# The Latest Reports in Managing Acidic Sludge of Used Motor Oil Reprocessing Industries

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**Abstract:** Used Motor Oils Recycling (UMOR) can be fulfilled in different ways depending on the quality and quantity of the fresh oil and the quality of the collected UMO. The Acidic Sludge (AS) is a byproduct of UMOR with hazardous effects and impacts on the environment. It yields 0.15 of each barrel (220 liters) of UMOR operation. The valid and relevant databases were used to discover the latest reports in managing the AS of UMOR operation. The findings of the current review were oriented towards the physical-chemical backbone of AS and its industrial exploitation. The chemical structure of AS was highlighted by a glance view in the recent reports. To sum up, it was recommended to utilize this valuable byproduct in many industrial applications as an additive.

Keyword: Used motor oil, Acidic sludge, Recycling, Screening, Projects.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Lubricants used in today's industrial world can be categorized into four classes: gaseous, liquid, semisolid, and solid lubricants. (1) Gaseous lubricants, especially air, are used for lubrication where high speed and radial stability of the axis of rotation are desired; abnormal temperature conditions or the presence of nuclear beams have emerged. (2) Liquid lubricants consist of a wide range of fluids, from pressurized liquefied gases to various synthetic oils. Application of liquid lubricants comprises a wide range of requests for under pressure gases, various synthetic oils, etc. They are consumed for hydrodynamic lubrication operation with a thick layer or a thin layer of lubricant. Therefore, it is the most common type of lubricant used. The most important and widely used liquid lubricant is mineral oil obtained from crude oil refining. Liquid lubricants comprise the following: Natural, animal, and vegetable oils that have specific lubrication use. These oils are the product of fatty acids with alcohol, which were used alone for fluids lubrication in the past. But today, they are requested in combination with mineral oils. (3) Semisolid lubricants consist of various greases, solid fats, and waxes [1-8]. Uses of these lubricants are devoted to sealing the lubrication site to use liquid lubricant, light, and discontinuous working conditions or lack of access to the site in ball bearings and rollers that are lubricated by elastohydrodynamic lubrication operation. (4) Solid lubricants are used for lubrication in working conditions such as complete vacuum, the ambient with high

temperature, or in boundary lubrication conditions. This group was allocated for graphite, mica, talc, molybdenum sulfide, lead oxide, sulfur mud, and various plastics. Therefore, the outcome of huge demand in lubricant consumption can be impressive for the used lubricants released from a variety of applications in society. According to recent reports, the production rate of used liquid lubricants (motor oils) is about 300000-350000 tons/year in Iran [6-10]. The huge quantities of used liquid lubricants demand methods for managing the waste released.

Additives are chemical materials with particular compounds that add a certain quantity to the base oil to modify the basic properties of the oil and provide many promotions and modifications that either are not present in the base oil or they are minimum to the total oil proportion. The motor oil additives are mainly encompassed oxidation inhibitors, bearing corrosion agents, anti-abrasion materials, friction improvers, antifoaming agents, anti-paint additives, suspended ashfree builders, and metal cleaners [7-13].

Crude oil can be divided into several groups of compounds according to the percentage of its organic compounds (1) crude oil with paraffin base (2) crude oil with naphthenic base (3) crude oil with aromatic base. Approximate weight percentage analysis of a crude oil sample (by average weight) for carbon, hydrogen, sulfur, nitrogen, oxygen, and metals were reported as 83.9-86.8; 11.4-14; 0.06-8; 0.11-1.7; 0.5; and 0.03, respectively [13-16].

The main source of motor oil pollution is the materials produced from engine fuel combustion, so the type and quality of fuel, its combustion method, operating conditions, and mechanical situation of the

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engine are effective parameters in motor oil pollution. UMO often contains solid impurities such as dust, sand, metal particles, carbon lead residues, etc., which are harmful components to engine operation. At high temperatures and in the presence of oxygen, the metal particles in the motor oil act as a catalyst, create asphalt and sludge materials that promote the oil's viscosity to some extent. Paraffin oils keep the asphalt materials in a soluble state so that they do not precipitate as hard charcoal when heated. Petroleum oils or oils with cleansing properties prevent scale and flake formation [16-20].

Before examining the different methods of producing motor oil and grease from the UMO, we must first see the other benefits of re-refining the UMO in addition to using the final product and what is its application in other demands. Suppose that all the massive quantity of UMO is collected under the correct procedure and methods. The question that arises is; what is the correct and optimal way to use the UMO? Three options can be discussed in this regard. (1) Release to the environment (2) incineration of UMO as fuel (3) reprocessing or re-refining. Since the pollutants in the UMO are insoluble and pollute the ground, they cause environmental problems, and the soluble pollutants also pollute the underground resources. So, these wastes are very problematic. They are more dangerous than primary pollutants, so the use of UMO, in addition to economic justifications, also finds more environmental challenges. At a simple glance, the UMO re-refining seems like crude oil refining because it has all the required properties for fuel and base oil production. These properties can be mentioned, for example, (1) good viscosity, (2) good viscosity index (3) low pour point. Before transferring to the tank of base oil, the crude oil needs the removal of contaminants (water, light hydrocarbons, ash, and components of asphalt). Simultaneous adjustment of secondary characteristics is essential parts such as color and pH. The difficulty experienced is related to finding the technology for purifying the UMO in the areas mentioned above. This technology must have acceptable conditions from the following points of view. (1) Ecology or environmental protection (control of released pollutants and their removal); (2) Performance (extraction rate and specifications) (3) Cost. The appropriate response for a given situation depends on the severity of the regulations on the prevention of environmental pollution in the area. According to estimations, the production of one ton of base oil through conventional processes based on crude oil of

Middle Eastern countries, which is suitable for oil production, requires 1.6-1.4 tons of gasoline, i.e., crude oil, and the required energy of oil production from crude oil. The same estimation based on UMO re-refining shows that the production of one ton of base oil equivalent to 1.1-1.2 tons of gasoline is required (assuming the value of gasoline-equivalent to UMO is between 0.8-0.9 tons per ton of UMO and extraction of 72.5% of UMO). This gives an advantage in re-refining UMO compared to the normal process between 0.2 to 0.4 tons per ton of base oil produced. In addition, it should be noted that the production of one ton of base oil through conventional processes will require refining 6.5-10 tons of crude oil (depending on the type of oil and the specific characteristics of treated motor oil). According to initial estimations of the Iranian experts, per 1000 tons of crude oil, 5 tons of motor oil is extracted. Re-refining UMO leads to the purchase and use of smaller quantities of crude oil mixed with UMO. The re-refining is not destructive and, in addition, will create job opportunities [18-21].

The dewatering unit of UMOR is an integral process of all recycling technologies. The yield of released water is estimated at approximately 4% of the input feed of UMO. The released water in the grease production process from the UMOR is about 0.1 to 0.3% by weight of the produced grease in acid/clay recycling technology. The dehydration stage of the UMO is an integral part of the employed processes and technologies to recycle the UMO. This unit is known in large refineries as water intake ponds. It is located before the distillation and heating units of UMOR. Due to the qualities and quantities of collected UMO and the requested fresh motor oil, there is not even one recovery method in the recycling process that is considered an optimal alternative under all conditions. In the dehydration process in the tanks, ponds of UMO, water (insoluble), and waste are removed via discharging and loading during the specified retention time. These materials drain some water to some extent. Filters are sometimes placed on these ponds or tanks to remove larger impurities and simplify the work. In any case, the lower phase (water and other sediments) is discharged from the tank, and the upper phase is sent to the distillation tower by a pump. In the past, when the collected oils were less complex in the production units, the oil was sent to the dewatering unit and was heated to a temperature above 100°C. In this way, the remaining water was taken from the oil, but now for the above reasons and other reasons like the oil being not efficient during the process, after settling

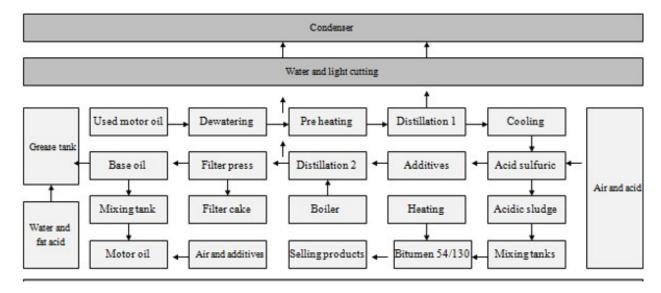


Figure 1: UMO reprocessing industry and AS recycling unit joined [24].

tanks, the oil is sent to a heat exchanger (by passing through a preheating) and then to the distillation tower in acid/clay recycling technology. The acid/clay technology is a dominant technique in recycling UMO in Iran and too many nations worldwide. It has been reported to the existence of at least 250 small industries in recycling UMO in Iran. Figure **1** displays the layout of acid/clay technology units in UMOR operation in Iran [19-23].

# 2. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF AS

AS as an industrial waste of UMOR industries is utilized in various applications in both forms of additive material and supplementary material in the manufacturing operation [25-30]. The most important applications of AS in industrial requests are included in manufacturing organic fertilization, explosive materials, paint, ink, industrial detergent, sulfuric acid, light hydrocarbons, coke, activated carbon, furnaces fuel, boilers fuel, thermal insulation, plastic bags, automotive fan belt, PVC flooring, blown bitumen, emulsion bitumen, polymer bitumen, complementary of bitumen (optimum ratio of AS applied as an additive in bitumen 60/70 obtained to be around 20% of its weight), motorcycle battery, and liquid bitumen, etc. [30-38]. According to the environmental impact assessment report of Iranian industrial projects, we have access to initial data of both manufacturing units of printing ink and thermal insulator. The initial data of mentioned industries has been discussed in the following sections. Figure 2 shows the modified AS of UMO reprocessing industries to polymer bitumen using bentonite and styrene butadiene styrene polymer.



**Figure 2:** Shows the modified AS of UMO reprocessing industries to polymer bitumen [39].

In the latest studies, the structure and backbone of AS were considered by a few scientists via physicalchemical analysis tests. Despite the fact that we know AS of UMO is classified in the list of hazardous waste materials of environment protection agency, awareness of its composition helps the scientist investigate the relevant and proper managing practices [40-43]. Tables **1** and **2** portray the concentration of elements in AS of UMO reprocessing industries and their properties, respectively.

					Element						References
Sb	As	Cd	Cr	Cu	Pb	Hg	Мо	Ni	Sn	Zn	[44]
0.22	0.04	0.14	0.32	17.3	0.05	0.01	0.13	0.27	3.71	10	
AI	Ва	Ca	Mg	К	Li	Р	Sb	Se	S	Sr	[45]
220	15	20200	320	88	1	790	≪0.1	≪0.1	19100	130	
Sn	Sc	Na	Ti	Hg	As	Bi	Cd	Со	Cr	Cu	
≪0.1	≪0.1	515	18	<0.01	<0.1	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	33	88	
La	Мо	Fe	Mn	Ni	Pb	v	Zn	Ag	Ga	MgO	
≪0.01	70	1160	25	15	30	<0.1	1100	<0.01	<0.01	530	
MnO	MO	SrO	V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	ZnO	Ga	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CuO	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	PbO	
32	105	154	≪0.1	1370	≪0.01	1810	48	110	1658	35	
SO <sub>2</sub>	SnO <sub>2</sub>	Cd	CoO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	CaO	As <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	NiO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	
47700	₹0.1	₹0.01	₹0.01	515	28260	<b>≪</b> 0.1	19	416	88	₹0.1	
TiO <sub>2</sub>											
30											
Zn	Cu	Fe	Мо	В	Mn	AI	Pb	Cr	Ва	Sn	[46]*
12248.7	4420.46	4033.58	2269.54	1369.36	398.06	273.02	132.7	119.09	110.33	58.65	
Ni	v	Ag	As	Cd	Co	Hg	Sb	Se	Ti	Be	
56.01	8.28	6.18	4.96	4.44	3.78	3.49	2.88	0.14	0.13	0.01	
Li	Sr										
47.92	43.33										

# Table 1: Concentration of Elements in AS of UMO Reprocessing Industries

The concentration of elements and oxides (ppm).  $^{\ast}$  mg kg  $^{\text{-1}}$ 

#### ing kg

# Table 2: Properties of AS [45-48]

Property	Value	Test method	Unit	
Color	Black	-	-	
Odor	Damaging	-	-	
рН	1.35	-	-	
Physical shape	Semisolid (at 25 °C)			
Penetration grade (25 °C)	28	ASTM D5	0.1 mm	
Softening point	78	ASTM D36	٥°	
Ductility (25 °C)	40	ASTM D113	Cm	
Melting point	109	ASTM D92	٥C	
Organic carbon	542.44		g/kg	
TKN	9.96		g/kg	
TP	2.22		g/kg	
Moisture content	10.60		%	
ТРН	521.12		g/kg	
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.02		%	
Water	3		%	
Organic oil	53		%	
Resins	5		%	
Ash/other impurities	0.15		%	
Asphaltene	38.8		%	
Flash point	210		٥C	
Specific gravity	1.1		25 °C	

The industrial applications of AS can create job opportunities, business excellence, and sustainability of manufacturing units. The sustainable development of industrial units is the final and prominent purpose of environmental assessment and environmental management for various organizations. The privileges of sustainability in managing AS of reprocessing industries undermine part of the challenges raised about global warming.

## 2.1. Printing Ink

Since most of the newspapers are written in black ink, it is possible to choose the appropriate formulation according to the time of consumption and the storage period of the newspapers (which is a shorter time compared to the book). Production methods are almost similar for different types of inks; only the percentage of composition and types of employed raw materials are different. There are generally two methods for producing printing ink: in the first method, the pigment is mixed with varnish and then distributed via a supportive machine. The second method uses the cake pressing process. This means that the obtained dough from the production line is not dried and milled in the factory of making dough pigments. But in the same way, it is placed in a suitable chamber, and a vacuum pump removes the excess water. Then, the pigment is ready for consumption, and when needed, the varnish is added and mixed to be ready to use. This method is superior to the method of using dry pigment. The distribution of which requires a lot of mechanical energy because the color strength and gloss of the pigment compound prepared by the press cake method are better than the same type as a dry pigment. In European countries, the reason for not using this superior method gets back the limitation of the ink producer and the impossibility of using creativity for producing special inks. Because in the cake pressing method, a multifunctional varnish (a mixture of varnishes, oils, and additives) is selected and a pigment is distributed and dissipated in the required quantity, and the ink is ready to be used. So, the difficulty in ink producer is removed (preparation of a compound with particular properties, change in the properties of the ink, and solving the problems during printing). Using dry pigments for works of art is preferable because today, the problem of sealant and pigment distribution has been solved by preparing easy disperse sealants. But for making newspaper and offset printing, inks can be used.

To produce newspaper inks, first gilsonite, linseed oil, mineral oil, or other drying oils (according to the

weighing formulation, if any) are poured into the relevant tank that is heated through a steam jacket. This process continues for 5-4 hours at a temperature of 170°C. The resulting mixture, called a binder, is discharged from the tank by a pump and, after passing through a filter, enters a tank equipped with a wheel. The process involves introducing a carbon black pigment or soot into the specified amount and filler, which dissolves the soot particles into the liquid using a rapid stirrer to form a completely homogeneous suspension. The required time to mix is half an hour. The next is the aeration process, which takes place at the same time as the continuous packing process. It takes 3 to 2 hours, depending on the selected capacity. The process of aeration and milling of the materials causes better mixing of soot and composite filler, after which they are ready for packaging. As explained in the previous section, a 5-rollers or 3-rollers mill can be employed vertically or horizontally. The selected additive (lead naphthenate) is introduced at this stage, which acts as a desiccant. However, after this stage, the prepared ink is simultaneously directed to the filling machine, emptied, and then packaged in the desired containers to be presented to the market. Offset ink production is similar to the production of newspaper ink except for raw materials introduced into the production line and several other minor disorders. Thus, the raw materials required to produce offset composite binders are phenolic resin, desiccant oil, and high boiling point mineral oil obtained from oil cutting. According to the weighing formulation, the tank is equipped with an internal mixer, with the same temperature conditions and with the same mixing time. Since the oil cut would have a lower boiling point than the oil cut used in the newspaper, the mixing operation can be completed only by stirring, and there is no need to heat. In any case, after stirring the mixture for 4 hours and then draining it with a pump and passing it through a strainer, the next step is mixing with pigments and filler (hydrated calcium carbonate), which is done in a tank equipped with a wheel. Then naphthenate cobalt is added and mixed during aeration. The production process is the same as offset ink. Figure 3 and Table 3 display the layout of the units of the printing ink production industries and their annual requirements.

#### 2.2. Thermal Insulator

The raw materials for making the product are (1) Tissue; it is a thin layer of fiberglass that has a width of 1 meter and is produced in the Iran Glass Wool Factory. (2) Polyester weighing 100 to 110 gm<sup>-2</sup>, which

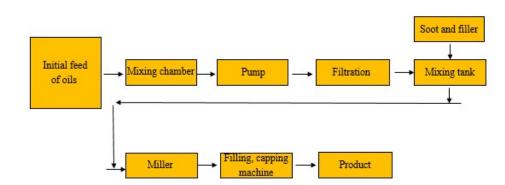


Figure 3: The layout of the units of printing ink production industries.

Table 3: The Annual Requirements of Industries of Printing Ink

The materials and equipment	Total annual rates				
Equipment and devices					
The reactor, capacity of 2000 L, stainless steel, 20 hp	1 No				
Shell & tube condenser, thermal surface, 20 m <sup>2</sup>	1 No				
Separator, 35 L	1 No				
Box filter, steel, A= 1 m <sup>2</sup>	2 No				
Storage tank, steel carbon, 2000 L	1 No				
Centrifuge pump 15 m <sup>3</sup> /h, 2 kW	2 No				
Wheelbarrow, 1000 L	1 No				
Mixer, 50 hp	1 No				
Hydraulic three rollers miller	1 No				
Filling machine, 1 kg/s	1 No				
Labeling machine, 1 cans/s	1 No				
Required n	naterials				
Gilsonite	136350 kg				
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	9595 kg				
Naphthenate Cobalt	5050 kg				
Phenolic resin	15150 kg				
Cotton oil	137360 kg				
Mineral oil	130795 kg				
Carbon black	68175 kg				
Titanium oxide	3370 kg				
Azo pigments	3370 kg				
Phthalocyanine	3370 kg				
Artificial SiO <sub>2</sub>	505 kg				
Cardboard of packaging	21042 kg				
Bottles	126250 kg				
Products (Nomi	-				
Printing ink, offset ink	450t, 50t				
Employ	yees				
Staff	16 persons				
Energy con	•				
Required water	9 m³/day				
Power	229 kW/day				
Required fuel (Stoves)	3 Giga Joule/day				
Required land an					
Required land	3300 m <sup>2</sup>				
Construction of infrastructure (Buildings)	930 m <sup>2</sup>				

gives the product the necessary strength. (3) A label of propylene according to the climate of the regions. (4) CaCO<sub>3</sub> is a mineral material used as a filler and a nonadhesive layer. (5) Bitumen 80/25 is the main material used to produce insulators, and for its production, additional aeration facilities are requested. (6) Polyethylene film, which is used as a coating. The method for producing the insulation layer is introducing the molten bitumen into the mixer at high temperature and then adding the propylene and asbestos labels to it and stirring. While stirring in the mixer, it is heated with hot oil until the temperature reaches 220°C. Stirring continues for about 2 hours so that the ingredients are thoroughly mixed and emerged homogeneously. Then the resulting ingredients enter another mixer, and with increasing CaCO<sub>3</sub> filler, the resulting mixture is concentrated and ready to work. The material enters the molten material pool from the second mixer in the layering machine. Inside this machine, the tissue and polyester layer is flattened via two rollers and is transferred to the place of the molten pool of materials by other rollers. They then enter the pool and are mixed thoroughly with the molten material. After that, the mentioned layer is removed from the melt pool and cooled by a water pool or air pressure. After coming out of the water pool, CaCO<sub>3</sub> powder is added to separate and prevent the layers from attaching. They are then calibrated by special rollers. A layer of polyethylene film is placed on it and adheres to it by roller pressure. Quality control is done in all stages. In Iran, the production method of asphalt sheets and shields of moisture insulator and non-moist prefabricated asphalt coating has been available for a long time, and all devices and manufacturing technology are produced in the country. The method of producing insulators is that initially, bitumen 80/25, which is melted at 80 °C, is introduced into the high-speed mixer. Then the addition of the solution of propylene and the asbestos that has

already been mixed with it is completed. Since the mixer is a double-walled reactor, it is heated by hot oil. It handles the temperature around the boiler to be escalated about 220 to 230°C. Stirring continues for about 2 hours until the ingredients are well mixed and the thermostatic operation is performed. The required percentage of CaCO<sub>3</sub> is then added, and the additives are introduced into the reactor. The produced primer is sent to the storage tank of intermediate materials, after which the tissue of glass wool layer along with a roll of polyester is connected to the machine. After that, it enters the tank and is impregnated with the primer. This layer is cooled slowly, and with the cooling process, the vapors are evaporated, and odorous gases are absorbed. Then CaCO<sub>3</sub> powder is sprayed, and a layer of polyethylene film is accommodated on it to be rolled. It has a dimension of around 1\*10 m<sup>2</sup>. This method is one of the best, easiest, and least expensive methods of producing insulators. According to the needs of the device, automation systems are connected to it, and drying the insulator is done by introducing air. Figure 4 and Table 4 denote the layout of the units of insulator production industries and their annual requirements.

# 3. CONCLUSION

All UMO treatment processes produce a significant quantity of Contaminated Water (CW). The CW discussed in this review includes contaminated water for washing industrial units and water released from the heating unit, preliminary distillation, and distillation operation. The dewatering unit of UMOR is an integral process of all purification technologies. The yield of released water is estimated at approximately 4% of the input feed of UMO. The handling methods of AS have been facilitated using new data and reports published. The tabulated data attracts the stakeholders to conduct

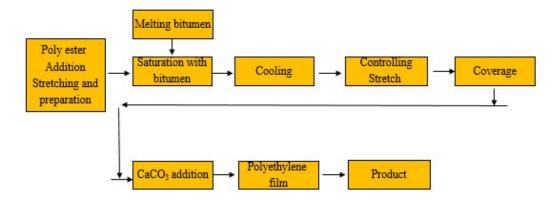


Figure 4: The thermal insulator manufacturing process.

# Table 4: The Annual Requirements of Thermal Insulator Manufacturing Industries

The Materials and Equipment	Total Annual Rates		
Equipment and	devices		
Raw material rolling machine equipped to the gearbox, 900 rpm, 1 hp	1 No		
Main material rolling machine in the same situation	2 No		
Saturation tank in size of 2*1.5*2.6 m	1 No		
Tank tension machines equipped to the gearbox, 3 hp, 900 rpm	2 No		
Covering machine of tanks equipped to the oil recirculation system	1 No		
Dryer and Stretcher machine, 2 hp, 1400 rpm	1 No		
Roller coated, 3 hp, 900 rpm	2 No		
Mineral materials tank, external d= 2 inch	3 No		
Lifters, 5 hp, 900 rpm	3 No		
Dryer, 2 hp, 1400 rpm	2 No		
Rolling machine, 3 hp	2 No		
Steel mixer, 15 m <sup>3</sup>	2 No		
Pumps	4 No		
Required mate	erials		
Fiberglass booster materials	2100000 m <sup>2</sup>		
Bitumen 80/25	5000t		
PS	231t		
Asbestoses	1200t		
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1785t		
PP labels	1600t		
PE film	126t		
Solvent 402 or 406 refinery	48t		
Products (Nominal	capacity)		
Thermal insulator of 4 mm	2000000 m <sup>2</sup>		
Employee	S		
Staff	27 persons		
Energy consun	nption		
Required water	15 m³/day		
Power	296 kW/day		
Required fuel (Stoves)	5 Giga Joule/day		
Required land and la	andscaping		
Required land	8600 m <sup>2</sup>		
Construction of infrastructure (Buildings)	2470 m <sup>2</sup>		

an economic assessment from their running industrial units. The financial modeling can also be defined as another achievement of the tabulated data. The tabulated data was picked up from the industrial project initial screening step in the environmental impact assessment plan. They can be used to figure out the performance and efficiency of industrial units via data envelopment analysis. Future research orientation is recommended to be moved towards plasmatron gasification of AS to generate value-added gaseous products such as  $CH_4$ ,  $CO_2$ , CO,  $N_2$ , and  $O_2$ .

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## **COMPETING INTERESTS**

The author declares that there is no competing interest.

# **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest.

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# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical issues have been completely observed by the author.

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