

March 15, 2016/ News from the previous site

A technical report on odors from fishmeal factories indicated that they can be "considerably reduced" because "technologies" exist to achieve this. The report was prepared by the Faculty of Engineering at the local university at the request of the Attorney General's Office.

A technical report on odors from fishmeal factories indicated that they can be "considerably reduced" because "technologies" exist to achieve this. The report was prepared by the Faculty of Engineering at the local university at the request of the Attorney General's Office.

Although the nature of the raw materials used to make fishmeal makes it almost impossible to eliminate foul odors, there are "technologies to minimize them," according to a report written by Jorge Froilán González, a professor at the Faculty of Engineering at the National University of Mar del Plata.

The study also specified that "if they are not removed, they will impact the surrounding areas."

The report was prepared at the request of the Attorney General's Office, as part of the efforts being carried out to reduce and control emissions. There are two flour mills in the city—Agustiner SA and Coomarpes—that must be monitored by the Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development (OPDS).

The specialist explained that "gas scrubbing in so-called scrubber towers is a common solution: the vapors to be treated are introduced through the bottom of the scrubber tower, and the scrubbing water (potable or seawater) is introduced from the top.

In order to provide "a greater contact area between the gases to be scrubbed and the water introduced from the top, the towers are usually filled with packing material."

For the same purpose, "gas scrubbers were also used, in which the water contains chlorine or other oxidants, although in this case additional problems arise due to the possible corrosion of equipment and the potential emission of chlorine vapors or other substances," explained Professor Jorge Froilán González.

High temperature combustion

Another technology used for the same purpose is "high-temperature combustion, since heating gases with unpleasant odors to 750°C or 800°C for just a few seconds effectively destroys the malodorous components."

Regarding this technology, the specialist noted that "it is common for all equipment that emanates gases highly laden with unpleasant components to be encapsulated and maintained at a very low vacuum. The gases are carried through ducts to scrubber towers, followed by a fan, which in turn conveys the non-condensed gases to be burned in the steam generating equipment, where they are subjected to the required high temperatures."

Operation

Regarding the operation of the aforementioned technology, he pointed out that "during the initial minutes of equipment startup (and the final minutes of shutdown), it may be necessary not to send the gases to combustion, so the possibility of deactivating them in other ways during these short periods should be taken into account."

"It is generally accepted," he added, "due to decades of experience operating systems of this type, that there is no additional risk of corrosion in burners and boilers when scrubbed gases are used."

Professor González considered that "this combustion deodorization technology is especially applicable. Excess air from low-intensity sources, such as flour milling and cooling operations, which may be unusable in a burner, can be dispersed through a chimney of sufficient height after being scrubbed." He also clarified that "it is a dilution technique, not an odor elimination technique."

Meanwhile, for gases with low odor intensity, it is also possible to use "activated carbon adsorption, although its applicability will depend on economic factors, among which the flow rates to be treated and the number of possible reactivations are key."

Serious discomfort

The unpleasant odors emanating from the fishmeal factories affect not only the area where they are located—the Port—but also spread to neighboring neighborhoods, such as Punta Mogotes, Faro Norte, Termas Huinco, Villa Lourdes, and Playa Grande, among others. In fact, both the Attorney General's Office and the Ombudsman's Office are receiving complaints from residents on the matter.

¹⁰In Professor González's opinion, the unpleasant odor pollution emitted by fishmeal factories "is deeply bothersome" because "the human nose is very sensitive, and the detection limits of the olfactory system are extremely low." He specifically considered that processes for "removing unpleasant odors" must be very "effective" because the olfactory system has "such a low detection threshold."

This foul aroma is produced "during storage, due to bacterial degradation and enzymes present in the fish, which result in the formation of truly unpleasant substances such as trimethylamine," he specified.

Raw material

In this sense, the specialist considered it "an ideal, though utopian, condition" for the raw material to enter the flour-making process "as fresh as possible. But such an industry works with fish waste."

"Added to this," he added, "is the fact that a certain amount of waste must be accumulated to operate the processing equipment, which sometimes results in greater decomposition."

During the process, odors are formed by "oxidation of compounds present in the waste, and heating for cooking and drying promotes the release of odors already generated within the solid waste, which pass into the gaseous phase and are emitted into the air."

The specialist also explained that another influencing factor is "meteorological conditions, such as prevailing wind directions, along with wind speed patterns, and atmospheric stratification conditions. In particular, the occurrence of low-speed winds that carry these gases to densely populated areas will cause frequent complaints from the population."

Finally, he emphasized that "odor removal technologies have existed for several years, and there is no single one," while also stating that "odors must be treated, and the choice of method is the responsibility of the odor generators."

© 2006 The Authors
Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 260: 455–464

He also warned that "effective implementation could take several months."

González also stated that "since equipment works under variable raw material input conditions, it's reasonable that it won't function properly 100% of the time. Operational problems are to be expected."

Waiting for Justice

The Federal Prosecutor's Office, headed by Daniel Adler, has been waiting for the Court of Appeals "to rule on whether or not it has jurisdiction over the matter for two months," a representative of the Public Prosecutor's Office told LA CAPITAL.

Since last April, when the Federal Prosecutor's Office filed a precautionary measure ordering the aforementioned companies to stop spreading nauseating odors, the Federal Court declared itself incompetent. "We are facing a virtual lack of jurisdiction on the part of the Federal Court, since Judge Alejandro Castellanos declared himself incompetent. Now the Chamber must decide," he added.

According to Adler, the flour mills are not installing the biodigester "obviously due to investment issues, because it is clear that there are places in the world that have flour mills and do not emit these odors," and he insisted on the need for the Court of Appeals to determine its jurisdiction.

In its April filing last year, the prosecutor's office also requested an investigation into possible violations by public officials responsible for preventing polluting situations.

"We've been fighting for a long time," Adler recalled, "and we've launched a criminal investigation to determine if there's any irregularity behind this."

The initial complaint was filed regarding the possible commission of environmental pollution crimes in conjunction with minor injuries to the public's health by the owners of fishmeal factories in the port of Mar del Plata.

He also called for an investigation into possible non-compliance or corruption by public officials responsible for preventing polluting situations. (La Capital – Mar del Plata)

03/15/16

Read also:

Buenos Aires announced two lines of credit for the construction and renovation of fishing vessels.
In Mar del Plata, the Governor announced two lines of credit for the construction and renovation of fishing vessels. The sector took it with a grain of salt...

Spain: Transport and port traffic indicators "accelerate their slowdown"
Transport indicators, including road freight, air freight, and maritime transport, are decelerating at an increasing pace...

Dredging of the Martín García Channel was key to strengthening relations between Argentina and Uruguay on the Río...
"This year was very important for river integration between Uruguay and Argentina," Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa emphasized on Wednesday the 9th, during the...

SHARE THIS NOTE ON SOCIAL MEDIA...



0 comments

Sort by **Newest** ▾

 Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Subscribe ▾



Be the First to Comment!

B I U      [+]

 Yam*

 E-mail*

 Website



POST COMMENT

0 COMMENTS

• **Note:** The contributions of all readers and friends are essential for the continuity of these and other Foundation projects, supporting the sustainable development of river and maritime activities in the country and the region. Every contribution, large or small, is important to support our organization and its objectives, which has limited resources for the development of these activities. If you are interested in supporting us, please contact us at info@nuestromar.org or call (+54) 11-5276-1191, and we will get in touch with you. Thank you, FNM.

Categories of our notes:

Featured | Ports | Environment and Ecology | Transportation and Foreign Trade | Naval Industry | Fishing and Aquaculture | Science and Education | Politics and Trade Unions | Defense and Security | Energy and Minerals | Antarctica and the Falklands | Calm Sea | *News from the old site*



© and Registration: Nuestramar Foundation – [Contact](#)

Use of the content is permitted by citing the source: License  Creative Commons

WordPress by [Duplika](#)

