

# **KJRR-FAI Hydraulic Flow Testing Input Package**

N.E. Woolstenhulme  
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December 2013



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**December 2013**

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# KJRR-FAI Hydraulic Flow Testing Input Package

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Approved by:



N.E. Woolstenhulme

12/20/13

Date



R.B. Nielson

(N.E. Woolstenhulme for  
R.B. Nielson per email 12/20/13)

12/20/13

Date



D.B. Chapman

12/20/13

Date



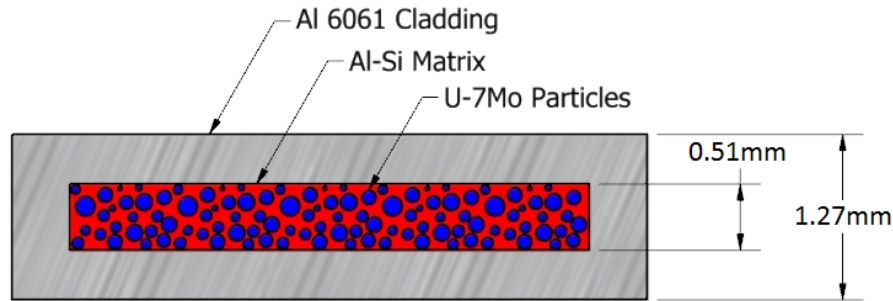
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# KJRR-FAI Hydraulic Flow Testing Input Package

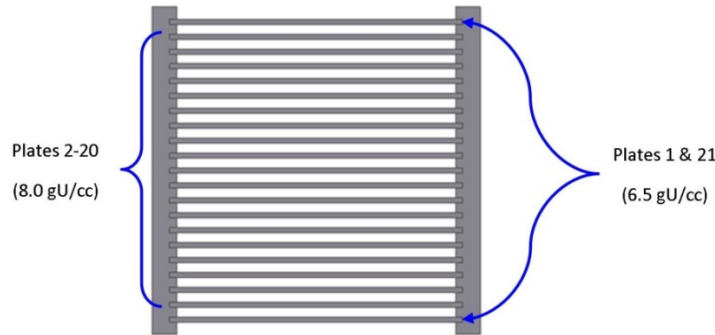
## 1. Introduction

The Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) has initiated the Ki-Jang Research Reactor (KJRR) project to construct a new dedicated radio-isotope production facility in the KiJang province of South Korea. The KJRR will employ a plate-type driver fuel assembly. The fuel meat will consist of uranium 7 wt% molybdenum (U-7Mo) metallic alloy particles dispersed in a blended matrix of pure aluminum and 5 wt% silicon. The uranium enrichment will be 19.75wt% U-235 and considered Low Enriched Uranium (LEU). Aluminum alloy 6061 (Al-6061) will be used as the fuel plate cladding material (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Fuel Plate Cross Section**

Two fuel meat uranium densities of 8.0 and 6.5 g-U/cm<sup>3</sup> will be used for the 19 interior plates and the 2 exterior plates of the KJRR fuel assembly, respectively. Fuel plate fabrication will be accomplished by hot roll bonding processes. Each of the 21 flat fuel plates will be assembled into a fuel assembly by swaging in the grooves of Al-6061 side plates giving ~620g U-235 for each KJRR fuel assembly (see Figure 2). The KJRR will receive fabricated driver fuel assemblies from a fabrication facility at the KAERI.



**Figure 2: KJRR Fuel Assembly Top View**

This fuel assembly design and fabrication technique is similar to other plate-type research reactor fuels, but the use of the U-7Mo dispersed in Al-Si fuel system is not. The U-7Mo dispersion fuel system has long been under development by the international community for its potential use in LEU conversion of existing research reactors <sup>[1]</sup>. While a large amount of research has taken place for this fuel system, it has not yet received generic qualification through a regulatory agency such as was accomplished for the U<sub>3</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> system through the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission <sup>[2]</sup>. Hence, qualification of the KJRR fuel fabrication process and licensing the use of U-7Mo dispersion fuel in the KJRR environment will require irradiation testing of representative specimens followed by post-irradiation examination (PIE).

A series of small-scale irradiation tests will be performed in the KAERI's existing HANARO research reactor in the HANARO Mini-Plate (HAMP) experiment campaigns and are discussed elsewhere<sup>[3]</sup>. The KJRR fuel qualification program will also require irradiation of a full-size driver fuel assembly. This will be performed in the North-East Flux Trap (NEFT) of the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) with PIE in the Hot Fuel Examination Facility (HFEF); both located in the US at the Idaho National Laboratory. This campaign is termed the KJRR Fuel Assembly Irradiation (KJRR-FAI).<sup>[4]</sup>

## 1.1 Objectives

The INL, in cooperation with the KAERI via Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA), undertook an effort in the latter half of calendar year 2013 to produce a conceptual design for the KJRR-FAI campaign. The outcomes of this effort are documented in further detail elsewhere<sup>[5]</sup>. The KJRR-FAI was designed to be cooled by the ATR's Primary Coolant System (PCS) with no provision for in-pile measurement or control of the hydraulic conditions in the irradiation assembly. The irradiation assembly was designed to achieve the target hydraulic conditions via engineered hydraulic losses in a throttling orifice at the outlet of the irradiation vehicle. The irradiation assembly design is further described in section 2.1.

Since PCS flow will be needed to provide adequate cooling to the KJRR fuel plates, while assuring that the total flow through the irradiation assembly does not exceed the capacity of the PCS and result in driver core starvation, the sizing of this flow orifice is a critical aspect in assuring safety and operability of the design. Physical flow testing of a full-size mock-up irradiation assembly will help confirm proper selection of the orifice design as well as provide empirical data for the expected heat transfer conditions in the assembly. Accordingly, the first phase of flow testing will characterize hydraulic losses for a few orifice designs as described in section 2.2.

Structural calculations and finite element analyses have and will continue to be performed to demonstrate that the KJRR-FAI design is mechanically sound. However, fluid-structure interactions can be difficult to simulate, particularly if dynamic behaviors are involved (e.g. flow-induced vibrations). The second phase of flow testing will include longer term endurance testing in order to help mitigate risk of an unforeseen flow-induced structural failure. This will provide greater confidence that the assembly structure is able to withstand the hydrodynamic forces associated with the ATR flowing water environment. This phase of the flow test program is described further in section 0.

Fabrication of the flow test hardware, hydraulic testing, and post-test data processing will be accomplished by the KAERI with input from the INL irradiation design team. The purpose of this report is to provide these inputs to the KAERI.

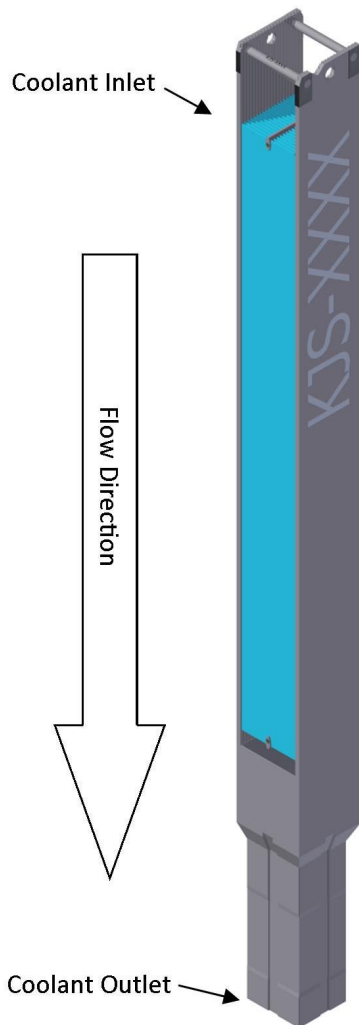
## 2. Flow Test Inputs

### 2.1 Hardware Design

The KJRR-FAI assembly is described in greater detail in the KJRR-FAI conceptual design report <sup>[5]</sup>. This section describes the fundamental features of the hydraulic configuration which consists of four general components, each nested within the other, in the order listed below. A full-size mock-up of each component listed below must be fabricated for use in the hydraulic flow tests.

1. Fuel assembly
2. Inner fuel basket
3. Outer basket
4. NEFT simulator

The ATR is a downflow reactor. The structural arrangement of the KJRR-FAI assembly relies up on gravity and the downward forces of the flow direction to ensure that these components remain seated. Flow testing must be performed with the assembly arranged vertically and water flow direction downwards. The KJRR fuel assembly and flow direction are show in Figure 3 below.



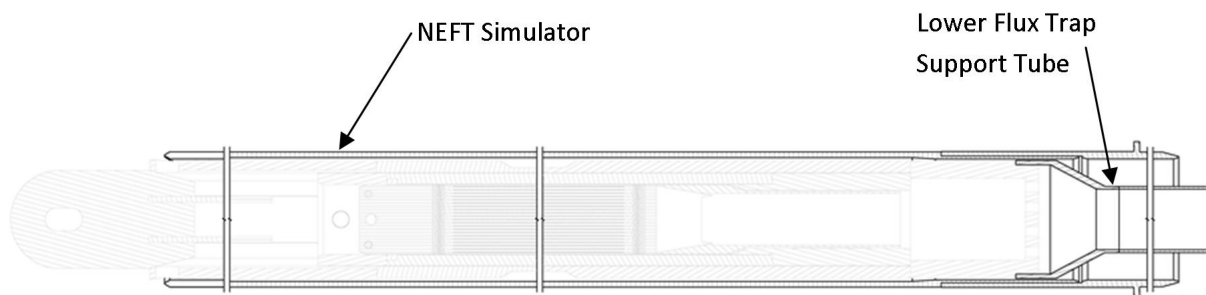
**Figure 3: KJRR Fuel Assembly and Flow Direction**

The KJRR fuel assembly can be simulated by a non-fueled dummy assembly for the purposes of the flow test. This assembly must be fabricated to the same tolerances as the actual KJRR fuel assemblies in order to assure proper form, fit, and function when installed into the inner fuel basket. The coolant channel gaps, in particular, must be fabricated to the same tolerances as the actual KJRR fuel assemblies. All components of the fuel assembly must be present, constructed of representative stock materials, and installed per KAERI drawings/specifications. Special processing which affects mechanical characteristics such as welding, swaging, and the annealed condition of the plates must be employed to produce a proper assembly for flow testing.

The flow test assembly for the inner fuel basket is depicted in drawing 604407 in Appendix B. The square internal corners of Items -7 and -12 were designed to be fabricated by Wire Electrical Discharge Machine (Wire-EDM). The internal chamfer profile of item -12 was design to be fabricated by Plunge or Sinker EDM. The remainder of the assembly was designed to be fabricated with conventional machine tools (e.g. milling machine, lathe) with welding accomplished by Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW). The assemblies must be fabricated for flow testing from the specified materials and inspected to the tolerances shown in Appendix B.

The flow test assembly for the outer basket is depicted in drawing 604408 in Appendix B. This design is identical to the current conceptual design for the in-pile irradiation assembly, except that the base of the outer basket (item -10) has an interchangeable orifice plate specifically for flow testing purposes (items -13 through -18). Orifice plates holes must be fabricated with sharp-edges (i.e. no chamfers, fillets) in order to match the hydraulic loss assumptions used in calculating the hole sizes. The as-built orifice hole dimensions must be inspected and reported to the INL. Items -9, -11, and -12 were designed to be fabricated from solid aluminum bar stock, with the inner profiles produced by Wire-EDM. The remainder of the assembly was designed to be fabricated with conventional machine tools (e.g. milling machine, lathe) with welding accomplished by GTAW. The assemblies must be fabricated for flow testing from the specified materials and inspected to the tolerances shown in Appendix B.

The inner profile of the NEFT is made up of an intricate flux trap baffle assembly and lower flux trap support tube constructed from a combination of aluminum and stainless steel alloys. Both the flux trap baffle assembly and lower flux trap support tube are well proven designs currently installed in the ATR. It is not necessary to simulate the entire NEFT assembly for purposes of the KJRR-FAI flow test. However, the inlet geometry, inner profile, and outlet structure must be fabricated and employed during flow testing to provide prototypic boundary conditions. Appendix A contains engineering sketches of the critical hydraulic features of the NEFT. The materials from which the flow test NEFT simulator is constructed are unimportant. The dimensions, however, depicted in Appendix A are important features and must be replicated in the flow test NEFT simulator. The lower flux trap support tube must be fabricated and rigidly affixed so that the flow test assembly can be located and supported by it. See Figure 4.



**Figure 4: NEFT Simulator Layout**

## 2.2 Characterization of Hydraulic Losses

The first phase of hydraulic flow testing will commence after the following have been accomplished:

- KAERI flow test facility configured for downflow testing
- Fabrication and inspection complete for the following
  - Fuel assembly
  - Inner fuel basket
  - Outer basket
  - NEFT simulator
- INL Quality Assurance completes supplier evaluation and qualification of the KAERI for providing flow test services

The flow test should be conducted with a water temperature range between 20-60°C, the temperature of the water must be measured and recorded throughout the tests. ATR's nominal inlet temperature is 52°C. The flow test should be conducted through a range of flowrates starting at relatively low conditions up to slightly beyond ATR's coolant conditions to determine the relationship between volumetric flow and pressure drop through the vehicle. Flow rates and pressure drops through the assembly must be measured. Simulating the absolute inlet pressure in the ATR vessel 2.5 MPa (360 psi) is not necessary unless cavitation occurs in the flow test assembly. Care should be taken to avoid extreme coolant channel velocities which could cause plate damage. The critical coolant parallel flow velocity, below which a fuel plate should not collapse, was calculated to be 16.6 m/sec in the expected KJRR-FAI conditions in the ATR.<sup>[5]</sup>

The first flow test should be performed with the complete irradiation assembly mock-up installed with item -13 on dwg 604408 (no holes) orifice plate installed. This will effectively block all flow through the vehicle's internal channels. The flow rates measured in this test will characterize the hydraulic losses through the "bypass" channel between the NEFT and the outer profile of the outer basket. The results of this test can be subtracted from subsequent tests to determine volumetric flowrates through the vehicle's internal channels.

The target flow rate through the fuel coolant channels is 7.2 m/s. This corresponds to a pressure drop through the irradiation assembly of 0.53 MPa (77 psi). The primary orifice plate design predicted to meet this flow rate is item -16 on dwg 604408 (12X holes at 11.43mm diameter) in Appendix B. Accordingly, the next flow test should be performed with item -16 installed. It is preferable to continue flow testing with orifice plate items -14, -15, -17, and -18 (in no particular order) to better characterize the assembly. However, if the data are processed and the appropriate orifice plate design is found, then this phase of flow testing can be terminated. Following these tests all hardware should be visually inspected for signs of fretting, chatter, fracture, material yielding, and other evidence of structural problems during the flow test. The INL should be notified immediately if any problems are observed.

Testing conditions performed with the orifice plate which most closely achieves the 7.2 m/s flow rate should exhibit a total volumetric flow through the total assembly (including fuel plate coolant and bypass channels) of ~1720 liters/min. If this measured value exceeds 1830 liters/min, then KAERI should contact the INL for further direction as this total flow rate could exceed the capacity of the ATR PCS.

## **2.3 Endurance Testing**

The orifice plate which most closely achieved the 7.2 m/s flow rate at ATR conditions must be installed on the outer basket. The assembly must then receive long term steady state flow testing at conditions which produce the same 7.2 m/s flow velocities in the coolant channels. The minimum duration of this test must be a cumulative time of 10 days. Data logging from temperature, flow rate, and pressure instruments can be much less frequent than the previous hydraulic characterization testing, but should be frequent enough to ensure that the equipment is operating properly in maintaining the desired flowrate. Following these tests all hardware should be visually inspected for signs of fretting, chatter, fracture, material yielding, and other evidence of structural problems during the flow test. The INL should be notified immediately if any problems are observed.

## **2.4 Finalization**

The findings of these flow tests and the detailed flow characterization data for the orifice plate configurations must be documented by the KAERI for transmittal to the INL. The irradiation hardware mock-up used in the flow tests should not be discarded. This hardware should be maintained in a clean environment as the INL could envision requesting that this hardware be shipped to the INL for in-canal handling practice or similar prototyping work.

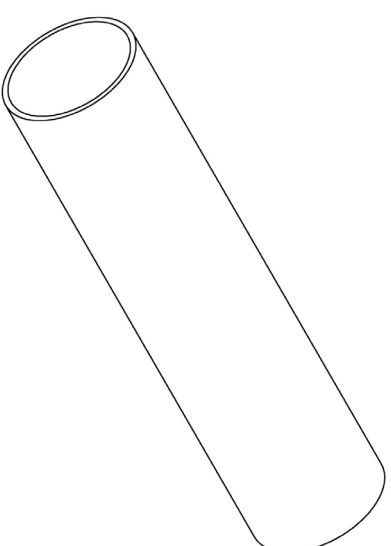
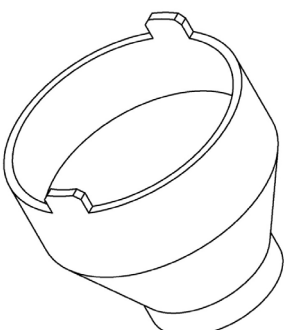
### 3. References

- [1] Dennis D. Keiser Jr., Jan-Fong Jue, Bo Yao, Emmanuel Perez, Yongho Sohn, and Curtis R. Clark, "Microstructural characterization of U-7Mo/Al-Si alloy matrix dispersion fuel plates fabricated at 500 °C", Journal of Nuclear Materials 412 (2011) 90–99.
- [2] "Safety Evaluation Report related to the Evaluation of Low-Enriched Uranium Silicide-Aluminum Dispersion Fuel for Use in Non-Power Reactors", NUREG-1313, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, July 1988.
- [3] "LEU UMo Dispersion Fuel Tests at KAERI", INL Document Statement of Work SOW-110099, rev 2, 8-6-2013.
- [4] INL Document PLN-4584, "Ki-Jang Research Reactor Fuel Assembly Irradiation in the ATR", rev 0, 12/18/2013.
- [5] N.E. Woolstenhulme, R.B. Nielson, D.B. Chapman, J.W. Nielsen, P.E. Murray, D.S. Crawford, and S.D. Snow, "KJRR-FAI Status Report of Conceptual Design Activities", INL external report INL/EXT-13-30857, December 2013.
- [6] INL Document FOR- 169, "Ki-Jang Research Reactor Fuel Assembly Irradiation Campaign", rev 0, Draft December 2013.

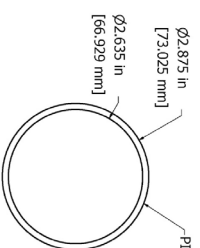




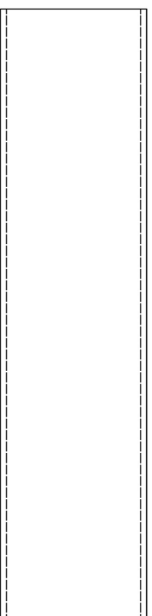


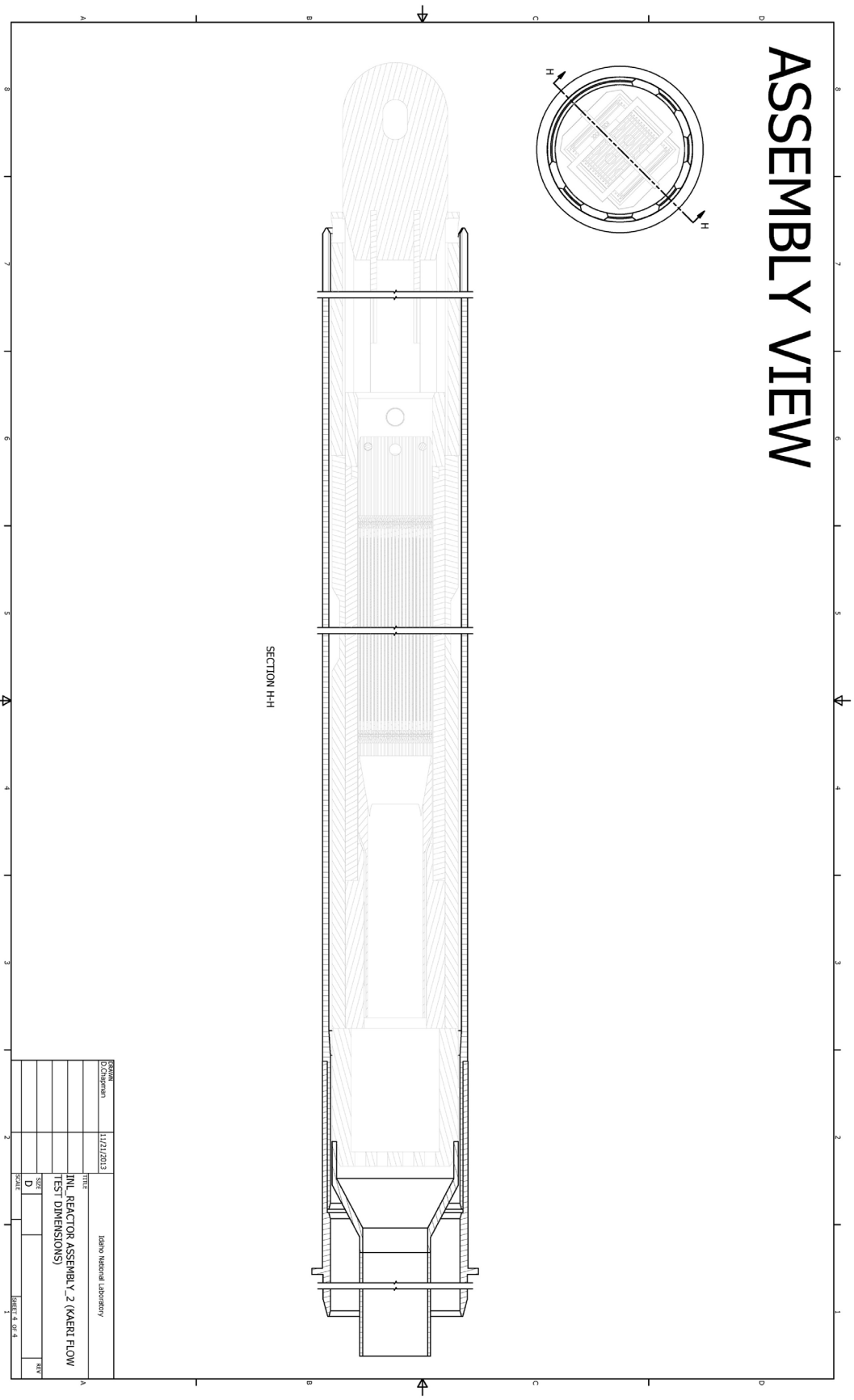


# ITEM 3 DETAIL

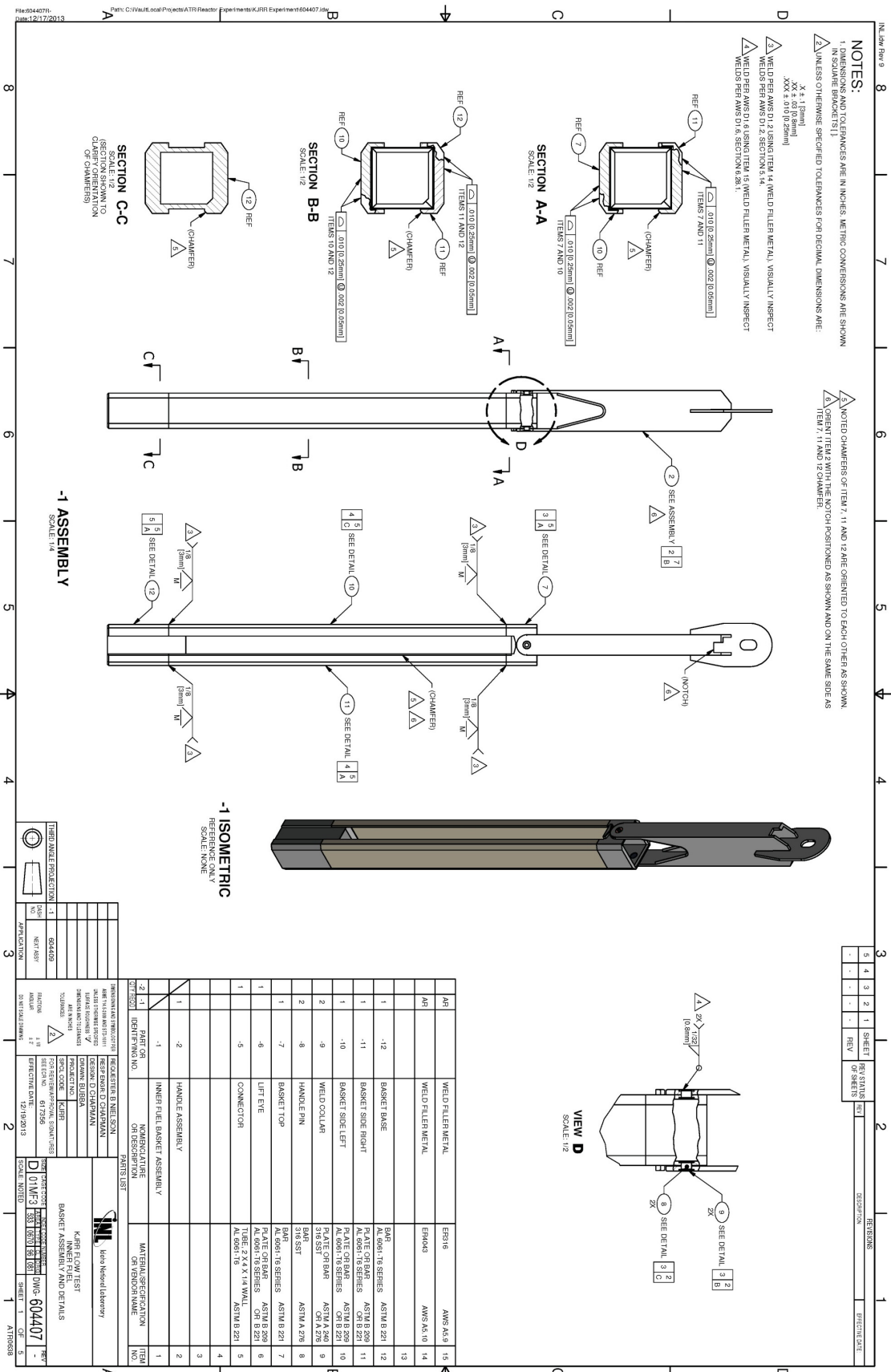


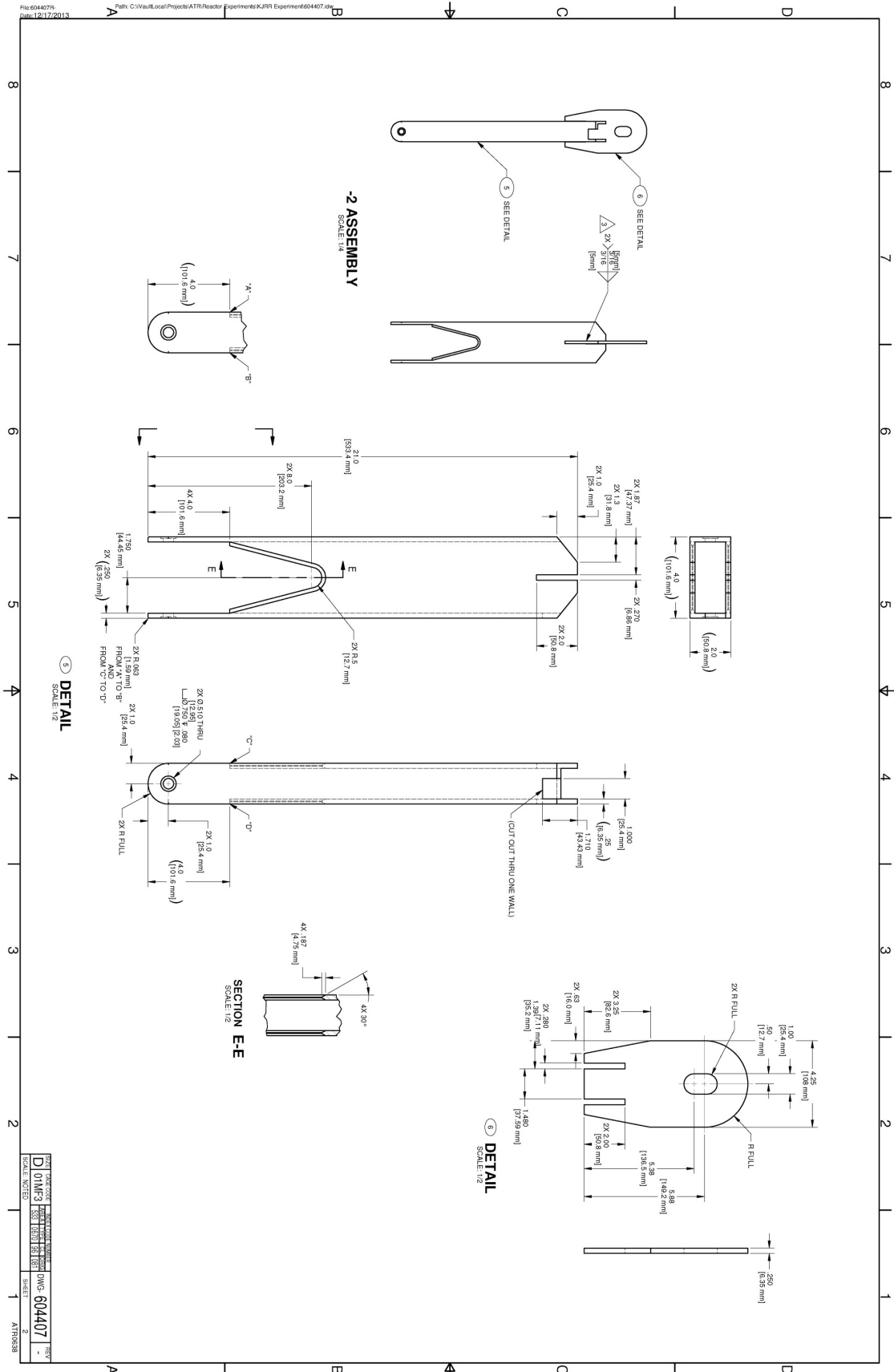
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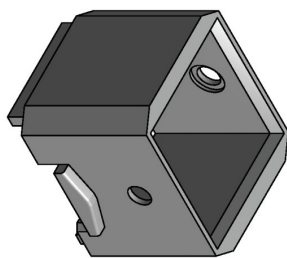
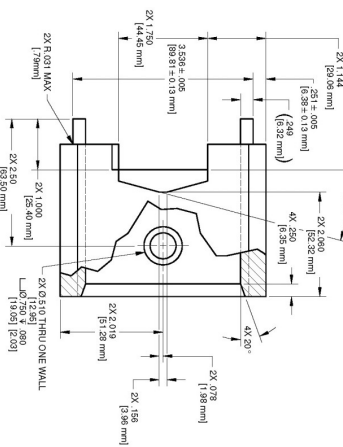
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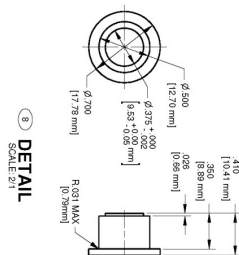
Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)





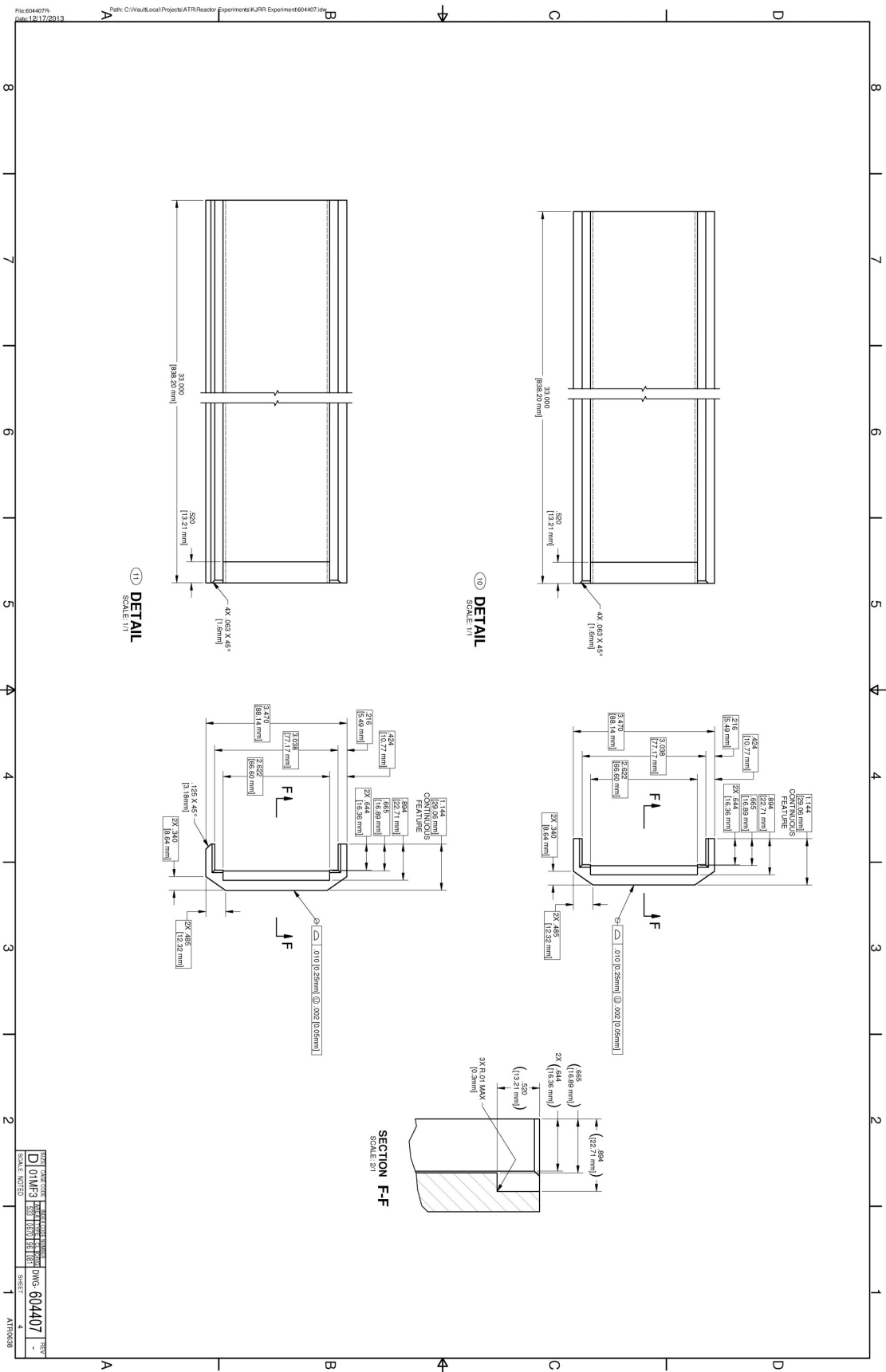
[illegible][illegible]

Technical drawing of a detail of a 100 mm diameter hole in a 10 mm thick plate. The drawing shows a cross-section of the hole with a chamfered edge. The hole has a diameter of 100 mm (100.000 mm) and a depth of 10 mm (10.000 mm). The chamfered edge has a radius of 0.5 mm (0.500 mm). The drawing is labeled "DETAIL" and "SCALE 2:1".



8  
**DETAIL**  
SCALE: 2/1

Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)

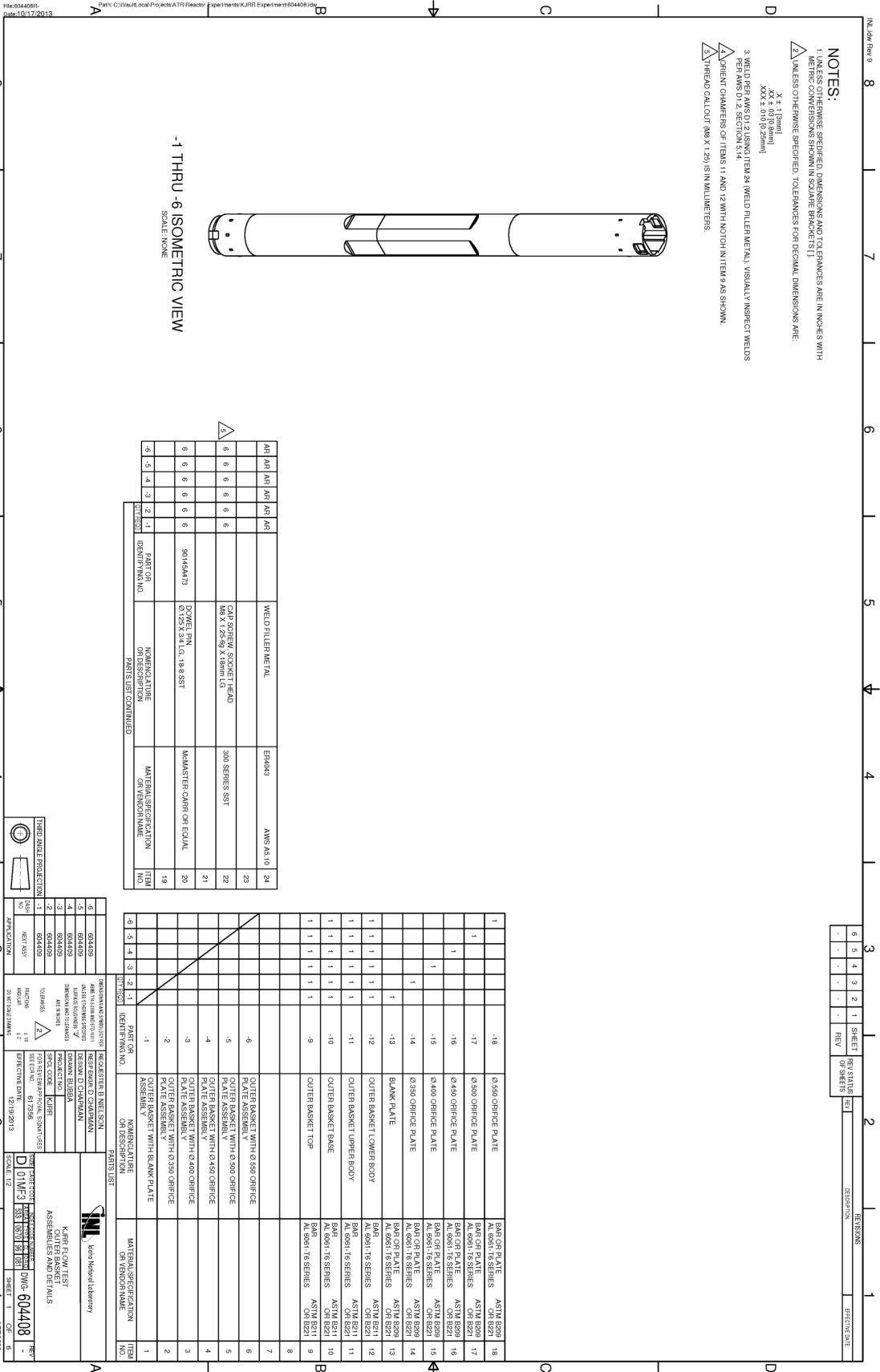






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DWG- 604407				-

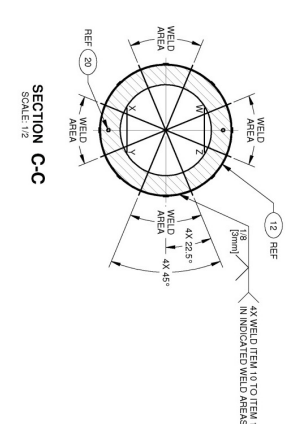
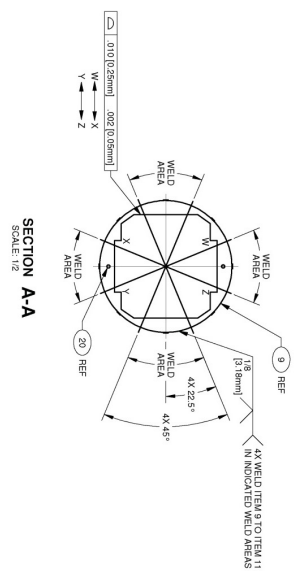
Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)



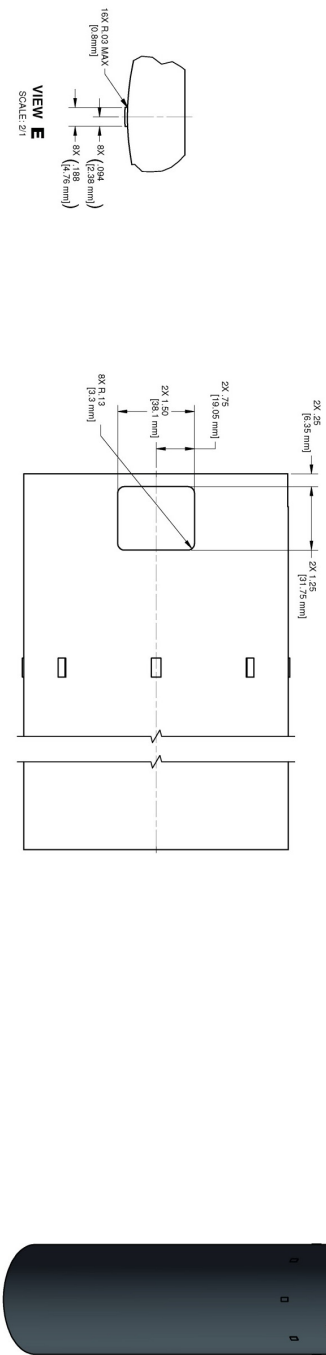
Technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, likely a pump or motor housing, showing a side view and two end views. The side view is dimensioned with A, B, C, and D. The end views show internal features like chamfers and notches. A list of components is provided at the bottom.

**1-1 ASSEMBLY**  
**2-2 ASSEMBLY**  
**3-3 ASSEMBLY**  
**4-4 ASSEMBLY**  
**5-5 ASSEMBLY**  
**6-6 ASSEMBLY**

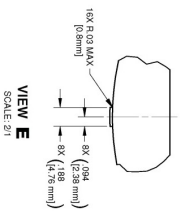
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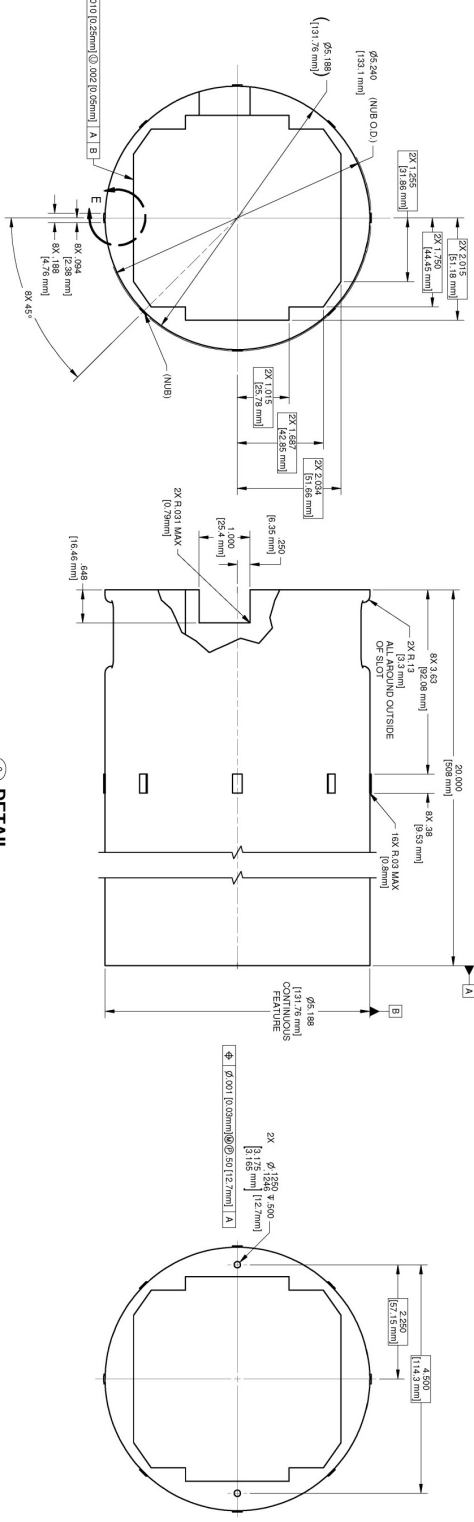
Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)



-9 ISOMETRIC VIEW  
FOR SCALE INCHES ONLY  
SCALE INCHES



VIEW E  
SCALE 2:1

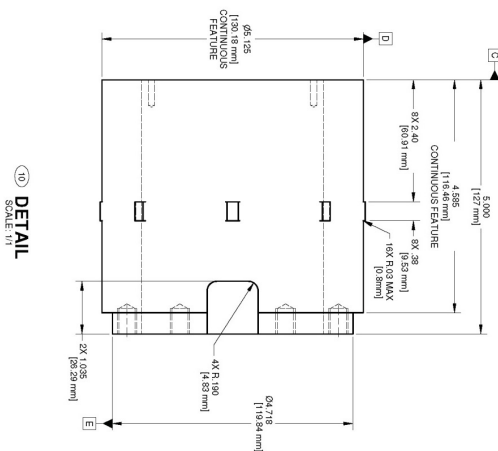
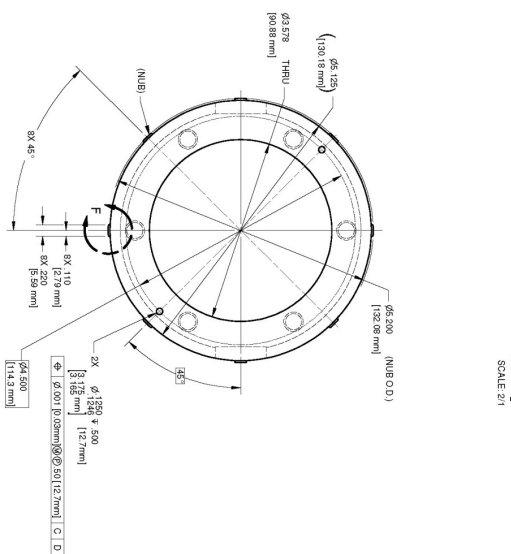


DETAIL  
SCALE 1:1

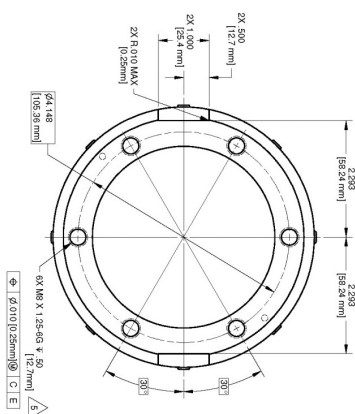
16X R.03 MAX  
[0.8mm]

8X (.110)  
(2.79 mm)

8X (.220)  
(5.59 mm)



10  
**DETAIL**  
SCALE: 1/1



**Front View Dimensions:**

- Overall diameter:  $\varnothing 600$  [0.25mm] @ 0.002 [0.05mm] | F | G
- Central hole diameter:  $\varnothing 178$  [0.178 mm]
- Inner hole diameter:  $\varnothing 150$  [0.150 mm]
- Flange thickness: 13.1 [0.13 mm]
- Internal step height: 2.96 [0.296 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 131$  [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 131 [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 96$  [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 96 [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 52$  [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 52 [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 25$  [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 25 [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 15$  [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 15 [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 8$  [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 8 [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 4$  [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 4 [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 2$  [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 2 [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 1$  [0.001 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 1 [0.001 mm]

**Side View Dimensions:**

- Overall diameter:  $\varnothing 600$  [0.25mm] @ 0.002 [0.05mm] | F | G
- Flange thickness: 13.1 [0.13 mm]
- Internal step height: 2.96 [0.296 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 131$  [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 131 [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 96$  [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 96 [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 52$  [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 52 [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 25$  [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 25 [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 15$  [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 15 [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 8$  [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 8 [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 4$  [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 4 [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 2$  [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 2 [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 1$  [0.001 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 1 [0.001 mm]

**Top View Dimensions:**

- Overall diameter:  $\varnothing 600$  [0.25mm] @ 0.002 [0.05mm] | F | G
- Central hole diameter:  $\varnothing 178$  [0.178 mm]
- Inner hole diameter:  $\varnothing 150$  [0.150 mm]
- Flange thickness: 13.1 [0.13 mm]
- Internal step height: 2.96 [0.296 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 131$  [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 131 [0.131 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 96$  [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 96 [0.096 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 52$  [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 52 [0.052 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 25$  [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 25 [0.025 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 15$  [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 15 [0.015 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 8$  [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 8 [0.008 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 4$  [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 4 [0.004 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 2$  [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 2 [0.002 mm]
- Internal hole diameter:  $\varnothing 1$  [0.001 mm]
- Internal hole offset from center: 1 [0.001 mm]

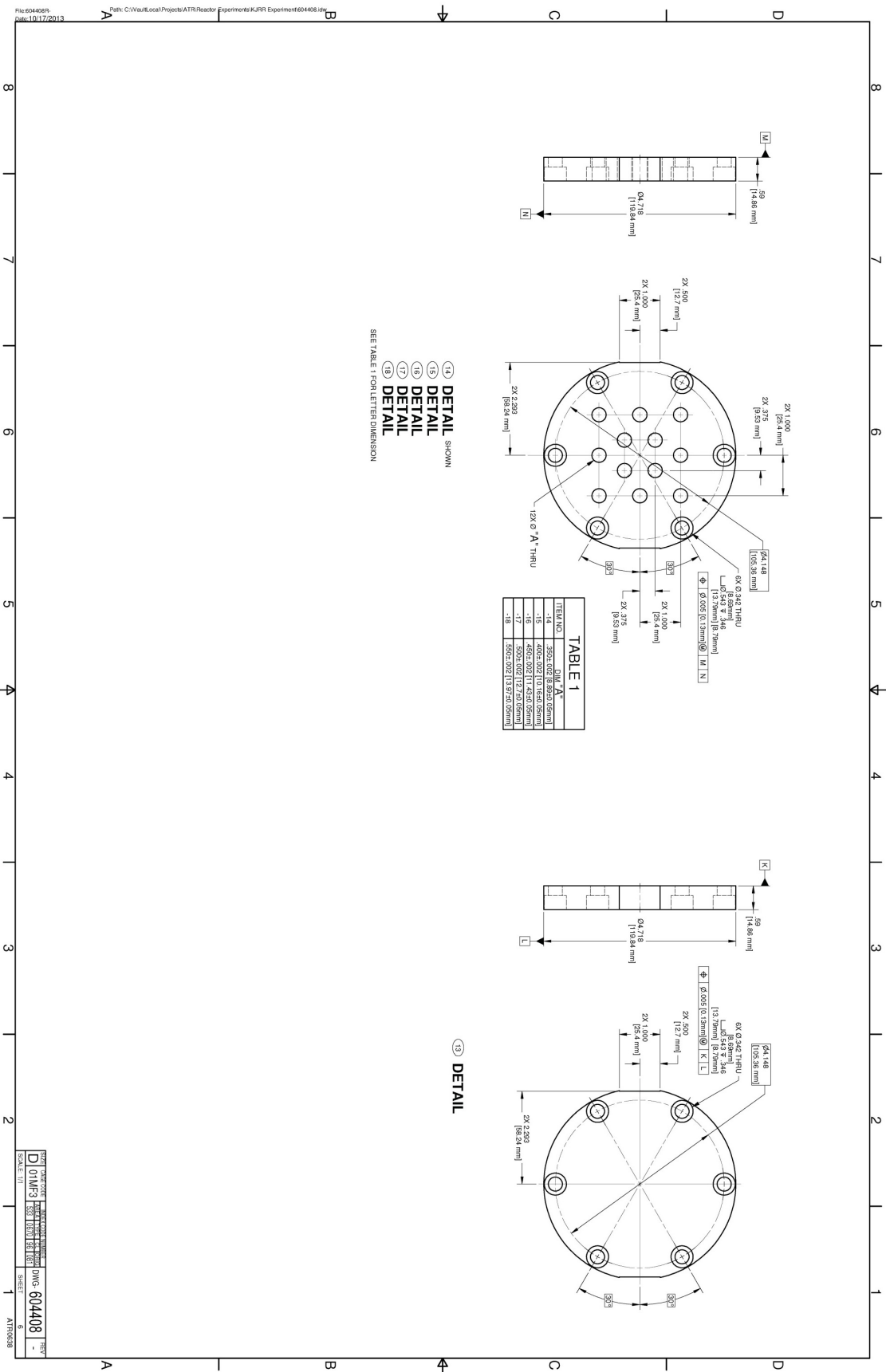
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FILED	FILED	FILED	FILED
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2013 OCT 15 PM 10:51			

RECALL 111 SHEET 35 APPROX 8

Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)



		REVISIONS	
2	1	REV STATUS OF SHEETS	
-	REV		
		REV	EFFECTIVE DATE
		DESCRIPTION	

$$\begin{aligned} &X \pm .1 [3\text{mm}] \\ &XX \pm .03 [0.8\text{mm}] \\ &XXX \pm .010 [0.25\text{mm}] \end{aligned}$$
12



# Appendix B (Irradiation Hardware Design for Flow Testing)

