3.6 REACTOR BUILDING

Applicability

Applies to the containment when the reactor is in conditions other than refueling shutdown.

Objective

To assure containment integrity during shutdown (other than refueling shutdown), startup and operation.

Specification

3.6.1 Containment integrity shall be maintained whenever all three (3) of the following conditions exist:

a. Reactor coolant pressure is 300 psig or greater
b. Reactor coolant temperature is 200°F or greater
c. Nuclear fuel is in the core

3.6.2 Containment integrity shall be maintained whenever the reactor is subcritical by less than 1% $\Delta k/k$ or whenever positive reactivity insertions are being made which would result in the reactor being subcritical by less than 1% $\Delta k/k$.

3.6.3 Exceptions to 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 shall be as follows:

a. If either the personnel or emergency hatches become inoperable, except as a result of an inoperable door gasket, the hatch shall be restored to an operable status within 24 hours, or the reactor shall be in cold shutdown within the next 36 hours.

   If a hatch is inoperable due to an inoperable door gasket:

   1. The remaining door of the affected hatch shall be closed and sealed. If the inner door gasket is inoperable, momentary passage (not to exceed 10 minutes for each opening) is permitted through the outer door for repair or test of the inner door, provided that the outer door gasket is leak tested within 24 hours after opening of the outer door.

   2. The hatch shall be restored to operable status within seven days or the reactor shall be in cold shutdown within the next 36 hours.

b. A containment isolation valve may be inoperable provided either:

   1. The inoperable valve is restored to operable status within four hours.

   2. The affected penetration is isolated within four hours by the use of a deactivated automatic valve secured and locked in the isolated position.

3.3.6 Exceptions to 3.3.5 shall be as follows:

(a) Both core flooding tanks shall be operational above 800 psig.

(b) Both motor-operated valves associated with the core flooding tanks shall be fully open above 800 psig.

(c) One pressure instrument channel and one level instrument channel per core flood tank shall be operable above 800 psig.

(d) One reactor building cooling fan and associated cooling unit shall be permitted to be out of service for seven days provided both reactor building spray pumps and associated spray nozzle headers are in service at the same time.

Bases

The requirements of Specification 3.3 assure that, before the reactor can be made critical, adequate engineered safety features are operable. Two high pressure injection pumps and two low pressure injection pumps are specified. However, only one of each is necessary to supply emergency coolant to the reactor in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident. Both core flooding tanks are required as a single core flood tank has insufficient inventory to reflood the core. (1)

The borated water storage tanks are used for two purposes:

(a) As a supply of borated water for accident conditions.

(b) As a supply of borated water for flooding the fuel transfer canal during refueling operation. (2)

Three-hundred fifty thousand (350,000) gallons of borated water (a level of 46 feet in the BWST) are required to supply emergency core cooling and reactor building spray in the event of a loss-of-core cooling accident. This amount fulfills requirements for emergency core cooling. The borated water storage tank capacity of 388,000 gallons is based on refueling volume requirements. Heaters maintain the borated water supply at a temperature to prevent freezing. The boron concentration is set at the amount of boron required to maintain the core 1 percent subcritical at 70°F without any control rods in the core. This concentration is 1,338 ppm boron while the minimum value specified in the tanks is 1,800 ppm boron.

When the reactor is critical, maintenance is allowed per Specification 3.3.5 and 3.3.6. Operability of the specified components is assured by periodic surveillance testing as required by Technical Specification 4.5. The maintenance period of up to 24 hours is acceptable, based on a low likelihood of failure of redundant equipment during that period.

It has been shown for the worst design basis loss-of-coolant accident (a 14.1 ft^2 hot leg break) that the reactor building design pressure will not be exceeded with one spray and two coolers operable. Therefore, a maintenance period of seven days is acceptable for one reactor building cooling fan and its associated cooling unit. (3)

In the event that the need for emergency core cooling should occur, functioning of one train (one high pressure injection pump, one low pressure injection pump, and both core flooding tanks) will protect the core and in the event of a main coolant loop severence, limit the peak clad temperature to less than 2,300°F and the metal-water reaction to that representing less than 1 percent of the clad.

Three low pressure service water pumps serve Oconee Units 1 and 2 and two low pressure service water pumps serve Oconee Unit 3. There is a manual cross-connection on the supply headers for Units 1, 2, and 3. One low pressure service water pump per unit is required for normal operation. The normal operating requirements are greater than the emergency requirements following a loss-of-coolant accident.

A single train of reactor building penetration room ventilation equipment retains full capacity to control and minimize the release of radioactive materials from the reactor building to the environment in post-accident conditions.

REFERENCES

(1) FSAR, Section 14.2.2.3
(2) FSAR, Section 9.5.2
(3) FSAR, Supplement 13
(4) FSAR, Section 6.4