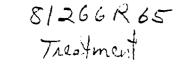
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REMOVAL OF TRACE ORGANICS FROM GROUNDWATER USING GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON

FILE COPY

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Information Center Commerce City, Colorado

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

DENVER, COLORADO

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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REVIEW FY 1979

ACTIVATED CARBON DIVISION CALGON CORPORATION

Ву

L.E. HOOD TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR REMOVAL OF TRACE OPGANICS FROM GROUNDWATER USING GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

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DENVER, COLORADO

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REVIEW FY 1979

PREPARED BY: ACTIVATED CARBON DIVISION CALGON CORPORATION

L. E. HOOD TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR

### APPROVED AND SUBMITTED BY:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL PROCESS DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING BRANCH

CARL G. LOVEN



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### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL DENVER: COLORADO 80240-Commerce City, Colorado 80022

SARRM-TOI-E

3 Jul 79

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Project Report

Commander US Army Toxic & Hazardous Materials Agency ATTN: DRXTH-IS (Don Campbell) Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

Inclosed is the FY 79 annual technical report submitted in accordance with ITARMS Task 1.05.3, which represents a technical evaluation of the performance of the Calgon Activated Carbon Process as operated in conjunction with the north boundary pilot containment system for the removal of trace organic contaminants from RMA groundwater.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

l Incl as IRWIN M. GLASSMAN Director of Technical Operations

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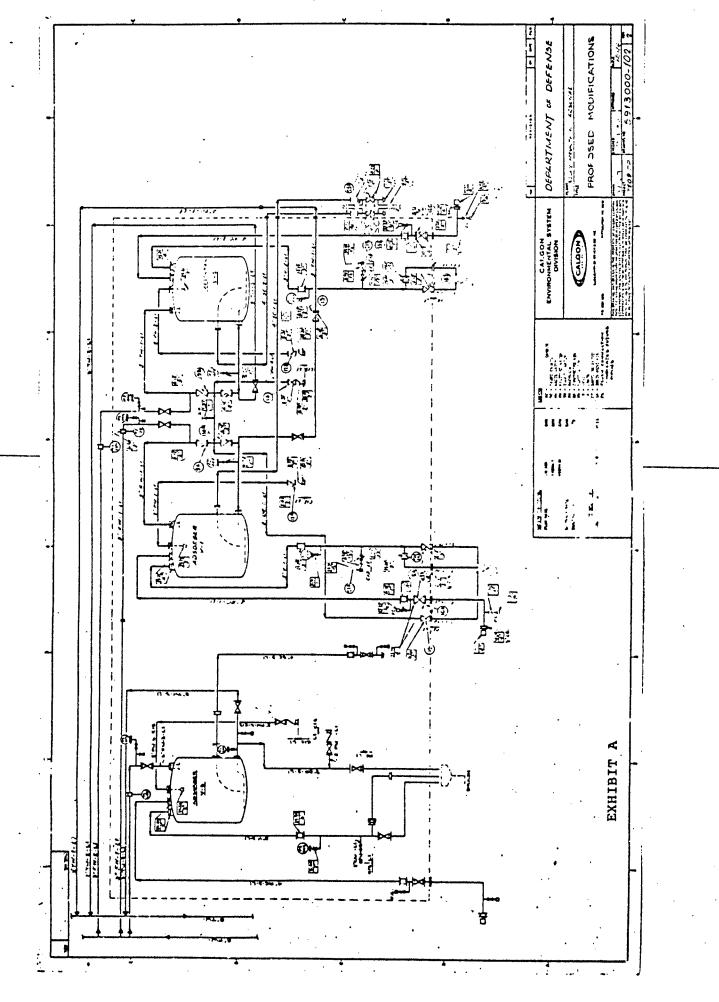
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1.

Exhibit A Activated Carbon System Schematic

- 2. Exhibit B Adsorption System Description
- 3.

Exhibit C Rocky Mountain Arsenal 1979 Calgon Activated System Performance Annual Review



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### EXHIBIT B ACTIVATED CARBON ADSORPTION SYSTEM ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL DENVER, COLORADO

### ADSORPTION SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

This General Process Description pertains to the proposed Activated Carbon Water Treatment Facility located in Rocky Mountain Arsenal's plant.

The influent water will be pumped from the wells to the feed sumps located at the Adsorption System site. The wells, pumps, and conveyance system to the feed sumps will be provided by Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

The water in the feed sumps will be pumped at a controlled rate through the Adsorption System. A flow control system will operate controlling flow to the Adsorption System on the basis of the water level in the feed sumps. The sumps, feed pumps and flow control system will be provided by Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Equipment for the Adsorption System consists of three (3) lined carbon steel adsorbers to provide for adsorption of the dissolved organic contaminants.

The influent will be pumped at a controlled rate downflow through the Adsorption System. This will consist of three (3) single stage adsorbers. Each adsorber is rated for 75 psig at  $150^{\circ}$ F and is designed to contain 20,000 pounds of Activated Carbon on a dry basis.

The system is designed so that all three adsorbers will be available to treat influent at the same time. The treated effluent from each adsorber will be collected in a common header and conveyed to the battery limits for disposal by Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

This system design is predicated on the use of Calgon Corporation's Activated Carbon delivered in their specially designed trailers. The carbon delivery system is integral with the use of Calgon Corporation's equipment and carbon.

### Introduction:

In accordance with recommendations put forth in the Department of Army's report on Carbon Adsorption Treatment of Contaminated Groundwater at Rocky Mountain Arsenal dated 15 October 1977 a full scale Calgon Adsorption unit was installed at Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) and began operating in July 1978. To insure operation in compliance of Cease and Desist orders by the State of Colorado Department of Health issued on 7 April 1975, the unit has been running from July 78 to the present.

One of the prime objectives of the Program of Installation Restoration is "To acquire Technology to develop and implement containment and treatment systems." To address this specific need at the RMA site, Calgon Corporation instituted in its Adsorption Service Contract an annual review of all data collected with a subsequent technical review of the results obtained. It is the purpose of this report to review the operation of the Adsorption System and the results obtained in light of previous treatability studies performed by Calgon Corporation and RMA personnel.

As previous assessments were made at pseudo steadystate conditions over a relatively short period of time the evolution into the existing system and current operation was only possible through close cooperation between RMA and

Calgon personnel. The last years operation of a full scale system has allowed the acquirement of technology to achieve the goal of eliminating contaminant migration at the RMA site.

Finally, Calgon Corporation would like to extend its' appreciation to the Projects Development Evaluation Division Personnel, RMA for the cooperation exhibited during the past year.

### Conclusions:

- Based on a maximum allowable DIMP concentration of 500 ppb in the effluent at breakthrough, the carbon usage rates for the two completed cycles from July 79 to June 79 are 1.90 # carbon/1000 gal wastewater (Cycle 1) and 1.29 # carbon/1000 gal wastewater (Cycle 2). This compares with a 1.1 # carbon/1000 gal wastewater obtained from the pilot studies conducted at Rocky Mountain Arsenal.
  - Higher than expected carbon usage rates are a direct result of bed siphoning with subsequent air pocket formation.
- Maintenance downtime during FY 79 averaged less than 1% based on a 365 day operating year.
- Determination of the DIMP concentration to determine carbon bed exhaustion has been demonstrated as a sufficient criteria for monitoring purposes.
- Solids loading to the Adsorption System were much lower than expected due to the excellent performance of the dewatering wells. Resultant backwash frequency was one backwash every 2 - 4 weeks.

### Recommendations:

During the next carbon change-out (approximately September) install a siphon break on the effluent line prior to the recharge wells.

TOC levels should be incorporated in conjunction with DIMP concentrations in determining bed life.

Prior to initial design on potential system expansion RMA and Calcon personnel should decide on expected levels and frequency of TOC for future treatment considerations.

Due to lower than expected suspended solids loading, the design hydraulic rate for future design considerations should be 10 GPM/Ft.<sup>2</sup> versus the current design of 4 GPM/Ft.<sup>2</sup>.

During periods of extremely low influent solids the dual media filters should be backwashed once every two weeks to minimize bed compaction.

### Discussion:

- A. System Description<sup>4</sup>
  - 1. Plant Facilities

The influent water is pumped from the dewatering wells to the feed sump located at the adsorption site. The wells, pumps and conveyance system to the feed sumps is provided by Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

The water conveyed to the feed sump is pumped at a controlled rate through the Adsorption System. A flow control system operates controlling flow to the Adsorption System on the basis of the water level in the feed sump. The sump, feed pumps and flow control system are provided by Calgon. Equipment for the Adsorption System consists of two (2) lined carbon steel pressure filters 4 ft. diameter, two (2) lined carbon steel adsorbers 10 ft. diameter by 11 ft. sidewalls and associated appurtenances to provide for filtration of the influent, adsorption of the dissolved organic contaminants and transfer ~f Activated Carbon into and out of the adsorber.

The influent is pumped at a controlled rate downflow through the two (2) filters in a parallel mode. Each filter contains four (4) feet of filter media consisting of a blend of graded coal and sand.

Each lined carbon steel filter vessel is rated for 100 psig at 150°F. The filters are operated in parallel until such time that backwashing is required. Backwashing may be effected manually or on a preset time interval. A high pressure drop alarm is provided to signal premature filter plugging indicating the need to manually initiate the backwash sequence. The backwash sequence is effected by isolating and backwashing one filter at a time with filtered water from the on-stream filter for a preset time period. When the backwashing operation is complete, the filter is automatically returned to service. Solids laden backwash water is conveyed to a backwash water settling sump. After an appropriate time period to allow for settling, the settling sump is decanted to the feed sump for reprocessing. Periodically RMA personnel remove settled sludge from the backwash settling sump.

The filtered water flows under pressure to the adsorption section of the Adsorption System. This consists of two (2) single stage adsorbers. Each adsorber is rated for 75 psig at 150<sup>O</sup>F and is designed to contain 20,000 lbs. of Activated Carbon.

The system is designed such that only one adsorber will be in service at a time. The filtered water passes downflow through the adsorber in service. The treated effluent from the adsorber is conveyed to the battery limits for disposal by RMA.

When the carbon in the adsorber becomes exhausted, the Spent Carbon is replaced with Activated Carbon. Fresh Activated Carbon is delivered to RMA in specially designed trailers. The Activated Carbon is transferred from the Calgon trailer to the adsorber by filling the trailer with treated water to slurry the Activated Carbon and pressurizing the trailer with compressed air. The treated water for the transfer is treated by the Adsorption System and stored in the empty adsorber prior to the arrival of the Calgon trailer. Once this operation is complete, the Adsorption System can be placed back in service. Calgon supplied an air compressor system to provide compressed air for the carbon transfer operations as well as any compressed air required for instrumentation or valve operators.

The Spent Carbon is transferred from the exhausted adsorber to the empty Calgon trailer as a water slurry by pressurizing the adsorber with compressed air. The slurry water is drained from the Calgon

trailer to the feed system for treatment in the Adsorption System. The Calgon trailer removes the Spent Carbon from RMA.

Shown in Table I are the design conditions and performance capabilities of the system installed at RMA.

### 2. Operation & Maintenance

A major factor on deciding to install the Calgon unit at the RMA facility was its ease of operation and minimal manpower requirement.<sup>1</sup> During FY.79 downtime amounted to less than 1% based on a 365 day operating year. The problems encountered were simplistic in nature and are typical in any system start-up. Specifically, flow recorders not operating properly, pump seals needing replacement and a faulty solenoid valve were the extent of problems encountered.

Included in the Appendix are typical GC/MS analyses of the influent and effluent of the Adsorption System. It is worthwhile to note the effluent scan. This particular sample was taken 6 days prior to carbon changeout and it is evident that one need only monitor the DIMP concentration for determining the breakthrough characteristics. This point was addressed in a previous study<sup>1</sup> and has been verified during the past years operation.

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TABLE 1	SYSTEM DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE CAPABILITIES	System Design Performance Value		11Y 252,000 GPD 288,000 GPD	Peak 200 GPM 200 GPM 200 GPM	Pressure Svetom Doliof 275	$35 F - 100^{OF}$	7.0 - 8.0	20 mg/l See Contract Noto	Average Daily Concentration Ins 9 mg/l	Average Daily Concentration 400 ug/l	Concentration	às	- Average Daily Concentration Insta 500 mg/l	and Solvents ) SEE CONTRACT NOTES
		Parameter	Flow	Average Daily	Instantaneous Peak	Pump Discharge Pressure	Temperature	PH - Influent	Suspended Solids	Total Organic Carbon	<u>Diisopropyl Methyl Phosphonate</u>	Chlorides	pounds thyl	Dicyclopentadiene	<u>Oil &amp; Grease</u> Other Organic Chemicals a Water Stability

**Discussion:** 

### B. System Performance

1. Adsorption System

Summarized in Table 2 and Fig. 1, 2, 3 & 4, and as a basis for this discussion is a comprehensive data analysis of previous work both pilot scale and full scale. The carbon usage rates as presented represent three categories. The theoretical rate is based on isotherm work and assumes 100% removal from the beginning to the end of the cycle. The second and third columns presented are based on actual field data and represent two different breakthrough criteria as shown. In actual practice, a fresh bed is ordered when the effluent DIMP concentration reaches 50 ppb. Due to inherent lags in logistics, the "Spent" bed is actually transferred out several days later which allows the effluent DIMP concentration to approach the 500 ppb limit. The carbon capacities as presented are obtained in an analagous manner.

The prime concern of Calgon is the effect of bed siphoning. Due to the possibility of flow stoppage and downstream hydraulic characteristics of the recharge wells it is not only possible but, highly likely that siphoning will occur. The ramifications of this are that siphoning allows

air to enter the bed and upon refilling with influent one is guaranteed of air pocket formation.

The consequence of this is channeling through the bed severely limiting the adsorption capacity. Input from RMA personnel indicate that hydraulic irregularities indeed existed and when placed in light of the potential of siphoning there is no question as to the probability of the occurrence. There is no means of measuring the effect except to state that past experience in other applications has shown usage rates deteriorating from 20 - 75% of expected values. The installation of the siphon break as recommended will prevent this event and it is the opinion of Calgon that usage rates will approach the pilot study numbers.

The second area of concern with regard to carbon consumption is the influent TOC levels. The data in Table 1 suggests a profound effect with regard to TOC. The original pilot work done with bog water had TOC levels averaging 39 mg/l. Placing this in perspective with the observed usage rate of .9# carbon/1000 gal treated versus a theoretical value of .33# carbon/1000 gal treated and keeping in mind the relatively low capacity of carbon for DIMP - 10.5 mg/gm theoretical or **0**.1 wt. %

pickup - it is not hard for one to postulate that at increased levels of TOC, there is substantial competitive adsorption taken place with "other" compounds occupying adsorption sites that would normally be available for DIMP. It is difficult to access the impact of the TOC levels for future consideration but based on data available, it would not be out of line to expect carbon usage rates to be in the neighborhood of 1.5 - 2.5 times the expected values with TCC levels of 25 mg/l and higher. The effect becomes more pronounced as DIMP concentrations become lower due to a low. driving force making it that much harder to compete for available sites.

High TOC levels shown in Figure 2 represent initial analytical problems and are not actual influent conditions. During the operating year influent TOC levels averaged out almost identical to original validation studies <sup>1,2,3</sup>,. However, for future consideratior at RMA, the impact of TOC should be addressed and placed in proper perspective.

### 2. Dual Media Filtration

During the original well water studies<sup>3</sup>, intermittant suspended solids problems were encountered. As a result of this, Calgon's.proposal included dual media filtration prior to adsorption. The reason for this is that due to the large flows being processed through the Adsorption System even low level suspended solids (20-50 ppm) would cause excessive pressure drops and shortened operating cycles. The potential for changing carbon on solids build-up versus organic loading existed and as such filtration was included. During the past year, suspended solids have been extremely low (<20 ppm) as a result of excellent performance by the dewatering wells. Backwash frequency has consistently been averaging once per month.

Based on the past year's performance, it is Calgon's recommendation to increase the design hydraulic capacity to 10 GPM/Ft.<sup>2</sup> versus the original capacity of 4 GPM/Ft.<sup>2</sup>. This rate is applicable providing the solids remain below 20 ppm. Additionally, it is recommended that the filters be backwashed once every 2 weeks to prevent bed compaction and alleviate any potential plugging problems due to precipitation of inorganic salts. From an economic standpoint it is also recommended that filtration be utilized in any future work. Filtration prior to adsorption insures carbon bed changeout on organics only. It is economically more attractive to install filters versus taking a risk if upsets develop in the dewatering wells' necessitating a carbon bed change due to a surge in the suspended solids level.

TABLE 2

# COMPARATIVE CARBON USAGE RATES & CAPACITIES

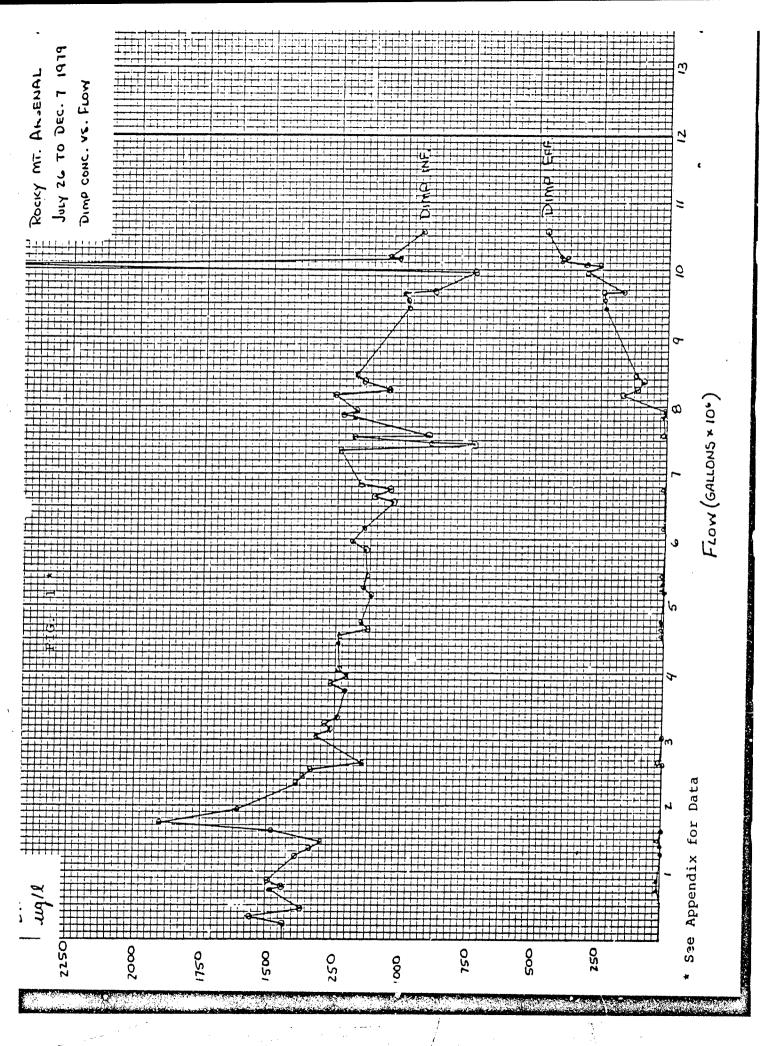
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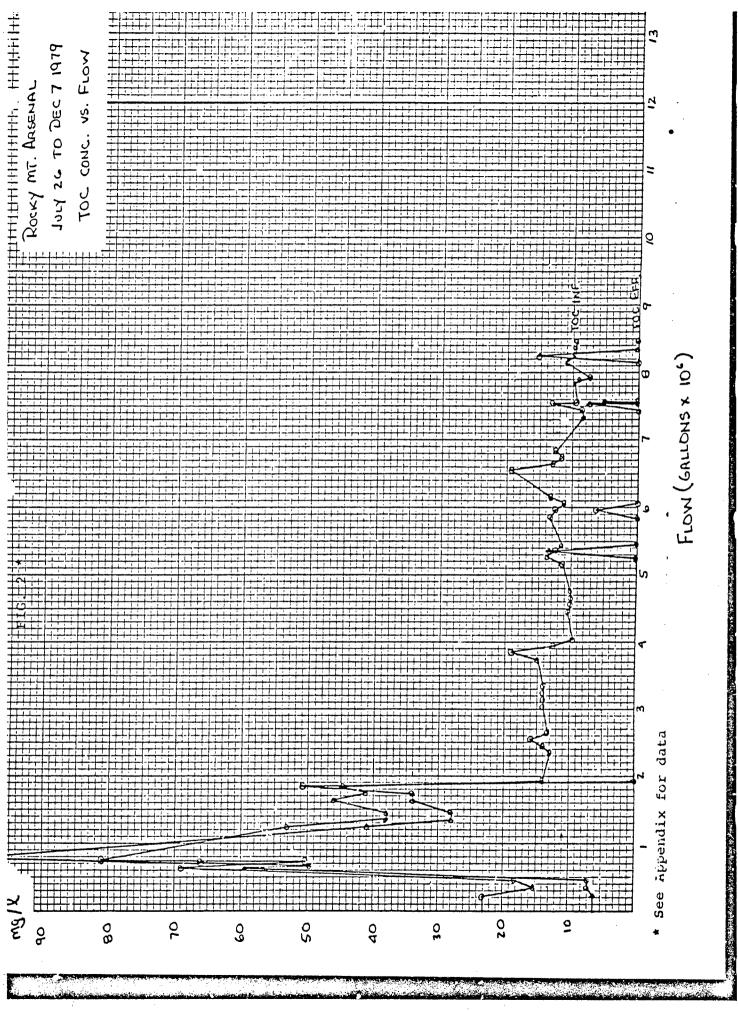
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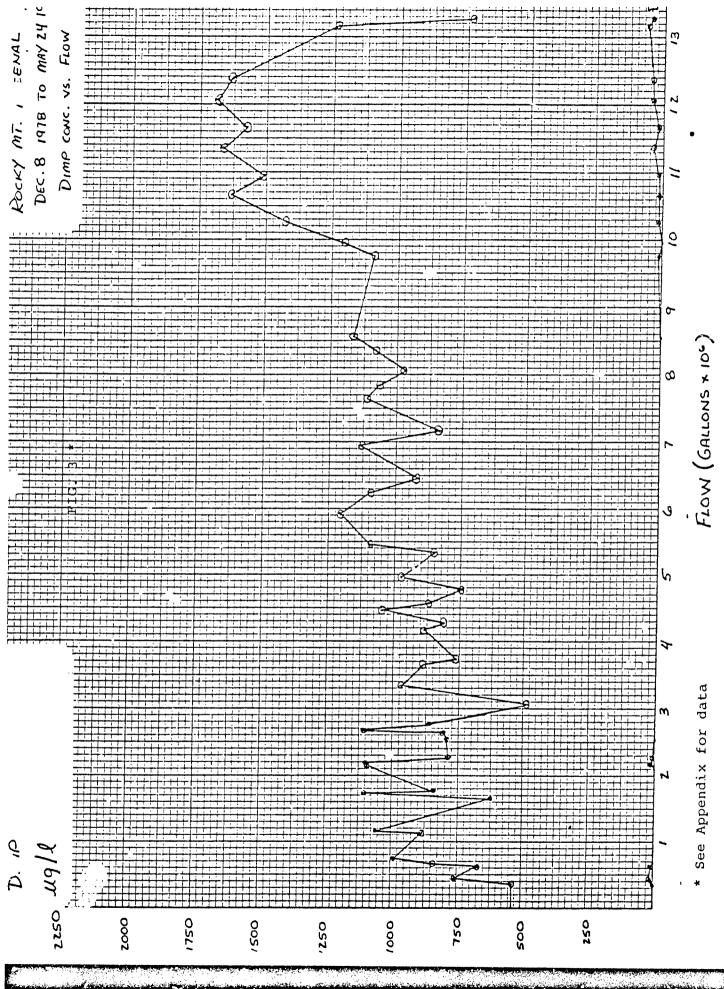
acity carbon Actual		3.78		7.79	12.95	ł	ł		5.lg	5.68	
Carbon Capacity mg DIMP/gm carbon Theoretical* Actua		10.46		18.74	ı	I	ı		14.85	14.07	
ates 1 Treated 500 ppb	1	ł		0.95	1.05	1.10	1.10		1.90	1.29	
Carbon Usage Rates Carbon/1000 gal Tr al* 50 ppb 50		06.0		1.31	1.33	1.20	1.18		2.52	1.54	
Carl Lbs. Carl Theoretical*		0.33		1.09	1.09	1.09	1.09		0.68	0.61	
Contact Time Min. 7		15		15	30	45	60		60	60	
Influent TOC mg/l (Average)		. 39		9.5	1	<b>1</b>	ł		12.0	6.6	
Influent DIMP mg/l (Average)		417		2440	ł	ł	I	tem	1205	1024	
SOURCE	. Original Pilot Study 1,2,3	l) Bog Water	2) Well Water	a) Col. l	b) Col. 2	c) Col. 3	d) Col. 4	I. Full Scale System	1) Run 1 July-Dec.	2) Run 2 DecMay	* See Appendix

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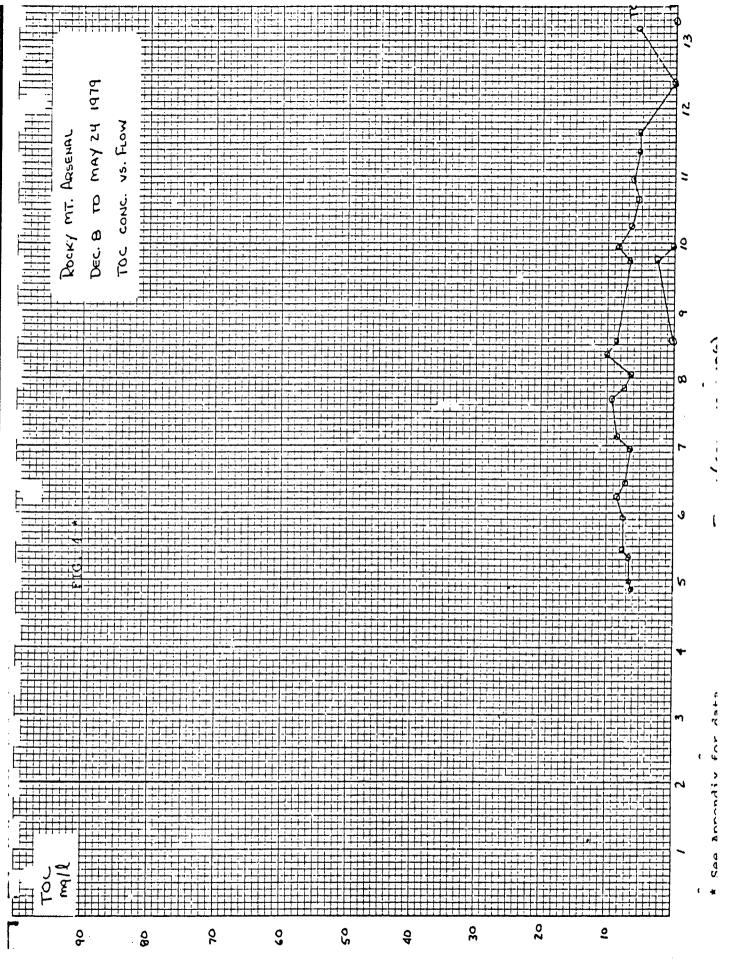
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- 4. Contract No. DAAA05-78-C-0005. Exhibit A Calgon Corporation/ Department of Army.
- 5. Contract No. DAAA05-78-C-0005. Exhibit B Calgon Corporation/ Department of Army.

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### APPENDIX

I. GC/MS Scan Influent & Effluent

II. DIMP Isotherm

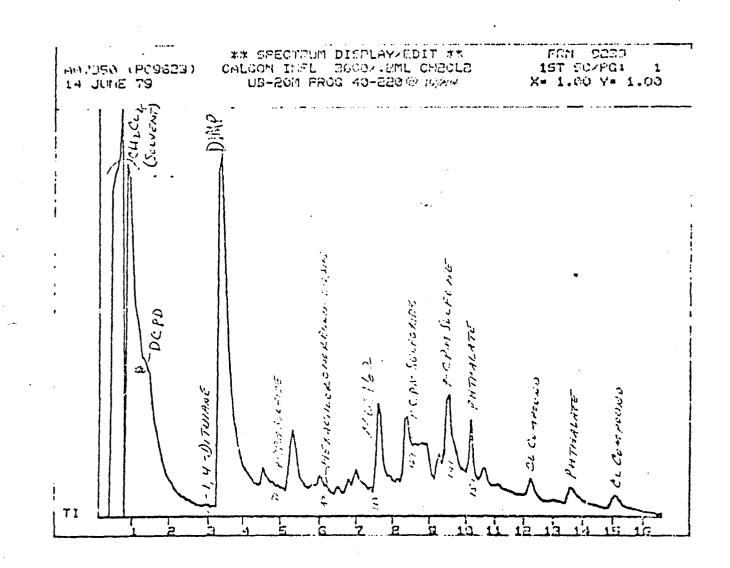
III. FY 79 Operating Data

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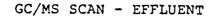
Box O

構築的対応

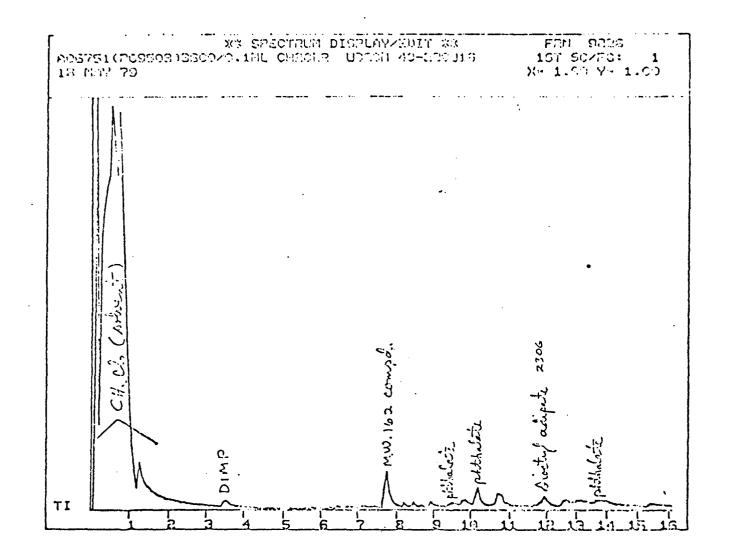
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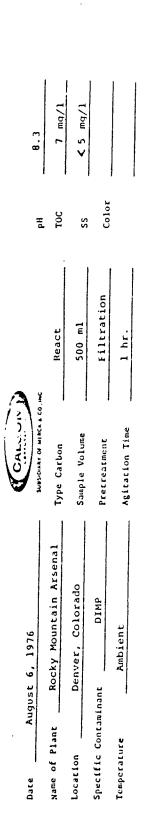
Isotherm Discussion:

All theoretical values presented in the preceeding report are based on the accompanying isotherm. Theorectical capacities were obtained from the following relationship:

 $\log y = 0.33 \log x + 0.155$ 

Where: x = Influent DIMP concentration ppb  $y = carbon capacity {\binom{x}{m}} \mu g DIMP/mg carbon$ 

One should note that concentrations above 570 ppb of DIMP will give extrapolated results. As such it should be considered to what extent one is beyond the data, and accordingly place the results in proper perspective.



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Mg Adsorbad (x)		2.59.5	280.75	284.7							
	285	25.5	4.25	г.							
(c; Remaining PPb Jug		5. 25									bу
	570	5	8.5	· 6							
Grams Carbon (m)	Control	50	100	250						•	►.

FISCAL YEAR 1979 - OPERATING DATA

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Cumm. Flow May 4 2194834 May 1 2228074 May 11 22265394 May 23 22956274 May 24 22956274	<b>ស ស ស ស</b> ស	DIMP As Reported 1067 1575 1680 1635 1236 729	IN Assumed 1575 1575 1680 1236 729	DIMP As Reported 27.1 15.0 29.7 33.2 51.1 49.6	OUT Assumed 29.1 15.0 29.7 33.2 51.1 49.6	TOC IN 5.2 5.2 Negligible Negligible	TOC OUT Negligible
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