

1987 ANNUAL REPORT

of

The University of Texas at Austin Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory Taylor Hall Room 104

January 1, 1987 - December 31, 1987

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January 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*

1

	List List	of Tables
ı.	Intro	duction
II.	Labor	atory Administration9
	Α.	Organization
	в.	Personnel
	с.	Committees
	D.	College Report
III.	Labo	atory Development14
	Α.	Organization
	в.	Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory
	С.	Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
	D.	Neutron Activation Analysis Laboratory
	Ε.	Nuclear Radiation Laboratory
1V.	Faci	ity Operations Summary17
	À.	Operating Experience
	Б.	Reactor Shutdowns
	с.	Reactor Utilization
	D.	Reactor Maintenance
	Ε.	Facility Changes
	F.	Area Radiation Surveys
	G.	Radioactive Effluents and Waste
۷.	Labo	atory Inspections
	Α.	NRC Inspections
	в.	TDH Inspections
VI.	Publ	c Service Activities
VII.	Rese	rch Activities
VIII	•	Publications from the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Program
		A. Ph.D. Dissertations

- B. Masters ThesisC. Reports and Papers

List of Tables

.

Page

1.	Administration and Committees	11
2.	Facility Personnel	12
3.	University Courses	16
4.	Reactor Safety System	18
5.	Safety System Events	18
6.	Performance Data	19
7.	Annual Utilization Data	20
8.	Summary of Personnel Radiation Exposures	25
9.	Radiation Exposure Groups	25
10.	Laboratory Radiation Levels	26
11.	Laboratory Contamination Levels	26
12.	Environmental Surveys	27
13.	Monthly Gaseous Waste Discharge	28
14.	Monthly Liquid Waste Discharge	29
15.	Monthly Solid Waste Disposal	29
16.	Research Funding	33

1987

List of Figures

.

Fis	ure N	<u>Q.</u>	Page
	1.	Site Location of Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory	7
	2.	Floor Plan of Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory	8
	3.	Organization Chart of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory	10
	4.	Annual Burnup versus Operation Year	22
	5.	Samples Irradiated versus Year	22

I. INTRODUCTION

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory (NETL) at The University of Texas at Austin prepares an annual report to provide information about program activities. Information in this report satisfies the requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) docket number 50-192 and the U.S. Department of Energy contract number At-(40-1)-3919. The report covers the period from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987.

Activities of the NETL program are part of the College of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering. Development of the nuclear program by the university began in the years prior to 1960, with the location of most of the program activities in one of the original engineering buildings. Building space in Taylor Hall provides classroom, laboratory and office areas. The nuclear program was the only engineering program still functional by the year 1985 in the building that has become the location of the College of Natural Sciences Department of Computer Science. Building areas are also the location for parts of the University Computation Center and some other university groups.

Most NETL program laboratory activities are at two locations in Taylor Hall. Floor plans of these two laboratory areas, a Nuclear Reactor Laboratory and an Activation Analysis Laboratory, are shown in Figures 1 and 2. The Nuclear Reactor Laboratory is the site of a TRIGA Mark I reactor that operates in steady-state and pulse modes. Power operation of the reactor is at 250 kilowatts steady-state and approximately 250 megawatts pulse. At the time of initial facility acceptance the power level was at 10 kilowatts. The Activation Analysis Laboratory provides gamma spectroscopy systems for analysis of neutron activation reactions. These reactions are products of irradiation experiments in reactor experiment facilities. Data acquisition and analysis is done with high efficiency, high resolution detectors. Intrinsic purity germanium detectors provide radiation detection with automatic control and acquisition systems run by microcomputers.

Other NETL program laboratory activities are at locations in the Engineering Science Building. This building provides a multipurpose facility for several engineering and science programs. A Nuclear Radiation Laboratory provides an experiment facility for flux and energy measurements of neutrons from fusion, fission, and other neutron production reactions. Three sources available are the D-T reaction from a Cockcroft-Walton type accelerator, spontaneous fission reaction from the isotope californium-252 and the alpha-neutron reaction from plutonium-beryllium. Activities of the laboratory include detection, measurement and analysis.

NETL program equipment and materials provide support for different types of facility activities. Supplemental equipment and radioactive materials include a subcritical assembly, gamma irradiator, portable x-ray unit and various isotopic radiation sources. Equipment, instrumentation systems and detection devices for monitoring, measurement and calibration of ionizing radiation are in routine use or available for special applications. Radioactive material inventories contain radioisotope sources for gamma rays, neutron emissions, x-ray excitation, and reference standards for several types of experimental programs.

Development goals of the university and engineering have been the cause of a major change to the NETL program. Initiation of a project to move activities of the NETL program to the Balcones Research Center (BRC) began in October 1983 and should continue into early March 1989. The program move is in response to needs of the main campus for expansion of other educational programs, addition of research facilities, and the development of the research center into a major research site for science and engineering.

A Dismantling and Decommissioning, DDP, Plan (docket 50-192) for the Taylor Hall facility was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on May 3, 1985. An order to authorize the activities that will lead to the license termination was issued on March 9, 1987. Project plans indicate that the DDP activities will occur in the last quarter of 1988 and first quarter of 1989.

Project authorization to move NETL program activities to the Balcones Research Center (BRC) site was approved by The University of Texas System Board of Regents on October 13, 1983. A submittal for a construction permit and an operation license was made to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on November 9, 1984. Subsequent to a site visit on January 22 thru 24 a license amendment was requested on February 27, and responses to NRC questions were prepared. The construction permit was issued June 4, 1985.

Preliminary architectural and engineering plans were approved by The University of Texas System Board of Regents on August 8, 1985. Final plans were approved on April 10, 1986 and the bid to a general contractor was awarded on December 4, 1986. (IT Construction Inc. of Stafford, Texas, was specified as the general contractor and start of construction was recorded on February 10, 1987. Facility completion is scheduled for 16-18 months after start of construction.

The Balcones Research Center facility will provide laboratories for the TRIGA reactor, a neutron generator, radiation measurement systems, preparation and processing of radioactive samples, and office space. Although the facility will move the present TRIGA facility and other program activities into a single building at the Research Center, several improvements to the reactor facility will extend facility capability. These include above ground shield structure for access to horizontal beam tubes, and an increase of power and pulse parameters. Plans are to utilize the present fuel and move some other components from the old to the new facility. A few components such as control rod drives will be subject to remork procedures to assure appropriate functional operation. Many components such as reactor structure, instrumentation, and control system will be new components.



Figure 1

Site Location of Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory



Figure 2

Floor Plan of Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

II. LABORATORY ADMINISTRATION

A. Organization

The present organizational chart of the NETL program is presented in Figure 3. Budgeted NETL staff funding is provided for a Supervisor/Assistant Director, research associate, technician/operator, operator, and secretary. Budget support is divided into full time positions for supervisor, technician and research associate; half time for an operator; and quarter time for a secretary.

B. Personnel

Personnel associated with the laboratory consist of NETL staff, faculty, students, and certain other university personnel. The personnel involved in the NETL program during the past year are summarized in Table I.

C. Standing Committees

Two committees monitor the activities of the NETL programs. The Nuclear Reactor Committee functions through the College of Engineering and the Radiation Safety Committee functions through the Office of the President.

1. Nuclear Reactor Committee

The Nuclear Reactor Committee convened to review the activities related to facility operation during each quarter of the calender year. Committee meeting dates were April 16, July 3, October 22 and January 16, 1988. The committee composition is shown in Table 2. Committee responsibilities are the reactor operation, associated facility activities and engineering programs.

2. Radiation Safety Committee

The Radiation Safety Committee convened to review radiological safety practices at the university during each academic term. Committee meeting dates were April 8, 1987 and November 12, 1987. The committee composition is shown in Table 2. Committee responsibilities are the activities of university research programs that utilize radiation source materials.



Figure 3

Organization Chart of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory 1987

Table 1 Administration and Committees

Administration

The University of Texas System Board of Regents Jess Hay Chairman R.B. Baldwin III Vice Chairman S.H. Ratliff Vice Chairman A.H. Dilly Executive Secretary Member (1991) Member (1987) Member (1989) J.S. Blanton J.S. Briscoe R.B. Bald B.B. Milburn Jess Hay R.B. Baldwin III S.H. Ratliff Bill Roden T.B. Rhodes Mario Yzaguirre Chancellor Hans Mark The University of Texas at Austin William H. Cunningham President (app. 9/1/85) Executive Vice President and Gerhard J. Fonken Provost (app. 9/1/85) Dean of the College of Earnest F. Glogna Engineering (r.m: 8/31/87) Herbert H. Woodson (app: 9/1/87) Chairman of Department of Grady H. Rylander Mechanical Engineering (rem: \$/31/87) John R. Howell (app: 9/1/87)

Nuclear Reactor Committee

Chairperson: Member: Member: Member: Member: Member, student: Ex officio member: H. L. Marcus (app: 9/1/77)
N. E. Hertel (app: 4/1/79)
D. E. Klein (app: 9/1/77)
J. O. Ledbetter (app: 9/1/77)
L. Rabenberg (app: 9/1/87)
R. D. Manteufel (app: 9/1/85)
T. L. Bauer (app: 5/1/78)
H. W. Bryant (app: 11/1/73)
E. F. Gloyna (app: 4/1/70, 8/31/87)
H. H. Woodson (app: 9/1/87)
H. G. Rylander (app: 9/1/87)
J. R. Howell (app: 9/1/87)

Radiation Safety Committee

Chairperson:	E. L.	Sutton (app: 9/1/84)
Meuber:	K. J.	Carkey (app: 9/1/83)
Member:	G. W.	Hoffman (app: 9/1/84)
Member:	D. E.	Klein (app: 9/1/83)
Nember:	S. A.	Monti (app: 9/1/85)
Nember:	L. O.	Morgan (app: 4/1/75)
Ex offilio member:	H. W.	Bryant (app: 11/1/73)
Ex officio member:	W. H.	Cunningham (app: 9/1/85)

Table 2 Personnel

Facility Personnel

Staff

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Director	D.E. Klein
Assistant Director/Supervisor	T.L. Bauer
Research Associate	F.Y. Iskander
Nuclear Technical Specialist	M.G. Krause
Technical Secretary	D.L. Wood
Laboratory Research Assistant	R. Clements
Laboratory Research Assistant	L. Polohlopek
Laboratory Research Assistant	K. Israels

Support Personnel

Safety Personnel

Safety Coordinator	H.W. Bryant
Radiation Safety Specialist	L.W. Hamlin

Researchers

College of	Engineer	ing				
T.L.	Bauer	Nuclear	Reactor Lab.			
F.Y.	Iskander	Neutron	Activation Lab.	Research	Associat	te
N.E.	Hertel	Nuclear	Radiation Lab.	Assoc. Pr	of.	
University	Departme	nts				
E.M.E	. Sorenso	n	Pharmac:	У	Assoc.	Prof.
J.H.	Freeland		Home Ec	onomics	Assoc.	Prof.

Students

Engineering

D. Smith

R. Savage R. Manteufel A. Heger

sring

R. Hartley

A. Patterson-Hine

University

F. Behmardi

- D. Durbin
- H. Lo

Student Assistants

Graduate Assistants

- R. Clements
- L. Polchlopek
- K. Israels

D. Report to the College of Engineering

Each year the Reactor Committee provides a report to the Dean of the College of Engineering describing activities of the committee and a review or assessment of the operation of specific portions of the NETL program concerning the reactor and other radiation producing equipment. Harris Marcus, Reactor Committee Chairman, summarized the activities during this period saying:

There are two sets of minutes for this years quarterly meetings. Docket 50-192 deals with the ongoing operation in Taylor Hall and Docket 50-602 deals with the construction of the new facility at Balcones Research Center. The specific items of interest are the following:

1. A major portion of the effort in the program was again associated with continuing the development of a new reactor facility at Balcones Research Center as well as for decommissioning arrangements of the existing facility. Plans have progressed in an orderly manner and have been coordinated with NRC personnel. A contract award for the new facility was made December 4, 1986. On March 9, 1987 authorization for dismantling the Taylor Hall facility was received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

2. For another year the reactor remained operating efficiently while construction and destruction continued all around it. The level of reactor activity for the year was comparable to previous years. Recently, additional neutron activation studies have been initiated with an increase in reactor usage. This was accomplished in spite of the very heavy additional work load associated with the new facility and setting up the dismantling of the old reactor.

It is imperative that the personnel involved with the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Reactor be given full support during the construction phase to make sure that the construction problems are satisfactorily solved. In addition, the necessary resources for dismantling must be made available.

I recommend the committee be reappointed for the coming year and that Lew Rabenberg (ME) be added to the committee and Randy Manteufel be the student member. 1986-87 was again a busy and fruitful year for the NETL.

Note: Bids for the facility at the Balcones Research Center were opened October 21, 1986 and award of the general contract was approved December 4, 1986. The University of Texas System Board of Regents entered into a contract with CIT Construction Inc. of Stafford, Texas. Total project cost for the proposed facility was \$5,452,560. An additional \$408,140 is being held in reserve for dismantling activities at the Taylor Hall facility. Authorized total cost is \$5,860,700.

A. Organization

Dr. Dale E. Klein continued as the Director and Dr. Thomas L. Bauer continued as Reactor Supervisor/Assistant Director during the past year.

The only changes made in the facility staff during the 1987 calendar year were in the area of part time student research assistants. Kenneth Israels and Lester Polchlopek assisted in various laboratory activities during the summer with Mr. Polchlopek continuing in the Fall. Bob Clements resigned in September to take employment elsewhere.

The Nuclear Reactor Committee remained unchanged with the exception of the appointment of one additional member. Nolan Hertel, a reactor committee member is on leave for the academic year 87-88. New personnel were appointed to the following university administrative positions: Dean of the College of Engineering, and Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. H.H. Woodson has assumed the role of acting Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. J.R. Howell has been appointed chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

B. Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory is part of the Nuclear Engineering Program at The University of Texas.

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory's central feature is a Mark I TRIGA thermal fission reactor. Originally licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission to operate at 10 kw in 1963, the nuclear reactor and the associated laboratory equipment have been updated over the past years and the research capabilities of the Laboratory are now more diverse. In 1968, the facility license was amended to allow the TRIGA reactor to operate at a steady state power level of 250 kw which increased experimental capabilities.

Other radiation producing devices maintained by the Laboratory are a 750 curie Co-60 irradiator, vertical neutron beam tube, subcritical assembly, industrial x-ray source, 14 MeV neutron generator, and several isotopic neutron sources. Different types of radiation detection devices provide the capacity to monitor or analyze the various radiation sources.

One of the functions of the nuclear reactor and its associated equipment has been to teach and demonstrate the fundamentals of reactor operation. Another function has been the demonstration of specific applications of nuclear technology. Several organized classes routinely utilize the reactor facility and a few others use the facility on an infrequent basis. Courses utilizing the reactor and associated facilities are listed in Table 3. Classes, organizations and groups are provided tours or demonstrations of the reactor and its associated experimental facilities. Approximately 925 persons were admitted into the reactor facility during the past year. The use, operation, regulation and inspection of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory is controlled by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Reactor Committee of The University of Texas, the Director of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory, the Radiation Safety Committee and the Texas Department of Health Division of Radiation Control.

C. Neutron Activation Analysis Laboratory

The Neutron Activation Analysis Laboratory has provided nuclear analytical support for individual projects ranging from student project support for classes to measurements for faculty research projects. Student project support is in the areas of engineering, chemistry, physics, geology, biology, zoology, and other areas. Research project support includes elemental measurements for environmental and investigative research projects. Scientific articles based upon the results of sponsored and non sponsored research ty this laboratory have been published or accepted for publication in several journals and proceedings, and have been presented at conferences at the state, national and international level.

Radiation measurement systems available include gamma ray spectroscopy with two HpGe detectors coupled to a microcomputer controlled acquisition and analysis system, Si(Li) detector and multichannel analyzer for X-ray measurements, alpha-beta proportional counter, scintillation detectors, neutron detectors and associated electronic modules to accomplish several types of standard nuclear measurements. An important function of the laboratory is to support various research applications with the neutron activation analysis method or other techniques related to nuclear radiation measurements.

D. Nuclear Radiation Laboratory

The Nuclear Radiation Laboratory is utilized by staff and students of the Nuclear Engineering Program at The University of Texas at Austin. The laboratory is located in an area of the Engineering Science Building. A 14 MeV Texas Nuclear neutron generator is the main feature of the laboratory. Three californium-252 neutron sources are also available for use. The facility, with installed shielding, provides an area where students and staff can perform experiments utilizing not only the high energy neutrons from the neutron generator but fission spectrum neutrons from Cf252. In addition to the neutron generator and the californium sources, other smaller radioactive sources are also used within the confines of the Nuclear Radiation Laboratory.

Courses Utilizing the Reactor and Associated Facilities

Course Number Course	e Descriptio	on
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Mechanical Engineering Department

- ME 361F Introductory Nuclear Laboratory studies in radioactive decay, activation, detection and measurement.
- ME 361G Reactor Operations studies in nuclear reactor parameters, instrumentation characteristics and regulation.
- ME 377K Projects in Mechanical Engineering individual study and experiment projects for undergraduates.
- ME 389R Nuclear Engineering Laborator; studies for graduate students in nuclear methods in measurement and analysis.
- ME S339R Special projects course for nuclear engineering laboratory studies as a summer course for foreign students.
- ME 397 Current Studies in Engineering special projects course for graduate study of selected topics.

Additional Courses in Other Departments

- GEO 388L Isotope Geology graduate course
- CH 376K Advanced Analytical Chemistry senior level course in instrumental and analytical methods.
- CE 390L Environmental Analysis graduate course in civil engineering
- PHR 370K Nuclear Pharmacy senior level course in measurement and analycis methods with nuclear pharmaceuticals.

IV. Facility Operations Summary

A. Operating Experience

During the period no significant deviations from normal operating conditions were observed. Pulse reactor operation remained suspended. Established operating procedures and other required procedures remained unchanged.

Licensed activities were performed by three persons with Senior Operator Permits, T.L. Bauer, M.G. Krause and R. Clements. Operating activities were in support of reactor operations, nuclear engineering, sample irradiations, research and education or demonstrations. No new experiments were proposed or approved. Excluding operation for demonstration, instruction, routine surveillance, or isotope production, the major experiment performed was neutron activation to support various research activities. Maintenance during the period consisted primarily of routine equipment repair and adjustments.

B. Reactor Shutdowns

Reactor shutdowns (scrams) occurring during the reporting period are summarized in Table 4, categorized according to the type of initialing event. Safety system scrams are protective actions to shutdown the reactor that are caused by the proper operation of the safety system but are not the result of an operator error or an intentional action of the operator. Operator error scrams are the result of judgement errors or procedural errors. Instrument and power failure scrams are protective actions that result from loss of safety system function. Intentional scrams are operator initiated scrams such as tests. Manual action scrams are classified either safety or intentional as determined by the cause of the manual scram action. Inadvertent scrams are all unintentional shutdowns of the reactor by the protective action of the safety system. Table 5 compares the number of inadvertent shutdowns during this reporting period to previous reporting periods.

Reactor Safety System (scrams)

Safety System	0
Operator Error	1
Instrument Error	1
rower Failure	0
Subtotal	2
Intentional	6
Total	8

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Table 5

Safety System Events (inadvertent)

		1971	13	1981	7
		1972	6	1982	6
1963	10	1973	10	1983	6
1964	9	1974	4	1984	5
1965	3	1975	7	1985	2
1966	4	1976	5	1986	9
1967	3	1977	9	1987	2
1968	11	1978	11		
1969	15	1979	12		
1970	11	1980	7		

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Table 6

Performance Data 1987

Reactor Operation Hours, Fuel Burn-up and Irradiated Samples

Quarter	Reactor Operation (hours)	Total Burn-up Fuel (kwhrs)	Samples Irradiated (number)
First	90.2	6169	192
Second	77.5	15349	442
Third	60.1	13066	418
Fourth	66.1	9202	342
Total	293.9	43786	1394

Notes:

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(1) Reactor operation hours record the console key on time or the time power is applied to the rod control system.

(2) One full power hour is 250 kilowatt-hours.

(3) Samples that are irradiated in the experimental facilities of the reactor such as the RSR, PNT or CT.

Year	Reactor	Total Burn-up	Samples
	Operation	Fuel	Irradiated
	(hours)	(kwhrs)	(number)
1967	154.5	846	265
1968	342.6	28168	2449
1969	260.8	49935	11.52
1970	222.0	36477	1640
1971	262.5	53912	2990
1972	222.8	48389	1946
1973	318.6	45794	1347
1974	226.5	27641	778
1975	207.0	20470	363
1976	135.7	11312	468
1977	139.3	7509	164
1978	171.9	26870	178
1979	311.6	72616	1568
1980	184.1	11760	150
1981	258.5	18165	330
1982	247.6	16150	294
1983	260.2	24028	477
1984	179.6	24806	667
1985	139.9	18607	473
1986	183.1	18660	633
1987	293.9	43785	1394
Total	4722.7	605931	20026

Table 7 Annual Utilization Data

Ncte:

(1) Data for 1967 includes all data recorded for previous operation at 10 kW from 1963-1967.

(2) Operation power of 250 kilowatts was initiated in 1968.

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C. Utilization

Reactor utilization data for this reporting period is summarized in Table 6. A summary of reactor utilization since initial criticality is shown in Table 7. Bar graphs comparing annual burnup and quantities of samples irradiated since initial criticality are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

D. Maintenance

During this reporting period maintenance consisted primarily of routine repair and adjustment.

E. Facility Changes

Operation of the reactor in the pulse mode remains discontinued until the operation characteristics of the compensated chamber as related to pulsing is established. This evaluation is not planned since current activities of the facility do not require pulsing and no pulsing is planned before moving to the new facility at BRC.

No other facility changes were made during this reporting period.



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Annual Burnup versus Operation Year

Figure 4



Figure 5

Samples Irradiated versus Year

A summary of radiation exposures during this reporting period to facility personnel, students, and visitors is shown in Table 8. The average exposure per individual and the greatest exposure per individual for each group is summarized in Table 9. No exposures in excess of the limits of 10CFR20 occurred during this period.

G. Area Radiation Surveys

An annual summary of the normal radiation levels measured in the laboratory is shown in Table 10. The results of routine surface and pool water contamination surveys are summarized in Table 11. Environmental surveys performed outside the laboratory are summarized in Table 12.

H. Radioactive Effluents

1. Gaseous Wastes

Gaseous discharge during the reporting period is limited to leakage of Arti from the reactor laboratory. The total estimated amount of radioactivity released was calculated based on experimental data. A summary of the calculated radioactive gaseous discharges during the reporting period is presented in Table 13.

An estimate of the release volume is calculated from the product of the monthly number of full power hours operated during the period and the effective air leakage rate. Although air leakage from the laboratory is restricted, an effective air change rate of two per hour (.36 m³/sec) is assumed. The total activity released is calculated as the product of the volume released and the equilibrium concentration of Ar41 in the laboratory, measured at 4×10^{-5} µCi/cm³.

The release point concentration is determined as the product of the equilibrium Ar41 concentration in the laboratory, the effective air leakage rate, release point (0.14 sec/m³), and the actual full power hours operated divided by the total number of hours in the reporting period. The percent of the maximum permissible concentration (MPC) is the release point concentration divided by the MPC for Ar41 (4x10⁻¹ μ Ci/cm³) in unrestricted areas.

2. Liquid Waste

No liquid radioactive waste was discharged during the reporting period. Efforts are made to avoid liquid waste disposal by appropriate evaporation or absorption techniques for small volumes and purification by resin treatment for large volumes.

3. Solid Waste

The activity and amounts of solid waste discharged during the reporting period are summarized in Table 14. All solid waste

materials were packaged and shipped, along with radicactive waste generated in other departments, by the Safety Office. Waste shipments are performed by Texas Nuclear, Austin, Texas.

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Summary of Personnel Radiation Exposures

Range of Exposure in REM	Number of Individuals		
	Staff	Students	Visitors
No measurable exposure	5	18	857
Measurable exposure less than 0.1	3	4	68
0.1 - 0.25	0	0	0
0.25 - 0.5	0	0	0
0.5 - 0.75	0	0	0
0.75 - 1.0	0	0	0

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Radiation Exposure Groups

Group	Exposure per Individual in Average	Greatest
Staif	13	50
Students	< 10	20
Visitors	< 10	< 10

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Laboratory Radiation Levels

Location	Average (mR/hr)	Maximum (mR/hr)
Control Console Area 10 ft. from core axis 6 ft. above pool	7x10^-3	3x10^-2
Water System Area 12 ft. from core axis 4 ft. above pool	2x10^-2	1x10^-1
Above Core O ft. from core axis 16 ft. above pool	2x10^-1	3x10^-1

Table 11

Laboratory Contamination Levels

Location	Average	Maxi	mum
Floors	19 dpm	162	dpm
Surfaces	18 dpm	39	dpm
Pool Water	130 pC1/1	293	pCi/J

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Environmental Surveys

Location	Average	Maximum
1	.01 mR/hr	.01 mR/hr
2	.01 mR/hr	.01 mR/hr
3	.02 mR/hr	.03 mR/hr
4	.01 mR/hr	.01 mR/hr
5	.01 mR/hr	.01 mR/hr
6	.01 mR/hr	.01 mR/hr
7	14 pCi/1	63 pCi/1

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Table 13

MONTH	EFPH (HRS)	VOLUME (M [*] 3)	ACTIVITY (C1)	REL. CONC. (C1/CM ³) x10-12	\$ MPC
1	7.86	10187	407	22	0.054
2	. 37	480	19	1	0.003
3	16.44	21306	852	45	0.114
4	11.88	15396	616	33	0.082
5	23.80	30845	1234	66	0.164
6	25.82	33328	1333	71	0.178
7	12.11	15698	628	33	0.084
8	24.05	31169	1247	66	0.166
9	16.10	20866	835	44	0.111
10	12.11	15693	628	33	0.084
11	12.74	16511	660	35	0.088
12	11.96	15499	620	33	0.083

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Mc thly Gaseous Waste Discharge (ARGON-41)

Monthly Gaseous Waste Discharge (gas or particulate)

Month	Isotope	Tot	al	Point of Release Concentration	Percent of Maximum
		(C1)	(m ³)	(pCi/m ³)	(> 20\$)
Jan	none				
Feb	none				
Mar	none				
Apr	none				
May	none				
Jun	none				
Jul	none				
Aug	none				
SUD	none				
Oct	none				
Nov	none				
Dec	none				
Total					

Monthly Liquid Waste Discharge

Month	Isotope	Total Releas	se	Point of Concentration	Release Percent Maximum	of
		(Ci) ((m ³)	(pC1/m ³)	(\$)	
Jan						
Feb	-					
Mar	-					
Apr	-					
May	-					
Jun	-					
Jul	-					
Aug	-					
Sep	-					
Oct	-					
Nov	-					
Dec	-					

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Table 15

Monthly Solid Waste Disposal

Nonth	Isotope	Total Release (C1) (ft [*] 3)	Form Chemical/Physical	Remarks
Jan				
Feb	-			
Mar Apr	H ³	6853X10 ³ 3	Targets & Paper	From N. Generator
May	-			
Jun	-			
Jul	-			
AUE	-			
Sep	-			
Oct	-			
Nov				
Dec	-			

V. Laboratory Inspections

A. NRC Inspections

No NRC inspections took place during the calender year for the R-92 Reactor Facility License.

No NRC inspections took place during the calender year for the SNM-180 special nuclear material license.

A license renewal for the SNM-180 license date May 19, 1987 extends the license to May 31, 1992.

B. TDH Inspection November 23-24, 1987

The inspection consisted of a review of activities and radioactive materials used at The University of Texas at Austin as authorized by TDH License.

VI. Public Service Activities

A. Summer High School Science Teacher Symposium

The NETL staff organizes and supervises an annual two week symposium designed to familiarize high school science teachers with the theory and technology associated with energy resources today. Graduate college course credit is given to all participants who successfully complete the course. The program is funded by various electric utility companies in Texas. Approximately thirty (30) teachers attend the symposium every year.

B. Lectures and Presentations

On numerous occasions during 1987 the NETL staff talked to various organizations about subjects including but not limited to: "Nuclear Reactor Safety," "Nuclear Engineering and Society," "Research and Development of Energy Resources," and "Energy and the Environment."

C. Reactor Facility Tours

During 1987, 925 persons visited the laboratory. The largest group visiting the laboratory were persons attending the Texas Energy Science Symposium. Numerous high school students also toured the facility during an event called The World of Engineering, designed to recruit students into the field of Engineering. Students from several local high schools and students from several non engineering related college courses visited the facility. Numerous college engineering related classes and several student engineering organizations also toured the facility. Safety personnel such as Austin Fire Department, UT Police Department, UT Safety Office and the Texas Department of Health also visited the facility to remain familiar with the laboratory and emergency response procedures unique to the facility.

D. Fuel Transfer Cask Loan

A three element transfer cask was obtained as part of the fuel element acquisition from the Northrup Cc poration. The donated cask is designed for standard elements of TRIGA fuel and is to be available for loan to other university reactor programs. A container to ship the empty cask is also available. Charges for the cask use will apply only to shipment costs. The staff and users of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory perform research, as both sponsored and non sponsored projects, in several different areas. Equipment and personnel are provided by the laboratory to supplement the research efforts of facility users, that include students, faculty and others. The following section lists research projects active during the calendar year. Major research funding or grants are presented in Table 16 for users of the facility.

A. Fuel Assistance

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Energy

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL Thomas L. Bauer, NETL

Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy has provided research support by providing reactor fuel cycle assistance for the currently operating reactor core at The University of Texas at Austin TRIGA reactor.

B. Summer Science Teachers Symposium

Sponsor: Electric Utility Companies of Texas

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL

The Electric Utility Companies of Texas have sponsored Summer High School Science Teachers Symposium, a program designed to familiarize these teachers with the theory and technology of energy sources.

C. Texas Energy Science Symposium

Sponsor: Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL Orlan Ihms, Texas Utilities Electric Company

The Texas Atomic Energy Foundation has sponsored a symposium for outstanding high school science students for over 25 years. The program is intended to encourage students to pursue careers in the sciences or engineering. Yearly attendance for the 4 day symposium consists of about 250 students and 150 high school science teachers.

Research Funding

Department of Energy Fuel Assistance Program		
New Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory (includes D&D for existing facility)		5,860,700
Electric Power and the Environment 6/87 - 8/87	20,000	
Texas Energy Science Symposium 6/87-8/87	22,000	
National Science Foundation 9/85 - 8/87	141,626	
Sandia National Laboratories 2/85 - 9/87	90,000	
Sandia National Laboratories 4/87 = 1/90	131,000	
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 8/31/87	25,400	
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	23,000	
Subtotal		453,026
TOTAL		6,313,726

Heat Transfer and Friction Factor Analysis for Artificially Roughened Surfaces

- Sponsor: Center for Energy Studies National Science Foundation University Research Institute
- Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL J. Parker Lamb, Mech. Eng. Mike Krause, NETL Michael Michael, Mech. Eng.

Description:

The proposed research is to determine the heat transfer and friction characteristics for surfaces with discrete roughness geometry. Two major aspects are to be examined in that this is both an experimental and an analytical investigation. Values of R(h+) and G(h+) in the universal velocity and temperature profiles will be examined. New experimental techniques have been developed at The University of Texas at Austin to measure local heat transfer values surrounding discrete roughness elements. A test assembly to examine artificially roughened surfaces is being designed. In addition, a new analytical method has also been developed to determine R(h+) and G(h+) values without making detailed velocity and temperature profile measurements. Analytical predictions will be made utilizing fundamental parameters in boundary layer theory coupled with the latest information on rough surfaces using integral techniques. Results from the experimental and analytical methods will be compared in order to gain insight as to the dominant mechanism involved for the use of discrete rough surfaces. This research has fundamental application for heat transfer augmentation.

Pressure Drop and Heat Transfer Measurements of Liquid Metal Flowing in a Packed Bed Under the Influence of a Magnetic Field

Sponsor: Center for Fusion Engineering Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation

Personnel:

Dale Klein, NETL Jon McWhirter George Avlonitis, Mech. Eng. Mike Crawford, Mech. Eng.

Description:

The flow of electrically conducting fluids through porous media in the presence of a magnetic field has recently begun to generate significant interest due to potential applications for fusion reactors. This study is designed to examine the pressure drop and heat transfer from a liquid metal (NaK) flowing through a packed bed of stainless steel spheres under the influence of a transverse magnetic field. Results of this investigation should have direct applications on the design of fusion

breeder blankets using liquid metal flowing around spheres of fertile material.

Thermal Analysis of Nuclear Shipping Containers

Sponsor: Sandia National Laboratories

Personnel: Randy Manteufel Dale E. Klein

Description:

The thermal analysis of shipping containers to be used in the transport of spent nuclear fuel is an important safety issue. Sandia National Laboratories has been involved in safety issues for the transport of nuclear material for many years. The University of Texas at Austin (NETL) has been involved in the specific issues of thermal analysis of these containers for several years. The current project is intended to benchmark a thermal analysis computer code (C/TRAN) and pre and post processing software PATRAN-G using four standard model problems. Comparisons will be made with other applicable codes currently available at UT (including HEATING 5). Sensitivity studies will be performed to further evaluate Q/TRAN's suitability for thermal analysis. Enhancements, if any, that will increase the current capabilities of the software will be suggested and developed if feasible.

Application of COBRA for shipping Cask Analysis

Sponsor: Sandia National Laboratories

Personnel: Randy Manteufel, Mechanical Engineering Dale Klein, NETL

Description:

A thermal hydraulic computer code, COBRA, has been applied for both steady state and transient analysis. Previous research at The University of Texas at Aurtin involved the modification of the COBRA code and created a new version COBRA®GCFR 4P/UT. The current research is directed towards modifying COBRA®GCFR 4P/UT so that it may be applied to transient conditions for shipping cask analysis. One specific modification will be to develop a more sophisticated model for analyzing radiation heat transport. Results using this code will be compared with the results from Q-TRAN and HEATING-6 where possible. In addition, recommendations will be made regarding COBRA's use for dry storage analyses. Transportation Analysis of Spent Fuel & High Level Wastes

Sponsor: Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory Personnel: Danny Smith, NETL Dale Klein, METL Thomas L. Bauer, NETL

Description:

The current methodology (i.e., overall plan for analysis which integrates discrete computer codes and other computational elements) for analysis of high-level waste and spent fuel transportation is not directed toward minimizing radiation exposure but rather is an attempt to demonstrate minimum compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. The current models (i.e., algorithms and computer codes) exhibit deficiencies and the thesis to be examined for this work is that more representative and credible models can be developed for radioactive waste transportation analyses and those models can be integrated into a methodology that allows selection of routes resulting in minimum radiation exposure. This work will also examine options for cost-effective enhancement of transportation operations with the intent of minimizing public and occupational exposure to radiation as well as exposure to radiation and non-radiation transportation risks (recognizing that elimination of risk is neither possible nor necessary but that achievemont of exposures as low as reasonably achievable, ALARA, is prudent).

Neutron Transport Studies: Neutron Multiplication by Beryllium

Stynsor: National Science Foundation

Personnel: Nolan E. Hertel, Center for Fusion Engineering

Description:

The use of beryllium as a neutron multiplier is central to the current fusion breeder design. Recent measurements of beryllium neutron multiplication and reevalutions of beryllium nuclear data indicate that the multiplying performance of beryllium previously has been overestimated, possibly by as much as 25%. If beryllium's performance as a neutron multiplier has indeed been overestimated even by as much as 10%, the direction of the fusion breeder program in the United States might well change. It is tantamount to the current fusion breeder concepts that the issue of beryllium neutron multiplication be resolved. Therefore, an experiment using a spherical shell of beryllium is being proposed.

The beryllium experiment has been designed to measure multiplication resulting from DT, DD, Pube, and 252Cf neutron sources being placed in a spherical shell. Hy doing so the sensitivity of the multiplication to spectral shape can be observed. In addition, the use of these four sources helps to simulate the effect of neutron source degradation in a fusion reactor. The neutron multiplication will be obtained directly from summing weighted Bonner ball measurements of the neutron leakage. The neutron multiplication obtained in this manner will provide a number which tests the capability of the current beryllium nuclear data to calculate total neutron multiplication.

Measurement of Nutrional and Other Elements in Bread

Sponsor: Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory Food Research Center, University of Idaho

Personnel: F.Y. Iskander K.R. Davis

Description:

Egyptian bread samples were collected from several locations across the country. Cereal and other components used for bread making depend on location (city, village or nomad). The objective of the study is to determine the concentration of nutritional elements in the different bread samples and to study a possible correlation between the iron content of bread and cases of iron deficient anemia.

Comparison Between Imported and Locally Manufactured Baby Food in Nigeria

Sponsor: Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory Dept. of Chemistry, University of IFE, Nigeria

Personnel: F.Y. Iskander O.I. Asubiojo

Description:

The concentration of nutritional, probably nutritional and toxic trace elements in baby food locally produced in Nigeria were compared to imported brands. Based on the total element content no significant difference was observed between local and imported baby foods. However, mineral bio-availability from the different brands may vary.

New Method for the Determination of Iodine Value by Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis

Sponsor: Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

Personnel: F.Y. Iskander

Description:

Measuring the degree of unsaturation for oils and fats, as expressed by

iodine value (I.V.), is an important step in the production of shortenings and margarine fats. Measuring I.V. is also of great importance to detect adulteration of vegetable oils with highly saturated animal fats and mineral oils. Early methods for the determination of I.V. depend on mixing a halogenating agent with the oil sample for a certain period of time, then titrating the residual unreacted halogenating agent. Most of these methods require preparation of special reagents, large sample size, and handling of corrosive or toxic chemicals. In addition, a long time (up to 48 hours) is required to prepare fresh reagents before starting the analysis.

A new microanalytical method has developed to measure the I.V. of oils and fats. Bromine vapor was used to saturate the ethylenic double bond in the oil samples. The quantity of Br reacted was determined by instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA). The analysis of 50 samples was completed in 75-100 minutes (compared to several days by other methods).

Determination of Selenium. A quality assurance project to evaluate the minimum detection limit.

Sponsor: Department of Parks and Wildlife, State of Texas

Personnel: T. L. Dauer F.Y. Iskander

Description:

The Department of Parks and Wildlife for the State of Texas is interested in determining the concentration of selenium, in fish, in several lakes across the state. To evaluate the quality of shalysis, the department requested the participant laboratory to analyze a number of biological material for selenium content. No significant variation was observed between the results reported from NETL and the certified values (except for one sample). Results of the analysis were intended to provide quality assurance information to the department on the measurement methods performed by several laboratories.

Selenium and Other Metals in Fish Tissues

Sponsor: Department of Parks and Wildlife, State of Texas

Personael: T.L. Bauer F.Y. Iskander

Description:

Tissue from muscle and liver of fish samples from several Taxas lakes are analyzed for several elements known to be toxic. Elements of interest are selenium, arsenic, acroury and zinc. This measurement is part of an environmental program for the State to examine the conditions of waters subject to certain types of power plant or industrial effluent releases.

1987

VIII. Publications From the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

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- P.J. Rodriguez, "Time and Energy Dependent Neutron Distribution in a Pulsed Multiplying Medium", Ph.D. Dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, 205 pp., January 1969.
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- S.A. Heige, "Determination of Friction Factors and Heat Transfer Coefficients for Flow Past Artificially Roughened Surfaces", Ph.D. Dissertation, Mechanical Engineering (Nuclear Engineering) Department, The University of Texas at Austin, December 1979.
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- 12. G.F. Malan, "Transfer Function Analysis of Temperature and Xenon Feedback in Coupled-Core Nuclear Reactor Systems", Masters Thesis, Mechanical Engineering (Nuclear Engineering) Department, The University of Texas at Austin, 69 pp., August 1967.
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64

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March 29, 1988

Director of Inspection and Enforcement U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are twelve (12) copies of the calendar year 1987 Annual Report. These are being submitted according to 10 CFR Section 50.59.

Sincerely,

Thowar J. Baner

Dr. Thomas L. Bauer Assistant Director Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

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TLB:dlw Enclosure

cc: Dr. Dale Klein