

Optimization of TCE Degradation in Counter-Diffusional, Membrane-Attached, Methanotrophic Biofilms for Remediation of Contaminated Groundwater

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Abstrak

This study develops, evaluates, and optimizes the potential of a novel "counter-diffusional" membrane biofilm reactor to biologically treat and remove trichloroethylene (TCE) from contaminated soil and groundwater caused by industrial activities (industrial solvent). The objectives of the research are to investigate and evaluate design and operational factors reflecting the sustainability and degradation rates of TCE transformation in a counter-diffusional membrane-attached methanotrophic biofilm reactor system

As a first step attaining this objective, an overall mass transfer coefficient of the bioreactor was developed. A 23 laboratory experimental design has already been conducted, and the development of a mathematical model and computer simulation describing the concentration profile of substrates and TCE within the biofilm has been introduced.

A maximum sustainable TCE removal rate of 205 mg/m²/day was successfully attained when the CH₄ utilization rate was 11.67 mmol/m²/hr, the TCE loading rate was approximately 400 mg/m²/day. Normal probability plot and Pareto chart indicated that methane partial pressure (P) and hydraulic Reynolds' numbers (Re) have important and significant positive effects on the TCE degradation rates. The average percentage of TCE removal efficiency falls between 78.6 and 94.7%.