

Vacuum Canister Sipping – Inspections for PWR and BWR Failed Fuel

fact sheet

Precision, Accuracy, and Consistency

Accurately identifying failed fuel can help utilities avoid a forced outage that could potentially result in the loss of millions of dollars. With experience dating back to 1976, GEH provides precision, accuracy, and consistency in identifying leaking nuclear fuel assemblies for both Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs) and Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs).

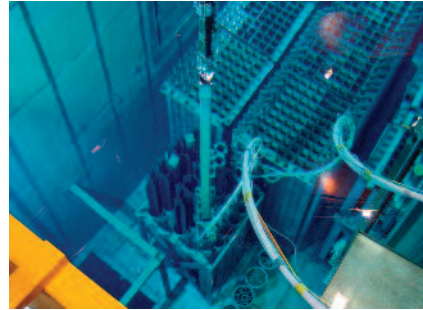
Using our patented detection system, GEH identifies leaks that have previously gone undetected by in-mast sipping systems. To ensure accuracy in results, detector efficiency is directly confirmed through a system function check just prior to sipping operations. An automated sipping cycle is utilized to minimize operator error. Immediate graphic display of sipping results is available, due to in-line fission product detection.

Vacuum canister sipping is utilized in the spent fuel pool. Canisters used for sipping are designed for installation in existing control rod blade storage racks, ensuring ease of use. Utilities can also take advantage of GEH's optional support rack to temporarily store the fuel bundle in the spent fuel pool.

Experience

GEH's nuclear business has extensive sipping experience.

- Began using vacuum sipping to identify failed fuel in 1976
- Accurate inspection of over 100,000 fuel assemblies
- Ability to locate leaking fuel assemblies that have been in storage for up to 25 years
- GEH's system has found leakers missed by in-mast systems

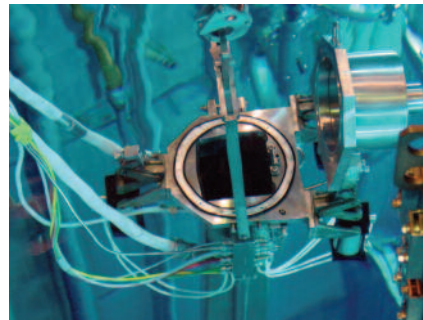


Benefits

- Accurate identification of leaks not always detected by "in-mast" sipping systems
- Need to reinspect a bundle is rare
- Ability to successfully locate leaking fuel that has been stored for up to 25 years
- Real-time detection of leaking fuel

Features

- Immediate graphic display of results
- Detection system ensures precise identification of leaking fuel assemblies
- User-friendly, with minimal operator input necessary



Isolation canister lid
assembly
and vacuum seals



HITACHI

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