influent). The rejection, R, of a membrane separator can be calculated from C_R (the concentration of solute on the retentate side of the membrane) and C_P (the concentration of solute on the permeate side of the membrane) and expressed as a percentage using Equation [6] below:

$$R = [1 - (C_P/C_R)] * 100 \quad [6]$$

In some embodiments, the rejections (R) of the first membrane separator and the second membrane separator (and, if present the third membrane separator) during operation of the method are chosen to afford good, consistent performance across all membrane separators by accounting for differences in concentrations of their respective retentate inlet streams. In some embodiments, the rejection of the first membrane separator for at least one solute (or all solutes) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the first membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the first membrane separator) is different than a rejection of the second membrane separator for the for at least one solute (or all solutes) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the second membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the second membrane separator). The difference in rejections between the first membrane separator and the second membrane separator may be due, at least in part, to use of different semi-permeable membranes in the first and second membrane separators (e.g., having different pore sizes, MWCOs, and/or surface chemistries). In some embodiments, the rejection of the first membrane separator for at least one solute (or all solute) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the first membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the first membrane separator) and the rejection of the second membrane separator for at least one solute (or all solute) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the second membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the second membrane separator) are at least 5% different, at least 10% different, at least 20% different, at least 50% different, and/or up to 100% different, or more different from each other. In some embodiments, the rejection of the second membrane separator for at least one solute (or all solutes) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the second membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the second membrane separator) is less than that of the first membrane separator for the at least one solute (or all solutes) (e.g., the solute during the step of transporting the first membrane separator retentate inlet stream to the retentate side of the second membrane separator) (e.g., by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 20%, at least