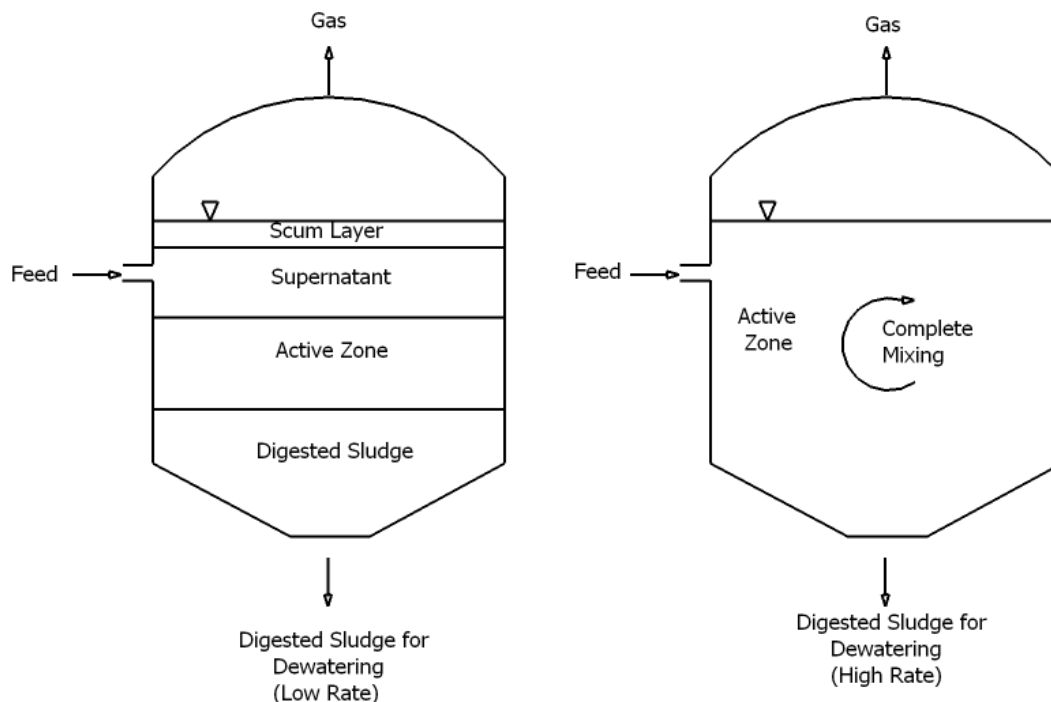


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## Sludge Treatment Processes

### Anaerobic Digestion:



Anaerobic digestion is a solids stabilization process commonly used at municipal and industrial water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs). The primary objective of anaerobic digestion is to convert the solids generated during the wastewater treatment process to a stable product like biosolids. Concrete or steel tanks receive solids comprised of settled material from primary and secondary treatment processes as well as scum and grease. Fats, oils, and grease or food waste from sources outside of the WRRF also may be fed directly to digesters in some applications. Anaerobic digestion reduces odors and pathogens in the solids stream. Following stabilization, the digested product or biosolids, may be removed from the site for disposal or processed further to reduce water content in preparation for disposal or beneficial use. The primary benefit of anaerobic digestion compared to other forms of solid stabilization processes is the energy recovery potential. Anaerobic digestion generates a biogas comprised primarily of methane and carbon dioxide that may be recovered for heat or power generation. The potential for resource recovery has led to increased use of anaerobic digestion in recent decades.

More information about anaerobic digester can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/anaerobic-digestion/types-anaerobic-digesters>

Next issue: *Aerobic Digesters*