

ECA 1350 Offers Dramatic Reduction in BTEX

Problem

An environmental services company in the Northwest was contracted to treat and dispose of a quarter million gallons of oily wastewater from fuel transfer line purges.

The water was to be chemically-treated, polished with activated carbon, then discharged to the sewer.

Solution

ECA 1350* Water Demulsifier was found to treat this turbid, dark amber colored water at pH 6. Added at 6000 ppm, followed by caustic addition to pH 9.5-10, destabilized the emulsion rapidly and settled a small amount of floc from clear water.

Results

ECA 1350 was added to the tank and pump-circulated for 32 hours. When it was determined that thorough distribution was achieved, dilute solution of sodium hydroxide was added and circulated for an additional 16 hours, then settled. Final pH was around 10.

After several days, approximately 5% by volume of a compact floc had settled out of exceptionally clear, very pale yellow water.

Additionally, a small layer of clear fuel was visible at the top.

BTEX reduction was dramatic; benzene from 16600 to 0.634 ug/L, toluene from 20400 to 4.94 ug/L, with a comparable reduction in xylene and ethylbenzene.

The water was considered clean enough to be discharged **without** need of carbon polishing.

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