Waste water treatment through MWCNTs nanomembranes

Christian Argueta, Jorge Ivan Cifuentes

University of San Carlos of Guatemala, 01012

jicifuentes@ing.usac.edu.gt

Abstract

Nanomembranes were fabricated with MWCNTs and cotton for mesh and fiber support to remove pollutants and meet the World Health Organization, (WHO) parameters for drinking water. After the nanofiltration process the following results were obtained: Escheria Coli was reduced from 6.8 per 100 ml to 2.0 for 100 ml, Turbidity obtained after nanofiltration is from 4.04 to 0.23; Magnesium content was reduced from 93.14 mg/l to 13.62 mg/l, total hardness was reduced from 450 mg/l to 132 mg/l, the color from 58 units to 1.0 units, Ph from 6.87 to 6.44. The results show that the quality of water can be improved utilizing multi walled carbon nanotubes to meet drinking water requirements. In addition, electric current was used through the membranes to create electro separation of pollutants and let filtrated water to pass. The result also showed after nanofiltration process, water with less pollutants, better color, and less turbidity. This is an approach in the use of nanotechnology for waste water treatment and increase the access to drinking water to more people around the World. This research was performed at School of mechanical engineering and Engineering research center form University of San Carlos of Guatemala.