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## Thermal Analysis of the 9975 Package with the 3013 Configuration During Normal Conditions of Transportation

by

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# Thermal Analyses Of The 9975 Package With The 3013 Configuration During Normal Conditions Of Transport

S. J. Hensel

February 22, 1999

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## Thermal Analyses Of The 9975 Package With The 3013 Configuration During Normal Conditions Of Transport

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**SRTC**

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**Abstract**

Thermal analysis of the 9975 package with three configurations of the BNFL 3013 outer container (with Rocky Flats, SRS, and BNFL inner containers) have been performed for Normal Conditions of Transport (NCT) of plutonium oxide and metal. The NCT is defined in 10 CFR 71.71(c)(1) as an ambient of 100°F (38 °C) in still air with 800 W/m<sup>2</sup> and 400 W/m<sup>2</sup> of solar heating on the drum top and sides, respectively. The 9975 drum package is considered to be in an upright position, and the drum bottom is adiabatic.

The Rocky and SRS 3013 configurations with Pu metal contents (19 watts) result in acceptable (similar) packaging temperatures, however the plutonium metal temperatures are lower for the SRS design (SRS has helium fill gas whereas Rocky is essentially air filled). The BNFL configuration for Pu oxide contents (19 watts) result in acceptable temperatures and pressures based on limits in the 9975 Safety Analysis Report (SARP). However, for 30 watts of Pu oxide, the fiberboard peak temperatures are very near the SARP allowable. The pressure in the 3013 container is 688.4 psig for the 30 watt Pu oxide content and 569.5 psig for the 19 watt Pu oxide content.

Gas species in the pressure computations include air, helium and hydrogen from complete radiolysis of the moisture. The oxygen generated from the radiolysis of the water is not included as a pressure contributor. The gas temperature in the pressure computations was very conservatively assumed to be the maximum plutonium temperature.

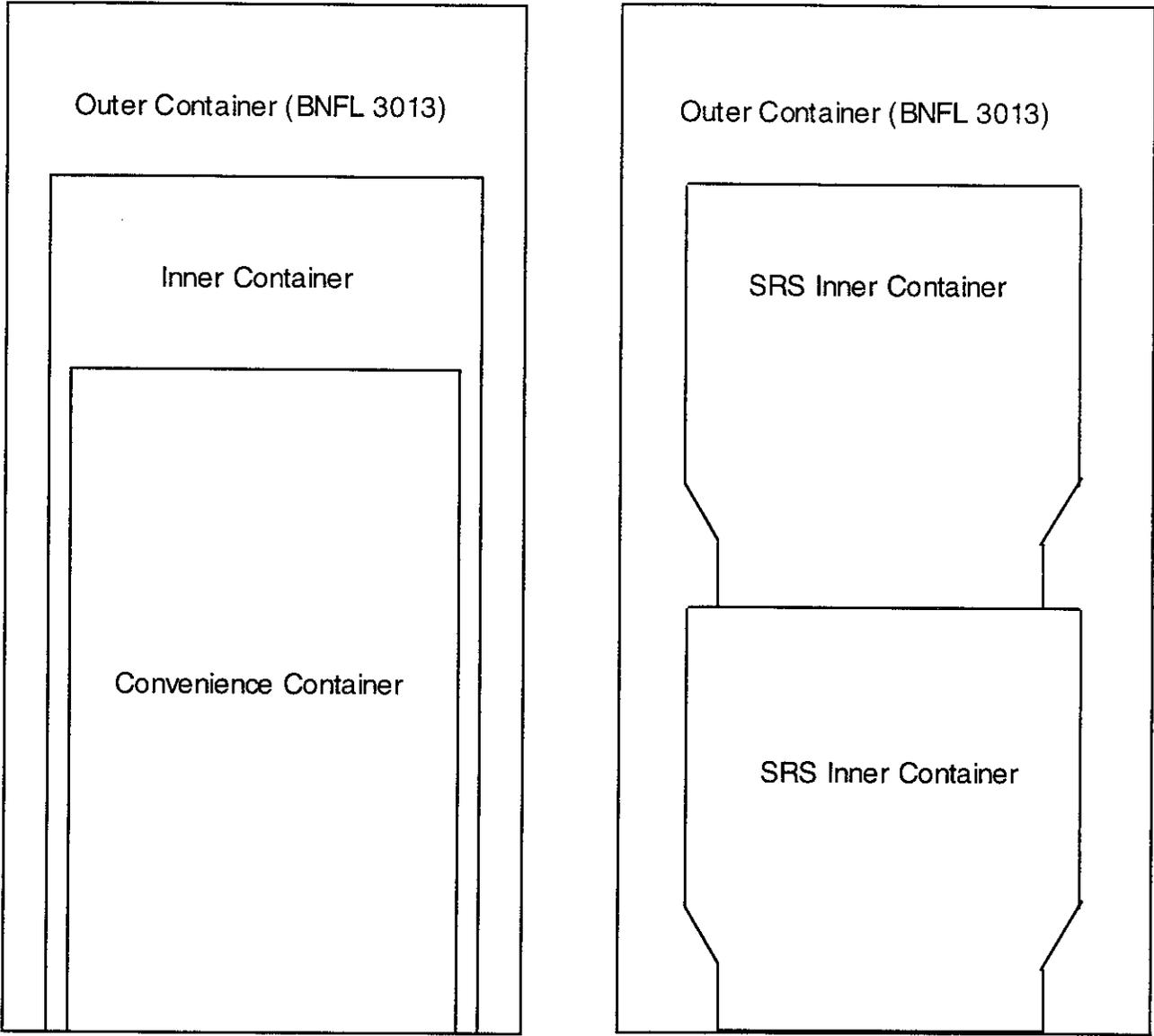
## 1.0 Introduction

Plutonium storage is currently being planned for K-reactor and in a new Actinide Package Storage Facility (APSF) at SRS. The present work considers Normal Conditions of Transport (NCT) (solar radiation in an ambient of 100°F) and builds upon previous steady-state thermal analyses of the 9975 package when used as a storage container [1]. The previous work did not consider solar radiation and the drums were considered to be stacked two high and bundled while in storage (drum top and bottom surfaces were considered to be adiabatic and no radiation heat transfer from the outer drum to the ambient). This work does not explicitly evaluate the computed temperatures or pressures in terms of their impact on safety.

Several BNFL 3013 container storage configurations utilizing the 9975 package are contemplated. A schematic of the storage configurations with the BNFL 3013 container is presented in Figure 1. Table 1 identifies all of the 3013 configurations currently considered and the respective contents. The BNFL and Rocky configurations consist of three nested containers/cans within the primary containment vessel of the 9975. The SRS configuration is the only double nested configuration. Dimensions of the containers/cans are provided in Table 2. Although the 9975 package is currently certified for plutonium oxide at 19 watts, 30 watts was evaluated for comparison purposes.

The NCT thermal analysis is steady-state with an ambient of 100°F (38°C). The cylindrical drum is upright with the bottom surface adiabatic. Solar heating on the drum top and sides are 800 W/m<sup>2</sup> and 400 W/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The drum dissipates heat to the ambient via natural convection and radiation.

Schematic Of 3013 Configurations



BNFL and Rocky 3013 Configurations

SRS 3013 Configuration

Figure 1

Table 1: Storage Configurations

Name	Outer Container	Inner Container	Convenience Container	Fill Gasses	Contents
BNFL	Yes BNFL 3013	Yes BNFL	Yes BNFL	Helium between Inner container and 3013, all other is air	low density Pu Oxide (19 W or 30 W)
Rocky	Yes BNFL 3013	Yes BNFL	Yes Rocky Flats	Helium between Inner container and 3013, all other is air	2 Pu metal buttons stacked directly on top of each other (19 W total)
SRS	Yes BNFL 3013	Yes SRS cans stacked two high	No	Helium within 3013 container and Inner container	2 Pu metal buttons (19 W total divided between 2 containers)

Table 2: External Dimensions Of Containers (in.)

Container	Diameter X Height (in.)	Drawing Number
BNFL 3013	4.92 X 10.0	BNFL Drawing M-4-20-1-245 Mod C
BNFL Inner Container	4.61 X 9.45	BNFL Drawing M-4-20-1-244 Mod D
BNFL Convenience Container	4.29 X 8.91	BNFL Drawing M-4-20-1-243 Mod C
Rocky Convenience Container	4.11 X 5.96	Dynamic Machine Works 1509-02
SRS Inner Container	4.6 X 4.625	WSRC Drawing R-R1-F-0039 rev. 2

The general purpose conduction-radiation computer code MSC/Thermal (also known as P/Thermal) was used to perform the computations [2]. This computer code meets site nuclear safety QA requirements [3], and work was performed in accordance with the WSRC E-7 manual [4].

## 2.0 Thermal Models And Analysis

The thermal models of the storage configurations were created using the general purpose finite element pre and post processor Patran [5].

### 2.1 Models

Axisymmetric models of the 9975 drum package used in the preparation of the 9975 SARP were modified to accommodate the proposed configurations [6]. A schematic of the axisymmetric model of the 9975 packaging with the BNFL configuration for Pu oxide

contents is shown in Figure 2. Models for the Pu metal button configurations are very similar. Metal buttons are modeled as disks 0.75 in. thick with flat tops and 5.125 in. radius of curvature bottoms (curved side down) as shown in Figure 3 [7]. The contact between the metal button and the container is at a point. The axisymmetric models contain roughly 5500 nodes. Heat is transferred to the ambient by conduction through the 9975 components and radiation and conduction across the air gaps. Within the primary containment vessel conduction heat transfer is modeled, but natural convection is neglected. Radiation within the primary containment vessel is considered as listed in Table 3. The contribution of radiation heat transfer between the inner and outer containers for the BNFL and Rocky configurations is relatively small and therefore neglected. Natural convection within the packaging is also conservatively neglected.

Fringe plots of the axisymmetric models used to analyze the Rocky, SRS and BNFL configurations are presented in Figures 4 through 6. The package materials are represented by the fringe colors.

Schematic of 9975 With BNFL Containers And Pu Oxide Contents

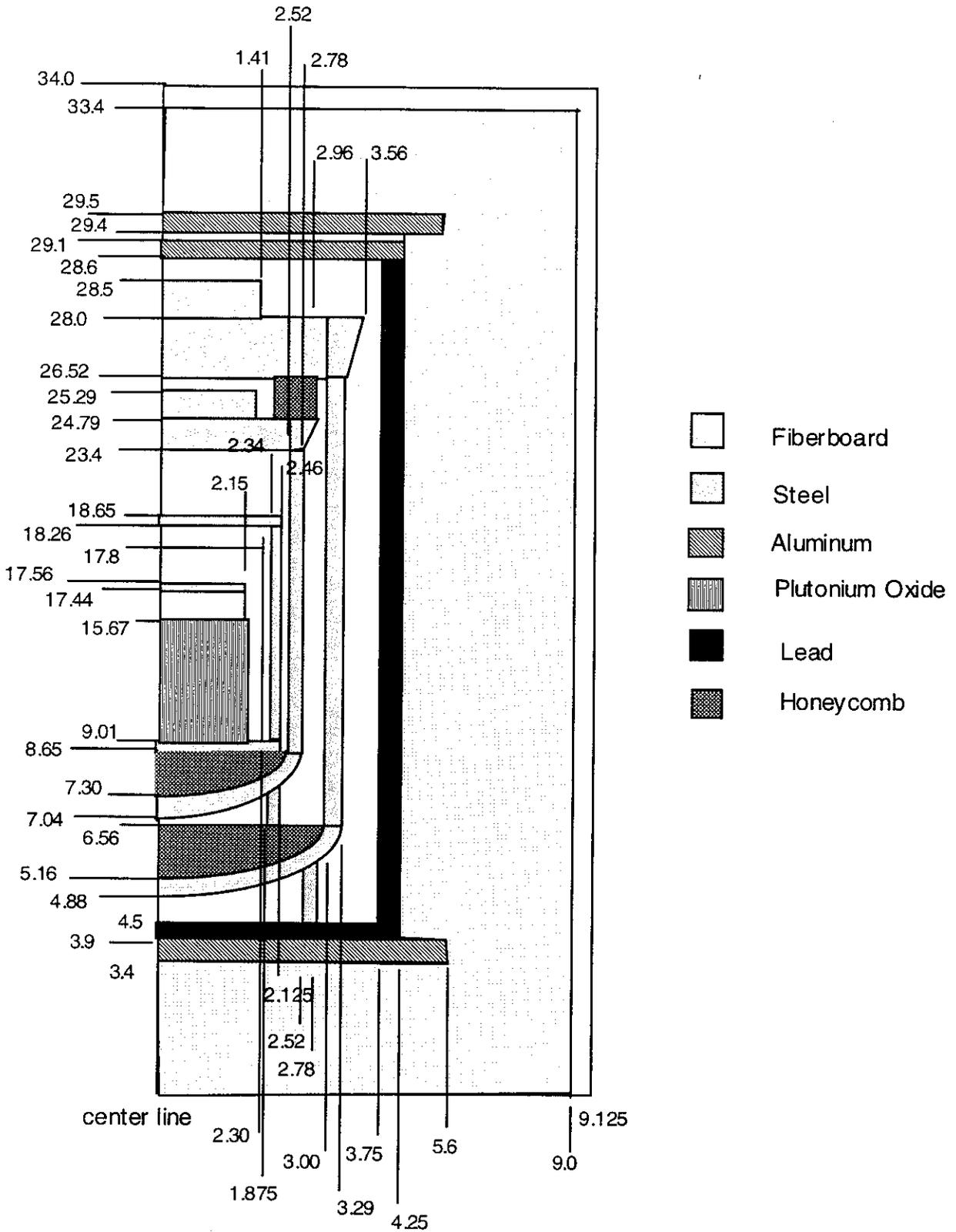


Figure 2

### Schematic Of Pu Button

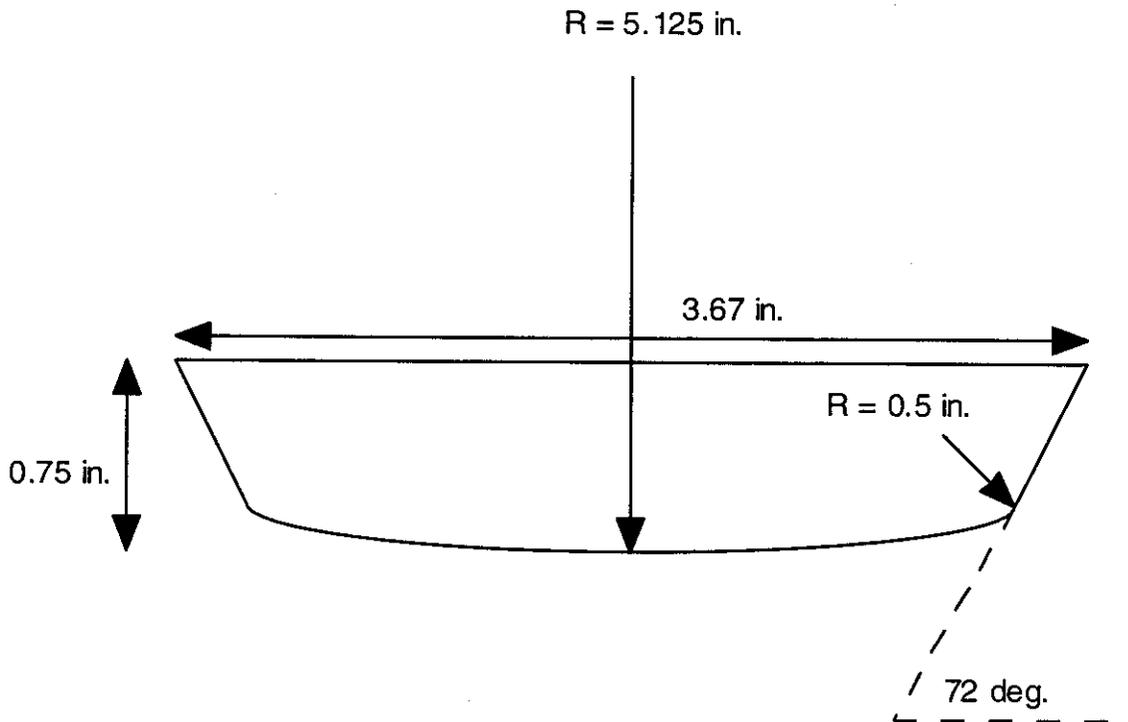


Figure 3

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Fringe: Property Set Name

Rocky Configuration With Pu Metal Contents

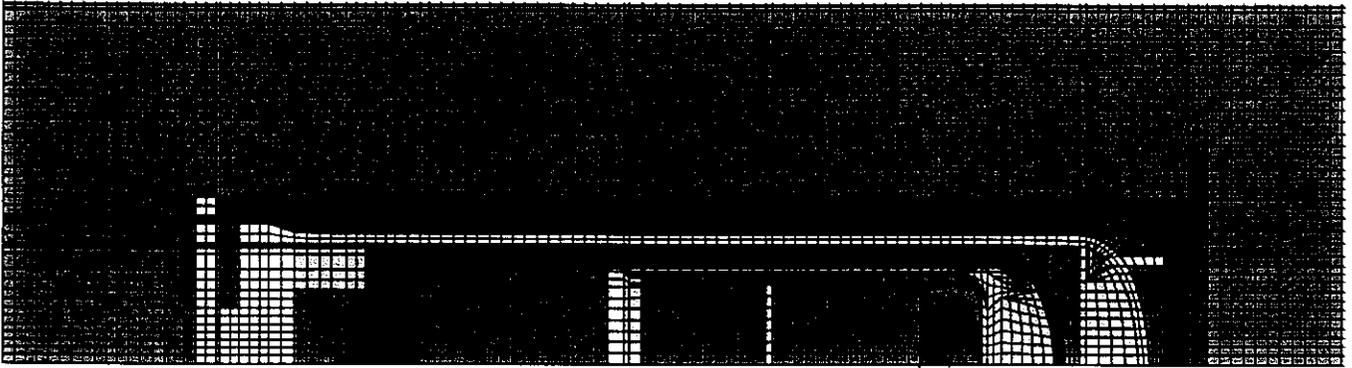


Figure 4

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Fringe: Property Set Name

SRS Configuration With Pu Metal Contents



Figure 5

MSC/PATRAN Version 7.5 23-Jul-98 08:55:42  
Fringe: Property Set Name

BNFL Configuration With Pu Oxide Contents

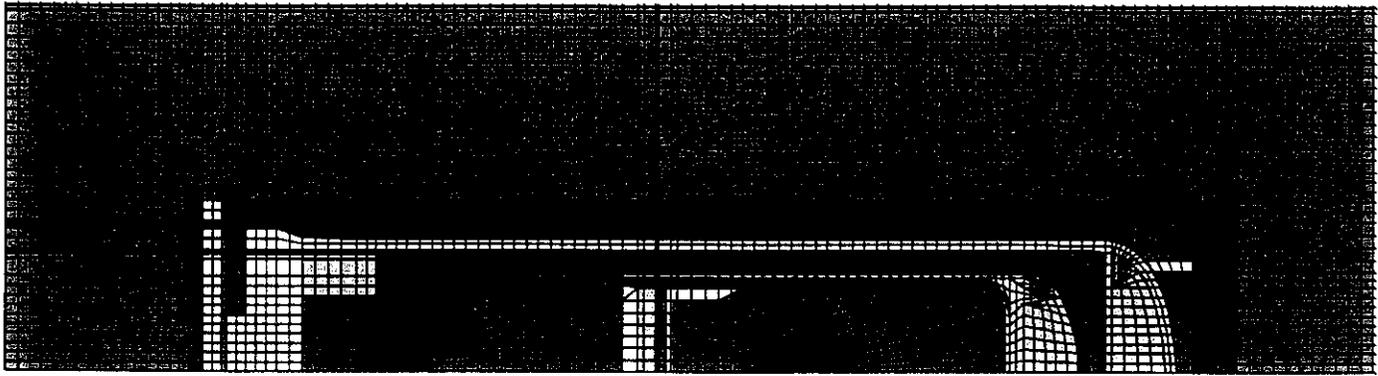


Figure 6

Table 3: Radiation Heat Transfer Within Primary Containment Vessel

Configuration	Between Outer Container and PCV	Between Inner Container and Outer Container	Between Convenience and Inner Container	Between Contents and Convenience Container
BNFL	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Rocky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
SRS	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes, between contents and inner container

## 2.2 Thermal Analysis

The ambient transport temperature is 100°F (38 °C), and the 9975 drum is assumed to be upright with the bottom surface adiabatic. Heat transfer from the drum side and top to the ambient is via natural convection and radiation. The convection coefficients used to determine the turbulent natural convection heat transfer are a function of the temperature difference between the drum surface and the ambient ( $\Delta T$ ). Given a temperature difference in °F, the drum top convection coefficient is  $0.22\Delta T^{0.33}$  Btu/hr.-ft.<sup>2</sup>-°F and the drum side coefficient is  $0.19\Delta T^{0.33}$  Btu/hr.-ft.<sup>2</sup>-°F [8]. Thermal conductivity of fiberboard is based on previous heater experiments with the 9975 which showed the in-plane conductivity to be roughly twice the through-plane value [9]. A summary of the boundary conditions for the analyses follows:

1. Drum analyzed in an upright position
2. Adiabatic bottom surface
3. Radiative heat transfer from drum sides and top to the ambient
4. Natural convection heat transfer from the drum sides and top to the ambient
5. Ambient temperature is 100°F (38 °C)

6. Insolation:  $800 \text{ W/m}^2$  on drum top and  $400 \text{ W/m}^2$  on drum side (no credit was taken for the solar absorptivity of the drum being less than 1).

The thermal properties of the packaging components used in the analyses are shown in Tables 4 and 5 and are taken from previous analyses [1].

Table 4: Emissivity Of Package Components

Component	Emissivity
aluminum plates, honeycomb	0.25
fiberboard	0.90
lead	0.28
containment vessels	0.30
3013 Container	0.20
BNFL Middle Can	0.20
BNFL Convenience Can	0.20
Pu Oxide	0.90
Pu Metal	0.50
Rocky Convenience Can	0.20
SRS Convenience Can	0.20

Table 5 : Thermal Conductivity Of Packaging Materials

Material	Conductivity (Btu/hr.-ft.-°F) @ T(°F)
helium	0.0910 @ 120 0.0985 @ 212 0.1226 @ 392
air	0.1396 @ 32 0.1397 @ 212 0.1398 @ 392 0.02593 @ 572
honeycomb energy absorber (radial)	3.82
honeycomb energy absorber (axial)	7.62
fiberboard (radial)	0.0723
fiberboard (axial)	0.031 @ 77 0.034 @ 187 0.036 @ 295
aluminum	126.0
stainless steel (304)	7.74 @ 32 9.43 @ 212 12.58 @ 932
stainless steel (316)	8.79 @ 261 10.58 @ 621
lead	19.6 @ 209 18.3 @ 400
Pu oxide	0.0460
Pu metal	7.26 @ 207 7.74 @ 243 9.19 @ 266 18.39 @ 1112

### 3.0 Results

Results of the analyses include both temperatures and pressures.

#### 3.1 Temperatures

The results of the computations are presented in Table 6. The maximum temperatures at key locations are reported for each configuration and wattage. Color fringe plots of the temperatures are presented in Figures 7 through 9 for the Rocky, SRS, and BNFL oxide configurations with 19 watts of plutonium contents. The following are note worthy:

1. The maximum fiberboard temperature is 280°F (138 °C) which is above the currently acceptable limit of 250°F, and occurs with the 30 watts of Pu oxide in the BNFL configuration. The maximum occurs at roughly mid height of the contents. For 19 watts, the maximum temperature is 257°F (125 °C). The 9975 SARP allows for exceeding the fiberboard temperature limit in small localized regions.
2. For the 30 watt case of Pu oxide contents, the maximum secondary containment vessel (SCV) temperature is 300°F (149°C) and the maximum primary containment vessel (PCV) temperature is 324°F (162°C). Although these containment vessel temperatures are at or slightly above the current SARP limit of 300°F (149 °C), the containment vessels are below 300°F for 19 watts. The maximum temperature occurs at roughly mid height of the contents.
3. Maximum Pu metal temperature is 395°F (202°C) for the Rocky configuration and only 297°F (147°C) for the SRS configuration (19 watts total in two metal buttons).

4. Both primary and secondary container o-rings are below 300°F (149°C) for all configurations and loadings (including 30 watts of oxide).
5. The maximum temperature of the BNFL 3013 container is 340°F (171°C), and it occurs with the 30 watts of Pu oxide case.
6. The SRS and Rocky configurations result in very similar 9975 packaging temperatures even though the contents are configured differently.

The most significant result of these analyses is that the PCV allowable is exceeded with 30 watts of Pu oxide in the BNFL configuration, however 19 watts of Pu metal or oxide in all configurations is acceptable. The Rocky and SRS configurations result in similar packaging temperatures, however the plutonium metal temperatures are lower for the SRS design (with helium fill gas). Another reason may be that the SRS design is only a double nested configuration whereas the Rocky is triple nested. The heat generation of the plutonium contents is primarily responsible for the packaging and can temperatures. The composition of the plutonium (oxide or metal) significantly impacts its temperature (oxide results in significantly greater maximum Pu temperatures). The analyses are conservative in that no credit was taken for the drum absorptivity for insulation being less than 1.

### 3.2 Pressures

Pressures are also presented in Table 6 for the 3013 configurations. The pressures are based upon complete radiolysis of the moisture (0.5% by wt.) in the case of the oxide content, the contribution from 50 years of helium buildup and air expansion. The mass of the content for all pressure calculations is assumed to be 5 Kg of oxide or 4.4 Kg of metal. The gas temperature used to compute the pressures was very conservatively assumed to be the maximum in the contents. The free volumes of the 3013 and PCV vessels are taken from previous analyses [10].

Table 6: Temperatures (°F/°C) And Pressures (psig)

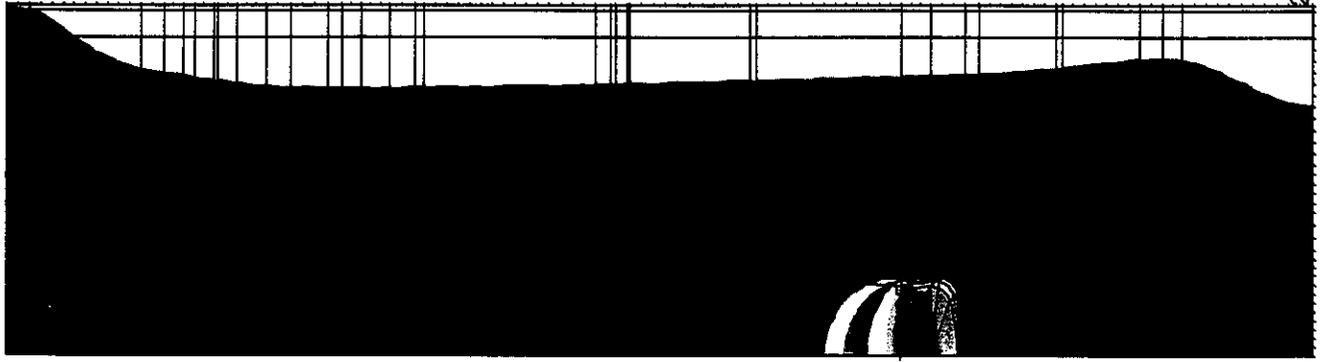
For The 9975 Package With The 3013 Configuration During Transport (with solar)

Location	19 watts Pu oxide (BNFL)	30 watts Pu oxide (BNFL)	19 watts Pu metal (Rocky)	19 watts Pu metal (SRS)
Drum top	261 / 127	261 / 127	260 / 127	260 / 127
Drum bottom	243 / 117	261 / 127	234 / 112	233 / 112
Drum side	208 / 97.8	210 / 98.9	210 / 98.9	207 / 97.2
Fiberboard	257 / 125	280 / 138	245 / 118	242 / 117
SCV O-ring	262 / 128	287 / 142	245 / 118	246 / 119
PCV O-ring	264 / 129	289 / 143	247 / 119	247 / 119
SCV side	270 / 132	300 / 149	255 / 124	253 / 123
SCV bottom	270 / 132	300 / 149	257 / 125	255 / 124
PCV side	286 / 141	324 / 162	267 / 131	264 / 129
PCV bottom	283 / 139	319 / 159	270 / 132	266 / 130
3013 top	288 / 142	325 / 163	259 / 126	264 / 129
3013 bottom	284 / 140	322 / 161	274 / 134	269 / 132
3013 side (mid. height of contents)	296 / 147	340 / 171	272 / 133	273 / 134
Pu can interface	-----	-----	372 / 189	292 / 144 (top button) 277 / 136 (bottom button)
Middle of Pu	527 / 275	701 / 372	395 / 202 (top button)	297 / 147 (top button) 284 / 140 (bottom button)
Pressure 3013	569.5	688.4	27.0	21.1
Pressure PCV	265.5	322.2	17.7	13.6

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Fringe: TIME: 0.000000000D+00 HOURS S.S. ITERATIONS: 2161, nr5.nrf01: Temperature, -(NON-LAYERED)

### Rocky Configuration With Pu Metal Contents

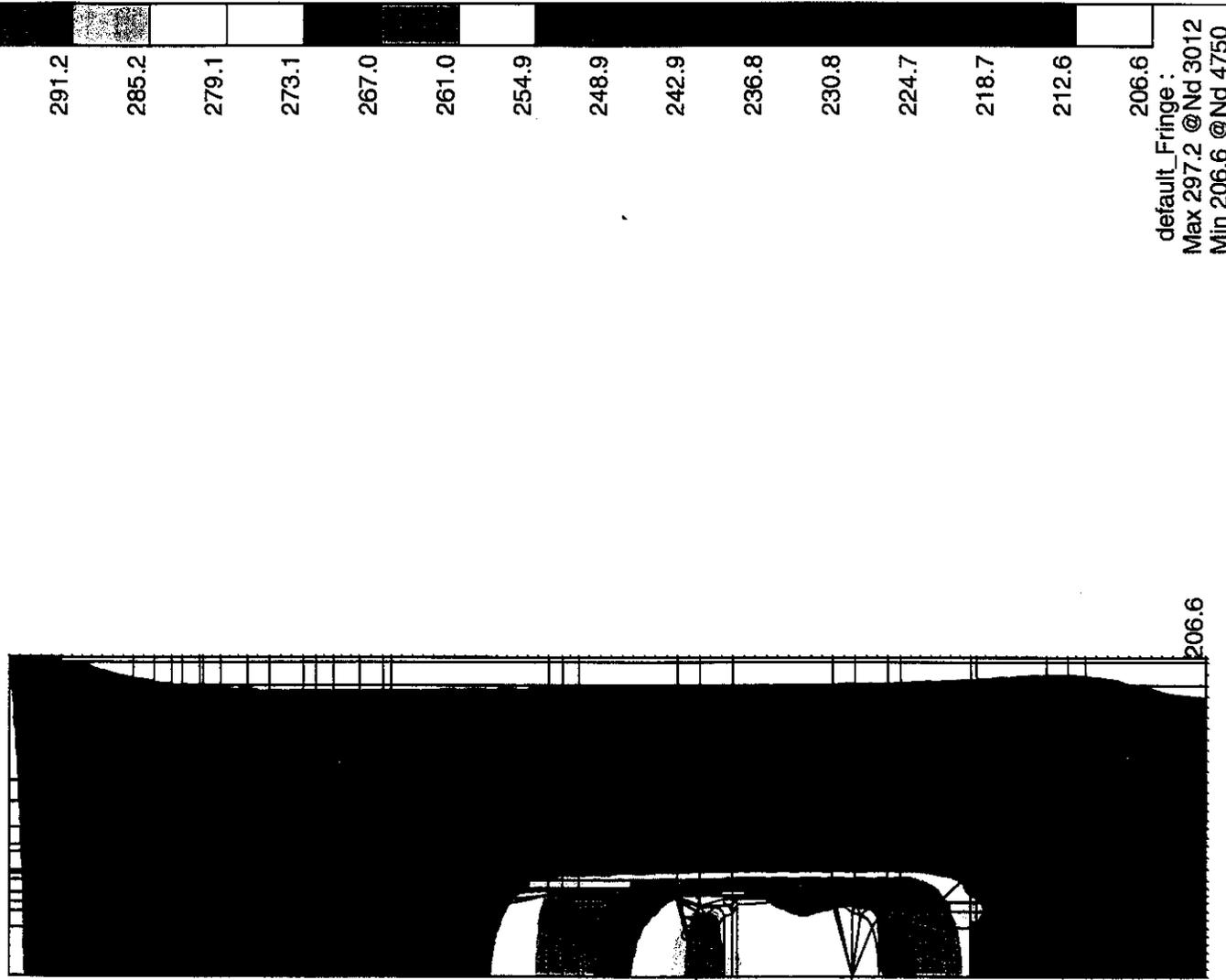


default\_Fringe :  
Max 395.7 @Nd 1454  
Min 206.7 @Nd 39

Figure 7

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SRS Configuration With Pu Metal Contents



297.2
291.2
285.2
279.1
273.1
267.0
261.0
254.9
248.9
242.9
236.8
230.8
224.7
218.7
212.6
206.6

default\_Fringe :  
Max 297.2 @Nd 3012  
Min 206.6 @Nd 4750

206.6

Figure 8

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S.S. ITERATIONS: 16987, nr20.nrf01: Temperature, -(NON-LAYERED)

### BNFL Configuration With Pu Oxide Contents

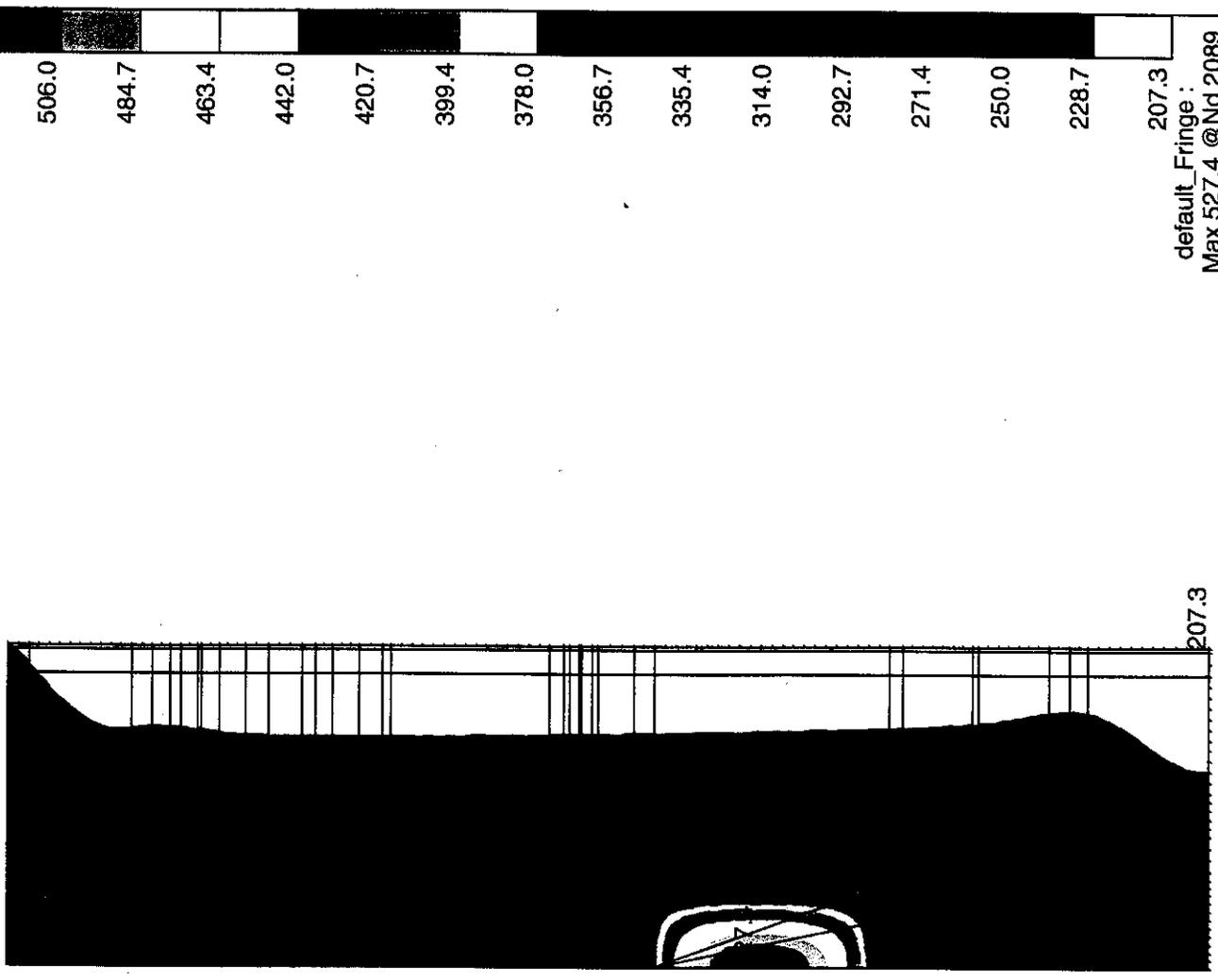


Figure 9

The PCV pressures are based on all interior containers leaking. Deflagration and detonation analyses were not performed because they are beyond the scope of this work.

#### 4.0 Conclusions

Thermal analysis of the 9975 package with three configurations of the BNFL 3013 outer container have been analyzed for NCT of plutonium oxide and metal. The 9975 package temperatures for the SRS and Rocky configurations are very similar, however the Pu metal temperatures are greater for the Rocky configuration. The fiberboard and PCV temperatures exceed current SARP allowables by 30°F for the 30 watt Pu oxide content. Package temperatures for all 19 watt cases are acceptable. The analyses are conservative in that the solar absorptivity of the drum was taken to be 1.

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