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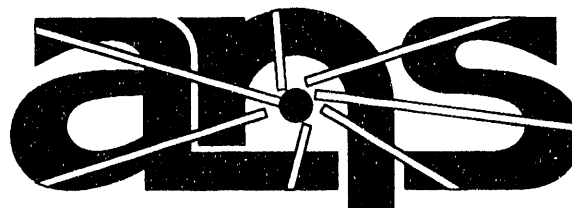
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# **An Investigation of Scramming the Outer Shutdown Rods of the ANS with No Reversal of Flow in the Manifold Inlet Lines**

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AN INVESTIGATION OF SCRAMMING  
OF THE OUTER SHUTDOWN RODS OF THE ANS  
WITH NO REVERSAL OF FLOW IN THE MANIFOLD INLET LINES

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Katarina Morsk, a student at The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for eight weeks in the summer of 1992. She will receive a master's degree in mechanical engineering, with a focus on nuclear technology, which made the summer job relevant to her studies.

Before graduate school, she worked at a Swedish nuclear power plant with a boiling water reactor, in operation since 1985. That experience was beneficial in her work at ORNL and in understanding the basic principles of a nuclear reactor. She worked with P. S. Litherland, H. R. Payne, and G. L. Yoder. Her report is given below.

## 2. ASSIGNMENTS

In working with hydraulics and flow calculations, assignments during the eight weeks were to do calculations and calculation checks on the outer shutdown system, consisting of eight shutdown rods located on the outside of the core. The function of the system is to scram the reactor, or to break the chain reaction of the fission process. The shutdown rods are clad with a neutron-absorbing material (i.e., hafnium) to achieve scram.

During normal operation, the outer shutdown rods (Fig. 1) are in a nonscram, withdrawn position. This means that they are not close enough to the core to absorb a significant number of the neutrons that cause the fission process. In the case of a malfunction or an emergency, the outer control rods are moved to a position near the core.

The outer shutdown system is a shutdown function only and is not used for power control. Another system called the inner control rod system controls the power level and also scrams the reactor when needed. It operates similar to the outer shutdown system when the reactor is scrammed, but it is located inside the core. These two systems work independently of each other and use different principles.

The outer shutdown system is operated with the use of springs and hydraulics. During normal operation, a constant flow of heavy water is circulated through the reflector vessel. A part of this flow provides a pressure high enough to keep the rods in their withdrawn or upper position, a nonscram status. If any signs of abnormal operation occur, the valves in the hydraulic system cut off the flow, and the springs push the rods into the scram position, stopping

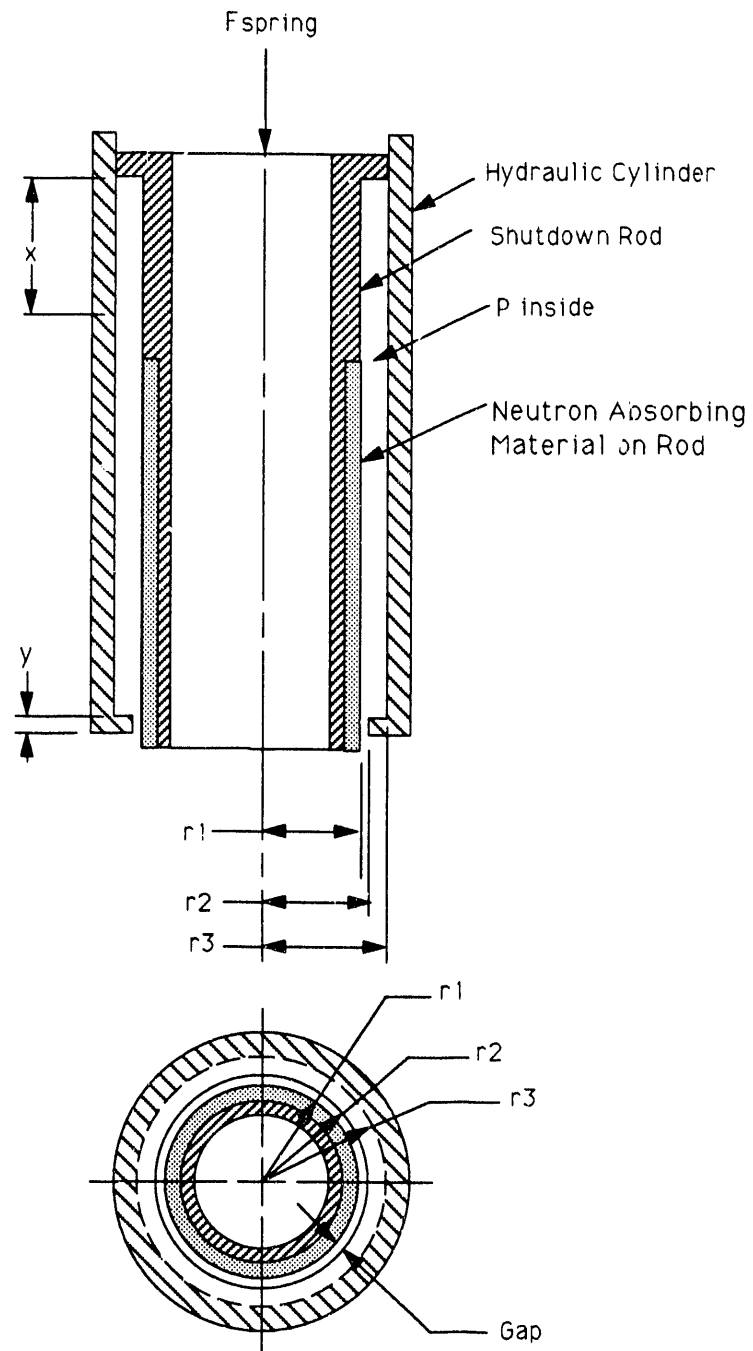


Fig. 1. Outer Shutdown Rod Sketch

the chain reaction. Once the flow is restarted, the rods can be withdrawn to the nonscram position.

## 2.1 CALCULATIONS

My first task was to check calculations in which H. R. Payne had calculated the mass of the outer control rod, the scram spring data, and the hydraulic pressure to hold the rods in the withdrawn position. Further, the calculations included a circumferential stress check on the hydraulic cylinders and a leakage calculation. All numbers used and obtained were based on the absorber material being hafnium, which is most likely not going to be the final choice. It is, however, very easy to redo the same calculations with slightly different numbers. The result of the check was finding a mathematical error in the calculation of the mass of the rod that led to correcting several numbers throughout the calculations.

The second, much larger task was to do a calculation on my own (Attachment 1). In the case of a malfunction of the flow/pressure relief valves, a calculation was needed to show that the scram time would not exceed the time allowed. This assumption means that the hydraulic flow is shut off, but the flow/pressure relief valves that connect the manifold inlet line to the reflector vessel do not open. In other words, all the heavy water displaced from the hydraulic cylinders must exit through the small annulus at the lower end of the hydraulic cylinders. It is assumed that there is no leakage at the top of these cylinders. This makes it a conservative calculation, a so-called "worst case" scenario.

I tried to determine the scram time based on different values of the rod insertion length ( $x$ ) and the outside radius of the annulus ( $r_2$ ). Calculating the pressure drop through the annulus was the next step, accomplished with the aid of a CRANE Technical Paper<sup>1</sup> and G. L. Yoder. In order to do this, I needed the values of the different velocities through the annulus that could be calculated by using the different values of  $r_2$  and the maximum allowed insertion time. Plain mechanics would then allow me to get the effective force pushing the rod into the scram position, the rate of acceleration, and the actual scram time ( $t_{pushdown}$ ).

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<sup>1</sup>*Flow of Fluids through Valves, Fittings, and Pipe*, Technical Paper No. 410, Crane Co., New York, 1978.

After looking at the values from all angles, a decision was made to do it in a different manner. First of all, we settled for one rod insertion length. Secondly, we decided to consider four different scram times for the rod insertion. The other assumptions were the same as before. Like the first calculations, the velocity of the heavy water through the annulus during the scram and the corresponding pressure drop was calculated. Through a balance of forces, the compressed spring force was calculated, and this value was used to determine the pressure required to compress the spring during normal operation. Here, we came to the conclusion to use the larger value of  $r_2$ , that is  $r_2 = 42.881$  mm. Using the four time allowances, the pressure needed to compress the spring was calculated in each case. Finally, the leakage flow rate through the annulus during normal operation was calculated.

As the numbers show, the leakage is quite high. Some flow of water is needed, however, to cool the shutdown rods in their withdrawn position. These calculations have not yet been made, but they are not expected to be as high as these flow rates. These calculations are conservative. They are also based on mean values that might be different from the real case. To do the calculations, MathCad computer software was used on a Macintosh SE. H. R. Payne checked my calculation.

### 3. OUTER SHUTDOWN (CONTROL) RODS

#### 3.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

A pressure relief valve is provided in each of the two  $D_2O$  supply lines to the outer shutdown rods, and they are located in the reactor pool on top of the reflector vessel. In the event of a malfunction of both of these valves (no displacement of fluid from the control rod cylinders through them by way of the manifold inlet lines), part of the fluid inside the control rod cylinders must be displaced through the annular gap at the lower rod guide as the rod is inserted for the scram. This gap is provided to permit coolant flow downward around the lower end of the rod during normal operation. Verification is needed to insure that the scram time will not exceed the maximum allowed as the fluid is displaced through the annulus. The scram time involves signal processing time, solenoid valve closure time, time for the velocity of the fluid in the manifold inlet lines to be reduced to zero, and the response time for the spring-loaded rod to be inserted the required distance.



These calculations are made to assist in determining an acceptable scram response time in this scenario. Four response times (Table 1) are considered for the rod insertion. Calculations are made to show the pressure in the cylinders during a scram, the spring force required to scram under these conditions, and the operating pressure required to compress the spring and the leakage flow (rod coolant) through the annulus into the reflector tank. These calculations are made for 150 mm of control rod insertion, and, initially, two thicknesses of the coolant flow annulus at the lower rod guide are considered.

### 3.2 ASSUMPTIONS

The solenoid-operated shutoff valves (located outside the reactor pool) stop the flow in both lines to the outer shutdown rods, but both pressure relief valves on top of the reflector vessel fail to operate. This prohibits reversing the flow in the inlet lines. Because there is high velocity coolant flow through the annulus around the rod at the lower end of the hydraulic cylinders, the pressure in the cylinders is immediately reduced to the pressure resulting from the spring-driven piston displacing fluid through the thin annulus as the rod scrams. Flow into the control rod cylinders stops immediately, and the fluid inside the cylinders that must be displaced as the rod is inserted will have to exit through the thin annulus.

#### 4. LIST OF SYMBOLS

<b><math>V</math></b>	<b>= volume of D<sub>2</sub>O to be displaced out of control rod cylinder</b>
<b><math>x</math></b>	<b>= length of control rod insertion</b>
<b><math>y</math></b>	<b>= thickness of annulus between control rod guide and control rod, (leakage path)</b>
<b><math>r_1</math></b>	<b>= outside radius of control rod</b>
<b><math>r_2</math></b>	<b>= inside radius of rod guide (outside radius of annulus) (radius of control rod plus gap)</b>
<b><math>r_3</math></b>	<b>= inside radius of control rod cylinder</b>
<b><math>P_{rv}</math></b>	<b>= pressure in reflector vessel</b>
<b><math>F_{spring}</math></b>	<b>=initial force of scram spring</b>
<b><math>m_{rod}</math></b>	<b>=mass of control rod</b>
<b><math>m_{tot}</math></b>	<b>=total mass of control rod and D<sub>2</sub>O to be displaced</b>
<b><math>A</math></b>	<b>=effective area of the control rod piston</b>
<b><math>g</math></b>	<b>=gravitational constant</b>
<b><math>P_{inside}</math></b>	<b>=pressure inside control rod cylinder (with no hydraulic flow)</b>
<b><math>K</math></b>	<b>=resistance coefficient through gap</b>
<b><math>h</math></b>	<b>=pressure drop through gap (in meters)</b>
<b><math>h</math></b>	<b>=pressure drop through gap (in Pascals)</b>
<b><math>v</math></b>	<b>=velocity of D<sub>2</sub>O through gap</b>

**Known**

$$x := 150 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \quad \text{length of control rod insertion}$$

$$y := 26.4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$r1 := 42.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$r2 := \begin{bmatrix} 42.754 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \\ 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with r1 this defines gap thickness}$$

$$r3 := 50 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$g := 9.81 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

$$Prv := 0.3 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$mrod := 15 \cdot \text{kg}$$

$$\rho_{D2O} := 1078.2 \cdot \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \quad \text{at 80 degrees Celcius}$$

$$VD20 := \pi \cdot [r3^2 - r1^2] \cdot x$$

$$mtot := mrod + (\rho_{D2O} \cdot VD20)$$

$$mtot = 15.35249 \cdot \text{kg} \quad \text{rod mass + D20 displaced}$$

$$A := \pi \cdot [r3^2 - r1^2]$$

$$A = 0.00218 \cdot m^2$$

**From CRANE Technical Paper Number 410 - Flow of Fluids , page 3-4,  
equation nr. 3-14 is used to calculate the pressure drop through  
the gap between the control rod guide and the rod.**

$$h_L = \frac{K \cdot v \cdot v}{2 \cdot g}$$

$$K1 := 0.5$$

**K1: pipe entrance**

$$\alpha := \frac{r2}{r1}$$

$$\beta_0 := \frac{1}{\alpha_0}$$

$$\beta_1 := \frac{1}{\alpha_1}$$

$$\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1.00598 \\ 1.00896 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta = \begin{bmatrix} 0.99406 \\ 0.99111 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\theta := \frac{90}{2} \text{deg}$$

$$K2_0 := \frac{0.5 \cdot \left[ 1 - \beta^2 \right] \cdot \sqrt{\sin(\theta)}}{\beta^4}$$

**K2:sudden contraction of pipe**

$$K2_1 := \frac{0.5 \cdot \left[ 1 - \beta^2 \right] \cdot \sqrt{\sin(\theta)}}{\beta^4}$$

$$K2_0 = 0.0051$$

$$K2_1 = 0.00771$$

$$K3 := 1.0$$

**K3: pipe exit**

$$K := K1 + K2 + K3$$

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} 1.5051 \\ 1.50771 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$t := 70 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{sec}$$

**Time allowed for rod insertion**

$$v_0 := x \cdot \frac{r_3^2 - r_1^2}{r_2^2 - r_1^2} \cdot \frac{1}{t}$$

**Velocity of D2O through gap**

$$v_1 := x \cdot \frac{r_3^2 - r_1^2}{r_2^2 - r_1^2} \cdot \frac{1}{t}$$

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 68.65114 \\ 45.69935 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$h_0 := K \cdot \frac{v_0^2}{2 \cdot g}$$

**Head in meters across the gap**

$$h_1 := K \cdot \frac{v_1^2}{2 \cdot g}$$

$$\Delta h := h \cdot \rho_{D2O} \cdot g$$

**Converting meters to Pascal**

$$\Delta h = \begin{bmatrix} 3.82411 \cdot 10^6 \\ 1.69749 \cdot 10^6 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{Pa}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} := \Delta h + P_{\text{rv}}$$

**Mean pressure to displace D2O during time allowed for scram**

$$P_{\text{inside}} = \begin{bmatrix} 4.12411 \cdot 10^6 \\ 1.99749 \cdot 10^6 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{Pa}$$

With the balance of forces working in different directions ,the following equation is used:

$$F_{\text{spring}} + m_{\text{rod}} \cdot g = m_{\text{rod}} \cdot 6 \cdot g + (P_{\text{inside}} - P_{\text{rv}}) \cdot A$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} := m_{\text{rod}} \cdot 5 \cdot g + (P_{\text{inside}} - P_{\text{rv}}) \cdot A$$

**Initial spring force to give 5g acceleration**

$$F_{\text{spring}} = \begin{bmatrix} 9.07032 \cdot 10^3 \\ 4.43539 \cdot 10^3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{newton}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := \frac{F_{\text{spring}}}{A}$$

**Pressure to compress spring during normal operation (rod withdrawn)**

$$P_{\text{spring}} = \begin{bmatrix} 4.16169 \cdot 10^6 \\ 2.03507 \cdot 10^6 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{Pa}$$

Using a different time allowance and the larger value of r2,  
the following results are recieved:

$$t := 80 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ sec}$$

$$r2 := 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$v := x \cdot \frac{r3^2 - r1^2}{r2^2 - r1^2} \cdot \frac{1}{t}$$

$$v = 39.98693 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$h := K \cdot \frac{v^2}{12 \cdot g}$$

$$\Delta h := h \cdot \rho_{D2O} \cdot g$$

$$\Delta h = 1.29964 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} := \Delta h + P_{\text{rv}}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} = 1.59964 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} := m_{\text{rod}} \cdot 5 \cdot g + (P_{\text{inside}} - P_{\text{rv}}) \cdot A$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} = 3.56829 \cdot 10^3 \text{ newton}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := \frac{F_{\text{spring}}}{A}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} = 1.63722 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$



Using yet another time allowance, the results obtained are:

$$t := 90 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{sec}$$

$$r2 := 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$v := x \cdot \frac{r3^2 - r1^2}{r2^2 - r1^2} \cdot \frac{1}{t}$$

$$v = 35.54394 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$h := K \cdot \frac{v^2}{12 \cdot g}$$

$$\Delta h := h \cdot \rho_{D2O} \cdot g$$

$$\Delta h = 1.02688 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} := \Delta h + P_{\text{rv}}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} = 1.32688 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} := m_{\text{rod}} \cdot 5 \cdot g + (P_{\text{inside}} - P_{\text{rv}}) \cdot A$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} = 2.9738 \cdot 10^3 \cdot \text{newton}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := \frac{F_{\text{spring}}}{A}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} = 1.36446 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

**A fourth time allowance gives the following results:**

$$t := 100 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{sec}$$

$$r2 := 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$v := x \cdot \frac{r3^2 - r1^2}{r2^2 - r1^2} \cdot \frac{1}{t}$$

$$v = 31.98954 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$h := K \cdot \frac{v^2}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot g}$$

$$\Delta h := h \cdot \rho \cdot D20 \cdot g$$

$$\Delta h = 8.31769 \cdot 10^5 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} := \Delta h + P_{\text{rv}}$$

$$P_{\text{inside}} = 1.13177 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} := m_{\text{rod}} \cdot 5 \cdot g + A \cdot (P_{\text{inside}} - P_{\text{rv}})$$

$$F_{\text{spring}} = 2.54857 \cdot 10^3 \cdot \text{newton}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := \frac{F_{\text{spring}}}{A}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} = 1.16935 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \text{Pa}$$

The values above are used to calculate the flow rate of the leakage of D2O through the gap during normal operation, that is when the rods are in the withdrawn position, for the four scram times considered.

$$t = 70 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ sec}$$

$$r2 = 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := 2.035 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$h := \frac{P_{\text{spring}}}{\rho_{\text{D2O}} \cdot g}$$

**Head in meters across the gap**

$$h = 192.39602 \text{ m}$$

$$v := \sqrt{2 \cdot g \cdot \frac{h}{K_1}}$$

**Leakage velocity through the gap**

$$v = 50.03672 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$A_{\text{gap}} := \pi \cdot [r2^2 - r1^2]$$

$$A_{\text{gap}} = 1.02197 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$$

$$Q := v \cdot A_{\text{gap}}$$

**Leakage (rod coolant) flow rate**

$$Q = 0.00511 \cdot \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q = 81.05187 \cdot \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

$$t = 80 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ sec}$$

$$r_2 = 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := 1.637 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$h := \frac{P_{\text{spring}}}{\rho D_2 O \cdot g}$$

**Head in meters across the gap**

$$h = 154.76771 \text{ m}$$

$$v := \sqrt{2 \cdot g \cdot \frac{h}{K_1}}$$

**Leakage velocity through the gap**

$$v = 44.87774 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q := v \cdot A_{\text{gap}}$$

**Leakage (rod coolant) flow rate**

$$Q = 0.00459 \cdot \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q = 72.69511 \cdot \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

$$t = 90 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ sec}$$

$$r_2 = 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := 1.363 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$h := \frac{P_{\text{spring}}}{\rho_{\text{D2O}} \cdot g}$$

**Head in meters across the gap**

$$h = 128.86279 \text{ m}$$

$$v := \sqrt{2 \cdot g \cdot \frac{h}{K_1}}$$

**Leakage velocity through the gap**

$$v = 40.95006 \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q := v \cdot A_{\text{gap}}$$

**Leakage (rod coolant) flow rate**

$$Q = 0.00418 \cdot \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q = 66.33287 \cdot \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

$$t = 100 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ sec}$$

$$r_2 = 42.881 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$$

$$P_{\text{spring}} := 1.169 \cdot 10^6 \text{ Pa}$$

$$h := \frac{P_{\text{spring}}}{\rho_{D2O} \cdot g}$$

**Head in meters across the gap**

$$h = 110.52135 \text{ m}$$

$$v := \sqrt{2 \cdot g \cdot \frac{h}{K_1}}$$

**Leakage velocity through the gap**

$$v = 37.92398 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q := v \cdot A_{\text{gap}}$$

**Leakage (rod coolant) flow rate**

$$Q = 0.00388 \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{sec}}$$

$$Q = 61.43107 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

Table 1. Comparison of Scram Times with Design Parameters

SCRAM TIME ( $\cdot 10^{-3}$ sec)	$P_{spring}$ ( $\cdot 10^6$ Pa)	LEAK VELOCITY (m/s)	LEAKAGE (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	FLOW RATE (gal/min)
70	2.035	50.037	0.00511	81.052
80	1.637	44.878	0.00459	72.695
90	1.364	40.950	0.00418	66.333
100	1.169	37.924	0.00388	61.431

$r_2 = 42.881\text{mm}$

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