Produced Water Reuse and Recovery in Kansas: Assessing our Options

Edward Peltier¹, Alban Echchelh^{1,3}, Justin Hutchison¹, and Reza Barati²

- 1. Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas
- 2. Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, University of Kansas
- 3. Civil and Environmental Engineering, Brunel University, London

Produced water volume and quality

Main components of produced water:

- Dissolved formation minerals (salts and heavy metals) and anions (chloride, sulfate, carbonate)
- Dissolved and dispersed oil (hydrocarbons)
- Production chemical compounds (e.g. formation solids, anti-corrosion and antiscale products)

The Anadarko Basin

We estimate that 113 billion gallons of PW per year were generated from 2011-2019 (Echchelh at al, *in preparation*)

PW Generation

- PW volumes generally tied to price of oil
- PW generation peaked in 2014 at $5\overline{1}9$ million m 3 (137 billion gallons)
- KS PW volume more consistent from year to year
	- 21% of total basin production
- 12 counties (2 in KS) generated more than 10 million m³/yr

KS PW Generation by County in 2019 (barrels)

~ 50% of statewide PW generation occurs in the Anadarko Basin

Produced Water Salinity

Based on data from *USGS (2017) Echchelh et al., in preparation*

Identifying Reuse Pathways

Beneficial Reuse Options: PW Volumes as a Percentage of Irrigation and Livestock Water Use

Ratio of produced water volume to irrigation water withdrawals volume by county

Echchelh et al., in preparation

Ratio of produced water volume to livestock water withdrawals volume by county

Produced water desalination targets

• Irrigation limits are crop-dependent

Based on data from *FAO (1994)*

• TDS threshold for cattle is 5,000-7,00 mg/l (USDA-NRCS)

Treatment Scenarios

Primary treatment removal of of solids, hydrocarbons, sulfur, hardness

Secondary treatment trace organics and hardness, metal oxides

Tertiary treatment desalination

Maximum recovery option included recovery of some waste concentrates

Desalination Options **MD MVC RO** $(29%)$ $(36%)$ $(35%)$ 250 200 150 Frequency 100 50 $\mathbf 0$ 130,000 150,000 190,000 10,000 20,000 30,000 60,000 70,000 80,000 100,000 110,000 120,000 140,000 160,000 170,000 180,000 200,000 210,000 220,000 230,000 240,000 250,000 260,000 270,000 280,000 290,000 300,000 310,000 320,000 330,000 340,000 350,000 360,000 370,000 380,000 390,000 400,000 \circ 40,000 50,000 90,000 TDS (mg/L)

Echchelh et al., in preparation Based on data from *USGS (2017)*

IVERSITY OF

410,000

Treatment Cost Comparison

Treatment cost for 'average' TDS water in each county with A) standard desalination (RO), B.) improved desalination (RO+MVC), and C.) advanced desalination (RO+MVC+MD). Dashed lines show range of estimated disposal costs.

Energy Use Comparison

Energy use to treat 'average' TDS water in each county with A) standard desalination (RO), B.) improved desalination (RO+MVC), and C.) advanced desalination (RO+MVC+MD). Dashed lines show range of estimated energy use for disposal.

Anadarko Treatment Estimates

*- Estimated expenses do not include waste disposal, water conveyance, or storage

RO treatment volume is < 1.5% of irrigation water use, but 20-42% of livestock water use

Water Demand Met By Treatment Scenarios

Industry Reuse: Brine Exchange for Enhanced Oil Recovery

Test Study: Brine Exchange for Enhanced Oil Recovery

Brines used in this study

Brine exchange follows the salinity gradient for our two reservoirs

Brine Mixing in Presence of LKC Solids: Dissolved Ca Results

-- PHREEQC PITZER -Initial Conc. $-$ MINTEQ

Calcium concentration (mg/L) of Liquid-Liquid-Solid brine mixtures plotted against time alongside predicted equilibrium data calculated by PHREEQC; mixing ratio of 50% low salinity brine (left) and 90% low-salinity brine (right), shown

Coreflooding Experiments

Ca concentration of coreflooding effluent obtained through ICP-OES; other ions analyzed exhibited similar trends

Estimating Brine Exchange Costs

Viable Parameters for Brine Exchange **Operations**

Heatmap depicted Net Benefit of project as a function of flowrate and distance between reservoirs. Models were developed using WaterCOSTE method (left) and industry estimates (right).

Possible Limitations for Brine Exchange

- Brine incompatibility and scale formation
- Salinity effects on production chemicals
- Co-location of suitable formations with salinity gradients.
- Waterflooding requirements vs. generated PW volumes

Summary

- PW reuse is not "the" solution to water scarcity issues in this region
	- But is could be part of 'a' solution, along with other proposed and ongoing actions
- Desalination for beneficial reuse could be viable for a significant portion of Anadarko produced water
	- Mostly RO treatment, some MVC
- Livestock watering is a more promising reuse target than irrigation
	- Better match to volume and treatment requirements
- More research needed on secondary components and treatment requirements, especially organics
- 'Low-salinity' waterflooding can be economically viable and increase industry reuse

Acknowledgements

Grants # OIA-1632892 and 1856084

Kansas Water Resources Institute (KWRI)

Irrigation and SAR

