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# Saltstone 1QCY14 TCLP Results

D. H. Miller

June 2014

SRNL-STI-2014-00268, Revision 0

SRNL.DOE.GOV

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**Printed in the United States of America**

**Prepared for  
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Keywords:** *Saltstone*  
*Regulatory*  
*TCLP*

**Retention:** *Permanent*

## Saltstone 1QCY14 TCLP Results

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June 19, 2014

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Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy under  
contract number DE-AC09-08SR22470.



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Saltstone waste form was prepared in the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) from a Tank 50H sample and Z-Area premix material for the first quarter of calendar year 2014 (1QCY14). After a 64 day cure, samples of the saltstone were collected, and the waste form was shown to meet the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (SCHWMR) R.61-79.261.24 and R.61-79.268.48(a) requirements for a nonhazardous waste form with respect to RCRA metals and underlying hazardous constituents. These analyses met all quality assurance specifications of USEPA SW-846.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ARP	Actinide Removal Process
CVAA	Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption
DSS-HT	Decontaminated Salt Solution Hold Tank
ESS-WP	Environmental Services Section – Waste Programs
ETP	Effluent Treatment Project
ICP-AES	Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy
ISWLF	Industrial Solid Waste Landfill
LCS	Laboratory Control Sample
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCU	Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit
MS	Matrix Spike
MSD	Matrix Spike Duplicate
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RL	Reporting Limit
RPD	Relative Percent Differences
SCDHEC	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
SCHWMR	South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations
SDF	Saltstone Disposal Facility
SDG	Sample Delivery Group
SPF	Saltstone Production Facility
SWLF	Solid Waste LandFill
SWRI	Southwest Research Institute
SRNL	Savannah River National Laboratory
TCLP	Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure
UHC	Underlying Hazardous Constituent
UTS	Universal Treatment Standards
USEPA	United State Environmental Protection Agency
WAC	Waste Acceptance Criteria

## 1.0 Introduction

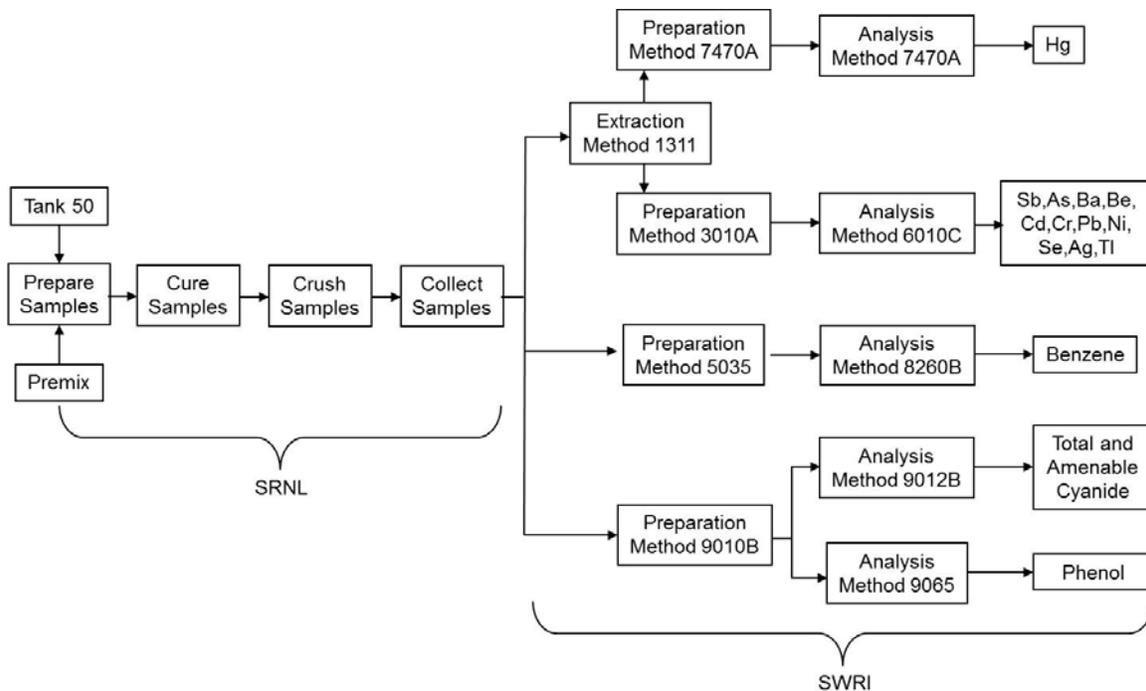
The Saltstone Production Facility (SPF) receives waste from Tank 50H for treatment. In the first quarter of the 2014 calendar year (1QCY14), Tank 50H accepted transfers of approximately 18.7 kgal from the Effluent Treatment Project (ETP), approximately 1.3 kgal from 211H, 7.9 kgal from 512S, and approximately 140.8 kgal from the Actinide Removal Process / Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (ARP/MCU) Decontaminated Salt Solution Hold Tank (DSS-HT).<sup>1</sup>

The Saltstone Grout Sampling plan provides the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) with the chemical and physical characterization strategy for the salt solution which is to be disposed of in the Z-Area Solid Waste Landfill (SWLF).<sup>2</sup> During operation, samples were collected from Tank 50H and grout samples prepared to determine the non-hazardous nature of the grout to meet the requirements of the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (SCHWMR) R.61-79.261.24(b) and R.61-79.268.48(a).<sup>3</sup>

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) was requested<sup>4</sup> to prepare saltstone from samples of Tank 50H obtained January 21, 2014 during 1QCY14 to determine the non-hazardous nature of the grout. The samples were cured and shipped to Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) to perform the Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP)<sup>5</sup> and subsequent extract analysis on saltstone samples for the analytes required for the quarterly analysis saltstone sample. In addition to the eight toxic metals—arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, mercury, lead, selenium and silver—analytes include underlying hazardous constituents (UHC) antimony, beryllium, nickel, thallium, benzene, phenols, and total and amenable cyanide which could not be eliminated from analysis by process knowledge.<sup>6</sup>

## 2.0 Experimental Procedure

This section is a summary of the approach taken to prepare and characterize the saltstone samples. The saltstone sample preparation was performed at SRNL. Saltstone sample characterization was performed at SWRI in San Antonio, Texas. Figure 2-1 is a flowchart of the steps taken to prepare and characterize the saltstone samples.



**Figure 2-1. Flowchart of Saltstone Preparation and Analysis**

## 2.1 Saltstone Preparation

Saltstone preparation was performed at SRNL. The weight percent solids data used for the TCLP sample was taken from the quarterly Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) analyses performed on Tank 50H<sup>7</sup>. Table 2-1 lists the concentration of TCLP metals of interest in the salt solution from the WAC analysis for the sample.<sup>7</sup> As shown in Table 2-1 the contents of Tank 50H exceed the regulatory limits for antimony, cadmium, chromium, mercury, and phenol, and therefore must be treated and disposed of in a non-hazardous waste form. Table 2-2 contains the parameters used to prepare the TCLP sample.<sup>1</sup>

Saltstone samples for TCLP were prepared with the Tank 50H blended salt solution and a premix of cement, slag, and fly ash. Figure 2-2 shows the formulation used to prepare these samples. The premix material was slowly added to the salt solution and mixed for approximately three minutes using a paddle blade mixer. The mixing was paused for approximately five seconds after 30 seconds of mixing to allow entrained air to escape from the grout. After the saltstone slurry was mixed, it was cast into a polyethylene zip top bag. The bag was laid flat and the air was expelled prior to sealing. The sample was cured flat in a polypropylene bag to facilitate the size reduction step needed to conform to the particle size requirements of the TCLP method.

After curing for not less than 28 days<sup>2</sup>, 64 days for the 1QCY14 sample, the saltstone was removed from the container and a portion of the saltstone was crushed to particles less than 0.9 centimeters (3/8 inch) as prescribed by Section 7.13 of the TCLP method. The crushed saltstone was packaged into containers provided by Environmental Services Section – Waste Programs (ESS-WP). After the saltstone has been crushed, sieved and packaged, the sample is deemed “collected.”<sup>2</sup> ESS-WP retrieved the sample from SRNL and transported them to SWRI for extraction and analysis.

**Table 2-1. Sample Results of TCLP Metals and UHCs from Tank 50 WAC Analyses**

Analyte	Sample Results (mg/L) <sup>7</sup>	Regulatory Limits (mg/L)
	1Q14	Toxicity <sup>a</sup>
As	<0.0941	5
Ba	<0.907	100
Cd	<2.39	1
Cr	34.2	5
Pb	0.29	5
Hg	65.0	0.2
Se	<0.103	1
Ag	<1.81	5
--		<b>UHC<sup>b</sup></b>
Sb	<49.5	1.15
Be	<0.171	1.22
Ni	<4.61	11
Tl	0.088	0.20
-	<b>(mg/kg)</b>	<b>(mg/kg)</b>
benzene	<0.150	10
phenol	<10.0	6.2
cyanide (total)	NM	590
cyanide (amenable)	NM	30

NM – Not Measured

<sup>a</sup>SCHWMR R.61-79.261.24(b) “Characteristic of Toxicity.”

<sup>b</sup>SCHWMR R.61-79.268.48 “Universal Treatment Standards.”

**Table 2-2. Customer Recommended Values for Preparation of TCLP Sample**

Parameter	1QCY14
Water-to-Premix ratio	0.59
(Daratard 17) gal/Ton premix	0
(Dow Corning Q2-3183A) gal/Ton premix	0.00

### Saltstone Mix Data Sheet

MIX # 0150		Date: 2/18/2014	
Material	%	WT%	Grams
<b>Waste Solution:</b> Tank 50 1/21/14 1Q14 <b>Wt% Solids #</b> <u>27.994</u> <b>Grams Water</b> <u>180.45</u>		45.09	250.60
<b>Admixture:</b> <u>Q2 Antifoam*</u>		0.08	0.24
<b>Admixture:</b> _____			0.00
<b>Admixture:</b> _____			
<b>Premix</b>		54.87	305.00
<b>Cement (% of Premix)</b>	10	5.49	30.50
<b>Slag (% of Premix)</b>	45	24.69	137.25
<b>Fly Ash (% of Premix)</b>	45	24.69	137.25
<b>Total</b>	100	100.04	555.84
<b>Water to Premix Ratio</b>	0.59		
<b>Calculations:</b> Use CBO fly ash  <b>From customer:</b> 0.59 W/P 0.10 gpm Antifoam 33 TPH Dry Feeds NO Daratard  Q2 is diluted Q2 amount . In plant, diluted 1:4 in water. * Actual amount of Q2 added to sample is 0.24 g. Q2 was diluted to a 1:4 in water and 100 uL pipette was used to add the diluted Q2 to the sample.			

*Did Not Add  
Per customer email*

Figure 2-2. Data Sheet for saltstone mix used to prepare the 1QCY14 TCLP sample

## 2.2 Saltstone Testing

Saltstone testing was performed by SWRI. Activities associated with the 1QCY14 saltstone sample were TCLP extraction, TCLP leachate digestion and analysis, extraction of solid subsamples and extract analysis. The sample arrived at SWRI in San Antonio, Texas on April 30, 2014 for analysis. The samples were delivered with proper chain of custody documentation and signatures. All sample containers arrived without any visible signs of tampering or breakage, as noted in the SWRI report<sup>8</sup>.

The volatile compound, benzene, was prepared by SW-846 Method 5035 and analyzed according to SW-846 Method 8260B. For total and amenable cyanide, the sample was prepared using SW-846 9010B and analyzed using method 9012B. For total phenol, since the sample is a solid, method SW-846 9065 (Phenolics), a manual distillation and colorimetric procedure, was performed.

For the TCLP metals analysis, the sample was extracted by SW-846 method 1311. It is reported from method 1311 “modified” since a reduced sample mass was extracted due to its elevated sample activity. The extracts were prepared and analyzed for mercury by SW-846 Method 7470A. The extracts were digested according to SW-846 Method 3010A for the remaining metals. Those digestates were analyzed by ICP-AES, SW-846 Method 6010C.

## 2.3 Quality Assurance

Requirements for performing reviews of technical reports and the extent of review are established in manual E.7 2.60. SRNL documents the extent and type of review using the SRNL Technical Report Design Checklist contained in WSRC-IM-2002-00011, Rev. 2.

## 3.0 Results and Discussion

Results summarized in the following tables are from the data package for these analyses.<sup>8</sup> Data is presented in these results as reported by the vendor, SWRI. Analytes that were analyzed for, but not detected, have been flagged with the “U” qualifier. This is based on necessary concentration dilution action and not necessarily the instrument detection limit. Analytes flagged with a “J” qualifier indicate an issue with the matrix spike recoveries. Post digestion spike recoveries were performed for these analytes as confirmation of results. In addition to the results, the reporting limit for each analyte has been given. The reporting limit (RL) is the lowest level at which an analyte may be accurately and reproducibly measured.

Results in Table 3-1, when compared with the RL, can be organized into three groups:

- Total phenol is flagged as having matrix spike issues.
- Cadmium, chromium, silver, antimony, thallium, beryllium, benzene, and total phenol were detected at or below the RLs.
- Arsenic, barium, lead, mercury, selenium, nickel, amenable and total cyanide were detected in the leachates at concentrations above the RLs.

**Table 3-1. Saltstone TCLP metals and UHC results**

Analyte	Results	Q*	Reporting Limit	Units	Method
Arsenic	45.7		10.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Barium	821		5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Cadmium	5.0	U	5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Chromium	5.0	U	5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Lead	13.4		5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Mercury	1.53		0.2	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/7470A
Selenium	43.8		10.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Silver	5.0	U	5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Antimony	20.0	U	20.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Nickel	13.7		5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Thallium	20.0	U	20.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Beryllium	5.0	U	5.0	µg/L (TCLP)	1311/6010C
Benzene	1.2	U	1.2	µg/kg	EPA 8260B
Amenable Cyanide	11.9		0.442	mg/kg	EPA 9012B
Total Cyanide	11.9		0.442	mg/kg	EPA 9012B
Total Phenol	0.904	UJ	0.904	mg/kg	EPA 9065

- Indicates a location in the table for which an entry would not be appropriate.

\*Q = Qualifier Column

U = Indicates compound was analyzed for, but not detected.

J = Indicates MS/MSD recoveries were not within specification

### 3.1 Comparison of Results to Regulatory Limits

Results from the TCLP leachate analyses from Table 3-1 are replicated in Table 3-2; however the TCLP metals units are changed from µg/L to mg/L and compared to the regulatory limits that may be applied to the Saltstone waste form. Table 3-2 includes the SCHWMR R.61-79.261.24(b) limits above which a waste is to be considered characteristically hazardous for toxicity and the SCHWMR R.61-79.268.48 Universal Treatment Standards (UTS) for hazardous constituents. In addition, Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) from the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations<sup>3</sup> also have been included in Table 3-2. By comparing the sample results and the regulatory limits the following conclusions can be made:

- The saltstone waste form was not characteristically hazardous for toxicity.
- The leachate metals concentrations were below the Nonwastewater Standard for all of the metals and UHCs.
- Barium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver were below the MCL's.
- Arsenic, cadmium, antimony, thallium, and beryllium exceeded the MCL.
- Nickel does not have a MCL.

The MCL is the limit for a constituent in drinking water. The MCL is used to determine the class of landfill required. At 10x MCL, a Class 3 landfill is required. The Salt Disposal Facility (SDF) vaults are permitted as a Class 3 landfill. None of the analyses were greater than 10x the MCL.

**Table 3-2. Saltstone TCLP and UHC Results and Corresponding Regulatory Limits**

Analyte	Results (mg/L)	Q*	Regulatory Limits		
			Toxicity <sup>a</sup>	UTS <sup>b</sup>	MCL <sup>c</sup>
			(mg/L)	Nonwastewater Standard (mg/L TCLP)	(mg/L)
Arsenic	4.57E-02		5	5	0.010
Barium	8.21-01		100	21	2
Cadmium	5.00E-03	U	1	0.11	0.005
Chromium	5.00E-03	U	5	0.6	0.1
Lead	1.34E-02		5	0.75	0.015 <sup>d</sup>
Mercury	1.53E-03		0.2	0.025	2E-03
Selenium	4.38E-02		1	5.7	0.05
Silver	5.00E-03	U	5	0.14	0.1 <sup>e</sup>
Antimony	2.00E-02	U	-	1.15	0.006
Nickel	1.37E-02		-	11	-
Thallium	2.00E-02	U	-	0.20	2E-03
Beryllium	5.00E-03	U	-	1.22	4E-03
-	<b>Results (mg/kg)</b>	-	-	<b>UTS<sup>b</sup> (mg/kg)</b>	-
Benzene	1.2E-03	U	-	10	-
Amenable Cyanide	1.19E+01		-	30	-
Total Cyanide	1.19E+01		-	590	-
Total Phenol	9.04E-01	UJ	-	6.2	-

- Indicates a location in the table for which an entry would not be appropriate.

\*Q = Qualifier Column

U = Indicates compound was analyzed for, but not detected.

J = Indicates MS/MSD recoveries were not within specification

<sup>a</sup> SCDHEC R.61-79.261.24(b) "Characteristic of Toxicity."

<sup>b</sup> SCDHECR 61-79.268.48 "Universal Treatment Standards."

<sup>c</sup> SCDHEC R.61-58.5(B) "Maximum Contaminant Levels for Inorganic Chemicals".

<sup>d</sup> Lead action level from SCDHEC R.61-58.11.B.

<sup>e</sup> Secondary drinking water parameter.

### 3.2 Analytical Quality Control

The following subsections include summaries of results from blanks, laboratory control samples, matrix spikes, and matrix spike duplicates. The data package also includes data for calibration verifications, interference checks, and serial dilutions.<sup>8</sup>

#### 3.2.1 Blanks

Blank concentrations are given in Table 3-3. In the TCLP Blank, all the analyte concentrations were below the RLs.

**Table 3-3. Method Blanks**

Analyte	Blank	Units	Q
Arsenic	10.0	µg/L	U
Barium	5.0	µg/L	U
Cadmium	5.0	µg/L	U
Chromium	5.0	µg/L	U
Lead	5.0	µg/L	U
Mercury	0.20	µg/L	U
Selenium	10.0	µg/L	U
Silver	5.0	µg/L	U
Antimony	20.0	µg/L	U
Nickel	5.0	µg/L	U
Thallium	20.0	µg/L	U
Beryllium	5.0	µg/L	U
Benzene	0.6	µg/kg	U
Amenable Cyanide	0.421	mg/kg	U
Total Cyanide	0.421	mg/kg	U
Total Phenol	0.976	mg/kg	U

<sup>Q</sup> Qualifier Column

<sup>U</sup> Indicates compound was analyzed for, but not detected above the RL

<sup>J</sup> Indicates MS/MSD recoveries were not within specification

### 3.2.2 Laboratory Control Samples

Results from the Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) are given in Table 3-4. The LCS post spike recoveries met USEPA SW-846 acceptance limits for all elements. Laboratory Control Samples are clean aqueous solutions analyzed to assure integrity of the analytical technique exclusive of matrix effects.

**Table 3-4. Laboratory Control Samples**

Analyte	LCS		Units	Recovery (%)
	True	Recovery		
Arsenic	4000	3850	µg/L	96.2
Barium	4000	4020	µg/L	100.5
Cadmium	100	96.5	µg/L	96.5
Chromium	400	389	µg/L	97.2
Lead	1000	924	µg/L	92.4
Mercury	1.0	1.08	µg/L	108.0
Selenium	4000	3620	µg/L	90.5
Silver	100	94.3	µg/L	94.3
Antimony	1000	967	µg/L	96.7
Nickel	1000	954	µg/L	95.4
Thallium	4000	3860	µg/L	96.5
Beryllium	100	96.9	µg/L	96.9
Benzene	10	11	µg/kg	110
Amenable Cyanide	NA	NA	mg/kg	NA
Total Cyanide	67.7	93.4	mg/kg	138
Total Phenol	NA	NA	mg/kg	NA

NA – Not applicable

### 3.2.3 Matrix Spikes

Results from analysis of the matrix spike (MS) and matrix spike duplicates (MSD) are given in Table 3-5 and Table 3-6, respectfully. These results show that:

- The percent recoveries (%R) obtained from the MS analyses met the recommended quality control acceptance criteria for percent recoveries, 75 – 125% (70 – 130% for benzene), for all applicable analytes. Post digestion spikes were performed for total phenol and found to be acceptable.
- The percent recoveries (%R) obtained from the MSD analyses met the recommended quality control acceptance criteria for percent recoveries, 75 – 125% (70 – 130% for benzene), for all applicable analytes. Post digestion spikes were performed for total phenol and found to be acceptable.
- The RPD(s) between the MS and MSD met the acceptance limits (0 – 30%).
- The RPD(s) between the Sample and Sample Duplicate met the acceptance limits. Phenol is reported as zero since the values were below the detection limit.

**Table 3-5. Matrix Spike and Matrix Spike Duplicate Results**

Analyte	Units	Initial Concentration		Spiked Sample		Recovery (%)		
		Sample	Spike Added	Spike	Spike Duplicate	Spike	Spike Duplicate	
Arsenic	µg/L	45.7	2500	2470	2460	97.0	96.6	
Barium	µg/L	821	5000	5270	5190	89.0	87.4	
Cadmium	µg/L	5.0	500	440	436	88.0	87.2	
Chromium	µg/L	5.0	1000	867	860	86.7	86.0	
Lead	µg/L	13.4	2500	2140	2140	85.1	85.1	
Mercury	µg/L	1.53	2.00	3.42	3.51	94.5	99.0	
Selenium	µg/L	43.8	2500	2410	2420	94.6	95.0	
Silver	µg/L	5.0	500	443	434	88.6	86.8	
Antimony	µg/L	20.0	5000	4700	4650	94.0	93.0	
Nickel	µg/L	13.7	2500	2130	2120	84.7	84.3	
Thallium	µg/L	20.0	2500	2200	2180	88.0	87.2	
Beryllium	µg/L	5.0	500	464	460	92.8	92.0	
Benzene	µg/kg	1.2	20	20	18	17	90	85
Amenable Cyanide	mg/kg	11.9	NA		NA	NA	-	-
Total Cyanide	mg/kg	11.9	21.5	22.1	28.6	33.4	77.7	97.3
Total Phenol <sup>J</sup>	mg/kg	0.904	22.8	21.0	0.912	0.842	0.0	0.0

- Indicates a location in the table for which an entry would not be appropriate.

<sup>J</sup> Matrix spike recovery is outside specified limits

**Table 3-6. Duplicates and Relative Percent Difference**

Analyte	Units	Q	Initial Sample	Duplicate Sample	RPD
Arsenic	µg/L	-	45.7	36.2	-
Barium	µg/L	-	821	824	0.4
Cadmium	µg/L	U	5.0	5.0	-
Chromium	µg/L	U	5.0	5.0	-
Lead	µg/L		13.4	11.1	-
Mercury	µg/L		1.53	1.55	1.3
Selenium	µg/L	-	43.8	43.3	-
Silver	µg/L	U	5.0	5.0	-
Antimony	µg/L	U	20.0	20.0	-
Nickel	µg/L	-	13.7	12.8	-
Thallium	µg/L	U	20.0	20.0	-
Beryllium	µg/L	U	5.0	5.0	-
Benzene	µg/kg	U	1.2	-	-
Amenable Cyanide <sup>J</sup>	mg/kg	J	11.9	14.7	21.1
Total Cyanide <sup>J</sup>	mg/kg	J	11.9	14.7	21.1
Total Phenol	mg/kg	U	0.904	0.854	0

- Indicates a location in the table for which an entry would not be appropriate.

<sup>Q</sup> Qualifier Column

<sup>U</sup> Indicates compound was analyzed for, but not detected above the RL

<sup>J</sup> Indicates RPD is out of specification

### 3.2.4 Calibration Information

- All initial calibration requirements have been met for this sample delivery group (SDG).
- All Contract Required Reporting Limit requirement(s) met the referenced advisory control limits.
- All interference check samples associated with this SDG met the established acceptance criteria.
- All continuing calibration blanks bracketing this batch met the established acceptance criteria.
- All continuing calibration verifications bracketing this SDG met the acceptance criteria.

#### 4.0 Conclusions

Preparation of the 1QCY14 saltstone samples and the subsequent TCLP analyses showed that:

- The saltstone waste form disposed of in the Saltstone Disposal Facility in 1QCY14 was not characteristically hazardous for toxicity.
- The concentrations of the eight RCRA metals and UHCs identified as possible in the saltstone waste form were present at levels below the UTS.
- Analyses met all quality assurance specifications of USEPA SW-846.

The saltstone waste form placed in the Saltstone Disposal Facility in 1QCY14 met the SCHWMR R.61-79.261.24(b) RCRA metals requirements for a nonhazardous waste form. The TCLP leachate concentrations were less than 10x the MCLs in SCDHEC Regulations R.61-107.19, Part I C.

The saltstone waste form placed in the Saltstone Disposal Facility in 1QCY14 met the R.61-79.268.48(a) non wastewater treatment standards.

Analyses met all USEPA SW-846 quality assurance requirements. All other limits on holding times, laboratory control sample recoveries, matrix spike recoveries, serial dilution results when applicable, calibration verification, and interference checks were within the quality assurance requirements.

## 5.0 References

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2. Liner, K.R., "Saltstone Grout Sampling (U)," Savannah River Site, ESH-EPG-2004-00318, 2004.
3. South Carolina Code of Regulations, Chapter 61-Department of Health and Environmental Control.
4. Miller, D.H., "Task Technical and Quality Assurance Plan for SRNL Support of TCLP Preparation and Analysis for Saltstone-FY2014", Savannah River National Laboratory, SRNL-RP-2013-00767, October, 2013.
5. "Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure," EPA SW-846, Procedure 1311.
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8. Miller, D.H., "Data Package from Vendor for 1QCY14 Saltstone TCLP Analysis," Savannah River National Laboratory, SRNL-L3100-2014-00134, June 18, 2014.

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