



Aqua Vectors

UPDATE for Northport Harbor Water
Quality Protection Committee
March 23, 2022

Background on Aqua Vectors:

Our Focus
Affordable, Effective NO₃ Removal

What Our System Does
Tertiary Process for Continuous Flow Systems

- Our Goals
- Make 80%+ rate of Nitrate removal cheap:
reduce CapEx 50% and OpEx 75%+
 - Make by-products benign and re-usable.

Our Target Market

WWTPs: 42 (215M GPD) on Long Island
645 (2.8B GPD) in NYS
15,837 (32.3B GPD) in US
SPDES Permits: 2,182 on Long Island alone

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# How It Works

## Multi-Disciplinary Methodology

Electrolytic, Wet & Surface Chemistry

Electrolysis widely used in industry

Drives non-spontaneous reactions

Accelerates natural processes



## AV's Unique Electrolytic Cell (patented)

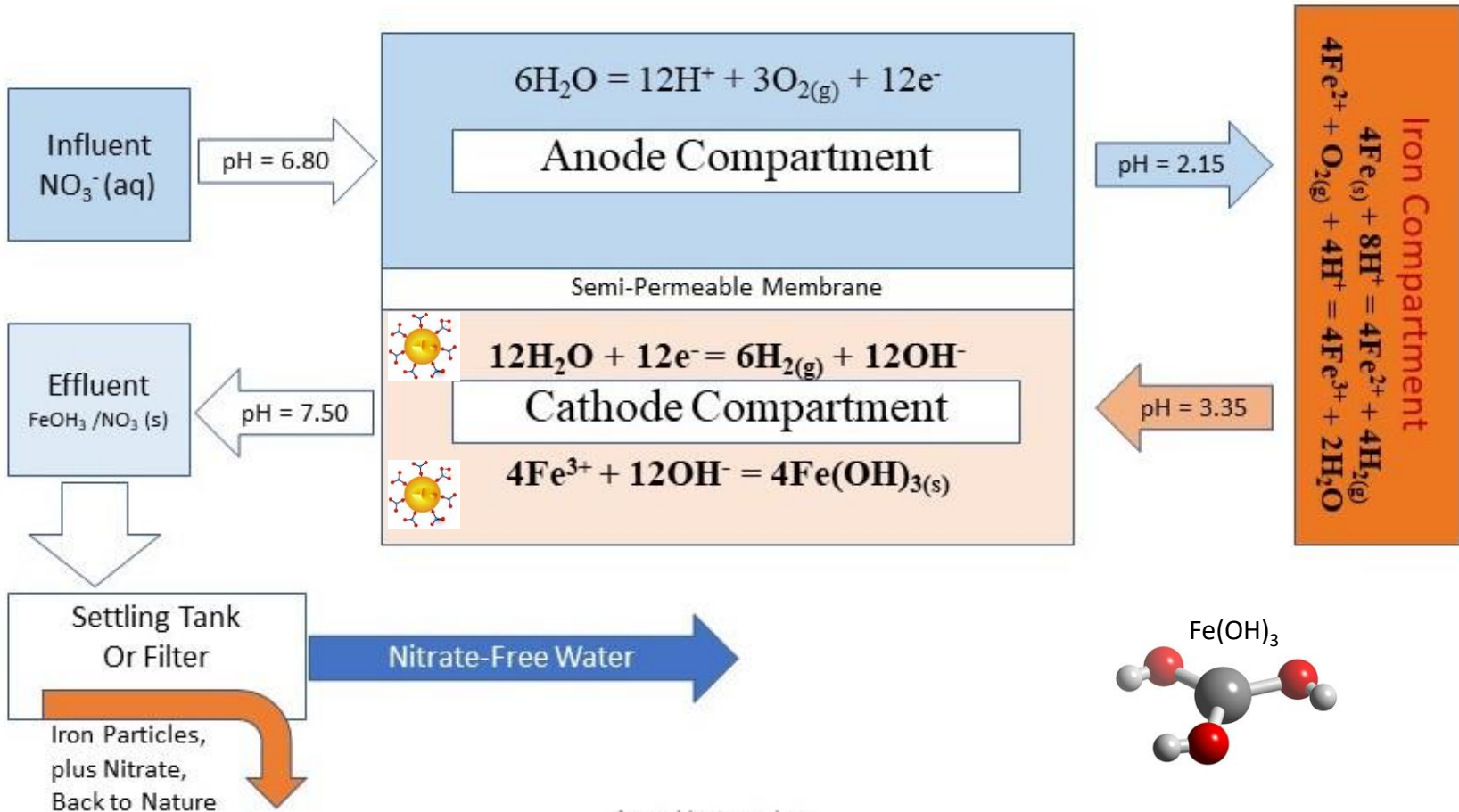
Dissolves solid iron into aqueous solution

Re-crystallizes under engineered conditions

Electrostatically binds anions (nitrate ions) to iron

Filters or settles out iron crystals

# The Aqua Vectors Process

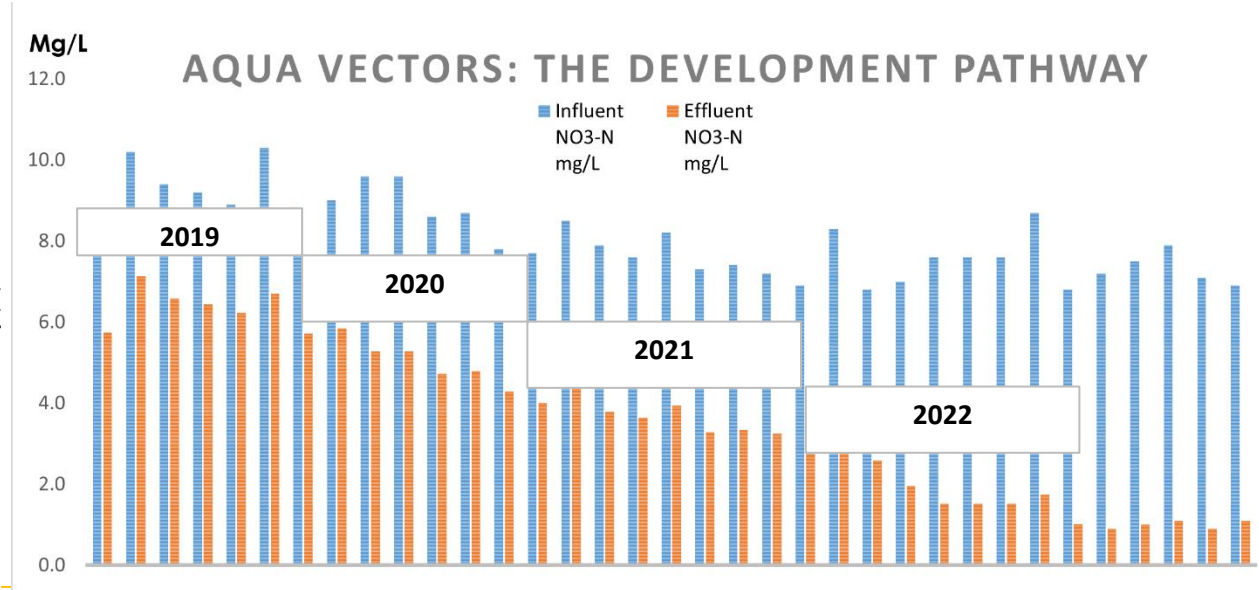
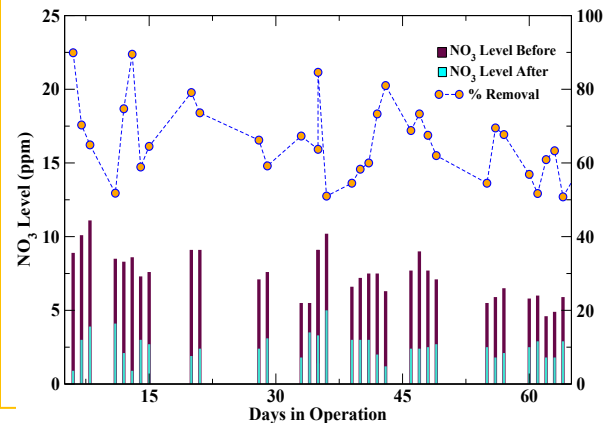


Aqua Vectors, Inc.

# The Pathway: Where We Are

- ✓ Phase I: 2010-2014, Proof of Concept
- ✓ Phase II: 2014-2017, The Science: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why
- ✓ Phase III: 2017-2018, Limits and what causes them
- ☐ Phase IV: 2019-2022, Breaking Limits: Enhancing Adsorption Rates
- ☐ Phase V: 2023, Commercial Scale-Up

Original Data - 2012



# How We Get There

## 20 years of Nutrient Removal Research to 2012

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### Materials science advances in 2012-2022

#### Development Funding: \$1.7M to date

- Self-Funding 2010-2022 - \$290K
- Grants (NSF, NYS) 2016-2020 - \$254K
- Angels 2017-2022 - \$345K
- Sweat Equity 2010-2022 - \$790K

#### Final Development Phase (2022) – now raising \$200,000

- Apply Cutting Edge Materials Science
  - Synchrotron/PDF analysis of molecular formation (Argonne/Brookhaven)
  - Big Data materials discovery: alternative structures and kinetics
  - Engineering of form and structure to improve coordination sites
- Results Expected: more Nitrates adsorbed on less Iron
  - Removal rates: 65%-75% → 85% range
  - Cost drivers (iron and electric power): much less required
- Multi-Disciplinary advances in molecular kinetics, adsorption mechanisms
  - Cutting edge materials science, applied
    - Karena Chapman at Stony Brook University
    - Joseph Bennett at Univ of Maryland, Baltimore County
    - Marc Michel (PhD-SBU) at Virginia Tech



# Technology Readiness Level

## Where we have come:

Concept proven: NSF project

### Technology Development

- 90% milestone achieved

### Documented effectiveness: up to 90%

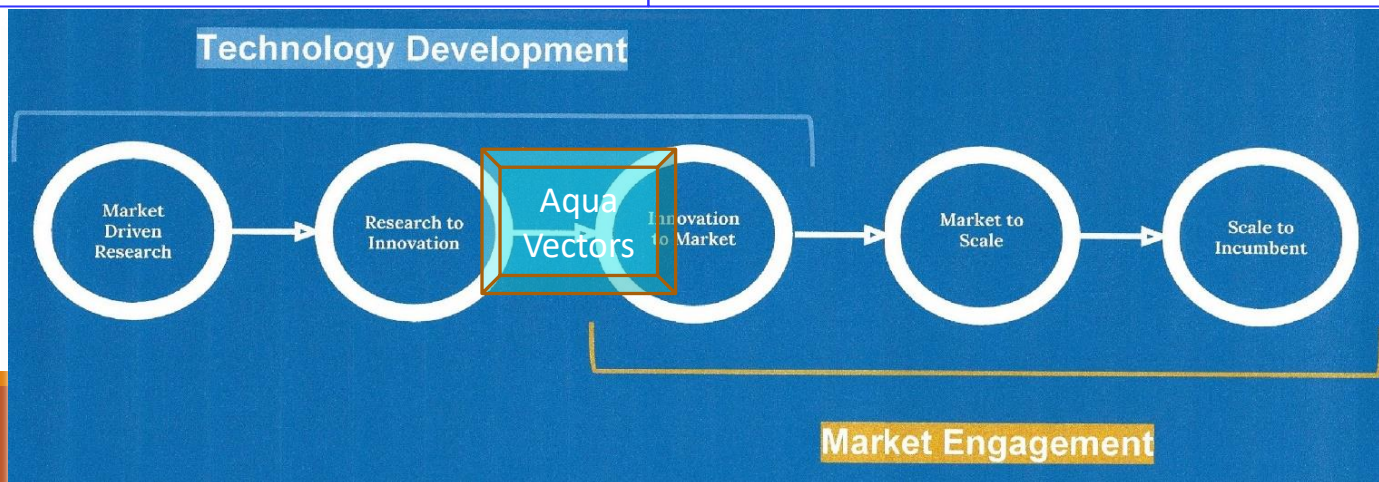
- wastewater and nonpotable fresh water
- reliable and predictable removal rates
- economics comparable to current methods

Northport WWTP has hosted continuously

## Forward Strategy:

### Enhance Adsorption Performance

- Secure \$200K Development Funding
- Double (or more) Adsorption Rates
  - Iron-to-Nitrate Ratio: 10:1 → 4:1
  - Engineer Molecular Kinetics of Iron Formation
  - World Experts: Dr. Chapman (SBU), Dr. Michel (Va Tech), Dr. Bennett (UMBC)
- Key Performance Indicators:
  - Iron(III) Production: 75%+
  - Iron Formation: Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub> predominant
  - Adsorption Rate: molecular ratio 4:1 (Fe:NO<sub>3</sub>)



# Our Criteria for Commercial Readiness

| Objective                                          | Status                     | Threshold                  | Goal                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Effectiveness (mg/L NO <sub>3</sub> Removals)      | 65%-75%                    | 70%-80%                    | 85%+                      |
| Efficiency (mM Iron to mM NO <sub>3</sub> Removed) | 12-14                      | 6-8                        | 3-4                       |
| Simplicity of Op'n and M't'ce                      | 85%                        | 85%                        | 95%                       |
| Modularity of Apparatus                            | Yes                        | Yes                        | Yes                       |
| Small Footprint of Apparatus                       | Yes                        | Yes                        | Yes                       |
| Scalability of Apparatus                           | Yes                        | Yes                        | Yes                       |
| Energy Consumption                                 | 2.6 kWh/Kgal               | 2.4 kWh/Kgal               | 1.9 kWh/Kgal              |
| Energy Consumption (as % of Other Methods)         | 130% BNR, 120% IEX, 65% RO | 120% BNR, 105% IEX, 65% RO | 100% BNR, 90% IEX, 50% RO |
| Operating Cost \$/Kgal                             | \$0.80                     | \$0.52                     | \$0.28                    |
| Operating Cost (vs. Other Methods)                 | 50% BNR, 20% IEX, 16% RO   | 45% BNR, 18% IEX, 16% RO   | 40% BNR, 16% IEX, 15% RO  |
| Capital Expense (\$/Kgal over life of system)      | \$2.05                     | \$1.12                     | \$0.46                    |
| Capital Expense (vs. Other Methods)                | 100% BNR, 80% IEX, 80% RO  | 60% BNR, 70% IEX, 50% RO   | 40% BNR, 60% IEX, 40% RO  |



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# Thank you!

With unlimited thanks to the Village of Northport for hosting us

