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Current DOE Used Fuel Disposition Storage and Transportation R&D Activities

Sylvia Saltzstein, Sandia National Labs
BAM and SNL Collaboration Workshop
October 6-9, 2014, Albuquerque, NM, USA

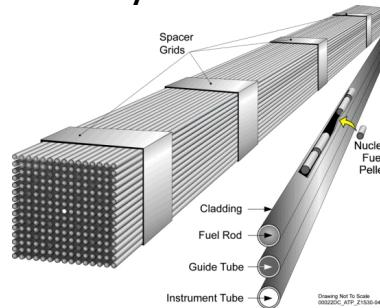


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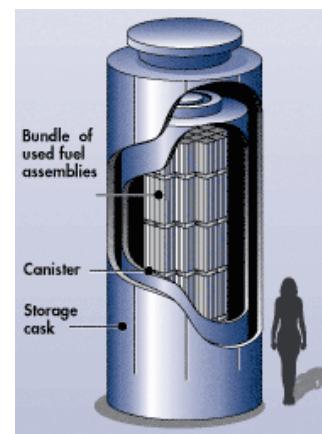
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<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/styles/>



www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/

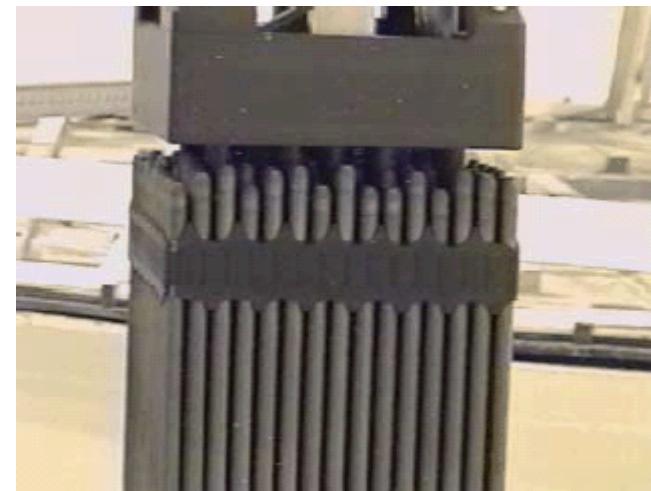
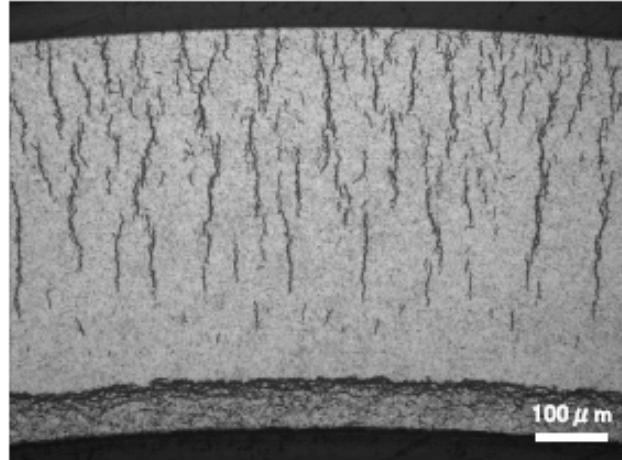


www.connyankee.com/

Storage and Transportation R&D Objectives

Overall Objectives:

1. Develop the technical bases to demonstrate *high burn-up used fuel integrity for extended storage periods*.
2. Develop technical bases for fuel *retrievability and transportation* after long term storage.
3. Develop the technical basis for *transportation of high burnup fuel*.



Storage System Component “High” and “Medium” priorities



System Component	Issue	Importance of R&D
Cladding	Annealing of Radiation Effects	Medium
	Oxidation	Medium
	H ₂ effects: Embrittlement	High
	H ₂ effects: Delayed Hydride Cracking	High
	Creep	Medium
Assembly Hardware	Stress corrosion cracking	Medium
Neutron Poisons	Thermal aging effects	Medium
	Embrittlement and cracking	Medium
	Creep	Medium
	Corrosion (blistering)	Medium
Canister	Atmospheric corrosion (marine environment)	High
	Aqueous corrosion	High

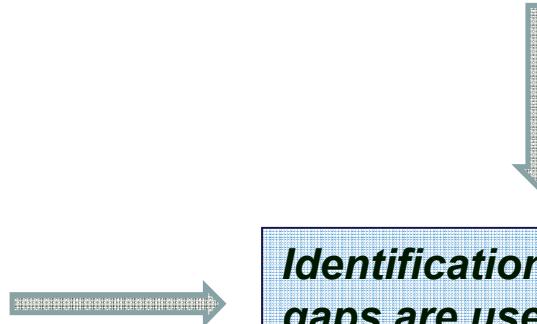
Source: Gap Analysis to Support Extended Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel, January 2012

Storage System Component “High” and “Medium” priorities

System Component	Issue	Importance of R&D
Bolted Direct Load Casks	Thermo-mechanical fatigue of bolts/seals	Medium
	Atmospheric corrosion (marine environment)	High
	Aqueous corrosion	High
Overpack and Pad (Concrete)	Freeze/Thaw	Medium
	Corrosion of steel rebar	Medium

Cross-cutting or General Gaps

- *Temperature profiles for fuel* **High**
- *Drying issues* **High**
- *Monitoring* **High**
- *Subcriticality* **High**
- *Fuel transfer options* **High**
- *Re-examine INL dry cask storage* **High**



Identification of these data gaps are used to inform new initiatives for FY15

FULL-SCALE HIGH-BURNUP DEMO

Purpose: To collect data on high-burnup fuel in realistic storage conditions.

High Burnup Dry Storage Confirmatory Demo: Goals

■ Goals:

- provide confirmatory data for model validation and potential improvement,
- provide input to future SNF dry storage cask design,
- support license renewals and new licenses for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSIs), and
- support transportation licensing for high burnup SNF.



View of Fuel Basket within a Typical TN-32 Cask



Lid Installation of a TN-32 Cask



High Burn-up Confirmatory Data Project: Timeline



2017: Load a TN-32B storage cask with high burn-up fuel in a utility storage pool

- Loaded with well-understood fuel
- Remove sister pins for baseline analysis and data collection (some sister pins will have been pulled in 2015)
- Cask will have instrumentation for monitoring



2017: Dry the cask contents using typical process



2017- 2028: House cask at the utility's dry cask storage site (North Anna)

- Continually monitored and inspected for >10 years.



2028: Open cask investigate condition of fuel. (Location TBD)

High Burn-up Confirmatory Data Project:



Data to be Monitored

- Fuel cladding temperature (indirect via thermocouple lances)
- Cavity gas monitoring is being evaluated to check for damaged fuel and residual water
 - Pressure
 - Composition
 - Fission gasses
 - Moisture
 - Hydrogen
 - Oxygen
- Active methods for sampling the gas were analyzed
- Use of remote sensors were evaluated to gather the needed data
- Gas sampling on the pad is still be investigated

High Burn-up Confirmatory Data Project: Rod Testing to Establish the Baseline



- Testing of similar rods as those to be loaded in the cask
 - Some fuel rods (25 or less) will be shipped in existing licensed cask to a hot cell for baseline rod characteristic data
 - Location to receive the shipment is still under discussion
 - Some rods will come from sister assemblies and some rods from assemblies to be stored in the TN-32
- Schedule for obtaining pins of similar nature as to be loaded in the cask (similar pins)
 - Similar pins will be pulled in 2015
 - Similar pins will be shipped in 2015 or 2016

High Burn-up Confirmatory Data Project: On-going Sensor Technology Development

- Assess sensor technologies to interrogate future dry storage canister systems for:
 - crack characteristics associated with stress corrosion cracking
 - thermal conditions
 - humidity conditions
 - fission gas release
- Collaborate with industry to align sensor technologies with operational constraints
- Support dry storage license extension certification efforts
- Support confidence in licensee's ability to detect cracks (1st), assess crack size (2nd), crack volume (3rd).
 - 5 year proposed inspection interval.



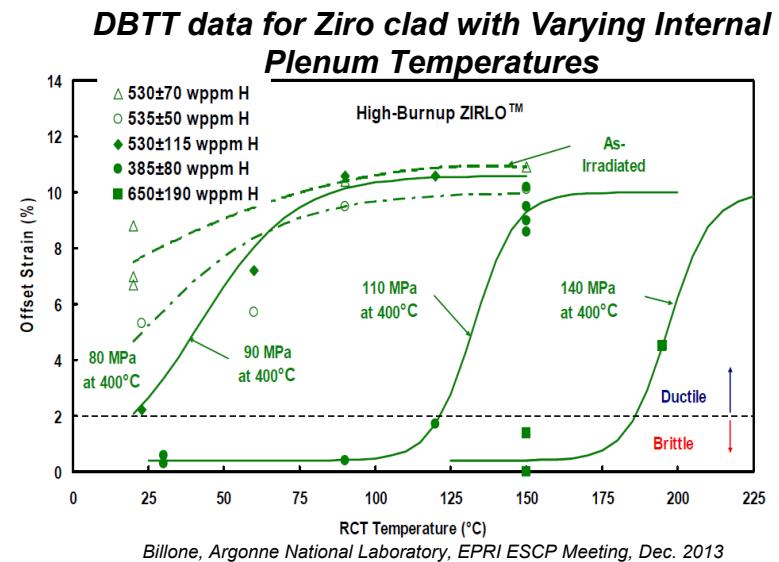
EXPERIMENTS

Purpose: Collect data on material properties, and environmental conditions that could affect performance.

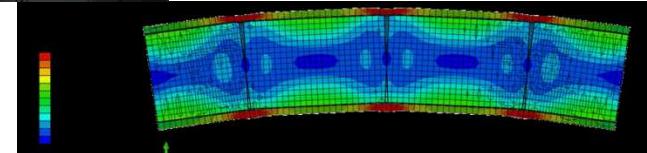
Experiments:

High Burnup Fuel Cladding Material Properties

- Separate effects test to determine effects of hydrides, hydride reorientation, radiation damage, thermal annealing, and clad thinning on materials properties and performance.
- Hydrides and reorientation
 - Ring Compression Tests and determination of Ductile-Brittle Transition Temperature (ANL)
 - Cladding bend test and effects of fuel/clad bonding and pellet/pellet interfaces (ORNL)
- Radiation damage and thermal annealing
 - Irradiate cladding in HFIR reactor at ORNL without all other effects.



Used fuel rod stiffness Experiments (in hot cell and out) and analyses of stress distribution

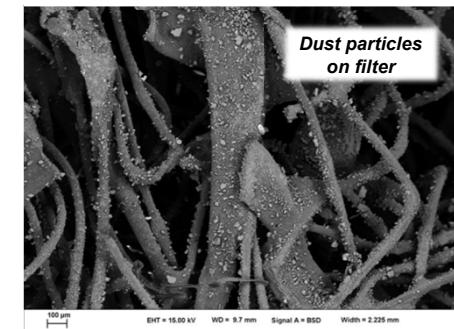
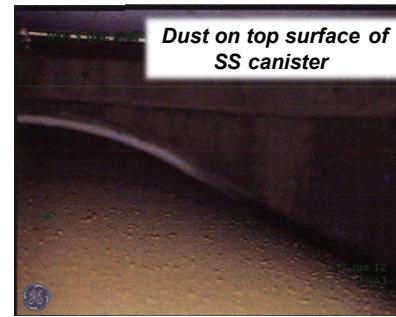
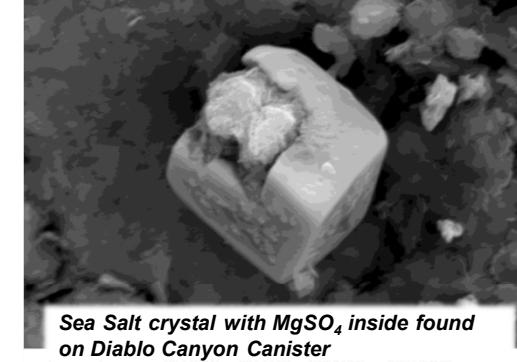


Experiments:

Stainless Steel Canister Corrosion

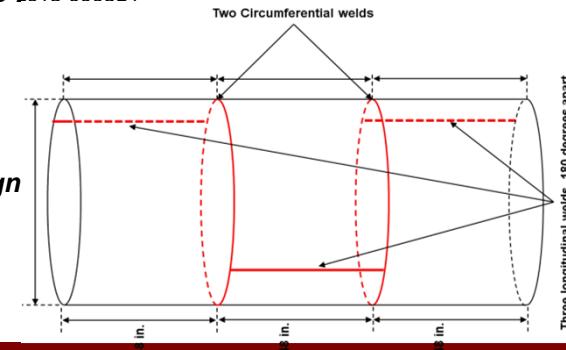
Purpose: Better understand canister degradation, support Aging Management Plans, and license extensions.

- Develop data to understand initiating conditions for corrosion conditions and progression of SCC-induced crack growth
- Obtain site data to assess atmospheric conditions and compare with initiating conditions.
- Procure a full scale (diameter) welded SS canister to investigate residual stresses due to plate rolling and welding.



Enos, et al., *Data Report on Corrosion Testing of Stainless Steel SNL Storage Canisters*, FCRD-UFD-2013-000324

Conceptual design for full-scale (diameter) SS welded canister



TRANSPORTATION

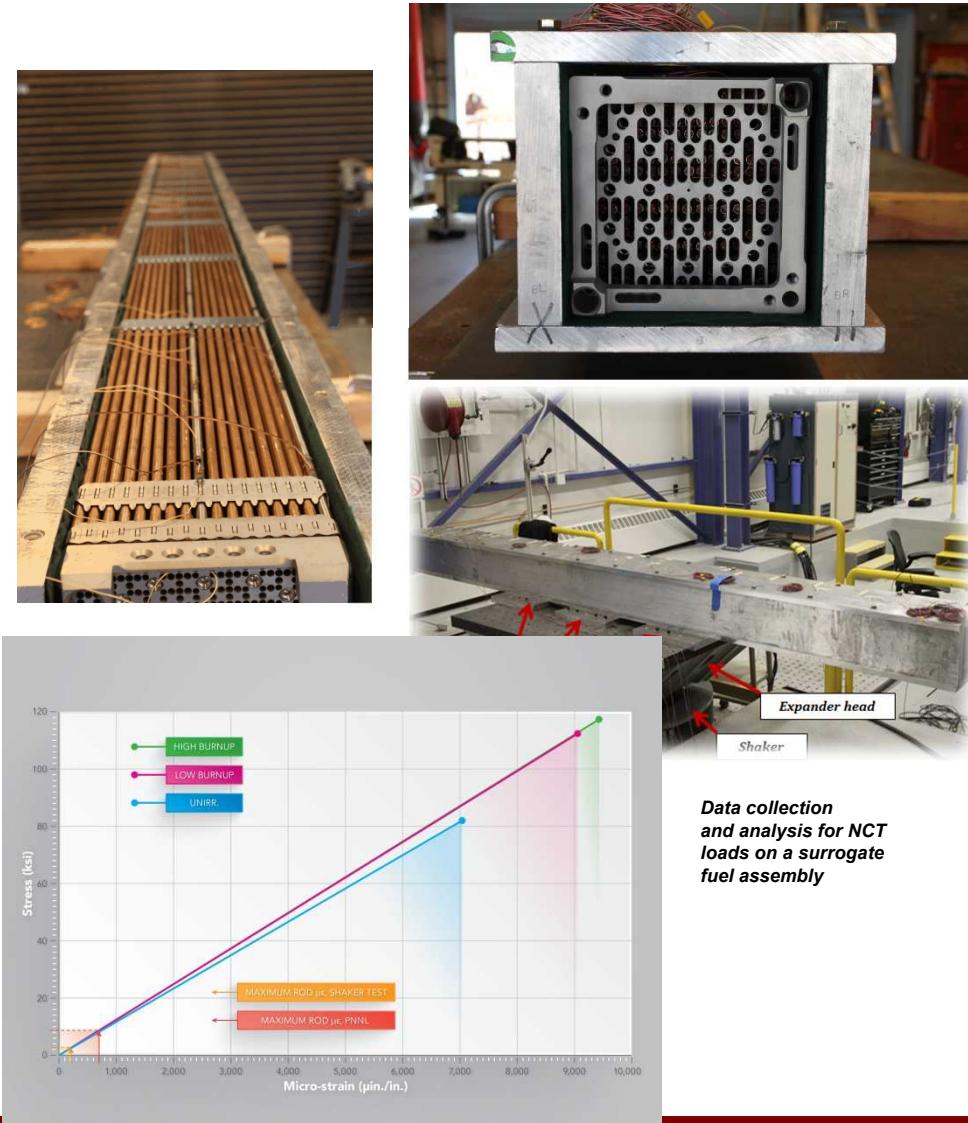
Purpose: Will the fuel remain intact during transportation?

Transportation:

Normal Conditions of Transport – Loading on fuel assemblies

- A surrogate assembly was subjected to truck data from a 700 mile trip on a shaker table and 50 miles on a real truck with representative weight.
 - Data results were >10 times below yield strength.
 - The strains measured in both were an order of magnitude lower than either an irradiated or unirradiated Zircaloy rod yield strength.
- If high burnup fuel can maintain its integrity during transport, pressure will be taken off experimental R&D efforts associated with hydride effects on cladding strength and ductility.

Sorenson, K., *Determination of Loadings on Spent Fuel Assemblies During Normal Conditions of Transport*, SAND2014-2043P.



ANALYSIS

Purpose: Develop predictive models of material behavior to establish the technical bases for extended storage and transportation.

Analysis

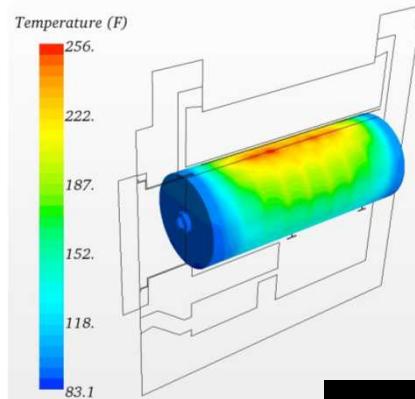
■ Predictive modeling

- Thermal Analysis (PNNL) to predict cool down, Ductile to Brittle Transition, deliquescence, etc.
 - HBU Demonstration fuel selection and cool down
 - Modern, high heat load, high capacity systems
 - In-service inspections validation data
- Hybrid hydride reorientation model (SNL)
- Structural uncertainty analysis at assembly and canister level (PNNL)
- Finite element analysis validation with CIRFT and application to out-of-cell testing (ORNL)

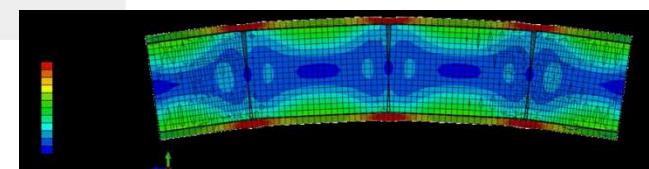
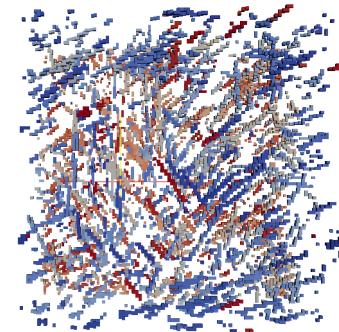
■ Thermal profile analyses

- Detailed thermal analyses for 2-3 licensed dry storage systems (PNNL FY15)

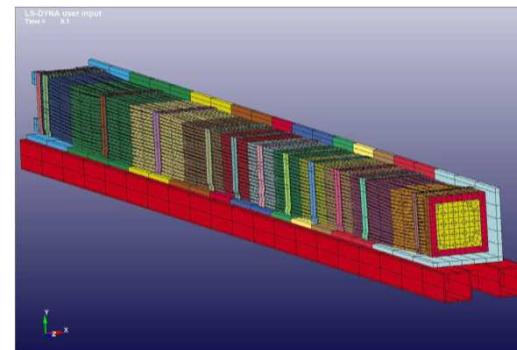
CFD Thermal Analysis of Dry Storage Casks
Suffield, et al, PNNL-21788



Model for Simulation of Hydride Precipitation, Tikare et al, FCRD-UFD-2013-000251.



Jy-An, Wang; Oak Ridge National Laboratory, WM2014 Conference, March 2014



FE Models of Assembly
Klymyshyn, et al, PNNL, FCRD-UFD-2013-000168

SECURITY

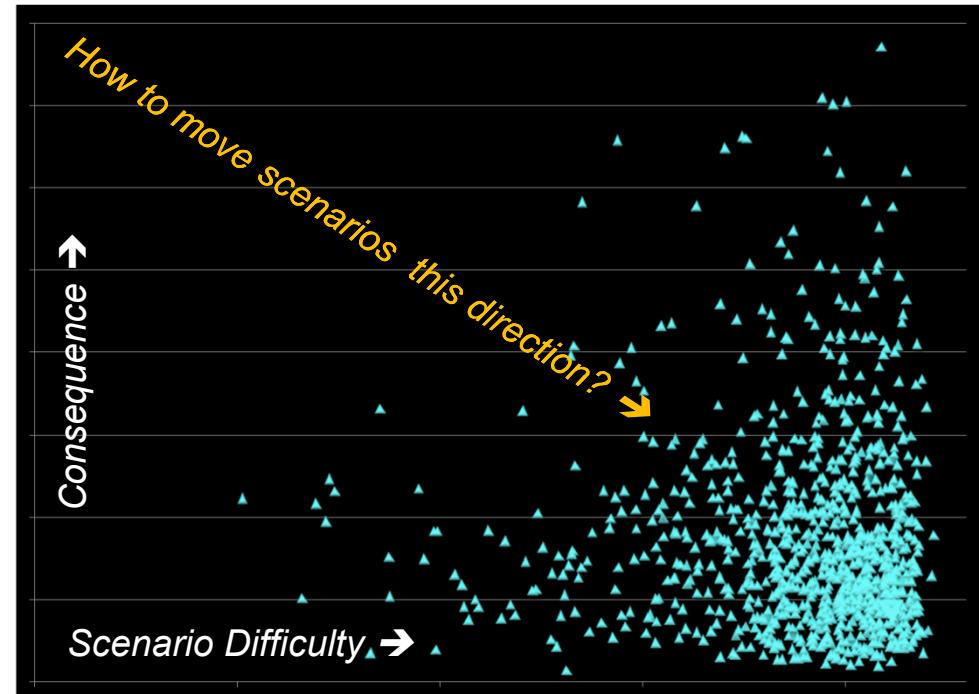
Purpose: Understand our vulnerabilities and how to mitigate risk.

Security: Assessing Transportation Security Risk

The RIMES methodology focuses on the *degree of difficulty* for an adversary to successfully accomplish an attack

- An expert panel will be used to develop scenarios and determine the degree of difficulty
- This work builds off the MPACT work on used fuel storage security.

Attack scenarios that are both easier and high consequence are of greater risk. Focus security investments on these “high-risk” scenarios.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Purpose: What are the most important things for us to do?

UNF Extended S&T R&D Review and Plan



1. Reviewed and summarized all (>180) DOE UFD reports written from 2010 to 2014.

2. Categorized UFD Reports into 15 high and medium gaps from previous Gap Analyses.

- Hydride reorientation and embrittlement,
- Welded canister-atmospheric corrosion,
- Bolted casks-embrittlement of seals,
- Drying...

3. Summarized for each gap:

1. What we have learned
2. What we still need to learn
3. Revised ranking
4. Determination to continue or defer R&D efforts during the next three years.

USED NUCLEAR FUEL EXTENDED STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PLAN

Fuel Cycle Research & Development

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy
Used Fuel Disposition Campaign

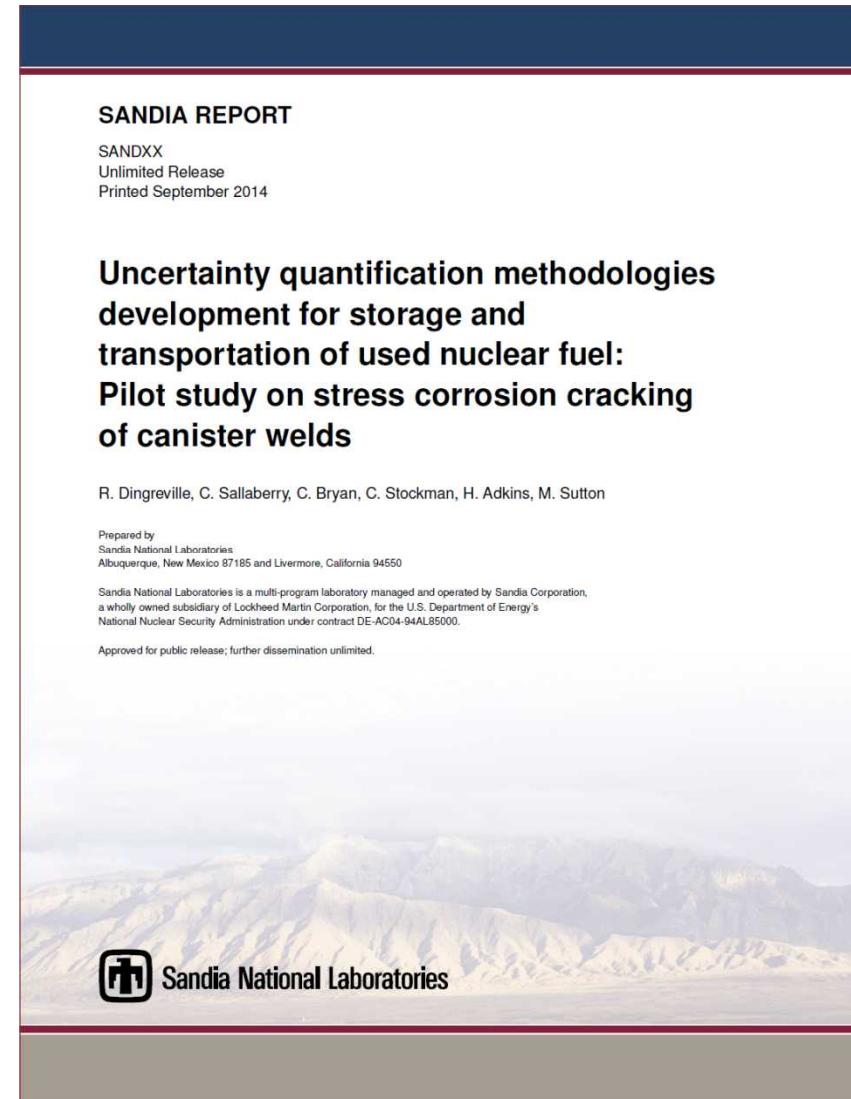
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August 9, 2014
FCRD-UFD-2014-000050



Uncertainty Quantification

- Purpose: To develop a methodology that will identify what data is the most important to close the technical gaps.
 - Identify performance characteristics of a degradation mechanism.
 - CISCC
 - Link the degradation mechanisms to the regulatory requirements.
 - Ex. no through-wall crack penetration.
 - Understand the currently available data and identify the uncertainties with that data.
 - Perform decision making analysis
 - Identify areas with insufficient data and rank.
- Final product should be a prioritized list of the most and least impactful data to close the gaps.



SANDIA REPORT

SANDXX
Unlimited Release
Printed September 2014

Uncertainty quantification methodologies development for storage and transportation of used nuclear fuel: Pilot study on stress corrosion cracking of canister welds

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QUESTIONS?