

- KUBOTA MBR Operator Workshop-

Course Outline

This course will cover widely about the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) process including how to operate, maintain and troubleshoot. With treated effluent quality regulations becoming more regulated in the wastewater treatment industry, the MBR technology is a viable option. The operators can learn how to optimize the operation and maintenance of the MBR plant by going through a detailed case studies. Not just the Kubota people, but several operators will introduce their honest feedback of operating a MBR plant and what lessons they learned. This course will also cover some hands-on testing called "filterability testing" that will indicate the "healthiness" of activated sludge which is widely used in MBR industry. The operators will also get to know other MBR plant operators in the area, which we believe is a value for the operators.



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Biography

Hiro Kuge, M.S. Environmental Engineering

Hiro Kuge is Technology Manager (or Chief Technology Officer) of Kubota Membrane USA and is in charge of Membrane Bio-reactor (MBR) design, technical service, and regional sales. He has been working with municipal and industrial wastewater treatment design, system integration, project management, construction, commissioning, after service and troubleshooting for over 19 years. He has designed, commissioned, and serviced multiple MBR plants in North America and has been a speaker at WEFTEC, PNCWA, OAWU, IRW, AZ Water, and multiple other operator conferences. He is affiliated with PNCWA.

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Biography

Alan Lee

Technical Services Manager at Kubota Water and Environment USA

Alan Lee is a seasoned Environmental Engineer with over 8 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry, specializing in Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) systems. As the Technical Services Manager at Kubota Water and Environment USA, Alan is responsible for overseeing MBR systems startup, training, and troubleshooting. His expertise spans the full lifecycle of MBR operations, from commissioning to ongoing optimization.

Alan is also a certified **Class III Water & Wastewater Operator**, and has successfully led the startup of numerous MBR facilities, including the **BIG Creek Water Reclamation Facility** (32 MGD), which holds the distinction of being the largest siphon-based MBR plant in the world.

With a passion for water treatment innovation and operational excellence, Alan brings a deep understanding of MBR technologies and is dedicated to ensuring high-performance systems for sustainable water management.

In his role, he works closely with clients to provide technical support, training, and troubleshooting to ensure optimal plant performance. His hands-on approach and problem-solving skills make him a trusted expert in the field.

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Biography

David Loutsis

Technician Support Specialist at Kubota Water and Environment USA

David Loutsis is a Technician Support Specialist at Kubota, where he has been a key member of the team since 2022. With over 16 years of experience at Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, David brings extensive knowledge in water systems, collections, and wastewater treatment operations—experience that directly connects to his current work, especially given his background working with Kubota membranes.

At Kubota, David is a versatile and trusted resource, supporting clients through plant troubleshooting, both remotely and on-site. He plays a hands-on role in start-ups, conducting dry checks, I/O checks, clean water testing, and overseeing the seeding of new plants, often including operator training. In 2025, David expanded his role further by organizing operator workshops and contributing to inside sales across more than 10 states. He is certified with both his Collections and Operator licenses in the state of Washington.

2025 KUBOTA MBR Operator Workshop in Bend, OR

SpringHill Suite in Bend, OR

Date	Start	End	Duration	Title	Speaker	Company	Content
7/22/2025 (Tues) (6 hours total)	7:30	8:30		Registration			
	8:30	9:45	1.25 hour	MBR Basics	Hiro Kuge	KUBOTA	Hiro will talk about the meanings of basic parameters of MBR operation. (Process Flow, Flux, TMP, Permeability, MLSS, DO, F/M, RAS, WAS, sCOD, etc)
	9:45	10:45	1.0 hour	Kubota different types of applications	Hiro Kuge Alan Lee David Loutsis	KUBOTA	Hiro & Alan & David will talk about Kubota's membranes and all of the different applications they are used in - from conventional, industrial, MBT, package plants, and retrofits across the country
	10:45	11:00		Break			
	11:00	12:15	1.25 hour	TBD (we will provide once available)	TBD (we will provide once available)	TBD (we will provide once available)	TBD (we will provide once available)
	12:15	13:00		LUNCH			
	13:00	14:30	1.5 hour	Case Studies of Challenges and Operator Feedback	Alan Lee David Loutsis Hiro Kuge	KUBOTA	Operators will go through any challenges of the facility that they had in the past and how it was solved. Open Q and A
	15:00	15:30		Break			
	15:30	16:30	1.0 hour	Goble Sampson session	John Darch	Goble Sampson	Goble Sampson to talk about what is the best equipment for your wastewater application
7/23/2025(Wed) (2 hours total)	18:00	20:00		Dinner			
	8:30	9:00		Depart Hotel			Leave at 8:30am from Hotel takes about 20 minutes to get to plant We will visit Kubota MBR system plants nearby. Plant is operated successfully, and the operators will share the know-how of how to keep stable MBR operation. Chemical cleaning process will also be introduced.
	9:00	11:00	2.0 hours	Plant Tour	Andy Carlton - Plant Manager	Sunriver WWTF	
	12:30	18:30		Golf (Optional)	Lost Tracks Golf Club	Goble Sampson & Kubota	Scramble / Best Ball - Time: 1:04pm and last group's start time is 1:44pm 24 players (4 players x 6 groups)