DEMONSTRATION OF THE DWPF FLOWSHEET IN THE SRNL SHIELDED CELLS USING ARP PRODUCT SIMULANT AND SB4 TANK 40 SLUDGE SLURRY

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May 2008

Process Science and Engineering Savannah River National Laboratory Aiken, SC 29808



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The radioactive startup of two new SRS processing facilities, the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and the Modular Caustic-Side-Solvent-Extraction Unit (MCU) will add two new waste streams to the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). The ARP will remove actinides from the 5.6 M salt solution resulting in a sludge-like product that is roughly half monosodium titanate (MST) insoluble solids and half sludge insoluble solids. The ARP product will be added to the Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank (SRAT) at boiling and dewatered prior to pulling a SRAT receipt sample. The cesium rich MCU stream will be added to the SRAT at boiling after both formic and nitric acid have been added and the SRAT contents concentrated to the appropriate endpoint.

A concern was raised by an external hydrogen review panel that the actinide loaded MST could act as a catalyst for hydrogen generation (Mar 15, 2007 report, Recommendation 9).¹ Hydrogen generation, and it's potential to form a flammable mixture in the off-gas, under SRAT and Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) processing conditions has been a concern since the discovery that noble metals catalyze the decomposition of formic acid.^{2, 3} Radiolysis of water also generates hydrogen, but the radiolysis rate is orders of magnitude lower than the potential noble metal catalyzed generation.⁴ As a result of the concern raised by the external hydrogen review panel, hydrogen generation was a prime consideration in this experiment. Testing was designed to determine whether the presence of the irradiated ARP simulant containing MST caused uncontrolled or unexpected hydrogen production during experiments simulating the DWPF Chemical Process Cell (CPC) due to activation of titanium.

A Shielded Cells experiment, SC-5, was completed using SB4 sludge a blend of Tank 40⁵ sludge combined with an ARP product produced from simulants by SRNL researchers. The blend was designed to be prototypic of planned DWPF SRAT and SME cycles. As glass quality was not an objective in this experiment, no vitrification of the SME product was completed. The results from this experiment were compared to the results from experiment SC-1, a similar experiment with SB4 sludge without added ARP product.

Summary results related to the primary test objective, hydrogen generation, were as follows:

- The SRAT cycle hydrogen generation rate, scaled to a 6000 gallon batch, peaked at 0.0633 lb/hr H₂, well below the DWPF limit of 0.65 lb H₂/hr but higher than seen in the SC-1 run. The SME cycle hydrogen generation, scaled to a 6000 gallon batch, peaked at 0.104 lb H₂/hr, below the DWPF limit of 0.223 lb H₂/hr but significantly higher than seen during the SC-1 run.
- This experiment should be considered conservative for hydrogen generation compared to planned ARP and SWPF processing because of the elevated levels of noble metals added to the ARP simulant. SB4 sludge is higher in noble metals relative to previous sludge batches, and the ARP simulant was higher for all noble metals compared to the sludge. It is expected that this experiment will bound future salt processing under nominal processing conditions.
- The addition of the ARP simulant to SC-5 is believed to be responsible for the increase in hydrogen. While the generation rate was higher than seen in the test without ARP, the timing and nature of the hydrogen generation curve was consistent with previous hydrogen generation behavior seen for increased levels of noble metals or formic acid. Therefore, it

does not appear that a new mechanism for hydrogen generation was created through the activation of the MST.

All SRAT cycle processing limits were met. At the completion of the SRAT cycle, the nitrite concentration was less than 1000 mg/kg and the mercury concentration was less than 0.45 wt% mercury, meeting DWPF processing limits.

Other significant observations from the ARP processing include:

- The caustic sludge concentration and ARP addition phases were both completed with only foaming noted as a significant processing issue. SC-5 used DWPF's antifoam strategy of 200 ppm antifoam prior to processing and an additional 200 ppm each four hours of boiling. There were no foam-overs, although foam was persistent throughout processing. Additions of antifoam demonstrated that Antifoam 747 was effective in controlling foaming.
- Foaming was evident throughout processing, but was more persistent in the SME cycle. During the SRAT cycle, two additional 100 ppm antifoam additions were made to control foam during formic acid addition and midway through reflux. Seven 100 ppm antifoam additions were made during SME processing, which was four more than planned (100 ppm prior to initial heatup and 100 ppm added each 8 hours during boiling).

The testing demonstrated that hydrogen generation rate was below DWPF's operating limits with irradiated ARP simulant. Based on what is known about hydrogen generation from typical SRNL testing, hydrogen generation behavior in the SC-5 test appears to be consistent with previous simulant and radioactive slurry behavior. As resources permit, further testing could be performed to more clearly understand any changes in behavior that are associated solely with the inclusion of MST or the ARP process itself. To accomplish this goal, the following path forward could be implemented:

- 1. Repeat experiment SC-5 with ARP product containing irradiated MST but having no added noble metals. If MST is the catalytic source, then a test with noble metal free ARP simulant should produce similar hydrogen to the SC-5 run.
- 2. Perform testing with simulants to determine the efficiency of MST sorbed noble metals compared to noble metals added to the ARP product. This test would provide data to indicate whether MST is more efficient at sorbing soluble noble metals from the salt solution, forming a more active noble metal.
- 3. Transfer a sample of the actual ARP product from DWPF to SRNL to perform testing against a run without ARP. This will mitigate any potential differences caused by simulant fabrication.

To ensure that bounding levels of ARP noble metals have been considered, future feeds for both ARP and SWPF should be analyzed for Pd, Rh, and Ru since high concentrations of these noble metals in ARP and SWPF will likely lead to higher hydrogen generation in DWPF CPC processing. Presently, only Pd is reported by SRNL for salt solutions, although all 3 noble metal could be estimated based on the ICP-MS results.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Aiken County Technologies Laboratory
Actinide Chemistry & Technology
Analytical Development
Alkali Fusion (Digestion)
Aqua Regia (Digestion)
Analytical Reference Glass
Approved Reference Material
Actinide Removal Process
Analytical Sample Support Matrix
Chemical Process Cell
Calcine Solids
Defense Waste Processing Facility
Formic Acid Vent Condenser
Gas Chromatograph
High Level Waste
Ion Chromatography
Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy
Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectroscopy
Insoluble Solids
Laboratory Information Management System
Liquid Waste Organization
Measurement Acceptability Region
Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit
Monosodium Titanate
Mercury Water Wash Tank
National Institute of Standards and Testing
Product Composition Control System
Polymethyl propylene
Process Science Analytical Laboratory
Process Science and Engineering Section
Quality Assurance
REDuction / OXidation potential
Sludge Batch 3
Sludge Batch 4
Slurry Mix Evaporator
Slurry Mix Evaporator Condensate Tank
Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank
Savannah River National Laboratory
Savannah River Site
Soluble Solids
Total Inorganic Carbon
Total Organic Carbon
Total Solids
Task Technical and Quality Assurance Plan
Technical Task Request
Waste Acceptance Product Specification
Waste Loading

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The radioactive startup of two new SRS processing facilities, the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and the Modular Caustic-Side-Solvent-Extraction Unit (MCU) will add two new waste streams to the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). The ARP will remove actinides from the 5.6 M salt solution resulting in a sludge-like product that is roughly half monosodium titanate (MST) insoluble solids and half sludge insoluble solids. The ARP product will be added to the Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank (SRAT) at boiling and dewatered prior to pulling a SRAT receipt sample. The cesium rich MCU stream will be added to the SRAT at boiling after both formic and nitric acid have been added and the SRAT contents concentrated to the appropriate endpoint.

A concern was raised by an external hydrogen review panel that the actinide loaded MST could act as a catalyst for hydrogen generation (Mar 15, 2007 report, Recommendation 9).¹ Hydrogen generation, and it's potential to form a flammable mixture in the off-gas, under SRAT and Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) processing conditions has been a concern since the discovery that noble metals catalyze the decomposition of formic acid.^{2, 3} Radiolysis of water also generates hydrogen, but the radiolysis rate is orders of magnitude lower than the noble metal catalyzed generation.⁴ As a result of the concern raised by the external hydrogen review panel, hydrogen generation was a prime consideration in this experiment. Testing was designed to determine whether the presence of the irradiated ARP simulant containing MST caused uncontrolled or unexpected hydrogen production during experiments simulating the DWPF Chemical Process Cell (CPC) due to activation of titanium.

A Shielded Cells experiment, SC-5, was completed using SB4 sludge from Tank 40⁵ combined with an ARP product produced from simulants by SRNL researchers. The blend of sludge and MST was designed to be prototypic of planned DWPF SRAT and SME cycles. As glass quality was not an objective in this experiment, no vitrification of the SME product was completed. The results from this experiment were compared to the results from experiment SC-1, a similar experiment with SB4 sludge without added ARP product.

This report documents:

- The preparation and subsequent composition of the ARP product.
- The preparation and subsequent compositional characterization of the SRAT Receipt sample. Additional details will be presented concerning the noble metal concentration of the ARP product and the SRAT receipt sample. Also, calculations related to the amount of formic and nitric acid added during SRAT processing will be presented as excess formic acid will lead to additional hydrogen generation.
- Highlights from processing during the SRAT cycle and SME cycle (CPC processing). Hydrogen generation will be discussed since this was the prime objective for this experiment.
- A comparison of CPC processing between SC-1 (without ARP simulant) and SC-5.

This work was controlled by a Task Technical and Quality Assurance Plan (TTQAP)⁶, and analyses were guided by an Analytical Sample Support Matrix (ASSM)⁷. This Research and Development (R&D) was completed to support operation of DWPF.

2.0 APPROACH

2.1 General Description of Analytical Methods

Analyses for this task used guidance of an ASSM⁷. Sample request forms were used for samples to be analyzed, and analyses followed the guidelines and means of sample control stated in the ASSM for the task. A unique laboratory identification management system (LIMS) number was assigned to each sample for tracking purposes. Analyses were performed using approved analytical and Quality Assurance (QA) procedures.

Procedures for analysis of the simulant material can be found in reference 8. For the radioactive materials, procedures and work instructions for density, percent solids, and supernate and slurry dilutions are also given in reference 8. Procedures for digestions and sample analyses are given in reference 9.

2.2 Production of Actinide Removal Product Simulant

A simulant of the product of the ARP process was prepared by Actinide Chemistry & Technology (AC&T) to mimic the actual production as much as possible. A number of modifications were made, however, in order to favor conditions for conservatively high noble metal loading on MST and to simplify preparation. These modifications were made based on the assumption that higher noble metal loading on MST would be expected to favor higher hydrogen generation, since noble metals are known to catalyze the decomposition of formic acid to generate hydrogen.

In typical production of actual ARP product for transfer to DWPF, 5.6 M sodium waste feed containing 0.6 g sludge solids per liter is treated with 15 wt % MST to generate a resulting slurry containing 0.4 g MST per liter of diluted feed. The slurry is then crossflow filtered to reduce the volume. Oxalic acid is used in the cleaning solution for rinsing the cross-flow filters followed by neutralization of the resulting stream. These steps are typically carried out in multiple strikes, and the resultant MST/sludge solids heel is washed with inhibited water to adjust the sodium concentration to approximately 0.5 M sodium. The resulting ARP product is approximately 5 wt % insoluble solids (with the insoluble solids composed of approximately 40 % MST solids and 60 % sludge solids).

For the purpose of this study, the ARP product simulant was prepared with a number of modifications from the actual process. 5.6 M sodium nonradioactive simulated waste solution supersaturated with noble metals (Ru, Rh, Pd), but not containing sludge solids, was contacted with 15 wt % MST to generate a 0.4 g MST per liter slurry. Sludge solids were omitted from this step in order to favor the saturation of noble metals on the MST without sludge present to compete sorption of the noble metals. After the volume of the MST with noble metals slurry was reduced, nonradioactive simulated sludge solids (SB4 simulant) were then added such that insoluble solids of the resulting slurry were approximately 40% MST and 60% sludge solids. The resulting 5.6 M sodium slurry with MST and sludge solids was then irradiated to simulate the irradiation expected during ARP processing and storage in DWPF. A conservative hold time (3 months) was assumed based on the longer ARP facility processing time. The bounding curie content (5.25 Ci/gal based on Cs-137) used for determining the irradiation dose was based on Salt Waste Processing Facility Planning.¹⁰ No MCU stream was added during the DWPF processing demonstration.

2.3 Caustic Concentration of the SRAT Receipt Sample

The blend of ARP and sludge was equivalent to 5,530 gallons of sludge to 1,470 gallons of ARP to produce 6,000 gallons of slurry after evaporation, as predicted for ARP Case K/L¹¹ (Dual reactors, 4 or 8 hour MST strike, 0.1 μ m filter) to maximize loading of MST in DWPF SRAT processing. After

concentration, a pre-SRAT cycle sample will be analyzed to perform acid calculations. No MCU stream was added during the DWPF processing demonstration.

SC-5 was the first Shielded Cells experiment to simulate both the caustic evaporation of sludge and the caustic evaporation of the blend of ARP slurry with sludge. Since DWPF has been experiencing foaming and air entrainment issues during their caustic evaporation, SRNL was asked to pay careful attention to the foaming behavior of the slurry. An antifoam addition strategy was developed to deal with the foaming noted in the DWPF caustic evaporation, namely 200 ppm antifoam 747 before heat-up and 200 ppm every four hours. SRNL testing was designed to validate this strategy or develop a new antifoam strategy for caustic boiling.

2.4 Chemical Process Cell (CPC) Processing (SRAT Cycle, SME Cycle)

The SRAT and SME cycles were conducted following procedures in the Process Science and Engineering Section procedure manual.¹² A summary of each cycle is presented in Table 2-1 below.

SRAT Processing	SME Processing
 Caustic boiling ARP Addition Receipt Sample Acid Calculation Heating of SRAT Receipt to 93 °C Addition of nitric and formic acids Heat to boiling Concentration (water removal) to a target wt% total solids Reflux for 12 hours 	 Addition and removal of water to simulate addition and removal of water from the decontamination of 5 glass canisters Addition of frit and formic acid slurry Concentration (water removal) to target 45-50 wt% total solids.

Table 2-1. Summary of CPC Processing

Processing was performed using a vessel nominally designed for one liter of sludge. The SRAT rig was assembled and tested in the SRNL Shielded Cells Mockup area and placed into the Shielded Cells fully assembled. A detailed description of the SRAT rig and testing of the rigs can be found in references 13 and 14. The intent of the equipment is to functionally replicate the DWPF processing vessels. The glass kettle is used to replicate both the SRAT and the SME, and it is connected to the SRAT Condenser and the Mercury Water Wash Tank (MWWT). Because the DWPF Formic Acid Vent Condenser (FAVC) does not directly impact SRAT and SME chemistry, it is not included in SRNL Shielded Cells CPC processing. Instead, a simple "cold finger" condenser is used to cool off-gas to approximately 20 °C below ambient to remove excess water before the gas reaches the gas chromatograph for characterization. The Slurry Mix Evaporator Condensate Tank (SMECT) is represented by a sample bottle that is used to remove condensate through the MWWT. For the purposes of this paper, the condensers and wash tank are referred to as the off-gas components. A sketch of the experimental setup is given as Figure 2-1.

SRAT processing included the addition of nitric and formic acid at DWPF prototypic rates, the dewater time, plus an additional 12 hours of reflux to simulate DWPF processing conditions. Concentrated nitric acid (50-wt%) and formic acid (90-wt%) were used to acidify the sludge and perform neutralization and reduction reactions during processing. The amounts of acid to add for each run were determined using the SRNL acid calculation spreadsheet¹⁵. The split of the acid was determined using latest reduction-oxidation, or REDOX, equation¹⁵, which utilizes the same acid addition equation used by DWPF. To

account for the reactions that occur during processing, assumptions about nitrite destruction, nitrite-tonitrate conversion, and formate destruction were made for each run. The values used for each run are provided in Section 3.0.

SME processing included the time to evaporate water added to simulate the addition of water generated due to canister decontamination and the simulation of two equal additions of frit slurry followed by the time to evaporate the water added with this slurry and the time to dewater to the SME solids target. The SRAT/SME condenser was maintained at 25 $^{\circ}$ C during the run, while the cold finger condenser, designed to simulate FAVC operations, remained below 5 $^{\circ}$ C.

SRAT and SME processing parameters are given in reference 16. Off-gas hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide concentrations were measured during the experiments using in-line instrumentation. Helium was introduced at a concentration of 0.5% of the total air purge as an inert tracer gas so that total amounts of generated gas and peak generation rates could be calculated. During the runs, the kettle was monitored to observe reactions that were occurring to include foaming, air entrainment, rheology changes, loss of heat transfer capabilities, and off-gas carryover. Observations were recorded in a laboratory notebook¹⁶ and are discussed in Section 3.0.



Figure 2-1. Schematic of SRAT Equipment Set-Up

2.5 Rheology

Rheological properties were determined using a Haake M5/RV30 rotoviscometer. The M5/RV30 is a Searle sensor system, where the bob rotates and the cup is fixed. The torque and rotational speed of the bob are measured. Heating/cooling of the cup/sample/bob is through a jacket that surrounds and holds the sample cup. The shear stress is determined from the torque measurement and is independent of

rheological properties. Conditions that impact the measured torque are slip (material does not properly adhere to the rotor or cup), phase separation (buildup of liquid layer on rotor), sedimentation (particles settling out of the shearing zone), homogeneity of sample (void of air), lack of sample (annular gap not completely filled), excess sample (primarily impacts rheologically thin fluids), completely filling up the void below the bob (shear-free air buffer that is now filled with fluid), and Taylor vortices. The first five items yield lower stresses and the last three add additional stresses. The shear rate is geometrically determined using the equations of change (continuity & motion) and is that for a Newtonian fluid. This assumption also implies that the flow field is fully developed and the flow is laminar.

The shear rate can be calculated for a non-Newtonian fluid using the measured data and fitting this data to the rheological model or corrected as recommended by Darby¹⁷. In either case, for shear thinning non-Newtonian fluids, typical of Savannah River Site (SRS) sludge wastes, the corrected shear rates are greater than their corresponding Newtonian shear rates, resulting in a thinner fluid. Correcting the flow curves will not be performed in this task, resulting in reporting slightly more viscous rheological properties.

The bob typically used for measuring tank sludge or SRAT product is the MV I rotor. For SME product, the MV II rotor is used to perform the measurements, due to the larger frit particles that are present in the SME product. The MV II has a larger gap to accommodate the larger frit particles. The shape, dimensions, and geometric constants for the MV I and MV II rotors are provided in Table 2-2. Prior to performing the measurements, the rotors and cups are inspected for physical damage. The torque/speed sensors and temperature bath are verified for functional operability using a bob/cup combination with a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) traceable Newtonian oil standard, using the MV I rotor. The resulting flow curves are then fitted as a Newtonian fluid and this calculated viscosity must be within \pm 10% of the reported NIST viscosity at a given temperature for the system to be considered functionally operable. A N10 oil standard was used to verify system operability prior to the sludge measurements.

The flow curves for the sludge were fitted to the down curves using the Bingham Plastic rheological model, Equation 2-1, where τ is the measured stress (Pa), τ_0 is the Bingham Plastic yield stress (Pa), μ_{∞} is the plastic viscosity (Pa·sec), and $\dot{\gamma}$ is the measured shear rate (sec⁻¹). During all of these measurements, the sample typically remained in the cup for the second measurement, due to the limited quantity of sample available. If thixotropic properties or unique flow behavior were obvious on the first sample measurement, then efforts were made to perform additional measurements by reloading the sample.

$$\tau = \tau_o + \mu_\infty \dot{\gamma}$$

2-1

Rotor Design	Dimensions and Flow Curve Program			
Ra	Rotor Type	MV I	MV II	
	Rotor radius - R _i (mm)	20.04	18.40	
	Cup Radius - R _a (mm)	21.0	21.0	
	Height of rotor -L (mm)	60	60]
	Sample Volume (cm ³) minimum	40	55	
	A factor (Pa/%torque)	3.22	3.76	
	M factor (s ⁻¹ /% RPM)	11.7	4.51	1
	Shear rate range (s^{-1})	0 - 600	0 - 300]
	Ramp up time (min)	5	5	
	Hold time (min)	1	1]
	Ramp down time (min)	5	5	

Tabla 2_2	MV I and	MV II Potor	• Specifications and	Flow Curve Program
1 abic 2-2.			specifications and	Thow Curve I rogram

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Production of Actinide Removal Product Simulant

The ARP simulant was produced by contacting a mixture of MST with a simulated waste solution saturated with noble metals Ru, Rh and Pd. Simulated sludge solids were added to the mixture and filtered using nominal 0.1 micron Mott (1110-8.5-40-.028-0.1-A sheet 316L stainless) submersible filters. The mixture was irradiated for 10.2 hours at 4.198E5 R/h in the SRNL cobalt gamma source (equivalent to a 3-month dose at a bounding gamma activity of 5.25 Ci/gal based on ¹³⁷Cs in the SWPF). The soluble salt fraction of the material was then diluted to reduce the soluble salt content to that expected for the ARP product that will be sent to the DWPF. This bounding ARP simulant represents material that contained a conservatively high concentration of noble metals and was irradiated to a much greater extent than that expected under normal operations.

ANALYSIS	SC-5 ARP
Density g/mL	1.08
Total Solids. Wt % on slurry basis	8.75
Insoluble Solids. Wt % on slurry basis	4.92
Soluble Solids, Wt % on slurry basis	3.83
Calcined Solids, Wt % on slurry basis	5.46
Nitrite, mg/kg on slurry basis	<1,602
Nitrate, mg/kg on slurry basis	14,125
Sulfate, mg/kg on slurry basis	4,613
Total Inorganic Carbon, mg/kg on slurry basis	644
Total Organic Carbon, mg/kg on slurry basis	552
Base Equivalents (mol/L slurry)	0.264
Al, mg/kg slurry basis	5,180
Ba, mg/kg slurry basis	22.4
Ca, mg/kg slurry basis	678
Cr, mg/kg slurry basis	24.5
Cu, mg/kg slurry basis	11.1
Fe, mg/kg slurry basis	7,460
Mg, mg/kg slurry basis	585
Mn, mg/kg slurry basis	1,610
Na, mg/kg slurry basis	14,200
Ni, mg/kg slurry basis	434
Rh, mg/kg slurry basis	0.111
Ru, mg/kg slurry basis	0.104
S, mg/kg slurry basis	1,880
Ti, mg/kg slurry basis	8,610
Zr, mg/kg slurry basis	16.3

Table 3-1. Analytical Results of ARP Simulant prepared for SC-5.

3.2 Caustic Concentration of the SRAT Receipt Sample

The caustic concentration phase of the SC-5 experiment was designed to duplicate the processing expected in DWPF. After sludge is transferred into the DWPF SRAT, the sludge is concentrated to allow additional transfer of sludge (if needed) and to concentrate as needed prior to addition of the ARP slurry. The SRAT receipt sample was carefully prepared to produce slurry similar to the SRAT receipt sample for SC-1 (30 wt % Tank 51/70 wt % Tank 40 Blend – prior to SB4). The caustic concentration was completed in two phases on two separate days.

The SRNL testing of this blend is referred to as Shielded Cells-5 (SC-5). Testing of Sludge Batch 4/ARP simulant Blend SC-5 was completed at SRNL in January 2008. Specifics of the blend are provided below. Personnel prepared the SC-5 Blend in several steps. A portion of a Tank 40 sample (received November 2007) was concentrated from 14.4 wt % to 20.3 wt % total solids by evaporation (to match the SC-1 SRAT receipt solids). The concentrated sludge was sampled and the sample was retained for future rheology analysis. The irradiated ARP simulant was added to the concentrated sludge at boiling to produce the blend target. Finally, the combined mixture was evaporated to a target of 20.3 wt % total solids. The blend was sampled and analyzed in preparation for SRAT and SME Cycle tests.

- On 1-14-2008, 1521.81 g of sludge was pumped into the SRAT vessel (1521.44 g target) using a peristaltic pump. Also, 116.96 g of deionized (DI) water was added to rinse the sludge carboy and the pump tubing. The mass was designed to simulate the water addition resulting from starting pumps in DWPF. Because of pump water in-leakage in Tank 40 has diluted the SB4 sludge; 504.27 g of condensate were collected (target was 501.68 g) to concentrate the sludge to 20.3 wt% total solids (match the SC-1 SRAT receipt concentration). A 93.56 g sample was pulled and retained for a future rheology study.
- On 1-15-2008, 254.05 g of ARP product were pumped into the SRAT vessel at 1.07 mL/min (scaled to 8 gallons/minute in DWPF). Also, 116.96 g of DI water was added to rinse the pump tubing and simulate the water addition resulting from starting pumps in DWPF. 253.39 g of condensate was collected to concentrate the sludge to 20.3 wt% total solids (target was 261.51 g). A 91.29 g sample was pulled and retained for a future rheology study. Also, a 66.39 g sample was pulled for SRAT receipt analyses. Based on a mass balance calculation, the SRAT receipt slurry mass after sampling was 949.9 g (target 954.8 g). The resulting blend consisted of 92.2 wt % insoluble solids from Tank 40 (SB4) and 7.8 wt % insoluble solids from the ARP simulant. After removal of two samples, an estimated 950 g of slurry were present in the SRAT vessel.

3.2.1 Caustic Concentration Processing Observations

As was discussed earlier, DWPF has been experiencing pressure surges that could be related to foaming during the caustic boiling phase of SRAT processing. The following antifoam addition strategy was used during experiment SC-5:

- 200 ppm addition prior to starting the caustic concentration
- 200 ppm addition every 4 hours thereafter

No significant processing problems, such as mixing ability or heat transfer ability, occurred during the SC-5 caustic concentration phase. The sludge was prone to foaming throughout the concentration step. Below is a photograph of the foam, extracted from a video. It is much easier to appreciate the foam by watching the video.



Figure 3-1. Photograph of Persistent Foam during Caustic Concentration

3.2.2 Caustic Concentration Sample Results (Excluding Noble Metals)

A sludge receipt sample was pulled at the conclusion of the ARP addition. Many of the elements were measured by Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES). The results are presented in Table 3-2. The total solids, anions, and mercury analyses were performed. These results are presented in Table 3-3, along with the results of the SC-1 SRAT receipt sample for comparison. In addition, the Tank 40 column was added to predict the concentration of the concentrated sludge prior to ARP addition. This demonstrates that the Tank 40 sludge was very similar to the SB4 Blend used in SC-1. Also, the compositions of the SC-1 and SC-5 SRAT receipt samples were very similar.

Flomont	Total Solids,	Std.	Digestion	Flomont	Total Solids,	Std Dov	Digestion
Element	Wt %0	Dev.	Methou	Liement	Wt %	Stu. Dev.	Methou
Al	11.5	0.218	AF	Ni	1.11	0.0037	AR/AF
Ba	0.0680	0.0029	AR/AF	Р	0.320	0.00922	AR
Ca	1.74	0.0813	AR/AF	Pb	< 0.103		AR
Cd	0.175	0.004	AR	S	2.21	0.340	AR
Ce*	< 0.41	NA	AR	Sb	< 0.198	NA	AF
Cr	0.0896	0.00344	AR	Si	0.504	0.0986	AF
Cu	0.0398	0.000731	AR	Sn	< 0.589	NA	AF
Fe	18.8	0.567	AR/AF	Sr	< 0.052	NA	AR/AF
K	< 1.04	NA	AR	Ti	1.42	0.0150	AR
Li	< 0.037	NA	AR	U	6.12	0.116	AR
Mg	1.52	0.0491	AR/AF	V	< 0.129	NA	AF
Mn	4.15	0.111	AR/AF	Zn	< 0.125	0.000669	AF
Na	14.2	0.0751	AR	Zr	0.083	0.040	AR

 Table 3-2. ICP-AES Characterization Results of the SB4 Tank 40 with ARP Product (SC-5 SRAT Receipt) Sample

Table 3-3. Characterization Results and Acid Calculation Inputs of the SB4 Tank 40 with ARPProduct (SC-5 SRAT Receipt) Sample with Comparison to SB4 Blend SRAT Receipt (SC-1)Sample and Tank 40 WAPS Sample⁵

Measurement	Units	SC-1	Tank 40 [*]	SC-5
Total Solids,	wt% of slurry	20.30	20.3	21.10
Insoluble Solids	wt% of slurry	15.23	14.91	16.22
Soluble Solids	wt% of slurry	5.07	5.39	4.81
Calcined Solids	wt% of slurry	15.35	15.15	15.39
Slurry Density	kg/L slurry	1.163	1.12	1.139
Supernate Density	kg/L supernate	1.045	1.048	1.071
Na	wt% of total solids	10.8	11.0	11.0
Hg	wt% of total solids	0.95	0.81	0.65
Mn	wt% of calcined solids	4.345	4.26	4.380
Nitrite	mg/kg slurry	16,200	16,200	14,300
Nitrate	mg/kg slurry	11,300	9,800	10,800
Sulfate	mg/kg slurry	<7,100	1,790	2,720
TIC	mg/kg slurry	1,560	1,260	2,080
Total Base	mol/L slurry to $pH = 7$	0.340	0.170	0.250

* Calculated data to determine concentration of Tank 40 sample if concentrated to 20.3 wt % total solids through removal of water by evaporation.

The plan for preparing the SRAT receipt blend was contingent on making additions of sludge and ARP product equivalent to the targets, dewatering to the targets, accurately accounting for expected losses (filling up MWWT and other glassware and tubing that collects condensate), and having no loss of water during evaporation (leak tight vessels and efficient condensers). The measured total solids concentration was 21.1 wt % versus the 20.3 wt % target). The assumption in the acid calculation is that the mass of

slurry was 949.9 g with slurry analyses as measured (i.e. 21.1 wt % total solids). If the slurry was overconcentrated by 36 g, leaving 913.9 g, the added acid would have been 4% higher than target.

There are several analyses that suggest that some chemical changes were taking place in the slurry. First, the total solids were higher than expected, the insoluble solids were higher than expected, and the soluble solids were lower than expected. The first change was mainly due to having less water in the SRAT receipt sample. But the increase in insoluble solids (~10 g) and decrease in soluble solids (~10 g) suggests that several soluble species became insoluble during caustic processing. Reviewing the data more closely suggests that the both the soluble nitrite (~4.2 g) and nitrate (~1.9 g) mass decreased based on predictions. The only other soluble species above detection limit bases on IC analyses is sulfate, and the prediction and actual mass are within 2% suggesting only the nitrate and nitrite were involved. Second, the TIC concentration increased by ~0.045 g carbon or 0.20 g carbonate. Absorption of carbon dioxide in the caustic sludge would produce sodium carbonate (2NaOH + CO₂ -> Na₂CO₃ + H₂O). This would increase the TIC concentration, increase the total solids concentration, and decrease the hydroxide concentration. This would increase the total solids concentration by 0.11 g or 0.05 wt% total solids. The calculated amount of CO₂ absorbed was approximately 72% of the carbon dioxide present in the air purge during 18 hours of processing.

3.2.3 Caustic Concentration Sample Results (Noble Metals)

Since the generation of hydrogen is impacted by the concentration of noble metals and other catalysts in the sludge slurry, the SRAT receipt sample was analyzed using the Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectroscopy (ICP-MS) for noble metals (Rh, Pd, and Ru) and silver and by ICP-ES for Ti. The SRAT receipt noble metals came from either the SB4 Tank 40 sludge or the ARP product. The SB4 slurry noble metals are well known (see Tank 40 WAPS sample and SC-1 SRAT Receipt columns in Table 3-4). The ARP product noble metals were also analyzed (see ARP Simulant Column in Table 3-4). Adding the expected noble metal compositions from the SB4 sludge and the ARP product yielded a predicted noble metal concentration for the SRAT receipt sample of 3.84E-02 wt % on a total solids basis for Ru (measured 4.04E-02), 1.86E-02 wt % on a total solids basis for Rh (measured 2.00E-02), and 3.80E-03 wt % on a total solids basis for Pd (measured 2.04E-03).

			Tank 40H	SC-1		% Increase
		ARP	WAPS	SRAT	SC-5 SRAT	due to ARP
Element	HM%	Simulant	Sample^	Receipt*	Receipt	Simulant
Ru	2.17E-01	1.04E-01	3.12E-02	3.48E-02	4.04E-02	29.4
Rh	3.80E-02	1.11E-01	8.40E-03	8.24E-03	2.00E-02	138
Pd	7.90E-02	2.71E-02	1.25E-03	1.32E-03	2.04E-03	63.2
Ag	1.40E-02	None Added	9.87E-03	9.50E-03	8.44E-03	-14.5#
Ti	NA	9.84	1.66E-02	1.70E-02	1.42	8,450

Table 3-4. Concentrations of Noble Metals, Titanium and Silver in wt % of Total Dried Solids of Sludge, ARP Product and SC-5 SRAT Receipt.

% Bounding noble metals for SRS sludge tanks.

^ The sludge used for SC-5 came from the Tank 40 WAPS sample.

* The SC-1 SRAT Receipt sample was not analyzed for noble metals but they were calculated from the measured values of the Tank 40 and Tank 51 blended streams.

The ARP simulant is 9.95 wt % of the total solids, so the Ag concentration should drop by ~10% since no Ag was added in the preparation of the ARP simulant.

The ARP simulant was produced using conservatively high concentrations of noble metals. As a result, the SRAT receipt noble metal concentration was higher than the SB4 sludge or SC-1 SRAT Receipt. For example, the rhodium concentration in the ARP simulant was 97.2 mg/kg or 1.11E-01 wt% on a total

solids basis. Recent analyses of the Tanks 41, 25 and 28 salt cake samples have a maximum rhodium concentration of 1.34 mg/kg in salt cake or 0.64 mg/kg in a 5.6 M feed to ARP. Thus the Rh in the ARP simulant was approximately 150 times higher than the maximum expected in the first feeds to ARP. At these ARP concentrations, the noble metal concentrations in the SRAT receipt sample would have been lower than the concentration in the sludge sample.

The concentrations of noble metals are important in predicting hydrogen generation, but another important factor is the efficiency of the catalyst. The noble metals that are adsorbed on the surface of the MST, a fine particle, may have a higher catalytic activity than noble metals that are co-precipitated in a mixed metal structure. As a result, the same concentration of noble metal in the ARP simulant might have a higher catalytic activity than the same concentration of noble metal in sludge, which would lead to higher hydrogen generation.

3.2.4 Caustic Boiling Off-gas Analysis

Off-gas data for the SC-5 caustic boiling phase are presented Figure 3-2. Based on the results of this testing and previous testing with ARP simulants, very little chemical change occurs during the caustic boiling phase of processing. No significant or prolonged generation of CO_2 , N_2O , or hydrogen was noted. The only change to note during processing was that the hydrogen concentration peaked at the initiation of boiling and slowly decreased while boiling. This is consistent with what has been seen in other Shielded Cells SRAT cycles. Radiolytic hydrogen is constantly being generated in the sludge at a very low generation rate. Some of the hydrogen accumulates in the sludge over time. When boiling is initiated, the hydrogen is released due to the improved mass transfer, and then slowly decreases until it reaches steady state (the solubility of any gas in a liquid goes to zero as the liquid temperature goes to its boiling point).

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Figure 3-2 Off-gas Concentration during Caustic Concentration and ARP Addition.

3.3 CPC Processing Results

The results of the SC-1 and SC-5 are presented here. However, the discussion is primarily focused on the Shielded Cells run, SC-5, with comparisons to SC-1 as warranted.

3.3.1 SRAT Cycle Acid Calculation

The key to comparing the SC-5 run with SC-1 was to add the same amount of acid, including the same ratio of nitric and formic acid. If too much acid is added to one of the experiments, then the potential exists for more hydrogen generation due to the presence of additional excess acid rather than to changes in the level of catalytic activity. In that case it is not possible to make an unbiased comparison. There are a number of inputs that impact the acid input, namely the mass of base equivalents, nitrite, manganese, carbonate, and mercury. There are a number of inputs that impact the fraction of formic acid such as predicted nitrite to nitrate destruction, formic acid destruction, nitrite to nitrate conversion and beginning nitrate and formate concentration. Each of these inputs has a different level of accuracy. Therefore extreme care was taken in using three acid stoichiometry equations to try to make sure the acid added in both experiments was nearly identical.

Acid Calculation Input	SC-1	SC-5	Units
Fresh Sludge Mass without Trim Chemicals	954.8	949.9	g slurry
Fresh Sludge Weight % Total Solids	20.30	21.10	wt%
Fresh Sludge Weight % Calcined Solids	15.23	16.22	wt%
Fresh Sludge Weight % Insoluble Solids	15.35	15.39	wt%
Fresh Sludge Density	1.163	1.139	kg / L slurry
Fresh Sludge Nitrite	16,208	14,314	mg/kg slurry
Fresh Sludge Nitrate	11,303	10,842	mg/kg slurry
Fresh Sludge Oxalate	0.00	0.00	mg/kg slurry
Fresh Sludge Formate	0.00	0.00	mg/kg slurry
Fresh Sludge Manganese (% of Calcined Solids)	4.345	4.380	wt % calcined basis
Fresh Sludge Slurry TIC (treated as Carbonate)	1,564	2,084	mg/kg slurry
Fresh Sludge Hydroxide (Base Equivalents) pH = 7	0.340	0.250	Equiv moles base/L slurry
Fresh Sludge Mercury (% of Total Solids)	0.9545	0.6500	wt% dry basis
Fresh Sludge Supernate Density	1.045	1.071	kg / L supernate

Table 3-5. Inputs for SC-1 and SC-5 Acid Calculations

Table 3-6. Acid Calculation Inputs of the of the SB4 Tank 40 with ARP Product (SC-5 SRAT Receipt) Sample with Comparison to SB4 Blend SRAT Receipt (SC-1) Sample

Input/Assumption	SC-1	SC-5	Units
Conversion of Nitrite to Nitrate in SRAT Cycle	26.6	26.6	gmol NO ₃ ⁻ /100 gmol NO ₂ ⁻
Destruction of Nitrite in SRAT and SME cycle	100	100	% of starting nitrite
Destruction of Formic acid charged in SRAT	7.60	7.60	%
Destruction of oxalate charged	N/A	50.0	%
Percent Acid in Excess Stoichiometric Ratio	130	130	%
SRAT Product Target Solids	25.00	25.08	%
Predicted or Target REDOX	0.200	0.200	Fe^{+2} / $\mathrm{\Sigma}\mathrm{Fe}$
REDOX Equation (7 for Mn ⁺⁷ , otherwise assumes	7	7	
Mn^{+4})	/	/	
Number of basis antifoam additions added during SRAT	8	8	100 ppm charges
cycle	0	0	100 ppin charges
Destruction of Formic acid in SME	12.7	12.7	%
Destruction of Nitrate in SME	0.00	0.00	%
Assumed SME density	1.45	1.45	kg / L
No. of basis antifoam additions added during SME cycle	3	3	100 ppm charges
Sludge Oxide Contribution in SME (Waste Loading)	35.0	30.0	%
Target SME Solids total Wt%	50.0	45.0	Wt%

An acid calculation was used to determine the amount of nitric and formic acid to add during the SRAT cycle. Based on the SRAT receipt analyses and the acid calculation parameters, both run SC-1 and SC-5 were within 3% for the moles of acid required, and in both runs the predicted fraction of formic acid to total acid was very similar as shown in Table 3-7. In addition, two supplementary acid predictions were completed to ensure the acid estimate was as accurate as possible. DWPF uses the Hsu acid equation¹⁸ to predict the acid demand for the experiment. The Hsu equation predicted an acid demand of 1.10 M. Since this equation does not include all of the reactions that consume acid, two additional acid equations are being used in simulant experiments to better predict the acid demand. The "Koopman" equation¹² adds several terms to the Hsu equation and predicted an acid demand of 1.43 M of slurry (131% of Hsu stoichiometry) for SC-5. The cation¹⁹ equation predicted an acid demand of 1.56 M for SC-5. The cation

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equation appears to give a *reasonable* acid addition, however, rather than a *minimum* required acid addition for its result. The acid requirements for both runs are summarized in Table 3-7. Note there is slightly more nitric acid added in SC-5 due to the lower nitrite and nitrate concentration.

PARAMETER	SC-1	SC-5
Hsu 100% acid, mols/L	1.13	1.10
Koopman Acid Demand, mol/L	1.44	1.43
Cation Acid Demand, mol/L	1.65	1.62
Actual (130% Hsu) acid added, moles/L	1.47	1.42
Nitric acid, ml	2.26	3.19
Formic acid, ml	49.91	48.93
% formic	98.0%	97.2%

 Table 3-7. Required Acid Needed as Predicted by DWPF's Acid Calculation

3.3.2 SRAT and SME Cycle Processing Observations

There were no significant processing problems during the SC-5 SRAT cycle other than foaming. There were no difficulties in mixing or heating the sludge slurry. The following SRAT cycle antifoam addition strategy was planned:

- 200 ppm addition prior to starting the cycle
- 100 ppm addition between nitric and formic acid additions
- 500 ppm addition after acid addition, prior to boiling
- 100 ppm addition every 8 hours thereafter

The above strategy is consistent with DWPF's current addition strategy and contains an additional 100 ppm addition (between nitric and formic acid additions) compared to recent antifoam addition strategies for Shielded Cells runs. In the three previous runs containing Tank 51 - SB4, antifoam was needed shortly after formic acid was begun.^{20, 21} It was decided to add the antifoam before it was needed to minimize the chance of a foam-over in this run.

Even with the extra antifoam prior to formic acid addition, an additional 100 ppm of antifoam was needed during the final third of formic acid addition. Also, an extra 100 ppm of antifoam was added with the scheduled antifoam addition eight hours after formic acid addition.

The following SME cycle antifoam addition strategy was planned:

- 100 ppm addition prior to starting the cycle
- 100 ppm addition every 8 hours thereafter

There were significant foaming issues throughout the SC-5 SME cycle. Antifoam was added 7 times, not the 3 additions that were planned. Antifoam was added as often as every hour, and more frequently as the solids concentration reached maximum. However, there were no problems with mixing or achieving the target boil up rates.

3.3.3 SRAT and SME Cycle Sample Results

A slurry sample was pulled from the SRAT vessel at the conclusion of the SRAT cycle. The total solids, anions, and mercury analysis were performed. These results are presented in Table 3-8, along with the results of the SC-1 SRAT cycle for comparison.²² As shown in the table, nitrite was adequately destroyed to less than 1,000 mg/kg. Although the mercury was removed to below the DWPF requirement of 0.45% of total solids, the mercury stripping efficiency was considerably less than that of SC-1. This was despite the fact that the, SC-5 SRAT receipt mercury measurement of 0.65 wt% was significantly lower than the 0.95% calculated for SC-1. The total solids measurement was lower than the total solids target of 25 wt %.

	SC-1	SC-5
Wt % Total Solids (slurry basis)	24.7	23.0
Wt % Insoluble Solids (slurry basis)	14.7	12.8
Wt % Soluble Solids (slurry basis)	10.0	10.1
Slurry Density (g/mL)	1.21	1.12
Supernate Density (g/mL)	NM	1.08
Formate (mg/kg slurry)	44,500	39,700
Nitrite (mg/kg slurry)	<1000	<868
Nitrate (mg/kg slurry)	19,300	20,900
Mercury (wt % of total solids)	0.068	0.308

 Table 3-8. SRAT Product Characterization Results

Samples were pulled at the conclusion of the SME cycle and analyzed for total solids, anions, and total organic carbon. Total solids are slightly higher than the target 45%. This is likely due to small water vapor losses from leaks in the off-gas equipment and vessel headspace. Results are given in Table 3-9, along with those from the SC-1 SME Cycle product samples.

Dhard and Davan and a	60.1	5 C E
Physical Property	SC-1	SC-5
Wt % Total Solids (slurry basis)	47.6	45.6
Wt % Insoluble Solids (slurry basis)	38.9	38.5
Wt % Soluble Solids (slurry basis)	8.7	7.1
Slurry Density (g/mL)	1.40	1.40
Supernate Density (g/mL)	1.09	1.09
Formate (mg/kg slurry)	40,000	28,500
Nitrite (mg/kg slurry)	<1,000	<152
Nitrate (mg/kg slurry)	15,300	13,300
Total Organic Carbon (mg/kg slurry)	13,000	9,420

 Table 3-9. SME Product Weight Percent Solids and Densities

3.3.4 SRAT and SME Cycle Anion Destruction and Conversion

Inputs to the acid calculation include formate destruction and conversion of nitrite to nitrate. Presented in Table 3-10 and Table 3-11 is a comparison between these assumed values and measured results for the SRAT and SME cycle. As can be seen in the table, nitrite to nitrate conversion was higher than predicted for SC-5 and higher than expected based on the predicted reactions paths (33% is the expected maximum). This high result is likely due to analytical error or high internal reflux. In both SC-1 and SC-5 the

formate destruction was much higher than the prediction. During the SME cycle the formate destruction was lower than predicted and the nitrate destruction was higher than predicted for both runs.

		SC-1	SC-5
Earmata Destruction (%)	Assumed	7.60	7.60
Formate Destruction (%)	Measured	24.2	28.9
Nitrite Destruction $(0/)$	Assumed	100	100
Nume Destruction (%)	Measured	>94.1	>94.1
Nitrite to Nitrate Conversion (%)	Assumed	26.6	26.6
Nume to Numate Conversion (%)	Measured	25.0	40.8

 Table 3-10. Comparison of Assumed and Measured Anion Destruction and Conversion in the SRAT Cycles

Table 3-11. Comparison of Assumed and Measured Anion Destruction and Conversion in the SME Cycles

		SC-1	SC-5
Formata Destruction (%)	Assumed	12.7	12.7
Formate Destruction (%)	Measured	0	-4.3
Nitrata Destruction $(0/)$	Assumed	0	0
Initiale Destruction (%)	Measured	2.5	7.6

3.3.5 SRAT and SME Cycle Off-gas Analysis (Excluding Hydrogen)

The nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide off-gas data for the SC-5 SRAT cycle, along with the SC-1 off-gas data, are presented in Figure 3-3 and Figure 3-4. The off-gas data is also summarized in Table 3-12 and Table 3-13. The SRAT cycle off-gas profiles for both nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide are very similar for both SC-1 and SC-5. This is consistent with producing the same quantity of nitrous oxide from nitrite destruction and the same quantity of carbon dioxide from carbonate destruction and mercury and The carbon dioxide produced from noble metal catalyzed formic acid manganese reduction. decomposition is a smaller quantity relative to the carbonate destruction and chemical reduction carbon dioxide peaks. This is consistent with adding the appropriate amount of acid to complete the destruction of nitrite in the SRAT and reduce mercury so that it can be removed by steam stripping to a concentration below 0.45 wt% total solids. As can be seen from the nitrous oxide figure, the nitrous oxide decreased to near zero earlier in SC-1 than SC-5, suggesting that slightly more excess acid was added in SC-1 than in SC-5. The carbon dioxide generation is higher during the second half of the SRAT cycle and throughout the SME cycle due to the formate destruction resulting from hydrogen generation. Table 3-12 summarizes the carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide generation data for Experiment SC-5 and Table 3-13 summarizes the carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide generation data for Experiment SC-1.

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Figure 3-3. Carbon Dioxide Generation during SC-1 and SC-5 SRAT Cycles



Figure 3-4. Nitrous Oxide Generation during SC-1 and SC-5 SRAT Cycles

	SRAT Testing		<u>SME Te</u>	SME Testing	
Gas	Maximum Observed Volume %	Maximum Gas Generation Rate (lb/h)	Maximum Observed Volume %	Maximum Gas Generation Rate (lb/h)	
DWPF H ₂ Limit	Not Applicable	0.65	Not Applicable	0.223	
Hydrogen	0.0828	0.0633	0.419	0.104	
Carbon Dioxide	25.5	528	6.23	35.6	
Nitrous Oxide	5.77	113	0.125	0.728	

Table 3-12. Maximum Observed Volume Percent and Generation Rates (DWPF Scale) of Hydrogen, Carbon Dioxide, and Nitrous Oxide during the SC-5 SRAT and SME Testing.

Table 3-13. Maximum Observed Volume Percent and Generation Rates (DWPF Scale) of Hydrogen,
Carbon Dioxide, and Nitrous Oxide during the SC-1 SRAT and SME Testing.

,	ý 8 8				
	SRAT Testing		SME Tes	sting	
		Maximum		Maximum	
	Maximum	Gas	Maximum	Gas	
	Observed	Generation	Observed	Generation	
Gas	Volume %	Rate (lb/h)	Volume %	Rate (lb/h)	
DWPF H2 Limit	Not Applicable	0.65	Not Applicable	0.223	
Hydrogen	0.008	0.007	0.027	0.0078	
Carbon Dioxide	22.7	554	2.96	18.8	
Nitrous Oxide	5.43	123	0.069	0.42	

3.3.6 SRAT and SME Cycle Off-gas Analysis (Hydrogen Only)

Since hydrogen generation was a prime objective in this experiment, more detailed hydrogen data will be presented. Testing was completed to determine whether the presence of the irradiated ARP simulant containing MST caused uncontrolled or unexpected hydrogen production during experiments simulating the DWPF CPC due to activation of titanium. A concern was raised by an external hydrogen review panel that the alpha loaded MST could act as a catalyst for hydrogen generation (Mar 15, 2007 report, Recommendation 9).¹ Figure 3-5 graphs the hydrogen concentration for the SRAT cycle and Figure 3-6 for the SME cycle.

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Figure 3-6. SME Cycle Hydrogen Profile

There are several factors which impact hydrogen generation, namely, noble metal concentration (Rh was 2.4 times more concentrated in SC-5 than SC-1 due to the addition of the ARP simulant), noble metal activity (this is unknown, but the activity of simulant noble metals is typically higher than the activity of noble metals in radioactive sludge ²³), formic acid concentration, and temperature. More hydrogen is produced when noble metal concentrations were higher, everything else being equal.²³ These will all be discussed in more detail below.

Factor 1: Temperature. Based on observations during and after testing, the slurry appeared to be well mixed and the temperature of the slurry was uniform throughout testing. The initial mixing speed was determined by visually observing the slurry mixing. In addition, the vessel was inspected after the experiments and there were virtually no deposits in the vessel. The vessel was rinsed with water, and the glassware was almost pristine. There were no signs of scorching of solids on the glassware, a sign that non-uniform heating was experienced.

Factor 2: Formic acid concentration. The amount of total acid and formic acid added in SC-5 was very similar to SC-1 with respect to the total moles of acid, total moles of formic acid and total moles of nitric added per liter of slurry. The off-gas profiles (N_2O and CO_2) were very similar for both SRAT runs. The use of three acid calculation equations was designed to ensure the acid target was correct. The acids were pre-weighed and at the completion of each acid addition, the acid feed line and bottle were flushed twice with DI water to ensure all the planned acid was added. By the completion of the SRAT cycle, SC-5 likely had a lower concentration of free formic acid since 28.9% of the formic acid was consumed generating hydrogen. The higher hydrogen generation rates were not due to adding excessive formic acid in SC-5.

Factor 3: Noble metal and titanium concentration. The noble metal concentration in SC-5 was higher than in SC-1, due to the conservatively high concentration of Rh, Ru, and Pd in the ARP simulant. The noble metal responsible for the maximum hydrogen generation rate is Rh. The Rh concentration in SC-5 was 2.4 times higher than it had been in SC-1.²³ A good control experiment would have had the same concentration of noble metals in SC-5 as SC-1. The Ti concentration was 84.5 times higher in SC-5 than SC-1 due to the addition of the ARP product.

The starting salt solution simulant had a Rh concentration of >150x the highest concentration measured in Tanks 25, 28 and 41.²⁴ This led to an ARP simulant that was very high in noble metals. By mass balance, only 2% of the Rh, 0.5% of the Pd, and 2% of the Ru added to the original salt solution was present in the ARP simulant. Most of the noble metal present in the ARP simulant was insoluble as 98-99.5% of the soluble noble metals were removed by washing, necessary to decrease the sodium concentration from 5.6M to 0.5M. The noble metal distribution is summarized in Table 3-14.

NOBLE METAL	SALT SOLUTION CONCENTRATION mg/L	ARP PRODUCT CONCENTRATION mg/kg	% IN ARP PRODUCT
Ru	100	91.2	2
Rh	100	97.2	2
Pd	100	23.7	0.5

Table 3-14. Noble Metals in ARP Product Simulant

SB4 simulant testing with added ARP and MCU²⁵ was completed to determine whether decanting up to 100,000 gallons of supernate from Tank 40 would change the SB4 processing or processing window. The ARP product was added with SB-4 levels of noble metals as wt%'s in the total solids, and no increase in

hydrogen generation was measured in experiments at 130% acid stoichiometry compared to tests without ARP. At 170% acid stoichiometry, the highest hydrogen generation measured was 0.138 lb/hr in the SRAT Cycle and 0.070 lb/hr in the SME cycle, significantly lower than measured in SC-5. In previous testing with no increase in noble metals due to the added ARP product, SRAT/ARP processing did not lead to higher hydrogen generation.

Factor 4: Noble metal activity. The noble metal catalytic activity was likely significantly higher in SC-5 than SC-1. The addition of the ARP simulant to SC-5 is responsible for the increase in hydrogen. However, further testing is necessary, due to the fact that a high fraction of noble metals were not fission decay noble metals that had co-precipitated with the other metal nitrates when the acidic waste was neutralized with sodium hydroxide. Instead, a high fraction of the noble metals were added to the salt solution as soluble metal nitrates, then adsorbed on the MST during the simulated ARP processing. This freshly deposited noble metal is likely to offer more surface area, leading to faster dissolution and higher activity catalyst.

Factor 5: New hydrogen generation mechanism. In order to determine whether a new hydrogen generation mechanism, such as the postulated radiolytic activation of titanium to catalyze hydrogen generation, led to the additional hydrogen generation, the above 4 factors would all need to have been controlled in both SC-1 and SC-5. Since factor 3 was not and factor 4 may not have been controlled, the excess hydrogen generation could be due a combination of factors 3, 4, and/or 5. For example, the addition of excessive noble metals and the increased activity of simulant noble metals could together lead to the additional hydrogen generation without a new hydrogen generation mechanism, but the new mechanism can not be ruled out based on this testing.

Hydrogen Conclusion: The hydrogen concentration was significantly higher during the SME cycle in SC-5 than SC-1. The addition of the ARP simulant to SC-5 is responsible for the increase in hydrogen generation. However, further testing is necessary to determine whether a new hydrogen generation mechanism due to radiolytic activation is partially responsible for the higher hydrogen generation or whether it was due to a combination of higher catalyst concentration and/or higher catalyst activity. Repeating the experiment with ARP product having no added noble metals would be needed to determine whether a new hydrogen mechanism is involved. A test with noble metal free ARP simulant should produce less hydrogen than SC-1 since the ARP addition would actually decrease the hydrogen generation as there would be a lower concentration of noble metals in the resultant slurry. Additional testing at higher acid stoichiometries may be needed if differences are still noted. Regardless, SC-5 should hold as a conservative estimate of hydrogen generation.

Although it could not be definitively proved that there was no contribution from hydrogen due to the new hydrogen mechanism, there are two factors that make this unlikely. First, the hydrogen concentration profiles seen in SC-5 are very similar to those expected due to Rh, Ru, and Pd catalysis of formic acid to hydrogen. A new mechanism would lead to a different profile, likely a steady production of hydrogen, instead of the SC-5 peaks and valleys at predictable times based on nitrite destruction, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide generation. Figure 3-7 compares the hydrogen profile from SC-5 to a simulant run with added Rh, Ru, Pd, Ag and Hg²⁶ (no added MST). Second, the addition of the ARP product raised the Ti concentration by a factor of 84.5, compared to Tank 40 sludge. Even if the new mechanism does produce hydrogen, it must be much less efficient than the other noble metals.



Figure 3-7. Hydrogen Generation Profile Comparison between SC-5 SRAT cycle and Simulant Run RhRuHg1, a SRAT cycle with added Rh, Rh, and Hg, DWPF Scale lb/hr H₂

3.3.7 Metal Solubility during CPC Processing

In order to determine the metal solubilities in the SRAT receipt, SRAT Product and SME product supernates, samples were submitted to AD for ICP-AES and ICP-MS analyses. The gadolinium (masses 154-158 are stable, with 156 and 158 expected to have the highest concentrations) was lower than the detection limit in the SRAT receipt, SRAT Product and SME product samples. A number of components had high solubilities in the SRAT receipt sample including Group 1A metals (sodium and cesium (133 and 135)), sulfur (sulfate), Group VIB metals (Cr, Mo-95, 97, 98, W-182 and 184), noble metals (Ru – 100 and 105, Pd - 106 and 108), and mercury (196,198,204). Note that although >50% of the Ru and Pd were soluble, very little Rh was soluble in any of the samples. Note also that the concentration of mercury was very low at the end of the SME cycle as the majority of the mercury was reduced and steam stripped to remove it from the slurry. The raw data for both the ICP-ES and ICP-MS analyses are in Appendix A.

3.4 Rheology

Yield stresses and plastic viscosities of three SC-5 samples were measured using the Haake RV-30 viscometer. The three samples included: 1) SC-5 concentrated Tank 40 sludge containing no Actinide Removal Process (ARP) simulant; 2) SC-5 Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank (SRAT) receipt material containing ARP simulant; and 3) SC-5 Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) product from SRAT/SME processing.

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Results of the rheology measurements are given in Table 3-15²⁷, along with the previously measured weight % solids and slurry density values or projections. Note that the yield stress and plastic viscosity values in the table are means based upon two independent rheology measurements. Reported along with each mean value is the standard deviation, s, of the two independent measurements. The standard deviation values illustrate that variations for the concentrated sludge and SRAT receipt samples were smaller than for the SME product.

SC-5 Sample	Sample	Mean	Mean	Wt%	Wt%	Slurry
Description	Identifier	Yield	Plastic	Total	Insoluble	Density
		Stress	Viscosity	Solids	Solids	(g/mL)
		(Pa)	(cP)			
Concentrated	TS125-07-	4.9	7.0	20.3	14.9	1.12
Sludge (w/o ARP)	A-101327	(s=0.2)	(s=0.2)			
SRAT Receipt	TS125-07-	5.3	7.9	21.0	15.4	1.14
(w/ARP)	A-101329	(s=0.06)	(s=0.04)			
SME	TS125-07-	4.5	15.1	45.6	38.5	1.40
Product	A-101418	(s=0.5)	(s=1.7)			

A summary of the measurement conditions is given in Table 3-15. Flow curves for the rheology measurements are given in Figures 3-7, 3-8, and 3-9.

SC-5 Sample	Measurement	Sensor	Up Ramp	Holding	Down	Measurement
Description	Date	Туре		Condition	Ramp	Temperature
Concentrated Sludge (w/o ARP) SRAT Receipt (w/ ARP)	3/24/08	MVI	0-600/s over 5 min	600/s for 1 min	600-0/s over 5 min	25° C
SME Product	3/25/08	MVII	0-300/s over 5 min	300/s for 1 min	300-0/s over 5 min	

Table 3-16. Conditions of Rheology Measurements





Figure 3-8a and Figure 3-8b. Flow Curves for SC-5 Sludge Concentrate Sample (w/o/ ARP)











Figure 3-10a and Figure 3-10b. Flow Curves for SC-5 SME Product Sample

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Shielded Cells Run SC-5 involving caustic sludge concentration, ARP Addition, SRAT and SME cycles were completed as planned. This was the first DWPF demonstration in the cells with added ARP simulant. The main objective for the run was the determination of hydrogen generation. The acid addition strategy used, however, was a conservative one for SB4 equivalent to about 130% acid stoichiometry. Although 130% is at the low end of the recommended range (130-170%) for this sludge batch, it is also DWPF's processing target. Attempts to go to higher acid stoichiometry should be approached in small-step changes (i.e. 5% increases) when ARP is present. Summary results are listed below.

- The caustic sludge concentration and ARP addition phases were both completed with only foaming noted as a significant processing issue. SC-5 used the DWPF antifoam strategy of 200 ppm antifoam prior to processing and 200 ppm each four hours. There were no foam-overs, although foam was persistent throughout processing. Additions of antifoam demonstrated that Antifoam 747 was effective in controlling foam. Minimal chemical reactions were occurring during the caustic sludge concentration and ARP Addition phases of processing, based on off-gas analyses. However, there apparently was a decrease in soluble nitrite and nitrate, likely due to sorption on the noble metals or MST or due to analytical error.
- The SRAT cycle hydrogen generation rate, scaled to a 6000 gallon batch, peaked at 0.0633 lb H₂/hr, well below the DWPF limit of 0.65 lb H₂/hr but higher than seen in the comparable SC-1 run without ARP. The hydrogen concentration was still climbing at the end of the SRAT cycle, not the typical peak seen during SRAT processing. One processing note is that foam was evident throughout processing, but was less persistent than the SME cycle. Two additional 100 ppm antifoam additions were made to control foam during formic acid addition and midway through reflux. The nitrite concentration was less than the 1000 mg/kg and the mercury concentration was less than 0.45 wt% mercury, meeting DWPF processing limits.
- The SME cycle hydrogen generation rate, scaled to a 6000 gallon batch, peaked at 0.104 lb H₂/hr, below the DWPF limit of 0.223 lb H₂/hr but significantly higher than seen during the SC-1 run. The hydrogen concentration was still climbing at the end of the SME cycle, not the typical peak seen during SME processing with simulants, although this behavior has been seen in some Shielded Cells experiments since SB3. Seven 100 ppm antifoam additions were made, four more than planned (100 ppm prior to initial heatup and 100 ppm added each 8 hours during boiling).
- The addition of the ARP simulant to SC-5 was responsible for the increase in hydrogen. However, further testing is necessary to determine whether a new hydrogen generation mechanism is partially responsible for the higher hydrogen generation or whether it was merely a combination of higher catalyst concentration and/or higher catalyst activity. It is possible that an overestimation of the SRAT receipt mass by 36 g led to an over-addition of acid by 4% (135% acid stoichiometry). This could have also contributed to increased hydrogen generation rates compared to SC-1. The H₂ generation rate profile does not look that different from a test without any added MST, so there is no evidence for a new mechanism of H₂ generation due to the added Ti from MST in the SC-5 data.

This experiment was conservative for hydrogen generation compared to planned ARP and SWPF processing. SB4 sludge is high in noble metals relative to previous sludge batches. The ARP simulant was higher in all noble metals than the sludge. It is expected this experiment will bound future processing under nominal processing conditions.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The testing demonstrated that hydrogen generation rate was below DWPF's operating limits with irradiated ARP simulant. Based on what is known about hydrogen generation from typical SRNL testing, hydrogen generation behavior in the SC-5 test appears to be consistent with previous simulant and radioactive slurry behavior. As resources permit, further testing could be performed to more clearly understand any changes in behavior that are associated solely with the inclusion of MST or the ARP process itself. To accomplish this goal, the following path forward could be implemented:

- 1. Repeat experiment SC-5 with ARP product containing irradiated MST but having no added noble metals. If MST is the catalytic source, then a test with noble metal free ARP simulant should produce similar hydrogen to the SC-5 run.
- 2. Perform testing with simulants to determine the efficiency of MST sorbed noble metals compared to noble metals added to the ARP product. This test would provide data to indicate whether MST is more efficient at sorbing soluble noble metals from the salt solution, forming a more active noble metal.
- 3. Transfer a sample of the actual ARP product from DWPF to SRNL to perform testing against a run without ARP. This will mitigate any potential differences caused by simulant fabrication.

To ensure that bounding levels of ARP noble metals have been considered,, future feeds for both ARP and SWPF should be analyzed for Pd, Rh, and Ru since high concentrations of these noble metals in ARP and SWPF will likely lead to higher hydrogen generation in DWPF CPC processing. Presently, only Pd is reported by SRNL for salt solutions, although all 3 noble metal could be estimated based on the ICP-MS results.

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APPENDIX A. SRAT RECEIPT, SRAT PRODUCT AND SME PRODUCT ICP-ES AND ICP-MS SAMPLE RESULTS

	SRAT	SRAT	SRAT	SME	SRAT	SRAT	SME	
	Receipt	Receipt	Product	Product	Receipt	Product	Product	
Element	Slurry,	Supernate,	Supernate,	Supernate,	supernate,	supernate,	supernate,	%
Element	Wt %	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	Wt %	Wt %	Wt %	SOIUDIE
Ag	44.00				0.00			0.0
AI	11.00	633.8	4.7		0.36		0.04	3.3
В	0.07	10.3	1.7	22.3	0.01	0.00	0.01	
Ва	0.07							
Be	4.04	40.7	4 = = = =	1 5 40 7	0.04	0.70	0.55	
Ca	1.84	19.7	1,577.5	1,546.7	0.01	0.79	0.55	0.6
Cd	0.18		20.8	17.2		0.01	0.01	
Ce								
Cr	0.09	38.6			0.02			24.4
Cu	0.04							
Fe	19.71	6.7		11.9	0.00		0.00	0.0
Gd								
K			265.0			0.13		
La								
Li			14.8	187.0		0.01	0.07	
Mg	1.60	4.4	1,717.5	1,374.0	0.00	0.86	0.49	0.2
Mn	4.38		2,642.5	2,980.0		1.32	1.06	
Mo								
Na	14.24	23,150	27,2	29,400.0	13.14	13.59	10.48	92.2
Ni	1.11							
P	0.32							
Pb								
S	2.21	1,048.	845.8	908.7	0.59	0.42	0.32	26.9
Sb								
Si	0.50		35.5			0.02		
Sn								
Sr			14.6	15.9		0.01	0.01	
Ti	1.42							
U	6.12							
V								
Zn								
Zr	0.08							

Table A-1: SRAT Receipt, SRAT Product and SME Product ICP-ES Sample Results

Mass#	Sludge	Supernate, mg/kg			Supernate Slurry Basis. mg/kg		
	SRAT	SRAT	SRAT	SME	SRAT	SRAT	SME
	Receipt	Receipt	Product	Product	Receipt	Product	Product
85	10.8	0.086	0.104		0.072	0.091	
86	8.5		11.883	13.650		10.362	8.395
87	10.6	2.889	12.407	13.332	2.420	10.819	8.199
88	143.5	0.939	227.824	234.685	0.787	198.662	144.331
89	117.0						
90	141.0		84.687	84.897		73.847	52.212
91	119.6						
92	115.8	1.573			1.318		
93	133.8						
94	130.1	0.976			0.818		
95	6.5	9.368		0.221	7.848		0.136
96	141.5	2.012			1.686		
97	2.8	8.220	1.247		6.886	1.088	
98	5.7	9.723	0.480		8.146	0.419	
99	24.7	11.403	1.430		9.553	1.247	
100	21.7	8.801	2.411		7.373	2.103	
101	154.8		3.505	9.512		3.057	5.850
102	155.0	0.519	4.183	10.012	0.435	3.647	6.157
103	200.3	3.188	10.272	10.463	2.671	8.957	6.435
104	94.3	2.633	2.529	3.045	2.206	2.205	1.873
105	12.4	7.005			5.869		
106	30.7	8.182	4.300	3.536	6.855	3.750	2.175
107	44.4	0.978			0.819		
108	18.0	7.319	3.992	3.075	6.132	3.481	1.891
109	41.9		0.243			0.212	
110	141.5	3.600	50.992	38.516	3.016	44.465	23.687
111	168.3		57.320	46.060		49.983	28.327
112	310.3		113.678	89.163		99.127	54.835
113	228.0		69.666	62.466		60.748	38.417
114	375.3		137.906	105.552		120.254	64.914
116	85.7		28.273	22.586		24.654	13.890
11/	1.6		0.301			0.262	
118	4.8		0.942	0.570		0.822	0.252
119	329.0		5.378	0.573		4.690	0.352
120	4.2		1.254			1.094	
121	2.8		0.224			0.202	
122	1.1		0.231			0.202	
123	2.0		0.212			0.070	
124	1.0		0.312			0.272	
120	2.3						
120	16 /						
120	10.4 QO 7						
130	00.7	8 611	16 380	21 020	7 01 /	1/ 201	13 519
100	11.9	0.011	10.309	21.900	1.214	14.231	13.310

Table A-2: SRAT Receipt, SRAT Product and SME Product ICP-MS Sample Results, mg/kg

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Mass#	Sludge	Supernate, mg/kg			Supernate Slurry Basis. mg/kg		
	SRAT	SRAT	SRAT	SME	SRAT	SRAT	SME
	Receipt	Receipt	Product	Product	Receipt	Product	Product
134	49.9						
135	7.8	1.258	2.493	3.494	1.054	2.174	2.149
136	9.1	0.450	0.047				
137	96.5	3.458	8.217	11.388	2.897	7.165	7.004
138	338.0		5.650	9.214		4.927	5.667
139	283.0						
140	366.0						
141	240.8						
142	273.5						
143	232.3						
144	256.3						
145	166.5						
146	139.8						
147	91.7						
148	87.3						
149	5.5						
150	78.6						
151	7.0						
152	26.7						
153	12.3						
154	9.3						
155	23.1						
156	36.8						
157	23.5						
158	37.5						
159	4.5						
160	33.5						
161	2.8						
162	2.7						
163	1.3						
164	1.8						
165							
166	1.3						
167	1.3						
168							
169	3.2						
170							
171							
172							
173							
174							
175							
176							
177							
178	1.1						

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Mass#	Sludge	Supernate, mg/kg			Supernate Slurry Basis. mg/kg		
	SRAT	SRAT	SRAT	SME	SRAT	SRAT	SME
	Receipt	Receipt	Product	Product	Receipt	Product	Product
179							
180	1.7						
181	3.2						
182	1.9	1.654			1.385		
183		0.880			0.738		
184	1.9	1.938			1.624		
185							
186		1.829	0.457		1.533	0.399	
187							
191							
193	3.1						
194		0.197			0.165		
195		0.166			0.139		
196	7.3	3.482			2.917		
197	17.8	0.162	0.990		0.136	0.863	
198	1035.0	441.638	8.025	1.452	370.004	6.997	0.893
203	3.1	0.032			0.027		
204	1320.0	596.845	11.353		500.037	9.900	
205	6.7	0.032			0.027		
206	72.4	0.054	2.607		0.045	2.273	
207	72.4		3.519			3.069	
208	167.8	0.097	7.014		0.082	6.116	
230							
232	420.0						
233	1.2						
234	6.0						
235	272.5		3.259	0.322		2.842	0.198
236	12.0						
237	33.7		0.184			0.160	
238	47425.0	5.631	572.325	62.383	4.718	499.068	38.366
239	170.0						
240	19.8						
241	6.6						
242							
243	5.9						

Distribution:

J.E. Marra, 773-A J.C. Griffin, 773-A C.W. Gardner, 773-A D.A. Crowley, 999-W A.B. Barnes, 999-W B.J. Giddings, 786-1A L.M. Chandler, 773-A F.M. Pennebaker, 773-A M.J. Barnes, 773-A N.E. Bibler, 773-A C.C. Herman, 773-42A M.E. Smith, 999-W M.E. Stone, 999-W C.J. Bannochie, 773-42A R.E. Eibling, 999-W D.C. Koopman, 999-W D.P. Lambert, 999-W J.M. Pareizs, 773-A D.K. Peeler, 999-W B.R. Pickenheim, 999-W S.H. Reboul, 773-42A S.D. Fink, 773-A D.T. Hobbs, 773-A K. P. Crapse, 773-43A D. J. McCabe, 773-42A C.J. Martino, 773-42A J.E. Occhipinti, 704-S R.T. McNew, 704-27S J.F. Iaukea, 704-30S J.W. Ray, 704-S B.A. Davis, 704-27S T. L. Fellinger, 704-28S A.V. Staub, 704-27S H.B. Shah, 766-H J.M. Gillam, 766-H H.H. Elder, 704-30S