

# Study on Cellar Rainwater Treated by different size BAC in Villages and Towns of Northwestern China

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**Abstract**—In view of the micro-polluted cellar water quality characteristics of the northwestern town, we study natural biofilm with cellar water for coal activated carbon by 1mm, 2mm, 3mm, and determine the biological activated carbon microbial adaptation period, biofilm growth, biofilm maturation time, and study the activated carbon of different size for the removal of pollutants. The results showed that: three little difference in the time period when three size activated carbon is biofilming, but there is a difference of three particle size of activated carbon to remove pollutants for cellar water.

**Keywords**—cellar water treatment; different size; biological activated carbon; biofilm.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Generally, the amount of microporous may reflect the activated carbon's degree of good or bad, micropores developed related to the particle size of the activated carbon[1]. Studies have shown that the particle size of

activated carbon influence the activated carbon adsorption capacity of the activated carbon, and the smaller the particle size, the better the adsorption[2]. In this paper, we will contrast the effect of coal activated carbon by different size (1mm, 2mm and 3mm), and find a suitable activated carbon particle size for processing of cellar water treatment.

## II. TEST PART

### A. Experimental raw water and activated carbon parameters

Tab.1 Quality of cellar rainwater

Temperature (°C)	pH	Turbidity (NTU)	CO <sub>2</sub> (mg/L)	Ammonia nitrogen (mg/L)	UV <sub>254</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
15.1-21.6	7.57-8.03	0.86-2.54	0.72-6.61	0.22-1.03	0.093-0.169

Tab.2 The performance parameters of activated carbon

Material	Specification	Shape	Iodine value(mg/g)	Methylene blue value(mg/g)	specific surface area(m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Residue on ignition( % )	Fill volume(dm <sup>3</sup> )	Fill weight(g)	Place of origin
Coal	1~3	Granule	>900	120-150	>850	<2	0.28	129	Tianjing

### B. The experimental device and process

Test apparatus is shown in figure 1, Test device consists of high water tank and activated charcoal column composition, Three charcoal column diameter in order from left to right are 3mm(1#), 2mm(2#), 1mm(3#).

Activated carbon column materials for organic glass, Inner diameter is 30mm, internal charcoal column from the bottom up are supporting layer and the filter layer.

The supporting layer's height is 100mm which is equipped with pebbles of 10~20mm. Filter layer's height which is equipped with is 400mm thick activated carbon particles[3]. The distance from the top of the filter layer of activated carbon column end of the overflow population is about 250mm.

### C. Test methods

Sampling at the same time each day during the test, Sampling location: The bottom of the activated carbon column, Laboratory indicators: Turbidity, Ammonia nitrogen, CODMn, UV254.

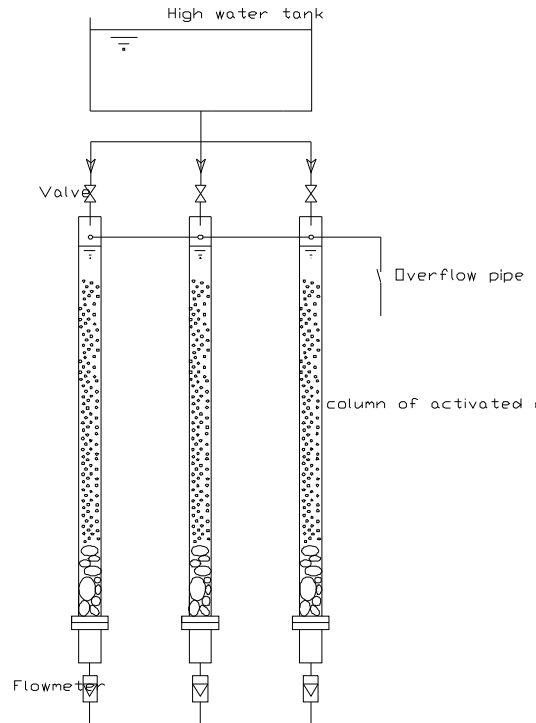


Figure.1 Test apparatus

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Turbidity removal rate

Fig.2 shows that Four days before the activated carbon turbidity removal rate remains constant, 1,2,3 charcoal column average turbidity removal was 55.23% , 60.16% , 68.83%. The 4th days of activated carbon for removal of turbidity began to decline. The reason is the beginning of the growth of microorganisms in the activated carbon column, Some secretions which discharge with running water let turbidity increase. The turbidity removal rate began to decline. The 9th day the turbidity removal rate is not in decline, and Began to steady development Where the 3rd column of activated carbon's average removal rate is 36.12%, The 2nd column of activated carbon removal rate is 17.13%, and the 3rd column of activated carbon removal rate is 9.73%, A few days' removal is negative. The reason for the lower turbidity removal efficiency is activated carbon activated carbon particle size distribution of a single. The bigger particle size , the higher the porosity between the activated carbon particle size , the more difficult to removal of turbidity.

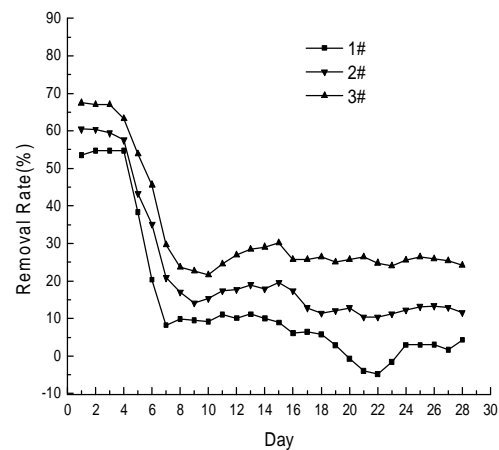


Figure.2 The turbidity removal rate

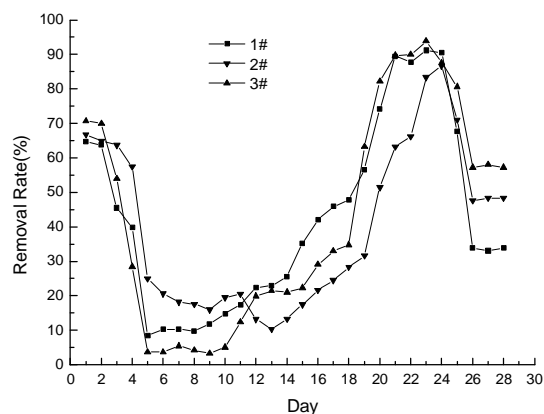


Figure.3 The NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal rate

#### B. NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal rate

Fig.3 shows that the 3rd column of activated carbon's average removal rate of ammonia nitrogen is 70.12%, the 2nd column of activated carbon is 65.23%, the 1st column of activated carbon is 64.11%. The reason is that activated carbon remove ammonia nitrogen mainly by activated carbon adsorption for the first three days. The smallest particle size is the 3rd column of activated carbon, its adsorption properties is the best, so its removal rate is higher. the activated carbon adsorption capacity began to decline after 3 days. This period is not yet ripe for microbial growth, in this period it treat ammonia nitrogen in water by activated carbon adsorption. Activated carbon column for ammonia nitrogen removal rate began to increase at 10th day, This period is biofilm growth time, ammonia nitrogen's removal rate is mainly by microbial. Fig.3 shows that three charcoal column removal rate are basically the same. It reflect that the growth rate of nitrifying bacteria is substantially the same[4]. Activated carbon for the removal of ammonia nitrogen is stable at 26th day. The 3rd column of activated carbon for removal of ammonia nitrogen is 45.13%, the 1st column of activated carbon for removal of ammonia nitrogen is 31.57%. The reason is that activated carbon of 3rd column has the biggest specific surface area.

#### C. COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate

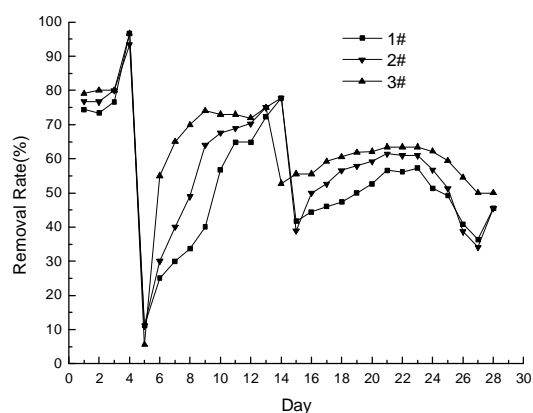


Figure.4 The COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate

Fig.4 shows that the COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate of the three activated carbon have little difference at the first four day. They are all at around 75%. At this moment the COD<sub>Mn</sub> is removed by activated carbon adsorption. In fifth day, the

COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate of the activated carbon suddenly bottom out. The reason for it is the activated carbon adsorption reaching saturation. After the fifth day, microorganisms start growing, then the COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate of the activated carbon begins to increase. The removal slope on the third column of activated carbon is maximum, which indicates that the microorganisms grow fastest followed by the second column of activated carbon. The first column of activated carbon is the minimum. Analysis of the reasons relates with the specific surface area. The larger the surface area, the more microbial attachment and the higher processing capacity[5]. After the fifteenth day, the COD<sub>Mn</sub> removal rate of the activated carbon begins[6] to ease up, the removal curve becomes smooth. The average removal rate is 59.87% after the third column of activated carbon stability, followed by the second column of activated carbon is 49.63%, the first column of activated carbon's average removal rate is 43.36%[7].

#### D. UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate

Fig.5 shows that the UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate of the activated carbon is relatively stable. The first five day, UV<sub>254</sub> removal of activated carbon remains stable[8], the UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate of the No.1, No.2 and No.3 column of activated carbon are 80.23%, 74.32%, 66.13%. The UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate decreases slightly at five to eight days. The eleventh day to the end of experiment UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate remains smooth and stable[9], the UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate are 73.32%, 60.23%, 50.65%.

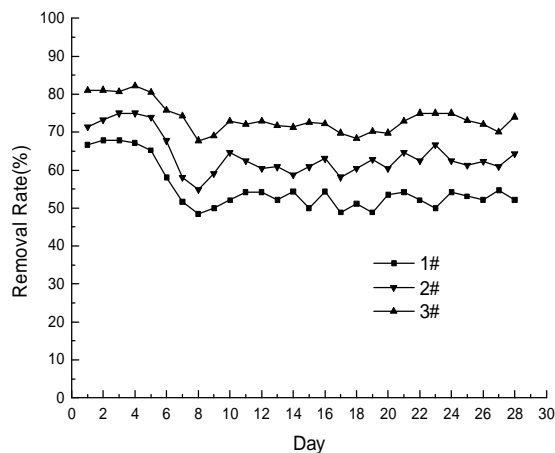


Figure.5 The UV<sub>254</sub> removal rate

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

(1) The way of cellular water biofilm is natural biofilm. Particle size has no effect on activated carbon biofilm formation of three periods: microbial adaptation period(1-5d), biological membrane growth period(5-15d), biological membrane maturation period(15-28d).

(2) The activated carbon particle size is smaller, the pore structure is more developed[10], the specific surface area is larger. The more easily microorganisms attach, the better treatment effect.

(3) The best treatment effect on the cellular water is the activated carbon particle size of 1mm. After the success of the biofilm and stable operation, the removal rate of turbidity, ammonia nitrogen, COD<sub>Mn</sub> and UV<sub>254</sub> are 36.12%, 55.23%, 59.87% and 73.32%.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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