Ultrafiltration and valorisation of lignin in black liquor from South African Kraft mills: A focus on dead-end stirred cell filtration

Paul Kekana\textsuperscript{1, 2}, Bruce Sithole\textsuperscript{1, 2}, Deresh Ramjugernath\textsuperscript{2}, Lingam Pillay\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}University of KwaZulu-Natal/CSIR Natural Resources and the Environment: Forestry and Forest Products Research Centre
\textsuperscript{2}Discipline of Chemical Engineering, University of KwaZulu-Natal
\textsuperscript{3}Department of Process Engineering, University of Stellenbosch

Abstract

The main aim of this project is to develop a method that can effectively extract lignin from Kraft black liquors from South African mills in the form that would be suitable for valorisation into high value products. In this study the effects of operating pressure, membrane cut-off size, stirring rate and feed concentration on the extent of lignin retention and permeate flux were investigated.