

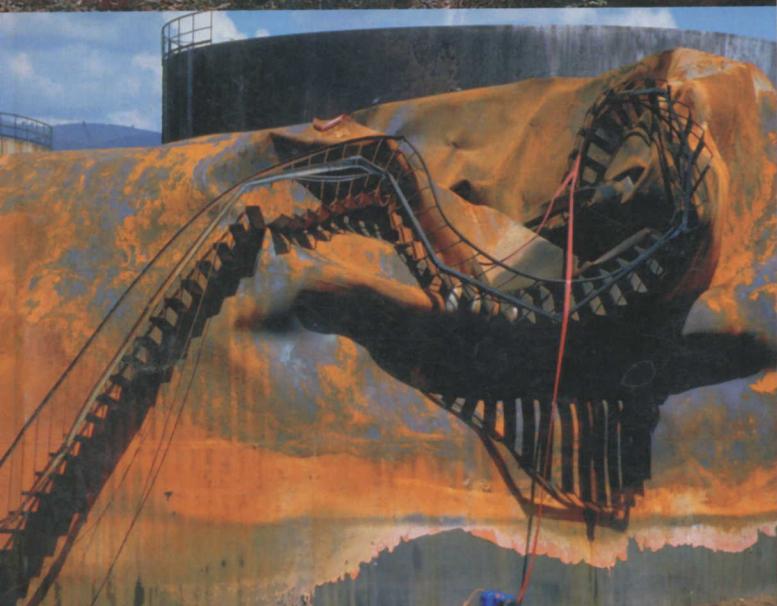
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- S. Fatihah and T. Donnelly 1859-1866

TECHNICAL NOTE

- Jeffrey G. Szabo, Nur Muhammad, 1867-1871  
Benjamin Packard, Greg Meiners,  
Paul Kefauver, and John Hall

Abstract: This study examined the fate of *Bacillus* spores in a drinking water distribution system simulator (DSS). Spores were applied onto heavily corroded iron pipe and PVC pipe suspensions. After 24 h, the spore survival rate was 100% on both surfaces. However, after 1 week, the spore survival rate decreased to 10% on the PVC surface, while it remained at 100% on the iron surface. The difference in survival rates was attributed to the presence of biofilm on the iron surface. The biofilm may have inhibited the growth of *Bacillus* spores. The biofilm, attached to the surface, may have physically been inactivated if free chlorine had been dosed at a higher concentration, if the bulk phase chlorine concentration had been maintained for a longer time or if an alternate disinfectant had been used. *Bacillus* spores' persistence was likely due to chlorine's side products-demanding free chlorine before it could reach the adhered spore. PVC is a smoother surface that statistically would not promote bacterial adhesion or persistence. On a highly corroded iron surface would, but, how irregularities in the DSS or entrapped iron particles on the PVC tubing may have aided in the spore persistence on the PVC. It should also be noted that the fast flow velocity in the loop (0.15 m/s) may have promoted spore adhesion since the flow would likely not sweep attached spores from the surface. However, the fact that spores persisted on both pipe surfaces after decontamination is notable.

**Conclusion**

Bulk phase disappearance suggests that *B. subtilis* spores quickly attached to heavily corroded iron scale in the DSS under low velocity, slow conditions. Pipe surface scannings showed that spores can survive decontamination in some areas of the pipe. These results support previous bench-scale studies in biofilm annular reactors that show that spores persisted for weeks on corroded iron while continuously exposed to free chlorine at 10-75 mg/L (Szabo et al., 2007). Results from this study and past work demonstrate that decontamination or removal methods focused on removing non-indigenous bacterial spores from drinking water infrastructure deserve further study.

**Disclaimer**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency through its Office of Research and Development has neither reviewed nor approved this report. It has been subjected to Agency's administrative review and approved for publication. Note that approval does not preclude that the contents necessarily reflect the views of

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- Spatial distribution of ammonia-oxidizing bacteria in the biofilm and suspended growth biomass of the full- and partial-bed biological aerated filters

NOTE TECHNIQUE

- Bacillus* spore uptake onto heavily corroded iron pipe in a drinking water distribution system simulator

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**Front cover:** *top left*, stepped spillway in operation at Wilde Lake in Columbia, Maryland, on 23 March 2005 after a 1-year storm event (photo courtesy of Christopher Goodell; see Chanson in the August 2007 issue, pp. 946–951); *top right*, aerial photo (taken July 1999) of the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant showing the completed secondary treatment facilities designed to treat wastewater from about one million people, with an average dry weather flow of 480 million litres per day (photo courtesy of Colin Jewall, when under assignment to the Greater Vancouver Regional District); *bottom left*, oil tank damaged due to fire during the Kocaeli, Turkey, earthquake, 17 August 1999 (photo courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Elwood, The University of British Columbia); *bottom right*, diagonally divided concrete cubes placed as an erosion protection at diversion tunnel No. 1 of the Seymareh Dam in Iran (see Emami and Schleiss in the January 2006 issue, pp. 81–92).

**Page couverture :** *gauche supérieure*, passage de la crue dans l'évacuateur de crues en marches d'escalier au Wilde Lake, à Columbia (Maryland), le 23 mars 2005 après un événement pluvio-hydrologique de 1 an (photo courtoisie de Christopher Goodell; voir Chanson, numéro d'août 2007, p. 946–951); *droite supérieure*, photo aérienne (juillet 1999) de la station d'épuration des eaux usées de l'île Annacis qui montre les installations d'épuration secondaire conçues pour traiter les eaux usées d'environ un million de personnes, avec un débit moyen par temps sec de 480 millions de litres par jour (photo courtoisie de Colin Jewall, lors de son affectation au district régional du Grand Vancouver); *gauche inférieure*, réservoir d'huile endommagé par le feu durant le séisme de Kocaeli en Turquie, le 17 août 1999 (photo courtoisie de Kenneth Elwood, The University of British Columbia); *droite inférieure*, cubes de béton séparés en diagonale et utilisés comme mesure de protection contre l'érosion à la sortie de la galerie de dérivation n° 1 du barrage de Seymareh en Iran (voir Emami and Schleiss, numéro de juin 2006, p. 81–92).

