

# **Aqueous Discharge Minimization**

## **NACE 2006**

*New Technology for Evaporative  
Cooling Water Discharge Reduction  
and Corrosion Protection*

*Water Conservation Technology  
International, Inc.*

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*President, WCTI*

# Presentation Outline

- Objectives
- Silica Chemistry / How It Works
- Corrosion Inhibition Mechanisms
- Field Case Studies
- High Temperature Corrosion Studies
- Water Conservation Impact
- Conclusions

# Objectives

- Provide high TDS tolerant water treatment
- Permit discharge reduction
- Eliminate scale limitations
- Protection from corrosion
- Permit use of high salt or recycle water
- Provide economical & simple control

# Aqueous Discharge Reduction

## *Priority of Limiting Factors*

<u><i>Factor</i></u>	<u><i>Limit</i></u>	<u><i>Control Mechanisms</i></u>
1. Ca/Mg	LSI 2.5-3.0	Blowdown / Inhibitor Acid / Ca&Mg Reduction
2. Silica	150-180 Mg/l	Blowdown / Inhibitor Silica Reduction
3. TDS	Corrosion	Blowdown / Inhibitor

# Silica Chemistry

## How It Works

# Silica / Scale Control

- Minimize polyvalent metal co-precipitant ions and salts.
- Prevents surface nucleation/reaction sites.
- Permits maintenance of higher concentrations of soluble and stable silica.
- Silica precipitates are non-adherent form.

# Pre-Treatment

- Pre-treatment alternatives are simple and economical (cost less than discharge).
- Sodium cycle or WAC exchange of Ca/Mg depending on source water TDS.
- Proper pre-treatment design can reduce regenerate usage by 30-50%.



# Hard Water / Low TDS Chemistry

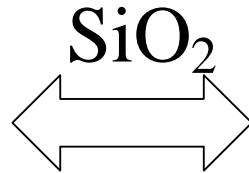
## Major Ion Relationships @ 2-5 Conc.

### Cations

$\text{Ca}^{+2}$  (60%)

$\text{Mg}^{+2}$  (30%)

$\text{Na}^{+}$  (10%)



### Anions

$\text{Cl}^{-}$

$\text{SO}_4^{-2}$

$\text{CO}_3^{-2}$

$\text{OH}^{-}$

# Pre-treated / High TDS Chemistry

## Major Ion Relationships @ 20-100 Conc.

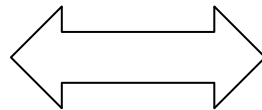
### Cations

-

-

Na<sup>+</sup> (99%)

SiO<sub>2</sub>



### Anions

Cl<sup>-</sup>

SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup>

CO<sub>3</sub><sup>-2</sup>

OH<sup>-</sup>

# High TDS Corrosion Control

- Silica based protection of metals, highly resistant to TDS corrosive impact.
- Method conversion of monomeric & colloidal silica in source water to corrosion inhibiting forms.
- Permits maximum aqueous discharge reduction without corrosion impact.

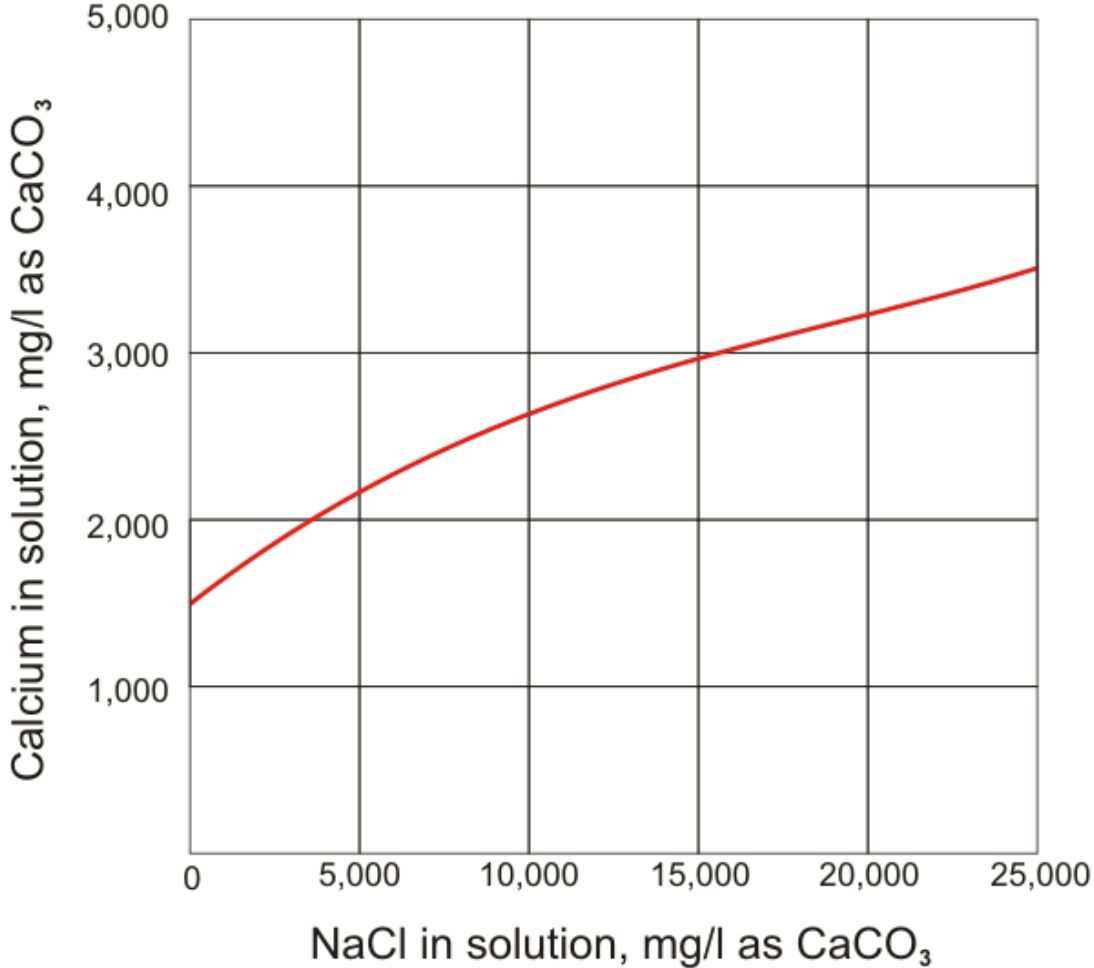
# How Silica Is Controlled

- Pre-treatment removes divalent metal ions.
- Control Ca/Mg in treated systems below level achieved by cold lime softening.
- Elevated ionic strength increases solubility of remaining metal salts (sea water effect).
- Control pH at 9 to 10 range.
- Concentration of silica to 200-600 Mg/l.

# High Ionic Strength Effect

- Solubility of Ca/Mg increases at higher ionic strength.
- 2-3X solubility increase at zero blowdown.
- Seawater solubility example

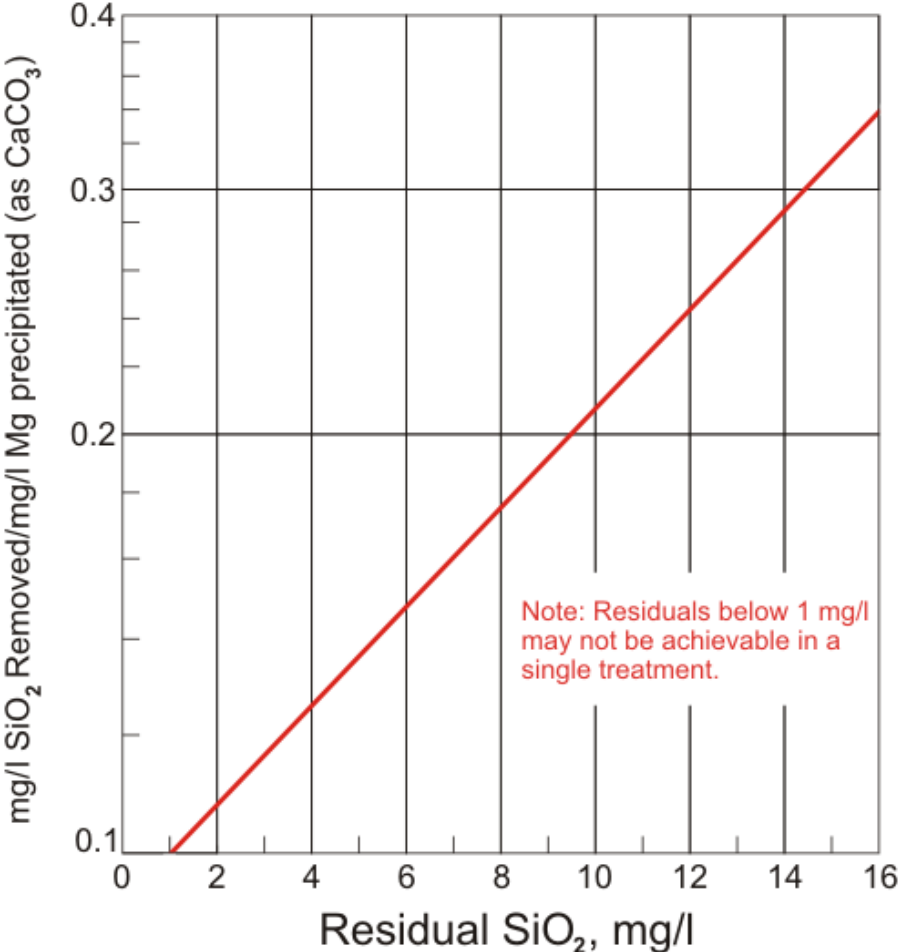
**Calcium sulfate (gypsum) solubility increases with increasing sodium chloride.**



# *Excess Silica Reduction*

- Excess silica is incrementally adsorbed to form small quantities of non-adherent amorphous precipitate in basin.
- Adsorbs on trace multivalent metal salts from source water or scrubbed from air.
- Freundlich isotherms illustrate silica adsorption in precipitation processes.

# Freundlich isotherms showing adsorption effectiveness of $Mg(OH)_2$ toward $SiO_2$





# High TDS Corrosion Control

- Silica chemistry protects metals, highly resistant to TDS corrosive impact.
- Method converts monomeric & colloidal silica in source water to corrosion inhibitor.
- Permits maximum aqueous discharge reduction without corrosion impact.

# Prior Silica Limitations

- Earlier studies focused on silica precipitation and removal from water for a number of technical and economic reasons.
- Silica in source water does not contribute to corrosion inhibition and was a scale threat with prior water treatment practices.
- Current discharge reduction, accompanied by high TDS levels, requires extensive re-examination of corrosion protection mechanisms.

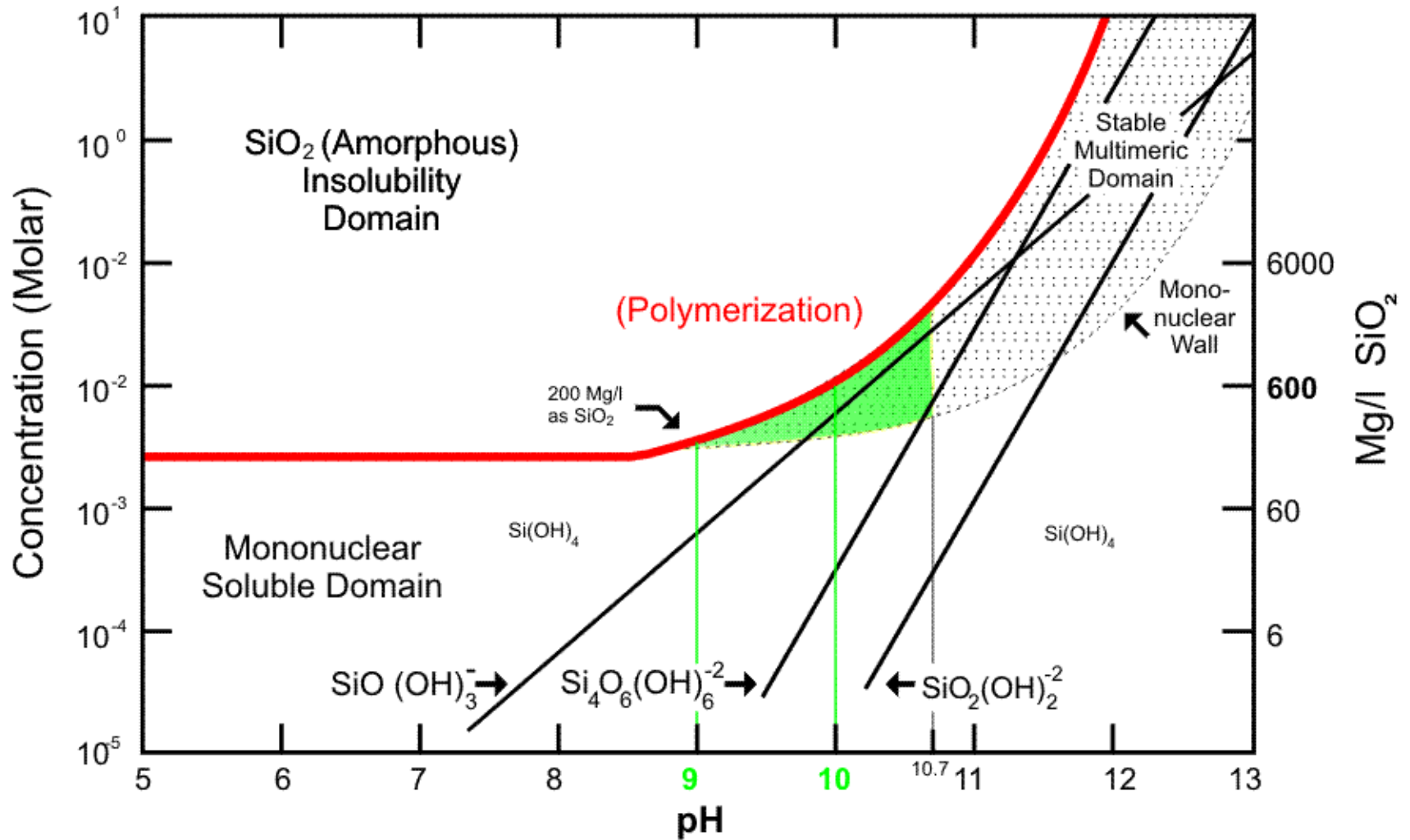
# Silica Chemistry

- In the absence of polyvalent metal ions, silica solubility and behavior is very different than common expectations.
- Exchange of polyvalent metal ions with mono valent metal ions, and control of alkaline chemistry, increases monomeric silica solubility and transforms silica to larger corrosion inhibiting particles.

# Equilibrium Chemistry

- We are familiar with the role of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  solubility equilibrium in deposition control and corrosion inhibition mechanisms for most “alkaline” program chemistry.
- This chemistry looks at a comparable role for silica solubility equilibrium and impact on corrosion inhibition mechanisms.

# Species In Equilibrium with Amorphous Silica



# Other Contributing Factors

- High levels ( $>0.3N$ ) of monovalent (sodium) salts reduce colloidal silica solubility, which precipitate (non adherent) as amorphous silica.
- Colloidal silica particles grow by adsorbing smaller particles, thus reducing soluble silica levels detected by molybdic acid test.
- Colloidal silica solubility increases at elevated temperature surfaces (versus polyvalent metal salts of silica).

# **Corrosion Inhibition Mechanisms**

Silica Chemistry

## *Silicate Anodic Passivation*

- Monomeric silica converted to multimeric silicates in aqueous system chemistry.
- Silicates hydrolyze to negatively charged colloidal particles.
- Colloidal silicate migrates to anodic sites on metal and react with metal oxides.
- Forms self repairing silicate gels, with self limiting growth on metal surface.



# *Silica Cathodic Film Passivation*

- At saturated silica concentration, in equilibrium with amorphous silica, cathodic gel formation provides exceptional corrosion protection.
- Amphoteric metals (Al, Zn) are protected by silica gel layer, contrary to high hydroxyl ion level.
- Method controls ions (Ca/Mg) that normally interfere with silica anodic/cathodic mechanisms that protect metal surfaces.

# Field Case Studies

## Silica Chemistry

# Case History #1

## *Industrial Solvents Processor*

- Three years application, solvent separation process using vacuum distillation.
- Tube & Shell Exchangers, 304S, Shell Side 450 F., deposit free tube surfaces.
- Corrator and 60 day weight loss; 304S negligible, MS < 0.2 mpy, Cu < 0.1 mpy.
- No chemical inhibitors utilized.

# *Industrial Solvents Processor*

Industrial Solvents Processor	Chemistry Residual Ratios		
SAMPLE / TESTS	Tower	Makeup	Conc
Conductivity (Un-neutralized)	33,950	412	82.4
pH	10.01	8.23	
Turbidity, NTUs, Neat	3	0.08	
Copper, mg/L Cu	ND	ND	
Zinc, mg/L	ND	ND	
Silica, mg/L SiO <sub>2</sub>	382	9.5	40.2
Calcium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	16	0.2	
Magnesium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	3.33	0.05	
Iron, mg/L Fe	ND	ND	
Aluminum, mg/L Al	ND	ND	
Phosphate, mg/L PO <sub>4</sub>	ND	ND	
Chloride, mg/L	6040	80	75.5
Tot. Alkalinity, mg/L	13200	156	84.6
ND = Not Detected; Conc = Concentration of chemistry			

# Case History #2

## *Refrigeration Chiller Condensers*

- Trane enhanced tube condensers.
- Two years operation with technology.
- Approach temperature maintained at design.
- Corrator; MS from 8.0 to 0.5 mpy, 2 weeks.
- 60 day weight loss; MS < 0.2 mpy, copper < 0.1 mpy.
- No chemical inhibitors utilized.

# *Refrigeration Chiller Condensers*

Refrigeration Chiller Condensers				Chemistry Residual Ratios		
SAMPLE / TESTS				Tower	Makeup	Conc
Conductivity (Un-neutralized)				66,700	829	80
pH				9.61	7.5	
Turbidity, NTUs						
Neat				4	0.08	
Filtered (0.45 micron)				2	-	
Zinc, mg/L				ND	ND	
Silica, mg/L SiO <sub>2</sub>				306.4	11	28
Calcium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>				21.5	0.2	
Magnesium, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>				0.65	0.05	
Chloride, Mg/L				5,000	60	83
Sulfate, Mg/L				7,950	106	75
Alkalinity, Mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>				12,000	155	77
ND = Not Detected; Conc = concentration of chemistry						

# Corrosion Protection Performance

- Highly effective passivation
- $< 0.2$  MPY Mild Steel
- $< 0.1$  MPY Copper
- Negligible Stainless Steel corrosion
- Passivation of white rust

0

9

5

1







# **High Temperature Corrosion Studies**

With Silica Inhibition Chemistry

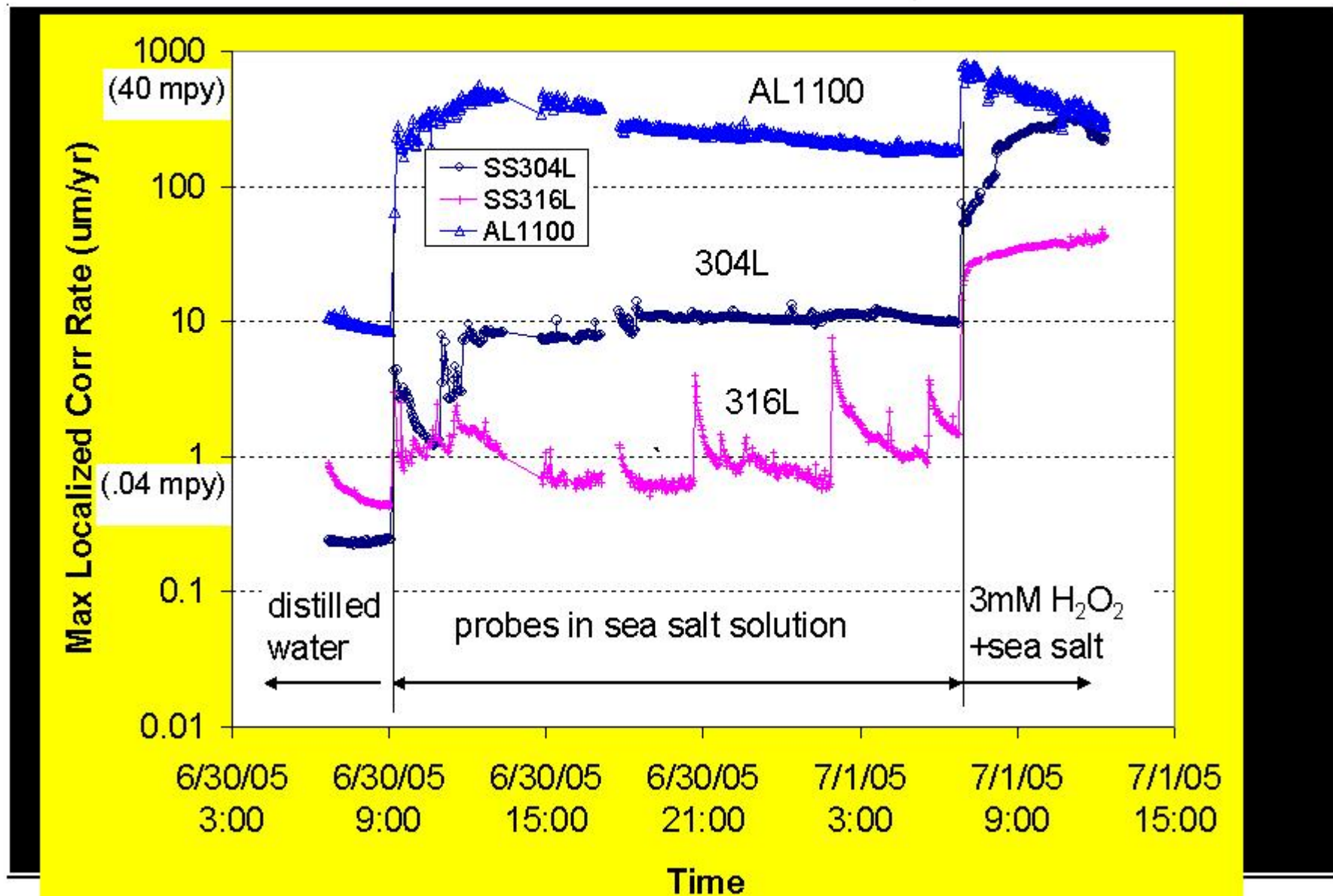
# High Temperature / High TDS Corrosion Inhibition Studies

- Study conducted with real time coupled multi-electrode array corrosion sensors.
- Measurement of peak localized corrosion rates; and average rates for metals.
- Test Water Chemistry: 50,000 conductivity; 450 Silica; 9000 chloride.
- Temperatures: 20° C; 55° C; 72° C; 88° C

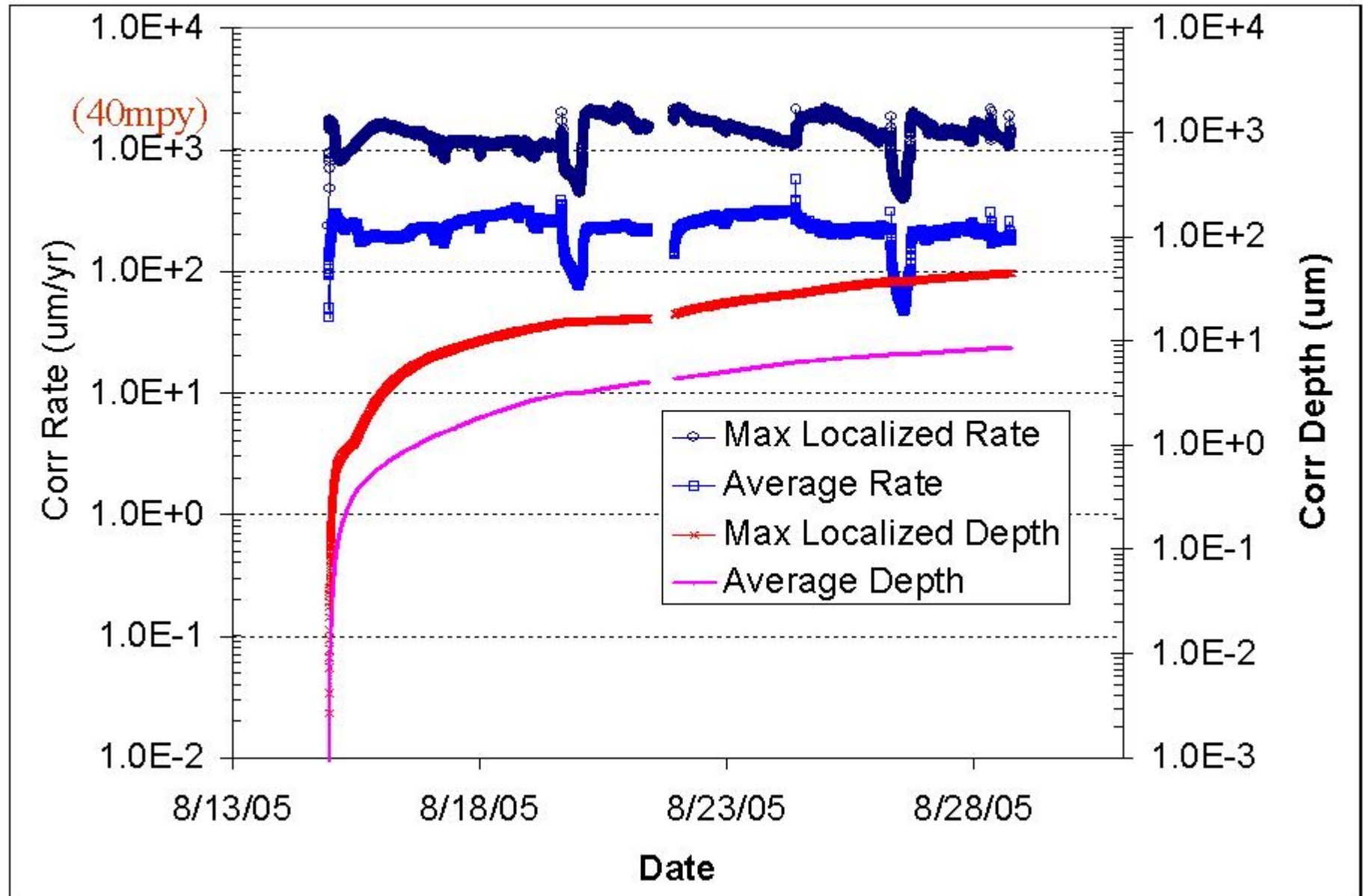
# Unprotected Metals in Sea Salt

- High TDS (0.5 N sea salt) impact on CS, AL and SS metals @ 20° C.
- Corrosion approaches 40 MPY localized for mild steel and aluminum.
- Higher temperatures will further increase unprotected corrosion rates in salt.
- Corrosion of steel and aluminum was 40-80X higher than silica inhibited study.

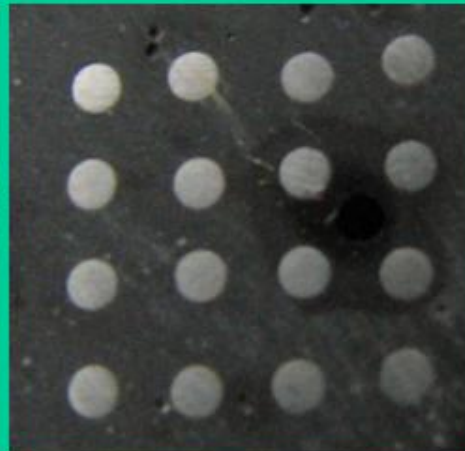
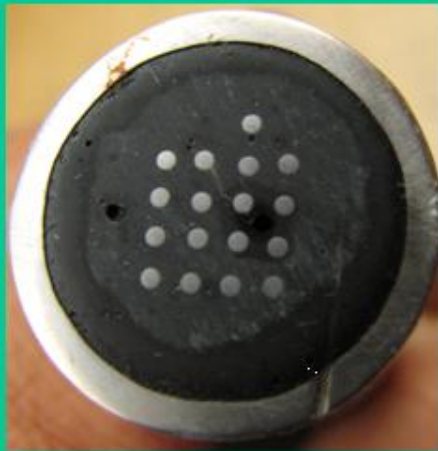
# Direct Comparison of Max Localized Corrosion Rates from Three Alloys



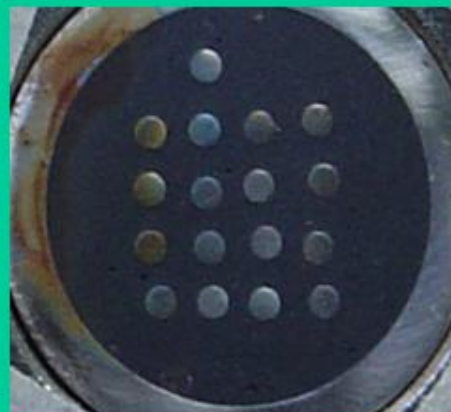
# Corrosion Rates and Corrosion Depth from a Type 1008 Carbon Steel Probe



# Comparison of Post test Probe Appearances



Carbon steel, one week in  
High-Silica Brine Solution  
at up to 88 °C



Mild steel

316L Probe

Three weeks in  
seawater at room  
temperature

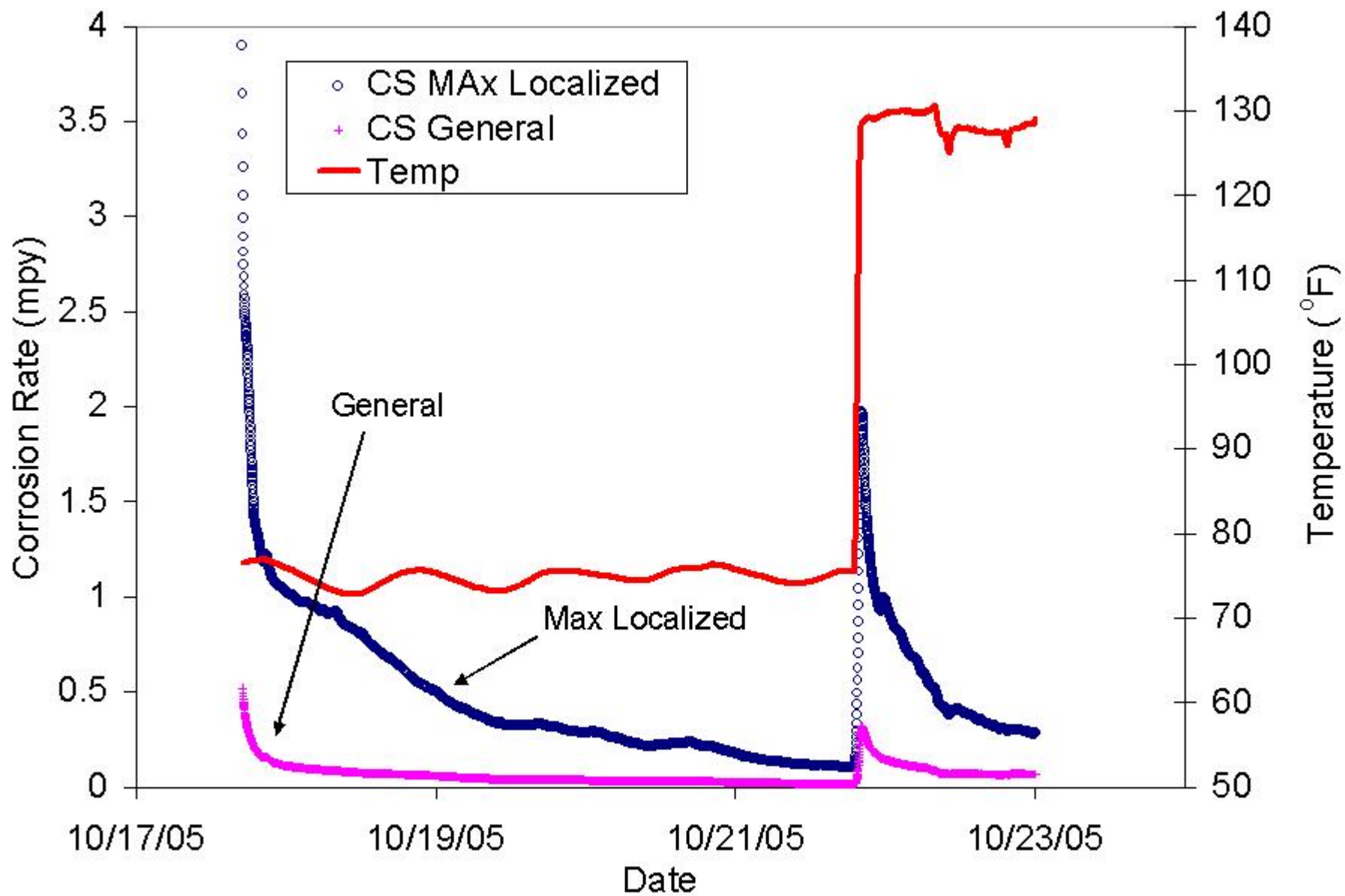
Courtesy:

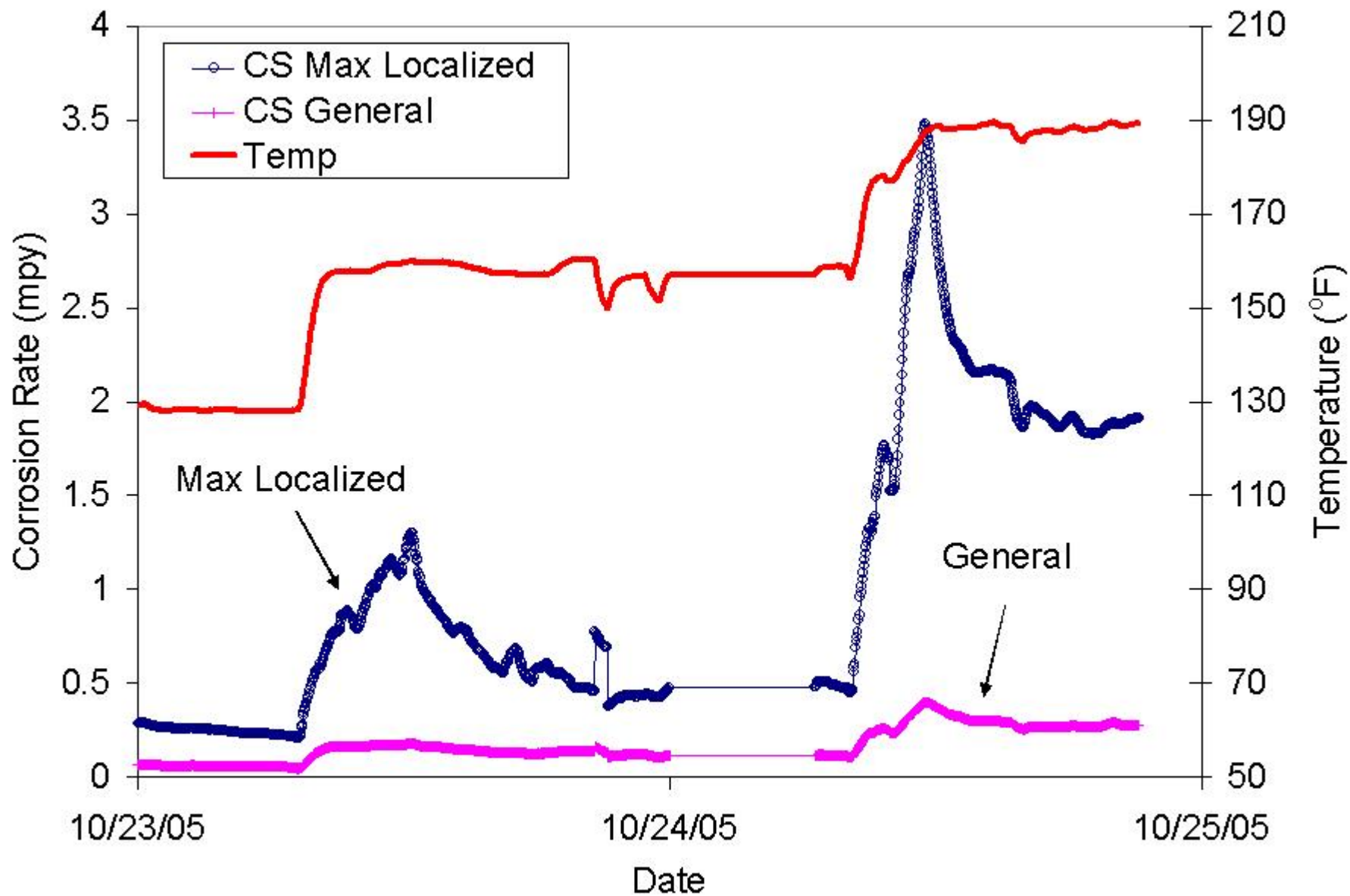
Corr Instruments

# High Temp / Silica Study Results

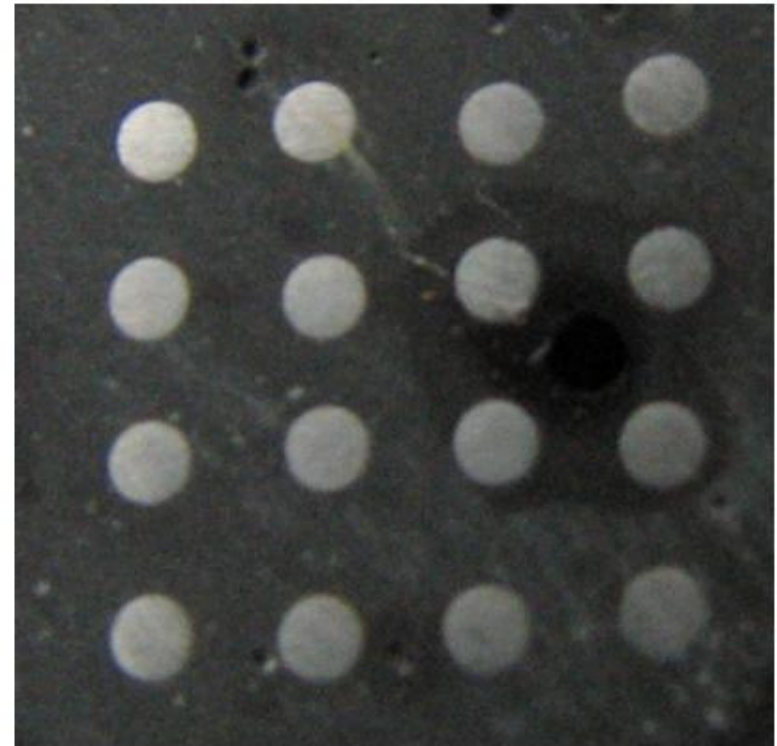
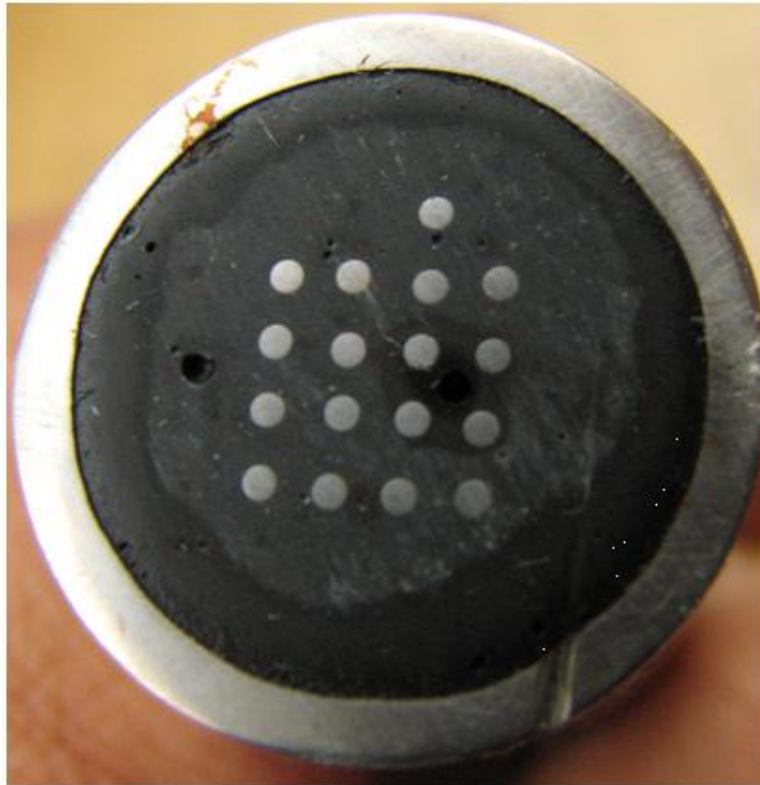
- Outstanding mild steel localized and general corrosion rates at all temperatures.
- Chloride impact on 316 stainless steel is minimal at high temperature.
- Soft metal (Al, Zn, Cu) protection very good at higher temperatures.
- Aluminum protection improved at higher temperatures.

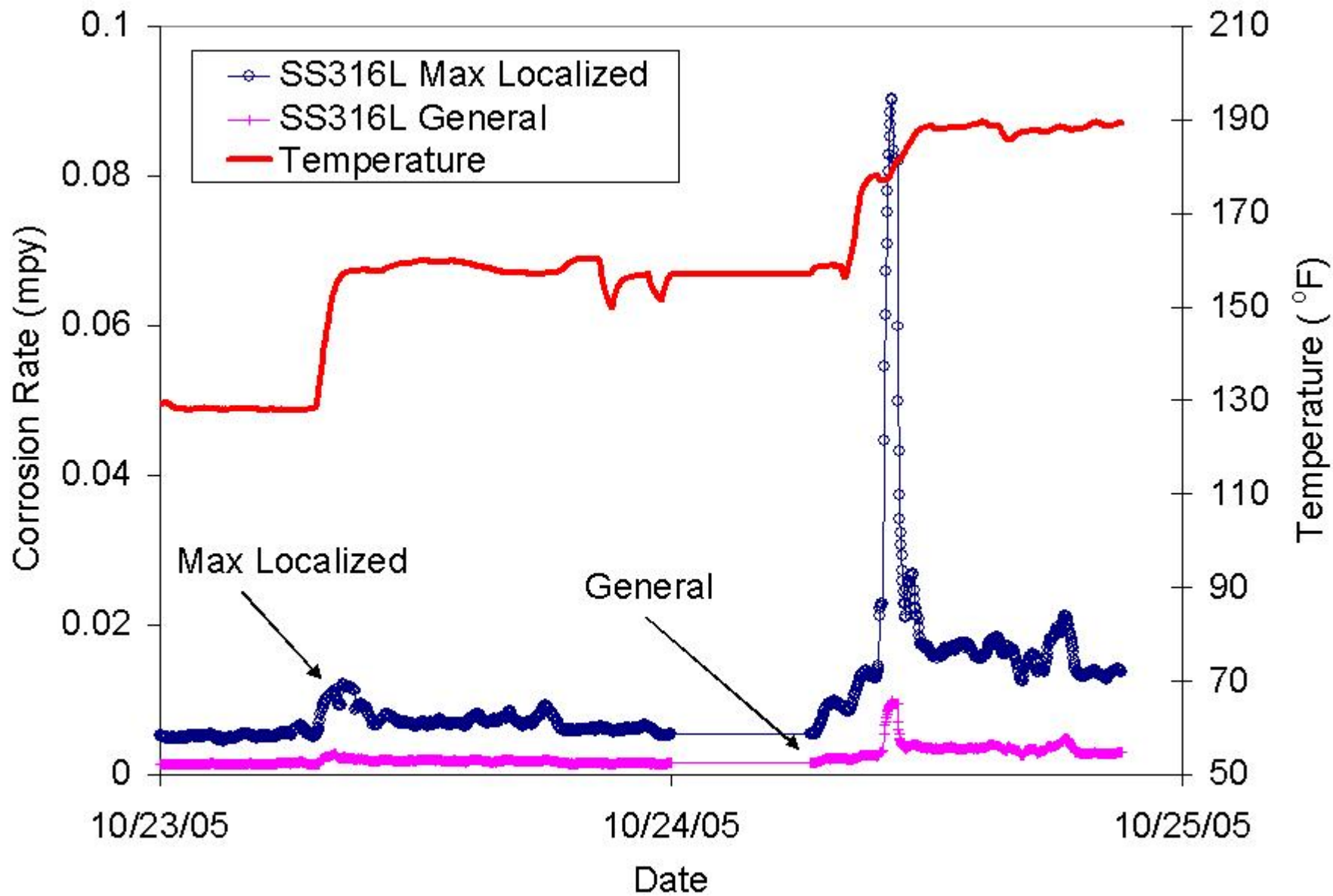




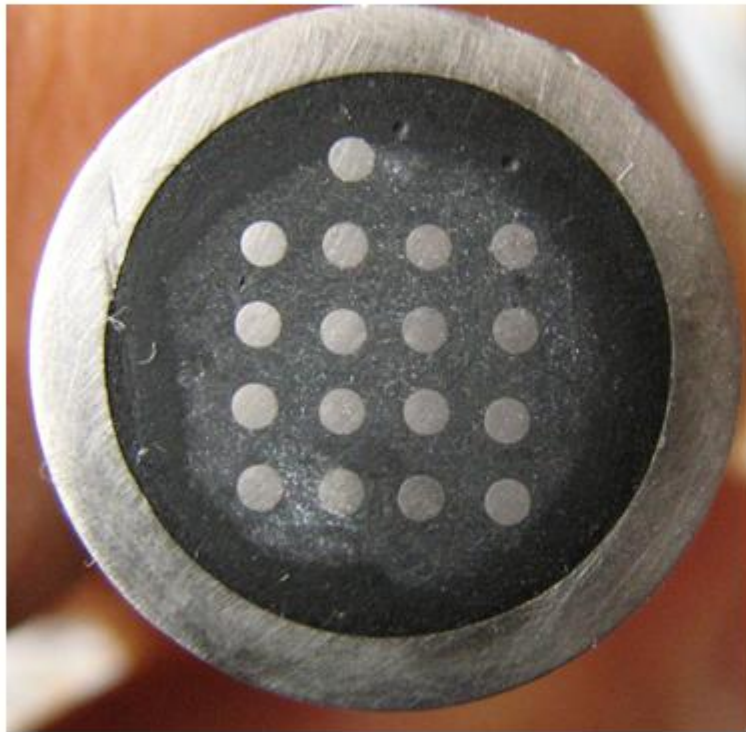


Carbon Steel probe after 88 ° C test  
No rust can be seen, before cleaning



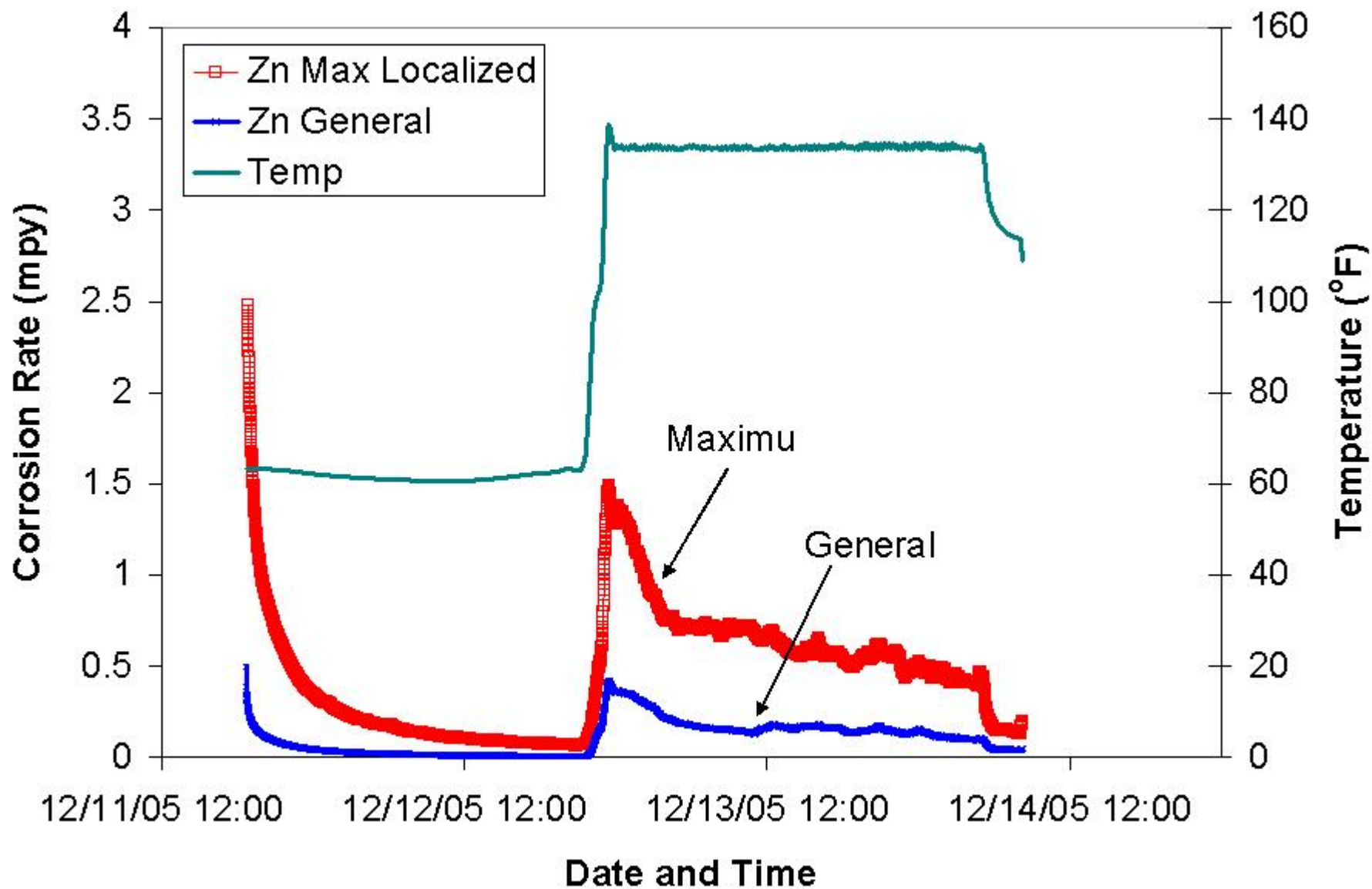


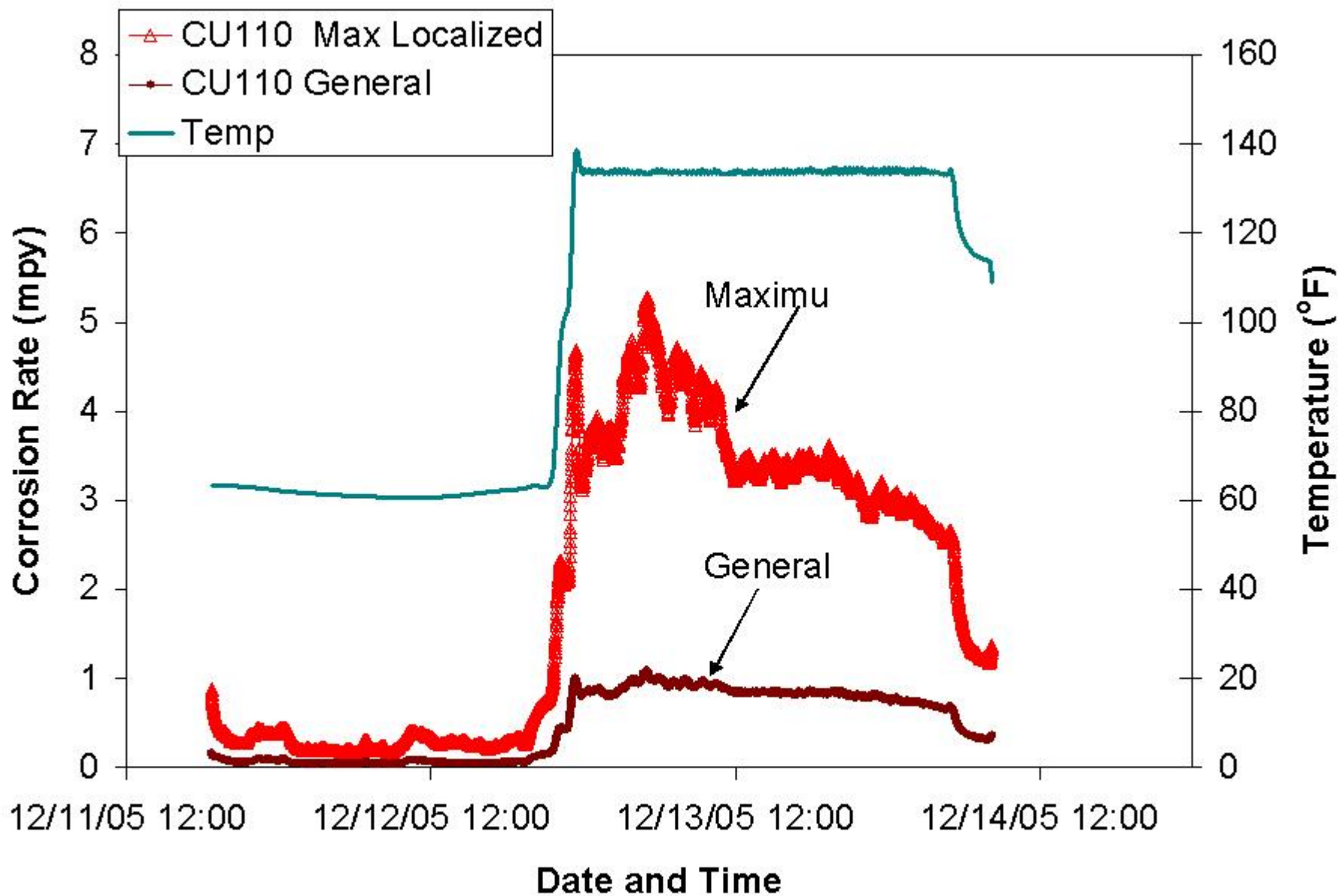
SS probe after 88 ° C test  
No rust can be seen, before cleaning



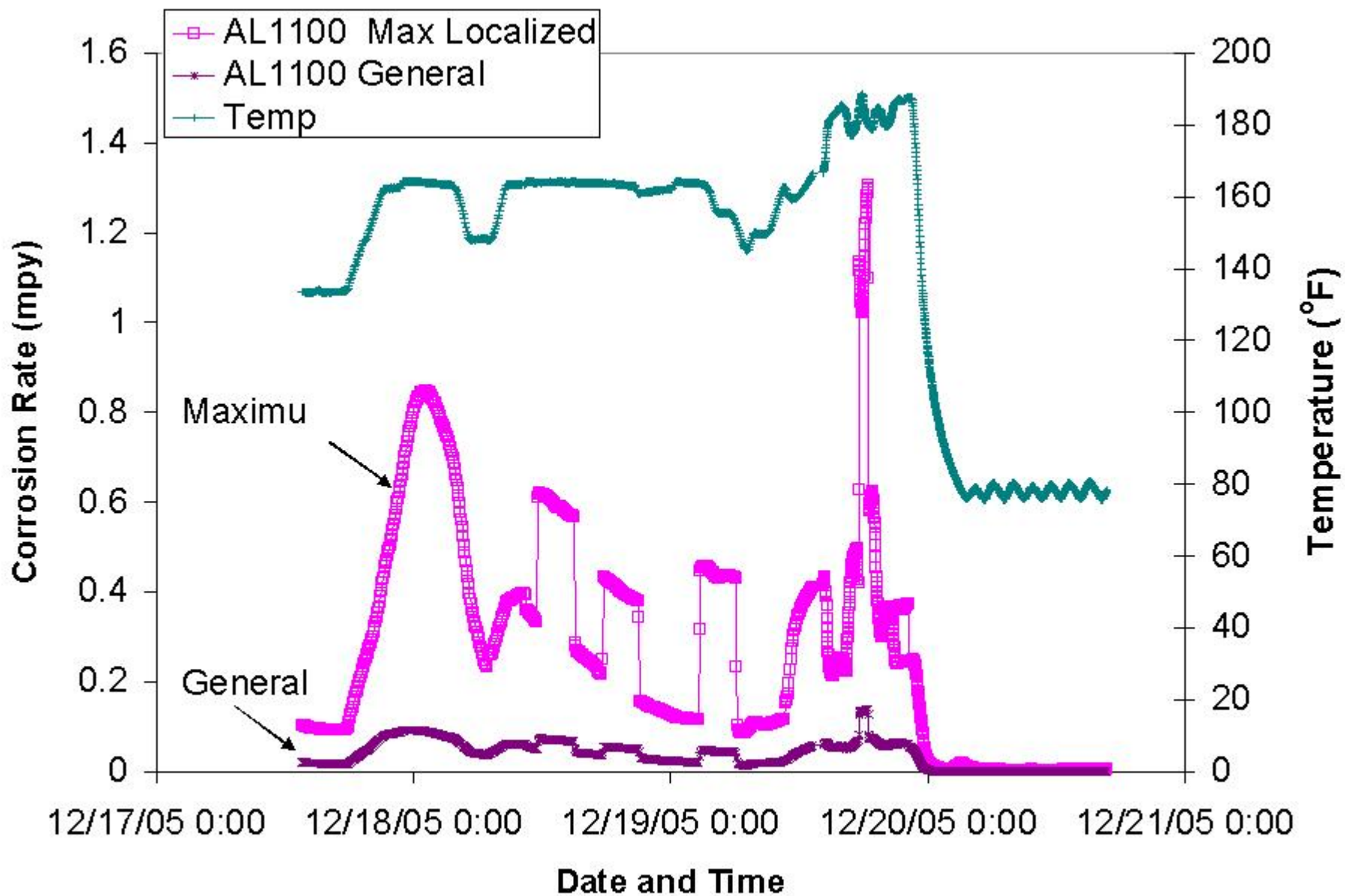
# Soft Metals / Silica Study

- Aluminum, Zinc and Copper
- Temperatures: 20° C; 55° C; 72° C
- Protection very good for Zinc & Aluminum
- Aluminum passivation at 72° C







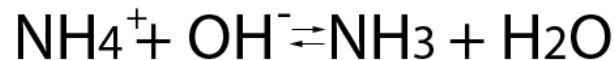


# Other Benefits of Silica Chemistry

- Potential use with brackish or recycled waste water sources.
- Biological propagation is limited by elevated TDS & pH.
- Simple program control with reduced blow down, infrequent chemistry adjustments.

# Ammonia Removal

**In a waste stream, ammonium ions exist in equilibrium with ammonia.**



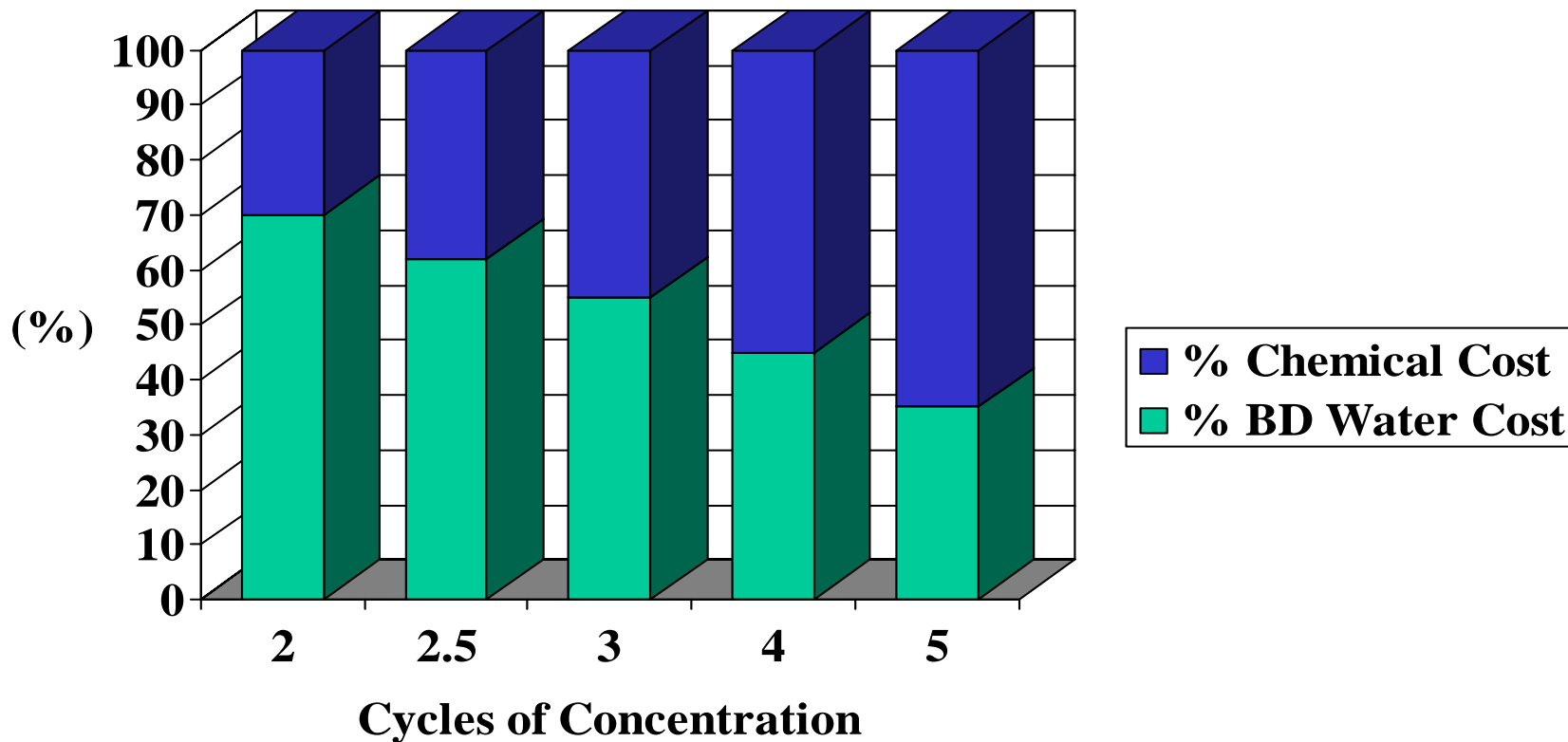
1. Below pH 7, virtually all the ammonia will be soluble ammonia ions.
2. Above pH 12, virtually all the ammonia will be present as a dissolved gas.
3. The range between 7 and 12, both ammonium ions and dissolved gas exist together.
4. Percentage of dissolved gas increases with temperature and pH. Where temperature and pH favor removal of ammonia from solution.

# **Water Conservation Impact**

## **Discharge Reduction Redefines Cost for Water Treatment**

# Aqueous Blowdown Treated Cost

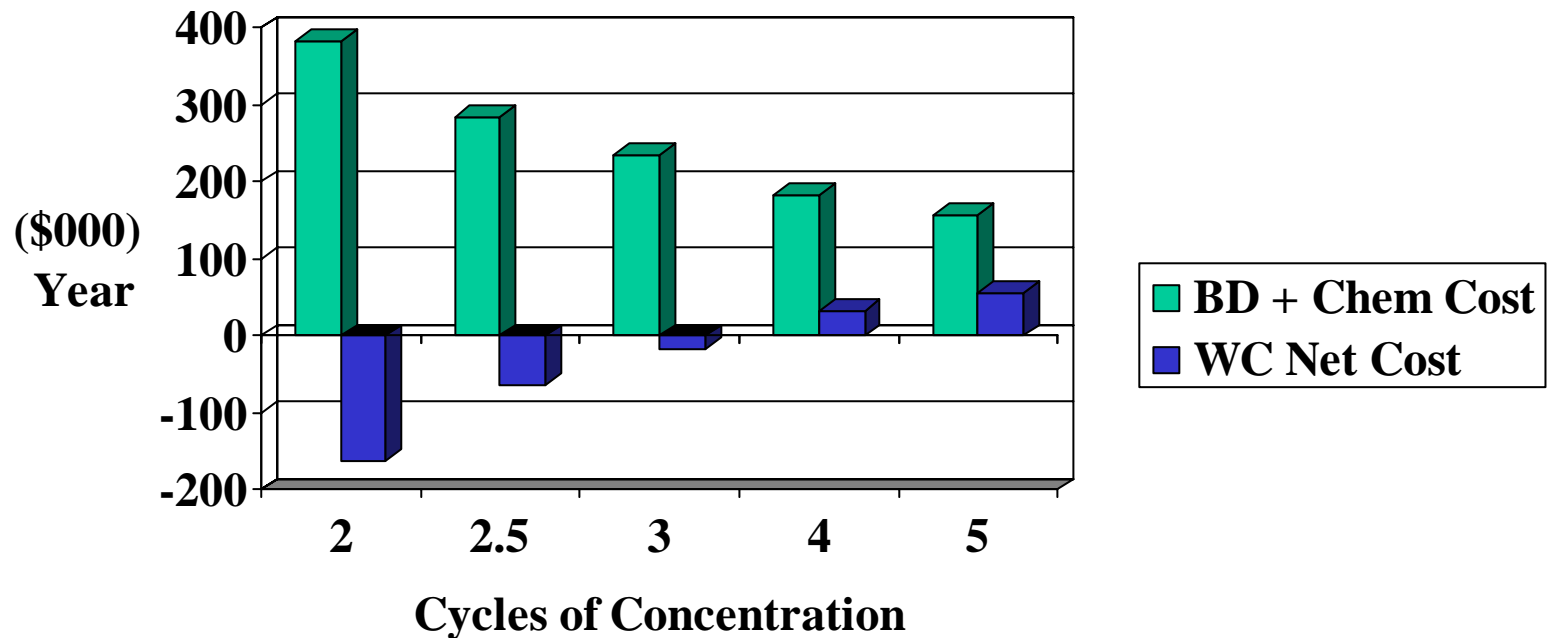
## Chemical Cost + Blowdown Water Cost



# Water Conservation Program Net\* Cost versus Blowdown + Chemical Cost

\*Includes pre-treat & service costs

## 250 GPM Evaporative Load Example



# Application Experience

- Three years of application and evaluation
- Customers include Chemical Processing, Commercial/Institutional, Food Processing.
- Cooling towers include Marley, BAC, Evapco, Delta.
- Tower construction materials include galvanized, stainless, plastic & fiberglass.

# Conclusions

- Excellent corrosion protection @ high TDS
- Pre-treatment controls scaling potentials
- Maximum aqueous discharge reduction
- Can use normal and high TDS waste waters
- Simple & reliable program control
- Lower total cost of treatment



# Questions?