

**GE Nuclear Energy**

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**ESBWR Testing Summary and  
Scale Effects**

**Robert Gamble**

**ACRS T/H Subcommittee Meeting**

**Closed Session**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**Rockville, Maryland**



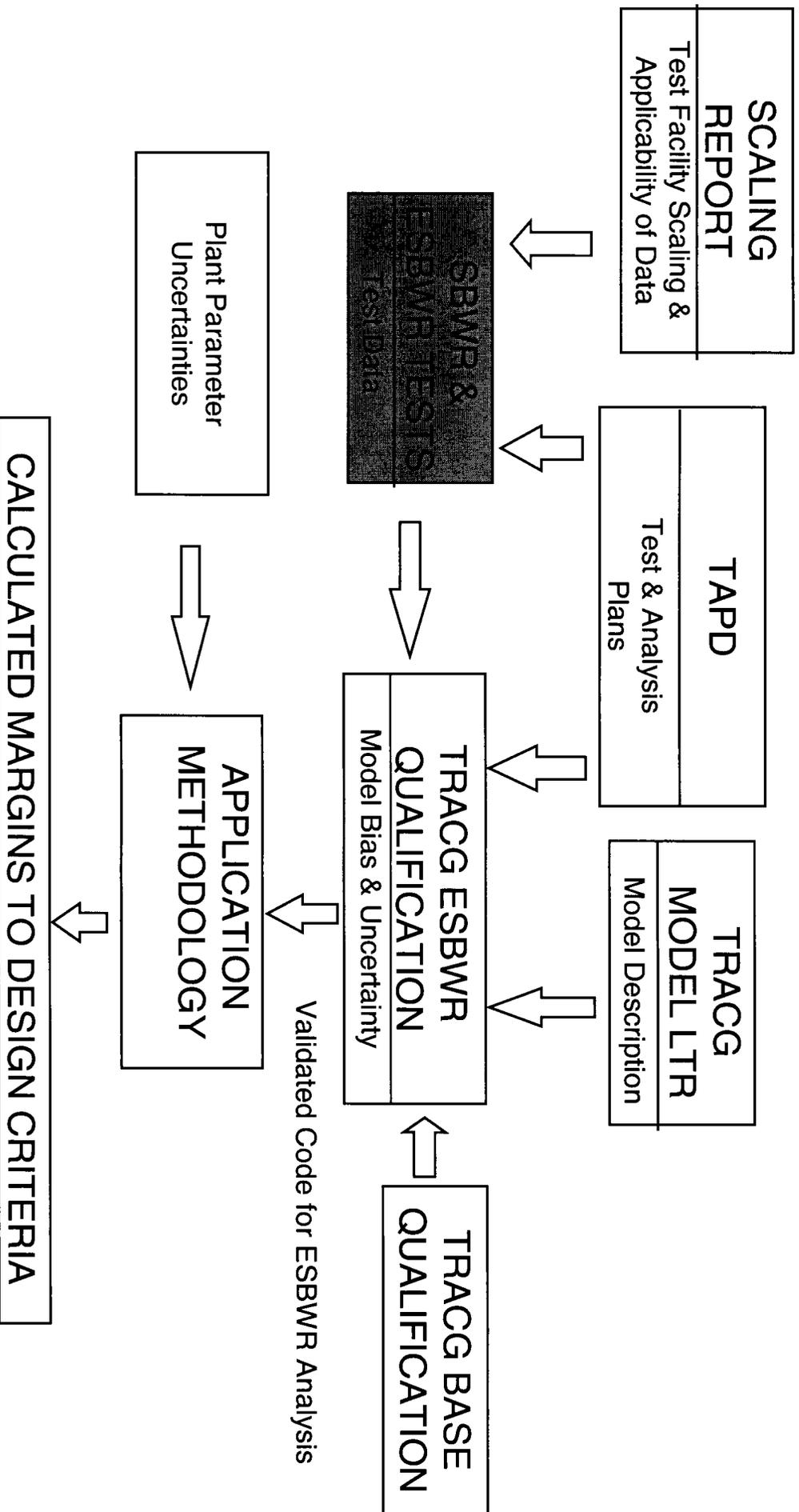
## **Outline**

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- ***SBWR Test Summary***
- ***ESBWR Design Modifications***
- ***Confirmatory ESBWR Transient Tests***
- ***Integration of Test Results at Different Scales***
- ***Conclusions***

# ESBWR Technology Program Elements

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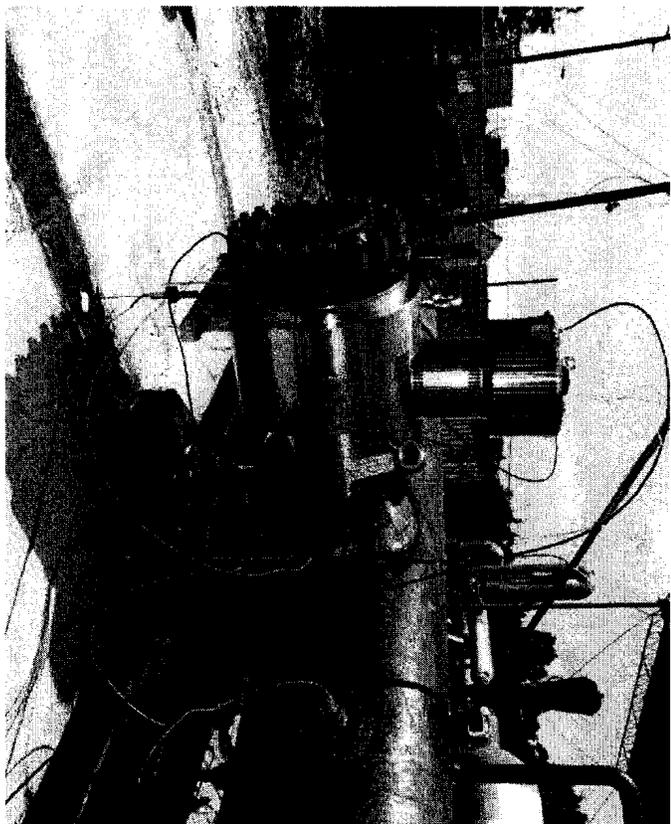
## ***Extensive Technology Program for Features New to SBWR***

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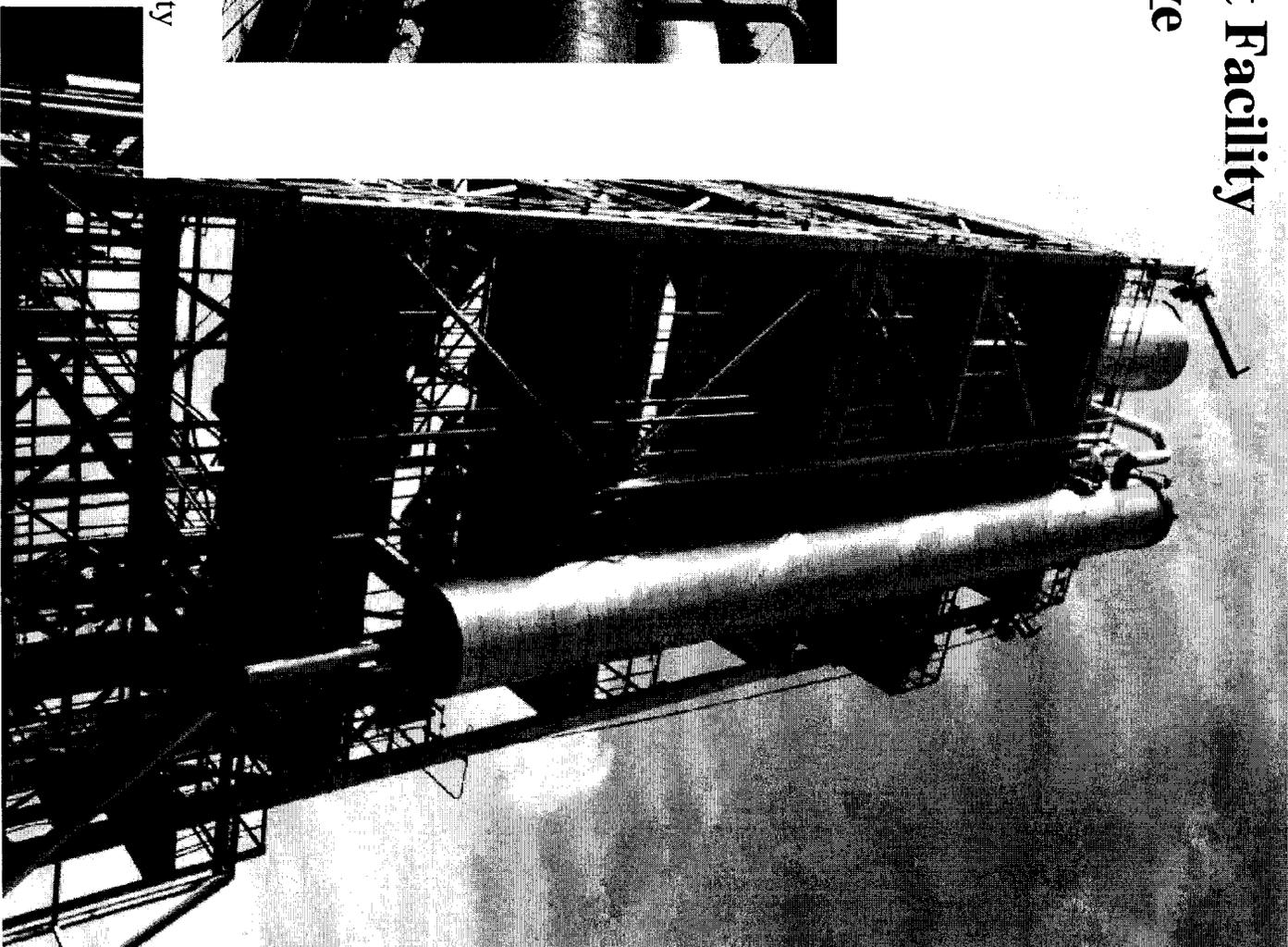
- ***Component tests***
  - Full scale components tests – DPV valves and vacuum breaker
  - Full scale isolation condensers & PCCS heat exchangers,
- ***Integral tests***
  - Integral tests at different scales – 1/400 to 1/25
  - System interaction tests
  - Large hydrogen releases
- ***Testing used to qualify computer codes***
- ***Extensive international cooperation***
- ***Extensive review and participation by NRC staff***
  - Test matrix
  - Running of actual tests

**A Complete, Multi-year International Technology  
Program Supports the Design**

# **Safety System (GIST) Test Facility and Depressurization Valve**

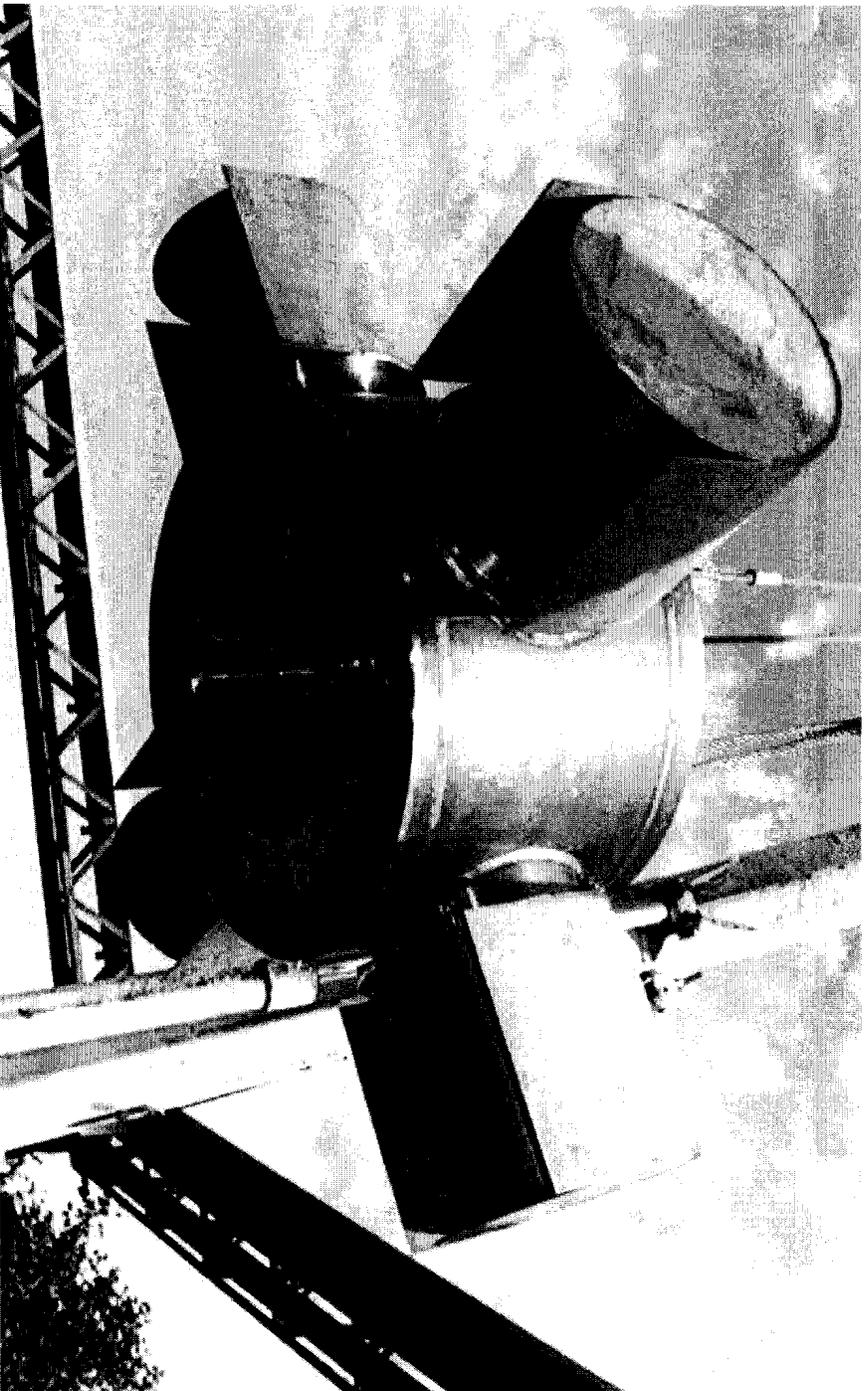


Reactor Depressurization Valve in the Test Facility



# Prototype Vacuum Breaker

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# Core and NC Flow Technology Program Summary

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## Separator Performance

ATLAS Tests - AS2B

- smooth inlet geometry
- reduced pitch  
(305 mm -> 292 mm)

## Chimney Void Fraction

Ontario Hydro Tests

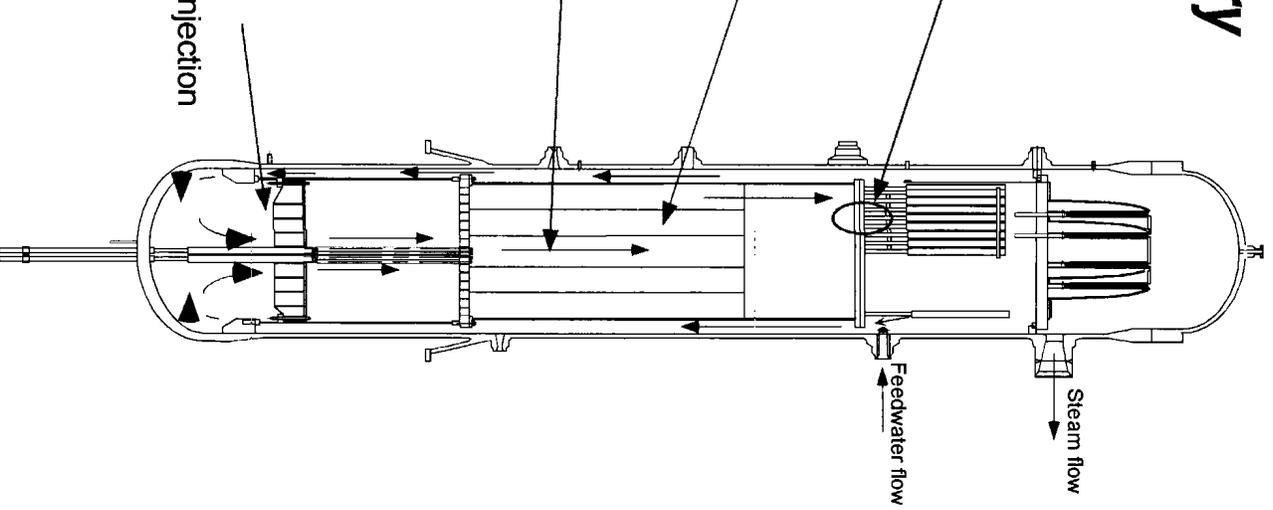
- transient test (pump induced)
- round pipe (0.518 m ID)
- relatively flat void distribution

## Startup Flow Oscillation

CRIEPI Tests

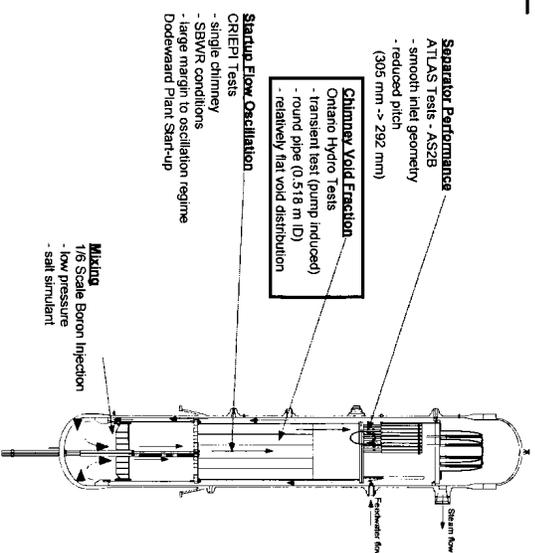
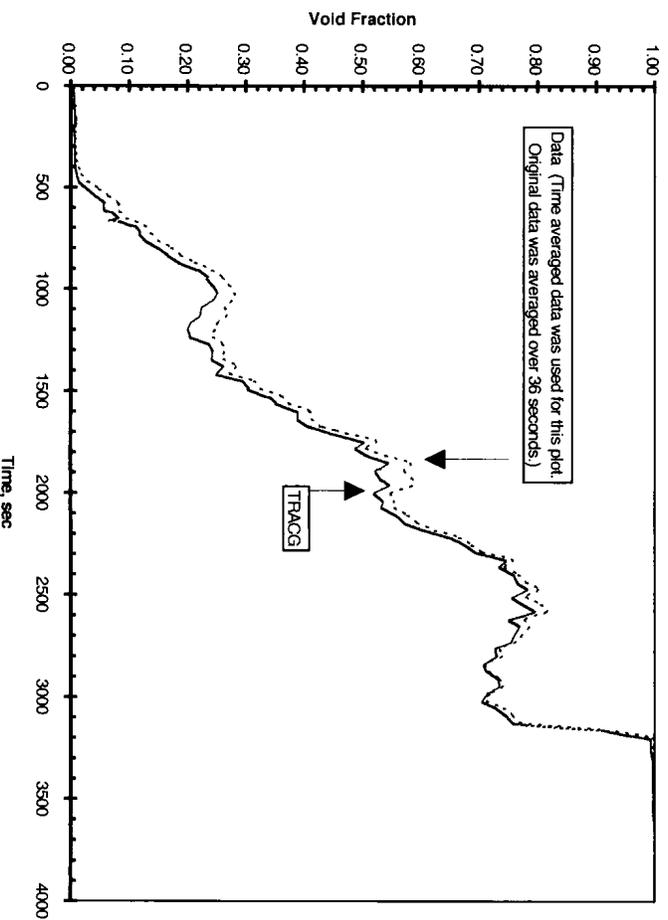
- single chimney
- SBWR conditions
- large margin to oscillation regime  
Dodeward Plant Start-up

- ## Mixing
- 1/6 Scale Boron Injection
- low pressure
  - salt simulant



# Chimney Void Fraction

- **Ontario Hydro Tests**
  - Large pipe void fraction data
  - 0.51 m diameter, 6.4 and 2.8 MPa
- **Relatively flat void profile across the pipe section**
- **Pump induced transient tests**



**Chimney Void Fraction**  
 Ontario Hydro Tests  
 - transient test (pump induced)  
 - round pipe (0.518 m ID)  
 - relatively flat void distribution

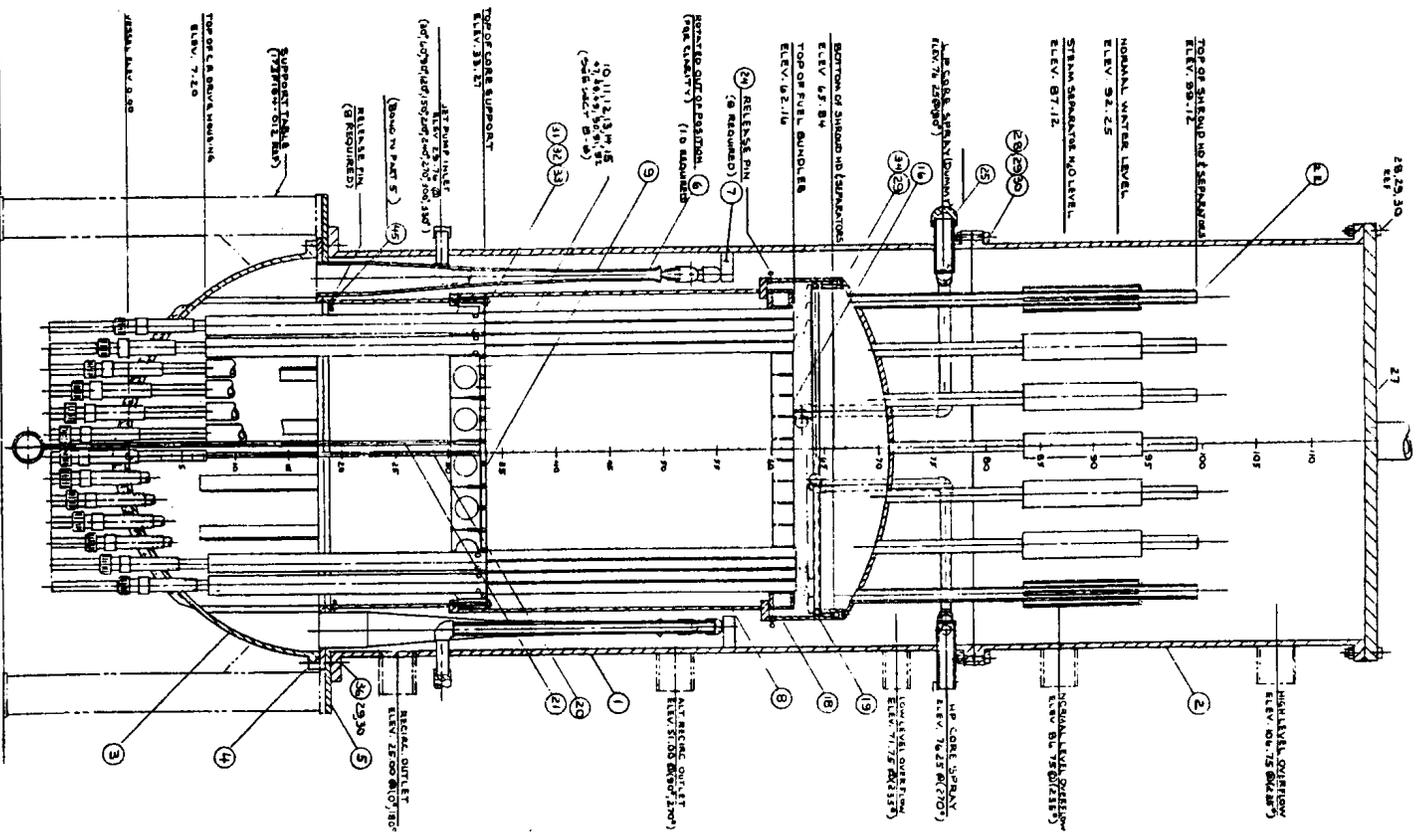
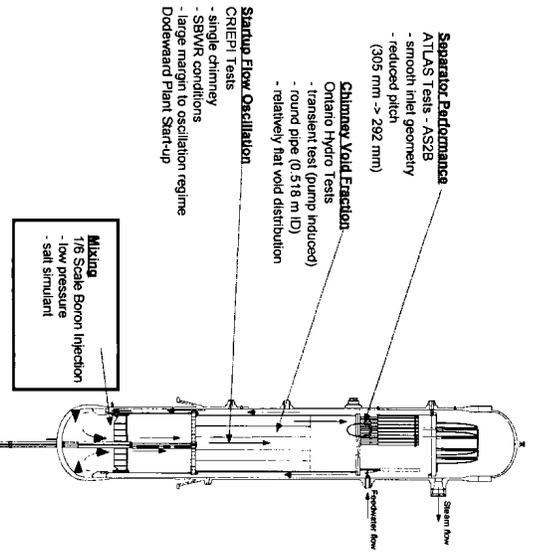
**Startup Flow Oscillation**  
 CRIEPI Tests  
 - single chimney  
 - SBWR conditions  
 - large margin to oscillation regime  
 - Dodeward Plant Start-up

**Mixing**  
 1/6 Scale Boron Injection  
 - low pressure  
 - salt simulant

ESBWR Recirculation Pump

# 1/6th Scale Boron Mixing Test

- Study mixing process whereby liquid borate is transported and maintained in core
- Model replicates BWR vessel at 1/6 linear scale
- Low pressure test with core void fraction simulated by air injection
- Sodium pentaborate injection simulated by hot salt solution with correct density difference with surrounding water
- Local boron concentrations are deduced from detailed temperature measurements





## ***Tests Covered in Testing Summary Report***

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- ***Component***
  - PANTHERS/PCC
  - PANTHERS/IC
  - PANDA-S Series
- ***Integral Systems***
  - PANDA-M Series
  - GIST
  - GIRAFFEE/He
  - GIRAFFEE/SIT

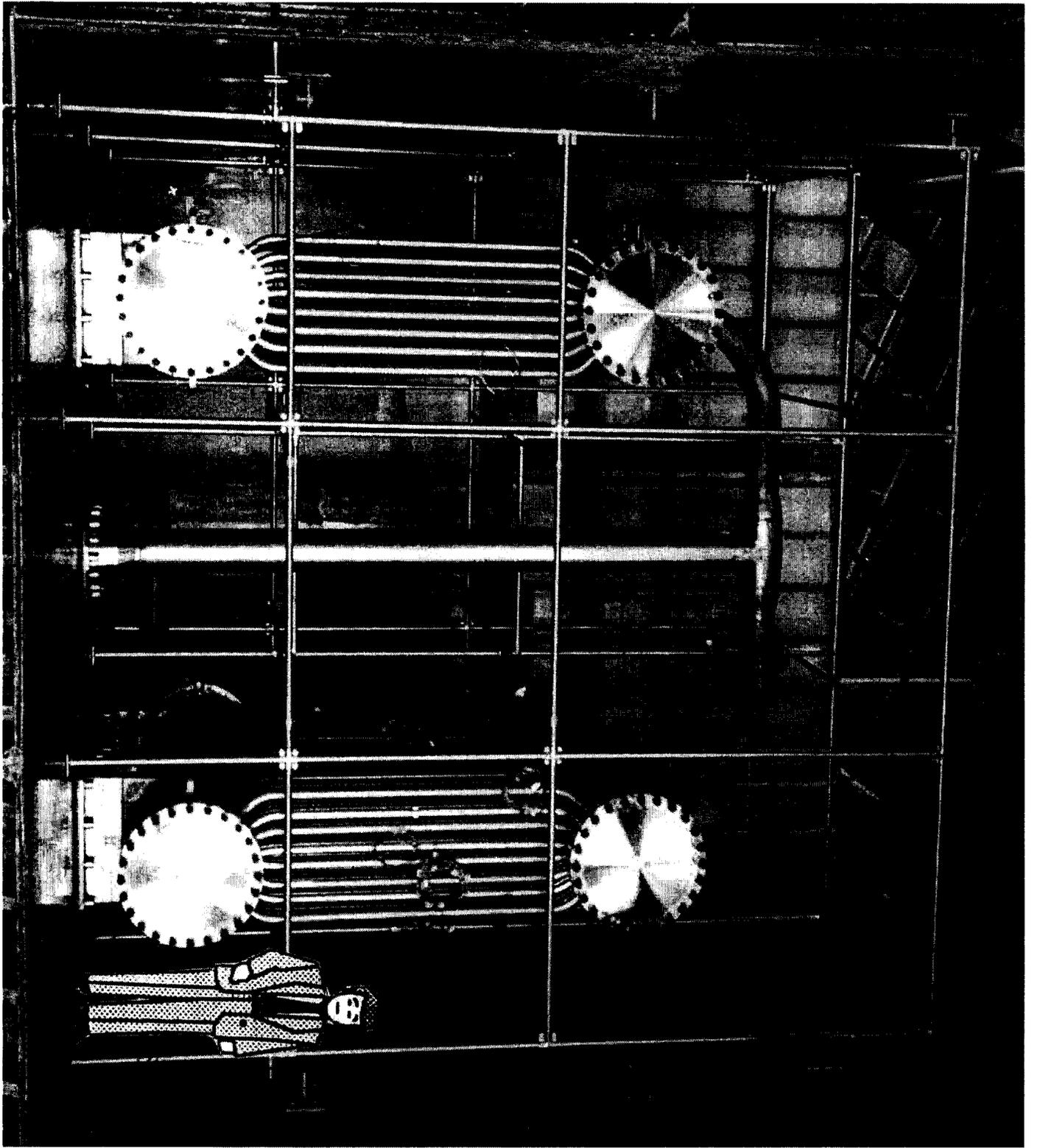
# ***Integral Test Coverage for ESBWR LOCA***

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# PANTHERS/PCC

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- **Objectives**
  - Demonstrate that prototype heat exchanger is capable of meeting design requirements
  - Provide database for TRACG (code) qualification to predict heat exchanger performance spanning the range of conditions expected in the SBWR (i.e. steam flow, air flow, pressure, temperature)
  - Investigate the difference between lighter-than-steam and heavier-than-steam noncondensibles
  - Structural component qualification
- ***Full Scale, two-module, Passive Containment Condenser Test***



## **PANTHERS/PCC -- Test Matrix**

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- **13 Steady-state steam only tests**
  - obtain baseline heat exchanger capability (7 tests)
  - measure effect of superheat (6 tests)
- **42 Air-steam tests:**
  - Establish air-steam performance map
  - Variables are pressure, air flow, steam flow and superheat
- **8 non-condensable gas buildup tests:**
  - Determine and quantify differences in the effects of lighter-than-steam and heavier-than-steam non-condensable gas buildup in the PCC heat exchanger tubes
  - 4 test with air; 2 with He; 2 with air + He

# ***PCC Operational Modes***

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# PANTHER/PCC Power for Saturated Steam Tests

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# PANTHERS/PCC Power for Air/Steam Tests

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Effect of Air Mass Fraction on Condensation Efficiency for  
**PANTHERS/PCC Air/Steam Tests**

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# PANTHERS/PCC Test T54 Inlet Pressure Response to Pool Water Level

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## **PANTHERS/PCC Key Conclusions**

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- ***The PCC meets the design performance capacity***
- ***The PCC performance is well behaved and understood***
- ***The PCC can condense steam in the presence of both heavier-than-steam and lighter-than-steam noncondensable gases***
- ***The PCC can operate in both pressure-driven and condensation-driven modes***
- ***Heavier-than-steam gas tends to collect in the bottom of the PCC, while lighter-than-steam-gas tends to distribute throughout the PCC***
- ***No significant tube-to-tube or module-to-module differences occur with heavier-than-steam noncondensable gases***
- ***With lighter-than-steam gases, tube-to-tube noncondensable gas holdup fluctuations occur but do not affect overall condenser response***

# PANTHERS/IC

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- **Objectives**
  - Demonstrate that prototype heat exchanger is capable of meeting design requirements
  - Provide database for TRACG (code) qualification to predict heat exchanger performance spanning the range of conditions expected in the SBWR (i.e. steam flow, air flow, pressure, temperature)
  - Demonstrate the startup of the IC unit under anticipated transient conditions
  - Demonstrate the capability of the IC design to vent non-condensable gases and to resume condensation following venting
- ***One module of a full-scale, two-module vertical tube heat exchanger***

## **PANTHERS/IC -- Test Matrix**

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- **10 Steady-state steam only tests**
  - Obtain baseline heat exchanger capability
- **1 Start-up Test**
  - Establish air-steam performance map
  - Variables are pressure, air flow, steam flow and superheat
- **4 Transient Tests:**
  - Determine and quantify differences in the effects of lighter-than-steam and heavier-than-steam non-condensable gas buildup in the PCC heat exchanger tubes
  - 4 test with air; 2 with He; 2 with air + He
  - Determine pool water level effect

# ***PANTHERS IC Tests - Heat Rejection Performance***

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## ***PANTHERS IC Tests - Effectiveness of Venting***

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# ***Pressure Response to IC Pool Water Level***

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## **PANTHERS/IC Key Conclusions**

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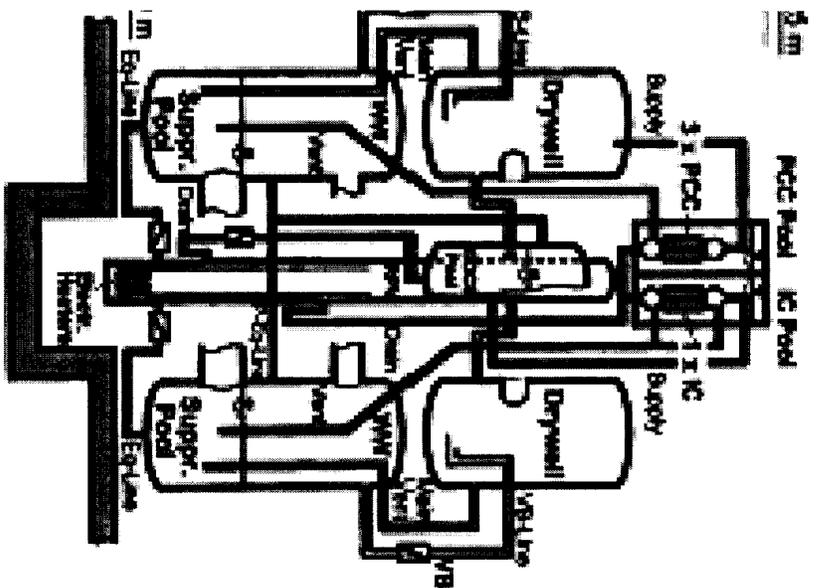
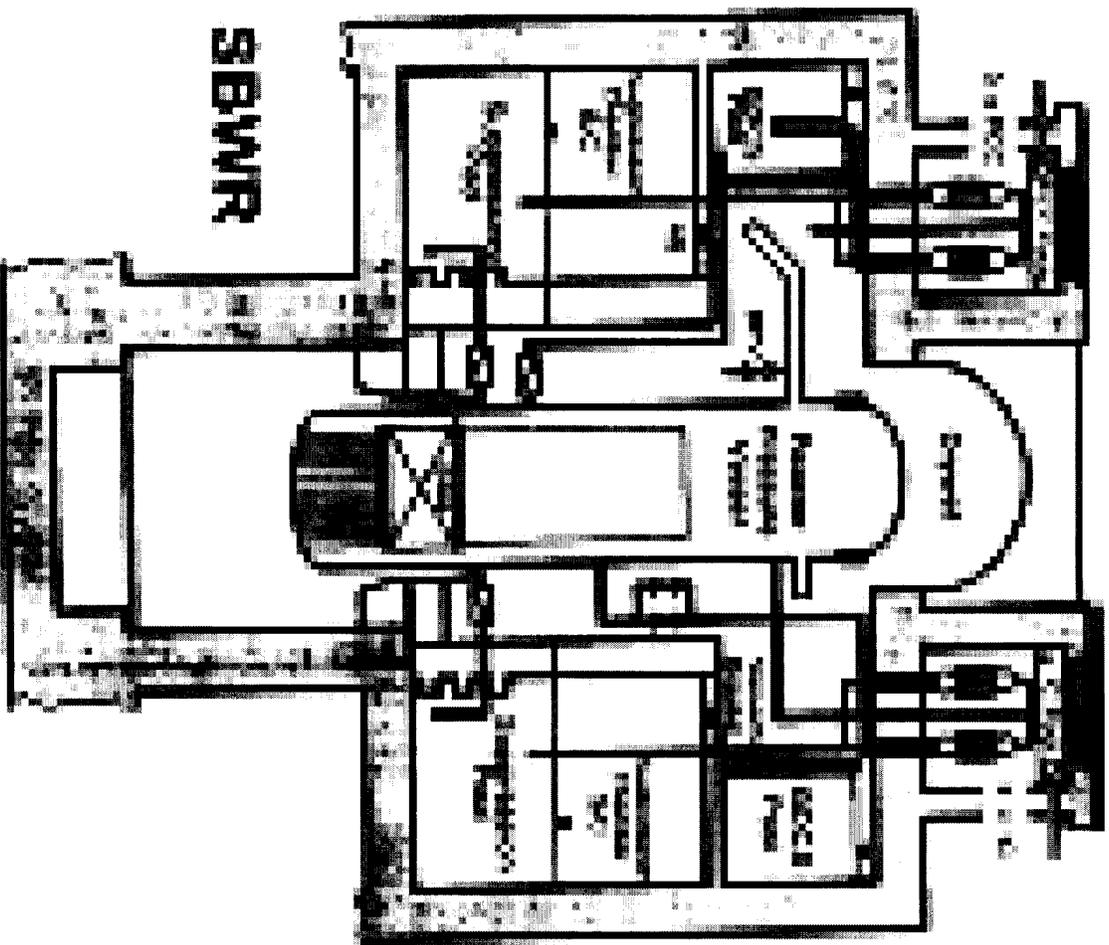
- ***The IC meets the design performance capacity with margin***
- ***The IC performance is well behaved and understood***
- ***The IC is able to vent non-condensable gases and resume condensation following venting***
- ***The IC is able to quickly startup from standby and condense steam at rated conditions***

## **PANDA S and M Series**

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- **1:25 scale, full height, integral systems test facility**
- **Objectives**
  - Demonstrate steady-state, startup and long-term operation of the PCCS system
  - Demonstrate effects of scale on PCC performance
  - Data for TRACG (code) qualification to predict SBWR containment system performance including potential system interactions
- **10 steady state PCC component tests over a wide range of steam and air flow rates**
- **12 transient tests representative of post-loca conditions with different configurations**

# PANDA vs. SBWR Facility Schematic



## ***Panda Steady State Test Matrix (S-Series)***

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# PANDA Transient Test Matrix

## M3 Series:

**M3**

Base Case  
(Main steam line break LOCA + 1 hour)

**M3A**

Repeatability  
(PCC/IC pools isolated)

**M3B**

Repeatability  
(PCC/IC pools interconnected)

**M7**

PCC Startup  
(Bounding noncondensable gas concentrations)

**M2**

Asymmetric Case 1 (relative to M3 Series)  
(Total steam flow to DW2)

## M10 Series:

**M10A**

Asymmetric Case 2  
(DW1 essentially isolated, slow gas migration from DW1 to DW2)

**M10B**

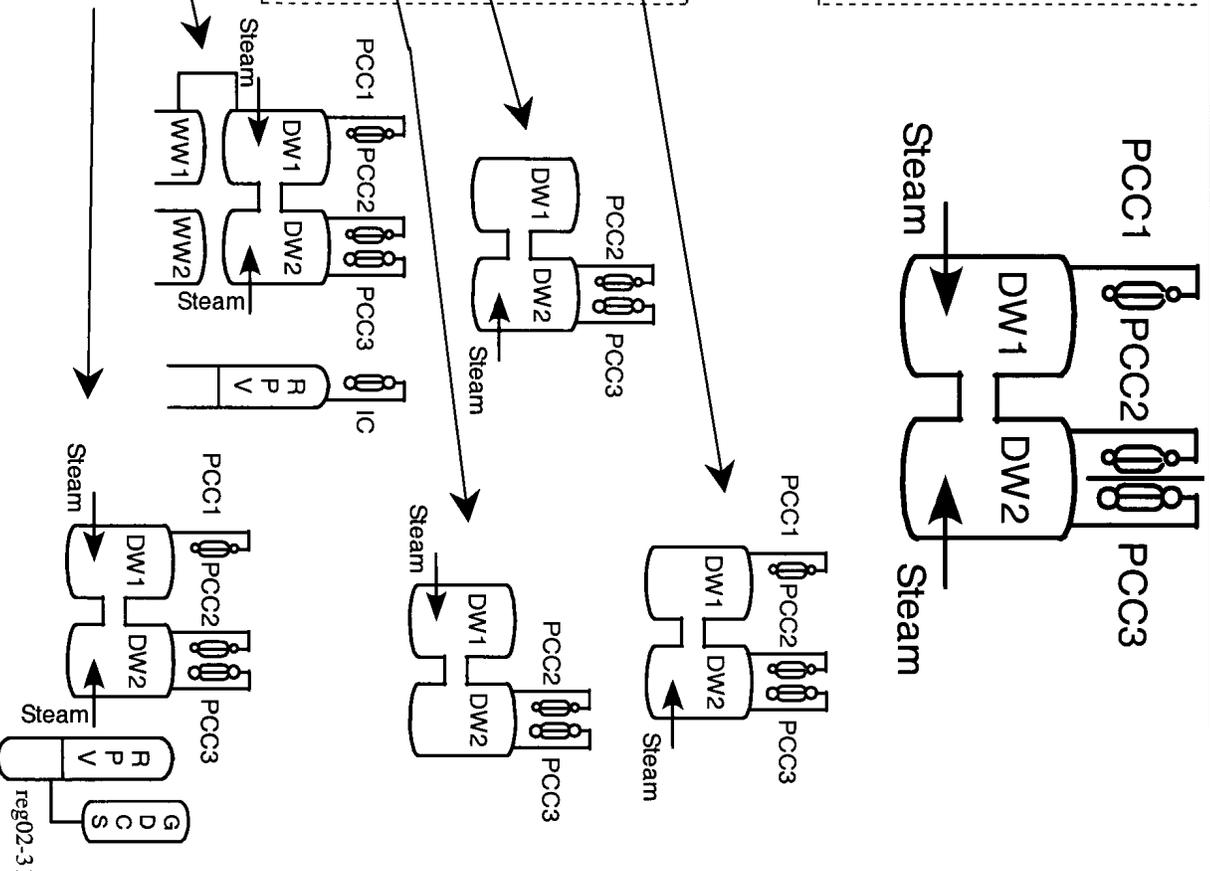
Asymmetric Case 3  
(Good mixing in both DWs)

**M6/8**

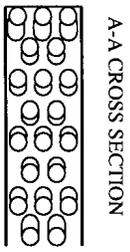
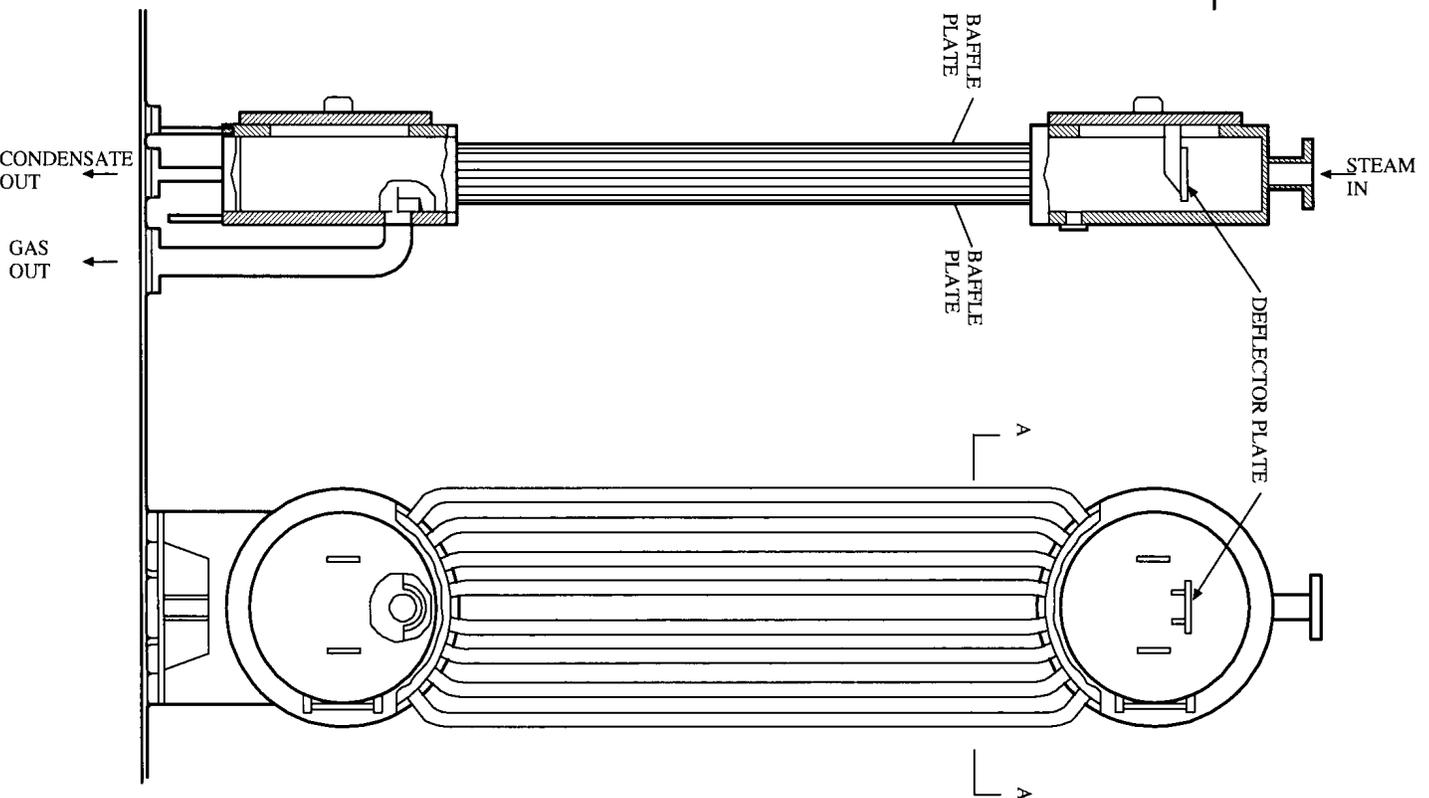
System Interaction with IC operation (M6) and DW-to-WW bypass leakage (M8)

**M9**

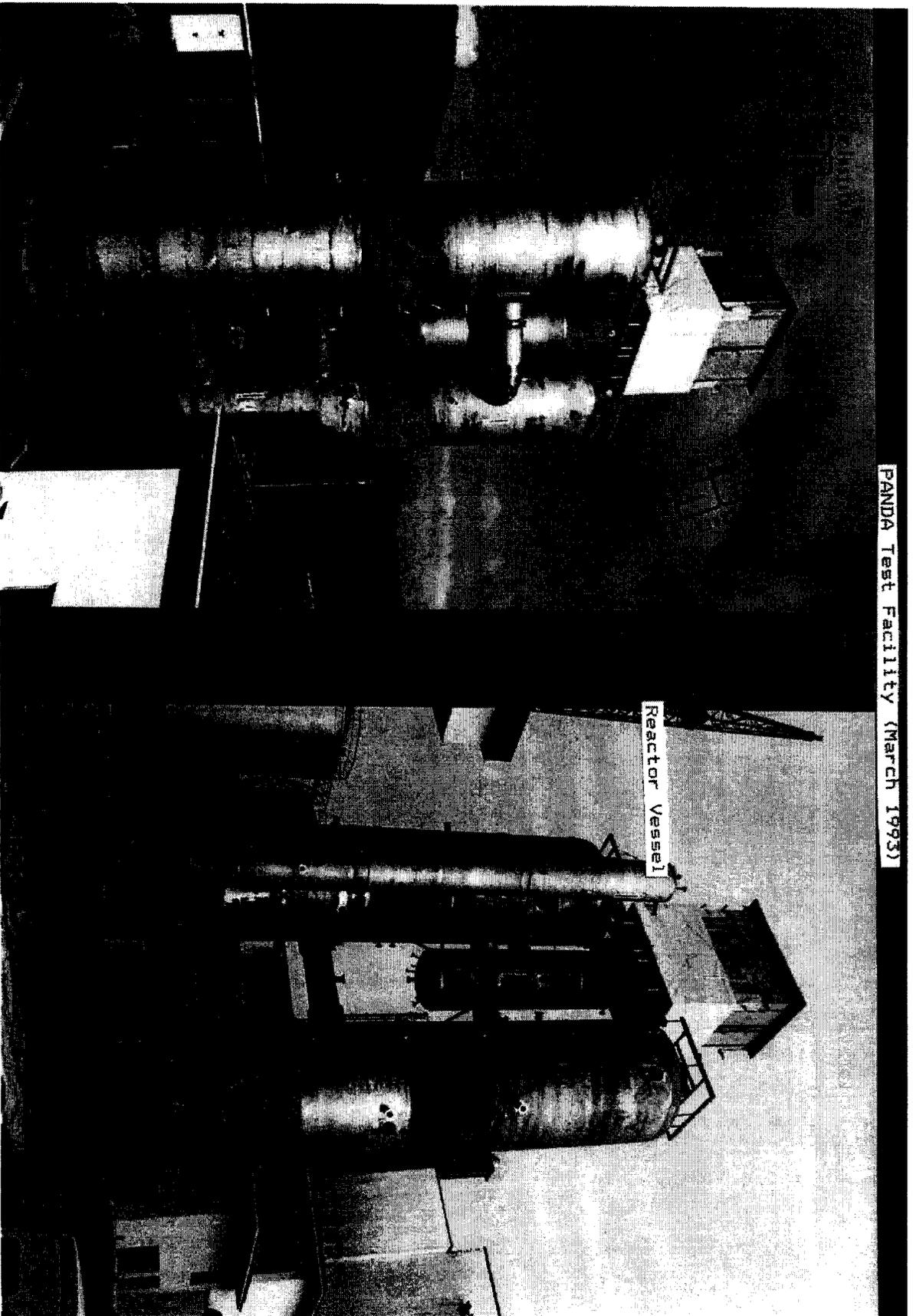
Early Start / GDACS injection into RPV  
(LOCA + 1040 seconds rather than LOCA + 3600 seconds)



# PANDA IC/PCC Units



# PANDA Test Facility



PANDA Test Facility (March 1993)

# ***Effect of Air Mass Fraction on PANDA S-series Tests***

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## ***PANDA Tests M3, M3A, M3B Drywell Pressure Response***

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## ***PANDA Tests - Effect of Asymmetric Steam Injection***

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# ***PANDA Early Start Test***

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***PANDA Early Start Test (Cont'd)***

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## **PANDA S and M Series Conclusions**

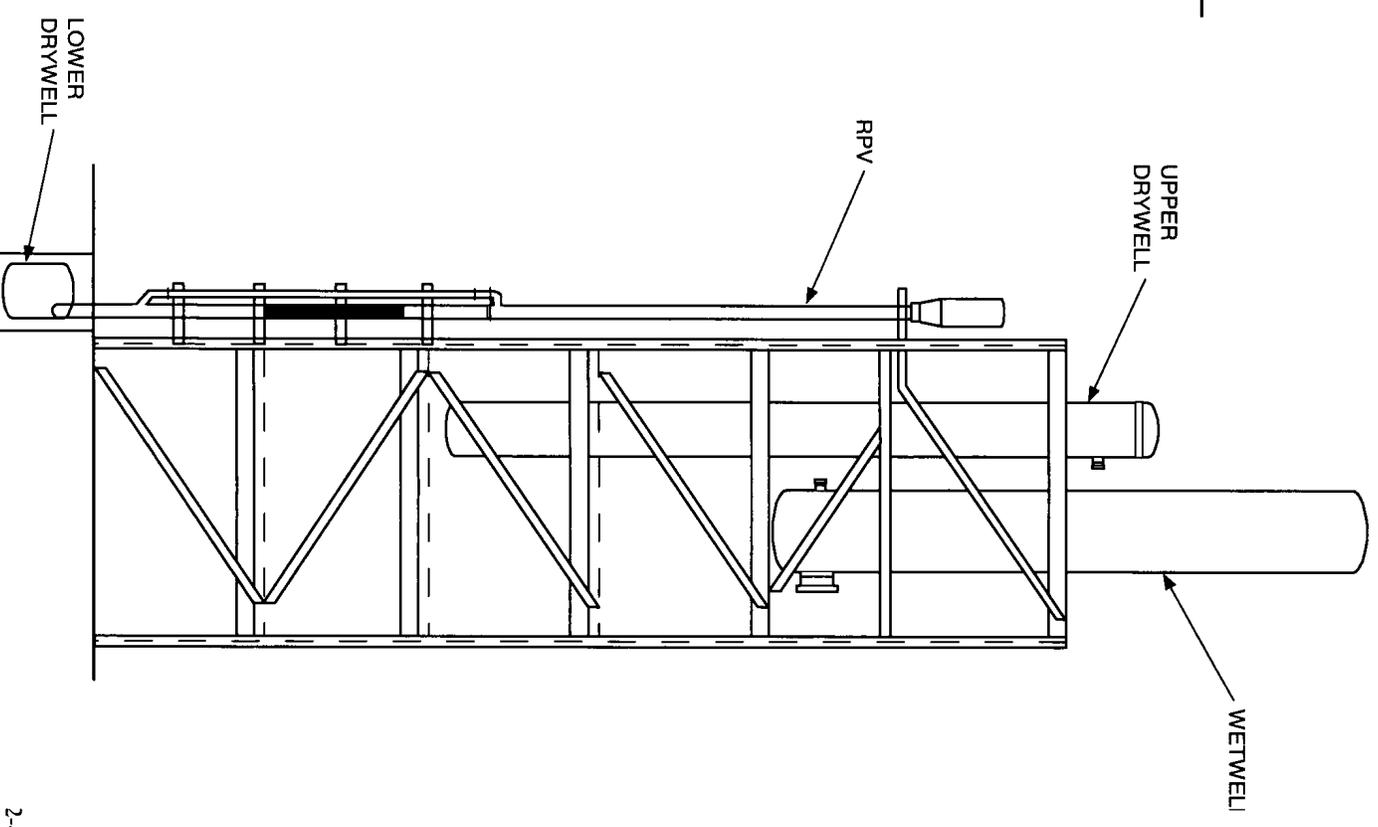
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- **Overall containment pressure and temperature response is favorable -- SBWR containment design is robust**
- **PCCS has large margin to remove decay heat after 1 hour into a LOCA**
- **The PCCS is well behaved and effective in transporting decay heat from the DW to the PCCS pools with no significant deposition of heat in the WW**
- **The PCCS units share the heat load among themselves as needed**
- **The PCCS is capable of starting up and removing heat under the most bounding conditions (i.e., pure noncondensable gas in condensers and DW)**
- **Asymmetries and disturbances of system operation and distribution of noncondensable gases affect the operation of individual PCC units, but do not affect the overall system behavior**
- **The IC operation has a positive effect on DW-to-WW leakage**

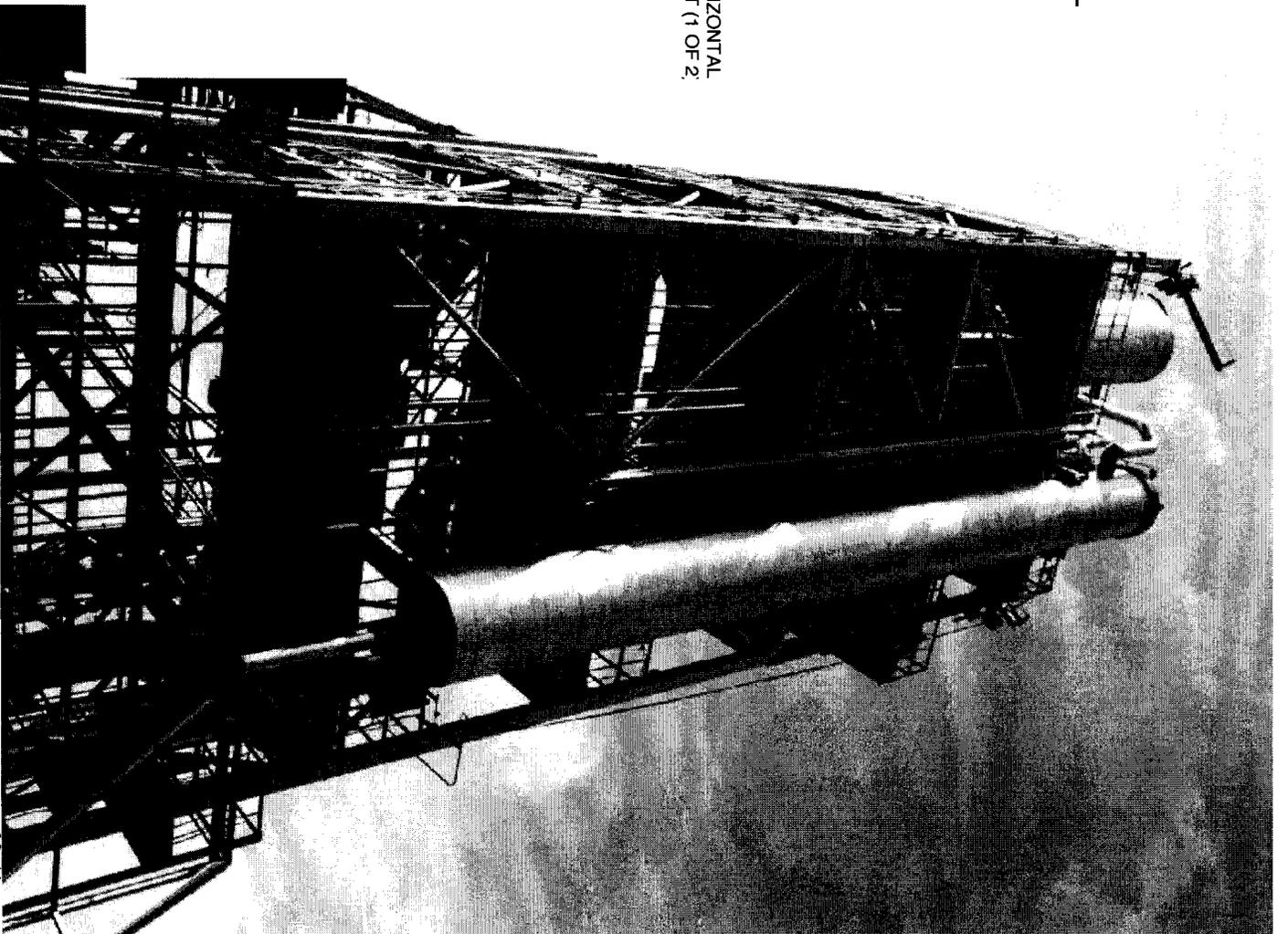
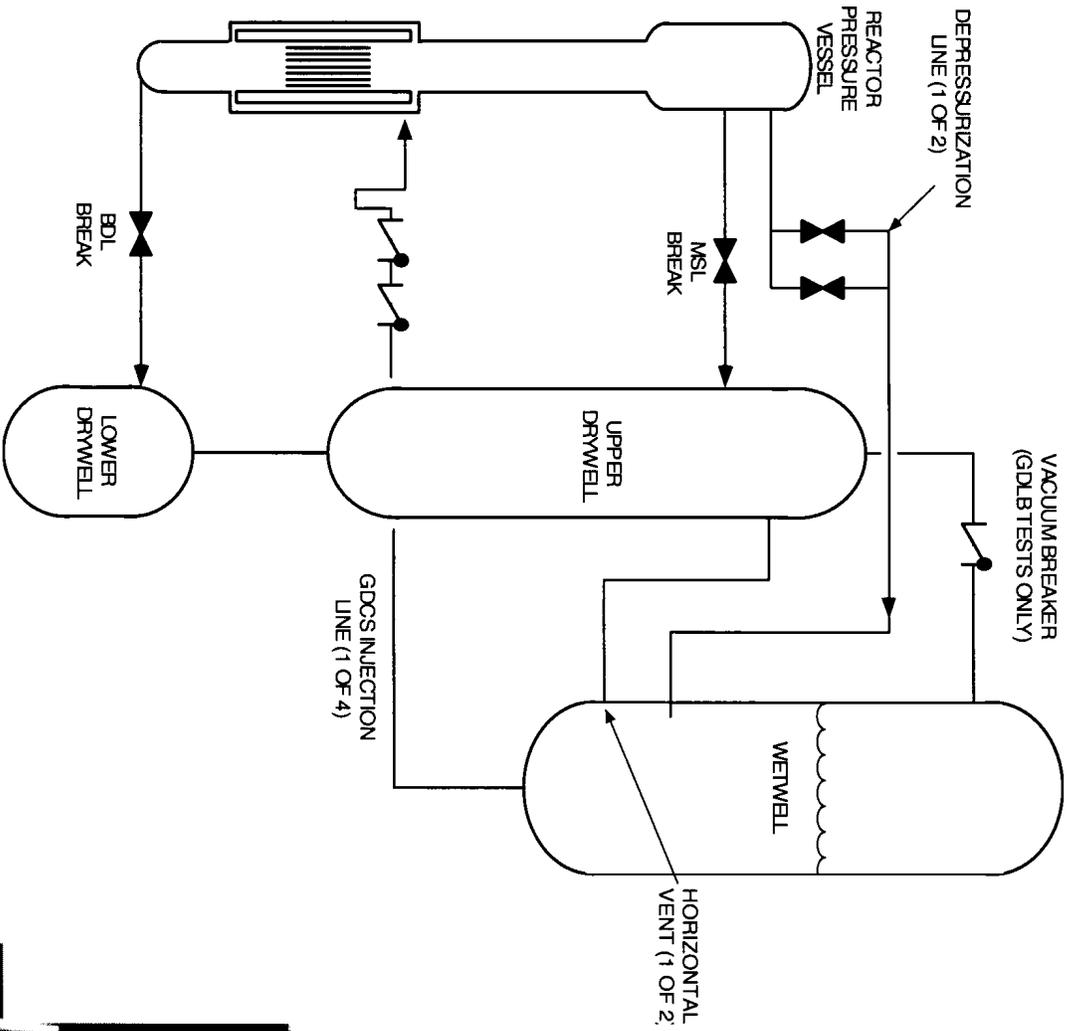
# GIST

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- **Objectives**
  - Demonstrate technical feasibility of GDACS concept
  - Database for qualification of TRACG (codes) to predict GDACS initiation times, flow rates and RPV water levels
- **26 tests representing a range of conditions encompassing 3 LOCA's and a no break condition**
- **Conclusion**
  - Confirmed the technical feasibility of the GDACS concept under various LOCA scenarios



# GIST Facility

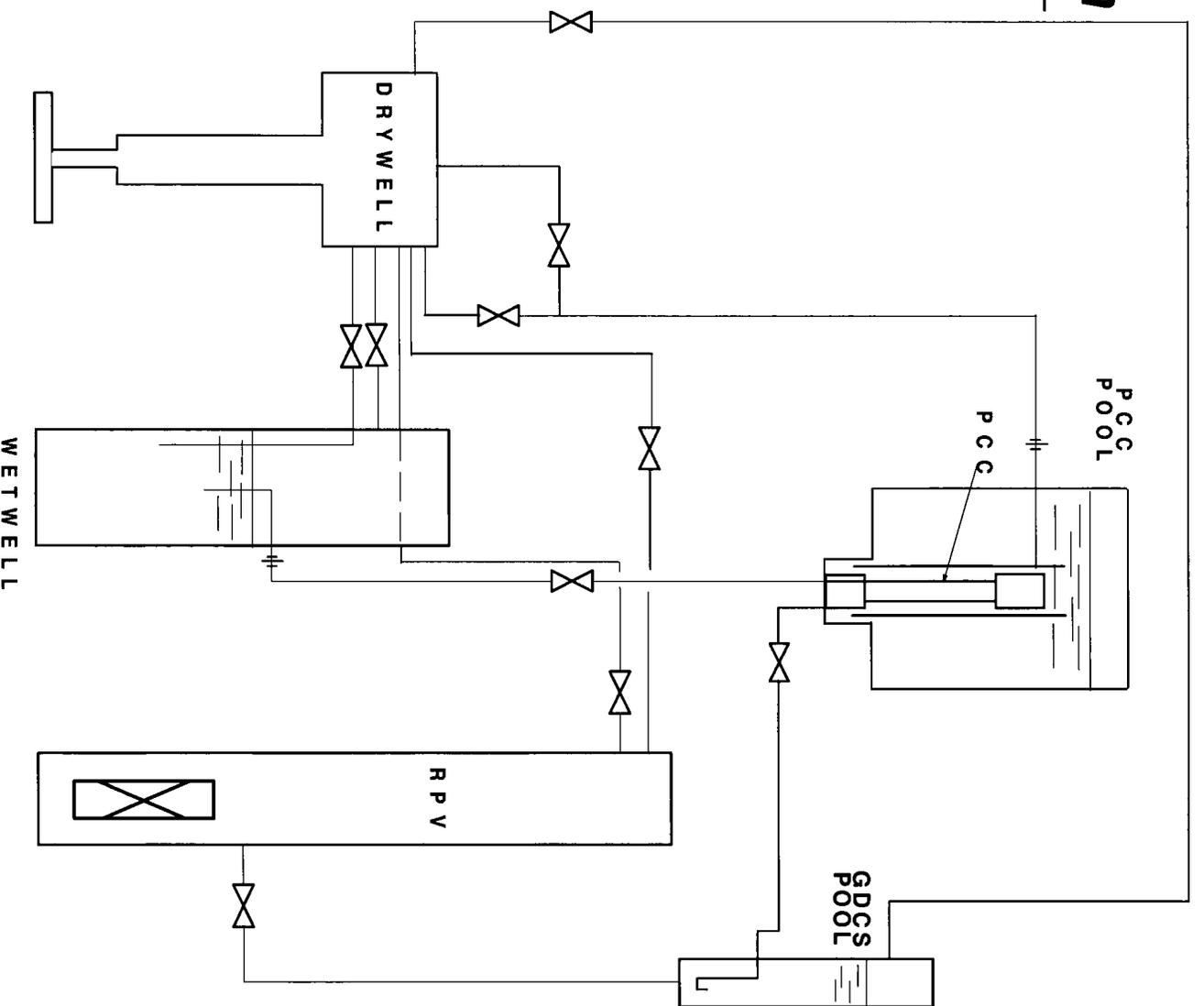


# GIRAFFE

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- **3 Test series:**
  - GIRAFFE/Helium
    - Demonstrate system operation with lighter-than-steam noncondensibles including purging noncondensibles from the PCC
    - Data for TRACG (code) qualification to predict SBWR containment system performance including potential system interactions with I-t-s gas
  - GIRAFFE/SIT
    - Data for TRACG (code) qualification to predict SBWR ECCS performance during late blowdown/early GDCCS phase of a LOCA - specific focus on system interactions
  - GIRAFFE/Step 1 and 3
    - Steady state performance of PCCS
    - System performance

# GIRAFFE Facility Diagram



# ***GIRAFFE/SIT Tests - Effect of IC and PCCS on Downcomer Level***

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## ***GIRAFFE Conclusions***

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- ***GIRAFFE/Helium***
  - The PCCS operates in the presence of lighter-than-steam noncondensable gases and maintains containment pressure, even with high concentrations of noncondensable gases
  - The PCCS vents lighter-than-steam noncondensable gases, as necessary, to maintain operation
  - Heavier-than-steam gas tends to collect in the bottom of the PCC, while lighter-than-steam-gas tends to distribute throughout the PCC
- ***GIRAFFE/SIT***
  - IC operation has a positive effect on RPV inventory
  - PCC operation has a favorable effect on containment pressure
  - No adverse system interactions occur among the SBWR safety systems during the blowdown and reflood of the RPV
  - These tests confirm the validity of the GIST tests which did not incorporate the IC or PCCS

## ***SBWR Testing Program Summary***

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- ***Extensive technology program for features new to SBWR***
  - Component tests
  - Integral tests
- ***Testing used to qualify computer codes***
- ***Extensive international cooperation***
- ***Extensive review and participation by NRC staff***
  - Test matrix
  - Running of actual tests

**A Complete, Multi-year International Technology  
Program Supports the Design**



## **ESBWR System Modifications**

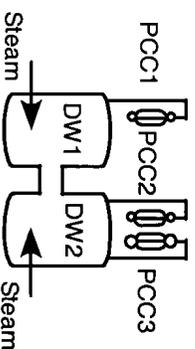
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- **Made GDCCS part of WW**
  - Increased WW/DW volume ratio
  - Utilizes GDCCS pool draindown space to provide increased wetwell volume
  - PCC Drain Tank added in DW
- **Power Increased**
  - Number of ICs increased from 3 to 4
  - Number of PCCs increased from 3 to 4
  - PCCS Expanded from 10MW to 13.5MW per unit

# PANDA-P Series Test Matrix

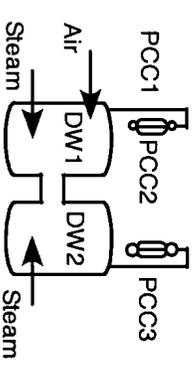
## P1: Base Case

MSL Break + 1 hr  
(long-term cooling phase)



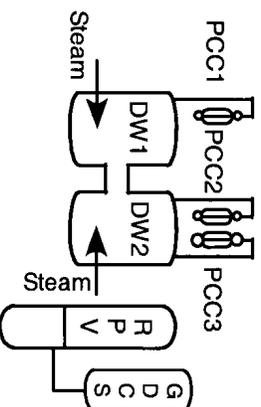
## P5: Symmetric Case

PCC2 Isolated, air supply to DW later in transient  
(MV clearing phase caused by Reduced PCC capacity)



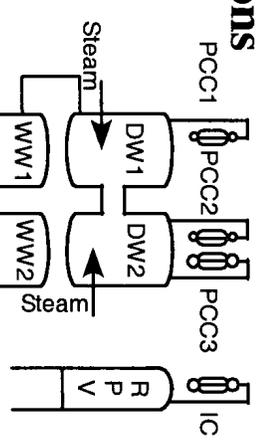
## P2: Early Start

MSL Break + 20 min  
(transition from GDCCS injection to long-term PCCS cooling phase)



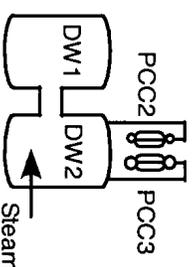
## P6: Systems Interactions

ICs and PCCs in parallel, DW1 to WW1 leakage  
(is PCC performance adversely affected?)



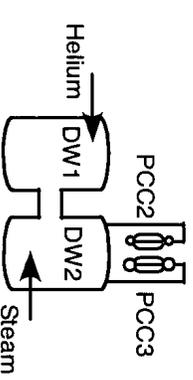
## P3: PCCS Start-up

DW initially filled with air  
(demonstrate PCCS start-up Under challenging conditions)



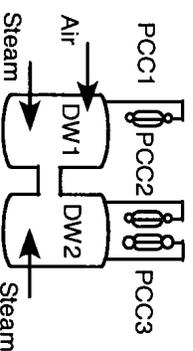
## P7: Severe Accident

All break flow to DW2, PCC1 isolated,  
He supply to DW later in transient  
(simulation of hydrogen release And reduced PCC capacity)



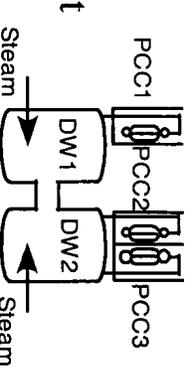
## P4: Trapped Air in DW

Air released during transient  
(investigation of how n/c gas Affects PCCS performance)



## P8: PCC Pool Boil Down

Extension of Base Case, P1  
(how do PCC pool levels affect containment performance)



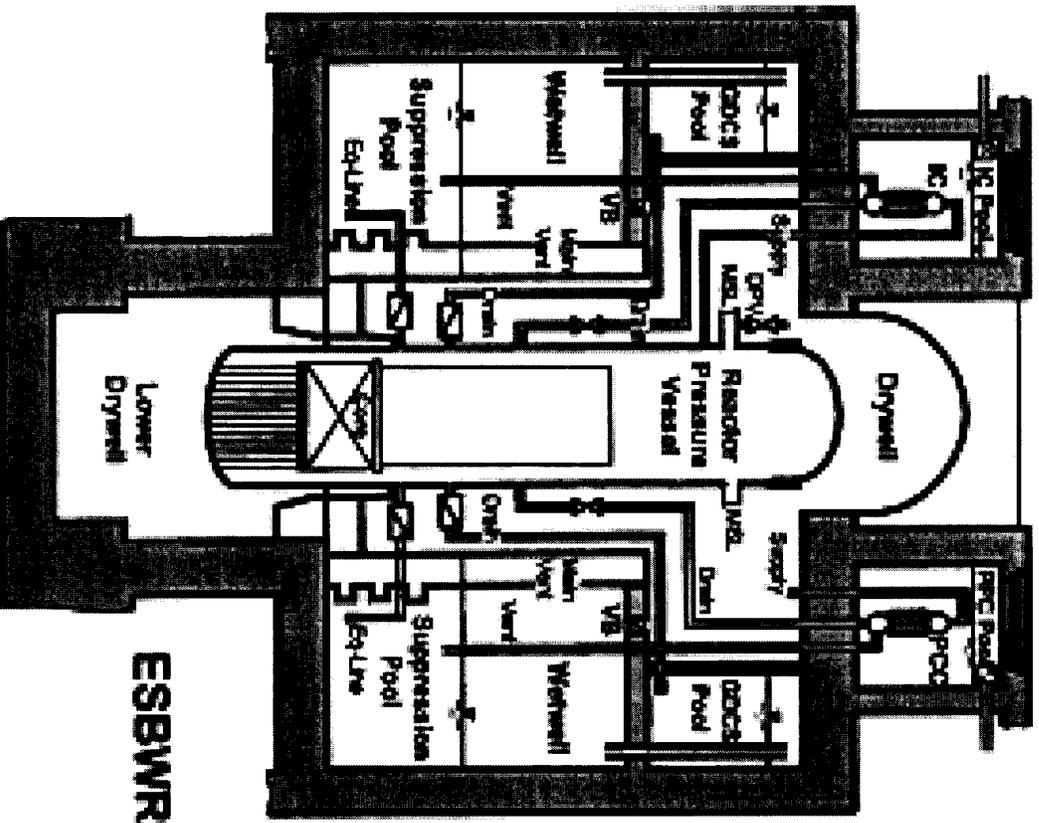
**Additional confirmatory testing for ESBWR configuration**

## **PANDA -P series Test**

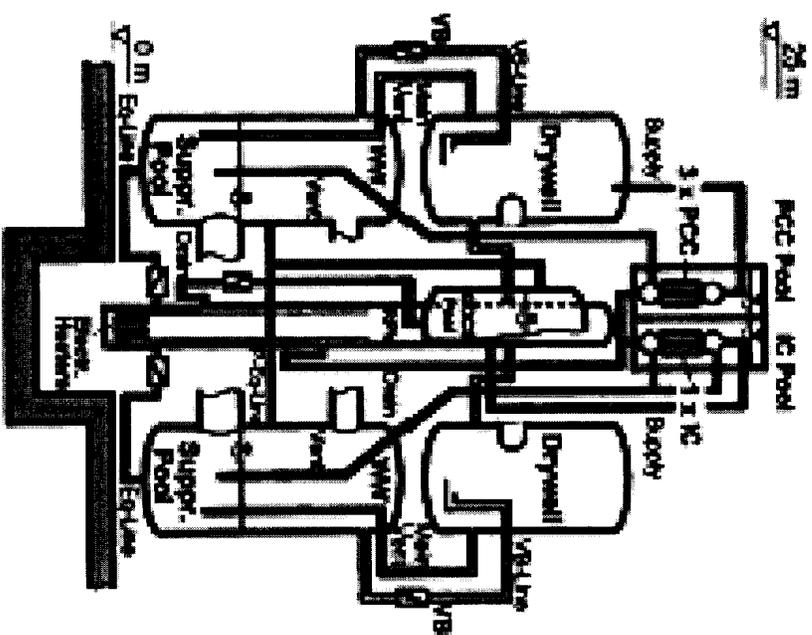
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- **~1:45 scale integral test facility**
- **Objectives**
  - Testing of new containment features with respect to: PCCS long-term performance, PCCS start-up and systems interaction and distribution of steam and gases within the containment
  - Database to confirm the capability of TRACG to predict ESBWR containment system performance, including potential systems interaction effects
  - Effect of lighter-than-steam gas on system behavior
- **Conclusions**
  - All objectives met
  - Containment system operated robustly over all conditions tested
  - No change in systems interaction from moving GDCCS pool to wetwell

# ESBWR vs. PANDA Facility Schematic



**ESBWR**



**PANDA**

## ***P4 - Effect of Additional Late Air Release on System Performance***

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## ***P4 - Effect of Additional Late Air Release on System Performance***

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# ***Comparison Stratification and Hideout Tests***

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## ***Integration of Multiple Scale Tests Results***

# ***Comparison of M and P Series PANDA Base Tests***

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# ***PANDA Early Start Test***

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## **Conclusions From PANDA-P Series Tests**

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- **Containment pressure reduced relative to M series tests due to larger WW gas space**
- **No change in systems interaction from moving GDCCS pool to wetwell**
- **Containment system operated robustly over all conditions tested**
- **All objectives met**
  - Testing of new containment features with respect to: PCCS long-term performance, PCCS start-up and systems interaction and distribution of steam and gases within the containment
  - Database to confirm the capability of TRACG to predict ESBWR containment system performance, including potential systems interaction effects
  - Effect of lighter-than-steam gas on system behavior

***No surprises – System behavior has not changed as a result of configuration changes***

## ***Effect of N/C Gas Transport on Wetwell Pressure***

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## ***PCC/IC Performance - Data at Different Pressure and Scale***

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# ***PCC Performance - Effect of Non-condensables at Different Scales***

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## ***Conclusions from Integrated Test Results***

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- ***PCC/IC's are Readily Scalable***
  - PANDA IC/PCC is a section of PANTHERS IC/PCC
  - PANTHERS PCC is a slice of ESBWR PCC
  - GIRAFFE PCC has significantly different header configuration
- ***Containment pressure varies with non-condensable gas quantity in wetwell for different scales and different gases***

## **Containment Testing Conclusions**

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- **Extensive database obtained for TRACG Qualification**
- **Robust behavior of ESBWR containment demonstrated**
  - ESBWR containment modifications improve pressure performance
  - Significant margins for Design Basis Accidents
  - Asymmetry effects not important
  - System interactions do not adversely effect performance
- **PCCS capabilities confirmed**
  - Start-up and long-term operation with noncondensibles confirmed
  - Heat removal capability adequate over the range of conditions expected in ESBWR
  - Good performance with both light and heavy noncondensibles
  - Scalable technology

***All testing identified as needed by TAPD has been completed***

## ***Testing Program Summary***

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- ***Extensive technology program for features new to SBWR***
  - Component tests
  - Integral tests
- ***Additional Tests to confirm ESBWR performance***
- ***Testing used to qualify computer codes***
- ***Extensive international cooperation***
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