

## Safe Work Instruction - Deragging Surface Aerators at Wastewater Treatment Plants

**DO NOT use this plant\* or complete this task unless you have been inducted in its safe use and operation by an Authorised Experienced Operator**

This SWI may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process.  
Additional training may be required for high risk plant. Site and task may change required PPE.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Eye protection must be worn



Long and loose hair must be contained or covered.



Protective body clothing must be worn



Foot protection must be worn






Hand protection must be worn



P2 face mask must be worn when airborne dust or fumes are created

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

-  **Manual Task Injury**  
Manual task injury from incorrect manual handling techniques  
Manual task injury from repetitive movements
-  **Slip, Trips, Falls**  
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces
-  **Other**  
Exposure to biological hazards

### PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site-specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete visual plant check prior to operation
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Point isolator alarm on telemetry computer (follow Rad-Tel operations manual)

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area
- ✓ Turn off aerator in E.A.T control room and Lockout/tag accordingly.
- ✓ Refer to Energy Isolation Procedure P28
- ✓ Turn off aerator at local control switch on Walk Bridge and Lockout/tag
- ✓ Take de-ragging rake out of rack
- ✓ With the de-ragging rake, the operator removes the accumulation of rag from the top of the aerator impellor and moves to the end of the walkway with the accumulation of rag still on the rake head
- ✓ The rake head is then dragged up the side of the aeration basin with rags attached
- ✓ If there is any doubt about being able to lift the rags safely, then two workers are required to remove the accumulation of rags from the aeration basin
- ✓ Place rags into wheelbarrow & thoroughly hose down the area where the rags were dragged up the aeration basin wall and around the wheelbarrow

### ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Replace rake in holder
- ✓ Place rags in trench and cover with at least 150mm sand or other appropriate material

- ✓ Place collected material into the appropriate bin for collection and disposal
- ✓ Remove all isolating tags
- ✓ Return aerator control switch in E.A.T switch room to Auto and local control switch on walkway to ON

### DO NOT

- ✗ Do not use if plant is faulty. Attach an Out of Service tag and report fault to your supervisor
- ✗ Do not lift rags out of water while still on Aerator or Walkway

\*Plant in this SWI refers to any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool.