

J. W. Ficklin S7-83 DATE: HANFORD J. G. Field H6-03 STA: $\overline{\psi}$ RELEASE $1D$ M. A. Fish S7-24 λ AUG 0 5 2008 M. E. Johnson H6-19 P. C. Miller R1-51 (a) Cleared for Public Release (b) Restricted Information? (c) Restriction Type: (13) Clearance \boxtimes No \boxtimes Yes \Box No \Box Yes (14) Clearance Review (Print/Sign): Date: $8 - 5 - 208$ L FOK

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Tank 241-SX-104 Leak Assessment Report

D. J. Washenfelder CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. Richland, WA 99352 U.S. Department of Energy Contract DE-AC27-99RL14047

Key Words: 241-SX-104, leak assessment, leak

Abstract: Tank 241-SX-104 was declared an "Assumed Leaker" single-shell tank in 1988 based on a sixinch decrease in the interstitial liquid level. The tank was re-investigated in 1998 and determined not be be actively leaking at that time. On May 19, 2008, a new leak assessement was initiated based on an interstitial liquid level decrease that exceeded the decrease criterion. This report provides the leak assessment results. The assessment was conducted by an independent leak assessment panel. The panel concluded that tank 241-SX-104 is not actively leaking, and that the water used to install the liquid observation well in December, 2006 obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature. When the correct feature was identified and tracked, the data show a stable interstitial liquid level and no indication of a new leak.

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Tank 241-SX-104 Leak Assessment Report

D. J. Washenfelder D. G. Baide D. A. Barnes J. W. Ficklin J. G. Field M. A. Fish CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc.

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Contract No. DE-AC27-99RL14047

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tank 241-SX-104 is a 1,000,000 gallon capacity, 75-ft diameter, mild steel-lined concrete singleshell tank located on the east side of the 241-SX Tank Farm. The tank was placed in service during the first quarter of 1955, and continued to receive and store waste until August, 1980 when it was removed from service. At that time, the tank was classified as a "Sound" tank.

Between 1985 and 1988 the interstitial liquid level in the tank slowly decreased, exceeding the allowable -0.3 foot (ft) decrease criterion in February, 1988. A leak investigation completed in July, 1988 declared the tank to be an "Assumed Leaker". Between May and August, 1988, 99,900 gallons (99.9 kgal) of liquid was pumped from the tank.

Between February, 1997 and January, 1998 the rate of decrease in the tank SX-104 interstitial liquid level changed from about -1 inch (in) per year to -6 in per year; and the waste surface response to changes in atmospheric pressure increased from between -0.7 and -3.0 in of level change per in of mercury to almost -6.0 in of level change per in of mercury. A leak investigation concluded that the variations were the result of changes in waste porosity combined with increases in capillary strength from the reduced porosity. The downward slope of the interstitial liquid level baseline was attributed to evaporation due to increased wicking of interstitial liquids to the waste surface from the increased capillary strength. External drywell spectral gamma scans in January, 1998 showed no changes from the 1995 baseline scans. The investigation recommended that the tank not be declared a re-leaker.

In December, 2006 a new liquid observation well was installed in Riser 7A. Interstitial liquid level monitoring using the new well showed the predictable increase in interstitial liquid level from the installation water, followed by a natural decline and re-stabilization of the level by January, 2008, as the free water dissipated through the waste. However, the May 1, 2008 reading showed a decrease that exceeded the allowable -1.2 in criterion. Further decreases were measured on May 6, and May 12, 2008. On May 19, 2008, a formal leak assessment was initiated to determine if the tank was re-leaking.

The leak assessment used a panel of experienced CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. engineers and managers to review the tank available in-tank and ex-tank data and the previous leak assessments to determine whether the tank was re-leaking. The panel consisted of: D. J. Washenfelder, (Assessment Coordinator, Technical Integration Program Manager); D. G. Baide, (West Systems Engineering Manger); D. A. Barnes, (Surveillance System Engineer, In-tank and Ex-tank Surveillance); J. W. Ficklin (SX Tank Farm Maintenance and Facility Operations Manager); J. G. Field (Environmental Engineering Manager); and M. A. Fish (SX Tank Farm Single-Shell Waste Tank System Engineer).

Based on review of the in-tank and ex-tank data, the panel developed plausible hypotheses for the observed tank behavior:

Leak Hypothesis:

"A leak from tank 241-SX-104 caused the decrease in the interstitial liquid level calculated from neutron monitoring scans in the Riser 7A Liquid Observation Well."

Non-Leak Hypothesis:

"Water used to install the tank 241-SX-104 Liquid Observation Well created an artificially high liquid level near the Liquid Observation Well and obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature. When the correct feature is monitored the data show a stable liquid level and no indication of a leak."

The team concluded that the water used to install the liquid observation well in December, 2006 obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature because of localized impermeability in the sludge-saltcake mixture and the interstitial liquid's capability to generate and release small amounts of gas. These waste characteristics impeded the redistribution of the liquid observation well installation water in the waste. When the correct, latent, feature was identified and tracked, the data showed a stable interstitial liquid level and no indication of a new leak.

The consensus of the assessment team is that tank SX-104 is not actively leaking; and that the Non-Leaker hypothesis is the most likely explanation for the observed change in the interstitial liquid level.

The recommendation of the assessment team is to leave the tank SX-104 leak integrity status unchanged by the assessment; and to rebaseline the Riser 7A interstitial liquid level to the latent feature believed to represent the true interstitial liquid level.

The results of this assessment were presented to the Executive Safety Review Board on July 31, 2008. The Board accepted the recommendations of the assessment team.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides the results of a formal leak assessment performed on tank 241-SX-104 (tank SX-104). The leak assessment process is described in Engineering procedure TFC-ENG-CHEM-D-42, Rev. A-1, *Tank Leak Assessment Process*. The formal leak assessment was initiated May 19, 2008 following a decrease in the interstitial liquid level (ILL) that exceeded the allowable -1.2 in.

Tank SX-104 is a 1,000,000 gallon capacity, 75-ft diameter, mild steel-lined concrete singleshell tank located on the east side of the 241-SX Tank Farm. The tank was placed in service during the first quarter of 1955, and continued to receive and store waste until August, 1980 when it was removed from service.

Between 1985 and 1988 the ILL in the tank slowly decreased, exceeding the allowable -0.3 ft. decrease criterion in February, 1988. A leak investigation completed in July, 1988 declared the tank to be an "Assumed Leaker".

Between February, 1997 and January, 1998 the rate of decrease in the tank SX-104 ILL changed from about -1 in per year to -6 in per year; and the waste surface response to changes in atmospheric pressure increased from between -0.7 and -3.0 in of level change per in of mercury to almost -6.0 in of level change per in of mercury. A leak investigation concluded that the variations were the result of changes in waste porosity combined with increases in capillary strength from the reduced porosity. The downward slope of the ILL baseline was attributed to evaporation due to increased wicking of interstitial liquids to the waste surface from the increased capillary strength. External drywell spectral gamma scans in January, 1998 showed no changes from the 1995 baseline scans. The assessment recommended that the tank not be declared a re-leaker.

In December, 2006 a new liquid observation well was installed in Riser 7A. Interstitial liquid level monitoring using the new well showed the predictable increase in ILL from the installation water, followed by a natural decline and re-stabilization of the level by January, 2008, as the free water dissipated through the waste. However, the May 1, 2008 reading showed a decrease that exceeded the allowable -1.2 in criterion. Further decreases were measured on May 6, and May 12, 2008. On May 19, 2008, a formal leak assessment was initiated to determine if the tank was re-leaking.

Figure 1-1. 241-SX Farm Plot Plan.

Tank SX-104 is located on the east side of 241-SX tank farm, the first tank in the SX-104, SX-105, SX-106 cascade. Drywells illustrated in the plan are identified by their associated tank number and clock position from North. In addition to the six drywells surrounding tank SX-104, drywells 41-01-06 and 41-07-12 are considered part of the tank's drywell baseline. Tank SX-104 is one of five SX tanks not equipped with laterals extending beneath the base of the tank.

2.0 METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The method of analysis used was Engineering Procedure TFC-ENG-CHEM-D-42, *Tank Leak Assessment Process*. The formal leak assessment process is based on probabilistic analysis to assess the mathematical likelihood (probability) that a specific tank is leaking or has leaked. The technical basis for the process and additional details and examples of the methodology for implementing the process can be found in HNF-3747 *Tank Leak Assessment Technical Background*. For each step, a description of the process, products, and responsibilities is provided.

The leak assessment used a panel of experienced CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. engineers and managers to review the tank SX-104 available in-tank and ex-tank data, and the previous leak assessments to determine whether the tank was re-leaking. The panel consisted of: D. J. Washenfelder, (Assessment Coordinator, Technical Integration Program Manager); D. G. Baide, (West Systems Engineering Manger); D. A. Barnes, (Surveillance System Engineer, In-tank and Ex-tank Surveillance); J. W. Ficklin (SX Tank Farm Maintenance and Facility Operations Manager); J. G. Field (Environmental Engineering Manager); and M. A. Fish (SX Tank Farm Single-Shell Waste Tank System Engineer).

3.0 TANK HISTORY

The 241-SX Tank Farm is part of the third generation of Hanford tank farms, and was built to contain self-boiling waste from the Reduction Oxidation (REDOX) Plant. The tanks were constructed between 1953 and 1954 and are located in the central part of the 200 West Area. There are 15 single-shell tanks in the 241-SX Farm, each with a 1,000,000 gallon (gal) capacity. They are 75 ft in diameter, approximately 44.5 ft tall with a domed top, and have been covered with about 7 ft of overburden. The base of the original construction excavation and corresponding base of the tanks is about 52 ft in depth. Ten of the 15, including tank SX-104, have been declared "assumed leakers".

Tank SX-104 is the first tank in a cascade series of three tanks including tank SX-105 and tank SX-106. The tank entered service in the first quarter of 1955. Tank SX-104 received REDOX waste from the first quarter of 1955 until the third quarter of 1971. The tank received REDOX evaporator bottoms from tank SX-105 (received into tank SX-105 in 1967 – 1969) and REDOX ion exchange waste (post-B Plant cesium removal) from tank SX-105 in the third quarter of 1971 until the second quarter of 1975. From the third quarter of 1975 until the second quarter of 1976, the tank received evaporator bottoms and recycle wastes from the 242-S Evaporator-Crystallizer (242-S). The tank received concentrated 242-S feed and residual liquid during the third quarter of 1976 until the third quarter of 1977. During the fourth quarter of 1977, the tank received partial neutralized 242-S slurry product. In the first quarter of 1980, the content of the tank was classified as double-shell slurry feed.

Saltwell pumping began on September 26, 1997; 200 gal were pumped in September before the transfer line between tank SX-104 and the 244-S double-contained receiver tank (DCRT) became plugged. Pumping was resumed on March 19, 1998, following the installation of a dilution system in the saltwell in order to make it easier to pump the waste to tank 241-SY-102. Pumping was interrupted and resumed on March 23, 1998, and was again interrupted.

Saltwell pumping restarted on July 23, 1998, and continued until July 27, 1999, when the rear seal of the jet pump ruptured and a major spray leak ensued within the pump pit. A total of 115,100 gallons (115.1 kgal) of liquid waste was transferred to tank SY-102 before failure occurred. Waste volume calculations show 47.7 kgal of drainable interstitial liquid remaining in the tank, of which approximately 43.6 kgal are estimated to be pumpable. On April 26, 2000, the tank was declared interim stabilized.

Tank SX-104 waste temperature is about 130 \textdegree F, or 54 \textdegree C – high enough to keep the interstitial liquid in the liquid state. The 1998 laboratory cooling curve studies demonstrated that solidification did not begin until the samples were cooled to 25° C, and was complete at 22° C (8C510-PC98-024).

Currently tank SX-104 contains 310 kgal of saltcake and 136 kgal of sludge. The waste estimates are based on Best Basis Inventory waste templates and process knowledge. The tank has not been core sampled. Video observation reveals there is no supernatant liquid.

4.0 TANK LEAK ASSESSMENT HISTORY

Tank SX-104 was declared an "Assumed Leaker" in 1988 following a 6 in decrease in the ILL. In 1998 the tank was again evaluated to determine if it was actively leaking. Figure 4-1 locates these events on the tank SX-104 timeline.

4.1 1988 LEAK ASSESSMENT

Environmental Protection Deviation Report 88-03 was issued February 19, 1988 to document an ILL decrease exceeding the -0.3 ft decrease criterion measured with the gamma probe. The neutron probe was noted to be stable.

Unusual Occurrence Report (UOR) WHC-UO-88-024-TF-03 dated August 30, 1988 indicates that 99,900 gal were pumped from the tank between May18, 1988 and August 16, 1988; and that the tank was declared an "Assumed Leaker" on July 13, 1988 (see 113331-88-416 *Engineering Investigation: Interstitial Liquid Level Decrease in Tank 241-SX-104*, July, 1988 [D193015350]). The report was forwarded via letter 885768 to R. E. Gerton, Director Waste Management Division, US DOE on September 28, 1988 [D193015352] as a corrected copy of the UOR sent via 8854920 on August 3, 1988 [292-001167]. The August 3, 1988 copy incorrectly stated that pumping had temporarily ceased because of the failure of the 244-S DCRT. Actually the pump had failed. This error was corrected in the September 28, 1988 copy.

Environmental Protection Deviation Report 88-03 indicates that the decrease criterion was confirmed with the gamma probe, and that the neutron probe remained stable. However, the UOR indicates that the ILL decrease was verified with the Gamma, Neutron, and Acoustic probes. It does not say whether or not the neutron and acoustic probes confirmed that the -0.3 ft decrease criterion had been exceeded however.

The estimated leak volume represented by the 6 in ILL decrease was 5,300 gal, when corrected for porosity and for thermal contraction of the cooling waste. This was rounded to 6,000 gal for reporting purposes.

4.2 1998 LEAK ASSESSMENT

In 1998 the tank was suspected of re-leaking due to observed variations in ILL of up to 6 in. The variations were attributed to the ILL being affected by changes in barometric pressure combined with a reduction in waste porosity, based on empirical measurements from water additions in February, 1997 and February, 1998, and increases in capillary strength from the reduced porosity. The downward slope of the ILL baseline was attributed to evaporation due to increased wicking of interstitial liquids to the waste surface from the increased capillary strength.

Drywell spectral gamma scans in January, 1998 showed no changes. The assessment recommended that the tank not be declared a re-leaker (HNF-2617 Rev. 0 *241-SX-104 Level Anomaly Assessment* attached to letter LMHC-9851233A R3, *Subcontract Number 80232764-9- K001; Tank 241-SX-104 Level Anomalies*).

Figure 4-1. Tank SX-104 Event Timeline

5.0 IN-TANK DATA

5.1 SURFACE LEVEL BEHAVIOR

Tank SX-104 is equipped with an ENRAF surface level measurement gauge. The July 7, 2008 in-tank video shows that the ENRAF is suspended over a broad, shallow waste depression, and that the displacement plummet has been contacting a solid waste surface. In this circumstance the ENRAF provides no meaningful leak assessment data.

5.1.1 Interstitial Liquid Level Behavior 1982-2008

Five liquid observation wells have been installed in tank SX-104 since 1982. The first four were installed in either Riser 14 or Riser 16, and have all failed. The failure cause is most likely the result of waste subsidence caused by the removal of about 215 kgal of interstitial liquid.

Figure 5-1. Tank SX LOW Locations 1982 – 2008

Five LOWs have been installed in Tank SX-104; four have failed. The Riser 7A LOW was installed in December, 2006.

5.1.2 Interstitial Liquid Level Behavior December 2006 – July 2008

In December, 2006 the fifth liquid observation well was installed in Riser 7A. According to work package CLO-WO-06-000490 *241-SX-104, Install LOW in Riser 7*, about 200 gal of water were used to on November 29, 2006 to water lance a cavity in the waste to accept the new liquid observation well.

Interstitial liquid level monitoring using the new well immediately after installation on December 7, 2006, showed the predictable increase in ILL from the installation water. Subsequent neutron scans showed the ILL following a natural, predictable decline. The ILL re-stabilized by January, 2008, as the free water dissipated through the waste.

However, the May 1, 2008 reading showed a decrease of -1.740 in that exceeded the allowable OSD-T-151-00031 Rev. G-2 *Operating Specification for Tank Farm Leak Detection and Single-Shell Tank Intrusion Detection* +/- 3 standard deviations from the trend baseline, or -1.2 in specification limit. The ILL measurement frequency was increased from quarterly to weekly. Further decreases were measured on May 6, and May 12, 2008. Subsequent to May 12, 2008, the ILL restabilized, and has remained stable through the mid-July, 2008 assessment period.

Gamma scans were completed on June 10, 2008 and June 17, 2008. They show an interface very close to the ILL interface calculated from a newly-identified ILL secondary feature (June 10^{th}) ILL 73.284 in, γ 72.384 in; June 17th ILL 73.440 in, γ 72.036 in). No further γ scans were made. Figure 5-2 illustrates the ILL history from 1982 to present.

Figure 5-2. Tank SX-104 Interstitial Liquid Level History December, 1982 – June, 2008

The figure shows the ILL calculated from the original feature for LOWs 41061, 41062, 41065, and for both the "Original" and "New" feature for LOW 41069 installed in December, 2006.

5.1.3 Changes in Interstitial Liquid Level Neutron Scan Shape

Review of the individual ILL neutron scans that were made between December 7, 2006 after the Riser 7A LOW was first installed, and July, 2008, show that a new ILL secondary feature began to form about 15 in below the original ILL as the installation water dissipated through the waste. The original ILL feature became less pronounced.

On June 10, 2008, and June 17, 2008, gamma ray scans were run with the weekly neutron scans to investigate the new feature. The gamma ray scans indicated that the radiation interface was within about 1 to 1-1/2 in of the new ILL feature. The gamma ray scans typically detect the ILL from a stepwise radiation increase due to the soluble Cs-137 radioisotope present in interstitial liquid.

Figure 5-3 illustrates the time-sequenced development of the new ILL secondary feature.

Figure 5-3. Tank SX-104 Liquid Observation Well Neutron Scan Shape Change December, 2006 – June, 2008

The time-sequenced Riser 7A LOW scans indicate the presence of a new ILL forming in the waste. The curves have been smoothed to make the ILL features more apparent.

Table 5-1 presents the ILL readings for the original feature and the new secondary feature. Figure 5-4 shows that when the new ILL secondary feature is plotted, the ILL decreases asmytotically over time, consistent with the dissipation of the installation water into the waste and loss of installation water hydraulic head as this occurs.

	Original Feature Neutron Scan		New Feature Neutron Scan		
Date	ILL Reading (Inches)	ILL Reading Change (Inches)	ILL Reading (Inches)	ILL Reading Change (Inches)	ILL Reading (Inches) Gamma Scan
12/07/2006	95.364		85.416		
12/07/2006	95.220	-0.144	84.924	-0.492	
12/20/2006	93.132	-2.088	84.156	-0.768	
01/18/2007	91.992	-1.140	83.304	-0.852	
04/04/2007	91.632	-0.360	79.500	-3.804	
07/12/2007	91.896	0.264	75.576	-3.924	
10/18/2007	91.896	0.000	73.656	-1.920	
01/10/2008	91.272	-0.624	73.512	-0.144	
05/01/2008	89.532	-1.740	74.688	1.176	
05/06/2008	89.484	-0.048	73.524	-1.164	
05/12/2006	88.512	-0.972	74.352	0.828	
05/20/2006	88.560	0.048	73.440	-0.912	
05/27/2008	88.872	0.312	74.232	0.792	
06/03/2008	88.620	-0.252	73.020	-1.212	
06/10/2008	88.764	0.144	73.284	0.264	72.384
06/17/2008	88.320	-0.444	73.440	0.156	72.036
06/24/2008	88.320	0.000	73.176	-0.264	
06/30/2008	88.752	0.432	73.632	0.456	
07/08/2008	88.896	0.144	73.776	0.144	
07/15/2008	88.692	-0.204	73.932	0.156	
07/15/2008	88.548	-0.144	73.548	-0.384	

Table 5-1. Interstitial Liquid Level Original Feature and New Feature December, 2006 – July, 2008

Figure 5-4. Riser 7A Interstitial Liquid Level Original Feature and New Feature December 7, 2006 – July 21, 2008

The figure shows the ILL calculated from both the original feature and from the latent "new" feature believed to represent the true ILL.

5.1.4 Relationship between Surface Level and Interstitial Liquid Level

Table 5-2 illustrates the difference between the waste surface level and the ILL for the three periods covered by leak assessments was reviewed and reconciled: the April, 1985 – April, 1988 period reviewed during the 1988 leak investigation; the February, 1997 – February, 1998 reviewed during the 1998 leak investigation and after 99.9 kgal had been pumped from the tank following the 1988 investigation; and the December, 2006 – July, 2008 period after an additional 115.1 kgal had been pumped from the tank during interim stabilization that ended in 1999.

In 1988 prior to submersible pumping the 99.9 kgal, the tank apparently had a significant floating crust with a liquid/slurry surface about 22" below the crust. The 1988 pumping removed a large amount of the near-surface liquid; the change in ILL that occurred indicates that the liquid/slurry had a porosity of $\sim 88\%$. Between the 1998 and the present investigation, an additional 115.1 kgal were pumped from the tank with a jet pump. This activity withdrew mostly interstitial liquid from the tank based on the ~33% porosity estimated from the change in the ILL.

Table 5-2. Surface Level and Interstitial Liquid Level During Tank SX-104 Leak Assessments

5.1.5 Waste Origin

It is believed that the tank SX-104 interstitial liquid is a product of the second Partial Neutralizaton (PN) process test - the "Nitric Acid Partial Neutralization/Acid Injection Process Test" - using a modified acid injector design. The test was run intermittently between November 14, and December 19, 1975 (ARH-CD-597). There is no mention of the PN slurry tank in the process test report. However, a February, 1976 analytical report provides PN slurry sample results from tank SX-104; since no other slurry tanks are mentioned, it is likely that all of the PN/Acid Injection process test product was slurried to tank SX-104 ([D196226689]). Although

the process test proposal called for sampling each of the three phases of the test, the analytical report only has two sample results.

5.1.6 Waste Characteristics – 1988 Samples

The May, 1988 samples gelled at laboratory temperature. The sample results show a $[PO_4]$ of $0.1M + 20\%$, and a [P] = 0.15M (12221-PCL88-147). The 1988 samples were reported to be "nearly saturated in dissolved salts". Initial acidification resulted in the formation of solids believed to be aluminum hydroxide.

5.1.7 Waste Characteristics –1998 Samples

The tank was also grab sampled in April 1997, and again in June 1998. Results from the April 1997 sampling event were used to assure chemical compatibility of the waste with materials that might come in contact with tank SX-104 liquids pumped during saltwell pumping activities, and to address flammable gas concentrations in the tank headspace.

Three grab samples were taken in June, 1998 for dilution studies and inorganic analysis. The purpose of these samples is variously described as either supporting the re-leak assessment, or establishing water dilution requirements for saltwell pumping to reduce the risk of a plugged transfer line. The supernatant analytical results show $[Na] = 10.13M$, and $[P] = 0.0255M$ (WMH-9856353).

Dilution and cooling tests were performed on the undiluted liquid. The undiluted samples formed gels composed of interlocked sodium phosphate dodecahydrate $(Na_3PO_4 \cdot 12H_2O)$ needle crystals and NaNO₃ rhombohedra when cooled from 60° C to 22° C laboratory temperature. About 10 volume % free liquid remained on top of the gel. The samples remained clear from 60° C until the temperature reached 25° C, at which point precipitation began. Vigorous shaking disrupted the gel enough to settle about 55 volume % solids. The test was repeated with the same results. Samples diluted 2:1 (50%) and 1:1 (100%) did not form new solids during cooling (8C510-PC98-024).

The composition of the 1998 samples shows remarkable similarities to the old, burping SY-101 supernatant. Table 5-3 compares tank SX-104 and tank SY-101 "Window E" supernatants. Window E was a turbulent, retained gas-driven, waste rollover event that occurred on December 4, 1991. The event triggered a planned waste sampling activity. A full core sample extending from the surface of the waste to approximately 2 in above the bottom of the tank was taken between December 14, and December 16, 1991 (WHC-SD-WM-DTR-0126).

Table 5-3. Comparison of 1998 Tank SX-104 and 1991 Tank SY-101 "Window E" Supernatant Samples

If the tank $SX-104$ supernatant was concentrated by $\sim 10\%$, the analyte concentrations would almost exactly match the tank $SY-101$ Window E composition, including % H_20 and specific gravity (SpG).

Evaluation using the AIO_2 ⁻ x OH⁻ phase diagram in Figure 5-5 shows that the 1998 samples and Window E samples reside in the same aluminate region. Aluminate is known to catalyze the thermal decomposition of organic complexants, which results in H_2 gas formation. The high surface area of the aluminate crystals is also known to retain gas. These combined phenomena resulted in the tank SY-101 gas release events (GRE), and are most likely still occurring in tank SX-104. The 1988 sample Total Organic Carbon (TOC) analysis for tank SX-104 was 5 - 13.3 g/l; and for tank SY-101 Envelope E 14.4 g/l. The inverse barometric response correlation to the ILL present during the 1998 re-leak investigation also indicates that retained gas was present in tank SX-104.

Total organic carbon is a common source of gas production in the waste tanks. As noted, the TOC in the 1988 tank SX-104 sample was $5 - 13.3$ g/l TOC; in the 1997 sample centrifuged solids 1.8 g/l; and in the 1997 sample sludge interstitial liquid 2.2 g/l. The TOC in tank SY-101 Window E samples prior to remediation was 14.4 g/l. If the gas generation rate was proportional to the TOC, then tank SY-101 had a significantly higher generation rate in 1991 than tank SX-104 had in 1997, based on the 1997 samples. However, based on the similarities of the wastes, it is likely that the gas retention properties of the slurries in tank SX-104 and tank SY-101 were similar. The tank SX-104 TOC decrease between the 1988 and the 1997 samples may be the result of slow decomposition, although such a high decomposition rate seems inconsistent with the reported SHMS and GRE data for the tank.

Figure 5-5. Tank SX-104 and Tank SY-101 Window E Aluminate Comparison

(from ARH-ST-133 *Vapor-Liquid-Solid Phase Equilibria of Radioactive Sodium Wastes at Hanford*)

5.1.8 Waste Temperature

The current ~ 88.7 in ILL using the original ILL feature is bracketed by thermocouple #5, about 11 in above the ILL, and thermocouple #4, 13 in below. The last recorded TMACS readings for these thermocouples were 105.3 ${}^{\circ}$ F (41 ${}^{\circ}$ C) on April 30, 2002; and 125.1 ${}^{\circ}$ F (52 ${}^{\circ}$ C) on September 2, 2005 (Data Date – May 29, 2008) as illustrated in Figure 5-6.

Figure 5-6. Tank SX-104 Waste Temperature May, 1998 – May, 2008

Tank waste temperature is about 130° F, or 54° C – high enough to keep the interstitial liquid in the liquid state. The 1998 laboratory cooling curve studies demonstrated that solidification did not begin until the samples were cooled to 25° C, and was complete at 22° C (8C510-PC98-024).

5.1.9 Retained Gas

The 1998 re-leak assessment noted a high correlation between changes in barometric pressure and changes in the ILL, and accounted for the apparently 1,000 gal waste loss "... by a combination of reduced porosity and increased capillary pressure. There is also some evidence that the ventilation rate may have been increased..." (LMHC-9851233A R3/HNF-2617). The 2008 leak assessment considered the possibility of mini-GRE's contributing to temporary changes in the ILL.

The demonstrated effect of barometric pressure on the ILL height, and the waste characteristics of the 1998 interstitial liquid sample showing close similarities to the unmitigated tank SY-101 waste, indicate that the waste is capable of generating, retaining, and releasing small amounts of gas. Localized gas release in the vicinity of the LOW would be indicated by a decrease in the ILL similar to the drop measured on May 1, 2008.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) studied the gas retention and release in the SSTs, and concluded the that the only mechanism capable of producing large spontaneous gas releases was buoyant displacement, which occurs in tanks with a deep supernatant layer (PNNL-11391). The report concluded that SSTs were only capable of small releases of a few cubic meters, based on theory and laboratory and field observations; and since gas bubbles can only cling to submerged solids, gas is usually only released when the volume of waste is disturbed. The report also prioritized the SSTs by flammable gas potential based on barometric pressure surface level response (dL/dP); extent of post-transfer surface level rise; and tank headspace gas concentrations. Table A.1 *SST Prioritization Data* estimated the tank SX-104 dL/dP as \sim + 0.0001 in/in Hg. The positive number indicates that there is no waste surface correlation with barometric pressure. Table 3.1 *Void Fraction Estimates* shows that tank SX-104 consistently ranked as one of the least responsive tanks to changes in barometric pressure affecting the surface level. Similar results were obtained when level rise was considered. The relationship between waste surface level and ILL changes was not discussed.

In March, 1995 a Standard Hydrogen Monitoring System (SHMS) consisting of High- and Lowrange WhittakerTM cells for H₂, and a grab sample station was installed on tank SX-104. During saltwell pumping, tank SX-104 showed no evidence of spontaneous gas release of significant amounts of flammable gas – one of only four tanks on the SST Flammable Gas Watch List (Public Law 101-510, Section 3137, *Safety Measures for Waste Tanks at Hanford Nuclear Reservation)* to do so. Comparison between tank SX-104 and the other watch list SSTs show that it consistently ranked at or near the bottom for all comparisons of generation or release of gas (RPP-7249). In December, 1999 the contractor recommended that the tank SX-104 SHMS be removed from service since the tank had "... minimal gas release activity, and/or ... active ventilation, ..." (LMHC-9958931).

The gas generation rate, retained gas volume, and spontaneous and induced gas release histories for tank SX-104 are discussed in RPP-7249. The 2001 report notes that, "... all of the spontaneous gas releases observed since monitoring was installed in 1995 have all been less than 3 m^3 (100 scf) of hydrogen and occur over many hours to days..." for the Flammable Gas Watch List SSTs. None of the 19 SSTs on the watch list exhibited significant releases, and the steadystate gas release rate was insignificant. Table 6-2 *Barometric Pressure Effect Gas Volume Estimates in Single-Shell Tanks* notes that there is "No apparent dL/dP correlation" for tank SX-104. Only one other tank in the 19-tank list is similarly labeled. Table 6-3 *Average Gas Fraction and Gas Volume Estimates from Neutron Logs* estimates a 7.9% gas fraction below the ILL, with a best-estimate standard gas volume of 250 ± 125 m³ for tank SX-104.

In 2004 PNNL provided an estimate of the surface dL/dP (in/in Hg) values for tank SX-104 for a four-month period between January 1, 1997 and January 20, 1999. The estimated dL/dP was - $0.056 + 0.055$ in/in Hg, supporting earlier conclusions that there is no, or almost no, correlation between surface level changes and dP change. This is consistent with the PNNL-11391 +0.0001 in/in Hg within the limits of error. Evaluation of tank SX-104 ILL response to barometric pressure is not presented in RPP-15488, *Investigation of Tank Void Fraction using Liquid Level Response to Atmospheric Pressure Change* April 2005 [D4509875].

5.1.10 Waste Barometric Pressure Response

In the 1998 leak assessment, the variations in ILL were attributed to in barometric pressure combined with changes in waste porosity based on empirical measurements from water additions in February, 1997 and February, 1998, and increases in capillary strength from the reduced porosity. The leak assessment showed good correlation between the inverse of the barometric pressure (i.e., the "Barometric Pressure Effect" – BPE) and changes in the ILL.

Figure 5-7 is from the 1998 analysis. At the time of the analysis tank SX-104 had not been saltwell pumped. The surface was a floating crust with the ILL less than 5 in below the surface. The porosity of the layer beneath the crust was calculated to be 88%, indicating that it was still mostly liquid slurry.

Figure 5-7. Barometric Pressure Effect on ILL November, 1997 – February, 1998

During the 1998 leak assessment, tank $SX-104$ had a \sim 5 in thick floating crust covering liquid slurry. The slurry composition was very similar to tank SY-101 waste known for its gas retention and release behavior. Changes in barometric pressure during this period would have been immediately telegraphed to the slurry; retained gas, and waste porosity and capillary strength would have determined the magnitude of the ILL response.

By July, 1999, 115.1 kgal of interstitial liquid had been pumped from the tank. The ILL is now about 77 in below the waste surface. If changes in barometric pressure are still acting on the interstitial liquid, the ILL response is very muted. A recheck of the correlation between the barometric pressure and changes in the ILL conducted during the present leak assessment showed that there is no longer a meaningful correlation.

5.1.11 In-Tank Photographs

The October 21, 1999 post-interim stabilization in-tank video taken from Riser 3 shows a dry, very rough waste surface with deep fissures. Some fissures appear to contain a liquid pool, but confirmation of this is frustrated by the camera viewing angle and lighting. Since the ILL is believed to be about 8 ft below the waste surface it is likely that all or most of the "pools" are optical illusions.

A new in-tank video taken from Riser 3 and Riser 7B was completed on July 7, 2008. The video shows significant shearing and cleavage of the waste surface, with the waste at higher elevation on the tank wall, then fracturing and dropping in the direction of the saltwell screen. The Riser 7A LOW is located inside a small excavated cavity of uncertain depth. The bottom of the cavity appears to have once been liquid that has solidified to a greenish yellow surface.

Figure 5-8. Photo Detail of Riser 7A Installation, July 7, 2008

The dark sludge layer has been exposed around the cavity (outlined in figure). Further away, remnants of greenish yellow saltcake are visible.

Insertion of the LOW into the excavated inner cavity would have caused the installation water to well upward and spread onto the waste surface. Later as the water began to dissipate into the waste, it is likely that the lip of the inner cavity, or a lower inner cavity feature was mistakenly interpreted as the ILL. The 2008 leak assessment identifies this as the "Original Feature ILL".

The mixture of sludge and saltcake visible in the photograph also indicates that the rate of installation water redistribution through the waste surrounding the LOW would be affected by the permeability of the different materials. Localized sludge regions would impede redistribution relative to saltcake regions.

The "New Feature ILL" believed to be the true ILL is about 15 in below the Original Feature, and about 76 in below the waste surface level as measured by the ENRAF.

The in-tank video shows no evidence of the black asphalt membrane seeping out from behind the liner where it is exposed above the waste surface; nor evidence of dome concrete spalling or recurring surface patterns suggesting concrete or rebar degradation has occurred.

6.0 EX-TANK DATA

6.1 TANK SX-104 DRYWELLS

6.1.1 Drywell Locations and Distances from Tank Structure

Six drywells surround tank $SX-104$ located at distances varying from ~ 1.5 ft to ~ 13 ft from the tank's concrete footing. The metal liner has a 37-ft 6-in radius. The concrete wall around the metal liner is 2-ft thick. The concrete footing extends 1-ft 10-in beyond the outer surface of the concrete wall.

Drywell*	Drywell Distance from Tank Center (ft.)	Drywell Distance from Outside Radius of 2' Concrete Tank Wall (ft.)	Drywell Distance from Outside Radius of 1'- 10" Concrete Tank Footing (ft.)	Clockwise Footing Perimeter Distance to Next Adjacent Drywell (ft.)
$41 - 04 - 01$	44.944	5.444	3.569	49.67
$41 - 04 - 03$	49.041	9.541	7.666	41.82
$41 - 04 - 05$	46.043	6.543	4.668	49.01
$41 - 04 - 07$	54.083	14.583	12.708	18.60
$41 - 04 - 08$	45.277	5.777	3.902	62.78
$41 - 04 - 11$	42.934	3.434	1.559	37.75

Table 6-1. Tank SX-104 Drywell Locations and Separation Distances

The distances between drywells around the tank range from 18.60 ft between drywells 7 and 8 to 62.78 ft between drywells 8 and 11. These are illustrated in Figure 6-1.

The 1988 and 1998 waste samples gelled at laboratory temperature; the waste would be expected to behave similarly at soil temperature (assumed to be $55F$, or \sim 13C). The waste properties might prevent a small leak from migrating far enough to be detected in one of the drywells. Although none of the six drywells shows a change in soil contamination level, it is difficult to draw any integrity conclusion from this information alone.

Figure 6-1. Tank 241-SX Drywell Locations

The 1988 and 1998 waste samples gelled at laboratory temperature; the waste would be expected to behave similarly at soil temperature (assumed to be $55F$, or \sim 13C). The waste properties might prevent a small leak from migrating far enough to be detected in one of the drywells.

6.1.2 Drywell Historical Gross Gamma Logs 1975 - 1994

Historical gross gamma logs for the period 1975 – mid-1994 are compiled in HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well* [sic] *Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998. According to the document the drywell surveillance program, "…was designed to identify tank failures in which a rapid release of at least 19,000 L (5,000 gal) of liquid entered the subsurface soils." The Spectral Gamma Logging System has since supplanted the Gross Gamma system. The Gross Gamma scans are reproduced from HNF-3136 in Figure 5-10. Note that, in addition to the six drywells surrounding tank SX-104, three nearby drywells -41 -00-03, 41-01-06, and 41-07-12 – were tracked as part of the tank SX-104 drywell data. These latter drywells can be located from Figure 1-1.

99

8

85
Date (Year)

8

75

95

8

85
Date (Year)

8

75

Figure 6-2. Historical Gross Gamma Logs 1974 – 1994

Figure 5-10. Historical Gross Gamma Logs 1974 – 1944 (cont.)

Figure 5-10. Historical Gross Gamma Logs 1974 – 1944 (cont.)

Gross Gamma Log Plots Reference:

HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well* [sic] *Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998

6.1.3 Drywell Spectral Gamma Logs 1995, 1998

Between April and June, 1995, the Vadose Zone Characterization Project performed spectral gamma analyses of the drywells 41-04-01, -03, -05, -07, -08, -11, 41-07-12, 41-01-06, surrounding and in the vicinity of SX-104, and attempted 41-00-03. The results showed extensive surface contamination from surface spills or pipeline leaks around the tank, and that the surface contamination had been migrating downward. However, after analyzing the distribution of soil contamination around the tank, the report concluded that there was no strong evidence that the tank had ever leaked; and recommended that the current and historical data be reviewed to determine if the tank should continue to be listed as an "Assumed Leaker" (GJ-HAN-3).

In January, 1998 spectral gamma scans of the drywells were repeated in response to a decrease in the ILL during 1997. The scans were compared to the baseline data from the 1995 scans. The evaluation showed that no increase in soil contamination had occurred since the 1995 scans. Neutron moisture scans showed a moisture peak at the interface between the undisturbed soil at the base of the tank and backfilled soil above the foundation. The evaluation concluded that there was no evidence of a leak from SX-104 (GJ-HAN-21).

6.1.4 Drywell Gross Gamma and Spectral Gamma Logs Interpretation

Table 5-5 summarizes the 1975 – mid-1994 Gross Gamma logs and the 1995 Spectral Gamma logs for the SX-104 drywells, and the nearby drywells:

Table 6-2. Tank SX-104 Drywell Gross Gamma and Spectral Gamma Logs Interpretation

Table 6-2. Tank SX-104 Drywell Gross Gamma and Spectral Gamma Logs Interpretation

Table References

- 1. GJ-HAN-3 *Vadose Zone Characterization Project at the Hanford Tank Farms Tank Summary Data Report for Tank SX-104*, September 1995
	- (\\hanford\data\Sitedata\HLANPlan\Geophysical_Logs\index.html)
- 2. HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well [sic] Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998
- 3. SD-WM-TI-356 Rev. 0 *Waste Storage Tank Status and Leak Detection Criteria*, March, 1990 [D197006832, D197006846, D197006861, D197006868]

6.1.5 Drywell Radionuclide Assessment System Logs 2008

During May, 2008, the six tank SX-104 drywells and nearby drywells 41-01-06, 41-05-03, and 41-07-12 were relogged using the Radionuclide Assessment System (RAS). None of the drywells, except 41-04-07 and 41-07-12, exhibited any change in the total-gamma profiles since 1995, save for decreases attributable to decay of gamma-emitting radionuclides. The changes in drywells 41-04-07 and 41-07-12 are directly quoted from the report (see Appendix C):

"41-04-07 exhibits an apparent slight decrease in gross counts from about 80 to 100 ft between 1995, 1998, and 2008. This decrease cannot be attributed to the decay of previously observed gamma-emitting radionuclides. There are a number of other borehole and tool-related variables that can occasionally result in systematic slight increases or decreases in gross counts, which

would result in a profile that mimics previous profiles, though higher or lower in counts. The important factors here are that the profiles mimic each other over the interval from 80 to 100 ft, and count rates decrease from one log to the next. The changes appear to be systematic slight decreases, and are not attributable to a gamma-emitting contaminant influx.

"41-07-12 exhibits noticeable changes from 60 to 65 ft compared against previous total gamma profiles. According to the drilling log, this borehole was deepened in 1978 to 90 ft. The original 6-in casing was extended to 85 ft, and 4-in casing was emplaced inside the original 6-in casing to a depth of 88 ft. The bottom of the borehole was backfilled with grout from 88 to 85 ft. In the 1998 Reassessment of the Vadose Zone Contamination at Tank SX-104 and Comparison to the 1995 Baseline (GJO-HAN-21) pointed to evidence that, contrary to the drilling log, the 6-in casing may terminate just below 60 ft. The neutron moisture data (reported as raw counts) exhibit a very sharp increase in count rate at about 62 ft, and apparent \mathbb{R}^n concentrations (not reproduced for this report) also increase at about this depth. There is a short interval of continuous 137Cs contamination from 61 to 64 ft that was first interpreted in 1995 to be possibly related to a leak from SST SX-107 (GJ-HAN-9). The data were reinterpreted in the 1998 report, using shape-factor analysis, to be likely adhered to the casing rather than distributed in the formation. Because of the 4-in casing, the RAS investigation of this borehole on May 27, 2008 employed the "Medium" detector, which includes a much smaller (and consequently much less sensitive) NaI crystal than the "Large" detector used in the other larger-diameter boreholes. Importantly, NaI detectors are susceptible to magnetic interferences, whereas HPGe detectors are not. There are also differences in the detector housing geometries that may cause different shielding effects at such a boundary. The changes observed between 60 and 65 ft in the recent gamma-profile may be caused by these or other differences between the two tools, and are likely not related to actual changes in the gamma profile."

7.0 HYPOTHESES

Based on review of the in-tank and ex-tank data, the panel developed plausible hypotheses for the observed tank behavior:

Leak Hypothesis:

"A leak from tank 241-SX-104 caused the decrease in the interstitial liquid level calculated from neutron monitoring scans in the Riser 7A Liquid Observation Well."

Non-Leak Hypothesis:

"Water used to install the tank 241-SX-104 Liquid Observation Well created an artificially high liquid level near the Liquid Observation Well and obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature. When the correct feature is monitored the data show a stable liquid level and no indication of a leak."

8.0 SUMMARY OF ANALYSTS ASSESSMENT

Expert Opinion: D. G. Baide

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank is actively leaking $= 0.22$

Basis for Opinion:

- Considering both the LOW neutron scan data and viewing of the July, 2008 video, picking the true ILL feature can be deceptive. It is very likely that the true ILL feature has been identified as part of the current leak assessment. However, it is difficult to confidently predict the water diffusion behavior due to the highly variable – cracked and sloughed – waste.
- Drywell spacing and detector sensitivity require that the waste migrate from the tank and that drywell intersects the plume. The drywell scans are most meaningful when there is a change in radiation level. This did not happen in the gross gamma scans which is favorable to the NL hypothesis, but is not proof that the tank didn't leak. The data do not bias the probability.

Expert Opinion: D. A. Barnes

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank is actively leaking $= 0.05$

Basis for Opinion:

- The major neutron feature near 89 inches that was originally interpreted as the ILL is really a sludge-saltcake interface. The true ILL is about 15 inches lower, near 74 inches. If the lower (and smaller) interface is tracked as the true ILL the trend shows a slow redistribution of installation liquid over about a 6-month period, with the level remaining fairly stable since then. If one considers the deeper feature to be the true ILL the data show no indication of a tank leak.
- The [July 7, 2008] video tends to confirm this analysis. There is a large section of saltcake from the surface down that has been significantly washed out from the installation water. Near the bottom of the visible section in the video the material changes dramatically to a dark brown non-crystalline material that is very near gauge, (i.e., very little washout). This is most likely the top of the sludge layer, and the lack of washout results from the greatly reduced solubility in water. This is most likely the major neutron feature seen on the LOW survey. Approximately 1-2 ft below this dark brown surface the hole is filled with small salt crystals. These crystals have fallen in the hole from an upper level, and may be either floating on the true liquid surface, or may have bridged over. In that case the ILL would be somewhat deeper but not visible from the video. In either case the video confirms the interpretation that the true ILL is deeper than the major feature at the top of the sludge.

Using the lower feature as the ILL leads to the conclusion that the probability of a leak is extremely low.

Gross gamma showed no activity above background until the scans were discontinued in 1994. (There was some activity near the surface, which is not attributable to tank leakage.) The tank SX-104 supernatant would tend to gel at soil temperatures, so if the tank leaked it could very easily miss being detected in a drywell. The clean history slightly supports a sound tank, but not by much.

Expert Opinion: J. G. Field

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank had Leaked $= 0.15$

Basis for Opinion:

- The initial ILL feature was probably reading the interface between the sludge and saltcake; the secondary feature is the true ILL (based on understanding how the neutron probe works, understanding capillary action, the correlation between the neutron probe and gamma probe measurements, and the July 7, 2008 video showing the LOW-waste interface and the clear distinction between the sludge and saltcake).
- There could be a small leak in the tank that the ILL would not detect because of variability in measurement data. Also the liquid properties suggest that a leak could be self-sealing and would not be detected.

Expert Opinion: J. W. Ficklin

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank had Leaked = 0.002

Basis for Opinion:

- 1998 leak re-evaluation and drywell data support the conclusion that the tank had not previously re-leaked.
- The ILL is stable, especially when using the new ILL feature. The initial decrease has restabilized.
- Review of the [July 7, 2008] video supported the analysis of the LOW scan.
- Drywell scans didn't consistently indicate the presence of a leak, but there is the potential that the leak location could be in an area not being monitored.

Expert Opinion: M. A. Fish

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank had Leaked = 0.18

Basis for Opinion:

The ILL pattern indicates the tank is not re-leaking. The lower ILL feature is consistent with \bullet the installation water being absorbed into the waste.

- From the July 7, 2008 video, there is a liquid-created surface in the LOW waste cavity from a recent liquid level. The appearance of the surface and its location influences the recommendation that the lower feature is the correct ILL.
- The gross gamma drywell scans show no evidence of a leak. It is possible that a small leak could have occurred but been missed. The waste gels at ground temperature. The spectral gamma scans show no evidence of a leak. The compacted ground at the bottom of the tank level (due to the original construction activities) would encourage horizontal movement of the tank waste towards the dry wells.

Expert Opinion: D. J. Washenfelder

Estimated Probability of Observed In-Tank and Ex-Tank Data if Tank had Leaked = 0.22

Basis for Opinion:

- After initial ILL drops in May, 2008, the ILL has restabilized, both at the "primary feature" and also the latent "new feature". If the tank was re-leaking, then the ILL should continue to drop. When the "new feature" is tracked, the ILL behavior is consistent with the LOW installation water re-distributing through the waste.
- Waste material is solid at ground temperature, so if it did leak from the tank, it probably would try to self-seal.
- The [July 7, 2008] video shows a large cavity around the Riser 7A LOW, and a noticeable change in material appearance from white and luminescent to dark and dull. There is a significant narrowing of the cavity. If this is sludge material, then the permeability would be low, and not much liquid waste could be moving through it.
- \bullet Most of the historical gross gamma peaks are near surface indicating the source is probably spills. There are no spikes at or below the foundation. The 1988 evaluation found increased moisture levels at the base of the tank, but these were also present in other parts of the tank farm, and east of the tank farm, indicating the source was probably not tank SX-104. Spectral gammas measured in 1995, 1998, and 2008 showed no changes in baseline, consistent with earlier gross gammas.

Summary:

The consensus of the assessment team is that tank SX-104 is not actively leaking. The most likely explanation for the observed behavior of the ILL is that the water used to install the tank SX-104 Liquid Observation Well created an artificially high liquid level near the Liquid Observation Well and obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature.

When the correct interstitial liquid level feature is monitored the data show a stable liquid level and no indication of a leak.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

The process for assessing the leak status of a tank is designed to estimate a leak probability. Probability is defined as a measure of the state of knowledge or belief about the likelihood that a specific state of nature (e.g., a tank has leaked or is leaking) is true. Probability must be between 0 (absolute certainty that the state of nature is not true) and 1 (absolute certainty that the state of nature is true). The process starts with a prior probability independent of the available data. This establishes any pre-evaluation bias and is typically established at 0.5 that the tank is leaking or has leaked without consideration of the specific data initiating this process (i.e., no preevaluation bias, either for or against a leak). Then reviews of in-tank data and ex-tank data are used to establish conditional probabilities for whether the leak hypothesis or the non-leak hypothesis is supported by the data. The conditional probabilities are used to adjust the leak probability toward a leak hypothesis (probability > 0.5) or a non-leak hypothesis (probability < 0.5).

There was consensus among the members of the assessment team that the available in-tank and ex-tank data indicated that the no-leak hypothesis was more consistent with the data, and that the tank is not actively leaking at this time. The restabilization of the ILL, the consistency between the behavior of the new feature ILL and expected behavior, and the stable baseline readings in the drywells reduce the estimated active leak probability to about 0.14 (about one chance in seven) that the observed in-tank and ex-tank data would be present if the tank were leaking.

The most likely cause of the ILL decrease was the misidentification of the original ILL tracking feature as the true ILL. The team concluded that tank waste characteristics, including localized regions of impermeability in the sludge-saltcake mixture and the capability of the interstitial liquid to generate and release small amounts of gas, impeded the redistribution of the LOW installation water in the waste, and prevented the true ILL tracking feature from being identified. When the correct, latent, feature was identified and tracked, the data showed a stable ILL and no indication of a new leak.

The recommendation of the assessment team is that the leak assessment be closed without modification of the integrity status of tank SX-104; and that the pre-assessment LOW Quarterly surveillance frequency be reinstituted.

The results of this assessment were presented to the Executive Safety Review Board on July 31, 2008. The Board concurred with the recommendations of the assessment team.

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APPENDIX A TANK SX-104 LEAK ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETINGS #1 – #7 MEETING MINUTES

A1 INTRODUCTION

The minutes from the Leak Assessment Team meetings were prepared as a cumulative set of minutes that were incremented each week in order to maintain the records of the most recent and all previous meetings as a single record.

MEETING MINUTES

Distribution: DG Baide* DA Barnes* JW Ficklin* JG Field* MA Fish* PC Miller RN Ni RG Quirk WB Scott RP Tucker ______________________

*Leak Assessment Team Members Attendees

Discussion from July 9th Meeting

- The July $8th$ ILL reading showed no change from the previous week's reading for both the \bullet original feature used to track the ILL and the new feature. The weekly LOW scans should be continued until the team reviews the outcome of the assessment with the Executive Safety Review Board.
- The review and categorization of the ILL selection method for the 77 SSTs containing an LOW and group into categories based on whether the major interface feature or a secondary feature is being tracked has been drafted; following review by the team it will be published as an RPP document.
- The July $7th$ in-tank video shows significant subsidence of the waste surface occurred as the \bullet tank was interim stabilized, with the waste higher on the tank wall, then fracturing and dropping in the direction of the saltwell screen. The Riser 7A LOW is sitting inside an excavated cavity of uncertain depth. The bottom of the cavity appears to have once been liquid that has solidified to a greenish yellow surface.
- There is no evidence of the black asphalt membrane seeping out from behind the liner where it is exposed above the waste surface; nor evidence of dome concrete spalling or recurring surface patterns suggesting concrete or rebar degradation has occurred.
- The difference between the waste surface level and the ILL for the three periods covered by leak assessments was reviewed and reconciled: the April, 1985 – April, 1988 period reviewed during the 1988 leak investigation; the February, 1997 – February, 1998 reviewed during the 1998 leak investigation and after 99.9 kgal had been pumped from the tank following the 1988 investigation; and the December, 2006 – present period currently being reviewed and after an additional 115.1 kgal had been pumped from the tank during interim stabilization.
- In 1988 prior to submersible pumping the 99.9 kgal, the tank apparently had a significant floating crust with a liquid/slurry surface about 22" below the crust. The 1988 pumping removed a large amount of the near-surface liquid; the change in ILL that occurred indicates that the liquid/slurry had a porosity of $\sim 88\%$.

Between the 1998 and the present investigation, an additional 115.1 kgal was pumped from the tank with a jet pump. This activity withdrew mostly interstitial liquid from the tank based on the ~33% porosity estimated from the change in the ILL. The following table shows the differences.

• Panel Elicitations will begin next week.

Discussion from July 2nd Meeting

- The Monday, June 30th ILL reading showed no change from the previous week's reading, consistent with the stabilization that has been observed for several weeks. Both the original feature used to track the ILL, and the new feature exhibit similar stabilization patterns that are consistent with each other.
- The recent LOW scans suggest that some there some waste may be refilling the bottom $1 2$ ' of the cavity excavated by the water lance to insert the new LOW in December, 2006.
- The explanatory diagram and linkage to the first LOW scan, December 7, 2006, and the latest LOW scan, June 30, 2008, (June 18^{th} Action 1) was presented. It was speculated that the water lance progress may have been impeded as it passed through the last of the saltcake and tried to enter the sludge layer, possibly creating a cavity that influenced the shape of the two γ scans. An effort will be made to locate and review the work package for any indications that this occurred.
- A suggestion to review the LOW scans in other Assumed Leakers containing similar waste for similar ILL behavior was considered. It is possible that saltwell pumping would also mimic a "leak" for purposes of examining the ILL behavior. This purposeful removal activity, with its known durations and removal volumes, would yield more meaningful results since all of the tank waste inventory was affected by saltwell pumping. Small leaks located distant from the LOW might have almost influence on the ILL behavior. The current 77 tank LOW review to identify other SSTs monitored using a latent secondary feature similar to SX-104 should partially answer.

• The in-tank video preparation is scheduled for July $7th$ barring unfavorable weather or outside temperatures. This is the last required information for the leak assessment.

Discussion from June 25th Meeting

The Leaker and Non-Leaker Hypotheses were emailed for review during the week:

Leaker Hypothesis:

"A leak from tank 241-SX-104 caused the decrease in the interstitial liquid level calculated from neutron monitoring scans in the Riser 7A Liquid Observation Well."

Non-Leaker Hypothesis:

"Water used to install the tank 241-SX-104 Liquid Observation Well created an artificially high liquid level near the Liquid Observation Well and obscured the true interstitial liquid level feature. When the correct feature is monitored the data show a stable liquid level and no indication of a leak."

- JA Hedges, Ecology, will be briefed on SX-104 leak investigation status by LJ Cusack on June 25^{th} .
- The June 24^{th} LOW scan shows no decrease in ILL using the original feature, and a 0.27" decrease using the secondary feature. LOW scans will continue on a weekly frequency until the ESRB meets to review the leak assessment team's SX-104 recommendation.
- RP Tucker will see whether the in-tank video schedule can be brought forward to this week. DA Barnes will be in field for the video. Areas of concentration include the Riser 7A LOW – Waste Surface interface looking for lance water effects; the saltwell screen – Waste Surface interface and the tank waste surface looking for subsidence or feature changes since the 1999 video; the exposed liner and liner – Waste Surface interface appearances for suggestions of corrosion or evidence of asphalt mastic leakage behind the liner; the concrete wall and dome for discoloration, deterioration, or surface patterning suggesting rebar corrosion; and the riser – concrete dome interface for deterioration or concrete spalling. The video will be needed and have to be reviewed before presenting the leak assessment to the ESRB.
- JG Field will locate and provide information on the performance of the drywell soil moisture neutron detectors to confirm their detection radius, believed to be about 16" – 18" in soil. The LOW ILL neutron detector capability is believed to be similar in the tank waste.

Discussion from June 18th Meeting:

The ILL feature used for monitoring of the 77 SSTs with installed LOWs was reviewed to determine whether the major interface feature or a secondary feature is being tracked; how the tracked feature was confirmed to be representative of the ILL, such as by showing movement during stabilization; and whether or not the feature selection should be reviewed based on the SX-104 experience. About a dozen tank ILL's are monitored using a secondary feature similar to that present in SX-104. Four tanks require feature selection review. The evaluation will be documented in an internal memo and entered into IDMS to ensure later retrievability as a reference.

Gamma scans were taken June 10^{th} and 17^{th} . They show an interface very close to the ILL interface calculated from the ILL secondary feature (June 10^{th} ILL 73.284", γ 72.384"; June 17^{th} ILL 73.440", γ 72.036"). No further γ scans are planned unless the ILL begins decreasing again.

Discussion of the non-leak hypothesis has reduced the possible explanations for the ILL decrease to the likelihood that the wrong feature was being monitored after the LOW was installed in Riser 7A. Simplified gas release calculations and additional study of the Riser 7A ILL history show that a second candidate hypothesis – that retained gas in the waste was released allowing the interstitial liquid to flow into the empty interstices – is probably not as viable an explanation for the observed behavior.

Discussion from June 11th Meeting:

The ILL based on the secondary tracking feature in the LOW scan has been showing about $a + 1$ inch oscillation between weekly readings that is not present in the ILL based on the major – original – tracking feature. This is believed result from switching the neutron detector electronics to a coarser resolution once the probe has been lowered past the major feature. The interim manual calculation method used for the secondary tracking feature may also be a contribution. The June $10th$ neutron scan employed the same resolution for both features and the oscillations appear to have stopped or be drastically reduced. The last ILL reading is 88.76" up from the prior week's 88.62" at the original tracking feature.

The June 10^{th} LOW scan was completed with both neutron and gamma probes. The gamma probe shows a sharp break about 1" below the ILL calculated from the neutron scan secondary feature, lending credence to the feature's potential use as the new ILL reference tracking feature. Gamma scans will be run with the next two LOW weekly scans.

Tracking the ILL based on both the original feature and the secondary feature will be continued until the results of the re-leak assessment are presented to the ESRB. If ILL tracking is permanently switched to the secondary feature, then a change in the SX-104 interstitial liquid inventory will have to be considered for HNF-EP-0182 *Waste Tank Summary Report for Month Ending ...* and the Best Basis Inventory since both use the reported volume at the time interim stabilization was declared complete.

Considering the possible SX-104 ILL tracking feature change, the ILL tracking feature used for each of the SSTs containing an LOW will be reviewed, and the tanks grouped into categories based on whether the major interface feature or a secondary feature is being tracked; how the tracked feature was confirmed to be representative of the ILL, such as by showing movement during stabilization; and whether or not the feature selection should be further reviewed based on the SX-104 experience.

SX Tank Farm and SX-104 Characteristics and Operating History:

The 241-SX Tank Farm is the third generation of farms at Hanford and was built to contain selfboiling waste from the REDOX facility. The SX tanks were constructed between 1953 and 1954 and are located in the central part of the 200 West Area. There are 15 single-shell tanks in the SX Farm, each with a 1,000,000 gallon (gal) capacity. They are 75 ft in diameter, approximately 44.5 ft tall with a domed top, and have been covered with about 7 ft of overburden. The base of the original construction excavation and corresponding base of the tanks is about 52 ft in depth. Ten of the 15, including SX-104, have been declared "assumed leakers".

Tank SX-104 is the first tank in a cascade series of three tanks including 241-SX-105 and 241- SX-106. The tank entered service in the first quarter of 1955. Tank 241-SX-104 received Reduction Oxidation (REDOX) waste from the first quarter of 1955 until the third quarter of 1971. The tank received REDOX evaporator bottoms from SX-105 (received into SX-105 in 1967 – 1969) and REDOX ion exchange waste (post-B Plant cesium removal) from SX-105 in the third quarter of 1971 until the second quarter of 1975. From the third quarter of 1975 until the second quarter of 1976, tank 241-SX-104 received evaporator bottoms and recycle wastes from the 242-S Evaporator. The tank received concentrated evaporator feed and residual evaporation liquid during the third quarter of 1976 until the third quarter of 1977. During the fourth quarter of 1977, the tank received partial neutralized feed waste. In the first quarter of 1980, the content of the tank was classified as double-shell slurry feed.

Saltwell pumping began on September 26, 1997; 757 L (200 gal) were pumped in September before the transfer line between 241-SX-104 and 244-S became plugged. Pumping was resumed on March 19, 1998, following the installation of a dilution system to dilute the waste in the

saltwell in order to make it easier to pump the waste to 241-SY-102. Pumping was interrupted and resumed on March 23, 1998, and again interrupted.

Saltwell pumping was restarted on July 23, 1998, and continued until July 27, 1999, when the rear seal of the jet pump ruptured and a major spray leak ensued within the pump pit. A total of 436 kL (115 kgal) of liquid waste was transferred to 241-SY-102 before failure occurred. Waste volume calculations show 182 kL (48 kgal) of drainable interstitial liquid remaining in the tank, of which approximately 167 kL (44 kgal) is estimated to be pumpable. On April 26, 2000, tank 241-SX-104 was declared interim stabilized (Tank Interpretive Report for SX-104).

Tank waste temperature is about 130° F, or 54° C – high enough to keep the interstitial liquid in the liquid state. The 1998 laboratory cooling curve studies demonstrated that solidification did not begin until the samples were cooled to 25° C, and was complete at 22° C (8C510-PC98-024).

Additional Information:

1988 Leak Assessment:

Environmental Protection Deviation Report 88-03 issued February 19, 1988 to document the ILL decrease exceeding the -0.3' decrease criterion with the gamma probe. The neutron probe was noted to be stable.

Unusual Occurrence Report WHC-UO-88-024-TF-03 dated August 30, 1988 indicates that 99,900 gallons were pumped from the tank between May18, 1988 and August 16, 1988; and that the tank was declared an "Assumed Leaker" on July 13, 1988 (see 113331-88-416 *Engineering Investigation: Interstitial Liquid Level Decrease in Tank 241-SX-104*, July, 1988 [D193015350]. The report was forwarded via letter 885768 to R. E. Gerton, Director Waste Management Division, US DOE on September 28, 1988 [D193015352] as a corrected copy of the UOR sent via 8854920 on August 3, 1988 [292-001167]. The August $3rd$ version incorrectly stated that pumping had temporarily ceased because of the failure of the 244-S DCRT. Actually the pump had failed. This error was corrected in the later copy [D193015352].

Environmental Protection Deviation Report 88-03 indicates that the decrease criterion was confirmed with the gamma probe, and that the neutron probe remained stable. However, the UOR indicates that the ILL decrease was verified with the Gamma, Neutron, and Acoustic probes. It does not say whether or not the neutron and acoustic probes confirmed that the -0.3' decrease criterion had been exceeded however.

In-Tank – 1998 Re-Leak Assessment:

In 1998 the tank was suspected of re-leaking due to observed variations in ILL of up to 6". The variations were attributed to changes in waste porosity based on empirical measurements from water additions in February, 1997 and February, 1998, combined with increases in capillary strength from the reduced porosity. The downward slope of the ILL baseline was attributed to evaporation due to increased wicking of interstitial liquids to the waste surface from the increased capillary strength. Drywell spectral gamma scans in January, 1998 showed no

changes. The assessment recommended that the tank not be declared a re-leaker (HNF-2617 Rev. 0 241-SX-104 Level Anomaly Assessment attached to letter LMHC-9851233A R3, Subcontract number 80232764-9-K001; Tank 241-SX-104 Level Anomalies)

Retained Gas:

The 1998 re-leak assessment noted a high correlation between changes in barometric pressure and changes in the ILL, and accounted for the apparently 1,000 gallon waste loss "... by a combination of reduced porosity and increased capillary pressure. There is also some evidence that the ventilation rate may have been increased..." (LMHC-9851233A R3/HNF-2617). Current leak assessment discussions have considered the possibility of mini-gas release events (GRE's) contributing to temporary changes in the ILL.

PNNL studied the gas retention and release in the SSTs, and concluded the that the only mechanism capable of producing large spontaneous gas releases was buoyant displacement, which occurs in tanks with a deep supernatant layer. The report concluded that SSTs were only capable of small releases of a few cubic meters, based on theory and laboratory and field observations; and since gas bubbles can only cling to submerged solids, gas is usually only released when the volume of waste is disturbed. The report also prioritized the SSTs by flammable gas potential based on dL/dP (cm/kPa) barometric pressure surface level response; extent of post-transfer surface level rise; and tank headspace gas concentrations. Table A.1. *SST Prioritization Data* estimated the SX-104 dL/dP as $\sim +0.0001$ in/in Hg. The positive number indicates that there is no waste surface correlation with barometric pressure. Table 3.1 *Void Fraction Estimates* shows that SX-104 consistently ranked as one of the least responsive tanks to changes in barometric pressure affecting the surface level. Similar results were obtained when level rise was considered. The relationship between waste surface level and ILL changes was not discussed (PNNL-11391).

In March, 1995 a Standard Hydrogen Monitoring System consisting of High- and Low-range WhittakerTM cells for H₂, and a grab sample station was installed on SX-104. During saltwell pumping, SX-104 showed no evidence of spontaneous gas release of significant amounts of flammable gas – one of only four SSTs on the watch list to do so. Comparison between SX-104 and the other watch list SSTs show that it consistently ranked at or near the bottom for all comparisons of generation or release of gas (RPP-7249). In December, 1999 the contractor recommended that the SX-104 SHMS be removed from service since the tank had "... minimal gas release activity, and/or ... active ventilation, ..." (LMHC-9958931).

The gas generation rate, retained gas volume, and spontaneous and induced gas release histories for SX-104 are discussed in RPP-7249. The 2001 report notes that, "... all of the spontaneous gas releases observed since monitoring was installed in 1995 have all been less than 3 m^3 (100) scf) of hydrogen and occur over many hours to days..." for the Flammable Gas Watch List SSTs. None of the 19 SSTs on the watch list exhibited significant releases, and the steady-state gas release rate was insignificant (RPP-7249). Table 6-2 *Barometric Pressure Effect Gas Volume Estimates in Single-Shell Tanks* notes that there is "No apparent dL/dP correlation" for SX-104. Only one other tank in the 24-tank list is similarly labeled. Table 6-3 *Average Gas Fraction and* *Gas Volume Estimates from Neutron Logs* estimates a 7.9% gas fraction below the ILL, with a best-estimate standard gas volume of $250 + 125$ m³ for SX-104.

In 2004 PNNL provided an estimate of the surface dL/dP (inch/inch Hg) values for SX-104 for a four-month period between January 1, 1997 and January 20, 1999. The estimated dL/dP was - $0.056 + 0.055$ in/in Hg, supporting earlier conclusions that there is no, or almost no, correlation between surface level changes and dP change. This is consistent with the PNNL-11391 +0.0001 in/in Hg within the limits of error. ILL response to barometric pressure is not discussed (RPP-15488).

Maximum Gas Release Equivalent to Observed SX-104 ILL Decrease

The ILL drop from 91.272" to 88.512" between January 10, 2008 and May 12, 2008, the date of the lowest measured ILL, may have resulted from release of retained gas. The volume would have been \sim 12 m³ assuming the release involve the entire 2.76" waste layer. It is more likely that only a fraction of the waste layer was involved in the release. This would be consistent with the RPP-7249 observations that the SST observed gas releases were in the range of $\langle 3m^3 \rangle$.

The SX-104 assumptions and calculations are presented below:

Surface level on May 31, 2008 165.82" ILL on January 10, 2008 91.272" ILL on May 12, 2008 88.512" Waste Porosity 34% (HNF-SD-RE-TI-178 Stabilization Evaluation Form) Waste Bulk Density 1.50 (WMH-9856353 1998 Sample Results) Equivalent psia of 165.82"overhead waste acting on 91.272" ILL level: Equivalent psia = $[(165.82^{\circ} - 91.272^{\circ})(1.50)]/(27.679^{\circ} + H_2O/psia)$ Equivalent psi $a = 4.04$ psia m3 gas release = [(14.7 psia + 4.04 psia)/14.7 psia][(91.272" – 88.512")(2750 gal/in)(0.34)/(264.17 gal/m^3) m3 gas release $=$ ~12 m³

In-Tank – 1988 and 1997/1998 Sample Comparison:

The May, 1988 samples gelled at laboratory temperature. The sample results show a [PO4] of $0.1M + 20\%$, and a [P] = 0.15M (12221-PCL88-147). The waste would have been at a higher temperature in 1988 due to higher radionuclide thermal decay, which could account for the higher supernatant [P] in the waste in the 1988 samples. As the waste cooled, the saturation boundary shifted, accounting for the lower [P] in the 1998 supernatant, and a higher [P] in the sludge. RPP-23600 indicates that the 1988 supernatant phosphorus concentration should have been soluble at laboratory temperature. Something else must account for the observed gelling. The 1988 samples were reported to be "nearly saturated in dissolved salts". Initial acidification resulted in the formation of solids believed to be aluminum hydroxide. The following table compares the 1988 and 1998 sample [Al], [Na], and [OH-]:

Evaluation by Dan Herting suggests that the observed solids formation was probably NaNO_2 and $NaNO₃$ both crystallizing.

The tank was also grab sampled in April 1997, and again in June 1998. Results from the April 1997 sampling event were used to assure chemical compatibility of the waste with materials that might come in contact with 241-SX-104 liquids pumped during saltwell pumping activities, and to address flammable gas concentrations in the tanks headspace.

Three grab samples were taken in June, 1998 for dilution studies and inorganic analysis. The purpose of these samples is variously described as either supporting the re-leak assessment, or establishing water dilution requirements for saltwell pumping to reduce the risk of a plugged transfer line. The supernatant analytical results show $[Na] = 10.13M$, and $[P] = 0.0255M$ (WMH-9856353).

The current 88.7" ILL is bracketed by thermocouple #5, about 11" above the ILL, and thermocouple #4, 13" below. The last recorded TMACS readings for these thermocouples were 105.3°F (41°C) on April 30, 2002; and 125.1°F (52°C) on September 2, 2005 (Data Date – May 29, 2008). There is no evidence that at the 1998 sample Na and P supernatant concentrations and waste temperatures that phosphate gelling would be a problem (see RPP-23600 Figure 13 *Phosphate Solubility as a Function of Temperature for Typical Hanford Site Tank Waste*).

The analytical results for sludge portion of the 1998 sample show that at the measured bulk density of 1.50 g/ml, and phosphorus = $6.75e+03$ ug/g, the $[P] = \sim 0.32$ M. Since the $[P]$ in the supernatant and sludge are in equilibrium, the 0.0255M supernatant concentration probably represents the saturated boundary at the observed waste temperature. There is no mention in the 1998 WMH-9856353 report that gelling was observed in the laboratory.

RPP-23600 Rev. 0

Figure 13. Phosphate Solubility as a Function of Temperature for Typical Hanford Site Tank Waste.7

However, dilution and cooling tests were performed on the undiluted supernatant liquid from the 1998 samples. The undiluted samples formed gels composed of interlocked sodium phosphate dodecahydrate (Na₃PO₄ \cdot 12H₂O) needle crystals and NaNO₃ rhombohedra when cooled from 60° C to 22^oC laboratory temperature. About 10 volume % free liquid remained on top of the gel. The samples remained clear from 60° C until the temperature reached 25° C, at which point precipitation began. Vigorous shaking disrupted the gel enough to settle about 55 volume % solids. The test was repeated with the same results. Samples diluted 2:1 (50%) and 1:1 (100%) did not form new solids during cooling (8C510-PC98-024).

The supernatant composition of the 1998 sample shows remarkable similarities to the old, burping SY-101 supernatant. The following table compares SX-104 and the SY-101 "Window E" supernatants (WHC-SD-WM-DTR-0126):

If the SX-104 supernatant was concentrated by \sim 10%, the analyte concentrations would almost exactly match the SY-101 composition, including $% H₂0$ and SpG.

Total organic carbon is a common source of gas production in the waste tanks. The TOC in the 1988 sample was 5 – 13.3 g/l TOC; in the 1997 sample centrifuged solids 1.8 g/l, and in the 1997 sample sludge interstitial liquid 2.2 g/l. The TOC in SY-101 Window E samples prior to remediation was 14.6 g/l. If the gas generation rate was proportional to the TOC, then SY-101 had a significantly higher generation rate. However, based on the similarities of the wastes, it is likely that the gas retention properties of the slurries in SX-104 and SY-101 were similar.

The only slurry composition record recoverable from IDMS is for the $3rd$ PN campaign run between July 30, and October 19, 1980 (RH0-CD-1515). The TOC analysis of the slurry was 18.6 g/l (RHO-CD-1515 Table 5. *Product Composition*). Although 104-SX was not a bottoms receiver for the 3rd PN campaign, the TOC was probably typical. The decrease between 1980, the 1988, and the 1997 samples may be the result of slow decomposition, although such a high decomposition rate seems inconsistent with the reported SHMS and GRE data for the tank.

SX-104 – SY-101 Waste Genesis Comparison

The SX-104 saltcake originated from the self-concentration of REDOX waste in the tank, and from 242-S Evaporator Crystallizer operation, including partial neutralization (PN) waste in 1977 according to the Tank Interpretive Report. The source of SX-104 waste is important because SX-104 waste was probably feed for the $1st$ 242-S Evaporator Crystallizer Double-Shell Slurry (DSS) process test. The DSS was slurried to SY-101 and SY-103. In SY-101 the propensity for the DSS to trap gas caused the waste volume to increase dramatically, eventually requiring the installation of a mixer pump, water dilution, and eventual waste removal to contain the waste within the allowable storage volume. The propensity of the DSS to trap gas may have been a latent characteristic carried over with the PN product that became the DSS campaign feed. If this is the case, then SX-104 interstitial liquid could be exhibiting similar gas trapping behavior, accounting for some of the ILL behavior characteristics.

The March, 1975 *Nitric Acid Partial Neutralization Process Test* proposal indicates that 630 kgal of terminally-concentrated liquor was available for the test, to be conducted in three stages of progressive concentration. The process test ran for only 17 hours on June 23 and 24, 1975, before being terminated due to unknown concentrations of NO_x in the vessel vent system. The feed was SX-102 and SX-103 material; the PN slurry was sent to SX-105 (ARH-CD-240).

A second process test, the *Nitric Acid Partial Neutralization/Acid Injection Process Test*, using a modified acid injector design was run intermittently between November 14, and December 19, 1975 (ARH-CD-597). There is no mention of the PN slurry tank in the process test report. However, a February, 1976 analytical report provides PN slurry sample results from SX-104; since no other slurry tanks are mentioned, it is likely the all of the PN/Acid Injection process test product was slurried to SX-104 ([D196226689]). Although the process test proposal called for sampling each of the three phases of the test, the analytical report only has two sample results. The samples are dated November 25, 1975, and December 19, 1975. Average PN supernatant concentrations are listed in the following table. When the average results of the pre-PN and post-PN samples were compared, there was no statistical difference at the 95% CL, with the exception of water content. The solids in the two samples were also analyzed

The PN process test slurry into SX-104 was apparently transferred from the tank before the $2nd$ PN campaign, because the 60" of SX-104 terminal liquor was designated as feed ([D197248314]).

The TOC analysis of the slurry from the $3rd$ PN campaign was 18.6 g/l (RHO-CD-1515 Table 5 *Product Composition*). Although 104-SX was not a bottoms receiver for the 3rd PN campaign, the TOC was probably typical. The progressive decrease in the 1980, the 1988, and the 1997 TOC concentrations may be the result of organic decomposition, although such a high rate seems inconsistent with the reported SHMS and GRE data for the tank.

The PN waste for the DSS Process Test must have come from either the PN/Acid Injection process test, or the $1st$ or $2nd$ PN campaign since the $3rd$ PN Campaign between July 30, and

October 19, 1980, occurred about three years later than the Tank Interpretative Report claims waste was being received into $SX-104$. Also, the $3rd PN$ campaign report indicates that only tanks S-103, SX-106, and U-107 were slurry receivers, with S-103 being used as the accumulation tank for slurry tank supernatant and condensate returns to the SY-102 feed tank (65260-80-0829 [RHO-CD-1515 Appendix B]).

If the SX-104 material was feedstock for one of the 242-S double-shell slurry (DSS) campaigns, it must have

been used during the that DSS Process Test that occurred April 26 – 28, 1977 (RHO-CD-394). The process test used 365 kgal feed volume and produced 274 kgal of DSS that was slurried to SY-101. From April 29 to October 31, 1977 the slurry level in SY-101 increased 7% indicating retained gas was accumulating. Organic complexants were blamed for the growth and growth of future non-complexed DSS was discounted

The 2nd DSS campaign was not conducted until October 28, - November 8, 1980, well past the time that the PN product had been transferred from SX-104. Letters 65453-80-347 and 65260- 80-1344 in the appendices of RHO-CD-1268 *Double-Shell Slurry Campaign*, indicates that the 3rd PN product was the feedstock for the 2nd DSS campaign.

The following table expands the previous table to include PN/Acid Injection Process Test product, the gas-producing $SY-101$ heel before the $2nd$ DSS campaign (RHO-CD-1268) and the SY-101 Window E Supernatant:

The SX-104 aluminum to caustic ratio (A:C) most closely resembles the SY-101 Window E supernatant. Plotting the OH and Al concentrations on the "Barney Diagram" shows that the SX-104 1998 Interstitial Supernatant and the SY-101 Window E Supernatant reside in the same sodium aluminate region, but not much else.

However, it is know that aluminate ion, created during the PN campaigns, catalyzes the thermal decomposition of organic complexants, which results in H_2 gas formation. The weight of the waste above the ILL – about 77 inches deep – may be squeezing the gas bubbles into the interstitial pockets normally occupied by liquid. Percolation to the surface can occur but the gas release is limited to small quantities (CNWRA 97-008 Sections 2.6.2 and 3.6). This behavior would be consistent with the PNNL observations on $SX-104$ retained gas – i.e., no dL/dP; and the SHMS data indicating little flammable gas was present in the headspace. Possibly the installation of the LOW creates an avenue for these entrapped bubbles to reach the surface, and the displaced interstitial liquid returns to the empty pores.

from ARH-ST-133 Vapor-Liquid-Solid Phase Equilibria of Radioactive Sodium Wastes at Hanford

Ex-Tank:

Historical Gross Gamma Logs:

Historical gross gamma logs for the period 1975 – mid-1994 are compiled in HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999

[D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well* [sic] *Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998. According to the document the drywell surveillance program, "…was designed to identify tank failures in which a rapid release of at least 19,000 L (5,000 gal) of liquid entered the subsurface soils." The Spectral Gamma Logging System has since supplanted the Gross Gamma system.

1995 and 1998 Spectral Gamma Scans:

Between April and June, 1995, the Vadose Zone Characterization Project performed spectral gamma analyses of the drywells 41-04-01, -03, -05, -07, -08, -11, 41-07-12, 41-01-06, surrounding and in the vicinity of SX-104, and attempted 41-00-03. The results showed extensive surface contamination from surface spills or pipeline leaks around the tank, and that the surface contamination had been migrating downward. However, after analyzing the distribution of soil contamination around the tank, the report concluded that there was no strong evidence that the tank had ever leaked; and recommended that the current and historical data be reviewed to determine if the tank should continue to be listed as an "Assumed Leaker" (GJ-HAN-3).

In January, 1998 spectral gamma scans of the drywells were repeated in response to a decrease in the ILL during 1997. The scans were compared to the baseline data from the 1995 scans. The evaluation showed that no increase in soil contamination had occurred since the 1995 scans. Neutron moisture scans showed a moisture peak at the interface between the undisturbed soil at the base of the tank and backfilled soil above the foundation. The evaluation concluded that there was no evidence of a leak from SX-104 (GJ-HAN-21).

The following table summarizes the 1975 – mid-1994 Gross Gamma logs and the 1995 Spectral Gamma logs for the SX-104 drywells, and the nearby drywells:

Table References

- 1. GJ-HAN-3 *Vadose Zone Characterization Project at the Hanford Tank Farms Tank Summary Data Report for Tank SX-104*, September 1995 (\\hanford\data\Sitedata\HLANPlan\Geophysical_Logs\index.html)
- 2. HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well* [sic] *Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998
- 3. SD-WM-TI-356 Rev. 0 *Waste Storage Tank Status and Leak Detection Criteria*, March, 1990 [D197006832, D197006846, D197006861, D197006868]

Gross Gamma Log Plots Reference

HNF-3136 Rev. 0 *Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs*, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, *Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well* [sic] *Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm*, February 1998

Gross Gamma Log Plots Reference

HNF-3136 Rev. 0 Analysis Techniques and Monitoring Results, 241-SX Drywell Surveillance Logs, October, 1999 [D8109566]/WMNW/TRS-ES-VSMA-001, Analysis Techniques Applied to The Dry Well [sic] Surveillance Gross Gamma Ray Data at the SX Tank Farm, February 1998

SX-104 Drywell Locations and Distances from Tank Structure:

The metal liner has a 37-ft 6-inch radius. The concrete wall around the metal liner is 2-ft thick. The concrete footing extends 1-ft 10-inches beyond the outer surface of the concrete wall.

The distances between drywells around the tank range from 18.60 ft between drywells 7 and 8 to 62.78 ft between drywells 8 and 11. The 1988 and 1998 waste samples gelled at laboratory temperature; the waste would be expected to behave similarly at soil temperature (assumed to be 55F, or ~13C). The waste properties might prevent a small leak from migrating far enough to be detected in one of the drywells. Although none of the 6 drywells shows a change in soil contamination level, it is difficult to draw any integrity conclusion from this information alone.

Tank SX-104 History Timeline

Team Member Actions Status:

Leak assessment actions from the July 2, 2008 meeting are listed below:

Leak assessment actions from the June 18, 2008 meeting are listed below:

Leak assessment actions from the June 11, 2008 meeting are listed below:

Leak assessment actions from the June 4, 2008 meeting are listed below:

Leak assessment actions from the May 27, 2008 meeting are listed below:

References:

Briefings:

Documents:

Drawings:

APPENDIX B TANK SX-104 LEAK ASSESSMENT TEAM EXPERT ELICITATION FORMS

B1. TABLE 2 IN TANK DATA

Tank 241-SX-104 Leak Assessment In-Tank Data Form 2008-07-03 (from HNF-3747, Rev. 0)

ENRAF

FIC

MANUAL GAUGE

T

Observation

B2 TABLE 3 EX-TANK DATA

SPECTRAL GAMMA LOGS (SGL)

41-04-03: Cs-137 from the surface to about 14 ft (up to approximately 5 pCi/g), and a small spatial peak was measured at 20 ft. The 20-ft peak also contained concentrations of Eu-154 at approximately 2.7 pCi/g and Co-60 at approximately 0.3 pCi/g.

41-04-11: The Cs-137 concentration above approximately 30 ft originated from downward migration of surface contamination. Elsewhere in the borehole, Cs-137 was measured at barely detectable concentrations and probably resulted from surface contamination migrating down the inside of the borehole. The presence of Eu-154 was detected near the surface at low concentrations (3 pCi/g). It also originated from surface contamination.

Distribution

Activity across boreholes

Activity over time

Distribution

Sign. peak at bottom of tank? No or NACLE 2008 CONTEXT actual data **and a set of the NACLE 2008 CONTEXT** and *NACLE 2009 CONTEXT* **actual data and a set of the NACLE 2009 CONTEXT AND SET OF THE SET OF THE SET OF THE SE**

actual data

Activity across boreholes

Activity over time

B3. TABLE 6 ELICITATION FORMS

Expert Opinion: D. G. Baide

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RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

Log

RPP-ASMT-38450

Spectral Gamma Log - Gross Gamma Log Interdependence - Part 9

If there are several essentially redundant surface level measurements (e.g., ENRAF, FIC, MT), the probabilities

If there are several essentially redundant surface level measurements (e.g., ENRAF, FIC, MT), the probabilities
should be assessed only for the more diagnostic and reliable one.

should be assessed only for the more diagnostic and reliable one.

NA | NA | 1.00
NA | |

 \leq

Liquid Observation Well - Surface Level Measurement Interdependence

p(LOW|SLM,L)
(if no SLM, enter NA)

(if no SLM, enter NA) p(LOW|SLM,NL) L(LOW|SLM)

p(LOW|SLM,NL)

L(LOW|SLM)

NA | NA | 1.000
NA | |

Enraf data is not relevent, therefore there are also no inderdependencies. Considering that in-tank data sources may be interdependent:

p(LOW|SLM,L) = ["posterior"] probability that the LOW interstitial liquid level data would be observed if a

p(LOW)SLM,L) = ["posterior"] probability that the LOW interstital liquid level data would be observed if a
surface level measurement decrease is coserved, and if the tank is a leaker.

p(LOW|SLM,NL) = ["posterior"] probability that a LOW interstitial liquid level measurement decrease would be observed if a surface level measurement decrease is observed, and if the tank is a non-leaker. L(LOW|SLM) = p(LOW|SLM,L)/p(LOW|SLM,NL) . If either surface level data or LOW intersititial liquid level data

pt_OW(SLM,N) = ["pasterior"] probability that a LOW intensitial liquid twell measurement decrease would be
observed if a surface the dimension means decreases is choseved, and if the tark is a non-kaker.
LLOW(SLM) = 0. rpt

are not available for the leak assessment, then L(LOW|SLM) = 1.

p(LOW|SLM,NL) = 1 - pp(LOW|SLM,L)

surface level measurement decrease is observed, and if the tank is a leaker.

 \sim $^{\circ}$

SLM & No LOW? LOW & No SLM? SLM & LOW; SLM most important? (Mark Part 4 NA) SLM & LOW; LOW most important? (Mark Part 5 NA)

X

p(GGL|SGL,NL) = ["posterior"] probability that the gross gamma logs would be observed if the spectral gamma L(GGL)SGL) = p(GGL)SGL-L(Xp(GGL)SGL-NL). If either gross gamma logs or spectral gamma logs are not
available for the leak assessment, then L(GGL)SGL) = 1 . L(GGL|SGL) = p(GGL|SGL,L)/p(GGL|SGL,NL). If either gross gamma logs or spectral gamma logs are not アス)) こうしょう・・・・) - 「アシン・ミニア シン・ミニット ジョン・ジョン・ジョン・ション・ション・ジョン・ジョー こうじょう こうこう こうこう こうこう こうこう こうこう こうこうこう こうこうこう こうこう logs are observed, and if the tank is a non-leaker. p(GGL|SGL,NL) = 1 - p(GGL|SGL,L) available for the leak assessment, then L(GGL|SGL) = 1.

 \overline{a}

Considering that ex-tank data sources may be interdependent: NA Considering that ex-tank data sources may be interdependent:

p(SGL|GGLL). = ["posterior"] probability frat the spectral gamma logs would be observed if the gross gamma
logs are observed, and if the tank is a leaker. p(SGL|GGL,L) = ["posterior"] probability that the spectral gamma logs would be observed if the gross gamma logs are observed, and if the tank is a leaker.

p(SGL)GCLVL) = ['posterior'] probability that the spectral gamma logs would be observed if the gross gamma
logs are are observed, and if the tank is a non-leaker. p(GGL)GGL,NL) = 1 - p(SGL)GGL,L) p(SGL|GGL,NL) = ["posterior"] probability that the spectral gamma logs would be observed if the gross gamma L(SGL(GGL) = p(SGL(GGL,L) /p(SGL(GGL,NL) . If either gross gamma logs or spectral gamma logs are not
available for the leak assessment, then L(SGL(GGL) = 1. L(SGL|GGL) = p(SGL|GGL,L) /p(SGL|GGL,NL) . If either gross gamma logs or spectral gamma logs are not logs are are observed, and if the tank is a non-leaker. p(GGL|SGL,NL) = 1 - p(SGL|GGL,L)

available for the leak assessment, then L(SGL|GGL) = 1.

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If LOV and no SLM: LISUALDOV) = LICUA
If LOV and no SLM: LISUALDOV) = LICUA
If SLM and LOV and LOV mesi imperant: LISUALDOV) = LICUNISUA x LISUA
If SLM and LOV and LOV mesi imperant: L If SLM and LOW and LOW most important: L(SLM,LOW) = L(SLM|LOW) x L(LOW) If SLM and LOW and SLM most important: L(SLM,LOW) = L(LOW|SLM) x L(SLM)

If SLM and no LOW: L(SLM,LOW) = L(SLM) if LOW and no SLM: L(SLM,LOW) = L(LOW) If GCL and no SGL. L(SGL,GCL) = L(GCL)
if SGL and no GGL: L(SGL,GCL) = L(SGL)
if SGL and no GGL: L(SGL,GCL) = L(SGL)
if GCL and SGL and SGL most important: L(SGL,GGL) = L(GCLISGL) x L(LGGL)
if GCL and SGL and SGL most impo If GGL and SGL and GGL most important: L(SGL, GGL) = L(SGL|GGL) x L(GGL) If GGL and SGL and SGL most important: L(SGL, GGL) = L(GGL|SGL) x L(LSGL) If GGL and no SGL: L(SGL,GGL) = L(GGL) if SGL and no GGL: L(SGL,GGL) = L(SGL)

 $L(in,ex) = L(SLM,LOW) \times L(SGL,GGL)$ L(in,ex) = L(SLM,LOW) x L(SGL,GGL)

Ω, = posterior (post-leak assessment) odds in favor of leak hypothesis. Ω₁= L(in,ex) x Ω₀
of lin ev) = noeterior nrchahilir∪ (noet-leak assessment) that the tank is a leaker (f lin ev' p(L|in,ex) = posterior probability (post-leak assessment) that the tank is a leaker. (L|in,ex) = Ω1 Ω, = posterior (post-teak assessment) odds in favor of leak hypothesis. Ωr= L(in.ex) x Ωo
pCLjn,ex) = posterior probability (post-teak assessment) that the tank is a leaker (Lln,ex) = Ω
p(NLjin,ex) = posterior probabil p(NL|in,ex) = posterior probability (post-leak assessment) that the tank is a leaker. p(NL|in,ex) =

JW Ficklin
DA Barnes/DJ Washenfelder DA Barnes/DJ Washenfelder 7/16/2008 Elicitation Date: Elicitation from: **Elicitation Date: Elicitation from: Eliciation by: Hypotheses:**

Leaker:

Non-Leaker:

Expert Opinion: J. W. Ficklin

Expert Opinion: J. G. Field

B-24

Expert Opinion: M. A. Fish

cavity from a recent liquid level. The appearance of the surface and its location influences the recomendation that the lower feature is the correct ILL.

0.30 $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|}\n\hline\n0.70 & & & 0.43 \\
\hline\n\end{array}$

 0.30

L(LOW) = p(LOW|L)/p(LOW|NL). If LOW intersititial liquid level data are not available for the leak assessment, (LOW) = pLOW|L\p(LOW|NL). If LOW intersitial liquid level data are not available for the leak assessment.
then L(LOW) = 1

RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

Expert Opinion: D. J. Washenfelder

Leaker:

RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

APPENDIX C REPORT ON DRYWELL INVESTIGATIONS AROUND SST SX-1O4 S. M. STOLLER CORPORATION

June 3, 2008

Report on Drywell Investigations around SST SX-104

As part of an investigation into recent liquid level drops in SST SX-104 as measured from the liquid observation well (LOW), CHG asked Stoller to prepare borehole monitoring request forms (BMRs) for deploying the Radionuclide Assessment System (RAS) in nine boreholes around SX-104 (see SX-Farm map). Clockwise from north, the boreholes are 41-04-01, 41-04-03, 41-04-05, 41-07-12, 41-04-07, 41-04-08, 41-05-03, 41-04-11, and 41-01-06. BMRs were provided to CHG on the same day they were requested, Thursday May 13, 2008.

All of these boreholes were logged with the high-resolution SGLS in 1995 and again in 1998 as part of the Vadose Zone Characterization Project at the Hanford Tank Farms. (Borehole 41-05-03 was only partially relogged in 1998.) Before May 2008, only 41-01-06 had been monitored for changes to the gamma profiles, the last time in July 2003. No changes were observed in the total-gamma profile in 41-01-06 between the baseline and 2003.

As of May 27, 2008, all nine boreholes that are proximal to SST SX-104 have been investigated with the RAS. These are highlighted in yellow on the map. Except for 41-04-07 and 41-07-12, all boreholes exhibit no changes in the total-gamma profiles since 1995, save for decreases attributable to decay of gamma-emitting radionuclides identified during baseline logging.

41-04-07 exhibits an apparent slight decrease in gross counts from about 80 to 100 ft between 1995, 1998, and 2008. This decrease cannot be attributed to the decay of previously observed gamma-emitting radionuclides. There are a number of other borehole and tool-related variables that can occasionally result in systematic slight increases or decreases in gross counts, which would result in a profile that mimics previous profiles, though higher or lower in counts. The important factors here are that the profiles mimic each other over the interval from 80 to 100 ft, and count rates decrease from one log to the next. The changes appear to be systematic slight decreases, and are not attributable to a gamma-emitting contaminant influx.

41-07-12 exhibits noticeable changes from 60 to 65 ft compared against previous total gamma profiles. According to the drilling log, this borehole was deepened in 1978 to 90 using shape-factor analysis, to be likely adhered to the casing rather than distributed in the formation. Because of the 4-in casing, the RAS investigation of this borehole on May 27, 2008 employed the "Medium" detector, which includes a much smaller (and consequently much less sensitive) NaI crystal than the "Large" detector used in the other larger-diameter boreholes. Importantly, NaI detectors are susceptible to magnetic interferences, whereas HPGe detectors are not. There are also differences in the detector housing geometries that may cause different shielding effects at such a boundary. The changes observed between 60 and 65 ft in the recent gamma-profile may be caused by these or other differences between the two tools, and are likely not related to actual changes in the gamma profile.

Included are summary sheets of borehole information and logging activities, as well as plots of total gamma, gamma-emitting radionuclide contaminants (observed with the SGLS), and moisture (where available). The neutron moisture data were acquired and analyzed by Waste Management Federal Services in early 1998.

June 3, 2008

Arron Pope Geophysicist S.M. Stoller Corporation

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Borehole 41-05-03

Borehole 41-01-06

Borehole 41-01-06

APPENDIX D RPP-RPT-38419, REV. 0 EVALUATION OF INTERSTITIAL LIQUID LEVELS IN SINGLE SHELL TANKS,

July 21, 2008

A-6003-881 (05/05)

RPP-RPT-38419, Rev. 0

Evaluation of Interstitial Liquid Levels (ILL) in **Single-Shell Tanks**

David A. Barnes Ch2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc. Richland, WA 99352 U.S. Department of Energy Contract DE-AC27-99RL14047

Key Words: Liquid Observation Well (LOW), neutron probe, Interstitial Liquid Level (ILL)

Abstract:

This document describes the methodology used to evaluate neutron profiles from Liquid Observation Well (LOW) data, techniques to identify the correct feature representing the ILL, and summarizes data for all 77 LOWs currently being analyzed.

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A-6002-767 (REV 1)

RPP-ASMT-38450 Revision 0

> RPP-RPT-38419 Revision 0

EVALUATION OF INTERSTITIAL LIQUID LEVELS (ILL) IN SINGLE-SHELL TANKS

David A. Barnes CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc.

Date Published August 08

Post Office Box 1500 Richland, Washington

Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection

Contract No. DE-AC27-99RL14047

Approved for Public Release; Further Dissemination Unlimited

Evaluation of Interstitial Liquid Levels (ILL) in Single Shell Tanks by David A. Barnes, July 2008

Introduction

During the SX-104 leak assessment performed from May to July 2008 it was determined that the major neutron feature originally assumed to be the interstitial liquid level (ILL) was actually an interface between adjacent sludge and saltcake layers, and the true ILL was a smaller neutron feature about 16 inches deeper. Once the correct neutron feature was tracked the data did not indicate a leak. In order to determine the extent of condition a review of all liquid observation wells (LOWs) currently being monitored was undertaken.

Since completing interim stabilization of the Single-Shell Tanks (SSTs) most of the tanks no longer have a liquid surface and the primary means of leak detection is a neutron scan taken inside a LOW to monitor the liquid interface in the tank waste or interstitial liquid level (ILL). As of July 2007, LOWs installed in 77 SSTs are monitored quarterly for intrusion and/or leakage. The LOW scans and ILL depths for each of the 77 tanks were recently re-evaluated to ensure that the correct neutron feature was being tracked as the ILL. The evaluation methods and results are documented in this report..

In summary, for most of the tanks evaluated conclusive evidence was available to demonstrate high confidence in the ILL determination for all but one of the tanks. In tank U-103 there is an extended "transition zone" that has been partially re-saturated after saltwell pumping (SWP). It is unclear whether the correct ILL is at the top or bottom of this transition zone. The correct interpretation is being further reviewed, and no change to the analysis has been made at this time.

How to determine the ILL –

The best method to clearly determine the ILL from a neutron scan is to monitor the neutron profile prior to, during, and after a liquid volume change. By far the most common event to determine the correct depth of the ILL was saltwell pumping (SWP). If the neutron profile is monitored prior to, during, and after SWP, then the inflection point of the feature on the neutron scan that is moving up and down in response to liquid additions and withdrawals is easily identified as the correct ILL. Once that feature has been conclusively identified during and after SWP, the same feature may be analyzed to monitor for intrusion or leakage with confidence. Most of the existing LOWs collected data during and after SWP, so the correct ILL can be identified with confidence.

As a general rule, saltcakes have significantly higher porosity and permeability than sludges, and the free liquid forms a very clear, definitive liquid interface. Sludges, on the other hand, often contain such high levels of residual water (undrainable) that the entire waste column from the tank bottom to the waste surface appears to be saturated on the neutron scan. In these cases the only major feature that can be identified from the data is the waste surface, and the resulting ILL values are usually very near the depths obtained from the surface level gauge, (Enraf or Manual Tape). One notable exception to this is saltcake that has been processed through an evaporator and returned to the tank as a concentrate. Processing saltcake through the evaporator results in

significant particle size reduction. This waste typically displays high surface tension and poor drainage characteristics. These saltcakes behave very much like sludges in their drainage characteristics and look very similar to sludge on the neutron profile. A clear ILL below the waste surface is not normally discernable in this type of waste.

If the ILL resides in a zone of high porosity and permeability, (typically saltcake), the fluid can flow through the waste matrix fairly easily. If the tank also contains trapped gas, then the gas will compress and expand in response to changing barometric pressure (BP), and the ILL movement will correlate very well to the inverse of the barometric pressure. Only the true ILL will move up and down in response to BP changes, so if the feature tracks the inverse of the barometric pressure there is a high degree of confidence that the feature being monitored is the true ILL.

Grouping Neutron Profiles by Type –

Many of the 77 neutron profiles evaluated display similar characteristics. Each LOW was placed into one of three major groups: A single interface, multiple interfaces using the major feature as the ILL, and multiple interfaces using a secondary feature. After the LOW was placed in the appropriate group comments were added to explain what data was available to support the choice of feature as the ILL, (track change during SWP and/or recharge, confirmed barometric pressure correlation, etc.). See Table 1 for specific results for each of the 77 tanks evaluated.

Group 1, Single Feature Only –

If there is only one feature available to evaluate, then the correct feature is easily identified. In most cases this occurs when the tank contains primarily sludge and the waste profile is very near saturation from tank bottom to the waste surface. The only discernable feature is the top of the waste, where the counts drop from near saturation to near zero in the vapor space over a short distance. There are 32 tanks in this category. In most cases the ILL value determined is near the level obtained from the Enraf or Manual Tape. See Figure 1 for a typical example.

Figure 1 – Illustrates single neutron feature, (at waste surface)

Group 2, Multiple Features, Use Major Feature as ILL

In waste with good drainage characteristics, (typically saltcakes or layered saltcake/sludge mixes), a series of neutron features can be identified from the profile. The neutron moisture profile changes in response to the volume of undrainable moisture that remains in the waste after SWP, which can vary dramatically with the porosity and particle size of the waste. If multiple features are apparent, identifying the correct ILL feature can be difficult unless the liquid level is tracked during major waste changing activities such as SWP. If the ILL resides in a saltcake interval it is usually clear and easy to identify. If it resides in a sludge or near a saltcake/sludge boundary, the interpretation is more difficult. In this category the most prominent feature has been identified as the ILL, and the lesser features are attributable to variations in porosity and/or waste type. There are 29 tanks in this category. See Figure 2 for a typical example.

Figure 2 – Illustrates using major neutron feature as ILL

Group 3, Multiple Features, Use Secondary Feature as ILL

Tanks in this group exhibit multiple neutron features similar to group 2, however the major feature is typically responding to changes in waste composition such as porosity, permeability, particle size, and chemical constituents rather than a true ILL. In this group the true ILL is actually one of the lesser features. This group is the most difficult to interpret, and the analyst must rely heavily on observed changes during waste changing operations such as SWP. If the major feature in the profile does not move as liquid is added or removed, then it cannot be the true ILL. More subtle changes can occur immediately after SWP as the waste above the ILL continues to slowly drain and the true ILL slowly rises. These subtle changes help identify which feature is the true ILL and which feature should be tracked in the future to monitor for leakage or intrusion.

In the case of SX104 a new LOW was installed about seven years after completion of SWP, so the fluid changes available to aid in identification of the correct ILL were minimal. About 200 gallons of water was used to install the LOW, which temporarily created a local saturation around the LOW. Over the next 6 months this liquid equalized with the existing drainable liquid below the ILL and a secondary feature became better defined. The primary feature originally thought to be the ILL was in fact a saltcake/sludge interface. There are 16 tanks in this group. See Figure 3 for an example.

In general, if one overlays the saturated profile (prior to or during SWP) with the lowest ILL obtained at the completion of SWP the waste that has been drained by SWP operations can be easily identified. If one starts at the bottom of the tank and assumes 100% saturation, then moves up until the profiles start to diverge, then the point at which the profiles start to separate is usually the ILL. Everything below that level is still at 100% saturation, while waste above that level has been at least partially drained. Comparing subsequent profiles to the lowest level obtained will show which waste is re-saturating over time and help identify the true ILL. If the permeability is good, the ILL feature will move up vertically as the waste above it continues to drain, and everything below that point should overlay the pre-SWP saturated curve. In sludges the liquid typically does not drain at all, so no changes are apparent. There is a narrow range of permeabilities between those extremes where an entire zone will slowly resaturate without forming a clear interface. As the zone saturation increases, the entire interval, (sometimes several ft), will increase neutron counts, but may not achieve full saturation as seen in the pre-SWP profile. This zone is not fully drained, but is not fully saturated either. The ILL can be picked at the base of such a zone, or at the top. Tank U-103 displays this characteristic, and is being reviewed. Picking the ILL at the base is probably more indicative of the ILL elsewhere in the tank. See Figure 4 for an example.

Figure 3 – Illustrates using minor neutron feature as ILL

Figure 4 – Illustrates partially re-saturated transition zone

Conclusions –

All of the current LOW profiles (77) have been re-evaluated to determine if the correct neutron feature is being tracked as the ILL. Group 1, (single feature only, usually waste surface), contains 32 tanks. Group 2, (multiple features, major feature is the ILL), contains 29 tanks. Group 3, (multiple features, secondary feature is the ILL), contains 16 tanks. See Table 1 for a summary of all tanks, including evidence supporting the ILL choice.

Most tanks displayed conclusive evidence that the correct ILL was being tracked. Only U103 requires further evaluation. U103 has an extensive transition zone, similar to Figure 4, and it is unclear whether the ILL is at the top or bottom of this transition zone.

The SX104 analysis that prompted this investigation was complicated by a sludge-saltcake interface very near the ILL and the localized moisture from 200 gallons of fresh water used during LOW installation. Additionally, there were no major waste changing processes (such as saltwell pumping) performed after LOW installation to help clarify the true ILL. This was a unique situation, and the rest of the LOW scans do not share these problems.

Table 1 – LOW Analysis Summary

Table 1 – LOW Analysis Summary