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Cover design by John C. Burns (www.burnsdesignandstudio.com). CMS logo design by Timothy G. Phillips. Inset figure: Cage of black steel with MX80 granulate material, used in assessing the performance of bentonite barriers for high-level radioactive waste disposal. See "Characterization of the second parcel of the alternative buffer material (ABM) experiment – I. Mineralogical reactions" by Kaufhold *et al.* pp. 27–41.