

CLOSING COMMENTS OF SESSION CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank all of the speakers for their effort in attending this conference and for the quality of their presentations. I think that iodine studies continue to be important. In the United States we are moving toward looking at waste. A number of the statements by Dr. Herrmann are relevant to the work that is going on in waste and most certainly in the iodine content of the tanks. As we look at adsorbents we find that they all have potential application when there is a significant quantity of iodine that has to be removed from the waste. Other countries are proceeding with reprocessing and adsorbents can become important in their applications.

In this session we have heard five papers describing very interesting work from around the world. I found the studies concerning the continued release of iodine from the waste tanks at WAK very interesting and in particular the data that indicated the continued generation of iodine 131 from the tanks. While I am not aware of other reports of similar observations, I certainly recognize this as relevant to activities currently underway in the U.S. and warranting further investigation. Clearly this could have impact on the processing of the millions of gallons of waste currently stored within the DOE complex. The first paper of the session provided an update on the research into the behavior of iodine in the dissolver solution. This work continues to shed light on some of the reported variations in the observed iodine evolution from dissolver solutions. The second paper is also a continuation of previously reported work on the silver impregnated alumina iodine sorbents. This paper focused on the impact of NO_x, water vapor, and pre-exposure times. Other off-gas impurities were also investigated. The third paper reported on a fundamental study into the controlling mechanisms of methyl iodide adsorption on silver exchanged mordenite. Micropore diffusion was identified as the rate controlling process for the adsorption of methyl iodide in the long term. The fourth paper looks back over an extensive experience base on iodine removal efficiencies in actual operations. I want to thank the speakers for their effort and interesting research and evaluations.