Desalination and Water Treatment



1944-3994/1944-3986 © 2012 Desalination Publications. All rights reserved
doi: 10/5004/dwt.2012.2520

Assessment of the irrigation quality of the admixture of reverse osmosis permeate and tertiary effluent

Abdallah Abusam^{a,*}, Hader Al-Rashidi^b, Abulbasher Shahalam^a

^aWater Resource Division, Water Technologies Department, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, P.O. Box 24885, Safat 13109, Kuwait Tel. +965 97133654; Fax: +965 24989819; email: abusam3a@yahoo.com ^bMinistry of Public Works, P.O. Box :158, Al-Ferdous 92352, Kuwait

Received 22 November 2010; Accepted 2 January 2012

ABSTRACT

Conventional reverse osmosis (RO) treatment deprives reclaimed wastewater of nutrients and other essential elements for plant growth. One way to make the RO reclaimed wastewater suitable for agricultural irrigation purposes is to blend it with a tertiary effluent. This paper assesses the suitability of the quality of RO permeate and tertiary effluent admixture for agricultural irrigation, using the WHO guidelines for irrigation waters. Obtained results indicated that the admixture is suitable for agricultural irrigation, but with some restrictions. Unsuccessful attempt to predict the quality of the admixture, using only ideal mixing principles, confirmed that effluent storage reservoirs (ESRs) constitute a complex ecosystem.

Keywords: Wastewater; Reclamation; Reuse; Tertiary Effluent; RO Permeate; Irrigation water



44 (2012) 60–66 June

^{*}Corresponding author.