

# WASTEWATER ENGINEERING



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## Question:

Two basic design parameters of wastewater Treatment System are Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT) and Solid Retention Time (SRT).

- A. Briefly describe each one of these parameters.
- B. What are methods used for decoupling SRT from HRT.
- C. What are the advantages of decoupling SRT from HRT.

## Answer:

### A. Brief Description:

#### Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT):

The Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT) also known as hydraulic residence time. The hydraulic retention time (HRT) in wastewater treatment plant is a measure of an average length of time holding the wastewater in a tank.

It is the relation b/w volume and flow rate

$$\text{HRT} = V / \text{Flow rate}$$

HRT is an important parameter in wastewater treatment, which directly affects the design, operational/investment cost and energy requirements and in general, higher HRT will lead greater investment costs. Therefore, varying HRT also has a significant effect on the power generation and wastewater treatment characteristics of the MFC and MEC.

## Solids Retention Time (SRT):

The solids retention time (SRT) is the time the solid fractions of the wastewater spends in a treatment unit. The SRT is an important design and operating parameter for the activated-sludge process and is usually expressed in days.

It is the quantity of Solids maintained in the reactor divided by the quantity of Solids coming out the reactor each day;

$$SRT = V \times \frac{C_d}{Q_{out} \times C_{out}}$$

Here;

- $V$  = Digester Volume
- $C_d$  = Solid Concentration
- $Q_{out}$  = Volume wasted each day
- $C_{out}$  = Solid Concentration of the effluent.

The Solid retention time controls the concentrations of bacteria throughout the treatment system. A higher SRT contributes to a higher bacterial concentration in the reactor, which gives rise to;

- Smaller reactor size
- Larger separator size
- Reduce Sludge production
- Higher aeration requirements due to the extra oxygen required for endogenous respiration.

## B. Methods used for decoupling SRT

from HRT:

The methods which are used for decoupling SRT from HRT are;

- Recuperative Thickening
- Anaerobic Municipal Wastewater Treatment
- Integrated waste Management
- Distillers Grains

## C. Advantages of decoupling SRT from HRT:

Following are the advantages of decoupling SRT from HRT ;

- To produce the solids free better quality effluents while the use of anaerobic biomass.
- The main advantages of decoupling SRT from HRT is that it will be separated and be easily classified.
- To investigate the effect of Hydraulic Retention Time.
- By decoupling SRT from HRT the liquid wastewater can be processed faster.
- Energy can be recovered, thus providing ecological and economical benefits.