

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background	1
1.2. Objectives of co-ordinated research programme	1
1.3. Scope of report	2
1.4. Relationship with other documents	2
2. HANDLING OF TRITIUM	3
2.1. Nuclear power plants	3
2.1.1. Heavy water reactors	3
2.1.2. Light water reactors	5
2.1.3. Other types of reactors	5
2.2. Reprocessing plants	6
2.2.1. General	6
2.2.2. Tritium in conventional Purex flowsheet	6
2.2.3. Process modifications to confine tritium	8
3. TRITIUM SEPARATION AND ENRICHMENT	11
3.1. General principles	11
3.2. Tritium removal from heavy water reactors	13
3.2.1. Vapour-phase catalytic exchange (VPCE) and	
cryogenic distillation	13
3.2.2. Liquid-phase catalytic exchange (LPCE) and cryogenic	
distillation	14
3.2.3. Direct electrolysis (DE) and cryogenic distillation	14
3.2.4. Combined electrolysis catalytic exchange (CECE) and	
cryogenic distillation	14
3.2.5. Applications of transfer processes	15
3.2.6. Description of the Ontario Hydro tritium removal	
system [30]	16
3.3. Tritium separation from aqueous reprocessing plant effluents	17
4. CONDITIONING	21
4.1. Conditioning requirements	21
4.2. Conditioning methods	21
4.2.1. Conditioning of low-level, tritium-bearing aqueous	
wastes	21
4.2.2. Conditioning of concentrated tritium	27

5. STORAGE AND DISPOSAL	38
5.1. General options	38
5.2. Alternatives	39
5.2.1. Wastes from heavy water reactors	39
5.2.2. Fuel reprocessing plant wastes	42
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	52
References	54
List of participants	59

