

# **HTGR Technology Course for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

**May 24 – 27, 2010**

## **Module 13**

### **Fission Product Behavior in HTGRs**

**David Hanson**

**General Atomics**

# Outline



- **Introduction, background, and radionuclide fundamentals**
- **Radionuclide (RN) transport in HTGRs**
  - Fuel kernels
  - Particle coatings
  - Fuel matrix/graphite
  - Primary coolant circuit
  - Reactor building
- **Design methods for predicting RN transport**
- **Comparison of code predictions with data**
  - In-pile test data
  - Reactor surveillance data

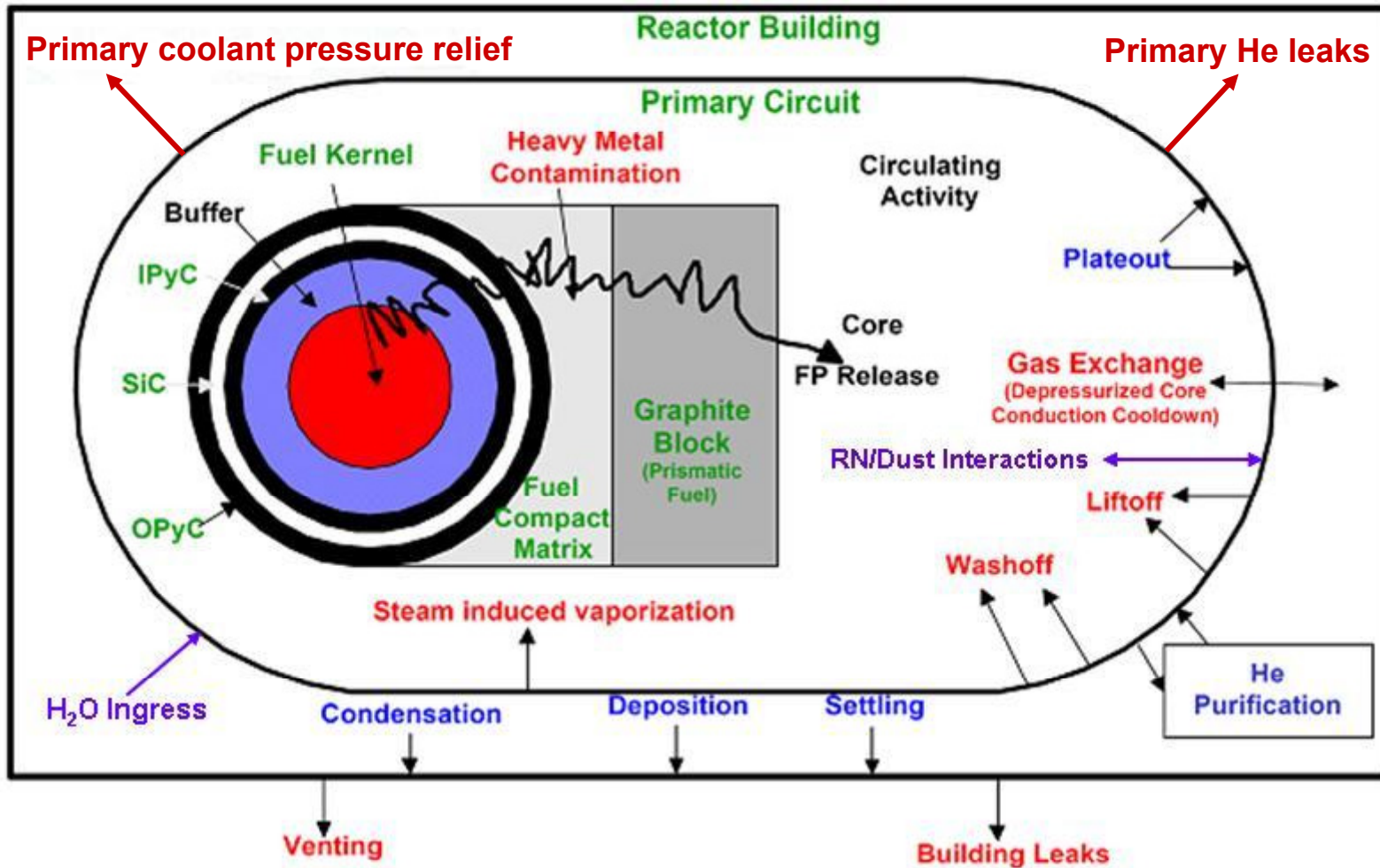
# Introduction and Background

- **HTGR designs employ multiple radionuclide (RN) release barriers to meet RN control requirements**
- **RN transport in HTGRs has been extensively investigated**
- **Design methods available to predict performance of the RN release barriers during normal operation and accidents**
  - Codes have been used extensively for reactor design & analysis, including operating HTGRs
- **Many comparisons of code predictions with data**
  - Reactor surveillance, in-pile tests, etc.
  - Codes not completely verified and validated
- **NGNP/AGR Fuel Program will complete validation of codes**
  - Single-effects data for component model upgrades
  - Independent integral data for code validation

# Radionuclide Containment Function

- **HTGR designs employ multiple RN release barriers to meet RN control requirements**
  - Fuel kernels
  - **Particle coatings** (most important barrier)
  - Fuel-element matrix/fuel-element graphite (prismatic)
  - Primary coolant pressure boundary
  - Reactor building (RB)
- **These multiple RN barriers provide Defense-in-Depth**
- **Performance criteria for each RN release barrier derived using a top-down allocation process (Module 3)**

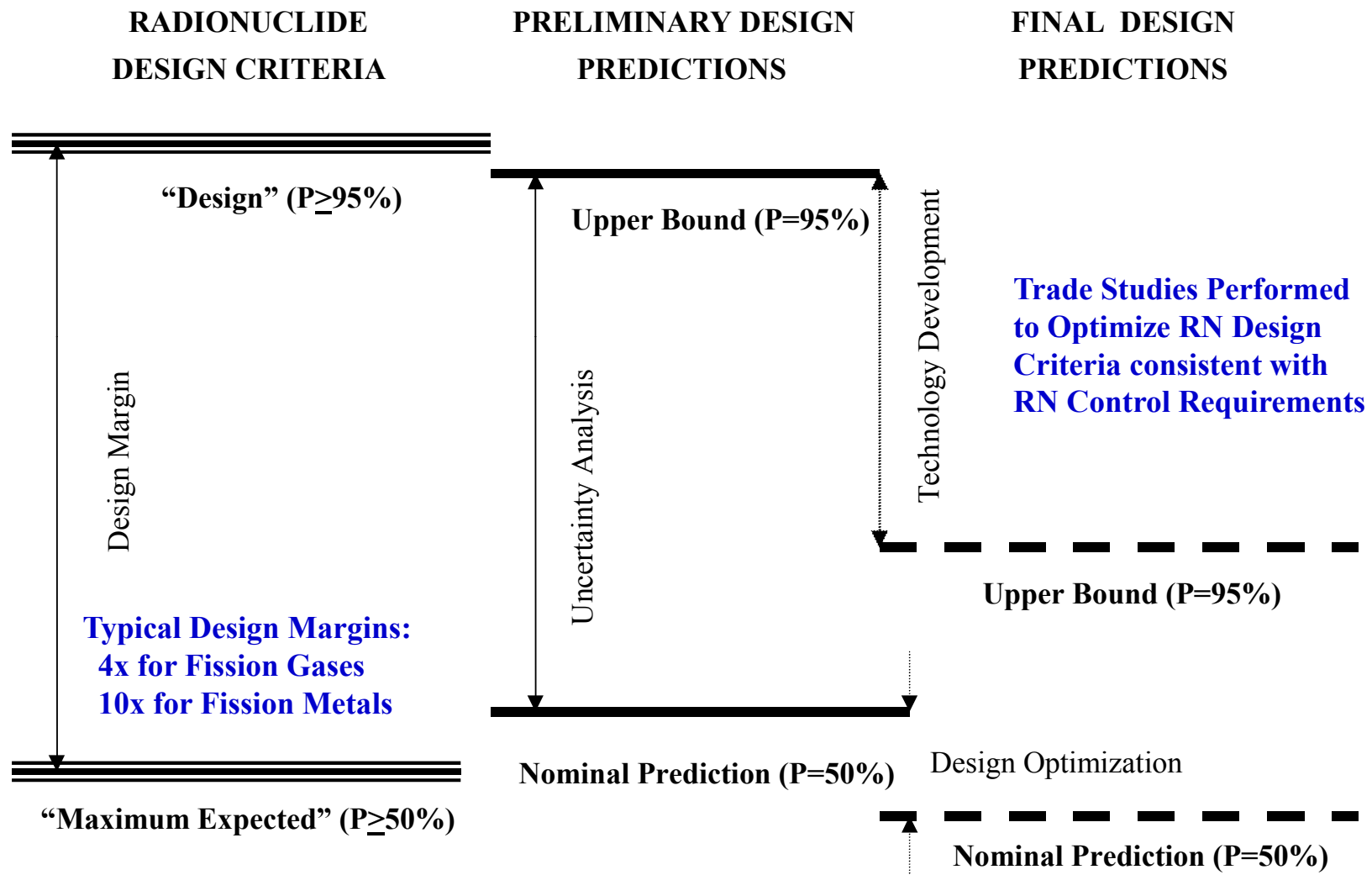
# HTGR RN Sources and Pathways



# HTGR Radionuclide Inventories

- **Radionuclide inventories in reactor core calculated using standard burnup/depletion codes; for example:**
  - ORIGEN for core RN inventories
  - GARGOYLE (GA)/VSOP99 (PBMR) for decay heat calculations
- **Allowable RN inventories in primary circuit derived from RN control requirements using top-down functional analysis**
  - Two-tier set of “RN design criteria” defined to explicitly include safety factors in plant design (next slide)
  - RN inventories specified for:
    - Circulating activity in primary coolant
    - Plateout activity in primary circuit
    - He purification system
  - Plant mass balance calculated with RADC (GA)/DAMD (PBMR)

# Design Margins (Safety Factors) Are Explicitly Included in RN Design Criteria (Prismatic Example)



# Radionuclide Release Fundamentals

$$(f.r.)_{core} = \frac{C(f.r.)_c + F(f.r.)_F + [1 - C - F](f.r.)_D}{AF_{graphite}}$$

$(f.r.)_{core}$  = fractional release from core

$C$  = heavy-metal contamination fraction

$(f.r.)_c$  = fractional release from contamination

$F$  = failure fraction:

$(f.r.)_F$  = fractional release from failed particles

$(f.r.)_D$  = fractional diffusive release from intact particles

$AF_{graphite}$  = matrix/graphite attenuation factor



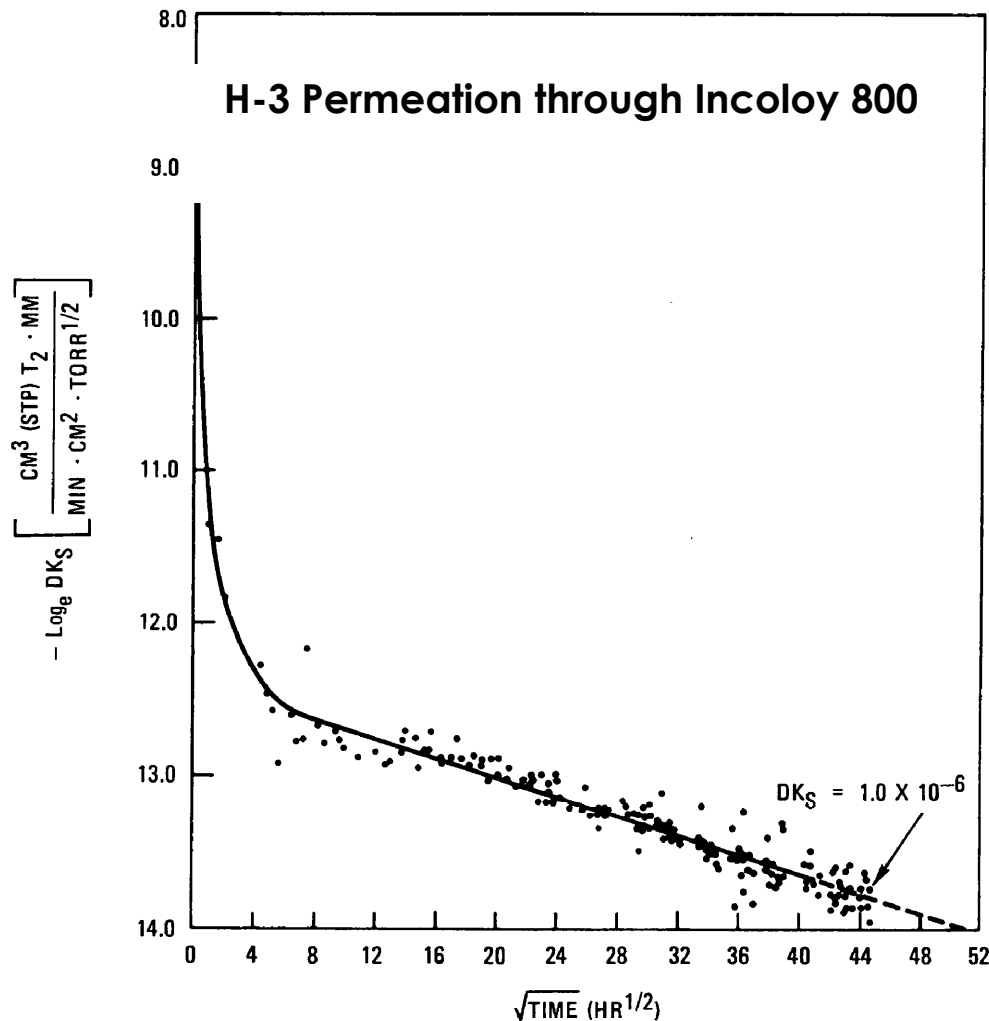
# Dominant Radionuclides in HTGRs

| <b>Nuclide</b>     | <b>Half Life</b> | <b>Primary Impact</b>  |
|--------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>I-131</b>       | <b>8 day</b>     | <b>Offsite dose, O&amp;M dose</b>                                  |
| <b>Ag-110m</b>     | <b>250 day</b>   | <b>O&amp;M dose</b>  |
| <b>Cs-137</b>      | <b>30 yr</b>     | <b>O&amp;M dose, offsite dose</b>                                  |
| <b>Cs-134</b>      | <b>2.1 yr</b>    | <b>O&amp;M dose, offsite dose</b>                                  |
| <b>Sr-90</b>       | <b>28 yr</b>     | <b>Offsite dose</b>  |
| <b>Kr &amp; Xe</b> | <b>--</b>        | <b>Normal operation gaseous effluent</b>                           |
| <b>H-3</b>         | <b>12.3 yr</b>   | <b>Normal operation liquid effluent;<br/>product contamination</b> |

# Significance of Tritium for HTGRs

- **Tritium (H-3) will be produced in NGNP by nuclear reactions**
  - Ternary Fission (Yield =  $\sim 1 \times 10^{-4}$ )
  - Neutron activation of impurities (He-3 in coolant; Li in graphite)
  - Neutron capture in boron control materials
- **Some H-3 will accumulate in primary helium**
  - Controlled by He Purification System
  - Significant sorption on core graphite
- **Fraction of circulating H-3 in He will permeate through IHX & SG with potential to contaminate process gases and steam**
- **H-3 will contribute to public & occupational exposures**
  - Environmental releases from plant (liquid discharge)
  - Contaminated products (e.g., hydrogen, bitumen, etc.)

# H-3 Permeation through Metals Suppressed by Oxide Surface Films



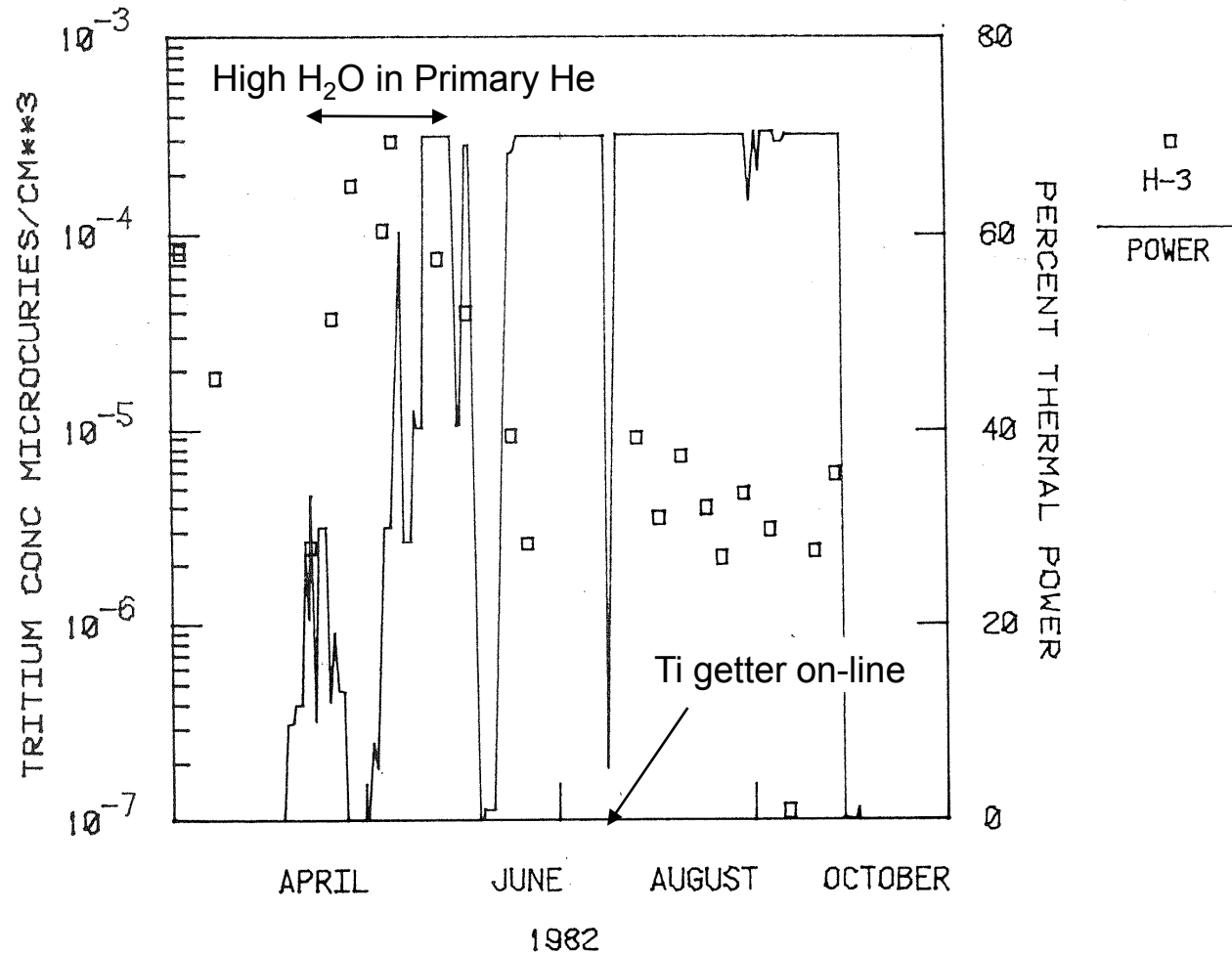
- H-3 Permeation Measurements at ORNL
  - ✓ Incoloy 800 steam generator tubing
  - ✓ Trace H-3 in He on outside of tube
  - ✓ Steam on inside
- H-3 permeation behavior
  - ✓ Rapid decrease during first 36 hr
  - ✓ Subsequent slow decrease
  - ✓ Square-root time dependence
  - ✓ Growing oxide layer on steam side
  - ✓ H-3 permeation through oxide layer rate limiting
- Implications for steam-cycle HTGRs
  - ✓ He and H<sub>2</sub>O chemistry important
  - ✓ Oxide layers inhibit H-3 permeation
  - ✓ Thermal cycling reduces effectiveness of oxide layer (cracking)

# H-3 Behavior in Prismatic HTGRs

## Off-Site H-3 Releases < Regulatory Limits

- **Dragon HTR**
  - First determination of H-3 behavior in an HTGR
  - $\text{Li}_2\text{SO}_4$  (neutron poison) in secondary  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  unique source
  - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  injection increased circulating H-3
- **Peach Bottom 1**
  - ~60% H-3 release from BISO fuel; retained in graphite
  - H-3 produced in control materials retained in place
  - Small H-3 permeation into secondary coolant (~1.1 Ci)
- **Fort St. Vrain (FSV)**
  - Ti getters in HPS did not meet requirements (deactivated by  $\text{N}_2$ , etc.)
  - Core graphite major sink for H-3: >10x more effective than HPS
  - Frequent  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  Ingresses released H-3 from core graphite
- **HTTR**
  - H-3 plant mass balance at 938°C core outlet temperature
  - Extensive data on H-3 permeation through IHX (Hasteloy XR)

# FSV Tritium Concentration in Primary Helium



# H-3 Behavior in Pebble-Bed HTGRs

## Off-Site H-3 Releases < Regulatory Limits

- **AVR**
  - High lithium content in “carbon brick” side reflector (~4 ppm)
    - Dominant source of H-3 production
    - <50 ppb typical for HTGRs
  - H<sub>2</sub> (protium) injection tests
    - Displaced H-3 sorbed on core graphite
    - Decreased H-3 permeation to secondary H<sub>2</sub>O
  - Adjusted feed-water chemistry promoted growth of oxide layer on SG tubes reducing H-3 permeation and release
  - Large SG leak resulted in large H-3 release from core graphite
- **THTR**
  - Little published information
- **HTR-10**
  - No published information

# Outline

- **Introduction, background, and radionuclide fundamentals**



- **Radionuclide (RN) transport in HTGRs**
  - Fuel kernels
  - Particle coatings
  - Fuel matrix/graphite
  - Primary coolant circuit
  - Reactor building
- **Design methods for predicting RN transport**
- **Comparison of code predictions with data**
  - In-pile test data
  - Reactor surveillance data

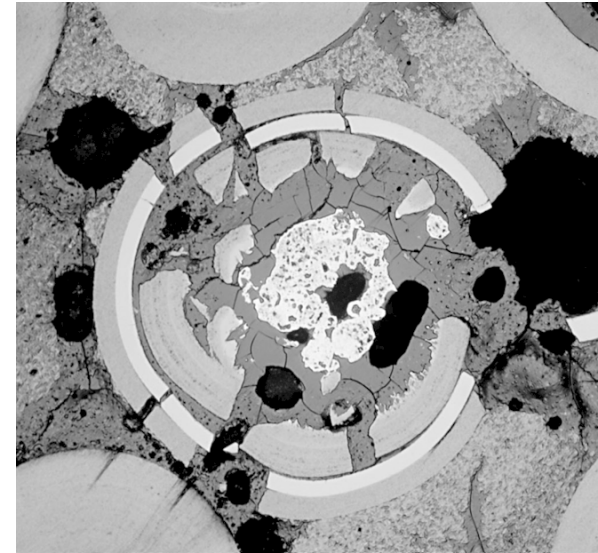
# HTGR RN Transport Knowledge Base

- **Extensive international data base on HTGR fission product transport available to support HTGR design & licensing**
  - Summarized in IAEA TECDOC-978, 1997
- **Primary data sources**
  - Previous HTGR R&D programs in USA, FRG, Japan, France, etc.
  - Reactor surveillance programs (seven HTGRs constructed)
  - On-going R&D programs, especially fuel AGR program
- **Existing data base has limitations; hence, uncertainties in models and material properties are often large**
  - Some data are for non-reference materials
  - QA pedigree uncertain
- **Additional testing needed to complete validation of design methods for predicting fission product source terms**



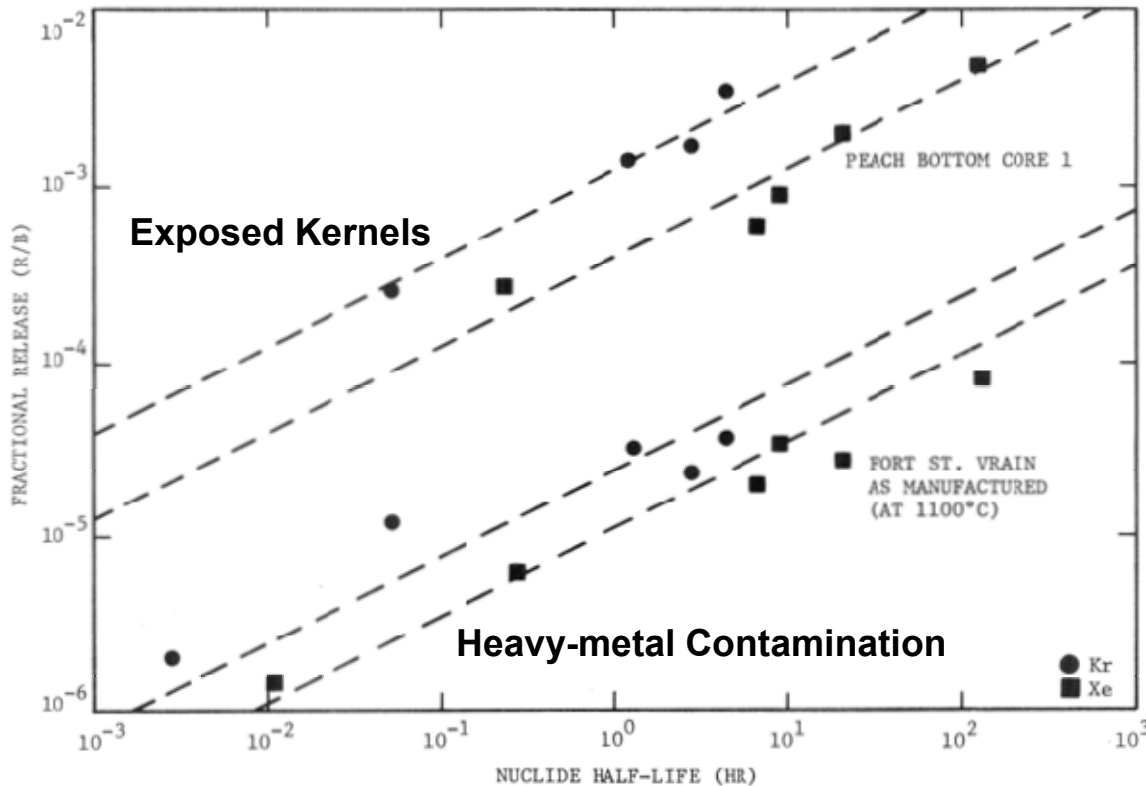
# Radionuclide Release Barriers Fuel Kernels

- **Potential release mechanisms**
  - Fission recoil
  - Diffusion
  - Hydrolysis (reaction with H<sub>2</sub>O)
- **Controlling parameters**
  - Fuel temperatures
  - Time
  - H<sub>2</sub>O concentration
  - Burnup
- **Barrier performance**
  - Fractional gas release function of time/temperature history
  - Increased gas release in case of hydrolysis
  - Partial diffusive release of volatile fission metals (Ag, Cs > Sr)
  - Other radionuclides, including actinides, completely retained



# Fission Gas Release Fundamentals

## Chemical Element and Half-Life Dependence



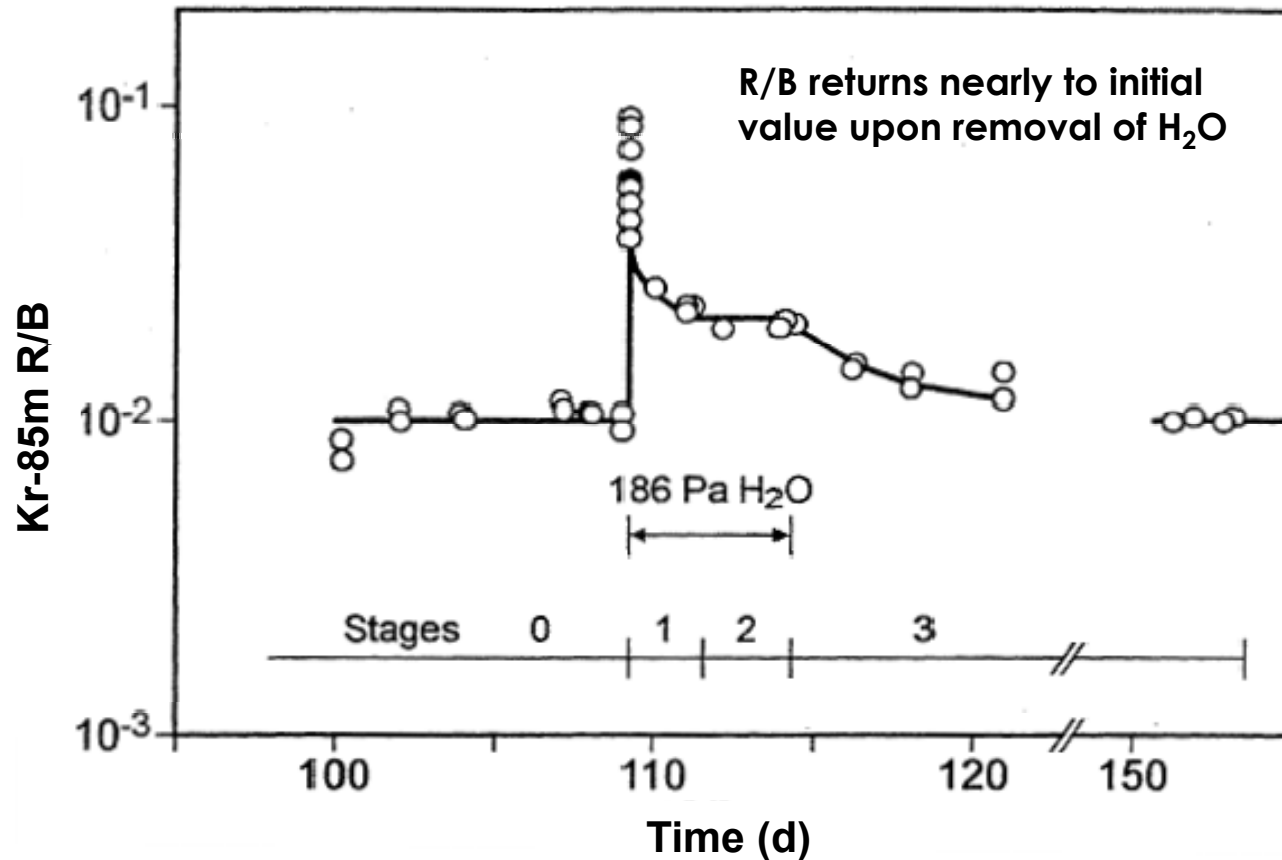
1. Release Rate-to-Birth Rate Ratio  
(R/B)  $\propto \sqrt{t_{1/2}}$
2.  $R/B_{Kr} \approx 3x R/B_{Xe}$
3.  $R/B_{Br, Se} = R/B_{Kr}$   
 $R/B_{I, Te} = R/B_{Xe}$
4. Behavior predicted by Booth Eqn

$$\left(\frac{R}{B}\right)_{ji} = 3 \sqrt{\left(\frac{\xi_j}{\lambda_i}\right)},$$

5. Deviations observed, especially at lower temperatures and high neutron fluxes (e.g., in HFIR)

# Fission Gas Release from Failed Particles

## Effect of H<sub>2</sub>O on Kr-85m R/B



Stage 1. rapid release of stored gas & increased steady-state R/B upon hydrolysis

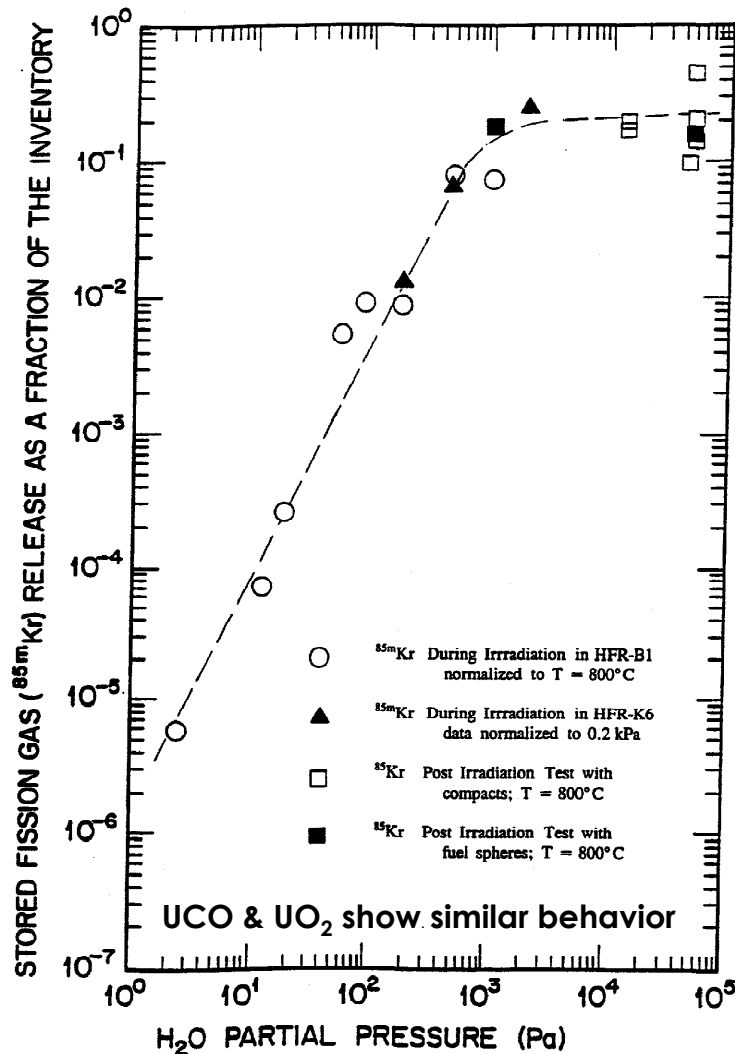
Stage 2. increased steady-state R/B

Stage 3. decline to nearly initial R/B upon removal of H<sub>2</sub>O

Pattern repeats with multiple H<sub>2</sub>O injections

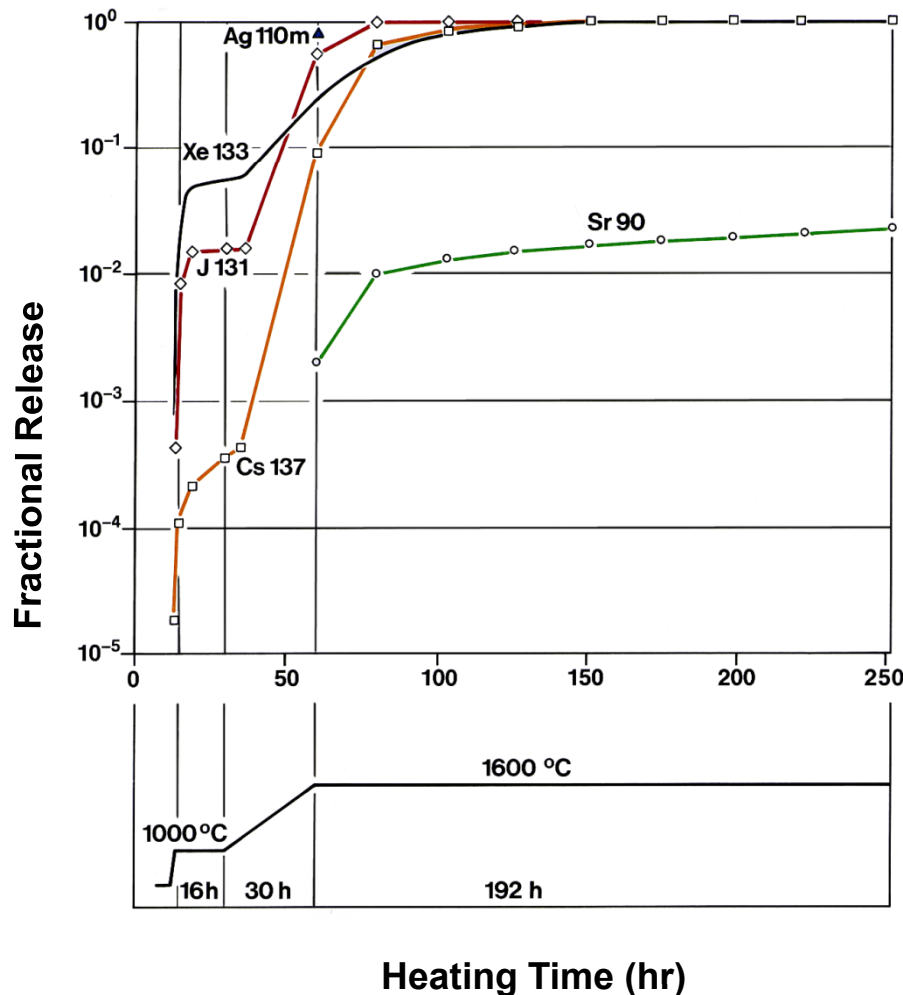
Effect of H<sub>2</sub>O on Kr-85m R/B from failed UCO particles at 755°C in HRB-17 Test  
(Original UCO kernel had been converted to UO<sub>2</sub> by previous H<sub>2</sub>O injection)

# Dependence of Fission Gas Release on H<sub>2</sub>O Partial Pressure



- Previous plot showed R/B vs. time after H<sub>2</sub>O injection
  - ✓ Instantaneous release rate/birth rate
  - ✓ R/B spiked because of stored gas release upon hydrolysis
- Cumulative release divided by cumulative birth (FR) shown here
- FR dependence on H<sub>2</sub>O partial pressures
  - ✓ Linear increase at low partial pressures
  - ✓ Independent at high partial pressures
- Typical behavior for gas-solid reactions
  - ✓ e.g., “Langmuir-Hinshelwood” kinetics
- Significant for large H<sub>2</sub>O ingress accidents
  - ✓ FR reaches plateau at ~20% becoming independent of H<sub>2</sub>O partial pressure

# Fission Product Release from LEU UO<sub>2</sub> Kernels under Core Conduction Cooldown Conditions



- Postirradiation heating of FGR LEU UO<sub>2</sub> bare kernels from FRJ2-P28/C6
- Test articles reactivated prior to heating to generate short-lived radionuclides (e.g., I-131)
- FP release behavior as temperature ramped from 1000 to 1600°C:
  - ✓ Xe-133, I-131 (“J-131”) and Ag-110m rapidly released
  - ✓ Cs-137 delayed but reaches 100%
  - ✓ Sr-90 substantially retained for long times
- Kernel release rates expected to increase at higher burnups (low-burnup ThO<sub>2</sub> data)

# Radionuclide Release Barriers

## Particle Coatings

- **Potential release mechanisms**

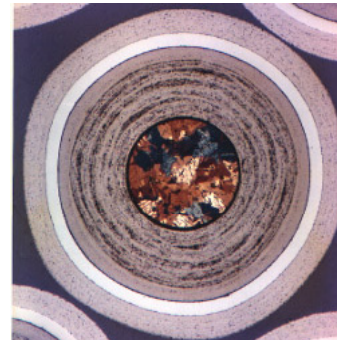
- Diffusion through intact coatings
- In-service coating failure
- SiC corrosion by fission products
- SiC thermal decomposition

- **Controlling parameters**

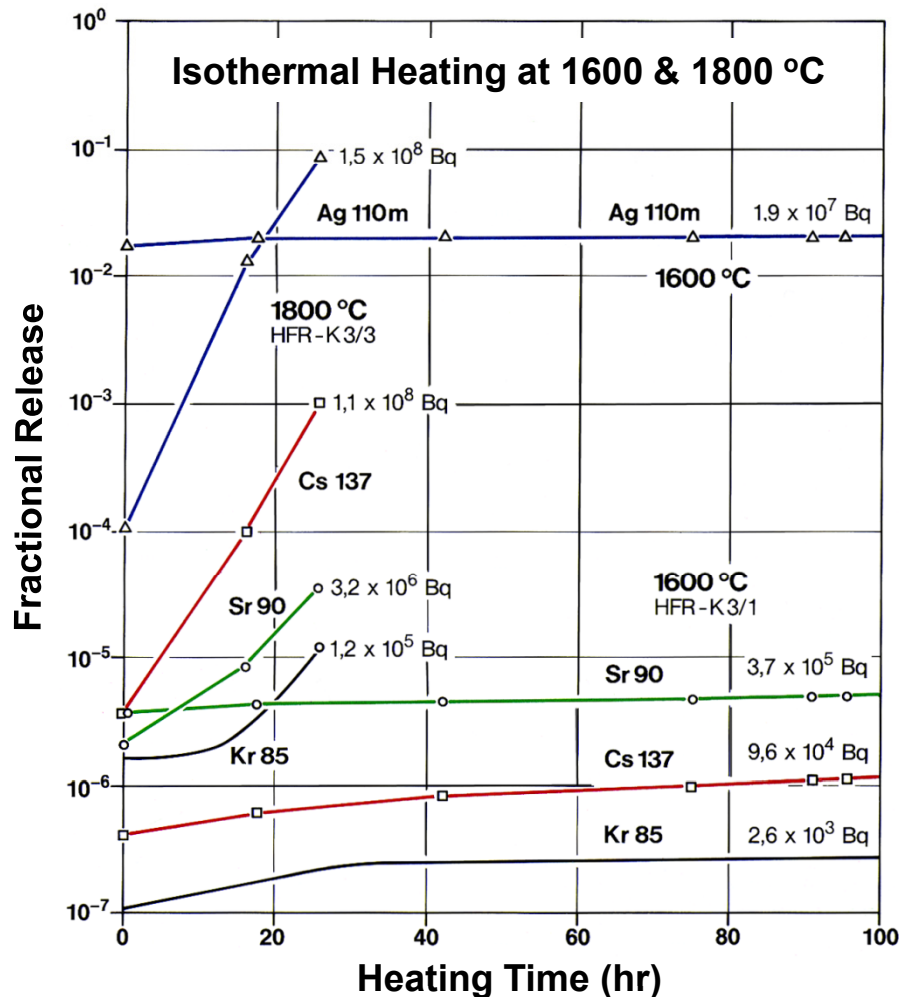
- Fuel temperatures
- Time
- Fast neutron fluence (Increased FP diffusivities)

- **Barrier performance** (Module 8)

- Only Ag (and H-3) released by diffusion from intact particles
- No pressure-induced failure of standard particles
- SiC thermochemical failure function of time/temperature
- Gases retained by OPyC with defective/failed SiC

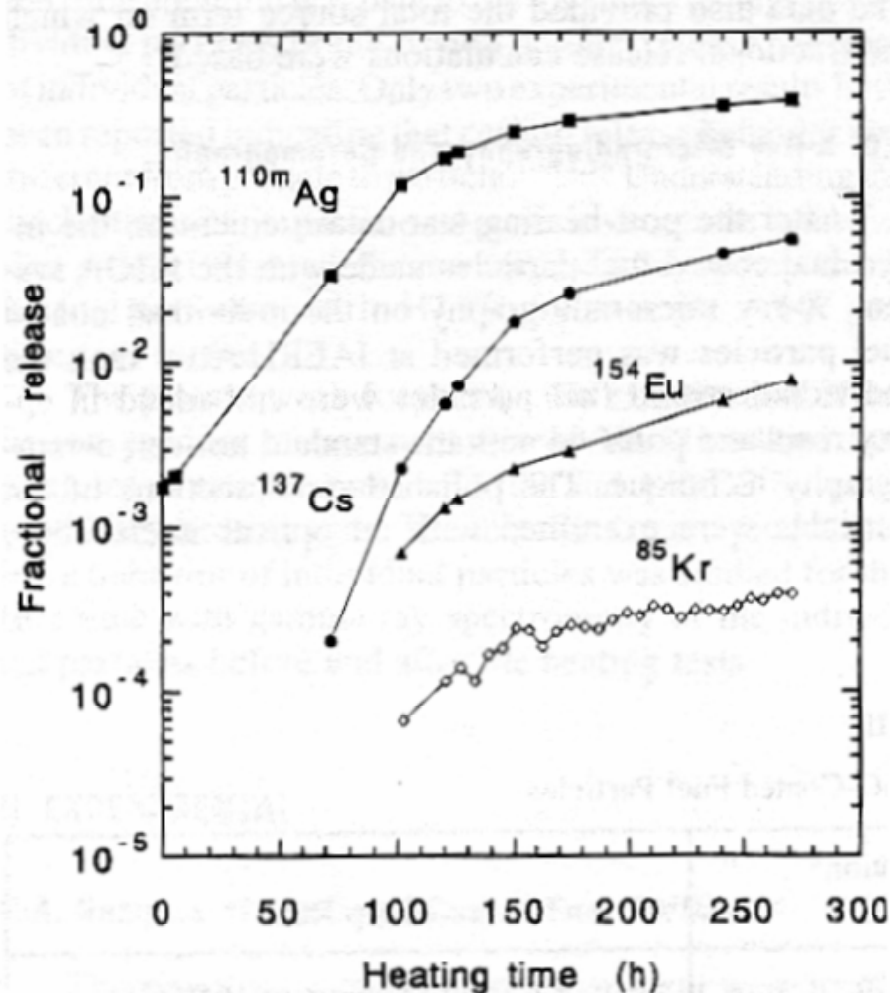


# Fission Product Release from LEU UO<sub>2</sub> TRISO Particles under Core Conduction Cooldown Conditions



- Postirradiation heating of German LEU UO<sub>2</sub> TRISO particles in spheres at 1600 & 1800°C
- No complete coating failure (1 particle failure would yield Kr-85 fractional release = ~10<sup>-4</sup>)
- FP release at 1600°C
  - ✓ Rapid Ag-110m release
  - ✓ Kr-85, Cs-137, and Sr-90 completely retained
- FP release at 1800°C
  - ✓ Kr-85, Cs-137, and Sr-90 release increasing
  - ✓ Evidence of SiC degradation (expected)
- FP transport in SiC in such tests is ambiguous
  - ✓ Degradation of SiC @ T > ~1600°C
  - ✓ FP retention, especially Sr-90, in matrix
- Longer duration tests with intact particles needed to derive effective SiC diffusivities

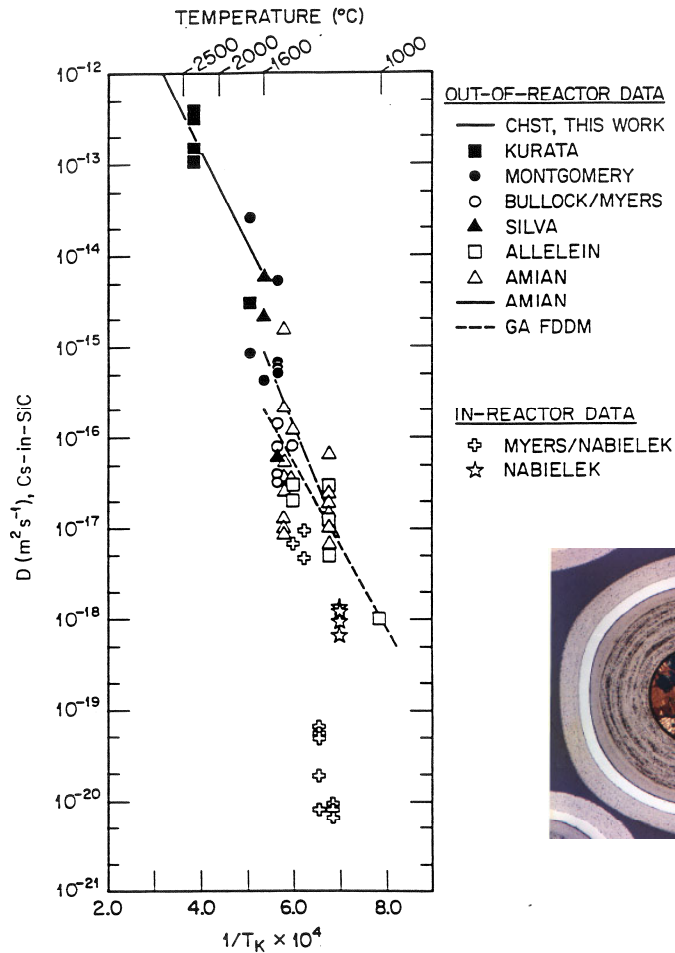
# FP Transport in Coatings Has Been Characterized



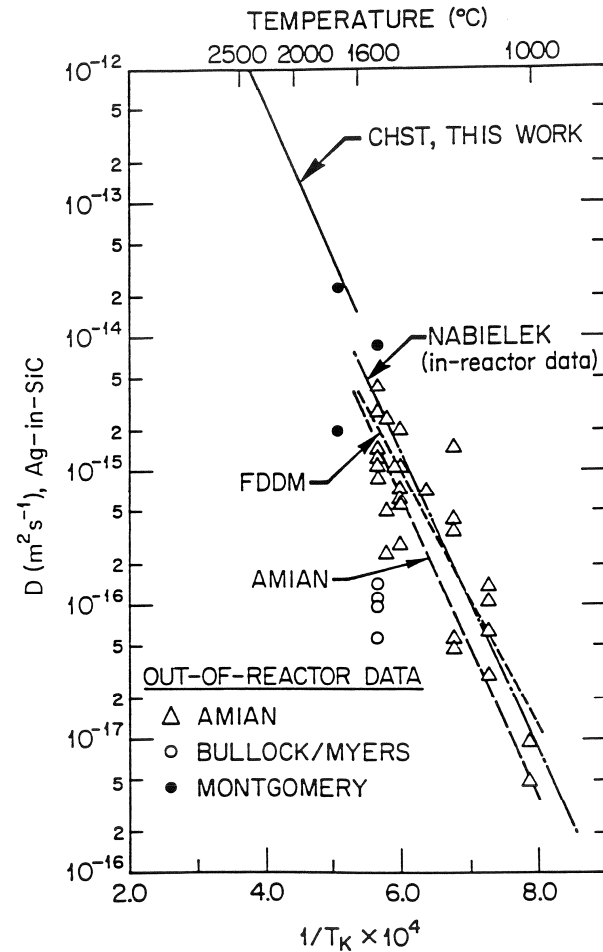
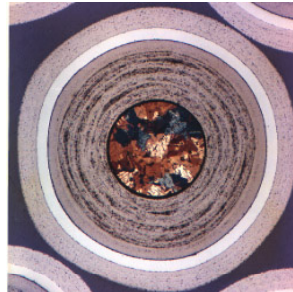
- HRB-22 UO<sub>2</sub> LEU fuel (Japanese fuel) heated at ORNL
- 25 irradiated fuel particles recovered from fuel compact
- Isothermal heating at 1700°C
- Low fractional release of Kr-85 indicates no complete coating failure (1 failed particle = 4% release)
- Some SiC degradation may have occurred at 1700°C
- Derived fission metal diffusivities in SiC coating conservative if SiC degraded



# Metal Diffusivities in SiC Coatings



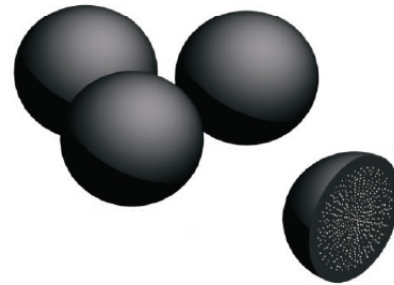
Cs-in-SiC Diffusion Coefficients



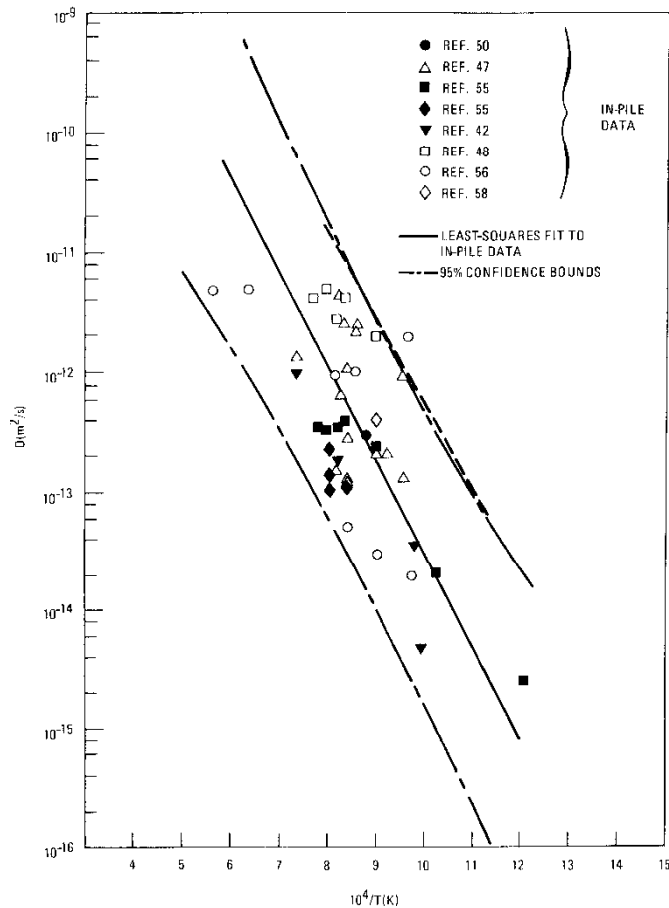
Ag-in-SiC Diffusion Coefficients

# Radionuclide Release Barriers Core Matrix/Graphite

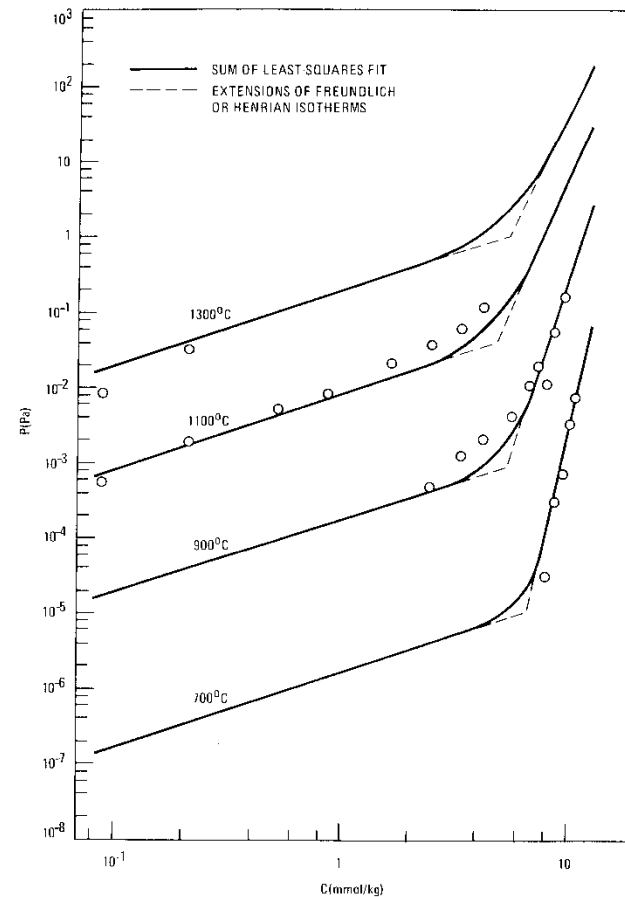
- **Potential release mechanisms**
  - Diffusion/vaporization
  - Matrix/graphite oxidation
- **Controlling parameters**
  - Temperature
  - Time
  - Fast neutron fluence
  - H<sub>2</sub>O Concentration
- **Barrier performance**
  - Cs and Sr partially released at hotter locations
  - Released Cs and Sr partially resorb on cooler graphite
  - Sorbed metals assumed to be released by oxidation



# Cesium Transport in Nuclear Graphite Has Been Characterized



Cs Diffusion in Nuclear Graphites

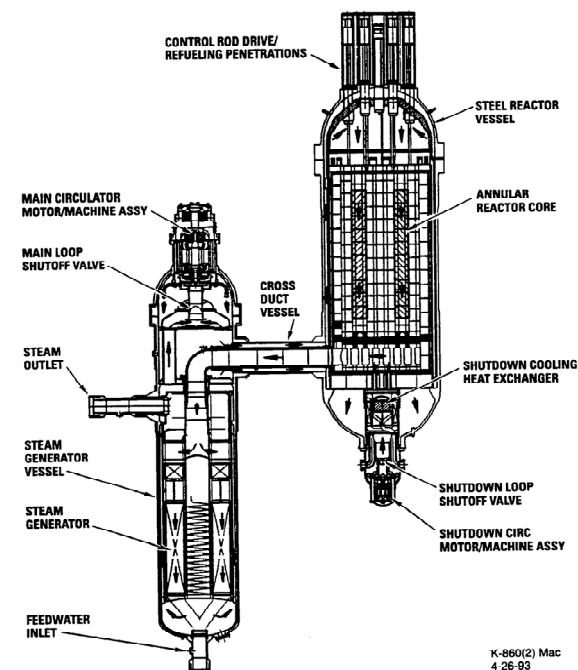


Cs Sorption on H-451 Graphite

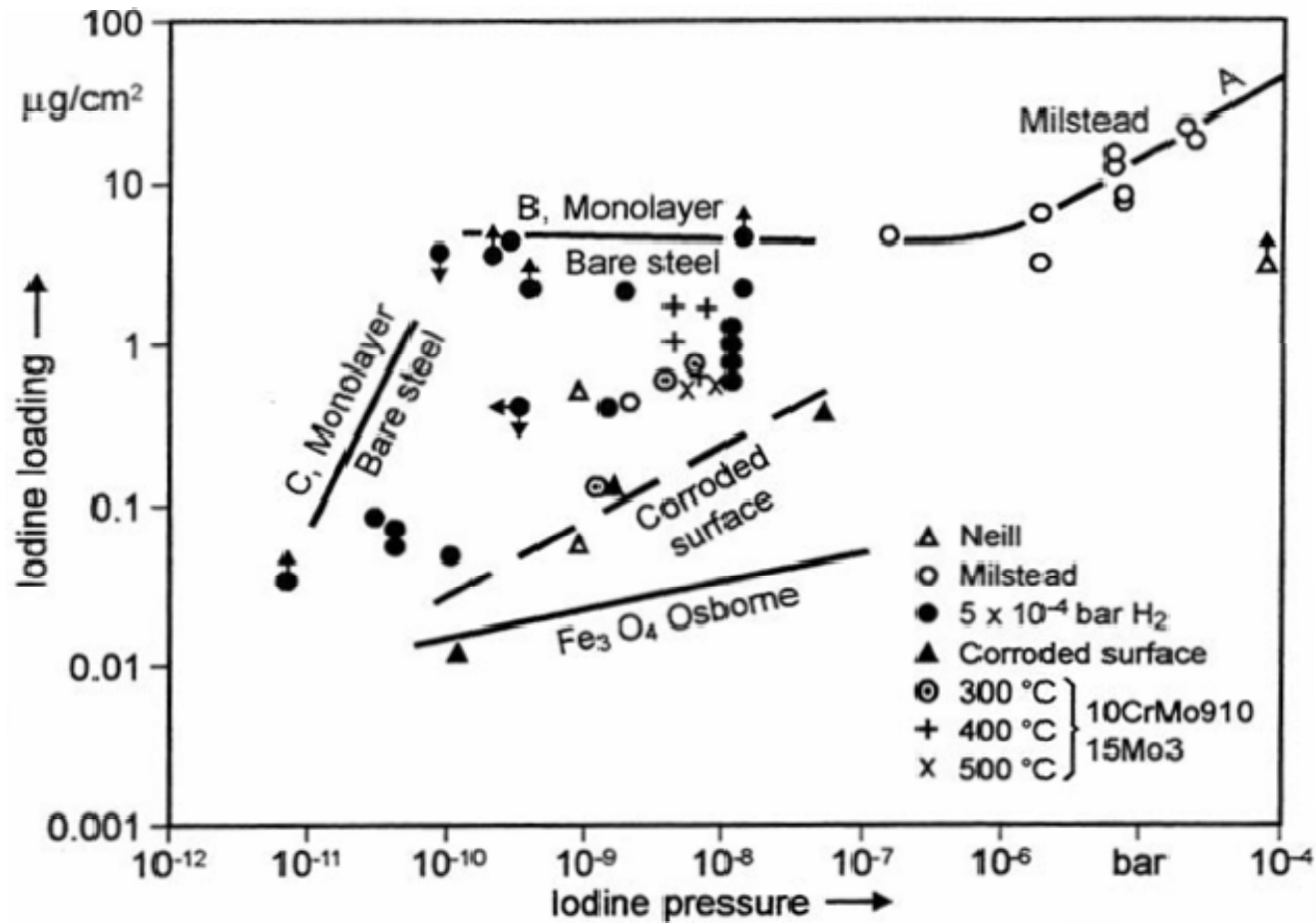
# Radionuclide Release Barriers

## Primary Circuit

- **Potential release mechanisms**
  - Primary coolant leaks
  - Liftoff (**mechanical reentrainment**)
  - Primary coolant pressure relief
  - Steam-Induced vaporization
  - Washoff (**removal by liquid H<sub>2</sub>O**)
- **Controlling parameters**
  - Temperatures in primary circuit
  - Size/location of coolant leaks
  - Particulate matter in primary circuit
  - Steam/Liquid H<sub>2</sub>O ingress and egress
- **Barrier performance**
  - Condensable RNs plate out during normal operation
  - Circulating Kr, Xe and H-3 limited by HPS
  - Plateout largely retained during rapid blowdowns
  - RN holdup due to thermal contraction of gas in vessel



# Iodine Sorption on Low-Alloy Steel at 400 °C



# Radionuclide Release Barriers

## Reactor Building

- **Potential release mechanisms**

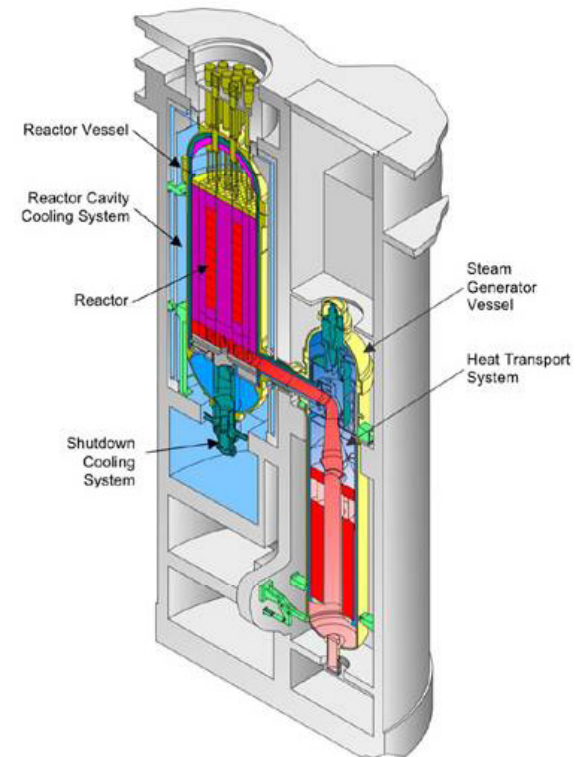
- Venting through louvers
- Building leakage

- **Controlling parameters**

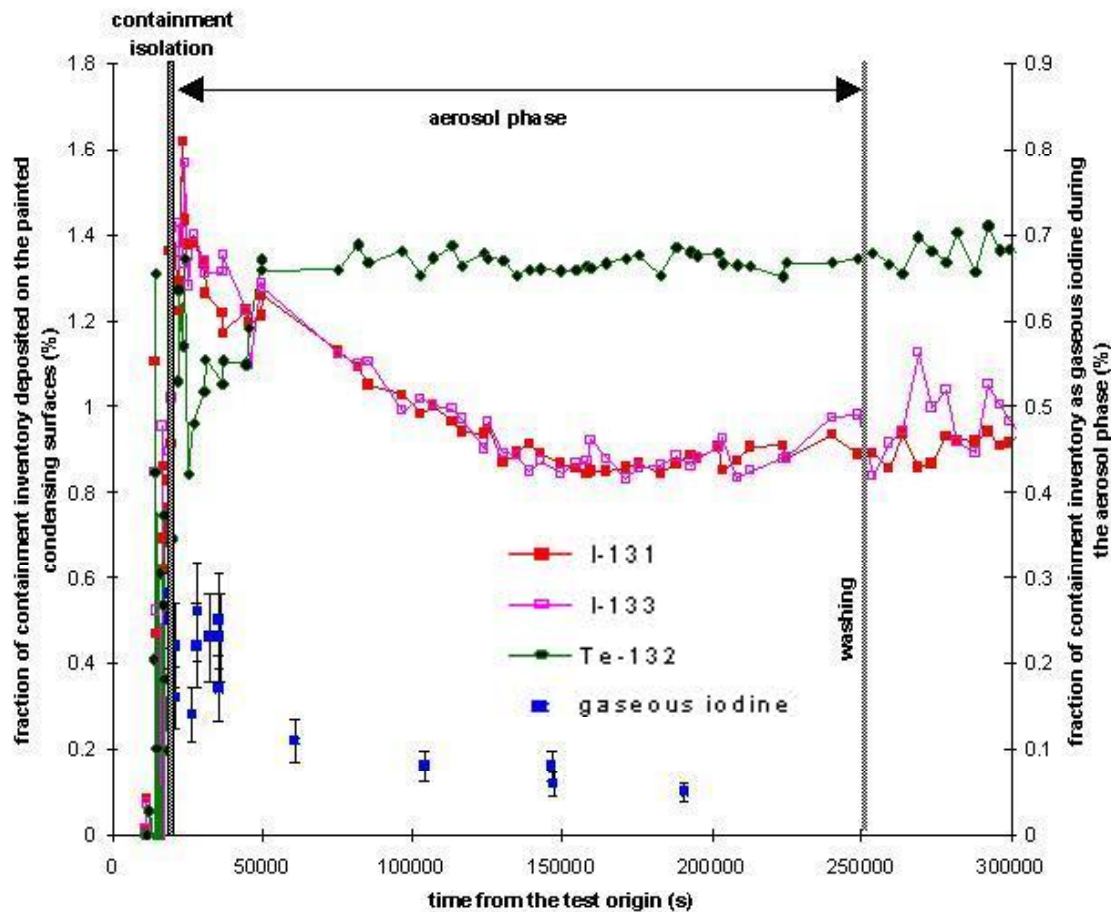
- Leak path(s) and rates
- Contaminated steam/liquid H<sub>2</sub>O
- Contaminated particulate matter
- Temperatures along leak path(s)

- **Barrier performance**

- Noble gases decay during holdup
- Condensable fission products, including I, deposit
- Contaminated steam condenses
- Contaminated dust settles out and deposits



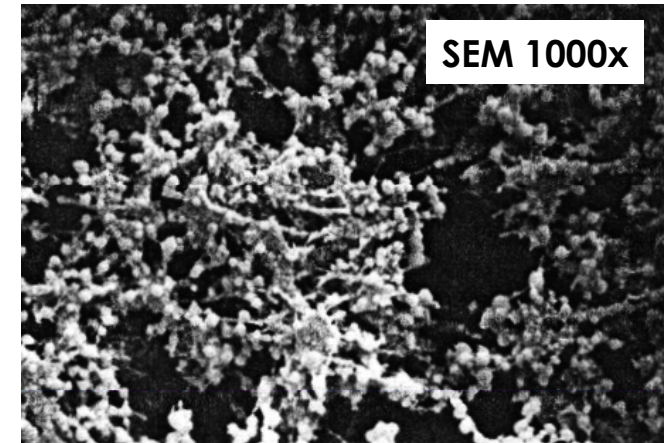
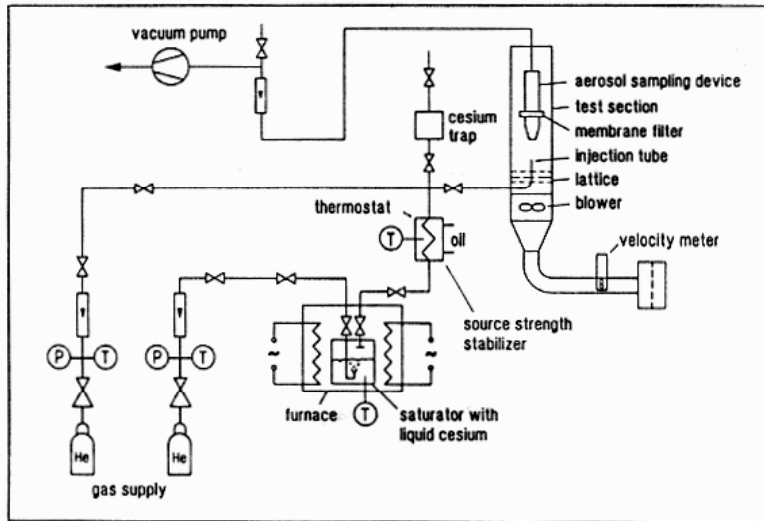
# Data Base for FP Transport in Water-Reactor Containments Generally not Applicable to Modular HTGRs



PHEBUS FPT-1: FP Transport in PWR Containment

- Extensive international data base, including large integral tests; e.g.,
  - ✓ DEMONA
  - ✓ MARVIKEN
  - ✓ LACE
  - ✓ PHEBUS
- Generally not applicable to HTGRs
  - ✓ Wrong composition (“corium”)
  - ✓ Reactive aerosols
  - ✓ Large mass concentrations
  - ✓ Different RB environment
- Some limited data *may* apply; e.g.,
  - ✓ I partitioning in steam/liquid H<sub>2</sub>O
- HTGR-specific data needed
  - ✓ Physical/chemical forms
  - ✓ Mass concentrations
  - ✓ Environment

# German ALEX Test Program to Characterize Cs Aerosols in Large HTGRs during Core Heatup Accidents



## German ALEX Test Program

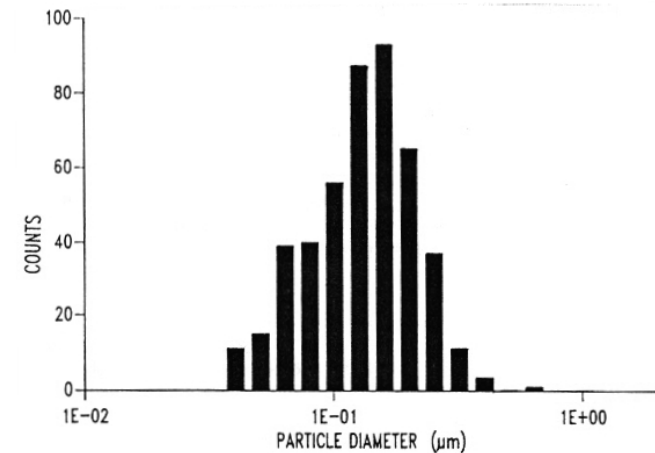
Support HTR-500 (1390 MW<sub>t</sub> pebble-bed HTGR) licensing

Simulate and characterize Cs aerosol formation during core heatup accidents ( $T_{max} > 1800^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Cs-saturated He ( $P_{Cs} = 5 \times 10^{-3}$  atm) introduced into N<sub>2</sub> filled vessel at 1 atm pressure

Resulting aerosol, mainly CsOH, remained in sub-micron size range

Limited applicability to MHTGR with  $P_{Cs} < \sim 1 \times 10^{-7}$  atm



CsOH Particle Size Distribution



# Particulate Matter (“Dust”) in Primary Circuit May Alter FP Transport Behavior

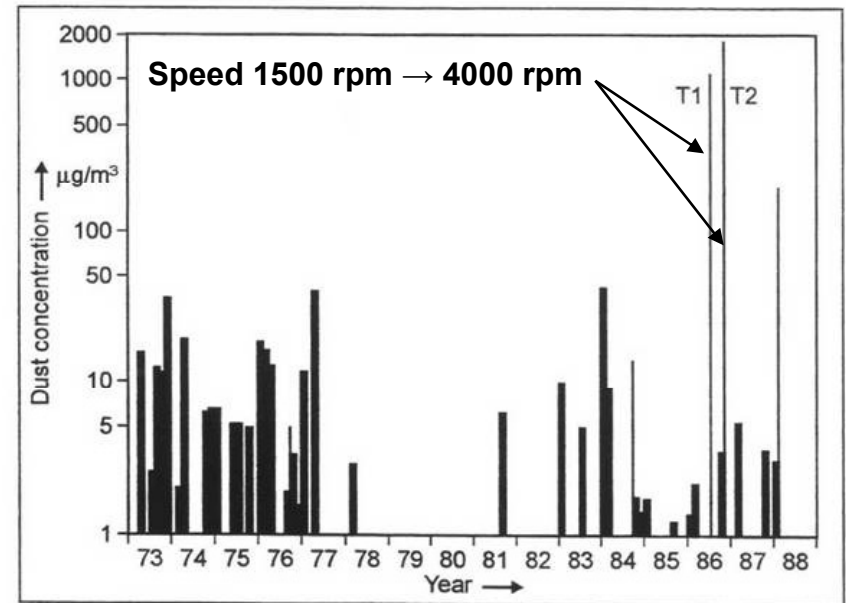
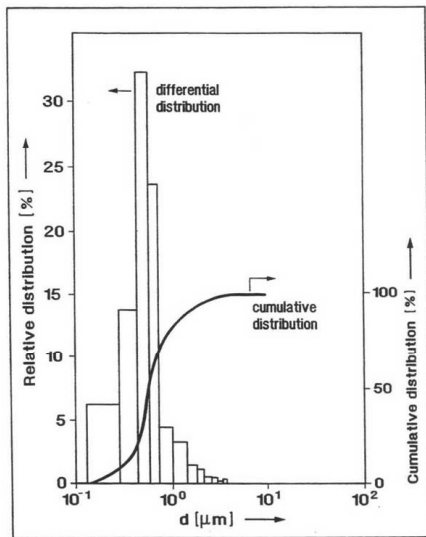
- **Potential sources of dust in HTGRs**
  - Foreign material from initial construction or refueling
  - Abrasion/attrition of spherical fuel elements (pebble bed)
  - Erosion or corrosion of fuel or reflector blocks (prismatic)
  - Foreign material from interfacing systems (e.g., HPS)
  - Spallation of friable metallic surface films
  - Carbon deposition from CO decomposition
- **Potential impact on fission product (FP) transport**
  - Altered FP plateout distributions in primary circuit
  - Enhanced FP release from primary circuit into reactor building
  - Altered FP transport behavior in reactor building

# Impact of Dust in Operating HTGRs

- **Peach Bottom:** carbon deposit from oil ingress; no impact
- **FSV:** rust from H<sub>2</sub>O ingresses; no impact
- **HTTR:** dust from abrasion of graphite piston rings in purified He compressors; core insignificant source of dust
- **AVR:** graphite dust from pebbles; impact on plant D&D
- **THTR:** pebble debris from control rod insertion directly into pebble bed; broken pebbles impacted plant availability
- **HTR-10:** no published dust data

# AVR Dust Best Characterized

## Dust Particle Size Distribution



- **AVR dust sampled and characterized**

- Coolant and surface concentrations
- Composition (graphitic, amorphous carbon)
- Particle size distribution of circulating dust
- Specific radionuclide loadings on dust

## Transient Circulator Tests

- **Transient circulator tests to determine dust reentrainment potential**

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- ➔ • **Design methods for predicting RN transport**
- **Comparison of code predictions with data**
  - In-pile test data
  - Reactor surveillance data

# Design Methods for Predicting Fission Product Transport in HTGRs

- **Design methods for predicting FP transport in HTGRs derived from experimental data**
  - Typically, design codes model multiple RN release barriers
  - Core analysis codes typically model fuel performance as well
  - Typically, core codes are design specific (i.e., prismatic or pebble)
  - Phenomenological component models derived from data
  - Material property data (e.g., diffusivities, etc.) required as input
- **Many comparisons of code predictions with experimental data**
  - Reactor surveillance, in-pile tests, etc. *(some examples follow)*
  - Codes not completely verified and validated
- **NGNP/AGR Fuel Program will complete validation of codes**
  - Single-effects data for component model upgrades
  - Independent integral data for code validation

# Current GA Fuel/Fission Product Codes for Normal Operation

| Code          | Application  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>SURVEY</b> | <b>Full-core, burnup, fast fluence, temperature, and fuel failure distributions; fission gas release</b> |
| <b>TRAFIC</b> | <b>Full-core fission metal release</b>   |
| <b>PADLOC</b> | <b>Plateout distributions in primary circuit</b>   |
| <b>RADC</b>   | <b>Overall plant mass balance for radionuclides</b><br>(Advanced RANDI code available)                   |
| <b>TRITGO</b> | <b>Overall plant mass balance code for tritium</b><br>(new H-3 mass balance code may be written)         |

# Current GA Fuel/Fission Product Codes for Accident Conditions

| <b>Code</b>  | <b>Application</b>   |
|--------------|--|
| <b>SORS</b>  | <b>Transient, full-core, fuel failure and fission product release (gases and metals)</b>   |
| <b>OXIDE</b> | <b>Transient, full-core, graphite corrosion and fuel hydrolysis for large H<sub>2</sub>O ingress</b>                                     |
| <b>POLO</b>  | <b>Transient FP release from primary circuit into reactor building; FP transport in RB</b><br>(SANDIA developing HTGR version of MELCOR) |
| <b>MACCS</b> | <b>Fission product transport in environment and radiological doses</b><br>(SANDIA developing HTGR version of MELCOR)                     |

# Current PBMR Fuel/Fission Product Codes for Normal Operation

| <b>Code</b>          | <b>Application</b>  |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>VSOP99</b>        | <b>Neutronics, fuel and graphite temperatures</b>   |
| <b>NOBLEG</b>        | <b>Fission gas release</b>  |
| <b>FIPREX/GETTER</b> | <b>Fission metal release</b>  |
| <b>DAMD</b>          | <b>Plateout and dust distributions in primary circuit; overall plant mass balance for radionuclides</b> |

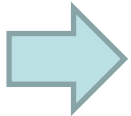


# Current PBMR Fuel/Fission Product Codes for Accident Conditions

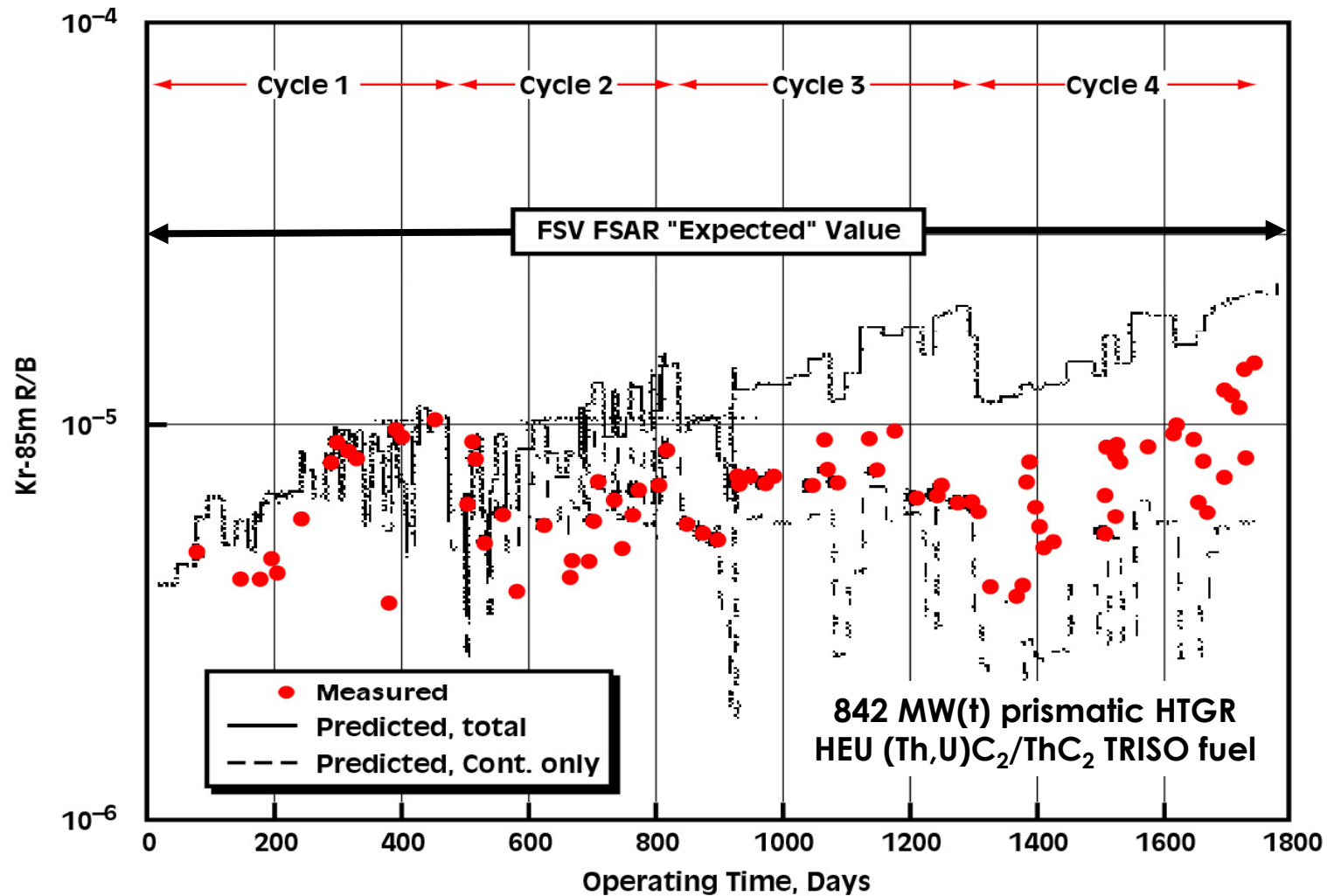
| <b>Code</b>      | <b>Application</b>  |
|------------------|---|
| <b>TINTE</b>     | <b>Transient graphite corrosion for air or water ingress; full-core fuel failure and fission product release (gases and metals)</b> |
| <b>GETTER</b>    | <b>Fuel failure and fission metal release</b>   |
| <b>ASTEC</b>     | <b>RN transport in reactor building</b>   |
| <b>PC-COSYMA</b> | <b>Off-site radiological doses</b>  |

# Outline

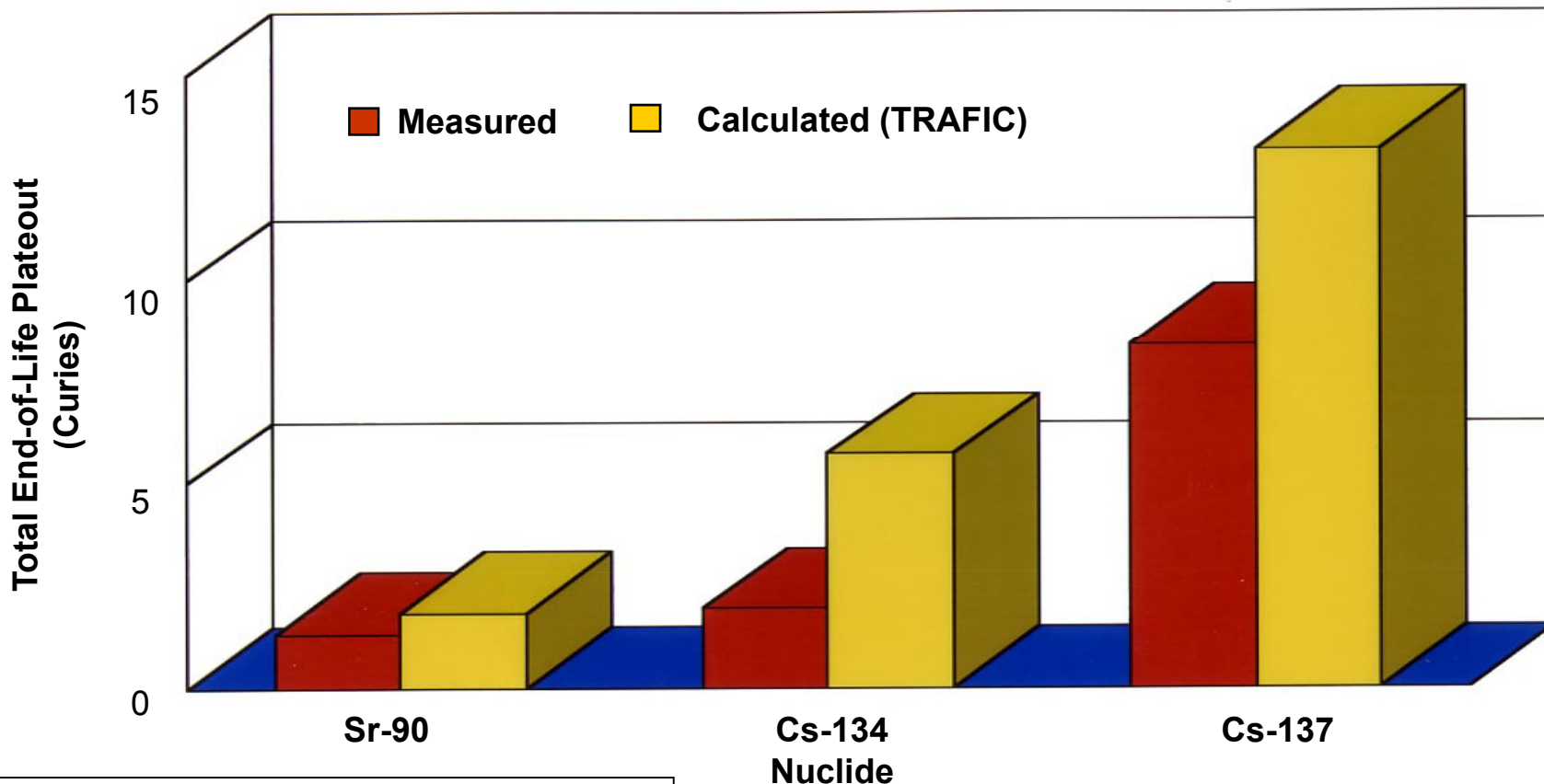
- **Introduction, background, and radionuclide fundamentals**
- **Radionuclide (RN) transport in HTGRs**
  - Fuel kernels
  - Particle coatings
  - Fuel matrix/graphite
  - Primary coolant circuit
  - Reactor building
- **Design methods for predicting RN transport**
- **Comparison of code predictions with data**
  - In-pile test data
  - Reactor surveillance data



# Comparison of FSV Predicted and Measured Kr-85m Release



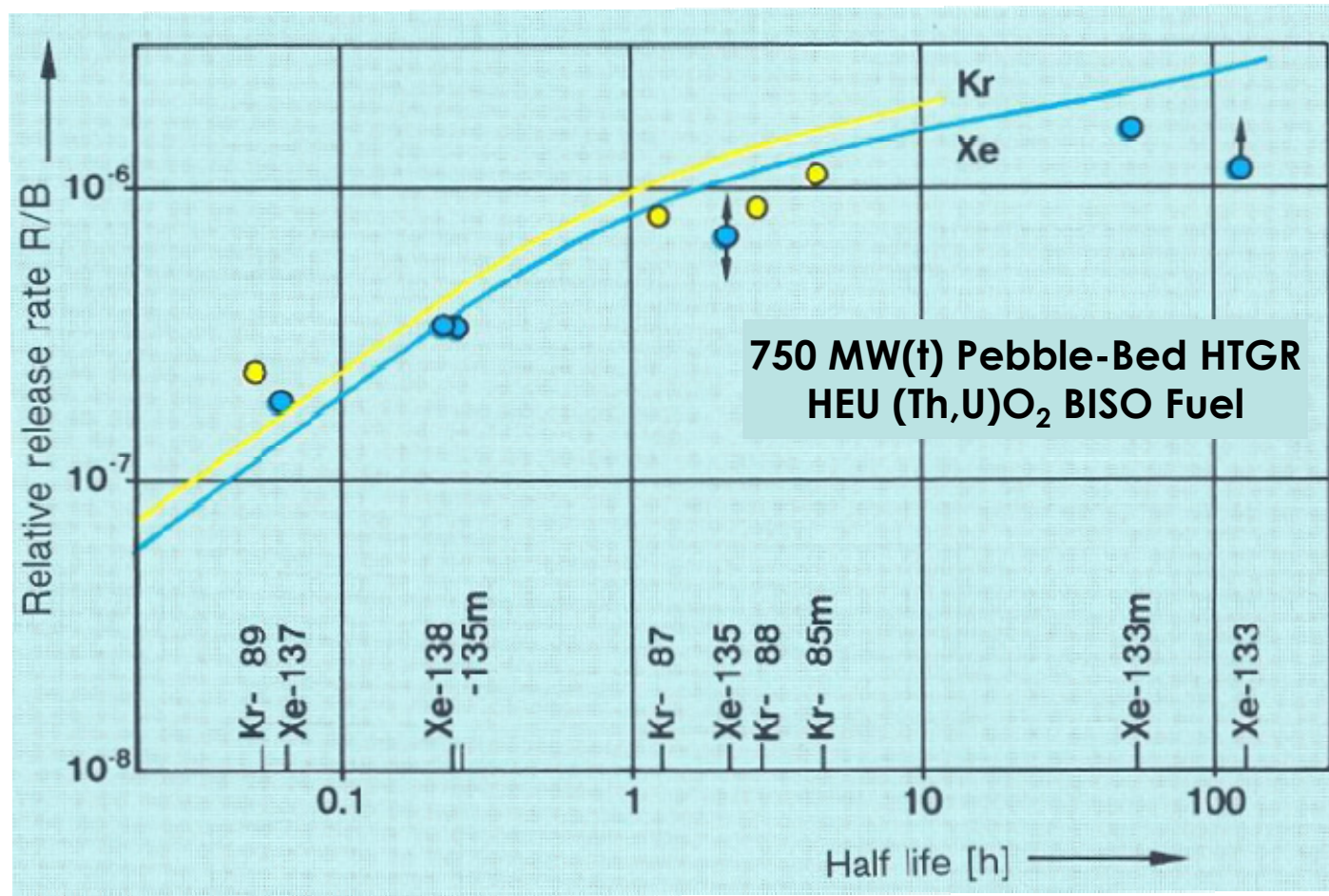
# Comparison of FSV Predicted and Measured Fission Metal Release



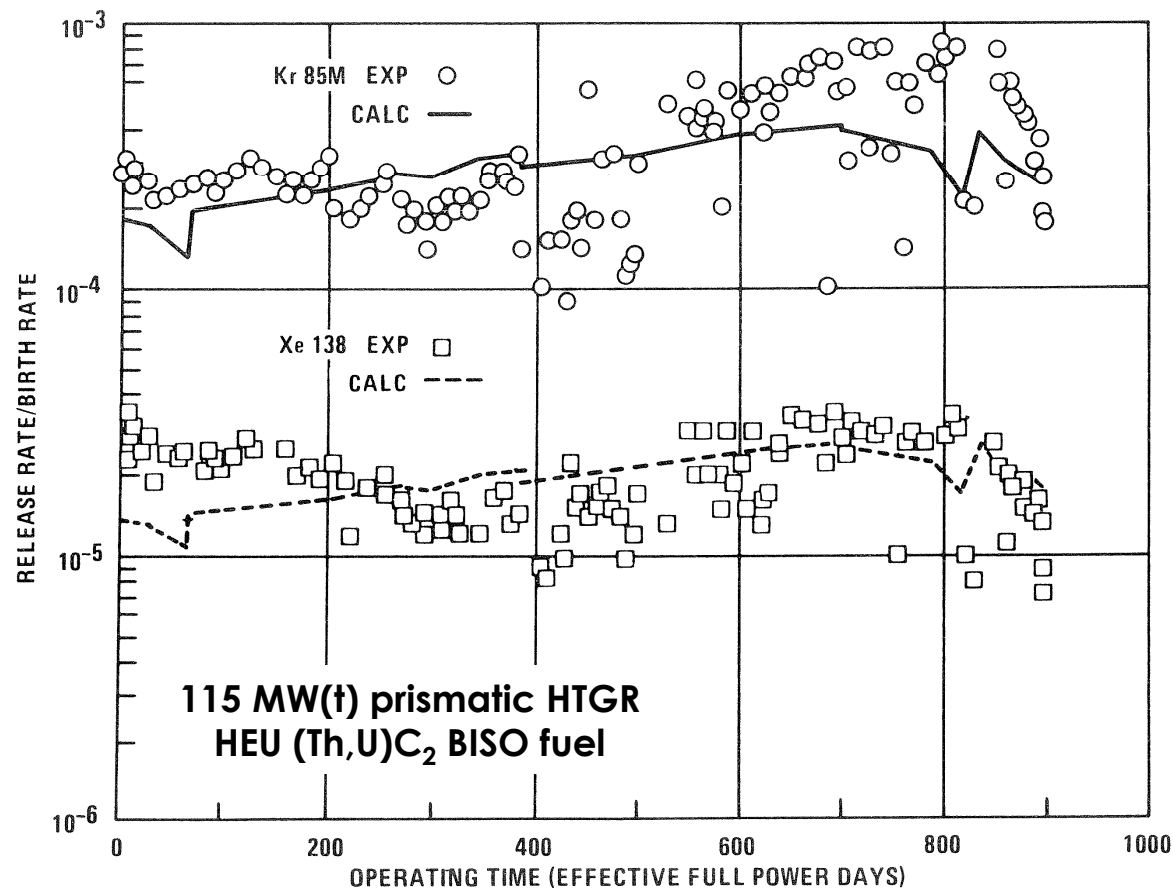
|            | Sr-90 | Cs-134 | Cs-137 |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Measured   | 1.3   | 1.9    | 8.4    |
| Calculated | 1.8   | 5.7    | 13.2   |

... Predictions of Metallic Release are Accurate and Conservative

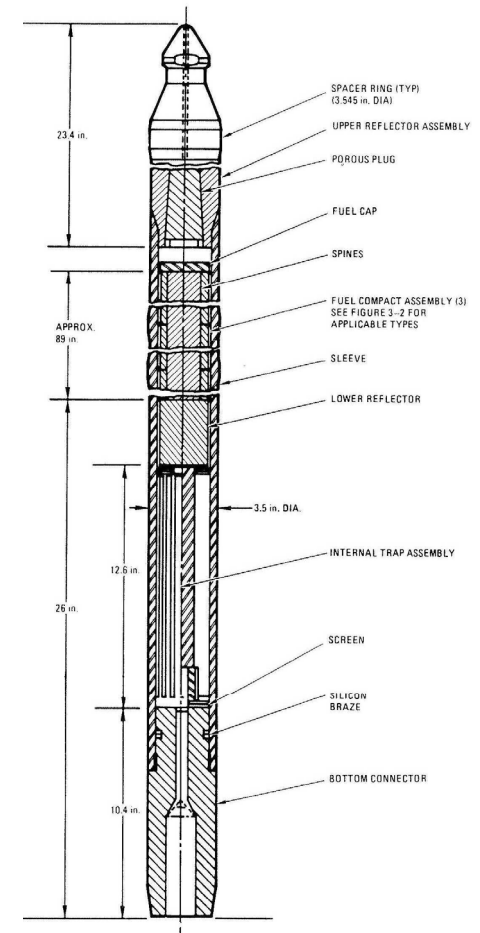
# Measured and Calculated Noble Gas Release from THTR at 40% Power



# Measured and Predicted Fission Gas Release from Peach Bottom Core 2

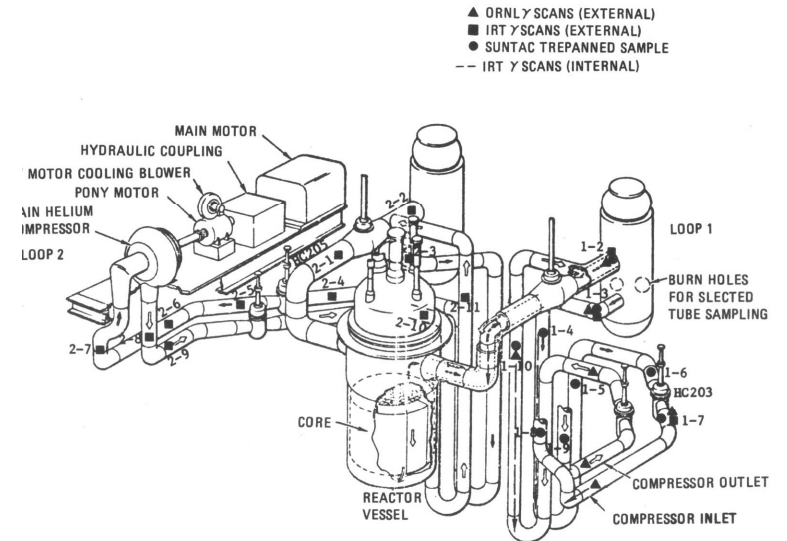
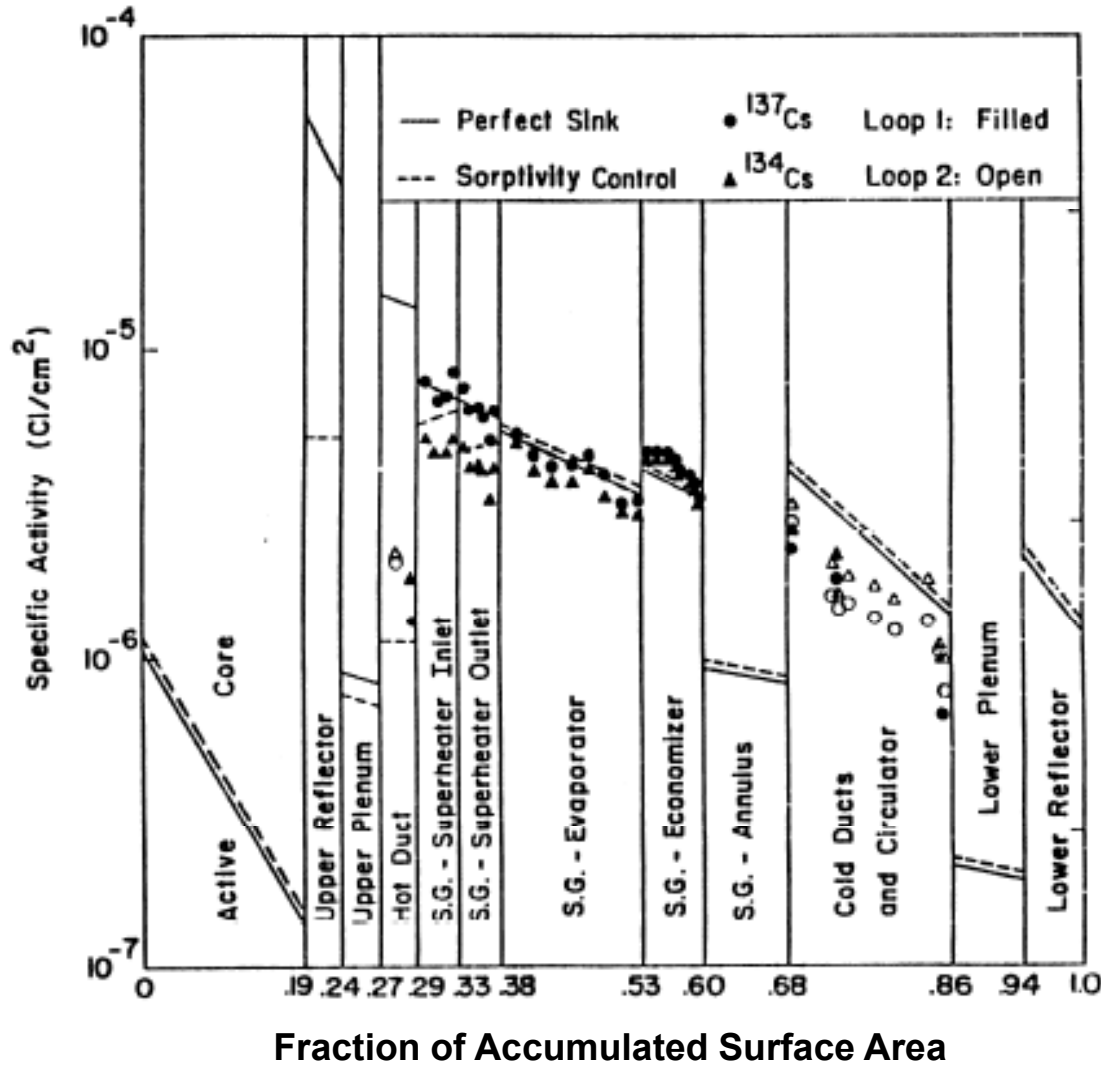


Peach Bottom core had fuel element purge system

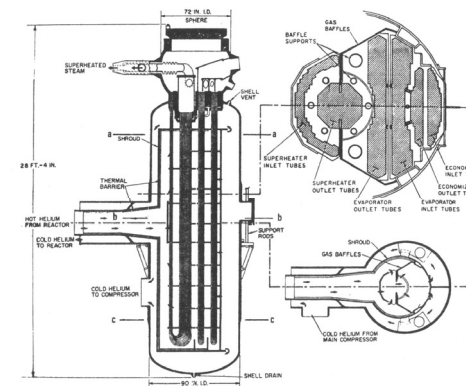


R/B from fuel into fuel purge system; release into primary He ~5000x lower  
 Maximum circulating activity  $\leq 1$  Ci  $\ll$  4225 Ci Design Activity

# Measured and Predicted Cs Plateout Distributions in Peach Bottom HTGR

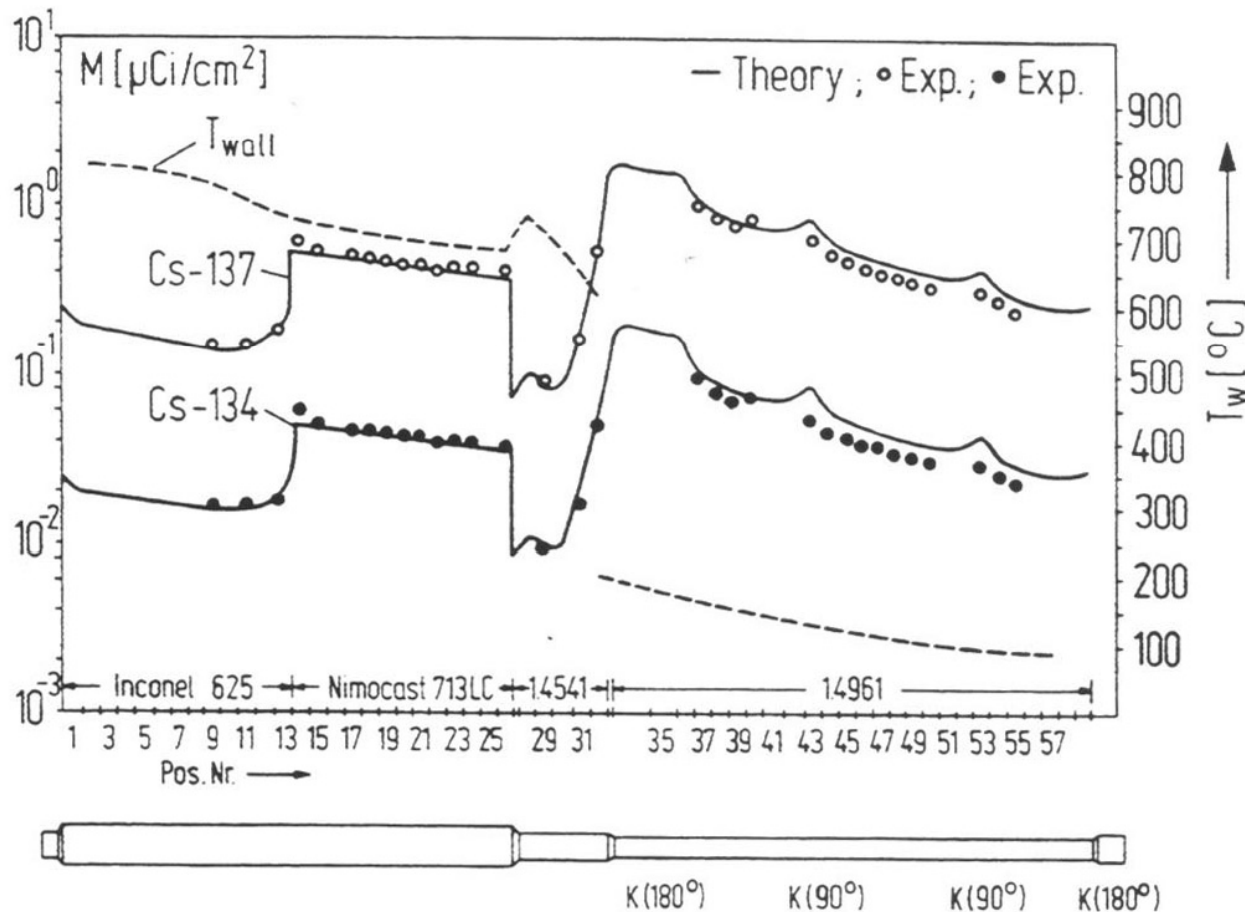


Primary Circuit



Steam Generator

# Measured and Predicted Cs Plateout Profiles in In-Pile Loop Test SAPHIR P11

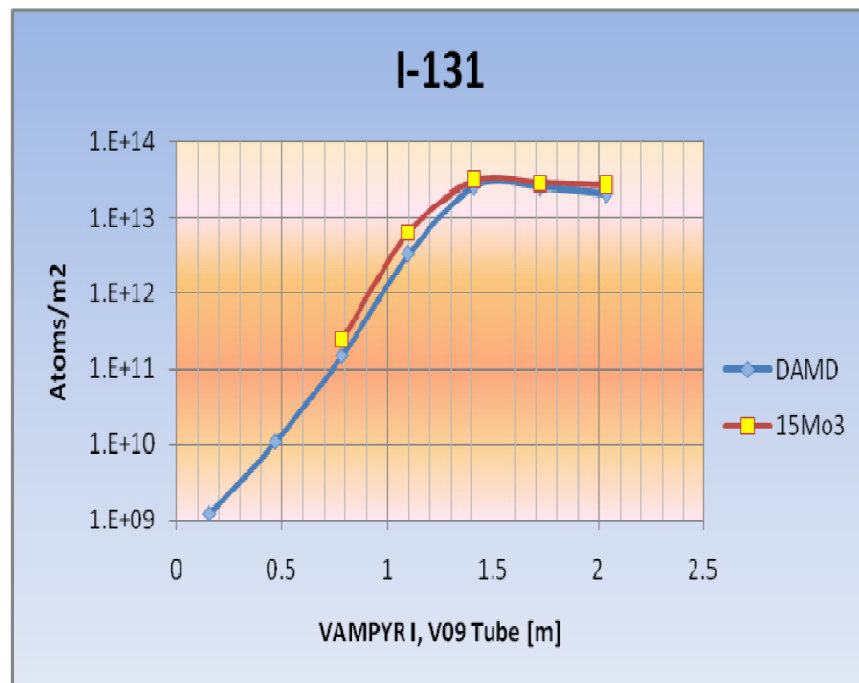


- German-funded tests in CEA in-pile PEGASE loop
- Primarily a plateout test program
- Spherical fuel elements
- HEU (Th,U)O<sub>2</sub> BISO fuel (reference THTR fuel)
- Sorption control at high temperatures
  - ✓ Material effects
- Mass transfer control at lower temperatures
  - ✓ Flow effects
- KFA plateout predictions with PATRAS code
- Limited publication of test data

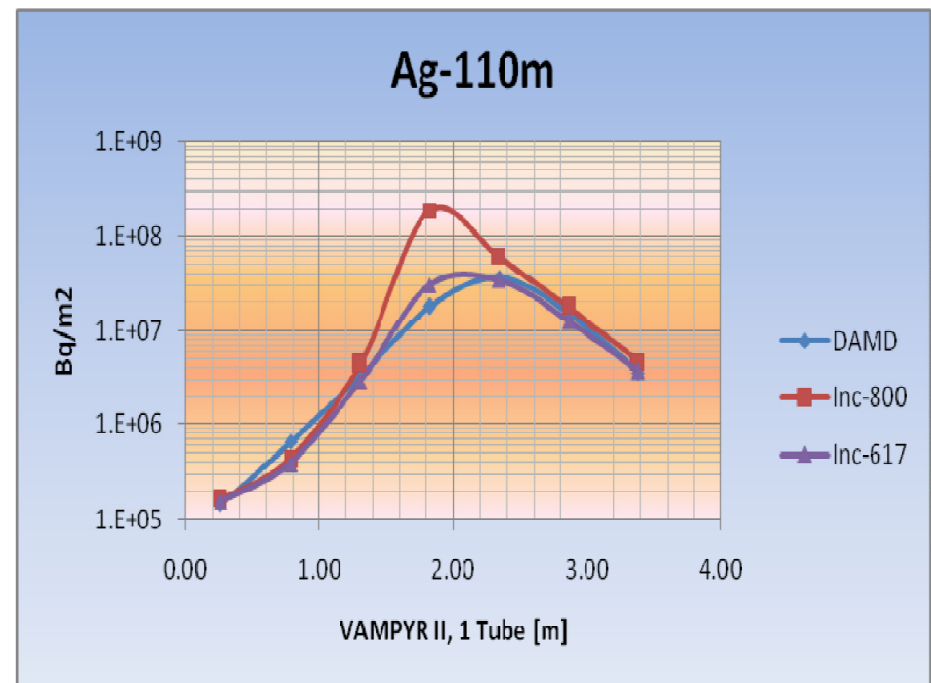


# Comparison of DAMD Code Predictions with VAMPYR Plateout Data

The PBMR code DAMD (Dust and Activity Migration and Distribution) predicts RN and dust transport



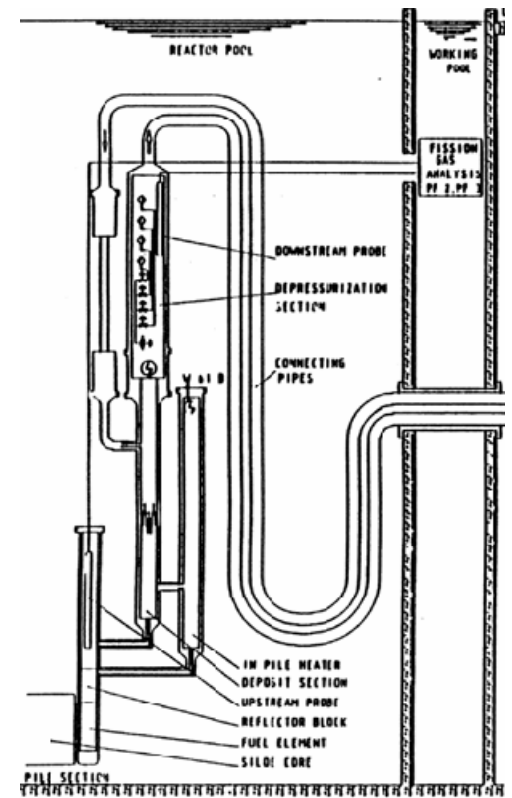
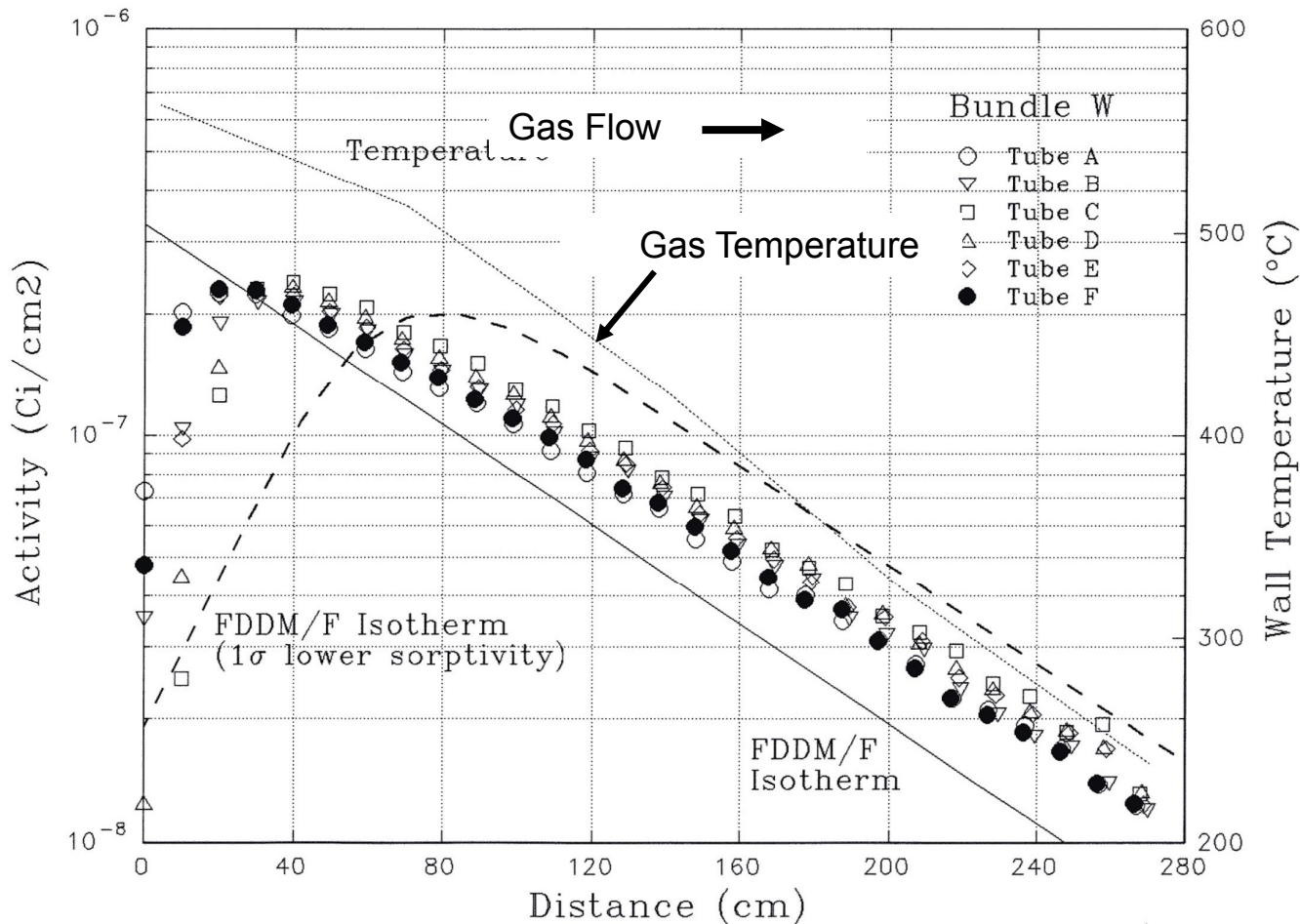
Comparison between VAMPYR I V09 test and DAMD for 131I Plate-out



Comparison between VAMPYR II test 1 and DAMD for 110mAg Plate-out

Both VAMPYR I (probe) and VAMPYR II (loop) utilized AVR primary coolant as RN source

# Measured and Predicted Ag-110m Plateout in COMEDIE BD-1 Heat Exchanger



COMEDIE Loop Schematic

Ag sorptivity of Alloy 800 over predicted (0 – 70 cm); mass transfer coefficient well predicted (>70 cm)

# Measured and Predicted Liftoff in COMEDIE BD-1 Loop Test

| Nuclide |       | Cumulative Liftoff Fraction (%) |          |          |          |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|         |       | SR = 0.7                        | SR = 1.7 | SR = 2.8 | SR = 5.6 |
| I-131   | Meas. | 0.077                           | 0.10     | 0.11     | 0.13     |
|         | Pred. | 0.15                            | 0.16     | 0.53     | 2.1      |
| Cs-137  | Meas. | 0.014                           | 0.021    | 0.030    | 0.11     |
|         | Pred. | 0.19                            | 0.29     | 0.48     | 1.1      |
| Cs-134  | Meas. | 0.015                           | 0.020    | 0.028    | 0.096    |
|         | Pred. | 0.19                            | 0.29     | 0.48     | 1.1      |
| Ag-110m | Meas. | 0.015                           | 0.019    | 0.043    | 0.23     |
|         | Pred. | 0.010                           | 0.32     | 0.90     | 2.8      |
| Sr-90   | Meas. | 0.16                            | 0.36     | 0.56     | 0.74     |
|         | Pred. | 0.54                            | 0.56     | 1.2      | 4.2      |

Shear Ratio (SR) = wall shear stress during blowdown/wall shear stress during normal operation

SR < 1.1 during DBDA in steam-cycle MHTGR; test data @ SR = 1.7 most relevant

5% liftoff assumed when deriving fuel performance requirements for prismatic cores

# RN Transport Technology Development

- **Existing RN transport knowledge base and design methods are sufficient for conceptual and preliminary designs**
- **Additional data needed to complete code validation**
  - Single-effects data for component model upgrades
  - Independent integral data for code validation
- **NGNP/AGR Fuel Plan defines requisite tests for prismatic HTGRs**
  - Key single-effects tests
    - In-pile irradiation tests with known failure fraction
    - Postirradiation heating tests (isothermal)
    - Laboratory sorption measurements for matrix, graphite and metals
    - Out-of-pile loop tests
  - Key integral validation tests
    - In-pile irradiation tests with known failure fraction
    - Postirradiation heating tests (thermal transients)
    - In-pile loop tests
- **Technology program for pebble-bed HTGRs being developed**

# Summary

- HTGRs employ multiple RN release barriers to meet RN control requirements and to provide Defense-in-Depth
- RN transport in HTGRs has been extensively investigated
- Design methods are available to predict RN transport from fuel kernel to site boundary
- Codes are not completely validated
- Focused technology development needed to complete code validation
- Current methods sufficient for conceptual & preliminary designs

# Suggested Reading

“Fuel Performance and Fission Product Behavior in Gas Cooled Reactors,” TECDOC-978, International Atomic Energy Agency, 1997

“A Review of Radionuclide Release from HTGR Cores during Normal Operation,” EPRI Report 1009382, EPRI, 2004

“Plate-Out Phenomena in Direct-Cycle High Temperature Gas Reactors,” EPRI Report 1003387, EPRI, 2002

“Development and Validation of Fission Product Release Models and Software at PBMR,” Proceedings HTR2004: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Topical Meeting on High Temperature Reactor Technology, Beijing, China, September 22-24, 2004, Paper #C18

“In-pile Loop Tests to Validate Fission Product Transport Codes,” Proceedings HTR2006: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Topical Meeting on High Temperature Reactor Technology, October 1-4, 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa

“PBMR Radionuclide Source Term Analysis Validation Based On AVR Operating Experience,” Proceedings HTR2008: 4<sup>th</sup> International Topical Meeting on High Temperature Reactor Technology, September 28 - October 1, 2008, Washington, D.C.

“Technical Program Plan for the NGNP/AGR Fuel Development and Qualification Program” INL/EXT-05-00465, Rev. 2, Idaho National Laboratory, 2008