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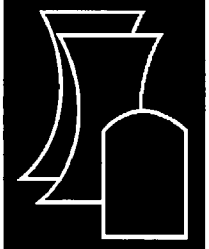

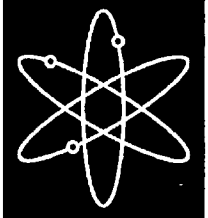

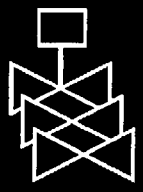

Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response to the Caldecott Tunnel Fire Scenario

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
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Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response to the Caldecott Tunnel Fire Scenario

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ABSTRACT

On April 7, 1982, a tank truck and trailer carrying 8,800 gallons of gasoline was involved in an accident in the Caldecott Tunnel on State Route 24 near Oakland, California. The tank trailer overturned and subsequently caught fire. Because this event is one of the most severe of the five major highway tunnel fires involving shipments of hazardous material that have occurred world wide since 1949, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) selected it for analysis to determine the possible regulatory implications of such events for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel by truck.

The Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS) code developed and maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was used to determine the thermal environment in the Caldecott Tunnel during the fire. The FDS results were used to define boundary conditions for a thermal transient model of a truck transport package containing spent nuclear fuel. The Nuclear Assurance Corporation (NAC) Legal Weight Truck (LWT) transportation package was selected for this evaluation, as it represents a typical truck (over-the-road) cask.

Detailed analysis of the response of the transport package to the fire was performed using the ANSYS® computer code. The staff concluded that small transportation packages similar to the NAC LWT would probably experience degradation of some seals in this severe accident scenario. The maximum temperatures predicted in the regions of the lid and the vent and drain ports exceed the rated service temperature of the tetrafluoro-ethylene (TFE) or Viton® seals, making it possible for a small release to occur due to CRUD that might spall off the surfaces of the fuel rods. However, any release is expected to be very small due to a number of factors. These include (1) the metallic lid seal does not exceed its rated service temperature and therefore can be assumed to remain intact, (2) the tight clearances maintained by the lid closure bolts, (3) the low pressure differential between the package interior and exterior, (4) the tendency for solid particles to plug small clearance gaps and narrow convoluted flow paths such as the vent and drain ports, and (5) the tendency of CRUD particles to settle or plate out and consequently not be available for release.

USNRC staff evaluated the radiological consequences of the package response to the Caldecott Tunnel fire. The results of this evaluation strongly indicate that neither spent nuclear fuel (SNF) particles nor fission products would be released from a spent fuel shipping package involved in a severe tunnel fire such as the Caldecott Tunnel fire. The NAC LWT design analyzed for the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario does not reach internal temperatures that could result in rupture of the fuel cladding. Therefore, radioactive material (i.e., SNF particles or fission products) would be retained within the fuel rods. The potential release calculated for the NAC LWT package in this scenario indicates that any release of CRUD from the package would be very small - less than an A_2 quantity (see Section 8.2).

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ABBREVIATIONS

APDL	ANSYS® Parametric Design Language
BWR	Boiling Water Reactor
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
CoC	Certificate of Compliance
CRUD	Chalk River Unknown Deposit (generic term for various residues deposited on fuel rod surfaces, originally coined by Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. (AECL) to describe deposits observed on fuel removed from the test reactor at Chalk River.)
FDS	Fire Dynamics Simulator (code)
FEA	Finite Element Analysis
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ISO	International Organization for Standardization (The International Organization for Standardization has decreed the use of the initials ISO for reference to the organization, regardless of the word order of the organization's name in any given language. This defines a uniform acronym in all languages.)
LWT	Legal Weight Truck
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
OFA	Optimized Fuel Assembly
PNNL	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
PWR	Pressurized Water Reactor
SFPO	USNRC Spent Fuel Project Office
SNF	Spent nuclear fuel
TFE	tetrafluoroethylene; generic term for polytetrafluoroethylene polymers such as Teflon®
USNRC	United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

1 INTRODUCTION

Current USNRC regulations specify that spent nuclear fuel (SNF) shipping packages must be designed to survive exposure to a fully engulfing fire accident lasting no less than 30 minutes with an average flame temperature of no less than 1475°F (802°C)[1]. The package must maintain containment, shielding and criticality functions throughout the fire event and post-fire cool down. The 30-minute fully engulfing fire was selected as a bounding scenario for essentially all credible fire accidents that could involve a SNF transportation package.

When evaluating the risks involved in the transportation of spent nuclear fuel, it is important to note that fire accidents in highway tunnels are relatively rare occurrences. This is due mainly to careful design and broadly applied mandates to minimize the risk to public safety. Fires in tunnels are typically caused by defects in vehicles traveling in the tunnel (e.g., overheated brakes, electrical failures, and collisions.) Most tunnel fires are relatively small, of short duration, and reach only moderately high temperatures. However, tunnel accidents involving vehicles carrying flammable materials can result in extremely high temperatures and relatively long-duration fires.

World wide, there have been approximately 25 serious fire accidents in road tunnels[1] in the 56-year time span from 1949 to 2005. Of these events, only 5 involved flammable hazardous material in sufficient quantities to sustain a long-duration, high-temperature fire within the tunnel. Of these 5 events, only one occurred in the United States; the Caldecott Tunnel fire in Oakland, California in 1982.

This extremely low frequency of occurrence indicates that the risk of a severe tunnel fire is statistically quite small. When combined with the extremely low probability of a SNF transportation cask being in a tunnel at the time of such an unlikely accident, the risk to public health and safety due to any potential release of radiological material essentially approaches zero. However, to properly assess the risk of any particular activity, it is necessary to evaluate not only the probability and frequency of the occurrence of such an event, but also the potential consequences of the event, were it actually to occur.

The performance of spent fuel casks in severe accidents, including tunnel fires, has been examined in previous studies conducted by the NRC, as documented in NUREG-0170 (*Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes*[2]), NUREG/CR-4829 (*Shipping Container Response to Severe Highway and Railway Accident Conditions*[3]; also known as the "Modal Study"), and NUREG/CR-6672 (*Re-examination of Spent Fuel Shipment Risk Estimates*[4]). These studies uniformly support the conclusion that the risks associated with the shipment of spent nuclear fuel by truck or rail are very small, and that current regulations governing the transportation of spent nuclear fuel adequately protect public health and safety.

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[1] FireAccidents in the World's Road Tunnels, http://home.no.net/lotsberg/artiklar/brann/entab.html
[2] NUREG -0170, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C., December 1977.
[3] NUREG/CR-4829, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., February 1987.
[4] NUREG/CR-6672, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C., March 2000.

The analysis in NUREG/CR-4829, in particular, specifically examined the Caldecott Tunnel fire, and concluded that no radioactive release or increase in radiation level would be expected from a typical SNF truck cask in this fire scenario. This conclusion is based on modeling results for a representative "generic" truck cask design and utilizing an extremely conservative one-dimensional thermal analysis.

The staff of the USNRC Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) has undertaken a more comprehensive analysis to evaluate the potential impact of the Caldecott Tunnel fire on a specific licensed SNF transportation package. This approach consists of performing a fully three-dimensional finite element analysis (FEA) evaluation, subjecting a model of the selected truck transportation cask to external temperatures obtained in a fully three-dimensional simulation of the conditions in the Caldecott Tunnel during this fire. The analysis yields a detailed representation of the temperature response of the various components of the package during and after the fire.

This report presents a description of the analysis, including boundary conditions, modeling approach, and computational results. Section 2 gives a brief description of the Caldecott Tunnel fire, based on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation of the event [2]. Section 3 describes the temperature boundary conditions obtained from the fire simulation performed by NIST. Section 4 describes the NAC LWT spent fuel transportation cask. Section 5 describes the analysis approach and the computational model of the package developed for the analysis. Section 6 presents the analysis method. Section 7 describes the results of the simulation, giving a detailed evaluation of the package response during and after the fire. Section 8 provides analyses to determine the magnitude of any potential increase in radiological hazard as a consequence of the effects of the fire on the NAC LWT transportation package.

2 CALDECOTT TUNNEL FIRE EVENT

The tunnel fire occurred shortly after midnight on April 7, 1982 in Bore No. 3 of the Caldecott Tunnel on State Route 24 near Oakland, California, as the result of an accident involving a tank truck and trailer carrying 8,800 gal. (33,310 liters) of gasoline [2]. This tunnel bore is 3,371 ft (1027 m) long, with a two-lane roadway 28 ft (8.5 m) wide. Traffic is one-way from east to west, and the roadway has a 4% downgrade beginning approximately 30 ft (9.1 m) into the tunnel. Figure 2.1 shows a photograph[5] of the west portal of the tunnel; Bore No. 3 is the opening on the far left.

Figure 2.1. West Portal of Caldecott Tunnel

A diagram of a typical cross-section of Bore No. 3 of the tunnel is shown in Figure 2.2. Vertical clearance between the tunnel ceiling and the roadbed is 18 ft (5.5 m) at the center, tapering to 17 ft (5.2 m) at the side walls. The tunnel width is approximately 34.5 ft (10.5 m) between the sidewalls of the bore. The tunnel is actively ventilated by blowers with a total capacity of 1.5 million cubic feet per minute through ducting above the tunnel ceiling. (However, the blowers were not operating at the time of the accident.)

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[5] From the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) newsletter, *Transactions OnLine*, June/July 2000 issue, http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/transactions/ta06-0700/tunnel.htm. The MTC is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

The roadway pavement is Portland cement concrete, as are the arched walls of the bore, which vary in thickness from 6 ft (1.8 m) at the bottom to 2 ft (0.6 m) at the top. The wall surface is covered with 4.25-inch (10.8-cm) square green tiles. The ceiling between the roadway and the ventilation ducting is 5.5-inch (14-cm) thick Portland cement concrete. Ventilation ports (5 ft x 1 ft (1.5 m x 0.3 m)), covered with steel gratings, are spaced at 15-ft (4.6-m) intervals along both sides of the ceiling for the full length of the tunnel.

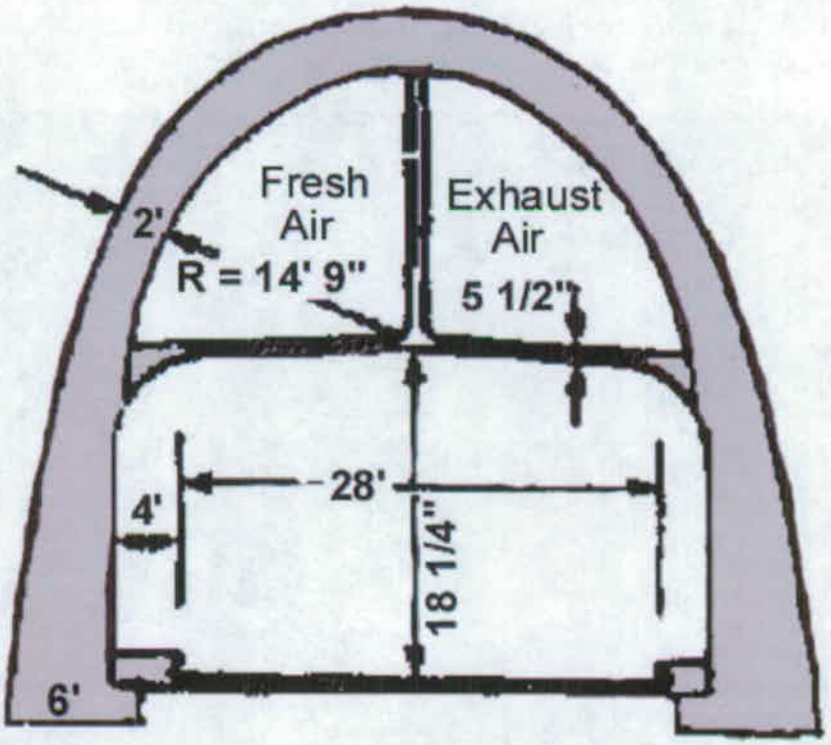

Figure 2.2. Cross-section Diagram of Bore No. 3 of Caldecott Tunnel

In the accident, the tank trailer overturned and the entire vehicle (tanker and trailer) came to rest approximately 1650 ft (503 m) from the west portal of the tunnel. Gasoline spilled onto the roadway from the damaged tank trailer and caught fire. Within four minutes of the accident, heavy black smoke began pouring out the east portal of the tunnel. The tank truck, trailer, and five other vehicles in the tunnel were completely destroyed by the fire, seven persons were killed, and the tunnel incurred major damage.

The overall duration of the fire is estimated at approximately 2.7 hours, but based on NTSB evaluations of the fire debris and interviews with emergency responders, the intensely hot gasoline-fueled portion of the fire is estimated to have lasted about 40 minutes. At about 46 minutes after the start of the fire, firefighters in protective gear entered the tunnel to search for survivors and were able to approach the location of the tanker truck.

At approximately 55 minutes after the start of the fire, the smoke had cleared sufficiently for the CalTrans supervisor to visually assess structural damage to the tunnel. After laying hoses from the center bore of the tunnel through cross adits, the fire crews began fighting the fires due to the burning vehicles in the tunnel. Approximately 2.7 hours after the time of the accident, these fires were reported to be "under control."

3 NIST TUNNEL FIRE MODEL

Experts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) developed a model of the Caldecott Tunnel fire using the Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS) code[6] [3] and performed analyses to obtain predictions of the range of temperatures present in the tunnel during the fire event [4]. FDS is a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) code that models combustion and flow of hot gases in fire environments. FDS solves the mass, momentum, and energy equations for a given computational grid, and is also able to construct a visual representation of smoke flow for the fire. Full details on these analyses are provided in the NIST report on the FDS analysis of the Caldecott Tunnel fire [4]. A brief description of the model and a summary of the results are presented here.

To validate the FDS code for tunnel fire applications, NIST developed fire models in FDS based on the geometry and test conditions from a series of fire experiments conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and Parsons Brinkerhoff, Inc. as part of the Memorial Tunnel Fire Ventilation Test Program [5]. NIST modeled two separate fire tests, a 6.83×10^7 Btu/hr (20 MW) fire and a 1.71×10^8 Btu/hr (50 MW) unventilated fire from the Memorial Tunnel Test Program, and achieved results using FDS that were within 100 °F (56 °C) of the recorded data [3,6].

The NIST model of the Caldecott Tunnel for the FDS code consists of the section of the tunnel that experienced the most severe effects of the fire. This encompassed a length of about 623 ft (190 m), extending from about 1673 ft (510 m) to approximately 2297 ft (700 m), relative to the west portal of the tunnel. The fire resulted in essentially uniform spalling of the concrete on the tunnel walls and ceiling in this region, the underlying reinforcing steel was exposed, and there was heat buckling of the steel ventilator opening cover plates. The wall tiles and grout also showed severe spalling in this region of the tunnel, and the fluorescent lighting fixtures and emergency phones were destroyed or damaged.

In the FDS simulation, the fire was located in the region between 1673-1706 ft (510-520 m) from the west portal, spanning a length nominally equivalent to the length of the truck tank and trailer. (The tank truck and trailer came to rest with the front of the truck approximately 1650 ft (503 m) from the west portal of the tunnel.) The FDS model consists of the tunnel over a length of 787 ft (240 m), extending from 1509 ft to 2297 ft (460 m to 700 m), relative to the west portal of the tunnel. The computational grid for the tunnel fire model consisted of a fully three-dimensional (3-D) representation of this segment of the tunnel, in order to capture flame and gas behavior and the interaction of the fire with the tunnel walls, ceiling, and floor.

Based on boundary conditions that include information on the available fuel and air sources, the FDS code calculates the energy release from the combustion process, the resulting flow of air and hot combustion gases, and local air and surface temperatures throughout the tunnel. The FDS calculation simulated only the gasoline fire, and did not include the thermal energy released due to the burning vehicles. Compared to the energy released by the gasoline fire, the energy released by the burning vehicles is negligible, and these individual vehicle fires were located far from the hottest region in the

[6] Formal publication of the FDS code documentation began in 2001 with Version 2. Continuing validation and development of the code led to Version 3 in 2002. Version 3 was used in the FDS analyses discussed in this report.

tunnel. The tank truck itself was 328 ft (100 m) away from the hottest location in the tunnel during the fire. Of the five other vehicles destroyed in the fire, the closest vehicle was at least 223 ft (68 m) away from the hottest location in the tunnel, and the remaining vehicles were approximately 575 ft (175 m), and 1224 ft (373 m) away.

Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 illustrate the model results, showing the evolution of selected surface temperature profiles on the tunnel ceiling, walls and floor during and immediately after the gasoline-fueled fire. These plots show the surface temperature profiles along the axial length of the tunnel at the ceiling centerline (see Figure 3.1), mid-way up the tunnel wall (see Figure 3.2), and at the centerline of the tunnel floor (see Figure 3.3) at various times during the fire transient.

The plots in Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 show that in the first few minutes of the fire, the tunnel surface temperatures in the vicinity of the fire began to rise rapidly. Temperatures farther away down the length of the tunnel (east of the fire location) began to rise also, but initially these temperatures rose more slowly. After about the first five minutes of the fire, however, the tunnel surfaces to the east of the fire location were rising much more rapidly than those near the fire. By the end of the fire, at about 40 minutes elapsed time, the surfaces at 1968-2099 ft (600-640 m) (i.e., at 262-394 ft (80-120 m) to the east of the fire) were the hottest surfaces in the tunnel.

This shift of the hottest location to a position so far from the source of the actual fire is caused by the 'chimney' effect of the air flow through the tunnel due to the intense heat of the fire. Expansion of combustion gases and heated air drives air flow through the tunnel, carrying the heat of the fire from east to west along the length of the tunnel. The FDS code solves for the hydrodynamics of this flow, and calculates the thermal response of the air and surface temperatures along the length of the tunnel. Figures 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 show the corresponding evolution of the predicted air flow velocities in the tunnel in the upper region near the ceiling, the mid-line region near the tunnel wall, and near the floor of the tunnel. The velocities in the plots in Figures 3.4 and 3.6 for the air near the ceiling and floor of the tunnel are from nodes approximately 1 ft (0.3 m) from their respective surfaces. The velocity in the mid-line region (in Figure 3.5) is along the tunnel centerline, mid-way between the ceiling and floor. The evolving temperature profiles for the gas moving at these velocities are shown in Figures 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9.

The plots of the evolving tunnel surface temperatures in Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, and of tunnel air temperatures in Figures 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9 show that the highest temperatures during the fire do not occur at exactly the same location in the upper, middle, and lower regions of the tunnel.

Table 3.1 summarizes the peak temperatures predicted with FDS for the upper, middle, and lower regions of the tunnel. The hottest ceiling temperature and the highest air temperature near the ceiling both occur at 1969 ft (600 m). The hottest air temperature at the tunnel mid-line occurs at 1903 ft (580 m), but the hottest mid-line wall temperature occurs at 2100 ft (640 m), 197 feet (60 meters) further 'downstream'. The peak air temperature near the floor also occurs at 2100 ft (640 m), but the peak surface temperature on the tunnel floor centerline occurs at 2165 ft (660 m).

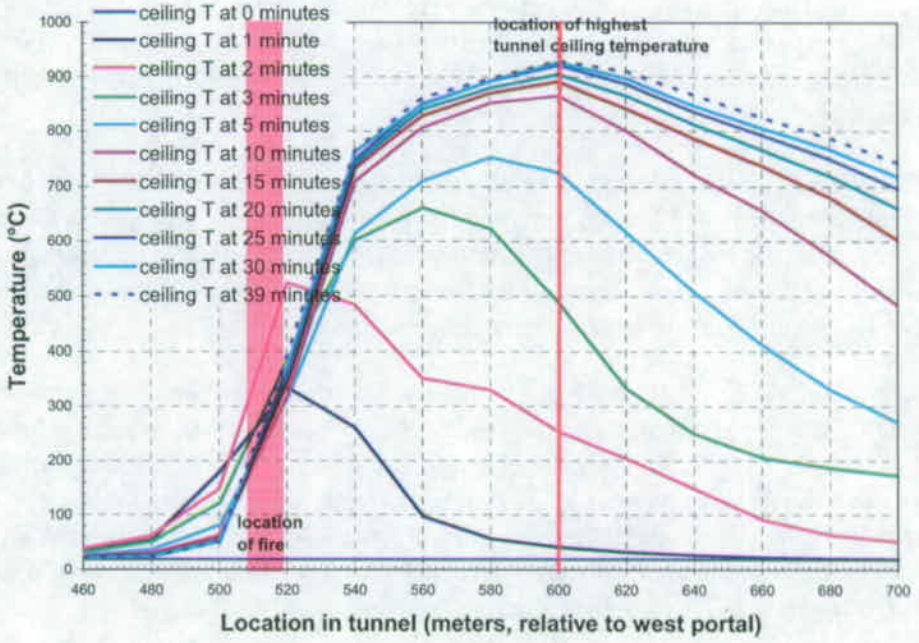

Figure 3.1. Evolution of Ceiling Centerline Temperatures in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

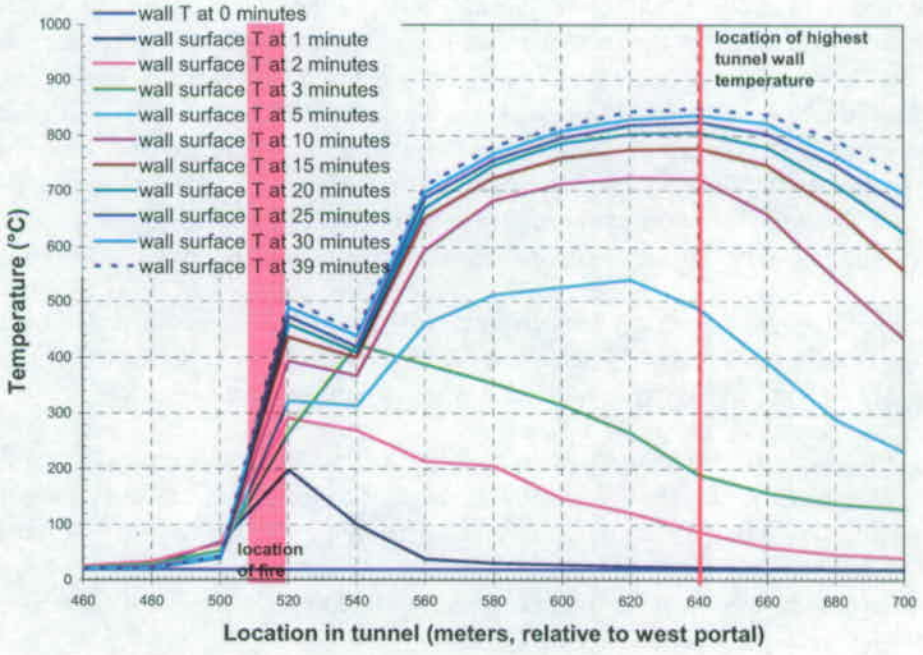

Figure 3.2. Evolution of Tunnel Wall Mid-line Temperatures in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

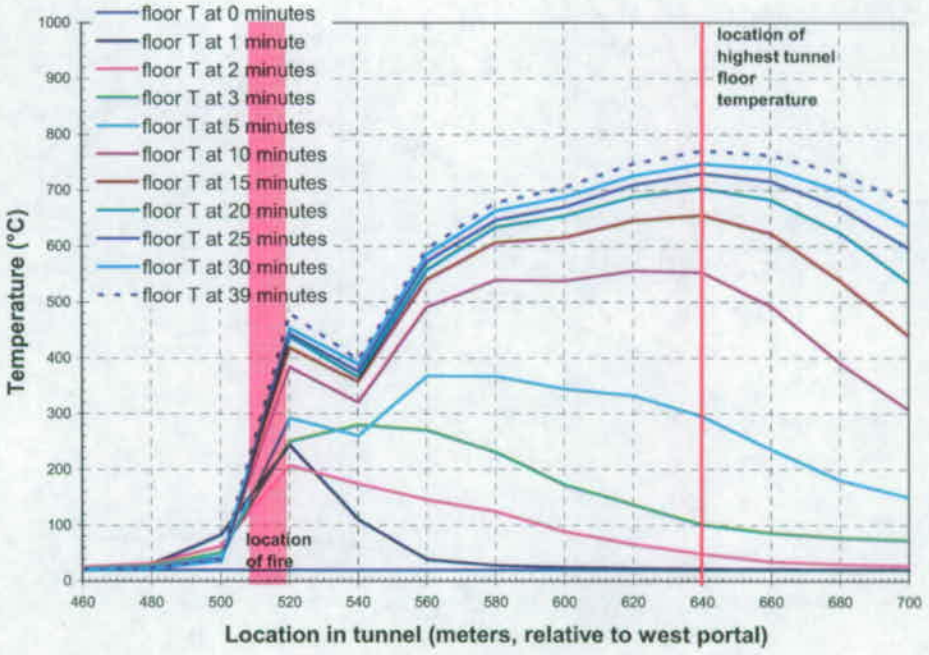

Figure 3.3. Evolution of Floor Centerline Temperatures in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

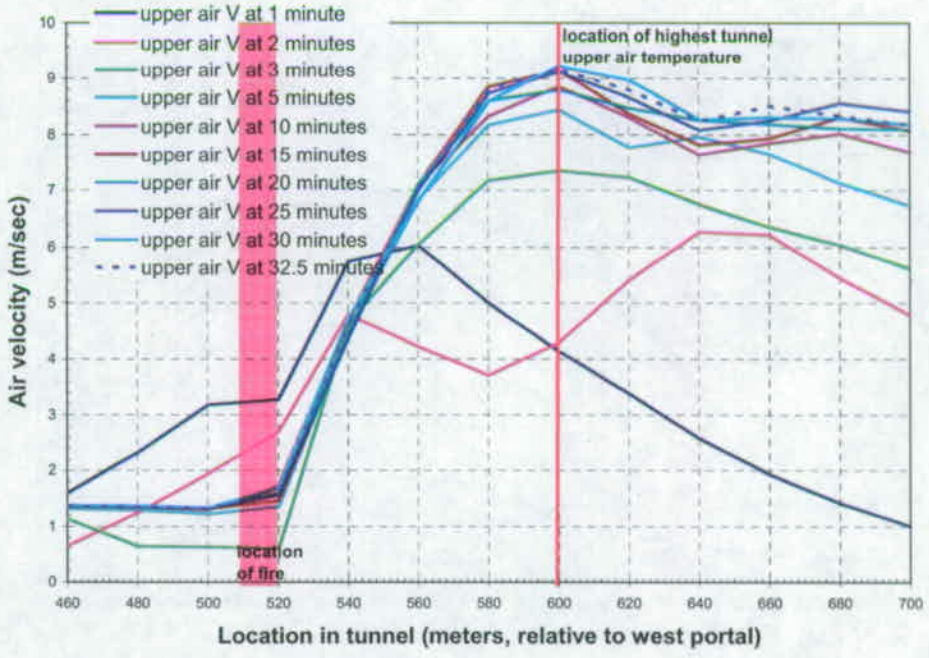

Figure 3.4. Evolution of Gas Velocity Profile near Ceiling Centerline in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

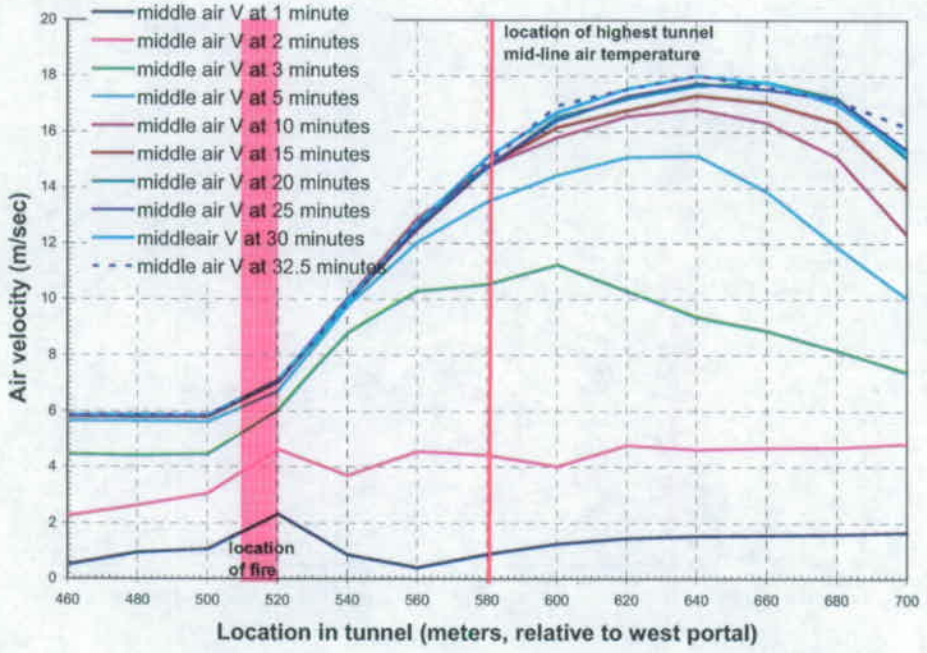

Figure 3.5. Evolution of Gas Velocity Profile near Tunnel Mid-line in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

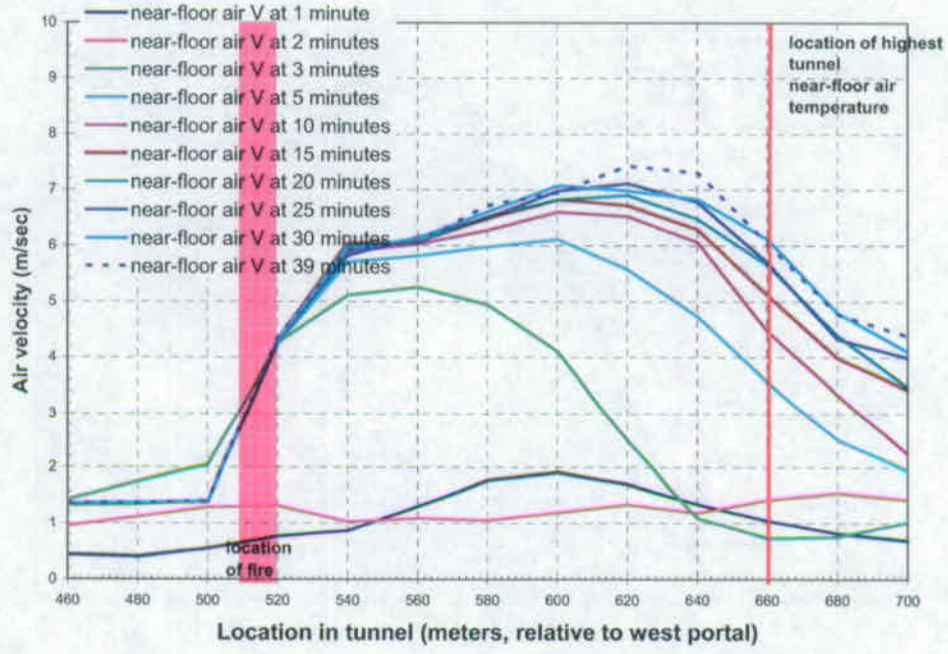

Figure 3.6. Evolution of Gas Velocity Profile near Floor Centerline in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

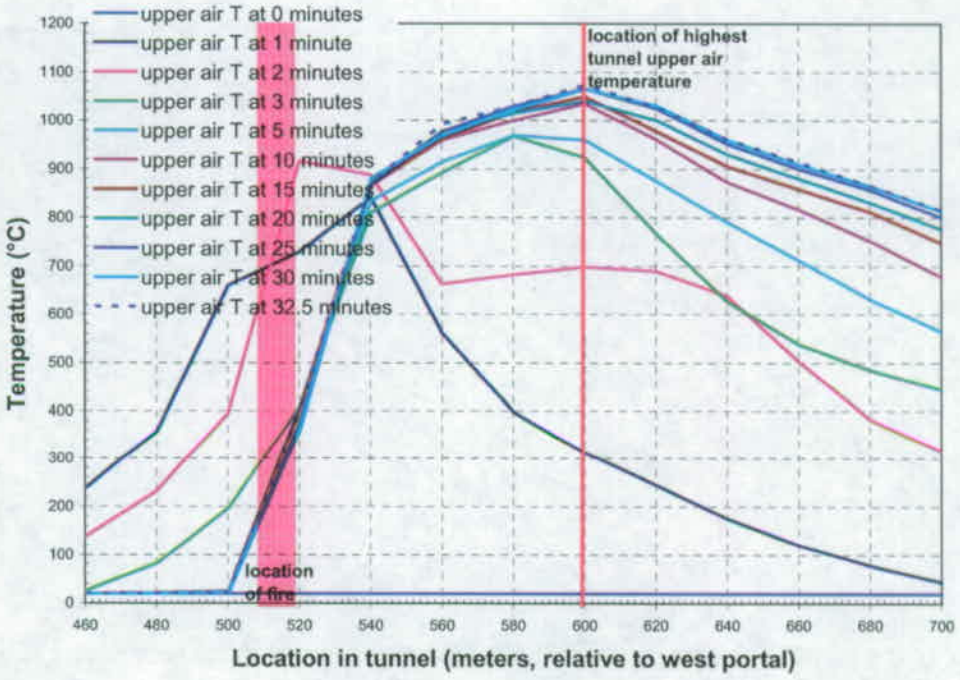

Figure 3.7. Evolution of Gas Temperature Profile near Ceiling Centerline in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

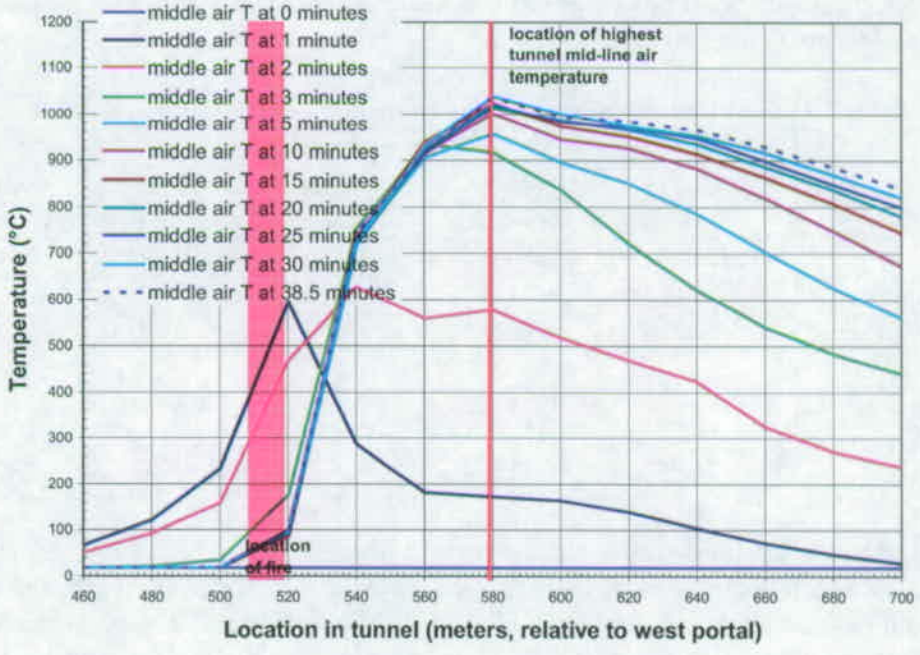

Figure 3.8. Evolution of Gas Temperature Profile near Tunnel Mid-line in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

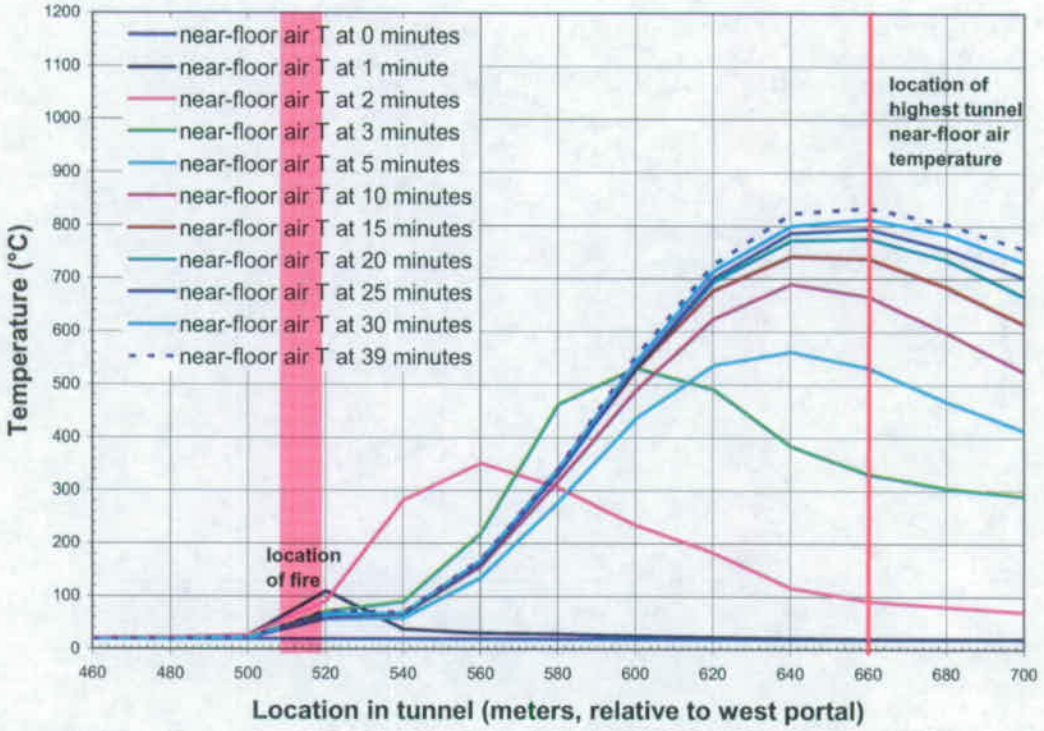

Figure 3. 9. Evolution of Gas Temperature Profile near Floor Center-line in FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

Table 3.1. Peak Air and Surface Temperatures Near Hottest Fire Location

	Temperature, °F (°C)				
Location:	**580 m (1903 ft)**	**600 m (1969 ft)**	**620 m (2034 ft)**	**640 m (2100 ft)**	**660 m (2165 ft)**
Upper air	1902 (1039)	1965 (1074)	1904 (1040)	1805 (985)	1704 (929)
Mid-line air	1908 (1042)	1861 (1016)	1832 (1000)	1770 (982)	1711 (933)
Near-floor air	865 (463)	1040 (560)	1344 (729)	1513 (823)	1533 (834)
Ceiling centerline	1661 (905)	1715 (935)	1668 (909)	1596 (869)	1519 (826)
Wall mid-line	1452 (789)	1504 (818)	1551 (844)	1562 (850)	1542 (839)
Floor centerline	1256 (680)	1301 (705)	1377 (747)	1420 (771)	1405 (763)

Nevertheless, a "hottest location" must be defined in order to determine the boundary conditions that would be seen by a spent nuclear fuel shipping package subjected to the extreme temperature conditions of the Caldecott Tunnel fire. The difficulty can be resolved by considering the energy output of the fire at a given location over time, rather than simply looking at the temperature history at that location. Table 3.2 summarizes the heat flux values calculated with FDS for the locations of the hottest temperatures along the tunnel.

Table 3.2: Total Energy Flux Values Near Hottest Fire Location

Location m (ft):	energy flux (kW/m^2)					
	560 m (1837 ft)	580 m (1903 ft)	600 m (1969 ft)	620 m (2034 ft)	640 m (2100 ft)	660 m (2165 ft)
Ceiling centerline	106	123	134	118	100	86
Wall mid-line	61	78	89	95	96	89
Floor centerline	50	60	62	68	71	66

The highest heat flux from the fire occurs at 1969 ft (600 m) for the ceiling, and at 2100 ft (640 m) for the walls and floor. Based on the distribution of the heat output from the fire and the temperature distributions on the tunnel surfaces and in the tunnel air, the conditions at 2034 ft (620 m) give the highest temperatures at the highest heat flux values. Table 3.3 summarizes the conditions at 2034 ft (620 m), and compares the temperature and energy flux values to the peak values for the ceiling, wall, and floor regions of the tunnel.

Table 3.3: Temperatures and Energy Flux at Hottest Location in Tunnel

Surface temperature, °F (°C) at 2034 ft (620 m)		% of peak
Ceiling centerline	1668 (909)	97%
Wall mid-line	1551 (844)	99%
Floor centerline	1377 (747)	97%
Energy flux (kW/m^2) at 2034 ft (620 m)		
Ceiling centerline	118	88%
Wall mid-line	95	99%
Floor centerline	68	96%
Air temperature, °F (°C) at 2034 ft (620 m)		
Ceiling centerline	1902 (1039)	97%
Wall mid-line	1832 (1000)	96%
Floor centerline	1344 (729)	87%

Although none of the regions of the tunnel has its respective peak energy flux value exactly at 2034 ft (620 m), defining this point as the "hottest location" in the tunnel gives an overall energy flux that is within 99% of the peak energy flux. Similarly, none of the peak temperatures for the three regions occur precisely at 2034 ft (602 m), but all are within 1% to 3% of their respective peak values. The conditions at 2034 ft (620 m) are more severe than at 1969 ft (600 m), which has slightly higher total energy flux and wall and ceiling temperatures, but much lower tunnel floor temperatures. Similarly, the air temperatures at 2034 ft (620 m) are within 3-4% of their corresponding peak values, and although the near-floor air

temperature is only 87% of its peak value at this location, at 1969 ft (600 m) it is only 67% of the peak value. In terms of the effect of the fire conditions on a cylindrical package such as a spent fuel transportation package positioned within the tunnel, the conditions at 2034 ft (620 m) represent the best estimate of the "hottest location" in the tunnel, in that it maximizes the temperatures and heat fluxes seen by *all* surfaces of the package.

Figure 3.10 shows the temperatures of the tunnel ceiling centerline, wall mid-line, and floor centerline predicted with FDS for the first hour of the simulation at 2034 ft (620 m), defined as the hottest location in the tunnel during the gasoline-fueled portion of the fire transient. Figure 3.11 shows the air temperatures during this time for the upper, middle, and lower regions of the tunnel at 2034 ft (620 m).

Figure 3.12 shows the predicted velocities produced by the fire at the locations of the air temperatures shown in Figure 3.11. These velocities are used to define the convective heat transfer conditions on the top, sides and bottom of the spent fuel package during the fire. (The temperature-vs.-time and velocity-vs.-time values in these plots were smoothed to conservatively remove the rapid stochastic variations typical of fire dynamics, preserving only the major peaks and troughs defining the general physical behavior of the simulated fire.)

Maximum gas temperatures calculated in the FDS model are on the order of 1965°F (1074°C). The maximum tunnel surface temperatures are predicted to be only about 1715°F (935°C) (see Figure 3.10). Maximum air temperatures in the upper and middle regions of the tunnel are predicted to exceed 1832°F (1000°C) in the first 5 to 6 minutes of the fire, and remain above this temperature until the end of the gasoline-fueled portion of the fire (at approximately 40 minutes.)

The FDS simulation was run out for a total transient time of three hours, which included the 40-minute gasoline-fueled fire and a 2.3 hr cool-down period. Temperatures and velocities for the FDS simulation are shown in Figure 3.13 for the tunnel surface temperatures, Figure 3.14 for the tunnel air temperatures, and Figure 3.15 for the tunnel air velocities. By the end of this three-hour period, the tunnel air temperatures predicted at the hottest location have dropped to 154°F (68°C) or lower, and the tunnel surface temperatures are less than 320°F (160°C).

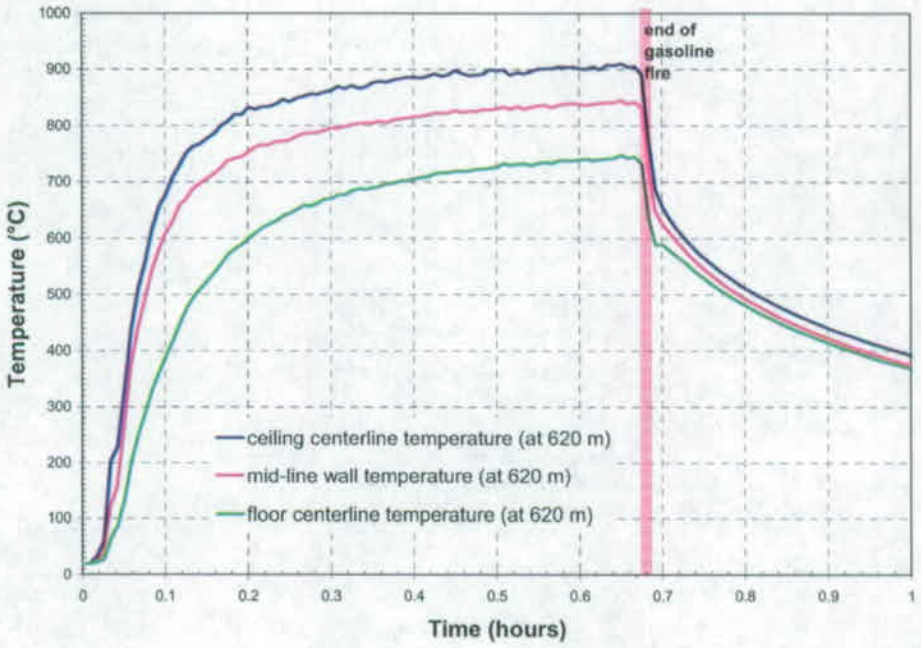

Figure 3.10. Surface Temperatures at Hottest Location for 1st Hour of FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

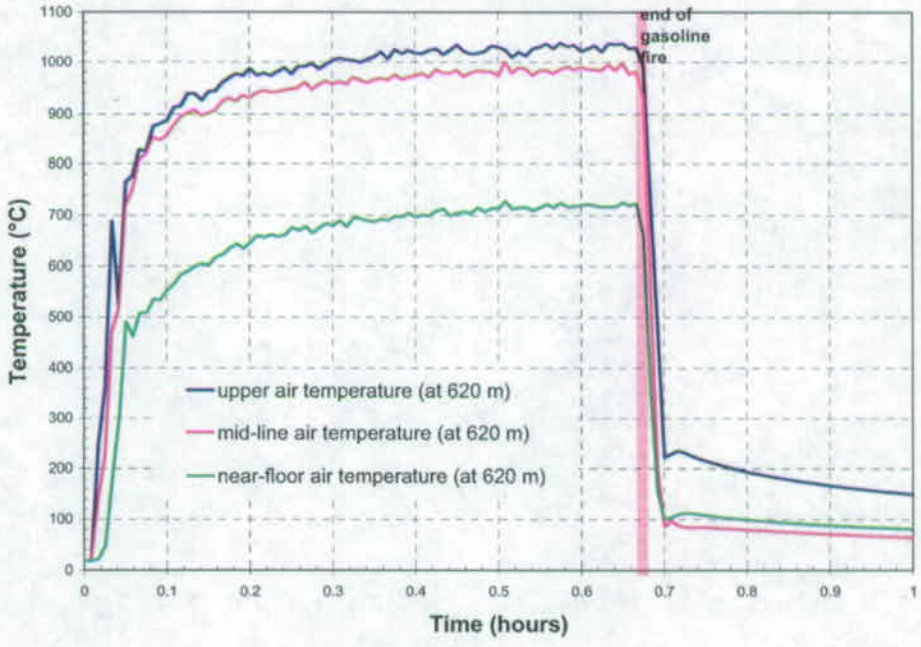

Figure 3.11. Air Temperatures at Hottest Location for 1st Hour of FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

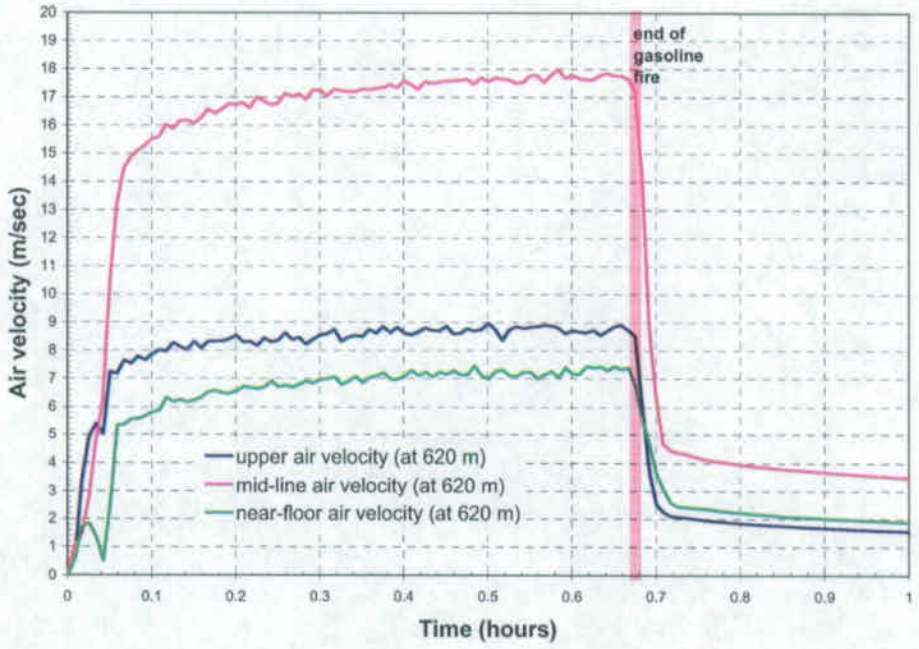

Figure 3.12. Air Velocities at Hottest Location for 1st Hour of FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

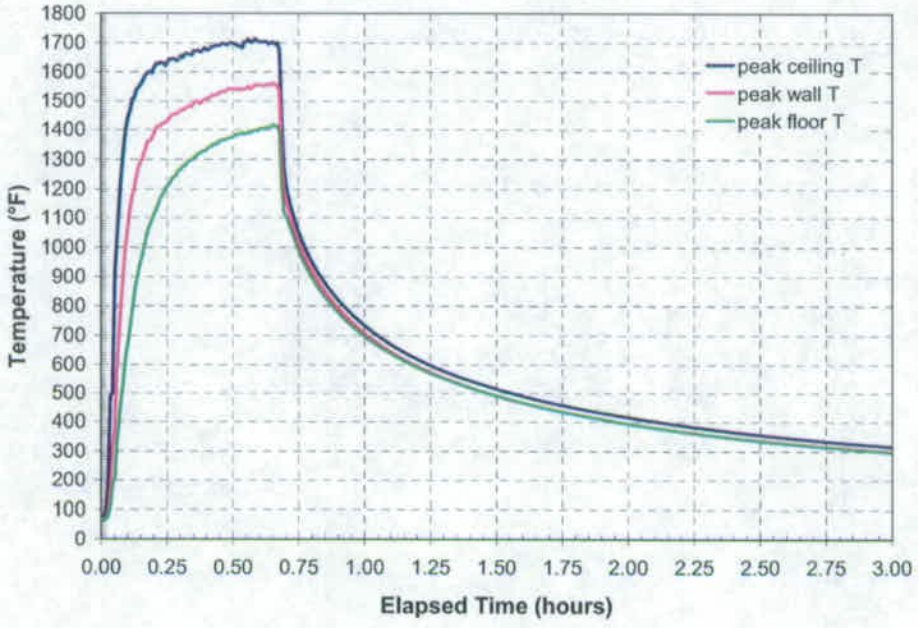

Figure 3.13. Peak Surface Temperatures in 3-Hour FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

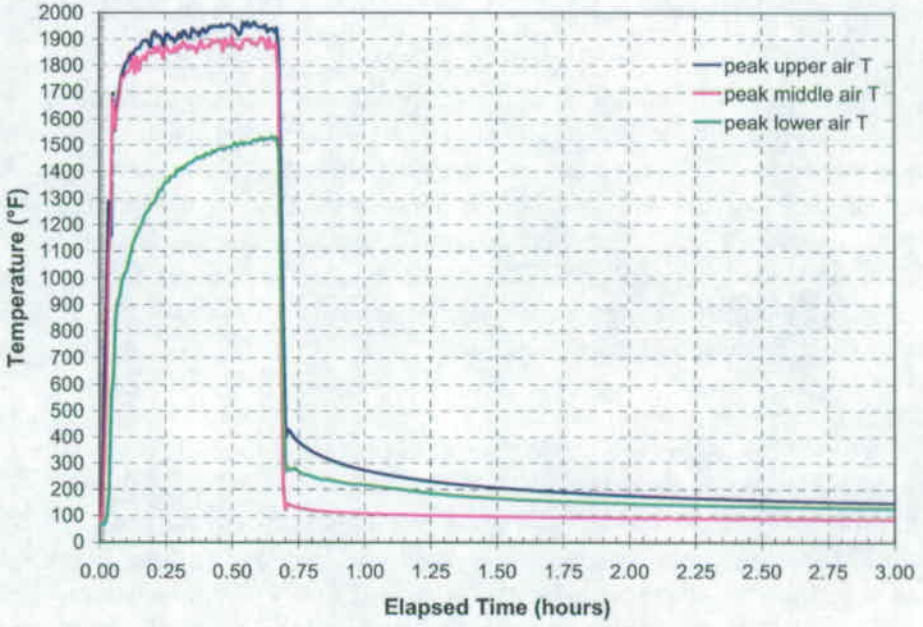

Figure 3.14. Peak Gas Temperatures in 3-Hour FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

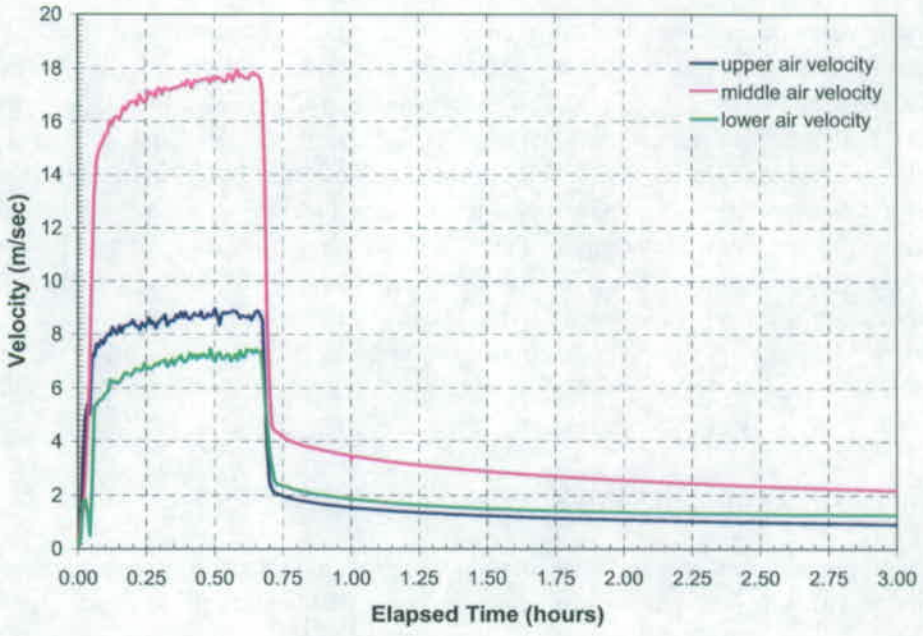

Figure 3.15. Peak Gas Velocities in 3-Hour FDS Simulation of Caldecott Tunnel Fire

4 TRANSPORTATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

Regulations for the issuance of general licenses for transportation of all types of radioactive material by all modes of transport are defined in 10 CFR 71 [1]. The regulations specify that spent nuclear fuel shipping packages must be designed to withstand a sequence of severe accident scenarios and still maintain specified confinement, shielding, and criticality control functions. The prescribed accident sequence includes exposure to a fully engulfing pool fire lasting 30 minutes with flame temperature no less than 1472°F (800°C). The prescribed hypothetical sequence of accidents is designed to be more severe than 99% of all transportation accidents, and is assumed to conservatively bound all credible accident scenarios in the transport of spent nuclear fuel.

The intent of the regulations is to ensure that spent fuel packages survive real world accidents, including those involving severe fires. The performance of spent fuel packages in severe accidents has been examined in previous studies conducted by the NRC, as documented in NUREG-0170 (*Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes*[7]) and NUREG/CR-4829 (*Shipping Container Response to Severe Highway and Railway Accident Conditions*[8]). In addition, more detailed risk analyses reported in NUREG/CR-6672 (*Re-examination of Spent Fuel Shipment Risk Estimates*[9]), support and augment the findings and conclusions of the earlier reports. These documents and other relevant studies support the conclusion that the radiological risk from accidents in the transportation of spent nuclear fuel is small, and current regulations adequately protect public health and safety.

Because of the severity of the Caldecott Tunnel fire, and questions the event has raised about the performance of spent fuel transportation packages in such an accident, the staff of the USNRC Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation (SFST) has undertaken an investigation of this fire scenario. The objective of this work is to determine what impact this event might have on assessments of the risks involved in the transport of spent nuclear fuel by truck on pubic roads. In this investigation, a typical spent nuclear fuel transportation package licensed for transport by truck is subjected to boundary conditions simulating the thermal conditions of the Caldecott Tunnel fire, to determine the response of the package to these severe conditions. The Nuclear Assurance Corporation (NAC) Legal Weight Truck (LWT) transportation package was selected for this analysis because it represents a typical package that can be transported by truck. A complete description of the package design and loading configurations can be found in the licensing Safety Analysis Report (SAR) [7]. A brief description of this design is presented below.

4.1 NAC LWT Transport Package

The NAC LWT transportation package is certified to be carried on a standard tractor trailer truck. It is typically shipped within an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) shipping container.

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[7] NUREG -0170, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C., December 1977.
[8] NUREG/CR-4829, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., February 1987.
[9] NUREG/CR-6672, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C., March 2000.

Figure 4.1 shows a picture of an LWT package on a flat-bed trailer with a personnel barrier installed, but without an ISO container. Figure 4.2 shows an exterior view of the package within an ISO container on a flat-bed trailer.

Figure 4.1. NAC LWT Transport Package (without ISO container)

Figure 4.2. NAC LWT Transport Package (with ISO container)

This package is designed to transport a variety of commercial and test reactor fuel types with widely varying maximum decay heat load specifications. For this analysis, the package was assumed to contain a single PWR spent nuclear fuel assembly with a decay heat load of 8,530 Btu/hr (2.5 kW). This is the fuel configuration and maximum decay heat load used for design-basis thermal evaluations for the package presented in the SAR [7], and ensures a conservative thermal load for the package in the fire accident scenario.

The loaded package weighs approximately 52,000 lb (23,586 kg). The containment boundary provided by the stainless steel package consists of a bottom plate, outer shell, upper ring forging, and closure lid. This package has an additional outer stainless steel shell to protect the containment shell, and also to enclose the lead gamma shield. Neutron shielding is provided by a stainless steel neutron shield tank containing a water/ethylene glycol mixture. An additional annular expansion tank for the mixture is provided, external to the shield tank. This component is strengthened internally by a network of stainless steel stiffeners. Aluminum honeycomb impact limiters covered with an aluminum skin are attached to each end of the package during transport. The entire package, including impact limiters, fits within an ISO container, which is constructed of steel plate.

5 ANALYSIS APPROACH

In the analytical approach used to evaluate the response of the NAC LWT transportation package to the conditions of the Caldecott Tunnel fire, a highly detailed three-dimensional (3-D) model was constructed. The ANSYS [8] general finite element analysis (FEA) package was selected for this analysis, since it is a widely used analytical tool for licensing analyses of spent nuclear fuel packages. Using this approach, the model included all significant heat transfer paths within the package and between the package and the external environment. The computational model was subjected to the thermal environment of the tunnel during the fire transient using boundary conditions derived from the NIST simulation of the fire performed with the FDS computational fluid dynamics code. Section 5.1 presents a general description of the representation of the SNF package within the tunnel environment, including the applied boundary conditions. Section 5.2 contains a detailed description of the ANSYS model of the NAC LWT. Section 5.3 describes the material properties used in the calculation.

5.1 NAC LWT Transportation Package within Tunnel

Boundary conditions for the model of the NAC LWT were taken from the results of the FDS analysis at 2034 ft (620 m) from the west portal, which is approximately 328 ft (100 m) down-stream of the fire source. This location was determined to be the hottest location in the tunnel during the fire (see Section 3.) Two separate calculations were performed with ANSYS for the NAC LWT in this fire scenario; one assuming that the package was being shipped within an ISO container, the other assuming it was not within a shipping container. In both cases, the package was assumed to remain on the flatbed of the truck in a horizontal position with one end of the package facing the fire source. This orientation results in maximum possible exposure to the fire-driven flow of hot gas along the length of the package, and is the most adverse position for free convection cooling of the package during the post-fire cool down. It also results in the maximum exposure of package surfaces to tunnel surfaces for thermal radiation exchange. This is a particularly important consideration, since radiation heat transfer to the package is the most significant mode of heat transfer, by up to two orders of magnitude.

Alternative orientations for the SNF package in this accident scenario, however plausible, would result in less severe boundary conditions during the fire transient. A vertical orientation for the package on the flatbed would result in decreased exposure to the fire-driven flow of hot gas around the package and enhanced free convection cooling during the post-fire cool down phase of the transient. This orientation would also result in decreased thermal radiation interaction with the tunnel surfaces, due to attenuated view factors. In particular, the axial length of the package would not have the direct (essentially parallel) view of the tunnel ceiling that it has on its upper side in the horizontal orientation.

Separating the SNF package from the truck bed would also result in less severe boundary conditions on the package, even assuming that the package remained at the hottest location. In such a scenario, the package would be on the floor of the tunnel, exposed to markedly lower temperatures from the surrounding air and tunnel surfaces, compared to the boundary conditions encountered at the elevation of the package on the flatbed of the truck. This position would also tend to attenuate thermal radiation interaction with the hottest surfaces in the tunnel (i.e., the ceiling and upper side walls.)

Based on the available fuel, air supply, and tunnel surface conditions, the FDS analysis of the fire predicted a duration of 40 minutes, which is highly consistent with the reported fire scenario. (As discussed in Section 2, the gasoline-fueled portion of the fire is estimated to have lasted no more than about 40 minutes.) The FDS calculation was extended out an additional 2.3 hours beyond the end of the fire, to capture the post-fire cool down environment within the tunnel. The full analysis extended over a total simulation time of 3 hours.

To determine the package's complete transient temperature response, and to explore the effects of prolonged exposure to post-fire conditions in the tunnel, the ANSYS analysis further extended the transient to 30 hours. Tunnel wall and air temperatures predicted in the FDS analysis at 3 hours were extrapolated from 3 hours to 30 hours using a power function, to realistically model cool-down of the tunnel environment.

The FDS analysis utilized a fine-mesh noding that resulted in detailed predictions of axial and radial distributions of tunnel air temperatures, gas velocities, and tunnel surface temperatures throughout the fire and post-fire cool down period. As a conservative approach to defining the thermal environment seen by the SNF package during the fire, the peak air temperatures in the top, middle, and bottom regions of the tunnel at the hottest location (i.e., 2034 ft (620 m) from the west portal, as described in Section 3.0) were used to define the boundary conditions around the full circumference of the package during the transient. Following the end of the fire, the peak tunnel surface temperatures on the ceiling, side walls, and floor at this location were used to define the boundary conditions for radiation exchange.

This conservative simplification in the tunnel thermal environment was implemented by dividing the tunnel cross-section into three regions; the "bottom", "side", and "top" regions. For the air temperature boundary conditions, the "bottom" region was defined as extending from the tunnel floor to 1 ft (0.3 m) above the floor. The "side" region was defined as extending from 1 ft (0.3 m) to 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor. The "top" region was defined as extending from 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor to the highest point of the tunnel ceiling, which is at 18.25 ft (6.7 m) above the tunnel floor. (Refer to the cross-section diagram of the tunnel in Figure 2.1.)

The boundary air temperature for convection at the lower surface of the package (or the bottom surface of the ISO container), was the maximum air temperature in the "bottom" region of the tunnel at the 2034 ft (620 m) location. The boundary air temperature for convection at the sides of the package (or the side surfaces of the ISO) was the maximum air temperature in the "side" region of the tunnel at the 2034 ft (620 m) location. The boundary air temperature for convection at the top of the package (or the top of the ISO) was the maximum air temperature in the "top" region of the tunnel at the 2034 ft (620 m) location.

Similarly, the boundary surface temperatures for radiation are defined as the maximum surface temperature predicted in each region at the 2034 ft (620 m) location. The "bottom" region was defined as the tunnel floor. The "side" region was defined as the tunnel wall, extending to 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor. The "top" region included the entire shallow arch of the tunnel ceiling from the peak at 18.25 ft (6.7 m) down to 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor.

However, the peak air temperatures were used to define the boundary temperatures for radiation heat transfer during the intense gasoline-fueled portion of the fire. The radiation view between the package and the tunnel surfaces was blocked by the thick black smoke generated by the fire, such that the package could 'see' only the smoke for radiation interaction, not the tunnel walls. The effect of this assumption is to maximize the heat transfer to the package due to radiation, since during the fire the air temperatures predicted in the FDS analysis are generally significantly higher than the tunnel wall temperatures.

After the fire, the smoke cleared rapidly, and the package could then 'see' the tunnel walls for radiation heat transfer. The air temperatures are predicted to decrease rapidly following the end of the fire, due to the relatively high air flow through the tunnel, and within minutes of the end of the fire, the air temperatures drop below the tunnel surface temperatures. From this point on in the transient, the boundary temperatures for radiation exchange were defined using the peak tunnel surface temperatures in the bottom, side, and top regions at the 2034 ft (620 m) location. As with the air temperatures used as boundary conditions, the peak temperature in each region was assumed to exist over the entire region.

5.2 Model of NAC LWT Transportation Package

The model of the NAC LWT package constructed for ANSYS consists of a detailed 3-D representation of a symmetric half-section of the spent fuel package and a complete cross section of the surrounding tunnel wall. Because the package can be shipped uncovered or enclosed in an ISO shipping container, two models were constructed; one that included the ISO container, and one that did not. For both cases, the package is oriented horizontally within the tunnel. This orientation gives the package or ISO container outer surface the maximum exposure to the highest temperatures in the fire environment. This includes exposure to the tunnel surfaces for thermal radiation exchange and to the flow of hot gases generated by the fire, which results in significant convection heat transfer to the package during the fire transient. A diagram of the package model (including the ISO container) and part of the tunnel is shown in Figure 5.1. Figure 5.2 shows a similar diagram for the analysis without the ISO container.

The flatbed of the truck, which would tend to shield the bottom of the package from the effects of the fire, is omitted from the analysis. However, the package is assumed to be located within the tunnel at a vertical height corresponding to the height of the flatbed. This assumption yields the minimum possible distances for thermal radiation exchange with the hottest surfaces in the tunnel, and exposes the package to the hottest air temperatures in the tunnel.

The model used 40,489 SOLID70 8-node brick elements and 4,776 SHELL57 4-node quadrilateral thermal elements to represent the structural components. A total of 7,165 SURF152 elements were used to include thermal radiation between the ISO container surfaces and the tunnel, and convection heat transfer at the ISO container surfaces. Sixteen MATRIX50 elements were used to model thermal radiation exchange between surfaces within the ISO container. The surface effect elements were also used to generate solar insolation loads for calculation of the initial steady-state temperature distribution for the package.

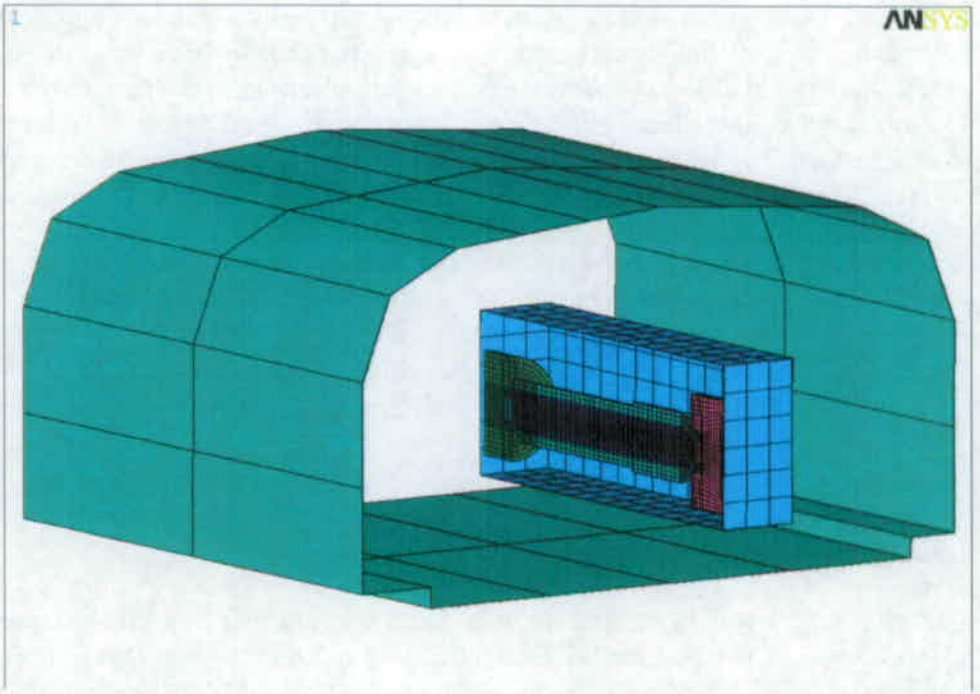

Figure 5.1. ANSYS NAC LWT Package Analysis Model Element Plot (with ISO)

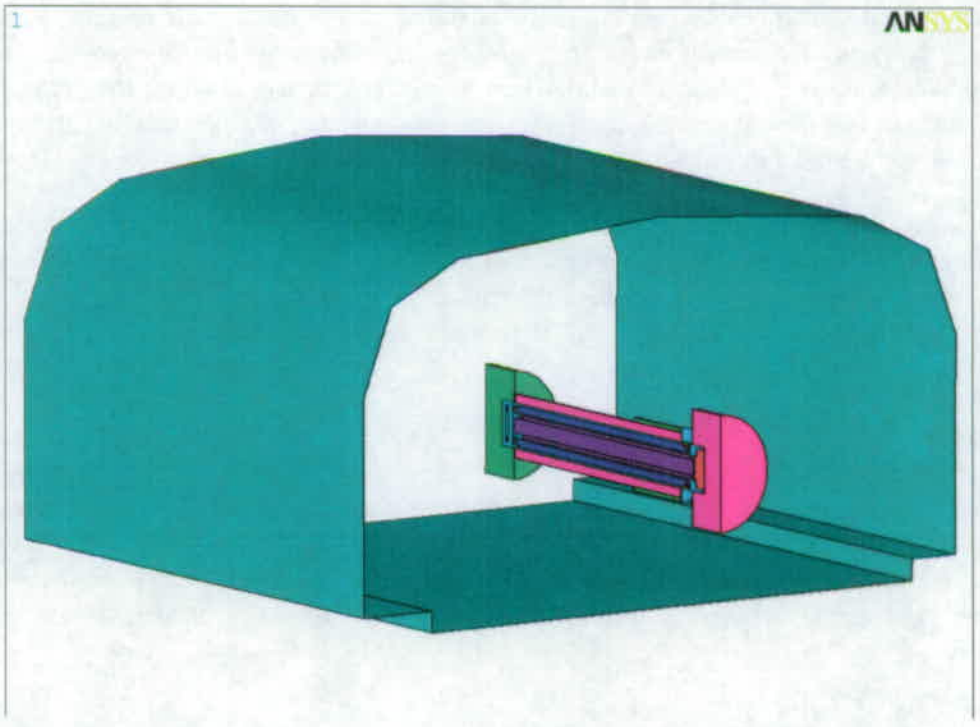

Figure 5.2. ANSYS NAC LWT Package Analysis Model Element Plot (without ISO)

The model geometry for the internal components of the package was developed from the vendor's engineering drawings. The representation of the package internal components was identical in both cases considered, with and without the ISO container enclosing the package. The package contains a cylindrical solid aluminum basket that holds a single fuel assembly. The helium gaps between the fuel and the basket, and between the basket and cask shell, were explicitly modeled with solid elements. The package model cross section is shown in Figure 5.3.

The package body is constructed of concentric stainless steel shells to provide structural support and some gamma shielding. The innermost shell is surrounded by a layer of lead that acts as the main gamma shield. The outermost stainless steel shell is surrounded by an annular tank containing a 56% solution of ethylene glycol and water which acts as a neutron shield. The tank is contained by an outer stainless steel skin and an annular over-flow tank that extends approximately one-third the axial length of the package. All of these components were modeled using brick elements. The tank is constructed with sixteen stainless steel support ribs connecting the skin to the outer shell. These structures were modeled with shell elements.

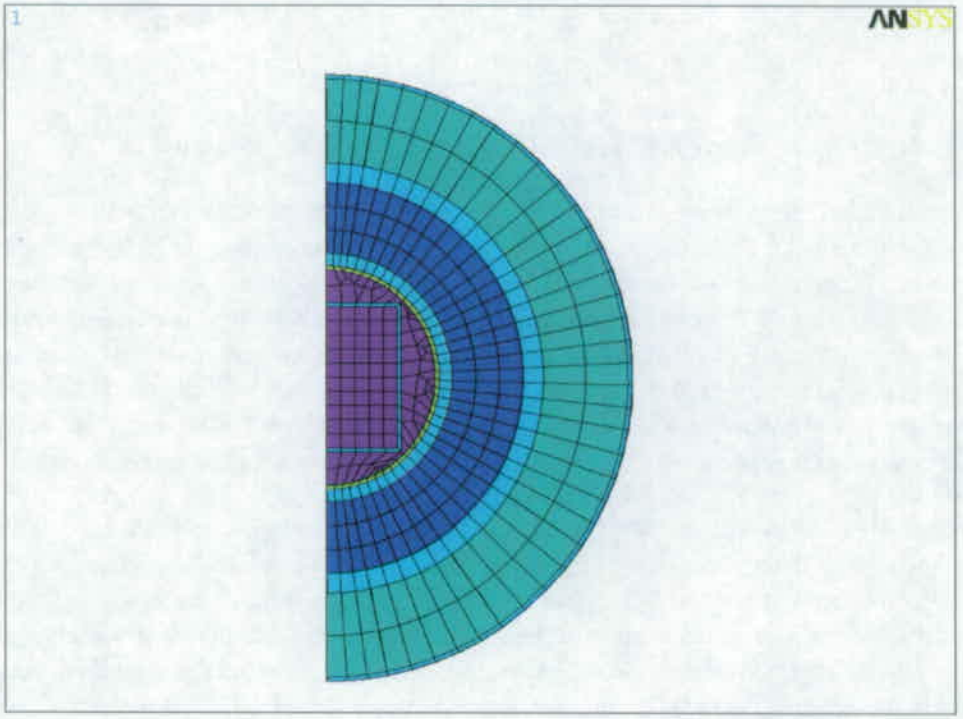

Figure 5.3. Cross Section of NAC LWT Package Model in ANSYS

The package bottom consists of a stainless steel base, a layer of lead shielding, and a steel cover. The upper end of the package is sealed with a stainless steel lid, as illustrated in Figure 5.4. Impact limiters attached to each end of the package consist of an internal aluminum honeycomb structure covered by an aluminum skin. The expansion tank to handle overflow of the liquid neutron shield has an outer stainless steel skin.

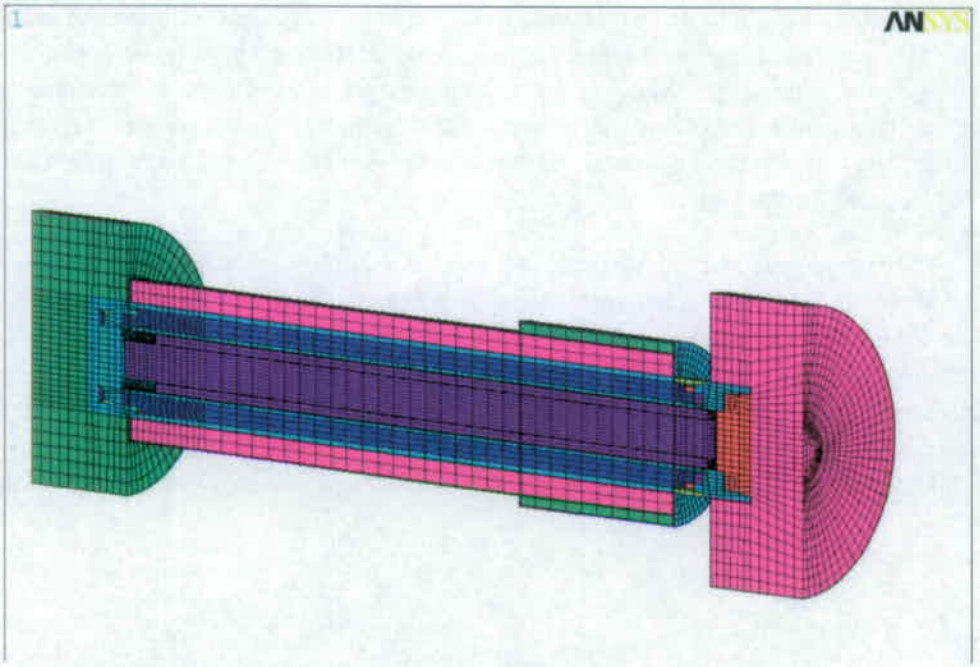

Figure 5.4. NAC LWT Package Geometry Model

In the ANSYS model, the package is assumed to be located relative to the tunnel surfaces at a level corresponding to the height it would be above the tunnel floor when sitting on the bed of the truck. For the analysis in which the package is within an ISO container, it is similarly assumed that the top of the ISO container is at a height corresponding to the height of the container plus the height of the truck bed. All three possible modes of heat transfer (i.e., conduction, convection, and radiation) were represented in the model for thermal energy exchange between all of the components. Conduction is handled inherently by the geometry of the connections between the elements modeling each component, but convective and radiation mechanisms must be carefully implemented using appropriate modeling options.

Westinghouse 17x17 OFA fuel was used in this evaluation. The fuel assembly was modeled with an effective conductivity determined using a homogenization scheme similar to that presented by Bahney and Lotz [9], modified to include a helium gap between the homogenized fuel region and the fuel basket. This yields a more realistic representation of the temperature profile through the assembly, and takes into account the effect of the non-uniform wall temperature distribution around the assembly. Axial conduction in the homogeneous fuel region was conservatively neglected in the fuel itself, and was modeled in the cladding only, using the conductivity of Zircaloy modified by a weighting scheme based on the cross-sectional area. The effective density and heat capacity for the fuel region was based on volumetric averages of the properties of the helium cover gas, fuel rod cladding, and uranium oxide fuel pellets. The design basis axial power profile from the SAR [7], which has a normalized peaking factor of 1.2, was used to specify the distribution of the volumetric heat generation rate of 8,532 Btu/hr (2.5 kW) over the active fuel length of the assembly.

The 0.225-inch (0.57-cm) gap between the fuel and the basket, which is filled with a helium cover gas, was modeled with solid elements and used standard helium thermal conductivity, density, and specific heat. Convection was ignored in this small gap. The 0.25-inch (0.64-cm) gap between the basket and the inner shell was modeled in the same manner, assuming negligible convection. Gaps between the lead gamma shielding and cask inner and outer shells due to contraction of the lead after pour were accounted for in the model by computing effective conductivities assuming both thermal radiation and conduction across the gap. Effective conductivities were also used to include the effect of the Fiberfrax paper insulation between the lead and the steel shell.

Radiation interaction across helium-filled enclosures in the package interior was modeled by coating the surfaces of elements bordering these regions with SHELL57 elements having specified emissive material properties. The SHELL57 elements were then used to produce highly structured AUX-12 generated MATRIX50 superelements, each defined by an enclosure, and the AUX-12 hidden ray-tracing method was used to compute view factors for each element in the superelement. A total of 10 MATRIX50 superelements were defined to capture the thermal radiation interactions within the package and canister.

The presence or absence of the ISO container has a significant effect on the environment seen by surface of the LWT package within the tunnel. Without the ISO container, the exterior surface of the package is directly exposed to the tunnel environment. With the ISO container, the exterior surface of the package is shielded from direct interaction with the tunnel environment. The package exchanges heat with the inner surface of the ISO container, and it is the ISO container outer surface that is directly exposed to the tunnel environment. As a result, the two cases require somewhat different modeling approaches to appropriately account for heat transfer at the package surface.

5.2.1 With ISO Container

For the analysis with the package enclosed in an ISO container, the model illustrated in Figure 5.4 was enclosed within additional elements modeling the container walls, as shown in Figure 5.5. Heat transfer by conduction through the large air volume between the package outer surface and the inner surface of the ISO container is negligible, but significant convection currents can be created by buoyant forces due to non-uniform heating of the ISO container surfaces. Surfaces with unobstructed views of other surfaces can also experience significant radiation exchange that is highly dependent on the surface geometry. Therefore, heat exchange between the package exterior and the container interior was modeled with internal free convection and thermal radiation between interior surfaces.

Calculations for convection heat transfer on the external surface of the ISO container used empirical relations for free convection over flat plates (see Section 6 for full details). Convection at a surface was implemented using SURF152 elements. These elements are placed on the exterior surface of a body and communicate with the designated sink temperature assigned to a single node (called the "space node") to compute the heat flux. Convective heat transfer rates between the outer surface of the package and the inner surface of the ISO container are expected to vary in different regions, due to geometry considerations and varying temperature gradients. This was accounted for in the model by dividing the volume enclosed by the ISO container into 17 zones, as illustrated in Figure 5.6.

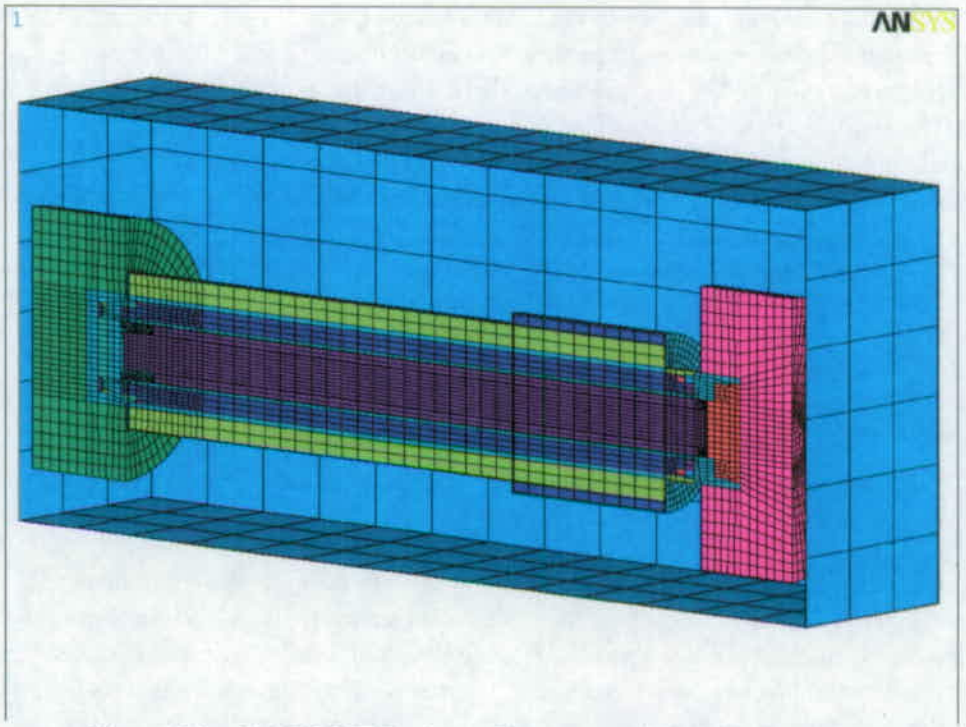

Figure 5.5. NAC LWT Package Geometry within ISO Container

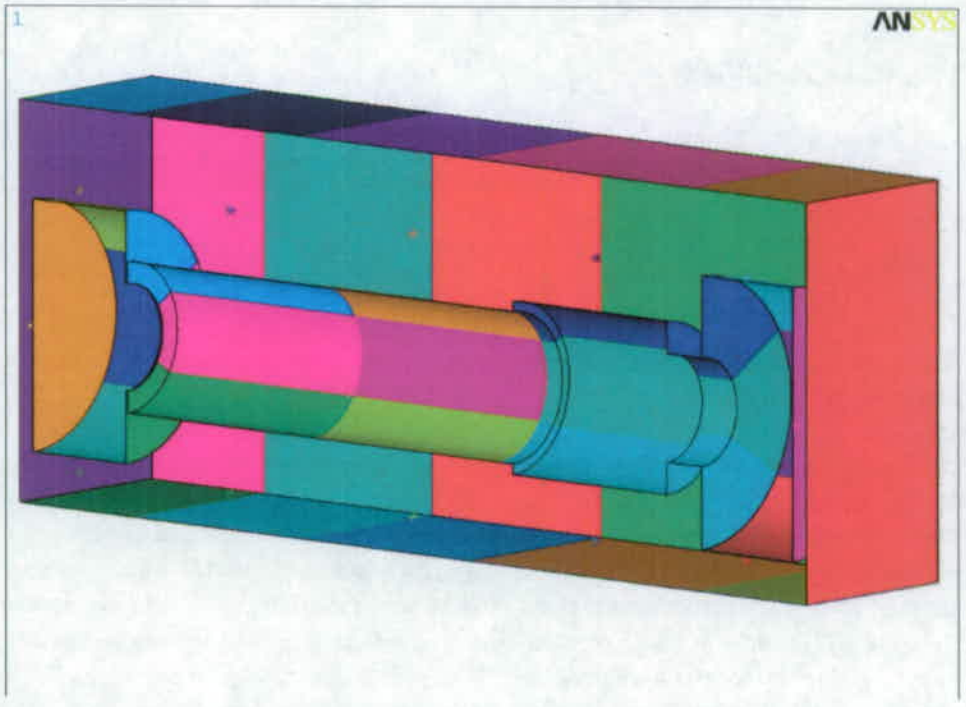

Figure 5.6. Zones for Convection Computations Within the ISO Container

A separate zone was defined on each end of the package, three zones were defined for the top, side, and bottom radial surfaces of each impact limiter, and three similar zones were defined for the package body along its axial length. The sink temperature for each zone is computed as the average surface temperature of the participating package surface elements and ISO container inner surface elements for that zone. A convective heat transfer coefficient was assigned to the package and container elements based on the surface geometry and the temperature difference between the surface and the local sink temperature for that zone (see Section 6.)

In addition to convection heat transfer at the package surface, a total of five MATRIX50 superelements were defined to capture the radiation interaction between the package and interior surfaces of the ISO container. The heat exchange between these surfaces and the space node is computed by ANSYS as part of the overall energy solution.

Convection and thermal radiation are also the two available mechanisms for heat transfer from the exterior surface of the ISO container. In the fire analysis, the initial temperature distribution is obtained from a steady-state calculation for boundary conditions specified by 10CFR71.71 [1], followed by a transient calculation representing the fire. During the fire, the sink node temperatures for the SURF152 elements are set and the external convection coefficient is computed using a forced convection relation derived from gas temperatures and velocities predicted by the NIST fire simulation. (See Section 3 for a complete discussion of the boundary conditions for convection heat transfer at the surface of the package.) These results were obtained for the top, side, and bottom of the tunnel, and applied to three zones defined on the top, sides, and bottom of the ISO container, as illustrated in Figure 5.7.

Thermal radiation between the outer surface of the ISO container and the tunnel during and after the fire was incorporated by a MATRIX50 element, as described above for radiation exchange between surfaces within the package. The top, side, and bottom temperatures in the tunnel predicted in the NIST fire simulation with FDS were imposed as boundary conditions on the elements modeling the tunnel surfaces. Emissivity values of 1.0 for the tunnel surfaces and 0.9 for the ISO container exterior surfaces were used, on the assumption that these surfaces would be severely blackened during the fire due to the effect of sooting.

5.2.2 Without ISO Container

For the analysis of the package without an ISO container, the package model illustrated in Figure 5.4 was connected directly to the tunnel environment. Calculations for convection heat transfer on the external surface of the package were based on empirical relations for convection over cylinders (see Section 6 for full details). Convection at a given surface was implemented using SURF152 elements, in essentially the same manner as described above for the external surfaces of the ISO container.

Similarly, radiation interaction between the package outer surface and the tunnel was established by coating all respective interacting surfaces with SHELL57 elements with specified emissive material properties. The SHELL57 elements were then used to produce a highly structured AUX-12 generated MATRIX50 superelement.

The top, side, and bottom temperatures in the tunnel predicted in the NIST fire simulation with FDS were imposed as boundary conditions on the elements modeling the tunnel surfaces. Emissivity values of 1.0 for the tunnel surfaces and 0.9 for the LWT package exterior surfaces were used, on the assumption that these surfaces would be severely blackened during the fire due to the effect of sooting.

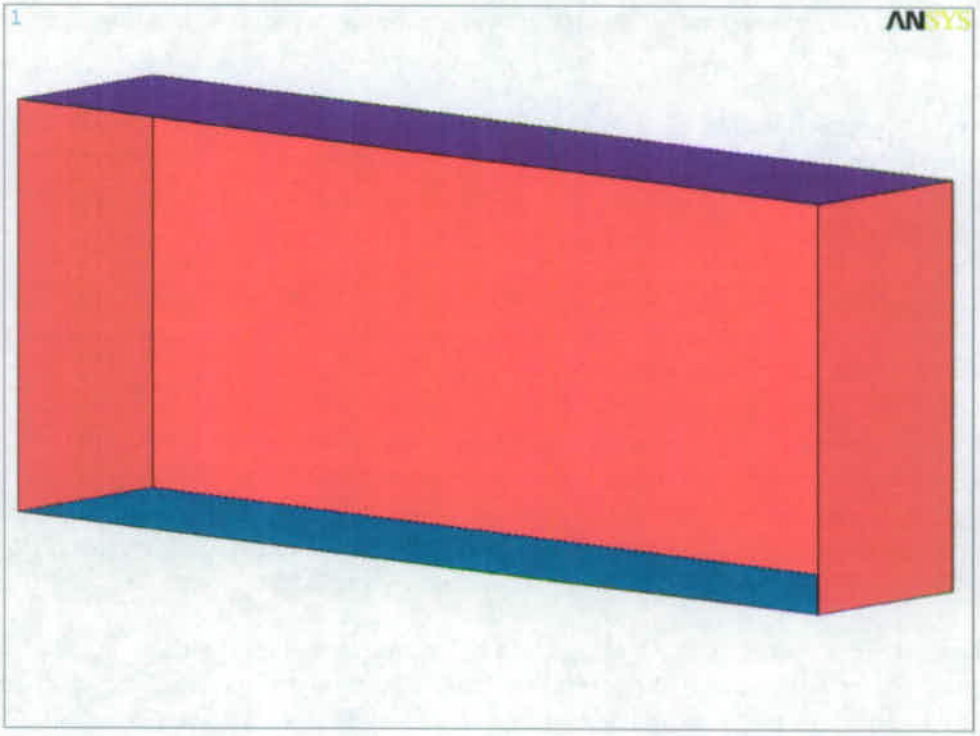

Figure 5.7. Zones for External Heat Transfer Between ISO Container and Tunnel

5.3 NAC LWT Transportation Package Material Properties

The material thermal properties used in the analytical model (with and without the ISO container) were obtained from the vendor's SAR [7] and are listed in the Appendix. Some modifications were made to the material properties to account for structural configuration changes and expected effects of the fire. More comprehensive material properties were needed for the lead comprising the gamma shielding, to accommodate the effects of melting and resolidification during the transient. For the aluminum honeycomb material, the significant void volume reduces the heat conducting capability compared to solid material. The thermal conductivity assigned to the impact limiters was scaled by the ratio of the honeycomb density to the density of solid aluminum.

Modeling of the liquid neutron shield was complicated by the expectation that the 56% ethylene glycol liquid will exceed its boiling point during virtually any fire scenario. This can be expected to lead to tank rupture and vaporization of the contents, which significantly affects the heat transfer behavior of the package. Prior to rupture, the liquid in the tank is expected to sustain convection currents due to

temperature gradients through the liquid between the tank surfaces. After rupture, empirical relations were used to obtain separate effective conductivities for the shield tank and expansion tank. (Refer to Section 6 for details on correlations used in this approach.)

The effective conductivity was determined as a function of the average tank temperature and the radial temperature difference between the tank inner and outer surfaces. The material properties were updated between each time step during the transient solution using ANSYS® Parametric Design Language (APDL). The affected nodes were assumed to consist of a 56% ethylene glycol solution up to the point where the average temperature reached the mixture's boiling point of 350°F (177°C).

When the average temperature in the tank exceeded the boiling point, it was assumed that rupture occurred and the liquid was immediately vaporized. The effective conductivity was then computed using air as the medium for the remainder of the fire duration, and also during the cool down period. This formulation conservatively neglects energy absorbed by the phase change (due to the heat of vaporization of the liquid). For the mass of liquid in the neutron shield tank and expansion tank, the boil-off would absorb on the order of 1.6×10^6 Btu (1.7×10^6 kJ), mainly because of the extremely high latent heat of vaporization of water at atmospheric pressure. The effect of this assumption is to over-estimate somewhat the rate of temperature increase in the neutron shield tank region. After rupture, thermal radiation exchange within the empty tanks was also activated using MATRIX50 superelements.

6 ANALYSIS METHOD

Analyses have been performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) using various assumptions related to the type of fire that could have been sustained in the Caldecott Tunnel. Results from the NIST analyses, including temperature and flow predictions for the postulated fire and post-fire scenario, were used to develop the boundary conditions applied to the ANSYS model of the NAC LWT package.

Section 6.1 lists the conservative assumptions underlying the analytical approach used. Section 6.2 describes the boundary conditions derived from the NIST simulation with FDS, and defines their application to the ANSYS analysis of the NAC LWT package. This includes temperature boundary conditions and the approach used to define convection and radiation heat transfer rates, and the methods used to account for material degradation during the fire. Section 6.3 describes the initial steady-state conditions for the NAC LWT package model, with and without the ISO container, at the beginning of the fire transient. Section 6.4 describes the procedure used for the transient calculations.

6.1 Modeling Assumptions for Fire Transient

A number of conservative assumptions were made in developing models and performing evaluations of the thermal response of the NAC LWT spent fuel transport package to the Caldecott Tunnel fire transient. The assumptions of greatest impact are listed below.

(1) Boundary conditions were taken from the hottest location within the tunnel, at 2034 ft (620 m) relative to the west portal, which is 328 ft (100 m) to the east (downstream) of the location of the fire. This location was selected based on predictions of peak gas temperatures in the lower, middle, and upper zones of the tunnel, and peak surface temperatures and energy fluxes on the tunnel floor, walls, and ceiling.

(2) Peak temperature values in each region were used to define boundary temperatures over the entire region, rather than using the detailed local temperature distributions predicted in the FDS calculation. This approach ensures a conservative estimate of the boundary temperatures, since the package does not see the peak temperatures on all surfaces, and in some cases may not see the peak temperature on any surface. (For example, the top of the package is not high enough to be directly exposed to the peak gas temperature near the top of the tunnel, but this value was used as the ambient temperature for convective heat transfer to the upper surface of the package.)

(3) The package cradle and the trailer bed were omitted from the ANSYS model of the NAC LWT package. These structures were neglected because they could partially shield the package from thermal radiation from the hot tunnel surfaces or block convection heat transfer to the package due to the flow of hot gasses, generated by the fire, along the surface of the package. This approach eliminated any potential shielding of the package from thermal radiation and convection heat transfer from the tunnel environment.

(4) During the simulated gasoline-fueled fire ($t < 0.67$ hr) and the short-term post-fire cool down period (0.67 hr $< t <$ 3.0 hr), it was assumed that forced convection heat transfer at the outer surface of the package was due solely to air flow induced in the tunnel by the temperature gradients of the fire. Convection heat transfer rates were calculated using the gas velocities at the locations of the peak gas temperatures, as predicted in the NIST analysis with FDS. This approach neglects the possible contribution of additional heat transfer from the package due to free convection resulting from vertical temperature gradients around the package. This boundary condition was switched to solely free convection after 3.0 hours, in the extrapolated extended cool down portion of the transient. This conservatively neglects any forced convection cooling of the package during the extended cool down period, when the gas velocities in the tunnel are predicted to have dropped to relatively small values.

(5) Attenuation of thermal radiation during the fire due to optical densification (i.e., smoke and particulates from combustion and material degradation) was not taken into account in the transient calculation. However, because the fire was reported to have produced thick black smoke, it was assumed that the outer surfaces of the package would 'see' the peak gas temperatures for thermal radiation exchange, rather than the tunnel surface temperatures. This provides a conservative treatment of heat transfer due to thermal radiation, since the FDS calculation predicted that the gas temperatures would be higher than the tunnel surface temperatures during and shortly after the fire. For the calculation with the package inside an ISO container, radiation views between the package and inner surfaces of the container were treated as clear and unobscured at all times during the transient.

(6) Materials that would burn or boil off during the transient were assumed to remain intact during the fire. The higher thermal conductivity value of the intact material tends to maximize the heat input into the package during the fire. At the end of the fire, the thermal conductivity values for these materials were reduced to that of air, so that the affected components present an added thermal barrier to heat removal from the package after the fire.

(7) The ethylene glycol and water mixture comprising the package's neutron shielding was assumed to remain in liquid form during the fire until the average temperature in the shield tank reached the boiling point of the fluid. The fluid in the expansion tank was treated in a similar manner. This conservative approach acts to maximize the heat input into the package during the fire. After the average temperature in a tank exceeded the boiling point of the fluid, heat transfer through the tank was reduced to conduction and thermal radiation through air. As a result, the neutron shield region then presents an added thermal barrier to heat removal from the package. However, the thermal energy absorbed in the process of boiling off the large mass of liquid was conservatively neglected, and was not subtracted from the heat input to the package.

Given these assumptions and the extremely detailed 3-D model of the spent fuel transportation package, the ANSYS analyses presented here constitute a conservative evaluation of the response of the NAC

LWT package to the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario. The boundary conditions from the FDS simulation of the Caldecott Tunnel are presented in Sections 6.2 through 6.4.

6.2 Boundary Conditions for Fire Transient

Boundary conditions from the NIST simulation with FDS were selected from a location approximately 328 ft (100 m) downstream of the fire source. This location corresponds to the hottest gas temperatures and highest thermal energy output of the fire (see the discussion in Section 3 and the plots in Figures 3.13, 3.14, and 3.15.) Section 6.2.1 describes the tunnel surface temperatures and gas temperatures selected to define the boundary conditions for the ANSYS calculation. Section 6.2.2 describes the heat transfer boundary conditions applied in the analysis, based on the gas temperatures and associated gas velocities.

6.2.1 Boundary Temperatures from FDS Analysis

Peak tunnel surface temperatures, peak gas temperatures, and associated gas velocities over time from the NIST simulation with FDS were selected from the location approximately 328 ft (100 m) downstream of the fire source. As a conservative simplification of the finely detailed meshing of the fluid nodes in the FDS simulation, the tunnel air volume was divided into three sections, consisting of a top, side, and bottom region. The regions were defined based on the geometry of the tunnel and the position of the package within the tunnel. The top region was defined as the tunnel volume extending from the highest point in the tunnel ceiling to 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor. The side or middle region was defined as the volume extending from 17 ft (5.2 m) to 1.0 ft (0.3 m) above the tunnel floor. The bottom region was defined as the volume between the tunnel floor and 1.0 ft (0.3 m) above the tunnel floor.

The tunnel surfaces in the ANSYS model were divided into three corresponding regions, consisting of the ceiling, side walls, and floor. The top region consists of the slightly arched ceiling, which extends from 18.5 ft (5.6 m) to 17 ft (5.2 m) above the tunnel floor. The side or middle region consists of the tunnel wall from 17 ft (5.2 m) to 1.0 ft (0.3 m) above the tunnel floor. The bottom region consists of the tunnel floor and up the wall to 1.0 ft (0.30 m) above the tunnel floor.

Instead of tracking the local surface temperatures, gas temperatures, and gas velocities predicted with FDS over the fine mesh within each of these regions in the detailed NIST simulations, the boundary temperatures used in the ANSYS calculations were defined by applying the peak temperature and velocity values for a given region over the entire region. Within a given region, the predicted peak tunnel surface temperature, peak gas temperature, and associated gas velocity as a function of time were used to define the boundary conditions for the entire region.

Using this conservative simplification, boundary temperatures were specified for the top region, side region, and bottom region of the ANSYS model of the package within the tunnel. For the analysis with the ISO container, the top region consists of the upper surface of the ISO container, the side region consists of the three vertical surfaces of the half-section of symmetry of the ISO container, and the bottom region of the model consists of the ISO container base.

For the analysis without the ISO container, the top region consists of the upper 60-degree arc of the 180-degree half-section of symmetry of the package circumference. The bottom region consists of the lower 30-degree arc of the package circumference, and the side region consists of the 90-degree arc between the upper and lower region. This division was also applied to the impact limiters.

In clear air, the package surfaces (without the ISO container) or the ISO container surfaces would see the tunnel surfaces for radiation exchange. However, during the fire portion of the transient, this view is obscured due to smoke and other combustion gases filling the tunnel. This means that the package would see the gas temperature rather than the wall temperature for radiation heat transfer. This is significant, since during the fire portion of the transient, the peak gas temperatures from the upper and middle regions of the tunnel are generally 180-270°F (100-150°C) above the peak ceiling and wall surface temperatures (as can be seen from Figures 3.10 and 3.11).

This is represented in the ANSYS simulations by specifying the gas temperatures rather than the tunnel surface temperatures as the temperatures seen by the package outer surfaces for thermal radiation heat transfer during the fire. After the fire, the smoke was reported to have cleared out fairly rapidly, so that in a relatively short time, the package surfaces would be expected to see the tunnel surfaces. This transition was modeled by selecting the boundary temperature as the maximum of the tunnel surface temperature or gas temperature for the given region. In effect, this means that the radiation boundary temperature for a region switches from the gas temperature to the tunnel surface temperature very shortly after the end of the fire.

The peak temperature-vs.-time and velocity-vs.-time values from the FDS simulation were smoothed to conservatively remove the rapid stochastic variations typical of dynamic fire behavior, preserving only the major peaks and troughs related to the general physical behavior of the simulated fire. Figure 6.1 shows the boundary temperatures for thermal radiation for each region, which were selected as the maximum of the gas temperature or the surface temperature for the corresponding region of the tunnel.

The boundary temperatures for convection heat transfer in each region are shown in Figure 6.2. In all regions, this temperature is the corresponding peak gas temperature from the NIST calculation with FDS. The gas velocities used in each region are also taken from the NIST calculation, at the location of the corresponding peak temperature. These velocities are shown for each region in Figure 6.3. These temperature-vs.-time and velocity-vs.-time values used as boundary conditions in the ANSYS calculation were smoothed to conservatively remove the rapid stochastic variations typical of dynamic fire behavior, preserving only the major peaks and troughs related to the general physical behavior of the simulated fire.

The FDS analysis performed by NIST was carried out for a 40-minute gasoline-fueled fire and 2.3-hour post-fire cool-down, for a total simulation duration of 3 hours. To determine the complete time and temperature response of the package, and explore the effects of prolonged exposure to post-fire conditions in the tunnel, the ANSYS analysis extended the post-fire cool down to 50 hours. Tunnel surface and gas temperatures predicted with FDS at 3 hours were extrapolated from 3 hours out to 50 hours using a power function, to realistically simulate cool down of the tunnel environment.

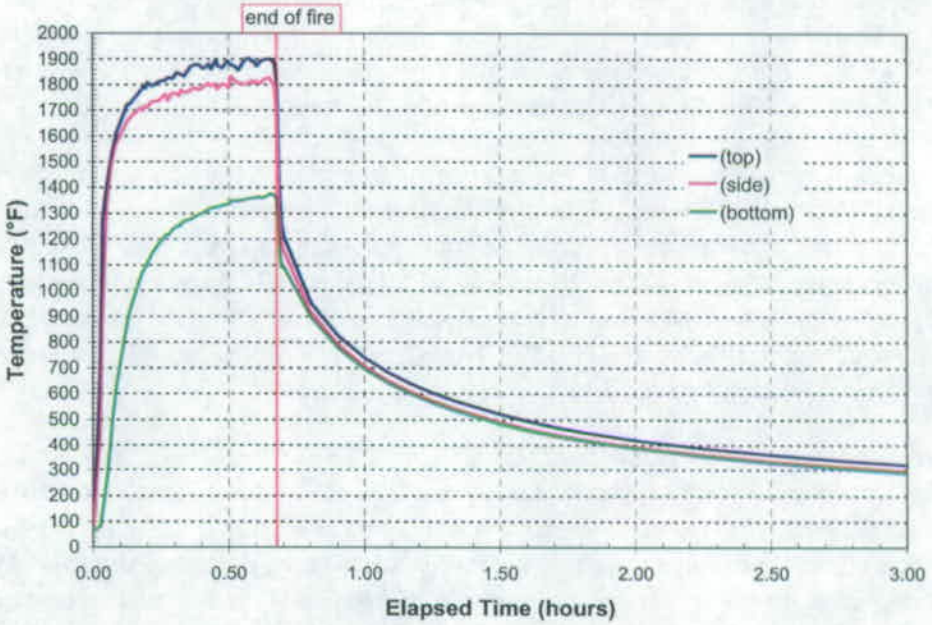

Figure 6.1. Peak Temperatures for Radiation Exchange During Fire Transient in Caldecott Tunnel

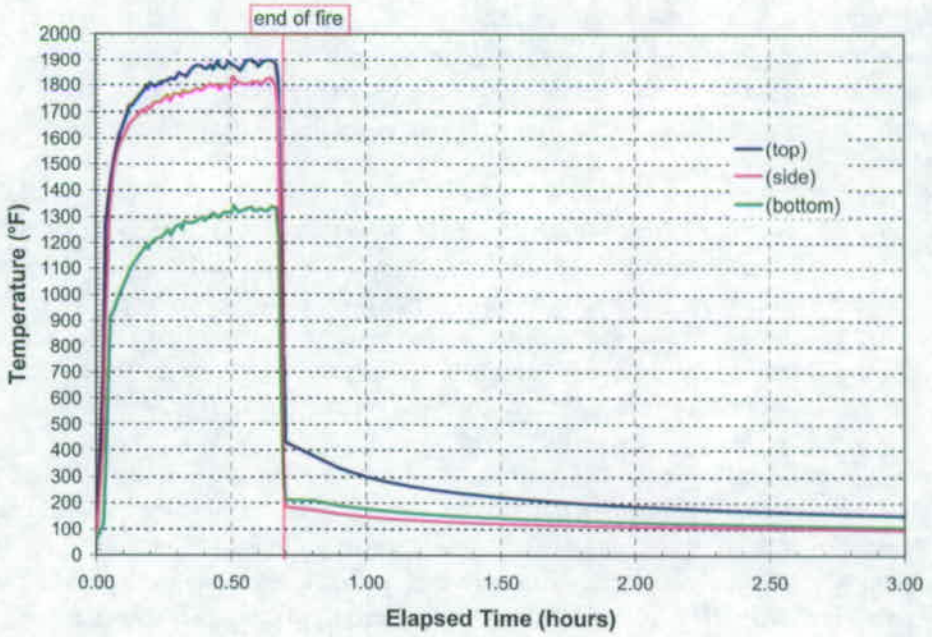

Figure 6.2. Peak Temperatures for Convection Heat Transfer During Fire Transient in Caldecott Tunnel

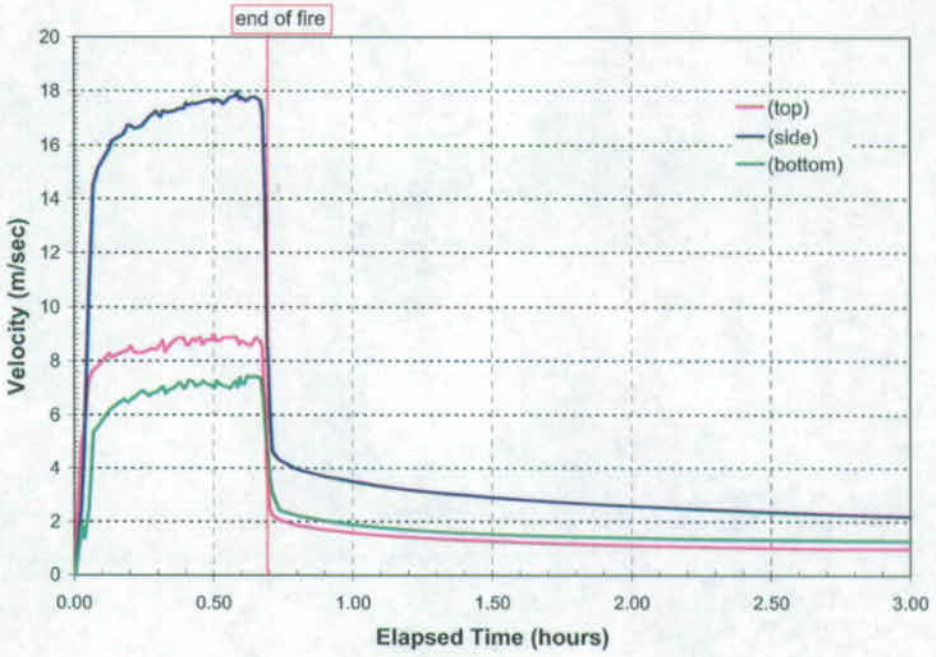

Figure 6.3. Peak Velocities for Convection Heat Transfer During Fire Transient in Caldecott Tunnel

Figures 6.4 and 6.5 show the boundary temperatures for radiation and convection heat transfer, respectively, extrapolated from 3 hours out to 50 hours. The extrapolation was performed by fitting a power function to the post-fire portion of each of the boundary temperature curves from the FDS simulation, such that

$$T_n = a_n t^{b_n}$$

where T_n = extrapolated boundary temperature of region n
a_n = leading coefficient of regression fit to boundary temperature curve n
b_n = exponential coefficient of regression fit to boundary temperature curve n
t = elapsed time

By the end of three hours (2.3 hr after the end of the simulated fire), the predicted gas velocities for forced convection have dropped to less than 2 ft/s (0.6 m/s). At that time, the convection heat transfer boundary at the package surface is switched from forced convection to free convection only. By 50 hours, the extrapolated boundary conditions predict that the peak gas temperatures and surface temperatures in the tunnel will be back to the normal tunnel ambient air temperature of 68°F (20°C), and all boundary temperatures are essentially constant.

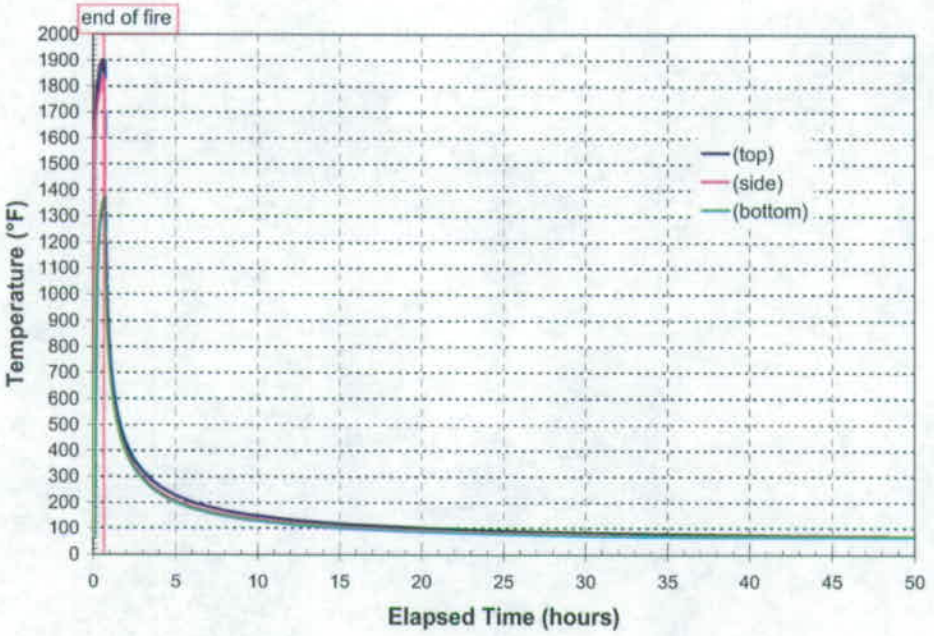

Figure 6.4. Peak Temperatures for Radiation Exchange During Extended Transient in Caldecott Tunnel

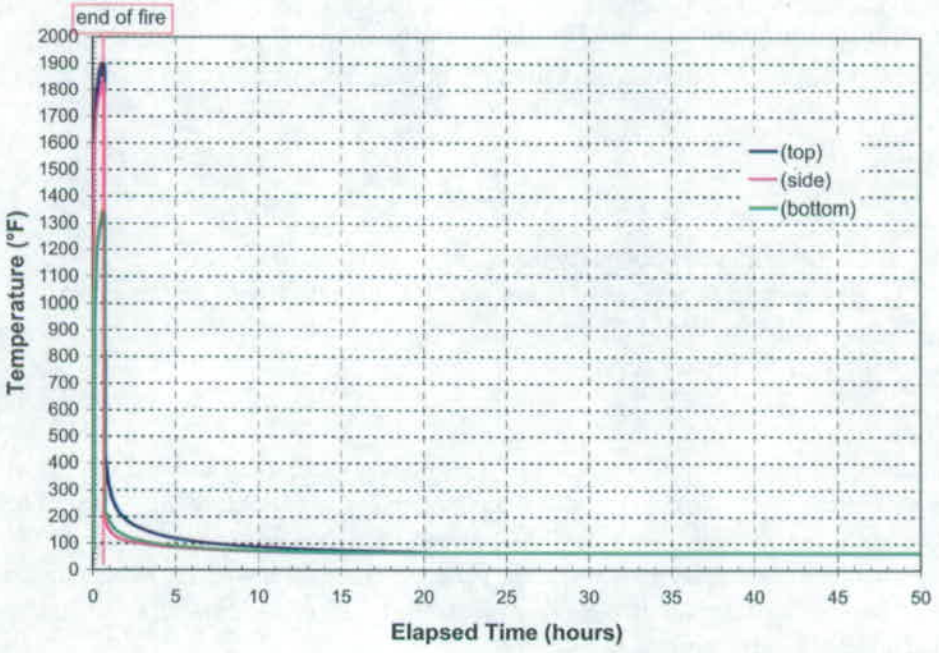

Figure 6.5. Peak Temperatures for Convection During Extended Transient in Caldecott Tunnel

6.2.2 Convection Boundary Conditions

The NIST analyses with FDS show that the thermal gradients created by the fire would result in significant air flow past a body located in the tunnel downstream of the fire. This fire-forced convection would significantly affect heat transfer around the LWT package or ISO container, and have a strong influence on the rate of increase of the outermost surface temperatures of the package.

The regional peak gas temperatures shown in Figure 6.2 and associated velocities shown in Figure 6.3 were used to define local time-dependent Nusselt number values on the surface nodes corresponding to the top, side, and bottom regions of the package. The corresponding heat transfer coefficient is used to calculate the local convection heat transfer at the package surface.

To maintain consistency between the two models, the same Nusselt number correlation was used to define convection heat transfer at the package surface (without the ISO) as for the analysis of the package within an ISO container. For both cases, the Nusselt number at the outer surface of the package was defined using the following relationships for gas flow over flat or slightly curved surfaces at zero angle of attack [10];

for laminar flow ($Re_L < 500{,}000$): $Nu_L = 0.665\,Re_L^{1/2}\,Pr^{1/3}$

for turbulent flow ($Re_L > 500{,}000$): $Nu_L = 0.032\,Re_L^{0.8}\,Pr^{1/3}$

For the case with the ISO container, the characteristic length, L, for the Nusselt number and Reynolds number was specified as the horizontal ISO container wetted surface length (i.e., 240 inches). For the case without the ISO container, the axial characteristic length was defined as 232 inches, based on the length of the exposed package body. A characteristic length of 65 inches was used for the vertical surfaces of the impact limiters on the ends of the package.

The peak gas temperature predictions from the NIST analysis define the ambient sink temperatures around the package during the fire transient and post-fire cool down period. The Nusselt number defines the rate of heat transfer from the package, which is used in ANSYS to calculate the local convection heat flux at the outer surfaces. Using one of the above relationships for Nusselt number (depending on the geometry being modeled and the hydrodynamics of the air flow), the code solves for local surface temperatures and calculates the convection component of the heat flux at the surface using the formula

$$q''_{conv} = Nu_L \frac{k}{L}(T_s - T_{air})$$

where k = thermal conductivity of ambient air
L = characteristic length
T_s = package surface temperature
T_{air} = ambient external air temperature.

By the end of 3 hours, the gas velocities predicted in the NIST calculation are down to 1 to 2 ft/s (0.3 to 0.6 m/s) or less (see Figure 3.15). Heat transfer at the package surface for these flow conditions is a complex mixture of forced convection (due to air flow induced in the tunnel by the temperature gradients of the fire) and free convection (driven by the non-uniform circumferential temperatures around the package outer surface). At velocities below about 3-5 ft/s (1 to 1.5 m/s), heat transfer rates predicted assuming forced convection are generally lower than heat transfer rates due to natural convection for the temperatures on and around the surface of the package.

To avoid the modeling uncertainties associated with mixed-mode heat transfer, forced convection only was assumed until the end of the NIST simulation, at 3 hours into the transient. From 3 hours to 50 hours, the heat transfer was assumed to be natural convection only. The contribution of free convection at the package surface is ignored in the cool down from 0.7 to 3 hours, and the contribution of forced convection is neglected in the cool down period from 3 to 50 hours. This ensures a conservative treatment of convection heat transfer from the package surface during the entire calculation.

For consistency, the natural or buoyancy-driven convective coefficients were those utilized to determine the pre-fire component temperature distributions (i.e., Normal-Hot Conditions of Transport, as defined in 10 CFR 71.71[1].) The heat transfer coefficients were defined for the appropriate surface geometries using the relationships [11,12,13] given below.

For flow along a vertical plane or cylinder:

--laminar flow ($10^4 < Gr_f \cdot Pr_f < 10^9$): $h = 1.42\left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{1/4}$

--turbulent flow ($Gr_f \cdot Pr_f > 10^9$): $h = 1.31(\Delta T)^{1/3}$

where h = heat transfer coefficient, W/m^2-°C
$\Delta T = T_w - T_\infty$, °C
where T_w = surface or wall temperature, °C
T_∞ = ambient temperature, °C
L = vertical or horizontal dimension, *m*
Gr_f = Grashoff number of the gas at film temperature; $T_f = (T_w + T_\infty)/2$
Pr_f = Prandtl number of the gas at film temperature

For flow over a horizontal cylinder:

--laminar flow ($10^4 < Gr_f \cdot Pr_f < 10^9$): $h = 1.32\left(\frac{\Delta T}{d}\right)^{1/4}$

where d = diameter, m

--turbulent flow ($Gr_f \cdot Pr_f > 10^9$): $h = 1.24(\Delta T)^{1/3}$

For flow over a horizontal heated plate facing upward (cool side facing downward):

-- laminar flow ($10^4 < Gr_f \cdot Pr_f < 10^9$): $h = 1.32\left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{1/4}$

-- turbulent flow ($Gr_f \cdot Pr_f > 10^9$): $h = 1.52(\Delta T)^{1/3}$

For laminar flow ($10^4 < Gr_f \cdot Pr_f < 10^9$) over a heated plate facing downward (cool side up):

$$h = 0.59\left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{1/4}$$

Definitions of material properties used to compute $Gr_f \cdot Pr_f$ for use with these correlations were taken from Table A-3 of Kreith [13].

An empirical relationship for effective conductivity incorporating the effects of both conduction and convection was used to determine heat exchange through the liquid neutron shield. In the SAR [7] analysis for the LWT package, the effective conductivity of the ethylene glycol mixture for conditions below 350°F was determined using the correlation of Bucholz [14]. This correlation defines the ratio of the effective conductivity to the actual thermal conductivity as equal to the Nusselt number, such that

$$\frac{k_{eff}}{k_c} = Nu = 0.135(Pr^2\, Gr/(1.36 + Pr))^{0.278}$$

where k_{eff} = effective thermal conductivity of material in node
k_c = thermal conductivity of motionless fluid in node
Pr = Prandtl number
Gr = Grashoff number.

The fire transient is outside the range of the Bucholz correlation, and it yields unrealistically large values for k_{eff} for these conditions. An alternative correlation from Raithby and Hollands [10], based on heat transfer between concentric cylinders, was used in this analysis instead. This correlation produces reasonable values of k_{eff}, and the transient conditions are generally within its applicable range. In this correlation, the Nusselt number is expressed as

$$\frac{k_{eff}}{k_c} = Nu = 0.386 D_r (Pr/(0.861 + Pr))^{0.25}\, Ra^{0.25}$$

where Rayleigh number (Ra = Pr*Gr) is based on the temperature difference across the annular gap.

The dimensionless parameter D_r is defined:

$$D_r = \left[\frac{\ln(D_o / D_i)}{d^{3/4}(1/D_i^{3/5} + 1/D_o^{3/5})^{5/4}} \right]$$

where D_o = annulus outer diameter
D_i = annulus inner diameter
d = width of annulus.

Figure 6.6 shows a plot of the Nusselt number predicted with these two correlations for the liquid (56% ethylene glycol and water mixture) in the neutron shield annulus. Figure 6.7 shows the effective conductivity for the shield tank annulus as a function of the average temperature for a large range of temperature differences across the tank. Figure 6.8 shows similar results for the expansion tank. (The sharp discontinuity in the curves on both plots represents the abrupt phase change assumed when the average temperature of the liquid reaches the boiling point of the ethylene glycol and water mixture.) For low values of the temperature difference, the results approach those for conduction-only conditions.

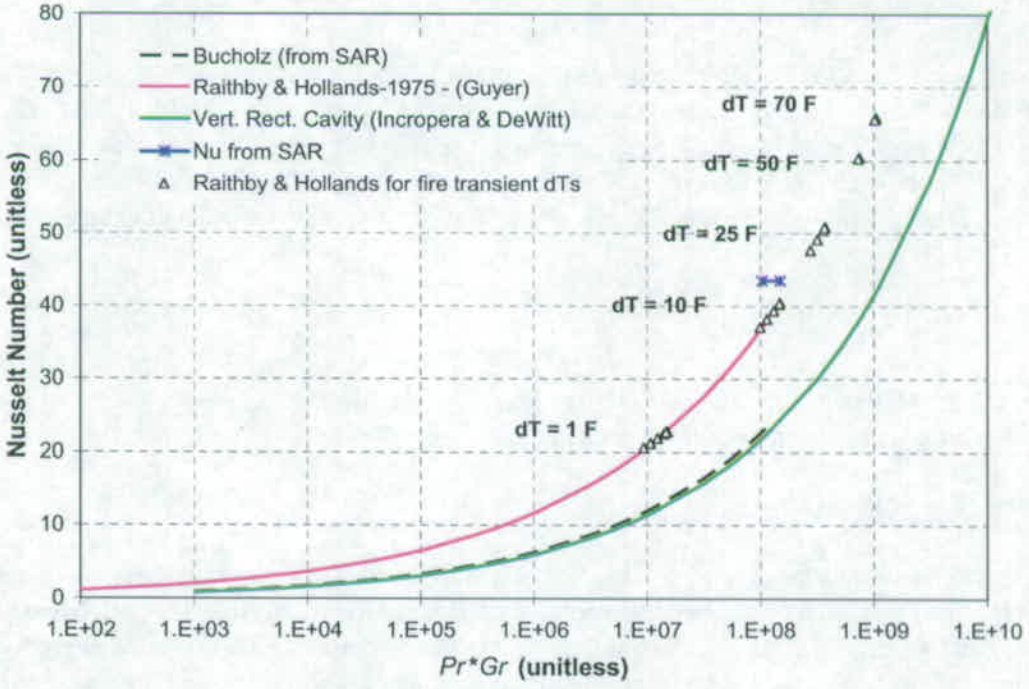

Figure 6.6. Nusselt Number for Heat Transfer in Liquid Neutron Shield

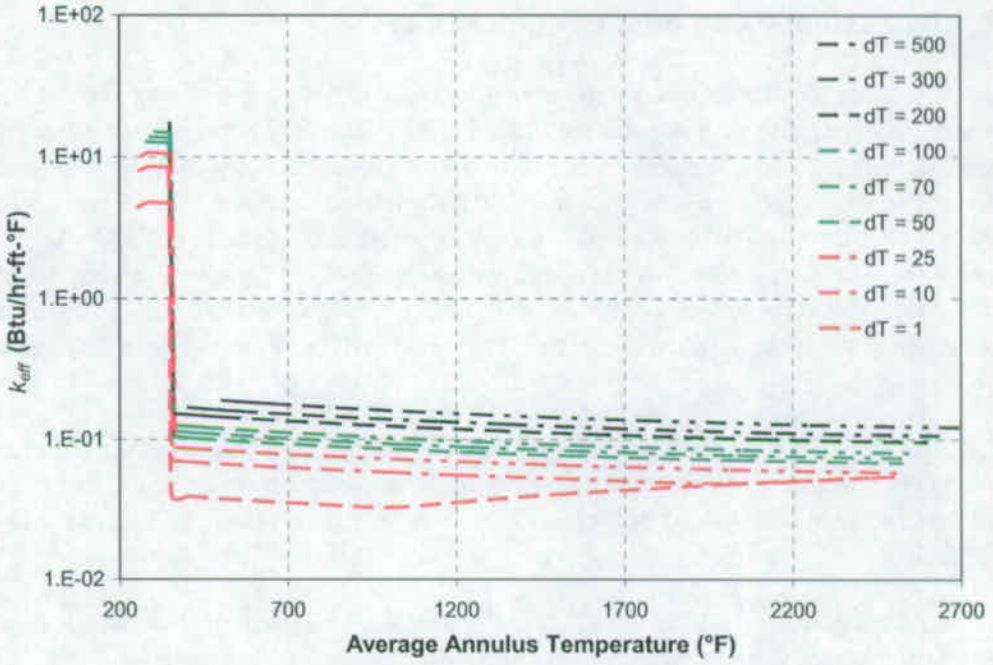

Figure 6.7. Effective Conductivity of Liquid Neutron Shield Tank

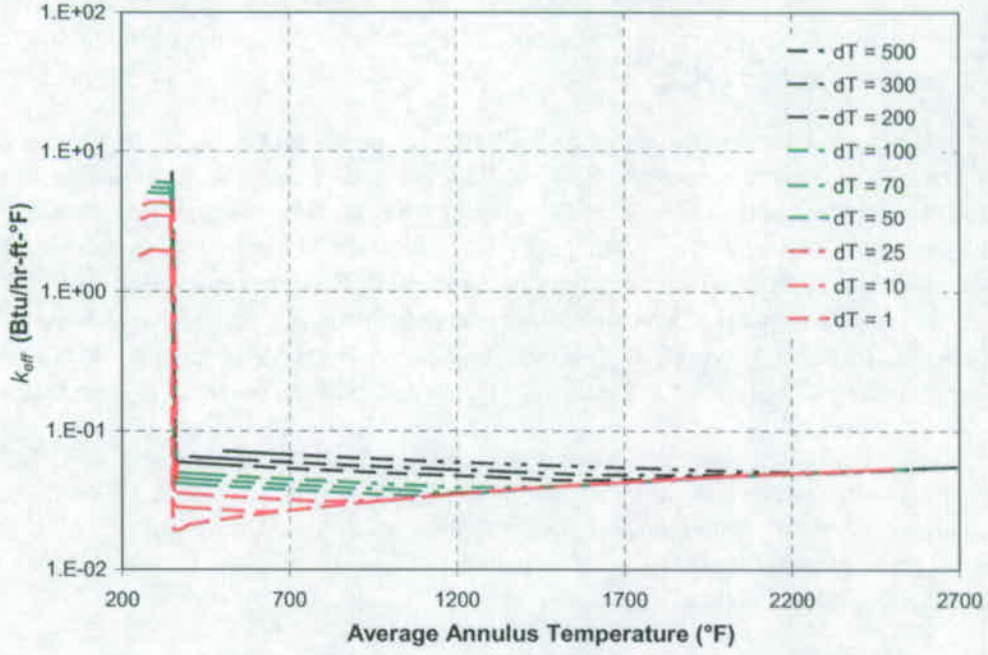

Figure 6.8. Effective Conductivity of Liquid Neutron Shield Expansion Tank

6.3 Initial System Component Temperatures

The hot normal conditions for transport were used as initial conditions for these analyses. A heat generation rate equivalent to a decay heat load of 8,530 Btu/hr (2.5 kW) was applied, with appropriate peaking factor, over the active fuel region. For the analysis of the package without an ISO container, free convection at the package surface is handled by SURF152 elements with a constant heat transfer coefficient of 0.891 Btu/h-ft^2-°F (0.157 W/m^2-°C) and an ambient temperature of 100°F (38°C). For the analysis with the ISO container, the natural convection correlations for buoyancy-driven flow discussed in Section 6.2.2 were used to simulate convection heat transfer between the outer surface of the package and the inner surface of the ISO container, and between the outer surface of the container and ambient air.

For both analyses, with and without the ISO container, solar insolation (i.e., radiation) is incorporated by using SURF152 elements with heat generation on the outer surface of the package, at the rate specified in 10CFR71 [1]. For pre-fire conditions, the emissivity of the package surface or ISO container surface was specified at a value representative of the local surface finish (e.g., 0.3 for bare stainless steel, 0.85 for painted surfaces.)

The steady-state temperature distributions predicted in the package to define the initial conditions for the fire transient calculations were verified by comparison with results reported in the SAR [7]. Direct comparison is not possible, because the SAR [7] does not include any analytical cases similar to the detailed 3-D models used in this study. Because the main concern in analyses for normal transport conditions is to determine a conservative rate of heat removal from the package, the applicant chose to perform a series of highly conservative evaluations using relatively simple models to qualify the system for its Certificate of Compliance (CoC).

The most complex models presented in the SAR [7] involve simple 2-D ANSYS cross-sections in which the cutting plane includes the expansion tank as well as the neutron shield tank. This approach does not allow axial heat flow out of the plane of the 2-D cross-section, and also assumes that the decay heat load axial peak occurs on that plane. This assumption places the spent nuclear fuel peak decay heat location under two concentric tanks filled with neutron shield material. This provides conservatism for a steady-state analysis, since the expansion tank adds a longer conduction path over which to dissipate the decay heat. For the fire transient, however, the assumptions in this 2-D model would have the effect of limiting the heat input to the package from the fire, and would not constitute a conservative approach.

In the SAR [7], ANSYS cross-sectional models were also used to represent a 25-rod BWR basket assembly at 1.41 kW and a consolidated canister of 25 high burn-up PWR rods at 2.1 kW. These models included detailed representation of the fuel pins, pin tubes, and can weldments with the pins resting on the pin tubes via point contact. These models also included the ISO container, with solar insolation and 100°F (38°C) ambient temperature.

The design basis results presented in the SAR [7] for a 2.5 kW PWR assembly also used a 2-D model of the package. This is a HEATING5 model, with a 2-D axisymmetric representation using effective diameters for the basket and fuel assembly. This model neglects the ISO container and impact limiters,

and the 2-D model cannot account for conduction and convection at the assembly end cavities. The ambient temperature boundary condition for these analyses was specified as 130°F (54°C).

The results reported for these three cases are summarized in Table 6.1. As might be expected, the conservative 2-D ANSYS models predict relatively high temperatures, compared to the results obtained with the more detailed HEATING5 model. Of these three cases, only the HEATING5 analysis at 2.5 kW is sufficiently close to the initial steady state conditions assumed for the fire transient to allow reasonable comparisons to be made for verification of the 3-D ANSYS model predictions.

Table 6.1. NAC LWT Component Temperatures at Various Decay Heat Loads

Component	2.5 kW °F (°C) (Table 3.4-2 [7])	1.41 kW °F (°C) Table 3.4-7 [7])	2.1 kW °F (°C) Table 3.4-10 [7])
Fuel Cladding	472 (244)	358 (181)	671 (355)
Aluminum PWR Insert	276 (136)	*	394 (201)
Inner Shell	274 (134)	249 (121)	385 (196)
Gamma Shield	273 (134)	248 (120)	375 (191)
Outer Surface	229 (109)	185 (85)	308 (153)
Neutron Shield	238 (114)	235 (113)	306 (152)
Lid Seal	227 (108)	*	*
Drain/Vent Ports	231 (111)	*	*
Impact Limiters	*	*	*
ISO Container	*	*	*

* value not reported by applicant

For the purpose of this comparison, additional calculations were performed with the 3-D ANSYS model with and without an ISO container, using an ambient temperature boundary of 130°F (54°C) at 2.5 kW decay heat load. (These calculations were performed in addition to those at 100°F (38°C) ambient temperature, which provides the initial conditions for the fire transient calculations.)

Figure 6.9 shows the predicted temperature distribution from the ANSYS solution with the package in an ISO container. Table 6.2 presents detailed component temperature results obtained with the 3-D ANSYS model analyses, compared to the values published in the SAR [7] for the HEATING5 model at this decay heat load and ambient temperature boundary condition.

At first glance, the temperatures presented in Table 6.2 appear to show rather large differences between the results obtained with the two models. The peak clad temperature predicted with the ANSYS 3-D model is 434°F (223°C), compared to 472°F (244°C) reported in the SAR for the HEATING5 model [7]. Other component temperatures shown in the table are also lower for the 3-D ANSYS model results, compared to the corresponding SAR values. However, this is an expected result, given the modeling differences between the two cases. The 2-D cross-section of the package in the HEATING5 model should result in more conservative predicted temperatures, compared to the 3-D ANSYS model.

A more significant observation for the purposes of this comparison is that the differences in peak component temperatures are consistent between the two approaches. The radial temperature drop from the peak fuel cladding temperature to the outer package surface temperature is 234°F (130°C) for the ANSYS 3-D model, compared to the predicted temperature drop of 243°F (135°C) with the HEATING5 axisymmetric model. This close agreement strongly suggests that both models provide a similar representation of the radial heat transfer paths from the fuel cladding to the environment. The differences in specific predicted temperature values are due mainly to differences in model complexity. For example, the 3-D representation in the ANSYS model accounts for axial as well as radial heat transfer paths, which the 2-D HEATING5 model specifically excludes.

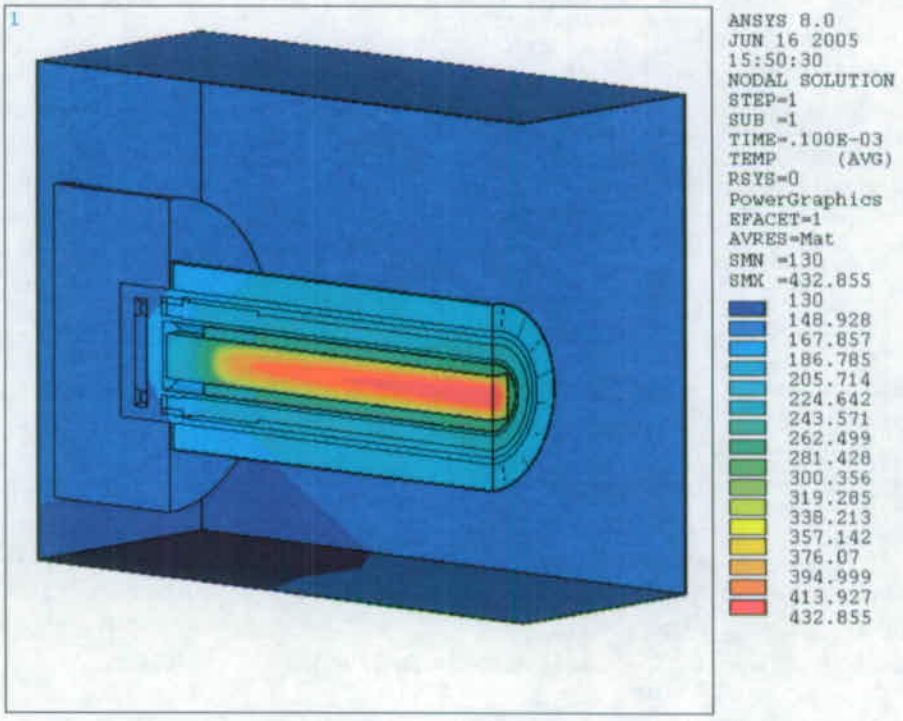

Figure 6.9. LWT Package (with ISO Container): Normal-Hot Condition Temperature Distribution (2.5 kW Decay Heat, 130°F Ambient)

Figure 6.10 shows the temperature distribution for the NAC LWT package within an ISO container, predicted with the ANSYS 3-D model for the initial steady-state conditions before the fire transient. Figure 6.11 shows the temperature distribution predicted for the NAC LWT package without an ISO container. The boundary conditions for these calculations were specified as 100°F (38°C) at 2.5 kW with solar isolation, corresponding to Normal Hot Conditions of Transport as described in 10 CFR 71.71 [1].

The pre-fire steady-state component peak temperatures predicted with the ANSYS 3-D models are shown in Table 6.3. These temperatures are somewhat lower than those reported for the 3-D model in Table 6.2, due to the lower ambient boundary temperature, but the radial temperature distribution is essentially identical.

Table 6.2. NAC LWT Component Temperatures at 2.5 kW Decay Heat Load and 130°F Ambient

Component	Current Study with ISO (ANSYS) °F (°C)	SAR Values (Table 3.4-2 [7]) °F (°C)	ΔT °F (°C)
Fuel Cladding	434 (223)	472 (244)	38 (21)
Aluminum PWR Insert	265 (129)	276 (136)	11 (6)
Inner Shell	228 (109)	274 (134)	46 (26)
Gamma Shield	227 (108)	273 (134)	46 (26)
Outer Surface	200 (93)	229 (109)	29 (16)
Neutron Shield	204 (96)	238 (114)	34 (19)
Lid Seal	164 (73)	227 (108)	63 (35)
Drain/Vent Ports	164 (73)	231 (111)	67 (37)
Impact Limiters	167 (75)	Not Modeled	--
ISO Container	167 (75)	Not Modeled	--

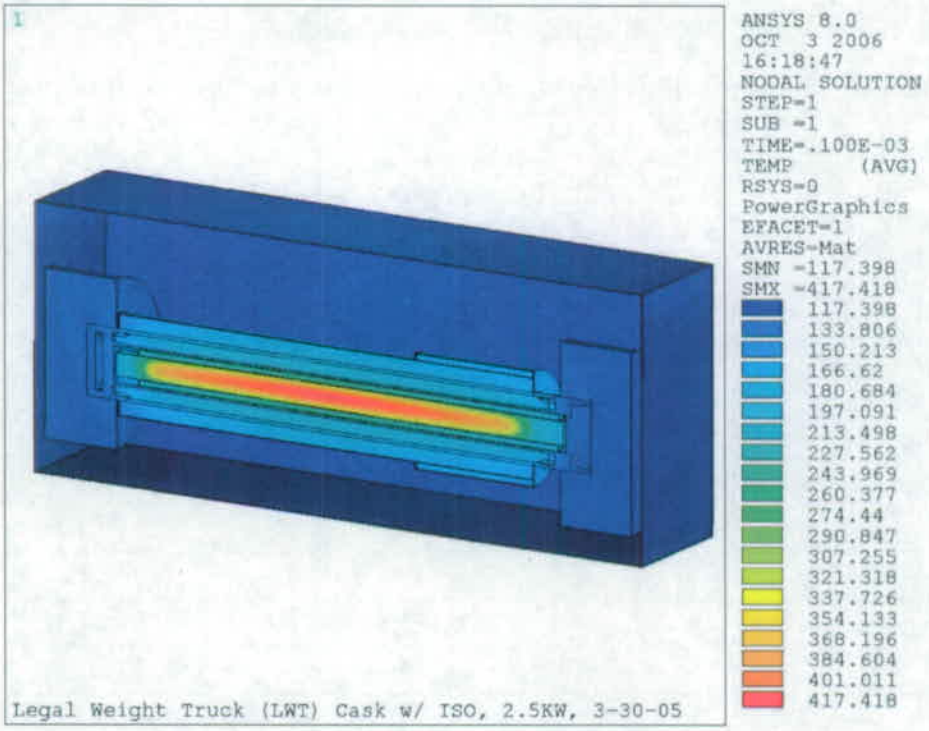

Figure 6.10. LWT Package (with ISO Container): Normal Condition Temperature Distribution (2.5 kW Decay Heat)

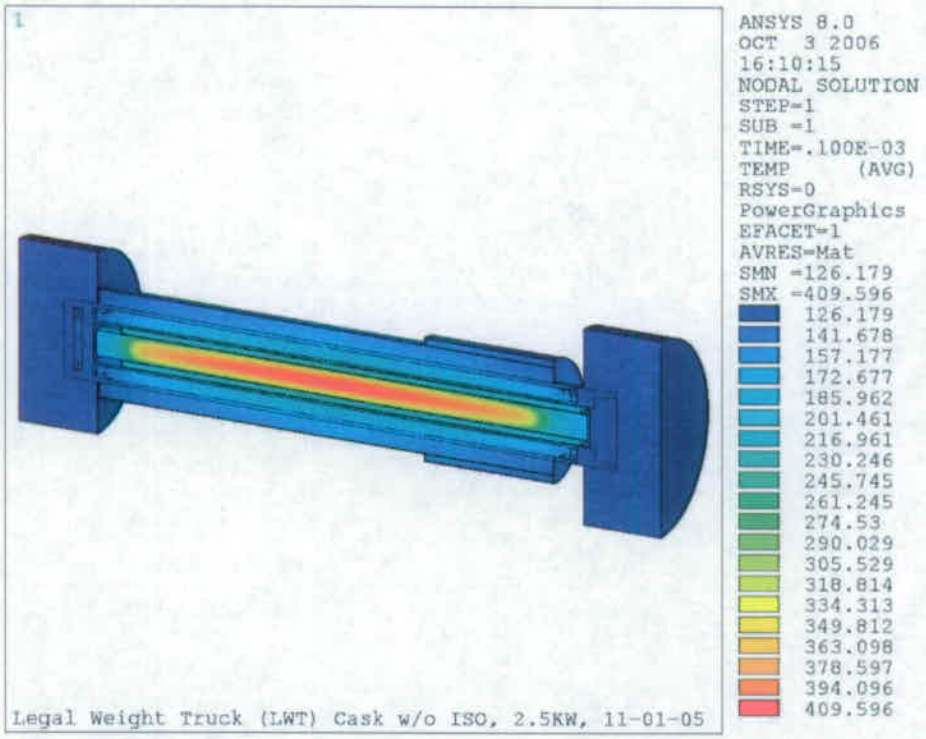

Figure 6.11. LWT Package (without ISO Container): Normal Condition Temperature Distribution (2.5 kW Decay Heat)

Table 6.3. NAC LWT Pre-Fire Component Temperatures at 2.5 kW Decay Heat Load and 100°F Ambient

Component	without ISO (ANSYS) °F (°C)	with ISO (ANSYS) °F (°C)
Fuel Cladding	410 (210)	417 (214)
Aluminum PWR Insert	229 (109)	242 (117)
Inner Shell	191 (88)	205 (96)
Gamma Shield	189 (87)	204 (95)
Outer Surface	158 (70)	176 (80)
Neutron Shield	163 (73)	180 (82)
Lid Seal	132 (55)	138 (59)
Drain/Vent Ports	131 (55)	138 (59)
Impact Limiters	133 (56)	141 (60)
ISO Container	N/A	140 (60)

6.4 Tunnel Fire Transient

The Caldecott Tunnel fire transient simulation for the NAC LWT transport package consists of three phases. The transient calculation is initiated from the steady-state conditions described in Section 6.3 (with or without the ISO container) for normal hot conditions, assuming insolation and 100°F (38°C) ambient temperature, as per 10CFR71.71 [1]. The first phase of the transient consists of the intense, gasoline-fueled fire, lasting approximately 40 minutes. The second phase consists of the short-term post-fire cool down, extending from the end of the fire (at 40 minutes) out the end of the NIST simulation with FDS, at 3 hours. The third phase consists of the long-term post-fire cool down, using extrapolated boundary conditions and extending from 3 hours out to 50 hours.

In the first phase of the calculation, the fire transient was initiated from the steady-state conditions by setting the solar insolation to zero, adding the elements and appropriate thermal connections comprising the model of the tunnel, and introducing the boundary conditions representing the fire. The transport package and tunnel surfaces were assign emissivities of 0.9 and 1.0, respectively, to represent surfaces affected by sooting.

For the first phase of the transient ($0 \leq t \leq 0.67$ hr), during the intense, gasoline-fueled fire, a forced convection regime was assumed to exist on the exterior of the package, with the surface heat transfer coefficient calculated based on the gas velocity predictions from the FDS analysis performed by NIST. With the peak gas temperatures from the NIST analysis defining the ambient boundary temperature, the convective heat flux at the package surface could be determined in the solution for the local surface temperature. Heat transfer due to thermal radiation was also included, with the source temperature for radiation exchange defined as the maximum of the tunnel wall temperature or tunnel gas temperature. This approach conservatively accounts for the effects of optical densification due to smoke and other gasses released as a result of the fire.

As an additional conservatism to maximize the heat input to the package from the fire, the aluminum honeycomb impact limiters were assumed to remain intact during the fire. The heat conduction paths into the package provided by the impact limiters were therefore maintained at the higher value corresponding to the aluminum honeycomb long after the predicted temperatures indicated that this material would have been destroyed or degraded by the fire. At the end of the fire, the properties of the nodes representing this material were replaced with thermal properties of hot dry air. The calculation conservatively neglected to subtract the energy that would have been absorbed due to the latent heat of fusion in the phase change of the aluminum from solid to liquid.

Similarly, the ethylene glycol and water mixture in the neutron shield tank and overflow tank was assumed to remain in place until the average temperature of this region exceeded the boiling temperature of the liquid (350°F (177°C)). At that point, the thermal properties of the liquid were replaced with those of hot dry air. The calculation conservatively neglected to subtract the energy that would have been absorbed due to the latent heat of evaporation in the phase change from liquid to vapor.

In the second phase of the analysis, which included the post-fire cool down from the end of the fire (at 40 minutes) to the end of the FDS simulation (at 3 hours), the convective heat transfer at the package surface

was assumed to consist of only forced convection, based on predicted gas velocities and temperatures from the NIST analysis with FDS. In the third phase of the analysis, the post-fire cool-down was extended from 3 hours out to 50 hours (49.3 hours after the end of the fire.) The boundary conditions for the additional 47 hours of the transient were obtained from the temperatures and velocities predicted in the FDS analysis, extrapolated to 50 hours using a power function (as discussed in Section 6.1.) In this phase of the transient, the boundary condition at the package surface was switched from forced convection to free convection.

Results obtained using the ANSYS models of the NAC LWT package (with and without an ISO container) are discussed in Section 7.

7 ANALYSIS RESULTS

Due to temperature limits for the spent fuel cladding, closure seals, impact limiter materials, and neutron shield materials, these components are the most important elements to consider in evaluating the response of the transport package to the fire scenario. The peak clad temperature limit is important because the cladding is the primary fission product containment boundary for the spent fuel. The temperature limit for the closure seals is important because these seals constitute the outer-most containment boundary for the package. The temperature limits for the neutron shield material and impact limiters are important because these materials are generally the most vulnerable to damage or destruction during a fire. The results of the analyses of the NAC LWT package are evaluated primarily in relation to the peak predicted temperatures for these components in the fire transient.

The ANSYS model of the NAC LWT package consists of 52,446 standard computational elements and 16 superelements that are solved each time step. Calculations with this model yield detailed temperature distributions that can be analyzed to characterize the package response to the fire boundary conditions. The system response predicted for the NAC LWT package with ANSYS for the fire conditions is presented in the following three subsections, for the three phases of the transient outlined in Section 6.4. Section 7.1 presents the predicted response for the first phase, consisting of the intense gasoline-fueled fire (i.e., the first 40 minutes of the transient.) Section 7.2 presents results for the second phase of the transient, which consists of the short-term post-fire cool down. This phase extends from the end of the fire (at 40 minutes) to the end of the NIST simulation with FDS (at 3 hours.) Section 7.3 presents results for the third phase of the transient, which consists of the long-term post-fire cool down from 3 hours out to 50 hours, using boundary conditions extrapolated from the cool down portion of the FDS simulation.

7.1 NAC LWT Package Response to Fire Transient

Figure 7.1 shows the peak temperatures predicted with ANSYS for the various package components in the first hour of the transient for the NAC LWT package within an ISO container. Figure 7.2 shows the peak temperatures predicted for the package without an ISO container for the same boundary conditions. This time interval encompasses the intense gasoline-fueled fire (which lasted about 40 minutes), plus the first 20 minutes of the post-fire cool down period. Without the ISO container, temperatures of out-board components (i.e., package surface, vent/port seals, and impact limiters) rise somewhat faster than for the case with the ISO container, and reach slightly higher peak temperatures during the fire, but the differences are relatively small. These plots show that the temperature response of the package is essentially the same, with or without an ISO container, during and immediately after the fire.

Most components reach their peak temperature values during this interval, closely following the high boundary temperatures during the fire and their rapid decrease once the gasoline is consumed. This behavior is due mainly to the low thermal inertia of the package, because of its relatively small physical size. Also, direct conduction paths into the package are relatively short, and its surface-to-volume ratio is relatively large. Without the ISO container, thermal radiation heat transfer views encompass a large portion of the cask surface, due to the horizontal orientation of the package within the tunnel. Similarly, the surfaces of the ISO container have essentially one-to-one views of the tunnel surfaces.

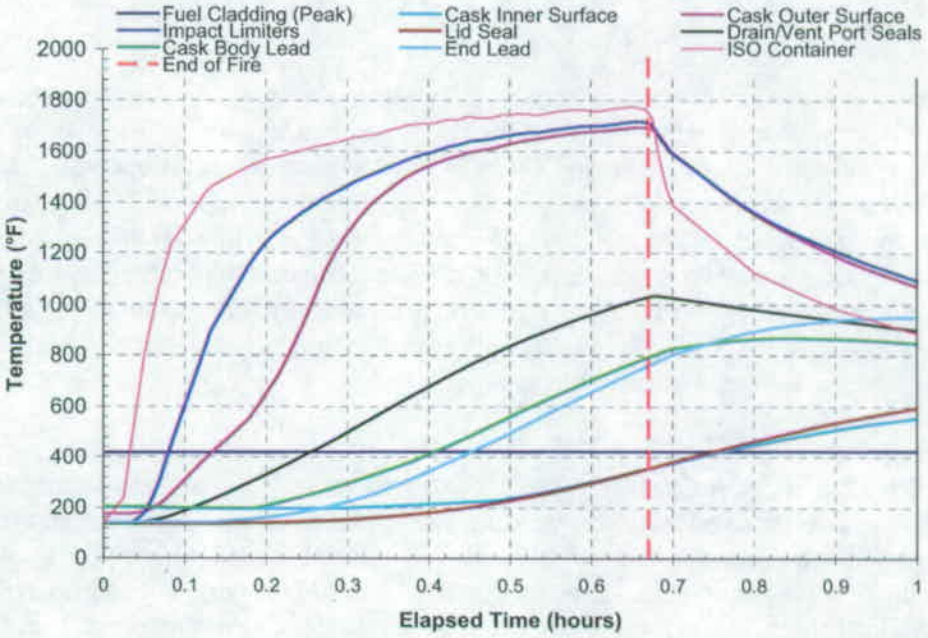

Figure 7.1. NAC LWT Package (with ISO Container): Component Maximum Temperature Histories During Fire Transient

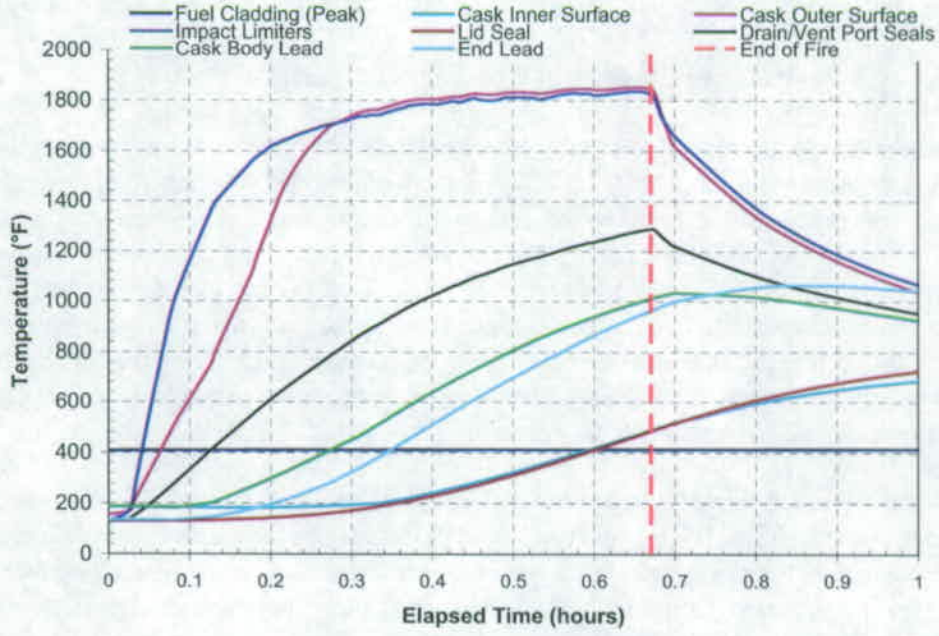

Figure 7.2. NAC LWT Package (without ISO Container): Component Maximum Temperature Histories During Fire Transient

Without the ISO container, the maximum temperature on the exterior surface of the package reaches a peak value of 1853°F (1012°C) at about 39 minutes, just before the end of the fire. For the case with the ISO container, the maximum temperature on the exterior surface of the package is only 1694°F (923°C), reached at about 40 minutes, corresponding to the end of the fire. The lower peak temperature and the slight delay is because the ISO container acts as a thin thermal shield, protecting the package surface from a direct radiation view of the fire. The ISO container itself reaches a peak temperature of 1774°F (968°C) at about 40 minutes. This value is higher than the peak temperature on the package surface within the ISO container, but is still somewhat lower than the peak temperature on the unshielded package, predicted for the case without the ISO container.

These results show that the ISO container acts as a minor heat shield for the package during the intense high-temperature portion of the fire, lowering the peak temperature on the package surface by about 159 °F (88 °C). Similarly, the maximum temperature on the impact limiters is about 1838°F (1003°C) without the ISO container, compared to 1717°F (936°C) obtained with the ISO container, a difference of about 121 °F (67 °C). This effect is also seen in the maximum temperature for the drain and vent port seals. Without the ISO container, the nodes representing this component reach a peak value of 1288°F (698°C) by the end of the simulated fire, compared to 1035°F (557°C) in the case with the ISO container.

For both cases, with and without the ISO container, the peak temperatures of the package inner shell material, lid seal, and the lead gamma shielding layers show a more gradual increase during the fire, and the temperatures of these components continue to rise after the end of the fire. At the end of the first hour of the transient, the peak temperature predicted for the inner surface has reached approximately 556°F (291°C) for the case with the ISO container, and is at about 687°F (364°C) for the case without the ISO container. In both calculations, this temperature is still rising at the end of the first hour of the transient, which is approximately 20 minutes after the end of the gasoline-fueled fire.

For the package within the ISO container, the temperature of the lead layer comprising the gamma shield within the cask body is predicted to reach a maximum of 866°F (463°C) at 0.8 hr elapsed time (i.e., about 8 minutes after the end of the simulated fire.) Without the ISO container, this temperature peaks somewhat earlier, just after the end of the fire at 0.7 hr, at the somewhat higher temperature of 1035°F (557°C). Similarly, the temperature of the lead billet encased in the package base is predicted to reach a maximum of 951°F (511°C) at 1 hr elapsed time for the package within the ISO container, while the peak is 1065°F (574°C) for this component in the case with no ISO container.

For both cases, the peak temperatures in the lead shielding are considerably above the established operating limit of 600°F (316°C) reported in the SAR [7] for this material, and some local melting of the lead is predicted as a result of the fire. To maximize heat input during the transient, it was assumed that overall thermal expansion of the lead and local expansion due to phase change results in the lead entirely filling the cavity between the inner and outer steel shells of the package. For the thermal analysis, possible slumping of the lead due to melting was conservatively ignored, in order to maximize heat input to the package. (However, the potential for reduced gamma shielding as a result of lead melting and resolidification is considered in Section 8.1.)

Because of the relatively low boiling point of the ethylene glycol solution in the neutron shield tank and overflow tank, this liquid is expected to boil off as part of the package response to the fire transient, with or without the ISO container. As described in Section 5, the calculated temperatures in the main tank and overflow tank were monitored throughout the transient solution to determine the predicted time of rupture and evaporation. Consistent with the standard fire analysis included in the SAR [7], the tanks were assumed to rupture when the average temperature predicted for this material exceeded the ethylene glycol boiling point of 350°F (177°C).

Using this criterion, the ANSYS analysis for the case with the ISO container predicts that the outer expansion tank would rupture at approximately 13 minutes into the fire, and the inner tank would rupture at about 18 minutes. For the case without the ISO container, this transition occurs slightly earlier, at about 10.5 minutes for the outer tank and 13 minutes for the inner tank. Using the average temperature rather than the peak temperature delays rupture to a slightly later point in the transient than would be predicted based on the peak temperature. The effect is to increase the heat input into the package due to the fire, by extending the time interval that the relatively high conductivity ethylene glycol remains in the tanks.

Following rupture, the calculation fully accounts for thermal radiation between the hot walls of the empty tanks, but the effective conductivity of the expansion tank decreases significantly as a result of the loss of the liquid ethylene glycol and water mixture, which is assumed to be replaced with air. Cooling effects associated with this boiling process are neglected in the heat transfer solution.

The temperature response of the fuel cladding is the slowest of all components in the package, due to the significant thermal inertia of the fuel, and because it has the longest heat transfer path to the fire. For the case with the ISO container, the predicted peak fuel cladding temperature has increased by only about 5 °F (2.8 °C) by the end of the gasoline-fueled fire. For the case without the ISO container, the increase is slightly smaller, about 4.3 °F (2.4 °C). In both cases, the rod surface temperatures are increasing along the entire length of the assembly, as a result of the ends of the fuel assembly being exposed within the open cavities at the top and bottom of the package. This is illustrated in Figure 7.3 for the calculation with the ISO container. (The results obtained without the ISO container are virtually indistinguishable at this point in the transient, and therefore are not shown in a separate plot.) Compared to the initial steady-state temperature distribution in the fuel region (as illustrated in Figure 6.11), the thermograph in Figure 7.3 shows hotter temperatures extending closer to the ends of the fuel region, but for this portion of the transient, the peak fuel temperature remains at the center of the assembly.

7.2 NAC LWT Package Short-Term Post-Fire Transient Response

Figure 7.4 shows the peak temperatures predicted for components of the package within the ISO container during the first three hours of the ANSYS transient simulation. Figure 7.5 shows the peak temperatures for these components predicted for the package without the ISO container. In both cases, the cladding peak and average temperatures continue to rise after the simulated fire, due to the severe temperature environment in the tunnel. The ambient conditions in the tunnel immediately following the simulated fire significantly retard the rate at which the fuel decay heat can be removed from the package.

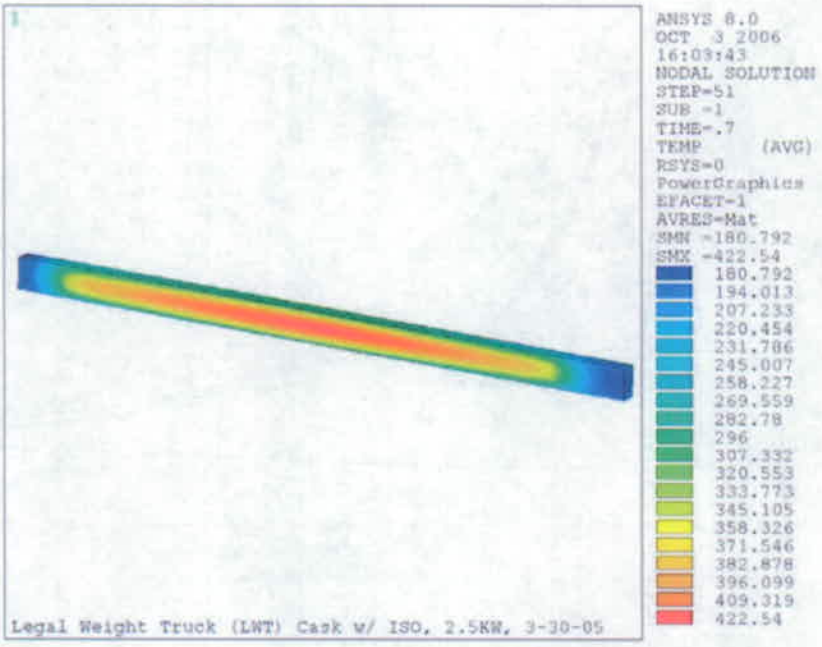

Figure 7.3. Lumped Fuel Assembly Temperature Distribution 0.7 hr into Transient

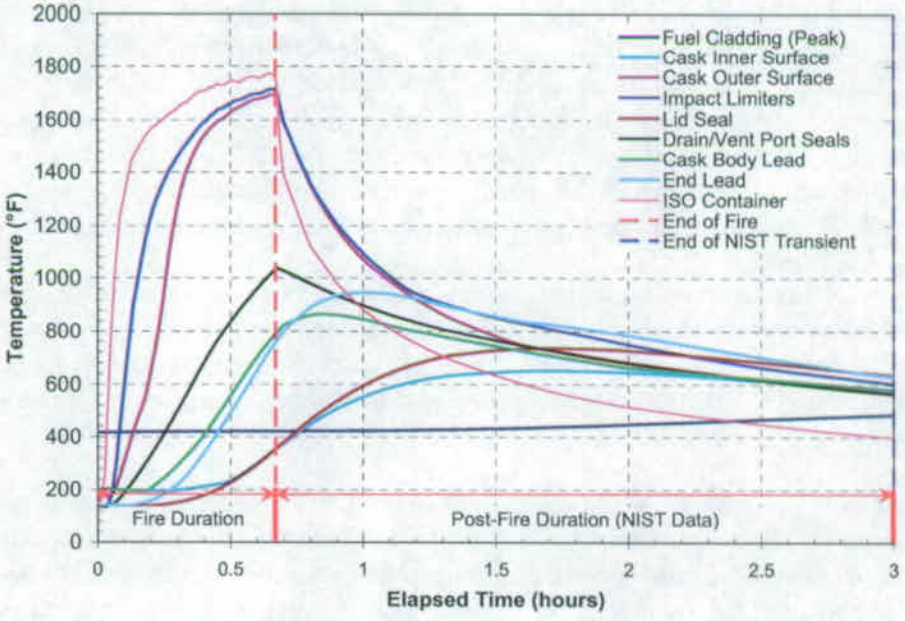

Figure 7.4. NAC LWT Package (with ISO Container): Maximum Temperature Histories for First 3 hours of Fire Transient

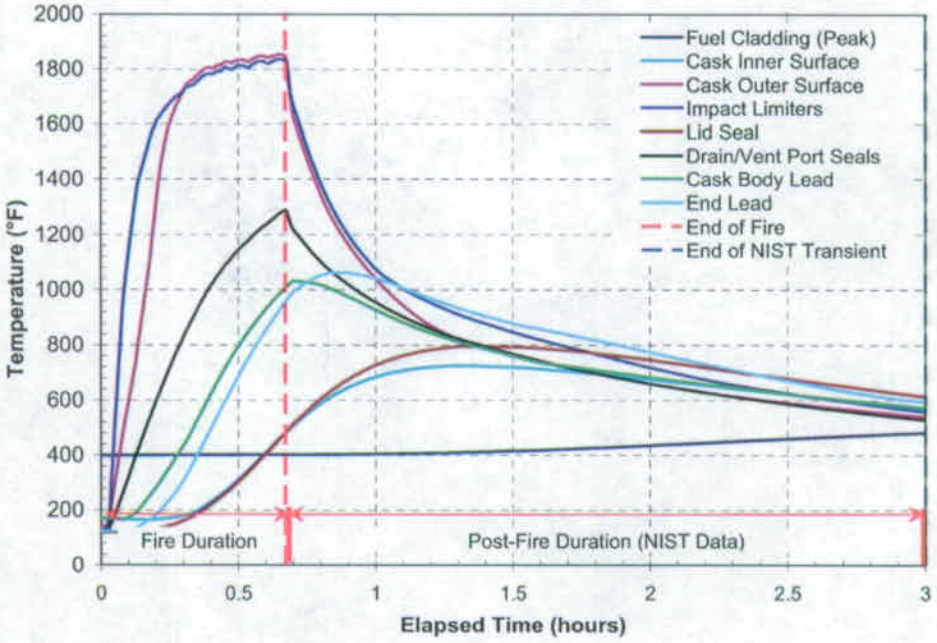

Figure 7.5. NAC LWT Package (without ISO Container): Maximum Temperature Histories for First 3 hours of Fire Transient

Once the simulated fire is over, however, the predicted peak temperatures on outboard components begin to drop rapidly. As noted in Section 7.1 for the calculations with and without the ISO container, the package outer surface, the impact limiters, and drain and vent port seals reach their peak temperatures by the end of the simulated fire, and the lead gamma shielding components reach their peak temperatures within the first hour of the transient. The peak temperatures on the package inner surface and the lid seal reach their respective maximum values at a slightly later time; approximately 1.7 hrs into the transient for the case with the ISO container, and at about 1.3 hrs in the case without the ISO container.

This behavior is in response to the rapidly decreasing boundary temperatures, as illustrated by the ISO container peak temperature in Figure 7.6, and the peak surface temperature (for the case without the ISO container) in Figure 7.7. These figures compare the predicted peak temperature of the ISO container or the package outer surface to the boundary temperatures for the tunnel ceiling and upper tunnel air from the NIST calculation with FDS.

The results in Figure 7.4 (with an ISO container) and Figure 7.5 (without an ISO container) show that the peak temperatures for all package components (except the fuel) begin to decrease shortly after the end of the fire. Because of the low thermal inertial of this package, peak temperatures in most components occur within about an hour after the end of the fire. The exception is the peak cladding temperature, which responds much more slowly to the adverse heat transfer conditions imposed by the fire transient, and in both cases is still rising after three hours. However, it is predicted to be only about 486°F (252°C) by this time for both cases, with and without the ISO container.

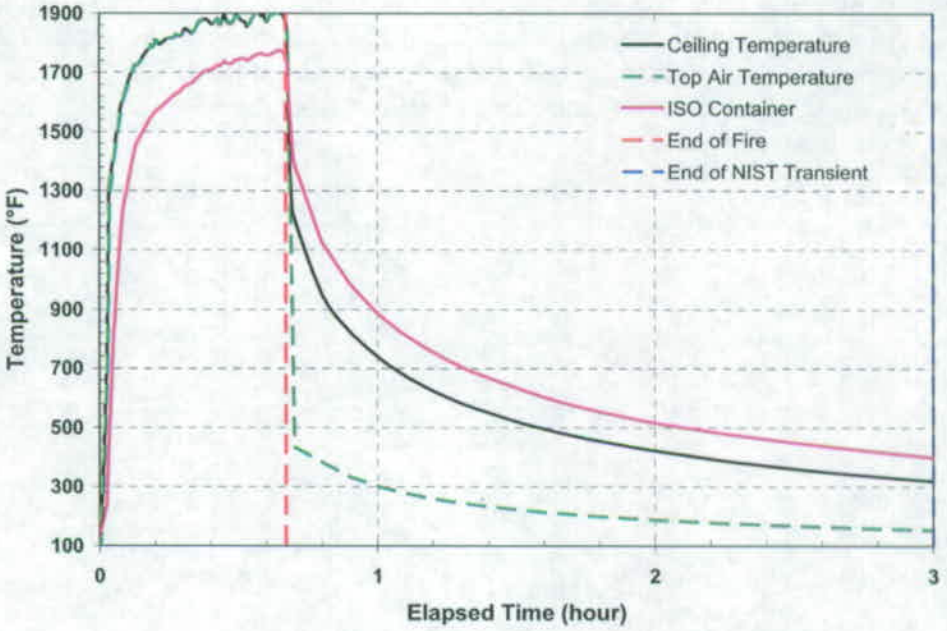

Figure 7.6. Maximum Predicted ISO Container Surface Temperature History Compared to NIST Boundary Condition Temperatures

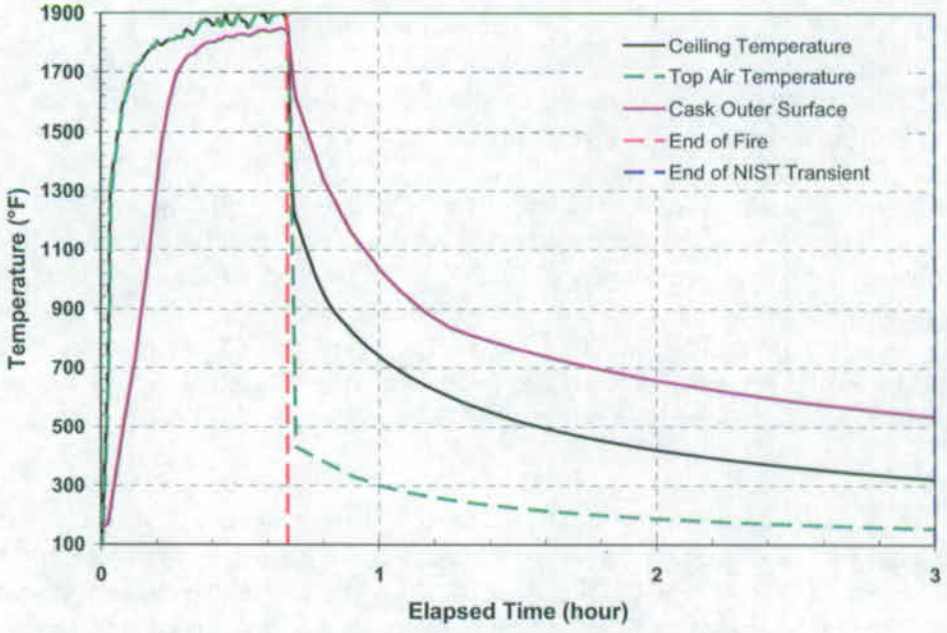

Figure 7.7. Maximum Predicted Package Outer Surface Temperature History without ISO Container Compared to NIST Boundary Condition Temperatures

For the package within the ISO container, Figure 7.8 shows the maximum temperature histories predicted for the seals in the drain/vent ports and the lid for the first 3 hours of the transient. Figure 7.9 shows the maximum temperatures of these components for the case without the ISO container. (The calculated values were gathered by querying nodes at the seals' locations, since the seals were not explicitly represented in the model.)

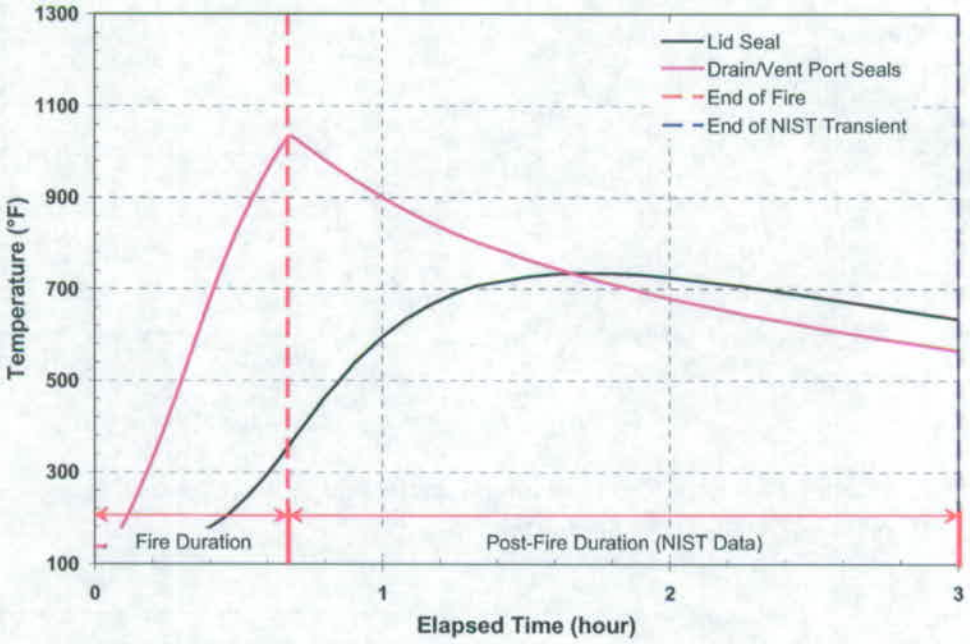

Figure 7.8. NAC LWT Package (with ISO Container): Maximum Seal Temperature Histories During First 3 hours of Fire Transient

The drain and vent ports are sealed with TFE or Viton® O-rings. The bolted lid is double sealed with metallic and TFE O-ring seals. For the package within the ISO container, the drain and vent port seals are predicted to reach a maximum temperature of 1035°F (557°C) by the end of the simulated fire. For the package without an ISO container, these seals are predicted to reach a slightly higher maximum temperature of 1288°F (698°C) by the end of the fire. The lid seal is predicted to reach a peak temperature of 740°F (393°C) at 1.7 hr elapsed time for the package within an ISO container. Without an ISO container, the lid seal is predicted to reach a peak of 794°F (423°C) at 1.33 hr elapsed time in the transient.

In both cases, the seal materials then gradually decrease in temperature as the transient proceeds into the post-fire cool down. The extreme rise in temperature during and immediately after the fire is due to the low thermal inertia of the NAC LWT package and the close proximity of the seals to exterior surfaces subject to thermal radiation directly from the tunnel environment or from the inner surface of the ISO container.

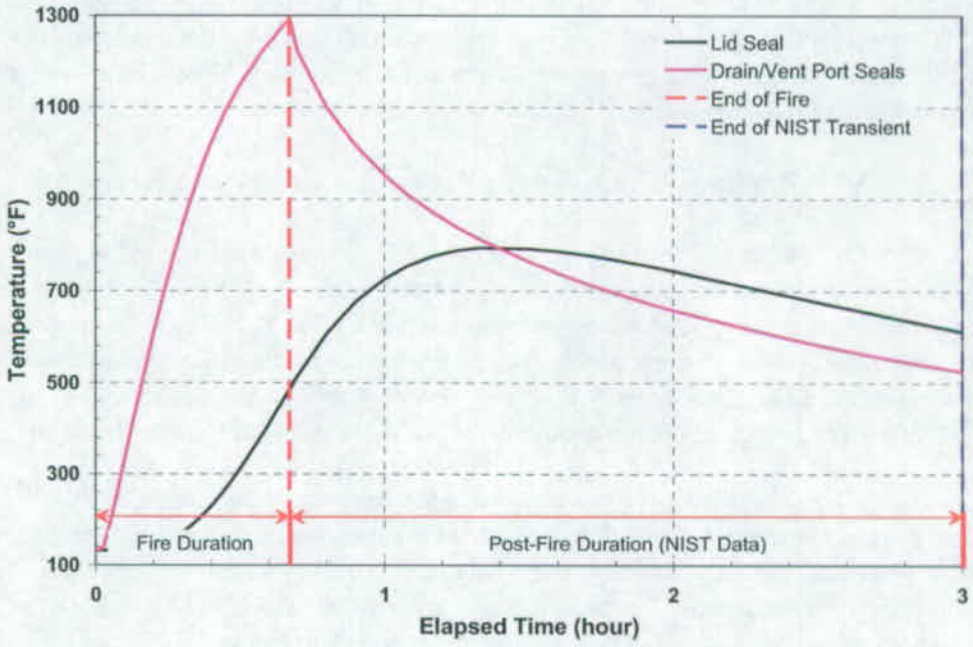

Figure 7.9. NAC LWT Package (without ISO Container): Maximum Seal Temperature Histories During First 3 hours of Fire Transient

With or without an ISO container, the maximum seal temperatures predicted in this transient exceed the maximum continuous-use temperature limits of the drain and vent port seals used in this package design. In the lid seal region, the predicted maximum seal temperature is 735°F (391°C) for the case with the package in an ISO container, and is 794°F (423°C) without an ISO container. Both values are below the maximum continuous-use temperature limit of 800°F (427°C) for the metallic seal, but these temperatures exceed the maximum continuous-use temperature limit of the drain and vent port seal materials. These limits are 735°F (391°C) for TFE seals and 550°F (288°C) for the alterative design Viton® seal. For the drain and vent port seals, the predicted maximum temperature values (1035°F (557°C) with an ISO container, and 1288°F (698°C) without an ISO container), are several hundred degrees above the maximum continuous-use temperature limits for these seal materials.

Figures 7.8 and 7.9 show that in both cases, with or without an ISO container, the lid seal region maintains temperatures at or near the peak temperature values for a relatively short time before beginning a steady decrease. Similarly, the maximum temperature values predicted in each case for the drain and vent port region climbs very rapidly to the peak value, then steadily decrease. This component is above the maximum continuous-use temperature limit for less than two hours. Since the noted limits for the Viton®, TFE, and metallic O-ring materials are defined for continuous use, it is possible that the seals might survive these temperature excursions undamaged.

Information is not available on the recommended short-term temperature limits for these seals, but based on the continuous-use temperature limits, the primary containment barrier of the NAC LWT is considered

to degrade at the drain/vent ports and possibly at the lid seal under the postulated conditions of this fire transient. This assumption applies to the package with or without an ISO container. An analysis evaluating the possible radiological consequences of seal failure in the NAC LWT package response to the Caldecott Tunnel fire is presented in Section 8.

7.3 NAC LWT Package Long-Term Post-Fire Transient Response

To evaluate the effect on the LWT package of prolonged exposure to post-fire conditions in the tunnel, the temperatures predicted in the NIST analysis were extrapolated from 3 hours to 50 hours using a power function in order to realistically model the extended cool down of the tunnel environment. (See Section 6.2. The extrapolated values are presented in Figures 6.4 and 6.5 for the radiation and convection heat transfer boundary conditions, respectively.) This conservative approach is equivalent to assuming that the package will be left in the tunnel up to two days without any emergency responder intervention.

The external boundary conditions were extended using the conservative assumption of a purely forced convection heat transfer regime for the first 3 hours of the simulation, then a purely free convection regime for the remainder of the calculation ($t \geq 3$ hours). Figure 7.10 shows the temperature response of various components of the package for the long term transient calculation to 50 hours, assuming the package is enclosed in an ISO container. A similar plot is shown in Figure 7.11 for the case of the package without an ISO container.

The maximum temperatures for most components were reached within a short time after the simulated fire (see Sections 7.1 and 7.2.) However, the predicted maximum fuel cladding temperature of 544°F (284°C) for the package within an ISO container is not reached until about 8 hours into the transient. Without an ISO container, the peak clad temperature is reached approximately one hour earlier, at 7 hours into the transient, and the maximum temperature is somewhat lower, at 535°F (279°C).

This difference is due to the effect of the ISO container on the rate of heat removal from the package in the post-fire cool down. The ISO container shields the package somewhat from the external environment, slowing the rate of heat input to the package during the fire, which results in slightly lower peak temperatures on most of the package components, compared to the values predicted without the ISO container. However, after the fire, the ISO container slows the rate of heat removal from the package to the cooling tunnel environment. Without the ISO container, the package shows a slightly faster cool down, and does not reach as high a value for the maximum peak cladding temperature during the transient.

With or without the ISO container, the peak clad temperature does not exceed the long-term storage temperature limit of 752°F (400°C) in this transient. In addition, it is far below the currently accepted short-term temperature limit[10] of 1058°F (570°C) for Zircaloy clad spent nuclear fuel under accident conditions [17].

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[10] The short-term temperature limit of 1058°F (570°C) is based on creep experiments performed on two fuel cladding test samples which remained undamaged when held at 1058°F (570°C) for up to 30 and 71 days [15]. This is a relatively conservative limit, since the temperature at which Zircaloy fuel rods actually fail by burst rupture is approximately 1382°F (750°C) [16].

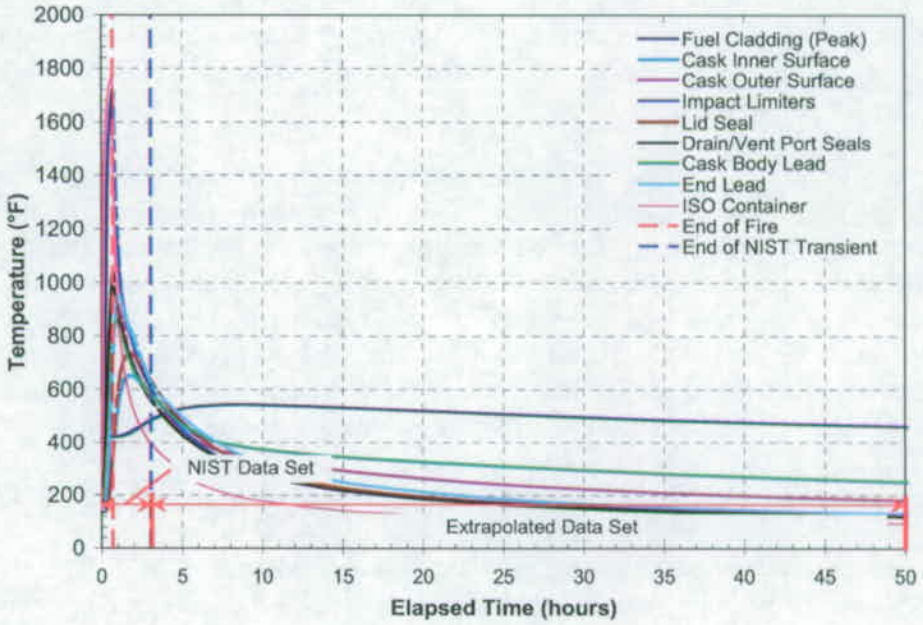

Figure 7.10. NAC LWT Package (with ISO Container): Maximum Temperature Histories During 50 hour Transient

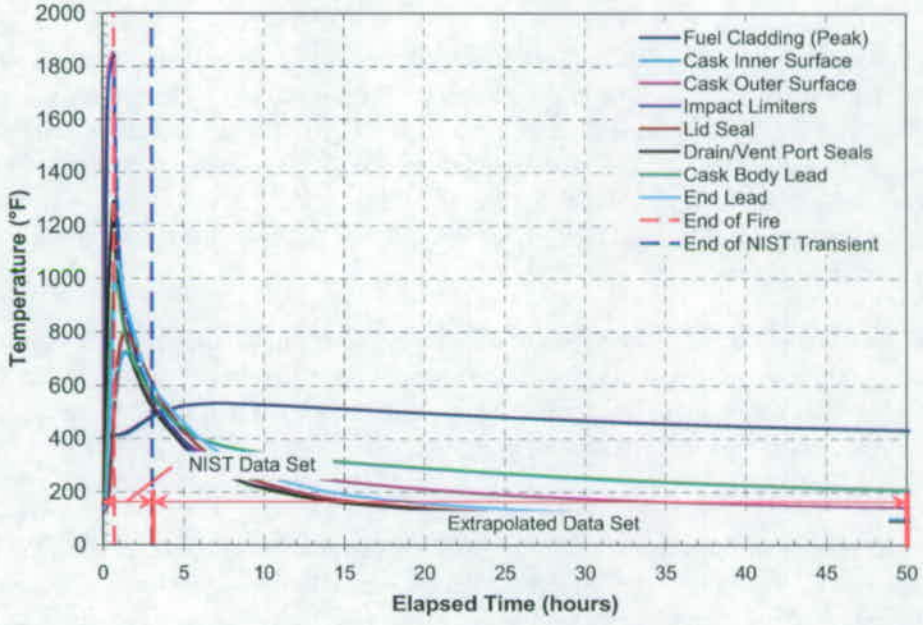

Figure 7.11. NAC LWT Package (without ISO Container): Maximum Temperature Histories During 50 hour Transient

The plots in Figures 7.10 and 7.11 also show that the NAC LWT package is very close to a new steady state for the extrapolated conditions in the tunnel at 50 hours. This behavior is consistent with the lower thermal inertia of this package, compared to the expected response of larger multi-assembly packages to severe fire transient conditions.

The temperature distributions within the package predicted for these two cases (with and without the ISO container) for the final steady state differ somewhat from the temperatures predicted for the initial conditions at the start of the transient. The differences are the result of the changes in the physical condition of the package after the fire, and the different boundary conditions for the post-fire ambient environment of the tunnel. As a result of the fire, the liquid neutron shield has boiled away, the package outer surfaces (or the surfaces of the ISO container) have a much higher emissivity due to sooting, and the impact limiters have been damaged. In addition, the ambient temperatures in the tunnel are lower than those assumed for Hot-Normal conditions of transport, and there is no solar insolation.

7.4 Summary of NAC LWT Package Peak Temperatures in Fire Transient

Peak component temperatures over the entire fire transient predicted for the NAC LWT cask (with and without the ISO container) are reported in Table 7.1. For both cases, the lead shielding within the cask body is expected to reach temperatures that far exceed the safe operating limit of 600°F (316°C) [7] for this material. The predicted peak temperature of the side lead shielding, with the package inside an ISO container, is 866°F (463°C) at 0.8 hr, and the maximum temperature for the lead in the package base is 951°F (511°C) at 1 hr.

For the package without the ISO container, the peak temperatures in the lead shielding are slightly higher, and are reached at a slightly earlier time in the transient. The predicted peak temperature in the side lead shielding is 1035°F (557°C), and the lead in the base is predicted to reach a maximum temperature of 1065°F (574°C). In both cases, the lead is expected to remain fully contained within the steel cask body. However, there is likely to be localized melting and possible slumping of the shielding material within the steel containment upon resolidification of the lead. Section 8.1 discusses the potential effect of this behavior on gamma shielding.

In the severe conditions of this fire scenario, the aluminum honeycomb material of the impact limiters mounted on the ends of the package is expected to reach temperatures that are approximately 500-600 °F (278-316 °C) above its commonly estimated melting temperature. Without the ISO container, the predicted peak temperature on this component is approximately 121 °F (67 °C) hotter than with the ISO container.

Without the ISO container, the impact limiters are directly exposed to the intense heat of the fire, rather than being shielded by the walls of the container. In either case, however, the impact limiters cannot reasonably be expected to remain intact after the fire. However, these components are not part of the cask structure, and are generally expected to be damaged or destroyed by accident conditions. Their loss in the fire is not expected to adversely affect any aspect of the performance of the package.

Table 7.1. NAC LWT Package Peak Component Temperatures During Fire Transient

Component	without ISO (ANSYS) °F (°C)	Time (hours)	with ISO (ANSYS) °F (°C)	Time (hours)
Fuel Cladding	535 (279)	7.00	544 (284)	8.00
Aluminum PWR Insert	416 (213)	5.00	423 (217)	6.00
Inner Shell	724 (385)	1.33	654 (345)	1.70
Lead Gamma Shield	1035 (557)	0.70	866 (463)	0.80
Lead End Shield	1065 (574)	0.90	951 (511)	1.00
Outer Shell	1853 (1012)	0.65	1694 (924)	0.67
Liquid Neutron Shield	1834 (1001)	0.65	1656 (902)	0.65
Lid Seal	794 (423)	1.33	735 (391)	1.70
Drain/Vent Ports	1288 (698)	0.67	1035 (557)	0.68
Impact Limiters	1838 (1003)	0.65	1717 (936)	0.65
ISO Container	N/A		1774 (968)	0.65

8 POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

There are two general categories of potential adverse consequences due to a severe accident involving a SNF transportation package. These are 1) the possibility of a direct radioactive dose to an individual in close proximity to the package, resulting from a loss of either the neutron or gamma radiation shielding of the package, and 2) the potential release of radioactive material from inside the package due to a compromise of the containment boundary. Section 8.1 discusses loss of shielding issues as a potential consequence of the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario. Section 8.2 evaluates potential releases from the NAC LWT package as a result of the fire scenario. Section 8.3 provides a summary of the potential consequences of involving an SNF package in the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario.

8.1 Potential for Loss of Shielding

USNRC Staff evaluated the potential for increased neutron and gamma radiation dose rates from the NAC LWT as a result of exposure to the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario. The analysis indicates that the regulatory dose rate limits specified in 10 CFR 71 for accident conditions would not be exceeded by this package in this fire scenario, even though the package would be expected to lose neutron shielding, and could experience some loss of gamma shielding. Section 8.1.1 describes the consequences of the loss of neutron shielding, and Section 8.1.2 discusses the potential effects of loss of gamma shielding.

8.1.1 Neutron Shielding

Neutron shielding in SNF transportation packages is typically furnished by materials that have relatively low melting temperatures (such as hydrocarbon resins or polymers), or are liquid at ambient conditions (such as water/glycol mixtures.) These components are generally not expected to survive the design-basis accidents specified in 10 CFR 71. The analyses included in the SAR for an SNF transportation package typically assume loss of the neutron shield in all accident scenarios. Packages are designed to meet the regulatory limits of 200 mrem/hr (2 mSv/hr) at the package surface and 10 mrem/hr (0.1 mSv/hr) at two meters from the package surface for all conditions of transport, including hypothetical accident conditions. (The SAR [7] for the NAC LWT contains analyses supporting this design constraint.)

In the SAR for this package, it is assumed that the neutron shield will be destroyed in the 30-minute, 1472°F (800°C) fire accident prescribed by 10 CFR 71. The severe conditions of the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario can do no more damage to the neutron shield of the NAC LWT than is assumed in the regulatory fire analyses. It is a design feature of this SNF shipping package that it can meet the applicable regulatory dose limits due to neutron emission even when the neutron shielding has been destroyed, by fire or any other postulated accident condition.

8.1.2 Gamma Shielding

Gamma shielding in the NAC LWT is provided by a 5.75-inch thick layer of lead sandwiched between the inner and outer steel shells of the package body and a 3-inch thick lead billet encased in the steel base of the package. In the severe conditions of the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario, the results for the analysis

of the NAC LWT without an ISO container show that the peak temperature of the lead in the package body reaches its melting temperature of 622°F (328°C) at approximately 23 minutes into the fire. The peak temperature of the lead billet in the base requires about 27 minutes to reach this value. With the ISO container, it requires about 31 minutes for the peak temperature on the side shell to reach the melting temperature of the lead and approximately 34 minutes for the peak temperature to rise to this value on the lead billet in the base.

In both cases, the process of raising the peak temperature of the lead to its melting point requires more than half of the total 40-minute duration of the fire. Once the fire is over, temperatures of the gamma shielding material begin to decrease, and the peak temperature falls below the melting temperature of lead in less than 3 hours (refer to Figures 7.4 and 7.5). Detailed analyses of the response of the NAC LWT package to the conditions of the Baltimore Tunnel fire scenario[11], in which the duration of the fire was approximately 7 hours, showed that complete melting of the lead gamma shielding requires more than 8 hours of exposure to the intensely hot fire environment. This suggests that the 10-15 minutes remaining in the duration of the Caldecott Tunnel fire after the peak temperatures reach the melting temperature of lead would not allow time for a large portion of the lead to change phase.

There could be some localized melting of the lead shielding in the course of the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario, probably in the vicinity of the central region of the package body. However, melting of the lead (partial or complete) does not necessarily imply complete loss of gamma shielding. The lead would be contained within the steel shells of the package, and would continue to act as a gamma shield. Reduction of the shielding effectiveness could occur only if there is significant slumping or pooling of the molten lead within the confines of the annular shell of the package body. This could result in local thinning of the gamma shielding in the upper regions of the horizontal package.

An estimate of the potential radiation dose resulting from the maximum possible localized thinning of the fully molten lead shielding with the package in a horizontal orientation is provided in the analyses[12] of the response of the NAC LWT to the Baltimore Tunnel fire scenario. The potential dose resulting from complete melting and consequent thinning of the gamma shielding does not exceed the accident limit of 1000 mrem/hr (10 mSv/hr) at one meter from the package surface, as specified in 10 CFR 71 and 49 CFR 173. That analysis conservatively bounds any potential localized thinning of the gamma shielding of the NAC LWT that might occur as a result of partial melting in the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario.

8.2 Potential Release Issues

USNRC staff evaluated the potential for a release of radioactive material from the NAC LWT transportation package analyzed for the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario. The analysis indicates that the possibility of a release cannot be entirely ruled out for this package because temperatures in the drain and vent port seal regions during the transient exceed the continuous-use temperature limits for the TFE or

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[11] NUREG-CR/6886, Revision 1, ***Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response to the Baltimore Tunnel Fire Scenario***, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., November 2006. ADAMS accession number ML063350502. (See Figure 7.17 and Table 7.3, p. 7.23.)

[12] ibid. (See Table 8.1, p. 8.4.)

Viton® seals. Although the package lid peak temperature remains significantly below the continuous-use temperature limit for its metallic seal, it exceeds the continuous-use temperature limit for its TFE seal.

The thermal analyses show that the potential release would not involve a release of spent fuel or fission products, but could possibly result from CRUD detaching from the fuel rods. Any potential release from the NAC LWT package would be small—less than an A_2 quantity[13]. An A_2 quantity is defined in 49CFR173.403 as the maximum activity of Class 7 (radioactive) material permitted in a Type A package. Type A packages carry such small amounts of radioactive material that an accident resistant package is not required. This is because an A_2 quantity of radioactive material would not be expected to result in a significant radiological hazard to first responders even if it were released from the package due to a transportation accident. Type B packages (which include SNF transportation packages) can carry more than an A_2 quantity of radioactive material, but must retain the integrity of containment and shielding under normal conditions of transport, as required by DOT regulations in 49 CFR part 173. Type B packages must also be designed such that if one were subjected to the hypothetical accident conditions specified in 10 CFR part 71 [1], it would release less than an A_2 quantity/week.

Staff performed an analysis to determine the magnitude of any potential release from the NAC LWT, assuming the package contained spent fuel that was 5 years old. Because it was determined by the thermal analyses conducted for the package with and without an ISO container that the fuel cladding remains intact, it is not expected that any radioactive material would be released from inside the fuel rods. This limits any release from the package to CRUD particles that may detach from individual fuel rods.

Rather than addressing all radionuclides that could be contained in such CRUD particles, (see Reference [18], Table I-7), the radionuclide of the greatest concern was used as the basis of the release calculation. For shipments consisting of fuel that is 5 years old or older, Co^{60} is the most important radionuclide to be considered. (For fuel that is less than 5 years old, other short-lived isotopes, such as Mn^{54} and Co^{58} should be considered as well [18].) For PWR fuel, the total activity decreases to 3% of that at discharge in 5 years, and drops to 1% after 13 years. Co^{60} accounts for 92% of the activity at 5 years and 99% at 8 years (see page I-50, Ref [18]).

A discussion of seal performance and leakage pathways is provided in Section 8.2.1. The result of the release analysis for the NAC LWT package is provided in Section 8.2.2. Additional discussion is presented in Section 8.2.3, evaluating the potential for releases from the NAC LWT when this package is transporting failed fuel.

8.2.1 Seal Performance and Potential Leak Paths

A simple "pass/fail" criterion is used for evaluating seal performance in this study. If the manufacturer's maximum recommended service temperature was exceeded at any time during the transient on any portion of the sealing surfaces, the seal was assumed to fail. The maximum temperatures predicted at the

[13] The actual amount of a particular material that constitutes an A_2 quantity depends on the radiological properties of the material. Appendix A of 10CFR71 defines the A_2 quantities for a large number of different materials in Table A-1, and specifies methods for calculating the appropriate value for any material not listed in the table.

locations of the TFE seals used in the NAC LWT lid and in the drain and vent ports approach or exceed the rated continuous-use temperature limit of 735°F (391°C) for this material. The predicted temperatures also exceed the safe operating temperature of 550°F (288°C) for the alternative design Viton® seals for the drain and vent ports. Table 8.1 summarizes the predicted peak temperatures in the seal regions for the LWT with and without an ISO container.

Table 8.1. Assumptions Used for Release Estimate for NAC LWT Package

location	Peak temperature with ISO °F (°C)	Peak temperature without ISO °F (°C)
Cask lid	740 (393)	795 (424)
Vent and drain port region	1035 (557)	1288 (698)

Seal failure is defined as the inability of a seal material to maintain a seal against the internal pressure within the package cavity. This constitutes a conservative criterion, because exceeding the manufacturer's service temperature limits for the seal material used in a spent fuel package lid or vent and drain port seal is not a direct indicator of seal failure, and does not mean that a release of radioactive material from the package is inevitable. The service temperature limits for seals are the temperature to which the manufacturer is willing to guarantee the seal's extended performance. Exceeding these temperatures does not necessarily mean that the seal will fail immediately, although it does suggest that there is a potential for seal failure to occur, due to the eventual degradation of the seal material. This could lead to the failure of the seal to hold against the internal pressure of the package cavity, thereby creating conditions that could lead to a release.

The exact temperature at which a particular seal will fail and the particular mechanism of that failure is generally not known *a priori*, because most seal manufacturers have not tested their seals to failure at higher temperatures. However, the point at which seal failure would actually occur is irrelevant to this study. Complete and total failure of the seal materials was assumed if the manufacturer's maximum recommended service temperature was exceeded at any time during the transient on any portion of the sealing surfaces. No credit is taken in the release calculation for the presence of any seals. This is considered to be a highly conservative approach.

8.2.2 Release Analysis

The thermal analyses for the NAC LWT package (with and without an ISO container) show that during the Caldecott Tunnel fire scenario this package design would maintain the single most important barrier (i.e., the fuel cladding) to prevent the release of radioactive materials. The temperature of the fuel cladding is conservatively predicted to reach 544°F (284°C) when the package is enclosed within an ISO container. The predicted peak cladding temperature is only 535°F (279°C), approximately 9 °F (6 °C) lower, when it is assumed that the package is not enclosed within an ISO container. These predicted peak temperatures are well below the long-term cladding temperature limit of 752°F (400°C) for normal

storage and transport conditions. These peak temperatures are also much lower than the short-term temperature limit of 1058°F (570°C), and far below the projected burst temperature of 1382°F (750°C) for Zircaloy cladding.

Because the fuel cladding remains intact, it is not expected that any radioactive material would be released from inside the fuel rods. Any release of radioactive material from the package would consist only of CRUD particles that may flake off or spall from individual fuel rods. The amount of releasable CRUD in the NAC LWT package was estimated using data developed by Sandia National Laboratory for analysis of CRUD contribution to shipping cask containment requirements [18], and assuming the package contains a PWR fuel assembly consisting of 289 fuel rods. An estimate of the maximum "spot" CRUD activity shows that for 90% of PWR spent fuel rods the maximum activity is 20 μCi/cm^2 or less [18, Table I-15]. The ratio of the peak (i.e., the maximum "spot" CRUD activity) to average concentration on the rod surface varies by a factor of two for PWR fuel rods [18, Table I-12].

The CRUD activity estimates [18] are for newly discharged spent nuclear fuel. This activity is expected to decay by a factor of one-half for five-year cooled fuel, based on the decay rate for Co^{60}. This is a good approximation because 92% of the activity for five-year cooled fuel comes from Co^{60}. Based on this data, the average CRUD activity for five-year-cooled PWR fuel rods is about 0.006 curies per rod, based on a surface area of 1200 cm^2 per rod. The average CRUD activity for a 17 x 17 PWR assembly is therefore about 1.73 curies.

The amount of CRUD that could flake or spall from the surface of a PWR rod due to temperatures calculated for the fuel rods in the thermal analysis is estimated to be a maximum of 15% [18, Table I-10]. The major driving force for material release is due to the increased gas pressure inside the package as a result of increases in internal temperature. The temperature change in the package is bounded by the difference between the maximum gas temperature predicted during the fire transient and the gas temperature at the time the package is loaded. For this analysis, the loading temperature is defined as 100°F (38°C), based on the value reported in the SAR [7]. The maximum gas temperature is assumed to be the maximum peak clad temperature predicted during the transient. This yields a conservative estimate of the maximum possible temperature change.

A deposition factor of 0.90 was used to account for the deposition of CRUD particles on internal package surfaces and fuel assemblies. This factor was developed as part of NRC security assessments for spent nuclear fuel transport and storage packages, and is based on an analysis of the gravitational settling of small particles. The value of 0.90 is conservative because it does not consider the effects of particle conglomeration and plugging. It is also consistent with the values used in other studies [16]. The major assumptions used to estimate CRUD release are given in Table 8.2.

To estimate the potential release from the NAC LWT package, a methodology similar to that developed at Sandia National Laboratory (for NUREG-6672 [16]) was used. This methodology was developed for evaluation of the generic risks associated with the transport of spent fuel by truck and rail from commercial power plants to proposed interim storage and disposal sites.

Table 8.2. Assumptions Used for Release Estimate for NAC LWT Package

Parameter	Assumed value
Number of Assemblies in Cask	1 PWR
Rods per Assembly	289
Maximum "spot" CRUD Activity on Fuel Rod	$20\mu Ci/cm^2$
Peak to axial average variation	2
CRUD decay factor (5 yr) (based on Co^{60})	0.5
Average surface area per rod	1200 cm^2
Average CRUD Activity on PWR Fuel Rod (5 yr cooled)	0.006 Ci
Average CRUD Activity on PWR Assembly (5 yr cooled)	1.73 Ci
Fraction of CRUD released due to heating	0.15
Deposition Factor	0.90

The potential release from the package in this severe fire accident can be calculated from the following relationship:

$$R = C_I S(1-D)\left(1-\frac{T_i}{T_p}\right)$$

where R = release (curies)
C_I = amount of CRUD on fuel assemblies (curies)
S = fraction of CRUD released due to heating
D = deposition factor
T_p = peak internal temperature (°R)
T_i = initial internal temperature (°R)

Table 8.3 shows the results obtained when this equation is applied using the parameter values from Table 8.2 and the temperatures predicted for the NAC LWT package in this accident scenario. The analysis for the package within an ISO container resulted in a higher predicted maximum peak clad temperature (544°F (284°C), compared to 535°F (279°C) without an ISO container), so the value from the case with an ISO container was used in determining the potential release estimate.

Table 8.3. Potential Release Estimate for NAC LWT Package

Initial temperature °F (°R)	Peak temperature °F (°R)	Potential release (curies)
100 (560)	544 (1004)	0.01

The potential release from the NAC LWT package based on five-year cooled fuel is estimated to be approximately 0.01 curies of Co^{60}. Since the A_2 value for Co^{60} is 11 curies, the potential release is about 0.001 of an A_2 quantity (see Section 8.2). Therefore, the potential radiological hazard associated with an accident similar to the Caldecott Tunnel fire, if it were to involve a spent nuclear fuel package in close proximity to the fire source, is small. The probability of such an occurrence, based on tunnel accident frequency, flammable materials trucking accident statistics, and radioactive material shipment statistics, has been estimated as one such accident every million years [19].

8.2.3 Potential Releases from NAC LWT Package Carrying Failed Fuel

The NAC LWT package is approved to carry certain specified types and quantities of failed fuel[14]. The NAC LWT, therefore, presents a possible path for the release of fission gasses and/or fuel fines, should a failed fuel payload be subject to conditions as severe as the Caldecott Tunnel fire analyzed in this study. The staff did not analyze how a shipment of failed fuel would affect the release of spent fuel constituents from the NAC LWT. However, analyses presented in NUREG/CR-6672 [16] investigated the effect of an extraordinarily severe fully engulfing fire lasting 11 hours at 1832°F (1000°C) on a generic truck package that was based on the design of the NAC LWT. In this fire analysis for the generic truck package, it was assumed that 100% of the rods of a single PWR assembly failed due to thermal rupture. The resulting fission product release from the rods very conservatively bounds the potential release from any shipment of failed fuel that the NAC LWT would be allowed to carry.

The analysis in NUREG/CR-6672 [16] predicted the potential release fractions of various spent fuel constituents for a generic truck package carrying a single PWR spent fuel assembly consisting of high burn-up 3-year-cooled fuel. This assembly is far hotter than any fuel (intact or failed) that the NAC LWT is licensed to carry, and has a total activity of 7.9×10^4 Curies of Cesium 137 (Cs^{137}) (see Table 7.9 of NUREG/CR-6672 [16]). Using the release fraction 1.7×10^{-5} (see Table 7.31 of NUREG/CR-6672 [16]) for Cs^{137} calculated for the truck package, the estimated total release is approximately 1.3 Curies. This value is considerably larger than the estimated release for the design-basis fuel licensed for transport in the NAC LWT package (see Table 8.3), but is still far below the A_2 quantity of 16 Curies for Cs^{137}.

The analysis for Cs^{137}, as well as similar analyses conducted for particulates and the radionuclide Ruthenium (Ru) in NUREG/CR-6672, indicate that the potential release from the NAC LWT for any fuel

[14] The package payload for failed fuel is limited to very small quantities of material at very low decay heat values, generally on the order of a few watts of decay heat per element, and failed fuel elements must be enclosed in sealed canisters within the LWT package basket. Complete definitions of permitted payloads are given in the package SAR [7].

that it is licensed to carry, whether intact or failed, would be small, even for conditions as severe as those encountered in the Caldecott Tunnel fire.

8.3 Summary of Potential Releases

The results of the NTSB investigation of the Caldecott Tunnel fire and the FDS tunnel fire model developed by NIST have provided a detailed picture of the possible duration and severity of the fire that occurred in the Caldecott Tunnel near Oakland, California on April 7, 1982. The fire transient analyses performed with ANSYS using the FDS simulation results as boundary conditions have shown that a typical light-weight truck transport package (the NAC LWT package) survives the fire scenario without exceeding temperature limits for fuel cladding integrity or regulatory limits for radiological consequences.

The maximum temperatures predicted for the NAC LWT in the regions of the lid and the vent and drain ports exceed the rated service temperature for seal materials, making it possible for a small release to occur, due to CRUD that might detach from the surfaces of the fuel rods. A release is not expected in this accident scenario, due to a number of factors, including: (1) the tight clearances maintained between the lid and package body by the closure bolts, (2) the low pressure differential between the package interior and exterior, (3) the tendency of such small clearances to plug, and (4) the tendency of CRUD particles to settle or plate out. However, the above analysis shows that if a release were to occur, it would be within regulatory limits.

USNRC staff evaluated the radiological consequences of the package response to the Caldecott Tunnel fire. The results of this evaluation strongly indicate that neither spent nuclear fuel (SNF) particles nor fission products would be released from a spent fuel transportation package carrying intact spent fuel involved in a severe tunnel fire such as the Caldecott Tunnel fire. Peak internal temperatures resulting from the fire scenario are well below regulatory temperature limits, and are far below temperatures that would result in rupture of the fuel cladding. The peak fuel cladding temperature is conservatively predicted to remain below the regulatory limit of 752°F (400°C) for normal transport and storage, and well below the short-term limit of 1058°F (570°C). Therefore, radioactive material (i.e., SNF particles or fission products) would be retained within the fuel rods. The potential releases calculated for the NAC LWT package (as a consequence of exceeding seal temperature limits) indicate that any release of CRUD from this package would be very small - less than an A_2 quantity (see Section 8.2).

9 REFERENCES

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Appendix

Material Properties for ANSYS Model of Legal Weight Truck Package

Table A.1. 304 Stainless Steel

Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Description
70	0.7143	-	0.1141	Used for cask body, cask lid, spokes
212	0.7800	0.2888	0.1207	
392	0.8592	0.2872	0.1272	
572	0.9333	0.2855	0.1320	
752	1.0042	0.2839	0.1356	
932	1.0717	0.2822	0.1385	
1112	1.1375	0.2805	0.1412	

Table A.2. 6061-T6 Aluminum

Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Description
32	9.7500	0.0984	0.2140	Used for basket, IL 1, 2 skin
212	9.9167			
572	11.0833			
932	12.9167			

Table A.3. 6061-T6 Aluminum Honeycomb

Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Description
32	1.6965	0.017118056	0.214	Used for IL 1 (Honeycomb)
212	1.7255			
572	1.9285			
932	2.2475			

Table A.4. 6061-T6 Aluminum Honeycomb

Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Description
32	1.4235	0.0144	0.214	Used for IL 2 (Honeycomb)
212	1.4478			
572	1.6182			
932	1.8858			

Table A.5. Helium

Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Description
200	0.00808	4.83E-06	1.24	Used for cask gap and fuel gap
400	0.00942	3.70E-06		
600	0.01075	3.01E-06		
800	0.0115	2.52E-06		

Table A.6. Lead Gamma Shield

Temperature (°F)	Enthalpy[1] (Btu/lbm)	Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity[2] (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Temperature (°F)	Density[3] (lbm/in^3)	Description
80.33	0.0860	80.3	1.698984	53.3	4.11060E-01	Used for lead gamma shield
260.33	5.7610	170.3	1.671552	233.3	4.07470E-01	
440.33	11.608	260.3	1.641888	413.3	4.03670E-01	
611.50	17.756	350.3	1.608588	607.7	3.99450E-01	
629.50	27.730	440.3	1.573092	622.1	3.84440E-01	
800.33	34.007	530.3	1.539792	802.1	3.80740E-01	
980.33	40.241	610.3	1.515924	982.1	3.76330E-01	
1160.33	46.432	630.3	0.746712	1162.1	3.71930E-01	
1340.33	52.580	710.3	0.796428	1342.1	3.67520E-01	
1520.33	58.641	800.3	0.84222	1522.1	3.63120E-01	
		890.3	0.884016			
		980.3	0.921852			
		1070.3	0.955764			
		1160.3	0.985716			
		1250.3	1.01171			
		1340.3	1.03378			

[1] Based on specific heat from B.J. McBride, S. Gordon and M.A. Reno, NASA Technical Paper 3287, (1993). Enthalpy as a function of temperature calculated using definition of specific heat as partial derivative of enthalpy with respect to temperature at constant pressure;

$$c_p = \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial T}\right)_p$$

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Table A.7. 56% Ethylene Glycol Solution

Avg. Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)
50	0.0188	0.7405	0.0391
70	0.0187	0.7522	0.0389
100	0.0185	0.7696	0.0385
150	0.0182	0.7979	0.0378
200	0.0179	0.8255	0.0370
250	0.0177	0.8522	0.0362
260	0.0176	0.8575	0.0360
270	0.0176	0.8627	0.0358
280	0.0175	0.8679	0.0357
290	0.0175	0.8731	0.0355
300	0.0174	0.8782	0.0353
310	0.0174	0.8833	0.0351
320	0.0173	0.8884	0.0349
330	0.0173	0.8934	0.0347
340	0.0172	0.8984	0.0345
350	0.0172	0.9034	0.0343

Table A.8. Air

Avg. Temperature (°F)	Thermal Conductivity (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Specific Heat (Btu/lbm-°F)	Density (lbm/in^3)
350	0.0017	0.2467	0.0000283
450	0.0018	0.2494	0.0000252
550	0.0020	0.2516	0.0000227
650	0.0022	0.2533	0.0000206
750	0.0023	0.2546	0.0000189
850	0.0025	0.2556	0.0000175
950	0.0026	0.2562	0.0000162
1050	0.0027	0.2566	0.0000152
1150	0.0029	0.2568	0.0000142
1250	0.0030	0.2570	0.0000134
1350	0.0031	0.2571	0.0000126
1450	0.0033	0.2571	0.0000120
1550	0.0034	0.2573	0.0000114
1650	0.0035	0.2576	0.0000108
1750	0.0036	0.2581	0.0000104
1850	0.0038	0.2589	0.0000099
1950	0.0039	0.2599	0.0000095
2050	0.0040	0.2614	0.0000091

Table A.9. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 1°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	0.364	0.149	0.003	0.002
260	0.374	0.153	0.003	0.002
270	0.384	0.157	0.003	0.002
280	0.393	0.161	0.003	0.002
290	0.398	0.163	0.003	0.002
300	0.396	0.162	0.003	0.002
310	0.395	0.162	0.003	0.002
320	0.394	0.161	0.003	0.002
330	0.393	0.161	0.003	0.002
340	0.391	0.160	0.003	0.002
350	0.390	0.160	0.003	0.002
351	*	*	0.003	0.002
400	*	*	0.003	0.002
500	*	*	0.003	0.002
600	*	*	0.003	0.002
700	*	*	0.003	0.002
800	*	*	0.003	0.002
1000	*	*	0.003	0.003
1200	*	*	0.003	0.003
1500	*	*	0.003	0.003
2000	*	*	0.004	0.004
2500	*	*	0.004	0.004

Table A.10. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 10°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	0.654	0.268	0.006	0.002
260	0.673	0.276	0.006	0.002
270	0.691	0.283	0.006	0.002
280	0.704	0.288	0.006	0.002
290	0.705	0.289	0.006	0.002
300	0.703	0.288	0.006	0.002
310	0.701	0.287	0.006	0.002
320	0.699	0.286	0.006	0.002
330	0.697	0.286	0.006	0.002
340	0.695	0.285	0.006	0.002
350	*	*	0.006	0.002
351	*	*	0.006	0.002
400	*	*	0.006	0.002
500	*	*	0.006	0.002
600	*	*	0.005	0.002
700	*	*	0.005	0.002
800	*	*	0.005	0.002
1000	*	*	0.005	0.003
1200	*	*	0.005	0.003
1500	*	*	0.004	0.003
2000	*	*	0.004	0.004
2500	*	*	0.004	0.004

Table A.11. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 25°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	0.840	0.344	0.008	0.003
260	0.863	0.353	0.008	0.003
270	0.882	0.361	0.008	0.003
280	0.888	0.364	0.008	0.003
290	0.885	0.363	0.007	0.003
300	0.883	0.361	0.007	0.003
310	0.880	0.360	0.007	0.003
320	0.877	0.359	0.007	0.003
330	0.875	0.358	0.007	0.003
340	0.872	0.357	0.007	0.003
350	*	*	0.007	0.003
351	*	*	0.007	0.003
400	*	*	0.007	0.003
500	*	*	0.007	0.003
600	*	*	0.007	0.003
700	*	*	0.007	0.003
800	*	*	0.006	0.003
1000	*	*	0.006	0.003
1200	*	*	0.006	0.003
1500	*	*	0.005	0.003
2000	*	*	0.005	0.004
2500	*	*	0.005	0.004

Table A.12. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 50°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	1.061	0.434	0.009	0.004
260	1.058	0.433	0.009	0.004
270	1.055	0.432	0.009	0.004
280	1.052	0.431	0.009	0.004
290	1.049	0.430	0.009	0.004
300	1.046	0.428	0.009	0.004
310	1.043	0.427	0.009	0.004
320	1.039	0.426	0.009	0.004
330	*	*	0.009	0.004
340	*	*	0.009	0.004
350	*	*	0.009	0.004
351	*	*	0.009	0.004
400	*	*	0.009	0.003
500	*	*	0.008	0.003
600	*	*	0.008	0.003
700	*	*	0.008	0.003
800	*	*	0.008	0.003
1000	*	*	0.007	0.003
1200	*	*	0.007	0.003
1500	*	*	0.006	0.003
2000	*	*	0.006	0.004
2500	*	*	0.006	0.004

Table A.13. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 70°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	1.151	0.471	0.010	0.004
260	1.148	0.470	0.010	0.004
270	1.144	0.469	0.010	0.004
280	1.141	0.467	0.010	0.004
290	1.138	0.466	0.010	0.004
300	1.134	0.464	0.010	0.004
310	1.131	0.463	0.010	0.004
320	*	*	0.010	0.004
330	*	*	0.010	0.004
340	*	*	0.009	0.004
350	*	*	0.009	0.004
351	*	*	0.009	0.004
400	*	*	0.009	0.004
500	*	*	0.009	0.004
600	*	*	0.009	0.004
700	*	*	0.008	0.003
800	*	*	0.008	0.003
1000	*	*	0.008	0.003
1200	*	*	0.007	0.003
1500	*	*	0.007	0.003
2000	*	*	0.006	0.004
2500	*	*	0.006	0.004

Table A.14. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 100°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	1.253	0.513	0.011	0.004
260	1.249	0.512	0.011	0.004
270	1.245	0.510	0.011	0.004
280	1.242	0.509	0.011	0.004
290	1.238	0.507	0.011	0.004
300	1.234	0.505	0.011	0.004
310	*	*	0.010	0.004
320	*	*	0.010	0.004
330	*	*	0.010	0.004
340	*	*	0.010	0.004
350	*	*	0.010	0.004
351	*	*	0.010	0.004
400	*	*	0.010	0.004
500	*	*	0.010	0.004
600	*	*	0.009	0.004
700	*	*	0.009	0.004
800	*	*	0.009	0.004
1000	*	*	0.008	0.003
1200	*	*	0.008	0.003
1500	*	*	0.008	0.003
2000	*	*	0.007	0.004
2500	*	*	0.007	0.004

Table A.15. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 200°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	1.468	0.601	0.013	0.005
260	*	*	0.013	0.005
270	*	*	0.013	0.005
280	*	*	0.013	0.005
290	*	*	0.013	0.005
300	*	*	0.012	0.005
310	*	*	0.012	0.005
320	*	*	0.012	0.005
330	*	*	0.012	0.005
340	*	*	0.012	0.005
350	*	*	0.012	0.005
351	*	*	0.012	0.005
400	*	*	0.012	0.005
500	*	*	0.012	0.005
600	*	*	0.011	0.004
700	*	*	0.011	0.004
800	*	*	0.011	0.004
1000	*	*	0.010	0.004
1200	*	*	0.010	0.004
1500	*	*	0.009	0.004
2000	*	*	0.008	0.004
2500	*	*	0.008	0.005

Table A.16. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 300°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	*	*	0.014	0.005
260	*	*	0.014	0.005
270	*	*	0.014	0.005
280	*	*	0.014	0.005
290	*	*	0.014	0.005
300	*	*	0.014	0.005
310	*	*	0.014	0.005
320	*	*	0.014	0.005
330	*	*	0.014	0.005
340	*	*	0.014	0.005
350	*	*	0.013	0.005
351	*	*	0.013	0.005
400	*	*	0.013	0.005
500	*	*	0.013	0.005
600	*	*	0.012	0.005
700	*	*	0.012	0.005
800	*	*	0.012	0.005
1000	*	*	0.011	0.004
1200	*	*	0.011	0.004
1500	*	*	0.010	0.004
2000	*	*	0.009	0.004
2500	*	*	0.009	0.005

Table A.17. Effective Conductivity for Liquid Neutron Shield with 500°F Temperature Gradient

Avg. Temperature (°F)	56% Ethylene Glycol		Air	
	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Neutron Shield (Btu/hr-in-°F)	Effective Conductivity Expansion Tank (Btu/hr-in-°F)
250	*	*	0.016	0.006
260	*	*	0.016	0.006
270	*	*	0.016	0.006
280	*	*	0.016	0.006
290	*	*	0.016	0.006
300	*	*	0.015	0.006
310	*	*	0.015	0.006
320	*	*	0.015	0.006
330	*	*	0.015	0.006
340	*	*	0.015	0.006
350	*	*	0.015	0.006
351	*	*	0.015	0.006
400	*	*	0.015	0.006
500	*	*	0.014	0.006
600	*	*	0.014	0.005
700	*	*	0.014	0.005
800	*	*	0.013	0.005
1000	*	*	0.013	0.005
1200	*	*	0.012	0.005
1500	*	*	0.011	0.005
2000	*	*	0.011	0.004
2500	*	*	0.010	0.005

Table A.18. Emissivity Values for Radiation Heat Transfer

Component	Material	Emissivity Before Fire	Emissivity During/After Fire
Canister	stainless steel	0.36	0.36
Cask	stainless steel	0.36	0.36
Outer Neutron Shield		0.34	0.34
Inner Neutron Shield		0.34	0.34
Basket	stainless steel	0.36	0.36
Fuel Clad	zircaloy	0.8	0.8
Boral Plate	aluminum clad	0.55	0.55
Shell Interior	stainless steel	0.36	0.36
Cask Exterior	stainless steel	0.85	0.9
Tunnel/ISO	various		0.9

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10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

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11. ABSTRACT *(200 words or less)*

On April 7, 1982, a tank truck and trailer carrying 8,800 gallons of gasoline was involved in an accident in the Caldecott Tunnel on State Route 24 near Oakland, California. The tank trailer overturned and subsequently caught fire. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), one of the agencies responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of radioactive materials in the United States, undertook an investigation of this accident and fire to determine the possible regulatory implications of this particular event for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel. The staff concluded that small transportation casks similar to the NAC LWT would experience a degradation of seals in this severe accident scenario; therefore, a release from these types of casks could not be ruled out.

USNRC staff evaluated the radiological consequences of the package response to the Caldecott tunnel fire. The staff's evaluation indicates that neither SNF particles nor fission products would be released from a package, carrying intact SNF, involved in a severe tunnel fire such as the Caldecott Tunnel fire. A release of CRUD from the surface of fuel cladding, while a possibility for this package design, is highly unlikely, and would be within regulatory limits.

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