

Inspection / Investigation Report No. 11287051

U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement

Inspection Location:

St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Dr Marting Luther King Jr. St St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Contact: Bill Schorn, Detective-Fire

Investigator

(727) 892-5212 Phone: Fax: (727) 892-5011

Type of Inspection: ACCIDENT/FAILURE **Result:**

INVESTIGATION

Inspector: QUAIL, ERNEST

Code: PHH-287

Title: **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST

Supervisor Name:

Signature:

NO FURTHER ACTION

Title:

Inspector #2: Code:

Title: **Authorization Date:**

Summary of Inspection

On September 11, 2011, a DOT-3AL-3000 aluminum cylinder manufactured by Hy-Mark Cylinders, Hapton, VA in 2007 ruptured in the residence of (b) (6) , a certified dive instructor, who subsequently died because of the injuries received in the explosion. At the time of the accident, there were 11 scuba tanks within the residence because Mr. (b) (6) and several friends were preparing to go on a scuba diving excursion.

PHMSA Hazardous Materials Investigator Ernest G. Quail arrived at the St. Petersburg Fire Department, 400 Martin Luther King Blvd, St. Petersburg FL on September 13, 2011 to photograph the cylinder and create a cylinder observation report (Exhibit 1, 2). The St. Petersburg police also supplied an Incident Investigation Report (Exhibit 3). The cylinder was a DOT-3AL 3000 and was in two pieces, split longitudinally. The resulting explosion melted part of the sidewall and around the inside neck area. The fire department attributed the force of the escaping gas, which they felt was pure oxygen, produced a severe heat event. The valve was separated and the threads were sheared indicating the valve was removed with significant force. Labels were attached to the cylinder which indicated "Oxygen" and "for Decompre...". The label further indicated "have been cleaned formix, Oxygen content 22 to 40%." Date punches on the label indicate the year as 2011, the

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St. Petersburg Fire Department Inspection / Investigation Report No. 11287051

month is not clear. The cylinder was manufactured in 10/07 and there were no RIN stamps indicating a hydro test of the cylinder.

The cylinder was secured by Investigator Quail for storage until a contract with a test lab was obtained to determine the cause of the explosion. A contract was made with RTI Group, LLC, 910 Bestgate Rd, Suite E, Annapolis, MD 21401 and a protocol was developed for the testing of the cylinder (Exhibit 4). The cylinder was mailed to RTI and arrived November 15, 2011.

The final report was issued by RTI Group on August 29, 2012. The testing revealed no defects in the cylinder or problems with the regulator, pressure lines or valve. There was no contamination present in the cylinder, regulator, valve or hose. The mechanism of ignition which resulted in the explosion was undetermined (Exhibit 5).

No further action is being taken on this incident by PHMSA at this time.

Inspection Date(s): 9/13/2011 Page 2 of 3

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Additional Information Pertaining to the Inspection:

Exhibit Summary

	Evidence	Obtained From					
No.	Description	Name, Title	Company	City, State			
1	Cylinder Photos	Ernest G. Quail, Hazardous Materials Investigator	US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region	Atlanta, GA			
2	Cylinder Observation Report	Ernest G. Quail, Hazardous Materials Investigator	US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region	Atlanta, GA			
3	St Petersburg PD Incident Investigation Report	Bill Schorn, Detective	St. Petersburg Police Department	St. Petersburg, FL			
4	Test Protocol		RTI Group	Annapolis, MD			
5	Final Report With Attachment		RTI Group	Annapolis, MD			

Inspection Date(s): 9/13/2011 Page 3 of 3

11/9/2011

LOCATION

St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Martin Luther King Blvd S CITY, STATE

St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



LOCATION

St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Martin Luther King Blvd S CITY, STATE

St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



LOCATION

St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Martin Luther King Blvd S

CITY, STATE

St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



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PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

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09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



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St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



LOCATION

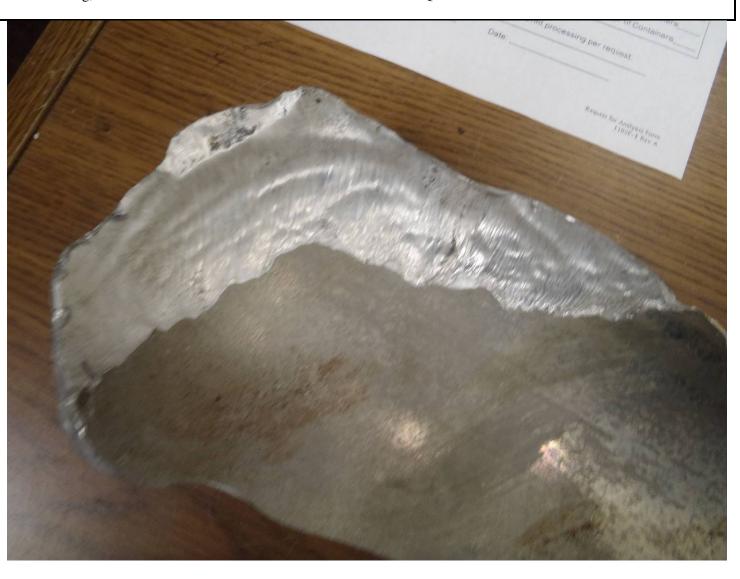
St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Martin Luther King Blvd S CITY, STATE

St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



LOCATION

St. Petersburg Fire Department 400 Martin Luther King Blvd S CITY, STATE

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09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



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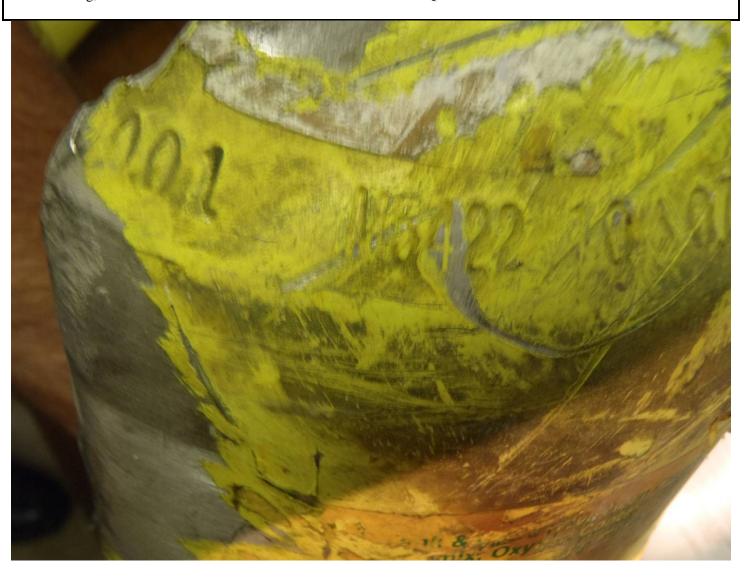
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09/13/2011

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St. Petersburg, FL

PHOTOGRAPH DATE

09/13/2011

PHOTOGRAPHER



US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 2 Page Number: 1 of 1

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:36 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

			I	ncide	nt In	ıforn	nation								
Date/Time Reported	Date/Time	From		Date/Tim	е То		Officer								
09/11/2011 07:00	09/11/201	1 07:00		09/11/20	11 07:00	0	(42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T								
Incident Location	_ 1														
(b) (6)	St Petersburg	, FL 33	710												
Case Status: FURT	HER INVESTI	GATIC	N				Case Dispos	ition:							
Incident Report Dissem	intation 🗆	State A	ttorney	□ CA	ASA	Oth	er		and Con-						
					Cha	arges									
Charge Type	Description		-							Statu	te	I	CR	☐ Att	
1	ASSIST OUTS	SIDE AC	GENCY							999		9	99	☑ Com	
Alcohol, Drugs or Com	puters Used	Loca	tion Type			Premi	ses Entered	Forced Er	try	Wear	ons				
☐ Alcohol ☐ Drugs		RES	IDENCE	3				☐ Yes 🗸	No	1.					
Entry	Exit			Criminal A	Activity					2.					
										3.					
Bias Motivation	1	Bias Tar	get			Bias Cir	ias Circumstances Hate Group								
1					Vic	etims									
0 n T		Internior						Residen	ev St	atus		Ethni	ity		
Seq. # Type 1 INDIVIDUA	AI	Injuries None	•					Reside				nic			
Name(Last, First, M)		1,000						Rac	e S	ex 1	DOE			Age 23	
(b) (6)							CH Discussion	· · ·	15			ome Pho	ne	23	
Address (b) (6)	HOLII	DAY, F	L 34690			('ell Phone:				,"	ome r no	iie .		
Employer Name/Addre	ess										В	usiness P	hone		
Victim of Crimes	1	Height 601	Weight 0	Hair BRO	Eyes	Place o	Place of Birth				of Birth Occupation				
Missing Person/Runaw	ay Notes														
										-					

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Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076 Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:38 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

	W	itnesses				
Seq. # Name (Last, First, M)			Race W	Sex F	DOB (b) (6)	Age 26
Address (b) (6) ST PETERSBURG, FL 33710		Cell Phone:			Home Pho (b) (6)	one
Employer Name/Address	Occupation:	TEACHER			Business (000) 000	
Witness Type						
Witness Notes			D.	Sex	DOB	LAgo
Seq. # Name (Last, First, M) (b) (6)			Race W	M	(b) (6)	. Age 22
Address (b) (6) ST PETE BEACH, FL 33702		Cell Phone:			Home Ph	one
Employer Name/Address						
Witness Type						
Witness Notes					T	
Seq. # Name (Last, First, M) (b) (6)			Race W	Sex F	DOB	Age
Address (b) (6) CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402		Cell Phone:	(b) (6)		Home Ph	one
Employer Name/Address	Occupation:				Business	Phone
Witness Type OTHER						
Witness Notes is the mother and the next of kin of the	victim.					
	P	roperty				

Report: r_lw1ni.frx Page 2 of 11 09/13/2011 11:59:38

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076 Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:38

Description FL DL ANI	MILITARY	ID			S	erial Number	Ma	ke/Model	
Owner	, marriner				L	icense / State	Col	or	
(b) (6)									
Status SAFEKEEP	ING	Status O (42529)	fficer BELLITTERA	, RYAN T	Quanti	ty Units of M	Measure	Value \$1.00	
Gun Type		Caliber	Finish		Grip		Gu	n Stock	
Condition		Gun Test	Test Type		Sight T		ght Type		
		☐ Yes ☑ No				s 🗹 No			
Property Note	s								
	-			Jewelr	у Туре				
	Jewelry Typ	oe Metal	Karat	Gender	Style	Size	Weigh	nt	
	Stone 1	Stone Type	Count	Shape	Weight	Color			
	Stone 2	Stone Type	Count 0	Shape	Weight	Color			
			A	ssisting	Officer	rs			
				0					
(24351) MAL	CH, DAVID I)							
(25316) MCT	AVISH, ALLA	AN C							
(25744) HOR	RIGAN, MICH	HAEL D							
(33212) VAU	GHAN, CHRI	STOPHER S							
(34188) CAP									
	TER, MICHAI	EL W							
	ES, DAVID M								
(44076) FAR	RELL, AUBRI	IE P							
A	LOTA, VLAD								
			Incide	ent Rep	ort Nar	rative			
This report	was written by	Ofc Zollota and	reviwed by Ofc	Bellittera					
Synopsis:									
=======									
already been scene had be	I operator, information transported to secured by	reference to a ca forming them of St Pete General the initial units were taken. A/S	a scuba tank exp Hospital and prarriving to the creater that gt Vaughan and	olosion inside conounced dea rime scene. SP Detective Tov	the apartmen d at 0716 hou FD was presover were pres	t. Upon my arrivars by Dr. Kurus ent at the scene. ent at the scene	sz. (See Ofc f A technician . The victim`	n (b) (6) Mauch Supple was notified s family was r	to process notified by
Cedar Rapid office.	s PD. The Med	dical examiner o	ffice was notifie	ed and all the n	necessary info	ormation was pr	ovided to the	Medical exan	niner's
Scene Descr	iption:								
Report: r	w1ni.frx			Page 3	of 11			09/13/2	011 11:59:39

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:40 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

Incident Report Narrative

The incident occurred at (b) (6) The single story apartment complex is located on the north side of (b) (6) The front door faces west. The building is painted beige with burgundy roof top and burgundy brick corners. There are pieces of broken glass and broken drapes across the parking lot located west on the building. There are two vehicles parked in front of the apartment. One of the vehicles, Fl tag (b) (6) has the drivers side window broken and pieces of broken glass from the apartments window all over the hood. The front door of the apartment had been blown apart as the result of the explosion. There are large amounts of blood inside and outside the front door. There were other scuba tanks on the hallway and living room floor. The hallway grants entry to a large living room. A closet is located on the south wall of the hallway. The scuba tank that exploded was located inside the closet. The bedroom is located to the north of the hallway and the kitchen to the south of the hallway. The south and east bedroom walls are demolished. The glass of the bedroom window which faces west is broken. The north kitchen wall is demolished as well. There are pieces of wood and dry wall debris all over the apartment. Half of the ceiling above the bedroom and the kitchen had fallen down. An exploded scuba tank was hanging from the kitchen ceiling. The explosion has caused the living room window to brake as well. There are pieces of broken glass on the grassed area in the back of the apartment. The back door of the apartment facing east is also damaged and hanging only by the top hinge. (b) (6) which faces east, had been broken as the result of the explosion.

As a result of the explosion the victim had lost his right thumb and had a laceration along his right wrist. The bottom of his left foot was shattered in pieces and his upper part of his right leg was cut open with the muscle showing.

Witness Statement—

(b) (6) She advised the victim, herself, and (b) (6) were going to scuba dive today. She advised the victim was a scuba diving instructor. (b) advised the victim, (c) (d) had filled the tanks sometime this week with regular air. As they had finished eating breakfast this morning at approximately 0645 hours, (b) had gone to the bedroom and (b) (6) was in the bathroom. She advised the victim advised he wanted to check the tanks which were located inside the hallway closed. As she entered the bedroom door, she heard a loud explosion coming from the hallway. She asked (b) (6) to call the 911 operator and ran east towards the living room window. She climbed the window, walked around the building and saw the victim laying on the hallway floor. Shortly after SPFD had arrived and the victim was transferred to St Pete General.

(b) (6) was a friend of the victim. He advised he had gone scuba diving twice with the victim and that the victim was a scuba diving instructor. He advised after they had eaten breakfast, (b) went in her bedroom and he went to the bathroom. At that time the victim stated he was going to check the scuba tanks which were located inside the hallway closet. As he entered the bathroom he heard a loud explosion coming from the hallway. (b) (6) advised the bathroom door opened as a result of the explosion. He then called the 911 operator. He

advised (b) ran towards the back of the apartment and exited through the window. He ran outside of the apartment as he was speaking to the 911 operator. He advised the victim was lying on the ground asking for help when SPFD arrived.

Officers Action and Observations:

Witness Statement- (b) (6)

On the above date and time I was dispatched to (b) (6) in reference to a call assisting SPFD. Upon arrival I met with other officers that had already responded and secured the scene. A scuba tank had exploded inside the apartment. The victim had been transported the St Pete General Hospital and had been pronounced dead at 0716 hours by Dr. Kurusz. I spoke with the witnesses and obtained their above captioned statements. I then drove to St Pete General Hospital and verified the victim. A technician responded to the scene and to the hospital and photographs were taken. I located the victim's mother, (b) (6) who is the next of kin. Echo channel notified Cedar Rapids PD, where the mother lives, and two officers from the Cedar Rapids PD notified her. I contacted the Medical examiners office and informed him of the incident and provided him with all the information. I also received a phone call from the brother of the victim, (b) (6) and answered his questions. I spoke with the mother of the victim. She advised that the victim was a certified scuba diving instructor. I also received a phone call from he father of the victim (b) (6) I answered his questions and he was advised about the outcome of the accident. A representative from FDLE arrived at and took control of the scene of the accident. All the other scuba tanks inside the apartment were emptied. I left the scene and took no further action at this time.

EOR

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Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:45 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

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Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:45 (28191) BURCH, MICHAEL J

Supplement Information							
Supplement Date 09/11/2011 07:30:00	Supplement Type FOLLOW UP	Supplement Officer (28191) BURCH, MICHAEL J					
Contact Name							
Case Status: FURTH	ER INVESTIGATION	Case Disposition:					

Supplement Narrative

On today's date 09/11/2011, I was dispatched to (b) (6) to assist mid-night officers. Upon my arrival, I was advised to stand by the rear of apartment number (b) I was assigned with rear security until the scene was cleared.

I took no further actions.

E.O.R.

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UNAPPROVED

Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076

Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:46 (33584) NIKOLOV, EMIL

Supplement Information							
Supplement Date 09/11/2011 14:27:26	Supplement Type FORENSIC TECHNICIAN REPORT	Supplement Officer (33584) NIKOLOV, EMIL					
Contact Name							
Case Status: FURTH	IER INVESTIGATION	Case Disposition:					

Supplement Narrative

I RESPONDED TO A AOA AT (6) (6) WHERE I TOOK 158 PHOTOS OF THE SCENE.

CLOSE UPS WERE TAKEN OF ALL AIR TANKS.

Report: r_lw1ni.frx

MESUREMENTS WERE TAKEN OF DUBREE OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE.

THE FRONT SCREEN DOOR WAS 116 FT. FROM THE RESIDENCE. THE FRONT WINDOW SCREEN WAS 37 FT. FROM RESIDENCE A METAL PANEL WAS 51 FT. FROM RESIDENCE. THE REAR WINDOW SCREEN WAS 18 FT. FROM RESIDENCE THE REAR WINDOW BLINDS WERE 37 FT. FROM RESIDENCE.

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Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076 Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:47 (24351) MAUCH, DAVID D

Supplement Information							
Supplement Date	Supplement Type	Supplement Officer					
09/11/2011 14:30:07 Contact Name	FOLLOW UP	(24351) MAUCH, DAVID D					
Case Status: FURTH	IER INVESTIGATION	Case Disposition:					

Supplement Narrative

WRITER RESPONDED TO "ST. PETE GENERAL HOSPITAL", AS RELIEF FOR OFFICER KIMES, AT 0810HRS.

THE VICTIM (b) (6) WAS PRONOUNCED BY DOCTOR KURUSZ, AT 0716 HRS THIS DATE, ON HIS ARRIVAL (CHART # (b) (6)

WRITER STAYED WITH THE VICTIM UNTIL TECHNICIAN NIKOLOV RESPONDED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE VICTIMS INJURIES.

THE EMERGENCY ROOM HAD CONTATED THE "ME'S" OFFICE AND NOTIFIED THEM OF THE VICTIMS DEATH. THEY WOULD BE SENDING THEIR REMOVAL UNIT AND NOT A INVESTIGATOR.

WRITER TOOK NO FURTHER ACTION. EOR-----

Report: r_lw1ni.frx Page 8 of 11 09/13/2011 11:59:47

Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:48 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

1	deport Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY	(1202) BEEET TER
	Supplement Information	n

Supplement Information						
Supplement Date 09/12/2011 11:08:24	Supplement Type FOLLOW UP	Supplement Officer (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T				
Contact Name						
Case Status: FURTI	IER INVESTIGATION	Case Disposition:				

					Veh	icles			
Seq.#	Year 2001	Color	minum /	Style SEDAN, 4 DOOR		Make HOND	Α	Model	
		License Plate Typ REGULAR	pe License / State (b) (6)		License Year 2012	Owner (b) (6)			
Status			Status Date			Value			
Vehicle damage	Notes d in explo	sion							

Supplement Narrative

NARRATIVE

This is a follow-up to an assist outside agency report 2011-056076.

On 9-11-2011, Myself and probationary officer V. Zollota responded to (b) (6) in reference to an assist fire department. Dispatch advised that Fire/Rescue was responding to a possible scuba tank explosion and needed assistance. Upon arrival, several officers had secured the scene and the victim had been transported to ST Pete General Hospital in critical condition.

I spoke with (b) (6) who was inside the apartment during the explosion. He stated that he arrived at approx. 0632 hours. They were planning on going scuba diving today. Himself, the victim, (b) (6) were all eating breakfast. At approx. 0645 hours they were finished eating. (b) advised he went into the bathroom. As he was going into the bathroom he remember 1(b) saying something about going over to check the tanks but he was not sure what he said. The next thing he knew there was a loud explosion and the bathroom door came flying open. He was struck in the left ankle with debris flying through the door and received a minor cut to his ankle. He ran out the front door nd called 911. He stated that (b) (6) was screaming for help.

I also spoke with (b) (6) who was also inside the residence when the explosion happened. She stated that they had just finished breakfast and she had just walked into the bedroom when the explosion occurred. She was towards the east side of the bedroom bear the closet and she was able to get to the back of the apartment and climbed out. She ran to the front to help (b) (6)

After I finished speaking with (b) (6) I noted the damage to the apartment. The explosion occurred at (b) (6) This is a single story concrete building containing several apartments that is built going north and south. The front of the apartments faces west and the rear of the apartments faces east. There is a grass lawn with sidewalks leading to other apartment building east of the apartment. To the west of the apartments is a parking lot that had several cars parked in the lot. Apartment (b) A few pictures fell from inside the apartment but it received no other visible damage. To the south of (b) is a hallway and a laundry room with no visible damage.

Debris including glass and the front door were found to the west of the apartment in the grassy area between the building and the parking lot. There wa also debris in the parking lot and the storm door was located approx 75 ft to the west of the apartment on sidewalk. There was also glass and debris approx 50 ft east of the apartment in the grassy area and sidewalks behind the apartment.

The inside of the apartment suffered severe damage. Inisde the front door there was a large amount of debris. The scuba tanks were

Report: r_lw1ni.frx Page 9 of 11 09/13/2011 11:59:48

Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:51 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

Supplement Narrative

located just inside the front door to the south where a closet was located prior to the explosion. That closet was now missing along with the wall to the south and the ceiling had collapsed to the apartment over this area but not to the building. The roof to the building was still intact but there was a gap between the ceiling to the apartment and the roof of the building. To the north of the hallway inside the front door was the bedroom. The wall to the bedroom had collapsed. The victim was located just inside the front door. The southwest corner of the apartment contained the kitchen which was next to twhere the explosion occurred. The oven had been flipped on its side and there was sever damage and debris throughout the entire kitchen. There were two additional tanks located at the east end of the hallway. To the east of the hallway was a dining room then a living room. There was debris throughout this area but the damage was not as severe as the kitchen and front hallway/bedroom.

By this time, A/Sgt. Vaughn. Lt. Gatlin and Det. R. Tower had all arrived on scene and Det. Tower continued the investigation.

Myself and Ofc. Zollota the responded to St. Pete General to investigate the injuries received to (b) (6) — (b) (6) — received severe trauma to his left foot. Most of the foot was missing with several bones exposed. Both of his legs had abrasions and what appeared to be burns. The burns did not have any blackening from a fire but the skin appeared to be melted in some areas on the legs. His upper right leg and thigh had severe trauma. A severe laceration sliced through his leg muscle which was only attached to the upper portion of his leg. His right thumb was severed and he had a severe laceration to his right wrist just above the thumb that exposed his bone. There was no visible injury to his head chest and left arm.

We then responded back to the scene. Myself and several other officers established the perimeter around the apartment for safety reason because the condition of the remaining tanks were not known. The tampa bomb squad arrived on scene and made the remaining tanks safe. (Tampa Report number 2011-511428.) Det Tower and the fire investigators continued their investigation. Myself and ofc. McTavish documented the tanks.

There were a total of 11 scuba tanks found within the apartment and 1 oxygen tank found in the vehicle. The Fire investigators removed 9 including the destroyed tank and placed them outside of the apartment. Two tanks were left inside the apartment and one tank was located inside the victim's vehicle. Those tanks were as follows:

- Tank #1: Small Black tank bearing a 100% oxygen label. Decompression use only.

 Certified by Scuba West sticker date 12/2010 727-863-6911

 Yellow sticker tank and valve cleaned sticker Prerr.ix, oxygen 22%-40% 12/2010 stamped MOD 20 FSW MOD 6MSW
- Tank #2: Medium size yellow tank bearing Aqua Lung
 Certified by Scuba West 10/2010
 Nitrox green label stamped 5/93
 tank and valve cleaned sticker Prerr.ix oxygen 22% 40% 10/2010
- Tank #3 Medium sized Dk silver tank
 Certified by Scuba West 4/2011
 tank and valve cleaned sticker Prerr.ix oxygen 22%-40% 4/2011
 Stamped TC-SU4957-230 BAR DOT # F14157-3442 TP 5250 10/06
- Tank #4 Medium sized light silver tank stamped Japan
 Certified by Scuba West 2/2011
 tank and valve cleaned sticker Prerr.ix oxygen 22%-40% 3/2011
 DOT-SP120793442 TP 5250 SPUN Japan 2/08
- Tank #5 Small yellow tank Stamped AIR
 Certified by Scuba West 4/2007 stamped VanHorn
 DOT 3AI#000 CB 000 9036 M400215C14 Catalina
 519TCBALM207
- Tank #6 Medium gray tank Luxfer
 Certified by Scuba West 12/2010
 Seatasea sticker 3/2010
 Cedar Rapids Iowa Hydrotested Marine Services Chylau Dista California 619-422-8918 07/2009
 DOT-3AL3000 P343454 7/09 12A97580
- Tank #7 Medium sized Dk gray tank
 Certified by SCuba West 04/2011
 TC SU4957-230BAR DOT-F14157-3443 TP 5250 10/06
 unreadable stickers also

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Supplemental Report

Agency: SPPD

Case Number: 2011-056076
Report Type: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY

Date Printed: 09/13/2011 11:59:54 (42529) BELLITTERA, RYAN T

Supplement Narrative

Tank #8 Medium sized Dk Gray tank stamped VanHorn

Certified by Scuba West 4/2010 DOT-E9791-3442 unreadable unreadable stickers also

Tank #9 Destroyed yellow tank

Smaller section read For Decompression prerr.ix oxygen 22%-40% unreadable month/ 2011 unreadable sticker DOT-3AL3000 unreadable

Tank #10 Inside of vehicle green oxygen tank inside green bag

Certified by Scuba West 3/2011 Prerr.ix oxygen 22%-40% sticker 3/2011 DOT-3AL2216 HH399 M4141 01A07 DAN sticker

Tank #11 Located inside apartment.

Full size yellow tank
Certified by Scuba West 04/2011
Prerr.ix oxygen sticker 22%-40% 04/2011
Luxfur tank samped 9/2010 P30 9 LUXFUR CTC-DOT3 stamped VanHorn

Tank #12 Located inside apartment

Full size yellow tank Stamped Enriched Air Certifed by Scuba WEst 04/2011 Luxfur Prerr.ix oxygen 22%-40% sticker 04/2011 CTC-DOT-3L3000- S80 stamped 9/2010

All of the above tanks were fully entact with the valves in the top except for the destroyed tank. A search inside the apartment was conducted in an attempt to locate the missing vale from the exploded tank but we had negative results. A search outside of the apartment was also conducted for the valve with negative results.

A/Sgt Vaughn advised that we could release the outer perimeter and the fire investigator and FDLE would finish their investigation. I responded to Police Hedquarters and pleed (b) (6) Florida driver's license and Mitiary I.D, card into property and evidence locker #99.

I took no further action

EOR

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TEST PROTOCOL

November 29, 2011

RTI Matter Name: DOT – Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

RTI Matter No.: 50151ME002

RTI Investigators:

Richard B. Loucks, Ph.D., P.E.

Matthew Wagenhofer, Ph.D.

Background:

RTI was tasked through Government Contract DTPH56-12-P-000004, dated November 9, 2011, issued by Office of Acquisition Services US DOT/PHMSA/PHA-30 to perform an investigation on a DOT 3AL-3000 cylinder involved in a fatal accident to determine if non-compliance with Hazardous Materials Regulations played a part in the cylinder failure and if modification of the regulatory standards is necessary.

Additionally, the purpose of this contract is to evaluate the ruptured DOT 3AL-3000 cylinder valve and determine the following:

- The degree of exposure to thermal energy; and
- Evidence of oxygen contamination which may have resulted in the explosion (fire) inside the ruptured DOT 3AL cylinder.

On November 15, 2011, RTI Group, LLC (RTI) received four items from the Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). These items are described as follows:

1) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 1

Smaller fragment from the cylinder, measures approximately 12 inches by 6 inches. Fragment displays the following marks near the neck: HY-MARK DOT-3AL 3000 OU

Cylinder has one decal and part of another:

Decal 1: "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned For Premix, Oxygen Content 22 to 40%" is not punched out. "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned In Accordance With O₂ Service" Is punched out at 2011. The month is uncertain.

Decal 2 (partial): for decompression use IANTD/IAND, Inc.

2) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 2

Larger section contains the bottom, neck and valve opening, measures approximately 24 inches by 14 inches. This item has the following markings near the neck: 0001 M5442 10 07 S40 TC-3AL 207

This part of the cylinder contains the remaining portion of Decal 2 stating:

Decal 2 (partial): OXYGEN for decompression use only – MOD 20 FSW MOD 6 MSW WWW.IANTD.COM

3) High Pressure Tank Valve, DIN Valve,

Manufactured by Genesis containing a 5000 psi, 30 lb/hr CG-1 type rupture disk. A pressure regulator adaptor is present in the opening which has a fractured outlet. The metal particle filter is evident in the opening. The rubber hand closure knob is present, but separate from the valve.

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4) Regulator

Manufactured by Dive Rite, serial number 12008135, fitted with regulator fitting. The opening is

occupied by the fractured end of the pressure regulator adaptor.

Attached to the regulator:

1. Black pressure line with dial gage on high pressure side of regulator. Dial gage face

is heat affected and the gage is illegible.

2. Length of green pressure line stating "WARNING Do not exceed 250 psi (17 bar)

high pressure may cause damage or personal injury" no manufacturer identified.

Distal end terminates unattached. Low pressure side

Objective:

Under the tasking directive of the contract, sub-section 3.02 "Advanced Analysis and Examination", as

part of the investigation the evidence is to be subjected to a series of invasive, therefore destructive,

examinations in which sophisticated laboratory equipment will be employed, such as Fourier Transform

Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy

(EDS), metallography, alloy chemistry, hardness testing and tension and compression testing. This

protocol addresses the schedule and procedures that will be performed to fulfill this task.

Date, Time and Location:

• Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 10:00 am pacific coast time

• ANAMET, Inc.

26102 Eden Landing Road, Suite 3

Hayward, CA 94545-3811

• Local Contact: Kenneth Pytlewski, 800-377-7768 OR Ken@Anametinc.com

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051

Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 4 Page Number: 3 of 11 **Procedure:**

Phase I – Initial Examination.

Document the condition of the evidence through the use of field notes and still photography. The use of

optical microscopy will be used where appropriate. This process is non-destructive and is intended to

document the evidence prior to any alterations.

Phase II - Search for the presence of oxygen non-compatible substances.

An examination in search for materials typically found in SCUBA dive operations, such as silicone

greases found in diving gear (dimethylsiloxane), hydrocarbon greases/oils used in diving gas

compressors, perfluorinated lubricants found in Nitrox diving gear, and other lubricant materials such as

Tribolube (ALI Aerospace Lubricants), Christo Lube (Lubrication Technologies, Inc.), IKV-Fluor &

Zarox, etc. With the use of solvents, such as: Asahiklin AK 225 (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons); DuPont

Vertrel XF, DuPont Vertrel MCA (Hydrofluorocarbon); or 3M HFE 7100, 3M HFE 71DE

(Hydrofluoroether), obtain samples from within the valve gas passage area and subject the samples for

FTIR analysis. The solvent will be decided upon at the time of the examination.

High Pressure Tank Valve

Subject valve and regulator will have to be disassembled to reveal any existing gasket/seal materials,

provide access to components for solvent washing and sample collection. With each disassembly, each

component will be documented, and then the areas upstream of the containment feature will be searched

for the presence of non-oxygen compatible materials. The disassembly will proceed in the following

order:

1. Test the valve closure mechanism to determine if the valve is open or closed. Mark

alignment of the gland nut to the valve body prior to turning with sharpie.

2. Remove the pressure regulator adaptor.

3. Remove the CG-1 burst disk pressure relief device.

4. Remove the closure mechanism. The gland nut will be removed exposing a series of gaskets

and back up rings. These will be removed to gain access to the stem and the high pressure

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011

RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 4 Page Number: 4 of 11 seat. The condition of the high pressure seat will be inspected by SEM/EDS followed by solvent wash for FTIR analysis. Components will be removed until the valve body is empty.

Samples of the valve body will be obtained for chemistry analysis to determine the alloy of the materials

used.

Material from the threads of the valve will be removed and inspected under the SEM. They will be

removed using a pick and collected onto carbon tape for mounting on a SEM stage. Alternately, a

segment section of the threads will be cut from the valve, polished and mounted, then inspected using

the SEM.

Items having been separated from the parent object will be secured within a plastic container and labeled

using the scheme: Part xx followed by a lower case alpha character, e.g. "Part 3-a Gland Nut".

Pressure Regulator Adaptor

The fractured surface of the pressure regulator adaptor will be examined using the SEM to determine the

mode of fracture and the presence of foreign materials. The air filter cup within the adaptor will be

subjected to SEM analysis to identify both the discolored material on the filter surface and any particles

that may be trapped in the filter. Subsequently, the filter will be subject to a solvent wash to determine

by FTIR the presence of any contaminants.

Regulator

The high pressure hose attachment will be removed and the interior of the tubing will be inspected. The

low pressure tubing will be removed and inspected. The interior of the regulator will be inspected to the

extent possible from the open ports. If possible, a solvent swab will be taken though a high pressure

port and subject to FTIR to determine the presence of contaminants. If contaminants are present, the

regulator will be dismantled.

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 4 Page Number: 5 of 11

Tank Material

Internal surfaces of the tank will be examined for the presence of oxygen non-compatible substances. Solvent washing of the internal area will provide samples for FTIR analysis in four areas, indicated as areas "A", "B", "C", and "D" and any other areas deemed of interest on the day of the examination.

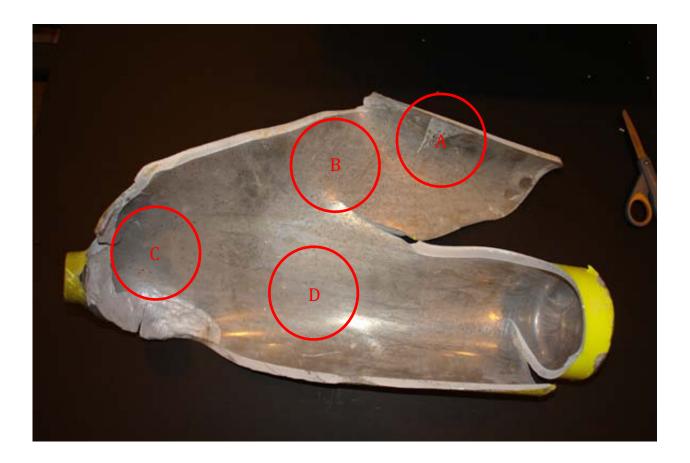


Figure 1. Solvent was areas for FTIR sampling.

Phase 3 – Mechanical properties testing of Cylinder material.

Several sections of the cylinder will be subjected to hardness testing, alloy chemistry, metallographic analysis and tension and compression testing.

Hardness traverses following the inner circumference of the tank will be made at several elevations along the length of the tank. The approximate elevations are indicated in Figure 2. The method of testing will be as follows:

- 1. Four sections of cylinder material of approximately 2 inches wide by 1 inch deep will be excised from the main body with the use of a liquid cooled diamond blade saw.
- 2. After removing the section from the main body, a ½ inch axial wide circumferentially cut section will be removed for subsequent metallographic mounting, polish and etch. This creates two subsubsections for evidence labeling where a lower case Roman numeral will be added to the nomenclature, e.g. "Part 1-a-i Excised section from Cylinder, Metallographic" and "Part 1-a-ii Hardness Specimen from cylinder". See Figure 3.
- 3. The fracture surface from the larger section will be examined using the SEM to determine from the fracture morphology the mode of fracture, direction of crack propagation, EDS, and any other information discovered in the examination. The section will then be subjected to a Rockwell hardness test on the internal surface, not directly on the fracture surface.
- 4. The smaller section will be cast into a resin material with the cut surface including the fracture surface for examination. The specimen will be polished, then etched to allow examination of the grain structure. A profile of Knoop micro hardness tests will be performed at 1mm intervals in two directions: circumferentially along the mid thickness from the fracture surface for 1.5 cm; and along the radial from the internal to the external surface.

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Figure 2. Approximate test sites for hardness testing and metallographic examination.

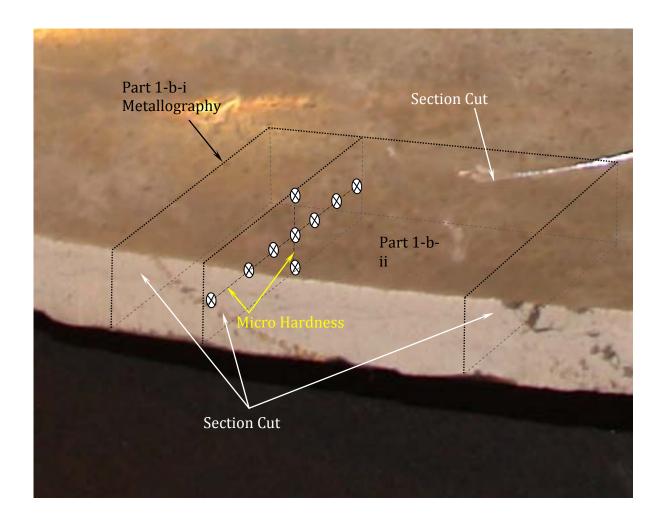


Figure 3. Hardness testing and Metallographic sectioning. ⊗ illustrate Knoop micro hardness locations along the traverse. (not to scale)

Tension and compression testing will be performed to determine the mechanical properties of the alloy. Sample material will be collected from the machined samples for chemical analysis to determine the aluminum alloy.

The tension and compression tests will be performed as follows. A spherometer will be used to measure the radius of curvature of the tank in its as-received condition. Baseline inner surface curvature measurements will be made on the intact bottom region of the tank. Further inner surface curvature measurements will be made along the length of the tank over all of the regions to determine the least

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deformed section of the tank. Visual inspection of the as-received tank indicates that this section is likely to correspond to that indicated in Figure 3. At least one (1) tension test specimen and two (2) compression test specimens will be machined from this region. The tension test specimen will be oriented such that the tensile axis of the specimen is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tank. One of the compression specimens will be oriented such that the compression axis is parallel to the radial axis of the tank. The other compression specimen will be oriented such that the compression axis is parallel to the transverse axis of the tank. The transverse axis is defined by a line tangent to a circumference around the tank located at the midpoint of the tank wall. Any additional specimens for which there is sufficiently un-deformed material will duplicate these three orientations.

Dental mold compound will be used to make highly accurate replicas of the threads inside the neck of the tank prior to sectioning and mounting of the threads for metallographic and microscopic analysis. It is anticipated that the entire circumference of the threads will be replicated in two to four sections to ease removal of the molds from the inner threaded surface of the neck. Sufficient overlap will be included at both ends of each section so as to retain all details available. Measurements such as pitch, thread root depth, etc. will be made from the molds, if possible. The process will start by subjecting a portion of the threaded area to a solvent wash, the samples then subjected to FTIR analysis. Then the molding compound will be applied in quadrants with greater than 90 ° coverage. The boundaries will be indicated on the opening rim with a Sharpie and the molds labeled following the stated nomenclature.

Once the thread mold profiles are completed, the opening will be sectioned to allow SEM/EDS examination of the threaded section and subsequent metallographic mounting. A section, comprising of no more than 30 ° of radial opening on the section opposite that material still attached to the cylinder body will be sectioned. The section will be subject to SEM/EDS examination to resolve the thread/root regions for contaminants and other information. The section will then be mounted with the cut surface exposed for examination, polished and etched to reveal the grain structure, and examine for contaminants trapped beneath smeared or swaged aluminum.

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 4 Page Number: 10 of 11 Phase 4 - Collection of Evidence, logging and

retrograde. Each item will be double checked to ensure it has been catalogued, logged, and properly

packaged for storage. All graphs, apparatus created images, and measurements will be compiled for use

in the final report.

About RTI Group, LLC

The RTI Group, LLC is a pioneering, global accident and failure investigation and safety management

consultancy serving the legal and insurance markets. With origins dating back to 1975, RTI's forensic

engineering services span comprehensive high-risk industries and transportation operations disciplines,

including aviation, marine, rail, utilities, nuclear, explosion, and construction.

Headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, RTI Group, LLC was founded in 2003 as a forensic engineering

services company, with its origins dating back to 1975, by the founder of FTI Consulting, Inc. Anamet

Inc., a forensic materials testing laboratory in San Francisco, California became a vital asset to RTI in

2003. In 2004, RTI founded its London office, RTI Ltd., as a wholly owned UK subsidiary that is the

home office of the Aviation and Marine Departments. RTI Latin America was established in 2008 in

Panama City, Panama as an extension of the London office to serve Latin America and, in particular, the

Panamanian Flag State and Canal Operations. RTI opened its Bahrain branch office in April of 2011 to

provide security and safety services, as well as access to other RTI disciplines in the Gulf and Middle

East region. RTI continues to expand its worldwide range of analytical capabilities and services to

other parts of the globe.

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 4 Page Number: 11 of 11



DOT Requested Analysis of Failed SCUBA Cylinder/Valve Assembly

Report Date August 29, 2012

DOT Contract No. DTPH56-12-P-000004

RTI Matter No. 50151.ME002

Prepared and Submitted By:

Richard B. Loucks, PhD, PE Senior Mechanical Engineer

Matthew Wagenhofer, PhD Mechanical Engineer

Reviewed By:

Thomas W. Butler, PhD Senior Materials Engineer

Joseph R. Reynolds, PE, MEWI, MAE Principal Forensic Engineer

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1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

It was reported to RTI Group, LLC (RTI) that an Open Circuit Self-Contained-Underwater-Breathing-Apparatus (SCUBA) cylinder, valve assembly, and regulator were involved in an explosion. It was reported that the source of the explosion was the high pressure gas cylinder failing. The incident cylinder had been filled with high purity oxygen, and the explosion had resulted in a fatality and extensive property damage, both from blast effects and a fire. Since the SCUBA cylinder had been certified under regulations promulgated by the U.S. Government, the evidence recovered by the St. Petersburg Police was transferred to the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Hazardous Materials Safety. Reference is made to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49, Parts 173 and 178.



2.0 PURPOSE

RTI was tasked through Government Contract DTPH56-12-P-000004, dated November 9, 2011,

issued by Office of Acquisition Services US DOT/PHMSA/PHA-30, to perform an investigation

of the evidence recovered from the subject incident to determine if non-compliance with

Hazardous Materials Regulations played a part in the cylinder failure and if modification of the

regulatory standards would be necessary.

Additionally, the purpose of this contract is to evaluate the ruptured DOT 3AL-3000 cylinder

valve and determine the following:

1. the degree of exposure to thermal energy; and

2. evidence of oxygen contamination which may have resulted in the explosion (fire)

inside the ruptured DOT 3AL cylinder.

Under the tasking directive of the contract, sub-section 3.02 "Advanced Analysis and

Examination", as part of the investigation the evidence was to be subjected to a series of

invasive, therefore destructive, examinations in which specific laboratory equipment would be

employed, such as Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron

Microscopy (SEM), Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS), metallography, alloy chemistry,

hardness testing, and tension and compression testing.

Once completed, the evidence from physical examination and the results of the laboratory tests

were subjected to an engineering evaluation to, if possible, determine the degree of exposure to

thermal energy, and determine if there was evidence of contaminants or materials incompatible

with oxygen that may have resulted in the incident.

Rrti.

3.0 INVESTIGATION

RTI performed the following: evidence inspection upon receipt on November 15, 2011; laboratory inspection of the evidence March 12-14, 2012, documented in field notes and with photographs; inspection of exemplar cylinder valves and regulator; review of the literature sources listed below; and engineering analysis.

3.1 Standards, Codes, and Open Literature

3.1.1 Standards and Codes:

- a) ASTM E 8M Test Method for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials.
- b) ASTM E9 Standard Test Method of Compression Testing of Metallic Materials at Room Temperature.
- c) ASTM G 88 Standard Guide for Designing Systems for Oxygen Service.
- d) ASTM G 93 Standard Practice for Cleaning Methods and Cleanliness Levels for Material and Equipment Used in Oxygen-Enriched Environments.
- e) ASTM G 94 Standard Guide for Evaluating Metals for Oxygen Service.
- f) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 173 (Subpart G: Preparation and Packaging) and Part 178 (Subpart C: Specifications for Cylinders).



3.1.2 Open Literature

- a) "Guide for Oxygen Compatibility Assessment on Oxygen Components and Systems,"
 K. Rosales, M. Shoffstall, J. Soltzfus, NASA/TM-2007-213740, March 2007.
- b) "U.S. Navy Diving Manual," SS521-AG-PRO-010 Revision 6, 0910-LP-106-0957, April 15, 2008.
- c) <u>Handbook of Compressed Gases</u>, Third Edition, Compressed Gas Association, Inc., Chapman & Hall, 1990.
- d) "Introduction to Aluminum Alloys and Tempers", Kaufman, G.J., ASM International, Materials Park, 2000.
- e) "Copper-Aluminum Interaction in Fire Environments", B. Beland, C. Roy, and M. Tremblay, Fire Technology, Vol. 19, Number 1, 1983, pages 22-30.



3.2 Evidence Description

On November 15, 2011, RTI Group, LLC (RTI) received four items from the Department of

Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

These items are described as follows:

3.2.1 Yellow high pressure gas cylinder fragment, Part 1

Smaller fragment from the incident cylinder; measures approximately 30 cm by 15 cm and

weighs 760 gm.

3.2.2 Yellow high pressure gas cylinder fragment, Part 2

Larger section contains the bottom, neck, and valve opening; measures approximately 60 cm by

35 cm and weighs 6,137 gm.

3.2.3 High Pressure Cylinder Valve, DIN Valve

A chrome coated metal cylinder valve with the brand "Genesis" present on the front. A pressure

regulator adaptor was present in the cylinder valve outlet opening with a fractured outlet. The

rubber hand closure knob was present, but separate from the valve.

3.2.4 Pressure Regulator

A cylindrical metal device having a length of 6 cm and a diameter of 4.5 cm. Attached to the

regulator were:

1. Black pressure line with dial gage on high pressure side of regulator.

2. Length of green pressure line. Distal end terminates unattached.

Rrti.

3.3 Evidence Inspection Observations

The received evidence was inspected and photographed to document the condition in which it was received. A receipt form was executed to preserve the Chain of Custody.

3.3.1 Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 1

The smaller fragment from the cylinder measured approximately 30 cm by 15 cm, and is seen in **Figure 1**. This fragment contained a portion of the upper part of the cylinder proximate to the threaded opening. The fragment was clearly fractured by a catastrophic overload failure. In the portion near the cylinder opening, the fracture transitioned into a melted/eroded area where the material appeared to have eroded or "flowed" from the interior surface of the cylinder. The erosion was most extensive at the fracture where the cylinder wall was very thin, almost terminating into a sharp edge, with increasing thickness towards the non-eroded area. The flow patterns suggest that the eroded material flowed out of the crack formed in the cylinder wall, as well as out of the valve opening. The remaining cylinder interior surface was otherwise unremarkable. The curvature of the fragment was measured using a spherometer, and resulted in a reading of up to 200 mm near a portion of the interior fracture surface, compared to the original radius of curvature of 57 mm.



Figure 1. Smaller portion of high pressure gas cylinder



Along the base of the hemispherical connection were displayed the following marks near the neck:

HY-MARK

DOT-3AL 3000 OU

This is an incomplete DOT cylinder marking scheme. The remainder of the markings was found on the larger portion of the cylinder.

The cylinder fragment had on its exterior surface a full decal and part of another. The first decal, seen in **Figure 2**, appears like that used by the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD), as seen in **Figure 3**, which states if the decaled cylinder has been cleaned for use with Nitrox¹ or Oxygen.

The remaining legible content of the label indicated the "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned For Premix, Oxygen Content 22 to 40%" was not punched out, while the "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned In Accordance With O₂ Service" was punched out at 2011. The month is obscured. There is no indication as to who may have stamped and applied the decal, or as to what procedure was followed to certify the cylinder was properly cleaned.

Rrti.

DOT Requested Analysis of Failed SCUBA Cylinder/Valve Assembly RTI Matter No: 50151.ME002 – August 29, 2012

¹ Nitrogen-oxygen (NITROX) diving is a unique type of diving using nitrogen-oxygen breathing gas mixtures ranging from 75 percent nitrogen/25 percent oxygen to 60 percent nitrogen/40 percent oxygen. *U.S. Navy Diving Manual*, Chapter 10.



Figure 2. Label on smaller fragment.

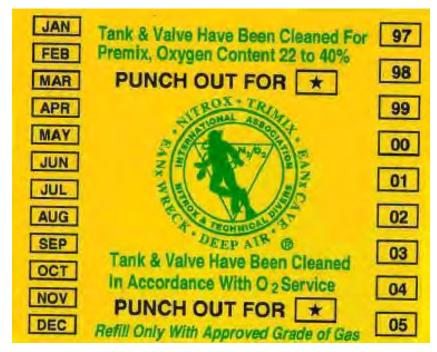


Figure 3. Decal label from International Association Nitrox and Technical Divers²

Rrti.

 $^{^{2}}$ <u>http://www.iantd.com/decals.html</u> , D-3207. The web page does state that "These decals are available <u>ONLY</u> to Blenders or Facilities with Certified Blenders on staff."

Only a small portion of the second decal was visible, and stated "for decompression use IANTD/IAND, Inc."

3.3.2 Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 2

The larger fragment of the high pressure gas cylinder, seen in **Figure 4**, contained the bottom, neck, and valve opening portions.



Figure 4. Larger portion of high pressure gas cylinder

A similar erosion pattern to that found on the smaller fragment was seen near the opening at the top. Facing the interior surface with the opening up, the inside surface to the left of the opening had significant erosion extending about 20 cm below the top before transitioning to a fracture. The threads in the opening were clearly stripped with only part of the thread root visible. The pattern of erosion within the opening was uneven in depth and texture, and was different around the opening compared to along the cylinder side towards the fractures. The opening had a stippled texture whereas the areas away from the opening had distinct flow lines with perpendicular waves.

The exterior surface exhibited evidence of heat effects and darkened coloration near the cylinder top. The normally yellow paint is discolored to brown, with black material (soot) found on some of the fracture surface.



This item had the following markings near the hemispherical connection to the cylindrical body:

0001 M5422 10 07 S40 TC-3AL 207

These, together with the stamped markings found on the other fragment, create the complete DOT marking scheme as follows:

DOT-3AL 3000 OU0001 M5422 10 07 S40 TC-3AL 207 HY-MARK

These complete markings indicate as follows³:

DOT-3AL – This is a Department of Transportation regulated seamless cylinder made from definitely prescribed aluminum alloy requiring a minimum service pressure of 150 psig, and a maximum water capacity of 1000 lb.⁴

3000 – is the maximum service pressure in psi.

OU0001 – is the manufacturer's serial number.

M5422 – is the DOT PHMSA "M" or manufacturer's identification number. This number indicates the manufacturer was Hy-Mark Cylinders, Inc. of 305 E. Street, Hampton, VA 23661, approved June 5, 2000.

10 07 – is the originating hydrostatic test date, October 2007

S40 – indicates the cylinder is intended for SCUBA use, and can hold compressed gas that has a volume of 40 ft³ of air at standard pressure and temperature conditions.

TC-3AL 207 – indicates the cylinder is also compliant with the Transportation Canada, identified as a 3AL container with service pressure to 207 Bar.

HY-MARK – is the manufacturer's symbol, again consistent with Hy-Mark Cylinders. Hy-Mark Cylinders, Inc. was purchased by Worthington Industries, Inc. (NYSE WOR) on June 21, 2010.⁵

This part of the cylinder contained the remaining portion of the second decal stating "OXYGEN for decompression use only – MOD 20 FSW MOD 6 MSW⁶ WWW.IANTD.COM". The label

⁵ http://www.worthingtonindustries.com/

⁶ Maximum Oxygen Depth-MOD, Feet Submerged Water-FSW, Meters Submerged Water-MSD.



³ Handbook of Compressed Gases, Chapter 4.

⁴ 49 CFR 178.46(a).

indicated that the purpose of this cylinder was for oxygen use during the latter stage decompression from extremely deep diving.

3.3.3 High Pressure Cylinder Valve, DIN Valve

A label stamped into the body indicated the incident cylinder valve was manufactured by Genesis and contained a 32.6 MPa (5000 psi, 30 lb/hr) CG-1 type rupture disk. A pressure regulator adaptor was present in the opening containing a fractured outlet. A metal particle filter was evident in the opening. The rubber hand valve closure knob was present, but separated from the valve, as seen in **Figure 5**.

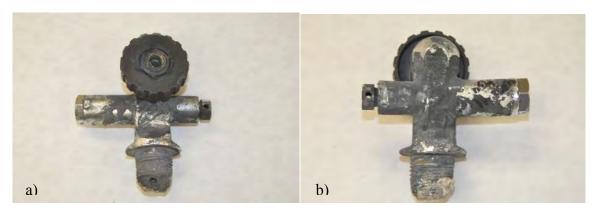


Figure 5. View of cylinder valve, a) front, b) back

3.3.4 Pressure Regulator

The incident pressure regulator was manufactured by Dive Rite, serial number 12008135. The high pressure inlet opening was occupied by the fractured end of the pressure regulator adaptor, see **Figure 6**. Attached to the regulator were:

- A black pressure line with dial gage on high pressure side of regulator; dial gage face is heat affected and the gage is illegible.
- A length of green pressure line stating "WARNING Do not exceed 250 psi (17 bar) high pressure may cause damage or personal injury"; no manufacturer was identified.





Figure 6. Cylinder valve, cylinder valve adapter, regulator and regulator assembly.

The green line was discolored (lightened to yellow white) proximate to the regulator, indicating possible exposure to high heat. There were no indications of melting or combustion. The distal portion of the outlet line was bright green and terminated without the anticipated second stage regulator.



4.0 LABORATORY TESTING

On March 12, 2012, RTI traveled to the laboratories of Anamet, Inc., an affiliated RTI company, for the purpose of conducting a laboratory examination of the incident scuba cylinder fragments, cylinder valve, and regulator, as well as an exemplar cylinder valve. RTI prepared a protocol, dated November 29, 2011, as found in **Attachment 1**, which served as the guide for all investigative activities conducted over the three day examination. The examination, which included both nondestructive and destructive procedures, was also documented by way of both still photography and videography.

4.1 Unpacking Evidence

The container of evidence, shipped from RTI's Annapolis, MD offices, remained sealed until commencement of the examination on March 12, 2012 when all attending parties were present. Items were packaged individually as seen in **Figure 7**.



Figure 7. View of the individually packaged evidence items at Anamet after removal from the shipping container.



4.2 Disassembly and Visual Inspection

The incident cylinder valve, an exemplar cylinder valve, and the incident regulator were disassembled and photographed prior to further inspection and examination of the constituent components of each.

4.2.1 Exemplar Valve

The exemplar cylinder valve, shown in **Figure 8**, has four distinct sections. Proceeding from the left side of the valve in a clockwise direction they were: the valve stem assembly and housing, the high pressure regulator fitting, the pressure burst disk assembly, and the threaded cylinder attachment with a pick-up tube.



Figure 8. Front view of the exemplar cylinder valve. The valve stem assembly and housing is concealed by the black valve handle.

RTI first loosened and removed the locking nut securing the hard rubber valve handle grip in place. With the nut removed, the grip slid off of the 7.34 mm long threaded portion of the valve



stem. Between the threaded rod and the main portion of the valve stem, a square cross section was present that provided the rubber valve handle a means for turning the valve stem. A gland nut with a smooth center bore secured the valve stem inside the valve body. The smooth bore provides for free rotation of the valve stem. An O-ring, 1.28 cm in diameter, served to seal the connection between the gland nut and the valve body, see **Figure 9**. RTI removed this nut to expose the valve stem. As it is not secured by any part other than the nut, it could be removed from the valve body simply by pulling it straight out.



Figure 9. Rear view of the partial exemplar valve stem assembly showing the gland nut, O-ring, and valve stem.

Upon removal, RTI observed the stem to be covered in a white grease-like substance, and that it incorporated two polymer bushings and two O-rings, see **Figure 10**. The stem ended in a square mandrel approximately 8.53 mm long. RTI observed the inner wall of the portion of the valve body, within which the valve stem resides, to be threaded. A threaded, square bored valve seat



body resided at the inner end of this portion of the valve body. RTI removed it by reinserting the valve stem and rotating counter clockwise to unthread the valve seat body. Once removed, the valve seat body appeared to be made of bronze with a black colored coating over most of the surface area. **Figure 10** shows the valve seat body and provides orientation. The interior end incorporated a plastic valve seat.



Figure 10. Rear view of the fully disassembled exemplar valve stem assembly showing the valve seat body and its orientation in the assembly.



Referring to **Figure 11**, RTI next removed the pressure burst disk assembly, which consists of a hollow threaded plug, a 34.1 MPa (5000 psi) burst disk, and retaining rings. Threads on the plug stop short of the head by approximately 2.411 mm. The head of the plug is bored through, presumably to allow a dispersed release of excess high pressure gas should the burst disk fail. **Figure 12** shows the burst disk and retaining ring as installed in the plug. Markings on the outer surface of the assembly head indicate that the assembly is to be installed with 40.7 N-m (30 ft-lb) of torque.

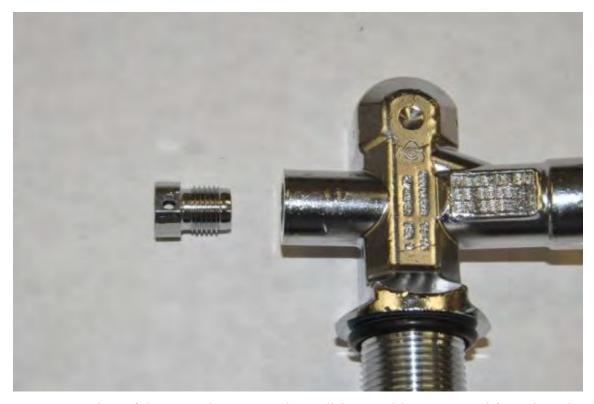


Figure 11. Rear view of the exemplar pressure burst disk assembly as removed from the valve body.





Figure 12. View of the exemplar pressure burst disk assembly showing the burst disk and retaining ring.

Finally, RTI removed the threaded protective insert into the high pressure regulator port. Removal of the insert revealed a shallow threaded bore leading to a gas supply rectangular opening proceeding down into the center of the cylinder valve body, indicated by the in **Figure 13**. Additionally, RTI observed a 1.9 mm diameter vent hole on the right side of the high pressure regulator port, indicated in **Figure 13**. This vent is approximately 7.42 mm forward of the rear inner surface of the port such that it is closed off when a fitting is fully threaded into the port.



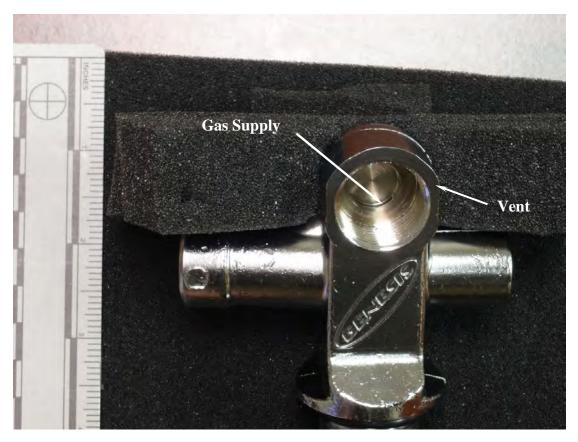


Figure 13. Front view of the exemplar cylinder valve showing the high pressure regulator port.

The cylinder attachment consists of a straight threaded insert with an 8.05 mm diameter, 4.01 cm long dip tube fit into a center bore, see **Figure 8**. The nominal thread diameter and pitch measured as approximately 25 mm with a 2 mm pitch (1.035 inches and 13 tpi), respectively. An O-ring is provided at the cylinder mating surface.

Further detailed examination of the disassembled cylinder valve body revealed information about the path of high pressure gas from the cylinder through the valve. With the valve handle in the fully closed (inserted) position, high pressure gas flowing from the cylinder proceeds up through the pick-up tube and is directed against the valve seat to the left and the pressure burst disk to the right. As the valve is opened, the gas is allowed to flow past the valve seat and makes its way to the regulator port. This is accomplished by way of an angled bore connecting the valve stem bore to the regulator port. The rectangular cutout visible inside the regulator port is the outlet of



the angled bore. The external housing of the angled bore is indicated in **Figure 14** showing the rear view of the exemplar valve.

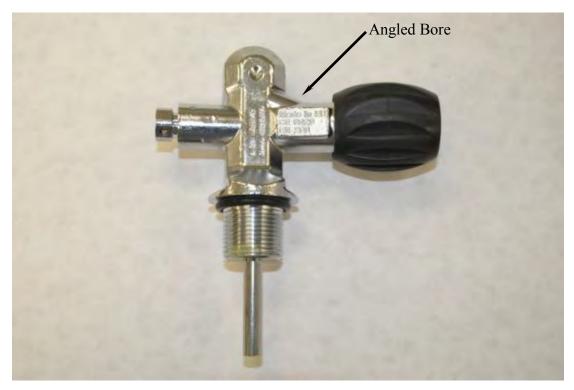


Figure 14. Rear view of the assembled exemplar cylinder valve showing the angled bore housing that connects the high pressure regulator port to the valve system assembly chamber.

4.2.2 Incident Valve

As shown in **Figure 5**, the incident valve was received with several parts missing from the valve including the locking nut; the rubber valve handle (present but damaged and no longer attached); the threaded and square segment of the valve stem to which the handle attaches (this appeared to have separated from the main body of the valve stem leaving a square fracture surface); the dip tube; and a significant portion of the cylinder neck opening threads. The entire exterior of the incident valve and its installed components appeared charred and roughened compared to the exemplar valve.



RTI began the disassembly process of the incident valve by removing the gland nut, shown in **Figure 15**, with a torque wrench fitted with an appropriately sized socket in order to measure the installation torque. The gland nut was found to be threaded into the valve body approximately finger tight as measurements showed zero installation torque. The nut made four and one sixth turns before clearing the valve body. An intact O-ring similar to that found in the exemplar remained in its intended position on the gland nut.



Figure 15. View of the incident cylinder valve gland nut showing the presence of the intact Oring.

Removal of the gland nut allowed access to the valve stem and the valve seat body. As shown in **Figure 16**, the incident valve stem was very similar in appearance to the exemplar although one of the bushings was different in color. Compared to the exemplar valve seat body in **Figure 17**, the incident valve seat body displayed a different color coating. The incident valve seat was also coated with some material, but with a green color. All portions of the incident gland nut, the



stem, the valve seat body, the plastic valve seat, and the interior of the valve stem portion of the valve body were further notable in that they were free of any apparent damage, heat effects, or discoloration as might be expected to result from fire or explosion.



Figure 16. View of the incident valve stem (top) as compared to the exemplar valve stem.



Figure 17. View of the incident valve seat body (green with white valve seat, upper) as compared to the exemplar valve seat body (black with yellow valve seat, lower).



RTI next removed the burst disk assembly of the incident valve. Compared to the gland nut, the burst disk assembly appeared tightly fit into the valve body. The installation torque was measured to be 10.17 N-m (90 in-lb). It took 5 ¾ turns to remove the assembly. While the exterior exposed surfaces of the plug had the same charred and damaged appearance as the rest of the incident valve, the interior surfaces were clean and bright and the burst disk was intact, see **Figure 18**. Correspondingly, the interior surfaces of the valve body in the area of the burst disk also proved to be clean and bright.



Figure 18. View of the incident burst disk assembly (upper) as compared to the exemplar burst disk assembly (lower).

During the explosion, the regulator, which attaches to the valve at the regulator port by way of a threaded adapter, broke away from the valve leaving a portion of the adapter still threaded into



the valve regulator port. This adapter included a plastic handle used for tightening into the regulator port, which remained intact. As seen in **Figure 5**, the adapter broke such that the handle remained attached to the valve but the portion that threads into the regulator remained with the regulator. Simply turning the handle allowed the adapter fragment to be removed from the valve. Some soot was observed on the interior surfaces of the regulator port and the adapter fragment. Inside the regulator port, charring was seen extensively around the vent and along the bottom thread. Soot-like discoloration was observed extending into the port from the charring near the center. Otherwise, the interior of the regulator port was clean and bright, see **Figure 19**.



Figure 19. View of the incident valve high pressure regulator port showing discoloration sooting around the vent.

The valve side of the adapter fragment contained an intact O-ring and a fitting suitable for inserting a hex key. Visible on the handle was the raised text "300 BAR", see **Figure 20**. Internal to the adapter is a metal air cup that serves as a filter between the cylinder valve and the



regulator. RTI disassembled the adapter fragment and removed the air cup for further examination.



Figure 20. View of the incident valve and underside of the regulator adapter handle.

4.2.3 Incident Regulator

RTI received the incident regulator, shown in **Figure 6**, with approximately 1 m length of green hose attached to one of the low pressure ports. Attached to one of the high pressure ports was a pressure gauge at the end of a 13 cm length of black hose. Soot coated the exterior surfaces of the regulator body, pressure gauge, and black hose; and the first 53 cm of the green hose appear heat affected by discoloration.

RTI first removed the two hoses, revealing the interiors of the two ports to be clean and bright with very little evidence of soot. Next, the remaining portion of the adapter was removed. While soot covered the adaptor's exterior surface and inner bore surface, the interior of the



exposed high pressure port was again clean and bright. However, the bore between the port and the regulator barrel was covered in dark soot.

Next, the cap/spring/plunger assembly, that serves in conjunction with a diaphragm to meter the high pressure gas to the low pressure side of the regulator, was removed. An O-ring and a flat plastic washer were seated in the low pressure regulator barrel and subsequently removed. Minor sooting and particulate matter were visible inside the incident regulator, on the washer and O-ring, and at the interior plunger end. As much as possible of these particulates was captured for later chemical analysis. As is seen in **Figure 21** and **Figure 22**, these components appeared to be in an overall undamaged condition.



Figure 21. View of the incident regulator with the cap/spring/plunger assembly being removed.



Figure 22. View into the low pressure portion of the incident regulator showing the O-ring and washer.

The high pressure diaphragm was revealed by removing a large set screw/fitting from the bottom of the regulator barrel using a hex key. This fitting held a spring in place that easily slipped out once the fitting was removed. Inside the chamber, a minor but noticeable amount of particulate was observed. This chamber is separated from the high pressure gas by the diaphragm and sealed to the outside by the fitting. The diaphragm chamber was separated from the regulator barrel using a strap wrench and the particulate matter found was subsequently saved for chemical analysis.



4.3 SEM Examination

A scanning electron microscope (SEM) provided high magnification imaging of metallic components selected by RTI for more detailed examination. The SEM also features the capability of analyzing small areas of the components to determine the constituent elements present. This is accomplished through energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDS) built into the microscope and provides an approximate indication of the relative concentrations of the elements present. The EDS produces a spectra plot showing the results of the analysis. The spectra plots for all EDS analysis conducted are included in **Attachment 7.**

4.3.1 Incident valve stem fracture surface.

Figure 23 is a composite view of the four corners of the fracture surface on the incident valve stem. It is notable that the majority of the fracture surface from the left edge proceeding to the right has the appearance of a ductile tensile fracture. A small remaining area along the right edge, conversely, has the appearance of a shear failure. Otherwise there is nothing remarkable about the fracture surface. EDS of the fracture surface measured high levels of copper and zinc, indicating that the valve stem was manufactured from a brass alloy.

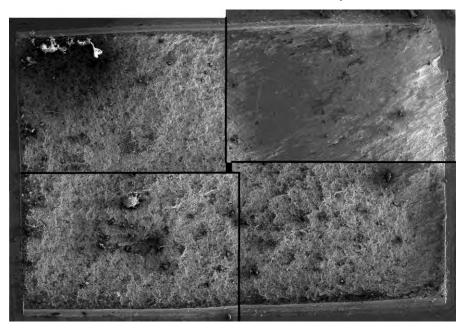


Figure 23. Composite SEM micrograph of incident valve stem fracture surface.



4.3.2 Incident pressure regulator adapter fracture surfaces

Figure 24 shows the fracture surface present on the pressure regulator adapter. As the exposed surfaces of the adapter, including the fracture surface, were covered in soot, the exact fracture morphology is not immediately apparent. Further compounding the characterization are areas that have the appearance of being mashed, or damaged, post fracture. These areas are also heavily sooted. Although there was a layer of soot on the adapter, EDS was able to measure high levels of copper and zinc which indicated that it was manufactured from a brass alloy.

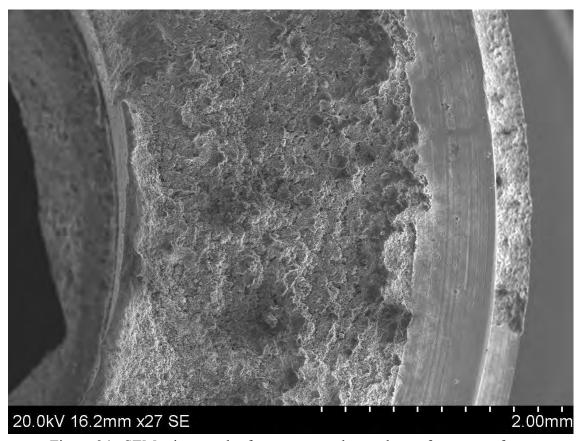


Figure 24. SEM micrograph of pressure regulator adapter fracture surface.



4.3.3 Incident pressure regulator adapter air cup

Figure 25 shows the structure of the pressure regulator adapter air cup. It is composed of numerous metallic spheres approximately 250 μm, or 0.250 mm, in size, bonded together in a process known as sintering. The random spacing between the spheres varies in size from a few microns to as much as 300 or 400 microns and acts as a filter for most particulates that might be present in the gas flow upstream of the regulator by creating a tortuous path. EDS of the air cup revealed metallic peaks of aluminum, nickel, copper, and zinc which are consistent with brass alloys.

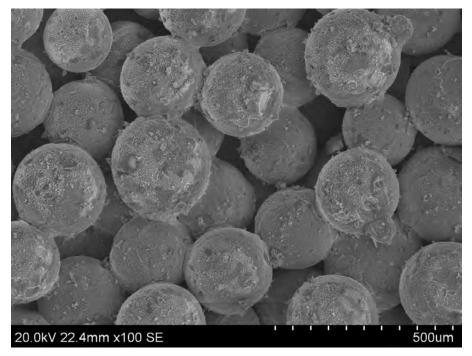


Figure 25. SEM micrograph of incident air cup structure.

4.3.4 Cylinder inside surface

A small piece of the cylinder from the larger fragment was examined in the SEM, primarily for the purpose of performing EDS on the interior surface of the cylinder. Metallic peaks were measured for aluminum and titanium.



4.3.5 Exemplar and incident valve seat bodies

Figure 26 and **Figure 27** show side by side comparison images of the exemplar and incident valve seat bodies in the threads and the smooth shaft, respectively. In **Figure 27** the extent of the coating is clearly visible on both bodies. EDS of both valve seat bodies in an uncoated area produced copper and zinc peaks indicative of brass alloys.

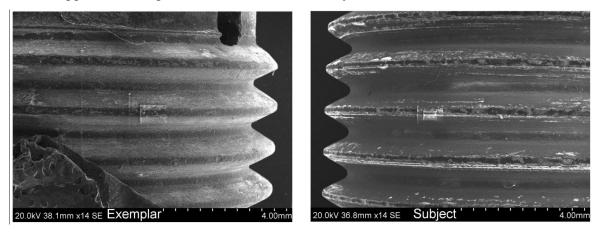


Figure 26. SEM micrographs comparing threaded portions of exemplar (left) and incident (right) valve seat bodies.

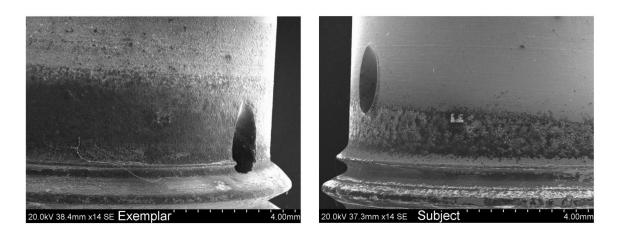


Figure 27. SEM micrographs comparing smooth portions of exemplar (left) and incident (right) valve seat bodies.



4.4 Mechanical Testing and Metallography

RTI conducted basic mechanical property testing of the cylinder material including tensile, compressive, and microhardness tests. Specimens of the cylinder material were also taken for metallographic examination.

4.4.1 Sectioning

Sectioning of the cylinder proceeded according to the established protocol, with specimens for hardness and metallography cut from the fracture edge and specimens for the tensile and compressive tests cut from a non-deformed area near the cylinder bottom. **Figure 28** shows the location of the billet cut for machining into tensile and compressive specimens. This location was chosen based on the results of spherometer measurements made of the cylinder inner curvature. It was necessary to locate an area of the cylinder, large enough to machine a full sized ASTM E-8M dog-bone specimen that had not been deformed significantly from the original curvature. Taking the specimen from such an area ensured that the cylinder material would be as close as possible to as-manufactured condition without any altering of strength properties due to deformation from the incident. **Figure 29** shows the locations of the specimens cut for hardness and metallography.





Figure 28. View of the incident cylinder showing the location of the billet removed for machining into tensile and compressive test specimens.





Figure 29. View of the incident cylinder showing the locations of the four metallography/microhardness specimens.

4.4.2 Machining

Specimens were machined according to ASTM E-8M and ASTM E-9 for tensile and compressive testing, respectively. Both specimens were machined such that tensile and compressive loading axes were parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder. See **Figure 30** for the tensile specimen.





Figure 30. View of the tensile specimen machined from the incident tank.

4.4.3 Tensile and Compressive Testing

Both the tensile and compressive tests were conducted under quasi-static conditions. This resulted in a measured tensile yield strength of 318 MPa (46.1ksi) and a measured compressive yield strength of 347 MPa (50.3ksi). Additionally, an ultimate tensile strength of 354 MPa (51.4ksi) and tensile elongation of 15% were measured. Alcoa specifies minimum values of 290 MPa (42ksi), 345 MPa (50ksi), and 13% for the yield strength, tensile strength, and tensile elongation, respectively, for 6061-T6 aluminum.



4.4.4 Metallographic Examination

Samples A through D, as seen in **Figure 31**, were mounted and polished for metallographic examination. A weak hydrofluoric solution was used as an etchant to reveal the grain structure. The specimens were examined optically using a metallograph and images captured from various regions of all four samples. **Figure 32** and **Figure 33** show representative micrographs of samples A and D. Micrographs from all the samples were compared to a representative micrograph of 6061-T6 published in "Introduction to Aluminum Alloys and Tempers". The microstructures compare favorably, confirming that the incident cylinder was manufactured from 6061-T6.

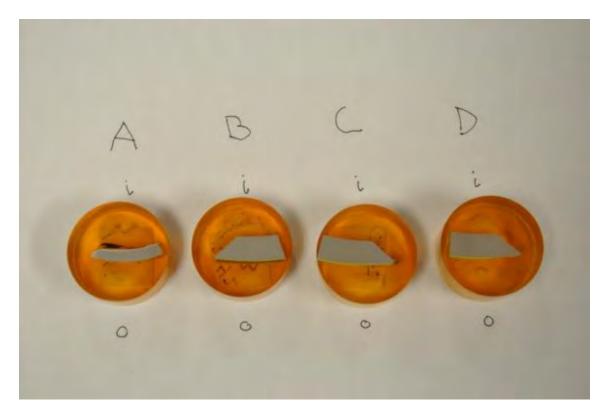


Figure 31. View of the four metallography/microhardness specimens prior to hardness testing. The "i" and "o" notations indicate the inner and outer surfaces, respectively.

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⁷ Introduction to Aluminum Alloys and Tempers, Kaufman, G.J., ASM International, Materials Park, 2000.

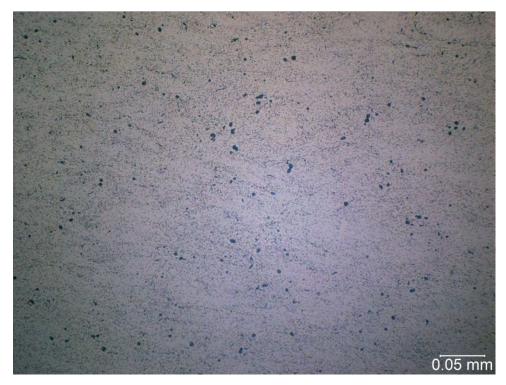


Figure 32. Sample A center 200x



Figure 33. Sample D center 200x



4.4.5 Hardness Results

Upon completion of the metallographic examination, samples A through D were subjected to microhardness testing. Two microhardness traverses were made on each sample. One proceeded from the fracture edge across the circumference of the sample and the other proceeded from the inner to outer surfaces of the sample. A Knoop microhardness value of 120 is generally expected for 6061-T6. The microhardness measurements from sample A measured noticeably lower than the expected values. The measured values ranging from 82.7 to 110 with average values for the two traverses of 97.7 and 101.3. Sample A was taken from a section of cylinder that had undergone combustion, so the reduction in hardness is attributed to exposure heat causing over aging. Samples B through D showed measured values that were more consistent with the expected with averages of 123.8 and 126.0 for B, 119.3 and 125.8 for C, and 124.4 and 129.6 for D. The full set of results is included in **Attachment 10.**

4.5 Chemical Analysis

The level of purity of the oxygen that was allegedly contained in the incident cylinder dictates that a specific environment within the gas passages would be maintained at all times. If a contaminant is present in an oxygen rich environment, the potential for ignition increases dramatically. Wash samples using DuPont Vertrel MCA solvent were taken from: (1) the inner surface of the incident cylinder, (2) the surfaces of the incident valve and its components that are part of the gas passage, (3) the inner surface of the incident regulator green hose, (4) the interior surfaces of the incident regulator, and (5) surfaces of the exemplar valve and its components that are part of the gas passage. These samples were analyzed using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) for chemical composition. The samples taken from the exemplar valve were used as a control for those taken from the incident valve.

Additionally, Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES) was performed on samples of the incident cylinder and the exemplar valve in order to specifically identify the aluminum and brass alloys, respectively, used to manufacture each.



4.5.1 FTIR Analysis

Full FTIR results are included in this report as **Attachment 8.** Other than the lubricant observed on the exemplar valve components, no substances were identified that could not be attributed to post incident sources. In other words, no unknown surface contaminants were found.

4.5.2 **OES**

Tables 1 and 2 contain the results of OES conducted on the cylinder and exemplar valve as compared to 6061 aluminum alloy and forging brass. The tested samples match well with the standard specifications for each alloy.

Table 1. Cylinder Valve Chemistry

Element	Cylinder Valve (wt%)	Requirements for Forging Brass UNS C37700	
		min	max
Copper	Remainder	58.0	61.0
(Cu)			
Iron	0.26	-	0.30
(Fe)			
Lead	2.57	1.50	2.50
(Pb)			
Nickel	0.06	Information Only	
(Ni)			-
Phosphorus	< 0.005	Information Only	
(P)			-
Tin	0.21	Information Only	
(Sn)			J
Zinc	38.47	Remainder	
(Zn)			



Table 2. Cylinder Chemistry

Element	Tensile Specimen (wt%)	Requirements for Aluminum Alloy 6061 UNS A96061	
		min	max
Aluminum (Al)	Remainder	Remainder	
Chromium (Cr)	0.08	0.04	0.35
Copper (Cu)	0.33	0.15	0.40
Iron (Fe)	0.18	-	0.70
Lead (Pb)	< 0.005	Information Only	
Magnesium (Mg)	1.06	0.80	1.2
Manganese (Mn)	< 0.005	-	0.15
Nickel (Ni)	< 0.005	Information Only	
Silicon (Si)	0.70	0.40	0.80
Titanium (Ti)	0.01	-	0.15
Zinc (Cb)	< 0.005	-	0.25



5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 Origin of the Explosion

The explosion has been determined to have been caused by the ignition of aluminum cylinder material and originated between the threads of the cylinder valve and the cylinder neck opening. Analysis of the cylinder dimensions and materials revealed that the cylinder was made from a material consistent with aluminum 6061-T6, and the wall thickness was appropriate. Laboratory testing failed to reveal the presence of contaminants or oxygen incompatible materials that may have auto-ignited. The resulting ignition promoted the growth and spread of further combustion of cylinder wall material. The combustion of aluminum occurred and was restricted to the inside surface of the cylinder. The heat generated was sufficient to locally soften the cylinder wall, as demonstrated by the over-aged condition of metallographic specimen "A". The combustion also reduced the wall thickness. Additionally, the heat of combustion was released into the compressed gas, causing the gas pressure to rise. The combination of weakening the cylinder wall from heat of combustion, thinning due to the combustion of the cylinder material, and the increase in gas pressure from the release of heat from combustion, caused the cylinder to rupture and explosively release its contents.

The magnitude of aluminum material eroded from the event is greatest in the threaded neck opening region, indicative of the region of most intense and/or the longest burning. The initial fracture of the cylinder occurred along the base of the threaded opening, or "neck," proximate to the ignition origin and began to grow along the perimeter of the opening base, until realigning along the cylinder axis and growing down towards the cylinder base, as indicated in **Figure 34**. Some of the fracture surfaces were either melted or covered by melted aluminum that resolidified, but this could also be the result of the cylinder striking a hard surface which caused the cylinder to break up.



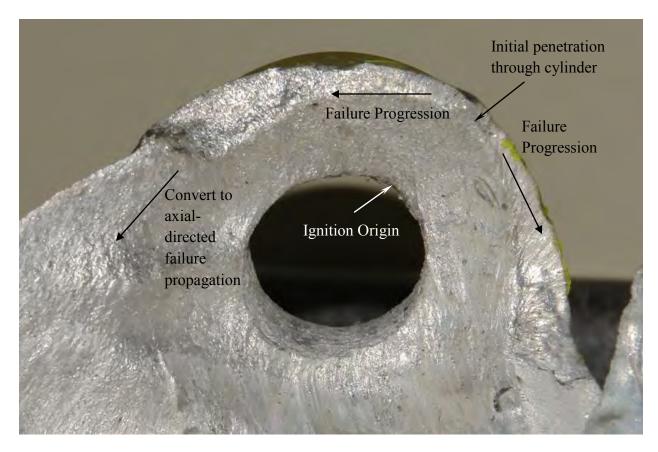


Figure 34. View showing the threaded neck opening region of the incident cylinder from the interior.

To evaluate the pattern of erosion about the cylinder opening, the depth of the threaded neck opening was measured at 30° intervals from the flat exterior top to the point where erosion seemed to stop along the threaded wall. The resulting measurements are shown in **Figure 35** in the radial diagram. The deepest erosion was set as the 0° point. The least erosion appears to have occurred at the 120°. The 120° region happened to be the area where the combustion deviated away from the opening and began to travel down the side of the cylinder interior, also being the direction where the hoop stress dominates the pattern of crack growth.



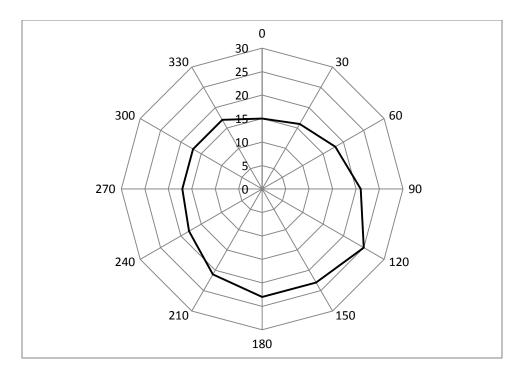


Figure 35. Depth measurements of the threaded neck cylinder opening, in mm.

The cylinder valve base also exhibits a matching pattern of erosion consistent with combustion from ignited aluminum, and alloying⁸ from flowing molten aluminum, all originating from the threaded region within the threaded neck cylinder opening, as seen in **Figure 36**. There is a region along the perimeter that exhibits fracture as well as melting and reaction. The gross erosion was angled to the axial normal, indicating that once ignited, the products of combustion were expelled downward into the cylinder. The damage pattern suggests the initial ignition and resultant kindling to promoted ignition occurred within the threads closest to the edge of where the threaded neck cylinder opening bottom and cylinder valve threads meet.

The depth of the existing material below the gasket lip was also measured to evaluate the pattern of erosion. The depths were measured at 30° intervals with the 0° set coincident with the valve

⁸ "Copper-Aluminum Interaction in Fire Environments", B. Beland, C. Roy, and M. Tremblay, Fire Technology, Vol. 19, Number 1, 1983, page 20.



outlet centerline. As seen in **Figure 37**, the region with the greatest erosion was at 30°, with the least erosion at between 180° and 240°. Superimposing the radial plot with **Figure 35** and rotating the data -60° results in a near perfect overlay as seen in **Figure 38**. The closeness of fit supports the notion that the ignition point did occur within the threaded region. The exemplar cylinder valve threads extend 25 mm from the gasket lip to the flat bottom. The smallest depth of the valve threads measured 15 mm, indicating that perhaps 10 mm of material had eroded from the threads at that point.

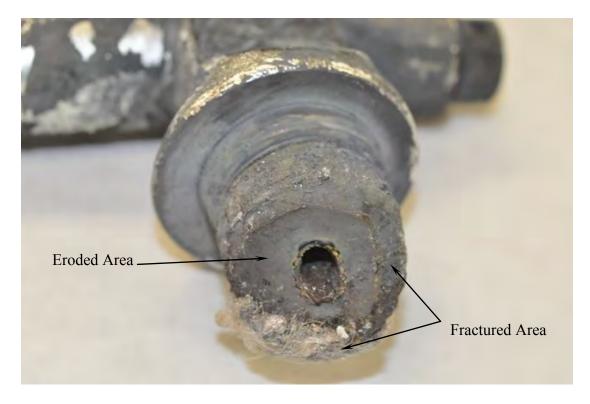


Figure 36. View of cylinder valve threaded area.



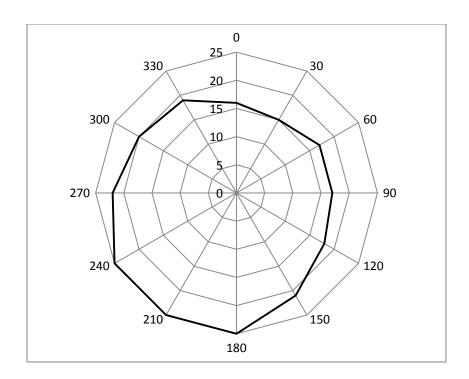


Figure 37. Depth measurements of the valve threaded area, in mm.

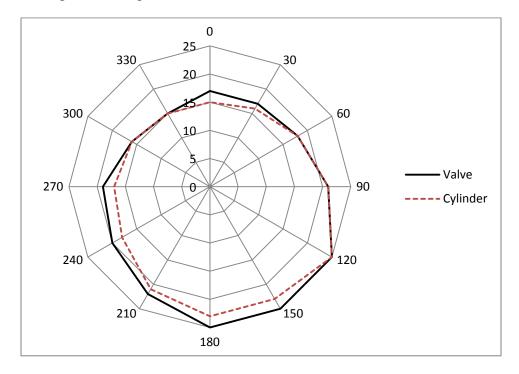


Figure 38. Comparison of measured depths, in mm. Valve depth is rotated -60° to match.



The burn pattern within the cylinder had two distinct burn zones as seen in **Figure 39**. Zone 1 matched the hemispherical geometry of the domed cylinder top with a demarcation line of between 4 cm and 5 cm from the opening center. Zone 2 extended vertically down the cylinder wall about 20 cm from the opening, and having a width of about 11 cm. A fracture divided the second burn zone, indicating this region was the area from which the crack propagated after initiating at the base of the "neck." The area in Zone 1 was due to a circumferential combustion progressing from the origin point. The burn pattern in Zone 2 is a directional effect due to gravity as the cylinder may have been on its side. Despite the fracture starting at the base of the "neck," the weakened area of Zone 2 influenced the crack to propagate in that direction as the hoop stress from internal pressure was greater in this area.



Figure 39. View of interior surface showing the two distinct burn zones.

As the aluminum was consumed, the local wall thickness was reduced; the heat weakened the aluminum; and the internal gas pressure increased from the heat energy produced by the combustion. The reaction was likely to have been more of a burning rather than explosive process. Due to this combustion process the cylinder failed at a pressure less than 38 MPa (5,500 psi)⁹ as the pressure relieving burst disk in the cylinder valve was still intact after the explosion.

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⁹ The CG-1 burst disk is rated at 32.6 MPa $\pm 10\%$ (5000 psi $\pm 10\%$), 38 MPa is the upper range of possible activation of the relief.

5.2 Ignition Mechanism

There are several ignition mechanisms that are possible within the incident cylinder. Some ignition mechanisms are: promoted ignition, where a source of heat acts to start the metal burning; friction ignition, where the rubbing of two surfaces together generates heat; particle **impact**, where the kinetic energy of a particle striking the surface is converted to heat; **mechanical impact**, much like the particle impact, heat is generated from the transfer of kinetic energy from an object having significantly more mass and less velocity than a particle; exposure of base metal, where the protective oxide layer is removed to expose the base metal, which in turn, oxidizes in the oxygen enriched atmosphere generating heat; auto ignition of contaminants or incompatible materials, where a material, such as a hydrocarbon based lubricant, is incompatible with use in an oxygen rich environment and self-ignites to promote ignition of the metal; **heat of compression**, where the rapid filling of a low pressure vessel from a high pressure line can cause the existing gas in the low pressure chamber to be driven into a compact region and compress to an increased temperature; charging rigid vessels, where the kinetic energy of the gas entering a low pressure vessel is converted to heat; **electric arc**, where the discharge across gaps between conventionally powered, electrically energized objects are heated from the very high temperature arc; static electric discharge, like an electric arc where a competent electric discharge occurs across a gap, but the electrical potential was created by a charge difference between the objects, not by electrical energizing; and acoustic resonance, where the oscillations of acoustic pressure waves from flowing gas create a temperature rise within the resonant cavity. 10

The incident cylinder valve was found closed. The extents of heat and combustion effects were limited to the entrance of the cylinder valve at the point where the pick-up tube entered the valve body. At that point in the cylinder valve and beyond, there was no evidence of heat or combustion as the valve interior wall surfaces appeared clean and without heat effects. Plastic components within the cylinder valve were spared heating as they did not suffer any melting,

 10 ASTM G 94 - 92, and <u>Advanced Thermodynamics for Engineers</u>, $\S1-7-1$ Charging and Discharging Rigid Vessels.

Rrti.

warping, combustion, or exhibit soot. Additionally, the valve seat was at the most forward position, indicating that the valve was shut at the time of the incident. The laboratory testing also failed to reveal the presence of any identifiable materials that are non-compatible with high purity oxygen systems. It would be expected that if such a substance existed prior to the fire, remnants of the substance or its by-products would still exist.

As a result, the following ignition mechanisms can be ruled out: particle impact; incompatible materials within the cylinder valve; charging a rigid vessel; heat of compression; static electric discharge; and acoustic resonance. This leaves electric arcing, mechanical impact, exposure of base metal, promoted ignition, and friction ignition. Electric arcing and promoted ignition are ruled out as improbable, thus leaving mechanical impact, exposure of base metal and friction ignition as the most likely causes. The actual mechanism of ignition could not be determined.

5.3 Cylinder Compliance with the Federal Regulations

5.3.1 Compliance with Labeling

Compressed oxygen gas is considered a hazardous material, and is regulated under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulation, Part 172, Sub Chapter B. As found in the "Hazardous Materials Table," §172.101, oxygen, as a compressed gas: has a Hazard Classification or Division of 2.2 (non-flammable gas); has an Identification number of UN1072; must be label coded as 2.2 or 5.1 (oxidizer); is subject to the special provisions of §172.102 A14 and A52; and must be packaged as per §172.302 for bulk packaging, or §172.314 and 315 for non-bulk packaging, with exceptions found in §172.306. Of the exceptions provided, none provided an exception to the labeling requirements for the incident cylinder. In summary, the incident cylinder should have been minimally labeled with a diamond shaped, durable label clearly marking the contents as "oxygen" followed by a "2.2". However, the Code is silent with regards to identification of the degree of cleanliness, as indicated in ASTM G 93.

¹¹ 49 CFR 172.407 provides the specifications for the label, §172.426 demands that an oxidizer have specific wording and Division for an oxidizer, and §172.405 modifies the oxidizer label to configure specifically to compressed oxygen gas.

Rrti.

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In accordance with the federal regulations, the incident cylinder should have possessed a label indicating that the contents of the cylinder were compressed gas oxygen. The incident cylinder possessed two decals or labels. The first, shown in **Figure 2**, indicated that the cylinder had been cleaned in accordance with O_2 service. There is no indication as to who may have stamped and applied the decal, or as to what procedure was followed to certify the cylinder was properly cleaned. The failure to provide this information is counter to the suggestions of the Compressed Gas Association, ¹² and a violation of the ASTM G 93 which states as follows:

12.2 Package Marking:

12.2.1 Each oxygen cleaned and packaged article shall be clearly labeled to include the

following information:

12.2.1.1 The manufacturer, component identification, date cleaned, responsible

department or agent,

12.2.1.2 Notification that it has been specially cleaned for oxygen service, such as

oxygen cleaned, cleaned for oxygen service or specially cleaned,

12.2.1.3 Identification of cleaning method used, such as "Cleaned in accordance with

ASTM G 93, Verification Type I, Test 1 through 4, Type II, Test 1, Level A, and Test 2,

Level 175" or "Cleaned in accordance with ASTM G-XXX" (the manufacturer's or

purchaser's specification).

The statement on the decal "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned In Accordance With O₂ Service" is not appropriate as it fails to indicate to what standard and level the cylinder has been cleaned, and who performed the cleaning. The decal does not provide the necessary information needed to ensure that the cylinder is appropriate for use with oxygen enriched gases. Additionally, the incident cylinder lacked the labeling as required by Federal statute. Should the incident tank have been used for Nitrox at 40% oxygen concentration or less, the IANDT label would have been sufficient and appropriate.

¹² Handbook of Compressed Gases, page 205 under section "Pressurization".

Rrti.

Had the requirements of proper labeling been adhered to, there would not have been a need to produce an inadequate label indicating the incident cylinder had been cleaned for oxygen use. Use of the incident cylinder prior to being labeled is unknown. The entity that allegedly cleaned the incident cylinder for oxygen use should have affixed the federally mandated label prior to allowing the incident cylinder to be used with compressed oxygen. Without further information regarding the events preceding the incident, it is impossible to determine if the inappropriate labeling played a part in the incident.

5.3.2 Compliance with Regulations for 3AL Cylinder

The requirements for a 3AL cylinder are found in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 178.46. The regulation dictates the cylinder material is to be similar to aluminum alloy 6061 with a T6 heat treatment with the mechanical properties having a minimum yield strength of 241 MPa (35,000 psi), a minimum tensile strength of 262 MPa (38,000 psi), and a minimum elongation of 14%. A sample of the cylinder was removed for tensile testing and compression testing. The sample was machined from the wall section having as much of the original curvature as possible to minimize the effects of work hardening from the accident. The specimen, seen in **Figure 40**, measured 12.93 mm (0.509 in) wide by 9.68 mm (0.381 in) thick by 131.75 mm (5.187 in) long. The testing performed in this investigation revealed that the cylinder material had a yield strength of 318 MPa (46,100 psi), a tensile strength of 354 MPa (51,400 psi), and an elongation of 15% – exceeding the minimum requirements of the regulation.



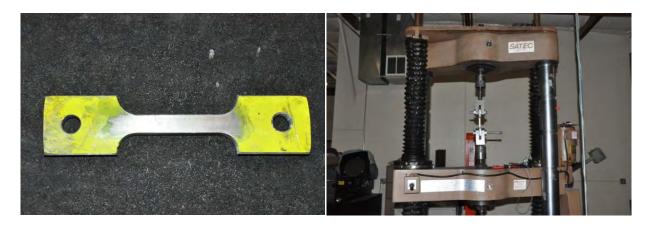


Figure 40. Tensile test specimen and tensile test.

Section 178.46(d) of the CFR provides for a minimum wall thickness. The regulation states that "The minimum wall thickness must be such that the wall stress at the minimum specified test pressure will not exceed 80 percent of the minimum yield strength nor exceed 67 percent of the minimum ultimate tensile strength as verified by physical tests in paragraph (i) of this section." The wall thickness was measured to be 9.78 mm. The prescribed minimum test pressure was 34.5 MPa (5,000 psi)¹³. Using the measured mechanical properties, the results were that the wall stress measured 63.7% of the yield stress and 57.1% of the ultimate stress, which were below the regulation maximums. The resulting analysis indicates the wall thickness of the incident cylinder exceeded the minimum required by the regulation.

A sample of the material from the tension specimen was subjected to an alloy composition analysis. The incident cylinder material was found to be consistent with aluminum 6061 with T6 temper.

Rrti.

¹³ 49 CFR 178.46(g)(3)(iii) Five-thirds times the service pressure for cylinders having a service pressure of at least 500 psig. The incident cylinder was rated for 3,000 psi service pressure.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The opinions expressed in this report are based on RTI's inspection and evaluation of the

evidence; and engineering analysis using generally accepted scientific and engineering

methodologies. These opinions are also based on RTI's education, background, knowledge, and

experience in the fields of mechanical engineering, material science, chemistry, fluid dynamics,

thermodynamics, and physics.

RTI concludes, to within a reasonable degree of engineering certainty that:

1. There is no evidence to suggest that non-compliance with the hazardous materials

regulations played a part in the incident cylinder failure; however, modifications to the

regulatory standards may be necessary.

2. The incident cylinder was not labeled as required by the hazardous materials regulations.

However, it is uncertain if the failure to properly label the incident cylinder played a part in

the incident.

3. The incident cylinder failure was not due to excess thermal exposure from an external

source.

4. Laboratory testing failed to reveal any evidence of contamination from an oxygen

incompatible substance on the incident cylinder, cylinder valve, hoses, and regulator.

5. There were no problems evident with the incident cylinder, except for the way it was

labeled.

6. There were no problems evident with the incident cylinder valve.

Prti.

- 7. There were no problems evident with the incident regulator and pressure lines.
- 8. The ignition of the fire that led to an explosion originated within the threaded section of the cylinder neck opening. The actual mechanism of ignition could not be determined.

RTI reserves the right to amend or supplement this report and its conclusions or recommendations should additional information become available.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Loucks, Ph.D., P.E. Senior Mechanical Engineer

Matthew Wagenhofer, Ph.D. Mechanical Engineer



ATTACHMENT 1

Test Protocol



TEST PROTOCOL

November 29, 2011

RTI Matter Name: DOT – Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

RTI Matter No.: 50151ME002

RTI Investigators:

Richard B. Loucks, Ph.D., P.E.

Matthew Wagenhofer, Ph.D.

Background:

RTI was tasked through Government Contract DTPH56-12-P-000004, dated November 9, 2011, issued by Office of Acquisition Services US DOT/PHMSA/PHA-30 to perform an investigation on a DOT 3AL-3000 cylinder involved in a fatal accident to determine if non-compliance with Hazardous Materials Regulations played a part in the cylinder failure and if modification of the regulatory standards is necessary.

Additionally, the purpose of this contract is to evaluate the ruptured DOT 3AL-3000 cylinder valve and determine the following:

- The degree of exposure to thermal energy; and
- Evidence of oxygen contamination which may have resulted in the explosion (fire) inside the ruptured DOT 3AL cylinder.

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder On November 15, 2011, RTI Group, LLC (RTI) received four items from the Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). These items are

described as follows:

1) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 1

Smaller fragment from the cylinder, measures approximately 12 inches by 6 inches. Fragment displays

the following marks near the neck: HY-MARK DOT-3AL 3000 OU

Cylinder has one decal and part of another:

Decal 1: "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned For Premix, Oxygen Content 22 to 40%" is

not punched out. "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned In Accordance With O₂ Service" Is

punched out at 2011. The month is uncertain.

Decal 2 (partial): for decompression use IANTD/IAND, Inc.

2) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 2

Larger section contains the bottom, neck and valve opening, measures approximately 24 inches by 14

inches. This item has the following markings near the neck: 0001 M5442 10 07 S40 TC-3AL 207

This part of the cylinder contains the remaining portion of Decal 2 stating:

Decal 2 (partial): OXYGEN for decompression use only – MOD 20 FSW MOD 6 MSW

WWW.IANTD.COM

3) High Pressure Tank Valve, DIN Valve,

Manufactured by Genesis containing a 5000 psi, 30 lb/hr CG-1 type rupture disk. A pressure regulator

adaptor is present in the opening which has a fractured outlet. The metal particle filter is evident in the

opening. The rubber hand closure knob is present, but separate from the valve.

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4) Regulator

Manufactured by Dive Rite, serial number 12008135, fitted with regulator fitting. The opening is

occupied by the fractured end of the pressure regulator adaptor.

Attached to the regulator:

1. Black pressure line with dial gage on high pressure side of regulator. Dial gage face

is heat affected and the gage is illegible.

2. Length of green pressure line stating "WARNING Do not exceed 250 psi (17 bar)

high pressure may cause damage or personal injury" no manufacturer identified.

Distal end terminates unattached. Low pressure side

Objective:

Under the tasking directive of the contract, sub-section 3.02 "Advanced Analysis and Examination", as

part of the investigation the evidence is to be subjected to a series of invasive, therefore destructive,

examinations in which sophisticated laboratory equipment will be employed, such as Fourier Transform

Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy

(EDS), metallography, alloy chemistry, hardness testing and tension and compression testing. This

protocol addresses the schedule and procedures that will be performed to fulfill this task.

Date, Time and Location:

• Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 10:00 am pacific coast time

• ANAMET, Inc.

26102 Eden Landing Road, Suite 3

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

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Hayward, CA 94545-3811

• Local Contact: Kenneth Pytlewski, 800-377-7768 OR Ken@Anametinc.com

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region

JS DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 5 Page Number: 60 of 574 **Procedure:**

Phase I – Initial Examination.

Document the condition of the evidence through the use of field notes and still photography. The use of

optical microscopy will be used where appropriate. This process is non-destructive and is intended to

document the evidence prior to any alterations.

Phase II - Search for the presence of oxygen non-compatible substances.

An examination in search for materials typically found in SCUBA dive operations, such as silicone

greases found in diving gear (dimethylsiloxane), hydrocarbon greases/oils used in diving gas

compressors, perfluorinated lubricants found in Nitrox diving gear, and other lubricant materials such as

Tribolube (ALI Aerospace Lubricants), Christo Lube (Lubrication Technologies, Inc.), IKV-Fluor &

Zarox, etc. With the use of solvents, such as: Asahiklin AK 225 (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons); DuPont

Vertrel XF, DuPont Vertrel MCA (Hydrofluorocarbon); or 3M HFE 7100, 3M HFE 71DE

(Hydrofluoroether), obtain samples from within the valve gas passage area and subject the samples for

FTIR analysis. The solvent will be decided upon at the time of the examination.

High Pressure Tank Valve

Subject valve and regulator will have to be disassembled to reveal any existing gasket/seal materials,

provide access to components for solvent washing and sample collection. With each disassembly, each

component will be documented, and then the areas upstream of the containment feature will be searched

for the presence of non-oxygen compatible materials. The disassembly will proceed in the following

order:

1. Test the valve closure mechanism to determine if the valve is open or closed. Mark

alignment of the gland nut to the valve body prior to turning with sharpie.

2. Remove the pressure regulator adaptor.

3. Remove the CG-1 burst disk pressure relief device.

4. Remove the closure mechanism. The gland nut will be removed exposing a series of gaskets

and back up rings. These will be removed to gain access to the stem and the high pressure

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

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seat. The condition of the high pressure seat will be inspected by SEM/EDS followed by solvent wash for FTIR analysis. Components will be removed until the valve body is empty.

Samples of the valve body will be obtained for chemistry analysis to determine the alloy of the materials

used.

Material from the threads of the valve will be removed and inspected under the SEM. They will be

removed using a pick and collected onto carbon tape for mounting on a SEM stage. Alternately, a

segment section of the threads will be cut from the valve, polished and mounted, then inspected using

the SEM.

Items having been separated from the parent object will be secured within a plastic container and labeled

using the scheme: Part xx followed by a lower case alpha character, e.g. "Part 3-a Gland Nut".

Pressure Regulator Adaptor

The fractured surface of the pressure regulator adaptor will be examined using the SEM to determine the

mode of fracture and the presence of foreign materials. The air filter cup within the adaptor will be

subjected to SEM analysis to identify both the discolored material on the filter surface and any particles

that may be trapped in the filter. Subsequently, the filter will be subject to a solvent wash to determine

by FTIR the presence of any contaminants.

Regulator

The high pressure hose attachment will be removed and the interior of the tubing will be inspected. The

low pressure tubing will be removed and inspected. The interior of the regulator will be inspected to the

extent possible from the open ports. If possible, a solvent swab will be taken though a high pressure

port and subject to FTIR to determine the presence of contaminants. If contaminants are present, the

regulator will be dismantled.

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Tank Material

Internal surfaces of the tank will be examined for the presence of oxygen non-compatible substances. Solvent washing of the internal area will provide samples for FTIR analysis in four areas, indicated as areas "A", "B", "C", and "D" and any other areas deemed of interest on the day of the examination.

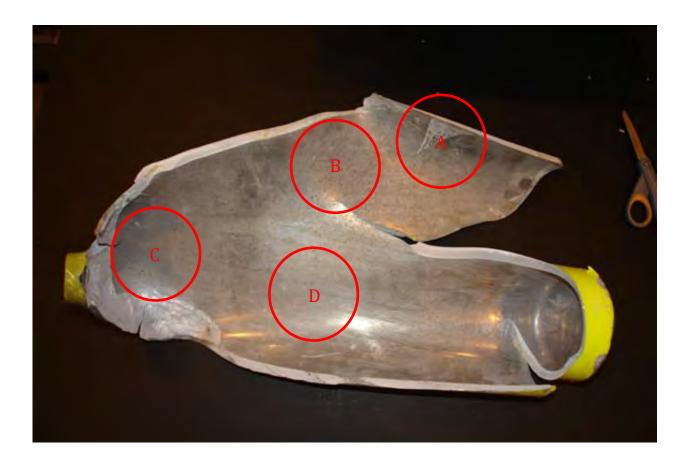


Figure 1. Solvent was areas for FTIR sampling.

Phase 3 – Mechanical properties testing of Cylinder material.

Several sections of the cylinder will be subjected to hardness testing, alloy chemistry, metallographic analysis and tension and compression testing.

Hardness traverses following the inner circumference of the tank will be made at several elevations along the length of the tank. The approximate elevations are indicated in Figure 2. The method of testing will be as follows:

- 1. Four sections of cylinder material of approximately 2 inches wide by 1 inch deep will be excised from the main body with the use of a liquid cooled diamond blade saw.
- 2. After removing the section from the main body, a ½ inch axial wide circumferentially cut section will be removed for subsequent metallographic mounting, polish and etch. This creates two subsubsections for evidence labeling where a lower case Roman numeral will be added to the nomenclature, e.g. "Part 1-a-i Excised section from Cylinder, Metallographic" and "Part 1-a-ii Hardness Specimen from cylinder". See Figure 3.
- 3. The fracture surface from the larger section will be examined using the SEM to determine from the fracture morphology the mode of fracture, direction of crack propagation, EDS, and any other information discovered in the examination. The section will then be subjected to a Rockwell hardness test on the internal surface, not directly on the fracture surface.
- 4. The smaller section will be cast into a resin material with the cut surface including the fracture surface for examination. The specimen will be polished, then etched to allow examination of the grain structure. A profile of Knoop micro hardness tests will be performed at 1mm intervals in two directions: circumferentially along the mid thickness from the fracture surface for 1.5 cm; and along the radial from the internal to the external surface.

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Figure 2. Approximate test sites for hardness testing and metallographic examination.

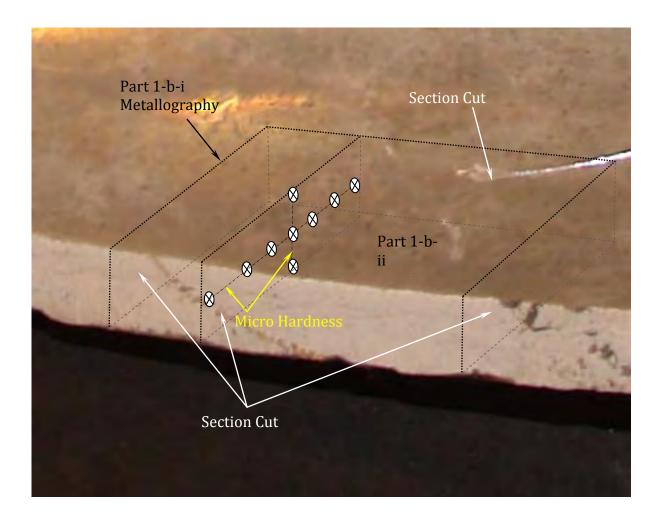


Figure 3. Hardness testing and Metallographic sectioning. ⊗ illustrate Knoop micro hardness locations along the traverse. (not to scale)

Tension and compression testing will be performed to determine the mechanical properties of the alloy. Sample material will be collected from the machined samples for chemical analysis to determine the aluminum alloy.

The tension and compression tests will be performed as follows. A spherometer will be used to measure the radius of curvature of the tank in its as-received condition. Baseline inner surface curvature measurements will be made on the intact bottom region of the tank. Further inner surface curvature measurements will be made along the length of the tank over all of the regions to determine the least

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deformed section of the tank. Visual inspection of the as-received tank indicates that this section is likely to correspond to that indicated in Figure 3. At least one (1) tension test specimen and two (2) compression test specimens will be machined from this region. The tension test specimen will be oriented such that the tensile axis of the specimen is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tank. One of the compression specimens will be oriented such that the compression axis is parallel to the radial axis of the tank. The other compression specimen will be oriented such that the compression axis is parallel to the transverse axis of the tank. The transverse axis is defined by a line tangent to a circumference around the tank located at the midpoint of the tank wall. Any additional specimens for which there is sufficiently un-deformed material will duplicate these three orientations.

Dental mold compound will be used to make highly accurate replicas of the threads inside the neck of the tank prior to sectioning and mounting of the threads for metallographic and microscopic analysis. It is anticipated that the entire circumference of the threads will be replicated in two to four sections to ease removal of the molds from the inner threaded surface of the neck. Sufficient overlap will be included at both ends of each section so as to retain all details available. Measurements such as pitch, thread root depth, etc. will be made from the molds, if possible. The process will start by subjecting a portion of the threaded area to a solvent wash, the samples then subjected to FTIR analysis. Then the molding compound will be applied in quadrants with greater than 90 ° coverage. The boundaries will be indicated on the opening rim with a Sharpie and the molds labeled following the stated nomenclature.

Once the thread mold profiles are completed, the opening will be sectioned to allow SEM/EDS examination of the threaded section and subsequent metallographic mounting. A section, comprising of no more than 30 ° of radial opening on the section opposite that material still attached to the cylinder body will be sectioned. The section will be subject to SEM/EDS examination to resolve the thread/root regions for contaminants and other information. The section will then be mounted with the cut surface exposed for examination, polished and etched to reveal the grain structure, and examine for contaminants trapped beneath smeared or swaged aluminum.

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retrograde. Each item will be double checked to ensure it has been catalogued, logged, and properly

packaged for storage. All graphs, apparatus created images, and measurements will be compiled for use

in the final report.

About RTI Group, LLC

The RTI Group, LLC is a pioneering, global accident and failure investigation and safety management

consultancy serving the legal and insurance markets. With origins dating back to 1975, RTI's forensic

engineering services span comprehensive high-risk industries and transportation operations disciplines,

including aviation, marine, rail, utilities, nuclear, explosion, and construction.

Headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, RTI Group, LLC was founded in 2003 as a forensic engineering

services company, with its origins dating back to 1975, by the founder of FTI Consulting, Inc. Anamet

Inc., a forensic materials testing laboratory in San Francisco, California became a vital asset to RTI in

2003. In 2004, RTI founded its London office, RTI Ltd., as a wholly owned UK subsidiary that is the

home office of the Aviation and Marine Departments. RTI Latin America was established in 2008 in

Panama City, Panama as an extension of the London office to serve Latin America and, in particular, the

Panamanian Flag State and Canal Operations. RTI opened its Bahrain branch office in April of 2011 to

provide security and safety services, as well as access to other RTI disciplines in the Gulf and Middle

East region. RTI continues to expand its worldwide range of analytical capabilities and services to

other parts of the globe.

TEST PROTOCOL – November 29, 2011 RTI Matter Name: DOT –Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 5 Page Number: 68 of 574 February 23, 2012 Amendment to

TEST PROTOCOL November 29, 2011

RTI Matter Name: DOT – Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder RTI Matter No.: 50151ME002 RTI Investigators: Richard B. Loucks, Ph.D., P.E. Matthew Wagenhofer, Ph.D.

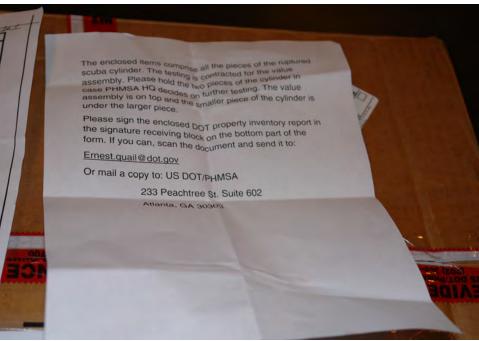
Under Procedure, Phase II, High Pressure Tank Valve, change item 4 and add the following items of the disassembly procedure to read as follows:

- 4. Remove the closure mechanism. The gland nut will be removed exposing a series of gaskets and back up rings. These will be removed to gain access to the stem and the high pressure seat.
- 5. Perform an electrical continuity test and measure the electrical resistance between several points on the outer and inner surfaces of the valve seat body using a multimeter.
- 6. The condition of the high pressure seat will be inspected by SEM/EDS followed by solvent wash for FTIR analysis. Components will be removed until the valve body is empty.

ATTACHMENT 2

Evidence Receipt Photos





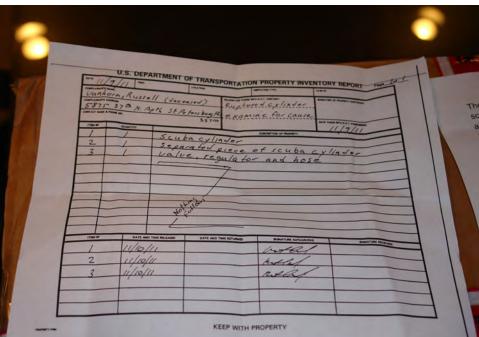




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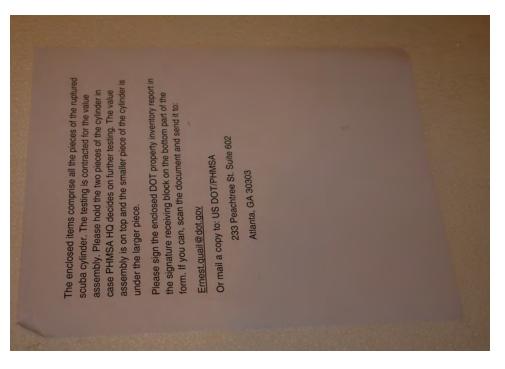




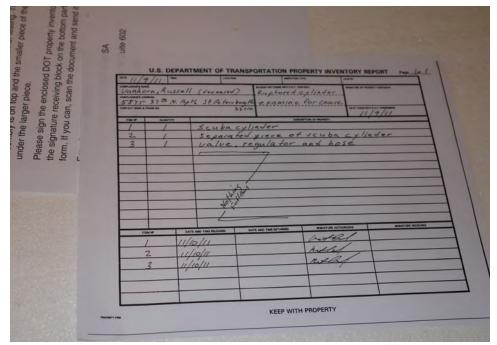




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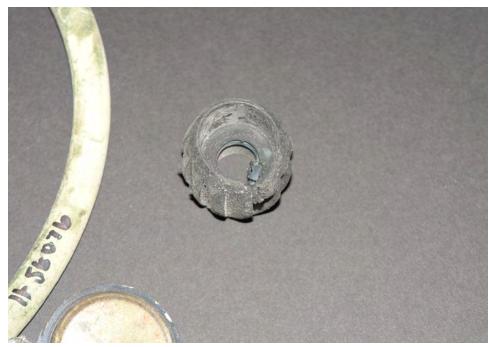




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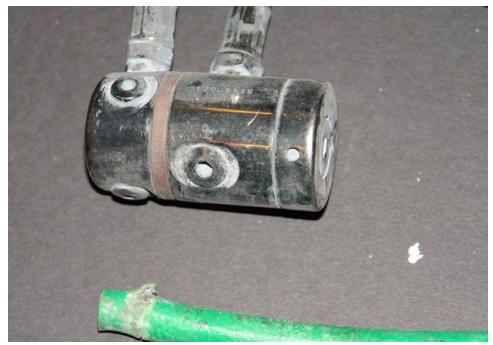




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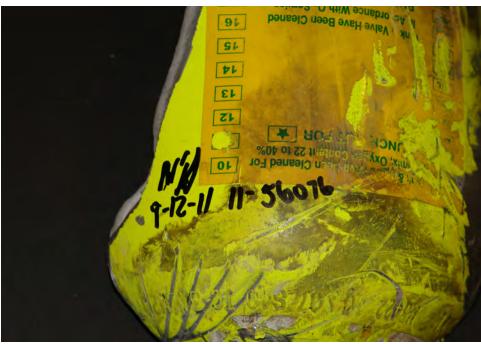






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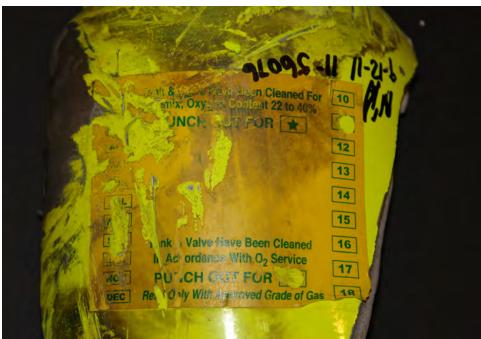




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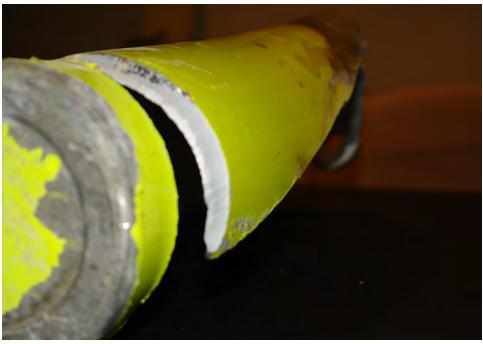






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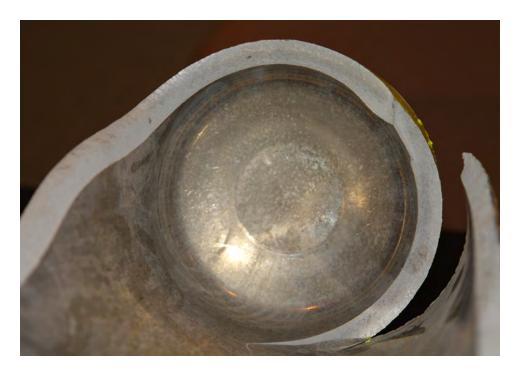








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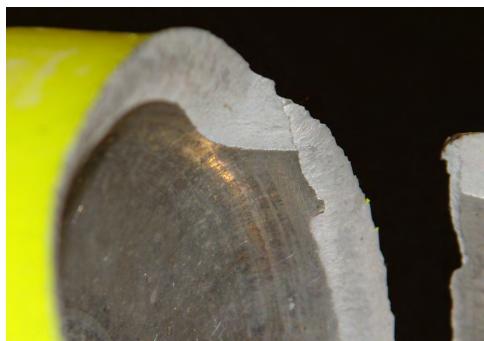


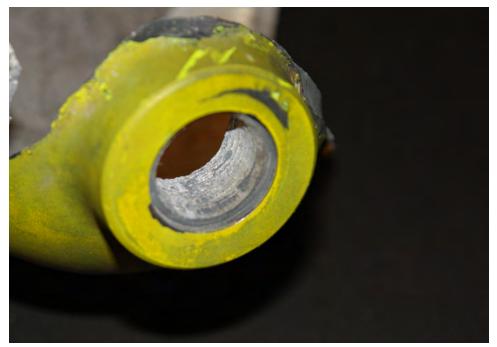


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ATTACHMENT 3

Exemplar Valve Photos

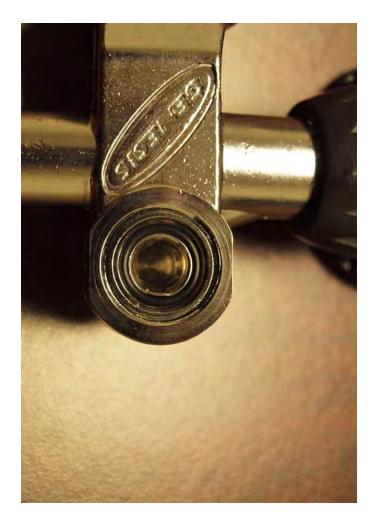








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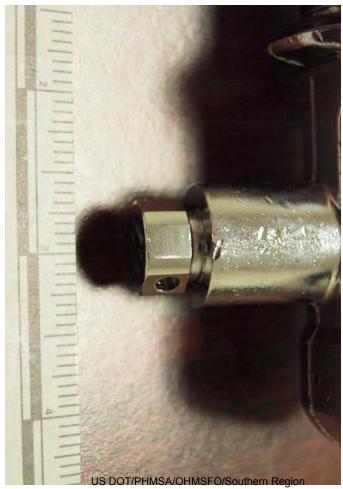


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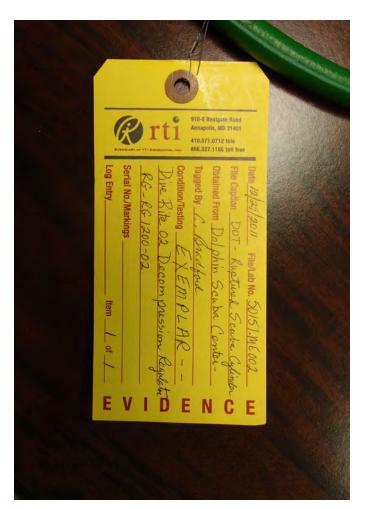




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ATTACHMENT 4

Exemplar Regulator Photos









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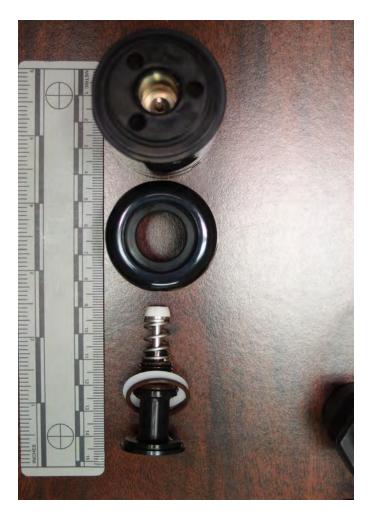








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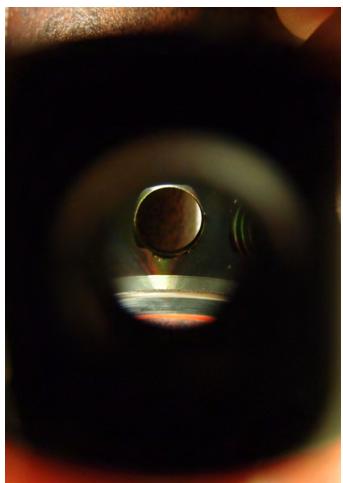






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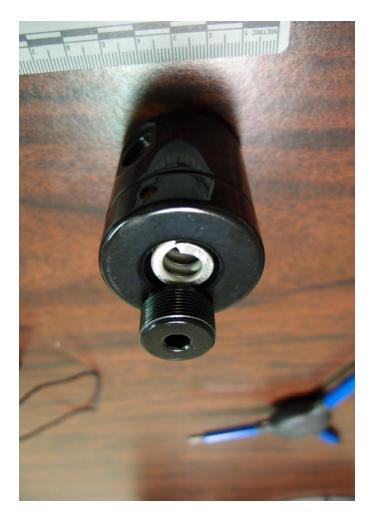








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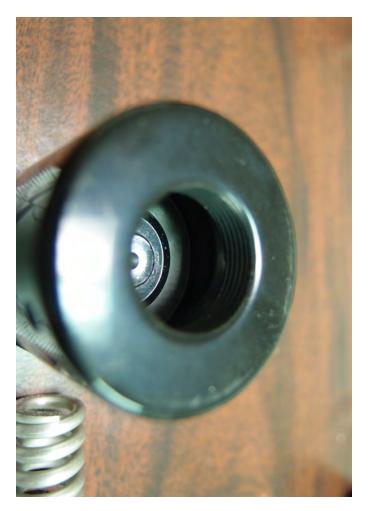








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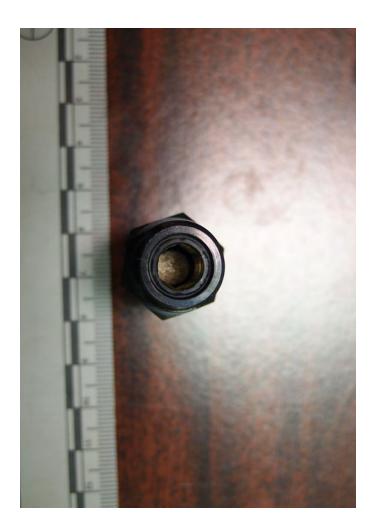








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ATTACHMENT 5

Testing Sign-in Sheet



Anamet, inc Materials Engineering & Laboratory Testing

26102 Eden Landing Road, suite 3 · HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94545 · (510) 887-8811 · Fax (510) 887-8427

Date: March 12, 2012

Matter: Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

Anamet Job Number: 5004.7109

RIT Matter No: 50151ME002

Name

Company Name

Representing

Business Card or Contact Information

Address 910-E Bestgate Tol

Phone

410-571-0712

Email

artitorensics, con

Name

Representing

Company Name

OT - PHMSA

U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

ADAM HORSLEY

Attorney-Advisor Office of the Chief Counsel

East Building, E26-202 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Tel: 202-366-8000 Fax: 202-366-7041 adam.horsley@dot.gov

Name

SILL OGIVER

Company Name

Representing

SHERWOOD SCUBA, LLC.

16:11 Essi Saint Andrew Place, Sama Ana, Lalifornia 92705

Bill Oliver

Director of Product Development

bill@sherwoodscuba.com

TL:

714.259.4780 ext 7000

FX.

714,259,4789







Name

JORMAN YUEN

Company Name

Norman Yuen

Materials Engineer 510-887-8811

Materials Engineering & Laboratory Testing, Since 1958

26102 Eden Landing Rd., Suite 3 Hayward, CA 94545-3811 800-377-7768 • Fax: 510-887-8427

www.anametinc.com

norman@anametinc.com

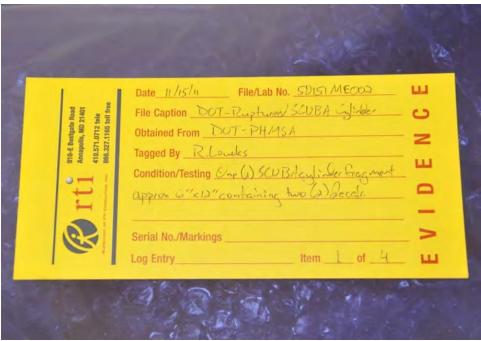
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Representing

ATTACHMENT 6

Photographs from Anamet Testing









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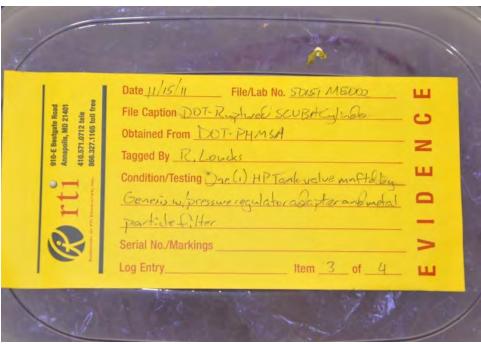
























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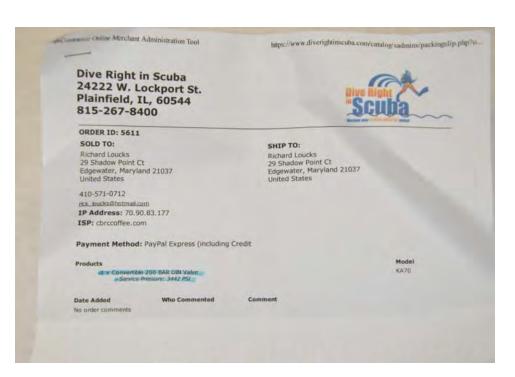


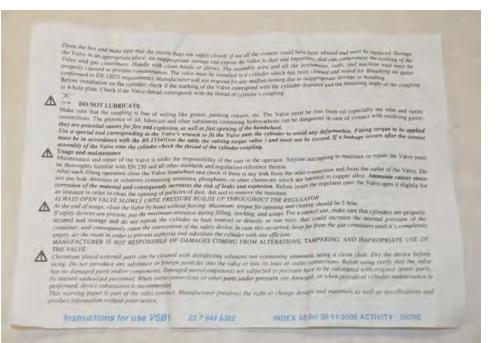




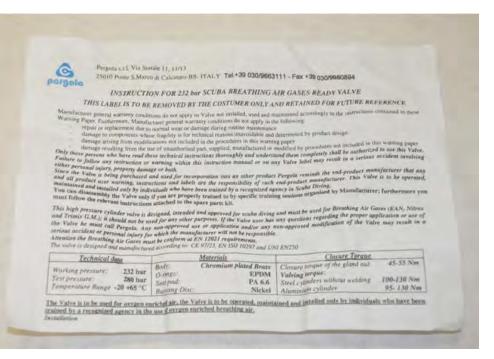


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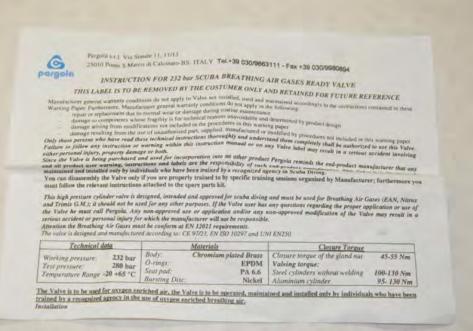






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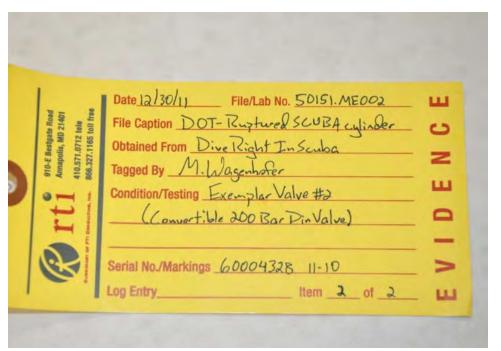




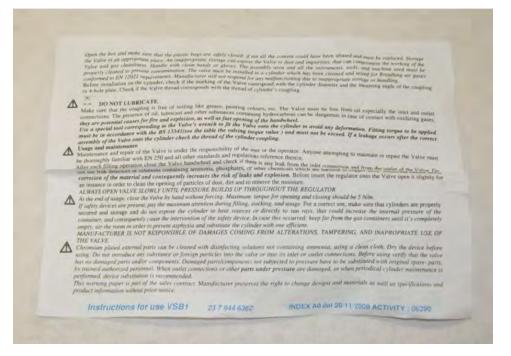




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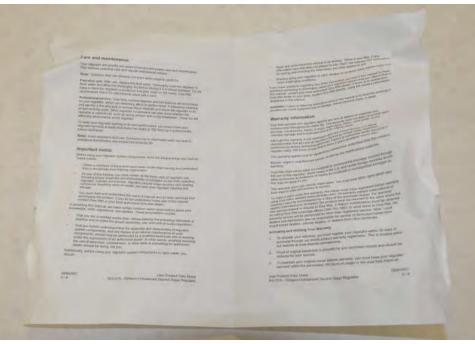




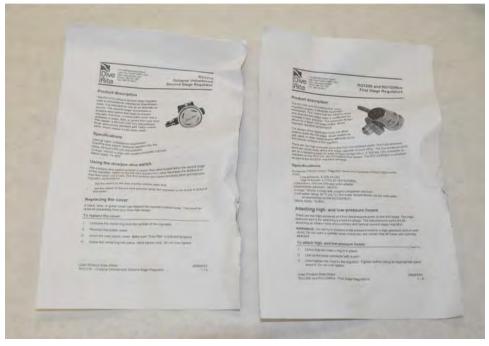


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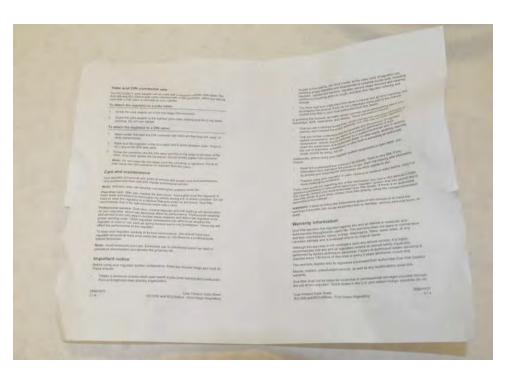




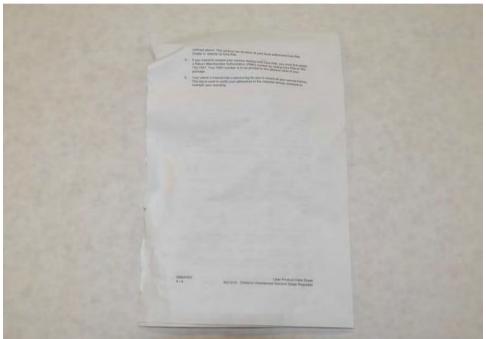


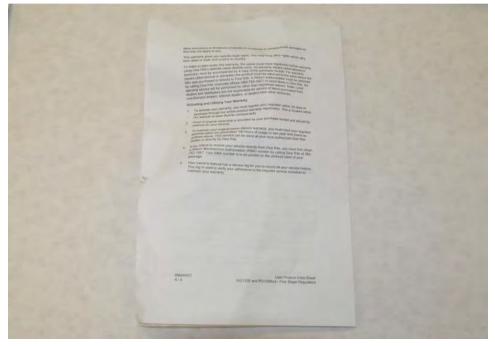


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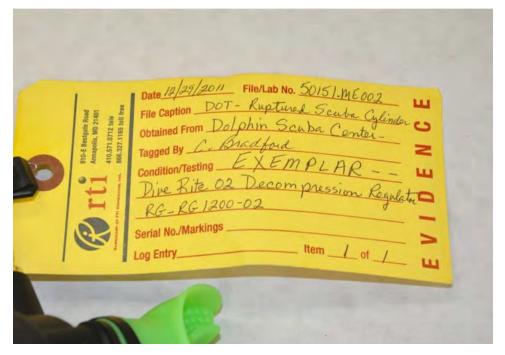












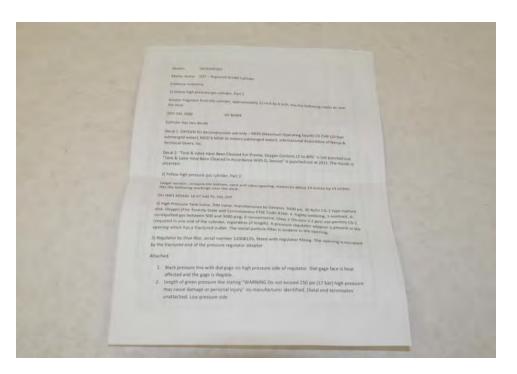






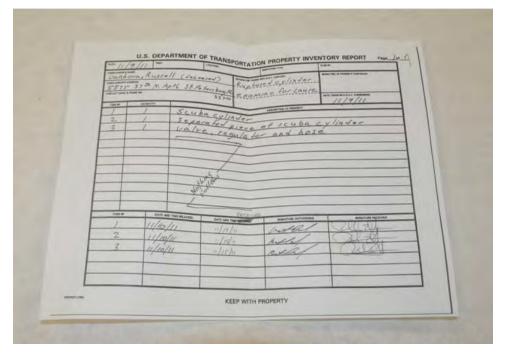


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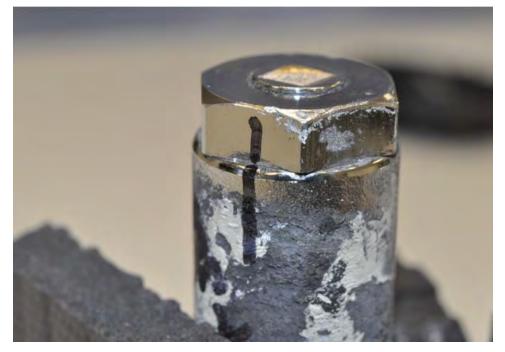


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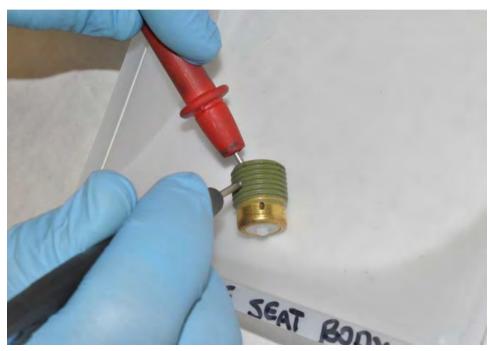




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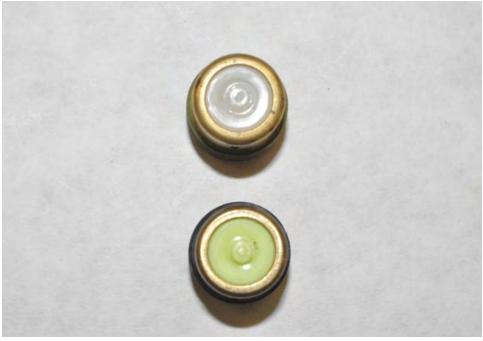






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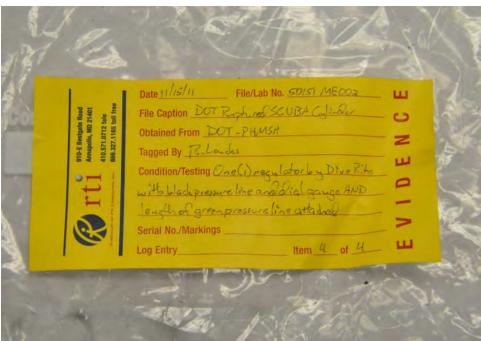






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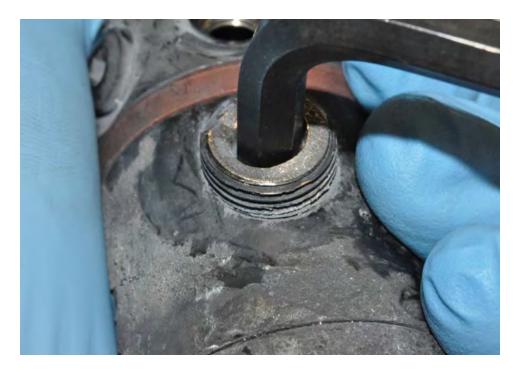








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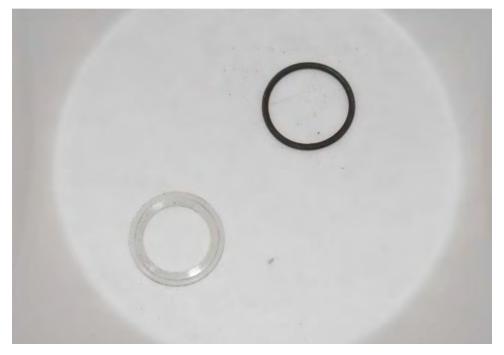


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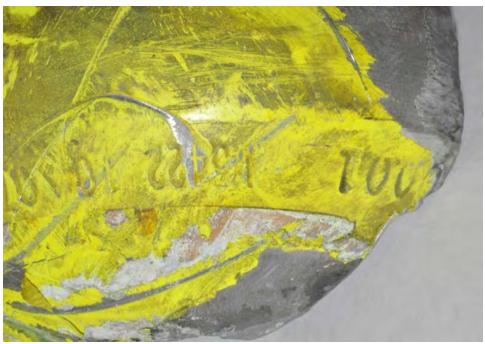


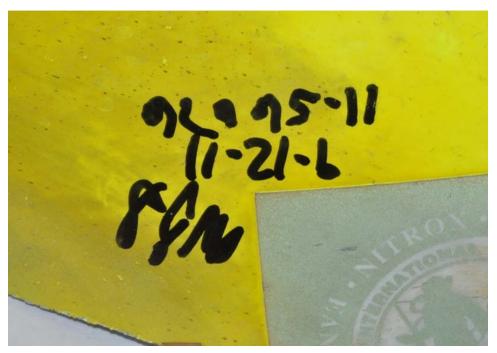




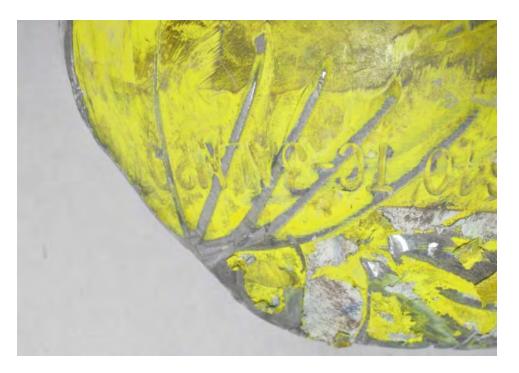
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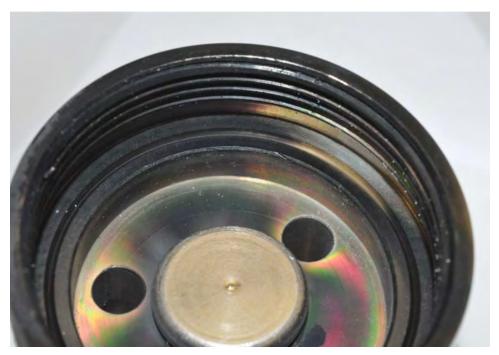


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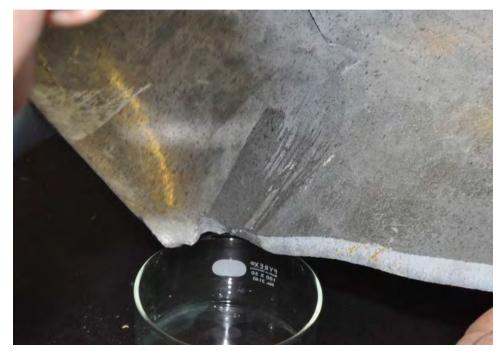


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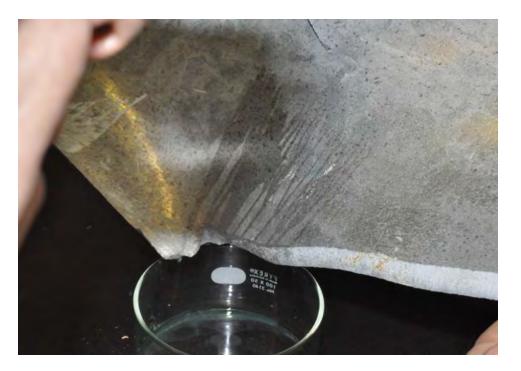




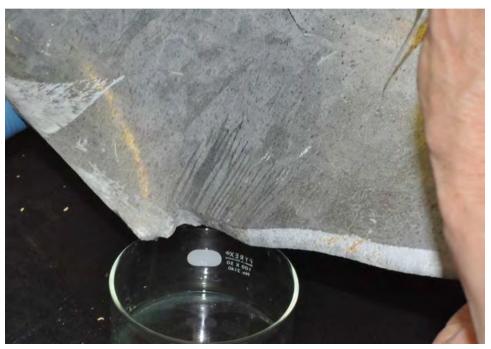




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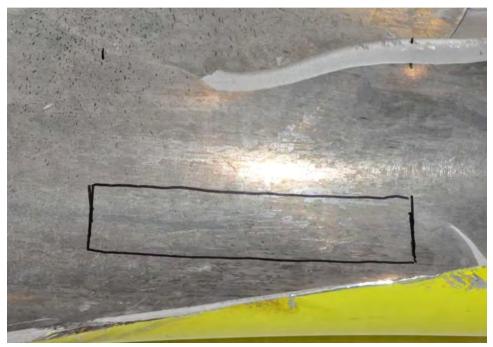


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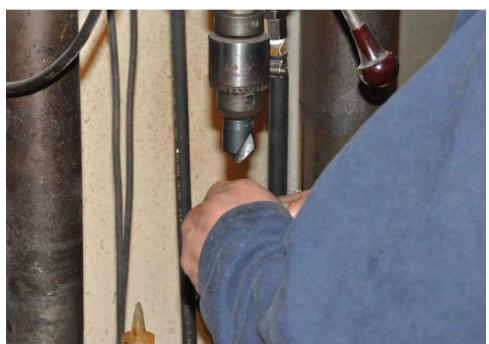




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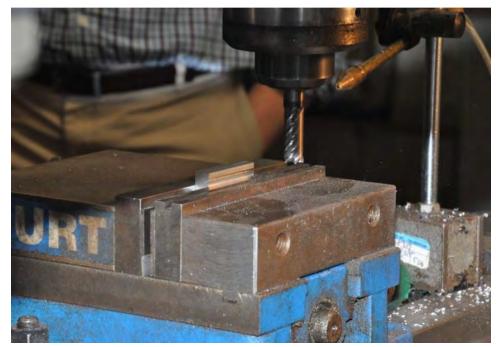




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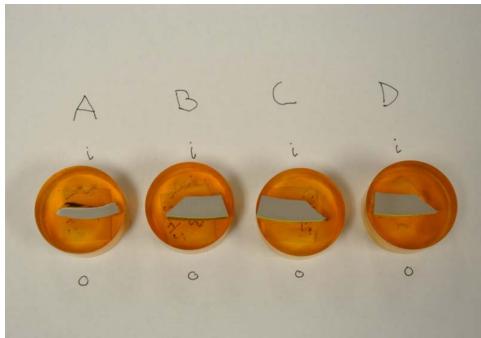




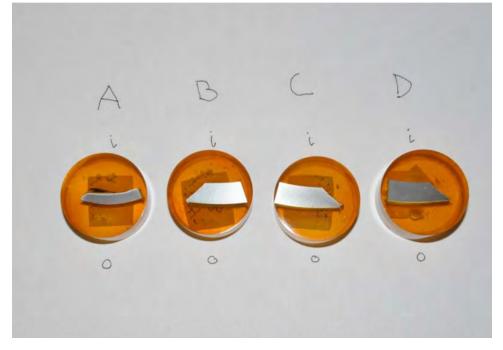


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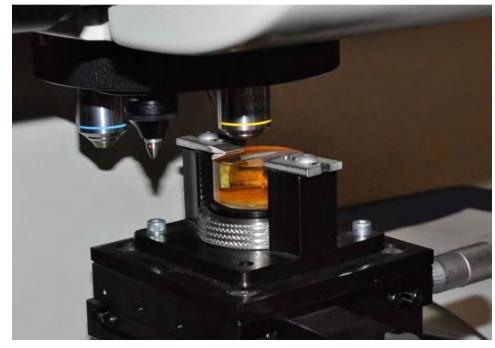


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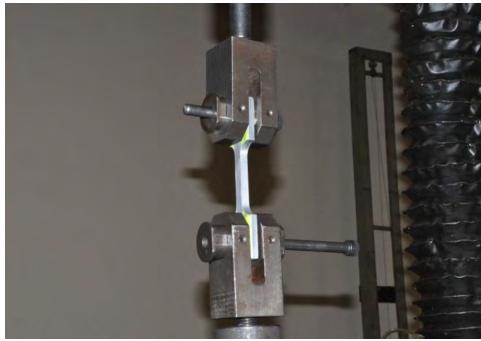


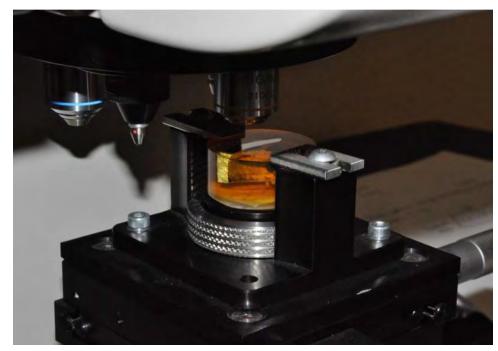




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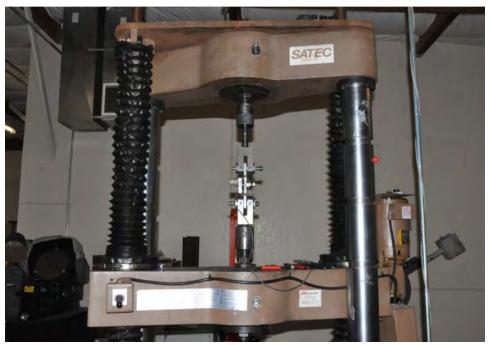




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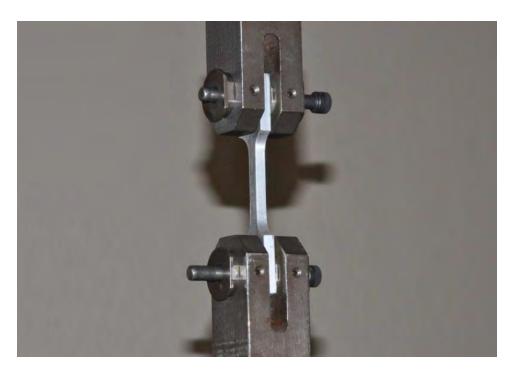


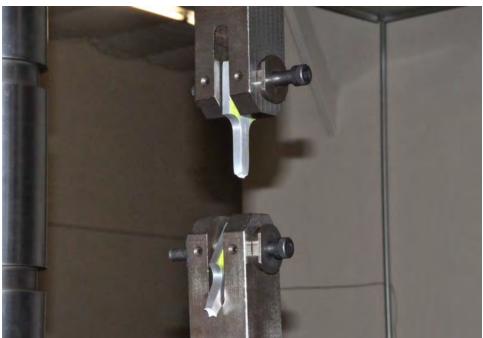


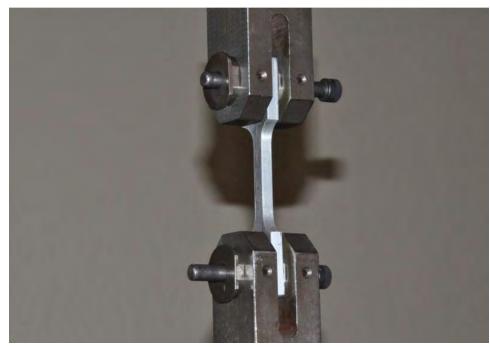


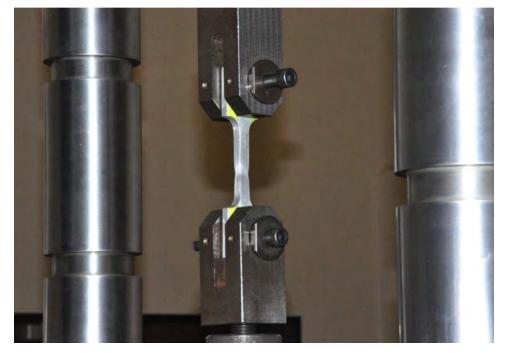


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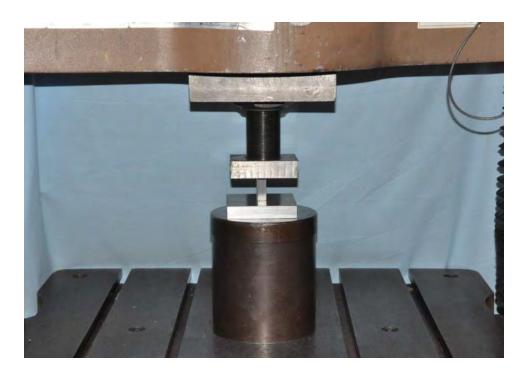


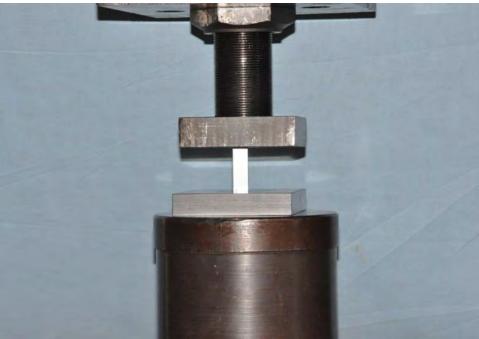




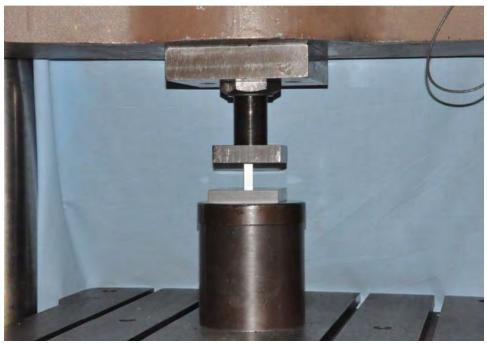


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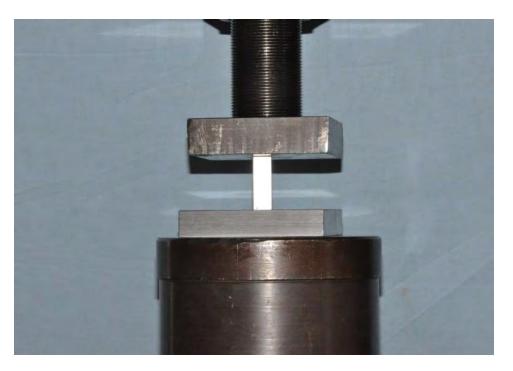








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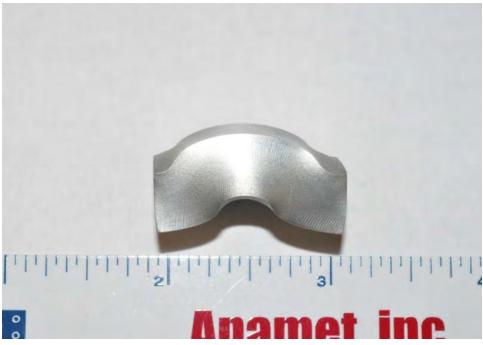




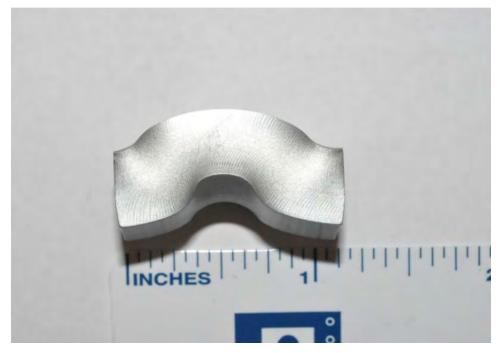


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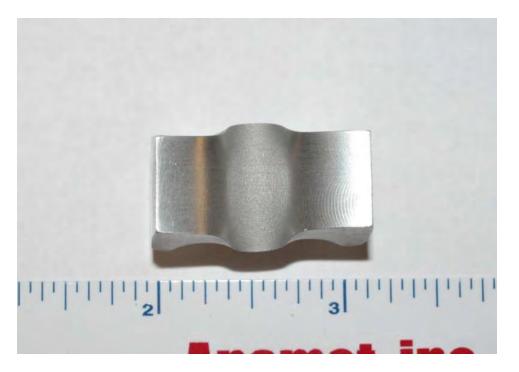


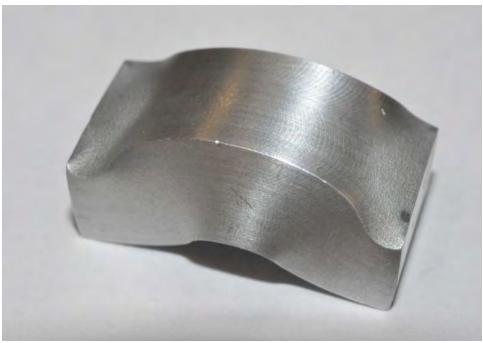


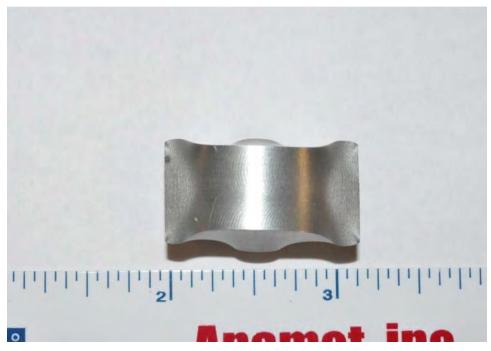




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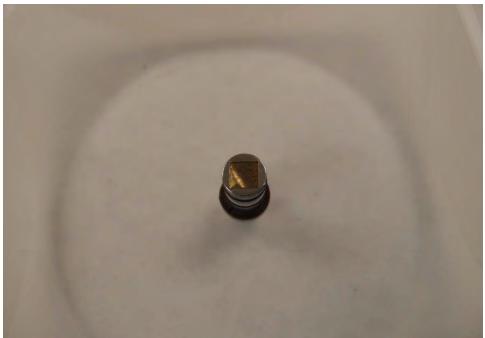


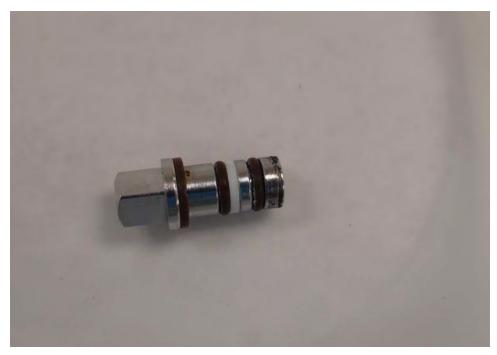




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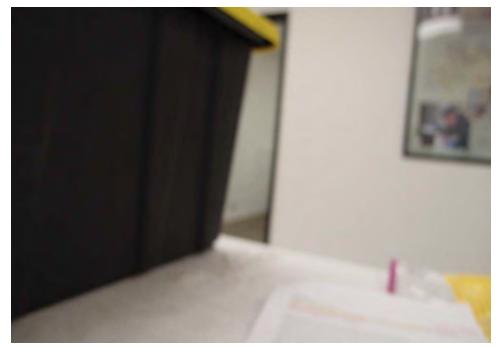




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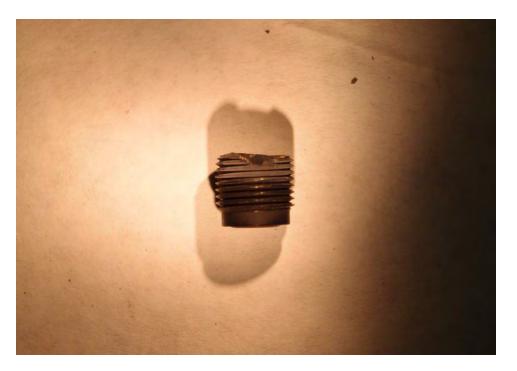


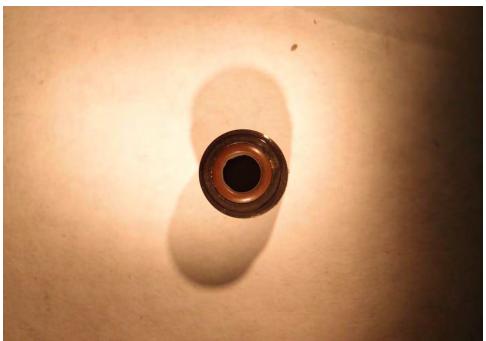


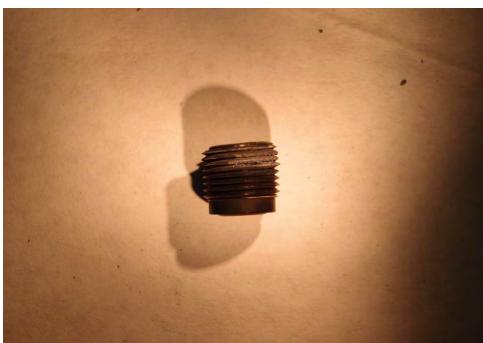


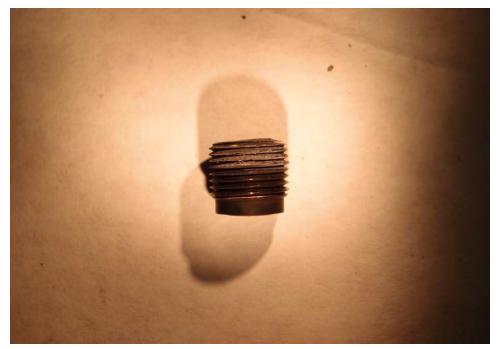


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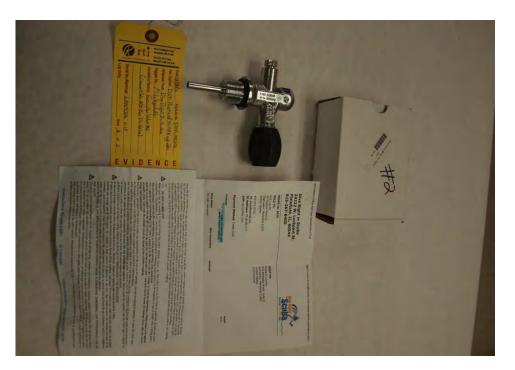








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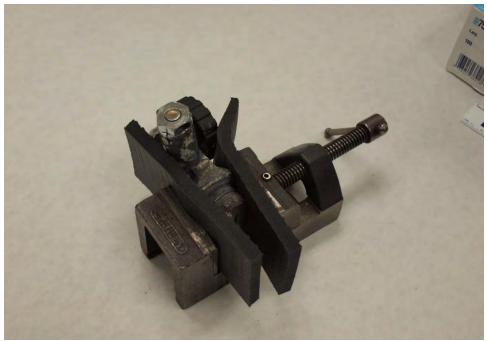






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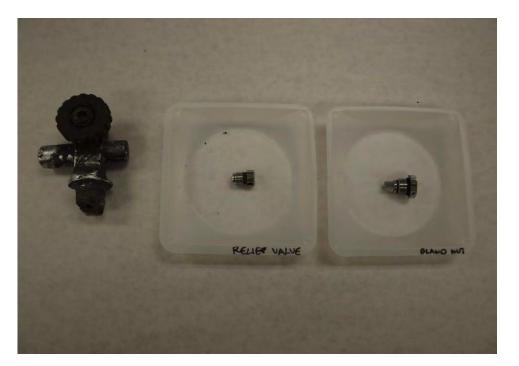


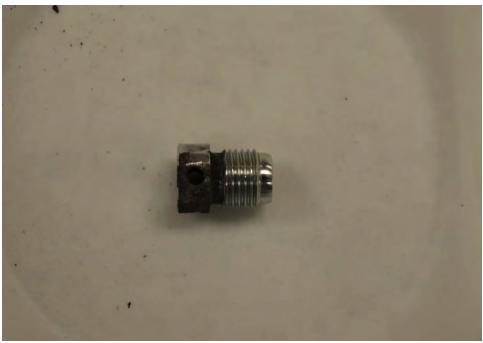


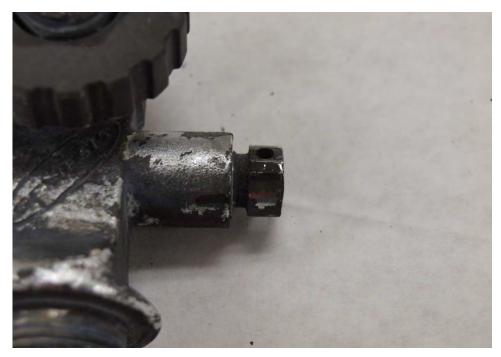




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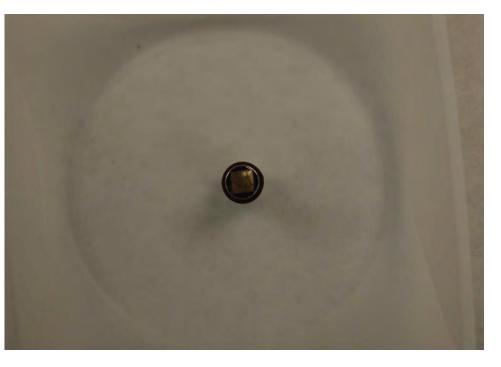


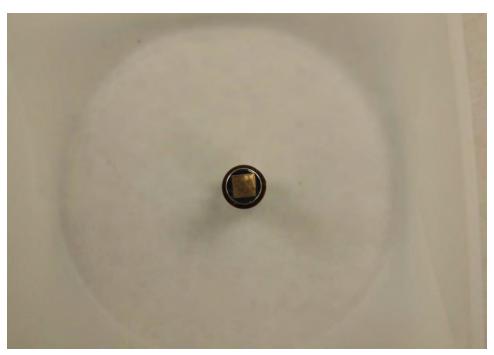




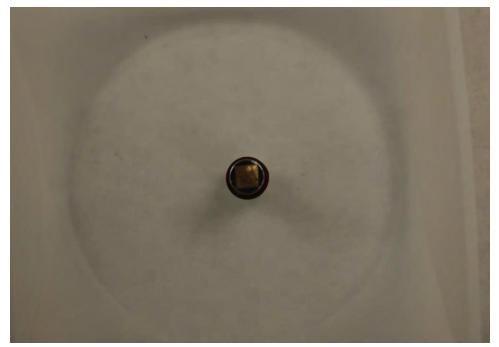


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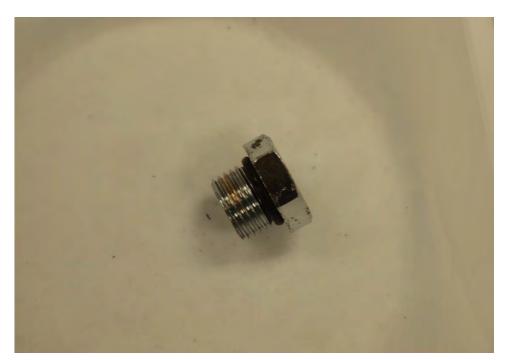


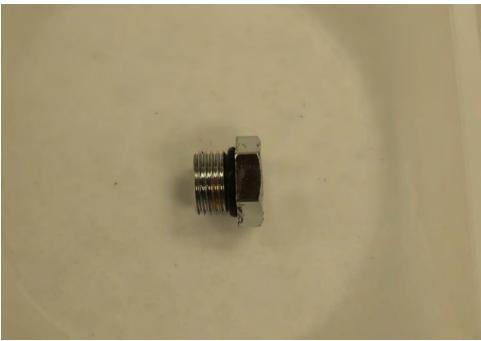


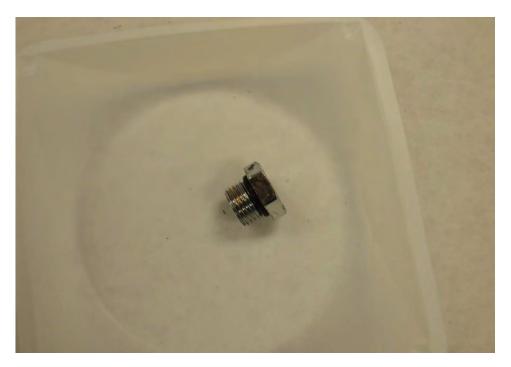


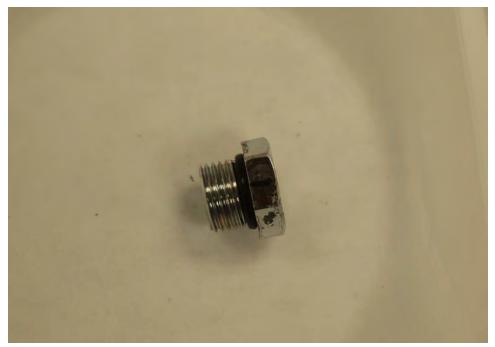


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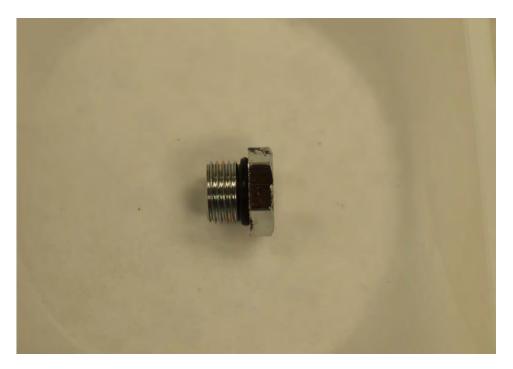




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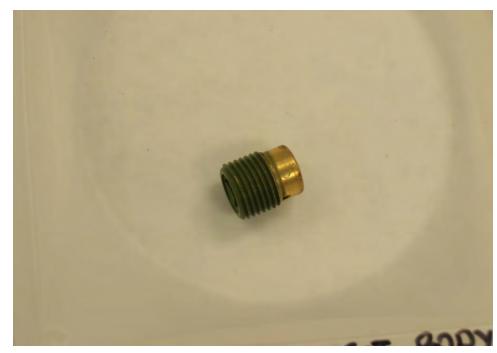


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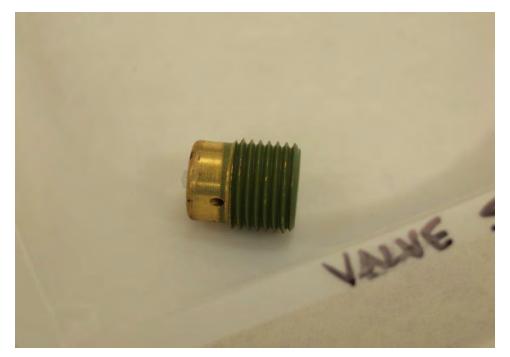


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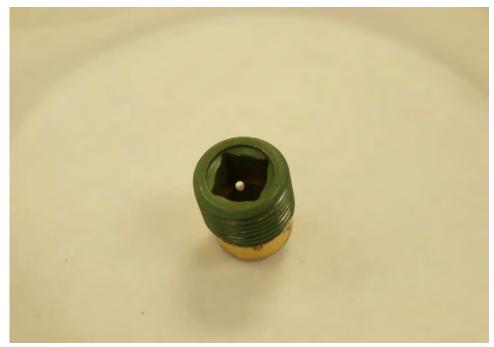




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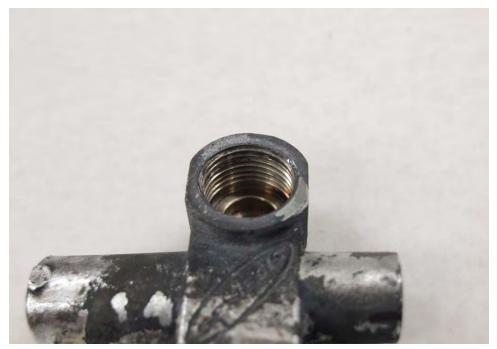


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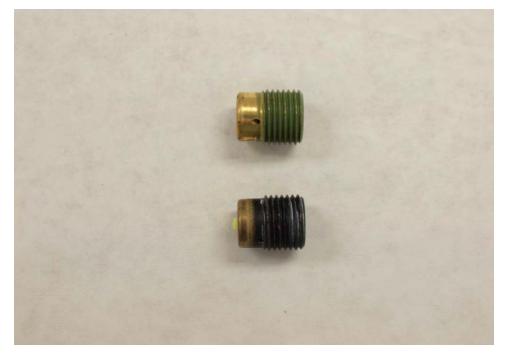


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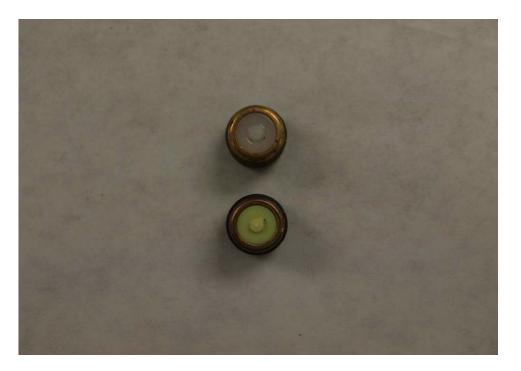






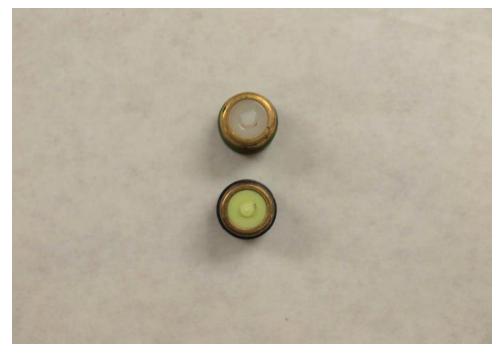


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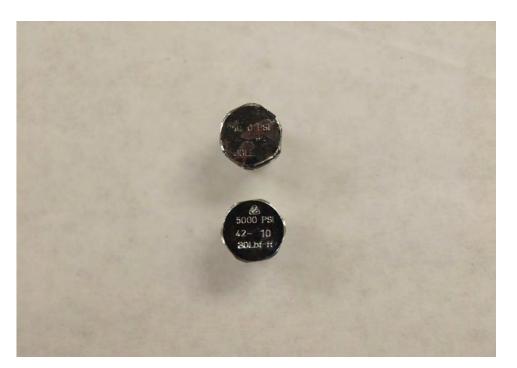


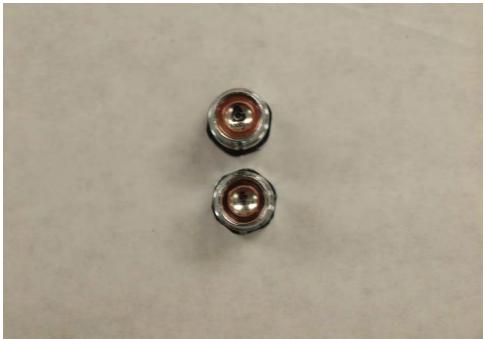


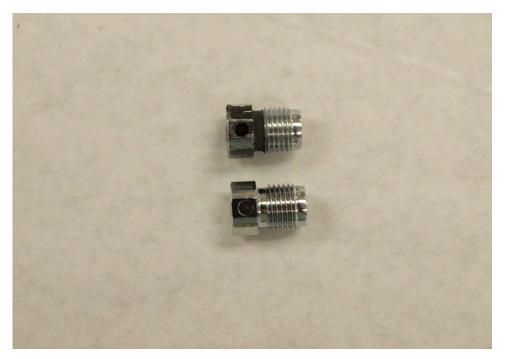




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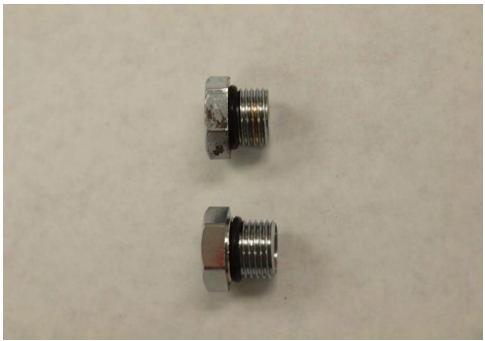


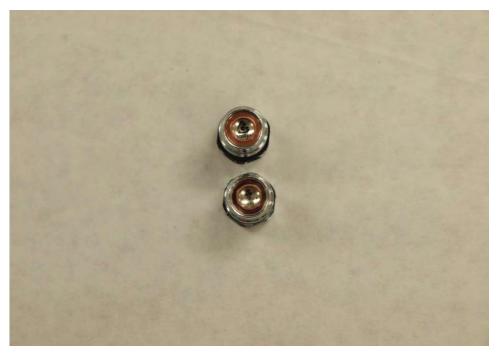




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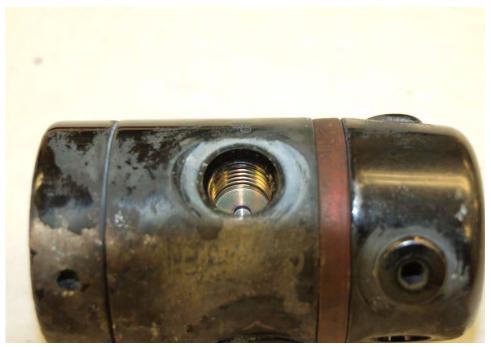




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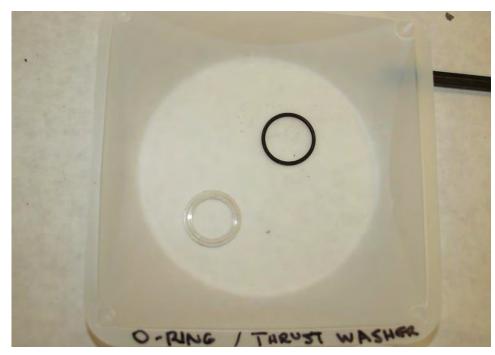




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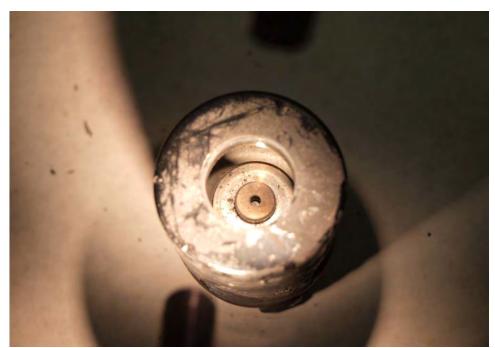




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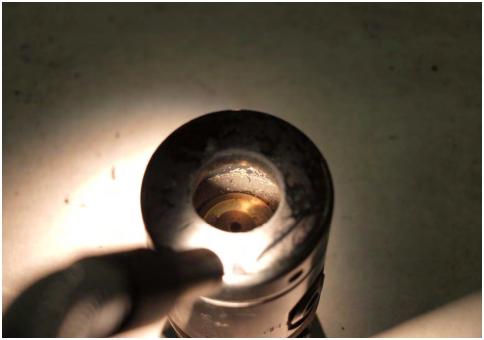




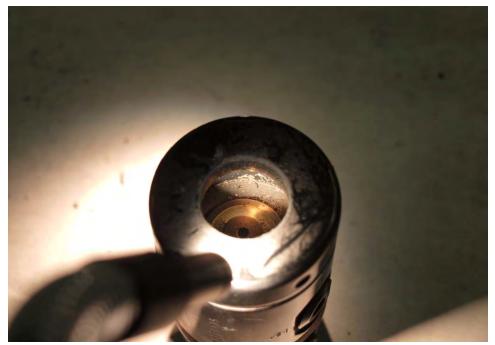


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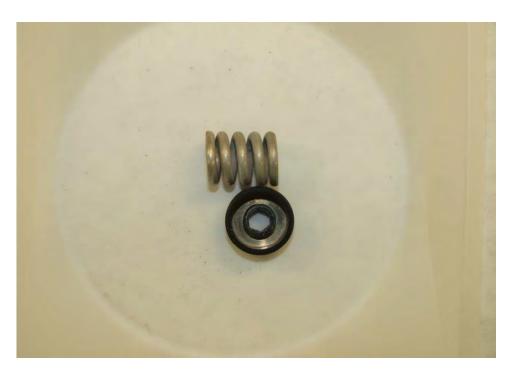








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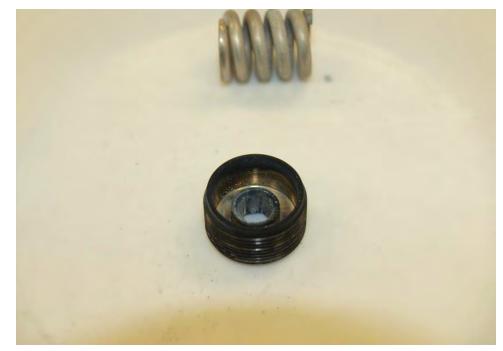


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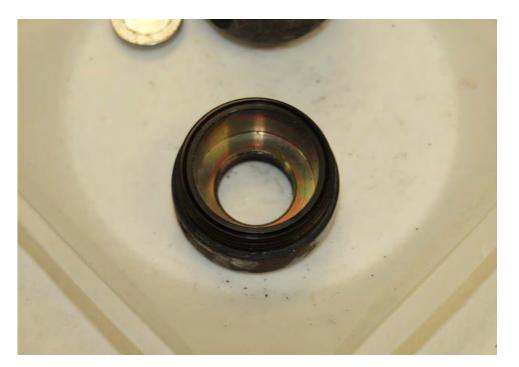








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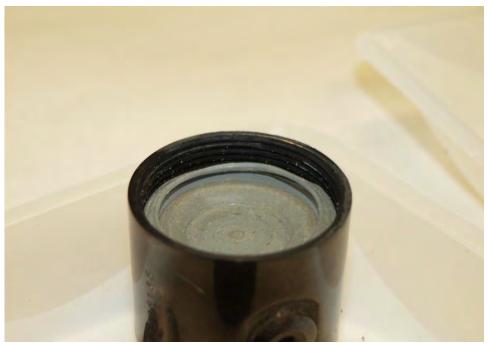




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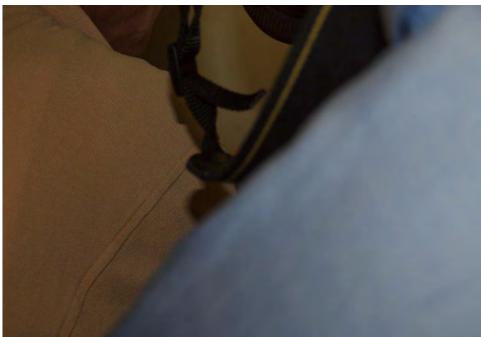




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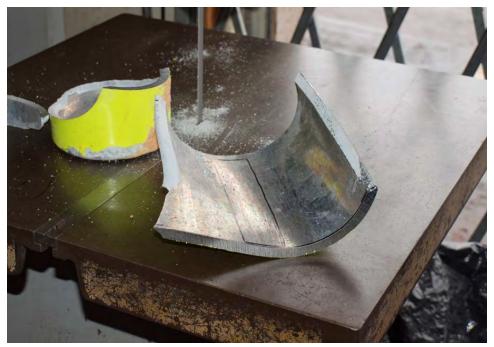


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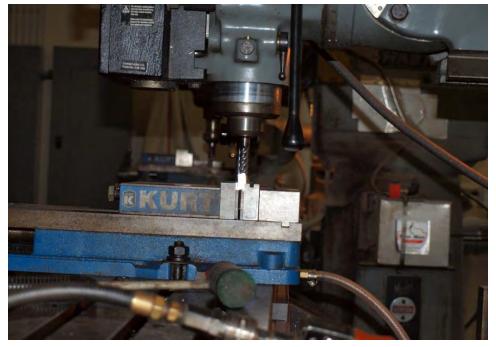


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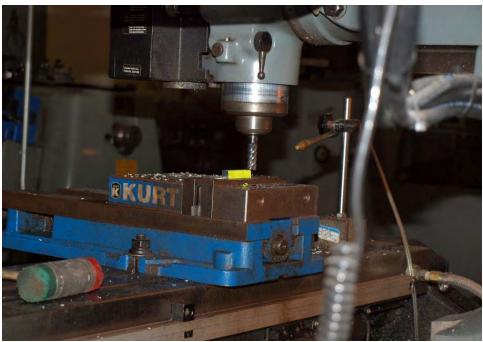


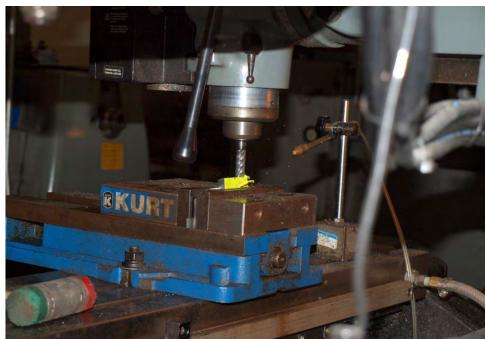


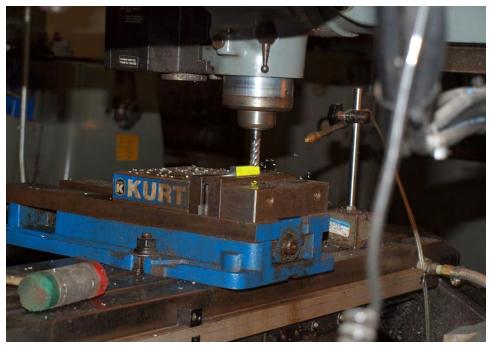


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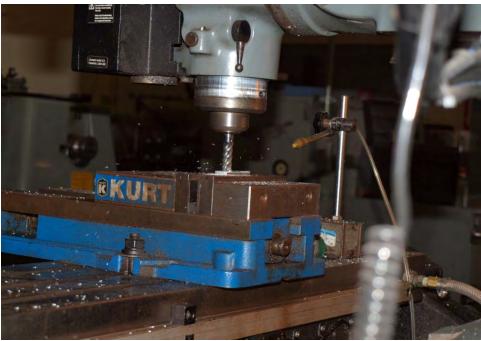


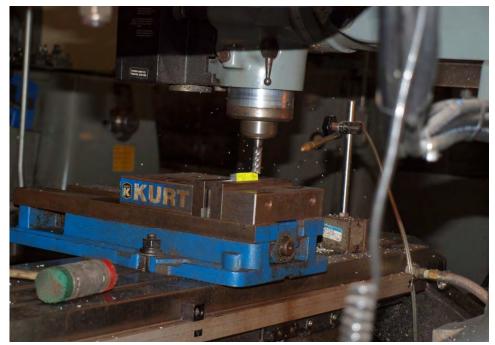


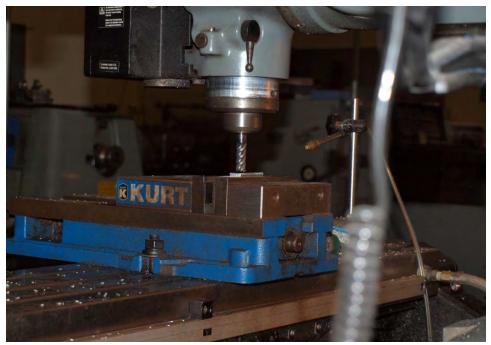


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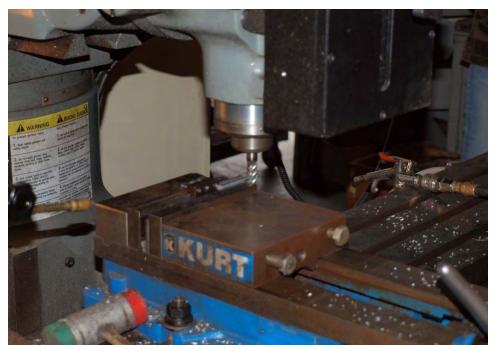


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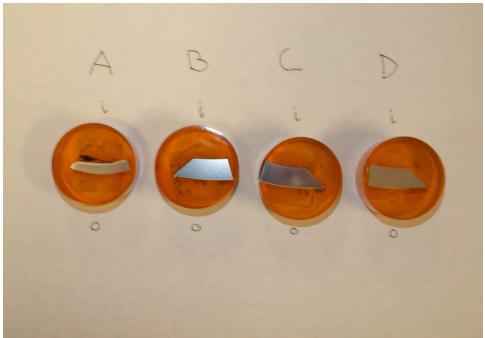






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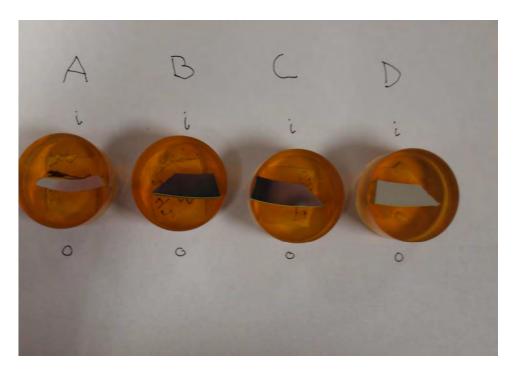


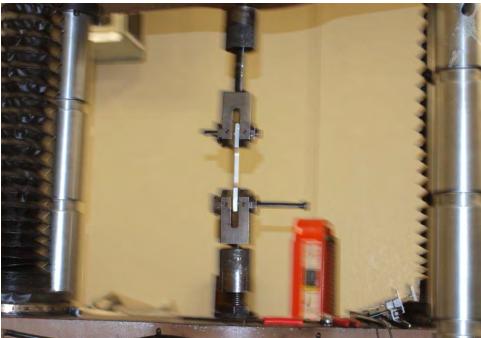


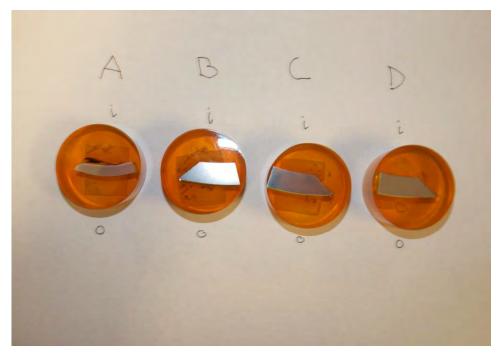




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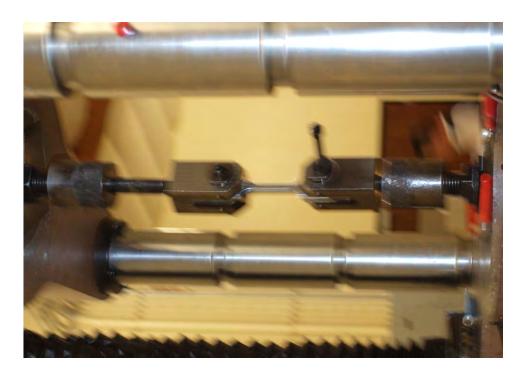




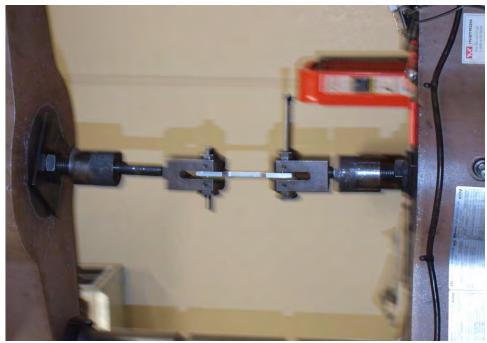


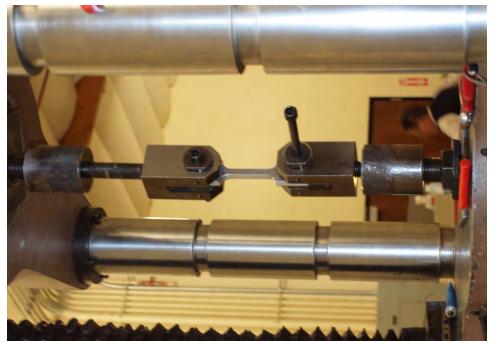


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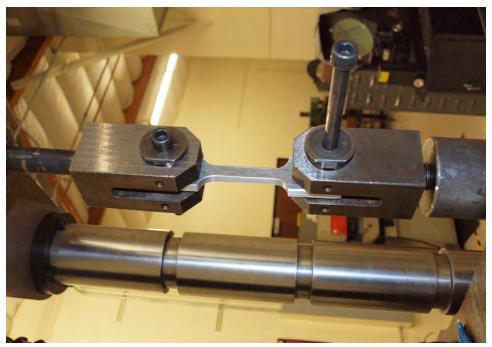


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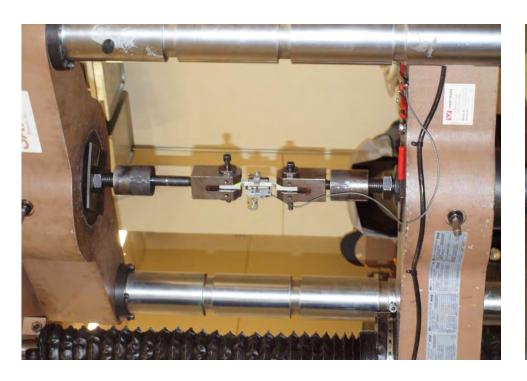


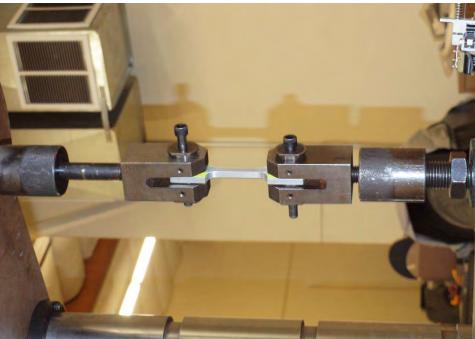






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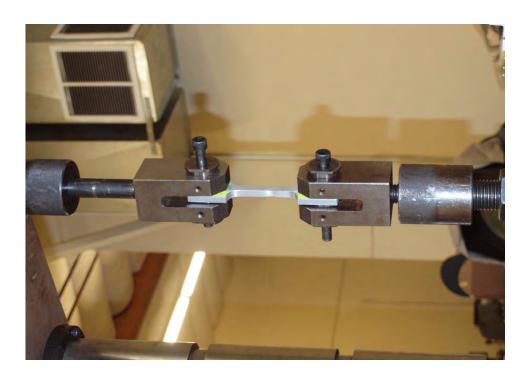


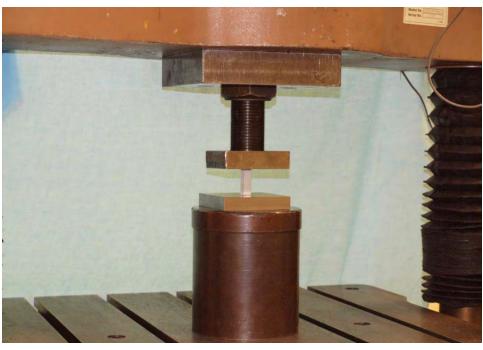


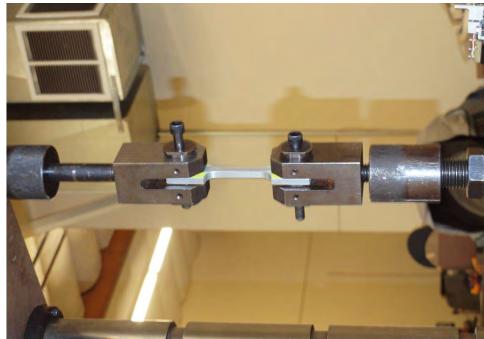




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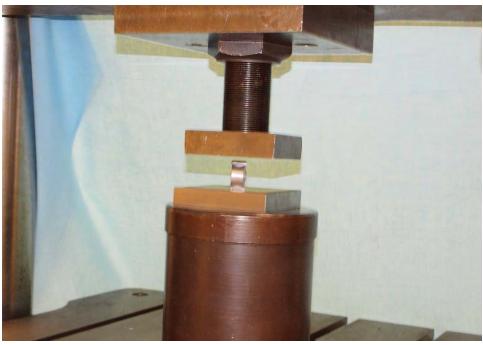




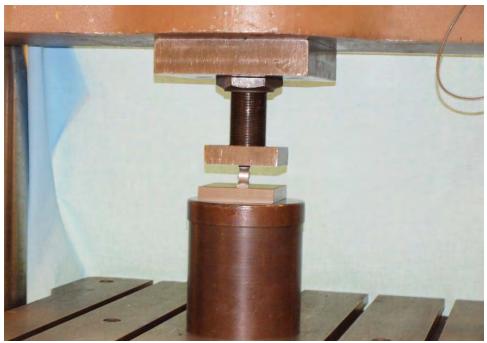


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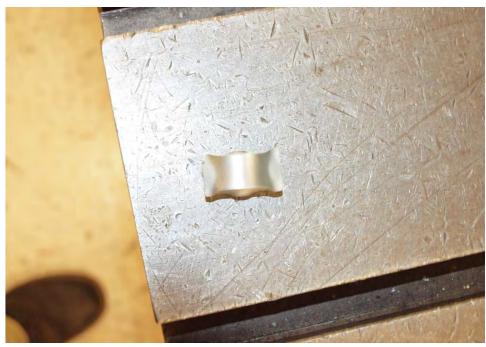




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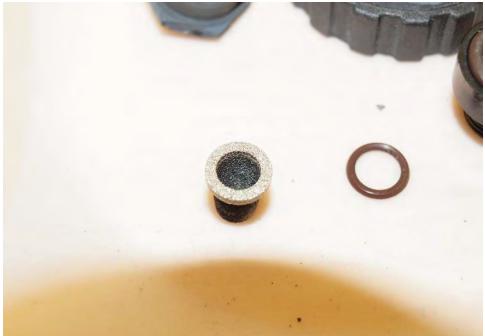






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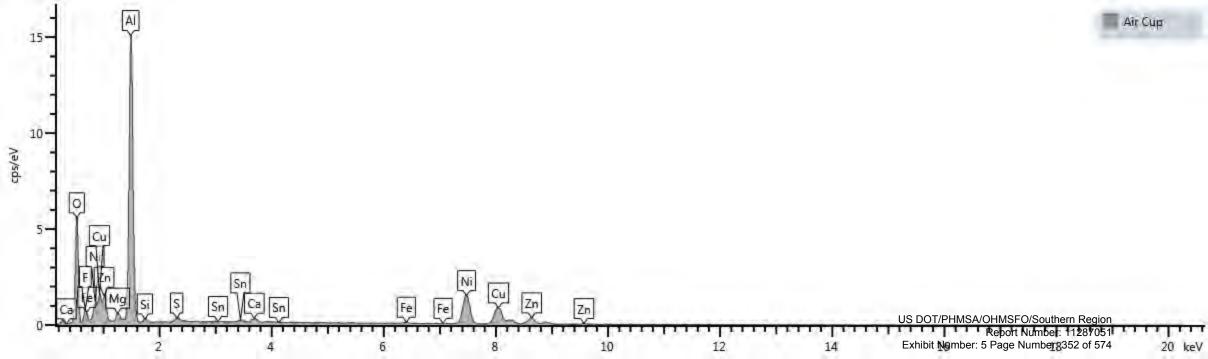


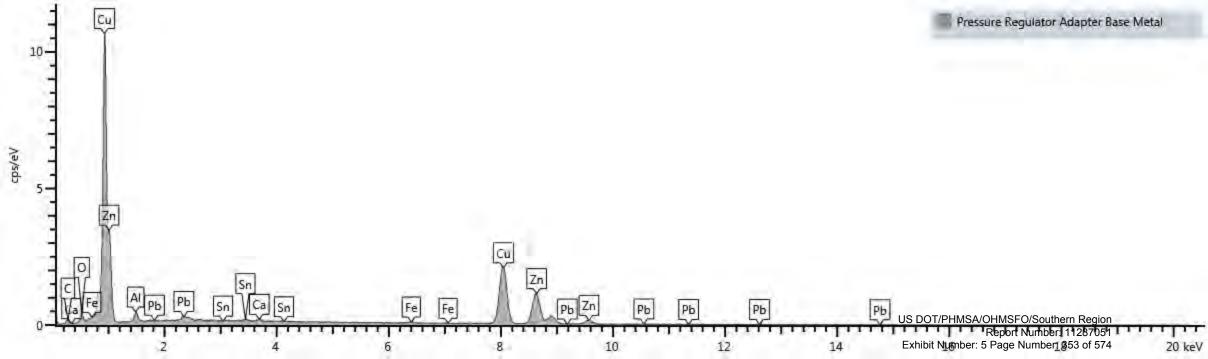


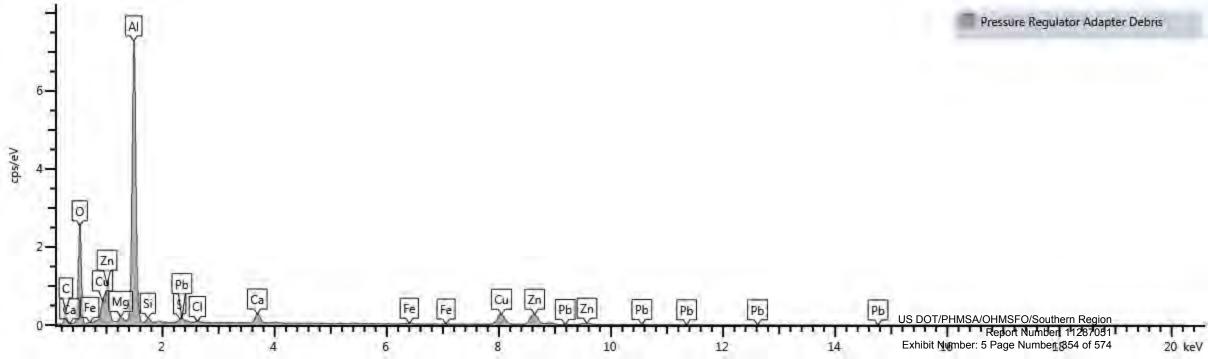
US DOT/PHMSA/OHMSFO/Southern Region Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 5 Page Number: 350 of 574

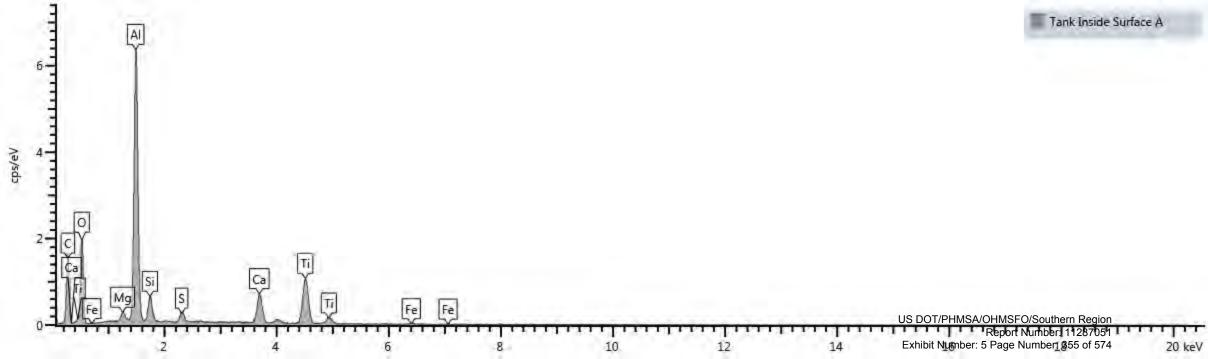
ATTACHMENT 7

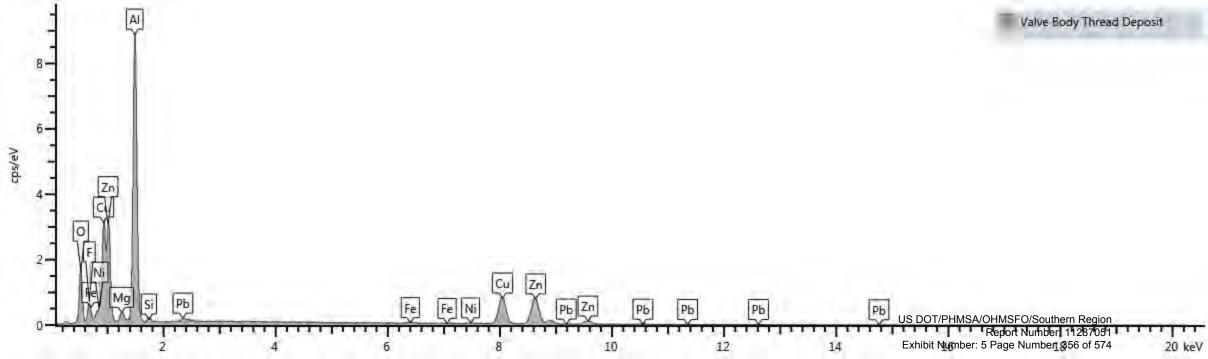
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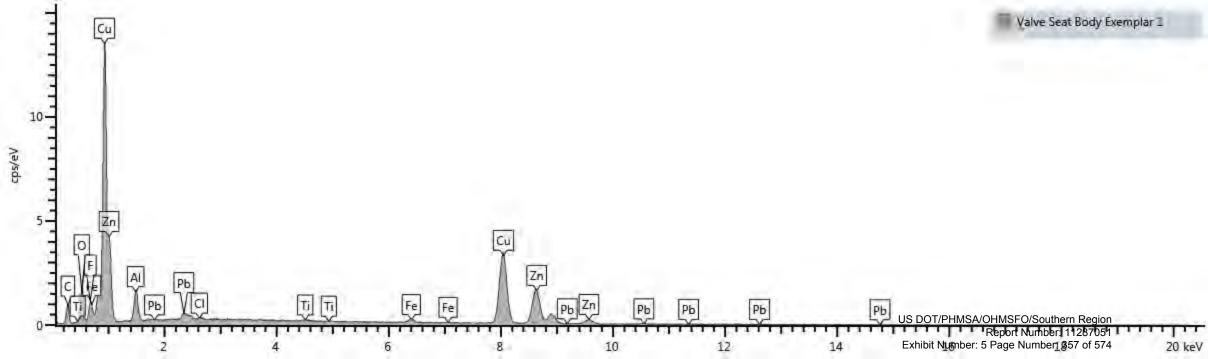


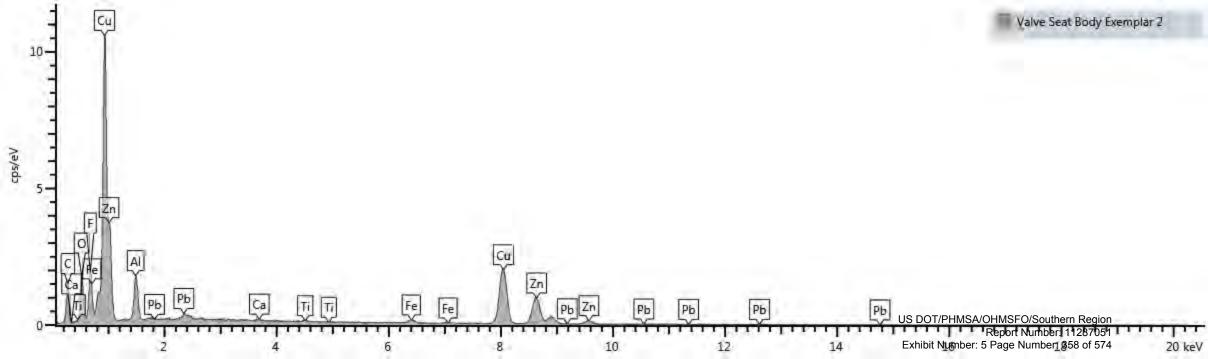


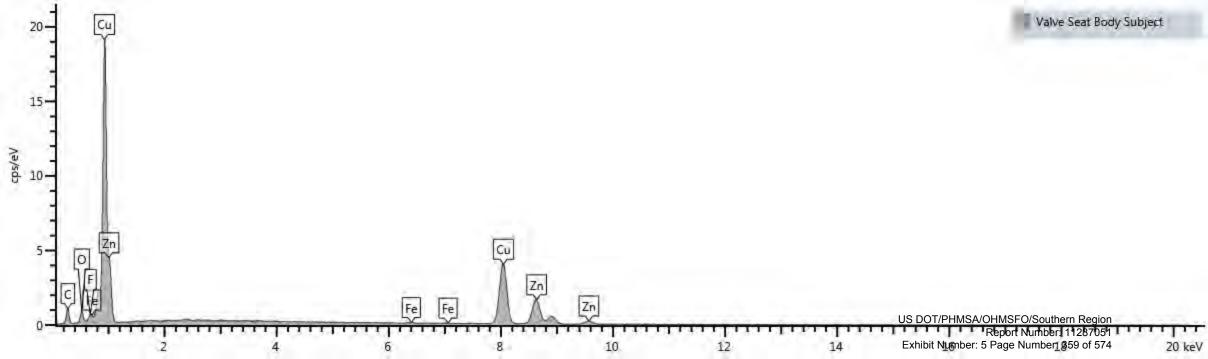


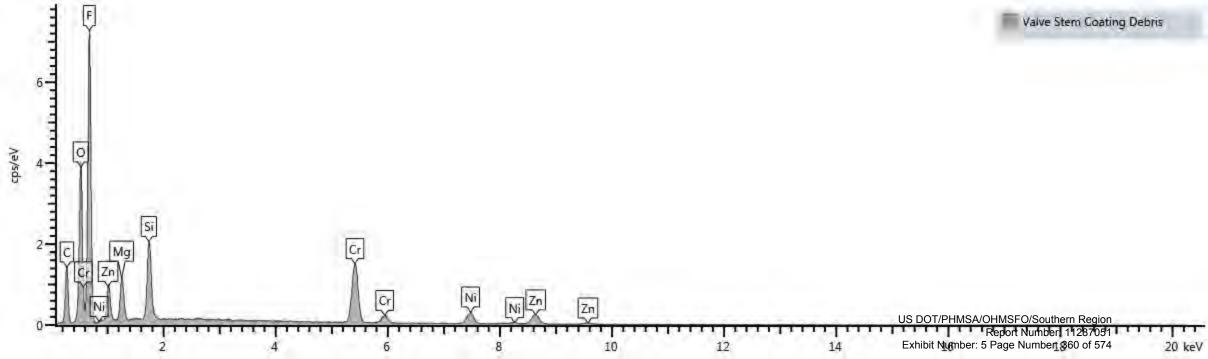


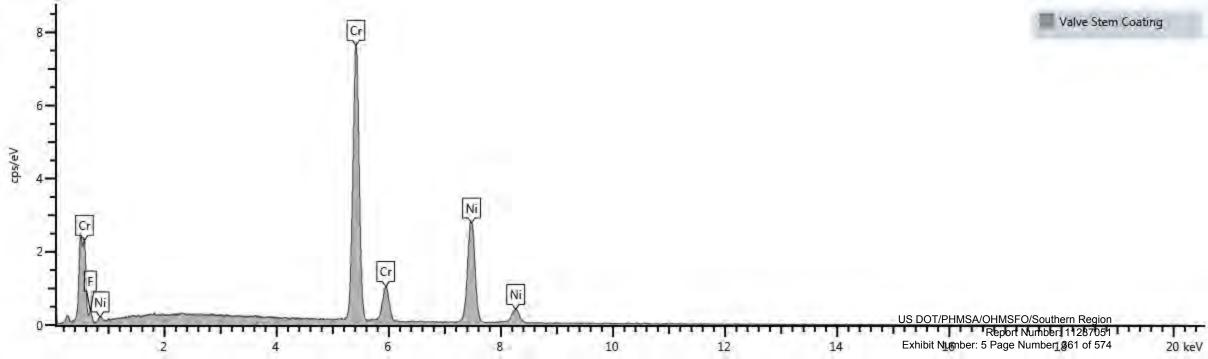


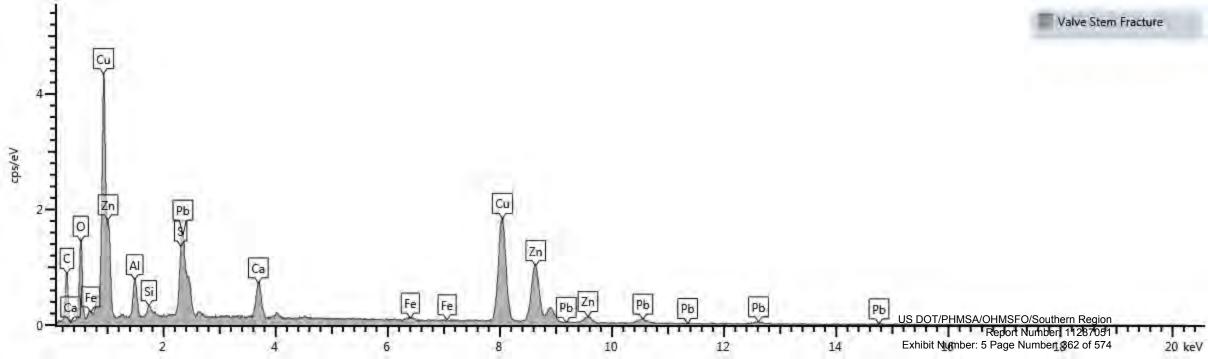












Air Cup

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
0	K_series	5.20	0.01749	26.49	0.23	SiO2	Yes	
F	K_series	1.06	0.00208	4.44	0.17	CaF2	Yes	
Mg	K_series	0.10	0.00063	1.00	0.06	MgO	Yes	
Al	K_series	3.65	0.02623	31.48	0.19	Al203	Yes	
Si	K_series	0.05	0.00038	0.49	0.04	SiO2	Yes	
S	K_series	0.05	0.00046	0.39	0.04	FeS2	Yes	
Ca	K_series	0.08	0.00069	0.42	0.04	Wollastonite	Yes	
Fe	K_series	0.06	0.00064	0.36	0.06	Fe	Yes	
Ni	K_series	2.69	0.02688	15.99	0.18	Ni	Yes	
Cu	K_series	1.94	0.01937	12.33	0.20	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	0.90	0.00901	5.85	0.18	Zn	Yes	
Sn	L_series	0.11	0.00106	0.75	0.09	Sn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Pressure Regulator Adapter Debris

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
С				88.47				
0	K_series	2.37	0.00797	7.56	0.07	SiO2	Yes	
Mg	K_series	0.03	0.00021	0.04	0.00	MgO	Yes	
Al	K_series	1.75	0.01260	1.86	0.01	Al2O3	Yes	
Si	K_series	0.03	0.00025	0.03	0.00	SiO2	Yes	
S	K_series	0.02	0.00015	0.02	0.00	FeS2	Yes	
Cl	K_series	0.01	0.00010	0.01	0.00	NaCl	Yes	
Ca	K_series	0.11	0.00101	0.12	0.00	Wollastonite	Yes	
Fe	K_series	0.02	0.00019	0.02	0.00	Fe	Yes	
Cu	K_series	0.58	0.00579	0.79	0.02	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	0.73	0.00730	1.00	0.02	Zn	Yes	
Pb	M_series	0.07	0.00067	0.08	0.01	PbTe	Yes	_
Total:				100.00				

3/14/2012

Pressure Regulator Adapter Base Metal

5004.7109 RTI Group

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cu	K_series	4.63	0.04633	60.35	0.37	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	3.05	0.03054	39.65	0.37	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Tank Inside Surface A

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
0	K_series	1.94	0.00654	48.57	0.47	SiO2	Yes	
Mg	K_series	0.05	0.00032	0.98	0.09	MgO	Yes	
Al	K_series	1.54	0.01103	27.92	0.30	Al203	Yes	
Si	K_series	0.14	0.00111	3.30	0.12	SiO2	Yes	
S	K_series	0.07	0.00064	1.42	0.08	FeS2	Yes	
Ca	K_series	0.33	0.00294	5.13	0.12	Wollastonite	Yes	
Ti	K_series	0.65	0.00647	12.37	0.21	Ti	Yes	
Fe	K_series	0.02	0.00016	0.30	0.10	Fe	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Valve Body Thread Deposit

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
С				86.25				
0	K_series	1.54	0.00519	4.77	0.08	SiO2	Yes	
F	K_series	0.83	0.00164	0.90	0.03	CaF2	Yes	
Mg	K_series	0.07	0.00049	0.09	0.00	MgO	Yes	
Al	K_series	2.14	0.01535	2.38	0.01	Al2O3	Yes	
Si	K_series	0.03	0.00021	0.03	0.00	SiO2	Yes	
Fe	K_series	0.03	0.00025	0.03	0.01	Fe	Yes	
Ni	K_series	0.04	0.00036	0.04	0.01	Ni	Yes	
Cu	K_series	1.80	0.01795	2.42	0.03	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	2.20	0.02201	2.98	0.04	Zn	Yes	
Pb	M_series	0.09	0.00079	0.10	0.01	PbTe	Yes	
Total:				100.00			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

3/14/2012

Valve Seat Body Exemplar 1

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cu	K_series	7.32	0.07318	62.01	0.36	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	4.50	0.04498	37.99	0.36	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

5004.7109 RTI Group 3/14/2012

Valve Seat Body Exemplar 2

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cu	K_series	4.45	0.04453	62.57	0.42	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	2.67	0.02672	37.43	0.42	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Valve Seat Body

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cu	K_series	8.82	0.08822	66.03	0.36	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	4.55	0.04553	33.97	0.36	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Valve Stem Fracture

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cu	K_series	3.93	0.03926	59.43	0.40	Cu	Yes	
Zn	K_series	2.69	0.02688	40.57	0.40	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

Valve Stem Coating

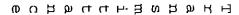
Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
Cr	K_series	6.39	0.06390	54.35	0.24	Cr	Yes	
Ni	K_series	4.98	0.04982	45.65	0.24	Ni	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

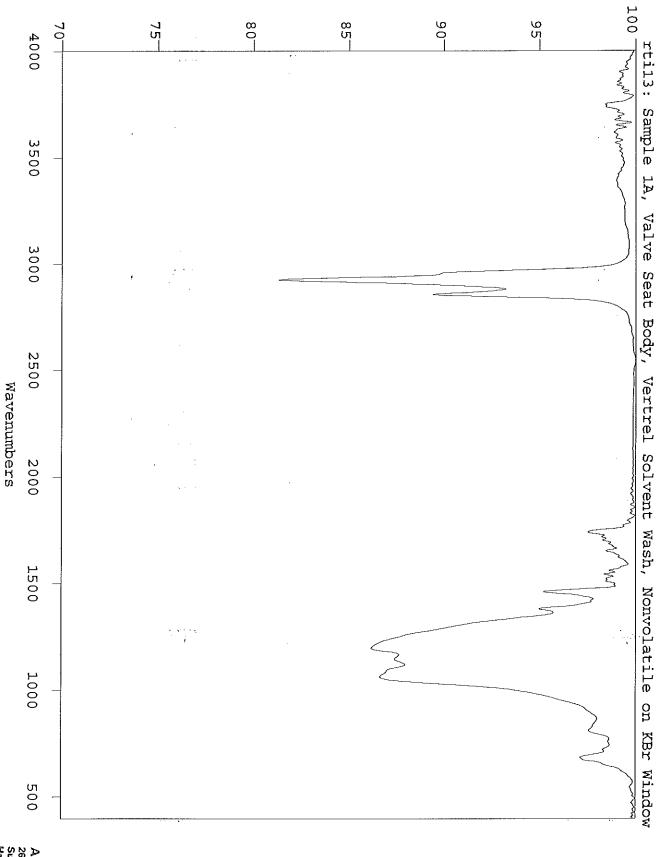
Valve Stem Coating Debris

Element	Line Type	Apparent Concentration	k Ratio	Wt%	Wt% Sigma	Standard Label	Default Standard	Standard Calibration Date
0	K_series	3.66	0.01233	16.22	0.17	SiO2	Yes	
F	K_series	9.72	0.01908	53.47	0.24	CaF2	Yes	
Mg	K_series	0.27	0.00180	4.22	0.08	MgO	Yes	
Si	K_series	0.48	0.00377	5.15	0.07	SiO2	Yes	
Cr	K_series	1.23	0.01235	10.83	0.11	Cr	Yes	
Ni	K_series	0.46	0.00457	3.97	0.10	Ni	Yes	
Zn	K_series	0.65	0.00653	6.15	0.16	Zn	Yes	
Total:				100.00				

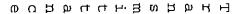
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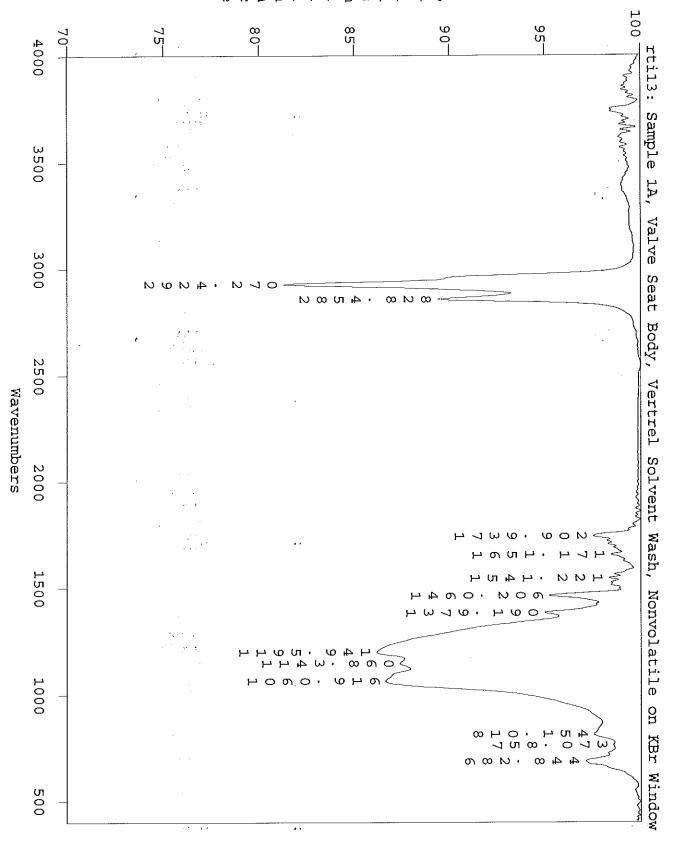
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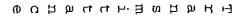


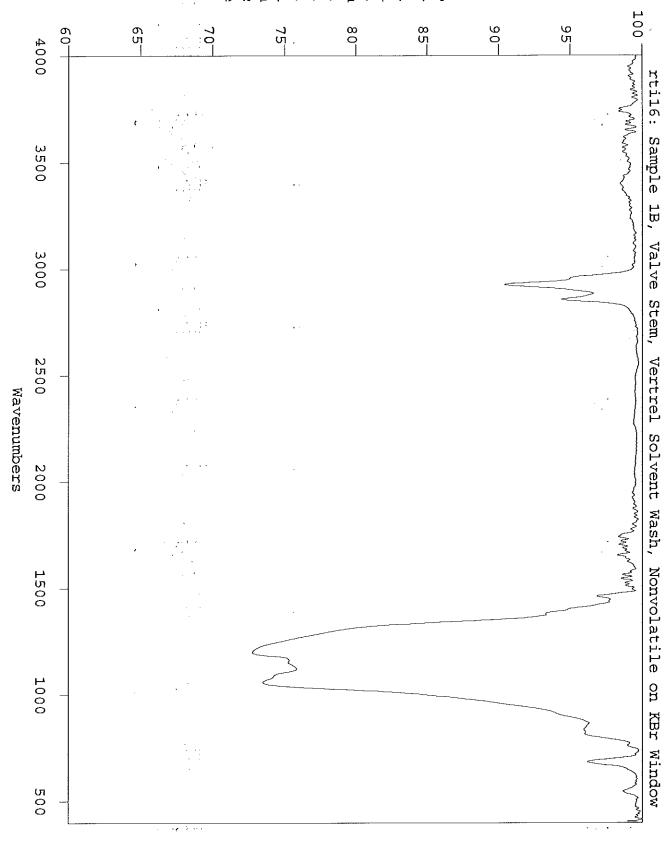


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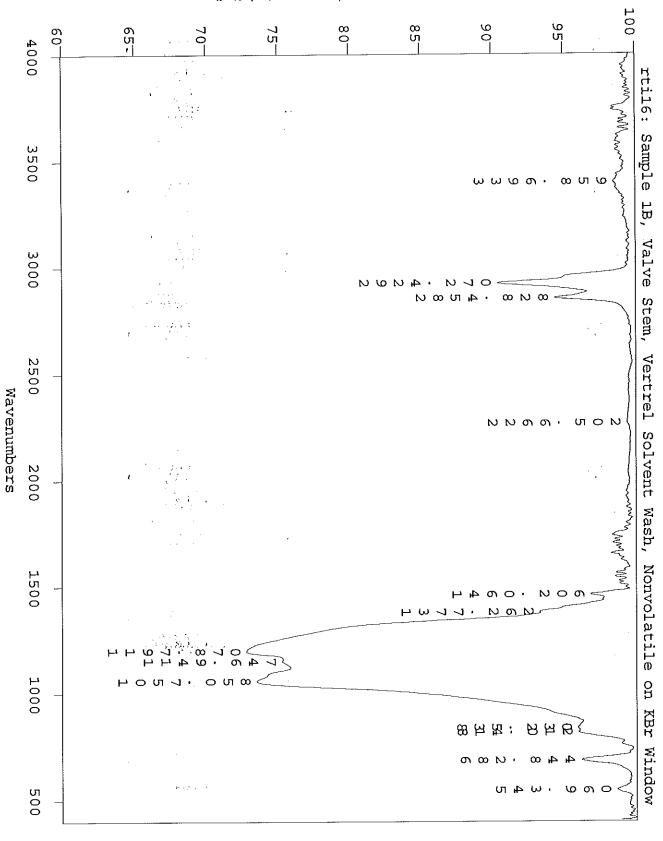


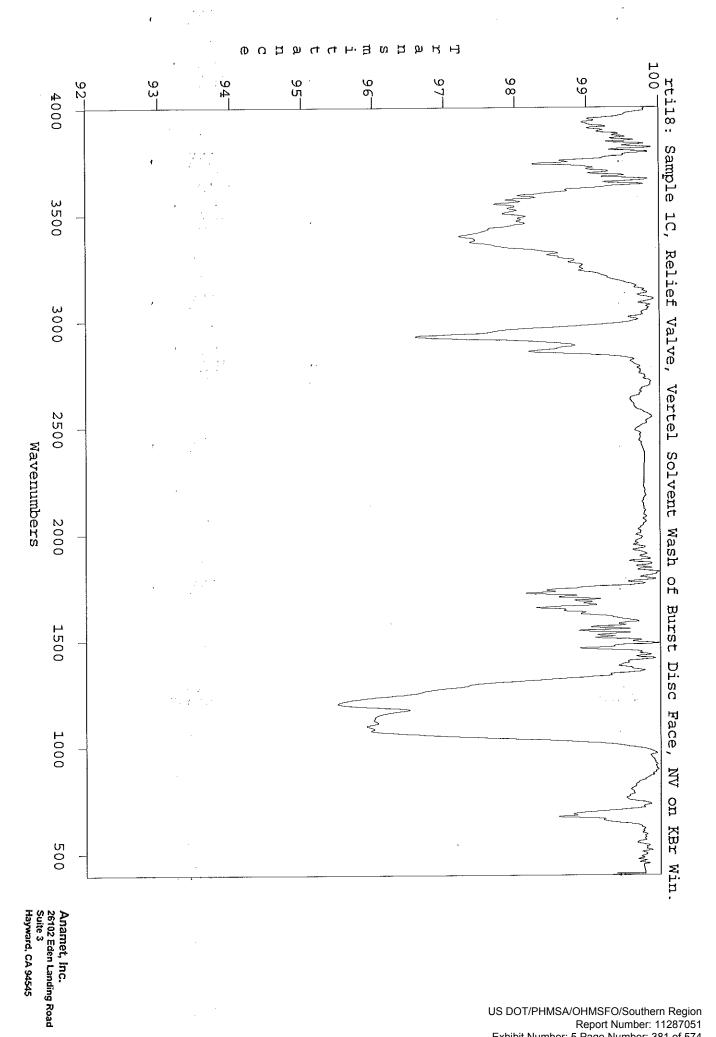




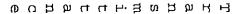


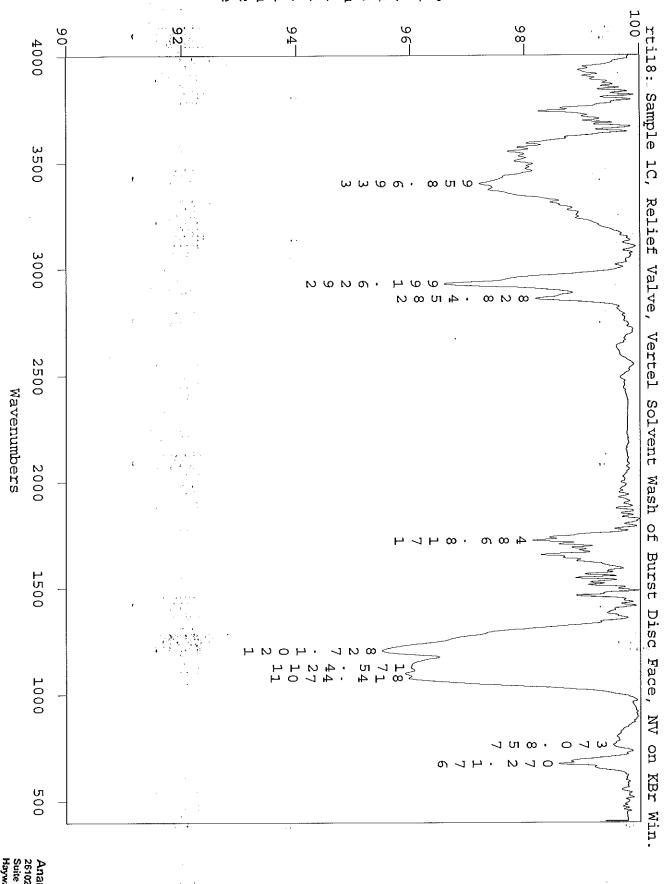


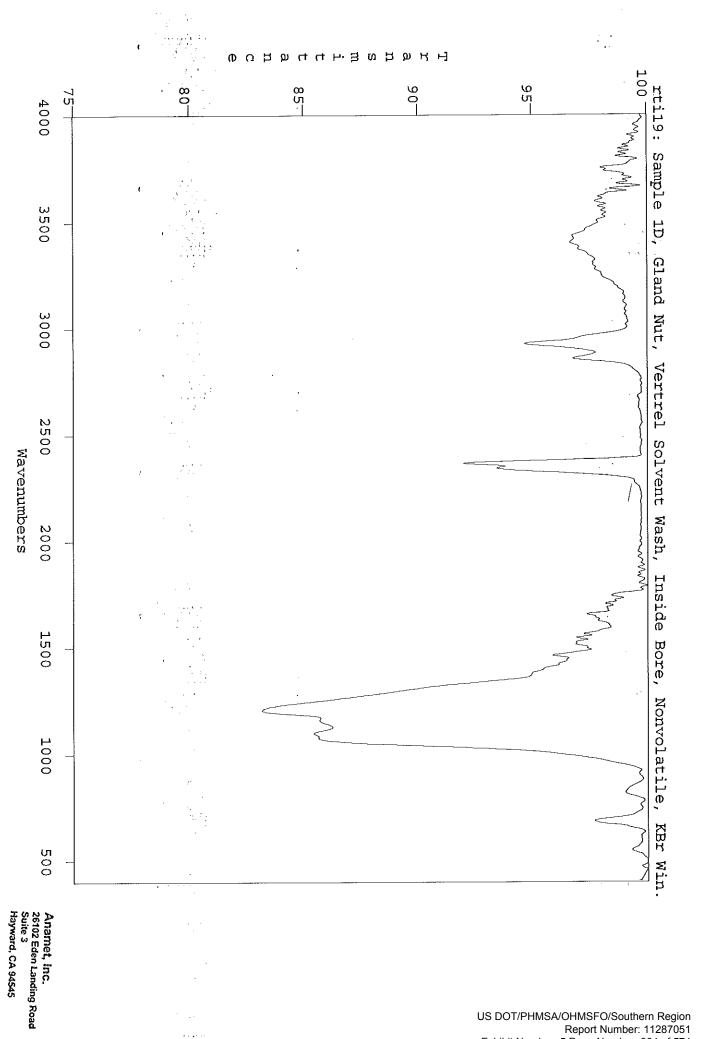




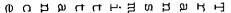
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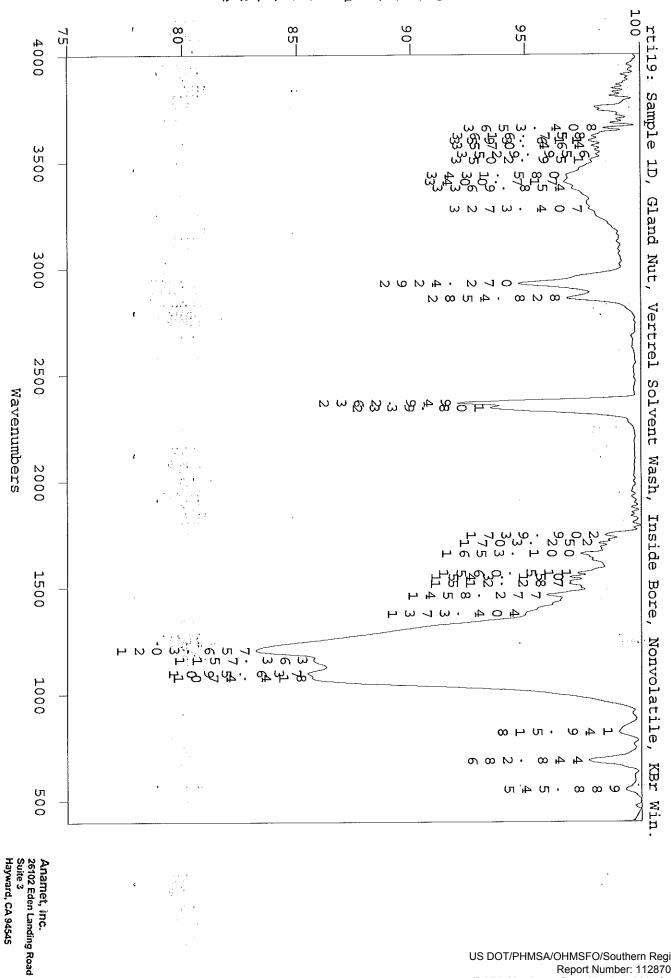


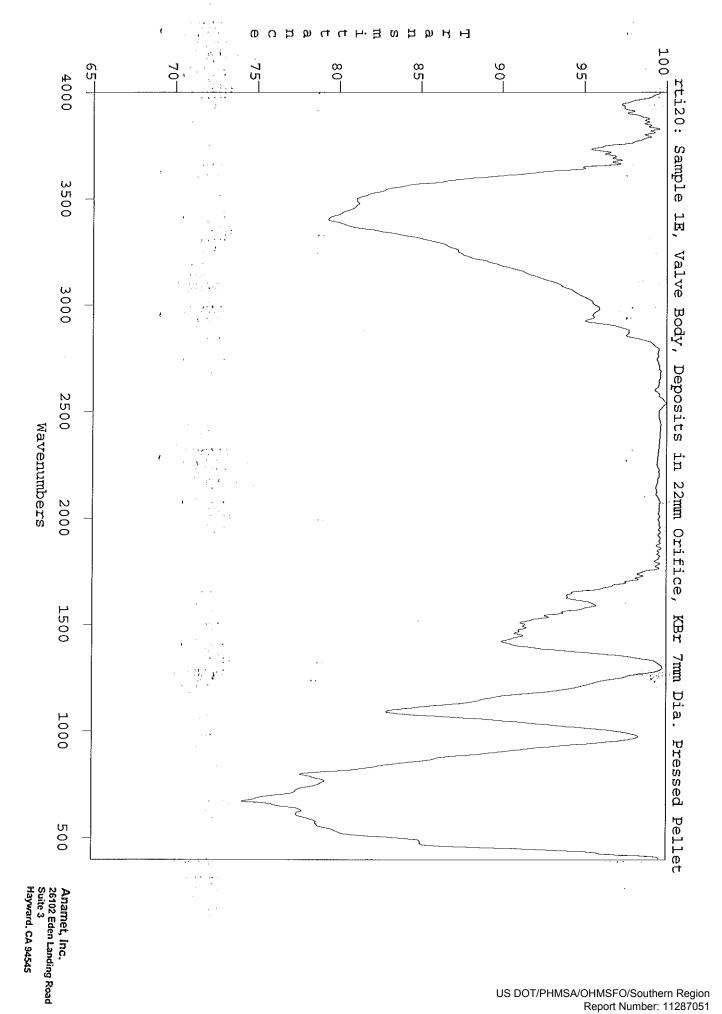




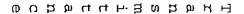
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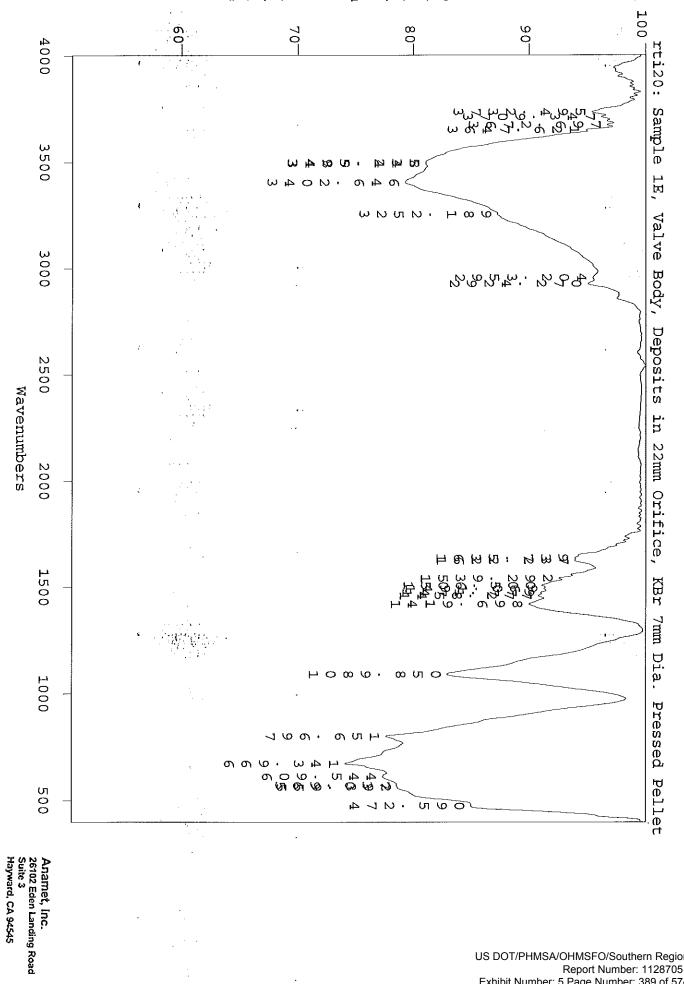


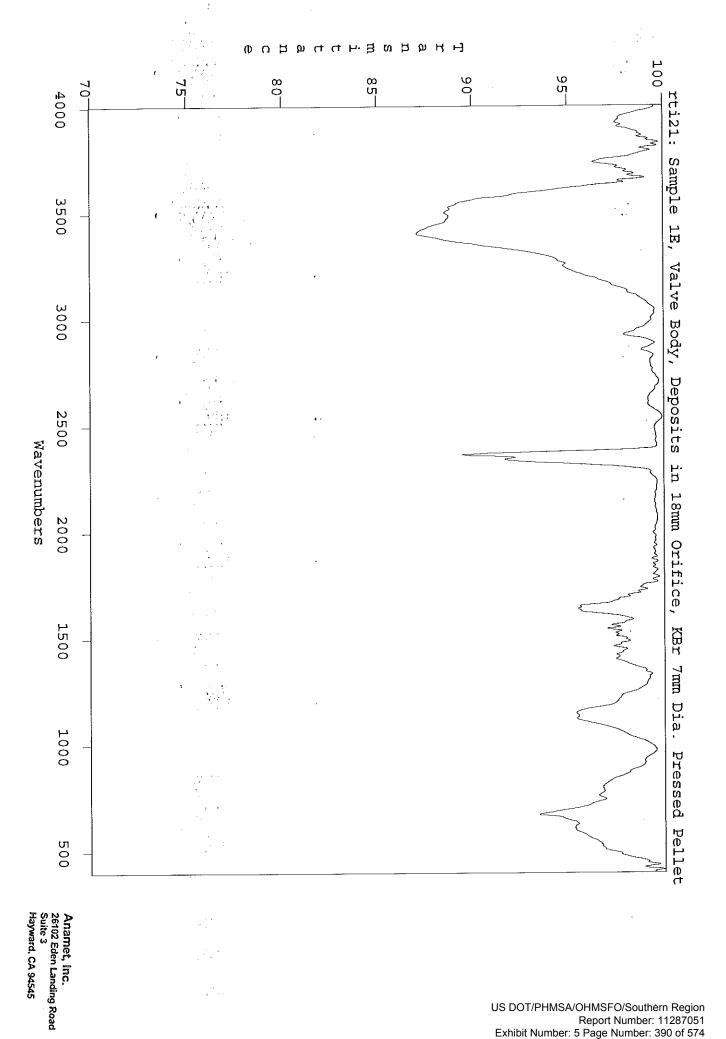


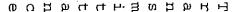


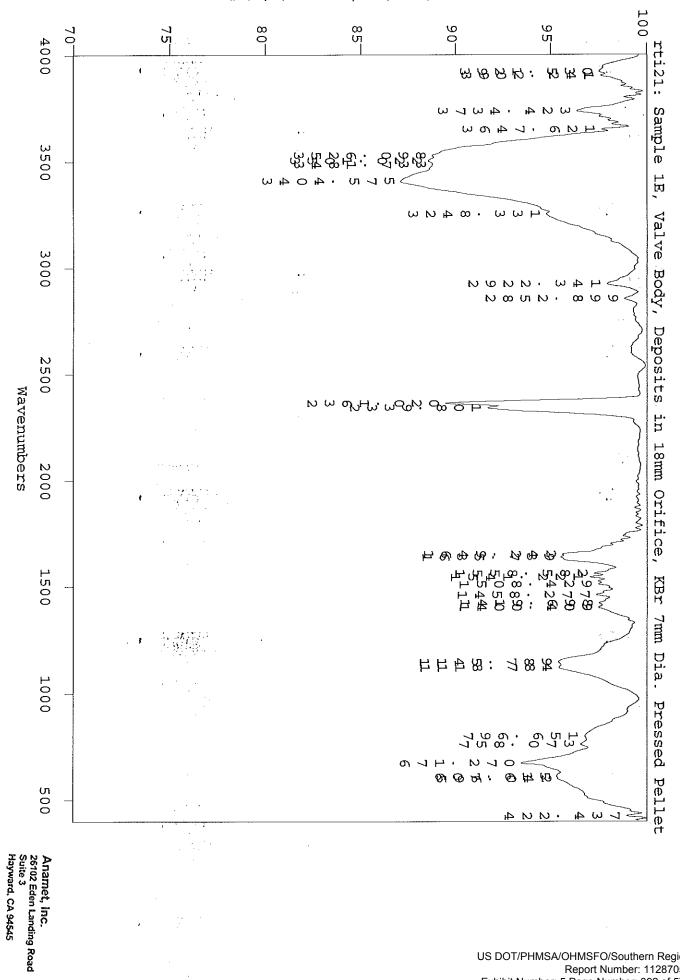
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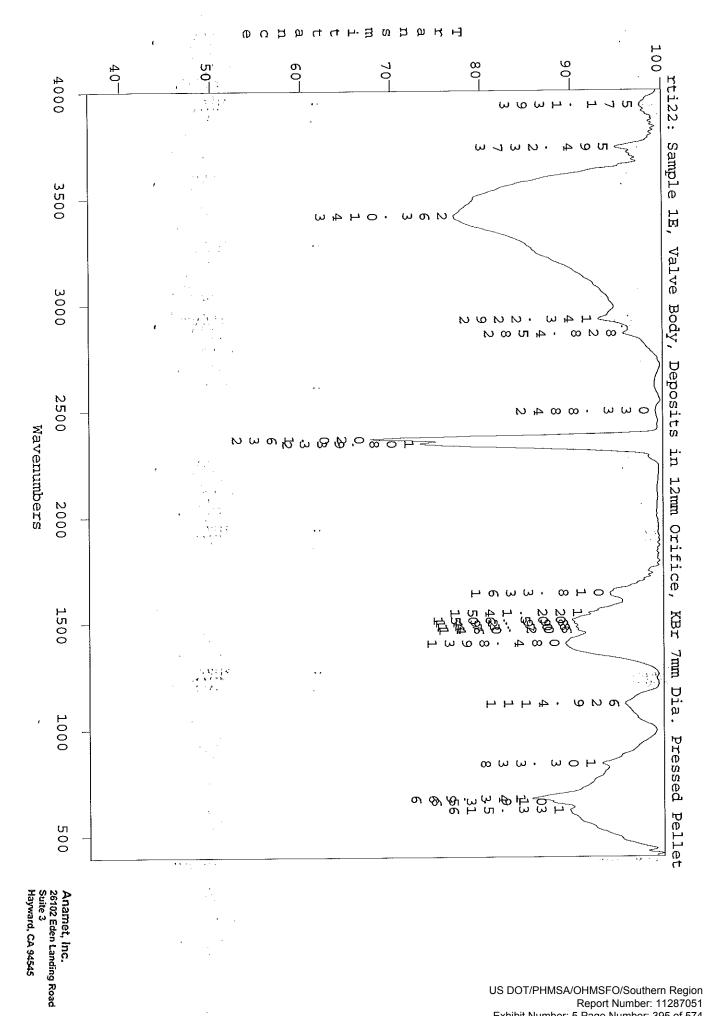


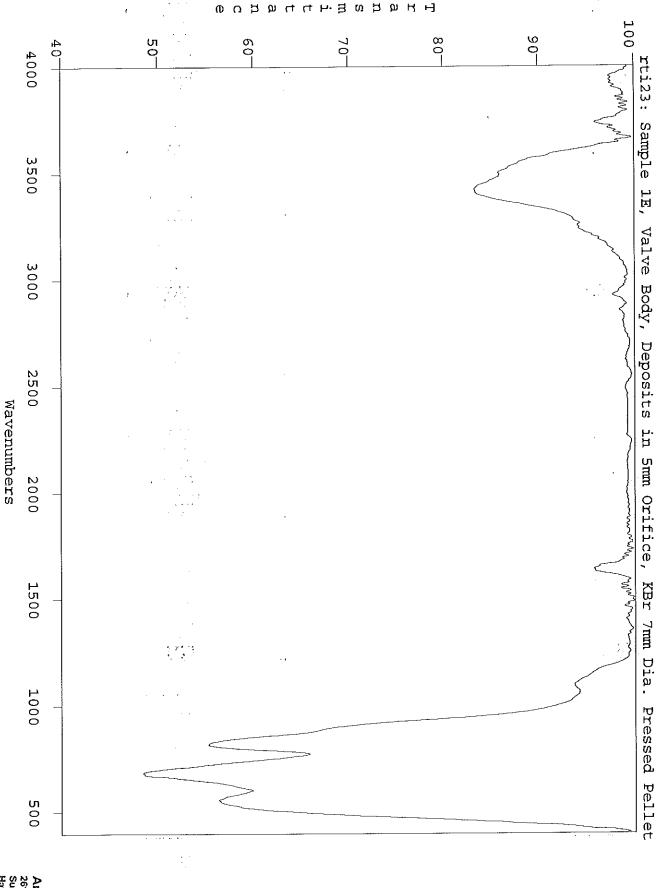


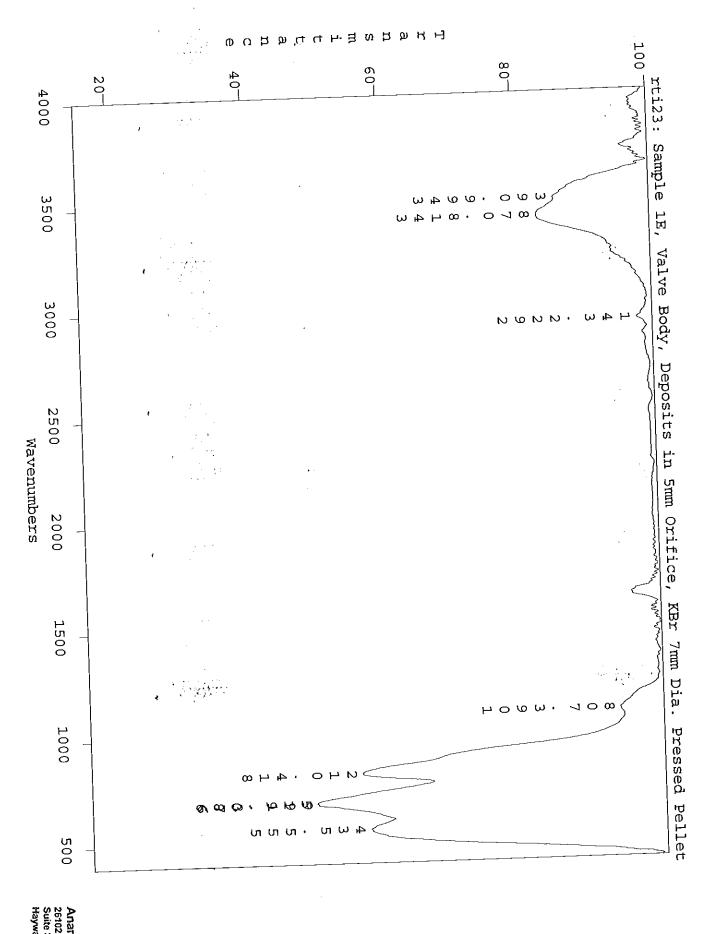


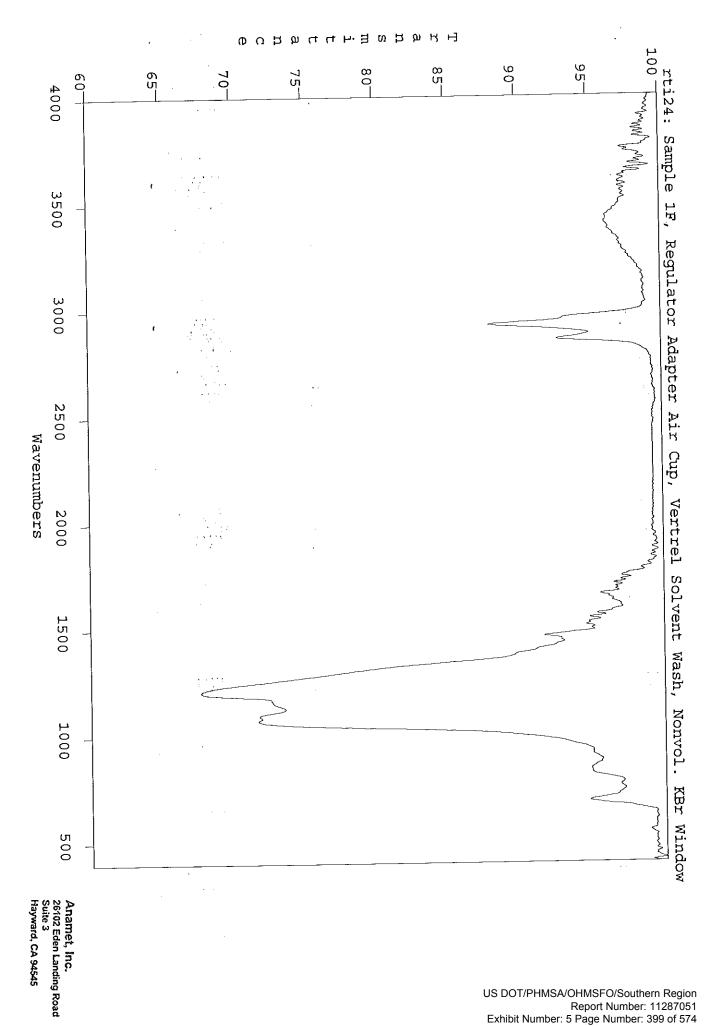
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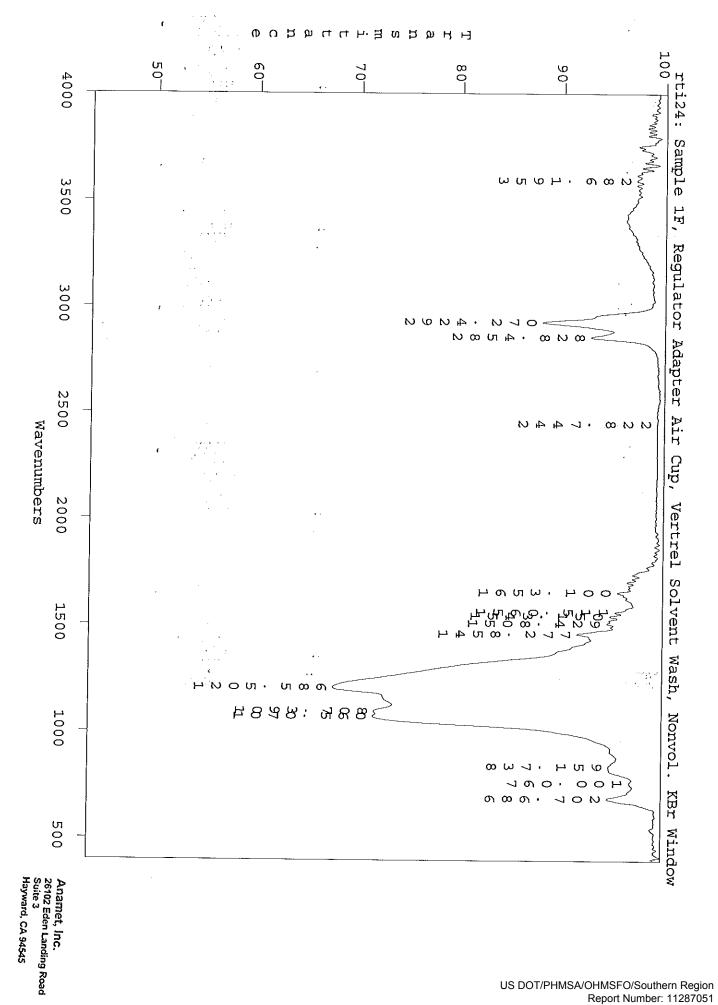
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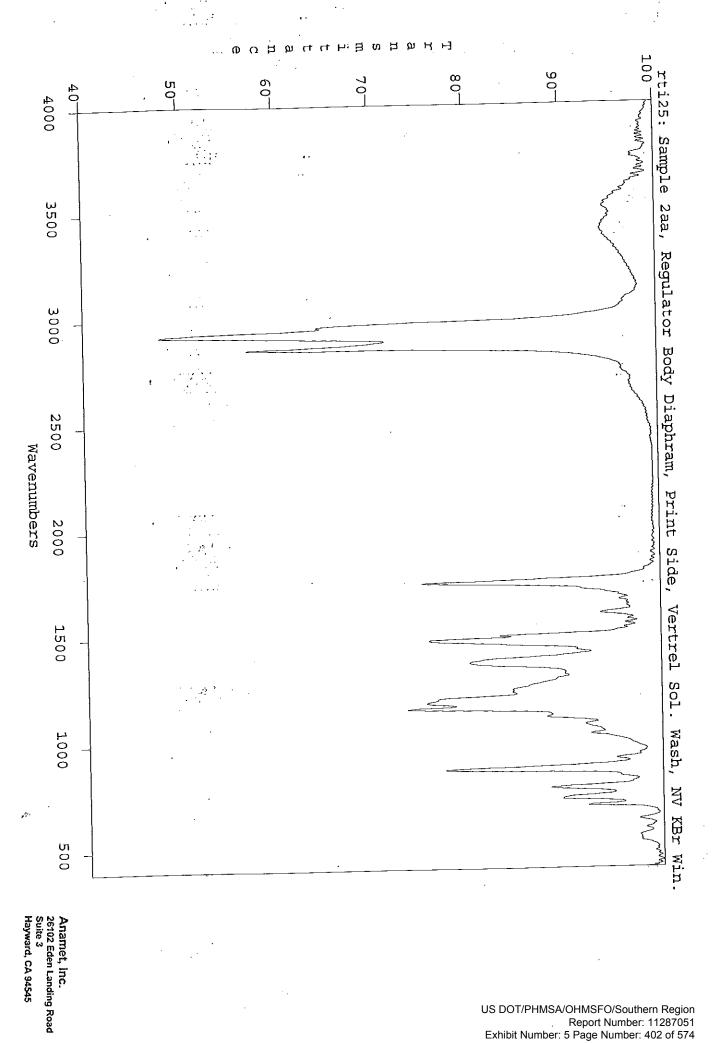






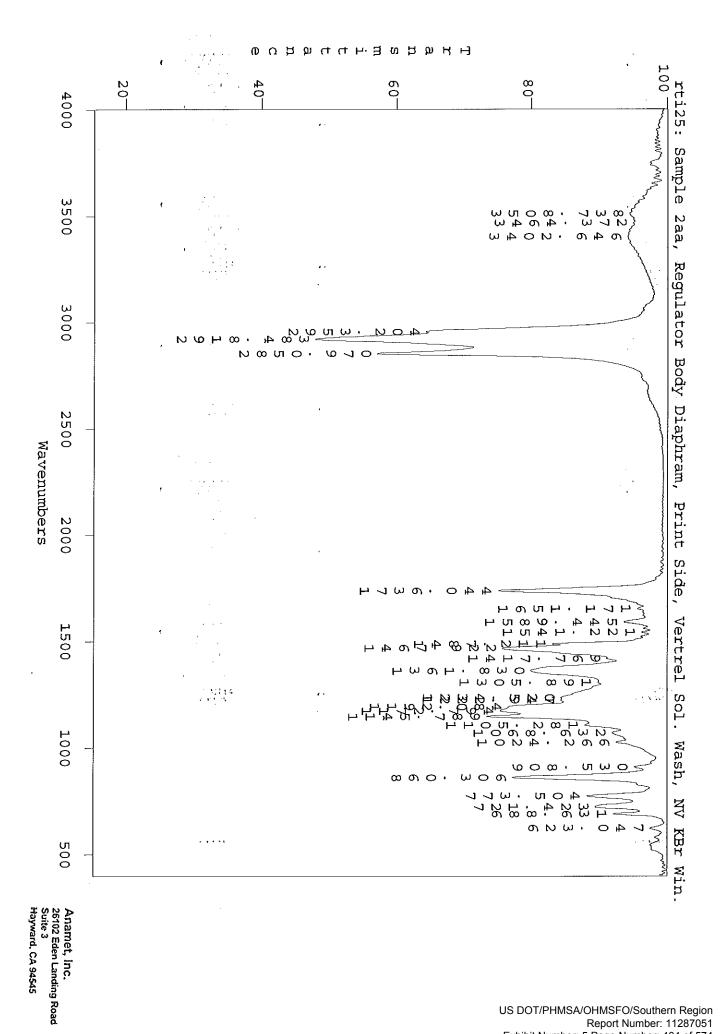


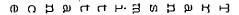


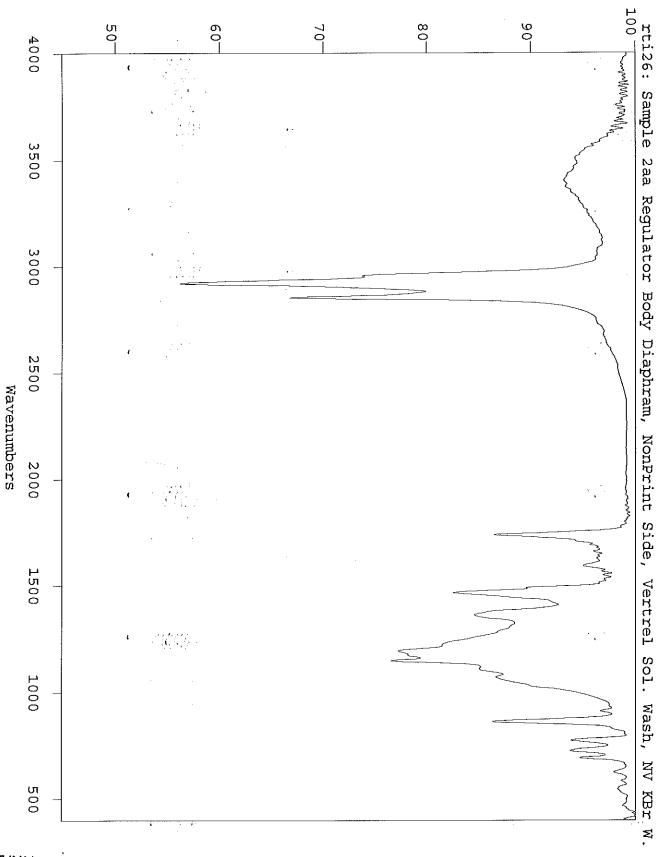


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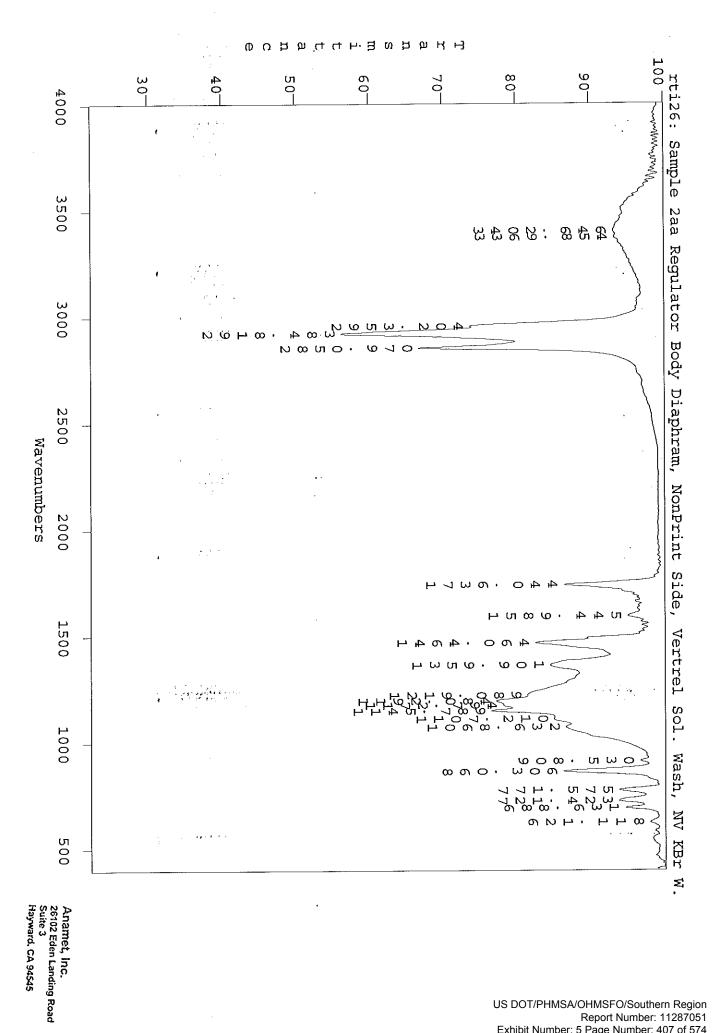


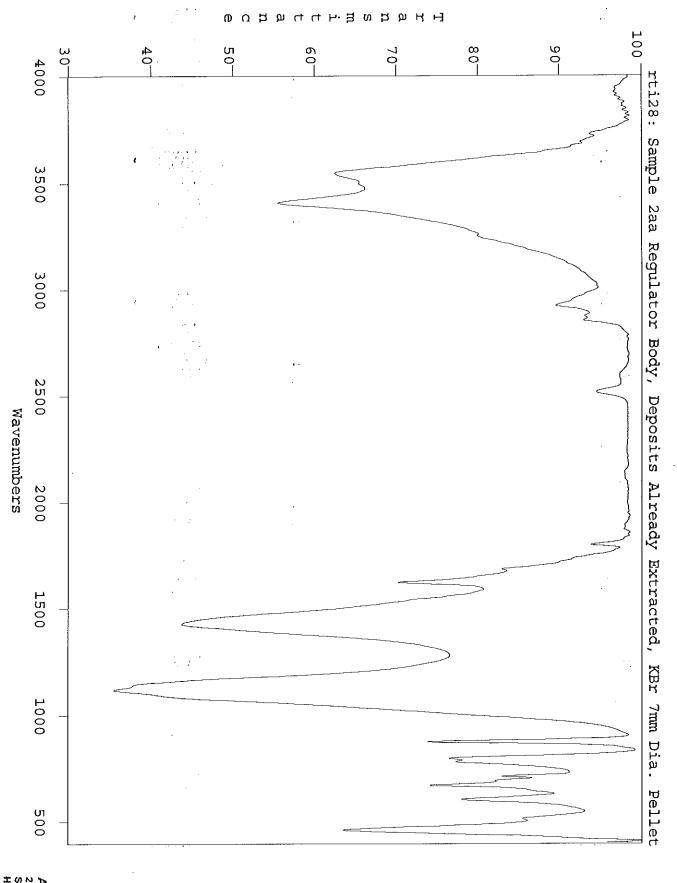


Peak Pick

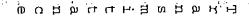
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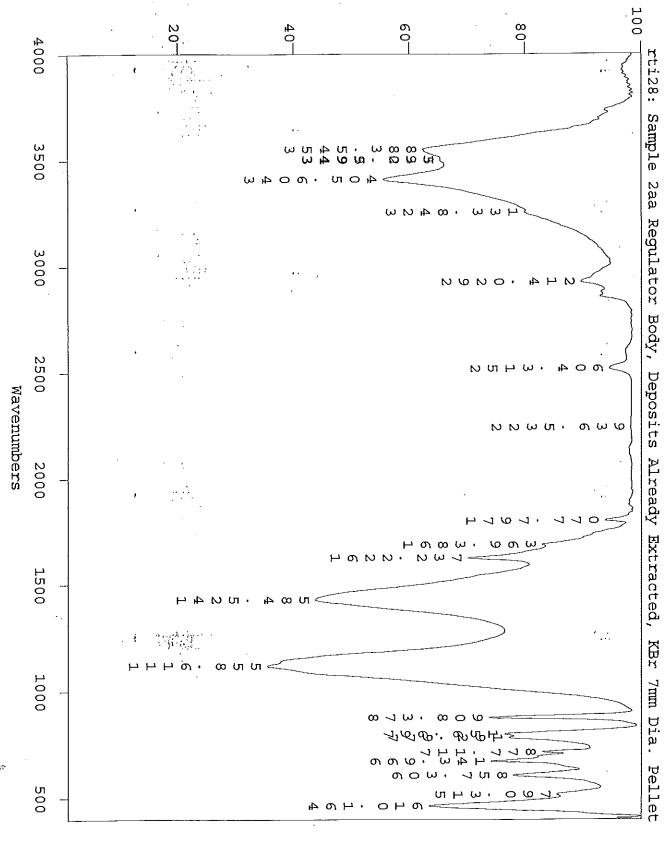
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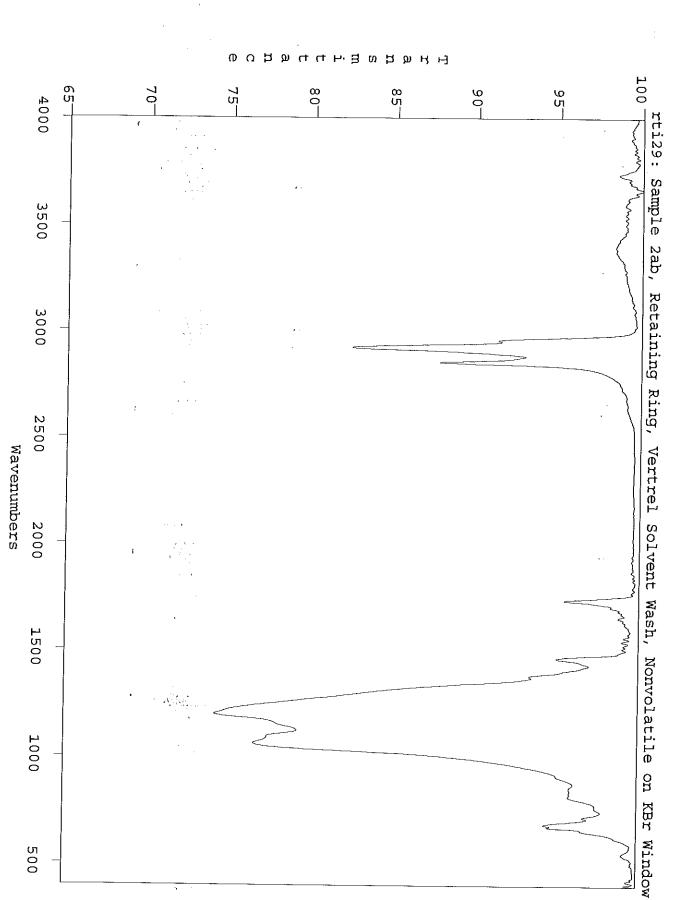




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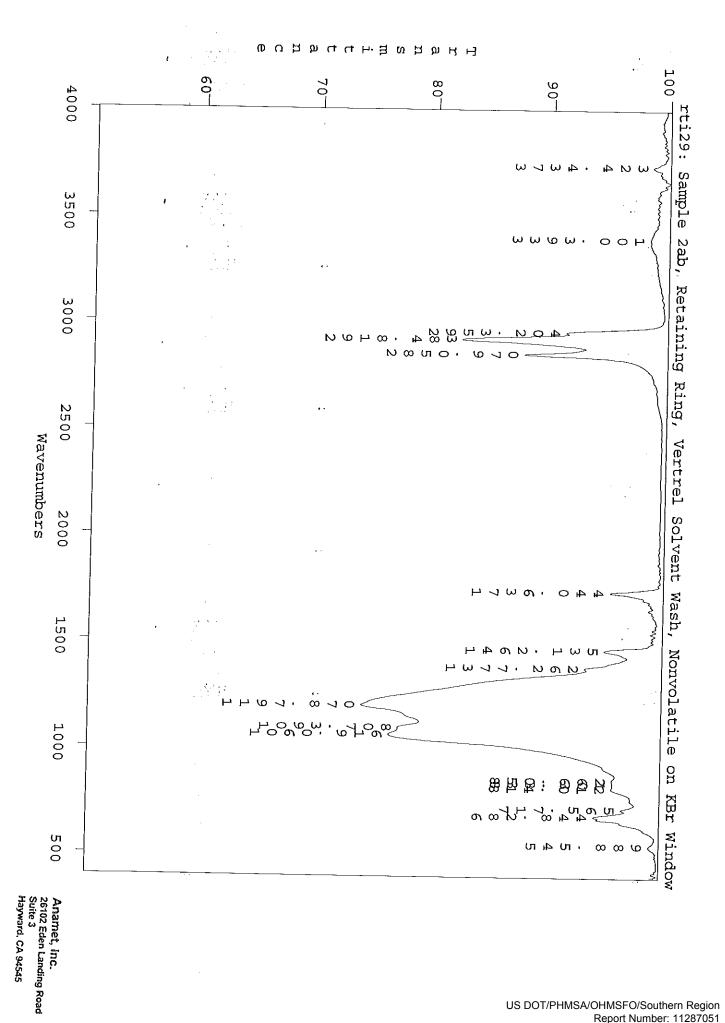


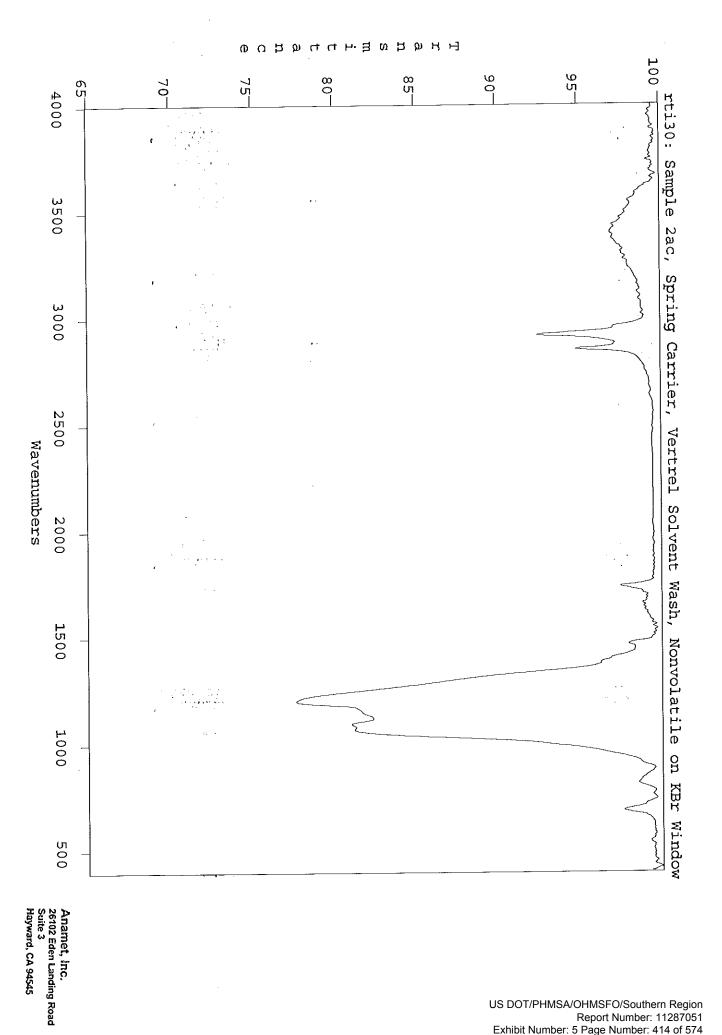


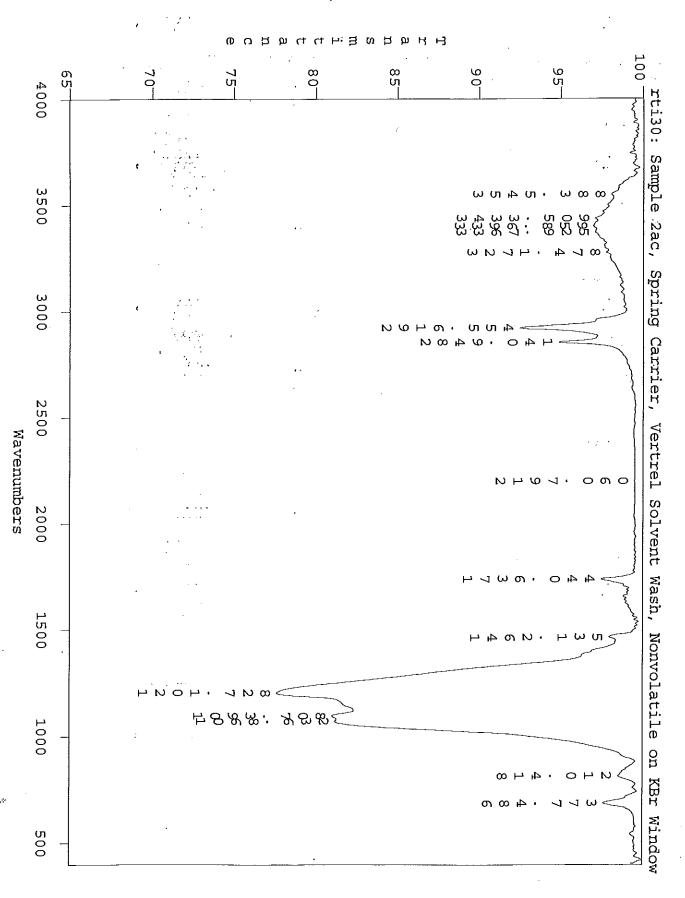


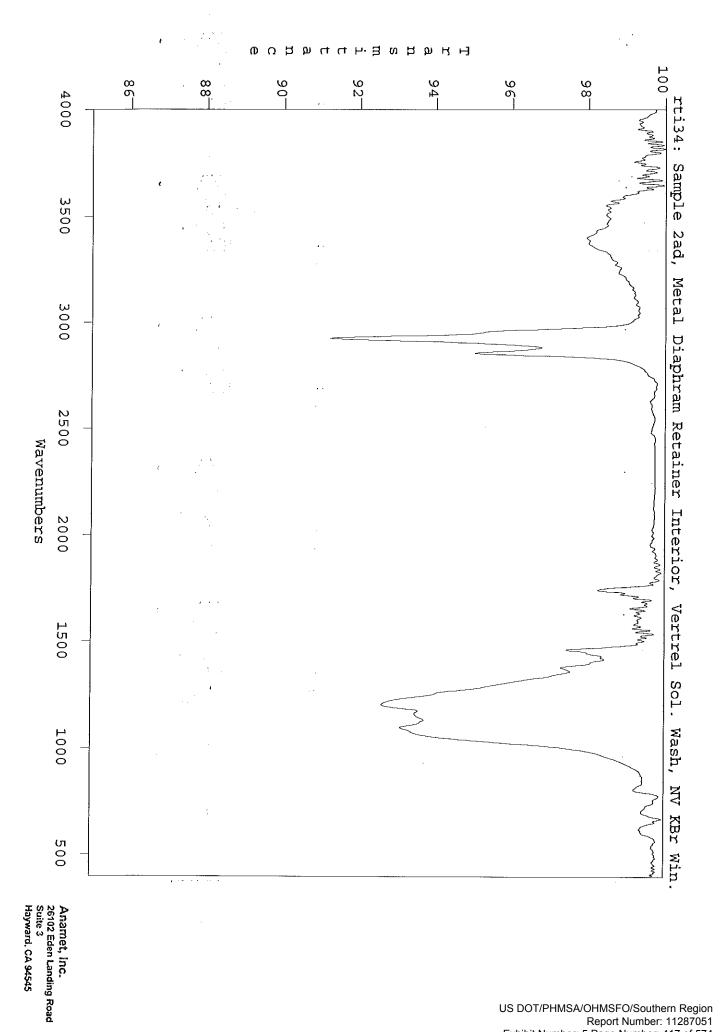
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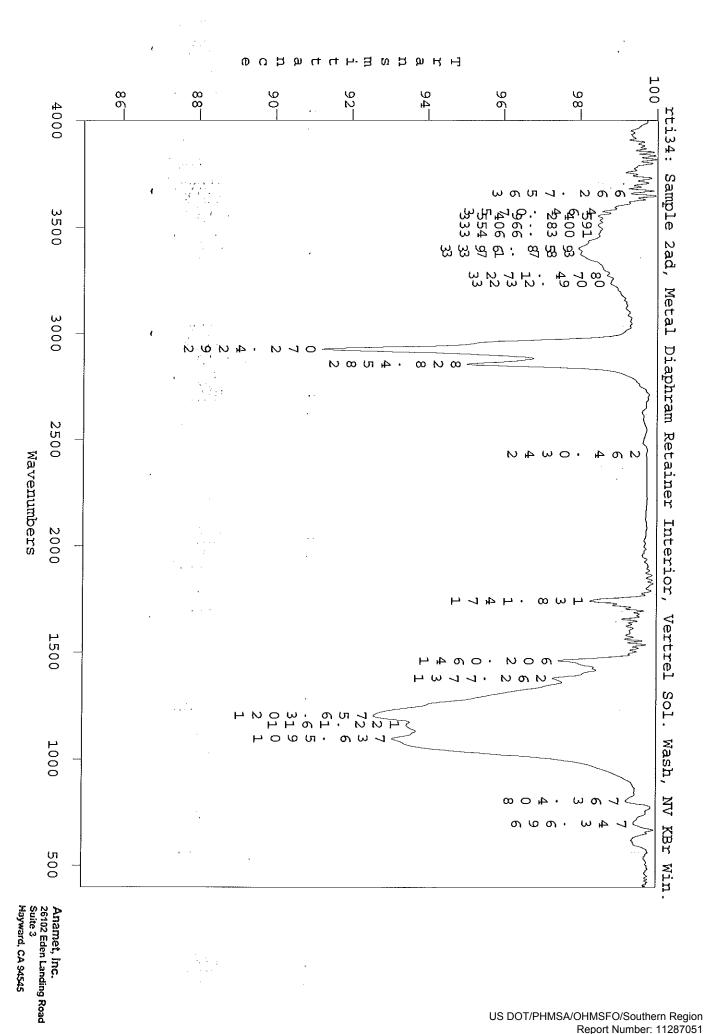


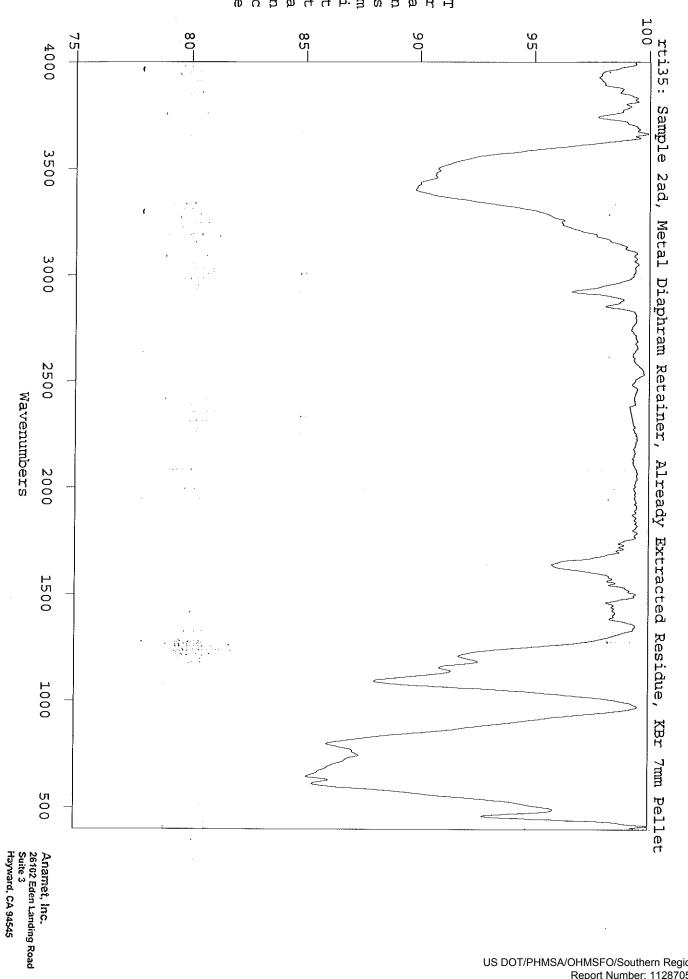




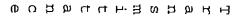


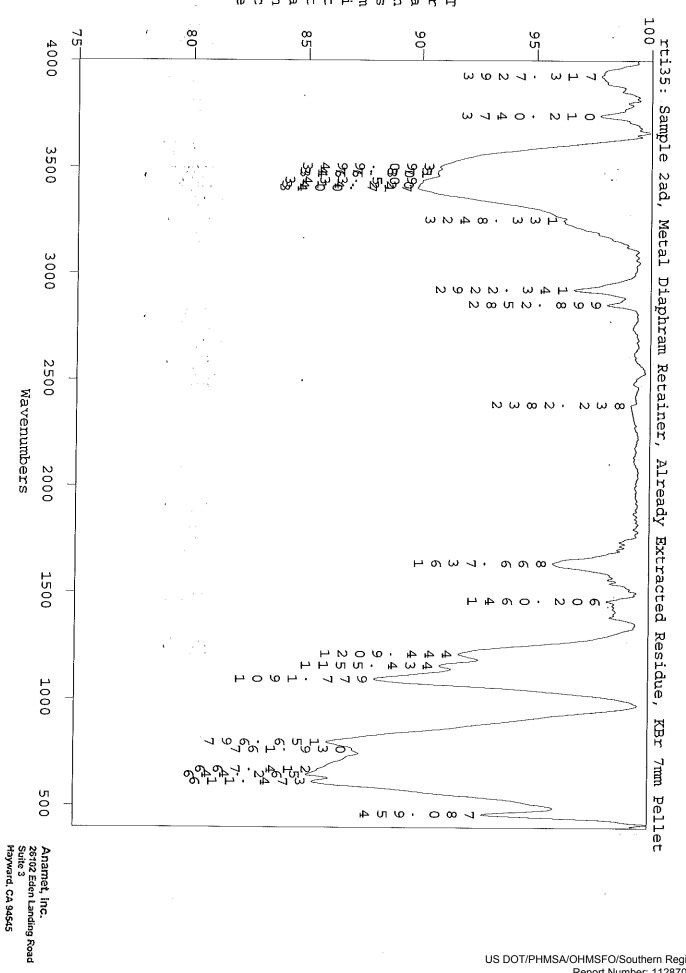
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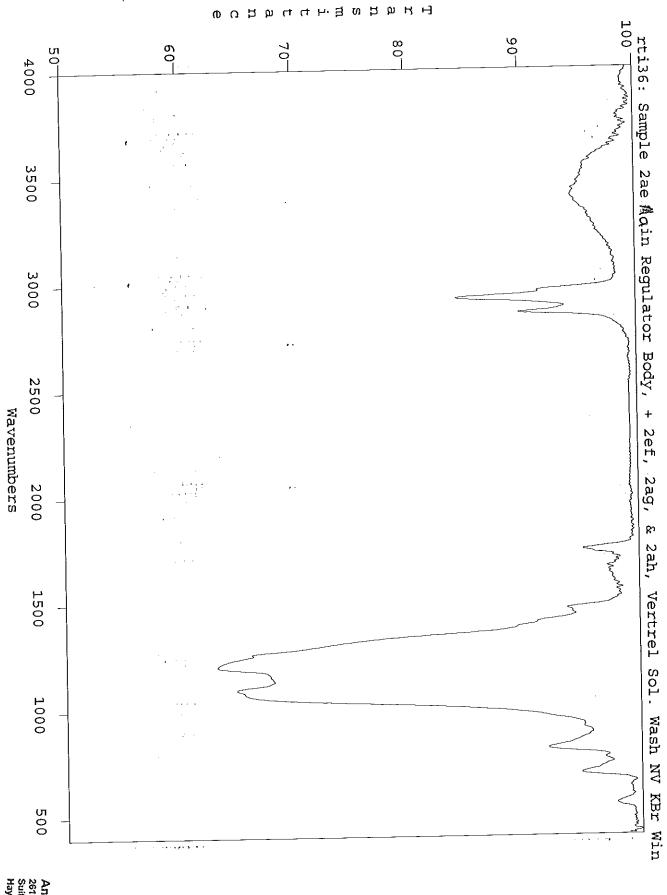


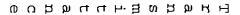


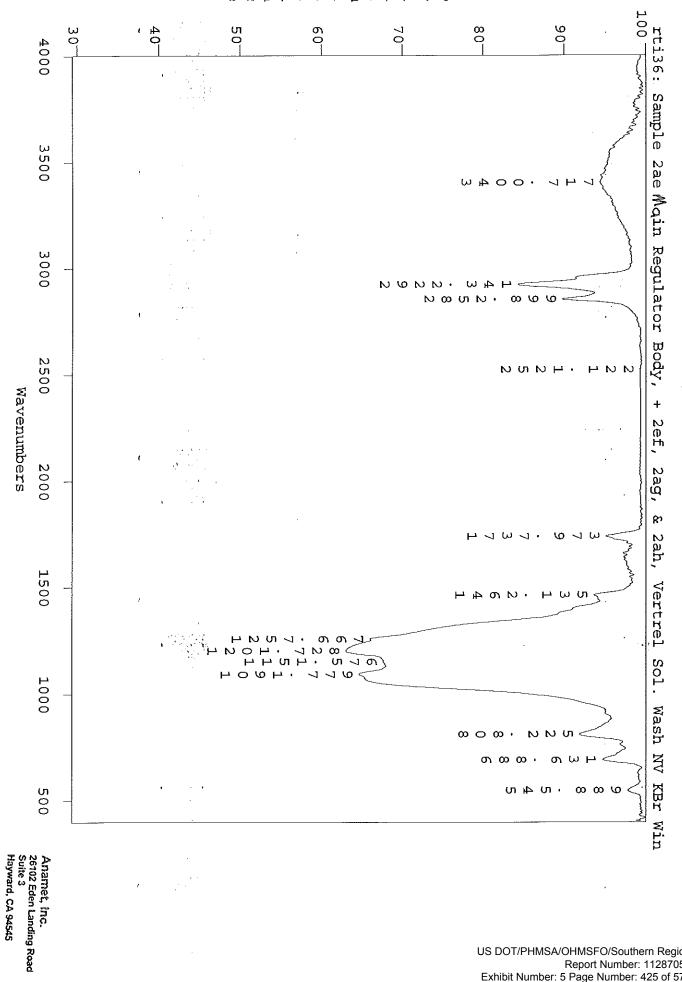
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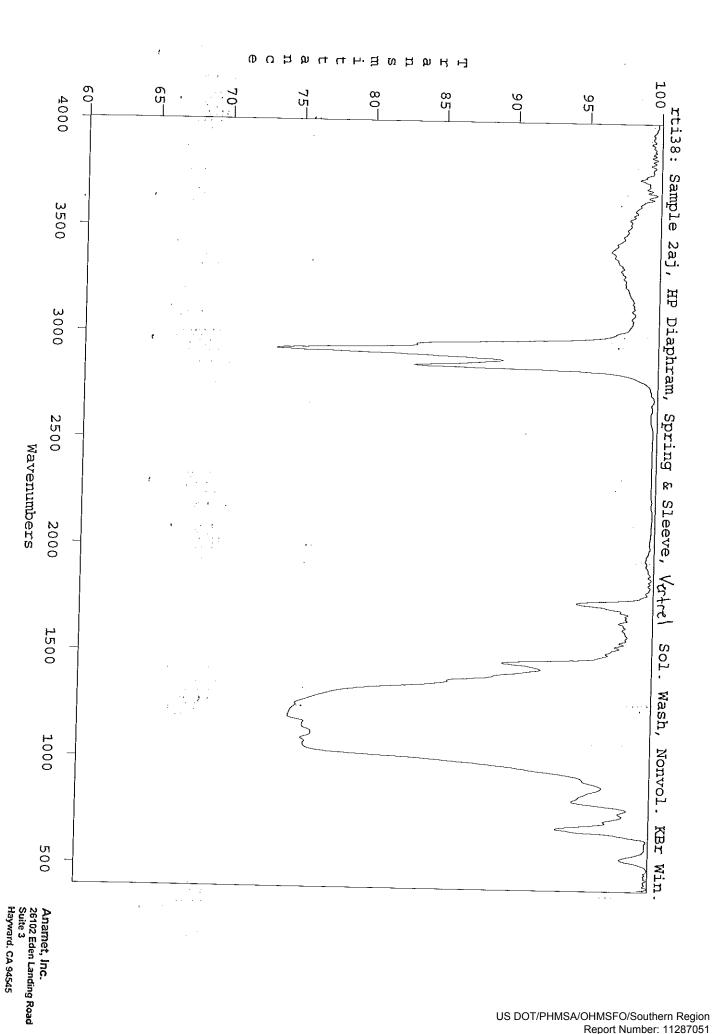


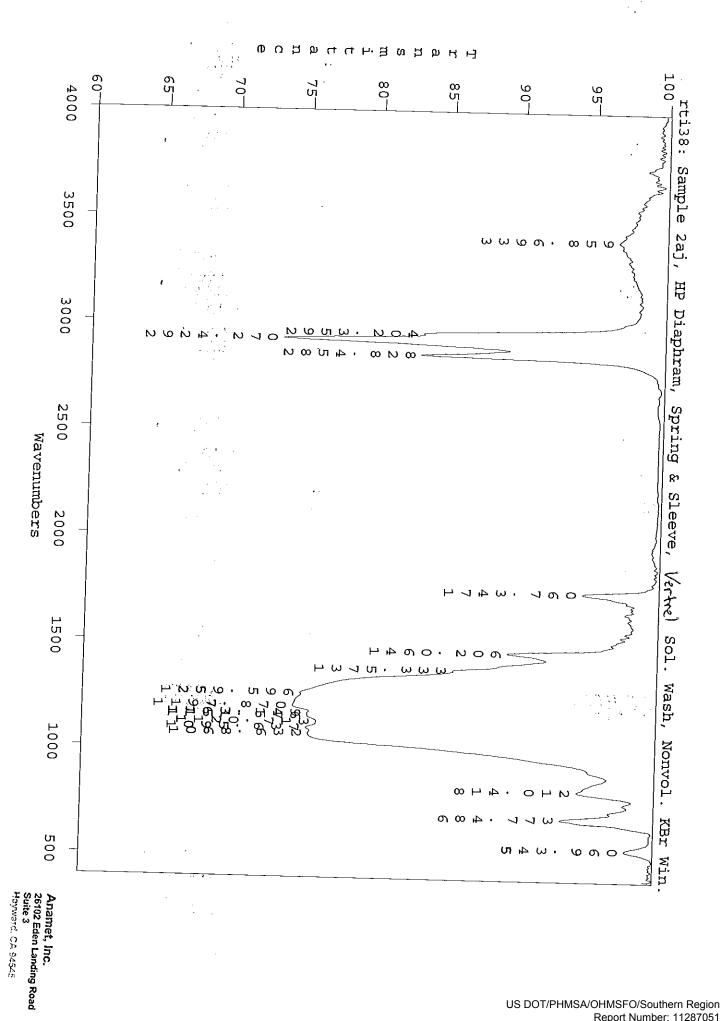


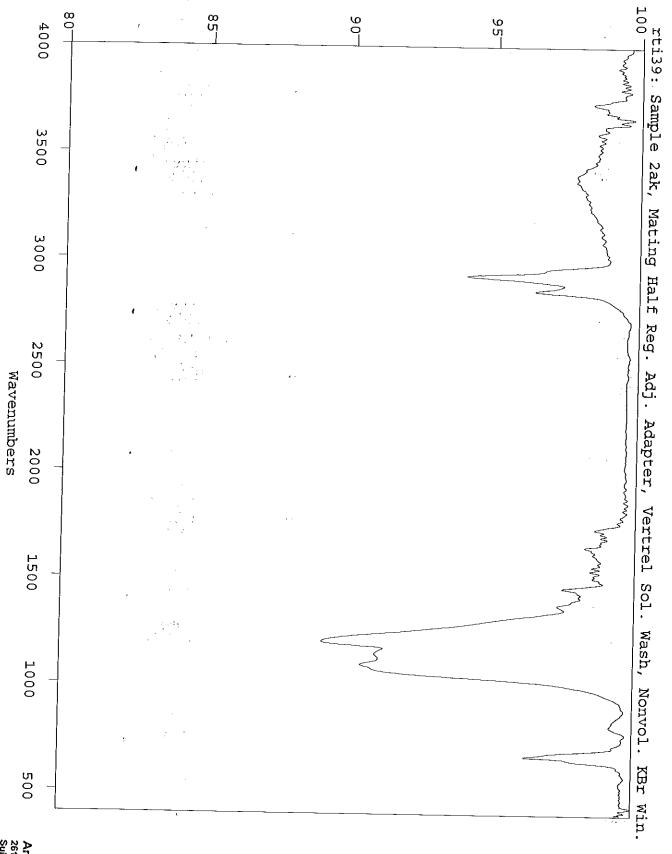




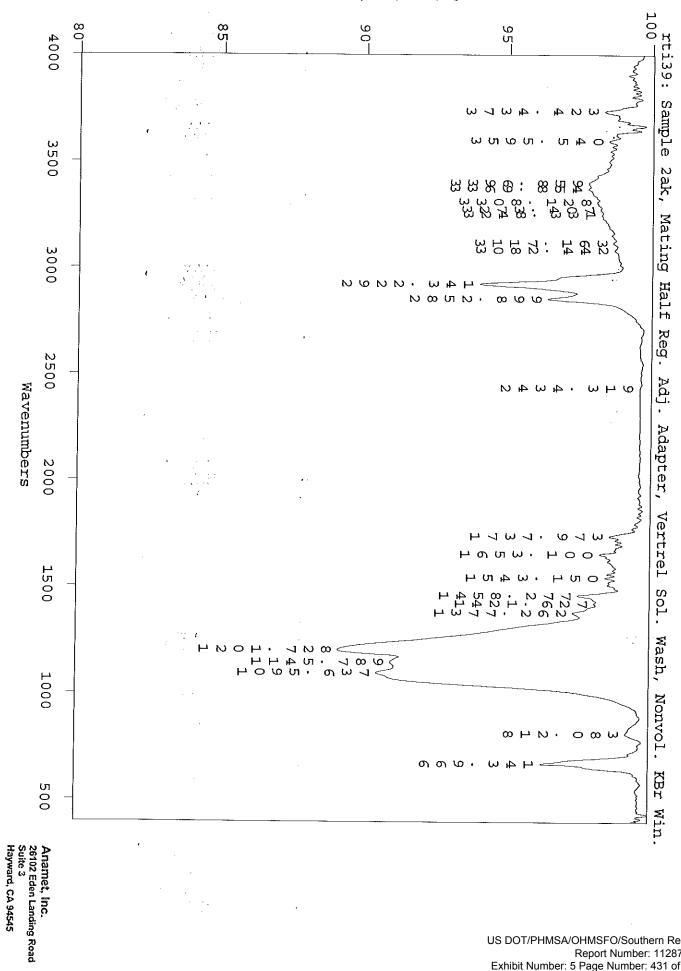


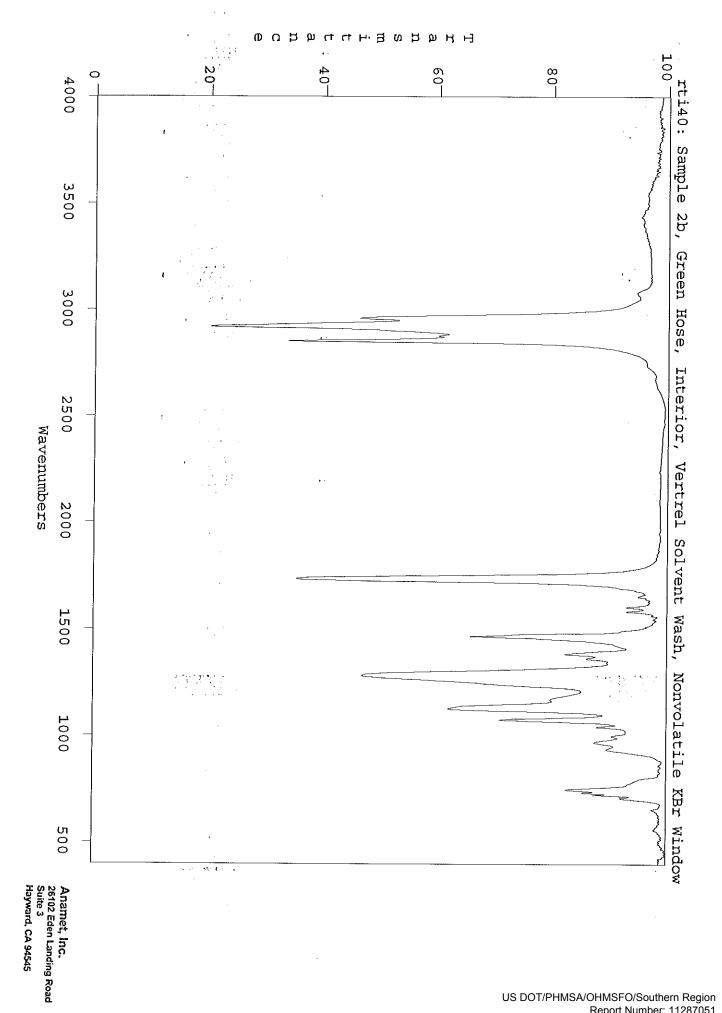


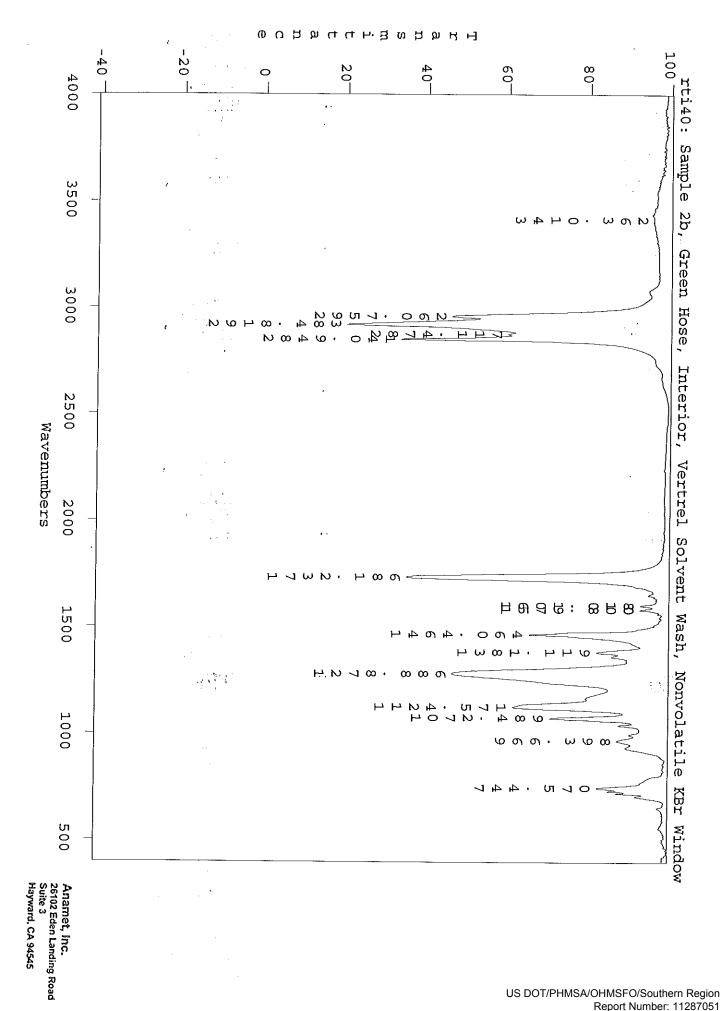


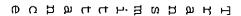


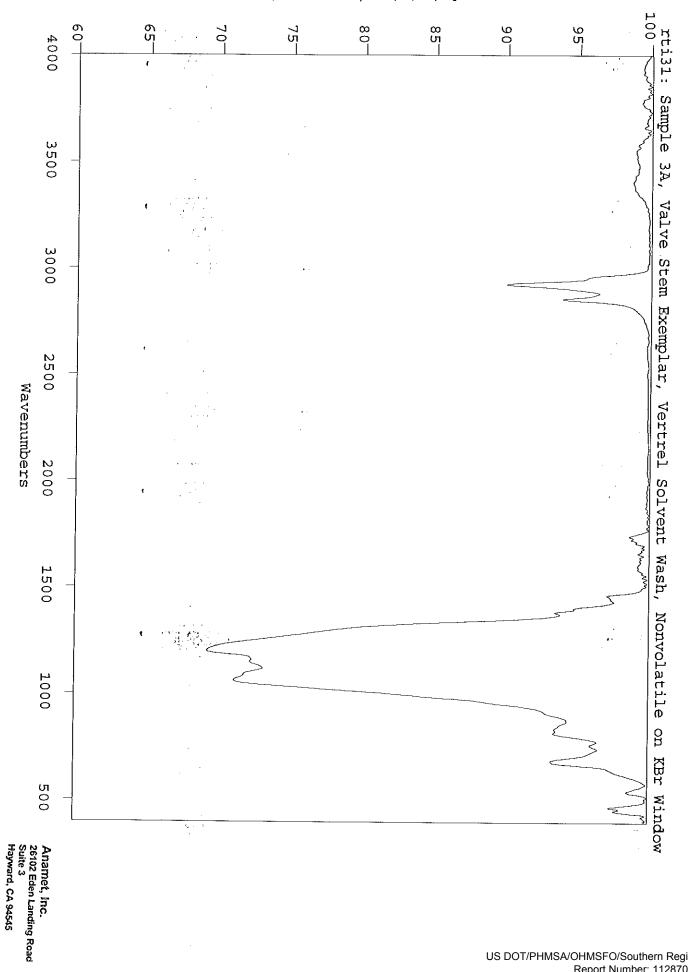
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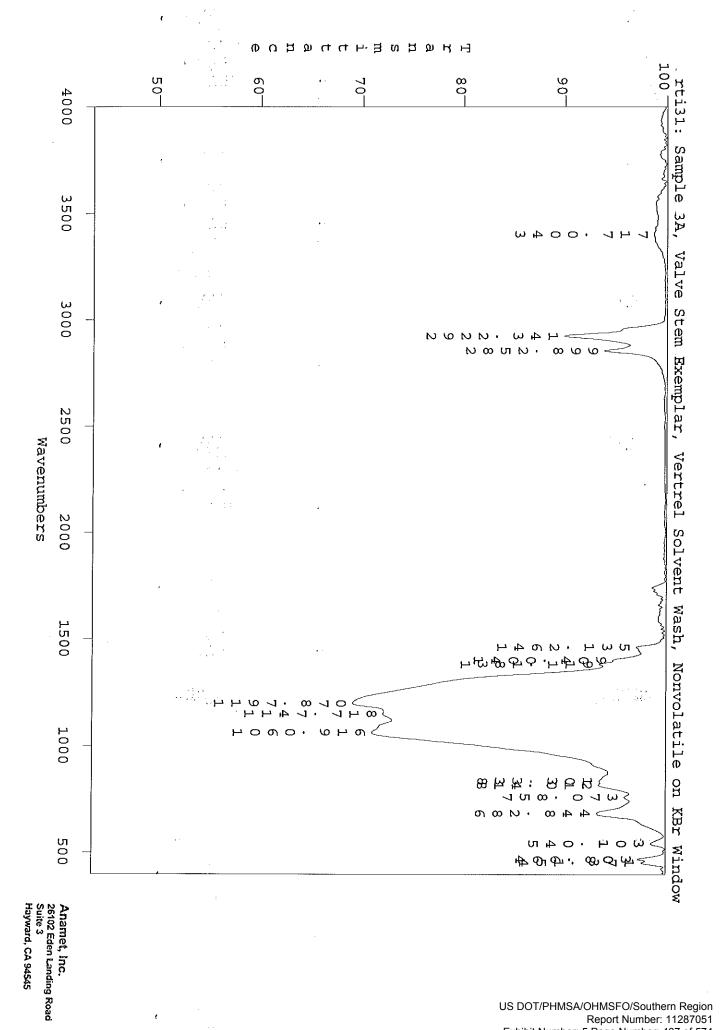


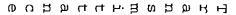


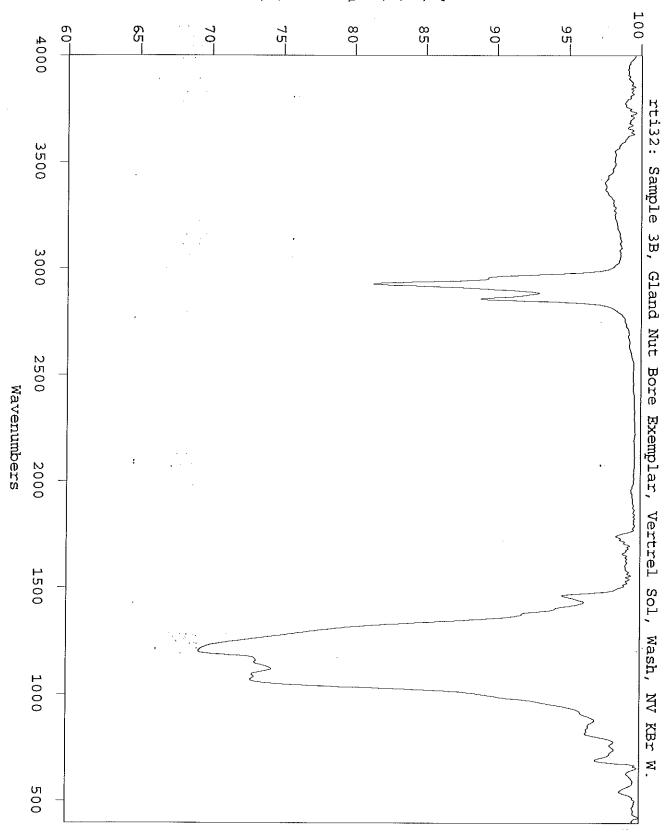


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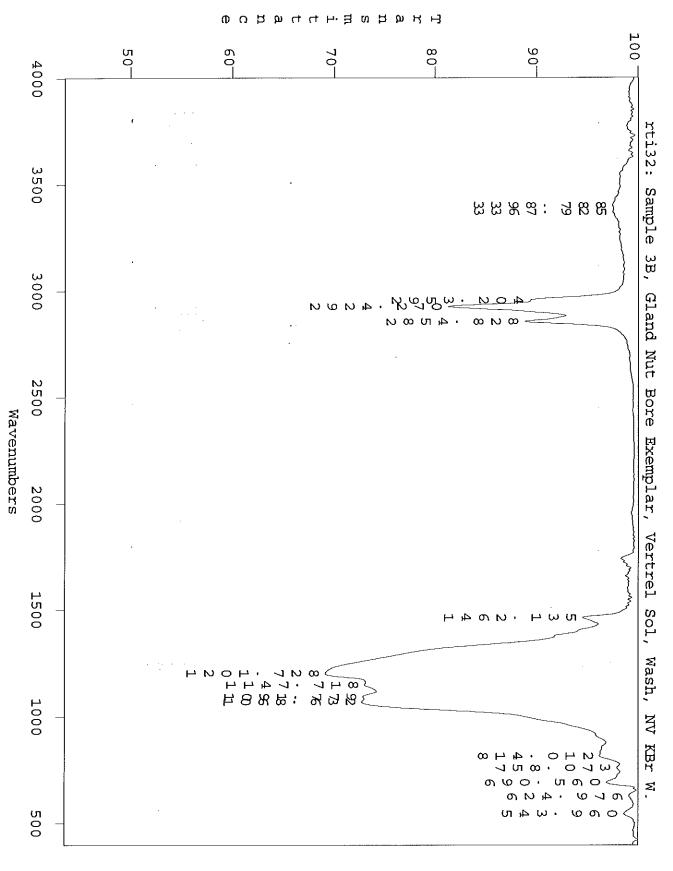


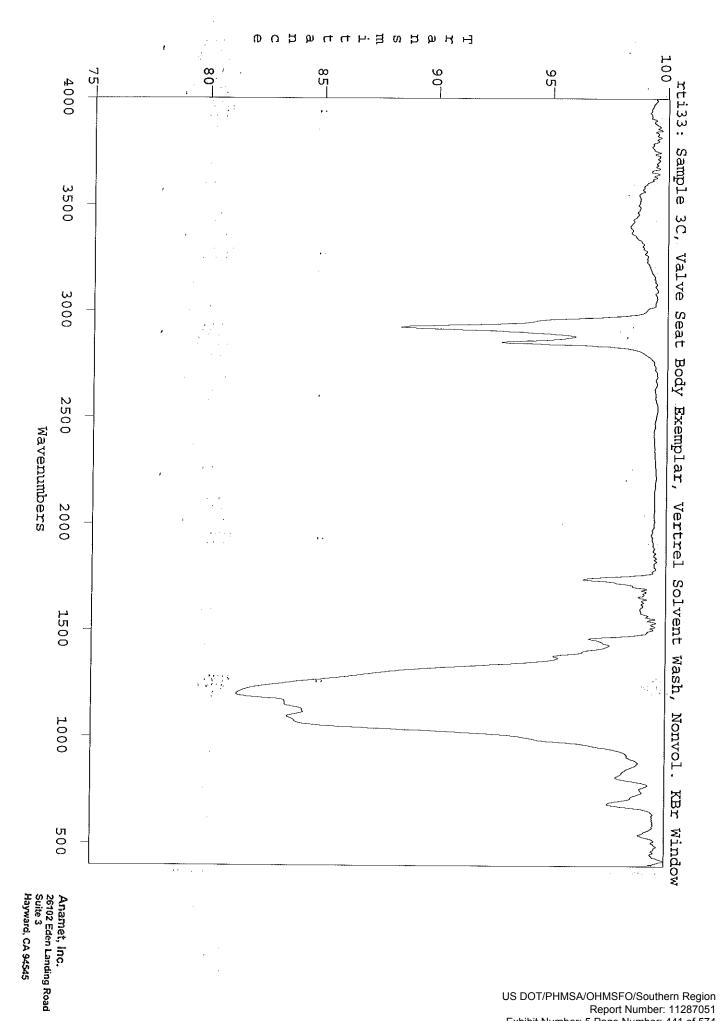


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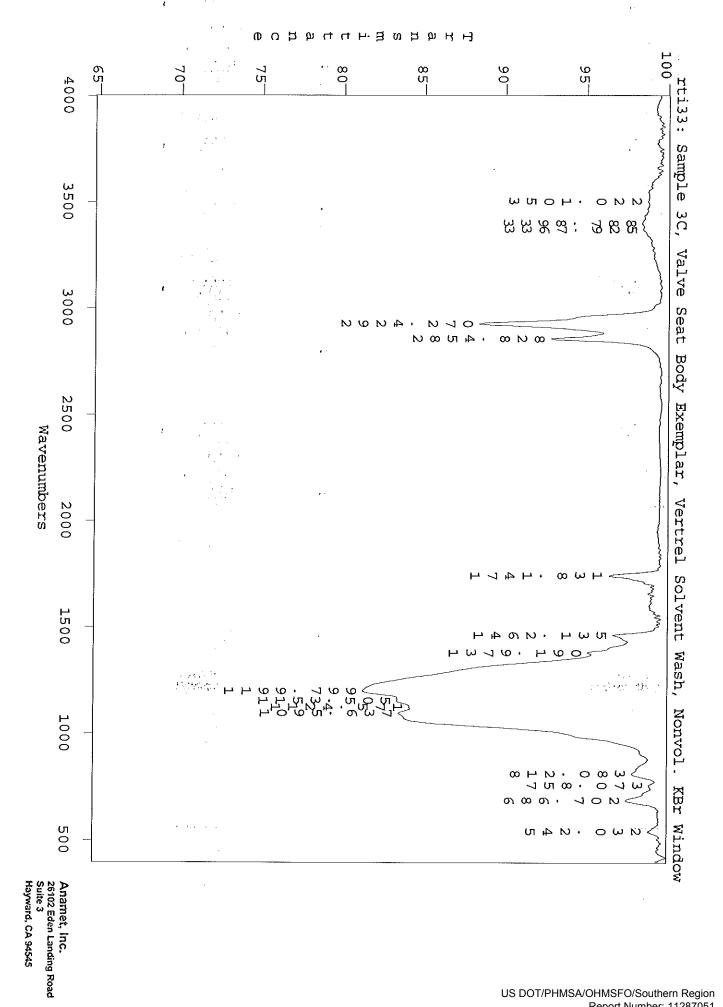
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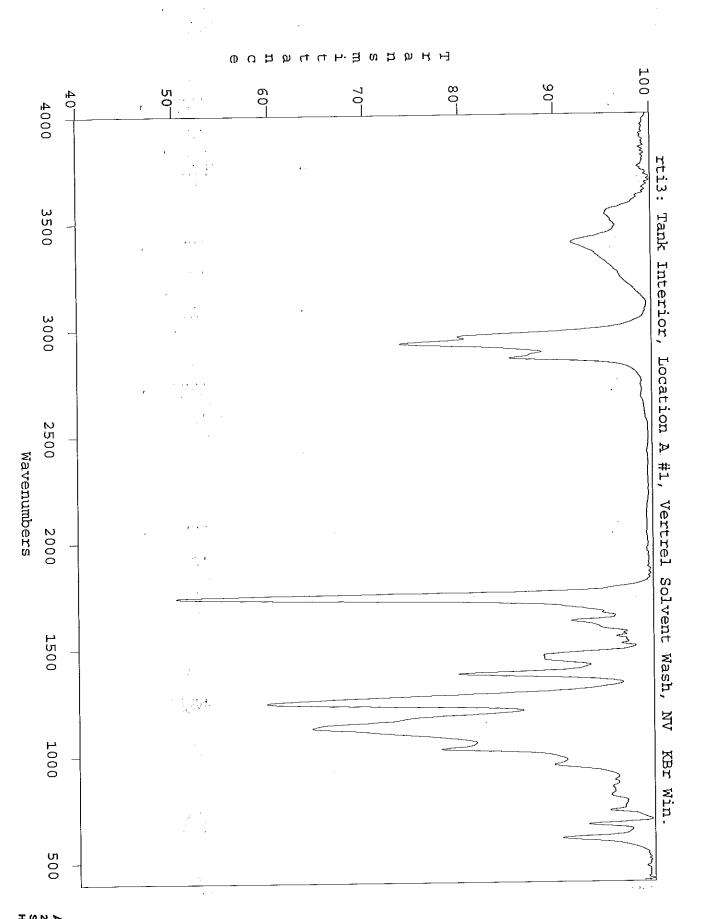




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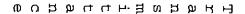
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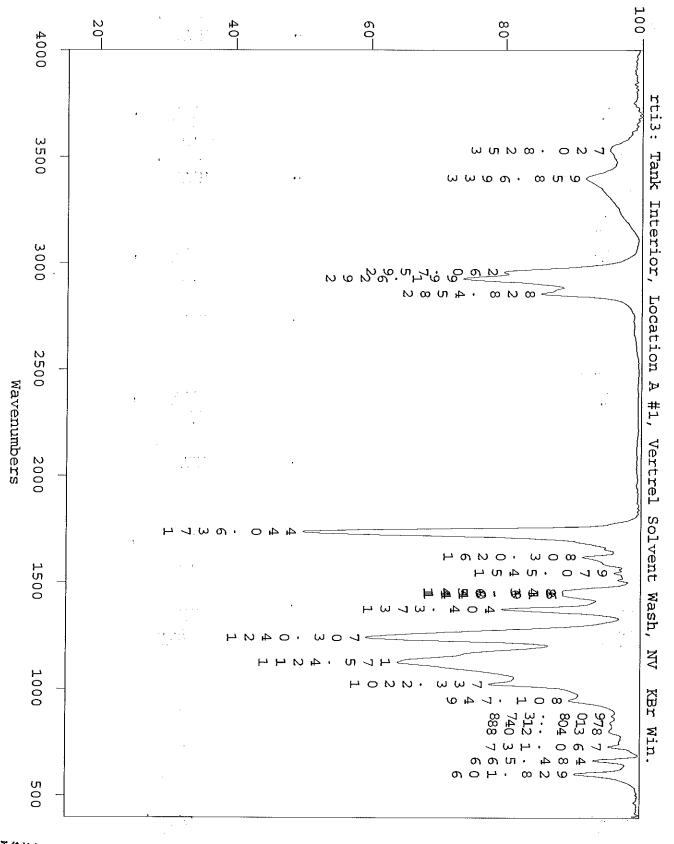


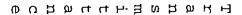


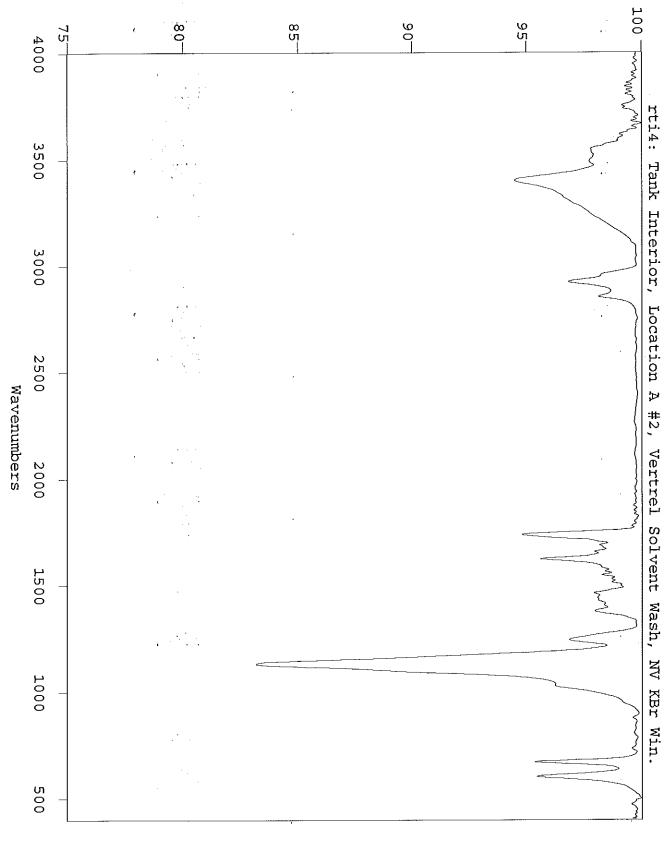
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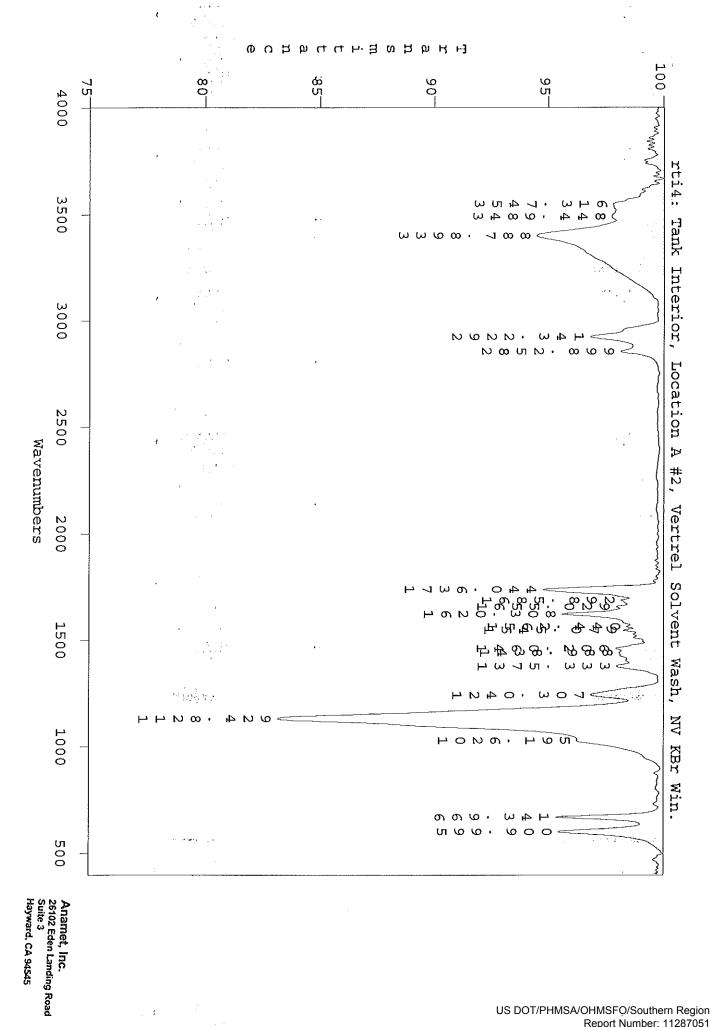






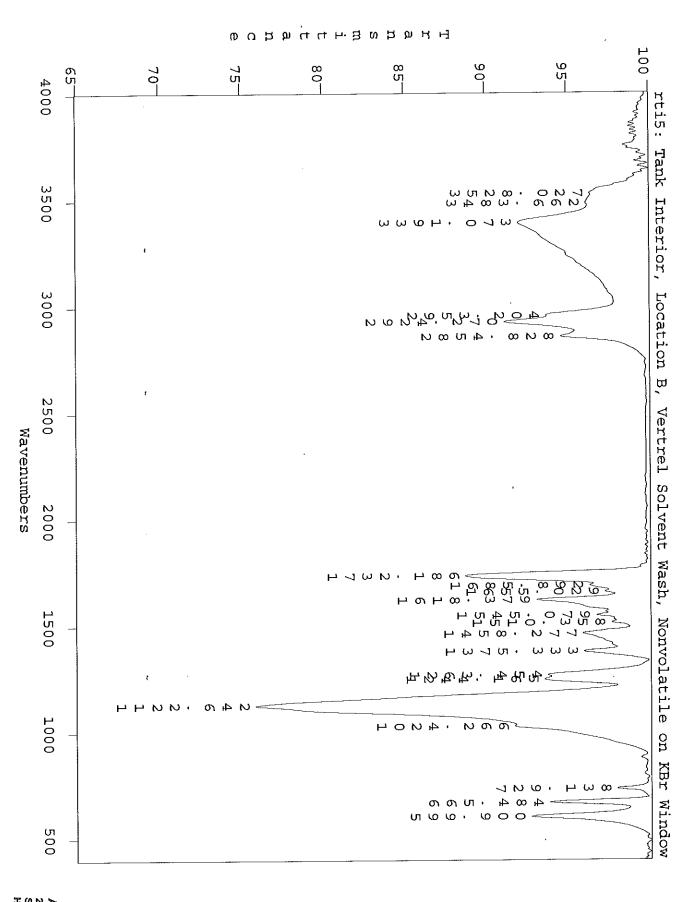


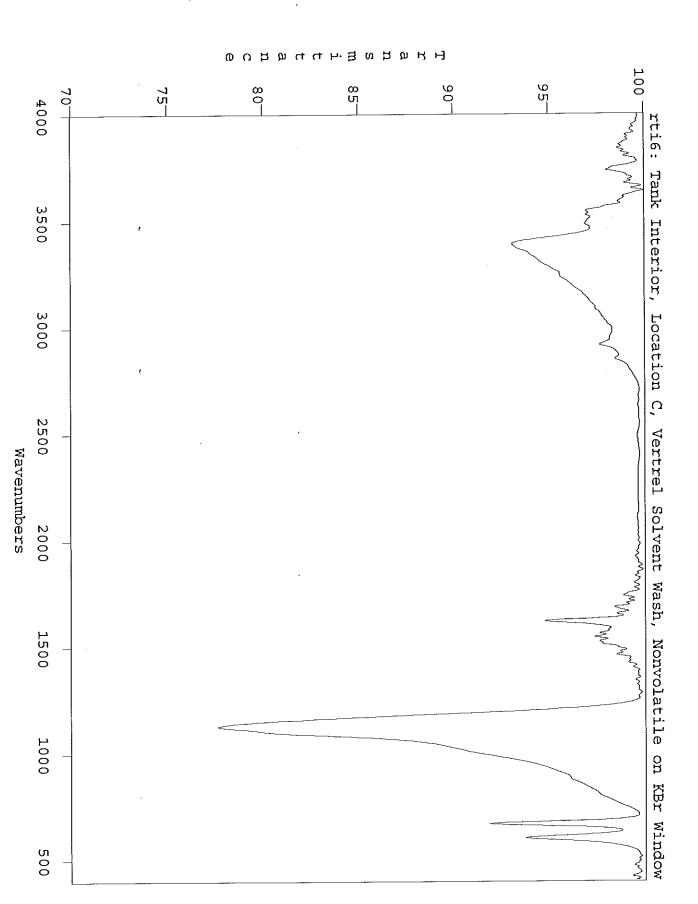
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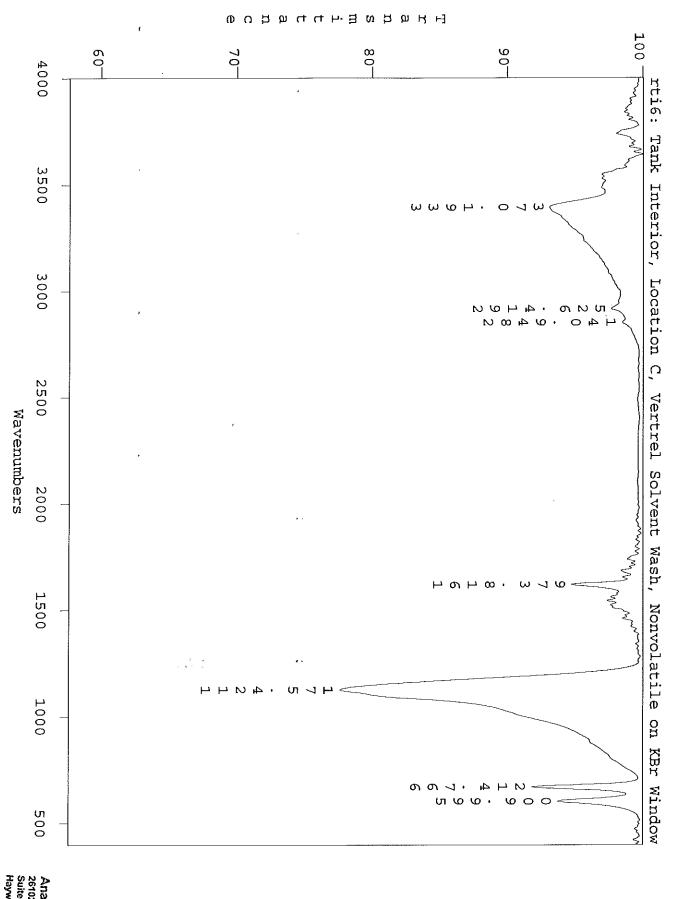


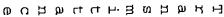
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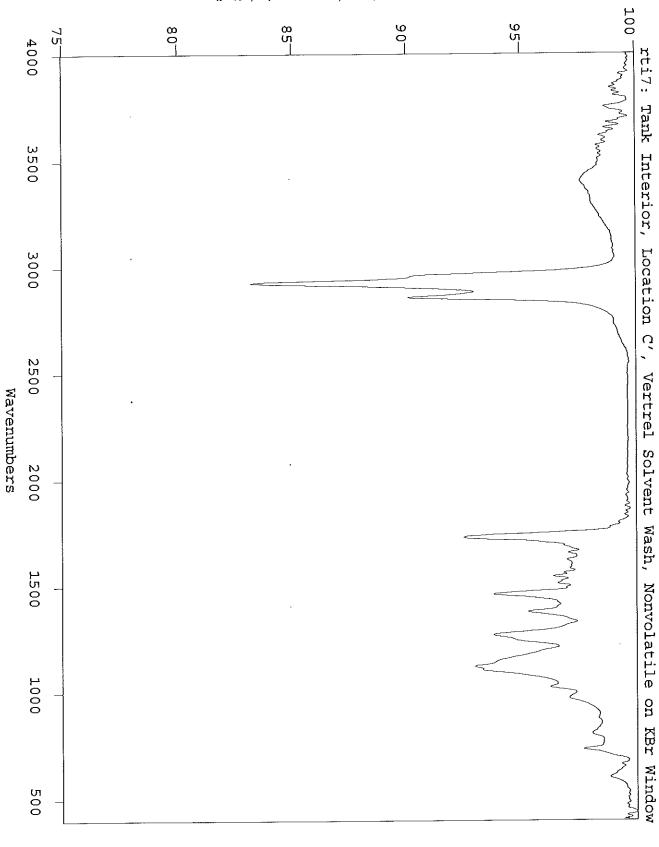
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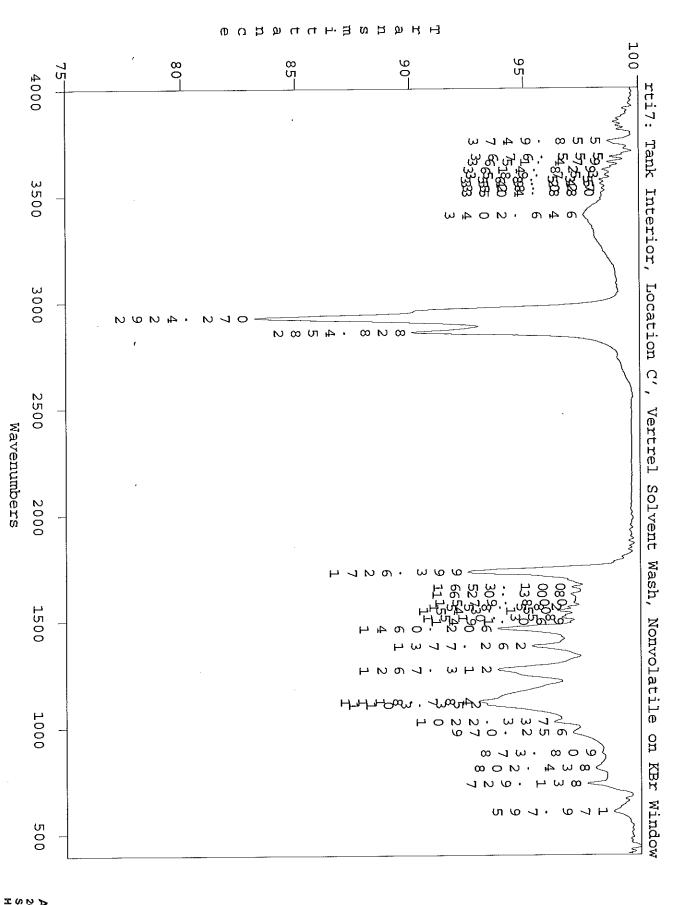


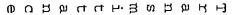


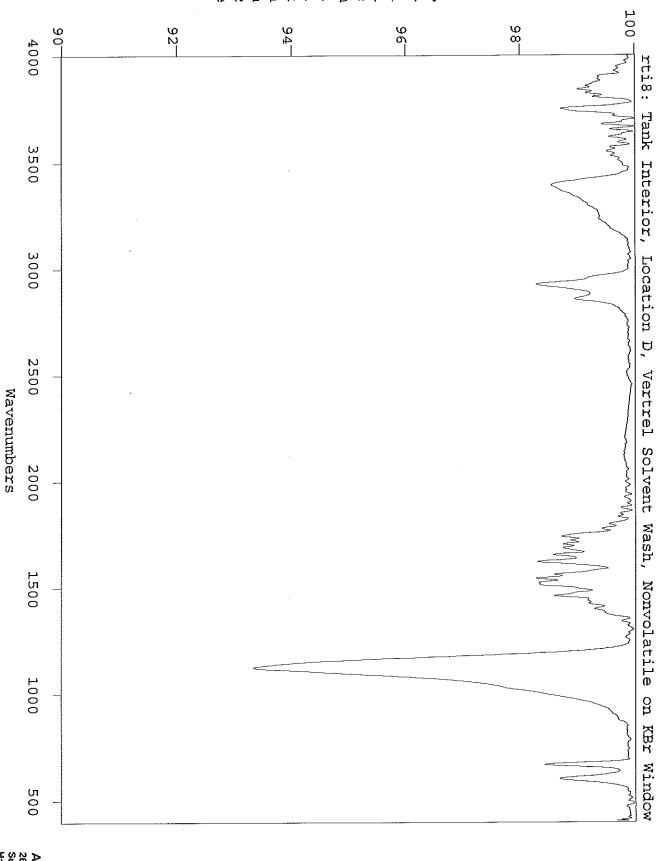


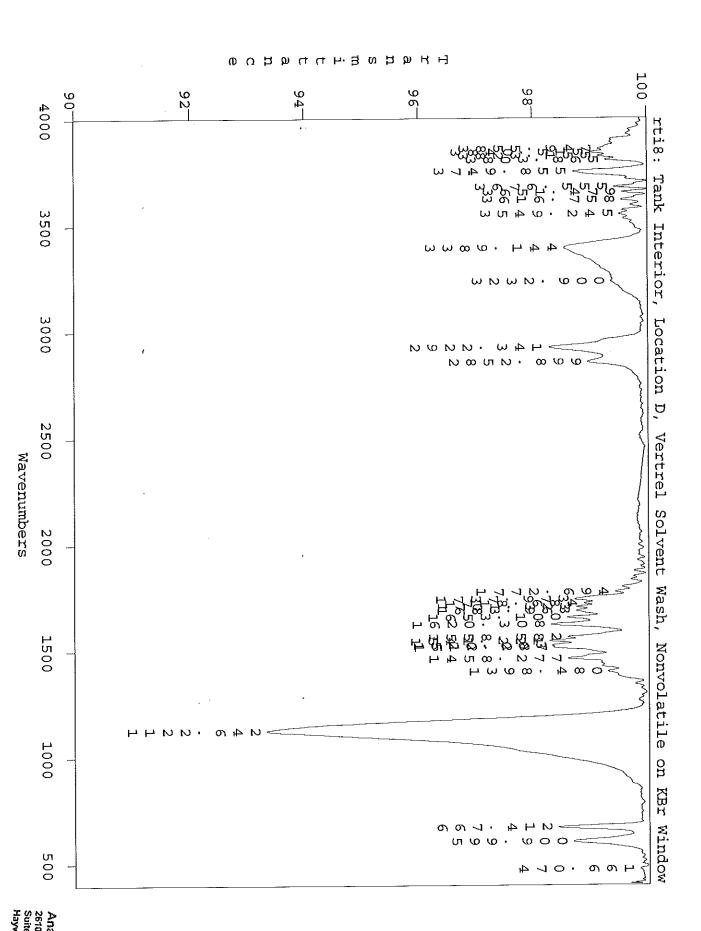


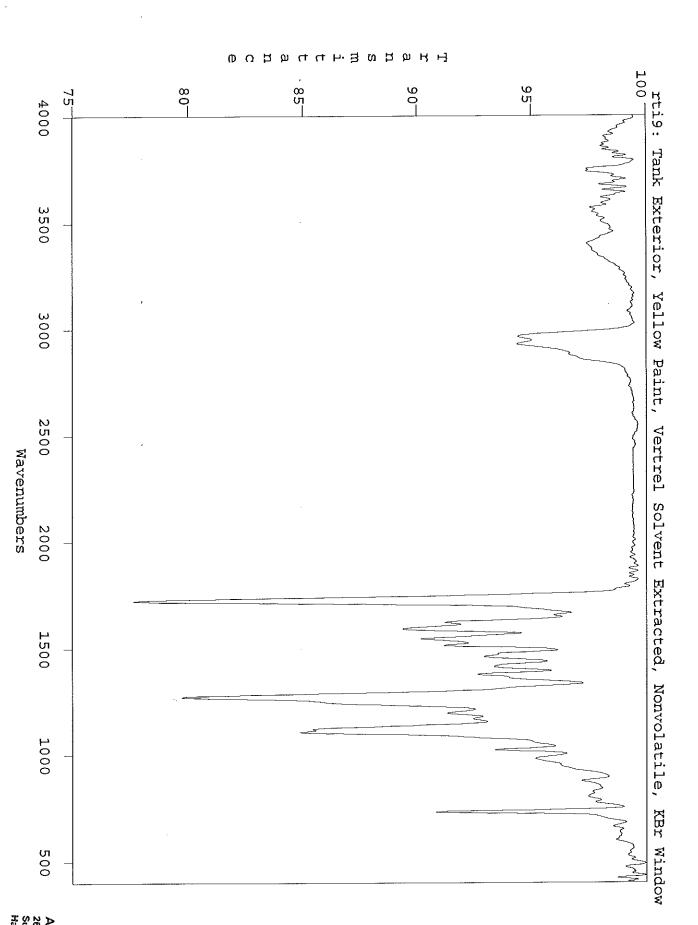




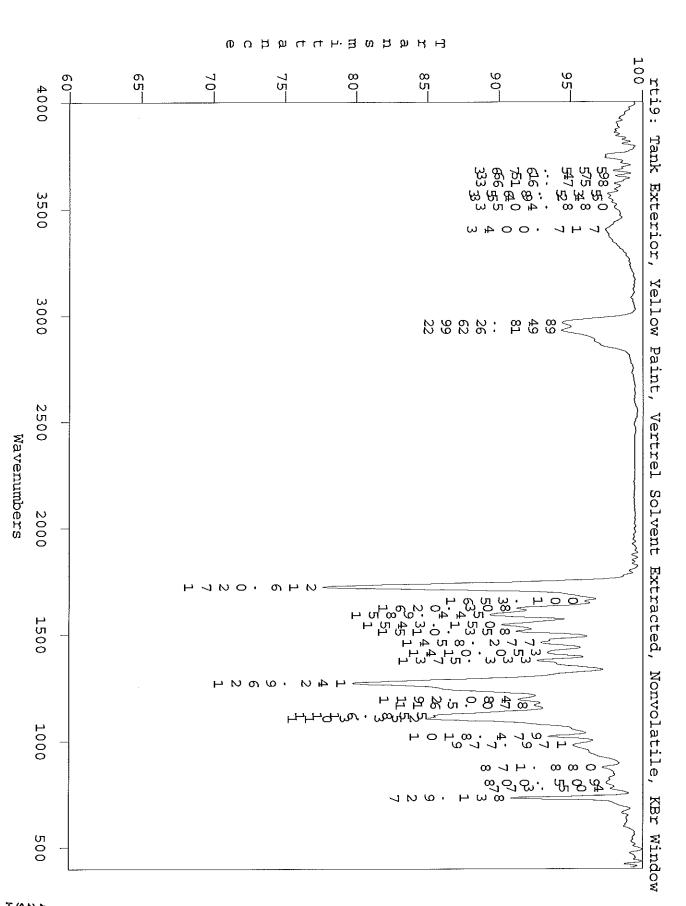


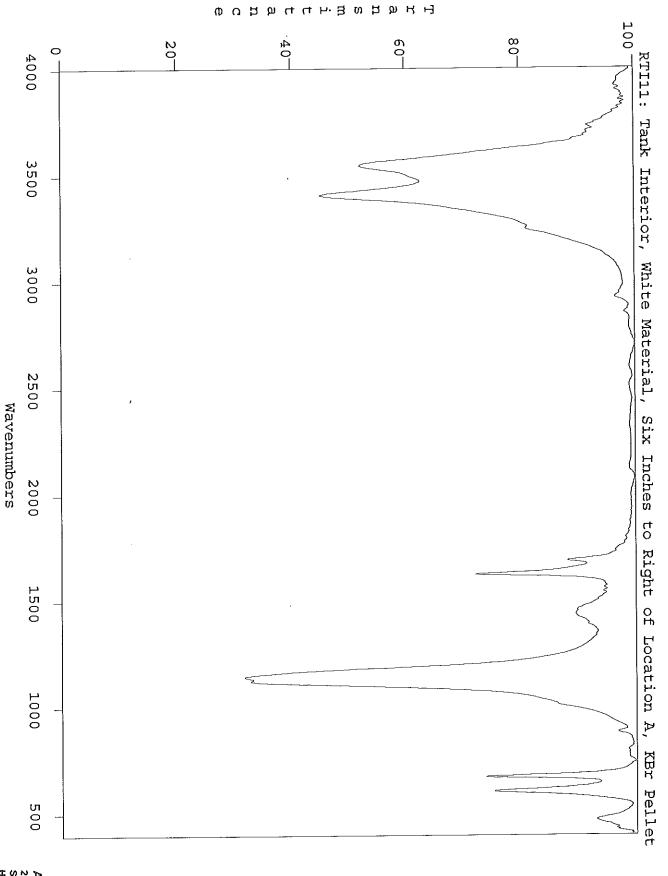


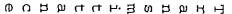


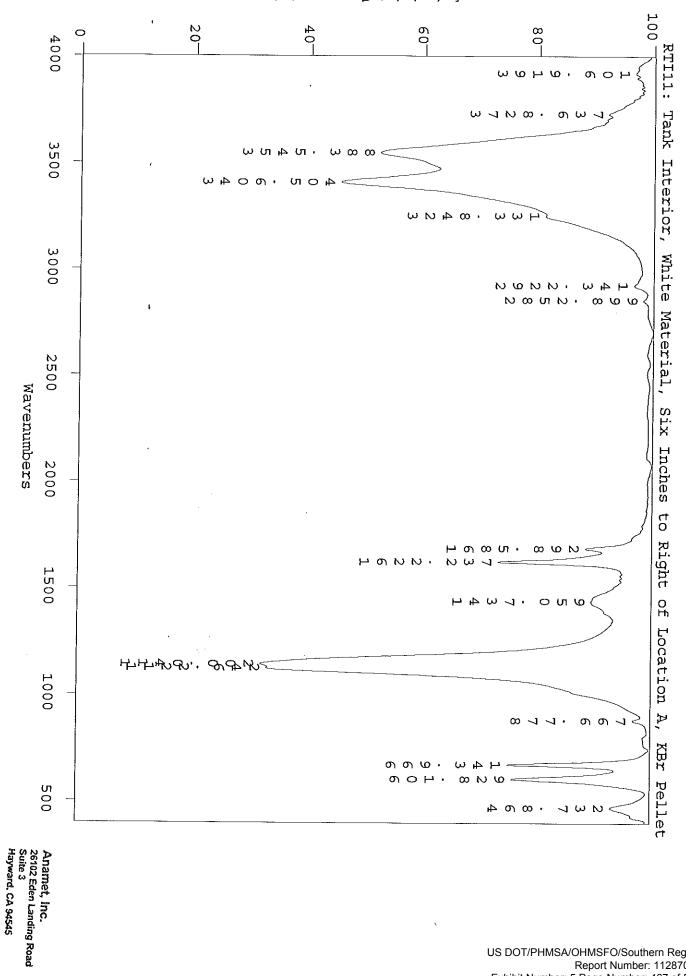


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Anamet, inc. MATERIALS ENGINEERING & LABORATORY TESTING

26102 Eden Landing Road Suite 3-Hayward CA 94545(510)887-8811-Fax (510)887-8427

March 22, 2012

Lab. No. 5004.7109 RTI Group

FTIR Spectra Characterization

Sample	Part No.	Spectrum No.	Characterization	
Tank Interior	Loc. A, #1	rti3	vinyl acetate and ester type polymers + calcium sulfate	
Tank Interior	Location A, #2	rti4	calcium sulfate + ester type polymer	
Tank Interior	Location B	rti5	calcium sulfate + ester type polymers	
Tank Interior	Location C	rti6	calcium sulfate	
Tank Interior	Location C'	rti7	terephthalate type polyester	
Tank Interior	Location D	rti8	calcium sulfate	
Tank Exterior	Yellow Paint	rti9	terephthalate type polyester	
Tank Interior	White material 6" to right of Location A	rti11	calcium sulfate	
Valve Seat Body	1A	rti13	fluoro-polymer	
Valve Stem	1B	rti16	fluoro-polymer (fluorine confirmed by EDS)	
Relief Valve	1C	rti18	fluoro-polymer	
Gland Nut	1D	rti19	fluoro-polymer	
Valve Body	1E, 22mm orifice	rti20	silicate(s) + ammonium salt + oxides	
Valve Body	1E, 18mm orifice	rti21	silicate(s) + ammonium salt + oxides	
Valve Body	1E, 12mm orifice	rti22	silicate(s) + ammonium salt + oxides	
Valve Body	1E, 5mm orifice	rti23	oxides	
Regulator Adapter Air Cup	1F	rti24	fluoro-polymer	
Regulator Body Diaphragm	2aa, Print Side	rti25	aromatic ester	
Regulator Body Diaphragm	2aa, Non-Print Side	rti26	aromatic ester	
Regulator Body	2aa, Non-Print Side	rti28	calcium sulfate + calcium carbonate	



Anamet, inc. MATERIALS ENGINEERING & LABORATORY TESTING

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FTIR Spectra Characterization

Sample	Part No.	Spectrum No.	Characterization	
Retaining Ring	2ab	rti29	fluoro-polymer + ester	
Spring Carrier	2ac	rti30	fluoro-polymer	
Metal	2ad	rti34	fluoro-polymer + ester	
Diaphragm				
Retainer,				
Interior				
Metal	2ad	rti35	fluoro-polymer + silicate(s) + oxides	
Diaphragm				
Retainer				
Main Regulator	2ae, 2ef, 2ag,	rti36	fluoro-polymer + ester	
Body	& 2ah			
High Pressure	2aj'	rti38	fluoro-polymer + ester	
Diaphragm &				
Adjustment				
Sleeve				
Mating Half	2ak	rti39	fluoro-polymer	
regulator				
Adjuster				
Adapter				
Green Hose,	2b	rti40	phthalate type ester	
Interior				
Valve Stem	3A	rti31	fluoro-polymer	
Exemplar				
Gland Nut	3B	rti32	fluoro-polymer	
Bore Exemplar				
Valve Seat	3C	rti33	fluoro-polymer + ester	
Body				
Exemplar				

Submitted by:

Harl B. Halan

Harold R. Harlan,

Director, Organic Chemistry Laboratories

ATTACHMENT 9

Micrographs with HF Etch and Kellers Etch *Micrograph images, in order of appearance*

HF Etch

Sample A Center 50x
Sample A Center 200x
Sample A Fracture 50x
Sample A Fracture 200x
Sample A Inside Surface 50x
Sample A Inside Surface 200x

Sample B Center 50x Sample B Center 200x Sample B Fracture 50x Sample B Fracture 200x

Sample C Center 50x Sample C Center 200x Sample C Fracture 50x Sample C Fracture 200x

Sample D Center 50x
Sample D Center 200x
Sample D Fracture 50x
Sample D Fracture 200x
Sample D Outside Surface 50x
Sample D Outside Surface 200x

Attachment 9, continued

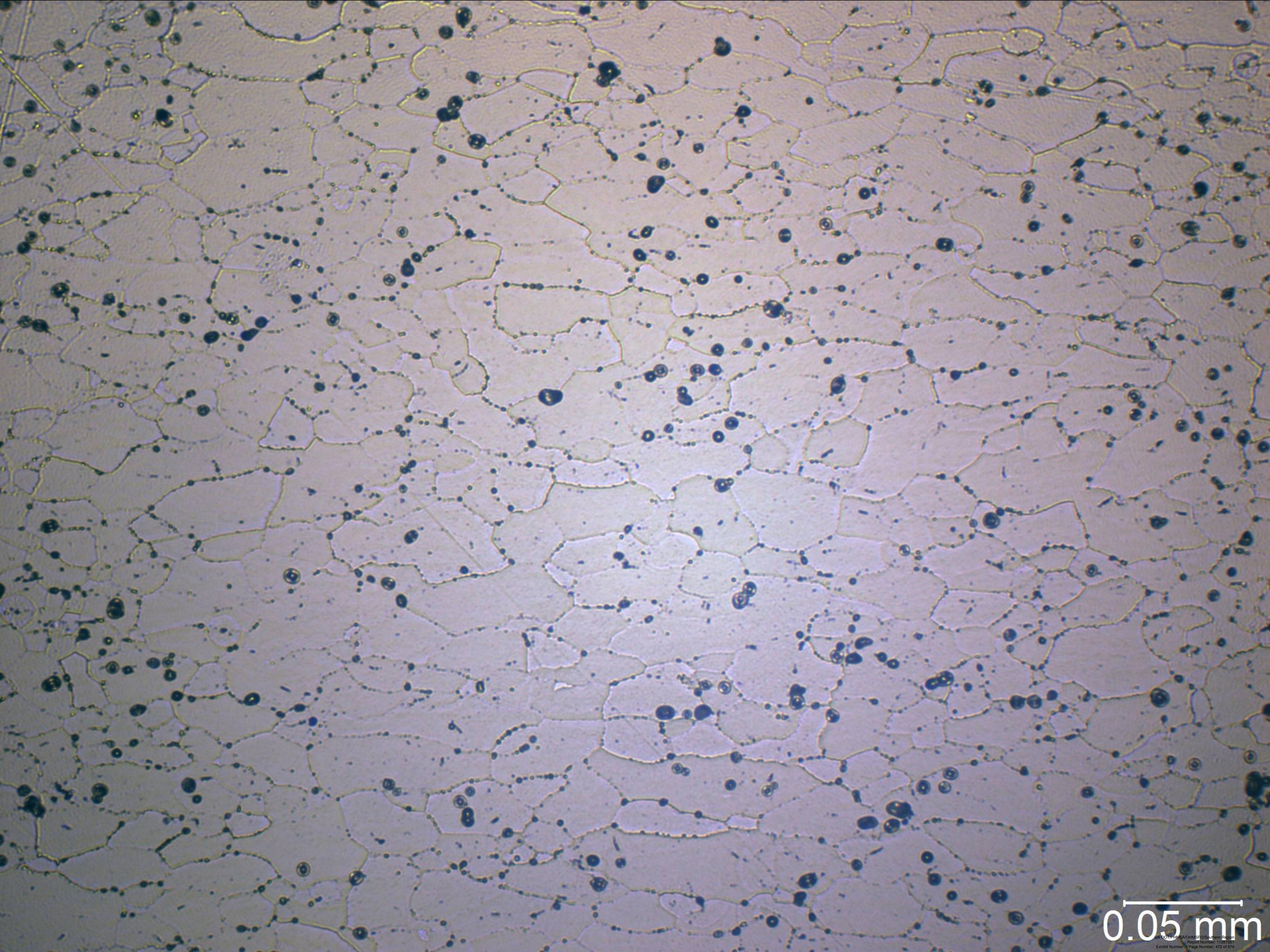
Kellers Etch

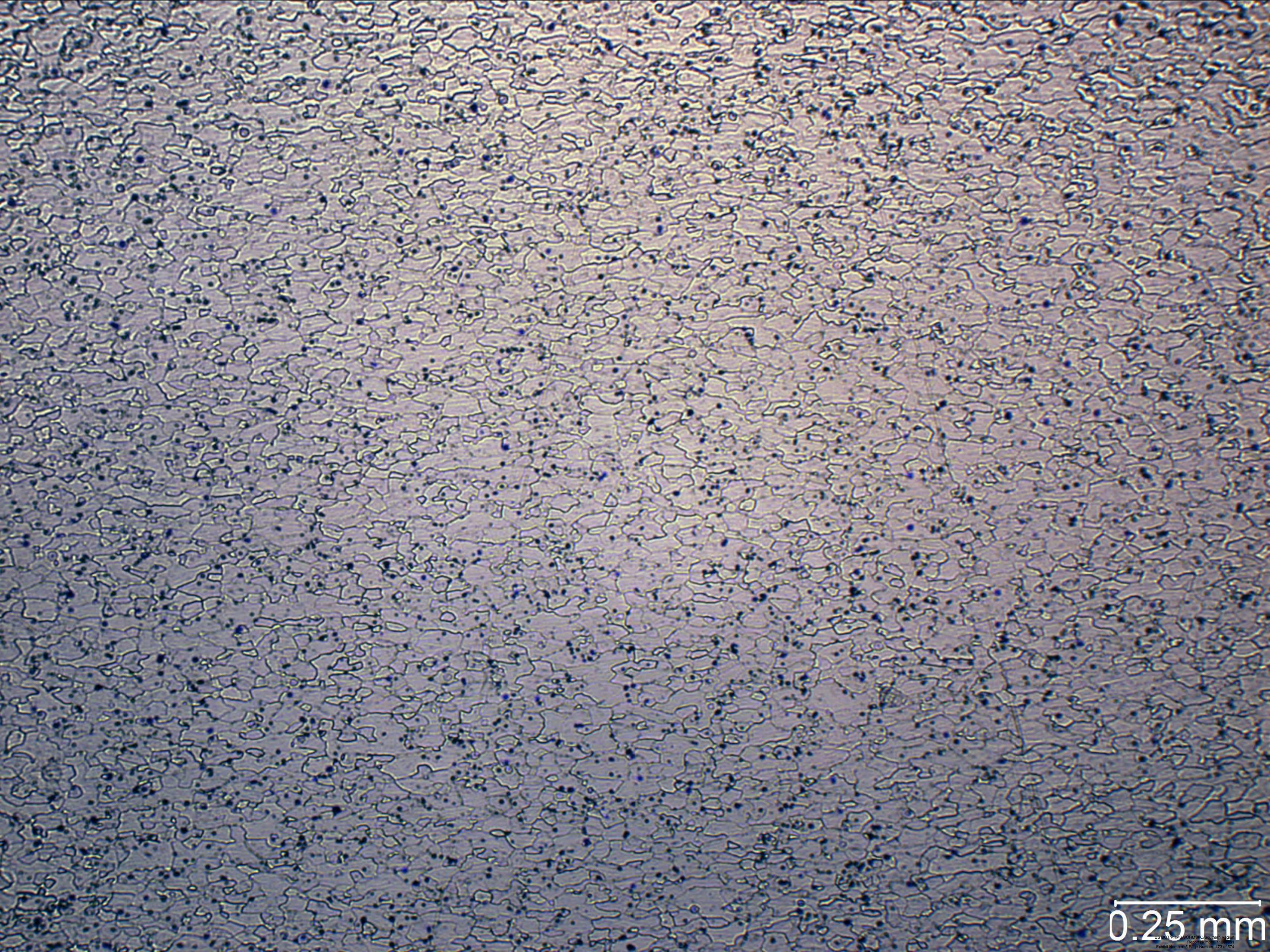
Sample A Center 50x
Sample A Center 200x
Sample A Fracture 50x
Sample A Fracture 200x
Sample A Inside Surface 50x
Sample A Inside Surface 200x

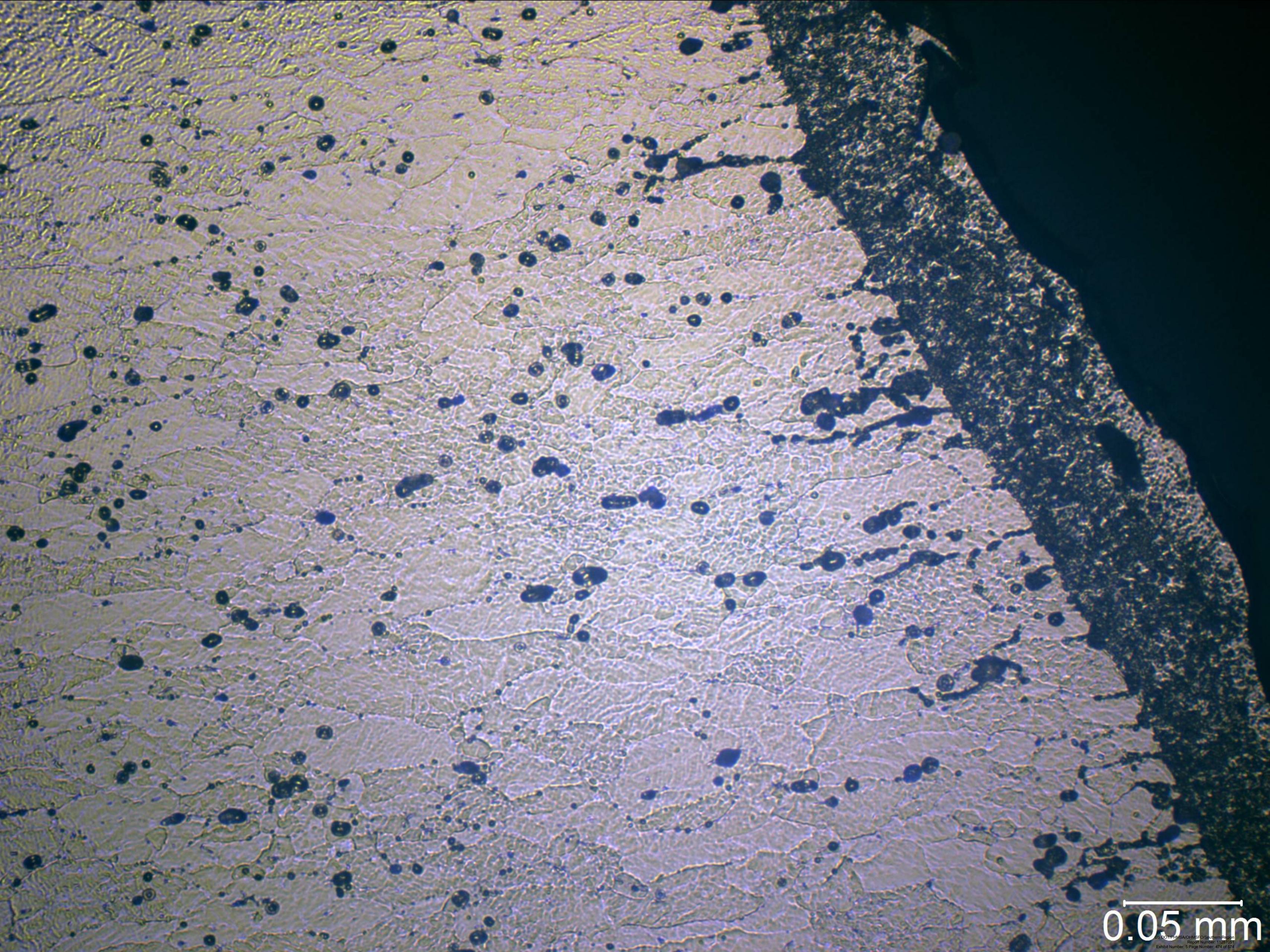
Sample B Center 50x Sample B Center 200x Sample B Fracture 50x Sample B Fracture 200x

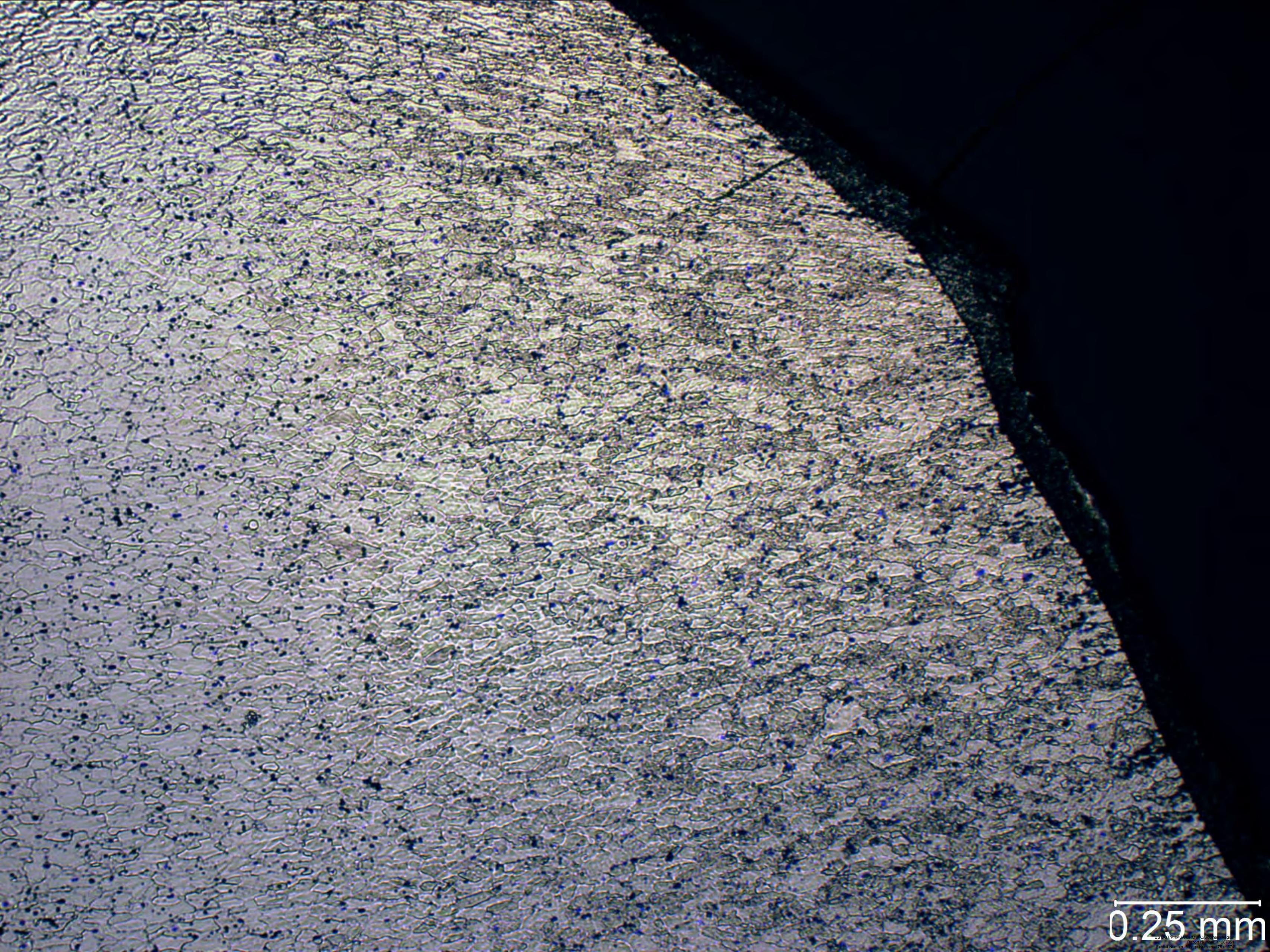
Sample C Center 50x Sample C Center 200x Sample C Fracture 50x Sample C Fracture 200x

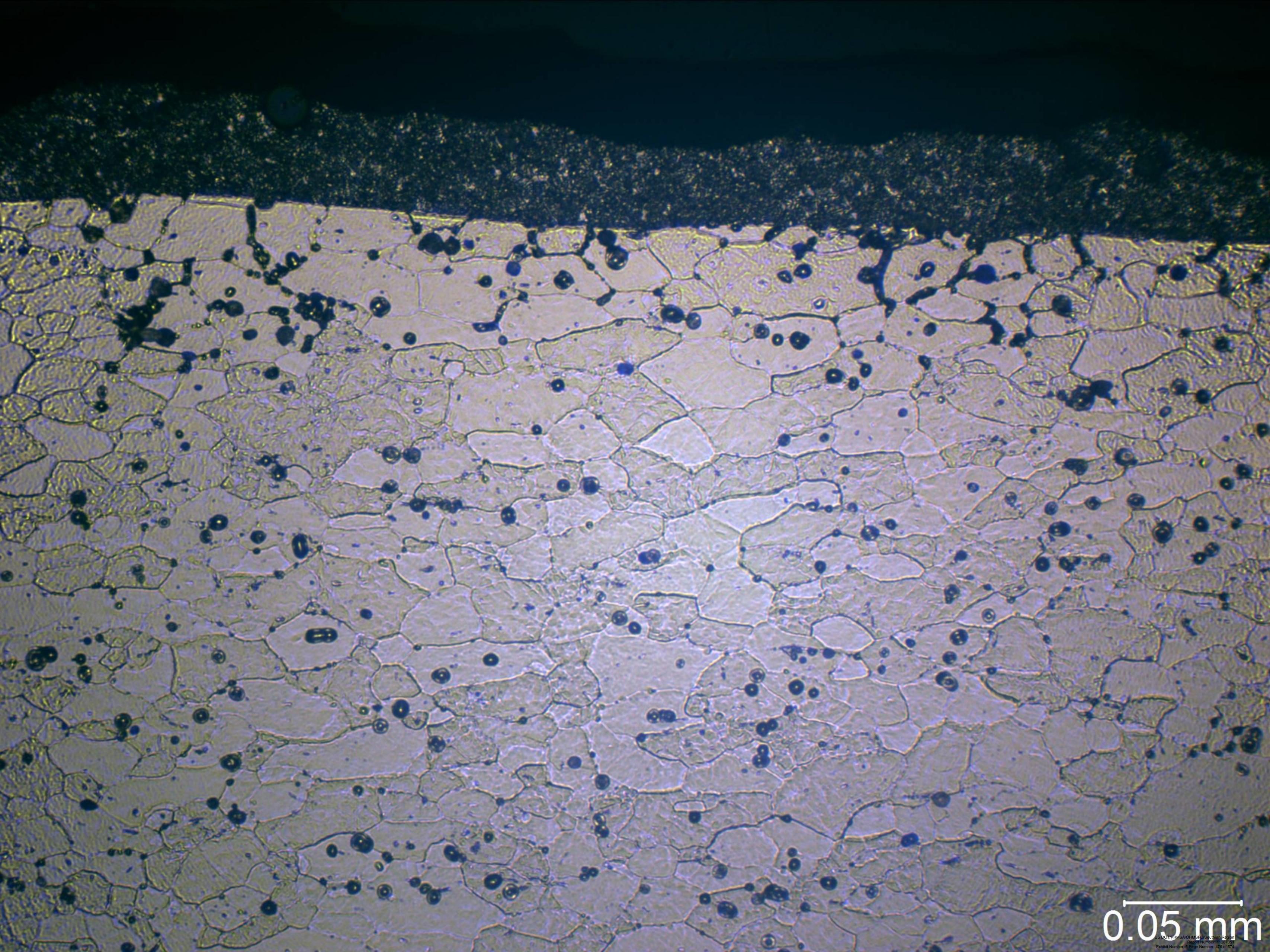
Sample D Center 50x
Sample D Center 200x
Sample D Fracture 50x
Sample D Fracture 200x
Sample D Outside Surface 50x
Sample D Outside Surface 200x

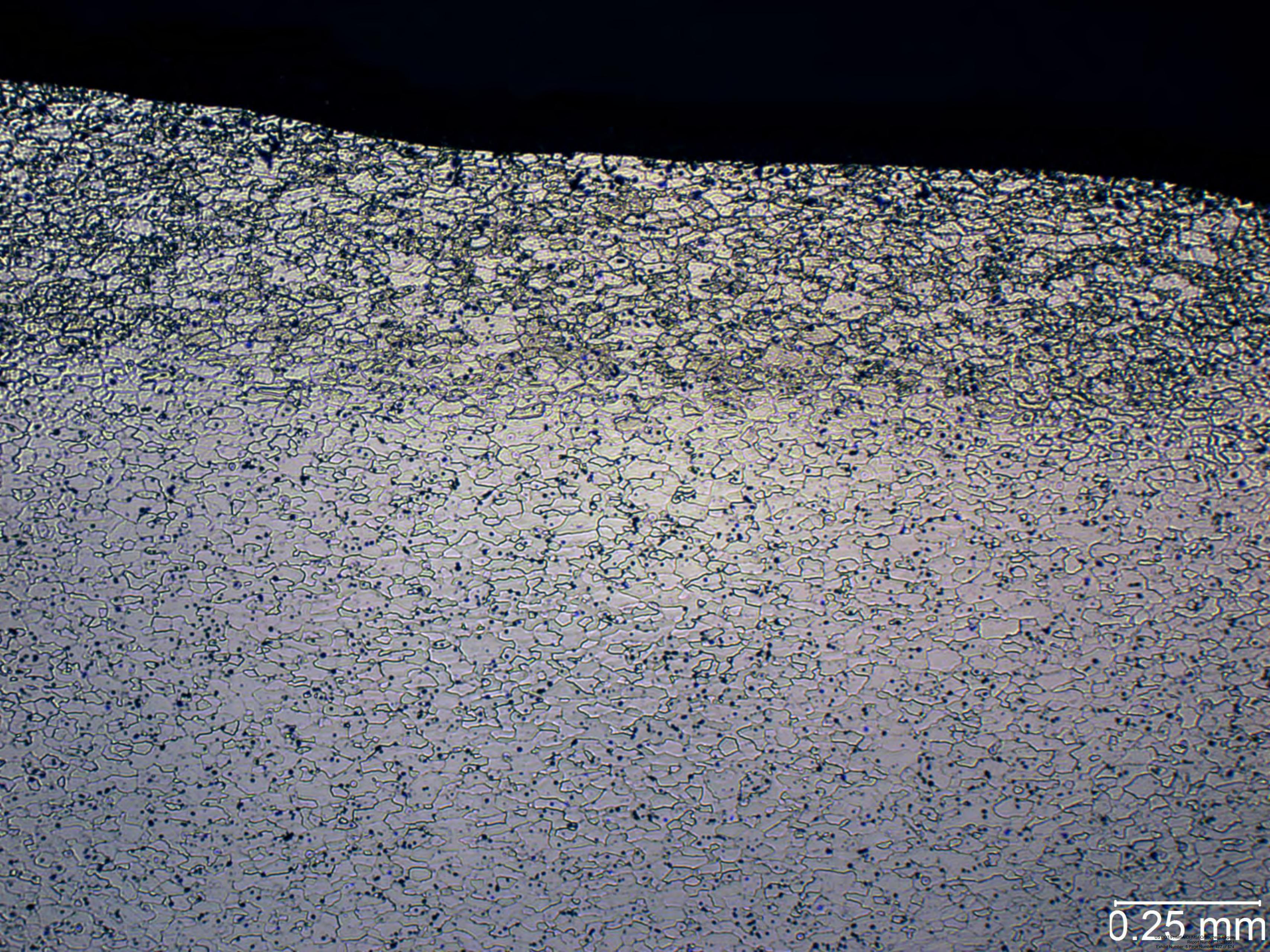


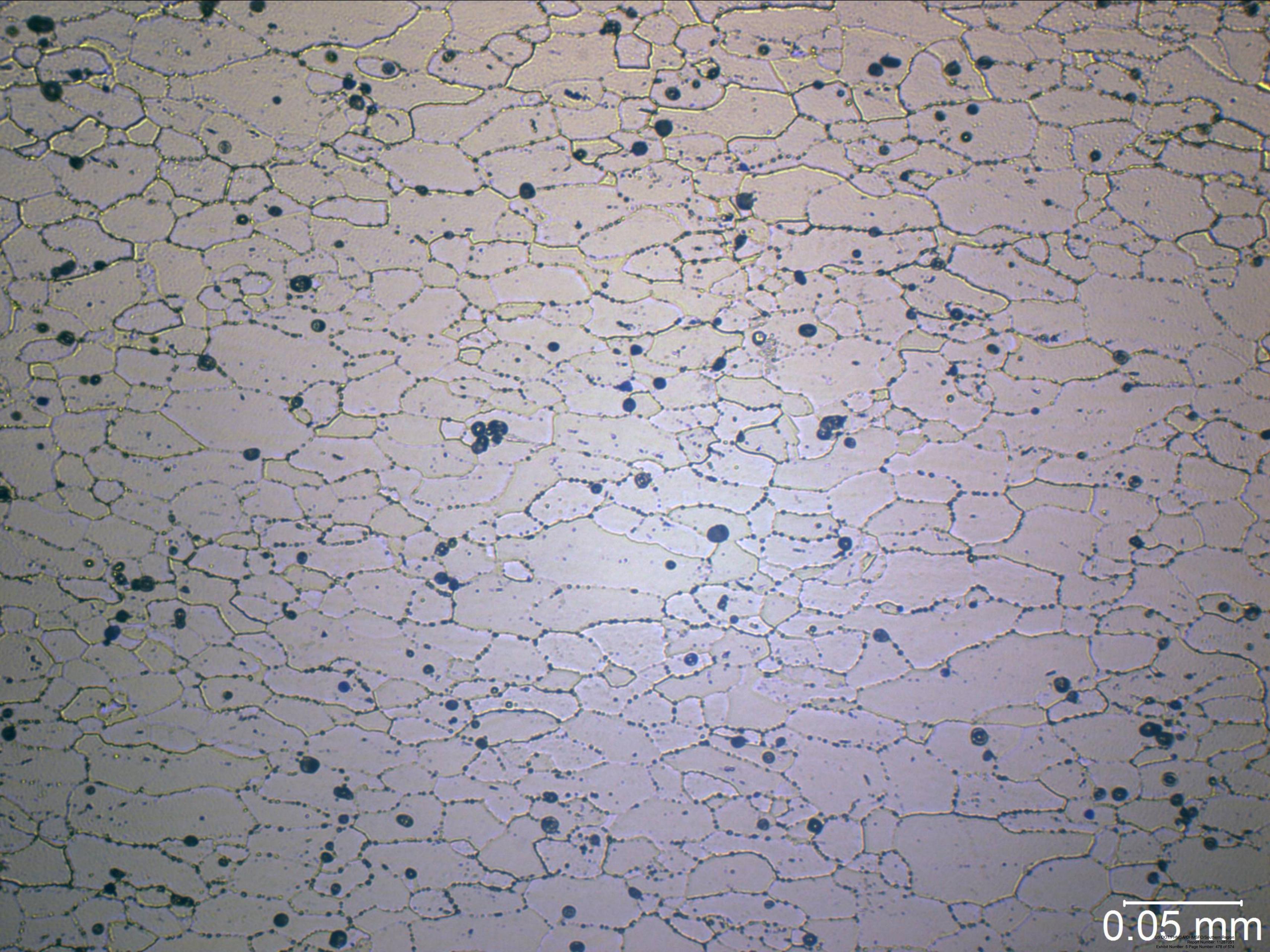




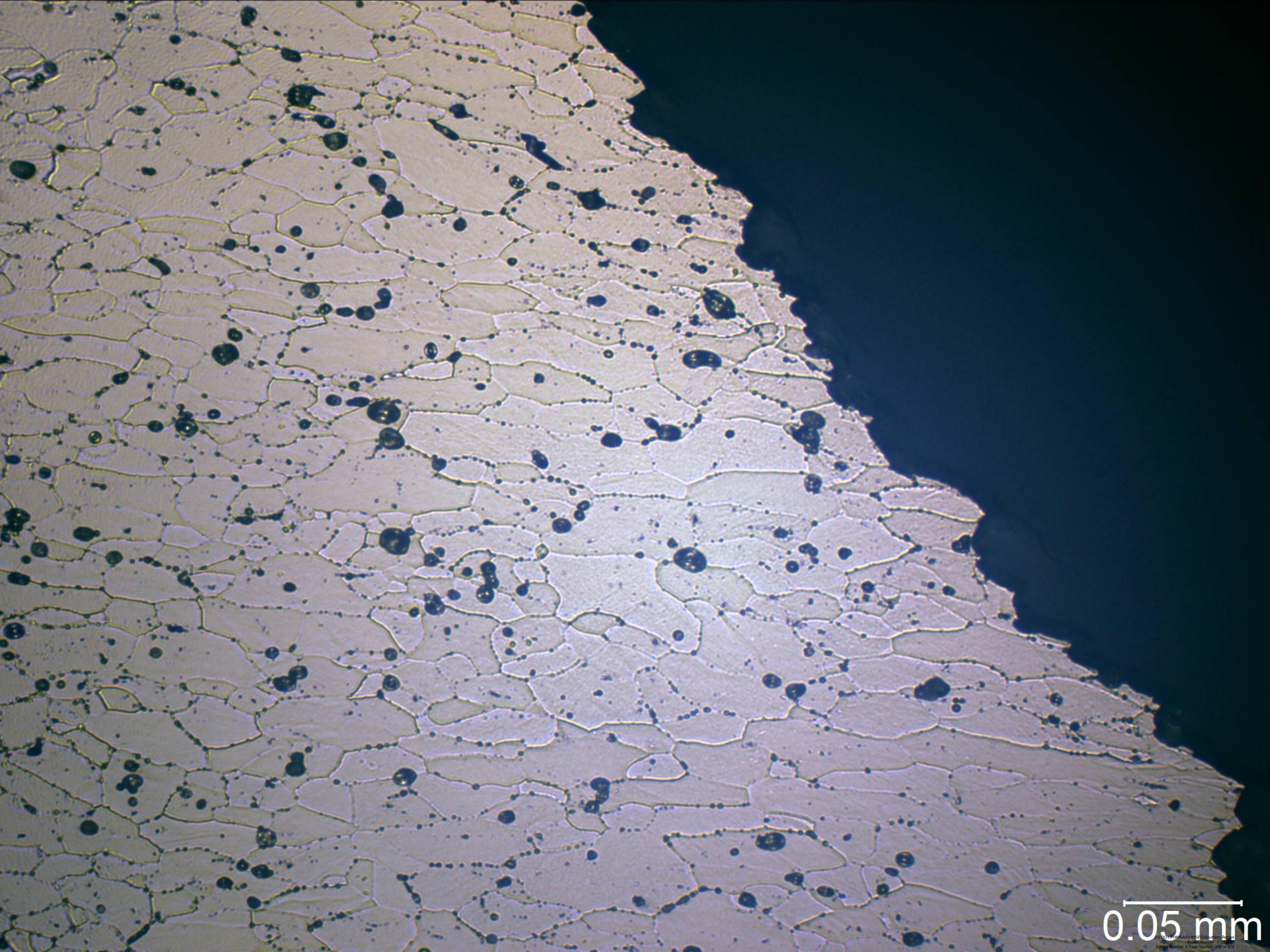


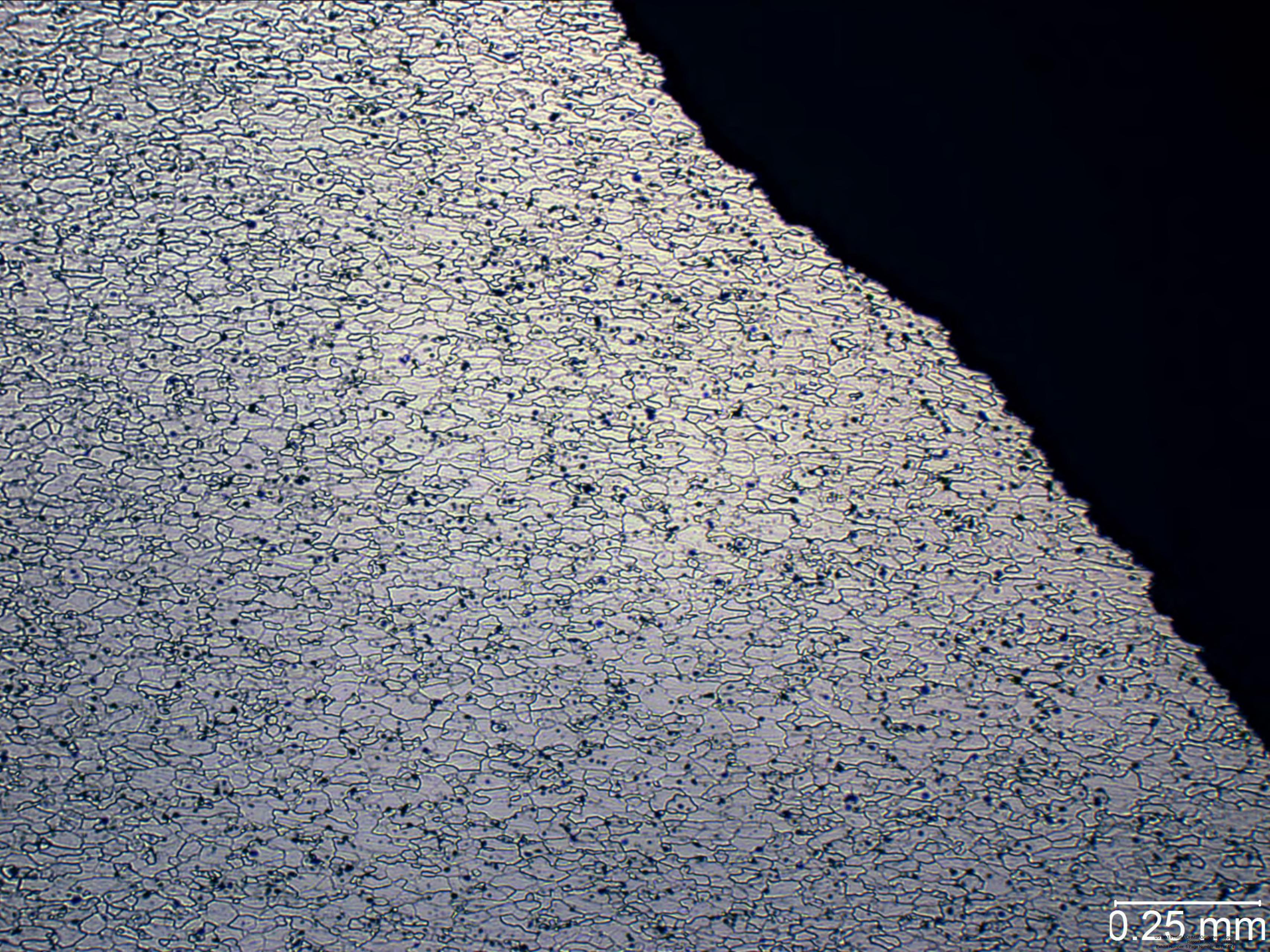


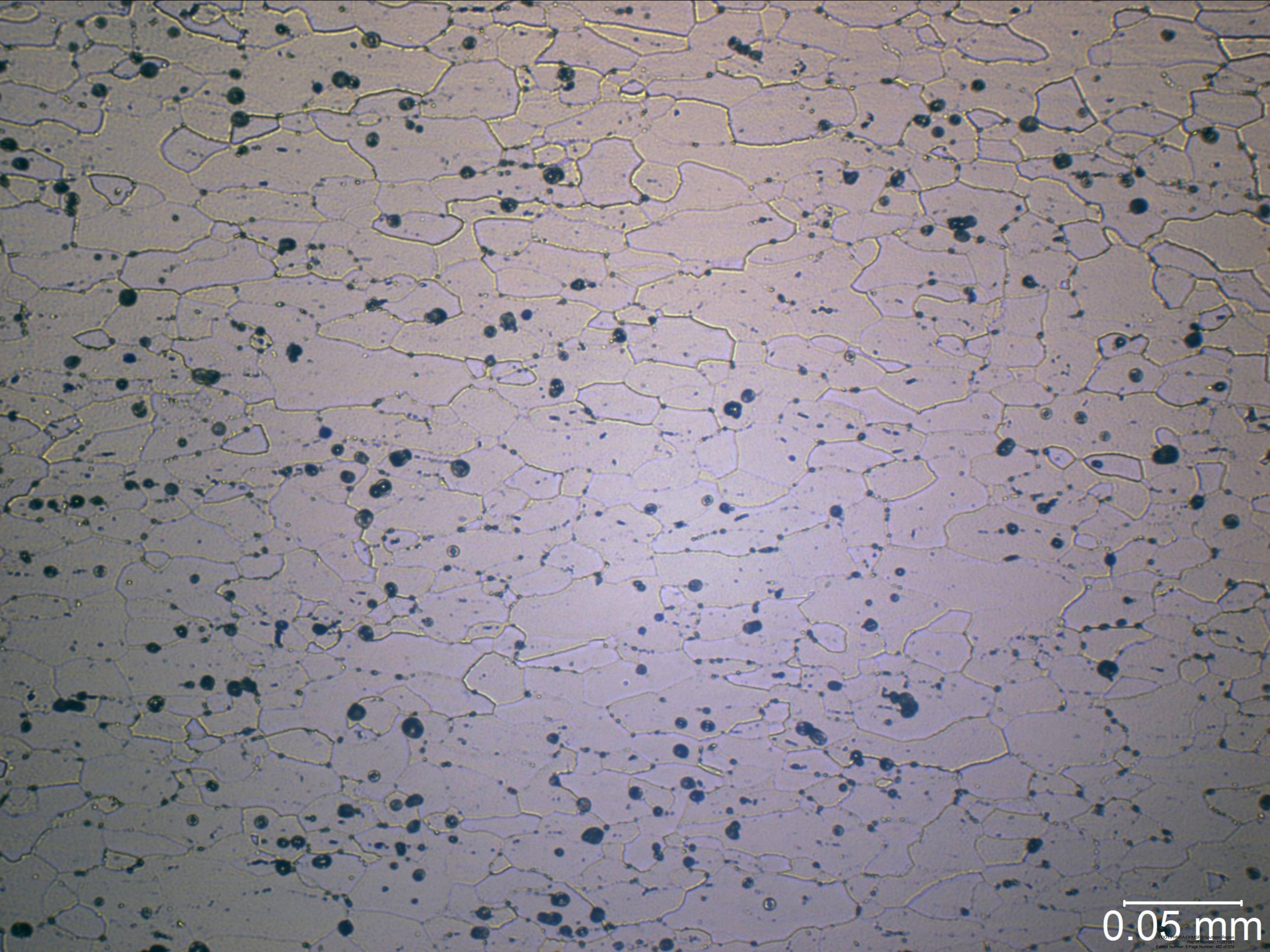


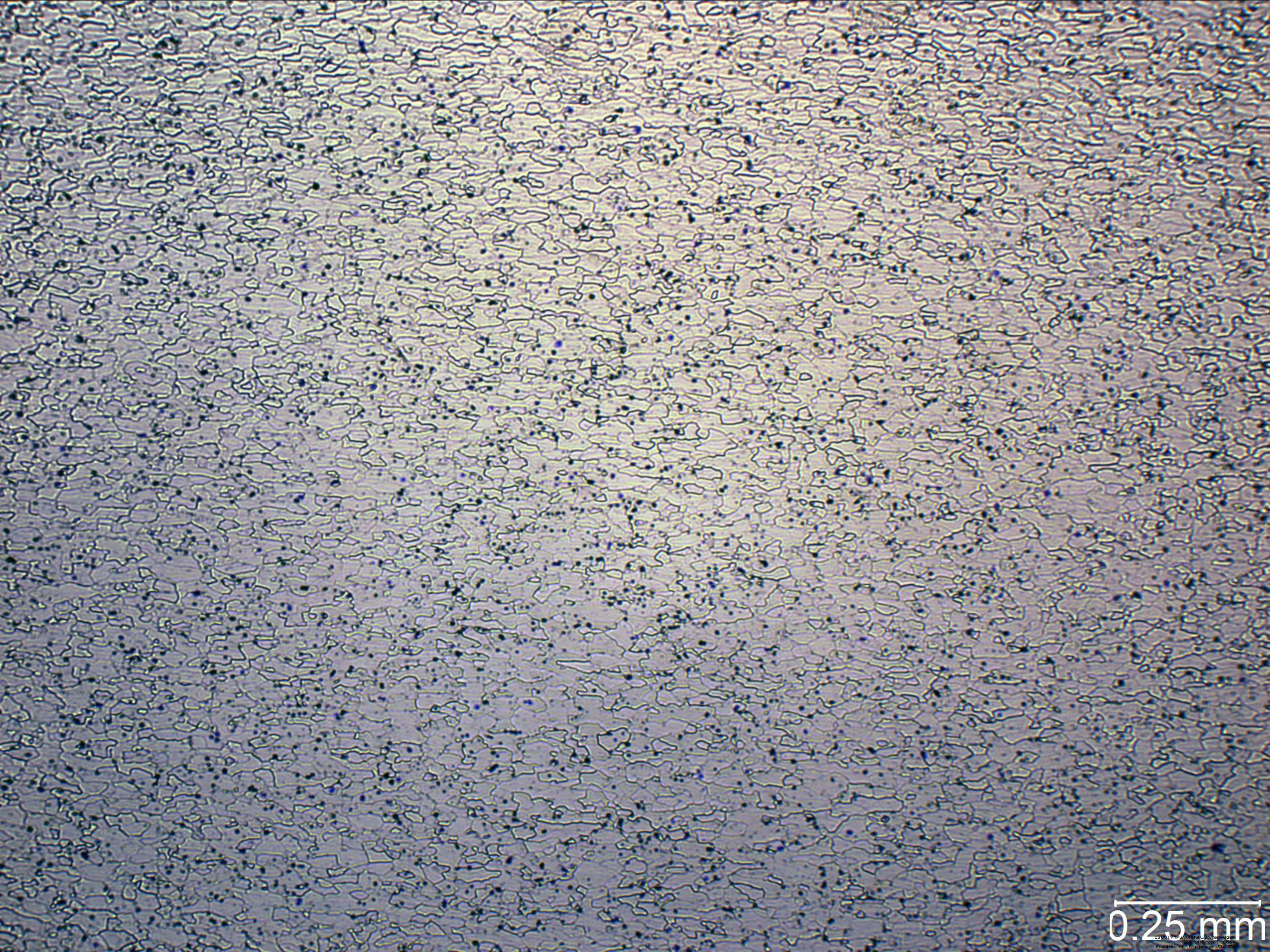


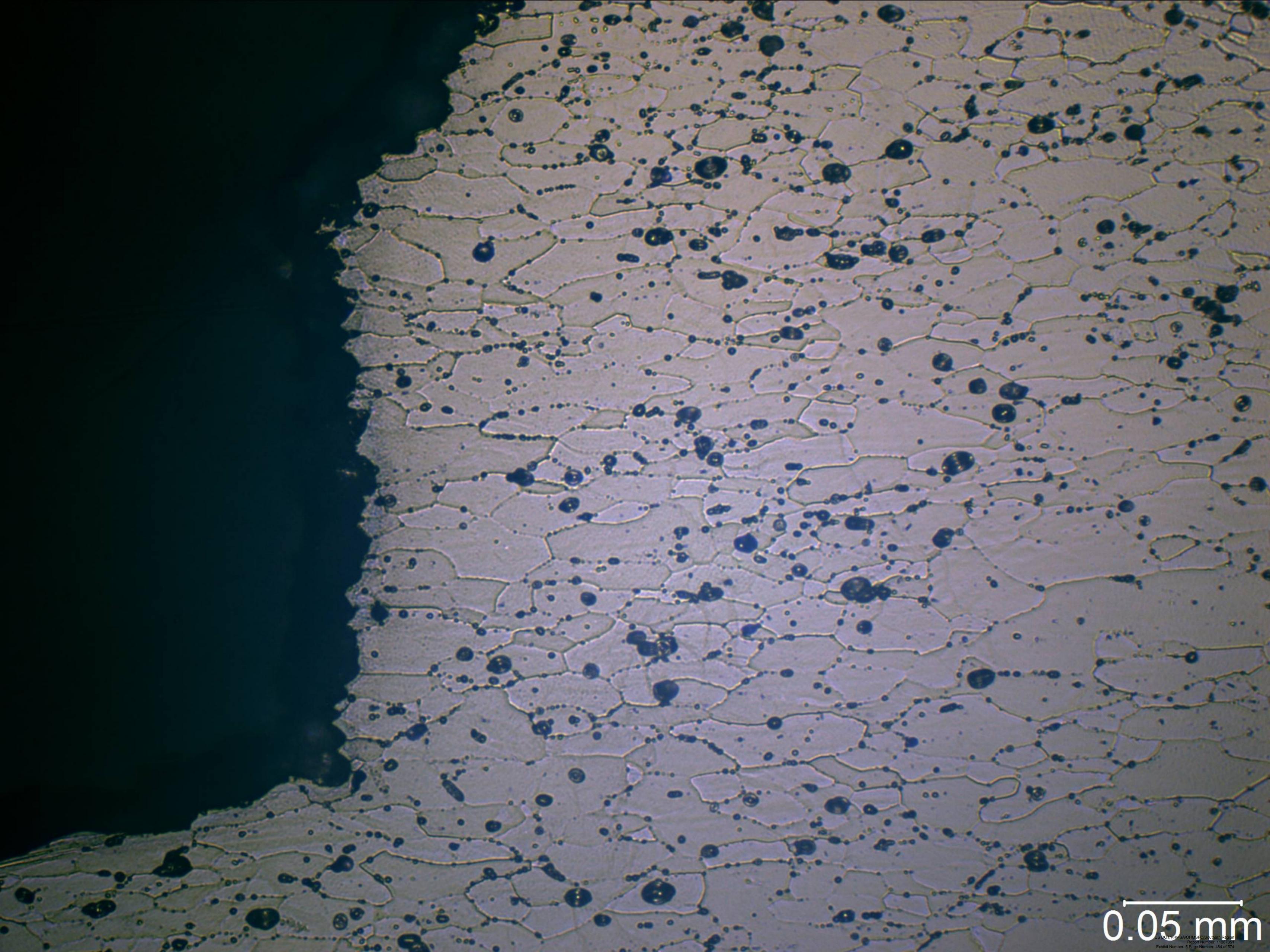


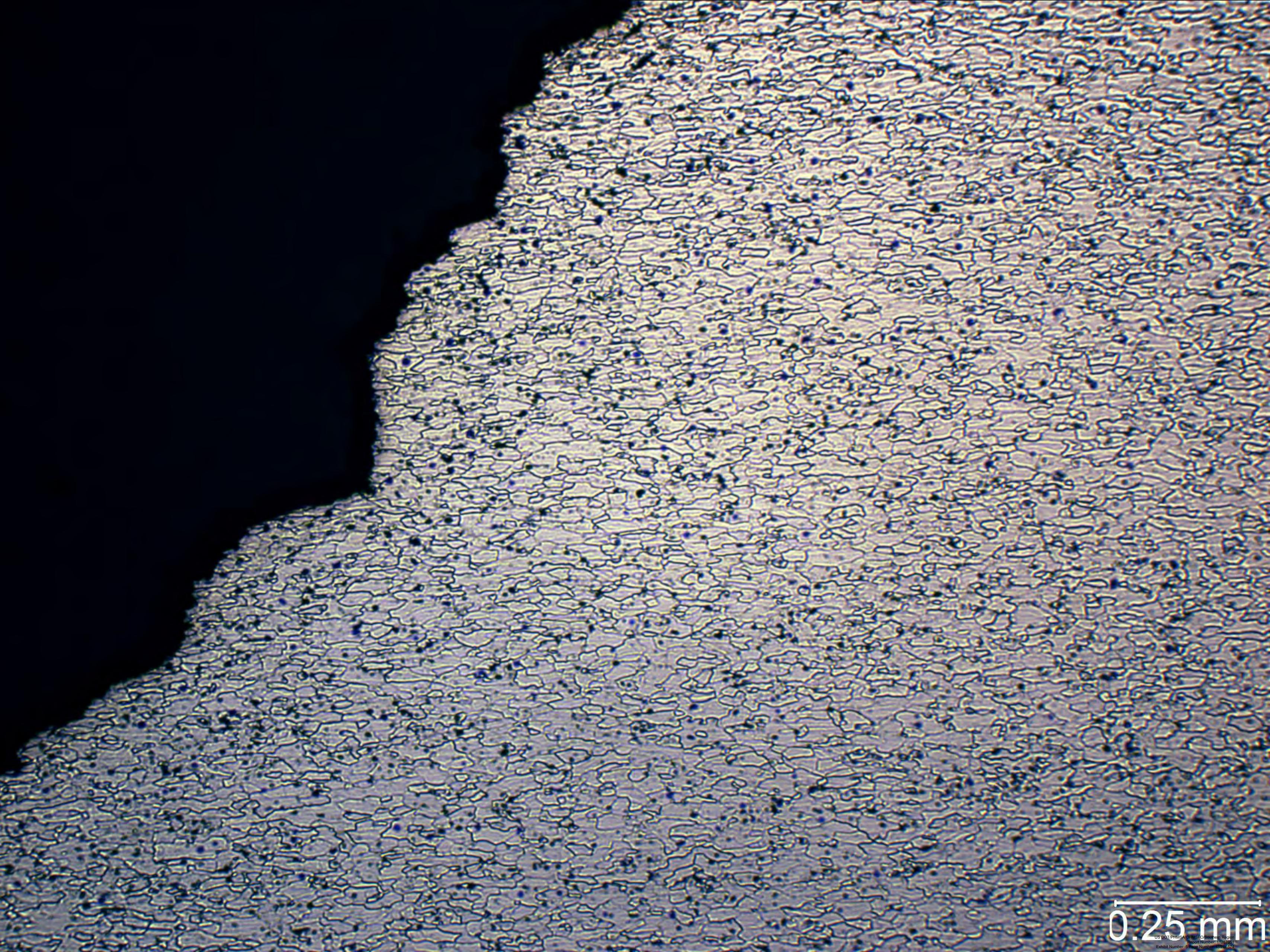


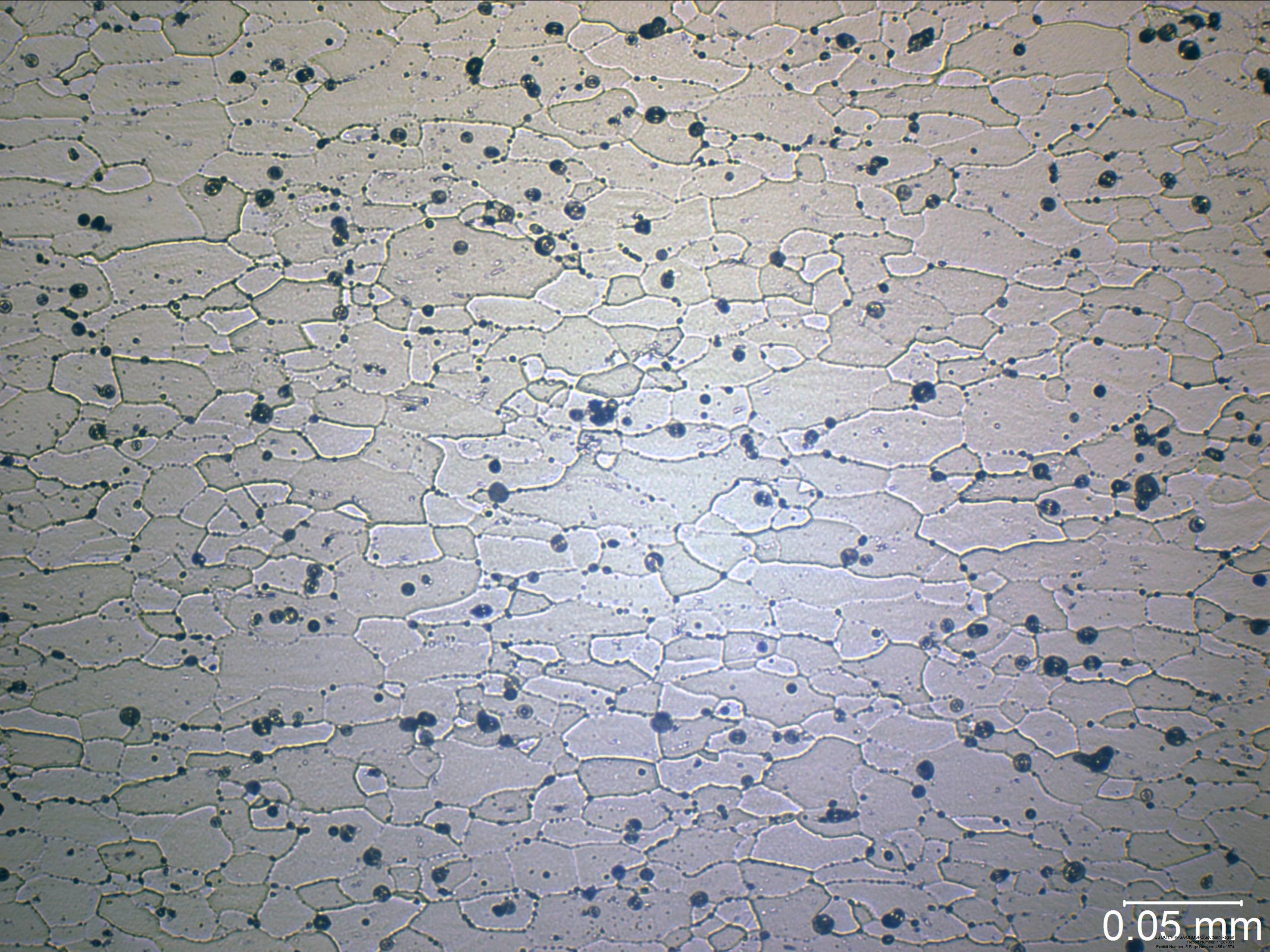


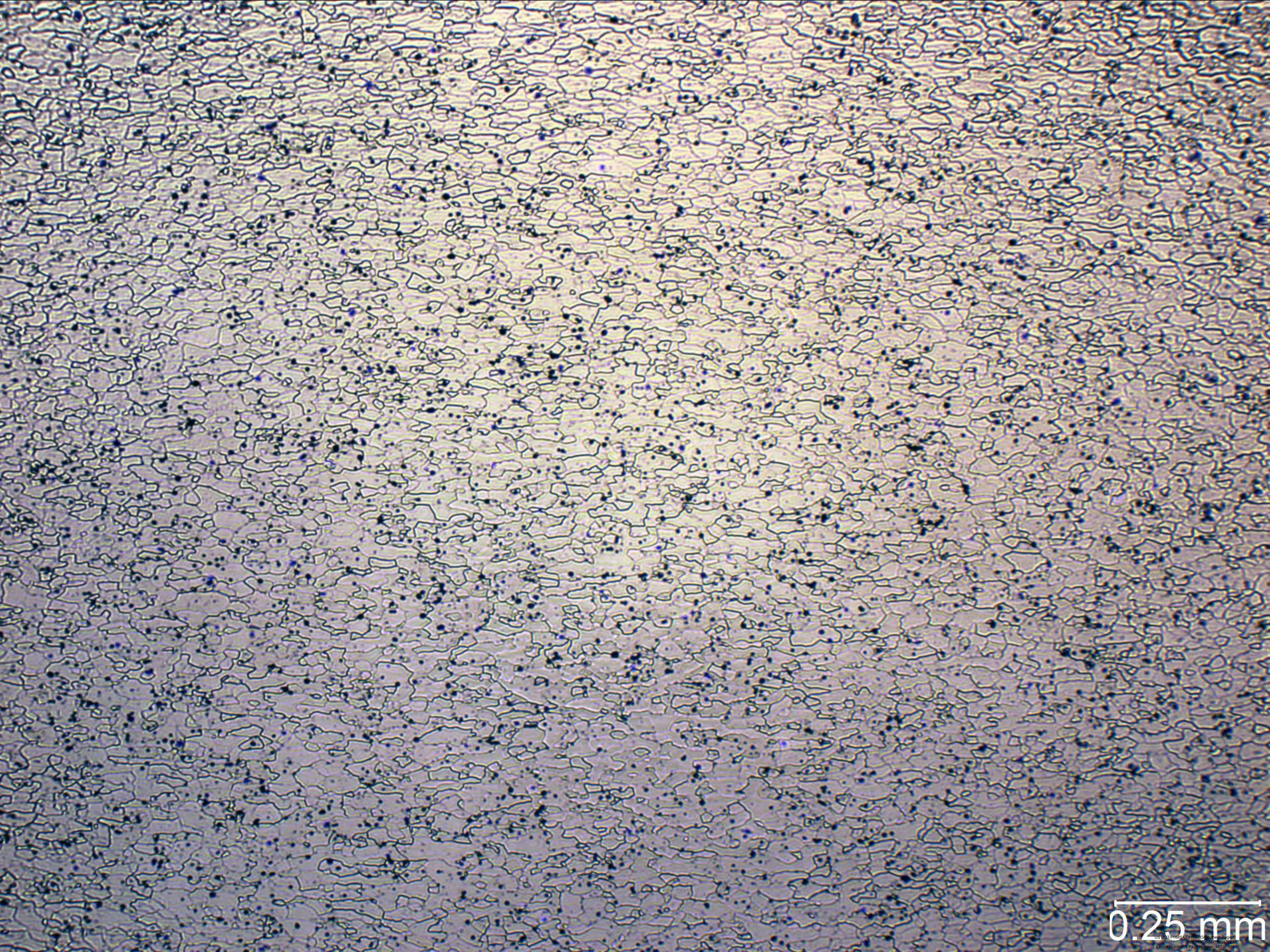


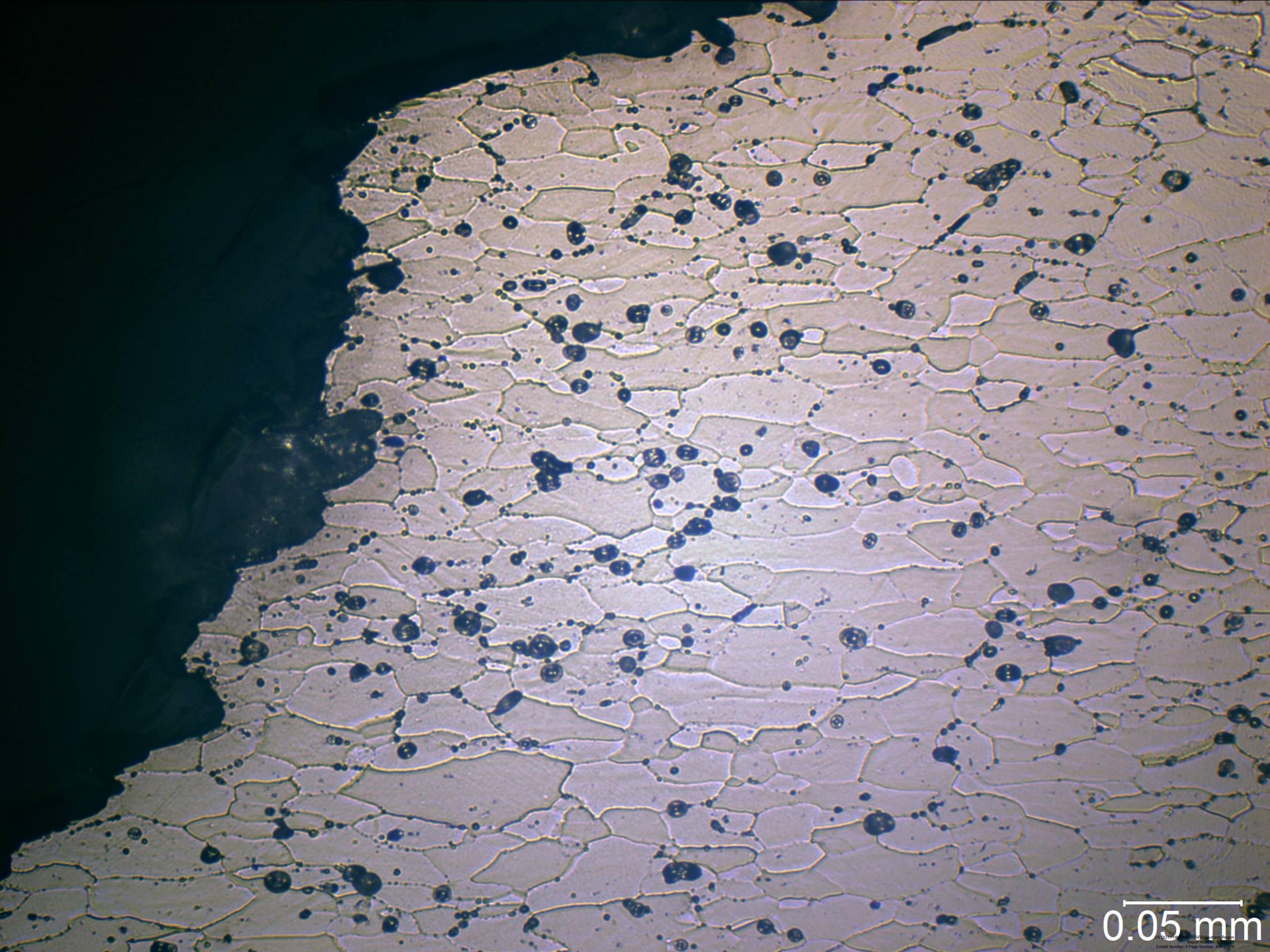


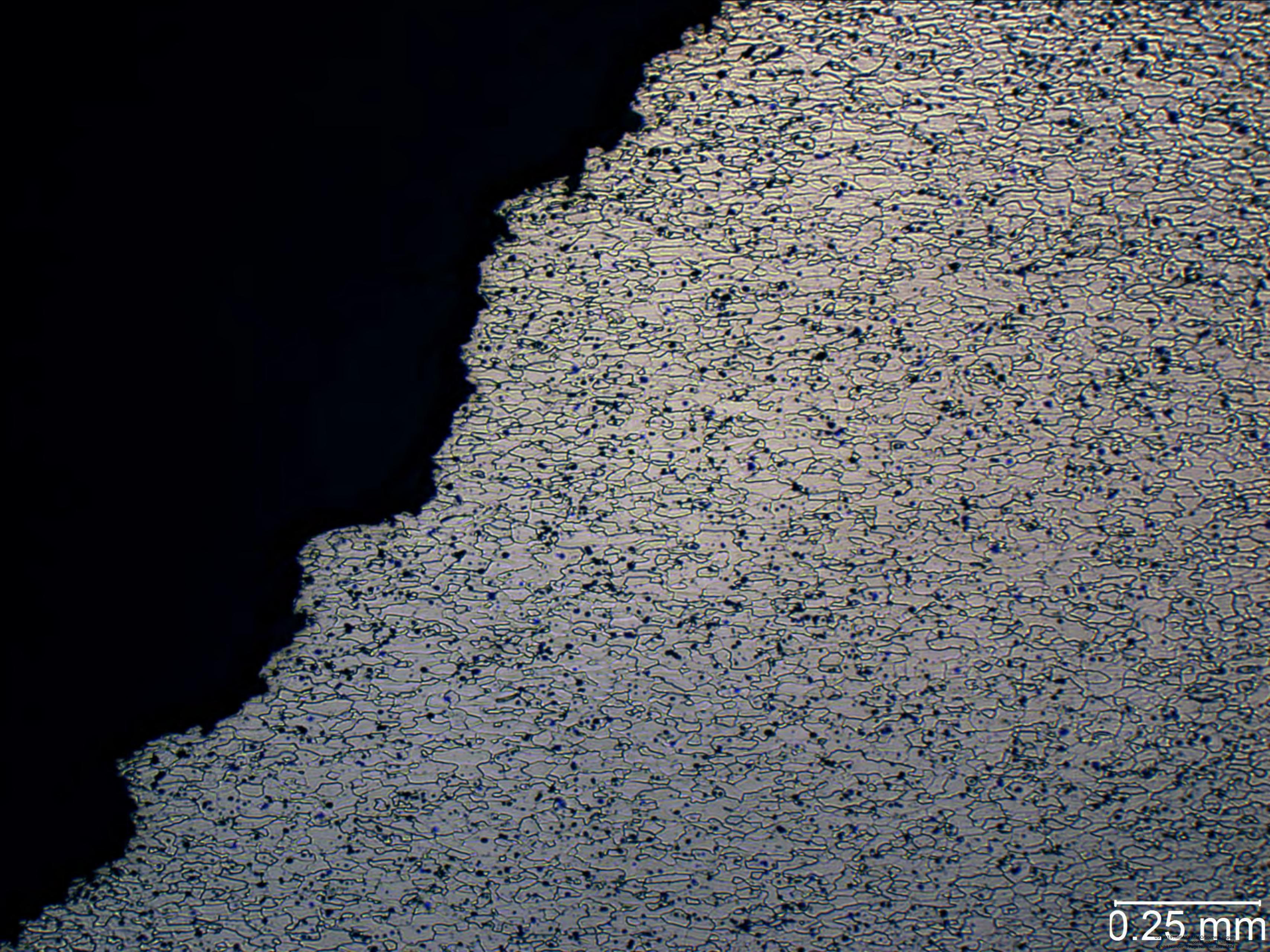


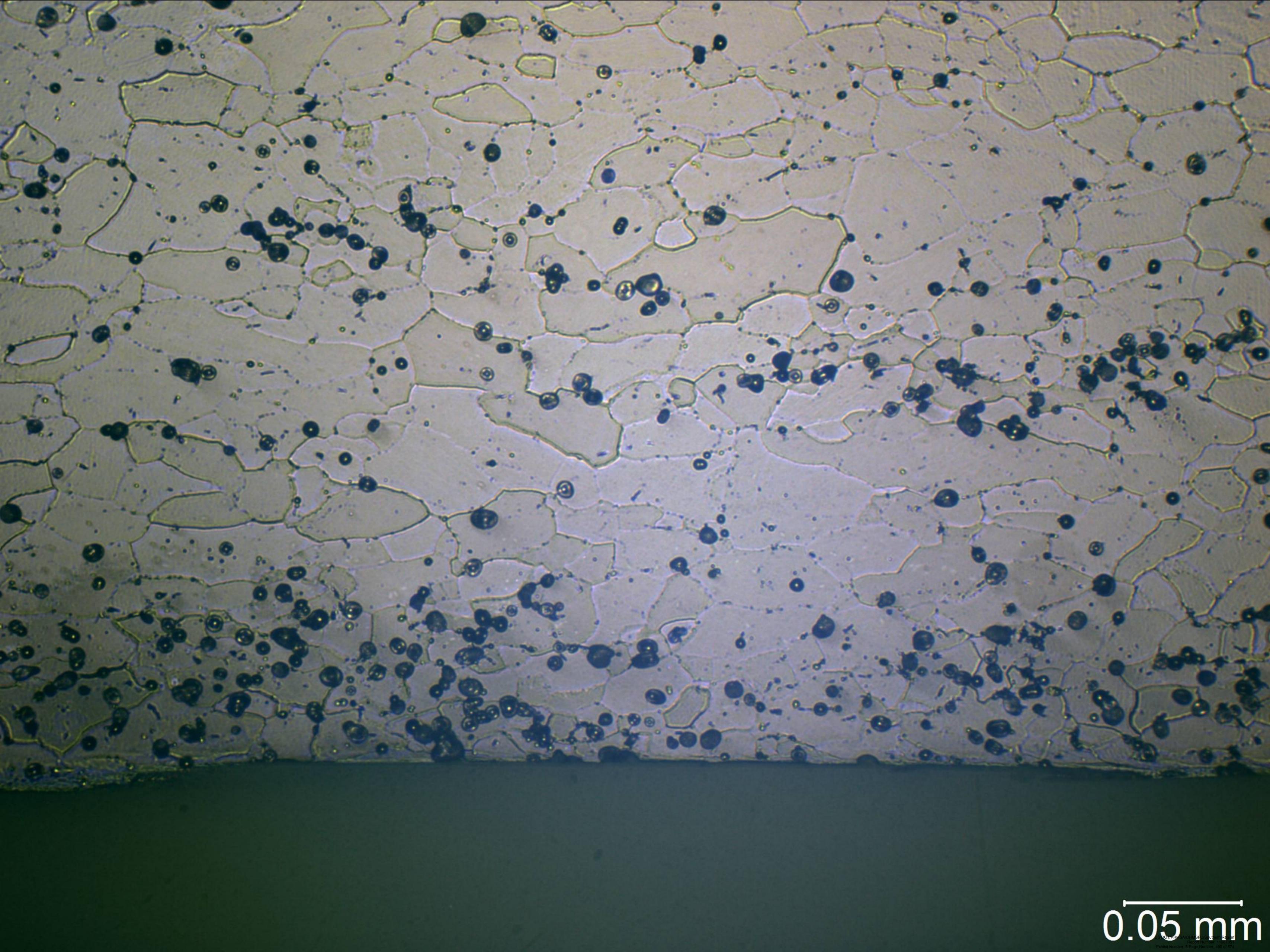






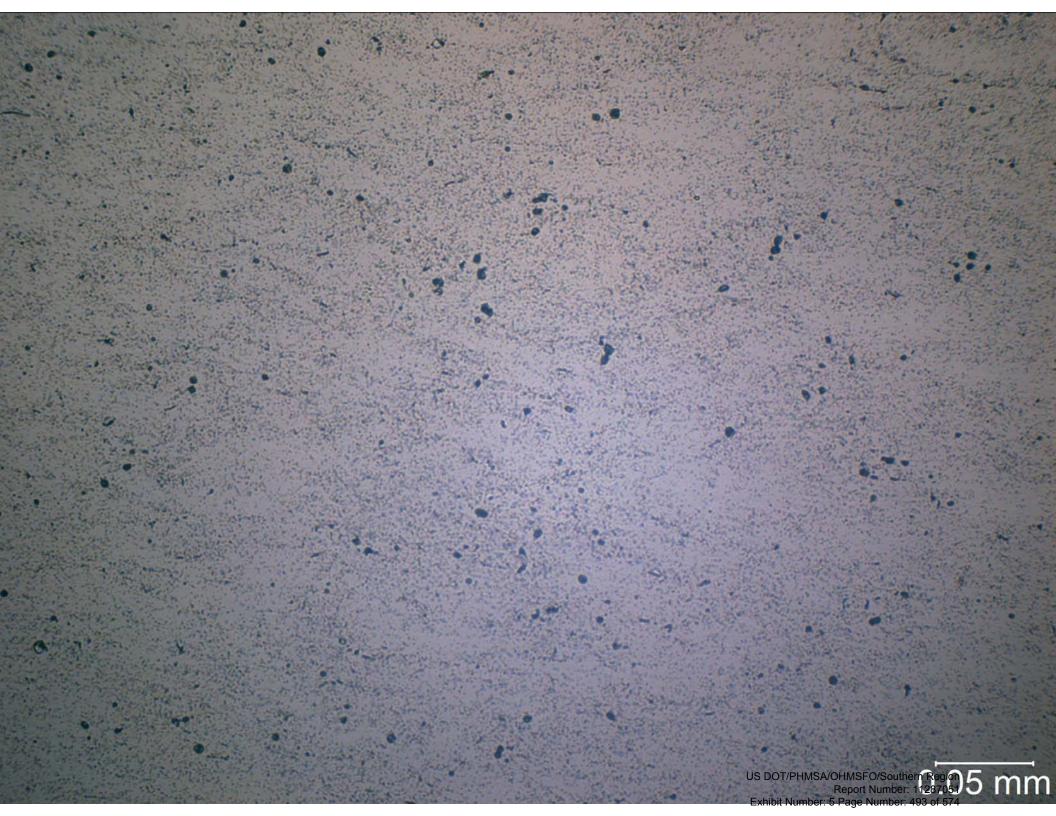




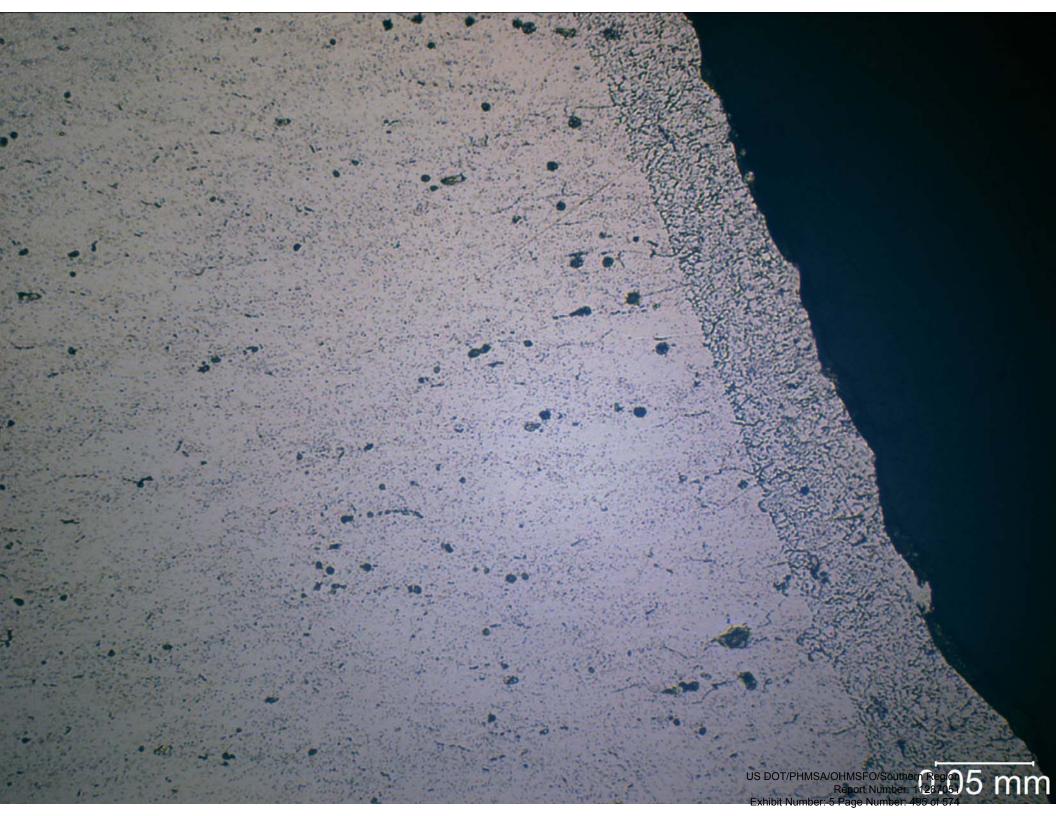


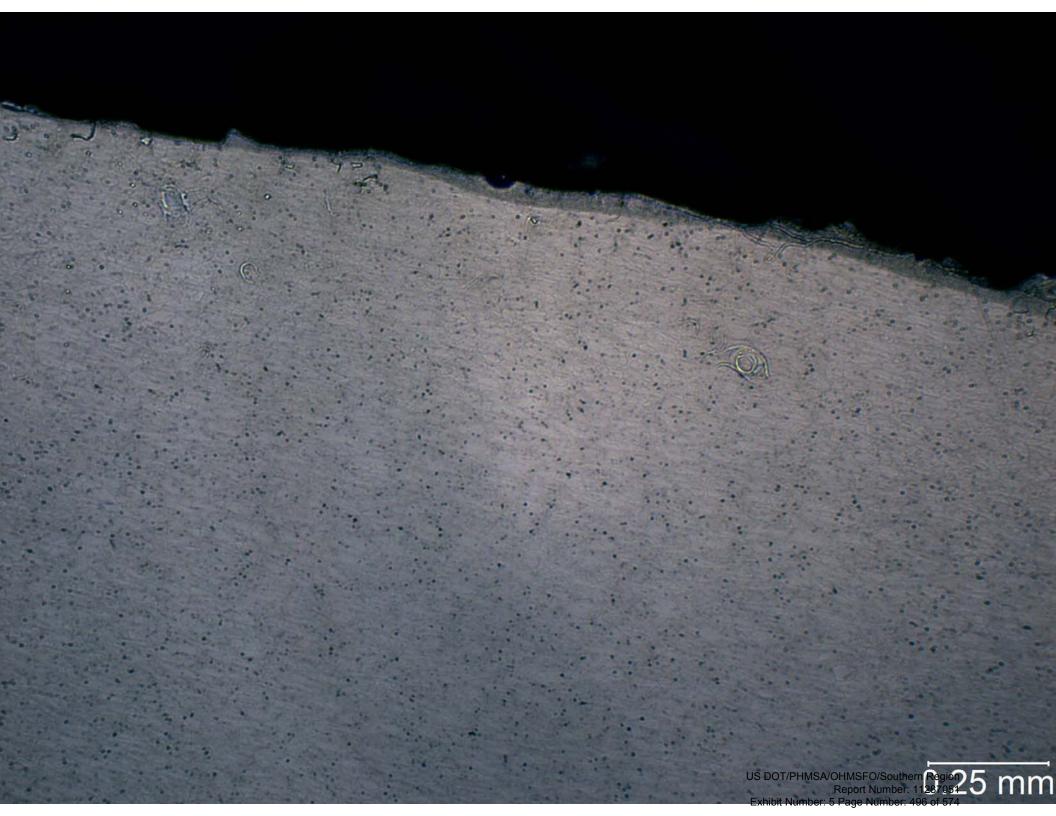


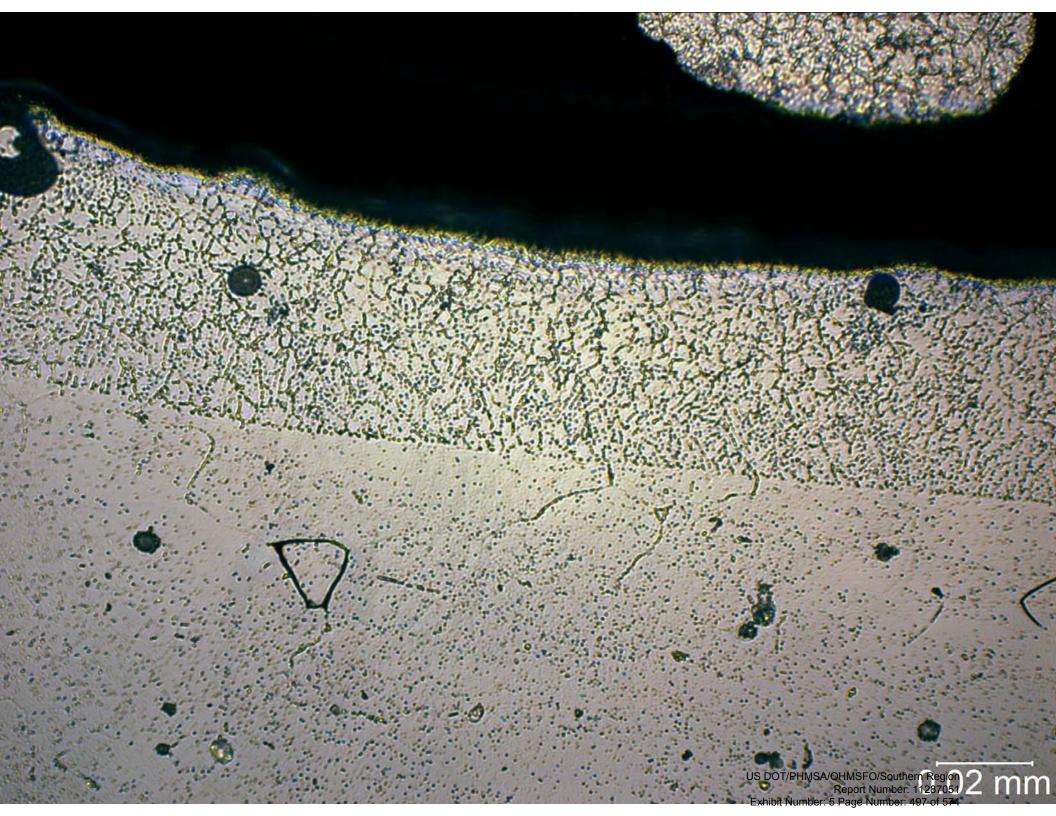




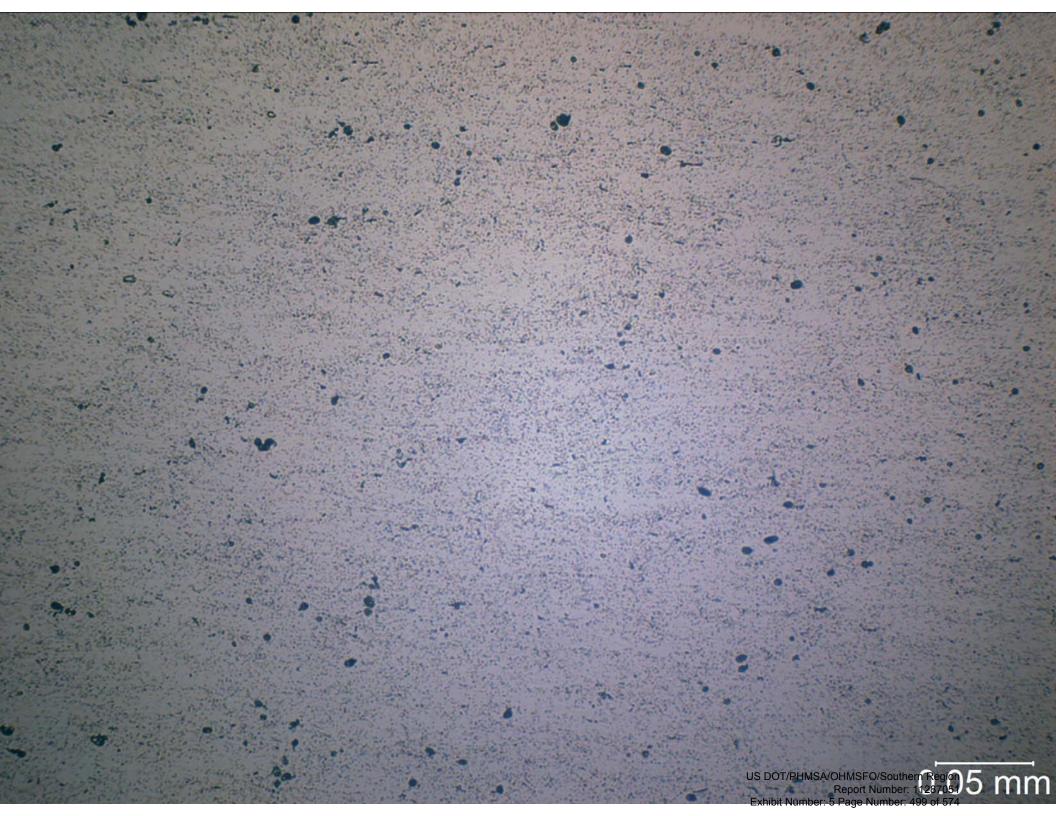




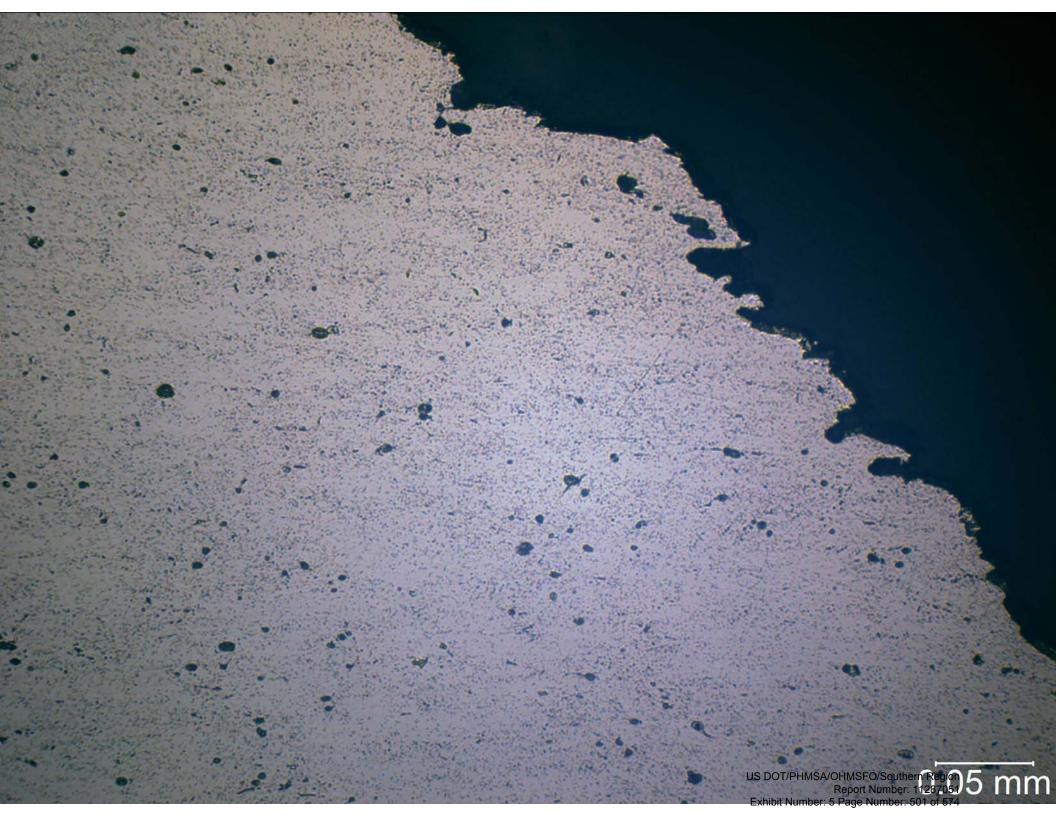




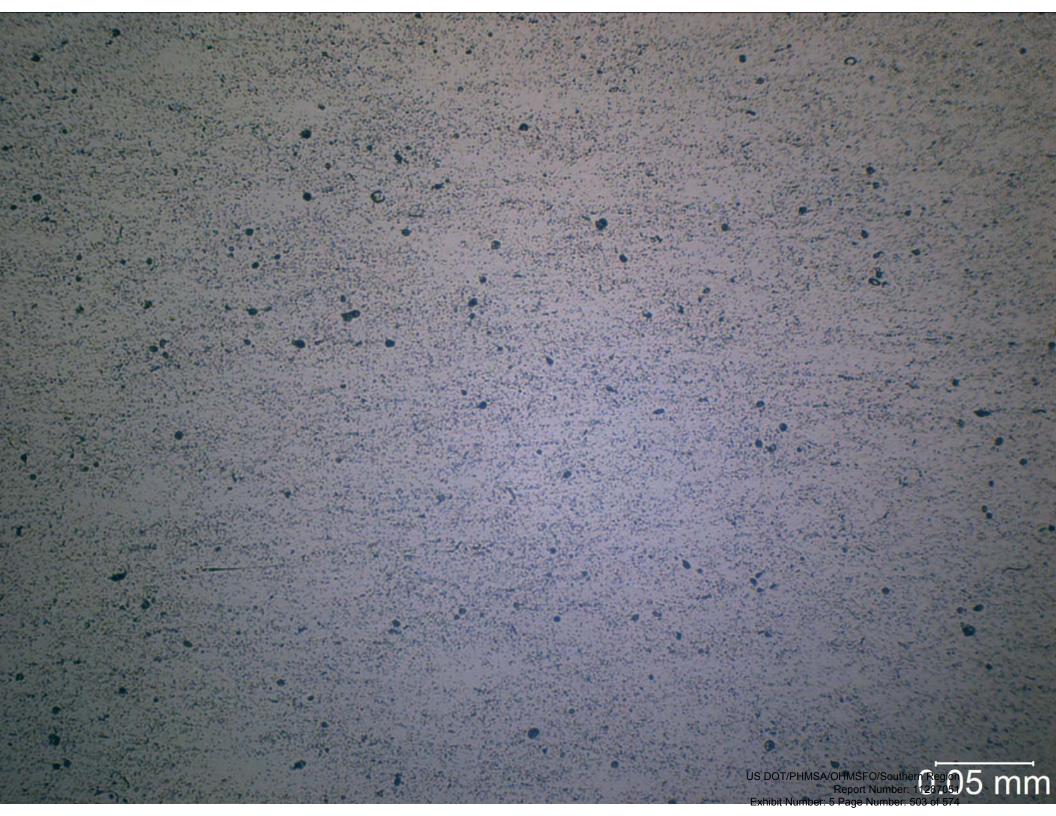










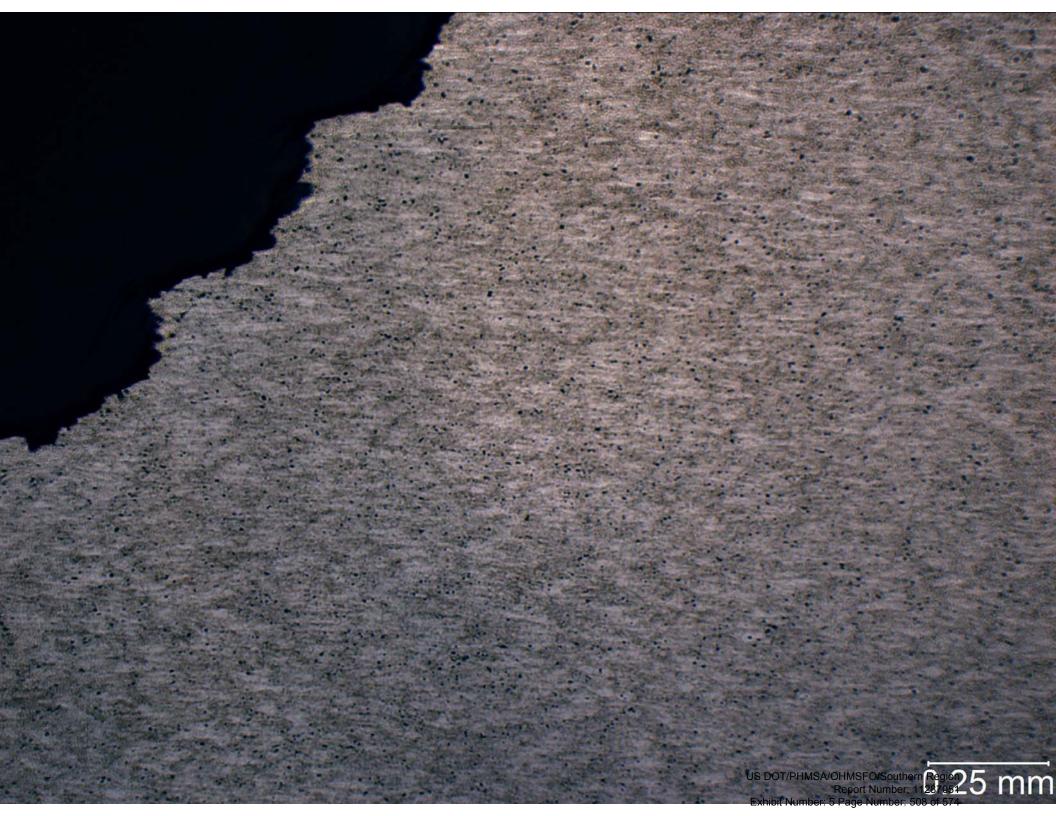






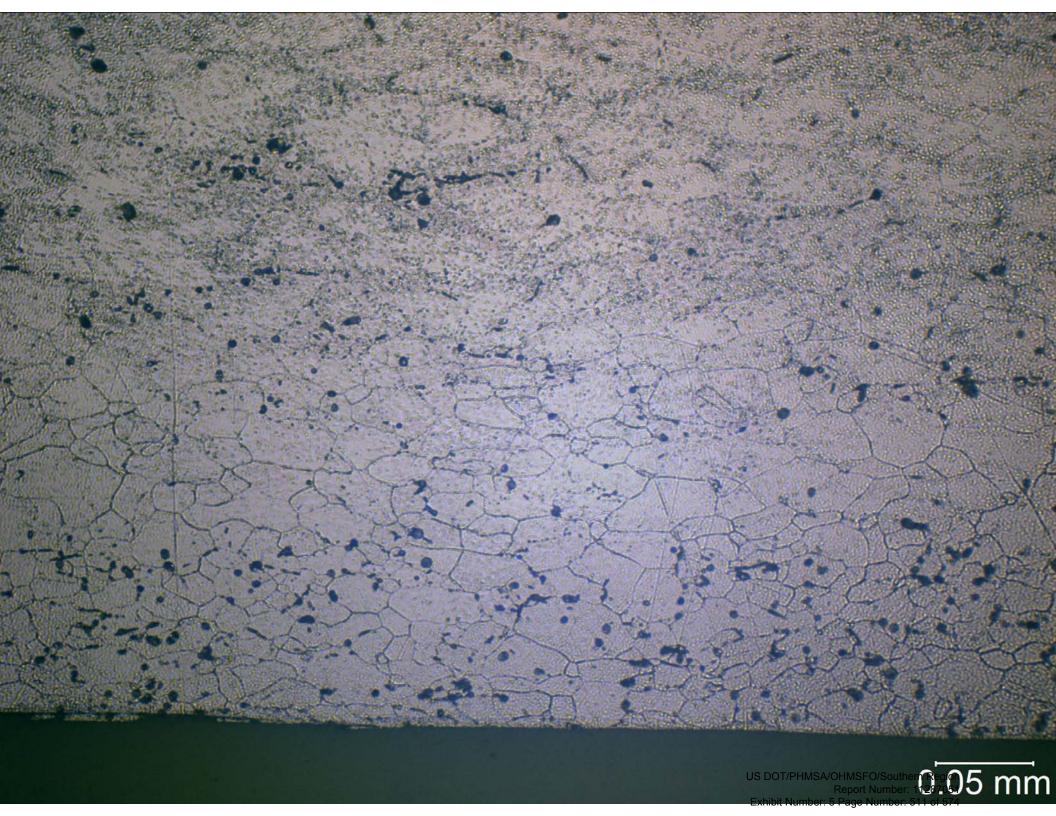












ATTACHMENT 10

Microhardness Testing



Table 1 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample A from Tank Outside Surface to Tank Inside Surface

Distance (inch)	HK500	Converted HRB
0.000	Outside	Surface
0.010	93.7	25
0.030	99.9	33
0.050	99.2	32
0.070	101.9	36
0.090	99.6	33
0.110	104.0	38
0.130	106.2	41
0.150	101.0	35
0.170	89.0	18
0.177	82.7	8
0.184	Inside Surface	

Table 2 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample A from Tank Fracture Edge towards Tank Center

Distance (inch)	HK500	Converted HRB	
0.000	Fracture Edge		
0.010	102.4	36	
0.020	102.2	36	
0.070	92.2	23	
0.170	98.3	31	
0.270	101.3	35	
0.370	95.9	28	
0.470	100.9	34	
0.570	103.6	38	
0.620	110.0	45	
0.670	106.6	41	



Table 3 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample B from Tank Outside Surface to Tank Inside Surface

Distance	HK500	Converted
(inch)	111300	HRB
0.000	Outside	Surface
0.010	122.3	59
0.020	123.7	61
0.030	121.7	59
0.060	117.9	53
0.100	116.8	53
0.130	122.6	60
0.160	118.3	53
0.200	125.8	63
0.230	133.6	67
0.260	124.7	62
0.290	128.0	64
0.320	122.9	60
0.350	125.9	63
0.358	128.3	64
0.363	Inside Surface	

Table 4 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample B from Tank Fracture Edge towards Tank Center

Distance	HK500	Converted HRB
(inch)	_	
0.000	Fractu	re Edge
0.010	128.5	64
0.020	131.7	66
0.030	133.0	66
0.080	130.7	65
0.130	121.0	58
0.180	127.5	64
0.230	128.0	64
0.280	128.8	64
0.330	125.3	62
0.380	120.8	58
0.430	129.8	65
0.480	119.3	56
0.530	117.3	53
0.580	122.7	60



Table 5 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample C from Tank Outside Surface to Tank Inside Surface

Distance (inch)	HK500	Converted HRB
0.000	Outside	Surface
0.010	116.5	52
0.020	119.6	57
0.030	117.9	55
0.060	117.5	55
0.100	116.2	52
0.130	115.5	51
0.160	115.0	51
0.200	117.0	53
0.230	120.3	57
0.260	125.3	62
0.290	122.0	59
0.320	123.0	60
0.350	122.8	60
0.358	121.3	58
0.364	Inside Surface	

Table 6 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample C from Tank Fracture Edge towards Tank Center

Distance	HK500	Converted
(inch)		HRB
0.000	Fractu	re Edge
0.010	128.6	64
0.020	135.0	67
0.030	131.3	65
0.080	128.3	64
0.130	133.9	67
0.180	127.5	63
0.230	126.3	63
0.280	123.8	61
0.330	122.5	59
0.380	122.1	59
0.430	121.4	58
0.480	118.0	55
0.530	124.9	62
0.580	117.2	53



Table 7 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of ${\bf Sample}\;{\bf D}$ from Tank Outside Surface to Tank Inside Surface

Distance (inch)	HK500 Converte HRB	
0.000	Outside	Surface
0.010	121.3	58
0.020	130.3	65
0.030	123.4	60
0.060	126.4	63
0.100	126.0	63
0.130	120.1	57
0.160	122.8	60
0.200	125.7	63
0.230	121.0	58
0.260	126.1	63
0.290	121.1	58
0.320	125.4	62
0.350	128.2	64
0.357	Inside Surface	

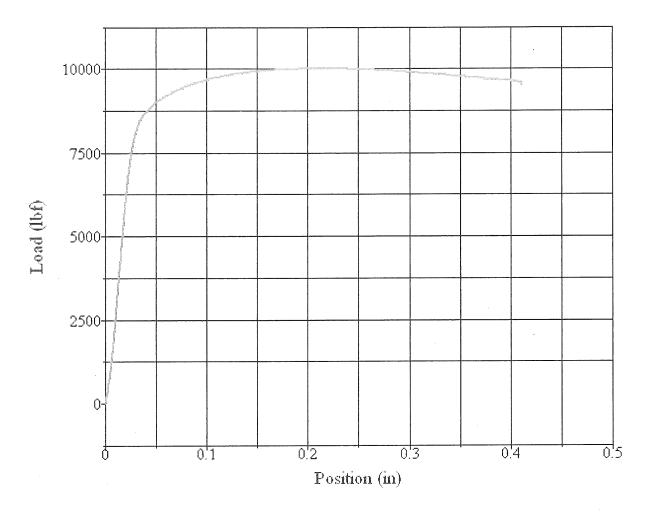
Table 8 Knoop Microhardness Traverse and Converted Rockwell Hardness of Sample D from Tank Fracture Edge towards Tank Center

Distance	HK500	Converted
(inch)	11K300	HRB
0.000	Fractu	re Edge
0.010	121.6	59
0.020	127.3	63
0.030	132.9	66
0.080	142.8	71
0.114	141.9	71
0.164	133.9	67
0.214	132.0	66
0.264	124.8	62
0.314	125.9	63
0.364	125.2	62
0.414	126.1	63
0.464	129.0	64
0.514	126.7	63
0.564	127.5	64
0.614	130.9	65
0.654	125.6	63

ATTACHMENT 11

Tensile and Compression Testing

10:49:01 AM 3/14/2012



Test Summary

Counter:

13137

Elapsed Time:

00:01:05

Anamet Job

Number:

5004.7104

Specimen

Identification:

1

Operator:

eaf/bck

Commpression Lenght

Comments:

1.503"

Procedure Name:

Compression Load

Start Date:

3/14/2012

Start Time:

10:37:20 AM

End Date:

3/14/2012

End Time:

10:38:25 AM

Workstation:

MECH

Tested By: Customer:

Brian RTI

Test Results

Load at Peak Load:

10010.1900 lbf

Position at Peak Load:

Length: (Thickness)

0.2137 in

Halt of Force Yield:

10010.1900 lbf

Width:

0.5000 in

0.3480 in

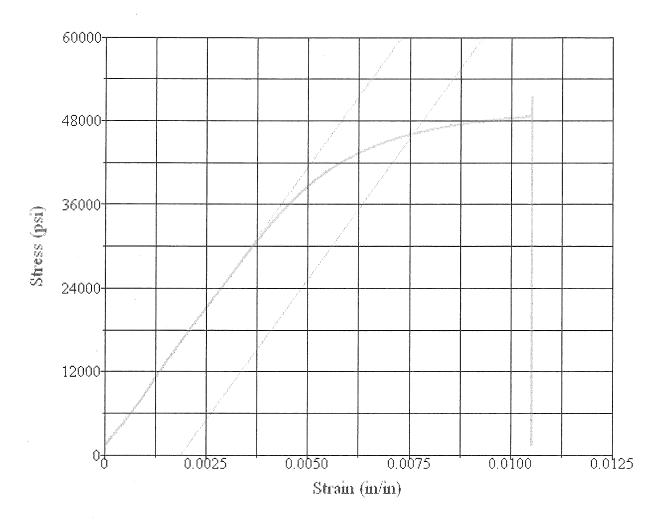
Area:

0.1740 in²



Table 1 Results of Tensile Test on a Specimen from the SCUBA Tank

Property		Tai	nk
Dimensions of	Width	0.509	inch
Specimen	Thickness	0.381	inch
Area		0.194	inch ²
Tensile Load		9965	lbs
Tensile Strength		51400	psi
Yield Load 0.2% Offset		8937	lbs
Yield Strength 0.2% Offset		46100	psi
Specimen Length After			inch
Specimen Length Before		5.187	inch
Elongation		0.30	inch
Elongation in 2.0" Gage		15	%



Test Summary

	1 est Summai y
Counter:	1313

Elapsed Time:

Anamet Job Number:

Specimen Identification:

Operator:

Procedure Name:

Start Date:

Start Time:

End Date:

End Time:

Workstation:

Tested By:

Customer:

Comments:

13136

00:03:15

5004.7109

eaf/bck

Tensile 2in. Ext.

3/14/2012

10:16:20 AM

3/14/2012

10:19:35 AM

MECH

Brian

RTI

Test Results

Tensile Strength:	51392.4700 psi
Peak Load:	9965.0000 lbf
Young's Modulus:	8.07e+006 psi
Area:	0.1939 in^2
Stress at Break:	2764.3120 psi
Load at Break:	536.0000 lbf
Halt of Force Yield:	9486.0000 lbf
Load at Offset:	8937.8910 lbf
Stress at Offset:	46095.3700 psi
Width:	0.5090 in
Thickness:	0.3810 in

ATTACHMENT 12

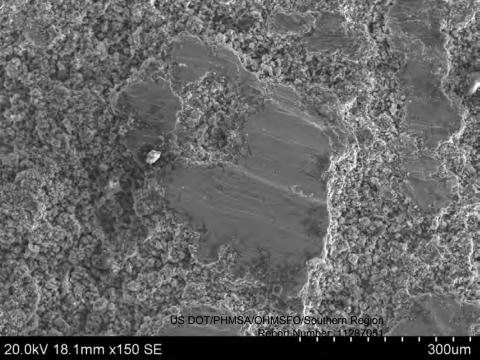
Scanning Electron Microscope Images SEM images, in order of appearance

Pressure Regulator Adaptor 1 – 150x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor Air Cup 2 - 100x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 1 – 25x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 2 – 500x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 3 – 27x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 4 – 500x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 5 – 27x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 6 – 500x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 7 – 27x
Pressure Regulator Adaptor 8 – 500x

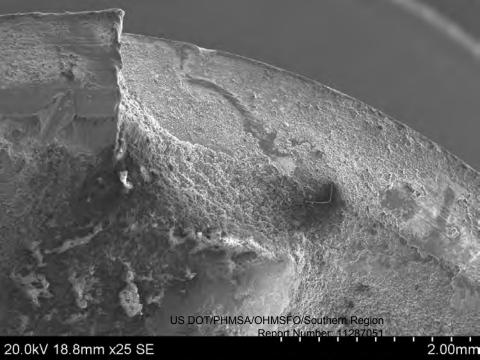
Cylinder Inside Surface A 1 – 40x

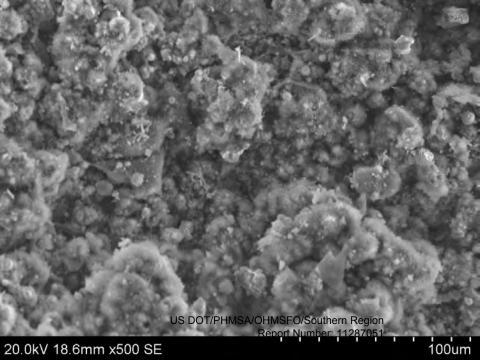
Valve Seat Body Exemplar 1 – 14x Valve Seat Body Exemplar 2 – 14x Valve Seat Body Subject 1 – 14x Valve Seat Body Subject 2 – 14x

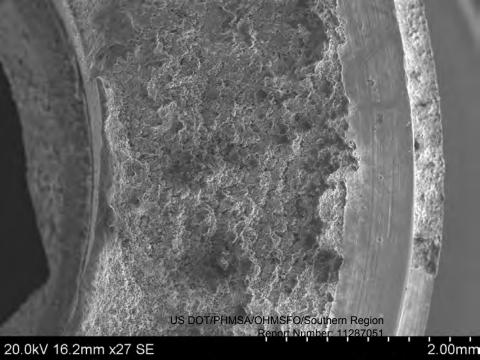
Valve Stem 1 – 40x Valve Stem 2 – 40x Valve Stem 3 – 40x Valve Stem 4 – 40x Valve Stem 5 – 40x Valve Stem 6 – 500x Valve Stem 7 – 1000x Valve Stem 8 – 500x

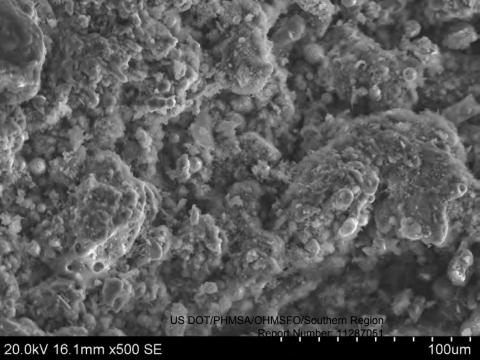


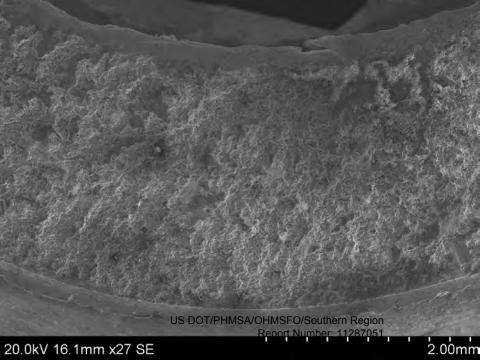


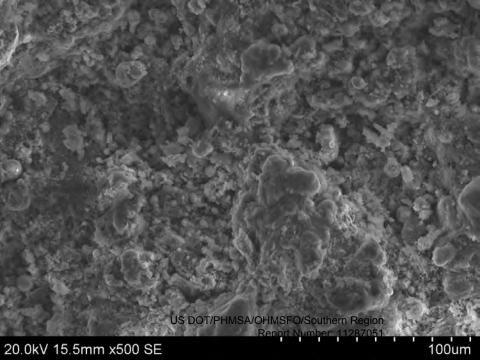




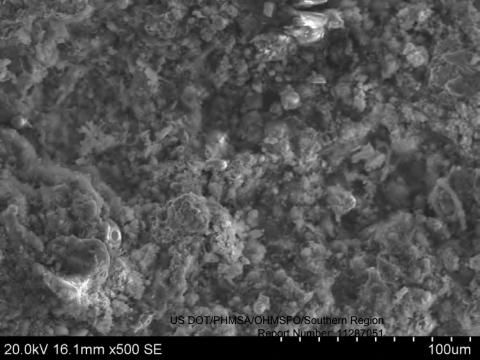


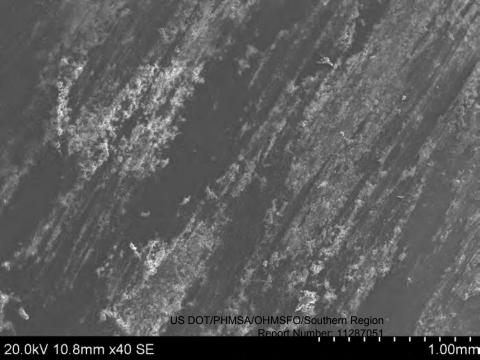


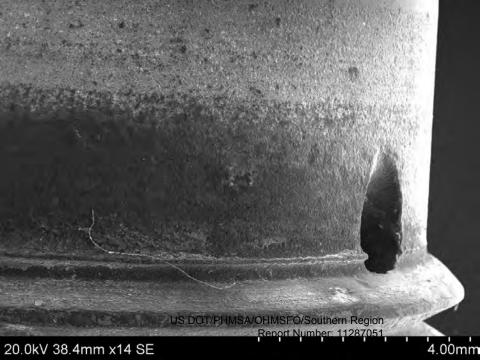


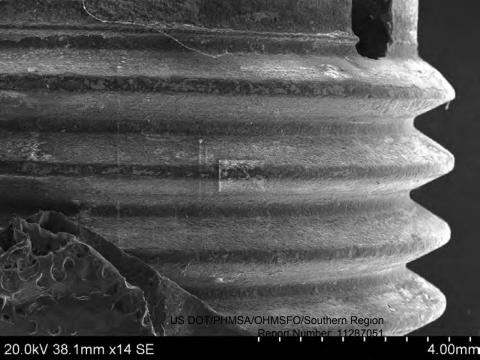


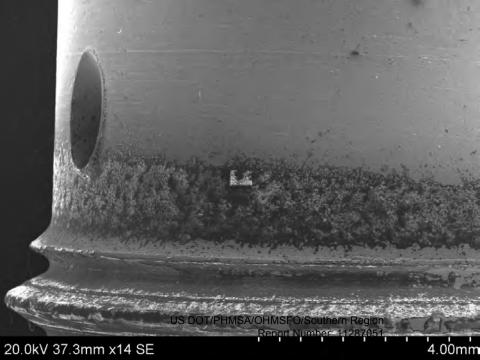


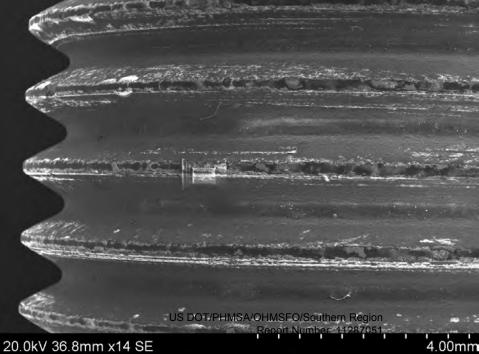


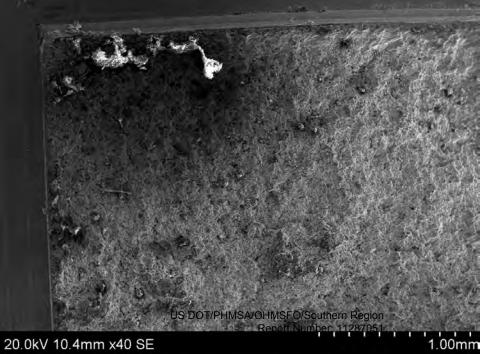




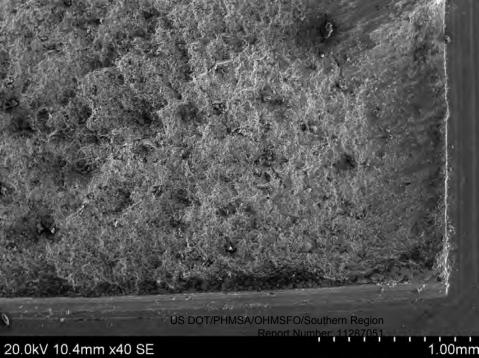


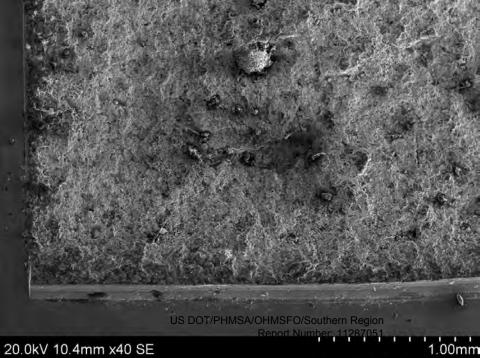


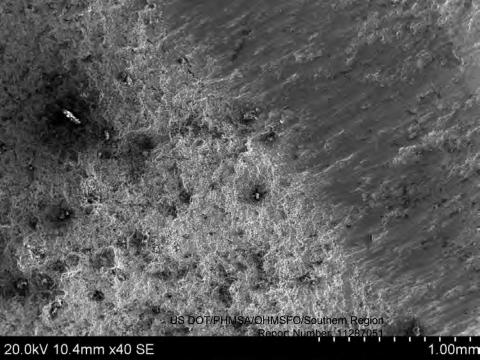


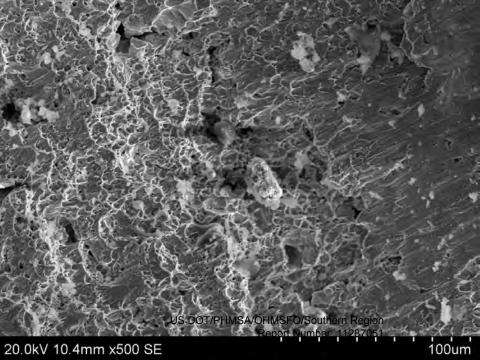


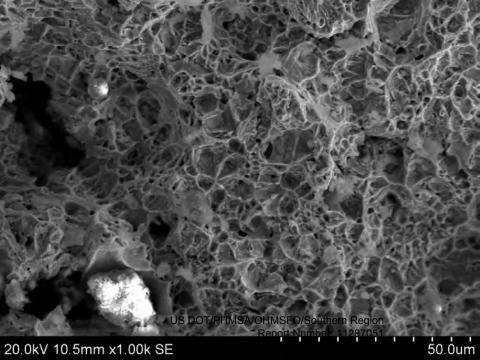


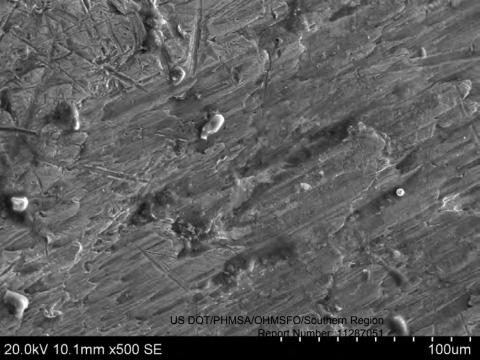








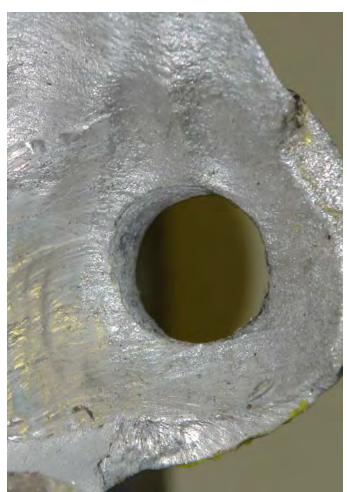


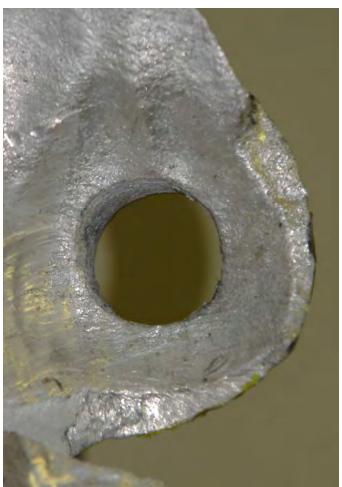


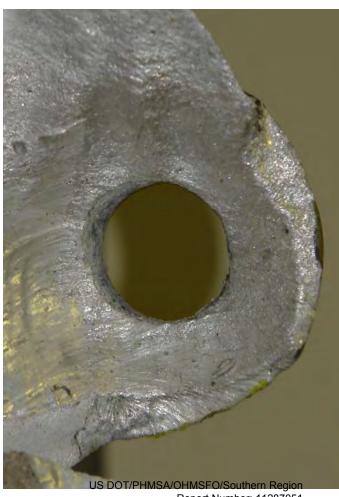
Inspection Photos of Jun. 8, 2012

Images of interior surface combustion area









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Surface Curvature Measurements







Cylinder Valve Markings









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Report Number: 11287051 Exhibit Number: 5 Page Number: 565 of 574



Chain of Custody

CHANGE OF EVIDENCE CUSTODY RECORD

DATE:	November 22, 2011						
RTI File Name:	DOT – Ruptured Scuba Cy	linder					
RTI File No.:	50151.ME002						
The evidend	e herein described ha	is been transfe	rred on this date				
To: R	ichard Loucks, PhD, PE		J.S. Dept of Transportation Property Inventory Report				
	TI Group, LLC	Company:					
Description	of Evidence (Note all	markings):					
1. SEE	ATTACHED LIST.						
Authorization of	Sending Party:	Authorization of Receiving Party:					
(Signature & Da	te)	(Signature & Date)					
(Printed)		(Printed)					
		Richard B. Louck	ks, PhD, PE				

Matter: 50151ME002

Matter Name: DOT - Ruptured SCUBA Cylinder

Evidence Inventory

1) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 1

Smaller fragment from the cylinder, approximately 12 inch by 6 inch. Has the following marks at near the neck:

DOT-3AL 3000 HY-MARK

Cylinder has two decals

Decal 1: OXYGEN for decompression use only – MOD (Maximum Operating Depth) 20 FSW (20 feet submerged water), MOD 6 MSW (6 meters submerged water), International Association of Nitrox & Technical Divers, Inc.

Decal 2: "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned For Premix, Oxygen Content 22 to 40%" is not punched out. "Tank & Valve Have Been Cleaned In Accordance With O₂ Service" Is punched out at 2011. The month is uncertain.

2) Yellow high pressure gas cylinder, Part 2

Larger section, contains the bottom, neck and valve opening, measures about 24 inches by 14 inches. Has the following markings near the neck:

OU 0001 M5442 10 07 S40 TC-3AL 207

- 3) High Pressure Tank Valve, DIN Valve, manufactured by Genesis. 5000 psi, 30 lb/hr CG-1 type rupture disk. Oxygen (Fire Toxicity State and Corrosiveness FTSC Code 4160: 4 -highly oxidizing, 1-nontoxic, 6-nonliquified gas between 500 and 3000 psig, 0-noncorrosive, Class 2 Division 2.2 gas) use permits CG-1 (required in one end of the cylinder, regardless of length). A pressure regulator adaptor is present in the opening which has a fractured outlet. The metal particle filter is evident in the opening.
- 3) Regulator by Dive Rite, serial number 12008135, fitted with regulator fitting. The opening is occupied by the fractured end of the pressure regulator adaptor

Attached:

- 1. Black pressure line with dial gage on high pressure side of regulator. Dial gage face is heat affected and the gage is illegible.
- Length of green pressure line stating "WARNING Do not exceed 250 psi (17 bar) high pressure may cause damage or personal injury" no manufacturer identified. Distal end terminates unattached. Low pressure side

CASE IV.	SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY CUSTODIAN:	DATE TAKEN INTO D.O.T. POSSESSION:			x linder							SIGNATURE RECEIVING	TR 077	THE ROLL	
ANSPECTION TYPE:	Rup Hure of CKlinder		DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY		of scuba c	or and hose						SIGNATURE AUTHORIZING	haral	hillis	usas
LOCATIONS	DungR	1		ba cylinder	rated piece	ve, regulator	1	, ,	10/01/000 OT	*	RECEIVED	DATE AND TIME RECORNED	11/15/11	11/5/11	175/u
TIME:	155ell (N. Aptl		QUANTITY	Scal	Separa	Valv			70%			DATE AND TIME RELEASED	11/0/11	11/10/11	11/01/11
JI/9/11	COMPLAINANTS NAME: USUM OCH, R.C. COMPLAINANTS ADDRESS: ST ST ST ST ST ST.	CONTACT NAME & PHONE NO.	ITEM Nº QUA	1	2 /	3						ITEM Nº	1	2	2



Anamet, inc Materials Engineering & Laboratory Testing. Since 1958

EVIDENCE CHANGE OF CUSTODY RECORD

Date Received/Shipped/Transferred: 2012
Anamet, Inc. File No: 5004, 7532
Anamet, Inc. File Name: RTI Group RTI File Sois MEOOZ
The evidence herein described has been transferred on this date to:
Matthew Wagenhoter
Name (Please Print)
Representing: QTI Group
Company Name (Please Print)
From: Norman Yuen
Name (Please Print)
Name Representing: Arramet
Company Name (Please Prini)
Description of Evidence:
Two halves tensile specimen
One tank value tody
The white was
Signatures:
To: 1/60000 Good Date: 7/9/12
From: Norma Gern

CHANGE OF CUSTODY RECORD

DATE:	ATE: TBD								
RTI File Nam	ne:	DOT - Ruptured Scub	a Cy	/linder					
RTI File No.: 50151.ME002									
The evidence	e her	ein described has beer	ı tra	ansferred or	n this date				
То:	o: TBD				Richard B. Loucks, PhD, PE				
Company:	Company: U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Admin. 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Room E21-338 Washington, DC 20590				RTI Group, LLC 910 Bestgate Rd., Suite E Annapolis, MD 21401				
Description	of Ev	idence (Note all marki	ngs):					
1. See attac	hed de	escription of evidence list	ing.						
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
Authorizatio	on:								
Authorization of Sending Party:				Authorization of Receiving Party:					
(Signature)				(Signature)					
(Printed: name, company, address)				(Printed: na	ame, company, address)				
Richard B. L RTI Group, 910 Bestgat Annapolis, I	LLC te Rd.	, Suite E							

CHANGE OF EVIDENCE CUSTODY RECORD

RTI File Name: DOT-Ruptured Scuba Cylinder RTI File No.: 50151.ME002

Description of Evidence Listing
Date____

Contained in	Further contained in	Further contained in	Item	Part No.	Description
Bag "Tank Mounts A,B,C,D"			Sample A	1-a-i	Hardness tested sample
			Sample B	1-b-i	Hardness tested sample
			Sample C	1-c-i	Hardness tested sample
T			Sample D	1-d-i	Hardness tested sample
Tupperware container 1			Fragment of the Scuba Tank	2	Approx. 6"x12". Two Decals.
Bag 2	Bag "Subject Valve - Relief Valve"		Relief Valve	3-a	Intact 5000psi burst disk in a hollow threaded bolt
	Bag "Subject Valve - Vave Seat Body"		Valve Seat Body	3-b	Threads coated green. Rectangular hollow.
	Bag "Subject Valve - Gand Nut"		Gland Nut	3-с	Threaded, hex head.
	Bag "Subject Valve - Valve		O Ring	3-c-i	Back polymer, approx 1/2" diameter
	Stem"		Valve Stem	3-d	Steel stem, approx 1 1/8" in length
			O Ring	3-d-i	Brown Polymer, approx 3/8" diameter
			O Ring	3-d-ii	Brown Polymer, approx 3/8" diameter
			Washer	3-d-iii	White Polymer, approx 3/8" diameter
			Washer	3-d-iv	Brown Polymer, approx 1/2" diameter
	Bag "Subject Valve - Regulator Adapter"		Air Cup	3-f	Brass cup, approx 3/8" diameter 1/2" tall
			Handle	3-e-viii	Matte black, approx 1 3/4" diameter
			Adjuster	3-е	Black. Hollow. Threaded inside. Hex head.
			Adjuster Adapter	3-e-iv	Black, Hollow. Threaded outisde. Hex opening. Fractured
	1		O Ring	3-e-v	Black polymer, approx 3/4" diameter
			O Ring	3-e-vi	Black polymer, approx 1/2" diameter Black polymer, approx 3/8" diameter
m	D 2 1		O Ring	3-e-vii	1 2 11
Tupperware container 3	Bag 3-A		Pressure line	4-i	Green. Some yellow discoloration
	Bag 3-B Bag 3-C		Regulator Handle	4-j 4-k	Black polymer, fire damaged
	Bag "Regulator Body"	Bag "O Ring, Thrust Washer"	Pressure Gauge O Ring	4-k 4-g	Atteched to an approx 6" black hose Black polymer, approx 1" diameter
	Bag Regulator Body	Bag O Kilig, Till ust washer	Thrust Washer	4-g 4-h	White Polymer, approx 1" diameter
			Tili ust washer	4-11	winte i orymer, approx i diameter
		Bag "Metal Diaphragm Retainer,	Disabas and Batain an	4	Matal 1 5 /08 diamater annua 2 /48 ta 11
		Main Regulator Body, Valve Lifter"	Diaphragm Retainer Regulator Body	4-c-v 4	Metal, 1 5/8" diameter approx 3/4" tall Metal, 1 5/8" diameter approx 1 1/2" tall
			Valve Lifter	4-a	Resembes a large thumbtack
		Bag "Turret"	Turret	4-b	Metal, 1 5/8" diameter approx 1" tall
			Gasket	4-b-i	Brown Polymer, approx 1 5/8" diameter
			O Ring	4-b-ii	Black polymer, approx 1 1/4" diameter
		Bag "High Pressure Diaphragm	·		
		Spring, Adjustment Sleeve"	Diaphragm Spring	4-c-iii	approx 1/2" diameter, 3/4" tall, 5 turns
			Adjustment Sleeve	4-c-iv	approx 3/4" diameter, 3/8" tall, outside threaded
		Bag "Diaphragm, Retaining Ring,			
		Spring Carrier"	Diaphragm	4-c	Grey Polymer approx 1 1/2" diameter
			Retaining Ring	4-c-i	Cllear Polymer Ring approx 1 1/2" diameter
			Spring Carrier	4-c-ii	Metallic button, approx 3/4" diameter. Center portion raised
		Bag "Mating Half Regulator	A dissertant	2 - :	Dominio and Sala adjust
		Adjuster Adapter"	Adjuster O Ring	3-e-ii	Remaining part of the adjuster Black Polyer approx 3/8" diameter
		Bag "Regulator Insert Low			
	1	Pressure"	Regulator Insert O Ring	4-f 4-f-i	Piston Body with compression spring Black Polymer approx 1/2" diameter
Dag 4	Dec 4.1	 	ū		approx 2" in ength and 1/4" width
Bag 4	Bag 4-1		Tank Section Tank Section	1-e 1-f	approx 1 1/2" in length triangular section
	Bag 4-2		Tank Section	1-1 1-g	Main body approx 1" length and 1/2" width
	Bag 4-3		Tank Section	1-g 1-h	Triangular section approx 3/4" height
	Bag 4-4		Tank Section	1-c-ii	Approx 1 1/2" length and 3/4" width. Marked C
	-0		Tank Section	1-c-iii	Approx 1 1/2" length and 1/4" width. Marked C
	Bag 4-5		Tank Section	1-i	Approx 3" length, 1" at one end and 1 1/2" at another
	Bag "Compression Specimen"		Tank Section	1-i	Approx 1 1/4" length and 5/8" width
	Bag 4-6		Tank Section	1-d-ii	Curved section of the tank. Marked D
	Bag 4-7		Tank Section	1-c-iv	Main body approx 4 1/2" x 6". Marked C
		†	Tank Section	1-k	Main body approx 8" length
	Bag 4-8				T 1 1 1 1 F 1 1
Tupperware container 5	Bag 4-8		Tank Valve	3	Tank valve body. Fracturerd
Tupperware container 5 Not Bagged	Bag 4-8		Tank Valve Scuba Cylinder	1	Ruptured. Specimens taken.
	Bag 4-8				
Not Bagged Bag 6	Envelope "Tensile Specimen A		Scuba Cylinder Tank Bottom	1 1-1	Ruptured. Specimens taken. Bottom of the ruptured tank.
Not Bagged			Scuba Cylinder	1	Ruptured. Specimens taken.



RTI Group, LLC 910 Bestgate Road, Suite E Annapolis, MD 21401 ofc: +1 410 571 0712 | fax: +1 410 571 0713 www.rtiForensics.com

CHANGE OF CUSTODY RECORD

DATE: June 12,2012						
RTI File Name: DOT-Rupture a School Cylinder						
RTI File No.: 50151. ME002						
The evidence herein described has	been transferred on this date					
To: Norman Yuen	From: Mathew Wagenhofer					
Company: Anamet, Inc.	Company: RTI					
Description of Evidence (Note all m	narkings):					
1. Two (2) halves tensile specim	129					
1. Two (2) halves tensile specim 2. One (1) tank valve body						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
Authorization of Sending Party:	Authorization of Receiving Party:					
(Signature)	(Signature)					
Morras agenta	Klemm Gum					
(Printed) Matthew Wagenhoter	(Printed) NORMAN YUEN					