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ং. Calculation Title
 ∓ NTACT
r∎ itact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

3. Document Identifier (including Revision Number) MOL.20000922.0093

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FIGURES

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6-2. The Two Types of Fuel Pins Configurations Investigated in Table 6-13 51

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Depart LWBR

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1. PURPOSE

The objective of this calculation is to characterize the nuclear criticality safety concerns associated with the codisposal of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor (SP LWBR) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) in a 5-Defense High-Level Waste (5-DHLW) Waste Package (WP), which is to be placed in a Monitored Geologic Repository (MGR). The scope of this calculation is limited to the determination of the effective neutron multiplication factor (k_{eff}) for intact- and degraded-mode internal configurations of the codisposal WP containing Shippingport LWBR seed-type assemblies. The results of this calculation will be used to evaluate criticality issues and support the analysis that is planed to be performed to demonstrate the viability of the codisposal concept for the MGR.

This calculation is associated with the waste package design and was performed in accordance with the *DOE SNFAnalysis Planfor FY 2000* (See Ref. 22). The document has been prepared in accordance with the Administrative Procedure AP-3.12Q, *Calculations* (Ref. 23).

The information provided by the sketch attached to this calculation is that of the potential design ofthe DOE SNF canister containing SP LWBR SNF considered in this calculation.

2. METHOD

The calculation method employs the use of MCNP Version 4B2 computer code (Ref. 1) to calculate the effective neutron multiplication factor for various geometrical configurations of SP LWBR SNF.

With regard to the development of this calculation, the control of the electronic management of data was evaluated in accordance with AP-SV.IQ, *Control of the Electronic Management of Information* (Ref. 19). The evaluation (Ref. 20) determined that current work process and procedures are adequate for the control of the electronic management of data for this activity.

3. ASSUMPTIONS

- 3.1 Beginning-of-Life (BOL) pre-irradiation fuel composition is used for all calculations. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative to assume unirradiated fuel since the seed assemblies contain a greater mass of fissile material and thus are more neutronically reactive than spent fuel (Ref. 4, p. B-12). This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.2 The dished faces of the fuel pellets are neglected for treating intact fuel pellets and the fuel number density is determined by using the fuel mass and the footprint volume of the fuel. The void space in the fuel and other voids in the fuel pin are assumed to contain water since this gives more conservative results as shown in Section 6.1.2. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.

- 3.3 The fuel assembly base plates, the fuel rod plenum springs, the plenum and other structural materials are neglected. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative to neglect structural materials because they provide some additional amount of neutron absorption. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.4 The curved bottom and top carbon steel impact plates of the DOE SNF canister are represented as 2 in. carbon steel slabs. The ends of the DOE SNF canister are simplified and represented as "squared off." The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative to neglect this portion of the DOE SNF canister since it provides a small amount of neutron absorption. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.5 At least 30 cm of full-density water (1.0 g/cm^3) surrounding the WP is used for cases with a water neutron reflector. This is based on a 30 cm thick water reflection being effectively equivalent to an infinite neutron reflector (Ref. 2, p. 107). This water thickness is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.6 For cases where degradation products accumulate at the bottom of the DOE SNF canister or the WP, any remaining void spaces are typically assumed to be filled with water. The rationale for this assumption is that water is more reactive than void since the water acts as a reflector. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.2.
- 3.7 The uranium and thorium content in the materials that are formed from the degradation of the HLW glass is neglected in the calculations. These materials are the prebreach clayey and the post-breach clayey before and after, respectively, the breach of the DOE SNF canister. The rationale for the assumption is that the uranium is composed mainly of (non-fissile) U-238 and would provide some small amount of parasitic neutron absorption. The thorium is also a parasitic neutron absorber. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.8 For degradation analysis, stainless steel degrades to goethite, FeOOH, and all other constituents of the steel are neglected in the calculations. The goethite is assumed to form with void occupying 40% or more of its volume. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative to neglect the non-iron components of the stainless steel since they provide some small amount of parasitic neutron absorption. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.2.
- 3.9 The DOE SNF canister is assumed to be filled with water-saturated aluminum fill material everywhere except in the flow channels between fuel rods inside the assembly duct. Since the fill material contains gadolinium (a neutron absorber) this assumption is conservative. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.10 The gadolinium content of the fill material is expressed as a weight percentage of the Al-GdPO₄ mix. The density of the material is determined by assuming that the volume of

the aluminum and gadolinium, present as GdP04, is conserved when mixed. This assumption is used throughout Section 5 and is based on engineering judgement.

3.11 For completely degraded analysis, the fuel and $ThO₂$ remain chemically unchanged. In some cases the $ThO₂$ content of the degraded fuel is neglected. This assumption is used in Section 5.2 and the rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative since the Th is a parasitic neutron absorber.

- 3.12 For degraded mode analysis, materials that mix together do so homogeneously. This assumption is used in Section 5.2 and is based on engineering judgement.
- 3.13 For loose pin configurations, i.e., cases where the fuel pin clips/spacers and assembly duct have degraded and the pins are no longer contained, the placement and stacking of the pins is chosen to give a more reactive configuration rather than a more realistic stacking due to gravity. The rationale for this assumption is that it is more conservative since it gives a larger k_{eff} for the system as shown in Section 6.2.5. This assumption is used in Sections 5.2.2.4 and 5.2.2.5.
- 3.14 For many cases where degraded sludge material surrounds intact fuel components and some of the components are only partially submerged in the sludge, less than the exact amount of sludge (which may also contain gadolinium) is used. The remaining volume is filled with water and/or other degradation products. This assumption is based on engineering judgement (and it is conservative to neglect neutron absorbers). This assumption is used in Section 5.2.
- 3.15 When considering the effects of radioactive decay due to the passage of time, decay of any of the HLW glass isotopes (and resulting clayey material) is neglected. This assumption is based on engineering judgement and does not effect the results. Also, the decay daughters of the uranium in the fuel are neglected. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative since these are parasitic neutron absorbers. These assumptions are used in Section 5.2.3.
- 3.16 Aluminum cross section is used instead of zinc cross section in the MCNP input since the cross section of zinc is not available in either the ENDF/B-V or ENDF-VIcross-section libraries. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative since the thermalneutron capture cross section and the resonance integral of zinc (1.1 and 2.8 barn, respectively, Ref. 12) are greater than those of aluminum (0.23 and 0.17 barn, respectively, Ref. 12). This assumption is used throughout Section 5.
- 3.17 Ba-138 cross section is used instead of Ba-137 cross section in the MCNP input since the cross section of Ba-137 is not available in either ENDF/B-V or ENDF-VI cross-section libraries. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative since the thermalneutron capture cross section and the resonance integral of Ba-137 (5.1 and 4 barn,

respectively, Ref. 12) are greater than those of Ba-138 (0.43 and 0.3 barn, respectively, Ref. 12). This assumption is used throughout Section 5.

- 3.18 The degradation products from the zirconium in the assembly ducts and fuel pin cladding are neglected. The rationale for this assumption is that it is conservative to neglect these products since they would displace water that gives more neutron moderation. This assumption is used throughout Section 5.2.2.
- 3.19 A void fraction of 0.4667 is used for the Al fill material. A value of 0.48 (e.g., 0.52 as fractional solids content) is given in Ref. 16 (Table 2.1 p. 16) for cubic packing of equally sized spheres. Additional sources indicate a void fraction of 47.65 % for the same type of packing (Ref. 17, p. 11) and 38-40 % for steel shot (Ref. 18, p. 8). Since the Al fill material is composed of particles of different sizes, it is easily shown from Ref. 16 that a void fraction of 0.4667 (or smaller) is obtained if the fill material is composed of a binary mixture of spheres surrounded by irregularly shaped but smaller particles as long as the spheres constitute 2/3 (or less) of the total mass of the fill material. Therefore, the void fraction used is based on similar values indicated in the literature. Also, for a given mass of Gd in the fill material, small variations in the mass of Al would have a negligible effect on the final value of k_{eff} . Consequently, different void fractions for Al fill materials produced by different manufacturers will have a negligible effect on the value of k_{eff} . This assumption is used in Section 5.
- 3.20 Stainless steel Type 316L (UNS S31603) is substituted for Type 316NG for the inner barrier of the waste package. The rationale for this is that the weight percent (wt.%) values used for Type 316L (Table 5-6) fall within the composition ranges for Type 316NG (Ref. 36, p. 931). The exception is the carbon content that is slightly higher for Type 316L, but this makes the composition used more conservative. This assumption is used in Section 5.
- 3.21 Carbon steel Type A 516 Grade 70 (UNS K02700) is substituted for ASME Type SA-36 for the bottom and top carbon steel impact plates of the DOE SNF canister. The rationale for this is that the wt.% values used for Type A 516 (see Table 5-7) fall within the composition ranges for Type SA-36 (Ref. 35, Table 2). The exception is the carbon content that is slightly higher for Type A 516, but this makes the composition used more conservative. This assumption is used in Section 5.

4. USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND MODELS

4.1 SOFTWARE

4.1.1 MCNP4B2

MCNP4B2 computer code is used to calculate the effective neutron multiplication factor for nuclear criticality evaluations (Ref. 3).

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- Program Name: MCNP
- Version/Revision Number: Version 4B2
- Computer Software Configuration Item (CSCI) Number: 30033 V4B2LV
- Computer Type: Hewlett Packard 9000 Workstations
- Government Identification Numbers: 323786, 323787, 311670, 311672, 345685, 336829 (see Ref. 33)
- Computer Physical Location: Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Each input file used is echoed in its output file. The output files (containing their corresponding echoed input) are listed in Attachment II; they are stored on electronic media (compact disk) (Attachment IV).

The MCNP4B2 computer code (Ref. 1)

- is an appropriate tool to perform the criticality calculations reported in this document.
- has been validated over the range it was used.
- was previously obtained from the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System (CRWMS) Management and Operating Contractor (M&O) Software Configuration Management (SCM) in accordance with appropriate procedures.

4.2 SOFTWARE ROUTINES

4.2.1 Excel

The commercially acquired Excel 97 spreadsheet program was used to generate some of the input data for the MCNP computer code. In all applications involving the Excel program, standard program options were used. The software specifications are as follows:

- Software name: Microsoft Excel
- Software version/revision number: 97 SR-2
- Computer type: Personal Computer (PC)

The Excel file is included as part of the electronic data on a compact disk (CD) (Attachment IV). The name of the electronic copies of the Excel file is provided in Attachment III. The information provided on the CD (Attachment IV) meets the requirements of Sections 5.1 and 5.1.1.2 of AP-SI.1Q, *Software Management* (Ref. 25).

4.3 MODELS

None used.

5. CALCULATION

This section describes the calculations performed to calculate k_{eff} of the codisposal WP with the DOE SNF canister containing an intact or degraded Shippingport LWBR fuel assembly. The intact codisposal WP, the fuel assembly and the DOE SNF canister are described in Section 5.1. Chemical compositions of the materials used in the calculations are summarized in Tables 5-4 through 5-12 in Section 5.1.5. Description of the MCNP calculations is given in Section 5.2. Calculations for the intact fuel assembly are described in Section 5.2.1. Calculations for the partially and the fully degraded fuel assembly are described in Section 5.2.2. The effects of changes in the composition of the fuel due to radioactive decay after a large passage of time are described in Section 5.2.3. A homogeneous model of the intact seed assembly is described in Section 5.2.4. This model may be useful in determining if similar fuels (Th/U oxide) can be bound by these results. MCNP output files are stored on electronic media in Attachment IV. Results of the calculations are presented in Section 6.

This calculation is based in part on unqualified data. The unqualified data related to spent nuclear fuel is only used to determine the bounding values and identify items that are important to criticality controi for this fuel group by establishing the limits based on the representative fuel type (Shippingport LWBR) for this group (Th/U oxide fuel). Hence, the input values used for evaluation of codisposal viability of the Th/U oxide (Shippingport LWBR) SNF do not constitute data that have to be qualified in this application. They only establish the bounds for acceptance. Since the input values are not relied upon directly to address safety and waste isolation issues and since the design inputs do not affect a system characteristic that is critical for satisfactory performance, according to the governing procedure (AP-3.l5Q, *Managing Technical Product Inputs,* Ref. 21), the data do not need to be controlled as TBV (to be verified). The SRS HLW glass composition has not been finalized and is, therefore, controlled with TBV. Although the geochemical results have been shown to be relatively insensitive to the range of probable compositions (Ref. 9), the glass compositions and calculated degraded compositions must be demonstrated bounding in the future.

5.1 CALCULATION INPUTS

The description of the Shippingport LWBR fuel is taken from the Shippingport LWBR fuel characteristics document, Ref. 4. All fuel and DOE SNF canister related information is from this reference unless otherwise noted. Compositions for structural and other nonfuel related materials are from standard handbooks, and due to the nature of these sources, these data are established facts and are therefore considered as accepted data.

The LWBR was designed as a pressurized, light-water moderated and cooled thermal reactor that utilized the Th/U (U-233) oxide fuel cycle. The central portion of the core consisted of 12 movable-fuel seed assemblies each surrounded by a stationary blanket assembly (see Figure 3-2 from Ref. 4). Reactor control was achieved by raising and lowering the central seed assemblies, thus eliminating the need for control rods. The UO₂-rich seed assemblies generated neutrons that

were absorbed in the fertile fuel of the blanket/reflector assemblies producing additional fissile material and fissions. The fuel and blanket assembly design was optimized to maximize neutron production and minimize neutron loss. The power-flattening regions around the outer periphery of the core actually contained more U-233 mass than the standard blanket regions that were located in the inner portion of the core. Use of this more highly loaded power-flattening blanket region produced a relatively uniform radial power distribution across the core. Since the seed assembly is the only assembly that will fit in an 18-in.-diameter DOE SNF canister without disassembly, criticality analysis presented here treats only seed assemblies.

Note that the extra digits shown in metric units in this report are a result of converting from English units and do not represent enhanced accuracy. The number of digits in the values cited herein may included rounding or may reflect the input from another source; consequently, the number of digits should not be interpreted as an indication of accuracy.

5.1.1 Description of Shippingport LWBR Seed Assembly

The LWBR core was fueled with fertile Th-232 and fissile U-233, the relative concentrations of which varied axially and radially across the core. The uranium that was used in fabricating the fuel was very highly enriched in U-233 with some isotopic impurities as shown in Table 5-1. The assembly is composed of cylindrical fuel.rods on a triangular pitch that were cooled by circulating water in the reactor. The space between fuel rods forms coolant passages. The fuel rods were loaded with ceramic fuel pellets some composed of thoria $(ThO₂)$ and the rest composed of a mixture of thoria and U02. Rods were sealed and backfilled with helium at one atmosphere during welding.

Table 5-1. Isotopic Composition of the Uranium Used in Fabricating the Fuel

Two different enrichments (defined as the ratio of the mass of fissile to the total heavy metal mass) of the same binary UO₂-ThO₂ matrix were used in seed rods. At BOL the 12 seed assemblies contained 198.59 kg of fissile material. Those rods with the lower fissile concentration (low zone) contained 61.28 kg (enrichment of 4.337%) of fissile material, while the rods with the higher fissile concentration (high zone) contained 137.31 kg (enrichment of 5.202%) of fissile material. The radial zoning of the seed rods is shown in Figure 5-1. The axial zoning and some axial dimensions of the seed rods are shown in Figure 5-2, depicting the varying enrichments of the 619 rods in the seed assembly.

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number correspond to the rod type number

Figure 5-1. R-Z Schematic of a Seed Assembly

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Figure 5-2. Layout of Fuel Rods in a Seed Assembly

Dimensions and densities for the two types of fuel pellets are given in Table 5-2. The fuel pellets are right circular cylinders with chamfers (bevels) on both ends to ease loading into the tubing, to facilitate movement of the pellet stack in the tubing during power operation and to reduce pellet chipping during fabrication, rod handling and power operation. The pellets have dished ends to reduce axial expansion of the stack during reactor operation. The low zone type pellets and the thoria pellets, used at the top and bottom of the fuel stack, are shorter than the high zone types.

A spring-bearing thoria pellet with only one dished end was used at the top of each fuel (pin) stack. During fabrication, the pellets were sintered to a large fraction of their theoretical densities to ensure dimensional stability. The void fraction listed in Table 5-2 is defined as the difference between the volume of a right circular cylinder with nominal pellet dimensions and the actual pellet volume expressed as a fraction of the volume of the right circular cylinder. The difference in volume being due to the end dishes, chamfers, and pellets chips. The bulk density, defined to be the mass divided by the footprint volume of the mass, is also listed in the table.

	Seed Region Enrichment Zone					
Property (units)	High (5.202 wt% Low (4.337 wt% U-fissile enriched) ^a U-fissile enriched) ^a		ThO ₂			
Diameter ^b , mm (in)	6.4008 (0.2520)	6.4008 (0.2520)	6.49224 (0.2556)			
Diameter ^c , mm (in)	$6.4008 \pm .0127$	$6.4008 \pm .0127$	$6.4897 \pm .0127$			
	(0.252 ± 0.0005)	(0.252 ± 0.0005)	$(0.2555 \pm .0005)$			
Length ^b , mm (in)	15.621 (0.615)	11.2776 (0.444)	13.462 (0.530)			
Length ^c , mm (in)	$15.621 \pm .508$	$11.303 \pm .508$	$13.462 \pm .508$			
	$(0.615 \pm .020)$	$(0.445 \pm .020)$	$(0.530 \pm .020)$			
Taper or Chamfer Depth ^c ,	0.381 ± 0.127	0.381 ± 0.127	0.381 ± 0.127			
mm (in)	(0.015 ± 0.005)	(0.015 ± 0.005)	(0.015 ± 0.005)			
Taper or Chamfer Length ^c ,	0.381 ± 0.127	0.381 ± 0.127	0.381 ± 0.127			
mm (in)	(0.015 ± 0.005)	(0.015 ± 0.005)	(0.015 ± 0.005)			
End Dish Spherical Radius ^c , mm (in)	9.144 (0.360)	9.144 (0.360)	7.5692 (0.298)			
End Shoulder Width ^c ,	1.1684 ± 0.20	1.1684 ± 0.20	1.397 ± 0.254			
mm (in)	(0.046 ± 0.008)	(0.046 ± 0.008)	(0.055 ± 0.010)			
End Face Dish Depth ^c ,	0.2286 ± 0.0762	0.2286 ± 0.0762	0.2286 ± 0.0762			
mm (in)	(0.009 ± 0.003)	(0.009 ± 0.003)	(0.009 ± 0.003)			
Void Fraction ^b (of chamfers, dishes, and chip defects)	0.01172	0.01704	0.01253			
Percent Theoretical Density ^b	97.554	97.712	98.013			
Theoretical Density, g/cm ³	10.042	10.035	9.999			
Bulk Density ^d , g/cm ³	9.710	9.665	9.678			

Table 5-2. Characteristics of Pellets in the Seed Region

NOTES: ^a Weight percent fissile (U-233+U-235).100/(Th+U).

b Average as built.

^c Design specification.

d Attachment III, EXCEL Spreadsheet, sheet1.

There are eight different types of seed rods that compose four different fuel regions shown in Figure 5-2. Additional fuel rod information including the BOL fissile mass loading for each rod type is also given in this figure. Examination of Figure 5-1 shows that the fuel rods can be further categorized into four general regions based on axial fuel loading. The seamless cladding tubes are composed of Zircaloy-4 and have different end plugs and mounting stems welded at the ends depending on the fuel rod type. This gives slightly different overall lengths for the different fuel rod types. These lengths and BOL fuel information are given in Table 5-3. The cladding

thickness is 0.563118 mm (0.02217 in.) and its outside diameter is 7.78002 mm (0.3063 in;). Within the tube and at the top of the fuel pellet stack is a 254 ± 2.54 mm (10.0 ± 0.1 in.) plenum stack to accommodate fission gases. The plenum housed an Inconel X-750 wire compression spring.

Fuel Rod Type	BOL fissile mass loading, g/rod)	Fissile Concentration of the Binary Stack ^a (wt% fissile)	Length of Binary Stack [mm (in)]	Overall Fuel Rod Length [mm (in)]
01.02	14.33	4.337	1066.8 (42)	3023.108 (119.02)
07.08	14.33	4.337	1066.8 (42)	3006.598 (118.37)
03	19.14	4.337	1422.4 (56)	3026.156 (119.14)
04	23.92	4.337	1778.0 (70)	3026,156 (119.14)
05.06	34.57	5.202	2133.6 (84)	3029.458 (119.27)

Table 5-3. Fuel Rod Lengths and BOL Fissile Mass Loading

NOTE: ⁸ Weight percent fissile (U-233+U-235)·1 OO/(Th+U).

The fuel pins maintain a nominal center-to-center spacing (pitch) of 9.36244 mm (0.3686 in.) along the length of the assembly supported by nine stainless steel (AM-350) grid plates. The outer support shell of the assembly is a 2.032 mm $(0.080$ in.) thick hexagonal duct (shroud) made of Zircaloy-4 with a length of 3302 mm (130.0 in.).

5.1.2 Description of DOE SNF Canister

The description of the 15-ft DOE SNF canister (also referred to as the 18-in.-diameter DOE SNF canister) is taken from Ref. 6. The DOE SNF canister is a right circular cylinder pipe made of stainless steel (Type 316L or UNS S31603) with an outside diameter of 457.2 mm (18 in.) and a wall thickness of 9.525 mm (0.375 in.). The nominal internal length of the DOE SNF canister reserved for fuel loading is 411.7086 cm (162.09 in.). The top and bottom carbon steel (ASME SA-36) impact plates are 50.8 mm (2.0 in.) thick at the centers. Dished heads seal the ends of the DOE SNF canister. The DOE SNF canister pipe extends several inches beyond the dished heads on each end to give a maximum external length of 456.9968 cm (179.92 in.). A detailed sketch of the DOE SNF canister is shown in Attachment I. Each DOE SNF canister will also contain a rectangular basket structure to hold the Shippingport LWBR fuel assembly (see Attachment I). The basket structure is not a standard part of the 18-in. DOE SNF canister, but is designed specific to the SNF to be inserted into the DOE SNF canister. The basket plates are made of 9.5 mm (0.374 in.) thick stainless steel (Type 316L or UNS S31603) and the inner widths of the plates are 295 mm and 257 mm, respectively. Figure 5-3 shows a cross-sectional view of a MCNP case where the DOE SNF canister is loaded with a seed assembly. Finally, a boxed shaped spacer will fit inside the basket to elevate the SNF above the canister bottom.

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Figure 5-3. Cross-Sectional View of the DOE SNF Canister

5.1.3 Codisposal WP

The codisposa1 WP contains five HLW glass pour canisters surrounding an 18-in. DOE SNF canister (see Figure 5-4). The WP is composed of materials that are typical of commercial SNF storage containers. The outer barrier shell is composed of a 25 mm (0.9843 in.) thick Alloy 22 (UNS N06022) and serves as a corrosion resistant barrier. The inner barrier is composed of 50 mm (1.9685 in.) thick stainless steel (Type 316NG). The outside diameter of the WP is 2030 mm (79.921 in.) and inside cavity length is 4617 mm (181.772 in.). The inner and outer barrier lids are 105 mm (4.134 in.) and 25 mm (0.9843 in.) thick, respectively. There is a 30 mm (1.1811 in.) closure lid gap composed of stainless steel (Type 316NG) between the upper inner and outer barrier lids. There is a 225 mm (8.8583 in.) long skirt at each end of the codisposal WP.

The DOE SNF canister is placed in a 31.75-mm (1.25-in.) -thick carbon steel (ASTM A 516 Grade 70 or UNS K02700) support tube with a 565 mm (22.244 in.) nominal outer diameter. The support tube is connected to the inside wall of the codisposal WP by web-like carbon steel (ASTM A 516 Grade 70 or UNS K02700) support plates that form five emplacement positions for the HLW glass pour canisters equally spaced in angle about the center support tube. The support tube and plates are 4607 mm (181.3780 in.) long.

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NOTE: $TYP =$ typical

5.1.4 HLW Glass **Pour** Canisters

The Hanford 15-foot HLW glass pour canister is a cylindrical stainless steel (Type 304L or UNS S30403) shell with an outer diameter of approximately 610 mm (24.00 in.), a wall thickness of 10.5 mm (0.413 in.), and a nominal length of 4572 mm (180 in.), see Ref. 24. The total HLW glass pour canister weight is 4200 kg and HLW glass occupies 87% of the volume (Ref. 24, pp. 1, 2). The nominal dimensions of the HLW glass pour canister are used for the calculations. The codisposal WP loaded with the HLW glass pour canisters and the DOE SNF canister are shown in Figure 5-5. In some calculations, the degraded HLW canisters are represented as clayey material. The composition of this clayey material prior to the breach of the DOE SNF canister is given in Table 5-9.

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Figure 5-5. Cross-Sectional View of the Codisposal WP

5.1.5 Materials

Chemical composition of Zircaloy-4 used in the fuel assembly representation is given in Table 5-4.

NOTE: The Universal Numbering System for Zircaloy-4 is R60804 (Ref. 5, p. 44). Source: ^a Ref. 26, p. 2. ^b Ref. 27, p. 666.

Chemical composition of Alloy 22 used for the WP inner barrier representation is given in Table 5-5.

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$

 \mathcal{A}

Source: ^a Ref. 28, p. 2.

The chemical compositions of Type 316L Stainless Steel used for the DOE SNF canister and Type 304L Stainless Steel used for the HLW glass pour canisters are given in Table 5-6.

Table 5-6. Chemical Composition of Type 316L (UNS S31603) and 304L Stainless Steel (UNS S30403)

Source: ^a Ref. 29, p. 2. ^b Ref. 30, p. 7. $^{\circ}$ Ref. 34, p. 2.

Chemical composition of A 516 Carbon Steel used for the WP representation is given in Table 5-7.

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Table 5-7. Chemical Composition of A 516 Carbon Steel Grade 70 (UNS K02700)^a

Source: ^a Ref. 31, p. 2. b Ref. 32, p. 9.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) HLW glass composition from Ref. 7 is given in Table 5-8. The glass density is from Ref. 8. These data are unqualified.

NOTES: ి Ba-138 was used in the input data for the MCNP computer code (see Assumption 3.17).

 \degree Replaced by AI in the input data for the MCNP computer code (see Assumption 3.16). Source: Ref. 7, p. 7.

In Section 5.2.1.5, effect of clay accumulation inside the DOE SNF canister is calculated. Prebreach clay is degraded material formed (results of the degradation of the web-like structure, the HLW glass-pour canister, and the HLW glass) prior to breach of the DOE SNF canister. Post-breach clay is degraded material formed after breach of DOE SNF canister. Chemical

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composition of clayey material for prebreach of the DOE SNF canister is presented in Table 5-9. Also· given in the table is an alternate composition that results due to the uncertainties in determining the composition of the clay.

Element Isotope	W _{t%}	Alternate Wt%	Element Isotope	Wt%	Alternate Wt%
AI	0.809223	0.99187795	Mn	1.042006	0.92724902
Ba	0.050423	0.06264702	Na	0.032564	0.03549077
Cа	0.393772	0.41688153	Ni	4.329494	3.33401455
Cr	0.019012	0.02362058	P	0.029762	0.02645764
F	0.006085	0.00540846	Pu-238	0.002139	0.00262213
Fe	46.2609	45.2739812	Pu-239	0.005124	0.00628069
н	0.188509	0.2161142	Pu-240	0.00094	0.00115235
O	36.21548	37.0260512	Pu-241	0.0004	0.00049011
Κ	0.037776	0.03423248	Pu-242	7.91E-05	9.6993E-05
Mg	0.13564	0.16533455	Si	10.44068	11.4499965

Table 5-9. Chemical Composition of Prebreach^a Clay

NOTE: ^a Degraded material at 59473 years (36145 years alternate) just prior to breach of DOE SNF canister minerals only.

Source: Ref. 9, EQ6 file "N01A2204.61".

The chemical composition of the clayey material for post-breach of the DOE SNF canister is presented in Table 5-10. Due to uncertainties in determining this composition another composition is included and is referred to as the alternate post-breach clay. Isotopes of Th and U in the clayey material are neglected since their contents are insignificant $(0.003%)$ while the Pu content, which is also small, is included to be conservative.

Element/ Isotope	W _{t%}	Alternate Wt%	Element Isotope	Wt%	Alternate Wt%
O	36.637709	36.644428	Na	0.028586	0.028585
н	0.235927	0.235986	Ni	4.047384	4.047006
Fe	45.288889	45.284345	Si	9.716287	9.714534
AI	2.370214	2.370604	Gd	0.016784	0.016781
Ba	0.046340	0.046144	C	0.004036	0.004034
Ca	0.350825	0.350755	Pu-238	0.001968	0.001968
F	0.005825	0.005822	Pu-239	0.004714	0.004714
P	0.031798	0.031787	Pu-240	0.000865	0.000865
κ	0.033922	0.033915	Pu-241	0.000368	0.000368
Mg	0.137909	0.137916	Pu-242	0.000073	0.000073
Mn	1.039578	1.039369			

Table 5-10. Chemical Composition of Post-Breach Clay

Source: Ref. 9, p. 43.

The composition of the tuff material that may surround the WP is given in Table 5-11.

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Table 5-11. Chemical Composition of Tuff^a

NOTE: ^a Bulk density used: 2.245 *g*/cm³ and porosity used: 0.117 (Ref. 13, Table 1). Source: Ref. 14, p. F32, Table 2.

The composition for the aluminum shot fill material that is used as filler in the DOE SNF canister is given in Table 5-12. The shot is composed primarily of aluminum with some small amount of GdP04 that is used as a neutron absorber. The compositions are given for various weight percentages of gadolinium in the aluminum-gadolinium phosphate shot. The void fraction of the shot is 0.4667 and water is assumed to fill the voids between the shot (see Assumption 3.19).

Table 5-12. Chemical Composition (weight percent) of the Water Saturated Aluminum Shot Fill Material^a for Various Weight Percents of Gadolinium

	Weight Percent Gadolinium in Aluminum-Gadolinium Phosphate Shot					
Element	0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%	
AI	75.5220	75.4145	74.9841	74.4452	73.3645	
	21.7386	21.7572	21.8318	21.9251	22.1123	
	2.7394	2.7379	2.7318	2.7241	2.7088	
Gd		0.0755	0.3780	0.7566	1.5159	
D		0.0149	0.0744	0.1490	0.2986	

NOTE: ^a Void fraction in fill is 0.4667.

5.2 DESCRIPTION

The number densities used throughout Section 5 are calculated using the following equation:

$$
N = (m/V) \times N_A / M
$$

where

 $N =$ the number density in atoms/cm³,

 $m =$ the mass in grams,

 $V =$ the volume in cm³,

 N_A = the Avogadro's number (0.6022 E+24 atoms/mole, Ref. 12, p. 59),

 $M =$ the atomic mass in grams per mole.

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The volumes of cylinder segments (volume = area of the segment of a circle \times length of the cylinder) are also calculated throughout Attachment III. The equation for the segment of a circle is shown below:

Area of a Segment of a Circle =
$$
\left(R^2 \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{R-h}{R}\right) - (R-h)\sqrt{2Rh - h^2}\right)
$$

where

 $R =$ the cylinder radius, $h =$ the height of the segment.

For degradation of basket and/or DOE SNF canister cases, the iron content of the stainless steel is assumed to degrade into goethite, FeOOH, with a density of 4.264 g/cm³ (Ref. 11, p. 240). The other constituents of the stainless steel are neglected in the calculations. The codisposal WP is assumed to be fully reflected by water and/or tuff for all cases (see Assumption 3.5).

5.2.1 Intact Fuel Assembly

The Shippingport LWBR SNF assembly is left intact for all cases outlined in this section. Figure 5-5 gives a representation of the intact case. The fuel number density is determined by using the fuel composition data, given in Table 5-1 and the data obtained from Ref. 4. Number densities, volumes and other quantities of interest are calculated by the Excel spreadsheet named "fuel mass.xls" that is listed in Attachment III. In calculating all number densities used in these calculations, Avogadro's number is from Ref. 12, isotopic atomic weights are taken from Ref. 10 and elemental atomic weights and isotopic abundances are taken from Ref. 12. These data are established facts and are therefore considered as accepted data due to the nature of the references cited therein. The LWBR fuel assembly is modeled in the DOE SNF canister with the basket plates present. Void spaces between fuel pins inside the interior of the assembly are assumed to be fully flooded with water while voids external to the assembly but inside the DOE SNF canister are filled with either water or saturated fill material. The total gadolinium content in the DOE SNF canister is given in Table 5-13. It is obtained by assuming that the fill material fills all voids inside the entire DOE SNF canister but outside the assembly duct, i.e., no fill material fills any voids inside the assembly duct. The DOE SNF canister is inside the codisposal WP, which contains five HLW glass pour canisters and the WP is fully reflected with either water·or 'dry tuff. The baseline case for this calculation is 1 wt.% Gd in the aluminum shot mixed with GdPO₄.

	Weight Percent Gadolinium in Al-GdPO4					
	0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%	
Gadolinium Mass (kg)	0.00	0.63	3.14	6.31	12.71	

Table 5-13. Gadolinium Content in DOE SNF Canister

5.2.1.1 DOE SNF Canister in Codisposal WP

The DOE SNF canister, fuel assembly and codisposal WP are intact as shown in Figure 5-5. Values of k_{eff} for the intact fuel assembly are calculated based on the fuel assembly centered in the DOE SNF canister and the DOE SNF canister centered inside the WP for most cases. For cases where the DOE SNF canister is assumed to be fully flooded with water, the water density is varied between 0.2 and 1.0 g/cm³ to find the highest value of k_{eff} . Empty spaces outside the DOE SNF canister but inside the WP are filled with water and the effect of water density variations in these spaces is also determined. The fuel pin gaps are fully flooded with water for all cases. Cases are presented where the water in the DOE SNF canister is replaced with saturated fill material with and without gadolinium. A case using the actual rather than the modeled pitch is also presented. The modeled pitch is 0.9398 cm (0.37 in.).

5.2.1.2 Water Intrusion into Fuel Void Space

The effect of water intrusion into the fuel void spaces (see Section 5.1.1) is determined. The void fraction is determined from the bulk and theoretical density and is easily shown to be given by 1- ρ_b/ρ_{th} where the bulk and theoretical densities are given by ρ_b and ρ_{th} , respectively. Water densities in the fuel void spaces are varied between 0.5 and 1.0 $g/cm³$ to find the highest value of k_{eff} . The DOE SNF canister contains saturated fill material (with and without gadolinium) for all cases except one. The same intact configuration of Figure 5-5 is used in the calculation except where the positions of the contents of the WP are varied to account for possible effects of gravity.

5.2.1.3 Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Basket Plates and Fill Material

The basket plates (see Figure 5-3) have completely degraded and converted to goethite. For most cases the aluminum fill material is assumed to have degraded to diaspore. The intact fuel assembly is positioned at the bottom of the DOE SNF canister and the effect of the materials either mixing together or remaining separate and forming layers around the fuel assembly is determined. Any portion of the DOE SNF canister not filled with material is filled with water. The water volume fraction in the material layers is varied. All other components in the DOE SNF canister and codisposal WP are represented as being fully intact. The coolant passages in the fuel assembly are filled with water. Figure 5-6 shows a cross-sectional view of the WP where separate layers of goethite and diaspore have formed. This configuration is a very unlikely case, but it is conservative. Due to the differences in components corrosion rates, the web structure and HLW glasses inside the WP will always degrade first. There is also a variation where the degraded components inside the DOE SNF canister mix together instead of forming stratified layers since there is no probable mechanism for causing material separation. Note also in Figure 5-6 that a pointed end of the assembly is downward. The assembly can also be rotated 30° about its center so that the flat side of the assembly is downward. The gadolinium content in the aluminum fill material is varied. The fuel pin gaps and fuel voids are flooded with full density water for all cases.

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Water Diaspore Layer G<;>ethite Layer *---....'-1-::-.-4::.1* Fuel Assembly

Figure 5-6.. Cross-Sectional View of the Configuration with Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister and Degraded Basket Plates and Fill Material

5.2.1.4 Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Contents in the WP

The effect of clay (prebreach) formation in the WP due to the total degradation of the HLW glass pour canisters, web-like structure and the WP inner barrier is calculated for an intact DOE SNF canister. Cases with the contents of the DOE SNF canister completely intact, as in Section 5.2.1.2, and with the basket plates and fill material completely degraded, as in Section 5.2.1.3, are investigated. The DOE SNF canister is positioned in the prebreach clay layer inside the WP. The remainder of the WP is filled with water. Figure 5-7 shows a cross-sectional view of the DOE SNF canister positioned near the center of the prebreach clay layer in the WP. For this case the basket plates and fill material have degraded inside the DOE SNF canister. Prebreach clay is formed from the degradation of material in the WP prior to the breach of the DOE SNF canister, while post-breach clay is degraded material formed after the DOE SNF canister breach. The fuel pin gaps and fuel voids are flooded with full density water for all cases.

The configuration shown in Figure 5-7 is not a likely case, but is conservative. The most likely case is that the intact DOE SNF canister would fall somewhere near the bottom of the WP surrounded by a mixture of goethite and diaspore which in turn is covered by water which fills the remainder of the WP. There is no probable mechanism identified for causing significant segregation/separation of the two layers.

The effect of replacing the water reflector around the WP with dry tuff is also investigated. Any changes outside the DOE SNF canister, e.g., prebreach clay in the WP, tuff reflector outside the WP, intact components in the WP, etc., are, in a general sense, variations of the boundary condition on the DOE SNF canister. As a limiting case, the MCNP code allows a perfect

reflector to be placed around the DOE SNF canister. This boundary condition specifies that all neutrons crossing the outside surface of the DOE SNF canister are reflected back into the DOE SNF canister.

Figure 5-7. Cross-Sectional View of DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Basket Plates and Fill Material in WP Filled with Prebreach Clay

5.2.1.5 Intact Fuel Assembly with Fully Degraded DOE SNF Canister and Contents of the WP

In this scenario, the materials surrounding the fuel assembly are assumed to be completely degraded. The DOE SNF canister, fill material, basket plates, the five HLW glass pour canisters, inner barrier of the WP and the web-like structure in the WP are fully degraded. Two different types of cases are treated here, one where the WP is filled with degradation products from the DOE SNF canister that have not chemically reacted with the prebreach clay, and the other where the WP is filled with post-breach clay. For the former type, the materials are assumed to form both a single, homogeneous layer and separate distinct layers each composed of different materials. For both types, varying volume fractions of water mixed with the materials are studied. The location of the assembly relative to the center of the WP is also varied. Cases are also treated where material mixed with water fills the assembly coolant passages between fuel pins. Figure 5-8 shows a cross-sectional view of the assembly surrounded by and just below the surface of the prebreach clay, and a layer of goethite mixed with diaspore covers the prebreach clay. This figure shows the fuel assembly placed near the bottom of the WP. Water fills the remainder of the WP. For this case the coolant passages inside the assembly are filled with water, which is a very conservative representation since it is anticipated that the filling process would fill part if not all of the voids inside the assembly with fill material. The fuel pin gaps and

fuel voids are filled with full density water for all cases. The water reflector around the WP is replaced with dry tuff of different thicknesses and with partially and completely saturated tuff.

Figure 5-8. Cross-Sectional View of the Intact Fuel Assembly in the Degraded WP and DOE SNF **Canister**

5.2.2 Degraded Fuel Assembly

The Shippingport LWBR SNF fuel assembly is either partially or fully degraded before the degradation of other components for all cases in this section. Again, due to the differences in corrosion rates, the cases discussed in this section are not likely, but are presented as conservative limiting cases. Here partial degradation is defined to be any level of degradation of the fuel assembly that leaves the fuel pellets intact. For example, this would include loose fuel pins due to the degradation of the assembly ducts and fuel pin clips/spacers as well as fuel pellets that have separated in the axial direction. Fully degraded fuel assumes the fuel pellets have degraded to the point that the fuel can form a homogeneous mixture with water, goethite, diaspore and/or clay. The degraded fuel is assumed to remain chemically unchanged. The codisposal WP is fully reflected by water (for most cases) and/or tuff. Number densities, volumes and other quantities of interest are calculated by the Excel spreadsheet named "fuel_mass.xls" that is listed in Attachment III.

5.2.2.1 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Pin Clips/Spacers in DOE SNF Canister

The fuel pin clips/spacers holding the pins in the assembly are assumed to have degraded. All other components in the DOE SNF canister and WP are modeled as being fully intact. The spacing between fuel pins is varied from the initial pitch of the fuel pins until the fuel pins are

touching. The fuel pins are assumed to remain in a triangular array centered in the assembly duct. A cross-sectional view of the DOE SNF canister with the fuel pins touching in the assembly is shown in Figure 5-9. Water fills the coolant passages inside the assembly duct, the fuel pin gaps and voids in the fuel for all cases. Cases with different boundary conditions on the DOE SNF canister are also investigated.

Figure 5-9. Cross-Sectional View of the Fuel Assembly with Touching Fuel Pins

5.2.2.2 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Axially Separated Fuel Pellets in DOE SNF Canister

The fuel pellets separate in the axial direction with uniform separation between pellets while remaining in the intact fuel rods. This requires that the fuel pins become fictitiously long for cases with larger separations. The fuel pins retain their original pitch and axial alignment in the assembly. Water fills voids between pellets and elsewhere inside the assembly. The voids in the fuel pellets are also filled with water. All other components in the DOE SNF canister are modeled as being fully intact.

5.2.2.3 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Assembly Duct in DOE SNF Canister

In this scenario the assembly duct and the fuel pin clips/spacers are fully degraded. The corrosion products from the degraded ducts are neglected. All other components in the DOE SNF canister are modeled as being fully intact. The loose fuel pins from the assembly are scattered in the basket assembly and are stacked in a triangular lattice. Once the fuel pins become loose there is a very large number of possible fuel pin configurations due to the different ways of permuting (arranging) the four different types of fuel pins from the assembly. Rather than attempt to investigate any significant number of these configurations, all the fuel pins of the assembly are replaced by one of the four different types of fuel pins (see Table 5-3 for a list of

the fuel rod types) to determine the most reactive type. The pitch of the lattice is varied from that of the original assembly to that for touching pins. Figure 5-10 shows a cross-sectional view of a configuration where the fuel pins are all of the same type and have the same pitch as the original assembly. Cases are presented where the fill material has degraded to diaspore mixed with varying amounts of water. In some cases the pins are surrounded by water while for others degradation products surround them. The fuel pin gaps and fuel voids are filled with water for all cases.

Figure 5-10. Cross-Sectional View of Loose Fuel Pins in the Basket Assembly

5.2.2.4 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Assembly Duct and Basket Plates in DOE SNF Canister

The assembly duct surrounding the assembly, the fuel pin clips/spacers and the basket plates are fully degraded. The corrosion products from the degraded duct are neglected. The DOE SNF canister and fuel pins are modeled as being fully intact while the other components of the DOE SNF canister are modeled as being fully degraded. The fuel pins from the assembly are scattered in the DOE SNF canister and are stacked in rows along the bottom of the DOE SNF canister. Due to the curvature of the DOE SNF canister, different parts of the array are in a triangular, square and irregular lattice. The fuel pins are interspersed in the degradation products formed from the basket plates and fill material. Cases are presented with layers of these materials mixed together and mixed with varying volume fractions of water. The most reactive type of fuel pin found in Section 5.2.2.3 replaces all fuel pins in the assembly. Figure 5-11 shows a crosssectional view of a configuration in the DOE SNF canister where the fuel pins are all of the same type and have a pitch of 1.25 cm. The pitch of the fuel pins is varied for a variety of cases. The fuel pin gaps and fuel voids are filled with water for all cases. For most cases the contents of the WP are intact while for other cases the WP contains prebreach clay.

Figure 5-11. Cross-Sectional View of Loose Fuel Pins in the DOE SNF Canister

5.2.2.5 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Fully Degraded DOE SNF Canister and WP Contents

The DOE SNF canister except for the fuel pins, fill material, basket plates, the five HLW glass pour canisters, inner barrier of the WP and the web-like structure of the WP are fully degraded. The loose fuel pins are assumed to be stacked in rows at the bottom of the WP. Due to the curvature of the WP different parts of the array are in a triangular, square and irregular lattice. Two different types of cases are treated here, one where the WP is filled with degradation products from the DOE SNF canister that have not chemically reacted with the prebreach clay, and the other where the WP is filled with post-breach clay. For the former type, the materials are assumed to either form a single, homogeneous layer or to form separate but distinct layers. For both types, varying volume fractions of water mixed with the materials are studied. The fuel pins are interspersed in these degradation products. The most reactive type of fuel pin that was found in Section 5.2.2.3 replaces all fuel pins. Figure 5-12 shows a cross-sectional view of the WP where the fuel pins are all of the same type in a configuration having a pitch of 1.25 em. The fuel pins in this configuration are bunched together which is more reactive than if the pins were spread out as shown in Figure 5-13, which also has a pitch of 1.25 em. Figure 5-13 also shows the pins surrounded by and below layers of different materials than what is shown in Figure 5-12. The configuration shown in Figure 5-13 assumes that the DOE SNF canister degrades faster than the WP components, which is not a likely case, but is analyzed for completeness. Cases are given for different values of the pitch. Cases are also presented where the pins are covered by post-breach clay with varying volume fractions of water. In these cases the water content is increased until the WP is completely filled with pins and saturated material. The fuel pin gaps and fuel pellet voids are filled with water for all cases.

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Figure 5-13. Cross-Sectional View of Loose, Spread Out Fuel Pins in the WP

5.2.2.6 Fully Degraded Fuel in Intact DOE SNF Canister

The contents of the DOE SNF canister are assumed to have settled at the bottom of the intact DOE SNF canister that is horizontally positioned. The axial loading of goethite, diaspore and degraded fuel is preserved in all cases. The thoria content of the fuel is neglected for most cases. Cases are presented where these materials form separate layers or mix together to form a smaller

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number of layers. The volume fraction of water in the mixtures is varied. By neglecting the thoria content of the fuel, the amount of remaining fuel per unit axial length in each of the four axial regions (see Figure 5-1) is different though its composition is the same. Cases are presented where the water volume fraction in each of the four axial regions is slightly adjusted so as to give the same volume of material per unit length for the entire fuel mixture. A case is also presented where the amount of fuel mixture in three of the axial regions is increased from what is actually present so as to give the same volume per unit length for the entire fuel mixture. This results in there being more fuel modeled than what is actually in an assembly. The unoccupied volumes in the DOE SNF canister are filled with water. Figure 5-14 shows a cross-sectional view of the DOE SNF canister that contains three different layers of degraded materials. The WP contents are either intact or have degraded to prebreach clay.

Figure 5-14. Cross-Sectional View of the Fully Degraded Fuel in the DOE SNF Canister

5.2.2.7 Fully Degraded Fuel, DOE SNF Canister and WP Contents

The DOE SNF canister and its contents, the five HLW glass pour canisters, the inner barrier of the WP, and the web-like structure of the WP are fully degraded and have settled on the bottom of the intact WP that is horizontally positioned. The axial loading of goethite, diaspore and degraded fuel is preserved in all cases and the thoria is neglected for most cases as in Section 5.2.2.6. Two different types of cases are treated, one where the WP is filled with degradation products that have not chemically reacted with the prebreach clay, and the other where the WP is filled with post-breach clay. For the former type, the materials are assumed to form both a single, homogeneous layer and separate layers composed of different materials. The volume fraction of water in the mixture layers is varied. As in Section 5.2.2.6, cases are presented where the amount of material is increased to give the same volume per unit length for the entire fuel

mixture. A case is also presented where the fuel mixture has been repositioned in the axial direction to give the same height of fuel along the axial direction. The unoccupied regions of the WP are filled with water. A cross-sectional view of the WP containing, degraded fuel, postbreach clay and water in three separate layers is shown in Figure 5-15.

5.2.2.8 Axial Redistribution of Fully Degraded Fuel in the DOE SNF Canister and WP

Fully degraded fuel is redistributed in the axial direction for cases where the degraded fuel is in the DOE SNF canister and in the WP. These cases are variations of cases from Sections 5.2.2.6 and 5.2.2.7 for fuel in the DOE SNF canister and WP, respectively, but the fuel does not preserve its axial loading. For these cases, the length of each of the four axial regions becomes either longer or shorter by the same amount, but the compositions of the fuel and other degraded materials remain unchanged. No mixing or redistribution between regions is considered.

Figure 5-15. Cross-Sectional View of the Fully Degraded Fuel in the WP

5.2.3 Uranium Decay Effects

Due to the long time periods considered in degraded calculations the decay of the uranium isotopes must be considered. Decay times of interest here are 50,000, 100,000 and 150,000 years. The half-lifes and decay products for the uranium isotopes found in the LWBR fuel and Th-232 are given in Table 5-14 below. These isotopes decay by alpha emission. Selected cases from the scenarios described in previous sections are modified to account for the decay effects. The results of these calculations are given in Section 6.3.
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Isotope	Half-life (years)	Decay Product	Isotope	Half-life (years)	Decay Product
Th-232	1.40E+10	Ra-228	$U - 235$	7.04E+08	Th-231
$U-232$	69.8	Th-228	$U-236$	2.34E+07	Th-232
$U - 233$	1.59E+05	Th-229	$U-238$	4.47E+09	Th-234
$U - 234$	2.46E+05	Th-230			

Table 5-14. Decay Half-Life for Selected Isotopes

Source: Ref. 12, pp. 47-49.

5.2.4 Homogeneous Model of Intact Seed Assembly

A homogeneous representation of the intact seed assembly is developed. This can be useful in determining if fuels of the same group, i.e., Th/U oxide, can be bound by these results. The seed assembly contains 16.6 kg of fissile mass and has 4 different axial zones with linear loadings of 2.82 kg/ft (the bottom 42"), 2.20 kg/ft (the next 14"), 1.91 kg/ft (the next 14") and 1.63 kg/ft (the top 14"). To account for the complications caused by the non-uniform axial and radial fuel distribution in the seed assembly, different homogeneous cases are developed with varying levels of simplification. This ranges from cases that separately represent the various axial and radial fuel regions to a case where the fuel regions are homogeneously mixed together. A case is also given where the low zone fuel and the thoria steps are redistributed so that they extend over the entire axial length, as does the high zone fuel.

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6. RESULTS

MCNP results for the intact and the degraded fuel assembly are provided in this section (Tables 6-1 through 6-22). Values of k_{eff} , the ratio of the number density of hydrogen to that of the fissile nuclides (H/X ratio) and the average energy of a neutron causing fission (AENCF) are provided. The k_{eff} value represents the average collision, absorption, and track length estimator from the MCNP calculations. The standard deviation (σ) represents the standard deviation of k_{eff} about the average combined collision, absorption, and track length estimate due to Monte Carlo calculation statistics. The H/X ratio is determined in the region containing the LWBR fuel. For the intact and the partially degraded cases, the H/X atom ratio is calculated for the fuel pin unit cell. For the fully degraded cases, the H/X atom ratio is calculated over the volume that contains the degraded fuel. Unless noted otherwise the H/X ratio listed in the tables is for the high zone fuel. The AENCF is the energy per source particle lost to fission divided by the weight per source neutron lost to fission from the "problem summary section" of the MCNP output. Also, Tables 6-1 through 6-22 contain the MCNP output file names used in the calculations. The Excel data file named "fuel mass.xls" is used for the cases in these tables. Attachment III presents a detailed description of the worksheets from this data file. The compositions of the materials that make up the mixtures listed in the tables are listed by volume percent except for the gadolinium content in the fill material (weight percent) and unless noted otherwise. For the cases that contain gadolinium in the aluminum fill material and the aluminum has degraded to diaspore, the gadolinium is assumed to remain with the diaspore and the total amount of gadolinium in any given mixture is directly proportional to the amount of diaspore in that mixture. As mentioned in Section 5.2.1, the baseline is 1 wt.% Gd in the AI-GdP04 mixture (6.31 kg of Gd).

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6.1 RESULTS WITH INTACT FUEL ASSEMBLY

6.1.1 DOE SNF Canister in Codisposal WP

Values of keff for the intact fuel assembly positioned at the center of the DOE SNF canister placed in the codisposal WP, as described in Section 5.2.1.1, are calculated. Results are presented with varying densities of the water in the DOE SNF canister and in the WP (see also Figure 5.5). The WP is reflected externally (outside of the WP) by full density water. These cases are summarized in Table 6-1. Also presented are cases where the DOE SNF canister and contents of the WP are displaced to account for gravity, and where the WP contains full density water only in the support tube around the DOE SNF canister. The fuel pin gaps are completely flooded for all cases in this section. No neutron absorber (Gd) was considered in the DOE SNF canister for these cases.

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Table 6-1. Intact Fuel Assembly Results with Varying Water Density In DOE SNF Canister and WP

NOTES: a^a Water in center support tube only of the WP (void outside the support tube).

^b DOE SNF canister and contents of the WP are displaced to account for the effect of gravity.

The results show that the intact configuration is undermoderated and the presence of water outside the DOE SNF canister has a minor effect on the k_{eff} of the system.

In the next set of cases the water in the DOE SNF canister is replaced with water saturated aluminum fill (Table 5-12) without neutron absorber. These results are given in Table 6-2. The empty spaces in the WP are treated as voids. One case uses the actual pitch, 0.936244 cm (0.3686 in.), which is slightly smaller than the modeled pitch, 0.9398 cm (0.37 in.), while another case uses gadolinium in the fill material.

It should be noted that the case with the modeled value of the fuel pin pitch rather than the actual value is slightly more conservative.

6.1.2 Water Intrusion into Fuel Void Space

MCNP results for water intrusion into the fuel pellets as described in Section 5.2.1.2 are summarized in this section. Water fills the fuel pin gap, the fuel voids and the pellet voids. The

void fractions are 3.690%, 3.314%, and 3.215% in the low zone fuel, high zone fuel and thoria, respectively. The void fraction is completely filled for all cases except for two where it is 50% and 90% filled as noted in the table. Values of k_{eff} for these cases are listed in Table 6-3. The DOE SNF canister is filled with water saturated aluminum fill material for all cases except the first one listed in the table where the DOE SNF canister is filled with water. The empty spaces in the waste package are treated as voids and the waste package is reflected by full density water. Repositioning of the glass canisters relative to the SNF canister had a a negligible effect on the results. Further, given the distance from the DOE SNF canister to the waste package surface, the conditions outside the waste package are not important at this point in the analysis.

The most reactive condition for the system is with the void space inside the pins filled with full density water.

6.1.3 Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Basket Plates and Fill Material

Results are given in Table 6-4 for the intact fuel assembly in the DOE SNF canister with degraded basket plates, as described in Section 5.2.1.3. The typical case is shown in Figure 5-6. Cases are presented with different layers of goethite, aluminum fill and diaspore and with different volume fractions of water in these materials. The complete segregation of the layers is extreme with no known mechanism, thus the corresponding configurations are unlikely. Cases are also presented where diaspore, goethite and water are mixed together. Water occupies the remaining portion of the DOE SNF canister. Water fills the voids between fuel pins inside the *assembly.* The contents of the waste package are treated. as intact, and the rest of the waste package is considered dry. The waste package is reflected by full density water.

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Figure 6-1. Cross-Sectional View of the DOE SNF Canister Showing the Layer Thicknesses

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NOTES: ^a For all cases, as shown in Figure 6-1, the surrounding layer is the lower one (with thickness a) and the covering layer is the middle one (with thickness b).

^bAssembly is rotated with flat down.

 c The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results in Table 6-4 show that the highest k_{eff} of the baseline system is obtained for the case with goethite mixed with 40% water surrounding the assembly, and all the diaspore (dry layer) covering the assembly. However, a small amount of diaspore containing Gd present in the mixture that forms the surrounding layer in this overly conservative case reduces the k_{eff} significantly.

6.1.4 Results for Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Contents in the WP

The effect of clay formation in the WP as described in Section 5.2.1.4 is calculated for all the contents of the DOE SNF canister intact and for only the assembly intact. For the contents of the DOE SNF canister intact, some of the more reactive cases in Table 6-3 are modified by putting prebreach clay (see composition in Table 5-9) in the WP. These results and results with tuff reflection of the WP (intact and degraded contents) are listed in Table 6-5. These cases with different contents in the WP or different reflectors around the WP are, in a general sense, variations in the DOE SNF canister boundary condition. The MCNP code allows a reflective boundary condition to be placed on the outside surface of the DOE SNF canister. This represents "perfect" neutron reflection and is run to demonstrate the effects of neutron leakage. These cases are overly conservative and are used for determining the importance of waste package contents on the DOE SNF canister. These results are also listed in Table 6-5.

Table 6-5. Results for Intact DOE SNF Canister with Different Canister Boundary Conditions

It can be noted that the actual contents of the WP acts more as an absorber for neutrons than a reflector. The conditions outside the WP have a negligible effect on the k_{eff} of this configuration.

Results for the intact assembly but with the other contents of the DOE SNF canister degraded are given in Table 6-6. These cases start with case "f.6+d $d+1\%$ t.o" in Table 6-4, which has the highest k_{eff} for the most likely configuration and replaces the intact contents of the WP with prebreach clay. The remaining spaces in the WP are filled with water and the WP is reflected with full density water (see Figure 5-7). A case with a reflective boundary condition on the outside surface of the DOE SNF canister is also listed.

Table 6-6. Results for Fuel Assembly in DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Contents in the WP

Again, the actual WP contents acts more as an absorber and less as a reflector, as can be seen by comparing the last case in the table with the previous cases. Also, the WP is more reactive when the DOE SNF canister is centered in the prebreach clay than at the bottom of the clay.

6.1.5 Intact Assembly with Fully Degraded DOE SNF Canister and Contents of the WP

Results are presented in Table 6-7 for the intact assembly with degraded DOE SNF canister and degraded contents of the WP as described in Section 5.2.1.5. Cases are presented in Table 6-7 with different layers of goethite, diaspore and prebreach clay and with these materials mixed together to form a single layer. Since there is no known mechanism for the complete segregation of the different materials in layers, these cases are extreme and thus the corresponding configurations are unlikely. Water fills the voids between fuel pins inside the assembly. This is a very conservative assumption (given the presence of the clay that surrounds the assembly, and since some fill material would initially be present inside the assembly), and it is investigated only for completeness. The initial gadolinium content of the AI-GdP04 mixture is 1 wt.%. Vacant spaces in the WP are filled with water, and full density water reflects the WP unless stated otherwise. Cases with a reflective boundary condition on the outside surface of the WP are also investigated.

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Table 6-7. Results for Intact Assembly (water between fuel pins) with Degraded DOE SNF Canister and Degraded Contents of the WP

As expected, due to the very conservative assumption used the k_{eff} values are very high. A more realistic set of cases that assume that a mixture of prebreach clay, goethite and/or diaspore is present in the assembly flow channels is given in Table 6-8. Water fills the gaps inside the fuel pins and the fuel is fully saturated. These results are also for 1 wt.% Gd in the Al-GdP04 mixture. For cases where the degradation products do not completely fill the WP, water fills the remaining volume. The thicknesses of the layers are calculated based on the volumes of the layers and their positions in the waste package. These cases are represented in Figure 5-8.

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Table 6-8. Results for Intact Assembly (degradation products between fuel pins) with Degraded DOE SNF Canister and Degraded Contents of the WP

NOTE: ^a The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

These results show that a likely configuration comprised of a mixture of clay and water distributed inside and outside the assembly is less reactive than a configuration with the assembly reflected by a dry layer of prebreach clay. A very small amount of neutron absorber distributed inside the assembly is very effective in reducing keff of the system. The boundary condition outside WP has a negligible effect for this class of configurations.

Similar results, but with post-breach clay (see composition in Table 5-10) surrounding the assembly and filling the flow channels between the fuel pins inside the assembly, are given in Table 6-9. These results are also for 1 wt.% Gd in the filler material. For cases where the clay does not completely fill the WP, water fills the remaining volume.

Table 6-9. Results for Intact Assembly Surrounded and Filled by Post-Breach Clay

NOTE: a The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results show that the presence of Gd distributed in very small concentrations in the postbreach clay (see Table 5-10) is very effective in reducing the k_{eff} of the system. The values of k_{eff} are very low even for the most conservative configurations.

6.2 RESULTS WITH DEGRADED FUEL ASSEMBLY

6.2.1 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Pin Clips/Spacers in DOE SNF Canister

These cases are described in Section 5.2.2.1 and are shown in Figure 5-9. Values of k_{eff} for the case of degraded fuel pin clips/spacers in the assembly are shown in Table 6-10. In all cases the

pitch, or center-to-center spacing between fuel pins, is uniform within the assembly. The pitch in Table 6-10 is expressed as a fraction of the difference between the original fuel pin pitch and the minimum pitch. This fraction is referred to in the table as the "pitch fraction" and is simply (P p_{min} /(p_{org} - p_{min}) where p is the pitch, p_{org} is the original pitch of the intact assembly, 0.9398 cm, and p_{min} is the minimum pitch which occurs when the pins are touching and is simply the pin diameter, 0.778002 cm. The fuel pins are essentially touching for the smallest value of the pitch fraction listed in the table. The aluminum shot contains no gadolinium unless otherwise noted: These cases start with case "cod1+al1+st.o" from Table 6-3. The fuel pellets are saturated with water, and the rest of the WP and DOE SNF canister are treated as being intact. The last three cases in this table investigate different boundary conditions for the DOE SNF canister. The first and second of these cases use a reflective boundary condition while the last case positions the DOE SNF canister near the center of the WP surrounded by dry prebreach clay with water filling the remainder of the WP.

NOTES: LODE SNF canister has a reflective boundary condition.

 $^{\circ}$ This case has a 0.1% gadolinium content in the aluminum shot.

 $\mathrm{^{\circ}}$ The DOE SNF canister is surrounded by dry prebreach clay.

The results demonstrate that the collapsing of the assembly reduces k_{eff} . Also, the presence of the neutron absorber around the assembly is an effective mean of reducing k_{eff} . The actual WP contents act more as an absorber and less as a reflector, as it can be seen by comparing the last three cases of the table.

6.2.2 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Axially Separated Fuel Pellets in DOE SNF Canister

Results are given in Table 6-11 for fuel pellets that have become axially separated in the fuel pins as described in Section 5.2.2.2. These cases are based on case "codl+all+st.o" from Table 6-3. The separation between fuel pellets is uniform for all fuel pins in the assembly and the pellets are assumed to be surrounded by cladding that makes the fuel pin fictitiously long. The space between the pellet is filled with water. The fuel pins maintain the original pitch of the intact assembly. The axial separation between individual fuel pellets is listed in the table. For the first

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case listed in the table this spacing is listed as zero though it is actually negligibly larger than zero (0.0004 cm). The initial gadolinium content in the AI-GdP04 mixture is also listed in the table. Cases are presented where the DOE SNF canister has a reflective boundary condition and where the DOE SNF canister is positioned near the center of the WP surrounded by dry prebreach clay.

NOTES: ^a Water at ends of fuel pins is replaced by aluminum fill mixture.

^P DOE SNF canister has a reflective boundary condition.

^c The DOE SNF canister is surrounded by dry prebreach clay.

These cases demonstrate the need for the use of AI-GdP04 fill mixture and the margin in the gadolinium content.

6.2.3 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Assembly Duct in DOE SNF Canister

Results are given in Table 6-12 for loose pins settled in the basket assembly due to the degradation of the assembly ducts and fuel pin clips/spacers as described in Section 5.2.2.3 and shown in Figure 5-10. For the first three cases in the table the assembly duct is neglected and the pins (fictitiously) maintain their position as if in an intact assembly. Water fills the void spaces inside the basket assembly while the aluminum fill mixture with varying amounts of gadolinium fills the voids outside the basket assembly. For the next seven cases the pins fill the basket while

maintaining a triangular lattice with the same pitch as the intact assembly. Since the different types of pins can be arranged in many different configurations that, practically speaking, are near infinite in number, cases are presented where all fuel pins are replaced by each of the four different types of pins. The pins are touching in the following six cases. Additional cases with pins in a triangular array with the same pitch as the original pitch and with a smaller pitch are presented. These cases all have aluminum fill mixture outside the assembly basket and the void spaces inside the basket contain water, aluminum fill mixture and/or diaspore. The pins in these cases are surrounded by these or mixtures of these materials. The pellets in the fuel pins are saturated with water for all cases in the table. The pitch fraction, defined in Section 6.2.1, is also used in this table. The gadolinium content in the Al-GdP04 mixture is also given in the table. The assembly, for the first three cases, is the same as in case "cod1+al1+st.o" from Table 6-3.

Table 6-12. Results for Loose Fuel Pins in the Basket Assembly

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NOTE: ^a See Figure 5-2 for description of fuel types.

These configurations do not require AI-GdP04 mixture inside the basket, and therefore, are bound by more extreme degraded cases.

6.2.4 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Degraded Assembly Duct and Basket Plates in DOE SNF Canister

Results are given in Table 6-13 for loose pins settled in the DOE SNF canister due to the degradation of the fuel pin clips/spacers, assembly ducts, and basket assembly as described in Section 5.2.2.4 and shown in Figure 5.11. All fuel pins from the assembly are modeled as being the most reactive type found in Section 6.2.3 (type 5 fuel pins, see Figure 5-2). The placement of pins in the DOE SNF canister is irregular with some pins being in a somewhat triangular array, some approximately in a square array and others being somewhere between a triangular and square array. Two different configurations of fuel pins are investigated in the first several cases in this table (see Figure 6-2). For the first two cases in the table, all voids in the DOE SNF canister are filled with water thus neglecting any degradation products. Additional cases that investigate different pitches and layers of degradation products are presented. Any voids in the DOE SNF canister not filled by degradation products are filled with water. The gadolinium content in the $AI-GdPO₄$ mixture is given in the table. The values of H/X listed in the table are an average of the values for square and triangular lattices. Some of the configurations investigated are very unlikely (unphysical) with respect to the positioning of the mixture layers. They were analyzed in order to evaluate the full spectrum of configurations that are postulated for this class. Mixing of the layers containing degradation products is expected, rather than separation of the layers. The contents of the WP are intact and empty spaces in the WP are treated as voids. The WP is reflected by full density water. The parameters varied in the analysis are clearly identified in the following table.

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Configuration "a" extended to the Configuration "b" configuration "b"

Table 6-13. Results for Loose Fuel Pins in the DOE SNF Canister with Intact WP

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NOTE: a The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results show that the dispersion of a relatively small amount of Gd in the mixture that surrounds the fuel pins is very effective in reducing the k_{eff} of the system. Since the expected values for the mixing fractions of diaspore (containing Gd) with goethite are much higher than the investigated values in the table, there is a large margin to prevent criticality.

Results for the contents of the WP having degraded to prebreach clay are given in Table 6-14. The DOE SNF canister degraded configuration from case p1.25a+g+w.6+d3.5 d1.o in Table 6-13 is used to determine the effects of positioning the DOE SNF canister at different heights in the clay and with differing volume fractions of water in the clay. For these cases the pitch of the fuel pins in the DOE SNF canister is 1.25 cm and the pins are surrounded by goethite mixed with 60% water and 3.5% diaspore (both by volume). Above this layer is a dry layer of the remaining diaspore with the remainder of the DOE SNF canister filled by water. The initial gadolinium content in the AI-GdP0⁴ mixture is 1 wt.% for all cases.

Table 6-14. Results for Loose Fuel Pins in the DOE SNF Canister with Degraded Contents in the WP

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A full spectrum of conditions outside the DOE SNF canister has been considered in Table 6-14, including reflective boundary conditions. It can be seen that the degraded contents of the waste package act as more of an absorber of neutrons than as a reflector. Mixing of water with prebreach clay further reduce the k_{eff} of the system.

6.2.5 Partially Degraded Fuel Assembly with Fully Degraded DOE SNF Canister and WP **Contents**

Results are given in Table 6-15 for loose pins settled in the WP due to the degradation of the fuel pin clips/spacers, assembly duct, basket assembly and DOE SNF canister as described in Section

5.2.2.5 and shown in Figure 5-13. For all configurations the pins are assumed to be in a bundled, compact configuration unless noted otherwise. The initial gadolinium content in the AI-GdP04 mixture is 1 wt.%. The waste package is filled with a mixture of prebreach clay and degradation products from the DOE SNF canister. Water fills any vacant spaces not occupied by degradation products in the WP.

Table 6-15. Results for Loose Fuel Pins in the WP (surrounded by a mixture of prebreach clay and degradation products of DOE SNF canister)

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NOTE: ^a The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results show that the most likely configurations (those where the degradation products have mixed together the most) have lower values of k_{eff} than the cases where the products have formed separate layers. The presence of a small amount of Gd among fuel pins is extremely effective in reducing k_{eff} . The boundary conditions outside the WP have a small effect on k_{eff} . For instance, replacing the water reflector with dry tuff increases $k_{\text{eff}} + 2\sigma$ by approximately 3% (from 0.8824 to 0.9115).

Results are given in Table 6-16 for loose pins settled in the WP surrounded by post-breach clay. The pins are arranged in a configuration with a pitch of 1.25 cm. The pins are in a compact configuration. The gadolinium content in the $AI-GdPO₄$ is 1 wt.%. Water fills any vacant spaces not occupied by degradation products in the WP.

Description	$keff + 2σ$	HIX Ratio	AENCF (keV)	MCNP Output File Name
Pins covered by dry clay	0.5623	19.6	140.2	psb1.25w0.o
Pins covered by clay mixed with 10% water	0.6540	33.9	114.5	psb1.25w.1.o
Pins covered by clay mixed with 20% water	0.7189	48.2	99.0	psb1.25w.2.o
WP completely filled with clay mixed with 25% water	0.7475	55.2	93.2	psb1.25w.25.o
Similar to previous case, but WP is surrounded by dry tuff	0.7722	55.2	90.5	psb1.25w.25 t.o

Table 6-16. Results for Loose Fuel Pins in the WP with Post-Breach Clay

6.2.6 Fully Degraded Fuel in Intact DOE SNF Canister

Results are given in Table 6-17 for a completely degraded fuel assembly that has settled in the DOE SNF canister as described in Section 5.2.2.6 (shown in Figure 5-14). The table lists the contents of the bottom, middle and top (if present) layers by volume percent. For cases where these percentages are slightly different for each of the four axial regions, the content values listed in the table are approximate and are simply averaged over the regions while the H/X ratios are length averaged over the four regions. The thoria content from the fuel pins is neglected for all cases unless noted otherwise. Since the thoria content of each of the four axial regions is different, the volume of the remaining fuel is different for each region. Cases are also presented where the volume of each region is modified to give the same fuel height in each region. In these cases the actual amount of fuel that is modeled is greater than what is actually contained in the fuel assembly. These cases are designated by "All fuel levels set equal to highest fuel level".

The contents of the WP are considered intact for all cases except for the last few cases in the table as noted. The initial gadolinium content in the AI-GdP04 mixture is 1 wt.%. Water fills any vacant spaces not occupied by degradation products in the DOE SNF canister.

Table 6-17. Results for Completely Degraded Fuel Assembly in the DOE SNF Canister

 \sim

 $\sim 3\%$

 $\sim 10^7$

 $\mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{A}}$

 \mathcal{L}^{\pm}

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NOTES: [Approximate values are averaged from separate axial fuel regions.

 $\frac{b}{b}$ The H/X value is length averaged.

 $^\circ$ The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results from Table 6-17 cover a large number of variations of the parameters that characterize this class of degraded configurations. It can be noted that the configurations with a

completely separate layer of diaspore (containing Gd) from the fuel (which is a very unlikely arrangement) are very reactive. The presence of a small amount of Gd in the layer containing degraded fuel brings k_{eff} to much lower values. If thoria is not neglected in the fuel composition, it has a beneficial role in further reducing the k_{eff} of the system. The position of the DOE SNF canister in the waste package has a minor effect on k_{eff} , with lower values for a bottom position, which is the most likely. The contents of the waste package outside the DOE SNF canister play a more absorbing role, further reducing the k_{eff} of the system. Finally, it can be noted that these cases bound the results obtained for intact SNF placed in the DOE SNF canister.

6.2.7 Fully Degraded Fuel, DOE SNF Canister and WP Contents

Results are given in Table 6-18 for completely degraded fuel assembly, fill material, basket assembly, DOE SNF canister and WP contents that have settled in the WP as described in Section 5.2.2.7 (shown in Figure 5-15). The table lists the contents of the various layers by volume percent. For cases where these percentages are slightly different for each of the four axial regions, the values listed in the table are for the first axial region which is the lower 42 in. (half) of the fuel as shown in Figure 5-1. The H/X ratios are length averaged over the four regions. The axial loading of goethite, diaspore and degraded fuel is preserved in all cases and the thoria is neglected for most cases. The initial gadolinium content in the AI-GdP04 mixture is 1 wt.%. The results in Table 6-18 are for prebreach clay. Water fills any vacant spaces not occupied by degradation products in the WP.

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NOTES: ^a Similar to case f+g+d.02+w.6_c_d1.o but water volume fraction is 0.6 in goethite (axial) ends ^b WP is surrounded by dry tuff.

 \degree Values are approximate and are for the first axial region.

d The HIX values have been axially averaged.

^e The Gd content in the layer with fuel in units of kg.

The results in Table 6-18 show that the very conservative assumption of completely separating the Gd containing layer from the degraded fuel layer can produce high values for kerr. Mixing of water in non-fuel layers has a minor effect on the results. Also, the placement of fuel in the bottom layer produces a more reactive configuration than other arrangements. Mixing of small amounts of diaspore containing Gd in the fuel layer drastically reduces the values of kerr. A similar effect is obtained by the addition of clay in the fuel mixture. The most likely

configurations, those containing a mixture of degradation products in the bottom layer, have the lowest values of k_{eff}.

Results for degraded fuel mixed with post-breach clay are given in Table 6-19. The axial loading of the degraded fuel is preserved in all cases and the thoria is neglected for most cases. The initial gadolinium content in the Al-GdPO₄ mixture is 1 wt.%. These configurations contain only two layers. The clay layer is considered dry based on the most conservative results from Table 6-18. Water fills any vacant spaces not occupied by degradation products in the WP.

Table 6-19. Results for Completely Degraded Components in the WP with Post-Breach Clay

NOTE: ^a Same as previous case but uses the alternate post-breach clay.

It can be seen from Table 6-19 that the values of k_{eff} are smaller than for similar cases in Table 6-18. It is seen that the larger the amount of clay mixed with the fuel the smaller the value of k_{eff} .

6.2.8 Results for Axial Redistribution of Fully Degraded Fuel in the DOE SNF Canister andWP

Results from redistributing the fuel in the axial direction are given in Table 6-20. Cases from Tables 6-17 and 6-18 (as indicated in the table) are used to illustrate this effect in the DOE SNF canister and WP, respectively. These cases are described in Section 5.2.2.8 and they were run to find the effect of the axial redistribution of the fissile material inside the waste package or SNF

canister. The length of each axial fuel region is multiplied by a length multiplication factor, L_m , which is defined to be the ratio of the lengths of the fuel region to its intact length. These length factors and the total length of all fuel regions are listed in the table. While the lengths of the fuel region change, the compositions of the fuel and other degraded materials for each region are assumed to remain unchanged. Other than one case where the fuel mixture from the lower fuel region (the lower 42 in., half of the fuel as shown in Figure 5-1) fills all the regions; no mixing or redistribution between fuel regions is assumed. The gadolinium content in the AI-GdP04 mixture is 1 wt.% for all cases.

Table 6-20. Results for Axial Redistribution of Fully Degraded Fuel in the DOE SNF Canister and WP

NOTES: " Fuel fills DOE SNF canister in the radial direction.

 \degree Fuel from lower axial region fills all regions thus modelling more fuel than is actually present.

The results show that spreading out the fuel layer reduces k_{eff} .

6.3 RESULTS FOR URANIUM DECAY EFFECTS

6.3.1 Results for Selected Cases to Demonstrate the Effect of Decay of Uranium

Results for the selected cases used to illustrate the effects of uranium decay are shown in Table 6-21. Decay times shown are 50,000, 100,000, and 150,000 years. After the longest of these times the Th-232, U-235 and U-238 content is essentially unchanged, while the most significant change is the reduction of U-233, the primary fissile component of the LWBR fuel. The time zero cases shown in the table are the selected cases from previous result sections as indicated in the table. These cases are described in Section 5.2.3.

Time, years	Gd Content		HIX	AENCF	MCNP Output File
(Table)	in Al Fill (%)	k_{eff} + 2 σ	Ratio	(keV)	Name
0 (Table 6-11)	0	0.9669	103.9	60.8	lg_4 .4.0
50,000	0	0.9138	129.1	58.5	$axdcy1$ _{-4.0}
100,000	0	0.8516	160.5	57.7	$axdcy2$ _{-4.0}
150,000	0	0.7884	199.5	57.9	$axdcy3$ _{_.} 4.o
0 (Table 6-11)	0	0.9645	90.9	66.0	lg $3.o$
150,000	0	0.7856	174.5	63.3	$axdcy3$ _{-3.0}
0 (Table 6-11)	0	0.9693	116.9	56.0	lg _.5.o
150,000	0	0.7826	224.4	54.2	$axdcy3$ 5.o
0 (Table 6-13)	1	1.0510	126.8	54.8	p1.25a+g+w.6_d1_1.o
50,000	1	0.9779	157.6	53.4	s6dcy1a.o
100,000		0.8974	195.9	53.2	s6dcy2a.o
150,000	1	0.8167	243.4	53.6	s6dcy3a.o
0 (Table 6-7)		0.9957	51.9	93.3	s3bm-.o
50,000		0.9401	64.5	90.4	s3dy1a.o
100,000		0.8811	80.2	87.6	s3dy2a.o
150,000	1	0.8191	99.7	88.0	s3dy3a.o
0 (Table 6-3)	0	0.9115	51.9	99.4	cod1+al1+st.o
50,000	0	0.8633	64.5	95.8	intdy1.o
100,000	0	0.8107	80.2	93.0	intdy2.o
150,000	0	0.7518	99.7	93.8	intdy3.o

Table 6-21. Results for Selected Cases to Show Effects of Uranium Decay

The uranium decay has a very important effect in reducing the k_{eff} of the system. This finding can be combined with the results from Section 6.3, showing that for highly degraded configurations (that require very long times) the potential for criticality is drastically reduced.

6.4 RESULTS FOR HOMOGENEOUS REPRESENTATION OF INTACT SEED **ASSEMBLY**

6.4.1 Results for Cases to Demonstrate the Homogeneous Representation of Intact Seed Assembly -

A homogeneous model of the intact seed assembly is described in Section 5.2.4. This model may be useful in determining if similar fuels (Th/U oxide) can be bound by these results. Results for the homogeneous representation of the intact assembly are shown in Table 6-22. The number densities for the homogeneous fuel regions are determined by conserving the volume fraction of the assembly shroud (if included in the homogeneous mixture), fuel pins and water inside the assembly. For these cases the fuel voids are assumed to have been saturated with water, the assembly is surrounded by aluminum fill material that does not contain gadolinium and the thoria end reflectors are also homogenized. The cross section is hexagonal except for some cases where it is cylindrical, as noted in the table. Case "cod1+al1+st.o" from Table 6-3 is used as a comparison for these results, and this result is repeated in the table. These cases are described in Section 5.2.4.

Description	k_{eff} + 2 σ	HIX. Ratio	AENCF (keV)	MCNP Output File Name
Heterogeneous case from Table 6-3	0.9115	51.9	99.4	cod1+al1+st.o
The separate axial and radial fuel regions are modeled as separate homogeneous mixtures inside the assembly shroud	0.8959	51.8	95.8	hm3d_hxa.o
Assembly (including shroud) is averaged in radial direction to form 4 axial homogeneous regions	0.9176	63.0	87.4	hm1x4_hxa.o
Assembly (including shroud) is averaged in radial and axial directions to form a single homogeneous region	0.8839	74.6	85.5	hm1x1_hxa.o
Same as previous case, but has cylindrical cross-section	0.8822	74.6	86.4	hm1x1_cya.o
Low zone and thoria steps redistributed to extend the axial length of assembly; shroud explicitly modeled; 12 vacant positions averaged into thoria	0.8371	51.8	106.3	hm2d hxa.o
Same as previous case but 12 vacant positions averaged into low fuel zone	0.8436	51.8	104.5	hm2d_hxb.o
Same as previous case but shroud replaced with AI fill material	0.8428	51.8	103.8	hm2d hxb-.o
Same as case hm2d_hxa.o but cylindrical cross-section	0.8331	51.8	108.0	hm2d_cya.o
Same as case hm2d_hxb.o but cylindrical cross-section	0.8400	51.8	103.7	hm2d cyb.o

Table 6-22. Results for Homogeneous Representation of Intact Assembly

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8. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment I: Shippingport LWBR Single-Assembly DOE SNF Basket Assembly (Sketch No.: SK-0134 REV 00)
- Attachment II: List of MCNP output files provided on electronic media (compact disk [CD]) (Attachment IV)
- Attachment III: List of worksheets in Excel spreadsheet "fuel_mass.xls" contained on the electronic media (CD) (Attachment IV)
- Attachment IV: Electronic Media (CD) containing the MCNP output files and Excel spreadsheets

Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package Document Identifier: CAL-EDC-NU-000004 REV 00 Attachment I Page I-1 of I-2

Attachment I

Shippingport LWBR Single-Assembly DOE SNF Canister and Basket Assembly

Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in ^a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

Document Identifier: CAL-EDC-NU-000004 REV 00 Attachment II Page II-1 of II-11

Attachment II

Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

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NOTE: N/A=directory

Title: Intact and Degraded Criticality Calculations for the Codisposal of Shippingport LWBR Spent Nuclear Fuel in a Waste Package

Document Identifier: CAL-EDC-NU-000004 REV 00 Attachment III Page III-1 of III-3

Attachment **III**

Table III-1. List of Worksheets in Excel Spreadsheet "fuel mass.xls" Contained on the Electronic Media (Attachment IV)

The Excel file is named "fuel mass.xls", it was last accessed on 09/08/2000, 2:50 pm and its size is 1,532,416 bytes.

The worksheets included in this file contain all calculations performed to transform the input data presented in Section 5 into data that are directly used for constructing the input files for MCNP code. Following the requirements of the MCNP code, the input data need to cover a full description of the geometry and composition of the system that is analyzed.

The worksheets are organized in a logical way, which follows the postulated degraded configurations anticipated for the codisposal WP containing Shippingport LWBR SNF and the assumptions used to construct them.

The first worksheet developed, entitled "atwt," contains a comprehensive list of atomic weights for isotopes and elements that are taken from Ref. 10 and 12. It also contains a list of the decay constants from Ref. 12. The input data have been verified individually against the references. The worksheet also uses two Excel built-in functions that can simplify the retrieval of data for further use in the other worksheets. The functions are tested randomly at the bottom of the worksheet and the examples of use are listed. The functions are labeled and clearly identified.

The next worksheet developed for this calculation is entitled "sheet2". It calculates the atomic densities for all materials presented in Section 5.1. The formulas used for calculating the atomic densities are presented in Section 5.2 and also in the annotations of the worksheet. The atomic weights for the isotopes and elements are retrieved from spreadsheet "atwt" using the above mentioned built-in functions. The formula used for calculated atomic density is clearly identified

and its range of application is not limited. The formula is labeled and has been checked individually for each use.

The first portion of worksheet "sheet!' calculates the mass and number densities of the intact fuel rods. Additional calculations determine the number of each type of fuel pin in the intact fuel assembly and the axial distribution of fuel in the assembly. Volumes for the assembly, canister, fuel pins, canister and basket assembly are detennined. The compositions of the aluminum fill material for various weight percentages of gadolinium are detennined. Since the steel and aluminum degrade to goethite and diaspore, respectively, number densities are detennined for use in cases where diaspore and goethite are produced. The intact number densities for the fuel are used in cases that are given in Tables 6-1 through 6-16. Most of the remainder of worksheet "sheet1" includes the calculations perfonned for describing the geometry and atomic densities for the mixtures resulted after partial degradation of some of the constituents. It includes calculations for variable Gd contents in the fill material and also different water content in various volumes in different layers. The last set of calculations presented in worksheet "sheet!" detennines the number densities for cases where the fuel became axially redistributed in the canister. These are variations of cases in Table 6-17, and the results are used for the cases included in Table 6-20. The main fonnulas used in the worksheet are clearly identified and presented in annotations at the bottom of the spreadsheet. Each fonnula is labeled at the beginning of the section in which it is used. All other mathematical manipulations of the input data are straightforward. The worksheet is divided in sections that address each set of MCNP cases developed. The correspondence is included explicitly for an easy identification. The fonnulas have been verified independently by perfonning a hand calculation in parallel with the Excel software.

Worksheet "sheet3" presents 'calculations for cases where the assembly and canister are intact, but other components in the canister have degraded. The results from these calculations are used for the cases presented in Tables 6-4 and 6-6. Additional calculations are for cases that treat loose fuel pins in the basket assembly and the results are used for the cases given in Table 6-12. The final set of calculations are for cases that treat loose fuel pins in the DOE SNF canister but the other contents of the canister have degraded. The results from these calculations are used in cases given in Tables 6-13 and 6-14. The calculations in these worksheets determine the volumes, number densities and thickness for the layers of various mixtures of materials that are possible for each of these scenarios. The fonnulas used are very similar to the ones used in worksheet "sheet!". The main formulas used in the worksheet are clearly identified and presented in annotations at the bottom of the spreadsheet. Each fonnula is labeled at the beginning of the section in which it is used. The formulas have been verified independently by perfonning a hand calculation in parallel with the Excel software.

The first set of calculations presented in worksheet "sheet4" are for an intact assembly in the WP with the canister, its contents and the contents of the WP fully degraded. The calculations were used in preparing the input files for the cases presented in Tables $6-7$, $6-8$ and $6-9$. The first two tables assume the WP contains prebreach clay that mixes with the degradation products from the

canister, while the last table assumes the WP contains post-breach clay. Additional calculations are for the cases where the WP contains loose fuel pins and contains either post-breach clay or a mixture of prebreach clay and degradation products from the canister and its contents. These results are for the cases presented in Tables 6-15 and 6-16. The last set of calculations is for the case where the fuel assembly, the canister, its contents and the contents of the WP are fully degraded. These cases are similar to those presented in worksheet "sheet!" except that the mixtures are in the WP rather than canister. These results are for the cases presented in Table 6- 18 and 6-19 where the WP contains prebreach clay mixed with degradation products (from the canister) and post-breach clay, respectively. The final calculations are for cases where the WP contains degraded fuel and materials and the contents become redistributed in the axial direction. These calculations are used for the input files that are mentioned in Table 6-20. Calculations in this worksheet are used to determine the volume, number densities, and thickness of the materials that make up the various layers for these different cases.

Worksheet "decay" is used to calculate the changes in number densities due to radioactive decay after the passage of large periods of time for intact fuel. The decay constants are determined in worksheet "atwt" and built in Excel functions are used to "transfer" these constants. The calculations are used to obtain the results that are presented in Table 6-21.

Worksheet "homog" is used to calculate volumes and number densities that are used for the homogeneous model of the intact fuel assembly. Volumes for the various components that make up the intact assembly are determined, then equivalent volumes are determined for the homogeneous equivalents. Number densities are also taken from worksheets "sheet!" and "sheet2," and are used in these calculations. These calculations are used to obtain the results that are presented in Table 6-22.