



**Block House Creek M..D., Austin, Texas**  
*Sludge Reduction in an Aerobic Digester*

The test site was an aerobic digester that contained extremely old sludge (more than 180 days) that had been conditioned with alum for phosphorous removal. At the start of the test period, the digester was isolated and samples were taken to determine the total and volatile solids of the sludge. The initial average solids concentrations were:

<b>Total Solids</b>	<b>Volatile Solids</b>	<b>% Volatiles</b>
51,600 MgIL	20,300 MgIL	39%

BYO-GON PX-109 was added and the digester was monitored weekly over a thirty day period. The results were as follows:

<b>Total Solids</b>	<b>Volatile Solids</b>	<b>% Volatiles</b>
40,960 MgIL	14,500 MgIL	35%

The total sludge concentration was reduced by 20% while the volatile solids showed a 28% decrease. These reductions were not comparable to the sludge reduction seen in the sludge holding tank in the Lake Wales, Florida case study. It is important to note that the initial volatile solids concentration at the Lake Wales facility was approximately 76% of the total solids, while in the Block House MUD digester, the initial volatile portion was 39% of the total solids.