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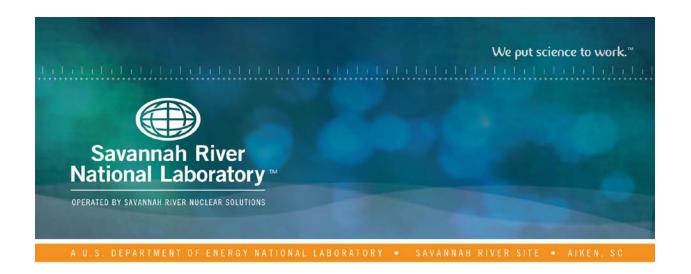
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Solvent Hold Tank Sample Results for MCU-16-270-271-272: February 2016 Monthly Sample

F. F. Fondeur

D. H. Jones

May 2016

SRNL-STI-2016-00194, Revision 0

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F. F. Fondeur D. H. Jones

May 2016



REVIEWS AND APPROVALS

AUTHORS:	
F. F. Fondeur, Advanced Characterization and Processing	Date
D. H. Jones, Research Support	Date
TECHNICAL REVIEW:	
T. B. Peters, Advanced Characterization and Processing Reviewed per Manual E7 Procedure 2.60	Date
APPROVAL:	
B. J. Wiedenman, Manager Advanced Characterization and Processing	Date
D. E. Dooley, Director E&CPT Research Programs	Date
E. A. Brass, Manager MCU & Salt/Sludge Processing	Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Savannah River National Lab (SRNL) received one set of Solvent Hold Tank (SHT) samples (MCU-16-270-271-272), pulled on 02/21/2016 for analysis. The samples were combined and analyzed for composition. Analysis of the composite sample MCU-16-270-271-272 indicated the IsoparTML concentration is above its nominal level (101%). The modifier (CS-7SB), the extractant (MaxCalix), and the TiDG concentrations are 7%, 6%, and 40 % below their nominal concentrations. This analysis confirms the addition of TiDG, MaxCalix, and modifier to the solvent in November 2015. Based on the current monthly sample, the levels of TiDG, IsoparTML, MaxCalix, and modifier are sufficient for continuing operation but are expected to decrease with time. Periodic characterization and trimming additions to the solvent are recommended.

No impurities above the 1000 ppm level were found in this solvent by the Semi-Volatile Organic Analysis (SVOA). No impurities were observed in the Hydrogen Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (HNMR). However, up to 32.3 ± 6 micrograms of mercury per gram of solvent (or $26.8 \,\mu\text{g/mL}$) was detected in this sample (as determined by the X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) method). The higher mercury concentration in the solvent (as determined in the last four monthly samples) is possibly due to the higher mercury concentration in salt batch 8 (Tank 49H).

The current gamma level (3.9E3 dpm/mL) confirmed that the gamma concentration has returned to previous level where the process operated normally and as expected.

The laboratory will continue to monitor the quality of the solvent in particular for any new impurities or degradation of the solvent components.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOBCalixC6 Calix[4]arene-bis(*tert*-octylbenzo-crown-6)

CSSX Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction

CVAA Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectrometry

FT-HNMR Fourier Transform Hydrogen Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

FTIR Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopy
HNMR Hydrogen Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

HPLC High Performance Liquid Chromatography

ISDP Integrated Salt Disposition Project

MCU Modular Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Unit

MaxCalix 1,3-alt-25,27-Bis(3,7-dimethyloctyloxy)calix[4]arene-benzocrown-6

NGS Next Generation Solvent

RSD Relative Standard Deviation or the absolute value of the Coefficient of

Variation

SHT Solvent Hold Tank

SRNL Savannah River National Laboratory SVOA Semi-Volatile Organic Analysis

TiDG N,N',N''-tris(3,7-dimethyloctyl)guanidine

TOA Trioctylamine

XRF X-Ray Fluorescence

1.0 Introduction

In late FY13, the Modular Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) switched to the Next Generation Solvent (NGS) flow sheet. Facility personnel implemented the switch by adding a non-radioactive, NGS "cocktail" containing the new extractant (MaxCalix) and a new suppressor (TiDG) to the SHT heel. The resulting "blend" solvent ("NGS Blend solvent") is essentially NGS with residual amounts of BOBCalixC6 and trioctylamine (TOA). SHT samples are sent to SRNL to examine solvent composition changes over time. In February, 2016, Operations personnel pulled and delivered three samples from the SHT (MCU-16-270, MCU-16-271, and MCU-16-272) for analysis. These samples are intended to verify that the solvent is within the specified composition range. A baseline "scratch" solvent (a scratch solvent is a preparation of all 6 solvent components at the same time to generate a solution of the appropriate composition that approximates the blend of cocktail and heel solvent) was prepared in the lab (September 2015) and used for comparison and evaluation. The results from the analyses are presented in this document.

2.0 Experimental Procedure

2.1 Experimental Procedure

A summary of relevant and recent trims to the MCU solvent as well as the arrival date of the samples currently being studied are shown in Table 2-1. On November 28, 2015, a trim addition was made to MCU that was 10.02 E3 grams of modifier and 765 grams of TiDG in 18.6 gallons of IsoparTML.

Event Date February solvent trim added to MCU February 22, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-389-390 February 25, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-439-440-441 February 28, 2015 10 gallons of IsoparTML added to MCU March 6, 2015 9 gallons of IsoparTML added to MCU March 13, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-2726-2727-2728 March 16, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-661-662-663 April 2, 2015 10 gallons of IsoparTML added to MCU May 6, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-710-711-712 June 15, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-750-751-752 June 22, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-802-803-804-805-806-807 August 31, 2015 October solvent trim added to MCU October 28, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-815-816-817-818-819-820 November 29, 2015 14 gallons of IsoparTML added to MCU December 21, 2015 SHT sample MCU-15-914-915-916 December 22, 2015 SHT sample MCU-16-53-54-55 January 26, 2016 SHT sample MCU-16-270-271-272 February 21, 2016

Table 2-1 Log of recent trims to the MCU solvent and sample arrivals to SRNL

Samples shown in Table 2-1 were received in p-nut vials containing ~10 mL each (see Fig 1). Once taken into a radioactive hood, the samples were visually inspected and analyzed for pH. MCU-16-270, MCU-16-271, and MCU-16-272 were composited before use. Aliquots of the composited sample were removed to perform the following analysis: Density, SVOA, high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), titration, gamma counting, cold vapor atomic adsorption spectrometry (CVAA), XRF, and Fourier-Transformed Hydrogen Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (FT-HNMR). Results from analytical measurements were compared with the theoretical values shown in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Nominal concentrations of the relevant components in NGS Blend²

Component	mg/L	Molar
MaxCalix	~ 44,400	~ 0.0465
BOBCalixC6*	< 4,030	< 0.0035
TOA*	< 530	< 0.0015
Modifier	~ 169,000	~ 0.50
TiDG	~1440	~ 0.003
Isopar TM L	~ 623,000	~ 74 wt%

^{*}Values represent starting values when NGS blend was implemented. These components are no longer added to or refurbished in MCU.

2.2 Quality Assurance

Requirements for performing reviews of technical reports and the extent of review are established in Manual E7 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

Each sample (MCU-16-270, MCU-16-271, and MCU-16-272) was visually examined. No immiscible phases or debris or foam was observed. All samples had a pH value of 5.5. No unusual reactions, solids, foaming, or immiscible layers were observed after combining the samples into one (MCU-16-270-271-272). Table 3-1 contains the results for the MCU-16-270-271-272 composite sample.

IsoparTM L and Modifier Levels

A density measurement of the sample gave a result of 0.8325 g/mL (0.06% RSD) (or 0.8291 g/mL at 25 °C when corrected for temperature using the CSSX temperature correction formula) for MCU-16-270-271-272 at 21 °C. The calculated density (0.8291 g/mL) for MCU-16-270-271-272 is about 1% below the calculated density for the standard sample (0.835 g/mL at 25 °C for the scratch blend made in the laboratory). Using the density as a starting point, we know that the concentration level of the IsoparTML component in the sample should be slightly above its nominal value (within analytical uncertainties) and the modifier concentration should be slightly below its nominal value.







Figure 1. Typical appearance of the three MCU-16-270, MCU-16-271, and MCU-16-272

An examination of Table 3-1 shows that the IsoparTM L concentration is above its nominal value (~ 1%) while the modifier concentration is correspondingly slightly lower (6% lower) than its nominal value. Of all the methods listed, density has the lowest uncertainty. Thus, the final reported values are closer to the density measurement. The last IsoparTML trim addition to MCU was on December 21, 2015.

All measurements indicate the IsoparTM L level is slightly above its nominal value while the modifier concentration level is below its nominal value (see Fig. 2 for recent modifier concentrations from HPLC measurements). The modifier level appears to trend up and down possibly reflecting randomness in the process of mixing, sampling and analyzing it. The relatively lower modifier concentration explains why the measured density is slightly below the standard sample density. The accuracies of the different measurements were within expectation as reflected in the total mass sum of the "average" results listed in Table 3-1. They added up to 0.828 ± 0.019 g/mL. Their sum is consistent with the measured and temperature corrected (to 25 °C) value of 0.829 g/mL, and also with the measured and corrected to 25 °C mass concentration (density) of the standard (0.835 g/mL). With a lower modifier concentration, the solvent chemical properties are similar to that of IsoparTML; thus, expect normal emulsification, phase separation, rheology, and phase carry-over (but increased evaporation). The current modifier concentration is well above the minimum modifier concentration below which the extractant concentration may drop due to solubility limits.

Table 3-1 Sample Results for MCU-16-270-271-272

Analysis	Method	LIMS#	Result (mg/L) [#]	Nominal* Result (mg/L)	% of (Result ÷ Nominal Result)
		T T		Г	1
Isopar® L	FT-HNMR	NA	6.26E+05		101
Isopar [®] L	FT-IR	NA	6.26E+05	6.23E+05	101
Isopar® L	Density	NA	6.26E+05		100
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	6.26E+05	6.23E+05	101
Modifier	HPLC	300320985	1.58E+05		93
Modifier	FT-HNMR	NA	1.62E+05	1.600.05	96
Modifier	FT-IR	NA	1.58E+05	1.69E+05	94
Modifier	Density	NA	1.56E+05		92
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	1.57E+05	1.69E+05	93
TiDG⁴	Titration	NA	8.62E+02	1.44E+03	60
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	8.62E+02	1.44E+03	60
trioctylamine	Titration	NA	2.48E+02	5.30E+02	47
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	2.48E+02	5.30E+02	47
MaxCalix	HPLC	300320985	4.00E+04	4.44E+04	90
MaxCalix	FT-HNMR	NA	4.62E+04		104
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	4.19E+04	4.44E+04	94
BOBCalixC6	HPLC	300320985	2.33E+03	4.03E+03	58
Average ^{\$}	All	NA	2.33E+03	4.03E+03	58
Density (g/mL)	Direct Measurement	NA	0.8291	0.835	99

[#] Analytical uncertainty is 10% for HPLC. Titration method uncertainty is 10% for TiDG and 16% for TOA. Density results from the average of replicate volumetric trials typically have a percentage standard deviation of <3% between each value and the average. NMR analytical uncertainty is 10% for the modifier and 13% for MaxCalix, and 14% for Isopar™ L. N/A = Not Applicable. Density estimations assume the combined weight percent of TiDG, MaxCalix, BOBCalixC6, and TOA to be approximately 6%.

^{*} Nominal value is the expected value for freshly prepared blended solvent with a target density of 0.8352 g/mL at 25 °C.

s Reported value for a MCU component is the weighted average of the values reported by the techniques that measured that component.

s $x = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{l} \left(\frac{x_i}{\delta_i^2}\right)}{\sum_{i=1}^{l} \left(\frac{1}{\delta_i^2}\right)};$ x_i stands for the concentration obtained at a given method and δ_i is the corresponding uncertainty.

No TiDG value was estimated by FT-HNMR due to an aged (questionable) standard.

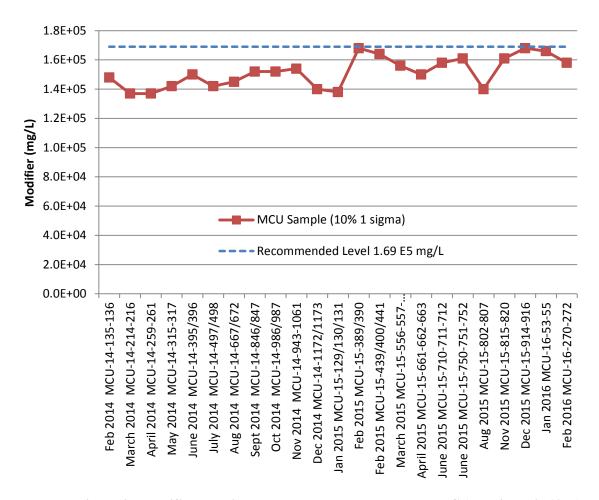


Figure 2. Modifier level in the solvent as measured by HPLC (one sigma is 10%).

Suppressors Levels

The average TiDG concentration level (8.62 \pm 0.9 E2 mg/L) is at 60 % of its nominal value of 1440 mg/L confirming the continued depletion of the trim addition to the solvent done in December 2015 (a noticeable spike in the TiDG concentration level was observed in Fig. 3). The suppressor concentration is above the minimum recommended operating level (479 mg/L) and thus, the solvent did not require a TiDG addition at the time sample MCU-16-270-271-272 was collected. Inferring from past TiDG concentration level trends (see Fig. 3) and in the absence of new additions or new removal mechanisms (and assuming continuous steady operation), the TiDG concentration is expected to drop and reach the minimum recommended level sometime in April 2016. This drop is due to the combined effect of a chemical decomposition (reaction with caustic water) and phase transfer to the aqueous phases (salt solution and boric acid). The TOA concentration appears to have decreased slightly 248 ± 40 mg/L (in the previous sample the TOA level was at 291 mg/L). The difference between this and last month measurement is within analytical error. Looking at the slope of the TOA concentration data for the last three samples, it appears to trend downwards with time after the trim addition (TiDG). The drop in the TOA concentration level, right after the trim addition, is possibly due to the dilution effect of the trim (see Fig. 3). Since MCU no longer adds TOA, a drop in TOA concentration is expected with time. However, a detectable and steady TOA concentration persists with time, perhaps due to TiDG degradation into primary amines, which have previously been identified as degradation products of the suppressor when

heated.³ The primary amine degradation products would likely have a similar pKa to the TOA (tertiary amine) making the equivalent points coincide.⁴

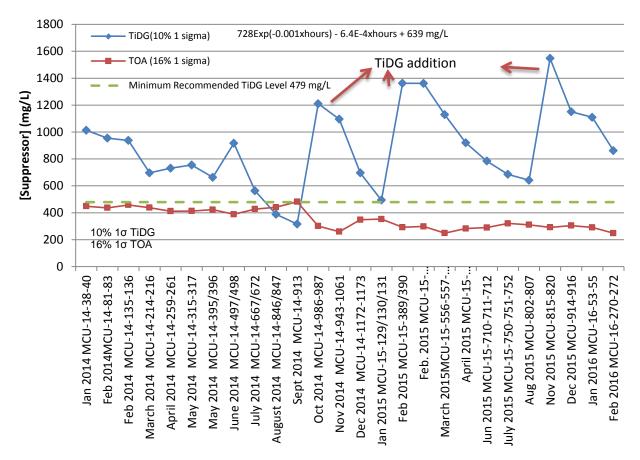


Figure 3. Suppressor concentration as measured by titration in SHT samples since NGS implementation. The minimum recommended level is 479 mg/L for TiDG.

Extractant Levels

The average calculated MaxCalix level is 4.19E4 mg/L ($\pm 10\%$) and it is 6% below its nominal value. The sudden drop in the MaxCalix concentration relative to the previous five monthly samples is probably due to analytical variance (see Figure 4). However, the current MaxCalix concentration level is consistent with its historical trend (Fig. 4). The residual concentration of BOBCalixC6 level is currently at 58% of the level measured when the NGS was implemented in late FY13. Since no BOBCalixC6 is added to the SHT, it can't be explained at this time the constancy of the BOBCalixC6 concentration in the solvent.

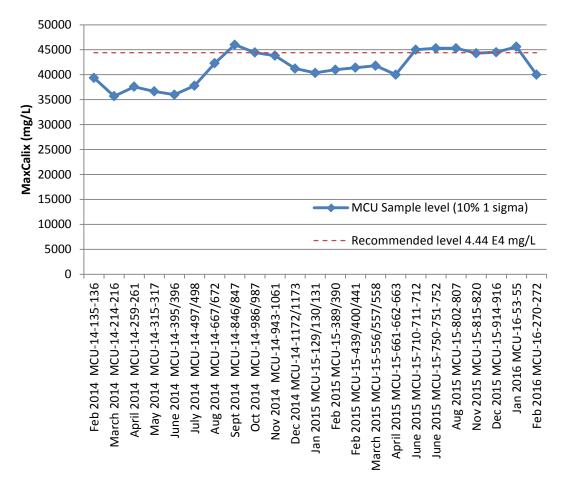


Figure 4. MaxCalix concentration as measured by HPLC and FT-HNMR of recent samples since NGS implementation (44,400 mg/L is the nominal concentration).

Gamma Level

The gamma measurement of MCU-16-270-271-272 is 3.90E3 dpm/mL ($\pm 7\%$). This level of activity is consistent with the previous gamma levels when the process was operating normally in early 2015. It confirms the end of the upward trend observed in the June through November 2015 samples (see Fig. 5).

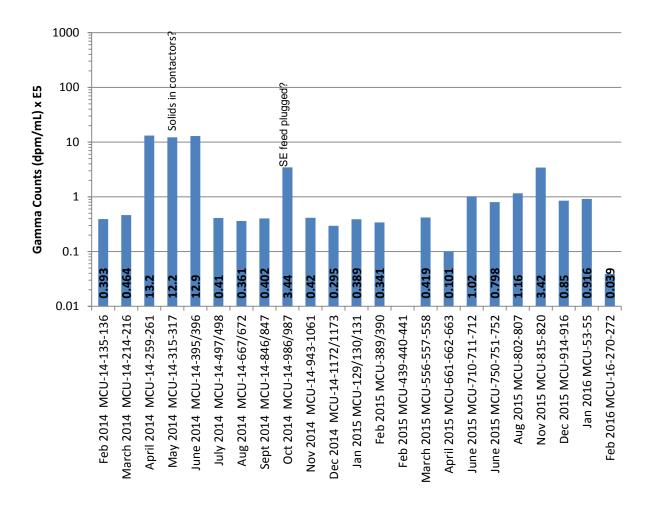


Figure 5. The gamma count of selected SHT samples. One standard deviation is 7%.

Impurities

No impurities were seen at the 1000 ppm level or higher as indicated by the SVOA method (\pm 20% uncertainty). No impurities were observed in the HNMR spectrum.

A few mL of the blended solvent was digested and analyzed for total mercury by the Cold-Vapor Atomic Absorption (CV-AA). The CV-AA method detected 19.1 ± 3.8 ug/g_{solvent} total mercury (or 15.8 ug/mL_{solvent} at 25° C) in this solvent. Undigested blended solvent was analyzed by the XRF method. The XRF method detected 25.8 ± 5.2 ug/g_{solvent} in this solvent. This level of mercury is significantly higher than the solubility of metallic Hg in dodecane (~3 ppm)⁵ implying that other solubility-enhancing mechanisms are at play (for example extraction by an extractant or sorption on trapped solids) or a more soluble form of mercury is present (organo-mercury like ethyl or dimethyl mercury). Organo-mercury compounds were recently detected in Tank 22H.⁶ For 200 gallons of solvent (757.1 L) and assuming a density of 0.8291 g/mL, the solvent could contain a total of 20 ± 4 g of mercury. A comparison of this measurement with previous month confirms a positive trend in the mercury concentration in the solvent (data is shown in Fig. 6). The positive trend in Fig. 6 might be due to a higher mercury concentration in salt batch 8 (Tank 49H).

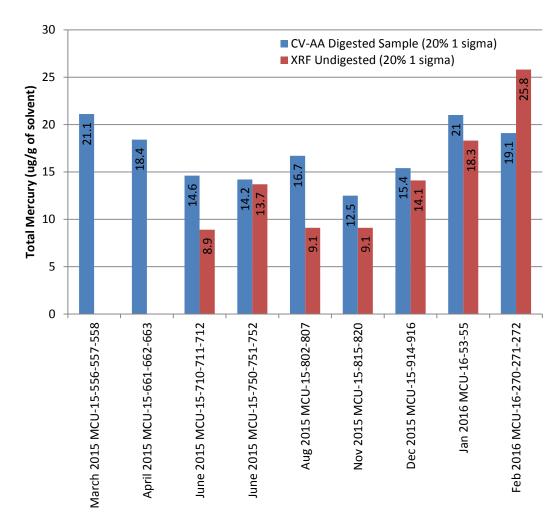


Figure 6. Total mercury in recent SHT samples. One standard deviation is 20%. CVAA = Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectrometry. XRF =X-ray Fluorescence (20% one sigma).

Recommendations

The current analysis indicates the solvent has a lower modifier (93% of its nominal concentration), lower MaxCalix (94%) and TiDG (60%) levels, but it has slightly higher levels of IsoparTML (101%) relative to the standard. The TiDG, MaxCalix and IsoparTML levels are expected to trend downward with time. In order to remain two-sigma above the minimum recommended level, it is recommended to continue the periodic surveillance of and trimming additions to the solvent.

The temperature dependence of the current gravimetric density equation for solvent composition (originally obtained from CSSX solvent) needs reverification with the current NGS-CSSX solvent to improve the formula accuracy in extracting the components concentration in the solvent.

4.0 Conclusions

SRNL received one set of SHT samples (MCU-16-270-271-272), pulled on 02/21/2016 for analysis. The samples were combined and analyzed for composition. Analysis of the composite sample MCU-16-270-271-272 indicated the IsoparTML concentration is above its nominal level (101%). The modifier (CS-

7SB), the extractant (MaxCalix), and the TiDG concentrations are 7%, 6%, and 40 % below their nominal concentrations. This analysis confirms the addition of TiDG, MaxCalix, and modifier to the solvent in November 2015. Based on the current monthly sample, the levels of TiDG, IsoparTML, MaxCalix, and modifier are sufficient for continuing operation but are expected to decrease with time. Periodic characterization and trimming additions to the solvent are recommended.

No impurities above the 1000 ppm level were found in this solvent by the SVOA. No impurities were observed in the HNMR. However, up to 32.3 ± 6 micrograms of mercury per gram of solvent (or $26.8 \, \mu g/mL$) was detected in this sample (as determined by the XRF method). The higher mercury concentration in the solvent (as determined in the last four monthly samples) is possibly due to the higher mercury concentration in salt batch 8 (Tank 49H).

The current gamma level (3.9E3 dpm/mL) confirmed that the gamma concentration has returned to previous levels where the process operated normally and as expected.

The laboratory will continue to monitor the quality of the solvent in particular for any new impurities or degradation of the solvent components.

5.0 References

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