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Competitive Incorporation of Perrhenate and Nitrate into Sodalite

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1 ABSTRACT

2 Nuclear waste storage tanks at the Hanford site in southeastern Washington have released highly
3 alkaline solutions, containing radioactive and other contaminants, into subsurface sediments. When this
4 waste reacts with subsurface sediments, feldspathoid minerals (sodalite, cancrinite) can form,
5 sequestering pertechnetate ($^{99}\text{TcO}_4^-$) and other ions. This study investigates the potential for
6 incorporation of perrhenate (ReO_4^-), a chemical surrogate for $^{99}\text{TcO}_4^-$, into mixed perrhenate/nitrate
7 ($\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$) sodalite. Mixed-anion sodalites were hydrothermally synthesized in the laboratory from
8 zeolite A in sodium hydroxide, nitrate, and perrhenate solutions at 90 °C for 24 to 168 hours. The
9 resulting solids were characterized by bulk chemical analysis, X-ray diffraction, scanning electron
10 microscopy, and X-ray absorption near edge structure spectroscopy (XANES) to determine the
11 products' chemical composition, structure, morphology, and Re oxidation state. The XANES data
12 indicated that nearly all rhenium (Re) was incorporated as Re(VII)O_4^- . The non-linear increase of the
13 unit cell parameter with higher $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ ratios suggests formation of two separate sodalite phases in
14 lieu of a mixed-anion sodalite. The results reveal that the sodalite cage is highly selective towards the
15 NO_3^- over ReO_4^- . Calculated enthalpy and Gibbs free energy of formation at 298 K for NO_3^- and ReO_4^- -
16 sodalite suggest that NO_3^- incorporation into the cage is favored over the incorporation of the larger
17 ReO_4^- , due to the smaller ionic radius of NO_3^- . Based on these results, it is expected that NO_3^- , which is
18 present at significantly higher concentrations in alkaline waste solutions than $^{99}\text{TcO}_4^-$, will be strongly
19 preferred for incorporation into the sodalite cage.

20

21

22 ■ INTRODUCTION

23 Technetium-99 presents a major environmental concern due to its long half-life (211,000 y) and high
24 mobility of pertechnetate (TcO_4^-), the dominant ionic species in oxidized subsurface systems.¹ At the
25 U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site, approximately 1900 kg of ^{99}Tc was generated and stored
26 underground in 177 tanks, which contain an estimated 65 million gallons of nuclear waste from the
27 production of plutonium during the Cold War era.² Seventy-seven of these tanks have leaked high-level
28 radioactive waste (HLW) into the vadose zone (the unsaturated region which extends from the ground
29 surface to the top of the water table), which extends 50 to 70 meters below the storage tanks.² In
30 addition ^{99}Tc was also released to the subsurface via cribs and trenches, which received in excess of 50
31 million gallons of reprocessed tank waste. Due to weak adsorption of TcO_4^- to the predominantly
32 negatively-charged, oxic sediments prevalent at the Hanford site, ^{99}Tc migration into the vadose zone
33 water and groundwater is expected to be largely unimpeded.³

34 The Hanford tank waste solutions are alkaline (free OH^- is from 0.1 to 5.3 M, Na^+ from 2.9 to 19.6
35 M, and NO_3^- from 0.5 to 5.5 M), high in ionic strength ($I = 2 - 14$), and supersaturated with an $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$
36 phase.³⁻⁶ The tanks contain several radionuclides and contaminants of concern, including NO_3^- , CrO_4^{2-} ,
37 $^{137}\text{Cs}^+$, $^{90}\text{Sr}^{2+}$, TcO_4^- , and $^{79}\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$ that have been detected in groundwater. Model simulations of ^{99}Tc
38 transport in the vadose zone suggest that the groundwater concentrations beneath the cribs and trenches
39 in the central plateau should be in excess of the maximum allowable contaminant level of 0.4 nmol L^{-1} .⁷
40 Interestingly, nearly 50 years after being released, ^{99}Tc data from borehole soil/sediment samples
41 collected at varying depths within the central plateau of the Hanford site indicate that a significant
42 portion of ^{99}Tc is present in a relatively immobile form.⁸ The reduction of TcO_4^- to immobile TcO_2
43 [$\text{Tc}(\text{IV})$] by Fe(II)-bearing minerals present in the vadose zone has been proposed to explain this
44 observation.^{9,10} Alternatively, $^{99}\text{TcO}_4^-$ may be intercalated into feldspathoid phases.

45 Previous laboratory studies have shown that when simulated tank leachate reacts with native Hanford
46 sediments, the primary and secondary (alumino) silicate minerals react with leachate to form precipitates
47 including allophane, zeolite, and feldspathoids (e.g., sodalite, cancrinite).¹¹⁻¹⁴ These investigations
48 demonstrated that, among the feldspathoids, sodalite— $[\text{Na}_8(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ —incorporates ⁹⁰Sr and
49 ¹³⁷Cs from HLW, by replacing Na in the structure.^{15, 16}

50 Cancrinite and sodalite share the same formula (identical stoichiometry), however the spatial
51 arrangement of their framework structures is different. Feldspathoid minerals have a three-dimensional,
52 oxygen-tetrahedral framework containing Al and Si in a network system with multiple channels, cages
53 and pores.^{17, 18} A typical feldspathoid is represented by the general formula $\text{M}_8(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})\text{X}_2$, where M is
54 a metal cation—e.g. Cs, K, Na,—and X is an anion—such as Cl^- , NO_3^- , TcO_4^- , ReO_4^- , or SO_4^{2-} .¹⁷
55 Sodalite consists of alternating TO_4 corner-sharing tetrahedra (where T is usually Si or Al) forming four
56 and six ring cages, which make up the so-called β -cage or a sodalite cage. In the Cl-bearing sodalite,
57 these cages are approximately 6.5 Å in diameter and are accessible through 2.6 Å-wide six-membered
58 rings that form continuous channels for diffusion of intra-framework ions.¹⁹⁻²¹ The six-membered ring is
59 occupied by four cations tetrahedrally associated with an anion (e.g., Cl^-) at the center of the cage. With
60 the exception of hydroxide, anions are irreversibly trapped within the cages, and once cages have
61 formed it becomes difficult to replace anions without destroying the cage.²²

62 The role of feldspathoids in attenuating the migration of anionic forms of radionuclides and
63 contaminants of concern remains an open and critical question. The incorporation of TcO_4^- into sodalite
64 may play an important role in waste containment below the Hanford waste tanks. Therefore, we
65 examined (1) the formation of sodalite in the presence of NO_3^- and ReO_4^- anions, (2) the oxyanion
66 selectivity, and (3) the relationship between $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ concentration in the solid and anion/cage size.
67 The objective was to quantify the extent of ReO_4^- incorporation into mixed perrhenate/nitrate sodalite as

68 a function of anion composition. The various points of interest were examined by hydrothermal reaction
69 at 90°C for 24 h using Na⁺, OH⁻, and NO₃⁻ concentrations in solutions similar to those found in the
70 Hanford waste tanks, while supplying Si and Al from a zeolite solid phase. Perrhenate serves as a viable
71 surrogate for ⁹⁹Tc because both elements occur under oxidizing conditions as oxyanions (ReO₄⁻ and
72 TcO₄⁻), and have similar metal oxygen bond lengths (Tc–O = 1.702 Å and Re–O = 1.719 Å) and ionic
73 radii (TcO₄⁻ = 2.52 Å and ReO₄⁻ = 2.60 Å).²³⁻²⁵ Because the standard electrode potentials of the two
74 species differ (ReO₄⁻/ReO₂ = 0.510 V and TcO₄⁻/TcO₂ = 0.738 V)^{26,27}, this study only considers the
75 behavior of the oxidized species, the expected stable form in the Hanford vadose zone. Results of this
76 study will clarify the role of feldspathoids in the long-term fate and transport of ⁹⁹TcO₄⁻ below the
77 Hanford tanks, and, ultimately, will help manage waste containment.

78 ■ EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

79 **Hydrothermal Synthesis.** The ReO₄⁻/NO₃⁻ sodalites were hydrothermally synthesized at 90°C for 24
80 h from zeolite 4A using the following modification of a method described by Liu et al.,²⁸:

81 Mixed sodalites were synthesized in a 60-mL Teflon[®] digestion bombs, filled with 20 mL of de-
82 ionized water, 1 g of NaOH pellets and 0.5 g of zeolite 4A. While keeping the total molarity constant
83 (1.77 M), different molar ratios of NaNO₃ and NaReO₄ (0.25 to 9.0 NO₃⁻/ ReO₄⁻) were added to the
84 basic solutions. All chemical reagents were used as received. The bombs were capped, agitated and
85 heated at 90 °C in an oven for 24 h. The temperature used was in line with the temperatures near or
86 greater than the 100 °C reported within and below the Hanford tanks.^{29,30} The supernatant solutions were
87 decanted and the solid precipitates washed three times with deionized water (0.054 × 10⁻³ dS/m) by
88 centrifugation at 17,000 rcf. The white solids were dried at 70 °C for 24 hours, weighed and dialyzed
89 against deionized water until the electrolytic conductivity was ≤0.01 dS/m. Typical dialyzed solid yield
90 was 0.5 – 0.6 g. At either 80 or 90 °C zeolite 4A was completely transformed into sodalite with minor

91 amount of cancrinite in 24 h, while below 70 °C no significant amount of sodalite was observed (data
92 not shown). Sodalite formed at 80°C incorporated Re at the same level as the 90°C samples. The
93 conditions for the hydrothermal synthesis are summarized in Table 1.

94 **Characterization.**

95 *Powder X-ray Diffraction.* X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were used for phase identification,
96 morphological composition (phase purity), and structural analysis. Samples were hand crushed by
97 mortar and pestle, evenly smeared on zero-background Si holders, and characterized by one of the
98 following instruments: (1) Panalytical Xpert diffractometer (XRD) scanning at 0.02° steps and at a rate
99 of 1.5°/min over 5 – 90° 2θ using MoKα radiation ($\lambda = 0.709319 \text{ \AA}$) with X'Celerator detector equipped
100 with either ¼° fixed divergence slits and/or ½° anti-scatter slit. (2) Siemens diffractometer (D500 XRD)
101 scanning at 0.05° steps over 5 – 90° 2θ using Ni-filtered CuKα radiation ($\lambda = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$) and a graphite
102 monochromator equipped with a scintillator detector.

103 Both X-ray diffractometers used radiation generated at 35 - 40 keV and 30 – 40 mA and a 5 – 10 s
104 dwell time at each step. A mineral search match was conducted using “Jade” and/or HighScore software
105 and the ICDD database. Rietveld refinements of crystallographic data of powder samples were
106 performed using GSAS with EXPGUI interface and/or HighScore software packages³¹ by varying the
107 detector background, unit cell, Na position, N/Re occupancy, peak shape (U, V, W, and two other peak
108 shapes), overall thermal parameter (B), and preferred orientation. These phases—[Na₈(AlSiO₄)₆(NO₂)₂]
109 ³², [Na₈(AlSiO₄)₆(ReO₄)₂]³³, and [Na₆Ca_{1.5}(AlSiO₄)₆(CO₃)_{1.5}(H₂O)_{1.75}]³⁴—were used as reference
110 structures for the refinement.

111 *X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure (XANES) Spectroscopy.* Sodalite samples, consisting of
112 powdered sodalite mixed with boron nitride were mounted on an aluminum holder with Kapton
113 windows. XANES measurements were performed at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource

114 (SSRL) at the 11-2 beamline by using the Si (220) double crystal monochromator ($\phi = 90$ crystals),
115 detuned 50% to reduce the harmonic content of the beam. Spectra were collected from 0.2 keV below to
116 10 keV above the Re L_2 -edge (11.959 keV). Data were either collected in transmission mode using
117 nitrogen-filled ion chambers or fluorescence mode using a 100-element Ge detector and were corrected
118 for detector dead time. Data were reduced from raw data to spectra using SixPack and normalized using
119 Artemis.³⁵ Normalized XANES spectra were fit using standard spectra in the locally written program
120 'fites', which utilizes a non-linear least squares fitting data. Reference spectra from two standard
121 samples, $\text{ReO}_2(\text{s})$ (Alfa-Aesar) and pure ReO_4 -sodalite,³³ were used for data fitting. The sample XANES
122 spectra were allowed to vary in energy during fitting and the spectral resolution is 7 eV based on the
123 width of the white line at the Re L_2 -edge.

124 *Electron Microscopy.* Scanning electron micrographs were obtained by sputter-coating powder
125 samples with platinum-palladium to 2-nm thickness. Powder samples were subsequently examined
126 under a field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) equipped with a field emission gun (FEI
127 Quanta 200F, FEI Co., Hillsboro, OR) and Everhart-Thornley detector. The FESEM has an accelerating
128 voltage of 30 keV with a resolution of 1 nm.

129 *Chemical Digestion.* Dialyzed powder samples were digested in 3% nitric acid and analyzed for Na
130 concentration by atomic emission and/or absorption spectrophotometry (Varian 220 Flame Atomic
131 Absorption Spectrometer, Varian Ltd., Mulgrave, Australia) and for Si and Al colorimetrically by the
132 silicomolybdous acid method and 8-hydroxyquinoline-butyl acetate method respectively^{36,37}. Chemical
133 composition of the solid for Re was analyzed by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometer (Agilent
134 7700 ICP-MS). Concentration of NO_3^- was determined by flow injection analysis using the QuikChem
135 8000 series (Lachat Instruments, Inc., Milwaukee, WI).

136 ■ RESULTS

137 **Structure of Mixed Sodalite.** The refined powder XRD patterns of the pure and mixed-anion
138 sodalites are displayed in Figure 1. Based on the refinement data, a small amount of cancrinite (~10
139 weight % on average) is formed along with the pure and mixed sodalite. For the mixed sodalites,
140 predominance of well-defined X-ray diffraction peaks consistent with the $P\bar{4}3n$ space group and other
141 minor peaks belonging to cancrinite ($P6_3$ space group) were observed. Cancrinite is characterized by a
142 systematic absence of X-ray diffraction for $0,0,l$ reflections where $l = \text{odd}$, while sodalite lacks
143 systematic diffraction peaks for h,k,l reflections where $h+k+l = \text{odd}$ ^{32, 38}. The main distinguishing
144 diffraction peaks for cancrinite correspond to the (101) and (211) Miller indices with d -spacings of
145 $\approx 4.67 \text{ \AA}$ and 3.24 \AA , respectively. The X-ray diffraction pattern for the sodalite phases indicate either
146 pure or a mixed-anion phases. For the pure phase sodalites, the (211) diffraction peak of the pure NO_3^- -
147 sodalite shifted from a higher 2θ (24.3°) to a lower 2θ (23.8°) for the ReO_4^- -sodalite end-member
148 consistent with larger ionic radius of ReO_4^- . Lattice and refinement parameters for both the pure and
149 mixed sodalites are shown in Table 1. Based on the Rietveld refinements, the space group $P\bar{4}3n$ and
150 lattice parameters: $a = 8.9762 \text{ \AA}$, 9.1532 \AA were adopted for the pure NO_3^- and ReO_4^- -sodalites
151 respectively. The space group $P6_3$ and the calculated lattice parameters: $a = 12.683 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 5.1827 \text{ \AA}$
152 were assigned to the minor phase NO_3^- -cancrinite.^{39, 40} For the mixed $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ -sodalites, the refined
153 cell parameters ranged from 8.9808 to 8.9987 \AA , while at higher weight fractions of ReO_4^- in the mixed
154 sodalite lattice the refined cell parameters varied from 9.1406 to 9.1457 \AA .

155 The XANES data for select mixed sodalites were fit using only the spectra of ReO_2 and perrhenate
156 sodalite. The fit results are presented in Table S1, and the spectra of the SOD-40 sample along with the
157 reference spectra used in the fitting are displayed in Figure 2. In all cases, the spectrum of ReO_4^- -sodalite
158 contributes significantly to the fit with insignificant contribution from the spectrum of ReO_2 . The upper

159 limit of ReO_2 in the solid phase is twice the standard deviation – 12%. These data confirm that the Re in
160 the formed solids occurred almost entirely as Re(VII)O_4^- .

161 **Morphology of Synthesis Product.** The SEM images indicate no morphological differences among
162 the mixed sodalites. The morphology of the powder samples formed in the presence of either ReO_4^- or
163 NO_3^- and varying $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ ratio in solution was mostly lepispheric and/or lenticular-shaped
164 structures, comprised of inter-grown thin disks or blades (Figure 3A-D). Similarly, Deng et al.,¹⁶ using a
165 starting Na-silicate and -aluminate solution with $\text{Si/Al} < 1.4$, reported similar morphology during
166 hydrothermal synthesis of sodalite co-crystallized with cancrinite.

167 **Chemical Composition.** The chemical composition of the synthesis products obtained from chemical
168 digestion is shown in Table 2. All elements were assigned to sodalite based on the observation that only
169 sodalite and a small amount of cancrinite were detected by XRD, and sodalite and cancrinite share the
170 same chemical formula $[\text{M}_8(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})\text{X}_2]$; the XRD peaks for cancrinite are consistent with a pure NO_3^- -
171 cancrinite phase; and the amount of ReO_2 detected by XANES was negligible. The pure ReO_4^- and NO_3^- -
172 sodalite phases contained 1.94 and 1.99 mol of ReO_4^- and NO_3^- , respectively, per formula unit in
173 agreement with the ideal value of 2.00. The mixed sodalite contained from 0.01 – 0.14 mol of ReO_4^- ,
174 much lower than its concentration relative to NO_3^- in solution. In general, ~0.1 – 2.1% of the ReO_4^- in
175 the synthesis solution was incorporated into the mixed sodalite. Thus, the mixed sodalites were
176 dominated by the NO_3^- -sodalite phase.

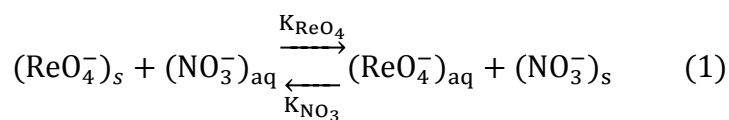
177 ■ DISCUSSION

178 **Effect of Anion Type.** The type of anion present in the synthesis solutions containing a 1:1 molar
179 ratio of Si/Al significantly affects the formation pathway of the mixed $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ -sodalite. Deng et al.,⁴¹
180 reported that Cl^- and NO_2^- predominantly favor the formation of sodalite over cancrinite whereas NO_3^- ,
181 CO_3^{2-} , and SO_4^{2-} foster cancrinite formation⁴¹. In our study of the mixed ReO_4^- and NO_3^- -sodalites,

182 cancrinite was a minor phase and there was a strong preference for NO_3^- in the dominant sodalite phase.
 183 The primary difference in the synthesis procedures was the use of zeolite A as a 1:1 Si/Al source while
 184 Deng et al. used various Si/Al ratios from dissolved species.

185 **Competitive Incorporation of NO_3^- and ReO_4^- into Mixed Sodalite.** The results showed that the
 186 NO_3^- -sodalite phase was dominant even when the solution mole fraction of ReO_4^- was 0.80. The
 187 competitive advantage of NO_3^- over ReO_4^- could be due to two major factors: (1) an entropic advantage
 188 of placing the smaller anion in the cage or (2) an enthalpic gain associated with the anion effect on cage
 189 size. Based on the results discussed in Pierce et al. (in review),⁴² the difference in the Gibbs free
 190 energies of the two solid phases is largely explained by the difference in enthalpies suggesting that the
 191 larger cage size (Table 1) imposed by the ReO_4^- ion (ionic radius = 2.60 Å) is unfavorable in
 192 comparison with that imposed by the NO_3^- (ionic radius = 1.96Å). A similar argument was made by
 193 Trill et al.,⁴³ with regard to sodalite favoring Cl^- over I^- . The findings in this study suggest that the
 194 formation of mixed sodalite at 90°C is modulated by enthalpy requirements due to the different sizes of
 195 the sodalite cages.

196 The competition of ReO_4^- and NO_3^- for the sodalite lattice can be written as follows:



197 where *aq* and *s* refer to the aqueous and solid phases, respectively. A selectivity coefficient can be
 198 defined as:

199

$$K_{\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-} = \frac{M_{\text{NO}_3^-(s)}}{M_{\text{ReO}_4^-(s)}} \cdot \frac{M_{\text{ReO}_4^-(\text{aq})}}{M_{\text{NO}_3^-(\text{aq})}}$$

200 Herein $M_{\text{ReO}_4^-(\text{aq})} = \frac{[\text{ReO}_4^-]_{\text{aq}}}{[\text{ReO}_4^-]_{\text{aq}} + [\text{NO}_3^-]_{\text{aq}}}$ and $M_{\text{NO}_3^-(\text{aq})} = \frac{[\text{NO}_3^-]_{\text{aq}}}{[\text{ReO}_4^-]_{\text{aq}} + [\text{NO}_3^-]_{\text{aq}}}$ denote the mole fraction of
201 perrhenate and nitrate in aqueous solutions and $K_{\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-}$ the selectivity of sodalite for ReO_4^- over
202 NO_3^- .

203 The $K_{\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-}$ significantly increased from 0.09 to 0.98 with increasing mole fraction of ReO_4^-
204 occluded in the sodalite phase. Increasing selectivity was found for the NO_3^- -sodalite as ReO_4^- mole
205 fraction in solution approaches 0.9, above which incorporation of ReO_4^- into the mixed sodalite becomes
206 significant.

207 This result is consistent with the hypothesis that the larger cage size required for ReO_4^- incorporation
208 is responsible for the favored formation of NO_3^- -sodalite. In order to randomly incorporate ReO_4^- into the
209 crystal structure of sodalite, it would be necessary to enlarge random sodalite cages where the smaller
210 and favored cages were dominant resulting in significant distortion of the crystal structure. Presumably,
211 the selectivity begins to increase significantly when enough ReO_4^- is incorporated to form sodalite
212 domains with the larger cages. To test this hypothesis, we related the change in lattice parameter with
213 increasing ReO_4^- concentration in the sodalite phase (Figure 4). According to Vegard's Rule [$a_{\text{AB}} =$
214 $a_{\text{A}}(M_{\text{A}}) + (1-M_{\text{A}})a_{\text{B}}$], formation of an ideal solid solution should result in a linear dependence of the
215 lattice parameter (a_{AB}) on mole fraction (M_{A} , $1-M_{\text{A}}$) and ion size of the constituent elements *A* and *B*.⁴³
216 The linear relationship observed for our system up to 0.8 mole fraction of ReO_4^- in solution (0.07 mole
217 fraction of ReO_4^- in solid) implies the formation of a solid solution, not a discrete ReO_4^- -sodalite phase
218 (Figure 5). At higher ReO_4^- mole fraction in the mixed sodalite ($M_{\text{ReO}_4^-(\text{s})} > 0.07$) the dependence of the
219 lattice parameter on ReO_4^- in the solid become nonlinear, indicating that ReO_4^- is not incorporated
220 homogeneously (Figure 4). This is confirmed by the splitting of the (211) diffraction peak of the mixed
221 sodalite observed in the powder XRD patterns (Figure S1).

222 Although Vegard's Rule is an empirical relation, the significant increase of ReO_4^- in the solid with
223 higher ReO_4^- concentration in solution shown in Figure 5 implies that ReO_4^- is not homogeneously
224 distributed within the mixed sodalite. This is not surprising given the large difference in calculated ionic
225 radii of ReO_4^- and NO_3^- . We find it unlikely that ReO_4^- is incorporated into the cancrinite phase for the
226 following reasons: (1) the refined cell parameter for cancrinite is within the expected value for the pure
227 NO_3^- -cancrinite phase(s) reported in literature³⁹; and (2) the cell parameter for sodalite increases with
228 ReO_4^- incorporation.

229 Synthesis of mixed $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ -sodalite over a range of $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ in solution strongly favors the
230 formation of the NO_3^- -sodalite phase(s). At ReO_4^- mole fractions in solution ≤ 0.9 , NO_3^- incorporation is
231 strongly favored, whereas at ≥ 0.9 , ReO_4^- selectivity for the mixed sodalite becomes significantly
232 enhanced.

233 Our findings are relevant to radioactive waste management at waste-impacted nuclear sites. The large
234 preference for NO_3^- in the sodalite cages implies that formation of the smaller cage is favored in the
235 sodalite framework; however, this study and others also demonstrate the feasibility of pure ReO_4^- -
236 sodalite formation in the absence of NO_3^- .³³ For example results from recent study by Pierce et al.,⁴⁴
237 suggest that ReO_4^- and SO_4^{2-} were potentially incorporated into mixed-anion sodalite. Trill et al.,⁴⁵ also
238 reported the synthesis of several guest-guest anion sodalites. These combined results suggest that
239 feldspathoids can immobilize ^{99}Tc in the presence of other anions contained in the waste streams
240 assuming their ionic radii are similar. Although the structure of feldspathoids allows for TcO_4^-
241 incorporation into their frameworks⁴², our results reveal that ReO_4^- , a surrogate for TcO_4^- , was
242 significantly intercalated into sodalite only when small, competing anions such as NO_3^- are present in
243 very low concentrations ($\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^- \sim 30:1$) or completely absent. Under the subsurface conditions

244 resulting from nuclear waste leaks or discharge, it is expected that NO_3^- anions with higher selectivity
245 must be first exhausted prior to significant TcO_4^- incorporation into the sodalite structure.

246 ■ ADDITIONAL CONTENT

247 **Supporting Information.** Additional information on XANES, SEM micrographs and ReO_4^-
248 concentrations in solids are available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>

249 ■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

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252 Notes

253 The Authors declare no competing financial conflicts of interest

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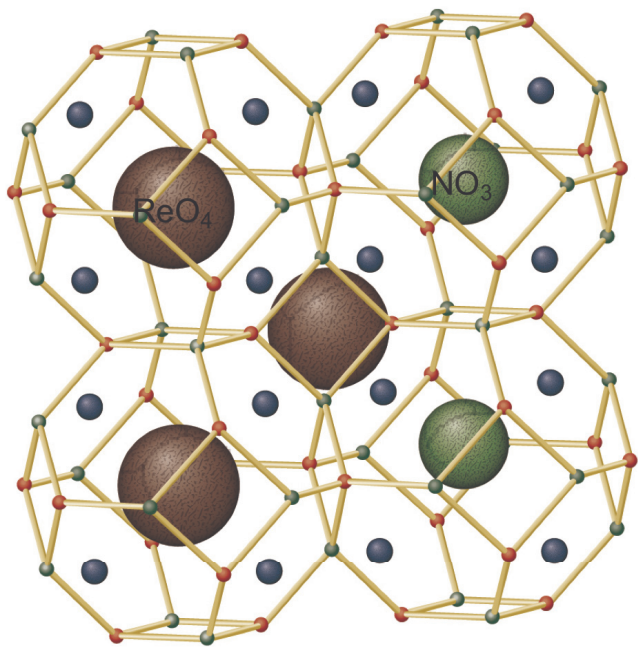
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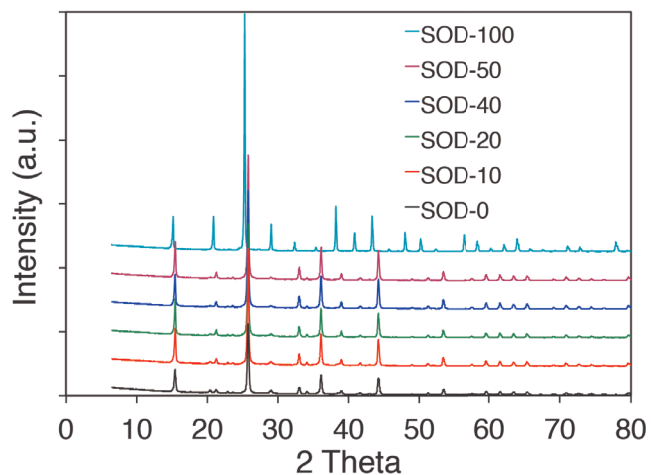


Figure 1. Refined powder X-ray spectra for selected mixed-anion and pure sodalite phases.

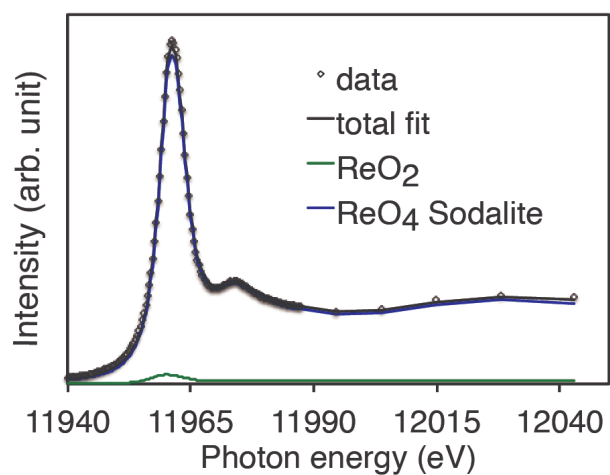


Figure 2. X-ray absorption spectral data of mixed sodalite (SOD-40 sample); Data are represented by dots, and the fit is shown by the black line. Results indicate Re(VII) oxidation state.

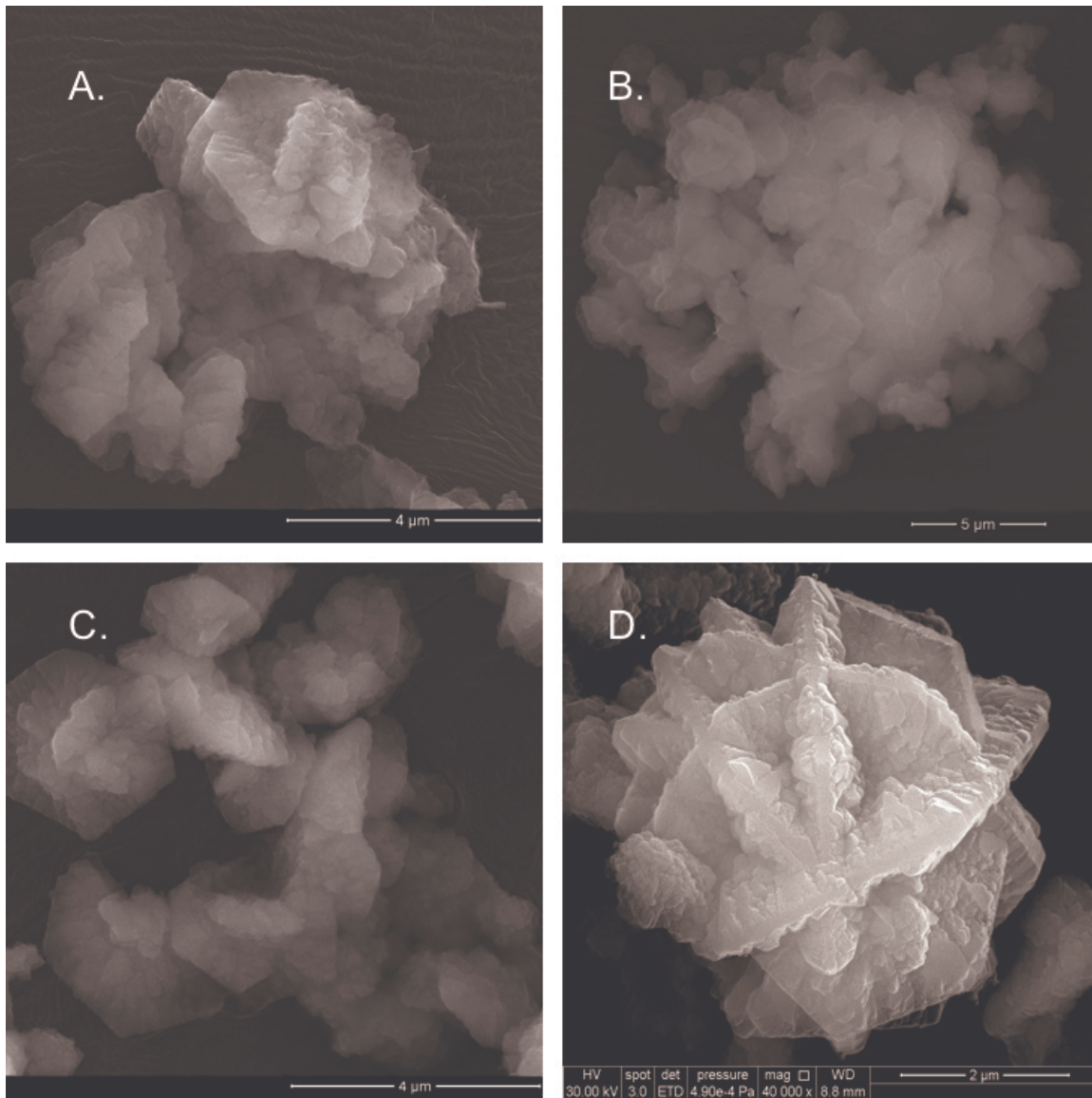


Figure 3. SEM images of ReO₄⁻/NO₃⁻-sodalites formed in varying ReO₄⁻/NO₃⁻ molar ratio solutions.

“A” is SOD-10; “B” is -SOD-20; “C” is SOD-40; and “D” is SOD-50 samples

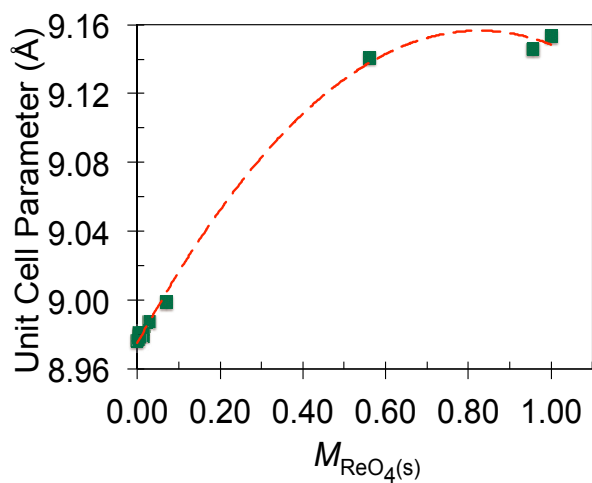


Figure 4. Dependence of the unit cell parameter on ReO_4^- concentration in $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ -sodalite.

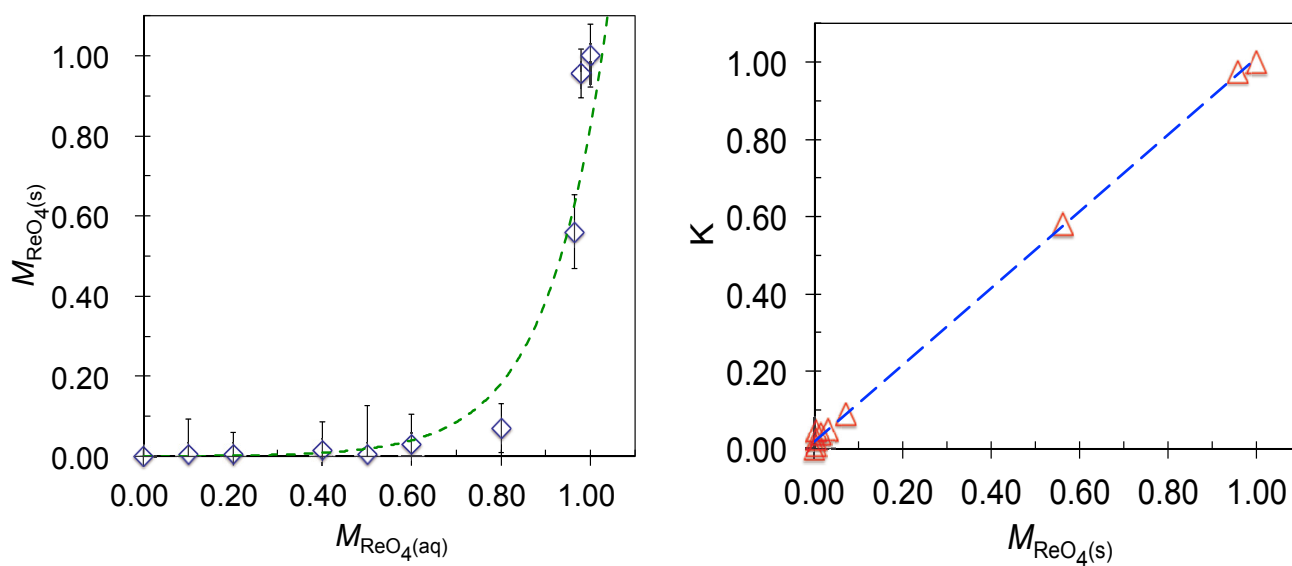


Figure 5. Selectivity graph (left) for rhenium incorporation into $\text{ReO}_4^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ -sodalite; generally more than 90% of sodalite cages are filled with oxyanions. Selectivity coefficient (K) as a function of ReO_4^- mole fraction (right) in the mixed sodalite ($M_{\text{ReO}_4^-(s)}$).

Table 1. Conditions for the hydrothermal syntheses, and the refined X-ray data for mixed-anion sodalite

Sodalite type	Structural Formula	NaReO ₄ (<i>M</i>)	NaNO ₃ (<i>M</i>)	<i>a</i>	R _{wp}
SOD-0 [‡]	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](NO ₃) _{1.99}	0	1.765	8.9762(3) [†]	10.38
SOD-10	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.09)})	0.177	1.588	8.9808(3)	9.20
SOD-20	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.06)})	0.353	1.412	8.9795(3)	12.36
SOD-40	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.03)} NO _{3(1.97)})	0.706	1.059	8.9774(3)	11.90
SOD-50	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.17)})	0.883	0.883	8.9794(3)	12.18
SOD-60	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.06)} NO _{3(1.94)})	1.059	0.706	8.9873(3)	15.98
SOD-80	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.14)} NO _{3(1.86)})	1.412	0.353	8.9987(5)	11.07
SOD-96.5	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(1.12)} NO _{3(0.88)})	1.703	0.062	9.1406(7)	9.57
SOD-98	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(1.91)} NO _{3(0.09)})	1.730	0.035	9.1457(7)	14.55
SOD-100	Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO ₄) _{1.94}	1.765	0	9.1535(1)	9.09

[†]The number in parentheses is estimated standard deviation (esd) in the same decimal place as the digit preceding it. [‡]ReO₄⁻ mole fraction in the synthesis solution ($[\text{ReO}_4^-]/([\text{ReO}_4^-]+[\text{NO}_3^-])$) expressed in percentage; SOD-0 contains only NO₃⁻; SOD-100 contains only ReO₄⁻. The sodalite samples were synthesized at 90 °C for 24 h. “*a*” – lattice parameter, “R_{wp}” - weighted agreement factor.

Table 2. Chemical composition data for pure and mixed sodalite (mol/formula unit). Numbers are means and standard deviations of three replicates.

Formula of Structure	Na	Al	Si	ReO ₄	NO ₃
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](NO ₃) _{1.99}	7.91 ±0.06	6.00 ±0.08	6.15 ±0.23		1.99 ±0.03
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.09)})	8.05 ±0.17	6.02 ±0.05	6.03 ±0.12	0.01	2.09 ±0.07
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.06)})	8.05 ±0.17	6.02 ±0.05	6.03 ±0.12	0.01	2.06 ±0.03
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.03)} NO _{3(1.97)})	8.05 ±0.17	6.02 ±0.05	6.03 ±0.12	0.03	1.97 ±0.07
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.01)} NO _{3(2.17)})	8.05±0.17	6.02±0.05	6.03±0.12	0.01	2.17 ±0.02
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.06)} NO _{3(1.94)})	8.05±0.17	6.02±0.05	6.03±0.12	0.06	1.94 ±0.05
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(0.14)} NO _{3(1.86)})	8.05 ±0.17	6.02 ±0.05	6.03 ±0.12	0.14	1.86 ±0.01
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(1.12)} NO _{3(0.88)})	8.00 ±0.10	6.01 ±0.07	6.00 ±0.10	1.12 ±0.07	0.88 ±0.03
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO _{4(1.91)} NO _{3(0.09)})	7.95 ±0.09	5.98 ±0.09	6.05 ±0.07	1.91 ±0.06	0.09 ±0.02
Na ₈ [Al ₆ Si ₆ O ₂₄](ReO ₄) _{1.94}	8.00 ±0.20	5.97 ±0.04	6.09 ±0.09	1.94 ±0.03	

1 **Supporting Information**

2 **Competitive Incorporation of Perrhenate and Nitrate into Sodalite**

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10 Supporting information

- 11 • 3 pages (including cover page)
- 12 • 1 figure
- 13 • 1 table

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16 This supplemental information contains additional information on XANES analysis

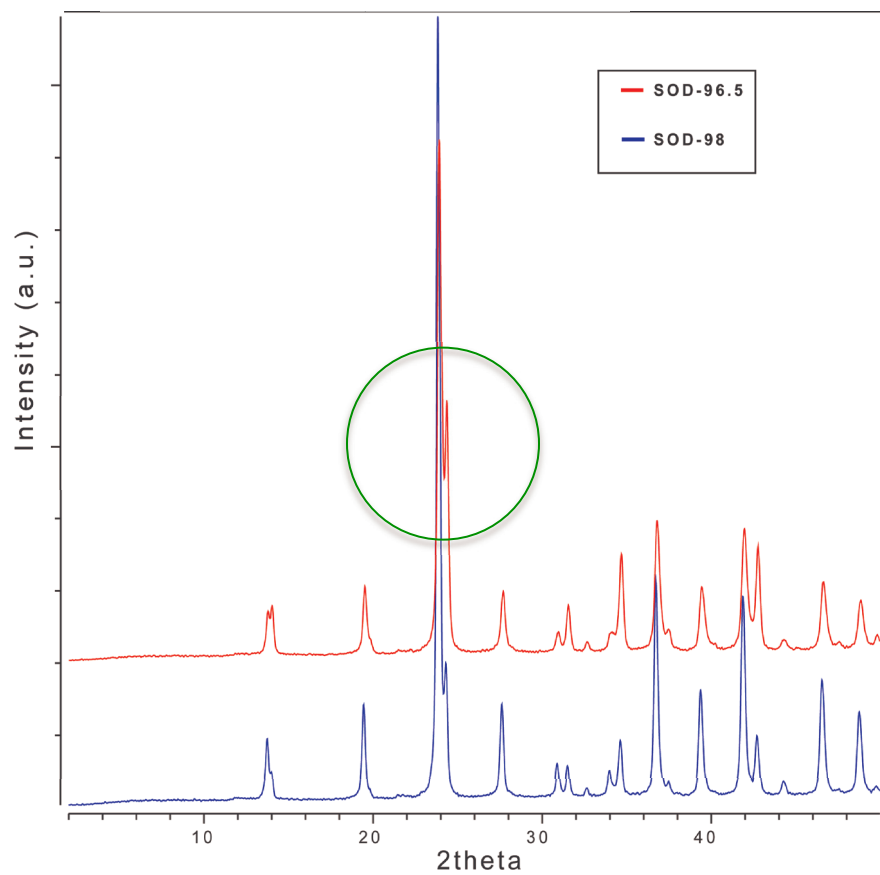


Figure S1. Refined powder X-ray spectra for mixed-anion sodalite. Shown within the circle is the splitting of the 211 diffraction peak indicative of two separate sodalite phases.

X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure (XANES) Spectroscopy.

The spectra fitting were performed as previously described by Lukens et al. (2005, 2007) by inclusion of all reference spectra. Thus, the final fit includes only the reference spectra that have non-zero contributions to the fit. The improvement to the fit due to the contribution of the reference spectra was evaluated using the random error test (F -test), which is the likelihood that the improvement in the fit due to inclusion of the standard spectrum is due to noise in the data. If $p < 0.05$, then the data supports the hypothesis that a given component is present (improvement is $> 2\delta$ of the fit), and if $p < 0.01$, then the data strongly supports the hypothesis (improvement is $> 3\delta$ of the fit).

Table S1. Result of XANES spectra fitting for mixed ReO_4/NO_3 -sodalite

Sample	ReO_2	p	ReO_4 -sodalite	p
SOD-10	0.11(5) [†]	0.065	0.89(4)	<0.001
SOD-40	0.04(6)	0.560	0.96(4)	<0.001
SOD-50	0.05(6)	0.468	0.95(4)	<0.001

[†]The number in parentheses is the standard deviation in the same decimal place as the digit preceding it.

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