

# In Situ Raman Spectroscopic Investigation of Stainless Steel Hydrothermal Corrosion

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## ABSTRACT

*In situ Raman spectroscopy was used to investigate corrosion of Type 304L stainless steel ([SS] UNS S30403) in air-saturated water at a pressure of 25.2 MPa and temperatures up to 496°C in an optically accessible flow cell. The exposed Type 304L SS coupon also was characterized ex situ with Raman spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopy. After exposure, nickel(II) iron(III) oxide ( $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ) and alpha chromium(III) oxide hydroxide ( $\alpha\text{-CrOOH}$ ) phases were detected on the coupon surface. The  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  phase was first identified after the coupon was heated to 247°C and was observed under all subsequent conditions. Upon heating from 247°C to 326°C, the crystallinity and possibly the thickness of the  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  phase increased. The  $\alpha\text{-CrOOH}$  phase was first identified after the coupon was heated to 326°C and was observed under all subsequent conditions. At least a portion of the  $\alpha\text{-CrOOH}$  phase probably originated as a corrosion product released from the optical cell and/or flow system. In situ Raman spectra indicated that the  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  phase was present in greater amounts and/or was more crystalline during cooling, while there was probably less of the  $\alpha\text{-CrOOH}$  phase present in the Raman scattering volume during cooling than during heating.*

**KEY WORDS:** aqueous environments, corrosion product release, general corrosion, Raman spectroscopy, stainless steel, nickel ferrite, temperature