Consortium for Educational Communication

SUMMARY

Water treatment involves the processes that make water more acceptable for its specific end-use. The end-use may be drinking, industrial water supply, irrigation, river flow maintenance, water recreation or many other uses including being safely returned to the environment. Usually, treatments either produce clean drinking water or waste water that can be safely disposed off in the environment. The treatment of drinking water production involves the removal of contaminants from raw water to produce water that is pure enough for human consumption, without any risk of short term or long term adverse health effects. Substances that are removed during the process of water treatment intended for drinking purpose include suspended solids, bacteria, algae, viruses, fungi, and minerals such as iron and manganese. Also, water treatments are carried to reduce the toxicity of waste-water produced from various industries. Treatments remove the majority of contaminants from wastewater and produce a liquid effluent suitable for disposal to the natural environment. Biological processes are usually employed in the treatment of wastewater and these processes may include aerated lagoons, activated sludge or slow sand filters.