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ENGINEERING CHANGE NOTICE

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1. ECN No 623843

Proj. ECN

2. ECN Category (mark one) Supplemental <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change ECN <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary <input type="checkbox"/> Standby <input type="checkbox"/> Supersedure <input type="checkbox"/> Cancel/Void <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Originator's Name, Organization, MSIN, and Telephone No. L. M. Sasaki/Characterization Plans, Coordination and Reports/R2-12/373-1027		3a. USQ Required? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	4. Date 09/01/95
	5. Project Title/No./Work Order No. Tank 241-BX-105		6. Bldg./Sys./Fac. No. N/A	7. Approval Designator N/A
	8. Document Numbers Changed by this ECN (includes sheet no. and rev.) WHC-SD-WM-ER-106, Rev. 0		9. Related ECN No(s). N/A	10. Related PO No. N/A
11a. Modification Work <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (fill out Blk. 11b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (NA Blks. 11b, 11c, 11d)	11b. Work Package No. N/A	11c. Modification Work Complete N/A _____ Cog. Engineer Signature & Date	11d. Restored to Original Condition (Temp. or Standby ECN only) N/A _____ Cog. Engineer Signature & Date	

12. Description of Change  
Results of tank vapor sampling are being incorporated into the document.

13a. Justification (mark one)

Criteria Change <input type="checkbox"/>	Design Improvement <input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental <input type="checkbox"/>	Facility Deactivation <input type="checkbox"/>
As-Found <input type="checkbox"/>	Facilitate Const <input type="checkbox"/>	Const. Error/Omission <input type="checkbox"/>	Design Error/Omission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

13b. Justification Details  
Tank vapor flammability assessment is required to satisfy the safety screening requirements for this tank.

14. Distribution (include name, MSIN, and no. of copies)  
See attached distribution sheet.



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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

1. Total Pages 89 (248/831/95)

2. Title Tank Characterization Report for Single-Shell Tank 241-BX-105	3. Number WHC-SD-WM-ER-406	4. Rev No. 0-A
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5. Key Words Waste Characterization, Single-Shell Tank, BX-105, Tank Characterization Report, BX Farm, Waste Inventory, TPA Milestone M-44	6. Author Name: Leela M. Sasaki <i>L M Sasaki</i> Signature Organization/Charge Code 75310/N4162
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7. Abstract  
N/A

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The highest total alpha result from the 1994 auger subsamples was 0.589  $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ . The highest plutonium concentration measured in the 1986 solids composites was 0.474  $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ . These values are well below the established criterion of 1 g/L specified in the Tank Safety Screening data quality objective (DQO) (by a factor of 70 or more). Assuming all the plutonium is the  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  isotope, and using an average measured solids density of 1.69 g/mL, the 1 g/L limit converts to 36.4  $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ . The total alpha values exceed the 100 nCi/g TRU designation limit and thus the tank should be considered as containing TRU waste.

The flammable gas concentration measurement in the tank vapor space was 0 percent of the lower flammability limit, which satisfies the safety screening criterion.

Based on the 1986 core sample data, the heat generation rate for the tank is estimated to be 327 W (1,120 Btu/h). This is far below the 40,000 Btu/h criterion for distinguishing a high heat load tank from a low heat load tank (Hanlon 1995).

Based on the information summarized above, the waste in tank 241-BX-105 does not appear to pose any immediate safety concerns. Although the waste exceeds the TRU limit, no immediate safety concern are created. The TRU limit is an operational segregation rule which plays a larger role during transfer and mixing of waste streams. It is recommended, if future samples are taken, that additional analyses be considered to provide better estimates of lateral and vertical heterogeneity and reduce the uncertainty in fuel and water content measurements.

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screening data quality objectives (Babad and Redus 1994). The 1994 data therefore only include thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and total alpha results. The 1986 data are used, where pertinent, to augment conclusions drawn from the 1994 results concerning safety screening issues. The 1986 data is not used alone to evaluate the safety screening objectives.

although enough insoluble phosphate may exist to affect pumpability. The boron and <sup>99</sup>Tc species were found to be 100 percent water soluble. The potassium and <sup>60</sup>Co species were found to be relatively water soluble, ranging from 51.5 to 59.4 percent and 19.3 to 51.9 percent, respectively.

The remaining metals and radionuclides were found to be relatively insoluble. The chromium data indicate that chromium is present as the Cr(III) rather than the soluble Cr(VI) species.

Table 5-5. Safety Screening DQO Decision Variables and Criteria for Tank 241-BX-105.

Safety issue	Primary decision variable	Decision criteria threshold	Analytical value
Ferrocyanide/ Organic	Total Fuel Content	481 J/g (115 cal/g)	No exotherms observed
Organic	Percent Moisture	17 wt %	12.6 wt % <sup>a</sup>
Criticality	Total Alpha	34.4 μCi/g (1 g/L) <sup>b</sup>	0.589 μCi/g <sup>c</sup>
Flammable Gas	Flammable Gas	25% LFL	0% LFL

<sup>a</sup>Represents the average of the TGA results from both risers 2 and 6.

<sup>b</sup>Although the actual decision criterion listed in the DQO is 1g/L, total alpha is measured in μCi/g rather than g/L. To convert the notification limit for total alpha into a number more readily usable by the laboratory, it was assumed that all alpha decay originates from <sup>239</sup>Pu. Using the average bulk density value from Table 4-3 of 1.79 g/ml, the decision criterion may be converted to 34.4 μCi/g as shown:

$$\left(\frac{1 \text{ g}}{\text{L}}\right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ L}}{10^3 \text{ mL}}\right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mL}}{\text{density g}}\right) \left(\frac{0.0615 \text{ Ci}}{1 \text{ g}}\right) \left(\frac{10^6 \mu\text{Ci}}{1 \text{ Ci}}\right) = \frac{61.5 \mu\text{Ci}}{\text{density g}} \quad (1)$$

<sup>c</sup>Highest result from 1994 data.

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## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The TGA analyses on the 1994 auger samples indicate that the water content of the waste are below the safety screening criteria of 17 wt%. However, the DSC analyses on the auger samples did not show any measureable exothermic activity. Thermocouple temperature measurements in the tank and estimates of heat generation do not indicate any excessive heat sources. TOC results for the sludge analyzed in 1986 do not indicate that a large fuel source is present. Even though the water content is low, the absence of fuel indicates that the potential for runaway reactions in the tank is unlikely.

The total alpha results from 1994 and the plutonium results from 1986 indicate that the plutonium concentration is well below the safety screening criticality criteria. However, the results indicate that the plutonium and americium concentrations are above the TRU classification limit of 100 nCi/g. The large range in results between risers indicates a potential for large variability in the plutonium concentration in the waste.

The flammable gas concentration measurement in the tank vapor space was 0 percent of the lower flammability limit, which satisfies the safety criterion.

The 1986 analyses indicate that the sludge contains relatively large amounts of sodium, aluminum, chromium, iron, phosphorus, silicon and  $\text{NO}_3$ . There is limited analytical data on the concentration of other anions besides nitrate. High concentrations of sodium,  $\text{NO}_3$ , and phosphates are expected in the tank based on its fill history, which includes metal waste from the bismuth phosphate process employed at B Plant in the 1940's and 1950's and uranium recovery waste in 1956. The high aluminum and  $\text{NO}_3$  concentration is also expected based on the receipt of PUREX cladding waste in the 1960's. The major radioisotopes in the waste are  $^{239/240}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{241}\text{Am}$ ,  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ , and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ . Like the plutonium, several of these isotopes show a large range in concentration between samples taken from the two risers on opposite sides of the tank. The variability in the analyte concentrations between risers indicates that the tank waste may exhibit lateral, as well as vertical, heterogeneity.

Sample recovery from risers 1 and 2 in 1986 and 1994, respectively, were poor. Sampling another riser to improve waste recovery, to better evaluate the variability of the waste composition in the tank, and to verify the wt% water results of the 1994 auger samples should be considered. If possible, future samples should be taken from the center riser on the tank. Samples to date were taken near the perimeter of the tank, where the waste composition may be substantially different than near the center. For example, it is likely that the waste near the edges is drier based on the in-tank photographs. Sampling near the center will also allow samples to be taken of the heel material at the bottom of the dish. Extensive anion analysis and TOC analysis should be performed on any archived or future samples to provide a more accurate estimate of the waste composition. Measures should be taken in any future core sampling to minimize the potential for contamination due to NPH hydrostatic fluid.

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## DISTRIBUTION SHEET

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