



Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR)

Neha Sharma

&

Dharmanshu Mittal

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

2nd DAE Conclave (14-18 Jan 2026)

Outline

1. Introduction to Indigenous SMRs
2. Design & Basic Overview of Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)
 - Salient Features of BSMR-200
 - Reactor Internals & Major Reactor Equipment
 - Nuclear Layout
 - BSMR-200 Plant Layout
 - APURVA Forgings Developed by BARC
 - Technological Readiness
 - Reactor Core Thermal Hydraulics
3. Safety Analysis

Indigenous SMRs: Nuclear Energy Mission of Union Budget 2025-26

S No.	Reactor	Remarks
1	BSMR-200	<p>Role: captive power generation for the industry / deployment in brown fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully indigenous design and technology, including fuelTo be uprated subsequently upto 300 MWe <p><i>Design upgradation to 700 MWe planned</i></p>
2	SMR-55	<p>Role: power generation in remote / brown field sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Based on modular reactor plant designFully indigenous design and technology, including fuel

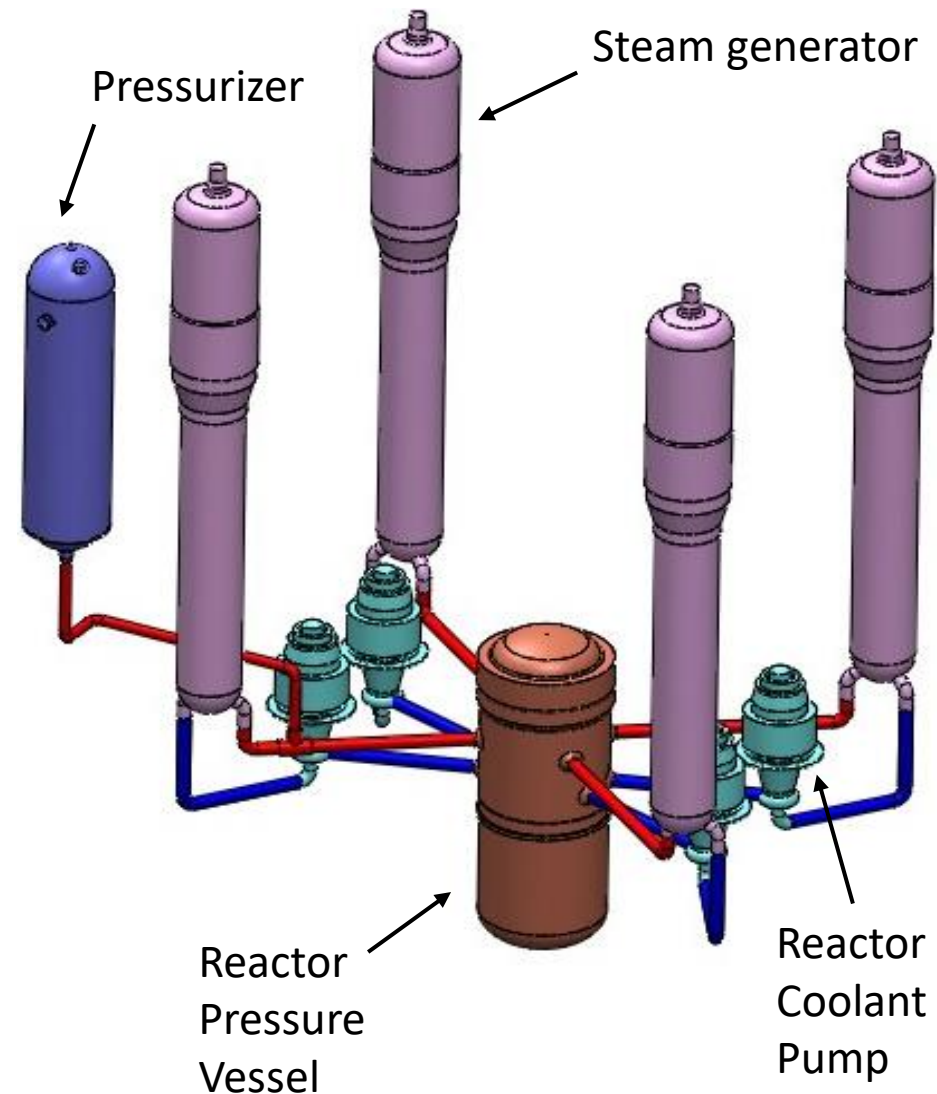
Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)

- BSMR-200, a medium sized pressurised water reactor based nuclear power plant
 - 200 – 300 MWe NPPs, an attractive option as a captive power plant
 - Also, as a replacement power plant in sites with retiring coal power plants
- Establishment of BSMR-200 (SMR) through a R&D project to demonstrate indigenous PWR technology prior to commercial launching
- Overall schedule of construction and operationalisation inline with the nuclear energy mission
- Lead unit will be in a DAE site: Tarapur Atomic Power Station site

Salient Features

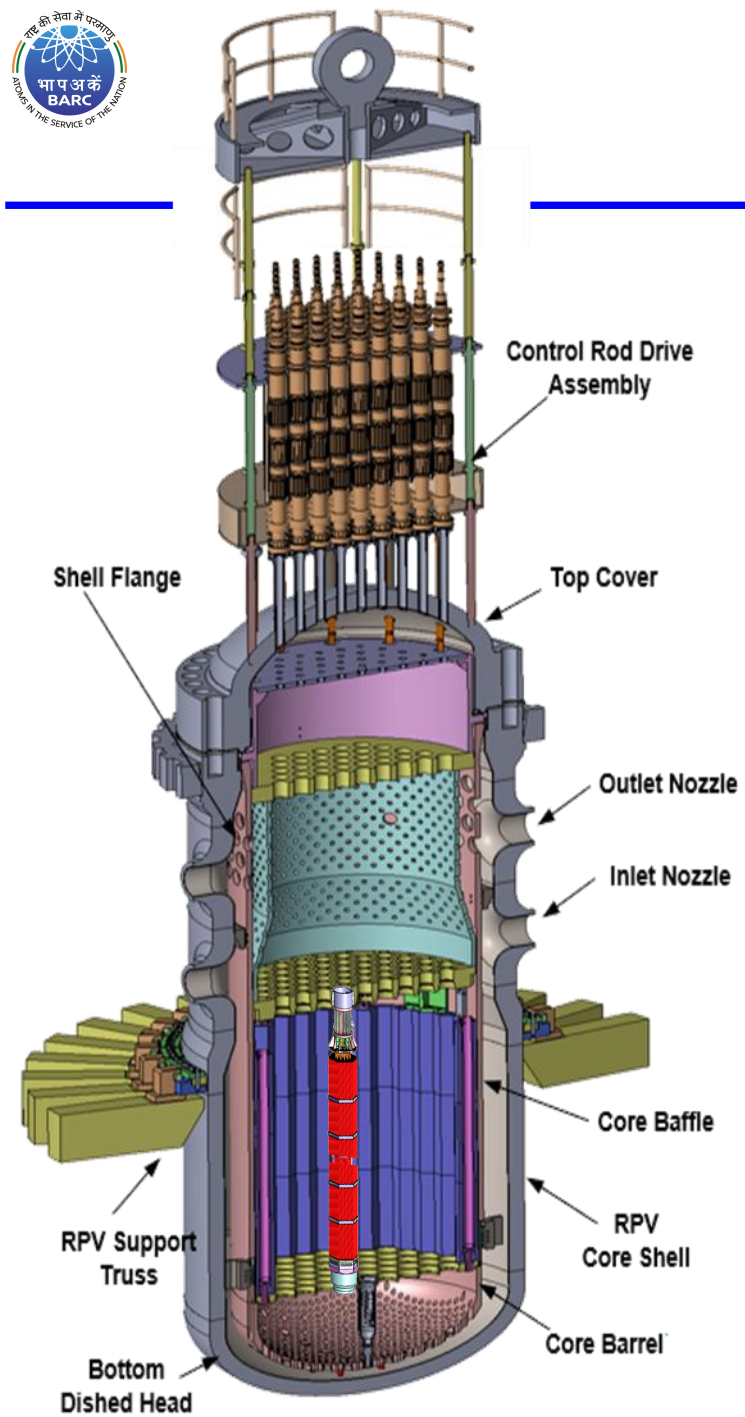
- Nuclear systems of pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs) and BSMR differ
 - BSMR uses enriched fuel, needs smaller fuel quantity and reduced spent fuel burden
 - PHWR requires more frequent online refueling
 - No heavy water moderator system in BSMR
 - BSMR core has burnable neutron poisons to manage excess reactivity
 - Fuel clusters housed in pressure tubes in PHWRs; BSMR uses reactor pressure vessel
 - BSMR uses soluble boron for reactivity control

Salient Design Features of BSMR-200

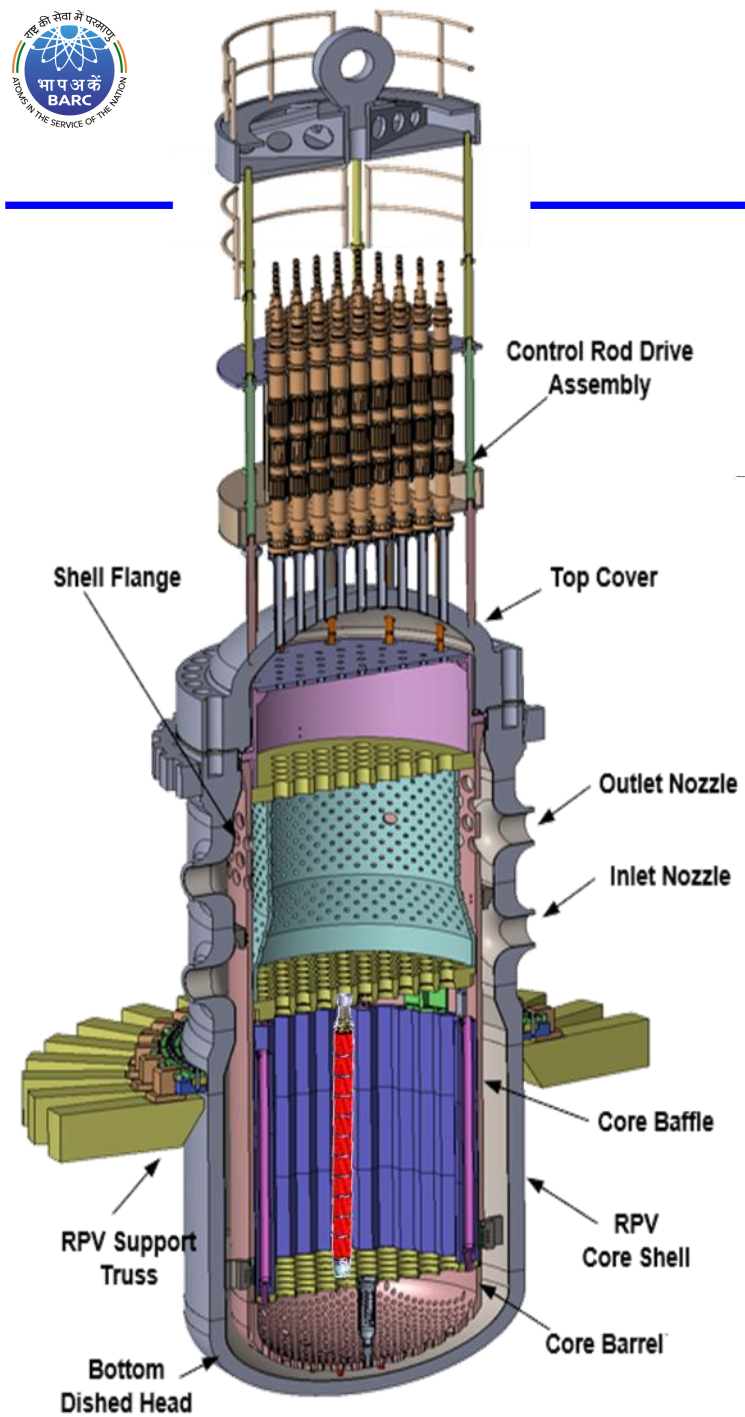


Parameter	Value
Power	~220 MWe / 760 MW _{th}
Primary coolant pressure	120 bar
Coolant temp. at reactor inlet	253 °C
Coolant temp. at reactor outlet	288 °C
Primary coolant flow rate	20,000 m ³ /h
Fuel	UO ₂ (enrichment < 5%)
Cycle length	600 days
Discharge burnup of fuel	46 GWd/tHM
Steam flow rate, kg/s	~92
Steam temp at SG exit, °C	250
Steam pressure at SG exit, kg/cm ²	40

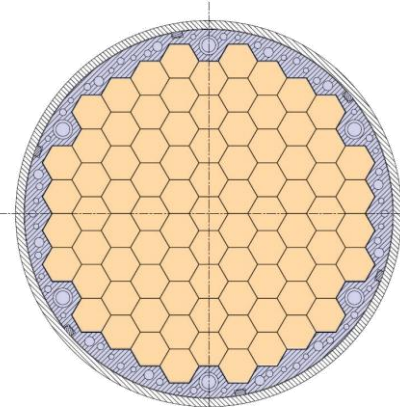
Reactor Internals



Reactor Internals

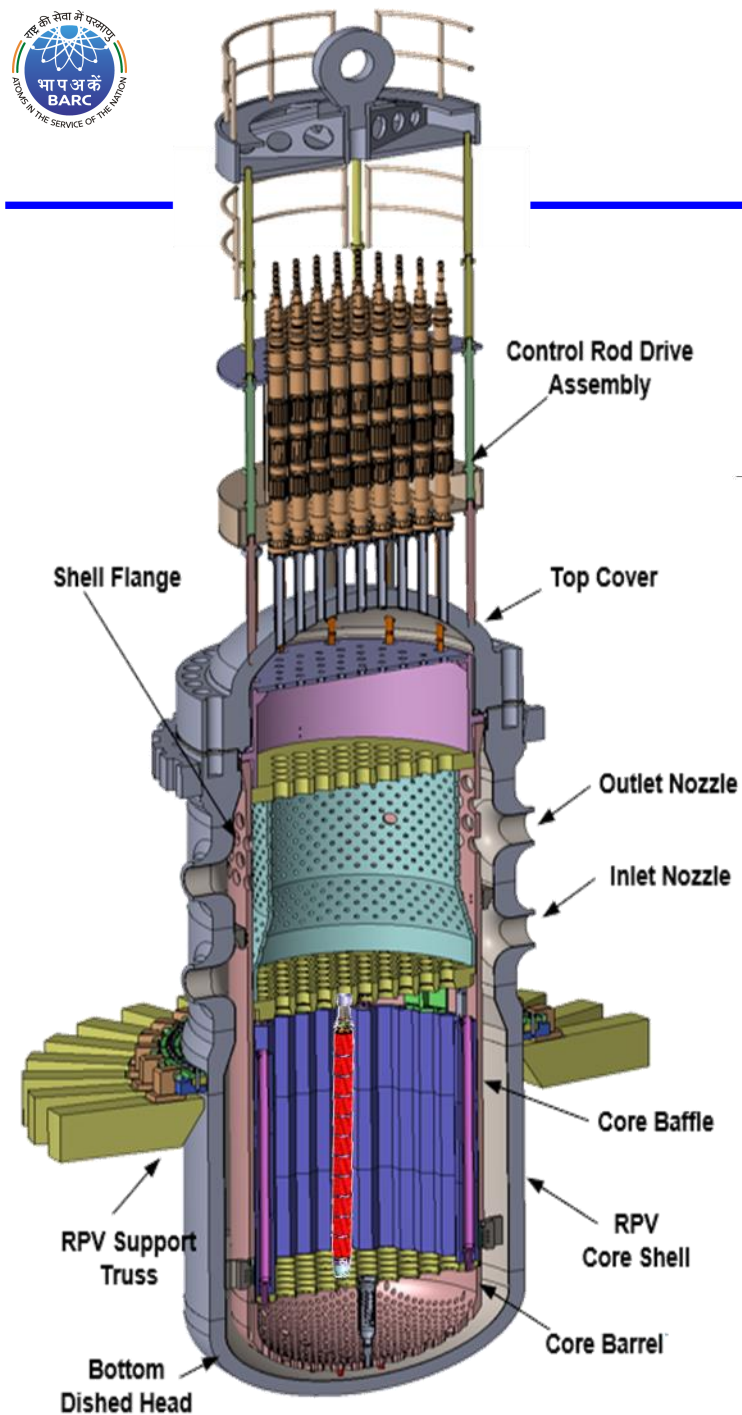


Core cross section

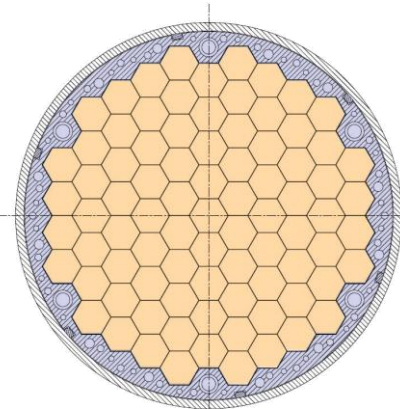


Fuel assembly

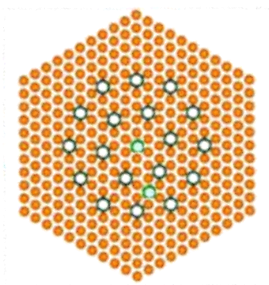
Reactor Internals



Core cross section



Fuel assembly

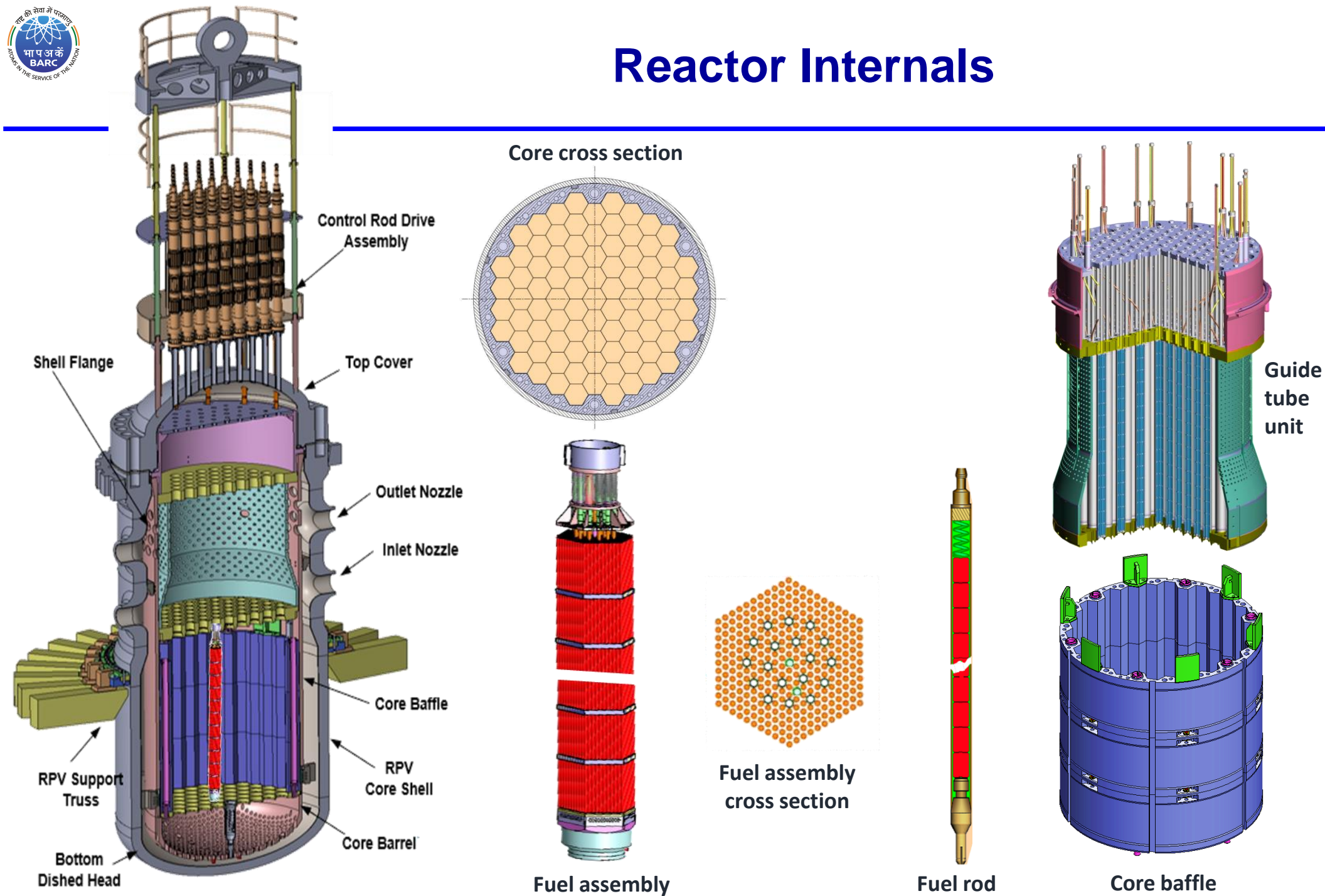


Fuel assembly cross section

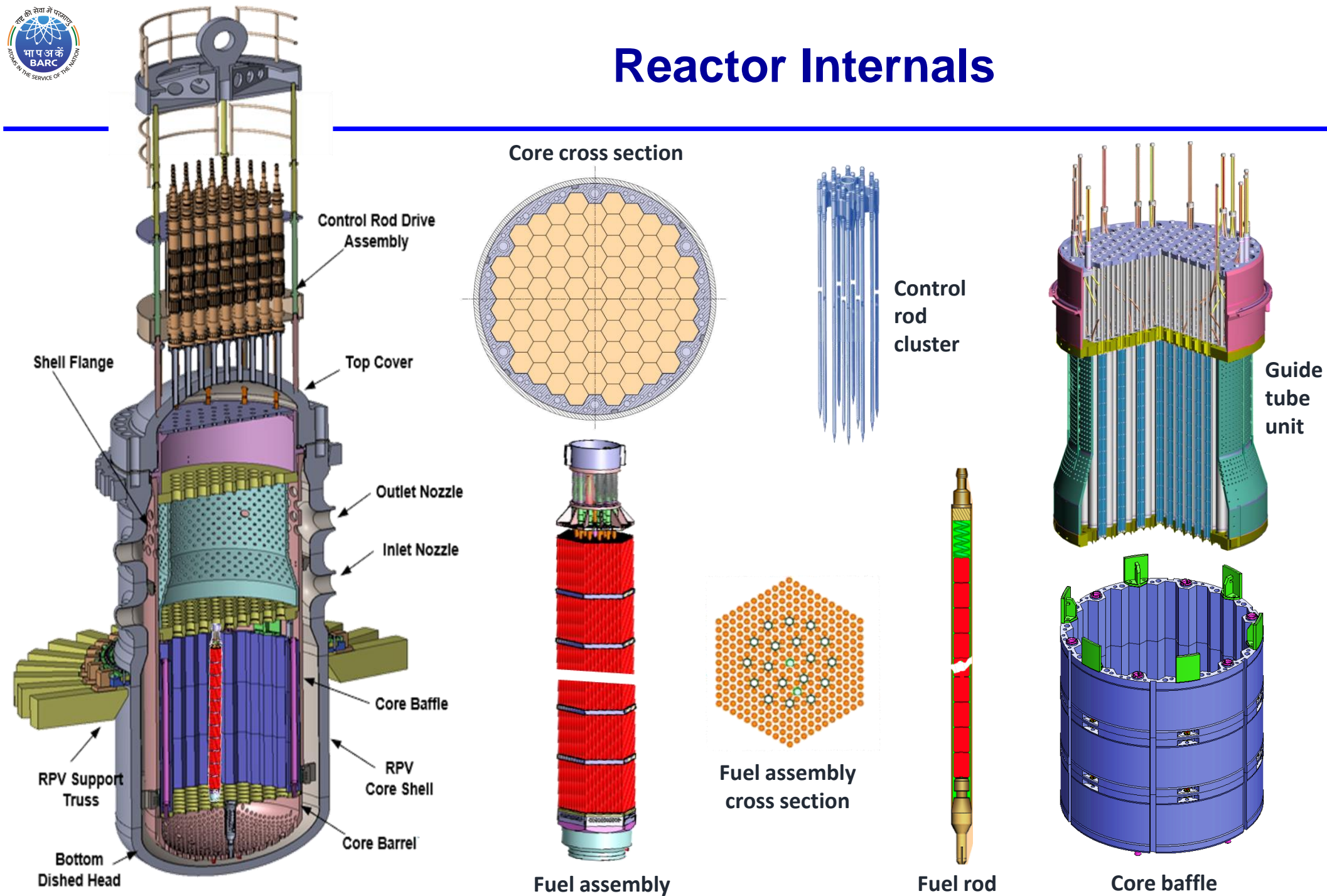


Fuel rod

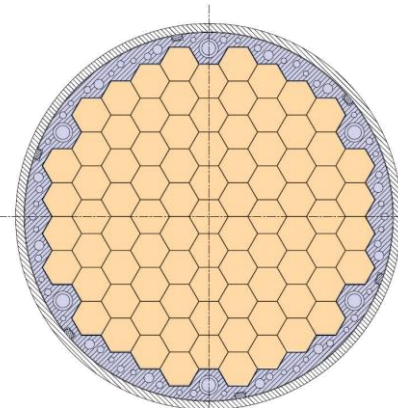
Reactor Internals



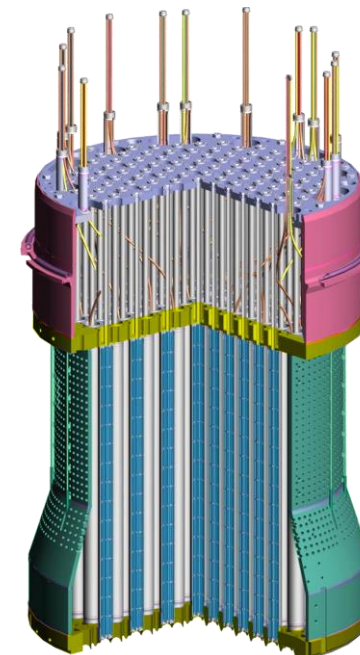
Reactor Internals



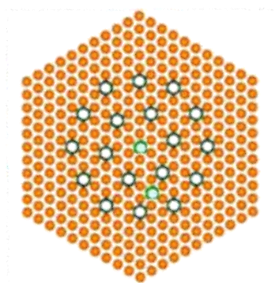
Core cross section



**Control
rod
cluster**



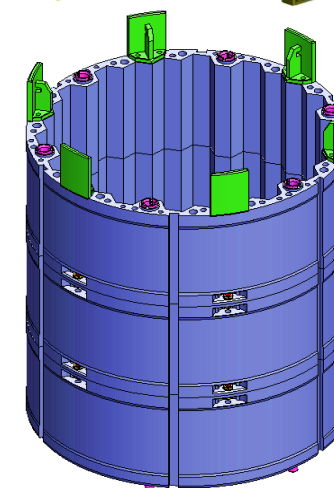
**Guide
tube
unit**



Fuel assembly cross section



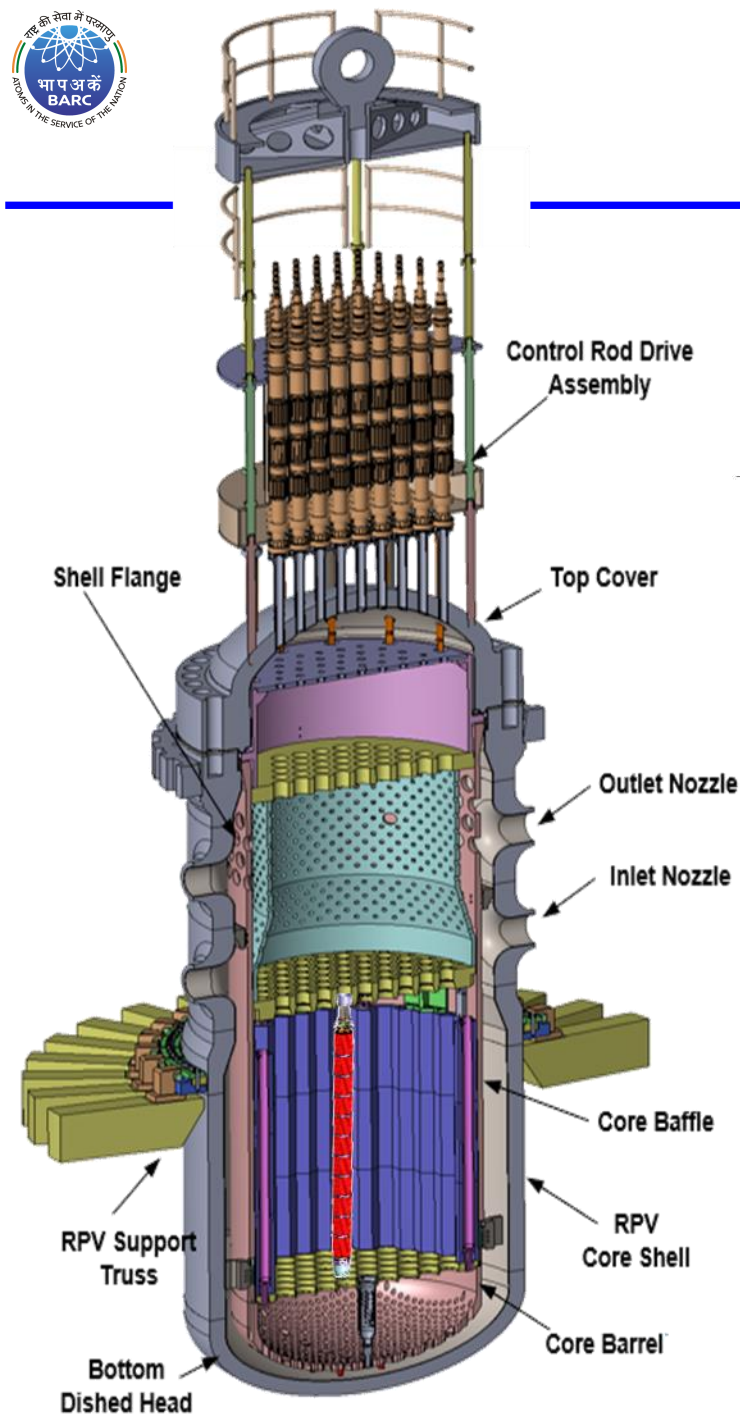
Fuel rod



Core baffle

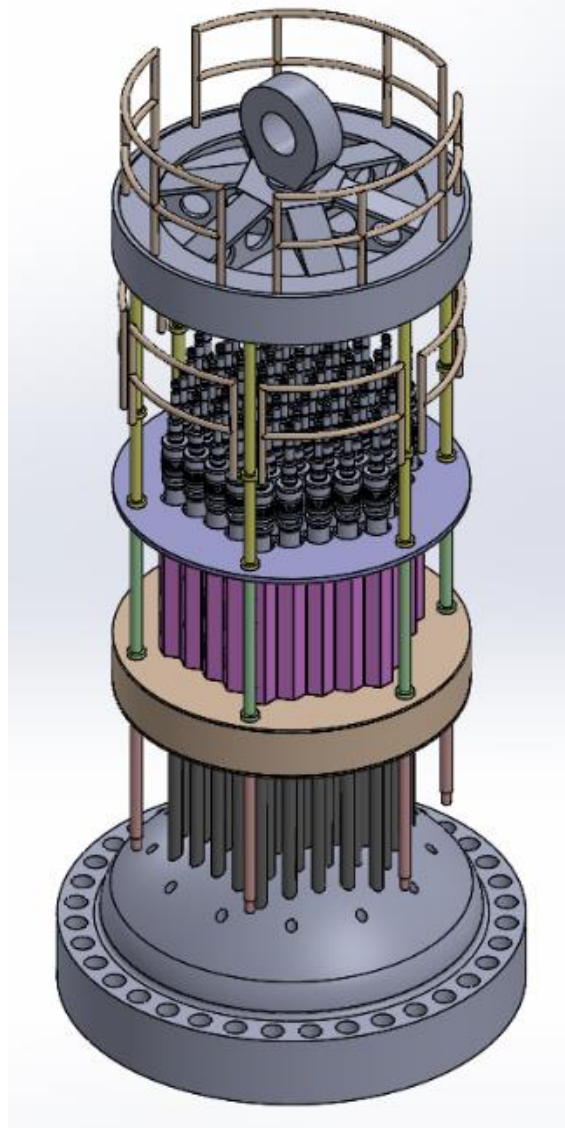
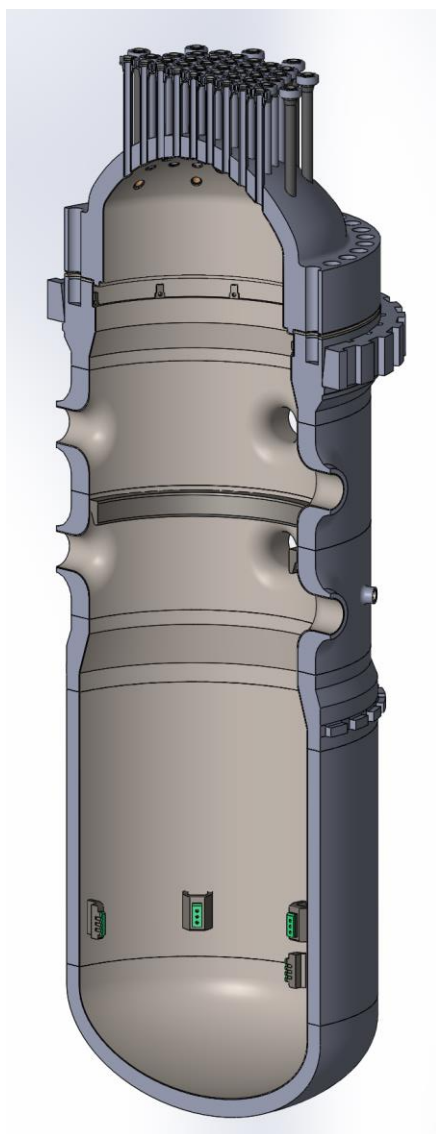
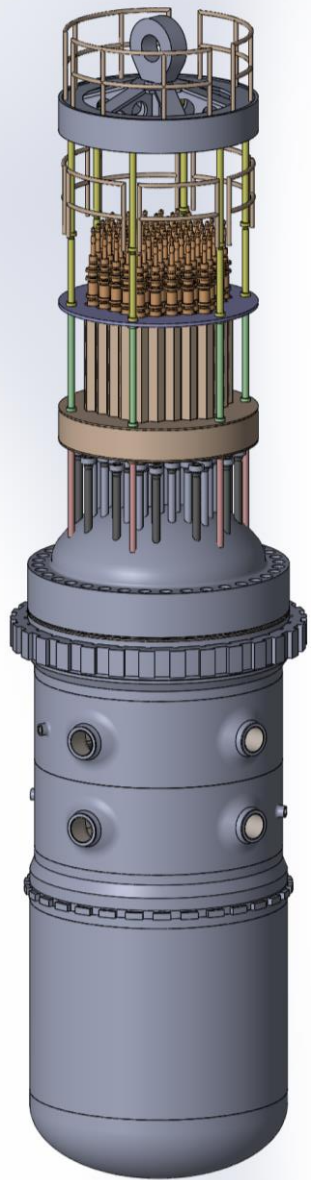


Core Barrel 12



Fuel assembly

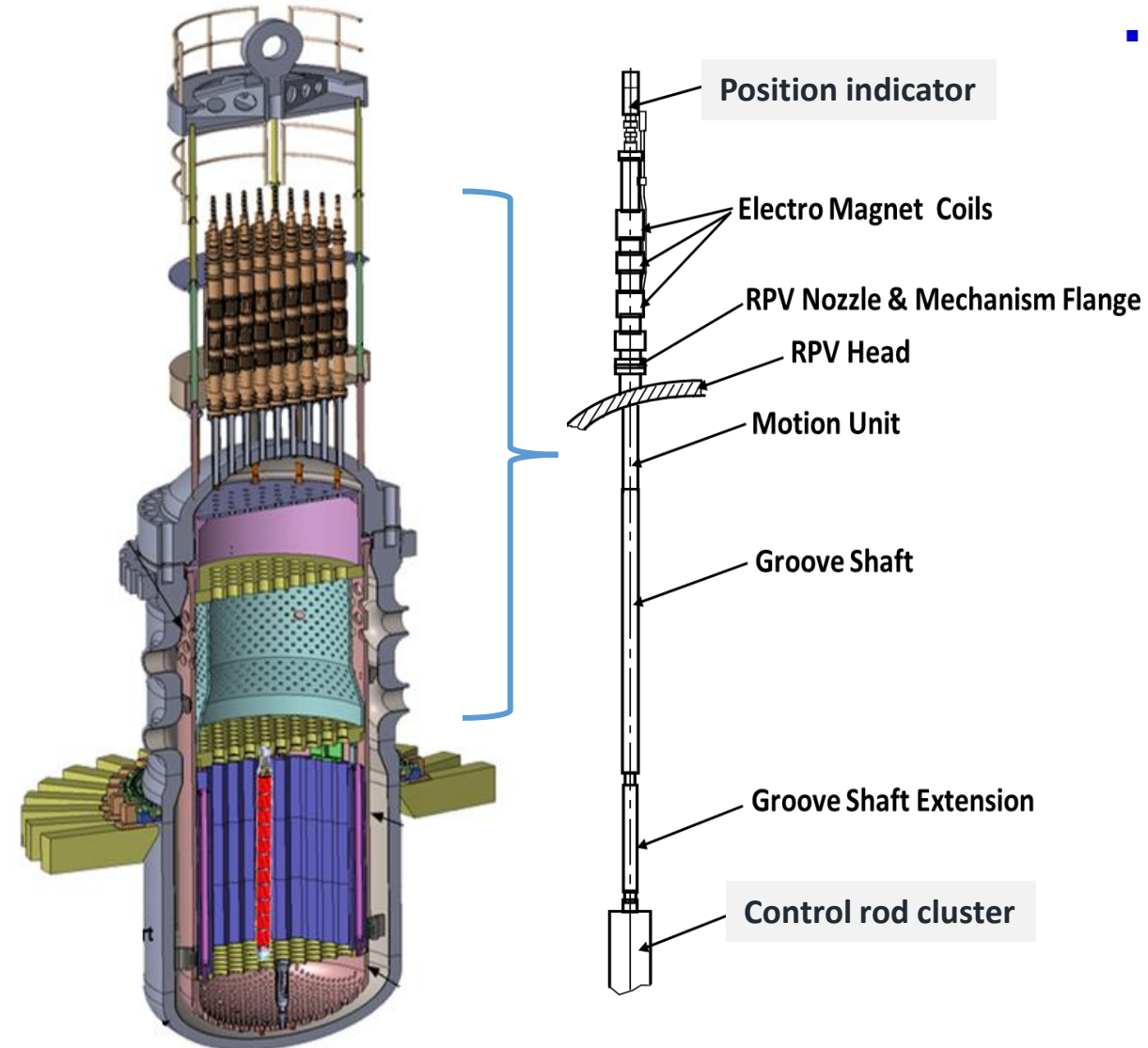
Reactor Pressure Vessel



Parameter	Value / Approach
Design pressure	17.7 MPa
Design temperature	350 °C
Service Life	60 y
RPV material	APURVA

Reactivity Control Mechanism

- Prototype mechanisms realized for operating conditions (325 °C and 162 bar)



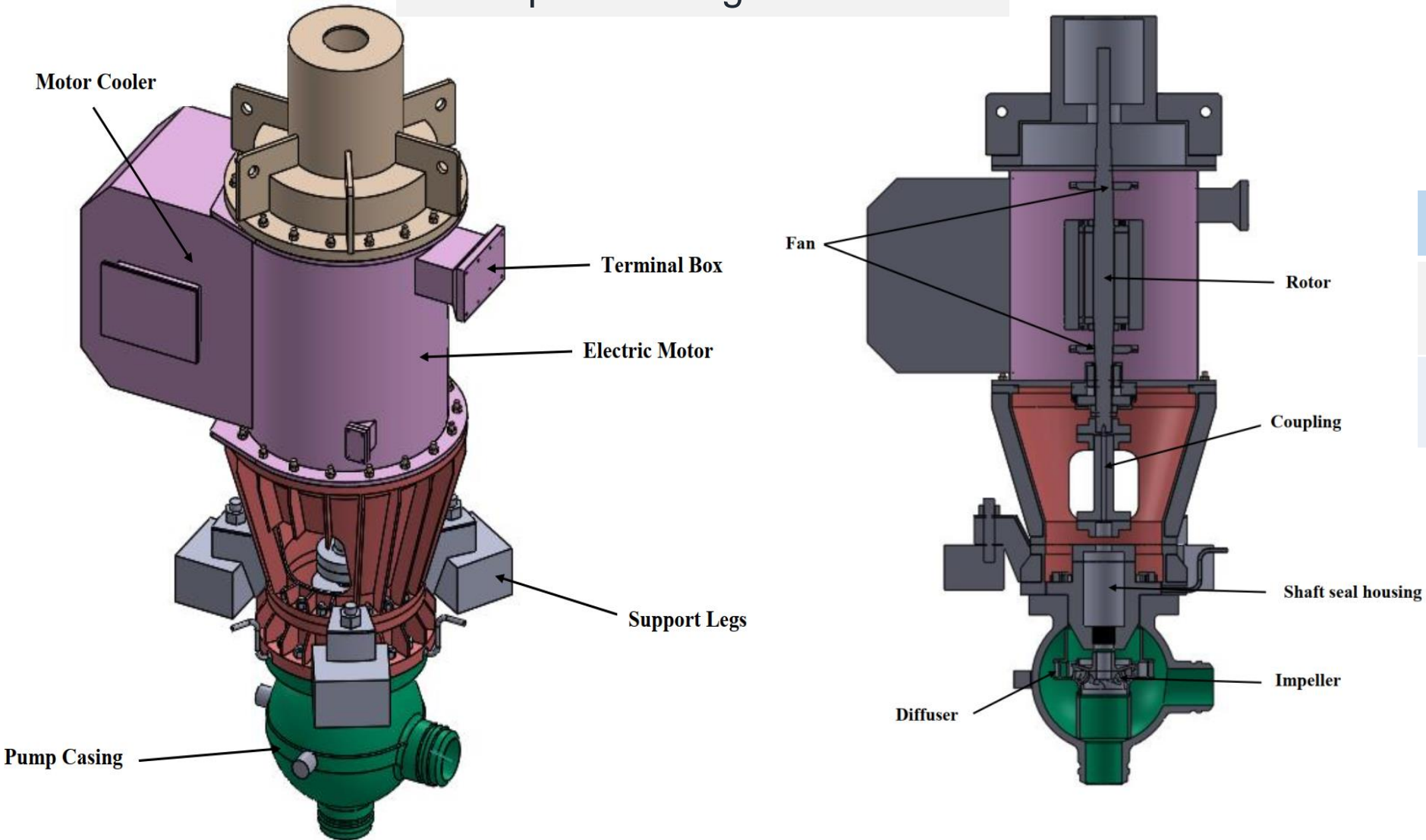
Control rod cluster



Prototype Mechanism

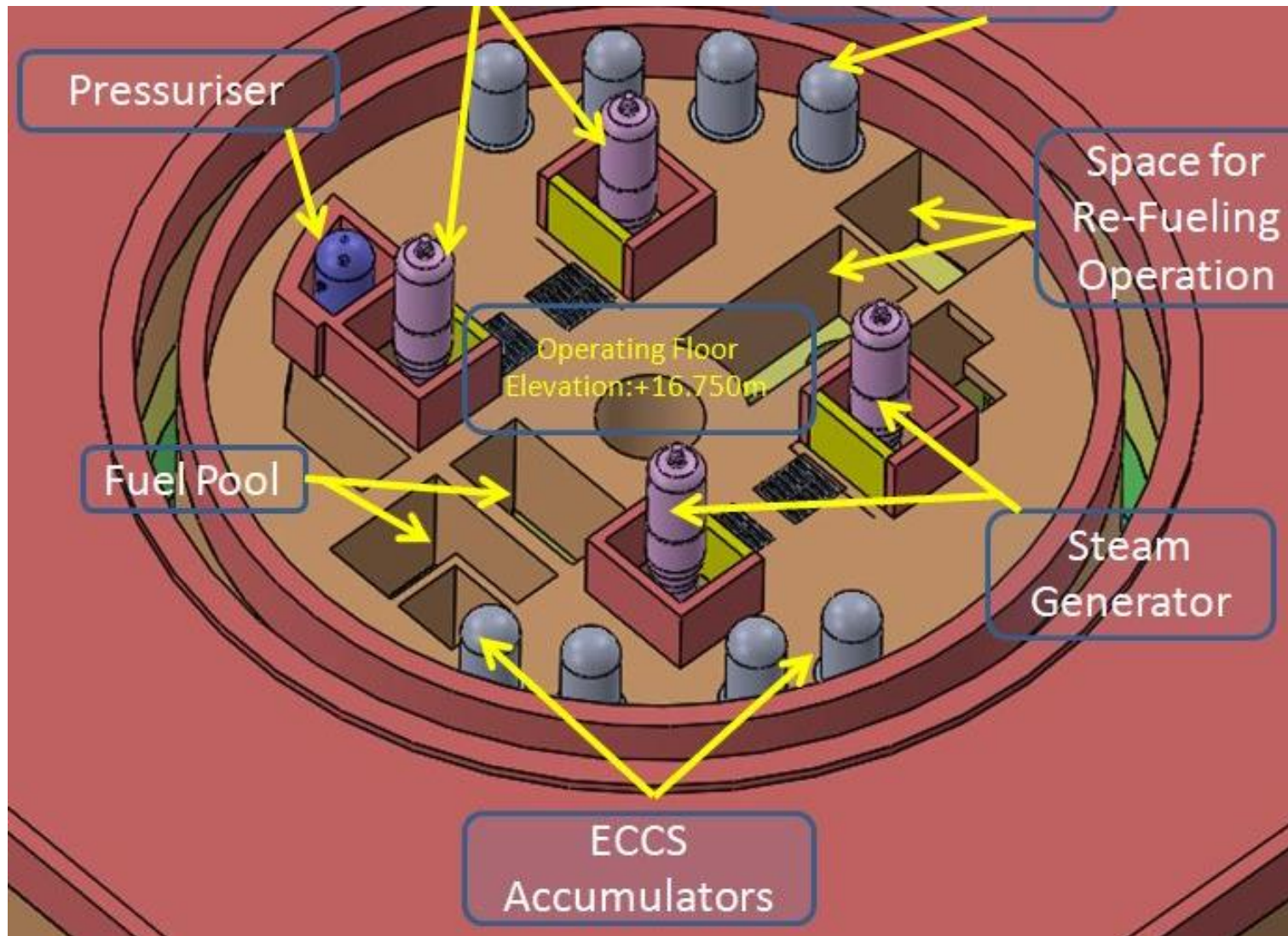
Reactor Coolant Pump

Conceptual Configuration - RCP

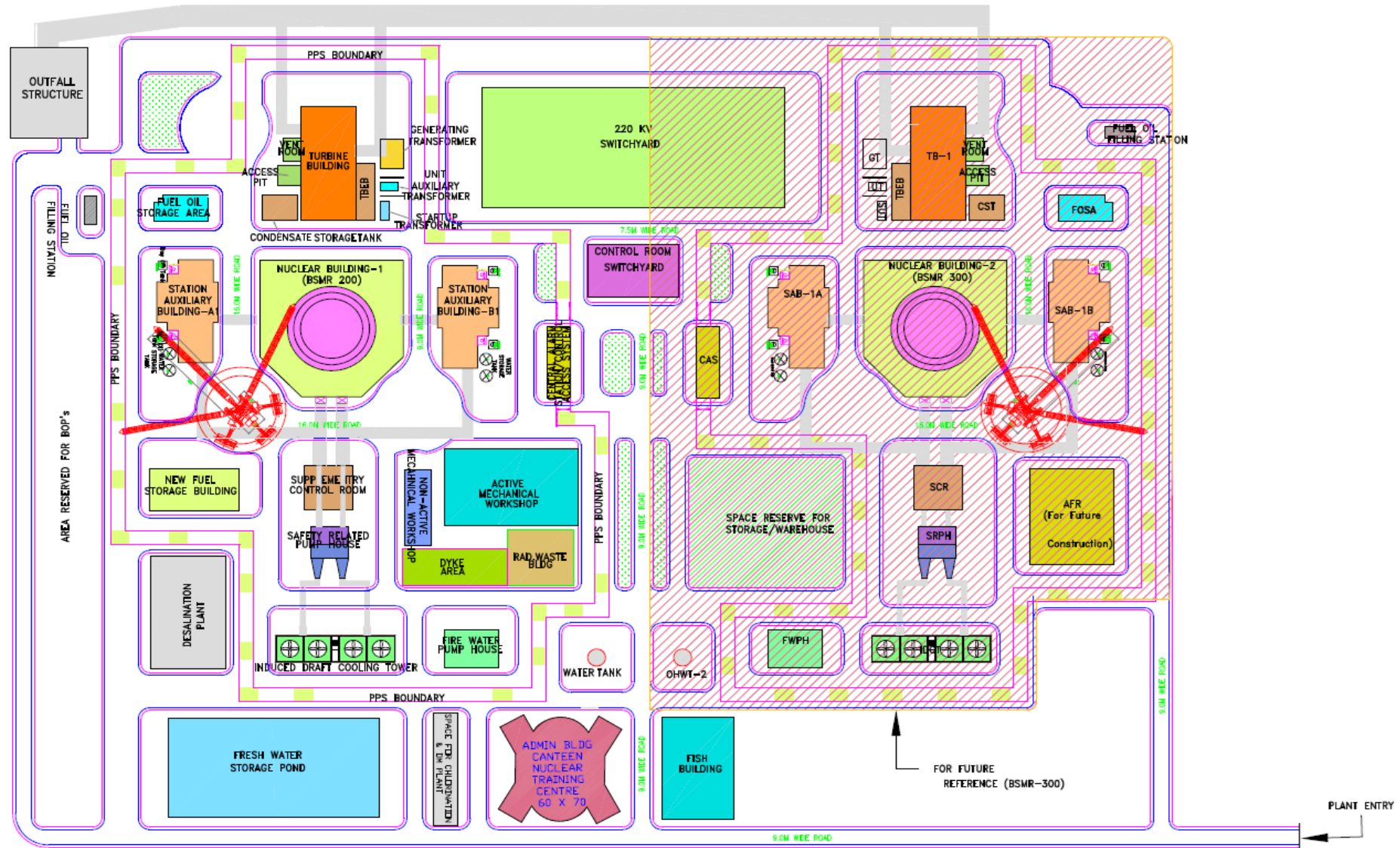


Parameter	Value
Rated Flow (m ³ /h)	~5000
Pump Head (m)	~100

Nuclear Layout



BSMR-200 Plant Layout



APURVA Forgings Developed by BARC

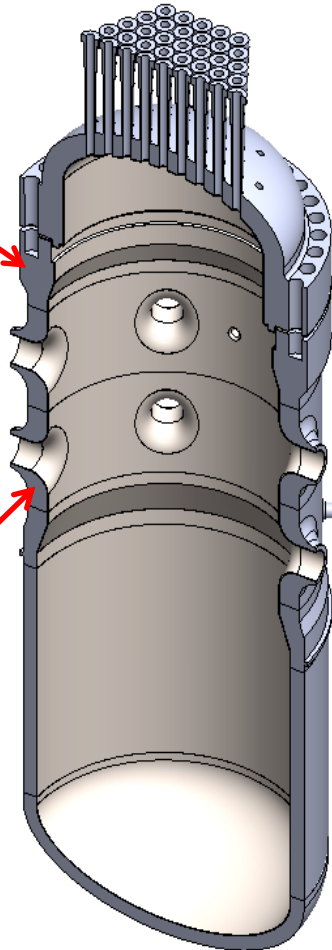
Advanced Purified Reactor Vessel Alloy



750 thick Ring Forging
($\Phi 3800$ ID x 750 thk x 1200 L ; 100 t)



340 thick Shell Forging
($\Phi 4200$ IDx340 thk x 3000 L ; 113 t)



Salient Features of APURVA Steel Forgings:

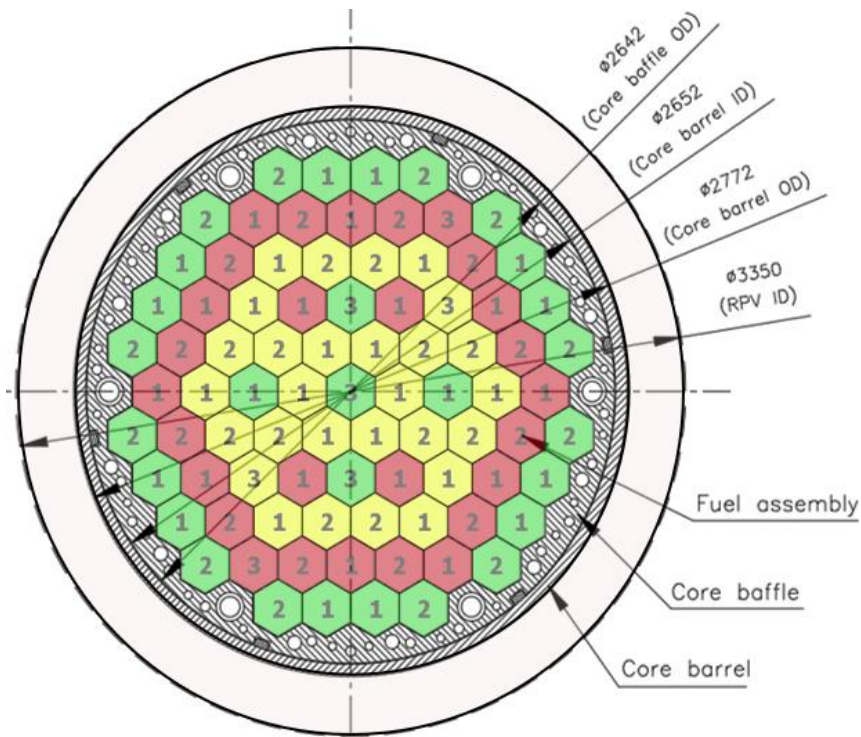
- ☐ Si-modified Mn-Mo-Ni Steel
- ☐ Equivalent to American & German RPV Steels
- ☐ Ultra-clean \rightarrow Very low P, S, Cu, As, Sb, Sn
- ☐ Hydrogen < 1.0 ppm
- ☐ High Strength & Toughness throughout section thickness
- ☐ High resistance to temper embrittlement
- ☐ High resistance to irradiation embrittlement
- ☐ Good Weldability

BSMR-200 : Technological Readiness

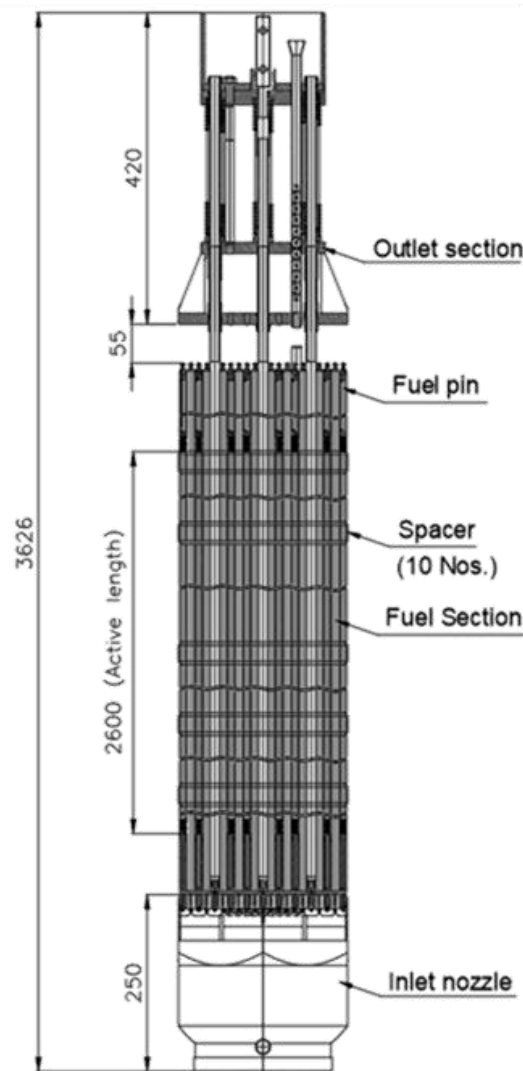
1. Reactor pressure vessel (RPV), the critical process equipment
 - APURVA grade low alloy steel forgings, developed by BARC
2. Steam generators (SGs), thermal link between reactor coolant system and secondary plant
 - PHWR-220 SGs will be suitable for BSMR-200
3. Reactivity control mechanism (RCM), for reactor control & protection
 - Prototype RCM developed by BARC
4. Reactor coolant pump (RCP)
 - Indigenous manufacturing
5. Steam turbine plant and electrical systems:
 - Existing systems of PHWR 220 suitable
6. Nuclear fuel
 - Based on conventional UO_2 pellets

Reactor Core Thermal Hydraulics of BSMR 200

Reactor Core and Thermal Hydraulics



Reactor Assembly



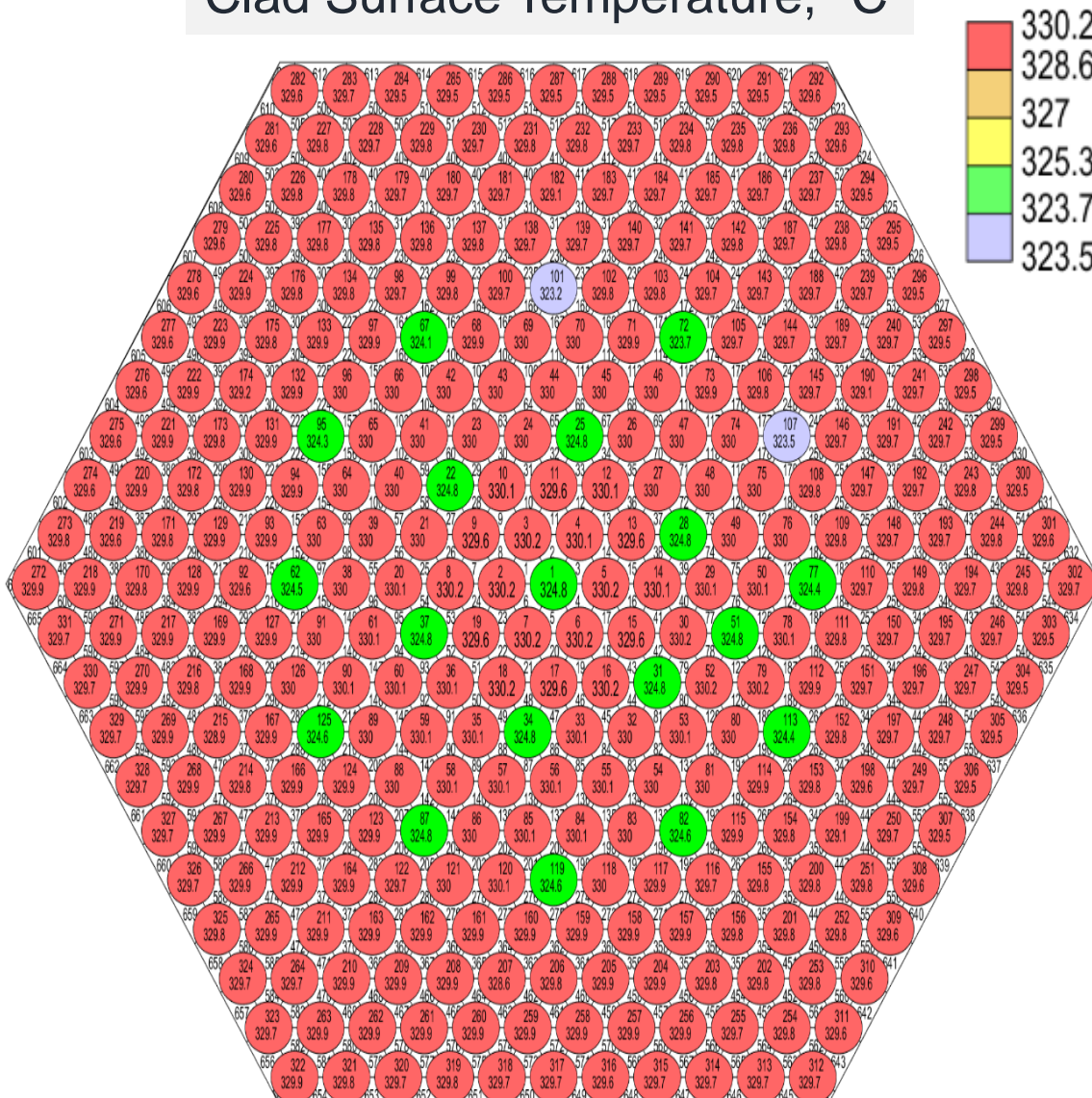
Fuel Assembly

Thermal-hydraulic Parameters (hottest FA)

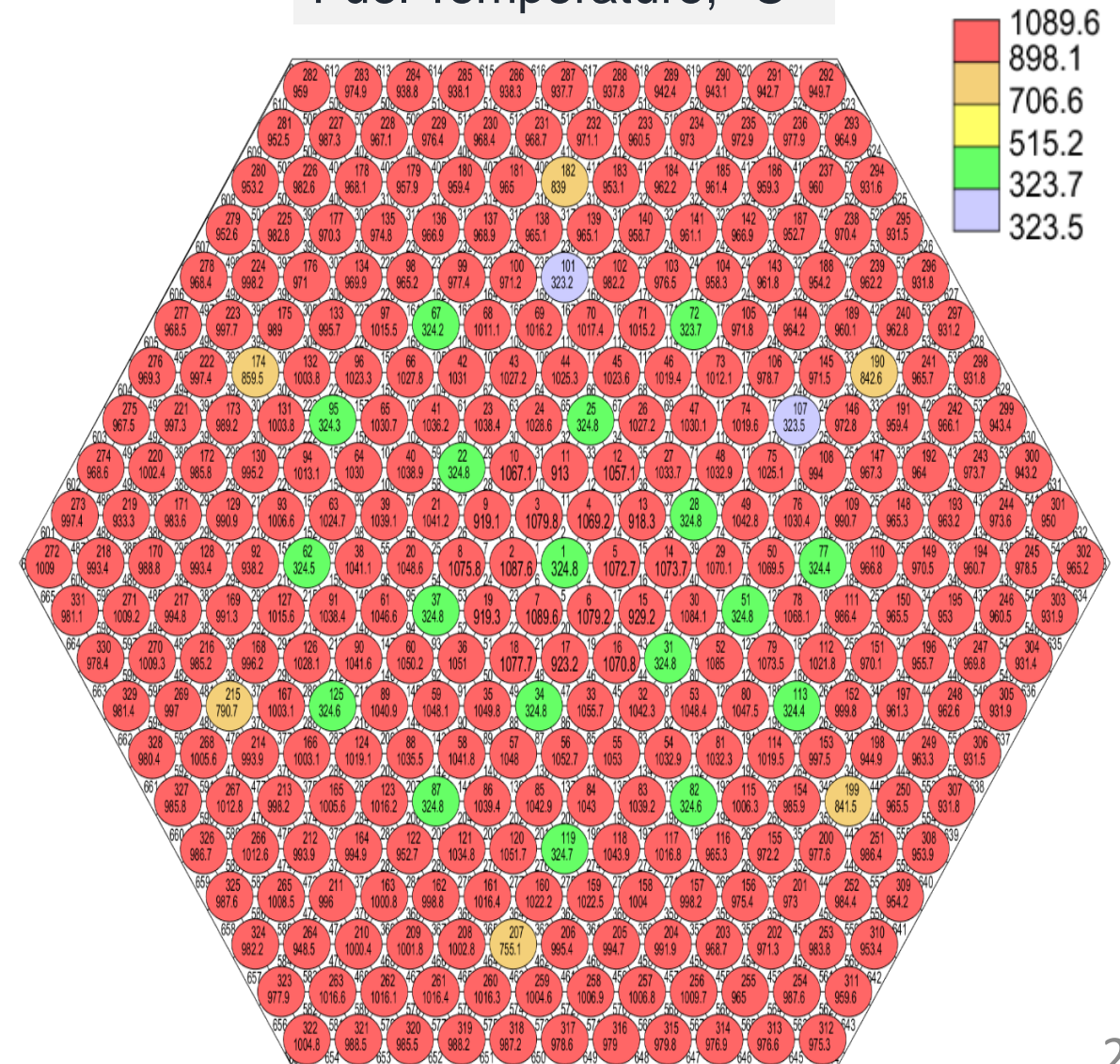
Parameter	Value
FA power, MW	15.67
FA inlet flow, kg/s	44.8
Average/peak LHR, W/cm	194/272
Average FA outlet temperature, °C	320.4
Maximum heat flux, MW/m ²	0.92
Maximum clad temperature, °C	330
Maximum fuel temperature, °C	1090

Core Thermal hydraulics: Results

Clad Surface Temperature, °C



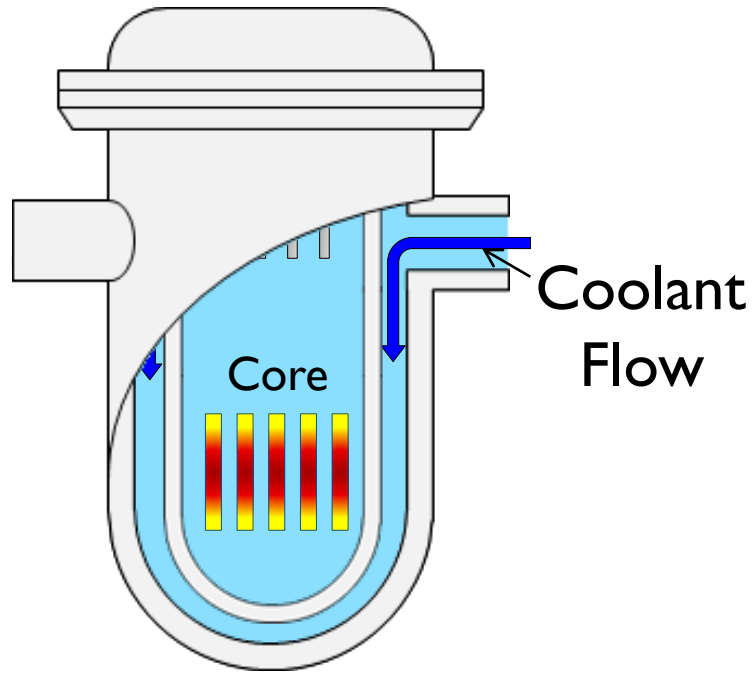
Fuel Temperature, °C



Safety Assessment of BSMR 200

1. Introduction to Indigenous SMRs
2. Design & Basic Overview of Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)
- 3. Fundamental of Reactor Safety**
4. Design and Design Validation Assessment
 - Containment Peak Pressure Analysis
 - RPV Design Qualification under Pressurised Thermal Shock
 - Emergency Core Cooling System of BSMR 200
5. Safety Analysis
 - Design Basis Accident
 - Design Extension Condition
 - Radiological Impact Assessment
6. Summary

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



Heat Generation

==

Heat Removal

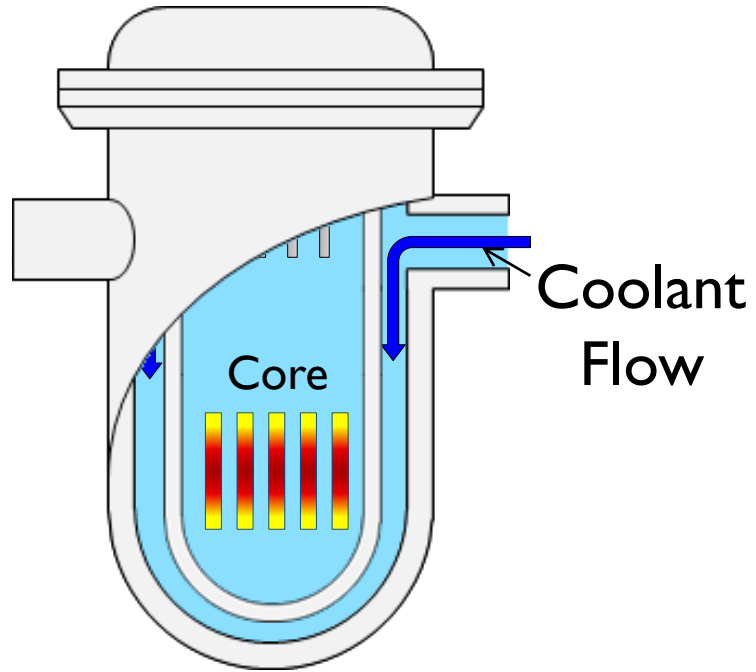


Normal Operation

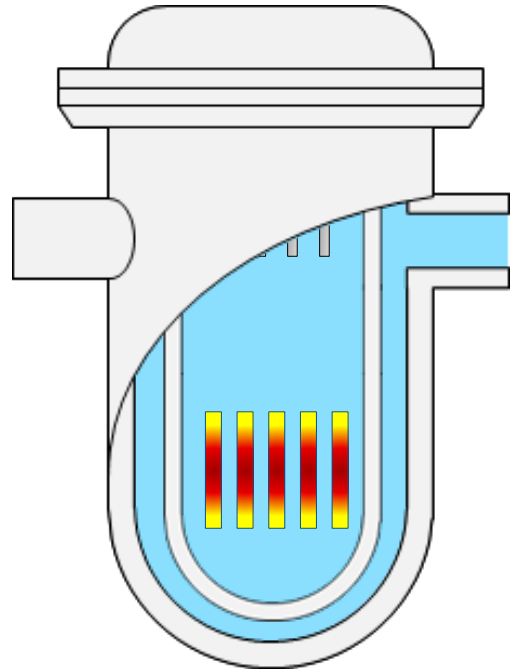
Fundamental of Reactor Safety



If, deviation from Normal Operation



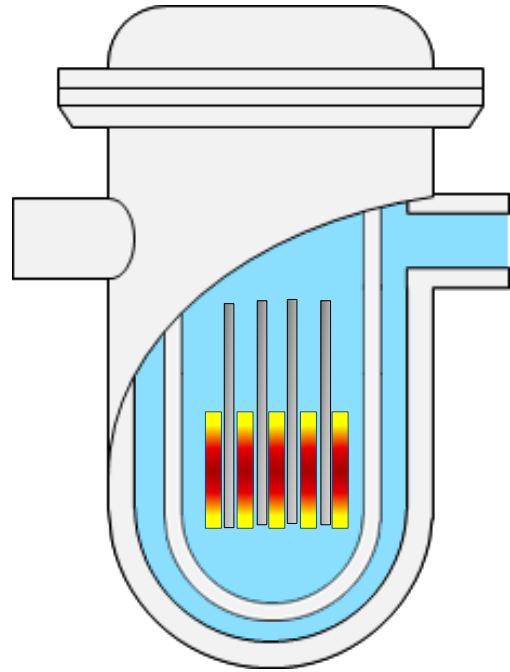
Fundamental of Reactor Safety



If, deviation from Normal Operation

↓
Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



Heat Generation

==

Heat Removal



Normal Operation

If, deviation from Normal Operation

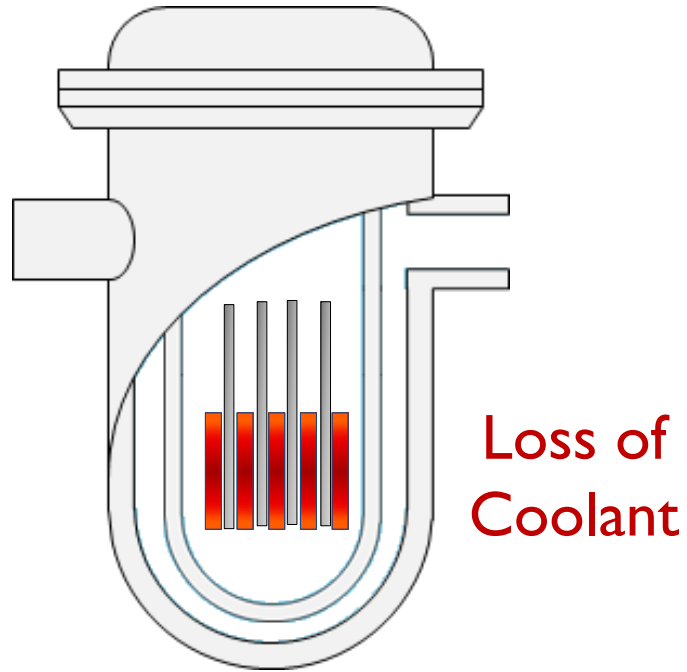


Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Control

Control & Protection System

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



If, deviation from Normal Operation

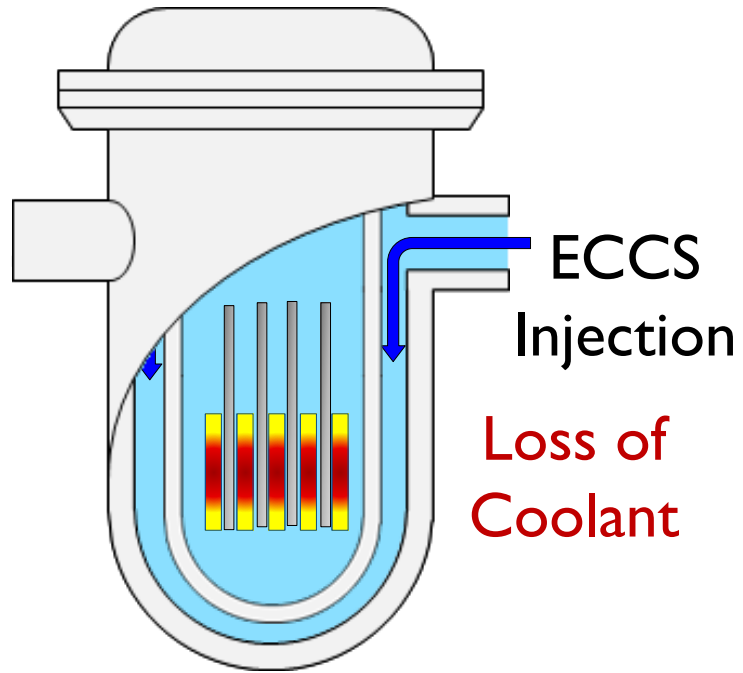
Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Control

Control & Protection System

Cool

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



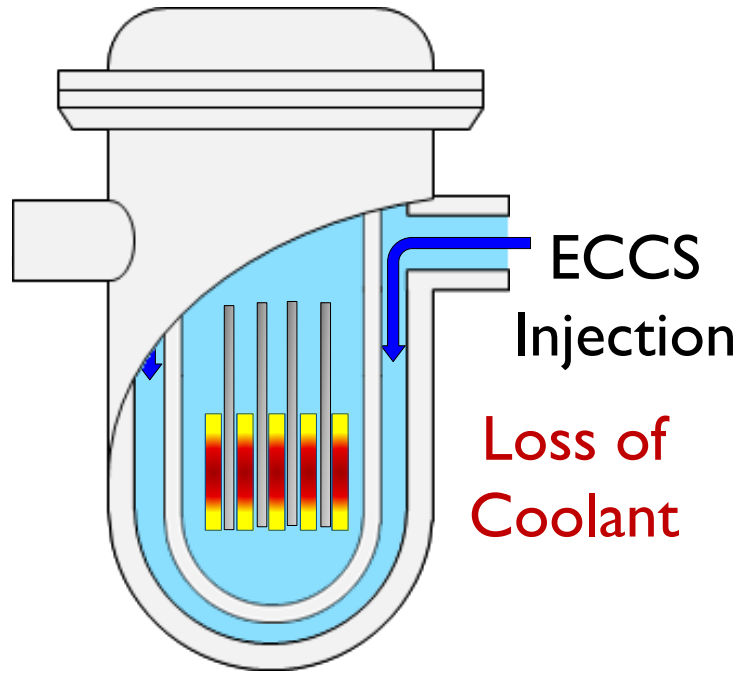
If, deviation from Normal Operation

Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Control
Control & Protection System

Cool
PHT & Engineered Safety Features

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



If, deviation from Normal Operation

Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Control

Control & Protection System

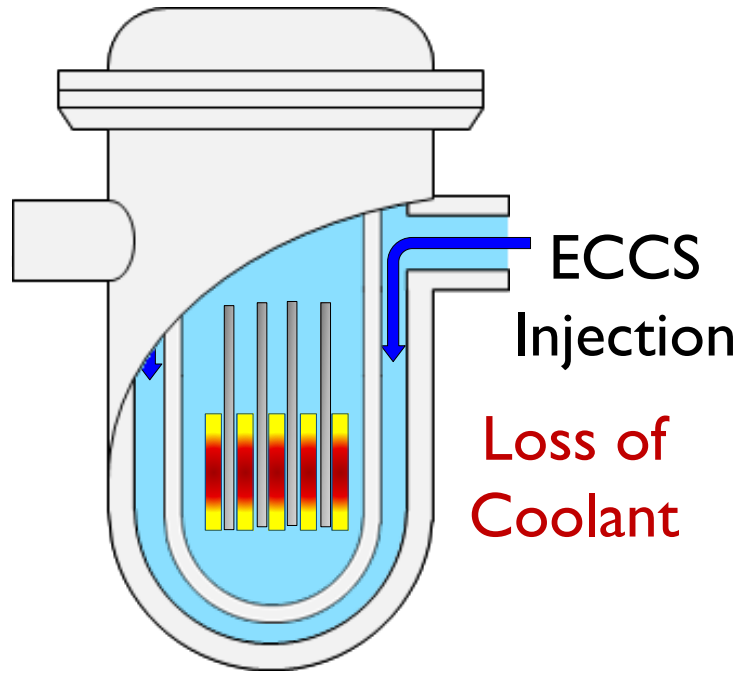
Cool

PHT & Engineered Safety Features

Confine

Multiple physical barriers

Fundamental of Reactor Safety



Heat
Generation

=

Heat
Removal



Normal
Operation

If, deviation from Normal Operation



Accident Postulate: Break in primary heat transport system

Control

Control & Protection
System

Cool

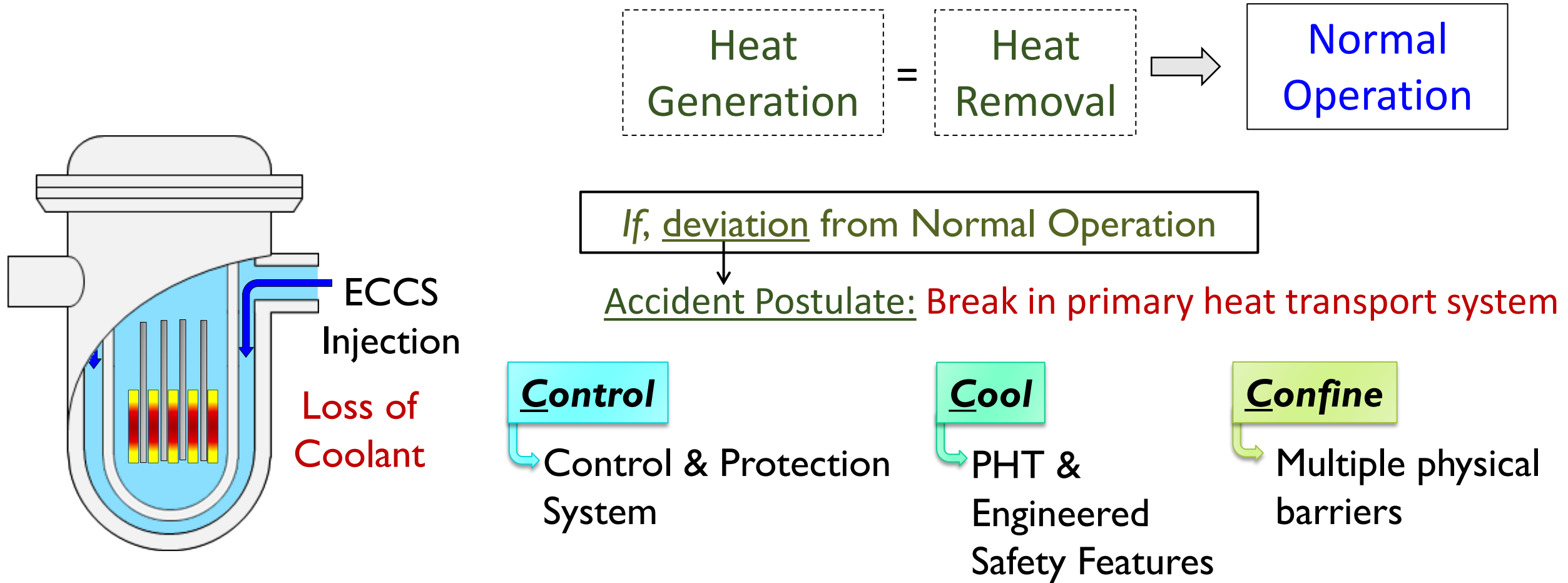
PHT &
Engineered
Safety Features

Confine

Multiple physical
barriers

3Cs achieved by deploying defence-in-depth (DiD) in design

Fundamental of Reactor Safety

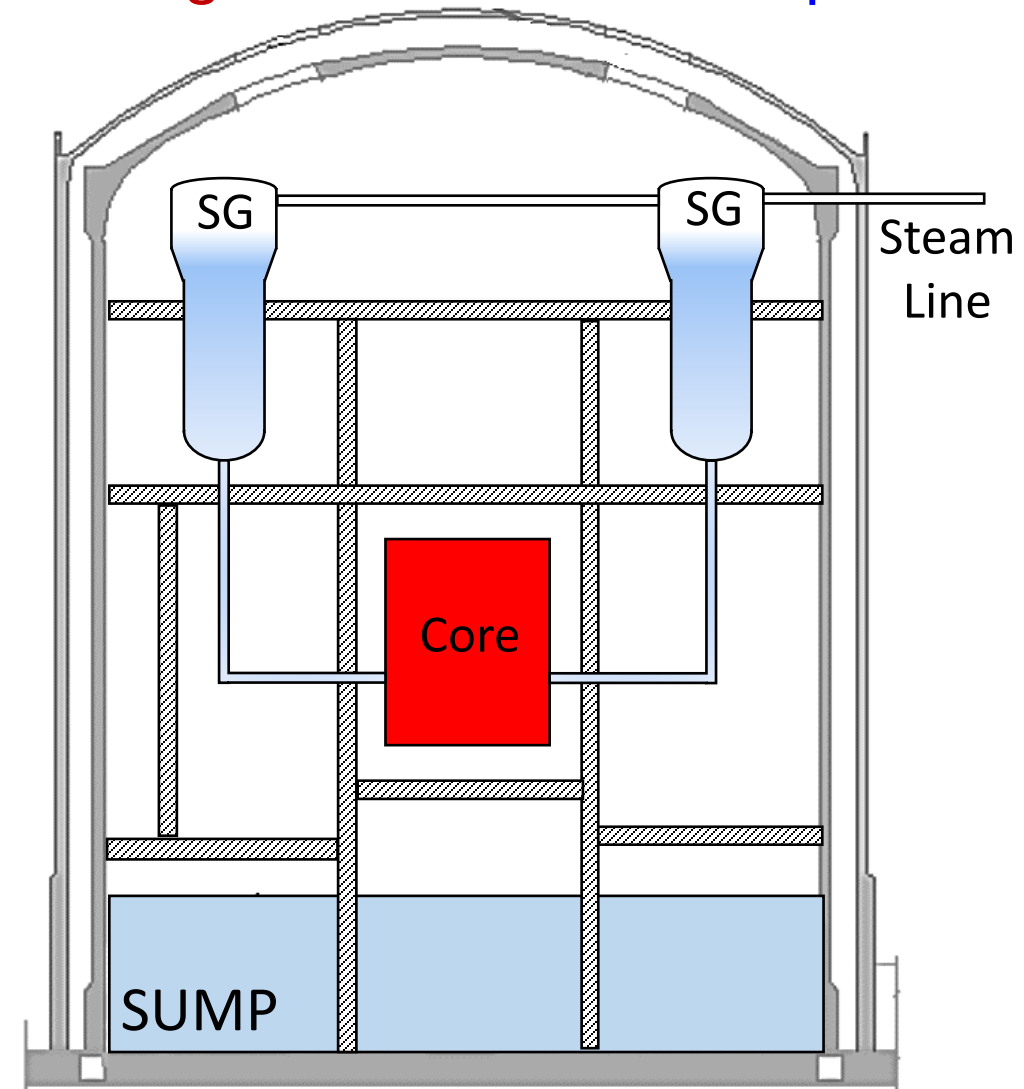


Outline

1. Introduction to Indigenous SMRs
2. Design & Basic Overview of Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)
3. Fundamental of Reactor Safety
- 4. Design and Design Validation Assessment**
 - Containment Peak Pressure Analysis
 - RPV Design Qualification under **Pressurised Thermal Shock**
 - Emergency Core Cooling System of BSMR 200
5. Safety Analysis
 - Design Basis Accident
 - Design Extension Condition
 - Radiological Impact Assessment
6. Summary

Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

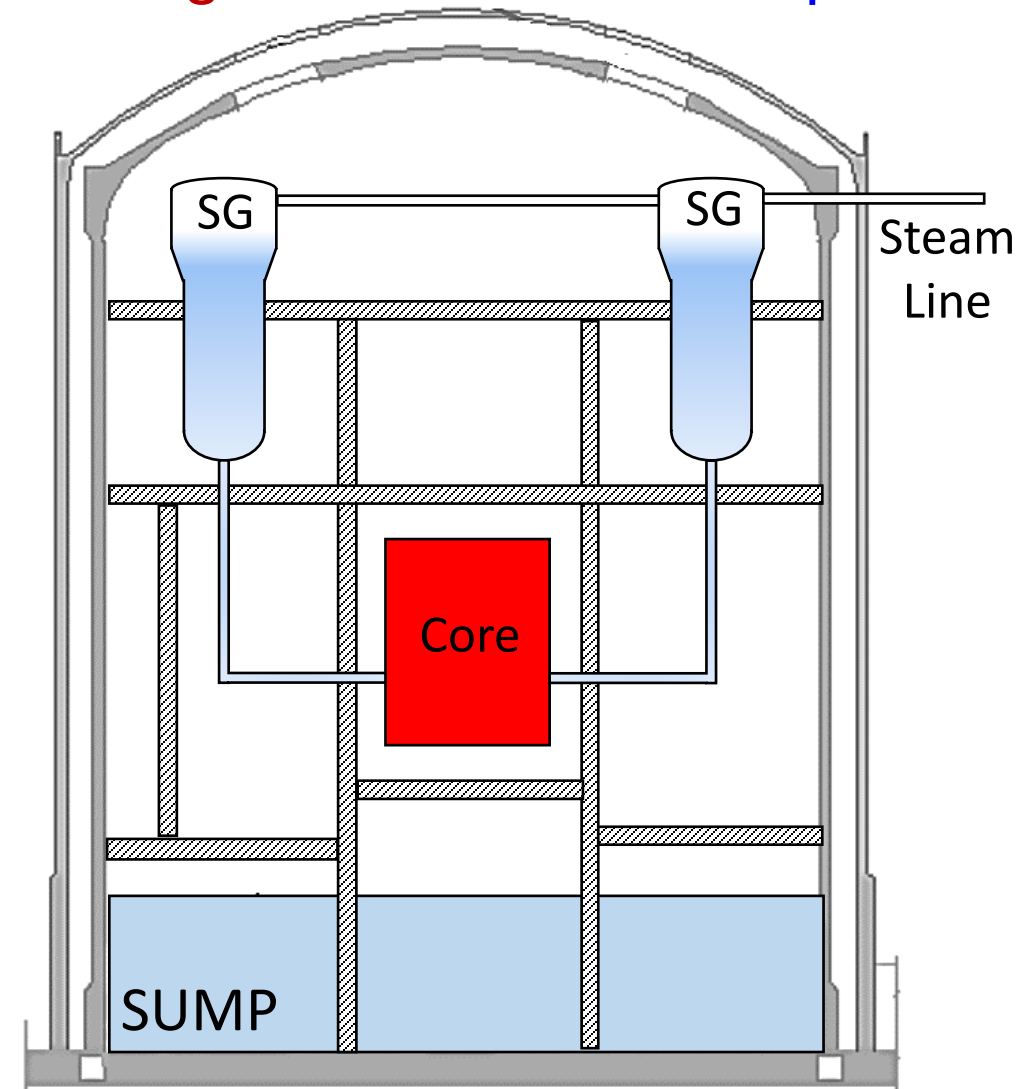
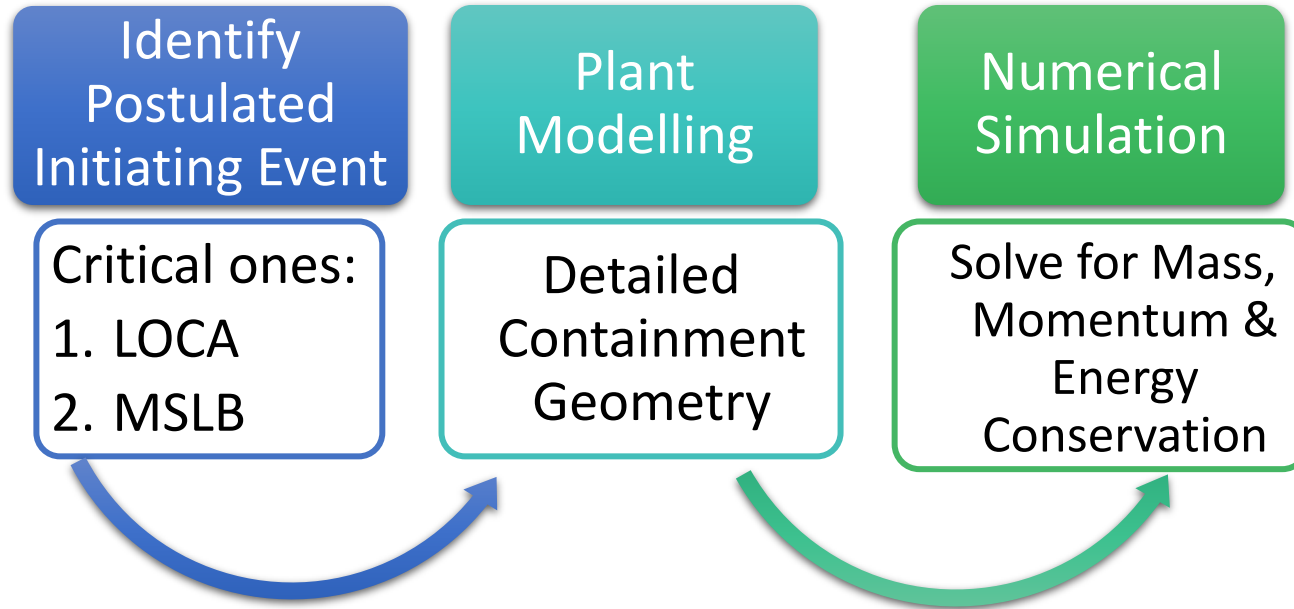
Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public



Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public

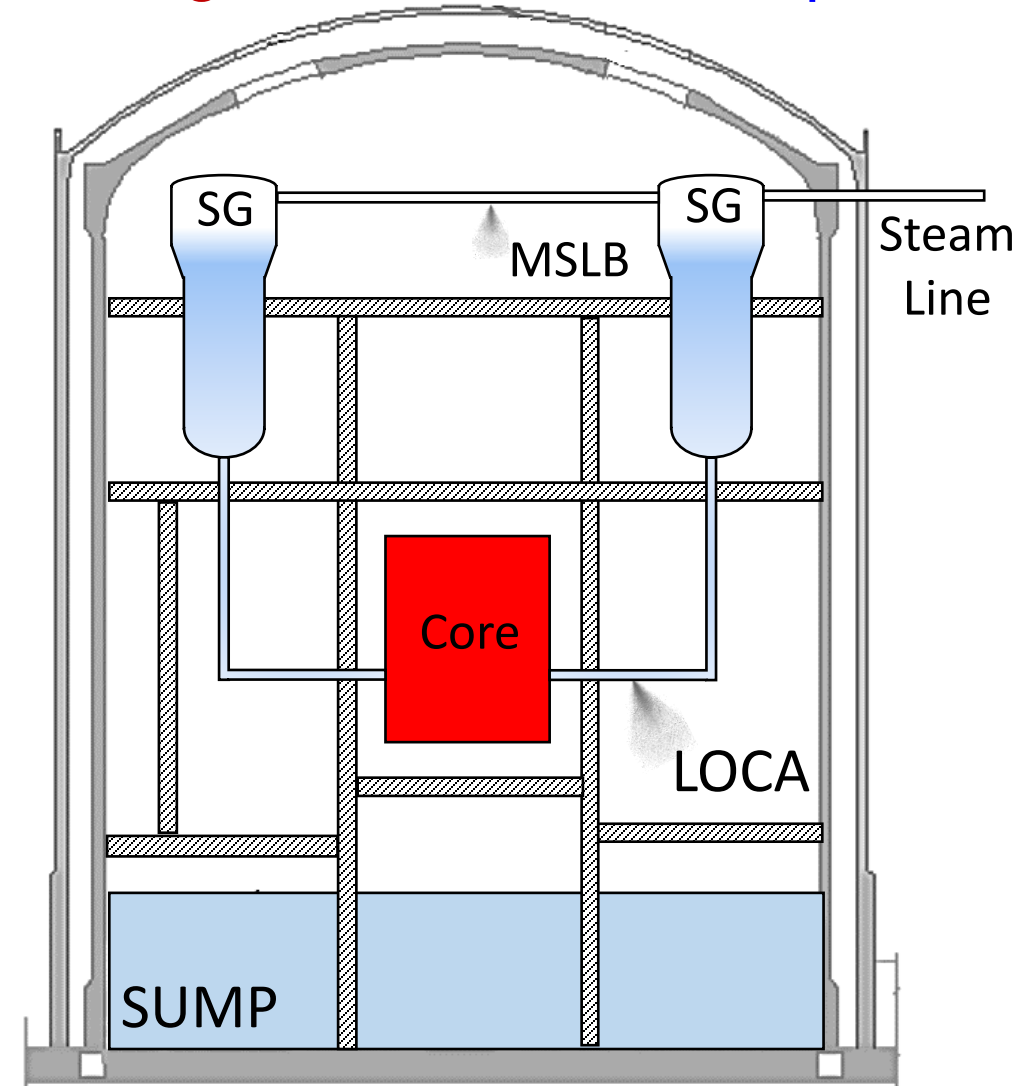
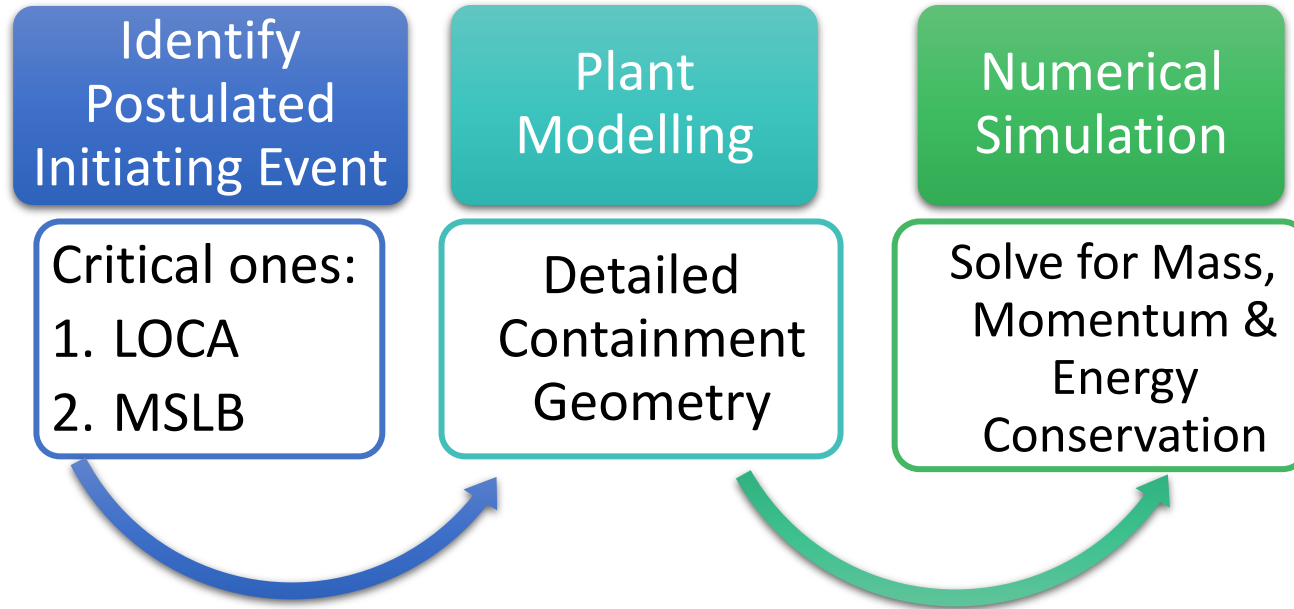
Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public

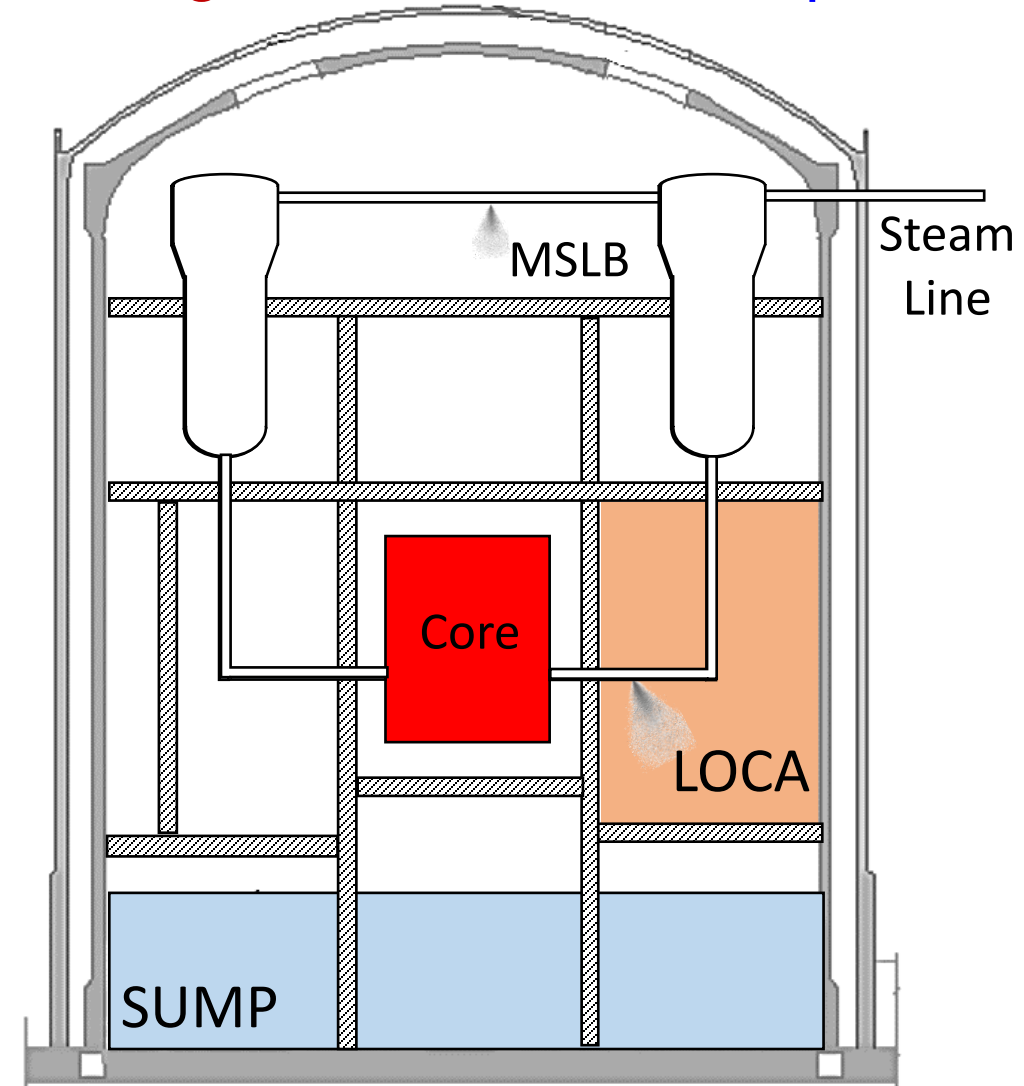
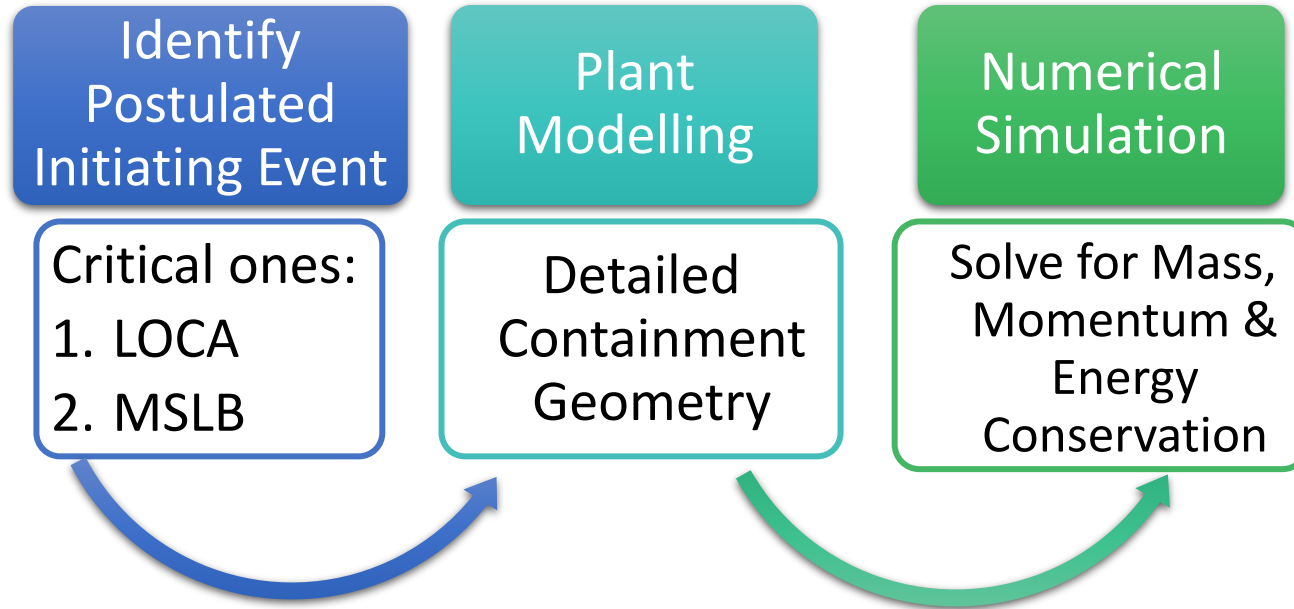
Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public

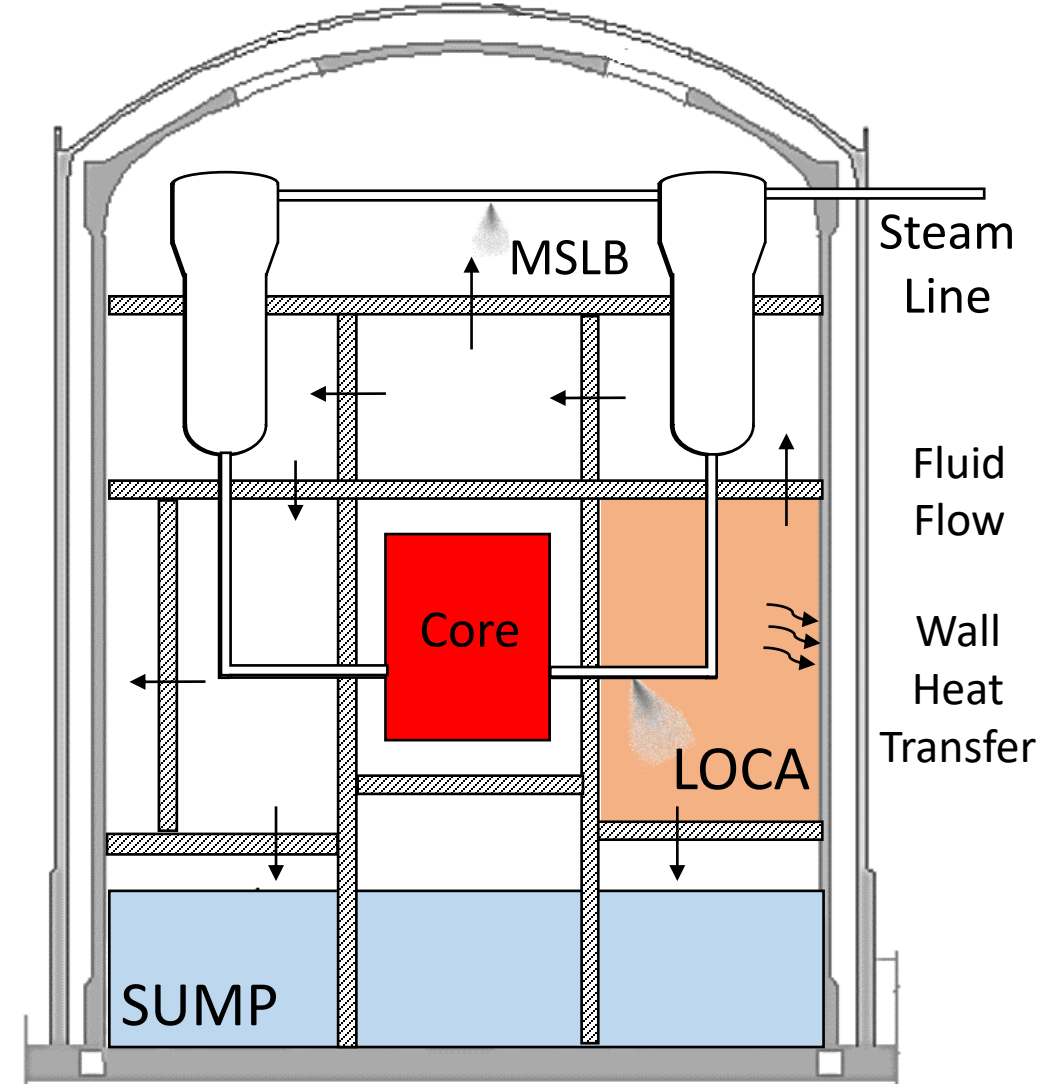
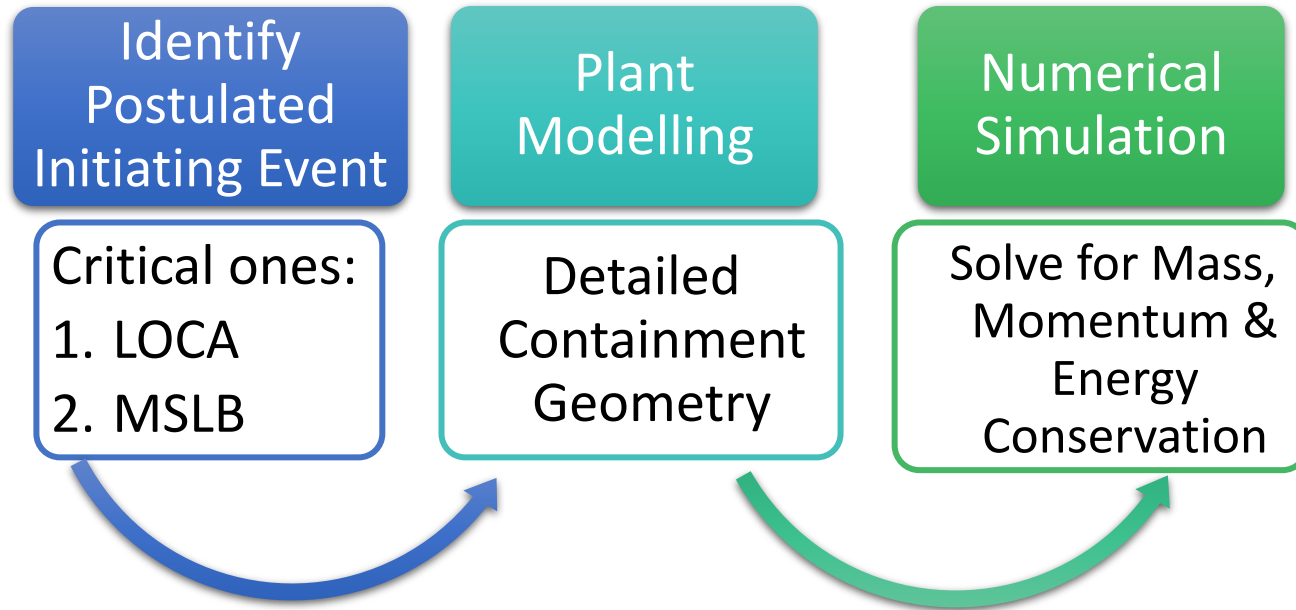
Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public

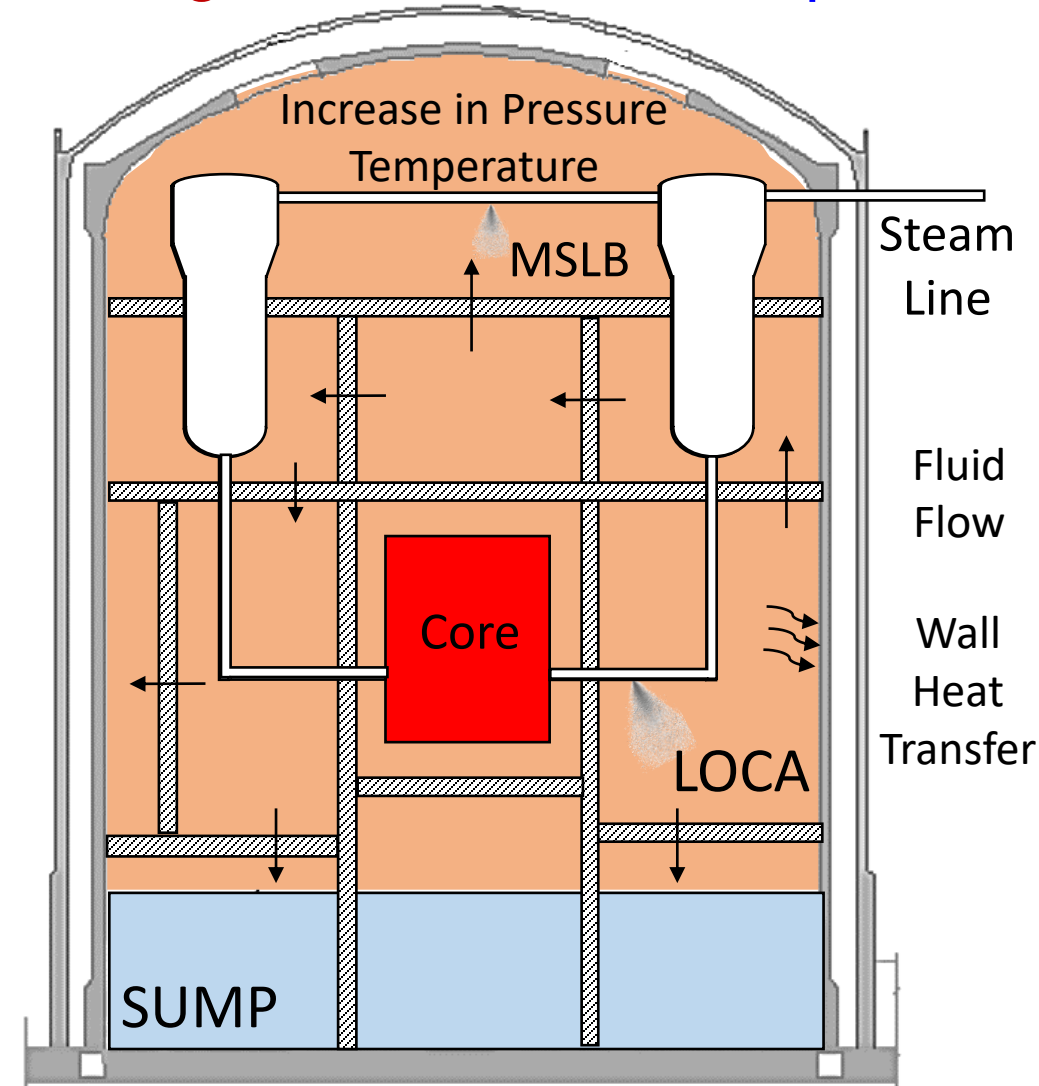
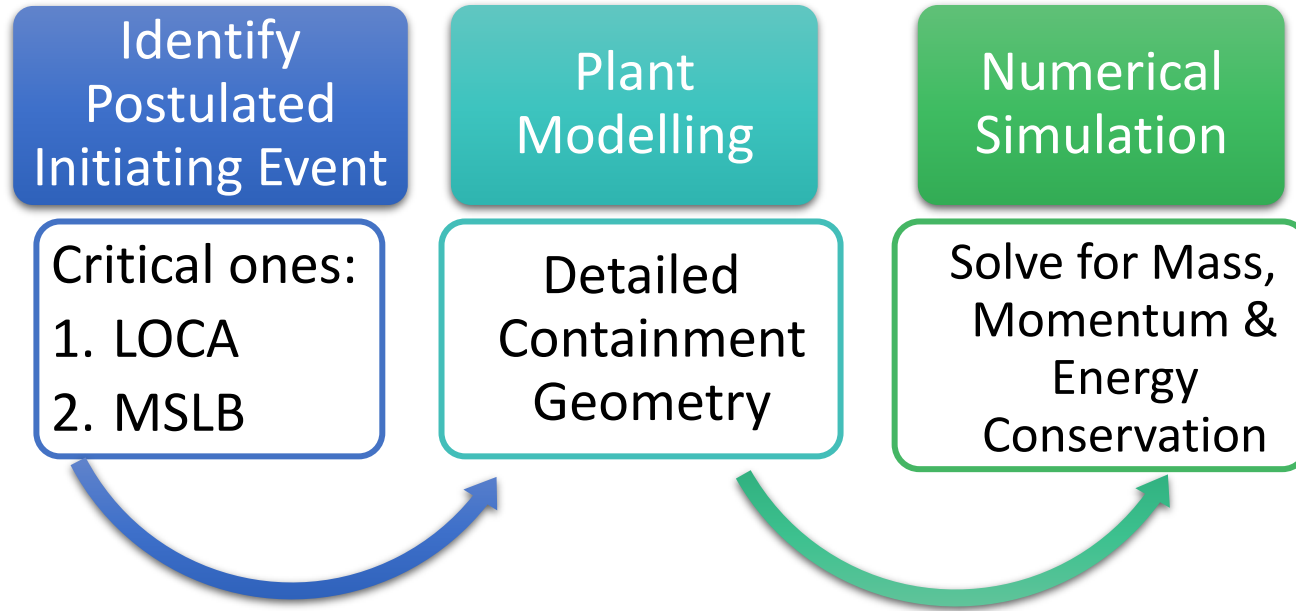
Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined → low leakage → low risk to the public

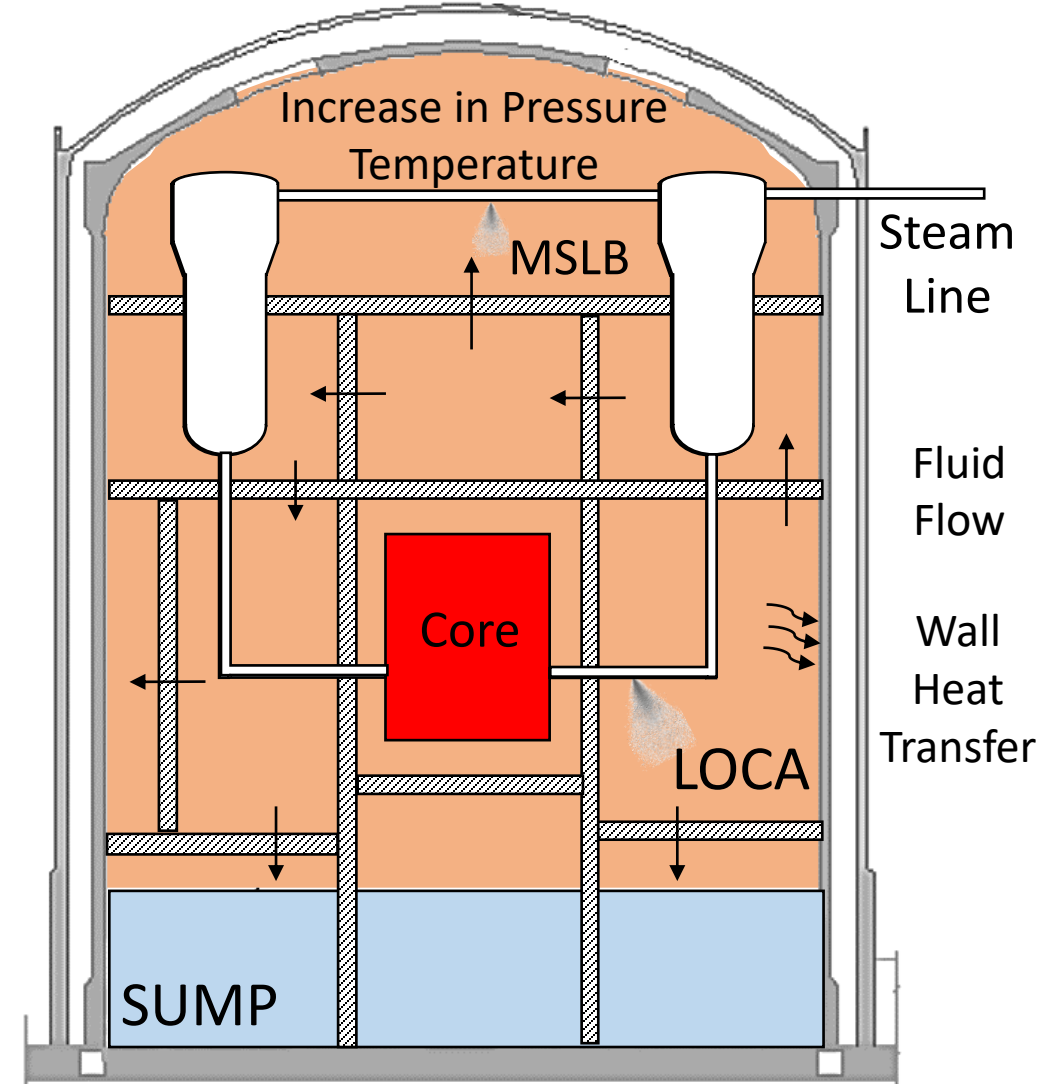
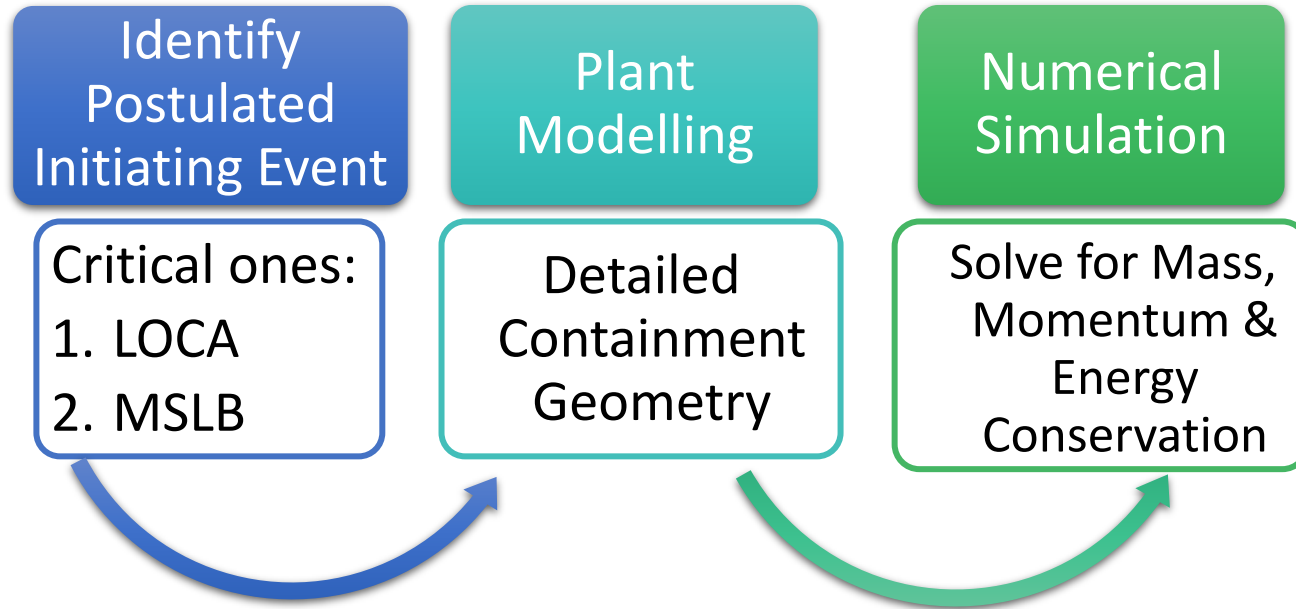
Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



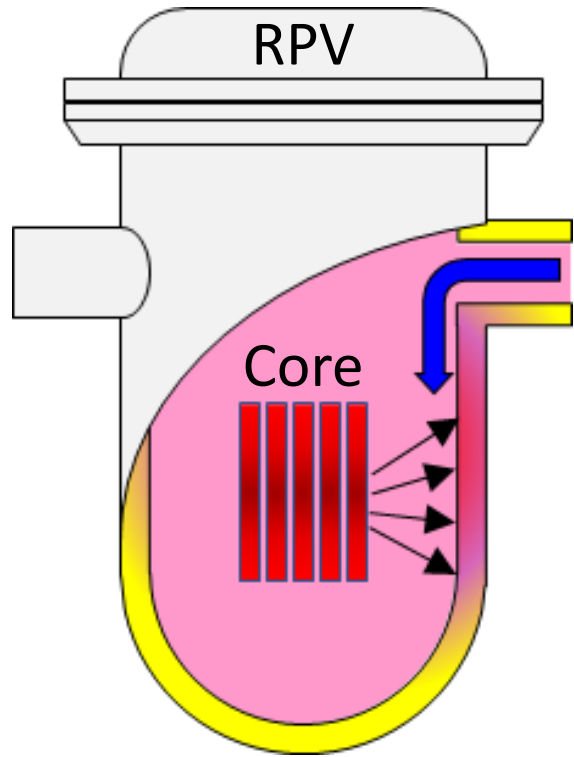
Design of the ultimate physical barrier: Containment

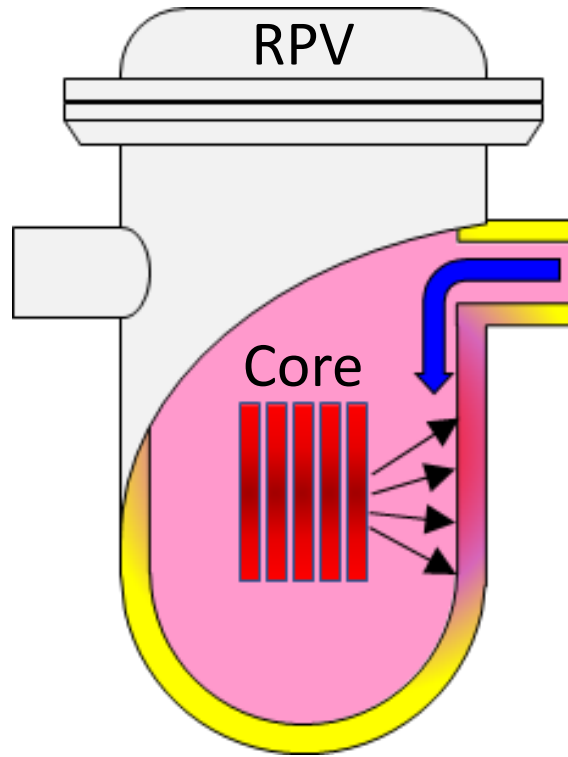
Hermetically sealed containment: Steel-lined \rightarrow low leakage \rightarrow low risk to the public

Containment Thermal Hydraulic Analysis



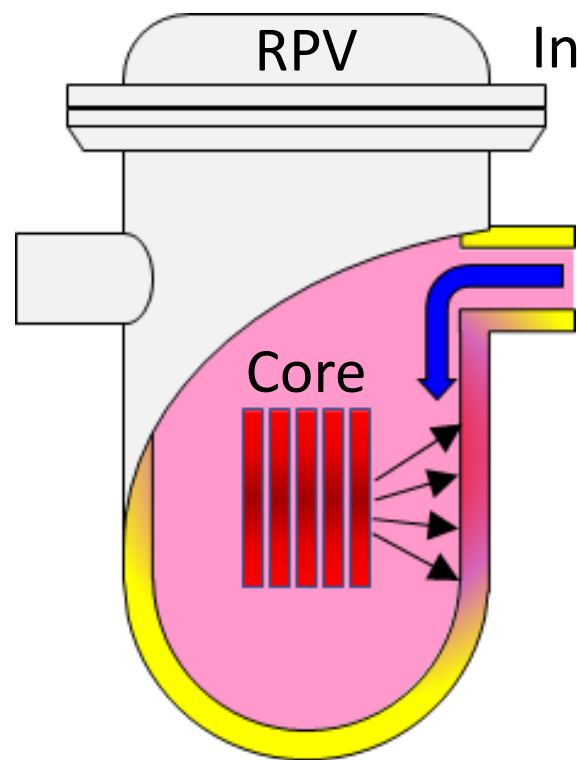
Scenario	Peak Pressure
Main Steam Line Break (MSLB)	1.73 kg/cm ² (g)
Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident (LB-LOCA)	1.4 kg/cm ² (g)





Initiating
Event

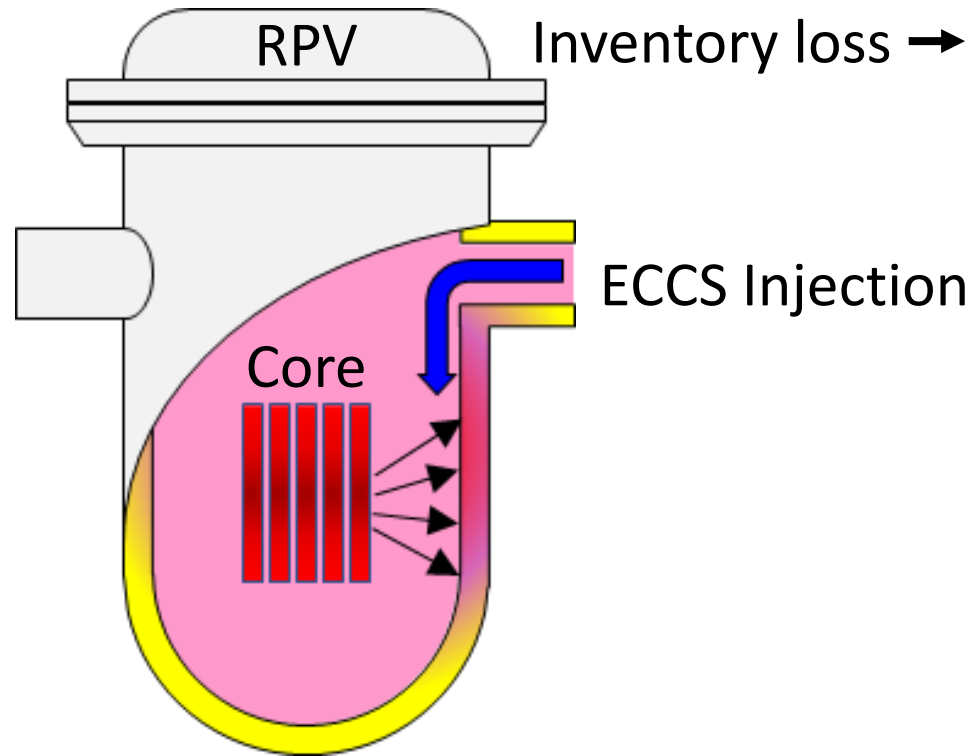
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



Inventory loss → Steep fall in PHT pressure

Initiating
Event

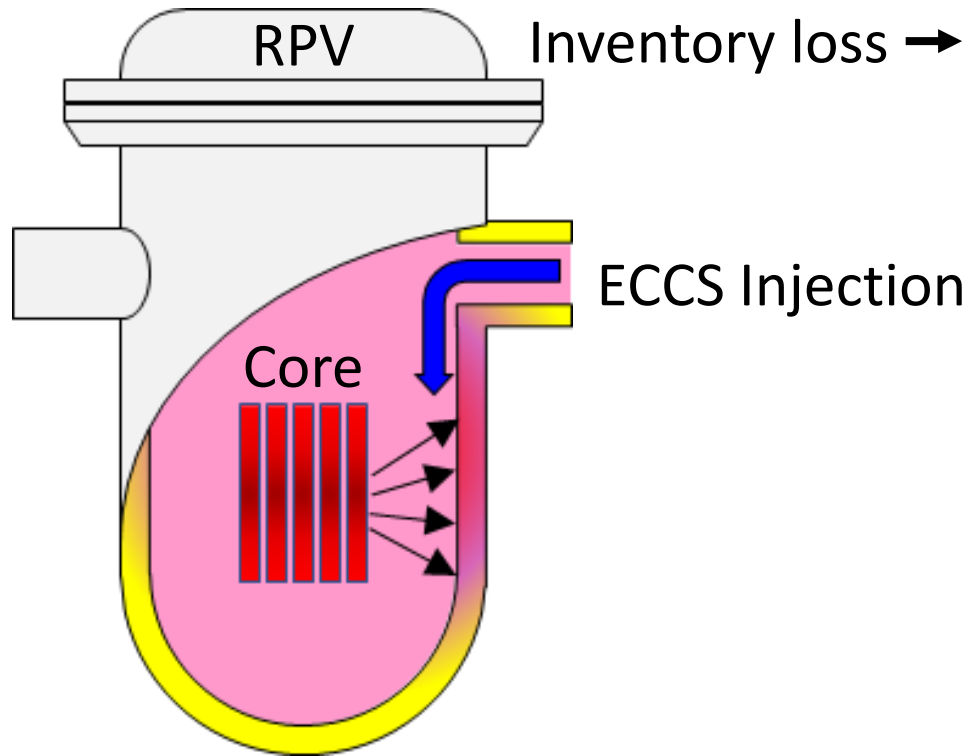
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



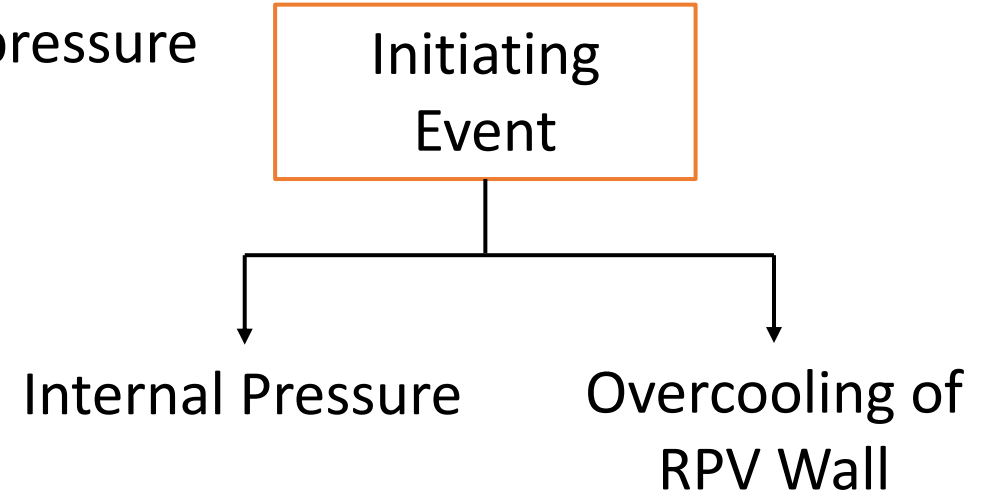
Inventory loss → Steep fall in PHT pressure

Initiating
Event

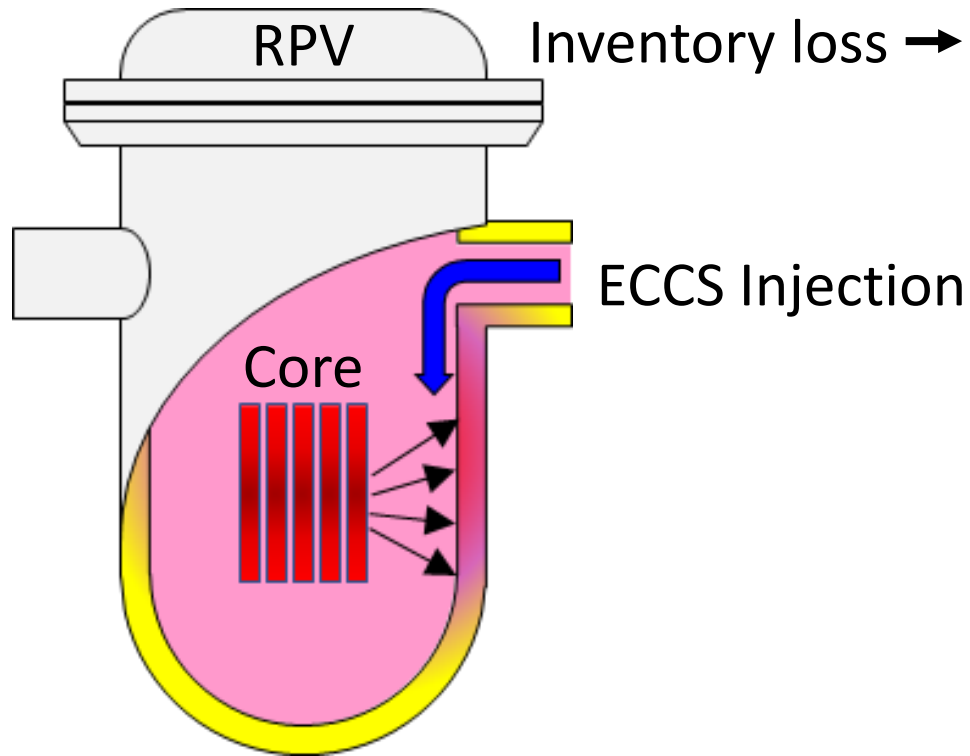
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



Inventory loss → Steep fall in PHT pressure

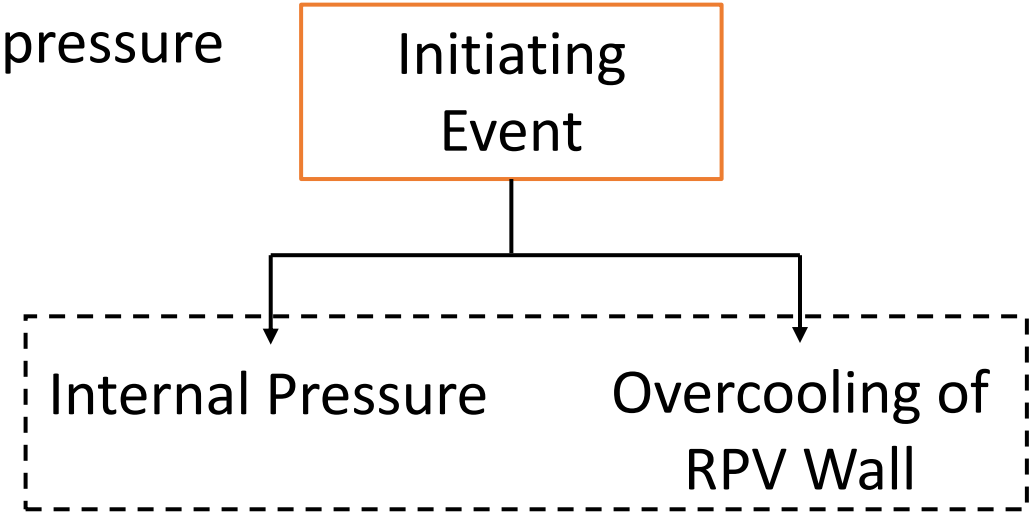


RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock

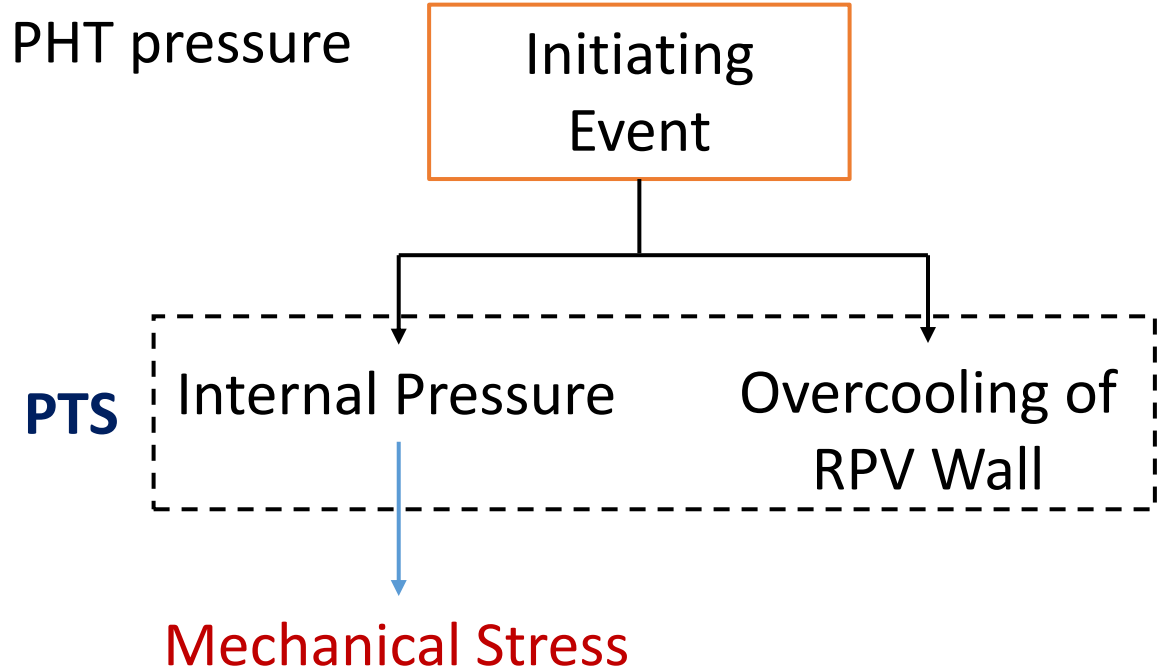
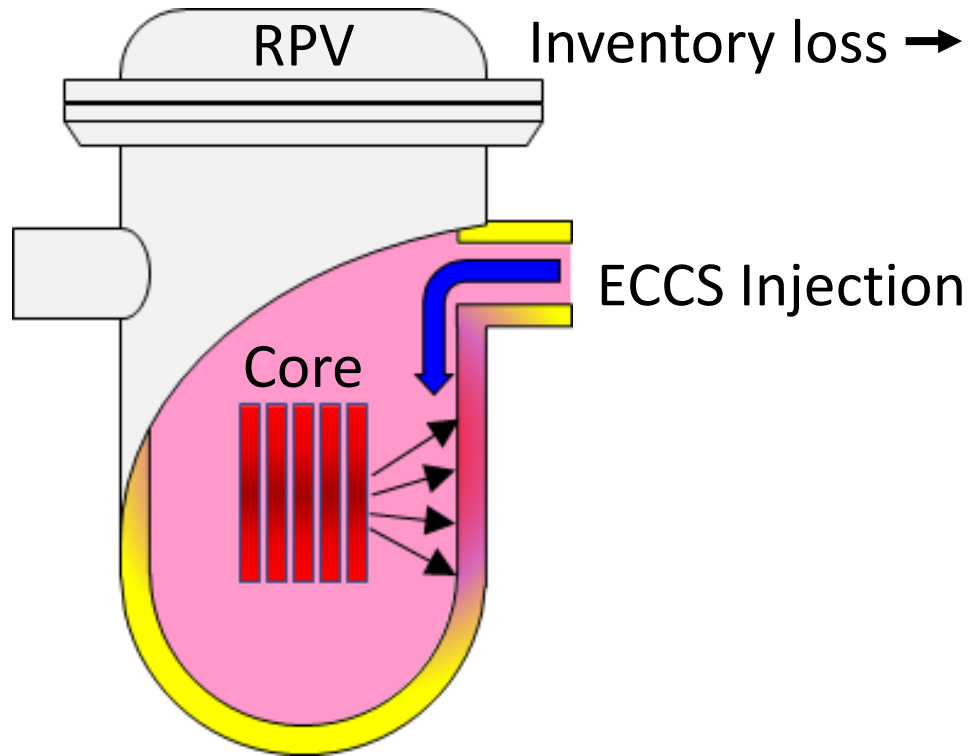


Inventory loss → Steep fall in PHT pressure

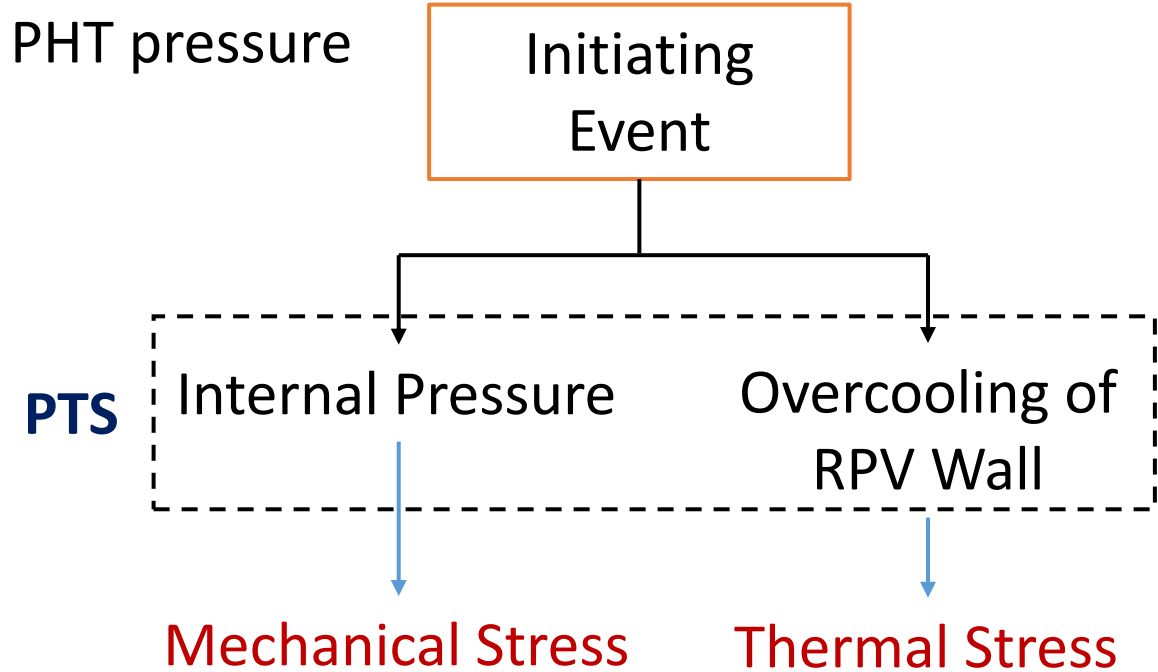
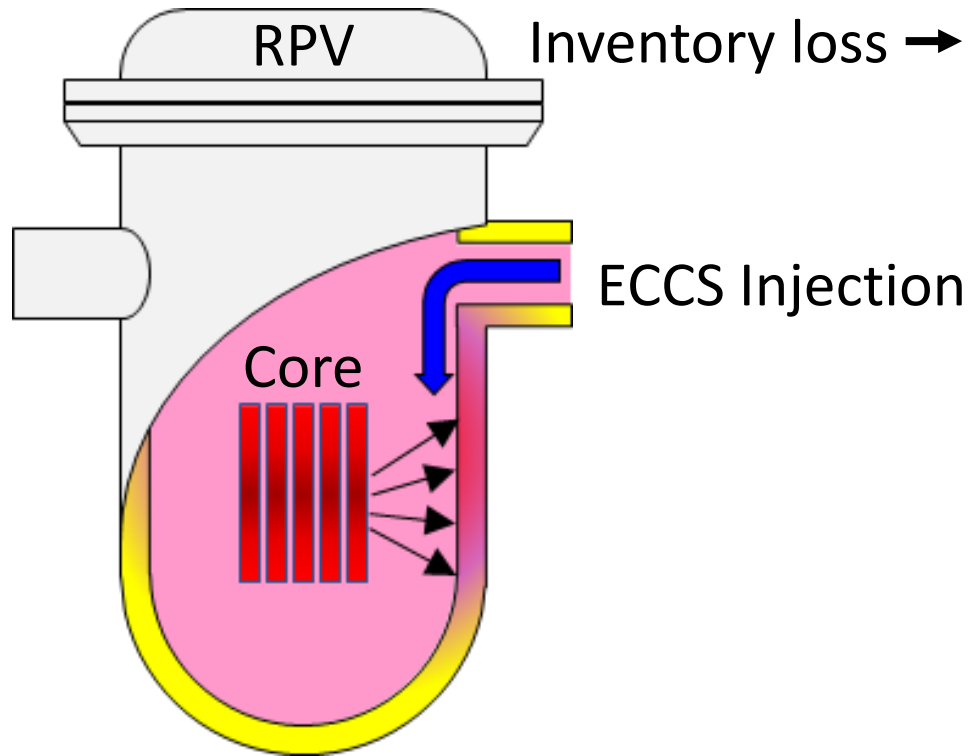
PTS



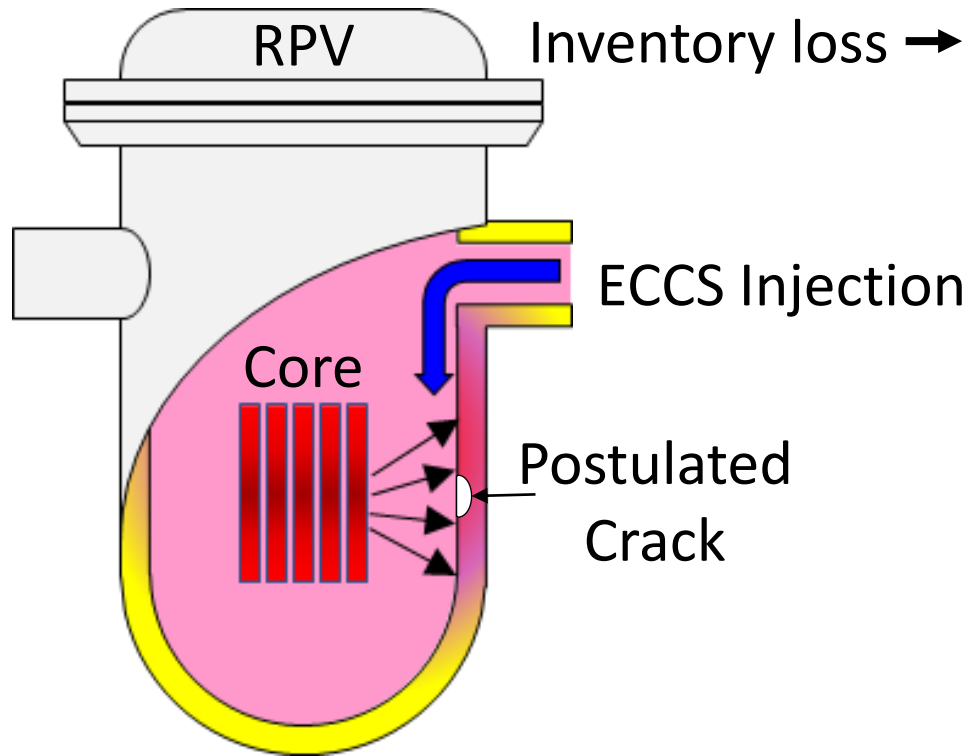
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



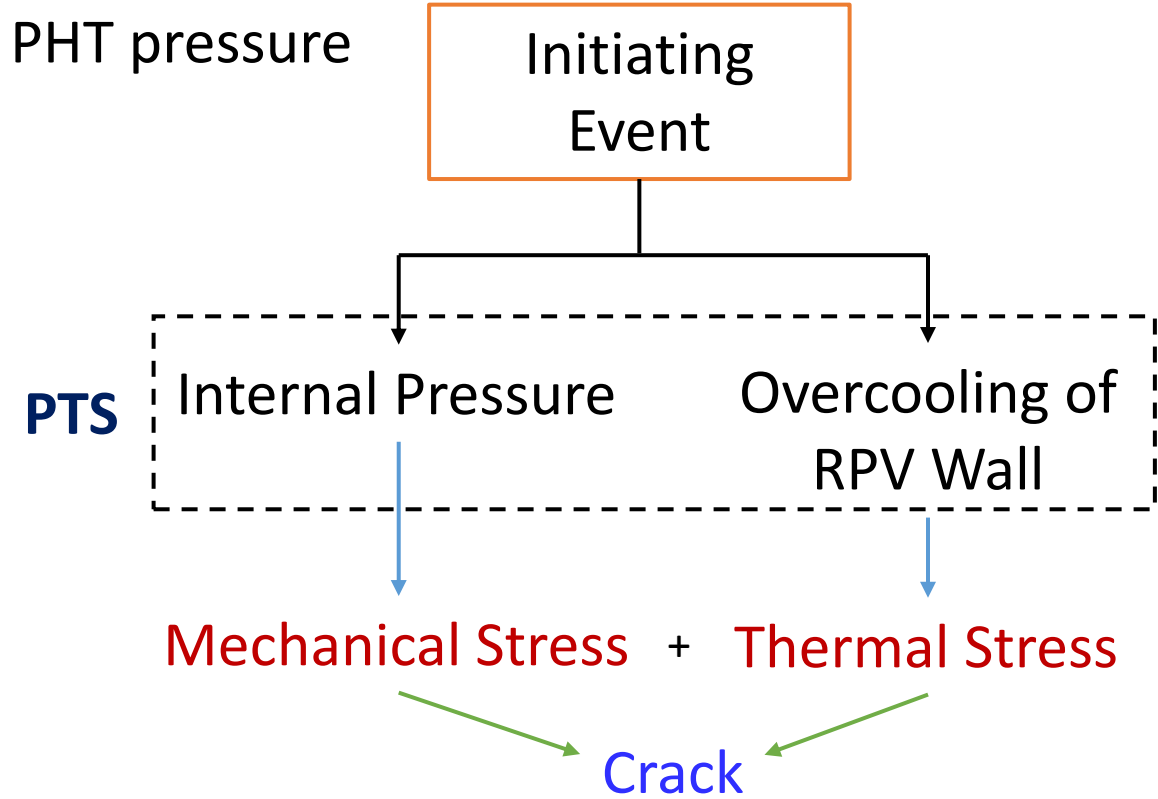
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



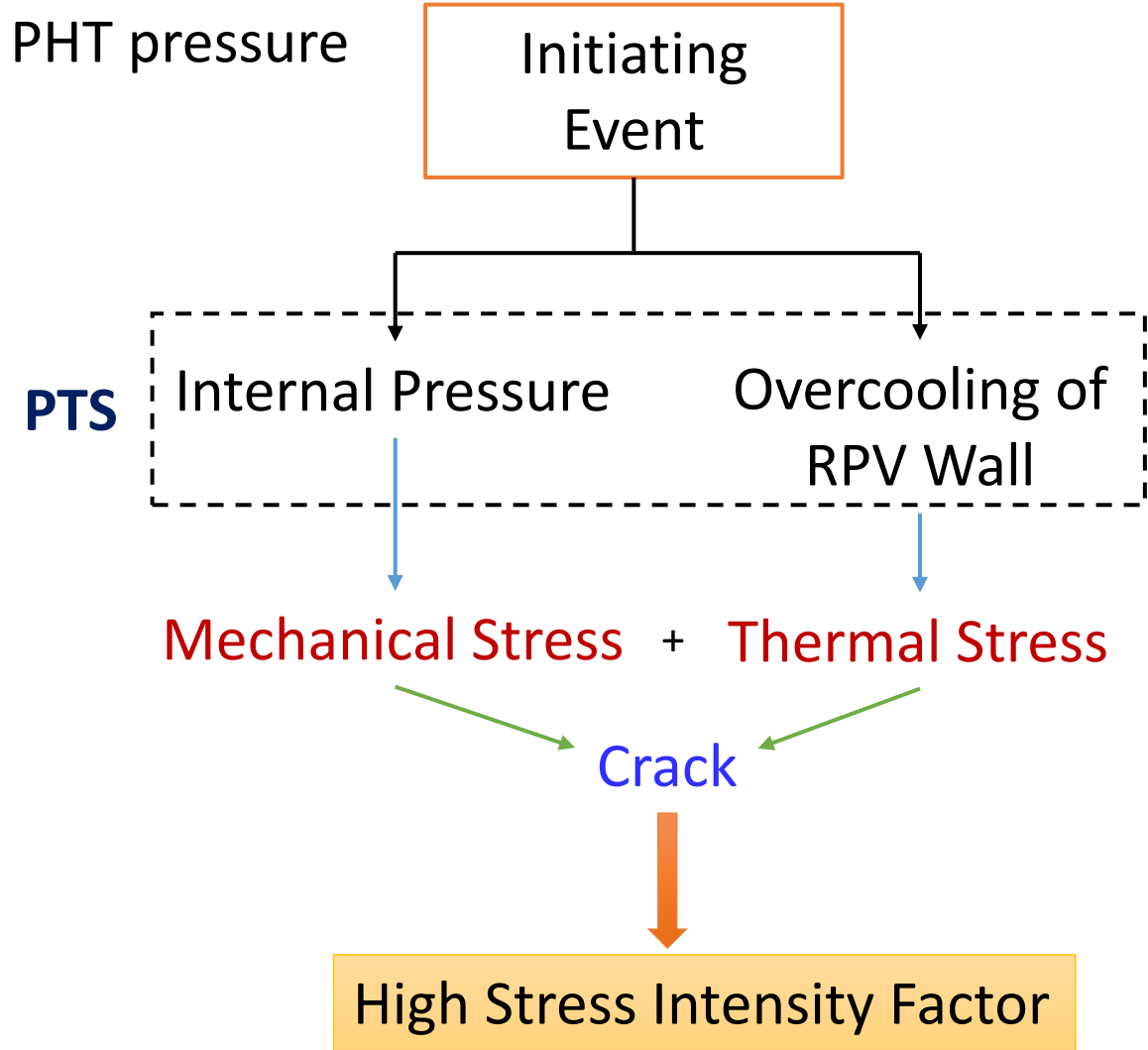
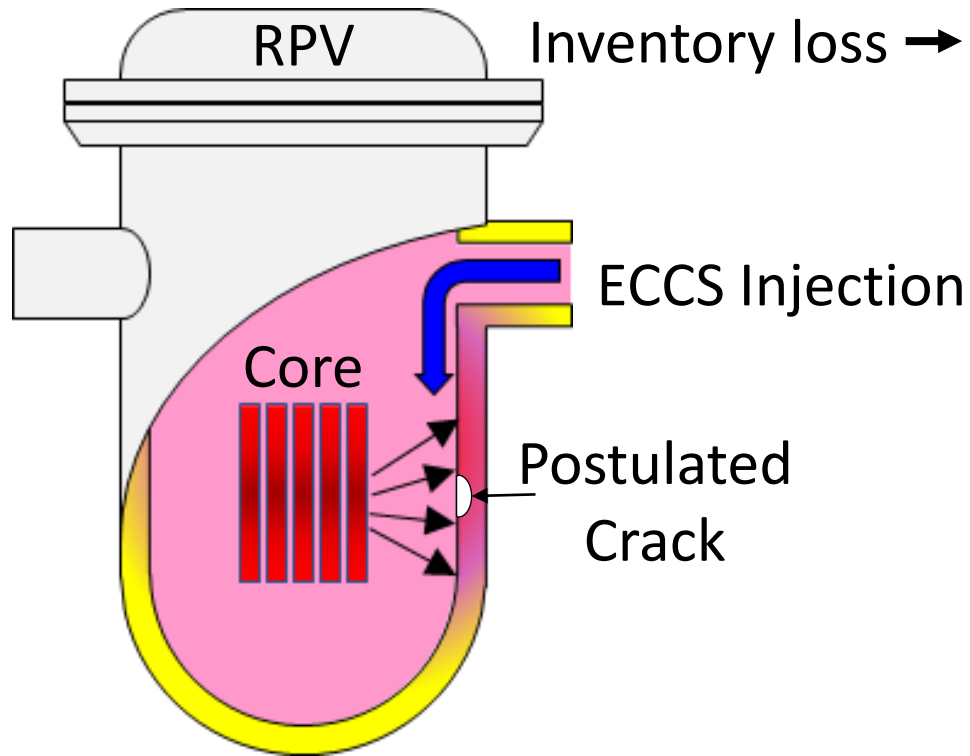
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



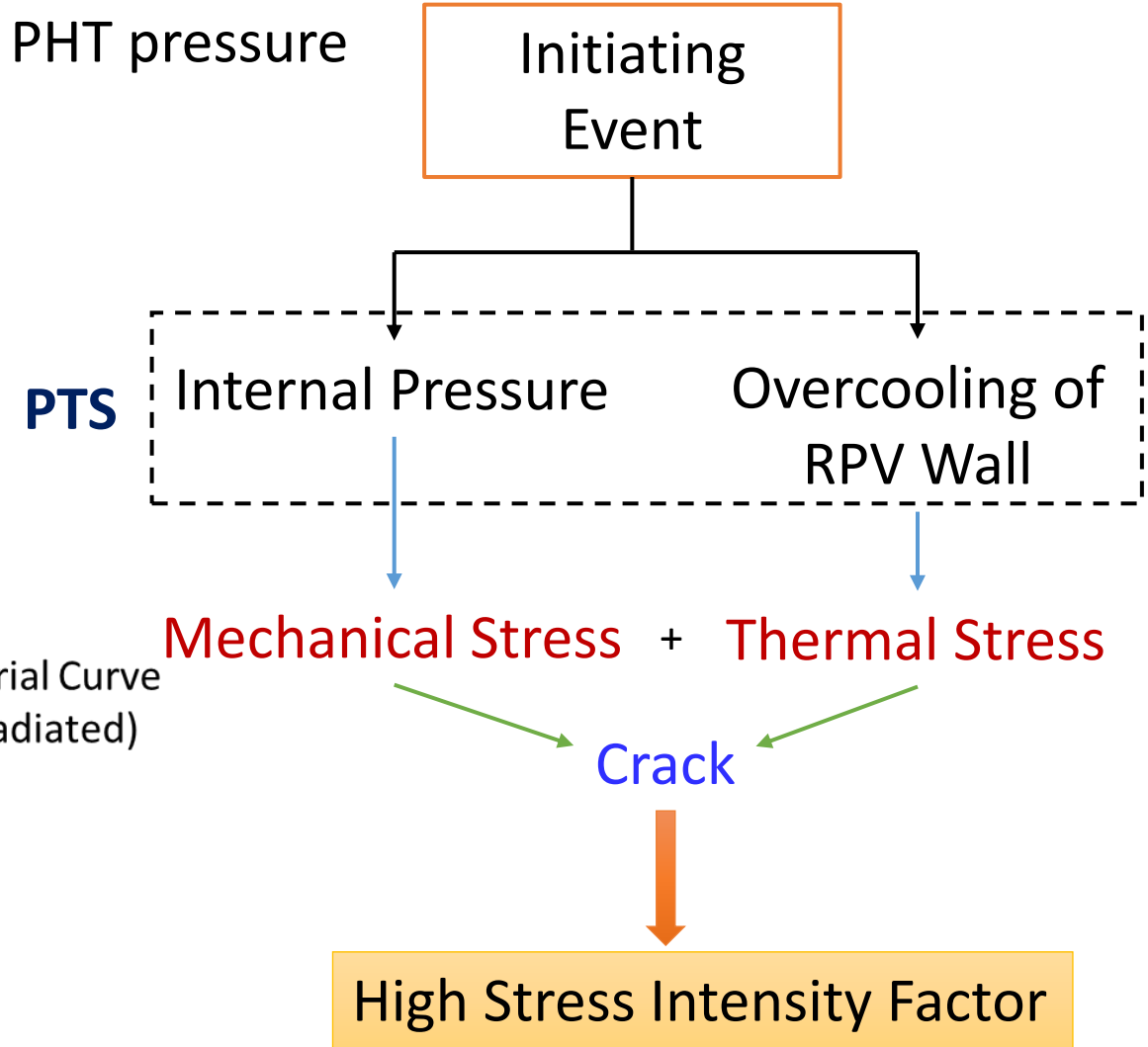
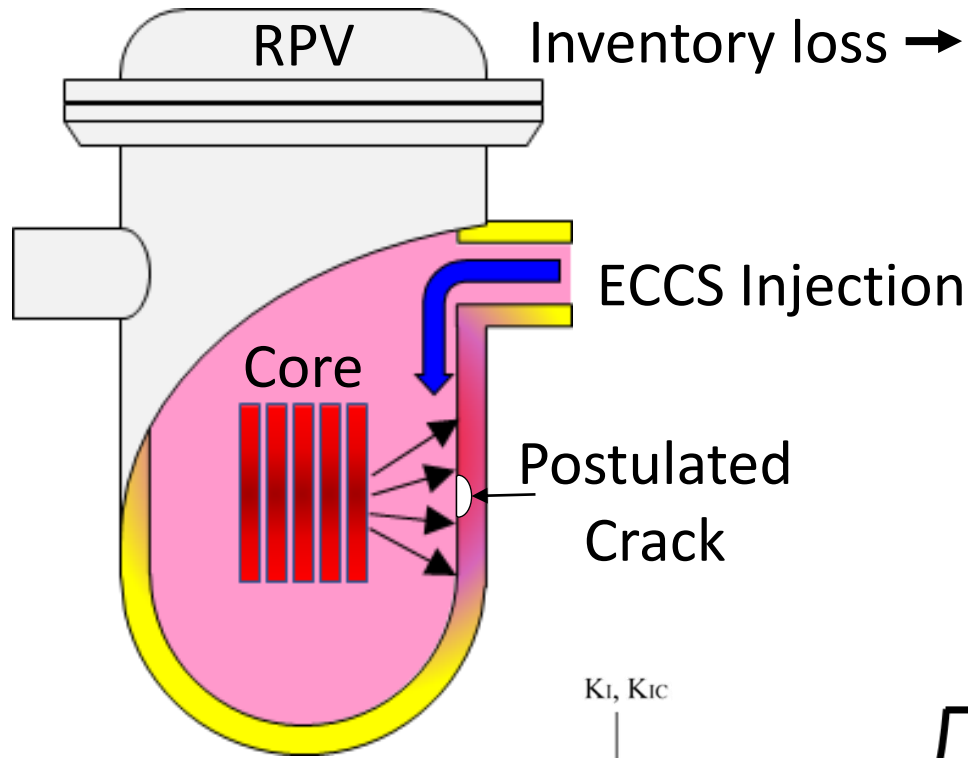
Inventory loss → Steep fall in PHT pressure



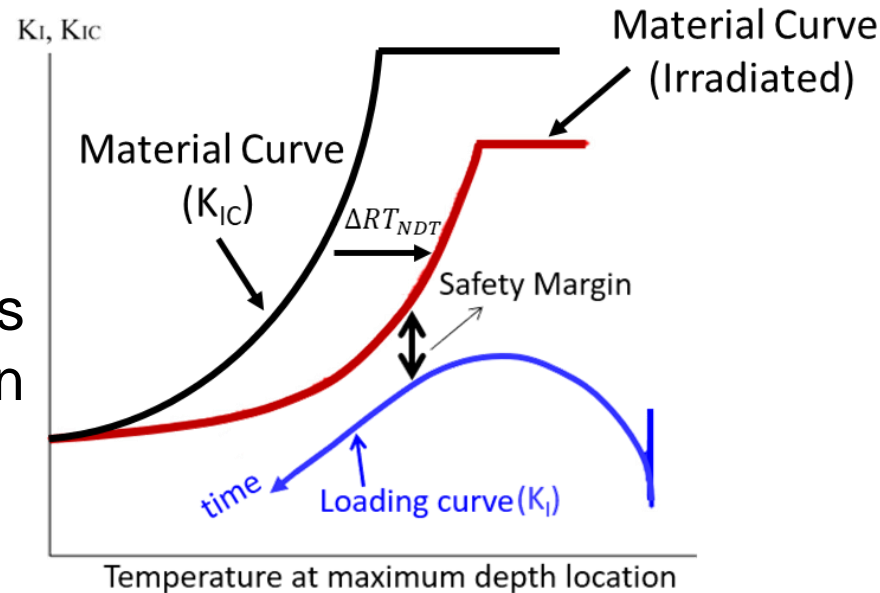
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



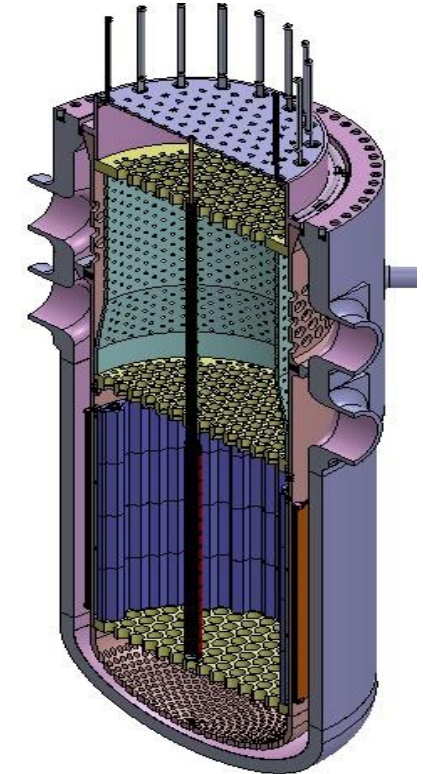
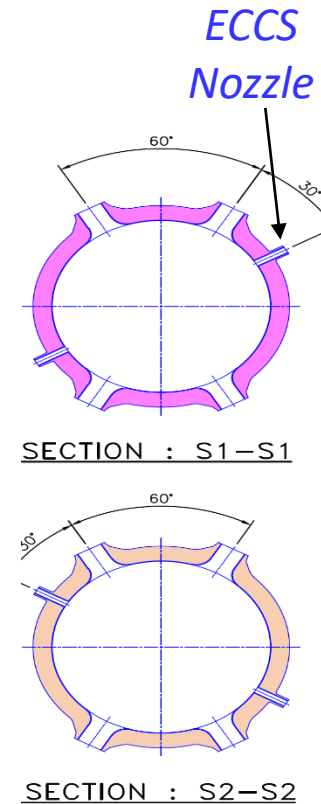
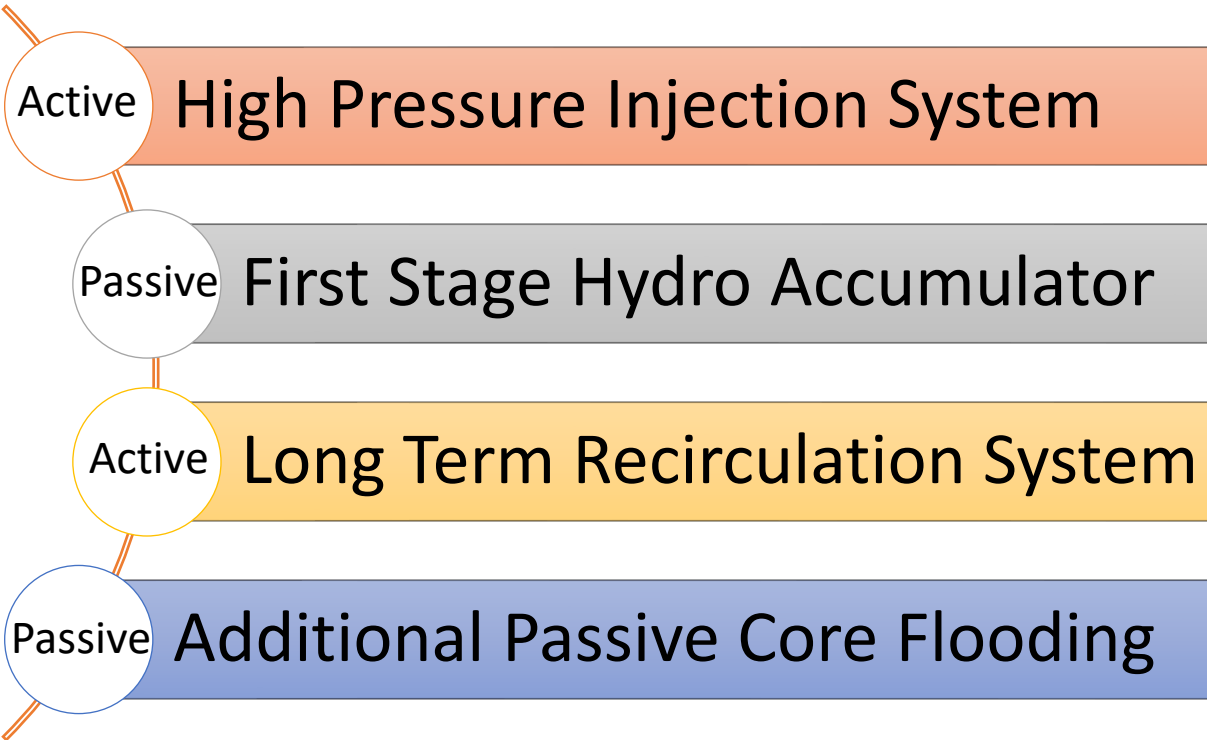
RPV Design Qualification for Pressurized Thermal Shock



Material curve accounts for maximum irradiation induced degradation

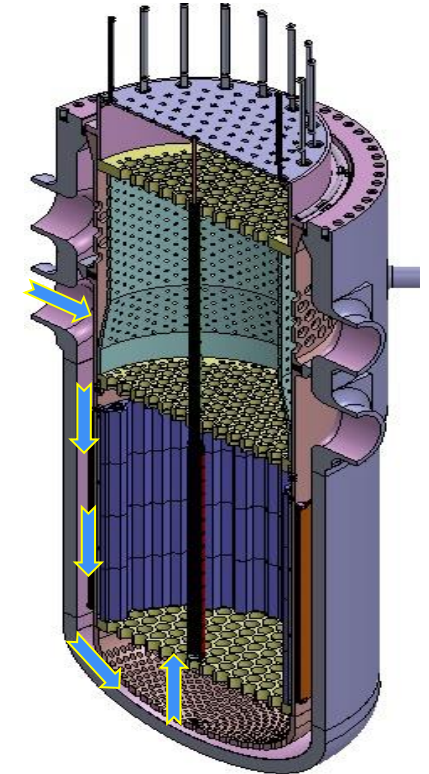
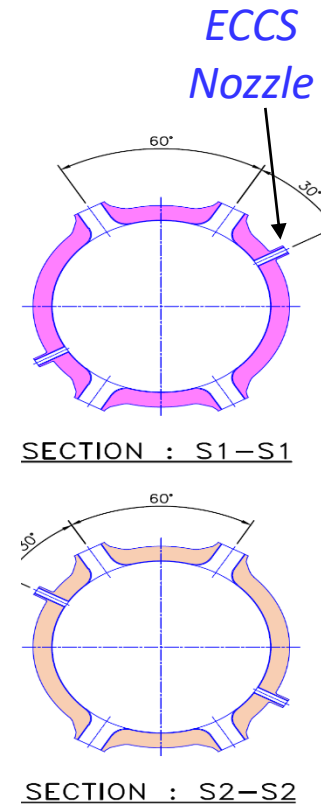
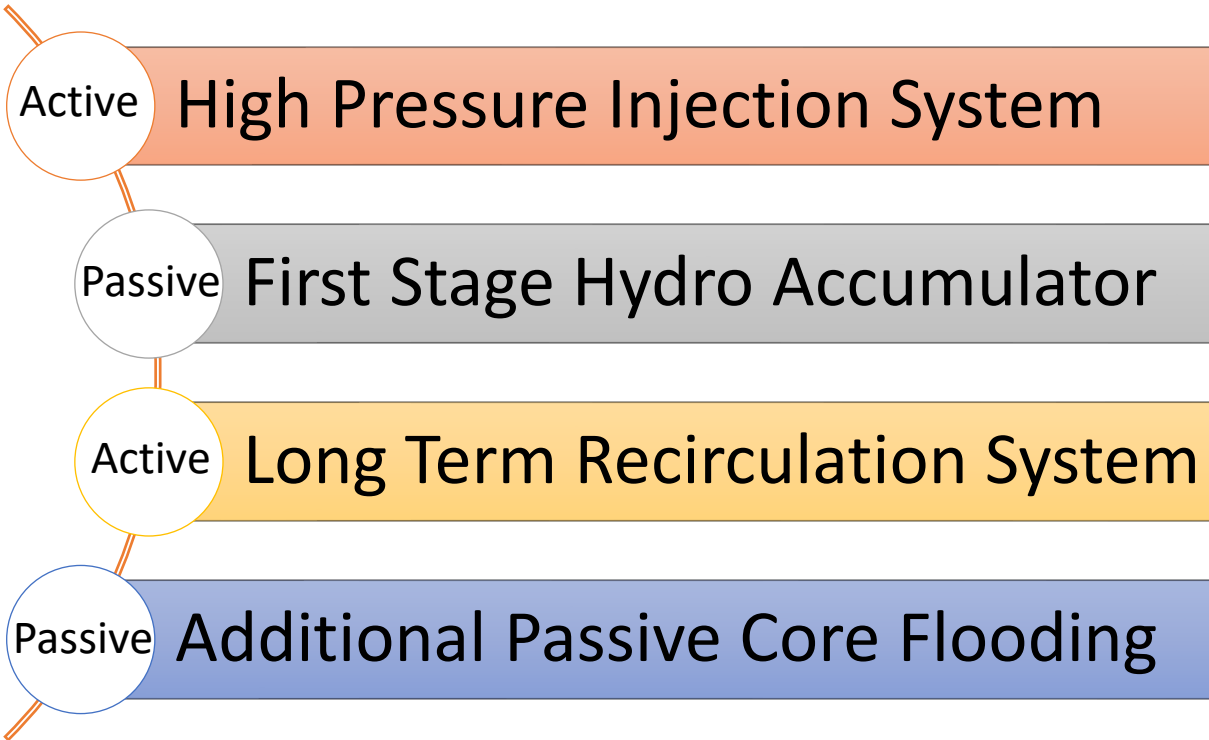


ECCS is a safety systems that inject water into the reactor core to prevent fuel overheating and meltdown.



Flow Direction during ECCS Injection

ECCS is a safety systems that inject water into the reactor core to prevent fuel overheating and meltdown.

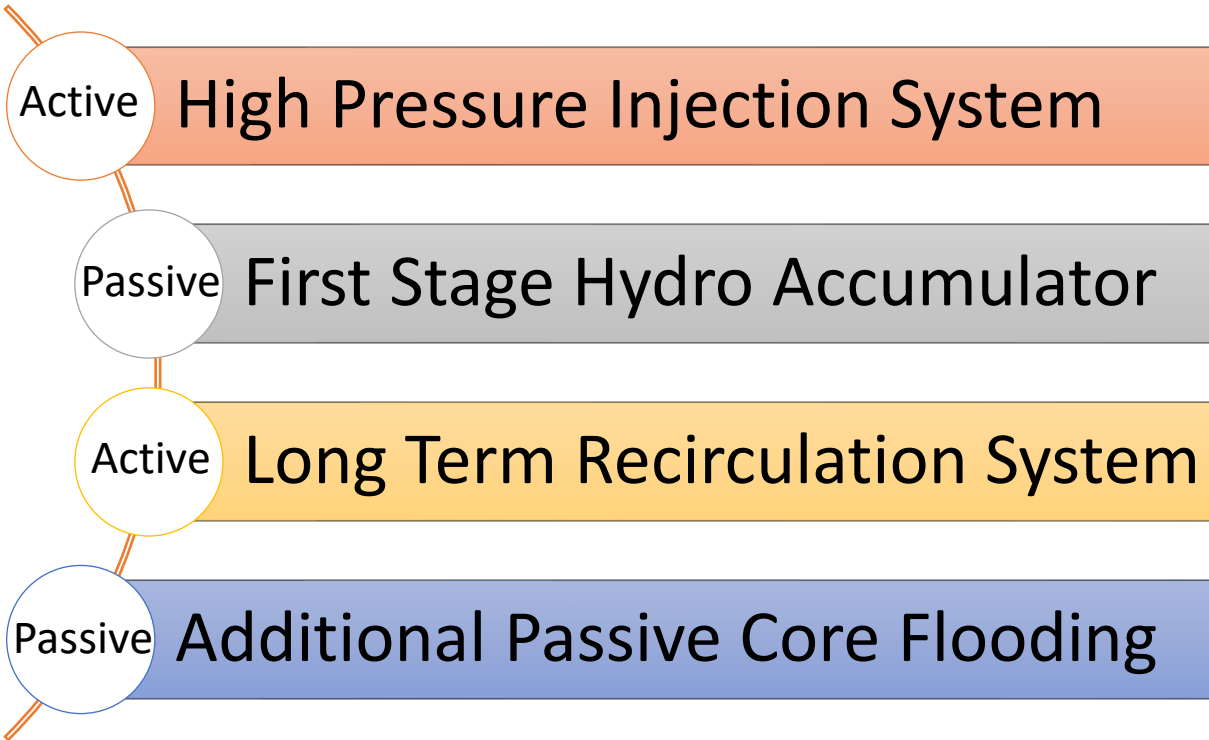


Bottom Flooding

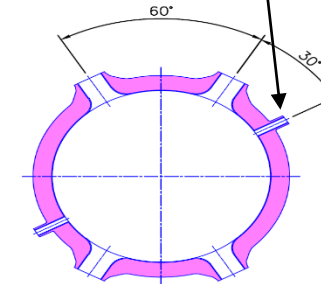
Flow Direction during ECCS Injection

Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) of BSMR 200

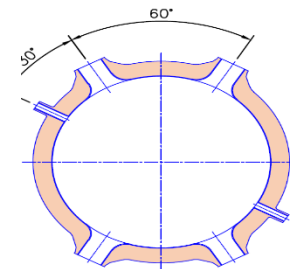
ECCS is a safety systems that inject water into the reactor core to prevent fuel overheating and meltdown.



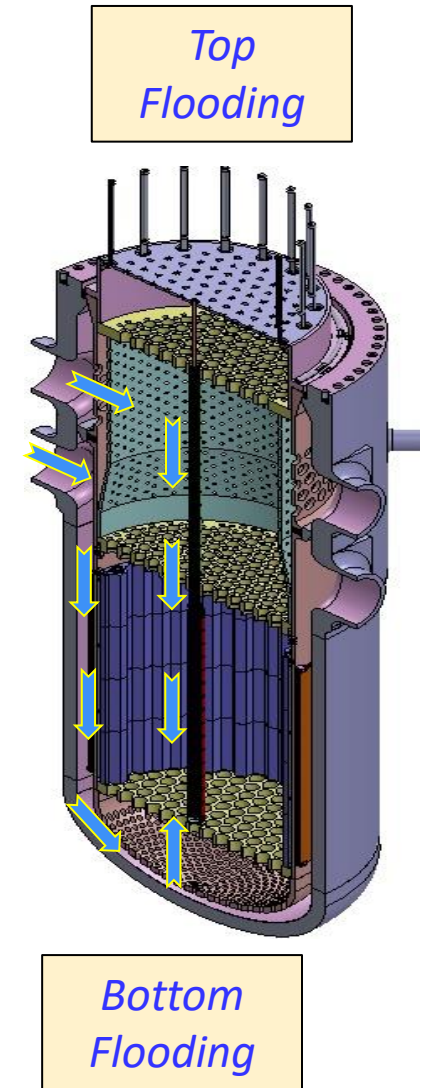
ECCS Nozzle



SECTION : S1-S1

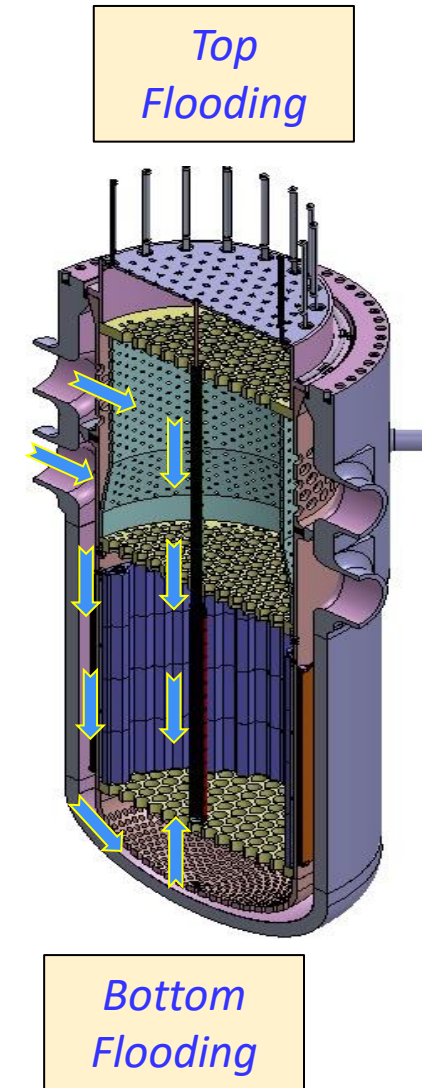
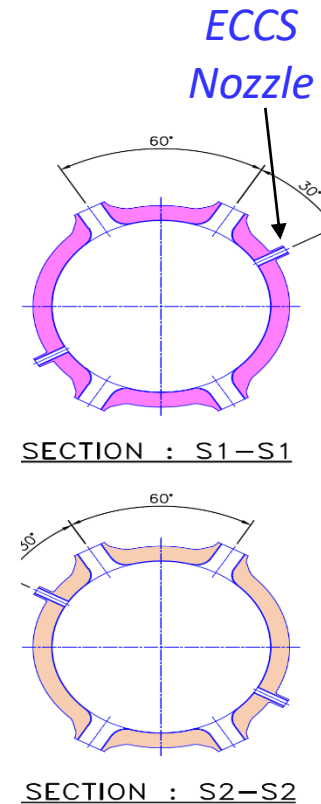
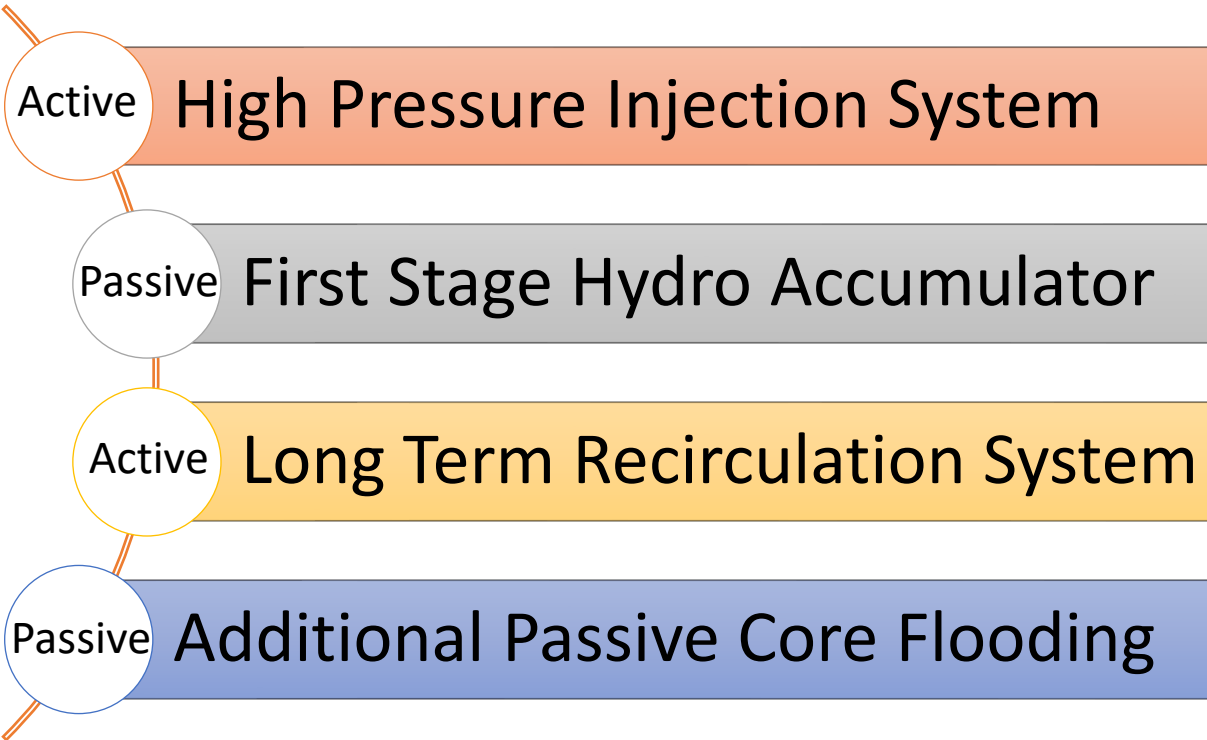


SECTION : S2-S2



Flow Direction during ECCS Injection

ECCS is a safety systems that inject water into the reactor core to prevent fuel overheating and meltdown.

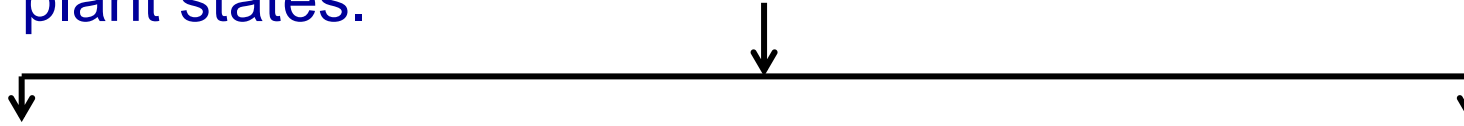


- Advantage of additional passive core flooding (24 h) during **In-Vessel Melt Retention (IVMR)** & Radiological impact under **Design Extension Condition (DEC)**

Flow Direction during ECCS Injection

Safety Analysis

Safety analysis of the plant design is to assess the challenges to safety under various categories of plant states.



Deterministic Safety Assessment

Evaluation of consequences of Postulated Initiating Event

- Estimation of Fuel Temperature
- Check for Fuel Failure
- If failed, estimate radioactivity release
- Evaluate Dose to public

Probabilistic Safety Assessment

Evaluation of likelihood of occurrence of undesirable event and its consequence

- Level 1: Core Damage Frequency (CDF)
- Level 2: Large Early Release Frequency (LERF)

Safety Analysis

Safety analysis of the plant design is to assess the challenges to safety under various categories of plant states.

Deterministic Safety Assessment

Evaluation of consequences of Postulated Initiating Event

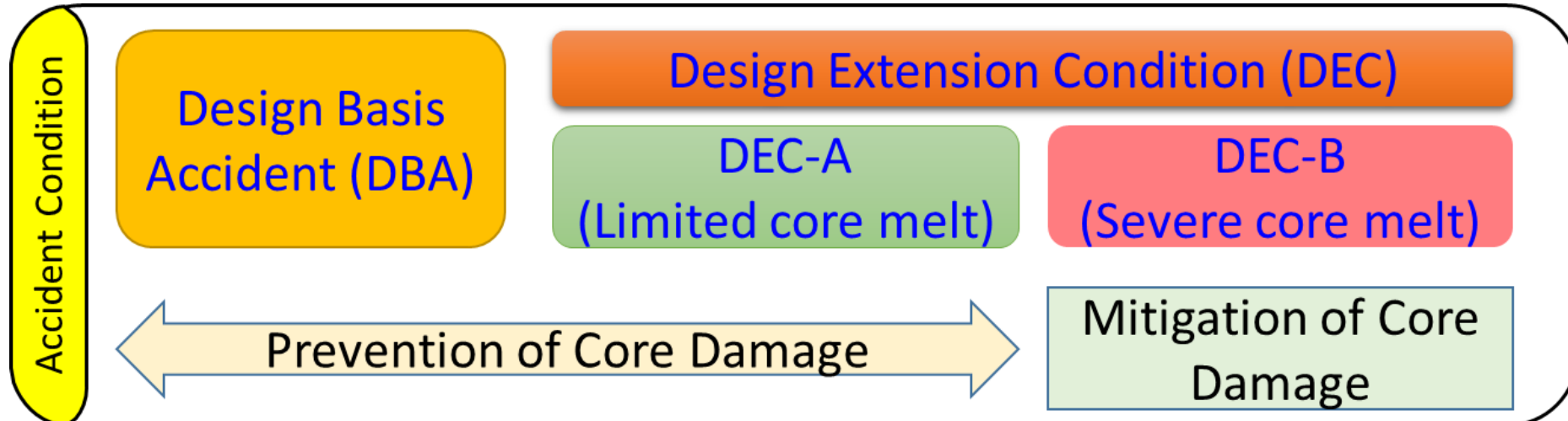
- Estimation of Fuel Temperature
- Check for Fuel Failure
- If failed, estimate radioactivity release
- Evaluate Dose to public

Probabilistic Safety Assessment

Evaluation of likelihood of occurrence of undesirable event and its consequence

- Level 1: Core Damage Frequency (CDF)
- Level 2: Large Early Release Frequency (LERF)

Scope of Analysis



Design Basis Accident

Preliminary Safety Assessment (Enveloping Cases)

Pipe Ruptures

<i>Postulated Accident</i>	<i>Max. Clad Temp.</i>
Double-ended cold leg break	535 °C
Double-ended hot leg break	320 °C
Main Steam Line Break	320 °C

Reactivity Insertion Accident

<i>Postulated Accident</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Loss of regulation	Manageable reactivity excursions
Control rod ejection	
Main Steam Line Break	

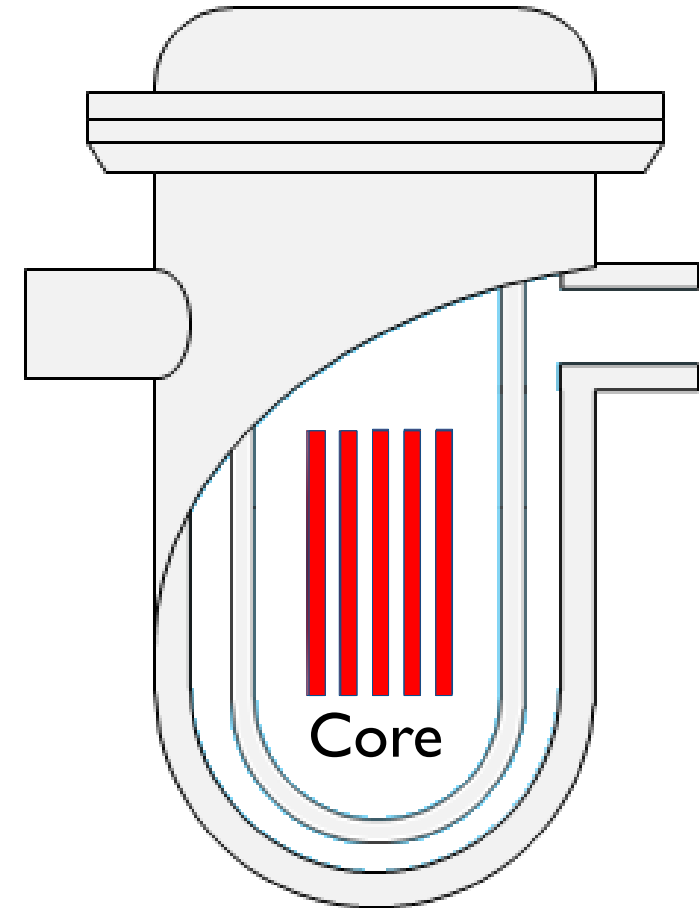
- All ECCS acceptance criteria met (Peak Clad Temperature <1200°C ...)
- Fuel temperature much below fuel failure criteria

Design Extension Condition (DEC)

Strategies for Accident Management

1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

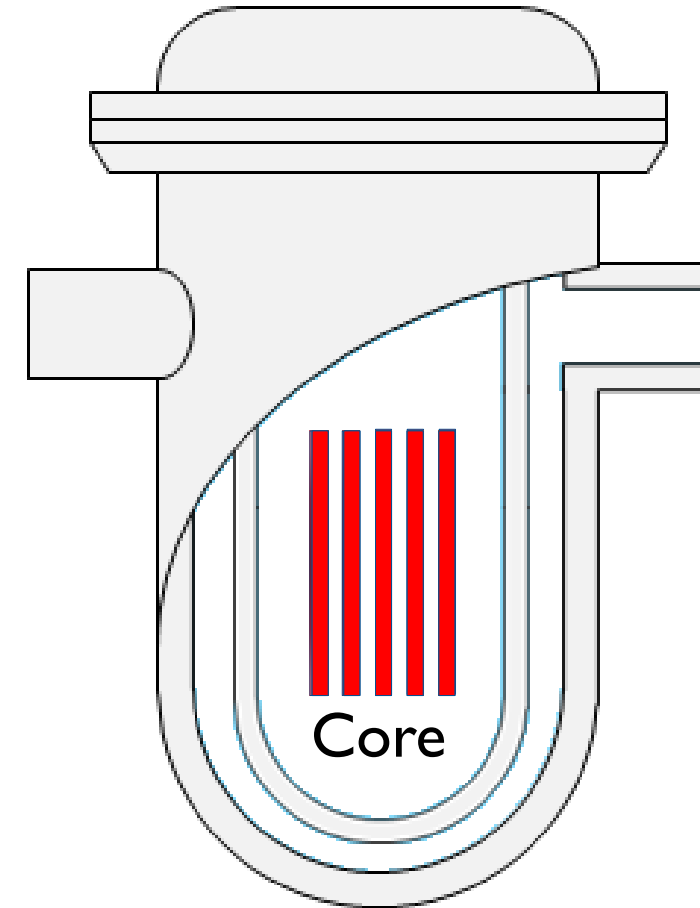


Strategies for Accident Management

1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

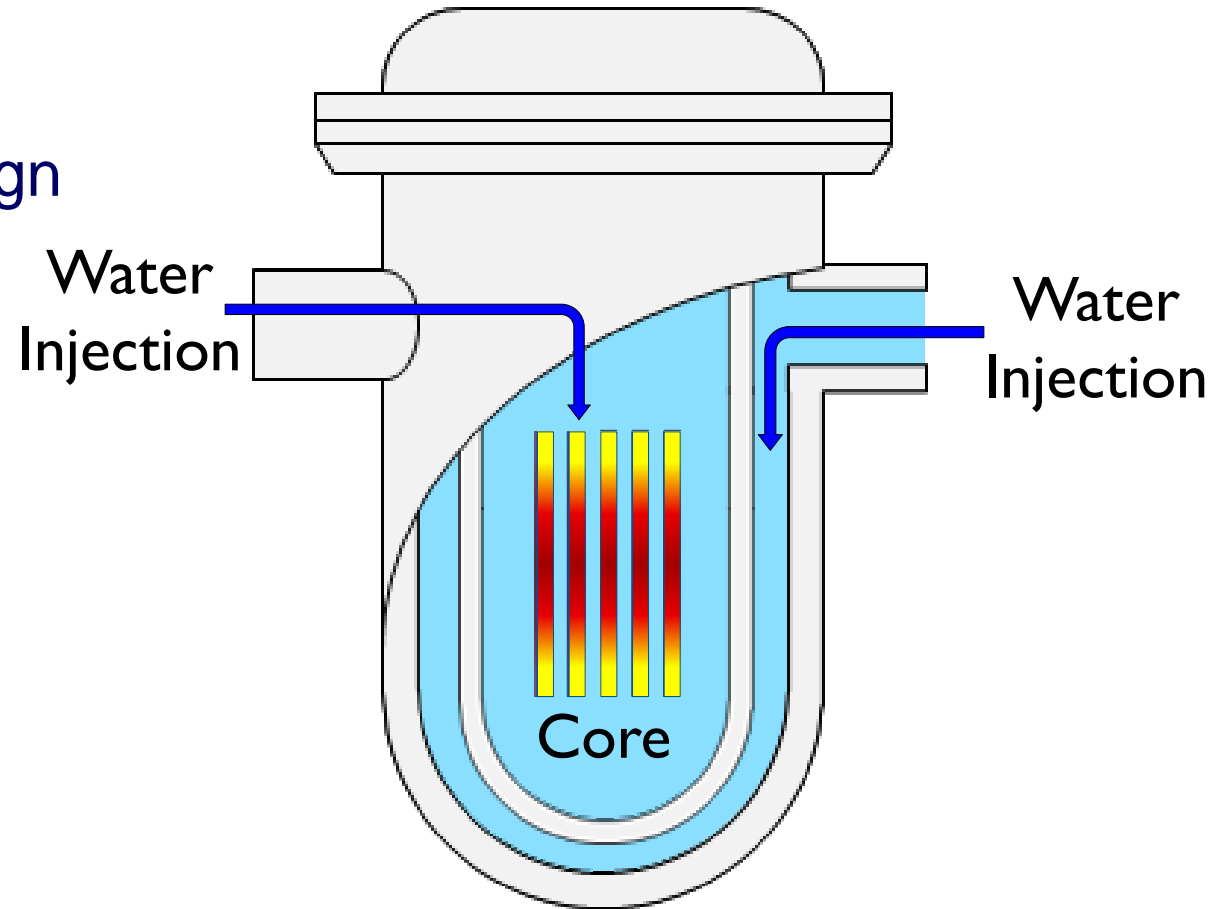


Strategies for Accident Management

1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)



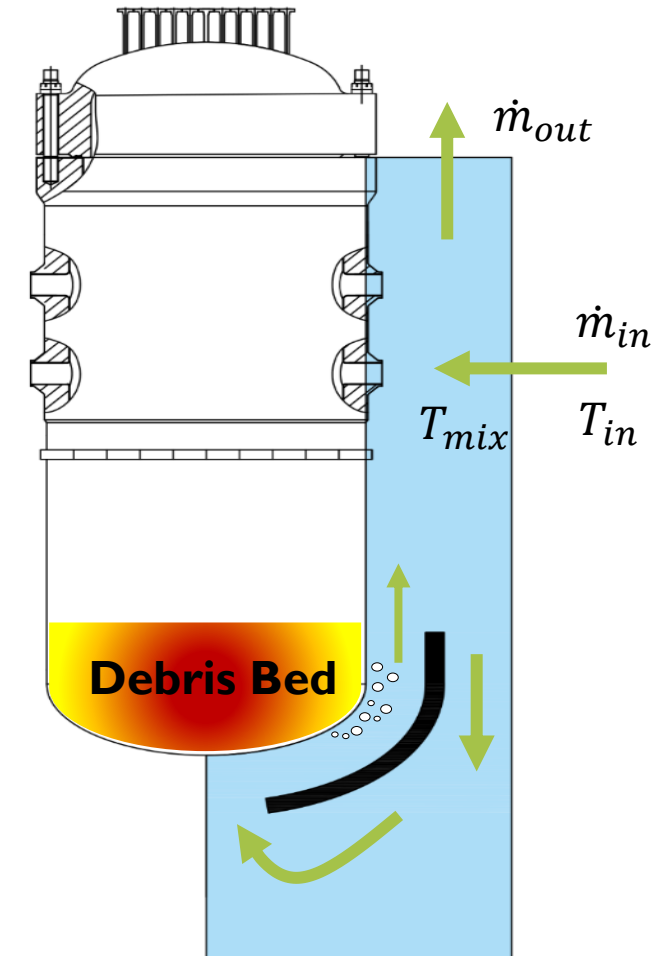
Strategies for Accident Management

1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

In-vessel retention of core melt (**IVMR**) by flooding reactor cavity



Schematic of IVMR Strategy

Strategies for Accident Management

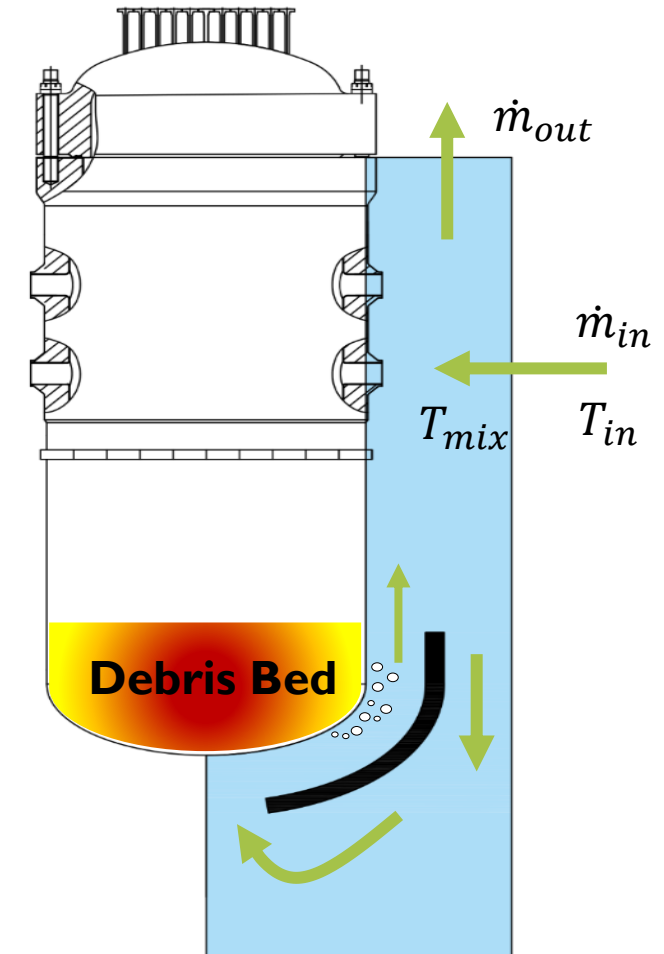
1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

In-vessel retention of core melt (**IVMR**) by flooding reactor cavity

- Cavity injection flow rates estimated



Schematic of IVMR Strategy

33

Strategies for Accident Management

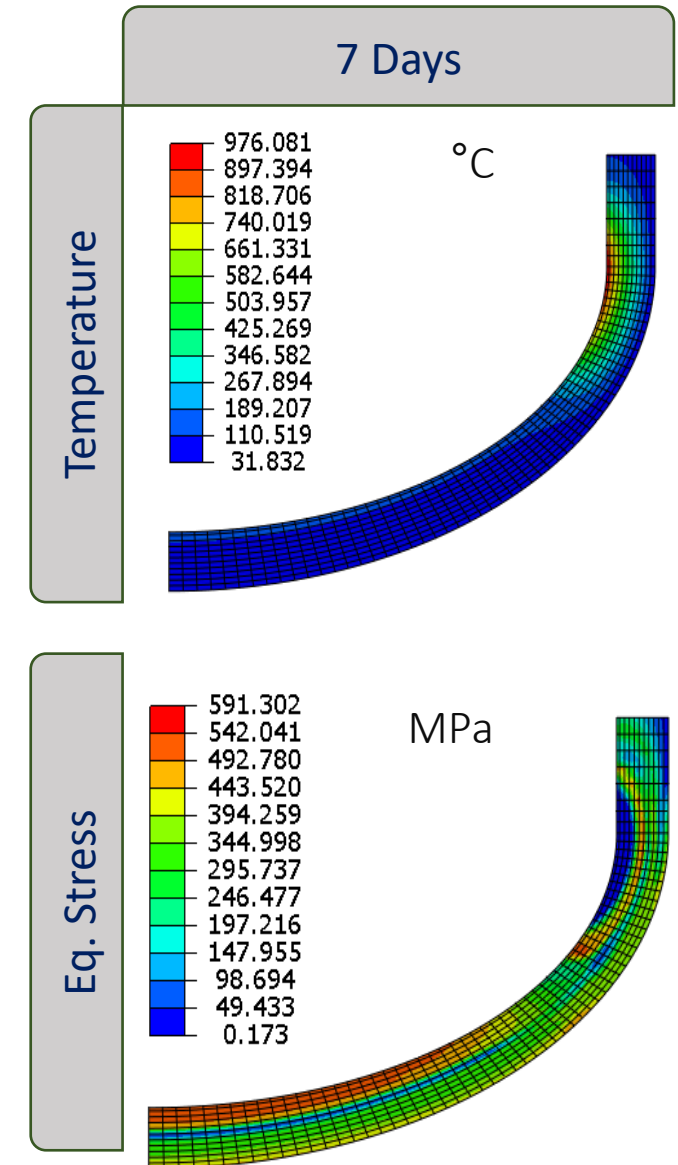
1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

In-vessel retention of core melt (**IVMR**) by flooding reactor cavity

- Cavity injection flow rates estimated
- Adequacy of Heat Removal ensured
(ablation of RPV ~ 4 cm)
- Integrity of Lower Head ensured



Strategies for Accident Management

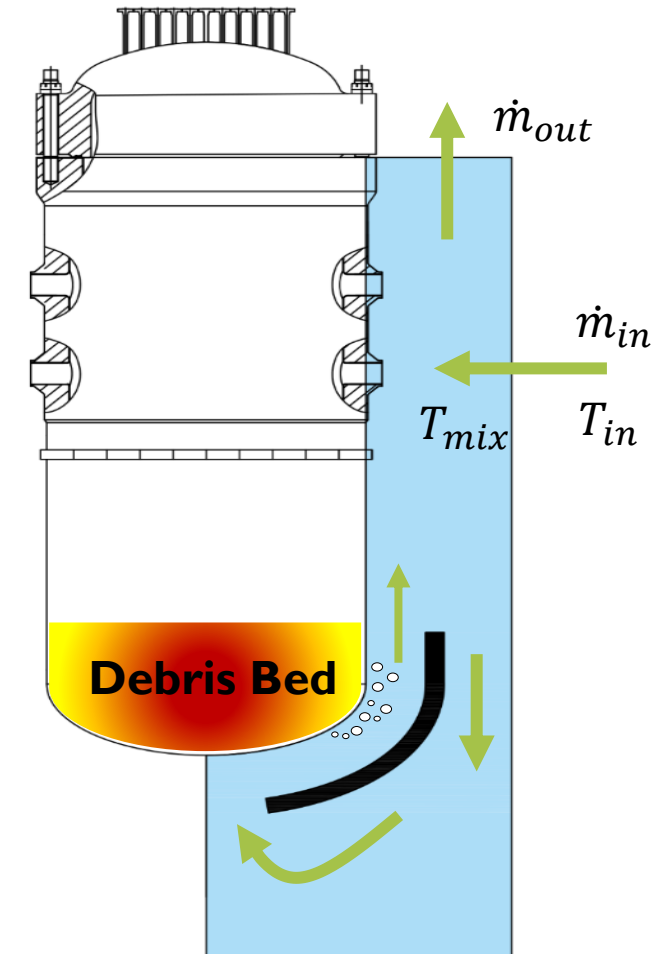
1. In-vessel Injection (Preventive)

Direct injection to RPV under Design Extension Condition

2. Ex-vessel Injection (Mitigation)

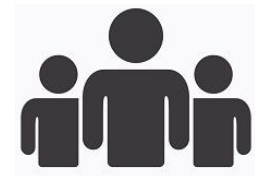
In-vessel retention of core melt (**IVMR**) by flooding reactor cavity

- Cavity injection flow rates estimated
- Adequacy of Heat Removal ensured (ablation of RPV ~ 4 cm)
- Integrity of Lower Head ensured
- No re-criticality risk with the degraded core.



Schematic of IVMR Strategy

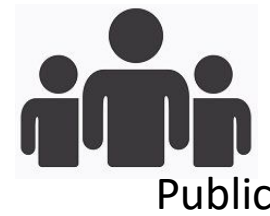
Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment



Public

Key considerations

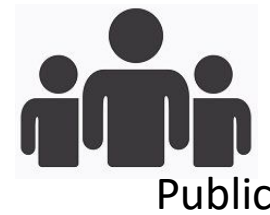
Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment



Key considerations

1. Source Term

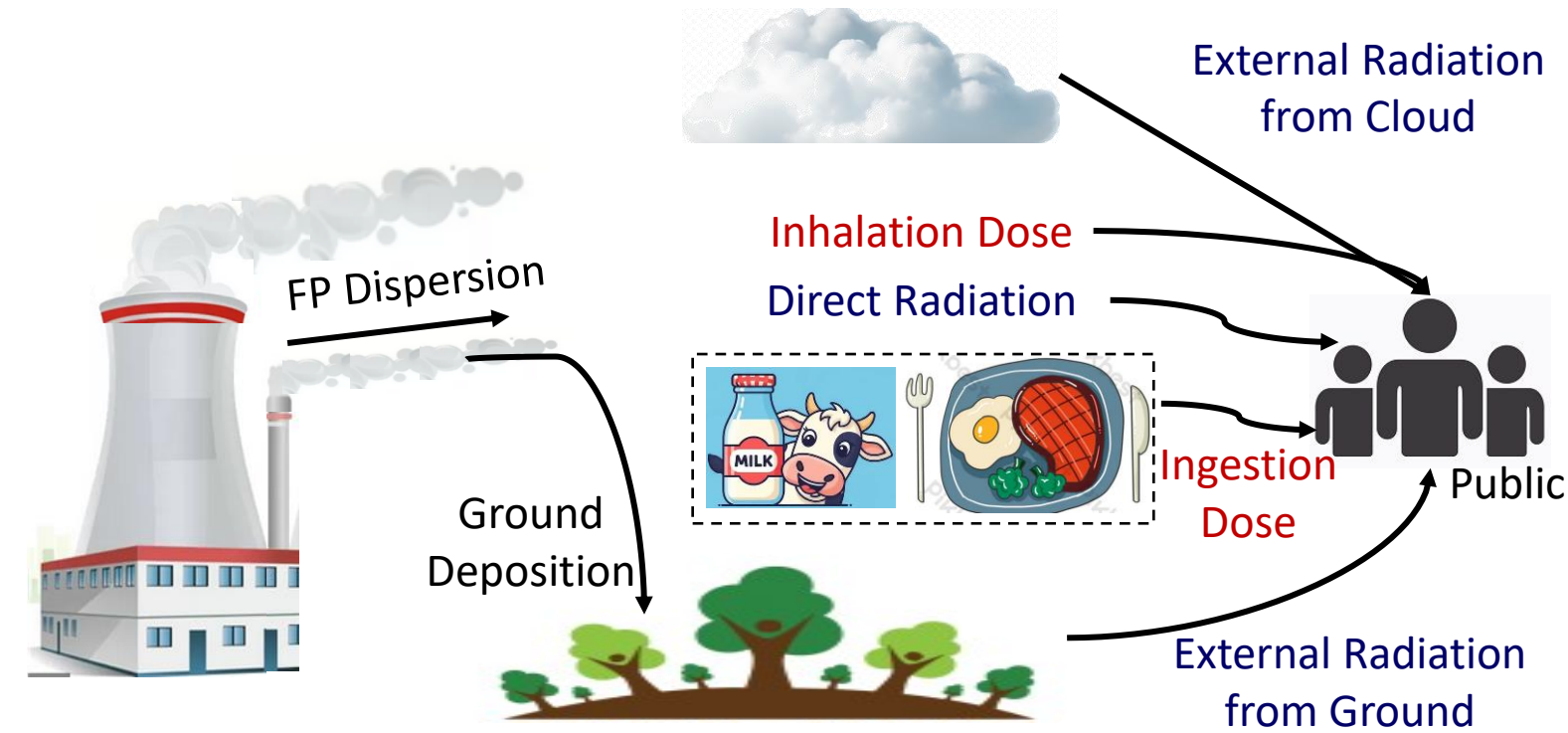
Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment



Key considerations

1. *Source Term*
2. *Metrological + Site-specific Data*

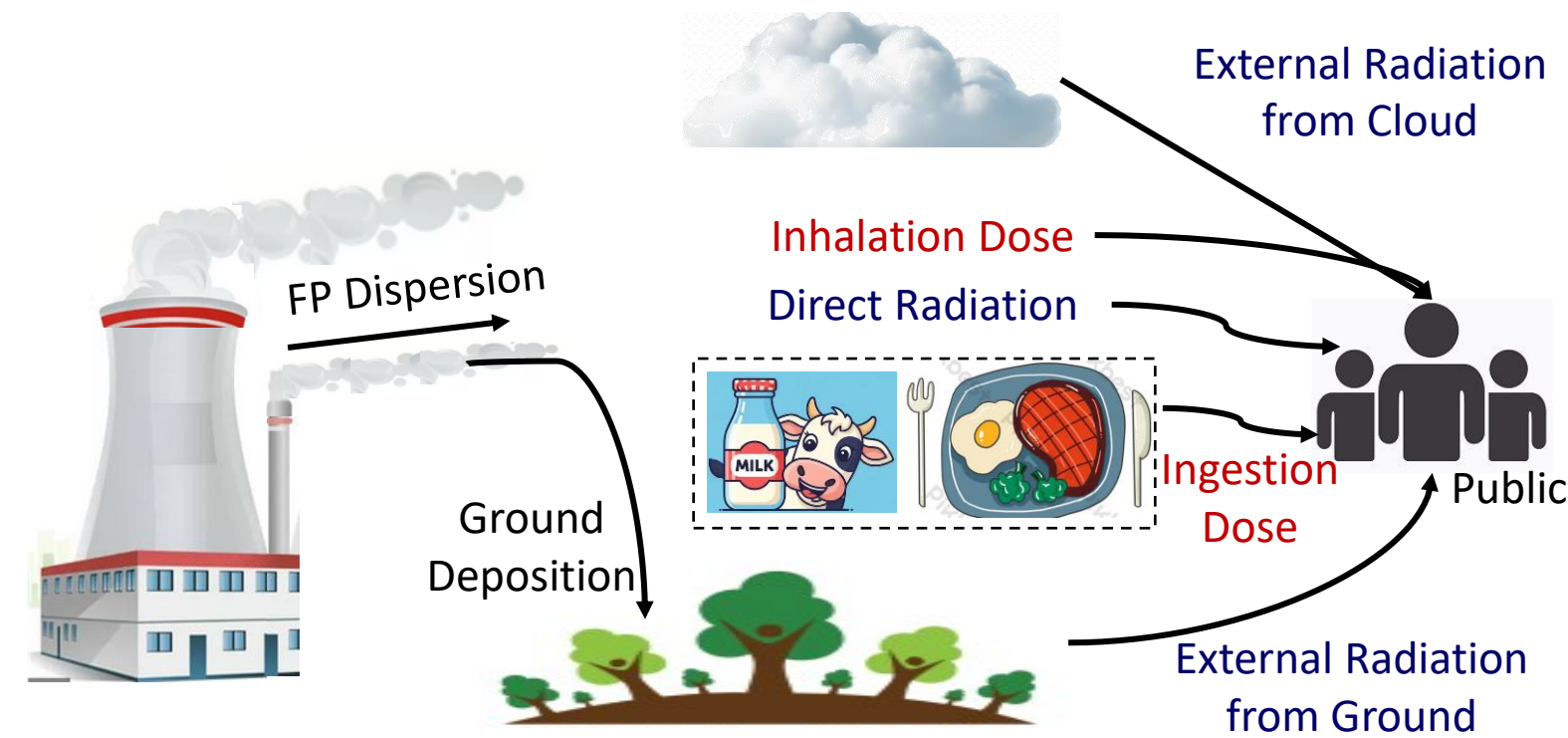
Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment



Key considerations

1. *Source Term*
2. *Metrological + Site-specific Data*
3. *Pathways of exposure*

Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment



Key considerations

1. Source Term
2. Metrological + Site-specific Data
3. Pathways of exposure

Plant State	Scenario	Total Annual Whole Body Effective Dose	
		Evaluated @ 500 m	Regulatory Limit @ EZ
DBA	LB-LOCA	10 $\mu\text{Sv/y}$	20 mSv
DEC-A	MSLB + Single SG Tube Rupture	2.35 mSv/y	20 mSv
DEC-B	LB-LOCA + Extended SBO	No requirement of permanent relocation	



Summary of Safety Assessment

1. Containment peak pressure of **1.73 kg/cm² (g)** in the event of **MSLB**
2. ECCS with **24 h of passive accumulators** to mitigate Severe Accidents
3. Accident Management during DEC condition
 - In-vessel Injection
 - Ex-vessel flooding: **Successful IVMR**
4. Preliminary Radiological Impact Assessment shows **robust design** ensuring **public safety**

Concluding Remarks: Benefits of BSMR-200

1. Development of PWR-based NPPs in India will be made possible
2. Enables demonstration of viability of PWR-based NPPs
3. Offers economically competitive PWR NPP than imported options
4. Will be a milestone in India's nuclear energy mission, compliant to 'make-in-India'



37