

High Pressure Core Spray Reliability Study

1 SYSTEM OPERATION AND DESCRIPTION

This study documents an analysis of the operational experience of the eight BWRs listed in [Table 1](#), all of which have an HPCS system. The analysis focused on the ability of the HPCS system to start and provide its associated emergency core cooling function for the required mission. The system boundaries, data collection, failure categorization, and limitations of the study are briefly described in this section. [Table 1](#) presents each plant's docket number and the configuration of the cooling water system for HPCS

1.1 System Operation

The emergency core cooling system (ECCS) in the BWRs studied typically consists of the automatic depressurization system (ADS), the HPCS system, the low-pressure core spray (LPCS) system, and the low-pressure coolant injection (LPCI) mode of the residual heat removal system. The purpose of these systems is to reestablish adequate core cooling and maintain continuity of core cooling subsequent to the entire spectrum of postulated loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCAs).

If a LOCA should occur, a low reactor water level signal or high drywell pressure signal initiates the HPCS system and its support equipment. The system can also be placed in operation manually. If the leak rate is less than the HPCS system flow rate, the HPCS system automatically stops when a high reactor water level signal shuts the HPCS injection valve. The injection valve will automatically reopen upon a subsequent low water level signal. Should the leak rate exceed the HPCS system capacity and not result in rapid depressurization of the vessel, the ADS will actuate on a lower water level signal and depressurize the vessel for the LPCS and LPCI systems to provide adequate core cooling. Should the HPCS system fail to initiate during a LOCA, the ADS vessel depressurization and subsequent LPCS and LPCI system initiations will provide adequate core cooling as a backup for the HPCS system.

Table 1. BWR plants with an HPCS system.

Plant	Docket	Dedicated Service Water System
Clinton	461	Yes
Grand Gulf	416	Yes
LaSalle 1	343	Yes
LaSalle 2	374	Yes
Nine Mile Pt. 2	410	No
Perry	440	Yes
River Bend	458	No
Columbia Nuclear 2	397	Yes

The HPCS system also serves as a backup to the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system in the event the reactor becomes isolated from the main condenser during operation and feedwater flow is lost. Operational transients that may require HPCS are transients that include a reactor trip and a demand for coolant injection by high-pressure makeup systems (RCIC or HPCS). For example, a transient that

results in a reactor trip without a loss of feedwater may require short-term operation of the HPCS and/or other high-pressure makeup system to restore reactor pressure vessel (RPV) water level. For a transient that includes a reactor trip and a loss of feedwater, with no immediate recovery of feedwater, high-pressure makeup is required to restore and maintain RPV water level. The latter type of transient would require longer operation of high-pressure makeup compared to the transients that do not lose feedwater.

1.2 System Description

The primary function of the HPCS system is to maintain reactor vessel inventory for line breaks up to 1-in. nominal size. The HPCS system also provides spray cooling heat transfer during breaks in which uncovering of the core is assumed. The HPCS system pumps water through a peripheral ring spray sparger mounted above the reactor core and can supply coolant over the entire range of system operation pressures.

The HPCS system consists of a single motor-driven centrifugal pump located outside primary containment, an independent spray sparger in the reactor vessel located above the core, and associated piping, valves, controls, and instrumentation. [Figure 1](#) is a simplified schematic of the system. The system is designed to operate using normal offsite auxiliary power. Should a loss of offsite power occur, a dedicated backup source of power is available from a diesel generator. The backup source of power (diesel generator) only affects the unreliability of the HPCS system when a loss of offsite power occurs as an initiator or during an HPCS system demand.

The principal active HPCS equipment is located outside the primary containment. Suction piping for the HPCS pump is provided from the condensate storage tank (CST) and the suppression pool. Such an arrangement provides the capability to use reactor-grade water from the CST when the HPCS system functions to back up the RCIC system. In the event that the CST water supply becomes exhausted or is not available, automatic switchover to the suppression pool water source ensures a cooling water supply for long-term operation of the system.

1.3 System Boundaries

The HPCS system consists of a motor-driven centrifugal pump located outside the primary containment, a spray header located in the RPV, and associated piping, valves, controls, and instrumentation. The HPCS system also includes a dedicated backup power source consisting of a diesel generator and its support systems, including lubricating oil, fuel oil and transfer, air start, control, and engine cooling water. In addition, all the power supply components from the dedicated Division III bus to the pumps, valves, controls, and instrumentation are also considered in this study. The normal power supply to the dedicated Division III bus is considered to be outside the scope of this study; however, a risk-based discussion of the effect of a loss of offsite power on the system is included. The HPCS system is supported by a dedicated¹ cooling system consisting of a cooling pump and associated valves and piping. Two plants, Nine Mile Pt. 2 and River Bend, do not have a dedicated HPCS cooling water system. These two plants use the standby service water system to supply HPCS cooling water needs. The dedicated portions of the piping and valves are included in this study; the remainder of the system and the ultimate heat sink are considered outside the scope of this study. The portion of the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system directly supporting the HPCS system is also included in this study.

a. The ultimate heat sink for the cooling system is not dedicated to the HPCS system.

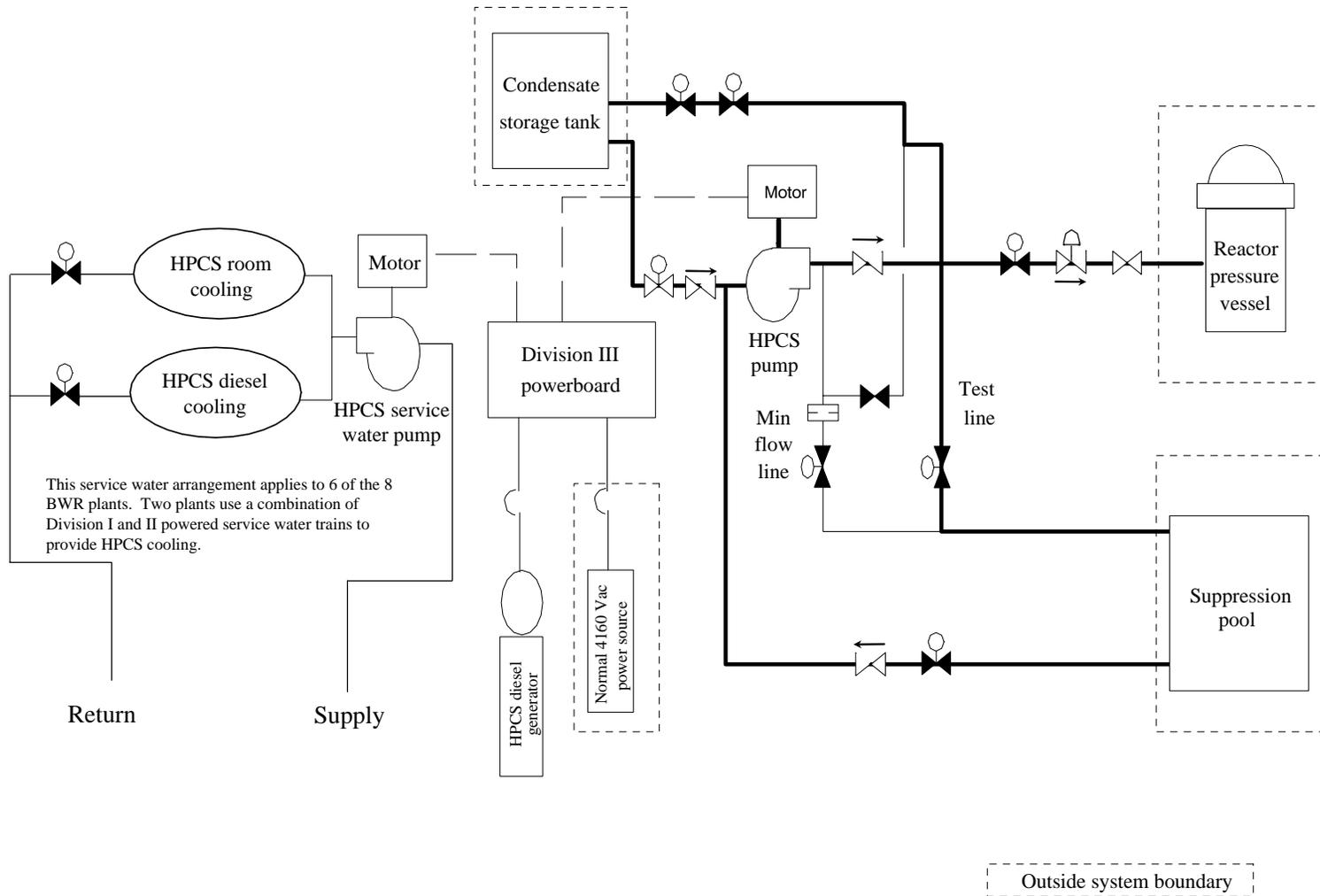


Figure 1. Simplified schematic of the HPCS system.