

Fogging system solves odour problem

When the discharge point of a three-mile force main was changed from a pump station to the treatment plant in Suffolk County, New York, the odours got so bad even the operators complained.

“It was awful,” says Ron Warren, Director of Operations and Maintenance at the county’s 2.6 million gallon a day Sewer District #11 facility in Coram on Long Island. “It was not just your normal hydrogen sulfide odour, but we had a lot of mercaptans, as well. We had to switch the force main back to its original discharge point until we could find a solution.”

Warren explains that the original decision to move the force main discharge point was made for cost-saving reasons. “We needed to reduce the head pressure (of the force main) on that pump station, plus we had a lift there of some 12 feet. It just made sense to take the main directly to the plant and avoid that lift.”

In doing so, however, odours became



Lift stations and wet wells are excellent applications.

more concentrated and simply overwhelmed existing odour control devices. “In the old arrangement the odours had been somewhat diluted, but when we connected the main to the plant, our existing odour system simply couldn’t pull the air fast enough,” Warren explains.

Pumping the discharge point back to its original location wasn’t an efficient permanent solution either because it was using an additional 10 horsepower.

“The odours were too concentrated for the existing chemical scrubber, and we had tried carbon,” says Warren, “but

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when we hooked up a hydroxyl ion fogger we got immediate results; there were no odours.”

O-MEGA® systems from Vapex Inc., Florida, utilize air, water and power to generate a hydroxyl ion fog that is injected into the odorous space through a special atomizing nozzle and reacts with the odorous compounds. Unlike a scrubber system, there is no need to withdraw odorous air from the structure and pass it through a separate odour-control scrubbing process, because the reacted mist simply condenses back into the water stream. No hazardous chemicals are purchased, handled or stored.

Lift stations and wet wells are excellent applications because they act as the reaction chambers. The hydroxyl ion fog can also reduce hydrogen sulfide corrosion within the structure, break down grease, and kill biofilm.

The fogging systems are available in a variety of sizes, with a range of nozzle output rates and coverage areas.



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Russ Galati, plant operator, and Mike Polinice, maintenance mechanic, inspecting the odour control system.

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