Bioremediation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Maulin P Shah*

***Corresponding author:** Maulin P Shah, Division of Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Industrial Waste Water Research Lab, Enviro Technology Ltd, Maharashtra, India, Tel: +919099965504; E-mail: shahmp@uniphos.com

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Introduction

The process of bioremediation, defned as the use of microorganisms to detoxify or remove pollutants owing to their diverse metabolic capabilities is an evolving method for the removal and degradation of many environmental pollutants including the products of petroleum industry. In addition, bioremediation technology is believed to be noninvasive and relatively cost-efective. Biodegradation by natural populations of microorganisms represents one of the primary mechanisms by which petroleum and other hydrocarbon pollutants can be removed from the environment and is cheaper than other remediation technologies.

Bioremediation along with other processes have been used to remediate petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants in soil in past. The major constituents of most crude oils are biodegradable, so bioremediation has proven to be cheap and efcient than others techniques. Diferent organisms are employed using various technique of bioremediation according to hydrocarbon present in the contaminated soil. Bioremediation is simpler, less labor intensive and public attitude toward bioremediation are generally favorable, the lack of knowledge about microorganisms and their natural role in the environment could afect