

WASTE STREAM	5B27-1	Thorium Nitrate (500L Drums)
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SITE Dounreay

SITE OWNER Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

WASTE CUSTODIAN Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd (NRS)

WASTE TYPE ILW

WASTE VOLUMES

	Reported (m ³)	OR	Conditioned (m ³)	Packaged (m ³)
Stocks:	At 1.4.2025			
Future arisings:				
Total future arisings:				
Total waste volume:				

Number of waste packages in stock: At 1.4.2025..... - packages

Comment on arising rates: There will be no further arisings.

Additional information on quantities: The number of drums is fixed. They will be packaged "as is".

Uncertainty factors on volumes: Stock (upper): x 1.02 Arisings (upper): x -
Stock (lower): x 0.98 Arisings (lower): x -

WASTE SOURCE Recovery of thorium from THTR spheres by crushing and rolling the spheres, followed by density based air-separation of graphite from fuel, which could then be disposed of separately. Fuel particles were dissolved in HNO₃/NH₄F solution, then separated by solvent extraction in mixer-settler boxes. The thorium nitrate was evaporated to concentration of around 400 g/l, then allowed to cool and settle.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

General description: The waste is both liquid and crystals. Thorium nitrate was formed by the dissolution of the fuel oxide in nitric acid (with the aid of aqueous fluoride ions), forming the hydrated compound, Th(NO₃)₄.12H₂O. Thorium nitrate is very soluble in water to the extent of 65.6 g Th(NO₃)₄ (the commercially available nitrate) in 100 g of solution at 20 deg C and can be readily crystallised from solution.

Changes since waste generated: -

Bulk density (t/m³): = 1.9

Comment on density: Density is an estimate.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

General description and components (%wt): Free non-aqueous liquids (90.73%), Glass (8.97%) borosilicate glass in drums, Mild Steel (0.30%) from steel 200L drums.

Chemical state: Acid

Sheet metal proportion / thickness: -

Metals and alloys (%wt):

	(%wt)	Type(s) / Grades(s) with proportions	% of total C14 activity
Stainless steel.....	= 0	-	
Other ferrous metals.....	= 0.30	-	
Iron.....	TR	Minor chemical contributors as ions and in crystallised solids	
Aluminium.....	TR	Minor chemical contributors as ions and in crystallised solids	
Beryllium.....	= 0	-	
Cobalt.....	= 0	-	
Copper.....	= 0	-	
Lead.....	= 0	-	
Magnox/Magnesium.....	= 0	-	
Nickel.....	= 0	-	
Titanium.....	= 0	-	
Uranium.....	= 0	-	
Zinc.....	= 0	-	
Zircaloy/Zirconium.....	= 0	-	
Other metals.....	TR	Minor chemical contributor (chromium) as ions and in crystallised solids	

Organics (%wt):

	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment	% of total C14 activity
Total cellulose.....	= 0	-	
Paper, cotton.....	= 0	-	
Wood.....	= 0	-	
Halogenated plastics.....	= 0	-	
Total non-halogenated plastics.....	= 0	-	
Condensation polymers.....	= 0	-	
Others.....	= 0	-	
Organic ion exchange materials.....	= 0	-	
Total rubber.....	= 0	-	
Halogenated rubber.....	= 0	-	
Non-halogenated rubber.....	= 0	-	
Hydrocarbons.....	= 0	-	
Oil or grease.....	= 0	-	
Fuel.....	= 0	-	
Asphalt/Tarmac (cont.coal tar).....	= 0	-	
Asphalt/Tarmac (no coal tar).....	= 0	-	
Bitumen.....	= 0	-	
Others.....	= 0	-	
Other organics.....	= 0	-	

Other materials (%wt):

	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment	% of total C14 activity
Inorganic ion exchange materials.....	= 0	-	
Inorganic sludges and flocs.....	= 0	-	
Soil.....	= 0	-	
Brick/Stone/Rubble.....	= 0	-	
Cementitious material.....	= 0	-	
Sand.....	= 0	-	
Glass/Ceramics.....	= 9.0	Borosilicate Glass	
Graphite.....	= 0	-	
Desiccants/Catalysts.....	= 0	-	
Asbestos.....	= 0	-	
Non/low friable.....	= 0	-	
Moderately friable.....	= 0	-	
Highly friable.....	= 0	-	
Free aqueous liquids.....	= 0	-	
Free non-aqueous liquids.....	= 90.7	-	
Powder/Ash.....	= 0	-	

COMPONENTS OF MATERIALS, WASTE PROPERTIES, MATERIALS NOT CONTRIBUTING TO MASS

Inorganic anions (%wt):

	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment
Fluoride.....	= 0	-
Chloride.....	NE	-
Iodide.....	NE	-
Cyanide.....	= 0	-
Carbonate.....	NE	-
Nitrate.....	NE	-
Nitrite.....	NE	-
Phosphate.....	= 0	-
Sulphate.....	= 0	-
Sulphide.....	NE	-

Materials of interest for waste acceptance criteria:

	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment
Combustible metals.....	NE	-
Low flash point liquids.....	NE	-
Explosive materials.....	NE	-
Phosphorus.....	NE	-
Hydrides.....	NE	-
Biological etc. materials.....	NE	-
Biodegradable materials.....	= 0	-
Putrescible wastes.....	NE	-
Non-putrescible wastes.....	NE	-
Corrosive materials.....	NE	-
Pyrophoric materials.....	NE	-
Generating toxic gases.....	NE	-
Reacting with water.....	= 0	-
Higher activity particles.....	NE	-
Soluble solids as bulk chemical compounds.....	NE	-

Hazardous substances / non hazardous pollutants:

	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment
Acrylamide.....	NE	-
Benzene.....	= 0	-
Chlorinated solvents.....	NE	-
Formaldehyde.....	NE	-
Organometallics.....	NE	-
Phenol.....	NE	-
Styrene.....	NE	-
Tri-butyl phosphate.....	TR	-
Other organophosphates.....	NE	-
Vinyl chloride.....	NE	-
Arsenic.....	= 0	-
Barium.....	NE	-
Boron.....	NE 0	-
Boron (in Boral).....	NE	-
Boron (non-Boral).....	NE	-
Cadmium.....	= 0	-
Caesium.....	NE	-
Selenium.....	= 0	-
Chromium.....	TR	-
Molybdenum.....	= 0	-
Thallium.....	NE	-
Tin.....	= 0	-
Vanadium.....	= 0	-
Mercury compounds.....	= 0	-
Others.....	NE	-

Complexing agents (%wt):

Not yet determined		
	(%wt)	Type(s) and comment
EDTA.....	NE	-
DPTA.....	NE	-
NTA.....	NE	-
Polycarboxylic acids.....	NE	-
Other organic complexants.....	NE	-
Total complexing agents.....	NE	-

Physical components:

	Number	Type(s) and comment
Sources.....	= 0	-
Electronic & Electrical Equipment (EEE)		
EEE Type 1.....	= 0	-
EEE Type 2.....	= 0	-
EEE Type 3.....	= 0	-
EEE Type 4.....	= 0	-
EEE Type 5.....	= 0	-

TREATMENT, PACKAGING AND DISPOSAL

Planned on-site / off-site treatment(s):

Treatment	On-site / Off-site	Stream volume %
Size reduction	On-site	= 100.0
Decay storage		
Low force compaction		
Supercompaction (HFC)		
Incineration		
Drying/dewatering/liquid separation		
Tie down/fixatives/strippable coating/painting application		
Decontamination	On-site	= 100.0
Metal treatment		
Recycling / reuse		
Thermal treatment, including vitrification		
Encapsulation		
Polymer encapsulation		
Other physical treatment		
Other chemical treatment		
Containerisation		
Treatment not yet determined		
None		

Comments on planned treatments:

Drummed Thorium nitrate will be dried and packaged into 500L steel drums.

Conditioning method:

Encapsulation.

Conditioning plants:

Plant Name	Location
Mobile Conditioning plant	Dounreay

Likely conditioning matrix:

Non-standard

Further information on the conditioning matrix:

Dounreay will use: Cement OPC 1:3 PFA 42% water.

Waste Packaging:

Likely container type:	Container	Waste packaged (vol%)	Waste loading (m³)	Payload (m³)	Number of packages	Estimated start date for packaging
	500 l drum	100.0	0.15	0.50	44	-

Range in container waste loading: One drum will be packaged in one 500L Drum.

Other information on packaging and conditioning: -

Conditioned density (t/m³): ~ 2.0

Conditioned density comment: It is expected that the conditioned density of the waste will be about 2 te/m³.

Management Routes:

Disposal Route	Stream volume %	Raw density t/m³	Start date
Expected to be consigned to a Near Site, Near Surface Disposal Facility (Scotland)	= 100.0		
Expected to be Non-NSD HAW managed under Scottish Government's policy			
Expected to be disposed to LLW Vaults NRS Dounreay			
Expected to be consigned to the Geological Disposal Facility			
Expected to be consigned to a Near Surface Disposal Facility			
Expected to be consigned to the LLW Repository			
Expected to be consigned to a Landfill Facility			
Expected to be disposed On-Site			
Expected to be managed by In-Situ Disposal			
Expected to be consigned to an Incineration Facility			
Expected to be consigned to a Metal Treatment Facility			
Expected to be Out of Scope			
Expected to be recycled / reused			
Disposal route not known			

Classification codes for waste expected to be consigned to a landfill facility:

Opportunities for alternative disposal routing: No

Baseline Management Route	Opportunity Management Route	Stream volume (%)	Opportunity Confidence	Comment
-	-	-	-	-

RADIOACTIVITY

Source: Between July 1992 and Dec 1994, UKAEA processed 363,000 unirradiated THTR fuel spheres under a contract between UKAEA and NUKEM GmbH.

Uncertainty: -

Measurement of radioactivities: The principal species contributing to activity will be Th232, with contributions from daughter radionuclides in equilibrium such as Th228, Ra228, Ac228, Bi212, Po212, Ra224, Rn220 and Ti208. A small amount of enriched uranium is also present.

Chemical form of radionuclides:

- H-3: -
- C-14: -
- Cl-36: -
- Se-79: -
- Tc-99: -
- I-129: -
- Ra: Present as nitrate.
- Th: Present as nitrate.
- U: present as nitrate.
- Np: -
- Pu: -

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Nuclide	Mean radioactivity, TBq/m³				Nuclide	Mean radioactivity, TBq/m³			
	Waste at 1.4.2025	Bands and Code	Future Arisings	Bands and Code		Waste at 1.4.2025	Bands and Code	Future Arisings	Bands and Code
H 3					Gd 153				
Be 10					Ho 163				
C 14					Ho 166m				
Na 22					Tm 170				
Al 26					Tm 171				
Cl 36					Lu 174				
Ar 39					Lu 176				
Ar 42					Hf 178n				
K 40					Hf 182				
Ca 41					Pt 193				
Mn 53					Tl 204				
Mn 54					Pb 205				
Fe 55					Pb 210	= 1.11E-11	B B 2		
Co 60					Bi 208				
Ni 59					Bi 210m				
Ni 63					Po 210	= 1.09E-11	B B 2		
Zn 65					Ra 223	= 6.61E-10	B B 2		
Se 79					Ra 225				
Kr 81					Ra 226	= 2.42E-11	B B 2		
Kr 85					Ra 228	= 6.02E-04	B B 2		
Rb 87					Ac 227	= 6.88E-10	B B 2		
Sr 90					Th 227	= 6.62E-10	B B 2		
Zr 93					Th 228	= 6.02E-04	B B 2		
Nb 91					Th 229				
Nb 92					Th 230	= 1.61E-09	B B 2		
Nb 93m					Th 232	= 6.02E-04	B B 2		
Nb 94					Th 234	= 2.04E-08	B B 2		
Mo 93					Pa 231	= 7.60E-09	B B 2		
Tc 97					Pa 233				
Tc 99					U 232				
Ru 106					U 233				
Pd 107					U 234	= 2.61E-06	B B 2		
Ag 108m					U 235	= 1.77E-06	B B 2		
Ag 110m					U 236	= 1.16E-08	B B 2		
Cd 109					U 238	= 2.04E-08	B B 2		
Cd 113m					Np 237				
Sn 119m					Pu 236				
Sn 121m					Pu 238				
Sn 123					Pu 239				
Sn 126					Pu 240				
Sb 125					Pu 241				
Sb 126					Pu 242				
Te 125m					Am 241				
Te 127m					Am 242m				
I 129					Am 243				
Cs 134					Cm 242				
Cs 135					Cm 243				
Cs 137					Cm 244				
Ba 133					Cm 245				
La 137					Cm 246				
La 138					Cm 248				
Ce 144					Cf 249				
Pm 145					Cf 250				
Pm 147					Cf 251				
Sm 147					Cf 252				
Sm 151					Unsp a				
Eu 152					Unsp b/g				
Eu 154					Total a	1.21E-03	*	0	*
Eu 155					Total b/g	6.02E-04	*	0	*

Bands (Upper and Lower)

A a factor of 1.5
B a factor of 3
C a factor of 10
D a factor of 100
E a factor of 1000

Note: Bands quantify uncertainty in the mean radioactivity.

Code

1 Measured activity
2 Derived activity (best estimate)
3 Derived activity (upper limit)
4 Not present
5 Present but not significant
6 Likely to be present but not assessed
7 Present in significant quantities but not determined
8 Not expected to be present in significant quantity
* Total calculated from the 114 declared radionuclides