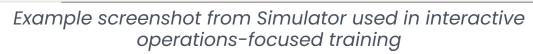
Woodard & Curran

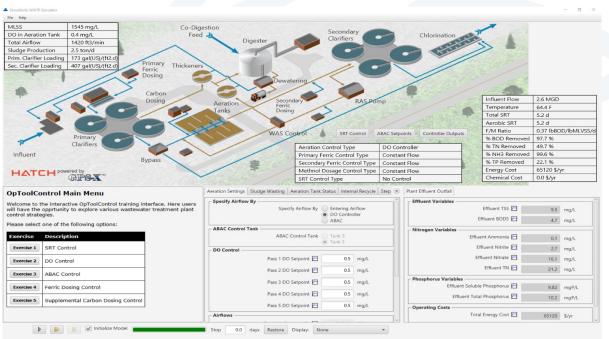
# Where can I learn more?

- BNR Instrumentation & Controls Selection Adventure App
  - Interactive adventure
  - Tools (8)
  - Supporting Project Documents
  - Accessed from a link on the WRF website and hosted by Woodard & Curran
  - https://wrf-bnr-selectionapp.woodardcurran.com

#### Simulator

- Accessed from a link on the WRF website and hosted by Hatch for one year after final deliverable is complete
- WRF LIFT Webinar & additional opportunities to use simulator at trainings through industry associations





# Thank You!

Woodard & Curran

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