

Contents

Preface	III
The authors	V
List of abbreviations.....	VII
Foreword.....	XXVII

Chapter 1 **Introduction**

Chapter 2 **Some of the Research Facilities Favored by IRSN in the Field of Nuclear Power Reactor Safety**

2.1 The CABRI reactor.....	9
2.2 The PHEBUS reactor.....	11
2.3 The GALAXIE experimental facility.....	11
2.4 Other facilities.....	12

Chapter 3 **Research on Loss-of-coolant Accidents**

3.1 Two-phase thermal-hydraulics	17
3.2 Fuel rod behavior.....	20

Chapter 4 **Research on Reactivity-initiated Accidents**

Chapter 5
**Research on Recirculation Cooling under
Accident Conditions**

5.1	Operating experience feedback and research topics.....	36
5.2	Past research programs and lessons learned.....	40
5.3	Ongoing research programs.....	42
5.4	Simulation	44

Chapter 6
Research on Spent Fuel Pool Uncovery Accidents

Chapter 7
Research on Fires

7.1	Fire risks at nuclear installations.....	53
7.2	Organizations involved in research on fire.....	56
7.3	Research facilities, simulation tools.....	57
7.4	The main research programs and their contributions.....	60

Chapter 8
Research on Hazards associated to Natural Events

8.1	Earthquakes.....	70
8.2	External flooding.....	75

Chapter 9
Research on Core Melt Accidents

9.1	Heating of the core and core melt inside the vessel.....	79
9.2	Reactor vessel melt-through and basemat erosion by the molten corium.....	89
9.3	Dynamic loading of the containment by a sudden increase in internal pressure.....	99
	9.3.1 Steam explosions.....	99
	9.3.2 Hydrogen-related risks.....	102
	9.3.3 Direct containment heating.....	111
9.4	Radioactive releases.....	113
	9.4.1 Emission of radioactive products by fuel.....	113
	9.4.2 Transporting of radioactive products into the reactor's circuits.....	115

9.4.3	Radioactive product behavior in the containment	117
9.4.4	Contribution of the Phebus-FP program on the various processes involved in radioactive releases.....	120
9.4.5	Aspects to be explored.....	121

Chapter 10

Research on the Behavior of Components Important to the Safety of NPPs and More Particularly the Aging of Such Components

10.1	R&D on metallic components	127
10.1.1	Research on thermal fatigue.....	130
10.1.2	R&D on non-destructive testing	134
10.1.3	Studies and research on the seismic behavior of overhead cranes.....	144
10.2	R&D on civil engineering structures	145
10.2.1	Development of constitutive equations for civil engineering structures.....	147
10.2.2	R&D on the behavior of civil engineering structures under seismic loads.....	148
10.2.3	R&D on the behavior of civil engineering structures in cases of collision.....	153
10.2.4	R&D on the behavior of containments during core melt accidents.....	154
10.2.5	R&D on containment aging.....	161
10.3	Research on polymers	165

Chapter 11

Research in the Field of Human and Organizational Factors and, More Broadly, in Human and Social Sciences

11.1	From the consideration of human factors in safety to studies in human and social sciences	169
11.2	Studies and research on reactor control room design.....	172
11.2.1	The post-TMI period.....	172
11.2.2	The N4 series: the first computerized control room.....	174
11.2.3	The EPR project: the move toward increased automation	178
11.2.4	Contributions and outlook.....	181

11.3	Studies and research on the organization and management of safety at EDF's NPPs.....	181
11.3.1	Organization of maintenance activities.....	183
11.3.2	Contractor management.....	187
11.4	Research on human and social sciences: the AGORAS project.....	190

Chapter 12

Other Research and Tracks of New Research