



Liqui-Cel™
Membrane Contactors

A large industrial power plant is shown at night, with its complex network of pipes, towers, and structures illuminated by warm yellow lights. The lights reflect on the calm water in the foreground. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange from the setting or rising sun. A large white triangle is overlaid on the image, pointing downwards from the top center.

Quality water. Powerful results.

3M™ Liqui-Cel™
Membrane Contactors

Advanced membrane degasification
technology for pure power plant water.

Effective. Economical. Chemical-free.

Advanced membrane technology for power plant water degasification

Power plants generating steam balance cost, efficiency and reliability with environmental considerations while supplying energy to the world. Degasified water plays a critical role in generating the energy used to heat and cool homes and businesses while protecting vital capital equipment.

3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactors remove dissolved O_2 , CO_2 , and trace gases to industry-leading levels. With their chemical-free membrane technology, Liqui-Cel membrane contactors can help enhance the performance of water treatment systems and reduce the risk of downtime. They offer a cost-effective, easy-to-use and efficient degassing solution for power plants.



3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactors

Membrane contactors offer a reliable improvement over conventional degassing technologies such as steam deaerators, decarbonators, and chemical injection. With nearly 10x the effective surface area of conventional degassing towers, they produce virtually gas-free water at a wide range of flow rates—all without using chemicals or taking up vital square footage.



14-inch Industrial system

O₂ levels <1 ppb CO₂ levels <1 ppm



Applications

- Steam-electric power stations
- Natural gas-fired power stations
- Heat recovery steam generators (HRSG)
- Nuclear power plants

Clean, powerful water. Degasification for efficient

Benefits of 3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactors

Reduced corrosion and pitting



3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactors reduce O_2 to levels below 1 ppb and CO_2 levels below 1 ppm, helping prevent corrosion and pitting caused by oxidation and carbonic acid. In nuclear power plants, lower dissolved O_2 and CO_2 levels alleviate primary stress corrosion cracking. By minimizing long-term damage to pipes, heat exchangers, boilers and other equipment, Liqui-Cel membrane contactors help power plants reduce the high costs of capital equipment maintenance and replacement.

Minimized environmental impact



Liqui-Cel membrane contactors degas water without using chemicals. By producing water with very low O_2 and CO_2 levels, steam-generating plants often eliminate the need for oxygen scavengers and reduce the use of ion exchange regeneration chemicals. Reduced chemical use may also decrease the boiler blowdown frequency, saving water and energy. In nuclear power plants, low levels of O_2 , CO_2 , and N_2 may reduce the formation of radionuclides such as ^{14}C and oxides of ^{60}Co along with reduced Corrosion Related Unidentified Deposit (CRUD).



Case in point

After installing a 3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactor system to replace a forced draft tower, a power plant in China saw pre-mixed bed regeneration drop from CO_2 levels of 8 ppm to 1.5 ppm. As a result, the plant lowered its mixed bed chemical use nearly 20%.

Operating expenses and savings provided by the customer.
Actual savings and operating expenses will vary according to each project.

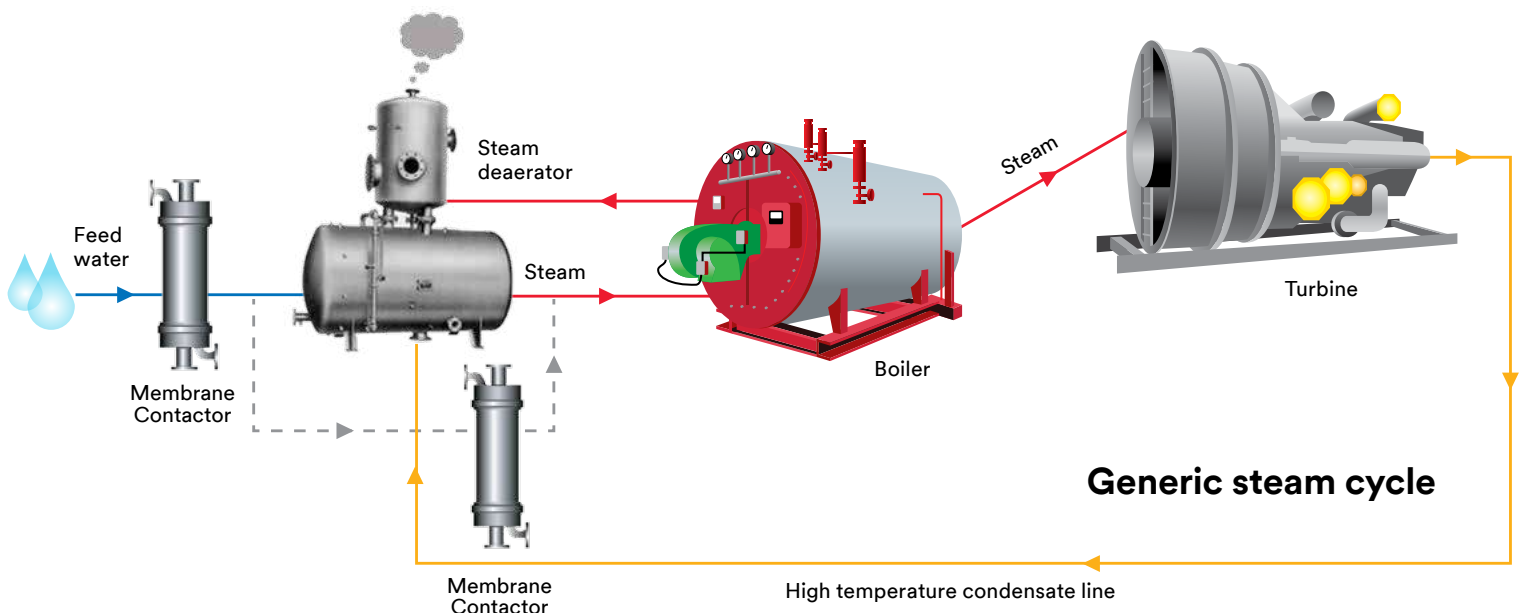
power generation.

Improved deionization

Lowering dissolved CO₂ levels with Liqui-Cel membrane contactors reduces the total ionic load in water, enhancing the effectiveness of IX, EDI, and CDI purification technologies. With more efficient deionization, power plants can reduce costly bed regeneration cycles and increase the service life of deionization equipment.

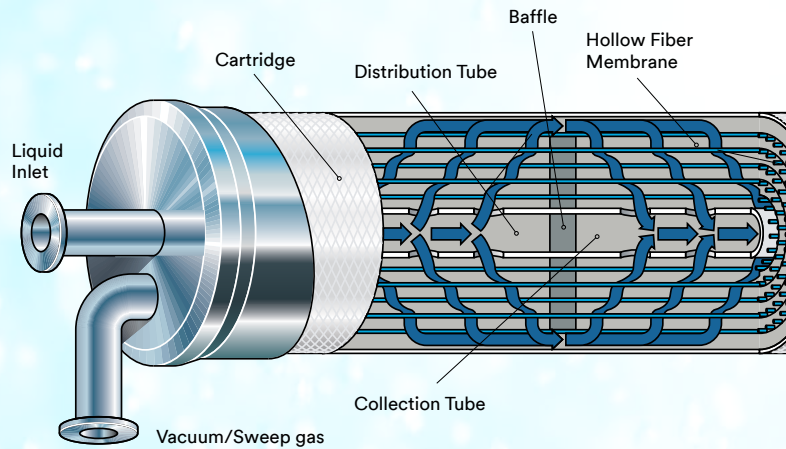
Reduced blowdown frequency

Blowdown cycles in steam generation plants can add significant costs due to extra water, energy and chemical use. By removing dissolved oxygen to low levels, Liqui-Cel membrane contactors can help reduce blowdown frequency and boiler operating costs.



Inside the technology

Water flows around the outside of the hollow fiber membrane while a vacuum or sweep gas is applied to the inside of the fiber. The resulting difference in gas concentration levels between the inside (gas/vacuum phase) and outside (liquid phase) of the hydrophobic membrane drives highly efficient dissolved gas removal, producing water with very low gas concentrations.



Streamlining savings

Building long-term efficiency into power water treatment systems



Flexible

- ▶ Small footprint
- ▶ Enables custom and mobile system designs
- ▶ Expandable for increased capacity
- ▶ Lower installation and construction costs

Economical

- ▶ Reduce plant chemical use
- ▶ Low electrical cost
- ▶ Save ion exchange resin regeneration costs
- ▶ May reduce energy and water losses by reducing frequency of boiler blowdowns

Performance and reliability

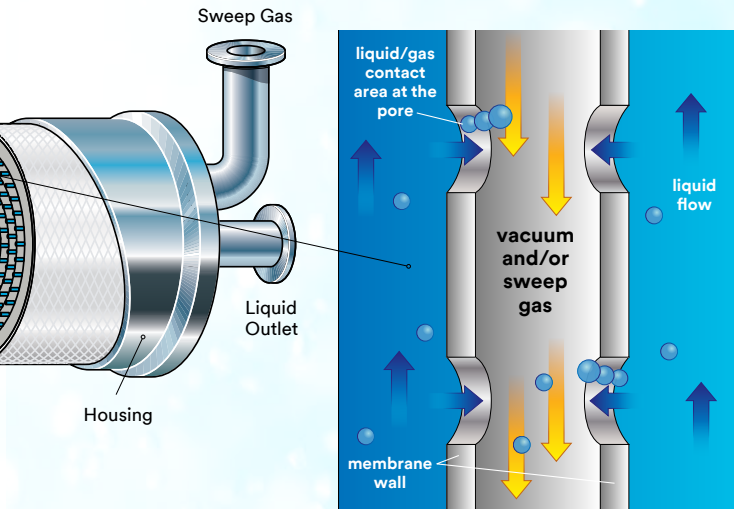
- ▶ Dissolved O₂ <1ppb and dissolved CO₂ <1ppm
- ▶ Improved EDI water quality
- ▶ Can be designed for redundancy
- ▶ Operation at a wide range of flow rates



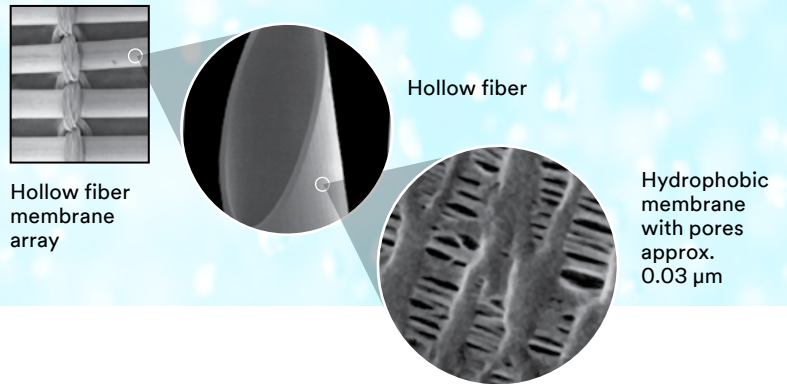
Case in point

The Rokeby Generating Station in Lincoln, Nebraska installed 3M™ Liqui-Cel™ EXF-14×28 Series Membrane Contactors to remove CO₂ prior to mixed bed deionization. The Station expected its throughput to rise from 90,000 gallons (341 m³) to 160,000 gallons (636 m³). After installing the Liqui-Cel membrane contactor, the actual throughput was 191,000 gallons (725 m³), with full-scale capacity of 617,000 gallons (2,337 m³).

Operating expenses and savings provided by the customer.
Actual savings and operating expenses will vary according to each project.



Scanning electron microscope images of Liqui-Cel membranes. Membrane arrays in a contactor have nearly 10x the effective surface area of a traditional vacuum tower.

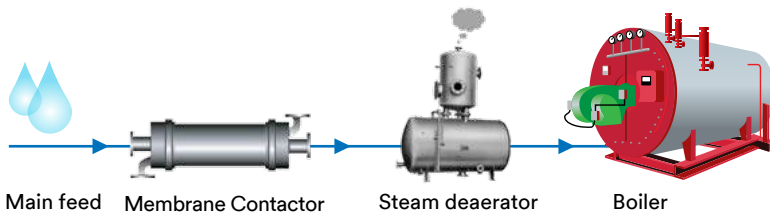


Common installation scenarios

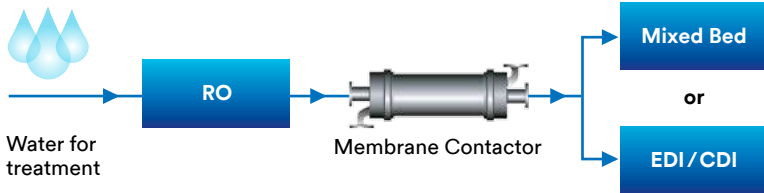
Traditional steam generation plants



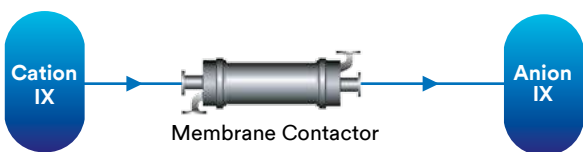
CO₂ removal between RO passes to reduce caustic use



Dissolved oxygen removal from boiler make-up water

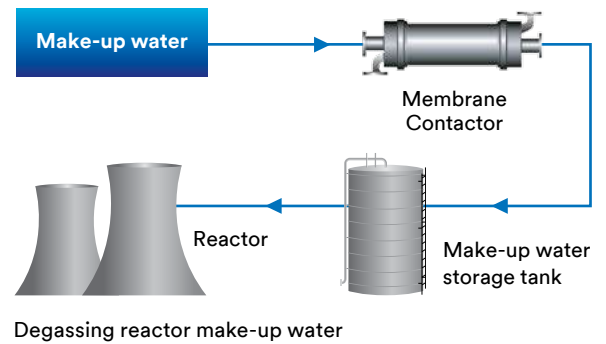


CO₂ removal with Liqui-Cel membrane contactor between RO and IX

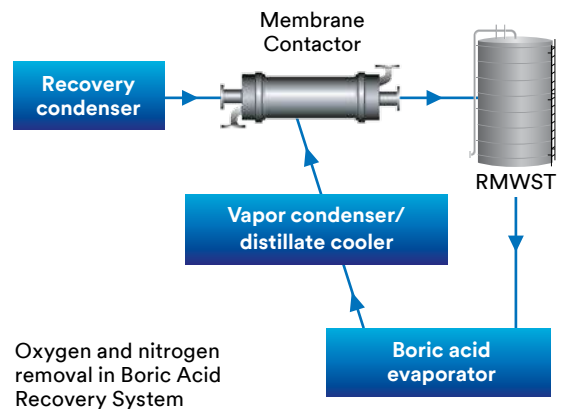


CO₂ removal with Liqui-Cel membrane contactor between IX resin beds

Nuclear power plants



Degassing reactor make-up water



Oxygen and nitrogen removal in Boric Acid Recovery System

Support at every step

Systems utilizing 3M™ Liqui-Cel™ Membrane Contactor technology are operating around the world in many applications. Whether you need help assessing the application of membrane contactor technology or discussing design details, 3M has the knowledge and experience to support your next project.

Maintenance

Liqui-Cel membrane contactors typically require little maintenance. With proper system design, this technology can be operated with limited support from operators and maintenance personnel.

Visit our website to download technical bulletins, mechanical drawings, case studies and more!

3M.com/Liqui-Cel



Expansion and Reconfiguration

The variety of compact Liqui-Cel membrane contactors means that membrane contactors can be easily added and/or reconfigured as power plant water demands change.

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ISO 9001



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LC-1208
Rev. 3/17

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