

Chemical Information on Tank Supernatants, Cs Adsorption From Tank Liquids Onto Hanford Sediments, and Field Observations of Cs Migration From Past Tank Leaks

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Borehole gamma-logging profiles beneath the SX-Tank Farm suggest that contamination from Cs-137 extends to at least a depth of 40 m (130 ft), and may extend even deeper. What is presently not known is the pathway that Cs-137 has taken to reach these depths. In this report we provide an analysis of the chemistry of tank supernates with emphasis on the REDOX waste stream disposed in SX tanks, Cs chemistry in aqueous solutions and adsorption properties onto minerals, available data on Cs adsorption onto Hanford sediments, and information on Cs migration from other Hanford tank leaks that have been studied. The data in this report was used to help guide the vadose zone transport analysis of the SX Tank Farm presented in a companion report, Ward et al. (1997). The goal of the vadose zone transport modelling is to attempt to explain the depth and extent of the Cs-137 plume under the SX Tank farm, specifically in the vicinity of the greatest leak, near the SX-109 Tank as inferred from the gamma logs (DOE 1996).

In solution Cs is present as the monovalent cation and shows very little tendency to form aqueous complexes with inorganic or organic ligands. Cs is expected to adsorb primarily onto selective minerals that have unique adsorption sites. The small Cs^+ ion is accommodated on these frayed edge and interlayer sites. Adsorption within the interlayers often leads to collapse of the layers such that the Cs^+ ion is effectively trapped and not readily exchangeable by all other common cations. The degree of adsorption is thus only moderately dependent on the types and high concentrations of other cations in leaking tank liquors.

As the Pu separations processes improved over the years the quantity of inert salts added to tanks decreased and a significant reduction in the volume of high radioactivity waste per unit of Pu production resulted. This economically attractive decrease in unit volume of waste per unit of Pu production increased the fission product concentrations in waste and thus increased the heat generation from radioactive decay. The liquid level in self-boiling tanks was continually changing so that level measurements were not useful to assure no leaks occurred. We found that the REDOX liquid chemical composition varied significantly from its original state with time largely because of its high radioactivity content that created self-boiling conditions. Fresh REDOX waste had a chemical composition shown in Table 3.2 and was predominately a 4 M sodium-nitrate-nitrite-aluminate-hydroxide solution. This composition was similar to other Hanford process wastes such as bismuth phosphate and PUREX waste liquids. But after self-boiling or other concentrating processes, the residual REDOX liquid exhibits a much higher ionic strength and perhaps higher basicity (free hydroxide content) in the range of 8-10 M Na and perhaps 0.5 to 1 M free hydroxide. This chemical composition is beyond any for which sediment-contaminant adsorption studies have been performed. The comparison of the T-106 tank leak with SX Tank Farm leak(s) in terms of chemical composition of leaking liquid is not close enough to expect that the adsorption reactions between contaminants, especially Cs should be quantitatively similar. The chemical composition of the supernatant solution in T-106 at the time of the leak was much lower in dissolved Na, Al, and hydroxide content than the REDOX supernate. It is quite possible that

the migration of Cs in SX tank liquors is larger than that observed for the T-106 tank leak.

REDOX solution chemistry exhibits much higher Na, Al and hydroxide than solutions used in past Kd experiments. None of the available Kd tests, for Hanford sediments, or in general literature were run with liquids that contain more than 4 M sodium and pH values were never above 12 (free hydroxide $\sim 0.01M$). The data that are available may be adequate to estimate Kd values for Cs in very fresh REDOX liquid that has not self-concentrated, but the data are not adequate to estimate Kd values for the higher ionic strength and higher pH solution that forms through self-boiling. Dependent upon when the SX tank leaks actually occurred, the chemical composition of the draining liquid would vary over a rather significant range. The extremely high pH condition might impact the Cs adsorption by dissolving bulk sediment or severely etch the selective mica minerals with their special frayed edge sites that likely perform most of the adsorption. About the only conclusion that can be offered, without empirical testing using such high ionic strength/high Al and high pH solutions, is that the Cs Kd values could be lower than those reported in the available literature. As shown for the less concentrated T-106 liquid simulants, the Cs Kd value ranges from 0.5 to 12 ml/g across a range of solution compositions, with a more realistic Kd range of 2 to 6 ml/g for the simulant most representative of the tank liquor (see Table 4.3 Solution II).

The three extensive field studies of past tank leaks support the conceptual model that Cs is not as mobile as other contaminants and does not appear to migrate tens of meters from the tank bottoms over the time periods of a few years to up to about 30 years after suspected leak events. But as mentioned above, the REDOX metal or fission product bearing-waste composition found in SX tanks varies significantly from the bismuth phosphate-type wastes that were in tanks BX-102 and the combined bismuth phosphate and REDOX cladding wastes present in T-106 at the time of the leak, such that it may not be useful to compare Cs behavior between SX tank farms with these two field studies of leaks. On the other hand Raymond and Shdo (1966) did study two leaks from the SX tank farm approximately two years after the suspected leaks and their data show Cs migration of only a few meters over this period.

One can conclude from all this available information that Cs is not very mobile if the liquid in which it is being carried is more dilute than that in tank supernates and drainable liquid. The very leading edge of solution from a tank leak plume should interact and be diluted by the existing vadose zone sediment pore water such that there should be some retardation in Cs migration until the volume of leak plume water has had an opportunity to completely dominate the sediment pore water chemistry. The volume that may have leaked from any tank in the SX tank farm or other tank farms is smaller than the water that would be needed to completely control all the sediment above the water table, *IF* the flow path was not some isolated preferred pathline such as a fracture, clastic dike, open borehole or loosely consolidated annulus around the borehole. Regardless of the chemistry of the leaking tank liquor it is unlikely that the Cs in the leak plume could migrate all the way to the water table without significant adsorption occurring in sediments away from the tank bottom and closer to the water table, *unless* one of these preferred isolated paths were carrying the leaking solution.

This does not rule out low concentrations (the very early leading edge of a breakthrough curve) of ^{137}Cs reaching the water table. The transport modeling described in Ward et al. (1997) further elaborates on this issue.

A few scoping studies were funded at the end of FY96 with the goals to get an indication on the adsorption tendencies of Sr and Cs from a solution with very high ionic strength, high Na, high Al and high OH content and to see whether the high OH might significantly dissolve the existing sediment. Work was conducted over one month period. The scoping tests were not successful at bounding the probable fate of Sr and Cs radionuclides in REDOX waste tanks in the SX Tank Farm. The very high Al, Na and nitrate contents measured in the past were not sustained in our simulated tank liquor. The Al especially seems to remain reactive with time and elevated temperatures resulting in the precipitation of very fine grained (high surface area) material that has been identified as bayerite, an Al hydroxide. The measurement of the adsorption properties of Sr and Cs from the evolving REDOX solution was difficult. Sr is not soluble in the REDOX solution as long as Al precipitation is occurring. The literature review and past analytical measurements of tank waste phases also supports this conclusion. Cs is essentially soluble but upon contact with sediment and further precipitation of Al bearing material there appears to be a higher than expected sorption (K_d). The flow-through column Cs adsorption data corroborates the batch K_d tests. The observed K_d for Cs-137 in the range of 20 to 60 ml/g dependent on whether the solution is filtered or only gravity settled, is much larger than expected and appears to disagree with the values necessary to get the results of transport predictions to mimic gamma logging results of Cs in vadose zone sediments underlying the SX Tank Farm (see Ward et al. 1997).

If the Al precipitation is the key to the higher than expected Cs adsorption and if the Al in the REDOX liquor is rapidly removed by the sediments surrounding the tank, then perhaps the Cs K_d would be much lower beyond the zone of Al precipitation. Without more empirical adsorption data on REDOX solutions interacting with Hanford sediments with emphasis on the Al chemistry, all we can offer is that the K_d for Cs may be lower than the range determined in the scoping studies. It is clear that more resources and testing would be needed to better interpret the fate of cesium, strontium and other contaminants present in REDOX tank liquors.

Simple weight measurements of Hanford sediments after contact with the very high caustic REDOX solution showed no significant weight loss, but the possibility of significant dissolution with simultaneous reprecipitation of other phases is still possible. It seems certain that the high Al content in the REDOX solution does react with soil to precipitate Al hydroxide phase(s). At some point away from the tanks, the tank leak liquor would be expected to be "neutralized" by the sediments large buffering capacity to consume free hydroxide and one should see a re-precipitation of the silica and aluminum to form amorphous coatings/gel that could lower permeability as well as coprecipitate (physically trap) or adsorb other soluble components such as Cs. The precipitation of Al hydroxide was observed in all of the scouting tests and appears to enhance the adsorption of Cs. Thus it is difficult to say that the fate of Cs should follow a monotonically increasing adsorption (K_d) as the distance from

the tank increases. It appears that the fate of Cs may be controlled by a complicated mix of parameters such as competing cations, pH, and presence of fresh precipitates such as Al hydroxides. The net effect may cause the K_d to vary widely with increases and decreases as a function of distance from the tank.

Based on groundwater data presented in Caggiano (1996) there is no indication that matrix dissolution products (high Si, Al and pH) have reached the groundwater below SX tanks and further one might expect that massive dissolution would manifest itself in the near vicinity of the tanks as more porous material with perhaps copious gel-like coatings. It is possible that the high ^{137}Cs found by gamma spectral logging in several SX-tank farm boreholes at the 75-foot level is an indication of how far the matrix dissolution impact has reached. If there was a significant accumulation of precipitated Al hydroxide in the 75-foot zone perhaps it would adsorb large amounts of Cs and appear as highly concentrated material in the gamma logs. This would imply a zone of reaction of about 20-25 feet below the tank bottoms.

More detailed and complete solution and solid (both sediment and reaction products) characterization of actual contaminated samples obtained from field sampling or laboratory-generated samples after simulated tank liquor contacts clean sediments are required. Techniques such as inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry [ICP-MS], scanning electron microscopy [SEM-EDS], x-ray diffraction [XRD], high resolution transmission electron microscopy [HRTEM] and atomic force microscopy [AFM] would be needed to help interpret the complicated reactions expected when REDOX liquors contact Hanford sediments.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

One activity within DOE-RL's Vadose Zone Characterization Project has been conducted the DOE-Grand Junction Projects Office (GJPO). Individual boreholes are logged with gamma spectral analysis tools, and raw measurements are then analyzed and interpreted by the DOE-GJPO technical team. When the gamma spectral logging of boreholes surrounding all tanks in a particular Tank Farm have been completed, the results/interpretation are discussed in a specific Tank Farm Report. The first completed report is for the SX Tank Farm (DOE 1996).

Profiles of ^{137}Cs contamination beneath the SX-Tank Farm suggest that contamination from ^{137}Cs extends to at least a depth of 40 m (130 ft), and may extend even deeper. Supplemental information from past gross-gamma surveys also supports the observation that contamination has reached the full depth in a number of the drywells (boreholes). What is presently not known is the pathway that ^{137}Cs has taken to reach these depths. Did the ^{137}Cs move throughout the entire subsoil or did the leak intercept the borehole and move down the outside of the casing? Are there other explanations for the extent of the ^{137}Cs plume in the vadose (unsaturated) zone?

The interest in the Cs occurrence in some of the deepest dry wells surrounding SX tanks also lead to more attention being given to the chemical composition of the groundwater in wells surrounding the tank farm. It was found that some constituents such as nitrate, ^{99}Tc , gross beta and tritium concentrations are above natural Hanford background levels in several wells in the SX environs. The RCRA monitoring program has also recently been flagged based on a higher than background specific conductance to go from the indicator monitoring level to a groundwater quality assessment level. As part of the RCRA process a groundwater monitoring assessment plan is required and a draft has been prepared (Caggiano 1996). The Phase I Assessment report is expected to be available in October 1997 and the lead author will be V. G. Johnson at PNNL. Much of the information presented in our report will be used to help determine whether the S and SX tanks may be the source of these constituents in the aquifer at higher than background concentrations.

Herein we provide an analysis of the chemistry of tank supernates with emphasis on the REDOX waste stream disposed in SX tanks, Cs aqueous chemistry, available data on Cs adsorption onto Hanford sediments, and information on Cs migration from other Hanford tank leaks that have been studied. The data in this report was used to help guide the vadose zone transport analysis of the SX Tank Farm presented in a companion report, Ward et al. (1997). The goal of the vadose zone transport modelling is to attempt to explain the depth and extent of the ^{137}Cs plume under the SX Tank farm, specifically in the vicinity of the greatest leak, near the SX-109 Tank [DOE 1996]. Ward et al. (1997) also analyzes the migration of ^{99}Tc and nitrate, which are generally more mobile than ^{137}Cs and which have been found in elevated concentrations in the groundwater underneath the SX-Tank Farm. Nitrate exists as an anion and is not adsorbed by most sediments because they generally exhibit a net negative surface

charge. Tc migration is very dependent upon the redox state of the geochemical system. Under oxidizing conditions the most common Tc species is pertechnetate [TcO_4^-]. Pertechnetate anion generally does not adsorb onto sediments as found in most Hanford specific adsorption studies (see Serne et. al 1993 and Kaplan and Serne 1995).

Another report that discusses the enhanced ^{137}Cs migration issue at SX Tank Farm and much background information was recently published by DOE-Richland (Conaway et al. 1997). Readers are encouraged to obtain this document for additional information on the perplexing issue of enhanced ^{137}Cs migration.

2.0 CS GEOCHEMISTRY

2.1 Cs Aqueous Geochemistry

In typical groundwaters/solutions Cs is present as the monovalent cation and shows very little tendency to form aqueous complexes with inorganic or organic ligands. For example the stability constant for various metals complexing with the chelating agent EDTA with stoichiometry 1 metal:1 ligand, the usual complex formed between trace concentrations of ligand and metal are shown in Table 2.1. As can be seen Cs exhibits the weakest tendency to complex with EDTA of all metals. The same is found for other chelating and complexing agents generally used to process spent fuel at Hanford.

Table 2.1. Stability Complexes for Various Metals with EDTA

Complex	Stability Constant (log K)
CsL	0.15
NaL	1.7
CaL	7.7
AIL	16.7
Fe(II)L	14.3
Fe(III)L	25.1
U(IV)L	25.8
Pu(IV)L	17.6
Co(II)L	16.5
Co(III)L	41.5

Cesium is a soluble element in soil and groundwater, and forms no sparingly soluble solid phases that could limit its aqueous concentrations. Solubility-limiting synthetic solids do exist, such as $(\text{Na-Cs})_2 \text{NiFe}(\text{CN})_6$, but these "exotic" solids do not exist in the natural environment. Cs shows no tendency to polymerize or to form true colloids. Cs may adsorb onto fine particulates (i.e., clay colloids or other alumino- and silicate- colloids) and might remain attached to these fine particles as they percolate through sediments. As a consequence, the aqueous concentrations of Cs in soil and groundwater are controlled primarily by sorption

reactions to particulate surfaces. In low organic carbon environments (that characterize Hanford subsoils and subsurface sediments) Cs sorption is dominated by surface chemical interactions with the minerals that constitute soils and sediments.

2.2 Cs Adsorption Mechanisms

Most radionuclides (e.g., U, Th, Pu, and Am) and metal ions (e.g., Co, Zn, and Pb) form strong surface coordination complexes on Fe, Mn, and Al oxides (Davis and Kent 1990). These oxides, which commonly exist as grain coatings in subsurface sediments, strongly retard radionuclide and metal ion migration by adsorption. Cs^+ , in contrast, is weakly and non-specifically sorbed by these same metal oxides (Helfferich 1962; Tien 1965; Churms 1966; Abendroth 1970; Dumont and Watillon 1971; Breeuwsma and Lyklema 1971; and Venkataramani et al. 1978). Cesium is generally adsorbed as a counter-ion, balancing negative surface charge above the pH_{zpc} . Weak ion-pair-type surface complexes may also be possible. Excess concentrations of other mono-valent cations (e.g., Na^+) virtually eliminate Cs sorption to metal oxides by the common ion effect, although slight preference of the silica surface for Cs over other monovalent cations has been observed (Kinniburgh and Jackson 1981).

In spite of its weak sorptive interactions with metal oxides, Cs is often strongly sorbed by particulate matter in environmental settings. Research initiated by concern over the fate of radiocesium from atmospheric weapons testing showed that cesium was strongly and selectively sorbed by the micaceous fraction of soils, sediments, and suspended particulates (Tamura and Jacobs 1960; Sawhney 1970; Sawhney 1972; and Francis and Brinkley 1976). The initial observations were that Cs sorptive affinity was greatest along the weathered periphery of micas (e.g., biotite and muscovite) and their immediate weathering products (hydrous-mica, illite). It was early recognized (Jackson 1963, Rich and Black 1964) that wedge zones, formed where the 1.0-nm mica core sheets open to 1.4 nm vermiculite, offer a unique and highly selective steric environment to K^+ and ions of like ionic radii such as Cs^+ .

Micaceous minerals include mica, hydrous micas and illite. These are 2:1 layer-silicates that contain permanent negative-charge density as a result of isomorphic structural substitutions. Their interlayer space is K^+ saturated and generally is not available except around particle peripheries where K^+ has been depleted. Other 2:1 layer-silicate clays (vermiculite, smectite) exhibit similar structure but lower layer-charge density and expansible interlayers. All exhibit a cation exchange capacity (CEC) existing on the external (mica) or external plus interlayer surfaces (illite, vermiculite, smectite). The literature on the mineralogy and cation-exchange properties of these solids is extensive (e.g., Greenland and Hayes 1978; Goulding 1983; Dixon and Weed 1989). An early review (Anderson and Allard 1983) summarized the sorption chemistry of Cs on pure minerals and geologic material.

Recent research has refined our understanding of the sorption process for Cs onto materials containing 2:1 layer-silicates. Cs sorbs by at least four related, but chemically distinct, mechanisms (numbered 1-4 in the following discussion with terms identified in Fig 2.1;

mechanisms abstracted from the "wet chemical studies" of Evans et al. 1983; Brouwer et al. 1983; Grütter et al. 1986; Cremers et al. 1988; De Preter et al. 1991; Comans et al. 1991; Grütter et al. 1994; and by analogue to K^+ (Sumner and Bolt 1962; DeHaan et al. 1965).

Mechanism (1). Cs^+ exchanges with hydrated cations on external or interlayer sites (called planar sites herein) of negative-charge density following selectivity approximated by the lyotropic series (e.g., $Cs^+ > Rb^+ > K^+ = NH_4^+ > Na^+ > Li^+$; [Sposito 1989]). Such behavior may be observed on a large fraction of the CEC sites of a geologic material (e.g., $> 90\%$) and most, if not all of the sites in a clean specimen smectite. The conditional exchange constant (e.g., K_c = Vanselow selectivity coefficient; Sposito 1984) relative to Na may be approximately 2-5.

Mechanism (2). Cs adsorbs as in (1) but at higher sorption densities induces partial collapse of the interlayer space (for high charge 2:1 layer-silicates such as vermiculite and illite) and dehydration of sorbed Cs^+ , increasing K_c to approximately 10. The sorption complexes in (1) and (2) are exchangeable to a wide variety of cations (Na^+ , NH_4^+ , H^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , and Mn^{2+}).

Mechanism (3). Cs enters highly selective frayed edge (FES) or wedge sites on hydrous mica or illite, representing only a small fraction ($< 5\%$) of the CEC. Cs may or may not dehydrate on these sites, but is held with great selectivity relative to Na ($K_c > > 1000$) and is desorbable only by excess concentrations of ions with like ionic radii (NH_4^+ , K^+ , H_3O^+).

Mechanism (4). Cs diffuses within collapsed illitic or hydromica interlayers and is poorly or non-exchangeable (i.e., fixed).

The specific contribution of reactions 1-4 in a particular 2:1 specimen clay or geologic material is dependent on the relative concentrations of the smectite/vermiculitic and illitic components, as the former are dominated by planar sites and the latter are the primary contributors of wedge or FES sites. In spite of this mineralogic dependence, however, Cs sorption correlates strongly with the CEC (using NH_4^+ as an index ion; Cs may adsorb in excess of the CEC measured using Mg^{2+} or Ca^{2+} as the large size of the hydrated divalent cations prevents their access to wedge sites) as the primary master variable for sorption (Grütter et al. 1990). Methods have been recently described to quantify the numbers of and exchange thermodynamics of the FES (Cremers et al. 1988; DePreter et al. 1991) relative to the total CEC. The FES are highly selective to Cs^+ and K^+ and exhibit significant heterogeneity in exchange thermodynamics/selectivity (DePreter et al. 1991) indicating contributions of various micro-structural environments in the solid, such as faults, cleavages, cracks, and stepped edges. Brouwer et al. (1983) suggested that mechanisms 1-3 exhibited reversible thermodynamic behavior over 24 h equilibration times, and devised a three-site thermodynamic model that described well Cs adsorptive exchange on illite over a large Cs concentration range with different saturating monovalent cations. In contrast, Comans et al. (1991) showed that accessibility to and exchange reversibility of the FES in illite was

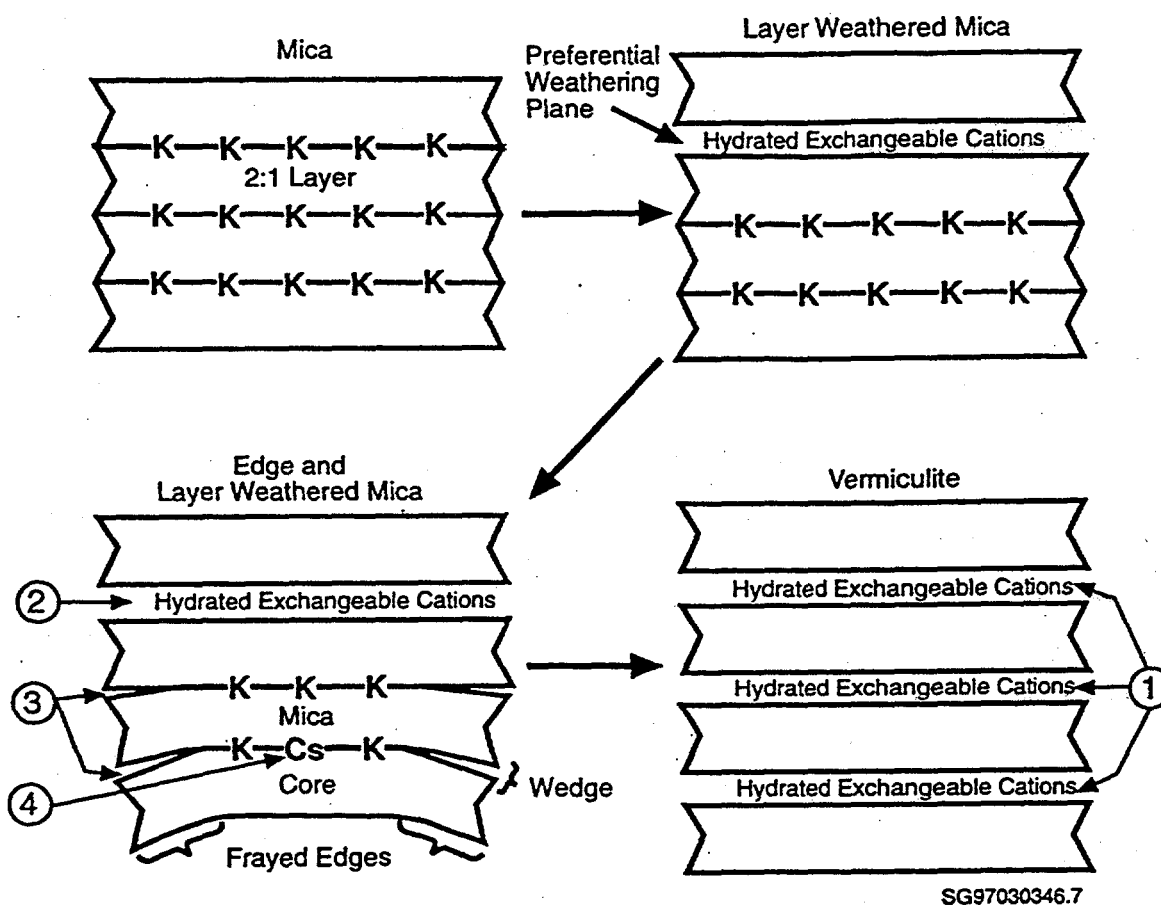


Figure 2.1 Sorption Environments for Cs^+ Onto 2:1 Layer Silicates: 1) exchange of hydrated Cs with other hydrated cations, 2) high-charge-density collapsible interlayer, 3) wedge or frayed edge sites, and 4) fixed Cs. [adapted from Fanning et al. 1989]

dependent on the saturating cation (e.g., K^+ vs Ca^{2+}). Saturation with Ca^{2+} enabled greater access of Cs to the FES, and less thermodynamic reversibility. This sorption behavior was described with a two-box kinetic model (Comans and Hockley 1992) containing an instantaneous/reversible reaction and a longer term irreversible reaction, operative over days to months.

The sorption behavior of radiocesium is dependent on its absolute concentration and that of the indigenous, "cold" Cs pool (Brouwer et al. 1983; Grütter et al. 1990). As Cs is added to a sorbing geologic material or clay, it will adsorb/exchange first to sites of high energy. As high affinity, low concentration FES sites become saturated, sites of progressively lower energy will become occupied with eventual saturation of the planar sites occurring at high Cs concentration. If radiocesium is added at trace concentration (e.g., $< 10^{-7}$ mol/L) and there is no indigenous Cs, then it will sorb strongly to high-affinity FES sites. There is very little indigenous (stable) Cs in the Hanford sediments and groundwater, although actual values could not be found in past Hanford literature. Based on the activity levels for ^{137}Cs in REDOX tank liquors (discussed in Section 3) the mass concentration of Cs from just the radioactive isotopes could reach 3×10^{-5} to 2×10^{-4} M for full strength liquor. Farther out in the sediments after some mixing with native porewater and reaction products, the Cs mass concentration in solution may still be greater than trace (e.g., $< 10^{-7}$ mol/L) so that the number of high energy sorption sites would be limiting in the tank environs. Farther away from the tanks, the solution concentration of radioactive Cs isotopes will drop into the trace range where the number of FES sites will not be the limiting factor controlling Cs sorption. However, if indigenous (stable) Cs concentrations are significant, then the FES may already be saturated with "cold" Cs and the sorption process of the radiocesium will be one of isotopic exchange where it statistically partitions, without selectivity, among all the different Cs forms at a concentration ratio equal to the isotopic ratio. Under such circumstances, only a small fraction of the radiocesium may end up on the high affinity FES sites. Cold Cs functions as a diluent, acting to distribute the radiocesium over a broader site distribution than would occur in its absence. Thus, the labile concentration of "cold" Cs in a given solid-water system is an important determinant of both the extent and average strength of radiocesium sorption (Grütter et al. 1990).

In spite of the hypothesized importance of phyllosilicate microstructure on Cs sorption as discussed above (e.g., FES sites), there exist few studies that have directly defined the structural environment and location of sorbed Cs. Cesium is not a particularly accessible element for surface vibrational or absorption spectroscopies. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) however, is useful for characterizing Cs-clay/zeolite interactions because the small electric quadrupole moment of ^{133}Cs yields narrow NMR line widths and its NMR chemical shift is very sensitive to local environment. ^{133}Cs variable-temperature magic-angle spinning (VT-MAS) NMR studies have provided some direct confirmation of the Cs sorption mechanisms inferred from the "wet chemical" studies summarized above (Weiss et al. 1990a; Weiss et al. 1990b; and Kim et al. 1996). ^{133}Cs exchanged 2:1 phyllosilicates typically show motional averaging between multiple sites with distinct chemical/structural environments above

a temperature of -70°C . These sites can be differentiated below -90°C , but the presence of structurally heterogeneous Cs environments is indicated by the significant temperature range over which motional averaging ceases (i.e., -20 to -50°C). Chemical shifts vary with total Cs concentration (which influences the occupied site distribution) and 2:1 layer-silicate type and expansibility/charge density (e.g., smectite, vermiculite, illite). By varying relative humidity, temperature, and other experimental variables, structural environments of Cs, including planar, expansible interlayer, collapsed interlayer, and edge sites, have been tentatively identified by ^{133}Cs VT-MAS NMR. Wedge or FES sites have not been definitively identified by ^{133}Cs NMR because their concentrations are low, and a well designed study with appropriate materials (i.e., with known FES concentrations) and methodology (to block high concentration planar or expansible interlayer sites) has not been formulated or performed. Such a study is tractable with FT-high field spectrometers that are now becoming available.

To recapitulate, Cs in the SX tank leak scenario is not expected to adsorb solely by reversible ion exchange reactions such as mechanisms 1 and 2 above. The degree of Cs adsorption is highly dependent on the types and concentrations of special surface sites (see mechanisms 3 and 4 above) on selected minerals such as micas and illites. In only mechanisms 1 and 2 do all other cations in solution compete for sorption sites. For mechanisms 1, 2, and 3 adsorption competition is dependent upon the charge on the solution cation and the size of the hydrated cation species. The larger the charge on the cation the better it adsorbs and the smaller the hydrated ion size the better it adsorbs. Effective ion diameters in aqueous solution are shown in Table 2.2 as calculated by Shannon (1976). Ions of similar size effectively compete with each other for mechanism 1 and 2 and especially for mechanism 3 adsorption sites on soils. Thus among the monovalent cations present in the Hanford vadose zone/tank waste liquors, ammonium and potassium and to a much lesser extent sodium would be expected to compete for FES adsorption sites in the Hanford sediment.

Table 2.2. Hydrated Ion Size, in Å

Ion	Hydrated Diameter, Angstroms (Å)
Na^{+}	4
K^{+}	3
Cs^{+}	2.5
NH_4^{+}	2.5
Ca^{2+}	6
Sr^{2+}	5

2.3 Hanford Mineralogy

The tank farms are distributed between the 200 West (7) and East (11) Areas at Hanford. The 200 Areas reside on the "200-Area plateau" where depth to groundwater ranges from 200-300 feet. Tanks (67) that have leaked or are suspected to have leaked are present in both areas. The 200 Areas are underlain by a sequence of suprabasalt sediments of Pleistocene and Pliocene age (Fig 2.2) (Tallman et al. 1979; Freeman-Pollard et al. 1994). These sediments include four primary units, from youngest to oldest, 1) coarse-grained glacio-fluvial gravels and sands in the Hanford Formation; 2) the eolian, loess-containing early "Palouse" soil; 3) the pedogenic Plio-Pleistocene unit; and 4) fluvial-lacustrine gravel/sand/silt lithofacies of the Ringold Formation. Information on the geology of these formations that is discussed below was abstracted from: Bjornstad (1984); Baker and Bunker (1985); Baker et al. (1991); and Smith (1993). Groundwater is encountered within the Middle Ringold in the 200-West Area and within the Hanford Formation at 200 East. The Cs geochemistry that is the focus of the enhanced Cs migration issue occurs in sediments above the saturated zone. The Hanford Formation represents approximately 85% of the vadose zone materials, with the remainder being contributed by the Middle and Upper Ringold Formations. A more detailed depiction of the lithology and stratigraphy underlying the T-tank farm (200 West); where one of the largest single-shell tank leak events occurred from 241-T-106, is shown in Fig. 2.3. Shown also for example is the distribution of ^{137}Cs below 241-T-106 and lithologic and stratigraphic units in which it resides (Fig. 5; Freeman-Pollard et al. 1994).

Petrographic analyses indicate that the suprabasalt sediments are predominantly a mixture of quartz, plagioclase, and rock fragments. The gravels and sands of the Ringold Formation are quartzo-feldspathic. Quartz is predominant (average 36.2%), however, as much as 29% of the mineral grains are feldspar. Plagioclase is 4-8 times more abundant than K-feldspar. Rock fragments (principally indigenous basalt) typically constitute 21-69% of the sand and coarse sand particles. The Plio-Pleistocene unit contains bulk mineralogy similar to the Ringold Formation.

The Hanford Formation contains glaciofluvial materials deposited in the cataclysmic floods of the Pleistocene. The Hanford Formation is characterized by a succession of alternating and discontinuous layers of gravels, sands, and silts that vary dramatically both laterally and vertically. The formation resulted from repeated episodes of flooding, local erosion, and slack water deposition. The mineralogy reflects diverse provenance from granitic, metamorphic, and sedimentary terrains of the interior Northwest, but the sediments are enriched in mafic rock fragments and mineral phases derived from the ubiquitous Columbia River basalts of the proximate region. The Hanford Formation contains more feldspar and mafic rock fragments than does the Ringold. Layers and lenses of caliche are common within two meters of the existing land surface and in discontinuous zones at depth. Micas (biotite and muscovite) and chlorite are common in the silt and fine sand fractions.

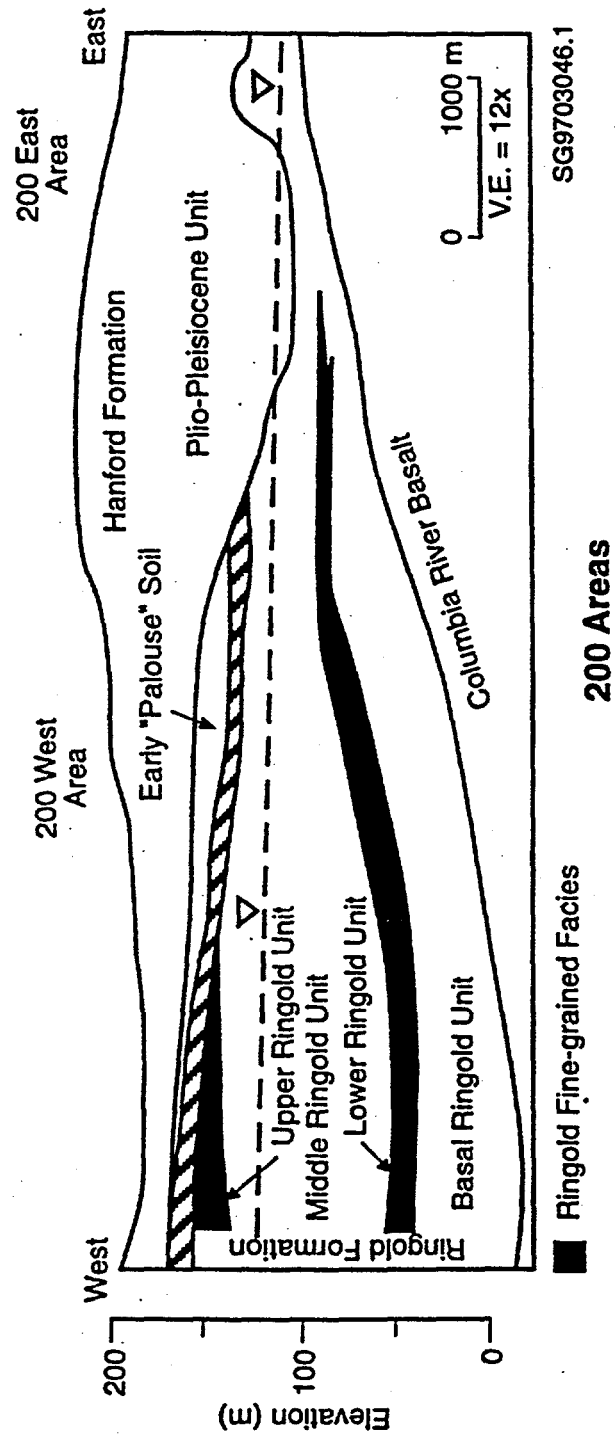


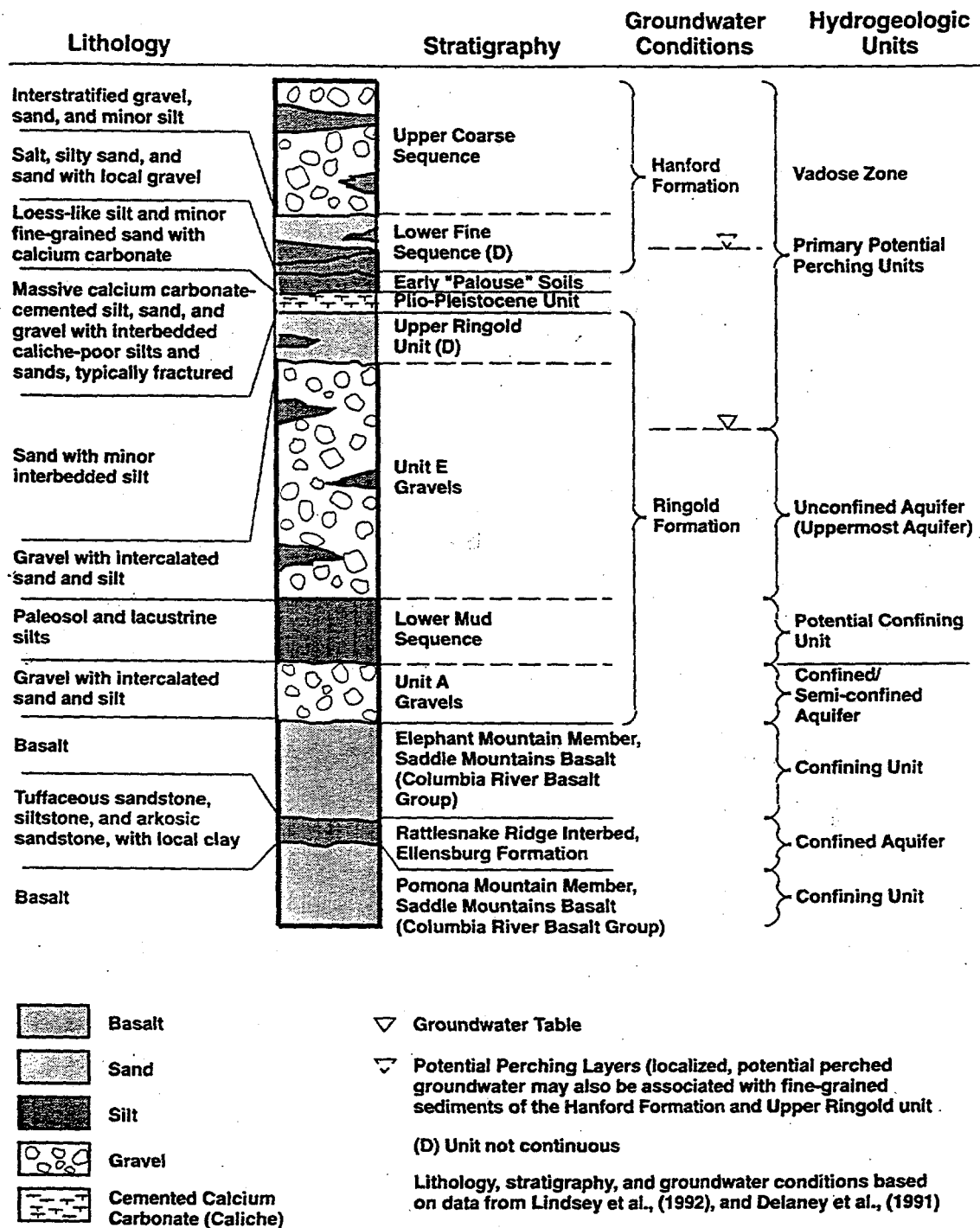
Figure 2.2 General Stratigraphy of Sediments Underlying the 200 Areas at Hanford

Hanford and Ringold Formation sediments generally range from sands to gravels in texture and display low, but measurable cation exchange capacity (CEC) as shown in Table 2.3. A clay-sized fraction ($<2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) is recoverable from all but the coarsest of samples. This clay fraction, as well as silt-sized particles and fine-grained discontinuous secondary mineral coatings on sand particles, are responsible for minor element and radionuclide sorption in these sediments. Dr. Jim Amonette (PNNL) has studied the clay mineralogy of the Hanford and Ringold Formations beneath the 200 Areas at Hanford; selected unpublished results of that work follow. Smectite is the dominant 2:1 layer-silicate present in clay fractions removed from the Hanford and Ringold Formations (see Fig. 2.4). Illite and its weathering products (vermiculite and chlorite) are common in the Hanford and Upper Ringold Formations (see Fig. 2.5). Mass concentrations of illite, vermiculite, and chlorite correlate with one another, suggesting derivation from similar parent material. Hanford Formation clay mineralogy was found to vary predictably with depth in the 200 Areas. The smectite concentrations are highest at the shallowest depths and lowest at the deepest depths; illite, vermiculite, and chlorite show the opposite trend. Recall that illite and vermiculite contain more of the specialized FES type of sorption sites that selectively adsorb Cs^+ .

Consistent with our review of Cs adsorption mechanisms above, the 2:1 layer-silicate suite in the Hanford and Ringold Formations imparts significant sorptivity for Cs. This high Cs sorptivity of the Hanford sediments was noted early in the Hanford project, and "in-situ soil column filtration" was relied upon for years as a primary waste-treatment tool for Cs-containing waste streams. Cs adsorption onto Hanford sediments is discussed in Section 4.0.

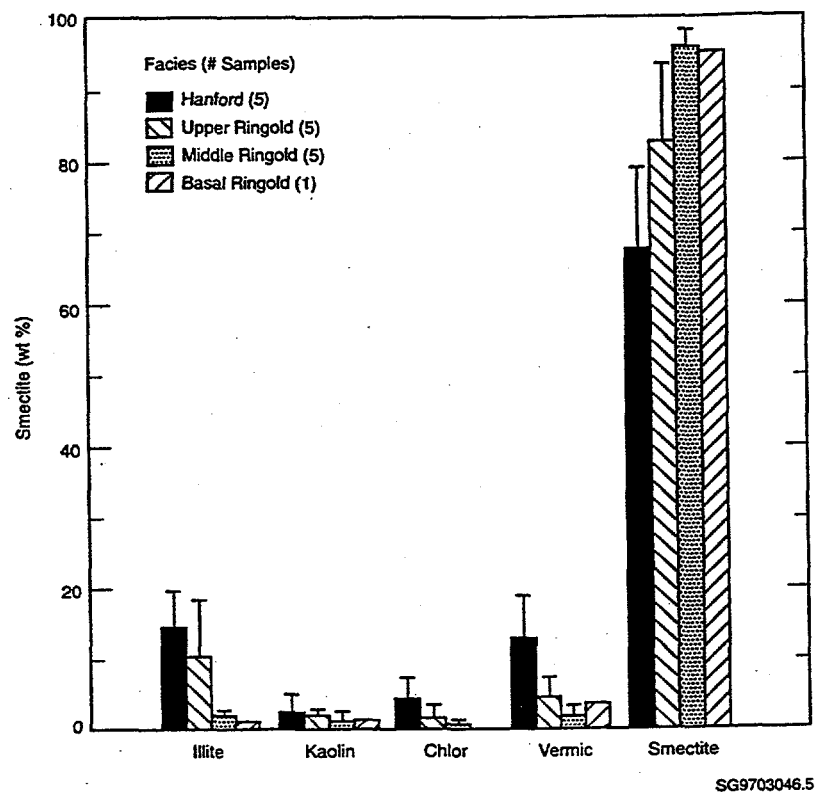
Table 2.3. Representative Hanford/Ringold Formation Properties

			Particle			
			(mass %)		CEC	$\text{CaCO}_3(\text{e})$
	Depth (ft)	Gravel	Sand	Silt/Clay	(meq/100 g)	(g/100 g)
W-10-109	15	59	41	0	6.73	0.95
W-10-113	70-80	5	88	7	5.95	2.6
W-11-23	100-105	10	70	20	5.28	7.65



SG97030346.11

Figure 2.3 Hanford and Ringold Formation Lithology and Stratigraphy at T Tank Farm in 200 West Area



Figures 2.4 Mineralogy of Clay-Sized Particles in Hanford and Ringold Formations

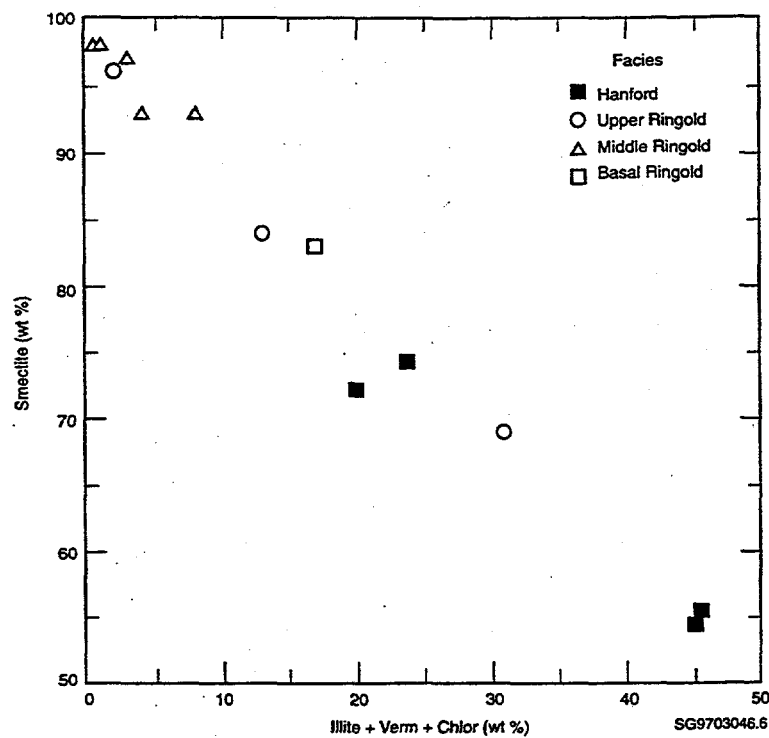


Figure 2.5 Types of Clays in Various Facies of Hanford and Ringold Formations

3.0 GENERAL REDOX CHEMISTRY AND SX TANK FARM HISTORY

3.1 REDOX Chemistry

The REDOX process was the first continuous solvent extraction process used at the Hanford Site. It was developed at the Argonne National Laboratory. The REDOX process operated between 1952 and 1966 in the 202-S Building. Types of wastes from the REDOX process that were added to tanks were designated coating waste, high-level waste and sump waste.

The REDOX process was a continuous counter-current column extraction process. The REDOX process involved contacting a methyl isobutyl ketone (hexone) phase with an aqueous aluminum nitrate solution that contained Pu and U from the dissolution of spent fuel. The uranium and plutonium were separated from fission products by manipulation of the plutonium valence so that the two actinides could be preferentially extracted with hexone (methyl isobutyl ketone) and then separated from one another and separated from the fission products.

The design feed rate of the REDOX Plant was 3.1 tons of irradiated uranium reactor fuel per day. The product of the REDOX Plant was a liquid plutonium nitrate solution. Two types of high activity waste were sent to underground tank storage: coating waste containing the Al and Zr cladding dissolution products and REDOX high-level waste containing most of the fission products. The major components of these two waste streams exiting the REDOX process were chromium, zirconium, iron, silicon, aluminum, sodium, and nitrate compounds. Aqueous waste streams were directly transferred to underground tanks if analytical measurements were within the established limits for discharge. Initially, all of the liquid wastes from the REDOX Plant were transferred to the S Tank Farm.

In the early years REDOX produced 4,378 gallons of waste per ton of fuel processed, but the rate of waste production was decreased to 594 gallons per ton of fuel processed later. More REDOX waste was generated between 1952 and 1958 than after 1958 (Agnew 1995). This led Agnew (1995) to break the REDOX wastes into two eras. The first era was chosen as 1952 through 1958 in which the average waste generation was 2,106 gallons per ton of fuel processed and the high-level metal waste is designated as R1. The second era lasted from 1959 through 1966 and high-level waste generated averaged 1,119 gallons per ton of fuel processed. This later waste is designated as R2 in Agnew's scheme (see Agnew 1995). These two wastes from REDOX were sent to the S- and SX- tank farms. The R1 and R2 waste streams were assumed to contain 4.4 vol% and 2.3 vol% solids, respectively, based on a few actual measurements and Agnew's (1995) thorough review of all Hanford waste streams. Many tanks in SX and S tank farms were self-boiling and the solids content thus increased on their own. SX-109 is estimated to have concentrated its waste up to 14 vol% solids through formation of salt cake, designated as RSltCk, another REDOX waste in the Agnew scheme. Agnew's REDOX waste compositions have also been modified from the flow sheet data with the inclusion of 50 moles of Si per ton of fuel processed and an unspecified amount of iron to reflect process vessel corrosion and to better reflect actual compositions measured on tank

samples.

3.2 SX Tank Farm History

A succinct summary of the chemical nature of the wastes in Hanford tanks follows based on Beard et al. (1965). Most of the high radioactivity waste streams from the processing plants had high inert salt concentrations and contain some solids. In the storage tanks, the solids settle to the bottom forming a sludge layer. The majority of the fission products are contained in the sludge layer. The few fission products that partitioned to the supernatant liquid are ^{137}Cs , ^{99}Tc and some of the $^{103,106}\text{Ru}$. As the separations processes improved over the years the quantity of inert salts added to tanks decreased and a significant reduction in the volume of high radioactivity waste per unit of Pu production resulted. This economically attractive decrease in unit volume of waste per unit of Pu production increased the fission product concentrations per volume of waste and thus increased the heat generation from radioactive decay. The PUREX and REDOX waste storage tanks, A, AX, and SX Tank Farms; were equipped with vapor handling facilities to condense steam. Over-heating was prevented by returning a portion of the condensed vapors to the tank or by water addition. The rest of the condensate was an intermediate activity waste that was routed to cribs. The transfer of aged REDOX and PUREX supernates from self-boiling to non-boiling storage tanks was made to open up more space in the self-boiling tanks. In 1955, air lift circulators were installed in 9 of the fifteen REDOX SX Tank Farm tanks. The tanks themselves were built in 1954. The circulators augmented natural convection and were effective in minimizing fluctuations in the rate of solution boiling. The liquid level in self-boiling tanks was continually changing so that level measurements were not useful to assure no leaks occurred. In 1961 leak detection systems were installed at SX Tank Farm. The system consisted of vertical and horizontal boreholes around and under many tanks. These boreholes (hollow pipes) were monitored for moisture and radioactivity. "Although some waste would be transferred to the ground before the monitoring systems would notify the operator, the soil can 'hold' up to 50,000 gallons of liquid by specific retention without liquid approaching the regional water table. About 50,000 gallons leaked from a failed SX Farm tank and radioactivity penetrated no more than 15 feet below the tank, still about 200 feet above the water table." Quote is from Beard et al. (1965) but the reader is cautioned that the volume of leakage that can be 'specifically retained' varies with the depth to the water table. Routson et al. (1979) calculates a larger value for the T-106 leak but still claims that no leaking liquid reached the water table. Further Beard et al. (1965) appear to over estimate the depth from the SX tank bottoms to the water table. Currently the bottoms of the SX tanks are at 55 feet below the surface and the water table is at about 210 feet below the surface for a difference of 155 feet. We do not believe that the water table was ever that much lower to allow for Beard et al.'s estimate of 200 feet of vadose zone under the tanks.

In 1965 the non-boiling tanks in S Tank Farm were 14-22 years old and only four were confirmed leakers while the self-boiling tanks in Tank Farm SX were 10-12 years old and only 2 tanks were known to have failed (see Beard et al. 1965). Today it is known that more tanks

actually leaked and as presented in the Rust Geotechnical report [DOE 1996] and Brevick (1995) on SX Tank Farm, 10 out of the 15 SX tanks have been labeled as leakers. The tanks, years when leaks were suspected/detected, and estimated volume of each leak are shown in Table 3.1. Again the reader is cautioned that the Table notes when large leaks were suspected. Based on personal comments from Steve Agnew (LANL) and Don Wodrich (DOE-RL and formerly WHC and past operating contractors), it seems clear that nominal leaks of 500 - 1,000 gallons would have been possible on any number of occasions at any one of the tanks and such "small" leaks would not have been able to be detected. Thus waste may have been

Table 3.1 Current Status of SX Tanks

Tank	Brevick (1995) Designation and Date of Leak	DOE (1996) Designation	Drainable Liquid in Tank Today (Gallons)	Brevick (1995) Estimated Leak (Gallons)	DOE (1996) Estimated Leak (Gallons)
SX-101	sound	sound	146000		
SX-102	sound	leaker	183000		
SX-103	sound	unsure	223000		
SX-104	leak, 1988	unsure	201000	6000	
SX-105	sound	sound	261000		
SX-106	sound	sound	233000		
SX-107	leak, 1964	leaker	0	<5000	
SX-108	leak, 1962	leaker	0	2400 to 35000	
SX-109	leak, 1965	leaker	0	<10000	250000
SX-110	leak, 1976	sound	0	5500	
SX-111	leak, 1974	leaker	0	500 to 2000	
SX-112	leak, 1969	leaker	0	30000	
SX-113	leak, 1958	leaker	0	15000	
SX-114	leak, 1972	leaker	0	8000	
SX-115	leak, 1965	leaker	0	50000	

slowly "dribbling" out of the tanks on a much more continuous basis than the individual cited events of larger leaks designated in Table 3.1. Only these large leaks were the triggering mechanism to change a tanks status to assumed leaker.

There has been an increased effort in obtaining samples out of tanks in the last ten years, but of most interest to the SX tank farm leak issue is what was the range in chemical composition of the waste at the time of the suspected leaks. Liquid removal operations such as continued self heating, salt-well pumping and others were used on tanks that were suspected as being leakers since the tank farm was put into operation and most recent tank characterization chemistry may not represent the chemical environment at the time of the leak. Based on chemicals used, process flow sheets and analyses of wastes produced, Agnew (1995) has developed estimates of various Hanford process wastes. Combined with other data and assumptions Agnew et al. (1996) have estimated three quantities for each of the 177 Hanford tanks. The three quantities are: (1) the total tank inventory, (2) the sludge/salt cake and interstitial liquid composition for each tank, and (3) the supernatant liquid composition. In agreement with Table 3.1, Agnew et al. (1996) show no free standing supernate liquid currently in SX-107 through -115. Table 3.2 shows Agnew's chemical composition estimates for the two REDOX wastes that make up the bulk of the material in the SX tank farm. These values would represent the dilute starting condition of the waste prior to self-boiling and other operations used to minimize drainable liquid. Table 3.3 shows estimates of supernate liquids in SX-101 through SX-106 as they exist today. The latter six supernate liquids would give an upper estimate based on self boiling and evaporator campaigns that have occurred since the tanks were originally filled. The Rust report [DOE 1996] suggests that the tanks may have leaked early, soon after the tanks were put into operation. This would suggest that the data in Table 3.2 might better represent the chemical composition of leaking fluid. On the other hand some of the estimated dates that leaking was confirmed (shown in Table 3.1) suggest that much self-boiling may have occurred prior to the initiation of the leak. Thus we will consider a range in chemical compositions for REDOX liquid when assessing the potential for Cs adsorption onto sediment.

A data base exists on the World Wide Web within the PNNL home page that contains archived analyses of the contents of many of the Hanford SST tanks. A complete description on how to access the data base is given in Appendix A of this report. Within the data base there is some data on SX-108 supernate solution recovered in April 1961 and data on SX-111 supernate solution and solids taken in September 1974. Further, Raymond and Shdo (1966) report gamma activities for tank waste for SX-108 taken on Dec. 15, 1965 and SX-115 taken Sept. 16, 1964. These data are shown in Table 3.4. For the data from the electronic database no other explanation as to where the original data can be found in hard copy is available. Under a different option in the electronic data base, Sample Analysis [Tank Results (no QA)], is a large amount of data for SX-108 solids removed from the tank in August 1995 using an auger tool. The data come from two tank risers and includes analyses in duplicate from both the top and bottom of the auger samples from each riser. Both hot acid extraction and water soluble

Table 3.2. Agnew's (1995) Estimated Chemical Composition of REDOX Wastes

	R1			R2		
	Total Waste	Sludge	Supernate Solution	Total Waste	Sludge	Supernate Solution
Constituent	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)
Na	2.94	2.37	2.97	5.34	3.19	3.96
Al	0.65	4.14	0.14	1.13	4.77	0.30
Fe	0.05	1.01	0.002	0.05	2.69	0.002
Cr	0.07	0.87	0.03	0.11	4.39	0.03
Bi	0	0	0	0	0	0
La	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pb	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ni	0.004	0.05	0.002	0.004	0.12	0.002
Mn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ca	0.02	0.21	0.009	0.02	0.51	0.009
K	0.01	0.008	0.011	0.019	0.011	0.020
OH	2.70	18.62	0.012	4.90	37.96	0.023
free OH	--	0.009	--	--	0.013	--
NO ₃	2.47	0.04	1.62	4.18	<0.01	1.55
NO ₂	0	1.95	0.87	0	1.61	1.25
CO ₃	0.018	0.214	0.009	0.018	0.51	0.009
PO ₄	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO ₄	0.019	0.015	0.019	0.030	0.017	0.30
Cl	0.048	0.039	0.049	0.089	0.052	0.090
NH ₃	0	0.13	0.015	0	0.329	0.027
Radionuclides	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)
¹³⁷ Cs	--	0.08 (0.30)	0.10 (0.37)	--	0.19 (0.70)	0.22 (0.84)
⁹⁰ Sr	--	1.04 (3.95)	0.03 (0.13)	--	7.83 (29.6)	0.03 (0.13)

Table 3.3. Agnew's et al. (1996) Estimate of Supernate Compositions in SX-Tanks

	Tank					
	SX-101	SX-102	SX-103	SX-104	SX-105	SX-106
Constituent	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)
Na	5.09	14.5	13.1	12.7	13.3	11.4
Al	0.70	1.93	1.71	1.73	1.80	1.52
Fe	0.003	0.009	0.0086	0.0082	0.0086	0.0074
Cr	0.026	0.071	0.063	0.064	0.067	0.057
Bi	0.0006	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.0014	0.0014
La	0.00002	0.00006	0.00008	0.00004	0.00005	0.00004
Zr	0.00038	0.0011	0.0011	0.0009	0.0009	0.0009
Pb	0.00042	0.0013	0.0011	0.0011	0.0011	0.0010
Ni	0.0028	0.008	0.0074	0.0070	0.0073	0.0064
Mn	0.0017	0.0050	0.0043	0.0043	0.0046	0.0038
Ca	0.015	0.042	0.039	0.037	0.039	0.034
K	0.024	0.070	0.065	0.060	0.063	0.055
OH	3.03	8.50	7.52	7.56	7.89	6.59
NO ₃	2.26	6.31	5.81	5.57	5.77	5.13
NO ₂	1.05	2.88	2.52	2.58	2.70	2.27
CO ₃	0.188	0.577	0.528	0.491	0.515	0.433
PO ₄	0.0386	0.116	0.110	0.099	0.102	0.091
SO ₄	0.104	0.314	0.284	0.276	0.280	0.239
Cl	0.090	0.257	0.235	0.224	0.234	0.201
NH ₃	0.025	0.070	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.057
Radio-nuclides	Ci/l	Ci/l	Ci/l	Ci/l	Ci/l	Ci/l
¹³⁷ Cs	0.112	0.302	0.276	0.270	0.278	0.245
⁹⁰ Sr	0.053	0.153	0.137	0.135	0.143	0.117

Table 3.4. Historical Analysis of Supernate Solutions in SX Tanks and Comparison to Agnew's Predicted Current Supernates in SX Tanks with Drainable Liquor

	Tank SX-108		Tank SX-111	Tank SX-115	Representative Agnew Supernate (see Table 3.3)
Date Sampled	Apr. 1961	Dec. 15, 1965	Sep. 1974	Sep. 16, 1964	1995
Constituents	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)
Al	1.7	--	0.805	--	0.7 to 1.9
Cl	0.25	--	--	--	0.09 to 0.26
CO ₃	--	--	0.168	--	0.2 to 0.3
F	--	--	0.014	--	
OH	1.52	--	1.47	0.51	3 to 8.5
NO ₃	8.14	--	4.72	--	2.3 to 6.3
NO ₂	0.45	--	0.84	--	1 to 2.9
PO ₄	--	--	0.0055	--	0.04 to 0.12
SO ₄	0.01	--	0.06	--	0.1 to 0.3
Na	10.52	--	8.05	--	5 to 14
Si	--	--	0.0015	--	--
Radionuclides	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	Ci/l (Ci/gal)	
¹³⁷ Cs	0.925 (3.5)	1.91 (7.22)	1.2 (4.5)	0.20 (0.763)	0.11 to 0.30
⁹⁰ Sr	0.018 (0.068)	--	0.00013 (0.00049)	--	0.05 to 0.15
⁹⁵ Zr/Nb	--	0.12		--	
¹³⁴ Cs	--	0.13	0.0033	0.0024	
¹⁰⁶ Ru	--	3.30	--	--	
¹⁴⁴ Ce/Pr	--	2.39	--	--	

compositions are reported but we will not dwell on these data. They can be found in hard copy in a WHC report number WHC-SD-WM-DP-151, Rev 1. We have also found a much larger amount of historical data on both supernates, solids and evaporator concentrates that were returned to the tanks for each of the twelve tanks in the S Tank Farm. These data show a much wider range in chemical compositions than those shown in Tables 3.2-3.4. We have determined that the S Tank Farm data certainly corroborates that REDOX liquid wastes can vary at least as much as shown in Tables 3.2-3.4. Therefore our further analysis on Cs adsorption potential using the range presented herein should be adequate for the conceptual transport model development and preliminary calculations provided in Ward et al. (1997).

The data in Tables 3.2 through 3.4 suggest the following. The liquid disposed in SX tanks apparently can self-concentrate to a significant extent based on the comparison of the initial waste composition (Table 3.2) versus the measured values for supernate and predicted values for tanks SX-101 through SX -106 shown in Tables 3.3 and 3.4, respectively. The two more comprehensive historical analyses of tank supernate shown in Table 3.4 exhibit a very good cation-anion balance suggesting that the analyses are accurate. If so, the solution composition exhibits ionic strengths and basicity well beyond that studied in past Kd experiments and described below for the T-106 tank leak characterization. SX tank supernate ionic strength, hydroxide and Al concentrations exceed values used in past laboratory studies that will be described later in this report. Other available information germane to Hanford tank chemical and radiological compositions, but not REDOX waste or S-SX Tank Farms, that have been found will be described next to provide additional perspective.

3.3 Observed Cs Concentrations/Activities in Other Tanks

Maximum ^{137}Cs activities observed in tank liquors/supernates have been reported from measurements in 5 tanks in the late 1970's by Schulz (1978). The maximum value was 0.54 Ci/l in Tank U-111. This value is lower than the values for SX tanks' supernatant liquid after self-concentration as shown in Table 3.4. Thus it appears that SX tank farm may have contained drainable liquid in the 1950's through 1970's that were higher in ^{137}Cs and perhaps other soluble nuclides such as ^{99}Tc than other tank waste types, specifically bismuth phosphate-type wastes. It is interesting to note that Agnew et al. (1996) predict that the ^{137}Cs content in SX tanks that still contain drainable liquid should be more in line with values found by Schulz (1978) and data on tank solids leaching by Weiss and Schull to be discussed next. Aside from significant concentration by self-boiling we have no other explanation for the high ^{137}Cs values measured in the supernate liquids from two SX tanks in the 1960's and 1970's (see Table 3.4).

Weiss and Schull (1988a-i) report on the proclivity of SST core material to leach into water using laboratory leach tests on nine SST tank cores [A-102, A-103, A-106, BX-104, BX-105, C-103, C-104, C-105, and C-106]. Based on Agnew et al. (1996) these tanks currently contain the types of wastes presented in Table 3.5. There have been some changes in tank

contents between the time that these samples were analyzed and the present such that the estimated compositions for today, shown in Table 3.5, do not necessarily reflect the tank composition at the time when Weiss and Schull performed their tests. Most of the changes represent removal of waste contents from tanks to extract Sr and addition to tanks of material from evaporators (see Agnew et al. 1996 Appendix B. for details on the time history of individual tanks.) In no case does the tank composition for Weiss and Schull's tanks look to be dominated by REDOX waste, thus use of the Weiss and Schull data to draw specific conclusions about the SX Tank Farm leak issue is not warranted. Weiss and Schull's laboratory leach tests took ~5 g (dry weight basis) of tank core solids and mixed them with ~15 ml of distilled water for 30 minutes in an ultra-sonicator. The leachate was then decanted and saved. Distilled water was added again and the leach process repeated two more times. All three leachates were combined and brought to a fixed 50 ml volume and dissolved constituents measured. The amount of Cs that leaches is generally near 50% of the total in the core sample. Leachate concentrations of ^{137}Cs varied from 0.26 to 39,300 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$. These values are lower than the measured ^{137}Cs in SX tanks supernate values shown in Table 3.4. Again one might conclude that REDOX liquids contained higher values of ^{137}Cs than other waste streams.

Of more interest is measurement of the ^{137}Cs content of drainable liquor when the cores were opened up and sampled. Weiss and Schull's data range from 9 to 442,000 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ with a median value of about 22,000 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$. Again these values are not as high as those observed for SX Tank Farm liquids shown in Table 3.4.

Table 3.5. Estimate of the Types of Waste Currently in Tanks Studied by Weiss and Schull

Tank	Waste Category (% by volume)			
	Bismuth Phosphate	REDOX	PUREX	Other
A-102	24	17	59	0
A-103	24	17	59	0
A-106	17	24	59	0
BX-104	11	24	65	0
BX-105	15	22	63	0
C-103	21	1	78	0
C-104	13	18	61	8
C-105	11	0	89	0
C-106	0	0	100	0

Recently, WHC obtained samples of solids from tank SX-108 using an auger. Some of the solids were leached in water and chemical analyses were performed but no data for water leachable ^{137}Cs was reported. An acid extract of the solids showed between 140 and 170 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ ^{137}Cs in the top (near the surface of the tank solids) and 220 to 260 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ in the bottom of the auger samples, suggesting that there is slightly more Cs in the solids as depth increases in the material. On a liter of solids basis these values would be about 0.2 to 0.4 Ci/l which is more in line with Agnew et al. (1996) predictions of the amount of ^{137}Cs in the tanks, if one assumes that most of the ^{137}Cs is water and acid soluble.

The chemical composition of the supernatant liquid in Tank T-106 at the time of its 1973 leak is shown in Table 3.6 as reported by Routson et al. (1979). At the time of the leak the tank contained first cycle bismuth phosphate waste from the later campaigns (1950-56) and both early and later REDOX cladding wastes from mainly Al clad fuel but with some Zr clad fuel in the later campaign (see Agnew et al. 1996 for details). The mix was about 38% bismuth phosphate and 62% REDOX cladding waste (27% early cladding and 35% later cladding waste: Agnew designations CWR1 and CWR2, respectively). The chemical composition of these waste types as predicted by Agnew et al. (1996) is shown in Table 3.7.

Based on these percentages being present in T-106 at the time of the leak and the chemical composition of the three wastes predicted by Agnew et al. (1996), the bulk composition of supernate would have been 2.4 M Na and the hydroxide concentration (excluding hydroxides bound to Al in solution) would have been 0.036 M. Data in Table 3.6 which are actual tank measurements show that the Na was 4 M and the OH content not associated with Al could have been quite small. If the reported pH is accurate, the free hydroxide would have been $\sim 0.01\text{M}$ and the hydroxide content combined with other metals excepting Al could raise the value towards the 0.036 M predicted by Agnew et al. It is difficult to determine whether the agreement between Agnew et al.'s predictions and the actual reported chemical composition of the T-106 supernate solution is adequate to conclusively state that we can use predictive tools to estimate tank contents as a function of fill history.

Some other miscellaneous information on tank waste compositions found in the literature search include the following. Schulz (1977) measured the total dissolved organic carbon concentration in several tank supernate/salt cake leachates and waste streams before transfer to tanks. Solution formed from dissolution of salt cake in Tanks SX-102 and SX-103 yielded organic carbon values of 0.211 M organic carbon, which if present as the strong chelating agent EDTA would yield a value of $\sim 0.02\text{ M EDTA}$.

Rhodes et al. (1954) describe work performed by Honstead in 1952 where supernate solution from Tank T-112 was analyzed for radionuclide content over a 3 month period. The ^{137}Cs content varied from 9.4 to 62 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ in this second cycle bismuth phosphate waste stream. The inorganic salt content was measured by evaporation and found to be 80 g/l and was assumed to be mostly sodium nitrate with some sulfate, phosphate and other salts.

Table 3.6. Chemical/Radionuclide Composition of Supernate Liquid Tank T-106

Component	Concentration (M)
Sodium	4
Ammonium	0.065
Potassium	0.016
Calcium	0.002
Nitrite	1.18
Carbonate	0.79
Nitrate	0.77
Sulfate	0.25
Hydroxide	0.24
Aluminum	0.06
pH	11.9
Radionuclides	Concentration ($\mu\text{Ci/l}$)
Cs-137	8.85×10^4
Sr-90	2.98×10^4
Ru/Rh-106	6.12×10^5
Ce/Pr-144	1.18×10^4
Cs-134	1.32×10^3
Sb-125	1.12×10^3
Pu-239	9

Nelson et al. (1960) report on the chemical makeup of Redox Decladding Waste obtained from Tank U-201. The waste contained 6 M Na, 0.2 M AlO_2 , 0.03 M CrO_4 , 0.02 M PO_4 , and 3.4 M $\text{NO}_3 + \text{NO}_2$. The phosphate and chromate indicate that a heel of older bismuth phosphate process waste was present.

Mercer et al. (1968) give the chemical composition of SX condensate and 242-T evaporator. SX condensate that is formed when vapor from boiling SX tanks is routed to Tank SX-106 where it recondenses. 242-T evaporator condensate is produced by evaporation of supernate liquor from non-boiling tanks in 200-W Area. The vapor from a pot evaporator that is being

Table 3.7 Agnew Predictions of Chemical Composition of Waste in Tank T-106 in 1973

	1C2			CWR1			CWR2		
	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n
Species	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)
Na	2.17	3.54	1.708	3.95	3.54	3.98	1.79	1.40	1.81
Al	0.23	0.86	0.007	2.0	6.54	0.45	0.78	5.87	0.179
Fe	0.05	0.18	0.002	0.015	0.165	0.002	0.015	0.457	0.002
Cr	0.005	0.004	0.006	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.003
Bi	0.014	0.044	0.004	0	0	0	0	0	0
La	--	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0
Zr	0.002	0.005	0.002	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ni	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.002
Mn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ca	0.018	0.046	0.009	0.018	0.121	0.009	0.018	0.322	0.009
K	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.003
OH	0.89	3.18	0.029	7.76	22.82	0.035	3.12	21.91	0.045
free OH	--	0.023	--	--	0.028	--		0.035	--
NO ₃	0.59	0.39	0.54	0.885	0.702	0.879	0.886	0.670	0.876
NO ₂	0.17	0.25	0.26	1.4	1.185	1.44	0.28	0.241	0.298
CO ₃	0.018	0.046	0.009	0.018	0.121	0.009	0.018	0.322	0.009
PO ₄	0.33	0.88	0.152	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO ₄	0.06	0.05	0.065	0.002	0.0013	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.002
Cl	0.015	0.013	0.016	0.010	0.008	0.010	0.016	0.012	0.016
NH ₃	0	0	0.001	0	0	8 x 10 ⁻⁴	4 x 10 ⁻⁴	7 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁴

	1C2			CWR1			CWR2		
	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n	Total Waste	Sludge	Sol'n
Radio-nuclides	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)	Ci/l (Ci/ gal)
¹³⁷ Cs	—	0.029 (0.11)	0.037 (0.14)	—	0.003 (0.011)	0.004 (0.015)	—	0.004 (0.015)	0.005 (0.019)
⁹⁰ Sr	—	0.0003 (0.001)	0.0003 (0.001)	—	0.003 (0.01)	0.003 (0.01)	—	0.003 (0.01)	0.004 (0.02)

fed supernate liquor is collected and condensed. Both streams are rather dilute, near neutral solutions (pH = 7 and =9 for the SX and 242-T condensates, respectively). The SX condensate contains 1-3 mg/l ammonia, 1-2 mg/l sodium and 1-3 μ Ci/l of ¹³⁷Cs. The 242-T condensate contains much more ammonia (~158 mg/l), less Na (0.1 mg/l) and less ¹³⁷Cs (0.15 μ Ci/l).

3.4 Section Summary

In summary, we find that the REDOX liquid chemical composition can vary significantly from its original state as time passes largely because of its high radioactivity content that creates self-boiling conditions. Fresh REDOX waste had a chemical composition shown in Table 3.2 and was predominately a 4 M sodium-nitrate-nitrite-aluminate-hydroxide solution. This composition was similar to other Hanford process wastes such as bismuth phosphate and PUREX waste liquids. But after self-boiling or other concentrating processes, the residual REDOX liquid exhibits a much higher ionic strength and perhaps higher basicity (free hydroxide content) in the range of 8-10 M Na and perhaps 0.5 to 1 M free hydroxide. This chemical composition is beyond any for which sediment-contaminant adsorption studies have been performed as discussed in the next section.

The REDOX supernatant has unusually high concentrations of certain chemical components that will react with Hanford and Ringold Formation sediments, potentially changing their sorptivity for Cs. We briefly note several important issues that are germane to resolving the SX tank farm Cs migration issue.

Hydroxide. The normal pH of Hanford vadose-zone sediments ranges from 7.5 to 8.5, with higher values recorded in zones of caliche. Single-shell tank supernatant pH ranges from 9 to >14 with REDOX wastes containing free [OH⁻] in excess of 1.0 mol/L being on the extreme end. Base equivalents (OH⁻) are also associated with aluminate (Al(OH)₄⁻). It is expected, although not documented, that leaking SST tanks will be surrounded by a pH neutralization

aureole resulting from waste-mineral interactions. Within the aureole a gradient in pH will exist, decreasing from its very caustic tank value near the exit point to the natural pH at depth.

The primary neutralization process is mineral dissolution. The dissolution of oxides and aluminosilicates (e.g., feldspars, mica, clays, etc.) has been studied widely at low pH, as rates are proton-promoted. Such dissolution reactions are fundamental to the process of weathering and the chemical composition of natural waters. Little information exists, for mineral dissolution or weathering under high pH conditions.

The Hanford and Ringold sediments contain a complex association of mineral phases, including unstable primary phases (e.g., feldspars) that are weathering slowly in place and stable secondary phases (e.g., Al oxides, poorly crystalline SiO_2 , smectite) that have formed in-situ. Elevated $[\text{OH}^-]$ will greatly enhance the solubility of most Al- and Si-containing oxides and mixed oxides (see for example Lindsay 1979), and increase their dissolution rates by many orders of magnitude (Brady and Walther 1989) over those at pH 8. The solubility of silica compounds, in particular, reaches high values ($> 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$) above pH 12.8 because of silicic acid ionization to $\text{H}_2\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$. Dissolution rates of many aluminosilicates above pH 12 are comparable to those at and below pH 3 (Brady and Walther 1989). The dissolution of oligoclase will release K^+ , a potential competitive ion for Cs, and sorbent phases with Cs selectivity may be altered. Micaceous minerals are unstable in NaOH; their particle and edge morphology changes with time signifying dissolution, and interlayer K is slowly released (Choquette et al. 1991). Smectites are also unstable at high pH, and their small size and high surface area promote rapid reactivity (Ferrel and Grim 1967). Highly Cs selective wedge or frayed edge sites on illite or hydro-mica may be especially sensitive to high pH conditions that promote dissolution because their high surface area relative to the bulk sediment enables greater access to the silica tetrahedral layers for base hydrolysis.

Limited studies of aluminosilicate dissolution at high pH indicate that the reaction is typically congruent (i.e., Si and Al are released in mole ratios equal to their mole fraction in the solid [Casey et al. 1988; 1989]). The presence of high aluminate in the REDOX supernate, however, may force incongruence; i.e., the selective solubilization of silica. Such incongruence has implications to the fate of Cs-sorbing FES sites that may be transformed to dangling $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_x$ octahedra as a result of selective silica dissolution. The reverse process, i.e., the selective dissolution of the octahedral layer, has been noted at low pH (Fanning et al. 1989).

Choquette et al. (1991) observed that increases in temperature from 23° to 80°C greatly accelerated mineral dissolution/transformation rates in 1 mol/L NaOH. The acceleration results from both solubility and kinetic effects. We surmise therefore, that mineral dissolution, and hence alteration of fine grained Cs-mineral sorbents, may be or have been greatest around leaking tanks of higher temperature, such as those containing highly radioactive, self-boiling REDOX wastes. We also surmise that aluminosilicate precipitation will occur near the margin of the thermal aureole as the temperature and carrying capacity of

the aqueous phase decrease.

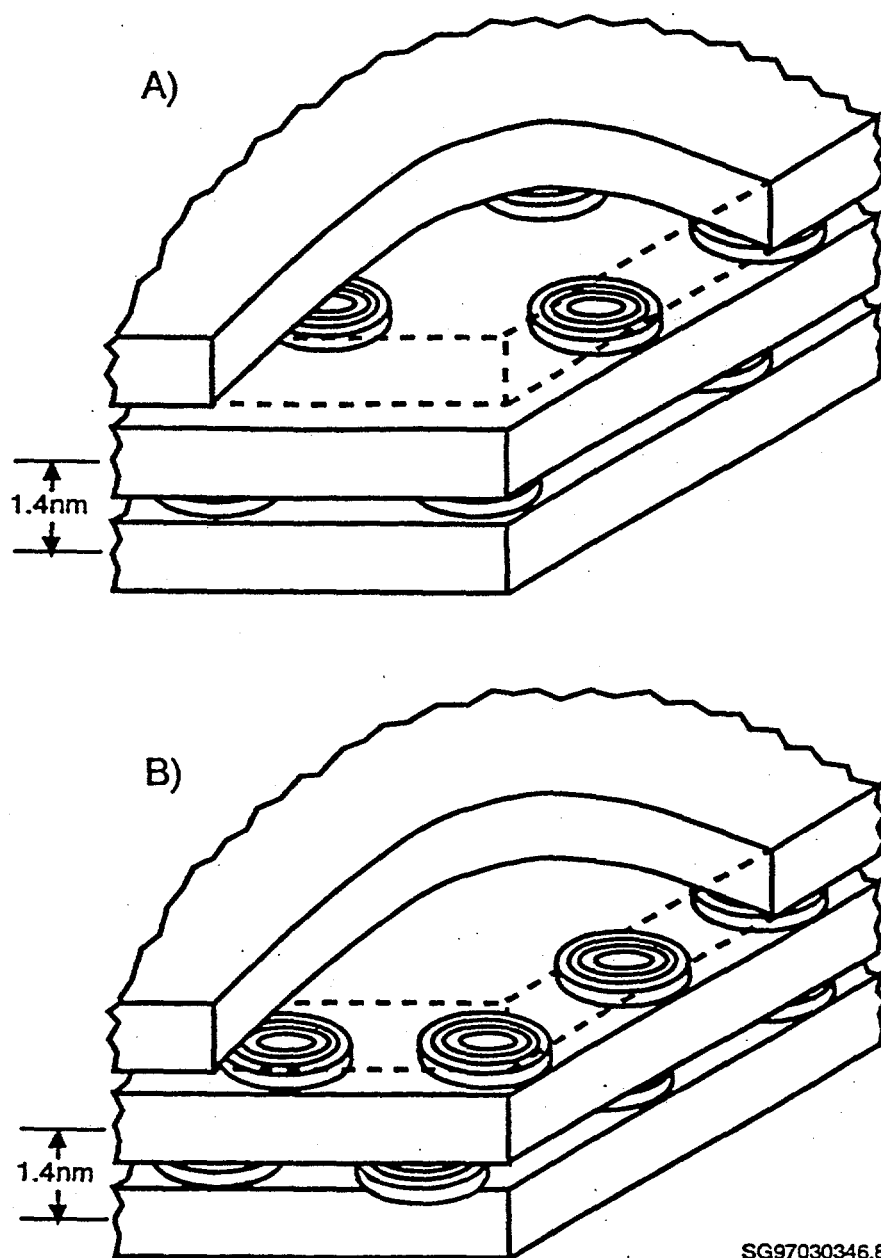
Aluminate. High concentrations of aluminate [$\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4^-$] are present in the REDOX tank supernatants. Aluminum oxides, notably boehmite, are ubiquitous tank sludge solids; the tank supernatants likely are in equilibrium with these phases at the elevated temperatures and hydroxide concentrations present in the tanks. Aluminate will precipitate as 1) temperature decreases through the thermal aureole; and 2) leaked solution pH decreases as a result of aluminosilicate- and oxide-dissolution reactions. A wide variety of precipitating phases is possible, including bayerite, gibbsite, and boehmite, depending on temperature, precipitation rate, and the nature of other solutes (Hayden and Rubin 1974). Laboratory studies with tank supernatants and simulants document active Al-oxide precipitation when the temperature is decreased or when the solutions contact Hanford geologic materials (see Section 5.4). Thus Hanford subsurface sediments receiving tank supernatant, especially REDOX liquors, will become enriched in Al oxides and their depth distribution below the tanks will reflect the thermal regime, the kinetics of dissolution/neutralization, and moisture flux rate.

Under acidic soil pH conditions (e.g., pH 4-6) soluble Al^{3+} or cationic $\text{Al}(\text{III})$ hydrolysis polymers sorb to negatively charged surface sites on vermiculites and smectites, creating both continuous and discontinuous layers of hydroxy-interlayer Al polymers (see Fig. 3.1A for continuous or uniform and Figure 3.1B for discontinuous layers). Such hydroxy interlayered clays are ubiquitous in acid soils containing 2:1 layer-silicates. The continuous or uniform hydroxy interlayer prevents both expansion and collapse but the discontinuous interlayer version allows collapse. These two different types of interlayers allow different cation exchange capacity (e.g., Tullock and Roth 1975), cation exchange selectivity (Murdock and Rich 1972), and K^+ selectivity and fixation (Rich and Black 1964). Cs sorption either may be increased or decreased on hydroxy interlayered materials (Elprince et al. 1977), depending on temperature and mineralogy of the 2:1 layer-silicate fraction. The formation, synthesis, chemical properties, and chemical behavior of hydroxy-interlayered clays have seen much research attention by the soils community as summarized in a recent review (Barnhisel and Bertsch 1989).

It is unclear whether Al-oxide precipitation in Hanford sediments will impact the structure or chemistry of Cs reactive sites on the 2:1 layer-silicate fraction. Can hydroxy interlayers form in vermiculites and smectites when Al oxide is precipitating from basic solution dominated by aluminate? Do conditions of pH (e.g., below the $[\text{H}^+]_{\text{zpc}}$ where alumina colloids may carry positive charge) and aluminate concentration exist in specific locations of the neutralization aureole that may allow hydroxy-interlayer formation? If so, how does such interlayering influence the sorption chemistry of Cs? Can Al-oxide precipitation at high pH or colloidal Al-oxide precipitates with predominantly negative charge block or otherwise alter the chemical reactivity of highly selective FES sites? The literature does not help us address such questions. We have been unable to locate any examples of Al-hydroxy interlayers formed at pH values where aluminate is the dominate solution species or where the surface charge on the Al oxide is likely to be negative (e.g., pH > 9.5). Significant literature exists on the hydrolysis and

polymerization of Al(III) under circumneutral conditions (Bertsch 1989), but comparable data is virtually nonexistent at the high pH values relevant to SX tank leak issues. Thus, it is unclear whether precipitate precursors (e.g., Bertsch et al. 1987; hydrolysis polymers with the requisite charge and size properties) exist in basic solutions that could even represent plausible candidates for participation in hydroxy-interlayer formation.

A final conclusion from the review through Section 3 is that a comparison of the T-106 tank leak with SX Tank Farm leak(s) is not warranted given the dissimilar chemical composition of leaking liquids. Further, we suspect that the adsorption reactions between contaminants, especially Cs would be quantitatively different for the two tank farms. As shown in Table 3.7 the expected chemical composition of the supernatant solution in T-106 at the time of the leak and the actual composition shown in Table 3.6 show a much lower Na and hydroxide content than the REDOX supernate measurements shown in Table 3.3 and 3.4. It is quite possible that the migration of Cs from the SX tank liquors is faster than that observed for the T-106 tank leak to be described in more detail in the next section.



SG97030346.8

Figure 3.1 Conceptual Structures of Al-Hydroxy Interlayered 2:1 Layer-Silicates: A) uniform or continuous interlayering and B) discontinuous layering [From Barnhisel and Bertsch (1989)].

4.0 HISTORY OF CS KD VALUES FOR HANFORD SEDIMENTS [BASED ON LABORATORY STUDIES]

4.1 Bismuth Phosphate Waste Streams

Rhodes et al. (1954) describe work performed by Honstead in 1952 where supernate solution from Tank T-112 was analyzed for radionuclide content over a 3 month period. The ^{137}Cs content varied from 9.4 to 62 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ in this second cycle bismuth phosphate waste stream. The inorganic salt content was measured by evaporation and found to be 80 g/l and was assumed to be mostly sodium nitrate with some sulfate, phosphate and other salts. Some of the actual supernate solution was percolated through a 30-cm long soil column until 7 pore volumes had drained. The column was then rinsed with ~1 pore volume of water and the sediment sectioned into thin wafers. The ^{137}Cs was found to be adsorbed in the upper 5 cm of the column whereas Ru was found throughout the column and rare-earth, plutonium, zirconium and Sr were found in the upper two cm of the soil column. This suggests that Cs is moderately mobile but much less mobile than Ru.

In a simple successive batch contact where 4 grams of soil were contacted with 40 ml batches of T-112 supernate solution Rhodes et al. (1954) found that no more Cs could be removed by the soil on the fifth contact with fresh solution. This led to the ^{137}Cs saturation capacity to be calculated as 0.09 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ of soil. This value was used to estimate how far Cs should have moved under the 241-T crib that received the cascading supernate from the T110-111-112 Tanks cascade. Records showed that 37.5 million liters had been discharged to the crib with a total ^{137}Cs inventory of 1,130 curies. A nearby well (100 feet downgradient from the direction that the discharged water is thought to migrate) perforated above a fine aquitard lens (depth 110 feet below ground) showed ^{137}Cs concentrations about 3% of the initial waste solution. Based on the volume of soil in the cone between the crib and well and the calculated saturation capacity, about 70% of the Cs would be calculated to be adsorbed whereas the water extracted from the well suggests as much as 97% of the Cs was adsorbed. Thus the tank supernate solution either adsorbs better than the laboratory tests predict or some dilution of the solution occurs with native pore water causing the Kd to increase.

McHenry (1957) measured the Cs Kd for first cycle bismuth phosphate waste that was scavenged with nickel ferrocyanide to remove as many fission products as possible. The residual solution was run through Hanford soil columns and the number of column volumes before any measurable radionuclide breakthrough was measured. This particular waste stream contacting Hanford sediment showed better removal of ^{90}Sr than ^{137}Cs . Typically the effluent ^{137}Cs concentration reached 0.1 of the original liquid waste concentration within one to four column volumes (2.5 to 10 pore volumes). This would equate to a Kd value of greater than 10 ml/g. Synthetic and actual first cycle scavenged bismuth phosphate waste (from Tanks TY-101, 103 and 104) was used in soil flow-through columns run with a soil from 200-W Area that had a particle size distribution of 87% sand, 12% silt and ~2% clay. The soil was

calcareous and had a cation exchange capacity of 6 meq/100 g. The breakthrough of ^{137}Cs was strongly dependent upon the amount of stable Cs added to solution. As more stable Cs was added to the solution the breakthrough of ^{137}Cs occurred earlier as would be expected from ion exchange theory where the higher the mass present for an element the faster the sediment adsorption sites become loaded, especially highly preferred but scarce sites such as FES discussed in Section 2. Twenty percent breakthrough was observed to vary between 2.5 and 7 pore volumes dependent upon the solution Cs concentration. Extrapolating these breakthrough curves to 50% in order to estimate a Cs Kd yields values > 6 to 15 ml/g.

Rhodes and Nelson (1957) measured Cs adsorption onto Hanford sediment using high ionic strength solutions (between 0.3 and 6 M) and found the Cs Kd dropped from a value of 240 to 18 ml/g as the ionic strength was increased over this range. For one actual Hanford Site liquid waste known as U Recovery Plant scavenged waste, which was created by taking the bismuth phosphate metal waste and processing it to recover U, with subsequent scavenging of some fission products with nickel ferrocyanide precipitate, the Cs Kd on Hanford soils was found to be 6 ml/g. The U Recovery Plant scavenged waste has a pH of about 9.5 and about 4 M NaNO_3 and 0.1 M Na_3PO_4 . The Hanford soil was 89% sand, 8% silt and 3% clay sized with a cation-exchange capacity of about 2 meq/100 g and a saturated paste pH value of 8.6. Two grams of soil and 10 ml of U Recovery Plant scavenged waste were used in the batch Kd tests. Soil flow through column tests with variable length were also run and gave calculated Kd values (based on observed retardation factors) of 6 to 10 ml/g.

In other tests using simulated solutions, the authors studied the effect of varying the initial concentration of ^{137}Cs (from 0.1 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ to 100 $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ [$\sim 10^{-11}$ to $\sim 10^{-8}$ M]), Na solution concentration (0.3 to 6 M), and pH (0.4 to 10.1). The variation in starting Cs concentration had no effect on the Kd as required for trace constituents. The Cs Kd as a function of Na in solution drops steeply ($\text{Kd} = 240$ to 50 ml/g) as the Na is increased from 0.3 to 2 M and then continues to drop less sharply ($\text{Kd} = 50$ to 18 ml/g) as the Na solution concentration is increased to 6 M. The change in pH for a 4 M NaCl background electrolyte from 0.4 to 10.1 showed little effect on the Kd value for Cs which ranged from 12 to 19 ml/g. This would suggest that a REDOX tank supernate with high Na concentration (above 4 M) and high pH > 10 might give a Kd between 6 and 20 ml/g if the sorption mechanisms remain the same.

4.2 T-106 Tank Simulants

Serne (1973 unpublished) measured Cs sorption for a range of synthetic T-106 liquors. Measured Kd values were between 1 and 12 ml/g and are found in Table 4.1. The most representative liquor among the five solutions used, in comparison to the measured T-106 tank liquor (shown in Table 3.6), gave a Cs Kd value of 2 to 6 ml/g for seven different 200-W sediments. The most representative simulated liquor was 4 M Na, 0.025 M K, and 0.065 M NH_4 . A description of the sediments and the synthetic liquors used are given in Ames and Rai (1978). The synthetic solutions differ from the data shown in Table 3.6 only in that the value of ammonium cation was 0.65 M NH_4^+ in all the simulated solutions. This is 10 times higher

than the measured T-106 composition reported in Routson et al. (1979) as shown in Table 3.6. If Serne really did use 0.65 M ammonia in the simulants as opposed to 0.065 M measured then all the Kd values reported in Table 4.1 may be biased low. If the Routson report is in error in reporting the measured ammonium concentration and it really was 0.65 M then the Kd values reported in Table 4.1 would be realistic for the Tank T-106 leak conditions. Unfortunately we can't determine which ammonium value is correct from available lab notebooks.

All the details available on the seven sediments and the five simulated tank liquors are shown in Tables 4.2 and 4.3 for completeness. The information in Ames and Rai (1978) on the sediments was inadvertently placed in the report out of order. To conform with all the Kd data presented in Table 4.1, Table 4.2 includes the sediment description in the right order. The sample from borehole W-10-109 represents backfill placed around tanks after emplacement and is a rather coarse sediment despite having the larger-sized material removed prior to backfilling. The material from borehole W-11-24 is from the top of the caliche layer in the Plio-Pleistocene unit. The particle size analysis given may not mean much seeing as this material is usually cemented and we have no knowledge of how the sample was obtained. The sediment from the 85 foot-depth in borehole W-10-112 is rather fine grained compared to all the others but its cation-exchange-capacity (CEC) is not significantly greater than other sediments.

4.3 Miscellaneous Simulated Solutions

Rhodes and Nelson (1957) measured Cs adsorption on Hanford sediments using dilute solutions and varying pH. For pH values between 3 and 10, there was not much dependence

Table 4.1. Kd Values (units = ml/g) for Cs Using 7 Hanford Sediments and Five Simulated Tank T-106 Liquors

Sediment	Solutions				
	I	II	III	IV	V
1	13.5	6	1.8	0.8	12
2	9.4	3.5	1.4	0.6	7.1
3	9.1	3.4	1.3	0.6	7.2
4	8.1	3.1	1.4	0.7	7.7
5	10.9	3.7	1.8	2.9	11.3
6	7.9	2	0.9	1.2	7.9
7	8.7	2.8	1.1	1.5	9.5

Table 4.2. Description of Sediments Used in Kd Tests for T-106 Leak

Sed. #	Borehole	Depth (ft.)	Particle Size (wt. %)			Cation Exchange Capacity (meq/100 g)	CaCO ₃ Content (g/100 g)
			gravel	sand	silt/clay		
1	W-10-113	20-40	39	?	?	6.73	1.24
2	W-10-113	45-65	20	?	?	6.16	1.30
3	W-10-113	70-80	5	88	7	5.95	2.60
4	W-11-24	102	41	?	?	7.88	37.00
5	W-10-109	15	59	41	0	6.73	0.95
6	W-11-23	100-105	10	70	20	5.28	7.65
7	W-10-112	85	0	62	38	6.96	13.2

Table 4.3. Chemical Composition of the Five Simulated T-106 Tank Liquors

Constituent	Solution Number				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Chemical Composition (M)					
NaNO ₃	1.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	0.6
Ca(NO ₃) ₂	0.002	0.002	3.5	3.5	0.002
NH ₄ NO ₃	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.15
KNO ₃	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.01
NaNO ₂	0	0	0	0	1.18
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	0	0	0	0	0.25
Na ₂ CO ₃	0	0	0	0	0.79
pH	12	12	12	12	12

on pH and the Cs Kd was always greater than 200 ml/g. At pH values of 1.8 and 0.4 the Cs Kd value dropped to 138 and 36 ml/g, respectively.

Hajek and Ames (1966) measured the adsorption of Cs from various solutions onto a Hanford soil. For groundwater the Cs adsorption Kd was between 325 and 9,000 ml/g dependent upon the amount of groundwater and soil mixed together. For a 3 M NaNO₃ solution the Cs Kd ranged from 1,100 to 1,450 ml/g compared to only 0.4 to 2 ml/g for Sr's Kd. Solutions containing Ca up to 0.25 M CaCl₂ did not reduce the Cs adsorption appreciably with the Kd ranging from 1,300 to 5,400 ml/g dependent upon the mix ratio of solution and soil.

Routson et al. (1981a,b) investigated the effects of varying the concentrations of potassium, sodium, and calcium dissolved individually in water on Cs adsorption using a typical Hanford soil from 200-E Area. Potassium was the strongest competitor for sorption sites. The Cs Kd value dropped from 280 to 5.8 ml/g as K solution concentrations increased from 0.001 to 0.2 M [39 to 7800 ppm]. In the presence of Na, Cs adsorption dropped from 1,600 to 570 and then to 26 ml/g as the sodium solution concentration increased from 0.001 to 0.01 and then to 3 M [23 to 230 to 69,000 ppm]. Ca was the least influential competing cation with the Cs adsorption decreasing only slightly, from a Kd of 2,200 to 790 ml/g, when the solution Ca concentration increased from 0.002 to 0.02 M [80 to 800 ml/g]. The authors also measured the Kd for Cs on the 200-E Area soil using mixed solutions of these three cations. Na was varied between 0.001 and 3.0 M, Ca was varied from 0.002 to 0.2 M and K was varied from 0.002 to 0.1 M. When all three cations were present at their highest concentrations, the Kd for Cs was between 3 to 5 ml/g and when all three cations were present at their lowest concentration the Cs Kd value was 370 ml/g. In a second batch adsorption test again using a factorial design protocol the authors repeated Cs adsorption tests on the same 200-E sediment and the same types of mixed Na-Ca-K-nitrate solutions. In this second test K was allowed to vary from 0.002 to 0.2 M, slightly higher than in the first test. When all the cations were at or near their highest concentrations the Kd for Cs was 1.8 to 3.2 ml/g and when they were present at their lower concentrations the Cs Kd value was 24 to 88 ml/g. In this second test the Ca concentration appeared to have more influence on the Cs Kd value than in the first test, but again the K concentration influenced the Cs Kd more than other variables.

In a more ambitious study the authors took 21 Hanford sediments from 6 boreholes that were chosen to represent all the strata from the ground surface to the water table at both 200-E and 200-W areas. Twelve sediments were used to represent 200-E and 9 sediments were used to represent 200-W. A similar factorial design scheme using these 21 sediments and mixed cation solutions of Na-K-Ca-NO₃ was used to develop predictor equations for the adsorption of Cs, Sr, and Co. The range of solution concentrations used were 0.001 to 3.0 M Na, and 0.002 to 0.2 M for both Ca and K. These ranges cover natural groundwater compositions up through Hanford tank liquor concentrations (although the latter solution's pH would be much different than the neutral values used in this factorial test). The authors found that the regression coefficients for the individual sediment predictor equations (21 soils) did not vary significantly for any given nuclide. They thus averaged the regression coefficients and the

resulting predictor equation for a generic Hanford sediment for Cs adsorption from a mixed cation bearing (Na-Ca-K) water was

$$\ln K_d(\text{Cs}) = 2.26 - 0.672[2/3(\text{Na}^+) - 1] - 1.42[10(\text{K}^+) - 1] - 0.177[2/3(\text{Na}^+) - 1]^2 - 0.853[10(\text{K}^+) - 1]^2 + 0.429[2/3(\text{Na}^+) - 1][10(\text{K}^+) - 1]$$

where (Na^+) and (K^+) are the solution concentrations of sodium and potassium in units of molarity.

This equation could be used to calculate the K_d for Cs for any mixed solution (at neutral pH) that contained mostly Na, K, and Ca and only minor amounts of other competing cations for Hanford site conditions. The equation might also be used to extrapolate to higher pH conditions based on previous observations that the Cs K_d does not change significantly with pH over the pH range 4 to 10. We question whether the equation could be used for extremely alkaline solutions such as REDOX tank liquors.

Barney (1978) measured the adsorption of Cs onto Hanford sediments using mixed cation solutions composed of Na and K with humic acid present (17 to 33 mg/l). The maximum K and Na solution concentrations studied were 0.01 M [390 ppm] and 0.1 M [2300 ppm], respectively. The lowest Cs K_d value for this highest solution concentration mixture was 200 ml/g. A parametric equation was developed to predict the Cs K_d value for Hanford sediments and mixed Na-K-Ca-nitrate-nitrite-humic acid solutions (within the concentrations just noted) as follows:

$$\ln K_d(\text{Cs}) = 16.9 - 1928[\text{K}^+] - 173[\text{Na}^+] + 0.19 [\text{humic acid}] + 71,000[\text{K}^+]^2 + 1000[\text{Na}^+]^2 - 0.005[\text{humic acid}]^2 + 1300 [\text{K}^+][\text{Na}^+]$$

where $[\text{K}^+]$ and $[\text{Na}^+]$ = molarity of potassium and sodium present in water
[humic acid] = ppm of humic acid present in water.

Ames and Hajek (1966a,b) determined sorption of Cs as a function of Na, K, Ca, and H in nitrate solutions for an unidentified Hanford soil using Yates' factorial design and analysis scheme. A complete 2-level design was used which required 2^4 or 16 tests. The sorption method was a recirculating column with 1 g of sediment contacting the recirculating solution until the solution maintained a constant Cs activity. The range of mixed solution cation concentrations were 1.0 to 3.0 M Na, 0.00 to 0.001 M K, 0.00 to 0.05 M Ca, and 0.00 to 0.05 M H. Unfortunately the authors do not state how much solution was used in each test and they only report the ratio of the final concentration of Cs to the starting concentration such that K_d values can not be calculated. The most dilute solution showed only 12% of the Cs remained in solution while the most concentrated solution showed 62% of the Cs remained in solution. Thus the range in K_d values would vary by a factor of 5. Hydrogen and potassium concentrations showed the largest impacts on adsorption and seeing as K was present at lower concentrations than H in the test matrix it would be the most influential parameter controlling

Cs adsorption on a mole per mole basis (assuming that H^+ was not consumed in reactions with the sediment.

Knoll (1969) could remove less than 12% of Hanford sediment adsorbed Cs after leaching contaminated sediment with 70 pore volumes using a 0.4 M organic chelator-0.2 M TBP solution.

Barney (1982a,b) measured the K_d for Cs on several basalt interbed materials generically called sandstone using a deep groundwater from the Grande Ronde flow that has a rather high pH value of 10 and higher Na, Cl, and SO_4 concentrations in comparison to shallow upper unconfined aquifer groundwaters. The K_d for Cs onto the sandstone was quite high at room temperature [500 to 1,600 ml/g] and dropped to values between [200 to 1,400 ml/g] at 60°C and [100 to 700 ml/g] at 85 °C. Potassium concentration was the most important variable in determining the K_d for Cs as a function of groundwater composition. These data suggest that increasing the pH of groundwater from about 8 to 10 and increasing the dissolved salt content somewhat does not lower the K_d for Cs significantly.

4.4 Miscellaneous Actual Waste Streams

Rhodes (1956) performed laboratory adsorption tests using REDOX cell drainage liquid and process condensates and showed that Hanford soil could adsorb >90% of the ^{137}Cs but <10% of the ^{90}Sr . The tests were performed with 1 g of soil and 10 ml of waste, thus for >90% removal of Cs, the K_d must be > 90 ml/g. The poor adsorption of ^{90}Sr was attributed to the acidic nature (pH ~2.1) of the wastes. After neutralization of the pH to 8 to 10 the Sr adsorption increased to >90% also. Neutralization did not affect the Cs adsorption which remained high. Such neutralization would occur before the wastes were disposed to tanks. The SX Tank Farm received such neutralized REDOX waste.

4.5 Section Summary

In summary, none of the available K_d tests were run with liquids that contained more than 4 M sodium and pH values were likely never above 12 (free hydroxide ~ 0.01M). The data that are available may be adequate to estimate K_d values for Cs in very fresh REDOX liquid that has not self-concentrated, but the data are not adequate to estimate K_d values for the higher ionic strength and higher pH solution that forms through self-boiling and other processes. Dependent upon when the SX tank leaks actually occurred, the chemical composition of the draining liquid would vary over a rather significant range. The resultant Cs K_d would also be expected to vary as the Na solution concentration changes. The extremely high pH condition might also impact the Cs adsorption and perhaps dissolve bulk sediment or severely etch the fine particulates that likely perform most of the adsorption. See the end of Section 3 for more discussion on the impacts of hydroxide and aluminate on the adsorbing minerals and Cs adsorption processes. About the only conclusion that can be offered, without empirical testing using such high ionic strength/high pH solutions, is that the Cs K_d values could be lower than

those reported in the available literature. As shown for the less concentrated T-106 liquid simulants, the Cs Kd value ranges from 0.5 to 12 ml/g across a range of solution compositions, with a more realistic range of 2 to 6 ml/g for the simulant most representative of the tank liquor (see Table 4.3 Solution II).

5.0 SCOPING LAB TESTS ON SX TANK LIQUOR INTERACTIONS WITH HANFORD SEDIMENTS

After the literature review on the chemical nature of REDOX liquid wastes and their subsequent interactions with Hanford sediments showed that no work has been performed on this type of solution, we solicited a small amount of money (~\$20K) from WHC (Don Engelman) to perform a few scoping studies at the end of FY96. The REDOX waste appears unique from other Hanford tank wastes; it has a very high ionic strength, very high pH or hydroxide content, and high soluble Al content. All three of these variables can affect the adsorption properties of the two radionuclides that constitute the bulk of the activity in the tanks, namely ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs . We discuss some of the available knowledge on the effects of hydroxide and aluminate on adsorption and mineral stability at the end of Section 3.

We attempted to perform many of the scoping experiments at elevated temperature to better simulate the environment surrounding the tanks at the time of the leaks. Our goals in the scoping tests were to get an indication on the adsorption tendencies of Sr and Cs from a solution with very high ionic strength, high Na, high Al and high OH content and to see whether the high OH might significantly dissolve the existing sediment. The latter issue is further discussed in section 7.0. Work was conducted over one month starting in the second week of September 1996. One similar study was found in the Hanford literature wherein a simulated caustic tank liquor that did not contain any dissolved Al was contacted with a Hanford sediment and a pure mineral, anorthite, using a recirculating-flow through column technique.

5.1 Summary of Past Sediment-Caustic Tank Liquor Interactions

Shade (1974) presents data on experiments where a Hanford sandy sediment, taken from the SY-Tank Farm excavation (base of the N face), and a pure mineral, anorthite [$\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ or $\text{CaO}\cdot\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$], were contacted with liquid that was continually recirculated in a flow-through column configuration. The anorthite was crushed and sized to obtain 0.5 to 1 mm sized material similar to the predominate particle size for Hanford sediments. Anorthite is one of the predominate minerals in Hanford sediment. Each solid was packed into a separate column with dimensions of 2.85 cm ID and 7.8 cm length. 80 grams of solid were used in each case. A synthetic tank liquor patterned after an analysis of BX-100 solution was reacted with the two solids. The chemical composition of the synthetic liquor is shown in Table 5.1. Dissolved Al was not included in the synthetic waste which is an unfortunate omission for the SX tank liquor/sediment interactions issue. Shade gives the weight of reagents mixed with a set weight of water which allows one to calculate the molality of the solution. If one had the density of the resultant solution one could also calculate the molarity of the solution which is the units used in all the other tables in this report. Using data available in the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics [Weast 1981] for pure solutions we have estimated the molarities of the components in the synthetic solution but we stress that the values are purely estimates. The

solution contains much higher hydroxide concentrations than the tank liquor analyses reported from actual measurements and estimates found in Section 3 (see Tables 3.3-3.4). The sodium, nitrate, and nitrite concentrations are comparable to values expected in SX tank liquors. Thus based on the hydroxide content, the synthetic solution listed in Table 5.1 may be more corrosive upon reacting with sediment than actual SX tank liquors. It is possible that the free hydroxide content of the BX waste was greatly over-predicted if it is based on an acid titration of actual waste. The acid titration would have also been influenced by aluminate, carbonate, phosphate and part of the sulfate and other components in the actual tank liquor such that the free hydroxide content would be over-predicted..

At any rate Shade reacted the highly caustic solution with Hanford sediment and anorthite at a ratio of 650 g of solution to 80 g of solids. The ratio was chosen to be similar to a study of caustic dissolution of K-feldspar found in the literature where the solubility of K feldspar was determined over a pH range of 4 to 10. Shade recirculated the solution through the columns for 26 days and periodically removed a small aliquot of the reacted solution to measure Al and Si content. The reacting solution quickly dissolved (< 2 days) enough Si out of the Hanford sediment to yield a concentration of 600 ppm. The Si concentration continued to increase at a slowing rate over the 26-d test. At the end of the test the Si concentration had reached 1,200 ppm but steady-state was not reached. Al in solution was ~100 ppm at two days reaction and appeared to reach a steady-state value of about 200 ppm between about 17 and 26 days. The anorthite reaction was tracked for only 9 days and the Si and Al concentrations were still increasing significantly at the end of the test. The amount released suggested that the anorthite was leaching congruently such that two moles of Si released for each mole of Al. As mentioned in Section 3 others have reported congruent mineral dissolution in pure caustic environments but no data are available for highly caustic and high aluminate solutions such as the REDOX waste. The rate of anorthite dissolution was much higher than a literature value for a pH = 10 solution. This should be expected because the simulated tank liquor would have a starting pH greater than 14. The chemical and mineralogic composition of the

Table 5.1 Composition of the Synthetic Tank Liquor Used by Shade (1974)

Component	Molal	Molarity
NaNO ₂	2.19	2.6
NaNO ₃	3.74	4.6
NaOH	4.49	5.3
Na ₂ CO ₃	0.11	0.11
NASA	0.08	0.08
Na ₃ PO ₄	0.012	0.01

Hanford sediment was not determined so quantitative results are not possible. A rough calculation based on Si release and a nominal Hanford sediment chemical analysis suggests that about 2% by weight of the sediment may have dissolved in 26 days. The rate was also slowing down appreciably by this time. Shade presents more calculations that such tank liquor might dissolve about 0.13 cm³ of soil matrix for each liter of waste liquor that escapes. Shade's work does not address the fact that some tank liquors, including REDOX wastes, already contain large amounts of soluble Al that might precipitate upon contact with sediments such that the net mass change may not be negative (dissolution controlled).

5.2. Preparation of Simulated Tank Liquor

Within the data base that exists on the World Wide Web within the PNNL home page there is some data on SX-108 supernate solution taken in April 1961 and data on SX-111 supernate solution and solids taken in September 1974. No other explanation as to where the original data can be found in hard copy is available in the data base. These data are shown in Table 3.4 along with predictions from Agnew (1995) and Agnew et al. (1996) for representative SX Tank Farm solution compositions.

Given these compositions, REDOX solutions exhibit high ionic strength, soluble aluminum and hydroxide concentrations well beyond that studied in past sorption experiments. In the literature review, we found that the REDOX liquid chemical composition can change significantly with time because of its high radioactivity content that creates self-boiling conditions. Fresh REDOX waste chemical composition was predominately a 4 M sodium-nitrate-nitrite-aluminate-hydroxide solution. This composition was similar to other Hanford process wastes such as bismuth phosphate and PUREX waste liquids. But after self-boiling or other concentrating processes, the residual REDOX liquid can exhibit a much higher ionic strength and perhaps higher basicity (free hydroxide content) in the range of 8-10 M Na and perhaps 0.5 to 1 M free hydroxide. This chemical composition is beyond any for which sediment-contaminant adsorption studies have been performed.

We attempted to make a liter of the REDOX solution shown in Table 3.4 for Tank SX-108 because it had the highest ionic strength, Al and hydroxide content. These are the three variables that need to be studied regarding sediment interactions and contaminant adsorption.

We used reagent grade chemicals: sodium aluminate, sodium chloride, sodium nitrite, sodium nitrate, and sodium sulfate. The chemicals were added to deionized water in the following order:

- sodium aluminate
- sodium chloride
- sodium nitrite
- sodium sulfate
- sodium nitrate.

The sodium aluminate all dissolved and formed a viscous solution with a pH greater than 14.

All the sodium chloride, sodium nitrite, and sodium sulfate also dissolved. The sodium nitrate did not all dissolve following overnight agitation and some chemical reaction was obvious. The solution changed color and precipitates other than sodium nitrate were observed. The slurry was heated to 60° C overnight but there was still considerable undissolved material in the container, comprising approximately one-tenth the total volume. Upon settling the pH of the supernate was still greater than 14. We elected to filter the solution and to continue tests with the resultant solution. An aliquot of the undissolved solids was analyzed by XRD and several crystalline phases were identified including nitratine [NaNO₃], bayerite [Al(OH)₃] and a mixed sodium-aluminum-nitrate compound. There was also evidence of amorphous material in the precipitate. The resultant solution phase was also analyzed by AA and IC for major cations and anions. The results are shown in Table 5.2. Table 5.2 clearly shows that some of the Al that originally dissolved was re-precipitated upon adding the sodium nitrate. Some of the sodium nitrate did not dissolve. The chloride and nitrite appear to remain completely dissolved. The measured nitrite value is likely biased high because of interferences of the large quantity of nitrate in the solution. The solids that were identified in the undissolved material corroborate the solution analyses in that Na and Al are present in the solids thus lowering the solution composition from that desired.

We have no explanation on why the chemicals did not all dissolve as one might have expected from the actual tank supernate analysis from 1961. Recall we heated the slurry overnight at an elevated temperature (albeit not as high as boiling) and much undissolved material still remained.

5.3 Adsorption Test Descriptions

5.3.1. Batch Kd Tests

The resultant solution (see Table 5.2) was spiked with trace amounts of ⁸⁵Sr and ¹³⁷Cs and used

Table 5.2. Measured Composition of the Solution Vs. Desired Composition

Constituent	Measured (M)	Desired (M)
Al	0.58	1.7
Na	4.75	10.52
Cl	0.27	0.25
NO ₃	5.99	8.14
NO ₂	0.67	0.45
OH	not measured	1.5

in batch adsorption tests with a representative coarse Hanford sand sediment from the 200-E Area grout vault excavation. A complete characterization of the sediment (MSG-1) is given in Serne et al. (1993). The sediment used in the batch adsorption tests had a particle size of 89% sand, 7% silt, and 4% clay. The sediment contains a small amount of calcium carbonate [0.83% by wt.] and very little organic carbon [0.023% by wt.]. The cation-exchange-capacity of the sediment is on the high end for Hanford coarse grained sands with a value of 7.8 meq/100 g. Ninety-nine % of the exchange sites are naturally filled by calcium and magnesium and only 1% contain alkali metals [Na and K]. The mineralogy of the bulk sediment is predominately plagioclase and quartz with small amounts of hornblende and mica. The small amount of clay sized particles are predominately smectite (85%), kaolinite (8%), mica (5%) and vermiculite (3%). Although this sediment is from 200-E Area its mineralogy is similar to sediments from the SX tank farm in 200-W Area such that the K_d values obtained should be representative of SX tank farm sediments.

Duplicate sediment samples and a blank tube were used in each batch adsorption test. The blank tube was used to determine the stability of the tracers in the simulated tank liquor. Additionally, a sample where soil was contacted with non-radioactive solution was included. A solution-to-solid ratio of 10 ml:1 g was used. The tubes were gently rocked on a linear shaker for 11 days at room temperature. After 4 and 11 days small aliquots of solution were removed from the tubes after the sediment was allowed to settle for several hours. The aliquots were then counted for gamma emissions on a high efficiency Ge detector. The blank tube with only spiked solution was used to compare whether the sediment or the container removed the tracers. During the sediment-solution contact there was evidence of continued precipitation of a whitish solid. The calculated K_d values for the tracers are shown in Table 5.3 for unfiltered solutions that were gravity settled. As shown in Table 5.3 the K_d value for Sr is quite variable but the K_d for Cs is fairly stable at a value of about 22 ml/g. The Cs tracer in the solution remains stable (remains in solution) over the time period studied. When the blank solution and sediment contacted solutions are all filtered through 0.22 μ m membranes, the K_d for Cs onto Hanford sediment increases further to values as high as 64 ml/g. The increase is apparently caused by further removal of fine suspended whitish precipitate from the solution in contact with sediment. The fine precipitate has some ^{137}Cs adsorbed to it.

Table 5.3. Unfiltered K_d Values [ml/g] for Sr and Cs From REDOX Liquor Contacting a Coarse Hanford Sand

Contact Time (d)	^{85}Sr	^{137}Cs
4	4	28
	28	20
11	0.2 ± 0.2	20 ± 4

On the other hand the ^{85}Sr is not stable. Most of the Sr is found to be attached to fine white precipitate that forms in the tubes with time, including the blank tubes with no soil present.

We suspect that the precipitate is bayerite or an Al oxyhydroxide. With long settling times, on the order of a week or longer, the simulated tank liquor separates into a white, dense phase and a yellow, clear, aqueous phase. There is no measurable ^{85}Sr in the yellow liquid but most of the ^{137}Cs still is present in the yellow-clear solution. The effluent liquid from the soil contact tests also separates into two phases but the radionuclide content of the clear yellow supernate contains no ^{85}Sr and reduced activities of ^{137}Cs . Because we did not filter the solutions after contact with the sediment and because the ^{85}Sr in the blank tube (solution only and no soil) became attached to fine grained partially suspended precipitate, the batch Kd tests yielded very inconsistent Sr Kd's. From a practicable standpoint one should not attempt to measure a Sr Kd value for this system onto Hanford sediment because the Sr is not stable in the evolving solution and tends to attach and precipitate onto Al bearing precipitates prior to or in conjunction with contacting the sediment.

The solution after contact with the sediment at a 10 ml:1 g ratio and 11 days had a pH value of 12.6 and the composition shown in Table 5.4. In general the pH dropped from >14 to 12.6 and a small amount of nitrite, large amounts of nitrate and aluminum hydroxide/oxide were lost from solution. Conversely a large amount of sodium appears to have been released from the sediment. We can not at the moment explain the apparent large release of sodium, but we do note that the value reported appears to be in error because the cation-anion charge balance is way out of balance. The loss of the other species is caused by the continued formation of precipitates as the sediment reacts with the REDOX solution.

Table 5.4. REDOX Solution Chemical Composition After Contacting Sediment

Constituent	After Contact (M)	Before Contact (M)
Al	0.41	0.58
Na	9.57*	4.75
Cl	0.27	0.27
NO_3	4.52	5.99
NO_2	0.57	0.67
OH	not measured	not measured
pH	12.6	>14

* sodium value seems wrong; cation-anion balance is way off

The measured K_d value for Cs is higher than values found for other Hanford tank waste solutions with comparable Na concentrations. We are not sure at this time whether the high Al content and continued precipitation of Al-bearing (inferred from the white precipitate) solids plays a significant role. Note that no other adsorption studies for Cs onto Hanford sediments (see Section 4.0) used Al as one of the solution variables. The Al appears to continue to react in the presence of sediment to form additional solid phases such as Al oxides, Al hydroxides and Al oxyhydroxides. These solids are known to have a large exchange capacity for many metals and they are used along with ferric oxyhydroxides to remove trace metals from water in numerous water treatment processes. See Clark (1990), Kepak (1971), Kinniburgh and Jackson (1981), Righetto et al. (1988), and Schindler (1981) for discussions on Al oxide adsorption properties.

At the moment the preliminary finding that the K_d for Cs is slightly above 20 ml/g does not correspond with the modeling done recently by Ward et al. (1997). Their predictions suggest that a K_d for Cs in the range of 3 ml/g compares best with the observed plume of Cs below the SX tanks. Without performing additional calculations we can't show quantitatively how much less the Cs would be predicted to travel with a K_d value of 20 to 25 but the reduction in travel should be substantial. If the gross-gamma and gamma energy logging studies performed to date [DOE 1996] are accurately measuring the Cs plume below the tanks it would appear that the in-situ K_d is considerably less than the values reported in Table 5.3.

5.3.2 Flow Through Column Tests

The first column test consisted of a Teflon column filled with the MSG-1 sediment to a bulk density of 1.34 g/cm^3 [31.5 g of sediment in a column with 2.5 cm diameter and 4.8 cm length]. Using the measured particle density of 2.72 g/cm^3 , the calculated porosity is 0.51 and one pore volume would be 12 ml. The flow rate of solution through the column was 0.3 ml/hr which would yield a residence time for the water of 40.0 hours. The sediment column was first run with distilled water to check for leaks. After one day the SX Tank simulated liquor was pumped into the column to displace the water. This flow-through column adsorption test failed after three days when the influent REDOX solution spiked with ^{85}Sr and ^{137}Cs formed enough additional white precipitate to plug the column influent line. The test was being performed with the column and influent reservoir held at 65°C . At the time of failure we had collected three aliquots of effluent and the pH had just risen to a value of 12.5 from a value of 7.5 as the distilled water was flushed out. The last effluent contained about 0.1% of the influent's ^{137}Cs activity. The exact volume infused cannot be determined as some sample was lost at the influent-end of the column as salt creep, but it was not more than 9.3 ml, representing 0.77 pore volumes. Thus we had not completely flushed the one pore volume of deionized water that was present initially.

The second column test consisted of the same physical set-up as the first test with one exception; this column was run at room temperature, approximately 20°C , rather than 65°C . There was no column plugging at this lower temperature, however, precipitates did form in

smaller quantities in both the influent and effluent tubing. This column was initially wetted with SX-108 simulant rather than deionized water. Therefore, no dilution of the initial effluent sample occurred. We exhausted the available simulated REDOX tank liquor after collecting 6.68 pore volumes. Some breakthrough of ^{137}Cs was seen (up to 6.08%) but the breakthrough was inconsistent among the samples analyzed (see Figure 5.1). The slight leakage of ^{137}Cs through the column may represent colloidal migration as opposed to solution transport. No ^{85}Sr was measurable in the effluents but ^{85}Sr was also not stable in the yellow liquid influent being pumped into the column. The ^{85}Sr tends to associate with the white precipitate that formed originally in the simulated liquor and it was filtered out of the solution prior to starting the column tests.

Analysis of thin segments of the sediment from the second column test (once finished) revealed decreasing ^{137}Cs activity with increasing distance from the influent end. This is illustrated in Figure 5.2. The recovery of ^{137}Cs in the liquid (effluent) and solid phases totalled 98.4%. Table 5.5 presents the total ^{137}Cs activity present in the sediment as a function of distance from the influent end of the column. Based on a simple analysis that the distance travelled by the center of mass of adsorbed Cs to the total distance that water travelled is the reciprocal of the retardation factor, one can calculate a Kd value from the sediment profile. Data shown in Table 5.5 and Figure 5.2 suggest that the center of mass of the adsorbed ^{137}Cs is just passed the end of the first slice. If we assume that the adsorbed ^{137}Cs varies linearly within each slice the position of the 50% adsorbed mass is about 0.33 cm from the influent end. A total of 80 ml of effluent was collected during the test. This value represents 6.67 pore volumes and the length traversed by each pore volume is the column length (4.8 cm). Thus the water traversed $[4.8 \text{ cm} \times 6.67] 32 \text{ cm}$. The ratio of the center of mass of adsorbed Cs to water travel distance is the reciprocal of the retardation factor. Thus $1 / (0.33/32)$ is equal to 97. The retardation factor is related to the Kd for an initially dry column by the relationship

$$R = \{\rho/\theta\} K_d$$

where ρ is the bulk density of the sediment in the column and θ is the moisture content or porosity under saturated conditions. The value of ρ is 1.34 g/cm^3 and the value of θ is 0.51. Substituting these values into the equation and solving for Kd yields a value of $[97 \times 0.51 / 1.34] 37 \text{ ml/g}$ for the Kd of ^{137}Cs . This column derived Kd is slightly larger than the batch Kd value just discussed. Both values are larger than expected based on the literature review and both values would not allow Cs migration through the sediment to the bottom of dry wells used to monitor tank leaks.

The pH of the effluent solution that passed through the second soil column rose rapidly to a value greater than 14 (see Figure 5.3). The first sampling at 0.11 pore volumes had a pH of 7.8 and the following 0.37 pore volume showed a pH value of 12.1. The next sampling occurred after 1.12 pore volumes; the corresponding pH was above 14 as indicated by an error message given by the pH meter. Each sample after this point also indicated a pH above 14.

Table 5.5 Data From the Dissected Column

Sample #	Dry Wt. (g)	Cs-137 Activity ($\mu\text{Ci/g}$)	Total Activity (μCi)	Cum. Activity(%)	Cum. Distance (cm)	Cum. Center of Slice (cm)
1	2.15	0.13700	0.29440	46.80	0.29	0.15
2	3.54	0.06820	0.24163	85.20	0.77	0.53
3	4.91	0.00192	0.00942	86.70	1.43	1.10
4	4.76	0.01070	0.05097	94.80	2.08	1.75
5	3.69	0.00237	0.00875	96.19	2.58	2.33
6	5.01	0.00161	0.00807	97.48	3.25	2.91
7	5.32	0.00104	0.00554	98.36	3.97	3.61
8	2.58	0.00251	0.00647	99.39	4.32	4.15
9	3.55	0.00109	0.00387	100.00	4.80	4.56
Total	35.52		0.62911		4.80	

The rapid jump in pH to values above 14 seems to occur sooner in the column than one might expect based on the drop in pH to values between 12 and 12.6 reported for the batch adsorption tests discussed in Section 5.3.1 and the dissolution tests to be described in Section 5.4. We can only speculate that the reactions that lower pH (between the caustic solution and sediment) are promoted by the shaking and stirring that occurred in the batch tests. The amount of time allowed for reaction in the dissolution tests is quite similar to the residence time of fluid in the flow through column test, but both of these tests had less time for reaction than the batch adsorption tests. The evolving pH appears to have slow kinetics that require more than days and perhaps a few weeks or longer to reach a steady-state. The reactions that lower the pH likely cause the observed precipitation of bayerite, the Al hydroxide and other constituents such as Si and Na also appear to be changing. Detailed tests where the complete chemical composition of the solution and solids as well as solid mineralogy would be necessary to interpret the observed changes.

5.4. Sediment Dissolution Tests

Tank wastes that contain high concentrations of free hydroxide can react and partially dissolve silica and aluminosilicate minerals and coatings naturally present in the sediments. The

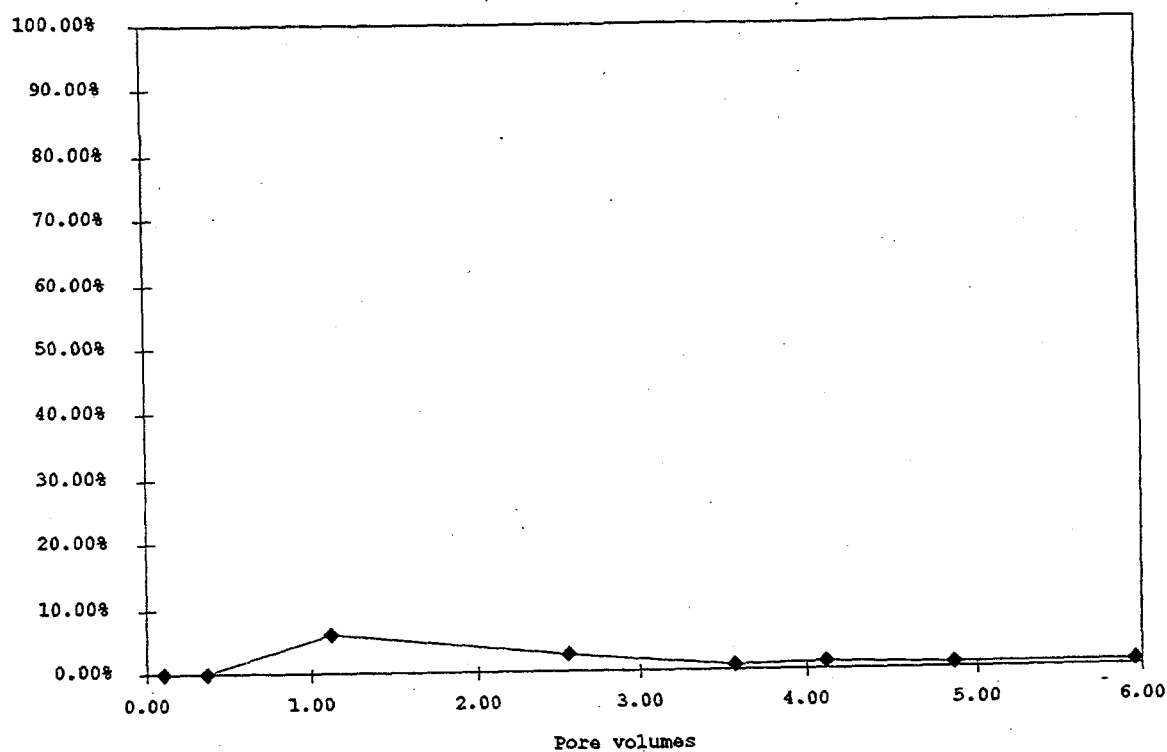


Fig. 5.1 ^{137}Cs Breakthrough for SX Tank Simulant in Hanford Sediment

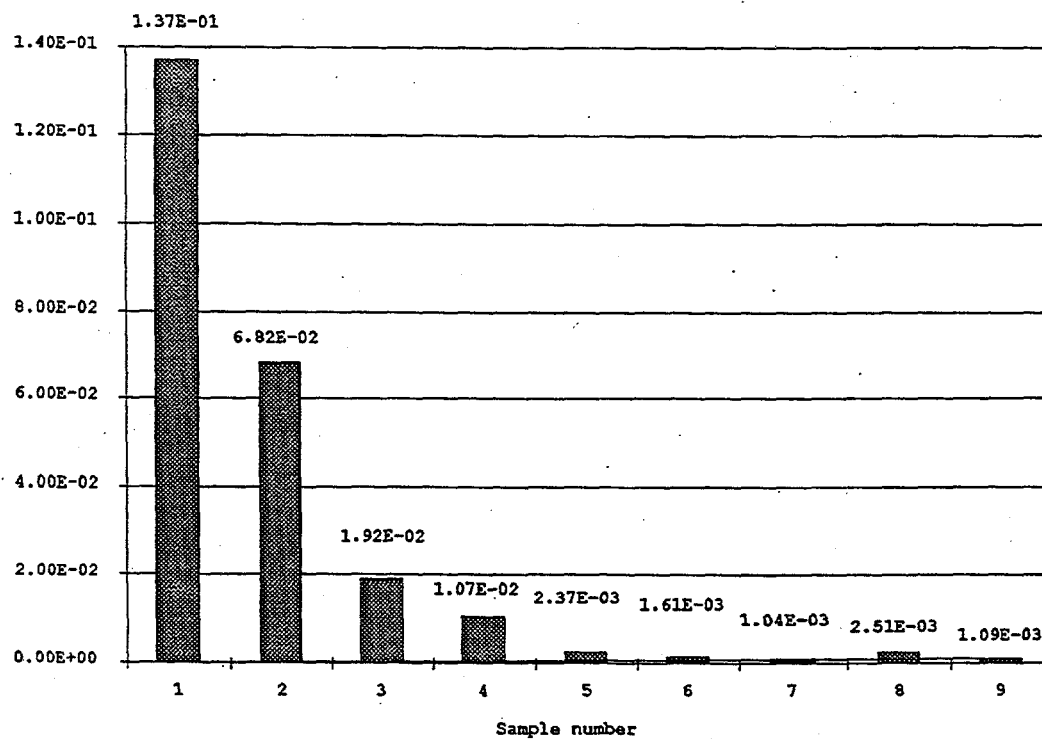


Fig. 5.2 ^{137}Cs Adsorbed in Sediment Column as a Function of Depth

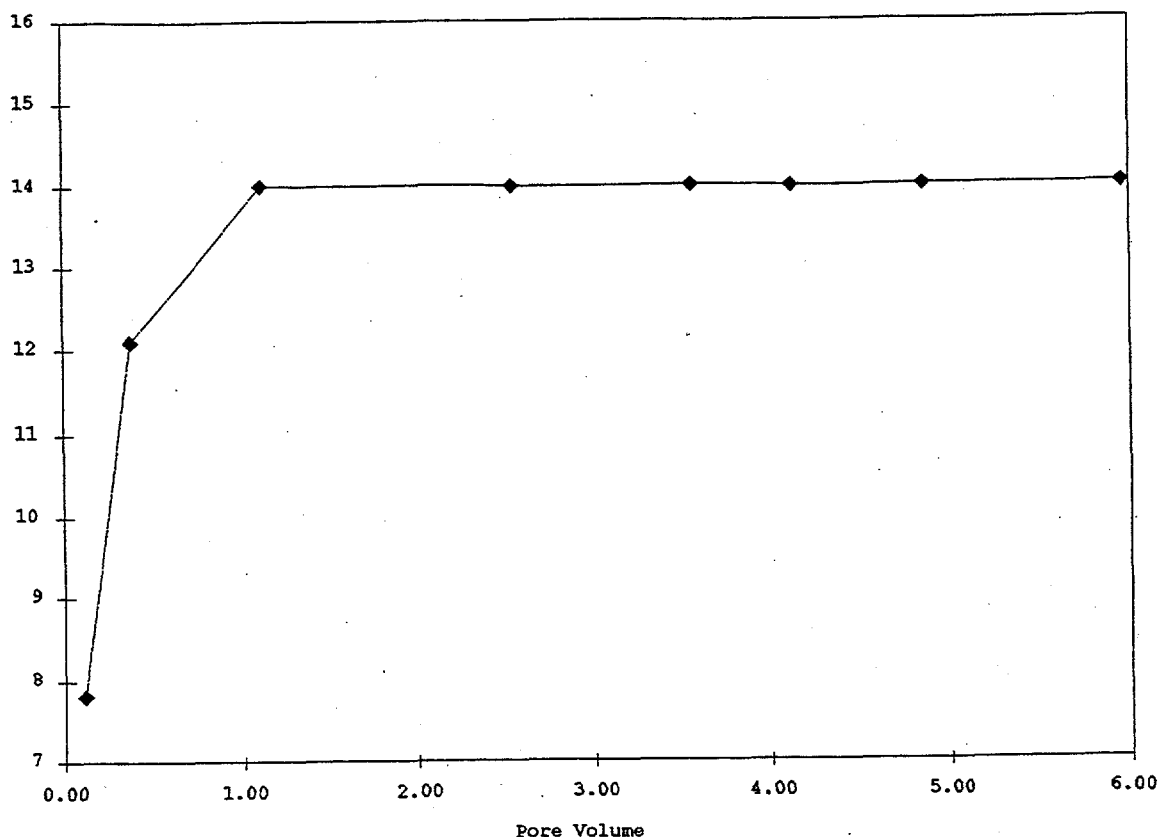


Fig. 5.3 pH in Effluent from Sediment Column vs. Pore Volume

solubility of amorphous silica and aluminum compounds are quite high at pH values above 12. In contrast aluminosilicate phases such as feldspars, and clays which make up a fair proportion of the sediment are much more resistant to dissolution under caustic (high pH) conditions. Should the waste liquors have free hydroxide concentrations above 10^{-2} M then sediment matrix dissolution for silicates and pure aluminum phases may become significant.

Both silica (SiO_2) and Al compounds also show increased solubility as temperature is increased. Seeing as the tank liquors, especially from self-boiling REDOX tanks, are elevated the matrix dissolution process may be enhanced directly around the tanks. The dissolution of the sediment matrix consumes the free hydroxide so that the pH effect will likely be localized. The unique characteristics of the REDOX waste does warrant some attention, seeing as it may contain the highest concentration of free hydroxide and is among the hottest (temperature) of the wastes placed in Hanford SST tanks.

It should be mentioned that none of the flow-through column laboratory work performed on actual or simulated bismuth phosphate waste discussed any unusual loss of sediment mass through dissolution or sediment plugging because of dissolution and re-precipitation of amorphous gel-like material farther down the column as the pH drops. Because no work has

been performed on REDOX waste streams or at elevated temperatures expected in the sediments in the vicinity of the buried tanks, past observations do not adequately address the matrix dissolution issue. We recommend that some laboratory testing be performed to better evaluate this issue. Should matrix dissolution in the very near field around the tanks be important, especially for REDOX waste bearing tanks such as SX Tanks, the migration of Cs (and other contaminants thought to interact with sediments) might be expected to increase. At some point away from the tanks, the tank leak liquor would be expected to be "neutralized" by the sediment's large buffering capacity to consume free hydroxide during the dissolution process and one should see a re-precipitation of the silica and aluminum to form amorphous coatings/gel that could lower permeability as well as coprecipitate (physically trap) or adsorb other soluble components such as Cs.

There does not appear to be any indication that matrix dissolution products (high Si, Al and pH) have reached the groundwater below SX tanks and further one might expect that massive dissolution would manifest itself in the near vicinity of the tanks as more porous material with perhaps copious gel-like coatings. It is possible that the high ^{137}Cs found in several SX Tank Farm boreholes at the 75 foot level is an indication of how far the matrix dissolution impact has reached. This would imply a zone of reaction of about 20-25 feet below the tank bottoms. Following is a description of some scouting tests that we recently performed to address the dissolution issue.

Some simple weight-loss experiments were performed at three temperatures to see if the REDOX solution would dissolve measurable quantities of sediment. One gram of the MSG-1 sediment was placed in a centrifuge tube and 10 ml of the supernate solution with the chemical composition shown in Table 5.2 was added. Duplicate tests (labeled A and B in Table 5.6) were performed at 32, 50 and 83°C. The test containers were placed in ovens at the appropriate temperatures for ~40 hours. After contact the sediment was rinsed onto filter paper, washed generously with deionized water at the temperature of the test and then the filters with captured solids were oven dried overnight. The final weight of dried solids was compared with the starting weight. The results as a percent weight loss (-) or gain (+) are shown in Table 5.6. The initial solution pH was > 14 but after contact all solutions had pH values of 12.0 ± 0.05 . The captured solids on the filter papers also showed the presence of white precipitate that was apparently a reaction product. As shown in Table 5.6 there was no consistent weight loss that would suggest that the highly alkaline solution was dissolving significant amounts of the sediment. Conversely it appears that the reaction may actually increase the sediment's weight by precipitation of the whitish material that is undoubtedly Al containing phases. The weight gain is especially evident at the higher temperature. It appears that Al compounds precipitate as the temperature is raised. This is consistent with the first flow-through column test where enough of the white precipitate formed within the influent reservoir to cause plugging of the pump and column before reaction with the sediment occurred. This increased precipitation at higher temperature is the opposite trend expected based on the known solubilities of Si and Al compounds, which increase as temperature increases. Our observed increased precipitation at the higher temperature may be caused by

kinetics and the simulated tank liquor interactions with the sediment not being near equilibrium in our short laboratory tests.

Additional weight measurements of reacted sediment from the second flow through column test are available. The total weight of solids following solution contact was greater than the initial sediment weight prior to solution contact. This is consistent with the results of the simple dissolution tests described herein. While there was no visible increase in packed sediment volume in the column and no visually apparent change in nature of the solid material in the column upon being dissected, the weight increase (35.5 g at end and 31.5 g at the start) was measurable. Some of the weight gain likely is evaporated salt from the solution left in the column at the end of the flow through test.

The lack of significant sediment dissolution is consistent with an unpublished manuscript entitled "Hanford Defense Waste Stabilization: Single Shell (TY) Tank Waste/Basalt Dome-Fill Chemical Interaction Studies" authored by R. D. Scheele, F. N. Hodges and S. G. McKinley in October 1986. In this study the interaction of basalt with simulated single-shell waste slurry (solids and liquid) was studied in both short-term and long-term tests. The short term tests were carried out over a few days at temperatures up to 250°C while the long-term tests were carried out at temperatures up to 100°C for times up to 280 days. Using thermoanalytical tools such as TG (thermogravimetric weight loss) and DSC (differential scanning calorimetric analyses of changes in enthalpy), the short term studies showed no signs of significant interaction. The long-term tests did show some dissolution of the glassy portion of the basalt rock. The plagioclase and pyroxenes were affected to lesser degrees. At most the 100°C long term test data allowed the authors to conclude that 5% of the basalt would dissolve in one year but some of the loss represents spalling of fine grains loosened by

Table 5.6 Net Weight Change in Sediment/Rxn Product Solids After Contacting REDOX Solution

Temperature (°C)	Weight Change (%)
32 (°C) -A	-3.4
32 (°C) -B	0.6
50 (°C) -A	-9.8
50 (°C) -B	3.7
83 (°C) -A	6.5
83 (°C) -B	6.7

dissolution of the glass matrix that "glues" minerals together. The net loss of material is significantly less at lower temperatures. Bismuth phosphate waste was slightly more aggressive (dissolved more basalt glassy phase) than REDOX waste in their studies. The authors clearly point out using SEM techniques that a simple weight loss or gain is not indicative of all the chemical reactions that are occurring when highly alkaline SST wastes contact rocks (and by inference sediments). The weight loss or gain is the net result of dissolution and re-precipitation reactions that occur.

5.5. Comments

These preliminary tests have not been successful at bounding the probable fate of Sr and Cs radionuclides in REDOX waste tanks in the SX Tank Farm. It appears that the historical data on supernate compositions may not be accurate, despite the good cation-anion balance reported. The very high Al, Na, and nitrate contents measured in the past were not sustained in our simulated tank liquor as shown by the analyses in Table 5.2. The Al especially seems to remain reactive with time and elevated temperatures resulting in the precipitation of very fine grained (high surface area) material that has been identified as bayerite, an Al hydroxide. The measurement of the adsorption properties of Sr and Cs from the evolving REDOX solution is difficult. Sr is not soluble in the REDOX solution as long as Al precipitation is occurring. The literature review and past analytical measurements of tank waste phases also supports this conclusion. Cs is essentially soluble but upon contact with sediment and further precipitation of Al bearing material there appears to be a higher than expected sorption (K_d). The flow-through column Cs adsorption data corroborates the batch K_d tests. It is clear that more resources and testing would be needed to better interpret the fate of cesium, strontium and other contaminants present in tank liquors. More detailed and complete solution and solid (both sediment and reaction products) characterization using techniques such as inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry [ICP-MS], scanning electron microscopy [SEM-EDS], x-ray diffraction [XRD], high resolution transmission electron microscopy [HRTEM] and atomic force microscopy [AFM] would be needed to help interpret the complicated reactions. The observed K_d for ^{137}Cs is in the range of 20 to 60 ml/g dependent on whether the solution is filtered or only gravity settled. This range in Cs K_d values is much larger than expected and appears to disagree with the values necessary to get the results of transport predictions to mimic field measurements of Cs in vadose zone sediments underlying the SX Tank Farm (see Ward et al. 1997). The very high caustic REDOX solution does not appear to promote significant dissolution of the sediment in preliminary laboratory tests, but the possibility of significant dissolution with simultaneous reprecipitation of other phases is still possible. That is, there does not appear to be large losses of mass in the sediment matrix but perhaps the mineral composition changes dramatically. It seems certain that the high Al content in the REDOX solution does react with soil to precipitate Al hydroxide phase(s) and perhaps Al oxide phases which perhaps lead to net mass accumulation as opposed to net mass loss in the sediment matrix.

More experimental research is needed to identify how the sorption chemistry of Cs on Hanford

sediments may change after contact with solutions characteristic of REDOX tank wastes. Our central hypothesis is that the high ionic-strength conditions of the REDOX wastes (i.e., > 5 mol/L NaNO_3) will suppress all surface-exchange reactions of Cs, except those to the highly selective frayed edge sites (FES) of the micaceous fraction. We further speculate that the concentrations, ion selectivity, and structural aspects of the FES will change after contact with the harsh chemical conditions of tank liquors and these changes will be manifest in the macroscopic sorption behavior of Cs. We believe that migration predictions of Cs can be improved substantially if such changes are understood and quantified. The research should focus on the aqueous chemical system $\text{Cs-Na-K-NH}_4\text{-Al-OH-NO}_3$ at concentration ranges relevant to our best estimate of those present in REDOX tank waste discharges (see Section 3). These solutes represent major electrolytes (NaNO_3), constituents with high potential subsurface reactivity (Al , OH), and Cs-sorption competitors (K^+ , NH_4^+) in the waste supernatant.

The research of Francis and Brinkley (1976), Elprince et al. (1977) and others leads us to surmise that the micaceous fraction (e.g., biotite, illite and vermiculite) and their associated FES will be the primary determinant of Cs sorption in the Hanford subsurface sediments. This speculation, and the nature of the Cs sorbing phase in the Hanford sediments needs to be verified.

Studies should focus on the FES, a challenging yet necessary decision as these sites are a subset of the sorbing-site population and are present in relatively low concentration (e.g., < 0.5 mmol/g). We have identified in Section 2 techniques to isolate the reactivity of these sites at the macroscopic scale, and to visualize them at the microscopic and molecular scale (0.1 - 2.0 nm). Two scientific studies (Le Roux et al. 1970 and De Preter et al. 1991) provide noteworthy precedence and guiding concepts for future research.

Future research should integrate studies of ion-exchange thermodynamics for the FES (other sites blocked with appropriate ions or sorbates), with high resolution surface microscopies and spectroscopy to probe the structure of FES in Hanford sediments and to describe how the chemical environment of sorbed Cs changes when tank liquors promote silica dissolution and aluminum precipitation. Newly available atomic-force microscopies and improved high-resolution electron-beam microscopies afford previously unavailable opportunities to visualize and characterize FES. Specifically, such research would:

- Identify how the macroscopic sorption behavior of Cs on the micaceous fraction of the Hanford and Ringold sediments changes after contact with simulants of REDOX tank supernatants over a range of relevant chemical ($[\text{OH}]$, $[\text{Na}]$, $[\text{Al}]$, $[\text{K}]$, $[\text{NH}_4]$) and temperature conditions ($23^\circ - 80^\circ\text{C}$).
- Reconcile observed changes in sorption chemistry with microscopic and molecular changes in adsorption-site distribution (with emphasis on FES), chemistry, mineralogy, and morphology/structure of the micaceous sorbent fraction.

- Integrate mass-action-solution-exchange measurements with changes in the structure/site distribution of the micaceous-sorbent fraction to yield a multi-component/site-exchange model relevant to high ionic strength and hydroxyl concentrations for prediction of environmental Cs sorption.

6.0 FIELD OBSERVATIONS OF CS MIGRATION UNDERNEATH HANFORD DISPOSAL FACILITIES

6.1 Studies of Past Tank Leaks-Cs Data

6.1.1 SX-108 and SX-115

In 1966 Raymond and Shdo (1966) reported on a field study to determine the extent of leaking that occurred under two SX tanks. For SX-108 gross gamma logs of the laterals placed about ten feet below the tank were used to guide the drilling of five additional wells around the northwest quadrant of the tank to a depth of 65 to 75 feet dependent upon the well. The wells were drilled by drive barrel (either 2-1/4- or 5- inch OD pipe) that allowed sediment to be obtained as a function of depth. The new wells were placed anywhere from 2 to 12 feet from the edge of the tank as estimated by figures in the report. Their report also notes seven existing wells that may be the dry wells recently logged by Rust Geotechnical, although no Hanford well designations appear in the text or figures to verify this possibility. Based on gamma measurements of sediment retrieved from the boreholes at one-foot intervals (at least between 55 and 75 feet), the authors conclude that SX-108 tank had two thin zones of contamination in the northwest quadrant of the tank. The first zone was about 55 feet below ground surface and was about two feet thick and the second zone occurred at the 60-foot level and was one foot thick. The shallower zone was only slightly larger in area than the deeper zone. The waste appeared to leak and migrate in a southerly direction from the tank wall. ^{137}Cs activities in the sediment ranged from 2 pCi/g up to 10^{+8} pCi/g dependent upon location and distance from the tank wall and depth. The highest concentrations observed ($\sim 10^{+8}$ pCi/g) would represent filling the available pores in sediment to one-third moisture saturation if there was no Cs adsorption onto sediments prior to the leaked liquid reaching the location of the sediment in the new boreholes. Thus the sediment either wets to one-third saturation ($\sim 10\%$ by volume) or alternatively the sediment was saturated with tank liquid but up to two-thirds of its activity had been removed by sediments closer to the tank through adsorption reactions. Based on the contour maps developed for the two depths and knowledge of the Cs activity in the leaking solution, the authors estimate that 2400 gallons of liquid leaked from SX-108. This assumes that most of the Cs was not adsorbed directly under the tank or very near the tank wall where samples could not be obtained. Cesium was the only long-lived radioisotope detected but there is brief mention that ^{106}Ru was also present that spread slightly farther than the Cs at the same depths and locations. Based on the relatively low count rates in the uncalibrated laterals data, the authors suggest that the tank leak has not substantially penetrated the full 10 to 12 feet between the tank bottom and the laterals. The authors suggest that the leak was first detected in August 1964 although the tank had been filled previously in 1955 and again in 1963. The document does not state the dates that the new boreholes were emplaced but the date must have been between August 1964 and June 1966. The tank supernate was sampled Dec. 15, 1965 and the results are shown in Table 3.4. If the tank bottom is about 51.5 feet below ground surface (the nominal depth for any SX tank as cited in DOE (1996), then the leaked liquid had

migrated between 3.5 and 8.5 feet in the vertical direction in a time period of perhaps less than a year to about two years.

For SX-115 ten new wells were drilled in all quadrants around the tank to total depths from 68 to 75 feet at distances from 2 to 12 feet from the tank wall using the same techniques as discussed for SX-108. Gross gamma data from the laterals below SX-115 suggested a larger aerial extent for the leak or several leaks such that the new wells were spaced to cover the whole tank circumference. The figures in the report also show eight pre-existing wells, seven perhaps being dry wells recently logged by Rust Geotechnical [DOE 1996] and one designated W23-70 implying a groundwater monitoring well about seven feet beyond the southwest quadrant tank wall. The leak at SX-115 was found to be more complicated than the one below SX-108 and the authors suggest three separate zones in the tank bottom may have acted as small sources. The leak from SX-115 occurred between February 24 and March 3, 1965 based on liquid level drops and activity measurements in the laterals under the tank. Only four of the new wells produced contaminated sediment that could be used to estimate the extent of the leak(s). Only two of the new wells contained sediment with ^{137}Cs activities above 10^{+7} pCi/g. The highest activity measured was again $\sim 10^{+8}$ pCi/g in six sediment samples (representing a 4-foot thick zone) from one well close to the tank wall. From these data and three other wells with much lower activities in the southwest quadrant of the tank, the first zone of contamination was delineated. Zone One was estimated to be a four-foot thick layer between 58 and 62 feet below the surface at about the "8- o'clock position" near the tank wall. A second zone of contamination was estimated to be a 2-foot region (between 60 and 62 feet below ground surface) at the "3- o'clock position" under the tank bottom. The third zone of contamination was at about the "12- o'clock position" under the tank bottom that had no extension outside the tank walls excepting a very low concentration in a new well placed within a few feet of the tank wall at the "12- o'clock position". Based on simple assumptions, the authors estimated that the total leak volume for the three zones was 31,000 gallons. Independent estimates based on changes in tank liquid levels suggested 50,000 gallons leaked. The simple assumptions that Raymond and Shdo used should underestimate the leak volume if significant amounts of ^{137}Cs binds to the sediment in the very near vicinity of the tank walls and sediment directly below the tank bottom.

Because the supernate solution in SX-115 contained about an order of magnitude less ^{137}Cs activity than the supernate in SX-108 one might expect that the highest levels detected in sediment around SX-115 should be lower than sediment around SX-108. The highest activity in sediments very near the tank walls for both tanks were similar and the authors suggest that the most contaminated sediment obtained in the southwest quadrant of SX-115 would need to adsorb all the Cs out of 3.4 pore volumes of supernate liquid to reach the observed 10^{+8} pCi/g in the sediment. Thus for this tank with lower concentrations of Cs in the leaking liquid adsorption must be invoked to obtain activities as large as observed. In other words, if the Cs present in the sample was simply material that dried in the pores upon sample drying (to perform the analysis) then the activities observed could not reach the levels measured. The porosity of the sediment could not hold enough liquid to reach such observed levels. The

authors state several times in their report that the Cs appears to exist in a narrow band directly below the tanks and out in a narrow region projected vertically from the tank walls at depths below the tank bottoms. The authors suggest that the Cs in the sediment poses little or no risk of contaminating the groundwater.

6.1.2 BX-102

Womack and Larkin (1971) describe a field study around Tank BX-102 to determine the extent of leakage after the tank was suspected of being a leaker. Tank BX-102 was constructed in 1946 and filled for the first time in June 1948 with bismuth phosphate metal waste and later U recovery waste. Since 1954 through 1970 the tank was utilized intermittently for storage of non-boiling waste. The level of liquid waste in the tank was held static from 1957 through mid 1962 at the minimum level of 22 inches (pump heel that can't be removed). From mid 1962 through 1968 the tank was filled to maximum capacity. The 1971 investigation suggested that the carbon steel liner failed at the 22 inch level during the 1957-1962 time period. In January 1972 about 95 tons of diatomaceous earth was added to absorb any remaining liquid. Brevick et al. (1994) estimate that the leak was 70,000 gallons.

Because there was spillage (from pipes/flanges or connectors) between Tanks BX-102 and BX-103 in 1951 of 30,000 to 90,000 gallons of first cycle [Bi-phosphate] process waste, dry wells around tank BX-102 always showed high readings and since there was no observable drop in the liquid level within the tank, it was not suspected to be a leaker between 1959-1969. Between 1963 and 1968 the dry well reading remained off-scale at > 1 million cpm. Starting in 1969 the scintillation readings decreased rapidly until October, when they again rose above the probe's saturation value. This corresponded with the time that the tank was returned to active operations. In May 1970 the tank was pumped out to the minimum heel (22 in.) and taken out of service.

In 1970, 19 new dry wells were drilled to determine the extent of the leak. Scintillation probe values dropped to less than 1/3 of the values observed in October 1969. A neutron probe was used in May 1970 in each dry well to determine the relative moisture content in all the wells as a function of depth. The high moisture contents corresponded with the high scintillation readings. One dry well (#27) was drilled all the way to the water table in July 1970 and soil samples were collected at one-foot intervals and analyzed for ^{137}Cs . The field geology logs showed that the sediment 40 to 70 feet deep (from tank bottom to 70 feet) was sand. The sediment from 70 to 120 feet was coarse sand and silt; while sediment from 120 to 150 feet was sand. The sediment from 150 to 175 feet was again coarse sand and silt. The sediment from 175 to the water table (at 210 feet) was sand and gravel. The highest ^{137}Cs activities were right at the tank bottom (at 40 feet) with the sediment having 60 to 100 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ as measured in borehole E-33-27.

Two very narrow peak activities were also observed at 58 and 65 foot depths each measuring 50 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$. These peaks were attributed to either contamination from above or thin lenses of

finer material (stringers) with higher exchange capacity within the Hanford Fine formation. There was smaller amounts of activity, 0.04 to 0.3 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$, perhaps at the interface of the Plio-Pleistocene- Upper Ringold contact where silty-sand overlies clayey sand and sandy silt around 120 feet deep. This assumes that the geology under the BX Tank Farm is very similar to that under the TX tank farm for which detailed geologic data are known (see Freeman-Pollard et al. 1994.) Beyond 120 feet there was no ^{137}Cs detected above a small value of 0.02 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$.

^{137}Cs was also detected in the groundwater (well 299E-33-27) below and near Tank BX-102 in Jan 1971 at concentrations of 9,200 pCi/l but 8 other wells in the vicinity of BX tank farm showed less than 100 pCi/l (~detection limit in those days). The Atomic Energy Commission control limit in 1971 was 20,000 pCi/l so no issue was made about the well 299E-33-27 measurement. Further, the source of the ^{137}Cs in the groundwater was believed to be from B-cribs or other disposal sites in the area. Breakthrough of ^{137}Cs from the B-cribs was observed in 1957-1959 and at that time the cribs were taken out of service. The Jan. 1971 finding of ^{137}Cs in well 299E-33-27 was then attributed to contamination while drilling through the contaminated sediments up above at the depth of the tank bottom rather than from the B-cribs.

The chemical content of the tank heel liquid in the first quarter of 1970 is shown in Table 6.1.

Based on the scintillation and neutron probe results in the 19 new and one old dry well, a

Table 6.1. Chemical Composition of Liquid Waste in Tank BX-102

Constituent	Value
Na	3.07 M
OH	1.16 M
pH	12.6
specific gravity	1.03 (g/ml)
^{137}Cs (three measurements over time)	0.12 to 0.73 Ci/gal.
Cs-134(two measurements over time)	6.5 to 23 mCi/gal.
Sb-125	2.1 mCi/gal.
Co-60	0.3 mCi/gal
RuRh-106	4.4 mCi/gal.
ZrNb-95	2.8 mCi/gal.
Sr-90	0.16 mCi/gal.

contamination pattern was developed and it was estimated that 31,000 ft³ of sediment was wetted by the tank leak. The leak generated plume was estimated to have reached 100 feet east of the tank at a depth of 75 ft from ground surface (35 feet from the tank bottom). Based on a soil porosity of 30% by volume, the tank leaked 70,000 gallons and released 51,000 curies of ¹³⁷Cs; yet liquid level measurements in the tank do not show evidence of a leak.

One interesting field observation showed a higher than expected ¹³⁷Cs activity (based on scintillation probe data from the 1970 logging) in one old dry well (#61) constructed in 1947 at the 70-foot level. The authors suggest that a deposit on the well casing had entrapped radionuclides from the liquid and created a casing hot spot that is not supported by the activity in the surrounding soil. To test this hypothesis the well casing was raised ten feet and another scintillation profile taken, followed by lowering the casing to its original depth with yet another profile taken. The results of the three profiles showed that the hot spot moved along with the casing and thus the authors suspicion was confirmed.

6.1.3 T-106

On June 8, 1973 Tank T-106 was confirmed as a leaker (Atlantic Richfield 1973). Monitoring via surrounding dry wells showed the deepest penetration of liquid was 87 feet (27 m) below the surface which is still 116 feet (35 m) above the water table. The operating contractor estimated that 115,000 (435 m³) gallons of liquid containing 40,000 curies of ¹³⁷Cs and over 280,000 curies of other isotopes (mostly short-lived) had leaked out of the tank into the sediment. The estimates were based on drilling 16 new wells around the tank and using the 1μCi/l Ru-106 isopleth to estimate the contaminated zone based on gamma logging the boreholes after completion and actual sediment analyses from material from the new boreholes. Four wells drilled southeast of the tank showed the highest gamma readings. Interestingly the well drilling also encountered a leak from a transfer line that brought waste to the tank. This leak (nearer to Tank T-103) was estimated to be 5 m³, which affected 1700 m³ of sediment compared to the T-106 leak which affected 25,000 m³ of sediment. The furthest vertical depth that this transfer line leak reached was 25 m below ground surface quite similar to the tank leak itself. Two additional reports updated the status of the leak as of May 1978, Routson et al. (1979,1980). These reports note that an additional 17 dry wells were drilled to further delineate the leaking plume's extent. Between 1973 and 1978 the 1μCi/l Ru-106 isopleth had moved down from 87 feet (27 m) to 108 feet (33 m). This is still 29 m above the water table. In May 1978 the furthest horizontal movement of the 1μCi/l Ru-106 isopleth was 75 feet (23 m) at a depth of 82 feet (25 m) from the ground surface. This horizontal spreading is equivalent to one tank diameter.

Prior to discovering the leak there were 5 groundwater monitoring wells and seven dry wells in the vicinity of the T Tank Farm. The dry wells penetrated down to 46 meters. The 16 new wells allowed a detailed cross section of the underlying geologic strata to be developed based on driller logs and samples taken every 1.5 m. From the surface down to 12 meters (the tank

excavation bottom) well mixed backfill is found. From 12 down to 25 meters the natural sediment is very coarse grained. Below this layer is a 3-m thick wind-blown silt. Below this zone (~27 to 33 meters below ground) is a caliche cemented sediment. Below the caliche layer is older Ringold sediments with diverse particle size ranges. The ground water table is 62 m below ground surface. The 1973 gamma logs showed that ^{137}Cs moved only small distances (< 10 m in lateral extent and vertical extent) from the SE corner of T-106's bottom.

According to Routson et al. (1979,1980) even though the leak was thought to be the largest single accidental release in AEC/DOE's operational history up to 1973, the volume released (115,000 gal) was still less than the "specific retention" volume often used to determine when to quit disposing liquid to a crib. The specific retention concept relies upon the fact that the Hanford sediments are relatively dry and can absorb liquid without allowing it to drain at significant rates until it reaches field capacity when drainage is quite noticeable. Past Hanford work suggests that one can wet the sediment to 10% by volume and not see appreciable drainage. Routson et al. (1979,1980) reasoned that the "specific retention" volume under Tank T-106 from the tank bottom to the water table projecting the cross section straight down is 480,000 gallons, thus if the leak was isolated to the tank footprint it would represent only 24% of the allowable specific retention volume. In reality the leak was observed to spread beyond the footprint of the tank which would imply that the leaked liquid would penetrate even smaller depths below the tank. However, two facts do not appear to have been considered in any of the early specific retention calculations. First the actual tank leak appears to have been localized to one quadrant of the tank bottom and thus the whole footprint below the tank likely was not absorbing the liquid (see Freeman-Pollard et al. 1994 for more discussion). The second fact is specific retention calculations presented by Routson et al. (1979,1980) do not consider the existence of optimal natural recharge and enhanced recharge around the edges of the tanks caused by the tank domes that can continue to add liquid to the sediment impacted by the leak and thus push the tank liquor deeper in the vadose zone profile. Some discussion of recharge and tank influences on the amount and location of recharge percolation into the vadose zone sediments is found in Ward et al. (1997). For the reasons just mentioned, we caution the reader that simple "specific retention" calculations may be misleading regarding the depth of penetration of liquid from tanks that have released significant volumes of tank liquor. Specific retention calculations are more appropriately used to discuss planned liquid discharges such as those to cribs, drains, and trenches as opposed to tank leaks.

Routson et al. (1979,1980) state that gamma logging various dry wells since 1974 show only isolated evidence that lateral movement of the leaking plume has occurred. At least one of the indications of lateral movement was later attributed to rapid snow melt flooding in the winter of 1977-78 that put relatively contaminated surface water down the casing and into the dry bore hole at depth. In fact the lateral extent of the plume as delineated by the Ru-106 isopleth has been shrinking back towards the tank because Ru is decaying faster than the liquid is migrating. In 1978 the migration of Cs from the tank had increased a bit in the vertical direction but very little in the horizontal direction over the estimated plume in 1973. The Cs migration deeper into the profile occurs at only one borehole (#111) which might bear further

analysis to be sure there has not been inadvertent casing contamination. Groundwater analyses for four wells in the environs of the T-106 leak continued and there was no indication that any tank liquor had influenced the groundwater chemistry below the T-Tank farm. Wells that were monitored were 299-W10-1, 299-W10-4, 299-W 11-9, and 299-W11-24. For predictive transport calculations on the migration of radionuclides from the plume liquid Routson et al. (1979) used a Kd range for Cs of 7.1 to 12 ml/g for the T-106 liquor chemistry contacting Hanford sediments.

In early 1993, a limited vadose zone field investigation was performed within the T-106 tank leak zone. A telescoped cased borehole [Well 299-W10-196] was drilled to a depth of 54.5 m (179.6 ft). A total of 43 split-spoon sediment samples were taken and analyzed for numerous chemicals and radionuclides. In addition spectral gamma logging was performed eight times within the borehole using 80 second count times and 0.5 ft depth increments. The results are summarized herein but the reader is referred to Freeman-Pollard et al. (1994) for details and numerous excellent figures of contaminant profile versus depth.

Gross alpha, individual nuclides (Pu, Am, Np) show similar depth profiles. The bulk of these contaminants is found in the sediment at the bottom of the tank (between 11 and 12 m depth) to a depth of 20 m. Below 20 m the activities of these constituents drop off by several orders of magnitude and essentially reach the background or detection limit level. For the gross alpha and Pu profiles there are small peaks (two orders of magnitude smaller in activity) at 30 m depth. There is no measurable Np or Am at these deeper depths.

Gross beta profiles also show the bulk of the activity is present at the tank bottom (11 to 12 m) with an activity of $\sim 10^{+6}$ pCi/g with activity dropping off to 100 pCi/g at 27 m. Below this depth there are two distinct smaller peaks ($\sim 10^{+3}$ pCi/g) at 30 and 35 m (98 and 115 ft). Qualitatively the ^{137}Cs activity profile is similar to the gross beta profile but the values at the lower depths (30 and 35 m) are not above the quantification limit for Cs and should be considered only qualitative. The peak ^{137}Cs activity is found at 14 m or at most 3 m (10 ft) below the bottom of the tank. Other beta emitters (^{60}Co , ^{90}Sr and ^{99}Tc) were also measured. The Sr data are very similar to the Cs data with the peak found at 12 to 14 meters depth and a large (three orders of magnitude) decrease by 20 meters depth. There are two Sr data points at 28-30 m depth near the contact between Hanford sediments and the underlying older Plio-Pleistocene contact that define a small secondary peak. The cobalt data differ from the Cs and Sr data in that the high activity plume stretches from the tank bottom all the way to 35 m depth which is about the bottom of the Plio-Pleistocene contact with Upper Ringold sediment. The Tc data show that it is the most mobile of the radionuclides studied. Measurable Tc is found from the tank bottom all the way to ~ 47 m depth. The Tc concentration peaks at about 35 to 38 m depth.

The profiles for stable chemicals including N from nitrate and nitrite, sodium, and overall moisture content are also reported. The N and moisture content profiles are very similar to the Tc profile and suggest that these two components may be water coincident (i.e. exhibit

essentially no adsorption and thus travel with the water). Sodium does not move as fast and shows a main peak from the tank bottom at 11-12 m down to 20 m and another peak at 30 to 32 m in the Plio-Pleistocene sediment. Ion exchange reactions are likely keeping the Na from being water coincident.

Total uranium was also measured and its profile is not similar to any of the others. There is one large peak and three smaller peaks in the profile, although in three of the four cases the peak is defined by only one data point. If the data are accurate and if the peaks represent U from the tank as opposed to natural U variations in the sediment from mineralogical changes, the bulk of the tank U has reached a depth of 25 m but some has reached 50 m depth.

The new data for T-106 suggest that mobile contaminants such as Tc, and nitrate/nitrite have travelled with the leaking solution. Based on these "tracers" and moisture content for this one borehole placed where the leak was projected to be maximal, the T-106 solution has reached a depth of 37 to 40 m or a maximum of 29 m (95 ft) below the tank bottom. Obviously, one borehole does not assure that no deeper contamination may have occurred through preferred channeling at another location. Uranium, cobalt, sodium, and gross beta are somewhat less mobile and may have traveled (based on the penetration of their major peaks and not minor peaks) to 25, 35, 30, and 30 m, respectively or between 5 and 19 m (16 and 62 ft) below the tank bottom. ^{90}Sr has reached a depth of 20 m [30 ft below the tank bottom] and ^{137}Cs has reached only 14 m [10 ft below the tank bottom]. Pu has a profile most similar to Cs for the major Pu peak. There are several profiles including the gross beta, ^{90}Sr , Pu, gross alpha(perhaps), and U that show secondary smaller peaks down at the contacts of the Plio-Pleistocene with the younger Hanford and older Ringold sediments. How one factors these smaller peaks into the description of contaminant mobility is left to the reader. The contacts between sediment could act as zones where horizontal spreading is increased and zones where finer grained more adsorptive particles may reside.

In summary, the three extensive field studies of past tank leaks support the conceptual model that Cs is not as mobile as other contaminants and does not appear to migrate tens of meters from the tank bottoms over the time periods of a few years to up to about 30 years after suspected leak events. As mentioned in the past section, the REDOX metal or fission product bearing-waste composition found in SX tanks varies significantly from the bismuth phosphate-type wastes that were in tanks BX-102 and the combined bismuth phosphate and REDOX cladding wastes present in T-106 at the time of their leaks, such that it may not be useful to compare Cs behavior between SX tank farms with these two field studies of leaks. On the other hand Raymond and Shdo (1966) did study two leaks from the SX tank farm approximately two years after the suspected leaks and their data show migration of only a few meters over this period.

6.2 Cs Migration Underneath Various Liquid Disposal Facilities

Smith and Kasper (1983) discuss field measurements on the distribution of radionuclides

beneath cribs 216-A-8 , 216-A-10, 216-A-30, 216-A-36B, 216-A-37-1, and 216-U-12.

For 216-A-36B, in which high ammonia containing waste was disposed, the desorption Kd for Cs was 5.7 ml/g.

Crib 216-A-8 received low-salt liquid waste and condensates from self-boiling tanks. Volatile organics also reached the crib as evidenced by an organic-rich layer (~3-m thick) below the crib bottom. The crib had received 1.2 billion liters of liquid waste by the end of 1980 that contained 642 curies of ^{137}Cs (decayed to 1-1-81). The ^{137}Cs inventory disposed all resided within the upper 2 meters of soil beneath the crib bottom. The peak ^{137}Cs activity was 90,000 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ soil.

Crib 216-A-10 received acidic (pH~2) high-salt wastes from the PUREX process. The crib had received 2.9 billion liters of liquid waste by the end of 1980. The total ^{137}Cs inventory disposed (decayed to 1-1-81) was 98 curies. Organics apparently were also disposed and have plugged the soil below the crib bottom for a distance of 4 m. A distinct ^{137}Cs band with a concentration of 3,000 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ is found from the crib bottom to a depth of 13 more meters. The saturated paste pH of the sediments between 0 and 5 m below crib bottom is 4 which shows that the acid has significantly altered the soil to this depth.

Crib 216-A-30 received steam condensate and floor drainage from equipment cleaning. These liquids all were low salt and neutral pH solutions. 4.3 billion liters of liquid with a total ^{137}Cs inventory (decayed to 1-1-81) of 140 curies was disposed. All the ^{137}Cs was found to reside in the sediment within 2.3 m of the crib bottom.

Crib 216-A-36B received ammonia scrubber wastes (high salt, basic pH). A total of 94 million liters of liquid with a total inventory of 431 curies of ^{137}Cs (decayed to 1-1-81) was disposed in the crib. Core samples show that ^{137}Cs has migrated 14 m below the bottom of the crib. Because the bulk of the Cs had been disposed only four years earlier than the sampling the Cs migration rate can be estimated as 3.5 m/yr during active crib disposal. Desorption Kd values for ^{137}Cs , calculated by leaching contaminated sediment with groundwater, averaged 26 ml/g. Smith and Kasper (1983) warn that further disposal of ammonia-rich liquid (0.3 M NH_4OH) could lower the ^{137}Cs desorption Kd to 3 ml/g.

Crib 216-U-12 received stack drainage from 291-U-1, process condensate from 224-U building and in 1965 a one-time slug of contaminated water (highly acidic) from 244-WR vault. A total of 130 million liters of liquid were discharged to the crib with a total inventory of ^{137}Cs <0.07 curies (decayed to 1-1-81). In 1980 cores through the crib bottom showed a distinct ^{137}Cs plume from the crib bottom to 7.7 m deeper in the profile. The maximum concentration of ^{137}Cs was 0.020 $\mu\text{Ci/g}$. The sediment below the crib was significantly impacted by the acidic waste disposal in 1965 and showed a saturated paste pH value of 3.9 for sediment 6.7 m directly below the crib bottom and a value of 6.1 for sediment 33.2 m below the crib bottom.

Van Luik and Smith (1982) report on borehole scintillation and gamma spectroscopy logging

of boreholes in and around cribs 216-S-1 and 216-S-2. Active liquid discharges (a high salt acidic waste, pH ~ 2.1) to these two cribs ended in 1956 with about 160 million liters disposed in the combined facility. The total inventory of ^{137}Cs (decayed to 1-1-81) is 1,400 curies. Borehole logs from 1959, 1967, and 1980 showed that little movement of ^{137}Cs occurred with most of the ^{137}Cs found within 10 m of the crib bottoms. The sediment ^{137}Cs peak concentration in 1980 was $2\ \mu\text{Ci/g}$. Sediments deeper than 10 m below the crib bottom show ^{137}Cs activities $<0.01\ \mu\text{Ci/g}$. The authors estimate that the in-situ K_d for ^{137}Cs is 300 ml/g. During a monitor well deepening effort in June 1955, liquid waste flooded the well casing and reached the water table. At various times in the ensuing years detectable ^{90}Sr , ^{137}Cs and tritium were found in the groundwater.

Brown (1967) also studied Cs migration at the S-1 and S-2 cribs. These two facilities with dimensions 12 m wide by 30 m deep with a bottom elevation at 11 m were in service for 4 years (1952 through 1956) and received about 150 million liters of liquid waste with 2,000 curies of ^{137}Cs . In 1956 after the cribs were taken out of service three boreholes in the crib were deepened and six new ones drilled in the vicinity of the facility. Sediment samples were analyzed and the boreholes cased to allow future well logging. In 1966 another five wells were drilled. The data show that 99.9% of the Cs remains bound to sediments below the two cribs within 5 to 10 meters of the bottom. Ten years after the cribs were in operation small amounts of Cs were found at deeper depths apparently adsorbed to lenticular lenses as far down as 46 meters. The estimated ^{137}Cs activities on these deeper sediments is a few nanocuries/gram compared to up to 10 microcuries/g in the sediment right below the crib bottoms. Thus the amount of Cs that migrated is very small and sediment concentrations are four orders of magnitude lower at depth when found at all. The authors feel that the waste may have reached these depths by water channeling down the well casings followed by some horizontal spreading at distinct sediment boundaries. An alternative explanation is that the percolating waters contain very low concentrations of ^{137}Cs that are preferentially adsorbed by select minerals at the observed depth locations based on gamma borehole logging.

Contaminated sediments from beneath the cribs with $\sim 0.5\ \mu\text{Ci/g}$ ^{137}Cs were leached with groundwater and only 15% of the Cs was removed after 550 column volumes (~ 1375 pore volumes) of leaching. For comparison 34% of the ^{90}Sr was leached from the sediments. The leached Cs re-absorbed on clean sediment taken from the underlying water table to yield a K_d value of 300 ml/g.

Neutron probe measurements versus time appeared to show drainage of water from the vadose zone under the cribs to the water table with time. Rates dropped from 1.5 m/yr right after the cribs were taken out of service to 0.5 m/yr seven years after the cribs were taken out of service.

Rhodes (1956) measured the ^{137}Cs content in a well (207-S-11) which monitors the S-cribs. There was no indication that Cs was reaching the groundwater but there was evidence that ^{90}Sr was reaching the groundwater.

Smith (1980) reports on the distribution of ^{137}Cs in sediments around a reverse well (216-B-5) drilled to 92 m and perforated between 74 and 92 m below ground surface. The water table at this site was around 91-92 m at the time of active disposal. The reverse well was used in 1945-1947 and 31 million liters of alkaline low salt [$<0.15 \text{ M Na}(\text{NO}_3, \text{F})$] was pumped into the well. The total inventory of ^{137}Cs disposed (decayed to 1-1-81) was 37 curies. Monitoring wells were placed around the facility in 1979 and measurable ^{137}Cs was found as far away as 8 m, but a nearby source of ^{137}Cs , the BY-cribs, might be the source of much of the Cs.

Fecht et al. (1977) present scintillation probe profiles for 200-W Area monitoring wells surrounding crib facilities. In the vicinity of the SX-Tank Farm they suggest that liquid (but not necessarily ^{137}Cs) has reached the groundwater table from facilities 216-S-1/S-2, 216-S-7 and 216-S-9. These findings should be considered when addressing the potential sources of Cs surrounding the SX-109 tank. These crib facilities are directly east of the SX Tank Farm.

One can conclude from all this available information that Cs is not very mobile if the liquid in which it is being carried is more dilute than that in tank supernates and drainable liquid. The very leading edge of solution from a tank leak plume should interact and be diluted by the existing vadose zone sediment pore water such that there should be some retardation in Cs migration until the volume of leak plume water has had an opportunity to completely control the sediment pore water chemistry. The volume that may have leaked from any tank in the SX Tank Farm or other tank farms is smaller than the water that would be needed to completely destroy the buffering capacity of all the sediment above the water table, if the flow path was not some isolated preferred pathline such as a fracture, clastic dike, open borehole or loosely consolidated annulus around a borehole or monitoring well. Regardless of the chemistry of the leaking tank liquor it is unlikely that the Cs in the leak plume could migrate all the way to the water table without significant adsorption occurring in sediments away from the tank bottom and closer to the water table, unless one of these preferred isolated paths were carrying the leaking solution. This does not rule out low concentrations (the very early leading edge of a breakthrough curve) of ^{137}Cs reaching the water table. The transport modeling described in Ward et al. (1997) will further elaborate on this issue.

6.3 Field Experiment - Sisson and Lu Test

In 1980 an single well injection field test was performed with subsequent monitoring of the spread of water and radionuclides via wells that surrounded the injection well. The test was performed in the shallow Hanford sediments in the south-east corner of 200-E. See Sisson and Lu (1984) for details. The injection point was 15 feet below ground surface and 32 monitoring wells surround the central injection point to a depth of 60 feet. Eleven separate injection tests were performed. In all of them a dilute mixed salt solution was used that contained about 6 mM of Ca, chloride and nitrate and trace amounts of Ba and Rb (both $\sim 0.01 \text{ mM}$) with radiotracers ^{134}Cs and ^{85}Sr . Each injection lasted one week and between 800 and 1,500 gallons of this solution were continually injected at a rate of 2.5 to 3.9 gal/hr. Monitoring of water content and gamma tracer content occurred during the injections and for

up to three months after the last injection. The gamma scans were measured in each monitoring well at 1-foot intervals to obtain vertical profiling. ^{134}Cs levels were above detection only in monitoring wells within 3 feet of the injection well and at depths from 13 to 16 feet from ground surface (recall that the injection point source was at 15 feet). ^{85}Sr migration was at least twice as far as the limited Cs migration. In 1995 several of the monitoring wells were probed with a state-of-the-art RLS unit (Radionuclide Logging System) that contains a high purity Germanium detector with very high resolution. In only one well at a 3-ft distance from the injection point at depths between 15 and 17 ft was any ^{134}Cs detectable. See Fayer et al. (1995) for details. It would thus appear that Cs is not very mobile in Hanford sediments when dilute solutions containing Cs are injected. This agrees with the conclusions of Section 4 and field observations described in Section 6.2.

6.4 Ammonia Discharges at Hanford

Because Cs adsorption onto sediments can be limited by competition from small hydrated cations such as ammonium and potassium we reviewed information on the presence of these two cations in fuel processing and waste contents in tanks.

Agnew (1995) shows that ammonium bearing chemicals were an integral part of the REDOX process to adjust the oxidation-reduction potential of the Pu and U. Ammonium bisulfite was used after the fuel was dissolved and just prior to the hexone solvent extraction step to separate the U and Pu from the fission products (see figure 7 in Agnew 1995). Further, Agnew (1995) states that radiolysis of nitrate and nitrite can lead to the formation of ammonium/ammonia in the tanks.

As shown in Tables 3.2, 3.3, and 3.7 Agnew predicts small amounts (tens of millimolar concentrations) of ammonium/ammonia in the REDOX waste compositions and a few millimolar or less in REDOX cladding wastes and bismuth phosphate wastes. Further, Agnew et al. (1996) project the contents expected in the tanks today and show small amounts of both ammonia and potassium are present in the supernate liquors for SX tanks that still contain drainable liquid. By inference the other SX tanks that are currently dried out would have had these constituents present when they also contained drainable liquid.

English and Mercer(1984) estimate the amount of chemicals discharged to the ground at Hanford. Approximately 2 million kg of ammonia/ammonium ion were discharged. Aside from sodium nitrate, and sodium phosphate this represents the largest inventory of all other chemicals. The ammonia/ammonium is associated with cribs' liquid discharges in A-8, -21, -24, -27, -36A,B; B-7A, -8, -9, -11A,B; -14 through -36, -38 through -62 in 200 East Area and T-3, -5, -6, -14 through -18, -21 through -24, and -26 through -32. There is no mention of ammonia release to the cribs surrounding the S or SX Tank Farms.

Klem (1988) shows that several processes used chemicals containing ammonium/ammonia. These include PUREX (A Plant in 200-E) that used ammonium fluoride and nitrate; B Plant

that used ammonium nitrate, silicofluoride, sulfate, and sulfite; and Sr recovery which used anhydrous ammonia. In 200-W the REDOX process (S Plant) used ammonium fluoride and nitrate; T-Plant used ammonium nitrate, fluorosilicate, sulfate and sulfite to reprocess fuel; and U Plant used ferrous ammonium sulfate.

Jungfleisch (1988) mentions that process condensate from 242-A has higher concentrations of ammonium ion when PUREX clad removal waste and PUREX ammonia scrubber feed are evaporated. By 1990 only the 242-A evaporator and 2724-W laundry generated liquid wastes with much ammonium ion. The former generates waste at 18 to 250 ppm NH_4^+ and pH about 9 to 9.5 and the latter (laundry facility is no longer operating) released waste water with 0.05 to 0.4 ppm ammonium ion with pH between 6 and 7.

Therefore, there may be some ammonium cations in the REDOX leaking solutions that would compete quite favorably with Cs for adsorption sites on Hanford sediments, but given the very large concentrations of Na in the REDOX solutions this variable is likely the dominating control on the adsorption of Cs onto the Hanford sediments.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this report we provide an analysis of the chemistry of tank supernates with emphasis on the REDOX waste stream disposed in SX tanks, Cs aqueous chemistry, available data on Cs adsorption processes onto various mineral types, adsorption of Cs onto Hanford sediments, and information on Cs migration from other Hanford tank leaks and from intentional liquid waste disposal facilities. The data in this report was used to help guide the vadose zone transport analysis of the SX Tank Farm presented in Ward et al. (1997). The goal of the vadose zone transport modelling is to attempt to predict the depth and extent of the ^{137}Cs plume under the SX Tank farm and to compare the predictions to the Cs distribution based on the Rust Geotechnical gamma logging [DOE 1996], specifically in the vicinity of the greatest leak [SX-109].

In solution, Cs is present as the monovalent cation and shows very little tendency to form aqueous complexes with inorganic or organic ligands. Cs shows no tendency to polymerize or to form true colloids. Cs is expected to sorb primarily by ion exchange. The degree of adsorption is dependent on the types and concentrations of other cations in solution that can compete for sorption sites. Ions of similar size [NH_4 , K and to a lesser extent Na] effectively compete with each other for sorption sites on soils. Even though there was some ammonium and potassium cations in the REDOX leaking solutions that would compete quite favorably with Cs for adsorption sites on Hanford sediments, the very large concentrations of Na in the REDOX solutions likely controls the adsorption of Cs onto the Hanford sediments. The same is likely true for other tank waste streams including those that leaked from BX-102 and T-106 tanks that contained other types of process wastes. There are a few minerals, which are present in Hanford sediments that strongly and selectively adsorbed Cs onto specific structural sites with unique steric and geometric attributes. These micaceous 2:1 layer silicate minerals exist as a small mass fraction of Hanford subsurface sediments beneath the tank farms. Study of these particular minerals with REDOX supernates is highly recommended to understand the chemical processes that undoubtedly control the Cs adsorption observed for non-tank waste solutions at Hanford. The key question to answer is whether the very high ionic strength, pH and aluminum content of REDOX tank liquors can significantly impede these highly selective adsorption sites from sequestering Cs.

The liquid disposed in SX tanks apparently self-concentrated to a significant extent based on the comparison of the initial waste composition (Table 3.2) versus the measured values for supernate and predicted values for tanks SX-101 through SX-106 shown in Tables 3.4 and 3.3, respectively. The two historical actual measurements of tank supernate shown in Table 3.4 exhibit a very good cation-anion balance suggesting that the analyses are accurate. If so, the solution composition exhibits chemistry well beyond that studied in past laboratory Kd experiments and for the field investigations at the BX-102 and T-106 tank leaks. However as discussed in Section 5.0 we were unable to prepare a simulant that kept all the mass shown in Table 3.4 in solution. It appears that the historical data on supernate compositions may not be accurate, despite the good cation-anion balance reported. The very high Al, Na and nitrate

contents measured in the past were not sustained in our tests. Besides being unable to dissolve all the sodium nitrate, the Al especially seems to remain reactive with time and elevated temperatures resulting in the precipitation of very fine grained (high surface area) material that has been identified as bayerite, an Al hydroxide.

Fresh REDOX waste is predominately a 4 M sodium-nitrate-nitrite-aluminate-hydroxide solution. This is similar to bismuth phosphate and PUREX waste liquids. But after self-boiling or other concentrating processes, the residual REDOX liquid exhibits a much higher ionic strength and perhaps higher basicity (free hydroxide content) in the range of 8-10 M Na and perhaps 0.5 to 1 M free hydroxide. These ionic strengths and hydroxide values exceed those used for any sediment-contaminant adsorption studies performed at Hanford or available in general literature. The comparison of the T-106 tank leak with SX Tank Farm leak(s) in terms of chemical composition of leaking liquid is not close enough to expect that the adsorption reactions between contaminants, especially Cs would be quantitatively similar. The chemical composition of the supernatant solution in T-106 at the time of the leak was much lower in Na and hydroxide content than the REDOX supernate. It is quite possible that the migration of Cs from the SX tanks is faster than that observed for the T-106 tank leak.

None of the available Kd tests were run with liquids that contained more than 4 M sodium and pH values were never above 12 (free hydroxide ~ 0.01M). The data that are available may be adequate to estimate Kd values for Cs in very fresh REDOX liquid that has not self-concentrated, but the data are not adequate to estimate Kd values for the higher ionic strength, high soluble Al, and higher pH solution that forms through self-boiling and other processes. Dependent upon when the SX tank leaks actually occurred, the chemical composition of the draining liquid would vary and thus Cs adsorption would also vary given its sensitivity to Na concentration. The extremely high pH and Al condition might also impact the Cs adsorption and perhaps dissolve bulk sediment or severely etch the fine particulates that likely perform most of the adsorption.

The preliminary batch and flow-through column adsorption tests described in Section 5.0 have not been successful at bounding the probable fate of Sr and Cs radionuclides in REDOX waste tanks in the SX Tank Farm. About the only conclusion that can be offered, without further empirical testing using high ionic strength/high pH/high Al-bearing solutions, is that the Cs Kd values could be higher (as found in the scouting studies) or lower than those reported in the available literature that did not have Al as a key variable. If the Al precipitation is the key to the higher than expected Cs adsorption and if the Al in the REDOX liquor is rapidly removed by the sediments surrounding the tank, then perhaps the Cs Kd would be much lower beyond the zone of Al precipitation. As shown for the less concentrated T-106 liquid simulants, the Cs Kd value ranges from 0.5 to 12 ml/g across a range of solution compositions, with a more realistic range of 2 to 6 ml/g for the simulant most representative of the T-106 tank liquor (see Table 4.3 Solution II). Without more empirical adsorption data on REDOX solutions interacting with Hanford sediments with emphasis on the Al chemistry, all we can offer is that the Kd for Cs may be lower than this range. Conversely, in the presence of high solution Al

that tends to form precipitates in the sediment, the Cs adsorption was found to yield Kd values from 20 to 60 ml/g in the scouting studies.

The three extensive field studies of past tank leaks support the conceptual model that Cs is not as mobile as other contaminants and does not appear to migrate tens of meters from the tank bottoms. But as mentioned, the REDOX metal or fission product bearing-waste composition found in SX tanks varies significantly from the bismuth phosphate-type wastes that were in Tank BX-102 and the combined bismuth phosphate and REDOX cladding wastes present in T-106 at the time of the leaks, such that it may not be useful to compare Cs behavior under SX Tank Farm with these past leaks.

Once the solution carrying the Cs has been diluted by vadose zone pore water and chemical reaction with the sediment, Cs is not very mobile. The very leading edge of solution from a tank leak plume should interact and be diluted by the existing vadose zone sediment pore water such that there should be some retardation in Cs migration until the volume of leak plume water has had an opportunity to completely control the sediment pore water chemistry. The volume that may have leaked from any tank in the SX Tank Farm or other tank farms is smaller than the volume that would be needed to completely control all the sediment above the water table, provided that the flow path was not some isolated preferred pathline such as a fracture, clastic dike, open borehole or loosely consolidated annulus around a borehole. Regardless of the chemistry of the leaking tank liquor it is unlikely that the Cs in the leak plume could migrate all the way to the water table without significant adsorption occurring in sediments away from the tank bottom and closer to the water table, unless one of these preferred isolated paths were carrying the leaking solution. This does not rule out low concentrations (the very early leading edge of a breakthrough curve) of ^{137}Cs reaching the water table.

Should matrix dissolution in the very near field around the tanks be important, especially for REDOX waste bearing tanks such as SX Tanks, the migration of Cs (and other contaminants thought to interact with sediments) could be expected to increase. At some point away from the tanks, the tank leak liquor would be expected to be "neutralized" by the sediments large buffering capacity to consume free hydroxide and one should see a re-precipitation of the silica and aluminum to form amorphous coatings/gel that could lower permeability as well as coprecipitate (physically trap) or adsorb other soluble components such as Cs. The precipitation of Al hydroxide was observed in all of the scouting tests and appears to enhance the adsorption of Cs. Thus it is difficult to say that the fate of Cs should follow a monotonically increasing adsorption (Kd) as the distance from the tank increases. It appears that the fate of Cs may be controlled by a complicated mix of parameters such as competing cations, pH, and presence of fresh precipitates such as Al hydroxides. The net effect may cause the Kd to vary widely, with complicated increases and decreases, as a function of distance from the tank. The measurement of the adsorption properties of Sr and Cs from the evolving REDOX solution in our scoping studies was difficult (see Section 5). The observed Kd for ^{137}Cs (range of 20 to 60 ml/g dependent on whether the solution is filtered or only

gravity settled), is much larger than expected and does not agree with recent computer predictions and field gamma logging measurements of Cs in vadose zone sediments underlying the SX Tank Farm. Sr is not soluble in the REDOX solution as long as Al precipitation is occurring. The literature review and past analytical measurements of tank waste phases also supports this conclusion. Cs is essentially soluble but upon contact with sediment and further precipitation of Al bearing material there appears to be a higher than expected sorption (K_d). More detailed and complete solution and solid (both sediment and reaction products) characterization using techniques such as ICP-MS, SEM-EDS, XRD and newer molecular and surface techniques would be needed to help interpret the complicated reactions.

There does not appear to be any indication that matrix dissolution products (high Si, Al and pH) have reached the groundwater below SX tanks and further one might expect that massive dissolution would manifest itself in the near vicinity of the tanks as more porous material with perhaps copious gel-like coatings. It is possible that the high ^{137}Cs activities found in several SX-Tank Farm sediments (inferred from recent gamma logs through cased boreholes at the 75-foot level is an indication of how far the matrix dissolution impact has reached. If there was a significant accumulation of precipitated Al hydroxide in the 75-foot zone perhaps it would adsorb large amounts of Cs and appear as highly concentrated material in the gamma logs. This would imply a zone of reaction of about 20-25 feet below the tank bottoms. We recommend that additional laboratory testing be performed to better evaluate this sediment matrix dissolution and Al precipitation issue.

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APPENDIX A

DETAILS ON ACCESSING THE TANK CHARACTERIZATION DATA BASE

APPENDIX A. DETAILS ON ACCESSING THE TANK CHARACTERIZATION DATA BASE

A data base exists on the World Wide Web within the PNNL home page that contains archived analyses of the contents of many of the Hanford SST tanks. To reach the data base open your Internet browser and go to <http://wwi.pnl.gov>. Once in the PNNL home page scroll down to the subheading Research Organizations. Within Research Organizations scroll down to a further subheading (•Environmental Technology) and finally double click under a final subheading {□ Tank Waste Information}. Upon clicking on this final subheading a new window appears called Tank Waste Information Network System (TWINS) Reference at which one must scroll down to the heading Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface. After clicking on this heading a third new window appears called Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface which explains how to query. NOTE: The complete address to access the Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface is

<http://twins.pnl.gov:8001/TCD/main.html>

so that one does not have to go through all the PNNL homepage as described above. For first time user's once on the Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface homepage one needs to click on the purple colored "Help" word found in the lower left hand corner of this homepage. This causes the screen to change to the Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface Help page. On this page you click on either the words "Netscape Browser" or "Mosaic Browser" depending upon which type of browser software you have. This will bring up a new page of instructions with a title such as "Instructions For Configuring XXXX For Use With the TCD Web User Interface". After you follow these instructions you will be requested to download Excel Macros from the Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface page. After you click on the download "icon" you will likely get a dialog box that you then click on save file (if the file name is not automatically named `tcd_plot.xls` you should rename to such). You have now successfully initiated all the links needed to use the database. From now on when you get to the Hanford Tank Characterization Database Interface page you need only click on the Data Source Selection Forms "icon" to start the program to search for data on tanks.

In the box designated "Please Select a Subject Area/Table" you make a choice of what type of data you want. For our example we chose "Historical Analytical Data". You then click on the Build a Query Screen box and a new screen appears that allows you to choose which tank(s) you want to get information on and what constituents you are interested in obtaining. In our example we looked for all SX tanks and designated "All" for the constituents of interest. You then click on the "Submit Query" box and the program takes over. At the end of

the search Excel should automatically open and a spreadsheet will appear with the data found within the large data base that meets your selection criteria, as long as the users has stored the tcd_plot.xls file in the C:\excel\xlstart directory. If the spreadsheet that appears is empty that means there were no data in the data base that met the desired search criteria. Currently under the Sample Analysis (Historical Analytical Data) option there is some data on SX-108 supernate solution taken in April 1961 and data on SX-111 supernate solution and solids taken in September 1974. These data are shown in Table 3.4. No other explanation as to where the original data can be found in hard copy is available in the data base. Under a different option, Sample Analysis [Tank Results (no QA)] is a large amount of data for SX-108 solids removed from the tank in August 1995 using an auger tool. The data come from two tank risers and includes analyses in duplicate from both the top and bottom of the auger samples from each riser. Both hot acid extraction and water soluble compositions are reported but we will not dwell on these data. They can be found in hard copy in a WHC report number WHC-SD-WM-DP-151, Rev 1. We have also found a much larger amount of historical data on both supernates, solids and evaporator concentrates that were returned to the tanks for each of the twelve tanks in the S Tank Farm. These data show a much wider range in chemical compositions than those shown in Tables 3.2-3.4.

One computer expert that was instrumental in developing the Internet accessible data base is Steve Bobrowski-PNNL in ISB1 on telephone 509-375-2449. There also is a more formal help organization for the data base that can be reached via e:mail at:

char_data_admin@twins.pnl.gov on the internet.

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