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## STABILITY FACTORS AND CONTROL STRATEGY FOR BIOGAS PRODUCTION FROM SLUDGE

**Yves Lesty<sup>1</sup>, Juan Carlos Ruiz<sup>2</sup>, Elba Vivanco<sup>3</sup>, Paola Poirrier<sup>3</sup>, Rolando Chamy<sup>3\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Aguas Andinas, Av. Presidente Balmaceda, Santiago, Chile*

<sup>2</sup>*EDAS, Planta Farfana, Santiago, Chile.*

<sup>3</sup>*School of Biochemical Engineering*

*Faculty of Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso  
General Cruz 34, Valparaíso, Chile. [rchamy@ucv.cl](mailto:rchamy@ucv.cl)*

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A method based on measuring substrate depletion rate was developed to evaluate the denitrifying activity of activated sludge in suspension and in biofilm form in anoxic serum flasks. The adapted activated sludge inoculum was grown as biofilm in an anoxic rotating biological contactor (RBC). Acetate was used as external carbon source to obtain a carbon to nitrogen ratio (C/N) of 2. The results showed that the specific activity of cells in biofilm form was higher than in planktonic form. The methodology developed can yield useful predictive information and, if used in conjunction with other monitoring devices, could help in maintaining an overall satisfactory denitrifying performance, which is very important in wastewater treatment systems.

*Key words:* anaerobic process, bacterial population, digestion, treatment plant, substrate

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\* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: [rchamy@ucv.cl](mailto:rchamy@ucv.cl)