

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

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

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### **Acknowledgement and Disclaimer**

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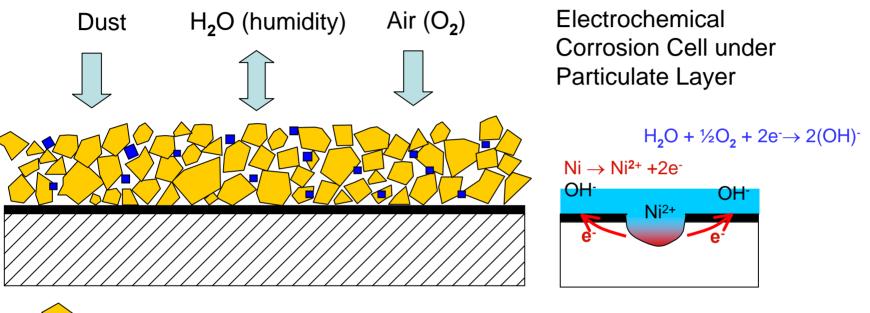
### **Outline of Presentation**

- 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?





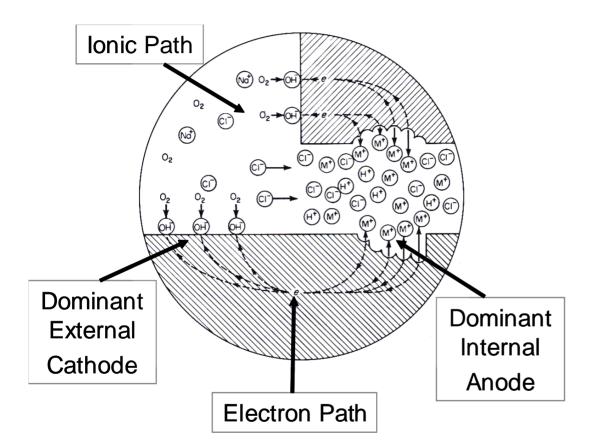
### **Materials Performance Thrust (cont'd)**

- 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

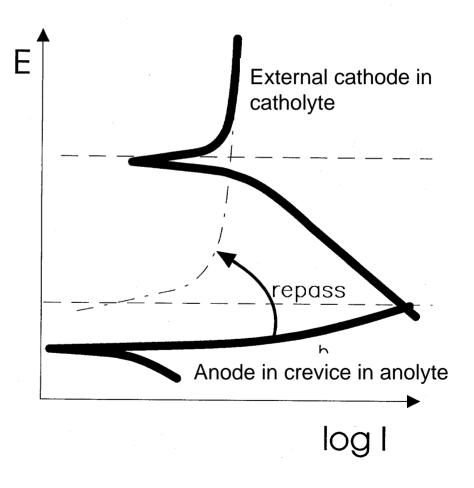
- Maintain critical crevice chemistry
- Maintain sufficient cathodic current capacity
- Maintain separate and coupled anode and cathode
- Maintain tight, impermeable crevice





### 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

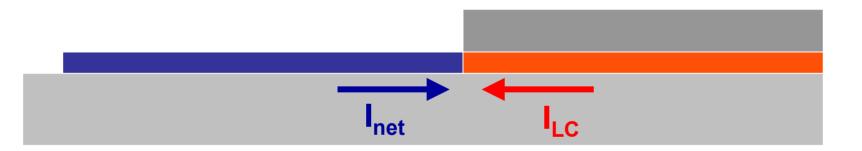




### **Stability of Localized Corrosion**

**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



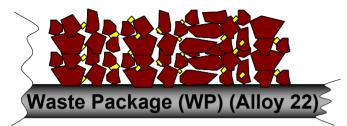


### PARTICULATE LAYER PROPERTIES AND PROCESSES





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



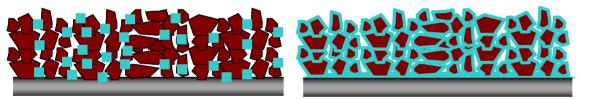
**Dry particulate-No moisture** 

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



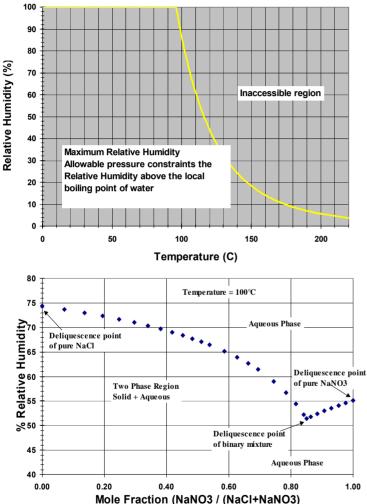
#### Solution layer on metal

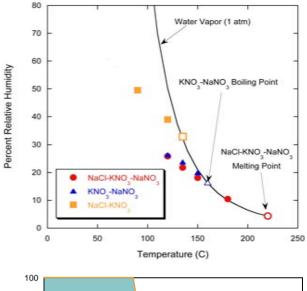
- Lower temperatures
- Less concentrated brines

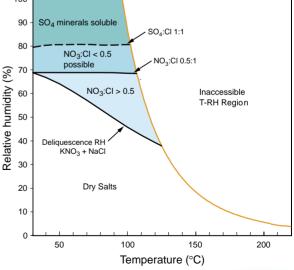




### Sampling of Technical Basis for Solution Chemistry



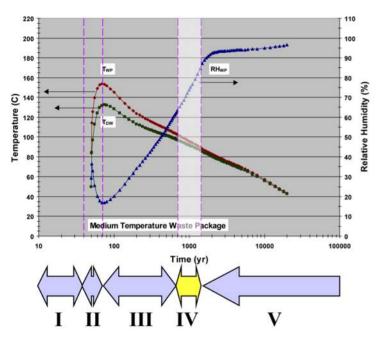






### **Example of WP Temperature & Relative Humidity Control of Solution Composition**

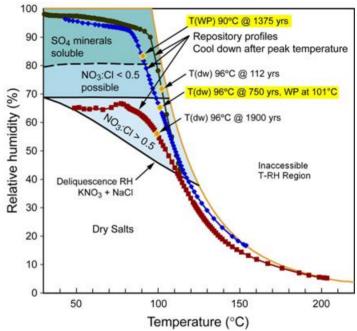
From Period IV analysis scenario presented at NWTRB Meeting; J. Payer, May 2004



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%

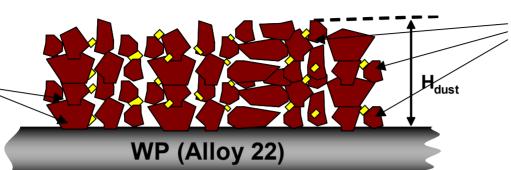


- The Temp-RH at any time determines the possible waters
- Time trajectory can be related to solution chemistry
- Solution composition can be related to corrosivity, e.g. nitrate to chloride ratio



## **Characteristic Dust Layer on WPs**

Insoluble mineral particles

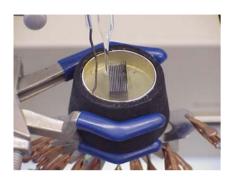


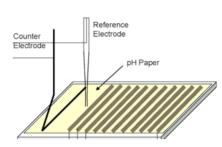
Soluble salt particles (extent of deliquescence is a function of proximity of different salts, temperature and relative humidity)

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



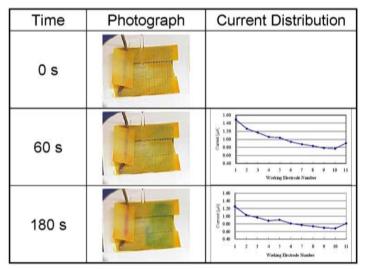


- Anode:
  - OH<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> migrate to anode
  - Oxidation Reaction,  $4OH^{-} \rightarrow O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e$
  - OH<sup>-</sup> consumed, solution more acidic
  - Oxygen produced
  - Water produced
- Cathode:
  - H<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> migrate to cathode
  - − Reduction Reaction,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



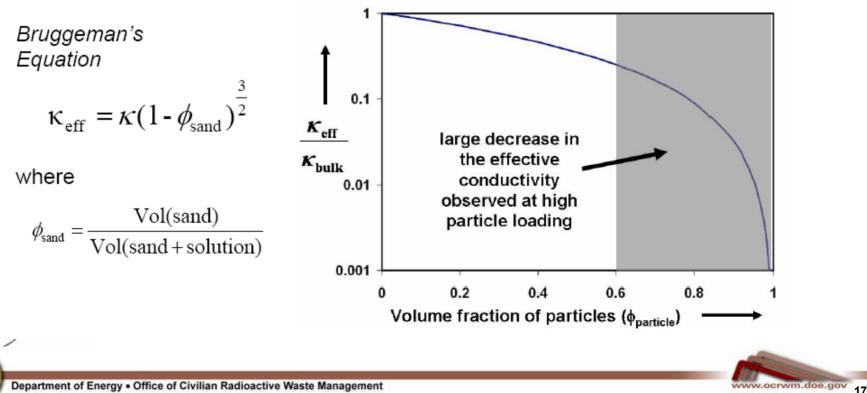
Increased pH (green) on cathode and decreased pH (red) on anode



### Particulate Effects on Bulk Solution Conductivity

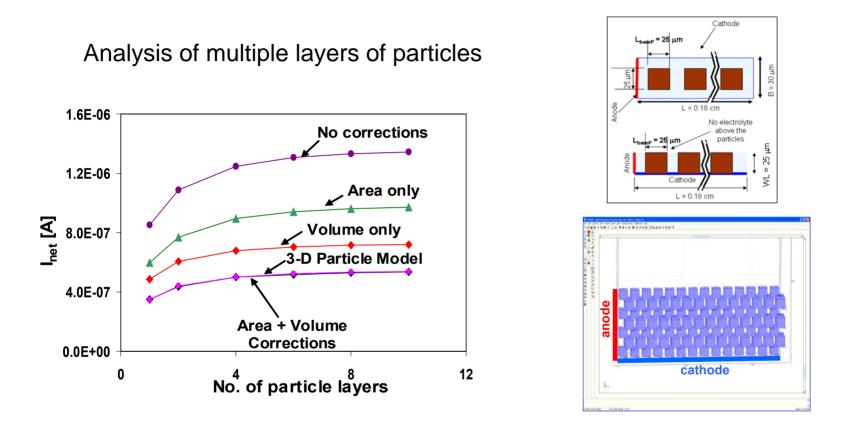
Decreased conductivity in the particulate layer

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



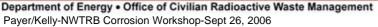
Payer/Kelly-NWTRB Corrosion Workshop-Sept 26, 2006

### **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





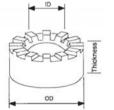
### Effect of Crevice Formers on the Localized **Corrosion Damage and Propagation**

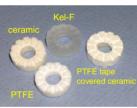
#### Specimen assembly Multiple Crevice Assembly (MCA)



- 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





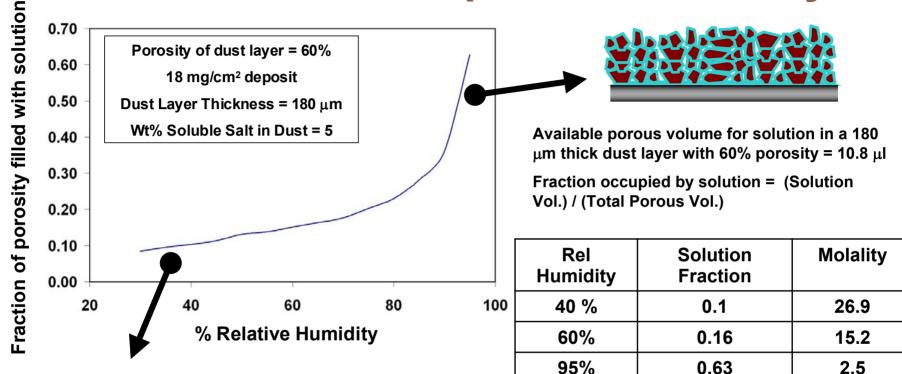
- 12 contact plateaus (feet)
- ID: 9.9 mm OD: 15.9 mm Thickness: 6.3 mm
- Contact area: 6 mm<sup>2</sup>/foot

- 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





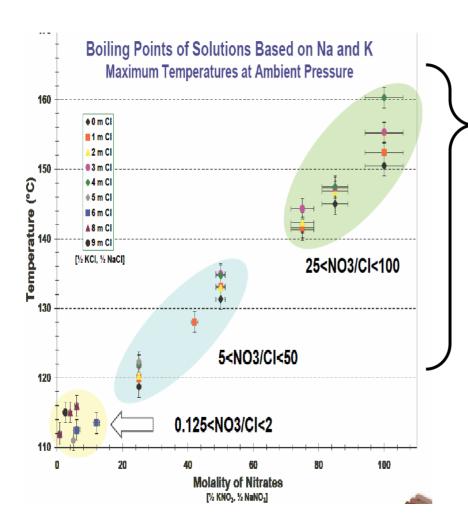
**Droplets of Moisture** 

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





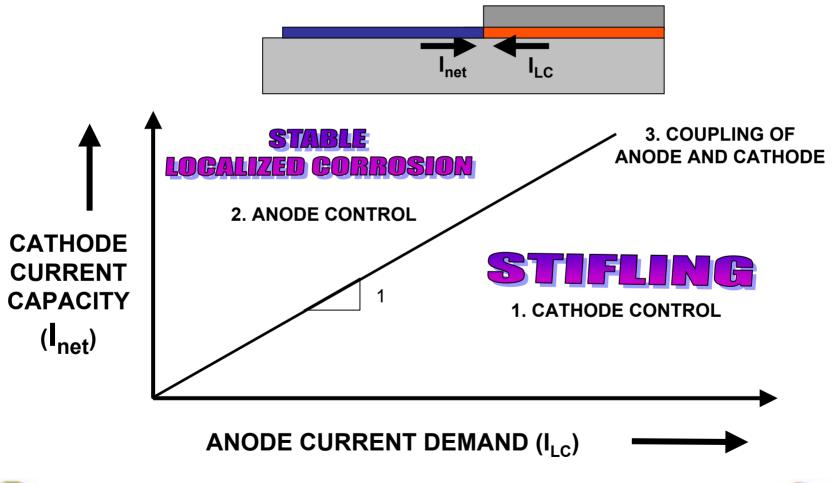
### FACTORS INFLUENCING LOCALIZED CORROSION STABILITY





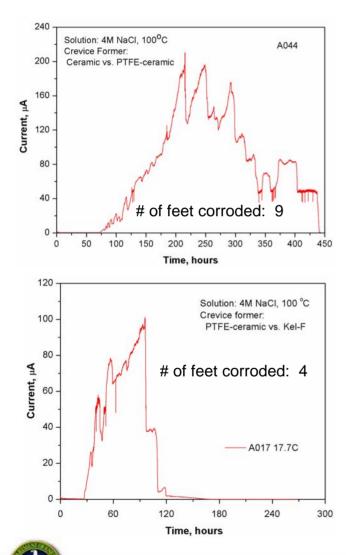
### **Factors Influencing Localized Corrosion Stability**







### Arrest of Crevice Corrosion (Repassivation)



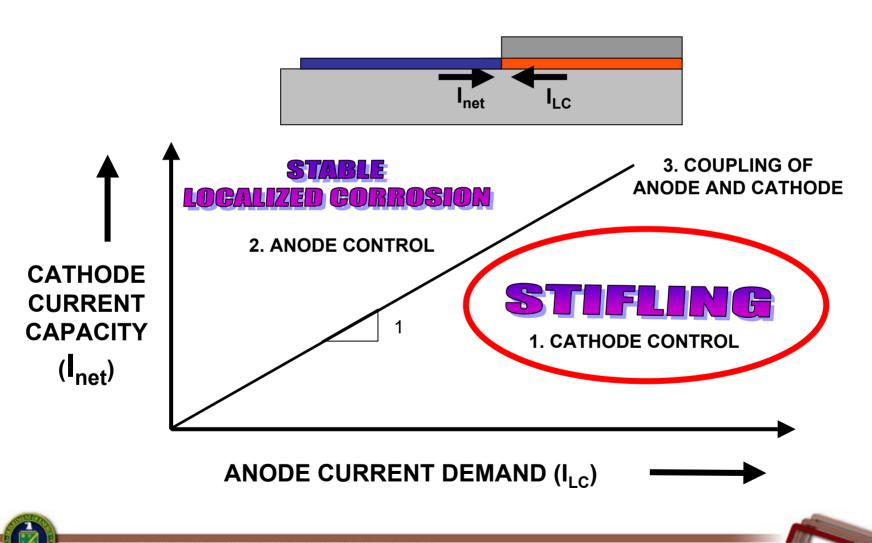
- Current indicates initiation and arrest of crevice corrosion throughout the test
- Tests were at constant applied potential (no limiting cathode)

#### 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

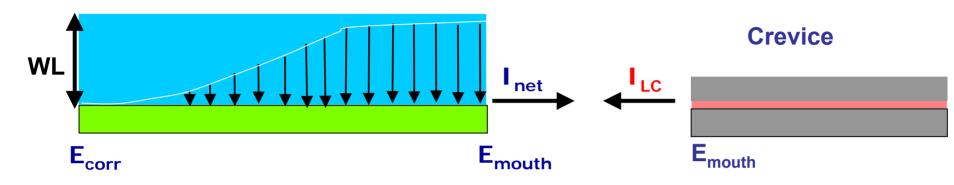


http://www.pbase.com/robertwhite/image/44870727





### **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

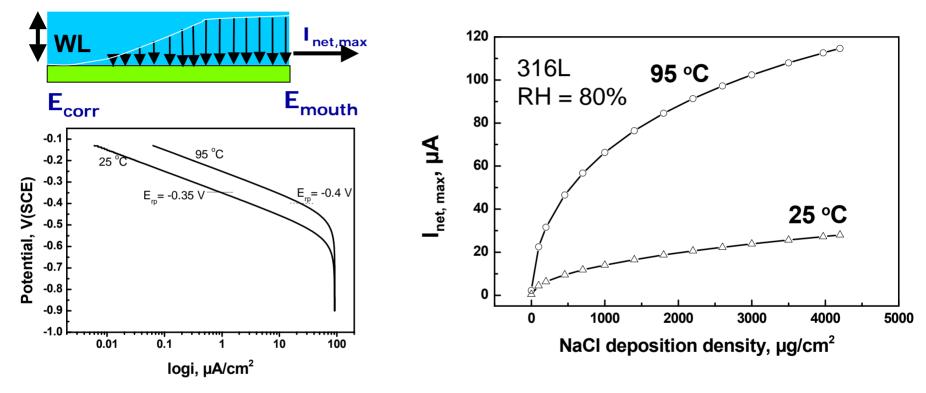
$$\mathbf{I}_{\text{net,max}} = \mathbf{W} \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot \kappa \cdot \mathbf{WL} \cdot \int_{E_{\text{corr}}}^{E_{\text{mouth}}} (\mathbf{i}_{\text{c}} - \mathbf{i}_{\text{p}}) \cdot dE}$$

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





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

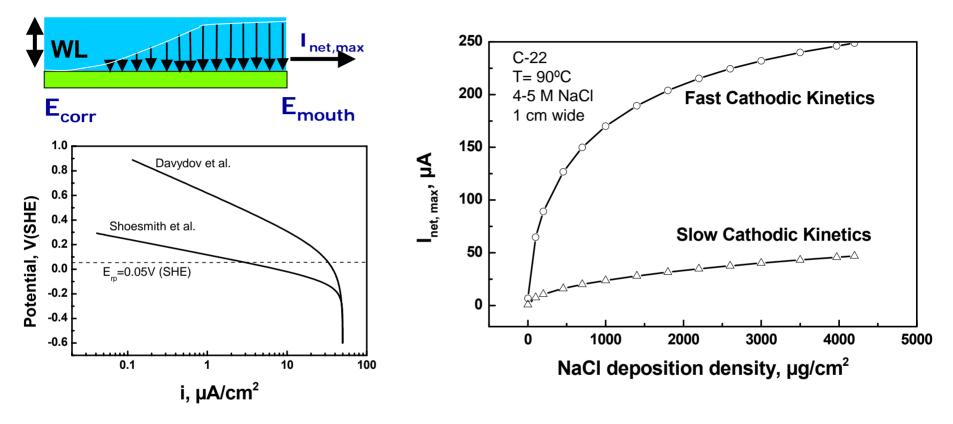


- Factors controlling increased cathode capacity at higher T:
  - Increased conductivity
  - Faster electrode kinetics
  - Lowered E<sub>rp</sub>





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

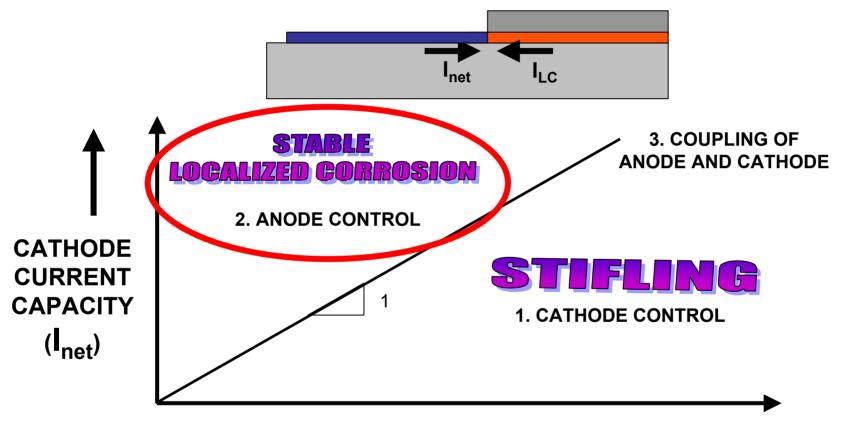


- Factors that decrease cathode kinetics:
  - More protective oxide film inhibits electron transfer
  - Increased thin-layer pH
  - **Diffusion limited current density**





### **Anode Control**



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



### Anode Limitations Can Stifle Crevice Corrosion

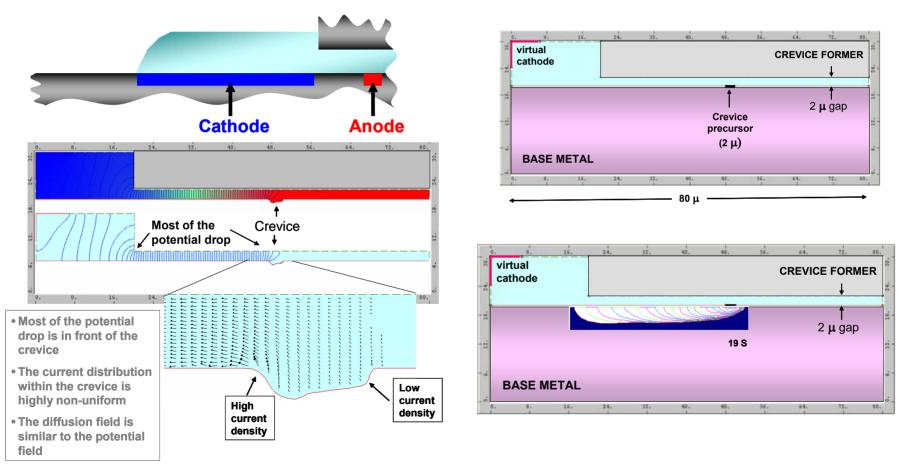
- Must develop and maintain sufficiently aggressive local solution in terms of low pH and high [Cl<sup>-</sup>]
  - Critical crevice solution (CCS) requires critical dissolution current density,  $i_{LC}$ , for given depth into the crevice, x
- More corrosion resistant alloys require solutions that are 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



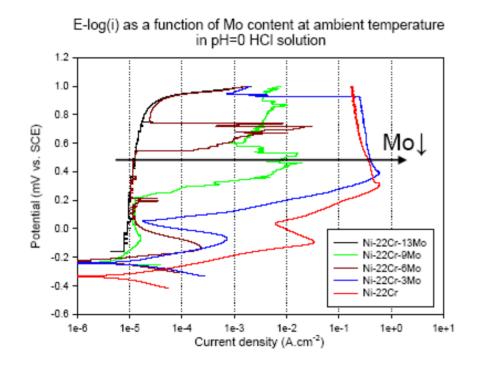
### Repassivation by Dilution of Critical Crevice Chemistry

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



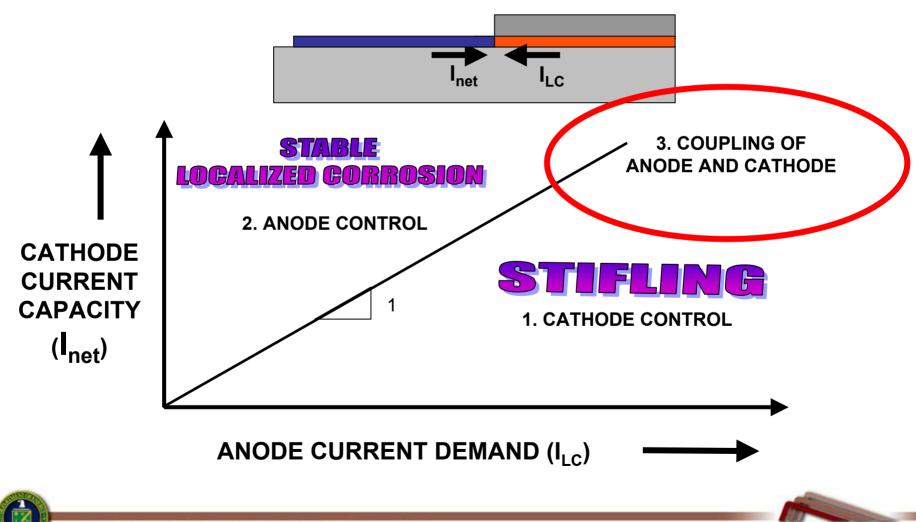
Increasing Mo Slows Anodic Kinetics in Pit Solutions

Experimental Values of CCS for Different Alloys

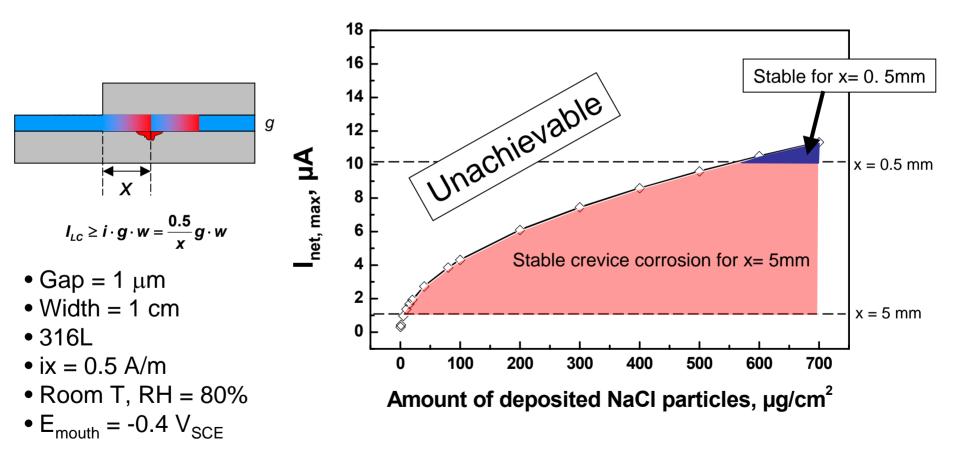
	pH <sub>crit</sub>	[CI <sup>-</sup> ] <sub>crit</sub>
304L	0.7	3.5
316L	0.1	6.5
625	-0.4	6



### **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





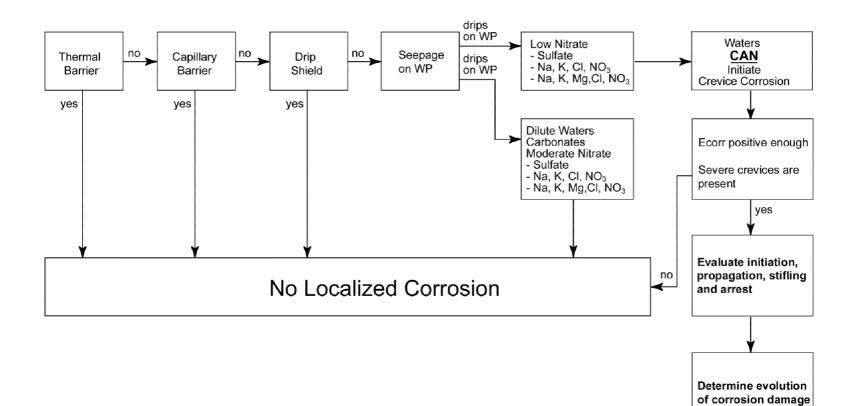
#### **Additional Slides**





#### **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)

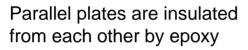
Available porous volume for solution in a 180  $\mu$ m thick dust layer with 60% porosity = 10.8  $\mu$ l

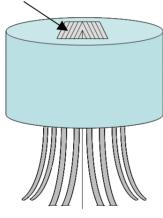


Fraction of porous volume occupied by solution = (Solution Vol.) / (Available Vol.)

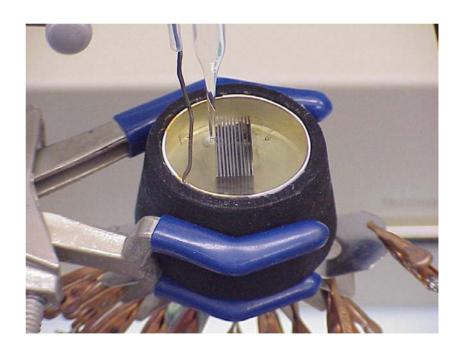
#### Multi-plate Assembly for Corrosion Cells in Particulate

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





Electrodes are connected to each SS 316 plate



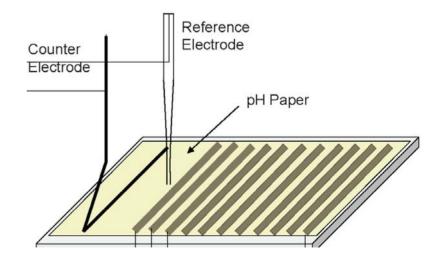


#### Anodic and Cathodic Processes

- 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

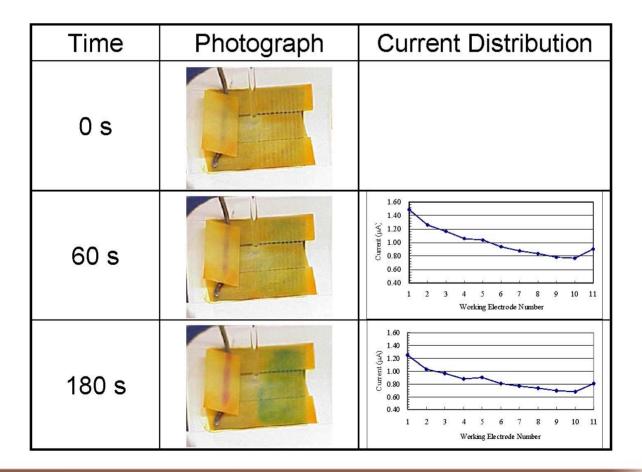






#### **Chemical Changes in Electrolyte Layer**

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



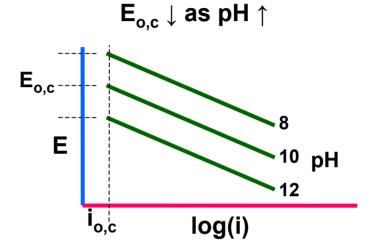


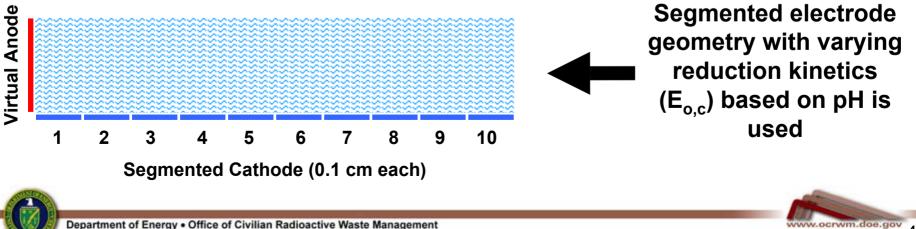


#### <u>pH</u> Effect due to Cathodic Reaction Chemistry

- 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







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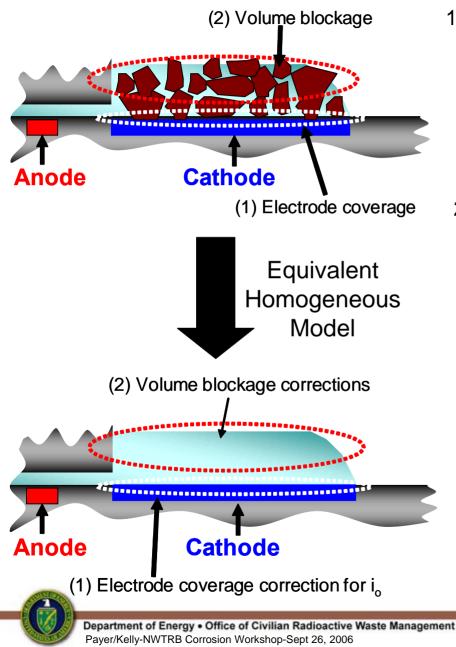
#### Calculate Maximum Current Capacity Given Measurable Parameters

- 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:

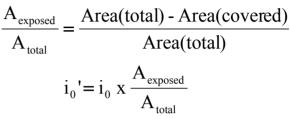
$$I_{net,max} = W \cdot \sqrt{2 \frac{\kappa(RH) \cdot DD \cdot (1 + m_{NaCl} \cdot MW_{NaCl})}{\rho(RH) \cdot m_{NaCl}(RH) \cdot MW_{NaCl}}} \cdot \int_{E_{corr}}^{E_{mouth}} (i_c - i_p) \cdot dE$$



### **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

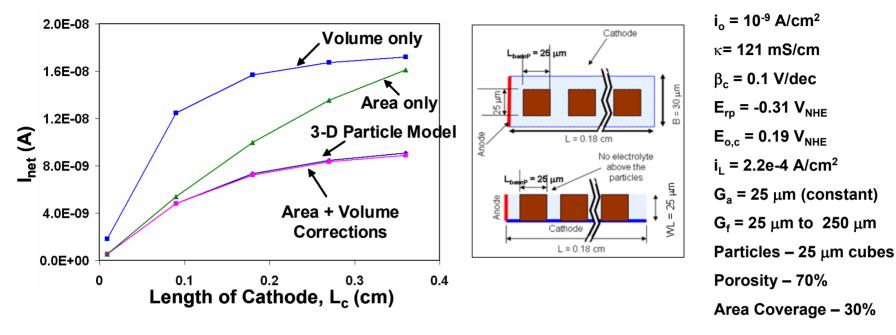
$$\phi_{\text{sand}} = \frac{\text{Vol(sand)}}{\text{Vol(sand + solution)}}$$

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



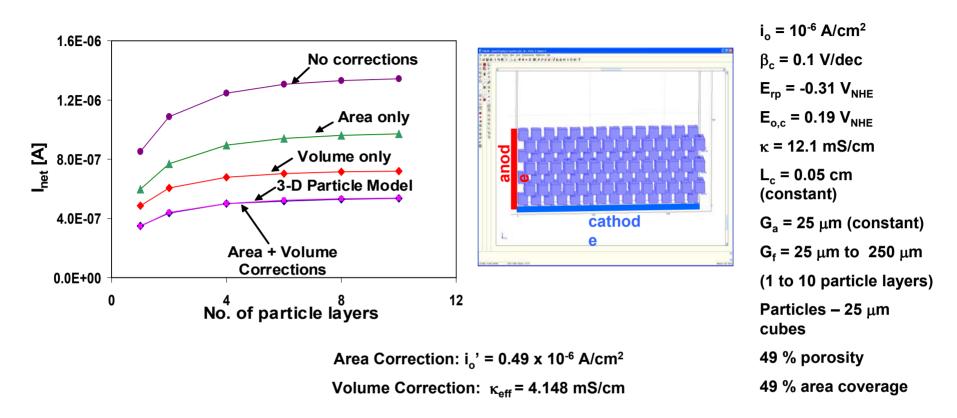
Area Correction:  $i_o' = 0.306 \times 10^{-9} \text{ A/cm}^2$ Volume Correction:  $\kappa_{eff} = 70 \text{ mS/cm}$ 

- 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**

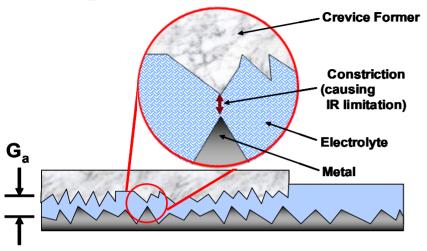


- Volume (Bruggeman) and surface coverage (area) corrections in 2-D simulations produce accurate 3-D results
- Independently, area or volume correction are insufficient





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



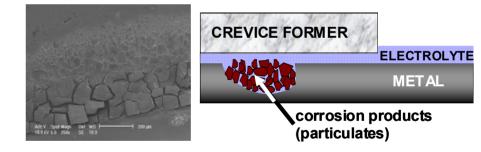
Metal - crevice former roughness can be of the order of nominal crevice gap (G<sub>2</sub>).

**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>').

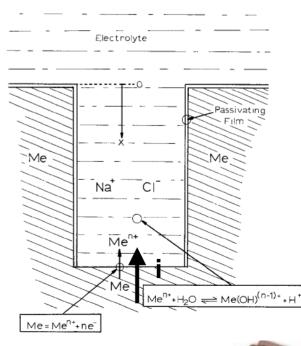


#### Anode Stability Considerations: Maintenance of Critical Chemistry

- 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

