Preparation and Performance of Polyphenylene Oxide-Based Anion Exchange Membrane for Vanadium Redox Flow Battery

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Abstract : A polyphenylene oxide (PPO)-based anion exchange membrane based on the functionalization of bromomethylated PPO using 1-methylimdazole was fabricated for vanadium redox flow application. The imidazolium-bromomethylated PPO (ImbPPO) showed lower permeability VO2+ ions $(2.9 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec})$, compared to Nafion 212 $(2.3 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec})$ and FAP-450 $(7.9 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec})$. Even though the Im-bPPO membrane has higher permeability, the energy efficiency of the VRFB with the Im-bPPO membrane was slightly lower than that of Nafion and FAP-450. The Im-bPPO membrane exhibits good voltage efficiency compared to FAP-450 and Nafion 212 because of its better ion conductivity. The Im-bPPo membrane showed up good performance, but a decline in performance at later cycles was observed.

Keywords : anion exchange membranes, vanadium redox flow battery, polyphenylene oxide, energy efficiency (EE)

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