

# Concentrate Management Utilizing Brine Bulb Technology (BBT)

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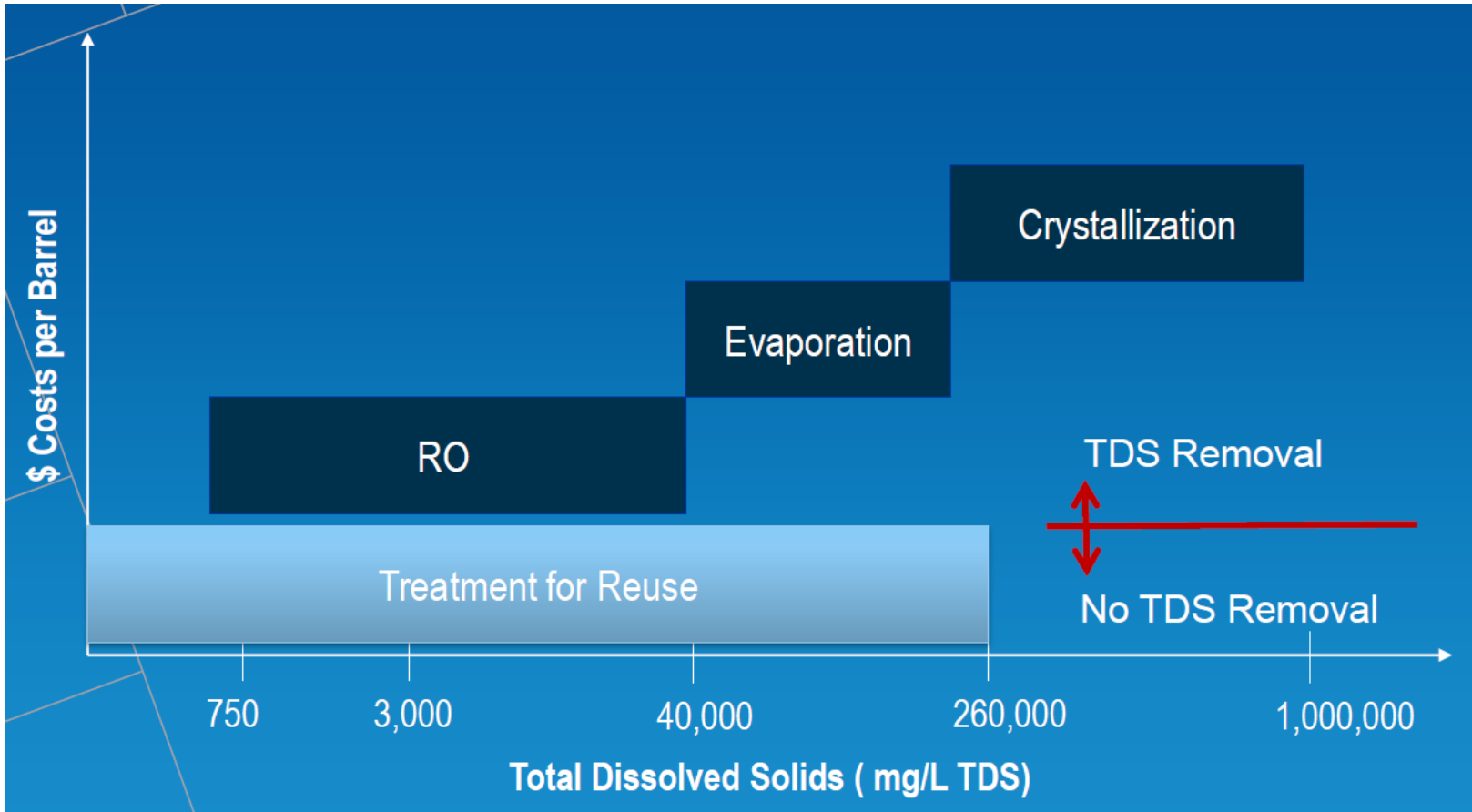
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Tetra Tech, Inc.

**US Patent No. 8,273,156**

# The Problem

- What to do with aggressive, high TDS wastewater/brine
  - Concentrate stream from Reverse Osmosis (RO)
  - Spent regenerate stream from IX resin
  - Flowback / produced water from frac operations (oil/gas industry)
  - Agricultural liquid waste stream
  - Cooling tower blow-down
- May be **> 10 x** the cost of bulk water treatment to treat brine
  - Brine is typically between 10-30% of bulk flow

# The Problem



Courtesy of CDM Smith Presentation “Key Considerations for Frac Flowback / Produced Water Reuse and Treatment”

# Brine Background

- Concentrate stream contains all of the constituents removed in the RO process:
  - High TDS concentration
    - 2,000 to > 40,000 mg/L for brackish applications
      - @ 75% recovery
    - 60,000 to >80,000 mg/L for seawater applications
      - @ 50% recovery
    - Depends on RO feed pressure, pre-treatment, membrane recovery and raw water quality
- Spent brine stream in IX resin regeneration process contains:
  - High TDS concentration
    - 100,000 to 200,000 mg/L depending on brine strength
  - Plus all cations and anions removed in IX process

# Brine Background

- Typical Raw Flowback WQ

Contaminate	Min Value (mg/L)	Max Value (mg/L)
TDS	40,000	185,000
Sodium	10,000	55,000
Calcium	2,200	34,000
Magnesium	200	5,200
Iron	20	600
Chloride	20,000	110,000
Sulfate	10	80
Barium	30	6,000
Strontium	100	4,300

# Brine Disposal Issues & Concerns

- **SEWER DISPOSAL** - Brine is not removed in conventional activated sludge WWTPs
  - High TDS water passes through to end user (golf courses, streams and rivers)
  - Causes osmotic stress on plants / grass.
- **DEEP WELL INJECTION** – Faces significant regulatory concerns...max allowable TDS of 8,000 mg/L
  - Well Classification Delay Until Hydrogeology and Water Chemistry are Characterized...must be in confined aquifer with no transmissivity to other aquifers
  - Permit (Extensive Public Participation)

# Brine Disposal Issues & Concerns

- **EVAPORATION PONDS** – Land acquisition is costly and generally only used in arid regions.
  - Turbo Mistlers help removal but only 15-20% efficient and require excessive kWh/gal costs
  - Require HDPE liners, or impermeable clay, and leak detection
- **PRETREATMENT + RO + EVAP POND** – Lime softening and nanofiltration to increase RO recovery...further concentrate brine (10-15% of feed flow)
  - Lime Softening = costly settling basins, storage silos, chemical addition, pumps, filter press
  - NF membranes = feed pumps chemicals and additional controls are costly.

# Brine Disposal Issues & Concerns

- **BRINE CONCENTRATOR/CRYSTALLIZERS** – Utilizes thermal vapor recompression and multiple effects to thermally evaporate brine
  - Relatively large footprint : flow ratio
  - Capital & operation cost intensive



# Brine Disposal Issues & Concerns

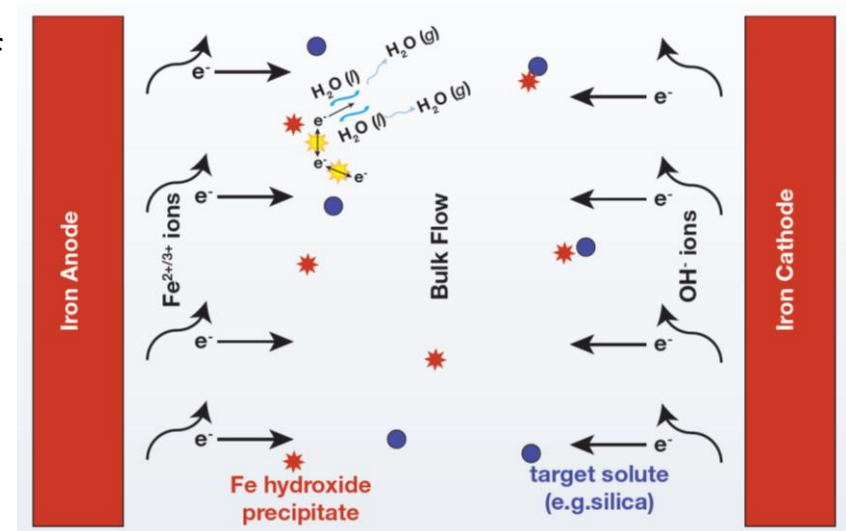
- **OCEAN OUTFALL** – Not practical for land-locked applications.
  - Falling out of favor due to environmental concerns.
  - Brine salt concentration = 20% denser than ambient seawater concentration which makes it sink to ocean floor... kills sea grass habitats
- **WETLAND TREATMENT** – Currently in development.
  - Utilizes salt tolerant wetland plants to remove challenging contaminants.

# A Solution - BBT

- BBT utilizes:
  - Multiple Effect Vacuum Distillation + Electro-coagulation (EC)
    - Constant vacuum technology w/ no moving parts
      - Allows depressed boiling point = less thermal input
    - Up to 3 effects achieved
      - Promotes efficient use of heating / cooling process

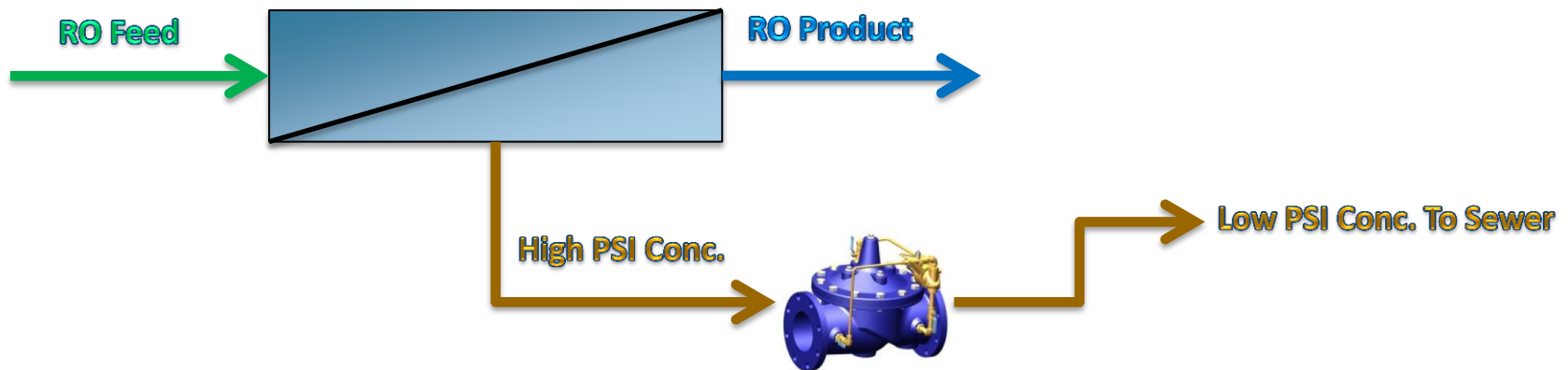
# Brine Bulb Technology Introduction

- BBT utilizes:
  - Multiple Effect Vacuum Distillation + Electro-coagulation (EC)
    - Alternating current EC
      - Floods water w/ electrons, Fe<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup>; neutralizes charged particles; drives precipitation of cations and anions w/out adding salts
      - Electrons excite water molecules and breaks surface tension bonds that result in 35% reduction in specific heat and 84% reduction in latent heat of vaporization
      - Provides 3-5 log virus removal in 76oF water
      - Creates hydrophobic sludge (see ALPHA Prototype Study)

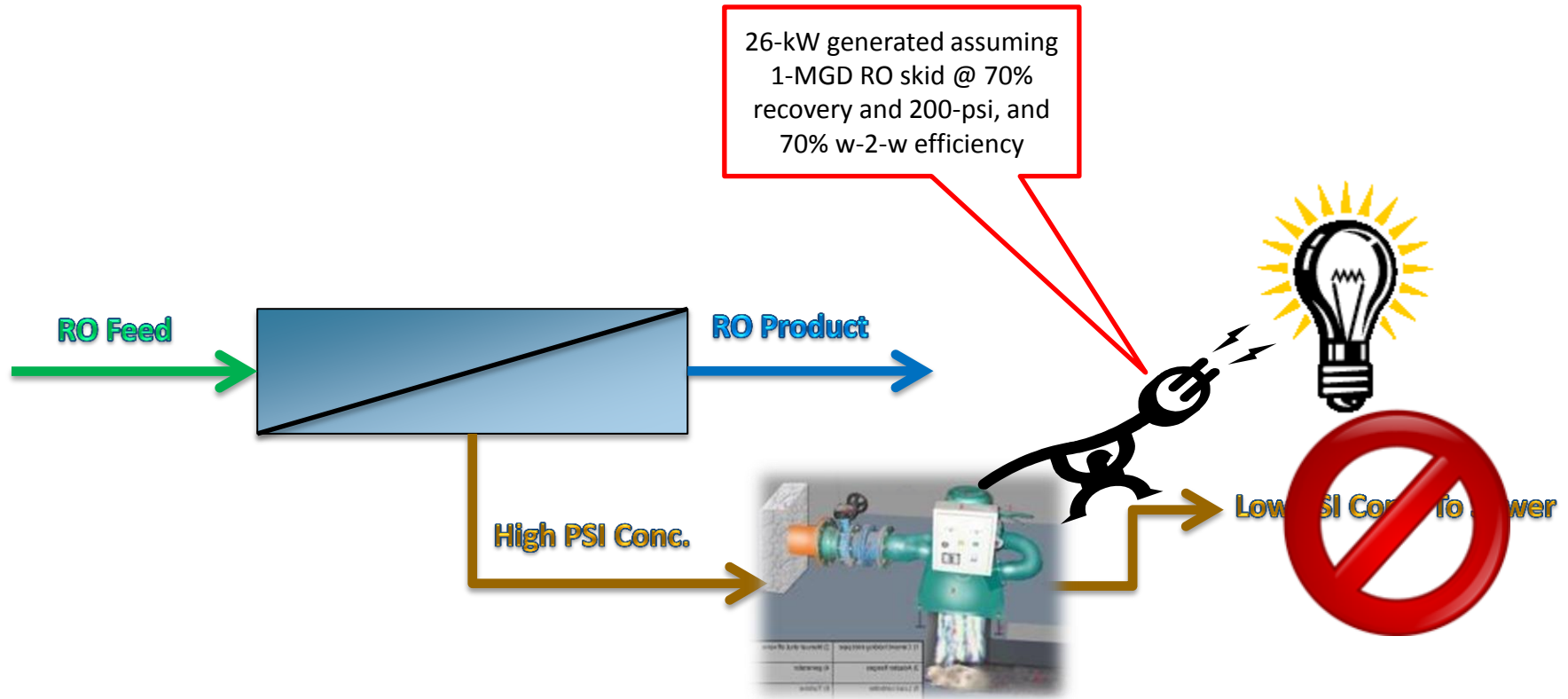


# Brine Bulb Technology Introduction

- BBT™ utilizes:
  - Micro-turbine technology to replace RO concentrate valve
    - Produces significant “green energy” otherwise wasted through concentrate valve
    - Reduces electrical requirement of BBT
    - Accomplishes pressure sustaining feature of concentrate valve



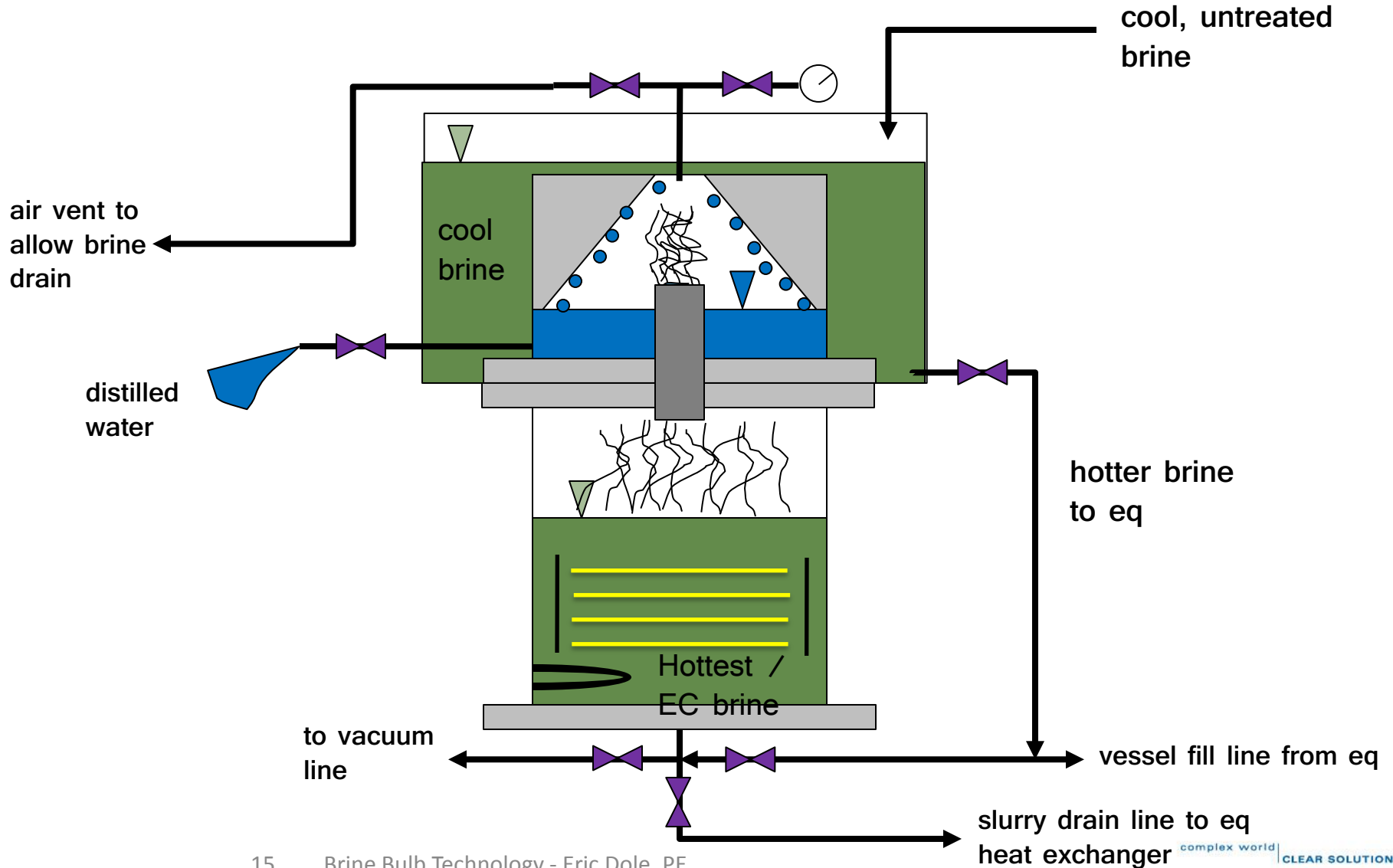
# Brine Bulb Technology Introduction



# Brine Bulb Technology Introduction

- BBT™ can be used as a stand-alone unit or in parallel w/ RO
- BBT™ achieves high removal efficiencies:
  - Suspended / dissolved solids
  - Colloidal solids
  - FOG
  - Bacteria / viruses
  - Heavy metals
  - Organics / inorganics

# BBT Typical Schematic - Flashing Chamber



# Water Boiling Points at Various Pressures

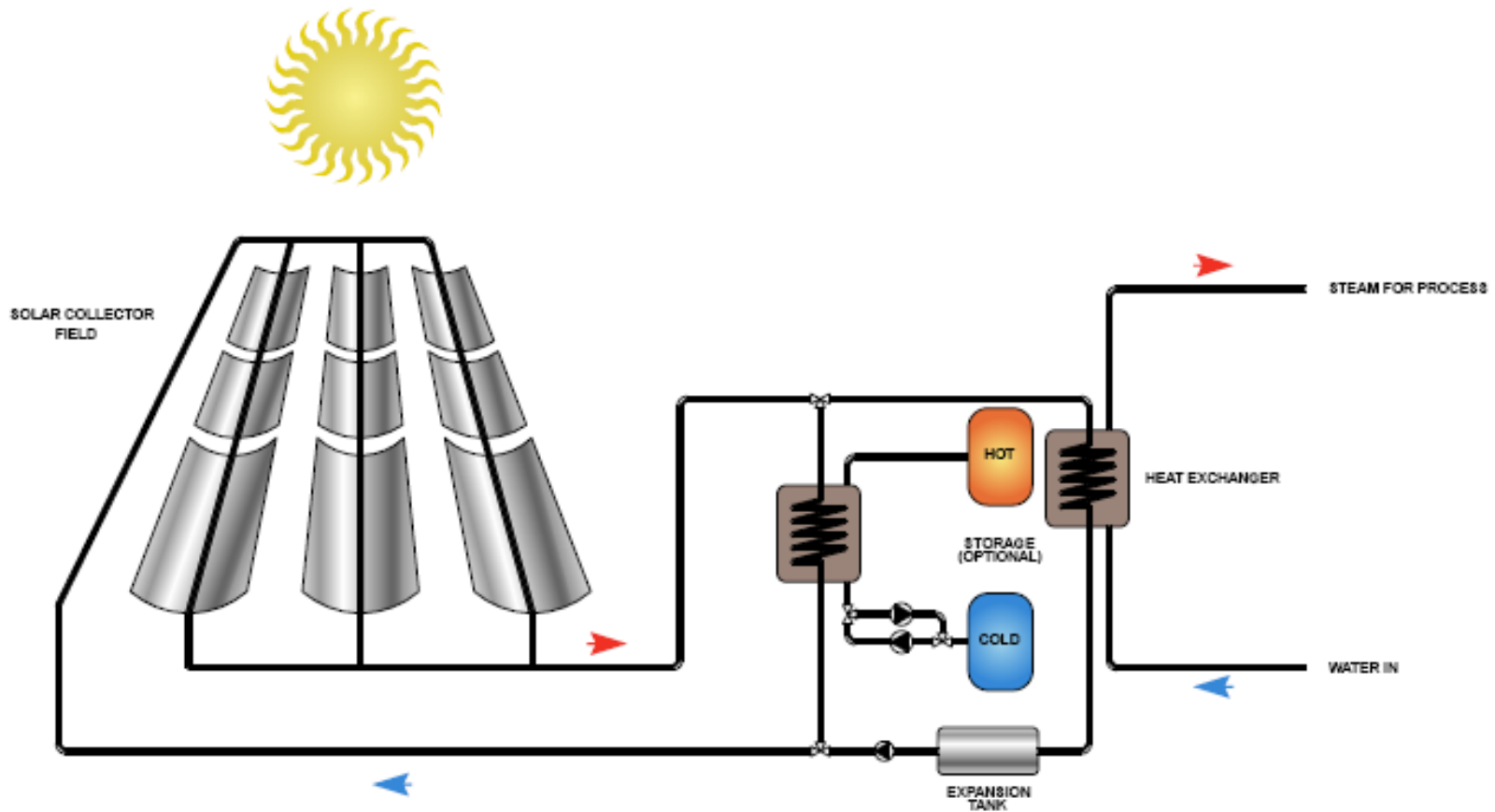
Video of BBT boiling RO concentrate (later in presentation) at 95 deg F at 23" Hg...35% lower than indicated in table due to patented heating system.

<b>Vacuum (In/Hg)</b>	<b>Boiling Point</b>		<b>Vacuum (In/Hg)</b>	<b>Boiling Point</b>
29	76.62		7	198.87
28	99.93		6	200.96
27	114.22		5	202.25
26	124.77		4	204.85
25	133.22		3	206.70
24	140.31		2	208.50
23	146.45		1	210.25
22	151.87		<b>Gauge Lbs.</b>	
21	156.75		0	212.0
20	161.19		1	215.6
19	165.24		2	218.5
18	169.00		4	224.4
17	172.51		6	229.8
16	175.80		8	234.8
15	178.91		10	239.4
14	181.82		15	249.8
13	184.61		25	266.8
12	187.21		50	297.7
11	189.75		75	320.1
10	192.19		100	337.9
9	194.50		125	352.9
8	196.73		200	387.9



# BBT™ Concentrated Solar Heat Source Schematic

Figure 3: Process Heat (Steam) Flow Chart



# BBT™ ALPHA Prototype

- Raw water consisted of 10 gal mixture of saturated salt brine and RO concentrate from Scottsdale AZ WWTP + 1 cup of flowback (as seen in mason jar). Raw Water TDS > 300,000 mg/L



# BBT™ ALPHA Prototype

- Distilled water in graduated cylinder to left at TDS = 550 mg/L



# BBT™ ALPHA Prototype

- Electro-coagulated solids after 35 min of runtime at 120 V / 13 amps / 60Hz



# BBT™ ALPHA Prototype

- Settled solids after 5 min



# BBT™ Removal Efficiencies (ALPHA Prototype)

- RO concentrate grab sample collected on 3/23/11 from AZ WRF tertiary treatment

ANALYTE	RW	TW_1 % Rem	TW_1	TW_2 % Rem	TW_2	MDL	UNIT
Alkalinity, Bicarb	436	94.5%	24	95.4%	ND	20	mg/L
Alkalinity, Total	436	94.5%	24	95.4%	ND	20	mg/L
Arsenic, As	0.0086	-33.7%	0.0115	73.3%	0.0023	0.0050	mg/L
Barium, Ba	0.588	92.7%	0.0427	98.4%	0.0096	0.0050	mg/L
Boron, B	1.24	29.7%	0.872	73.7%	0.326	0.050	mg/L
Calcium, Ca	550	99.5%	2.57	99.8%	0.92	0.50	mg/L
DOC	39.8	57.8%	16.8	89.6%	4.15	5.0	mg/L
Chloride, Cl	2350	98.0%	47.4	99.6%	ND	10	mg/L
Conductivity, Lab	20900	98.8%	260	99.6%	83.2	2	µmho
Copper, Cu	0.0180	46.7%	0.0096	86.1%	0.0025	0.0050	mg/L
Fluoride, F	2.2	90.9%	ND	90.9%	ND	0.2	mg/L
Iron, Fe	0.288	92.4%	0.022	82.6%	ND	0.050	mg/L
Magnesium, Mg	186	99.5%	0.93	99.8%	0.44	0.500	mg/L
Manganese, Mn	0.126	76.9%	0.0291	95.9%	0.0052	0.0050	mg/L
Molybdenum, Mo	0.0315	84.1%	ND	84.1%	ND	0.0050	mg/L
Nickel, Ni	0.0120	75.0%	0.0030	58.3%	ND	0.0050	mg/L
Nitrate, NO3	45.7	99.1%	0.4	99.6%	ND	0.2	mg/L
Nitrite, NO2	0.2	0.0%	ND	0.0%	ND	0.2	mg/L
Phosphorus, Ortho, P	19.6	97.4%	ND	96.8%	0.627	0.5	mg/L
Potassium, K	216	99.4%	1.40	99.8%	0.36	0.50	mg/L
TDS	7730	98.4%	120	99.6%	32	20	mg/L
Selenium, Se	0.0076	34.2%	ND	34.2%	ND	0.0050	mg/L
Silica, SiO2	75.8	92.1%	6.00	97.7%	1.77	1.05	mg/L
Sodium, Na	1650	99.2%	13.2	99.8%	3.36	0.50	mg/L
Strontium, Sr	7.25	99.6%	0.0326	99.9%	0.0101	0.0050	mg/L
Sulfate, SO4	1930	99.5%	ND	99.5%	ND	10	mg/L
Uranium, U	0.0084	40.5%	ND	40.5%	ND	0.0050	mg/L
Vanadium, V	0.0070	28.6%	ND	28.6%	ND	0.0050	mg/L

RW = raw water;  
 TW1 = unpurged  
 treated water;  
 TW2 = purged  
 treated water

# BBT™ Removal Efficiencies (ALPHA Prototype)

- Demo conducted on 12/27/12 - Raw water consisted of 10 gal mixture of saturated salt brine + RO concentrate seed from AZ WRF + 1 cup of flowback

ANALYTE	RW	TW	TW % Removal	MDL	UNIT
Ag	0.00022	0.00022	0%	0.0002	mg/L
Al	40.8	0.116	100%	0.0138	mg/L
As	0.0041	0.0131	-222%	0.0041	mg/L
<b>B</b>	<b>0.136</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>-1300%</b>	<b>0.1362</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Ba	0.391	0.110	72%	8E-05	mg/L
Be	<b>0.00015</b>	<b>0.00015</b>	0%	<b>0.0001</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Ca	181.4	19.46	89%	0.0041	mg/L
Cd	<b>0.00010</b>	<b>0.00010</b>	0%	<b>0.0001</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Co	0.000134	0.000138	-3%	0.0001	µmho
Cr	0.00027	0.00027	0%	0.0003	mg/L
Cu	0.280	0.0231	92%	0.0009	mg/L
<b>Fe</b>	<b>0.0004</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>-2788%</b>	<b>0.0004</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>230.6</b>	<b>2.935</b>	99%	<b>0.0315</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
<b>Li</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.05208</b>	<b>-865%</b>	<b>0.0054</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Mg	50.92	6.64	87%	0.0003	mg/L
Mg	52.176	6.57814	87%	0.0004	mg/L
Mn	0.371	0.16325	56%	9E-05	mg/L
Na	94243.5	198.1	100%	0.0211	mg/L
<b>Ni</b>	<b>0.0008</b>	<b>0.00474</b>	<b>-459%</b>	<b>0.0008</b>	<b>mg/L</b>

RW = MDL = instrument noise

Approx. [TDS RW] = [Na] + [Cl] + [Mg] + [Ca] + [HCO3] + [SO4] = 247,000 mg/L

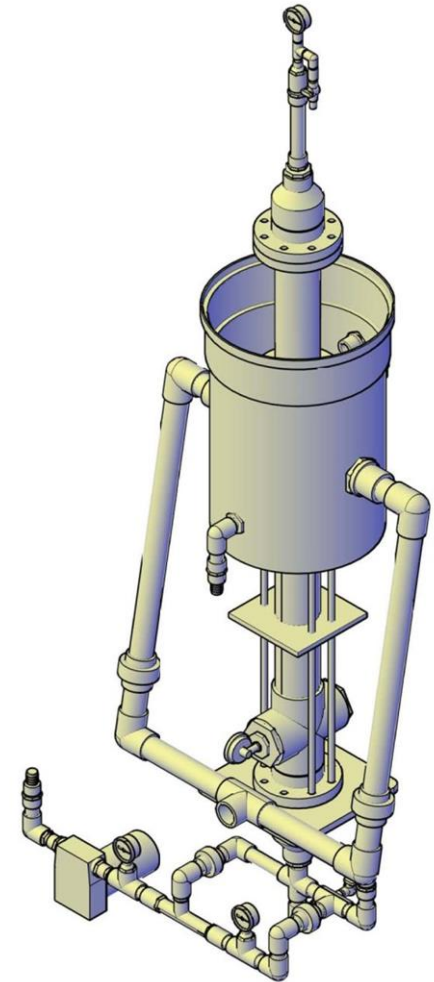
Approx. [TDS TW] = [Na] + [Cl] + [Mg] + [Ca] + [HCO3] + [SO4] = 570 mg/L

**% [TDS] Removal = 99.8%**

P	144.233	2.48944	98%	0.0197	mg/L
<b>Pb</b>	<b>2.037</b>	<b>0.00156</b>	100%	<b>0.0015</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
S	250.741	8.88491	96%	0.0061	mg/L
Se	4.476	0.00429	100%	0.0043	mg/L
<b>Si</b>	<b>0.219</b>	<b>7.25370</b>	<b>-3205%</b>	<b>0.2195</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Sr	<b>1.471</b>	<b>0.13534</b>	91%	<b>8E-05</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
<b>Tl</b>	<b>0.00145</b>	<b>0.00145</b>	0%	<b>0.0015</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
U	1.676	1.676	0%	1.6762	mg/L
<b>V</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00093</b>	<b>-212%</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Zn	129.137	7.25370	94%	0.0003	mg/L
<b>Sn</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.13534</b>	<b>-4295%</b>	<b>0.0031</b>	<b>mg/L</b>
Mo	0.0020	0.0020	0%	0.002	mg/L
Sb	0.00331	0.00331	0%	0.0033	mg/L
Ti	0.001	0.00093	-56%	0.0006	mg/L
F	0.050	0.050	0%	0.0500	mg/L
Cl	152508.5	345.2	100%	0.1000	mg/L
Br	0.100	0.10703	-7%	0.1000	mg/L
NO3	26.814	2.57500	90%	0.1000	mg/L
PO4	0.5	0.5	0%	0.5000	mg/L
<b>SO4</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>20.16</b>	<b>-1916%</b>	<b>1.0000</b>	<b>mg/L</b>

# BBT™ BETA Prototype

- 1 gpm unit completed in April 2013
- Processed
  - RO concentrate from TX nitrate removal facility
  - Flowback / produced water
- Produce distilled water quality
- Purpose: Validate kWh/1,000 gal and removal efficiencies





# BBT™ BETA Prototype - Processing RO Concentrate



Video



# BBT™ BETA Prototype - Lab Analysis Results

## RW Results of TX RO concentrate sampled 5/30/13

**Customer Sample ID** TXRO-CONC-RW-53013

Sample Date/Time: 5/30/13 10:50 AM

Lab Number: 130530056-05

Test	Result	Method	LQL	Date Analyzed	Analyzed By
Total Dissolved Solids	4381 mg/L	SM 2540-C	5	6/3/13	ISG
<u>Total</u> Selenium	0.0532 mg/L	EPA 200.8	0.0008	6/4/13	VDB

## TW Results of BBT on TX RO concentrate sampled 5/30/13

- Accidentally allowed RW to enter distilled water collection trough. Did not purge full volume of RW prior to grab sample. This led to lower than normal removal efficiency.

**Customer Sample ID** TXRO-CONC-TWBTT-53013

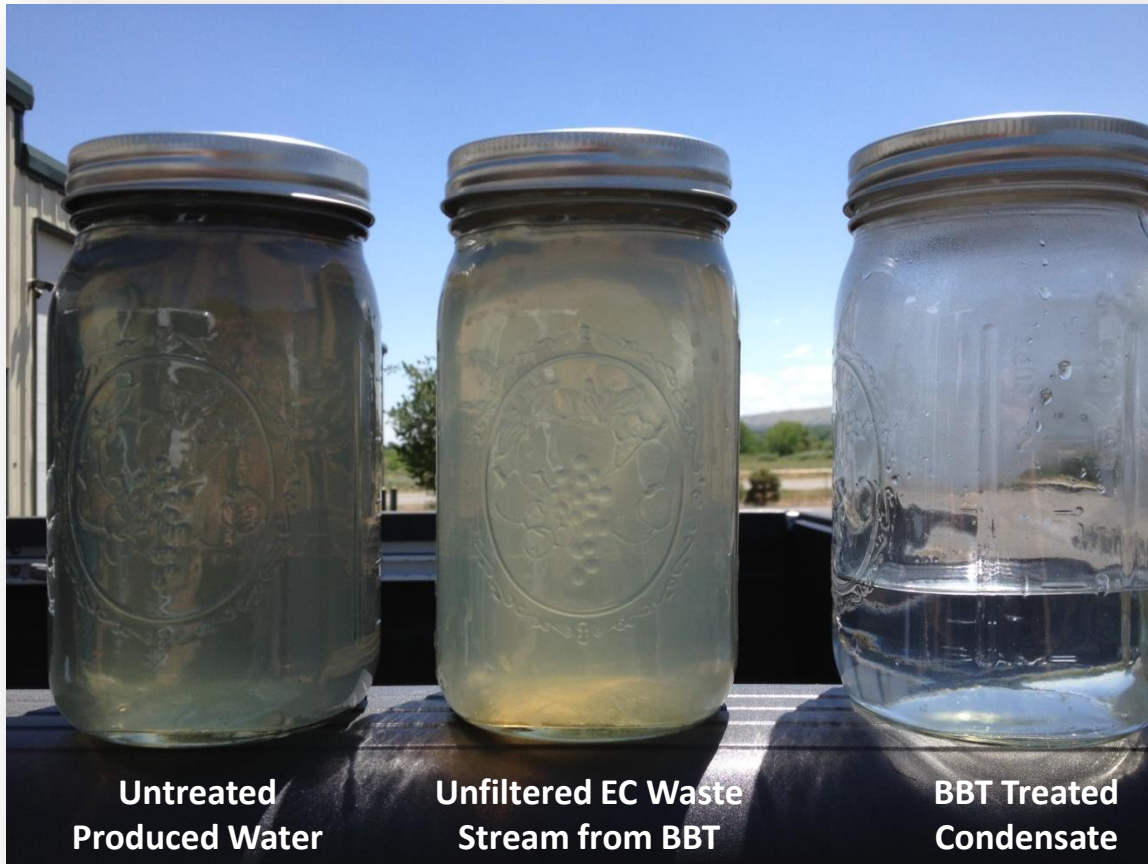
Sample Date/Time: 5/30/13 11:20 AM

Lab Number: 130530056-07

Test	Result	Method	LQL	Date Analyzed	Analyzed By
Total Dissolved Solids	1058 mg/L	SM 2540-C	5	6/3/13	ISG
<u>Total</u> Selenium	0.0098 mg/L	EPA 200.8	0.0008	6/4/13	VDB

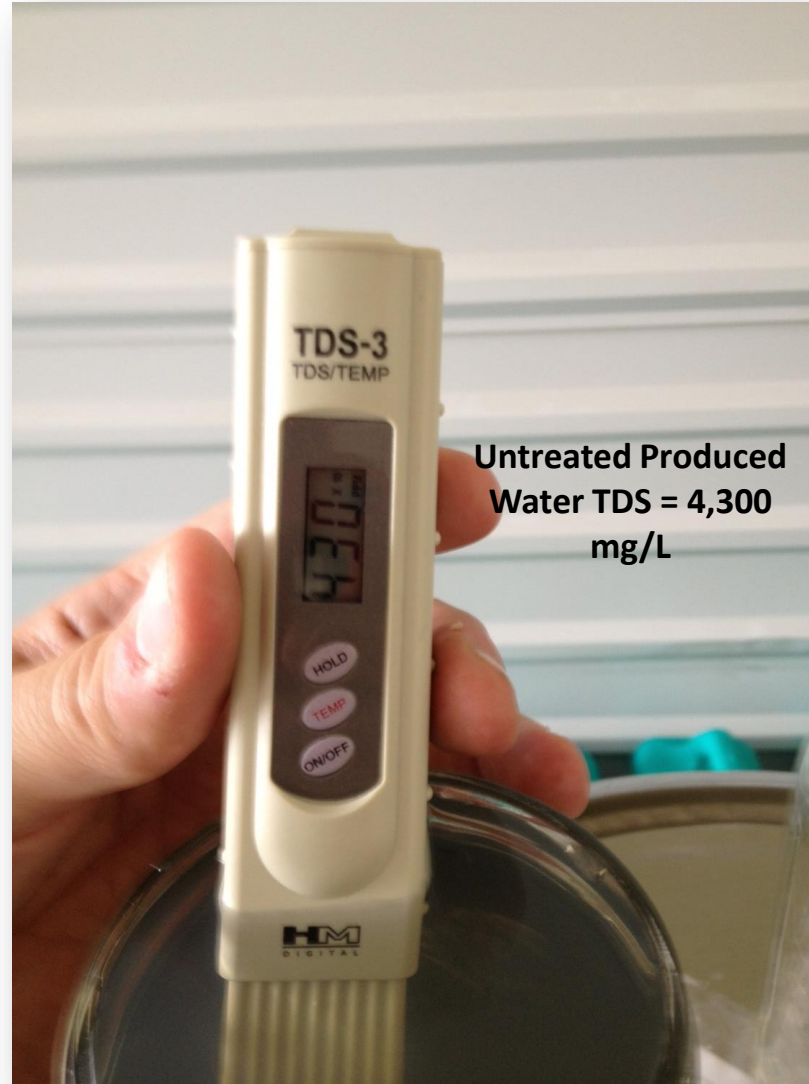
# BBT BETA Prototype

## - Processing Produced H<sub>2</sub>O from Colorado O&G Well



# BBT BETA Prototype

- Processing Produced H<sub>2</sub>O from Colorado O&G Well



Untreated Produced  
Water TDS = 4,300  
mg/L

# BBT BETA Prototype

- Processing Produced H<sub>2</sub>O from Colorado O&G Well



# BBT BETA Prototype

## - Produced Water Test Run ICP Results from CSM

DATE: 6/27/13	Sample Location: Produced Water from CO O&G Well				Removal Efficiency	
Analyte	Detection Limit (mg/L)	Raw Water (mg/L)	EC Blowdown filtered (mg/L)	Condensate unfiltered (mg/L)	RW to EC Blowdown	RW to Condensate
As	0.00200	0.3531		0.0061		98%
B	0.03994	3.2097	2.6393	0.1443	18%	96%
Ba	0.00011	12.7207	8.3054	0.1292	35%	99%
Ca	0.00299	81.091	31.6769	33.4257	61%	59%
Cu	0.00034	0.3222	0.1764	0.0064	45%	98%
Fe	0.00254	0.5257		0.0454		91%
K	0.01531	19.4505	14.0707	2.3062	28%	88%
Li	0.00042	1.1100	0.8009	0.0275	28%	98%
Mg	0.00029	5.0190	5.0960	19.5400	-2%	-289%
Mn	0.00005	0.0633		0.0041		93%
Na	0.00655	1233.119	1139.6283	106.2194	8%	91%
Ni	0.00022	0.1469		0.0041		97%
P	0.00165	30.7996	1.0538	0.1747	97%	99%
Pb	0.00045	0.1672	0.0808	0.0011	52%	99%
S	0.01211	5.3540	4.5102	50.1457	16%	-837%
Se	0.00118	0.3126		0.0100		97%
Si	0.03926	18.1066	18.3608	6.9044	-1%	62%
Sr	0.00003	8.6041	6.1086	0.5315	29%	94%
Zn	0.00016	1.1795	1.2457	0.3041	-6%	

# BBT™ BETA Prototype Conclusions

- Incorporates MEVD, EC and MT into one unit process to achieve high quality water at low kWh/1,000 gal
- Patented heating element results in
  - 35% reduction in specific heat capacity
  - 84% reduction in latent heat of vaporization
- Approximately 0.2 lb/1,000 gal of iron blade consumption
- Removal efficiency is a function of amp density, time, blade material, pH and solids separation technique.
- Operates better at higher TDS
- Condensation continues with unit off until system reaches equilibrium

# BBT “Emerging Technology”

There are Numerous “Cutting Edge” Technologies that can be Considered for Testing...

VSEP

BBT Alpha Prototype

Secondary RO

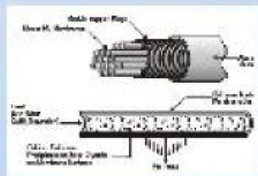


ED/EDR

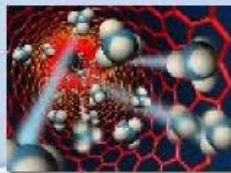
Capacitive Deionization (CDI)



SALPROC



SPARRO



Aquaporins & Nano Engineered Membranes



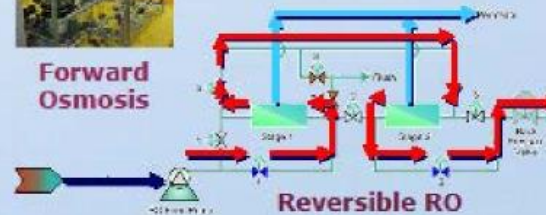
Brine Bulb Technology  
Multiple Effect Vacuum Distillation



Forward Osmosis



M3 Technology



Reversible RO



Direct Contact Membrane Distillation



dRHS Technology

“Recovery & Concentrate Management – A Look at 3 Local Projects”;  
Author: Guy Carpenter, PE, Carollo Engineering that was presented at the WRRC 2011 Annual Conference.  
AND  
“Demonstrating Innovative Inland Concentrate Management Solutions”;  
Author: Guy Carpenter, PE Carollo Engineers and Brandy Kelso PE, City of Phoenix Water Dept. that was presented at the 2011 26th Annual Water Reuse Symposium Presentation.



# BBT “Emerging Technology”



## Recent Proven Technologies

- Capacitive Dionization, (Carbon Aerogel Anode and Cathodes, LLNL Technology)
- Brine Bulb Technology, energy recovery from RO system for heating and further concentrating RO Brine (Hydrosystems Engineering)
- DewVaporation – (Alta)

BBT  
citation

“Advances in Concentrate Minimization and Disposal”; Author: Kevin Alexander, P.E. Separation Process Inc. and presented at the International Water Association Annual Conference 2008.

# BBT Next Steps

- Currently in negotiations with investors for future prototypes
  - Tetra Tech to assist with design
- Need further R&D to substantiate prelim findings
- Liquid waste streams like
  - RO concentrate
  - Flowback or produced water
  - Mine waste
  - Cooling tower blowdown
  - Desalination
  - Municipal / industrial waste
  - High TDS waters

# Acknowledgments

- Dr. Tzahi Cath, Colorado School of Mines
- Central AZ Salinity Study
- Wife

# QUESTIONS

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