

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	UNDERSTANDING AGEING CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGIES	1
2.1.	Ageing terminologies	2
3.	STATUS OF UNDERSTANDING AGEING OF MATERIAL IN FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES	5
3.1.	Aluminium	5
3.1.1.	Reactions with water	6
3.1.1.1.	Significance of reactor formed oxide films	6
3.1.1.2.	Significance of low temperature oxide films...	6
3.1.1.3.	Summary of aluminium alloy corrosion factors in fuel storage pools	7
3.1.2.	Drying of wet stored aluminium clad fuel	8
3.1.3.	Reaction with air	8
3.2.	Uranium metal	9
3.2.1.	Reaction with water	9
3.2.2.	Reaction with dry air	11
3.2.3.	Reaction with hydrogen	12
3.2.4.	Reaction with water vapour in the absence of oxygen	12
3.2.5.	Reaction with moist air	14
3.2.6.	Other reactions relevant to ageing	14
3.2.7.	Effect of alloying constituents	15
3.3.	Uranium-aluminium alloy fuels	15
3.3.1.	Reactions with water and air	16
3.4.	Uranium oxide-aluminium dispersion fuels	16
3.4.1.	Reactions with water and air	17
3.5.	Uranium silicide-aluminium dispersion fuels	17
3.6.	Stainless steel	17
3.6.1.	Behaviour of stainless steels in fuel storage pool waters	18
3.6.2.	Behaviour of stainless steels in dry storage	18
3.7.	Zirconium alloys	19
3.7.1.	Zirconium alloy corrosion in water	20

3.7.2.	Reactions of zirconium clad fuel in dry storage	20
3.8.	Carbon steel	21
3.8.1.	Carbon steel corrosion in water	22
3.8.2.	Carbon steel behaviour in dry storage	23
3.9.	Concrete	23
3.9.1.	General understanding of the ageing and degradation of concrete	24
3.9.2.	Concrete specification and design of durable concrete structures	25
3.9.3.	Monitoring and inspection	25
3.10.	Neutron absorbers	28
3.11.	Metal seals	29
3.12.	Non-metal seals, liners, coatings, etc.	30
3.12.1.	Non-metal fuel storage liners/coatings	31
3.12.2.	Liners for ion exchange vessels, valve chambers, etc. ...	31
3.12.3.	Gaskets	31
3.12.4.	Coatings: dry storage	32
4.	MANAGING AGEING IN SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES	32
4.1.	Alternative methods to apply effective ageing management ..	33
4.1.1.	IAEA method to implement ageing management in nuclear facilities	33
4.1.2.	Nuclear Regulatory Commission method for ageing management in nuclear fuel storage facilities	35
4.1.3.	Ageing management method: Argentina	36
4.1.4.	Ageing management: Germany	36
4.1.5.	Ageing management: United Kingdom	38
4.2.	Categories of spent nuclear fuel storage facility structures, systems and components that require specific ageing management	38
4.3.	Ageing management of nuclear fuel	39
4.4.	Illustration of ageing management programme development applied to aluminium alloys in wet storage	40
4.5.	Ageing management in dry storage facilities	40
4.5.1.	Implementation of ageing management in dry storage facilities	43
4.5.2.	Development of ageing management plans	43
4.5.3.	Development of ageing management programmes ...	43
4.5.4.	Ageing management of nuclear fuel in dry storage ...	44

4.6.	Monitoring, inspection and analysis needs	44
4.6.1.	Condition monitoring in wet storage facilities	44
4.6.1.1.	Destructive examinations.....	45
4.6.1.2.	Coupons	45
4.6.1.3.	Underwater photography and video cameras .	45
4.6.1.4.	Binoculars	45
4.6.1.5.	Inspection of components removed from interim service, during maintenance or during decommissioning.....	45
4.6.1.6.	Non-destructive evaluations	46
4.6.1.7.	Sipping	46
4.6.1.8.	Water chemistry monitoring	46
4.6.1.9.	Laboratory data.....	47
4.6.1.10.	Theoretical assessments	47
4.6.1.11.	Inspection, surveillance and condition monitoring	47
4.6.2.	Condition monitoring in dry storage facilities: inspection and analyses	47
4.6.2.1.	Direct inspections and monitoring	48
4.6.2.2.	Analyses when direct inspections are not practicable	48
4.6.3.	Ageing management programmes	48
4.7.	Summary of actions to implement effective ageing management in fuel storage facilities	48

5. PERSPECTIVES ON MANAGING AGEING FROM COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPANTS ... 49

5.1.	Approach to managing ageing in Argentina	49
5.2.	The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's approach to managing ageing	50
5.3.	Approach of the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing to managing ageing	51
5.4.	Approach of British Nuclear Fuels to managing ageing	53
5.4.1.	Design	53
5.4.2.	Research and development and plant inspection	54
5.4.3.	Long term ageing management (asset care)	55
5.5.	Approach to managing ageing in nuclear fuel storage facilities in the United States of America	55
5.5.1.	Technical basis for the approach to ageing management in nuclear power plants in the United States of America	56

5.5.2.	Basis for managing ageing in fuel storage facilities . . .	57
6.	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT	57
6.1.	Argentina	58
6.2.	Australia	58
6.3.	Germany	60
6.4.	Kazakhstan	61
6.5.	Romania	62
6.6.	Russian Federation	63
6.7.	United Kingdom	65
6.7.1.	Continued operations safety cases	66
6.7.2.	Initial service life assessment for the Fuel Handling Plant (ponds)	66
6.8.	United States of America	67
7.	EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND KNOW-HOW	68
7.1.	Questionnaire addressing ageing of structures, systems and components in fuel storage facilities	68
7.1.1.	Specific results of the questionnaire test conducted under the auspices of the coordinated research project	69
7.1.1.1.	Wet storage	69
7.1.1.2.	Dry storage	72
7.2.	Information on reactors/storage facilities in decommissioning	74
7.2.1.	Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuel	74
7.2.1.1.	Material and material durability	74
7.2.1.2.	Water chemistry and temperature	75
7.2.1.3.	Summary	75
7.2.2.	Decommissioning of test reactors	75
7.2.2.1.	Facility A	76
7.2.2.2.	Facility B	76
7.2.2.3.	Facility C	76
7.2.3.	Hanford C reactor decommissioning	77
8.	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	77

APPENDIX I:	BASIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING AGEING IN NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES: FORMAT AND CONTENT	79
APPENDIX II:	TERMS FOR DEGRADATION, LIFE CYCLE AND AGEING MANAGEMENT	89
APPENDIX III:	QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSING AGEING IN NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES	91
REFERENCES		99
ABBREVIATIONS		105
CONTRIBUTORS TO DRAFTING AND REVIEW		107