

OAK RIDGE
NATIONAL LABORATORY

MANAGED BY UT-BATTELLE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Irradiation Effects on Phase-Separation Performance Using a Centrifugal Contactor in a Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Process

August 2001

Prepared by
Joseph F. Birdwell, Jr., and Robert L. Cummings



DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Reports produced after January 1, 1996 are generally available free via the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Information Bridge.

Web site <http://www.osti.gov/bridge>

Reports produced before January 1, 1996 may be purchased by members of the public from the following source.

National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22464
Telephone 703-605-6000 (1-800-553-6847)
TDD 703-487-4639
Fax 703-605-6900
E-mail info@ntis.fedworld.gov
Web site <http://www.ntis.gov/support/ordernowabout.htm>

Reports are available to DOE employees, DOE contractors, Energy Technology Data Exchange (ETDE) representatives, and International Nuclear Information System (INIS) representatives from the following source.

Office of Scientific and Technical Information
P.O. Box 62
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
Telephone 865-576-8401
Fax 865-576-5728
E-mail reports@adonis.osti.gov
Web site <http://www.osti.gov/contact.html>

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name trademark, manufacturer, or endorsement recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government of any agency thereof.

Chemical Technology Division

**IRRADIATION EFFECTS ON PHASE-SEPARATION PERFORMANCE
USING A CENTRIFUGAL CONTACTOR IN A CAUSTIC-SIDE
SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS**

Joseph F. Birdwell, Jr.*
Robert L. Cummins

Date Published: June 2001

Prepared for
the Office of Project Completion
Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy
and
the Tanks Focus Area, Office of Science and Technology,
Salt Processing Program, U.S. Department of Energy

Prepared by
OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6285
managed by
UT-BATTELLE, LLC
for the
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
under contract DE-AC05-00OR22725.

* Robotics and Process Systems Division

The submitted manuscript has been authored by a contractor of the U.S. Government under contract DE-AC05-OR22725. Accordingly, the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, royalty-free license to publish or reproduce the published form of this contribution, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM	2
2.1 Description of Equipment	2
2.1.1 Centrifugal Contactor	2
2.1.2 Tanks	2
2.1.3 Mixing-Tank Agitator	3
2.1.4 Pump	3
2.1.5 Sight Glasses	3
2.2 Chemicals Used	3
2.3 Experimental Procedures	8
2.3.1 Cold Checkout	8
2.3.2 Preparations for Irradiation Test	9
2.3.3 Irradiation Test Procedure—Stripping Mode	11
2.3.4 Recovery of Cesium from Stripping—Mode Test	13
2.3.5 Post-Stripping Flush of Irradiation System	14
2.3.6 Extraction-Mode Test Procedure	15
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	16
3.1 Stripping-Mode Irradiation Test	16
3.1.1 Phase-Separation Performance	16
3.1.2 Distribution Ratio Results	17
3.1.3 Solvent Degradation Results—Strip-Mode Testing	18
3.1.4 Maximum Throughput Determination Using Irradiated Solvent— Stripping Condition	19
3.2 Extraction-Mode Irradiation Test	20
3.2.1 Phase-Separation Performance	20
3.2.2 Cesium Distribution Results	20
3.2.3 Solvent Degradation Results—Extraction Testing	21
3.2.4 Maximum Throughput Determination Using Irradiated Solvent— Extraction Condition	22
4. CONCLUSIONS.	22
5. REFERENCES	23
6. APPENDIX	24

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Key dimensions of CINC model V-2 (5-cm) centrifugal contactor	7
2 Composition of CSSX solvent	7
3 Activity and duration parameters for irradiation tests	11
4 Results from stripping-mode gravity settling observations	17
5 Cesium distribution results from stripping-mode irradiation test	18
6 Analytical results for solvent samples from stripping-mode irradiation	19
7 Results from extraction-mode gravity settling observations	21
8 Cesium distribution results from extraction-mode irradiation test	21
9 Analytical results for solvent samples from extraction-mode irradiation.	22

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Schematic showing equipment for irradiation loop testing	3
2	Photograph of irradiation test loop prior to placement in a hot cell	4
3	Cross section of centrifugal contactor rotor, with key dimensions indicated . . .	5

LIST OF SYMBOLS

D_{Cs}	Distribution coefficient for cesium (ratio of organic-phase cesium concentration to aqueous-phase concentration)
DF	decontamination factor
g_c	gravity acceleration constant
N_{Di}	dispersion number, a dimensionless quantifier of dispersion separation behavior
O/A	ratio of organic-phase (solvent) flow rate to aqueous-phase flow rate
ppm	parts per million expressed as mass per volume (e.g., mg/L)
t_b	time required for dispersed, immiscible phases to separate, s
z	height of a band of dispersed, immiscible phases

ABSTRACT

A test program has been conducted to determine the extent to which irradiation of a calixarene-based cesium extractant affects separation of the organic (solvent) phase from aqueous solutions with which it is contacted in a prototype extraction flowsheet. A caustic-side solvent extraction process, known as CSSX, has been developed for the selective removal of cesium from wastes generated by the processing of irradiated nuclear reactor fuels. This process consists of a cascade of mass transfer stages in which cesium is transferred from an aqueous feed into the CSSX extractant (BOBCalixC6), the extract is scrubbed with 0.05 M nitric acid to remove coextracted elements, and the solvated cesium is stripped (or back-extracted) into 0.001 M HNO₃. Removal of cesium from stored waste supernatants is desirable as a means of segregating high-activity cesium-137 (¹³⁷Cs) from the solution, thereby reducing the volume of material that must be processed and disposed of as high-level waste. The CSSX process is one of three cesium removal technologies currently being considered for deployment for treatment of wastes that are stored at the U. S. Department of Energy's (USDOE's) Savannah River Site (SRS).

The irradiation tests described in this report were designed to simulate the effect of 2 years of continuous solvent irradiation under conditions present in the stripping and extraction sections of the CSSX cascade. Stated simply, the irradiation tests consisted of continuously mixing an aqueous process solution (either simulated SRS waste supernatant or dilute nitric acid) with the CSSX solvent. The aqueous solutions used in testing were spiked with ¹³⁷Cs at known activity levels. Test durations were determined based on the activity levels in the experiment and the estimated solvent exposures to radionuclides in a full-scale CSSX facility.

For most of the test period, CSSX solvent and the spiked aqueous solution were continuously agitated in a small mixing tank located inside a hot cell. Periodically, the dispersed phases from the mixing tank were pumped to a sight glass that had been installed in the test system. Phase separation by gravity settling was evaluated at intervals during testing, and the time required for separation was measured as a means of quantifying changes in separation behavior as the cumulative radiation dose increased. At the same intervals, the dispersion from the mixing tank was processed in a 5-cm centrifugal solvent extraction contactor to evaluate phase-separation performance under the effect of increased centrifugal force (>300 times gravity). Effluent streams from the contactor were collected in sight glasses, both to examine the effluents for cross-phase contamination and to obtain samples for chemical analysis. Organic samples were contacted with dilute nitric acid to remove cesium, thereby halting the irradiation process. These samples were assayed for the various solvent components and were also analyzed for a modifier radiolysis product to quantify solvent degradation.

In an effort to obtain the maximum data return from the irradiation test, aqueous samples collected at intervals during the test were gamma-counted to determine cesium concentrations. Using the results and the known activity levels at the start of each irradiation cycle, the organic-phase cesium concentrations were determined by subtraction. The resulting organic- and aqueous-phase cesium concentrations were then used to calculate distribution ratios (i.e., D values) under CSSX extraction and stripping conditions. The determination of D values was not a principal objective of the test effort, and the experiments were not designed to permit precise D_{Cs} determinations. As a consequence, the equipment and techniques available for obtaining data needed to calculate D values did not provide the level of precision needed to produce consistently accurate results. D values calculated from the data obtained in the reported work should be viewed as approximations that serve as qualitative indicators of changes in cesium partitioning in response to solvent irradiation.

The centrifugal contactor is the apparatus of choice for accomplishing both solute transfer and phase separation in the CSSX process. Selection of a centrifugal contactor having a 5-cm-diam rotor was based on the ability of devices of this size to provide processing throughputs

appropriate for a potential future engineering-scale demonstration of the CSSX process. In addition, results from prior contactor development and demonstration activities indicate that information obtained from performance characteristics of 5-cm contactors can be scaled to larger (i.e., full-scale) centrifugal contactor cascades with a high level of confidence.

In both extraction and stripping modes, phase-separation times under the gravity-settling condition increased from the initial observation (i.e., the no-irradiation condition) to the final observation, but the increase was not sufficient to affect phase separation in the centrifugal contactors.

Centrifugal-contactor phase separations were performed at flow rates that were 75 to 80% of the maximum capacity for the subject application, based on out-of-cell throughput tests. At no point during the irradiation test was cross-phase contamination observed in either of the contactor effluent streams. Results of solvent sample analyses indicate no formation of the solvent modifier radiolysis product, 4-*sec*-butylphenol, during either phase of irradiation testing.

Distribution results obtained from the stripping-condition irradiation test were unacceptably high at all sample intervals, but trended downward as the test progressed. Because of this trend, it is probable that the D values obtained during stripping were high due to retention of waste simulant solution from cold checkout testing. This conclusion is supported by higher-than-normal pH values in the aqueous samples collected during the stripping phase of the irradiation test. Since the trend was evident throughout the stripping irradiation test, the contamination was probably present inside infrequently used sections of the test loop, including tubing in the vicinity of the contactor and the contactor itself.

Distribution ratio values under extraction conditions were higher than expected, based on reported values. Unlike the stripping-phase results, the ratios under extraction conditions exhibited no trend as the test progressed. Significant scatter in the extraction D values was apparent.

Based on the test results, irradiation of the CSSX solvent under conditions simulating 2 years of exposure may have an affect on phase separation under normal gravity. However, the magnitude of the change is not great enough to result in unacceptable phase-separation performance by centrifugal contactors operating at high centrifugal-force levels.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tests to determine the effect of internal solvent irradiation on phase separation using a centrifugal solvent extraction contactor have been completed. Irradiation testing was performed in two phases. In the first phase, the solvent was irradiated under conditions (i.e., volumetric flow ratio, solution compositions) applicable to the stripping section of a CSSX cascade. In the second phase, the CSSX solvent was contacted with simulated SRS tank waste supernatant at conditions being proposed for the extraction section of the CSSX process.

In each phase of irradiation testing, the organic (solvent) phase and the appropriate aqueous solution were continuously mixed by mechanical agitation so that a dispersion of the two solutions was created and maintained. Periodically, the dispersion was pumped from the mixing tank to a single, 5-cm centrifugal contactor to evaluate phase separation under the effect of high-*g* (approximately 360-times-gravity) centrifugal force. Effluent streams from the contactor were collected in sight glasses that had been installed in the discharge lines, where they were inspected for cross-phase contamination. Before solutions were returned from the contactor sight glasses to the mixing tank, samples of the aqueous and organic contactor effluents were collected. The aqueous-phase samples were analyzed for cesium concentration by gamma counting. Immediately after collection, the organic-phase samples were contacted twice with 0.001 *M* HNO₃ to remove cesium in order to halt internal irradiation of the samples. These samples were assayed for extractant, phase modifier, and trioctylamine content and were also analyzed for the presence of 4-*sec*-butylphenol (a primary radiolysis product of the phase modifier). Because a small volume of aqueous entrainment in the organic effluent could settle in the tubing located below the sight glass, the organic effluent sample (collected from the bottom of the organic sight glass) was examined for entrainment prior to sample stripping.

At each contactor test interval, a volume of the dispersed material in the mixing tank was collected in a sight glass that had been installed in a recycle loop with the tank. The height of the material in the sight glass and the time required for the dispersion to separate by gravity settling were recorded in order to track the phase-separation performance as a function of radiation exposure.

After each phase of irradiation testing, procedures for recovering cesium from the experiment for use in non-CSSX-related testing were performed. Although outside the scope of the test plan, these operations were undertaken as a means of minimizing personnel radiation exposures during operations that required opening of the test cell (e.g., sample removal and equipment maintenance). Observations and results from these operations will be included in another report.

2. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF EQUIPMENT

All tests described in this report were performed using the equipment configuration shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Key components in the test loop were a 5-cm centrifugal contactor; four stainless steel tanks; a positive displacement metering pump; three sight glasses; and a variable-speed, impeller-type agitator.

2.1.1 Centrifugal Contactor

A centrifugal solvent extraction contactor, obtained from CINC, Inc. (Carson City, NV) as a standard-design item (model V-2), was used in the test loop. The "5-cm" designation applied to the contactor throughout this report refers to the outside diameter of the contactor rotor. The contactor was equipped with a 110-V AC, single-phase motor that was controlled by a variable-frequency drive. The drive frequency was controllable in 0.1-Hz increments, corresponding to speed increments of approximately 6 rpm. The maximum frequency of the drive controller was 100 Hz, which corresponds to a nominal rotor speed of 6000 rpm. All wetted contactor components had been fabricated from 316L stainless steel, TFE Teflon®, or TFE-encapsulated Viton®. Contactor dimensions affecting throughput are listed in Table 1. A drawing of a contactor rotor in cross section, with key dimensions indicated, is presented in Fig. 3.

Table 1. Key dimensions of CINC model V-2 (5-cm) centrifugal contactor

Designation	Description	Dimension (in.) ^a	Dimension (mm)
RSA	Aqueous weir radius	0.4875	12.383
RSO	Organic weir radius	0.408	10.355
RT	Rotor inlet radius	0.200	5.076
RU	Underflow radius	0.875	22.208
RC	Outside underflow radius	0.938	23.807
BO	Height of separating zone	4.190	106.345
BA	Height of aqueous channel	0.400	10.152
HAO	Height between weirs	0.668	16.954
DRC	Rotor/housing gap radius	0.250	6.345
THETA	Angle between underflows	38°	

^aExcept as indicated.

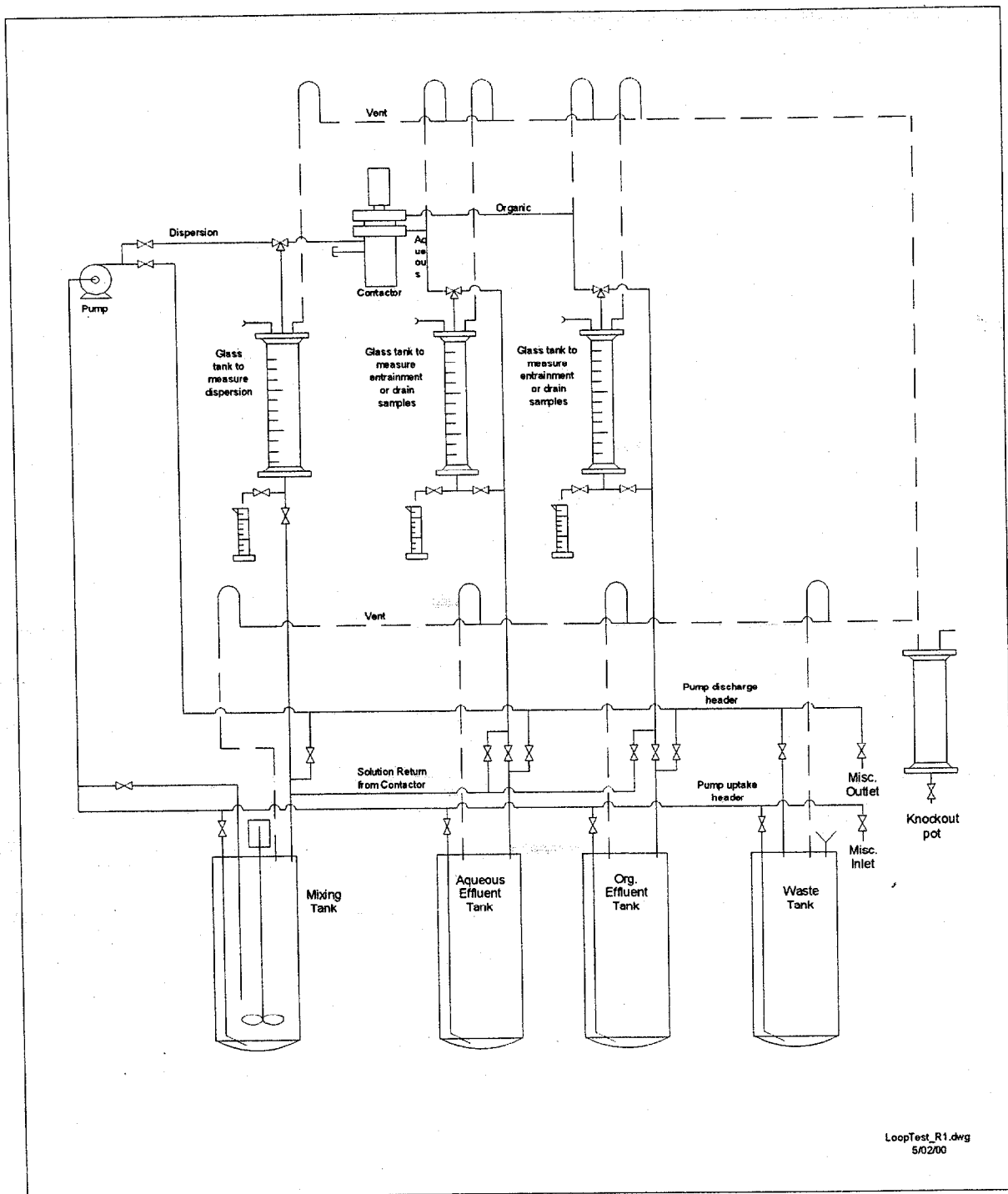


Fig.1. Schematic diagram showing equipment for irradiation loop testing.

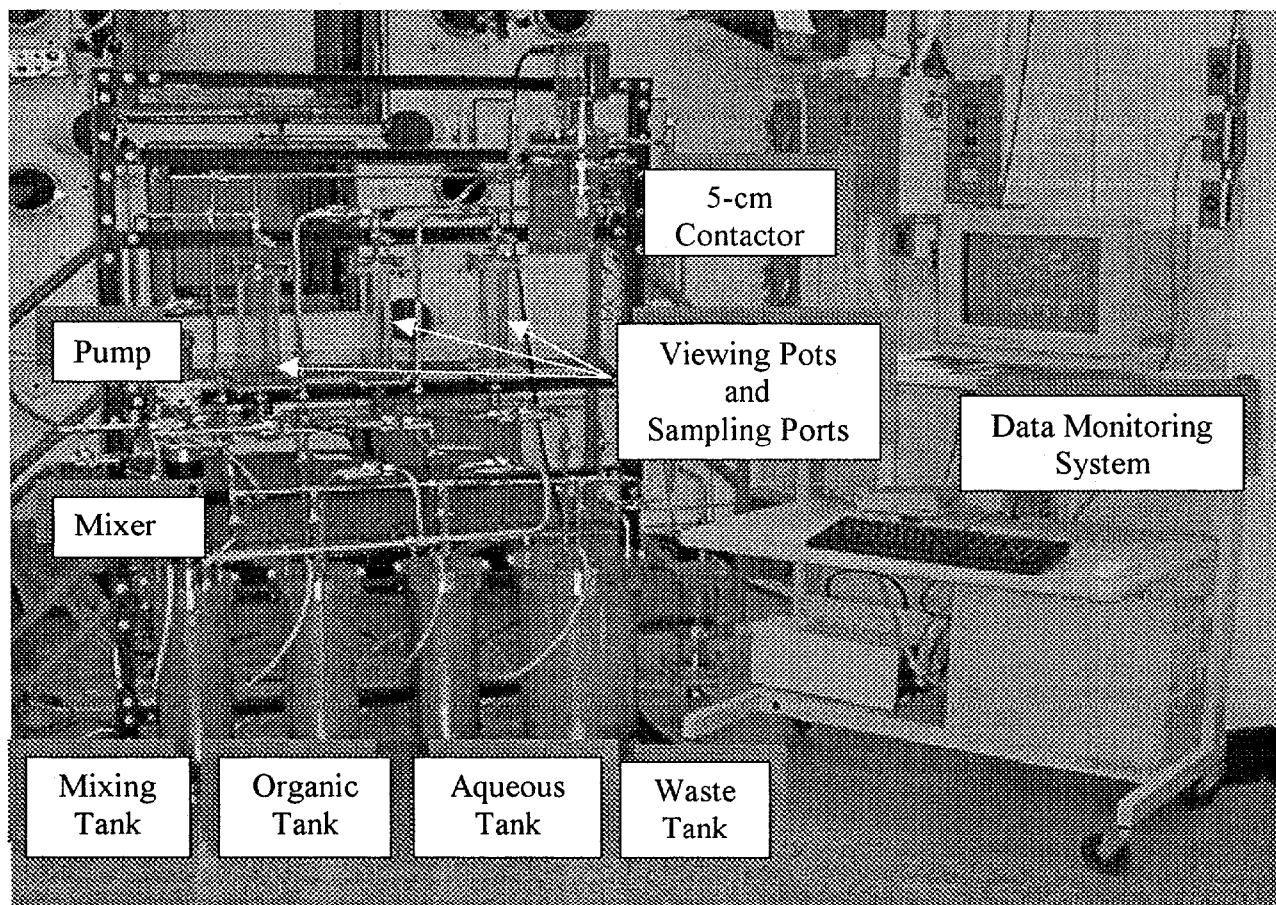
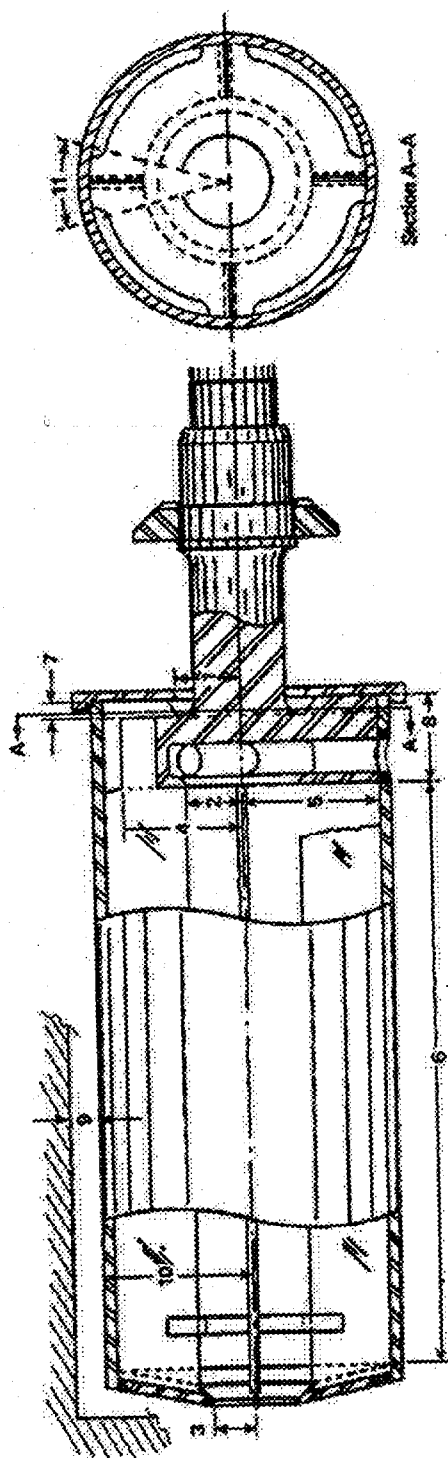


Fig. 2. Photograph of irradiation test loop prior to placement in a hot cell.



Dimension

Description

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Aqueous weir radius |
| 2 | Organic weir radius |
| 3 | Inlet port radius |
| 4 | Underflow radius |
| 5 | Outside radius of underflow |
| 6 | Length of separating zone |
| 7 | Channel height from underflow |
| 8 | Height between the two weirs |
| 9 | Rotor housing gap |
| 10 | Outside radius of rotor |
| 11 | Angle between underflow |

Fig. 3. Cross section of centrifugal contactor rotor, with key dimensions indicated.

2.1.2 Tanks

The test loop utilized four stainless steel tanks, identified as the mixing tank, the aqueous effluent tank, the organic effluent tank, and the waste tank (see Fig. 1). All tanks were fabricated from 304L stainless steel and had welded, dished bottoms. Nozzle and dip-tube penetrations on each tank were made only through a top-mounted flange; side and bottom penetrations were avoided to eliminate the risk of leakage from tank connections that might fail during testing.

The mixing, aqueous, and organic tanks had nominal, 6-in. outside diameters. The aqueous and organic tanks were each equipped with vent lines, two pressure taps (for level indication), two solution-return connections, and a pump-suction dip tube. The suction dip tube in each tank extended to within 0.125 in. of the bottom surface of the tank.

In addition to the connections described for the aqueous and organic tanks, the mixing tank was equipped with two pump-suction connections (one reaching to within 0.125 in. of the tank bottom and another ending approximately 4 in. higher), a thermocouple fitting, and a penetration for the agitator shaft. Four axial baffles, 12 in. long by 0.75 in. thick, were welded to the inner surface of the mixing tank at equal spacings.

The waste tank was a 10 in.-diam vessel having connections similar to those on the aqueous and organic tanks.

2.1.3 Mixing Tank Agitator

A Lightnin® general purpose (Model GP2) agitator equipped with a four-blade impeller with pitched blades was used to disperse the aqueous and organic solutions in the mixing tank. The maximum agitator speed achieved during cold testing was 1275 rpm, as indicated by a magnetic-pickup type of tachometer mounted adjacent to the agitator shaft.

2.1.4 Pump

All solution transfers were performed using a piston-type metering pump (Fluid Metering Inc., Model QV-2) with a maximum throughput of 1296 mL/min. The pump head was equipped with a 300 series stainless steel sleeve and a ceramic piston.

2.1.5 Sight Glasses

Three sight glasses, all of which were fabricated from 12-in. long borosilicate glass pipe and capped with stainless steel flange plates, were installed in the test loop. A 3-in.-diam sight glass, labeled "Glass tank to measure dispersion" in Fig. 1 (and referred to hereafter as G-M), was

installed in parallel with the mixing tank and was used to evaluate gravity settling of the dispersion. During a cold checkout of the system, sight glass G-M was used to verify that mixing conditions in the mixing tank were adequate to thoroughly disperse the aqueous and organic phases. Sight glasses located respectively in the aqueous and organic discharge lines from the contactor (see Fig. 3) and referred to as G-A and G-O, respectively, were both fabricated from 2-in.-diam glass pipe. G-A and G-O were used to collect effluents from the contactor for sampling; G-A was used to inspect the aqueous effluent for contamination with organic solution. As indicated in Fig. 1, all sight glasses were equipped with solution withdrawal lines, and valves and tubing were installed to permit bypassing of each sight glass without interruption of solution flow. Scales marked in millimeter increments were attached to each sight glass to permit determination of holdup volume. All sight glasses were calibrated for volume after fabrication of the test loop.

2.2 CHEMICALS USED

The CSSX solvent is a blend of the organic materials listed in Table 2. The calixarene extractant was developed by researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory specifically for the CSSX application.¹ During the cold checkout of the system, the organic phase was simulated using only Isopar® L diluent.

Part of the solvent inventory in the irradiation testing had been used previously to determine the throughput limits for a 5-cm contactor under CSSX extraction, scrubbing, and stripping conditions. The remainder of the solvent had been used in single- and four-stage mass transfer tests with non-radioactive cesium. All solvent used in testing had been contacted previously with

Table 2. Composition of CSSX solvent.

Component	Concentration (M)
Calix(4)arene-bis-(<i>tert</i> -octylbenzo-crown-6 (aka BOBCalixC6)	0.01
(2,2,3,3-Tetrafluoropropoxy)-3-(4- <i>sec</i> -butylphenoxy)-2-propanol (aka Cs-7SB)	0.50
Trioctylamine	0.001
Isopar® L	Balance

cesium. Prior to its use in the irradiation test loop, all solvent was stripped twice with 0.001 *M* HNO₃ at an organic/aqueous (O/A) flow ratio of 5.0, was washed twice with 0.10 *M* sodium hydroxide at an O/A ratio of 1.0, was contacted a third time with 0.001 *M* HNO₃, and was washed once with deionized water at an O/A ratio of 5.0.

Scrub (0.05 *M* HNO₃) and strip (0.001 *M* HNO₃) aqueous solutions were formulated using 0.10 *N* HNO₃ (procured from J. T. Baker Co.) that was diluted with water that had been deionized using a Barnstead Nanopure® filtration system. Sodium hydroxide solutions used to wash the solvent prior to its use in the test loop were formulated using sodium hydroxide pellets (ACS reagent grade; procured from the J. T. Baker Co.) that were dissolved in deionized water.

SRS waste supernatant simulant was formulated according to SRS procedure WSRC-RP-2000-00361, Rev. 0, and had the composition listed in that document for "average" SRS supernatant simulant.² The nominal cesium concentration in each simulant batch used in the tests reported here was 0.00014 *M*.

2.3 EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

For reporting purposes, the test effort has been divided into four tasks: cold checkout, extraction-mode irradiation, stripping-mode irradiation, and cesium recovery. The irradiation tests were the focus of the overall effort; information obtained from cold checkout and solute recovery operations is included only to supplement the findings from the irradiation tests.

2.3.1 Cold Checkout

Prior to transfer of the test loop into a hot cell for the irradiation test, a series of routine equipment checks were performed to verify the integrity of the system and to familiarize the operators with the equipment configuration. In addition, tests were performed to calibrate the level instruments in the four tanks installed in the system, to calibrate the metering pump and the three sight glasses, and to verify contactor and agitator operation. Since results of these routine tests were satisfactory and did not affect the interpretation of any of the results obtained from the test, no further description of this work is presented.

Checkout tests that did not address the hydraulic/mechanical integrity of the system or did not involve equipment calibration included

- (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of mixing tank agitation in producing a dispersion,
- (2) an investigation of the ability to adequately flush the system between sets of test conditions,

- (3) a determination of the minimum solution heels remaining in the tanks after pumping, and
- (4) a study of the comparative effects of initiating contactor operation with quiescent versus dispersed phases in the mixing tank.

Mixing efficiency was evaluated by agitating known volumes of organic and aqueous phases in the mixing tank, pumping the dispersion into sight glass G-M (with valves set to collect the dispersion), allowing the phases to separate, and determining whether the phase ratio in the G-M matched that in the mixing tank. Initial mixing tests were performed with equal volumes (2 L each) of Isopar® L and 0.001 M HNO₃ in the mixing tank. Agitation was initiated at low speed, after which pumping was initiated in a recycle mode from the mixing tank to the pump, through sight glass G-M and back into the mixing tank. The pump rate and stroke were set to provide a flow rate of 0.5 L/min. Once flow had been established through the loop, the valve in the discharge line from G-M was closed and G-M was allowed to fill to approximately one-fourth of its total height. Pumping was then stopped, the phases were allowed to separate, and the relative volumes were recorded. In addition, the initial height of the dispersion band and the time required for the phases to separate were recorded. Measurements were repeated at several agitator speeds to determine the minimum value required to generate a dispersion having an O/A ratio consistent with the ratio of solution volumes introduced into the mixing tank. Once a suitable speed had been determined, testing was repeated at various flow rates and liquid levels in G-M to determine the effects of these parameters on dispersion separation. Testing was also performed at O/A ratios of 5.0 (equal to the flow ratio in the scrubbing and stripping sections of the CSSX cascade) and 0.308 (representing the flow ratio in the CSSX extraction section).

Phase-separation performance for the contactor was verified under various O/A ratio and flow rate conditions. Initial contactor evaluations were conducted using Isopar® L and 0.001 M HNO₃ at an O/A ratio of 1.0. To verify the ability to start contactor operation with dispersed feed during the irradiation test, the effect of feeding the contactor from the mixing tank under both initially agitated (dispersed feed) and initially quiescent (aqueous feed only) conditions was examined. In each case, feed was supplied to the contactor at the rate of 0.5 L/min.

As a final check, the Isopar® L used during the initial phase of system checkout was replaced with solvent that had been contacted first with SRS waste simulant at an O/A ratio of 0.308 and then with scrub solution (0.05 M HNO₃) at an O/A ratio of 5.0. The effectiveness of mixing tank agitation in dispersing the solvent and strip acid at an O/A ratio of 5.0 (corresponding to the CSSX stripping condition) was verified using sight glass G-M in the method described previously. Similarly, phase separation using the centrifugal contactor was

verified under stripping conditions using the preequilibrated solvent by operating the test loop (with the contactor included) in a constant recycle mode as before.

All contactor checkout tests were performed at a rotor speed of 3600 rpm.

2.3.2 Preparation for Irradiation Test

Following the cold checkout procedure and prior to transfer of the test loop into the hot cell, the system was drained of all solutions. The loop was transferred into Cell A, Building 4501, as a single, skid-mounted unit. Lead shielding, 1.5 in. thick, was placed around the sides of each of the tanks that were mounted on the skid. Electrical connections to the pump and contactor controller and to the data acquisition system were reestablished, as were the tubing connections to the differential pressure sensors used for level indication.

A source bottle containing 7.62 Ci of ^{137}Cs as cesium chloride was opened and dissolved in demineralized water. The ^{137}Cs spike solution was prepared in Cell C, Bldg. 4501, which is one of three cells adjoining Cell A. The spike solution had a final mass of 137.03 g and an approximate specific gravity of 1.0 at ambient temperature. The nominal cesium concentration in the spike solution from the ^{137}Cs source alone was 0.0203 M; the activity was 55.6 Ci/L. Test durations and activity levels were determined based on a ^{137}Cs concentration of 1.42 Ci/L in the SRS waste stream.

CSSX flowsheet modeling calculations (provided by R. A. Leonard of Argonne National Laboratory; see Appendix A) served as the basis for determining the amounts of activity needed to simulate 2-year solvent irradiations at specific stage locations in the extraction, scrubbing, and stripping sections of the cascade. These calculations were also used to determine the total cesium inventories needed under the different test conditions. The cesium concentration profiles predicted were consistent with the current CSSX baseline flowsheet from which the O/A ratios used in checkout and irradiation testing were obtained. That baseline consists of 32 mass transfer stages (i.e., centrifugal contactors) arranged to provide 15 stages of cesium extraction, 2 stages of extractant scrubbing, and 15 stages of stripping (sometimes referred to as "back extraction"). Irradiation and cesium inventory conditions predicted at stages 15 (extraction), 17 (scrubbing), and 18 (stripping) of the cascade were selected for the irradiation test phases. The convention applied in the CSSX design was to begin numbering at the solvent feed stage. Using the predicted total cesium and ^{137}Cs levels at these points, combinations of ^{137}Cs spike masses and test durations needed to provide 2-year-equivalent solvent irradiations were calculated. Specific source masses and test durations for each of the three, planned irradiation phases were selected on

the bases of manpower and ^{137}Cs availability. The unequal durations of the test phases reflect scheduling concerns pertaining to staffing during (1) periodic sampling and observation activities and (2) during changeovers between test phases. Selected spike masses and corresponding test durations, as well as the actual activities in the spike aliquots transferred to Cell A for the three planned test phases, are listed in Table 3.

It may be noted that previous sections of this report refer only to extraction- and stripping-mode irradiation tests, while the previous paragraph described allocation of ^{137}Cs spike material for a scrub-mode test. Provision for scrubbing-mode irradiation was made on a contingency basis; scrub testing was to be performed if significant adverse changes in phase separation behavior were observed during either the extraction or the stripping tests. The scrubbing-phase irradiation was deleted from the test effort because (1) no significant change in phase separation was indicated under either of the other irradiation conditions and (2) phase separation is favored under scrubbing conditions relative to stripping separation (due to the slight differences between phase densities and ionic potentials).

In order to reach the stripping-mode cesium concentration target of 3.8 mM, a supplemental cesium source was prepared by dissolving 0.2723 g (stable) CsNO_3 in demineralized water. The total volume of cesium solution generated, including the water used to rinse the weighing container, was 25 mL. The supplemental solution was transferred into a 250-mL bottle that had been calibrated with 100-mL and 200-mL graduations. The small cesium container was rinsed once, and the rinse solution was poured into the 250-mL bottle. The larger container, labeled "Bottle A," was transferred into Cell A with two, similarly calibrated bottles labeled "B" and "C." No cold cesium supplement solutions were prepared for the extraction-mode test.

After the bottles had been placed in Cell A, the cell door and access window were closed and ^{137}Cs spike solution was transferred from Cell C into the bottles via a metering pump and

Table 3. Activity and duration parameters for irradiation tests

Test mode	Target activity (Ci)	Target spike mass (g)	Test duration (days)	Total ^{137}Cs activity ^a (Ci)	Activity (Ci/L)
Extraction	1.84	33.18	27	1.83 – 1.84	0.44
Scrubbing	2.41	41.46	18	2.07 – 2.09	0.50
Stripping	3.46	62.39	11	3.52 – 3.53	0.84

^aRanges result from fluctuation in the scale reading during transfers.

intercell tubing. The spike solution container in Cell C was placed on a scale during transfer so that fairly precise spike solution masses could be transferred to the three storage bottles in Cell A. After all remaining cesium spike solution had been transferred to bottle C (the scrubbing-mode spike aliquot), 0.001 *M* HNO₃ was pumped through the intercell tubing to ensure that all the ¹³⁷Cs spike solution had been purged from the line.

2.3.3 Irradiation Test Procedure—Stripping mode

A 3.5-L volume of solvent that had been preequilibrated with cesium under extraction and scrubbing conditions (and was used in the final phase of the cold checkout) was transferred into the cell and poured into the mixing tank via a solution addition funnel. A 500-mL volume of aqueous strip solution (0.001 *M* HNO₃) was then added to the tank.

The spike solution in bottle A, containing both stable and radioactive cesium, was diluted to a volume of 100 mL with 0.001 *M* HNO₃, and was then transferred to the mixing tank via a solution addition funnel. A second 100-mL volume of 0.001 *M* HNO₃ was poured from a storage bottle in Cell A into bottle A, which was emptied into the addition funnel to rinse any remaining spike solution from the bottle. Mixing at an indicated agitator speed of 800 rpm was initiated immediately.

Agitation was continued for a period of 30 min, after which the valves around the mixing tank were reset to permit transfer of dispersion from T-M to sight glass G-M, and pumping was initiated at a flow rate of 500 mL/min. Following a period of operation in continuous recycle, the valve in the discharge line from G-M was closed and the dispersed phases were collected in the sight glass. When the liquid level reached a suitable height in G-M, pumping was stopped and the dispersed phases were allowed to separate by gravity settling. Times required to fill the tank and for the interface to reach a stable position were recorded, as were the positions of the upper liquid surface and the phase boundary. Using sight-glass calibration data, the volumes of the two phases as well as the total liquid volume were determined. These results were then used to verify both the effectiveness of mixing (by determining the dispersion O/A ratio) and the pump rate. Under all test conditions, the entire visible height of liquid within the sight glass was in the dispersed condition when pumping into G-M was stopped.

After the flow rate and the O/A ratio had been verified, sight glass G-M was drained and the system valves were reset for continuous flow from the mixing tank to the contactor, through the contactor effluent sight glasses (G-A and G-O) and back into the mixing tank. Prior to starting

the transfer pump, the contactor motor was turned on and the frequency was set to 60.3 Hz (corresponding to a rotor speed of 3600 rpm). Pumping was initiated and flow through the contactor in full recycle was maintained for a minimum of 10 min to ensure attainment of steady state. The valves in the discharge lines from G-A and G-O (the aqueous and organic sight glasses) were closed, and effluents were allowed to accumulate. Under stripping conditions, aqueous effluent was collected for approximately 30 s and organic effluent was collected for approximately 60 s. At the end of the collection period, valves in the lines between the contactor and the two sight glasses were reset to direct effluent to the mixing tank, bypassing G-A and G-O. The solution inventory in G-A was then examined for evidence of an organic film or layer. If none was seen, a purge sample of solution in G-A was collected and returned to the mixing tank via a solution addition funnel. A second aqueous sample was collected for archival and eventual chemical analysis. A sample of solution from the lowermost section of G-O was collected in a bottle and was moved by manipulator to the cell window to be examined for evidence of aqueous entrainment. If none was found, the sample was returned to the mixing tank and a second sample was collected from G-O for analysis.

To prevent changes in the O/A ratio in the system during the test period, sample volumes removed from the test loop were proportional to the phase volumes present at the start of the test. Sample volumes collected during the stripping test phase were 10 mL of aqueous solution and 50 mL of organic solution. After collection of the organic sample, 50 mL of 0.001 M HNO_3 was added to the sample bottle. The bottle was capped, and the contents were agitated manually (using a manipulator) for 60 s, followed by a 10-s hold period and an additional 60-s agitation interval. The dispersion formed was transferred to a separatory funnel, where it was allowed to separate for at least 5 min. The aqueous phase was removed from the funnel and subsequently transferred to the waste tank. The organic phase was returned to the sample bottle and was again contacted with 50 mL of 0.001 M HNO_3 . As before, the phases were agitated, the dispersion was transferred to a separatory funnel, the aqueous solution was transferred to the waste tank, and the organic sample was placed in a sample container for archival and analytical purposes. Based on a planned stripping test duration of 11 days and a desire to collect five sample sets (including the initial sampling), samples were collected and phase-separation observations were made at 2- to 3-day intervals.

After each period of contactor operation, (1) the transfer pump was turned off, (2) the contactor was operated until both effluent flows ceased, and (3) the contactor motor was turned off. The contactor was then drained of residual solutions, which were returned to the mixing tank.

After the fifth and final sampling under stripping conditions, the flow rate of dispersion to the contactor was increased incrementally from the normal 500-mL/min condition to determine the maximum throughput capacity of the unit when processing irradiated solvent at a rotor speed of 3600 rpm. Flow increases were to be stopped at the onset of cross-phase contamination in either effluent stream.

2.3.4 Recovery of Cesium from Stripping-Mode Test

Following completion of the stripping-mode test, a procedure was performed to recover ^{137}Cs from the aqueous solution used in the test. The decision to recover this material was based primarily on a desire to minimize the amount of activity present in Cell A. A secondary objective was to obtain ^{137}Cs for use in a non-CSSX test without having to open an additional ^{137}Cs source (thereby reducing personnel exposures). The recovered cesium was eventually used in demonstrations of cesium removal by precipitation with tetraphenylborate.

Cesium recovery from the stripping-mode irradiation was accomplished by setting the test loop valves so that aqueous effluent would be retained in aqueous sight glass G-A and the organic effluent would be collected in organic effluent tank. Agitation of the tank, which had been suspended following the fifth sampling operation, was resumed at the rate of 800 rpm. Contactor operation at 3600 rpm was also resumed, and pumping from the mixing tank to the contactor was initiated. Sight glass G-A was allowed to fill with aqueous effluent, which was examined for organic contamination. The aqueous effluent was collected in bottles, after which the contactor was stopped and the contactor housing was drained. The solution collected from the contactor housing was separated; the aqueous phase collected was transferred to a sample bottle, and the organic phase was returned to the mixing tank. Valves were then reset to facilitate transfer of the solvent in the organic effluent tank to the mixing tank. Approximately 700 mL of 0.001 M HNO_3 was added to the mixing tank, and agitation was resumed. After about 15 min, the system valves were reset for processing of the dispersion in the centrifugal contactor. As previously, the aqueous contactor effluent was collected in sight glass G-A prior to its transfer into storage bottles. The organic effluent was collected in T-O. At the end of the separation operation, the contactor rotation was terminated and the stripped solvent collected in tank T-O was transferred to the waste tank.

All aqueous solution collected from the stripping test was transferred from Cell A to Cell C using the intercell tubing that had initially been used to transfer ^{137}Cs spike solutions into Cell A.

2.3.5 Post-Stripping Flush of Irradiation System

Following the stripping-condition irradiation test, approximately 2 L each of 0.001 M HNO_3 and Isopar® L were placed in Cell A via an access window. One liter of Isopar® L was transferred into the mixing tank via a solution addition funnel and line. Subsequently, agitation of the mixing tank at an impeller speed of 800 rpm was initiated. Sample taps on the aqueous and organic sight glasses were opened, and the heels in the discharge lines from both were collected and transferred to the waste tank. Valves were then set to permit recycle from the mixing tank through the dispersion sight glass G-M and back into the mixing tank. After 10 min of recycle operation at a flow of 500 mL/min, pump operation was stopped, valves were reset to direct solution from the mixing tank to the waste tank, and pumping was resumed. Pumping was terminated when no additional decrease in the mixing tank was indicated by level instrumentation.

Approximately 1 L of strip acid was transferred into the mixing tank, and the system valves were reset to permit recycle of solution between the mixing tank and sight glass G-M. Pumping was initiated at the rate of 500 mL/min. After 5 min of operation in the recycle mode, contactor operation was initiated at 3600 rpm and system valves were reset to direct flow from the mixing tank to the centrifugal contactor. Flows from the contactor were directed successively through sight glasses G-A and G-O and into the waste tank. Operation of the contactor, pump, and agitator was suspended when the discharge from the contactor stopped.

Approximately 1 L each of strip acid and Isopar® L was placed in the mixing tank, and agitation was resumed. Initially, valves were aligned to direct flow from the mixing tank through sight glass G-M in continuous recycle. After a brief period of recycle, the discharge valve from G-M was closed and dispersion was allowed to fill G-M to a point near the upper flange. In order to flush the sample drain from G-M, a small volume of this material was removed from the drain tap and transferred to the waste tank. The remaining dispersion holdup in G-M was drained back into the mixing tank. Valves were then reset so that the flow was directed from the mixing tank to the centrifugal contactor, through the aqueous and organic sight glasses, and into the waste tank. When contactor effluent flows were observed, the valves in the sight glass discharge lines were closed, causing solutions to accumulate in G-A and G-O. When the levels in the sight glasses approached the top flanges, valves on the discharge line from each sight glasses was opened—allowing the rinse solution to flow into the waste tank. When flow from the contactor was stopped, operation of the contactor, pump, and agitator was also stopped. The contactor housing was then drained, and the contents were transferred to the waste tank.

2.3.6 Extraction-Mode Test Procedure

With the exception of a few test parameters, procedures followed during extraction-mode irradiation were nearly identical to those performed under stripping conditions. Solution volumes placed in the mixing tank at the start of the extraction-mode irradiation test were 200 mL of ^{137}Cs spike solution, 990 mL of CSSX solvent, and 3010 mL of SRS waste supernatant simulant. The resulting O/A ratio of 0.308 was equal to the value for the extraction section of the baseline CSSX flowsheet. The quantity of cesium in the ^{137}Cs was sufficient to achieve the target cesium inventory in the test system; no supplemental stable cesium was added.

Based on a planned test duration of approximately 28 days, the interval between separation evaluations and sample collections was 6 to 7 days. To maintain the desired O/A ratio throughout testing, one 20-mL organic sample and one 65-mL aqueous sample were collected at each sampling and observation interval. The flow rate during extraction-mode contactor testing was 810 mL/min versus 500 mL/min during the stripping test. The increased rate was based on contactor throughput test results that indicated greater contactor capacity under extraction conditions. Finally, because of the high distribution ratios expected under extraction conditions, organic samples collected during the extraction phase of testing were contacted twice with dilute (0.001 M) HNO_3 at an O/A ratio of 5.0 to more effectively remove cesium from the sample.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 STRIPPING-MODE IRRADIATION TEST

3.1.1 Phase-Separation Performance

An initial attempt to determine the dispersion number under stripping conditions was made after filling sight glass G-M to the 23.8 graduation mark. Upon settling, it became apparent that the phase boundary was located below the upper surface of the bottom flange and thus was not visible. Therefore, the solution in the sight glass was allowed to drain back into the mixing tank, and the transfer of solution into G-M was repeated. The liquid level in the sight glass when pumping was terminated was located at the 3.8 graduation mark and the entire liquid column was observed to be in the dispersed condition. A stable interface was formed at the 23.8 graduation mark after settling for 4 min 15 s. The dispersion sight glass was drained, and the mixing tank and G-M were operated in recycle for 5 min after which a second phase-separation observation

was made. On the second measurement, liquid was accumulated to the 3.7 graduation mark, and a stable interface was formed at the 23.8 graduation after 5 min of gravity settling. As indicated in Table 4, the phase ratios determined from volumes in G-M were consistent with the phase volumes initially placed into the mixing tank.

Gravity settling data obtained at each sample interval were used to calculate dimensionless dispersion numbers, which quantify the separation behavior of a pair of immiscible solutions. The dispersion number is defined by the expression

$$N_{Di} = \frac{1}{t_b} \sqrt{\frac{z}{g_c}},$$

where t_b is the break time in s; z is the column height in ft; and g_c is the gravitational constant, 32.172 ft/s². Phase separation times and dispersion numbers indicate a general trend toward poorer phase-separation performance as the test progressed. However, the values are somewhat scattered, reflecting the difficulty in determining the precise time required for phases to disengage when the process is viewed through a hot-cell window. Based on documented centrifugal contactor experience,³ the dispersion number values remained sufficiently high throughout the course of the test to obtain good phase separation at reasonably high contactor throughputs.

Table 4. Results from stripping-mode gravity settling observations.

Sampling interval	Dispersion volume, mL	Solvent volume, mL	Aqueous volume, mL	O/A ratio	Dispersion band ht, in.	Settling time, s	Dispersion no.
1	1056.5	872.0	184.5	4.73	9.54	255	6.17 x 10 ⁻⁴
1	1060.9	872.0	188.9	4.62	9.58	300	5.25 x 10 ⁻⁴
2	1052.2	893.8	158.4	5.64	9.50	270	5.81 x 10 ⁻⁴
3	1056.5	893.8	162.7	5.49	9.54	300	5.24 x 10 ⁻⁴
4	1060.9	893.8	167.1	5.35	9.58	390	4.04 x 10 ⁻⁴
5	1056.5	885.2	171.4	5.16	9.54	370	4.25 x 10 ⁻⁴

As described in Section 2.3.2, dispersion was directed from the mixing tank to the centrifugal contactor and the contactor effluents were collected in sight glasses G-A and G-O. With the contactor operating at 3600 rpm, neither of the effluent volumes collected during the initial stripping-mode sampling evidenced any cross-phase contamination.

At all sampling intervals, the effluents from the centrifugal contactor were observed to be free of cross-phase contamination.

3.1.2 Distribution Ratio Results

Distribution ratios obtained during the stripping irradiation test were not favorable for cesium recovery from the extractant, but displayed steady improvement as the test progressed (see Table 5). Because of the direction of the trend in D_{Cs} and the fact that strip-mode testing was performed immediately after completion of cold testing, it is suspected that a trace quantity of waste simulant could have remained in the system after cold testing. This conclusion is supported by aqueous-phase pH values, which consistently exceed the 3-to-3.5 pH range typically seen in the stripping section of the CSSX flowsheet. The presence of nitrate ion at increased concentration due to the retention of simulant in the system during stripping affects the extraction equilibrium in a manner unfavorable for cesium recovery, and is the most likely cause of the high D_{Cs} values shown in Table 5.

It is unlikely that the observed effect was due to contamination in the mixing tank since the contents of the mixing tank should have reached equilibrium quickly and remained in that state for the duration of the test. It is more likely that contamination was present in the contactor or associated tubing because this equipment is used only intermittently during testing.

Table 5. Cesium distribution results from the stripping-mode irradiation test.

Sample interval	Ci/L, Aqueous phase	Sample dilution	Corrected activity, Ci/L	Aqueous system vol., mL	Solvent volume, mL	Total aqueous activity, Ci	Total solvent activity, Ci	Aqueous sample pH	D_{Cs}
1	2.97E-05	117.37	3.49E-03	700	3500	2.44E-03	3.52E+00	5	2.88E+02
2	4.59E-03	130.42	5.99E-01	690	3450	4.13E-01	3.11E+00	6	1.50E+00
3	8.92E-03	107.53	9.59E-01	680	3400	6.52E-01	2.87E+00	6	8.79E-01
4	8.65E-03	106.04	9.17E-01	670	3350	6.14E-01	2.91E+00	6	9.46E-01
5	1.22E-02	98.37	1.20E+00	660	3300	7.90E-01	2.73E+00	6	6.92E-01

The adverse effect of pH deviation due to waste solution carryover or insufficient pH adjustment during stripping had been observed previously in both single- and multi-stage mass transfer tests. The impact of this problem and the difficulty in recovering from its effects highlight the need for including sufficient scrubbing stages in the CSSX flowsheet to adjust the pH of the solvent entering the stripping section. In addition, these stages can act as a buffer in the event of process upsets that “push” the hydroxide-ion gradient toward the stripping section of the cascade.

3.1.3 Solvent Degradation Results—Strip-Mode Testing

Results of the solvent analyses indicate no formation of the modifier radiolysis product 4-*sec*-butylphenol or any significant change in the solvent composition as the test progressed. Results of the analyses are presented in Table 6.

3.1.4 Maximum Throughput Determination Using Irradiated Solvent—Stripping Condition

Following completion of the final sampling from the strip-mode test, a procedure was performed to determine the flow condition at which phase-separation performance using the 5-cm contactor became inadequate. While a contactor speed of 3600 rpm was maintained, organic flows were increased incrementally from an initial dispersion flow rate of 500 mL/min ($O/A = 5$) to a throughput of 800 mL/min with no evidence of cross-phase contamination. Beginning at a

Table 6. Solvent sample analysis results from stripping-mode irradiation

Sample Interval	Cs-7SB (modifier) concentration, M	BOBCalixC6 concentration, M	Trioctylamine concentration, mM	4- <i>sec</i> -butylphenol concentration, ppm
1	0.53	0.011	1.11	<10
2	0.4	0.008	0.89	<10
3	0.47	0.009	0.81	<10
4	0.54	0.011	0.86	<10
5	0.49	0.0096	0.99	<10

total throughput of approximately 925 mL/min the aqueous effluent became distinctly cloudy and some foam was observed on the upper surface of the aqueous effluent collected in sight glass G-A. When the flow rate was increased to 1015 mL/min, significant entrainment of organic solution in the aqueous effluent occurred.

Contamination-free operation was reestablished when the throughput was reduced to 895 mL/min. This throughput value is in very close agreement with results obtained in "cold" (nonradioactive) throughput tests performed in a separate test effort and reported elsewhere.⁴

3.2 EXTRACTION-MODE IRRADIATION TEST

3.2.1 Phase-Separation Performance

Data obtained from observations of dispersion settling in sight glass G-M under extraction conditions are listed in Table 7. As was the case under stripping conditions, phase separation times and dispersion numbers exhibit increased resistance to phase disengagement under gravity conditions. Again, considerable scatter in dispersion numbers is observed when replicate determinations were made at the same sampling interval. Despite the general trend, the dispersion values obtained over the course of the test are well above the limit for adequate phase separation in centrifugal contactors.³ Not surprisingly, effluents collected from contactor operations at each sampling interval exhibited no cross-phase contamination.

3.2.2 Cesium Distribution Results

Cesium distribution ratio values calculated from extraction-mode sample results are listed in Table 8. The ratio values are generally high, particularly in light of the elevated temperatures present in the test loop (generally 30 to 32°C during contactor operation). A possible cause of inflated distribution ratio values is the evaporation of nonextractant solvent components, resulting in an increase in the extractant concentration. Given the extended duration of the test, a mixing tank temperature that ranged from approximately 31° to 47°C during the irradiation, and the number of openings to atmosphere in the test system (liquid addition and sample points), evaporation of various liquid component could occur. However, assay results from samples collected during testing indicate no change in the solvent composition. Therefore, it seems more likely that high extraction-mode distribution ratios are the result of inaccuracies in aqueous sample analysis or in the calculations used to estimate the organic-phase cesium concentration.

3.2.3 Solvent Degradation Results—Extraction Testing

In addition to the indication of no change in the concentrations of the solvent components, the analytical results from solvent samples collected during the extraction-mode irradiation test indicate no measurable formation of the modifier radiolysis product (see Table 9).

Table 7. Results from extraction-mode gravity settling observations

Sampling interval	Dispersion volume (mL)	Solvent volume (mL)	Aqueous volume (mL)	O/A ratio	Dispersion band height (in.)	Settling time (s)	Dispersion no.
1	428.78	104.6	324.0	0.32	3.87	55	0.001821
1	437.4	95.9	341.5	0.28	3.95	57	0.001775
2	411.2	95.9	315.3	0.30	3.72	86	0.001141
2	433.0	104.6	328.4	0.32	3.91	70	0.001438
3	433.0	104.6	328.4	0.32	3.91	100	0.001007
4	415.6	100.3	315.3	0.32	3.76	140	0.000705
5	411.2	95.9	315.3	0.30	3.72	135	0.000727

Table 8. Cesium distribution results from the extraction-mode irradiation test

Sample ID	Aqueous phase (Ci/L)	Sample dilution	Corrected activity (Ci/L)	Aqueous system volume (mL)	Solvent volume (mL)	Total aqueous activity (Ci)	Total solvent activity (Ci)	D _{Cs}
1	6.76E-04	100.0453	6.76E-02	3270	990	2.21E-01	1.62E+00	2.42E+01
2	9.73E-04	91.07047	8.86E-02	3205	970	2.84E-01	1.56E+00	1.81E+01
3	1.35E-03	127.7476	1.73E-01	3240	950	5.59E-01	1.28E+00	7.81E+00
4	1.84E-03	66.63638	1.22E-01	3175	930	3.89E-01	1.45E+00	1.27E+01
5	9.73E-04	94.0358	9.15E-02	3110	910	2.85E-01	1.56E+00	1.87E+01

Table 9. Analytical results for solvent samples from extraction-mode irradiation test

Sample Interval	Cs-7SB (modifier) concentration (M)	BOBCalixC6 concentration (M)	Trioctylamine concentration (mM)	4-sec-butylphenol concentration (ppm)
1	0.47	0.0092	1.02	<10
2	0.53	0.011	0.98	<10
3	0.55	0.011	1.01	<10
4	0.57	0.012	0.95	<10
5	0.57	0.011	0.86	<10

3.2.4 Maximum Throughput Determination Using Irradiated Solvent—Extraction Condition

At the end of the extraction-mode irradiation test, the flow to the centrifugal contactor was increased incrementally from the baseline, extraction test condition of 800 mL/min to determine maximum capacity. Contactor rotation was maintained at 3600 rpm throughout this phase of testing. With the pump speed controller at its maximum setting, cross-phase contamination was not found in either of the contactor effluent streams. The flow rate was verified at the maximum pump setting and was found to be 1092 mL/min. This result is consistent with results obtained in out-of-cell tests performed using cold cesium.⁴

4. CONCLUSIONS

The results from internal irradiation testing under both extraction and stripping conditions indicate a general trend toward poorer phase separation by gravity settling. However, variations between dispersion numbers determined from replicate data sets are indicative of the difficulty in consistently determining the precise point at which the two dispersed phases are separated, particularly when the observations are made through a hot-cell window. The gravity settling trend notwithstanding, effluent samples collected from the 5-cm centrifugal contactor at all sampling intervals were consistently free of cross-phase contamination. This finding indicates that, when solvent radiation exposure is limited to that expected in 2 years of CSSX operation, the

phase-separation capability of a 5-cm centrifugal contactor operating at 3600 rpm is robust enough to accommodate minor, adverse changes in phase-separation behavior.

Distribution ratio values obtained under extraction conditions were quite high, particularly when elevated-temperature conditions in the test loop are taken into consideration. However, the D_{Cs} values reported for both extraction and stripping conditions must be reviewed in the context of the experimental procedure. Because of the imprecision in the withdrawal of samples and the manner in which organic-phase ^{137}Cs concentrations were calculated (i.e., by difference), the distribution ratio values reported have significant error bands.

The analytical and assay results for the CSSX solvent indicate no change in the solvent composition and no formation of 4-*sec*-butylphenol, within the error range and detection limits of the analysis methods.

The overall conclusion to be drawn from the body of data collected and observations made during the tests reported here is that no significant change in phase-separation performance is to be expected in a contactor-based CSSX process in which solvent is retained for a period of 2 years.

5. REFERENCES

1. P.V. Bonnesen, L. H. Delmau, T. J. Haverlock, and B. A. Moyer, *Alkaline-Side Extraction of Cesium from Savannah River Tank Waste Using a Calixarene-Crown Ether Extractant*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Report ORNL/TM-13704, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1998.
2. R. A. Peterson, *Preparation of Simulated Waste Solutions for Solvent Extraction Testing*, WSRC-RP-2000-00361, Savannah River Technology Center, Aiken, South Carolina, May 2000.
3. R. A. Leonard, "Design Rules for Solvent Extraction," *Solvent Extr. Ion Exch.* 17(3), 597-612 (1999).
4. J. F. Birdwell and K.K. Anderson, *Evaluation of 5-cm Centrifugal Contactor Hydraulic and Mass Transfer Performance for Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction of Cesium*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in preparation.

APPENDIX

CSSX cascade cesium concentration profile calculations

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	Input:								
3	R.A. Leonard Cs profile (5/10/00)								
4	Cs Conc. in reference feed:					0.00014	mol/L		
5	Cs-137 Conc. in feed (based on 22.6% Cs-137):					1.42	Ci/gal		
6	Cs-137/Cs ratio					2680	Ci/mol		
7	Solvent Flow rate in reference flowsheet					6.6	gal/min		
8	M. Hodges email of 4/26/00, Re: Solvent volume in proposed solvent extraction plant								
9	Total stage volume:					20	L		
10	Fraction of Stg vol. that is solvent:					0.4			
11	Total Plant Solvent inventory:					3785	L		
12	Assumptions:								
13	The contactor volume is completely dispersed, the Cs energy is distributed equally								
14	across the contactor volume, and geometry effects not included.								
15	Calculations:								
16	Solvent residence time per stage =					5.34E-03	hr		
17	Cycle time for plant inventory (vol/flow rate)					2.53	hr		
18	Cycles per year					3469			
19			mol/L			Cs-137, Ci/L		Solvent Exposure	
20	Section No.	Stage No.	x Cs	y Cs	Aq.	Org.	Tot. Stg.	Ci-hr/L	
21	1	1	1.02E-09	9.34E-09	2.74E-06	2.50E-05	1.17E-05	6.22E-08	
22	1	2	1.88E-09	1.57E-08	5.03E-06	4.20E-05	1.98E-05	1.06E-07	
23	1	3	3.82E-09	3.01E-08	1.02E-05	8.07E-05	3.84E-05	2.05E-07	
24	1	4	8.25E-09	6.29E-08	2.21E-05	1.69E-04	8.07E-05	4.31E-07	
25	1	5	1.83E-08	1.38E-07	4.91E-05	3.69E-04	1.77E-04	9.45E-07	
26	1	6	4.13E-08	3.08E-07	1.11E-04	8.25E-04	3.96E-04	2.11E-06	
27	1	7	9.35E-08	6.95E-07	2.50E-04	1.86E-03	8.95E-04	4.78E-06	
28	1	8	2.12E-07	1.58E-06	5.69E-04	4.22E-03	2.03E-03	1.08E-05	
29	1	9	4.83E-07	3.58E-06	1.29E-03	9.60E-03	4.62E-03	2.46E-05	
30	1	10	1.10E-06	8.15E-06	2.94E-03	2.18E-02	1.05E-02	5.60E-05	
31	1	11	2.50E-06	1.85E-05	6.70E-03	4.97E-02	2.39E-02	1.28E-04	
32	1	12	5.69E-06	4.22E-05	1.52E-02	1.13E-01	5.44E-02	2.90E-04	
33	1	13	1.29E-05	9.60E-05	3.47E-02	2.57E-01	1.24E-01	6.61E-04	
34	1	14	2.95E-05	2.19E-04	7.90E-02	5.86E-01	2.82E-01	1.50E-03	
35	1	15	6.71E-05	4.92E-04	1.80E-01	1.32E+00	6.35E-01	3.39E-03	
36	2	16	3.28E-04	4.75E-04	8.79E-01	1.27E+00	1.04E+00	5.53E-03	
37	2	17	2.46E-04	4.26E-04	6.58E-01	1.14E+00	8.52E-01	4.55E-03	
38	3	18	2.11E-03	3.48E-04	5.64E+00	9.32E-01	3.76E+00	2.01E-02	
39	3	19	1.73E-03	2.09E-04	4.63E+00	5.61E-01	3.00E+00	1.60E-02	
40	3	20	1.04E-03	1.07E-04	2.79E+00	2.87E-01	1.79E+00	9.55E-03	
41	3	21	5.34E-04	4.91E-05	1.43E+00	1.31E-01	9.12E-01	4.87E-03	
42	3	22	2.45E-04	2.25E-05	6.56E-01	6.02E-02	4.18E-01	2.23E-03	
43	3	23	1.12E-04	1.03E-05	3.00E-01	2.76E-02	1.91E-01	1.02E-03	
44	3	24	5.13E-05	4.71E-06	1.38E-01	1.26E-02	8.76E-02	4.67E-04	
45	3	25	2.35E-05	2.16E-06	6.29E-02	5.78E-03	4.01E-02	2.14E-04	
46	3	26	1.07E-05	9.86E-07	2.87E-02	2.64E-03	1.83E-02	9.77E-05	
47	3	27	4.89E-06	4.50E-07	1.31E-02	1.21E-03	8.34E-03	4.45E-05	
48	3	28	2.21E-06	2.05E-07	5.93E-03	5.49E-04	3.78E-03	2.02E-05	
49	3	29	9.90E-07	9.24E-08	2.65E-03	2.47E-04	1.69E-03	9.02E-06	
50	3	30	4.29E-07	4.09E-08	1.15E-03	1.10E-04	7.33E-04	3.91E-06	
51	3	31	1.72E-07	1.73E-08	4.60E-04	4.64E-05	2.95E-04	1.57E-06	
52	3	32	5.41E-08	6.54E-09	1.45E-04	1.75E-05	9.41E-05	5.02E-07	
53									
54							Total/cycle	7.08E-02	Ci-hr/L
55							Total/yr	2.45E+02	Ci-hr/L

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

1. K. K. Anderson
- 2-3. J. F. Birdwell, Jr.
4. P. V. Bonnesen
5. J. L. Collins
6. R. L. Cummins
7. L. H. Delmau
8. J. N. Herndon
9. R. D. Hunt
10. R. T. Jubin
11. T. E. Kent
- 12-15. L. N. Klatt
16. D. D. Lee
17. M. P. Maskarinec
18. A. Mattus
19. C. P. McGinnis
20. L. E. McNeese
21. B. A. Moyer
22. K. E. Plummer
23. F. V. Sloop, Jr.
24. R. D. Spence
25. B. B. Spencer
26. J. F. Walker
27. J. S. Watson
28. ORNL Central Research Library
29. Laboratory Records, RC
30. Laboratory Records, OSTI

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

31. J. T. Carter, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Buidling 704-3B,
Aiken, SC 29808
32. D. Chamberlain, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 205, 9700 South Cass Avenue,
Argonne, IL 60439
33. N. F. Chapman, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Buidling 704-3B,
Aiken, SC 29808
34. C. Conner, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 205, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne,
IL 60439
35. R. G. Edwards, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Buidling 704-3B,
Aiken, SC 29808
36. S. D. Fink, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken,
SC 29808

37. H. D. Harmon, Tank Focus Area Salt Processing Program, P.O. Box 616, Building 704-3N, Aiken, SC 29808
38. R. T. Jones, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 704-3N, Aiken, SC 29808
39. R. A. Leonard, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 205, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439
40. J. W. McCullough, Jr., U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Bldg. 704-3N, Aiken, SC 29808
41. J. R. Noble-Dial, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8620
42. Michael Norato, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
43. Robert Pierce, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
44. S. N. Schlahta, Tank Focus Area Salt Processing Program, P. O. Box 616, Building 704-3N, Aiken, SC 29808
45. P. C. Suggs, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Building 704-3N, Aiken, SC 29808
46. W. L. Tamosaitis, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
47. M. Thompson, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
48. T. A. Todd, Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory, Building 637, MS-5218, Idaho Falls, ID 834415-5218
49. G. Vandegrift, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 205, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439
50. Doug Walker, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
51. Dennis Wester, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
52. W. R. Wilmarth, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, P.O. Box 616, Building 773-A, Aiken, SC 29808
53. Tanks Focus Area Technical Team, c/o B. J. Williams, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, MSIN K9-69, Richland, WA 99352

54. Tanks Focus Area Field Lead, c/o T. P. Pietrok, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, K8-50, Richland, WA 99352
55. Tanks Focus Area Headquarters Program Manager, c/o K. D. Gerdes, DOE Office of Science and Technology, 19901 Germantown Rd., 1154 Cloverleaf Building, Germantown, MD 20874-1290