

Strontium adsorption and desorption reactions in model drinking water distribution systems

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ABSTRACT

Divalent cationic strontium (Sr^{2+}) adsorption to and desorption from iron corrosion products were examined in two model drinking water distribution systems (DWDS). One system was maintained with chlorine-disinfected drinking water and the other with the same water with secondary chloramine disinfection. Flow conditions simulated primary transmission lines (constant flow) and residential mains (periods of stagnation). Accumulation of Sr^{2+} to iron corrosion products in model DWDS was independent of disinfection type. Adsorption and desorption mechanisms are discussed. X-ray adsorption near edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy and linear combination fitting determined Sr^{2+} was primarily associated with iron oxyhydroxide corrosion products. At the end of the desorption study, the amount of Sr^{2+} remaining in iron corrosion products equilibrated to approximate levels observed at the end of the constant flow adsorption experiments. These results suggest that enhanced iron corrosion product loading of Sr^{2+} during stagnation could be short lived under constant flow conditions. Differences between adsorption and desorption based on disinfection type (chlorine versus chlorine plus chloramine) cannot be used to control Sr^{2+} desorption.

Key words | calcium carbonate, drinking water distribution system, α -FeOOH, iron, strontium, XANES

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INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) recently recognized the potential for contaminant delivery from drinking water moving through aging drinking water infrastructures. Treated drinking waters use ground or surface waters that transport divalent cationic strontium (Sr^{2+}) as it flows through Sr^{2+} -bearing rocks or soils (Eikenberga *et al.* 2001). Currently, the average Sr^{2+} concentration in United States drinking water is 1.1 mg l^{-1} (Watts & Howe 2010). The US EPA in 2009 set a health reference level for non-radioactive Sr^{2+} daily ingestion by a 70 kg adult at 4.20 mg kg^{-1} (USEPA 2009). In 2010, WHO published a recommended total daily intake limit for non-radioactive Sr^{2+} of 0.13 mg kg^{-1} body weight for an average adult

weighing 64 kg (Watts & Howe 2010). As of January 2013 the US EPA requires all public drinking water distribution systems (DWDS) that serve more than 10,000 consumers and 800 additional DWDS that serve 10,000 or fewer consumers to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants including non-radioactive Sr^{2+} (USEPA 2012). If Sr^{2+} water concentration exceeds $0.3 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$, it must be reported to the US EPA. Since the average Sr^{2+} concentration in drinking water in the USA is approximately 1.1 mg l^{-1} it is likely that the drinking water of numerous DWDS will exceed $0.3 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$.

The US EPA guidelines require that water be monitored at the point-of-entry and point-of-maximum residence time (residential mains (RM)) in DWDS because water chemistry

and quality can be altered as water moves through a DWDS (Lin *et al.* 2001; Vikesland & Valentine 2002; Al-Jasser 2007; USEPA 2012). Most DWDS piping is either ductile iron or carbon steel, essentially unalloyed iron. Both materials are susceptible to corrosion and the accumulation of corrosion products on the interior pipe surfaces. Iron corrosion products can serve as reactive sinks for contaminants such as vanadium, lead, copper, arsenic, and zinc (Friedman *et al.* 2010; Gerke *et al.* 2010; Peng & Korshin 2011; Peng *et al.* 2013). Because of this adsorption phenomenon, it is possible to have lower metal concentrations in drinking waters at point-of-maximum residence time compared to point-of-entry drinking waters (Lin *et al.* 2001).

It is well established that pH and disinfectant concentration in drinking water can decrease during periods of stagnation, i.e., minimal to no water flow (Al-Jasser 2007). These parameters can also decrease as water flows through a DWDS (Vikesland & Valentine 2002). Lower pH or disinfection concentration can cause redox reactions of elements in mineral phases within the surface layers of iron corrosion products (Vikesland & Valentine 2002) jeopardizing the structural integrity of these layers (Sedlak & von Gunten 2011). The impact to surface layer integrity can be so extensive that when flow is introduced after stagnation in RM, high concentrations of metal ions, oxyanions and metal-rich particulate matter can be released in close proximity to consumer taps (Gerke *et al.* 2013). Gerke *et al.* (2013) documented this scenario for Sr²⁺-enriched iron corrosion products in RM and premise plumbing from four fully operational DWDS, each with a distinct water chemistry. Two of the utilities used chlorine and two used secondary chloramine disinfection.

Gerke *et al.* (2013) did not directly evaluate the impact of changes in water chemistry on Sr²⁺ adsorption or desorption from iron corrosion products in a DWDS. Thus the goal of the present study was to evaluate Sr²⁺ adsorption and desorption mechanisms with iron corrosion products with respect to flow parameters found in model primary transmission lines (PTLs) and RM fed with chlorine- or chlorine and secondary chloramine-disinfected drinking water, which had a Sr²⁺ concentration of 0.30 mg l⁻¹. PTLs experience continuous flow whereas RM are subjected to periods of stagnation. Model DWDS were used to simulate both flow conditions. Samples were examined using traditional

physiochemical characterization techniques and speciation of Sr²⁺ binding was conducted using synchrotron-based X-ray adsorption near edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Model DWDS: experimental conditions and sample preparation

Each model DWDS was maintained in a 1 l annular reactor (AR) (BioSurface Technologies, Bozeman, MT). Chlorine-disinfected drinking water was fed to ARCL2. A separate pipe fed the same drinking water with secondary chloramine disinfection added prior to entering into ARNH2CL. Throughout the remainder of the paper, water with the secondary chloramine treatment will be identified as chloramine-disinfected or chloramine-treated water. For experiments requiring constant water flow through the ARs, the rate was 18 l h⁻¹ (approximately 4.75 gallons per minute) (Shaw *et al.* 2012), resulting in a 0.06 h mean retention time. The retention time maintained an average free chlorine residual of 1 mg l⁻¹ and a chloramine residual of 2 mg l⁻¹ as target goals for a typical DWDS. The drinking water chemistry is presented in Table 1 and was at or near the calcite saturation index.

At the start of the AR experiments, 20 polycarbonate slides were inserted into each AR with each polycarbonate

Table 1 | Selected water quality parameters of finished drinking waters used in the model drinking water distribution systems

Parameter	Chlorine-disinfected water	Chloramine-disinfected water
pH	8.3	8.0–8.3
Hardness (mg l ⁻¹ as CaCO ₃)	91–177	91–177
Alkalinity (mg l ⁻¹ as CaCO ₃)	68	68
Chlorine – free (mg l ⁻¹)	0.97	
Chloramine (mg l ⁻¹)	–	2
Oxidation-reduction potential (mV)	600–700 (650 avg.)	580–620 (600 avg.)
Phosphate (mg-PO ₄ l ⁻¹)	0.083	0.083
Sr ²⁺ concentration (mg l ⁻¹)	0.30	0.30

slide having three 99% pure iron foils (1 cm × 1 cm × 0.5 mm) adhered with acrylic cement. Seven slides were removed to monitor corrosion product formation. One slide, with three iron foils, was collected at the end of each adsorption and desorption experiment from each AR as described below. Data from remaining slides will be reported elsewhere. The adsorption and desorption experiments for ARCL2 and ARNH2Cl included the following (Figure 1):

1. An adsorption experiment simulating PTL was conducted over a 68-day period. The flow rate for the PTL experiment was 18 l h⁻¹ and Sr²⁺ concentration was 0.30 mg l⁻¹ for both the chlorine- and chloramine-disinfected waters.

The inner drum of each AR rotated at 100 rpm producing a shear on the iron foils similar to a flow rate of 0.3 m s⁻¹ in a 15.2 cm diameter pipe. At the end of 68 days, one polycarbonate slide was collected (see 'Iron corrosion product sample collection, preparation and analysis' section below for handling details).

2. An adsorption experiment simulating RM commenced immediately after the 68 day PTL experiment and included halting the flow of either chlorine- or chloramine-disinfected water to the ARs while continuing the inner drum rotation at 100 rpm. The RM pipe simulations included a 1-hour stagnation period with exposure to a 100 mg l⁻¹ Sr²⁺-enriched solution (strontium chloride, 99.99%, Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA). The Sr²⁺

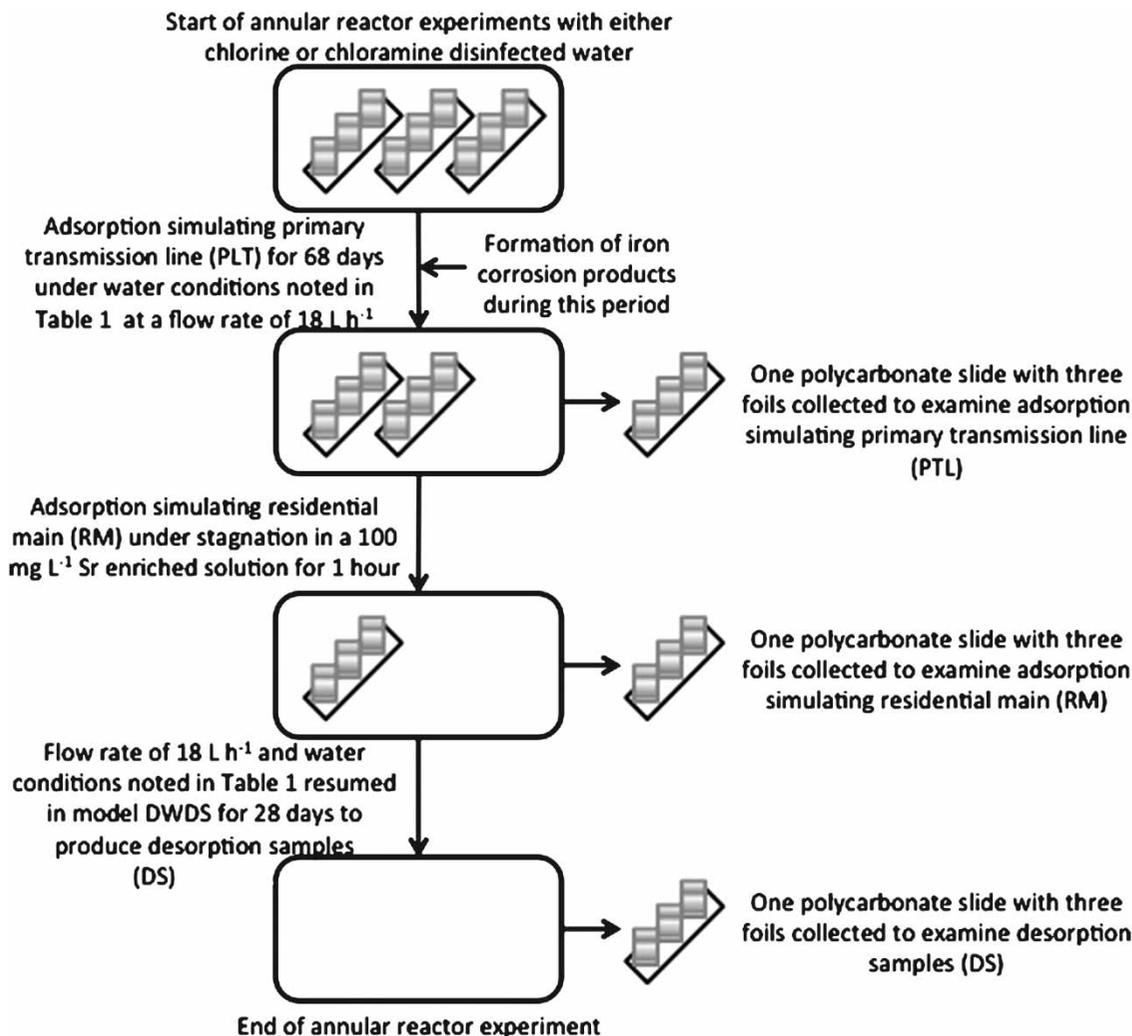


Figure 1 | Schematic of model drinking water distribution systems, slide with iron foils, and sampling events.

concentration for the Sr²⁺-enriched solution prior to and after injection into the ARs was confirmed using inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES, Optima 2100 DV, PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA). Calibration, quality assurance checks, and the water analyses were conducted following the protocol of Szabo *et al.* (2009). Immediately after the 1-hour stagnation, one polycarbonate slide with three iron foils was collected from ARCL2 and ARNH2Cl.

3. The desorption experiment was initiated directly at the end of the 1-hour RM adsorption study. Desorption samples (DS) resulted from resumption of water flow and water conditions used in the PTL adsorption study. After 28 days, a polycarbonate slide with three iron foils was collected from each AR.

Throughout the remainder of this paper, the abbreviations PTL, RM and DS refer to samples collected from adsorption and desorption studies in the model DWDS described above.

Iron corrosion product sample collection, preparation and analysis

After each sampling event, the polycarbonate slide with three foils and associated corrosion products was air dried for at least 72 hours. Digital images were obtained for a representative iron foil from each slide using a Canon G3 digital camera. Iron corrosion product colors were determined using color charts of Cornell & Schwertmann (2003). Solids were removed from all three iron foils of each slide with a metal spatula, combined, ground by hand with an agate mortar and pestle to an approximate grain size of 5 to 10 microns and thoroughly mixed.

An aliquot of each sample was used for mineralogical analysis by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD). Samples were analyzed using a Siemens D-500 automated diffractometer equipped with a Cu K α tube set at 30 mA and 40 kV (Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH) following the protocol of Gerke *et al.* (2013).

Approximately 0.15 to 0.25 g of each of the remaining samples was thoroughly mixed with 1.35 to 2.25 g of cellulose and pressed into 31 mm pellets for chemical analysis via X-ray fluorescence. The 31 mm pressed pellets were

analyzed for major oxides and trace elements using a Rigaku 3070 X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH). The protocol of Gerke *et al.* (2010) was used to convert intensity data to percent (by weight) or mg kg⁻¹.

The remaining portions of adsorption and DS were prepared for XANES analysis. Samples were prepared as pellets and sealed between pieces of Kapton tape (Unline, Pleasant Prairie, WI).

X-ray absorption near edge structure run conditions and analysis

XANES studies were performed in top-up mode at 7 GeV with a ring current of 101 mA at beamlines XOR/PNC 20 BM-B (Heald *et al.* 1999) and MRCAT Sector 10 (Segre *et al.* 1999; Kropf *et al.* 2009) of the Advanced Photon Source (APS), Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne, IL). The pre-monochromator slit width was set to 0.5 mm and the Si(III) double crystal monochromator was detuned by 10% to reject higher-order harmonics. The monochromator beam energy position was calibrated by assigning the first inflection of the absorption edge of SrCl₂ to 16,105 eV following the protocol of O'Day *et al.* (2000).

Three to six Sr *K*-edge XANES scans were collected for each sample and standard at ambient temperature in fluorescence mode with a solid-state 4-element Si-drift detector. Sr²⁺ adsorbed to α -FeOOH (goethite), γ -FeOOH (lepidocrocite), Fe₃O₄ (magnetite), and CaCO₃ (calcite; see Gerke *et al.* 2013), and a Sr²⁺ substituted CaCO₃ spectrum (obtained from the Lytle database, <http://ixs.iit.edu/database/>) were used as standards. All sample and standard spectra were aligned to SrCl₂ (99.99%, Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) on the same energy grid, averaged, normalized, and the background removed by spline fitting using IFEFFIT (Ravel & Newville 2005). The XANES scans for the DWDS adsorption and DS were smoothed for three iterations using an IFEFFIT smoothing algorithm.

The first derivative of the normalized XANES spectra of the standards and samples was used for all linear combination fitting (LCF). Levenberg–Marquardt least squares algorithm was applied to a fit range of -20 to 80 eV and each LCF analysis encompassed 130 to 221 data points of a given sample spectrum against all five standard spectra.

Best-fit scenarios, defined as having the smallest residual error, also had sums of all fractions close to 1. To fully describe any particular sample within 1% reproducible error, a minimum of two components was necessary, and results have a ± 10 percent accuracy.

RESULTS

Physicochemical characteristics of PTL iron corrosion products and associated Sr²⁺ adsorption mechanism

Chlorine-disinfected model DWDS

Iron corrosion products in the chlorine-disinfected model DWDS were flake-shaped, compact dense material (Figures 2(a)–2(c)), composed mainly of γ -FeOOH and lesser amounts of α -FeOOH and Fe₃O₄. Strontium concentration in the corrosion products on the chlorine-treated PTL sample was 22 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2). Elemental composition of the corrosion product is provided in Table 2. The Sr K-edge XANES spectrum for the chlorine-disinfected PTL sample had two prominent peaks at 16,110 and 16,147.8 eV (Figure 3(a)). Graphical representation of the calculated LCF (red line) compared to the XANES data (blue line) is presented in Figure 4(a). The LCF results

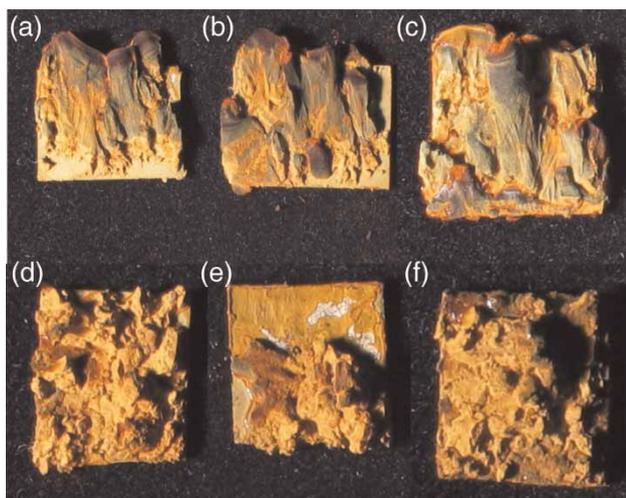


Figure 2 | Images of representative iron corrosion products from (a) chlorine-disinfected PTL, (b) chlorine-disinfected RM, (c) chlorine-disinfected DS, (d) chloramine-disinfected PTL, (e) chloramine-disinfected RM, and (f) chloramine-disinfected DS.

Table 2 | X-ray fluorescence results for the iron corrosion product samples grown in free chlorine and chloramine treated drinking water

Sample ID	Fe %	Ca %	Sr mg kg ⁻¹	Pb mg kg ⁻¹	Zn mg kg ⁻¹	Cu mg kg ⁻¹
<i>Chlorine disinfection</i>						
PTL	21.7	0.23	22.0	7.00	20.0	34.0
RM	27.2	0.27	215	10.0	14.0	57.0
DS	28.0	0.27	30.0	12.0	11.0	53.0
<i>Chloramine disinfection</i>						
PTL	23.2	0.50	47.0	14.0	38.0	121
RM	22.2	0.60	217	14.0	47.0	119
DS	23.9	0.50	40.0	19.0	36.0	118

PTL – primary transmission line, RM – residential main, and DS – desorption sample.

indicated that 8% of Sr²⁺ was incorporated into CaCO₃ and 10% of Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to CaCO₃, 35% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to α -FeOOH and 47% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to γ -FeOOH (Table 3).

Chloramine-disinfected model DWDS

Iron corrosion products formed in the chloramine-disinfected model DWDS were porous and fluffy in appearance (Figures 2(d)–2(f)) and composed primarily of γ -FeOOH with lesser amounts of α -FeOOH and Fe₃O₄. The chloramine-disinfected PTL sample had a Sr²⁺ concentration of 47 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2); more than double the chlorine-treated PTL sample. Elemental composition of the corrosion product is provided in Table 2. The XANES spectrum for the chloramine-disinfected PTL sample had prominent peaks at 16,110 and 16,147.8 eV (Figure 3(a)). The calculated LCF (red line) is compared to the XANES data (blue line) in Figure 4(b). Approximately 15% of the Sr²⁺ was incorporated in CaCO₃, 28% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to γ -FeOOH, and 57% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to α -FeOOH (Table 3).

Physicochemical characteristics of RM iron corrosion products and associated Sr²⁺ adsorption mechanism

Chlorine-disinfected model DWDS

The 1-hour stagnation did not influence the morphology or mineralogy of the corrosion products in the chlorine-disinfected

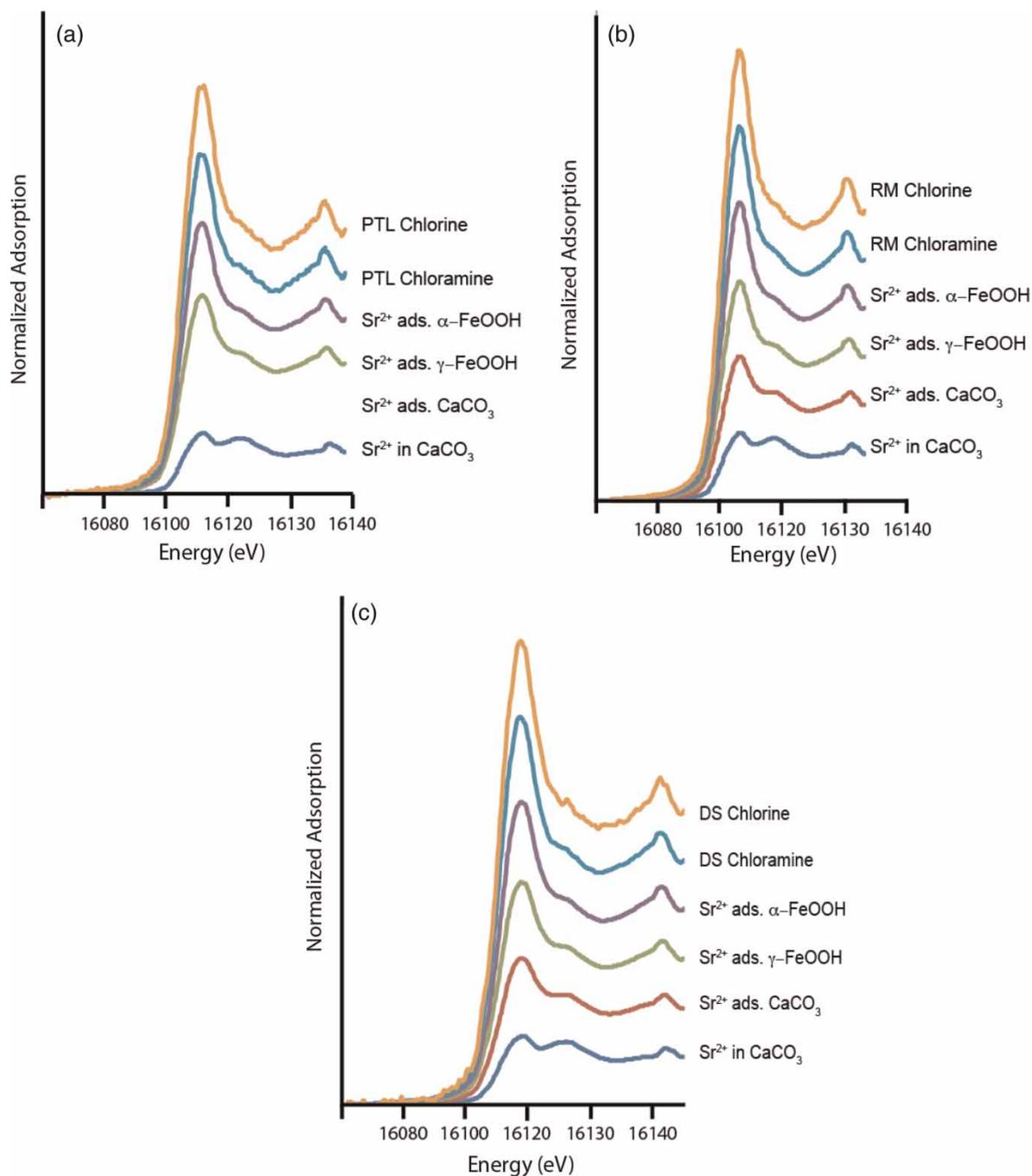


Figure 3 | Strontium K-edge spectra for bulk XANES Sr²⁺ standards and for the iron corrosion product samples representing (a) chlorine and chloramine simulated PTL samples, (b) chlorine and chloramine disinfected RM samples, and (c) chlorine and chloramine DS samples. Strontium standards are CaCO₃ in which some of the Ca²⁺ sites have been filled with Sr²⁺ (Sr²⁺ incorp. CaCO₃) and Sr adsorbed to the following: α -FeOOH (Sr²⁺ ads. α -FeOOH), γ -FeOOH (Sr²⁺ ads. γ -FeOOH), Fe₃O₄ (Sr²⁺ ads. Fe₃O₄), and CaCO₃ (Sr²⁺ ads. CaCO₃). Please refer to the online version of this paper to see this figure in color: <http://www.iwaponline.com/jws/toc.htm>.

RM sample (Figure 2(b)). The Sr²⁺ concentration in the chlorine-disinfected RM sample increased from 22 to 215 mg kg⁻¹ after a 1-hour exposure to the Sr²⁺-spiked drinking water (Table 2). The XANES spectrum for the sample had

prominent peaks at 16,110 and 16,147.8 eV (Figure 3(b)). Graphical representation of the calculated LCF (red line) compared to the XANES data (blue line) is presented in Figure 4(c). Approximately 2% of the Sr²⁺ was incorporated

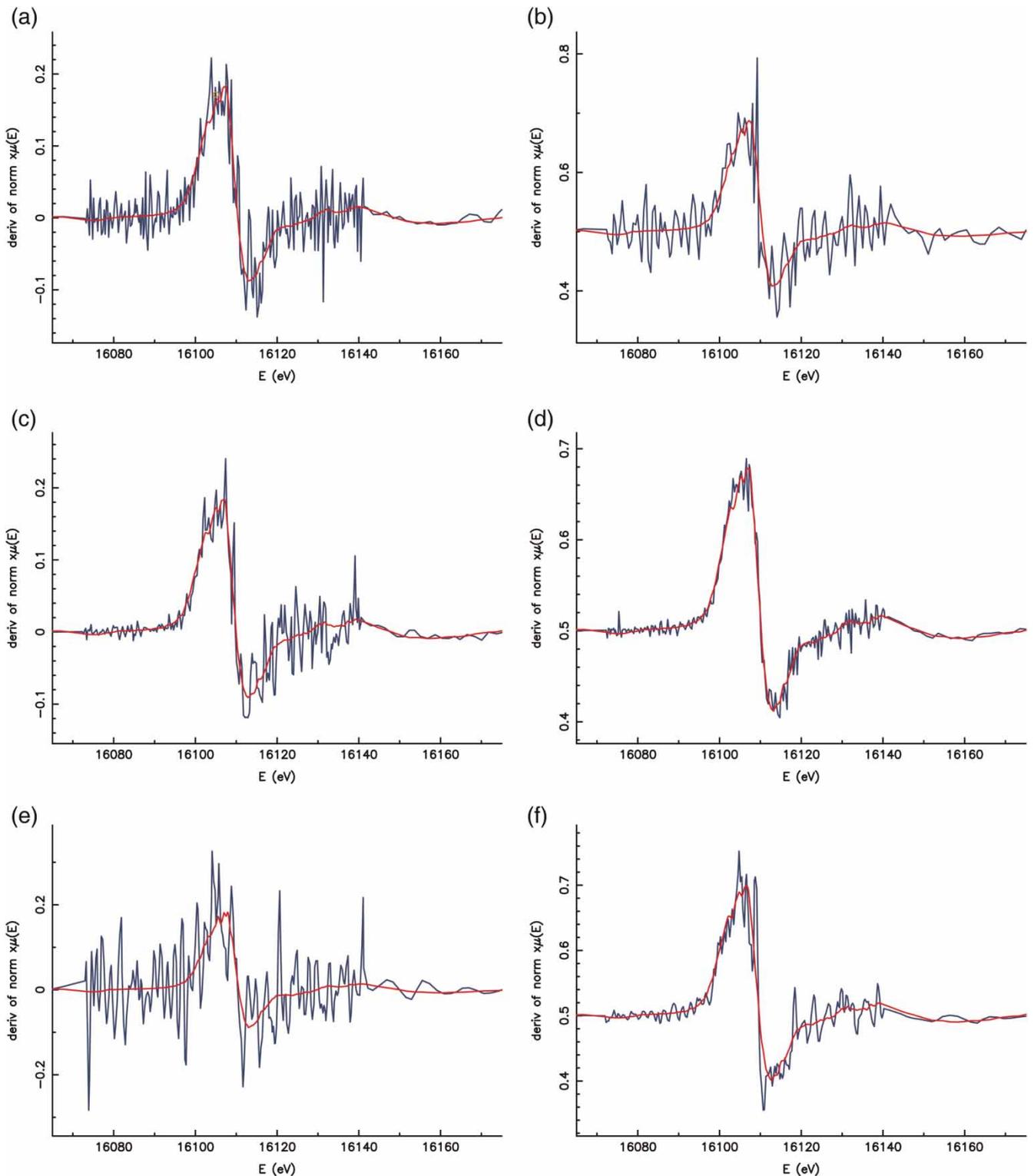


Figure 4 | LCF (red lines) and the first derivative of the normalized $\mu(E)$ (blue lines) of the bulk XANES of Sr_{2p} K-edge spectra for (a) chlorine-disinfected PTL, (b) chloramine-disinfected PTL, (c) chlorine-disinfected RM, (d) chloramine disinfected RM, (e) chlorine-disinfected DS, and (f) chloramine-disinfected DS. Please refer to the online version of this paper to see this figure in color: <http://www.iwaponline.com/jws/toc.htm>.

Table 3 | LCF results for Sr²⁺ K-edge μ -XANES spectra in Figure 4(a). Data presented as weighted percents ($\pm 10\%$) over the fit range of -20 to 80 eV

Sample ID	Sr ²⁺ abs. α -FeOOH%	Sr ²⁺ abs. γ -FeOOH%	Sr ²⁺ abs. CaCO ₃ %	Sr ²⁺ incorp. CaCO ₃	R-factor
<i>Chlorine disinfection</i>					
PTL	35	47	10	8	0.2057
RM	26	72	–	2	0.1547
DS	23	67	–	10	0.5847
<i>Chloramine disinfection</i>					
PTL	57	27.8	–	15	0.2869
RM	57	35	–	9	0.1547
DS	16	77	–	7	0.1390

PTL – primary transmission line, RM – residential main, and DS – desorption sample.

into CaCO₃ and 26 and 72% was adsorbed to α -FeOOH and γ -FeOOH, respectively (Table 3).

Chloramine-disinfected model DWDS

Morphology and mineralogy of corrosion products in the chloramine-disinfected RM sample were the same as the chloramine-disinfected PTL sample (Figures 2(d) and 2(e)). The Sr²⁺ concentration in the iron corrosion product increased after a 1-hour exposure to the Sr²⁺-spiked tap water from 47 to 217 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2). The chloramine-disinfected RM sample had pronounced peaks at 16,110 and 16,147.8 eV in the XANES spectrum (Figure 3(b)). The calculated LCF (red line) is compared to the XANES data (blue line) in Figure 4(d). Approximately 9% of the Sr²⁺ was incorporated into CaCO₃ and 35 and 57% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to γ -FeOOH and to α -FeOOH, respectively (Table 3).

Desorption of Sr²⁺ from iron corrosion products

Chlorine-disinfected model DWDS

Morphologically and mineralogically, the chlorine-treated DS sample was identical to the chlorine-treated PTL and RM samples (Figures 2(a)–2(c)). The Sr²⁺ concentration in the iron corrosion products, collected 28 days after drinking water flow resumed, decreased from 215 to 30 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2). The Sr K-edge XANES spectrum for the sample had pronounced peaks at 16,110.0 and 16,147.8 eV

(Figure 3(c)). Approximately 10% of the Sr²⁺ was incorporated into CaCO₃ and 23 and 67% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to α -FeOOH and γ -FeOOH, respectively (Figure 4(e), Table 3).

Chloramine-disinfected model DWDS

Morphologically and mineralogically, the chloramine-disinfected DS sample was identical to the chloramine-treated PTL and RM samples (Figures 2(d)–2(f)). The iron corrosion product collected 28 days after flow resumed had a Sr²⁺ concentration of 40 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2), a decrease from 217 mg kg⁻¹. The XANES spectrum for the sample had prominent peaks at 16,110 and 16,147.8 eV (Figure 3(c)). Approximately 7% of the Sr²⁺ was incorporated into CaCO₃ and 16 and 77% of the Sr²⁺ was adsorbed to α -FeOOH and to γ -FeOOH, respectively (Figure 4(f), Table 3).

DISCUSSION

Deterioration of drinking water quality during delivery to a residence has been documented. For example, maintaining a constant disinfectant concentration throughout DWDS is difficult to achieve because drinking water can interact with corrosion products and natural organic matter. Chlorine, the most common disinfectant used in DWDS in United States (Zhang & Edwards 2007), readily reacts with natural organic matter forming carcinogenic disinfection by-products (DBP) such as chloroform (Lin & Valentine 2009; Sedlak & von Gunten 2011). Because DBP concentrations are regulated by the US EPA, drinking water utilities are switching to chloramine disinfection. However, chloramine-disinfected drinking waters have lower oxidation-reduction potentials, compared to chlorine-disinfected waters, making them more corrosive to DWDS infrastructure (Schock & Lemieux 2010). In addition, the switch from chlorine to chloramine can cause massive destabilization of lead corrosion products, i.e., release of lead and other contaminants into drinking water and potential human exposure (Boyd et al. 2008; Lin & Valentine 2009; Schock & Lemieux 2010). Red and black water have been attributed to destabilization of iron corrosion products in DWDS. However, there are limited data on the impact of

disinfectant on metal ion adsorption and desorption with iron corrosion products (Friedman *et al.* 2010; Peng & Korshin 2011; Peng *et al.* 2013).

The disinfectants and flow regimes used in the ARs were consistent with those found in fully operational DWDS (Sarin *et al.* 2004; Gerke *et al.* 2008; Teng *et al.* 2008). Furthermore, the corrosion products that formed on the iron foils were typical of DWDS. Well-developed iron corrosion products are primarily iron oxides/oxyhydroxides such as Fe₃O₄, α-FeOOH, and γ-FeOOH and may contain accessory phases such as CaCO₃ and SiO₂ (quartz) (Lin *et al.* 2001; Sarin *et al.* 2004; Tang *et al.* 2006; Tamura 2008). Corrosion products in both AR systems were predominantly γ-FeOOH and α-FeOOH and some Fe₃O₄. There were no differences in the proportions of these phases regardless of disinfection or type of sample, i.e. PTL, RM, or DS. CaCO₃ was not detected by XRD analysis even though the water used in this study was near or at the calcite saturation index (Table 1). Corrosion products in the chlorine-disinfected system were compact and those that formed in the chloramine-treated system were fluffy. Corrosion product morphology did not change in either system as the experiments progressed from constant flow (PTL) to stagnation (RM) to resumption of flow (DS).

Adsorption mechanisms in the chlorine-disinfected model DWDS

In the chlorine-disinfected PTL samples, Sr²⁺ preferentially adsorbed to γ-FeOOH compared to α-FeOOH, 47 to 35%, respectively (Table 3). This was also observed in the samples from the RM conditions where Sr²⁺ adsorption to γ-FeOOH was greater, 72%, compared to 26% Sr²⁺ adsorption to α-FeOOH (Table 3). Once flow resumed, the distribution of Sr²⁺ adsorption species remained similar to the RM samples, i.e., more Sr²⁺ adsorbed γ-FeOOH over α-FeOOH (67 versus 23%, respectively) (Table 3). Changes that occurred in the water chemistry as the model DWDS conditions changed from flowing water to stagnation and back to flowing water did not appear to impact the surface chemistry of the iron corrosion products and therefore Sr²⁺ adsorption to γ-FeOOH.

Strontium, based on LCF results (Table 3), was also associated with CaCO₃, a common accessory phase in iron

corrosion products (Sontheimer *et al.* 1981; Teng *et al.* 2008; Gerke *et al.* 2012; Swietlik *et al.* 2012). Sr²⁺ substituted for Ca²⁺ in the M1 sites of CaCO₃ grains in PTL and RM conditions and Sr²⁺ adsorbed to the surface of CaCO₃ grains in PTL. Even though CaCO₃ was not detected by XRD analysis in any of the samples, it is commonly identified in iron corrosion products from the fully operational DWDS. The water used in this study was near or at the calcite saturation index (Table 1) so the fact that Sr²⁺ was associated with CaCO₃ was not surprising.

Adsorption mechanisms in chloramine-disinfected model DWDS

Strontium preferentially adsorbed to α-FeOOH in PTL and RM conditions in the chloramine-disinfected model DWDS. There was basically no difference in the percentage of Sr²⁺ adsorbed to α-FeOOH in the first two conditions, PTL and RM, of the model DWDS (~57%) (Table 3). Interestingly, LCF phase distribution suggested that Sr²⁺ desorbed primarily from α-FeOOH once flow resumed (Table 3). The distribution percentage decreased from ~57 to 16% of Sr²⁺ adsorbed to α-FeOOH and the distribution percentage increased from 34.6 to 76.8% of Sr²⁺ adsorbed to γ-FeOOH, (77%) (Table 3). Changes to water chemistry during the 1-hour stagnation and the resumption of water flow influenced the surface of the iron corrosion products such that γ-FeOOH was the preferred phase for Sr²⁺ adsorption. Strontium was also associated with CaCO₃ by substitution for Ca²⁺ in the M1 sites of CaCO₃ grains in PTL and RM conditions.

Compare/contrast adsorption of Sr²⁺ in chlorine- and chloramine-disinfected model DWDS

The Sr²⁺ concentration in the chloramine-treated PTL sample was 47 mg kg⁻¹ and that in the chlorine-disinfected PTL sample was 22 mg kg⁻¹ (Table 2). To assess the potential for Sr²⁺ adsorption to iron corrosion products during stagnation, ARs were injected with a 100 mg l⁻¹ Sr²⁺ solution, a concentration that was over two orders of magnitude higher than the concentration in the original drinking water. The higher concentration facilitated an unambiguous interpretation of adsorption during

stagnation. After iron corrosion products were exposed to a 1-hour stagnation with the Sr²⁺-enriched solution, the concentration of Sr²⁺ in corrosion products was similar, 215 mg kg⁻¹ for the chlorine-disinfected and 217 mg kg⁻¹ for the chloramine-disinfected RM samples (Table 2). Once flow was resumed to both model DWDS, the concentration of Sr²⁺ in the DS samples was 30 mg kg⁻¹ for the chlorine-treated model DWDS sample and 40 mg kg⁻¹ for the chloramine-treated sample (Table 2).

Differences in Sr²⁺ concentrations can be directly related to the differences in the adsorption mechanisms. Sr²⁺ preferentially adsorbed to and remained associated with γ -FeOOH in the chlorine-disinfected DWDS regardless of flow conditions, i.e., flowing or stagnant (Table 3). However, Sr²⁺ preferentially adsorbed to α -FeOOH in the PTL and RM chloramine-treated samples (Table 3). In each disinfection scenario and all water flow conditions, the presence of minimal CaCO₃ influenced Sr²⁺ adsorption.

The main difference in the water chemistry between the two model DWDS was the oxidation-reduction potential, which was approximately 50 mV lower in the chloramine-disinfected water (Table 1). The pH also differed by approximately 0.3 to 0.6 units lower in the chloramine-disinfected model DWDS (Table 1). Adsorption of Sr²⁺ to γ -FeOOH is predictable because the average point-of-zero charge (pzc) is approximately 6.9 (Kosmulski 2001) and the average drinking water pH above 8 (Table 1). However, the extent of Sr²⁺ adsorption to α -FeOOH in the chlorine-treated PTL, RM, and DS iron corrosion product samples was not predictable because the average pzc for synthetic α -FeOOH ranges from 7.4 to 8.2 (Appel *et al.* 2003). The overall surface charge of α -FeOOH in the drinking water should be neutral to slightly positive and it is unlikely that Sr²⁺ would sorb directly to the surface of α -FeOOH. However, in mixed mineral systems, the average pzc for each mineral can be altered through particle-particle interaction (Bell *et al.* 1973; Manning & Sabine 1997; Tombácz & Szekeres 2006). Likewise, Schwertmann & Fechter (1982) found that natural α -FeOOH can have a pzc much lower (~3) than synthetic goethites as a result of slower crystallization. Strontium was likely adsorbed to α -FeOOH and γ -FeOOH surfaces by outer-sphere surface complexation (Schwertmann & Fechter 1982; Parkman *et al.* 1998;

Chen & Hayes 1999; Sahai *et al.* 2000; Chen *et al.* 2006; Carroll *et al.* 2008), which may partially explain the ease with which Sr²⁺ desorbed. Despite α -FeOOH and γ -FeOOH having similar sorption complexes and similar XANES spectra, both components were necessary to produce LCF with the lowest residual error.

In the present study, corrosion products of iron oxyhydroxides were important in the accumulation of elevated Sr²⁺ concentrations in the chlorine- and chloramine-disinfected model DWDS. Association of Sr²⁺ with CaCO₃ was minimal, because of the low concentrations and relatively short exposure time in the ARs. Gerke *et al.* (2013) examined iron corrosion products from an approximately 90-year-old cast iron residential main that had been exposed to the same water chemistry as the chlorine-treated model DWDS. In that study, 61 to 84% of the Sr²⁺ in surface layer iron corrosion products was associated with CaCO₃ and up to 39% was adsorbed to α -FeOOH. Calcite was readily identifiable in the Gerke *et al.* (2013) study for the aged cast iron residential main. The absence of γ -FeOOH in the corrosion products of Gerke *et al.* (2013) may be due to the conversion of γ -FeOOH to the more stable α -FeOOH over time (Schwertmann & Taylor 1972).

Based on the combined data sets of Gerke *et al.* (2013) and the present study, it appears that Sr²⁺ preferentially adsorbed to iron oxyhydroxides in the early stages of iron corrosion product development in both chlorine- and chloramine-disinfected DWDS. However, if CaCO₃ precipitates out of drinking water, Sr²⁺ can bind with and/or become incorporated into the CaCO₃ structure as a long-term retention mechanism; even though adsorption to iron oxyhydroxides is an essential first step in this process.

CONCLUSIONS

Strontium adsorbed to iron corrosion products in chlorine- and chloramine-disinfected model DWDS, regardless of the type of disinfection, and preferentially adsorbed to iron oxyhydroxides in the early stages of iron corrosion product development in both model DWDS. Concentrations and rates of adsorbed and desorbed Sr²⁺ differed slightly based on disinfection type. These results indicate that regardless of the type of disinfection, concentrations of Sr²⁺ could be

released from iron corrosion products in DWDS during normal operations.

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