

Flow-Tech was installed at UCSB as an evaluation



The cooling tower is located on the engineering building



400 ton cooling tower



# University of California Santa Barbara: Cooling Tower Water Treatment Test



System: 400 Ton Cooling Tower and Chiller

Installation: January 2014 Duration: One Year

UCSB Issues: Scale, Bacteria, Corrosion, High Energy and Water Consumption

The engineering building cooling tower at the University of California Santa Barbara had substantial scale accumulation due to hard water that averaged over 23 gpg. The insulating scale lead to poor heat transfer and dramatically increased energy consumption. High bacteria counts (~10,000 CFU/mL) caused health concerns for the students, and extremely corrosive water (2.5 Larson-Skold Corrosion Index) aroused concerns about system longevity.

#### **Results:**

**Scale:** Traditional chemical treatment was unable to prevent hard scale from adhering to the tower fill and surfaces throughout the system. During the installation half of the fill was cleaned to show Flow-Tech's ability to prevent and soften existing scale. Flow-Tech prevented new scale from forming and softened existing scale. A garden hose was used to remove remaining scale.



Hard scale located on the cooling tower fill before installation reduced the cooling capacity and life span of the cooling tower.

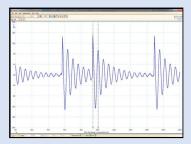


Prior to the Flow-Tech installation, half of the fill was cleaned to show scale prevention and reduction in existing scale.

Flow-Tech's propagating signal provides scale, bacteria, and corrosion control that can be measured throughout the system



Installation required no pipe modifications



Signal propagation throughout the system was measured by an oscilloscope



Eliminated hazardous chemicals, reduced liability, and improved sustainability



# University of California Santa Barbara: **Cooling Tower Water Treatment Test**



No new scale formed on the cleaned section of the cooling tower fill. The existing scale on the top half of the cooling tower fill softened and was easily removed with a garden hose.



Without chemicals Flow-Tech prevented new scale and softened existing scale.



The softened scale was removed from the fill with a garden hose.

#### Bacteria:

Through the use of a rotation of different oxidizing and non-oxidizing biocides, chemical treatment historically kept bacteria counts around 10,000 CFM/mL. By damaging bacteria cell walls and encapsulating the bacteria, Flow-tech was able to stabilize and reduce total bacteria counts by 77% to 2,300 CFU/mL

> SP 14063181:1 Heterotrophic Bacteria Analysis Customer ID: 2-24705

Project Name: UCSB Water Sample

SAMPLE DESC.			UNITS	DATE / TIME	
FSB Tower	SM 9215	2300	CFU/mL	06/03/2014	13:20

Flow-Tech provides a rapid ROI due to improved heat transfer and a reduction in water use, labor, and chemical consumption



Flow-Tech control panel installed at UCSB



Flow-Tech reduced water use



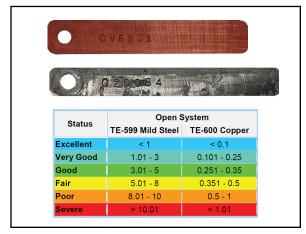
Flow-Tech eliminated chemical discharge into the environment



## University of California Santa Barbara: Cooling Tower Water Treatment Test



**Corrosion:** The Larson-Skold Corrosion Index for the makeup water at UCSB was 2.5, indicating extremely corrosion water. Without chemical assistance, Flow-Tech kept the corrosion rates low in a very harsh environment. Both of the results, 0.2 MPY copper and 2.4 MPY mild steel, are considered "very good".



The copper and mild steel corrosion coupons used in the test proved "very good" corrosion rates

Larson-Skold Index (x)	Description		
x < 0.8	Chlorides and sulfate probably will not		
X 10.0	interfere with natural film formation		
0.8 < x < 1.2	Chlorides and sulfates may interfere with		
0.0 1 % 1.2	natural film formation. Higher than		
	desired corrosion rates anticipated.		
12 <x< td=""><td colspan="2">Tendency towards high corrosion rates of</td></x<>	Tendency towards high corrosion rates of		
1.2 3 //	a local type should be expected as index		
	increases.		

Flow-Tech proved to be very effective even with very corrosive water (2.5)

**Water Savings:** By increasing the cycles of concentration from 2.2 to 3.8, Flow-Tech saved 57% of the blow-down water and 26% of all of the water used in the system - or approximately 3,003,429 gallons. At a rate of \$6.53 per HCF for portable water and \$3.26 per HCF for sewer, the university would save approximately \$26,220 and \$13,095 respectively each year.

In most cooling tower installations, Flow-Tech saves millions of gallons of water each year



Flow-Tech provided an environmentally friendly solution



Flow-Tech was tuned onsite to ensure signal propagation and provide optimal results



Flow-Tech removed all biofilm from the system (biofilm is 4x more insulating than scale)



## University of California Santa Barbara: Cooling Tower Water Treatment Test



**Energy Savings:** By softening and removing existing scale and preventing new scale formation, the cooling tower and chiller were able to operate according to their original design. Energy consumption was reduced by approximately 27% which translated to an energy savings of approximately \$55,866/year.

**Other Savings:** By preventing scale accumulation on the cooling tower fill, the labor and costs associated with frequent cleaning and descaling were eliminated.

Analyte	Method	Result	Units
Spec Conduct / E.C. (Field)	Field	930	umhos/cm
pH (Field)	Field	7.4	pH Units
<b>General Chemical Analyses</b>			
Alkalinity, Total (as CaCO3)	SM 2320 B	170	mg/L
Bicarbonate (HCO3)	SM 2320 B	210	mg/L
Carbonate (CO3)	SM 2320B	ND	mg/L
Chloride (Cl)	EPA 300.0	25	mg/L
Hardness, Total (as CaCO3)	Calculated	390	mg/L
Hydroxide (OH)	SM 2320B	ND	mg/L
Phosphorus (Total as PO4)	HACH 8190	0.31	mg/L
Sulfate (SO4)	EPA 300.0	300	mg/L
Metals			
Calcium (Ca)	EPA 200.7	78	mg/L
Magnesium (Mg)	EPA 200.7	47	mg/L
Silica (SiO2)	EPA 200.7	12	mg/L

Water Analysis 5/9/2014

#### **Summary:**

Over the course of the one year study, the University of California Santa Barbara was able to document Flow-Tech's ability to prevent scale in hard water both on the cooling tower and in the chiller tubes, reduce bacteria counts to low levels, manage corrosive make up water, eliminate chemicals in the blowdown, save water, increase heat transfer efficiency, reduce liability from storing chemicals on the roof of the engineering building, prolong the life of the cooling equipment, and reduce labor to clean the system.

Flow-Tech stablized and reduced total bacteria counts by 77% and provided a safer environment for students