

Technology for potable water from sewage ready

BY MOHAN VADAYAR

THE technology to extract clean drinking water from sewage is ready in the UAE but it is only a question of ethnic problems of acceptance by local inhabitants, a senior water technician said on Tuesday.

Group Marketing Officer of Concorde-Corodex Group Mohammed Awad said the membrane bio reactor and ultra filtration technology, by which sewage water can be made into potable water allows domestic sewage to be treated and safely reused for drinking and industrial applications, is already available in the UAE.

The technology is far cheaper than the conventional desalination technology and can be used at domestic or household purposes on a table-top equip-

ment or in industrial purposes with high yield and economical water purification designs.

The largest water purifier using this technology has been used in Sudan where 45,000 people are benefiting. In another pro-

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ject a 4,500 cm water purifier is being commissioned for oil drilling purposes, Awad said. In Dubai, the company will

Cultural concern is stumbling block

commission its first project at Palm Island by the end of the next week. Negotiations are underway with Abu Dhabi Electricity and

for installation of the technology, he said.

Awad was speaking to The Gulf Today in the sidelines of a seminar organised by Concorde-Corodex Group at Novotel Hotel in Dubai. The seminar was attended by senior technical manager for the group Ahmed Al Shuha and other senior officials in the field of water technology.

The seminar was held to educate industry professionals and key customers on the potential crisis in clean water in the light of increasing regional populations and the boom in real estate developments.

"Demand is growing for new technologies to facilitate the water purification process. The Middle East

is considered an arid zone with almost negligible natural fresh water resources, which have recently reached crisis levels. For the first time in history, the potable water and water treatment industries in the Middle East are under pressure to increase their efficiency," Shuha said in his introductory speech.

The Gulf countries are currently dumping tonnes of treated waste water into the sea after costly treating to make it less damageable to the sea and the atmosphere. The dumping of the waste water into the sea, the brine (highly salty sea water separated while desalination) after costly desalination process and

the sledge from the sewage processing plants, pollute the marine life. It adversely affects the marine life, a main source of depletion of fish resources in

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the Gulf waters, Awad said. The new technology produces only sludge which is a high nutrient to be used as fertiliser, he added.

"The technology (of producing potable water from sewage) is now available with us. This has been used in several other parts of the world. It is only a cultural concern of the people living in this part of the world," Awad said.

He also added that the

The two technologies, Membrane Bio Reactor and Ultra Filtration/Reverse Osmosis, allow domestic sewage to be treated and safely reused for industrial application. These technologies are currently being applied by Concorde-Corodex throughout the UAE, Oman, Kuwait and KSA, he added.

"Studies have shown that the UAE is the only country in the region to have satisfactory levels of potable water supply," Awad said. The membrane bio reactor water treatment system eliminates the need for final settlement tanks and primary settlement tanks. The final effluent is of very high quality and is partially disinfected, enabling end-users greater opportunities for water reuse, he said.