

Drinking Water Treatment and Removal of Natural Organic Matter

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Message from the Guest Editors

The removal of natural organic matter (NOM) has been a challenge for several decades, especially in countries of the Boreal climate. Because of their large molecule size and ability to form complexes with pollutants, NOM often governs the selection of water treatment methods. Although several methods, including enhanced coagulation, anion-exchange, nanofiltration, and biosorption are being used today, there is still no state-of-the-art technology that has been widely accepted by the water industry as efficient and cost-efficient. This is partly due to the diverse properties of NOM, which depend on its genesis and transformation, and partly due to its recalcitrant nature, which makes it biologically difficult to degrade. There has been significant advancement in the way natural NOM is being analysed and in the properties of its main components (humic substances), thus opening new opportunities for novel water treatment methods and understanding of disinfection by-products. [...]

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