Electrolytic extraction of palladium from nitric acid and simulated high-level liquid waste

M. Jayakumar, K.A. Venkatesan, T.G. Srinivasan, P.R. Vasudeva Rao*

Fuel Chemistry Division, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam – 603 102, India
Tel. +91 (44) 27480098; Fax +91 (44) 27480065; email: vasu@igcar.gov.in

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Abstract

Electrochemical behavior of palladium (II) nitrate in nitric acid medium and simulated high-level liquid waste has been investigated to explore the feasibility of recovering this potentially useful fission product from high-level liquid waste. The cyclic voltammogram of palladium (II) in nitric acid medium at stainless steel electrode consists of a cathodic wave occurring at an onset of –0.4 V (vs. Pd) due to the irreversible reduction of palladium (II) to metallic palladium at 298 K. The recovery of palladium was quantitative at nitric acid concentrations ranging from 1 to 4 M, however, the recovery from simulated high-level liquid waste (SHLLW) solution was only 30% due to the interferences of various ions present in SHLLW. The faradic efficiency of electrolysis lowered with increase in nitric acid concentration and only silver was found to get co-deposited to the extent of 5% along with palladium from SHLLW solution.

Keywords: Palladium; Fission product; Nuclear waste; Voltammetry; Electrodeposition

* Corresponding author.

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