Analysis of Reactor Vessel Radiation Effects Surveillance Programs

L. E. Steele and C. Z. Serpan, Jr.



ANALYSIS OF REACTOR VESSEL RADIATION EFFECTS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

Prepared under the auspices of THE METAL PROPERTIES COUNCIL by L. E. Steele and C. Z. Serpan, Jr.

ASTM SPECIAL TECHNICAL PUBLICATION 481

List price \$26.00



© BY AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS 1970 Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 70–129930 ISBN 0-8031-0066-3

NOTE

The Society is not responsible, as a body, for the statements and opinions advanced in this publication.

Printed in Baltimore, Md. December 1970

Foreword

Many factors have combined to accelerate the programs of the members of the electric power industry for the erection of power stations using nuclear fuel.

The Metal Properties Council was assigned the role of analyzing and up-dating the mass of data expected to be accumulated as a result of the surveillance testing program that has been adopted as a means of measuring the changes in properties of pressure vessel materials as a function of neutron fluence.

In preparation for this task, L. E. Steele and C. Z. Serpan, Jr., have written this volume which summarizes and analyzes all pertinent information concerning the influence of neutrons on the properties of pressure vessel materials. As a convenience to the electric power industry, the Metal Properties Council previously has circulated a brief report on "Suggested Guidelines for Selecting a Surveillance Specimen Evaluation Laboratory."

This volume has been reviewed and approved by Subcommittee 6 of the Metal Properties Council. It is published with the cooperation of the American Society for Testing and Materials.

An attempt will be made to continue to gather information resulting from pressure vessel surveillance test programs in power reactors. The results of the analysis of this program also will be prepared by the Metal Properties Council.

Adolph O. Schaefer

The Metal Properties Council

Related ASTM Publications

Effects of High-Energy Radiation on Inorganic Substances, STP 400 (1966), \$5.25

Irradiation Effects in Structural Alloys for Thermal and Fast Reactors, STP 457 (1969), \$36.00

Contents

Synopsis and Report Highlights	1
CHAPTER 1—Basis for Vessel Surveillance (Figs. 1-15)	17
CHAPTER 2—Neutron Embrittlement of Pressure Vessel Steels—A Brief Review (Figs. 16–46) (Tables 1–14)	47
CHAPTER 3—Army Reactor Vessel Surveillance and Vessel Examination (Figs. 47–63) (Tables 15–21)	103
CHAPTER 4—Commercial Reactor Vessel Surveillance (Figs. 63–97) (Tables 22–39)	137
CHAPTER 5—Neutron Dosimetry and Spectrum (Figs. 98–102) (Tables 41–44b)	207
CHAPTER 6—Surveillance Programs Critique and Recommendations (Figs. 103–105) (Appendix I, Surveillance Program Recommendations) (Appendix II, Suggested Guidelines for Selecting a Surveillance Specimen Evaluation Laboratory)	237
Glossary	261
Index	267