



## Mueller, Myers invention patent pending

Paul Mueller and Tony Myers combined two existing water treatment processes to make a space-saving, cost-effective water treatment process that currently has a patent pending.

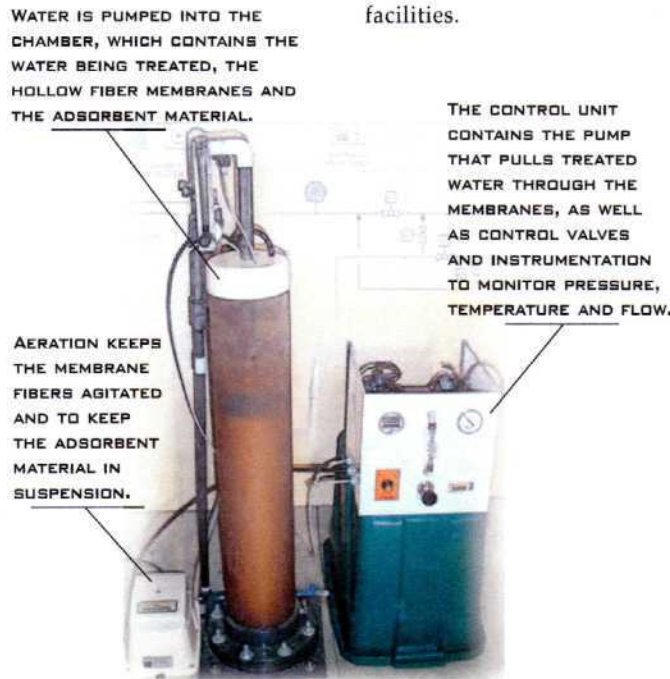
The technology pairs a vacuum-driven hollow fiber ultrafiltration process, which provides state-of-the-art removal of disease-causing microorganisms, with a suspension of small ion-exchange resin beads that absorb dissolved organic compounds.

Although both ultrafiltration and ion exchange are commonly used in drinking water treatment, what differentiates the Mueller/Myers invention is combining the two processes in a single compact treatment tank. The ion exchange resin is magnetic, which allows it to quickly settle out once removed from the main process tank. The aeration system typically used to agitate the ultrafiltration fibers and keep them from plugging with solids

was redesigned to keep the magnetic resin beads in suspension in the process tank.

The combined process takes up less space than other treatment alternatives

where both microorganism removal and organics control are required, and may help municipalities and private treatment facilities reduce the cost of upgrading or expanding their water treatment facilities.



Mueller built this prototype water treatment system in his Corvallis, Ore., garage.

### Infrastructure & Environment Intellectual Property Office

Dan Arvizo, chief technology officer for the Energy, Environment & Systems Business Group, has also been tapped to be the I&E corporate executive for the IP Office.

His background includes 25 years at Sandia National Laboratories, where he directed their corporate IP program servicing more than \$1.5 billion of annual budget.

Arvizo's IP role includes:

- identifying cross-business group opportunities for the firm's patents
- seeking out strategic partnerships, licensing and IP acquisitions
- analyzing market trends and emerging technologies
- providing centrally managed IP processes, tools and methods

Arvizo assumes the executive sponsorship role previously held by Mike Kennedy. He will work closely with Michelle Girts, who is director of the IP Office, Alan Wilson, senior advisor for the IP program, and Rob Hoge, Legal Department.

### Chronology of events

