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 AUTH.NAME                    AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 FORGIE, J.B.                Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 EMMETT, J.H.                Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 BYRAM, R.G.                 Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
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SUBJECT: "Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Unit 2 Cycle 9 Startup Test Summary."

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**Pennsylvania Power & Light Company**

Two North Ninth Street • Allentown, PA 18101-1179 • 610/774-5151

Robert G. Byram  
Senior Vice President  
Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer  
610/774-7502  
Fax: 610/774-5019

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**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
UNIT 2 CYCLE 9 STARTUP TEST SUMMARY  
PLA-4655 FILE R41-2**

**Docket Nos. 50-387  
and 50-388**

The purpose of this letter is to submit the enclosed Startup Test Summary for Susquehanna SES Unit 2, Cycle 9. This report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 6.9.1.1.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. J. M. Kenny at (610) 774-7535.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Byram

Enclosure

IE 26/1

copy: Regional Administrator, NRC Region I  
Mr. K. M. Jenison, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector - SSES  
Mr. C. Poslusny, Jr., NRC Sr. Project Manager - OWFN

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# SUSQUEHANNA SES UNIT 2 CYCLE 9

## STARTUP TEST SUMMARY

Prepared by: J. Brian Forgie

Approved by: John H. Emmett

Approved by: Ken V. Chambers  
Manager Nuclear Operations

# ABSTRACT

## Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 9 Startup Test Summary

Susquehanna Unit 2 resumed commercial operation for Cycle 9 on May 10, 1997 following a refueling and maintenance outage. The Unit 2 Cycle 9 (hereafter referred to as S2C9) reload included:

|     |     |         |                                 |
|-----|-----|---------|---------------------------------|
| 4   | GE  | 10 x 10 | once burned Lead Use Assemblies |
| 244 | SPC | 9 x 9   | twice burned                    |
| 204 | SPC | 9 x 9   | once burned                     |
| 312 | SPC | 10 x 10 | unirradiated fuel assemblies*   |

\* First reload of SPC ATRIUM™-10 fuel at Susquehanna Unit 2

The following startup tests are discussed in this report:

1. Core Loading Verification
2. POWERPLEX®-II Input Deck Validation
3. Control Rod Testing (Insert and Withdrawal Checks)
4. Subcritical Shutdown Margin Demonstration
5. Local Criticality Test
6. In-Sequence Critical and Shutdown Margin Demonstration
7. Control Rod Scram Time Testing
8. TIP Asymmetry

In addition, the startup program included core flow and LPRM calibrations, thermal limits monitoring and baseline recirculation data acquisition. A summary of these activities, as well as impacts due to new fuel/mixed core design (ATRIUM™-10 and 9 x 9-2), are also included in this report.

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 1  
Core Loading Verification**

**Purpose:**

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

**Criteria:**

Upon completion of core alterations (i.e. partial offload and core shuffle), during 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.

**Results:**

Susquehanna took the following precautions to prevent a misloaded fuel bundle. During the partial core offload (to allow maintenance and subsequent core shuffle), bundles to be used next cycle were placed in the pool in the order in which they were to be reloaded. This facilitated an orderly stripping of bundles during the core shuffle. After the partial offload was complete, a serial number verification of these bundles was performed prior to commencing the core shuffle.

The Cycle 9 final core verification consisted of two videotaped passes over the core. 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 a member of the Reactor Engineering Group and a representative of Quality Control on 4/17/97. Therefore, the as-loaded core configuration is consistent with the core design Siemens Power Corporation and PP&L used in the evaluation of the S2C9 Reload Licensing Analyses. The S2C9 core map is included as Figure 1.

SSES UNIT-2/CYCLE-9 FULL CORE LOADING PATTERN

APPROVED BY/DATE: *John R. Soder* 12/5/96  
 RECEIVED BY/DATE  
 (SUPV REACT ENGRG) *John T. Linnell* Jan 7, 96

PREPARED BY/DATE: *D. F. Judge* 11/25/96

REVIEWED BY/DATE: *J. Chittenden* 12/4/96

CASE: 41 DATE STORED: 11/25/96 TITLE: SSES UNIT 2 CYCLE 9 FULL CORE LOADING PATTERN

| GE-V/GE-X: | 1      | 3      | 5      | 7      | 9      | 11     | 13     | 15     | 17     | 19     | 21     | 23     | 25     | 27     | 29     |        |        |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 60         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | S26429 | S26273 | S26433 | S26265 | S26437 | S26285 | S26425 |
| 58         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | S26353 | S27677 | S28998 | S27517 | S28994 | S27641 | S28990 | S27681 |        |
| 56         |        |        |        |        |        | S26269 | S26461 | S27569 | S28986 | S26309 | S28982 | S26409 | S28978 | S27577 | S28974 |        |        |
| 54         |        |        |        |        |        | S26337 | S27557 | S28970 | S27613 | S28966 | S27685 | S28962 | S27593 | S28958 | S26301 |        |        |
| 52         |        |        |        |        | S26281 | S27689 | S28954 | S27685 | S28950 | S27573 | S28946 | S27485 | S28942 | S27585 | S28938 |        |        |
| 50         |        | S26257 | S26249 | S27649 | S28934 | S26345 | S28930 | S26317 | S28926 | S26445 | S28922 | S26381 | S28918 | S26361 |        |        |        |
| 48         |        | S26421 | S27653 | S28914 | S26277 | VJGEL1 | S26457 | S28910 | S27489 | S28906 | S27657 | S28902 | S26377 | S28898 |        |        |        |
| 46         | S26241 | S27681 | S28894 | S27541 | S28890 | S26465 | S27525 | S26253 | S28886 | S26325 | S28882 | S27673 | S28878 | S27625 |        |        |        |
| 44         | S26441 | S27493 | S28874 | S27609 | S28870 | S26389 | S28866 | S26397 | S28862 | S27581 | S28858 | S27645 | S28854 | S26369 | S28850 |        |        |
| 42         | S26261 | S28846 | S26305 | S28842 | S27497 | S28838 | S27509 | S28834 | S27505 | S28830 | S26401 | S28826 | S27553 | S28822 | S26469 |        |        |
| 40         | S26449 | S27669 | S28818 | S27513 | S28814 | S26481 | S28810 | S26341 | S28806 | S26293 | S28802 | S27501 | S28798 | S27549 | S28794 |        |        |
| 38         | S26297 | S28790 | S26453 | S28786 | S27597 | S28782 | S27605 | S28778 | S27617 | S28774 | S27589 | S26385 | S26405 | S28770 | S26289 |        |        |
| 36         | S26473 | S27529 | S28766 | S27545 | S28762 | S26393 | S28758 | S27621 | S28754 | S27521 | S28750 | S26477 | S28746 | S27561 | S28742 |        |        |
| 34         | S26357 | S28738 | S27637 | S28734 | S27537 | S28730 | S26245 | S28726 | S26349 | S28722 | S27533 | S28718 | S27601 | S28714 | S26365 |        |        |
| 32         | S26417 | S27585 | S28710 | S26329 | S28706 | S26373 | S28702 | S27629 | S28698 | S26413 | S28694 | S26313 | S28690 | S26321 | S26333 |        |        |
| 30         | S26420 | S27588 | S28713 | S26332 | S28709 | S26376 | S28705 | S27632 | S28701 | S28416 | S28697 | S26316 | S28693 | S26324 | S26336 |        |        |
| 28         | S26360 | S28741 | S27640 | S28737 | S27540 | S28733 | S26248 | S28729 | S26352 | S28725 | S27536 | S28721 | S27604 | S28717 | S26368 |        |        |
| 26         | S26476 | S27532 | S28769 | S27548 | S28765 | S26396 | S28761 | S27624 | S28757 | S27524 | S28753 | S26480 | S28749 | S27564 | S28745 |        |        |
| 24         | S26300 | S28793 | S26456 | S28789 | S27600 | S28785 | S27608 | S28781 | S27620 | S28777 | S27592 | S26388 | S26408 | S28773 | S26292 |        |        |
| 22         | S26452 | S27672 | S28821 | S27516 | S28817 | S26484 | S28813 | S26344 | S28809 | S26296 | S28805 | S27504 | S28801 | S27552 | S28797 |        |        |
| 20         | S26264 | S28849 | S26308 | S28845 | S27500 | S28841 | S27512 | S28837 | S27508 | S28833 | S26404 | S28829 | S27556 | S28825 | S26472 |        |        |
| 18         | S26444 | S27496 | S28877 | S27612 | S28873 | S26392 | S28869 | S26400 | S28865 | S27584 | S28861 | S27648 | S28857 | S26372 | S28853 |        |        |
| 16         | S26244 | S27684 | S28897 | S27544 | S28893 | S26468 | S27528 | S26256 | S28889 | S26328 | S28885 | S27676 | S28881 | S27628 |        |        |        |
| 14         |        | S26424 | S27656 | S28917 | S26280 | VJGEL4 | S26460 | S28913 | S27492 | S28909 | S27660 | S28905 | S26380 | S28901 |        |        |        |
| 12         |        | S26260 | S26252 | S27652 | S28937 | S26348 | S28933 | S26320 | S28929 | S26448 | S28925 | S26384 | S28921 | S26364 |        |        |        |
| 10         |        |        |        | S26284 | S27636 | S28957 | S27688 | S28953 | S27576 | S28949 | S27488 | S28945 | S27588 | S28941 |        |        |        |
| 8          |        |        |        |        | S26340 | S27560 | S28973 | S27616 | S28969 | S27668 | S28965 | S27596 | S28961 | S26304 |        |        |        |
| 6          |        |        |        |        | S26272 | S26464 | S27572 | S28989 | S26312 | S28985 | S26412 | S28981 | S27580 | S28977 |        |        |        |
| 4          |        |        |        |        |        |        | S26356 | S27680 | S28002 | S27520 | S28997 | S27644 | S28993 | S27664 |        |        |        |
| 2          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | S26432 | S26276 | S26436 | S26268 | S26440 | S26288 | S26428 |        |        |        |

FIGURE 1

SSES UNIT-2/CYCLE-9 FULL CORE LOADING PATTERN

PREPARED BY/DATE: DA Nudge 11/25/96 REVIEWED BY/DATE: R Chh... 12/9/96

APPROVED BY/DATE: John B. Egan 12/5/96  
 RECEIVED BY/DATE: John A. Emmett Jan 7, 96  
 (SUPV REACT ENGRG):

| CASE: 41   | DATE STORED: 11/25/96 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | TITLE: SSES UNIT 2 CYCLE 9 FULL CORE LOADING PATTERN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| GE-Y/GE-X: | 31                    | 33     | 35     | 37     | 39     | 41     | 43     | 45     | 47     | 49     | 51     | 53     | 55     | 57     | 59     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 60         | S26428                | S26286 | S26438 | S26266 | S26434 | S26274 | S26430 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 58         | S27662                | S28991 | S27642 | S28995 | S27518 | S28999 | S27678 | S26354 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 56         | S28975                | S27578 | S28979 | S26410 | S28983 | S26310 | S28987 | S27570 | S26462 | S26270 |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 54         | S26302                | S28959 | S27594 | S28963 | S27666 | S28967 | S27614 | S28971 | S27558 | S26338 |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 52         | S28939                | S27566 | S28943 | S27486 | S28947 | S27574 | S28951 | S27686 | S28955 | S27634 | S26282 |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 50         | S26362                | S28919 | S26382 | S28923 | S26446 | S28927 | S26318 | S28931 | S26346 | S28935 | S27650 | S26250 | S26258 |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 48         | S28899                | S26378 | S28903 | S27658 | S28907 | S27490 | S28911 | S26458 | YJGEL2 | S26278 | S28915 | S27654 | S26422 |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 46         | S27626                | S28879 | S27674 | S28883 | S26326 | S28887 | S26254 | S27526 | S26466 | S28891 | S27542 | S28895 | S27682 | S26242 |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 44         | S28851                | S26370 | S28855 | S27646 | S28859 | S27582 | S28863 | S26398 | S28867 | S26390 | S28871 | S27610 | S28875 | S27494 | S26442 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 42         | S26470                | S28823 | S27554 | S28827 | S26402 | S28831 | S27506 | S28835 | S27510 | S28839 | S27498 | S28843 | S26306 | S28847 | S26262 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 40         | S28795                | S27550 | S28799 | S27502 | S28803 | S26294 | S28807 | S26342 | S28811 | S26482 | S28815 | S27514 | S28819 | S27670 | S26450 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 38         | S26290                | S28771 | S26406 | S26386 | S27590 | S28775 | S27618 | S28779 | S27806 | S28783 | S27598 | S28787 | S26454 | S28791 | S26298 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 36         | S28743                | S27562 | S28747 | S26478 | S28751 | S27522 | S28755 | S27622 | S28759 | S26394 | S28763 | S27546 | S28767 | S27530 | S26474 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 34         | S26366                | S28715 | S27602 | S28719 | S27534 | S28723 | S26350 | S28727 | S26246 | S28731 | S27538 | S28735 | S27638 | S28739 | S26358 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 32         | S26334                | S26322 | S28691 | S26314 | S28695 | S26414 | S28699 | S27630 | S28703 | S26374 | S28707 | S26330 | S28711 | S27586 | S26418 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 30         | S26335                | S26323 | S28692 | S26315 | S28696 | S26415 | S28700 | S27631 | S28704 | S26375 | S28708 | S26331 | S28712 | S27587 | S26419 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 28         | S26367                | S28716 | S27603 | S28720 | S27535 | S28724 | S26351 | S28728 | S26247 | S28732 | S27539 | S28736 | S27639 | S28740 | S26359 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26         | S28744                | S27563 | S28748 | S26479 | S28752 | S27523 | S28756 | S27623 | S28760 | S26395 | S28764 | S27547 | S28768 | S27531 | S26475 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24         | S26291                | S28772 | S26407 | S26387 | S27591 | S28776 | S27619 | S28780 | S27607 | S28784 | S27599 | S28788 | S26455 | S28792 | S26299 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22         | S28796                | S27551 | S28800 | S27503 | S28804 | S26295 | S28808 | S26343 | S28812 | S26483 | S28816 | S27515 | S28820 | S27671 | S26451 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20         | S26471                | S28824 | S27555 | S28828 | S26403 | S28832 | S27507 | S28836 | S27511 | S28840 | S27499 | S28844 | S26307 | S28848 | S26263 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18         | S28852                | S26371 | S28856 | S27647 | S28860 | S27583 | S28864 | S26399 | S28868 | S26391 | S28872 | S27611 | S28876 | S27495 | S26443 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16         | S27627                | S28880 | S27675 | S28884 | S26327 | S28888 | S26255 | S27527 | S26467 | S28892 | S27543 | S28896 | S27683 | S26243 |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14         | S28900                | S26379 | S28904 | S27659 | S28908 | S27491 | S28912 | S26459 | YJGEL3 | S26279 | S28916 | S27655 | S26423 |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12         | S26383                | S28920 | S26383 | S28924 | S26447 | S28928 | S26319 | S28932 | S26347 | S28936 | S27651 | S26251 | S26259 |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10         | S28940                | S27567 | S28944 | S27487 | S28948 | S27575 | S28952 | S27687 | S28956 | S27635 | S26283 |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8          | S26303                | S28960 | S27595 | S28964 | S27667 | S28968 | S27615 | S28972 | S27559 | S26339 |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6          | S28976                | S27579 | S28980 | S26411 | S28984 | S26311 | S28988 | S27571 | S26463 | S26271 |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4          | S27663                | S28992 | S27643 | S28996 | S27519 | S28001 | S27679 | S26355 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2          | S26427                | S26287 | S26439 | S26267 | S26435 | S26275 | S26431 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(continued)  
 FIGURE 1

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 2  
POWERPLEX®-II Input Deck Validation**

**Purpose:**

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

**Criteria:**

POWERPLEX®-II is the Siemens Power Corporation software system designed to perform in-core monitoring of BWR cores. Core monitoring is performed by the module, MICROBURN-B, a three-dimensional reactor simulation code which calculates bundle nodal powers. The POWERPLEX®-II 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 generated by Nuclear Fuels Engineering and validated/verified by members of the Reactor Engineering Group at Susquehanna.

**Results:**

The POWERPLEX®-II input deck was completely reviewed, all comments resolved, verified to be correct and successfully loaded into the POWERPLEX®-II system prior to S2C9 startup.





**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 3  
Control Rod Testing (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 Testing includes mobility (friction and stroke time testing) and subcritical checks. Each control rod will be cycled individually to ensure mobility. As each rod is fully withdrawn, it also will be checked for overtravel by continually applying a withdrawal signal. Subcriticality will be verified with the rod withdrawn.

**Results:**

Control Rod Testing commenced after the core was fully loaded and verified. Subcriticality was maintained as each rod was individually fully withdrawn and reinserted. Stroke time and friction testing were successfully completed on all 185 rods. However, during testing two control rods overtraveled. Both rods recoupled successfully per Technical Specification requirements.

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 4  
Subcritical Shutdown Margin Demonstration**

**Purpose:**

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

**Criteria:**

The minimum required shutdown margin at beginning-of-cycle (BOC) for Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 9 is 0.38%  $\Delta$  K/K. 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. Next, 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 1.062%  $\Delta$  K/K. The required shutdown margin to be demonstrated was calculated to be 0.538%  $\Delta$  K/K. This is 0.38%  $\Delta$  K/K plus a correction factor for the recirculation loop (moderator) temperature (105°F) at the time of the test. Using data supplied by Nuclear Fuels Engineering it was determined that the following rods pulled to the indicated position would demonstrate a shutdown margin of at least 0.852%  $\Delta$  K/K.

| Rod    | Position | Total Worth % $\Delta$ K/K |
|--------|----------|----------------------------|
| 06-27* | 48       | --                         |
| 10-23  | 16       | 1.062                      |

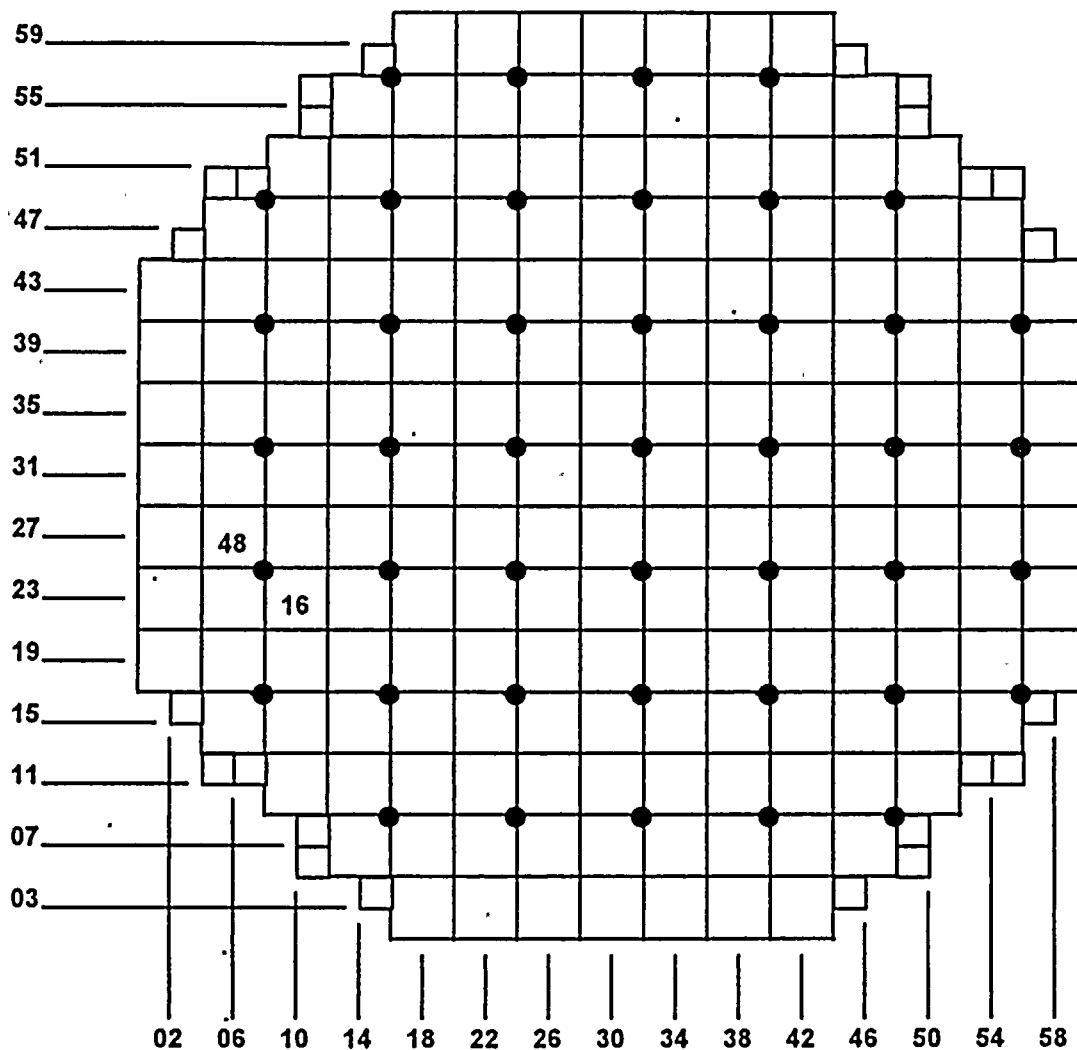
\* analytically determined strongest rod.

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



BLANKS INDICATE RODS AT 00

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 5  
Local Criticality Test**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the local criticality test is to obtain measured data against which the calculation of shutdown margin can be benchmarked for a new fuel design (i.e., for S2C9-SPC Atrium<sup>TM</sup>-10 10 x 10 fuel assembly).

**Criteria:**

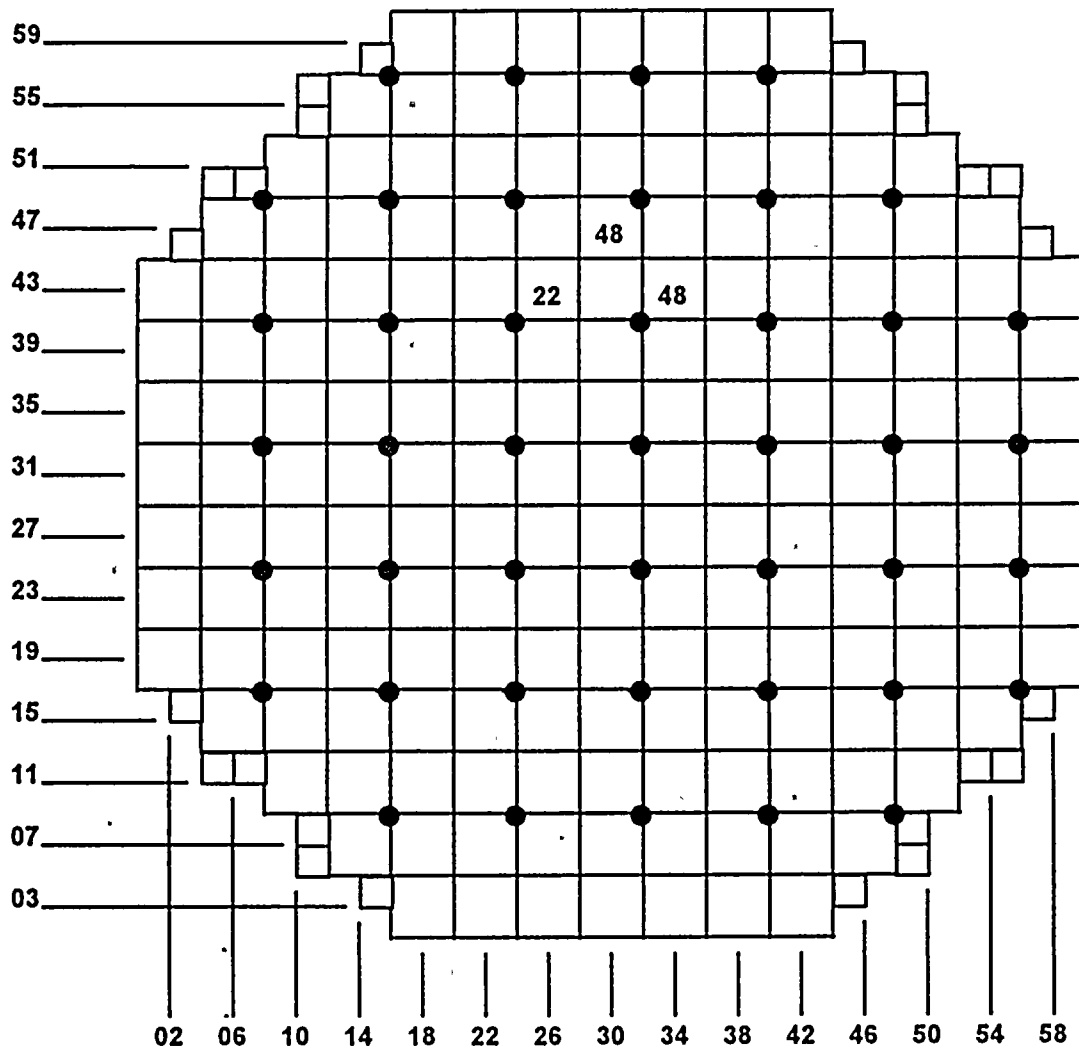
The local criticality test involves the withdrawal of up to three diagonally adjacent control rods to reach criticality in Condition 2. When criticality is achieved, the following data is recorded: test rod positions, reactor coolant temperature and reactor period. If criticality is not achieved within three rods, no data is required (i.e., indicates codes/methods are very conservative relative to shutdown margin calculations). Single notch restraint and a control rod notch-down method are utilized to minimize notch worths during the approach to criticality.

**Results:**

On May 8, 1997 the local criticality test was successfully performed on Unit 2. Figure 3 is the core map showing the test rod positions. The reactor coolant temperature and reactor period at criticality were ~131°F and 400 seconds, respectively. The subsequent evaluation performed by Nuclear Fuels Engineering indicated the reactivity difference (between predicted and actual) was conservative by 0.345%  $\Delta$  K/K. This is less than the prediction uncertainty ( $\pm 0.42\%$   $\Delta$  K/K) and reactivity anomaly of  $\pm 1.0\%$   $\Delta$  K/K.

FIGURE 3

CORE MAP SHOWING TEST ROD POSITIONS  
FOR  
LOCAL CRITICALITY TEST



BLANKS INDICATE RODS AT 00

1

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 6  
In-Sequence Critical and SDM Determination**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this startup test is to calculate the actual shutdown margin of the Cycle 9 core and to demonstrate that no reactivity anomaly exists.

**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, 0.38%  $\Delta K/K$  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 a point in the cycle other than the initial shutdown margin (for Cycle 9, R = 0%  $\Delta K/K$ ). The required beginning-of-cycle SDM for Susquehanna Unit 2 Cycle 9 is 0.38%  $\Delta K/K$ ; 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  $\pm 1\%$   $\Delta K/K$  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 1.437%  $\Delta K/K$  and the difference between actual  $K_{eff}$  and predicted  $K_{eff}$  at criticality was -0.094%  $\Delta K/K$ .



Control rods were withdrawn in the A sequence until the reactor was on a stable, positive period. Criticality occurred on rod 34-23 at notch 24, which was step 41 of the startup sequence. A special log was initiated to record SRM count rates and recirculation loop temperatures. The average period was 138.5 seconds and the average loop temperature 153.0°F which yield period and temperature corrections of  $0.43 \times 10^{-3} \Delta K/K$  and  $3.783 \times 10^{-3} \Delta K/K$ , respectively.

1. Shutdown Margin (SDM)

The equation used to calculate SDM

$$\text{SDM} = \frac{K_{\text{crit}} - K_{\text{sro}}}{K_{\text{crit}} * K_{\text{sro}}} - \Delta p \text{ (period)} - \Delta p \text{ (temp)}$$

$K_{\text{crit}}$  is  $K_{\text{eff}}$  at the actual critical control rod position (1.00328) and  $K_{\text{sro}}$  is  $K_{\text{eff}}$  predicted with the strongest rod out (0.98492).

The minimum required SDM for Unit 2 Cycle 9 at beginning-of-cycle was 0.38%  $\Delta K/K$ ; the calculated shutdown margin based on this test was 1.437%  $\Delta K/K$ , thus satisfying the acceptance criteria.

**NOTE:** The predicted shutdown margin provided by Nuclear Fuels Engineering was 1.531%  $\Delta K/K$

2. Reactivity Anomaly

The reactor went critical at step 41 with  $K_{\text{crit}}$  of 1.00328. The equation used to calculate reactivity difference was

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

The calculated reactivity difference was -0.094%  $\Delta K/K$ . This satisfies  $\pm 1\% \Delta K/K$  acceptance criteria.

A comparison of the predicted versus actual critical control rod patterns is included as Figure 4.







**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 7  
Control 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 9 all control rod scram times were to be determined during the hydrostatic pressure test.

**Results:**

Control rod scram times for all 185 rods were obtained during the hydrostatic pressure test. All scram times were within the acceptance criteria, as shown in Table 1.

|  | <b>Rod</b> | <b>Rod Position</b> | <b>Time As Found</b> | <b>T.S. Limit</b> |
|--|------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Maximum Individual Rod Scram Insertion Time T.S. 3.1.3.2       | 34-27      | 5                   | 2.58                 | 7.0               |
| Average Scram Insertion Time Of Operable Rods T.S. 3.1.3.3     |            | 45                  | 0.27                 | 0.43              |
|  |            | 39                  | 0.56                 | 0.86              |
|  |            | 25                  | 1.25                 | 1.93              |
|  |            | 05                  | 2.30                 | 3.49              |
| Average Scram Insertion Time of Slowest 2x2 Array T.S. 3.1.3.4 |            | 45                  | 0.28                 | 0.45              |
|  |            | 39                  | 0.58                 | 0.92              |
|  |            | 25                  | 1.29                 | 2.05              |
|  |            | 05                  | 2.37                 | 3.70              |

Table 1: Results of Scram Time Testing of All Control Rods S2C9.

**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Test No. 8  
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 Siemens Power Corporation). 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 then be made. If the new measured value of  $X^2$  exceeds the critical value, Nuclear Fuels Engineering 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 BOC9 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 2. Using Equations 5.2 and 5.3, the variance and  $X^2$  were calculated to be 5.89 and 3.1 respectively. The  $X^2$  value of 3.1 is well within the 36.19 limit established by Siemens Power Corporation.

**Table 2**  
**Absolute Relative Difference**

| <u>Symmetric TIP Pair</u> | <u>Absolute Relative Difference (dm)</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1                         | 0.87                                     |
| 2                         | 0.85                                     |
| 3                         | 1.68                                     |
| 4                         | 2.76                                     |
| 5                         | 5.27                                     |
| 6                         | 0.60                                     |
| 7                         | -0.19                                    |
| 8                         | 1.62                                     |
| 9                         | 7.29                                     |
| 10                        | -5.98                                    |
| 11                        | 1.86                                     |
| 12                        | 1.65                                     |
| 13                        | 4.93                                     |
| 14                        | 6.06                                     |
| 15                        | -0.20                                    |
| 16                        | 2.50                                     |
| 17                        | 2.63                                     |
| 18                        | -0.34                                    |
| 19                        | 3.38                                     |

**Equation 5.1**

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

Note:  $Tm1 = \sum_{K=3}^{22} T(k)$  for TIP1 and  $Tm2 = \sum_{K=3}^{22} T(k)$  for TIP2

where TIP1 and TIP2 are symmetric TIP pairs

**Equation 5.2 (Variance)**

$$S^2TIPij = \frac{19}{\sum_{M=1}^{38}} \frac{dm^2}{38} = 5.89$$

**Equation 5.3**

$$X^2 = \frac{19 S^2TIPij}{36} = 3.1$$



**Susquehanna Unit 2  
Cycle 9  
Startup Program Summary**

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

**Reactivity and Thermal Limit Monitoring**

Reactivity and thermal limits were monitored throughout the startup period. At no time were any Technical Specification limits exceeded.

Specifically, a comparison was performed between the off-line predictive method (SIMULATE-E/PPL) and the on-line core monitoring system (POWERPLEX<sup>®</sup>-II). This comparison provides an indication of the off-line capability to predict the new fuel design (Atrium<sup>™</sup>-10) and mixed core (9 x 9-2 and Atrium<sup>™</sup>-10) behavior. The results are listed below (cycle exposure = 500 MWD/MT):

| <b>Core Parameter</b> | <b>Off-Line</b> | <b>On-Line</b> | <b>Delta</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Target Rod Pattern    | -               | -              | 0 notches    |
| Core Flow (Mlb/hr)    | 104             | 103            | 1            |
| MFLCPR                | 0.867           | 0.891          | -0.024       |
| MAPRAT                | 0.806           | 0.810          | -0.004       |
| FDLRX                 | 0.820           | 0.801          | 0.019        |

As shown in the table above, the off-line method accurately predicts the new fuel design and mixed core behavior.

**TIP System - OD-1 Performance**

A full set of TIPS was run at 48% power to update the core power distribution before the first core performance calculation, MONITOR, was initiated. Subsequent TIP sets were performed at 60% 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.

### Power Distribution Comparison With Off-Line Monitoring

A comparison was performed between the off-line predictive method (SIMULATE-E/PPL) and actual TIP power distribution data (see Figure 5). As shown in Figure 5 the off-line core modeling data compared favorably with the actual core power distribution. No anomalies were observed for the new fuel/mixed core design.

### Core Flow Calibration

A core flow calibration was performed at ~100.0 Mlb/hr core flow. The new Reference Drive Flow (WDr) for S2C9 was calculated to be 32.1 Mlb/hr.

### 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 operation. This data is used throughout the cycle during the performance of the Technical Specification Jet Pump Operability Surveillance.

FIGURE 5  
 U2C9  
 CORE AVERAGE TIP COMPARISON AT 0.162 GWD/MTU

