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CHARACTERISTICS OF LITHIUM ALUMINATE POWDER

January 3, 1967

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CHARACTERISTICS OF LITHIUM ALUMINATE POWDER

SUMMARY

Analytical results of 113 lots of LiAlO_2 powder are tabulated. The principal deviation from specifications is in boron content. The weighted average boron contamination of the 113 lots is 50 ppm.

DISCUSSION

The procurement of lithium aluminate for PT-66 and PT-75 represents approximately a hundredfold increase in the rate of LiAlO_2 production. The vendor had little or no experience in controlling chemistry and other characteristics to the degree required by our specification. The plant is constructed to produce a variety of industrial-grade lithium chemicals beginning with the raw ores.

Personnel were not accustomed to operate with the precautions necessary to avoid cross-contamination of the various products. The commercial LiAlO_2 produced in the past was usually from 10 percent to 25 percent hypostoichiometric in Li and some experimentation was required to find the feed material ratios and operating conditions which consistently resulted in the specified total lithium contents.

A considerable amount of LiAlO_2 was produced with boron contents in excess of the allowable 10 ppm. The extent and degree of contamination was not known until a DUN spectrographic laboratory developed a semi-quantitative analytical procedure. Cooperation between N-Fuels, Special Products Engineering and the vendor, Lithium Corporation of America, finally established the exact operation in the process at which the boron contamination was being introduced. Since that time all lots analyzed have shown very low boron contents.

A method for fluorine analysis has been available only recently. The few samples analyzed show fluorine to be present in amounts less than the specification limit. This limit was imposed arbitrarily, as there is no definite information as to the effects of fluorine on target integrity under irradiation.

The analytical data presented here represents about 50 percent of the material acquired for PT-66 and PT-75. An addendum to this document will present data for the balance after it is received and analyzed.

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TABLE 1.

Inventory Lot No.	Total Li Wt. %	Li6 In LiAlO2 %	Wt. Ratio Li6/Li	Spectrographic Analysis, PPM				Chemical Analysis, PPM		Vendor's L.O.I., %	Wt. % +100 Mesh	Bulk Density
				B	Ca	Co	Na	Si	Other			
001	9.58	0.635	0.0643	100	<2	<2	500			0.13	19.9	1.13
002	10.10	0.626	0.0643	10	<2	10	500			0.20	13.1	0.99
012	10.0	0.217	0.0218	100	<2	<2	500			0.58	12.6	1.08
013	9.65	0.212	0.0218	100	<2	<2	500			0.13	11.8	1.04
014	9.80	0.219	0.0218	100	<2	<2	500			0.45	9.3	1.09
015	9.90	0.220	0.0218	2						1.30	16.8	0.85
016	9.90	0.652	0.0643					3659	694	0.29	7.5	0.83
017	10.15	0.652	0.0643		<10		2000			0.29	10.2	0.83
018	7.42	0.480	0.0643							4.01	8.2	0.85
020	10.00	0.256	0.0258					7274		1.64	15.5	0.86
021	10.03	0.246	0.0243					2610		1.34	7.5	1.08
022	10.03	0.246	0.0241					1919		1.92	10.2	0.85
023	10.03	0.237	0.0236					5229		0.73	16.8	0.83
024	10.50	0.158	0.0157					1641		0.16	7.5	0.85
025	8.11	0.542	0.0643							0.50	19.7	0.83
026	10.25	0.157	0.0157							0.15	17.3	1.07
027	10.25	0.635	0.0643							0.44	6.6	0.86
028	9.86	0.216	0.0218							0.19	11.2	1.12
029	10.14	0.216	0.0218							0.18	16.8	1.11
030	10.35	0.226	0.0218							0.16	11.9	1.06
033	9.85	0.153	0.0157							0.32	11.2	0.85
034	9.65	0.152	0.0157							0.15	16.8	0.83
035	9.79	0.154	0.0157							0.73	17.3	0.85
037	9.91	0.156	0.0157							0.42	15.5	1.07
038	10.10	0.158	0.0157							0.16	19.7	0.82
039	10.10	0.158	0.0157							0.10	7.5	1.04
040	10.30	0.161	0.0157							0.15	17.3	0.84
041	9.70	0.153	0.0157							0.73	6.6	1.07
042	9.85	0.154	0.0157							0.23	11.2	0.86
043	9.15	0.151	0.0157							0.26	16.8	1.12
044	9.79	0.629	0.0643								11.9	1.06
045	10.08	0.647	0.0643	5	<2	<2	2000				16.8	1.06
047	8.35	0.538	0.0643	100	<2	<2	1000			0.32	11.6	0.85
048	9.74	0.625	0.0643	100	<2	<2	1000			0.13	11.9	1.06
049	10.22	0.658	0.0643	2	<2	<2	2000	205		0.70		

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Inventory Lot No.	Total Li		Li ⁶ In LiAlO ₂ %	Spectrographic Analysis, PPM							Chemical Analysis, PPM		Vendor's L.O.I., %	Wt. % +100 Mesh	Bulk Density
	Wt. %	Ratio Li ⁶ /Li		B	Cd	Co	Na	Si	Other	Water	Carbon	Fluorine			
050	10.00	0.0643	0.643	2	<2	<2	2000	100						18.9	1.03
051	10.01	0.0643	0.643	5	<2	<2	2000	100						15.2	1.03
052	9.51	0.0643	0.605	2	<2	<2	2000	100						16.0	1.01
053	9.86	0.0643	0.614	2	<2	<2	2000	500						12.8	1.04
054	9.86	0.0221	0.218	1	<2	<2	2000	50			765			17.1	1.09
055	9.78	0.0221	0.216	0.5	<2	<2	2000	20			173	0.08		7.9	1.04
056	9.70	0.0221	0.214	1	<2	<2	2000	50						17.4	1.02
057	10.69	0.0221	0.236	1	<2	<2	2000	50						8.3	0.98
058	10.20	0.0221	0.226	10	<2	<2	2000	50			365			8.0	1.00
059	10.13	0.0221	0.224	2	<2	<2	2000	100			597			7.4	0.98
060	10.06	0.0221	0.222	1	<2	<2	2000	50						13.3	0.99
061	10.12	0.0221	0.224	1	<2	<2	2000	100						5.0	0.97
062	9.90	0.0221	0.218	1	<2	<2	2000	50			748			11.2	1.00
063	10.19	0.0221	0.224	1	<2	<2	2000	50			649			4.3	0.99
064	9.99	0.0221	0.219	0.5	<2	<2	2000	20			754			11.4	0.99
065	9.99	0.0221	0.219	0.5	<2	<2	2000	50						10.8	1.03
066	10.33	0.0221	0.229	1	<2	<2	2000	100			632			13.1	1.00
067	10.40	0.0221	0.230	0.5	<2	<2	2000	100						10.3	1.03
068	9.91	0.0221	0.219	1	<2	<2	2000	100			271			16.3	1.00
069	9.91	0.0221	0.219	1	<2	<2	2000	100						15.6	1.00
070	10.28	0.0221	0.227	1	<2	<2	2000	100			329			10.5	1.01
071	10.06	0.0221	0.222	1	<2	<2	2000	50						11.9	0.99
072	10.06	0.0221	0.222	1	<2	<2	2000	100			403			14.8	1.01
073	9.70	0.0221	0.214											14.5	
074	9.98	0.0221	0.220											14.4	
075	9.98	0.0221	0.220											11.8	
076	9.79	0.0305	0.298	100	<2	<2	500	500						11.5	0.82
077	9.50	0.0305	0.289	100	<2	<2	500	200						12.9	0.77
078	9.71	0.0305	0.296	100	<2	<2	500	500						9.8	0.79
079	9.58	0.0305	0.292	100	<2	<2	500	1000						15.3	0.79
080	9.44	0.0305	0.288	100	<2	<2	500	500						15.0	0.78
081	9.50	0.0305	0.289	100	<2	<2	500	200	500 Fe	2226	2868	21.8		15.2	0.80
082	9.50	0.0305	0.289	100	<2	<2	500	500			1256			12.7	0.77
083	9.91	0.0305	0.302	100	<2	<2	500	500			324	9.0		15.7	0.75
084	9.50	0.0305	0.289	100	<2	<2	500	500						11.2	0.78
085	9.64	0.0305	0.294	50	<2	<2	500	500				2.19		12.3	0.78
086	9.39	0.0305	0.286	100	<2	<2	500	500						11.2	0.78

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Inventory Lot No.	Total Li Wt. %	Li ⁶ Ratio Li ⁶ /Li	Li ⁶ In LiAlO ₂ %	Spectrographic Analysis, PPM							Chemical Analysis, PPM		Vendor's L.O.I., %	Wt. % +100 Mesh	Bulk Density
				B	Cd	Co	Na	Si	Other	Water	Carbon	Fluorine			
087	9.23	0.0305	0.282	100	<2	<2	500	500				2.69	0.05	13.5	0.78
088	9.71	0.0305	0.296	200	<2	<2	500	200		500 Fe		5.62	0.26	8.1	0.80
089	9.71	0.0305	0.296	200	<2	<2	500	200					0.49	11.4	0.80
090	9.64	0.0305	0.294	200	<2	<2	500	500				1.88	0.10	10.6	0.75
091	10.33	0.0305	0.315	200	<2	<2	500	200					0.66	3.4	0.72
092	10.06	0.0305	0.306	200	<2	<2	<500	200					0.10	3.8	0.74
093	9.78	0.0305	0.298	200	<2	<2	<500	200					0.10	1.4	0.77
094	9.85	0.0305	0.300	200	<2	<2	<500	200					0.25	2.7	0.75
095	9.64	0.0305	0.294	200	<2	<2	500	200					0.29	7.8	0.75
096	10.12	0.0305	0.309	100	<2	<2	2000	200					0.16	4.7	0.94
097	9.92	0.0305	0.302	100	<2	<2	2000	200					0.20	3.4	1.01
098	10.06	0.0305	0.307	20	<2	<2	2000	100					0.17	3.4	1.05
099	9.92	0.0305	0.302	50	<2	<2	2000	100					0.20	1.7	1.02
100	9.92	0.0305	0.302	100	<2	<2	2000	100					0.56	5.4	0.90
101	9.99	0.0305	0.304	20	<2	<2	2000	100					0.15	3.7	1.03
102	10.27	0.0305	0.312	20	<2	<2	2000	200					0.33	7.3	1.01
103	9.70	0.0305	0.295	10	<2	<2	2000	200					0.26	6.8	1.03
104	9.70	0.0305	0.295	1	<2	<2	2000	100					0.24	6.7	1.07
105	10.04	0.0305	0.306	1	<2	<2	2000	50					0.28	4.7	1.11
106	10.04	0.0305	0.306	5	<2	<2	2000	100					0.24	6.4	1.09
107	9.50	0.0305	0.290	0.5	<2	<2	2000	50					0.19	5.8	1.10
108	9.64	0.0305	0.294	0.2	<2	<2	2000	20					0.35	5.5	1.08
109	9.50	0.0305	0.290	0.2	<2	<2	1000	100					0.26	6.1	1.01
110	9.57	0.0305	0.292	10	<2	<2	2000	50					0.27	6.0	1.05
111	9.79	0.0305	0.298	5	<2	<2	2000	100					0.25	4.0	1.06
112	9.85	0.0305	0.300	1	<2	<2	2000	100					0.22	2.9	1.04
113	9.57	0.0305	0.292	1	<2	<2	2000	50					0.31	16.1	1.08
114	9.79	0.0305	0.298	0.5	<2	<2	2000	100					0.32	6.6	1.06
115	10.25	0.0305	0.312	1	<2	<2	2000	100							
116	10.25	0.0305	0.312	0.5	<2	<2	2000	100							
117	10.13	0.0305	0.309	0.5	<2	<2	2000	100							
118	10.13	0.0305	0.309	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
119	10.33	0.0305	0.315	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
120	10.25	0.0305	0.312	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
121	10.25	0.0305	0.312	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
122	10.33	0.0305	0.315	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
123	9.09	0.0305	0.277	0.5	<2	<2	2000	200							
124	10.25	0.0305	0.312	0.2	<2	<2	2000	200							
125	10.20	0.0305	0.311	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							
126	10.25	0.0305	0.312	0.2	<2	<2	2000	100							

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