DOE BIOENERGY TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE (BETO) 2017 PROJECT PEER REVIEW



Impact of Projected Biofuel Production on Water Use and Water Quality



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GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of this project is to establish quantitative metrics to identify and select water-sustainable scenarios in the production of bio-energy and bio-products by developing water consumption analysis and hydrologic models & tools for evaluating water footprint, water quality, and water resource availability at a regional scale in the United States.





QUAD CHART OVERVIEW

Timeline

- Project start date: FY15
- Project end date: FY17
- Percent complete: 67%

Budget

	FY 15 Costs	FY 16 Costs	Total Planned Funding (FY 17-Project End Date)
DOE Funded (\$K)	625	725	730

Barriers

- St.-D. Implementing *indicators and methodology* for evaluating and improving sustainability
- St.-E. Best practices and systems for sustainable bioenergy production
- St.-B. Consistent and science-based message on bioenergy sustainability

Partners

- Collaborations/interactions:
 - ORNL (Y. Jager, M. Langholtz), PNNL (L. Snowden-Swan, K. Albrecht, M. Wigmosta), NREL (R. Davis), ANL (C. Negri, J. Dunn)
 - U.S. Army Corp. Engineers
 - USDA NRCS (H. Lal), ARS (M. Tomer)
 - U.S. EPA (K. Flahive, J. Turgeon)



DEFINITIONS

- BMPs Best management practices
- Blue water Surface and ground water consumed in the production process
- Evapotranspiration (ET) Loss of water from the land cover both by evaporation from the soil surface and by transpiration from the leaves of the plants growing on it
- ETc ET of a specific crop
- Effective Rain (ER) The part of rain that remains in the root zone after deep percolation and run-off and can be used by the plant
- Green water Soil moisture from rainfall that is consumed by vegetation
- Grey water footprint Volume of water required to dilute the chemicals in the wastewater to an acceptable level of concentration for the water body (*specific to the WF methodology*)
- IRB Iowa River Basin
- MRB Mississippi River Basin
- Renewable Diesel Blend (RDB) Fuel produced from biological sugar-to-hydrocarbon process
- SWAT Soil Water Analysis Tool, a hydrologic watershed model
- Water footprint (WF) Net water loss to evapotranspiration and evaporation; incorporation of water into products or solids by a production process or activity
- Water withdrawal Water uptake from surface or groundwater
- Water consumption or Water use Water loss (accounted for in WF analysis)



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Challenge

 The deployment of bioenergy and bio-product is constrained by water resource availability for production and the resulting changes in water quality.

Question

 How can we quantify and select production scenarios that potentially improve water quality and increase water use efficiency?

Technical Objectives

- Examine the water footprint of producing cellulosic and advanced bioenergy and determine such production's impact on regional water resource availability with spatial resolution.
- Quantify nutrient and sediment loadings associated with biomass production and evaluate management practices that protect water resources at the watershed scale.
- Identify region-specific production scenarios with effective cropping systems and land management practices that allow for water quality improvement.



PROJECT OVERVIEW (CONT.)

The objectives will be achieved by

1. Water Footprint Analysis

- Analyze multiple production pathways: biofuels (starch, oil seeds, algae, residue, perennials, forest resources), conventional fuels (oil, natural gas), electricity
- Focus on major production stages (feedstock and conversion) and apply to national scale at county level
- Distinguish water resources

2. Hydrologic Modeling

- Characterize nutrients, sediments, and hydrology for the biomass producing regions
- Estimate value proposition of nutrient reduction
- Apply to multiple scales: watershed to river basin

3. Wastewater Management Analysis

- Biorefinery wastewater management options
- Regional regulatory requirements

Output

- Comprehensive energywater data inventory
- WATER Spatial-explicit water footprint analysis tool for bioenergy at county level
- A suite of SWAT models
 - Mississippi River Basin (UMRB, ORB, MoRB, LMRB)
 - Iowa River Basin, South Fork watershed
- Wastewater management guidelines for biorefinery processes

(View the PowerPoint "Notes" page for Argonne

1 – MANAGEMENT APPROACH

- Success factors
 - Well-defined technical approach, transparent analysis
 - Strong collaboration with other government agencies/expertise in the field to collect critical data, update pathways, and identify synergy and leverage
 - WATER Tool: online, user- friendly, and open access, meeting the needs of bioenergy industry and policy makers
 - Hydrologic model: consistent methodology, rigorous calibration
- Potential challenges
 - Uncertainty associated with early process R&D and field testing
 - Incomplete data coverage at state level or county level; poor quality data

Approach

- Planning and checking: Set quarterly milestones and deliverables, monitor monthly progress and expenditure, and brief BETO quarterly
- Interface with feedstock and pathway development and TEA: *feedstock study* (Langholtz, ORNL); *process R&D* (Albrecht, Snowden-Swan, PNNL); *process simulation* (Davis, NREL)
- Employ interdisciplinary team: Hydrologist, computer engineer, environmental engineer



2 – TECHNICAL APPROACH



- Adopt WF methodology (UNESCO, ISO)
- Develop major assumptions in consultation with USDA, USGS, USFS, US Army Corp., and biofuel industry
- Calibrate model with decades of historical data; verify assessment results with field observations

3 – TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: OVERVIEW

Since 2015 Peer Review, this project

- Contributed to two chapters of BT16 Report Volume II environmental analysis
 - Developed water consumption footprint analysis for six BT16 agriculture and forest scenarios.
 - Developed SWAT simulation of BT16 scenario BC1 2040 in Iowa River Basin (IRB), incorporating BMPs for water quality improvements.
- Developed SWAT hydrologic models
 - Lower Mississippi River Basin to simulate output of nutrient, sediments, and flow to the Gulf of Mexico.
 - For Iowa River Basin, evaluated impact of management options (*cover crop, tile drainage control, slow-release fertilizer, and riparian buffer*), land use, and climate on water quality. Implemented future land use and BMP scenarios in South Fork watershed.
- Engaged stakeholders to address MRB water quality issue by participating in EPA's Hypoxia Task Force and surveying modeling groups in other agencies.
- Implemented sugar-to-hydrocarbon pathway in WATER; updated energy-water database with new electricity water data.
- Developed Water Availability Index for biomass and biofuel production.
- Reviewed biorefinery wastewater treatment options for cellulosic sugar-to-hydrocarbon process; updated pyrolysis/hydrotreating grey water.



3 – 1. WATER FOOTPRINT ACCOUNTING





3 – 1. Water Footprint Accounting WATER (Water Analysis Tool for Energy Resources) http://WATER.es.anl.gov

An on-line interactive model for water use, water resource, and water



- Corn grain & stover, soy bean, wheat straw
- Switchgrass and Miscanthus
- Forest wood (hard, soft) resource
- SRWC (willow, hybrid poplar, pine)
- Ethanol, biodiesel, renewable diesel blend, mixed alcohol blend
- Electricity (fossil, renewable)
- Petroleum (conventional, oil sands)
- Natural gas

Feature

- Water footprint at county level for the United States
- Feedstock production and conversion stages; biomass production volume distribution
- Land use: agriculture and forestry
- Metric: product, feedstock, land use

Application

- Analyzes multiple feedstock production in a region to support regional water resource planning and management and biorefinery location comparison.
- Enables compatible spatial resolution with POLYSYS, LEAF, FAPRI, and other models/tools, allowing analysis of the interplay of policy, economics, and environmental factors.
- Provides support to bioenergy industry, government, academia, and community for informed decision making.

KEY MILESTONES AND PROGRESS (Since 2015 peer review)

Completed

- Develop methodology for estimating regional WF of multiple feedstock. Apply the method for *one* BT16 agriculture and forestry scenario (*actual: 6 scenarios completed*), contributing to Chapter 8 in BT16 Volume II.
- Reach out to stake holders and other agencies to identify potential candidates for developing case studies to demonstrate the value of WF analysis.
- Conduct a review of methodology for estimating water resource availability; develop representation of water availability index (WAI) for biofuels. Develop WAI and apply to historical crop, residue, and perennial pathways.
- Develop WF analysis for biofuels produced via biological sugar-to-hydrocarbon pathway. Review biorefinery wastewater management.
- Update WATER energy-water database: electricity generation.
- Validate SRWC grey water in southeast forest regions.

In Progress

- Release analysis of water resource availability index (WAI) for six BT16 agriculture and forestry scenarios at the county scale for the United States (25%).
- Deliver a set of guidelines for biorefinery wastewater management options and potential treatment schemes that meet the regulation for process wastewater generated from fast pyrolysis/hydrotreating and HTL processes at design scale (10%).



WATER CONSUMPTION FOOTPRINT OF BT16 SCENARIOS: GROUND WATER



- Reduction in irrigation water is significant from *BC1&ML2017* to *HH3&HH2040*.
- Ground water consumption would reduce 207 billion gallons in the four states in Great Plains; nationally, the figure would be 276 billion gallons.
- A transition from irrigated feedstock to non-irrigated cellulosic dominant feedstock for biomass production could contribute to ground water resource conservation.



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BT16 SCENARIO: NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- From BC1&ML 2017 to HH3&HH 2040, biomass could increase by a factor of 2.4 while irrigation water consumption could decrease by 27% in the contiguous United States.
- Green water use increases from BC1&ML2017 to 2040 scenarios.
- Future research is needed on the implication of the green water use to regional and local development.







STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- US EPA adoption of WATER
 - Recent EPA economic analysis using FAPRI and WATER to estimate food/fuel production and their water footprint
- Reached out to state and local agencies and biofuel stakeholders to seek input and validate data
 - Antares, USDA NRCS, Great Plain Institute, others
 - Potential data coverage area: Virginia, Iowa, Minnesota, California
 - NDA in progress
- Compared WATER with other tools
 - Reviewed WQI (NRCS) and existing irrigation model used by USDA
 - Explored synergy between WQI and WATER; identified grey water as area for future collaboration
- Identify potential candidates for developing and validating WF analysis
 - Crop land conversion to switchgrass
 - Crop residue harvest and cover crop
 - Long-term monitoring data, large acreages
 - Leverage DOE-funded projects



WATER AVAILABILITY INDEX (WAI)

- A significant water resource is precipitation, a portion of which represented by effective rain (ER) is available for feedstock. Compared three major methods to estimate ER.
- Extensive regional variation in seasonal precipitation pattern affects the amount of water available to meet the water demand of crops/biomass (ETc).
- WAI R is being developed for BT16 scenario BC1 2017. Preliminary results show ER used for the feedstock is relatively small.

NHD Plus V2

16

Smith

WAI R for BC1 2017



WATER: NEW FEATURES SINCE LAST REVIEW (2015)

- Database for BT16
 - Six scenarios (BC1 2017, BC1 2040, HH3 2040, ML2017 ML2040, HH 2040), county level
 - Crop (annual and perennial) production and land use, tillage, fertilizer application
 - Fraction of corn stover harvested for biomass
 - Forest resource feedstock harvest (wood type, feedstock type)
- Regional platform (in progress)
 - In parallel to pathway-based platform
 - -Estimate regional WF of multiple feedstock
 - -Modify computation processes, change codes, prepare documentation
- Biological cellulosic sugar-to-hydrocarbon conversion process
- Energy-water database update
 - Electricity generation and water usage (2010, 2014)
- Development version

3 – 2. WATERSHED MODELING

- This work examines the impact of bioenergy production on water by simulating nutrients, stream flow, and suspended sediments.
 - Evaluate conservation practices; select effective watershed strategies to improve water quality and reduce impacts.
 - Estimate potential value proposition of reducing nutrients output to the Gulf of Mexico by using biomass.
 - Apply multiple-scale SWAT hydrologic modeling.
 - Identify key players/factors in integrated landscape management.



- Focus on agriculturally dominant regions where a majority of conventional biofuel is produced and potentially a significant portion of cellulosic will come from.
- Assist in a variety of management decisions and protection strategies to meet regulatory limit and sustainability criteria
- Assist policy makers through regional-specific impact analysis



KEY MILESTONES AND PROGRESS

(Since 2015 peer review)

Completed

- Conduct a survey of MRB modeling efforts by federal agencies.
- Develop a calibrated and validated SWAT base model for IRB, incorporate management strategies, and simulate water quality and quantity under future climate.
- Implement BC1 2040 scenario to stover-harvesting-dominant Iowa River Basin, apply conservation practices, simulate and analyze water quality improvement, and release simulation and analysis contributing to BT16 Volume II.
- Continue to incorporate riparian buffer strip and double-cropping to South Fork watershed SWAT model to simulate water quality and hydrology.

In progress

- A Lower MRB SWAT model simulation of 20 years of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments loadings to the Gulf of Mexico at HUC-8 scale (80%).
- An analysis of potential land use and practices that could reduce the loadings (20%).
- Define and demonstrate potential value proposition of reducing the nutrient loss to the Gulf of Mexico from Lower MRB by using biomass (10%).



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN WATER QUALITY



Federal Agency MRB Modeling Survey

- Aims to exchange ongoing modeling projects for the region, identify gaps, share lessons and resources, avoid duplication, and forge collaborations. Output helps MRB model planning.
- Reached out to key research teams in MRB modeling in each agency.
 Organized a Federal Agency MRB Modeling Group web-conference in early 2016. K. Johnson gave an overview of BETO-sponsored work. Argonne and ORNL presented MRB modeling results.
- Other presenters: USDA SWAT developer, USGS new SPARROW developer, USACE SWAT-HECRAS developer, EPA One Biosphere framework lead, EPA Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) lead.
- All participating agencies expressed strong interests in continuing the communication as a group. Several follow-up calls have already been taking place among agencies to seek potential collaboration.
- We are planning on another call for the group to present BT16 SWAT work in FY17.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN WATER QUALITY (CONT.)

Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) Communication

- Reached out to HTF coordinating committee in EPA, HTF leadership in USDA ARS and NRCS, and Iowa (core team member). Collaboration with ORNL (Jager).
- ANL/ORNL presented MRB tributary simulation results to HTF twelve MRB states, thereby introducing BETO-supported MRB modeling work.

Joined HTF Modeling Group

- Hold regular conference calls with 12 MRB states.
- Identify areas in which the BETO MRB modeling work can make contributions.
- Incorporate biomass production scenario into nutrient reduction planning of MRB states, in response to HTF interest.
- Current interaction: buffer application and benefits in Indiana



BT16 WATER QUALITY MODELING IN IOWA RIVER BASIN - AGRICULTURE

- BC1 2040 scenario simulation in IRB:
 - SWAT model calibrated and validated with 20-year hydrology for flow, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments. Implemented land use, tillage, and management programs.
 - Biomass feedstock: corn stover, miscanthus, willow, grain, soy bean.
 - Conservation practices: Riparian buffer, cover crop, slow-release fertilizer, and tile drain control.







BC1 2040 SCENARIO WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

	Removals Relative to BCI 2040 Scenario (%)				
Conservation Practice Scenarios	Suspended sediment	Total phosphorus	Total nitrogen	Nitrate	
RB30, main stem Iowa River	70.5%	7.9%	8.2%	6.2%	
RB50, main stem Iowa River	70.8%	8.6%	8.9%	6.9%	
RB50, entire Iowa River stream network	80.3%	22.7%	12.9 %	10.8%	
CC 23	37.0%	27.4%	18.5%	19.0%	
N CR	5.6%	9.9%	10.9%	11.4%	
Tile2%	1.8%	1.7%	27.5%	28.6%	

- Riparian buffer is most effective in reducing suspended sediments.
- Cover crop could reduce 27% of phosphorus loss in addition to reductions of 19% in nitrate and 37% in sediments.
- Tile drain control resulted in significant reduction in nitrate loss (up to 5000 MT) for downstream communities.
- The practices could reduce nitrogen loading from 8% to 28%, compared with that from baseline BC1 2040 scenario.
- A combination of the conservation practices could result in substantial improvement. Selection depends on water quality issue in the watershed.



DEVELOP SWAT MODEL FOR LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

HUC-8, calibrated and validated with 20 year hydrology

Inputs from five upstream Mississippi river tributaries

- Elevation, soil map
- Weather
- Land cover, land use
- Row crop rotation
- Tillage
- Fertilizer management
- Live stock operation
- Municipal discharge
- Other point sources





3 – 3. Wastewater Management Analysis

BIOREFINERY WASTEWATER



- Wastewater management is often the last factor to be considered in process R&D.
- Stringent regulation can affect the cost because of complex treatment options.



3 – 3. Wastewater Management Analysis

RENEWABLE DIESEL BLEND PRODUCTION VIA SUGAR-TO-HYDROCARBON PROCESS

- Solid waste disposal was identified as a management issue, and its inverse relationship with wastewater management could affect process economics. Increased TSS loadings could affect both the size of anaerobic reactors and the quantity of solid waste, resulting in an ~18% cost increase. Results will feed to TEA.
- Uncertainties in wastewater sample analysis hinder plant design. In FY17, we are providing expertise to the process conversion team to address the issue.
- Bioelectricity generation from the biorefinery resulted in a net water credit, which reduced the water footprint.

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 Developing wastewater management guidelines supports biorefinery design, process techno-economic assessment (TEA) and Supply Chain Sustainability Analysis (SCSA)



3 RELEVANCE

- Water use and wastewater release are two key issues associated with water sustainability in bioenergy development. Sufficiency of water resource and ability to meet tightened regulations can become a barrier in the financing and siting of refinery and thus limit deployment.
- This project provides a consistent platform to examine water sustainability metrics for bioenergy production, to meet BETO A&S's strategic goal of integrating water quantity and quality assessments into biomass and bioenergy production analyses (MYPP 2016).
 - -Water footprint translates feedstock/pathway selection and biomass production scenarios into estimates of demand to regional water resource; wastewater management analysis identifies key factors that constrain biorefinery design.
 - -SWAT modeling permits multi-scale watershed analysis of water quality impacts of future feedstock production scenarios and evaluates approaches to reduce nutrient and sediments burdens.
- This project supports stakeholders
 - -Quantifies value of conservation practices with production scenarios to downstream community and incorporates them into state/local planning.
 - Provides guidelines on water resource management from water quality, quantity, and regulatory perspectives to biorefinery TEA/SCSA; supports decision making by the bioenergy industry.
 - -Informs BETO's strategic thinking by evaluating the potential degree of impact of energy policies on natural resource.



5 – FUTURE WORK

Water Footprint

- Develop WAI for six BT16 scenarios.
- Design model architecture for the regional platform; develop architecture to connect existing pathway platform with the new platform; full implementation of the six BT16 scenarios. Design and implement WAI feature.
- Outcome: WATER model able to simulate WF and WAI for a given pathway and BT16 scenarios at county, state, and regions.

Hydrologic Modeling

- Complete SWAT baseline model for LMRB, analyze model performance, simulate selected conservation practices.
- Define and demonstrate potential value proposition of reducing the nutrient loss to the Gulf of Mexico from Lower MRB by using biomass.
- Outcome: Value of reduced nutrient loss by conservation practice in LMRB at sub basins and outlet to the Gulf.

Wastewater Management Analysis

- Develop and compare management options for biorefinery wastewater generated from FP hydrotreating and HTL at design scale.
- Outcome: A set of wastewater management guidelines to biorefinery design and TEA.



SUMMARY

Approach

- Data, modeling, and analysis (DMA) is based on well-defined framework, consistent methodology, and rigorous calibration.
- Spatial and temporal resolution; regional and national coverage

Technical Accomplishments

- Principal authors of water quality and WF modeling chapters of BT16 Report Volume II.
- Developed a SWAT model for LMRB to evaluate nutrient reduction in the output to the gulf of Mexico. Simulated impact of land use, multiple BMPs, and climate on water quality in IRB.
- Engaged with stakeholders to address water quality by participating in EPA's Hypoxia Task Force and organizing a federal MRB modeling group virtual meeting. The effort will continue.
- Developed Water Availability Index.
 Implemented sugar-to-hydrocarbon pathway to WATER; evaluated WF and wastewater treatment of the pathway.

Relevance

- Provide a platform to analyze water use and wastewater release along the production stages to address potential resource barriers limiting deployment.
- Assist DOE stakeholders with modeling and analysis to estimate regional water sustainability of various production scenarios.

Critical Success factors

- Strong collaborations with water resource community and technical R&D team.
- Strong stake-holder engagement.

Technology Transfer and Future work

- WF and wastewater management analysis results <u>feed to TEA/SCSA</u>
- SWAT model outputs <u>support HTF</u>
- Major future work:
 - WAI of six BT16 scenarios
 - LMRB value proposition
 - Wastewater management guideline



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- NREL: Ryan Davis



ADDITIONAL SLIDES



RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS REVIEWERS' COMMENTS (2015)

Comments: This is a truly exciting project. For years, stakeholders in the environmental community have lamented the lack of data and attention to the possible water impacts of bioenergy. The WATER tool (available to stakeholders outside the immediate BETO research community) addresses their concerns very well. This project is an important center of gravity for all of the work being done in the program on water impacts. The team has made great progress since 2013. I applaud plans to update the water use of electricity generation as well as natural gas. Biogas could be another resource to add in the future. Continued development of better spatial analysis is also important. Algae due to its high water use but also its ability to utilize gray and salty water would be a great addition to the model. Also, taking a renewed look at water use in the production of baseline gasoline from petroleum would help make consistent comparisons possible. This project continues to be key in understanding water issues, and it will play an even greater role in the future as water scarcity and water conservation become more prevalent. This project has contributed and should continue to contribute great value to the assessment of bioenergy impacts on water systems.

Overall score: 9.83/10

Responses: We would like to express our deep appreciations to the comments and constructive inputs from the reviewers. We are so excited about what have been accomplished in last two years. Moving forward, we hope to continue the data, modeling and analysis in the water area and contribute to BETO's overall mission of developing a sustainable bio-industry.



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