

**TRU•Spec and RE•Spec
Chromatography:
Basic Studies and
Applications**

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OBJECTIVES

- Determine Distribution Coefficients on TRU•Spec and RE•Spec columns as a function of hydrochloric acid and nitric acid concentrations.
- Apply Distribution Coefficient data to separations of Nuclear Fuel Cycle materials.
- Apply Distribution Coefficient data to separations in the Nuclear Waste and Environmental areas.
- Compare Nuclear Waste Glass dissolution procedures.

Determination of Distribution Coefficients (K_d 's)

- 0.5 g of TRU•Spec or RE•Spec resin were packed into a 10 mL buret by gravity flow.
- Element standards, adjusted to the appropriate acid concentration, were added to the top of the column.
- Solution fractions were collected sequentially.
- Fractions were analyzed by ICP-AES.
- Distribution coefficients were calculated from the equation $K_d = V/m$, where V represents the volume in mL at which an element appears at its maximum concentration (corrected for the interstitial column volume) and m is the weight of the dry packing in grams.

Extraction Phase Composition

	<u>CMPO¹, %</u>	<u>TBP², %</u>
TRU•Spec	13	27
RE•Spec	16	24

¹CMPO: Octyl(phenyl)-N,N-diisobutylcarbamoylmethylphosphine oxide

²TBP: Tributyl phosphate

TRU-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Nitric Acid Concentration

Element	Nitric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Al	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ba	<5	<5	<5	<5
Be	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ca	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cd	<5	<5	<5	<5
Co	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cr	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cu	<5	<5	<5	<5
Fe	<5	5	45	>400
K	<5	<5	<5	<5
Li	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mg	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mn	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mo	8	20	28	180
Na	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ni	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pd	7	5	<5	<5
Pb	<5	<5	<5	<5
Rh	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ru	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sn	<5	<5	6	14
Sr	<5	<5	<5	<5
Te	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ti	<5	7	42	>400
Th	>400	>400	>400	>400

U
V
Z₁
Z₂

>400	>400	>400	>400
<5	<5	5	36
<5	<5	<5	<5
>400	>400	>400	>400

TRU-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Nitric Acid Concentration

Element	Nitric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Ce	50	175	145	75
Dy	10	35	64	120
Er	<10	15	40	110
Eu	40	100	135	125
Gd	16	65	80	100
Ho	<10	25	50	110
La	35	90	80	35
Nd	50	175	145	85
Pr	60	175	150	80
Sm	50	165	155	120
Tb	15	45	72	115
Tm	<10	15	40	110
Y	<10	17	36	85

RE-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Nitric Acid Concentration

Element	Nitric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Al	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ba	<5	<5	<5	<5
Be	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ca	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cd	<5	<5	<5	<5
Co	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cr	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cu	<5	<5	<5	<5
Fe	<5	5	160	>400
K	<5	<5	<5	<5
Li	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mg	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mn	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mo	24	44	150	370
Na	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ni	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pb	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sn	<5	<5	<5	10
Sr	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ti	<5	7	42	>400
Th	>400	>400	>400	>400
U	>400	>400	>400	>400
V	<5	<5	5	44
Zn	<5	<5	<5	<5
Zr	>400	>400	>400	>400

RE-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Nitric Acid Concentration

Element	Nitric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Ce	60	270	230	145
Dy	14	64	130	>400
Er	<10	25	80	>400
Eu	42	250	280	310
Gd	24	125	150	310
Ho	10	40	95	>400
La	36	170	130	76
Nd	60	270	250	180
Pr	68	290	250	170
Sm	58	250	250	310
Tb	17	90	150	>400
Tm	<10	19	70	>400
Y	<10	22	60	>400

TRU-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Hydrochloric Acid Concentration

Element	Hydrochloric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Al	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ba	<10	<10	<10	<10
Be	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ca	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cd	<10	12	25	<10
Co	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cr	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cu	<10	<10	<10	<10
Fe	<10	17	>400	>400
K	<10	<10	<10	<10
Li	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mg	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mn	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mo	<10	40	>400	>400
Na	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ni	<10	<10	<10	<10
Pb	<10	<10	<10	<10
Sn	>400	>400	>400	>400
Sr	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ti	<10	<10	15	>400
Th	<10	<10	>400	>400
U	250	>400	>400	>400
V	<10	<10	<10	25
Zn	<10	26	25	<10
Zr	<10	<10	<10	>400

RE-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Hydrochloric Acid Concentration

Element	Hydrochloric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Al	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ba	<10	<10	<10	<10
Be	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ca	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cd	<10	<10	26	<10
Co	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cr	<10	<10	<10	<10
Cu	<10	<10	<10	<10
Fe	<10	<10	>400	>400
K	<10	<10	<10	<10
Li	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mg	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mn	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mo	<10	70	>400	>400
Na	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ni	<10	<10	<10	<10
Pb	<10	15	<10	<10
Sn	>400	>400	>400	>400
Sr	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ti	<10	<10	28	>400
Th	<10	15	>400	>400
U	400	>400	>400	>400
V	<10	<10	<10	50
Zn	<10	14	26	<10
Zr	<10	<10	10	>400

TRU-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Hydrochloric Acid Concentration

Element	Hydrochloric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Ce	<10	<10	<10	33
Eu	<10	<10	<10	38
La	<10	<10	<10	33
Nd	<10	<10	<10	35
Pr	<10	<10	<10	35
Sm	<10	<10	<10	50
Y	<10	<10	<10	10

RE-Spec Column: K_d 's as a Function of Hydrochloric Acid Concentration

Element	Hydrochloric Acid Concentration			
	0.2 N	1 N	4 N	8 N
Ce	<10	<10	<10	180
Eu	<10	<10	<10	150
La	<10	<10	<10	80
Nd	<10	<10	<10	180
Pr	<10	<10	<10	175
Sm	<10	<10	<10	170
Y	<10	<10	<10	28

Conclusions

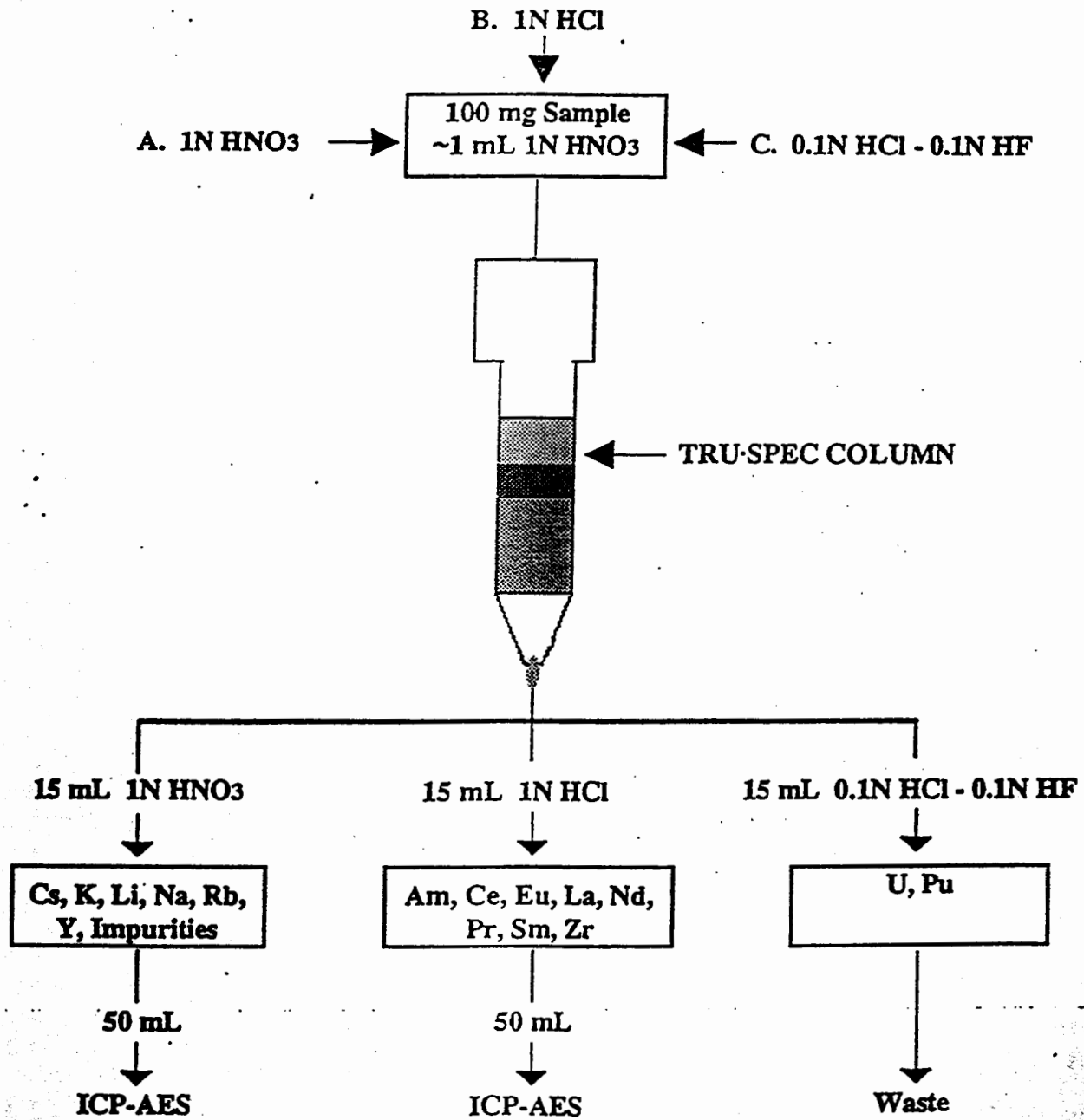
- In the nitric acid system, the distribution coefficients for the rare earths are higher for the RE•Spec phases.
- Thorium and uranium are strongly retained by the RE•Spec and TRU•Spec columns at the range of nitric acid concentrations studied.
- Rare earths are not retained by either phase at less than 6N hydrochloric acid.
- Thorium is strongly adsorbed above 4N hydrochloric acid.
- Uranium shows high distribution coefficients over the range of hydrochloric acid concentrations studied.
- The data can be used to devise group separation procedures prior to analytical measurements.
- This approach provides matrices that minimize interelement interferences.

OBJECTIVES

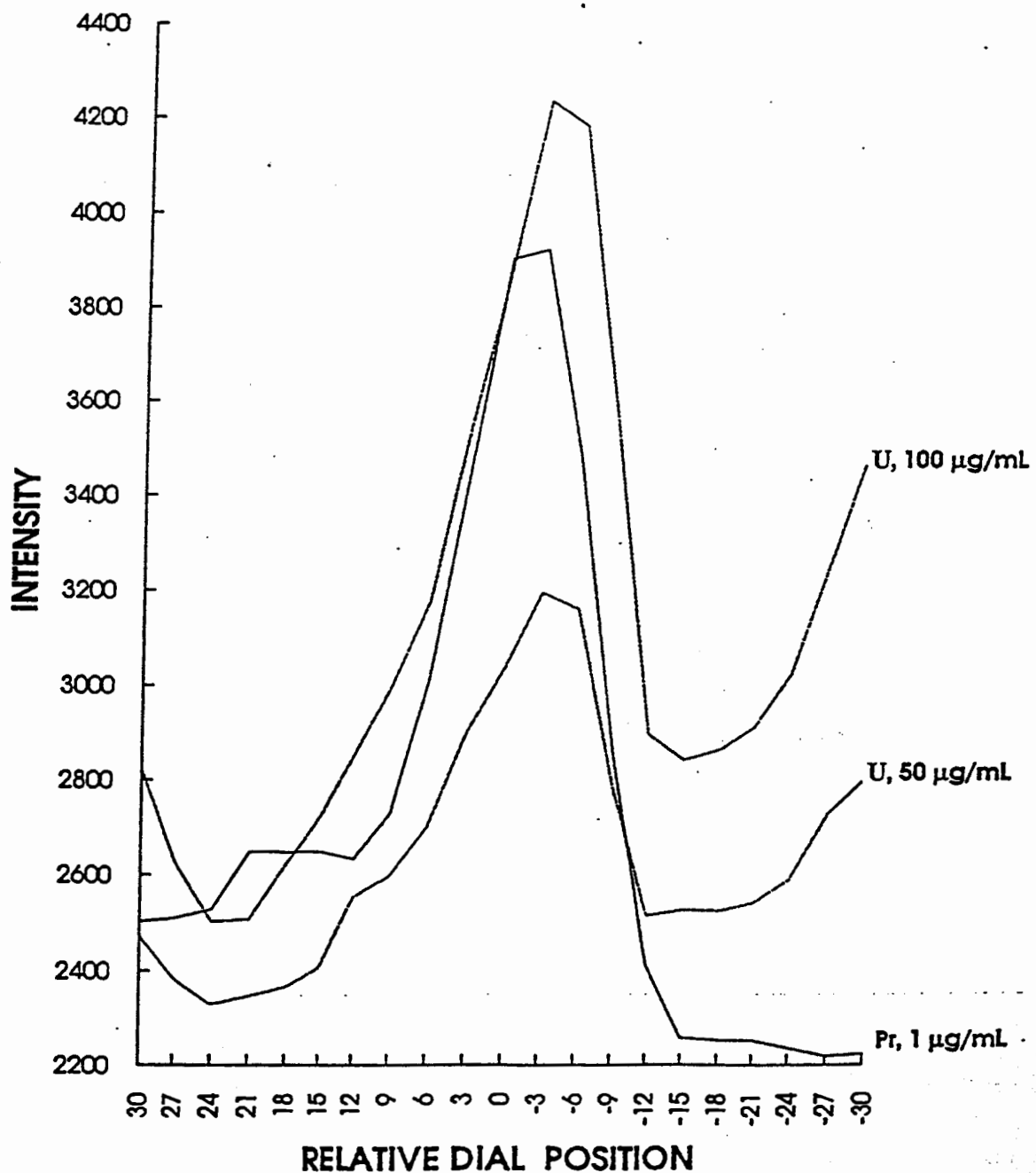
Separation Procedures--TRU-Spec Columns:

- Document the behavior of impurities as a function of nitric acid concentration.
- Evaluate recoveries for the chosen separation scheme--major and minor elements.
- Assess precision of analytical data.
- Verify that the cesium and rubidium fraction can be analyzed in a non-radioactive facility.
- Optimize the stripping of the actinides.

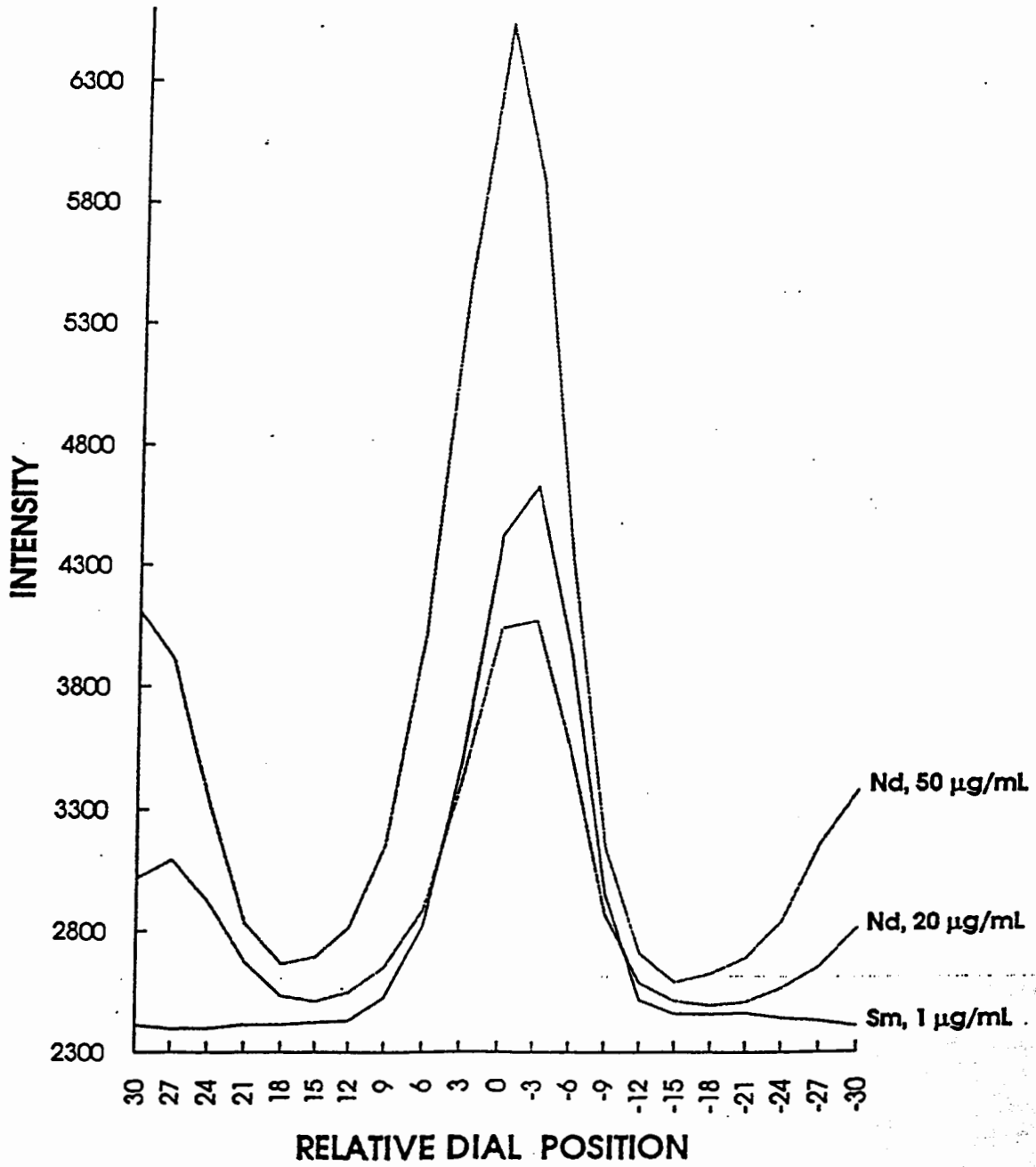
**EXPERIMENTAL
SEPARATION SCHEME**



Wavelength = 3908.44
Element = Pr



Wavelength = 3592.60
Element = Sm



Nominal Composition of KCl-LiCl Standard Reference Material

<u>Element</u>	<u>Concentration, %</u>
Ba	0.50
Ce	0.47
Cs	1.35
Eu	0.02
K	21.40
La	0.23
Li	5.59
Na	4.70
Nd	0.70
Pr	0.22
Pu	2.00
Rb	0.16
Sm	0.23
Sr	0.42
U	1.95
Y	0.22

Precision Data (1N Nitric Acid Elution)

Element	Initial ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Spike ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	$\mu\text{g/g}$			Ave. \pm S. D.	% Rec.
			IFRB-1	IFRC-1	IFRD-1		
Al	<20	1000	1000	985	980	988 \pm 10.4	98.8
Ba	625	1000	1615	1620	1615	1617 \pm 2.9	99.2
Be	<5	1000	950	955	950	952 \pm 2.9	95.2
Ca	<5	1000	945	950	950	948 \pm 2.9	94.8
Cd	<5	1000	955	960	955	957 \pm 2.9	95.7
Co	<10	1000	1030	1025	1015	1023 \pm 7.6	102.3
Cr	<5	1000	1000	1005	1010	1005 \pm 5.0	100.5
Cu	<5	1000	1015	1020	1015	1017 \pm 2.9	101.7
Fe	<5	1000	980	985	980	982 \pm 2.9	98.2
Mg	<5	1000	975	980	975	977 \pm 2.9	97.7
Mn	<2	1000	955	960	955	957 \pm 2.9	95.7
Ni	<10	1000	960	960	955	958 \pm 2.9	95.8
Pb	<20	1000	945	945	940	943 \pm 2.9	94.3
Sn	<20	1000	1090	1120	1065	1092 \pm 27	109.2
Sr	<5	1000	980	985	975	980 \pm 5.0	98.0
V	<10	1000	990	1000	1015	1002 \pm 12.6	100.2
Zn	<5	1000	965	970	970	968 \pm 2.9	96.8
Y	<5	500	493	485	488	489 \pm 4.0	97.8

Precision Data (1N Hydrochloric Acid Elution)

Element	Initial ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Spike ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	$\mu\text{g/g}$					Ave. \pm S. D.	% Rec
			IFRB-2	IFRE-2	IFRF-2	IFRG-2			
Ce	<50	2000	1880	1880	1840	1835	1859 \pm 25	93.0	
Nd	<50	2000	2055	2035	2000	1950	2010 \pm 46	100.5	
Eu	<5	200	205	196	196	199	199 \pm 4.2	99.5	
Pr	<50	1000	1060	1030	1025	995	1027 \pm 27	102.7	
Sm	<20	1000	1035	1015	1000	965	1004 \pm 29	100.4	
La	<10	500	494	482	475	455	477 \pm 16	95.4	
Zr	<5	1000	880	965	975	1010	940 \pm 52	94.0	

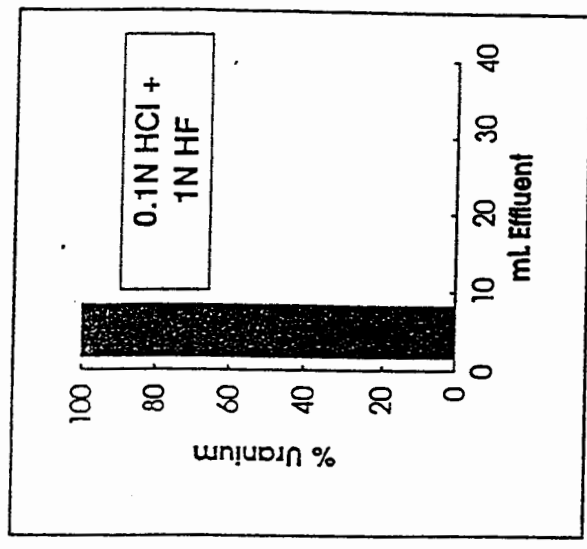
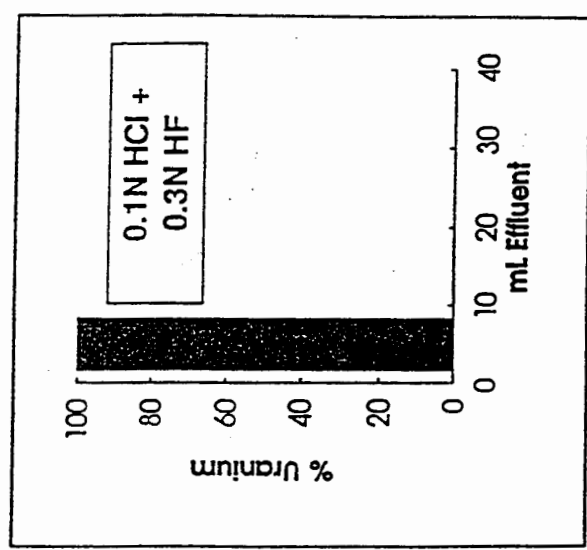
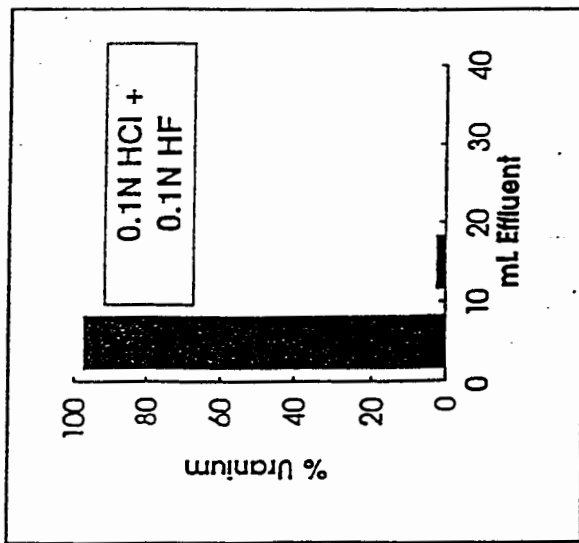
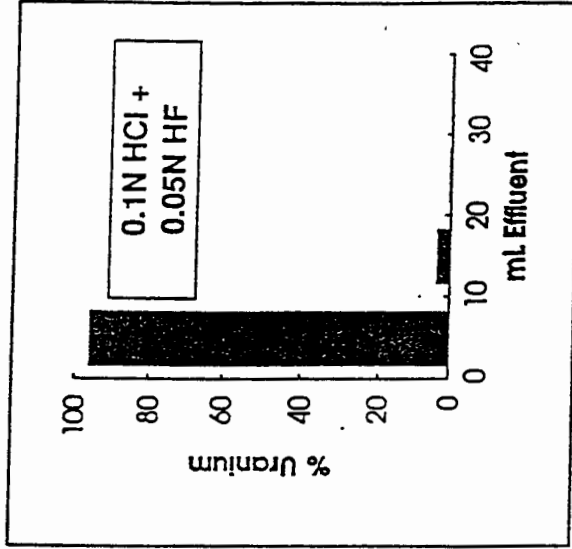
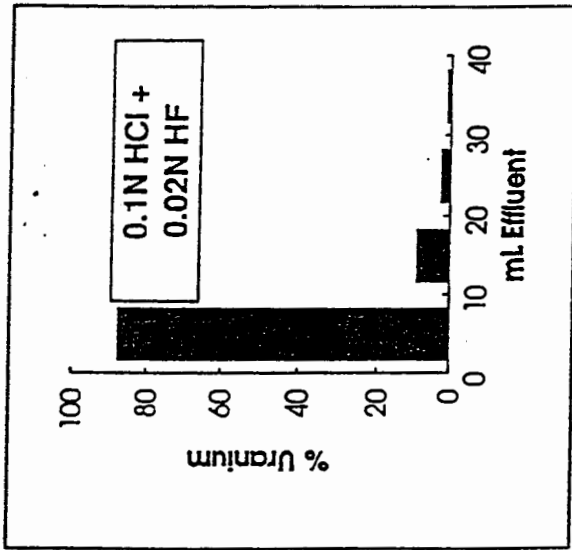
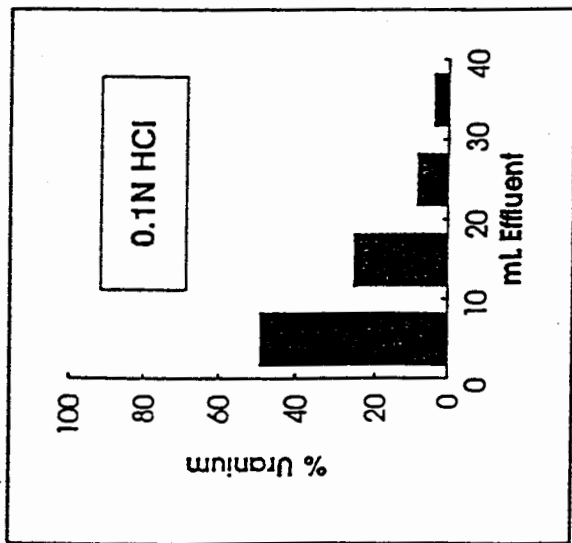
Lithium and Potassium Recovery Data

<u>Separated Sample</u>	<u>Potassium, %</u>		<u>Lithium, %</u>	
	<u>1N HNO₃</u>	<u>1N HCl</u>	<u>1N HNO₃</u>	<u>1N HCl</u>
IFR-1	29.30	<.005	7.20	<.001
IFR-2	28.95	<.005	7.10	<.001
IFR-3	29.25	<.005	7.10	<.001
IFR-4	29.10	<.005	7.10	<.001
IFR-5	29.10	<.005	7.05	<.001
IFR-6	28.95	<.005	7.05	<.001
IFR-7	29.15	<.005	7.10	<.001
Ave.	29.11		7.10	
S.D.	0.13		0.05	
Direct	29.10		7.20	

Cesium and Rubidium Recoveries

Sample	Cesium ($\mu\text{g/g}$)		% Rec.	Rubidium ($\mu\text{g/g}$)		% Rec.
	Added	Found		Added	Found	
IFR-A1	0	<10	-	0	<25	-
IFR-B1	5000	5450	109	1000	1050	105
IFR-C1	5000	5450	109	1000	1050	105
IFR-D1	5000	5450	109	1000	1050	105
IFR-E1	1000	1150	115	200	220	110
IFR-F1	2500	2800	112	500	550	110
IFR-G1	10000	10800	108	2000	2100	105

Uranium Stripping --TRU-Spec Column

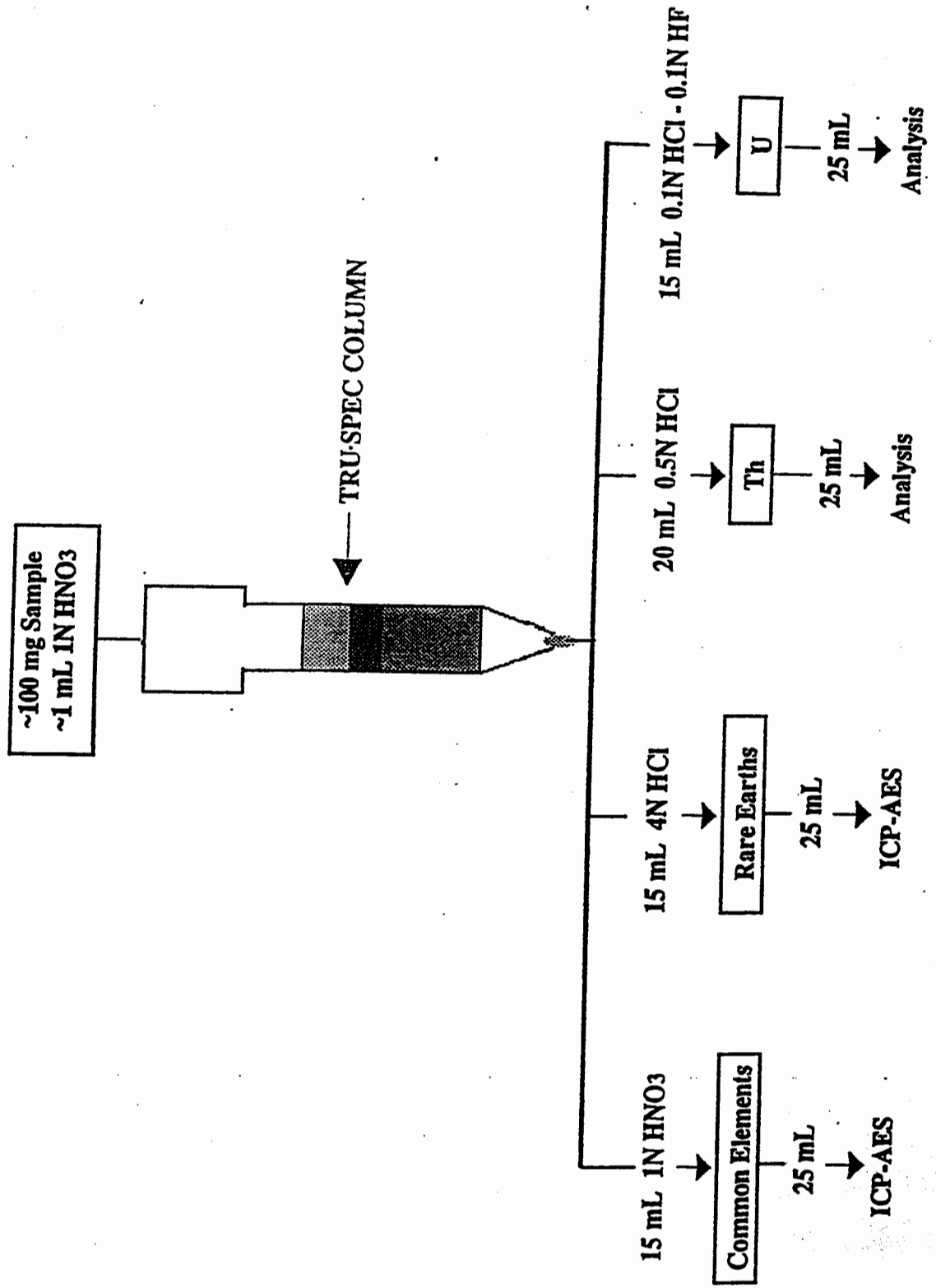


Recoveries

Element	Initial ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Added ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Found ($\mu\text{g/g}$)		% Rec.
			1 N HNO ₃	1 N HCl	
As	<100	2000	1920	<100	96.0
B	<50	1000	970	<20	97.0
Mo	<50	1000	110	160	27.0
Pd	<50	5000	4890	<20	97.8
Rh	<50	5000	4930	<20	98.6
Ru	<50	5000	4640	<20	92.8
Se	<100	2000	1960	<100	98.0
Te	<100	5000	4520	<150	90.3
Ti	<10	1000	990	<5	99.0

EXPERIMENTAL

SEPARATION SCHEME



Analytical Data for Rocky Flats Soil (SRM 4353)
TRU-Spec Column Separation

Element	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Avg. ± S.D.
	Concentration, %				
Al	1.90	2.07	1.72	1.88	1.90 ±0.14
Ca	0.219	0.241	0.257	0.265	0.246 ±0.020
Fe	2.43	2.47	2.41	2.44	2.44 ±0.03
K	1.77	1.78	1.79	1.78	1.78 ±0.01
Mg	0.153	0.165	0.157	0.163	0.160 ±0.005
Na	0.531	0.508	0.502	0.517	0.515 ±0.013
Ti	0.177	0.183	0.187	0.181	0.182 ±0.004

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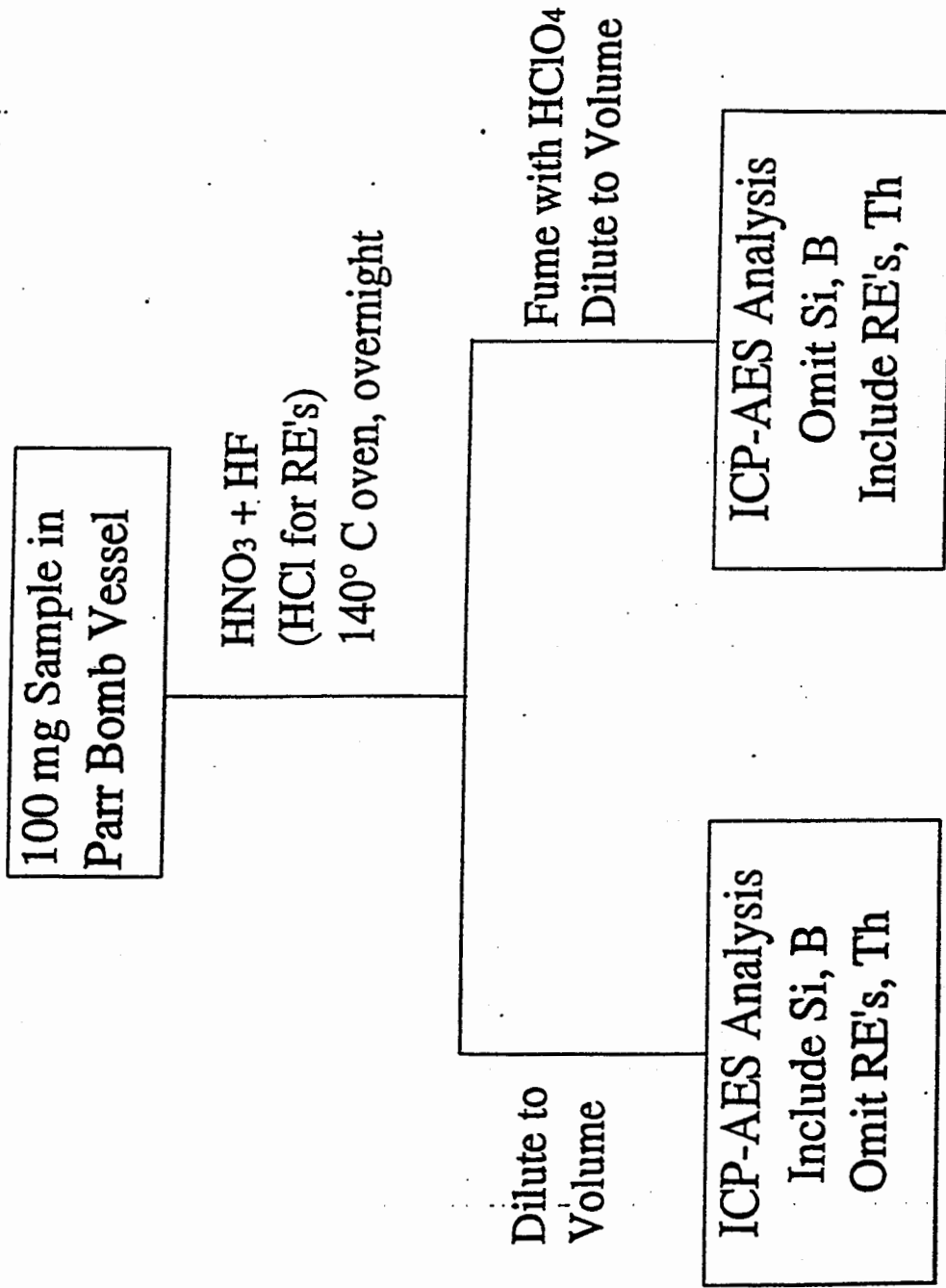
Element	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Avg. ± S.D.
	Concentration, µg/g				
Ag	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.05 ±0.06
Ba	406	413	432	435	422 ±14
Be	<2	<2	<2	<2	
Cd	<2	<2	<2	<2	
Co	15.9	16.1	15.7	13.8	15.4 ±1.1
Cr	328	364	395	400	372 ±33
Cu	19.3	20.4	20.4	20.8	20.2 ±0.6
La ¹	27.4	31.2			29.3
Li	9.8	11.8	9.6	10.3	10.4 ±1.0
Mn	356	366	376	376	369 ±10
Mo	5.4	5.4	6.2	6.0	6.0 ±0.4
Ni	201	202	205	203	203 ±2
Pr ¹	<20	<20			
Sm ¹	<10	<10			
Sr	69.7	80.0	86.3	90.0	81.5 ±8.9
Th ²	7.4	8.5			8.0
U ³	<20	<20			
V	56.2	57.9	58.6	57.1	57.5 ±1.0
Zn	35.1	36.4	35.6	35.7	35.7 ±0.5
Zr	116	121	122	125	121 ±4

¹ 4N HCl elution

² 0.5N HCl elution

³ 0.1N HCl + 1N HF elution

Glass Dissolution



Recovery Data for Rocky Flats Soil (SRM 4353)

Element	Concentration, $\mu\text{g/g}$			Rec, %
	Initial	Added	Found	
4N HCl Elution				
La	29.3	193	208	92.6
	29.3	195	214	94.7
Pr	<20	386	393	102.0
	<20	390	388	99.5
Sm	<10	193	188	97.4
	<10	195	193	99.0
1N HCl Elution				
Th	8.0	386	361	91.5 ¹
	8.0	390	369	92.6
0.1N HCl + 1N HF Elution				
U	<20	386	395	102.3
	<20	390	389	99.7

¹ Elution with 15 mL of 0.5N HCl is insufficient;
2.1% and 2.5% Th were found in the 0.1N HCL-1N HF fractions.

Comparative Data for Glass Dissolution

Element (Oxide)	Weight Percent			
	Parr Bomb		Beaker	
	Element	Oxide	Element	Oxide
Al (Al ₂ O ₃)	3.40	6.42	3.32	6.27
B (B ₂ O ₃)	<0.01	<0.02	<0.01	<0.02
Ba (BaO)	0.038	0.042	0.043	0.048
Ca (CaO)	1.58	2.21	1.59	2.22
Ce (CeO ₂)	0.06	0.07	0.717	0.880
Co (CoO)	<0.005	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Cr (Cr ₂ O ₃)	1.34	1.96	1.24	1.81
Cu (CuO)	<0.005	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Fe (Fe ₂ O)	46.5	66.5	46.3	66.8
K (K ₂ O)	0.674	0.812	ND	
Li (Li ₂ O)	<0.001	<0.002	ND	
Mg (MgO)	0.486	0.806	0.487	0.807
Mn (MnO ₂)	0.028	0.044	0.029	0.046
Mo (MoO ₃)	<0.005	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Na (Na ₂ O)	0.314	0.419	ND	
Ni (NiO)	0.835	1.06	0.838	1.07
Pb (PbO)	<0.02	<0.03	<0.02	<0.03
Si (SiO ₂)	9.45	20.2	<0.04	<0.1
Sn (SnO ₂)	<0.01	<0.02	<0.01	<0.02
Sr (SrO)	0.009	0.011	0.009	0.011
Ti (TiO ₂)	0.131	0.218	0.131	0.218
V (V ₂ O ₃)	0.010	0.013	0.009	0.011
Zn (ZnO)	0.014	0.017	0.012	0.015
Zr (Zr ₂ O ₃)	0.009	0.012	0.007	0.009
Σ Oxides		101.6		

ND = not determined

312

9/12 x 15

Comparative Glass Analysis Data

Element	Concentration, %				Diff., %
	Direct ¹	TRU-Spec ²			
		Run 1	Run 2	Avg.	
Al	4.85	4.89	4.83	4.86	0.2
B	2.52	2.33	2.32	2.33	7.8
Ba	0.321	0.350	0.344	0.347	7.8
Ca	0.235	0.237	0.234	0.236	0.4
Dr	0.489	0.538	0.531	0.534	8.8
Cu	0.043	0.051	0.048	0.050	14.9
Fe	5.38	5.54	5.40	5.47	1.7
K	0.056	0.062	0.052	0.057	1.8
Li	2.33	2.32	2.32	2.32	0.4
Mg	0.600	0.604	0.596	0.600	0.0
Mn	1.13	1.16	1.14	1.15	1.7
Na	7.78	7.93	7.65	7.79	0.1
Ni	0.626	0.638	0.631	0.634	1.3
Si	26.6	0.53	0.59		
Sr	0.011	0.012	0.012	0.012	8.3
Ti	0.042	0.046	0.044	0.045	6.8
Zn	0.022	0.030	0.028	0.029	28.0
Zr	0.970	1.04	1.03	1.03	6.0

¹ Parr bomb dissolution only

3 close up

² Parr bomb dissolution and fluoride elimination

Recovery Data

<u>Element</u>	<u>Concentration, %</u>			<u>Rec., %</u>
	Initial	Added	Found	
Ce	<0.003	0.0974	0.0964	99.0
Nd	<0.003	0.0974	0.1042	106.7
Eu	<0.001	0.0243	0.0247	101.6
Th	<0.003	0.487	0.380	78.0 ¹
U	0.071	0.487	0.557	99.8

¹ Fluoride may not have been completely eliminated *↑ up se.*

Waste Glass Analysis (High Fe)

Element	Concentration, %		Avg., %
	Run 1	Run 2	
Al	4.25	4.09	4.17
Ba	0.030	0.029	0.030
Ca	1.51	1.45	1.48
Ce	0.506	0.403	0.454
Cr	1.11	1.17	1.14
Cu	0.006	0.005	0.006
Fe	40.5	38.9	39.7
Mg	0.443	0.429	0.436
Mn	0.025	0.024	0.025
Ni	0.769	0.741	0.755
Pb	1.34	1.30	1.32
Sr	0.008	0.008	0.008
Ti	0.114	0.110	0.112
Zn	0.012	0.012	0.012

Recovery Data

	Concentration, %			Rec., %
	Initial	Added	Found	
Th	<0.01	0.491	0.501	102.0
U	<0.03	0.491	0.403	82.1

Conclusions

- Chemical separation of the actinides is needed for the best figures of merit.
- A TRU•Spec column elution method was developed that meets programmatic objectives.
- Recovery data document the acceptability of the procedure for the applications studied.
- Interferences in alpha-spectrometry can be minimized by group separations.
- The separations procedures should be applicable to geological matrices for the determination of rare earths and actinides.