

1 **Online monitoring of *N*-nitrosodimethylamine rejection as a performance**  
2 **indicator of trace organic chemical removal by reverse osmosis**

3 Revised manuscript submitted to

4 **Chemosphere**

5 February 2018

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 The security of recycled water quality in potable reuse can be enhanced by improving the  
18 credibility of reverse osmosis (RO) treatment for the removal of trace organic chemicals  
19 (TOrcs). This study evaluated the potential of online monitoring of *N*-nitrosodimethylamine  
20 (NDMA) before and after RO treatment as a surrogate indicator for TOrc removal by RO.  
21 This pilot-scale study monitored NDMA concentrations in RO feedwater (ultrafiltration-  
22 treated wastewater) and RO permeate every 22 min using novel online NDMA analyzers—  
23 high-performance liquid chromatography followed by photochemical reaction and  
24 chemiluminescence detection. NDMA rejection by RO varied considerably in response to  
25 changes in operating conditions (permeate flux and feedwater temperature). A high linear  
26 correlation between NDMA rejection and the rejection of six other TOrcs was observed. The  
27 linear correlation was also identified for an RO membrane damaged with chlorine. The  
28 correlation between another potential surrogate indicator (conductivity rejection) and TOrc  
29 rejection was relatively low. NDMA, which is the smallest compound among regulated  
30 TOrcs, revealed rejections lower than the other TOrcs, indicating that NDMA rejection can  
31 be a conservative surrogate indicator capable of predicting changes in TOrc removal.

32 **Keywords:** *N*-nitrosodimethylamine; *N*-nitrosamines; potable reuse; reverse osmosis;  
33 surrogate indicator

## 34 1 INTRODUCTION

35 Potable water reuse (PR) has been increasingly important in many parts of the world as an  
36 attractive strategy to augment drinking water supplies. PR is typically performed by  
37 replenishing the drinking water sources (e.g. dams and aquifers) with recycled water that  
38 exceeds drinking water standards. This approach is referred as indirect PR. Direct PR, which  
39 transfers recycled water directly to a drinking water treatment plant, is also being considered  
40 as a feasible option, but it requires more stringent monitoring of water quality (Leverenz et al.,  
41 2011; Arnold et al., 2012; CSWRCB, 2016). In particular, pathogens and trace organic  
42 chemicals (TOrcs) (e.g. pharmaceuticals, personal care products, steroid hormones,  
43 pesticides, and disinfection by-products) that are ubiquitously present in wastewater are of  
44 great importance due to their adverse consequences for human health.

45 In typical PR, the removal of TOrcs below their regulated limits is achieved through an  
46 advanced water treatment process typically comprised of reverse osmosis (RO) treatment and  
47 an advanced oxidation process (AOP) such as ultraviolet (UV) irradiation with hydrogen  
48 peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (Poussade et al., 2009; Drewes and Khan, 2011). Although RO treatment  
49 can sufficiently remove most TOrcs, some low molecular weight TOrcs such as *N*-  
50 nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA, disinfection by-product) (USEPA, 1993) are not well rejected.  
51 Since there is no tool or technology capable of ensuring membrane integrity for the removal  
52 of TOrcs by RO, most of recent PR schemes in the USA and Australia essentially rely on  
53 AOP-based post treatment for their removal. In contrast to RO, treatment performance of  
54 AOP for TOrc removal can be ensured through the online monitoring of UV power input,  
55 UV transmittance, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dose (Plumlee et al., 2008). This indicates that only a single  
56 reliable barrier for TOrc removal is in place in PR.

57 A provision for the credible removal of TOrC by RO treatment can enhance the security of  
58 recycled water quality. The analysis of TOrCs requires laboratory testing with labor intensive  
59 pretreatment such as solid or liquid phase extraction and sophisticated analytical instrument  
60 (e.g. gas chromatography and mass spectrometry) (Munch and Bassett, 2004). More  
61 importantly, their occurrence could be site specific and they could often be detected at very  
62 low concentrations in RO feed. In contrast, NDMA is commonly identified at concentrations  
63 higher than 10–30 ng/L in RO feed due to its ubiquitous presence in raw wastewater (Fujioka  
64 et al., 2012a). NDMA is also formed through the chloramination process intended for  
65 mitigation of RO biofouling, increasing NDMA concentration prior to any RO process  
66 (Krauss et al., 2009; Farré et al., 2011; Shah and Mitch, 2012; Krasner et al., 2013). Thus,  
67 NDMA removal by RO could potentially be used as a surrogate indicator for TOrC removal.

68 A recent work by the authors (Fujioka et al., 2017) demonstrated the ability of online  
69 monitoring of NDMA in RO permeate using a newly developed NDMA analyzer—high-  
70 performance liquid chromatography followed by photochemical reaction and  
71 chemiluminescence detection (HPLC-PR-CL). Monitoring NDMA concentrations in RO  
72 permeate online allows for improved early warning of NDMA spikes, which could exceed  
73 regulatory limits (e.g. 10 ng/L California regulatory notification level) in the final product  
74 water (CDPH, 2015). In addition, the adaptation of this technique to both RO feedwater and  
75 RO permeate can provide an online rejection data, which can be utilized as a surrogate  
76 indicator for TOrC removal.

77 The primary objective of this study was to examine the applicability of online-monitored  
78 NDMA rejection as a surrogate indicator of TOrC removal by RO treatment at the pilot scale.  
79 Correlation of rejection between NDMA and representative TOrCs was evaluated through

80 monitoring NDMA concentrations every 22 min before and after RO treatment using  
81 untreated and chlorine-treated RO membrane elements.

## 82 **2 MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 83 **2.1 Chemicals**

84 All chemicals used in this study (**Table 1**) were of analytical grade. Four *N*-nitrosamines—  
85 NDMA, *N*-nitrosomethylethylamine (NMEA), *N*-nitrosopyrrolidine (NPYR), *N*-  
86 nitrosomorpholine (NMOR)—were purchased from Ultra Scientific (Kingstown, RI, USA).  
87 A stock solution of *N*-nitrosamines was prepared at 1 mg/L in pure methanol. The other  
88 chemicals selected as TOrCs were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries (Osaka,  
89 Japan). A stock solution with a concentration of 1 mg/L of each chemical was prepared in  
90 pure methanol. TOrCs were categorized as neutral (ionised by  $\leq 50\%$ ) and charged (ionised  
91 by  $> 50\%$ ) (**Table S1**). All chemicals used here can be classified as hydrophilic TOrCs ( $\text{Log}D$   
92 =  $< 2.0$ ) (Bellona et al., 2004; Van der Bruggen et al., 2006) except for carbamazepine; thus,  
93 the impact of adsorption on the rejection of most of the TOrCs was expected to be negligible.  
94 Ultrafiltration (UF)-treated wastewater was obtained by filtering an activated sludge effluent  
95 from a municipal treatment plant in Japan. Total organic carbon (TOC), electrical  
96 conductivity, and pH of the UF-treated wastewater were 6.5 mg/L, 895  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , and 7.0,  
97 respectively.

98

99 **Table 1** – Properties of the selected TOrcs.

Name (charge)	Abbreviation	Formula	Molecular weight (Da)	Log $D$ at pH 7
Uncharged at pH 7				
<i>N</i> -nitrosodimethylamine	NDMA	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	74.1	0.04
<i>N</i> -nitrosomethylethylamine	NMEA	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	88.1	0.40
<i>N</i> -nitrosopyrrolidine	NPYR	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	100.1	0.44
<i>N</i> -nitrosomorpholine	NMOR	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	116.1	-0.18
Acetaminophen	ACE	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	151.2	0.91
Caffeine	CAF	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	194.2	-0.55
Carbamazepine	CAR	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	236.3	2.77
Charged at pH 7				
Naproxen (-)	NAP	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	230.3	0.25
Sulfamethoxazole (-)	SUL	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	253.3	0.15
Atenolol (+)	ATE	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	266.3	-2.14
Trimethoprim (+)	TRI	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	290.3	0.92
Diclofenac (-)	DIC	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	296.2	1.34

100 **2.2 Pilot-plant validation test protocol**

101 The validation test was performed using a pilot-scale cross-flow RO treatment system (**Fig.**  
 102 **S2**). The pilot system held a 4-in. spiral wound ESPA2 RO membrane element with a 7.43 m<sup>2</sup>  
 103 effective membrane area (Hydranautics, Oceanside, CA, USA). RO treatment was performed  
 104 using untreated or chlorine (Cl<sub>2</sub>)-treated ESPA2 RO membrane element. The Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated  
 105 ESPA2 RO membrane was prepared by feeding the element a 20 mg/L NaOCl solution at a  
 106 recovery of 25% and feedwater temperature of 15–20 °C for 28 days. RO treatment was  
 107 conducted after spiking *N*-nitrosamines and TOrcs in the UF-treated wastewater at 150–550  
 108 ng/L and 45 µg/L for each chemical, respectively. Rejection of NMEA, NPYR, and NMOR  
 109 by RO membranes is typically higher than NDMA due to their larger size in molecular  
 110 dimension; thus, the three *N*-nitrosamines were dosed at high target concentrations (550 and  
 111 200 ng/L for the untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated RO membranes, respectively) to identify a  
 112 measurable concentration in the RO permeate. Unless otherwise stated, the RO system was  
 113 operated under standard conditions (permeate flux = 20 L/m<sup>2</sup>h, feed solution temperature =  
 114 15 °C and system recovery = 15%) for 21 h. *N*-nitrosamine concentrations in RO feedwater  
 115 and permeate were monitored by drawing samples from the pilot system into the online

116 NDMA analyzers. The analysis of the TOrCs was conducted by collecting 250 mL grab  
117 samples from the RO feedwater and 500 mL from the RO permeate.

### 118 **2.3 Analytical techniques**

119 Concentrations of *N*-nitrosamines in RO feedwater and permeate were determined by high-  
120 performance liquid chromatography-photochemical reaction-chemiluminescence (HPLC-PR-  
121 CL) analyzers (Fujioka et al., 2016; Kodamatani et al., 2016) equipped with a six-port valve  
122 (**Fig. S3**) (Fujioka et al., 2017). Sample volumes of 20  $\mu$ L (RO feedwater) and 200  $\mu$ L (RO  
123 permeate) were injected into the HPLC-PR-CL every 22 min. Conductivity and temperature  
124 of RO feedwater and permeate were also monitored using conductivity meters (Orion Star™  
125 A325, Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA). Concentrations of TOrCs in RO feedwater and  
126 permeate were determined using an ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC)  
127 equipped with an atmospheric pressure ionization (API) tandem mass spectrometer. The  
128 analytical system comprised of ACQUITY UPLC system and Quattro micro API mass  
129 spectrometer (Waters, MA, USA) (Narumiya et al., 2013).

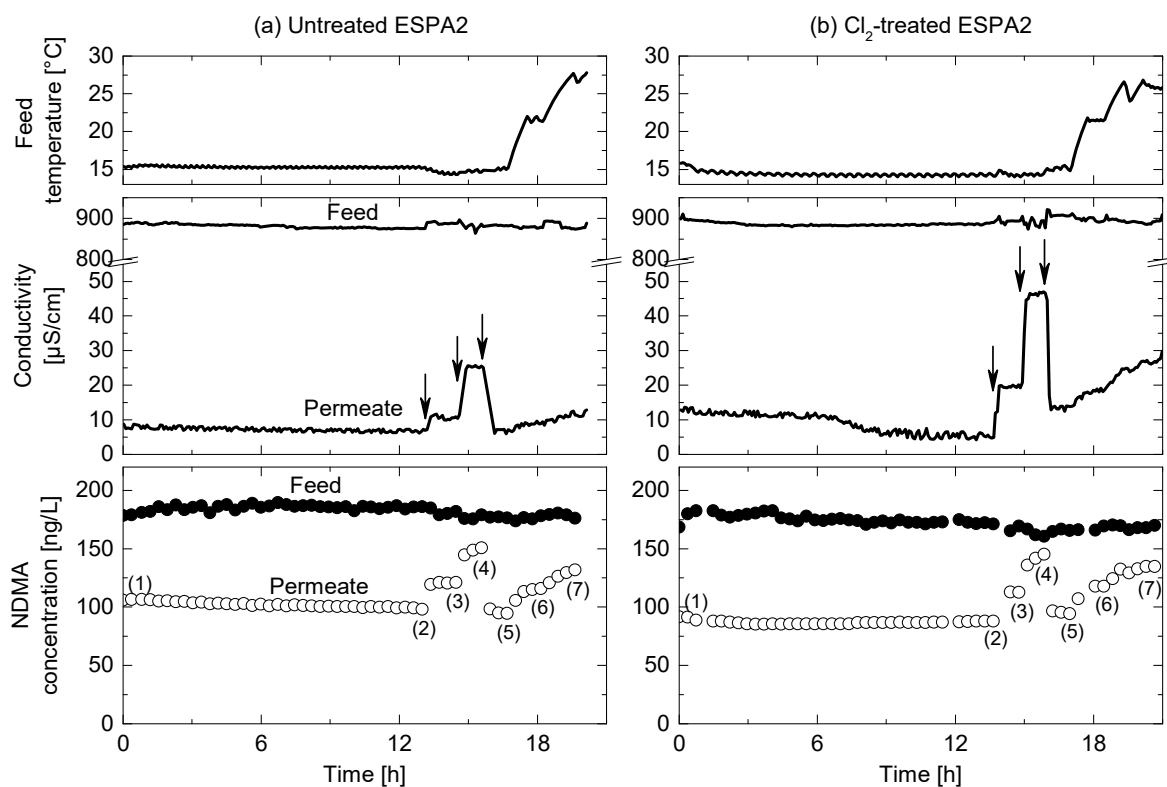
## 130 **3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### 131 **3.1 Online analysis of *N*-nitrosamines**

132 Monitoring *N*-nitrosamine concentrations in RO feedwater and RO permeate were performed  
133 using two online HPLC-PR-CL analyzers during RO treatment of a UF-treated wastewater.  
134 The concentration of *N*-nitrosamines in the RO feedwater showed a gradual decrease possibly  
135 due to their sorption to the components of the pilot-scale RO system (e.g. a reservoir, pipes  
136 and RO membrane) (**Fig. 1 and Fig. S4**). During the first 12–13 h filtration under a permeate  
137 flux of 20 L/m<sup>2</sup>h and feed temperature of 20°C, NDMA concentrations in RO permeate  
138 remained almost constant (**Fig. 1a,b**). A stepwise decrease in permeate flux (20, 10 and 5

139 L/m<sup>2</sup>h) at 13–16 h caused a substantial increase in conductivity and *N*-nitrosamine  
140 concentration in the RO permeate (**Fig. 1 and Fig. S4**). In response to the increased RO  
141 feedwater temperature, the NDMA concentration in the permeate also increased, from 99 to  
142 151 ng/L and from 88 to 145 ng/L for untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membranes,  
143 respectively. At 16 h, the permeate flux was reestablished at 20 L/m<sup>2</sup>h and thereafter RO  
144 feedwater temperature was increased from 20 to 27 °C. The increase in RO feedwater  
145 temperature caused an increase in permeate conductivity and *N*-nitrosamine. The NDMA  
146 concentration in RO permeate increased from 94 to 132 ng/L and 95 to 135 ng/L for  
147 untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated RO membranes, respectively. The operating conditions used in this  
148 study led to a wide range of solute permeation with respect to *N*-nitrosamines and  
149 conductivity, which allowed for a systematic examination of the correlation between a  
150 potential surrogate parameter (i.e. conductivity or NDMA rejections) and TOrC rejection in  
151 the following tests. It should be noted that this study used very high NDMA concentrations  
152 (160–190 ng/L) in RO feedwaters. NDMA in RO feedwater is typically identified below 20–  
153 30 ng/L; therefore the high NDMA concentration used here is a limitation of this study when  
154 applying the findings to on-site use.





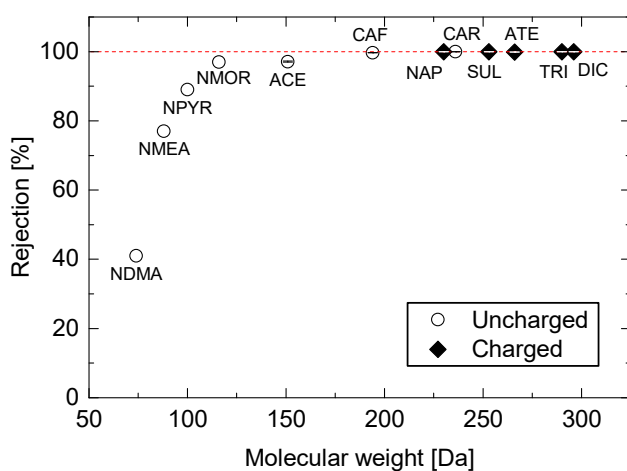
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156 **Fig. 1** – Online analysis of feed temperature, conductivity and NDMA concentration during  
 157 RO treatment of a UF-treated wastewater using (a) untreated and (b) Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO  
 158 membranes. Numbers in bracket indicate grab sampling event number. Arrows indicate the  
 159 time when permeate flux was changed. Permeate flux was 20 L/m<sup>2</sup>h except for 13–16 h (5 or  
 160 10 L/m<sup>2</sup>h).

### 161 **3.2 Rejection of NDMA and other TOrCs**

162 The rejection of TOrCs by the untreated RO membrane increased with increasing molecular  
 163 weight (**Fig. 2**). In particular, *N*-nitrosamines showed a considerable increase in rejection  
 164 according to increase in molecular weight, which was in line with previous laboratory-scale  
 165 studies (Fujioka et al., 2012b; Fujioka et al., 2013). In addition to *N*-nitrosamines,  
 166 acetaminophen, another low molecular weight TOrC, showed a relatively low rejection of  
 167 97.1%. The rejection of the other high molecular weight TOrCs were typically very high  
 168 (>99.7%) throughout the tests (**Tables S5 and S6**). The results suggest that monitoring RO  
 169 membrane integrity for TOrC removal is important for low molecular weight compounds. It

170 has been well demonstrated in the literature that the rejection of ionised chemicals is much  
171 greater than that of non-ionised chemicals similar in molecular size (Bellona et al., 2004;  
172 Verliefde et al., 2008). However, the impact of the electrostatic interactions was not  
173 identified in this study. In addition to *N*-nitrosamines, two small and uncharged TOrCs (i.e.  
174 acetaminophen and caffeine) and one positively charged TOrC (atenolol) were selected for  
175 further evaluation.



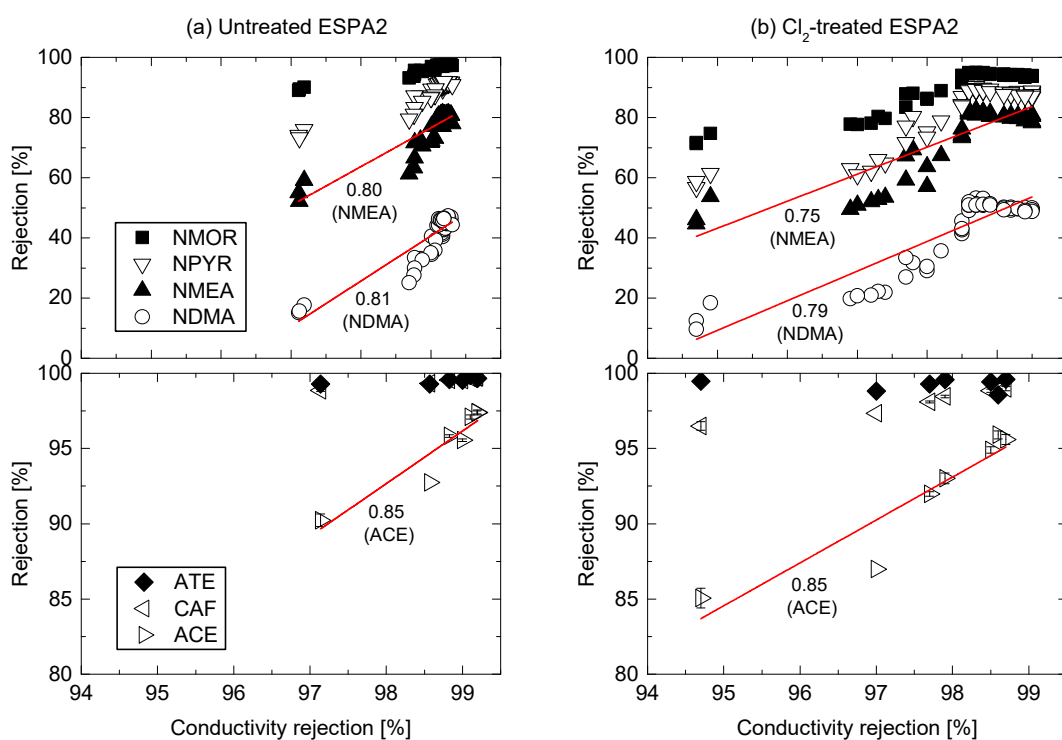
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177 **Fig. 2** – Rejection of TOrCs by untreated ESPA2 RO membrane as a function of their  
178 molecular weight. The data was obtained from the analytical results of the sampling event (1)  
179 in **Fig. 1**. Values reported for TOrCs excluding *N*-nitrosamines are the average and ranges of  
180 triplicate samples.

### 181 **3.3 Surrogate indicator**

182 Conductivity rejection by the untreated RO membrane generally correlated well with TOrC  
183 rejection. For example, R-squared values for the rejection of NDMA, NMEA and  
184 acetaminophen were 0.81, 0.80 and 0.85, respectively (**Fig. 3a**). Likewise, R-squared values  
185 for the rejection of NPYR, NMOR, caffeine and atenolol showed a high correlation in the  
186 range of 0.80–0.98. The correlation was also observed for the Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO  
187 membrane ( $R^2 = 0.79$ – $0.93$ ) with the exception of atenolol ( $R^2 = -0.18$ ) (**Fig. 3b**).  
188 Nevertheless, the feasibility of using conductivity rejection as a surrogate indicator of TOrC

189 rejection still remains questionable. For example, the majority of conductivity measurements  
 190 obtained in this study lie in a very narrow range of 98.7–99.3% and 96.9–99.5% for the  
 191 untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated RO membranes, respectively. In the region of high conductivity  
 192 rejection (98.5–99.5%) by the Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated RO membrane, *N*-nitrosamine rejection did not  
 193 correspond with changes in conductivity rejection. Moreover, conductivity rejection appeared  
 194 to be sensitive to changes in permeate flux, so that a low permeate flux of 5 L/m<sup>2</sup>h resulted in  
 195 a conductivity rejection distinctly lower than the others (97% and 95% for untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-  
 196 treated RO membranes, respectively) despite a minor variation in TORc rejection (**Fig. 3b**).



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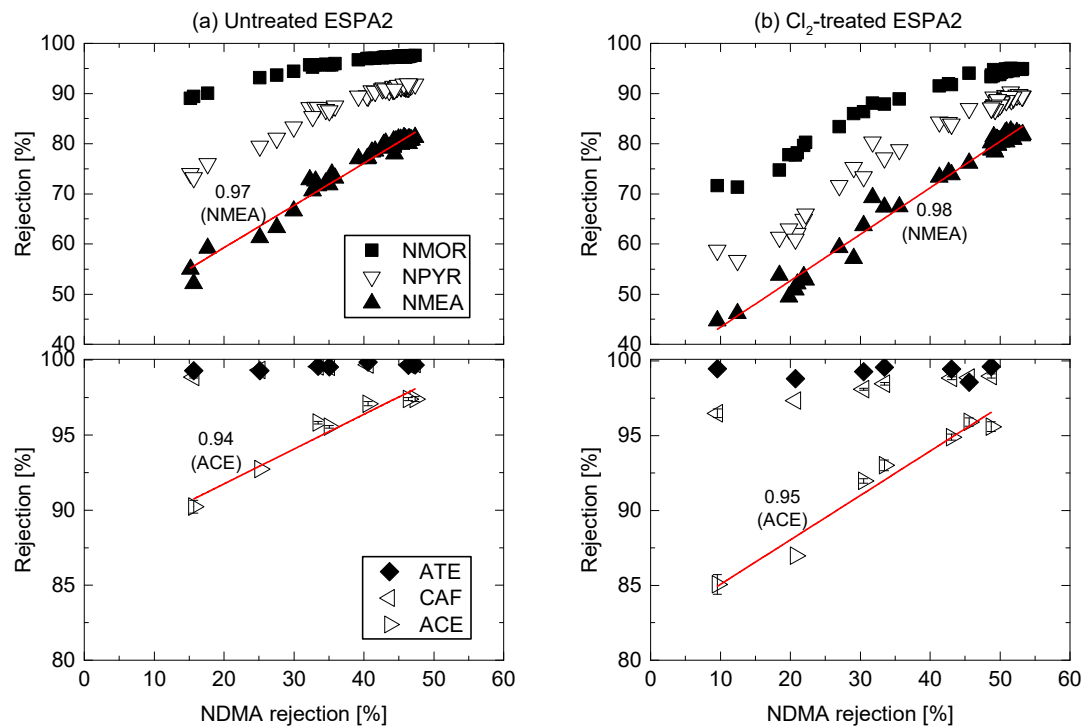
198 **Fig. 3** – The rejection of TORcs as a function of conductivity rejection using (a) untreated  
 199 and (b) Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membranes. R-squared values are only shown for NDMA,  
 200 NMEA and acetaminophen (ACE). Values reported for ATE, CAF and ACE are the average  
 201 and ranges of triplicate samples.

202 Compared with conductivity rejection, a higher linear correlation in rejection was obtained  
 203 between NDMA and TORcs for the untreated RO membrane (e.g.  $R^2 = 0.97$  and  $0.95$  for

204 NMEA and acetaminophen, respectively) (**Fig. 4a**). A high correlation was also identified for  
205 Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membrane (**Fig. 4b**). Because this study used two separate RO  
206 membrane elements (i.e. untreated and Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membranes), whether the  
207 NDMA monitoring approach can be used to track the deterioration in TOrC rejection was not  
208 fully demonstrated. To fully demonstrate the applicability of NDMA monitoring approach,  
209 further evaluation may be necessary by tracking changes in TOrC rejection during  
210 chlorination to the same RO membrane element.

211 Chlorination to polyamide-based RO membranes typically lead to the deterioration in the  
212 rejection of salts and TOrCs including NDMA (Kwon and Leckie, 2006; Simon et al., 2009;  
213 Tin et al., 2017). In this study, the impact of chlorine treatment on TOrC rejection was more  
214 apparent at higher feedwater temperature. At 27 °C, the rejection of NDMA and  
215 acetaminophen by the untreated RO membranes (25% and 93%, respectively) was greater  
216 than that by the Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated RO membrane (21% and 87%, respectively), while at 15 °C the  
217 difference in rejection between these two RO membranes was negligible (**Fig. 4**). A similar  
218 observation was identified for the other TOrCs.

219 The advantage of using NDMA rejection over conductivity rejection is the high sensitivity of  
220 NDMA rejection in response to changes in membrane and system operating conditions.  
221 NDMA is one of the smallest TOrCs that are regulated in PR. This indicates NDMA rejection  
222 could be a conservative surrogate indicator for the rejection of most regulated TOrCs by RO.  
223 Before full-scale implementation, further long-term investigation is necessary to evaluate the  
224 influence of membrane fouling, chemical cleaning, and membrane aging on TOrC and  
225 NDMA rejection.



226

227 **Fig. 4** – The rejection of TOxCs as a function of NDMA rejection using (a) untreated and (b)  
 228 Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membranes. R-squared values are only shown for NMEA and  
 229 acetaminophen (ACE). Values reported for ATE, CAF, and ACE are the average and ranges  
 230 of triplicate samples.

### 231 3.4 Conclusions

232 This pilot-scale study demonstrated online monitoring of NDMA concentrations in RO  
 233 feedwater and RO permeate and identified a high linear correlation between NDMA rejection  
 234 and the rejection of six other TOxCs by RO. The results suggest a potential for online  
 235 monitoring of NDMA rejection as a conservative surrogate indicator of TOxC rejection by  
 236 RO. Although the current integrity management strategy for RO membranes using  
 237 conductivity (or TOC) has been successfully implemented in PR, online monitoring of  
 238 NDMA is more relevant as a surrogate indicator of TOxC removal. However, it should be  
 239 noted that the optimization of water recycling treatment processes and the minimization of  
 240 NDMA formation during water recycling treatment can limit the use of NDMA as a surrogate  
 241 indicator. In spite of this potential limitation in future potable reuse schemes, the suggested

242 monitoring strategy using online NDMA analyzers could enable water utilities to ensure the  
243 safety of recycled water quality with more stringent security management against trace  
244 organic contaminants, which is crucial when shifting PR schemes from indirect PR to direct  
245 PR.

#### 246 **4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

247 The authors acknowledge Hydranautics for providing RO membrane elements. The authors  
248 gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kenneth Ishida and other staff from Orange County Water  
249 District (CA, USA) for their advice.

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**Online monitoring of *N*-nitrosodimethylamine rejection as a performance indicator of trace organic chemical removal by reverse osmosis**

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
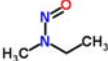


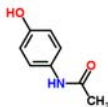


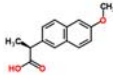
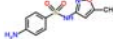
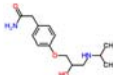
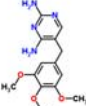

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**Supplementary Material**

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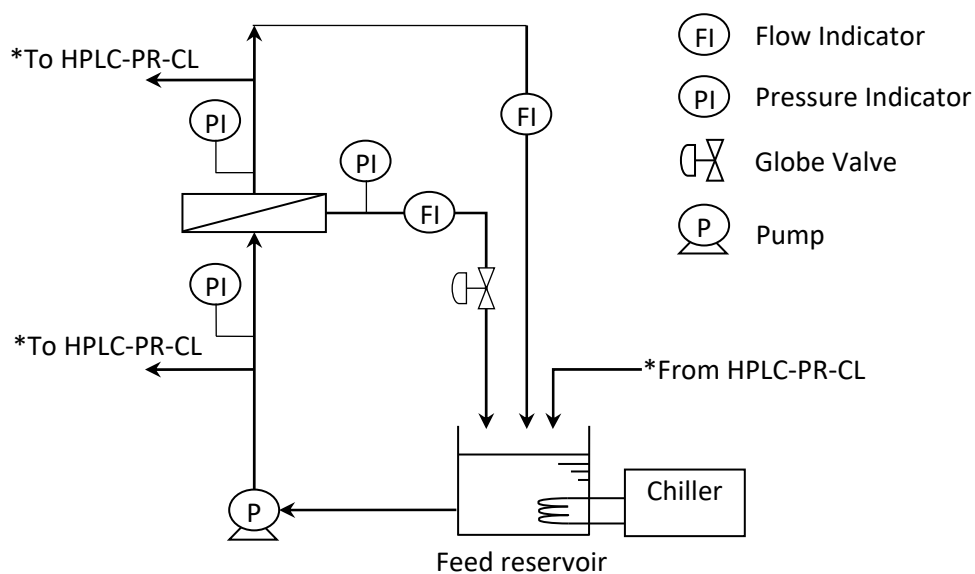
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**Table S1** – Properties of the selected TOrCs.

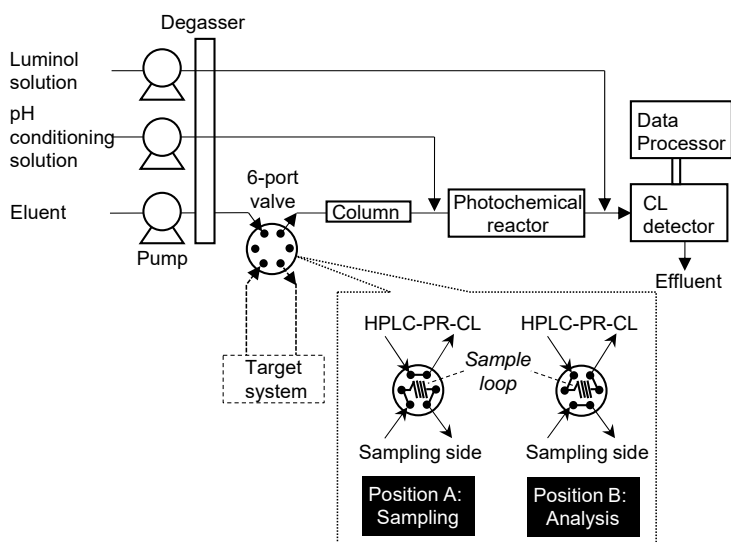
Name	Structure*	pKa*	Charged species at pH 7*	California Code of Regulations **
NDMA		3.5	0	N/A
NMEA		3.4	0	N/A
NPYR		3.3	0	N/A
NMOR		3.3	0	N/A
Acetaminophen		9.46	0	(A) hydroxy Aromatic
Caffeine		-1.16	0	(D) deprotonated Amine
Carbamazepine		15.96	0	(C) nonaromatic C=C
Naproxen		4.19	100	(E) alkoxy polyaromatic
Sulfamethoxazole		1.97, 6.16	87	(B) amino/acylamino aromatic
Atenolol		9.68, 14.07	100	N/A
Trimethoprim		0.1, 7.16	59	(D) deprotonated amine
Diclofenac		4.00	100	N/A

\* Chemicalize (<https://chemicalize.com>)

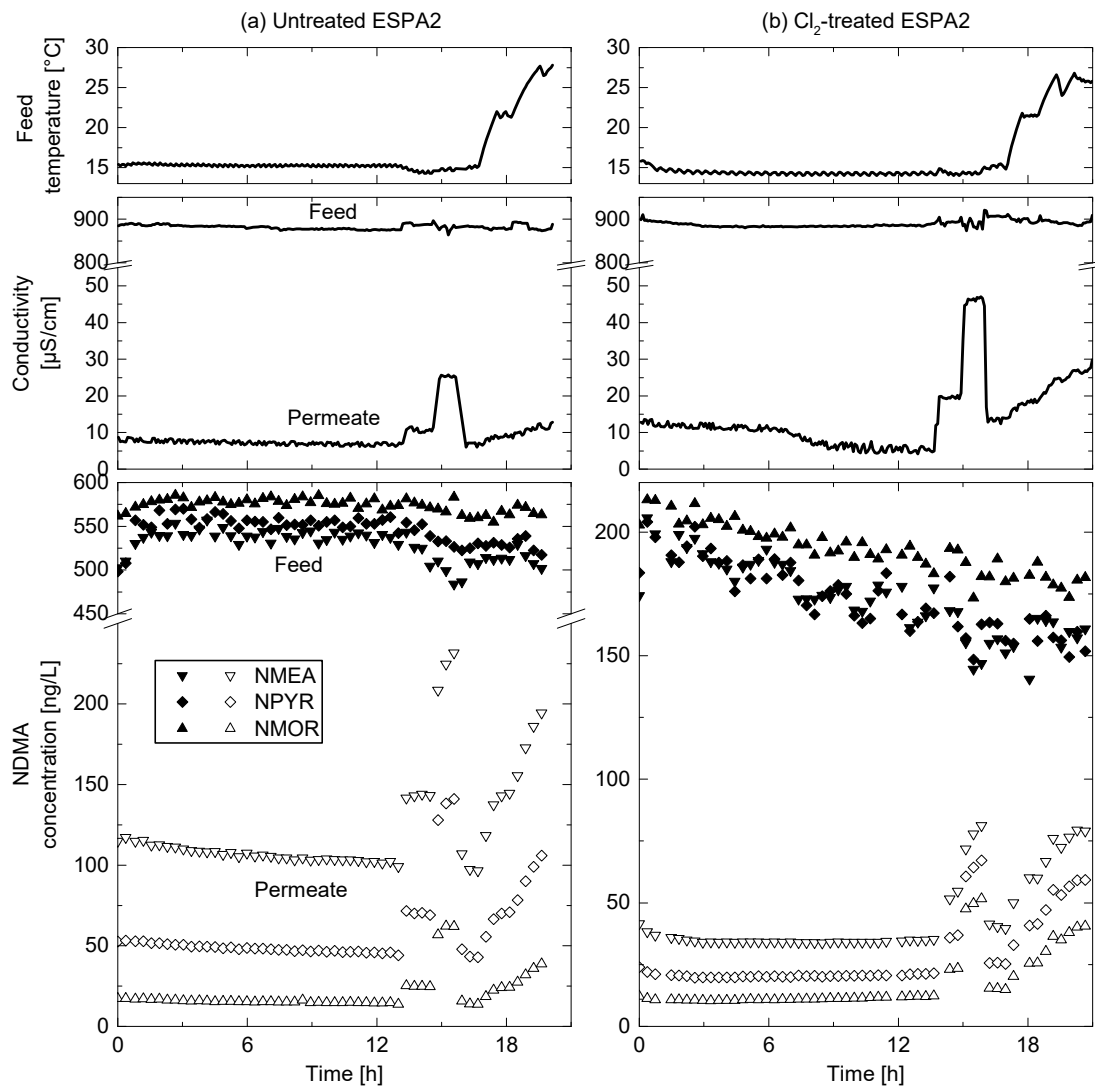
\*\* California Office of Administrative Law (2015) California Code of Regulations, Title 22: Social Security, Division 4: Environmental Health, Chapter 3: Water Recycling Criteria.



**Fig. S2** – Schematic diagram of the pilot-scale RO treatment system. The system comprised of a 4-in. glass-fibre pressure vessel (ROPV, Nangang, China), 65-L stainless steel reservoir, a high-pressure pump (25NED15Z, Nikuni Co., Ltd., Kawasaki, Japan), digital flow meters (FDM, Keyence Co., Osaka, Japan), digital pressure indicators (GPM, Keyence Co., Osaka, Japan), a pressure gauge, stainless steel pipes in the feed stream and PVC pipes and PTFE tubing in the permeate stream). The membrane element was rinsed with pure water to eliminate residual preservatives on the RO element. Feed solution temperature was maintained in the reservoir using a titanium heat exchanging pipe connected to a chiller unit (CA-1116A, Tokyo Rikakikai Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).



**Fig. S3** – Schematic diagram of the online HPLC-PR-CL analyzer with a 6-port valve. The online HPLC-PR-CL monitor was assembled with commercially available components: DGU-20A<sub>3</sub> degasser (Shimadzu), six-port valve (HV-2080-01, JASCO, Tokyo, Japan), valve controller (Nichiri Mfg. Co. Ltd., Chiba, Japan), CTO-20AC column oven (40 °C), InertSustain C18-AQ column (5 μm, 4.6 mm i.d., 250 mm GLsciences, Tokyo, Japan), CL-2027 chemiluminescence detector (JASCO, Tokyo, Japan), and Chromato-PRO data processor (Runtime Instruments, Kanagawa, Japan). In addition, a low-pressure mercury lamp (15 W, CL-15, Panasonic, Tokyo, Japan) was used to construct the photochemical reactor. Eluent solution (10 mM phosphate buffer with 5% methanol) was fed to the instrument in isocratic mode at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The method detection limits (MDLs) were determined based on the Method Detection Limit Procedure of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (40CFR 136, Appendix B, revision 1.11). The MDLs of NDMA, NMEA, NPYR and NMOR for a 200 μL injection volume were 0.3, 0.7, 1.4 and 0.8 ng/L, respectively. The MDLs of NDMA, NMEA, NPYR and NMOR for a 20 μL injection volume were 2.7, 6.3, 7.7 and 11.8 ng/L, respectively.



**Fig. S4** – Online analysis of feed temperature, conductivity and concentrations of NMEA, NPYR and NMOR using (a) untreated and (b) chlorine-treated ESPA2 RO membranes.

**Table S5** – Rejection of TOrCs by the untreated ESPA2 RO membrane. The average rejection was calculated from three RO feed and three RO permeate samples.

Sampling event #		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Operating conditions	Flux (L/m <sup>2</sup> h)	20	20	10	5	20	20	20
	Temperature (°C)	15	15	15	15	15	21	27
TOrCs	Acetaminophen	97.1	97.4	95.8	90.2	97.4	95.6	92.7
	Caffeine	99.7	99.7	99.6	98.9	99.7	99.5	99.3
	Carbamazepine	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
	Naproxen	99.94	99.96	99.94	99.87	99.97	99.96	99.92
	Sulfamethoxazole	99.98	99.94	99.95	99.84	99.93	99.92	99.96
	Atenolol	99.9	99.7	99.6	99.3	99.7	99.5	99.3
	Trimethoprim	99.99	99.6	99.6	99.4	99.5	99.5	99.5
	Diclofenac	99.9	99.8	99.6	99.5	99.8	99.8	99.9

**Table S6** – Rejection of TOrCs by the Cl<sub>2</sub>-treated ESPA2 RO membrane. The average rejection was calculated from three RO feed and three RO permeate samples.

Sampling event #		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Operating conditions	Flux (L/m <sup>2</sup> h)	20	20	10	5	20	20	20
	Temperature (°C)	15	15	15	15	15	21	27
TOrCs	Acetaminophen	95.9	95.6	93.0	85.1	94.9	92.0	97.3
	Caffeine	98.9	99.0	98.5	96.5	98.8	98.1	97.3
	Carbamazepine	99.6	99.5	99.5	99.4	99.4	99.3	99.2
	Naproxen	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.8
	Sulfamethoxazole	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.7	99.9	99.9	99.9
	Atenolol	98.6	99.6	99.6	99.5	99.4	99.3	98.8
	Trimethoprim	99.6	99.2	99.3	99.0	99.2	99.0	99.2
	Diclofenac	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.9