# **Brewery Wastewater Basics**-What you need to know John Mercer **Brewery Wastewater Design** www.brewerywastewater.com john@brewerywastewater.com

**Potential Limiting Factors:** It is common to be regulated for these parameters: .pH .BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) .COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) .TSS (Total Suspended Solids)

**Potential Limiting Factors** Less common, but it happens: Nitrogen, measured as . TKN (Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen) .NH4 (Ammonia) Phosphorus . Temperature . Volume- per second, minute, hour, or day

### A few definitions POTW • Publicly Owned Treatment Works • The wastewater treatment plant

### Load

• A factor of wastewater concentration and volume

DICTIONARY

. The language of the wastewater treatment plant operator

# An example of a situation to be aware of:

Sample Capacity Issue

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### **Educate yourself:**

What is the installed and current capacity of the POTW?

Are there any lift stations between the brewery and the POTW?

Is the sewer main near the brewery gravity or pressure?

## **Educate yourself:**

How are sewer fees calculated?

Does the City apply surcharges for high BOD wastewaters? Or TSS, Total P, TKN?

Can sewer charges to be based on actual discharge (via flowmeter) instead of incoming water?
Or a percentage of incoming water?

### **Educate yourself:**

What will the testing requirements be?

Is it possible to be regulated for COD instead of BOD?

Does the City have a wastewater lab? Can that lab test our wastewater samples for us?

Is it OK if we do some of our own testing in house?

### Will there be limits?

Will there be discharge limits?
 pH, pounds of BOD, COD, or TSS per day

• Will there be any volume limits per day, hour, or minute?

Are any other capacity constraints seen at this point?

### Take aways:



- Answers to these types of questions vary widely from town to town all across the country.
- There is no one size fits all solution, and town size is independent of these answers.

 Want to minimize headaches? Find a town where a factory closed down. The local POTW is probably over sized and under fed. *I'm only half joking here.*

### **Avoiding Pretreatment**



The main concern is economics

- Which option makes the most sense for your brewery?
  - The least cost (capital & operating)
  - The easiest to operate, and
  - Satisfies discharge requirements.
  - Green considerations are cool, but they have to justify themselves financially.

### **Avoiding Pretreatment:**

### Side streaming!

Collect your high strength material before it hits the floor

- . Trub, spent yeast, waste beer
- Put it into it's own tank and truck it off site. • Fertilizer, compost wetting agent

Side streaming works; it's simple, cheap, and buys you time.

**Avoiding Pretreatment** 

- . Have you exhausted all options?
  - Equalization
  - Diurnal loading
  - Expansion at local POTW



### On Site Disposal I get asked all of the time:



"I'm looking at property for a brewery with no sewer connection. What do I need to know?"

- Listen to Eppa, you don't want fermentation in a septic tank
- . A simple septic system won't work
- Don't plan to irrigate food crops with untreated wastewater...

# Thank you!

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#### Digest This.

#### PROFITING FROM BREWING BYPRODUCTS APRIL 15, 2015





#### **There's Value in Those Byproducts!**





Yeast, Trub



**CIP Water** 



**Out of Spec Product** 

- Your organic load, water & nutrients have value
- Treating the high COD streams is key Yeast, Hops, Trub,
- Options include Aerobic and Anaerobic treatment
- Anaerobic Digestion is well suited to breweries;
  - It can eliminate BOD surcharges
  - Produces valuable renewable power & heat from biogas
  - Contributes to your Bottom Line
- Done right, Anaerobic treatment can return 12 25% ROI
- It's not complicated think fermentation

#### Should I Consider Anaerobic Pretreatment?

- Yes, if you are on a path to;
  - Production restrictions caused by hydraulic or organic limits
  - Exceeding 100,000 bbl/year
  - A 150 bbl or larger brewhouse
  - Spend over \$400,000/year on surcharges and/or byproduct disposal and trucking costs
- Yes, if you simply want greater control over growth and profitability
- The economics are very site dependent Growing brewers in high cost areas may benefit now



#### **Tribrid-Bioreactor<sup>TM</sup> for Brewing Byproducts**

Prefabricated Pump Skids or Modules

No internal moving parts

Best of breed pumps, controls, filtration, CHP



Robust, 3 phase design separates SRT and HRT & protects against overloading

Low OPEX: No Chemicals, only 2 continuous duty pumps

> Water reclaim options for up to 80% of flow



#### Case Study: Magic Hat, Burlington, Vermont



**Anaerobic Digestion of High Solids Brewing Wastes** 

- Eliminated WW discharge constraints which allowed Doubling of Brewery Capacity
- Reduced byproduct handling costs by 60%. From \$1M/year to under \$400,000
- Zero Capital Investment PurposeEnergy Built, Owns, Operates, Maintains the facility – Shared Savings
- Produces over 1/3 the Brewery's electricity needs enough to power 200+ homes

#### **Magic Hat Brewery**





#### **DIGESTION OF HIGH SOLIDS BREWING WASTE**

- 100% of Yeast, Hops, Trub, & CIP flows are converted to biogas, clean water & a bit of natural fertilizer aka "Brew Doo"
- No pretreatment, separation or screening
- Influent averages 20,000 mg/L COD
- Cleaned Effluent averages 20 40 mg/L BOD
- Tribrid-Bioreactor<sup>TM</sup> removes 99% of the organic load
- Robust design absorbs inevitable shocks, surges and accidents
- Powers 200 kW CoGen Unit More than 2 GWh Produced!

#### Case Study: Dogfish Head - Milton, Delaware



**Anaerobic Digestion Paired with Water Reuse** 

- Digesting all brewing byproducts except BSG
- Will eliminate hundreds of waste truck trips
- •System will repurpose 80% of the daily flow for CIP, boiler makeup, process use...and deliver it at 98°F!
- Projected to save 55 MGY of water at full production
- •Biogas created powers a 1.2 MW CHP system

#### **Dogfish Head Craft Brewery -** Digestion Paired with Water Reuse

#### Challenge

- Rapid growth swamped town's POTW
- Field application led to production constraints & climbing costs

#### Solution

- Digest organic waste in Tribrid-Bioreactor<sup>TM</sup>
- Treat effluent via UF/RO



#### **Lessons Learned**



- Caution! Byproducts can limit your growth if not well managed
- There are economies of scale growing Craft Brewers take note
- Location Matters
- On-site treatment gives you control
- The right design is *absolutely robust*, never compromises production, and is worry free
- It's not complicated think fermentation!



#### Thanks for digesting this.







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### Lagunitas, Wastewater, Water Re-use and other Mumblings

Eppa Rixey Strategery Guy

# Wastewater has been a defining aspect of Lagunitas' existence from day one

Our first brewery ('93)



#### On to Petaluma and outgrowing the City's capacity

#### Petaluma's Ellis Creek Facility (built July 2009)

#### Lagunitas brewery as seen from our farm





#### Shackled to growth and paying for water twice

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#### Taking the wastewater trucks off the road



- Cambrian system selected for our high strength waste (anaerobic digestion)
  - Modular / scalable
  - High reliability / remote monitoring
  - Greater energy output
  - Outsourced operation
  - Clean energy / ITC
- Also incorporating re-use into the design via MBR and RO
  - Water use ratio  $4:1 \rightarrow 2.5:1$
  - ~40% reduction in water usage
  - ~70% reduction in wastewater volume

#### Wastewater can be a real thorn in the side of a growing brewery

- Technologies exist that can reduce this burden significantly
  - Choose the right option given your specific requirements (one size does not fit all)
- Understanding your wastewater and options for dealing with it will enable you to grow your brewery while avoiding:
  - Significant fines
  - Fees
  - Even the possibility of getting shut down

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