

# QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL (QA/QC) PLAN

FOR  
**BOXLER DAIRY FARMS**  
**BIOLOGICAL SCRUBBER SYSTEM**  
Agreement # 50910

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*Submitted to:*

**New York State Energy Research and Development Authority**  
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*Submitted by:*

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Wendel Project No. 4338-15

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## Introduction

Boxler Dairy Farm, located in Varysburg, NY, currently milks 1,700 cows. With the recent addition of a fourth barn, they have capacity for 2,000 cattle. Recently, the farm has installed a biological scrubber system to help lower the levels of H<sub>2</sub>S in the biogas produced from the cows manure.

This plan describes the approach to monitor the performance of the biological scrubber system that has been installed by Boxler Dairy Farm to lower the level of H<sub>2</sub>S in the biogas to reduce downtime, maintenance and increase the engine-generator power output. A monitoring system is installed to measure and collect pre and post biological scrubber H<sub>2</sub>S levels to quantify the H<sub>2</sub>S removal by the biological scrubber. The data will serve as the basis for payment of a capacity incentive to help offset the capital expenses associated with the procurement of the new biological scrubber equipment and ten (10) years of performance incentive payments, which Boxler Dairy Farms has applied for under a Standard Performance Contract with NYSERDA.

## Biological Scrubber System Description

The biological scrubber system at the farm was designed by Energy Cube LLC. The scrubber is designed for a biogas flow rate of 150 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm). The sulfur loading has been designed for biogas with 4,500 parts per million by volume (ppm) of H<sub>2</sub>S.

Figure 1, includes photographs of the biological scrubber system. Figure 2, schematically shows the biological scrubber system.

The biological scrubber system consists of a cylindrical bioreactor, an air blower, recirculation pump, dosing pump for nutrient solution, and pre and post H<sub>2</sub>S gas analyzer. Within the cylindrical bioreactor is packed media to allow for the growth of the microorganisms, thiobacillus bacteria. The recirculation pump runs all the time at the lower speed of 17 HZ to keep the liquid within the bioreactor stirred and heated to keep the microorganisms at a temperature of approximately 100°F. Once an hour for seven (7) minutes the recirculation pump goes to a high speed of 55 HZ which allows the pump to spray the microorganisms from the spray system at the top of the bioreactor. Twice an hour water is added into to bioreactor for 5 minutes to allow for the nutrients to be fed to the microorganisms. One (1) tote, approximately 300 gallons, of nutrients is used a year to feed the microorganisms. Biogas airflow into the bioreactor is tied to the kW the engine is producing.

The bioreactor typically runs at a pressure of one (1) inch of water column during normal operation. When the pressure reaches four (4) psi the bioreactor needs to be cleaned. The clean the bioreactor, the packed media is covered with water and air is added for mixing. The process takes approximately an hour and the water is drained to the lagoon. This process is repeated until the bioreactor media is cleaned, typically a half day procedure.

**Table 1. Biological Scrubber Systems at Boxler Dairy Farms**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Biological Scrubber | Energy Cube LLC<br>Cylindrical Tower w/ randomly packed media and a specific strain of thiobacillus bacteria |
| Biogas Flow Rate    | Inlet : design 150 scfm  |
| Gas Temperature     | Varies depending on digester output  |
| Gas Pressure        | Varies depending on digester output  |
| Gas Composition     |  |
| CH <sub>4</sub>     | Varies depending on digester output  |
| O <sub>2</sub>      | Varies depending on digester output  |
| H <sub>2</sub> S    | Varies depending on digester output<br>(max inlet = 4,500 ppm)   |

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**Bioreactor Tower**



**Control Panel**



**Gas Analyzer (1)**



**Gas Analyzer (2)**

**Figure 1a. Photos of System Components**

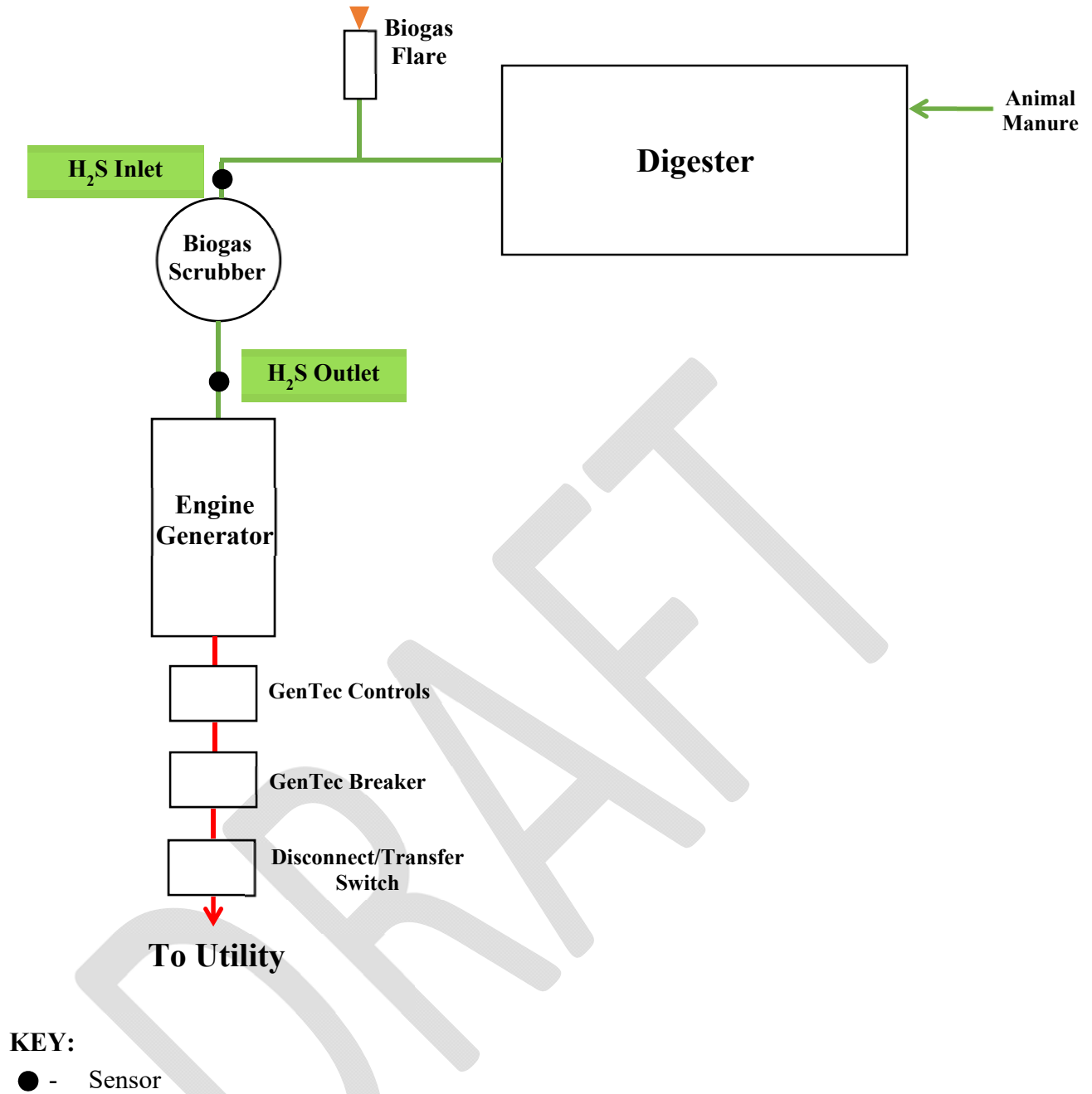


**Air Blower & Recirculation Pump**



**HMI**

**Figure 1b. Photos of System Components**



**Figure 2. Schematic of System**

## Biological Scrubber System Capacity Payment Descriptions

This Section describes the Capacity Incentive Payments included in the Agreement, the payment milestones to be achieved in order to receive payment, and the deliverables to be provided in achieving these milestones. For a biological scrubber system, the available Capacity Payments are Capacity Payments 1, 4, 5, and 6, which are presented below.

**Capacity Payment #1:** Up to 15% of Total Capacity Incentive is payable for reimbursement of project costs once the Contractor provides evidence sufficient to demonstrate payments for major equipment (e.g. power generation system, anaerobic digester system, biogas clean-up and handling systems etc.) and/or engineering design.

**Capacity Payment #4:** Up to 45% of the Project Enhancement Component of the Total Capacity Incentive is payable once NYSERDA's designated technical consultant has verified that construction/installation of the Project Enhancement has been completed or the required documentation for the Project Enhancement, according to applicable sections of *Using the Incentive Calculation Tool* of Exhibit D has been submitted to NYSERDA. The Contractor may request payment at this time for any Project Enhancements that have been completed and verified. Payment for Project Enhancements completed and verified after the request for Capacity Payment #4 had been made may be requested with the Capacity Payment #6.

**Capacity Payment #5:** 20% of Total Capacity Incentive is payable once documentation has been provided to NYSERDA that sufficiently verifies successful operation of the newly installed system and completion of interconnection, if applicable (e.g. interconnection acceptance test documentation from the utility.).

**Capacity Payment #6:** Up to 100% of the Total Capacity Incentive is payable once the newly installed system is successfully commissioned. Commissioning includes operating the ADG-fueled energy generation system at a minimum of 75% average capacity factor over seven (7) consecutive days, and demonstrating the ability to upload data generated by the system to NYSERDA's CHP website, if applicable. A project Commissioning Report must also be completed detailing the installation and commissioning activities and include design updates and as-built diagrams. Any project Enhancements payments that were not made with the Capacity Payment #4 may be requested with this payment.



## Monitoring System Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance

Payment for this incentive shall ultimately be based on adequate measurements of the ability of the biological scrubber to reduce H<sub>2</sub>S levels to less than 400 ppmv. Measurements will be made with continuous automatic gas sampling and analysis, or by other methods found acceptable to NYSERDA. For this project Union Instruments GmbH INCA4003, a biogas analyzer, will be used to measure the H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations. A link to the specification for the gas analyzer can be found in Appendix A. This system is in-line and can measure H<sub>2</sub>S from 0 to 5,000 ppm. Readings of H<sub>2</sub>S will be taken every 15 minutes and then averaged over each hour period.

Figure 2 also shows the locations of the two (2) new H<sub>2</sub>S data monitoring points which will be used to measure system performance. The gas analyzer measures H<sub>2</sub>S levels prior to the biological scrubber (**H<sub>2</sub>S Inlet**) and H<sub>2</sub>S levels after the biological scrubber (**H<sub>2</sub>S Outlet**). Information on these data points is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2. Monitored Points for Biological Scrubber System**

| Point Type | Point Name              | Description            | Instrument                      | Engineering Units | Expected Range           |
|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Pulse      | H <sub>2</sub> S Inlet  | H <sub>2</sub> S Level | Union Instruments GmbH INCA4003 | ppm               | 0-5000 ppm<br>(±150 ppm) |
| Pulse      | H <sub>2</sub> S Outlet | H <sub>2</sub> S Level | Union Instruments GmbH INCA4003 | ppm               | 0-5000 ppm<br>(±150 ppm) |

The H<sub>2</sub>S levels in both the inlet (**H<sub>2</sub>S Inlet**) and outlet (**H<sub>2</sub>S Outlet**) gas flows from the biological scrubber are measured using the Union Instruments GmbH INCA4003 biogas analyzer. This system includes an LCD display and is installed in the electrical room of the generator building. The system has the capability to measure ppm data for H<sub>2</sub>S in 15 minute intervals. Maintenance activities will be performed in accordance with the instructions in the O&M manual. A log of maintenance activities for the meter will be maintained at the site.

The existing data logger currently used for tracking electrical and biogas production from the digester may be used for transferring H<sub>2</sub>S reduction data to NYSERDA's Integrated Data System website. The data logger is programmed to average or totalize data for each monitoring point for each 15-minute interval as appropriate. A record of all multipliers and data logger settings will be maintained. The data logger will be connected to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) to ensure the data logger retains its settings and data in the event of a power outage. The UPS is capable of powering the data logger for at least one day. The farm will provide a dedicated phone line (or an Ethernet connection with fixed IP address) that will be used to communicate with the data logger. The NYSERDA CHP website contractor (CDH Energy Corp.) will communicate with the data logger nightly to extract monitored data from the data logger and transfer the data to the NYSERDA Integrated Data System website. If communications are lost, the data logger is capable of holding at least 15 days of 15-minute interval data.

The worksheet in Appendix B will be used as a template for documenting the capabilities of the biological scrubber system. Biogas flow and H<sub>2</sub>S input to and output from the biological scrubber

will be documented for each hour of the year that samples are taken. The percentage of cumulative outlet H<sub>2</sub>S samples (up to a maximum of 90% of the hours in a year) with 399 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S and below will be submitted to document adequate compliance with the requirement for payment. The summary of samples will show the percentage of cumulative samples with 399 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S and below as well as the percentage of cumulative samples with 400 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S and above. To satisfy requirements for the 6<sup>th</sup> Capacity Incentive payment, a minimum of 75% of the samples taken in a 7 day period must be below 400 ppm. The H<sub>2</sub>S reduction component of the annual Performance Incentive payment is determined by multiplying the Contract Capacity (600kW), times the factor 75%/90%, times the verified hourly samples below the minimum H<sub>2</sub>S threshold, times the H<sub>2</sub>S Performance Incentive variable for a biological scrubber (\$0.0023/kWh). NYSERDA will consider other formulations for calculating the Performance Incentive, in the event that the biological scrubber is unable to operate due to reasons outside of the operation of the scrubber itself. NYSERDA may direct its technical contractors to sample the biogas, determine H<sub>2</sub>S removal efficiency, and compare the results to the data originally provided by the operator.

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## Management of Monitoring System Data (Farm Responsibilities)

The Boxler Dairy Farms staff will perform the following quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure the data produced from the monitoring system accurately describes system performance.

On a daily basis, the Boxler Dairy Farms equipment manager (or other specified employee) will perform inspections of the biological scrubber equipment and record findings into the project log.

On a weekly basis, the Boxler Dairy Farms equipment manager (or other specified employee) will perform inspections of the QA/QC biogas analyzer installations and complete the routine maintenance on the analyzer, noting any abnormalities or unexpected readings.

On a weekly basis, the Boxler Dairy Farms staff will review the data stored on the NYSERDA Integrated Data System website ([chp.nyserda.org](http://chp.nyserda.org)) to ensure it is consistent with their observed performance of the biological scrubber system and logged readings. Boxler Dairy Farms will review the data using the reporting features at the website, including:

- Monitored Data – Plots and Graphs
- RPS: Customer-Sited Tier Anaerobic Digester Gas-to-Electricity Program NYSERDA Incentive Program Reports

In addition, the Boxler Dairy Farms staff will also setup and use the email reports that are available at the Integrated Data System website to help track system performance, including:

- A periodic email report summarizing performance and the estimated incentive,
- An email report will be sent out if data are not received at web site or do not pass the quality checks.

The website will automatically take the data collected from the data logger and evaluate the quality of the data for each interval using range and relational checks. The expected ranges for the sensors (see Table 2) will be used for the range checks. The relational check will compare the H<sub>2</sub>S ppm data for each 15-minute interval to ensure both analyzers always provide non-zero readings at the same time (e.g., to detect if a meter has failed). Only data that passes the range and relational quality checks are used in the incentive reports listed above. However, all hourly data are available from the NYSERDA Integrated Data System website using the “Download (CSV file)” reporting option.

In the event of a communications or analyzer failure, Boxler Dairy Farms personnel will work with CDH to resolve the issue.

If unanticipated loss of data occurs when the biological scrubber is operational, Boxler Dairy Farms will follow the procedures outlined in Exhibit D of their contract, i.e. using data from similar periods – either just before or after the outage – to replace the lost data. Boxler Dairy Farms personnel understand that they can use this approach for up to two (2) 36-hour periods within each 12-month performance reporting period. If more than two (2) such data outages occur, Boxler

Dairy Farms personnel will provide information from other acceptable data sources (e.g., weekly recorded logs) to definitively determine the H<sub>2</sub>S levels of the biogas during the period in question.

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**APPENDIX A**

## Cut Sheets and Manuals-

### Union Instruments INCA4003 Gas Analyzer O&M and Data Sheet:

[http://www.union-instruments.com/images/downloads/Handbuecher/inca/englisch/OI\\_INCA4003\\_EN.pdf](http://www.union-instruments.com/images/downloads/Handbuecher/inca/englisch/OI_INCA4003_EN.pdf)

[http://www.union-instruments.com/images/downloads/Datenblaetter/inca/INCA4003\\_DEU.pdf](http://www.union-instruments.com/images/downloads/Datenblaetter/inca/INCA4003_DEU.pdf)

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**APPENDIX B**

| Worksheet to Document Ability of Biological Scrubber to Produce Measured H <sub>2</sub> S Concentrations Less than 400 ppmv |                |   |  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Data to be Completed by Operator  |                |   |  | Analysis which can be done by Technical Consultant |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| A   | B              | C   | D  | E  | F  | G                               | H  | I  |  |
| Hour  | Date of Sample | H <sub>2</sub> S in Biogas Before Cleanup (ppm) | H <sub>2</sub> S in Biogas After Cleanup (ppm) | Sorted H <sub>2</sub> S Data                       | Range of H <sub>2</sub> S Concentrations (ppm) | Number of Samples in Each Range | Cumulative Number of Samples less than Range Maximum | Percentage of Cumulative Samples Less than Range Maximum |  |
| 12:00:00 AM   | 1              | 1,500   | 50   |  | 0 to 399                                       | 18                              | 18   | 75%  |  |
| 1:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,600   | 50   |  | 400 or higher                                  | 6                               | 24   | 100%   |  |
| 2:00:00 AM  | 1              | 2,000   | 250  |  |  | Total Samples: 24               |  |  |  |
| 3:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,600   | 250  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 4:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,400   | 400  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 5:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,250   | 150  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 6:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,300   | 150  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 7:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,500   | 150  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 8:00:00 AM  | 1              | 2,000   | 200  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 9:00:00 AM  | 1              | 1,500   | 250  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 10:00:00 AM   | 1              | 1,500   | 250  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 11:00:00 AM   | 1              | 1,600   | 150  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 12:00:00 PM   | 1              | 800   | 250  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 1:00:00 PM  | 1              | 800   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 2:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,200   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 3:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,100   | 450  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 4:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,300   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 5:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,400   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 6:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,500   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 7:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,400   | 550  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 8:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,300   | 550  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 9:00:00 PM  | 1              | 1,500   | 350  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 10:00:00 PM   | 1              | 2,000   | 950  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |
| 11:00:00 PM   | 1              | 800   | 550  |  |  |                                 |  |  |  |

NOTE: This is an example for 1 days worth of data. This table will need to be extended to 7 days for the 6th Capacity Payment and 365 days for the Annual Performance Payments.