

DOE Spent Fuel Research for Storage & Transportation

Ned Larson

NWTRB Winter 2022 Meeting

Virtual Meeting

March 1, 2022

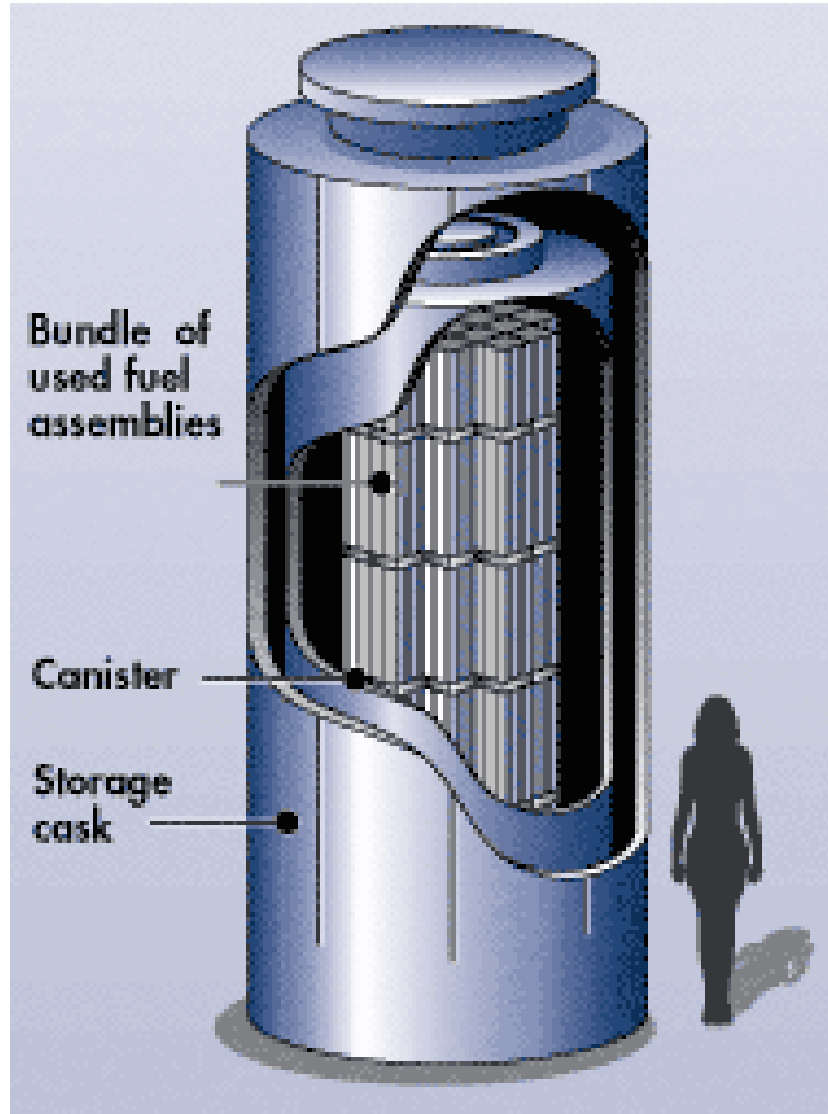
Disclaimer

This is a technical presentation that does not take into account the contractual limitations or obligations under the Standard Contract for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (Standard Contract) (10 CFR Part 961). For example, under the provisions of the Standard Contract, spent nuclear fuel in multi-assembly canisters is not an acceptable waste form, absent a mutually agreed to contract amendment.

To the extent discussions or recommendations in this presentation conflict with the provisions of the Standard Contract, the Standard Contract governs the obligations of the parties, and this presentation in no manner supersedes, overrides, or amends the Standard Contract.

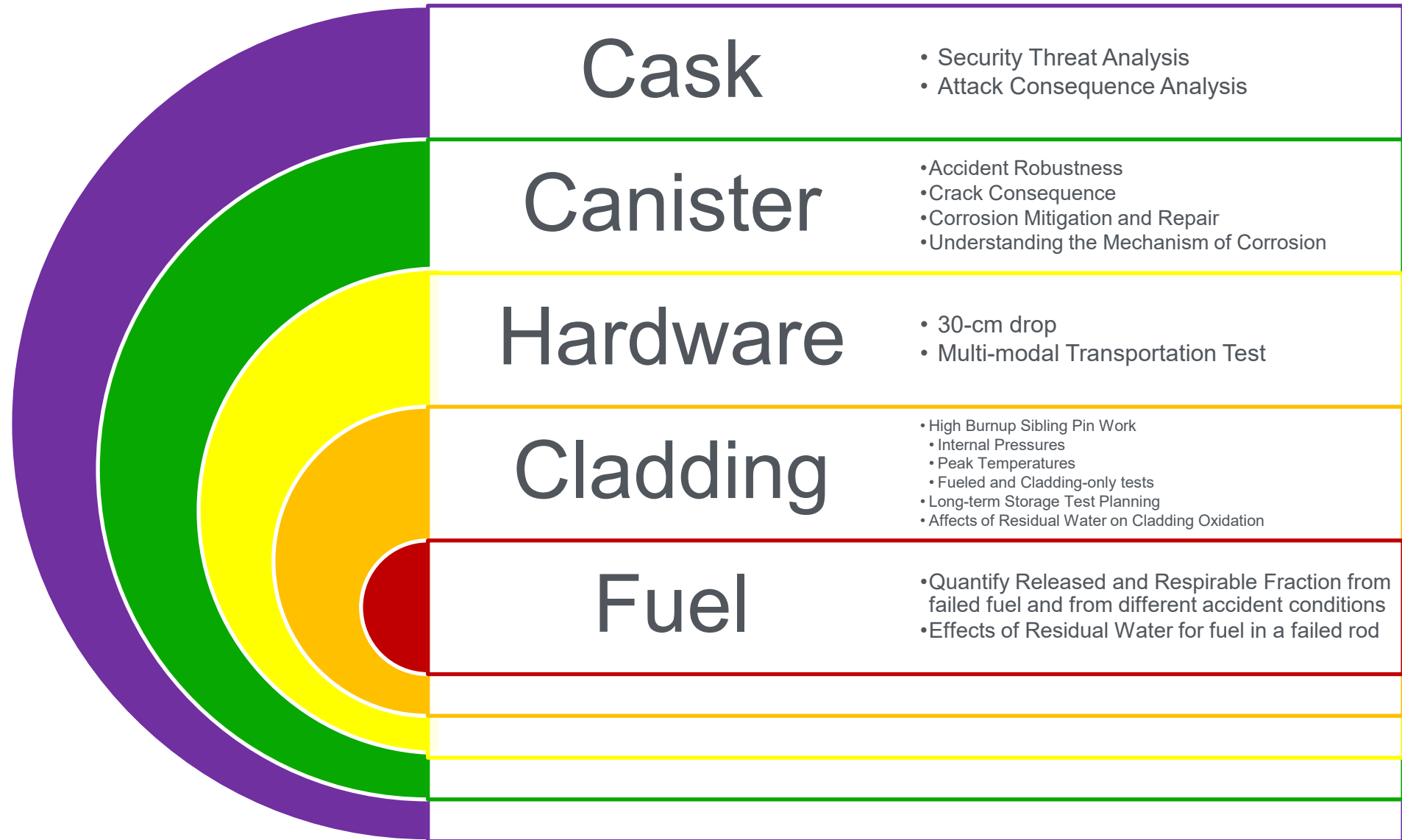
This presentation reflects technical work which could support future decision making by DOE. No inferences should be drawn from this presentation regarding future actions by DOE, which are limited both by the terms of the Standard Contract and Congressional appropriations for the Department to fulfill its obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act including licensing and construction of a spent nuclear fuel repository.

General Priority For Spent Fuel R&D



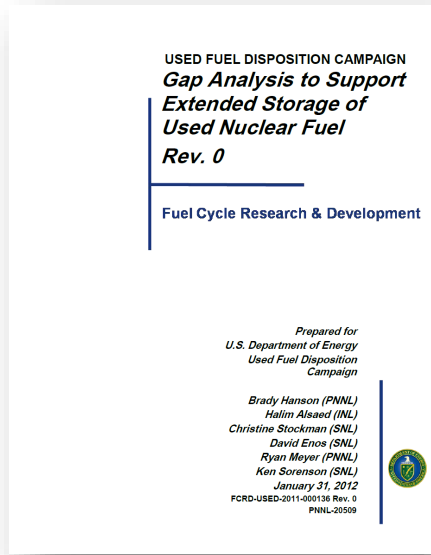
- NRC is responsible for approving cask systems for containment of spent fuel for storage and transportation
- DOE has every belief that the NRC has done and continues to do a good job in issuing Certificates of Compliance for the cask systems
- DOE is not redoing the work that the NRC has already completed.
- DOE is not testing the cask systems
- DOE is testing how everything behaves inside the cask/canister

Ensuring Spent Fuel Long-Term Defense in Depth



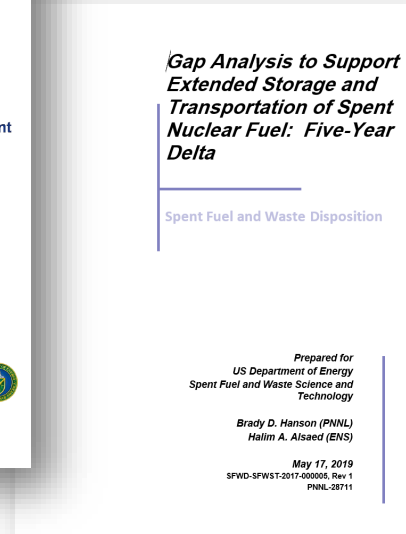
Planning Long-Term

The DOE R&D is driven by peer-reviewed Gap Analyses



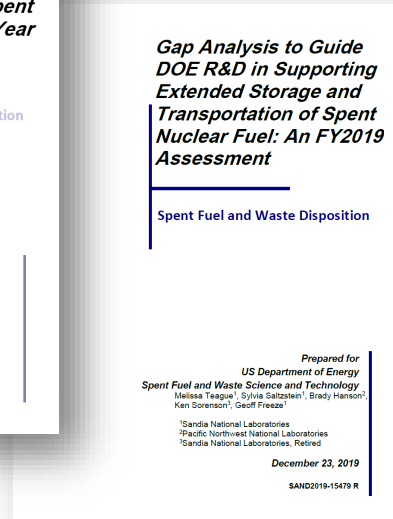
2012 Gap Analysis

- Established the structure and process
- Identified Technical Categories
- Ranked R&D Gaps for R&D Funding priority.



2017 Five-Year Delta report

- Updated the 2014 Gap Analysis
- Covers R&D results through FY17



FY2019 Assessment report

- Adds R&D results from FY18 & 19
- Main priorities remain the same. Some rankings have changed based on recent R&D results

Current R&D Priorities

Priority 1

- Thermal Profiles
- Stress Profiles
- Welded Canister – Atmospheric Corrosion

Priority 2

- Drying Issues

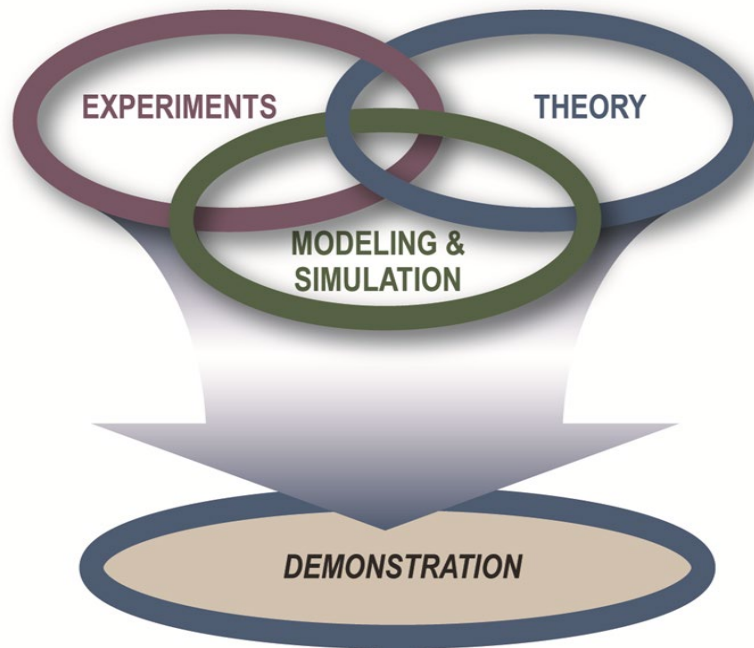
Priority 3

- External Monitoring
- Cladding – H₂ Effects
- Consequence of Canister Failure
- Fuel Transfer Options

DOE ranking and priorities may differ from those of industry and NRC to follow an approach that includes maintaining options for final disposition (e.g., reprocessing, geologic disposal, etc.)

Collaboration Leverages Research Dollars – Enables Diversity of Perspectives & Ideas

Technical Direction



Partnerships

■ Industry

- Utilities – EPRI and NEI
- Cask manufacturers
- Fuel suppliers
- Rail and trucking companies

■ National Laboratories

- 11 National Labs
- Specialized personnel, facilities and equipment are available

■ Small Businesses

- \$5.2 million and 13 contracts awarded

■ Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP)

- 40 university awards, numerous students and professors are involved (\$48M) for Storage & Transportation

■ Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Jointly fund research when appropriate
- Continue some testing NRC began

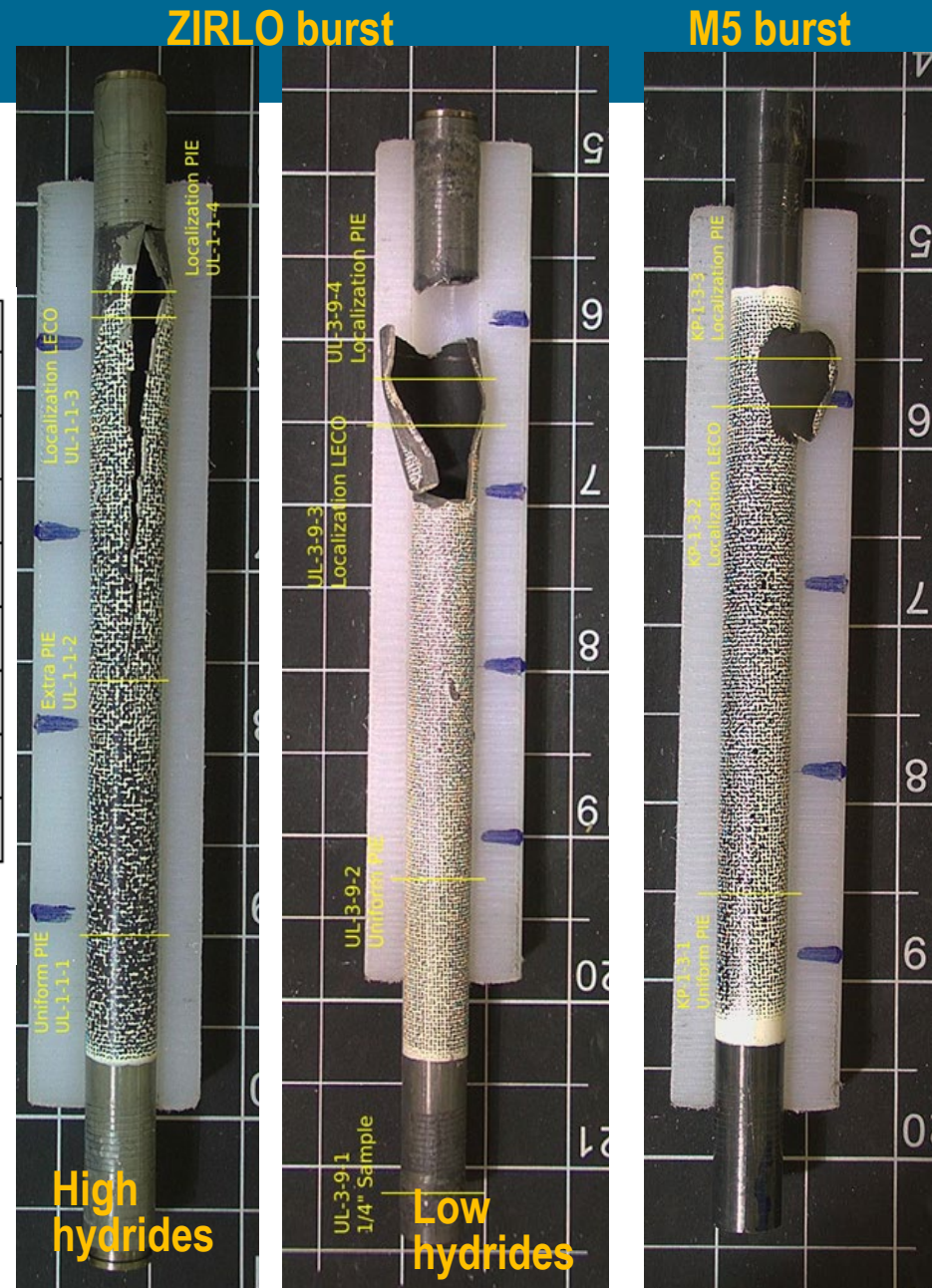
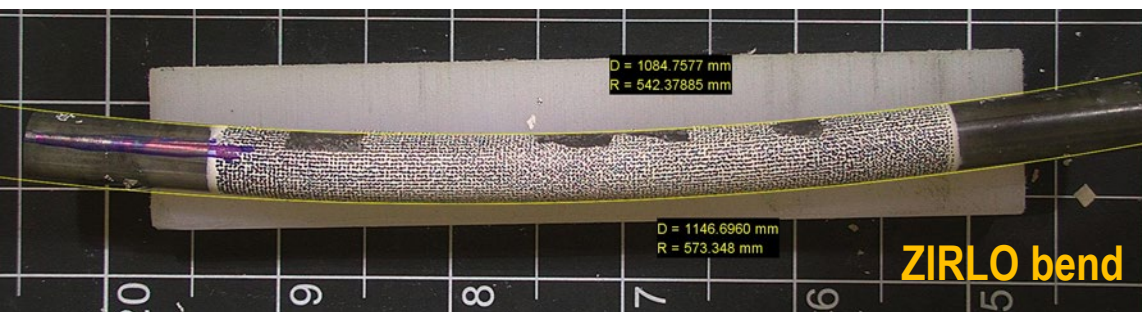
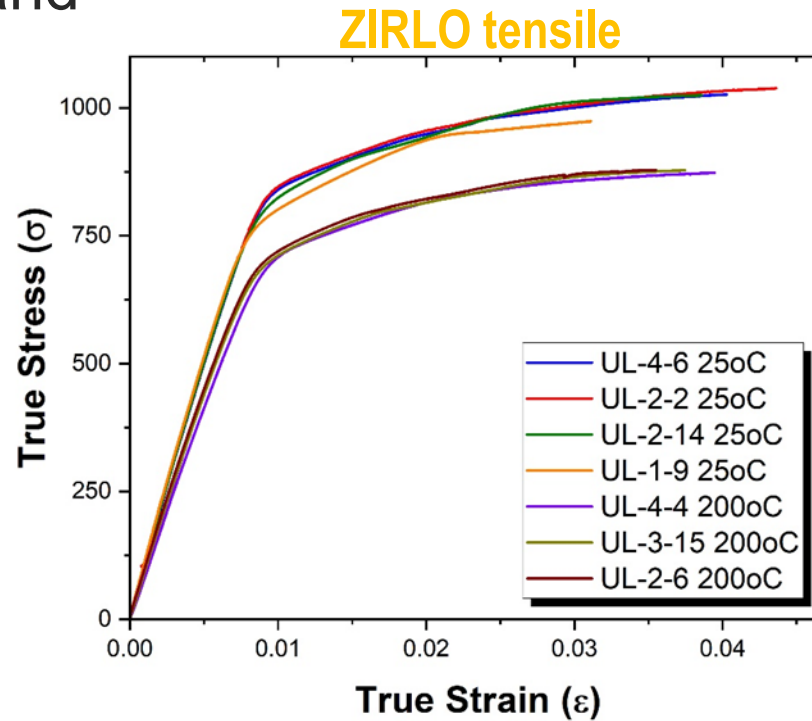
■ International – ESCP

- Extended Storage Collaboration Program

Sibling Rod Testing

Sibling Pin Accomplishments

- Phase 1A (as-received) testing on one ZIRLO[®] and one M5[®] rod
- Testing at room temperature and 200°C
 - Axial tube tensile
 - Burst
 - 4 pt bend
- Results consistent with international database



Sibling Rod Testing - Status

- So far, our hot cell testing has not found anything surprising or out of the ordinary from other published results or from what we expected
- We believe the cladding is sufficiently robust so there will not be any problems storing and transporting spent nuclear fuel from a cladding perspective



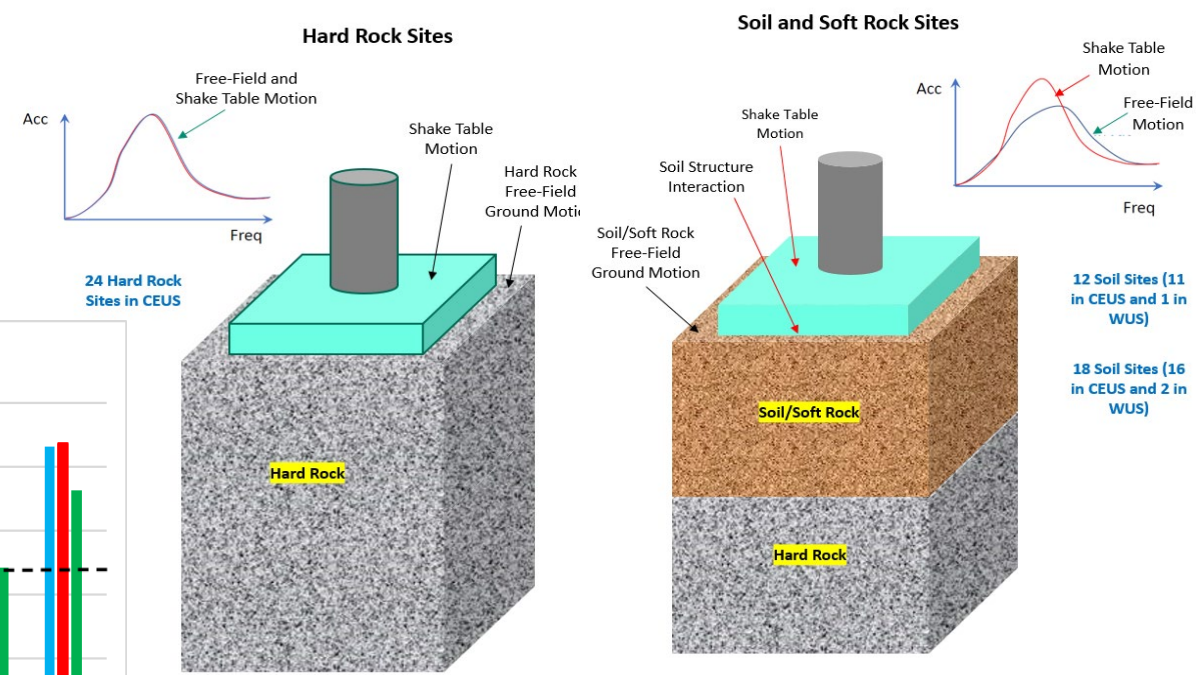
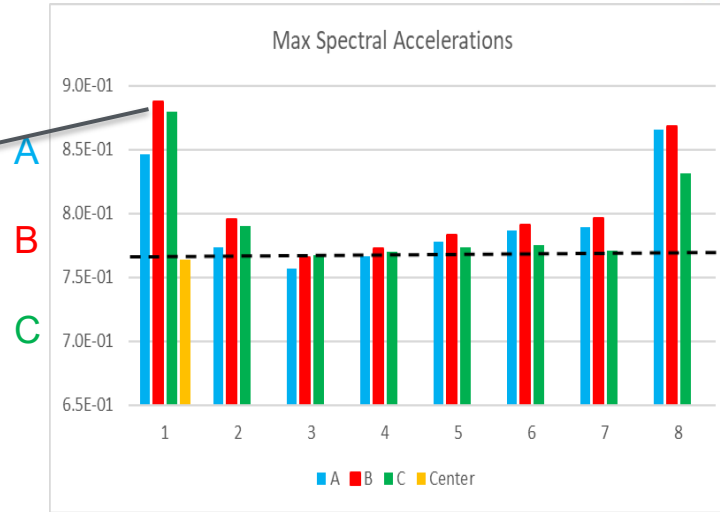
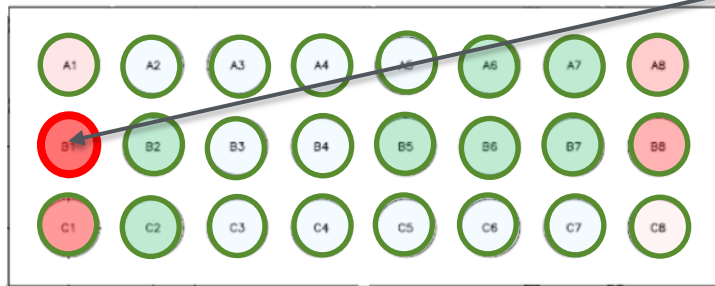
Seismicity and Applied Stresses

Update on the Seismic Shake Table Test

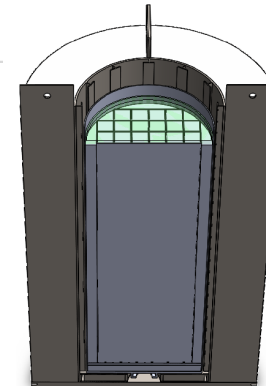
A new methodology was developed to define representative free-field ground motions for hard rock, soft rock, and soil in the Central Eastern U.S. (CEUS) and soft rock and soil in the Western U.S. (WUS).

The soil-structure interaction (SSI) analyses is in progress to account for SSI effects and pad flexibility.

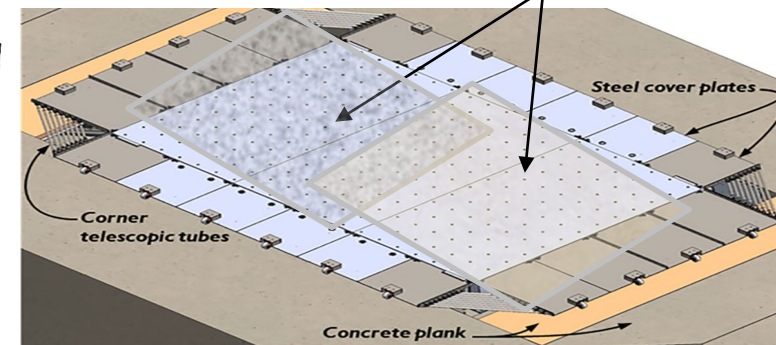
Max Spectral Accelerations at the Different Locations on the Pad



Test Unit



LHPOST Shake Table



Concrete layers with different finishes to simulate different friction.

4 surrogate assemblies will be used: 16x16 CE PLUS7, 17x17 Westinghouse (intact); 16x16 Framatome; and 17x17 SNL Westinghouse (slightly damaged).

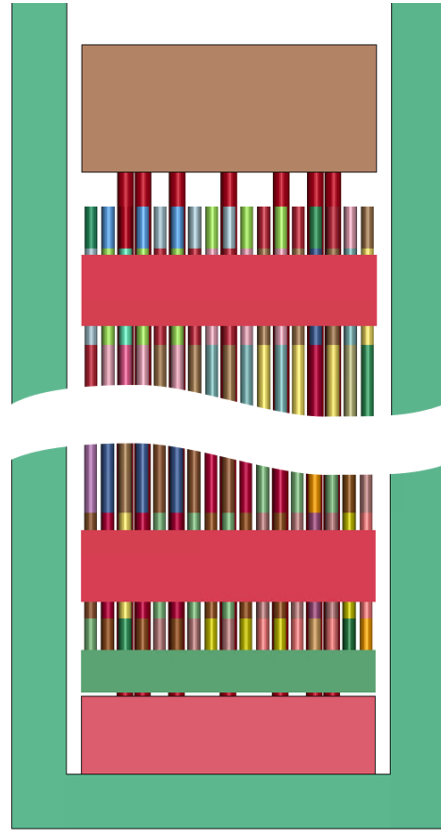
Test unit will be instrumented with ~300 sensors to capture all the important differences in the responses to the seismic excitations.

Seismic Test Modeling

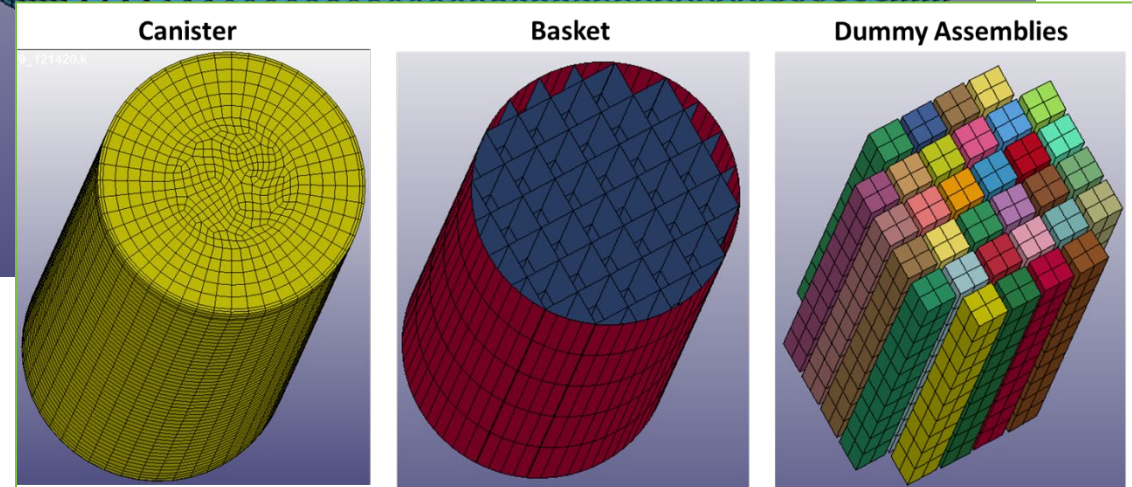
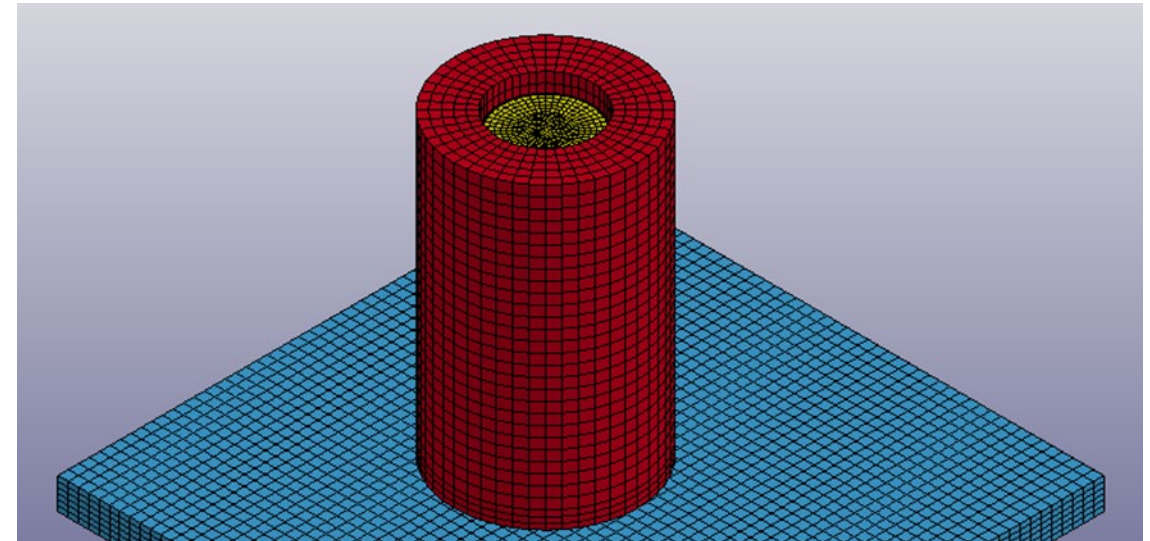
PNNL completed preliminary test modeling to inform the test plan.

PNNL is currently preparing pretest predictions for the seismic test and estimating the nonlinear effects of cask system behavior.

Fuel Assembly in Basket Cell

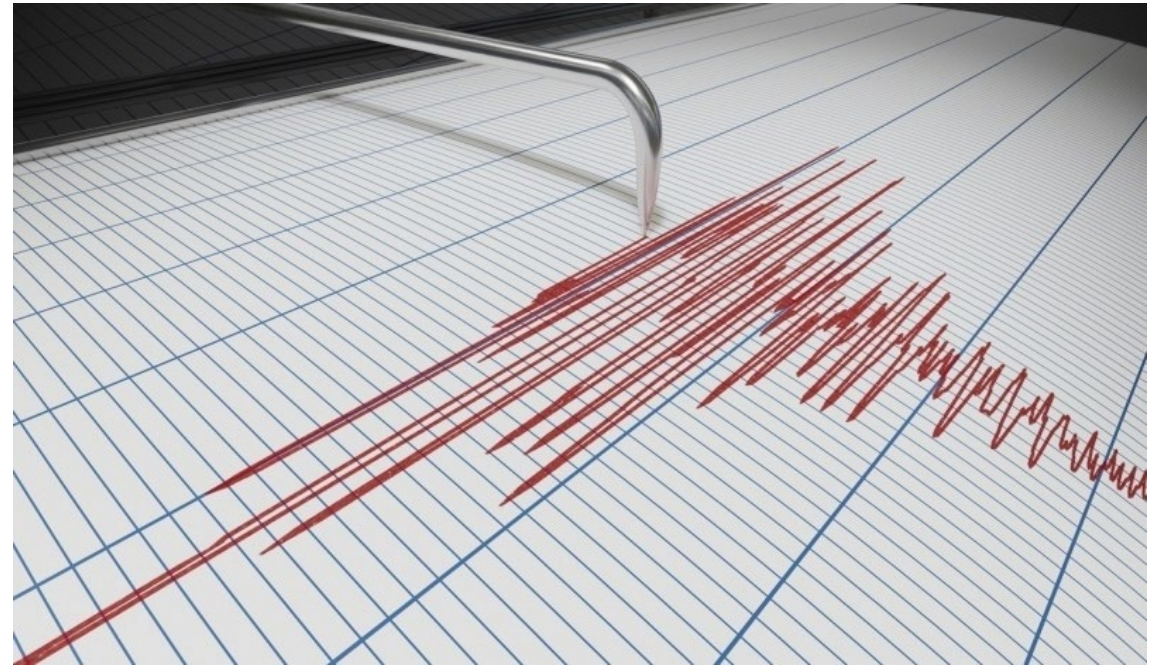


VCC System Model on Shake Table



Seismic Testing -Status

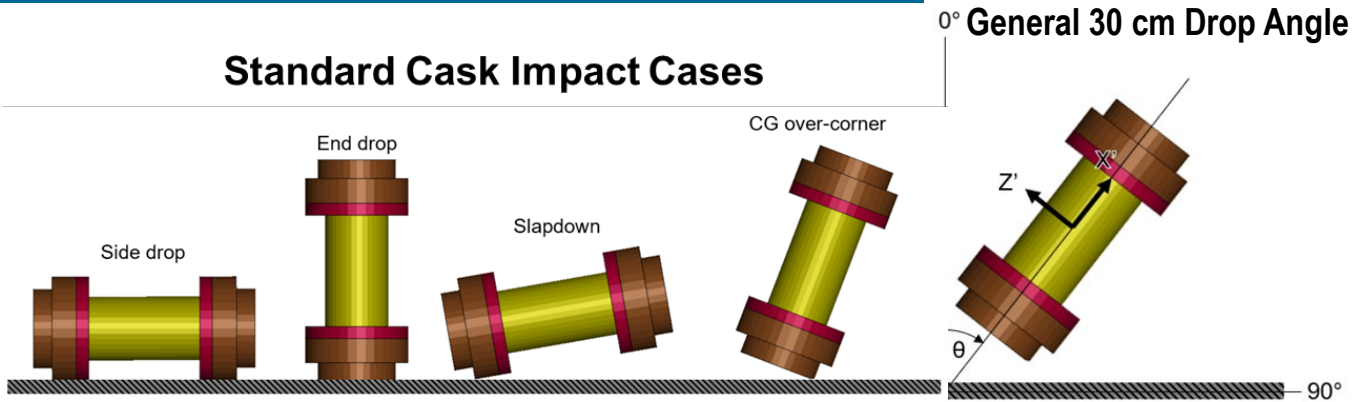
- It is believed that due to the robustness of the cladding, there will not be a problem with a seismic event
- However, we do not know exactly how much the stress the cladding will experience from a seismic event, so we are moving forward with this work.



Drop Test and Applied Stresses

Spent Nuclear Fuel Mechanical Loads in the General 30 cm Package Drop Scenario

Standard Cask Impact Cases



- No cladding yield in any case of the study.
- Up to 200°C: Large margins on cladding yield.
- Up to 300°C: Outliers have tight margins.
- 400°C (Max temperature case): Not evaluated.

SFWST test data recorded the **Side Drop** impact response of surrogate SNF. PNNL validated finite element models with the test data and performed a large (2000+ cases) parametric study to estimate the universe of potential SNF loads.

	Parametric Study	# of Parameters
Fuel Assembly	17x3 Reduced PWR Model, 10x10 BWR	2
Cask Mass	As-tested	1
Cask Impact Limiters	As-tested	1
Burnup	10, 36, 62 GWd/MTU	3
Temperature	RT, 100°C, 200°C, 300°C	4
Drop Orientation (angle from vertical)	0°-90° in 10° increments	10
Fuel-Basket Gap	1%, 50%, 99%	3
Grid Crushing	Best Estimate, -20%, +20%	3
Basket Stiffness	Rigid	1
	Total # of Permutations	2,160

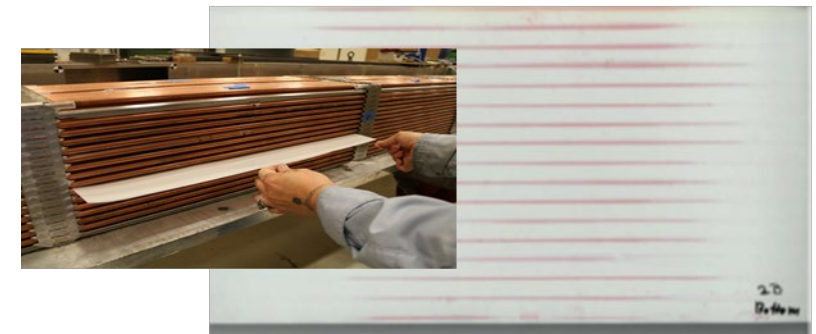
M3SF-21PN010202016. Klymyshyn N.A., K. Kadooka, C.J. Spitz, J.F. Fitzpatrick, and P.J. Jensen. 2021. Mechanical Loads on Spent Nuclear Fuel in the General 30 cm Package Drop Scenario. PNNL-32087. Richland, WA: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Drop Test Applied Stresses - Status

- Test data and model predictions both agree that the SNF assemblies are subjected to significantly higher loads in a cask drop event than normal transportation shock and vibration
- Currently there is no reason to expect gross structural damage of the fuel assembly or widespread SNF cladding failure as a result of a 30 cm cask drop.
- The fuel rods will maintain their integrity after being dropped 30 cm more than once
- More work still needs to be done in this area



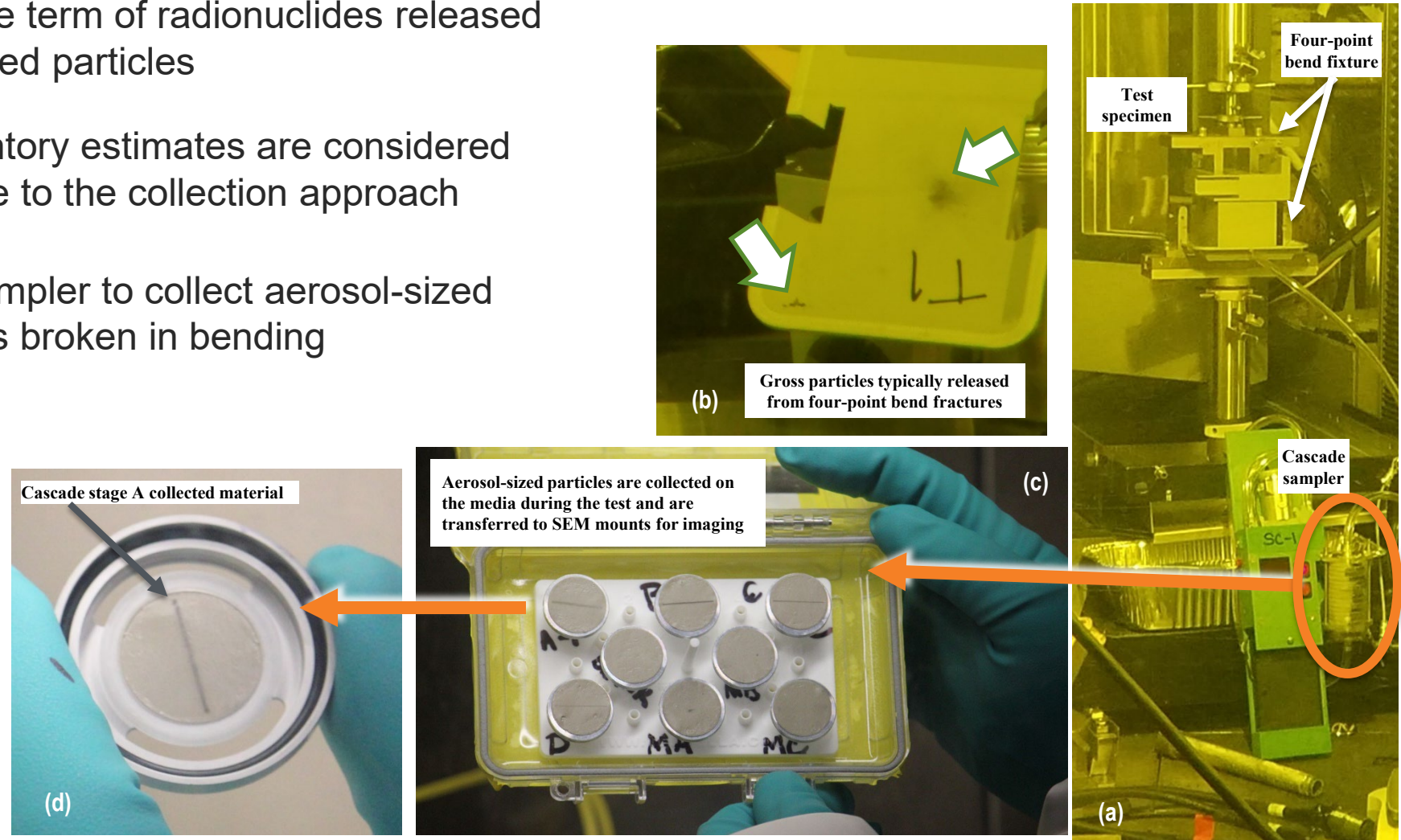
Rod-to-Rod Contact Pressure



Aerosol Dispersion

ORNL is collecting and characterizing aerosol sized particles released when a rod is broken in bending

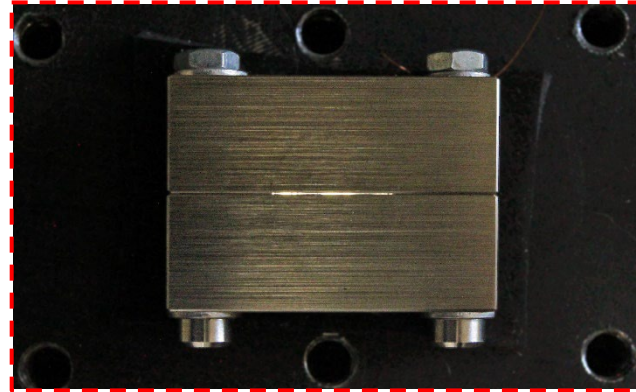
- There is little data on the source term of radionuclides released during rod fracture as aerosolized particles
 - Current test data and inventory estimates are considered extremely conservative due to the collection approach
- This testing uses a cascade sampler to collect aerosol-sized particles released when a rod is broken in bending
- One test has been completed with a total of 4.6 mg dust collected, 0.5 mg of which were collected as respirable-sized particles (<10 μm AED) in the cascade



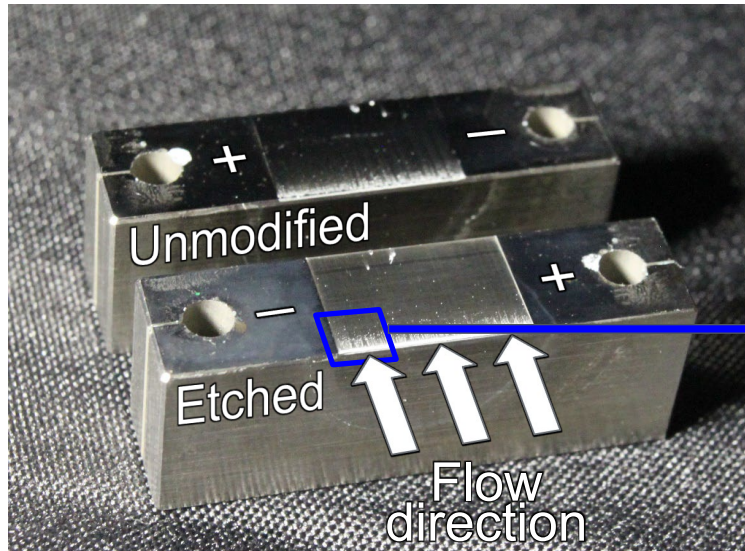
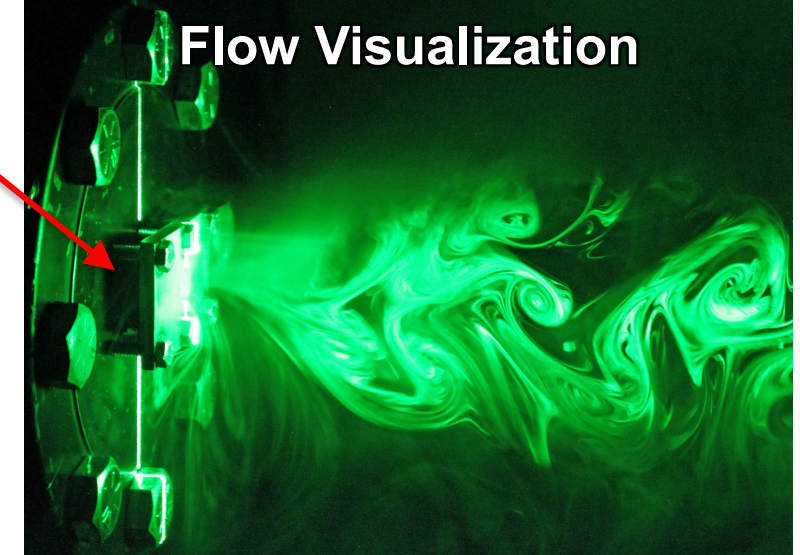
(a) A rod is tested in four-point bending with the aerosol sampler in place. (b) post-test view of larger debris typically collected following a non-aerosol test using four-point bending. (c) the cascade is designed to collect particles having an aerodynamic diameter less than $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$, with each stage (7 stages are used in this sampler design) collecting a specific range of aerodynamic particle diameters. The collected aerosols from test 1, along with a blank, were mounted on SEM mounts for imaging. (d) the sampled material is the black line on the beige collection media. (e) the majority of the aerosol-sized particulate collected during test 1 was in the 10 to 15 micron range.

Transmission of Aerosols Through Cracks

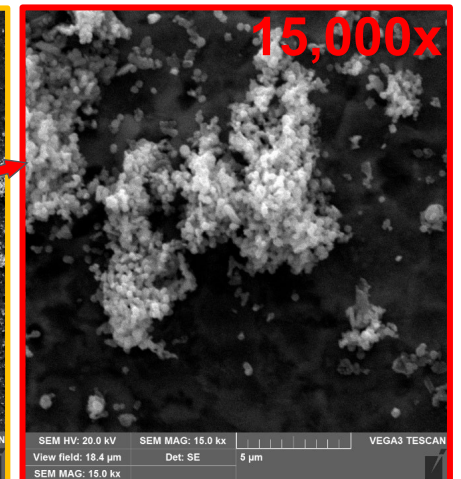
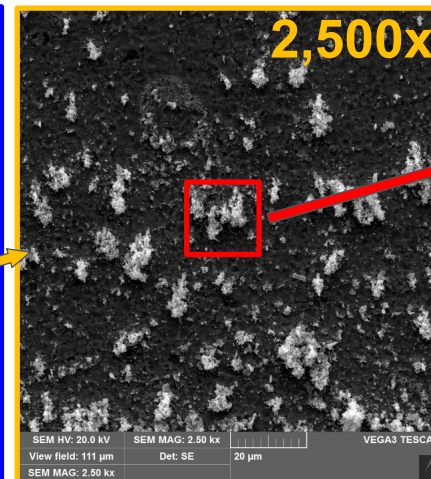
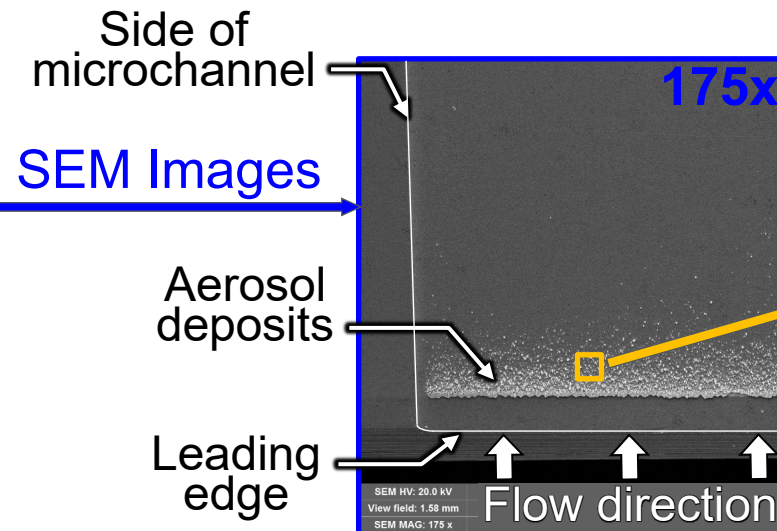
- Tests with linear slot orifice to represent SCC
 - Simplified microchannel
 - Linearly diverging from 13 to 25 μm
 - *Aerosol mass transmission fraction from 0.12 to 0.61*



Assembled Microchannel



Disassembled Microchannel
(Post-Test)



Release of Aerosols “IF” there is a Problem - Status

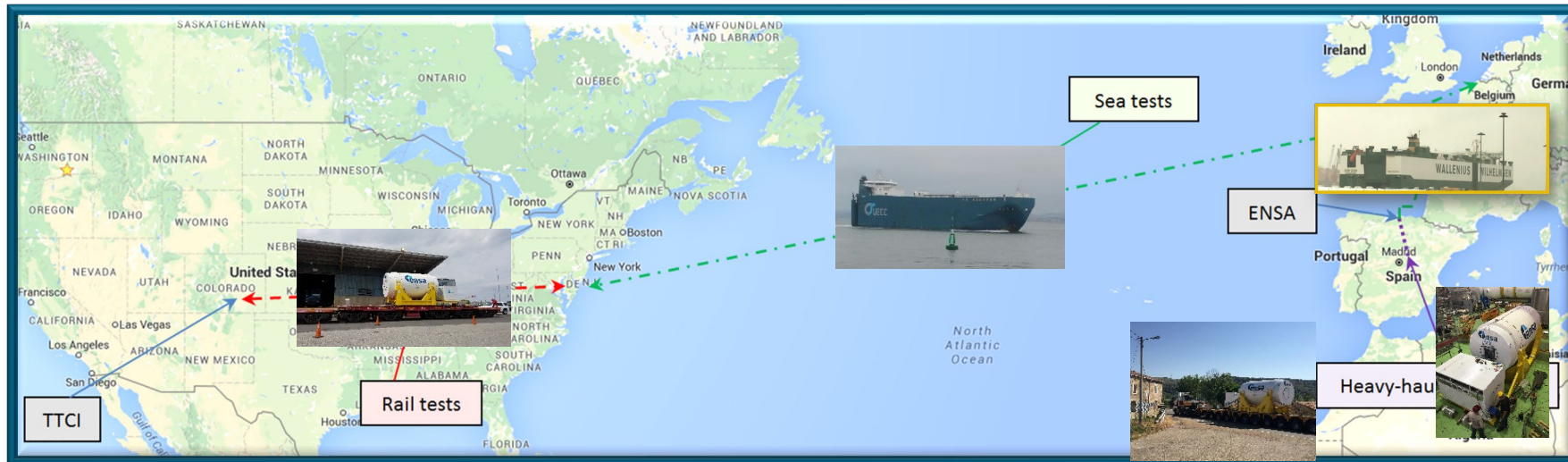
- Still early in our testing for this issue
- So far, if a rod were to break, and a crack were to occur in the canister, we do not believe that any release of significance would occur.
- More testing and work need to be performed in this area.



Transportation

Routing of Instrumented Cask and Assemblies

Multi-Modal Transportation Test (MMTT)



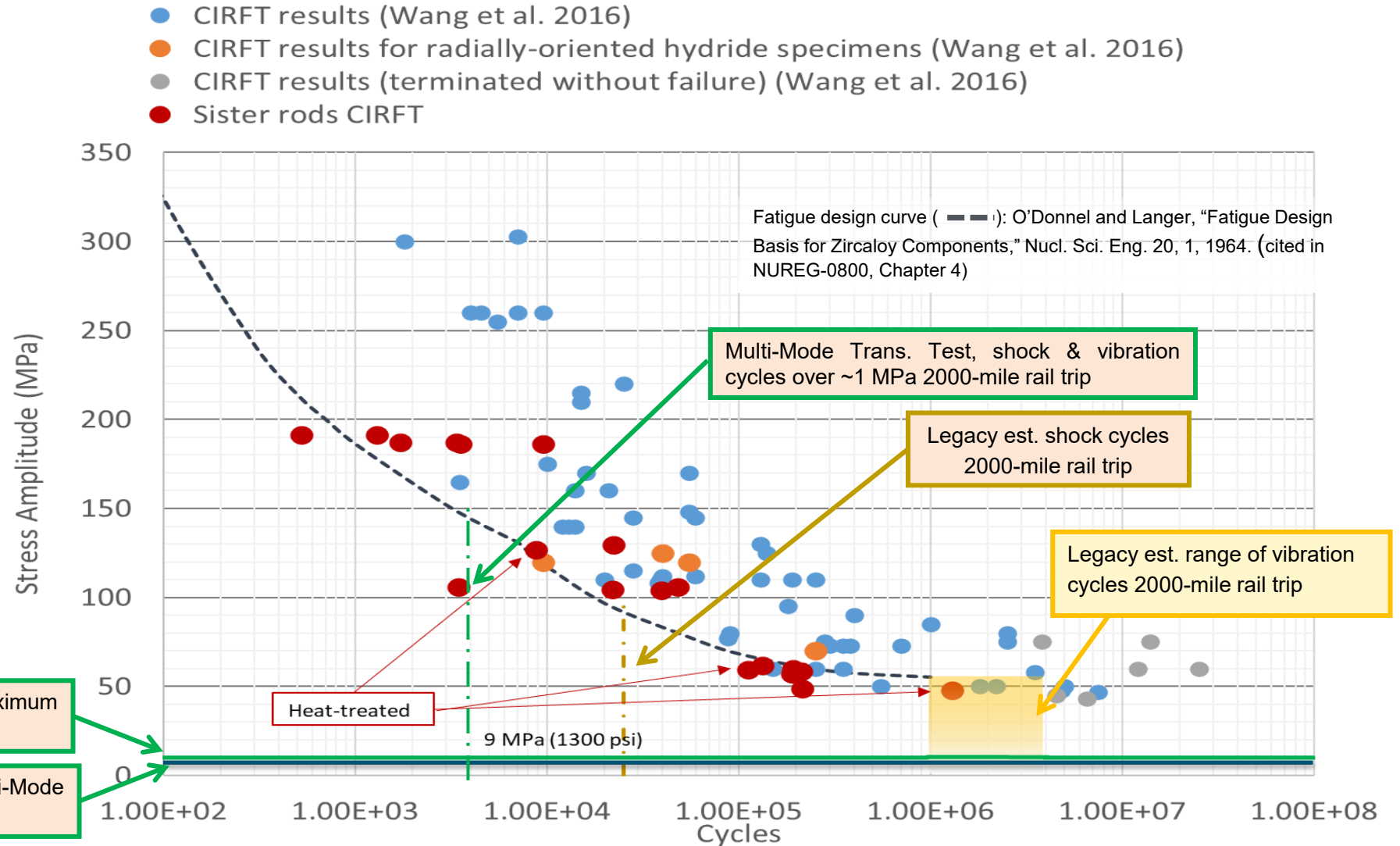
Photos provided by Steve Ross, PNNL

- Transportation was done between June and September of 2017
- 9 Terrabytes of data was collected throughout all legs of the transport as well as the transfers between legs.
- From this test, we conclude that:

For normal conditions of transport, the forces applied to the rods are orders of magnitude below what they can safely withstand. Therefore, transportation under normal circumstances will not be a problem even after long periods of storage.

Transporting Spent Nuclear Fuel

Could Vibrations or Shocks Result in Fatigue Failure?



CONCLUSIONS - *The realistic stresses fuel experiences due to vibration and shock during normal transportation are far below yield and fatigue limits for cladding. We have recently gathered actual rail data which most likely will be the prevailing transportation mode.*

Understanding High Burn-up Cladding Performance – Status

- With the data that are currently available and using the integrated testing approach, cladding integrity will not be challenged during extended storage and normal conditions of transport
- We still have more testing to perform



Stress Corrosion Cracking

Stress Corrosion Cracking

Canister surface environment controls corrosion susceptibility, pit growth, and SCC initiation and growth.

Environment: Site sampling & geochemical modeling provide critical data on canister surface brines (*MgCl₂ stability*)

- Dust from inland ISFSI sites analyzed.
- Established realistic environments for corrosion testing.



Corrosion Experiments:

Determine environmental & material controls on pitting and SCC initiation.

- Significant variables : diurnal cycles, NO₃⁻/Cl⁻, dust.

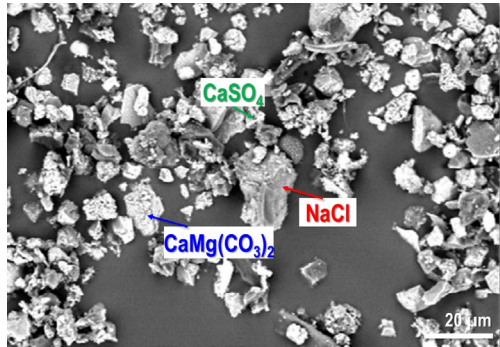
Diurnal Cycles– Corrosion also influenced by surface finish



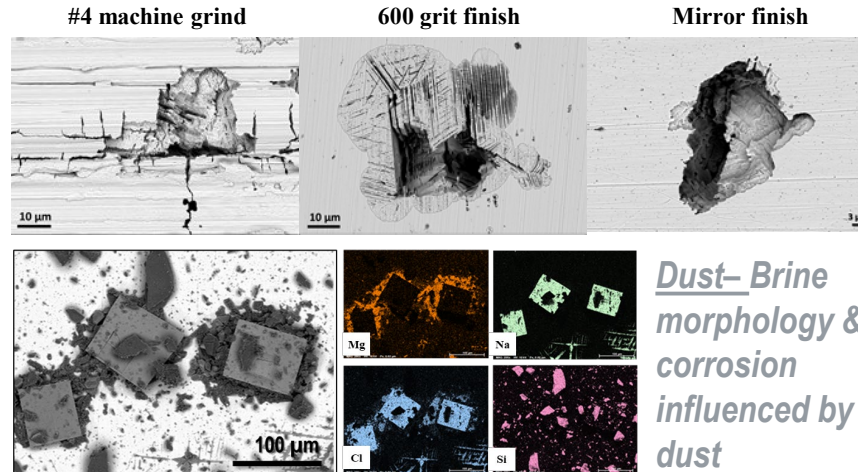
SCC Crack Growth Experiments

CGR as a function of brine composition, temperature, material properties.

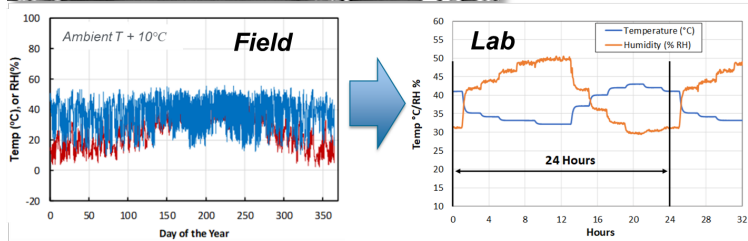
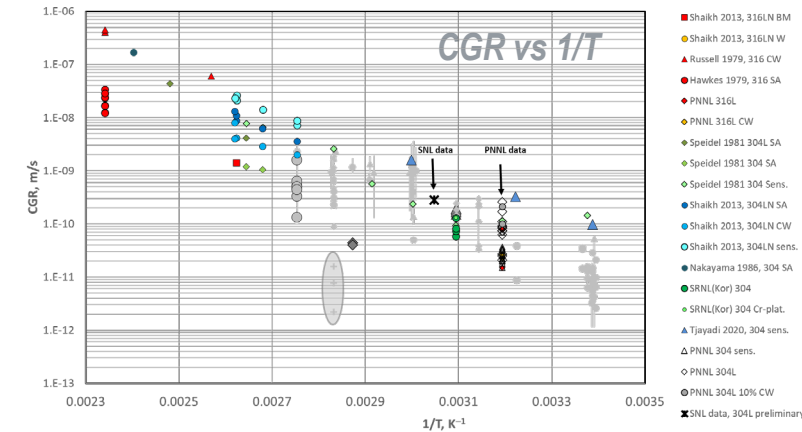
- Current immersed results largely consistent with literature data



Dust and salts analyzed from inland sites

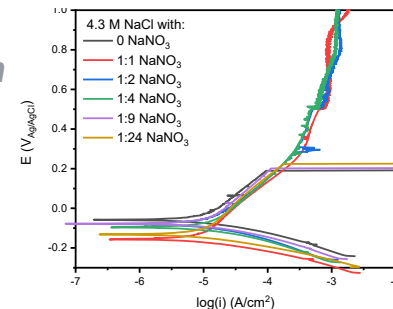


Dust– Brine morphology & corrosion influenced by dust



Field to lab cycle

Chemistry– Evaluation of canister relevant brines (influence of Nitrates) to inform CGR studies



CGR lab at SNL



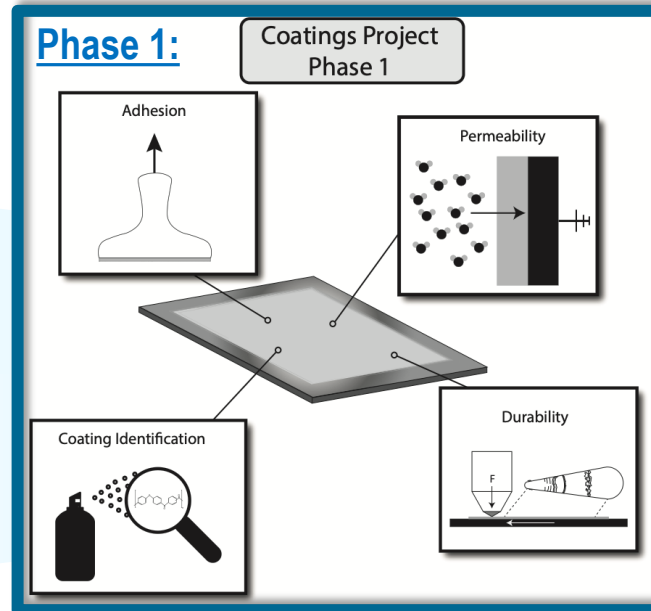
Canister Coatings to Prevent and Remediate SCC

- Identified coatings for potential SCC repair and mitigation:
 - Described in FY2020 initial scoping report, updated in FY2021
 - Developed MOU with industry partners - *Whitehorse, Flora Coatings, OPM, and LUNA*
 - Initial coating of test coupons underway
- Currently in Phase 1:** performance testing of coatings on pristine surfaces:
 - Adhesion, Permeability (corrosion barrier), Durability*

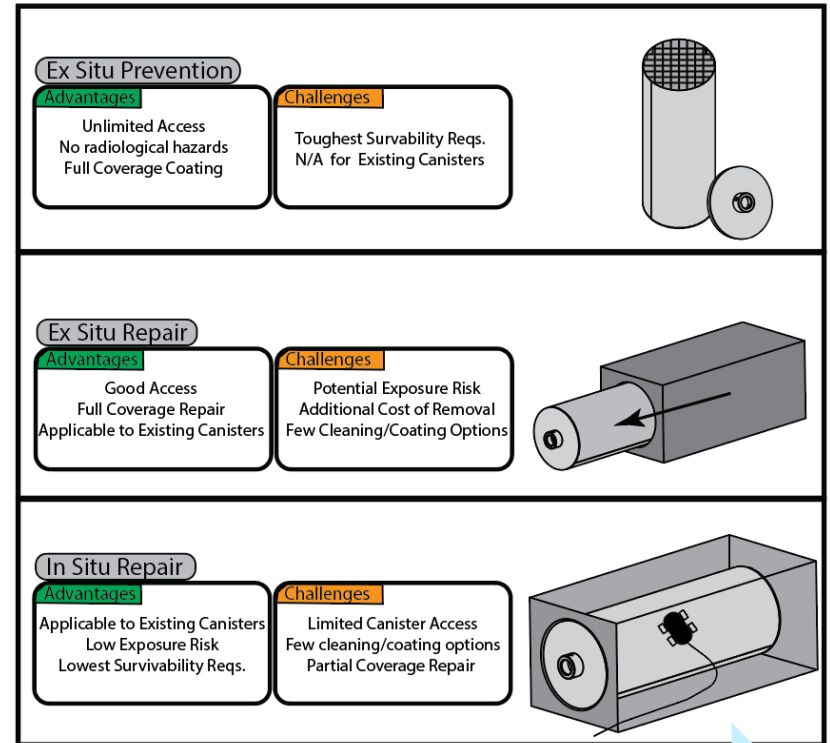
Initial Scoping Report

SAND2020-7916R
Corrosion-Resistant Coatings for Mitigation and Repair of Spent Nuclear Fuel Dry Storage Canisters

Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition



SNF Canister SCC Prevention/Repair Coating Scenarios



Phase 2: Rigorous Performance testing

Phase 3: Long Term Corrosion Testing

Coatings Coordination with Universities and DOE Lab Collaboration

Lead University	Methods being examined
Purdue University (SNL)*	Cold spray *Collaborative manuscript submitted to Corrosion Science (SNL/Purdue)
Ohio State University (PNNL & EPRI)	Cold spray
	Friction stir welding (FSW)
	Soldering
	Vaporized foil actuator welding (VFAW)
University of Cincinnati (University of Alabama, INL, HOLTEC)	Laser-assisted cold-spray (LACS)
	Additive friction stir deposition (AFSD)
	Laser shock peening
	Ultrasonic nanostructure surface modification
University of Idaho (PNNL)	Additive friction stir welding (AFSW)
University of Wisconsin (PNNL)	Cold spray
	Friction Surfacing (FS)

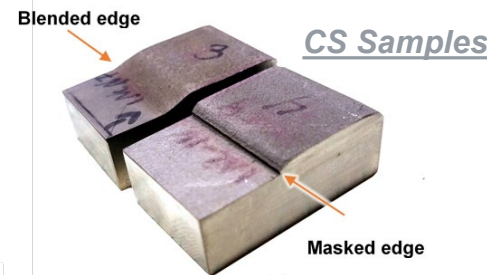
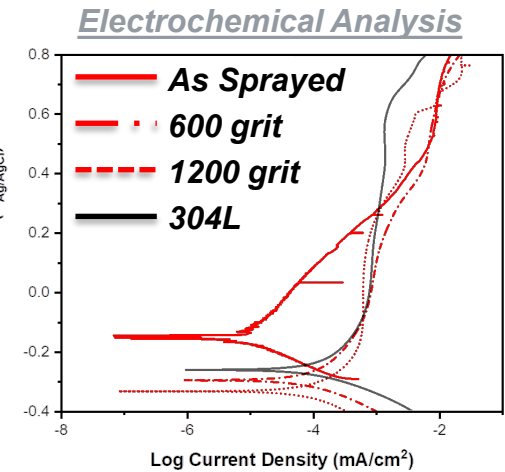
Cold Spray (CS) Evaluation (SNL/PNNL)

Accelerated Corrosion Testing

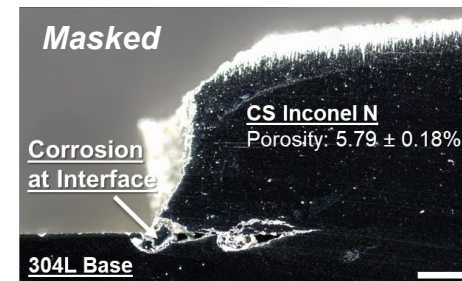
- Electrochemical polarization and full immersion pitting test (ASTM G-48)

Initial Accelerated Tests Show:

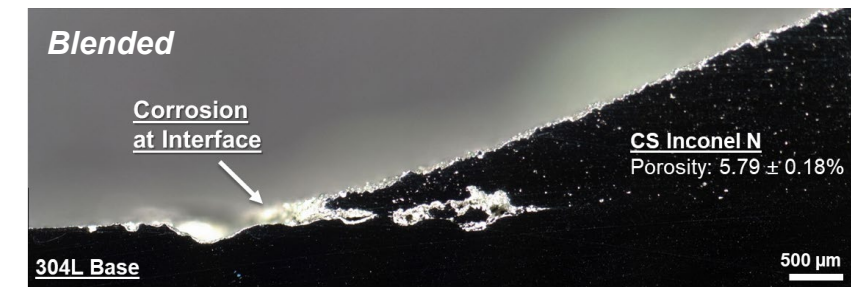
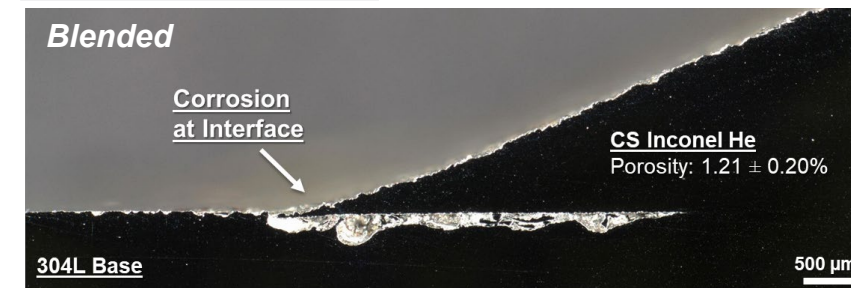
- Interface is most susceptible region
 - Corrosion dependent on material composition & properties (porosity)
 - Surface finish can enhance CS corrosion resistance



No significant difference in corrosion between masked/blended CS



Full Immersion Testing Post-Exposure Cross sections



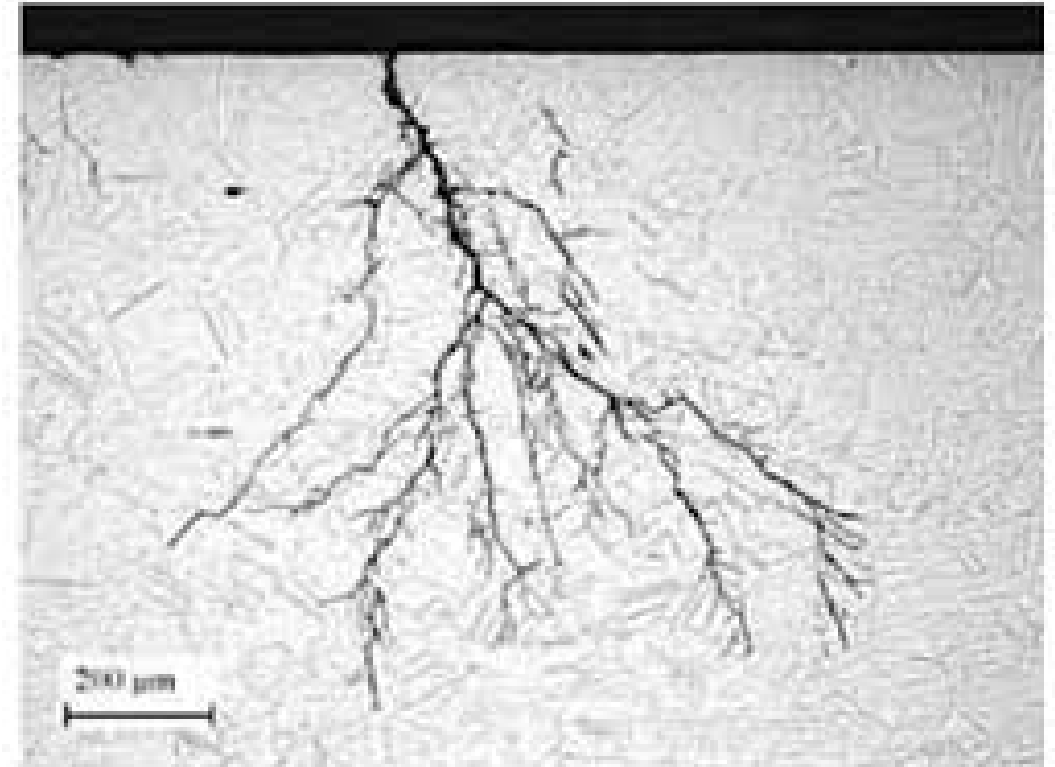
Coatings Coordination with Universities –2020 Continuing NEUPs*

Lead University	Methods being examined
North Carolina State University (<i>INL</i>)	Ceramic coatings with ultrasonic spray mist CVD
	Test corrosion, heat, wear, H permeation
University of Nebraska (<i>Orano</i>)	Laser Cleaning & Laser Peening for removal of corrosion product and mitigation of pitting and SCC
	Test corrosion
University of Nevada Reno (<i>LANL</i>)	Laser Surface Patterning
	FEM of pitting & Test pitting and SCC
University of South Carolina (<i>EPRI & SRNL</i>)	Composite patch with inhibitor
	Test/monitor corrosion and SCC
University of Wisconsin Madison (<i>PNNL & EPRI</i>)	Shot peening, cold spray peening, ultrasonic nanocrystal surface modification, laser shock peening, & forced pulse water jet peening
	Microstructure, potentiodynamic corrosion tests, crack growth rate
Virginia Tech (<i>OSU</i>)	SiOCN(H) coatings
	Evaluate structural changes in coatings in canister environment

*Delayed due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Stress Corrosion Cracking - Status

- Some materials show some promise in preventing and remediating SCC
 - The potential inhibitory effects of nitrate in canister surface dusts are being explored
 - Cold spray as a mitigation and repair technology offers promising physical/mechanical properties, but its effects on canister corrosion are poorly understood and require additional investigation
 - Corrosion resistant coatings are also being explored as mitigation and repair options.
- More testing needs to be performed

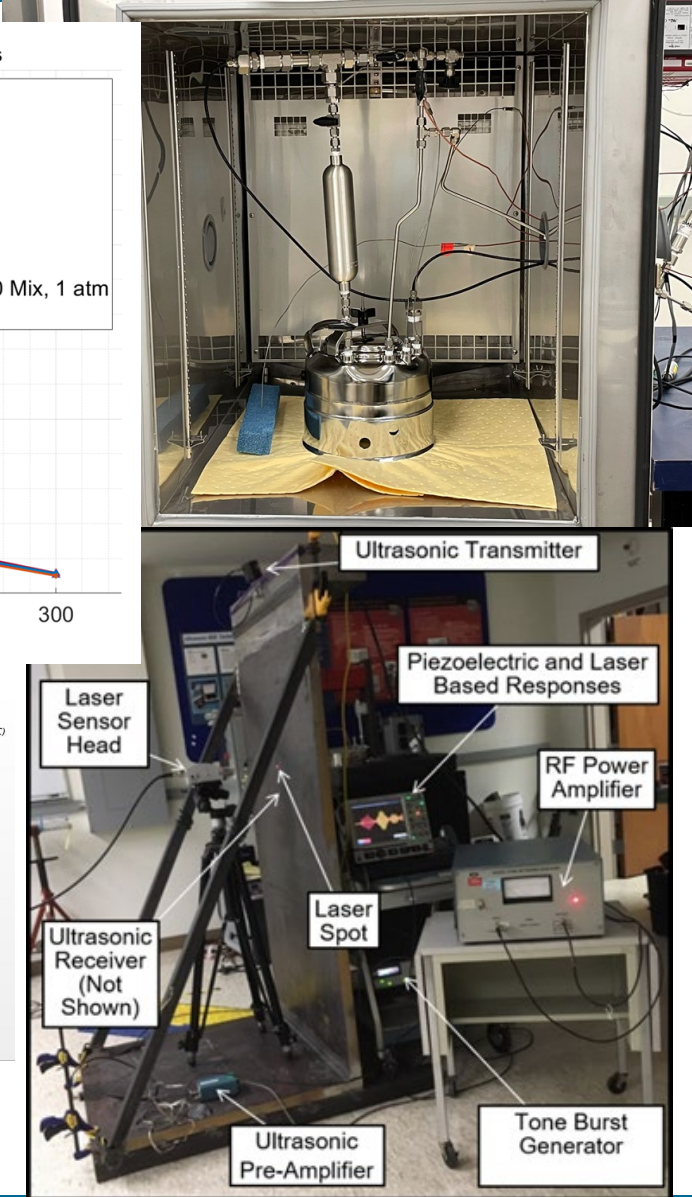
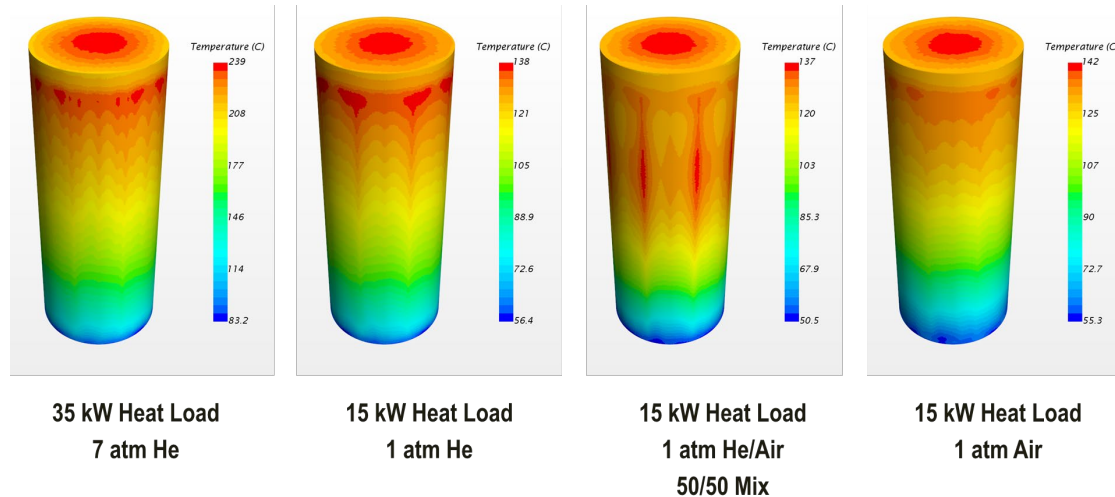
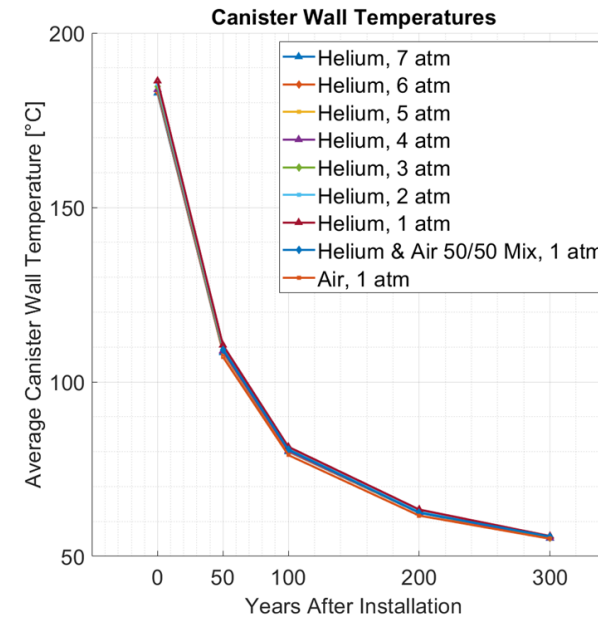
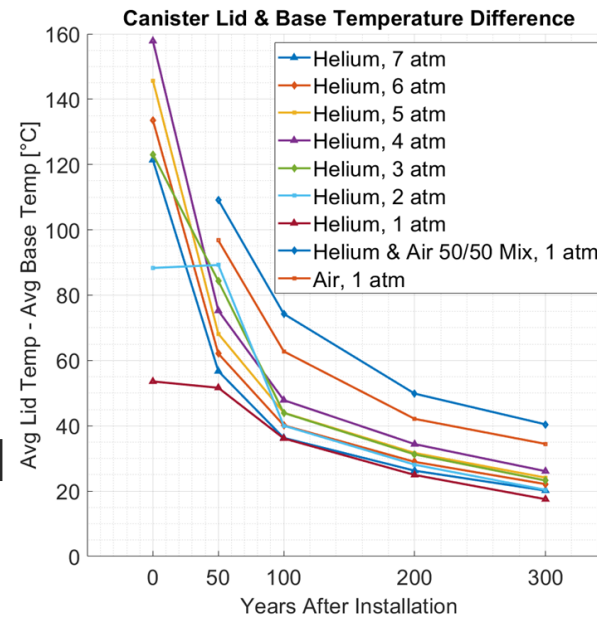


Example of Stress Corrosion Cracking

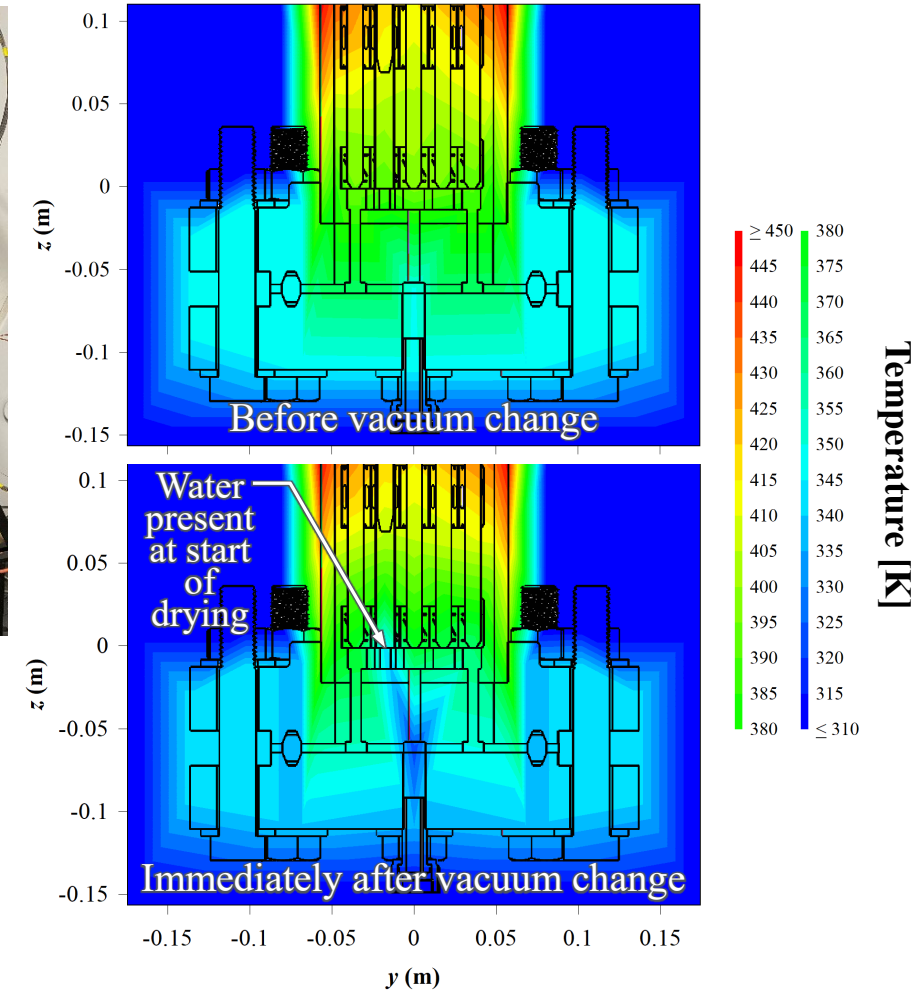
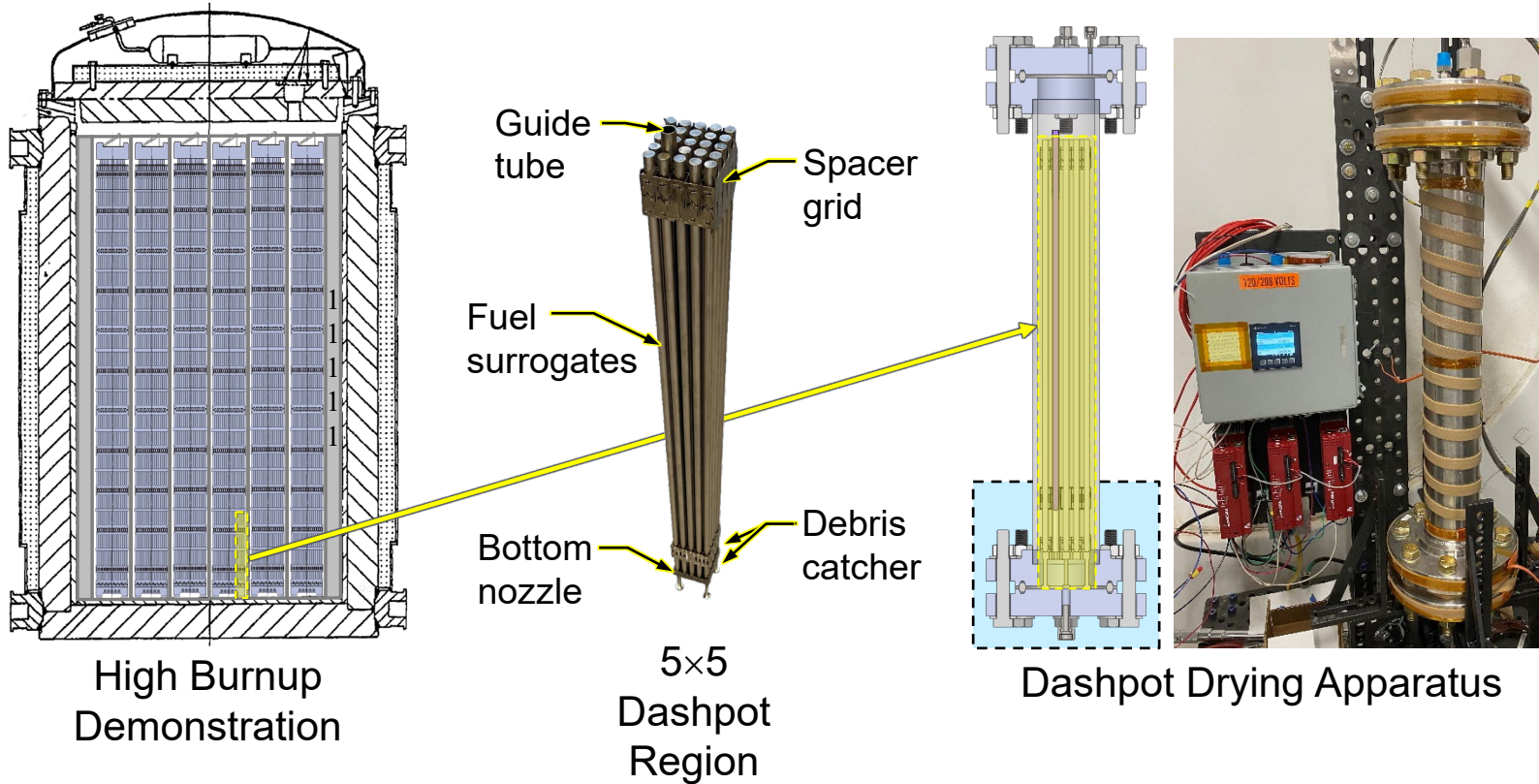
Thermal & Drying

FY21 Thermal & Drying and Water Detection

- Modeled the effects of variable canister He pressure to determine if canister temperatures can be used to detect a leak
- Testing gas sampling and humidity detection using well-controlled atmosphere in equilibrium
- Detection of water in a canister using guided ultrasonic waves



Drying Cycle Simulations



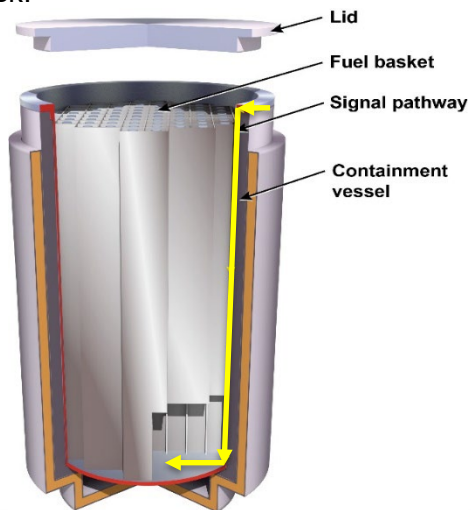
- Small scale drying apparatus
 - One 5x5 section of fuel from dashpot region
 - Heat up and pressure histories from High Burnup Demonstration
 - Capable of detecting water during drying
 - Also measure residual water content with mass spectrometry

Non-Invasive Water Detection in Dry Storage Cask

Ryan M. Meyer, Chen Zhang, Naveen K. Karri, Morris S. Good – PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

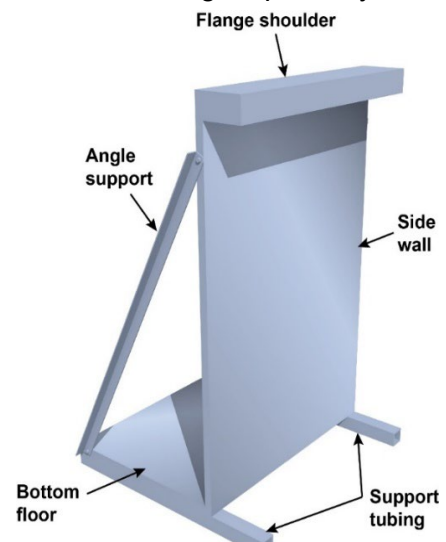
1.0 Concept

Technique to detect water inside of loaded dry storage casks with sensors mounted on accessible, exterior surfaces of cask.



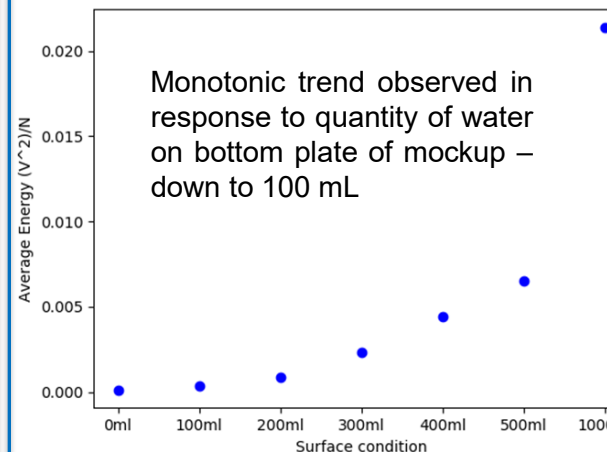
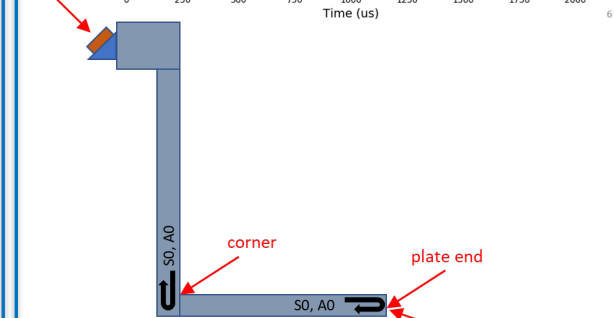
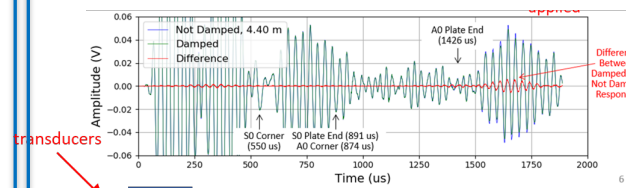
3.0 Laboratory Testing

Mockup designed and fabricated to simulate relevant features of signal pathway in cask.



4.0 Laboratory Results

Sensitivity to water tested from 100 mL to 1.0 L of water. Baseline (dry) signal response subtracted from water responses.



5.0 Numerical Modeling

Finite Element Analysis (FEA) simulation of guided ultrasonic wave mode propagation in mockup components to guide sensor development and experimental work.

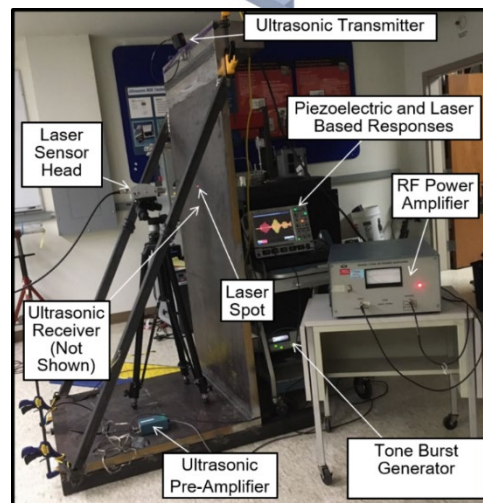
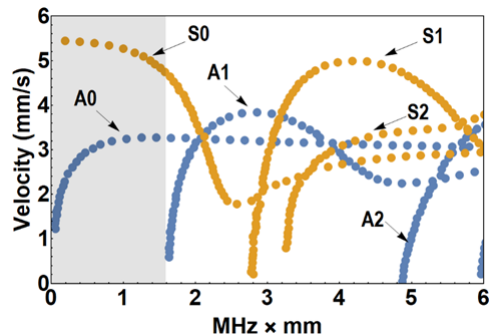
```
ANSYS 2020 R1
Build 20.1
PLOT NO. 1
NODAL SOLUTION
STEP=1
SUB =1500
TIME=.432E-03
EPTOEQV (AVG)
PowerGraphics
EFACET=1
AVRES=Mat
DMX =.500E-12
SMN =0
SMX =.218E-10
0
.243E-11
.485E-11
.728E-11
.970E-11
.121E-10
.146E-10
.170E-10
.194E-10
.218E-10
```

Anti Symmetric Waves

Symmetric Waves

2.0 Approach

Interrogate for water utilizing sensing with guided ultrasonic wave signals that propagate from external sensors through the walls of the cask.



6.0 Ongoing Efforts

Efforts continue to develop and enhance sensor capability.

- Investigate impact of internal hardware on water detection
- Investigate effect of distribution of water over bottom surface
- Search of "signatures" of presence of water that alleviate need for baseline signal subtraction.

Thermal and Drying - Status

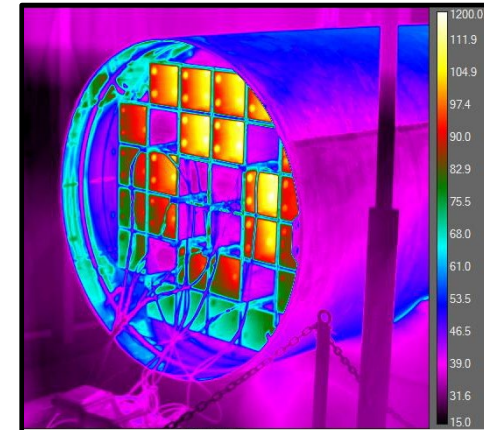
- Residual water (vapor) remaining from drying procedures can provide precursor to fuel cladding corrosion
- However, small quantities of residual water not expected to result in significant fuel cladding corrosion
- Assumptions about potential quantities of residual water have not yet been corroborated with field experience
- Much more work needs to be completed before conclusions can be made.



Full Scale Canister Testing

Full-Scale Canister Testing

- DOE-NE supplied 15 canisters
 - 6 TN-32PTH2 and 9 TN-24PT4
 - Delivered to SNL, PNNL, ORNL, and EPRI
- Several different research projects scheduled and proposed
 - Canister deposition sampling
 - Thermal and drying
 - Stress corrosion cracking
 - Seismic
 - Cold sprays
 - Filler (moderator exclusion)

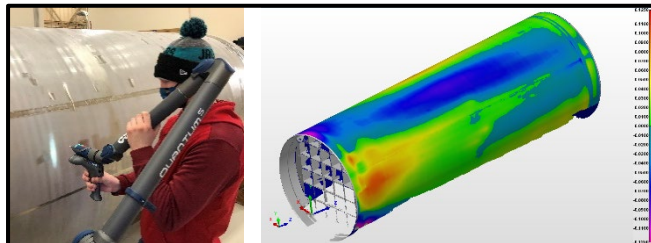


Canister Deposition Field Demonstration (CDFD)

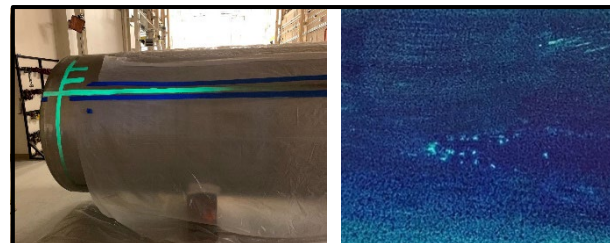
- Purpose: Measure composition and quantity of depositions on the surface of storage canisters
- Place multiple electrically heated canisters in storage configuration
 - Drive realistic thermal and flow patterns
 - Periodically sample canister surface deposits on the order of once per year or every other year
- Current activities
 - Prototype heater testing and model calibration
 - Extensive baseline characterization of canister surfaces



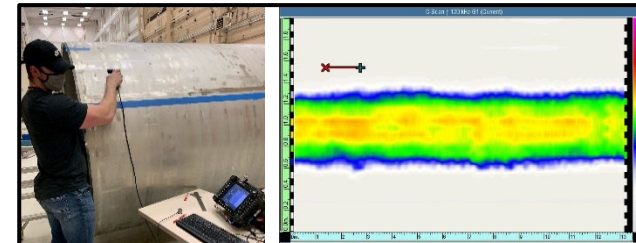
Prototype heater testing



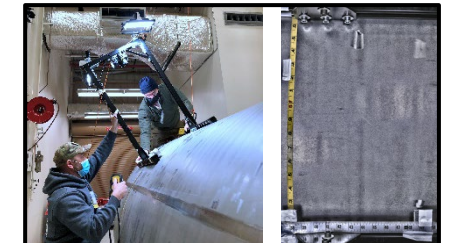
3D surface scans



Dye penetrant inspections



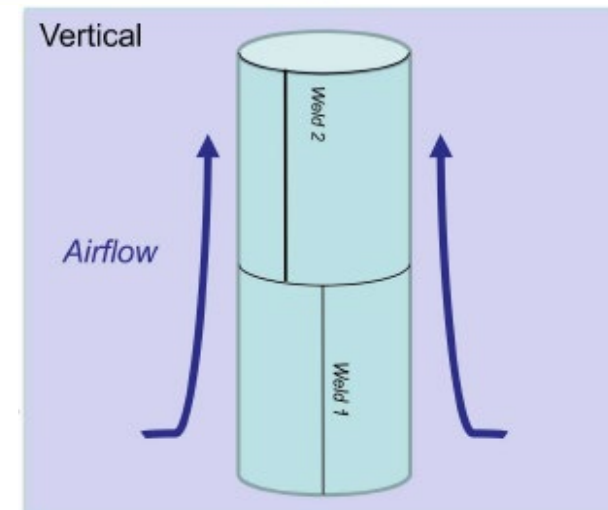
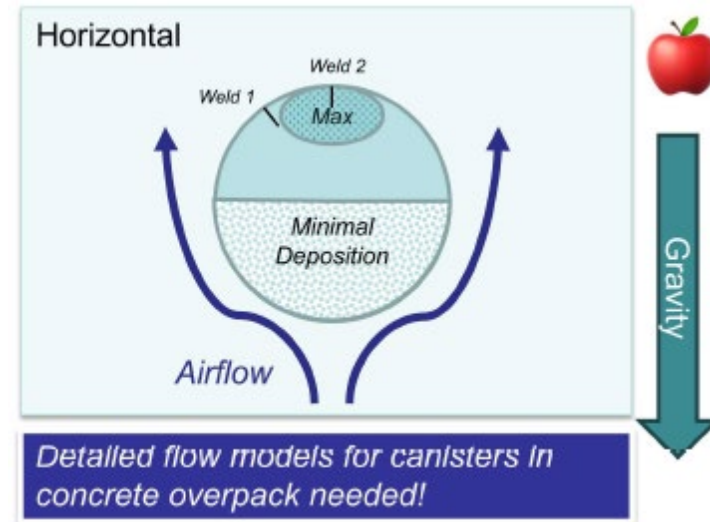
Eddy current array inspections



Photomapping

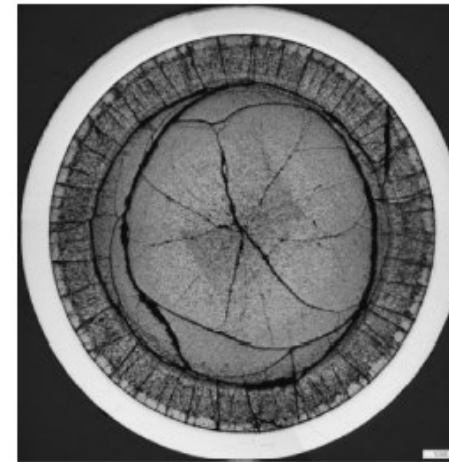
Full Scale Canister Testing - Status

- It is believed that some salts will deposit on a canister but exactly how much is not known
- Full scale testing must be done to know the exact amount of salt deposition

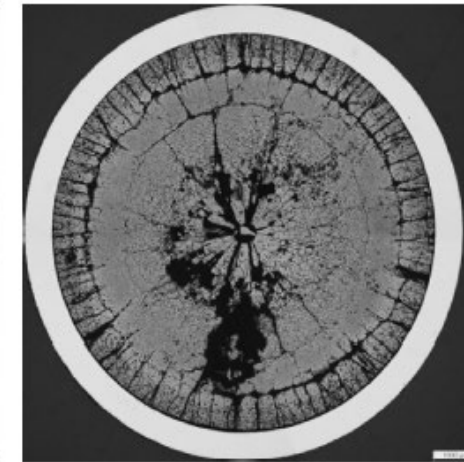


Accident Tolerant Fuel

- Complete sibling pin testing 2023 +/-
- ATF focus on LTAs currently in core (high burnup expected ~2025)
 - Cr-doped fuel
 - Cr-coated cladding
- HALEU (effects of higher burnup)
- Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (both fast reactors)
 - Metal fuel (TerraPower Sodium reactor)
 - TRISO fuel (X-Energy Xe-100 HTGR)
- Hope to test ATF in 2025
- Continue to work with NE-5, NRC, NEI and EPRI

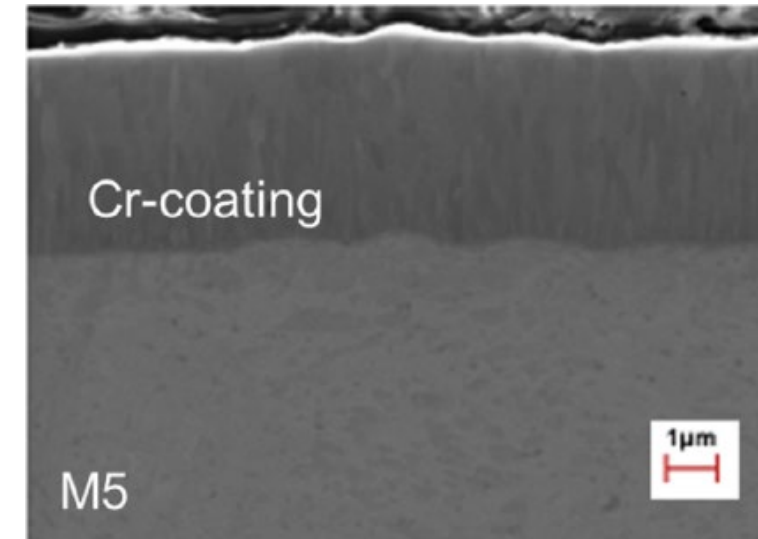
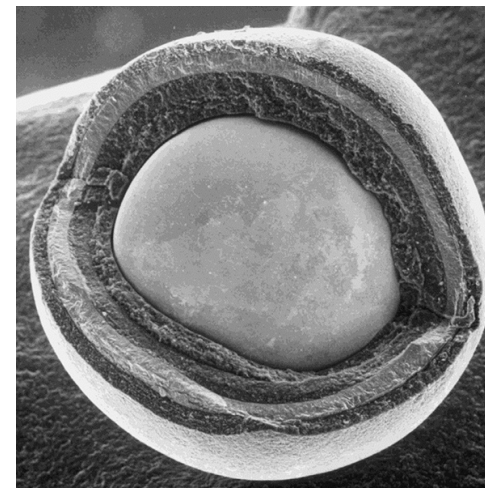


(a) Std Opt2 pellets

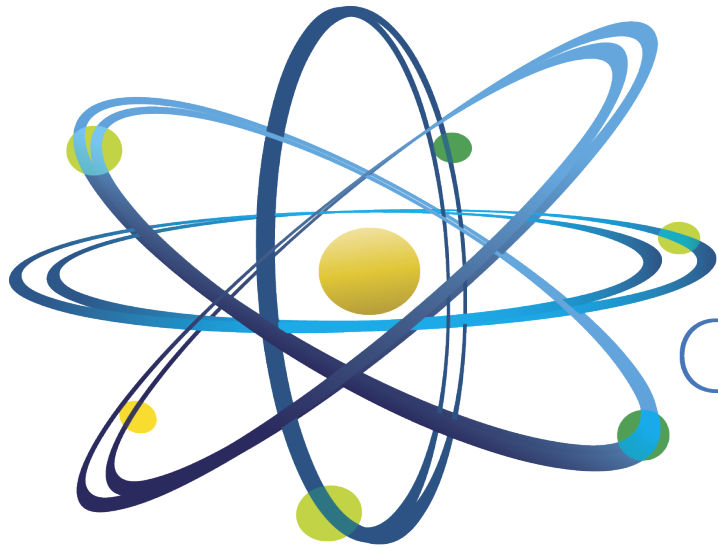


(b) D1 pellets

Arborelius et al. *Journal of Nuclear Science and Technology* Vol 43, No 9 (2006)



Bischoff et al. *Nuclear Engineering and Technology* 50(2018)



Clean. **Reliable. Nuclear.**