## Microstructures and Corrosion Characteristics of Advanced Fuel Cladding Tubes





## Abstract

Out-of-pile performances were evaluated for Low Sn Zircaloy-4, A alloy, B alloy, C alloy and D alloy. Observation of microstructure by TEM and analysis of precipitate characteristics were performed to investigate the effect of microstructure on the out-of-pile corrosion behavior of the claddings. Corrosion characteristics of the claddings was evaluated by corrosion test in 360°C loop containing 2.2 ppm LiOH and 650 ppm  $H_3BO_3$ , 400°C steam and 360°C 70 ppm LiOH. Mechanical properties of the claddings were examined by tensile test and creep test.



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Fig. 1 A alloy, B alloy, C alloy D alloy as-recieved (stress-relieved), (partially recrystallized) (recrystallized) as-received , A alloy, C alloy D alloy , B alloy 가 , . , Low Sn Zircaloy-4 Fig. 2 Zr(Fe,Cr)<sub>2</sub>가 , A alloy , Fig. 3 Fig. 4 , B alloy ZrNbFe -Nb -Nb , (Fig. 5). , C alloy D alloy Table 2 . 가 Low Sn Zircaloy-4 가 가 Nb 가 Zr , 가 가 가 Zr Nb 2 . Zr-Nb 2 가 Nb -Nb 2 가 Zr-Nb-Sn 2 가 50nm 2 가 200nm . A alloy 2 가 80nm 2 , . 가 Fig. 6 , Loop, 400 360 360 70ppm LiOH 가 . 360 Loop 270 , B alloy가 가 , D alloy, A alloy, Low Sn Zircaloy-4, C alloy , B alloy . 50 가 , 가 360 . 가 가 B alloy , 가 가 , 2) , B alloy B alloy , 6 가 Optimized Zircaloy-4 63GWD/MTU 가 27µm 가 .

400 D alloy가 가 , Low Sn Zircaloy-4, B . D alloy, Low Sn Zircaloy-4 alloy, A alloy, C alloy B alloy 가 C alloy , A alloy 270 , 270 가 С 가 alloy 가 D alloy 3

D alloy BR-2 ( ) 30GWD/MTU . 15μm , Low Sn Zircaloy-4

McGuire unit 1 3 , 39GWD/MTU <sup>3)</sup>. D alloy 가 Low Sn Zircaloy-4

PWR . , Kansai Ohi unit 4 <sup>4)</sup> D alloy Zircaloy-4 . D alloy 가 가

360 70ppm LiOH A alloy 가 가 . A alloy Low Sn Zircaloy-4 가 45 가 가 가 , B alloy 180 . C alloy D 210 가 가 alloy B alloy, D alloy, C alloy, Low Sn Zircaloy-4 5) Zircaloy-4 A alloy Zircaloy-4 LiOH 가 .

, Zircaloy-4 3-10 , A alloy 가 Zircaloy-4 . North Anna 1 <sup>6)</sup> 3 54.7GWD/MTU 가 , 가 A alloy

Zircaloy-4 Fig. 7 5 . B alloy 4 . B alloy 2 . A alloy Low Sn Zry-4 400°C . A alloy Low Sn Zry-4

(Stress relieved) TEM . A alloy가 Low Sn Zry-4 가 가 가

400 , 150MPa A alloy, B alloy 가 Low Sn Zircaloy-4 . Fig. 8 , B alloy가 A alloy 가 , Low Sn Zircaloy-4

B alloy <sup>2)</sup>, 1-5 xt 0<sup>21</sup>n/cm<sup>2</sup> 0.5% Optimized Zircaloy-4 2%



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	Nb	Sn	Fe	Cr	Ni	0	Zr
A alloy	1	1	0.1				Bal.
B alloy	1					0.12	Bal.
C alloy	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1			Bal.
D alloy	0.1	1.0	0.27	0.16	0.01		Bal.
Low Sn Zry-4		1.2	0.2	0.1			Bal.

Table 1. Chemical compositions of the foreign advanced Zr claddings (wt.%).

Table 2. Characteristics of intermetallic compounds precipitated in the foreign advanced Zr claddings used in this study.

	Precipitate type	Crystal structure	
A alloy	-Nb ZrNbFe	bcc hcp	
B alloy	-Nb	bcc	
C alloy	Zr(Fe,Cr) <sub>2</sub>	hcp	
D alloy	Zr(Fe,Cr) <sub>2</sub> Zr2(Fe,Ni)	hcp hcp	
Low Sn Zry-4	Zr(Fe,Cr) <sub>2</sub>	hcp	



Fig. 1. TEM microstructures of as-received (a) A alloy, (b) B alloy, (c) C alloy and (d) D alloy claddings.



Fig. 2. Bright field image, dark field image, selected area diffraction pattern and EDS spectrum on Zr(Fe,Cr)<sub>2</sub> in Low Sn Zircaloy-4.



Fig. 3. Bright field image, dark field image, selected area diffraction pattern and EDS spectrum on  $\beta$ -Nb in A alloy.



Fig. 4. Bright field image, dark field image, selected area diffraction pattern and EDS spectrum on ZrNbFe precipitate in A alloy.



Fig. 5. Bright field image, dark field image, selected area diffraction pattern and EDS spectrum on  $\beta$ -Nb in B alloy.



Fig. 6. Corrosion behavior of A alloy, B alloy, C alloy, D alloy and Low Sn Zircaloy-4 claddings in (a) Loop at 360°C, (b) steam at 400°C and (c) 70ppm LiOH at 360°C.



Fig. 7. Tensile properties of A alloy, B alloy, C alloy, D alloy and Low Sn Zircaloy-4 claddings at room temperature.



Fig. 8. Creep properties of A alloy, B alloy, C alloy, D alloy and Low Sn Zircaloy-4 claddings.