Supporting Information

Soy Protein-Based Polyethylenimine Hydrogel and Its High

Selectivity for Copper Ions Removal in Wastewater Treatment

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Figure S1. Optical images of SPI/PEI mixture with different PEI content when using ECH as crosslinking agent.



Figure S2. SEM images of freeze-dried SPI/PEI composite hydrogels. (a) SP100, (b) SP50. The scale bar is 20 μ m.



Figure S3. Swelling ratios of freeze-dried SPI/PEI composite hydrogels.



Figure S4. FTIR spectra of SPI/PEI composite hydrogels.



Figure S5. XRD patterns of Cu NPs formed in SP50 sample.

| Samples | Langmuir isotherm | | | Freundlich isotherm | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|--|
| | K _L | $q_{\rm m}$ | \mathbb{R}^2 | K _F | n | \mathbb{R}^2 | |
| SP100 | 0.0287 | 21.83 | 0.968 | 1.779 | 2.108 | 0.986 | |
| SP75 | 0.0162 | 112.36 | 0.992 | 4.010 | 1.682 | 0.943 | |
| SP50 | 0.0243 | 149.25 | 0.993 | 9.162 | 1.951 | 0.886 | |

Table S1. Langmuir and Freundlich parameters and correlation coefficients calculated

 from experimental data.

Table S2. Kinetic model parameters for the adsorption of Cu (II) ions on SP75 and

 SP50 samples

| 0 1 | Pseudo-first order | | Pseudo-second order | |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Samples | \mathbf{K}_1 | R ² | K_2 | \mathbb{R}^2 |
| SP75 | 0.187 | 0.9557 | 0.0046 | 0.9983 |
| SP50 | 0.178 | 0.9677 | 0.0018 | 0.9982 |