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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present study examines the fate of glycolic acid and other organics added in the Chemical Processing Cell (CPC) of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) as part of the glycolic alternate flowsheet. Adoption of this flowsheet is expected to provide certain benefits in terms of a reduction in the processing time, a decrease in hydrogen generation, simplification of chemical storage and handling issues, and an improvement in the processing characteristics of the waste stream including an increase in the amount of nitrate allowed in the CPC process. Understanding the fate of organics in this flowsheet is imperative because tank farm waste processed in the CPC is eventually immobilized by vitrification; thus, the type and amount of organics present in the melter feed may affect optimal melt processing and the quality of the final glass product as well as alter flammability calculations on the DWPF melter off gas.

To evaluate the fate of the organic compounds added as the part of the glycolic flowsheet, mainly glycolic acid and antifoam 747, samples of simulated waste that was processed using the DWPF CPC protocol for tank farm sludge feed were generated and analyzed for organic compounds using a variety of analytical techniques at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). These techniques included Ion Chromatography (IC), Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES), and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy. A set of samples were also sent to the Catholic University of America Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL) for analysis by NMR Spectroscopy at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Analytical methods developed and executed at SRNL collectively showed that glycolic acid was the most prevalent organic compound in the supernatants of Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) products examined. Furthermore, the studies suggested that commercially available glycolic acid contained minor amounts of impurities such as formic and diglycolic acid that were then carried over in the SME products. Oxalic acid present in the simulated tank farm waste was also detected. Finally, numerous other compounds, at low concentrations, were observed present in etheric extracts of aqueous supernate solutions of the SME samples and are thought to be breakdown products of antifoam 747.

The data collectively suggest that although addition of glycolic acid and antifoam 747 will introduce a number of impurities and breakdown products into the melter feed, the concentrations of these organics is expected to remain low and may not significantly impact REDOX or off-gas flammability predictions. In the SME products examined presently, which contained variant amounts of glycolic acid and antifoam 747, no unexpected organic degradation product was found at concentrations above 500 mg/kg, a reasonable threshold concentration for an organic compound to be taken into account in the REDOX modeling. This statement does not include oxalic or formic acid that were sometimes observed above 500 mg/kg and acetic acid that has an analytical detection limit of 1250 mg/kg due to high glycolate concentration in the SME products tested. Once a finalized REDOX equation has been developed and implemented, REDOX properties of known organic species will be determined and their impact assessed. Although no immediate concerns arose during the study in terms of a negative impact of organics present in SME products of the glycolic flowsheet, evidence of antifoam degradation suggest that an alternative antifoam to antifoam 747 is worth considering. The determination and implementation of an antifoam that is more hydrolysis resistant would have benefits such as increasing its effectiveness over time and reducing the generation of degradation products.

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1.0 Introduction

DWPF continues to produce canisters containing radioactive materials immobilized in glass for on-site storage as shown in Figure 1-1. Conditioned tank farm waste feed [Fact Sheet, 2012] is processed through the CPC, qualified by analysis and the Product Composition Control System (PCCS), stored in the Melter Feed Tank (MFT), and then transferred to the melter for vitrification [Jantzen, 2012]. The adjustments made to the tank farm waste feed in the CPC are critical to producing a quality glass product. DWPF uses a REDOX model based on the oxidation state of iron to predict glass quality [Jantzen, 2012]. Qualified feed from the MFT should have the correct balance of reductants and oxidants to form a melt without foaming or metal formation issues. Organic compounds present in the MFT that are not correctly accounted for in the REDOX model can result in an iron valence state that differs from the REDOX model predicted value leading to less than optimal melt processing and glass product. In addition, these compounds add carbon and hydrogen to the melter off gas flammability calculation and thus reliable measurements of these compounds are important for operation [Lambert, 2011].

Figure 1-1: DWPF Vitrification Overview – Tank Farm Feed is processed in the CPC by 1) adding nitric and formic acid with heating in the Slurry Receipt and Adjustment Tanks (SRAT), 2) qualify, 3) transfer product to the Slurry Mix Evaporator SME, 4) add Borosilicate (frit) and concentrate, 5) qualify, and 6) transfer to MFT.

Two major sources of organic compounds in the CPC are antifoam 747 and formic acid, as well as oxalic acid from the tank and filter cleaning process at 512-S. Antifoam 747 is a non-ionic super spreader surfactant that is added to the CPC during sludge processing to reduce foaming. Formic acid is an organic acid (pKa 3.75) used in the CPC to reduce mercury oxide to elemental mercury for steam striping and removal, to adjust the pH of the waste for desired rheology properties, and to achieve the correct REDOX potential for the melter. Despite having processing and storage issues, formic acid has worked well in the process as an organic reductant [Pickenheim, 2009]. Ten sludge batches have successfully been vitrified and poured into canisters for long term storage. However, during operation of the CPC process hydrogen generation from the reaction of formic acid with noble metals requires constant purging of the vessel, analysis for hydrogen to prevent a flammable offgas, and safety interlocks.

The purge requirement can be lowered, and the safety significane of the offgas analyzers can be lowered if glycolic acid is used.

Scoping evaluations have been performed to determine the feasibility and advantages of using glycolic acid instead of formic acid in the CPC of DWPF [Pickenheim, 2009]. Glycolic acid may have the advantages of generating less hydrogen, improving the rheology of the material to be processed, simplifying chemical storage issues, and increasing CPC throughput [Pickenheim, 2009]. Bench-scale scoping studies with simulated waste used both glycolic acid and antifoam 747. The SME product was examined by a variety of analytical methods to determine what starting organic compounds remained and what organic compounds were formed.

1.1 Work Authorization

This work was requested by SRR (HLW-DWPF-TTR-2013-0003).

1.2 Organic Compounds Formed in the CPC

This report covers (1) a chemical overview of glycolic acid and antifoam 747, (2) the analysis of DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution, (3) the determination of antifoam 747 degradation products in the SME product, and (4) the determination of acetic acid and malonic acid as potential decomposition products from glycolic acid in the SME product.

1.2.1 *VSL Analyses*

Researchers at VSL developed an extraction protocol followed by NMR analysis at the University of Maryland of waste simulants GN56, GN57, and 70 wt.% glycolic acid technical solution.

1.2.2 *SRNL Analyses*

Researchers at SRNL analyzed SME products of waste simulant and DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution by a variety of analytical techniques such as Ion Chromatography (IC), Inductively Couple Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES), Inductively Couple Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), Gas Chromatography (GC), and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy. In addition, the VSL extraction protocol, described in Appendix A, was followed and the residues were characterized.

2.0 Experimental Procedure

Testing was completed by researchers at VSL and SRNL on SME products GN56 and GN57 described in Appendix A and on DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution. Samples of SME product were generated from bench scale CPC testing [Lambert, 2013].

2.1 VSL Testing

VSL was tasked with the analysis using NMR spectroscopy of SME product samples that were clarified by centrifugation. Due to the presence of iron and/or other paramagnetic species that shorten the relaxation time of the excited nuclei, direct NMR analysis of the supernate solutions did not provide any useful information in terms of structure elucidation. Attempts were then made to remove iron prior to NMR analysis through addition of hydroxide but were proven unsuccessful. Subsequently, extraction of organics present in the aqueous solutions was studied using various polar and non-polar solvents. The most successful extraction protocol involved the use of diethyl ether. Briefly, \sim 10 g of the supernate solution of a SME product sample was extracted twice with diethyl ether. The extracts were combined, dried with MgSO4 overnight, the solvent was removed, and the residue was weighed. The residue and DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution were analyzed by NMR at University of Maryland [Appendix, VSL E-mail dated 6/03/2013.]

2.2 SRNL Testing

SRNL examined SME product samples by IC for water soluble small carboxylic organic acids (chain length approximately 5 carbons or less). Methods were developed in-house to quantify acetic, glycolic, malonic, and diglycolic acid. An established IC method currently determines formic and oxalic acids.

Chromatograms of other acids such as tartaric, succinic, maleate, and glutarate were simulated as possible impurities using modeling Dionex Virtual Column software and compared to actual analyses of SME product to determine their potential presence. Some additional inorganic compounds (iodide, selenate) were also modeled as potential impurities. Other methods of analysis used to characterize SME product were GC-MS, ICP-AES, and NMR.

3.0 Results and Discussion

Sample preparation and analysis were performed at SRNL and VSL / University of Maryland. Table 3-1 describes the samples examined by each laboratory. The makeup of each sample is listed in Appendix B.

Sample	Contains	Laboratory	
	Noble Metals-Hg	Antifoam	
70 wt.% Glycolic Acid	N ₀	No	VSL and SRNL
GN56	No	Yes	VSL and SRNL
GN57	Yes	Yes	VSL and SRNL
GF40	Yes	Yes	SRNL
SB6i	No	No	SRNL

Table 3-1: SME Simulated Waste Samples

3.1 Chemistry of Glycolic acid and Antifoam 747

3.1.1 *DuPont 70 wt.% Technical Grade Glycolic Acid*

Glycolic acid is manufactured by DuPont (Figure 3-1) by treating formaldehyde with carbon monoxide and water in the presence of a sulfuric acid catalyst and pressure [Loder, 1936]. Acidcatalyzed formaldehyde carbonylation occurs by the Koch mechanism where oxygen protonated formaldehyde contains a carbocation and carbon monoxide forms a carbon-carbon bond in an addition step [Bell, 2008]. A water addition then occurs followed by a deprotonation step. Some of the potential byproducts and impurities from this process are formaldehyde (50-00-0), formic acid (64-18-6), diglycolic acid (110-99-6), methoxy acetic acid (625-45-6), and sulfate [Glycolic acid, 2000].

Figure 3-1: Glycolic acid manufacturing by acid-catalyzed carbonylation in the presence of water.

The resulting product can readily form cyclic (glycolide) and linear dimers in addition to longer chain polymers by dehydration and thus is sold as a 70 wt.% solution to ensure the monomer is the dominate species. Polymerization is a condensation reaction where the alcohol functional group of one glycolic acid monomer reacts with the carboxylic acid group of another monomer in a "head to tail" fashion [Hendricksen]. Note all condensation reactions of glycolic acid are reversible and catalyzed by acid or base. In the CPC, the concentration of acidic water is high relative to glycolic acid making oligomer formation unfavorable and favoring the left side of the equations in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2: Glycolic acid dimer and oligomer formation from condensation reaction

3.1.2 *Antifoam 747*

Antifoam 747 is composed of low molecular weight trisiloxane polyether copolymers, as shown in Figure 3-3. The polymers can be denoted as MD'M where M is the trimethylsiloxy group $(CH_3)_3SiO_{1/2}$ and D' represents $-O_{1/2}Si(CH_3)(R)O_{1/2}$ containing a relatively long side group (R = – $(CH₂)₃O(CH₂CH₃O)_nCH₃$) that is a methoxy terminated polyethylene oxide (PEO) chain of varying length. A propyl spacer bridges the silicon moiety to the PEO polymer [Peng, 2009]. The formulation contains 90 wt.% of the polymer where $n = 7-9$ and 10 wt.% where $n = 11-13$. The common route of synthesis for these polymers is by hydrosilylation of an olefinic-terminated PEO chain with a bis(trimethylsiloxy)methylsilane (1873-88-7), as shown in Figure 3-3.

Figure 3-3: Antifoam 747 Nonionic Surfactant

When added to an aqueous solution, the silicon-based, nonionic surfactant initially resides on the surface of the water with a hydrophobic end that favors the air interface and a hydrophilic end that favors the water interface. The silicone-oxygen backbone is believed to orient itself on the surface of the water with the oxygen atoms in the water and methyl groups away from the water. These trisiloxane surfactants have been termed superspreaders due to their ability to reduce the surface tension of water promoting the wetting of a surface [Snow, 1995]. The surfactant has widespread use as an agriculture adjuvant and is commercially available as Momentive's Silwet L-77.

For optimal performance, these trisiloxane surfactants should be used at a pH between 6.5 to 7.5 [Silwet L-77, 2013]. Acid and base catalyzed hydrolytic cleavage of the silicone-oxygen bonds has been investigated [Stevens, 1993; Knoche, 1994; Sun, 1996; Nikolov, 2011] and occurs readily below a pH of 5 and above pH 9. In addition, the surfactant has been reported to degrade in neutral aqueous environment after forty days [Peng, 2009]. Researchers in our laboratory made similar observations based on water drop spreading tests [Lambert, 2011]. Stevens proposed a hydrolytic pathway shown in Figure 3-4 where the two products formed are hexamethyldisilioxane (107-46-0), an oil, and a tetrasiloxane co-polymer with reduced surface activity due to increased water solubility [Sun, 1996]. Another low boiling potential by-product would be trimethylsilanol (1066-40-6). Researchers are examining ways to improve hydrolysis resistance of superspreaders and new surfactants show promise [Peng, 2009].

Figure 3-4: Hydrolytic Degradation of Antifoam 747

Other reactions can occur in the CPC in the presence of heating, time, acids, and noble metals. Table 3-1 highlights these potential degradation products for the purpose of identifying analytes that could be observed by analytical methods. These compounds can arise from the relatively slower cleavage of the carbon-oxygen bond of the PEO chain to form alcohols and diols such as glycol. Alcohols could then be oxidized to aldehydes and carboxylic acids.

Component	$CAS \#$	Formula
Hexamethyldisiloxane	$107 - 46 - 0$	$C_6H_{18}OSi_2$
Trimethylsilanol	1066-40-6	$C_3H_{10}OSi$
Ethylene glycol	$107 - 21 - 1$	$C_2H_6O_2$
Ditheylene glycol	111-46-6	$C_4H_{10}O_3$
Triethylene glycol	112-27-6	$C_6H_{14}O_4$
Methanol	$67 - 56 - 1$	CH ₄ O
Allylic alcohol	$107 - 18 - 6$	C_3H_6O
Formic acid	$64 - 18 - 6$	CH ₂ O ₂
Oxalic acid	144-62-7	$C_2H_2O_4$
Methoxy acetic acid	$625 - 45 - 6$	$C_3H_6O_3$

Table 3-2: A Partial List of Potential Antifoam 747 Degradation Analytes.

3.2 SRNL Results

DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution was analyzed by ion chromatography (IC), ICP-MS, GC and GC-MS. Particular attention was given to determining the presence of acetic acid or malonic acid as potential impurities. Analysis of SME products from bench scale testing was also analyzed and malonic acid or acetate was not observed. The major peak in all IC analysis samples was glycolate.

3.2.1 *DuPont Glycolic Acid 70 wt.% Technical Solution*

The received glycolic acid was analyzed by IC, GC-MS volatile organics analysis (VOA) and semi-volatile organics analysis (SVOA), and ICP-MS. Table 3-3 shows the results while Figure 3-5 is the IC chromatogram. Low levels of formic acid and sulfate were observed in addition to an unknown peak. This peak was in a region where diacidics tend to elute and also observed in some SME product runs. Modeling discussed in Section 3.2.2 was used to suggest possible candidates and malonate was predicted to appear to the left or sooner than the unknown peak. Standards were used to identify the peak and the best match was diglycolic acid (110-99-6) at <500 mg/L shown as peak 3 in Figure 3-6. Diglycolic acid was not spiked into the sample or analyzed by a secondary IC method.

Figure 3-5: Ion Chromatography of Glycolic Acid 70% Technical Solution showing Glycolic acid (1), Formic acid (2), Sulfate (3), and Unknown Peak (4). On AS-19 column, acetic acid co-elutes with glycolic acid.

Figure 3-6: Ion Chromatography of Glycolic Acid 70% Technical Solution Enlarged Section from Figure 3-5 showing Sulfate (1) and Oxalate (2) in a 10 mg/L Standard (bottom), and the Unknown Peak (3) (Top).

3.2.2 *Ion Chromatography Analysis of SME Products*

A number of SME products, processed with varied amounts of glycolic acid and antifoam, were analyzed by IC. The chromatogram of one such product, GF40, is shown in Figure 3-7 along with chromatograms of the glycolate technical solution, malonic acid and SB6i; the latter is a sludge simulant without any organics. It is apparent that, in addition to a number of inorganic anions and glycolate, GF40 contains formate, oxalate, and an unidentified peak at \sim 27.3 min, which is identical to the one present in the glycolate technical solution. Subsequently, further analysis of SME products was predominantly aimed at:

a) determining the presence of acetate and malonate in the aqueous supernatants of SME product samples, and

b) identifying the unknown peak, carried over from the commercially available glycolic acid solution.

Figure 3-7. IC analysis on a Dionex AS-19 column of SME product GF40 (black line). The image also includes chromatograms of glycolic technical solution (pink line), sludge simulant SB6i (blue line), malonic acid (brown line), and various standards (red line).

Presence of acetate. Although presence of formate and oxalate is clearly evident in supernatants of SEM product samples, the presence of acetate is less clear in part due to similar retention times of glycolate and acetate under the eluting conditions employed. Subsequently, a method was developed that utilized a column heater and higher temperatures for the separation of the glycolate and acetate peaks. The results are shown in Figure 3-8. In general, switching from a Doinex AS-19 column to a Doinex AS-18 column with heating increased the retention times of the acids (Wiedenman, 2013). Optimal separation of glycolate and acetate peaks was achieved at 50ºC. Under the new eluting conditions, the retention times of the acids of interest were 12.1 min for glycolate, \sim 12.7 min for acetate, and 15.7 min for formate.

Figure 3-8. Development of a method for separating acetate and glycolate peaks using elevated temperatures on a Dionex AS-18 column. Optimal results were obtained at 50ºC (black line). Column temperatures are indicated.

A typical chromatogram SME product, obtained using the new elution method of Figure 3-8, is shown in Figure 3-9. In Figure 3-9, the large peak is glycolate and to the right is acetate followed by formate. A 0.5 ppm standard of glycolate and acetate is also shown as the above line in the chromatogram. Additional SME products were examined using this methodology and confirmed the absence of acetate above 1,250 mg/kg, which is near the estimated limit of the method. Figure 3-10 shows the analysis of a series on SME products using the Dionix AS-18 method. Dupont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution was also examine and no acetate was observed.

Figure 3-9: Typical Ion Chromatography of SME product (bottom) and a 500 ppb standard (top) of glycolate and acetate.

Figure 3-10. Ion chromatograms of various SME product samples. The lack of substantial amounts of acetate is evident.

Presence of Malonate. Malonic acid was identified as a compound that could potentially be present in glycolic acid and SME product but was ruled out by IC analysis as shown in Figures 3-7 and 3- 11. In the latter figure, malonic acid was spiked into a SME product in order to determine if it resembled the unknown peak. The result was negative. Modeling using Dionex Virtual Column software was also used to determine where a malonate peak should elute (Figure 3-12) and confirmed the data of Figure 3- 11. Malonic acid was also shown not to be present in the glycolic acid technical solution by NMR analysis as discussed in Figure 3-22.

Figure 3-11: Multiple Ion Chromatograms Showing Unknown Peak (2) in SME Product and Malonate (1).

Identification of the unknown peak. Modeling using Dionex Virtual Column as shown in Figure 3-12 determined the unknown peak was likely a diacid and helped with the creation of a list of possible compounds (Table 3-4). Further work (Figure 3-15) showed the best match to be diglycolic acid. This compound is a known impurity in glycolic acid [Glycolic acid, 2000].

Figure 3-12: Modeling of AS-19 Column Determined Malonate Should Elute Between Sulfate and Oxalate.

Table 3-5 summarizes a review of IC data for the unknown peak and estimates, using the area count of oxalic acid as a surrogate, the concentration to be <500 mg/kg. Thus, in all SME product samples examined, the concentration of the unknown peak was very low relative to glycolic acid. No correlation was observed between noble metals present in the SME product and an increase in the unknown peak area. SME products FN1 and GN51 – GN55 had no noble metals and the unknown peak area was similar to SME products with noble metals.

Review of historical Glycolate runs (5/17/12 - 5/14/13)		estimate of	estimate of unknown peak		
TC#	LIMS ID	Cust ID	Malonate	(R.T. near oxalate) **	units
63934	300302301	12 SB6J 6999 Sludge	\leq 1	≤ 1	mg/L
63916	300302215	12 GF27 7104	<10	-35	mg/L
63916	300302216	12 GF29 7106	100	-400	uq/q
63916	300302217	12_GF31_7108	100	~400	uq/q
63916	300302218	12 GF33A 7110	100	-400	uq/q
63916	300302219	12 GF35 7112	100	< 100	uq/q
63916	300302221 *	12 GF38 7120	500	-450	uq/q
63916	300302222 *	12 GF40 7121	500	-400	ug/g
63916	300302223 *	12 GF41 7122	< 500	-400	uq/q
64025	300302567	GF40 6	< 500	-250	uq/q
64025	300302568	GF40 20	500	< 100	uq/q
64025	300302569	GF40 25	500	~250	uq/q
64025	300302570	GF40_33	<500	-300	ug/g
64025	300302571	GF34 6	< 500	< 100	uq/q
64025	300302572	GF34 29	< 500	< 100	uq/q
64025	300302573	GF34 24	500	< 100	uq/q
64025	300302574	GF34_20	500	< 100	uq/q
64029	300302576 *	Matrix Matched Sup	500	-250	uq/q
64093	300302958	13_FN1_7559	500	< 100	uq/q
64093	300302959 *	13 GN51 7560	500	-300	uq/q
64093	300302960	13 GN53 7615	500	-400	uq/q
64093	300302961 *	13 GN52 7594	< 500	-350	uq/q
64139	300303158	13_GN54_7642	500	-350	uq/q
64139	300303159	13 GN55 7664	< 500	-350	uq/q
64140	300303160	12 GN43	< 500	-400	uq/q
64140	300303161	12_GN44	<500	-400	ug/g
64140	300303162	12_GN45	500	-450	ug/g
64140	300303163	12_GN46	< 500	-450	ug/g
64140	300303164	12 GN47	500	-400	ug/g
64140	300303165	12 GN48	< 500	-400	uq/q
64140	300303166	12 GN49	< 500	-350	uq/q
64140	300303167	12_GN50	< 500	-350	ug/g
	** rough estimate based upon response of oxalate ion	small peak observed @ malonate retention time (R.T.)			

Table 3-5: Review and Estimate of Unknown Peak to be <500 mg/Kg.

3.2.3 *Ether Extraction of SME Product*

As previously mentioned, supernatants of SME products were subject to extraction protocols with organic solvents in an attempt to: a) determine the presence of non-anionic organics in the aqueous supernate solutions, and b) use NMR spectroscopy for structure elucidation of organics extractable by an organic solvent. Appendix A lists the protocol, developed by VSL, for the diethyl ether extraction (2x) of SME products. Eight milliliters of a SME product sample was filtered, extracted twice with 15 mL of diethyl ether and the extractants were combined and dried; after removal of the solvent, the organics remaining were weighed and analyzed. Table 3-6 shows the solubility of many of the compounds likely to be present in SME product and all are at least partially soluble in diethyl ether. The extraction recoveries were not determined and no attempt to quantify the recovery was made. Rather, these scoping experiments were to determine what ether extractable organic compounds were present.

Compound	Diethyl Ether	Water	Notes
Glycolic acid	Soluble	Soluble	From Merck Index
Formic acid	Soluble	Soluble	
Oxalic acid	14 q/L	143 g/L	
Glyoxylic acid	Sparingly Soluble	Soluble	
Acetic acid	Miscible	Miscible	
Other acids	Soluble	See notes	Succinic (58 g/L), malonic (miscible), tartaric (133 g/L), glutaric (639), maleic (788 g/L), etc.
Ethylene glycol	5 g/L	Soluble	
Water	69 g/L	N/A	

Table 3-6: Solubility of Many of the Compounds Expected in SME Product

SRNL Diethyl Ether Extraction Residue Weights

Each SME product and DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution went through the extraction protocol three times. The controls were water and SB6i; which, as previously mentioned, SB6i is a sludge simulant without organics added. Figure 3-13 shows very little extractable residue results from controls of water and SB6i. However, the extractions of the SME products were significantly higher in extractable residue mass. Table 3-7 shows the average residue weight $(n = 3)$ of the diethyl ether extractions on three different SME products. The weight percent was calculated by dividing the residue weight by the sample weight and multiplying by 100.

Both SME products GF40 and GN57 contained noble metals, mercury, and antifoam while GN56 contained only antifoam (Table 3-1). The SME product GF40 contained 50,000 mg/kg of glycolic acid and 600 mg/kg of antifoam, GN56 contained 28,000 mg/kg of glycolic acid and 2000 mg/kg of antifoam, and GN57 contained 36,000 mg/kg of glycolic acid and 2000 mg/kg of antifoam. The slightly higher amount of organic residue in GN57 versus GN56 seems to be in keeping with a higher glycolic acid addition as observed by both SRNL and VSL by NMR (see Appendix $D \& E$). In addition, GN57 contained noble metals that analytical methods (sections 3.2.3.1 and 3.3.2) show an array of antifoam breakdown products available for extraction. The SME product GF40 was higher in glycolic acid than

GN56 and GN57 but lower in antifoam. The organic residue mass found for GF40 is similar to the masses found for GN56 and GN57 SME product. A comparison of extractable mass cannot be made to VSL because their researchers did not receive GF40 SME product.

Table 3-7: Solubility of Many of the Compounds Expected in SME Product

VSL extracted $(n = 1)$ 30 mg or 0.38 wt.% for GN56 SME product and $(n = 1)$ 85 mg or 0.85 wt.% for GN57 SME product [Appendix E]. The higher weight for the VSL GN56 and GN57 residues versus SRNL weights can be partly attributed to the presence to diethyl ether that can be seen in the NMR analysis (Appendix D). There were also differences in drying protocols between SRNL (nitrogen blow down to constant weight) vs. VSL which employed a rotary-evaporation technique. Similar to the results observed by SRNL, GN57 residue weight was higher than the GN56 residue.

3.2.3.1 Analyses of Extracted Residue

Researchers at SRNL analyzed the organic residue from the diethyl ether extracts of SME product as described in Appendix A. For the SVOA analysis, the ether extract was analyzed without blowing down to a residue. Table 3-8 summarizes the results of the analyses. The bulk of the organic was glycolic acid as determined by IC and 13 C NMR (GN56 and GN57) as shown in Figure 3-14. The IC analysis also identified lesser amounts of nitrate, oxalate, formate, and unknown peaks. One of the unknown peaks had been observed before in the analysis of SME products and in glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution. This peak best matched diglycolic acid as shown in Figure 3-15. This second peak eluted close to where malonic acid lies but is likely another diacid. The ${}^{1}H$ and ${}^{13}C$ NMR from VSL (Section 3.4) showed malonic acid was not present by spike addition.

Figure 3-9: Multiple Ion Chromatograms Showing Unknown Peaks (4), Malonate (3), Sulfate (1) and Oxalate (2) from Organic Residue.

The ¹³C NMR performed at SRNL showed a large variety of antifoam 747 breakdown products especially in GN57 with noble metals. A variety of carbonyl compounds were observed and the spectrum is discussed in Section 3.2.3.3 SRNL NMR Data.

The SVOA analysis of SME products observed low levels of methylsiloxane products and polyethylene glycol (PEG) fragments, which would stem from the breakdown of antifoam 747. Methoxy acetic acid is also possible from antifoam 747 and would arise from the oxidation of the methoxy end capped fragment of the surfactant. The SME product with the highest concentration of glycolic acid, GN57, was positive for the dimer glycolide, which likely formed in the inject port and is an artifact of the SVOA method analysis. The presence of silicon was checked by ICP-AES. This result matched what was observed by NMR at VSL, where GN56 had the largest peaks due to the presence methylsiloxane material. SRNL observed glycolic acid by ¹³C NMR for GN56.

Figure 3-16 shows the mass balance of the extracted organic residues. The y-axis is in mg and the x-axis is sample identification. The recoveries were calculated by summing the analyses, dividing by the weight of the residue, and multiplying by 100 (Appendix A). Deionized water (n=1) was the control and a trace amount of residue was measured weighing 1.2 mg. Extracting and drying glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution (n=1) yielded a 65% recovery and the amount of residue was measured weighing 6.0 mg where the missing 35% of the mass balance, 2.1 mg of material, was similar to the mass obtained extracting deionized water alone. This amount is represented in Figure 3-16 as the gray box or the amount in mg on top of the column. This can also be considered the remainder of the mass balance not accounted for by the measurement techniques.

Sludge simulant SB6i contained no noble metals, mercury, or antifoam. The bulk of the material observed in the extraction by IC was nitrate with some nitrite and chloride. The recovery was higher than expected at 191% likely due to analyzing the sample by back extraction rather than dissolving a residue. One sample of sludge simulant SB6i was extracted, blown down to constant weight, and weighed to give the residue weight. This residue was not analyzed. A second sample was extracted 2x with diethyl ether, the extracts combined, the ether was back extracted with 5 mM KOH, and the water was analyzed by IC. For all SME products, the residues were dissolved and analyzed giving more reasonable recoveries. These SME products gave recoveries on average $(n = 3)$ of 82 to 91% and the bulk material was glycolic acid. Miscellaneous (Misc.) is the sum of species from ICPES and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) by SVOA from the diethyl ether extractant.

Figure 3-10: Mass Balance Chart of three SME products with controls.

3.2.3.2 SRNL NMR Data

Table 3-9 shows typical 13 C NMR chemical shifts. The 13 C NMR analysis of the organic residue of glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution is shown in Figure 3-17. This spectrum matched well with a literature spectrum from Spectral Database for Organic Compounds (SDBS)[SBDS, 2013]. The low intensity of the peaks is a result of the small mass (6 mg) analyzed. Figure 3-18 is a spectrum of antifoam 747.

Table 3-9: Summary of 13C NMR Chemical Shifts

SDBS-¹³C NMRSDBS No. 1267CDS-10-737 C_2 H₄ O_3 glycolic acid

Figure 3-11: Glycolic acid extractant residue.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of antifoam 747 showed strong peaks in the regions where carbon is bound to Si and O which is the bulk of the surfactant. In addition, peaks of carbon bound to carbon are observed. Degradation and loss of methylsiloxane fragments would lower the intensity of the peaks near 0 ppm and oxidation would cause an increase in peaks observed in the carbonyl range after 150 ppm.

Figure 3-12: 13C NMR of Antifoam 747.

The ¹³C NMR analysis of the organic residue of GN56 SME product $(\sim 18 \text{ mg})$ is shown in Figure 3-19. This spectrum shows glycolic acid as the primary analyte. Trace peaks can be seen in the alcohol/ether region indicating the presence of glycols.

Figure 3-13: GN56 SME Product Extractant Residue.

The ¹³C NMR analysis of the organic residue of GN57 SME product is shown in Figure 3-20. This spectrum shows glycolic acid as the primary analyte but a number of carbonyl compounds have arisen consistent with the breakdown of antifoam 747 [Nikolov, 2011]. Some likely acids present include formic, diglycolic, oxalic, and methoxyacetic acid as well as glycols.

Figure 3-14: GN57 SME Product Extractant Residue.

3.3 VSL NMR Results

SME product simulated waste samples GN56 and GN57 were extracted using diethyl ether and the solvent was removed yielding a product of mixed organics and some inorganics. The residue was analyzed using ${}^{1}H$ NMR and ${}^{13}C$ NMR. DuPont glycolic acid 70 wt.% technical solution was also analyzed by NMR. The only potential decomposition product that utilized spike addition analysis was malonic acid and was found not to be present. All other compounds were determined by comparing to literature standards in the SDBS.

3.3.1 *DuPont 70 wt.% technical grade glycolic acid*

 13 C and ¹H NMR of glycolic acid spectra are shown in Appendix D. Figure 3-21 show the ¹H NMR spectrum with a major glycolic acid signal at 4.1 ppm; the remaining peaks are attributed to polymerization products including diglycolic acid and glycolide. Some formic acid is observed above 8 ppm and no acetic acid is present (2.1 ppm). Malonic acid was not observed and this was confirmed by spike addition. The ${}^{1}H$ NMR shows no peak at 2.0 ppm and 3.4 ppm in the glycolic acid spectrum (Figure 3-21). The 13 C NMR also demonstrates no malonic acid is present (Figure 3-22).

Figure 3-15: ¹ H NMR Spectrum of Glycolic Acid and Malonic acid (top), Malonic Acid (middle), and 70% Glycolic Acid (bottom).

Figure 3-22: ¹³ C NMR Spectrum of Glycolic Acid and Malonic acid (top), Malonic Acid (middle), and 70% Glycolic Acid (bottom)

3.3.2 *Ether Extractions*

In Appendix D, the ^{13}C and ^{1}H NMR spectra of GN56 and GN57 show a number of compounds present. Some are due to the extraction method such as diethyl ether, chloroform, and potentially the reaction of glycols with carbonyls in ether to form peaks in the aldol/ketal region of the NMR. Many of the other peaks are in keeping with compounds from the decomposition of antifoam such as PEG fragments or glycols, formic acid, other acids, and methylsiloxane compounds. Figure 3-23 shows an interesting trend. The GN56 SME product extract shows methylsiloxane compounds in both the ¹H and ¹³C NMR while GN57 SME product extract does not. Also, GN57 SME product showed more peaks in the area where PEG fragments would be expected. This implies the surfactant is decomposed more readily in the presence of noble metals and mercury.

Figure 3-16: 13 C NMR Spectrum of GN56 SME Product Extract (top) and GN57 SME Product Extract (bottom).

4.0 Summary

Analysis of SME products by a number of techniques suggest the following:

- 1. Glycolic acid is the major organic compound present in the MFT waste feed.
- 2. Minor amounts of formate, oxalate, and diglycolic acid are also expected but no acetate. Formic and diglycolic acids are impurities present in the DuPont commercially available technical solution of glycolic acid, currently used in the flowsheet. Oxalate originates in the tank farm waste.
- 3. Numerous other organics, at very low concentrations are additionally observed as a result of the degradation of antifoam 747. Some of these degradation products include PEG fragments, methylsiloxane fragments, and carboxylic acids. This suggests that identification of a more chemically stable superwetter (similar to Silwet L-77) might lead to greatly improved antifoam effectiveness. The presence of noble metals, as seen in analysis of GN57 SME product, accelerates the breakdown of antifoam 747.
- 4. No organics were found at concentrations above 500 mg/kg that would significantly impact the REDOX prediction of the SRAT or SME melter feed. Malonic acid was not observed in the SME products. Acetic acid was not observed although it has a higher detection limit of 1250 mg/kg due the high glycolate concentration.
- 5. Development of an analytical method that is able to track antifoam 747 breakdown products for inclusion into flammability calculations and REDOX equations may be useful and may assist in the identification of a more chemically stable, and thus more effective, superwetter. Possible methods for tracking antifoam 747 degradation include Si NMR spectroscopy and monitoring of PEG fragments via a GC-MS SVOA technique that involves extraction or prior derivatization of these fragments.

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6.0 Appendix A – Diethyl Ether Extraction Protocol

A.1 VSL Diethyl Ether Protocol

Procedure for Extraction of Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) Products at VSL

The Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) product was homogenized and a sample was centrifuged (3800 rpm for 15 min). The supernatant was filtered (0.45 μm) and the filtrate was acidified with concentrated HCl to a final pH of about 2. The acidified solution was extracted with diethyl ether $(2 \times$ with 15 mL each for \approx 10 g of solution). The organic fractions were combined and dried with MgSO₄ overnight. Following filtration of MgSO₄, the solvent was removed using a Rotavac.

A.2 SRNL Diethyl Ether Extraction Protocol

R&D Directions

Reference: Manual L1, Procedure 1.01

Analyst:

- 1. PI: Thomas White 2. Task Title: Extracting SME product
- 3. Date: Customer Name:
- 4. Work Group and Location: Analytical Development, Bldg. 773A, Lab B123 or B119
- 5. Applicable Reference Documents: L1 Manual, AD Procedure 2657 Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
- 6. Directions (Provide activity-specific directions):

Balance AD-0035: 9.9998g and 1.0000g

Equipment

40 mL iChem vials Diethyl ether DuPont 70% glycolic acid, GF40 (gylcolate), and SB6i (no organics) Vortex mixer pH strips (pHydrion Vivid Micro Essential Laboratory) Optima conc. HCl

Procedure

Preparing Sample

Filter the supernate was filtered (0.25 mm) into 40 mL vials and weigh (~8 g)

Blowdowns (in Italics)

Adjust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCl
Extracted 2x with 15 mL of diethyl ether (1 min on Vortex mixer)

Combine the extracts and dry

Filter and blow down in tared vial

SVOA

-
- Adjust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCl
Extracted 2x with 15 mL of diethyl ether (1 min on Vortex mixer)
- Combine the extracts and dry
- Filter and vial

Back extract for IC

-
- Adjust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCl $\overline{}$ Adjust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCl $\overline{}$ Extracted 2x with 15 mL of diethyl ether (1 min on Vortex mixer)
- Combine the extracts
- Extract with 8 mL of 5 mM NaOH
- Vial aqueous

Dryness Numbers

R&D Directions

Reference: Manual L1, Procedure 1.01

1. PI: Thomas White 2. Task Title: Extracting SME product

3. Date: Customer Name: Analyst: Analyst: Avoid: Group and Location: Analystical Development, Bldg. 773A, Lab B123 or B119

5. Applicable Reference Documents: L1 M

Equipment
40 mL iChem vials Diethyl ether

GN56 (no metals) and GN57 (metals) Crotex mixer

pH strips (pHydrion Vivid Micro Essential Laboratory)

Optima conc. HCl

Procedure
Preparing Sample

Filter the supernate was filtered (0.20 um) into 40 mL vials and weigh (~8 g)

 $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{Blawdownx} \textbf{(in Italics)}\\ \text{\hspace{1cm} \textbf{=}\hspace{1cm} \textbf{Adyust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCL} } \end{array}$

Extracted 2x with 15 mL of diethyl ether (1 min on Vortex mixer) Combine the extracts and dry

Filter and blow down in tared vial

SVOA

-
- Adjust the pH to 2 using Conc. HCl \pm Extracted 2x with 15 mL of diethyl ether (1 min on Vortex mixer)
- Combine the extracts and dry
- Filter and vial

Dryness Numbers

7.0 Appendix B – DuPont Glycolic Acid 70% Technical Solution

8.0 Appendix C – Simulated SME Product SB6i, GF40, GN56, and GN57

C.3 GN56

C.4 GN57

9.0 Appendix D – NMR D.1 VSL ¹ H NMR

Figure D.1-1 ¹ H NMR Spectrum of Glycolic Acid and Malonic acid (top), Malonic Acid (middle), and 70% Glycolic Acid (70% Glycolic Acid)

Figure D.1-2 Expanded ¹ H NMR Spectrum of Glycolic Acid and Malonic acid (top), Malonic Acid (middle), and 70% Glycolic Acid (bottom)

Figure D.1-3 ¹ H NMR Spectrum of GN56 ether extract (top) and GN57 ether extract (bottom)

D.2 VSL 13C NMR

Figure D.2-1 13C NMR Spectrum of Glycolic Acid and Malonic acid (top), Malonic Acid (middle), and 70% Glycolic Acid (bottom)

Figure D.2-2 13C NMR Spectrum of GN56 ether extract (top) and GN57 ether extract (bottom)

Figure D.3-3 13C NMR Spectrum of GN56 Diethyl Ether Extracts

Figure D.3-4 13C NMR Spectrum of GN57 Diethyl Ether Extracts

Figure D.3-5 13C NMR Spectrum of 747 Antifoam

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10.0 Appendix E: Email from VSL dated 06/04/13

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Glycolic Acid Flowsheet - NMR Spectroscopy Preliminary Data, 06/04/2013

Glycolic Acid Flowsheet - NMR Spectroscopy **Preliminary Data**

This note summarizes preliminary results obtained to date from NMR spectroscopy studies aimed at: a) investigating organic impurities that may be present in the glycolic acid used at SRS and provided by SRNL, and b) investigating differences in the organic compounds present in the Slurry Mix Evaporator (SME) product samples provided by SRNL (GN56 and GN57, without and with mercury and noble metals, respectively).

Presence of Malonic Acid in Glycolic Acid.

Earlier NMR spectroscopic analysis of the glycolic acid used at SRS suggested that the

^{'OH}) and contained one or more major solution consisted of >90% glycolic acid (impurities (<9%) and one or more minor impurities. Evidence for the presence of impurities was provided in the 1D H-1 NMR spectrum of a glycolic acid solution (10 wt%), which showed the presence of a major peak at ~4.2 ppm and two lesser peaks at 4.8 and 4.3 ppm, and in the 1D C-13 NMR spectrum of the same solution, which showed the presence of three quarternary carbons (at 175.5 (major), 172.7 (minor), and 170.8 (minor) ppm) and three -CH₂- groups (at 60.4 (minor), 58.8 (minor), and 58.7 (major) ppm). The University of Maryland, which performed all of the NMR analysis reported herein, assigned one set of "major imurity" peaks (1D H-1 NMR: 4.8 ppm; 1D C-13 NMR: 170.8 and 60.4 ppm) to the presence of malonic acid

 \mathcal{C}^{HO} ^{OH}) and the remaining set (1D H-1 NMR: 4.3 ppm; 1D C-13 NMR: 172.7 and 58.8 ppm) to a glycolate complex with a metal¹. Based on the relative abundance of the proton signals, they suggested a relative composition for the mixture of impurities and glycolic acid of $9:9:100.$

To confirm the presence of malonic acid in the glycolic acid sample, 10 mg of glycolic acid was added to 1 mL D_2O ; the solution was then spiked with 5 mg of commercially available malonic acid. 1D H-1 and C-13 NMR spectra before and after spiking of the glycolic acid solution with malonic acid were obtained. A comparison of these spectra clearly indicates the lack of malonic acid in the glycolic acid sample. Figure 1 compares 1D H-1 NMR spectra of the glycolic and malonic acids with the spectrum of the spiked solution, while Figure 2 offers a

¹ "NMR-study-SPNS-1", Report, University of Maryland, May 7, 2013

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Glycolic Acid Flowsheet - NMR Spectroscopy Preliminary Data, 06/04/2013

similar comparison of the expanded region between 5 and 3 ppm. Similarly, Figure 3 compares 1D C-13 NMR spectra of the two acids with the corresponding spectrum of the spiked solution. Figures 1 and 2 show that the signal assigned to the protons of the methylene group in malonic acid (3.4 ppm) is absent from the spectrum of the glycolic acid, while Figure 3 show that the C-13 spectrum of glycolic acid lacks the peaks associated with the quaternary carbon $(\sim]170$ ppm) and the methylene carbon (\sim 41 ppm) of malonic acid.

Although the University of Maryland assigned proton signals 4.8 and 4.3 ppm to different compounds (malonic acid and glycolate complex, respectively) their report clearly suggested that the two signals were related. Related proton signals belong to the same compound and are separated by 2 or more bonds. Glycolic acid is known to polymerize. Min et al.² have reported the proton signals associated with the methylene groups of the glycolic dimmer

or HO-(CH₂COO)₂-H) to be 4.78 and 4.28 ppm and suggested that the corresponding signals of the glycolic tetramer were 4.90, 4.87, 4.78, and 4.30 ppm. It is thus entirely possible that the compound present as \sim 10% impurity in the glycolic acid solution is a glycolic dimmer. The 1D H-1 and C-13 NMR spectra of the glycolic acid in Figures 1-3 also indicate the presence of additional minor impurities (<1%). It is conceivable that some of these impurities are glycolic acid polymers with various degrees of polymerization.

Comparison of Etheric Extracts of GN56 and GN57.

The SME products GN56 and GN57 provided by SRNL (without and with mercury and noble metals, respectively) were subjected to extraction with diethyl ether using the following experimental protocol:

The SME product was homogenized and a sample was centrifuged (3800 rpm for 15 min). The supernatant was filtered (0.45 µm) and the filtrate was acidified with concentrated HCl to a final pH of about 2. The acidified solution was extracted with diethyl ether $(2 \times$ with 15 mL each for ≈10 g of solution). The organic fractions were combined and dried with MgSO4 overnight. Following filtration to remove the MgSO₄, the solvent was removed using a Rotavac.

SME product GN56 yielded ~30 mg of organic material from 8 g of initial filtrate, while GN57 yielded ~85 mg of organic material from 10 g of initial filtrate. Subsamples of these materials, 25 mg of the GN56 extract and 50 mg of the GN57 extract, were subjected to NMR

² "Free Acid Effect and NMR Study of Glycolide," B. Min et al., Bull. Korean Chem. Soc. 21(6), 635-637 (2000) .

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analysis using CDCl3 as a solvent. 1D H-1 and C-13 NMR spectra revealed that both extracts were complex mixtures that differed significantly in composition, as evident in Figures 4 and 5, which compare the H-1 and C-13 spectra of the two extracts, respectively. Analysis of these spectra is in progress. However, a number of general observations can be made from the above figures:

- a) The spectra of the two extracts show many differences and rather few similarities.
- b) The GN57 extract appears to be more compositionally complex than GN56 extract.
- c) GN57 contains unique groups of signals in both H-1 $(5.5 5.0$ and $2.0 2.5$ ppm) and C-13 (110 - 95 ppm) NMR spectra.
- d) While the presence of residual diethyl ether can be clearly seen in the spectra of GN56 extract (for example, as signals with identical intensity at $~15$ and $~10$ ppm in the 1D C-13 NMR spectrum) such presence is less evident in the GN57 extract.
- e) While these compounds may have been produced in the SRAT/SME process, it is still possible that some of the compositional complexity of both extracts may be attributed to minor or previously unseen impurities found in glycolic acid since the etheric extraction process is expected to concentrate and, thus, amplify signals from such constituents, especially if they are less water soluble than glycolic acid. In this regard, it may be useful to perform the same diethyl ether extraction and NMR analysis on the glycolic acid sample for comparison.
- f) The presence of a number of alkyl carbons (as evident from proton peaks in the region of 2.0 - 1.0 ppm or carbon peaks in the region of 20 - 10 ppm) is surprising. It is possible that these are groups associated with antifoam agents or previously unseen impurities of glycolic acid. It is also conceivable that they are products of redox reactions involving glycolic acid. For example, enzymatic reactions are known

OH usually whereby glycolic acid can be oxidized to glyoxylic acid (existing as the corresponding hydrate or (HO)2CHCO2H), which in turn can be oxidized to oxalic acid or (COOH)2.

3

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