

6C Containment Debris Protection for ECCS Strainers

6C.1 Background

NRC Bulletin No. 93-02, “Debris Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers,” (Reference 6C-1) references NRC guidance and highlights the need to adequately accommodate debris in design by focusing on an incident at the Perry Nuclear Plant. Toshiba has reviewed the concerns addressed by NRC Bulletin 93-02 including complying with Generic Letters GL 97-04 on NPSH requirements for ECCS pumps and GL 98-04, Blockage from Foreign Materials and Paint Debris (References 6C-7 and 6C-8), and has reviewed the design of the ABWR for potential weaknesses in coping with the bulletin’s concerns. Toshiba has determined that the ABWR design is more resistant to these problems for a number of reasons as discussed in the following.

The ultimate concern raised by the Perry incident was the deleterious effect of debris in the suppression pool and how it could impact the ability to draw water from the suppression pool during an accident. The ABWR design has committed to following the guidance provided in Regulatory Guide 1.82 (Reference 6C-2), Utility Resolution Guidance (URG) for ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage, NEDO-32686-A (Reference 6C-3), and additional guidance as described below. The ABWR is designed to accommodate debris in the suppression pool prior to a Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) and to inhibit debris generated during a LOCA from preventing operation of the Residual Heat Removal (RHR), Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) and High Pressure Core Flooder (HPCF) systems.

6C.2 ABWR Mitigating Features

The ABWR has substantially reduced the amount of piping in the drywell relative to earlier designs and consequently the quantity of insulation required. Furthermore, there is no equipment in the wetwell spaces that requires insulation or other fibrous materials. The ABWR design conforms with the guidance provided by the NRC for maintaining the ability for long-term recirculation cooling of the reactor and containment following a LOCA.

The Perry incident was not the result of a LOCA but rather debris entering the Suppression Pool during normal operation. The arrangement of the drywell and wetwell/wetwell airspace on a Mark III containment (Perry) is significantly different from that utilized in the ABWR design. In the Mark III containment, the areas above the suppression pool water surface (wetwell airspace) are substantially covered by grating with significant quantities of equipment installed in these areas. Access to the wetwell airspace (containment) of a Mark III is allowed during power operations. In contrast, on the ABWR the only connections to the suppression pool are 10 drywell connecting vents (DCVs), and access to the wetwell or drywell during power operations is prohibited. The DCVs will have horizontal steel plates located above the openings that will prevent any material falling in the drywell from directly entering the vertical leg of the DCVs. This arrangement is similar to that used with the Mark II connecting vent pipes. Vertically oriented trash rack construction will be installed around the periphery of the

horizontal steel plate to intercept debris. The trash rack design shall allow for adequate flow from the drywell to wetwell. In order for debris to enter the DCV it would have to travel horizontally through the trash rack prior to falling into the vertical leg of the connecting vents. Thus the ABWR is resistant to the transport of debris from the drywell to the wetwell.

In the Perry incident, the insulation material acted as a sepi to filter suspended solids from the suppression pool water. The Mark I, II, and III containments have all used carbon steel in their suppression pool liners. This results in the buildup of corrosion products in the suppression pool which settle out at the bottom of the pool until they are stirred up and resuspended in the water following some event (SRV lifting). In contrast, the ABWR liner of the suppression pool is fabricated from stainless steel which significantly lowers the amount of corrosion products which can accumulate at the bottom of the pool.

A further mitigating feature for the ABWR is that all thermal insulation installed is reflective metal insulation type (RMI) and the use of fibrous material in the primary containment is prohibited. Use of RMI eliminates the fibrous insulation source term used in the suction strainer design. This is a significant factor in design that reduces the potential suction strainer debris load and further reduces the potential for suction strainer blockage. In addition, inspections will ensure that there is no evidence of excessive build-up of debris around the ECCS suction strainers and any abnormalities that could affect the mechanical functioning of the suction strainers.

Since the debris in the Perry incident was created by roughing filters on the containment cooling units a comparison of the key design features of the ABWR is necessary. In the Mark III design more than 1/2 of the containment cooling units are effectively located in the wetwell airspace. For the ABWR there are no cooling fan units in the wetwell air space. Furthermore the design of the ABWR Drywell Cooling Systems does not utilize roughing filters on the intake of the containment cooling units.

Temporary filters are used during post construction systems testing in accordance with plant housekeeping and foreign material exclusion procedures further reducing the potential for introducing debris to the suppression pool.

In the event that small quantities of debris enter the suppression pool, the Suppression Pool Cleanup System (SPCU) will remove the debris during normal operation. The SPCU is described in Section 9.5.9 and shown in Figure 9.5-1. The SPCU is designed to provide a continuous cleanup flow of 250 m³/h. This flow rate is sufficiently large to effectively maintain the suppression pool water at the required cleanliness. The SPCU system is intended for continuous operation and the suction pressure of the pump is monitored and provides an alarm on low pressure. Early indication of any deterioration of the suppression pool water quality will be provided if significant quantities of debris were to enter the suppression pool and cause the strainer to become plugged resulting in a low suction pressure alarm.

The suction strainers design at Perry preceded and did not meet the current regulatory requirements. The ABWR ECCS suction strainers will utilize a cassette type strainer design. The design of the strainers is based on Regulatory Guide 1.82, NUREG/CR-6224 (Reference 6C-4), NUREG/CR-6808 (Reference 6C-5) and the Utility Resolution Guidance, NEDO-32686-A. The cassette type strainer design is based on a set of cassette modules with U-shaped filter pockets attached to a cylindrical outer jacket. Each strainer consists of filter modules, the outer jacket and flange plates on each end of the cylindrical assembly. The filter module is constructed with cassettes which are arranged axially along the strainer axis. One cassette consists of pocket shaped filters which are arranged radially. A cut-away drawing of the strainer is shown in Figure 6C-1. The material used in the cassette type strainer is stainless steel. The cylindrical strainer assemblies are mounted in pairs on piping tees at each ECCS pump suction line. When the ECCS pump operates, the suction flow in the suppression pool runs into all pockets through the outer jacket windows. Each pocket has five flow paths from the inlet through the five perforated walls to the outlet of the pocket towards the cassette strainer. By using the cassettes with pocket shaped filters, the strainer has an available filter area which is larger per volume than cylindrical and other shaped strainers. The number of cassettes and pockets is adjusted to produce a specific head loss performance for the strainer. To avoid debris clogging the flow restrictions downstream of the strainers, the size of the holes in the perforated sheets is chosen by considering specific flow paths of ECCS equipment and piping (for example, the containment spray nozzle and the ECCS pump seal cooling flow orifices). The ABWR strainers will have holes no larger than 2.1 mm.

A key feature in the design of these strainers is to collect debris where velocity is low, since the pressure drop across the debris bed is known to be proportional to the velocity through the bed. This minimizes head loss across the strainer. The ABWR design also has additional features not utilized in earlier designs that could be used in the highly improbable event that all suppression pool suction strainers were to become plugged. The alternate AC (Alternating Current) independent water addition mode of RHR allows water from the Fire Protection System to be pumped to the vessel and sprayed in the wetwell and drywell from diverse water sources to maintain cooling of the fuel and containment. The wetwell can also be vented at low pressures to assist in cooling the containment.

6C.3 RG 1.82 Improvement

All ECCS strainers are sized to conform with the guidance provided in Reg Guide 1.82 for the most severe of all postulated breaks.

The following clarifying assumptions are applied and take precedence:

- (1) The debris generation model utilizes spherical zones of influence (ZOI) with radii in accordance with the Utility Resolution Guidance, NEDO-32686-A;
- (2) The amount of design insulation debris that is transported to the suppression pool is based on the Utility Resolution Guidance, NEDO-32686-A.

- (3) The strainer design is based on the Debris Load Fraction that accumulates on a given strainer for the LOCA case being considered. The debris load fraction is defined as the fraction of the total flow that is attributed to a given strainer.
- (4) Not used.
- (5) The debris in the suppression pool will be assumed to remain suspended until it is captured on the surface of a strainer.
- (6) In addition to the above, 1 cubic foot of latent fiber is assumed to be suspended in the suppression pool and deposited on the surfaces of the operating strainers.
- (7) Design specifications prohibit aluminum inside primary containment. Despite that prohibition, it is conservatively assumed that there is 4.5 sq. ft. of aluminum in the primary containment. The use of zinc inside primary containment is also prohibited, except for the use of inorganic zinc primer in the qualified coating system. The impact of these assumptions is discussed in Section 6C.3.1.3 on Chemical Effects Debris.

Suction strainer sizing criteria are based on meeting NPSH requirements at run out system flow, and the design basis debris load including consideration of chemical effects, in the suppression pool that is considered to accumulate on the suction strainers after a number of pool volume turnovers.

The sizing of the RHR, RCIC and HPCF suction strainers will conform to the guidance of Reg Guide 1.82 and assumes that all the debris in the suppression pool, including insulation debris, corrosion sludge, dust, dirt, and chemical debris is proportionally distributed to the pump suction based on the flow rates of the systems at runout conditions considering the most limiting system failures. The strainers assumed available for capturing insulation debris will include 2 RHR suction strainers and a single HPCF or RCIC suction strainer in accordance with single failure criteria. The assessment of chemical effects is in accordance with RG 1.82, and includes evaluation of the suppression pool post-LOCA chemistry, and evaluation of potentially reactive material in the drywell. Downstream effects of material predicted to pass through the suction strainers will be evaluated in accordance with RG 1.82.

6C.3.1 Downstream and Chemical Effects Discussion

The ABWR design provides reasonable assurance that downstream effects as a result of debris bypassing the strainers will not have a deleterious effect on critical components such as fuel rods, valves and pumps downstream of the suction strainers. The basis of this assurance is provided in the following:

6C.3.1.1 Latent Debris Generation

Relative to the generation of latent debris, the ABWR contains a number of design features and controls which reduce the likelihood of such debris being generated as compared with operating BWR and PWR plants. Access to the containment during power operation is prohibited as the containment is inerted, thereby eliminating the likelihood of latent debris generation due to work being performed during power operation. In addition, in the unlikely event that latent debris exists in the suppression pool during power operation, the suppression pool cleanup (SPCU) system provides on-going cleanup. This system is run on an intermittent basis during power operation and provides an early indication of any deterioration of the suppression pool water quality. The suction pressure of the SPCU pump is monitored and provides an alarm on low pressure. During refueling outages, when latent debris could be generated by workers inside the containment, temporary filters are used during post-construction systems testing in accordance with plant housekeeping and foreign material exclusion procedures, further reducing the potential for introducing debris to the suppression pool. The suppression pool cleanliness program provides for periodic inspections of the suppression pool for cleanliness during outage periods. This operational program is described in Subsection 6.2.1.7.1. Maintenance procedures provide procedure steps for removing, at periodic intervals, sediment and floating or sunk debris from the suppression pool that is not removed by the suppression pool cleanup system. Quarterly surveillance tests of Residual Heat Removal (RHR), High Pressure Core Flooder (HPCF), and Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) systems provide further assurance that there is no blockage due to debris in the pump suction. Finally, the use of a stainless steel liner in the submerged portion of the ABWR suppression pool as opposed to carbon steel, which has been used in earlier version BWR suppression pools, significantly lowers the amount of corrosion products which can accumulate at the bottom of the suppression pool.

6C.3.1.2 LOCA-Generated Debris

Relative to the generation of debris from a postulated pipe break, the ABWR design contains a number of improvements from earlier BWR designs. The elimination of the recirculation piping removes a significant source of insulation debris from the containment and also reduces the likelihood of a large high energy pipe break which could lead to debris generation. All thermal insulation material in the primary containment is a Reflective Metallic Insulation (RMI) design. RMI breaks up into shards most of which are too large to pass through the ECCS suction strainers which have a maximum 2.1 mm (1/12 inch) hole size. Furthermore, the use of fibrous and calcium silicate materials in the Primary Containment is prohibited. With regard to LOCA-generated miscellaneous debris, the ABWR minimizes the potential for such debris by use of secure restraints, such as high tensile strength aircraft cable or specially designed bands, to secure equipment ID tags onto components located inside containment.

6C.3.1.3 Chemical Effects Debris

The ABWR primary containment does not contain reactive materials such as aluminum, phosphates, or calcium silicate, and minimizes zinc by prohibiting it except for a small amount in inorganic primers. In addition, the Suppression Pool Cleanliness program (Subsection 6.2.1.7.1) ensures that quantities of latent debris, which might include aluminum or fiber, are kept to a minimum. A solubility calculation indicates that more than 4.5 square feet of latent aluminum would have to be present in the suppression pool to form aluminum precipitates under bounding conditions post-LOCA. Ensuring that there is less than 4.5 square feet of latent aluminum is within the capability of the containment cleanliness program.

The evaluation of the 4.5 square feet of latent aluminum considered formation of aluminum oxyhydroxide under bounding pH and temperature conditions during the 30-day post-LOCA period. Additionally, formation of sodium aluminum silicate was considered due to potential exposure to concrete during the 30-day post-LOCA period. A surface area of 302 ft² of exposed concrete was postulated based on URG assumptions about failed qualified coatings on surfaces of walls and flooring that could be within the zone of influence of the break. (For the purpose of quantifying failed coatings (vs. exposed concrete), the URG doubled the 302 ft² to account for coatings on components, supports and structural steel that might also be within the ZOI.)

Evaluations of corrosion products from the postulated 4.5 square feet of latent aluminum conclude there would be no significant precipitation of the corrosion products due to the solubility of these corrosion products in the suppression pool. However, for conservatism, the downstream effects on fuel evaluation assumes that the small quantity of aluminum oxyhydroxide and sodium aluminum silicate predicted to form during the 30-day post LOCA period will not remain in solution.

The only form of zinc allowed inside primary containment is the inorganic zinc (IOZ) primer used in the qualified coatings system. The URG (Reference 6C-3) conservatively assumes that 604 square feet of qualified coatings are destroyed during the LOCA, which results in 47 pounds of IOZ. Analyses of the destroyed zinc primer determined that a maximum of 58.6 pounds of corrosion product (in the form of zinc oxide) would result from the over 20,000 square feet of zinc surface area (based on 10 micron spheres), and this zinc corrosion product will conservatively be assumed to be non-particulate in the evaluation of downstream effects on fuel.

6C.3.1.4 Debris Transport

The ABWR contains design features which reduce the transport of accident-generated debris to the suction strainers. The wetwell, which is the chamber in direct contact with the suppression pool, is largely empty with the only significant components/structures being an access tunnel, a grated catwalk and the Safety Relief Valve (SRV) discharge piping. There are no normal operating high energy piping systems in the wetwell which could break and lead to debris generation. The high energy piping in the ABWR, which consists largely of the main steam,

Reactor Water Cleanup (RWCU) system, and feedwater piping under normal operating conditions, is located in the upper drywell area. Any debris which is generated by a break in these systems would need to pass through a circuitous route involving any one of the ten drywell connecting vents (DCVs) and then through any one of the thirty horizontal vents before reaching the suppression pool. The DCVs have horizontal steel plates located above the openings that prevent any material falling in the drywell from directly entering the vertical leg of the DCVs. A vertically oriented trash rack is installed around the periphery of the horizontal steel plate to intercept debris. In order for debris to enter the DCV, it would have to travel horizontally through the trash rack prior to falling into the vertical leg of the connecting vents. Thus, the ABWR is resistant to the transport of debris from the drywell to the wetwell.

6C.3.1.5 Suction Strainer Design

In addition to these mitigating features, the downstream effects are reduced by the suction strainers themselves. The strainers are designed to protect the ECCS pumps to allow them to function long-term after an accident. As a result, they are designed so that 100% of the ECCS flow is routed through them and filtered such that particles 2.1 mm or larger are captured by the strainer. The strainers meet the requirements of Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.82.

6C.3.1.6 Diversity of ECCS Delivery Locations to the Core

The ABWR has diversification of ECCS delivery points which helps to reduce the consequences of downstream blockage. Two HPCF systems deliver coolant to the region above (at the outlet of) the core. One LPCF system provides coolant through one of the feed water lines. The RCIC system delivers coolant to the other feedwater line. Two LPCF systems deliver coolant through separate spargers into the outer annulus region. Should any blockage occur in the lower core region, such as the fuel inlet, which could limit the effectiveness of systems like RHR, the HPCF will still be effective at providing cooling water because it delivers water through spargers located above the core.

Calculations have been performed indicating that even in the highly unlikely event of a complete blockage of the inlet of the fuel assembly and with minimal bypass flow, sufficient flow would be provided from above the core by the HPCF to cool the fuel assemblies.

6C.3.1.7 Fuel Assembly Bypass Flow

The ABWR is designed to provide for fuel assembly bypass flow to cool the control rods between fuel assemblies. The bypass flow is upstream of the fuel assembly tie plate and any integral debris filter. Calculations have shown that even in the highly unlikely event that a fuel assembly were to block completely, this bypass flow is sufficient to cool the fuel assemblies. Because this bypass hole size is much larger than the strainer hole size, it is highly unlikely to plug. The bypass flow paths, however, were not credited in the analysis that developed the test acceptance criteria for the fuel tests.

6C.3.1.8 Related Tests

Preliminary data from testing conducted by Westinghouse (WEC) to resolve GSI-191 has not identified any coagulation of particulate debris until after fiber is introduced to the flow stream. Blockage of small clearances in downstream components is not likely for downstream components due to the small amount of assumed latent fiber. Regarding acceptance criteria for blockage of small clearances, it is noted that there should be no or minimal fiber downstream of the suction strainers because the only fiber potentially inside primary containment (latent loose debris) is not likely to be degraded during the pipe break and small enough to pass through the 2.1 mm diameter holes in the cassette-type suction strainers. For conservatism, however, all of the latent fiber assumed to be in containment (1 cu. ft.) will be assumed to be destroyed fibrous insulation small enough to all pass through the ECCS suction strainers.

6C.3.1.9 Downstream Fuel Effects Test

At least 18 months prior to the initial fuel load, a downstream effects test for the fuel is performed to ensure that small debris passing through the suction strainers does not impair the flow to the core. The COL applicant will provide a detailed test procedure to the NRC at least six months prior to performing the test. The test procedure will reflect industry experience with performance of such tests, for example consideration of fuel assembly geometry, debris addition and test protocol, number of tests, and provisions for assessing test variability. See Subsection 6C.6.1 for COL license information requirements. The following discusses the analysis basis, the test plan, and the debris assumptions used in this test.

6C.3.1.9.1 Analysis

6C.3.1.9.1.1 Introduction

An analysis determines the acceptable level of blockage in the fuel by LOCA generated debris which bypasses the ECCS suction strainer. This analysis ensures that the long term core cooling per Criterion 5 of 10CFR50.46 is maintained, the calculated peak clad temperature is maintained at an acceptably low value, and decay heat is removed for an extended period of time required by the long-lived radioactivity remaining in the core. Potential deposition of particulate, chemical effects and fibrous debris on the fuel and its impact on the heat transfer from the cladding is also included in the evaluation.

The results of the analysis are used to determine the acceptance criteria for the downstream fuel effects test, to be performed at least 18 months prior to initial fuel load.

6C.3.1.9.1.2 Analysis Approach

Although the diversification of ECCS delivery points (injection into the top of the core by the High Pressure Core Flooders and injection into the downcomer by the Low Pressure Core Flooder and Reactor Core Isolation Cooling) helps reduce the consequences of a blockage in the fuel assembly, for this analysis it is assumed that all the debris is delivered to the bottom of

the core and therefore, passes through the fuel inlet, which is the most likely place for blockage to occur.

The analysis is performed for a feedwater line break for the following reasons. Following the break and after the blowdown is complete, the water level in the downcomer rises to the feedwater line (i.e. the break elevation). At that point, all the excess flow from the Low Pressure Core Flooder (LPCF) or Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC), not injected into the core will flow out through the break. The flow rate into the core is dependent upon the natural circulation head of colder water in the downcomer and the hotter water and two-phase mixture in the core region. As the core inlet begins to block, the core flow rate decreases. A steam line break, being at a higher elevation, will produce a higher natural circulation flow and therefore is less limiting than a feedwater line break for establishing the pressure drop limit at the fuel inlet.

For this analysis, the flow area at the fuel inlet is reduced to simulate blockage of the inlet. All bypass flow paths are assumed to be blocked. The reduced flow area at the core inlet decreases the core inlet flow rate and increases the core inlet differential pressure (DP). The minimum flow area is determined to ensure that no point in the core experiences significant cladding heat-up, measured by ensuring that the void fraction at the top of the active fuel, on average remains < 0.95 . The corresponding hydraulic loss at the core inlet is the parameter monitored and used as the acceptance criterion in the test.

Conservative values of the nodal power peaking and pin-to-pin peaking factors for the hot assembly are chosen to place the hot rod at the Thermal Mechanical Operating Limit (TMOL). A core power corresponding to a decay heat at 5 minutes after shutdown is assumed as the debris accumulates at the inlet and increases the hydraulic resistance. This core power corresponding to decay heat at 5 minutes is conservatively kept constant thereafter. For the reasons stated below, blockage sufficient to reduce core cooling within 5 minutes is not likely:

- The core and the upper plenum retain significant inventory during the blowdown. The void fraction in the upper plenum remains below 1.0. Therefore, additional water injected into the core before a quasi-steady state is established is minimal (i.e., the level in the downcomer increases to the FW line). After the quasi-steady state is achieved, the injection into the core is limited by the natural circulation head and core boil off.
- The debris laden flow from the suppression pool will be injected into the vessel only after the initial inventory of the ECCS piping, which is clean, is swept and injected into the vessel. Therefore, any suppression pool water will be further diluted by this clean initial injection.
- Although not credited in this analysis, the HPCF pumps (and RCIC) initially inject from the condensate storage tank (CST), which is a clean source of water. The LPCF pumps do not start injection until after 2 minutes.

In addition, a parametric study is performed to determine the effect of fouling caused by deposition of particulate, fibrous and chemical effects debris on the cladding. The level of initial fouling on the cladding is increased to represent the effect of deposition of debris on the cladding.

6C.3.1.9.1.3 Analysis Results

An analysis was performed to compare the core inlet pressure drop (DP), flow rate and void fractions for the cases with no blockage and with blockage resulting in an increase of the hydraulic resistance of the fuel inlet. The analysis results demonstrate that despite a very high level of hydraulic resistance, sufficient flow remains available to the core to ensure that the core void fraction both in the hot assembly and average assembly remain < 0.95 .

In the ABWR design, the peak cladding temperature (PCT) occurs very early in the transient during the Reactor Internal Pumps (RIPs) coastdown phase, before ECCS injection occurs. Therefore, the PCT remains unaffected after the RIP coastdown by the subsequent blockage at the fuel inlet because the cladding temperature is maintained low (near the saturation temperature) as the core void fraction, both in the hot and average assemblies, is maintained below 0.95. The low fuel clad temperature also ensures that cladding oxidation does not occur in the long term cooling phase of the accident.

A study was performed on the effects of debris fouling on clad temperature. Normal clad fouling varies between 0.0-10.0 μm , and this was increased to a uniform 30 μm . This increase resulted in a maximum increase in clad temperature of 30°C.

In accordance with Westinghouse BWR LOCA methodology, the thickness of the "crud" layer is calculated. Assuming all the debris generated is deposited evenly over the fuel, it would generate a layer $< 15\ \mu\text{m}$ thick. The layer includes fiber and chemical deposits. Additionally, all of the particulates except RMI shards were assumed to be deposited on the fuel surface as additional crud. A sensitivity study was performed in which a uniform 30 μm layer was applied along the length of the fuel. A 30 μm layer is conservative and accounts for normal fouling ($< 10\ \mu\text{m}$) and pre-existing cladding oxidation, in addition to the crud buildup from debris. This increased fouling layer was shown to cause a 30 degree increase in clad temperature at the time of Peak Clad Temperature (~ 5 seconds). However, this increase does not apply to the peak clad temperature (PCT), because, in all cases, the PCT occurs within seconds of the LOCA initiation and it would take several minutes for debris to begin to reach the fuel. Any increase in cladding temperature caused by debris occurs well after the initial PCT and would be bounded by the 30°C evaluation. Consequently, any heatup caused by subsequent fuel crud deposition will not impact this initial PCT.

The results of the analysis provide an acceptable core inlet differential pressure (DP), corrected for the flow rates to account for the fact that the flow rate will decrease differently in the test loop (supplied by a pump) vs. in the analysis (controlled by natural circulation head). This is shown in the equation below:

$$\left[\frac{\Delta p_f}{\Delta p_i} \right]_{Test-Measured} = \left[\frac{\Delta p_f}{\Delta p_i} \right]_{LOCA-Aly} * \left(\frac{w_i}{w_f} \right)_{Aly}^2 \left(\frac{w_f}{w_i} \right)_{Test}^2$$

Where subscript "i" denotes initial (i.e., unfouled conditions), "f" indicates fouled conditions, "Aly" refers to analysis and "w" is the flow rate into the assembly and "Δp" is the hydraulic loss pressure drop from the bundle inlet to downstream of the third grid.

6C.3.1.9.2 Test Plan

A test facility is comprised of a fuel assembly mock-up, a pump, associated recirculation piping, and a mixing tank to add the debris. The test is conducted with a single partial height fuel assembly, including a fuel inlet nozzle, any integral debris filters, lower tie plate and fuel spacer grids. The cross-section of the fuel is modeled exactly; the length of the fuel assembly is reduced. The fuel assembly is unheated. The bypass flow paths are blocked for this test.

As described below, the testing will follow the test plan developed and implemented for the PWR Owners Group (PWROG) fuel debris capture testing with regard to debris preparation, addition of debris and monitoring pressure drop. This PWROG test plan is consistent with and accounted for revised NRC guidance for PWR's to respond to Generic Letter 2004-02 (Reference 6C-14). Several tests will be performed at a range of flow rates of 1 to 5 kg/sec (15.9 to 79.3 gpm) and at atmospheric pressure and ambient temperature. These flow rates are representative of the flow at recirculation conditions. The atmospheric pressure and ambient temperature result in a viscosity that is conservative with respect to pressure drop due to debris blockage. The test is initiated at clean conditions to establish a flow representative of post-LOCA recirculation conditions. The flow is injected at the fuel assembly inlet. Once a steady state has been established, the debris (described in 6C.3.1.9.3) is added to the system in a manner consistent with NRC guidance identified in Item 5(a) in Section 6.2.2, Appendix A of Reference 6C-15. The particulate debris is added first and in such a way that it does not coagulate and therefore would be able to block more of the potential fiber mat interstices. Next, fibrous debris is added. The fiber is also added slowly and in small amounts so as to ensure that the fibrous debris does not coagulate but remains as individual fibers. Once all of the particulate and fibrous debris has been added, chemical surrogate debris is added. The chemical surrogate material is added in batches and slowly so that it does not coagulate. As described in 6C.3.1.9.3, below, the particulate debris surrogate is the same as was used in the PWROG fuel debris capture tests; silicon carbide having a dimension of 0.01 mm (10 microns) and the chemical surrogate debris is prepared using the method identified in WCAP-16530-NP-A (Reference 6C-16). The pressure drop across the inlet and the entire fuel assembly is monitored. In addition,

the flow rate and coolant temperature are monitored. The test is run until all debris has been deposited in the system and a steady state pressure drop condition has been achieved. The above steps are consistent with the manner in which the PWROG fuel debris capture tests were performed.

6C.3.1.9.3 Debris Assumptions for Downstream Test

The test is conducted using conservative assumptions regarding the debris that would be present in the suppression pool following a LOCA. The following debris types are included: (1) Coatings, (2) Sludge, (3) Dust/Dirt, (4) Rust Flakes, (5) RMI shards, (6) Latent Fiber, and (7) Aluminum oxy-hydroxide as a surrogate for potential non-particulate zinc and aluminum corrosion products. As noted previously, the aluminum oxy-hydroxide used as a chemical surrogate is prepared using the method identified in WCAP-16530-NP-A (Reference 6C-16). The first four debris types are conservatively assumed to be particles smaller than 2.1 mm and are therefore all assumed to pass through the ECCS strainers. For the RMI shards and latent fiber, an assessment of the amount of the debris passing through the strainer is performed. Based on the size distribution of stainless steel RMI destroyed during jet testing (and shown in Figure 3-7 of NUREG/CR-6808), 4.3% of the RMI within the break zone of influence is assumed to be shards smaller than 2.1 mm, and therefore small enough to pass through the strainers. Latent fiber debris upstream of the strainers is conservatively assumed to be 1 ft³ of destroyed fibrous insulation fibers (fines) and therefore is all assumed to pass through the strainers.

The fibrous debris used in the test is prepared in the same manner as was done for the PWR Owners Group tests so as to be of a similar size (length) distribution. The particulate debris surrogate used in the test is the same as the particulate debris surrogate used for the PWR Owners Group tests and is silicon carbide having a nominal dimension of about 0.01 mm (10 microns). This particulate debris is a surrogate for all forms of particulate debris that are assumed to pass through the strainers. The use of small particulate debris in the test is conservative because, should a debris bed form, the small particulate provides for a densely packed debris bed that maximizes potential pressure drop.

The total debris amounts that are the basis for the test are shown below:

Debris Type	Debris Assumed in Downstream Fuel Effects Test
Coatings	38 lbs. (Note 1)
Sludge	195 lbs.
Dust/Dirt	150 lbs.
Rust Flakes	50 lbs.
Stainless Steel RMI	926 ft ²
Latent Fiber (fines)	1 ft ³
Aluminum Precipitate	0.11 lbs. (Note 2)
Zinc Precipitate	58.6 lbs. (Note 2)
<p>Note 1: The URG value of 85 lbs of coatings is reduced by the mass of inorganic zinc primer (47 lbs.) that is accounted for by 58.6 lbs of zinc oxide precipitate.</p> <p>Note 2: Aluminum oxy-hydroxide is used as a surrogate for both zinc and aluminum corrosion products.</p>	

Since there are 872 fuel assemblies in the core, the above debris amounts are reduced by a factor of 1/872. The test assembly debris load will be increased by a factor based upon the hot assembly power factor to account for the possibility of non-uniform debris deposition and non-uniform flow between assemblies.

6C.3.1.10 Summary

In summary, there is reasonable assurance that the downstream effects of material passing through the suction strainers will not adversely affect the fuel or other components. This conclusion is based upon the low potential for generating debris in the ABWR, the tortuous path for any debris to enter the wetwell from the drywell, the cleanup provisions for the water in the wetwell, the small quantity of conservatively assumed chemical debris, the small size of the holes in the suction strainers that filter out most debris, quarterly/periodic surveillance of HPCF, RHR, and RCIC systems which provides further assurance of the absence of debris which could affect their readiness for water injection capability, and diversity of injection points for ECCS into the core. Furthermore, additional case studies have shown that even a complete blockage of a fuel assembly can be accommodated because designed bypass flow

around the fuel assembly inlet is sufficient by itself to provide fuel assembly cooling post LOCA. Finally, even if the fuel assembly inlet is blocked completely and there is minimal bypass flow, the HPCF is sufficient by itself to provide flow from above the core to keep the fuel from exceeding Appendix K limits. These studies demonstrate that the ABWR has substantial defense in depth.

The test described in Subsection 6C.3.1.9 will be performed on the fuel to be used in the initial fuel cycle to confirm that debris will not adversely affect the fuel.

6C.3.2 Evaluation of Downstream Effects on Major Components

The effects of debris passing through the strainers on downstream components such as pumps, valves, and heat exchangers will be evaluated using the methodology described in WCAP-16406-P "Evaluation of Downstream Sump Debris Effects in Support of GSI-191" along with the accompanying NRC Safety Evaluation. The WCAP includes equations for determining wear on surfaces exposed to the fluid stream due to various types of debris; e.g., paint chips or RMI shards. Methodologies for evaluating the potential for blockage of small clearances due to downstream debris are also included in the WCAP. The WCAP also identifies the acceptance criteria for these downstream components. The materials and clearances for the valves, pumps, and heat exchangers downstream of the ABWR ECCS suction strainers are essentially the same as the materials and clearances for the valves, pumps, and heat exchangers downstream of the PWR containment sump suction strainers. Therefore, the application of the WCAP methodology for the ABWR is appropriate.

The COL applicant will evaluate the effects of bypassed debris on downstream components as part of the overall downstream effects evaluation. The COL applicant will submit the evaluation to the NRC at least 18 months prior to fuel load. See Subsection 6C.6.2 for COL license information requirements.

6C.4 Discussion Summary

In summary, the ABWR design includes the necessary provisions to prevent deleterious debris from impairing the ability of the RCIC, HPCF, and RHR systems to perform their required post-accident functions. Specifically, the ABWR does the following:

- (1) The design is resistant to the transport of debris to the suppression pool.
- (2) The suppression pool liner is stainless steel, which significantly reduces corrosion products.
- (3) The SPCU system will provide early indication of any potential problem. Low SPCU pump suction pressure can provide early indication of debris present in the suppression pool and permit the plant operator to take appropriate corrective action.
- (4) The SPCU System operation will maintain suppression pool cleanliness.

- (5) Visual inspection of the suction strainers is performed each refueling outage.
- (6) The equipment installed in the drywell and wetwell minimize the potential for generation of debris.
- (7) The cassette-type ECCS suction strainers meet the current regulatory requirements unlike the strainers at the incident plants.
- (8) Plant housekeeping and Foreign Material Exclusion (FME) procedures assure pool cleanliness prior to plant operation and over plant life such that no significant debris is present in the suppression pool or upper drywell.

6C.5 Strainer Sizing Analysis Summary

The strainer sizing analysis assures that the above requirements are satisfied using strainers compatible with the suppression pool design as shown by Figure 1.2-13i. The following summarizes the strainer sizing analysis.

Each loop of an ECCS system has a pair of suppression pool suction strainer configured in a T shape with the strainers at the two ends of the T cross member. Analysis determined the area of each strainer. Thus, RHR with three loops has six strainers. The HPCF with two loops has four strainers, and the RCIC has two strainers. The characteristic dimensions to calculate a surface area for cassette type strainer are given as follows:

- (1) Depth of filter pocket
- (2) Width of filter pocket
- (3) Length of strainer
- (4) Diameter of strainer

By the requirements above, all of the debris postulated to be in the suppression pool deposits on the strainers. The distribution of debris volume to the strainer regions was determined as a fraction of the loop flow splits based on runout flow. Debris on the screen creates a pressure drop as predicted by NUREG/CR-6224 and NUREG/CR-6808, which is referenced by R.G. 1.82. Pressure drop caused by the mixed particulates and filter bed is calculated by the equation shown on NUREG/CR-6224, Appendix B. The following parameters play an important part in the function of this equation for pressure drop caused by mixed bed.

- (1) Thickness of debris on screen
- (2) Characteristic shape of debris type
- (3) Rate of particulate mass to fiber debris mass

(4) Velocity of fluid passing through the screen (runout flow used)

Pressure drop is calculated by the equation shown on NUREG/CR-6808 for RMI. The debris created pressure drop was applied in an equation as follows; the static head at the pump inlet is equal to the hydraulic losses through the pipe and fittings, plus the pressure drop through the debris on the strainers, plus the hydraulic loss through the unplugged strainer, and plus the required NPSH. The static head takes into account the suppression pool water level determined by the draw down calculated as applicable for a main steam line break scenario.

By making realistic assumptions, the following additional conservatisms are likely to occur, but they were not applied in the analysis. No credit in water inventory was taken for water additions from feedwater flow or flow from the condensate storage tank as injected by RCIC or HPCF. Also, for the long term cooling condition, when suppression pool cooling is used instead of the low pressure flood mode (LPFL), the RHR flow rate decreases from runout (1130 m³/h) to rated flow (954 m³/h), which reduces the pressure drop across the debris.

In summary, the analytical process for sizing of the strainers is based on debris generation, debris transport and a head loss evaluation in accordance with the Utility Resolution Guidance (NEDO-32686-A) supplemented by an assumption of latent fiber. This analytical method will be used to implement ITAAC as shown in Tier 1, ITAAC 2.4.1.4.c, 2.4.2.3.g, and 2.4.4.3.j.

6C.5.1 ECCS Pump Suction Strainer Sizing Design Basis

The ECCS suction strainer design, which is described in Appendix 6C.2 and its associated references, is the same as the design for the Reference Japanese ABWR (see References 6C-11, 6C-12 and 6C-13), and the strainers have at least the same area as the Reference Japanese ABWR strainers. Application of the Reference Japanese ABWR ECCS suction strainer design is conservative for the following reasons:

- The sizing of the Reference Japanese ABWR strainers is based on the methodology defined in the BWROG's Utility Resolution Guideline (URG) (Reference 6C-3).
- The Reference Japanese ABWR primary containment includes fibrous and calcium silicate thermal insulation, both of which are significant contributors to strainer head loss. The only type of thermal insulation allowed inside the primary containment is all stainless steel reflective metal insulation (RMI), which results in a much lower head loss across the ECCS suction strainers.

The application of the reference Japanese ABWR strainer head loss analysis is less conservative in one area. Section 6C.3 and Regulatory Guide 1.82, Rev. 3 state that the head loss calculations are to be performed at pump runout flow rate conditions. For the reference Japanese ABWR, these calculations were performed at design flow rate conditions. Because pump runout flow rate is greater than design flow rate and strainer head loss is proportional to flow rate, a higher suction strainer head loss is calculated at runout flow rate. However this higher head loss is more than compensated by other changes compared with the reference Japanese ABWR,

including the removal of fibrous and calcium silicate insulation materials from the containment. Consequently, the use of the reference Japanese ABWR for the licensing basis is conservative. This evaluation is documented in Reference 6C-13.

The expected cleanliness of the ABWR primary containment is supported by operating experience from one of the oldest Japanese ABWRs. Specifically, an inspection at this plant recovered items from the suppression pool, including tape fragments, plastic sheet fragments, and short segments of rope. None of these types of items were reported in the drywell as a result of that inspection, and no such items were reported in either the drywell or suppression pool during the previous inspection 2 years earlier. To account for the potential that there might be a few similar items inadvertently left in the primary containment during the life of the plant, it is assumed that 2 filter pockets on each ECCS strainer are completely blocked by miscellaneous latent debris.

6C.6 COL License Information

6C.6.1 Procedure for Downstream Fuel Effects Test

The COL applicant shall provide to the NRC a detailed procedure for the downstream fuel effects test at least six months prior to performing the test. The test procedure shall reflect industry experience with performance of such tests, for example consideration of fuel assembly geometry, debris addition and test protocol, number of tests, and provisions for assessing test variability (see Subsection 6C.3.1.9).

6C.6.2 Evaluation of Bypassed Debris Effects

The COL applicant shall evaluate the effects of bypassed debris on downstream components as part of the overall downstream effects evaluation. The COL applicant shall submit the evaluation to the NRC at least 18 months prior to fuel load (see Subsection 6C.3.2).

6C.7 References

- 6C-1 Debris Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers, NRC Bulletin No. 93-02, May 11, 1993.
- 6C-2 Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following a Loss-of-Coolant Accident, NRC Reg. Guide 1.82, Revision 3.
- 6C-3 Utility Resolution Guidance for ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage, NEDO-32686-A.
- 6C-4 Parametric Study of Potential for BWR ECCS strainer Blockage Due to LOCA Generated Debris, NUREG/CR-6224.
- 6C-5 Knowledge Base for Effect of debris on Pressurised Water Reactor Emergency Core Cooling Sump Performance, NUREG/CR-6808.
- 6C-6 Not Used.
- 6C-7 NRC Generic Letter (GL) 97-04, Assurance of Sufficient Net Positive Suction Head for Emergency Core Cooling and Containment Heat Removal Pumps, dated October 7, 1997.
- 6C-8 NRC Generic Letter (GL) 98-04, Potential for Degradation of the Emergency Core Cooling System and the Containment Spray System After a Loss-Of-Coolant Accident because of Construction and Protective Coating Deficiencies and Foreign Material in Containment, dated July 14, 1998.
- 6C-9 Not Used.
- 6C-10 Not Used.
- 6C-11 Toshiba Corporation, The Evaluation Report for Net Positive Suction Head of Pump in Emergency Core Cooling System, 7A31-0903-0001, Rev 1, February 10, 2010.
- 6C-12 Toshiba Corporation, The Supplementary Document for the Head Loss Evaluation Report of Japanese ABWR ECCS Suction Strainer, 7A31-0903-0002, Rev 3, February 10, 2010.
- 6C-13 Toshiba Corporation, The Evaluation Example of the Head Loss of the ECCS Suction Strainer and Pipe in the ECCS Pump Run-out Flow Condition, 7A31-0903-0003, Rev 1, June 24, 2009.

- 6C-14 Letter from W. H. Ruland (NRC) to A. R. Pietrangelo (NEI), 'Revised Guidance for Review of Final Licensee Responses to Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," dated March 28, 2008, ADAMS Accession Number ML080230112.
- 6C-15 Enclosure 1 to ML080230112, "NRC Staff Review Guidance Regarding Generic Letter 2004-02 Closure in the Area of Strainer Head Loss and Vortexing," dated March 2008, ADAMS Accession Number ML080230038.
- 6C-16 WCAP-16530-NP-A, "Evaluation of Post-Accident Chemical Effects in Containment Sump Fluids to Support GSI-191," Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, dated March 2008.

Table 6C-1 Not Used

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Table 6C-2 Not Used

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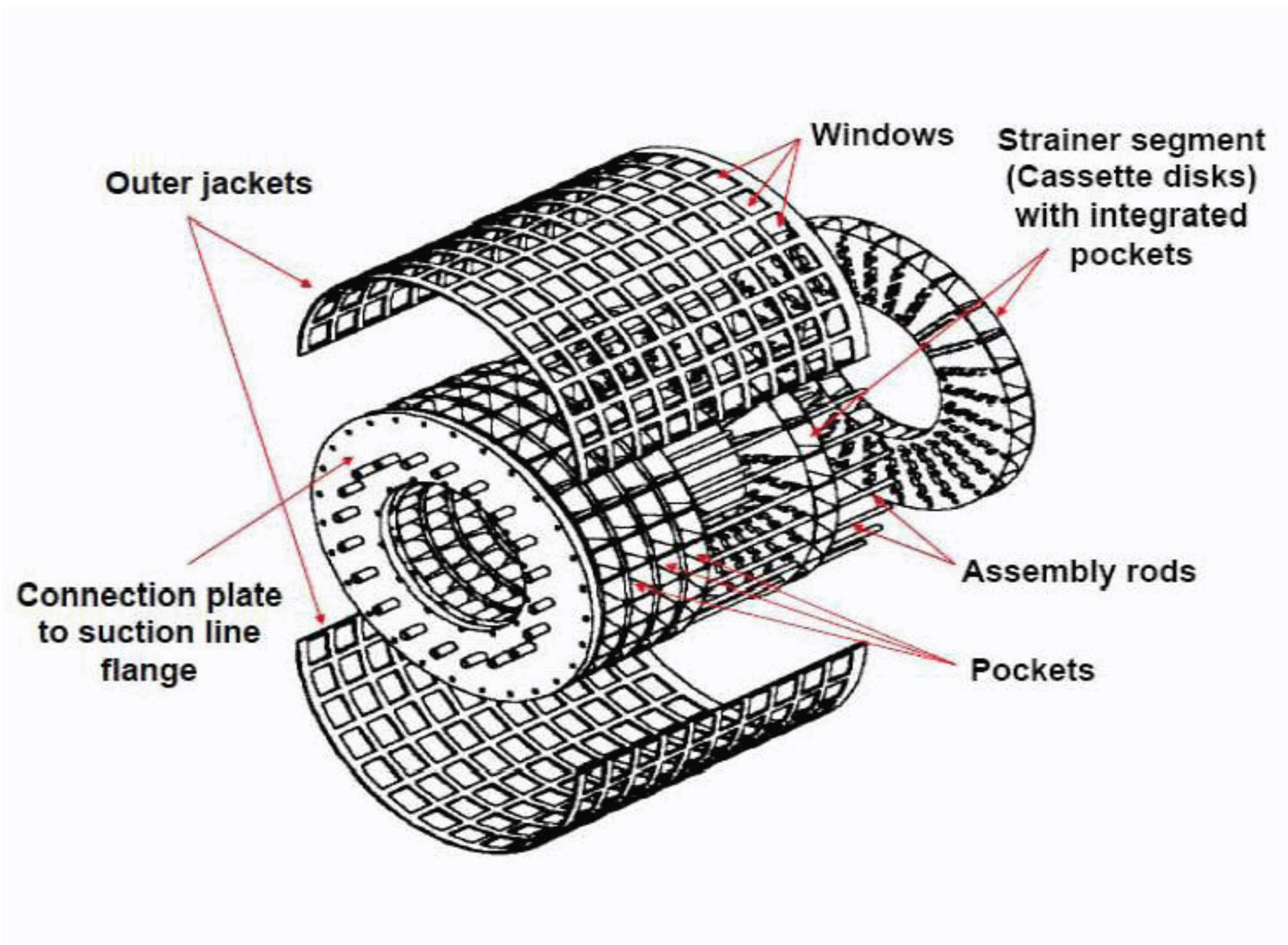


Figure 6C-1 Cassette Strainer Cutaway