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SUBJECT: "Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,Unit 2,Cycle 3 Startup  
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SUSQUEHANNA SES UNIT 2 CYCLE 3

STARTUP TEST SUMMARY

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Reactor Engineering Supervisor

Approved by: *T. J. Holman*  
Technical Section Supervisor

ABSTRACT

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test Summary

Susquehanna Unit 2 resumed commercial operation for Cycle 3 on June 24, 1988 following a 16 week refueling and maintenance outage. The Unit 2 Cycle 3 (hereafter referred to as S2C3) reload included:

	208	GE	8x8	initial core
*	320	ANF	9x9	once burned
	236	ANF	9x9	unirradiated fuel assemblies

The following startup tests, identified in the S2C3 Reload Licensing Submittal, are discussed in this report:

1.0	Core Loading Verification and Audit
2.0	Control Rod Functional (Insert and Withdrawal Checks)
3.0	Subcritical Shutdown Margin Demonstration
4.0	In-Sequence Critical and Shutdown Margin Determination
5.0	TIP Asymmetry

In addition to the above mentioned tests, the startup program included a POWERPLEX input deck validation, scram time testing, core flow and LPRM calibrations, thermal limits monitoring and baseline recirculation data acquisition. A summary of these activities is also included in this report.

\* (ANF - Advanced Nuclear Fuels)

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test No. 1  
Core Verification and Audit

Purpose

The purpose of this test is to visually verify that the core is loaded per the analyzed designs.

Criteria

Following the completion of core alterations associated with the refueling outage, the core must be verified to conform with the reference core design used in the various licensing analyses. The verifications to be performed include fuel bundle location, fuel bundle orientation, and proper seating of the fuel bundles within the core. The verifications will be performed by the Reactor Engineering Group utilizing an underwater television camera. The verification will be videotaped so that an independent verification may be performed. Any discrepancies discovered in the loading will be promptly corrected and the affected bundles shall be reverified prior to unit startup.

Results

The U2C3 core was analyzed to have a 1.58% $\Delta$ K/K shutdown margin with the strongest rod fully withdrawn at BOC 3. (Startup and Operations Letter Report, Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 3). This figure was significantly less than previous cycles, therefore the following precautions were taken to prevent a misloaded fuel bundle. During the offload all bundles were placed in the fuel pool in the order in which they were to be reloaded, a pool verification was performed (3/22/88) of all fuel before the reload commenced and a partial core verification was performed (4/19/88) after all irradiated bundles were placed in the core, before any new fuel was loaded.

The Cycle 3 final core verification consisted of two videotaped passes over the core. In preparation for the first pass a single bundle was determined to be misoriented; this discrepancy was corrected prior to videotaping. During the first pass, the fuel bundle serial numbers were recorded on the videotape to verify proper location. The second pass was performed to verify proper fuel assembly seating (assembly height check) and correct orientation.

The core tapes were independently verified to be correct by the Reactor Engineering Supervisor and a representative of Quality Control on 4/22/88. Therefore, the as-loaded core configuration is consistent with the core design Advanced Nuclear Fuels used in the evaluation of the S2C3 Reload Licensing Analyses. The S2C3 core map is included as Figure 1.

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										LJW461	LJW529	LJW554	LJW518	LJW519	LJW412	LJW530							
										LJW512	X21152	X21114	X21140	X21072	X21073	X21001	X21138						
									LJW505	LJW099	X21098	X22465	X21047	X22466	X21110	X22467	X21100	X22468					
									LJW385	LJW568	X22325	X21068	X22473	X21048	X22474	X21056	X22475	X21008					
									LJW542	X21057	X22479	X21055	X22480	X21046	X22327	X21037	X22328	X21082	LJW762				
									LJW492	LJW541	X21044	X21033	X21058	X22483	X21155	X22484	LJW733	X22331	X21071	LJW739	X21043		
									LJW147	LJW599	X22487	X21084	X22488	X21096	X22333	LJW348	X22334	LJW513	X22335	X21123	X22336		
									LJW451	X21060	X22341	X21015	X22491	X21025	X22492	X21083	X22342	X21085	X22343	LJW584	X22344	X21026	
									LJW413	LJW691	X22495	X21024	X22496	X21129	X22349	X21035	X21070	LJW732	X22350	X21036	X22351	X21141	LJW569
									LJW478	X21128	X21125	X22499	X21097	X22500	LJW349	X22355	LJW741	X21099	X21142	X22356	X21112	LJW338	X21109
									LJW504	X21086	X22503	X21153	X22359	LJW747	X22360	X21143	X22361	X21113	LJW755	X21111	X22362	X21151	LJW754
									LJW462	X21126	X21017	X22505	X21139	X22367	LJW493	X22368	X21069	X22369	X21045	X22370	LJW706	X22371	X21067
									LJW528	X21127	X22507	X21034	X22377	X21101	X22378	LJW705	X22379	X21059	X22380	LJW585	X22381	X21115	LJW763
									LJW450	X21081	X21156	X22509	X21027	LJW746	X21009	X22387	X21087	LJW503	X21010	X22388	X21154	X22389	X21003
									LJW384	X21018	X22511	X21095	LJW716	X21023	X22393	X21124	LJW570	X21002	LJW724	X21007	LJW717	X21137	LJW725
									LJW378	X21306	X22513	X21217	LJW761	X21293	X22395	X21190	LJW565	X21320	LJW753	X21311	LJW760	X21175	LJW752
									LJW410	X21231	X21168	X22515	X21297	LJW731	X21313	X22397	X21237	LJW527	X21314	X22398	X21166	X22399	X21321
									LJW502	X21193	X22517	X21284	X22403	X21223	X22404	LJW580	X22405	X21263	X22406	LJW702	X22407	X21209	LJW714
									LJW458	X21192	X21305	X22519	X21177	X22413	LJW538	X22414	X21247	X22415	X21273	X22416	LJW581	X22417	X21245
									LJW525	X21236	X22521	X21165	X22423	LJW730	X22424	X21181	X22425	X21207	LJW722	X21205	X22426	X21163	LJW723
									LJW552	X21194	X21191	X22523	X21219	X22524	LJW337	X22431	LJW736	X21221	X21180	X22432	X21206	LJW335	X21203
									LJW449	LJW597	X22527	X21294	X22528	X21195	X22435	X21285	X21248	LJW745	X22436	X21286	X22437	X21179	LJW566
									LJW411	X21264	X22441	X21303	X22531	X21295	X22532	X21233	X22442	X21235	X22443	LJW701	X22444	X21296	
									LJW135	LJW689	X22535	X21234	X22536	X21218	X22449	LJW336	X22450	LJW517	X22451	X21189	X22452		
									LJW537	LJW488	X21272	X21283	X21262	X22539	X21167	X22540	LJW744	X22457	X21249	LJW738	X21271		
									LJW489	X21261	X22543	X21259	X22544	X21274	X22459	X21287	X22460	X21232	LJW715				
									LJW379	LJW567	X22463	X21246	X22547	X21276	X22548	X21260	X22549	X21312					
									LJW526	LJW094	X21220	X22553	X21275	X22554	X21204	X22555	X21222	X22556					
										LJW516	X21164	X21208	X21178	X21250	X21251	X21319	X21176						
										LJW457	LJW500	LJW476	LJW510	LJW511	LJW448	LJW501							

1            3            5            7            9            11            13            15            17            19            21            23            25            27            29

FIGURE 1 SUSQUEHANNA UNIT 2 CYCLE 3 FINAL CORE LOADING PATTERN



Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test No. 2  
Control Rod Functional (Insert and Withdrawal Checks)

Purpose

The purpose of this startup test is to assure proper control rod function and demonstrate that criticality will not occur due to the withdrawal of a single rod.

Criteria

Control Rod Functionals include mobility, overtravel and subcritical checks. These may be performed as each control cell is loaded in its final configuration.

Each control rod will be cycled individually to ensure mobility. As each rod is fully withdrawn, it will be checked for overtravel by continually applying a withdrawal signal. Subcriticality will also be verified with the rod withdrawn.

Results

Due to Shutdown Margin considerations, no control rod functionals were performed on fully loaded control cells until the partial core verification was completed on 4/19/88. No control rods overtraveled and subcriticality was maintained as each rod was individually fully withdrawn and reinserted.

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test No. 3  
Subcritical Shutdown Margin Demonstration

Purpose

The purpose of this startup test is to assure at least the minimum required shutdown margin exists with the strongest worth control rod fully withdrawn.

Criteria

The minimum required shutdown margin at BOC for Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 3 is  $0.75\% \Delta K/K$  ( $0.38\% \Delta K/K$  needed to shutdown the reactor under the worst case conditions plus an R-value, which for S2C3 equals zero plus a prediction uncertainty of  $0.37\%$ ). This test will verify at least this amount by performance of a subcritical shutdown margin demonstration. The highest (strongest) worth control rod is fully withdrawn, then a diagonally adjacent rod is slowly notched out verifying subcriticality at each step until the analytically determined reactivity worth of the control rods at their respective notch position equals or slightly exceeds the required amount of SDM.

Results

The reactor remained subcritical with the highest worth control rod fully withdrawn and an additional diagonally adjacent rod pulled to a notch position with a calculated worth of  $1.283\% \Delta K/K$ . The required shutdown margin to be demonstrated was calculated to be  $1.0065\% \Delta K/K$ . This is  $.75\% \Delta K/K$  plus a correction factor for the recirculation loop temperature (125 degrees F) at the time of the test. Using data supplied by ANF it was determined that the following rods pulled to the indicated position would demonstrate a shutdown margin of  $1.283\% \Delta K/K$  with a reactor coolant temperature of 68 degrees F. Due to the reactor coolant temperature of 125 degrees F, the aforementioned correction factor was employed and the actual shutdown margin demonstrated was  $1.026\% \Delta K/K$  ( $1.283\%$  - temperature correction).

<u>ROD</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TOTAL WORTH % <math>\Delta K/K</math> (68°F)</u>	<u>TOTAL WORTH % <math>\Delta K/K</math> (125°F)</u>
38-07*	48	-	-
42-11	28	1.283	1.026

\*analytically determined strongest rod.

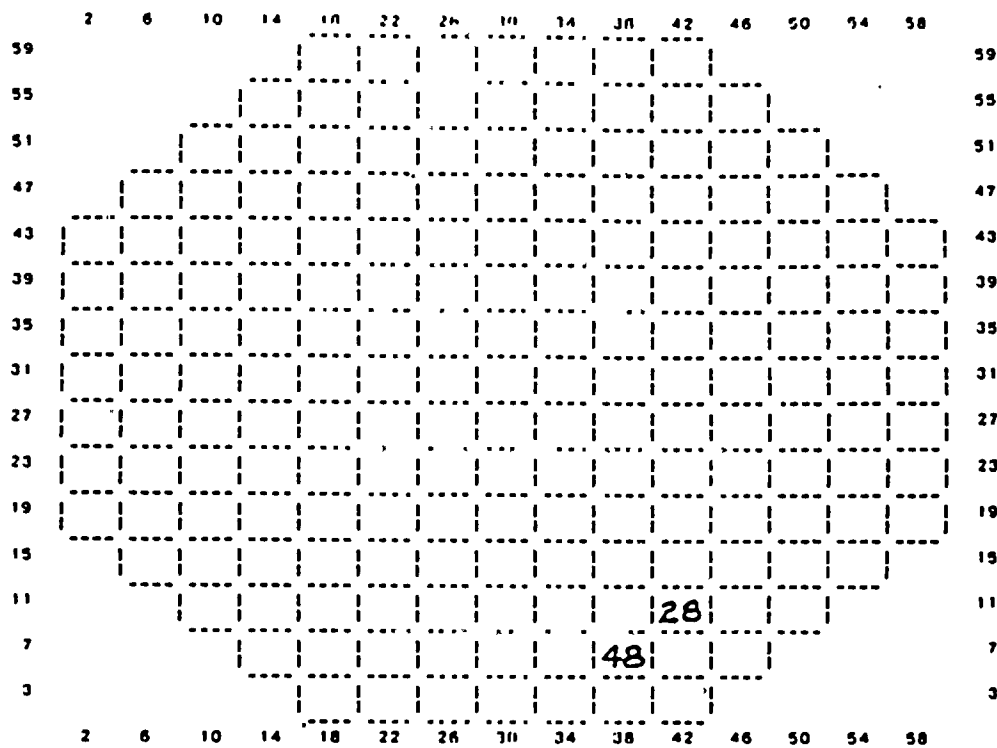
Due to the preliminary BOC SDM calculation of  $1.58\% \Delta K/K$ , precautions were taken during the performance of this test to reduce individual rod notch worths. Overtravel checks were performed on both rods and the notch-down procedure was used to minimize the effect of the high incremental notch worths of the adjacent rod.

As rods were pulled, subcriticality was verified after each notch. Subcriticality was also verified with the rods at the above indicated



positions, thus satisfying the purpose of this startup test. Figure 2 is a core map showing the test rod positions.

FIGURE 2. CORE MAP SHOWING TEST ROD POSITIONS FOR SUBCRITICAL SHUTDOWN MARGIN DEMONSTRATION



Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test No. 4  
In-Sequence Critical and SDM Determination

Purpose

The purpose of this startup test is to calculate the actual shutdown margin of the Cycle 3 core and to demonstrate that no reactivity anomaly existed.

Criteria

1) Shutdown Margin

Technical Specification 3.1.1 requires an adequate shutdown margin to ensure the reactor can be made subcritical from all operating conditions. This value,  $.38\% \Delta K/K$  has been determined to be the minimum required SDM to bring a reactor subcritical under the worst case conditions - a cold, xenon-free core at the most reactive point in the cycle with the highest worth control rod unavailable for reactivity control. At beginning of cycle, the required SDM value must be increased by a factor, R, if it is determined that core shutdown margin is less at another point in the cycle than the initial shutdown margin (for Cycle 3,  $R = 0$ ). A prediction uncertainty of  $.37\% \Delta K/K$  is also added at BOC to assure the validity of the analytical calculations. The required beginning-of-cycle SDM for Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 3 is  $0.75\% \Delta K/K$ ; the actual SDM will be calculated from data obtained during the initial startup criticality.

2) Reactivity Anomaly

Core reactivity is monitored to prevent excessive reactivity additions due to unforeseen reactivity changes or reactivity anomalies. At BOC, a  $1\% \Delta K/K$  difference between predicted and actual critical control rod positions might indicate improper core loading or a computer code that is unreliable. Data gathered during the in-sequence critical, specifically the  $K_{eff}$  at the notch position of the control rod at which criticality occurs is compared to predicted critical control rod position  $K_{eff}$  and a % reactivity difference is calculated.

Results

The calculated SDM was  $1.430\% \Delta K/K$  and the difference between actual  $K_{eff}$  and predicted  $K_{eff}$  at criticality was  $-0.148\% \Delta K/K$ .

Control rods were withdrawn in the B sequence until the reactor was on a stable, positive period. The notch position at which criticality occurred was rod 22-47, notch 14, step 36. A special log was initiated to record SRM count rates and recirculation loop temperatures. The average period was 135.3 seconds and the average loop temperature 140.2 degrees F which yield period and temperature corrections of  $0.461 E-3 \Delta K/K$  and  $3.25 E-3 \Delta K/K$  respectively.

1) Shutdown Margin

The equation used to calculate SDM

$$\text{SDM} = \frac{\text{Kcrit} - \text{Ksro}}{\text{Kcrit} * \text{Ksro}} - \Delta p (\text{period}) - \Delta p (\text{temp})$$

Kcrit is Keff at the actual critical control rod position (1.00224) and Ksro is Keff predicted with the strongest rod out (0.98447).

The minimum required SDM for Unit 2 Cycle 3 at beginning of cycle was 0.75%ΔK/K; the calculated shutdown margin based on this test was 1.43%ΔK/K, thus satisfying the acceptance criteria.

2) Reactivity Anomaly

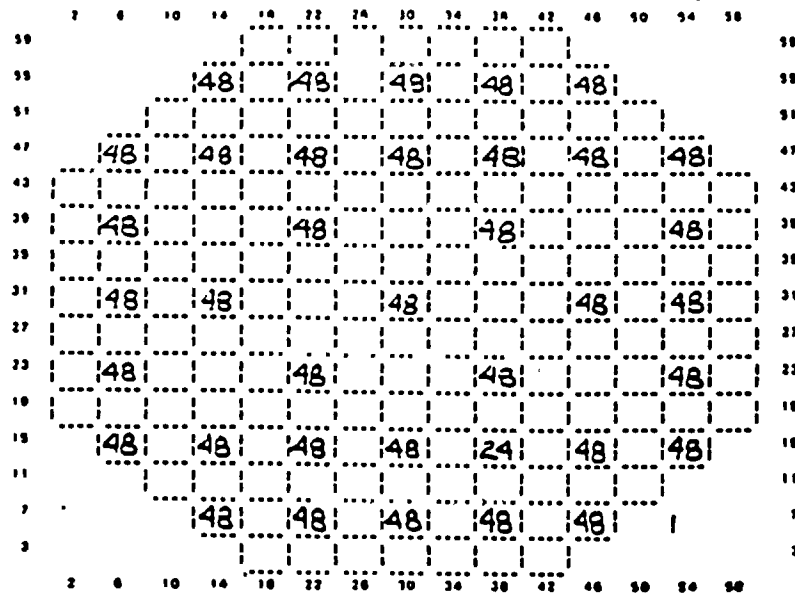
The reactor went critical at step 36 with Kcrit of 1.00224. The equation used to calculate reactivity difference was

$$\text{Reactivity difference} = \frac{\text{Kcrit} - 1}{\text{Kcrit}} - \Delta p (\text{period}) - \Delta p (\text{temp})$$

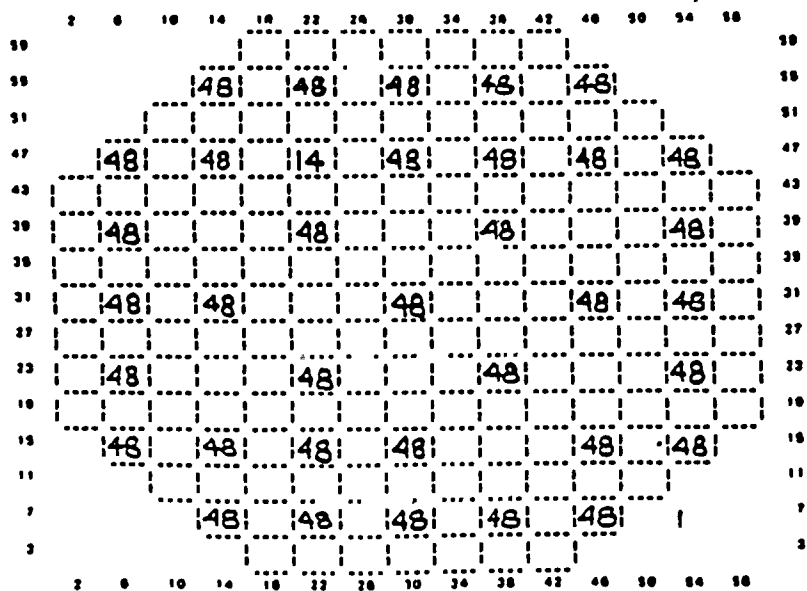
The calculated reactivity difference was -0.15%ΔK/K. This satisfies ± 1%ΔK/K acceptance criteria.

A comparison of the predicted versus actual critical control rod patterns is included as Figure 3.

FIGURE 3 COMPARISON OF PREDICTED VS ACTUAL CRITICAL ROD PATTERNS



PREDICTED CRITICAL PATTERN



ACTUAL CRITICAL PATTERN

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Test No. 5  
Tip Asymmetry

Purpose

The purpose of this test is to check core symmetry by performing a statistical uncertainty analysis on the Traversing In-Core Probe (TIP) System. Also, by the performance of this test, the proper operation of the TIP system will be assured.

Criteria

The  $X^2$  test of significance will be performed with the significance level fixed at 1%. The test will be performed utilizing an octant symmetric rod pattern at a power level greater than 75% of rated power. The startup test criteria for symmetric TIP differences is that the  $X^2$  value calculated shall be less than the critical  $X^2$  value. Since Susquehanna has 19 symmetric TIP pairs, the calculated  $X^2$  value must be less than a critical  $X^2$  value of 36.19 (as determined by ANF). If the calculated  $X^2$  value exceeds the critical value, the instrumentation and data processing system should be reviewed for any problems which may contribute to abnormal TIP asymmetries. A second determination of  $X^2$  should be then made. If the new measured value of  $X^2$  exceeds the critical value, the fuel vendor shall be consulted and appropriate action taken to assure that a larger than anticipated TIP asymmetry does not adversely affect the safe operation of the reactor.

Results

A complete set of TIP data was obtained at the completion of Susquehanna Unit 2 BOC3 Startup Testing Program at rated thermal power. The nodal TIP values (Nodes 3 through 22) were summed up for each symmetric TIP pair using equation 5.1 with the results summarized in Table 1. Using

Equations 5.2 and 5.3, the variance and  $X^2$  were calculated to be 4.94 and 2.61 respectively. The  $X^2$  value of 2.61 is well within the 36.19 limit established by ANF.

Table 1  
Absolute Relative Difference

<u>Symmetric TIP Pair</u>	<u>Absolute Relative Difference</u> <u>cm</u>
1	0.95
2	1.93
3	1.19
4	0.31
5	5.88
6	0.64
7	0.66
8	3.61
9	0.06
10	1.83
11	1.21
12	6.12
13	0.86
14	2.99
15	4.01
16	1.61
17	6.60
18	2.63
19	3.47

Equation 5.1

$$dm = \frac{100 (Tm1 - Tm2)}{\frac{(TM1 + TM2)}{2}}$$

Note:  $Tm1 = \sum_{K=3}^{22} T(k)$  for  $TIP_1$  and  $Tm2 = \sum_{K=3}^{22} T(k)$  for  $TIP_2$

where  $TIP_1$  and  $TIP_2$  are symmetric TIP pairs

Equation 5.2 (Variance)

$$S^2_{TIP_{ij}} = \frac{\sum_{M=1}^{19} dm^2}{38} = 4.94$$

Equation 5.3

$$X^2 = \frac{19 S^2_{TIP_{ij}}}{36} = 2.61$$

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Program Summary

Rod Scram Time Testing

Purpose

To demonstrate the maximum scram insertion times of all rods following core alterations.

Criteria

Susquehanna Technical Specification 4.1.3.2 states that scram insertion times of all control rods shall be demonstrated through measurement with reactor coolant pressure greater than 950 psig prior to exceeding 40% thermal power after core alterations. For Unit 2 Cycle 3, one-half of all control rods scram times were to be determined by performing a black-and-white scram from the B sequence and using GETARS scram data. The remaining rods were to be individually scram time tested.

Results

All control rod scram insertion times were determined to be within Technical Specification limits. The results are included as Table 2.



	ROD	ROD POSITION	TIME AS FOUND	T.S. LIMIT
MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL ROD SCRAM INSERTION TIME T.S. 3.1.3.2	46-31	05	3.73	7.00
AVERAGE SCRAM INSERTION TIME OF OPERABLE RODS T.S.3.1.3.3		45 39 25 05	0.31 0.62 1.36 2.44	0.43 0.86 1.93 3.49
AVERAGE SCRAM INSERTION TIME OF SLOWEST 2x2 ARRAY T.S. 3.1.3.4		45 39 25 05	0.33 0.67 1.41 2.53	0.45 0.92 2.05 3.70

TABLE 2: Results of Scram Time Testing of All Control Rods S2C3.

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Program Summary

POWERPLEX INPUT DECK VALIDATION

Purpose

To ensure the POWERPLEX input deck is updated correctly before the start of every new fuel cycle.

Criteria

POWERPLEX is the ANF software system designed to perform in-core monitoring of BWR cores. Core monitoring is performed by the module using XTGBWR, a three-dimensional reactor simulator code which calculates bundle nodal powers. The POWERPLEX input deck consists of all constants needed for the execution of this code and subsequent calculation of the margin to thermal limits. These constants must be updated prior to the start of every new fuel cycle in order to ensure satisfactory core monitoring of the new core configuration. The deck is updated by an ANF core management engineer and validated jointly by members of the Reactor Engineering Group at Susquehanna and the Nuclear Fuels Group in Allentown.

Results

The POWERPLEX input deck was verified to be correct and successfully loaded into the POWERPLEX system prior to S2C3 startup.

Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 3  
Startup Program Summary

The following is a short summary of additional Reactor Engineering activities performed during the Startup Testing Program.

Thermal Limit Monitoring

Thermal Limits were checked throughout the startup period through review of the POWERPLEX core monitoring program, MONITOR, output. At no time did thermal limits exceed Technical Specification limits.

TIP System - OD-1 Performance/LPRM CALIBRATIONS

A full set of TIPS was run at 30% power to update the core power distribution before the first core performance calculation was initiated. Subsequent TIP sets were performed at 57% and 100% power in conjunction with two LPRM calibrations. The LPRM currents were updated and the LPRM GAFS found to be within the acceptable range.

Core Flow Calibration

A core flow calibration was performed at 99% core flow. Jet pump and recirculation loop flow instrumentation was adjusted to ensure correct core flow indication and correct calculation of the flow biased rod block and scram setpoints by the APRM flow units.

Recirculation Loop Baseline Data Acquisition

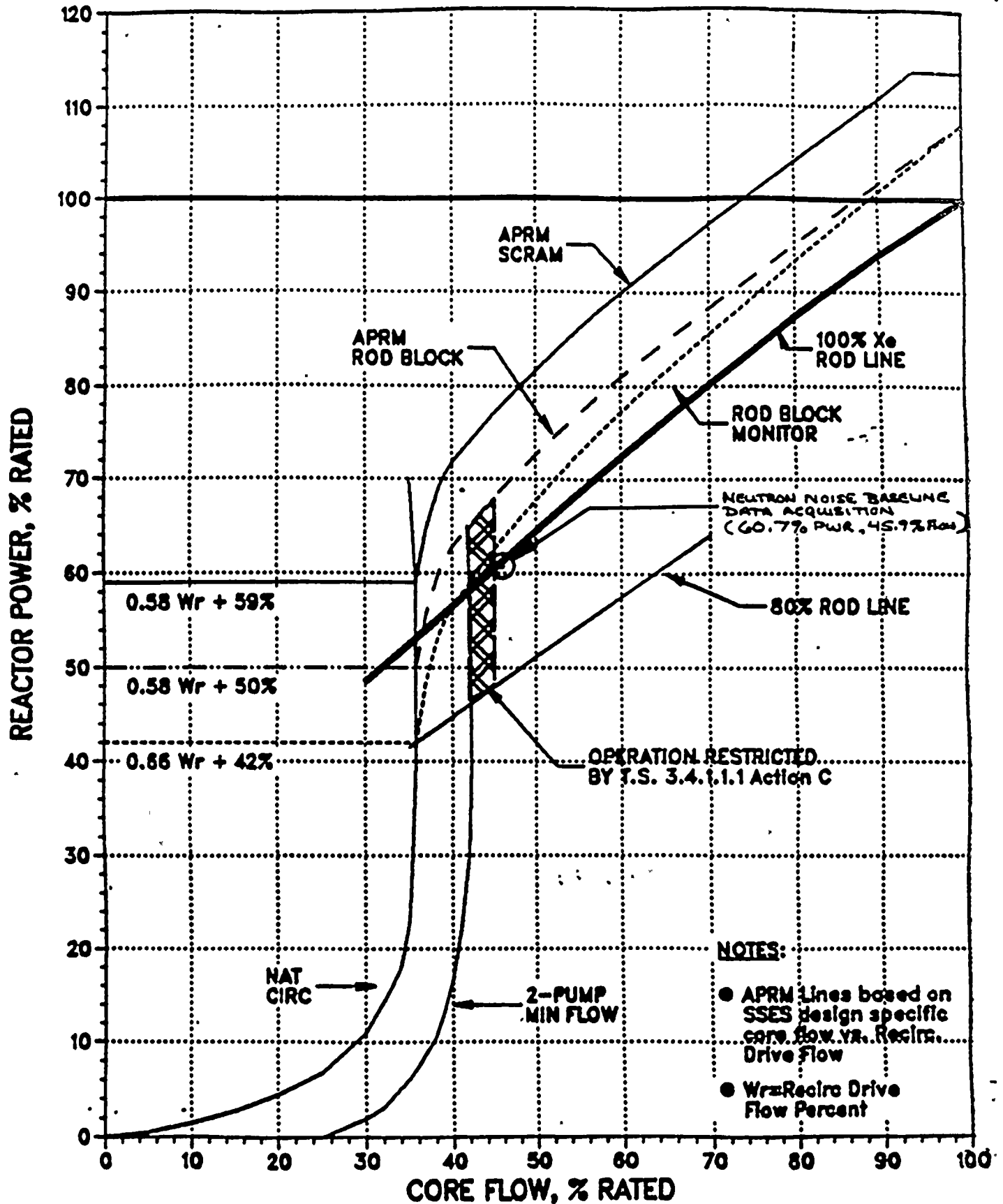
Recirculation loop data was collected throughout the startup program to provide baseline data for plant performance monitoring in two loop and single loop operation. This data is used throughout the cycle during the performance of the technical section Jet Pump Operability Surveillance.

Neutron Noise Baseline Data Recording

APRM and LPRM baseline neutron flux noise data was collected per Technical Specification 4.4.1.1.4, with the reactor operating at 60.7% power and 45.9% core flow. Figure 4 graphically depicts the operating conditions. The data was analyzed and incorporated into the Neutron Flux Noise Level Recording surveillance. The data was sent to ANF and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. ANF is to analyze the data and provide PP&L with an assessment of decay ratio and stability. Results obtained by PP&L indicate the S2C3 core to be stable.

FIGURE 4

# TWO LOOP OPERATION CORE POWER VS CORE FLOW





**Pennsylvania Power & Light Company**

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SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
UNIT 2 STARTUP REPORT  
PLA-3093 FILE R41-2A

Docket No. 50-387

Dear Mr. Russell:

Attached is a copy of the Susquehanna SES Unit 2 Startup Report for the Unit 2 Cycle 3 startup. This report is submitted in accordance with Technical Specifications Section 6.9.1.1 through 6.9.1.3. The report addresses those startup tests described in our application for reload dated December 23, 1987 (PLA-2953).

Very truly yours,

H. W. Keiser

Attachment

cc: NRC Document Control Desk (w/original)  
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