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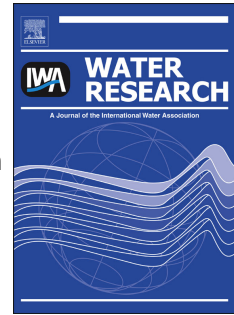
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# 1 **Chemical cleaning of potable water membranes: the cost** 2 **benefit of optimisation**

3 Nicandro Porcelli and Simon Judd, Centre for Water Science, Cranfield University

## 4 5 **Abstract**

6 A study of the variability in chemical cleaning factors on permeability recovery for potable  
7 water microfiltration (MF) and ultrafiltration (UF) systems has been carried out employing a  
8 cost model simulating plant fouling and cleaning regimes. The impact of a range of operating  
9 and cleaning factors on operating cost variation was computed using algorithms describing  
10 operational and cleaning factor relationships with permeability recovery data measured from  
11 bench scale tests on fibres sampled from full-scale operational plants.

12  
13 The model proceeded through sequencing of the cleaning and backwashing operations to  
14 generate transmembrane pressure (TMP), and so head loss, transients. A number of cleaning  
15 scenarios were considered for each plant, based on employing either a threshold TMP or  
16 fixed chemical cleaning intervals. The resulting TMP profiles were then converted to  
17 operational costs. The effect of the variability in permeability recovery on annual operating  
18 costs was calculated for each of the simulations. It was evident that significant operating cost  
19 reductions were possible from optimisation of the cleaning protocol. Cost benefit varied  
20 according to facets of plant design and operation; the innate variability in permeability  
21 recovery precluded the correlation of cleaning efficacy with fouling characteristics.

22  
23 **Key words:** membrane cleaning; factorial analysis; hollow fibre; potable water; cost benefit

24 **SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

25	$(C_{min}), C$	(Minimum) concentration
26	$(P_{max}), P$	(Maximum) soak period (min)
27	$(T_{min}), T$	(Minimum) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
28	$\pounds_{op}$	Overall operational cost (GBP)
29	$\pounds_p, \pounds_h, \pounds_c, \pounds_w$	Cost of pumping, heating, chemicals, and waste (GBP)
30	$\pounds_{unit}$	Unit operational cost per volume produced (pence. $\text{m}^{-3}$ )
31	$\Delta h$	Head difference for a column of water (m)
32	$\mu$	Viscosity ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ )
33	$a-f$	Factors in two-factorial expression for permeability recovery in Eq 2
34	$A_m$	Membrane area ( $\text{m}^2$ )
35	BBD	Box Behnken determination
36	CEB	Chemically enhanced backwash/backflush
37	$C_f$	Unit chemicals cost (GBP/tonne)
38	$C_e$	Unit electricity cost (GBP/kWh)
39	$C_w$	Unit waste cost (GBP/kWh)
40	CIP	Clean in place
41	CT	Capillary tubes
42	$C_v$	Specific heat capacity ( $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{Kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ )
43	$g$	Gravitational constant ( $9.81\text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-2}$ )
44	GAC	Granular Activated Carbon
45	HF	Hollow fibres
46	$J$	flux ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ )
47	$K_f, K_i$	Final, initial membrane permeability from cleaning test ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\text{ bar}^{-1}$ )
48	$K_v$	Virgin membrane permeability ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\text{ bar}^{-1}$ )
49	$M$	Factor in two-factorial expression for permeability recovery (Eq 2)
50	MF	Microfiltration
51	$N_b$	Number of backflushes per year
52	$N_c$	Number of chemical cleans per year
53	PACL	Poly Aluminium Chloride
54	PES	Polyethersulphone
55	PP	Polypropylene
56	PP	Polypropylene
57	PVDF	Polyvinylidene difluoride
58	$Q_b$	Backwash flow rate ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ )
59	$Q_m$	Filtration flow rate ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ )
60	$r$	Ratio of chemical cleanant volume to membrane area
61	$R_M, R_f$	Membrane, fouling resistance ( $\text{m}^{-1}$ )
62	$R_v$	Percentage permeability recovery from cleaning
63	$R_{v,max}$	Optimal cleaning recovery (%)
64	sHF	Submerged Hollow fibres
65	$T$	Average Feed Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
66	$t_b$	Period between backflushes, i.e. backflush frequency (min)
67	$t_{bb}$	Backflush duration (s)
68	$t_c$	Period between chemical cleans, i.e. chemical cleaning frequency (days)
69	$t_{cc}$	Clean period (min)
70	UF	Ultrafiltration
71	$V_m, V_b, V_c$	Annual volumes: design throughput, backwashing, cleaning ( $\text{m}^3$ )
72	$V_p$	Net production of permeate per annum ( $\text{m}^3$ )

73	$X_a, X_b, X_c$	Proportion of fouling removed by backwashing, chemical cleaning and
74		unremoved in Eq 4 ( $\text{m}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ )
75	$\alpha$	Specific Cake resistance ( $\text{m}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )
76	$\Delta P$ or TMP	Transmembrane pressure (m H <sub>2</sub> O, bar.g or kPa)
77	$\Delta T$	Difference between ambient temperature and reagent temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
78	$\eta$	Conversion efficiency (%)
79	$\rho$	Density ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ )

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## 80 **Chemical cleaning of potable water membranes: the cost** 81 **benefit of optimisation**

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### 83 ***Introduction***

84 Studies into cleaning sequencing and its impact on operating costs require experimental  
85 fouling data to provide head loss information. Whilst abundant fouling data is available, as  
86 well studies of the impact and/or optimisation of physical cleaning for fouling amelioration  
87 (Lodge and Judd, 2004; Katsoufidou et al, 2005; Smith et al., 2006, van der Ven, 2008),  
88 studies of chemical cleaning of membranes in the municipal water sector are much less  
89 common.

90 Early studies into optimisation of membrane cleaning qualitatively modelled the relationship  
91 between cleaning regime and recovery for single foulants (Bartlett et al. 1995). These studies  
92 were developed from Hermia's blocking model, where foulants form resistance layers  
93 (Belfort et al., 1994). Further studies into quantifying the effects of chemical cleanants have  
94 been used predominantly in food and industrial applications (Shorrocks and Bird, 1998,  
95 Blanpain-Avet et al., 2004). Observations of cleaning effects with surrogate foulants in  
96 laboratory experiments show differences in cleaning effects and efficiencies for different  
97 solutions (Field et al. 2008). Dead end hollow fibre (HF) membrane cleaning studies on  
98 fibres from a single field source showed the impact of cleaning reagents to be dependent on  
99 foulant character (Strugholtz et al., 2005). Recently models have been developed  
100 investigating dynamic cleanant performance on membranes fouled with surface waters at  
101 high organic loads (Zondervan and Roffel, 2007). Economic simulations based on  
102 ultrafiltration (UF) have suggested that optimising the number of cleaning cycles does not  
103 reduce operating costs, and that cleaning should instead be optimised to control fouling  
104 (Lodge and Judd, 2004; Zondervan and Roffel, 2008b).

105 Factorial analysis using analysis of variance has been shown to identify and optimise  
106 cleaning with proprietary reagents, specifically on spiral wound ultrafiltration and reverse  
107 osmosis membranes fouled from wastewater recovery duties (Chen et al., 2003). Recent  
108 chemical cleaning optimisation studies based on hollow fibre UF and MF (microfiltration)  
109 membranes sampled from full scale potable water treatment plants have quantified optimum  
110 permeability recovery from chemical cleaning of hollow fibre (HF) and capillary tube (CT),

111 respectively representing shell-side to lumen-side and lumen-side to shell-side flow,  
112 submerged and pumped membranes (Porcelli et al, 2009ab). The method for these latter  
113 studies was based on three factorial analyses using a response surface methodology, Box  
114 Behnken Determination (BBD), and has yielded algorithms quantifying the variation in  
115 permeability recovery from cleaning as a function of the key cleaning parameters of  
116 concentration ( $C$ ), temperature ( $T$ ) and soak period ( $P$ ). The experimental method (Porcelli et  
117 al, 2009a) has allowed optimum values of  $C$ ,  $P$  and  $T$  to be identified for membranes  
118 pertaining to a range of plants, cleaning protocols, operating conditions and feed qualities  
119 (Porcelli et al, 2009b).

120 In the following paper the results from a cost model based on the simplest representation of  
121 fouling, as resistances in series (Belfort et al., 1994; Zondervan et al., 2008), are presented  
122 based on previously published data (Porcelli et al, 2009b). The model has been applied to  
123 four full-scale, established MF/UF potable plants selected to provide a range of membrane  
124 material types and configurations, water sources, pre-treatment, fouling conditions and  
125 corresponding operation and maintenance conditions, with the latter particularly relating to  
126 the chemical cleaning regimes.

## 127 **Methodology**

### 128 **Sampled membrane plants**

129 Cost models for a number of cleaning operational scenarios were built from cleaning factor  
130 relationships generated from permeability recovery data from laboratory cleaning  
131 optimisation tests (Porcelli et al, 2009ab). Figure 1 shows the information flows to a transient  
132 headloss ( $\Delta P$ ) or Trans Membrane Pressure (TMP) model built from site and laboratory data.  
133 The factorial algorithms from cleaning experiments allowed four cleaning scenarios to be  
134 explored for four membrane potable water treatment sites (A-D, Table 1) with another four  
135 scenarios for variation in operational strategy, yielding 64 data in all. Operational costs over a  
136 year were calculated from energy and chemicals consumption and waste generation.

137 **Table 1 Operational and membrane data from Sites A-D**

138

139 **Figure 1 Cleaning variation cost model methodology**

140 The HF membranes sampled from the primary stage of each of the four sites were  
141 polyethersulphone (PES) ultrafiltration; polypropylene (PP) pumped system microfiltration  
142 and polyvinylidene (PVDF), with one site having a submerged configuration and the

143 other pumped. Modules were extracted in a fouled state, prior to on-site backwashing and  
 144 chemical cleaning, and transported wet to the laboratory. Storage and autopsy of the modules  
 145 and permeability testing and chemical cleaning efficacy of the extracted fibres was as  
 146 described in Porcelli et al (2009a).

### 147 **Generation of cleaning parameter algorithm**

148 A bespoke rig was constructed to measure permeability at constant head of ultrapure water  
 149 (Porcelli et al, 2009a). Permeability was recorded before and after cleaning to allow  
 150 calculation of permeability recovery ( $\%R_v$ ) according to:

$$151 \quad \%R_v = 100(K_f - K_i)/(K_v - K_i) \quad (1)$$

152 where  $K_i$  and  $K_f$  are the measured initial and final permeability in  $L.m^{-2} h^{-1}. bar^{-1}$ , and  $K_v$  is  
 153 the virgin membrane permeability.

154 Fouled fibres extracted from modules taken from full-scale potable water membrane plants  
 155 were rinsed before assembly into bench scale modules for cleaning and recovery  
 156 measurement (Porcelli et al, 2009ab). Fifteen trials were conducted in total, and  $\%R_v$   
 157 measured for a range of values of  $C$ ,  $P$  and  $T$  (Table 2). The data were then used to generate  
 158 site-specific algorithms from least square optima based on a two factorial model (Porcelli et  
 159 al., 2009b). The aim was to quantify the responses for each factor.

160 A  $2^{3-1}$  experiment with fifteen tests varying factor conditions was performed to a response  
 161 surface Box Behnken design (Myers et al. 1989). Cleaning parameters were varied in the  
 162 matrix in equal proportions, with the central points of each parameter repeated three times.  
 163 The factorial multipliers (Table 3) from the computed responses from the  $CPT$  ranges given  
 164 in Table 2 generated two-factorial expressions specific to each plant:

$$165 \quad \%R_v = M + a*C + b*P + c*T + d* C.P + e*C.T + f*P.T \quad (2)$$

166 **Table 2 Cleaning factor ranges for BBD experiments**

167

168 **Table 3 Factorial algorithm components for sites A, B, C and D**

169

### 170 **Cost model basis and operation.**

171 Using the algorithms determined from the cleaning response experiments (Table 3) a simple  
 172 cost model was built to compute the impact of the cleaning factor envelope for each site. An

173 Excel spreadsheet time incremented fouling while sequencing optimised recovery from  
 174 backwash and cleaning operations, generating a TMP transient from the Darcian relationship:

$$175 \quad R_M + R_f = \frac{\Delta P}{\mu \cdot J} \quad (3)$$

176 where  $R_M$  and  $R_f$  are the membrane and fouling resistance,  $\Delta P$  the TMP,  $\mu$  the viscosity and  $J$   
 177 the flux. Foulant deposition was assumed to follow the resistance in series model (Belfort et  
 178 al. 1994) which can be used for sequencing cleaning cycles in dead end membrane systems  
 179 (Zondervan et al., 2008a) :

$$180 \quad R_f = \alpha(X_a + X_b + X_c) \quad (4)$$

181 where  $X_a$ ,  $X_b$  and  $X_c$  are the proportions of the resistance from foulants, contributing to the  
 182 overall specific cake resistance  $\alpha$ , which comprise cake deposits which completely removed  
 183 by backwashing ( $X_a$ ), pore deposits removed by chemical cleaning ( $X_b$ ) and non removable  
 184 ( $X_c$ ) (Huang et al. 2009). The factor  $X_b$  was iterated such that the model permeability  
 185 recovery replicated the experimentally determined value represented in the two factorial *CPT*  
 186 algorithms summarised in Table 3. Historical TMP decline data from the full-scale plants  
 187 (Fig.2) were used to estimate the average annual rate of foulant build up between backwashes  
 188 and chemical cleans in place (CIPs) for the MF plants (B, C and D) and chemically enhanced  
 189 backwashes (CEBs) for the UF plant (A).

190 For each of the four sites the model generated the classic TMP “saw-tooth” transient (Fig. 3)  
 191 through appropriate scheduling of backwashing and cleaning and adjustment of  $R_f$  to match  
 192 reported site conditions. Following every backwash  $X_a$  was returned to zero whereas both  $X_a$   
 193 and  $X_b$  were returned to zero following a chemical clean. Chemical cleaning was initiated in  
 194 the model either at fixed time intervals or on reaching a threshold TMP. The pore fouling  $X_b$   
 195 component was iterated such that the permeability recovery ( $\%R_v$ ) equalled the  
 196 experimentally-determined value generated from Equation 2 for each site (Table 3). The  
 197 model provided a TMP transient over a one-year period as a function of cleaning efficacy,  
 198 which in turn was a function of the  $C$ ,  $P$  and  $T$  values for optimum recovery in each plant’s  
 199 experimentally-derived cleaning performance algorithms. The model’s recovery was iterated  
 200 to replicate the optimal cleaning conditions and scenario driven operational costs calculated.

201 **Figure 2 Example SCADA analysis for flux decline TMP Vs Time: 9/07 to 4/08: Showing the annotations**  
 202 **for a MF module on plant B.**  
 203



204 **Figure 3 Typical model output TMP transient, Site A, highlighting an hourly backwash and a cleaning**  
 205 **events. Profile is for 2 days of operation (day 31 through 33 of 365).**  
 206

## 207 **Model input data from plant operation**

208  
 209 Operational variables used to generate the TMP profiles for each site are given in Table 4.  
 210 The annual design throughput volume ( $V_m$ ) includes volumes for backwashing ( $V_b$ ) and  
 211 cleaning ( $V_c$ ), such that net permeate production rate is:

$$212 \quad V_p = V_m - (V_b + V_c) \quad (5)$$

213 The rate of fouling and the backwash and chemical cleaning intervals, which respectively  
 214 relate inversely to the number of backwashes ( $N_b$ ) and cleans ( $N_c$ ) performed annually,  
 215 determine the mean TMP.  $N_b$  and  $N_c$  also determine the volume of water wasted, the total  
 216 energy demanded for cleaning (primarily for heating) and the chemical demand. Hence,  
 217 whilst increasing the cleaning frequency maintains a higher TMP, this is to some extent offset  
 218 by the decreased production and pumping energy demand from membrane “downtime” and  
 219 reagent heating.

220 For each plant the model parameter values (Table 4) were collected from site and plant  
 221 design information. The specific cake resistance and fouling rates were determined by  
 222 iteration of the variables separately to replicate the average flux decline rate as reported from  
 223 site data over an annual cycle.

## 224 **Scenarios**

225 Four cleaning scenarios based on  $CPT$  variation were computed for each site. These  
 226 represented the optimum permeability recovery ( $R_{v,max}$ ), as determined from the bench-scale  
 227 tests (Porcelli et al, 2009b), plus three other scenarios representing ranges of  $CPT$  variation:  
 228 minimum cleanant concentration ( $C_{min}$ ); maximum soak period ( $P_{max}$ ) and minimum  
 229 (ambient) temperature ( $T_{min}$ ). These were used in the algorithm (Equation 2) along with the  
 230 design and operation data (Table 4) to generate the TMP transient. Results for the four  
 231 cleaning scenarios are given in Table 5.

232 **Table 4 Design and operational variables, Sites A-D**

233

234 **Table 5 Cleaning factors for  $CPT$  variation, Scenarios I-IV, for Sites A- D**

235

236 Each of the four cleaning scenarios was run for four operational strategy variations based on  
 237 fixed high-level and low level threshold TMPs and chemical cleaning intervals. The average  
 238 TMP, and thus the pumping energy demand, was thus dictated by the cleaning frequency and  
 239 permeability recovery. Table 6 gives the operating envelopes for the four operational  
 240 strategies adopted for modelling each site, for which four the *CPT* scenarios were applied.

241

242 **Table 6 Operational “Strategies” 1-4 for Sites A-D**

243

### 244 **Operating cost calculations**

245 Determination for operational costs (£<sub>op</sub>) in for each of the sixteen scenarios (Figure 3) on the  
 246 four sites were expressed in GBP from the individual costs of pumping energy (£<sub>p</sub>), heating  
 247 (£<sub>h</sub>), chemicals (£<sub>c</sub>) and waste (£<sub>w</sub>), using the baseline cost factors given in Table 7:

$$248 \quad \text{£}_{op} = \text{£}_p + \text{£}_h + \text{£}_c + \text{£}_w \quad (6)$$

249 **Table 7 Baseline cost factors**

250

251

252 Pumping energy costs were derived from the flow rate  $Q_m$ , the average TMP and the  
 253 mechanical and electrical power conversion efficiency  $\eta$  (Table 7), with the total water  
 254 production modified for loss of product through downtime and backwash:

255

$$256 \quad \text{£}_{op} = \frac{Cf_e}{\eta} \cdot \Delta P_{avg} \left[ Q_m \left( 31.5 \times 10^6 - (N_c \cdot t_{cc}) - (N_b \cdot t_{bb}) \right) \right] \quad (7)$$

257 where  $Cf_e$  is the unit cost of electrical energy,  $t_{cc}$  and  $t_{bb}$  the cleaning and backwash durations,  
 258 and  $Q_b$  the backwash flow. Heating costs are proportional to the summation of the gross  
 259 energy required to heat the cleaning solutions (kWh), and is therefore a function of the  
 260 difference  $\Delta T$  between the ambient temperature and the reagent temperature:

261

$$262 \quad \text{£}_h = \frac{Cf_e}{\eta} \left( \frac{C_v \Delta T (V_c \rho)}{3600} \right) \quad (8)$$

263

264 where  $C_v$  is specific heat capacity (4.2 kJ.Kg.K<sup>-1</sup>),  $\rho$  is the density and  $V_c$  the volume of  
 265 cleanant, which is a function of the membrane area  $A_m$  and the number of chemical cleans.  
 266 The cleanant volume per clean was taken from site chemical usage data from which the ratio  
 267  $r$  of chemical cleanant volume to membrane area ratio was derived (Table 4).

268

269 Chemical costs were assumed as delivered with no supplementary handling costs. The  
 270 volumes used in tonnes per annum were calculated based on the volume used per CIP/CEB  
 271 event over the year:

272

$$273 \quad \pounds_c = C_f C N_c V_c \quad (9)$$

274

275 where  $C_f$  is the reported UK unit chemicals cost in £/tonne (IChemE, 2002) adjusted to 2008  
 276 values from government data (NSO-UK, 2008). A common notional waste disposal route was  
 277 assumed based on backwashing and cleaning waste volumes which were converted to energy  
 278 demand using a common waste energy cost factor  $C_{f_w}$ , adapted from (Zondervan and Roffel,  
 279 2008) and based on waste neutralisation and returning to the head of works:

280

$$281 \quad \pounds_w = C_{f_w} ((N_c V_c) + (Q_b N_b t_{bb})) \rho g \Delta h / \eta \quad (10)$$

282

283 The cost variation in contribution from each cost group was compared for the different CPT  
 284 envelope responses ( $R_{v,max}$ ,  $C_{min}$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ ). By converting total operating costs to relative  
 285 costs per cubic metre of water produced it was possible to compare costs across the different  
 286 sites. The deviation from the optimum cleaning scenario for each of the operational scenarios  
 287 could also be compared.

## 288 **Results**

289 Costs for each site were categorised according to headloss pumping, cleanant heating energy,  
 290 chemical consumption, backwash pumping and waste treatment. These are presented as  
 291 percentage of total operational costs, indicating the differences that each operational  
 292 “Strategy” provides, in Table 6. The operational cost of each operational “strategy” at  
 293 optimal permeability recovery are shown in Figure 3; where error bars indicate the minimum  
 294 and maximum operational costs according to different CPT envelope “scenario” responses (I  
 295  $R_{v,max}$ , II  $C_{min}$ , III  $P_{max}$ , and IV  $T_{max}$ ). The percentage component contribution to the operating  
 296 cost, based on optimum cleaning recovery, is given in (Table 8) for a number of cleaning  
 297 “scenarios”. It can be seen that the cost associated with the TMP headloss represents the  
 298 primary component in all cases and that, despite optimisation of cleaning, there is significant  
 299 variation in calculated operational costs.

300

301 **Figure 4** Chart showing how optimal cleaning recovery ( $R_{v_{max}}$ ) influences relative costs/ $m^3$  of water for a  
 302 variation in operational scenario (1-4, Table 6) The error bars show how this varies across the cleaning  
 303 factor envelope (II-IV, Table 5).

304

305 **Table 8** Percentage contribution to operational costs based on optimum cleaning protocol (I) for the four  
 306 sites and the four operational scenarios

307

308 The influence of the cleaning factor envelope variations on the unit cost (Figure 4) shows the  
 309 relative cost variation across the ranges of recovery attained from the four cleaning scenarios  
 310 applied to the four operational “strategies” chosen for the four sites. The calculated variation  
 311 in the plant life operating costs for each of the “scenarios” (Table 9) includes data for cash  
 312 flow using a discount rate of 10% and a 15 year plant life. For all the models the range of  
 313 variation from treatment factors is seen to have cost implications which vary with operational  
 314 strategy. The MF membrane sites (B, C, D) indicate increasing costs under optimal cleaning  
 315 conditions as the “strategy” proceeds from a high fixed TMP (1) to a long fixed interval  
 316 cleaning cycle (4). For the UF plant (Site A) the wider range of costs for a fixed low TMP  
 317 “strategy” indicates that frequency of cleaning operations together with the optimisation of  
 318 the cleaning factors has the largest impact on operational costs.

319

320 **Figure 5** Chart showing relative operational costs (p, or £ x 0.01, per  $m^3$ ) for the four cleaning factor  
 321 “scenarios” ( $R_{v_{max}}$ ,  $C_{min}$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ ) for each of the four Operational Scenarios (1-4) on Sites A-D.

322

323

324 **Table 9** Difference between best and worst case operational costs with cleaning factor envelope for sites  
 325 A-D for each of the operational scenarios 1-4: (i) operational cost savings from variations in cleaning  
 326 factors, with (ii) the equivalent capital cost for 15 year amortisation period at 10%.

327

## 328 **Discussion**

329 Evidence provided from the analysis (Figs. 3-4, Table 9) indicates a significant impact of  
 330 both the plant operating protocol (i.e. the basis chosen for applying the chemical clean) and  
 331 the degree of optimisation of the chemical clean (i.e. the attainable permeability recovery and  
 332 energy/consumables expenditure) on overall operating costs. For example, for Plant C the  
 333 spread of the unit operating costs ( $£_{unit}$ , in pence per  $m^3$ ) arising from operation across the  
 334 range of the cleaning “scenario” ranges (maximum to minimum *CPT* values) is calculated to  
 335 be as high as  $0.2 \text{ pence} \cdot m^{-3}$  above an optimum of  $0.3 \text{ p} \cdot m^{-3}$  for a strategy of less frequent CIPs  
 336 (Fig. 4). If the operating “strategy” is changed to more frequent CIPs the operating costs  
 337 decrease by around 10% and its cost variation for operation across the *CPT* envelope is  
 338 reduced by a third. As the cleaning “scenario” is changed, the impact of the cleaning  
 339 envelope is also changed, with the largest impact - from  $0.08$  to  $0.23 \text{ pence} \cdot m^{-3}$  as measured

340 for Plant D (a submerged MF plant) on changing from operation at fixed high threshold TMP  
341 to operation at less frequent CIPs (Fig. 5). Moreover, there is a distinct difference in the  
342 pattern of behaviour between the UF plant (Plant A) and the microfiltration plants (Plants B-  
343 D), according to Figure 4.

344

345 It has previously been observed (Zondervan and Roffel, 2008) that optimisation of cleaning  
346 cycles has little impact on the lifetime cost, based on models built for a UF plant scenario  
347 with varied cycle time for a particular set of parameter data. The current study, conducted  
348 across a range of plants, showed the cleaning response to vary greatly. This variation yielded  
349 changes in annual operational costs, relating primarily to energy and consumables, ranging  
350 from below £20k to over £170k for a UF plant challenged with pre-treated groundwater  
351 (Table 4, Site A). This has implications regarding existing and proposed control strategies for  
352 backwash frequency and cleaning cycle control based on neural networks (Veerapaneni et al.,  
353 2004, Oh et al., 2004) based on cleaning efficacy attained on site. Such approaches, using  
354 heuristic data for feedback control, are necessarily constrained by the operating envelope  
355 used on site, whereas the approach used in the current study allows a much larger envelope to  
356 be explored and the optimum cleaning conditions precisely identified, though the approach is  
357 constrained by the necessity for ex-situ tests.

## 358 **Conclusions**

359 The effects of actual variable cleaning recoveries for different membrane fibres fouled on full  
360 scale plants were appraised using a simple fouling model to generate a transient TMP trend  
361 with variable backwash and cleaning cycles. The effect of cleaning factor “scenario”  
362 variations on recovery from experimental data was incorporated into the model along with  
363 plant operating “strategies”, and the model used to quantify their impact on operating cost.  
364 The study revealed:

- 365 • Differences in cleaning factor performance, as determined by the values for the cleanant  
366 concentration  $C$  and cleaning temperature  $T$  and soak period  $P$ , were significant and have  
367 a bearing on the design of a process, and in particular the range of operating flux which  
368 determines the fouling rate and so cleaning cycle times.
- 369 • Optimisation of permeability recovery has a measurable impact on operational costs, with  
370 the difference in annual operating cost between the most and least optimal chemical clean

371 being as little as £5 to as high as £74 p.a. per l/s of flow depending upon the plant  
372 operating protocol.

- 373 • The extent of the operational cost reduction for an optimal cleaning regime is dependent  
374 on both the operational strategy, with respect to the basis for scheduling the chemical  
375 cleans, and the membrane type (ultrafiltration vs. microfiltration) and/or configuration  
376 (hollow fibre vs. capillary tube).

377 Results indicate that the innate variability in cleaning efficacy appears likely to eclipse any  
378 possible correlation of permeability recovery with fouling characteristics. Clearly this aspect  
379 demands further study, given the wealth of scientific information on fouling mechanisms and  
380 linked with foulant physicochemistry and biochemistry.

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**Table 1 Operational and membrane data from Sites A-D**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Water Type</i>	<i>Membrane</i> <sup>1</sup>	<i>Config.</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>Pre-treatment</i>
A	Groundwater: single borehole. pH = 7.1, turbidity <5 NTU	UF - PES	CT	Coagulation (PACl 4 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ), clarification, GAC, pre-chlorination
B	Upland surface-impounded reservoir. pH = 6.9, turbidity = 0.71 NTU	MF - PP	HF	Microstrainer (30 µm)
C	Upland surface-impounded reservoir. pH = 5.5 – 5.8, turbidity < 2 NTU	MF - PVDF	HF	pH correction, pre-coagulation (PACl 2 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ), primary pressure filtration, pre-chlorination, 2nd stage pressure filtration
D	Groundwater: single borehole. pH = 7.1. turbidity < 0.2 NTU	MF - PVDF	sHF	Microstrainer, pre-chlorination

<sup>1</sup>PES = polyethyl sulphone; PVDF = polyvinylidene difluoride; PP = polypropylene

<sup>2</sup>Configuration: (s)HF = (submerged) hollow fibre; CT = capillary tube

**Table 2 Cleaning factor ranges for BBD experiments**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Cleaning agent</i>	<i>Strength</i> ( <i>C</i> , mol.L <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>Soak Time</i> ( <i>P</i> , min)	<i>Temperature</i> ( <i>T</i> , °C)
A	NaOH	0.050 – 0.175	30 – 90	10 - 40
B	NaOH	0.188 – 0.405	30 – 90	5 - 35
C	Citric acid	0.003 – 0.009	30 – 90	5 - 35
D	NaOCl varied then H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> at pH 2.0, 15°C, 60 min	0.001 – 0.002	30 – 90	5 - 35

**Table 3 Factorial algorithm components**

<i>Site</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>
A	34.577	-65.346	0.019	-0.156	0.379	1.716	0.000
B	9.463	-3.830	0.042	0.187	0.029	0.127	-0.005
C	125.822	-55.799	-0.950	-2.587	0.435	2.124	0.014
D	29.755	-0.078	-0.151	0.540	0.001	0.001	-0.014



**Table 4 Design and operational variables**

<i>Model variable</i>		<i>Site:</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>
Design throughput	$Q_m$	L.s <sup>-1</sup>	417	752	62.5	440
Membrane area,	$A_m$	m <sup>2</sup>	17640	20092	2806	11192
Clean water resistance,	$R_m$	m <sup>-1</sup>	2.5	2.5	1.25	2.5
Design flux,	$J$	L.m <sup>-2</sup> .h <sup>-1</sup>	109	68	80	142
Backwash flux; rate	$J_b$	L.m <sup>-2</sup> .h <sup>-1</sup>	250	60	120	60
Backwash interval	$t_b$	minutes	55	60	60	60
Backwash duration	$t_{bb}$	seconds	50	20	20	20
Cleaning interval	$t_c$	days	<i>Variable</i>			
Cleaning duration	$t_{cc}$	minutes	<i>Variable</i>			
Cleanant Ratio	$R$	m <sup>3</sup> .m <sup>-2</sup>	1.83E-04	1.53E-03	1.53E-03	1.53E-03
Average Feed °C	$T_f$	°C	10.0	10.4	6.0	6.0
Cake fouling rate, as a function of (Equation 4): <i>from d(TMP)/dt data.</i>						
Cake deposits	$X_a$	m.min <sup>-1</sup>	1.01.E+01	7.40.E-02	2.50.E+00	2.50.E+00
Pore deposits	$X_b$	m.min <sup>-1</sup>	2.01.E-01	6.89.E-06	2.33.E-02	2.33.E-02
Non Removable deposits	$X_c$	m.min <sup>-1</sup>	6.89.E-06	1.15.E-03	5.00.E-09	6.89.E-06
Specific cake resistance	$\alpha$	m <sup>-2</sup>	1.43.E-03	8.66.E+00	1.25.E-03	1.25.E-03

**Table 5 Cleaning factors for CPT variation, Scenarios I-IV, for Sites A- D**

			<i>CPT VARIATION SCENARIO</i>			
			<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
			<b>%<math>R_{v,max}</math></b>	<b><math>C_{min}</math></b>	<b><math>P_{max}</math></b>	<b><math>T_{min}</math></b>
SITE A <i>Caustic Soda</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>mol.L<sup>-1</sup></i>	0.175	0.050	0.175	0.175
	<b>P</b>	<i>minutes</i>	89	89	30	89
	<b>T</b>	<i>°C</i>	37	37	37	10
	<b>R<sub>v</sub></b>	<i>%</i>	52.0	36.0	35.8	24.4
SITE B <i>Caustic Soda</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>mol.L<sup>-1</sup></i>	0.405	0.188	0.405	0.405
	<b>P</b>	<i>minutes</i>	30	30	90	30
	<b>T</b>	<i>°C</i>	35	35	35	10
	<b>R<sub>v</sub></b>	<i>%</i>	14.8	13.5	10.4	8.4
SITE C <i>Citric Acid</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>mol.L<sup>-1</sup></i>	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.003
	<b>P</b>	<i>minutes</i>	90	30	90	90
	<b>T</b>	<i>°C</i>	35	35	10	35
	<b>R<sub>v</sub></b>	<i>%</i>	97.0	78.0	35.0	28.0
SITE D <i>Hypochlorite</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>mol.L<sup>-1</sup></i>	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.001
	<b>P</b>	<i>minutes</i>	30	90	30	30
	<b>T</b>	<i>°C</i>	35	35	5	35
	<b>R<sub>v</sub></b>	<i>%</i>	26.6	26.6	16.1	5.6

**Table 6 Operational “Strategies” 1-4 for Sites A-D**

SITE	STRATEGY			
	1	2	3	4
	Fixed maximum TMP - HIGH $\Delta P_{max}$ , kPa	Fixed maximum TMP - NORMAL $\Delta P_{max}$ , kPa	Fixed # of cleans - SHORT $t_c$ , days	Fixed # of cleans ( $t_c$ ) - LONG $t_c$ , days
A	50	45	0.5	1
B	150	120	14	28
C	70	40	14	28
D	90	60	14	28

**Table 7 Baseline cost factors**

Cost Factor	Value
Power supply efficiency ( $\eta$ )	0.60 <sup>1</sup>
Pumping and heating energy ( $C_{f_e}$ , £/kWh)	0.10 <sup>2</sup>
Waste treatment energy ( $C_{f_w}$ , £/kWh)	0.25 <sup>4</sup>
Chemical cleanant cost ( $C_{f_c}$ , £/tonne) <sup>3</sup>	
Citric acid	900 <sup>3</sup>
Caustic soda (NaOH), 50 wt%	60 <sup>3</sup>
Chlorine	130 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rishel, 2002; <sup>2</sup>Holden, 2008; <sup>3</sup>ICHEME, 2002: 2002 data indexed to 10/2008 from UK national Statistics Office Annual Variation Tables, NSO-UK, 2008. <sup>4</sup>Based on Zondervan 2008a

**Table 8 Percentage contribution to operational costs based on optimum cleaning protocol (I) for the four sites (A-D) with four operational scenarios ( 1-4)**

<b>SCENARIO</b>	<b>SITE % Scenario Contribution</b>			
	A	B	C	D
<b><u>Scenario 1 Fixed maximum TMP- HIGH</u></b>				
Headloss pumping	75.2	97.2	89.5	96.4
Cleanant heating energy	18.2	1.9	6.1	2.6
Chemical consumption	0.3	0.1	1.8	0.1
Backwash pumping	1.8	0.2	0.7	0.2
Waste treatment energy	4.5	0.6	1.9	0.6
<b><u>Scenario 2 - Fixed maximum TMP – LOW</u></b>				
Headloss pumping	49.7	95.1	72.9	91.6
Cleanant heating energy	44.9	3.9	19.4	7.2
Chemical consumption	0.7	0.2	5.6	0.4
Backwash pumping	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.2
Waste treatment energy	3.4	0.6	1.5	0.6
<b><u>Scenario 3 Fixed number of cleans- SHORT <math>t_c</math></u></b>				
Headloss pumping	57.7	95.8	74.7	92.9
Cleanant heating energy	36.5	3.2	17.9	6.0
Chemical consumption	0.6	0.1	5.2	0.3
Backwash pumping	1.5	0.2	0.6	0.2
Waste treatment energy	3.7	0.6	1.6	0.6
<b><u>Scenario 4 Fixed number of cleans - LONG <math>t_c</math></u></b>				
Headloss pumping	73.2	97.8	87.5	96.5
Cleanant heating energy	20.3	1.3	7.7	2.6
Chemical consumption	0.3	0.1	2.2	0.1
Backwash pumping	1.8	0.2	0.7	0.2
Waste treatment energy	4.4	0.6	1.8	0.6

**Table 9 Difference in GBP between best and worst case operational costs with cleaning factor envelope for Sites A-D for each of the operational scenarios 1-4: (i) operational cost savings from variations in cleaning factors, with (ii) the equivalent capital cost for 15 year amortisation period at 10%**

Site:	A		B		C		D	
Scen.	i	ii	i	ii	i	ii	i	ii
1	7,532	55,487	3,531	26,015	1,103	8,123	11,865	87,409
2	23,386	172,274	6,347	46,754	1,664	12,256	19,402	142,931
3	9,254	68,170	26,838	197,710	1,412	10,403	27,796	204,766
4	2,690	19,817	34,897	257,075	1,833	13,503	32,423	238,850

*i* Saving in £ per annum between worst and best case operational cost with cleaning factor CPT variation.

*ii* Annual operational savings in £ as capital amortised for 15 yrs at 10%

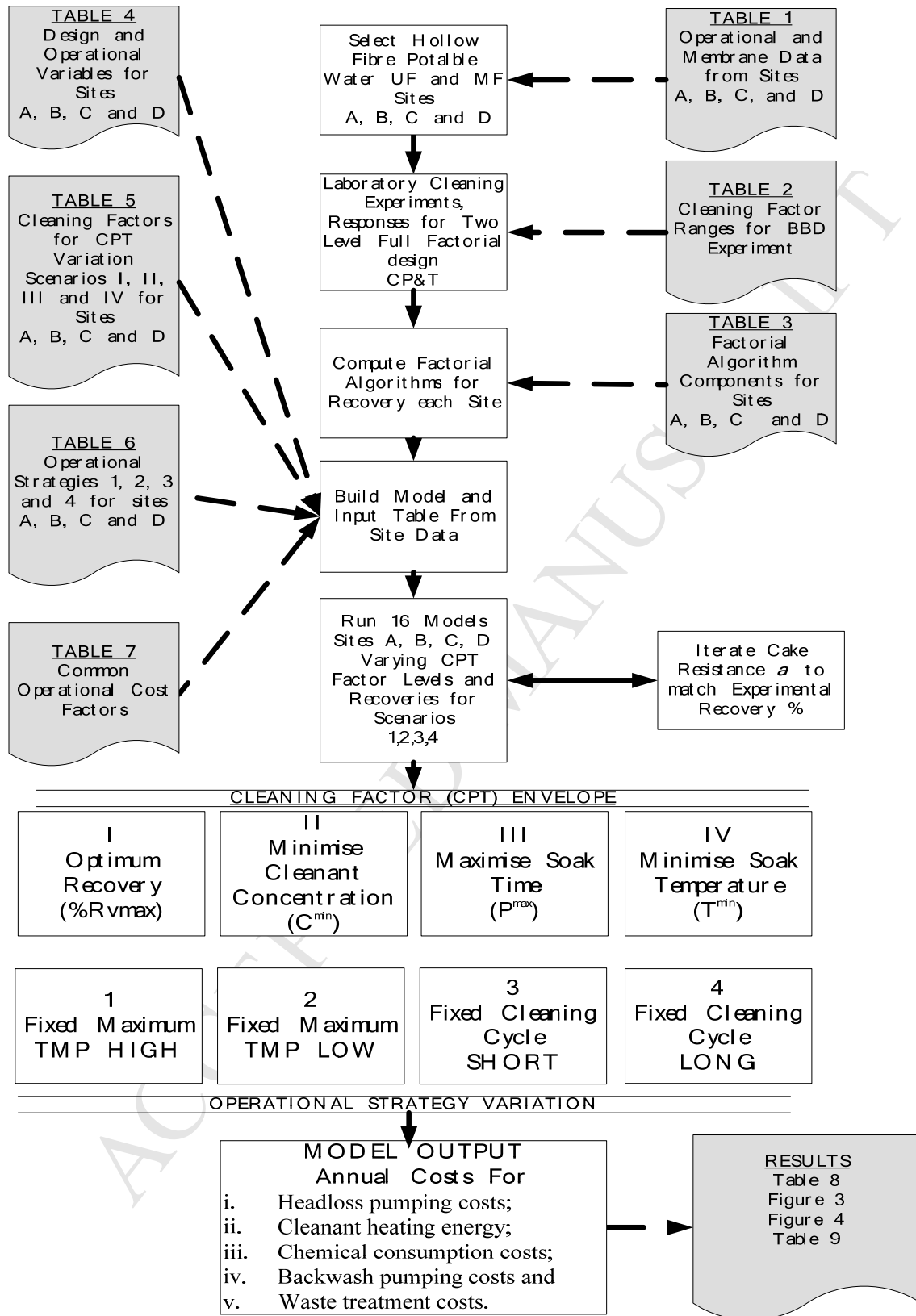


Figure 1 Cleaning variation cost model methodology

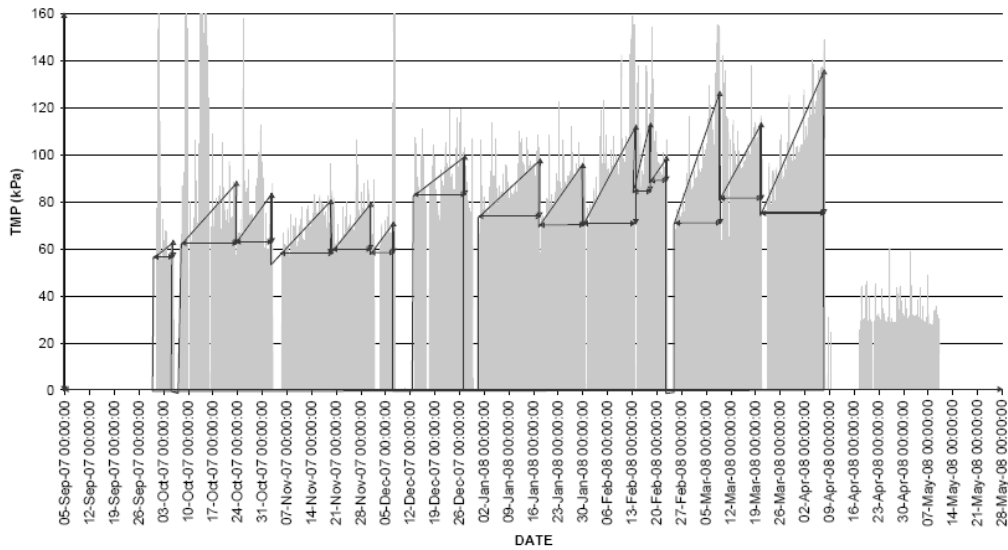


Figure 2 Example SCADA analysis for flux decline TMP Vs Time: 9/07 to 4/08: Showing the annotations for a MF module on plant B.

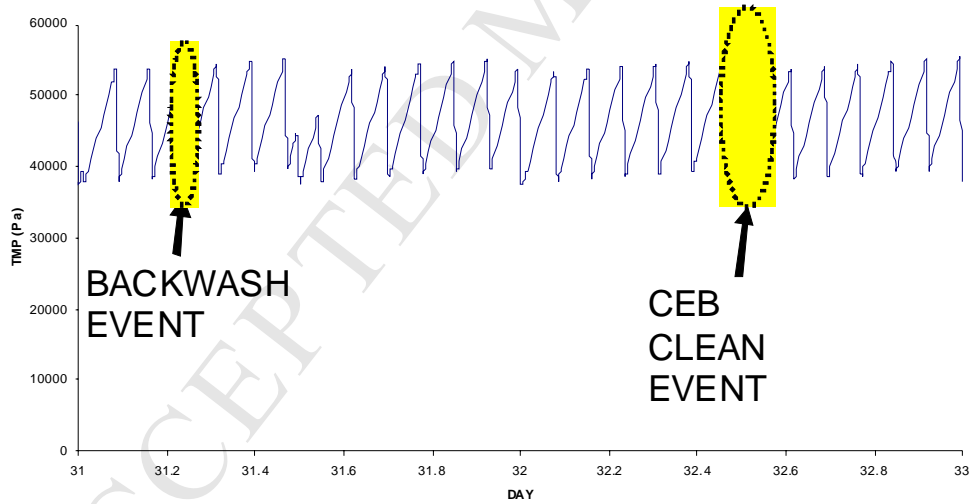


Figure 3 Typical model output TMP transient, Site A, highlighting an hourly backwash and a cleaning events. Profile is for 2 days of operation (day 31 through 33 of 365).

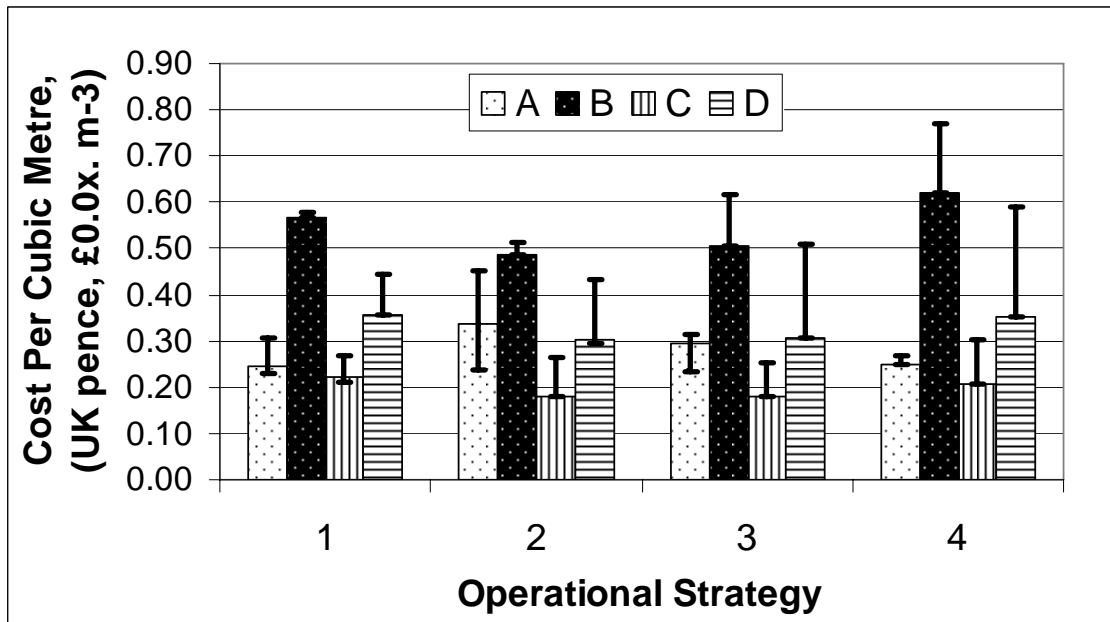


Figure 2 Chart showing how optimal cleaning recovery ( $R_{v_{max}}$ ) influences relative costs/m<sup>3</sup> of water for a variation in operational strategy (1-4, Table 6) The error bars show how this varies across the cleaning factor envelope (II-IV, Table 5).

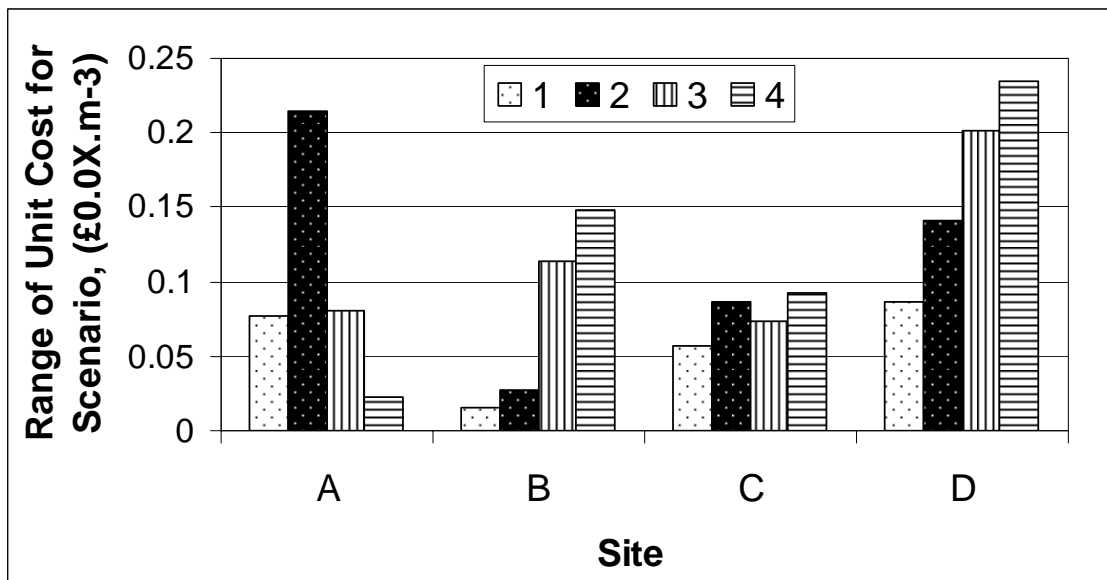


Figure 3 Chart showing relative operational costs (p, or £ x 0.01, per m<sup>3</sup>) for the four cleaning factor scenarios ( $R_{v_{max}}$ ,  $C_{min}$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ ) for each of the four Operational Scenarios (1-4) on Sites A-D.