

N35. Electropolishing Minimizes Radioactivity Buildup

French experience with electropolishing has led EdF to adopt the method to deal with radiation build up on PWR steam generator channel heads. The technique is now in routine use on new steam generators. Tests on Chinon B1 manway covers gave the following results: a reduction in contamination was indeed achieved by surface polishing; reduction factors of deposited activity were higher on the cold leg than on the hot one; the reduction factor for the combination of mechanical and electropolishing decreased after 3 cycles; and a reduction factor of 3 was observed for electropolishing, with a slight variation over three cycles.

For more, see "Electropolishing Minimizes Radioactivity Build Up on French PWR Steam Generator Surfaces," Nucl. Eng. Intern., Vol. 35, No. 433, pp. 31-31, Aug. 1990 and the paper by P. Saurin, C. Weber, A. Brissaud and G. Gouillardous presented to the BNES Water Chemistry Conf., Bournemouth, U.K., 1989.