

# Reclaiming polluted storm water with EWS:AOx™

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## Reclaiming polluted floodwaters

In June 2015, record-setting rain and flooding in the US state of Oklahoma led to the evacuation of homes and businesses, including industrial facilities with toxic materials. A local disaster recovery operator captured windblown water that had flooded the manufacturing site at Oklahoma City's Prime Conduit, a manufacturer of electrical cables. This water became highly toxic in the process; and water technology company OriginClear partnered with licensee E3 (now [ECT](#)) Services & Solutions to treat this water so it could meet strict city requirements for draining it into the sewage system.



In a [video](#), OriginClear reported the test of OriginClear's high-speed, low-energy Electro Water Separation™ technology as an alternative to either

chemical treatment or offsite trucking for disposal. In record time, OriginClear delivered a mobile demonstration system to the flooded facility, and treated contaminated water onsite for disposal into the city's sewage system under the existing wastewater discharge permit.

OriginClear deployed a truck with a demonstration-scale, shippable EWS unit capable of treating 36 metric tons of contaminated water per day, with filter arrays to polish the final result to City standards. The unit consisted of an EWS



module that used electrochemical reactions for the coagulation and removal of oil, grease, and total suspended solids, which eliminated most chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biological oxygen demand (BOD), and multi-stage media filtration for polishing of the remaining fraction, including Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). The mobile treatment skid was uniquely designed to meet the discharge specifications granted by the Oklahoma City Utilities Department.

OriginClear's process reduced most contaminants to non-detectable level; it reduced COD by 95 percent down to 81 parts per million (ppm); BOD down to 44 ppm; and heavy metals such as chromium, mercury, and copper by 99 percent or down to non-detectable as well. The result was essentially clear water, compliant with the local discharge regulations. Upon review of the [independent lab analysis](#), the city approved disposal of the recovered water in its sewage system.

The effluent produced with onsite treatment met every specification of the Oklahoma City Utilities department. More than 77 percent of the contaminated water was converted into a disposable product that was discharged onsite, thus avoiding well disposal of wastewater and permanent removal from the water stream.



“The OriginClear cleanup service surpassed our expectations,” said Talbott Howard, CEO of E3 (now [ECT](#)). “We knew this water had heavy metals and other industrial contaminants, but was diluted by a lot of recoverable water. The OriginClear ‘crash truck’ reduced visible contamination in the recovered water by 99.9%, making it appear clear to the eye. The city of Oklahoma permitted the water to be disposed directly into its sewer system, which is a huge cost benefit for our customers.”



After inspecting the process, Jeff Wells, owner of locally-based Wells Oil Company, said: “I think it’s a great opportunity for the state of Oklahoma to look at, especially in the oil and gas industry, when we deal with fracking, and disposing of the frack water. It could impact the bottom line of the smaller operators very effectively.”

## The perfect storm of industrial flooding

Water which floods industrial facilities is complex mix which comes from the equipment and floor of these facilities – such as industrial solvents and lubricants, hydrocarbons, heavy metals, copper, mud, dirt, organic matter, salts, and pests that have been inhabiting the space. This toxic mix makes industrial stormwater one of the more challenging and dangerous wastewaters to address.

Most industrial facilities are not well equipped to handle large volumes of stormwater following major storm events. Rapid deployment of hazardous waste equipment and personnel is essential to clean and transport of large volumes of contaminated stormwater onsite, for safe offsite disposal.

The issue experienced by industrial operators time and time again is that because such a wide variety of contaminants are present in industrial floodwater, traditional technologies are unable to properly recover water resources. Filters clog easily and require replacement every few hours, and



biological treatment is slow and space-intensive, making onsite wastewater treatment nearly impossible.



A US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report explains that special permits are required to dispose of wastewater because “runoff from rainfall or snowmelt that comes in contact with these [industrial] activities can pick up pollutants, and transport them directly to a nearby river, lake, or coastal water or indirectly via a storm sewer and [degrade water quality](#).” [Another EPA report](#) continues,

“This type of pollution is significant because, unlike the water that goes down a sink or toilet in your home, stormwater is untreated and flows directly to a lake, river, or the ocean.” Stormwater can change water chemistry, kill aquatic life, and lead to riparian habitat loss.

## Enabling better recycling

The OriginClear partnership demonstrated that it could meet the serious engineering challenge of restoring clarity quickly to polluted waters, and enabling disposal back into existing municipal systems.

Since the 2015 demonstration, OriginClear has further enhanced EWS with the 2016 addition of its patent-pending Advanced Oxidation™, which can now extract dissolved contaminants, which are otherwise difficult to remove without using chemicals such as chlorine.



The combined EWS:AOx™ platform employs a combination of next-generation electrocoagulation, electroflotation, and electrooxidation processes across multiple stages to complete high-speed water treatment, with minimal



consumables and low energy use. With the enhanced EWS:AOx, stormwater treatment uses only one system and takes minutes, not hours.

EWS:AOx removes up to 99 percent of free oil and suspended solids from water, as well as dissolved organics and a wide range of heavy metals. Service companies can then select the appropriate downstream polishing treatment to clean the water for disposal. The technology is used in Asia, Europe, and the United States to treat various types of wastewater, including polluted stormwater. It is used to separate clean water from its sludgy contaminants, minimizing hazardous disposal costs, and improving the performance and uptime of downstream treatment equipment such as membranes, ultrafiltration or activated carbon filters.

Implementing low-energy and customizable onsite treatment techniques enables flood-affected businesses to avoid trucking and dumping stormwater, meet environmental regulations, and ultimately lower water management costs. In this way, OriginClear's complete treatment process provide a solution at the source of the problem while demonstrating the developing potential to address complex industrial wastewater challenges.



## Summary of Test Results

Prime Conduit Inc. Oklahoma City Treatment of Cleanup Water

31 May 2015

Water Quality Components	Flow Waste Water (ppm)	Day One Treated (ppm)	Day Two Treated (ppm)	% Removal
Oil & Grease	173	ND	ND	100%
Total Suspended Solids	155	ND	ND	100%
Chemical Oxygen Demand	1750	81	83	95%
Biological Oxygen Demand	437	45	44	90%
Arsenic	0.017	ND	ND	100%
Barium	0.302	0.029	0.012	96%
Cadmium	0.014	ND	ND	100%
Cobalt	0.011	ND	ND	100%
Chromium	0.073	ND	ND	100%
Copper	2.43	0.012	0.013	99%
Molybdenum	0.05	0.037	0.036	28%
Nickel	0.187	ND	ND	100%
Lead	0.31	ND	ND	100%
Antimony	0.092	0.013	ND	100%
Selenium	0.024	ND	ND	100%
Vanadium	0.017	0.027	0.042	NA
Zinc	4.06	0.122	0.204	95%
Mercury	0.001	ND	ND	100%

ND = Not Detectable (below instrument measuring tolerance)

NA = Not Applicable - no improvement recorded.

