# ZERO BRINE Final Forum

De Oude Bibilotheek, Delft, The Netherlands

4 November 2021 (10:00-16:30 CET)





The ZERO BRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730390.



# ZERO BRINE RESEARCH Special Issue Part I

**AFTERNOON SESSION** 





## **Dionysia Diamantidou** Process and R&D Engineer Lenntech

## ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Dionysia Diamantidou is a Process and R&D Engineer with experience in water treatment applications. Born in Greece, obtained civil engineering diploma in AUTH and water management MSc in TU Delft, specializing in sanitary engineering.



**SPECIAL ISSUE PART I – Dionysia Diamantidou** 

Mechanisms controlling ion rejection in membrane filtration in presence of saline multi-ionic mixtures

Zero Brine Conference

Date: Thursday 4th of November 2021

# LENNTECH

WATER TREATMENT Solutions

Lenntech Water Treatment Solutions, Distributieweg 3, 2645 EG Delfgauw, The Netherlands Tel: +31(0)152610900/ Fax: +31(0)152616289 info@lenntech.com I www.lenntech.com

#### **Contents Overview of topics to be presented**



#### Topics

- 1. Zero Brine Project: Case Study Description
- 2. Lab-Scale Research Objectives
- 3. Material and Methods
- 4. Results
- 5. Conclusions



#### **1. Zero Brine Project: Case study description 1.1 Treatment line of the IEX brine**







#### Nanofiltration

- □ First step of the treatment of the IEX
  - regeneration stream
- Separation of monovalent & divalent ions
  ERO BRINE

#### **Objectives of the case study**

Recovery and reuse of NaCl as IEX regenerant
 Recovery of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> and Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>
 Recovery of water



Scientific objective:

 Assess the membrane performance and the mechanisms that control the ion rejection in presence of saline multi-ionic mixtures

Practical objective:

 Select the most suitable nanofiltration membrane that contributes to an optimal separation of monovalent (Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Cl) from divalent ions (Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup>) in the IEX brine and highly rejects the divalent cations





#### **3. Materials and Methods**



#### Equipment:

- Flat sheet cross-flow cell
- Active membrane area: 0.014 m<sup>2</sup>

#### Membranes:

- NF270 and NF90 (Dow)
- NFG and NFW (Synder)
- SR3D (Koch)

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- TS80 (Microdyn Nadir)
- RO98pHt (Alfa Laval)
- LFC3 (Hydranautics)

#### Molecular Weight Cut off (MWCO) experiment:

- Filtering a mixture of polyethylene (PEGs) at a concentration of 0.6 g/L
- MW ranging from 62 to 1000 Da

#### Permeability experiment:

Filtering demineralized water at different applied pressures





#### Ion rejection experiment:

- Assess the membrane performance in presence of the multi-ionic mixture:
  - $\checkmark$  Test three different fluxes (15, 30, 45 L/m<sup>2</sup>/h)
- Compare the membranes and conclude on the best performing membrane
- Keeping the flux constant at 30 L/m<sup>2</sup>/h, the feed water was concentrated
- Concentration and properties of the ions:

Solute	lon concentration (ppm)	MW (g/mol)	r <sub>i</sub> (nm)	Hydration free energy (kJ/mol)	D <sub>i,oo</sub> (x 10 <sup>-9</sup> m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
Na <sup>+</sup>	3266	23	0.184	365	1.33
Cl⁻	23919	35	0.121	340	2.03
K+	520	39	0.138	295	1.95
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	1700	24	0.347	1828	0.706
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	7590	40	0.309	1504	0.792



#### 4. Results: Water Permeability

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• RO membranes (RO98pHt, LFC3): lower permeabilities than NF membranes



#### 4. Results: MWCO and water permeability



Membrane	MWCO	Lp
Name	(Da)	(LMH/bar)
NFG	508	16.5
NF270	272	15.0
NFW	242	6.2
SR3D	200*	5.9
TS80	142	6.8
NF90	115	9.7
RO98pHt	—	3.3
LFC3	—	3.2

\*According to the manufacturer

- Tight NF membranes (NFW, TS80, NF90, SR3D): lower water permeabilities than loose NF membranes (NFG, NF270)
- NFG and NF270: Similar water permeability but NFG had double the MWCO
- NF90 and TS80: NF90 is tighter but more permeable
   → NF270 and NF90 might be thinner or have bigger porosity



#### 4. Results: Ionic rejections





- Order of the ionic rejections (R): R<sub>Mg</sub> > R<sub>ca</sub> > R<sub>Na</sub> > R<sub>K</sub>, due to hydrated radius, hydration free energy and diffusion coefficient of each ion
- Higher fluxes: higher ionic rejections
- **ZERO BRINE** Strong dependence of the ionic rejection on membrane MWCO

#### 4. Results: Ionic rejections





• TS80 membrane:

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- $\circ$  efficient ion separation
- high rejections of divalent cations
- $\,\circ\,\,$  concentration of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} by almost two times

#### 4. Results: Ionic rejections - MWCO





- Ca<sup>2+</sup> rejection:
  - $\circ~$  lower than 10% for a membrane with MWCO higher than 500 Da
- **ZERO BRINE**  $\circ$  higher than 95% for a membrane with MWCO lower than 115 Da

#### **5. Scientific Conclusions**



- Ion rejection by membrane filtration correlated with ion properties
- RO and tight NF membranes have lower water permeabilities and higher ion rejections compared to loose NF membranes
- Strong impact of the membrane MWCO on the ion rejection
  - <sup>1</sup> Mechanisms controlling ion rejection in
  - <sup>2</sup> membrane filtration in presence of saline
  - 3 multi-ionic mixtures
  - 4 D.Diamantidou<sup>1\*</sup>, B. Heijman<sup>2</sup>, M. Micari<sup>3,4</sup>, A. Haidari<sup>5</sup>, E.J.R. Sudhölter<sup>6,7</sup>, H. Spanjers<sup>2</sup>
  - <sup>1</sup>Lenntech, Distributieweg 3, 2645 EG Delfgauw, the Netherlands
  - 6 <sup>2</sup> TU Delft University of Technology, Department of Water Management, 2628 CN Delft, the
  - 7 Netherlands
  - 8 <sup>3</sup> École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Laboratory of Advanced Separation, Rue de l'
  - 9 Industrie 17, CH-1950, Sion, Switzerland
  - 10 <sup>4</sup> German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of Engineering Thermodynamics, Department of
  - 11 Energy System Analysis, Pfaffenwaldring 38-40, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany
  - 12 <sup>5</sup> Hatenboer, Mercuriusweg 8, 3113 AR Schiedam, the Netherlands
  - <sup>6</sup> Delft University of Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering, Van der Maasweg 9,
  - 14 2629 HZ Delft, the Netherlands
  - <sup>7</sup> University of Twente, Membrane Science and Technology, P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE
  - 16 Enschede, the Netherlands
  - 17 \*corresponding author: dionysia@lenntech.com





- TS80 membrane was proven to be most effective: more than 90% rejection of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> and more than 62% permeation of monovalent ions
- Concentration factor of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> ions by almost two times was achieved, allowing for more effective recovery of Ca(OH) and Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>.



D2.3 Bench scale test using equipment from Brine Excellence Center (BEC)

October 2020 Final



## Thank You For Your Attention





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## Nikhil Pawar PhD candidate DLR

## ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Nikhil Pawar completed his Master's at the Technical University of Berlin in Business Engineering (Energy) and is currently a PhD candidate at DLR, Stuttgart with Energy-Water Nexus being his focus area. In the ZERO BRINE project he contributed to the techno-economic modeling of treatment chains on the RCE simulation platform.



**SPECIAL ISSUE PART I - Nikhil Pawar** 



## Valorization of Coal Mine Effluents – Challenges & Economic Opportunities

Paper Presentation, ZERO BRINE Final Forum, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

#### Nikhil Pawar<sup>a</sup>, Steve Harris<sup>b</sup>, Krzysztof Mitko<sup>c</sup>, Gijsbert Korevaar<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Networked Energy Systems, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Curiestrasse 4, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany;
 <sup>b</sup>IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, Aschebergsgatan 44, 411 33 Göteborg, Sweden;
 <sup>c</sup>Faculty of Chemistry, Silesian University of Technology, ul. B. Krzywoustego 6, 44-100 Gliwice, Poland;
 <sup>d</sup>Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology, Jaffalaan 5, 2628 BX, Netherlands





## Agenda

- Motivation
- Pilot plant: Implementation at Site
- Technology Modeling and Simulation
- Results
- Conclusion & Outlook





## **Motivation**

- Poland: EU's dominant hard coal producer (~92%)<sup>[1]</sup>
- Mine water discharge containing chlorides and sulphates in Polish rivers<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Circular Economy Approach**: Reduce pollution by pretreatment of effluents, but also **recover valuable minerals** (Mg, Ca, NaCl)
- Polish pilot site: Economic feasibility of a full-scale implementation





## **Pilot Plant: Implementation at Site**







## **Technology Modeling and Simulation (1/2)**

- Technology Tools: Techno-economic modeling on Python
- These Tools are integrated and simulated as a treatment chain on DLR's open-source integration platform RCE (Remote Component Environment)<sup>[3]</sup>
- Levelized cost of salt (LSC) is used as an economic indicator
- Deviation from site:
  - ED is modeled as a single unit instead of two units in a cascade system
  - 100% mineral recovery from the Crystallizers



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# Technology Modeling and Simulation (2/2)

Technology Tools:





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## **General Economic Assumptions**<sup>[4]</sup>

Parameter	Value
Electricity cost [USD/kWh <sub>el</sub> ]	0.1035
Heat cost [USD/kWh <sub>th</sub> ]	0.01
Dolime [USD/ton]	60
Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> [USD/ton]	1200
CaSO <sub>4</sub> [USD/ton]	40
Pure water price [USD/m <sup>3</sup> ]	1
Capacity factor of the plant [-]	0.94
Interest rate [%]	6%



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## **Results: Mineral Recovery**

- Recovery: water, CaSO<sub>4</sub>, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, NaCl
- Assumption: effluent at 50m<sup>3</sup>/h
- Smallest & largest recovery are Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> & NaCl resp.







## **Results: Expenditures & Revenues**

- NF and RO have the highest expenses with NF accounting for ~50% of the CAPEX & OPEX
- Total revenue/yr is ~60% of the total expenditure/yr







## **Results: Levelized Cost of Salt (LSC)**

- LSC: 203 USD/ tonne NaCl
- Market price: 80 to 150 USD/ tonne NaCl<sup>[4]</sup>







## **Results: Sensitivity Analysis**

- Parameters: prices/costs of CaSO<sub>4</sub>, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, water, heat, and electricity
- Variation: -50% to +50%
- LSC: 170 to 180 USD/ tonne<sub>NaCl</sub>: Reduction in electricity price by 50% or increase in price of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>







## **Conclusion & Outlook**

- Treatment of coal mine effluent & recovery of minerals is **technically feasibile**
- Economic feasibility of the treatment chain is possible by improving one or more cost factors
- **Outlook**: To model ED as a cascade system of two units and to account for partial recovery in crystallizers





#### References

- 1. EURACOAL (2020). EURACOAL Annual Report 2019. Brussels, European Association for Coal and Lignite.
- 2. Turek, M., et al. (2005). "Salt production from coal-mine brine in EDevaporation-crystallization system." <u>Desalination **184(1-3): 439-446.**</u>
- 3. (DLR), D. Z. f. L.-u. R. e. V. (2021). "RCE." from https://rcenvironment.de/.
- 4. Micari, M., et al. (2020). "Techno-economic analysis of integrated processes for the treatment and valorisation of neutral coal mine effluents." <u>Journal of Cleaner Production **270: 122472.**</u>





# Nilay Elginoz Senior Researcher

## ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Dr. Nilay Elginoz is a senior researcher at IVL Swedish Environmental Institute, with her research focused on environmental sustainability assessment of emerging resource recovery systems. Before IVL, she worked as a researcher for KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Istanbul Technical University. She completed her PhD on nature based coastal protection structures and their impact on coastal erosion in 2010.



**SPECIAL ISSUE PART I - Nilay Elginoz** 



# Using life cycle assessment at an early stage of design and development of zero discharge brine treatment and recovery

Nilay Elginoz Kanat<sup>a</sup>, Christina Papadaskalopoulou<sup>b</sup>, Steve Harris<sup>a</sup> <sup>a</sup>IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, Sweden <sup>b</sup>National Technical University of Athens, Greece



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## Aim

- Evaluate the implications of utilising different input data, from two stages of development, on the LCA results.
- Specific objectives
  - (i) Identify the extent of impact on results by comparing results of LCA's using initial design and bench scale data with improved data from pilot scale and simulations.
  - (ii) Assess the resultant consequences for informing the design process and highlight potential pitfalls.
  - (iii) Identify the key challenges in early application of LCA and propose methods to manage.





## Scope

- System boundaries of LCAs cover operation of the treatment and resource recovery units and credits provided by recovered products
- Recovered products were credited by using system expansion method in the LCA model.
  - gypsum
  - deionised water
  - sodium chloride
  - magnesium hydroxide





## Scope

- Out of the system boundaries
  - Construction and operation of the brine generating facilities
  - Construction of the treatment and resource recovery units
- In the system boundaries
  - Chemical and energy consumptions
  - Component replacement for each unit




#### Scope

- The International Reference Life Cycle Data System, ILCD 2011 midpoint
  - climate change
  - acidification
  - freshwater eutrophication
  - abiotic resource depletion for mineral, fossil and renewable resources
- Normalization method for Environmental Footprints
- Perturbation analysis





#### **Coal mine case**

- First stage,
  - Experimental data and PH REdox EQuilibrium (PHREEQC) simulations
- Second stage
  - Pilot plant with treatment capacity of 1m<sup>3</sup>/h, onsite at the mine
  - Upscaled to a conceptual plant with 50 m<sup>3</sup>/h plant capacity





#### **Coal mine case**

- First stage,
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  - Pilot plant with treatment capacity of 1m<sup>3</sup>/h, onsite at the mine
  - Upscaled to a conceptual plant with 50 m<sup>3</sup>/h plant capacity





Poland









#### **Textile plant case**

- First stage,
  - Experimental data of the brine treatment processes and PHREEQC simulations
- Second stage
  - Pilot plant with treatment capacity of 1m<sup>3</sup>/h, onsite at the plant



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Turkey







#### **Textile plant case**

First stage

Second stage







#### **Results: Coal mine case**





- Design of the coal mine ZB system changed substantially in the second stage
- Climate change and acidification impacts are 28% and 52% higher
  - Freshwater eutrophication is 10% lower in the second stage
- 1% difference in the mineral, fossil and renewable resource depletion





#### **Results: Coal mine case**



- Electricity consumption in the treatment steps is the major contributor
- 9kWh and 11 kWh per 1 m<sup>3</sup> brine in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stages
- Dolomite production in the magnesium precipitation in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage
- Hydrochloric acid consumption in the decarbonation stage in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage
- Hydrochloric consumption in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage and the increase in the electricity consumption is the main reason of the increase in the impacts
- Sodium chloride recovery increase from 6.5 to 16.5 kg
- The increase in deionized water and gypsum recovery doesn't have a visible impact on the results







#### **Results: Textile plant case**





- 2<sup>nd</sup> stage configuration cause more burdens in all impact categories
- Climate change 36%
- Acidification 85%
- Freshwater eutrophication 78%
- Resource depletion 25 times

#### higher





#### **Results: Textile plant case**

- Electricity consumption in the treatment steps is the major contributor
- 19 kWh and 22 kWh per 1 m<sup>3</sup> brine in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stages
- Compressed air consumption in ozonation unit in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage
- Recovered sodium chloride is the same on both stages
- The increase in recovered water from 0.6 to 0.861 m3 in the second stage does not result in any visible improvement on the impacts





Reverse osmosis Sodium chloride Ion exchange Ozonation Deionised water

\*\*\*\*



#### Sensitivity and uncertainty analysis for climate change

Parameter	Sensitivity Ratio				
	Coal mine first stage	Coal mine second stage	Textile plant first stage	Textile plant second stage	
Electricity	0.89	0.85	0.88	0.75	
Sodium chloride	0.11	0.21	0.04	0.04	
Magnesium hydroxide	0.21	0.07	-	-	
Deionised water	<0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	
Gypsum	<0.01	<0.01	-	-	

- Climate change results are very sensitive to electricity consumption
- +-10% variation of electricity consumption cause 7.5 to 8.9% variation of the results
- Amount of sodium chloride recovery impacts the climate change results less in the textile plant case compared to coal mine case





#### Key challenges in early application of LCA

- LCAs investigated in this study were conducted simultaneously with the development of ZB technologies from (TRL) 2-3 to TRL 4-5.
- The results were of limited use for the process design team.
- The main focus, during the pilot stage was solving technical issues and minimizing energy consumption.





## Key challenges in early application of LCA

- Experimental data was combined with simulations and engineering based calculations for scaling up the proposed treatment systems to industrial scale.
- In ZB case studies scaling up was executed in collaboration with technology developers as recommended.
- Data availability issue was overcome by the close collaboration of technology developers, pilot plant implementers and LCA team.
- Background electricity production processes (which determine the mix of coal and other sources) have a crucial impact on the LCA results.



# **LUNCH BREAK**

12:45-13:45



# ZERO BRINE RESEARCH Special Issue Part II

**AFTERNOON SESSION** 





# Amir HaidariZERO BRINEProcess Technology & Innovation ManagerFINALHatenboer-WaterFORUM

Amir Haidari was born in Afghanistan and has been living in the Netherlands for more than 20 years. In 2011, he graduated specialized in the topic of zero brine in horticulture. He got his doctoral degree on improvements of reverse osmosis membrane construction. In 2016, he became the coordinator of ZERO BRINE project. After four-years of working on ZERO BRINE, he changed his carrier towards industry. Since 2020, he is the Manager of Process Technology and Innovation at Hatenboer-Water.



ZERO BRINE SPECIAL ISSUE – PART II – Amir Haidari



# High silica concentration in RO concentrate

RO as pretreatment to EFC

#### Amir Haidari amir.haidari@hatenboer-water.com



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- Amir Haidari: manager of R&D at Hatenboer-water
- Bas Heijman: Associate professor at Delft University of Technology
- Geert-Jan Witkamp: Professor, Environmental Science and Engineering at KAUST







Eutectic Freeze Crystallization (EFC) is one the instrument used during ZEOR BRINE project







A: Solution

B: Formation of ice

C: Increase concentration

D: Saturation solution, start formation of salts (Eutectic point)







High concentration and RO  $\rightarrow$  Scaling

Calcium, Magnesium, Silica

Recovery of RO is limited to particularly silica

The silica concentration may not exceed 120 mg/L





#### Setup

Our feed water: SiO2 = 45-65 mg/L

When removing the positively charged cation is 120 mg/L SiO2 valid?



Soften the water  $\rightarrow$  Can 120mg/L be exceeded





### Method

During the recirculation of permeate the mass transfer coefficient of the membrane is measured

During discharge of the permeate, the concentration factor is increased

The experiment is repeated three times to ensure the results







#### Method (Experiments)

The difference between three experiments was due to concentration difference between calcium and magnesium.

Parameter	Ex 01	Ex 02	Ex 03
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.43	7	50
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	0.16	29	74





#### Results (Experiment 02)

The results from all three experiment were the same up to concentration factor of 3.00







# **Results (highest concentration factor)**

Increase of Ca and Mg results in decrease of Mass Transfer Coefficient







# **Results (fouling visualization)**

Scaling under electron microscope



A = x2000, B = x5000 and C = x10000





#### **Results: Destruction**

Chemical element	Symbol	Amount [µg/cm²]		
		Clean Coupon	Fouled Coupon	
iron	Fe	0.41	0.73	
Silicon (Silica)	Si	28 (60)	100 (214.29)	
Calcium	Са	1.7	0.061	
Magnesium	Mg	0.09	0.12	





## **Results (PhreeqC)**







#### Conclusions

In absence of divalent hardening ions, the brine of RO can be thickened to 3.5 times its initial value

In the absence of divalent cations, silica scaling happens a concentration higher than 120 mg/L.

In higher concentration of divalent ions, mostly silica-magnesium polymers are oversaturated





#### Frithjof Kuepper Professor University of Aberdeen

#### ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Dr. Frithjof Küpper is a Professor (Chair in Marine Biodiversity) at University of Aberdeen since 2011. He has served as Head of the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) at the Scottish Association for Marine Science in addition to other postdoc and research positions in the US and Germany. He has 109 ISI-listed, peer-reviewed papers including publications in Nature and PNAS, 5 book chapters, and a long track record in algal halogen research.

Eleni Avramidi Environmental Engineer & PhD candidate University of Aberdeen





ZERO BRINE SPECIAL ISSUE – PART II – Frithjof Kuepper



## Benthic biodiversity and environmental gradients of the Port of Rotterdam: A unique estuarine system with strong human impact

Frithjof Kuepper, Professor (Chair in Marine Biodiversity), School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen Eleni Avramidi, Honorary Research Assistant and PhD candidate, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen



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Assess the ecological quality status of the Port of Rotterdam and in particular of Evides DWP Botlek in the Brittaniëhaven area and Evides DWP Maasvlakte in Hartelkanaal area due to brine dischargerelated activities.

#### FOCUS ON

**Benthic macroinvertebrates** 

#### SUPPLEMENT

Physical and chemical characteristics of seabed and aquatic environment

#### Ideal bioindicators due to their sensitivity to water quality and inability to escape a disturbance once settled

**Biological quality** element in Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC (MSFD) for the assessment of the ecological quality status of a water body.

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#### **Port of Rotterdam – Manmade estuarine environment**

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The pollution of the Port of Rotterdam was severely **degrading the ecosystem**, reducing biodiversity to a low number of pollutiontolerant species (Wolff, 1978).



<sup>2</sup> Rhine (ICPR) in 1987, a year after the Sandoz chemical accident (ICPR. International 2021).

**During more recent years**, the pollution status of the Rhine and of many of its tributaries has **distinctly improved** 











\*\*\*\*




- Well flushed environment, • Seabed consists of Crassostrea gigas reef, • Depth around 6-8 meters depending on the tide
- Dead-end waterway, poorly flushed environment,
- Has no river input and is entirely marine,
- Receives also effluent form Huntsman WWTP and Wilmar oil refinery processing vegetable oils,
- Seabed mainly silt,
- Depth around 10 meters.

Has been selected following the advice of the Port of Rotterdam Authority as the less polluted site in the port,

- Naturally changing salinities,
- Seabed mainly sandy, depth around 9-13 m.



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# **Methods** – Field sampling and laboratory analysis – **Benthic** macroinvertebrates

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Collection of sediment using a Van Veen grab. 3 replicates at each

station of 4lt sediment

Sediment samples were sieved through a 0.5 mm mesh, stained with Rose Bengal and preserved in ethanol.



In the laboratory, macrobenthic invertebrates were sorted, identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible, and counted.





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# Methods – Field sampling and laboratory analysis – Water and sediment



#### Water samples

- Collected from 3 stations out of 6 (S1, S4, and R).
- Collected from a **depth of 1.5 m** from the water surface.
- Analysed for Ph, EC, TSS, nutrients, a suite of heavy metals, and 16 PAHs.
- Collected from 3 stations out of 6 (S3, S4, and R).
- Collected with a Van Veen grab.
- Granulometric analysis, TOC, Kjeldahl nitrogen, a suite of heavy metals and 16 PAHs content.



Sediment samples



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# **Methods- Existing monitoring data from Rijkswaterstaat** and **HELCOM**

#### **ZERO BRINE**



**HELCOM Biodiversity** database 2004-2020

Benthic invertebrates, phytoplankton, macrophytes, fish and lamprey, and bacteria.

#### **Rijkswaterstaat** 2003-2019

data

Phytoplankton, diatomeae and macrozoobenthos, water physical and chemical parameters.



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### ZERO BRINE

**DWP effluents (2 streams)** 

#### IEX effluent

high salinity and density, ambient seawater temperature, low nutrient content, elevated levels of chloride (CI), TDS, bicarbonate (HCO<sup>-</sup><sub>3</sub>), sulphate (SO<sup>3-</sup><sub>4</sub>) elevated levels of chromium (Cr), aluminum (AI), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), barium (Ba) and lead (Pb).

#### **RO effluent**

high salinity and density, ambient seawater temperature, low nutrient content, elevated levels of chloride (CI), TDS, bicarbonate (HCO-3), sulphate (SO<sup>3-4</sup>), elevated levels of lithium (Li) and boron (B).







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# Results – Existing monitoring data from Rijkswaterstaat – Ecological and chemical status reported in RMBP 2015

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The most significant pressure is due to introduced species and diseases (invasive alien species).

# The most significant impact is elevated temperature.

"Good" ecological potential and "good" chemical status <u>will not</u> be achieved in 2021 but it is expected to be achieved beyond 2027.



# Results – Existing monitoring data from Rijkswaterstaat – Water quality (2010-2019)

#### **ZERO BRINE**



Timeseries of concentrations of metals and  $P_{p}$   $N_{\tau}$  (2010-2019, monitoring stations BEERKNMDN, MAASSS) that have exceeded the Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC) set in the Staatcourant, The Netherlands, June 2000.



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01/03/2014 01/09/2014 01/03/2015 01/09/2015 01/03/2016 01/03/2016

P total

102/00/10 102/20/10 102/2010

01/03/201

01/09/201 01/03/201 Results – Existing monitoring data from Rijkswaterstaat & HELCOM database – <u>Benthic macroinvertebrates (2003-</u> 2016 & 2014)

Several non-native species with significant number of individuals have been recorded in the Port of Rotterdam.

Non-native species may have been introduced by shipping and ballast waters and lead to competition with native biota such as in the case of the native *Mytilus edulis* that has been put under competitive pressure by the invasive Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea* (*Magallana*) gigas. Port of Rotterdam (SWB NL 94\_9) Benthic macroinvertebrates Rijkswaterstaat period 2003 – 2016

208 species and 77968 individuals have been recorded.

HELCOM database for the year 2014 82 species and 935 individuals have been recorded.



# Results – Benthic macroinvertebrates communities – Number of species and individuals

#### **ZERO BRINE**



*Capitella capitata,* WoRMS Photogallery

**Crassostrea gigas,** Photo credits: Eleni Avramidi

#### Amphibalanus (Balanidae) WoRMS Photogallery





The ZERO BRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730390.

In total, **1761 individuals** were identified belonging to **89 species**.

14 species are **<u>non-native</u>** with **<u>1573 individuals</u>** counted.

Most individuals in Hartelkanaal (DWP Maasvlakte): - Non-native Balanidae Amphibalanus (small sessile crustacean),

- Native Capitella capitata (Class Polychaeta).

Large abundance of the non-native crustacean Crassostrea gigas at Site 1, just under one of the outfalls – FULL SCALE REEF

#### Most individuals in Brittaniehaven (DWP Botlek):

- Native Capitella capitata (Class Polychaeta)
- Native Streblospio cf shrubsolii (Class Polychaeta)
- Non-native Theora Iubrica (Class Bivalvia)

## **Results** – Benthic macroinvertebrates communities – **Species richness, abundance and diversity**



Overall, **the highest species richness and abundance** was recorded at **stations in Hartelkanaal** and was mostly related with sessile animals from hard substrate. In the replicates with the highest numbers, more than half of the individuals belonged to the Family Balanidae (barnacles) or other hard substrate bivalves (mussels), which probably grew on the *Crassostrea gigas* reef or fall off the ships.

**Diversity values** are **noticeably low**, always below 2 and closer to 1 in many occasions, yet **due to the lack of dominance of few species and the overall disturbance status.** 



# Results – Benthic macroinvertebrates communities – Biotic index AMBI 7

**ZERO BRINE** 

Ecological groups



Fig. Contribution of the **AMBI distinct ecological groups** for the stations sampled on each sampling occasion. The **contribution of groups IV and V, more tolerant to perturbations, only dominate in a few samples mainly of 4 and 5 sites**. na: no samples available.



Fig. AMBI index for the sampled stations in the three surveys. The classification of ecological status for the sampling points according to the AMBI index is indicated on the right side.

The results in the majority of the cases showed a slightly disturbed system and stations 4 and 5 were characterised on occasions as moderately or heavily disturbed.



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**Results – Water and sediment quality analysis** 

#### **ZERO BRINE**

TOC and Kjedahl <u>nitrogen</u> values in sediment samples <u>Higher</u> at Brittaniehaven (S4) in comparison to Hartelkanaal (S1 and R) Result of the decomposition of biomass of plant, animal or planktonic origin and / or anthropogenic sources.

Correlates with the <u>reduced</u> <u>species richness</u> to this station as an overabundance of organic matter. <u>Heavy metals</u> in sediment samples Higher at Brittaniehaven (S4) in comparison to Hartelkanaal (S1 and R) Result of atmospheric deposition of air emissions from industrial processes and discharge of metal containing effluent without adequate treatment.

Correlates with the presence of tolerant benthic macroinvertebrates species in this area.







This study has established a **baseline understanding of the environmental conditions** in the vicinity of DWPs Botlek and Maasvlakte. Provides essential background information for the assessment of environmental benefits from the implementation of large scale zero brine technology in the future.

A remarkable diversity of taxa has been observed, enabling a detailed characterization of biological communities. which constitutes a significant asset considering how little published literature exists about the unique system of the Port of Rotterdam.





Similar macrobenthic composition, although with a lower abundance and diversity in comparison with nearby environments of the North Sea The invasive species present and the negative biodindicators is comparable to what has been observed in similarly impacted areas previously.

Monitoring periodically the area to detect any potential impact of the desalination plant in the long term.



Study the reason behind the larger abundances of *C. gigas* at Site 1



#### **ZERO BRINE**

- Dr. Sokratis Papaspyrou, Associate Professor at Universidad de Cádiz, for his valuable formal analysis of benthic invertebrate results.
- Sergio Carlos Garcia Gomez, invertebrate zoologist and analyst of benthic macrofauna species.
- Port of Rotterdam Authority for providing access to the Tender and Survey vessel 2, sharing necessary information and data, and providing support during the field work and especially during the survey of July 2020 performed amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we would like to thank Chris Schot (Constructions & Dredging Asset Manager), Ed de Boom (Planner Baggerwerk), Robbert Wolf (Nature and environmental advisor), and the crew Peter Mourik, Edwin Smit, Leo de Jong, Daan Koornneef, and Ed Veth.
- **Rijkswaterstaat of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management** for providing monitoring data of the environmental quality in the Port of Rotterdam.







# Thank you for your attention!



The ZERO BRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730390.



# Marc Arpad Boncz Associate Professor UFMS (Brazil)

## ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Dr. Marc Arpad Boncz is Associate professor at UFMS (Brazil) with degrees in Chemistry from VU Amsterdam and a PhD in Environmental Technology (WUR). He works on projects on industrial and domestic wastewater treatment (anaerobic, microalgae) with a special interest in bioenergy and in water and resource conservation. He worked a post-doc in 2017-2018 at TU Delft, contributing to Zero Brine project.



ZERO BRINE SPECIAL ISSUE – PART II – Marc Arpad Boncz

# Physicochemical model for simulating the chemical processes during the crystallization of minerals from spent Ion Exchange Regenerant

Marc Arpad Boncz<sup>1,2</sup>, Niels van Linden<sup>1,3</sup>, Amir Haidari<sup>1,4</sup>, Yundan Wang<sup>1,5</sup> and Henri Spanjers<sup>1</sup>

1 Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Stevinweg 1, 2628 CN, Delft, the Netherlands.

2 Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Faculty of Architecture, Engineering, and Geography, Av. Costa e Silva S/N, 79070-900, Campo Grande-MS, Brazil.

3 Lenntech B.V., Distributieweg 3, 2645 EG, Delfgauw, the Netherlands.

4 Hatenboer, Mercuriusweg 8, 3113 AR, Schiedam, the Netherlands.

5 Arcadis Consultancy (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., 11th Floor, Building C, The Place, No.150 Zunyi Road, Changning District, 200051, Shanghai, PR China.

EROBRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 rch and importion programme under grant agreement No 730390.



### About the author...

- Dr. Marc Arpad Boncz, associate professor, UFMS (Brazil) u
- Chemist (VU Amsterdam), PhD in Environmental Technology (WUR)
  - at UFMS since 2006, professor since 2013
  - projects on industrial and domestic wastewater treatment (anaerobic, microalgae), special interest in bioenergy and in water and resource conservation
  - post-doc in 2017-2018 at TUDelft, contributing to Zero Brine project



## **About the Zero Brine project**



## • Objectives:

Closing water cycles and recovery of materials from waste streams

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# About the project

- Demineralised water plant in Rotterdam
  - discharges (daily) significant volume of spent IEX regenerant
  - main compound in regenerant is NaCl, significant amounts of Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup>
  - hardly any other pollutants
  - this should permit recovery of these ions
- Technologies to be used:
  - nanofiltration, to separate mono and multivalent ions
  - sequential crystallisation
  - evaporation



# About the project

## **Process overview**

#### processes:

- A IEX ion exchange columns (existing)
- **B RO** reverse osmosis units (existing)
- **C** NF nanofiltration unit
- **D,ECU** crystallisation units
- F EV evaporator unit

## flows:

- 04 spent IEX regenerant (brine)
- **06 NF permeate**
- **07 NF concentrate**
- **08 Mg-crystrallisation supernatant**
- **10 Ca crystallisation supernatant**
- **12 distilled water**
- 13 NaCl concentrate

Lect (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 oracion programme under grant agreement No 730390.



# **Objectives of PHREEQC modelling project**

- Determine feasability of Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> recuperation
- Quantify amount that can be recuperated
- Quantify purity of product
- Study effect of process and flows on results



# Methodology

- Analysis of spent IEX regenerant brine
  - metals: ICP-MS
  - anions: IC
  - pH, temp, TSS
- Modelling suggested process
  - Excel: calculating starting situation and analysing simulation results
  - PHREEQC: chemical equilibria and precipitation of minerals; 4 assumptions:
    - neglect elements with concentration < 1  $\mu g/L$
    - exclude Co and Mo (not included in PHREEQC's Minteq database)
    - for SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>: ICP-MS concentrations used rather than (lower) IC results
    - assumed: initially no supersaturation



# Methodology

## Modeling approach





# **Results: spent IEX regenerant**

- Spent IEX regenerant composition
  - main compound in regenerant is NaCl, significant amounts of Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup>
    - 98% of cations.
    - Cl- is > 97% of anions
  - hardly any other pollutants
    - TSS as calculated even slightly higher than measured

Cations		MW	Concentration <sup>1,2</sup> (mM)		Anions		MW	Concentra	tion <sup>1,2</sup> (mM)
		g/mol	sample 1	sample 2			g/mol	sample 1	sample 2
Calcium	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	40.1	162.63	206.40	Chloride	Cl	35.5	528.99	808.78
Iron	Fe <sup>3+</sup>	55.8	0.005 56	0.420	Fluoride	F	19.0	.< DL	.< DL
Magnesium	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	24.3	51.28	55.15	Bromide	Br	79.9	.< DL	.< DL
Potassium	K <sup>+</sup>	39.1	6.03	5.12	Nitrite	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	46.0	.< DL	.< DL
Sodium	Na⁺	23.0	99.96	349.49	Nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	62.0		
Aluminum	Al <sup>3+</sup>	27.0	0.000 072	.< DL	Phosphate	PO4 <sup>3-</sup>	95.0	0.02	0.30
Antimony	Sb <sup>5+</sup>	121.8	0.000 004	0.000 081	Sulphate	SO4 <sup>2-</sup>	96.1	1.55	34.10
Barium	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	137.3	0.025 9	0.036 1	Silicate	SiO4 <sup>4-</sup>	92.1	0.03	.< DL
Beryllium	Be <sup>2+</sup>	9.0	.< DL	.< DL	Bicarbonate	HCO <sub>3</sub>	61.0	2.34	2.29
Cadmium	Cd <sup>2+</sup>	112.4	0.000 002	.< DL					
Cobalt	Co <sup>2+</sup>	58.9	.< DL	0.000 469					
Copper	Cu <sup>2+</sup>	63.5	0.000 53	.< DL					
Chromium	Cr <sup>3+</sup>	52.0	0.000 27	0.001 59					
Lead	Pb <sup>2+</sup>	207.2	.< DL	0.000 28					
Lithium	Li⁺	6.9	0.017 1	0.020 2					
Manganese	Mn <sup>2+</sup>	54.9	0.000 26	0.01					
Molybdenum	Mo <sup>4+</sup>	95.9	0.000 015	0.000 14					
Nickel	Ni <sup>2+</sup>	58.7	0.003 5	0.021 3					
Silver	$Ag^+$	107.9	.< DL	0.000 018					
Strontium	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	87.6	0.342	0.478					
Titanium	Ti <sup>2+</sup>	47.9	0.000 002	0.001 35					
Thallium	TI <sup>3+</sup>	208.4	.< DL	.< DL					
Vanadium	V <sup>5+</sup>	50.9	0.001 7	0.016 7					
Zinc	Zn <sup>2+</sup>	65.4	0.001 5	.< DL					
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) <sup>3</sup>		(TDS) <sup>3</sup>	29 382	50 038	mg/L		рН	7.26	7.10
		29 139	46 176	mg/L					

1: for simulations, all elements assumed to be present in the form of the ion most abundant in aerated surface water, as listed; 2: .< DL: below detection limit (generally < 1  $\mu$ g/L), 3:TDS as **sum of all ions** (calculated) and *as measured*.

# **Results: nanofiltration**

## Some risk of scaling in NF unit

• but not a good idea to use antiscalants due to recycling

Specie	25	Sam	ple 1	Sample 2		
name	formula	SI	Precip. (M)	SI	Precip. (M)	
Anhydrite	CaSO <sub>4</sub>			0.72	2.38E-02	
Aragonite	CaCO₃	0.51	3.20E-04			
Barite	BaSO <sub>4</sub>	1.05	1.02E-05	0.45		
Calcite	CaCO3	0.65				
Dolomite	CaMg(CO₃)₂	0.94				
Gypsum	CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O			0.65		
Hydroxyapatite	Ca₅(PO₄)₃OH	10.53	1.44E-07	2.94	6.69E-06	
Magnesite	MgCO <sub>3</sub>					



# **Results: crystallisation**

## Salts to be precipitated

- candidates: hydroxides, carbonates or sulphates
- best: hydroxides
  - dosing of OH<sup>-</sup>
  - stoichiometrically
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>



# **Results: crystallisation**

### • Recovery of salts

Recovered ions	Samj	ple 1	Sample 2		
Recovered Ions	Mg-crystalliser	Ca-crystalliser	Mg-crystalliser	Ca-crystalliser	
Mg <sup>2+</sup> as Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> Mg <sup>2+</sup> , as other minerals	60.0%	4.98%	70.2%	1.82%	
Ca <sup>2+</sup> as Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>		58.6%		63.4%	
Ca <sup>2+</sup> , as other minerals	0.54%		0.79%		

## • Purity of recovered salts

		Mg-crystal	liser (D)	Ca-crystalliser (E)		
Species		Sample 1	Sample 1 Sample 2		Sample 2	
Barite	BaSO <sub>4</sub>	0.000 20				
Brucite	Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub>	6.52	8.75	0.54	0.23	
Calcite	CaCO₃	0.32	0.56			
Hydroxyapatite	Ca₅(PO₄)₃OH	0.000 04	0.000 14			
Portlandite	Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>			25.80	32.91	
Purity (mass fraction)		95%	94%	98%	99%	



Contract (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme under grant agreement No 730390

# **Results: evaporation**

## Without recycling crystallisation supernatant

- 42% evaporated (distilled water)
- 58% NaCl brine
  - not suitable for IEX regeneration
- Recycling crystallisation supernatant
  - 42 % evaporated (distilled water)
  - 58% NaCl brine
  - slightly more polluted
    - but with less Ca2+ and Mg2+
    - possibility of scaling: mmol/L of barite (BaSO<sub>4</sub>), brucite (Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>) and Calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>)



		NF Perm.	+ Crys. Eff	NF Perm.		
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2	
рН		12.07	12.12			
Cations [mol/L]						
Sodium	Na	1.47E+00	2.50E+00	4.57E-01	1.31E-01	
Calcium	Са	8.64E-02	7.72E-02	1.34E-01	1.52E-01	
Potassium	K	1.60E-02	1.43E-02	6.68E-03	7.88E-03	
Strontium	Sr	1.08E-03	1.73E-03	3.56E-04	3.19E-04	
Iron	Fe	1.75E-05	1.52E-03	3.13E-04	5.19E-06	
Nickle	Ni	1.10E-05	7.71E-05	1.59E-05	3.26E-06	
Vanadium	V	5.39E-06	6.05E-05	1.25E-05	1.59E-06	
Lithium	Li	4.55E-05	5.63E-05	2.62E-05	2.25E-05	
Manganese	Mn		3.61E-05	7.44E-06		
Chromium	Cr	8.51E-07	5.77E-06	1.19E-06	2.51E-07	
Barium	Ba	4.82E-06	5.43E-06	1.12E-06	6.03E-06	
Tellurium	TI		4.99E-06	1.03E-06		
Lead	Pb		9.97E-07	2.05E-07		
Magnesium	Mg	8.73E-07	6.70E-07	4.11E-02	4.77E-02	
Copper	Cu	1.68E-06			4.98E-07	
Zinc	Zn	4.84E-06			1.43E-06	
Anions [mol/L]						
Bicarbonate	HCO3	1.65E+00	2.61E+00	4.77E-02	1.52E-03	
Sulphate	SO42-	5.99E-03	7.85E-03	3.28E-03	5.72E-04	
Chloride	Cl	1.61E-05	2.24E-05	8.15E-01	5.44E-01	
Phosphate	PO4 3-	2.63E-11	2.67E-11	8.32E-07	4.70E-08	



• Recovery of Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> possible, but not complete

- purity of Mg reasonable ( $\approx$  95%), of Ca good ( $\approx$  99%)
- Very strict control of hydroxide dosing is essential

• Complete recycle of water not possible, as this may cause scaling in evaporator and affects IEX regeneration brine quality





## Krzysztof Mitko Assistant Professor SUT

## ZERO BRINE FINAL FORUM

Dr. Mitko is an assistant professor at the Silesian University of Technology, Faculty of Chemistry. His research interests include electromembrane processes (electrodialysis, electrodeionization, membrane capacitive deionization); removal of metal ions from the waste waters; seawater, coal mine water and industrial wastewater desalination.



ZERO BRINE SPECIAL ISSUE – PART II – Krzysztof Mitko



# Pilot studies on circular economy solution for the coal mining sector

Krzysztof Mitko, Marian Turek, Hanna Jaroszek, Ewa Bernacka, Mateusz Sambor, Paweł Skóra, Piotr Dydo





## **Polish case study**

Coal mining generates vast amounts of saline waste water

The amount of discharged salt in Poland alone is ca. 4 million tons per year

The increase in river salinity damages the aquatic life, increases population water pressure and decreases the soil quality









The ZERO BRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730390.



## Goals

To demonstrate the principles of circular economy in the coal mining industry

To demonstrate decreased energy consumption compared to reference technolog











# **Bolesław Śmiały coal mine water**

Cl <sup>-</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	13500	Mg <sup>2+</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	263	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	< 2.5	Li [mg/dm³]	0.4
Na <sup>+</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	8192	Ca <sup>2+</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	248	B [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	2.32	Er [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.3
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	810	K <sup>+</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	120	Sr [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.58	Mn [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.1
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	301	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	< 2.5	Si [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.39	Zn [mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.1




## **Plant design**

- Pretreatment: 200  $\mu m$  slot filter, 50  $\mu m$  bag filter, 25  $\mu m$  candle filter, carbon filter, 5  $\mu m$  candle filter
- Ultrafiltration: 8" UF module with membrane of MWCO90 < 0.03  $\mu m$
- Decarbonization: weak ion-exchangers with degassing column
- Two-pass nanofiltration, each NF pass consisted of two pressure vessels filled with two modules each (Trisep TS40 membranes)
- Reverse osmosis
- Two-stage electrodialysis: two PC-Cell 1000A electrodialyzers connected in a cascade, each containing 25 pairs of IONSEP K/A membranes separated with 0.35 mm spacers







## Nanofiltration

- nanofiltration can be safely operated at high permeate recovery (80%), without the observable scaling,
- two-pass nanofiltration system has shown very high rejection coefficients with respect two bivalent ions, even above 95%, and relatively low rejection coefficients of univalent ions

		Recovery in first-pass nanofiltration						
		NF2 retentate recycled			NF2 retentate not recycled			
		60%	70%	80%	60%	70%	80%	
Rejection [%]	Cl-	23.5%	6.6%	20.7%	20.5%	9.0%	3.9%	
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	98.4%	98.5%	98.1%	98.4%	97.3%	97.3%	
	Na <sup>+</sup>	20.2%	1.8%	16.5%	16.5%	4.8%	1.4%	
	K+	18.0%	4.0%	12.7%	14.8%	4.1%	6.3%	
	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	95.6%	98.6%	95.9%	95.6%	95.7%	96.0%	
	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	95.7%	89.2%	96.5%	93.9%	92.5%	90.3%	





## **Electrodialysis**

- ED working on the reverse osmosis retentate can exhibit relatively low energy consumption
- Additional evaporator might be required



Current density [A/m<sup>2</sup>]





## **Comparison with reference technology**

Technology	Energy consumption [kWh/m <sup>3</sup> of treated brine]	Salt recovery [%]	Magnesium hydroxide recovery [%]	Water recovery [%]
"Dębieńsko"	16.7	81.0	0	92.4
"ZERO BRINE" coupled with "Dębieńsko" evaporator	12.9	56.9	96.7	75.7
"ZERO BRINE" coupled with modern evaporator and	12.0	56.9	96.6	75.7
"ZERO BRINE" with intermediate gypsum precipitation and modern evaporator	11.2	92.8	94.9	90.6







## Conclusions

The results confirm that from the point of view of circular economy, the application of nanofiltration is very desirable

It would not be possible to subsequently recover magnesium hydroxide or gypsum without selective removal of bivalent salts from the feed water

The application of intermediate gypsum pre-cipitation in the two-pass nanofiltration is a necessary step in order to achieve salt recovery higher than the reference "Dębieńsko" technology

The energy consumption of the proposed "ZERO BRINE" technology is substantially lower (33%) than the reference "Dębieńsko" technology





# Thank you for your attention

www.zerobrine.eu #ZeroBrine У @zero\_brine\_ 





The ZERO BRINE project (www.zerobrine.eu) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730390.

## **COFFEE BREAK**

14:45-15:00

