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# Prioritization of Reactor Control Components Susceptible to Fire Damage as a Consequence of Aging

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## **Abstract**

The Fire Vulnerability of Aged Electrical Components Test Program is to identify and assess issues of plant aging that could lead to an increase in nuclear power plant risk because of fires. Historical component data and prior analyses are used to prioritize a list of components with respect to aging and fire vulnerability and the consequences of their failure on plant safety systems. The component list emphasizes safety system control components, but excludes cables, large equipment, and devices encompassed in the Equipment Qualification (EQ) program. The test program selected components identified in a utility survey and developed test and fire conditions necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the test program. Fire damage considerations were limited to purely thermal effects.

# Table of Contents

Abstract.....	iii/iv
Acknowledgements .....	vii
Executive Summary.....	1
1.0 Introduction and Objectives.....	2
2.0 Identification of Generic Components for Aging/Fire Testing .....	3
2.1 Background.....	3
2.2 Selection Criteria .....	4
2.2.1 Susceptibility to Fire Damage.....	4
2.2.2 Susceptibility to Aging.....	5
2.2.3 Consequence of Component Failure .....	5
2.2.4 Recommended and Prioritized Component List .....	6
2.3 Descriptions of Generic Components.....	6
2.3.1 Relays .....	7
2.3.2 Circuit Breakers.....	7
2.3.3 Motor Control Centers .....	8
2.3.4 Inverters and Battery Chargers.....	9
2.3.5 Electronic Components .....	9
3.0 Identification of Specific Components for Aging/Fire Testing .....	11
3.1 Utility Surveys.....	11
3.2 Survey Review.....	11
4.0 Fire Test Environment Specifications.....	12
5.0 Summary of General Test Requirements.....	14
6.0 References.....	15
Appendix A: IEEE Std. 500; High Temperature Environmental Multipliers .....	A-1

## List of Figures

Figure 1	General Categories of Components Considered for Aging/Fire Test Program.....	16
Figure 2	Generalized Fire-Induced Temperature Environments Resulting from Sandia Cabinet and Room Effects Tests.....	17

## List of Tables

Table 1	Equipment summary ranking considering the impact of fire-induced damage on the functionality of the component .....	18
Table 2	Multipliers used to alter (increase) the predicted failure rates for control and support components when considering exposure to high temperature environments .....	19
Table 3	Fraction of reported NPRDS component failures attributed to aging.....	20
Table 4	Number of reported NPRDS component failures attributed to aging .....	21
Table 5	Total failures (age-related and otherwise) studied in the failure-cause analysis of Auxiliary Feedwater, Class 1E, High Pressure Injection, and Service Water Systems of a selected number of Plants (Westinghouse, Babcock & Wilcox).....	22
Table 6	Total failures from failure cause results in Table 5 ordered by the number of failures which affected system operation (Significant Failures) .....	23
Table 7	Component group with the highest overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations. ....	24
Table 8	Component group with the intermediate overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations .....	25
Table 9	Component group with the lowest overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations .....	26
Table 10	High priority component survey results .....	27
Table 11	Intermediate priority component survey results .....	28
Table 12	Generalized peak fire-induced air temperature environments for components, based on Sandia cabinet and room effects tests.....	29
Table 13	Proposed general test requirements for the high priority component list .....	30
Table 14	Proposed general test requirements for the intermediate priority component list.....	31

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## Executive Summary

This document identifies the components and test environments for the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Fire Vulnerability of Aged Electrical Components Test Program. Historical component data and prior analyses are used to prioritize the list of components with respect to aging, fire vulnerability, and the consequences of their failure on plant safety systems. The component list emphasizes safety system control components, but excludes cables, large equipment, and devices encompassed in the Equipment Qualification (EQ) program. Two component lists are identified for inclusion in the aging and fire testing program. The high priority group includes relays, circuit breakers, transmitters, recorders, temperature switches, instrument computation modules, instrument

isolation devices, controllers, meters, and logic equipment. The intermediate group consists of battery chargers, inverters, process switches and sensors, position/limit switches, indicating devices (lights, annunciators, etc.), power supplies, batteries, timers, valve operators, and switches/pushbuttons. The rationale for this categorization is provided in the body of this document. Sandia's fire test program results are used to define realistic temperature environments, of which a subset is recommended for the test components. The results of a utility survey identifying explicit component populations are summarized based on this prioritization. Survey responses from 19 plants were used to create a data base to aid in component identification.



## 1.0 Introduction and Objectives

The objective of the Fire Vulnerability of Aged Electrical Components Program is to identify and assess issues of plant aging that could lead to an increase in nuclear power plant fire risk. The effort described in this report addresses aging effects on the fire vulnerability of electrical components other than cables, which are treated in a separate test program at Sandia. The scope is limited further by excluding components located inside the containment building (encompassed in the Equipment Qualification program) and large equipment known to be less susceptible to fire damage. The emphasis is on control components, including sensors, indicators, decision making equipment (logic and control devices), actuation devices (relays, circuit breakers, and valve actuators), and support components (power supplies, batteries, inverters, etc.). Fire damage considerations are initially limited to purely thermal effects (excluding humidity, corrosion, fire suppression, and particulate damage mechanisms) as thermal effects are somewhat more straightforward to characterize and test and are the principal mechanisms considered in the fire risk studies.

Issues that have either been addressed in previous studies, or will be considered separately in the future,

are the impact of aging on the vulnerability to fire damage of cables, cable protective features, and barrier penetration seals; the impact of aging on the susceptibility of electrical equipment to self-induced fires; and the impact of aging on fire detection and suppression systems.

The initial effort of the experiment design is to identify the components to be tested in the subsequent aging/fire test program at Sandia. The components selected must be vulnerable to aging degradation and fire damage, and their failure must adversely impact the operation of safety related systems in the plant. This impact can be through loss of redundancy, total loss of function, or degradation of performance. Generic classes of components are identified that satisfy these criteria. Aging and failure mechanisms are compiled for each class. Applicable accelerated aging methods are recommended, as well as environmental conditions for the fire exposure tests. A utility survey was conducted to identify specific component populations in use. The test program will select components identified in the survey and develop test and fire conditions necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the test program.

## 2.0 Identification of Generic Components for Aging/Fire Testing

### 2.1 Background

The initial task for the aging/fire susceptibility experimental program was to identify the general classes of nuclear power plant components appropriate for evaluation. We address specifically the electrical control components (including sensing, indicating, decision making, power source, and power transmission devices) of the safety related systems. Components located inside the containment building, which have been subjected to the harsh environment EQ program, are excluded from this study. The extremely low incidence of fires in the containment building, the high temperature qualification conditions for these devices (typically longer than three hours at 174 ° C), and their general ruggedness-by-design result in a relatively low priority for evaluation when compared with the out-of-containment components. Cables are treated in a separate Sandia research effort. Large equipment (pumps, turbines, blowers, etc.) is not evaluated because of its relatively low vulnerability to fire damage, primarily because of bulk. However, associated circuitry that is considered may cause the equipment to malfunction.

The components of interest operate in the plant safety systems and their associated support and power supply systems. The definition of "safety systems" is general. A precise list of appropriate systems to be considered in this program is difficult because of variations in plant type and the nature of the safety action required. The sources of aging, fire susceptibility, and reliability data referenced in this report used slightly different safety-related systems lists. In general, the following systems are considered:

- Class 1E power distribution
- Reactor protection trip
- High and low pressure injection
- Residual heat removal
- Component cooling and service water
- Main and auxiliary feedwater
- Reactor coolant
- Residual heat removal
- Standby liquid control

The specific components to be tested are in many cases common across several systems. Their failure rates and aging susceptibility are not strongly system dependent. Consequently, for the purpose of this study, minimal attention will be applied to system dependencies as long as the component of interest is clearly required for safety actions.

The list of components is derived from an analysis of fire-related damage to safety equipment conducted

by Wanless [1], with additions where noted. The components fall into four functional categories: 1) sensing and indicating devices, 2) control decision and action initiation devices, 3) the active equipment to be controlled, and 4) power supply/distribution and signal transmission components as shown in Figure 1.

The criteria by which the components are selected for the test program consider the following:

- \* The component must show evidence of general degradation with time (aging).
- \* The expected susceptibility of the component to fire damage must be significant.
- \* The consequence of failure of the component must be significant. This is either by virtue of its population in the safety systems, or its identified negative impact on safety system operations with component failure, or a combination of both high population and negative impact.

All components are susceptible to aging degradation, in varying degrees and in many different forms. The abundance of dielectrics in sensing, control, and transmission devices results in a demonstrated aging sensitivity, particularly when components are enclosed in cabinets with elevated internal temperatures. The repetitious operation of relays, circuit breakers, and switches leads to electrical/mechanical degradation, aggravated by dust accumulation on contact surfaces. The insulating coatings of coils are subject to degradation at minute entrapped air voids. Under extended elevated temperature conditions these can enlarge, resulting in dielectric breakdown and catastrophic failure of the component. Aging of many relevant control components has been studied in the Nuclear Plant Aging Research (NPAR) program. These studies have used recorded historical failure information from various data bases, which emphasize the endpoint of the aging cycle (component failure). They do not elucidate the continuous degradation process or its impact on fire susceptibility. The relative susceptibility of a component to aging-related failure, as inferred from historical data, is useful in identifying the field of components susceptible to aging deterioration.

The available information on susceptibility to fire damage is limited, particularly for control components excluded from both the Equipment Qualification (EQ) program and cable studies. Manufacturers are primarily concerned with the adequate operation of their products within the specified environmental conditions (the

## Identification of Components

upper temperature operating limit of most electrical control components is 40° to 50° C). Most fire studies are constrained to minimization of life and property loss, and consequently do not attempt to discern equipment failure modes or causes. The most relevant efforts are the detailed fire exposure tests and failure diagnostics of prior Sandia experimental programs, that will be used in this study.

The consequences of component failure are determined from historical records where the effects on system function have been noted. Probabilistic Risk Assessments and Final Safety Analysis Reports provide a broad view of the potential impacts of failures, but tend to be limited to system or, at most, sub-system level processes and are not helpful in the component prioritization. Appendix R submittals describe utility plans for reactor shutdown operations during fire events, identifying the systems necessary for safety functions. This information is used where appropriate.

This experiment design effort attempts to identify the field of components suitable for testing, and prioritizes the list since it will not be possible to test all components. In the following sections the generic classes of components are identified and prioritized, accompanied by their supporting rationale.

## 2.2 Selection Criteria

### 2.2.1 Susceptibility to Fire Damage

The vulnerability of components to damage by fire-induced environments is dependent upon the component design and its performance requirements. Wanless [1] considered both the "damage proneness" and the functional requirements to prioritize the components in Figure 1. Vendor data, fire damage reports, fire test results, and material properties were all considered to rank the components for their vulnerability to damage by high temperature, moisture, particulates, and corrosive vapors. Each of these effects carried a specified weight. In all cases temperature effects dominated. The component accuracy, sensitivity, and complexity of its outputs were factored into the final ranking. A maximum score of 1.0 indicated the greatest susceptibility to fire damage, 0.0 implied no effect. Of the 33 components ranked, the highest score was 0.79 (recorders) and the lowest 0.00 (pumps). As shown in Table 1, the components fall into four damage sensitivity groups. Sensitive, relatively complex instruments and electronics fill the highest category. Medium high scores occur with power switching devices, batteries, and instrumentation transmitters. Sensors, transformers, passive power transmission devices, small and unprotected motors, and remote valve actuators form the medium low category. The

lowest score group consists of large, mechanical plant equipment: fans, heaters, valves, and pumps (because of this very low susceptibility to fire damage, the large equipment was not considered in the subsequent rankings in this report).

This ranking is reinforced by a list of environmental multipliers recommended by IEEE [2], shown in Table 2. The high temperature multiplier is applied to historical failure rate data to compensate for the effects of other normal and abnormal environments. For example, elevated temperature effects induced by a fire (typically greater than 38° C) would require the application of the high temperature multiplier. Again, note that temperature sensitivity is largely a function of degree of dependence upon electronics, overall complexity, and, inversely, of the massiveness of the device.

As a follow-up to the Wanless review, a screening program by Jacobus [3] exposed several components to simulated and actual fire environments. The devices were exposed to high temperature fire simulations or were included in cabinet fire experiments, in conditions resulting from cable insulation fires inside the cabinets. The recorded peak temperatures in the cabinet tests ranged from 60° to 195° C. Hand switches, relays, meters, electronic counters, a power supply and a power amplifier all survived these exposures with minimal apparent degradation. An oscilloscope amplifier (not necessarily typical of any specific nuclear power plant equipment) experienced drift of up to 20% then shut itself down with a thermal cutoff switch. A chart recorder (of a type used in a nuclear power plant) failed to record because of particulate buildup on the pen slider. The variability in degree of damage to this suite of components was due in part to the wide range in temperature exposure, so a quantitative comparison is not possible. In separate experiments, exposure to temperatures as high as 270° C in a test chamber caused relay failure from socket warpage and electrical lead insulation failure. A useful feature of these screening tests is in the unexpected results, such as the general survival of relays at seemingly high temperatures with their failure occurring not in the relay internals but in connector blocks and electrical leads. The tolerance of the power supply and power amplifier to high temperatures is unexpected, as is that of the counter. Continuous monitoring (in the case of the counter) and application of realistic loads to the power supply and power amplifier may produce different results relevant to the functionality of the components under accident conditions. The relays that were tested in the thermal damage tests did include realistic loadings together with continuous monitoring and periodic functional checks during the exposures.

### 2.2.2 Susceptibility to Aging

In their aging failure survey of the Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System (NPRDS) data base Meale and Satterwhite [4] analyzed reported failures to ascertain the degree to which safety-related component failures could be ascribed to aging. Failures of components in safety and support systems were categorized as design and installation (engineering/design, manufacturing defect, or installation error), aging (wearout), testing and maintenance (maintenance/testing), human-related (incorrect procedure, operating error), and other (other devices, cause unknown). More than 17,000 failures were included in the data base, whose population includes BWR and PWR safety and support system data gathered through 1986. Passive devices (pipes and supports) and large plant equipment (motors, blowers, valves, etc.) were included in the referenced study but only control components and their electrical support equipment are considered for this purpose. The results of the aging survey were used to infer the relative susceptibility specific components have to aging failure. The number of failures attributed to aging for a given component was divided by the total number of failures (aging and otherwise) reported for that component, across all systems studied. That fraction is denoted as the aging fraction for the particular component. Table 3 lists the results, highest aging fraction first, and the systems considered in the study. This approach is intended to rank the equipment with respect to its tendency to fail because of age-related causes, versus other failure mechanisms. However, the total number of failures per component also provides useful information in the relative number of failures that occurred. Table 4 ranks these same components using the number of aging failures as the criterion.

Several results are relevant to the aging/fire safety program planning. Of the total number of failures reported, including major plant equipment and cables, 32% were considered to be caused by aging, 49% was due to other, and the balance of failures distributed among design and installation (10%), testing and maintenance (7.5%), and human-related (1.5%). The subset considered as control and support components shows an overall aging fraction of 22% (Table 3), so on the whole these devices are not as susceptible to aging degradation as larger, more mechanical components. The components of Table 3 divide into three natural relative groups: high (.30 to .50), medium (.20-.29), and low (0-.19). Annunciators, instrumentation isolation devices, and batteries show the highest susceptibility to aging failure. The lowest susceptibility group consists of transformers, instrument transmitters, and instrument process switches. The medium group is the largest (63% of the total failures of the control/support subset, and 72% of the aging-related failures of the subset),

including instrument components, relays and circuit breakers, valve operators, and generators/alternators/inverters.

Table 4 shows a different distribution when the ranking criterion is based solely upon the number of failures. The components of Table 4 divide into three natural relative groups: high (over 200 failures), medium (100-200 failures), and low (0-100 failures). Valve operators, instrument transmitters, instrument components, instrument switches, and circuit breakers comprise the group with the highest number of failures reported. The medium grouping consists of instrument recorders, relays, generators/alternators/inverters, instrument controllers, power supplies, and batteries. The low grouping consists of instrumentation isolation devices, transformers, cables and annunciators. A number of components moved from the high to low category or low to high category when comparing Table 3 with Table 4.

### 2.2.3 Consequences of Component Failure

Consequences of failure depend on several system design characteristics:

- \* Population of the component in the safety systems.
- \* Redundancy of the trains in which the component functions.
- \* Redundancy of the component within the train.
- \* Separation between components in redundant trains.
- \* Number of outputs to other systems/components (how many other functions does the component influence?)
- \* How fail-safe is the design under credible circumstances and to what extent does its failure degrade system operations?

One approach to ranking would be to review Final Safety Analysis Reports (FSARs) and Probabilistic Risk Assessments (PRAs) to quantify the representative significance of component failures. A cursory review of both FSARs and PRAs showed that these would not readily provide sufficiently general information for the components of interest. The authors chose to use NPRDS data obtained from the failure/cause analysis reported by Meale and Satterwhite [4] as a historical record of the consequence of component failures.

## Identification of Components

Failures, their causes, and impact on system performance were analyzed for a selected group of plants (Westinghouse and Babcock & Wilcox). The systems considered were Auxiliary Feedwater, Class 1E Electrical Distribution, High Pressure Injection, and Service Water. Note that, although similar systems exist in other plants, the physical systems will be different than the systems described in this study. For the purpose of this design, the results of the NPRDS study were compiled to illustrate the impact of component failures (independent of the cause of the failure) on plant system function. Impact on system function was categorized as Loss of System Function, Loss of Subsystem/Channel, Loss of Redundancy, Degraded System Operation, and System Function Unaffected. The results of the compilation and definitions of these impact categories are provided in Table 5 (no specific order). In Table 6 the number of failures impacting system operation (that is, excluding the category System Function Unaffected) were summed and the list ordered by that number. The utility of this categorization is in showing which components dominate the significant failures in safety systems. This ranking is sensitive to failure rate, since if a component does not fail, it will not impact safety operation (PRAs would yield a rigorous quantification of the potential impact of a component failure upon safety operations).

The ranking is dominated by motor and pneumatically operated valve failures. This is not surprising considering their high population in the plant, their mechanical nature, and the fact that most safety operations in the plant end in some sort of fluid control action. The other components in the High category are transmitters, controllers, circuit breakers, inverters, and process switches. The Medium group consists of indicators, chargers, relays, and recorders. The balance of the components occupy the Low category (switches, solenoid valves, transformers, batteries, buses, power supplies, and timers). An interesting parameter, the ratio of significant failures to total failures for each component, has been included in Table 6. For the components with few failures the statistics are trivial, but for the others this ratio indicates that failures for these components usually result in negative impact on safety system operation.

A useful perspective not available from failure data bases was gained from utility fire safety plans. Appendix R submittals for the Turkey Point and Surry plants were reviewed. Most of their content is devoted to cable vulnerability to fire damage, planned responses to fires occurring in the plant, and system functional requirements to implement these plans. The fire scenarios require operator decisions and action based on indications of the plant condition. Visual and audio indicators (meters, recorders, lights, gauges, and

annunciators) are all necessary sources for operator action. The operator environment must also be suitable for emergency response; hence, functioning emergency lighting, communications, and ventilation are necessary. It is difficult to incorporate the significance of these functions quantitatively into the proposed ranking. They are mentioned here as a reminder that some of the less obvious components and support systems perform significant roles in emergency actions.

### 2.2.4 Recommended and Prioritized Component List

Rankings from the three previous sections were combined into a prioritized summary list of generic components for the subsequent test program. Fire susceptibility is ranked according to the survey by Wanless (Table 1) with the ranking categories normalized because the lowest category components will not be considered in this survey. Hence, Medium High is changed to Medium, and Medium Low is now Low for the fire susceptibility ranking. The impact on safety operations ranking is from the NPRDS failure cause survey (Table 6). The aging rank is derived from the NPRDS aging survey (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 7 lists the components with the highest overall ranking, Table 8 the intermediate components, and Table 9 the lowest. The intent was to make the overall ranking sufficiently general such that it is not overly sensitive to uncertainties and limitations of the original numerical rankings. The overall ranking was determined by first ranking components based upon their fire susceptibility and their impact on safety operations. The components were then re-evaluated using the aging fraction and aging failure data. Although within each of the three tables the components can be ranked in greater detail, the intent is to treat the components in the indicated groups. Hence, the Table 7 group is recommended as the highest priority list of components to be tested in the Sandia aging and fire testing program, followed by the Table 8 components. The Table 9 group should be the lowest priority for testing.

## 2.3 Descriptions of Generic Components

The NPAR program has investigated several nuclear plant components with respect to their general reliability, aging susceptibility, and in-place operating environment for the purpose of understanding plant aging processes. Relays, circuit breakers, inverters/battery chargers, and motor control centers, all falling within the highest or intermediate priority component group, have been studied and the results will be summarized here. Other components will be described as information is available.

### 2.3.1 Relays [5]

#### Description and Function

Relays constitute one of the highest general component populations in nuclear plants. Those included in safety-related applications fall into four functional categories:

**Protective relays** -- Protect the plant power distribution systems from electrical overloads and failures. Specific protective functions include undervoltage, instantaneous overcurrent, time overcurrent, and differential voltage or current. Depending on the application, these relays may be of the solenoid, induction disc, armature, or, in very small numbers, solid state design. As many as 400 protective relays will be present in the safety systems of a nuclear plant.

**Auxiliary relays** -- Provide supplementary relaying to protective relays for multiplication of relay contacts and carrying larger loads (up to 35 amperes). These are typically of the armature design, although some use solenoids.

**Control relays** -- On/off device used in logic switching functions as well as direct control of components such as valves, usually of the solenoid design with the smaller fraction being armature relays. Solid state electronic relays are used in some control functions (in very small numbers). Control relays constitute one of the greatest equipment populations in a nuclear plant.

**Time delay or timing relays** -- Typically a control relay coupled to a timing device, these relays do not actuate their contacts until a prescribed time period has elapsed after receipt of an input signal. The timing device may be either pneumatic (employing a solenoid actuated pneumatic diaphragm with an adjustable orifice), mechanical (timing motor, cams, and clutches) or electronic (resistor/capacitor network).

#### Relay Failure Modes:

- Failure to open or close when commanded
- Opens or closes without command
- Does not make or break current
- Fails to carry current
- High contact resistance
- Setpoint shift
- Time delay shift

#### Relay Failure Causes:

- Power-to-ground short

- Coil insulation breakdown
- Contact wear
- Binding of contacts because of warpage of contact carriers
- Pitting, corrosion, and accumulation of contaminants on contacts
- Wear of moving parts
- Loss of integrity of relay pin/socket connection
- Vibration damage: contact chatter, loosening of connections
- Shift in resistance and capacitance values affecting time delay and relay setpoint values

#### Dominant Aging-related Stresses for Relays:

Thermal aging of synthetic parts because of continuous energization or elevated temperature inside cabinet: case, coil wire insulation, bobbins, lead wire insulation, diaphragm (inductive disc relays only), contact carriers, baseplate and socket.

Frequent cycling of relay causing contact degradation and winding degradation because of inductive surge.

#### Relay Test Diagnostics:

Test methods for relays are well developed [6]. The following measurements are common diagnostics. Some would be applied before and after aging and fire exposure, while others would monitor the relay performance during the fire test:

- Contact resistance
- Insulation resistance
- Dielectric withstanding voltage
- Winding resistance, inductance, and impedance
- Contact chatter
- Electrical characteristics during actuation (voltage, current)
- Pickup voltage/current surge
- Drop-out voltage
- Actuation timing

### 2.3.2 Circuit Breakers [5]

#### Description and Function

Circuit breakers switch power loads/sources and interrupt faults. The same type, and in fact the same breaker, can perform both functions. In safety systems, circuit breakers typically operate up to 13,000 Volts ac. The two basic designs are metal-clad and molded-case

## Identification of Components

breakers. Metal-clad circuit breakers are used in 480 V and above circuits, where they feed larger more significant loads (possibly important safety loads). These are sophisticated devices, capable of repetitious operation under high loads, and are normally controlled remotely. A typical nuclear plant will have 250 metal-clad breakers. They are associated with, and located near, major bus systems, and designed to interrupt fault currents of 25,000 to 150,000 amperes. Molded case circuit breakers are much simpler and smaller, housed in a phenolic case, and operate in the 480 V and lower circuits for small loads. Several hundred molded case breakers may be present in a typical plant.

### Circuit Breaker Failure Modes:

Failure modes for circuit breakers are similar to those of relays. Circuit breakers have fewer control function built into them other than overcurrent or undervoltage protection (their control operation is usually dictated by a control or other type of relay). Failures are typically failure to make/break on command, inadvertent make/break, excessive contact current, or current/voltage setpoint drift.

### Circuit Breaker Failure Causes:

Contact degradation  
Phase-to-ground fault  
Phase-to-phase fault  
Coil insulation breakdown  
Housing and contact insulation breakdown  
Heating/annealing of the bimetallic strip for overcurrent detection  
Loosened connections  
Reduced contact force  
Degradation of lubricant

### Dominant Aging Related Stresses for Circuit Breakers:

Overheating because of high contact resistance or large fault currents, causing casing warpage, loss/degradation of lubricant, and accelerated dielectric breakdown.

Extreme voltage gradients, causing excessive arcing and contact material vaporization with subsequent deposition on insulator surfaces.

Cyclic operation and fault interruption, inducing mechanical wear and loosening of connections.

### Circuit Breaker Test Diagnostics:

Contact resistance  
Phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground resistance  
Overcurrent and undervoltage trip point calibration  
Trip timing  
Coil resistance

## 2.3.3 Motor Control Centers [7]

### Description and Function

Motor control centers (MCCs) are large cabinet mounted systems that provide control and power to relatively small induction type AC motors throughout the power plant (small being less than 100 horsepower and 600 Volts). A typical nuclear plant may have 1000 motors of this class, evenly distributed between valve operators and pumps/fans. An MCC cabinet will typically control several motors, and 40 to 80 cabinet sets, each consisting of several cabinets will be located throughout the plant. Motor control centers serve other vital systems, including battery chargers, inverters, diesel generator auxiliary systems, and heating and air conditioning components.

The basic function of the MCC is twofold: (1) providing a means of starting and maintaining continuous electrical power to motors, and (2) controlling these motors in the performance of their functions. In its most basic form, the MCC consists of:

Molded case circuit breakers -- Break the power supply circuits to the motor windings under overload or fault conditions.

Magnetic contactors -- Open and close the supply circuits to the motor windings for normal on/off operation.

Thermal overload relays -- Overcurrent protection devices on each of the motor windings protect the motor from continuous high current (such as overloaded conditions).

Control transformer -- A step-down transformer that taps off the high voltage motor supply to provide 120 Vac to the control circuitry.

Motor control centers may also perform other functions, including motor reversing, jogging, or inching; speed variations; and motor sequence control. For these other roles, the MCC will contain, in addition to the basic components listed above, interlocks, break

## Identification of Components

and clutch controllers, distribution panels, solenoids, timing devices, pilot devices, and control relays. Safety-related control centers differ from their non-safety counterparts in the use of redundant contactors in the power feed lines. An MCC cabinet is typically 90 inches high and 14 to 20 inches deep. Cabinet sets are located adjacent to each other, hence many motors will frequently be controlled from one location. The MCC cabinets are NEMA 12 units, and each individual motor controller is contained within its own bay inside the cabinet.

Failure modes, failure causes, and aging stress mechanisms of MCCs are similar to their subcomponents (i.e., relays, contactors, circuit breakers, transformers). Half of all motor control center failures are attributed to relays and circuit breakers. Thermal overloads and magnetic contactors cause the majority of the balance of failures. The dominant aging mechanism of MCCs was determined to be buildup of dust on electrical contacts. A thorough breakdown of subcomponent materials and their aging susceptibility is provided in Reference 7.

Because of the size and complexity of MCC's, it is likely that the most effective approach will be to individually test the failure-prone subcomponents.

### 2.3.4 Inverters and Battery Chargers [8]

#### Description and Function

Inverters and battery chargers are treated together because of their similarity in design and construction. Inverters produce ac power from dc bus input. Battery chargers maintain the backup batteries at full charge and support other dc loads. Both components are found in reactor protection systems, emergency core cooling systems, reactor core isolation systems, and ac/dc distribution systems. Inverters in particular tend to fail with significant consequences. In a 9 year recording period, 42 inadvertent reactor trips were caused by inverter failures. Several emergency core cooling system and safety injection system actuations also occurred inadvertently from inverter failures. Battery charger failures have caused dc bus degradation, diesel generator inoperability, and loss of control room annunciation and indication.

Inverters are of four designs: ferroresonant transformer, pulse-width modulated, quasi-square wave, and step wave inversion. The first two types constitute over 80% of those installed. They typically consist of molded case circuit breakers, transformers, integrated circuits, silicon controlled rectifiers (SCRs), diodes, relays, switches, terminal blocks, fuses, and basic electronic components (transistors, resistors, capacitors,

etc.). Battery chargers are of three types: SCR solid state (over 75% of those in service), controlled ferroresonant, and magnetic amplified. A "typical" inverter will support a 7.5 kVA load, weigh 1000 to 1500 pounds, and be housed in a metal cabinet for wall or floor mounting.

#### Inverter and Battery Charger Failure Modes:

- Failure to provide inverted output (inverter)
- Degraded ac waveform output (inverter)
- Failure to support dc load (battery charger)
- Degraded dc output (battery charger)

#### Inverter and Battery Charger Failure Causes:

- Electrical stress because of loss of off-site power
- Overheating
- Subcomponents prone to failure from these stresses:
  - Fuses (dominant for electrical stresses)
  - Circuit breakers
  - SCRs
  - Capacitors
  - Diodes
  - Circuit boards

#### Dominant Aging-Related Stresses for Inverters/Chargers:

- Elevated temperature (dominant)
- Repeated loading from loss of off-site power

#### Inverter/Charger Test Diagnostics:

A test program evaluating naturally aged inverters and chargers presents detailed measurement designs to monitor device output [9]. The following parameters were observed:

- Inverter output waveform
- Battery charger output under load
- Electrolytic capacitance values
- Temperature rise of magnetics

### 2.3.5 Electronic Components

Several electronic components are included in the high priority ranking of Table 7: instrumentation isolation devices, computation modules, logic equipment (which could consist of solid state logic devices or relays), and controllers. These components do not have the obvious failure modes of the more mechanical devices discussed previously. They can, however, seriously impede safety operations without complete



## Identification of Components

component failure. Since they tend to be decision-making and action-initiation devices, in many cases with multiple outputs, their potential impact on safety systems is significant. This is illustrated by the serious threats posed by electronic failures, because of temperature excursions caused by poor ventilation, at McGuire Station, Davis-Besse, Palo Verde Unit 1, and Summer 1 [10]. In each case ventilation deficiencies or failures caused the environments of critical electronic components to exceed their temperature ratings, resulting in spurious signals or outright component failure which impeded operator response.

Electronic components typically have lower acceptable operating temperature ranges than the other components considered in this study; hence they are usually located in relatively controlled environments. For devices relying on operational amplifiers (isolation amplifiers, controllers, analog computation modules) the resistive feedback loop dictates the relation between the input and output of the device. Resistors are inherently sensitive to temperature, although manufacturers minimize the effect through compensation or use of low temperature coefficient resistors. One of the failures in the screening tests by Jacobus [3] was thermal drift of

an instrument amplifier (the particular amplifier tested was not nuclear qualified, however). It is significant that thermal drift can occur undetected, without obvious failure, in many of these components. Digital logic devices suffer similar degrees of sensitivity to temperature, but fail in a more discrete (on/off) fashion.

The relevance of this to the Sandia program is that temperature environments that might otherwise be considered benign (such as 60 °C) will provide a great deal of information on the functionality of electronic components. The likelihood is high that many electronic components will see this environment in credible fire scenarios (see Section 4.0).

Aging of electronic components is complex because of the inhomogeneous mix of materials and subcomponents typical of electronic assemblies. A fairly complete assessment of the state of knowledge on electronic component aging is provided by EPRI [11]. In that report it was concluded that of the many subcomponents forming electronic devices, integrated circuit chips are to be the most susceptible to aging. Thermally accelerated aging appears to be the most appropriate simulation for these components.

## 3.0 Identification of Specific Components for Aging/Fire Testing

### 3.1 Utility Surveys

The initial effort of the experiment program was the identification of specific components for fire exposure testing. The approach taken to obtain the information was a Nuclear Regulatory Commission NPAR Request for Information (survey). Utilities were asked, through the NRC, to complete the survey and return it to the NRC. The NRC informed the utilities that the identity of the respondents would not be provided. After removing the cover sheets, the NRC forwarded the responses to Sandia. Respondents were distinguished only by reactor type and by approximate year of attaining its operating license.

A total of 19 responses were received. The responses were in one of two formats. The response was either a completed request (survey) or a mild environment equipment list (q-list). Below is a breakdown showing the responses by reactor supplier and operating licenses:

- 9 Westinghouse plants with operating licenses from the late 1960's to mid 1980's.
- 7 General Electric plants with operating licenses from the early 1970's to mid 1980's.
- 2 Combustion Engineering plants with operating licenses from the early 1970's and mid 1980's.
- 1 Babcock & Wilcox plant with an operating license from the mid 1970's.

---

19 Total Responses

Of the 19 responses, ten were completed requests and nine were mild environment equipment lists. The responses covered the desired range for operating licenses and reactor suppliers.

### 3.2 Survey Review

The survey responses were reviewed individually and components were grouped into individual lists. The components were entered into a personal computer data base for easier extraction. Logic equipment and gauges are the only components that did not yield any survey results. Several components, relays for example, constitute a large population and thus only base model types are listed. Some survey responses were vague, incomplete, or uninterpretable. The total population is derived from the responses and from judgments based on the information provided. The results shown can be expected to include some erroneous data.

Tables 10 and 11 show a simplified list of results. All quantities are based on the 19 plants surveyed. The components shown represent the high and intermediate priority component lists. At least one model is listed for each component. These models had the greatest percent of the total component population. The total population is also shown to give an idea of the population of each of the types of components.

## 4.0 Fire Test Environment Specifications

It is not straightforward to generalize the fire-induced thermal environment to which the components will be exposed. Variations in geometry, combustible fuel loading and type, and ventilation rate all influence the heat flux or temperature experienced by the components. We will rely on prior Sandia fire test programs, which treated the specific conditions of interest (fires in rooms and cabinets representative of nuclear power plant control room configurations), for specification of the thermal environments.

In room and cabinet effects tests [12, 13, 14] fires of varying sources, and at varying positions, were initiated in enclosure configurations and sizes typical of nuclear plant control rooms. Vertical and benchboard cabinets were arranged in the test enclosure so the internal environments of the cabinets could be monitored. Fuel loadings typical of the amount of cable insulation found in control room cabinets, and with representative room ventilation rates, reproduced the environment expected from cable fires. In several cases, cable insulation was the actual fuel of the tests.

For the purposes of this study, the test results implied four natural categories of air temperature environment to which components would be subjected (Figure 2). The least severe environment is the configuration in which the fire occurs on the floor of the room and the component is either free-standing in the room or contained within an open cabinet. While the air temperature directly above the flame source was probably several hundred degrees Celsius, only a few feet off to the side and six feet above the source the peak temperature was about 60 °C (see Baseline Validation Test #5 [12]). This is probably realistic for components housed in open cabinets and free-standing large components (switchgear and motor control centers, for example) close to a fire on the open floor of the room. This is also an environment representative of a fire contained inside a cabinet, and the component of interest either free-standing in the room or located in an open cabinet separated from the source cabinet by several feet (see Room Effects Test #24 [14]). As long as the room is ventilated, components in closed cabinets separated from the fire source will most likely not experience air temperatures in excess of 50 °C. The exceptions to this are devices with some exposure on the surface of cabinets, such as panel meters, analog controllers, indicating lights, and switches, all of which could see the 60 °C environment.

The next level of severity in temperature exposure would be the environment inside a cabinet immediately adjacent to a cabinet in which a fire occurs. In several

of the room and cabinet effects tests (see Preliminary Cabinet Tests #2 and #5 [13]), a peak air temperature of 75 ° to 100 °C was measured in the upper portion of a cabinet adjacent to the cabinet containing the fire. Internal wall temperatures much higher than this were measured, but we presume that the components of interest are not mounted on or very close to cabinet walls.

A severe environment almost certain to fail any component is that inside a cabinet in which a fire occurs. The peak air temperature of approximately 900 °C occurred rapidly and was typical of cabinet fires with open doors (see Preliminary Cabinet Tests #2, #5, #6 [13]). In an early test with closed cabinet doors, a substantially lower peak temperature of 300 °C was observed, attributed to a restricted air supply to the fire.

The most severe environment is that in the plume directly above a well ventilated fire. Measurements of the flame and plume temperatures were not intentionally obtained in the Sandia tests, but environments greater than 1000 °C are expected. This extreme condition, expected to be of shorter duration than bulk air temperature peaks in other parts of the room, is likely to destroy any component it engulfs.

We have considered only the thermal stresses induced by elevated air temperature, as a simplification. The radiative flux on a component from flames is heavily dependent upon geometry and smoke opacity. In the Sandia tests with cable insulation as the fuel, smoke generation was significant. Radiative flux incident upon calorimeters tended to drop off at the end of the fire growth phase, although it imposed a higher heat flux on the calorimeters than the true air temperature up to that point. The gas temperature, although lower, was sustained for a longer period of time.

Figure 2 also shows the general temperature history for the different cases. A rapid peak occurring ten minutes after initiation of the fire is typical of the two higher conditions where the component would be in relatively close proximity to the flame. A broader, slower peak at twenty minutes was typical of measurements taken with either physical barriers or distance separating the component and the flame source.

There is a clear delineation of the number of components likely to experience each environment. The 60 °C temperature history, although more benign than the others, is significant because with any given fire

scenario many more components will experience this temperature stress compared to the relatively few that would experience the elevated temperatures inside or adjacent to a cabinet fire. The two dimensional temperature profiles of Baseline Validation Test #5 [12] showed that, at the six foot elevation, within a horizontal radial distance of approximately ten feet from the fire source, the air temperature had dropped to 50 ° C. The components exposed to the 100 ° C environment would be those in adjacent, physically attached cabinets. The smallest population would be the components located inside a cabinet containing a fire or directly in the fire plume. An estimate of the relative number of components likely to be exposed to a given fire condition would be:

> 900 °	fire in cabinet, component in same cabinet, or component in fire plume:	1
100 ° C	fire in cabinet, component in adjacent cabinet:	2
60 ° C	fire in cabinet or room, component within ten feet of fire:	> 5

The component list is reproduced in Table 12, indicating the type of environment each component will likely experience. The organization of components with respect to the different peak temperatures was based upon one of three probable physical configurations in the plant: (1) enclosed in a cabinet, but with some parts

panel mounted (switches, indicators, recorders, etc.); (2) totally enclosed in a cabinet (power supplies, relays, circuit breakers, distribution panels, etc.); and (3) standing alone exposed to room air (large or self-protected components). Note that the table represents external events affecting each component, such as would occur with a cable fire. That is, the component is not considered to be the source or fuel of the fire.

The objective of this program is to understand the effects of aging on the fire vulnerability of components. The fire environments identified here are considered credible and should be used as a source of general guidance in the design of experimental exposures. However, it is unrealistic to expect component survival in 900 ° C or greater environments for the durations typical of these fires, and testing in this range would only demonstrate the obvious. Consequently, it is recommended that the actual design of thermal exposures should consider not only the fire experience data, but also the likely thermal damage limits of the particular component under investigation. That is, one objective of any thermal component exposure will likely be to explore the thermal fragility limits. Hence, the experimental design should allow for thermal exposures that are eventually expected to result in component failure, within reasonable limits. It then becomes the task of the the risk analyst to interpret and apply the results.

## 5.0 Summary of General Test Requirements

The categorization exercises resulted in a prioritized list of general components for the aging/fire vulnerability test series. The following requirements are proposed as the basis for a defensible and relevant research effort:

- \* Components should be exposed to realistic and relevant environments, in physical configurations typical of plant installations.
- \* Aging prior to the exposure tests should emphasize stressors known to degrade the component. These may be operational cycling, elevated temperature, or another component specific stress. The accelerated aging mechanism should be simple and well understood.

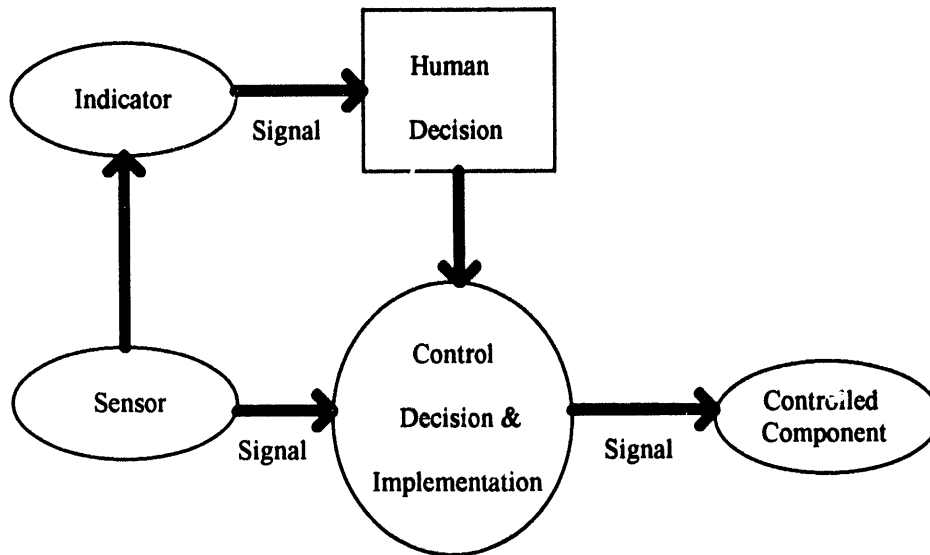
- \* During the fire exposure simulation, the component should be operating and loaded as it would normally be in the plant. Depending on the component, steady or cycling operation may be appropriate.

- \* Diagnostics should be unambiguous and should easily show pass/failure of straightforward failure criteria.

The general test matrix is depicted in Table 13 (high priority) and Table 14 (intermediate priority). These tables list the components, conditions during exposure tests, probable accelerated aging mechanisms, proposed temperature exposure environments, and general diagnostic requirements. For each component, it is assumed that pre- and post-test checks are conducted (such as calibration verifications) in addition to the continuous monitoring recommended in the test matrix.

## 6.0 References

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Sensing/Indicating

Recorders  
Meters  
Transmitters  
(Pressure, Temperature, Flow)  
Isolation Devices  
Process Switches  
(Pressure, Temperature, Position/Limit)  
Indicating Lights  
Thermocouples and RTDs  
Gauges

Control Decision and Action Initiation

Logic Equipment  
Controllers  
Computation Modules  
Timers  
Solid State Relays  
Electromechanical Relays/Contactors  
Circuit Breakers  
Hand Switches/Pushbuttons  
Motor Control Centers  
Switchgear

Active (Controlled) Equipment

Solenoid Valves  
Valve Positioners/Operators

Power Supply/Distribution and Signal Transmission

Battery Chargers/Inverters  
Batteries  
Distribution Panels  
Control Transformers  
Power Transformers  
Terminal Blocks

Common to all three:

Note: Components missing from this figure, because they are not included in this test program, are cables and bulky controlled components (i.e., large motors and pumps).

Figure 1. General Categories of Components Considered for Aging/Fire Test Program.

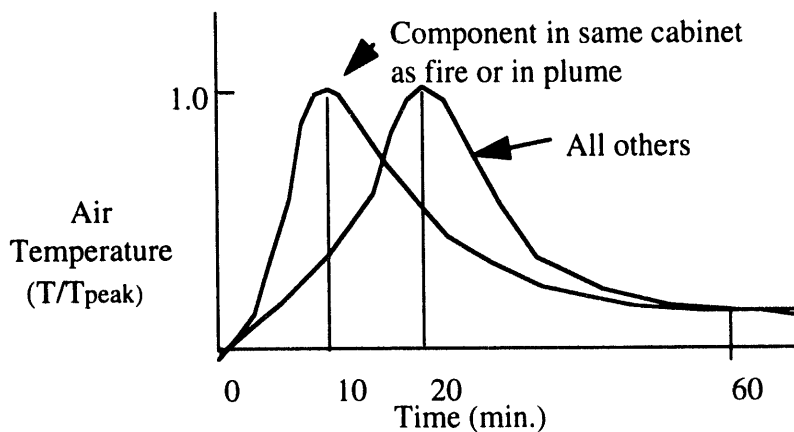
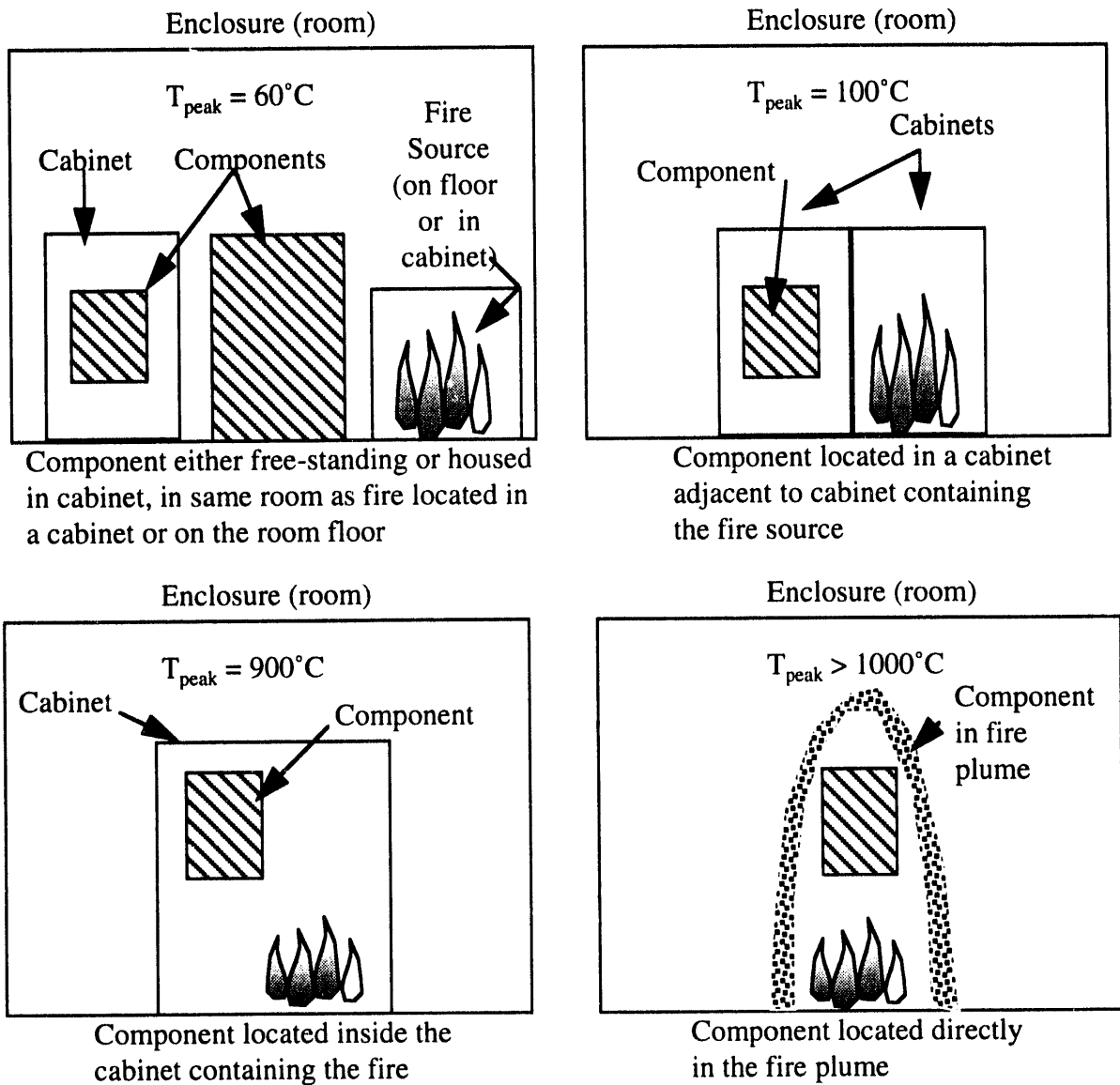


Figure 2. Generalized Fire-Induced Temperature Environments Resulting From Sandia Cabinet and Room Effects Tests.



Table 1. Equipment summary ranking considering the impact of fire-induced damage on the functionality of the component (total list from Wanless [1]). Note that not all components will be included in the current study.

Sensitivity Level	Equipment Type	Score
High	Recorders	.79
	Logic Equipment	.77
	Controllers	.71
	Power Supplies	.67
	Meters	.61
	Solid State Relays	.60
	Electro Mechanical Relays/Contactors	.59
Medium High	Hand Switches/Pushbuttons	.50
	Transmitters (pressure, temp., flow)	.50
	Battery Chargers/Inverters	.49
	Motor Control Centers	.49
	Switchgear	.49
	Batteries	.44
	Temperature Switches	.41
Medium Low	Distribution Panels	.38
	Indicating Lights	.37
	Solenoid Valves	.34
	Thermocouples and RTDs	.33
	Non-Class 1E Cables*	.33
	Pressure Switches	.33
	Control Transformers	.29
	Motors (open)*	.28
	Position/Limit Switches	.26
	Power Transformers	.26
	Valve Positioners/Operators	.25
	Gauges	.20
	Terminal Blocks	.18
Low	Class 1E Cables*	.17
	Motors (enclosed)*	.17
	Fans*	.05
	Heaters*	.02
	Valves*	.02
	Pumps*	.00

\* Components excluded from the current study.

Table 2. Multipliers used to alter (increase) the predicted failure rates for control and support components when considering exposure to high temperature environment [2]. See Appendix 1 for a detailed listing of the IEEE Std. 500 data summarized here.

Component		Multiplier
Instrumentation:	Shock	5.0
	Radiation	5.0
	Bistables	3.5
	Totalizers	3.5
	Power Supplies	3.5
Circuit Breakers, Interrupters, Relays		1.26-2.55
Transformers (instrumentation and power)		1.48-2.04
Annunciators		1.30-2.00
Valve Operators:	Electric	1.40-1.73
	Pneumatic	1.45-1.67
	Self Operated	1.35-1.40
Instrumentation: all other (see App. 1)		1.00-2.00

Table 3. Fraction of reported NPRDS component failures attributed to aging [4]. The numerator in each case is the total number of aging failures reported for the specific component during the surveyed time period (through 1986). The number of aging failures is also provided for comparison to the aging fraction. Ranking was based upon the aging fraction.

Component	Number of Failures (All Types)	Number of Aging Failures	Aging Fraction	
Annunciator	6	3	0.50	HIGH
Instrumentation: Isolation Device	38	17	0.45	
Battery	246	79	0.32	
Instrumentation: Computation Module	1104	298	0.27	MEDIUM
Instrumentation: Power Supply	315	85	0.27	
Circuit Breaker	780	203	0.26	
Valve Operator	2201	550	0.25	
Relay	587	147	0.25	
Instrumentation: Controller	433	104	0.24	
Generator/Alternator/ Inverter	459	110	0.24	
Instrumentation: Recorder	649	156	0.24	LOW
Transformer	31	5	0.16	
Instrumentation: Transmitter	1911	306	0.16	
Instrumentation: Switch	1609	225	0.14	
Cables	56	5	0.09	

Total number of reported failures for the above components:	10425
Total failures attributed to aging:	2308
Total aging fraction:	0.22

Systems considered in the above study (both PWR and BWR):

Class 1E power distribution	Auxiliary feedwater
Component cooling water	Containment fan
Containment isolation	High pressure injection
Low pressure injection	Main feedwater
Reactor building cooling	Reactor core isolation cooling
Reactor protection trip	Reactor coolant
Residual heat removal	Service water
Standby liquid control	

Table 4. Number of reported NPRDS component failures attributed to aging [4]. The total number of aging failures reported for the specific component during the surveyed time period (through 1986) is shown. Ranking is based upon the total number of aging failures.

Component	Number of Failures (All Types)	Number of Aging Failures	
Valve Operator	2201	550	
Instrumentation: Transmitter	1911	306	
Instrumentation: Computation Module	1104	298	HIGH
Instrumentation: Switch	1609	225	
Circuit Breaker	780	203	
Instrumentation: Recorder	649	156	
Relay	587	147	
Generator/Alternator/ Inverter	459	110	
Instrumentation: Controller	433	104	MEDIUM
Instrumentation: Power Supply	315	85	
Battery	246	79	
Instrumentation: Isolation Device	38	17	
Transformer	31	5	LOW
Cables	56	5	
Annunciator	6	3	
Total number of reported failures for the above components:		10425	
Total failures attributed to aging:		2308	
Total aging fraction:		0.22	

Systems considered in the above study (both PWR and BWR):

Class 1E power distribution	Auxiliary feedwater
Component cooling water	Containment fan
Containment isolation	High pressure injection
Low pressure injection	Main feedwater
Reactor building cooling	Reactor core isolation cooling
Reactor protection trip	Reactor coolant
Residual heat removal	Service water
Standby liquid control	

Table 5. Total failures (age-related and otherwise) studied in the failure-cause analysis of Auxiliary Feedwater, Class 1E, High Pressure Injection, and Service Water Systems of a selected number of plants (Westinghouse, Babcock & Wilcox)[4]. These are ordered alphabetically.

Component	Loss of Sys Function*	Loss of Subs/Chan	Loss of Redundancy	Degraded Operation	Sys Funct Unaffected
Battery	0	2	0	1	7
Bus	0	0	1	0	0
Charger	0	8	11	11	5
Circuit breaker (AC)	0	19	15	15	9
Controllers: All**	0	32	19	11	12
Indicators: All**	0	6	12	13	9
Inverter	2	12	15	16	19
Power Supply	0	0	1	0	0
Process Switches: All**	0	5	14	21	19
Recorders: All**	0	8	1	3	7
Relay	0	9	3	5	1
Switches: All**	0	1	2	3	1
Timer	0	1	0	0	0
Transformer	0	2	0	1	1
Transmitters: All**	0	38	15	13	43
Valves: Motor & Pneum. Operated	1	111	47	140	128
Valves: Solenoid Operated***	0	0	3	1	0

\* Definitions of severity levels (greatest severity first):

Loss of System Function - A component failure which, by itself, results in the system being unable to perform its intended function (i.e., all trains, channels, etc., inoperable).

Loss of Subsystem/Channel - A partial loss of system functional path.

Loss of Redundancy - Loss of one system functional path.

Degraded System Operation - The system is capable of fulfilling its intended function, but some feature of the system is impaired.

System Function Unaffected - Failure did not affect the operation of the system.

\*\* For further breakdown of these groups see Table A2 in the Appendix.

\*\*\* Solenoid valves are listed separately from motor and pneumatically operated valves to show their relatively low reported number of failure occurrences. It is likely that many of the pneumatically operated valve failures were caused by failure of the air supply solenoid valve, which may not have been reported separately. Hence, the solenoid valve failures are probably artificially low. Of the numbers shown for motor and pneumatic operators, each shares comparable numbers of failures.

Table 6. Total failures from failure cause results in Table 5 ordered by the number of failures which affected system operation (Significant Failures). This figure is the sum of all failures for a given component excluding those classified as not affecting system operation. Also shown is the ratio of failures impacting operation to the total number of failures reported for that component ("Significant Failure" fraction).

Component	Significant Failure Fraction	Significant Failures (Failures impacting system operation)	
Valves: Motor & Pneumatically Operated	.70	299*	
Transmitters	.61	66	
Controllers	.84	62	
Circuit Breaker (AC)	.84	49	High
Inverter	.70	45**	
Process Switches	.68	40	
Indicators	.77	31	
Charger	.85	29	
Relay	.94	17	Medium
Recorders	.63	12	
Switches	.86	6	
Valves: Solenoid Operated	1.00	4	
Transformer	.75	3	
Battery	.30	3	Low
Bus	.00	1	
Power Supply	1.00	1	
Timer	1.00	1	

\* One of these failures caused complete loss of system function.

\*\* Two of these failures caused complete loss of system function.

Table 7. Component group with the highest overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations. Components were then ranked according to aging fraction and aging failures.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Aging Susceptibility<sup>1</sup></u>			<u>Fire Susceptibility<sup>5</sup></u>		<u>Impact on Plant Operation<sup>7</sup></u>	
	<u>Aging Fraction Rank<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Aging Failure Rank<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>8</sup></u>
Instrument: Computation Module	Medium	High		High	Controller, Logic Equipment	High	Transmitter, Controller
Circuit Breaker	Medium	High		High	Electromechanical Relay	High	
Instrument: Isolation Device	High	Low		High	Controller	High	Transmitter, Controller
Recorder	Medium	Medium		High		Medium	Indicator
Logic Equipment	Medium	Medium	Relays, Instr., Controller	High		High	Controller
Controllers	Medium	Medium		High		High	
Solid State Relays	Medium	Medium	Relay (non-specific)	High		Medium	Relay (non-specific)
Electromechanical Relays/Actuators	Medium	Medium	Relay (non-specific)	High		Medium	Relay (non-specific)
Transmitters	Low	High		Medium		High	
Temperature Switches	Low	High	Instrument Switch (non-specific)	Medium		High	Process Switch (non-specific)
Meters	Low	High	Instrumentation Switch	High		Medium	Indicator

Notes:

1. From Tables 3 and 4 ranking.
2. From Table 3 ranking.
3. From Table 4 ranking.
4. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 3 and 4, a component of similar aging characteristic was used to rank.
5. From Table 1 ranking.
6. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 1, a component of similar fire susceptibility was used to rank.
7. From Table 6 ranking.
8. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 6, a component of similar plant safety function was used to rank.

Table 8. Component group with the intermediate overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations. Components were then ranked according to aging fraction and aging failures.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Aging Susceptibility<sup>1</sup></u>			<u>Fire Susceptibility<sup>5</sup></u>		<u>Impact on Plant Operation<sup>7</sup></u>	
	<u>Aging Fraction Rank<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Aging Failure Rank<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>8</sup></u>
Valve Positioners/Operators	Medium	High	Valve Operator	Low		High	Valves: Motor & Pneumatic Operated
Timers	Medium	High	Instrumentation Computation Module	High	Logic Equipment, Controller	Low	
Batteries	High	Medium		Medium		Low	
Motor Control Centers	Medium	Med./High	Circuit Breakers/Relay	Medium		High/Med.	Relay, Circuit Breaker
Switchgear	Medium	Med./High	Circuit Breakers/Relay	Medium		High/Med.	Relay, Circuit Breaker
Hand Switches/Pushbuttons	Medium	High/Med.	Circuit Breaker/Relay	Medium		Low	
Battery Chargers/Inverters	Medium	Medium	Generator/Alt./Inv.	Medium		High/Med.	
Power Supply	Medium	Medium		High		Low	
Indicator Lights	High	Low	Annunciator	Low		Medium	Indicator (non-specific)
Thermocouples & RTDs	Low	High	Instrumentation Switch	Low		High	Transmitter, Process Switch
Pressure Switches	Low	High	Instrumentation Switch	Low		High	Process Switch (non-specific)
Position/Limit Switches	Low	High	Instrumentation Switch	Low		High	Process Switch (non-specific)
Gauges	Low	High	Instrumentation Switch	Low		Medium	Indicator

Notes:

1. From Tables 3 and 4 ranking.
2. From Table 3 ranking.
3. From Table 4 ranking.
4. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 3 and 4, a component of similar aging characteristic was used to rank.
5. From Table 1 ranking.
6. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 1, a component of similar fire susceptibility was used to rank.
7. From Table 6 ranking.
8. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 6, a component of similar plant safety function was used to rank.



Table 9. Component group with the lowest overall ranking with respect to fire susceptibility and potential for degradation of plant system operations. Components were then ranked according to aging fraction and aging failures.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Aging Susceptibility<sup>1</sup></u>			<u>Fire Susceptibility<sup>5</sup></u>		<u>Impact on Plant Operation<sup>7</sup></u>	
	<u>Aging Fraction Rank<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Aging Failure Rank<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Comparable Component<sup>8</sup></u>
Solenoid Valves	Medium	High	Valve Operator	Low		Low	
Distribution Panels	Low	Low	Cables	Low		Low	Bus
Control Transformers	Low	Low	Transformers (non-specific)	Low		Low	
Power Transformers	Low	Low	Transformers (non-specific)	Low		Low	Transformers (non-specific)
Terminal Blocks	Low	Low	Cables <sup>9</sup>	Low		Low	Bus
Bus	Low	Low	Terminal Blocks, Cables	Low		Low	

Notes:

1. From Tables 3 and 4 ranking.
2. From Table 3 ranking.
3. From Table 4 ranking.
4. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 3 and 4, a component of similar aging characteristic was used to rank.
5. From Table 1 ranking.
6. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 1, a component of similar fire susceptibility was used to rank.
7. From Table 6 ranking.
8. If the component was not explicitly addressed in Table 6, a component of similar plant safety function was used to rank.
9. Although terminal blocks and cables are physically different, their intended functions are similar.

Table 10. High priority component survey results.

Component	Manufacturer & Model Number	% of Total Population	Total Population	Average per Plant
Relays	GE HMA	7	13244	697
	GE HFA	21		
	GE HGA	12		
Circuit Breakers	ITE HE3-BXXX	6	7048	371
Recorders	Leeds & Northrup 134	8.5	341	18
Meters	GE 180	27	199	11
Computation Modules	Sorrento RM23	15.5	129	7
	Sorrento RM20	15.5		
Isolation Devices	Consolidated Controls *	76	3288	173
Controllers	Thermoelectric 3230311012-SP	40	603	32
Transmitter	Rosemount 1153 (level)	15	1687	89

\* No model number listed.

Table 11. Intermediate priority component survey results.

Component	Manufacturer & Model Number	% of Total Population	Total Population	Average per Plant
Thermocouples & RTDs	Thermoelectric T18UNG304140L	22	1094	56
	Weed N9004E and N9004S	18		
	Pyco 102-9039-08-6	4		
Switches	GE SBM (control)	11	7586	399
	GE CR2940 (manual)	6		
	Microswitch PTS (manual)	4		
	NAMCO EA180 (limit)	3		
Switchgear	GE Magnablast	30	145	7
Motor Control Centers	GE 7700	33	96	5
Battery Chargers & Inverters	Exide UPC-130-3-400	10	117	6
	Topaz Electronics 5352-13	12.5	96	5
Indicator Lights	GE ET-16	60	466	25
Timers	Agastat E7000	72	612	32
Batteries	C & D LCR-25 (cell)	34	467	25
	GNB NCX-9 (unit)	2		
Power Supplies	GE 236X185G1	30	399	21
Valve Positioner & Operators/Actuators	Fisher *	15	771	41
Solenoid Valves	ASCO NP8320	10	1267	67

\* No model number listed.

Table 12. Generalized peak fire-induced air temperature environments for components, based on Sandia cabinet and room effects tests. Refer to Figure 2 for a description of each peak temperature environment.

Equipment Type	Credible Peak Air Temperature				
	60°C	100°C	900°C	> 1000°C	
Recorders	*	*	*		Enclosed in cabinet, but with some parts panel mounted.
Controllers	*	*	*		
Meters	*	*	*		
Hand Switches/Pushbuttons	*	*	*		
Indicating Lights	*	*	*		
Logic Equipment	*	*	*		Normally enclosed in a cabinet.
Power Supplies	*	*	*		
Solid State Relays	*	*	*		
Electro Mechanical Relays/Contactors	*	*	*		
Control Transformers	*	*	*		
Terminal Blocks	*	*	*		
Transmitters (pressure, temp., flow)	*			*	Stand-alone component (exposed to room air), possibly exposed directly to fire plume.
Battery Chargers/Inverters	*			*	
Motor Control Centers	*			*	
Switchgear	*			*	
Batteries	*			*	
Temperature Switches	*			*	
Distribution Panels	*		*	*	
Solenoid Valves	*			*	
Thermocouples and RTDs	*			*	
Pressure Switches	*			*	
Position/Limit Switches	*			*	
Power Transformers	*			*	
Valve Positioners/Operators	*			*	
Gauges	*			*	

**Table 13. Proposed general test requirements for the high priority components list.**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Condition During Test</u>	<u>Accelerated Aging Mechanism</u>	<u>Proposed Temperature Environment</u>			<u>Test Diagnostics</u>
			<u>60°C</u>	<u>100°C</u>	<u>&gt;100°C</u>	
Solid State Relays	Loaded Steady energized Steady deenergized Changing state	Cycling Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Dependent upon type, but generally: Contact resistance Interphase resistance Resistance to ground Actuation timing Winding resistance Input and output voltage/current
Electromech. Relays/ Actuators						
Circuit Breaker						
Recorder	Recording (Constant input)	Probably thermal	✓	✓	✓	Input signal versus recorded signal
Meters	Steady or changing inputs	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Process input visual output
Instrument: Computation Module	Powered with static or varying input	Probably thermal	✓	✓	✓	Input signal versus expected output
Instrument: Isolation Device						
Controllers						
Logic Equipment						
Transmitters	Actual process or simulated inputs (steady or changing)	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Process or simulated input, signal output
Temperature Switches						

Table 14. Proposed general test requirements for the intermediate priority components list.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Condition During Test</u>	<u>Accelerated Aging Mechanism</u>	<u>Proposed Temperature Environment</u>			<u>Test Diagnostics</u>
			<u>60°C</u>	<u>100°C</u>	<u>&gt;100°C</u>	
Thermocouples and RTDs	Actual process or simulated inputs (steady or changing)	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Process or simulated input, signal output
Pressure Switches						
Motor Control Centers	Test subcomponents individually (relays, CBs, etc.)		✓	✓		See individual components
Battery Chargers/Inverters	Loaded (Charging/inverting)	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Input and output voltage/current
Switchgear	Loaded/Changing state	Cycling Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	
Position/Limit Switches	Steady or changing position	Thermal aging Cycling	✓	✓	✓	Input position, signal output
Indicator Lights	Steady or changing inputs	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Process input visual output
Gauges						
Timers	Timing	Probably thermal	✓	✓		Repetitive timing check during test
Batteries	Charging and discharging	Probably thermal	✓	✓	✓	Voltage, current output characteristics
Power Supplies	Steady-state loaded	Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Voltage, current output characteristics
Valve Positioners /Operators Solenoid Valves	Changing position	Cycling Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Input signal versus
Hand Switches /Pushbuttons	Static Changing positions	Cycling Thermal aging	✓	✓	✓	Input position, signal output

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Supplementary Information**

#### **IEEE Std. 500 High Temperature Environmental Multipliers**

The multipliers listed below are extracted from IEEE Std. 500, "IEEE Guide to the Collection and Presentation of Electrical, Electronic, Sensing Component, and Mechanical Equipment Reliability Data for Nuclear-Power Generating Stations" [2]. The bulk of the Guide is reliability data for components (in the form of failures per plant-year). In the process of assembling the data, however, the editors obtained opinions of knowledgeable individuals to provide environmental multipliers for certain conditions (high temperature, humidity, radiation). These multipliers represent the degree to which the condition would decrease component reliability. This is not as quantitative as the method used by Wanless [1] but covers many more specific components and is used in the body of this report to support the prioritization of components when considering susceptibility to elevated temperatures. The rationale for the factors were not provided in the reference so the numbers are assumed to be subjective. The lists of individual components and factors follow in Table A1.

Table A1. High temperature environmental multipliers [2].

General Equipment Category	Specific Component	High Temperature Multiplier
Annunciator Modules:	Alarm - solid state visual	1.50
	Alarm - relay	2.00
	Alarm - isolating	1.50
	Alarm - indicator	2.00
	Bell	1.50
	Buzzer	2.00
	Klaxon	1.30
	Horn	1.50
	Gong	1.40
	Siren	2.00
Batteries, Chargers and Voltage Regulators:	Battery Charger Rectifier -SCR magnetic amplifier	1.40
	Battery Charger Rectifier - SCR	1.50
	Secondary Battery - lead acid	1.50
	Secondary Battery - jelly electrolyte	1.50
	Secondary Battery - Ni Cad	1.40
Circuit Breakers, Interrupters, and Relays:	Circuit Breaker - all	2.19 <sup>*</sup>
	Relay - armature	1.45
	Relay - crystal can	1.26
	Relay - latching	1.30
	Controller	2.07
	Starter	2.13
	Contactor	2.13
	Switch - control	1.92
	Switch - power	1.46
	Fuse	1.46
Transformers:	All (big) station types	1.48 - 1.82
	Instrumentation - potential	1.59
	Instrumentation - current	2.04
Valve Operators and Actuators:	Electrical - motor operated	1.40
	Electrical - solenoid operated	1.73
	Pneumatic	1.45 - 1.67
	Self Operated	1.35 - 1.40

<sup>\*</sup> No breakdown as to circuit breaker type was provided.



Table A1 (cont'd). High temperature environmental multipliers [2].

General Equipment Category	Specific Component	High Temperature Multiplier
Instruments, Controls, and Sensors:	Temperature - transducer	1.00
	Temperature - transmitter	2.00
	Temperature - process switch	1.50
	Pressure - transducer	2.00
	Pressure - process switch	1.50
	Flow/Velocity - transducer	1.67
	Flow/Velocity - transmitter	2.00
	Flow/Velocity - process switch	1.50
	Level - transmitter	2.00
	Level - process switch	1.10
	Level - controller	1.50
	Level - float	2.00
	Speed - transducer	1.50
	Speed - centrifugal switch	1.50
	Vibration	1.20
	Shock	5.00
	Displacement	1.50
	Radiation	5.00
	Seismic	1.00
	Humidity	1.50
	Meteorology	2.00
	Power Transducer	1.20
	Water Chemistry	2.00
	Signal Modifier	2.00
	Bistable	3.50
	Indicating Controllers	1.25
	Totalizer	3.50
	Indicator	1.60
	Recorder	2.00
	Power Supply	3.50

Table A2. Total age-related failures studied in Auxiliary Feedwater, Class 1E, High Pressure Injection, and Service Water Systems of a selected number of plants (Westinghouse, Babcock & Wilcox)[4]. This list includes a breakdown of several groups that were summarized in Table 5 of the main text.

Component	Loss of Sys Funct	Loss of Subs/Chan	Loss of Redundancy	Degraded Operation	Sys Funct Unaffected
Battery	0	2	0	1	7
Bus	0	0	1	0	0
Charger	0	8	11	11	5
Circuit breaker (AC)	0	19	15	15	9
Controller: Diff. Pressure	0	6	1	0	1
Controller: Flow	0	11	4	1	4
Controller: Level	0	7	8	7	3
Controller: load Sequence	0	3	4	1	2
Controller: Pressure	0	4	1	2	2
Controller: Speed	0	0	1	0	0
Controller: Unspecified	0	1	0	0	0
Indicator: Current Control	0	1	0	0	0
Indicator: Flow	0	0	1	2	0
Indicator: Flow Control	0	1	0	0	3
Indicator: Flow Switch	0	0	2	0	0
Indicator: Level Control	0	1	9	10	0
Indicator: pressure	0	3	0	0	3
Indicator: Temperature	0	0	0	0	3
Indicator: Temperature Control	0	0	0	1	0
Inverter	2	12	15	16	19
Power Supply	0	0	1	0	0
Process Switch: Current	0	0	0	0	1
Process Switch: Flow	0	1	2	5	10
Process Switch: Level	0	0	0	1	2
Process Switch: Pressure	0	2	12	15	2
Process Switch: Temperature	0	2	0	0	4
Recorder: Flow Control	0	5	0	1	4
Recorder: Level	0	1	0	1	1
Recorder: Pressure Control	0	2	1	1	2
Relay	0	9	3	5	1
Switch: hand	0	1	2	1	0
Switch: position limit	0	0	0	0	1
Switch: unspecified	0	0	0	2	0
Timer	0	1	0	0	0
Transformer	0	2	0	1	1
Transmitter: Flow	0	21	6	0	15
Transmitter: Level	0	10	7	4	23
Transmitter: Pressure	0	7	2	9	5
Valve: Motor Operated	1	57	35	73	102
Valve: Pneumatically Operated	0	54	12	67	26
Valve: Solenoid	0	0	3	1	0

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The Fire Vulnerability of Aged Electrical Components Test Program is to identify and assess issues of plant aging that could lead to an increase in nuclear power plant risk because of fires. Historical component data and prior analyses are used to prioritize a list of components with respect to aging and fire vulnerability and the consequences of their failure on plant safety systems. The component list emphasizes safety system control components, but excludes cables, large equipment, and devices encompassed in the Equipment Qualification (EQ) program. The test program selected components identified in a utility survey and developed test and fire conditions necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the test program. Fire damage considerations were limited to purely thermal effects.

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