

IMPROVED DYNAMIC VACUUM BREAKER

VALVE RESPONSE

FOR VERMONT YANKEE

REVISION 0

PREPARED FOR

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

175 CURTNER AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95125

UNDER PURCHASE ORDER NO. 205-XJ102

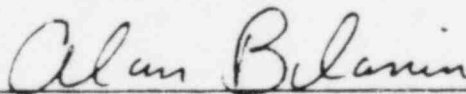
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SUMMARY

Improved plant-unique expected and design vacuum breaker impact velocities have been calculated for the Vermont Yankee plant.

The valve displacement time history was predicted using a valve dynamic model which takes credit for the reduction of hydrodynamic torque across the vacuum breaker as a consequence of valve actuation. As a result of this study the vacuum breakers in the Vermont Yankee plant are predicted to not actuate during the chugging transient.

SUMMARY OF THE METHODOLOGY USED TO DEFINE PLANT-UNIQUE
WETWELL TO DRYWELL MARK I VACUUM BREAKER FORCING FUNCTIONS
FROM FSTF DATA

During the Mark I FSTF test series, wetwell to drywell vacuum breaker actuation was observed during the chugging phase of steam blowdowns. As a result of this observation, a methodology was developed which can be used to define the loading function acting on a vacuum breaker during chugging (Ref. 1). The methodology developed uses FSTF pressure time history data and adjusts the vent system and wetwell pressures to account for plant-unique geometry. For plants with internal vacuum breakers, the most critical parameter controlling the magnitude of the vacuum breaker forcing function is the drywell volume per vent area. Vacuum breaker forcing functions are specified as a time history of the differential pressure across the valve disc.

The steps taken in the development of the plant-unique forcing function model are shown in Figure 1. Step 1 involves the development of analytic dynamic models for the unsteady motion in the steam vent system (see Figure 2), at the steam water interface (see Figure 3) and in the suppression pool (see Figure 4) assuming that the condensation rate at the steam water interface is known. The dynamics in the vent system are assumed to be governed by one-dimensional acoustic theory and jump conditions across the steam water interface are the Rankine-Hugoniot relations. A one-dimensional model of the suppression pool was developed which accounts for compression of the wetwell airspace

STEP

1

Develop a dynamic model of the vent system, steam water interface and pool slosh with the condensation rate at the interface unknown.

2

Use measured drywell pressure to determine the condensation rate.

3

With the condensation rate determined, predict unsteady pressures at other vent locations to validate the model.

4

Use the condensation source at the vent exit to drive dynamic models of Mark I plants to determine unique vacuum breaker forcing functions.

Figure 1. Steps in determining plant unique vacuum breaker forcing functions.

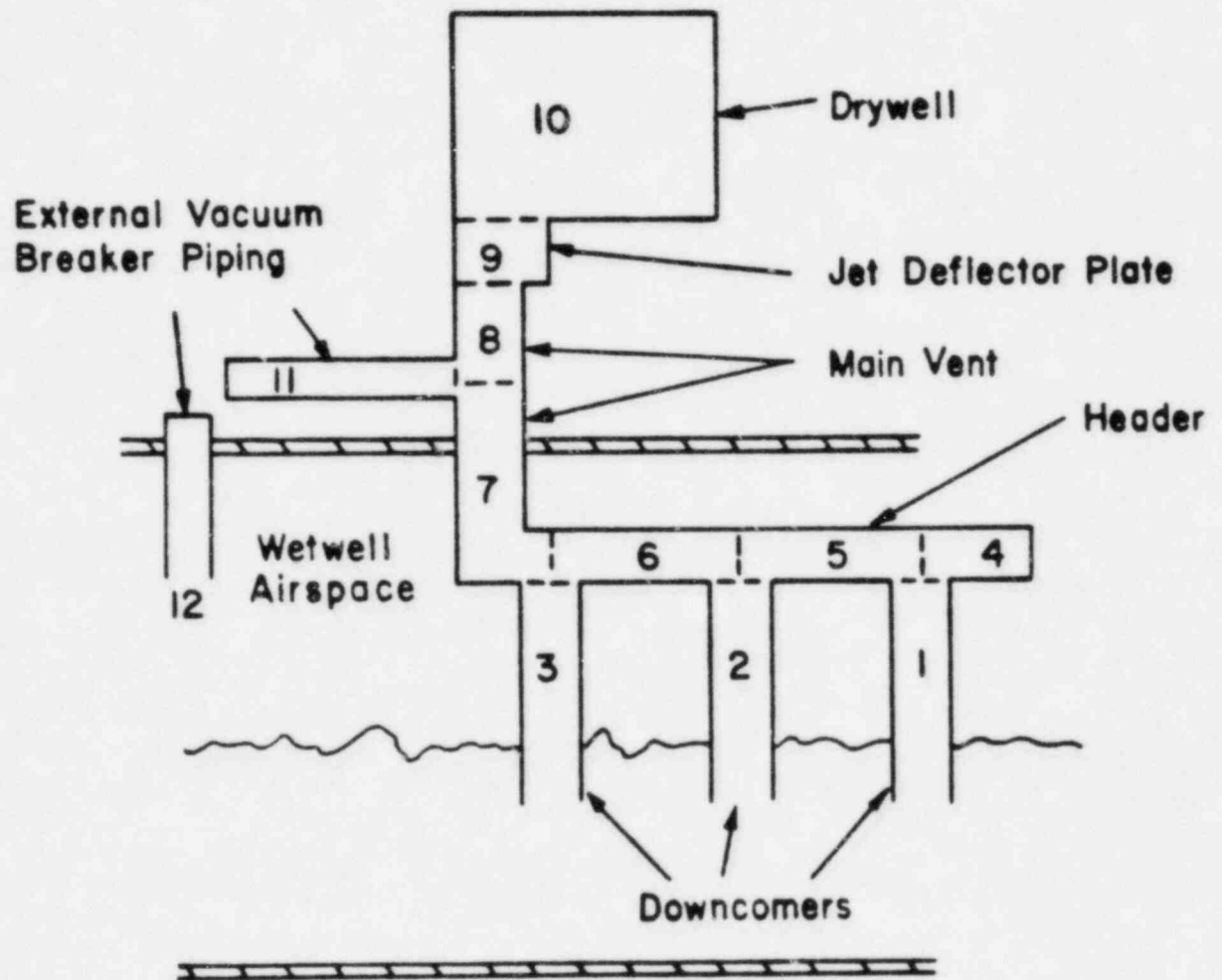


Figure 2. Schematic model of the vent system depicted by 12 dynamic components.

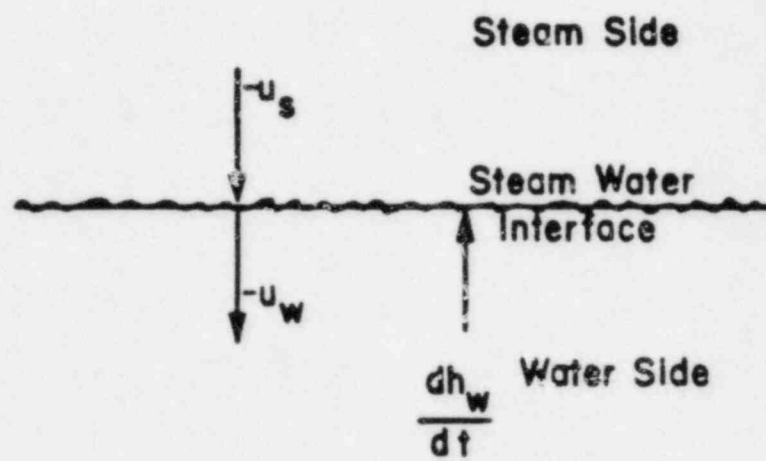


Figure 3. Details of the steam water interface.

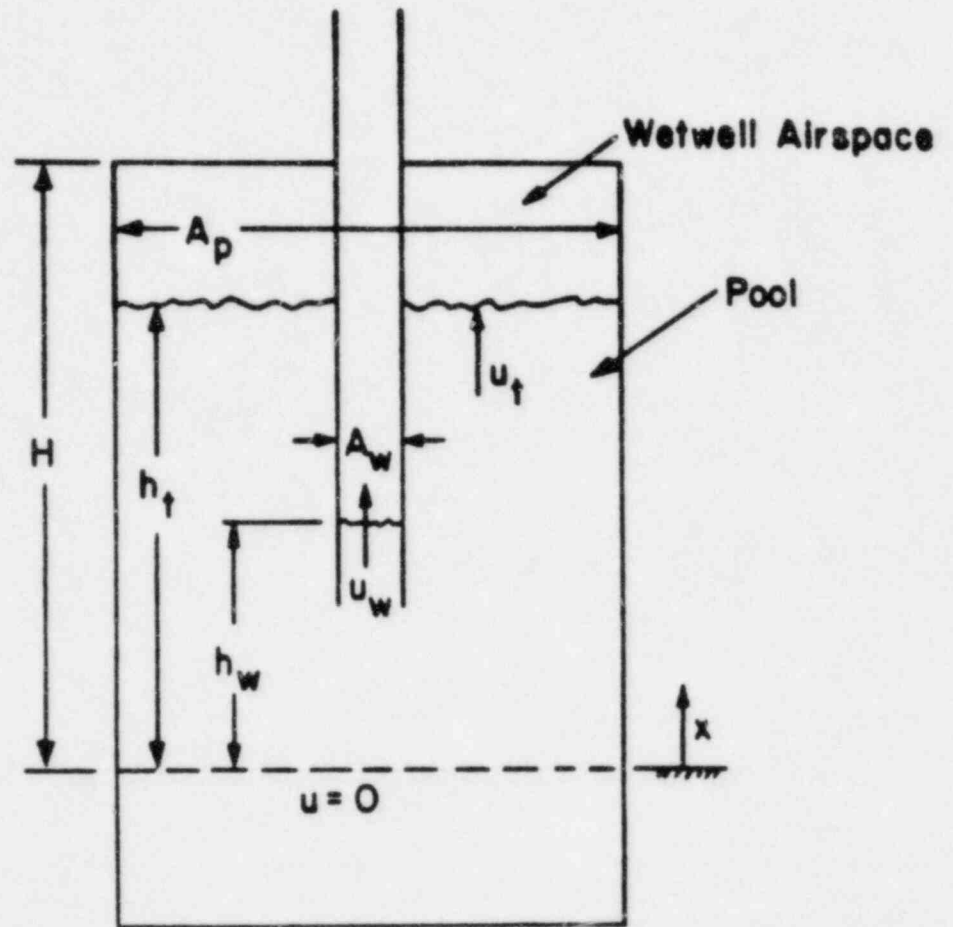


Figure 4. Details of the pool dynamic model around each downcomer.

with the lowering of the steam water interface in the downcomer. Assuming a unit condensation source in frequency space, a transfer function is then developed between the condensation source and the pressure in the drywell. Once this transfer function has been established, the condensation time history at the steam water interface can be extracted from a measured drywell pressure time history which is step 2 in Figure 1.

The model developed permits validation (step 3 in Figure 1) provided that an additional pressure time history, at another location in the suppression system, is available. With the condensation rate determined at the vent exit using a pressure time history from the drywell, the pressure history in the ring header was predicted and compared against measured data. The comparison was very favorable (Ref. 1).

In order to predict plant-unique vacuum breaker forcing functions, the key assumption is made that the condensation rate is a facility independent quantity. This assumption is supported by the observation that the condensation rate is fixed by local conditions at the vent exit; i.e., steam mass flow rate, non-condensibles and thermodynamic conditions, and that these local conditions vary slightly between plants. Using this condensation rate, the forcing function parameters given in Table 1 were used to compute expected and design loads across the Vermont Yankee plant vacuum breakers (Ref. 1).

TABLE 1

Forcing Function Parameters
for Vermont Yankee

| Parameter | Value Used In Computation* |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Vent/pool area ratio | 0.045 |
| Drywell volume/main vent area ratio | 411.96 ft |
| Main vent area/downcomer area | 0.99 |
| Main vent length | 37.32 ft |
| Header area/downcomer area | 1.47 |
| Header length | 15.0 ft |
| Downcomer area | 3.01 ft ² |
| Downcomer length | 10.8 ft |
| Submergence head | 4.29 ft water |
| Distance along main vent from drywell to external line | 6.7 ft |
| Length of main vent side external line | 26.9 ft |
| Length of wetwell side external line | 7.7 ft |
| External line area | 1.767 ft ² |

* The modeled plant is FSTF.

SUMMARY OF THE METHODOLOGY OF THE MARK I/MARK II VACUUM
BREAKER VALVE MODEL (INCLUDING HYDRODYNAMIC EFFECTS)

During the Mark I shakedown tests, the vacuum breaker displacement time history was recorded. Use of a simple single-degree-of-freedom valve model resulted in large overly conservative predictions of the resulting valve dynamics. In an effort to reduce the conservatism in this test series, and additionally to relax the prediction of valve impact velocities in expected Mark II downcomer-mounted applications during chugging, a methodology was developed which uses the differential forcing function across the vacuum breaker (computed by the vent dynamic model) but includes the effect of torque alleviation as a consequence of valve flow (Ref. 2). With the valve in an open position, the pressure difference across the valve is not the pressure difference felt by the valve disc, because of flow effects across the open valve disc. This reduction in hydrodynamic torque is estimated by the following:

1. A linear analysis of the pressure field on either side of the closed valve permits the solution for pressure and velocity in the vicinity of the valve disc without flow.
2. The flow effect is modeled as a mathematical source/sink around the circumference of the open valve.
3. The local pressure and velocity fields permit evaluation of the strength of the flow source/sink.

4. The response of the valve to both flow and up and downstream pressure transients is computed as a superposition of these influences. In all cases flow tends to reduce the pressure load felt by the disc.

The 18" A&M valve characteristics for Vermont Yankee are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Vacuum Breaker Characteristics
for Vermont Yankee

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Vacuum breaker type | 18" A&M External |
| System moment of inertia (lb-in-s ²) | 38.46 |
| System moment arm (in) | 3.586 |
| Disc moment arm (in) | 11.375 |
| System weight (lb) | 106.1 |
| Disc area (in ²) | 283.5 |
| System rest angle (rad) | 0.4124 |
| Seat angle (rad) | 0.53 |
| Body angle (rad) | 1.32 |
| Seat coefficient restitution | 0.8 |
| Body coefficient restitution | 0.6 |

RESULTS

The pressure time history shown in Figure 5 was used to drive a valve dynamic model with/without flow effects for the A&M valve with characteristics given in Table 2. Table 3 summarizes the valve impact data for the expected response. No valve actuation is predicted for this valve during the chugging transient.

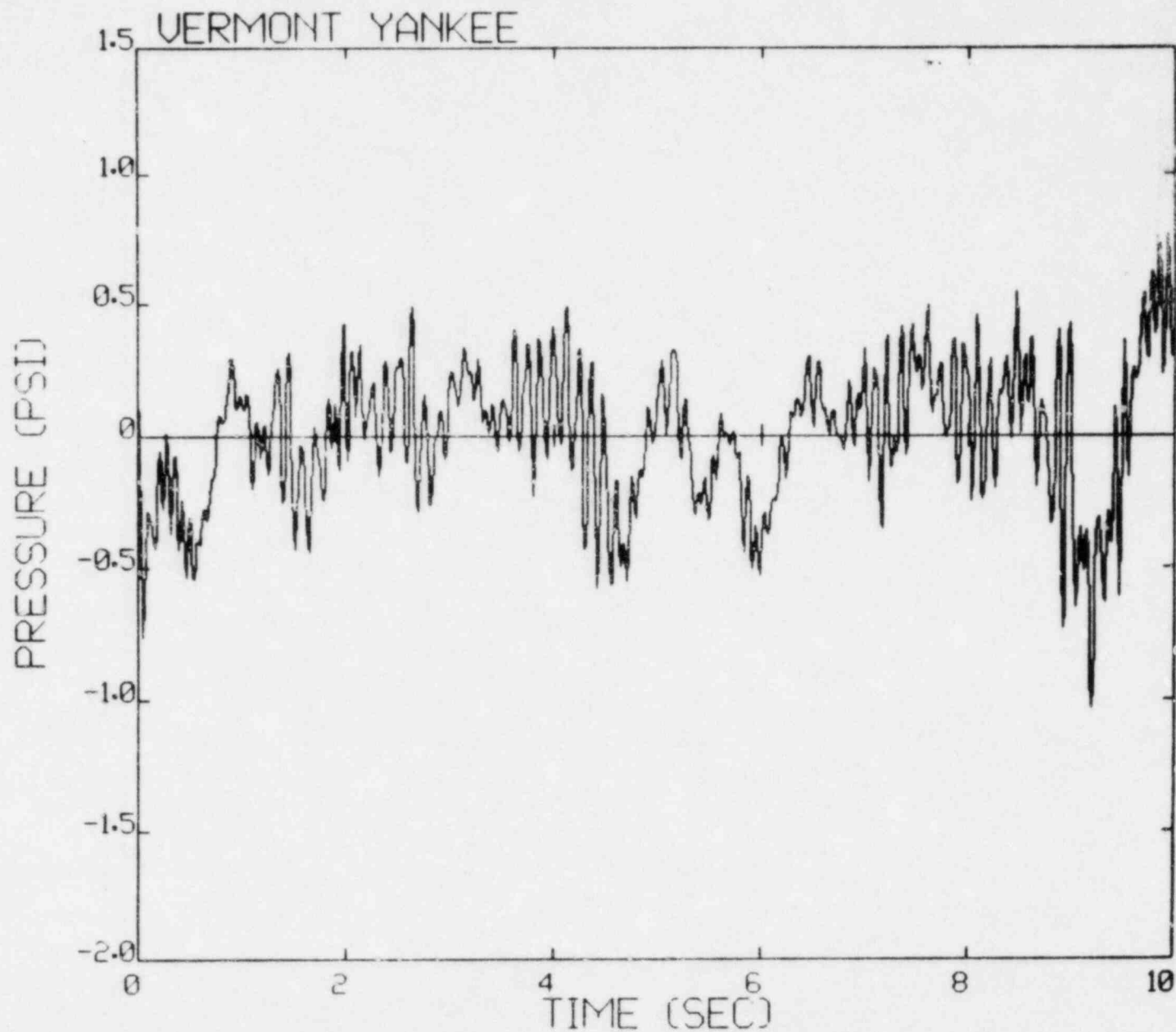


Figure 5.a. Pressure time history predicted across a vacuum breaker located on the external line in Vermont Yankee. Submergence head has not been added. 0 - 10 seconds.

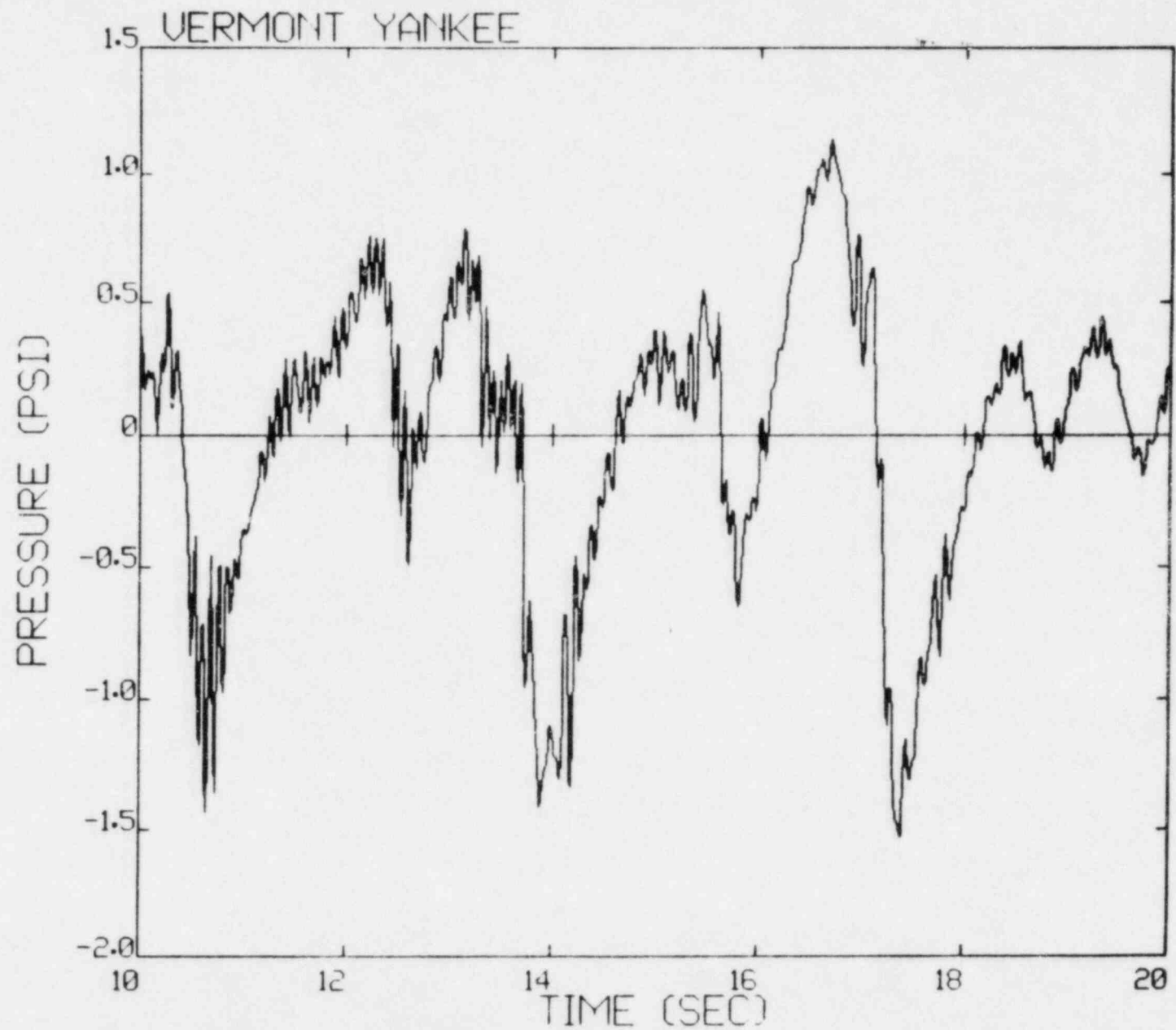


Figure 5.b. Pressure time history predicted across a vacuum breaker located on the external line in Vermont Yankee. Submergence head has not been added. 10 - 20 seconds.

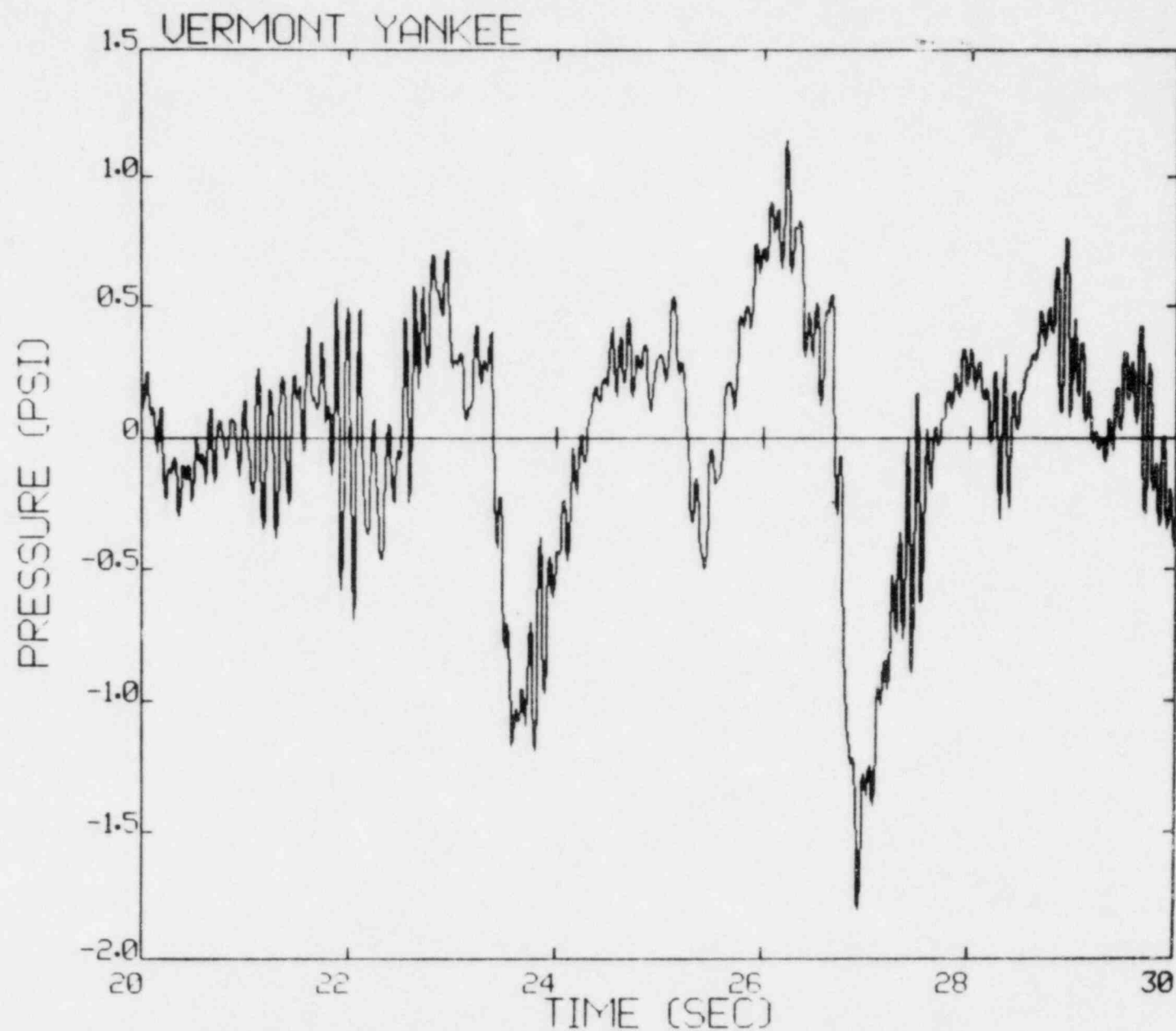


Figure 5.c. Pressure time history predicted across a vacuum breaker located on the external line in Vermont Yankee. Submergence head has not been added. 20 - 30 seconds.

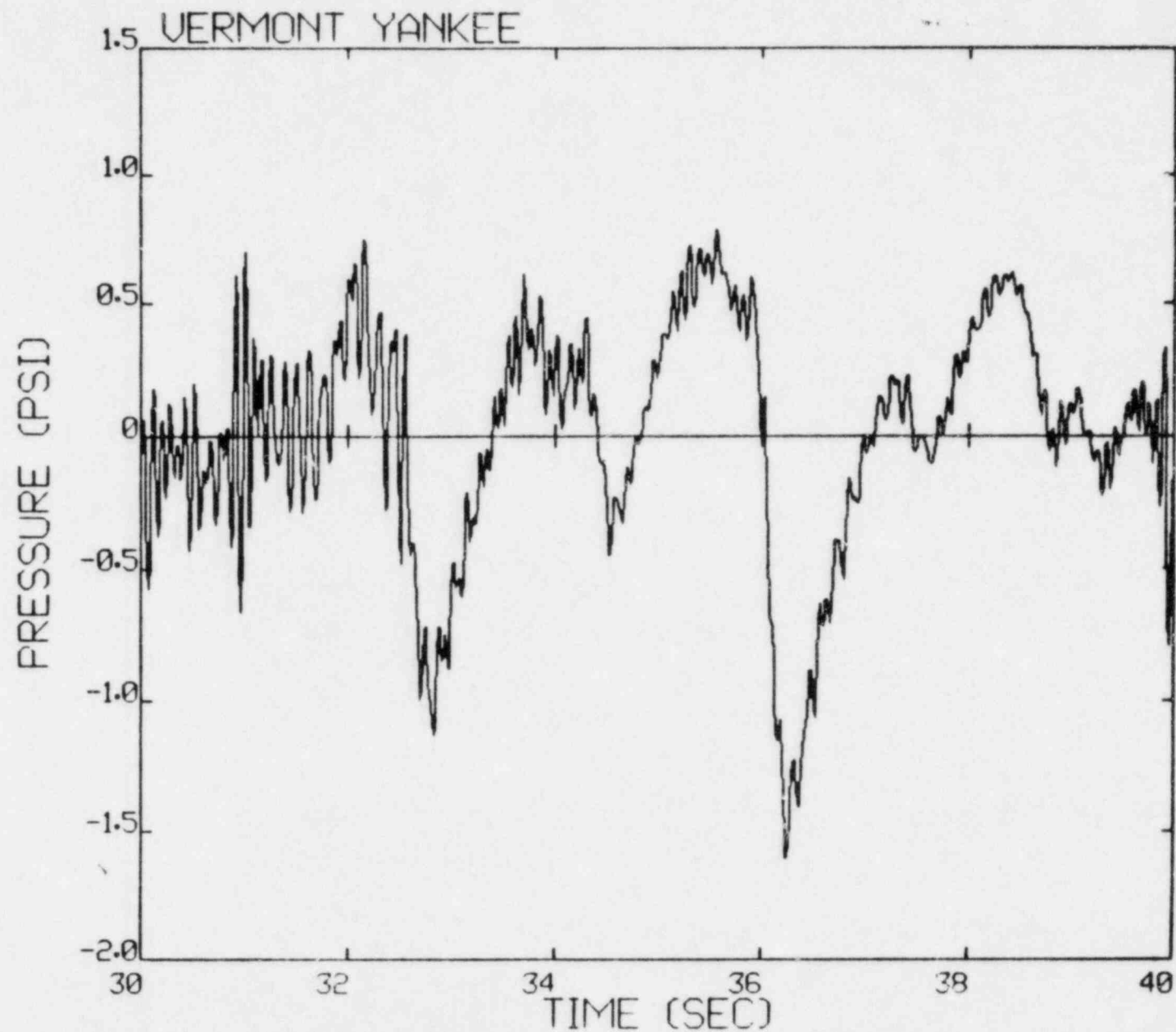


Figure 5.d. Pressure time history predicted across a vacuum breaker located on the external line in Vermont Yankee. Submergence head has not been added. 30 - 40 seconds.

TABLE 3

Vacuum Breaker Valve Response
for Vermont Yankee

| | Maximum Impact Velocity (rad/sec) | Number of Impacts (2) | Maximum Opening Angle (rad) (3) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <hr/> | | | |
| Expected Loading Function(1) | | | |
| No flow effects | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Flow effects | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |

(1) Submergence head is taken as 1.859 psi.
Vacuum breaker assumed to be mounted
on an external line with characteristics
given in Table 1.

(2) Seat impacts above 1 rad/sec.

(3) The valve does not actuate.

REFERENCES

1. "Mark I Vacuum Breaker Dynamic Load Specification, Revision 3," C.D.I. Report No. 80-4, February 1980.
2. "Mark I Vacuum Breaker Improved Valve Dynamic Model - Model Development and Validation," C.D.I. Tech Note No. 82-31, August 1982.