UNCLASSIFIED

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY Operated By UNION CARBIDE NUCLEAR COMPANY

## UCC

POST OFFICE BOX P OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

DATE: June 15, 1956

SUBJECT: FEED MATERIALS PROCESSING STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE, 1956

TO: F. L. Culler

FROM: R. E. Blanco and W. K. Eister

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED FEB 14 1957 ml DATE For The Atomic Energy Commission Chief, Declassification Branch

ORNL

**CENTRAL FILES NUMBER** 

CF-56-6-100

#### - LEGAL NOTICE

This report was prepared as an account of Government sponsored work. Neither the United States, nor the Commission, nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission:

A. Makes any warranty or representation, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in this report, or that the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report may not infringe privately owned rights; or

B. Assumes any liabilities with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report.

As used in the above, "person acting on behalf of the Commission" includes any employee or contractor of the Commission to the extent that such employee or contractor prepares, handles or distributes, or provides access to, any information pursuant to his employment or contract with the Commission.

\$ 0.30

Available from the Office of Technical Services Department of Commerce Washington 25, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED

is contains information of a profimition as propored primarily for internal use logs that and concreases is subject a presention and there to a does you

A REAL FOR COMPANY

X-816

# DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency Thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

# DISCLAIMER

Portions of this document may be illegible in electronic image products. Images are produced from the best available original document.

Printed in USA. Charge <u>30</u> cents. Available from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Technicol Information Extension, P.O. Box 1001, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Please direct to the same address inquires covering the procurement of other classified AEC reports.

-2-

#### - LEGAL NOTICE -

This report was prepared as an account of Government sponsored work. Neither the United States, nor the Commission, nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission:

- A. Makes any warranty or representation, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in this report, or that the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report may not infringe privately owned rights; or
- B. Assumes any liabilities with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report.

As used in the above, "person acting on behalf of the Commission" includes any employee or contractor of the Commission to the extent that such employee or contractor prepares, handles or distributes, or provides access to, any information pursuant to his employment or contract with the Commission.

10

CONTENTS

ONF IDENTI

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1.0	Metallex Process		
2.0	Fluorox Process		
3.0	Excer Process		
4.0	Ion-Exchange Ore Processing		

K

#### ABSTRACT

<u>Metallex Process</u>. Methanol and petroleum ether from which dissolved oxygen has been removed have less oxidative effect upon thorium amalgam than water with or without dissolved oxygen.

A rough correlation between the free voidage of sintered thorium metal and its oxide content, and therefore the metal quality, is indicated. A procedure was developed for determining the total voidage and the atmosphere-connected voidage in sintered thorium metal.

<u>Fluorox Process</u>. The specific surface area of  $UF_{\downarrow}$  appears to be constant over the temperature range 25-600°C. Above 600°C the specific surface area decreases as sintering begins. The major impurities found in UF6 produced from African ore concentrate were Al, Ca, Cu, and Fe.

The 4-in.-i.d. reduction-hydrofluorination and oxidation reactors were modified to improve their operability, and two runs were made with the improved oxidation reactor. Low-carbon UF4, suitable for fluorination to UF<sub>6</sub> or reduction to metal, was prepared by burning the carbon in the UF<sub>h</sub> with oxygen.

Excer Process. Results of runs in the 2-in.-dia Higgins continuous ion-exchange contactor indicate that  $UO_2Cl_2$  product may be withdrawn at concentrations as high as 140 g of uranium per liter and containing as low as 0.05 M NaCl. Conductivity instruments provided excellent process control, which in turn allowed efficient usage of 5 M NaCl eluant. This eliminated the need for recycle of the NaCl.

The presence of sodium or calcium did not affect the density of the electrolytic  $UF_{4} \circ 3/4H_{2}O$  product. An electrolytic cell with 64 in.<sup>2</sup> inside area was operated 5 hr to produce  $UF_{4} \circ 3/4H_{2}O$ . The resulting slurry of  $UF_{4} \circ 3/4H_{2}O$  appears acceptable as far as physical characteristics are concerned for making specification grade  $UF_{4}$  after filtration and dehydration.

A nickel ribbon flite dehydrator is being constructed.

-4-

#### 1.0 METALLEX PROCESS

Reduction of  $\text{ThCl}_4$  with sodium amalgam and recovery of the thorium from the resulting thorium amalgam by filtration and retorting is a promising method of preparing thorium metal.

#### 1.1 Laboratory-scale Studies (O. C. Dean)

61

Amalgam Washing Tests. Five tests on liquids that might be used in washing thorium quasi amalgam indicated that removal of dissolved oxygen from the wash liquid considerably reduces the oxidation of the amalgam during the washing process.

Wash Liquid	Thorium Dissolved from Quasi Amalgam (%)
Distilled water, no treatment	0.62
Argon-sparged distilled water	0.26
Distilled water, distilled from potassium pyrogallate under argon	0.42
Methanol, distilled from potassium pyrogallate under argon	0.07
Petroleum ether, sodium-treated	0.08

Methanol distilled from potassium pyrogallate in an inert atmosphere had the least oxidative effect on the amalgam; deoxygenated petroleum ether was nearly as inert. Reduction of the oxygen content of water reduced its oxidative effect but did not eliminate it. Evidently water itself has a corrosive effect.

For the tests 135-g amalgam samples containing 4 g of thorium were washed in 1 <u>M</u> HCl and distilled water and were then agitated in an argon atmosphere for 4 hr under 10 ml of the wash liquid.

#### 1.2 Relation between Voidage and Quality of Metal

A procedure for determination of pinholes and voids which are connected with the surface of the sinter is under study in an effort to find a quantitatively measurable property that will indicate the quality of the sintered metal. It is reasoned that the quality of the extruded metal prepared from the sintered will be dependent on how well the metal

-5-

around a void "heals" to sound metal under pressure, and this in turn is dependent on how "clean" or free from oxide this surface remains through sintering and pickling. A void connected to the atmosphere by a pinhole would be oxide-coated, and there is evidence that oxide-coated surfaces do not weld well under pressure. In addition, an atmosphere-connected void would fill with molten salt in the preheating operation prior to extrusion. The percentage of "free" or atmosphere-connected voidage was determined from the relation

## % voidage = <u>100 x (apparent density - bulk density)</u> theoretical density

The apparent density was determined by a carbon tetrachloride--immersion technic, using the evacuated metal sample. The bulk density was determined by a water-immersion technic, after the free voids had been sealed by a coating of acrylate plastic film. In three determinations on the same porous sample, results were reproducible.

Sample	Reduction Temp (°C)	Treatment after Washing with 1 <u>M</u> HCl and H <sub>2</sub> 0	Atmosphere-con- nected Voidage (%) after Pressing at 1000 psi and Sintering
TAS-12-2	130	Rinsed with argon- sparged H <sub>2</sub> O	13.2
3		Rinsed with oxygen- free methanol	11.7
1		Vacuum-dried	7.47
TAS-13-2	200	Rinsed with argon- sparged H <sub>2</sub> O	35.4
_ <b>1</b>		Rinsed with oxygen- free methanol	38.1
3		Vacuum-dried	30.2

The following tabulation shows how free voidage determinations may be related to some variables:

It is known that thorium amalgams produced at higher temperatures are reactive to water and oxygen, and this is reflected in increased free voidage. The voidage test shows that water removal by vacuum-drying is more effective than by methanol rinsing.

In a series of seven tests there was a rough correlation between atmosphere-connected voidage in sintered thorium metal and the  $ThO_2$  content. With voidages ranging from 23 to 48%, the  $ThO_2$  contents were 2.07 to 3.48%, while those with voidages of 7.7 to 14.8% had  $ThO_2$  contents of 1.15 to 1.67%.

#### 1.2 Larger-scale Studies (J. C. Suddath)

Storage of Thorium Quasi Amalgam. Washed thorium quasi amalgam from a 4-liter stoichiometric reduction was divided into 25 equal portions, and each portion was stored in a closed container with 1.0 M HCl solution as a blanket, the acid volume being half the amalgam volume. Five portions were examined every 7 days, five were allowed to stand 14 days, five for 21 days, five for 28 days, and the remaining five for a total of 35 days without agitation during the standing. Caking was observed at each examination, but mild agitation broke up the cake, and the amalgam returned to a fluid state. After 24 hr there was a small amount of white precipitate (probably ThO<sub>2</sub>) in the acid of each bottle, but this increased only slightly during the next 34 days. Gas bubbles were released at the glass-amalgam interface at a very slow rate, but the amalgam volume did not increase. The amalgam that was stored for 35 days without agitation appeared to have properties identical with those of the material stored only 7 days. The test will be continued for another 35 day period.

Reduction Step Studies. In three dry-reduction runs in a 1,5-gal Dispersal unit, thorium recovery ranged from 61 to 88%:

		Thorium				
Run No.	Na Remaining (% of initial)	Recovered (g) (%)		Reduced (%)	Material Balance (%)	
35	3∘5	657.0	74	79	98.6	
36	Car inte das	<b>78</b> 3.6	88	71	116.5	
37	5.0	541.7	61	75	86.4	

The feed for each run was 1450 g of Fernald ThCl<sub>h</sub> (thorium, 922 g total, 890 g methanol-soluble); 4 liters of 3.3 M Na(Hg) was used for each reduction. The agitator speed was 1410 rpm, with 5 min contact time at 90-155°C. With 15 min contact time, recovery was 75%. At 110-105°C with 5 min contact time, recovery was 86%. It was necessary to remove heat during the contacting period to keep the temperature down.

#### 2.0 FLUOROX PROCESS

Oxidation of UF<sub>4</sub> to UF<sub>6</sub> and UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> with air or O<sub>2</sub> is a potentially economical method of producing UF<sub>6</sub>. Among the variables likely to be important in the oxidation reaction are surface area, temperature, and partial pressure of oxygen. Since the UF<sub>4</sub> is produced by reducing UO<sub>3</sub> with starch and then hydrofluorinating, residual carbon removal is also an important practical problem.



¢

### 2.1 Laboratory-scale Studies (R. G. Wymer, L. M. Ferris)

Surface Area Measurements. The variation of the specific surface area of UF<sub>4</sub> with temperature and time is being investigated, since it is felt that the rate of oxidation of UF<sub>4</sub> is at least partially controlled by the UF<sub>4</sub> surface area available. If this proves to be the case, knowledge of surface areas will be essential in comparing oxidation reactivities of various UF<sub>4</sub> samples. Studies to date have been performed by heating 98% UF<sub>4</sub>(2% UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>) in dry helium for 1 hr at various temperatures. The apparent specific surface is essentially constant up to 600°C, at which temperature sintering begins to occur. For one type of UF<sub>4</sub> the specific surface area remained at ~ 0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/g over the temperature range 25-600°C and then fell to ~ 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>/g at 800°C. Since this UF<sub>4</sub> contains some UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> initially, and will be coated with increasing amounts as the oxidation proceeds, work is under way to evaluate the effect of varying amounts of UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>.

<u>Ore Concentrate Studies</u>. In CF 56-5-100 purity data were given for  $UF_4$  and  $UO_2F_2$  produced from African ore concentrate by the Fluorox process. Data are now available on the purity of the UF6 formed simultaneously with the  $UO_2F_2$ . After the UF6 gas had been passed through a sintered nickel filter, the impurities, in grams per gram of uranium, were:

Al	0.0074	Fe	0.0023
Ca	0.0275	Mg	0.0005
Cu	0.0052	_	-

Particles with diameters greater than 20  $\mu$  were collected on the nickel filter. The appearance of the relatively large amount of impurities in the UF6 is thus due to entrainment of very small particles and/or to the existence of volatile compounds of the various impurities.

#### 2.2 Larger-scale Studies (J. E. Moore)

<u>Reduction-Hydrofluorination Step.</u> The 1-in.-i.d. reduction hydrofluorination reactor was modified (Figs. 1 and 2) to make it more dependable. In the original design the reactant gases were introduced through annuli surrounding the reactor shell. The unused annuli occasionally split, as a result of thermal stresses, which allowed the gases to escape. In the new design the reaction zone is a straight section of 4-in.-i.d. incomel pipe containing a suitable number of gas inlet tubes and thermowells for wall and bed temperature measurements. The gases are injected through 1/4-in.-dia tubes, directly into the center of the bed.

Oxidation of  $UF_{h}$  to  $UF_{6}$ . The 4-in.-i.d. oxidation reactor was modified (Figs. 3 and 4) to improve its flexibility and operability. Increasing the heated length of the solids feed pipe eliminated the

CONTENTINETAL.

ļ

ORNL-LR-Dwg. -13980 UNCLASSIFIED



ORNL-LR-Dwg. -13981 UNCLASSIFIED



<u>-9-</u>





-11-

A GIVE MANY HAVE

-12-

need for using the reduction hydrofluorination reactor as a solids preheater. A heated screw feeder was installed to meter the pellets into the reactor in order to prevent surges of excess  $UF_{11}$  into the reaction zone. The solids outlet was constricted by a funnel-shaped baffle to reduce surges of  $UO_2F_2$  pellets from the reaction zone. The proposed method of operation was also changed so that the reactor would be kept slightly less than, instead of completely, filled, and that the oxygen would be fed to the bed from above instead of being injected directly into the bed.

As a result of these changes, heat losses have been greater, probably because of heat radiation from the now exposed reaction zone. Consequently, the reaction was only partially complete in two runs, even with 1% carbon in the UF<sub>4</sub> and a solids preheating temperature of  $700^{\circ}$ C. In future runs the reaction zone temperature will be raised to the level required for efficient conversion by preheating the oxygen, increasing the carbon content of the UF<sub>4</sub>, and possibly by increasing the feed rate.

With the old design, 90% conversion was obtained with  $UF_{4}$  containing 0.4% carbon, preheating of the solids to 625°C, and oxygen preheated to 400°C and injected directly into the bed.

<u>Removal of Carbon from UF)</u>, When the UF, is to be reduced to metal, the carbon must be removed. In a moving-bed test at  $680^{\circ}C$ , the carbon content of UF<sub>4</sub> pellets was decreased from 0.3% to 0.012% with very little oxidation of U(IV) to U(VI). However, portions of the bed that were overheated were partially oxidized to UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> and UF<sub>6</sub>.

For the run (see Table 1) the reactor was filled with carbon-free UFL and was preheated to 400°C at the top, with the temperature increasing to 600°C at the bottom. It was planned to move the UF4 pellets containing carbon into the 400°C zone countercurrently to a stream of oxygen; however, some of the pellets reached the 600°C zone before the oxygen feed was started, and, as a result, the bed temperature exceeded 800°C during the initial part of the run and appreciable amounts of UF4 were oxidized (P-1). As the feed continued to move into the reaction zone, the maximum temperature dropped to the 660-605°C range, and little of the UF<sub>h</sub> was oxidized (P-2 and 3). The small amounts of partially oxidized pellets in samples P-2 and 3 probably had been delayed in transit out of the initial 800°C zone. After the initially high temperatures were reduced, the wall heater temperatures were again increased in an effort to force the bed temperature to 700°C. As a result, the pellets adjacent to the wall were overheated during the last part of the run and some of the  $UF_{4}$  pellets (P-4) were again oxidized. A weight balance indicated that approximately 20 lb, or about 20% of the UF4 feed, was lost, presumably as UF6, which was visible in the off-gas.

				. ·				· .		
1	Max Bed	02		_		Composition (%)				
Time	Temp (°C)	Fed (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Sample <sup>b</sup>	Weigh Incr.	<u>t (lb)</u> Cum.	Total U	U(IV)	AOI	<b>P</b> -	С
			· ·	F	eed <sup>a</sup>					
			Precharge SRH-4-P-6 SRH-4-P-9 SRH-4-P-17 SRH-4-P-18	133 34 30 13 17	133 167 197 210 227	76.89 75.72 75.48 76.26	73•36 71•80 72•45 75•36	2.08 2.22 0.75 1.79	23.92 24.00 24.00 -24.01	0.317 0.279 0.256 0.265
				· P:	roduct	· .				
0845 0945 1045 1145 1245 1345 1445	615 660 840 800 660 685 680	0 1 9 18 18 15 8	PR-1 thru 6 PR-7 PR-8 P-1 P-1G P-2 P-2G P-3 P-3G P-4 P-4G	66.5 20.9 19.2 22.8 20.2 19.1 21.8	66.5 87.4 106.6 129.4 149.6 168.7 190.5	75.70 (G = 66) 75.43 (G = 95) 76.08 (G = 97) 75.31	69.64 % of P- 70.13 % of P- 72.34 % of P- 72.71	$\begin{array}{c} 0.19\\ 0.04\\ 2, W = 2\\ 0.04\\ 3, W = 2\\ 0.04\\ 3, W = 2\\ 0.01\end{array}$	23.3 2%, M 23.7 1%, M = 24.0 1%, M =	0.025 38%) 0.034 4%) 0.012 2%) 0.016
1545	575	0	P-5 R-1 R-2 P-W-C (Composite W's)	0.8 14.4 1.3	191.3 205.7 207.0	(G = 87	% of P-	₩, W = !	5%, M = 1 12.8	13%)
•			P-M-C (Composite M's)			76.36	47.89	5.40	19.1	0 <b>.027</b>

Table 1. <u>Removal of Carbon from UF<sub>1</sub></u> by Combustion with Oxygen in <u>a 4-in.-i.d. by 60-in.-long Moving-bed Reactor (Run CO-3)</u>

-13-

<sup>a</sup>The reactor was precharged with UF4 product from an earlier carbon removal run. Remainder of feed was that produced in a reduction-hydrofluorination run.

<sup>b</sup>Code: PR = pre-run material; P = product removed during operation; R = residue in reactor at end of run; G = green; W = white; M = mixture of green and white. The W and M samples were composited for analysis.

CONFIDENCE

-14-

CONFIDEN

Comparison of the U(IV) content of the UF<sub>4</sub> before and after oxidation at  $680^{\circ}$ C (SRH-4-P-6 and 9 with P-3G and 4G) showed that the U(IV) content of material that was not overheated decreased only slightly or not at all. Approximately 95% of the carbon content of this material was removed.

A 10-1b batch of the P-36 product was ground to pass an 80-mesh screen and will be forwarded to the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works for reduction to metal. The tap density of the pulverized material is 2.75 g/cc, the  $UF_{\rm h}$  content is 95%, and the carbon content is 0.014%.

#### 3.0 EXCER PROCESS

#### 3.1 <u>Laboratory-scale Studies</u> (I. R. Higgins)

Ion-exchange Step. Synthetic ore leach liquor is being processed by the 5 M NaCl--water elution flowsheet in the 2-in.-dia continuous contactor. Because of limitations on height, Permutit SK, 20-40 mesh, was used instead of 10-20 mesh. The gain in efficiency is noticeable, but the conditions have not smoothed out enough for a final analysis. One product sample contained 92 g of uranium per liter.

Excellent process control was obtained with conductivity instruments. Because of the good flow-rate control, the amount of NaCl required to convert the uranium from the sulfate to the chloride form was decreased to 2.5 lb per pound of uranium. The cost of fresh NaCl is thus less than the cost of CaCl2 to remove sulfate from used NaCl, and NaCl recycle is not necessary. The Na<sub>o</sub>SO<sub>h</sub>-NaCl waste, containing 3-15% of the uranium, is recycled as feed. The concentration of the chloride thus introduced into the feed is less than 0.1 M, which is not high enough to interfere with loading. The uranium recovery was greater than 99% on 3 ft of resin with a uranium loading of 50 g/liter. Product concentrations varied with the uranium loading, but for 1 hr a product solution containing 98.1 g of meranium, as UO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, per liter was obtained. The final product composite was 0.5 M in NaCl, but the NaCl content is determined by the control of the rate of product removal. A product containing 53 g of uranium per liter was withdrawn which was only 0.05 M in NaCl. A portion with a peak uranium concentration of 140.6 g/liter was obtained.

The UO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> product of one run contained 45 g of uranium per liter. Because of experimentation with instrument controls, it was high in sodium, 1.4 M. When batch-converted to  $UO_2F_2$  on a Dowex 50 column, the product contained 84 g of uranium, 3.5 g of sodium, and 0.25 g of calcium per liter. The sodium and calcium were further reduced to 0.007 and 0.12 g/liter, respectively, by treatment again with H-form Dowex 50.

AND ALL PRIME

<u>Product UF<sub>4</sub>·3/4H<sub>2</sub>O Density Studies</u>. Calcium and sodium do not appear to affect the density of the electrolytic reduction product. UF<sub>4</sub>·3/4H<sub>2</sub>O prepared from the UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> product of the ion exchange column, which contains calcium and sodium, has a density of 2.4 g/cc. When the feed to the ion exchange column was a pure UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> solution prepared by reaction of UO<sub>3</sub> and HF, the electrolytic reduction product UF<sub>4</sub>·3/4H<sub>2</sub>O had a tap density of 1.5 g/cc. However, when 0.16 g of calcium or 2 g of sodium per liter was added to the UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, about the amounts in the ion exchange product UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, the tap density of the UF<sub>4</sub>·3/4H<sub>2</sub>O was 1.6 g/cc. The effect of variations in current density and feed concentrations are now being studied.

3.2 Larger-scale Studies (C. W. Hancher)

Electrolytic Reduction Step. The Boltaron (polyvinyl chloride) Excer electrolytic cell (Figs. 5 and 6) was operated to produce a dense slurry of  $UF_{4} \cdot 3/^{1}H_{2}O$ , with a density estimated as 2-2.5 g/cc. The cell has an 8- by 8-in. cathode, anode, and membrane area. The operating conditions were:

Temperature

Feed

90-100°C in cathode compartment

HF, stoichiometric for U conc. + 10% excess; H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>h</sub>, 0.25-0.5 M

At 100% efficiency, 1 mole of U

F concentration less than 2 g/liter

Anolyte

Feed rate

Anolyte rate

Voltage

12.4 volts d.c.

HoSOL, 0.25-0.5 M

per 53.6 amp-hr

Theoretical current density 2 amp/in.<sup>2</sup> per cathode side

Usual current efficiency 85-90%

Laboratory analyses are not yet available.

In a 4-hr preliminary run, chemical, hydraulic, and heating tests indicated satisfactory operation.

<u>Dehydration Step</u>. A nickel ribbon-flite dehydrator (Figs. 7-9) has been constructed and is being installed. It is 3 in. dia by 6 ft long. The estimated feed rate to this dehydrator is 50 g of  $UF_{4}^{\circ}3/4H_{2}^{\circ}0$ per minute. The UF4 will be swept countercurrently with dry N<sub>2</sub> during dehydration at a maximum of 350°C.

SONFTDENET

## UNCLASSIFIED

# FLOW SYSTEM FOR EXPERIMENTAL EXCER CELL #1

## Fig. 5

CELL-TOP VIEW



-16-

UNCLASSIFIED

ORNL-LR-Dwg.-13978 UNCLASSIFIED



CUT-AWAY OF EXER CELL # 1

Fig. 6

UNCLASSIFIED









-21-

## 4.0 ION-EXCHANGE ORE PROCESSING

### C. W. Hancher

One of the problems that must be studied in operation of largediameter (36 to 60 in.) continuous ion-exchange contactors is the method of resin movement. This will be investigated in a 36-in.-dia resin test loop. Construction drawings for such a loop have been completed (Fig.10) and fabrication and installation have been started. This loop is part of a contactor with a capacity for processing 100 or 200 tons of ore per day, depending on which part of the fuel contactor it is used for.

MWG: jgh

The previous report in this series was ORNL CF No. 56-5-100, for May ( $30\not$ ). The next, ORNL CF No. 56-7-100 ( $30\not$ ), will be published about the end of July.

CONTRACTOR DE TRATING



.

...

. .

.....

. .