

# Hznano

# Passive Sunlight-Driven Remediation via Solar Photocatalysis

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### SABCS Conference & Workshop

September 27-28, 2023 | Vancouver, Canada



### H2nanO Inc.

Kitchener, ON | Edmonton, AB www.h2nano.ca

Passive, naturally powered water treatment and emissions control technology.



### **Solar Advanced Oxidation**

High strength, passive light-activated oxidation treatment.



**)**asis

**Reactive Emissions Barrier** 

Emissions and odor trapping and treatment for water.

### **Enhanced Evaporation**

Passive acceleration of solar-thermal evaporation.





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### How Photocatalysis Works

- Photocatalyst produces oxidants from water
  - Hydroxyl radicals, HO•
  - Superoxide radicals, O<sub>2</sub><sup>-•</sup>
- Buoyant substrate for deployment and collection.





3

### Technology Deployment

- H2nanO materials are deployed onto the surface as a slurry.
- Modular operation for expandable ponds, tanks, or lagoons.





### Example Lagoon Operation

4





High-Strength Oxidation Powerful, tailored treatment.



Sunlight Activated Off-grid, direct sunlight power.



COD

TOC

BTEX

**Phenols** 

**PAHs** 





Ammonia

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Se Bio-availability

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Manganese

H<sub>2</sub>S





High-Strength Oxidation Powerful, tailored treatment.





COD

TOC

BTEX

### **Effective Removal of Recalcitrant Organics**



Se Bio-availability

### Treatment of Recalcitrant Organics in Oil Sands Process Water (OSPW)

**Passive Treatment at Mine Scale** 



- >470M m<sup>3</sup> of process water stored in these surface tailings ponds.
- The process water contains organics of environmental concern.
- Toxicity linked to long chain organic acids (i.e., naphthenic acids).
- Passive treatments are desired by operators.



### Prototype Trial Demonstrates OSPW Detoxification – 800 L



Pilot Trial: 800 L scale Study Location: Waterloo, ON

#### 100% organics elimination possible, but not necessary. UV Dose (kJ L<sup>-1</sup>) 60 20 40 80 ()100% 25 Relative Conc. (C/C<sub>0</sub>) Full trout & minnow $\mathsf{AEO}_{\mathsf{FTIR}}$ survival Дğ $\mathsf{NAs}_{\mathsf{MS}}$ 80% 20 No inhibition measured or Toxicity COD 60% рС 15 **Rainbow Trout** 0 Mortality 40% 10 **Fathead Minnow** O<sub>FTIR</sub> Mortality 20% 5 **Fathead Minnow** Ш **Growth Inhibition** 0% 16 6 8 10 12 14 0 UV Dose (equiv. days) AEO = Acid extractable organics NA = Naphthenic acids COD = chemical oxygen demand

### SolarPass Proven for OSPW Detox. at Pilot Scale – 40,000 L



Pilot Trial: ~40 m³/day scale Study Location: Edmonton, AB

### **OSPW – 1 Day Treatment Threshold**



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9

Passive Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Treatment

90% PAH removal after 2 weeks passive treatment (ppb level conc.)



**Photocatalysis Enhances Existing Treatment** Systems – Se Removal



Photocatalysis evaluated for wetland polishing to • remove organoselenium by-products

Water

- Organoselenium compounds are up to 10,000x more bio-available than selenate
- Rapid removal of OrgSe to <10 ppt using ٠ SolarPass

11

# Photocatalysis Applications for Trace Elements



# Aqueous Mn(II) Effectively Removed via Photocatalysis (PC)

Mine-Water Sample	Mn Initial (mg/L)	Removal Rate (g/m²/d)	Removal %
Sample 1	345	0.82 ± 0.16	35
Sample 2	9.3	0.35 ± 0.09	90



Initial







3

Sample 2 treatment results at pH 6.5. Control performed under similar UV and mixing without photocatalyst.

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# Co-Treatment of Additional Trace Elements Demonstrated

98% Zn removal at pH 7.5 (23 mg/L initial)

**99% Mo removal** at pH 6.5 (1 mg/L initial)





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# Photocatalysis and Biological Treatment at Pilot Scale





### Solar Photocatalysis Summary

- Photocatalysis is an effective treatment solution for organics
  - Demonstrated at scale (40 m<sup>3</sup>, >500 m<sup>2</sup>).
- Floating photocatalytic barrier effective for volatiles containment and treatment.
- High strength oxidation comparable to ozone or  $UV/H_2O_2$
- Reduced CAPEX and OPEX.





16

# Thank you – Questions?





### Applications

Petroleum Hydrocarbons Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) BTEX & Volatile Organic Carbons (VOCs) Trace Elements

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