Aracruz Celulose, the world’s leading producer of bleached eucalyptus pulp, has chosen FILMTEC™ membranes for most of its reverse osmosis (RO) skids in operation. One of Aracruz Celulose’s manufacturing sites located in Barra do Riacho, Espírito Santo, Brazil, decided to replace standard FILMTEC membrane elements at two of its five RO trains with FILMTEC BW30-400/34i featuring Interlocking Endcaps (iLEC™). The start-up went smoothly and the operators were enthusiastic about the reduced time spent loading the elements as well as commissioning, since no leakage was detected after start-up.

Fast Facts
- Name of Plant: Aracruz Celulose
- Location: Barra do Riacho
- Country: Brazil
- Design Capacity: 765 m³/h of permeate
- Purpose/Final Application: Boiler Feed Water
- Time in Operation: 11 years
- Element Types: BW30-400 / BW30-400/34i
- Quantity of Elements: 708
- Number of Skids: 7
- Pre-treatment: WTP + Sand Filters + GAC + Cartridge Filters
- Unique Plant Conditions/Issues: Organic fouling
- OEM: Enfi/Degrémont

Plant Performance
It was the first time Aracruz Celulose had installed FILMTEC™ elements with iLEC™ technology in its RO skids. The operators felt very comfortable while loading the elements. In less than 12 hours they had removed the standard FILMTEC elements, loaded the new iLEC elements and tested all 96 elements of one of the trains. No leakage was detected during start-up. At the time of start-up, the permeate quality was better than the other trains (7uS/cm x 15uS/cm). The differential pressure was approximately 0.90 bar (versus 1.2 bar).

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