A method for cleaning tanks from oil product residues based on biotechnology

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Abstract. The known methods of cleaning tanks from the remnants of petroleum products using existing means are quite time-consuming, energy-intensive, and insufficiently advanced. In addition, waste cleaning solutions are poorly regenerated and slowly oxidized in the biosphere, and their removal to landfills (or discharge into reservoirs) causes great harm to the environment. Therefore, the search for new methods of cleaning is a very urgent task. This work aims to develop a method for cleaning tanks from the residues of petroleum products based on biotechnology. This article proposes a technological scheme of an experimental installation that simulates a tank for storing petroleum products in agricultural conditions. Studies on the oxidation of petroleum product residues by selected active cultures of microbial strains have been carried out. The modes of biological cleaning of the internal surfaces of tanks for the storage of petroleum products, from their residues, are determined. Strains of oiloxidizing microorganisms were used as biologics). The biomass of the studied microorganisms was obtained under laboratory conditions by deep cultivation in flasks on a mineral medium. The proposed method of tank cleaning is an environmentally friendly process, during which microorganisms decompose oil pollution at relatively low temperatures (20-40°C) and use hydrocarbons as a source for their growth. As a result of this process, many tons of oil deposits are converted into microbial cells, which in turn become a source of food for other organisms and the plant world.

1 Introduction

In Uzbekistan, large-scale measures are being taken to reduce the cost of fuel and lubricants, save them when performing agricultural work. Research works are being carried out to create energy-saving machines for tillage [1-21], sowing [22-23], harvesting [24], and processing [25] crops. The main goal is to reduce the cost of fuel and lubricants for agricultural work. The productivity of agricultural products mainly depends on the timely provision of fuel and lubricants for energy resources [28-41].

During long-term storage and transportation of petroleum products in the tanks, changes in the component composition occur, which leads to the accumulation of a large number of oil residues, which negatively affect the quality of petroleum products re-filled in these

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tanks. Contaminated fuel entering the fuel tanks of engines can cause serious damage, which leads to overspending of fuel by engines and, in general, to a decrease in the reliability and durability of machine parts and components. The quality of petroleum products is ensured during their storage and transportation using clean containers, which is possible only in the case of periodic cleaning of their residues of petroleum products and contaminants.

Tank cleaning is a very time-consuming process. The existing tank cleaning methods at the oil complexes of agricultural enterprises can be divided into two types: manual and mechanized. Manual cleaning method, currently almost not used.

The mechanized method of cleaning tanks from the residues of petroleum products at oil complexes of agricultural enterprises is carried out with the help of special installations for cleaning tanks developed in Russia. At the same time, an aqueous solution of preparations such as MS, ML," Labomid," and others, heated to 80-90° C, is used as a washing liquid.

This method significantly reduces the cleaning time, reduces the amount of manual labor and the cost of the process, but it has significant drawbacks.

The disadvantages of the mechanized method are the high energy consumption for heating cold water to a temperature of 80-90°C and the need for manual labor when unloading "dead" sediments from the tank. In addition, its significant disadvantage is the need to pump out the spent cleaning solution containing the remains of contaminated petroleum products in the tanks of treatment plants. Sometimes the waste solutions are taken to a landfill or drained into reservoirs, which causes great harm to the environment.

The known methods of cleaning tanks from the remnants of petroleum products using existing means are quite time-consuming, energy-intensive, and insufficiently advanced. In addition, waste cleaning solutions are poorly regenerated and slowly oxidized in the biosphere, and their removal to landfills (or discharge into reservoirs) causes great harm to the environment. Therefore, the search for new methods of cleaning is a very urgent task.

This work aims to develop a method for cleaning tanks from the residues of petroleum products based on biotechnology. The article sets the following tasks:

- to justify the possibility of biological cleaning of objects from oil pollution;

- develop a method for assessing the ability of microorganisms to disperse petroleum products;
- to determine the ability of microorganisms to absorb the remnants of petroleum products in the experimental facility;
- to develop a technology for the biological purification of tanks from the residues of petroleum products.

2 Methods

The objects of research were samples contaminated with residues of petroleum products, as well as tanks for their storage. As preparations of microbial biomass, strains of oiloxidizing microorganisms from the Sintez Belok Research Institute (Russia) collection were used. The biomass of the studied microorganisms was obtained in the laboratory by deep cultivation of them in flasks on mineral medium N_{Θ} 9. In the medium for growing yeast, the pH was established-5.0-5.5; for bacteria, 6.8-7.0. The amount of seed material -0.1 units of optical density about the volume of the nutrient medium. Cultivation mode: the temperature is optimal for the growth of each strain of the microorganism; the duration is 48 hours. An experimental setup has been developed for laboratory studies of the new cleaning method. The main part of the installation is the tank, which is a horizontal cylinder with a capacity of 10 liters made of organic glass. The following components are installed in the tank: bubbler (air supply system); heat exchanger, which is connected by silicone hoses with a thermostat; electrodes for measuring the pH of the medium; resistance thermometer; sampling valve. The research was carried out using modern equipment and devices, the use of modern research methods, the processing of the obtained data by methods of mathematical statistics and trial tests.

The hydrocarbon composition of oil-derived pollutants is characterized. The selection of microorganisms that utilize the hydrocarbons of oil pollution was carried out. According to their ability to utilize various fractions of petroleum hydrocarbons, the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the selected microorganisms are given. The biological method of tank cleaning from oil product residues is experimentally proved.

3 Results and Discussion

The research results made it possible to develop a technology for the biological cleaning of tanks from the remnants of petroleum products. The technology includes the following operations:

- obtaining the necessary amount of biomass (seed material) of microorganisms for the process;
- implementation of the process of biological cleaning of the tank;
- separation of the biomass from the culture fluid.

To obtain (prepare) the required amount of biomass, a biological laboratory is organized at the district sanitary and epidemiological station. Biological cleaning of tanks is carried out according to the scheme shown in Figure 1.



Fig. 1. Technological scheme of biological cleaning of tanks from oil product residues: 1 is compressor; 2 is rotameter; 3 is bubbler; 4 is tank; 5 is separator; 6 is container for biomass; 7 is container for culture liquid; 8 is pump; 9 is hydromonitor; 10 is pH meter; 11 is register; 12 is pump-dispenser; 13 is vessel for titrating liquid; 14 are electrodes for measuring the pH of the medium.

The tank 4 with the remnants of petroleum products is filled with seed material (the biomass of microorganisms in the required amount), where the bubbler 3 is released, and the compressor 1 is turned on. In this case, the air passing through the rotameter 2 rushes into the cavity of the bubbler 3, which provides intensive aeration in the air. This ensures the growth of microorganisms, with their uniform distribution over the entire volume of the

tank. Accordingly, the cleaning process is accelerated. Cleaning mode: the amount of seed material should ensure its optical density in the medium is not less than 0.5 units when measured in a cuvette of 5 mm; the pH of the medium is 5.0-5.5 for yeast; 6.8-7.0 for bacteria; medium temperature $26-40^{\circ}$ C, depending on the type of microorganism. Air consumption 3 l/lmin (3 liters per liter of pollution per minute). A rotameter regulates the air flow rate. The pH environment is controlled by a pH meter and is maintained automatically.

Since the tanks are cleaned in the summer, the ambient temperature is sufficient to carry out the process. If necessary, an electric air heater can be installed on the air supply line, with the help of which it is easy to maintain the temperature of the bubbled liquid in the process stages of 26-40°C.

At the end of the biological treatment cycle, a separator is activated in the oil pollution tank, where cells are isolated from the culture liquid. The cells of microorganisms enter the container 6, and the clarified culture liquid enters the container 7. Then the purified culture liquid is fed through the pump 8 and the hydraulic monitor 9 to the tank 4 for jet removal of the cells remaining on the tank walls and refuel the next tank with oil pollution. Some of the microbial cells extracted at the separation stage can be reused, and some can be disposed of (for example, for resuscitation of the soil with contaminated oil products).

The process of extracting cells from the solution in the separation channel occurs in the field of action of centrifugal forces. (Fig.2) The speed of rotation of the separator required for the deposition of suspended cells can be determined from the Stokes equation:

$$n = \frac{30d^2(\gamma_k - \gamma_r)}{18\pi\mu R} (\min^{-1}).$$

where μ is the coefficient of dynamic viscosity m⁻¹·kg·sec²; *d* is the average diameter of the cell, m; *R* is the radius of the separating channel, m; γ_k , γ_r are respectively, the density of cells (biomass) and the working solution (water), g/m³.

At a certain frequency n of rotation and the radius R of the separating channel, it is possible to ensure the optimal mode of extraction of the smallest cells in size. This effect is used to separate the spent cells.

If we take into account that d=10 microns, $\gamma_k=1.1-1.2$ g/cm³, $\gamma_p=1$ g/cm³, then at $n = (4-)10^3$ min⁻¹, a highly effective "pop-up" of spent cells is achieved.

Due to the mechanization of the process of extracting biologically active cells from the waste solution and reusing the clarified solution, it is possible to switch to closed biotechnological cleaning of tanks from oil pollution in the agro-industrial complex.

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Fig. 2. Separator operation diagram: 1 is filter element; 2 is housing; 3 is supply tube; 4 is torusshaped collector: 5 is accelerator tube; 6 is adjustment element; 7 is metering valve; 8 is separating channel

4 Conclusions

Thus, the biotechnological (innovative) method of tank cleaning is an environmentally friendly process in which microorganisms decompose oil pollution at relatively low temperatures and use hydrocarbons as a source for their growth. As a result of this process, many tons of oil deposits are converted into microbial cells, which in turn become a source of food for other organisms and the plant world.

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