

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Guidance for the Evaluation of Produced Water as an Alternative Water Supply

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference

Katharine Dahm

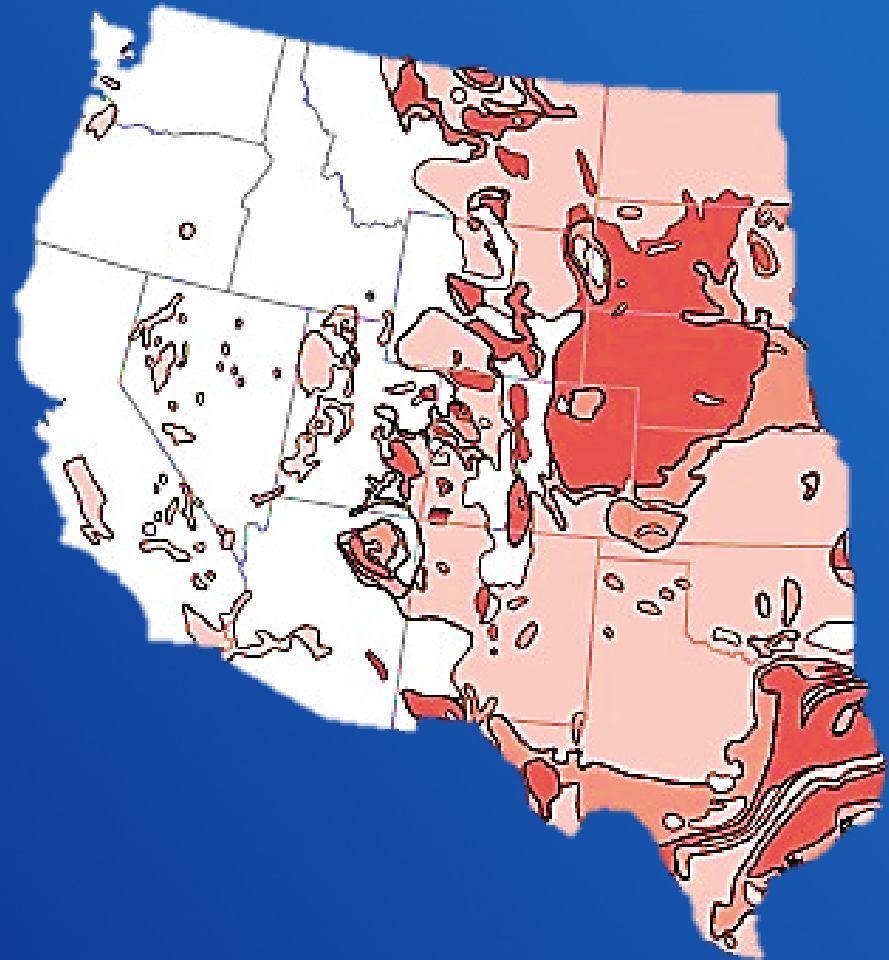
Katie Guerra



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Bureau of Reclamation

- Identify potential “new water” sources:
  - brackish surface and groundwater
  - reclaimed wastewater
  - produced water
  - seawater
- Identify location, quantity, quality, and accessibility of water supply and demand
- Determine risk of water shortages and potential conflict



Saline Groundwater Resources USGS,  
W. Alley (2003) from Feth et al. (1965)

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# Produced Water Resources in the western United States

- Over 80% of oil and gas production occurs in the western US
- O&G industry water generation and water demand:
- National produced water volumes > 2 billion gal/day
- Hydraulic fracturing uses 500,000 gal to >10,000,000 gal of water per fracturing



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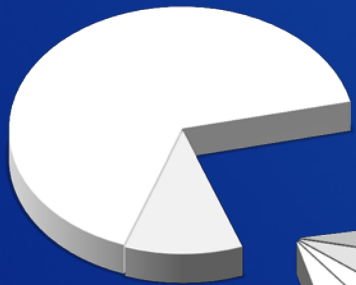


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Where do we fit into  
produced water?

## Western Water Portfolio

Existing  
Supply



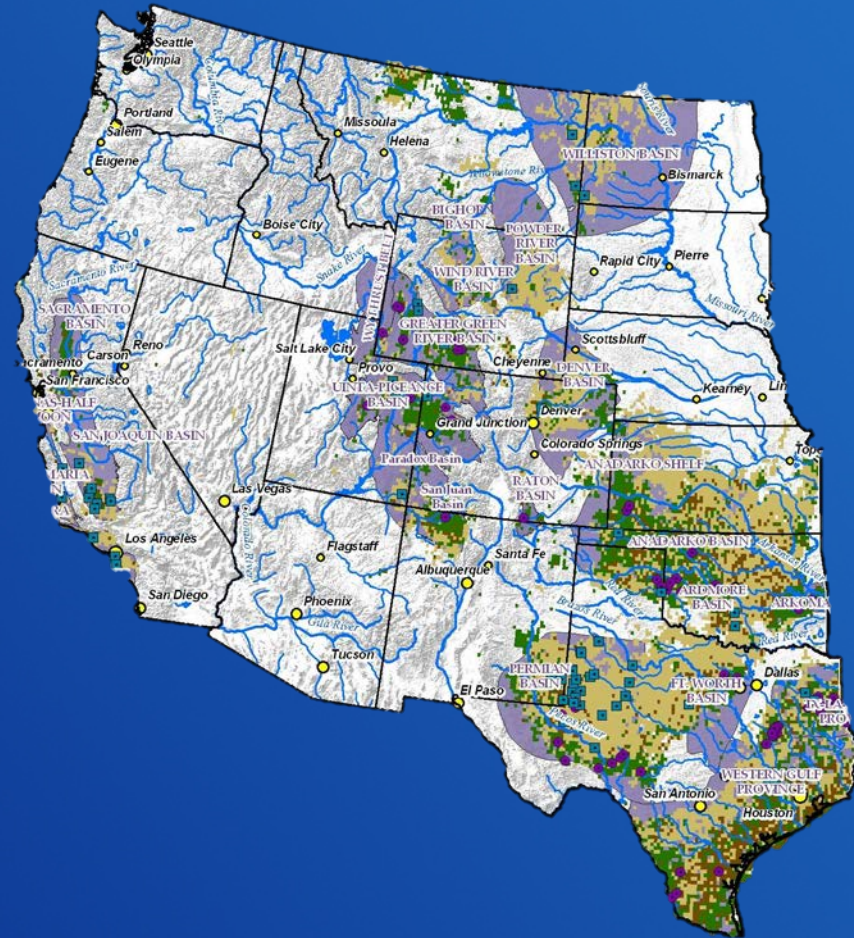
Water  
Conservation

Treatment of  
Impaired  
Waters

Wastewater

Seawater

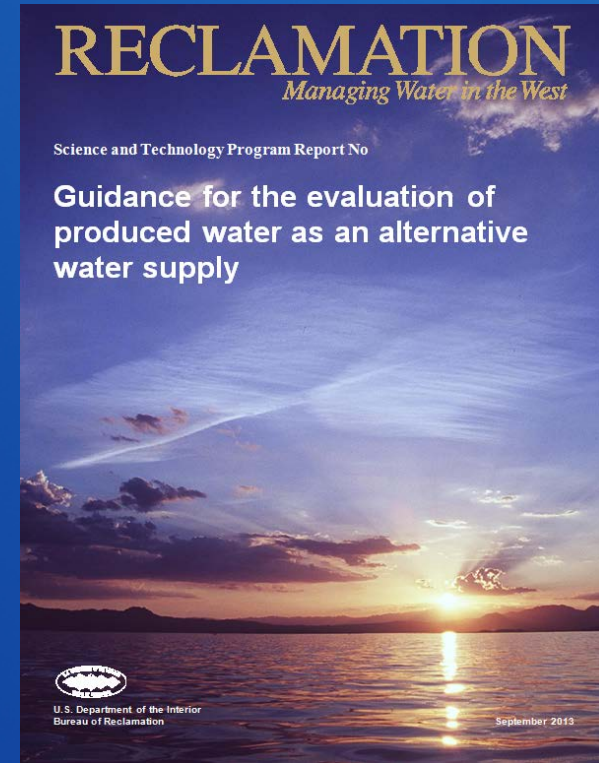
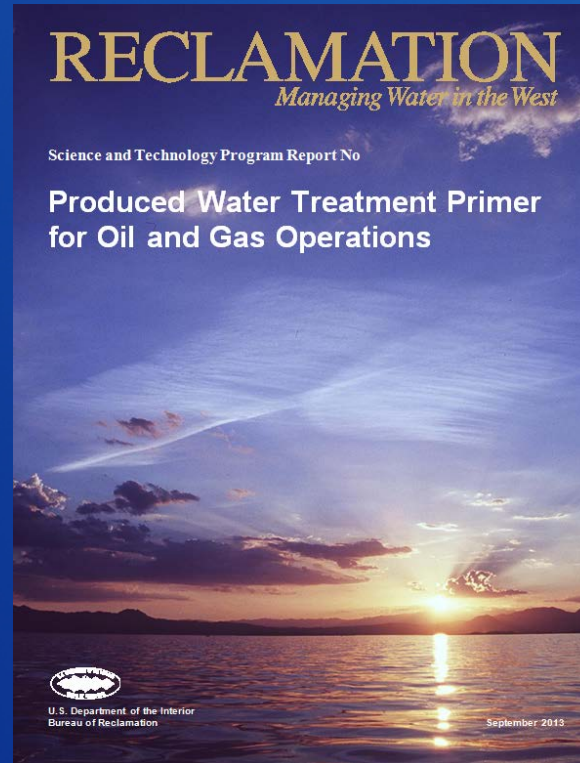
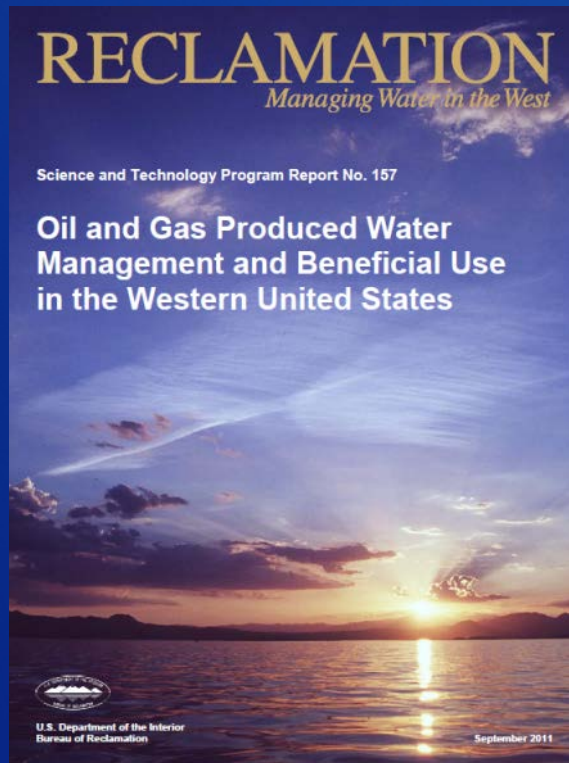
**Produced  
water** Brackish  
water



Reclamation (2011), Conventional Oil and Gas

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# Reclamation Produced Water Management Reports



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# Reclamation Produced Water Management Reports

## I. Beneficial Use Opportunities

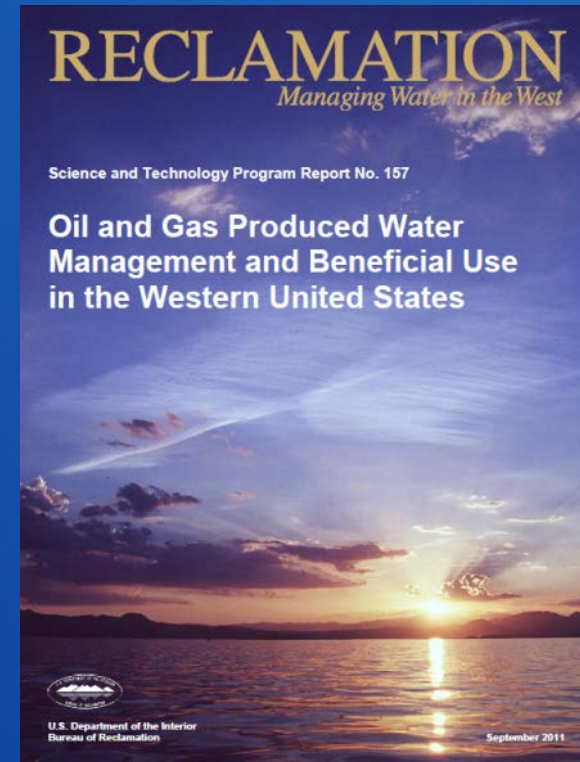
- Production Locations
- Water Quality Requirements
- GIS Based Examples

## II. Produced water characterization

- Produced Water Volumes
- Produced Water Quality

## III. Water treatment technologies

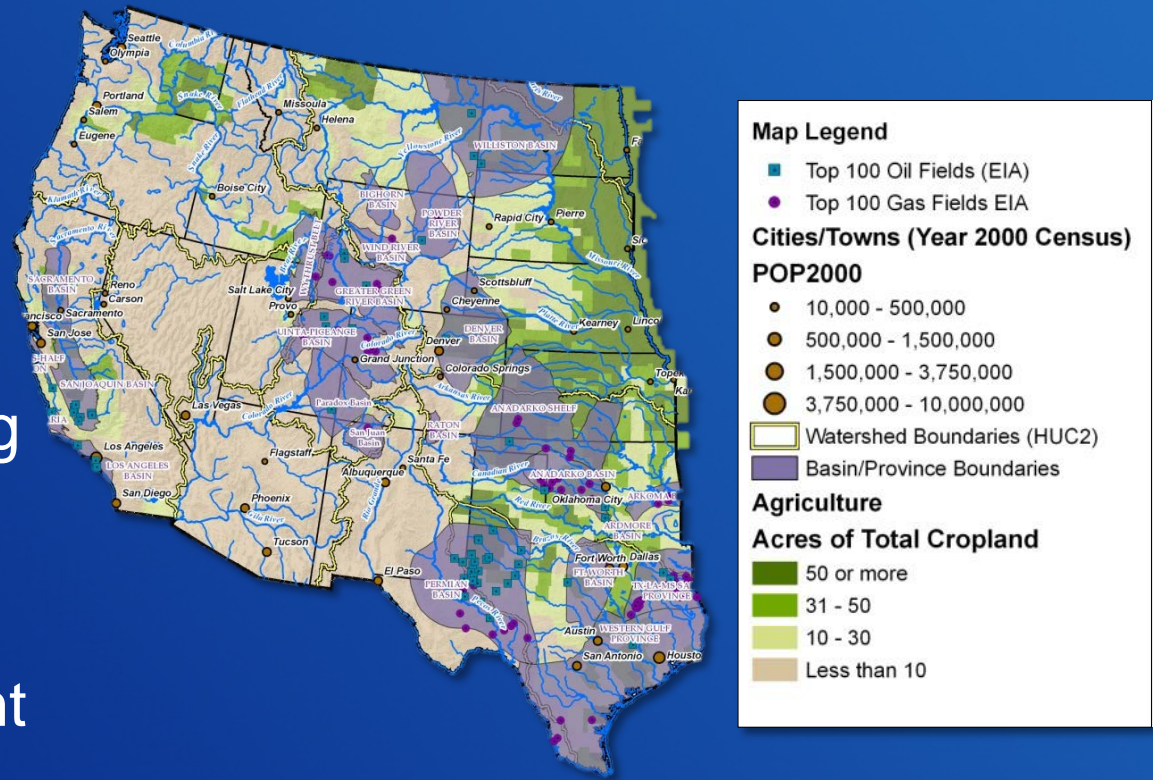
- Technology Assessments
- Technology Comparison



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# Beneficial Use Opportunities in the western US

- Irrigation
- Livestock watering
- Stream flow augmentation
- Hydraulic fracturing
- De-icing fluids
- Industrial uses
- Emergency drought supplies



Reclamation (2011), Agricultural areas overlaid with O&G basins

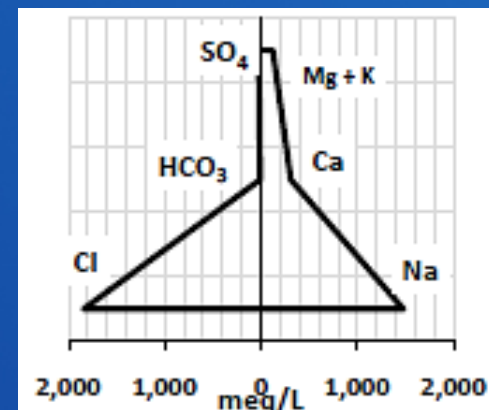
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# Produced Water Characterization

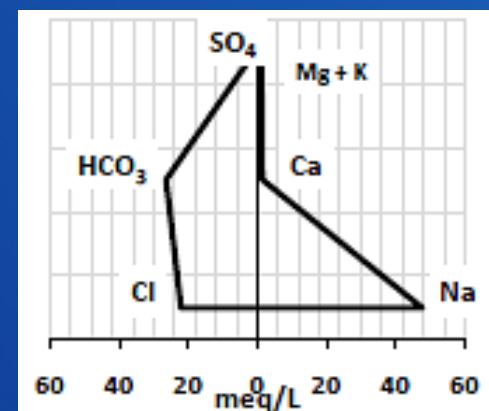
**Table 13. Common inorganic constituents in conventional produced water**

Constituent	Units	Low	High	Reference
TDS	mg/L	100	400,000	USGS produced water database
Sodium	mg/L	0	150,000	USGS produced water database
Chloride	mg/L	0	250,000	USGS produced water database
Barium	mg/L	0	850	Fillo 1992
Strontium	mg/L	0	6,250	Fillo 1992
Sulfate	mg/L	0	15,000	USGS produced water database
Bicarbonate	mg/L	0	15,000	USGS produced water database
Calcium	mg/L	0	74,000	USGS produced water database

**Conventional Oil and Gas**



**Coalbed Natural Gas**



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# Water Treatment Technologies

- Pretreatment Technologies
  - Bioreactors and Membranes
  - Filtration and Floatation
  - Adsorption and Oxidation
- Desalination Technologies
  - Membrane Filtration
  - Thermal Processes
  - Electrodialysis
- Commercial Process Combinations
  - Veolia OPUS™
  - Higgins Loop™

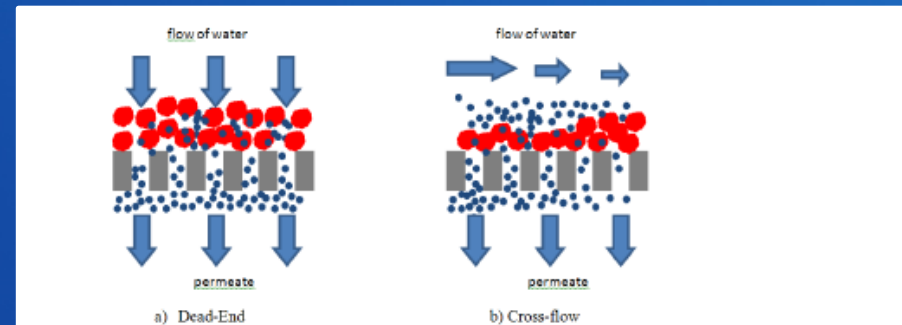


Figure 23. Dead-end versus cross flow filtration.

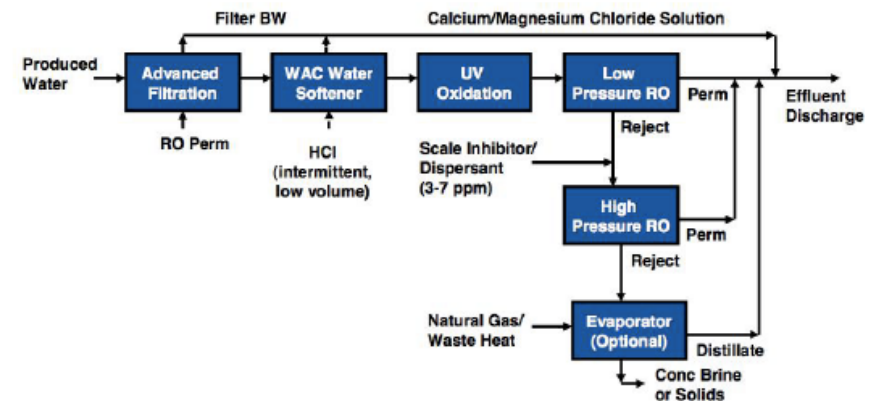


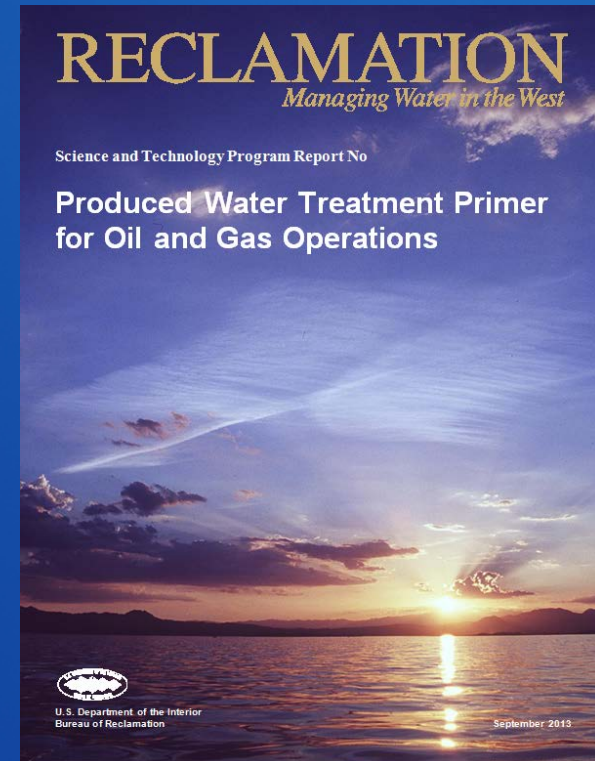
Figure 24. Schematic diagram of CDM produced water treatment process.

Reclamation (2011), Produced Water Treatment  
Technology Schematics

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# Reclamation Produced Water Management Reports

- I. Categorizing water treatment capabilities and performance
  - Describe technologies based on classification of mechanism
- II. Technologies and applications
  - Development and implementation of water treatment technologies
- III. Catalog of technologies
  - Provide operational experience and performance data when available



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# Categorizing Water Treatment Capabilities and Performance

## Reclamation (2011), Technology Capabilities

Technology	Emerging Technology	Previously Employed for Produced Water	Application Range	Overall TDS Rejection (%)	Overall Process Recovery (%)
<b>Membrane</b>					
NF	No	Yes	1,000 to 35,000	> 99	60 to 80
RO	No	Yes	1,000 to 35,000	> 99	30 to 60
ED/EDR	No	Yes	500 to 1,500	55 to 75	80 to 90

Technology	Robustness <sup>1</sup>	Reliability <sup>2</sup>	Flexibility <sup>3</sup>	Mobility <sup>4</sup>	Modularity <sup>5</sup>	Residual Disposal Management
<b>Membrane</b>						
NF	++	+++	++	++	Yes	+
RO	++	+++	++	++	Yes	+
ED/EDR	+	+++	+	++	Yes	+

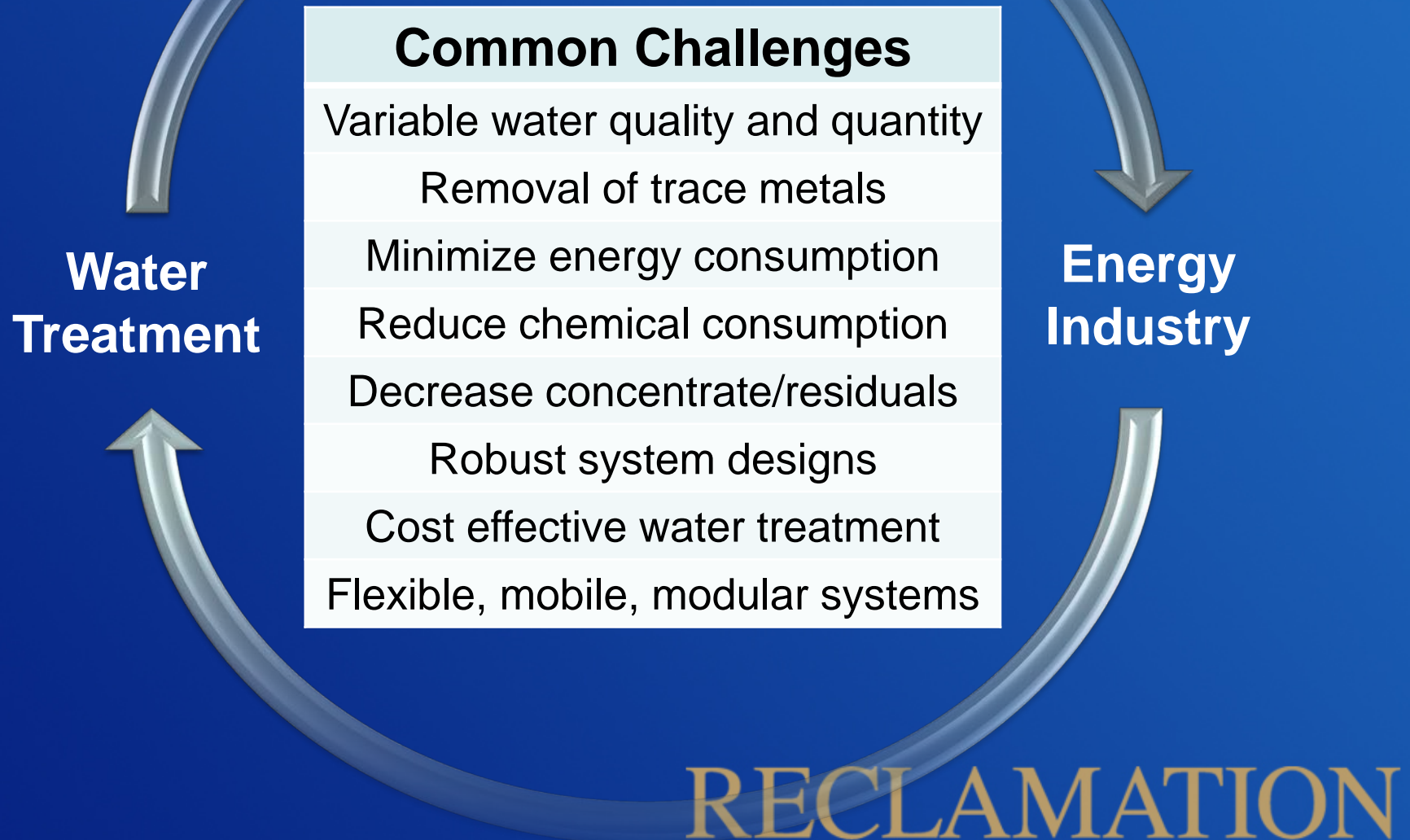
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
+++	++	+	-

[illegible][illegible]

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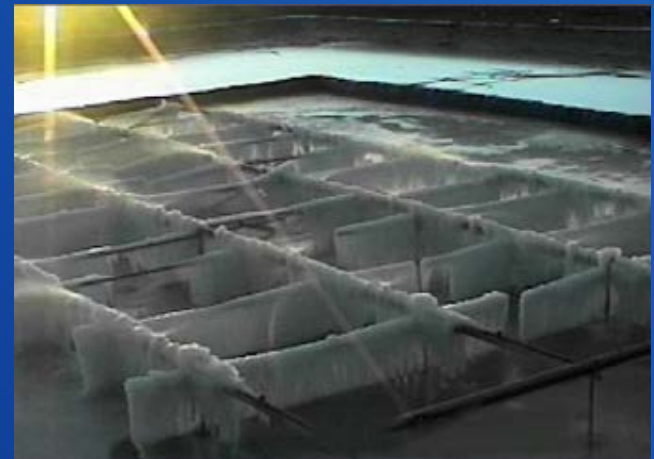


# Development and Implementation of Water Treatment Technologies



# Reclamation Funding of Produced Water Treatment Technologies

- R&D efforts with commercialized technologies used in O&G
  - Altela Rain™ (Upper picture)
  - Freeze-thaw (Lower picture)
- Research areas of interest to O&G
  - Concentrate management
  - Zero liquid discharge
  - Mineral recovery
  - Membrane distillation
  - Forward osmosis



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# Catalog of Commercial Treatment Technologies

- Categorical technology classification
- Applicable contaminants removed
- Description of technology
- Example treatment train
- Examples of commercial technology manufactures
  - Technology surveys
  - Pilot and full scale applications of technology

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### Air Stripping

Air stripping is primarily used to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other contaminants such as iron and manganese.

#### 1.0 Applicable Contaminants

Air stripping is an EPA BAT for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, tri/tetrachloroethylene, and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

#### 2.0 Description of Technology

**Technology Description** Air stripping is a process in which a liquid phase is exposed to a gas phase (air) to remove volatile contaminants. The process is designed to maximize the contact between the liquid and gas phases to achieve the best performance.

- Characteristics of the liquid (e.g., viscosity, surface tension, etc.) [1]
- Water and ambient air temperature
- Turbulence in the gas phase
- Area-to-volume ratio
- Exposure time
- Use of a bioreactor

Appropriate design of the air stripping process is based on the physical and chemical properties of the contaminant. Scaling can occur if the magnesium concentration in the feed water exceeds 10 mg/L.

The following is a list of the types of air strippers used:

**Waterfall Aeration:** spray packed columns

**Pressure Aerators:** water is forced through a series of small holes, creating a fine spray.

**Diffusion Type Aerators:** air is forced through a series of small holes, creating a fine spray.

**Mechanical Aeration:** surfactants are used to break up the water into small droplets.

Spray aerators dissipate water into the air. Multiple-tray aerators use a series of trays to create a large surface area for air-water contact.

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### Electrodialysis (ED) and Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR)

Electrodialysis (ED) is an electrochemical process in which ions migrate through ion-selective semipermeable membranes as a result of their attraction to two electrically charged electrodes. ED is able to remove most charged dissolved ions.

#### 1.0 Applicable Contaminants

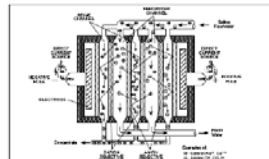
ED/EDR is an EPA BAT for barium, nitrate and nitrite, selenium, and TDS.

#### 2.0 Description of Technology

**Pretreatment** Typical operation requires the addition of a scale inhibitor to prevent scaling and reduce the concentrate LSI below 2.1 in the concentrate stream, residual chlorine concentration of 0.5 mg/L to prevent biological growth, and a cartridge filter (10-20 µm) prior to the ED/EDR system. Air stripping can also be used prior to ED/EDR in order to remove H<sub>2</sub>S [6]. Also, the feed water must be within the limitations of an ED/EDR system (see section 2.2).

**Technology Description** Electrodialysis is a process that depends on the principle that most dissolved salts are positively or negatively charged and they will migrate to electrodes with an opposite charge [2]. Selective membranes that are able to allow passage of either anions or cations make separation possible [2]. ED uses these membranes in an alternating fashion to create concentrate and product streams.

The anions are able to pass through the anion-selective membrane, but are not able to pass by the cation-selective membrane, which blocks their path and traps the anions in the brine stream (Figure 1). Similarly, cations move in the opposite direction through the cation-selective membrane under a negative charge and are trapped by the anion-selective membrane [2]. An ED unit is able to remove from 50% to 94% of dissolved solids from a feed water, up to 12,000 mg/L TDS [3,7]. Voltage input, and process configuration (number of stacks or stages) dictates the viable percent removal. TDS removal is generally limited by economics. The cost of ED increases as the feed water TDS increases. The typical operating conditions are 1,200 mg/L TDS, high hardness and high silica [4].



USAID

Electrodialysis 1



# Reclamation Produced Water Management Reports

## I. Locations of opportunity

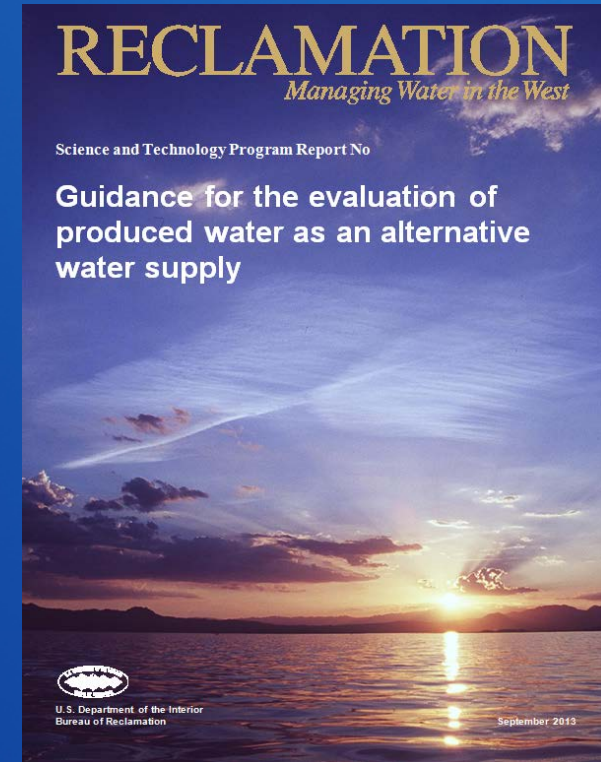
- Regional GIS Mapping
- Water Quantity Estimates

## II. Supply/demand balance

- Alternative water resource
- Facilitating industry reuse

## III. Water Treatment Plants

- Matching Appropriate Technology
- Developing/implementing innovative technologies
- Demo/Pilot Study Examples

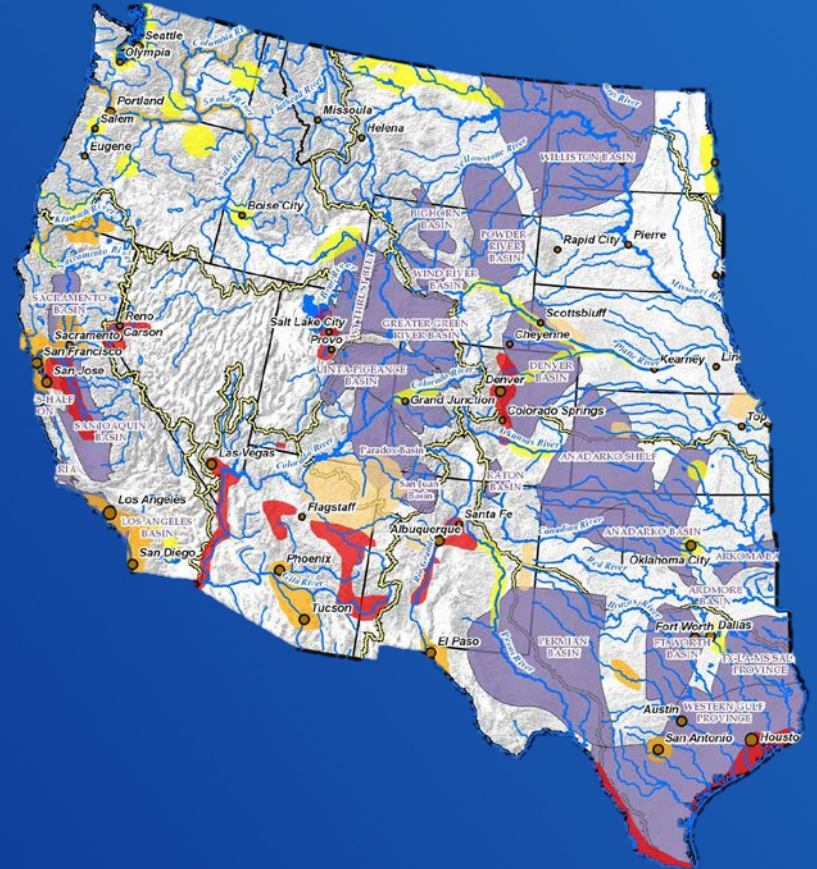


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# Locations of Opportunity

Information for water managers to assess:

- Production locations
- Produced volumes
- General water quality
- Potential water management opportunities:
  - Beneficial use
  - Conveyance systems
  - Disposal options
  - Facility co-location

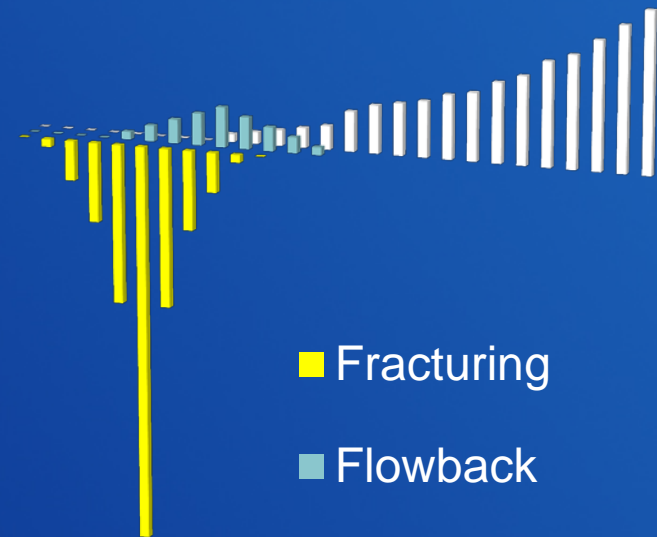


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# Supply and Demand Balance

- Direct reuse of hydraulic fracturing flowback and produced water
  - Compatible with the producing formation
  - Available on-site (reduces transport cost)
  - Reduces disposal wells
- Brackish groundwater as an alternative to fresh water for fracturing
- Industrial/commercial reuse sources
  - Increased volume in water ways
  - Free/natural conveyance system

Qualifying Water Demand and Production over a Well Lifetime





# Existing Water Treatment Plants

## Case Studies of Existing Hydraulic Fracturing Flowback and Produced Water Treatment Facilities

- Facility Description
- Location
- Feed Water
- Capacity
- Treatment Process
- Treated Water Use
- Concentrate Disposal
- Operational experience
- Performance data
- Permits



McKean County, PA



San Ardo, CA



Clarion County, PA



Wellington, CO



Pinedale, WY



Powder River Basin, WY

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# On-going Research Efforts

## Collecting Information:

- **Published Studies** (Department of Energy, US Geological Survey, Argonne National Labs, National Energy Technology Laboratory, A&E)
- **Regulatory Guidelines** (Environmental Protection Agency Centralized Waste Treatment Facilities for Oil and Gas)
- **Reclamation Experience** (Missouri River Bakken Shale Fracturing Water Supply Agreements)
- **Commercial Treatment** (Commercial Technology Survey, Technology Evaluation at Reclamation Facilities)
- **Industry Collaboration** (Industry Water Management Expertise Survey, Produced Water Treatment Community of Practice)

## Research Project Websites:

- <http://www.usbr.gov/research/projects/detail.cfm?id=1617>
- <http://www.usbr.gov/research/projects/detail.cfm?id=3259>
- <http://www.usbr.gov/research/AWT/reportpdfs/report157.pdf>

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Bureau of Reclamation

Technical Service Center

Advanced Water Treatment Research

Denver Federal Center

Denver, CO 80225



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