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Crossflow microsand filtration in cooling tower systems: A sustainable approach to control fouling in heat exchanger devices

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Figure 1.S Pilot study circuit

Table 1.S Specifications of the hospital building plate heat exchanger sampled for this study

Table 2.S Physicochemical characteristics of the recirculating water inside the circuit measured through bi-weekly sampling at the purge (Figure 1) from April 2022 to May 2023, prior to HX cleaning.



Figure 1.S Pilot study circuit

Table 1.S Specifications of the hospital building plate heat exchanger sampled for this study

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Brand | Armstrong (Model: S-48-1250-81) |
| Material | Zinc plated stainless steel 304 |
| Size | 29.5" x 62.8" |
| Gasket material | NBR-glued |
| Surface per unit (ft ²) | 503.62 |
| No. of plates | 81 |
| Heat exchanged (Btu/h) | 4931697 |
| Fluid circulated (gpm) | 1300 gpm, 1100 gpm |
| LMTD (°F) | 7.68 |
| Design pressure (PSI) | 150 |
| Plate thickness (mm) | 0.6 |
| Design temperature (°F) | 210 |

Table 2.S Physicochemical characteristics of the recirculating water inside the circuit measured through bi-weekly sampling at the purge (Figure 1) from April 2022 to May 2023, prior to HX cleaning. Values given in the parenthesis are minimum and maximum observed values during this study.

| Parameters | Unit | Onsite HX Mean values* ± SD (min-max) n=20 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Temperature | °C | 22.7 ± 2.0 (17.9-27.5) |
| pH | pH units | 8.5 ± 0.2 (7.9-8.9) |
| Conductivity | µS/cm | 694 ± 226 (365-1146) |
| Free chlorine | mg/L | 0.48 ± 0.99 (0 – 4.3) |
| Total chlorine | mg/L | 0.68 ± 1.19 (0 – 4.9) |
| Total dissolved solids | mg/L | 458 ± 149 (241-960) |
| Total suspended solids | mg/L | 1.3 ± 1.5 (0.0-9.2) |
| Total alkalinity | mg/L as CaCO ₃ | 198 ± 7.1 (98-345) |
| Dissolved oxygen | mg/L | 9.0 ± 0.6 (8.3-11.2) |
| Chloride | mg Cl ⁻ /L | 69 ± 31 (27-119) |
| Sulphate | mg SO ₄ ²⁻ /L | 44 ± 20 (19-89) |
| Phosphate | mg PO ₄ ³⁻ /L | 1.9 ± 3.1 (0.2-19) |
| Calcium | mg Ca ²⁺ /L | 66 ± 24 (25-133) |
| Magnesium | mg Mg ²⁺ /L | 24 ± 13 (6-49) |

*SD: standard deviation;

n = number of measurements;