CHAPTER 6

ENGINEERED SAFETY FEATURES

6.0 Engineered Safety Features

Engineered safety features (ESF) protect the public in the event of an accidental release of radioactive fission products from the reactor coolant system. The engineered safety features function to localize, control, mitigate, and terminate such accidents and to maintain radiation exposure levels to the public below applicable limits and guidelines, such as 10 CFR 50.34. The following are defined as engineered safety features:

Containment

The containment vessel, discussed in Subsection 6.2.1, is a free standing cylindrical steel vessel with ellipsoidal upper and lower heads. It is surrounded by a Seismic Category I reinforced concrete shield building. The function of the containment vessel, as part of the overall containment system, is to contain the release of radioactivity following postulated design basis accidents. The containment vessel also functions as the safety-related ultimate heat sink by transferring the heat associated with accident sources to the surrounding environment. The following paragraph details this safety-related feature.

Passive Containment Cooling System

The function of the passive containment cooling system, discussed in Subsection 6.2.2, is to maintain the temperature below a maximum value and to reduce the containment temperature and pressure following a postulated design-basis event. The passive containment cooling system removes thermal energy from the containment atmosphere. The passive containment cooling system also serves as the safety-related ultimate heat sink for other design basis events and shutdowns. The passive containment cooling system limits the release of radioactive material to the environment by reducing the pressure differential between the containment atmosphere and the external environment. This diminishes the driving force for leakage of fission products from the containment to the atmosphere.

Containment Isolation System

The major function of the containment isolation system of the AP1000, discussed in Subsection 6.2.3, is to provide containment isolation to allow the normal or emergency passage of fluids through the containment boundary while preserving the integrity of the containment boundary, if required. This prevents or limits the escape of fission products that may result from postulated accidents. Containment isolation provisions are designed so that fluid lines penetrating the primary containment boundary are isolated in the event of an accident. This minimizes the release of radioactivity to the environment.

Passive Core Cooling System

The primary function of the passive core cooling system, discussed in Section 6.3, is to provide emergency core cooling following postulated design-basis events. The passive core cooling system

provides reactor coolant system makeup and boration during transients or accidents where the normal reactor coolant system makeup supply from the chemical and volume control system is lost or is insufficient. The passive core cooling system provides safety injection to the reactor coolant system to provide adequate core cooling for the complete range of loss of coolant accident events up to, and including, the double ended rupture of the largest primary loop reactor coolant system piping. The passive core cooling system provides core decay heat removal during transients, accidents, or whenever the normal heat removal paths are lost.

Main Control Room Emergency Habitability System

The main control room emergency habitability system, discussed in Section 6.4, is designed so that the main control room remains habitable following a postulated design basis event. With a loss of all ac power sources, the habitability system will maintain an acceptable environment for continued operating staff occupancy.

Fission Product Control

Post-accident safety-related fission product control for the AP1000, discussed in Section 6.5, is provided by natural removal processes inside containment, the containment boundary, and the containment isolation system. The natural removal processes, including various aerosol removal processes and pool scrubbing, remove airborne particulates and elemental iodine from the containment atmosphere following a postulated design basis event.