

A nuclear research institute
reshaping the future
based on **peoples trust**



Pretreatment laundry wastewater for removing organic surfactant

Yessika Natalia Chelsie^{a,b}, Wang Kyu Choi^{a,b}, Hafiz Amir Nadeem^{a,b}, Muhammad
Wasim Ikram^{a,b}, Seung Joo Lim^{*a,b}

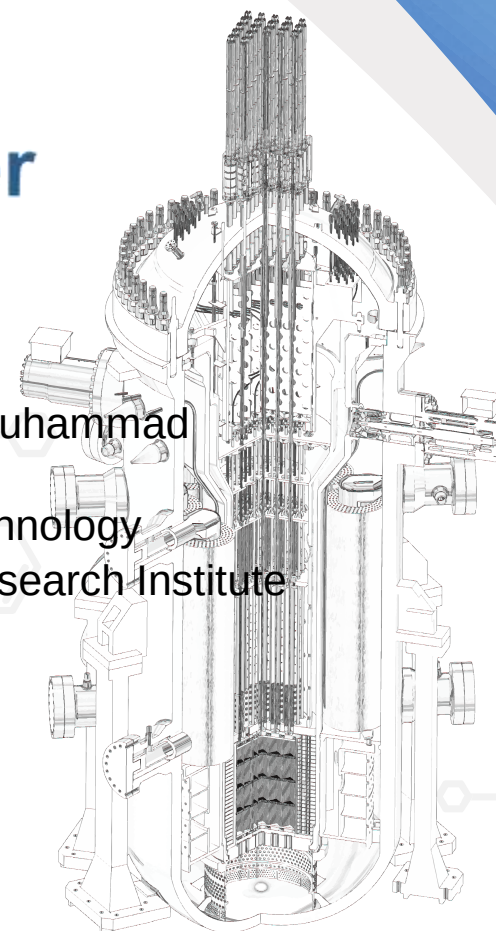
^aQuantum Energy Chemical Engineering, University of Science and Technology

^bNuclear Facility Cleanup Technology Division, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute

^{*}Corresponding author: seungjoolim@kaeri.re.kr



Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute





*A nuclear research institute
reshaping the future based on peoples trust*



Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute

- 01 INTRODUCTION
- 02 EXPERIMENT
- 03 RESULTS
- 04 CONCLUSION

CONTENTS



01

INTRODUCTION



Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute

Characteristic of Laundry Wastewater

- **Laundry wastewater** is generated from showering and washing activity of the workers in NPP site. This is classified as **LLW**.
- The volume can reach up to **4,000 ton/year**.

Composition	Concentration (ppm)	Nuclides	Activity (Ci/mL)
Na ⁺	10 ~ 14.9	¹³⁴ Cs	1.3 ~ 148.6×10 ⁻¹⁴
K ⁺	0 ~ 1.4	¹³⁷ Cs	5.9 ~ 1.1×10 ⁻¹⁴
Mg ²⁺	1.1 ~ 2	⁵⁸ Co	1.5 ~ 2.32×10 ⁻¹³
Ca ²⁺	3.4 ~ 6	⁶⁰ Co	3 ~ 213.5×10 ⁻¹³
Cl ⁻	13.3 ~ 25	⁵⁴ Mn	2.4 ~ 143.2×10 ⁻¹³
NO ₃ ⁻	0.5 ~ 4.5	⁹⁵ Zr and ⁹⁵ Nb	2.7 ~ 189.1×10 ⁻¹³
SO ₄ ²⁻	6.8 ~ 8.8	⁵⁹ Fe	8.1 ~ 151.4×10 ⁻¹⁴
NH ₄ ⁺	12 ~ 34		
Surfactant	65 ~ 200		

Conventional & Developing Technologies

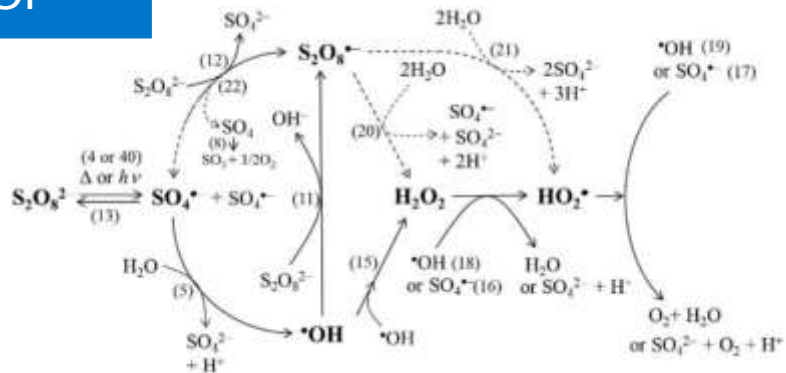
Conventional technology:

- Korea, Rusia: Treated with NPP's liquid radioactive waste system → MF and evaporation [1,2,8]
- KANUPP-1 Pakistan : $<4 \times 10^{-7}$ nuCi/mL → Dilute and discharge to the sea [9]

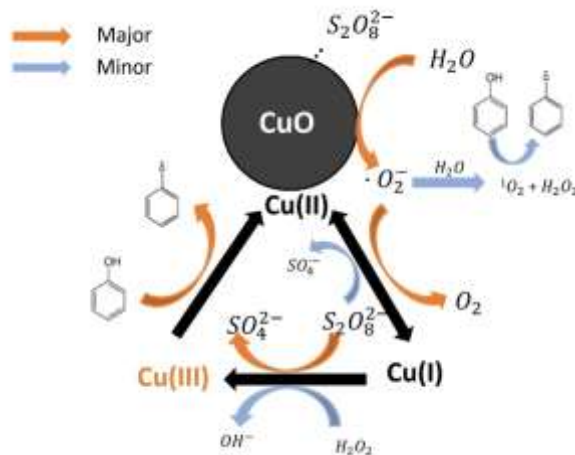
Developing treatment method:

Reference	Treatment Method
Kursk in Rusia [7]	Ozonizing – Microfiltration – Sorption
KEPCO [1]	UV/H₂O₂ photo-oxidation – Reverse Osmosis
Japan [3]	Reverse Osmosis
Ref Fang et. al [4]	Inorganic ion exchange using zeolite 4A
Ref Park et. al [5]	AMP-PAN
Ref Yong et. al [6]	Flocculation – Microfiltration

AOP

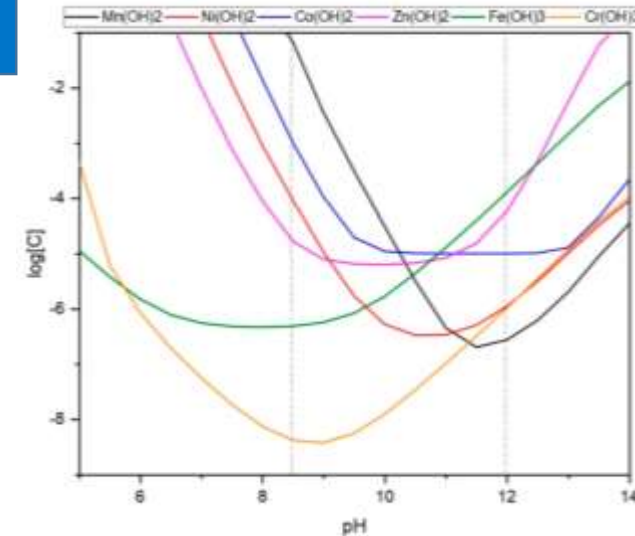


Scheme of Overall mechanism of the thermal ($3 < \text{pH} < 13$) and the photolytic decomposition of PDS [10]



Scheme of phenol transformation mechanisms in CuO/PDS system [11]

Precipitation



Graph of Solubility of Several Metal Hydroxides as Function of pH [12]

Research Objective:

To investigate the pretreatment effect combining a precipitation using $Ca(OH)_2$ and AOP using peroxy disulfate at basic pH on laundry wastewater

Comparison of Conventional and Recommended Method

Disadvantages of conventional technologies

- ✓ Fouling effect on evaporator or membrane technologies
- ✓ Lots of secondary waste of spent IERs (ion exchange resin) → either storing in PC-HIC/PE-HIC or regenerate the resins
- ✓ High cost of ozonation process
- ✓ Longer time of conventional organic decomposition process

Advantages of recommended method

- ✓ Degraded surfactant and/or insoluble form of Ca-surfactant
- ✓ Minimize secondary waste generation of IERs
- ✓ Cost-effective method compared to ozonation process
- ✓ Take a short time to decompose organic compound

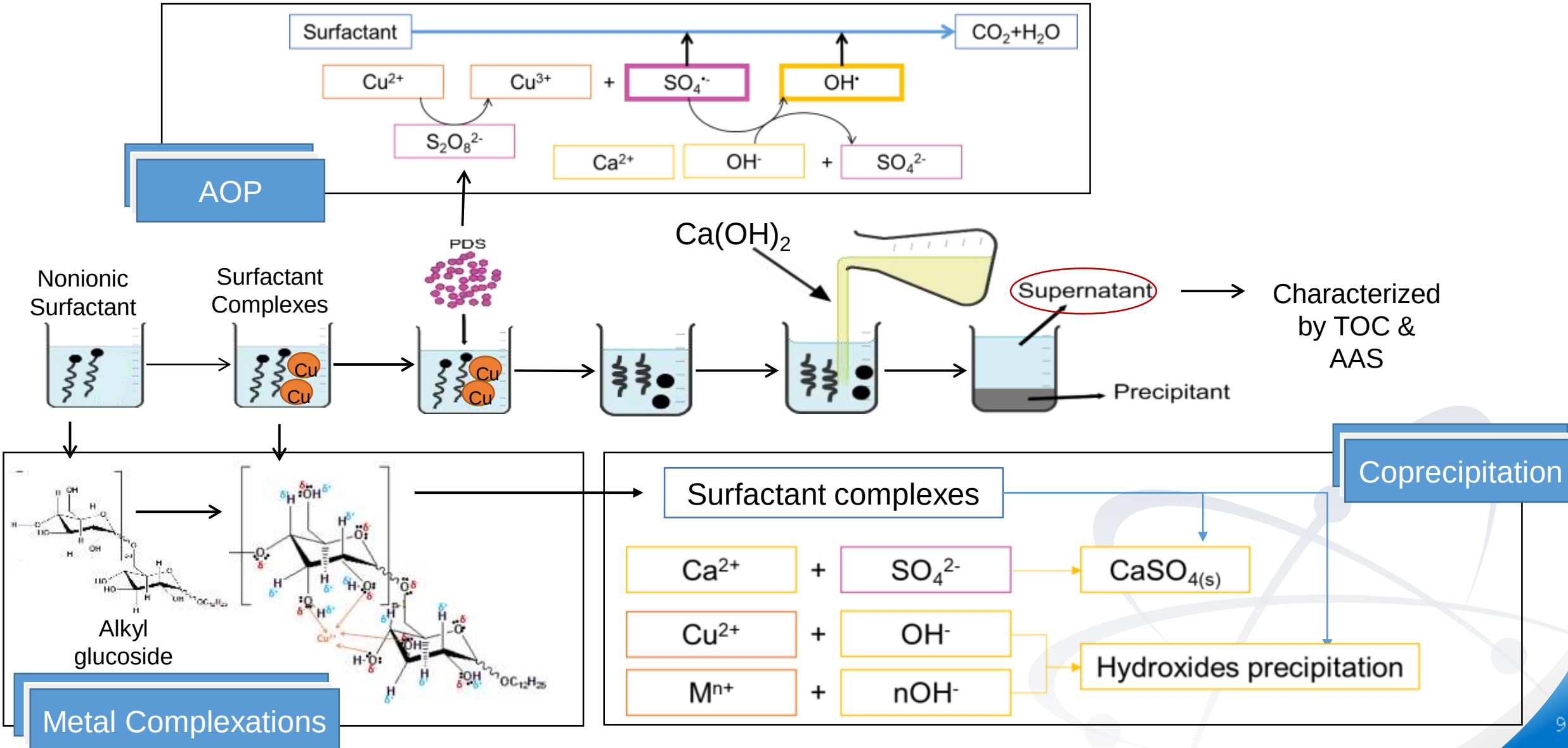


02

EXPERIMENT



Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute





03

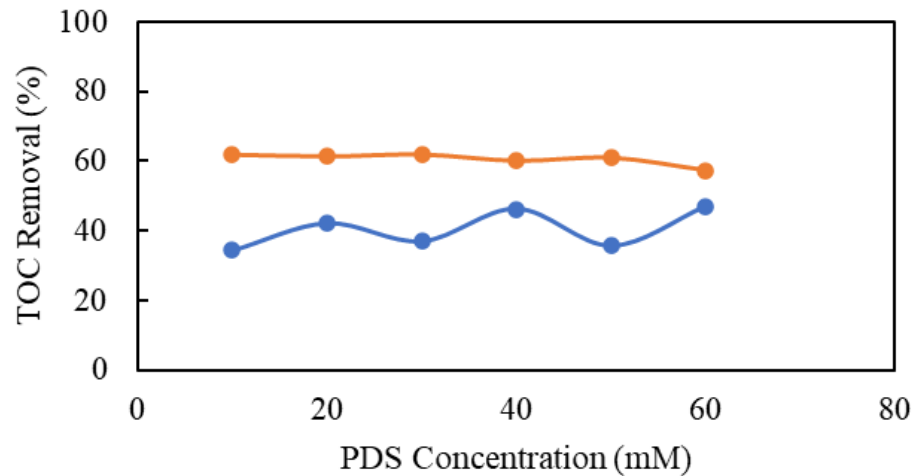
RESULTS



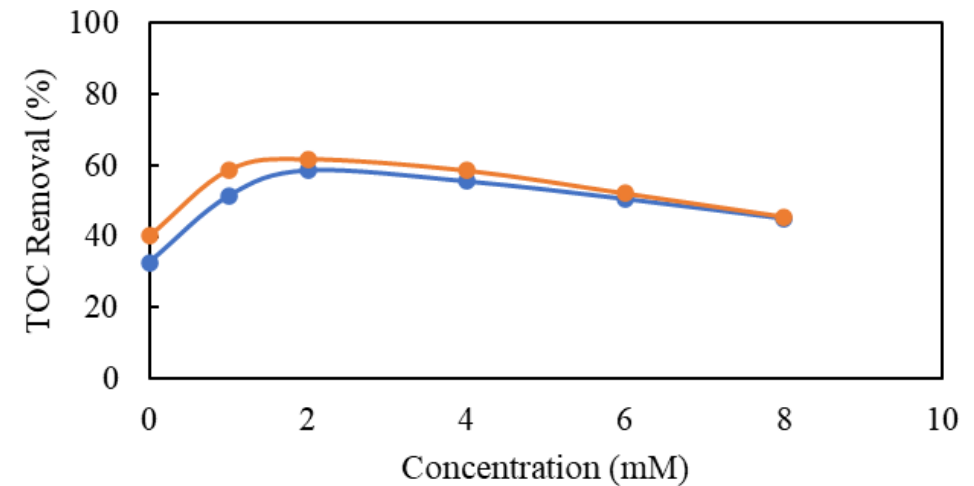
Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute

Effects of Cu^{2+} and PDS concentration

- The TOC removal of samples fluctuated around 30-45% in varied PDS concentration. After filtration, the TOC removal became higher or 57-63%.
- For the Cu experiments, the TOC removal increased sharply up to 2 mM Cu.



● Non-filtered ● Filtered by 0.45 μm syringe filter

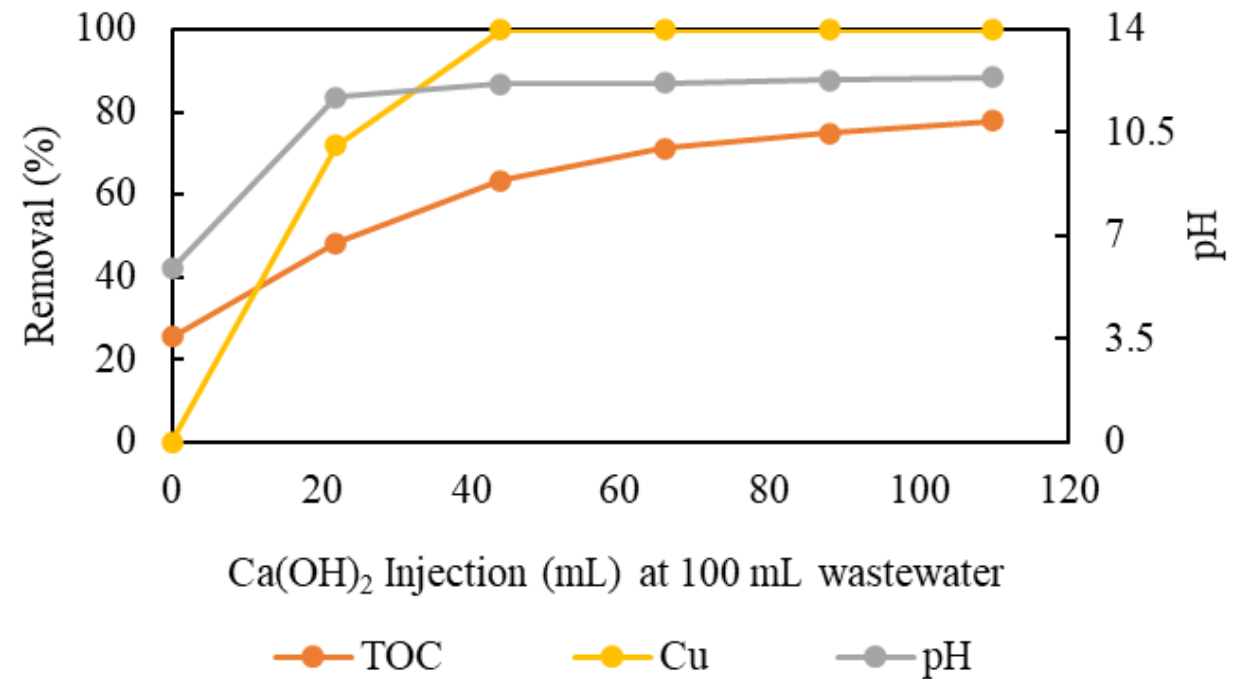


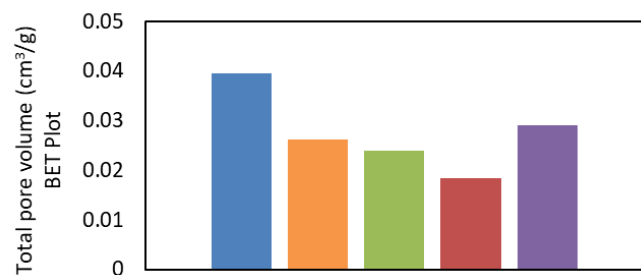
● Non-filtered ● Filtered by 0.45 μm syringe filter

03

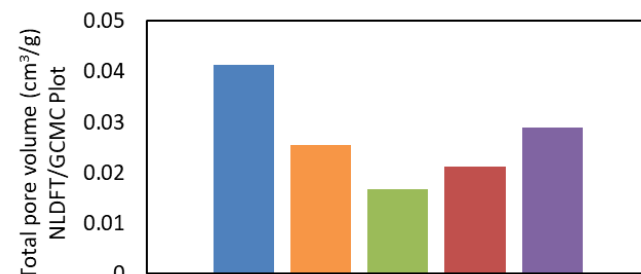
Effects of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ Injection

- As the volume injection of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ increased, the TOC removal also increased.
- Cu was almost completely removed at 44 mL $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ earlier than TOC.
- The dominant reaction that control the overall methods is precipitation.

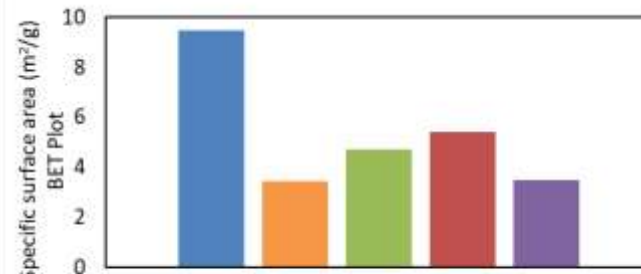


Ca(OH)₂ (mL) at 100 mL

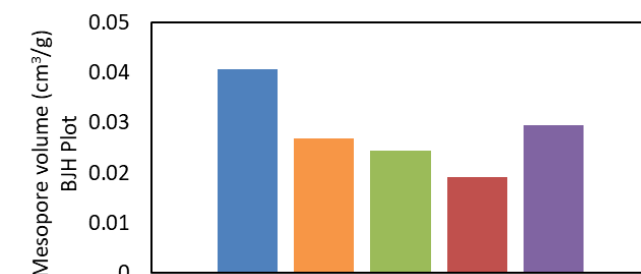
■ 22 ■ 44 ■ 66 ■ 88 ■ 110

Ca(OH)₂ (mL) at 100 mL

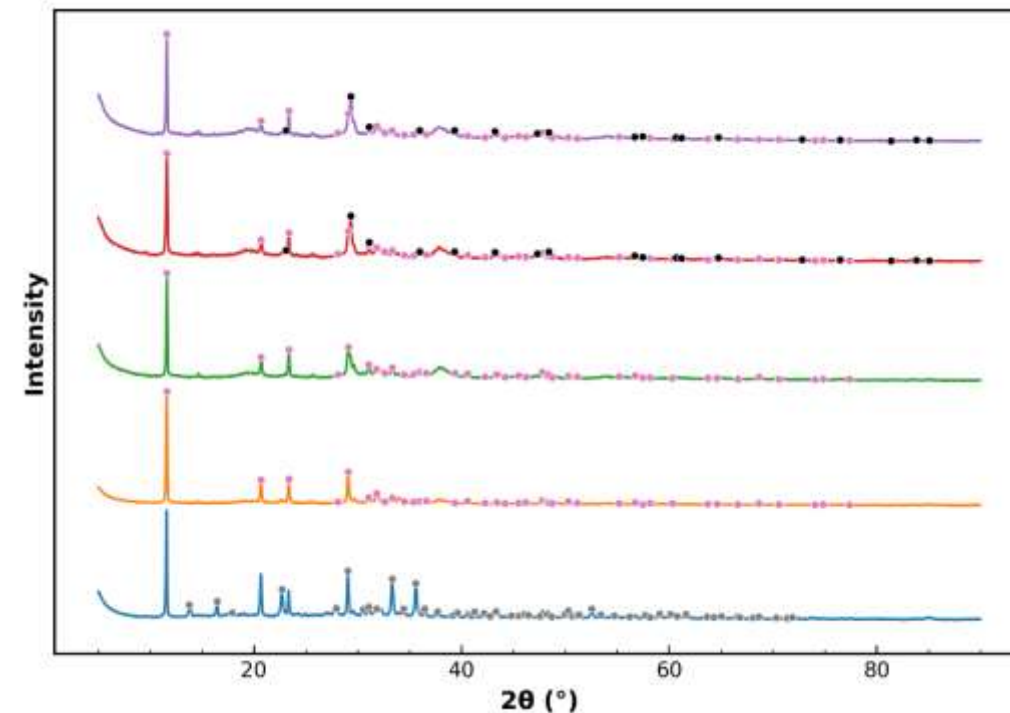
■ 22 ■ 44 ■ 66 ■ 88 ■ 110

Ca(OH)₂ (mL) at 100 mL

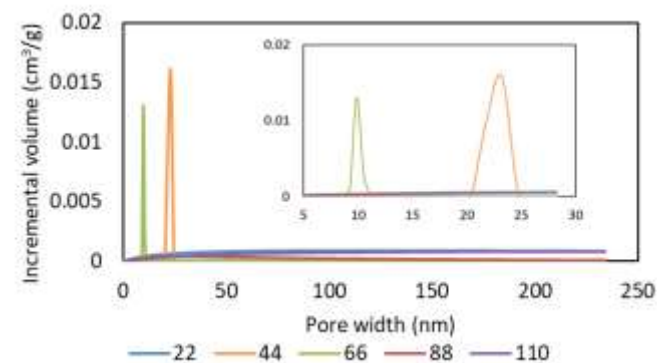
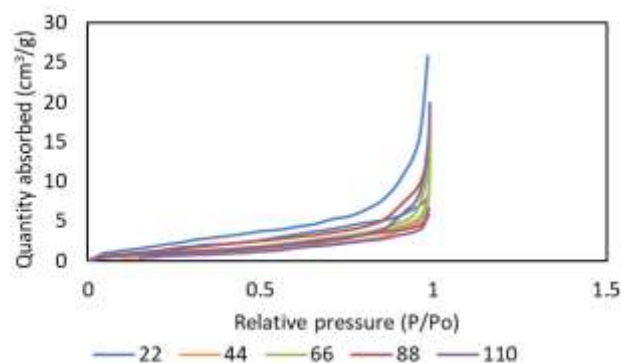
■ 22 ■ 44 ■ 66 ■ 88 ■ 110

Ca(OH)₂ (mL) at 100 mL

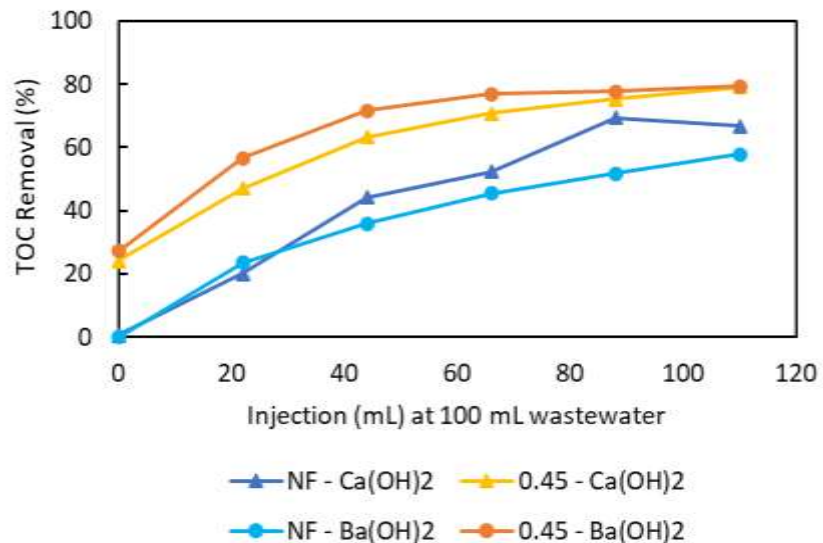
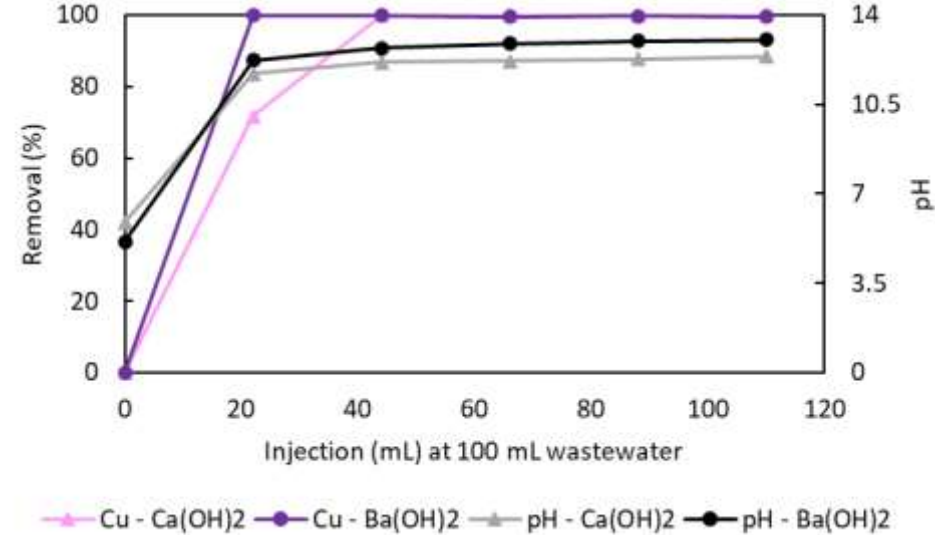
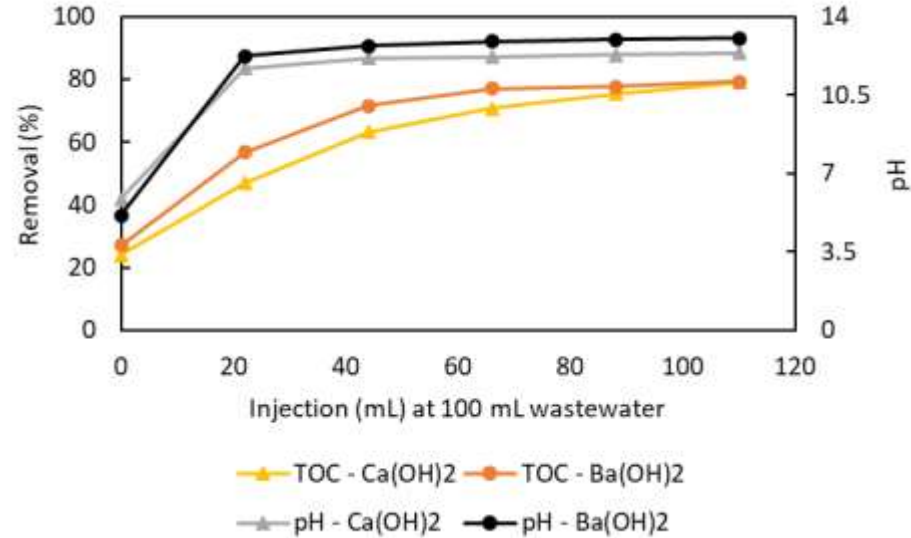
■ 22 ■ 44 ■ 66 ■ 88 ■ 110



— 110 — 88 — 66
— 44 — 22
● CaCO₃ ● CaSO₄ ● CuSO₄

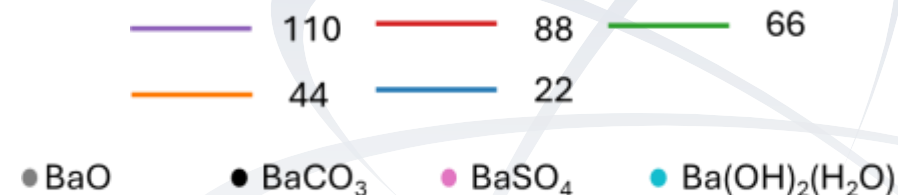
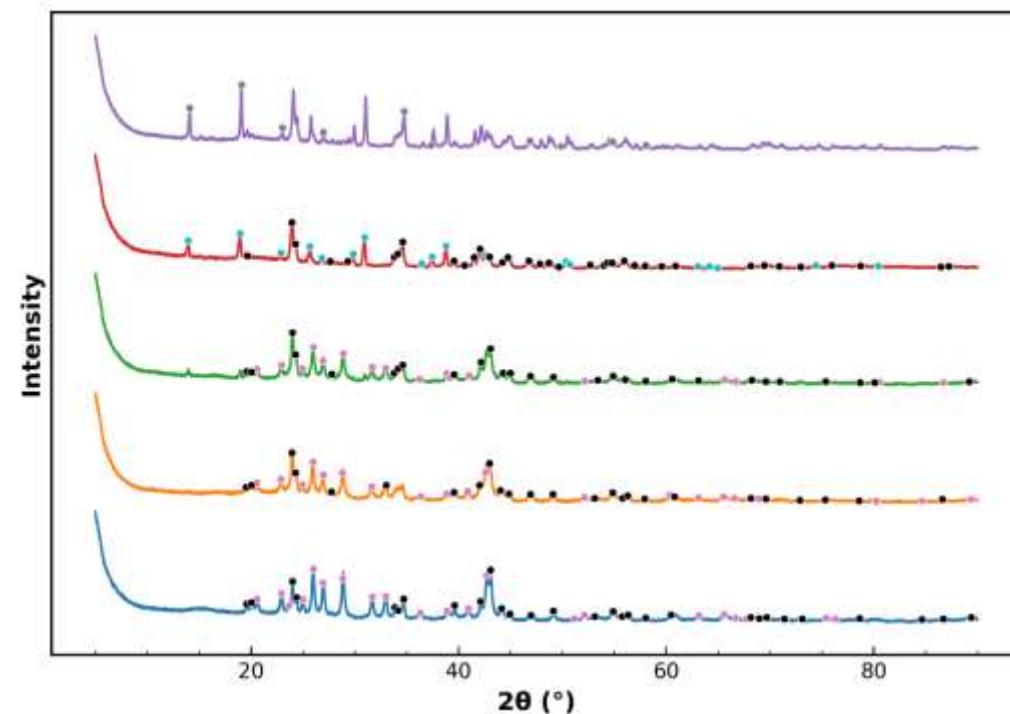
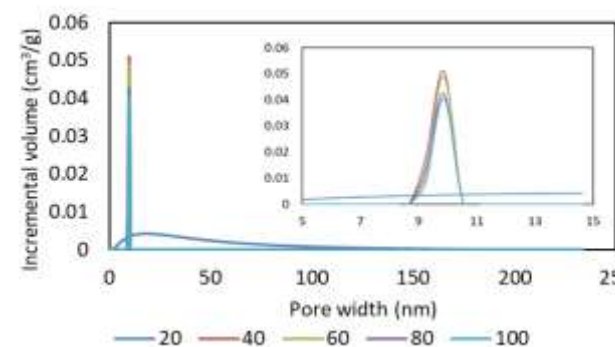
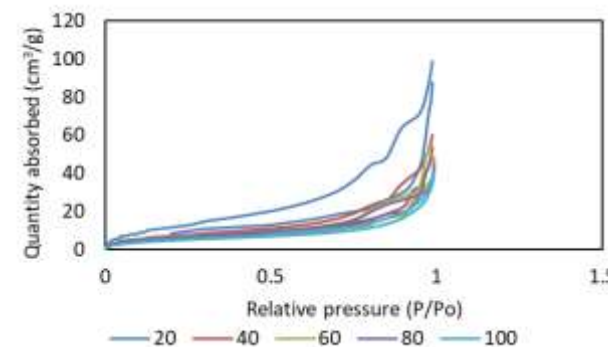
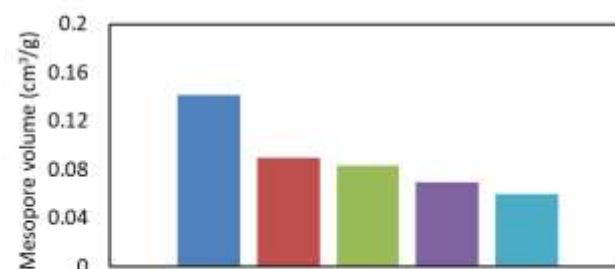
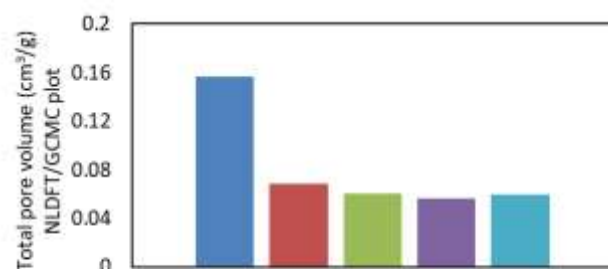
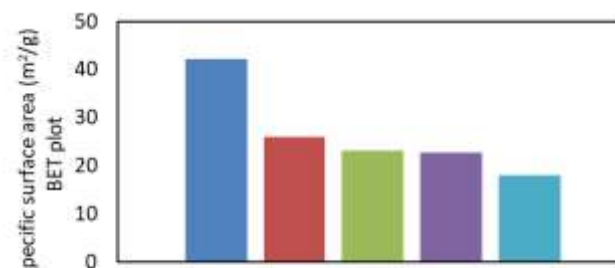
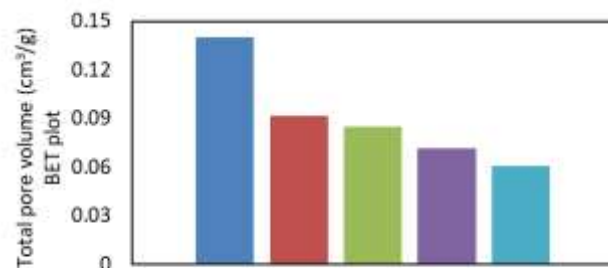


Comparison with $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ Performance



- TOC removal of $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ was slightly higher $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$.
- Cu removal was almost complete with $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ already at 20–40 mL

Comparison with $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ Characterization





04

CONCLUSION



Korea Atomic Energy
Research Institute

Conclusion

- In this study, the pretreatment effect combining a precipitation using $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ and AOP was investigated.
- The **surfactant decomposition** by the catalyst-persulfate and its removal through **calcium-surfactant precipitation** occurred simultaneously upon $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ injection.
- **The highest TOC removal efficiency was 78%** by injecting 2 mM of Cu^{2+} , 10 mM of PDS, and 110 mL of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$. This result can be achieved within 0-minute sedimentation time. So, the total reaction time for this process is 10 minutes.
- Based on these findings, the recommended method can be one of **the capable candidates** of laundry wastewater treatment in industrial scale. However, still there is the necessity to evaluate this optimum condition in other surfactant types and concentrations and also in actual laundry wastewater.

Future Plan

- Although radionuclides were not specifically targeted, in the next experiment Cs and Co will be incorporated in the simulated wastewater.
- Apply plasma treatment to the separated sludge to reduce volume and improve stability to verify compliance with disposal standards.

Pretreatment System For Removing Surfactant

THANK YOU



References

- [1] J.-K. Park, S.-M. Park, J.-B. Kim, M.-C. Lee, and M.-J. Song, "Radioactive Laundry Waste Treatment System Without Secondary Waste Generation," Mar. 2000.
- [2] Y. Karlin, D. Gorbachev, A. Volkov, and A. Barinov, "Advantageous Technology For Treatment Of Laundry Waters," Feb. 2001.
- [3] M. Kikuchi, H. Sugimoto, H. Yusa, and K. Ebara, "Development of a laundry waste treatment system," Apr. 1977.
- [4] X. Fang, Z. Xu, Y. Luo, L. Ren, and W. Hua, "Removal of radionuclides from laundry wastewater containing organics and suspended solids using inorganic ion exchanger," 2016.
- [5] Y. Park, Y.-C. Lee, W. S. Shin, and S.-J. Choi, "Removal of cobalt, strontium, and cesium from radioactive laundry wastewater by ammonium molybdophosphate-polyacrylonitrile (AMP-PAN)," Jun. 2010.
- [6] G. Yong *et al.*, "Treatment of the wastewater containing low-level ^{241}Am using flocculation-microfiltration process," *Separation and Purification Technology*, vol. 40, no. 2, pp. 183–189, Dec. 2004, doi: 10.1016/j.seppur.2004.02.009.
- [7] Y. I. Slepokon, V. V. Milyutin, E. Kozlitin, and V. M. Gelis, "Application of the Sorption-Membrane Technologies for Liquid Radioactive Waste Processing at Kursk NPP."
- [8] Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, "[별표 13] 수질오염물질의 배출허용기준(제34조 관련) [Annex Table 13: Standards for permission of discharge of water pollutants]," Enforcement Rules of the Water Environment Conservation Act, amended Dec. 10, 2021. (PDF).
- [9] Rizvi, M.H. and Abbas, M., "Advances in implementing strategy for management of radioactive waste in Pakistan", in *Radioactive Waste Management: Solutions for a sustainable future, proceedings of an international conference, held in Vienna, Austria, 1-5 November 2021*. Vienna: International Atomic Energy Agency. 2021
- [10] C. Lee, Hak-Hyeon Kim, N.-B. Park, "Chemistry of persulfates for the oxidation of organic contaminants in water," 2018.
- [11] C. Li, V. Goetz, and S. Chiron, "Peroxydisulfate activation process on copper oxide: Cu(III) as the predominant selective intermediate oxidant for phenol and waterborne antibiotics removal," *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*, vol. 9, no. 2, p. 105145, Apr. 2021, doi: 10.1016/j.jece.2021.105145.
- [12] A. Rivonkar *et al.*, "Optimisation of the chemical oxidation reduction decontamination process (CORD) on surrogate stainless steel in regards to its efficiency and secondary wastes," Dec. 2022, doi: 10.3389/fnuen.2022.1080954.