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Drinking Water Engineering and Science Discussions

Interactive comment on "Removal of radio N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) from drinking water by coagulation and Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) adsorption" *by* J. Chung et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The study by Chung et al. investigated the removal of NDMA by PAC, coagulation, and biosorption. For this study, a radio-labeled NDMA was used at a very low initial concentration. I found that this study has provided very careful/detailed NDMA determination procedures by using a liquid scintillation counter. This information is useful for other researchers who will use radio-labeled compounds, since many researchers often follow previous detection methods without developing their own detection procedures in radio-labeled compound use. In addition, their findings are quite interesting, especially with PAC although the NDMA removal is not significant as expected due to its low hydrophobicity. I believe that the results are still valid in NDMA water treatment, since not many previous studies have been conducted for NDMA removal by

coagulation, PAC, and biosorption, especially at very low concentrations ($\sim$ ng/L). This manuscript can be published with a few minor revisions: 1. Abstract: Authors have focused on NDMA detection method development with a relatively small portion of NDMA removal. Abstract can be stronger by expanding NDMA removal part. 2. Conclusion: 'Although insignificant NDMA removal results were obtained in this study, these results verify . . .. . . NDMA even at an extremely . . .' does make sense. This sentence needs be rewritten. 3. Figure 7: I see this figure is not consistent with the others based on its font and font size. Make all consistent. 4. This manuscript can be improved by English speakers' review – strongly recommended.

Interactive comment on Drink. Water Eng. Sci. Discuss., 2, 79, 2009.