

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

### Localized Corrosion Data and Analyses from the Materials Performance Thrust of the OCRWM Science and Technology Program

ocrwm.doe.gov

Presented to: Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Workshop on Localized Corrosion

Presented by: Joe H. Payer, Case Western Reserve University Robert G. Kelly, University of Virginia

September 25-26, 2005 Las Vegas, Nevada

### **Acknowledgement and Disclaimer**

- Support of the Science and Technology Program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) is gratefully acknowledged. The work was performed under the Corrosion and Materials Performance Cooperative, DOE Cooperative Agreement Number: DE-FC28-04RW12252
- The views, opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the DOE/OCRWM





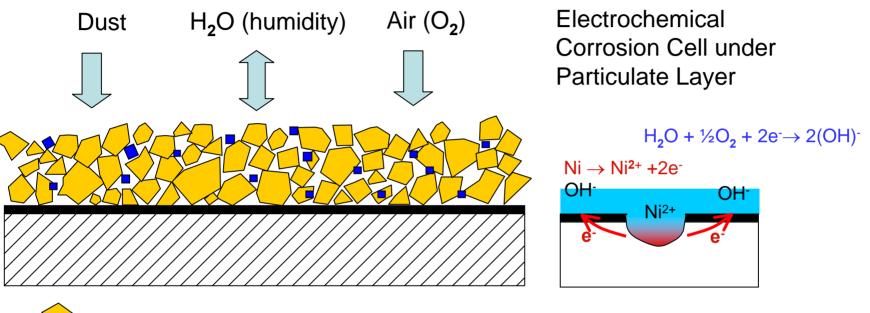
### **Outline of Presentation**

- Decision tree approach to analysis
- Localized corrosion requirements
- Particulate layer properties and processes
- Factors influencing localized corrosion
  - Cathode processes
  - Anode processes
  - Coupled anode and cathode processes
- Summary





## **Corrosion in Thin Layers of Particulate**



V Ir

Insoluble minerals 

Soluble salts

- Dust deposited
- Degree of wetness
- Soluble salts
- Gas composition and property, T, RH
- Particulate layer properties, such as conductivity, temperature, pH, degree of wetness etc.
- Localized environment on the surface
- Anode: Ni Ni<sup>2</sup> + 2e<sup>-</sup>
- Cathode:  $H_2O + \frac{1}{2}O_2 + 2e^- \rightarrow 2(OH)^-$





### **Materials Performance Thrust**

- A decision-tree approach for localized corrosion
  - Are environments and crevices present to induce localized corrosion?
    - Consider conditions in moist layers of particulate and deposits
  - If localized corrosion initiates, will it persist?
    - Consider stifling and arrest processes as the corrosion proceeds
  - What amount of metal penetration occurs?
  - What is the size and distribution of corrosion sites?





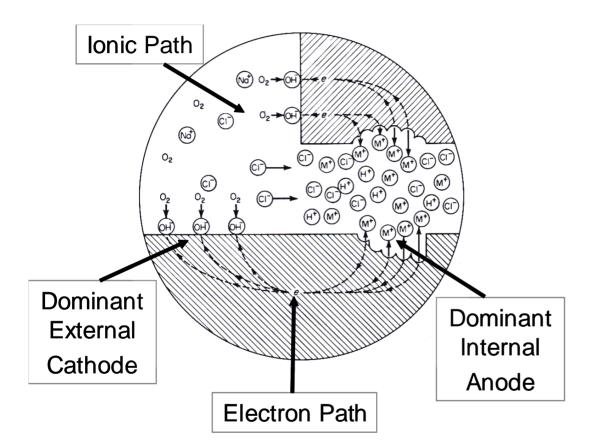
### **Materials Performance Thrust (cont'd)**

- Application of decision-tree approach
  - Relevant conditions over time and within relevant time periods
  - Deliquescent salt conditions
  - Seepage and drips conditions





## **Requirements for Localized Corrosion**



#### Initiation

- Aggressive environment
- Tight, impermeable crevice
- E<sub>corr</sub> > E<sub>repass</sub>
- Separated and coupled anode and cathode
- Develop critical crevice chemistry

#### Propagation

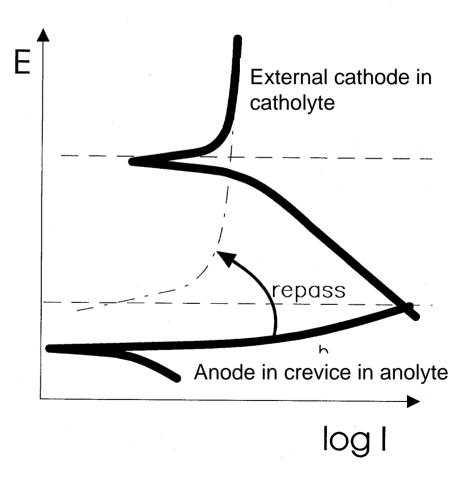
- Maintain critical crevice chemistry
- Maintain sufficient cathodic current capacity
- Maintain separate and coupled anode and cathode
- Maintain tight, impermeable crevice





### Crevice Corrosion Propagation as a Galvanic Couple

- Metal inside crevice undergoes transition behavior
- Remainder of sample is cathode and must supply current to support dissolution at anode

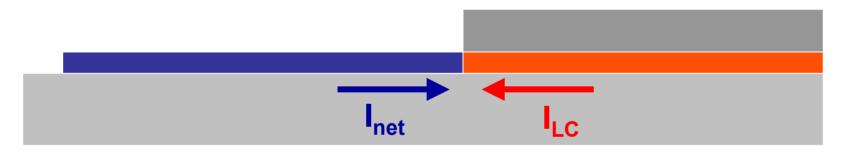




### **Stability of Localized Corrosion**

**Crevice with Thin Layer External Cathode** 

Current demand from crevice must be met by cathodic current from external surface for stable growth



 $I_{net}$  = total cathodic current from freely exposed surface surrounding crevice  $I_{LC}$  = total anodic from crevice





### Analysis of Crevice Corrosion Stability vs. Stifling

- Analysis of post-initiation stage
- Categories of processes to control corrosion
  - <u>Electrolyte layer</u>: resistance limits current between anode and cathode
  - <u>Cathode</u> current capacity cannot meet anode demand
  - <u>Anode</u> current requirement for stability not met
  - Anode/cathode <u>coupling</u> incompatible
- Demonstrate a number of processes that affect crevice corrosion initiation, propagation and arrest





### PARTICULATE LAYER PROPERTIES AND PROCESSES





### Scenarios for Distribution of Moisture in **Particulate Layer**



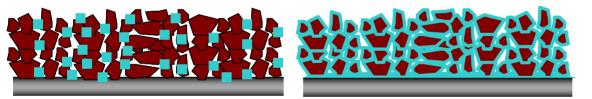
**Dry particulate-No moisture** 

Particulate: size, shape, soluble salts, insoluble constituents, distribution

Particulate layer: thickness, porosity, density

Temperature and Relative Humidity (activity of water)

Solution properties



**Droplets of moisture** 

- Higher temperatures
- Highly concentrated brines
- Limited solution contact with metal

#### **Unsaturated particulate layer**

- Lower temperatures
- Less concentrated brines



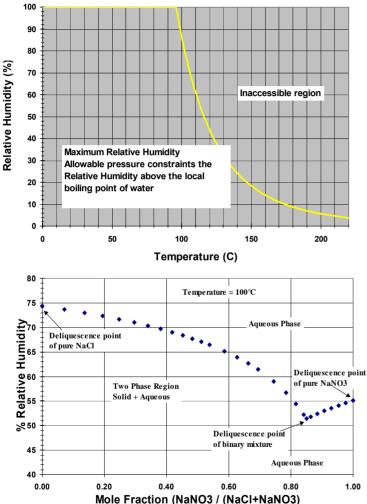
#### Solution layer on metal

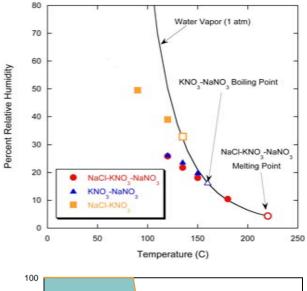
- Lower temperatures
- Less concentrated brines

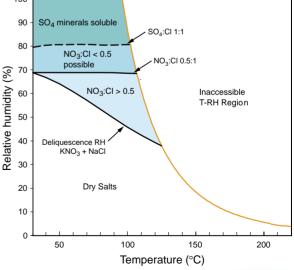




### Sampling of Technical Basis for Solution Chemistry



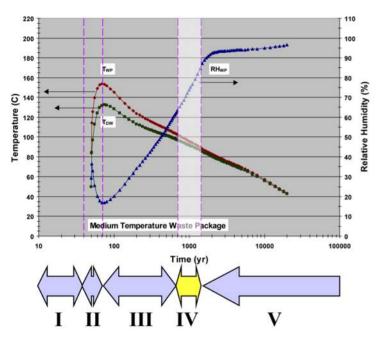






### **Example of WP Temperature & Relative Humidity Control of Solution Composition**

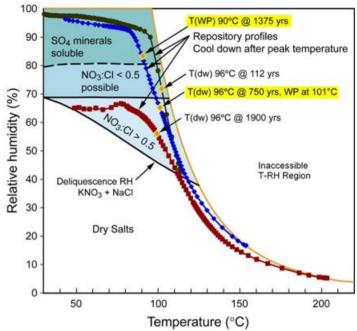
From Period IV analysis scenario presented at NWTRB Meeting; J. Payer, May 2004



Drift wall 96°C at 750 years;

WP at 101°C Relative Humidity 65%

Critical Corrosion Temp 90°C at year 1375; Relative Humidity 85%

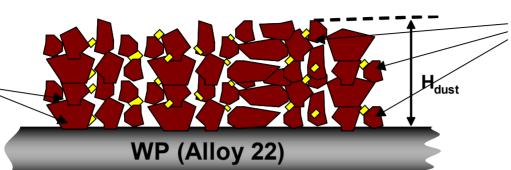


- The Temp-RH at any time determines the possible waters
- Time trajectory can be related to solution chemistry
- Solution composition can be related to corrosivity, e.g. nitrate to chloride ratio



## **Characteristic Dust Layer on WPs**

Insoluble mineral particles

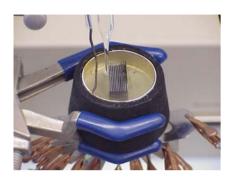


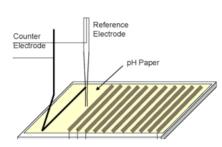
Soluble salt particles (extent of deliquescence is a function of proximity of different salts, temperature and relative humidity)

Property	Symbol	Range Given	Selected Value	Units
Density of deposited dust	rho <sub>deposit</sub>	1 - 2	1.0	g/cm³
Density of deposited minerals	rho <sub>dust</sub>	2.0 – 2.6	2.6	g/cm³
Porosity of deposited dust	(%phi)	50 - 60	60	%
Soluble salt content in dust	(%SS)	5	5	% wt.
Thickness of dust layer	δ <sub>dust</sub>	180 - 10	150	μ <b>m</b>
Size of particle	$\delta_{particle}$	30 - 10	30	μ <b>m</b>
Mass of dust deposit	m <sub>dust</sub>	18 - 26	18	mg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Effective conductivity of layer	κ <sub>eff</sub>	(%phi/100) <sup>3/2</sup> х к <sub>bulk</sub>	0.465 x κ <sub>bulk</sub>	S/cm
Effective electrode area			0.85	fraction
Number of particle Layers		2 - 20		number
Surface area of particles to metal surface area (for 30 μm particles)			~10:1	



### Changes in Solution Properties due to Electrochemical Cells



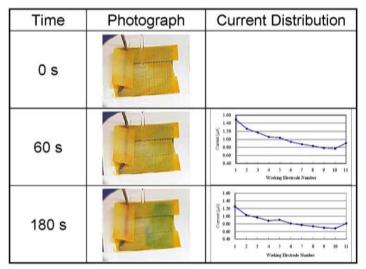


- Anode:
  - OH<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> migrate to anode
  - Oxidation Reaction,  $4OH^{-} \rightarrow O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e$
  - OH<sup>-</sup> consumed, solution more acidic
  - Oxygen produced
  - Water produced
- Cathode:
  - H<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> migrate to cathode
  - − Reduction Reaction,  $O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e \rightarrow 4OH$ -
  - OH<sup>-</sup> produced, solution turns alkaline
  - O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O consumed



Department of Energy • Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Payer/Kelly-NWTRB Corrosion Workshop-Sept 26, 2006 Experiment:

- Control potential on plate #1
- Monitor current distribution along segmented cathode
- Monitor pH changes



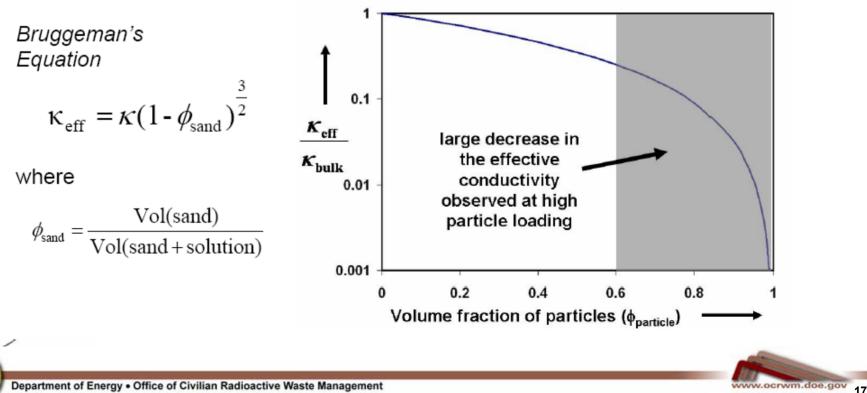
Increased pH (green) on cathode and decreased pH (red) on anode



### Particulate Effects on Bulk Solution Conductivity

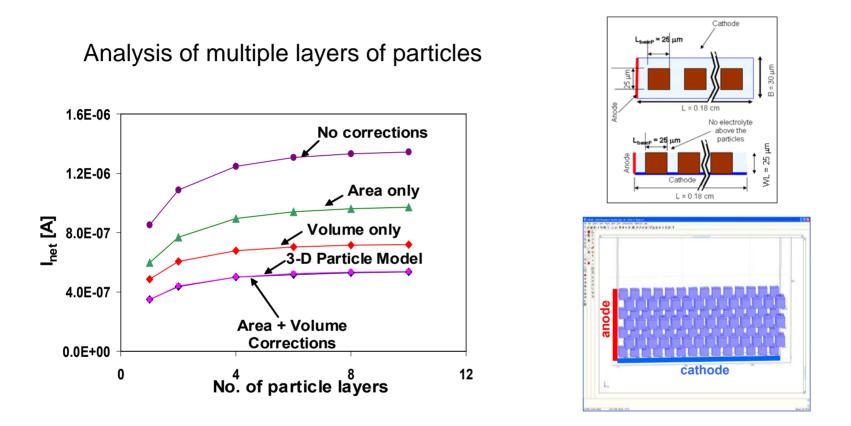
Decreased conductivity in the particulate layer

- Higher particle volume fraction
- Lower solution volume fraction in pores (unsaturated)



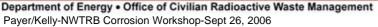
Payer/Kelly-NWTRB Corrosion Workshop-Sept 26, 2006

### **Analysis of the Effects of Particulate**



Combination of volume factor and area factor account for particle effects in good agreement with 3-D modeling result for single layer and multiple layer of particles





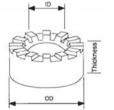
### Effect of Crevice Formers on the Localized **Corrosion Damage and Propagation**

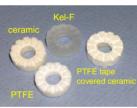
#### Specimen assembly Multiple Crevice Assembly (MCA)



- Two segmented washers
- Grade 2 Ti bolts and nuts
- Applied Torque 70 in-lb for ceramic. Kel-F 2.5 to 25 in-lb for PTFE

#### Crevice formers: after ASTM G48-03





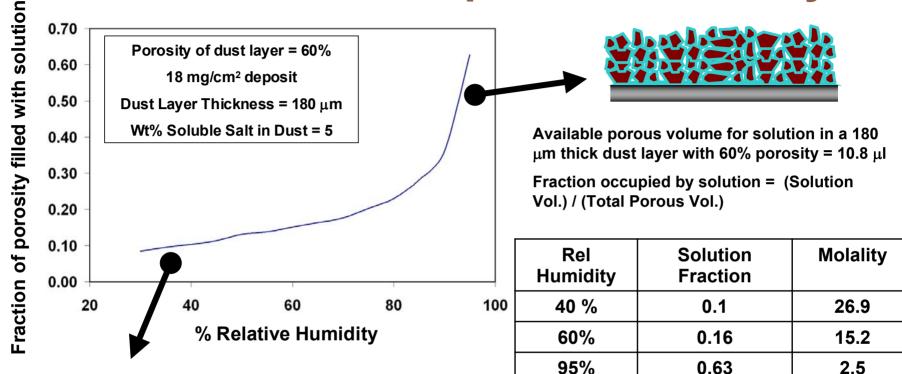
- 12 contact plateaus (feet)
- ID: 9.9 mm OD: 15.9 mm Thickness: 6.3 mm
- Contact area: 6 mm<sup>2</sup>/foot

- Determine effect of the crevice former under aggressive laboratory conditions
  - 4M NaCl at 100C
  - Applied potential (no cathodic limitations)
- Ceramic/PTFE tape was most severe crevice former
  - Crevice corrosion initiation and arrest events observed
- Solid polymer crevice formers (PTFE or Kel-F) were less severe
- Ceramic crevice former caused no crevice corrosion





# Variation of the Solution Volume with % RH in the Deposited Dust Layer





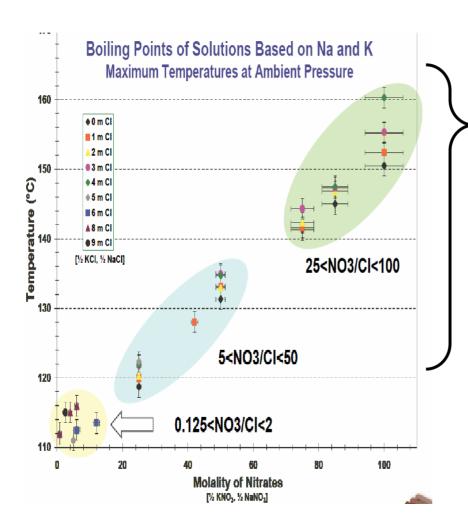
**Droplets of Moisture** 

Droplets of moisture and limited contact with metal pertain until higher relative humidity's and less concentrated solutions

Based on dust layer data from Table 6.4-3 and Table 6.4-4 in *Analysis of Dust Deliquescence for FEP Screening, ANL-EBS-MD-000074 Rev 01, August 2005* 



### **Analysis of High Temperature Salt** Deliquescence





### **Droplets of Moisture**

- Formation based on soluble salts, T, RH
- Highly concentrated, nitrate rich solutions
- Small fraction of porosity filled with solution
- Limited direct contact with metal surface
- Highly permeable layer
- Low conductivity layer
- Large surface area for reaction with minerals





### Particulate Layer as an Electrolyte and Crevice **Former for Localized Corrosion**

- Can particulate layer act as an effective electrolyte and crevice former?
  - Composition, amount and distribution of moisture
  - Conductivity and permeability of the electrolyte layer
  - Separation of anode/cathode required for localized corrosion
- Will particulate layer fulfill requirements for crevice corrosion initiation and sustained propagation?
  - **Corrosivity of moisture**
  - **Evolution of environment** 
    - Deliquescent moisture reaction with solid minerals
    - **Evolution of volatile species** ۲
    - Composition changes due to electrochemical reactions ٠
    - Interactions with corrosion products ٠
- For high-temperature deliquescent salts in deposited dust layer
  - Too little moisture
  - Unlikely to fulfill the requirements for localized corrosion



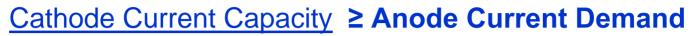


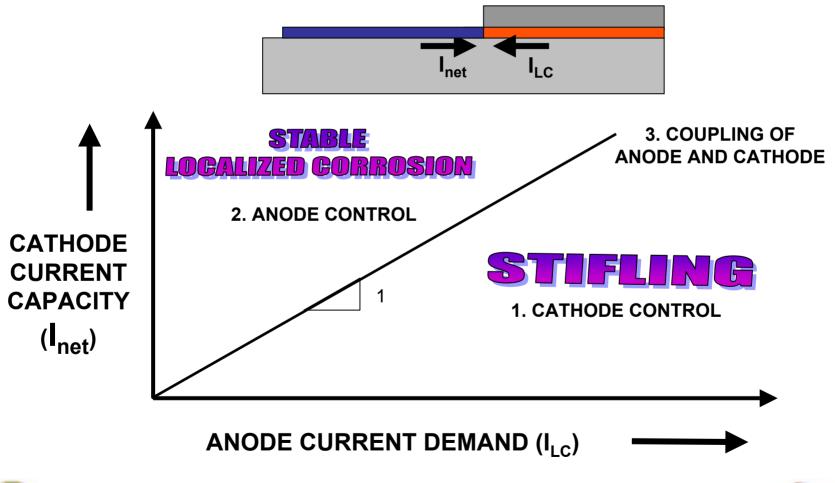
### FACTORS INFLUENCING LOCALIZED CORROSION STABILITY





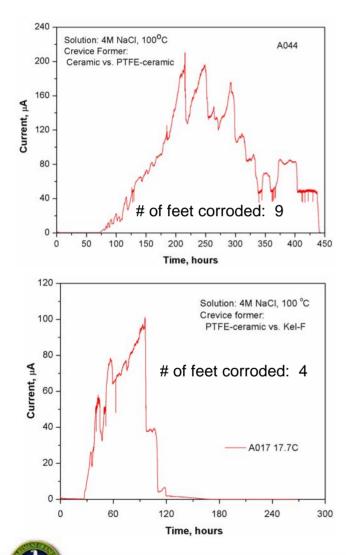
### **Factors Influencing Localized Corrosion Stability**







### Arrest of Crevice Corrosion (Repassivation)



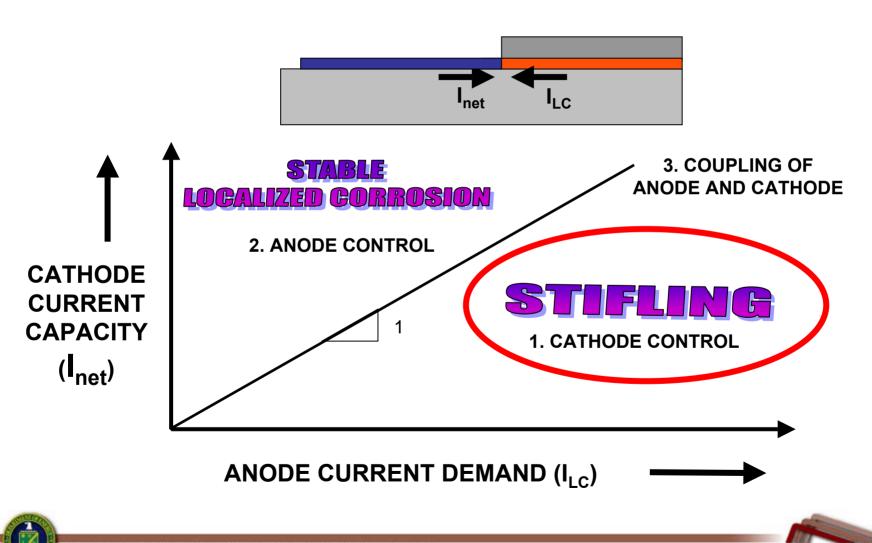
- Current indicates initiation and arrest of crevice corrosion throughout the test
- Tests were at constant applied potential (no limiting cathode)

#### Observations

- Incubation time before initiation of crevice corrosion
- Serrated current response indicates multiple initiation/arrest events
- Arrest (repassivation) of crevice corrosion observed
  - Also seen by Rebak et al. (LLNL), Dunn et al. (CNWRA)



### **Cathode Control**



### **Cathode Limitations Can Stifle Crevice** Corrosion

- Corrosion behavior in moist particulate can differ from full immersion due to cathode limitations:
  - Limited cathodic current affects intensity and location of anodic reaction
  - Limited size of cathode affects minimum internal pH sustainable

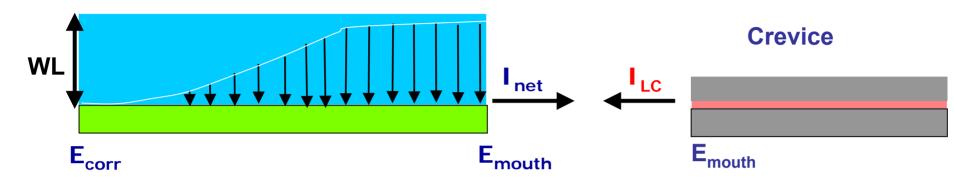


http://www.pbase.com/robertwhite/image/44870727





### **Maximum Total Current from Wetted** Surface Can be Estimated



- Fixed potential at E<sub>mouth</sub>, other end at E<sub>corr</sub>
- Current along length per polarization curve

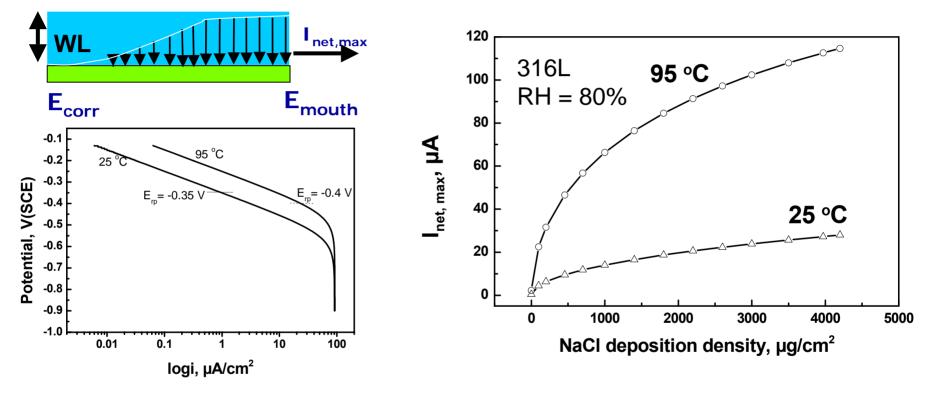
$$\mathbf{I}_{\text{net,max}} = \mathbf{W} \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot \kappa \cdot \mathbf{WL} \cdot \int_{E_{\text{corr}}}^{E_{\text{mouth}}} (\mathbf{i}_{\text{c}} - \mathbf{i}_{\text{p}}) \cdot dE}$$

Can relate  $\kappa$  and WL to RH and Deposition Density (mass/area) of salt





### **Increasing Temperature Increases Cathode Capacity**

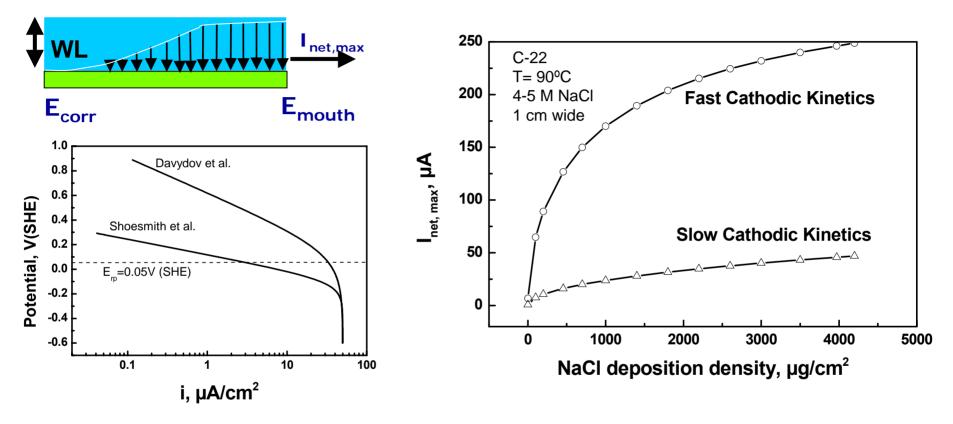


- Factors controlling increased cathode capacity at higher T:
  - Increased conductivity
  - Faster electrode kinetics
  - Lowered E<sub>rp</sub>





### Slower Cathodic Kinetics Decrease **Cathode Capacity**

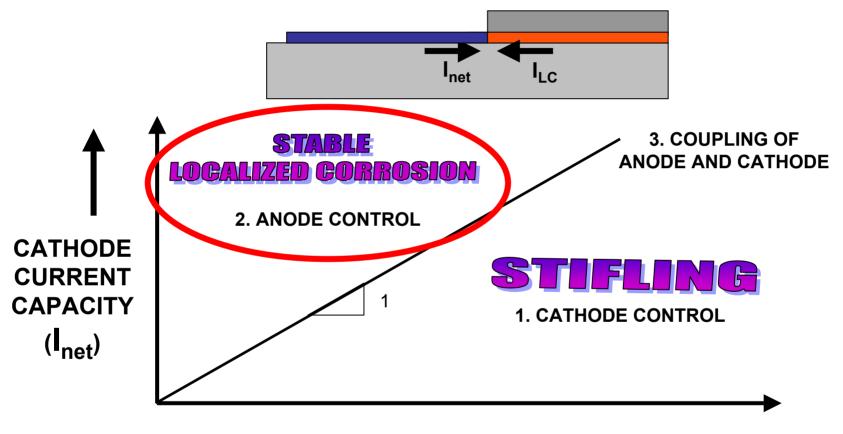


- Factors that decrease cathode kinetics:
  - More protective oxide film inhibits electron transfer
  - Increased thin-layer pH
  - **Diffusion limited current density**





### **Anode Control**



ANODE CURRENT DEMAND (I<sub>LC</sub>)



### Anode Limitations Can Stifle Crevice Corrosion

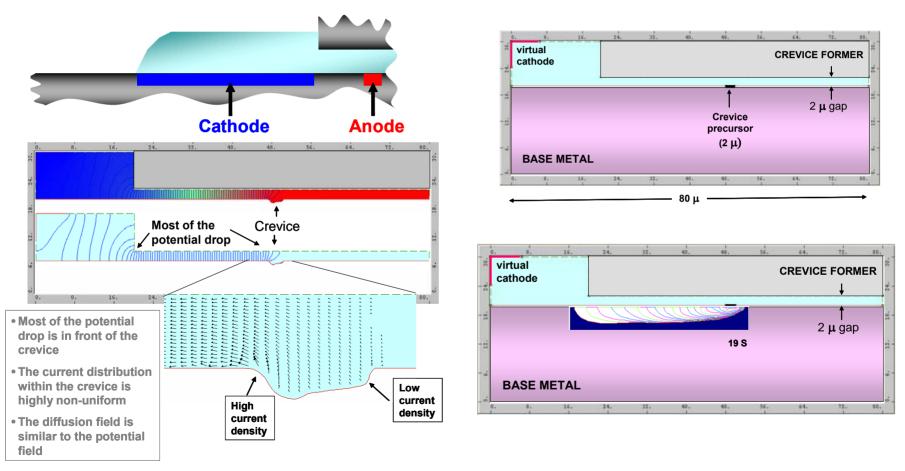
- Must develop and maintain sufficiently aggressive local solution in terms of low pH and high [Cl<sup>-</sup>]
  - Critical crevice solution (CCS) requires critical dissolution current density,  $i_{LC}$ , for given depth into the crevice, x
- More corrosion resistant alloys require solutions that are more aggressive to avoid stifling
  - Lower pH
  - Higher [CI<sup>-</sup>]
  - Higher dissolution current density for a given depth into crevice (i·x)
- Examples of stifling:
  - Gap increases due to corrosion movement towards mouth
  - Protective precipitate forms within crevice
  - E<sub>mouth</sub> of crevice falls, leads to insufficient dissolution rate in crevice

Dissolution rate within crevice is overwhelmed by diffusion out of crevice



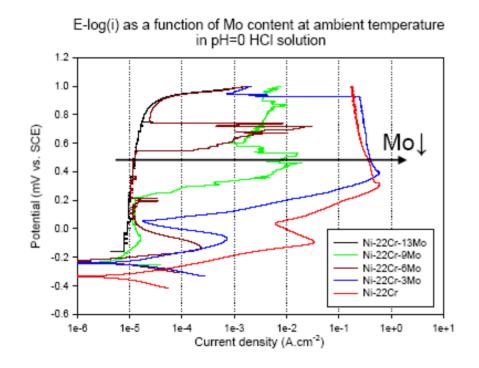
### Repassivation by Dilution of Critical Crevice Chemistry

For <u>this</u> case: crevice gap opens, critical crevice chemistry is not maintained and corrosion arrests





### Slower Anodic Kinetics in CCS Makes Stability More Difficult to Maintain



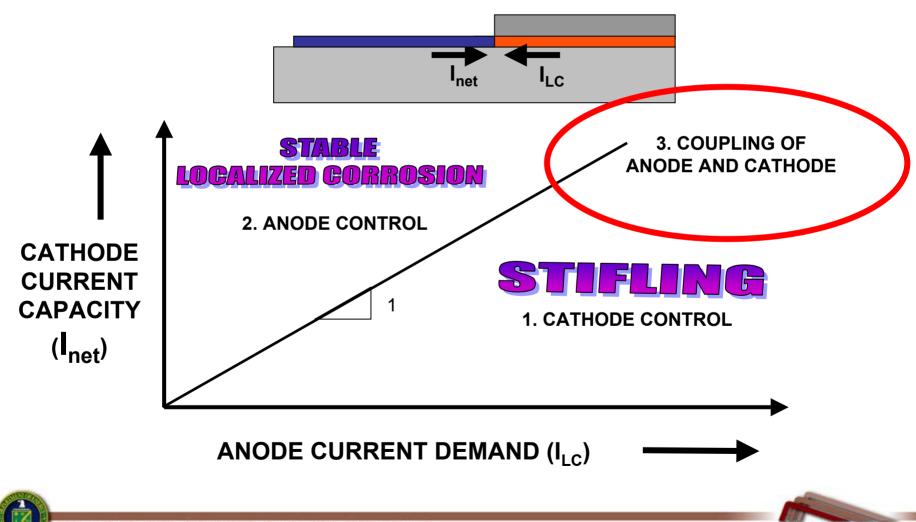
Increasing Mo Slows Anodic Kinetics in Pit Solutions

Experimental Values of CCS for Different Alloys

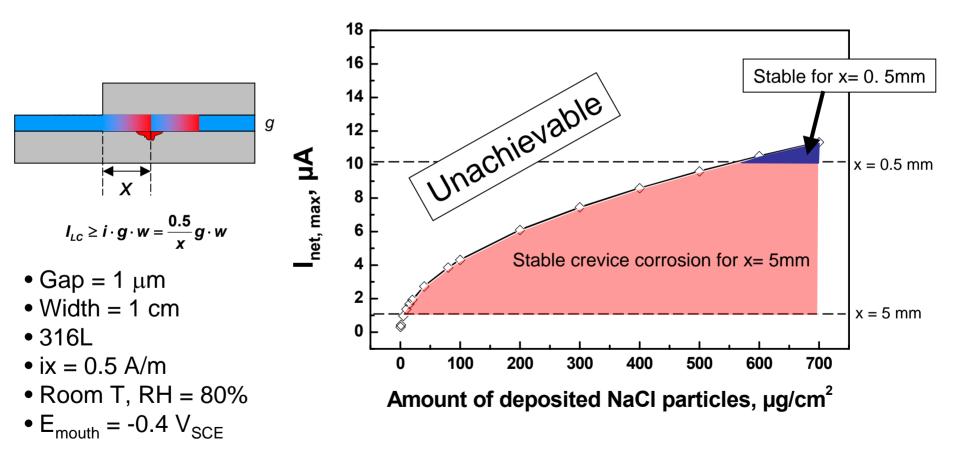
	pH <sub>crit</sub>	[CI <sup>-</sup> ] <sub>crit</sub>
304L	0.7	3.5
316L	0.1	6.5
625	-0.4	6



### **Coupled Anode and Cathode Processes**



### For Stable Crevice Corrosion, Cathode Must Supply Current Needed to Maintain Sufficiently High I<sub>LC</sub>





#### Summary

- A number of processes have been demonstrated to affect crevice corrosion propagation and arrest
  - Particulate layer, anode, cathode and coupled processes
- Findings add to the technical basis for the analysis of localized corrosion by a decision-tree approach
- Analysis is scenario specific one must relate to expected conditions at Yucca Mountain
  - Evolution of the environment
  - Evolution of corrosion damage





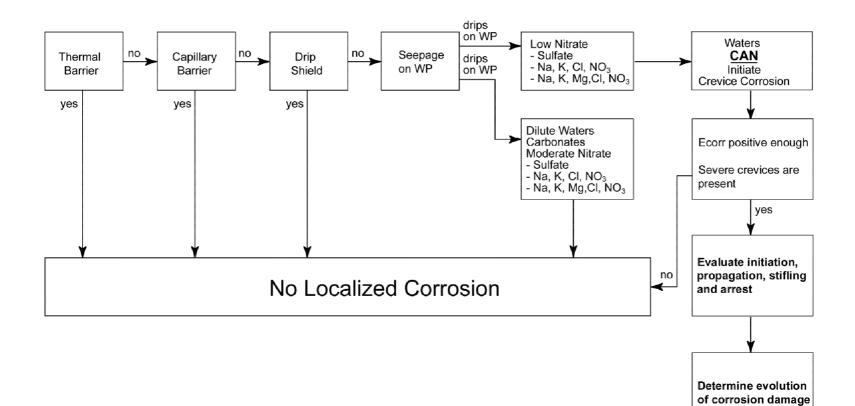
#### **Additional Slides**





#### **Decision-Tree Analysis** with Seepage and Drips

Localized corrosion analysis with seepage & drips





# Decision-Tree Analysis with No Seepage and Drips

- Localized corrosion analysis-no seepage/drips
  - Are environments and crevices present to induce localized corrosion?
    - Make-up and amount of particulate on metal surface
    - Composition, amount and distribution of moisture
    - Properties of the electrolyte layer
  - Will localized corrosion initiate?
    - Sufficient cathodic capacity
    - Development of critical crevice chemistry
  - Will it persist?
    - Cathode, anode and coupled processes
  - What amount of metal penetration occurs?
  - What is the size and distribution of corrosion sites?



## Fraction of Porous Volume Occupied and Molality of Salt Solution as a Function of Temp. and % RH:

(1) %RH	(2) Solvent/Solute Mass Ratio	(3) Approximate Density (g/ml)	(4) Maximum Temperature at which RH can be achieved	(5) μL of brine per cm² of WP	(6) Fraction of porosity filled with solution	(7) Molality gmol(solute) per kg(solvent)
95	6.76	1.05	—	6.8	0.63	2.5
90	3.67	1.1	_	3.9	0.36	4.5
85	2.64	1.1	_	3.0	0.28	6.3
80	2.11	1.15	_	2.5	0.23	7.9
75	1.74	1.15	105°C	2.2	0.20	9.6
70	1.46	1.2	_	1.9	0.18	11.4
65	1.26	1.2	110°C	1.8	0.16	13.2
60	1.1	1.2	_	1.6	0.15	15.2
55	0.98	1.25	_	1.5	0.14	17.0
50	0.88	1.25	_	1.4	0.13	18.9
45	0.73	1.25	120°C	1.2	0.11	22.8
40	0.62	1.25	—	1.1	0.10	26.9
35	0.53	1.25	130°C	1.0	0.10	31.4
30	0.41	1.25	_	0.9	0.09	40.7

Columns (1) – (4) from Table 6.4-3, Column (5) Table 6.4-4, *Analysis of Dust Deliquescence for FEP Screening, ANL-EBS-MD-000074 Rev 01, August 2005,* Column (6) – (7) based on calculations using data from (1) – (5)

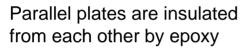
Available porous volume for solution in a 180  $\mu$ m thick dust layer with 60% porosity = 10.8  $\mu$ l

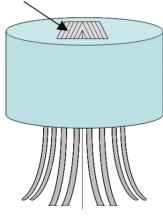


Fraction of porous volume occupied by solution = (Solution Vol.) / (Available Vol.)

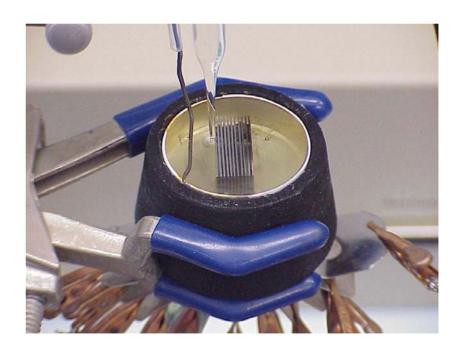
#### Multi-plate Assembly for Corrosion Cells in Particulate

• Segmented electrode acts as single electrode, but permits measurement of current distribution along the surface





Electrodes are connected to each SS 316 plate



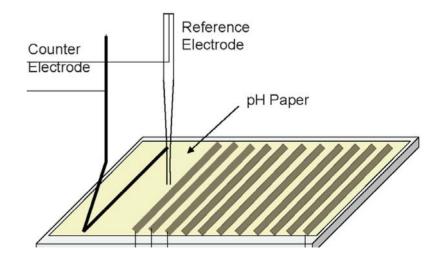


#### Anodic and Cathodic Processes

- Anode:
  - OH<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> moving towards it
  - Oxidation Reaction.  $4OH^- \rightarrow O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e$
  - OH<sup>-</sup> consumed, solution turns acidic
  - Oxygen produced
  - Water produced
- Cathode:
  - H<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> moving towards it
  - **Reduction Reaction**,  $O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e \rightarrow 4OH^-$
  - OH<sup>-</sup> produced, solution turns alkaline
  - O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O consumed

#### **Experiment:**

- **Control potential on plate** #1
- Monitor current distribution along segmented cathode
- Monitor pH changes

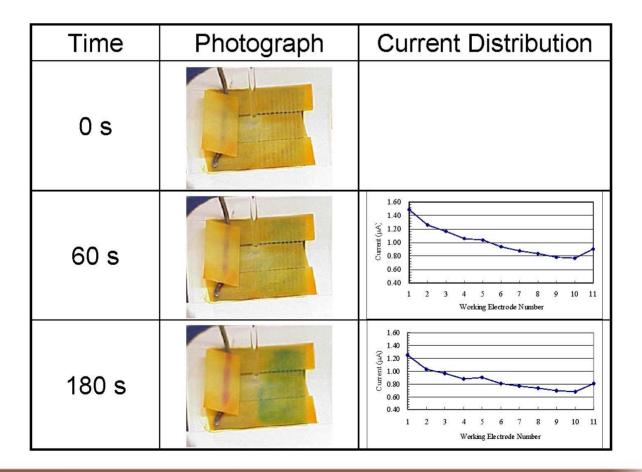






#### **Chemical Changes in Electrolyte Layer**

Increased pH (green) on cathode and decreased (red) on anode



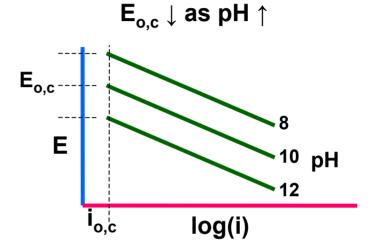


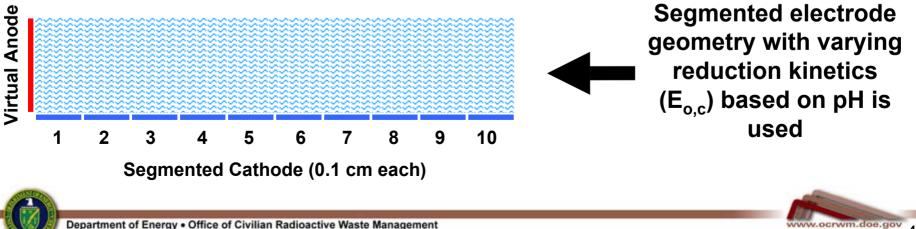


#### <u>pH</u> Effect due to Cathodic Reaction Chemistry

- Cathode Reaction (oxygen reduction): O<sub>2</sub> + 2H<sub>2</sub>O + 4e- → 4OH<sup>-</sup>
- Generation of OH<sup>-</sup> will increase the local pH in the thin electrolyte film
- Modified kinetics due to pH increase: E<sub>o,c</sub><sup>pH</sup> = E<sub>o,c</sub> – 0.059\*pH







Payer/Kelly-NWTRB Corrosion Workshop-Sept 26, 2006

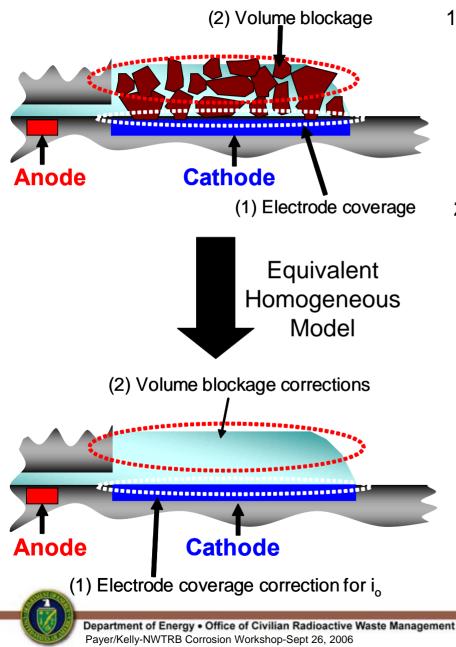
#### Calculate Maximum Current Capacity Given Measurable Parameters

- κ and WL are related to measurable quantities:
  - RH and Deposition Density (mass/area) of salt
- <u>Inputs</u>: T, RH, DD, i(E), pO<sub>2</sub> (for i<sub>lim</sub>)
  - RH and DD set  $m_{NaCl}$  via deliquescence behavior
  - $m_{NaCl}$  determines  $\kappa$ ,  $\rho$
- Output:

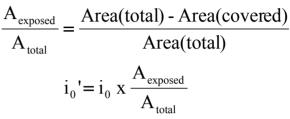
$$I_{net,max} = W \cdot \sqrt{2 \frac{\kappa(RH) \cdot DD \cdot (1 + m_{NaCl} \cdot MW_{NaCl})}{\rho(RH) \cdot m_{NaCl}(RH) \cdot MW_{NaCl}}} \cdot \int_{E_{corr}}^{E_{mouth}} (i_c - i_p) \cdot dE$$



### **Methodology for Effects of Particulate**



- Cathode <u>surface blockage</u> by particles (first mono layer) → Equivalent Exchange Current Density (i<sub>o</sub>')
  - area effect



2. Particles block solution volume: Effective Conductivity ( $\kappa_{eff}$ ) – **ohmic effect** 

Bruggeman's Equation  $\kappa_{\rm eff} = \kappa (1 - \phi_{\rm sand})^{\frac{3}{2}}$ where

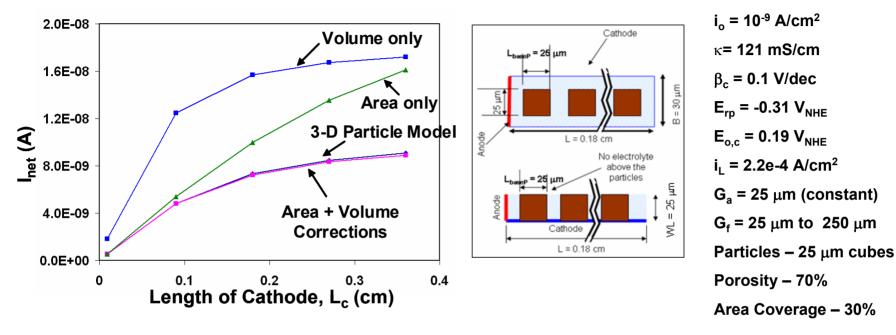
$$\phi_{\text{sand}} = \frac{\text{Vol(sand)}}{\text{Vol(sand + solution)}}$$

3. Effective diffusivity (D<sub>eff</sub>) as a function of particulate tortuosity ( $\tau$ ) and porosity (1- $\Phi_{sand}$ ) – *mass transfer effect.* This effect is employed in the limiting current (i<sub>L</sub>).

$$D_{eff} = D \frac{(1 - \varphi_{sand})}{\tau}$$



#### Comparison of Particle Layer Simulations to Volume and Area Corrections



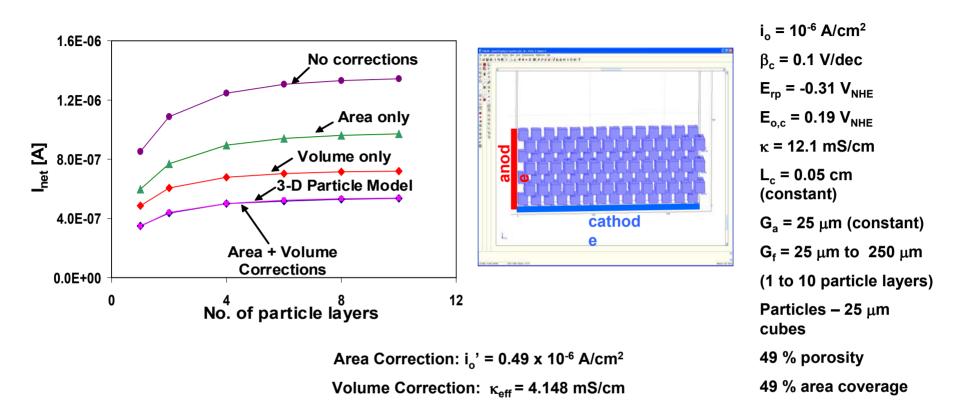
Area Correction:  $i_o' = 0.306 \times 10^{-9} \text{ A/cm}^2$ Volume Correction:  $\kappa_{eff} = 70 \text{ mS/cm}$ 

- Volume (Bruggeman) and surface coverage (area) corrections in 2-D simulations produce accurate 3-D results
- Independently area or volume correction are insufficient
- Similar results obtained without mass transfer limitations





### **Multi-Layer Particle System**

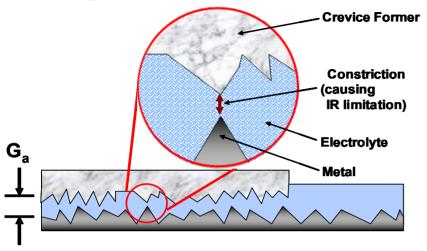


- Volume (Bruggeman) and surface coverage (area) corrections in 2-D simulations produce accurate 3-D results
- Independently, area or volume correction are insufficient





#### Modeling the Effect of Crevice Former, Metal **Roughness and Particulate Corrosion Products**



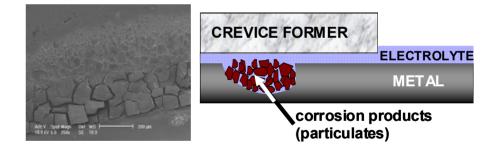
Metal - crevice former roughness can be of the order of nominal crevice gap (G<sub>2</sub>).

**Constrictions along the rough surface** create narrow passages to the current flow, causing high localized IR drop.

Solid corrosion products:

- Increase IR resistance to further corrosion of underlying metal
- Affect on the evolution of corrosion profile

Modified G<sub>a</sub>' (based on constriction effects)



GOAL: develop an equivalent 'idealized' smooth crevice in terms of a modified crevice gap (G<sub>a</sub>').

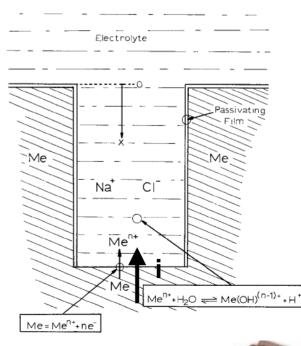


#### Anode Stability Considerations: Maintenance of Critical Chemistry

- Pit stability product (ix) must be exceeded for stable localized corrosion:
  - ix is required to maintain C<sup>\*</sup> at base of pit
    - i =dissolution current density
    - x = depth of pit
- If ix < ix<sub>crit</sub>, pit repassivates

*ix<sub>crit</sub> increases with increased resistance to localized corrosion* 

- alloying
- lower T, [Cl<sup>-</sup>]





#### As Cathode Shrinks, Anode/Cathode Separation Becomes Less Complete, Low pH Cannot be Maintained Inside Crevice

