Welding and Repair Technology Center – Overview

Greg Frederick, EPRI
WRTC Program Manager

Dan Patten, FENOC
Program Chair
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Outline - Summary

- Welding & Repair Technology Center (WRTC)
  - WRTC Mission/Strategic Plan
  - Advisory Structure/Meetings
  - Technology Roadmaps/Key Areas
WRTC Strategic Plan

- WRTC balances fundamental research (long-term) with tactical projects (short-term)

  - WRTC focus on tactical support and short-term, utility-requested R&D.
  - emergent repair needs
  - code cases
  - repair and welding process optimization
  - information exchange

- Apply resources toward proactive resolution of major industry gaps & development of advanced solutions
- Collaborations to develop and deploy materials joining and repair fundamental solutions
- Align WRTC resources, program objectives, and projects for long term research
WRTC Strategic Plan

- WRTC Strategic Plan (Roadmaps)
  - Technology gaps were identified in the area of welding and repair
  - Six areas were highlighted for further development
  - Three roadmaps address fundamental R&D
    1. Develop new welding technology and guidance for the repair of highly irradiated material (PWR and BWR Internals)
    2. Alloy 52M Nickel-base filler metal weldability solution
    3. Develop a new SCC resistant nickel based or alternative alloy with high weldability for dissimilar metal weld applications
WRTC Strategic Plan

- Three roadmaps address tactical applications
  4. Development & Implementation of Advanced Welding Technologies
     - Residual Stress Assessment Solutions
     - Welding Impact on Inspectability
     - Production Rates
  5. Small Bore Pipe Asset Management
  6. ASME Code Issues and Support – White papers and technical bases

• Other Key WRTC Activities
  - Root Cause Analyses
  - Best Practices and Guidelines - Benchmarking
  - Information exchange
  - Training Guidelines (Overlay, Failure analyses, Temperbead welding)
WRTC Advisory Structure

- 25 of 26 US Utility Organizations (operating BWR and PWRs) participate in WRTC
- 5 International members
  - EDF - France
  - KNHP – Korea (New 2011)
  - COG - Canada
  - CEZ NPP (New 2011)
  - British Energy Generation Ltd.
RRAC – WRTC Team

- Program Manager
  - **Greg Frederick**; (704) 595-2571
    - gfrederi@epri.com
- Welding/Repair & Replacement Activities/New Plant Build
  - **Steve McCracken**, (704) 595-2627
    - smccracken@epri.com
- Welding/Repair & Replacement Activities/Best Practices
  - **Dana Couch**, (704) 595-2504
    - rcouch@epri.com
- Welding/Repair & Replacement Activities/New Plant Build
  - **Eric Willis**, (650) 855-2023
    - ewillis@epri.com
- Stress Measurement/Mechanical Technologies/Testing
  - **Artie Peterson**; (704) 595-2605
    - arpeters@epri.com
- Technical Staff Assistant
  - **Stacey Burnett**; (704) 595-2673
    - sburnett@epri.com
Welding Technology Conferences

- Established conference series for Welding and Repair Technology
  - *Welding and Repair Technology for Power Plants, 9th International Conference, Marco Island, FL (2012)*
  - *Welding and Fabrication Technology for New Power Plants and Components (June 21-24, 2011, Omni Champions Gate, Orlando)*
  - Sponsored by WRTC and Fossil Materials Repair (Program 87), Boiler Life and Availability (Program 63), HRSG Dependability (Program 88)
Workshops Planned for 2011 Conference

B31.1 Materials, Fabrication, & Examination - Doing It Right
- Discuss the bases for the B31.1 Power Piping Code rules for materials, fabrication, and inspection/examination. Special emphasis will be placed on rules that are different from other ASME Codes
- Course conductor: Philip D. Flenner, PE

Basics of Conducting a Failure Investigation
- Intended to educate the power plant engineer on the proper steps to take when conducting a failure analysis
- Course conductor: Dr. Jude Foulds, P.E., Principal, Clarus Consulting, LLC

- Discuss the basics of heat treatment and its growing significance in power construction. Emphasis on material quality and illustration of potential failures in base and weld material
- Course conductor: Gary Lewis and Joe Borror, Superheat FGH
Issue Statement

- Continued operation of light water reactors will require repairs or replacement of reactor internal components as degradation occurs (Welding will play an important role)

- Weldability of the materials is altered by the formation of helium (helium-induced cracking)

Roadmap – Weldability of Irradiated Material

Project Objectives and Scope

- Develop advanced welding technology required for reactor repairs
- Collaborate with industry experts to support reactor life extension beyond 60 years
- Development Modeling Simulation to Guide Process Development and Predictive Application on Irradiated Materials
- Validate Processes
  - Hot Lab Welding and Testing
    - Laser, hybrid, friction stir
  - Neutron Irradiated Sample Set (Standard)
Alloy 52M Nickel-Base Filler Metal Weldability Solutions

Issue...........

- INCONEL 182 (ENiCrFe-3) filler metal extensively used in DMW welds for critical reactor coolant system components
  - Over time 182 is degraded by primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC)
- High Cr filler metal (52M) has high resistant to PWSCC and required for:
  - Mitigation, Repair and Fabrication
- Weldability and crack susceptibility of 52M are complex, requiring
  - Adequate composition limits
  - Narrow weld process controls
  - Isolation of susceptible base materials
  - Adequate experience required

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ISSUE....... 

• Alloys 52 and 52M currently required for DMW repairs
  – High-chromium, nickel-based weld metals developed specifically for their superior resistance to SCC
  – Alloys are susceptible to weld cracking and have less than optimum weldability.

• A new high-chromium welding alloy is needed
  – With desired mechanical properties and corrosion resistance
  – With significantly improvement in weldability and superior resistance to weld cracking.
Development of New SCC Resistant Nickel Based or Alternative alloy

PLAN.....

- Fundamental research performed to understand cracking mechanisms and weldability problems
- Development of alloy composition
  - Model welding behavior and mechanical properties of target compositions
  - Validate modeled behavior with experimental weld wire heats
  - Perform mechanical, corrosion, and crack growth rate testing
- Assess welding and nondestructive evaluation of alloy composition
  - Assess process parameters for gas tungsten arc and gas metal arc welding
  - Large scale mockups and assessment of nondestructive evaluation
  - Assess feasibility of alternative advanced welding processes (laser welding, magnetic stir, hybrid, etc.)
Roadmap - Development & Implementation of Advanced Welding Technologies

Objectives

• Roadmap for advance welding process and application development
  • residual stress improvements
  • welding impact on inspectability
  • increase production rates
Development of Advanced Welding Processes

• Welding Process Studies
  – Controlled dilution and material interactions (residual stress)
  – Evaluate processes that do not create a molten weld pool
  – Evaluation of weld filler materials interactions

• Advantages compared to traditional welding processes
  – Creation of a wider repair welding window
  – Effectively changing the local stress/strain field to a compression
  – Reduced heat affected zone (HAZ)
Development & Implementation of Advanced Welding Technologies

Magnetic Stir Welding Process Evaluations

- Initial results with overlay configuration with Alloy 52M
  - Show reduction in weld metal grain size
  - Significantly improved NDE (UT) examination capability by reducing ultrasound attenuation
- Work in 2011 will evaluate
  - Potential for reduction in hot cracking
  - Capabilities to address groove welding application for new construction and repair (single sided applications)
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