

**An Assessment of Technologies
to Provide Extended Sludge Retrieval
from Underground Storage Tanks
at the Hanford Site**

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Acknowledgments

The extended sludge retrieval activities are part of the Retrieval Process Development and Enhancements (RPD&E) Project under direction of the US Department of Energy Office of Science and Technology Tanks Focus Area. The purpose of the Retrieval Process Development and Enhancements Project is to understand retrieval processes including ongoing and existing technologies, gather data on these technologies, and relate the data to specific tank problems such that end users have requisite technical bases to make retrieval and closure decisions. This work was conducted in conjunction with Eric Pacquet and John Garfield, Numatec Hanford Company, and Craig Shaw, Cogema Engineering Corp.

Summary

The purpose of this study was to identify sludge mobilization technologies that can be readily installed in double-shell tanks along with mixer pumps to augment mixer pump operation when mixer pumps do not adequately mobilize waste. The supplementary technologies will mobilize sludge that may accumulate in tank locations out-of-reach of the mixer-pump jet and move the sludge into the mixer-pump range of operation. The identified technologies will be evaluated to determine if their performances and configurations are adequate to meet requirements developed for enhanced sludge removal systems.

The study proceeded in three parallel paths to identify technologies that: 1) have been previously deployed or demonstrated in radioactive waste tanks, 2) have been specifically evaluated for their ability to mobilize or dislodge waste simulants with physical and rheological properties similar to those anticipated during waste retrieval, and 3) have been used in similar industrial conditions, but not specifically evaluated for radioactive waste retrieval.

Technologies Evaluated

Technologies were identified that have already been deployed or are being developed for deployment to remediate radioactive waste tanks. These technologies include:

- Pulsed Air
- Pulsating Mixer Pump
- Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing
- C-106 Sluicer
- Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle
- Waste-Retrieval End Effector
- High-Pressure Scarifier
- Flygt Mixer.

All of the technologies, with exception of the Flygt mechanical mixer, are based on jet mixing. The jet fluid is air, slurry, or water. The jet pressure, duration, and pulse rate vary based on the technology. Several of the technologies are very similar. The pulsating mixer pump and fluidic pulse-jet mixing both create jets by using suction to draw slurry from the tank into a tube and pressure to expel the fluid jet back into the tank. The C-106 sluicer and the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle are both based on sluicing; however, the borehole miner operates at a higher pressure [20.7 MPa (3000 psi)] than the C-106 sluicer [2.07 MPa (300 psi)] and has an increased jet range based on the extension of the nozzle away from the mast using its extendible arm. The waste-retrieval end effector and the high-pressure scarifier are both based on scarification – using a high-pressure, low-flow-rate jet to fracture and erode solids, with the high-pressure scarifier operating at significantly higher pressure [379 MPa (55,000 psi)] than the waste-retrieval end effector [68.9 or 207 MPa (10,000 or 30,000 psi)].

The performance of additional technologies have been evaluated for their ability to mobilize or dislodge a specific type of simulated waste such as sludge, hard pan, or salt cake. Other technologies have been identified as promising based on industrial application in other tank-cleaning environments.

Criteria for Evaluation

To compare the technologies, their physical and operating characteristics have been summarized. Items addressed include the operating principal, ability to dislodge waste forms, and other operating characteristics. The technologies are ordered by jet pressure from low to high. Then the technologies are rated with respect to meeting criteria developed for enhanced sludge removal performance. Performance is grouped into three categories: the technology either meets the criteria, has the ability to be modified to meet the criteria, or is not able to be readily modified to meet the criteria.

Specific criteria include

- The device shall assist waste mobilization in dead areas.
- The device shall enhance mobilization for a radius of 3.0 m (10 ft) in waste with a shear strength of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²).

To put the shear strength value [1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²)] in perspective, it is compared with simulants developed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to model waste properties (Powell et al. 1997, Bamberger et al. 1998). A 50% kaolin, 13% plaster, 37% water simulant developed to model sludge had a shear strength of 2.5 kPa (52 lbf/ft²), just slightly higher than the target selected for extended sludge retrieval equipment. A 22.5% kaolin, 40% plaster, 37.5% water simulant developed to model hard pan had a shear strength of 150 kPa (3133 lbf/ft²). A salt cake simulant (84% dynamate fertilizer in water) had a compressive strength of 19 MPa (396,825 lbf/ft²). With respect to the types of simulants developed for evaluation of waste remediation equipment, the shear strength value of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²) selected as the basis for evaluation of extended sludge retrieval is very low.

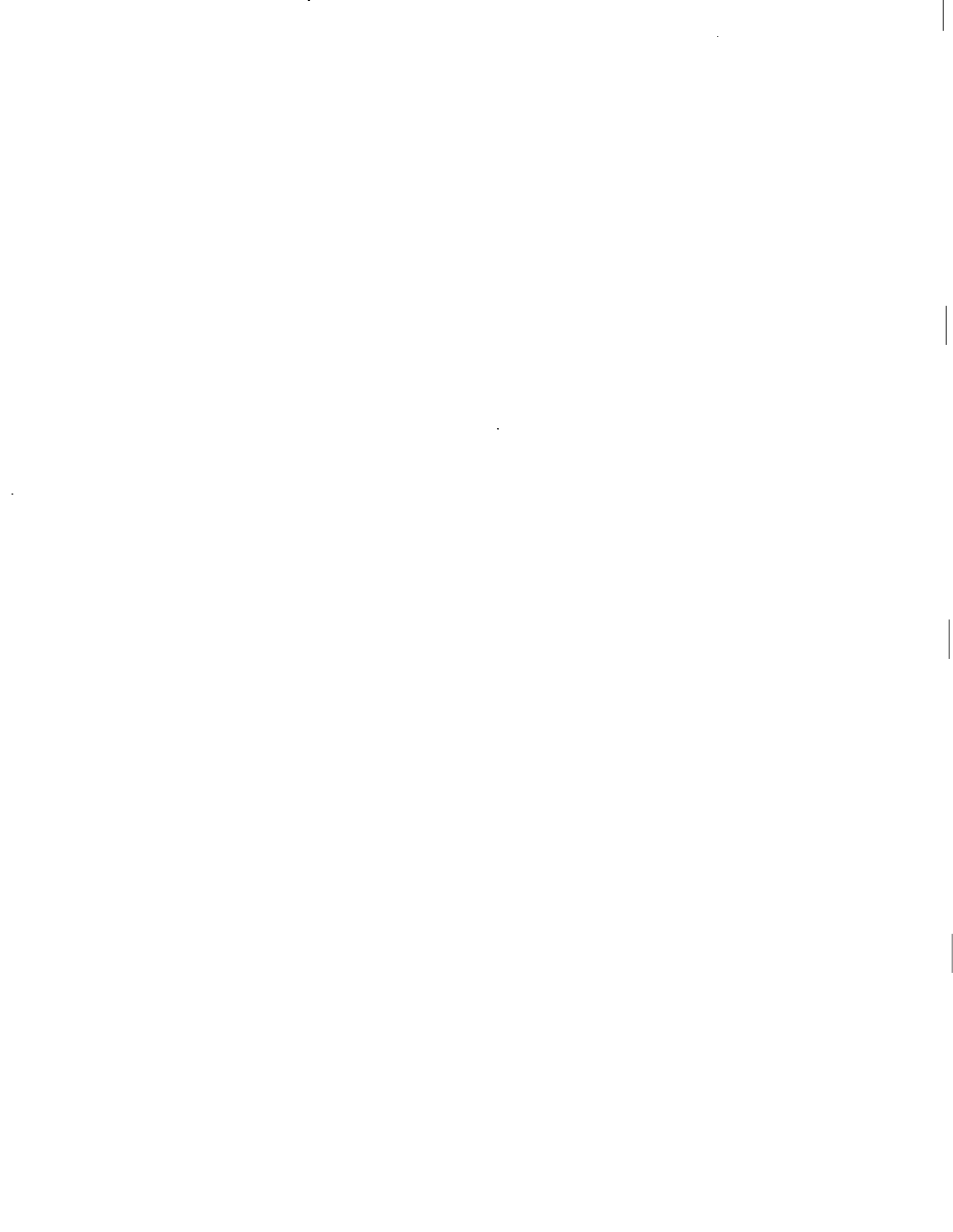
- The device shall pass through a 12.7- to 15.2-cm (5- to 6-in.)-diameter riser.¹

Technology Summary

Based on the evaluation criteria, one technology, the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle, has the proven ability to meet key primary requirements. The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle can mobilize sludge and extremely hard waste at a distance of up to and greater than 3 m (10 ft). The arm extension of 3 m (10 ft), and its ability to move back and forth can be used to sweep waste from collection piles deposited by the mixer pump back into the mixer pump path or toward the retrieval pump inlet. The current borehole-miner extendible-nozzle mast is larger than the 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser; however, this parameter could be readily modified for the application.

¹ Larger risers [0.30, 0.61, and 1.1 m (12, 24, and 42 in. in diameter)] may be available for extended sludge retrieval system deployment in specific tanks; however, for this study the 15.2-cm (6-in.) riser was selected as the evaluation criteria because it represents the most prevalent riser size for system deployment.

Two other technologies, the pulsating mixer pump and fluidic pulse-jet mixing will readily fit through a 15.2-cm (6-in.)-diameter riser; however, these technologies need to be evaluated to determine the effective cleaning radius of their jets and the range of shear strengths of sludge that the jets can dislodge.



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1. Introduction

Hanford needs enhanced sludge mobilization methods to retrieve sludge that is beyond the effective cleaning radius (ECR) of the baseline pair of long-shaft mixer pumps planned for mobilization of the radioactive waste stored in 23-m- (75-ft-) diameter double-shell tanks. Other sites, such as the Savannah River Site and West Valley, which also use mixer pumps in large volume tanks, may also need to implement a plan for enhanced sludge mobilization. At Hanford, this study was performed in collaboration with the River Protection Project (RPP) team to support waste feed stream treatment and immobilization.

1.1 Background

The River Protection Project Phase 1 project is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) plan to assure treatment of Hanford tank waste. During the 10-year minimum-order-quantity period, the facility is expected to process approximately 10% of the Hanford tank waste by mass and 20% to 25% by radioactivity.

1.1.1 Radioactive Waste at Hanford

Approximately 204,411 m³ (54 million gallons) of highly radioactive wastes are stored in 177 underground tanks, including 149 older single-shell tanks, at the Hanford Site in Washington State. That waste, which was derived from production of plutonium for the nation's nuclear defense program, has been accumulating at Hanford since 1944. The waste poses a serious safety concern to the public and to the environment. That risk is growing because most of the single-shell tanks have exceeded their design life. Sixty-seven of the single-shell tanks are known to have leaked, and several additional tanks are being investigated for potential leaks. Nearly 3785 m³ (1 million gal) of the tank waste has spilled into the soil of the vadose zone below the tanks since the first leak occurred. Recent information has indicated that tank waste radionuclides have moved through the vadose zone and now have reached the groundwater that flows under the Hanford Site, which migrates to the Columbia River.

DOE is taking active measures to reduce the chance of additional tank leaks. However, it is not possible to predict when the next tank will leak, and with passage of time, even the newer, safer double-shell tanks are approaching the end of their design lives. Removal of the waste from the tanks, treatment, and immobilization as an inert waste form will constitute a lasting solution to the problem. DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology have entered into an enforceable compliance agreement setting forth milestones for cleanup of the tank waste. DOE, State regulatory agencies, and stakeholders view the tank waste cleanup as one of their top priorities.

1.1.2 Waste Treatment and Immobilization Approach

In September 1996, DOE entered into contracts with two contractor teams for Phase 1 of the RPP privatization project. At the time of contract award, the contracts for RPP Phase 1 were structured into two parts: a 20-month Part A, ending in mid-1998 and an optional Part B, planned for approximately 10 to 14 years. The purpose of Part A was to evaluate the technical, operational, regulatory, business, and financial elements required by privatized facilities that would provide treatment and immobilization services on a fixed-unit-price basis. Under the original RPP Phase 1 contracts, Part B was a period, scheduled to begin in mid-1998, in which the authorized contractor(s) would fully finance, design, construct, operate, and deactivate waste treatment plants on a fixed-price basis. Based on a detailed review of the work products prepared by both contractors (as required by Part A of the contract), DOE decided to restructure Part B of the contract and to authorize only one contractor, to proceed to the design phase of Phase 1. DOE concluded that the contractor proposal contained a viable conceptual facility design with robust technologies that have been effectively demonstrated at other sites and that the contractor would be able to meet contractual requirements for design, construction, and operations in the balance of Phase 1.

In April 2000 DOE made a decision to discontinue the privatization approach for RPP after completing a review of the April 2000 deliverables submitted under the RPP privatization contract. Currently the DOE Office of River Protection is seeking competitive proposals from the private sector to design and construct a treatment and immobilization plant for the RPP at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington.

1.2 Scope

This objective of this study was to support RPP's ability to deliver the Phase 1B waste feed stream for waste treatment and immobilization. Hanford needs enhanced sludge mobilization methods to retrieve sludge that is beyond the effective cleaning radius (ECR) of the baseline pair of long-shaft mixer pumps.

The scope of this task is to identify potential systems that can be installed in the double-shell tanks along with the mixer pumps, when needed to mobilize the remaining sludge. The systems will be evaluated based on this limitation incorporating knowledge of existing tank requirements and constraints. The systems will be identified and prioritized to determine whether they can be operated concurrently in tandem with mixer pumps or sequentially after mixer pumps have stopped, to move settled solids into areas influenced by mixer pumps. These auxiliary systems will further mobilize waste not under the influence of the mixer pumps or tranlocate the waste to areas of the tank that are influenced by the mixer pumps. This assessment will be integrated with similar RPP investigations. The final objective is to summarize results in a report recommending one or several types of "small systems" that can be installed in the tanks along with the mixer pumps when needed to mobilize the remaining sludge.

2. Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of this study was to identify sludge mobilization technologies that can be readily installed in the double-shell tanks along with the mixer pumps, when mixer pump operation does not adequately mobilize the waste. The supplementary technologies will mobilize sludge that may accumulate in tank locations out-of-reach of the mixer pump jet. This study assessed the potential of the technologies to meet requirements developed for enhanced sludge removal systems.

The study proceeded in three parallel paths to identify technologies that: 1) have been previously deployed or demonstrated in radioactive waste tanks, 2) have been specifically evaluated for their ability to mobilize or dislodge waste simulants with physical and rheological properties similar to those anticipated during waste retrieval, and 3) have been used in similar industrial conditions, but not specifically evaluated for radioactive waste retrieval.

2.1 Technologies Identified

A series of technologies were identified that have already been deployed or are being developed for deployment to remediate radioactive waste tanks. These technologies include:

- Pulsed Air
- Pulsating Mixer Pump
- Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing
- C-106 Sluicer
- Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle
- Waste-Retrieval End Effector
- High-Pressure Scarifier
- Flygt Mixers.

All of the technologies with the exception of Flygt mixers are based on jet mixing. The jet fluid is either air, slurry, or water. The operating parameters, jet pressure, duration and pulse rate, vary, based on the technology. Several of the technologies are very similar. The pulsating mixer pump and fluidic pulse-jet mixing both create jets by using suction to draw slurry from the tank into a tube and followed by pressure to expel the fluid jet back through the tube into the vessel. The C-106 sluicer and the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle are both based on sluicing; however, the borehole miner operates at a higher pressure and has an increased range-of-influence from its extendible arm extension. The waste-retrieval end effector and the high-pressure scarifier are both based on scarification, with the high-pressure scarifier operating at significantly higher pressure than the waste-retrieval end effector. In contrast, the Flygt mixer uses an electrically-powered propeller surrounded by a close-fitting shroud. The propeller creates a turbulent fluid jet.

The performance of additional technologies has been evaluated for each technology's ability to mobilize or dislodge a specific type of simulated waste such as sludge, hard pan, or salt cake. Other

technologies have been identified as promising based on industrial application in another tank cleaning environment.

2.1.1 Pulsed-Air Mixer

The pulsed-air mixing technique utilizes short, discrete pulses of air or inert gas to produce large bubbles near the tank floor. Air pulses injected beneath horizontal circular plates positioned just above the tank floor produce the bubbles. These bubbles rise toward the liquid surface and induce mixing; the pulse frequency, duration, gas pressure, and plate sequencing are controlled to create a well-mixed condition within the tank. In 1999, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) deployed a pulsed-air mixer in Tank W-9 to mix waste solids and accelerate settling of >100- μ m-diameter particles.

2.1.2 Pulsating Mixer Pump

Pulsed-jet mixers such as the pulsating mixer pump have a tube or nozzle that extends to the bottom of the tank. During operation, a vacuum is created pulling fluid into the tube and into an accumulator vessel. Next, pressure is applied, and the fluid is forced back into the tank out through the bottom of the tube. As the process fluid emerges from the nozzle, the jet suspends solids and induces circulation patterns. In 1998, pulsating monitor technology, consisting of a jet mixer powered by a reciprocating air supply, was selected for deployment in Oak Ridge National Laboratory Tank TH-4 to mobilize settled solids. The system design has not been finalized.

2.1.3 Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing

Fluidic pulse-jet mixing utilizes pulse-jet agitation to mix sludge with liquid supernatant. The system mixes the sludge and supernatant via a three-phase mixing process: a suction phase, a drive phase, and a vent phase. This approach has been deployed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to mobilize and retrieve waste from five horizontal storage tanks (W21, W22, W23, C1, and C2).

2.1.4 C-106 Sluicer

The Hanford Project W-320 installed the waste retrieval sluicing system (WRSS) in Tank 106-C to mobilize sludge in Tank 106-C to transfer it to Tank 102-AY. The sluicer has a 2.54-cm- (1-in.-) diameter nozzle with two degrees of motion control (rotation 194 degrees) and nozzle elevation (130 degrees). The nozzle pivots and rotates at a fixed elevation in the tank and can be aimed with a dedicated hydraulic system. The sluicer controls can be operated in manual or semi-automatic mode. The sluicer is approximately 29.2 cm (11.5 in.) diameter and is installed in a 30.5-cm- (12-in.-) diameter riser.

2.1.5 Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle

The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle sluicer uses a semi-flexible, extendible, erectable arm to direct a high-pressure sluicer jet. The arm extension and position are controlled remotely from a control console. This system was deployed in 1998 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to dislodge and remediate four horizontal underground radioactive waste tanks.

2.1.6 Waste-Retrieval End Effector

In 1997, ORNL selected a lightweight scarifying end effector, a jet-pump conveyance system, and two deployment systems: the light duty utility arm (LDUA) and the Houdini remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to perform the Gunite and Associated Tanks (GAAT) treatability study. Two scarifier end effectors were evaluated: the sludge retrieval end effector (SREE) optimized for sludge retrieval and the gunite scarifying end effector (GSEE) optimized for scarification of gunite surfaces.

2.1.7 High-Pressure Scarifier

A high-pressure scarifier rated to remove $0.0009 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ($2 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$) of waste was initially developed for dislodging and retrieval of single-shell tank waste. This system used high-pressure [379 MPa ($55,000 \text{ psi}$)] jets to dislodge and air conveyance to retrieve waste. During evaluation the system performed well; however, site needs changed and a lightweight version of the scarifier rated to remove $0.0005 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ($1 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$) of waste was designed and tested. No radioactive deployments have been identified for this system.

2.1.8 Flygt Mixers

Shrouded axial-propeller mixers are being evaluated for deployment in Savannah River Site Tank 19 to mobilize sludge, zeolite, and salt that remain in the tank after a retrieval campaign conducted in the 1980s. The 37-kW (50-hp) mixers being considered for use in Tank 19 have a propeller diameter of 51 cm (20 in.) and operate at 860 rotations per minute (rpm). The spinning propeller creates a turbulent fluid jet with an average exit velocity approaching 5.4 m/s (17.7 ft/s).

2.2 Technology Comparisons

To permit comparison between the technologies, their physical and operating characteristics have been summarized in Table 2.1. Items addressed include the operating principal, ability to dislodge waste forms, and other operating characteristics. The technologies are ordered by jet pressure from low to high pressure; the Flygt mixer is listed after the fluid jet technologies. In Table 2.2, the technologies are rated with respect to meeting criteria developed for enhanced sludge removal performance. Performance is evaluated for three categories: either the technology meets the criteria, has the ability to be modified to meet the criteria, or cannot be readily modified to meet the criteria.

2.3 Recommendations

Based on the acceptance criteria, one technology, the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle has the proven ability to meet key primary requirements. The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle can mobilize extremely hard waste at a distance of 3 m (10 ft) or greater. The arm extension of 3 m (10 ft), and its ability to move back and forth can be used to sweep waste from collection piles deposited by the mixer pump back into the mixer pump path or toward the retrieval pump inlet. The current device mast is larger than the 15.2-cm- (6-in.) diameter riser; however, this could be readily modified for the application.

Two other technologies, the pulsating mixer pump and fluidic pulse-jet mixing will readily fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.) diameter riser; however, the technologies need to be evaluated to determine the effective cleaning radius of the specific system jets and the range of shear strengths of sludge that they can dislodge.

Table 2.1 Comparison of the waste mobilization technologies

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Technique	compressed air pulses	compressed air propels slurry jet	compressed air propels slurry jet	water or fluid jet	water or fluid jet	water jet	water jet	propeller creates a fluid jet	high-volume oscillatory fluid jets
Jet pressure	0.35 to 0.69 MPa (5 to 100 psi) air.	0 to 0.69 MPa (0 to 100 psi)	0 to 0.69 MPa (0 to 100 psi)	to 2.07 MPa (300 psi)	0 to 20.7 MPa (0 to 3000 psi)	0 to 69 or 207 MPa (0 to 10,000 or 30,000 psi)	379 MPa (55,000 psi)		up to 2.8 MPa (400 psi) liquid
Flow rate	0.005 standard m ³ /s (10 scfm) air per plate	tbd	tbd	0.022 m ³ /s (350 gal/min)	0 to 0.0095 m ³ /s (0 to 150 gal/min)	0.0063 m ³ /s (10 gal/min) /jet	0.00038 m ³ /s (6 gal/min) /jet	1.1 m ³ /s (17,500 gal/min)	up to 0.315 m ³ /s (5000 gal/min) /jet
Enhances dissolution	tbd	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mixes viscous liquids	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mixes slurries	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mobilizes settled solids	to some extent	to some extent	to some extent	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes
Dislodges solid heels	no	no	no	perhaps	yes	yes	yes	no	if close to mixer pump
Power	7.5 to 15 kW (10 to 20 hp)	tbd	tbd	186 kW (250 hp)	149 kW (200 hp)	tbd	tbd	37 kW (50 hp)	224 kW (300 hp)

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Adds heat to tank during operation	insignificant	insignificant	insignificant	yes	yes	some	yes	yes	yes
Operating limits	functions at all liquid levels, plates located <2.54 cm (1 in.) above the tank floor	functions at all liquid levels, nozzle located <15.2 cm (6 in.) from floor	functions at all liquid levels, nozzle located <15.2 cm (6 in.) from floor	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions when submerged. Mixer is 51 cm (20 in.) in diameter and was installed 20.5 cm (8 in.) above tank floor. Minimum fluid depth is 51 cm (20 in.)	~1.2 m (4 ft) head required for maximum power. Nozzle centerline ~0.3 to 0.46 m (1 to 1.5 ft) from tank bottom
Percent secondary waste generated	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.00038 m ³ /s (6 gal/min) /jet	0%	>0% (some seal lubrication water added)
Deployment	riser mast, system unfolds	riser mast	riser mast	riser mast	riser arm	arm or remote vehicle	arm or remote vehicle	riser mast, system unfolds	riser mast, system remains under riser
Remotely deployed	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Maintainability	compressor located outside the tank, plates submerged in waste	valves and compressor located outside tank	valves and compressor located outside tank	pump located outside of tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank, arm or vehicle inside tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank arm or vehicle inside tank	entire mixer including motor is submerged	pump motor located above the tank riser, pump internals submerged in waste
Removal	system must be collapsed prior to removal	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system must be collapsed prior to removal	system removed through riser

Table 2.2 Comparison of the enhanced removal technologies with the acceptance criteria

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.2.1 Assist waste mobilization in dead areas	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer		
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization for a radius of 3 m (10 ft)	C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier	
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft ²) shear strength sludge	C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier		Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing Flygt Mixer <i>The jet performance must be evaluated to determine whether mobilization of this shear strength sludge could occur at a radius of 3 m (10 ft)</i>
4.3.4 Pass through 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>The design of these devices and their deployment system would need to be radically modified to fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser</i>

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.2.2 Detect, locate and measure accumulation of residual sludge			Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>None of the technologies are equipped with sensors of this type</i>
4.3.2 Locate waste accumulated in a dead area within ± 0.3 m (1 ft) vertically			Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>None of the technologies are equipped with sensors of this type.</i>
4.5.2 Meets NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B for flammable gas tank	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer <i>The system motor is located inside the tank.</i>
4.5.3 Does not overload tanks ventilation or confinement system [generates <0.047 standard m^3/s (100 scfm) aerosol]	High-Pressure Scarifier	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector Flygt Mixer	

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.5.4 Does not exceed tank heat input [22.4 kW (30 hp)]	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier		Flygt Mixer
4.5.5 Does not exceed dome-loading limits [<11340 kg (25,000 lbm)]	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer		
4.5.7 Limited liquid addition	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Flygt Mixer	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier <i>The 379 MPa (55,000 psi) intensifier pumps operate with filtered water.</i>

3. Waste Feed Delivery System

The Waste Feed Delivery System is designed to retrieve waste from 10 double-shell and 3 single-shell tanks and to deliver waste to the Vitrification Plant for conversion into glass. The waste must meet specific criteria for concentration and chemical and radionuclide content. The configuration described here was taken from the system description provided by Rasmussen (1998). The information in Rasmussen (1998) is currently being revised to reflect an updated baseline Retrieval Case 3S5 (Tedeschi 2000); however, the information presented here is typical of the proposed retrieval scenario.

3.1 Waste Tanks

The tanks containing waste to be retrieved are located at the Hanford Site in Washington State. The tanks are grouped in tank farms, as shown in Figure 3.1.

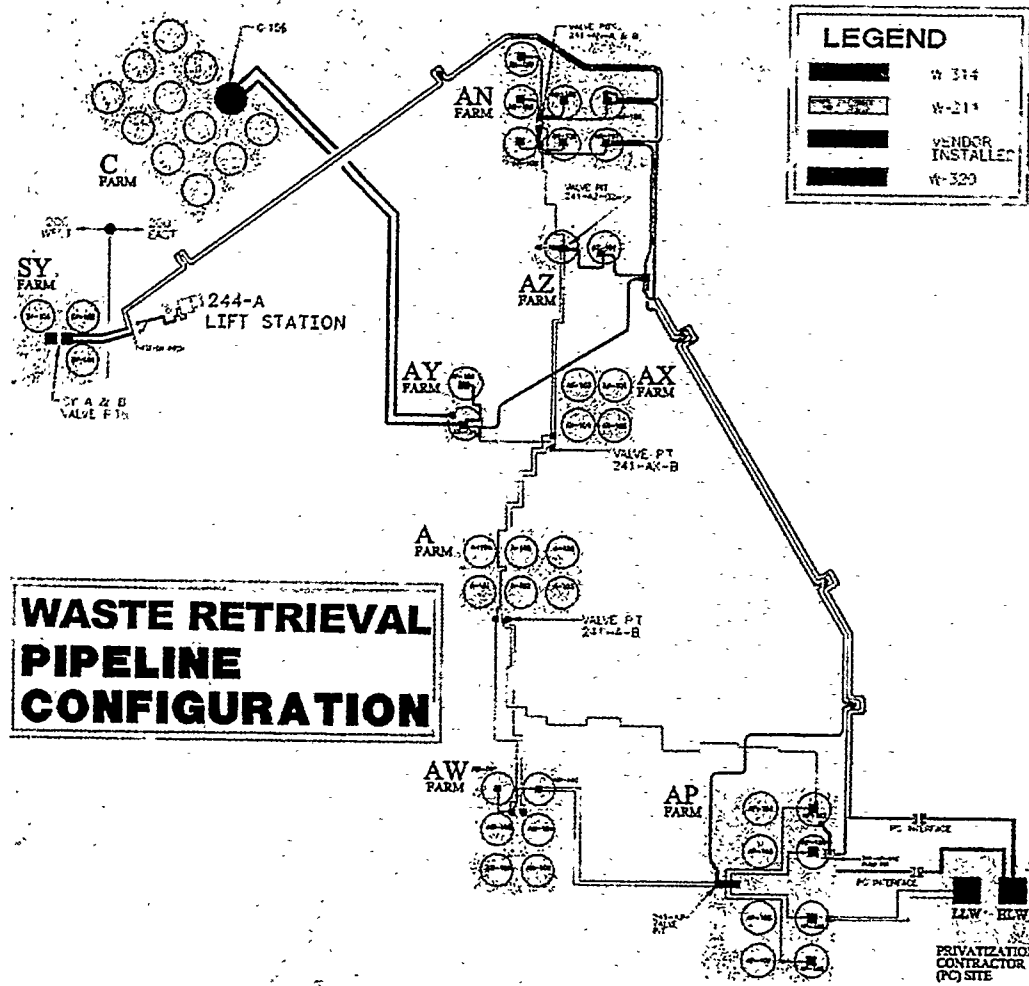


Figure 3.1 Tank farms and waste retrieval pipeline to privatization contractor site

The characteristics of the farms and the tanks with waste to be retrieved are summarized in Table 3.1. Three of the feed source tanks are 1893-m³ (500,000-gal) single-shell tanks and the remaining 10 tanks are 3785-m³ (1-million-gal) double-shell tanks. Three single-shell and three double-shell tanks contain insoluble sludge slurries; two double-shell tanks contain saturated supernatant; and four double-shell tanks contain saturated supernatant and soluble salt that must be dissolved. The retrieval and handling techniques differ depending upon the type of tank and material to be moved. The insoluble sludge slurries are classified as high level waste (HLW) and they are processed separately from the soluble salt solutions classed as low activity waste (LAW). Retrieval of the HLW slurries may be difficult because the solids may not be fully mobilized using mixer pumps, and enhanced mobilization methods may be required.

Table 3.1 Tanks with waste to be retrieved during Phase 1 privatization

Farm	Number Tanks ¹	Volume m ³ (gal)	Risers	Service	Note
241-AN	7 102, 103, 104 , 105, 107	4391 (1,160,000)	59	1981	5 tanks have 59 risers. The riser distribution in Tank 106-AN is different from that of Tank 102-, 103, 104, and 105-AN. Tank 107-AN has 80 risers; 21 are for airlift circulators.
241-AP	8 102, 104, 106, 108	4391 (1,160,000)	71	1986	Liquid waste transfers to 241-AP via 241-AW farm. 102-AP has additional riser for pump to feed Grout Treatment Facility
241-AW	6 101, 102, 103 , 104 , 105, 106	4391 (1,160,000)	59	1980	Tanks 103-, 104-, 105-, 106-AW were designed for storage of 242-A feed and have slurry bottoms. 101-AW feed tank is the back up for 102-AW. 102-AW feed tank is the back up for 242-A evaporator; it contains a pump pit and drain pit; airlift circulators and dip tube to measure specific gravity.
241-AY	2 101 , 102			1971	Aging waste tanks. Process piping penetrates the side of the tanks. Tanks contain 22 airlift circulators and one steam coil
241-AZ	2 101 , 102	3785 (1,000,000)	105	1975	Aging waste tanks. Process piping penetrates the side of the tanks. Tanks contain 22 airlift circulators and one steam coil
241-C	12 102, 104 , 106, 107	2006 (530,000)			Tank 106-C contains a sluicer nozzle.
241-SY	3 101, 102	4391 (1,160,000)	58-59	1977	

¹ Tanks identified as a part of Retrieval Case 3S5 are shown in **bold**; tanks identified as having a high probability of requiring auxiliary solids mobilization are shown in **bold and italics**.

3.2 Tank Configurations

Transfer operations involve tanks from AN, AP, AW, AY, AZ, C, and SY farms. Each of the tanks is unique in configuration, in-tank hardware, instrumentation, and waste type. Modifications to each tank are required prior to waste retrieval to support privatization. Details for each tank are summarized in Table 3.2 and described in the sections that follow.

3.2.1 Tanks 102- and 107-AN

The saturated supernatant from these two DSTs (double-shell tanks) will be pumped with water dilution at the pump intake directly to the LAW feed staging Tanks 102- and 104-AP. A cross-section of Tank 107-AN is shown in Figure 3.2. A cross-section of Tank 107-AN is shown in Figure 3.3.

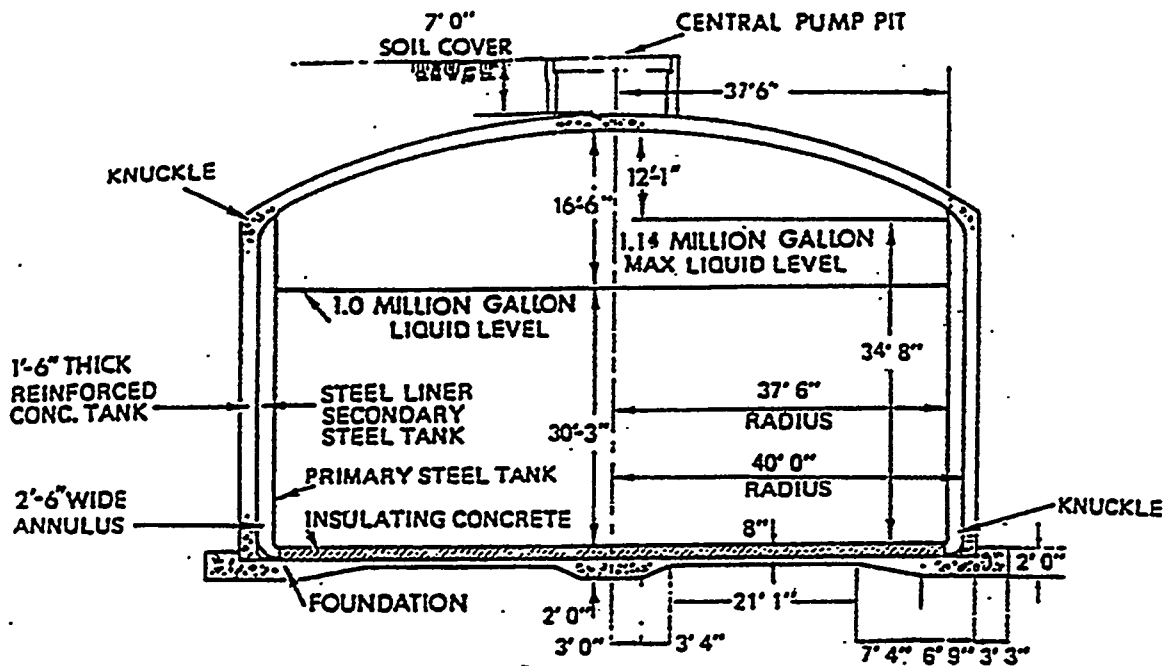


Figure 3.2 Cross-section of Tank 102-AN

Table 3.2 Remediation equipment required for each tank

Tank	Type	Bottom	Waste	Available Risers Waste Volume	Mixer Pump	Sluicer	Transfer Pump	In-Tank Camera
102-AN	DST		Saturated supernate	318 m ³ (84,000 gal) water-soluble salt 3728 m ³ (985,000 gal) saturated supernatant (Rasmussen 1998)	Not required		Transfer pump, fixed rpm, with in-line dilution in riser 005	Portable if required
103-AN	DST	flat	Saturated supernate	10.2-cm (4-in.) risers: 10A, 15A, 21A 30.5 cm (12-in.) risers: 7B, 12A 1552 m ³ (410,000 gal) water-soluble salt 125 m ³ (33,000 gal) floating crust 1949 m ³ (515,000 gal) saturated liquid (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 0.08 m ³ (20 gal) supernatant (Hanlon 1996)	two 224-kW (300-hp) in risers 007 and 008		Transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 005	In riser 12
104-AN	DST	flat	Saturated supernate and soluble salt	10.2 cm (4-in.) risers: 10A, 15A, 21A 30.5 cm (12-in.) risers: 12A 1696 m ³ (448,000 gal) water-soluble salt 125 m ³ (33,000 gal) floating crust 2188 m ³ (578,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 3002 m ³ (793,000 gal) supernatant 999 m ³ (264,000 gal) sludge (Hanlon 1996)	two 224-kW (300-hp) in risers 007 and 008		Decant/transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 005	In riser 012
105-AN	DST	flat	Saturated supernate and soluble salt	1851 m ³ (489,000 gal) water-soluble salt 2033 m ³ (537,000 gal) supernatant 12.5 m ³ (33,000 gal) floating crust (Rasmussen 1998)	two 224-kW (300-hp) in risers 007 and 008		Decant/transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 005	In riser 008
107-AN	DST		Saturated supernate	935 m ³ (247,000 gal) insoluble sludge 3040 m ³ (803,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998)	56 kW (75 hp) in central pump pit		Transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 005	In existing location

Tank	Type	Bottom	Waste	Available Risers Waste Volume	Mixer Pump	Sluicer	Transfer Pump	In-Tank Camera
102-AP	DST	flat	Blend and verification tank for LAW	10.2 cm (4-in.) risers: 1A-C, 15, 21, 27A-C, 28 30.5 cm (12-in.) risers: 7A, 10A, 12 4141 m ³ (1,094,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 4156 m ³ (1,098,000 gal) supernatant (Hanlon 1996)	224 kW (300 hp) in central pump pit riser 013		Decant/transfer pump with adjustable suction level intake in riser 015	In riser 007
104-AP	DST	flat	Blend and verification tank for LAW	10.2-cm (4-in.) risers: 1A-C, 15, 21, 27A-C, 28 30.5-cm (12-in.) risers: 7A, 10A, 12 852 m ³ (225,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 98 m ³ (26,000 gal) supernatant (Hanlon 1996)	224 kW (300 hp) in central pump pit riser 013		Decant/transfer pump with adjustable level intake in riser 015	In riser 007
106-AP	DST		Vitrification plant feed tank					
108-AP	DST		Vitrification plant wash waste accumulator		Probably not required		New - could use pump recirculation with movable discharge nozzle instead of mixer pump	
101-AW	DST	flat	Saturated supernate and soluble salt	10.2 cm (4-in.) risers: 10A, 13A, 15A, 16A 30.5 cm (12-in.) risers: 7B, 12A, 24A-B 1158 m ³ (306,000 gal) water-soluble salt 125 m ³ (33,000 gal) floating crust 2975 m ³ (786,000 gal) saturated supernate (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 3952 m ³ (1,044,000 gal) supernatant 318 m ³ (84,000 gal) sludge (Hanlon 1996)	two 224 kW (300 hp) in risers 007 and 008		Transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 005	In riser 012
102-AY	DST		Sludge	83 m ³ (22,000 gal) sludge 3017 m ³ (797,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen)			Sluicing/transfer Bottom or 6.1 m (20 ft) elevation in riser 6A	In riser 24A

Tank	Type	Bottom	Waste	Available Risers Waste Volume	Mixer Pump	Sluicer	Transfer Pump	In-Tank Camera
101-AZ	DST		Sludge	155 m ³ (41,000 gal) sludge 3172 m ³ (838,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998)	two 224 kW (300 hp) in risers 1B and 1D		Transfer pump with in-line dilution (without flexible suction intake) in riser 6A	In riser 7B
102-AZ	DST	flat	Sludge	10.2-cm (4-in.) risers: 5B, 11A 15.2-cm (6-in.) risers: 15A-L 394 m ³ (104,000 gal) sludge 2854 m ³ (754,000 gal) supernatant (Rasmussen 1998) ----- 3142 m ³ (830,000 gal) supernatant 360 m ³ (95,000 gal) sludge (Hanlon 1996)	two 224 kW (300 hp) in risers 1B and 1D		Transfer pump with flexible suction intake and in-line dilution in riser 6A	In riser 7B
102-C	SST		Sludge	1196 m ³ (316,000 gal) sludge (Rasmussen 1998)		Sluicer	New transfer	
104-C	SST		Sludge	1117 m ³ (295,000 gal) sludge (Rasmussen 1998)		Sluicer	New transfer	
106-C	SST			227 m ³ (60,000 gal) high-heat generating sludge 522 m ³ (138,000 gal) low-heat generating sludge (Rasmussen 1998)		Sluicer	Submersible slurry pump and booster pump	
101-SY	DST	flat	Salt slurry from mixing saturated supernate and soluble salt	10.2-cm (4 in.) risers 11A, 17B, 22A, 23A 30.5-cm (12-in.) risers 7A, 13A 155 m ³ (41,000 gal) water-soluble salt 10 to 125 m ³ (2750 to 33,000 gal) floating crust 4270 m ³ (1,128,000 gal) saturated slurry ----- 4062 m ³ (1,073,000 gal) supernatant 155 m ³ (41,000 gal) sludge (Hanlon 1996)	112 kW (150 hp) submersible-motor in riser 12A		New transfer pump with in-line dilution	In riser 5A
102-SY	DST	flat	Insoluble sludge; sluiced if needed for pre-staging SY-101 waste	10.2-cm (4 in.) risers 11A, 17B, 22A, 23A 30.5-cm (12-in.) risers 7A, 13A 1976 m ³ (522,000 gal) supernatant 269 m ³ (71,000 gal) sludge	two 224 kW (300 hp) in risers 5A-B		New transfer pump with in-line dilution in riser 3A	In riser 12A

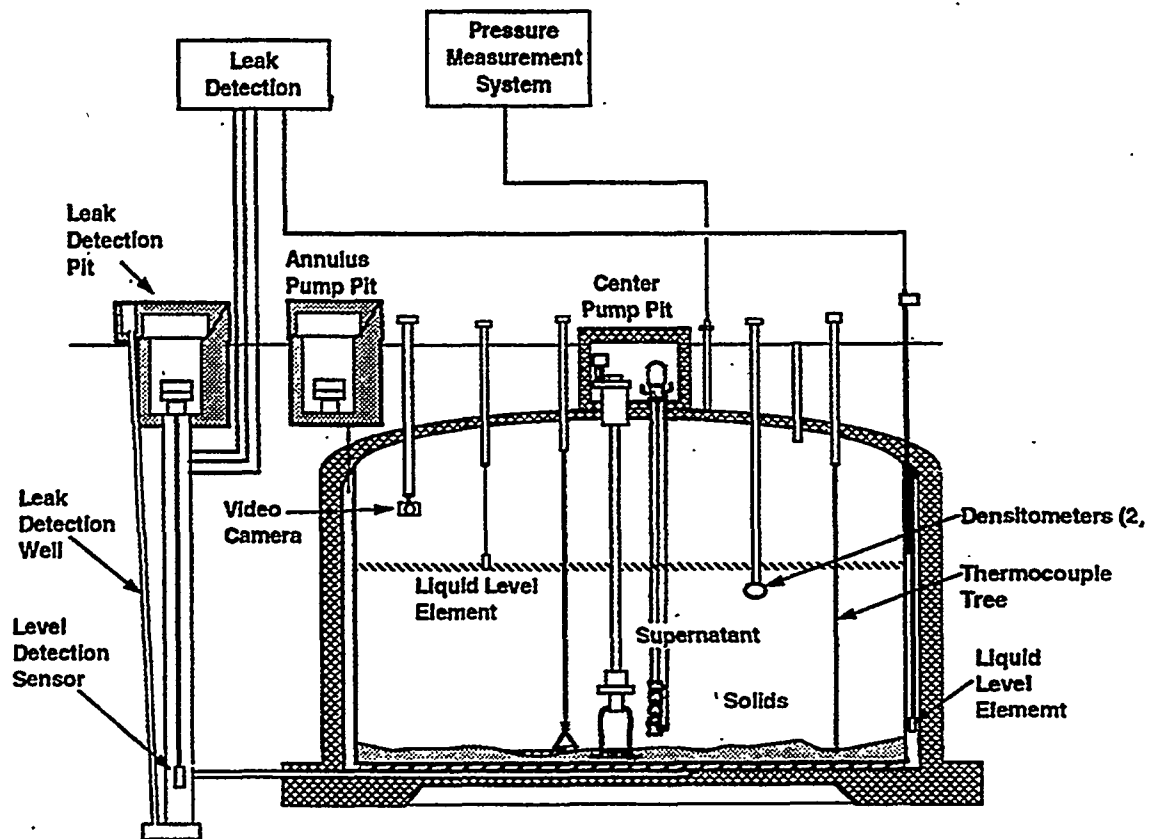
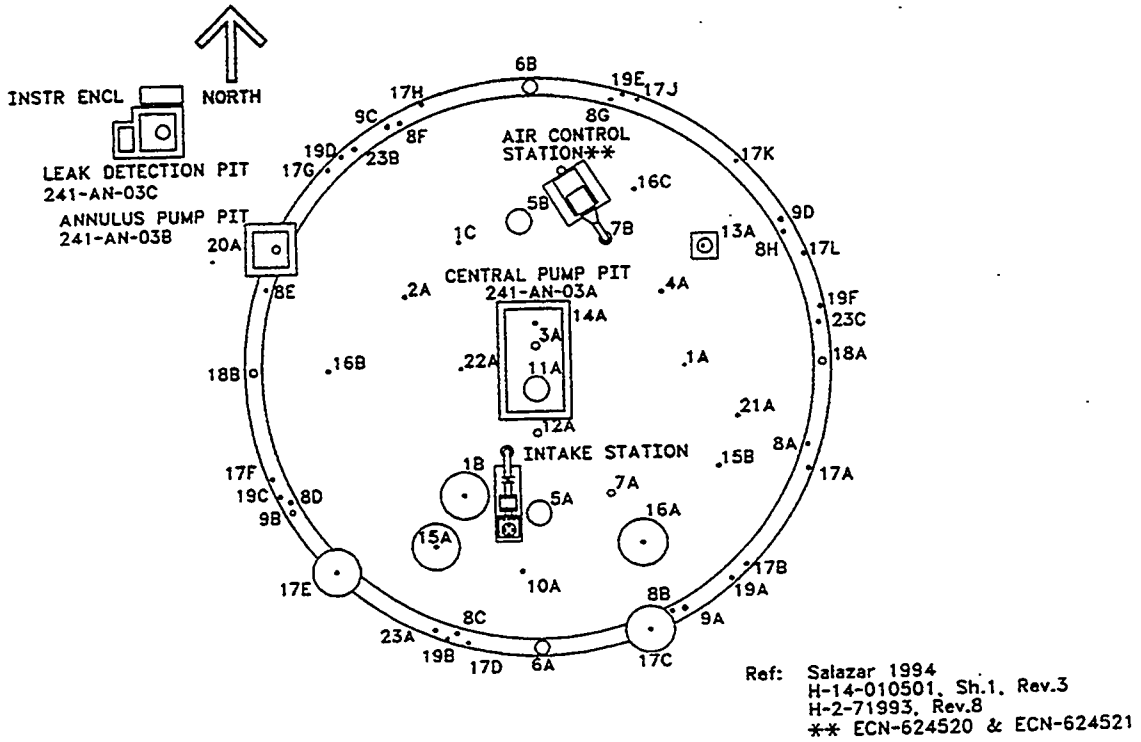


Figure 3.3 Cross-section of Tank 107-AN

3.2.2 Tanks 103-, 104-, and 105-AN and 101-AW

These four LAW tanks contain saturated supernatant and large volumes [up to 6.1 m (20 ft)] of soluble salt. Each tank will be equipped with two 224-kW (300-hp) mixer pumps and a new transfer pump with in-line dilution as a part of project W-211 scope. The salt will be dissolved using heated water or dilute sodium hydroxide and delivered as a liquid to LAW feed staging Tanks 102- and 104-AP. Tank 103-AN riser details are presented in Figure 3.4. Tank 104-AN riser details are presented in Figure 3.5. Tank 101-AW riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.6.



TANK RISER LOCATION

Approximate Grade Elevation Not Available

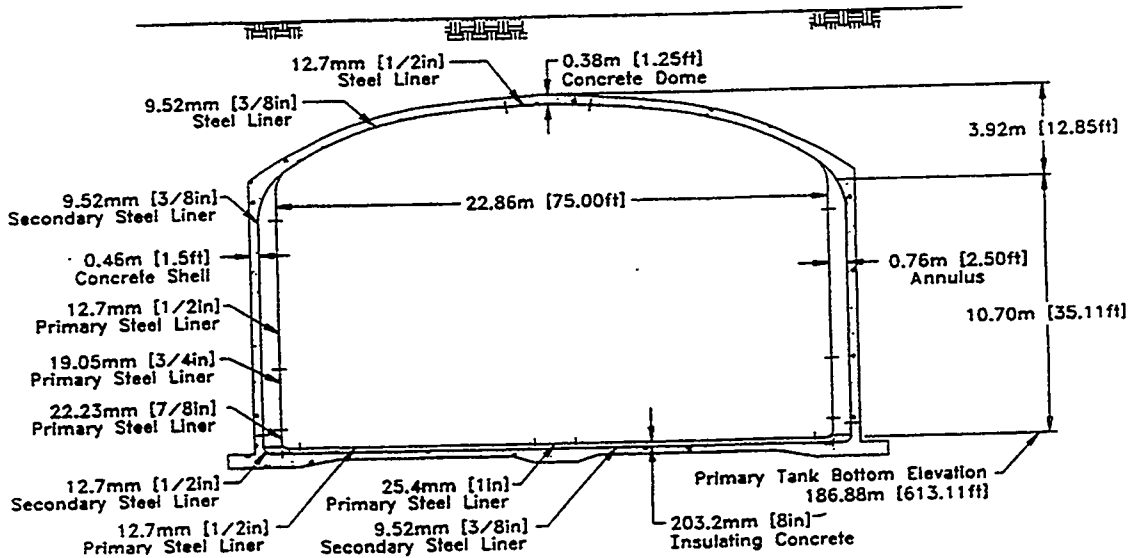
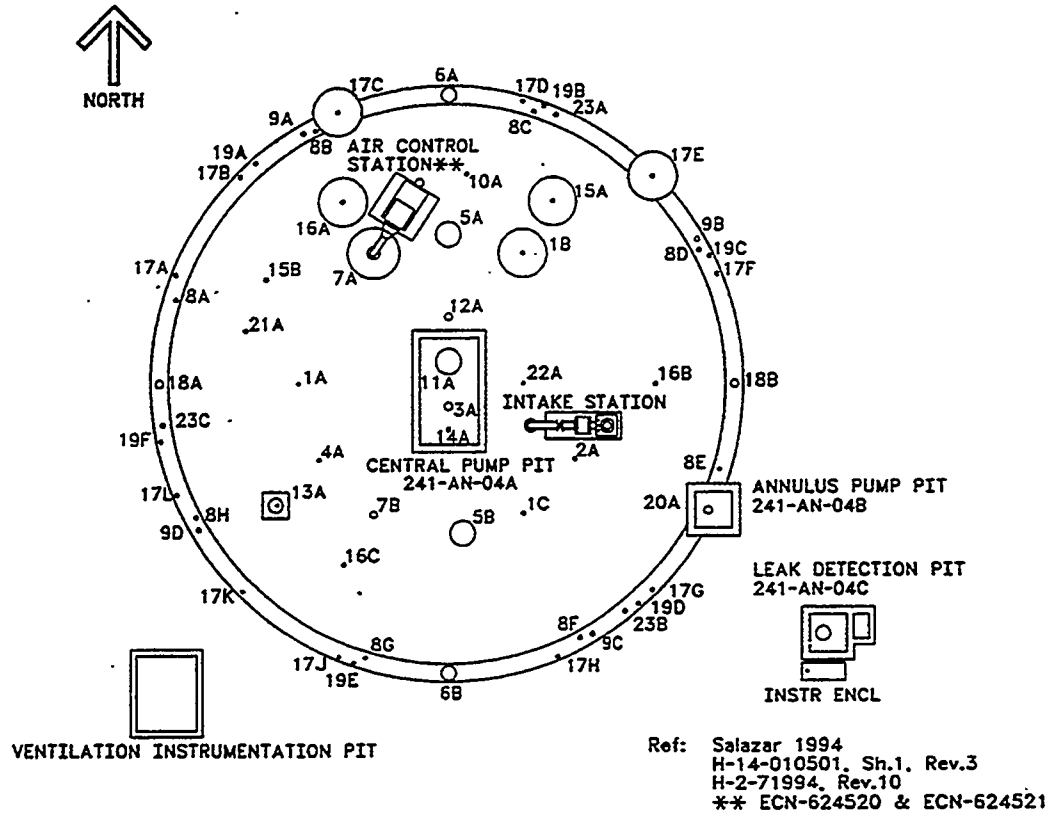


Figure 3.4 Riser locations for Tank 103-AN



TANK RISER LOCATION

Approximate Grade Elevation Not Available

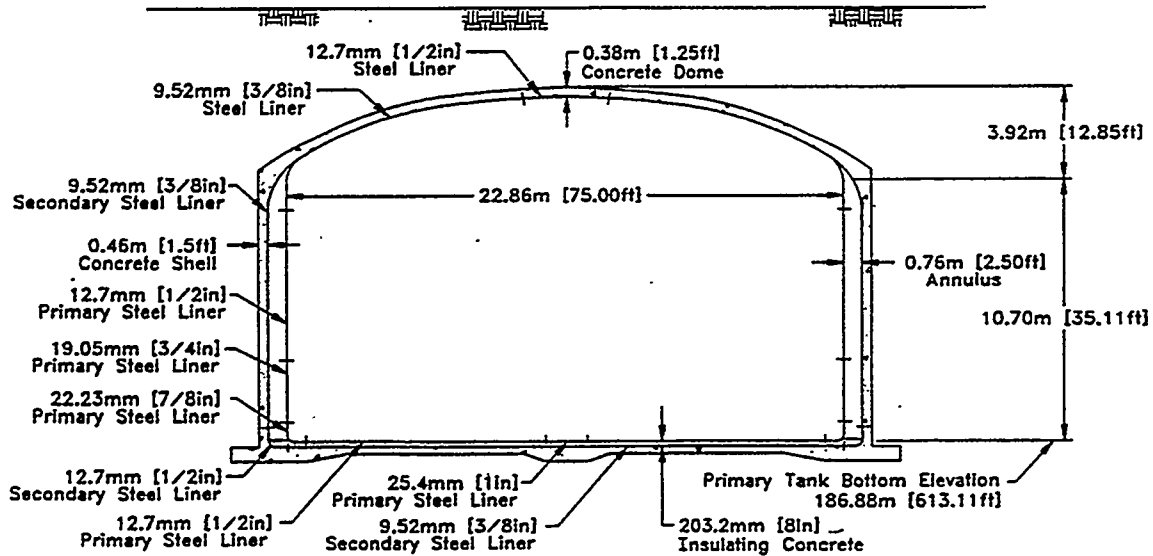
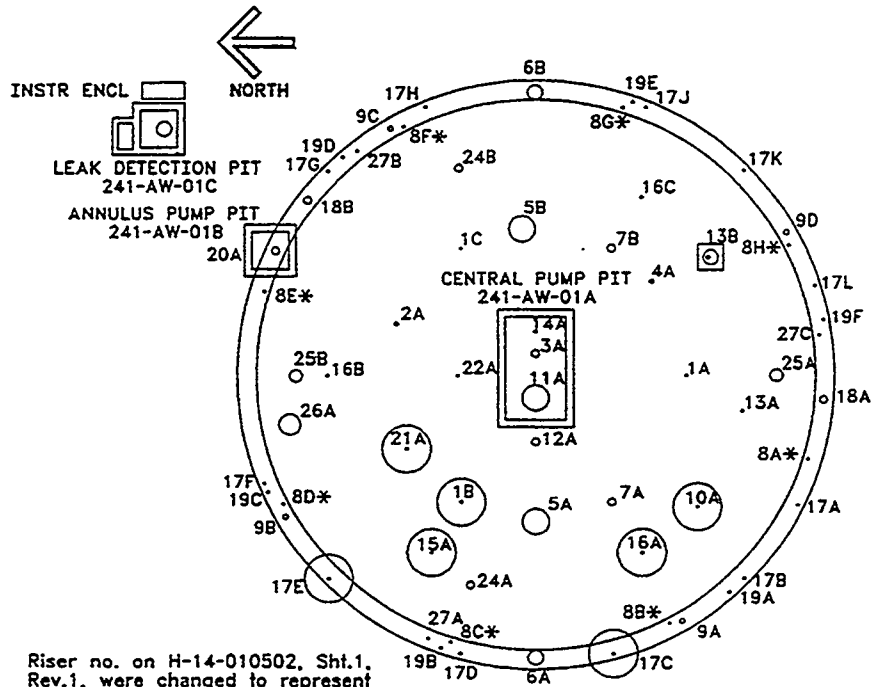


Figure 3.5 Riser locations for Tank 104-AN



Riser no. on H-14-010502, Sht.1, Rev.1, were changed to represent H-2-70403, Rev.7 ECN-613252 12-18-95.

TANK RISER LOCATION

Ref: Salazar 1994
H-14-010502, Sh.1, Re
H-2-70403, Rev.7

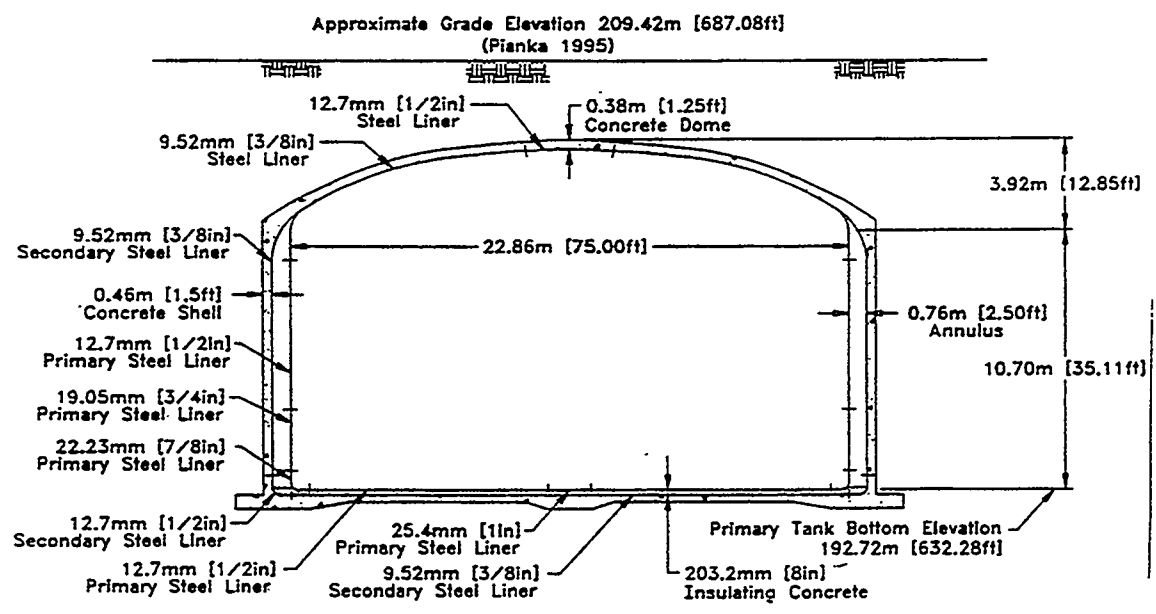


Figure 3.6 Riser locations for Tank 101-AW

3.2.3 Tanks 102- and 104-AP

These two tanks will be used as blending and verification tanks for LAW only; HLW will be pumped directly to the vitrification plant. Solutions in 102- and 104-AP will be blended and chemically adjusted before pumping to the vitrification plant feed Tank 106-AP. For these operations, each tank will be equipped with a 224-kW (300-hp) mixer pump and a new transfer pump. Tank 102-AP riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.7. Tank 104-AP riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.8.

3.2.4 Tank 106-AP

This tank will be taken over by the vitrification plant to serve as their feed tank.

3.2.5 Tank 108-AP

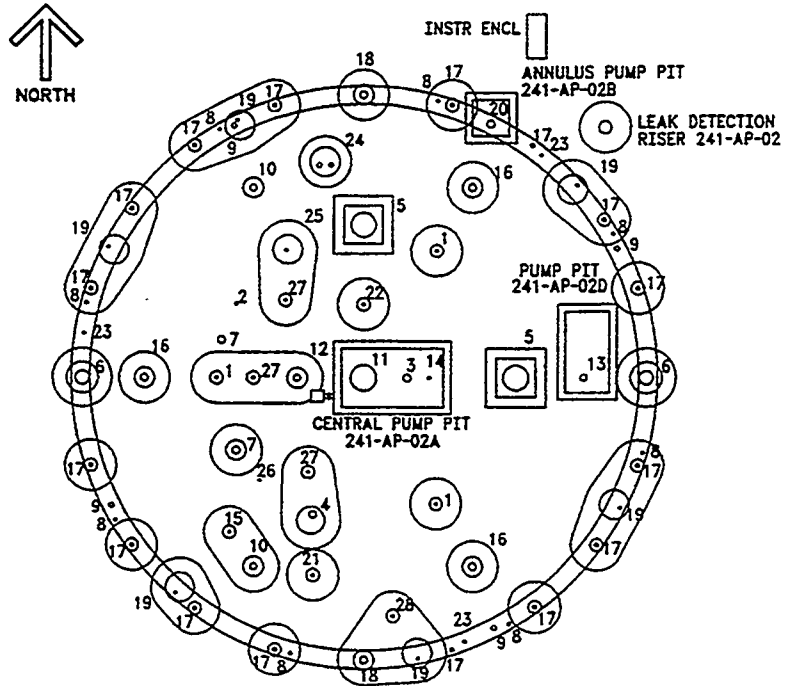
This tank will receive the vitrification plant wash waste from Tanks 101- and 102-AZ.

3.2.6 Tank 102-AY

This tank contains HLW sludge and is scheduled to receive sludge from Tank 106-C. When the 106-C sludge-retrieval operation is completed, existing equipment will be removed and the tank will be equipped with four 112-kW (150-hp) mixer pumps installed in the four sluice pits and a combination sluicing/slurry transfer pump in the central pump pit. The new pump will have a valved intake to draw from either the tank bottom for transferring slurry to the vitrification plant or from the 6.1-m (20-ft) level for sluicing Tanks 104- and 102-C. The sluicing schedule includes sending slurry to the vitrification plant three times: after sluicing Tank 106-C, the waste will be slurried to Tank 101-AZ; after sluicing Tank 104-C, tank waste from 102-AY will be slurried to 102-AZ; and after sluicing Tank 102-C, tank slurry from 102-AY will be pumped directly to the vitrification plant.

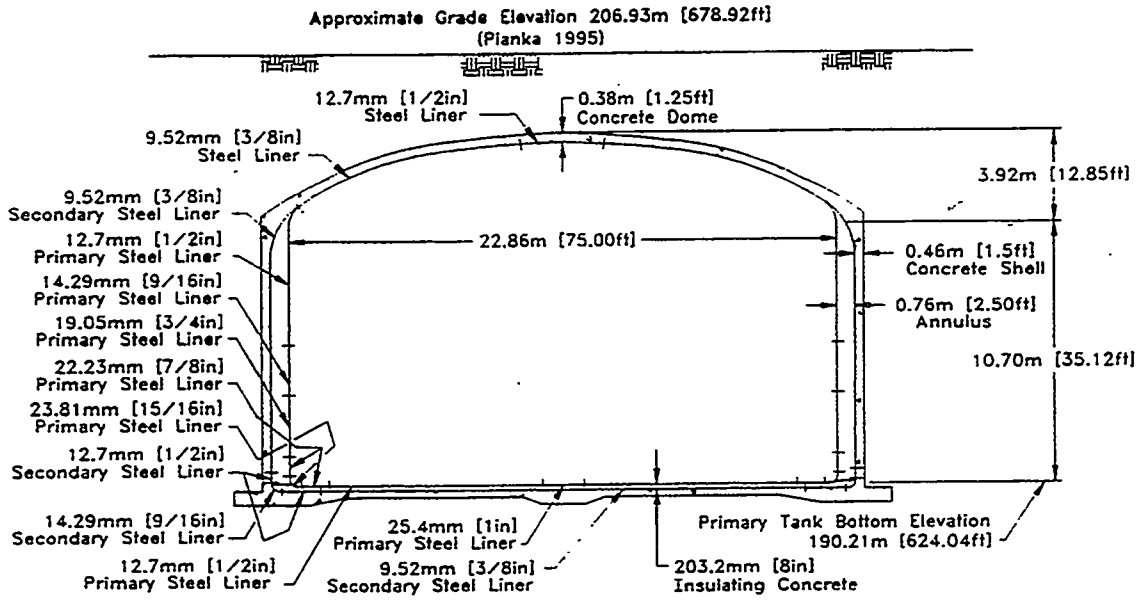
3.2.7 Tanks 101- and 102-AZ

The sludge in these two tanks will be suspended using existing supernatant with two new mixer pumps. The resulting HLW slurry will be pumped to the vitrification plant in small batches. The vitrification plant will separate and wash the sludge and pump the wash solution to Tank 108-AP as LAW feed. Tank 102-AZ riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.9.



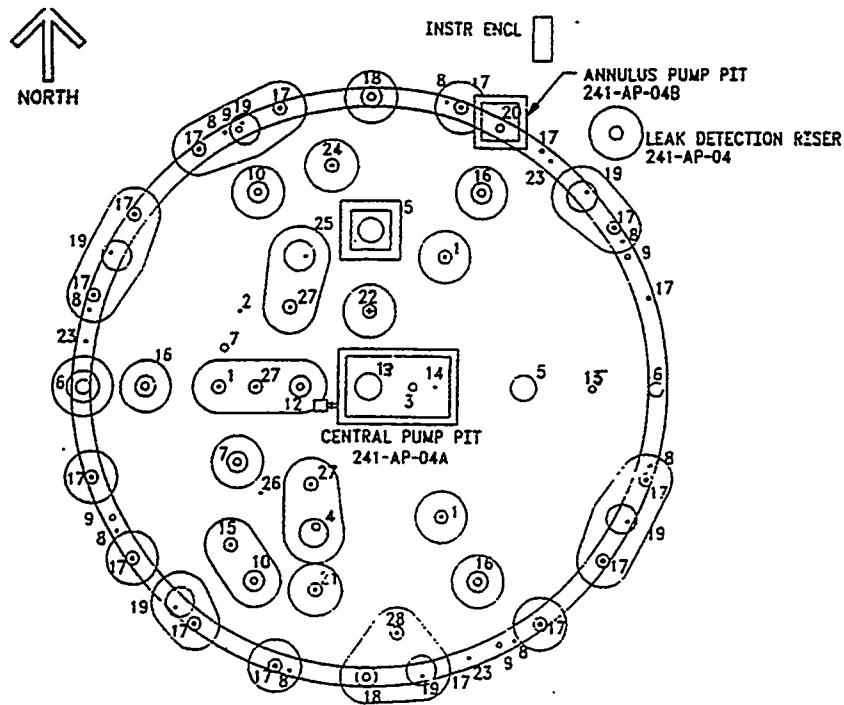
TANK RISER LOCATION

Ref: Salazar 1994
 H-2-90539, Rev.1
 H-2-90554, Rev.5



Ref: H-2-90442, Rev.1
 H-2-90534, Rev.3

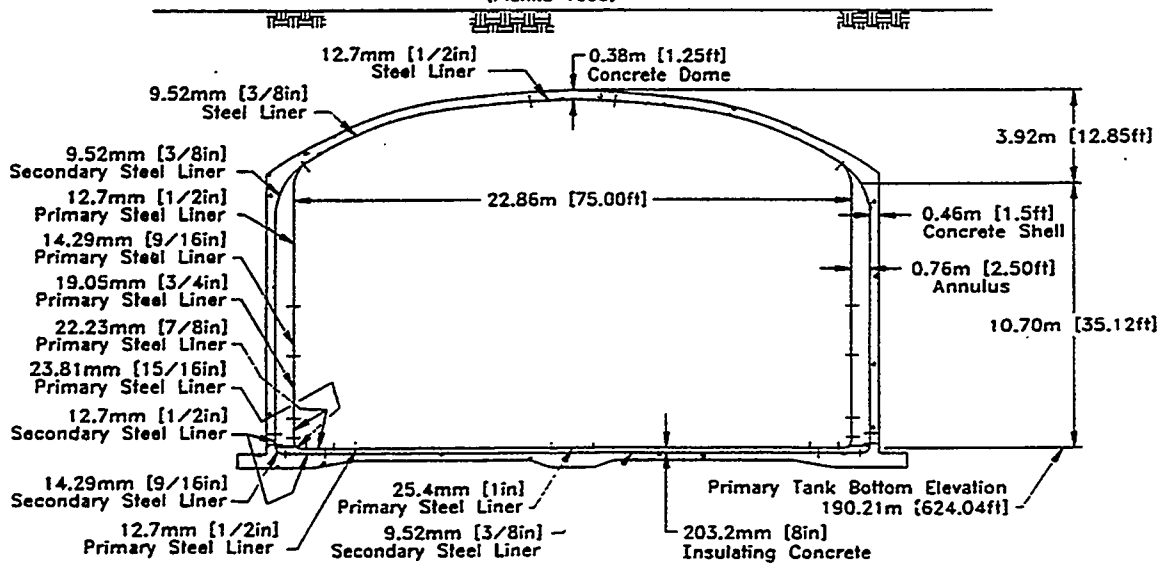
Figure 3.7 Tank 102-AP riser locations



TANK RISER LOCATION

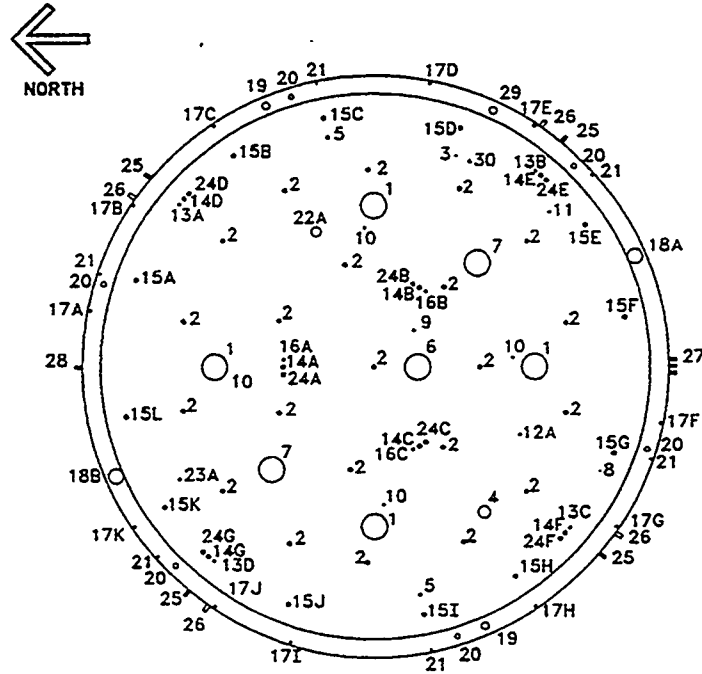
Ref: Salazar 1994
 H-2-90539, Rev.1
 H-2-90556, Rev.4

Approximate Grade Elevation 206.96m [679.0ft]
 (Pianka 1995)



Ref: H-2-90442, Rev.1
 H-2-90534, Rev.3

Figure 3.8 Tank 104-AP riser locations



TANK RISER LOCATION

Ref: Salazar 1994
 H-2-67315, Rev.1
 H-2-70202, Rev.1

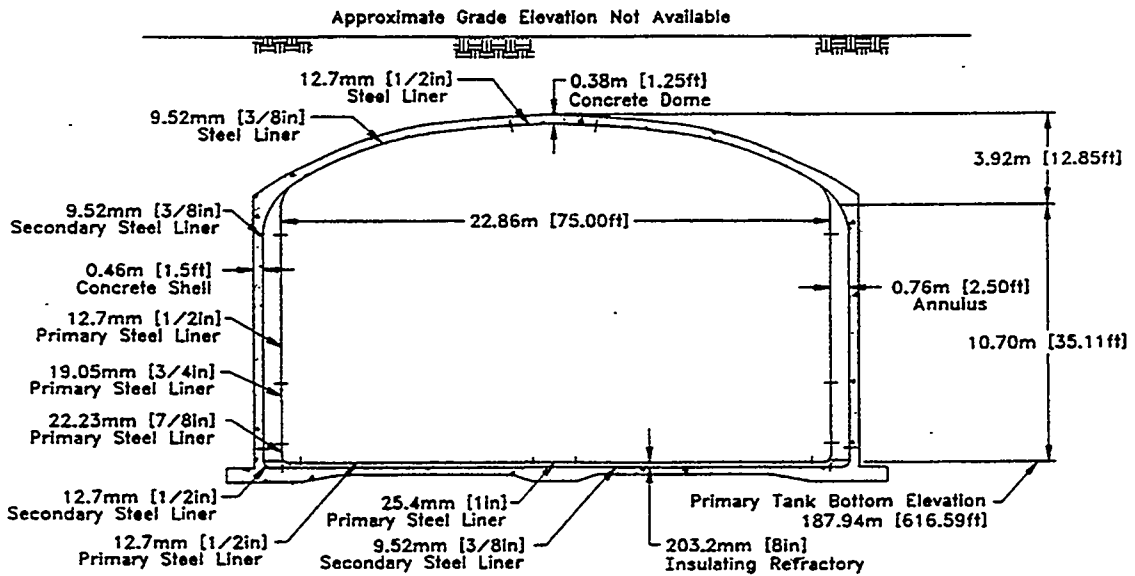


Figure 3.9 Tank 102-AZ riser locations

3.2.8 Tanks 102-, 104-, and 106-C

These three HLW single-shell sludge tanks will be sluiced to Tank 102-AY. Tank 102-AY will be slurried out after receiving each tank batch. Tank 102-C riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.10. Tank 104-C riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.11. Tank 106-C riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.12.

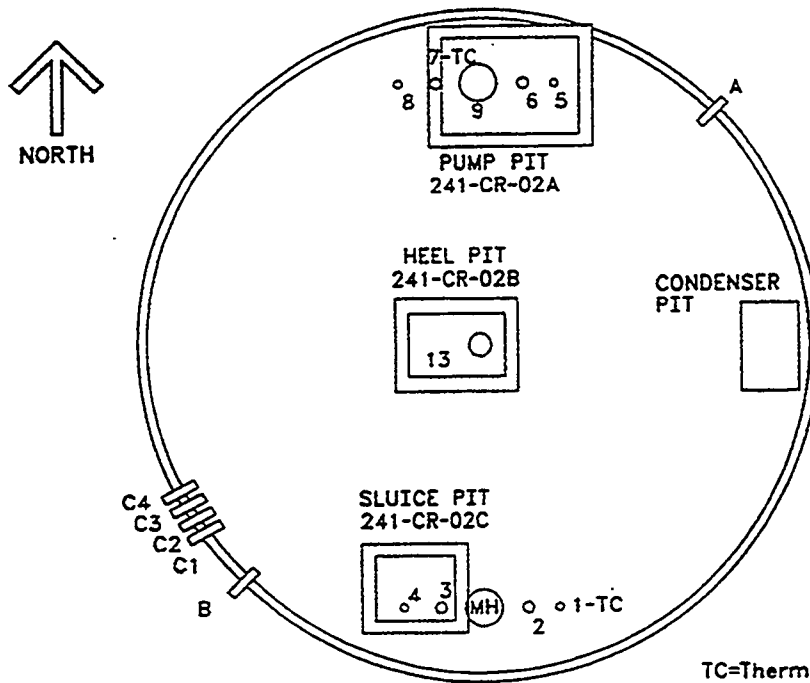
3.2.9 Tank 101-SY

Tank 101-SY contains a 155-m³ (41,000-gal) layer of water-soluble salt covered by a floating crust that varies in thickness from a few cm to a m (in. to a ft). Gas buildup in the salt layers resulted in periodic tank pressurization that necessitated installation and operation of the mixer pump to ensure slow gas venting. This waste is maintained in suspension by periodic operation of a 112-kW (150-hp) submersible-motor mixer pump. A new transfer pump with in-line dilution will be installed to dissolve and transfer the slurry to Tank 102-SY. The existing mixer pump will be used to aid in diluting and mixing the tank waste for transfer. Tank 101-SY riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.13.

3.2.10 Tank 102-SY

Tank SY-102 is not included as a feed-material tank for Phase 1 of vitrification. This tank contains insoluble sludges that will be cleaned out to allow Tank SY-101 to be slurried into Tank SY-102, where the 101-SY supernatant and dissolved salts will be adjusted for proper concentration before shipment through the cross-site transfer line to the vitrification feed tanks. The current inventory in Tank 102-SY will be slurried to Tank 105-AW via Tank 104-AN using the high-pressure cross-site line. Two mixer pumps and a new in-line dilution transfer pump will be installed in Tank 102-SY. SY-102 riser locations are summarized in Figure 3.14.

2,006,300 Liters
[530,000 Gallons]



TC=Thermocouple
Ref: WHC-SD-RE-TI-053, Rev. 9
WHC-SD-WM-TI-553, Rev. 0
H-2-73342, Rev. 4
H-2-37002, Rev. 1

TANK RISER LOCATION

Approximate Grade Elevation 196.87m [645.9ft]
(WHC-SD-WM-TI-665, Rev 0A)

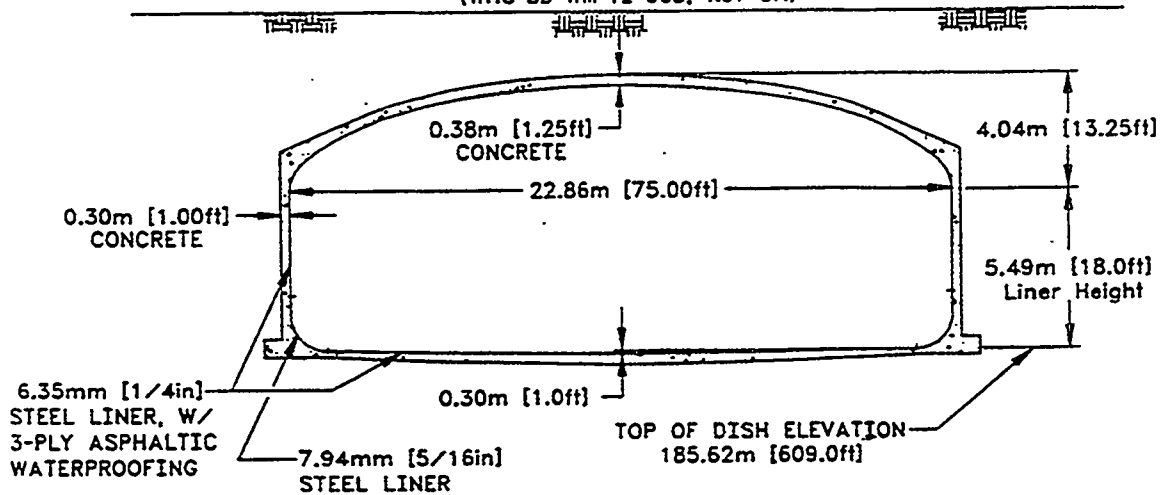
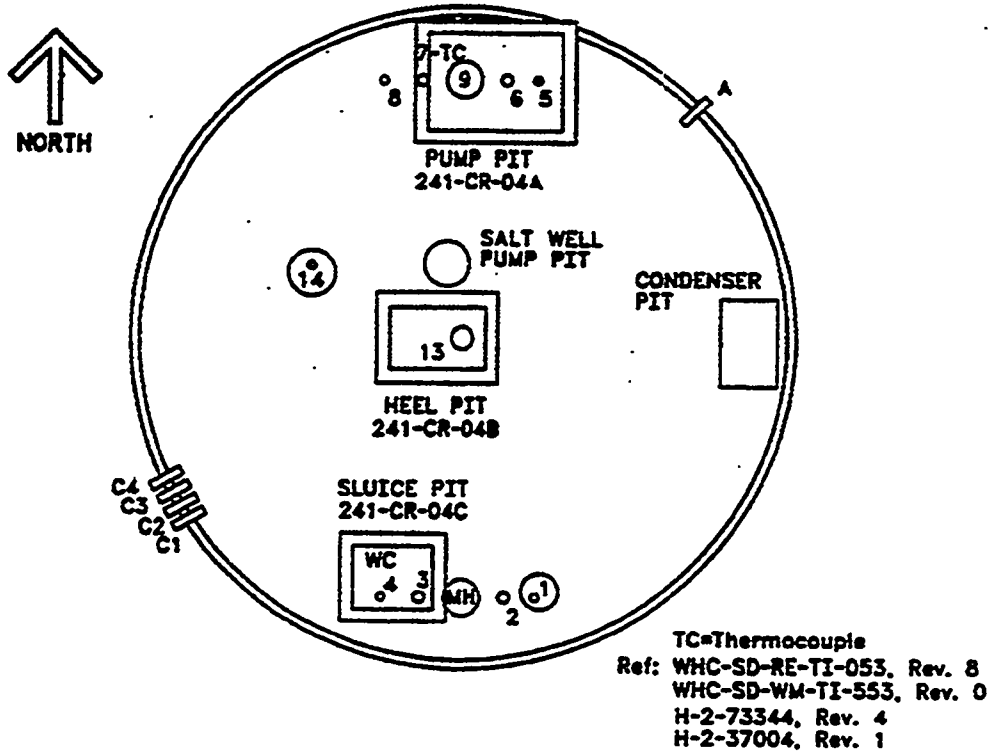


Figure 3.10 Tank 102-C riser locations

2,006,300 Liters
[530,000 Gallons]



TANK RISER LOCATION

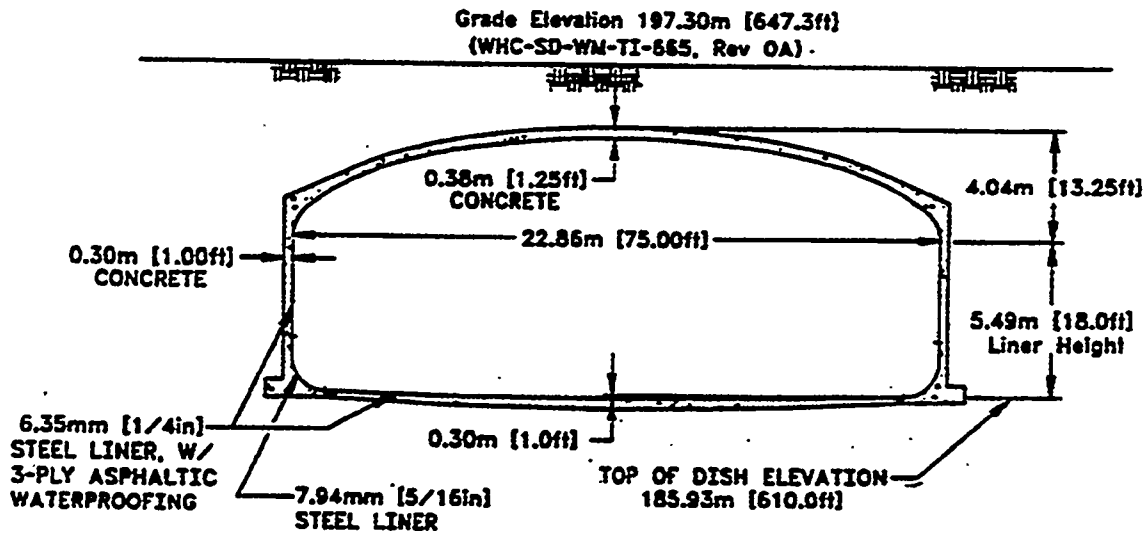
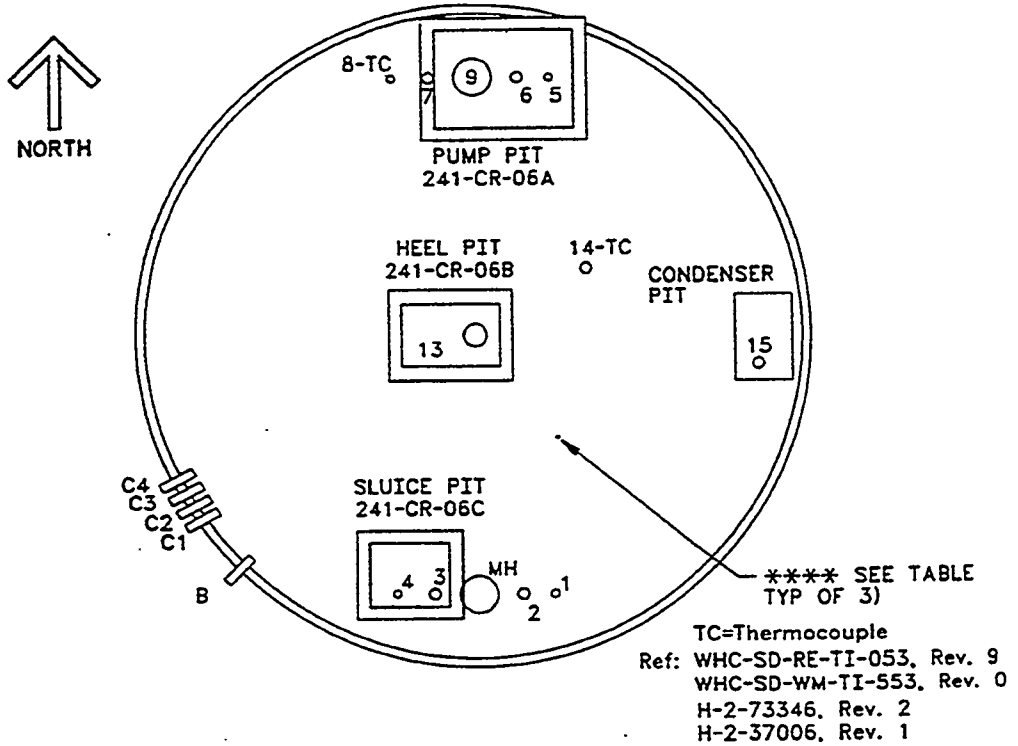


Figure 3.11 Tank 104-C riser locations

2,006,300 Liters
[530,000 Gallons]



TANK RISER LOCATION

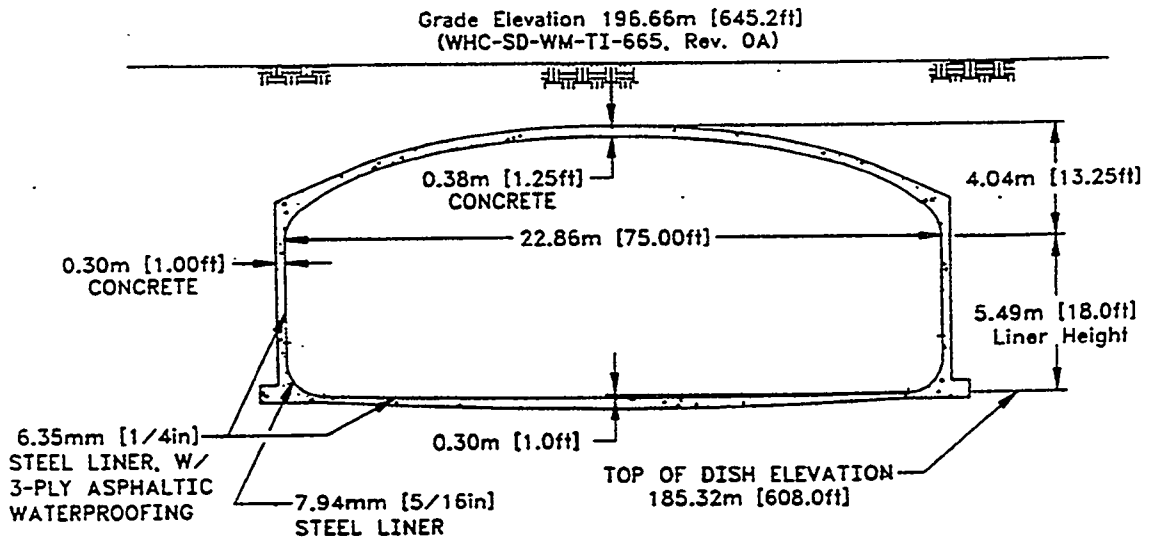
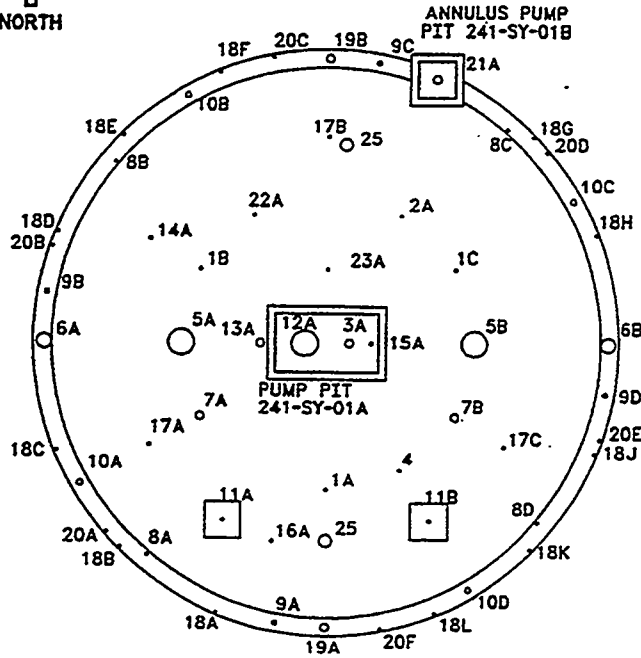
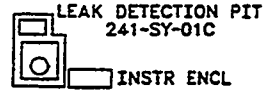


Figure 3.12 Tank 106-C riser locations



TANK RISER LOCATION

Ref: H-2-37773, Rev.7
 H-2-37801, Rev.7
 H-2-72213, Rev.2

Approximate Grade Elevation 204.84m [672.04ft]
 (Pianka 1995)

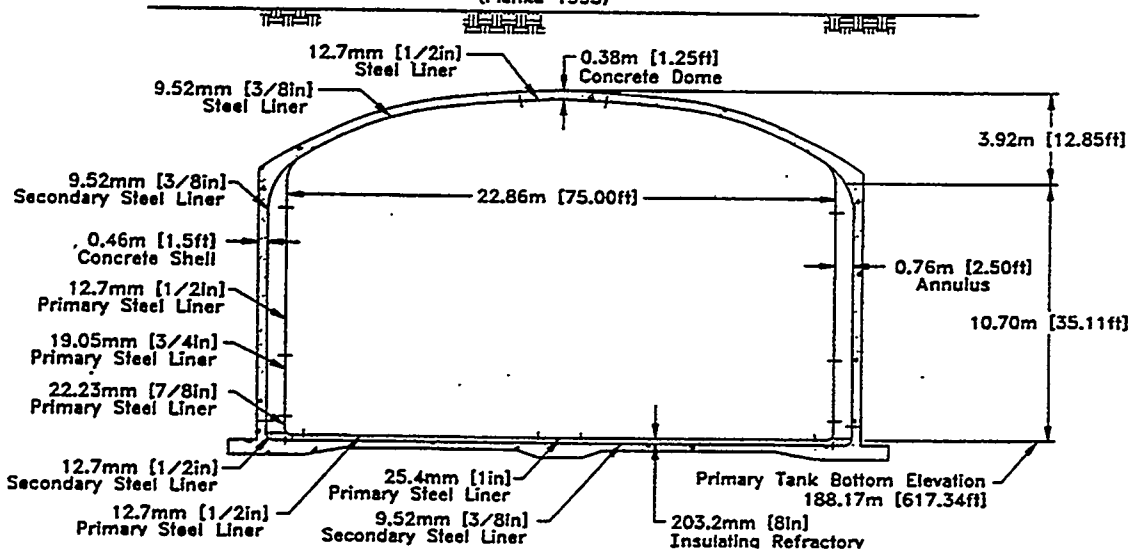
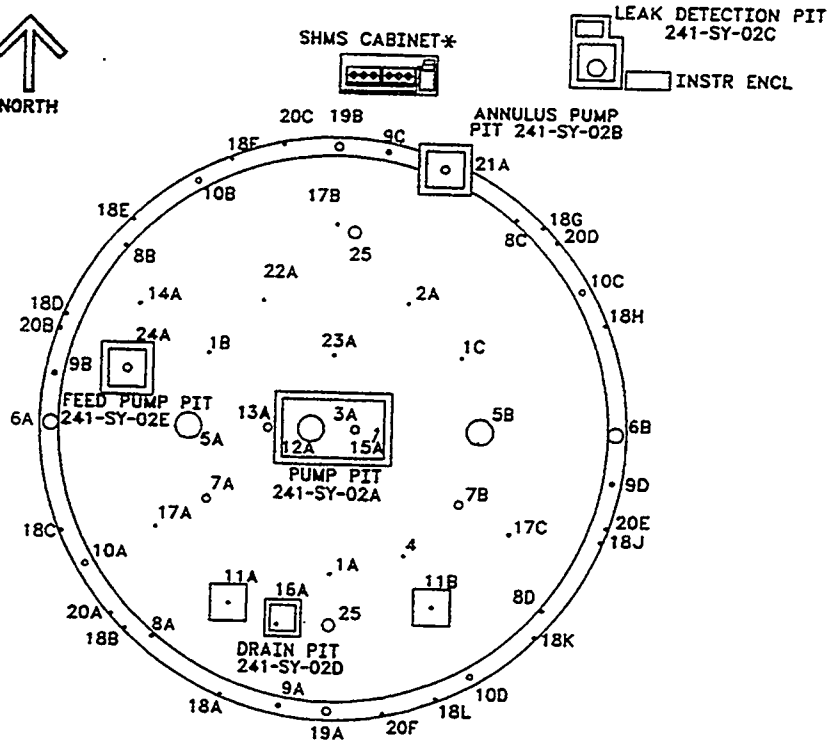


Figure 3.13 Tank 101-SY riser locations



TANK RISER LOCATION

Ref: Salazar 1994
 H-2-37773, Rev.7
 H-2-37802, Rev.8
 H-2-72213, Rev.2
 * ECN-W-369-64

Approximate Grade Elevation 204.87m [672.14ft]
 (Planka 1995)

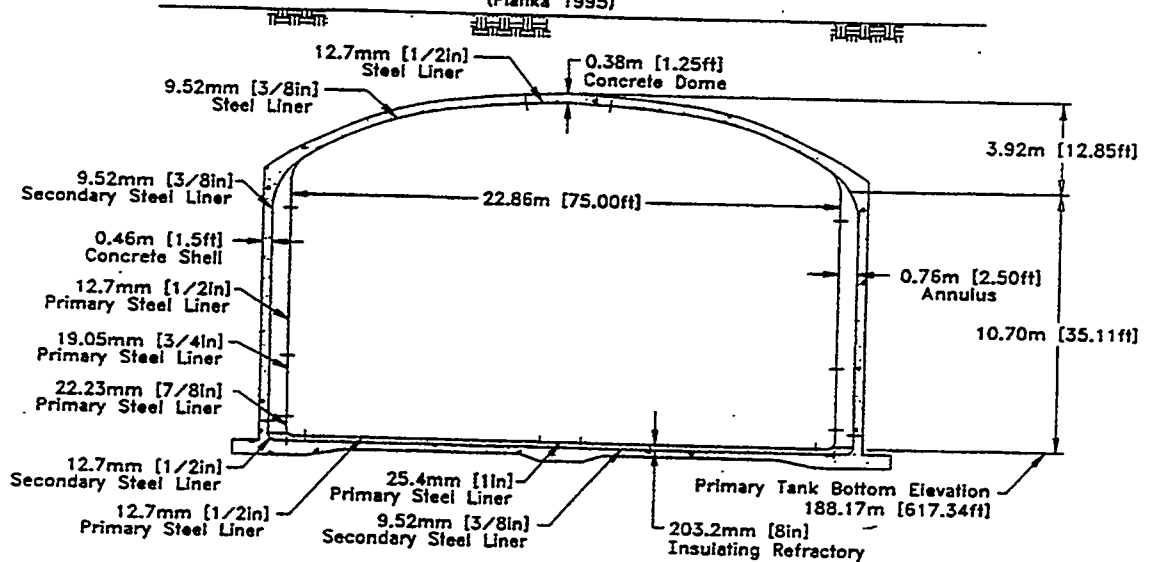


Figure 3.14 Tank 102-SY riser locations

3.3 Retrieval Scenarios

The retrieval sequences are a function of waste type. The retrieval of water from the majority of the tanks involves supernatant and soluble solids, such as found in Tank 105-AN. Four tanks, 101- and 102-AY and 101- and 102-AZ, contain insoluble solids. These tanks provide the additional challenge of being able to suspend, mobilize, and retrieve particulate.

3.3.1 Retrieval of Waste from Tank 105-AN

The assumed 105-AN retrieval scenario includes two planned transfers to retrieve supernatant and soluble solids.

Transfer 1 includes the following steps: degas the tank using mixer pumps, allow solids to settle, add water [up to 25.4 cm (10 in.)] to the tank to soften the crust (so that it will slump with the liquid level as the tank is emptied), decant the supernate to Tanks 104-AP or 102-AP using diluent at the transfer pump impeller (if required).

Transfer 2 includes: add diluent to the remaining waste in 105-AN, mix to dissolve the soluble solids, let the insoluble solids settle, and decant the new supernate to the 102- and 104-AP tanks, leaving the insoluble solids in 105-AN.

3.3.2 Retrieval of Waste from the AY and AZ Tanks

Four 112-kW (150-hp) mixer pumps will be installed to mix contents of Tank 102-AY in small batches for transfer to the vitrification plant. Tank 102-AY contains 22 airlift circulators as well as steam coils. This hardware provides a cluttered target for mixer pump operation. Insoluble solids will be accumulated in Tank 102-AY during retrieval of waste from Tanks 102-, 104-, and 106-C. After the retrieval of waste from those tanks is completed, mixer pumps will be installed in Tank 102-AY, and the insoluble solids will be slurried, retrieved, and transported as HLW feed.

3.3.3 Retrieval System Configurations

The major components of the retrieval systems include mixer pumps, transfer pumps, instrumentation, and ventilation. The system configurations proposed for these tanks can be compared in the diagrams that follow in Figures 3.15 through 3.23.

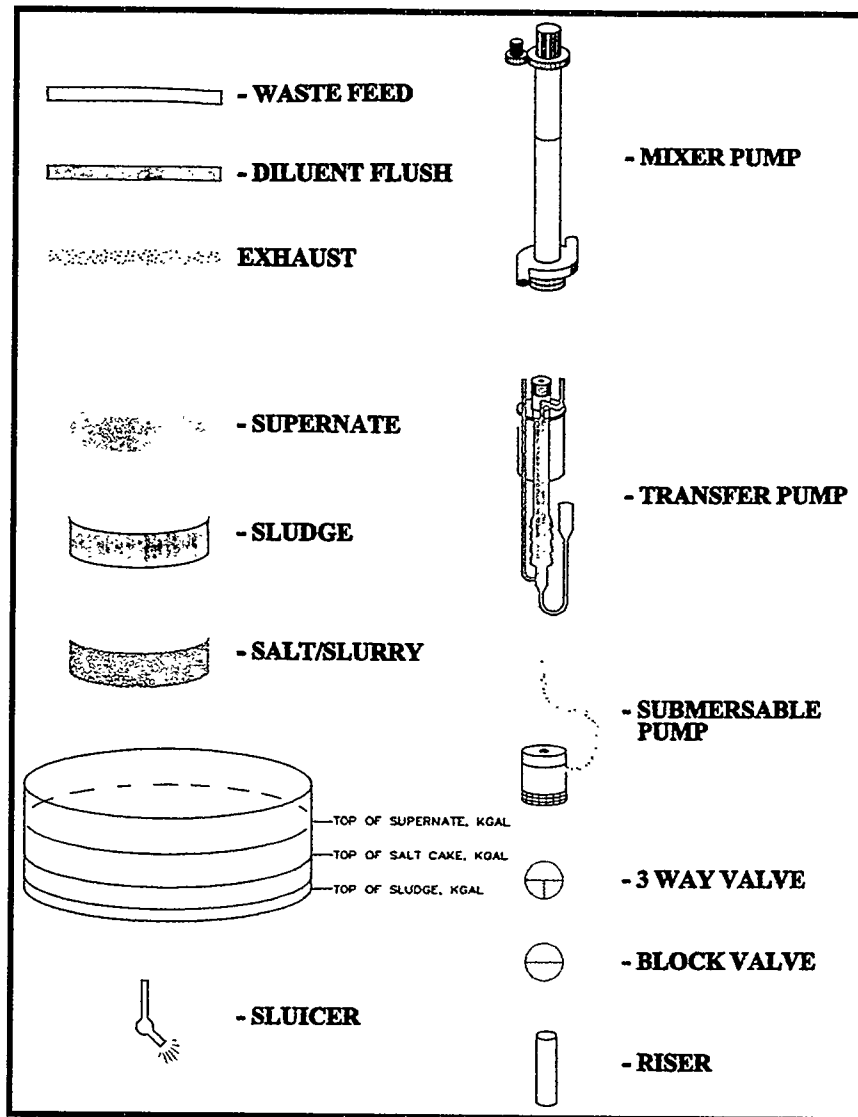


Figure 3.15 Legend for waste retrieval concepts

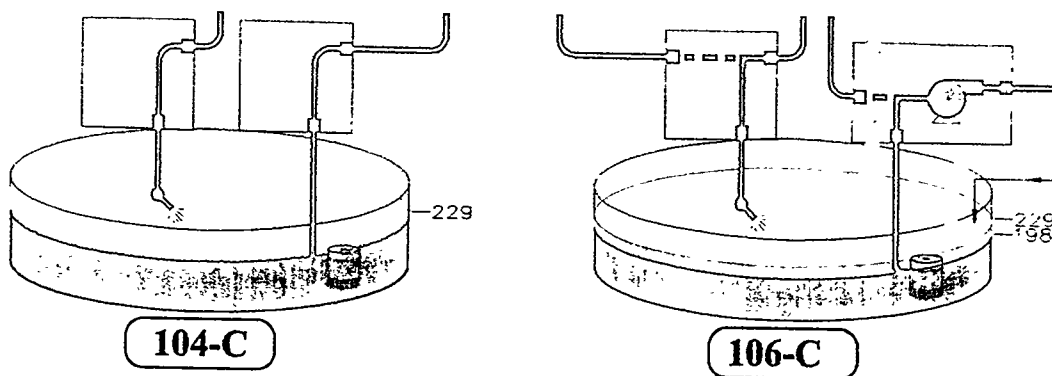


Figure 3.16 C tank waste retrieval approach

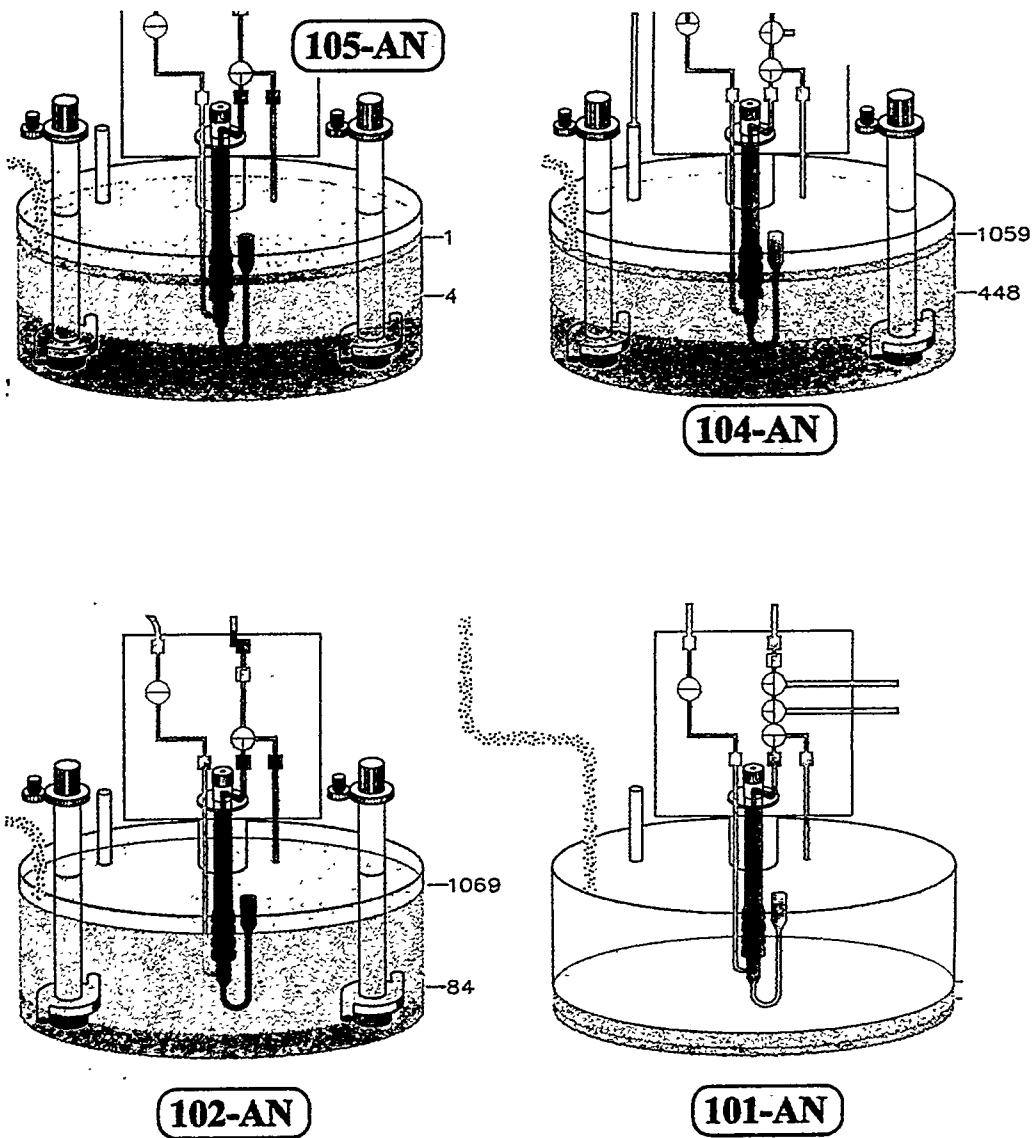


Figure 3.17 AN tank waste retrieval configuration

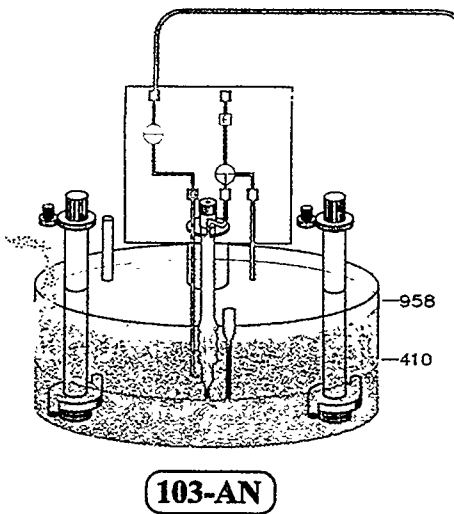
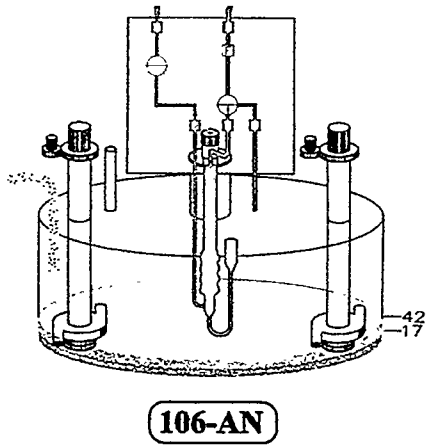
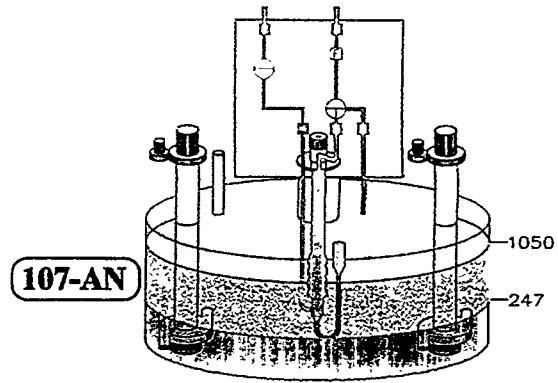


Figure 3.18 AN tank waste retrieval configuration

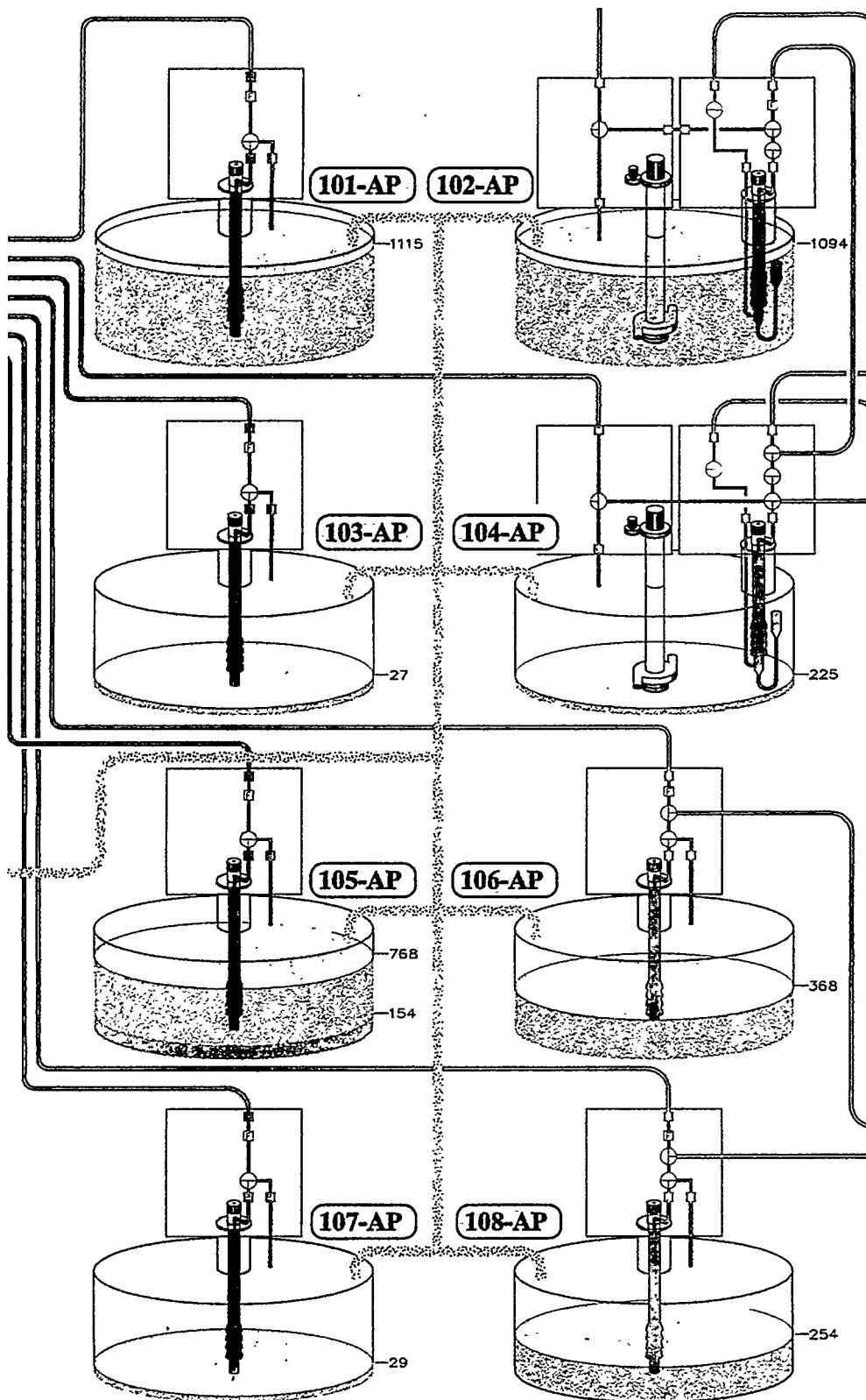


Figure 3.19 AP tank waste retrieval configuration

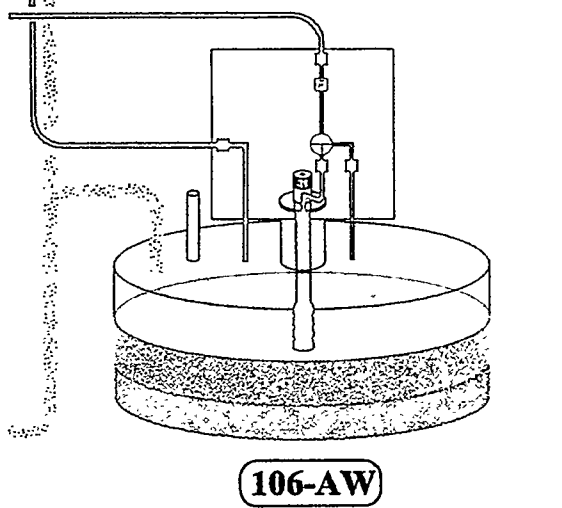
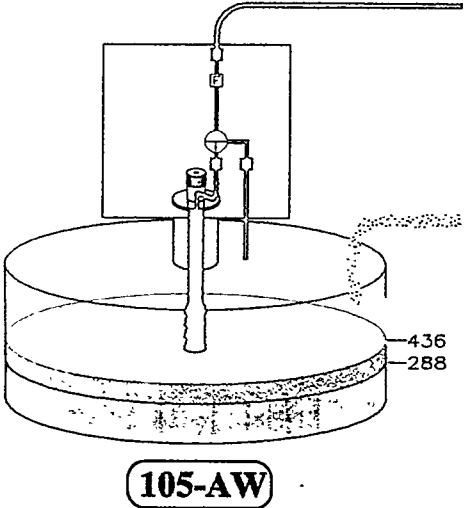
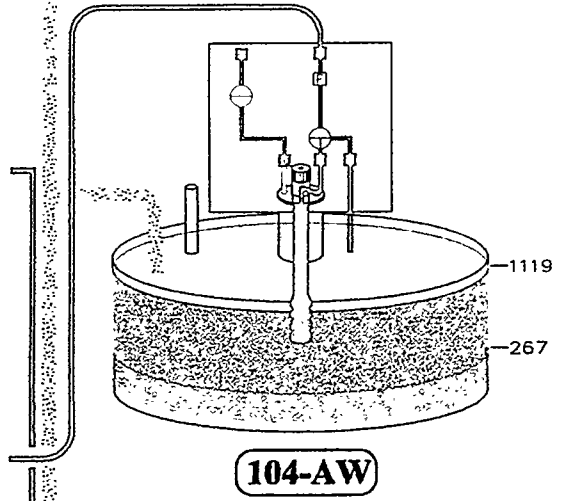
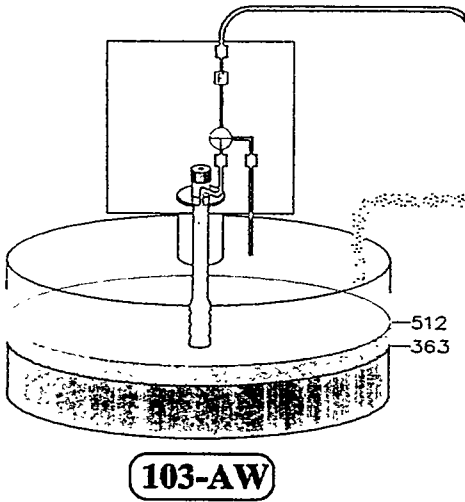
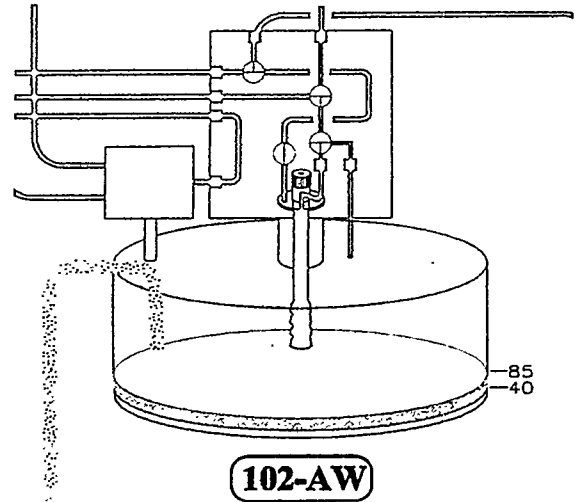
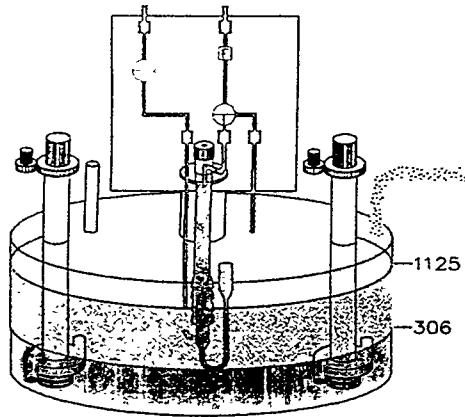


Figure 3.20 AW tank waste retrieval configuration

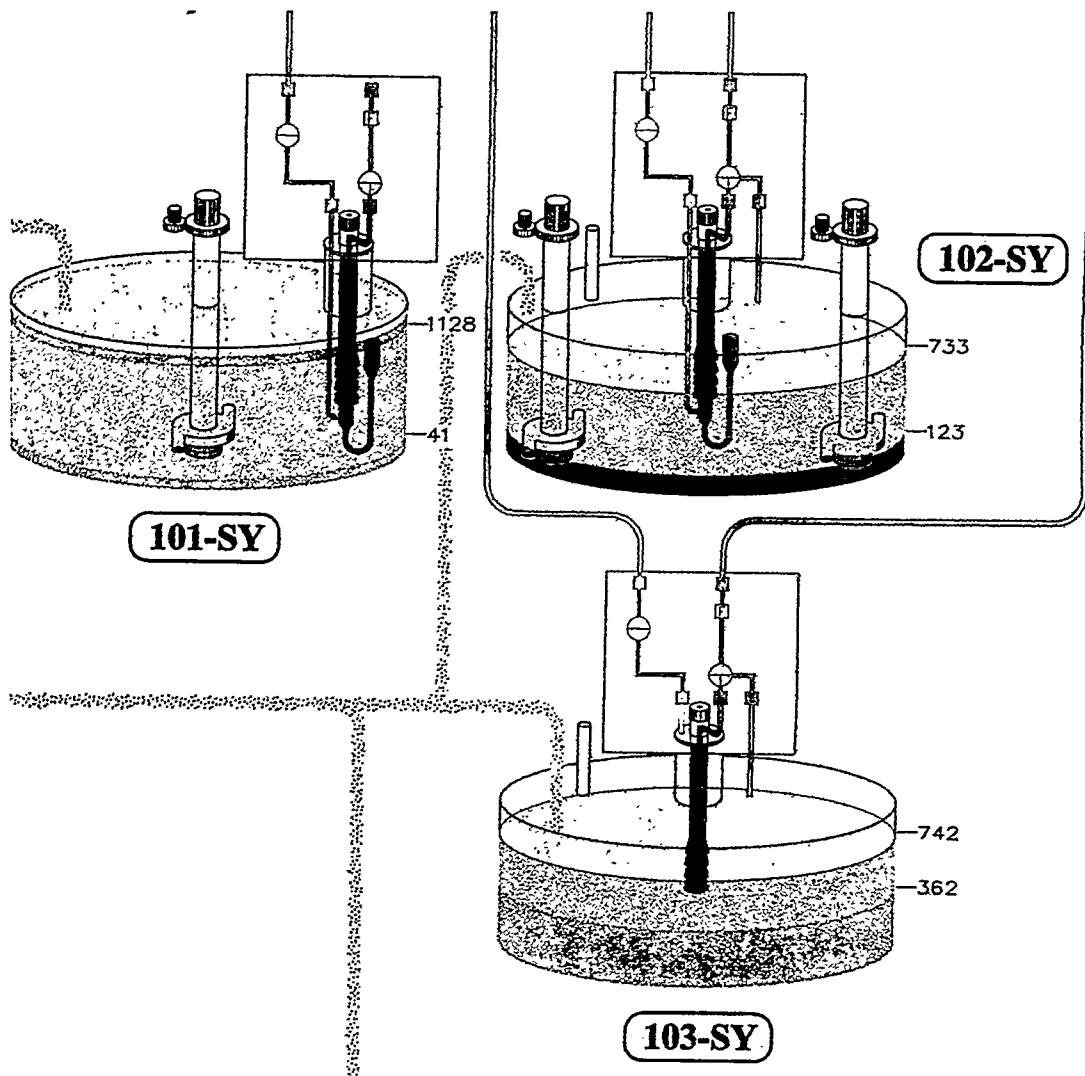


Figure 3.21 SY tank waste retrieval configuration

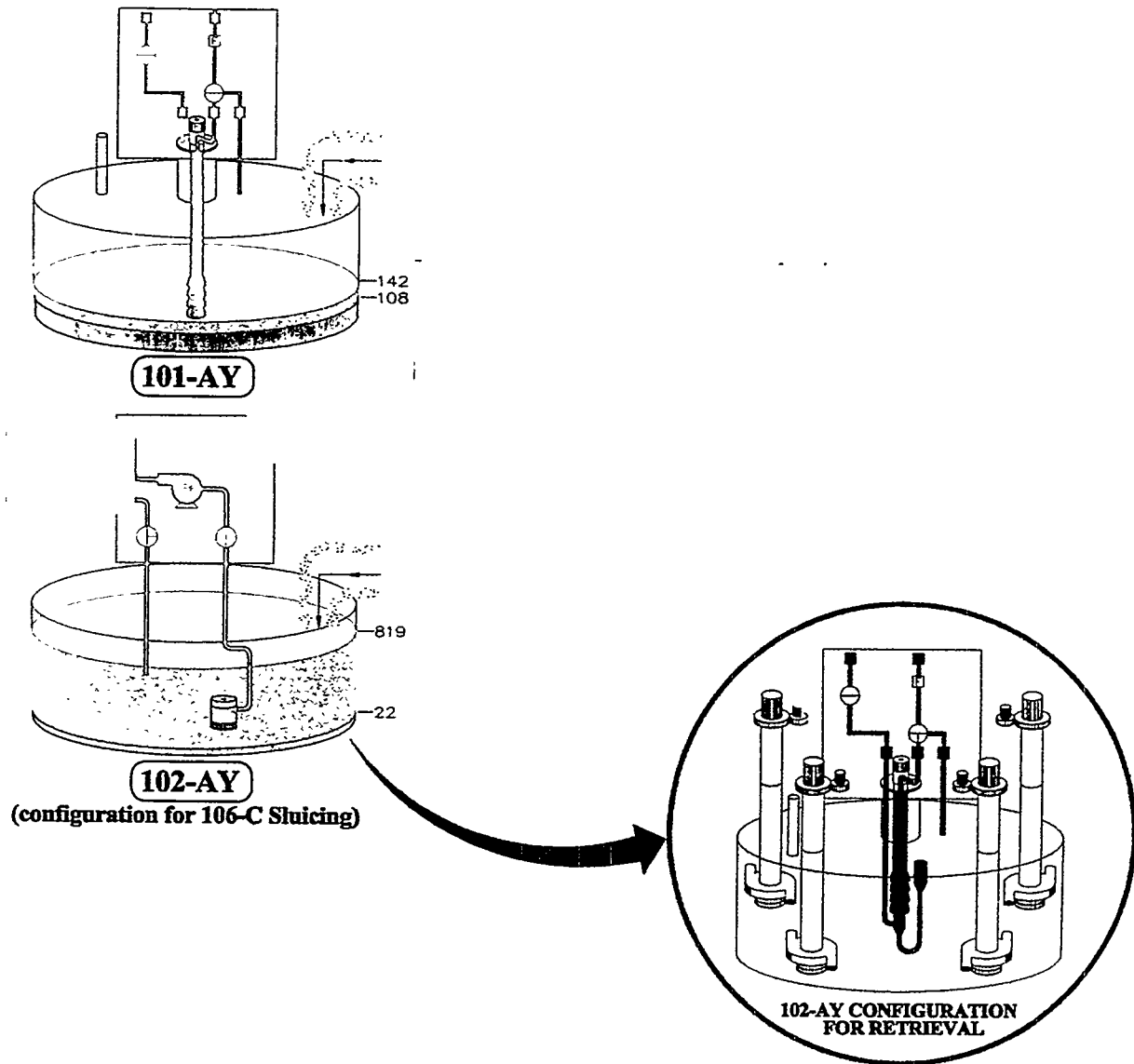


Figure 3.22 Waste retrieval configuration for AY tanks before and after C tank sludging

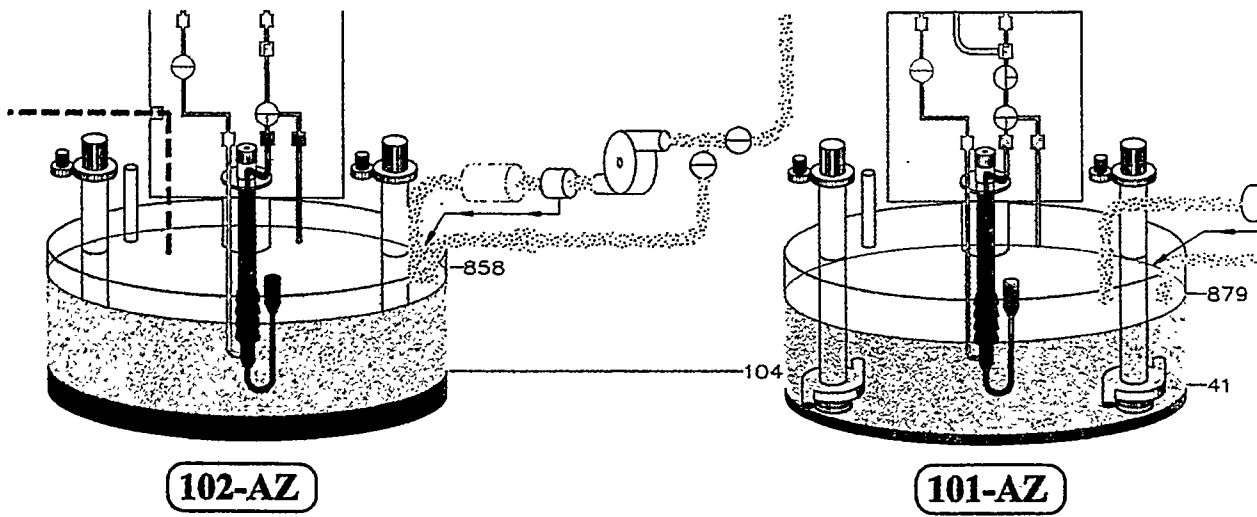


Figure 3.23 AZ tank waste retrieval configuration

4. Selection Guidance for Devices to Enhance Sludge Removal

The following guidance was provided by staff at Numatec Hanford Company¹ and Cogema Engineering Corp.² to define the requirements for enhanced sludge removal. The document was issued February 23, 1999.³ Since that document was issued, staff at Plant Engineering and Retrieval Engineering, River Protection Project have updated and published that report (Tedeschi 2000). The derived requirements from that report are listed in Section 4.8. In the analysis that follows in Sections 5 through 8, notes are made to reflect the updated information presented in Tedeschi (2000) Section 4.8.

4.1 Introduction

Submerged jet rotating mixer pumps, in conjunction with transfer pumps, are the baseline method of retrieving waste for feed delivery to vitrification at Hanford. Considerable testing with simulants and computer modeling predicts this baseline method will mobilize and retrieve waste from double-shell tanks; however, the percent of waste removed by this submerged jet method is only an estimate because the effectiveness of submerged jets is directly tied to the in-situ shear strength and viscosity of the settled waste. Knowledge of settled waste in-situ shear strength and viscosity is poorly characterized and constrains the confidence limits of predictions from testing and modeling.

Testing of submerged jet retrieval with simulants in scale-model tanks shows some areas are outside the effective cleaning radius (ECR) of the jet (as shown in Figure 4.1) and not mobilized. If enough waste is trapped in these areas, the ability to meet waste feed delivery (WFD) commitments may be in jeopardy.

To increase confidence in meeting the required WFD schedules, a means to mobilize and retrieve these "dead" areas is needed. The amount of waste that will remain in these areas will not be known until retrieval from specific tanks has progressed substantially. In addition, the composition of waste in the dead area is unknown. Is the waste 1) outside the ECR and simply needs mobilization, 2) deposited in the area like snow in a drift, or 3) both?

The mission of the enhanced sludge retrieval device is to enhance removal of waste from double-shell tanks for the purpose of meeting WFD schedules, not to empty the tanks for closure. With this mission in mind, the effectiveness of the device and its life-cycle-cost must be compared against the option of going to another tank as a source of waste to meet the delivery schedule. This cost comparison between the device's life-cycle-cost and choosing an alternate tank is beyond the scope of this document because the information to complete this analysis does not yet exist.

¹ Richland, Washington.

² Richland, Washington.

³ Shaw, CP. 1999. Subcontract Number 80232764-9-K001 Deliverable of Technical Task Plan Number RL09WT52 Waste Mixing Mobilization. LHMC-99-51209, COGEMA Engineering, Richland, Washington.

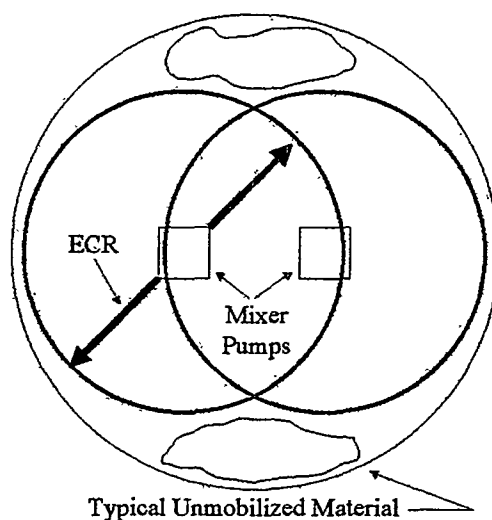


Figure 4.1 Example of mixer pump effective cleaning radius (ECR)

This selection guidance document is not intended to be a detailed analysis of functions and requirements, but rather a broad overview for initial screening criteria of commercial devices to enhance sludge removal. Before a device could be deployed in a radioactive waste tank, a detailed safety analysis would be required, installation decontamination and removal hardware built, and a considerable number of documents generated for the Operational Readiness Review process. Detailed discussion of this additional analysis, hardware, and documentation is premature and beyond the scope of this document.

4.2 Functions

This section defines what the device shall accomplish.

4.2.1 The device shall assist waste mobilization in the dead areas within the HLW tanks such that the waste can be removed via the existing transfer pump and, if needed, the operating mixer pump system.

4.2.2 The device shall detect, locate and measure accumulation of residual sludge.

4.3 Requirements

This section defines how well the device must perform its function. (Tank 102-AZ used as base).

4.3.1 The device shall enhance mobilization for a radius of 3.0 m (10 ft) in waste with a shear strength of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²).

4.3.2 The device shall locate waste accumulated in the dead area within +/- 0.3 m (1 ft) vertically.

4.3.3 The device shall be deployable from the tank bottom up to 3 m (10 ft) above the tank bottom.

4.3.4 The device shall pass through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser. A 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser may not be 15.2-cm (6-in.) ID (inner diameter) in all cases, therefore, a device OD (outer diameter) of 12.7 cm (5 in.) maximum is recommended).

4.4 Interfaces

4.4.1 The device shall occupy preexisting available risers located over the dead areas.

4.4.2 The distance from the supporting surface (ground level) to the bottom of the tank is approximately 1.52 m (55 ft).

4.4.3 The device, and its support equipment, shall provide any special utilities; 480 volt, three-phase power and raw water are reasonably accessible.

4.4.4 The device shall be designed for the natural environmental conditions specified in Conrads (1998) *Natural Phenomena Hazards Hanford Site, Washington*.

4.4.5 Materials of construction shall be compatible with waste chemistry as specified in Kirkbride (1999) *Tank Waste Remediation Operation and Utilization Plan* and radiation as specified in Claghorn (1998) *Estimated Dose to In-Tank Equipment*.

4.5 Constraints

This section is a synopsis of the major constraining requirements imposed by WSRC-RP-94-346, Rev 3, June 1997 "Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) for Liquid Radioactive Waste Handling Facilities" and HNF-SD-WM-BIO-001 Rev 0, "Tank Waste Remediation System Bases for Interim Operation". The requirements in these documents will be used as the basis for the review to permit installation and operation of the device in a waste tank.

4.5.1 The device shall maintain tank confinement.

4.5.2 The device shall meet NFPA Class 1, Div. 1, Group B if in a flammable gas tank. Dielectric materials and static discharge must be considered.

4.5.3 The device shall not overload the tank's ventilation and confinement system. 0.142 standard m³/s (300 scfm) per tank is the average ventilation flow, selecting devices using more than 0.047 standard m³/s (100 scfm) will require close examination because other retrieval activities in the tank are challenging the system capacity).

4.5.4 The device shall not exceed heat input limits of the tank. For reference, the baseline mixer pumps are two 224-kW (300-hp) units; 5 days of operating these pumps would raise the temperature of a 3785 m³ (million-gal) tank to near the BIO (basis for interim operation) limit. Potential additional tank cooling needs are being studied. As a target use 22.4 kW (30 hp) as an energy input limit for the proposed device.

4.5.5 The device shall not exceed dome-loading limits during installation, operation, or removal. This constraint goes beyond the simple weight of the device and must consider dropping the device during installation or removal and take into account any lateral loads the device may couple into the dome. Lateral loads may be either self induced, or induced by a mixer pump or earthquake. The device does not have to remain operable during these loads, but must not damage the tank and must be removable after the loading event. [For reference, mixer pumps weigh about 11340 kg (25,000 lbm)].

4.5.6 The device shall provide shielding for workers on the top of the tank.

4.5.7 Liquid addition, while allowable, is limited by space available and will be largely determined by prior partial retrieval.

4.6 Operational Needs

Operational needs include maintenance, ease of operation, removal and disposal. These requirements simplify operation and are practical considerations in the installation, operation, and removal of hardware.

4.6.1 Hardware features needing maintenance and calibration should be located remotely out of radiation areas.

4.6.2 Rotating seals should be located in the riser or tank, and a drain back to the tank shall be provided.

4.6.3 If possible, active items needing maintenance should not be located in the waste or riser.

4.6.4 The device shall be internally flushable, free draining, with no crud traps, cracks, or crevices.

4.6.5 The device shall have guide fins to prevent snagging during insertion or removal.

4.6.6 The device's internal voids, if not flushable or drainable, should be filled with foam.

4.6.7 The device's wetted surfaces should be stainless steel with a surface finish 125 rms or better.

4.7 Assumptions

The requirements include the following additional assumptions.

4.7.1 Radiation effects on materials understood by screeners. 1000 rads per hour is a conservative assumption.

4.7.2 93.3 C (200 F) is the upper bound of waste temperature.

4.7.3 Waste is caustic pH>12.

4.7.4 Soluble LLW tanks will not need sludge removal enhancement.

4.7.5 The tank will have an operating camera system.

4.8 Updated Derived Requirements

The updated derived requirements listed in Table 4.1 encompass greater scope than those described in Sections 4.1 through 4.7. References specific to these requirements are listed at the end of the table.

Table 4.1 Updated derived requirements for auxiliary solids mobilization

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
<i>Process Specifications – Waste Properties</i>			
Effective cleaning radius	3 m to 6 m (9.8 ft to 19.8 ft) Minimum performance criteria = 3 m	The lower value represents a typical distance from 10.2 cm (4 in.)/15.2 (6 in.) risers to the interior tank sidewall. Available 1.1 m (42 in.) risers are approximately 6 m from the sidewall.	H-14-010507 Sheet 1
Total waste volume (includes saltcake and supernate)	579 KI (153 Kgal) to 4,232 KI (1118 Kgal)	The range of reported total waste volume for the included tanks.	(Hanlon 1999)
Sludge shear strength	1.96 kPa (19,631 dynes/cm ² , 41 lbf/ft ²) to 4.8 kPa (47,900 dynes/cm ² , 100 lbf/ft ²) Minimum performance criteria = 3.38 kPa (33,800 dyne/cm ² , 71 lbf/ft ²)	The lower value is commonly reported data from past AZ-102 analyses. The higher value represents the highest limit reported in the Tank Waste Remediation System Operation and Utilization Plan.	(Kirkbride 1999a), (Shaw, 1999)

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
Sludge volume	269 Kl (71Kgal) to 1196 Kl (316 Kgal)	The lower value is the reported volume in 214-SY-102. The higher value is the reported volume for AW-103. The highest value also represents the largest reported sludge volume for the included tanks. While several of the noted tanks have no sludge, SY-102 data was used for lower data because it was a highlighted tank for auxiliary mixing. (Obviously 0 sludge would be a the maximum low end, but not practical for this scope.)	(Hanlon 1999)
Sludge bulk density	1000 to 2000 kg/m ³ (1 to 2 gm/ml)	Core sample results of bottom sludge layers for AW-103 (#194) and SY-102 (#213) (TWINS database)	
Sludge viscosity	0.06 to 10,000 N-s/m ² (0.6 to 1.0 E+05 poise)	Solids viscosity for AZ-101 and other reported slurry viscosities range from 0.05 to 0.1 N-s/m ² (0.5 to 1.0 poise; Other reported data for solids are noted at 10 N-s/m ² (10,000 cP). The referenced PNNL report is an internal letter report that references other reporting data; characterization data on sludge viscosity is limited.	(Antoniak 1996) ¹ , and (Kirkbride 1999a)
Weight percent solids of in-tank settled sludge	30-60%	From AW-103 core sampling data extrapolated from reported percent water values (TWINS database core 194)	
Solids particle size	0.2 to 50 µm	Commonly reported data for sludges – typical smaller sizes, which tend to be highly cohesive; translates to high yield stresses in both shear and compressive modes	(Kirkbride 1999a) (Powell 1997)
Supernatant volume/levels	0 to 329 Kl (0 to 87 Kgal) 0 to 7.4 m (293 in.)	(Assuming a nominal ratio of 410 m ³ /m (2750 gal/in.)	(Hanlon 1999)

¹ Antoniak, Z. I., K. P. Recknagle, *Simulation of Tank 241-AZ-101 Mobilization Tests and TEMPEST Code Performance Evaluation*, Letter Report RET-093096, September 30, 1996, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
Supernatant specific gravity	1.0 to 1.2	Supernatant grab sample results obtained from TWINS database	
Supernatant viscosity	0.0003 to 0.003 N-s/m ² (0.3 to 3.0 cP)	Reported values from tank data and simulation runs	(Kirkbride 1999a)
Waste pH	Caustic, 12 to +14	Commonly reported data; waste streams are a variety of sodium and other metallic salts	
Radioactive dose	Peak dose rate 10 to 1100 R/hr Total Integrated Dose 3.6 E05 to 9.5 E07 R	Reported ranges	(Claghorn 1998)
Waste temperature	15.5 to 35 C (60 to 95 F) for AW-103 & SY-102 15.5 to 87.8 C (60 to 190 F) for remaining tanks	Reported ranges	Surveillance Monitoring (TMACs) for AW-103 and SY-102 and Temperature profile data from Characterization database (Twins)
<i>Operational Configuration Boundaries</i>			
Discharge angle	Adjustable angles in both the vertical and horizontal plane. Best operation would allow adjustment remotely without breaking of confinement.	Mixing may be adequate with a fixed angle position directed at a single dead zone or buildup area. Waste performance and shear strengths may require a variable angle to enhance mixing and impacting of thicker sludges.	Operation/design team request
Mixer height	Variable (ability to mobilize waste on bottom and at increments 4.6 to 6.1 m (15 to 20 ft) above bottom tank elevation)	Mixing may be adequate with a fixed position unit set on tank floor directed at a single dead zone or buildup area. Waste properties, specifically shear strengths, may require a phased lowering of the mixer to start movement of lower density material before impacting on thicker sludges. Also, mixer may need to be elevated to mobilize suspended solids in waste layers.	Operation/design team request

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
Installation Constraints			
Riser installation width for pump and related assembly/mast	Available nominal riser sizes: 10.2 cm, 15.2 cm, 30.5 cm, and 1.1 m (4 in., 6 in., 12 in., and 42 in.)	Varied spare risers, and risers used for operations that could be accessed (e.g., construction ports, defunct installed equipment, camera ports etc.)	H-2-64447 Rev 7 H-14-010501 Sheet 4 Rev 2 H-14-010502 Sheet 2 Rev 1 H-14-010502 Sheet 4 Rev 1 H-14-010507 Sheet 1 Rev 0 H-14-010507 Sheet 2 Rev 0 H-14-010531 Sheet 2 Rev 2
Utilities availability	240/480 VAC Flush water through tanker or existing piping No instrument or compressed air	Current tank farm configurations; systems requiring compressed air or continual flushing will need to install auxiliary provisions	N/A
Natural phenomena design	None	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirements, however dependent upon final design	(LMHC 1999a)
Ventilation system impacts	<0.24 standard m ³ /s (50 scfm) additional load	Conservative design estimate with existing ventilation systems	Estimate
Delivered horizontal displacement on vertical protuberances (e.g., thermocouple probes) in cleaning radius	Maximum 2.54 cm (1 in.) at tank bottom elevation	Calculations for specific tanks and waste protuberances will need to be made on a case-by-case basis. The reported range value is derived from calculation in AZ-101 but represents a conservative target for further evaluation	(Julyk 1997)
Material of construction	Wetted materials shall maintain 5-year life expectancy within waste conditions; minimum 304 stainless steel on all wetted parts	5 years estimated maximum life for staging tank application	Estimate

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
Pit confinement	Installation on potential risers within pits shall not intrude upon piping, and shall allow for reinstallation of all existing pit covers.	Minimization of operational and project impact	Operation cost effectiveness
Safety Requirements			
Lift criteria	Installation/removal will be per critical lift requirements of Hanford Hoisting & Rigging Manual	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement dome loading controls	(LMHC 1999a) AC 5.16
Electrical systems within tank vapor space, and pits	Meets NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B; design criteria shall be reviewed by independent buyer expert group	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement ignition controls	(LMHC 1999a) AC 5.10
Electrical systems within submerged waste streams	Meets NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B or be demonstrated by process that submerged system provides no spark to tank vapor space	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement ignition controls	(LMHC 1999a) AC 5.10
Weight	Free supporting mast and pump assembly must meet allowable limits in addition to mixer pumps and retrieval pumps OR may be designed to rest on tank bottom, fully supported by floor	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement Dome Loading Controls; value will need specific calculation however generic rule is that riser may support 45,359 kg (50 ton) load limit	(LMHC 1999a) AC 5.16
Control system	Capable of being interlocked or remotely shut down upon indication of high waste temperature or tank ventilation shutdown	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement waste temperature and ventilation controls	(LMHC 1999a) LCOs 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.3.1, and 3.3.2

Function or Requirement	Value/Specification Range	Basis	Reference
Heat input	Maximum sludge/waste temperature rise of 5.6 C (10 F) during continuous equipment operation and following 12 hours	Final Safety Analysis Report/Technical Safety Requirement waste temperature controls, estimated conservative value based upon safety requirements; target motor energy output should be in the range of 37 to 75 kW (50 to 100 hp)	(LMHC 1999a) and engineering estimation
<i>Operation, Maintenance, & Radiological Control Constraints</i>			
Location of control mechanisms	Localized control at tank farm within tank farm control room (greater than 100 m (328 ft) away from tank)	ALARA, and Conduct of operations	None
Location of electrical components requiring calibration	Not located within pits or shielded areas	ALARA and conduct of operations allowing routine access for calibration without removing shielding	None
Riser seal	Shall maintain existing confinement; riser seal shall be gasketed. Rotating seals shall be liquid sealed with drain back to the tank	ALARA	None
Decontamination	Free draining, internal flushable, with internal void areas for material trapping filled with compatible solids (e.g., foam)	Conduct of operations; current planning does not involve reuse of mixer	None
Shielding	System shall be provide with shielding for protection of workers during installation and removal for disposal	ALARA; current planning does not involve reuse of mixer	None

5. Evaluation of Enhanced Sludge Removal Technologies

Several studies have been conducted to provide background and a decision analysis for mobilizing and retrieving sludge from double-shell tanks (Brothers et al. 1997, Powell et al. 1997). These studies focus on all of the double-shell tanks. Specific criteria are required to evaluate technologies for enhanced sludge removal.

Based on the selection guidance provided in Section 4, criteria for evaluation are developed in Section 5.1. These criteria are summarized in tabular form in Section 5.2. In Section 5.3, the criteria are applied to the technologies described in detail in Section 6.

5.1 Criteria for Evaluation

The selection guidance listed in Section 4.0 provides the framework to tailor a system for deployment in a Hanford tank to assist in waste mobilization. Some of these criteria are essential qualities that a device must possess to be considered for this application. Other criteria define parameters that could be modified during construction to ensure that the device mates with the existing tank infrastructure. Other criteria define qualities that can be added to an existing device to meet a specified function. The guidance is prioritized to permit evaluation of existing commercial equipment for applicability for providing a device to enhance sludge removal. In addition, changes noted in the Tedeschi (2000) that further define these criteria are noted in **bold**.

5.1.1 Primary Requirements

Primary requirements are those that must be met by the device in order to perform the desired task. Three items were identified.

- The device shall assist waste mobilization in dead areas.
- The device shall enhance mobilization for a radius of 3 m (10 ft) in waste with a shear strength of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²).

Note: Tedeschi (2000) defined the effective cleaning radius as 3 m to 6 m (9.8 to 19.8 ft) and defined the minimum waste shear strength minimum performance criteria as 3.38 kPa (71 lbf/ft²)

- *To put the shear strength value in perspective, it is compared with simulants developed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to model waste properties (Powell et al. 1997, Bamberger et al. 1998). A 50% kaolin, 13% plaster, 37% water simulant developed to model sludge had a shear strength of 2.5 kPa (52 lbf/ft²). A 22.5% kaolin, 40% plaster, 37.5% water simulant developed to model hard pan had a shear strength of 150 kPa (3133 lbf/ft²). A saltcake simulant (84% dynamate in water) had a compressive strength of 19 MPa (396,825 lbf/ft²). The shear strength*

of 1.96 kPa (41 lb/ft²) selected by Shaw and the minimum performance criteria shear strength of 3.38 kPa (71 lb/ft²) defined in Tedeschi (2000) are both very low.

- The device shall pass through a 12.7- to 15.2-cm- (5- to 6-in.-) diameter riser.

Note: Tedeschi (2000) defined available nominal riser diameters of 10.2, 15.2, 30.5 cm and 1.1 m (4, 6, 12, and 42 in.)

5.1.2 Secondary Requirements

Secondary requirements include the ability to assess the condition of the waste in the tank. One item was identified.

- The device shall detect, locate, and measure accumulation of residual sludge.
4.3.2 The device shall locate waste accumulated in the dead area within ± 0.3 m (1 ft) vertically.

Assessing the location of waste in the tank could be addressed by using the tank operating camera system (identified as item 4.7.5) or by deploying specialized instrumentation as a part of, or in conjunction with, the enhanced removal device.

5.1.3 Safety Requirements

The device operation must not compromise the integrity of the tank. All of the items listed in Section 4.5 constraints fall into this category. Several of the items affect device operation and potentially performance.

- 4.5.2 The device shall meet NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B if in a flammable gas tank. Dielectric materials and static discharge must be considered.
- 4.5.3 The device shall not overload the tank's ventilation and confinement system. [0.142 standard m³/s (300 scfm) per tank is the average ventilation flow, selecting devices using more than 0.047 standard m³/s (100 scfm) will require close examination because other retrieval activities in the tank are challenging the system capacity].
Note: Tedeschi (2000) defines the ventilation system impact as <0.023 standard m³/s (50 scfm) additional load.
- 4.5.4 The device shall not exceed heat input limits of the tank. As a target, use 22.4 kW (30 hp) as an energy input limit for the proposed device.)
Note: Tedeschi (2000) defines the heat input as a maximum sludge/waste temperature rise of 5.6 C (10 F) during continuous equipment operation and following 12 hours.
- 4.5.5 The device shall not exceed dome loading limits during installation, operation, or removal. [For reference, mixer pumps weigh about 11,340 kg (25,000 lbm).]
- 4.5.7 Liquid addition, while allowable, is limited by space available and will be largely determined by prior partial retrieval.

5.1.4 Design – Construction – Installation Details

Many of the operational needs and materials of construction can be addressed after selection of the type of enhanced retrieval system during its design and construction for deployment in a specific tank riser or series of tank risers.

5.2 Evaluation Matrix

Based on the information presented above, two tables were constructed to permit comparison of the technologies. In Table 5.1, the sludge mobilization technologies are compared. In Table 5.2, the technologies are compared against the ranking criteria.

5.3 Technology Evaluation

The technologies described in Sections 6 and 7 have enough information regarding operation during testing for radioactive deployment or actual operation in a radioactive waste environment; therefore, they were selected for comparison to the deployment selection criteria. In Table 5.3, the technologies are compared with respect to the ability to mobilize sludge. In Table 5.4, the technologies are grouped into three categories: 1) meeting the ranking criteria, 2) the ability to be modified to meet the ranking criteria, and 3) not readily modified to meet the ranking criteria.

5.4 Technology Summary

Based on the acceptance criteria, one technology, the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle has the proven ability to meet key primary requirements. The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle can mobilize extremely hard waste at a distance of 3 m (10 ft). The arm extension of 3 m (10 ft), and its ability to move back and forth, can be used to sweep waste from collection piles deposited by the mixer pump back into the mixer pump path or toward the retrieval pump inlet. The current device mast is larger than the 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser; however, this dimension could be modified for the application.

Two other technologies, the pulsating mixer pump and fluidic pulse-jet mixing will fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser; however, the technologies need to be evaluated to determine the effective cleaning radius of the technology and the range of shear strengths of sludge that they can dislodge.

Table 5.1 Matrix for technology comparison

Criteria	Technology
Technique	Type of mobilization system
Jet pressure	Provides jet pressure range and fluid
Flow rate	Fluid flow rate per jet
Enhances dissolution	Technology specific
Mixes viscous liquids	Technology specific
Mixes slurries	Technology specific
Mobilizes settled solids	Technology specific
Dislodges solid heels	Technology specific
Power	Power required to produce jet
Adds heat to tank during operation	Technology specific
Operating limits	Is system operation limited by the waste level in the tank or other constraints?
Percent secondary waste generated	Based on the amount of water the system adds to the tank
Deployment	How is the system deployed?
Remotely deployed	Yes or no.
Maintainability	What parts need periodic maintenance and where are they located?
Removal	How is the system removed from the tank?

Table 5.2 Criteria for technology selection

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.2.1 Assist waste mobilization in dead areas			
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization for a radius of 3 m (10 ft)			
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft ²) shear strength sludge			
4.3.4 Pass through 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser			
4.2.2 Detect, locate and measure accumulation of residual sludge			
4.3.2 Locate waste accumulated in a dead area within ± 0.3 m (1 ft) vertically			
4.5.2 Meets NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B for flammable gas tank			
4.5.3 Does not overload tanks ventilation or confinement system [generates <0.047 standard m ³ /s (100 scfm) aerosol]			
4.5.4 Does not exceed tank heat input [22.4 kW (30 hp)]			
4.5.5 Does not exceed dome loading limits [<11340 kg (25,000 lbm)]			
4.5.7 Limited liquid addition			

Table 5.3 Comparison of the waste mobilization technologies

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Technique	compressed air pulses	compressed air propels slurry jet	compressed air propels slurry jet	water or fluid jet	water or fluid jet	water jet	water jet	propeller creates a fluid jet	high-volume oscillatory fluid jets
Jet pressure	0.35 to 0.69 MPa (5 to 100 psi) air	0 to 0.69 MPa (0 to 100 psi)	0 to 0.69 MPa (0 to 100 psi)	to 2.07 MPa (300 psi)	0 to 20.7 MPa (0 to 3000 psi)	0 to 69 or 207 MPa (0 to 10,000 or 30,000 psi)	379 MPa (55,000 psi)		up to 2.8 MPa (400 psi)liquid
Flow rate	0.005 standard m ³ /s (10 scfm) air per plate	tbd	tbd	0.022 m ³ /s (350 gal/min)	0 to 0.0095 m ³ /s (0 to 150 gal/min)	0.0063 m ³ /s (10 gal/min) /jet	0.00038 m ³ /s (6 gal/min) /jet	1.1 m ³ /s (17,500 gal/min)	up to 0.315 m ³ /s (5000 gal/min) /jet
Enhances dissolution	tbd	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mixes viscous liquids	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mixes slurries	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mobilizes settled solids	to some extent	to some extent	to some extent	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes
Dislodges solid heels	no	no	no	perhaps	yes	yes	yes	no	if close to mixer pump
Power	7.5 to 15 kW (10 to 20 hp)	tbd	tbd	186 kW (250 hp)	149 kW (200 hp)	tbd	tbd	37 kW (50 hp)	224 kW (300 hp)

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Adds heat to tank during operation	insignificant	insignificant	insignificant	yes	yes	some	yes	yes	yes
Operating limits	functions at all liquid levels, plates located <2.54 cm (1 in.) above the tank floor	functions at all liquid levels, nozzle located <15.2 cm (6 in.) from floor	functions at all liquid levels, nozzle located <15.2 cm (6 in.) from floor	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions at all liquid levels	functions when submerged. Mixer is 51 cm (20 in.) in diameter and was installed 20.5 cm (8 in.) above tank floor. Minimum fluid depth is 51 cm (20 in.)	~1.2 m (4 ft) head required for maximum power. Nozzle centerline ~0.3 to 0.46 m (1 to 1.5 ft) from tank bottom
Percent secondary waste generated	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.00038 m ³ /s (6 gal/min) /jet	0%	>0% (some seal lubrication water added)
Deployment	riser mast, system unfolds	riser mast	riser mast	riser mast	riser arm	arm or remote vehicle	arm or remote vehicle	riser mast, system unfolds	riser mast, system remains under riser
Remotely deployed	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Criteria	Pulsed Air	Pulsating Mixer Pump	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing	C-106 Sluicer	Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer	Mixer Pump
Maintainability	compressor located outside the tank, plates submerged in waste	valves and compressor located outside tank	valves and compressor located outside tank	pump located outside of tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank, arm or vehicle inside tank, pump may be contaminated based on source of fluid	pump located outside of tank arm or vehicle inside tank	entire mixer including motor is submerged	pump motor located above the tank riser, pump internals submerged in waste
Removal	system must be collapsed prior to removal	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system removed through riser	system must be collapsed prior to removal	system removed through riser

Table 5.4 Comparison of the enhanced removal technologies with the acceptance criteria

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.2.1 Assist waste mobilization in dead areas	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer		
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization for a radius of 3 m (10 ft)	C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier	
4.3.1 Enhance mobilization of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft ²) shear strength sludge	C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier		Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing Flygt Mixer <i>The jet performance must be evaluated to determine whether mobilization of this shear strength sludge could occur at a radius of 3 m (10 ft)</i>
4.3.4 Pass through 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser	Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>The design of these devices and their deployment system would need to be radically modified to fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser</i>

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.2.2 Detect, locate and measure accumulation of residual sludge			Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>None of the technologies are equipped with sensors of this type</i>
4.3.2 Locate waste accumulated in a dead area within ± 0.3 m (1 ft) vertically			Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer <i>None of the technologies are equipped with sensors of this type.</i>
4.5.2 Meets NFPA Class 1, Div 1, Group B for flammable gas tank	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle	Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier	Flygt Mixer <i>The system motor is located inside the tank.</i>
4.5.3 Does not overload tanks ventilation or confinement system [generates <0.047 standard m^3/s (100 scfm) aerosol]	High-Pressure Scarifier	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector Flygt Mixer	

Number and Criteria	Technology Meets The Criteria	Technology Can Be Modified To Meet Criteria	Technology Cannot Readily Be Modified To Meet Criteria
4.5.4 Does not exceed tank heat input [22.4 kW (30 hp)]	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier		Flygt Mixer
4.5.5 Does not exceed dome-loading limits [<11,340 kg (25,000 lbm)]	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Waste-Retrieval End Effector High-Pressure Scarifier Flygt Mixer		
4.5.7 Limited liquid addition	Pulsed Air Pulsating Mixer Pump Fluidic Pulse-Jet Mixing C-106 Sluicer Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Flygt Mixer	Waste-Retrieval End Effector	High-Pressure Scarifier <i>The 379 MPa (55,000 psi) intensifier pumps operate with filtered water.</i>

6. Deployed Technologies for Enhanced Sludge Removal

A series of technologies to mobilize, mix, and retrieve waste have been deployed at US Department of Energy sites. Many of these technologies were developed as a part of the Tanks Focus Area Retrieval Process Development and Enhancements project¹ (Rinker et al. 1996, 1997, Bamberger and Rinker 1996). Some of these technologies may be applicable for enhanced sludge removal at Hanford. Because they have been deployed at radioactive waste sites, these technologies may be more mature with respect to issues specific to deployment at Hanford; therefore, they are grouped together and discussed in this section. Each of the technologies is assessed to determine whether the technology can meet two criteria: 1) be configured for installation in a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser and 2) mobilize sludge with a shear strength of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²).

6.1 Fluidic Pulse Jet Mixing

Fluidic pulse-jet mixing utilizes pulse-jet agitation to mix sludge with liquid supernatant. The system mixes the sludge and supernatant via a three-phase mixing process: a suction phase, a drive phase, and a vent phase, shown in Figure 6.1. This approach has been deployed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to mobilize and retrieve waste from five horizontal storage tanks (W21, W22, W23, C1, and C2) (Murray and Peters 1999, Kent et al. 1998a, b).

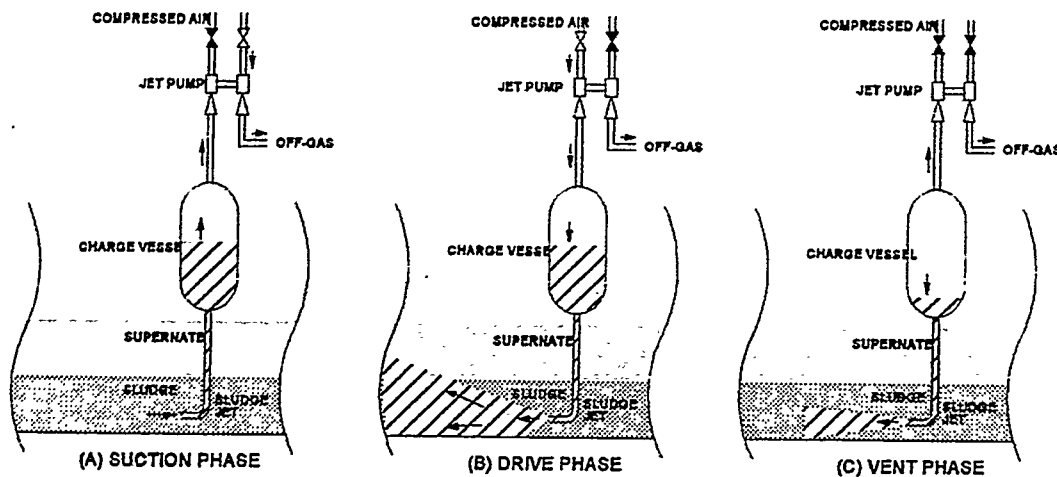


Figure 6.1 Pulse jet operating phases

¹ Rinker, MW, JA Bamberger, FF Erian, TA Eyre, BK Hatchell, OD Mullen, MR Powell, TJ Samuel, GA Whyatt, and JA Yount. 1998 *EM-50 Tanks Focus Area Retrieval Process Development and Enhancements FY98 Technology Development Summary Report*. PNNL-12015 Draft, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

6.1.1 Pulse-Jet Mixer Operating Cycle

During the suction phase, the jet pumps create a partial vacuum in the charge vessel, which in turn draws liquid up from the waste tank into the vessel. Once the charge vessel has been filled with supernatant, the jet pump pressurizes the charge vessel, which drives the supernatant back into the tank; this flow agitates the contents of the tank and resuspends settled solids into the supernatant. This is the drive phase. When the supernatant levels have reached the bottom of the charge vessels, the drive phase is terminated and the charge vessel is depressurized through the jet pump in the vent phase. The cycle is then repeated until the sludge and the supernatant have been mixed.

6.1.2 Pulse-Jet Mixer System Components

The pulse-jet mixer system is modular. It consists of the charge vessel assembly, piping manifold, jet pump skid, valve skid, off-gas skid, and control system.

6.1.2.1 Charge Vessel Assembly

The charge vessel assembly includes the charge vessel (with a sludge nozzle at its base), a rotating mechanism to move the nozzle position, and a support assembly that houses the rotating mechanism. The stainless steel charge vessel operates at pressures from vacuum to 0.69 MPa (100 psi). The nozzle at the base is configured to meet the needs of the application. One application used a 3.8-cm-(1.5-in.-) diameter forward facing nozzle and a 1.0-cm-(0.375-in.-) diameter rear-facing nozzle attached to a 7.62-cm-(3-in.-) diameter pipe. The purpose of the smaller nozzle was to clear sludge away from the tank wall; the purpose of the larger nozzle was to mobilize the majority of sludge toward the center of the tank.

6.1.2.2 Jet Pump Skid

The air line piping that connects the jet pump to the charge vessel extends vertically upward to barometrically protect the jet pumps so that no sludge would be able to reach the jet pumps during the suction operation. For a recent application the piping extended 10.4 m (34 ft) above the top of the tank being mobilized. A charge vessel requires two jet pumps, a drive jet pump and a suction jet pump as shown in Figure 6.2. The diffuser end of each drive pump is connected to the charge vessel. The diffuser end of each suction pump is connected to the off-gas system. The inlets to both of the paired pumps are connected to the compressed air supply via the piping manifold and valve skid.

6.1.2.3 Off-Gas Skid

During the vent phase of the pulse-jet mixing system, gas is vented from the charge vessels via jet pumps. The off-gas will have been in contact with contaminated supernatant in the charge vessel; therefore, a protective off-gas system is required. The off-gas first passes through a demister; the

demister drain line could be routed back into the tank. At ORNL the off-gas intermittent flow rate ranged from 0 to 0.40 m³/s [0 to 850 cfm (0 to 4000 l/s)], sufficient capacity to operate two charge vessels simultaneously.

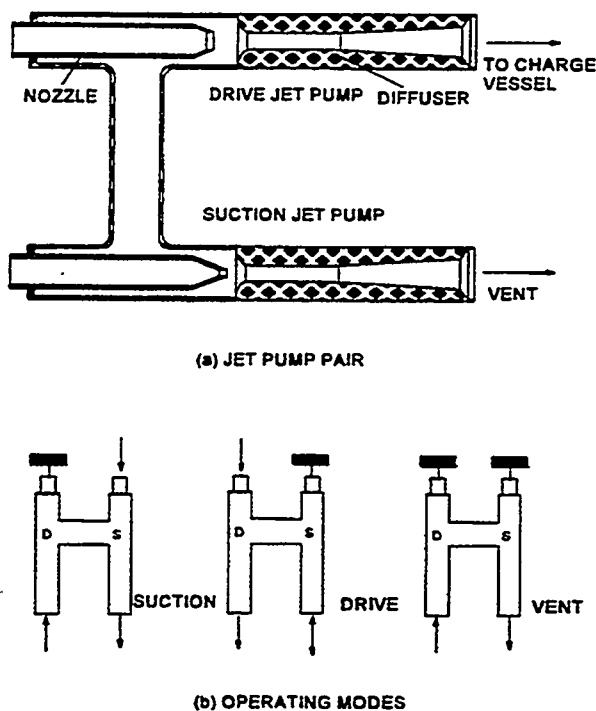


Figure 6.2 Jet pump configuration and operation

6.1.3 Pulse-Jet Mixer Performance

The rheological properties of the ORNL sludge were evaluated. The maximum shear strength observed was 20 Pa (0.42 lbf/ft²), 100 times less than that anticipated in the Hanford high level waste. Tests using china clay with a shear strength of 16 Pa (0.33 lbf/ft²) as a waste simulant were also conducted at ORNL.

Kent (et al. 1998a, b) reports that the pulse-jet mixer skids were installed at ORNL over a period of 7 weeks. The system was operated remotely for 52 days; during that period, 88% of existing sludge was removed from a 189-m³ (50,000-gal) horizontal tank. 242 m³ (64,000 gal) of liquid was required to transfer 23.6 m³ (6300 gal) of sludge. 88% of the liquid used was existing or recycled tank supernatant. Only 29.4 m³ (7770 gal) of process water was added to the system. Kent also reports that a simple manual sluicer was used periodically to wash down and aid the removal of localized sludge heels.

Murray and Peters (1999) reported that the campaign to retrieve waste from Tanks C-1 and C-2 was to be initiated in early 1999. Dahl et al. (1999) described the results from these transfers. Tank C-2 was emptied first. A total of 30.7 m³ (8100 gal) of sludge, 99%, was transferred to Tank W-23. After the

charge vessels were moved from Tank C-2 to Tank C-1, approximately 11.7 m³ (3100 gal) of sludge (95%) were transferred from Tank C-1 to Tank W-23. Total waste removed from Tank W-23, as a result of this and an earlier campaign, was 71.1 m³ (18,775 gal), almost 99%.

6.1.4 Pulse-Jet Mixer Deployment for Enhanced Sludge Retrieval

The pulse-jet mixer piping can be configured to fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser. The charge vessel assembly would need to be located above the tank.

The pulse-jet mixer data indicates that the system was only used to resuspend slurries with very low shear strengths. Testing would be required to determine the effective cleaning radius for slurries and sludges with shear strengths of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²).

6.2 Borehole-Miner Extendible-Nozzle Sluicer

The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle sluicer, shown in Figure 6.3, uses a semi-flexible, extendible, erectable arm to direct a high-pressure sluicer jet. The arm extension and position are controlled remotely from a control console. This system was deployed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to dislodge and remediate four horizontal underground radioactive waste tanks in 1998 (Bamberger et al. 1998, 1999a, b).

6.2.1 Extendible-Nozzle Operation

The extendible nozzle uses supernatant to form a low-flow-rate, high-pressure fluid jet. The nozzle diameter ranges from 0.51 to 1.02 cm (0.2 to 0.4 in.) diameter, operating pressures range from line pressure up to 20.7 MPa (3000 psi), and flow rates range from 0.0032 to 0.0095 m³/s (50 to 150 gal/min). The jet range is up to 15.2 m (50 ft) stand-off distance, and the arm can extend up to 3 m (10 ft), providing a potential reach of 18.3 m (60 ft). Using supernatant as the jet fluid limits water addition to system flushing activities at the end of daily operation. Specifications for the system deployed at Oak Ridge are listed in Table 6.1.

6.2.2 Extendible-Nozzle System Components

The extendible-nozzle system includes the mast, pump, piping, and ventilation system.

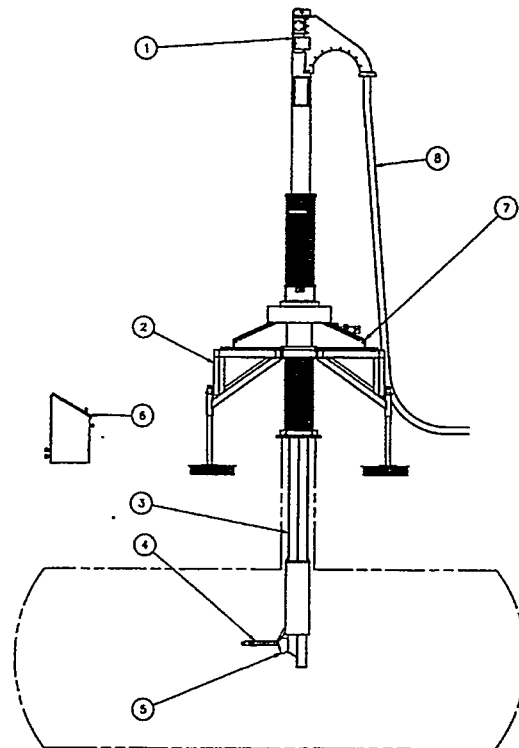


Figure 6.3 Extendible nozzle deployment and configuration

Legend: 1) top mast assembly, 2) platform assembly, 3) lower mast assembly, 4) arm assembly, 5) launch assembly, 6) control console, 7) bridge mount, and 8) containment hose assembly

6.2.2.1 Mast

The mast houses the extendible-nozzle arm. The arm consists of small metallic links that are held together with tensioning cables. The arm links mesh together by cylindrically shaped bearings and bearing sockets (pivot points). The 20.7 MPa (3000 psi) water hose runs through the center of the arm links. The arm is extended and retracted into the mast by a hydraulic motor-driven chain and tie rod system. While tensioned, the arm can be deployed radially to a distance of 3 m (10 ft) from the mast centerline, and also from a horizontal position to vertically downward. In addition, the mast and nozzle assembly can be rotated ± 180 degree to give complete coverage of the tank. Movement and tensioning of the arm are accomplished hydraulically, and the arm's position and extension are determined by potentiometer-type encoders.

A double-conduit coaxial hose is used to feed the high-pressure water to the inside of the upper mast. The outer shell is constructed from a 6.2-MPa (900-psi) working pressure, 24.8-MPa (3600-psi) burst pressure hose. In the event of a hose burst, the maximum pressure in the shell is estimated to be less than 0.69 MPa (100 psi).

Table 6.1 Extendible-nozzle specifications

Description	Specification
Maximum slurry line working pressure	20.7 MPa (3000 psi)
Design flow rate	0.0095 m ³ /s (150 gpm)
Maximum arm extension	3 m (10 ft) from mast centerline
Arm range of motion	
Rotation	± 180 degree
Azimuth	90 degree (horizontal to vertically downward)
Platform vertical range	76 cm (30 in.)
Weight	2835 kg (6250 lbm)
Maximum arm extension rate	25.4 cm/s (10 in./s)
Minimum launch angle rate	9 degree/s
Mast rotation speed	0.012 to 1.2 rpm
Maximum arm rinse working pressure	1.0 MPa (150 psi)
Maximum spray ring working pressure	1.7 MPa (250 psi)
Exposed materials. Materials exposed to waste are stainless steel (300 series, 15 to 5 pH), hard chromium plate, nickel plate, polyurethane enamel-coated carbon steel, polyurethane, neoprene, polyethylene, nylon.	

The extendible-arm assembly has four mechanical motions: arm tensioning, angle positioning, arm extension, and mast rotation. Each of these four motions is accomplished with a single independent hydraulic manifold. Each manifold is supplied with a joystick-operated, manual, flow-control valve. The four joy sticks are the interface between the operator and the motion. During sluicing, the position of the extendible nozzle was controlled manually using the control console. A lifting shackle to carry the weight of the mast and mast mount assemblies is located at the top end of the mast. A fulcrum is located at the bottom of the mast so that the mast can be pinned to a support structure and put in a lay down position.

The mast length is designed for each application and is based on the height of the tank. When deployed at ORNL the extendible nozzle was designed for dimensions of 4.5 m (14.9) ft from grade to tank bottom and 2.4 m (8 ft) diameter; the mast was approximately 8.8 m (29 ft) in length and was made up of two sections with a bolted flange joint. A design, for deployment at Savannah River Site Tank 19 with dimensions of 13.7 m (45.1 ft) from grade to tank bottom tank and 13.0 m (42.5 ft) high; required mast length extensions to permit deployment in a deeper tank. The Savannah River site design is very similar to that required for deployment at Hanford. Hanford 3875 m³ (million-gal) tanks are approximately 16.8 m (55 ft) from grade to tank bottom with a tank height of 14.6 m (48 ft) while 2006 m³ (530,000 gal) tanks are approximately 11.3 m (37 ft) from grade to tank bottom with a tank height of 9.5 m (31.25 ft).

The mast support mount consists of a bridge mount assembly that is bolted to a portable platform over the tank riser and supports the mast assembly at the desired elevation over the tank floor. To ensure

that no radioactivity will escape through the mast, the mast mount assembly includes a bellows-type expanding containment cover, shown in Figure 6.3, which encloses the portion of the mast that will be exposed to tank waste. A clamp-on cover plate is used to close the end of the containment cover during storage. A second bellows cover is located between the bridge mount and riser flange. An interface flange is located at the bottom of the cover to attach to the riser. During transfers from tank-to-tank, the bottom of the second bellows is sealed to enclose the extendible-nozzle components.

6.2.2.2 Sluicer Pump Skid

The sluicer pump skid includes the high-pressure pump, variable-speed drive, valves, and instrumentation to control and monitor the pump pressure.

6.2.2.3 Pumping System

The primary components of the pumping system are:

- Low-pressure transfer pump to transfer contents from the sluicing tank to the mixing tank
- Mixer in mixing tank to maximize slurry mixing
- Low-pressure feed pump [1.4 MPa (200 psi) progressive cavity Moyno pump] to lift contents from the mixing tank and feed to the high-pressure pump
- Strainer to remove larger particles from the feed to the nozzle
- Process water system used to flush the lines after transfer and provide other process water needs at the site
- Associated piping and valves including tank drop legs and riser modifications
- Containment piping, riser confinement boxes and confinement skid enclosures.

6.2.2.4 Ventilation System

The primary components of the ventilation system are:

- High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter system on the air intake to minimize treatment HEPA loading and minimize discharges to atmosphere in the event of a ventilation system shutdown
- Demister to remove water vapor from the air stream
- Heater to reduce the relative humidity of the air stream
- Primary and secondary HEPA system to filter air discharged from the ventilation system
- Single-speed fan to drive the air flow
- Discharge stack and associated stack monitoring.

6.2.3 ORNL Configuration Extendible-Nozzle Weight

The bridge mount and stand are estimated to weigh 1361 kg (3600 lbm). The combined weight of the mast and bridge mount is estimated to be ~2880 kg (6350 lbm), distributed over an area 2.4 m x 2.4 m (8

ft x 8 ft) on the surface. The maximum force load that is transferred to the supporting surface (ground) as a result of the jet thrust moment is ~481 kg (1060 lbm) (at maximum jet thrust with the moment load taken on one leg of the stand). The mast weight is estimated to be ~1247 kg (2750 lbm). Lifting shackles to carry the weight of the bridge mount during installation and removal are incorporated in the bridge mount structure.

6.2.4 Extendible-Nozzle Operating Experience and Performance

The borehole miner extendible nozzle was deployed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to mobilize and mix 159 m³ (42,000 gal) of low level waste stored in five horizontal underground storage tanks. The tanks contained 45.7 cm (18 in.) of sludge covered by supernate. In 1998, over a period of less than 3 weeks, the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle system was deployed to remediate these tanks.

Prior to deployment at ORNL, tests were conducted at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to characterize the performance of the borehole-miner extendible-nozzle. The tests were conducted using sludge waste simulants with shear strengths ranging from 2 to 150 kPa (42 to 3133 lbf/ft²) and salt cake simulants with compressive strengths up to 19 MPa (396,825 lbf/ft²). The nozzle stand-off distances evaluated ranged from 1.5 to 15 m (5 to 50 ft). The borehole-miner extendible-nozzle was able to dislodge and mobilize simulants with this broad range of physical and rheological properties.

The extendible-nozzle system at ORNL was designed to penetrate through a 30.5-cm (12-in.) riser. The mast, hose, and extension mechanism could be reconfigured to be deployed through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser. A configuration for extended sludge resuspension would probably not require an operating pressure of 20.7 MPa (3000 psi) or be able to operate at a stand-off distance of 18.3 m (60 ft); therefore, the system size could be reduced for this application.

6.2.5 Extendible-Nozzle Deployment for Enhanced Sludge Removal

The extendible-nozzle can be configured to fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.) diameter riser. The nozzle length of extension would be configured so that the unit could be deployed to reach specified areas to dislodge and mobilize waste with the nozzle water jet.

The extendible-nozzle performance data indicate that the system is well suited for dislodging and moving waste with physical properties that are much more challenging than the specified shear strength of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²). Testing would be required to determine the effective cleaning radius for slurries and sludges with shear strengths of 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²); it is expected that the ECR would be on the order of the extendible nozzle range of 15.2 to 18.3 m (50 to 60 ft) stand-off distance.

6.3 C-106 Sluicer

Hanford Project W-320 installed the waste retrieval sluicing system (WRSS) in Tank 106-C to mobilize high-heat generating sludge in Tank 106-C to transfer it to Tank 102-AY. The tank was classified as a high heat watch list tank with a heat load estimated to be 34.6 kW (118,000 Btu/hr), generated in a sludge layer about 1.8 m (6 ft) thick. The supernatant liquid layer above the sludge was 1.9 m (77 in.) deep, varying over the range from 1.92 to 1.99 m (75.6 to 78.4 in.) due to evaporation and the addition of cooling water every 20 to 30 days. These additions were typically on the order of 7.6 to 11.4 m³ (2000 to 3000 gal) and raised the tank liquid level by approximately 2.54 cm (1 in.). Evaporation would subsequently lower the liquid level at a steady rate until the next addition. The process flow sheet, shown in Figure 6.4, defines system components, operating pressures and flow rates; the sluicer details are shown in Figure 6.5 (Carothers et al. 1999).

6.3.1 Sluicer System Components

The sluicer is constructed of 304L stainless steel and has a 2.54-cm- (1-in.-) diameter nozzle with two degrees of motion control (rotation 194 degrees) and nozzle elevation (130 degrees). The nozzle pivots/rotates at a fixed elevation in the tank and can be aimed with a dedicated hydraulic system. The sluicer controls can be operated in manual or semi-automatic mode.

The sluicer pump system is a tandem pump that includes an adjustable height, submersible slurry pump in the tank and a variable-speed slurry booster pump in the pit above (May 1996). The submersible slurry pump is a centrifugal, direct-drive, end suction, 30-kW (40-hp) immersible pump with a 0.6-cm- (0.25-in.-) mesh intake screen. The submersible pump pumps waste from the tank to the 186-kW (250-hp) vertical direct-drive, variable-speed, centrifugal slurry booster pump. The sluicer is approximately 29.2 cm (11.5 in.) in diameter and is installed in a 30.5 (12-in.-)diameter riser.

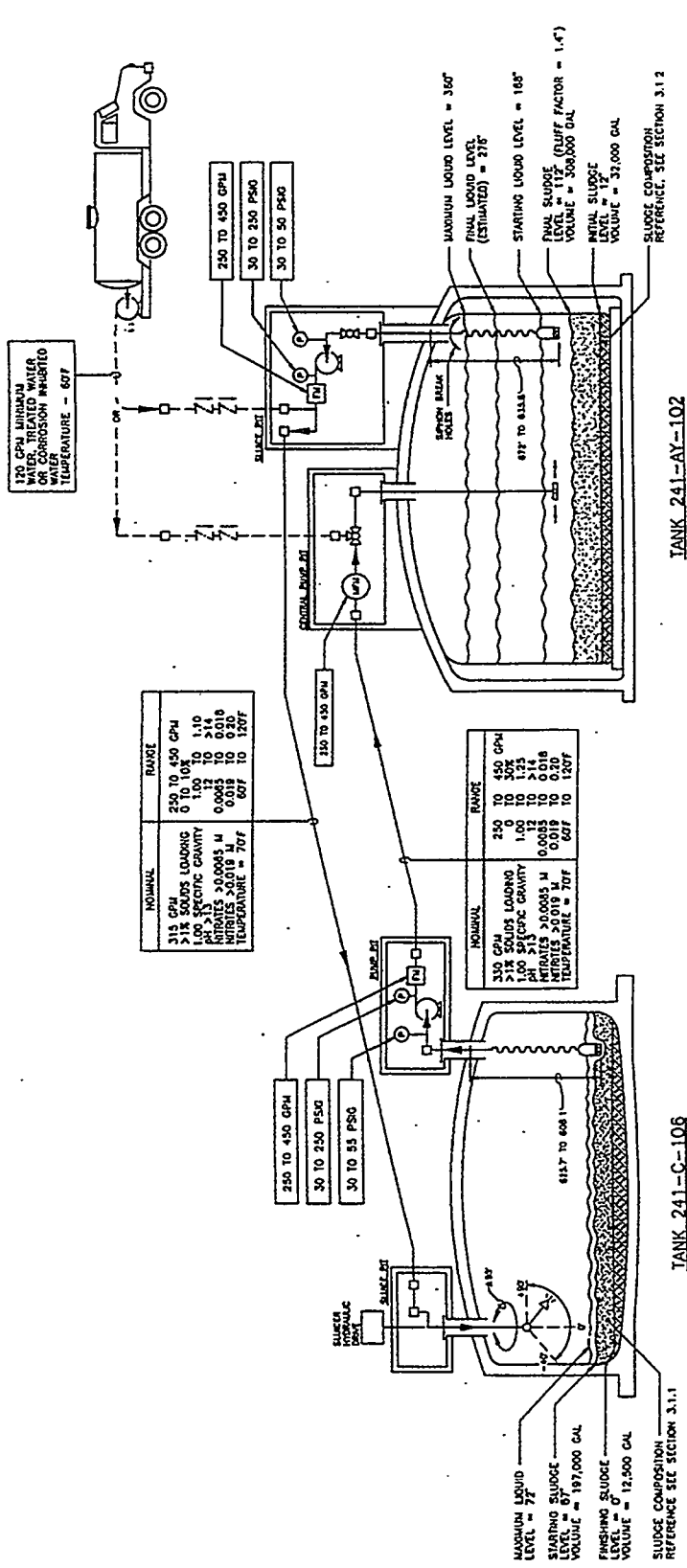


Figure 6.4 Tank 106-C process flow sheet

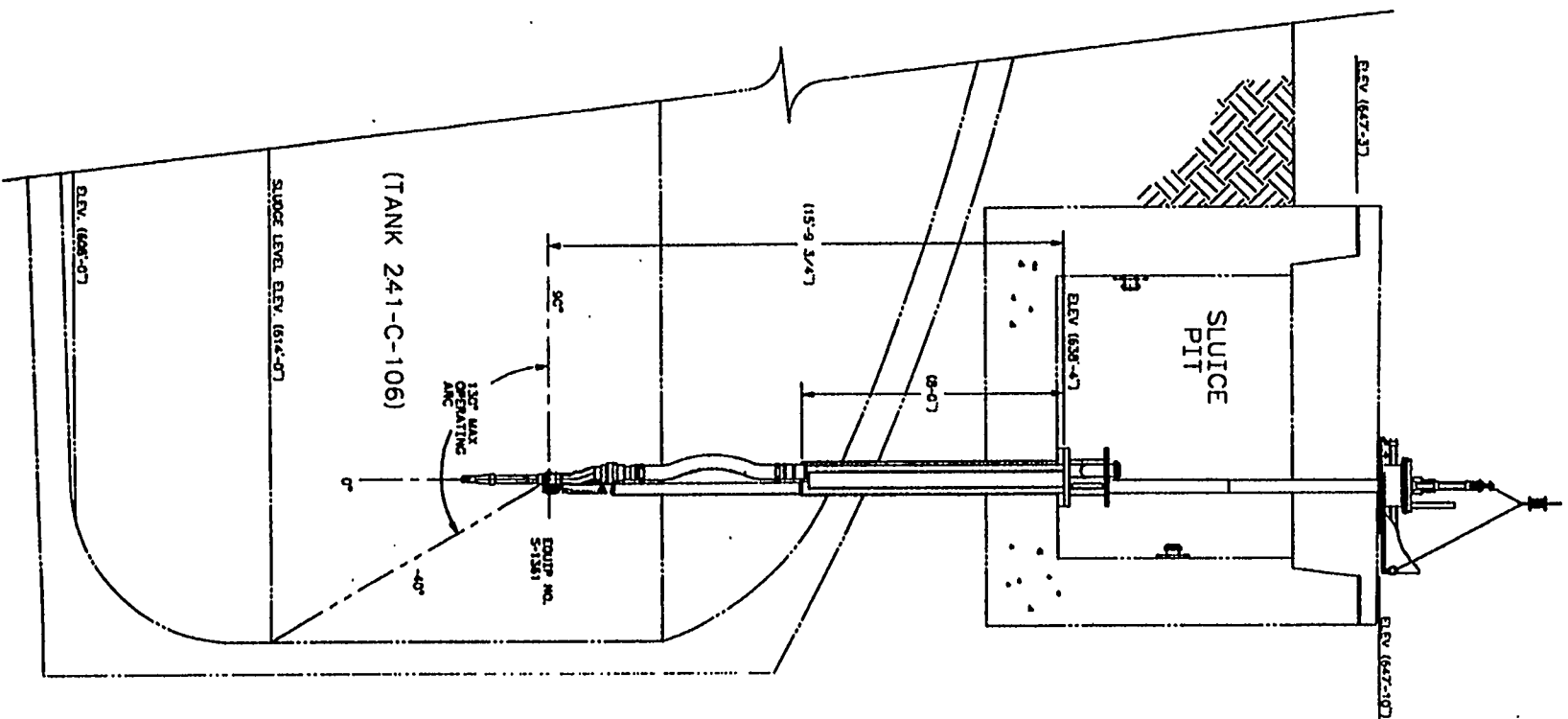


Figure 6.5 C-106 sluicer system configuration

6.3.2 Sluicer Operation

The sluice nozzle orientation is hydraulically controlled. The nozzle swings through a 130 degree vertical arc, from horizontal to -40 deg. On the horizontal axis, the sluicer can sweep in a 194 deg arc. The sluicer can operate in a fixed position, sweep in an automatic mode, or be controlled by the joy stock. Maximum operating pressure is 2.07 MPa (300 psi). The nominal sluicer flow rate is 0.022 m³/s [350 gal/min (140 ft/s)]; the minimum flow rate to keep solids in suspension is 0.019 m³/s [300 gal/min (120 ft/s)]. The system safety limit is 0.041 m³/s [650 gal/min (270 ft/s)]. Nozzle horizontal and vertical position is indicated on the sluicer controller. The sluice stream can also be monitored on the video monitor in the control trailer. The sluicer was used to mobilize the waste in phases. The proposed operation is shown in Figure 6.6. The actual operations are summarized in Table 6.2.¹

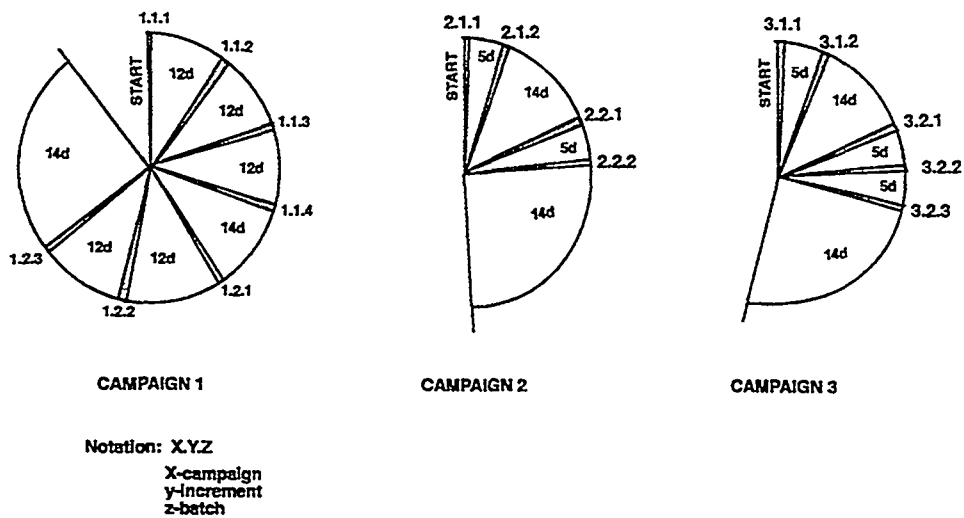


Figure 6.6 Planned sluicer operation

6.3.3 Sluicer Performance

The sluicer has been successfully operated between November 1998 and October 1999 to sluice waste in Tank C-106. No information regarding the waste rheology is available. This lack of information suggests that the shear strength is not a significant issue. The liquid density is ~1.2 g/cm³ (74.92 lbm/ft³), the sludge bulk density is 1.6 g/cm³ (99.89 lbm/ft³), and the waste particulate density is 2.6 g/cm³ (162.3 lbm/ft³).

¹ Cuta, J.M., K.G. Carothers, D.W. Damschen, J.A. Lechelt, B.E. Wells, K. Sathyanarayana, and L.A. Stauffer. 1999. *Review of Waste Retrieval Sluicing System Operations and Tank Data for 241-C-106 and 241-AI-102*. Draft. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

Table 6.2 History of Tank 106-C sluicing transfers

Date	Heat Load Transferred in Batch		Sludge Volume		Net Heat Load Transferred		Net Sludge Transferred,		Cam- paign Phase	Plan- ned Dur- ation da	Actual Dur- ation da
	kW	Btu/hr	Kl	gal	kW	Btu/hr	Kl	gal			
11/18/98	0.199	680	29.56	7810	0.199	680	29.56	7810	1.1.1	12	28
12/16/98	0.144	491	8.744	2310	0.343	1171	38.31	10120	Process Test, Phase 1		81
3/7/99	0.804	2746	88.27	23320	1.147	3918	126.6	33440	Process Test, Phase 2		21
3/28/99	2.211	7548	158.9	41965	3.359	11465	285.4	75405	Process Test, Phase 3		26
Total for Campaign #1	3.359	11465	285.4	75405						88	156
4/23/99	0.0969	331	6.98	1843	3.455	11797	292.4	77248	2.1.1	5	5
4/28/99 and 4/30/99	0.927	3166	55.28	14603	4.968	16963	347.7	91851	2.1.2	14	26
5/24/99	0.0536	1830	25.30	6683	4.918	16793	373.0	98534	2.2.1	5	10
6/3/99	2.641	9017	107.3	28353	0.0758	25809	480.3	126887	2.2.2	14	48
Total for Campaign #2	4.201	14344	194.9	51482						38	89
7/21/99 and 7/22/99	0.0155	5208	50.59	13365	9.084	31017	530.9	140252	3.1.1 (part 1)	5	14
8/4/99	0.132	450	4.37	1155	9.216	31467	535.3	141407	3.1.2	14	16
8/20/99	0.535	1826	20.19	5335	9.751	33293	555.5	146742	3.1.3		21
9/10/99	0.977	3337	33.73	8910	10.73	36630	589.2	155652	3.2.1	5	4
9/14/99	0.534	1823	18.43	4868	11.26	38453	607.6	160520	3.2.2	5	2
9/16/99	1.121	3828	44.55	11770	12.38	42281	690.0	172290	3.2.3	14	5
9/21/99	0.477	1628	18.95	5005	12.86	43908	671.1	177295	3.2.4		3
9/24/99	0.339	1159	13.85	3658	13.20	45068	685.0	180952	3.2.5		2
9/26/99	0.232	793	9.47	2503	13.43	45861	694.4	183455	3.2.6		2
9/28/99	0.102	349	4.16	1100	13.53	46210	698.6	184555	3.2.7		2
9/30/99	0.120	410	4.89	1293	13.65	46619	703.5	185847	3.2.8		6
10/06/99	0.357	122	1.46	385	13.69	46741	704.9	186232	3.2.9		
Total for Campaign #3	6.13	20932	224.6	59345						43	77
Total for entire sluicing operation					13.69	46741	704.9	186232			

6.3.4 Sluicer Deployment for Enhanced Sludge Removal

The sluicer current design is for insertion through a riser with a diameter much larger than 15.2 cm (6 in.) It is expected that the sluicer may be redesigned to be installed through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.) diameter riser. Some loss of performance may occur.

6.4 Pulsed-Air Mixer

In 1999, Oak Ridge National Laboratory deployed a pulsed-air mixer in Tank W-9 to mix waste solids and accelerate settling of >100- μm -diameter particles. Pulse air technology¹ was identified in 1994 as a potential method to enhance mixing in underground storage tanks. The technology was developed for deployment at ORNL at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a part of the Retrieval Process Development and Enhancements project.

6.4.1 Pulsed-Air Mixer Operation

The pulsed-air mixing technique utilizes short, discrete pulses of air or inert gas to produce large bubbles near the tank floor. The bubbles are produced beneath horizontal circular plates positioned just above the tank floor. These bubbles rise toward the liquid surface and induce mixing, as shown in Figure 6.7. The pulse frequency, duration, gas pressure, and plate sequencing are controlled to create a well-mixed condition within the tank. Pulsed-air mixing differs from conventional air sparging; in pulsed-air mixing single, large bubbles are introduced into the tank fluid periodically (once every 15 s); in sparging, small bubbles are injected continuously. The rapid expansion of the pulsed-air bubbles near the tank floor and their subsequent rise through the fluid serve to both lift solids from the tank floor and maintain those solids in a uniform suspension.

The system deployed at ORNL Tank W-9 utilized a dual-plate pulsed-air mixer; shown in Figure 6.8. In this design air pulses can be applied either to the underside of the bottom plate or between the plates. Pulsing air under the bottom plate clears away sludge and allows the mixer to penetrate through piles of sludge. Once the mixer reaches the floor, air pulses are applied only between the plates. This eliminates the tendency of the plates to lift with each pulse.

¹ Andrews, R.M. *PTWF Pulsair Tank Waste Fluidizing, September 19 & 20, 1994, Hanford, Washington*. Pulsair Systems, Inc., Bellevue, Washington.

Powell, M.R. and G.A. Whyatt. 1999. *ORNL Tank W-9 Pulsed-Air Mixer Design, Defensibility and Performance Evaluation*. PNNL-11918 Draft, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

Powell, M.R., M.A. Sprecher, C.R. Hymas, D. Winkel, R.M. Andrews, and R.E. Park. 1995. *1/12-Scale Testing of a Pulsair Mixing Array: An Evaluation of Pulsed-Bubble Mixing for Hanford Waste Retrieval and Processing Applications*. March, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

Pulsair Systems, Inc. *Pulsair Pneumatic Batch Mixing*. 1993. Pulsair Systems, Inc., Bellevue, Washington.

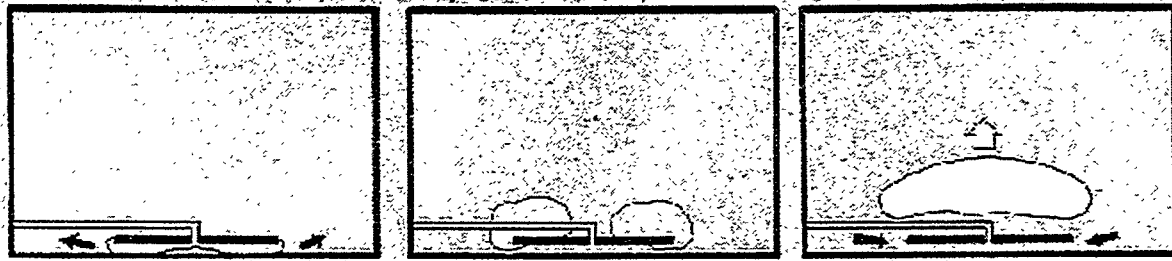


Figure 6.7 Pulsed-air bubble formation, growth, and coalescence. Courtesy of Pulseair Systems, Inc.

6.4.2 Pulsed-Air Mixer System Components

The pulsed-air mixer system includes an array of horizontal, circular plates positioned just above the tank floor. Pipes connected to each plate supply pulses of compressed gas to the underside of each plate via special commercially available gas pulsing valves.

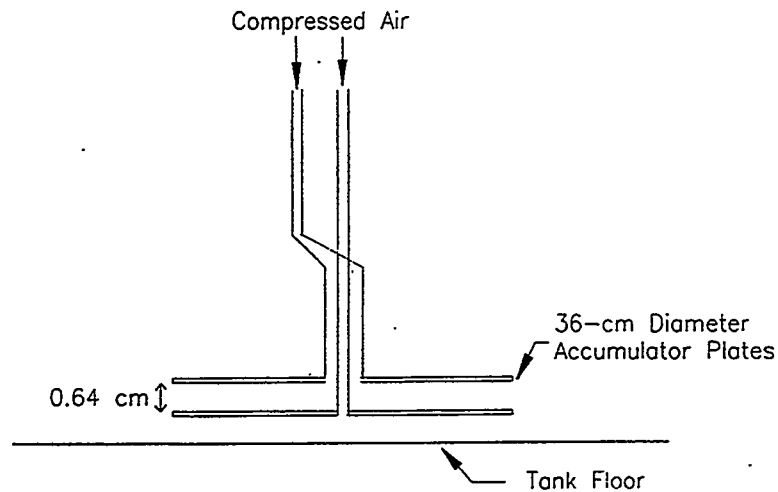


Figure 6.8 Dual-plate pulsed-air mixer configuration

6.4.2.1 Mixer

The ORNL Tank W-9 mixer consists of 13 circular accumulator plates positioned to cover the tank floor. Each plate is 27.9 cm (11 in.) in diameter and is connected to a 2.54-cm (1-in.) schedule 40 pipe. Each pipe is connected to a compressed air pulsing valve outside of the tank. The mixer plate diameter was selected to fit through the 83.8-cm- (33-in.) diameter tank risers.

6.4.2.2 Deployment System

To reach positions other than beneath the tank riser, an inverted umbrella deployment system was designed and evaluated. The self-deploying assembly is lowered through the tank riser. When it contacts the tank floor, it unfolds like an inverted umbrella. This concept is shown in Figure 6.9.

6.4.2.3 Pulsed-air Controller and Valves

The mixer controller, gas pulsing valves, and compressed air supply are located outside the tank. The controller permits independent adjustment of pulse rate, plate sequence, and pulse duration. The gas pressure can be adjusted between 0 and 0.69 MPa gauge (0 and 100 psig) using a pressure regulator located upstream of the 0.30-m³ (80-gal) compressed air storage tank. The 0.30-m³ (80-gal) tank provides enough compressed air to pulse 13 plates simultaneously. This valve controls operating pressure and prevents migration of radioactive materials into the compressed air supply. A 0 to 0.069 MPa gauge (0 to 10 psig) pressure regulator on the downstream side of the compressed air tank provides a slow flow of compressed air to each accumulator plate. This pressure keeps waste from entering the pipe and ensures that any waste-bearing aerosols inside the pipes are prevented from migrating up the air pipes to the air-pulsing valves.

6.4.2.4 Containment and Contamination Control

During normal mixer operation there are two potential pathways for loss of waste containment: aerosol generation from mixing action within the tank and migration of waste-bearing aerosols up the compressed air pipes against the flow of compressed air. The maximum aerosol loading expected to result from pulsed-air mixing is estimated to be 50 mg (0.11 lbm) of wet aerosol per of cubic meter of gas supplied to the mixer.¹ This estimate is based on aerosol production rates measured in a variety of experiments.

¹ Powell, M.R. and G.A. Whyatt. 1999. *ORNL Tank W-9 Pulsed-Air Mixer Design, Defensibility and Performance Evaluation*. PNNL-11918 Draft, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

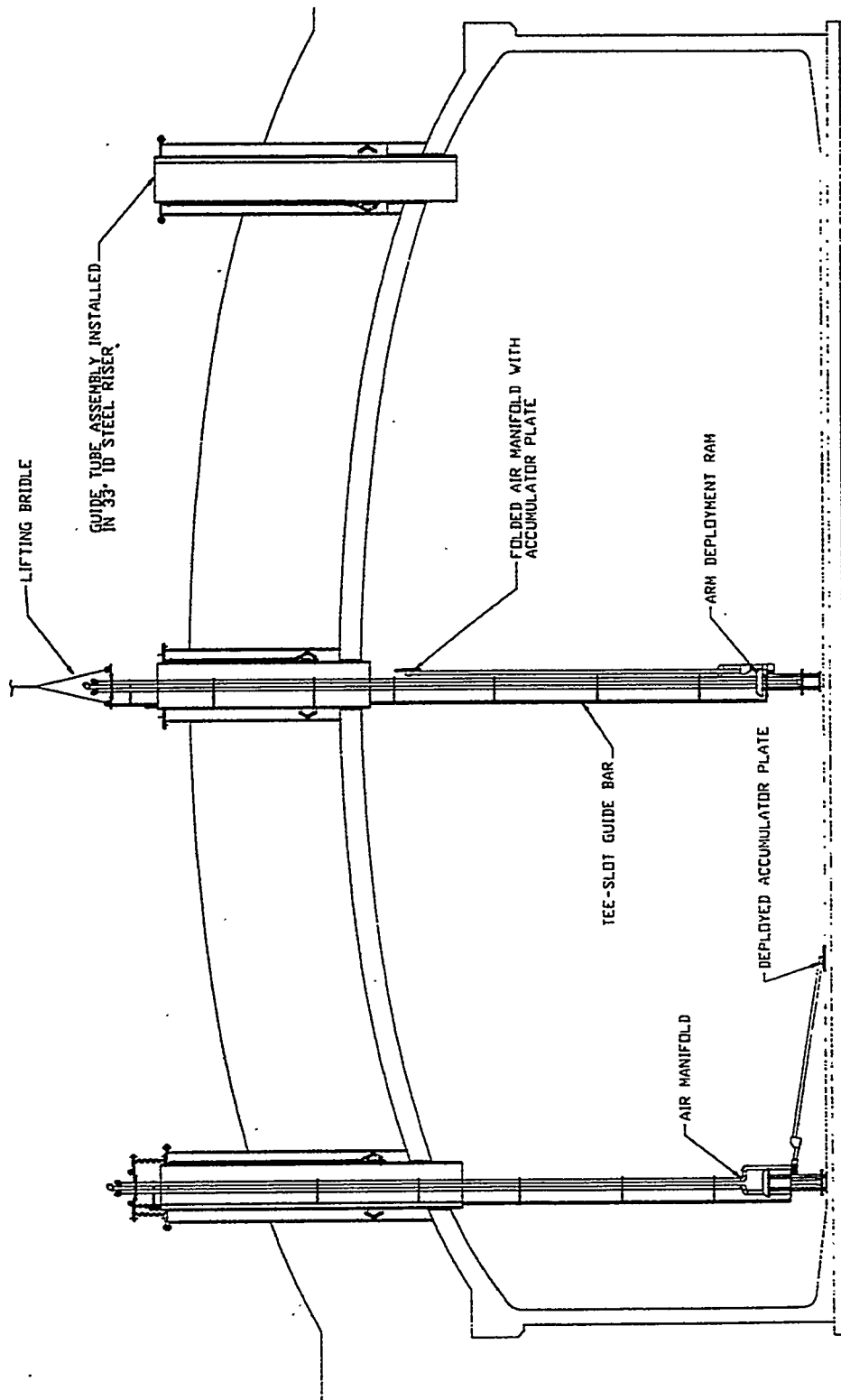


Figure 6.9 Multiple mixer plates deployed via the inverted umbrella approach

6.4.3 Pulsed-Air Mixer Operating Experience and Performance

In 1999, a pulsed-air mixer array installed in ORNL Tank W-9 was operated to mix the tank contents. Upon resuspension, the slurry was recirculated through a slurry monitoring test system to evaluate the slurry transport properties. The pulsed-air system was installed as three separate assemblies with a total of 13 accumulator plates.

Four pulsed-air system parameters were evaluated during the demonstration: dwell time, the time between air injections (10, 14, 18 s); injection time, the amount of time air is injected through a pulse plate (1 s); air supply pressure [0.24 MPa (35 psig)]; and recirculation pump elevation from the tank floor [1.2 to 1.8 m (4 and 6 ft)]. Test results show that the mixing time was dependent upon dwell time. The shorter dwell time mixed the tank more quickly. Also the equilibrium condition obtained in the tank was dependent upon the elevation of the retrieval pump. The highest concentration, 3.1 wt% solids, was obtained when the recirculation pump was positioned 1.2 m (4 ft) from the tank bottom.

6.4.4 Pulsed-Air Mixer Deployment for Enhanced Sludge Removal

The pulsed-air mixer plate diameter selected for deployment at ORNL was 27.9 cm (11 in.). The plate area must be reduced by a factor of 3.4 to provide a system that could be deployed through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.) diameter riser.

In addition, the system only has been tested with kaolin clay slurries, not with sludges with measurable shear strengths. If the deployment issue is addressed, tests with a waste simulant with a shear strength in the range of the required 1.96 kPa (41 lbf/ft²) must be evaluated to determine the extent of resuspension.

6.5 Waste-Retrieval End Effector

In 1997, ORNL selected a lightweight scarifying end effector, a jet-pump conveyance system, and two deployment systems: the light duty utility arm (LDUA) and the Houdini remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to perform the Gunitite and associated tanks treatability study (GAAT-TS). Two scarifier end effectors were evaluated: the sludge retrieval end effector (SREE) optimized for sludge retrieval and the gunitite scarifying end effector (GSEE) optimized for scarification of gunitite surfaces. These are both variations of the confined-sludging end effector (CSEE). Diagrams of the sludge retrieval end effector and the gunitite scarifying end effector are shown in Figures 6.10 and 6.11.

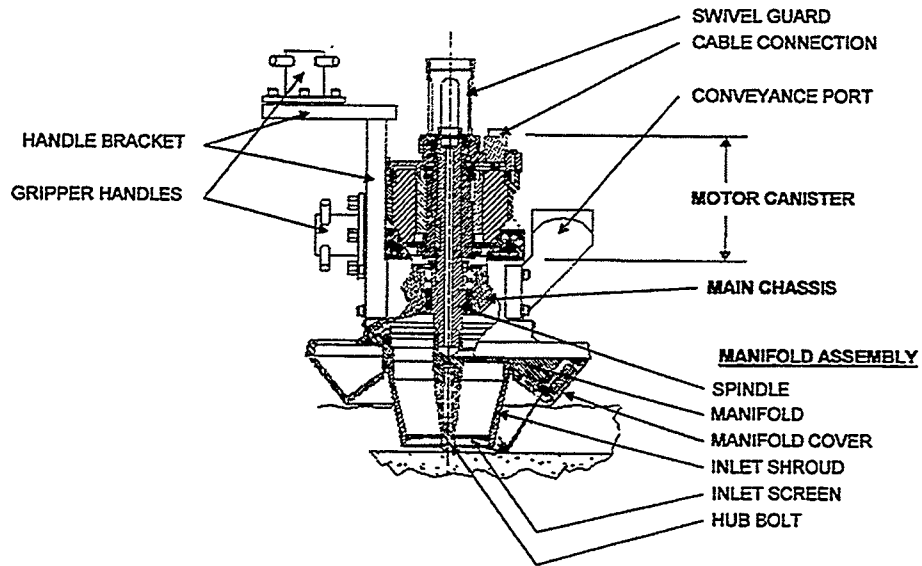


Figure 6.10 Sludge retrieval end effector

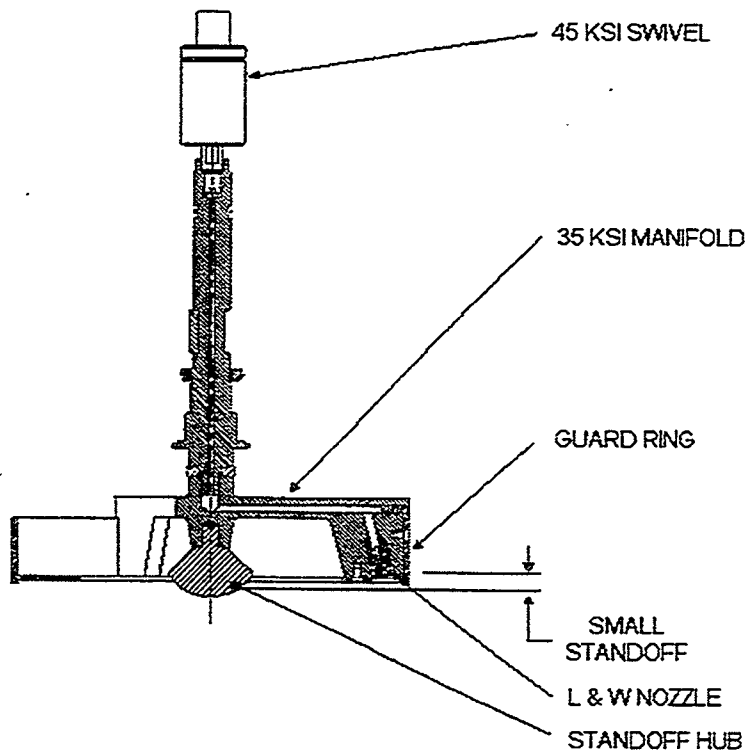


Figure 6.11 Gunite scarifying end effector

6.5.1 Waste Retrieval End-effector Operation

Scarifying end effectors employ a rotating array of small water jets to fragment and dislodge waste. The jet nozzles are arrayed on a manifold, which rotates about an axis normal to the waste surface. The jet size and pressure, rotational frequency, and traverse speed are tailored to the properties of the waste. The end effector was approximately 38.1 cm (15 in.) in diameter and was deployed through a 53.3-cm (21-in.-) diameter riser. The sludge retrieval end effector operated at pressures from 2.07 to 69 MPa (300 to 10,000 psi), and the gunite scarifying end effector operated at pressures from 2.07 to 207 MPa (300 to 30,000 psi). The flow rate per jet was variable up to 0.0063 m³/s (10 gal/min).

6.5.2 Waste-Retrieval End-Effector System Components

The end-effector system includes the end effector, the deployment mechanism – either a remote vehicle or an arm-based deployment system, the pump to supply pressurized water to the end effector and the conveyance system.

6.5.3 Waste-Retrieval End-Effector Performance

The sludge retrieval end effector was deployed in ORNL Gunite Tank W-3. The waste depth was estimated to be 0.6 m (2 ft) after the supernatant was removed. The waste was stratified in irregular layers; some appeared to be fairly solid or elastic, like damp chalk or gypsum; other layers were more viscous. A rough estimate of sludge properties was made based on video tape records. The larger pieces of sludge appeared similar in strength to a bentonite-water slurry in the 15 to 20 wt% solids range. The shear strength of such a mixture is between 0.1 and 1.5 kPa (2.1 to 31 lbf/ft²).

To remove waste from Tank W-3, operators held the SREE 0.3 to 0.6 m (1 to 2 ft) away from the surface and operated the SREE at 6.9 to 27.6 MPa (1000 to 4000 psi) at 200 rpm to slurry the waste. Then they lowered the SREE into the slurry with jets and rotation still on to pump it out with the conveyance pump.

Severe mixing and occlusion of visibility occur while scarifying with the SREE because the conveyance system doesn't move enough air to capture ejecta and spray for the jets scattered by the irregular concrete surface and there is no shroud to confine the spray to the immediate area.

During clean out of Tank W-3, the SREE used 21.4 m³ (5658 gal) of water to dislodge 41.7 m³ (11,014 gal) of waste. An additional 53.2 m³ (14,063 gal) of water was used by the jet pump conveyance system. Additional information is provided in Rule et al. (1998).

6.5.4 Waste-Retrieval End-Effector Deployment for Enhanced Sludge Removal

The waste-retrieval end effector has the ability to dislodge sludge and waste with high shear strengths, so it is well suited to dislodge the waste piles. However, the system would require a complete redesign to engineer a system to be deployed through a 15.2-cm- (6-in.-) diameter riser. Also, significant ancillary equipment to deploy the end effector either via remote vehicle or arm-based deployment is required.

6.6 Pulsating Mixer Pump

In 1999, pulsating mixer technology, consisting of a jet mixer powered by a reciprocating air supply, was selected for deployment in Oak Ridge National Laboratory Tank TH-4 to mobilize settled solids. The pulsating mixer technology was identified as a promising technology that could be implemented in the DOE complex, during FY 1996 and FY 1997 technical exchanges between the US Department of Energy Tanks Focus Area Retrieval and Closure program, the DOE Environmental Management International Programs, and delegates from Russia. The pulsating mixer technology, provided by the Russian Integrated Mining Chemical Company, was tested at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to observe its ability to suspend settled solids. Based on the results of this demonstration, ORNL and DOE staff determined that a modified pulsating mixer would meet project needs for bulk mobilization of gunite tank sludge prior to deployment of other retrieval systems. This deployment is expected to save the costs associated with operation and maintenance of more expensive retrieval systems.

6.6.1 Pulsating Mixer Pump Components and Operation

The original pulsating mixer pump, shown in Figure 6.12, consists of an upright cylindrical reservoir, a foot check valve, a working-gas supply pipe, a discharge manifold, and jet nozzles. The gas supply pipe is plumbed to a control valve, which alternates the exposure of the line between a vacuum and air supply source. In operation, the waste is drawn into the reservoir through the foot check valve when the supply pipe is valved to the vacuum source. The supply pipe is then pressurized with supply air; the pressurized air discharges the fluid out of the monitor reservoir back into the tank through the jet nozzles.

6.6.1.1 Pulsating Mixer Pump Evaluation at PNNL

Only two jet nozzles were used during testing at PNNL; however, there are four ports for jets in the head. The preliminary drawings showed a fifth nozzle directed axially downward on the centerline of the monitor, but the port for that jet was not present on the test article.

The vacuum supply to the pulsating equipment was provided by an axial-jet eductor furnished with the equipment. A diesel-powered trailer compressor supplied compressed air to the pulsating monitor and the vacuum eductor. The eductor was supplied and specified by Integrated Mining Chemical Company as requiring 4 m³/min (141 cfm) of air delivered at approximately 0.48 MPa gauge (70 psig) to produce 0.40

MPa gauge (5.8 psig) of vacuum. The air supply line to the eductor was operated at a pressure of 725 kPa gauge (105 psig) and was throttled to obtain the desired vacuum line pressure. The actual air flow rate to the eductor was not measured.

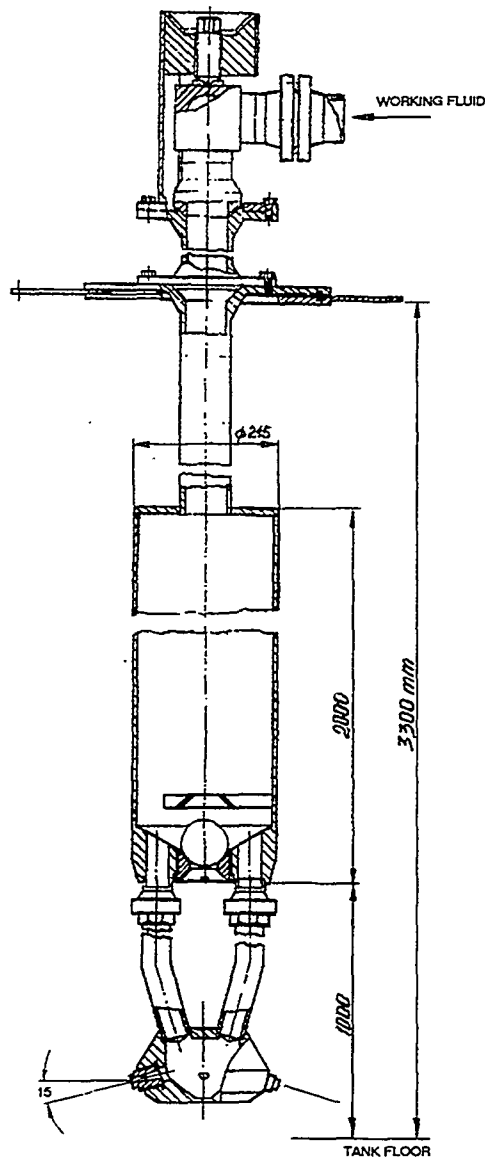


Figure 6.12 Pulsating monitor system tested at PNNL

At PNNL, the operation of the pulsating mixer pump was demonstrated in a 5.7-m- (18.75-ft-) diameter tank. The pulsating mixer pump operation was visualized using medium grain sand [1 to 2.4 mm (0.004 to 0.1 in.)] spread over the tank bottom and water as a supernatant liquid. The size of the sand was selected to be large enough so that the pulsating mixer pump jets would not suspend the sand when

the system was operating at the control settings selected for the demonstration. The purpose of the sand was to provide flow visualization of the influence that the pulsating mixer pump jets have on the test tank floor. The pulsating mixer pump contained two diametrically opposed, 8-mm- (0.31-in.-) diameter nozzles. Two tests, Tests 3 and 4, were conducted with the pulsating mixer pump remaining stationary (not rotating).

Test 3 was conducted with the nozzles oriented in a north-south direction. During Test 3, the period was 21 s, and the vacuum and supply pressures were 77 kPa absolute (11.1 psia) and 557 kPa gauge (80.7 psig), respectively. The pulsating mixer pump was run for 9 min.; then the cleared area on the tank floor was measured. The dimensions for the observed area of jet influence on the bottom of the tank are presented in Figure 6.13. The pulsating mixer pump was not located in the center of the tank.

The first jet pulse cleared the floor of sand out to a distance of approximately 1.5 m (5 ft) and on the second pulse to about 1.8 m (6 ft). After the first four pulses, the growth of the footprint slowed considerably. After 9 min. of operation, the jets were still moving sand on the bottom of the tank causing the cleared area to grow at a slow rate.

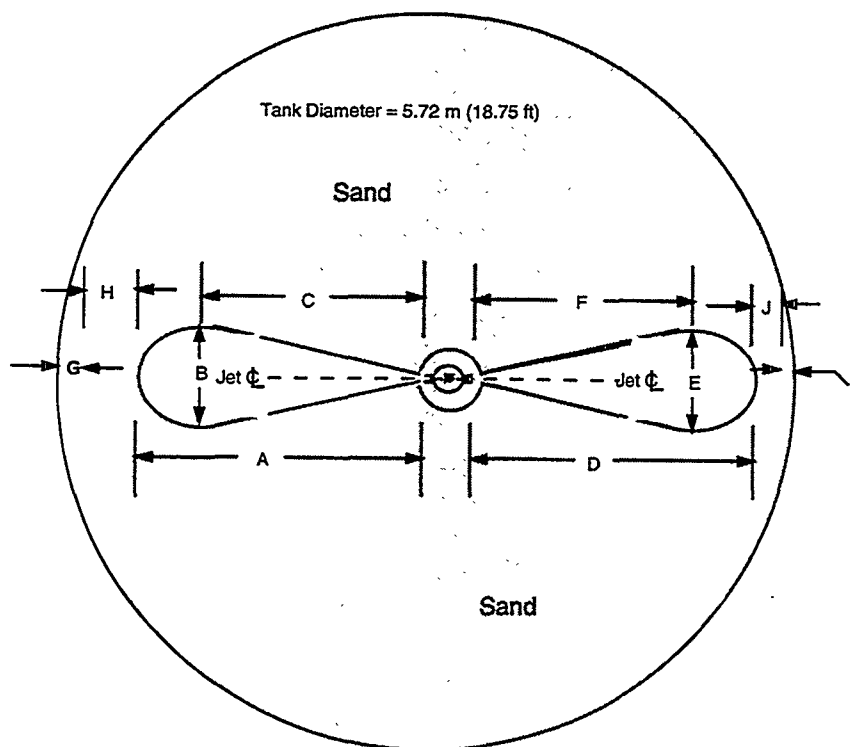
For Test 4, the pulsating mixer pump was rotated 90 deg to orient one of the nozzles to erode a thick layer of sand. The pulse rate was maintained at 21 s, and the time average pressures were 78 kPa absolute (11.4 psia) and 556 kPa gauge (80.7 psig) for the vacuum and supply pressure, respectively. Test 4 was run for approximately 4 min. The dimensions for the cleared area created by the jet to the west of the pulsating mixer pump (i.e., through the thick layer of sand) are presented in Figure 6.13.

6.6.1.2 Control System Planned for Use at ORNL

The primary functions of the control system are: 1) to permit the pulsating mixer pump system to operate optimally over a range of operating conditions; 2) to provide automatic shut down in case an out-of-specification condition occurs; and 3) to allow remote operation of the system from either the inside of the ORNL Gunitite Tank Farm control shed, which has a maximum distance from the tank risers of 91 m (300 ft), for the riser site. Under steady-state operating conditions, the pulsating mixer pump should require minimal manual intervention. However, if changes do occur in the operating conditions (e.g., changes in the height of the tank fluid, in the concentration of the tank slurry, or fouling of the check valves or nozzles), adjustments must be made to rebalance the system. If the changes are a continual occurrence, continual or periodic action will be required. The system operation relies on the fill and evacuation phases of the pump cycle being balanced with regards to the flow rate. What is drawn into the reservoir must be discharged. If the system is out of balance, the volume of fluid in the reservoir will either incrementally decrease, eventually resulting in the discharging of air to the tank, or incrementally increase, resulting in fluid being drawn into the vacuum line.

The instrumentation will include sensors to measure liquid level in the pump chamber, chamber pressure, supply air pressure, and flush water pressure to allow the system to be remotely monitored. The process data will be displayed on a graphical user interface and allow the operator to view time-cyclic data. The control system will allow the operation to open and close valves individually; configure valves for standard and back-flush operations; adjust mixer rotational speed; and adjust intake and exhaust

duration, pump pressure, and slurry exhaust rate. Data will be monitored by the control program to recognize indications of system degradation, such as an increase in cycle time.



Test 3 Results

Dimension	m	in.	Dimension	m	in.
A	2.34	92	F	1.6 to 1.7	63 to 66
B	0.79 to .81	31-32	G	0.20	8
C	1.57 to 1.60	62-63	H	0.25	10
D	2.59	102	I	0.08	3
E	0.76 to 0.79	30-31	J	0.08	3

Test 4 Results

Dimension	m	in.	Dimension	m	in.
A	2.51	99	H	0.08	3
B	0.60	24	G	0.08	3
C	1.78 to 1.83	70 to 72			

Figure 6.13 Diagram and dimensions of jet footprint created by pulsating mixer on tank floor.

7. Demonstrated Technologies for Enhanced Sludge Removal

The applicability of many technologies has been evaluated for deployment at Hanford or other US Department of Energy sites. To provide some consistency between tests, many investigators used standardized simulant recipes for wet sludge, hardpan sludge, and saltcake wastes. Powell (1996) and Powell et al. (1997) describe the simulant recipes and physical and rheological characterization. The technologies that have been evaluated using specified simulants are described in this section. These technologies may not be as mature as the technologies described in Section 6 that have already been deployed for radioactive waste remediation.

Several of these technologies were evaluated through the Hanford Tanks Initiative project. The purpose of this project was to evaluate commercial technologies for potential deployment for waste remediation.

7.1 High-Pressure Scarifier

A high-pressure scarifier rated to remove $0.0009 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ($2 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$) of waste was initially developed for retrieval of hard single-shell tank salt cake waste (Bamberger et al. 1993a, b and 1994) with no significant accumulation of fluid within the tank. This system used high pressure [379 MPa ($55,000 \text{ psi}$)] jets and air conveyance to dislodge and retrieve waste. The system performed well; however, Hanford Site deployment needs changed and a lightweight version of the scarifier, shown in Figure 7.1, was designed and tested.

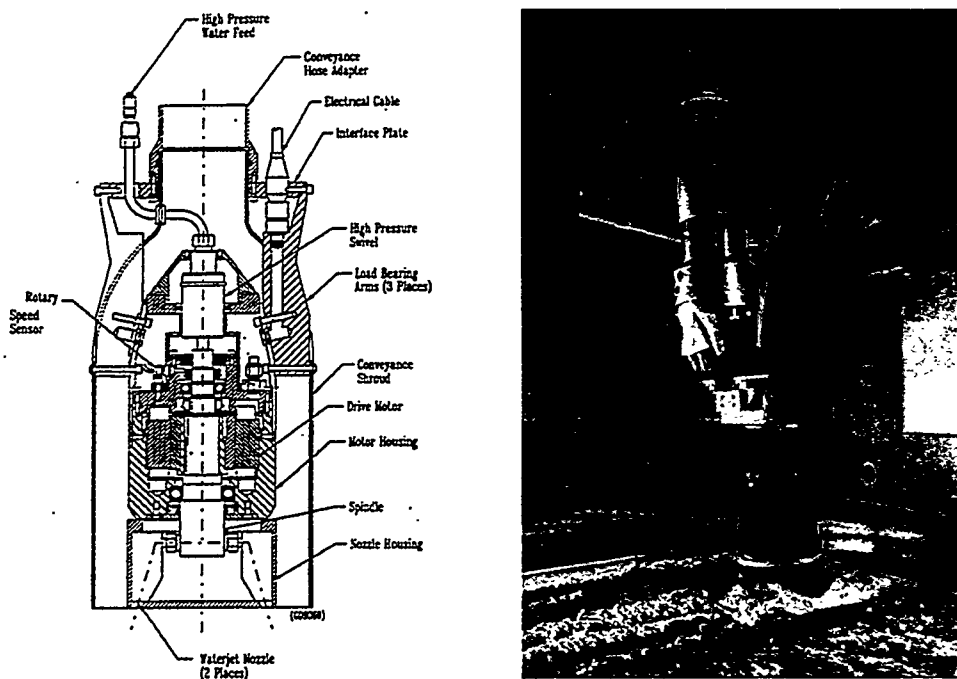


Figure 7.1 Lightweight scarifier deployed by light duty utility arm dislodging salt-cake simulant

The lightweight scarifier uses two ultra-high-pressure water jets to fracture and dislodge waste. The waterjets require $0.00038 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (6 gal/min) of water at up to 345 MPa (50,000 psi). The jet manifolds rotate between 0 and 1000 rpm. The motor that controls rotation is mounted concentric to and inside the annular conveyance inlet shroud. The scarifier weighs approximately 22.7 kg (50 lbm), is 25.4 cm (10 in.) diameter, and 48.3 (19 in.) high (Hatchell 1997).

The lightweight scarifier was deployed with the EMMA robotic manipulator to evaluate the system's ability to dislodge salt cake and dried sludge waste simulants (Grey Pilgrim 1997).

7.2 Advanced Sluicing System

Los Alamos Technical Associates, Inc. (1997) tested sluicer nozzle performance. Two nozzle configurations were evaluated to determine their ability to erode salt cake and hard pan waste simulants. The nozzles tested had bores of 2.54 and 3.175 cm (1 and 1.25 in.). The nozzles were tested at stand-off distances of $\sim 5.2 \text{ m}$ ($\sim 17 \text{ ft}$). Against the hardest salt cake waste simulant [20.7 MPa (432005 lbf/ft²) compressive strength] sluicing was able to dislodge waste at rates greater than $1.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (0.29 ft³/min). For hard pan simulant [32 kPa (662 lbf/ft²)] removal rates were $3.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (0.82 ft³/min) using the 3.175 cm (1.25 in.) nozzle, and for another hard pan simulant [150 kPa (3139 lbf/ft²)] removal rates were $1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (0.025 ft³/min) using the 2.54-cm (1-in.) nozzle.

7.3 Vehicle Deployed Sluicer

Ard Environmental (1996, 1997a, b) tested a self-propelled robotic crawler vehicle that deployed various tools including a rotating cutter, scabblor, and hydraulic jack hammer to evaluate the ability of the combination to dislodge wet sludge, saltcake, and dried hardpan waste simulants.

The hydraulically driven vehicle, shown in Figure 7.2, weighed 907 kg (2000 lbm) and provided 6508 N-m (4800 ft-lbf) of torque. The sluicer was equipped with 14 sluicing nozzles with a diameter of 0.128 in. and a 0 deg spray angle. The operating flow rate was 0.0072 to 0.0077 m³/s (114 to 122 gal/min) at 2.8 to 3.1 MPa (400 to 450 psi). The sluicer eductor, located in the center of the sluicing nozzles, had a suction capacity of $0.0063 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (100 gal/min).

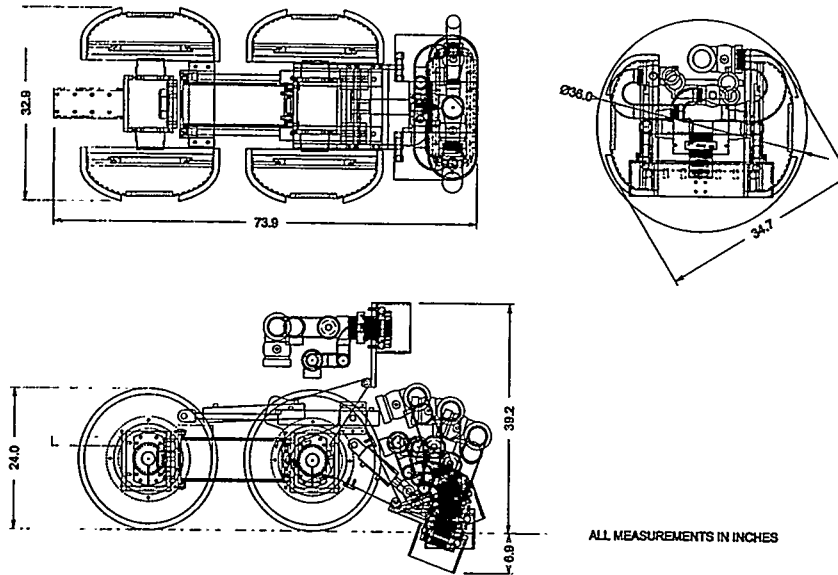


Figure 7.2 Vehicle with sluicer attachment

7.4 Flygt Mixers

Axial shrouded-propeller mixers developed by ITT Flygt Corporation¹ are being evaluated for deployment in Savannah River Site Tank 19 to resuspend sludge, zeolite, and salt that remain in the tank after a retrieval campaign conducted in the early 1980s (Powell et al. 1999a, b, c). During this campaign two jet mixer pumps were used to dissolve and retrieve the salt cake. This technology may also be applicable for deployment at Hanford.

Flygt mixers consist of an electrically-powered propeller surrounded by a close-fitting shroud. Specially sized mixers were designed for deployment in Tank 19. These 37-kW (50 hp) mixers being considered for use in Tank 19 have a propeller diameter of 51 cm (20 in.) and operate at 860 rpm. The spinning propeller creates a turbulent fluid jet with an average exit velocity of 5.4 m/s (17.7 ft/s). The mixers are shown in Figure 7.3. The mixers were modified to include a wire-mesh screen to protect the propeller from in-tank debris. With the inlet screen installed and the mixer operating at full speed, the mixer is expected to generate a water flow rate of about 1.1 m³/s (17,500 gal/min). This flow rate corresponds to a mixer thrust of 6160 N (1385 lbf) and a hydraulic power of 30 kW (40 hp). Four mixers were procured for eventual installation in Tank 19.

A series of scaled tests were conducted to evaluate the Flygt mixers. Key findings show that fluid velocities in the 30 to 50 cm/s (0.98 to 1.6 ft/s) range are required to maintain 20x50-mesh zeolite particles suspended in water. For all particles to remain in suspension, the average fluid velocity 5 cm (2 in.) above the tank floor must exceed 50 cm/s (1.6 ft/s) in all locations. Measurements to date made at full scale confirm scaled predictions that three fixed position Model 4680 Flygt mixers do not provide

¹ Trumbull, Connecticut.

sufficient mixing intensity to achieve the required fluid velocities near the tank floor in all regions of the tank to keep zeolite in suspension.

No data for the shear strength of the Tank 19 heel were available. Scaled Flygt mixer tests in a 0.45-m- (1.5-ft-) diameter tank were conducted using kaolin clay in water with a shear strength of 0.4 kPa (8.4 lbf/ft²). Recommendations have been made to test the full-scale mixers in the 5.7-m- (18.75-ft-) diameter tank with this simulant.

Prior to selection for enhanced sludge mobilization at Hanford, the ability of the mixers to mobilize simulants with shear strengths in the required range must be established as must the ability to provide mobilization over the range of effective cleaning radius. Also, the system designed for Savannah River Site could only be deployed through a 0.61- or 1.1-m- (24- or 42-in.-) diameter riser.

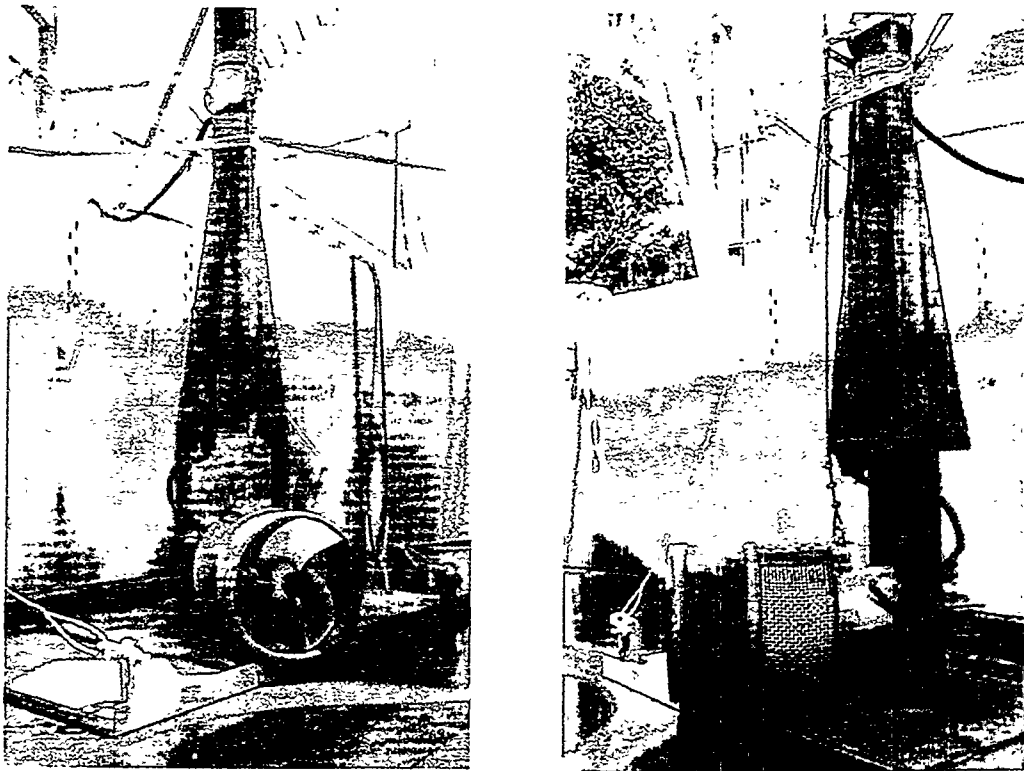


Figure 7.3 Modified Flygt mixers constructed for Tank 19

8. Industrial Technologies for Enhanced Sludge Removal

For many years researchers at Hanford and other DOE sites have addressed the need to identify new technologies for tank waste mobilization, retrieval, and tank remediation. The problem of enhanced sludge retrieval from areas of accumulation out of the range of mixer-pump technologies permits evaluation of prior studies and new technologies with this different emphasis. Two industrial applications of tank cleaning technology include cleaning of vessel hulls and train tank cars. These areas were evaluated to determine whether any of the equipment could be deployed for tank applications.

8.1 Literature Survey of Mixing Techniques for Double-Shell Tanks

In 1997 a literature search was conducted to identify commercially available applicable mixing technologies that could be used for double-shell tank sludge mobilization and mixing (Daymo 1997). The report summarized the advantages and disadvantages of tank mixing technologies including jet mixer pumps, agitator-based systems, pulsed-air, sluicing, pulsed-jet mixers, air-lift circulators, and other novel methods such as arm-based or crawler-based retrieval methods, wave machines, sonic probes, bullets, positive displacement pumps, and solution mining.

In addition a literature survey of mixing technology was conducted. This survey included evaluation of: previous searches for alternate double-shell tank mixing technologies in the DOE complex, research articles in trade publications, internet search, conferences, classes, the Thomas Register, and conduction of discussions with leading mixing consultants. The literature search did not reveal any previously unknown technologies that should be considered for sludge mobilization and mixing in 3785 m³ (million-gallon) double-shell tanks.

8.2 Consilium Gun Clean

Consilium Gunclean¹ developed single-nozzle tank cleaning machines for use in vessel holds below deck. The nozzle performs a slow horizontal rotation combined with an even slower vertical oscillation resulting in a helical cleaning pattern. Systems have been designed that use either water or crude oil as the cleaning fluid. The systems are specially designed to meet the requirements of onboard product/chemical tankers. In these cases, hazardous and toxic vapors are generated by the cargo; therefore, cleaning operations must be conducted under closed conditions. The system is also configured to permit cleaning at several levels with synchronized nozzle motions to reach areas that are obstructed by hardware. Systems are available with custom designed nozzle levels for these types of cleaning applications.

¹ Consilium. 1999. *Gunclean Tank and Hold Cleaning Systems*,
<http://www.consilium.se/MarineGroup/gunclean.htm>

USA Consilium Metritape, 59 Porter Road, P.O. Box 2366, Littleton, MA 01460, Phone: +1-978-486 9800, Telex: +1-978-486 0170, Telex: 923-492USA.

The nozzles could be configured to fit through a 15.2-cm- (6-in-) diameter riser. Also operating pressures could be selected to permit sludge mobilization.

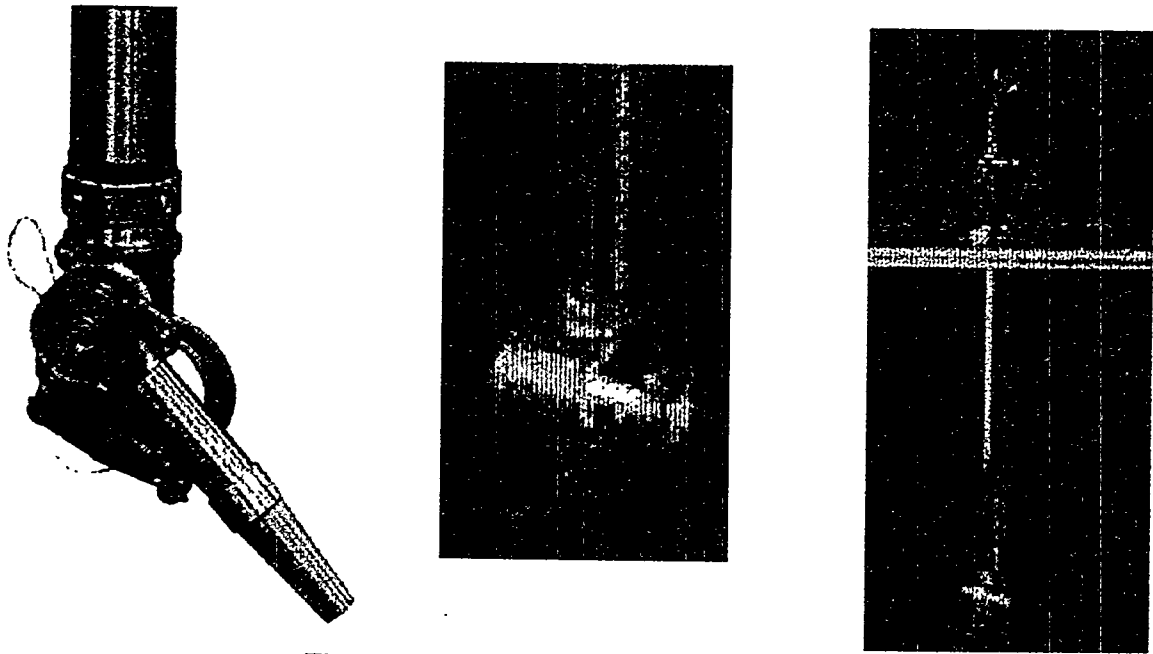


Figure 8.1 Gunclean nozzle configurations

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