

13<sup>th</sup> Annual GC&EC  
Green Corrosion Inhibition and  
Water Treatment Session

**Sustainable Natural Green Chemistry  
(NGC) for Cooling Water Treatment**

Report by Dan Duke  
Water Conservation Technology International

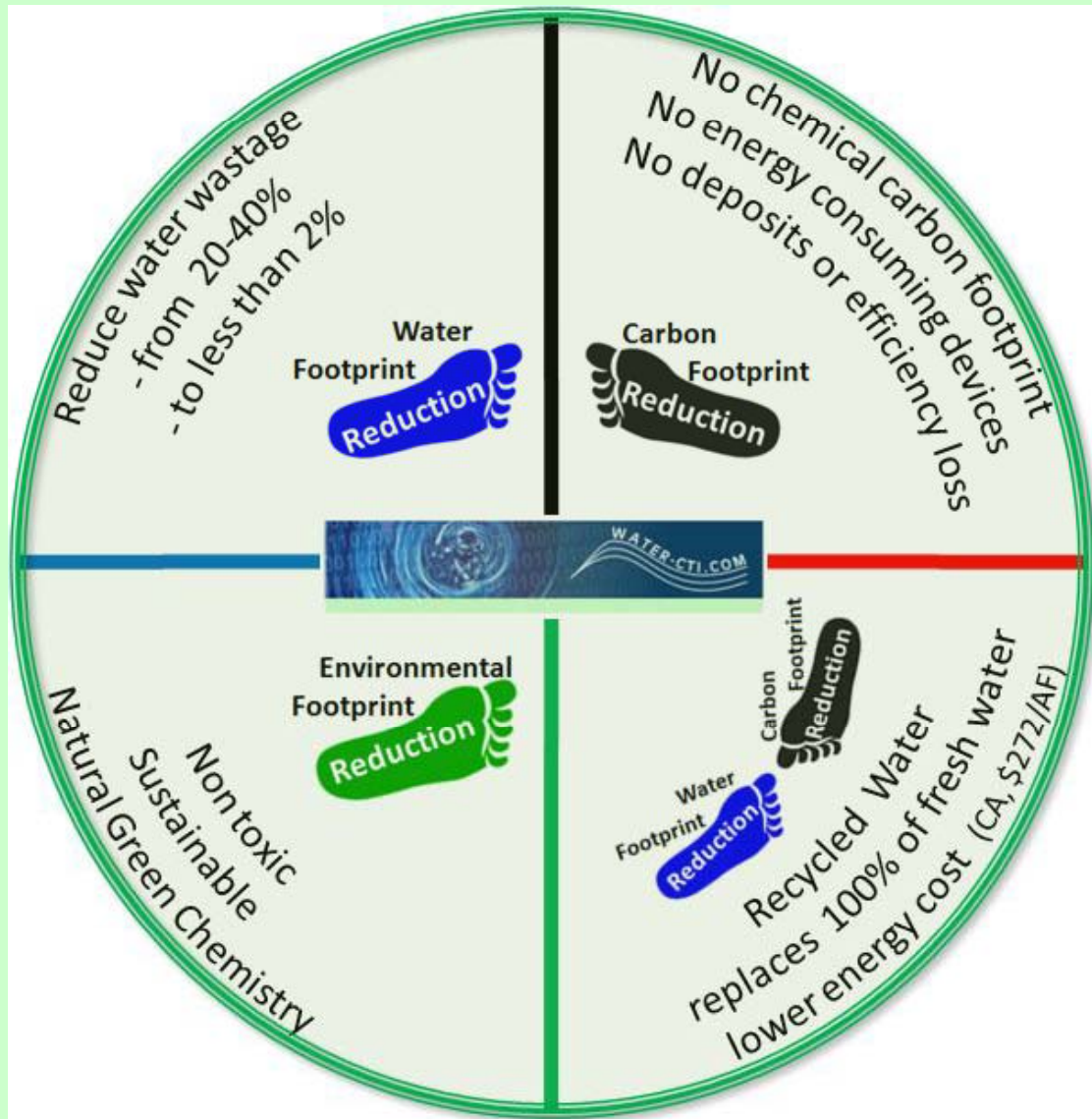
# Presentation Outline

- Cooling Water Treatment - Green Challenge
- Organic and Toxic Chemical Discharge
- NGC – How it Works – Why it's Green
- ZBD - Conserve Water & Environment
- Case History – Recycled Water Use

# Cooling Water Treatment

## Green Challenge

# Cooling Towers Challenge Water Treatment to Reduce Major Water, Carbon and Environmental Foot Prints



# Contributors

- Corr Instruments – Lie Yang, PhD
- Anderson Engineering - Eric Anderson
- The Boeing Company – Roger Sampair
- Yahoo, Inc. – A.D. Robinson
- West Basin Utility District – Joe Walters
- NACE / CONRAD – Mike Rogers
- Paul Labine Associates – PhD Chemistry

# NGC technology is patented

(Licensed by Water Conservation Technology International)

US 6,929,749 / Scale Inhibition

US 6,949,193 / Scale Inhibition

US 6,998,092 / Corrosion Inhibition

US 7,122,148 / Corrosion Inhibition

US 7,517,493 / Corrosion Inhibition

# Green Chemistry Priorities

- Less toxic, less hazardous, biodegradable
- Innocuous feedstock, renewable, natural process
- Eliminate energy and material intensive processes

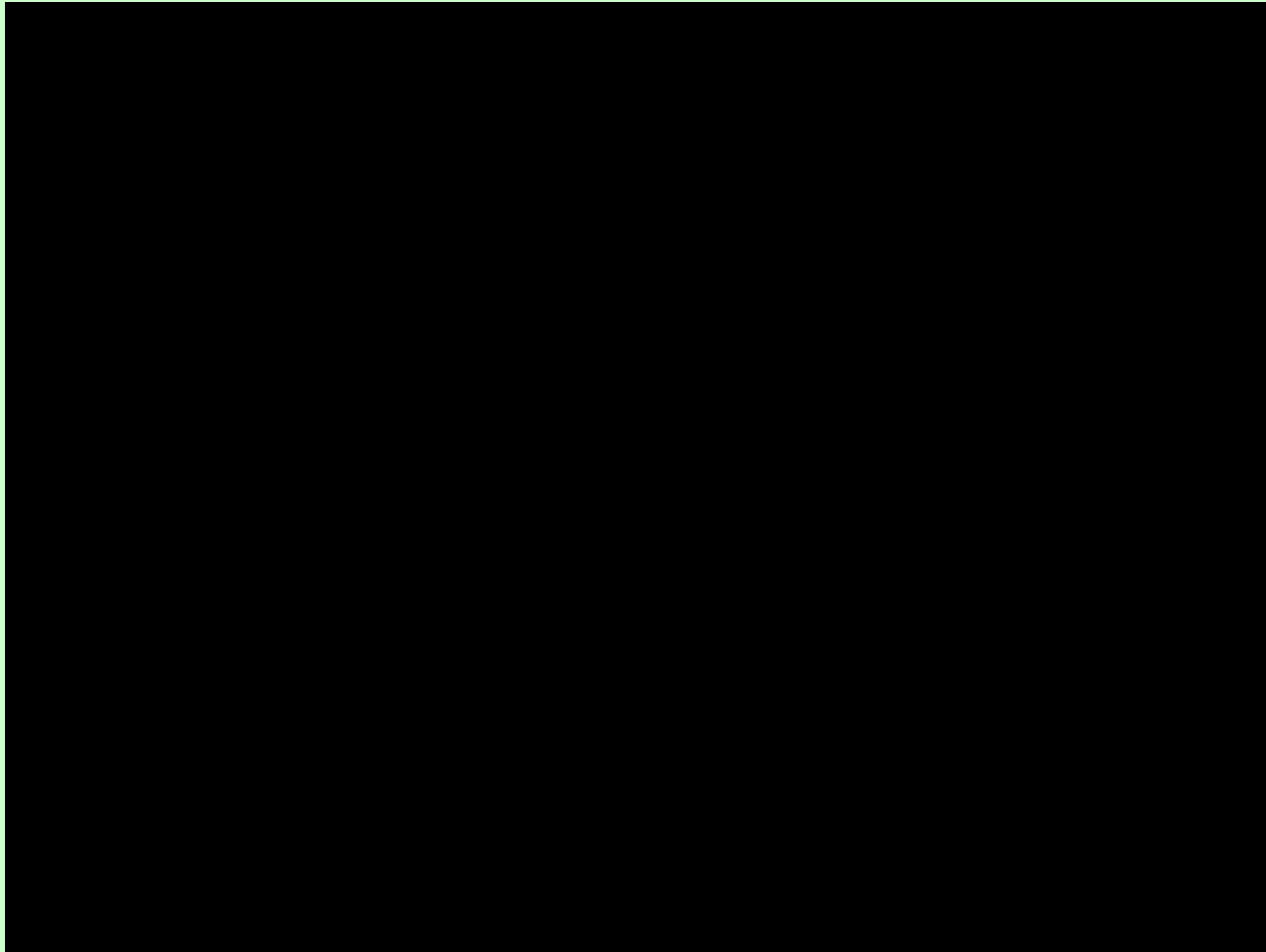
# What Cooling Tower Systems Do

- Consume power to evaporate pure water and remove heat from cooling water
- Consume second largest (5%) individual quantity of fresh water after irrigation
- Concentrate minerals in source water that are discharged to sewers or streams
- Discharge organic chemicals and biocides used for scale, corrosion and bio control

# Water Sustainability Challenges

- Fresh water supply for nature, irrigation, population, industry are diminishing
- Water source quality is deteriorating
- Costs for water acquisition, transport (energy) and purification increasing rapidly
- Sewers / WTPs overloaded by discharge
- Organics, toxicants and TDS (source minerals) are limiting water reuse

# Deteriorating Water Quality Causes More Discharge for Chemical / NCD Treatments



# Water Treatment Priorities For Cooling Tower Operators

- Reduce 20-40% water discharge costs
- Eliminate toxic and hazardous chemicals
- Eliminate energy loss from scale / fouling
- Mitigate corrosion of system metals
- Reduce capital and maintenance costs
- Obtain assured supply of water

# WCTI Priorities for R&D

- Eliminate tower discharge (ZBD)
- Replace corrosion & scale chemicals
- Replace biocides & toxicants
- Eliminate chemical handling hazards
- Reduce power use / remove deposits
- Minimize treated discharge (1-2% HES)
- Use recycled water (replaces 100% fresh water and source energy use)

# Green Reality vs Green Incentive

- Many green concepts are economically unfeasible or pass high costs to consumers
- Sustaining water or energy or environment should not result in respective poor tradeoffs
- Cost efficient technologies are needed to incentivize commercial and industrial tower operators to replace non-green chemistry

# Organic & Toxic Chemicals

Discharged by Cooling Towers

# Function & Composition of Chemicals Discharged by Cooling Towers

<b>Product Function</b>	<b>Chemical Composition</b>
Biocides to control bio-growth	organic – non oxidizing halogens - oxidizing
Dispersants for deposit control	organic hydrocarbons
Steel corrosion inhibitors	organic, phosphate, zinc, molybdate
Copper corrosion inhibitors	organic hydrocarbons
Scale inhibitors	organic, phosphate esters, polyphosphate

# Quantities of Chemicals Discharged by Tower Blowdown

- 70 million pounds annual discharge of non-oxidizing organic biocides in US
- Even greater halogen biocide use, source of AOX (absorbable organic halogens)
- Over 400 million pounds annual discharge of deposit, scale and corrosion inhibitors
- Over 500 billion gallons annual tower water blowdown is the vehicle

# Natural Green Chemistry (NGC)

How it Works  
Why it's Green

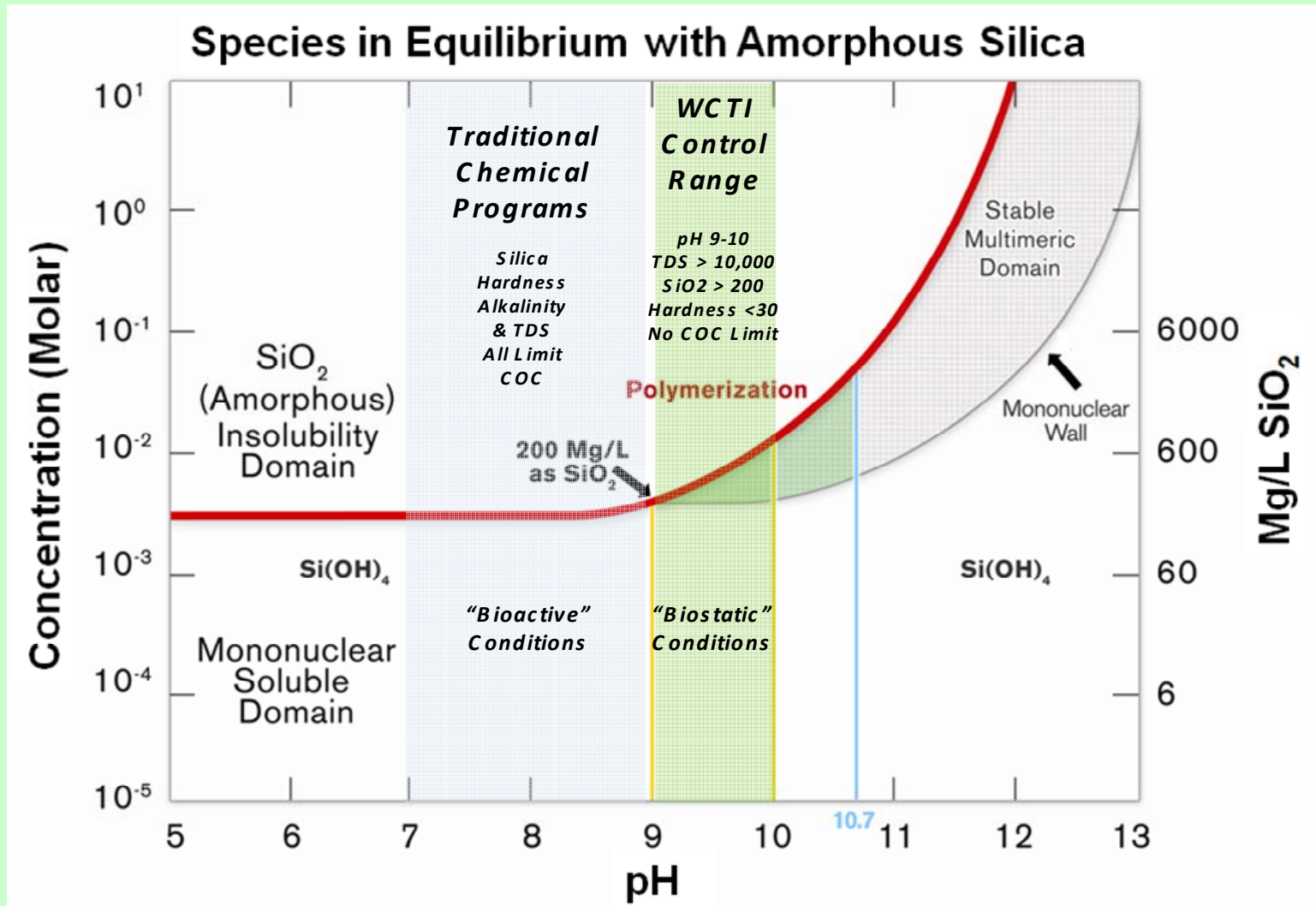
# Natural Chemistry Process

- Major minerals in water are Ca, Mg, Na, chloride, sulfate, carbonate and silica
- Exchange Ca & Mg (low solubility ions) with innocuous Na (salt or NaCl)
- Natural silica polymerized to amorphous silicates by saturation of silica, TDS, alkalinity (pH) with water evaporation
- Zeolite exchange / silica polymerization (natural processes that occur in nature)

# How NGC Inhibits Corrosion

- Soft tower water permits 20 to 500 COC (concentrations) of soluble ions versus typical 2 to 5 COC (with hard water)
- Natural tower water chemistry and temperature catalyze silica polymerization
- Silicates form self limiting protective film on all metal surfaces
- Excess silica forms non-scaling and stable silica colloids

# Silica Concentration / pH Dependent Relationship



# Natural Biostatic Water

- Elevated pH and TDS are naturally biostatic to bacteria, spores and viruses
- Hydrolysis of peptide chains occurs as water pH is increased (used in wastewater treatment)
- Proteins & enzymes also denatured by high TDS
- Natural pH/TDS increase as water is evaporated and concentrated with zero tower blowdown
- Report by Anderson Engineering ([water-cti.com](http://water-cti.com))

# Water Conservation Conflicts!

- Reducing water use with acid / chemicals increases COC and TDS of tower discharge that may limit recycling of sewer water.
- These methods can not operate with zero blow down, and must discharge to sewer to avoid scale, corrosion and biological fouling.
- WWTPs and recyclers may not be able to meet discharge or quality limits, or have to reduce TDS (capital and energy costs).
- Unintended consequences of some well meant regulations like “CA softener bill”.

# Eliminate Tower Discharge

## Reduce TDS Load to Sewer by 70-100%

### (Example with Recycled Water)

<b>TDS Discharge to Sewer with 1000 Ton Tower Load (13,140,000 GPY) Evaporation</b>					
	MU TDS	Tower COC	Discharge TDS	Gal / Year Discharge	# / Year TDS Discharge to Sewer
Tower BD (Chemicals & low COC)	730	2.5	1,825	8,239,000	<b>125,604</b>
NGC / ZBD Tower Operation	730	75	54,750	0	<b>“0”</b>
HES Softener Waste	-	-	22,700	181,028	<b>33,146</b>
Brine Line, Haul to High Strength Discharge, Evaporation Pond	-	-	-	181,028	<b>“0”</b>

## Reduced Discharge / TDS Disposal to Evaporation Pond



# WIN - WIN

- Conservation of limited fresh water supply.
- Beneficial use and disposal of waste water (recycled) in cooling towers.
- Conserve energy used in transport and purification of fresh water (~20% of CA budget).
- Reduce tower high strength waste volume, permit economic disposal (20-40% to 1-2%).
- Eliminate toxic / organic chemical discharge.
- Green process and LEED credits.

# NGC Bottom “Green” Line

- No corrosion or scale inhibitors used
- No biocides or toxic chemical discharge
- 20-40% water use reduction
- Reduce energy consumption
- Discharge reduced to 1-2% (innocuous softener waste as neutral mineral salts)
- Provides TDS discharge load reduction
- Equally effective using recycled water

# Zero Blow Down (ZBD)

How NGC / ZBD chemistry  
sustains water, energy, environment

# Chemical and NCD (non-chemical device) Limitations

- Primarily rely on stability index chemistry (LSI) to control scale and corrosion potential (need Ca)
- Must discharge tower water due to solubility limitations of scaling mineral salts
- Rely on chemical inhibitors, acid and biocides to limit scale, corrosion and fouling potential
- Neither chemicals nor NCD significantly reduce water use / discharge volume
- Corrosion inhibition is ineffective at high TDS
- Vulnerable to scale and mineral deposits

# Energy Efficiency Losses From Low Solubility Mineral Deposits



# Hidden Cost of Water Problems

## (Energy Cost of Scale or Fouling)

A/C Tons	CONDENSER SCALE CONDITION		
	LIGHT .001 FF (.012")	MODERATE .003 FF (.036")	HEAVY .005 FF (.060")
500	\$13,200	\$39,068	\$65,000
1000	\$25,932	\$78,136	\$129,532
2000	\$51,864	\$156,272	\$259,064

**ASSUMPTIONS: (1) Unit operating 12 hr/day, 240 days/yr (2) One ton A/C consumes 0.9 KWH (3) Electricity costs \$0.20/KWH (LA area)**

# NGC - Highly Soluble Sodium Salts Eliminate Scale Limitations

(Solubility of Ion pairs as sodium salts @ 30° C)

- Sodium Chloride (36% ~ 360,000 mg/L)
  - Sodium Carbonate (16% ~ 160,000 mg/L)
  - Sodium Sulfate (48% ~ 480,000 mg/L)
  - Sodium Ortho-Phosphate (26% ~ 260,000 mg/L)
- Non-common ion effect also increases solubility  
(increased calcium solubility in seawater)

# NGC Will Remove Existing Scale Deposits!

## Reduce Water use and save Energy

(100 mg/L silica in makeup water to tower )

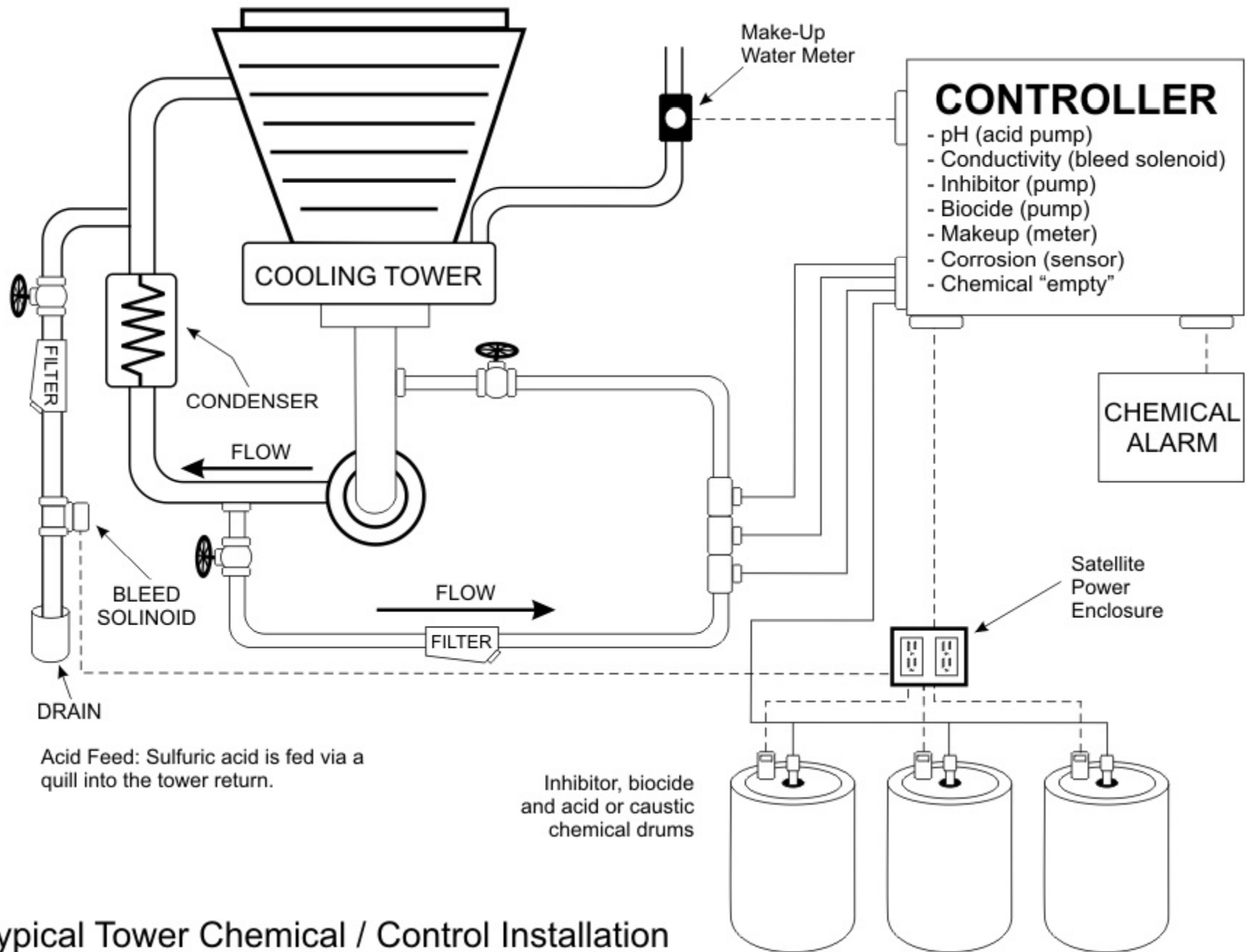
Performance Measurements	Chemical Treatment	NGC
Tower COC (TDS concentrations)	<b>1.4</b>	<b>80 (ZBD)</b>
Tower Water Wasted	<b>70%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Tower Fill / Exchanger	Visible Scale / Deposits	Removed / Clean Surfaces
Average Planktonic Count	10 <sup>4</sup> – 10 <sup>5</sup> CFU/ml	10 <sup>0</sup> CFU/ml
Average Sessile Count	10 <sup>6</sup> CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>1</sup> CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>
Average Biocide Usage	2.0 – 2.5 gpd	0.05 gpd
Exchanger Amperage Loading	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>

# NGC / ZBD Will Expand Treatment Options & Performance

- NGC permits cost viable ZBD operation with small, large, or any cooling tower system
- “State of Art” corrosion & scale inhibition at TDS levels from 5,000 to 150,000 mg/L
- Discharge eliminated without corrosion, scale, or bio-fouling; and reduced pathogen risk
- Ideal for high silica / hardness / TDS water; and includes recycled water sources

# High Efficiency Softening (HES) Equipment (Low Investment Cost / Excellent ROI)

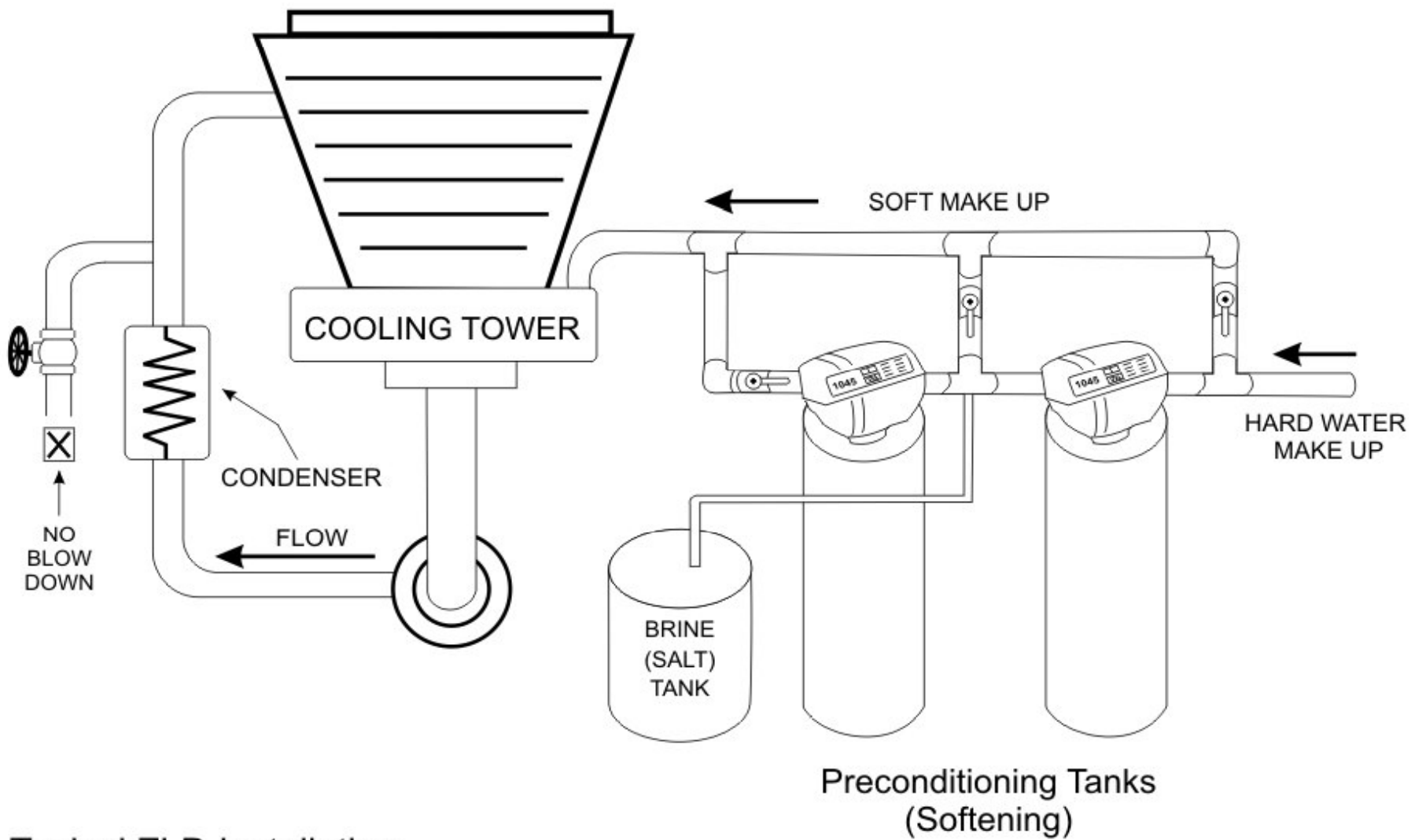
- Equipment with low salt use design (4# salt / CF resin), provides 30-50% salt use reduction
- Typical regeneration cost from \$0.07 to \$0.22 per 1000 gallons of treated water
- Typical tower water use and discharge cost savings are \$3.00 - \$12.00 /1000 gallons
- Capital cost recovery typically 3 to 12 months
- Municipal water conservation incentives



Acid Feed: Sulfuric acid is fed via a quill into the tower return.

Inhibitor, biocide and acid or caustic chemical drums

Typical Tower Chemical / Control Installation



Typical ZLD Installation

# WCTI Typical Installation



# WCTI HES / HEF Equipment

- Exceeds highest efficiency standards in US (California 4000 grains / # salt)
- WCTI at 5000 gains / # salt design
- 75% reduction in regeneration water waste
- USA manufactured equipment / parts
- Design / build economy (site assembly and installation to meet local codes and standards of excellence)

# Other NGC Opportunities

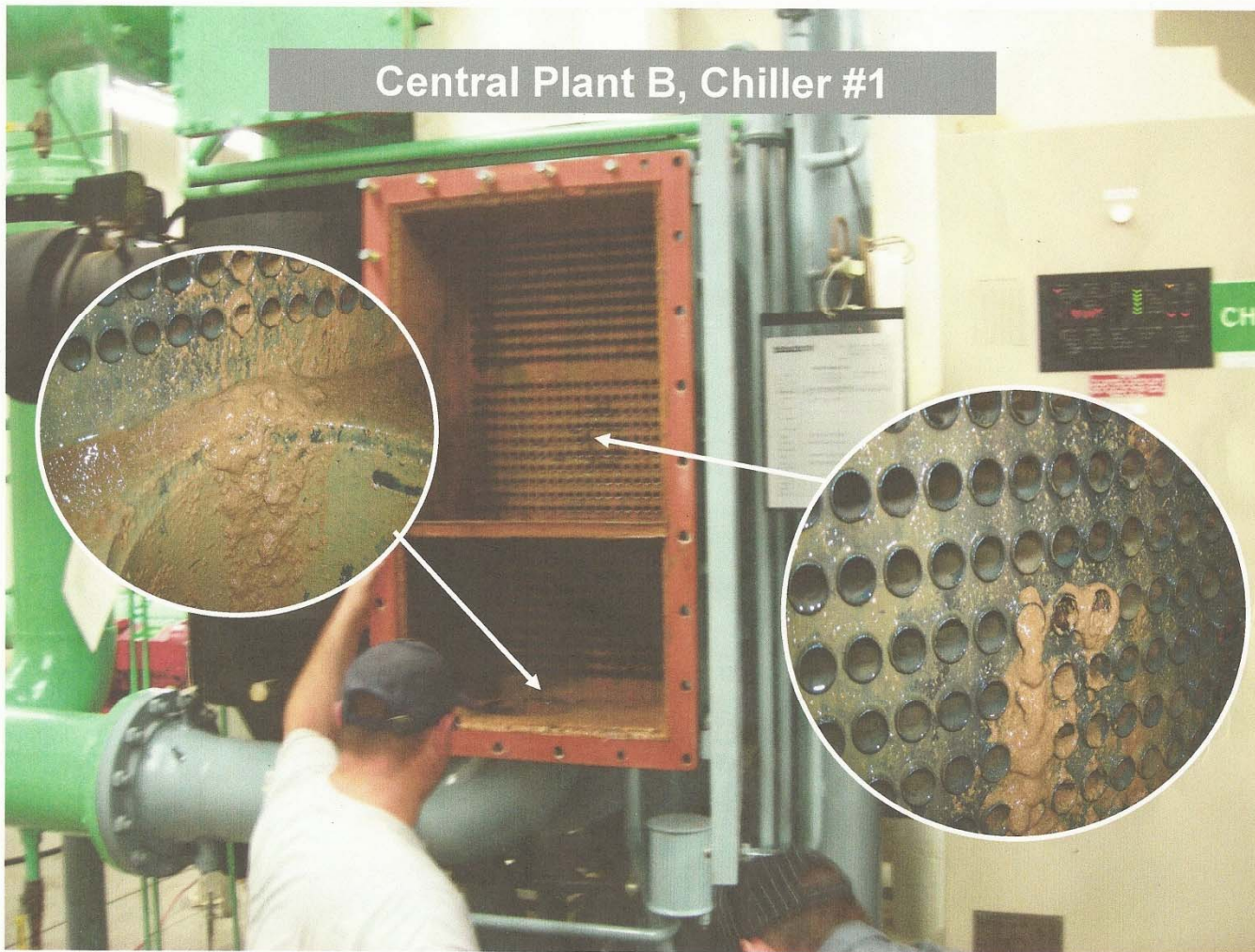
- RO reject can be used as tower makeup (with softened feedwater)
- Use lower cost metals (steel, aluminum, no longer vulnerable to corrosion and scale)
- Use more heat transfer efficient metals (aluminum, copper, steel)
- Regeneration waste recovery and reuse

# Case History

Recycled Water Use  
(treated municipal sewage)

# Challenges With Recycled Water in Cooling Towers

- Suspended solids increase fouling
- Ammonia attacks copper / alloys
- Increased bio-fouling
- Increased scale and corrosion
- Increased water wastage and sewer loading
- Increased chemical cost (2-4X)



**Cooling tower systems become incubators for biogrowth, fouling, under deposit corrosion.**

# Customers Control Recycled Water (RW) Quality and Benefits

- Use high efficiency filtration (HEF) on site
- Use high efficiency softening (HES) on site
- Reduce water & chemical costs 50-75%
- Maintain energy efficient operation
- Acquire additional building LEED points
- Water restriction guarantees (recycled)

# Natural Green Chemistry Process will permit cooling towers to ...

- Reduce water use by 20-40%  
*(9,000-24,000 GPD per 1000 tons load)*
- Evaporate over 98% of water used
- Replace 100% fresh water with recycled
- Save \$272 /AF in energy cost (CA)
- Operate with natural bio-static water
- Eliminate scale, corrosion and bio fouling

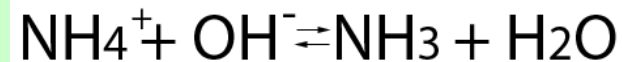
# Auto HQ Plant / Recycled Water

- Five central plant cooling towers, Trane copper tube chillers/absorber, plate & frame exchanger
- HEF & HES Pre-treat systems
- Recycled Water Quality
  - Ammonia = 38 mg/L
  - TDS = 730 mg/L
  - Hardness = 224 mg/L
  - Total PO<sub>4</sub> = 0.9 mg/L
  - Turbidity = 3 ntu Avg.



# Tower Ammonia Stripping

In a waste stream, ammonium ions exist in equilibrium with ammonia.



1. Below pH 7, virtually all the ammonia is soluble ammonium ions.
2. Above pH 12, virtually all the ammonia is present as a dissolved gas.
3. Between pH 7 and 12, both ammonium ions and dissolved gas exist together.
4. Percentage of dissolved gas increases with pH / temperature.
5. Elevated pH and temperature favor removal of ammonia from solution as the gas when water is scrubbed over a tower.

# Tower ZBD Chemistry with NGC Treated Recycled Water

ZBD Tower / Filtered and Softened Recycled Makeup Water COC (Concentration of Chemistry) Ratios			
Sample / Tests	Tower	Soft MU	COC
TDS, mg/L (NaCl Myron L 6P)	<b>30,000</b>	1100	<b>27</b>
Ph	9.8	7.1	NA
Silica, mg/L SiO <sub>2</sub>	<b>350</b>	24	<b>15</b>
Calcium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	13	0.2	NA
Magnesium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	6	0.1	NA
Sulfate, mg/L SO <sub>4</sub>	3300	127	26
Chloride, mg/L NaCl	5800	214	27
Tot. Alkalinity, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	5300	192	28
Ammonia, mg/L NH <sub>4</sub>	0.5	34	NA
Total Phosphate, mg/L PO <sub>4</sub>	<b>16</b>	0.6	<b>27</b>
TTA, mg/L as tolytriazole	15	NA	NA

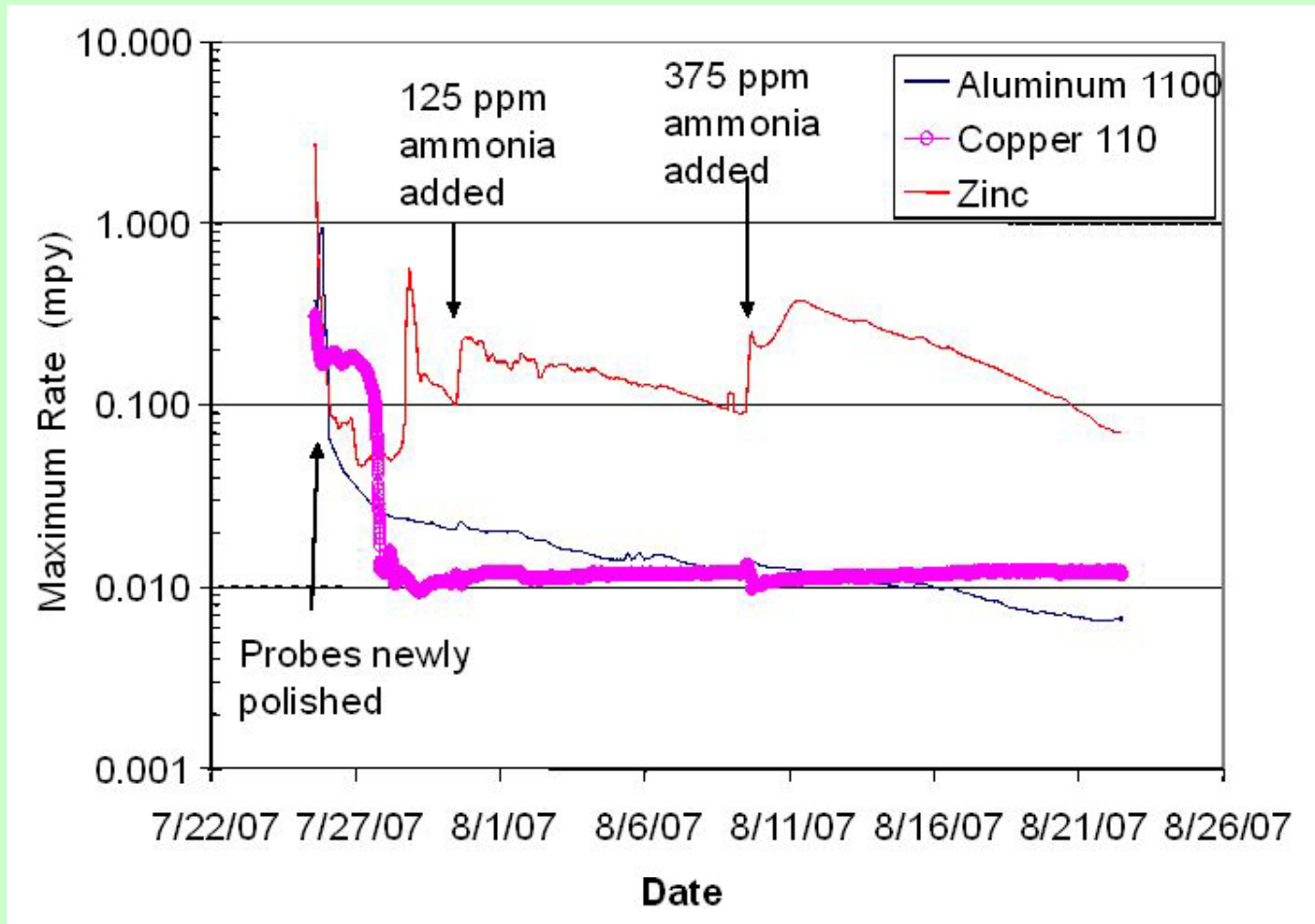
# Corrosion of Copper Alloys by Ammonia

- Ammonia in recycled water is aggressive to brass makeup valves (untreated, failed in less than 12 months, replaced with stainless).
- Don't use copper pipe for restrooms!
- Typical copper corrosion is presented below.

Corrosion Rates of Copper Alloys in 0.8% Ammonia at 104° F			
Alloy	Corrosion rate		
	mdd	<b>mpy</b>	mm/y
Copper	85	<b>14</b>	0.36
Cartridge Brass (70:30 Cu-Zn) 260	49	<b>7</b>	0.2
Gun Metal (88:10:2 Cu-Sn-Zn) 905	30	<b>5</b>	0.1
Copper-manganese alloy (95:5 Cu-Mn)	9	<b>2</b>	0.05

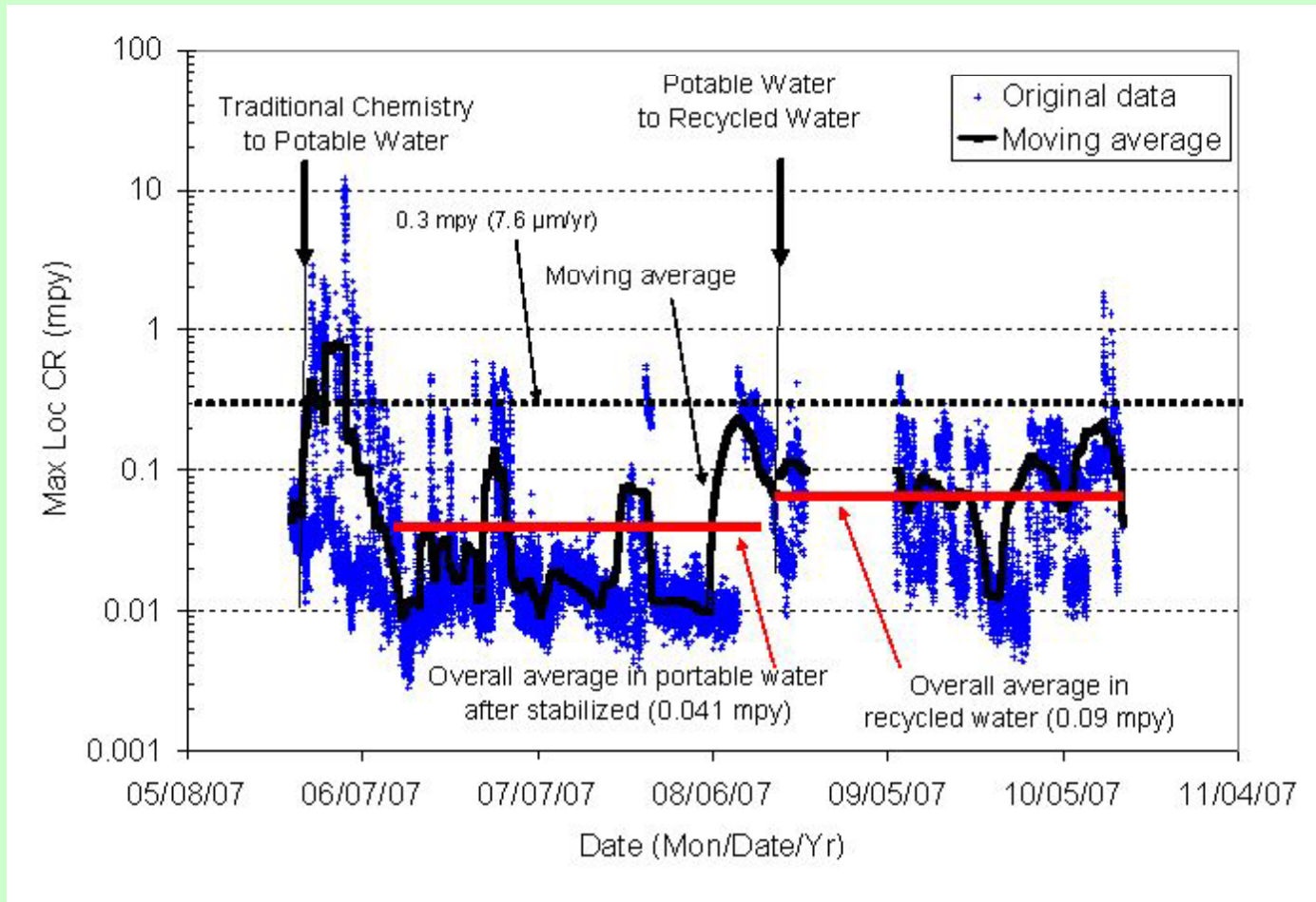
*Source: After J.A Radley, J.S. Stanley and G.E. Moss, Corrosion Technology 6:229:1959*

# Corrosion Studies With Ammonia in Silica and Azoles Treated Water



# Copper Corrosion (CMAS study)

## Chemical vs ZBD Potable vs ZBD Recycled

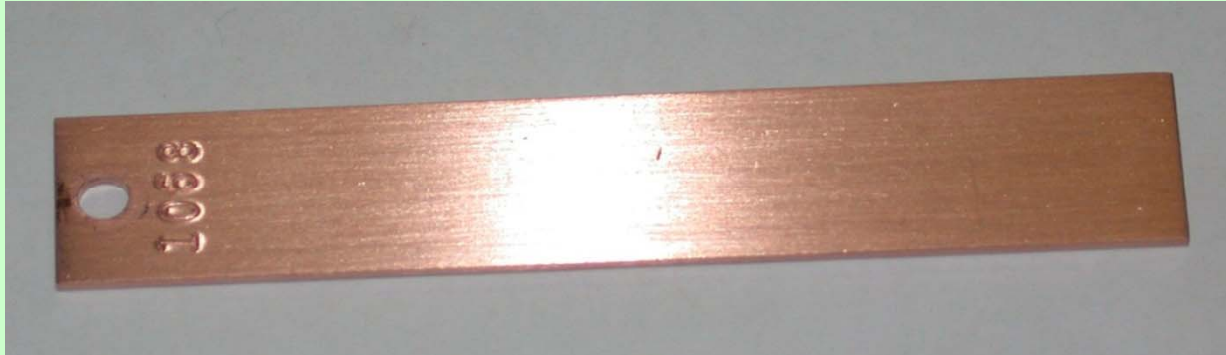


# Copper Corrosion Results (CMAS)

## Chemical / ZBD Potable / ZBD Recycled

- The impact of ammonia (NGC treated water) on localized corrosion was a very minor increase from 0.04 to 0.09 mpy
- ZBD corrosion rates on potable and recycled water were well below the 0.3 mpy localized rate with chemicals and potable water

# Coupon Weight Loss Results



Copper coupon, exposed 99 days, 0.16 mpy corrosion rate (high under mount corrosion bias).



Carbon steel coupon exposed 99 days with 0.426 mpy corrosion rate (high under mount corrosion bias).

# Results: ZBD Tower Chemistry Study for Recycled Water

- Ammonia stripped in tower to  $< 1$  mg/L.
- Ammonia does not affect silica protection of steel, aluminum and zinc.
- Azoles are highly effective for copper protection from ammonia in ZBD water (patent pending).
- Biostatic tower chemistry was not affected by recycled organics and phosphate nutrients.

Steel Mill - Mild Steel Coupons  
60 Day Exposure VS Non-exposed  
0.017 mpy (1652) VS 0.013 mpy (1664 control)



Steel Mill – Galvanized Tubes – 30 Months Service  
No White Rust at up to 146,000 mg/L TDS  
Galvanized Coupon after 60 days exposure



# Recycled & High Silica Source Water Projects

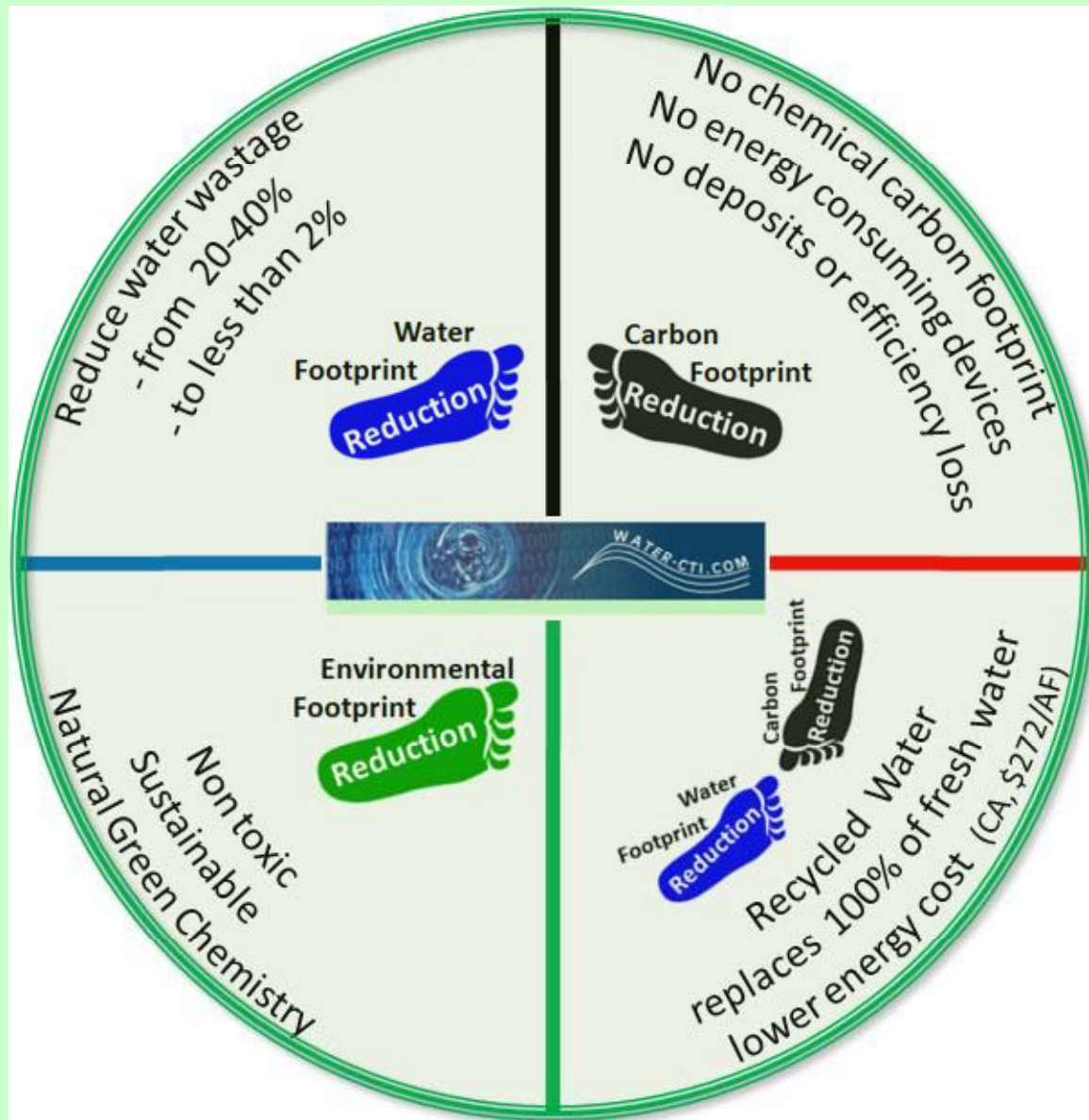
- West Basin Projects – Honda, CSUDH, Toyota, LAX, Air Products
- Boeing – Multiple Western US Sites
- Other CA Aerospace Industries
- Major US Data Centers – (industrial reuse and 35-70 silica)
- Major Chip Mfg – (100 mg/L silica)

# Summary: Recycled Use Expansion in Cooling Towers



- 100% fresh water reduction with recycled water
- ZBD reduces water wastage by 20-40%
- Reduced TDS and toxic loads to sewer
- HEF / HES cost efficient water quality upgrade
- Quick ROI (3 to 12 months) from water savings
- Water restriction guarantees - Recycled Water
- 50% to 75% less cost than chemical treatment
- Green / energy conserving technology

# NGC Can Reduce These Foot Prints



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