

WSRC-RP--91-1051

DE92 018128

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPACT RESPONSE OF
THE RESTART SAFETY RODS (U)**

by

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JUL 21 1992

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WESTINGHOUSE SAVANNAH RIVER COMPANY
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

WSRC-RP-91-1051

Keywords: Reactor Safety Rod Assembly,
Brake Failure, Structural
Responses, Impact Loading,
Viscous Effects

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October 14, 1991

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPACT
RESPONSE OF THE RESTART SAFETY RODS - (U)

Introduction

WSRC-RP-91-677 studied the structural response of the safety rods under the conditions of brake failure and accidental release. It was concluded that the maximum impact loading to the safety rod is 6020 pounds based on conservative considerations that energy dissipation attributable to fluid resistance and reactor superstructure flexibility. The staffers of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board reviewed the results and inquired about the extent of conservatism. By request of the RESTART team, I reassessed the impact force due to these conservative assumptions. This memorandum reports these assessments.

E. W. Holtzscheiter
Authorized Derivative Classifier

Summary

When a safety rod plunges into a pool of heavy water at 60°C, it drags a thin layer of heavy water with it. The amount of heavy water moving with the safety rod is estimated to be 1.5 pounds. Consideration of energy dissipation due to fluid viscosity reduces the impact force by 540 pounds, or 9%. The reactor superstructure is more than 10,000 times heavier than a safety rod. Consideration of inelastic collision between them shows that energy dissipation due to superstructure motion is in the order of 10^{-4} , or negligibly small.

Discussion

A flat plate moving in a viscous fluid in the plane of the plate drags a layer of the fluid with it, and the thickness is estimated by $\delta = 2(\nu\tau)^{1/2}$, where ν is the kinematic viscosity of the fluid, and τ is the duration of motion, (p. 64, Viscous Flow Theory, Vol. 1, S. I. Pai, Van Nostrand, 1956). For heavy water at 60°, $\nu = 0.514 (10)^{-5}$ ft²/sec. The time duration is solved from the equation of motion for a safety rod plunging to a depth y ,

$$w - \rho Ay = \frac{w}{g} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}$$

where $w = 27.2$ pounds is the rod weight, $\rho = 64$ lb/ft³ is the weight density of heavy water, $A = 0.694$ in² is the rod cross-sectional area, $g = 32.2$ ft/sec² is the gravitational acceleration, and t is the time variable. It can be shown that

$$y = \frac{v_0}{\lambda} \sin \lambda t + \frac{1}{2} g t^2, \quad \lambda^2 = \rho g A / w$$

is a solution satisfying the initial conditions of zero depth and velocity $v_0 = 38.08$ fps (WSRC-RP-91-677). The time duration is obtained by setting $y = L = 20$ ft, the length of the safety rod, and solve for the time $t = \tau = 1.114$ sec.

The amount of heavy water stuck on the rod is

$$\begin{aligned}W' &= 2\pi\rho DL(\nu\tau)^{1/2} \\ &= 2\pi(64)\frac{0.94}{12}(20)[0.514(10)^5(1.114)]^{1/2} \\ &= 1.50 \text{ lb}\end{aligned}$$

where $D = 0.94$ in. is the rod diameter. The energy dissipated during the travel is $U = 0.5 W'L = 15$ ft-lb. By reducing the amount of energy available for tube deformation by 15 ft-lb, it can be shown at the maximum elongation of the housing tube is

$$\Delta'_{\max} = 0.3811 \text{ in}$$

The impact force is proportional to the elongation, so the modified impact force considering the effect of water resistance is

$$F' = F \Delta'_{\max} / \Delta_{\max} = 5480 \text{ lb}$$

WWFY/tyb

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9/01/92**

