Contract No:

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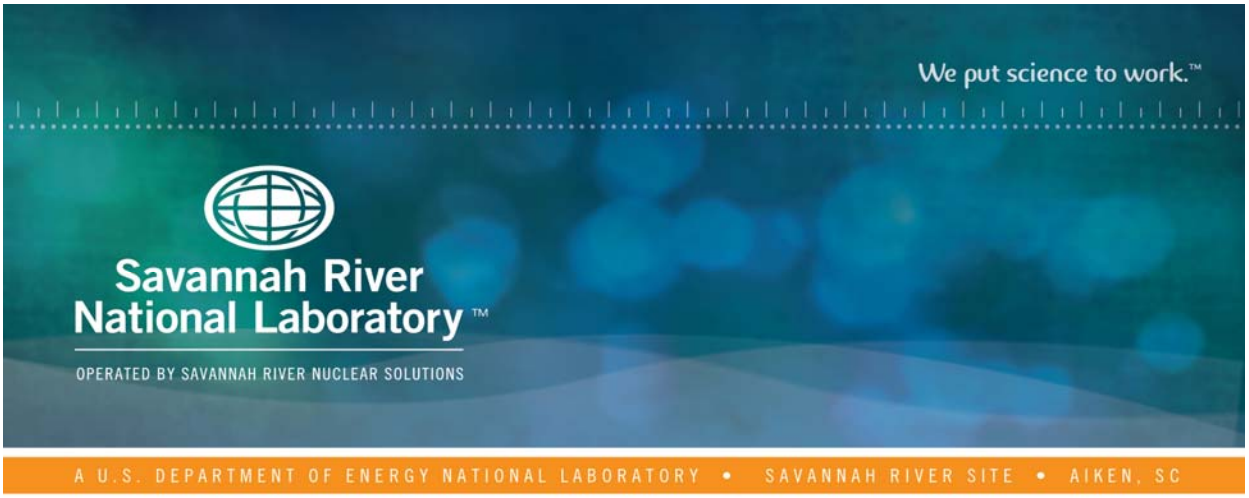

Analytical Results from Final Salt Batch 9 Routine DSSHT and SEHT Monthly Samples

T. B. Peters

October 2018

SRNL-STI-2018-00408, Revision 0

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Printed in the United States of America

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy

SRNL-STI-2018-000408
Revision 0

Keywords: *MCU, NGS, DSS, SE*

Retention: *Permanent*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strip Effluent Hold Tank (SEHT) and Decontaminated Salt Solution Hold Tank (DSSHT) samples from several of the "microbatches" of Integrated Salt Disposition Project (ISDP) Salt Batch ("Macrobatch") 9 have been analyzed for ^{238}Pu, ^{90}Sr, ^{137}Cs, elemental constituents (Inductively Coupled Plasma Emission Spectroscopy - ICPES), and in some cases anions (Ion Chromatography Anions - IC-A).

These three samples are from Salt Batch 9 material in the Modular Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) system, and prior to actual Salt Batch 10 processing. These samples are known to contain contactor cleaning material and should not be considered typical for samples under operating conditions.

While the DSSHT sample is typical of this type of sample, the SEHT samples indicate a gross inclusion of nitric acid, likely from contactor cleaning solutions.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Analytical Development
ARP	Actinide Removal Process
DSS	Decontaminated Salt Solution
DSSHT	Decontaminated Salt Solution Hold Tank
IC-A	Ion chromatography - anions
ICPES	Inductively-coupled plasma emission spectroscopy
ISDP	Interim Salt Disposition Project
MCU	Modular Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Unit
MST	Monosodium titanate
NGS	Next Generation Solvent
SE	Strip Effluent
SEHT	Strip Effluent Hold Tank
SRNL	Savannah River National Laboratory
TTQAP	Task Technical and Quality Assurance Plan

1.0 Introduction

During operation of the ISDP, quantities of salt waste are processed through the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and MCU in batches of ~3,800 gallons. MCU uses Next Generation Solvent (NGS) solvent extraction technology to extract cesium from salt waste and concentrate cesium in an acidic aqueous stream (Strip Effluent – SE), leaving a decontaminated caustic salt aqueous stream (Decontaminated Salt Solution – DSS). Sampling occurs in the DSSHT and SEHT in the MCU process. The MCU sample plan requires that batches be sampled and analyzed on a quarterly frequency for plutonium and strontium content by the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to determine monosodium titanate (MST) effectiveness.[i] A Task Technical and Quality Assurance Plan (TTQAP) was prepared to cover routine analyses.[ii] The cesium measurement is used to monitor cesium removal effectiveness while the ICPES and IC-A methods are used to monitor inorganic carryover.

A previous report provided the results of several sets of sample results from Macrobatch 9 operations.[iii] The sample results described in this report are from Macrobatch 9 operations, but after formal processing was ended due to facility outages.

2.0 Experimental Procedure

The samples were contained in 10-mL P-nut vials. SEHT samples were delivered in doorstops for shielding purposes, while the DSSHT samples were delivered in "thief" holders. Samples of the same type were each composited into a single bottle. The SEHT samples were analyzed for ^{137}Cs, ^{238}Pu, and ^{90}Sr content, as well as for elemental constituents (ICPES). The DSSHT samples were also analyzed for anion content (IC-A). The DSSHT samples were sent for analysis without dilution or filtration. SEHT samples were sent for analysis with dilution using deionized water only when necessary, but without filtration.

2.1 Quality Assurance

Requirements for performing reviews of technical reports and the extent of review are established in manual E7 2.60. For SRNL documents, the extent and type of review using the SRNL Technical Report Design Checklist is outlined in WSRC-IM-2002-00011, Rev. 2.[iv] Records for this work are contained in an electronic notebook ELN-A4571-00084-36.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Results from DSSHT and SEHT Samples

The ^{137}Cs, ^{90}Sr, and ^{238}Pu results from the DSSHT and SEHT radiochemical analyses are listed in Table 1. These samples were collected at roughly monthly intervals. Values in parentheses are the one sigma analytical uncertainties as provided by Analytical Development (AD). The source material (Tank 49H) entries were derived from customer blend documents for Salt Batch 9 and are used for comparison.[v]

Table 1. Radiochemical Results for the DSSHT and SEHT Samples

Sample ID	Sample Date	^{238}Pu (dpm/mL)	^{90}Sr (dpm/mL)	^{137}Cs (dpm/mL)
DSSHT Samples				
MCU-18-15/16/17	2/10/2018	3.11E+04 (7.6%)	8.77E+05 (19%)	2.05E+06 (5.0%)
MCU-18-111/112	3/20/2018	3.71E+04 (5.9%)	8.09E+05 (15%)	1.91E+06 (5.0%)
MCU-18-126/127/128	4/29/2018	3.30E+04 (6.3%)	6.89E+05 (16%)	1.72E+06 (5.0%)
SEHT Samples				
MCU-18-12/13/14	2/10/2018	2.10E+04 (7.7%)	1.20E+05 (19%)	3.97E+08 (5.0%)
MCU-18-114/115/116	3/20/2018	1.24E+04 (5.8%)	1.47E+05 (21%)	5.58E+08 (6.0%)
MCU-18-120/121/122	4/19/2018	3.07E+04 (6.3%)	1.90E+05 (21%)	5.62E+08 (5.0%)
Source Material (Salt Batch 9) [v]		9.63E+04	9.70E+05	5.22E+08

Given that these samples do not reflect typical batch processing, no comparison of Pu, Sr or Cs removal is made.

The meaningful (present in non-trace quantities) ICPES and IC-A results for the DSSHT samples are listed in Table 2.

The material from Tank 49H undergoes a ~13 vol % dilution in ARP and MCU while no MST is in use.[vi] Therefore, direct comparisons between the source material and the DSSHT sample results should take this into account. Of the reported analytes in Table 2, B, Cr, Na, nitrate, nitrite, and sulfate are the analytes that are only subject to dilution effects in the ARP/MCU system – they are not affected by the solvent extraction, nor are they subject to solubility changes. These analytes are shaded in Table 2. In Table 2, the "% decline from feed concentration" row is the average of the shaded analytes percentage decline compared to the value of their concentration in Salt Batch 9 feed. For example, for the MCU-18-15/16/17 sample, the three analytes an average decline of 20% from their respective concentrations in the Salt Batch 9 feed. This is not atypical of DSSHT samples from past history.

For the SEHT samples analysis, the comparison to Salt Batch 9 feed is for reference as the SEHT samples should bear no resemblance to the feed. However, all SEHT samples show high Na, which is very atypical. Whenever SEHT samples have sodium higher than 50 ppm or so, this indicates some inflow of other material into the SEHT. The boron values are also ~15-20% of nominal value. There are two other data points associated with the SEHT samples that indicate this cross contamination. First, all the SEHT samples show a pH of 2 by pH paper (0.01 M boric acid has an ideal pH of ~5.5). This points to a large inflow of nitric acid, which must be from contactor cleaning solution.

Table 2. ICPES and IC-A Results for the DSSHT Samples

Analyte	MCU-18-xxx Sample ID (mg/L)			
	Salt Batch 9[v]	15/16/17	111/112	126/127/128
Al	5860	4880	4730	4620
B	52.3 [1]	46.2	43.9	46.3
Cr	67.5	56.8	52.3	52.2
K	566	491	404	358
Na	144000	117000	118000	105000
Si	21.0	93.7	222	85.9
Zn	12.2	4.72	39	5.5
F	99.4	<10	NM	<100
Formate	189	215	NM	<100
Cl	638	533	NM	495
Nitrite	32700	26500	NM	22700
Nitrate	109000	92100	NM	86000
Phosphate	469	229	NM	248
Sulfate	5630	4220	NM	4480
Oxalate	407	238	NM	230
Avg % decline from feed concentration	NA	18%	19%	22%

The one sigma analytical uncertainty for the ICPES and IC-A analyses is 10%.
NM indicated the analyte was not measured.

Table 3. ICPES Results for the SEHT Samples

Analyte	MCU-18-xxx Sample ID (mg/L)			
	Salt Batch 9[v]	12/13/14	114/115/116	120/121/122
Al	5860	44.5	71.4	67.1
B	52.3	14.0	20.3	17.4
K	566	<33.5	34.6	27.3
Na	144000	393	584	578

[1] The source document (ref. v) claims the boron value is 157, but this is incorrect due to an error in the Salt Batch 8 heel value of 646 mg/L. This should actually be 64.6 mg/L which changes the final Salt Batch 9 in Tank 49H to be 52.3 mg/L.

4.0 Conclusions

SEHT and DSSHT samples from several of the "microbatches" of ISDP Salt Batch ("Macrobatch") 9 have been analyzed for ^{238}Pu, ^{90}Sr, ^{137}Cs, elemental constituents (ICPES), and anions (IC-A).

These three samples are from residual Salt Batch 9 material in the MCU system. Furthermore, these samples are known to contain contactor cleaning material and should not be considered typical for samples under operating conditions.

While the DSSHT sample is typical of this type of sample, the SEHT samples indicate a gross inclusion of nitric acid, likely from contactor cleaning solutions.

5.0 References

[i] M. W. Geeting, "Interim Salt Disposition Project (ISDP) Sample Plan", U-ESR-H-00068, Rev. 5, April 28, 2009.

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