

Chlorine Containment News™

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Preference for Chlorine Gas for Disinfection Supported by Gas Leak Containment Vessels



Two 1-ton cylinders of chlorine are stored in a covered building. The ChlorTainer™ containment vessels were installed in 2010 with a loader, scale system, and instrumentation also supplied. A failsafe valve ties into the chlorine sensor. A vacuum regulator can be attached to remove leaking chlorine inside the vessel.



Containment vessels for sulfur dioxide cylinders, stored in a separate building, were similarly installed in 2012, with loader and scale system, and with fail-safe valves and vacuum regulators.

The superintendent of an average 4 MGD activated sludge wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) reports that his preference for using chlorine gas as his most cost-effective option for primary disinfection has been further supported by enhanced management of gas leak risk.

“We are operating 24/7 within 200-300 yds. of residences, as well as a youth baseball complex,” noted Wayne Lee, Supt. of the City of Slidell, LA’s WWTP, “and we also have a high regard for the safety of our employees. We haven’t had any serious gas leak issues since the plant opened in 1984, and we have a trained hazmat team on call for emergencies, but we were pleased to be able to enhance that response insurance with cost-effective, on-site physical containment readiness.”

“That leaves us much better prepared for any off-hours event, when there would be only one plant operator, and it would take longer to assemble the hazmat team.”

Plant Operation

The incoming wastewater stream for the design 6 MGD plant passes from

the headworks into a grit chamber, followed by two primary clarifiers, and then aeration tanks, before final clarifiers that are linked to an anaerobic digestion loop. The clear water leaving the final clarifiers goes to the chlorine contact chamber.

Chlorine is pumped to injectors at the rate of 125 lbs./day, with injection performed at the final clarifiers “to give it more time to work, and also use less that way,” said Lee. He added that gas was his preferred option for chlorine addition, with the plant too big for tablets or powder, and bleach likely costing twice as much.

Two 1-ton cylinders of chlorine are stored in a covered building. Sulfur dioxide, used at the end of the plant process for dechlorination, is stored inside an enclosed building.

Each chlorine cylinder was placed inside a special vessel apparatus in 2010. Each sulfur dioxide cylinder was placed inside a special vessel apparatus in 2012. The special apparatus contains and processes any leaks. The ChlorTainer™ cylinder containment vessels, supplied with loaders, scale systems, and instrumentation, were manufactured by TGO Technologies of Santa Rosa, CA.

“That vessel containment was much preferred to a scrubber-type solution, which would require major building modifications,” Lee noted. “A scrubber system would also have required a special six-member, trained response team to be available to deal with a leak within the building.”

“With the vessels, it is all done automatically, with minimal personal exposure. And with two tanks for each gas, we don’t have to suffer any plant process interruption if there is leak containment going on in one of them.”

Leak Containment

Lee said the procedures for leak management were not difficult, with the container manufacturer very helpful with training.

“We got used to it during some minor episodes that occurred during cylinder deliveries,” he recalled.

“They had been placed in the containment, so we just bypassed to the other cylinder while the gas leak was vacuumed out.”

The containment vessels were positioned on a concrete pad and bolted down. With any accidental leaks of chlorine kept within the containment vessel, no atmospheric venting is generated. The vessels are ASME-rated pressure tanks, and any leaks are recycled to the injection system at a normal flow rate. A failsafe valve ties into the chlorine sensor, so that in the event of an external release, the failsafe valve will close and sense it is under vacuum.

Any leak or release of chlorine gas from the vacuum line, downstream of a vacuum regulator will lose the vacuum condition, and cause the vacuum regulator to close, stopping the flow of chlorine gas to the vacuum line. The maximum release of chlorine gas will be the amount of chlorine gas that is the length of the vacuum line to the chlorine injector, and not drawn into the water solution by the suction of the injector.

There can be a question of the integrity of the system from the outlet line where chlorine gas penetrates the wall of the pressure vessel, to the location where the vacuum line leaves the outlet side of the pressure regulator. A study has shown this could release less than 0.0009 lbs. of chlorine gas. Should there be a gas leak inside a ChlorTainer™ vessel, there is no waste, as the gas is processed at a normal rate until everything is used.

Further information about the ChlorTainer product is available from TGO Technologies, www.chlortainer.com, (800) 543-6603, sales@chlortainer.com.

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