

ENVIRONMENTAL/ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RECYCLING OF WASTES FROM AIR LIQUID NIGERIA LTD.

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ABSTRACT

Environmental and economic analysis was performed on the wastes from Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. The company's waste water, spent oil, noise and air pollutants were examined. Results show no serious adverse impact on the ambient air quality. There was serious noise pollution problem around the factory hall and generator areas. Results of the waste-water analysis revealed that the company is not responsible for the pollution of Oginigba River as the parameters analyzed were well below FEPA standards. Spent oil analysis showed that about 97.5% of what the company disposes off as waste constitutes potentially utilizable products such as gasoline (12.3%), kerosene (20.2%) and gas oil (64.8%) were obtained by recycling the spent lubricants by the process of table distillation. These were of comparable quality with the corresponding standard products in the market. However, the recycled products had a little more impurities, but the levels of purity can be improved by better recycling. A detailed cost - Benefit analysis carried out between disposal and recycling revealed that the latter is a viable option.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most visible results of development is the enormous growth of industries. Today the world manufactures seven times as many goods and produce three times the amount of minerals than it did in the 1970s [1]. The developing countries' share of the world's manufacturing output remained virtually stagnant at around 12.7% during the period 1980-1985, but increased slightly to about 14% in 1990 [3]. This large increase in manufactured products is associated with a large amount of wastes which are not properly managed. Improper management and disposal of industrial waste could have deleterious effects on living organisms. For instance, a total of over 17 million kg/pollutant load of BOD were discharged into Nigerian coastal environment without any form of treatment [3]. Industrial establishments dump their effluents and solid wastes into public sewers, drains and

surface waters without treatment.

The neglect of the environmental effects of these discharges have been studied by several researchers. Tee and others [4] studied the waste management practices of industries in Eleme and Trans Amadi areas of Port Harcourt. The effects of poor environmental practices have been extensively studied by Obuasi [5] and Ohagi [6]. A study of the effects of brewery effluents discharged on the Ikpoba water quality in Benin [6] showed a decrease in the quality of the water. In another study, it was found that NAFCON industrial effluents discharged in the littoral benthos of the Okrika Creek resulted in elevated values of nutrients. Kakulu and Osibanjo [7, 8] observed the presence of some heavy metals in water, sediments and fishes around Port Harcourt. They attributed this to pollution arising from effluents discharged from industries located within Port Harcourt vicinity.

Virtually all the aqueous pollutants from the industries in Port Harcourt and its adjacent areas are discharged into streams and Creeks, which drains into the Bonny river system. The pollutants deplete oxygen in receiving streams and contribute to eutrophication. While the first destroys the aquatic living organisms the second problem renders the water unfit for commercial, recreational and transportation purposes. On account of the potentials of industrials to contribute to environmental degradation, it becomes necessary to study industries in this regard. The objectives of this study are as follows:

- (a) Broadly appraise the activities of the Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. and their extent of environmental pollution;
- (b) Consider the viability of pollution control through recycling.

The Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. is situated at Trans Amadi Industrial Layout in Port Harcourt. It is a multinational company with headquarters in Paris - France. It specialises in the production of 38 tons natural gases such as Oxygen, Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Carbon dioxide Nitrogen dioxide, and Acetylene. The company also undertakes the buying, reprocessing and distribution of refrigerant gases (Freons). The production process is essentially fractional distillation of air. The plant is in an Air Separation Plant (ASP) consisting of extractor, air filter, compressor, heat exchanger, refrigerating unit, purification tank, expansion turbine and medium pressure column.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ecological data on air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. premises were acquired through interviews, actual sample collection and analysis. The level of impact based on the immediate environment was estimated by comparing the current field data with the DPR and FEPA standards.

Air Quality Determination

The air quality parameters include Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM),

Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The SPM was determined by the Hi-volume sampler, CO by a portable CO Monitor, and NO₂ by the wet method [9].

Noise level determination

In Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd., the major sources of noise are the factory hall and generator house. Noise levels were therefore determined in the premises and within the immediate neighbourhood at ten (10) different locations within the factory hall and generator house as reference points. The instrument used was the portable sound level monitor. The locations were labelled L1 L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, L9 and L10.

Wastewater Analysis

Wastewater are produced from the cooling of the plants, miscellaneous cleaning, bathing and washing. These wastewater are discharged via a public drain along RIVOC road into Oginigba river which is a tributary of Bonny River. A sampling point was marked which was about 1 meter away from the effluents Outfall into the drain. Samples of the wastewater were collected for analysis once a day over a twenty-day period. Parameters analyzed were Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Temperature, pH, and turbidity. The samples were collected in a 2 litre plastic container, properly labelled and taken to the laboratory for analysis. The analysis was conducted at Eleme Petrochemical Company Limited (EPCL) Product Programming and Quality Contract (PPQC) laboratory. Analytical methods used were those specified in Standard Methods for the analysis of water and wastewater [10].

Waste Characterization

Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. generates some liquid and solid wastes. These wastes

and the sources are summarized in Table 1. Some of the spent oil were collected in a 2-litre plastic container and taken to NNPC laboratory for analysis. The aim was to check out for the toxic and hazardous constituents of the oil so that its effect on the affected environment can be grasped easily with or without any form of physical inspection of the site. Before

collection of the samples all quality control precautions were observed.

Wastewater Analysis

The parameters analyzed conformed with the approved FEPA standard. The variations of the BOD, COD, TSS,

Table 1: Nature of waste generated from Air Liquid Nigeria Limited

S/No.	Type of Waste	Source(s)	Remarks
1.	Solid waste (Soda Ash)	Acetylene production	Occasionally wooden materials, papers, etc.
2.	Liquid waste	Plant cooling process	Sometimes from miscellaneous washing cleaning/bathing wastewater.
3.	Gaseous effluent	From plants exhausts (chimney) minor leakage (very rare) from utility, e.g. generator.	Generator used intermittently, leakage insignificant to affect local air quality.
4.	Spent oil	From plant and generator servicing.	Advised to store in drums and properly disposed or recycled.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Air Quality

There was an observable plume from the plants and generator chimneys from where particulate are believed to be discharged into the atmosphere. But the discharge was minimal enough to adversely affect the ambient air quality (Table 2).

Table 2: Ambient Air Quality Data Around Air Liquid Premises and Neighbourhood (July 200)

Location	SPM	CO	CO
1	125.0	4.4	29.4
2	102.5	6.8	16.8
3	158.2	3.5	8.2
4	166.3	4.5	19.5
5	145.5	5.0	10.0
6	172.0	5.5	18.8
7	164.8	3.4	9.6
8	111.2	5.3	8.6

Location	SPM	CO	CO
9	100.5	5.6	8.0
10	101.2	3.6	7.8
MEAN	134.7	4.8	13.7
S.D	27.2	1.1	1.9
FEPA Standard	600.0	11.2	75-113

Parameter concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

*Locations outside Air Liquid Premises.

Temperature, pH and Turbidity are shown in Figures 1,2 and 3 respectively. The pH is generally low. Low pH is however, characteristic of underground water because of the acidic nature of the soil. PH is one of the strongest determinants of the overall quality of water. A low pH value implies that the water requires treatment possibly to raise the pH before it is used. The results show heavy metal

concentrations in the two samples. Heavy metals is so much of serious concern that even at micro concentrations, they may have some deleterious effects. In the analysis only copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn) and Calcium (Ca) were detected but their concentrations were well below WHO limits.

Noise

The measurements of noise *level* in the premises are as shown in the table below.

Table 3: noise level measurement in air liquid Nigeria Ltd.

S/NO	Location	Noise Level (db)
L1	In front of administrative Block	65
L2	Inside Warehouse (plants and Gen. on)	75
L3	In front of clinic (plants and Gen. on)	72
L4	Inside the clinic (Door shut)	50
L5	Outside Sup. Office complex (plants and Gen. on)	78
L6	Factory Hall (inside)	105
L7	Factory Hall 10m away (plants and Gen. On)	98
L8	Gen. House (inside)Gen on	70
L9	Gen. house 10m away gen on	55
L10	Factory hall (inside) Plants and Gen. off	

The measurement of noise level shows that the factory hall and generator house are the two main sources of noise (105 db and 98 db respectively) and the noise level decreases with increasing distance away from these sources. Occupational health data collected for the months of March, April and May 2000 revealed the following: In March 2000, out of 32 registered patients treated in the staff clinic, 19 of them were factory workers,

and out of the 19, 13 cases were severe headache and one hearing problem. In April, out of 46 cases, 21 were factory workers. Out of the 21, 16 were severe headache. In May, out of the 23 cases, 14 were headache. It is worth mentioning here that the factory workers constitute just about 1/5 of the total work force.

The severe headaches amongst factory workers may be attributed to the ringing sensations in the ear, which affects the brain, and this is caused by exposure to excessive noise. This is grossly unhealthy and should be checked. Noise is a pollutant that is undesirable to everyone. The wearing of defenders is mandatory for the workers exposed to an 8-hour excess of 85db like those in the factory and generator areas. The exposure to industrial and other forms of noise can induce hearing loss and other pathological changes in the affected population. Hence, it is recommended that daily noise exposure for workers should not exceed 90db daily for an 8-hour working period, 92db daily for a 6-hour working period, 95db daily for a 4-hour working period and 97db daily for a 3-hour working period [I]. Off duty noise dose up to 70db are considered to have no influence on hearing loss from exposure at work as the additional noise energy received is negligible compared to the 85dbpermitted at work.

This level of 70 db is sufficiently low for the ear to recover from previous exposure to noise. The limit for personnel not wearing hearing protection is 90db irrespective of duration of exposure. Priority should be given to reducing where it exceeds 85db. For such areas where noise level is above 85db noise could be controlled by placing a warning post at the area and making the wearing of ear protectors mandatory. The loss of hearing as a result of noise is determined by individual susceptibility and exposure at work and elsewhere. The noise exposure limit is given in Table 4 [11J]. In Air

greases have increased tremendously. For instance, the consumption increased from 64,992 metric tons in 1974 to 198,294 metric tons in 1980, that is, an increase of 1 %. This figure has increased by more than 500% presently. With the present mode of indiscriminate disposal of spent lubricants coupled with a parallel increase in the national consumption level, there is a corresponding increase in environmental pollution. Investigations revealed that the quantity or percentage of gasoline, kerosene and gas oil fractions vary from one oil sample to another. However, overall recovery of the potentially utilizable products remained appreciably

constant at about 97.5%.

A purity check was carried out on the different fractions. Result of the analysis of each fraction was matched against products of similar grade in the Nigerian market as standards. The results of the analysis of the fractions and standards are provided in Tables 6 and 7. Table 6 is the result of inorganic impurities while Table 7 represents

the physico-chemical properties of the fractions from the spent oils compared with the standards

Table 6: Inorganic Impurities in PPM present in Air Liquid Spent Oil Sample.

	NH ₄	Pb	Cu	Mg	S	Cd	Cn	Ca	Fe	Zn
Fractions at 60-150 ^o C	2.6	0.13	0.35	0.30	-	0.8	-	0.08	0.12	-
Gasoline standard	0.6	0.04	0.09	0.13	-	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	-
Fractions at 150-250 ^o C	5	0.48	0.8	1.36	0.01	0.36	-	0.05	1.3	0.48
Kerosine Std.	-	0.01	0.01	0.05	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.2
Fractions at 150-350 ^o C	0.2	0.01	-	0.02	0.04	0.02	-	0.02	0.2	0.027
Gas Oil Std.	0.15	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	-	0.04	0.15	0.040
Spent Lubricant	45	42	44	12	1.3	31	0.76	12	22	66

Table 7: Physico-Chemical Properties of the Spent Oil Fractions Against Standards.

Sample	Viscosity at 50 ^o C	Catane Rating	Diesel Index	S.G at 60 ^o F	% Carbon Residue	Flash Point	Smoke Point
Spent Oil	41.5	-	-	0.9002	3.1	-	-
Fraction at 60-150 ^o C	0.70	61.20	43.95	0.7816	-	-	-
Gasoline Standard	0.611	56.0	51.05	0.7575	-	-	-

Fractions at 150-250°C	1.25	74.0	52.02	0.8112	-	52	22.6
Kerosine Standard	1.19	71.0	53.86	0.8212	-	48	23
Fraction at 250-350°C	3.44	96.6	52.47	0.8522	1.8	89	-
Gas Oil Standard	3.77	91.0	54.67	0.8573	1.0	92	-

Cost Analysis

Table 8 shows the recycling cost of the spent oils. The prevailing price of the plant at the Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. is assumed to range for a normal fuel is 30-60. This is based on the value, the salvage value of the plant after 25 years is N2,099,300.00. The salvage value of the Recycling Plant is assumed to be 30%. Applying this 30% depreciation additive. Total = N83,972.00. Total revenue from recycled products for 25 years is N22,548.01.

Table 8: Cost Analysis for the Recycling of Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. Spent Oils.

S/No	Type of Cost Operation	Cost of Naira
1.	Installation at recycling plant ^a	₦100,000,000.00
2.	Labour cost (a minimum of a operators i.e 2-man per shift for a 4-shift system and one supervisor at an average of ₦120,000 00 per annum per staff for 25 years).	₦ 27,000.000.00
3.	Operating cost (cost of regents, utility, property, tax, maintenance cost, etc.)	₦ 20 ,000 ,000.00
4.	Miscellaneous	₦ 250,000.00
5.	Total	₦ 147,250,000.00

^aLife span = 25 years.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

1) Revenue Accruable from Recycling

The plants consume a maximum of 210 litres (10 drums) of lubricating oil per annum and the generator a maximum of 840 litres (4 drums) per annum totaling 2940 litres. The oil does not carbonise easily which accounts for the small quantity of oil consumed by the plants annually.

Approximately, 2800 litres of spent oil is to be recycled. The 140 litres difference represents expected losses.

The final product is expected to be in the ratio of 12.3% gasoline (344.41);

20.2% kerosine (565.6 litres); 64.8% gas oil (1814.4 litres) and 2.7% residue.

344.4 litres of gasoline at ₦ 100 per litre = ₦ 34,440.00

565.6litres of Kerosine at ₦17 per litre = ₦ 9,615.20

1814.4litres of gas oil at ₦ 22 per litres = ₦ 39,916.80

years is N22,548.01

Total accruable revenue from recycling = ₦ 2,099,300 + ₦22, 548.01 = ₦ 2,121,848.01

Net of recycling

= ₦ 147,250,000.00 - ₦2, 121,848.01 = ₦145, 128,151.00.

3) socio-Economic benefits

From the foregoing analysis, recycling is capable of providing employment opportunities for not less than nine persons

COST ANALYSIS FOR DISPOSAL

- i. The polluted plot of land is rendered useless and its value is to be quantified in monetary terms. Cost of a plot of land in Port Harcourt presently is about Six Hundred Thousand Naira (₦ 600,000.00). Investigations carried out revealed that land appreciates by 20% annually in the city. Therefore, the cost of the polluted plot of land measuring about 60m x 100m using a 20% annual appreciation value is $P(1 + R)^{n-1}$ (where P = ₦ 600,000.00, n = 25 years and R = 20%) = ₦ 47,698,494.00.
- ii. There is no economic tree on the affected land presently but adjoining lands are pineapple orchards. Therefore there is every likelihood that the plot would have been used for the same purpose. The land is large enough to accommodate over 5000 heads of pineapple. It should be noted that pineapple suckers take about 5 to 6 months to mature if well catered for. It implies therefore, that about 5000 pineapple fruits would have been harvested from the land twice a year for about 28 years i.e. 25 years of pollution + 3 years recovery period. An average pineapple fruit costs about ₦ 300 in Port Harcourt going by market survey conducted during the study. Therefore, estimated cost of damage is N5,

$$000 \times 28 \times 2 \times 300 = \text{₦ } 84 \text{ million.}$$

(iii) Field studies conducted revealed that pineapples orchard on adjoining lands to the polluted plot are not doing well at all, may be due to pollution caused by the escape (seepage) of oil from the disposal site through underground aquifers to these lands. Investigations revealed that the pineapples on these land (approximately 10,000 heads) taken as much as 1.5 years (18 months) to mature. And even when they mature, the fruits are so small that they can only sell for between ₦40 and ₦60.00 (i.e an average of ₦50.00). This is an enormous financial loss to the owner(s). The estimated financial loss is $\text{₦}300 \times 28 \times 2 \times 10,000 - \text{₦}50 \times 10,000 \times 28 / 1.5 = \text{₦}168,000,000 - \text{₦}18,666,666.67 = \text{₦}149,333,333.00$.

(iv) The company stands the risk of being sued for trespass or nuisance by the landlords in which case it can lose over 50,000,000.00 like in the case of Umudje Vs SPDC -11SC 156 (1975).

(v) The oil is capable of seeping through underground aquifers to pollute ground water resources. It costs money to treat such water to make it fit for human consumption. This further increases the cost of disposal. Depicted on Table 9 is the cost analysis for disposal without environmental considerations while Table 10 is the analysis with environmental considerations.

Table 9: cost analysis for disposal without environmental considerations.

S/No	Type of cost operation	Cost in naira (₦)
1	Transportation (hiring of pay loaders, tippers, etc. twice a year for 25 years)	
2	Cost of land (disposal site) by the year 2027	3,500,000.00
3	Damage to economic trees	47,698,494.00
	Total	233,333,333.00
		₦ 287,573,827.00

Table 10: cost analysis for disposal with Environmental considerations.

S/No	Type of cost operation	Cost in naira (₦)
1	Transportation (hiring of pay loaders, tippers, etc	3,500.000.00
2	Cost of land (disposal site) by the year 2027	47,698,494.00
3	Damage to economic trees	233,333,333.00
4	Cost of environmental damage	50,000,000.00
5	Estimated damage to ground water resources + Secondary consequences	70,000,00.00
	Total	₦ 417,531,827.00

Analysis of the Alternatives

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that recycling is more beneficial to the company than disposal. However, it takes a longer period (about 12 years) for the company to begin to realize the benefits of recycling when disposal is carried out without environmental considerations while, it takes only nine years for disposal cost to outweigh recycling cost when environmental factors are incorporated into the disposal process Table 11. Therefore, recycling is more desirable from economic, social and environmental points of view. Besides, recycling will save the company a lot of foreign exchange as the recovered products can be re-used.

Table 11: Financial Analysis of the Proposals.

	Recycling	Disposal with Environmental Considerations	Disposal without Environmental Considerations
Total Cost	147,250,000	417,531,827	287,531,827
YEAR	YEARLY	COST	
1.	147,250,000	16,701,273.08	11,501,273.08
2.	147,166,028	33,402,546.16	23,002,546.16
3.	147,028,056	50,103,819.24	34,503,819.24
4.	146,998,084	66,805,092.32	46,005,092.32
5.	146,914,112	83,506,365.40	57,506,365.40
6.	146,830,140	100,207,638.48	69,007,638.48
7.	146,746,168	116,908,911.56	80,508,911.56
8.	146,662,196	133,610,184.64	92,010,184.64
*9.	*146,578,224	*150,311,457.72	*103,511,457.72
10.	146,494,252	183,714,003.78	126,514,003.80
11.	146,410,280	200,415,277.96	138,015,276.88
*12.	*146,326,308	216,116,350.04	*149,516,550.96
13.	146,242,336	2333,547,824.12	161,017,824.04
14.	146,158,364	250,249,096.20	172,519,097.12

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were made from the study:

1. The mean ambient particulate concentration was $27.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1 hr.) as against a FEPA allowable maximum value of $600.00 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1 hr.). Therefore, the operation of Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. does not adversely affect the immediate air quality.
2. The BOD and COD of the wastewater samples were appreciably low. There were however, some slight changes in turbidity resulting in a corresponding increase in total suspended solids (TSS) on some days. This may be attributed to frequent precipitations observed

15.	146,074,392	266,950,370.28	184,020,370.20
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Note: Revenue realizable from recycling based on the company's present production level is ₦ 83, 972.00. within the period of study. However, all the parameters analyzed were well below the approved FEPA standards. Therefore, Air Liquid Nigeria Ltd. is not responsible for the pollution of Oginigba River. However, its contribution together with those of other companies can contribute to pollution,

3. Noise level above 92db was observed around the factory hall and generator house. This noise level is quite above FEPA approved tolerable noise exposure limits for a 8-hour working period. There was therefore a serious noise pollution problem around these areas resulting into some serious occupational health problems amongst factory workers. This high noise level was however, localised around these areas as it was found to decrease with increasing distance away. As a mitigative measure, the wearing of protective devices (e.g. ear muffs) around the high noise zones should not only be enforced but made mandatory and such high noise area sign - posted.
4. The company contributes immensely to the pollution of the environment by the disposal of lubricants without any form of treatment. For instance, the spent oil contains heavy metals with concentrations far exceeding the permissible FEPA and WHO standards. A lot of revenue is lost by the company through careless disposal of about 97.3% utilizable products from their spent oils. Even the supposed 2.7% residue left as waste could be converted into bitumen or asphalt for road construction.
5. A dehydrated lime can be formed from the hydrated lime and be used as fertilizer supplement.
6. A detailed cost-benefit analysis conducted revealed that recycling is a better option for the company because

apart from its environmental considerations; it is financially and economically viable.

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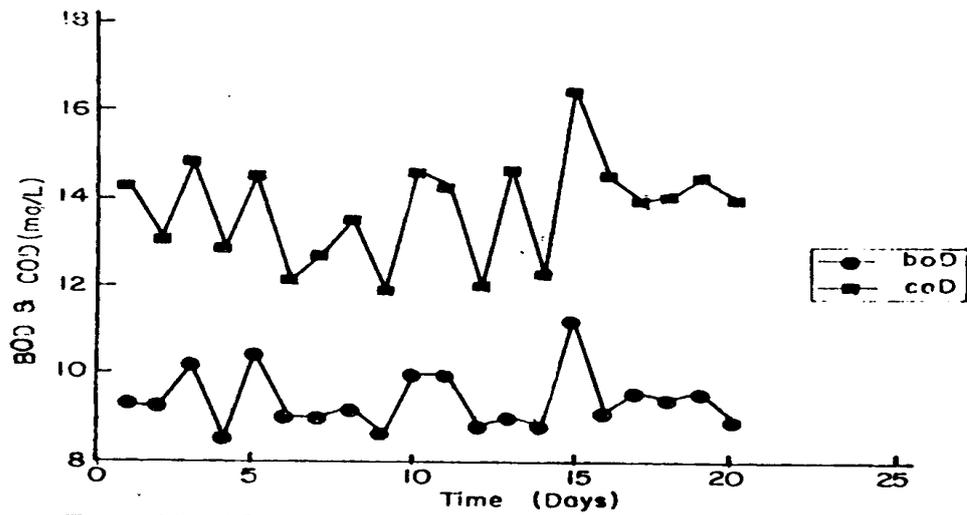


Fig. 4-1: BOD and COD Curves for Air Liquid Wastewater.

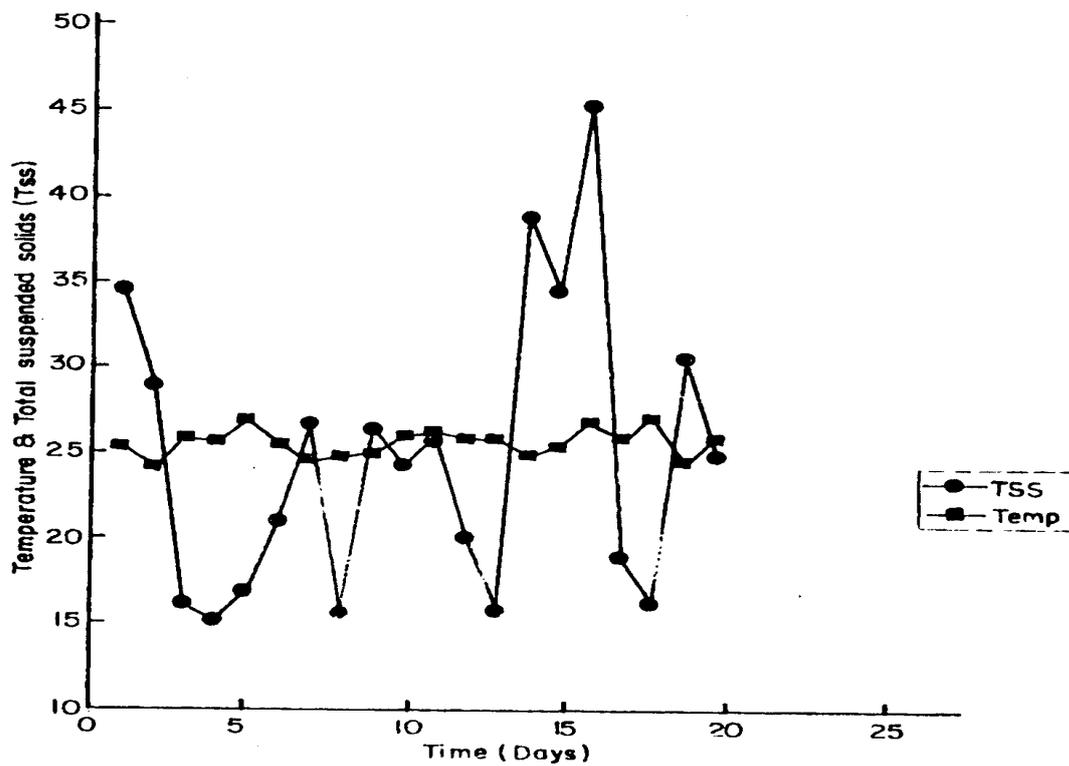


Fig. 4-2: Temperature and TSS Curves for air liquid wastewater

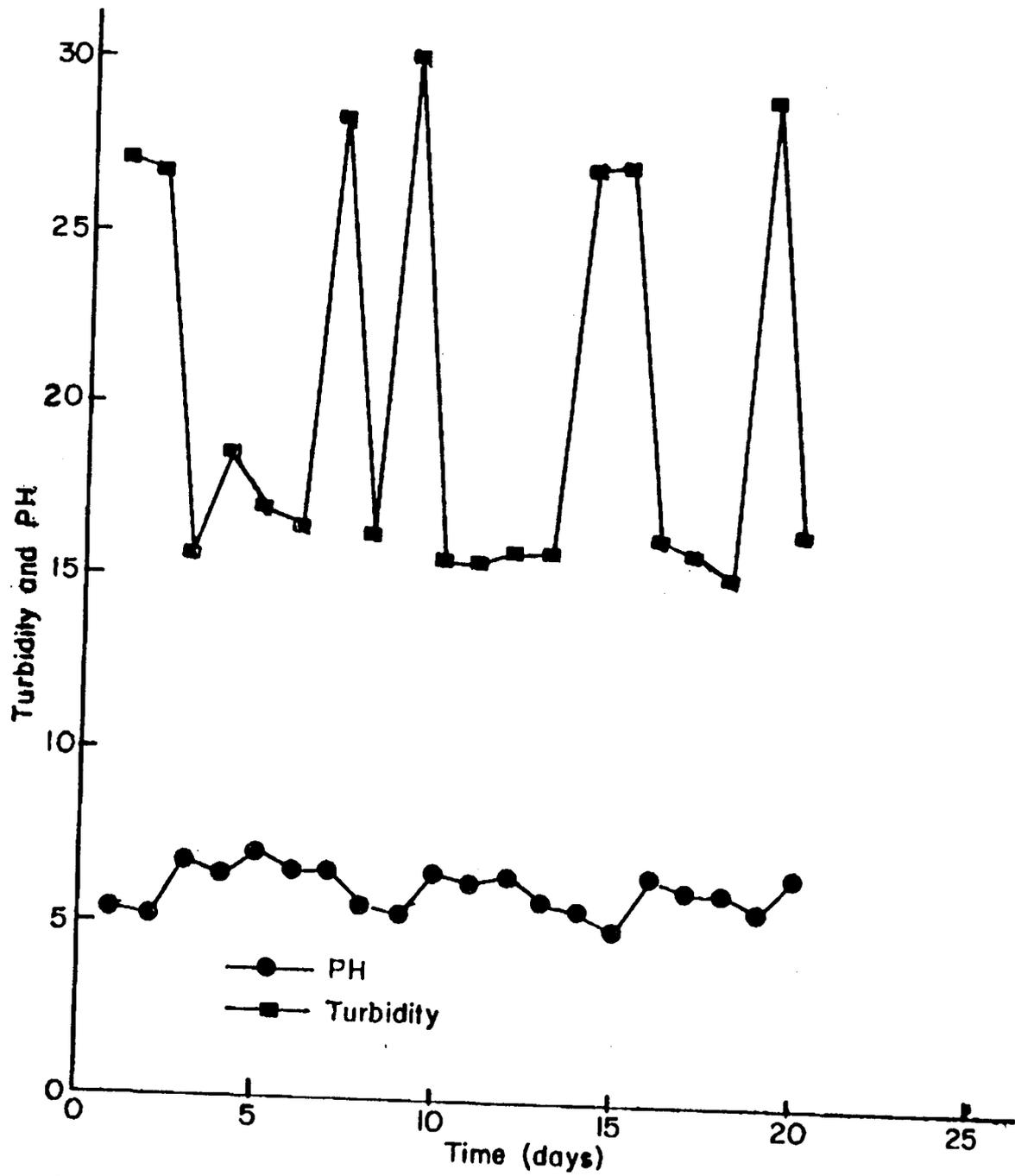


Fig. 3: Turbidity and PH for Air Liquid Wastewater