Air Stripper

Symptom	Potential Cause	Possible Solution
Stripper leaks	Gaskets are leaking.	Apply silicon grease to gaskets and close up stripper. If they cannot be fixed the gaskets may need to be replaced.
Pressure or vacuum is building up in stripper.	Stripper is being fouled by mineral precipitates.	Clean stripper with acid to dissolve precipitates.
	Airflow rate through stripper has risen or is above the design value.	Decrease airflow rate.
Stripper is not cleaning contaminants sufficiently.	Inlet concentrations are higher than the design values.	Decrease water flow rate to obtain required stripping capacity.
	Flow rate of water through stripper is too high.	Decrease flow rate allowing longer residence time in stripper.
	Water temperature is lower than the design (below 60 deg F).	Increase water temperature or slow down water flow rate or increase airflow rate.
	Airflow rate is not high enough.	Increase airflow rate or decrease water flow rate.
	Products that are not easily strippable may be in higher concentrations than originally planned.	Consult manufacturer with test results of discharge contaminants.
	Stripper may have been shut down manually causing the contaminated water in the trays to fall into the sump without being cleaned.	Allow stripper to go through proper shutdown cycle when stopping the unit.
	Stripper may be setup wrong allowing the water to bypass trays.	Check orientation of trays to ensure water will flow through each tray properly.
	Some contaminants may be present that are affecting the ability to strip other contaminants.	Consult manufacturer with test results of intake and discharge contaminants.
	Increase in pressure causes a decrease in airflow resulting in a decrease of contaminant concentrations.	See pressure rise in stripper troubleshooting above.
Water is collecting in discharge piping of stripper.	Air leaving the stripper is very humid and will condense some water in the pipelines.	Install a knockout drum in discharge line before air is piped to another section of the process.
	The stripper causes foaming of the water which results in water collecting in the discharge lines.	Test for foaming contaminants such as soaps and install antifoaming dosing system to prevent foaming.
	Airflow rate is higher than the design value causing water to be carried over into the discharge lines.	Decrease flow rate to within design range.
Stripper often shuts down on a high stripper sump alarm.	Transfer pump is flowing faster than the discharge pump.	Slow transfer pump or speed up discharge pump.
	Discharge pump is not working properly.	Troubleshoot discharge pump.

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