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PBMR Briefing Presented to the US NRC

January 31, 2001

White Flint - Rockville, Maryland

E/R

Meeting Objectives

- Provide Overview of Exelon's Involvement
- Provide Summary of PBMR Design and Potential Licensing Issues
- Provide Our Preliminary Ideas on Licensing Approach and Schedule
- Provide Our Near Term Goals
- Begin Dialogue to Reach Agreement on Process, Schedule and Resources

Presentation Agenda

- Introduction Ward Sproat
- Project Overview Ward Sproat
- Basics of Plant Design Vijay Nilekani
- Key Technical Licensing Issues Ward Sproat

Break (15minutes)

- Licensing Process Options Kevin Borton
- Licensing Process Unique Issues Jim Muntz
- Licensing Process Funding Jim Muntz
- Proposed Path Forward Discussion Exelon/NRC

Project Overview

- Exelon, BNFL, ESKOM and IDC funding basic design and Detailed Feasibility Study for 110MWe PBMR
- DFS to be completed by June 2001
- Decision to build prototype in late 2001
 - Dependent on Economics
 - Approval required from partners and RSA Government
- Nominal 3 years construction / 1 year startup testing

Exelon Interests

- Own rights to 12.5% of PBMR Pty. Ltd.
 - Other funders: ESKOM (40%), IDC (25%), BNFL (22 1/2%)
- Main Interest: Source of Low Cost Power
- Merchant Nuclear Power

Exelon Generation Involvement

- 6 person team / 1 in RSA
- 1 seat on Board of PBMR Pty.
- Chairing Technical Subcommittee of Board
- Approach to project: Education, Assessment, Intervention
- Exelon Nuclear role is limited
 - Maintaining focus on safe plant operation

Pebble Bed Modular Reactor

Plant Design Overview

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Plant Design Fundamentals

- High Temperature Helium Cooled Reactor
- TRISO Coated Particle Fuel (Ceramic)
- Spherical Fuel Elements (as per German reactors)
- Direct Cycle Gas Turbine (Modified Brayton with Recuperation)
- Passive Safety Design
 - Fuel integrity maintained under most severe postulated (DBE) accident, with no early operator intervention required

Plant Specification

(Nominal)

- Rated power 100-115 MWe
- Continuous stable power range 0-100%
- Load Rejection w/o trip 100%
- Construction Schedule 24 months
- Planned Outages 30 days every 6 years

- Emergency Planning Zone 400 meters
- Plant Operating Life Time 40 years
- Spent Fuel Storage Capability (On Site) 100 % of life generation cycle

AVR: Jülich

(Operated 1967-88)

15MW Research Reactor

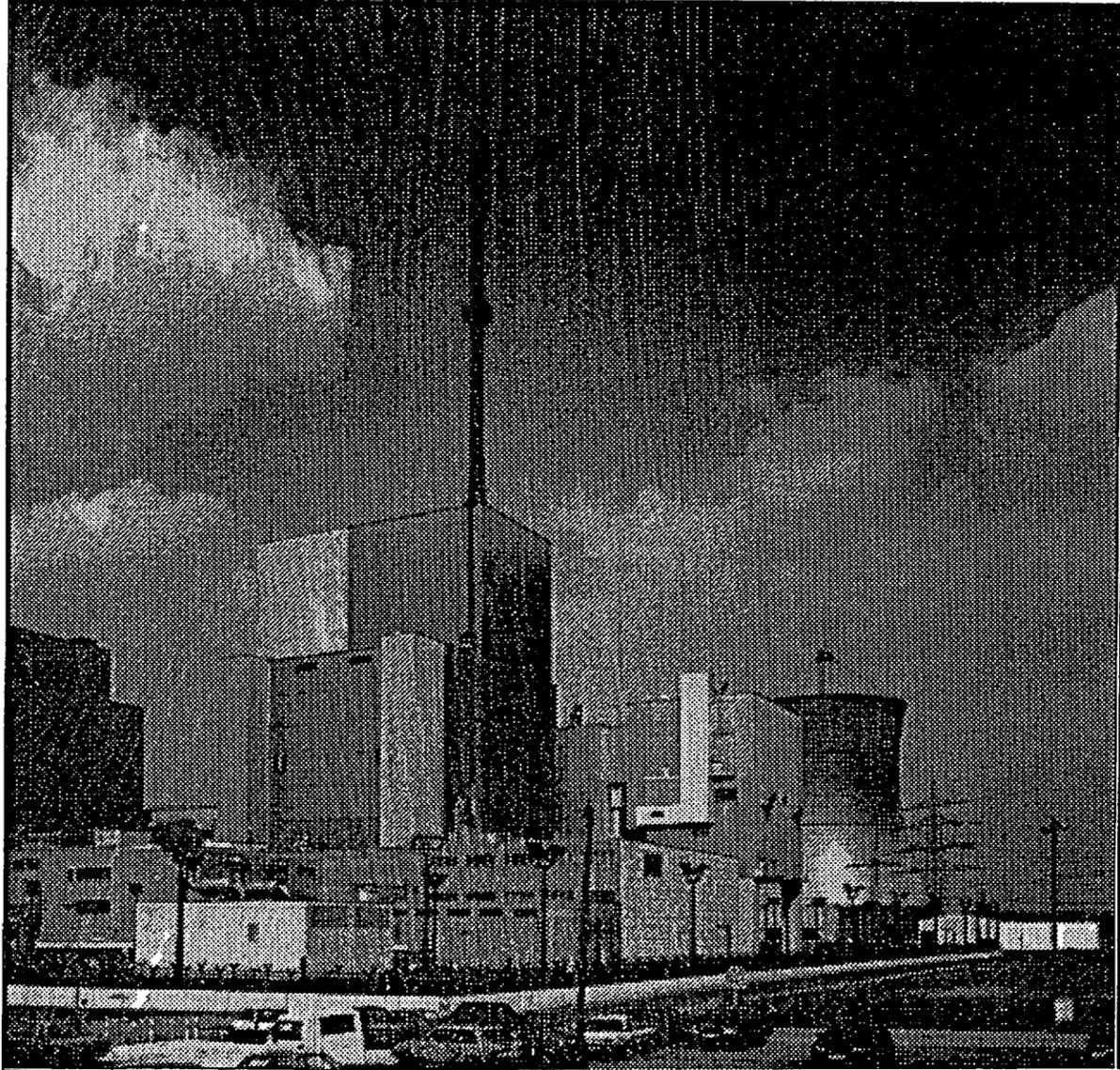


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THTR: Hamm-Uentrop

(Operated 1985-89)

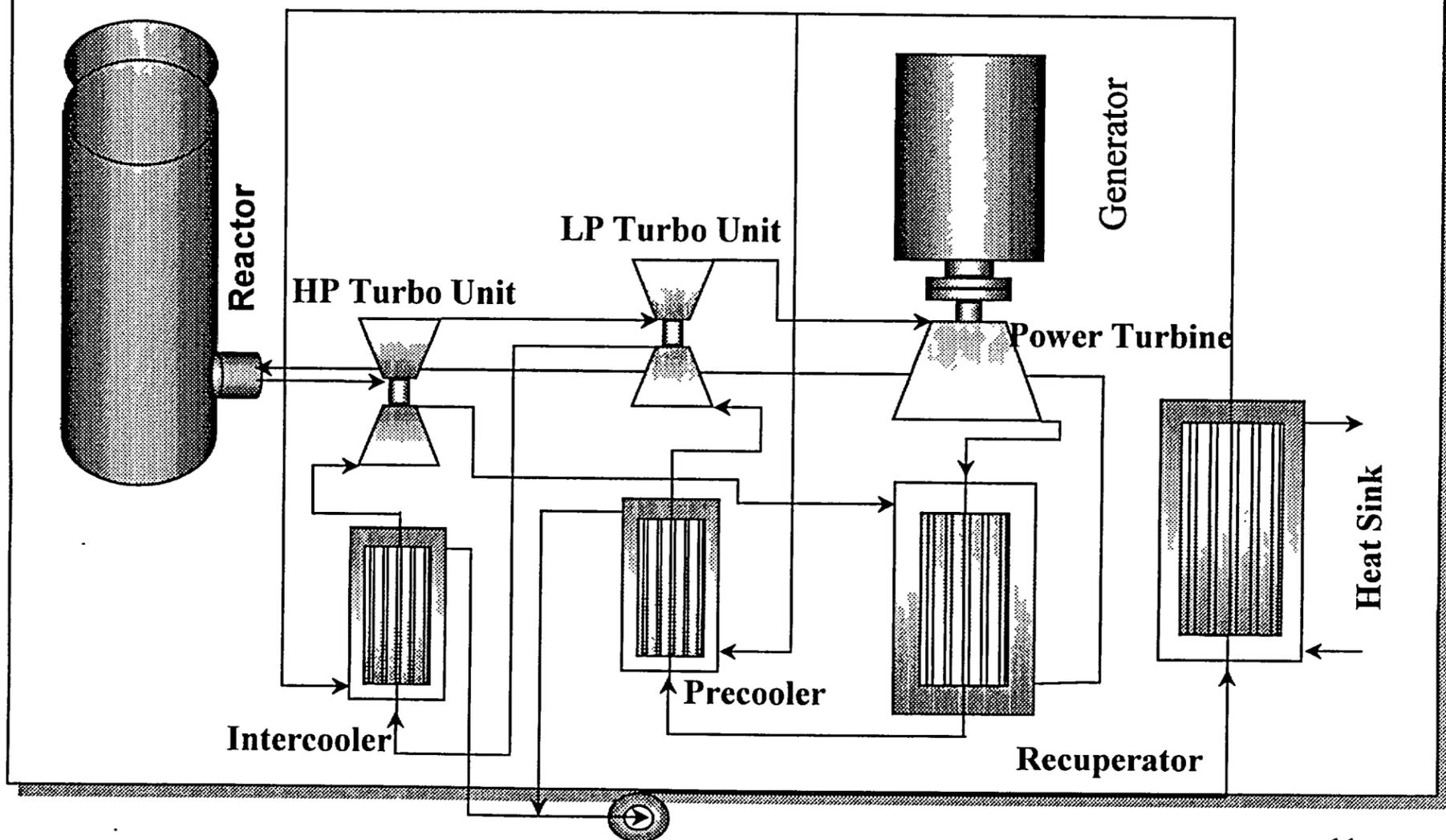
300MW Demonstration Reactor



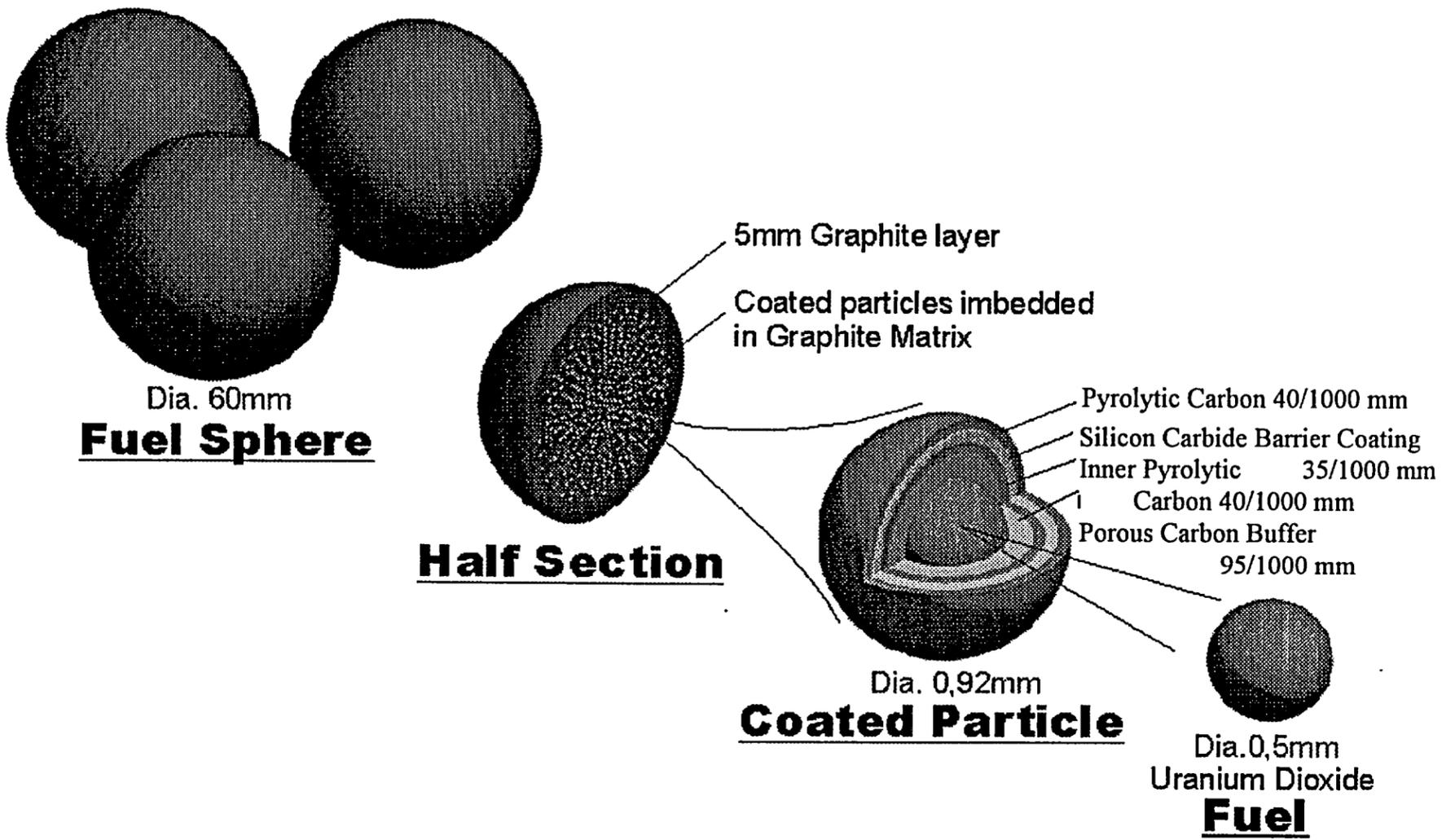
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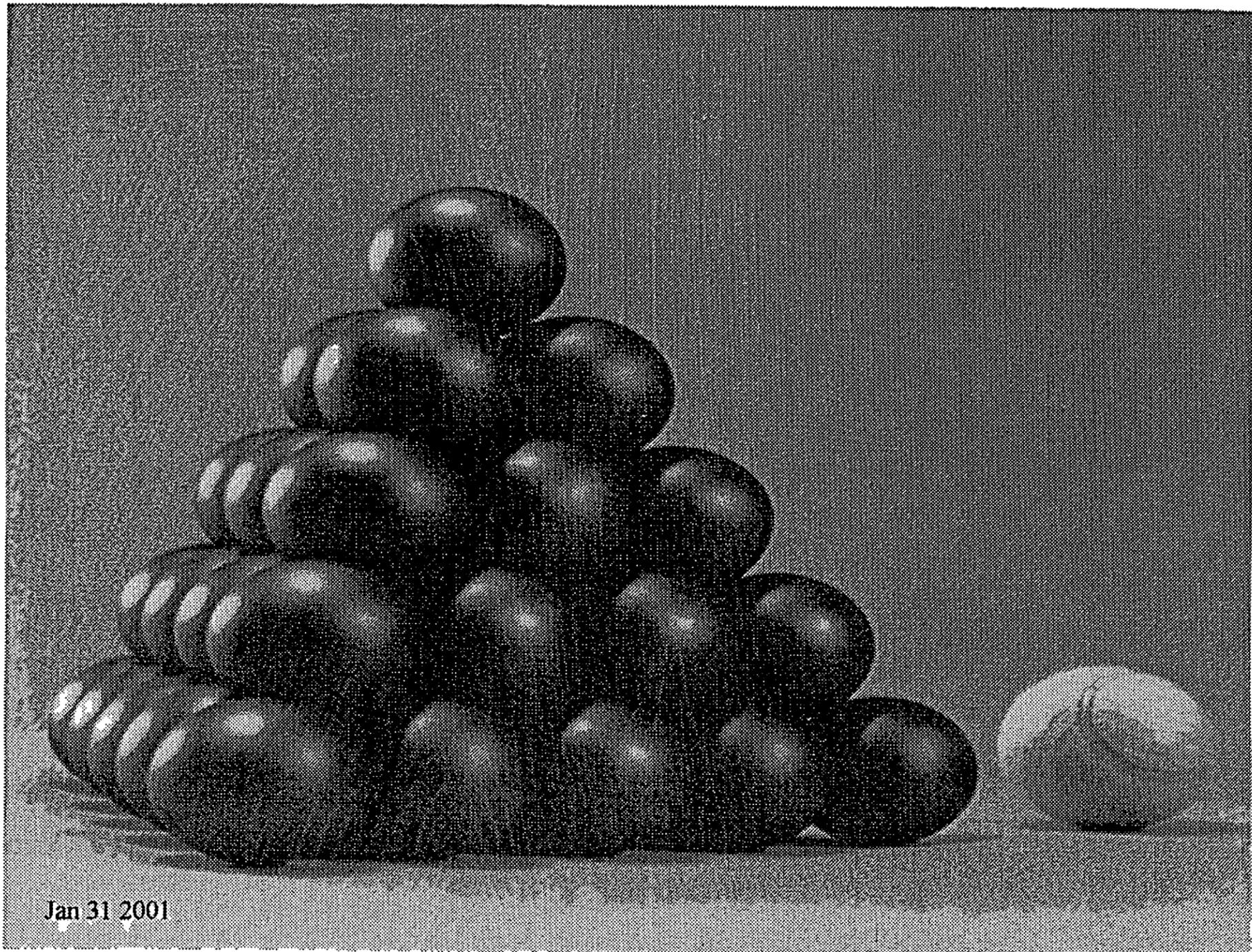
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PBMR Thermal Cycle



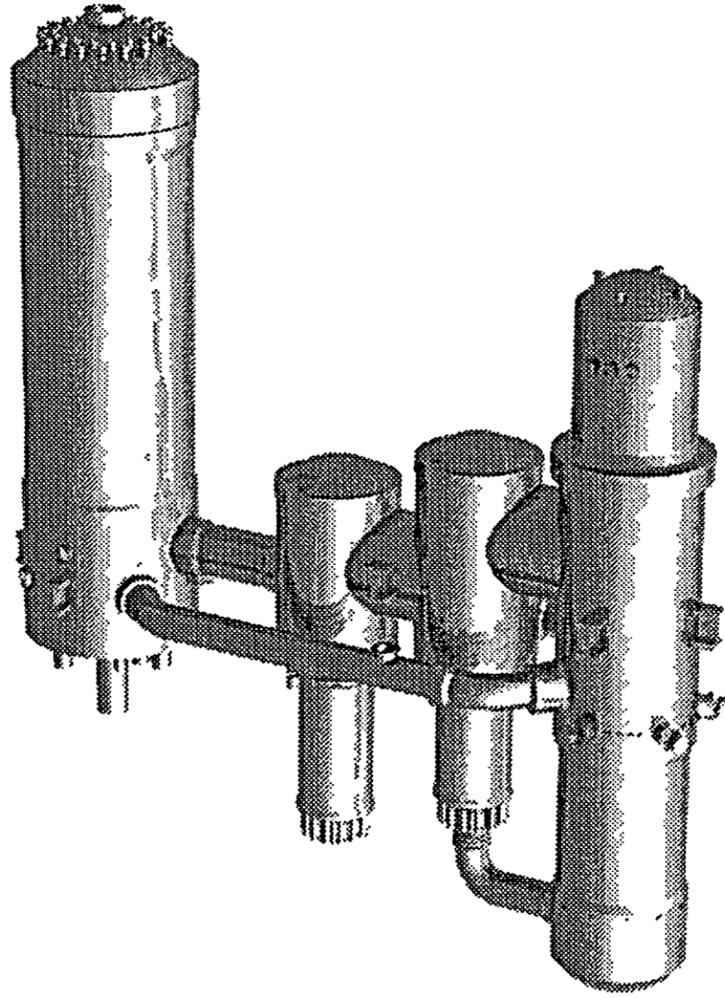
FUEL ELEMENT DESIGN FOR PBMR





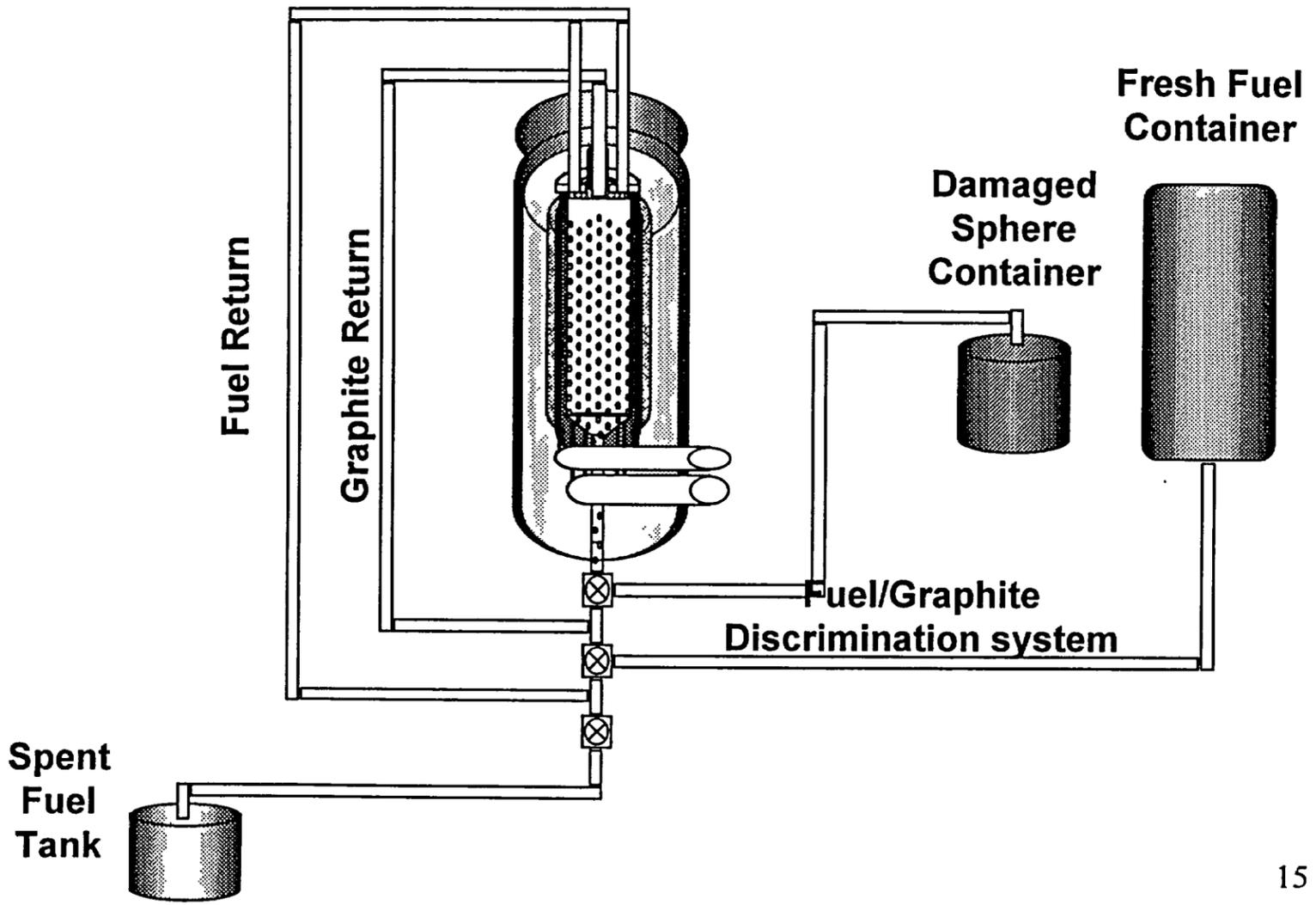
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Main Power System

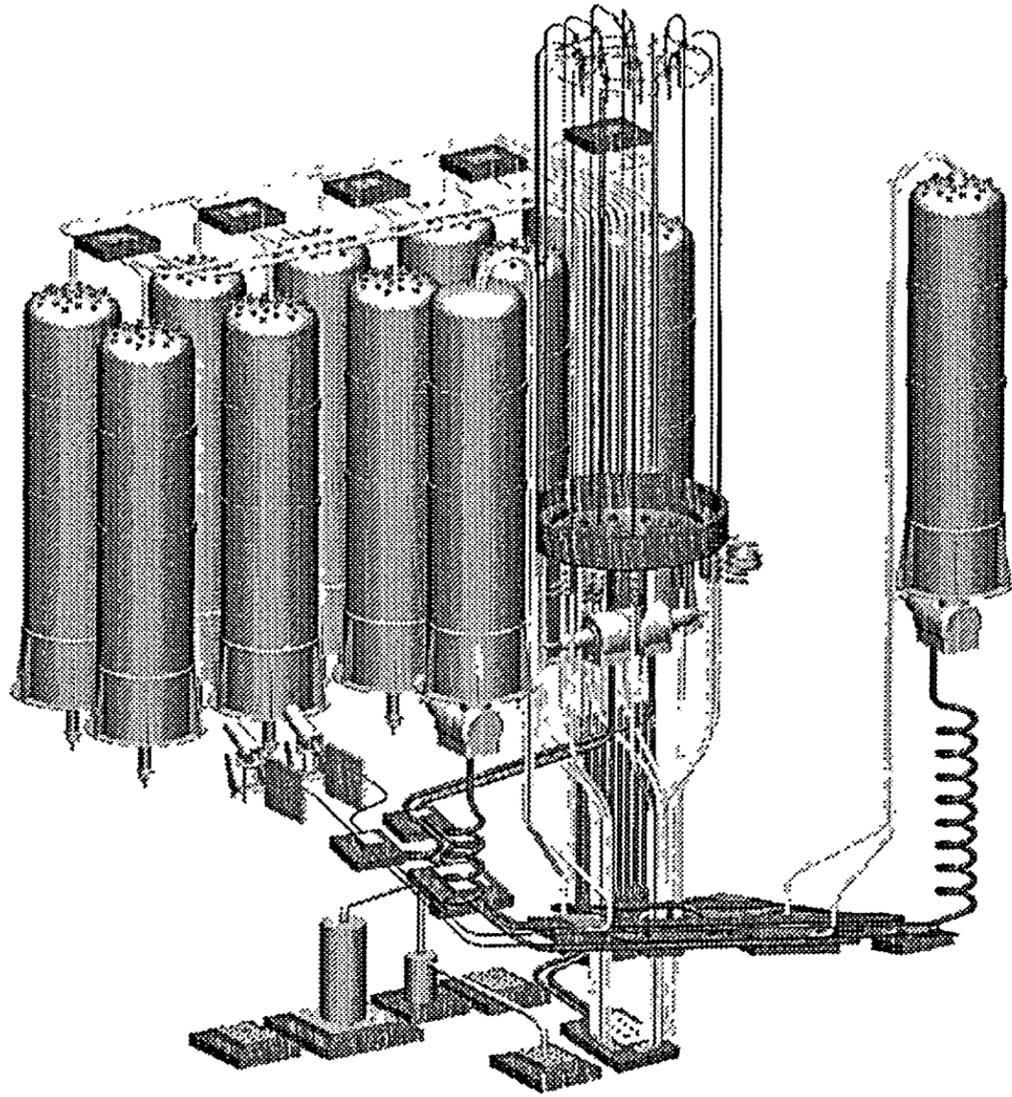


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Fuel Handling & Storage System

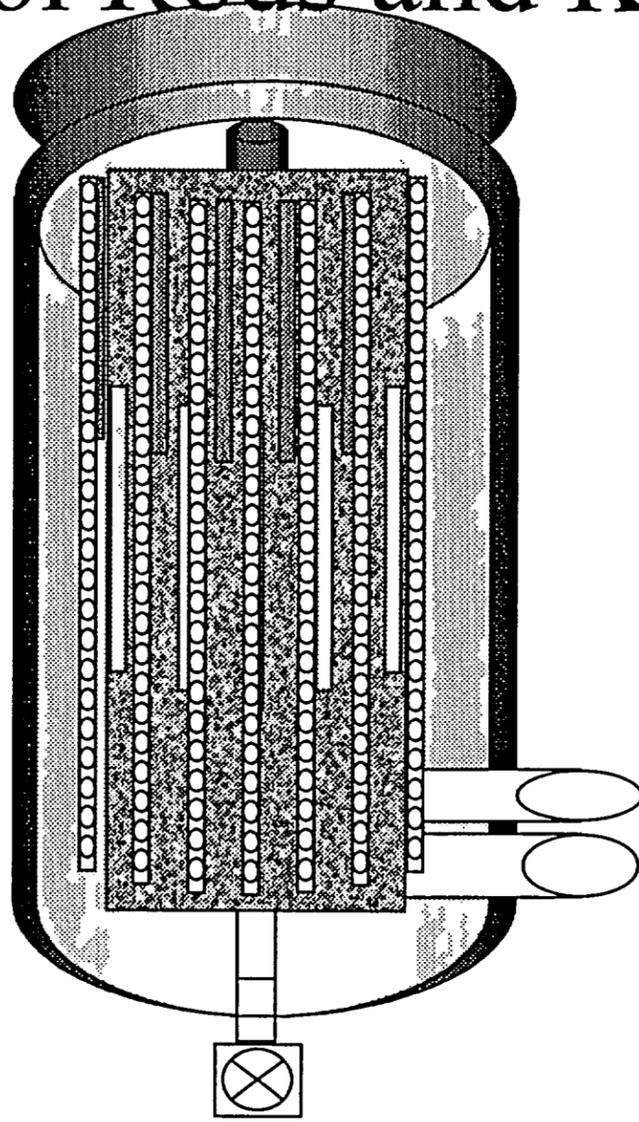


Fuel Handling & Storage System



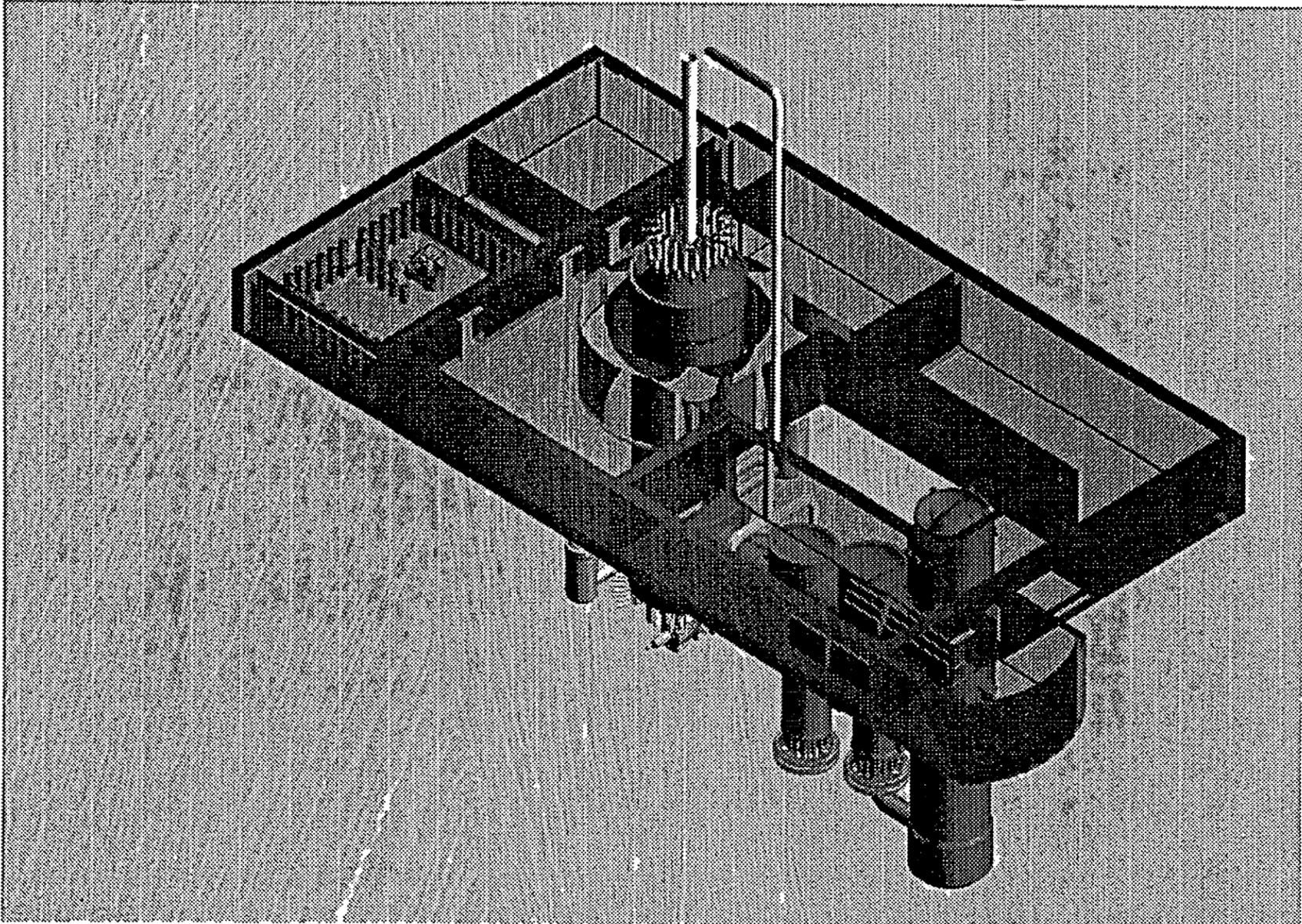
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Control Rods and Klaks

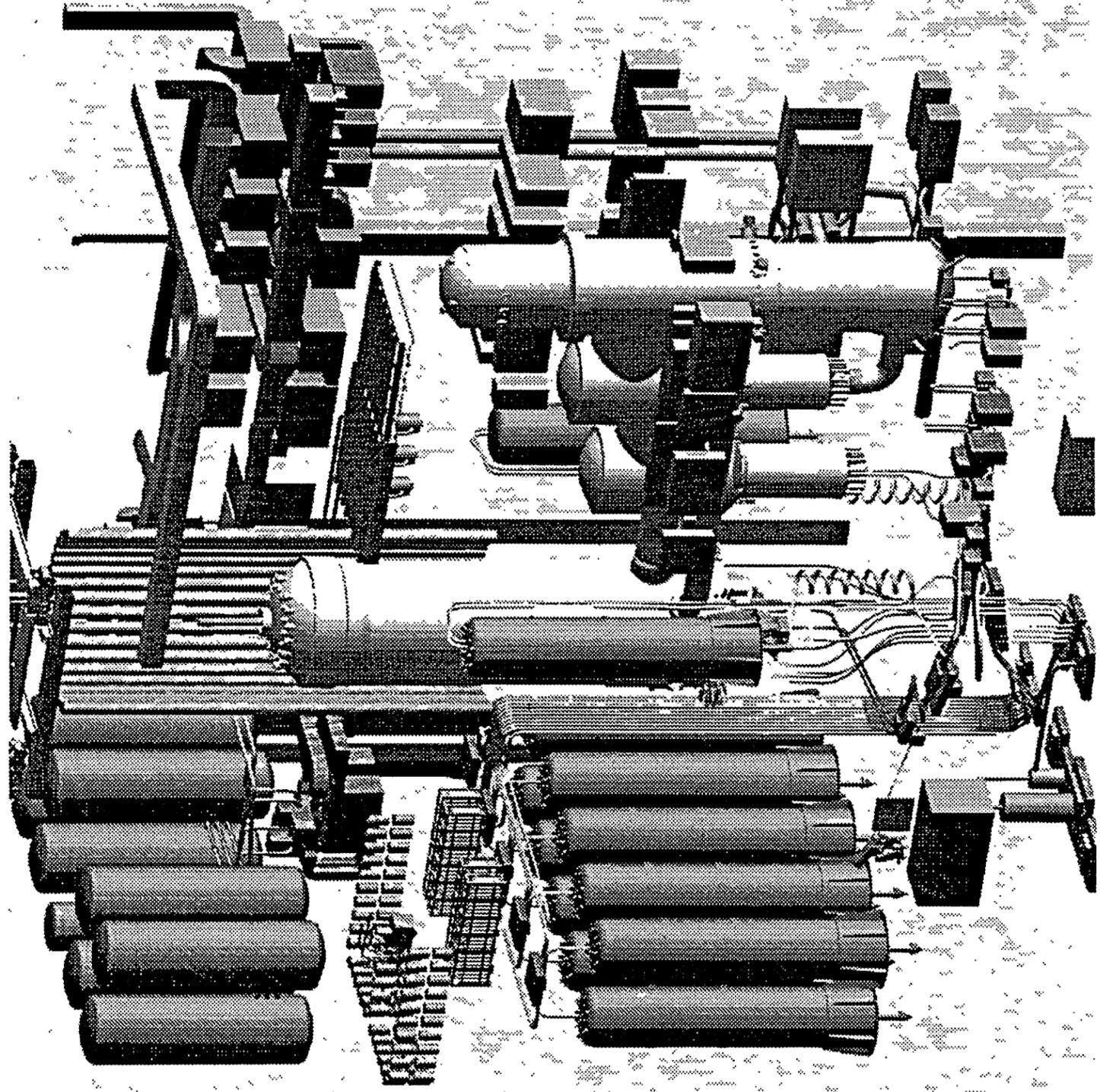


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Citadel/Building Design



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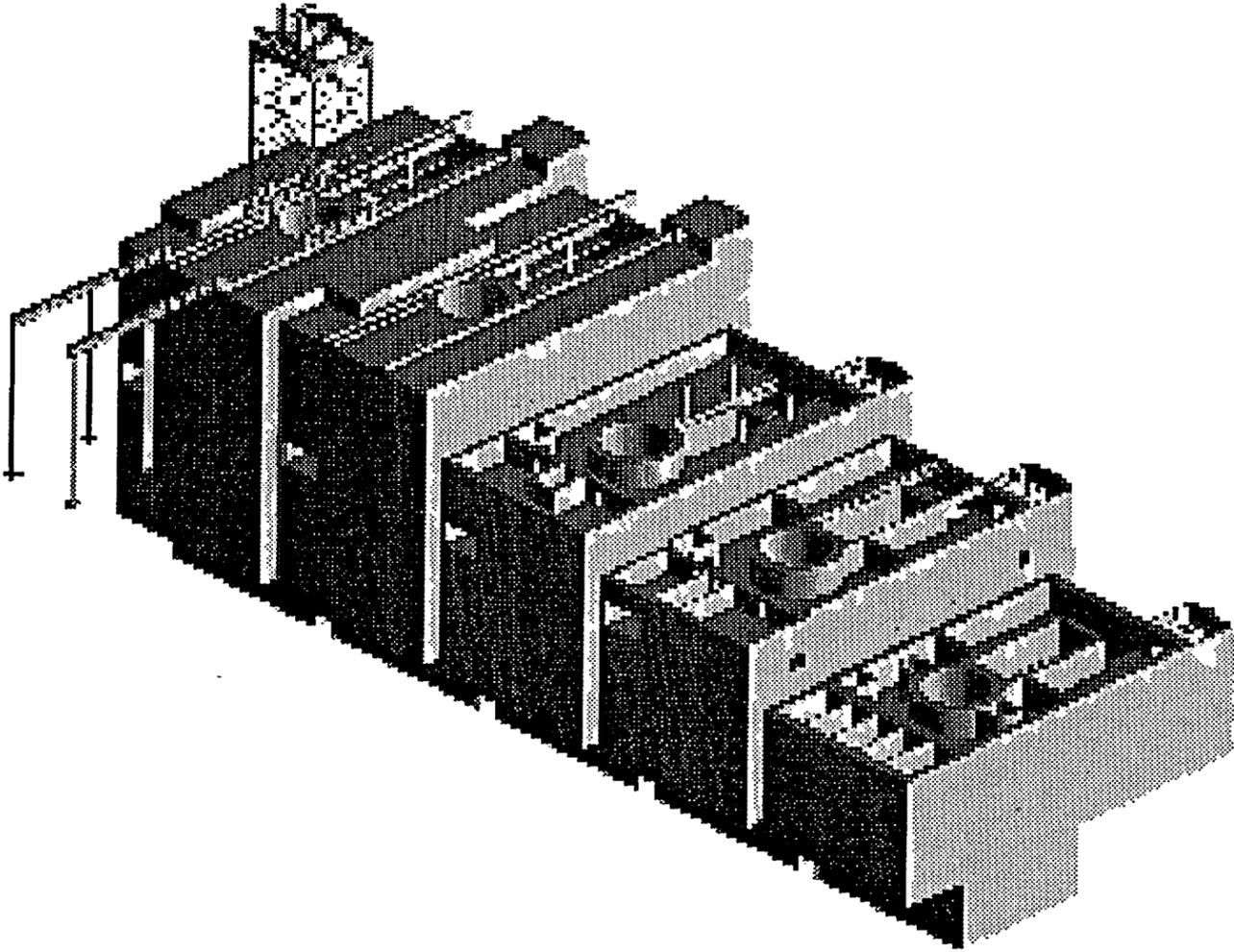


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5 Module Construction



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Pebble Bed Modular Reactor

Safety Discussion

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Key Paradigms

- The safety of the reactor core is not dependant on the presence of the coolant
- Early insertion of control rods or klaks is not a mandatory requirement in any accident scenario
- There is no inherent mechanism for runaway reactivity excursions or rapid power transients

PBMR: Safety Features

- Graphite used as Fuel sphere matrix and for core structural material
- Large thermal capacity ensures slow temperature transient behavior
- Very low power density – (order of magnitude below LWR's, ~ 15 to 30 times)
- Helium is a single phase coolant and chemically & radiologically inert.

PBMR: Safety Features

(Continued)

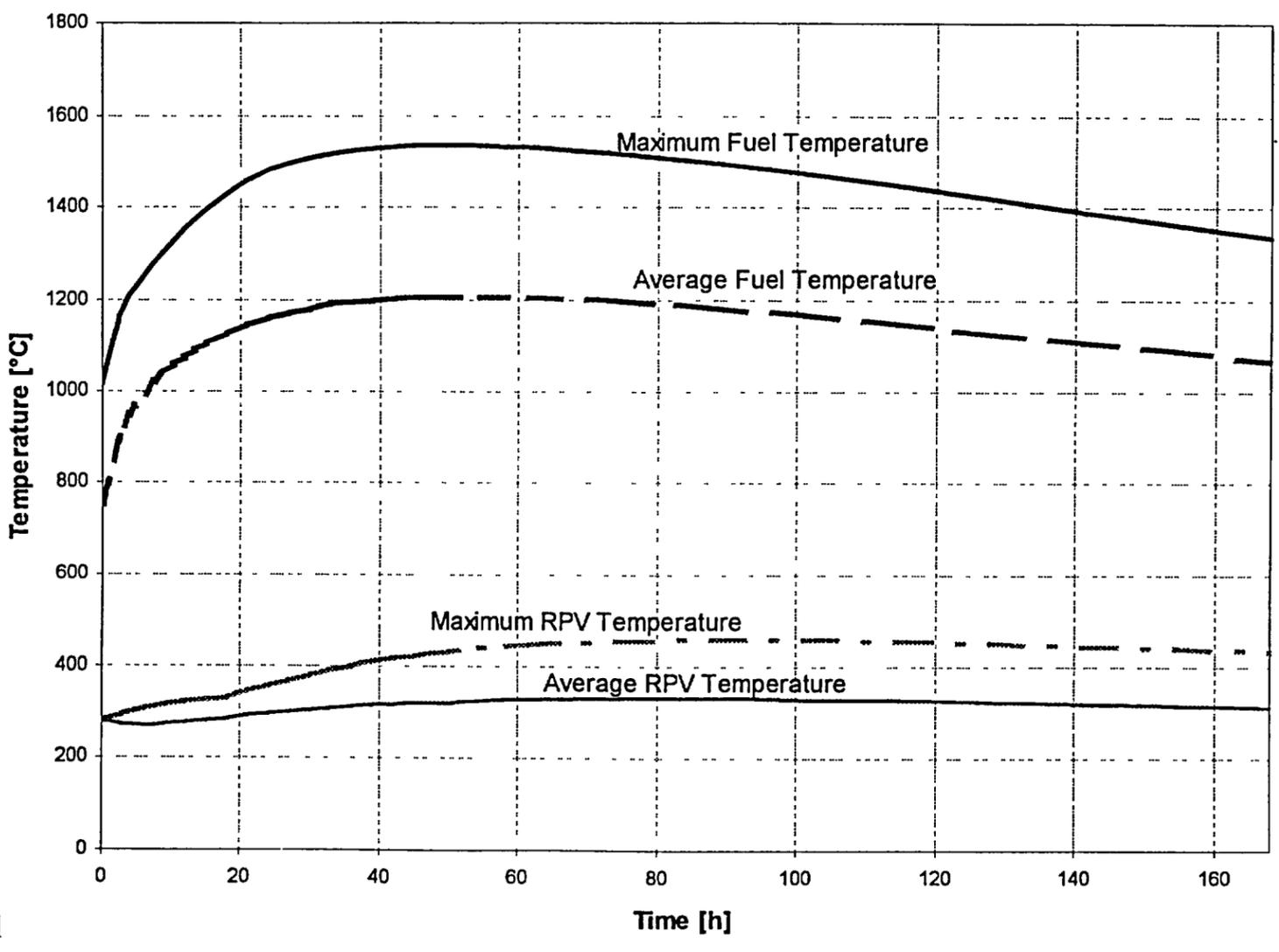
- TRISO coating of UO_2 particles ensures low levels of contamination in primary circuit
- Strong negative temperature coefficient
- Plant design features severely mitigate air and water ingress
- Low excess reactivity possible in continuously fueled pebble bed

Design Basis Events

Categories and Mitigators

- Reactivity Excursions
 - Negative temperature Coefficient
- External Events (Aircraft Crash, Seismic)
 - Citadel/Building Design
- Core Damage
 - Low Power Level
 - Large Surface Area
 - Fuel Design Features

DLOFC Event – 268 MWt PBMR



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Dose at Site Boundary

Most severe case event scenario

Expected dose 5.75 mR (57.48e-3 mSv)
(Preliminary)

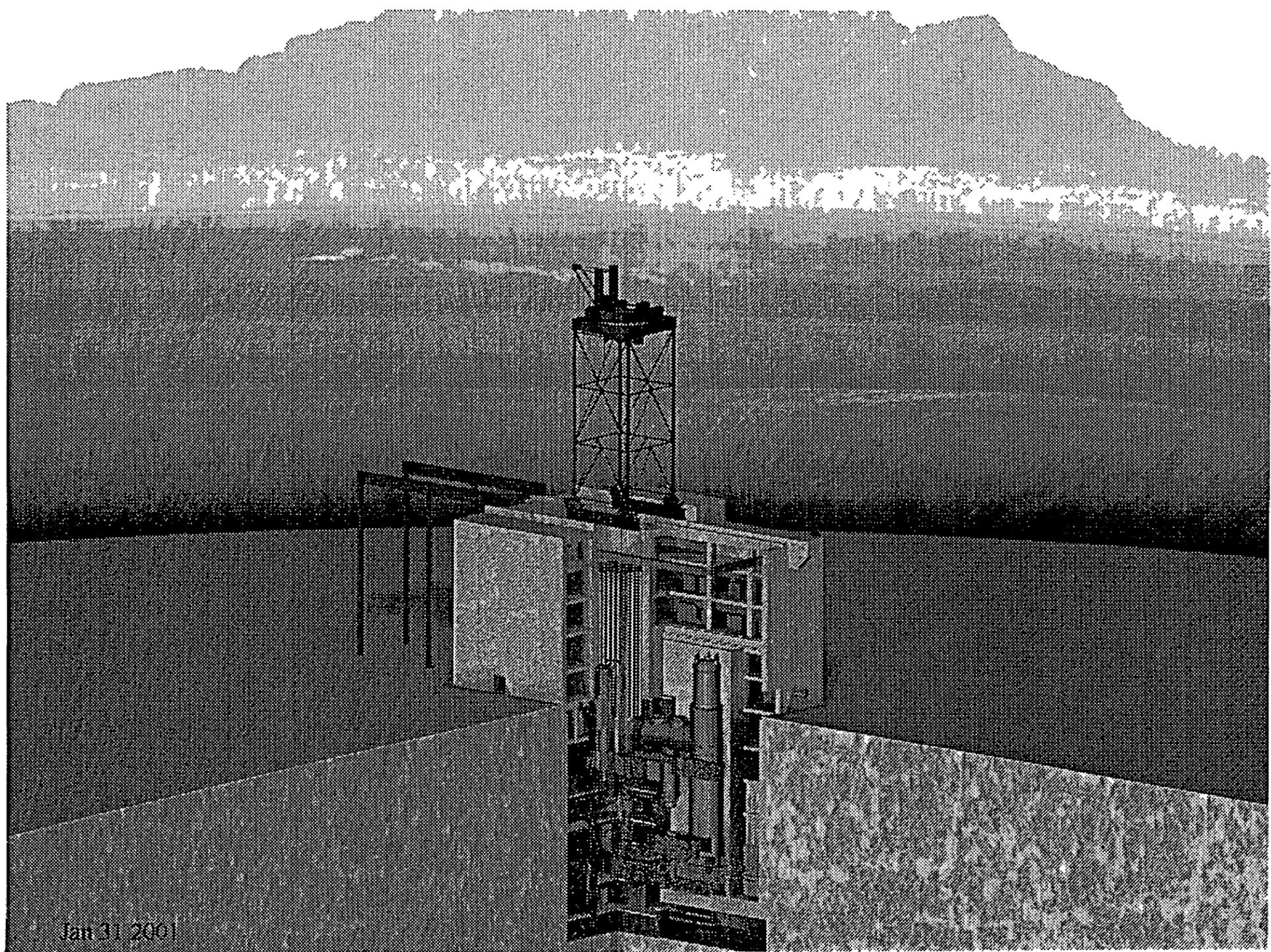
Annual nominal background dose ~ 200 mR
(2 mSv)

(Cornwall is ~ 800 mR {8 mSv})

Protective Action Guideline 1000 mR (Whole Body)

5000 mR (Thyroid)

(100mR = 1mSv)



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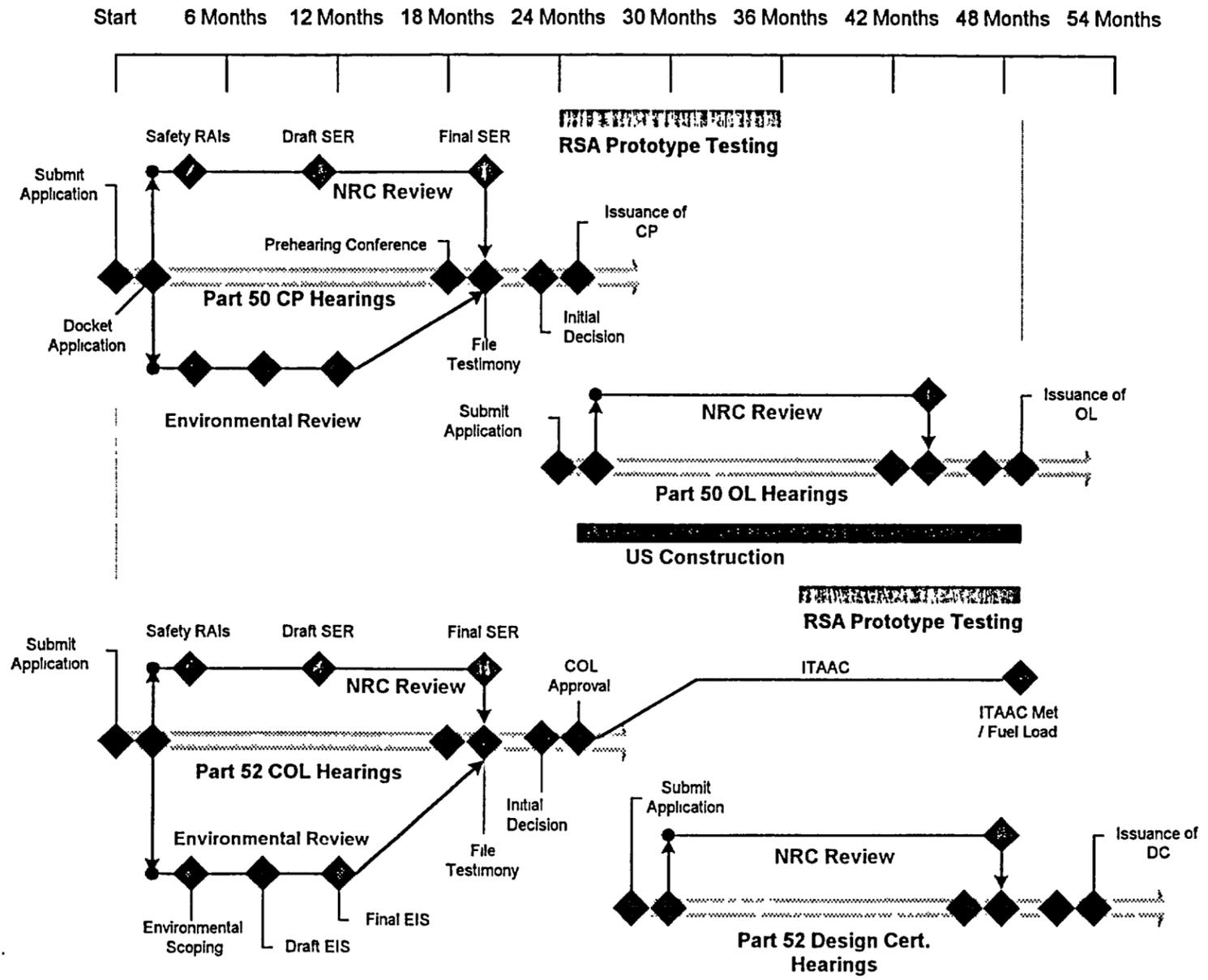
Key Technical Licensing Issues

- Fuel Qualification and Fabrication Process Licensing (South African Fuel)
- Source Term: Mechanistic or Deterministic
- Leak-Tight or Vented Containment
- Reduced Exclusion and EP Zones
- Materials Qualification
- Code V&V
- PRA - Uncertainties, Initiators and End States
- Regulatory Treatment of Non-Safety Systems
- Classification of SSC's

Licensing Process Options

- Two Step: Part 50 Construction Permit (CP) followed by Part 50 Operating License (OL)
- Part 52 Combined Construction and Operating License (COL)
- Part 52 Design Certification (DC)
- Siting Permit
 - Conventional and Early Siting Permit (ESP) Combined with Part 52

Current Licensing Process Components



Positive Process Attributes

- Part 52 COL
 - Provides more predictable schedule through start-up
 - Limits financial risks
 - Better fit for prototype testing and eventual design certification
- Part 50 CP
 - Does not require complete final design, therefore, shortens time to construction

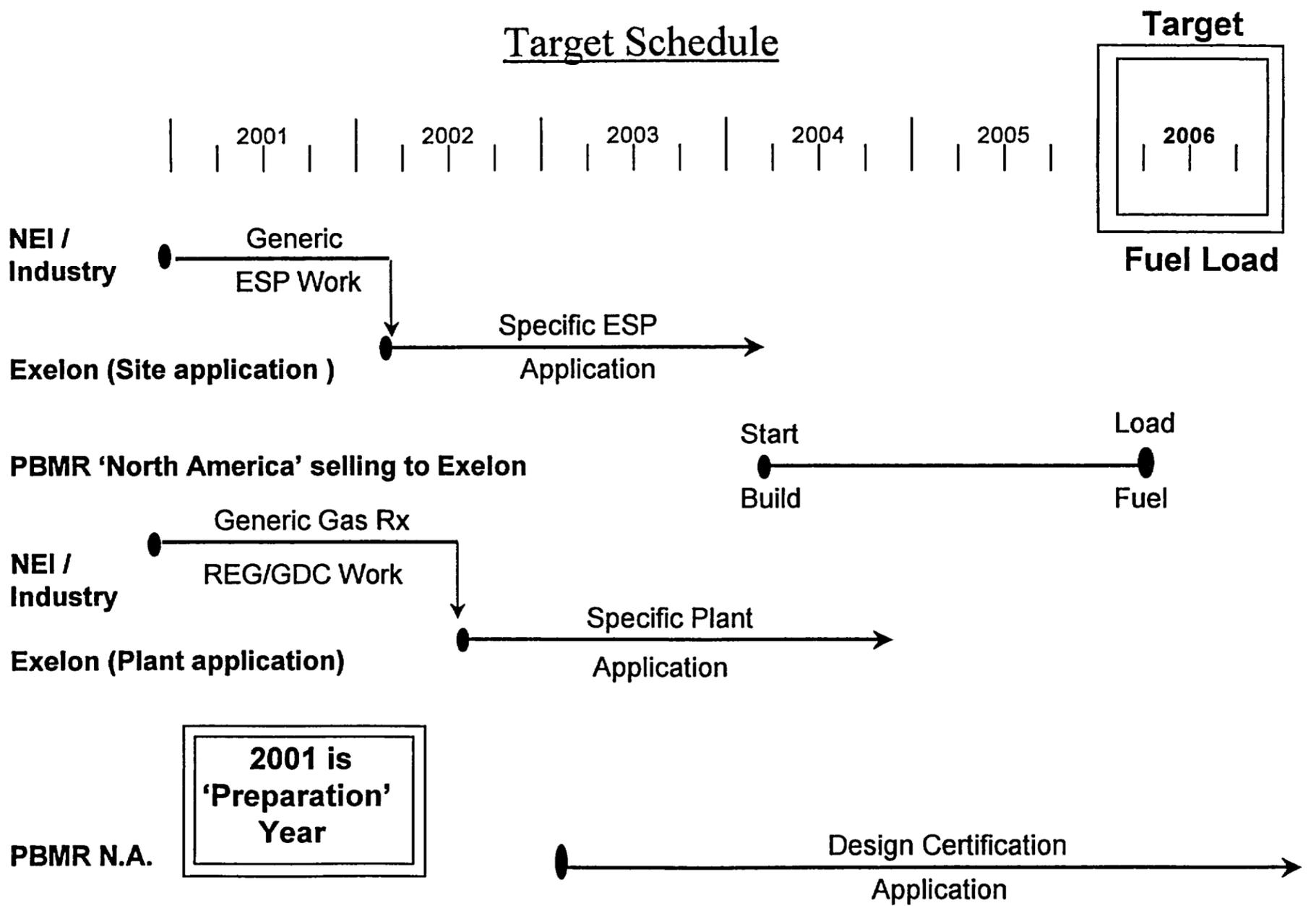
Current Thinking on US PBMR Licensing Approach

- Apply for ESP for Multiple Reactors Prior to Plant License Application (Exelon)
- Apply for Part 52 Multi-Reactor COL (Exelon)
- Utilize RSA Prototype Test Results
- Part 52 Design Certification Following Successful Completion of RSA Project and Operation of First US Reactor (PBMR Company)

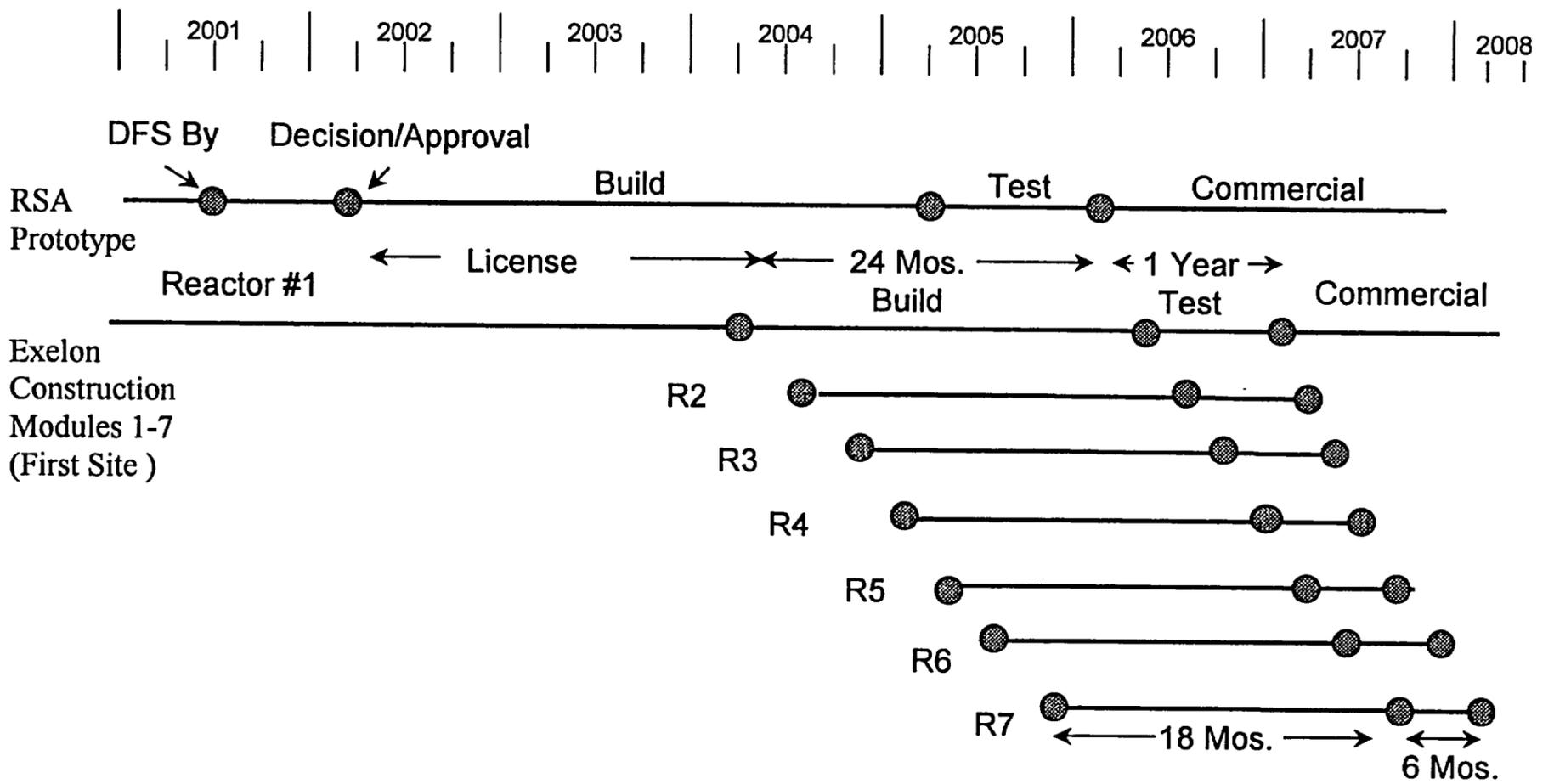
Licensing Process Unique Issues

- Merchant Nuclear Power/Deregulated Environment
- Multiple Reactors per Site and docket; Price Anderson and other implications
- Multi-national consortium
- 'Boeing Model' for PBMR sales
- Not a research project - a full-scale prototype being built
- Fuel cycle implications from fabrication to ultimate storage
- Efficient process for resolution of unresolved items, as evidenced in several recent initiatives, will be required
- Use of Part 52 ESP and a non-certified design
- Inherent Safety & Simplicity of design could shorten the process

Target Schedule



Overall Target Schedule Perspective



Licensing Process Funding

- Funding discussions are underway concerning fuel testing, training, NRC expertise development, and NRC fees
- Government funding for certain work on this advanced reactor/‘first of a kind’ technology
- NRC budget and resource constraints, timeframes, and competing priorities must be addressed

Next Steps

- Establish a Working Group to Develop HTGR Regulatory Framework
 - Establish the Key HTGR Design Elements Critical to Meeting NRC Safety and Regulatory Objectives
 - Identify Current Licensing Criteria that are Applicable to HTGR Designs
 - Identify any Additional Licensing Criteria which Uniquely Apply to HTGR Designs
- Establish an NRC PBMR Project Manager
 - Determine Appropriate PBMR Licensing Process and Schedule
- Develop Plan to Provide Gas Reactor Technology Education to NRC Staff

Near Term Goals

- Conceptual NRC Fees, Staffing, and Schedule Estimate by March 2001
- Preliminary HTGR Regulatory Framework by May 2001
- Identification of Necessary HTGR Policy / Regulation Changes and Schedule by September 2001
- By September 2001:
 - Reach Agreement on the PBMR Licensing Process
 - NRC PBMR Project Schedule and Budget Estimate
 - Identify PBMR-Applicable Regulations and any Additional Specific Requirements
- Establish HTGR Regulatory Framework/Policy by July 2002
- Others Identified Today

Open Discussion

Meeting Objectives Review

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