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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

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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.