

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>CHAPTER 1</b> .....  | 1  |
| <b>INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY</b> .....  | 1  |
| 1.1 PROCESS DESCRIPTION AND ORIGIN OF EFFLUENT .....  | 2  |
| 1.1.1 Wood supply .....   | 2  |
| 1.1.2 Digester .....  | 2  |
| 1.1.3 Waste plant .....   | 3  |
| 1.1.4 Noodle/Baled pulp .....   | 3  |
| 1.1.5 Paper machine stock preparation .....   | 3  |
| 1.1.6 Paper machine .....   | 3  |
| 1.1.7 Chemistry on the paper machine .....  | 4  |
| 1.1.8 Effluent emanating from the paper machine .....   | 4  |
| 1.1.9 Membrane plant .....  | 4  |
| 1.2 OBJECTIVES .....  | 5  |
| <b>CHAPTER 2</b> .....  | 8  |
| <b>STATIC FOULING OF FLAT-SHEET MEMBRANES WITH DAF<br/>EFFLUENT</b> .....   | 8  |
| 2.1 EXPERIMENTAL .....  | 8  |
| 2.1.1 Materials and methods .....   | 8  |
| 2.1.2 Results .....   | 9  |
| 2.2 PRE-TREATMENT WITH VARIOUS SURFACTANTS .....  | 10 |
| 2.2.1 Experimental .....  | 11 |
| 2.2.2 Results and Discussion .....  | 11 |
| 2.3 INFLUENCE OF SURFACTANTS ON EFFLUENT FLUX .....   | 12 |
| 2.3.1 Materials and methods .....   | 13 |
| 2.3.2 Results and Discussion .....  | 13 |
| 2.4 CONCLUSIONS .....   | 14 |
| <b>CHAPTER 3</b> .....  | 16 |
| <b>FOULING POTENTIAL OF COAGULANTS AND<br/>FLOCCULANTS USED IN THE PRE-TREATMENT<br/>OF PAPER MACHINE EFFLUENT PRIOR TO DAF</b> ..... | 16 |
| 3.1 EXPERIMENTAL .....  | 16 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 3.2 CONCLUSIONS TO FLOCCULANT AND COAGULANT EVALUATION .....   | 20 |
| <b>CHAPTER 4</b> .....   | 21 |
| <b>ULTRAVIOLET-VISIBLE SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF EFFLUENT SAMPLES</b> .....                           | 21 |
| 4.1 UV-VIS ANALYSES OF EFFLUENTS GENERATED IN THE MILL .....   | 21 |
| 4.1.1 Experimental .....   | 21 |
| 4.1.2 Results .....  | 22 |
| 4.1.3 Influence of pH on the spectroscopic properties of various effluents .....                           | 24 |
| 4.1.4 Experimental .....   | 24 |
| 4.1.5 Results .....  | 25 |
| 4.1.6 Discussion .....   | 25 |
| 4.2 INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA ANALYSES OF VARIOUS EFFLUENT SAMPLES .....                                  | 27 |
| 4.2.1 Experimental .....   | 27 |
| 4.2.2 Results .....  | 27 |
| 4.2.3 Discussion .....   | 27 |
| 4.3 THE INFLUENCE OF A CHELATING AGENT ON THE TURBIDITY OF THE EFFLUENT AT ELEVATED PH .....               | 28 |
| 4.3.1 Experimental .....   | 28 |
| 4.3.2 Discussion .....   | 29 |
| 4.4 GEL PERMEATION CHROMATOGRAPHY ANALYSIS OF MICROSTRAINER PRODUCT SAMPLES .....                          | 30 |
| 4.4.1 Experimental .....   | 30 |
| 4.4.2 Results .....  | 30 |
| 4.4.3 Discussion .....   | 35 |
| 4.5 CONCLUSIONS .....  | 35 |
| <b>CHAPTER 5</b> .....   | 37 |
| <b>MEMBRANE FOULANT CHARACTERISATION BY ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPY AND SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY</b> ..... | 37 |
| 5.1 ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPY .....  | 37 |
| 5.1.1 Experimental .....   | 37 |
| 5.1.2 Results .....  | 37 |
| 5.1.3 Discussion .....   | 39 |
| 5.2 SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY .....   | 40 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 5.2.1 Experimental .....                          | 40        |
| 5.2.2 Results .....                               | 41        |
| 5.2.3 Discussion .....                            | 42        |
| 5.3 CONCLUSIONS .....                             | 42        |
| <b>CHAPTER 6 .....</b>                            | <b>43</b> |
| <b>TEST RIG EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED AT THE PIET</b> |           |
| <b>RETIEF MONDI KRAFT PAPER MILL .....</b>        | <b>43</b> |
| 6.1 EXPERIMENTAL .....                            | 43        |
| 6.2 CONCLUSIONS FROM TEST RIG EXPERIMENTS .....   | 61        |
| <b>REFERENCES .....</b>                           | <b>64</b> |