Supplemental information for "Phosphate availability and implications for life on ocean worlds"

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Supplemental Figure 1. Additional fluid chemistry from Fig. 3 highlighting relationship between P, Ca, and pH. Comparison of [P] (**a-c**), dissolved aqueous species (**d-i**), and pH (**jo**) under the three conditions considered in the redox sensitivity analysis (main text Fig. 2). Panels **d, e, f, j, k, l** and **g, h, i, m, n, o** respectively correspond to "slices" taken at W:R = 100 and W:R = 1. Inferred Enceladus ocean pH range of 8-9 from Fifer and colleagues¹ is highlighted in dark green and 8-11 from Glein and colleagues² in light green.

Supplemental Figure 2. Effect of silicate melting and degassing on dissolved phosphate concentrations. On large planetary bodies (such as Earth or Europa) crustal differentiation can reallocate the distribution of elements within the rocky interior. In general, this take two forms– 1) the segregation of siderophile elements (Fe, Ni, S) into a metallic core and 2) the production of volcanic fluids (primarily basalts and hydrothermal fluids such as $CO₂$ and H2S.) Reacting the most common rock on Earth's surface, mid-ocean ridge basalt or MORB, (a) with the minimal fluid used in chondrite simulations (Figs. 2 and 3) produces phosphate concentrations significantly lower than with CI chondrite reactant, but still within a range $(>10^{-9}$ mol/kg) that can be utilized by phosphate-limited microorganisms on Earth. Including the carbon liberated by crustal melting of CI chondrite $(2 \text{ wt\%})^3$ in the otherwise identical MORB reaction model (b) produces very high phosphate concentrations relative to Earth environments ($>10^{-4}$ mol/kg water). This sensitivity highlights the importance of considering chemical evolution at a system-level, rather than in a MORB-only calculation, and suggests a key direction for future research on P availability on larger bodies, where magmatic processing may occur.

Supplemental Figure 3. Comparison of median phosphate concentrations for all temperature and water/rock ratios for each chondrite type (a total of ~1.9 million aqueous chemistry simulations) as a function of input parameters (Supp. Table 1) for each chondrite type. Fig. 2 shows the full water/rock ratio temperature space of each chondrite type.

Supplemental Table 1. Average weight percentage for elemental abundance in chondrites ($n =$ 1800, [P] = 0.11 ± 0.02 wt%³) and mid ocean ridge basalts (n = 3598, [P] = 0.074 ± 0.04 wt%⁴.) Note that the MORB values listed are renormalized to the stoichiometry used for this study which leads to small change relative Fig. 1a.

Supplemental Table 2. Thermodynamic data from Ely and references therein⁶ used for equilibrium EQ3/6^{5,6} models. Sensitivity analyses also were performed for a standard software standard (cmp), Yucca Mountain (ymp), and our curated database modified for iron phosphates (cst).

a. Aqueous species

b. Mineral species

c. Thermodynamic data

Supplemental References

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