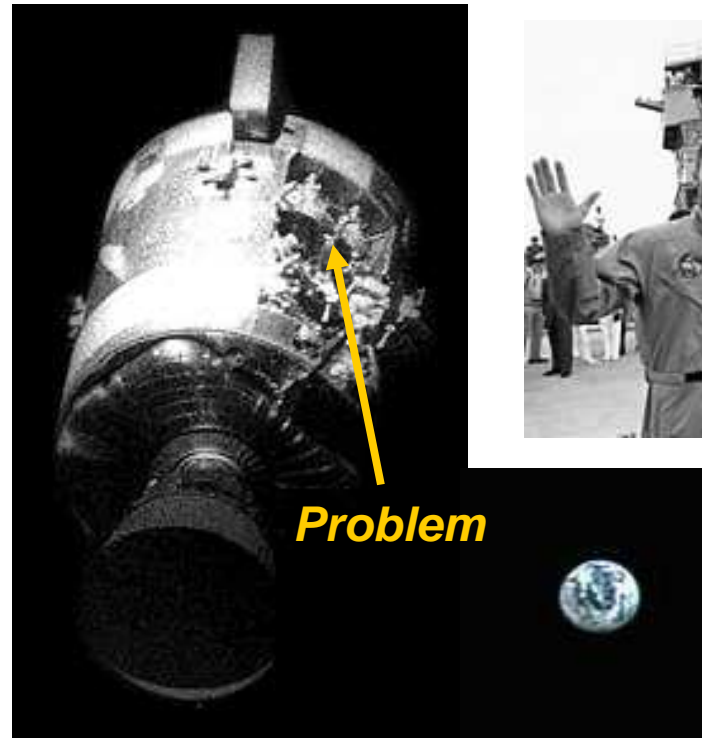


# Safe Nuclear Energy

(15 Nov 2012, Lockheed ATC, 6 Feb 2013 EDF, 18 Apr OAEP, 8 May ASM, 7 Oct SRI)

**“Let’s work the problem.  
Let’s not make things worse by guessing.”**

*Eugene Kranz, Apollo 13 Flight Director, April 1970.*



**Result**

Dr. Alexander Cannara  
650-400-3071  
[cannara@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cannara@sbcglobal.net)

# Thorium-Based Molten-Salt Reactors

- Thorium is far more common & cheaper than Uranium...
  - **No 'enrichment'** \$ or energy wasted –  $^{232}\text{Th}$  is just a metal common in "rare-earth" ores.
  - **All Thorium is consumed** – no 'spent' fuel (>90% of BWR/PWR Uranium goes unused).
- Thorium-Fluoride salt is the 'fertile fuel' input ( $\text{ThF}_4$  MSR -- LFTR)...
  - Exceedingly stable inexpensive salt, of **no weapons value**.
  - **No refuelling shutdowns** needed, **no excess fuel** in core.
  - $^{232}\text{Th}$  is neutron-bred in core to  $^{233}\text{Uranium}$  within the molten salt – **no external fissiles after startup**.
  - $^{233}\text{U}$  fissions better than higher U isotopes, so **far less Actinide waste**.
- MSRs automatically throttle via thermal expansion of salt...
  - As thermal load changes, **fission rate tracks salt density**.
  - **No runaway or 'meltdown'** -- salts are radiation stable, gravity removes melt from core.
- MSRs have higher temp & power density so ~30% better thermal efficiency
  - ~1000°C **unpressurized** temp range from solid to vapor – water only has 100C.
  - De-commissioned BWRs/PWRs can become ~3x more potent MSR/LFTRs.
  - Gas (Brayton) or steam-turbine cycles possible – **no water needed for cooling**.
- MSRs can consume existing BWR/PWR fissile/fertile wastes...
  - Typical **wastes** from a 1GWe LFTR, over 30 years, is under 100lbs (<1/2 cubic foot).
  - A 1GWe LFTR makes 1/1000 the Plutonium of a BWR/PWR & MSR can consume that.
  - **Reduction of wastes onsite**, down to whatever low level is desired – **no 'spent' fuel**.
- MSRs have no expensive control/containment or emergency systems.
  - **LFTR cost ~\$3/Watt** (far less than current  $^{235}\text{U}$  LWRs) – **less than coal**.
  - **Scalable** from 1MW to multiple GW – siting anywhere on Earth or in space.
  - Initial working MSR was for the 1960s DoD Atomic Plane – had to be **small & safe**.



See movie "Pandora's Promise"  
<http://pandoraspromise.com/>  
by Richard Stone

*"I'm sure you're a nice man, but I'm not interested  
in hearing about Thorium."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQpuGwWyFQ0>

THORIUM  
energy cheaper  
than coal



Robert Hargraves

Copyrighted Material

SUPER  
FUEL



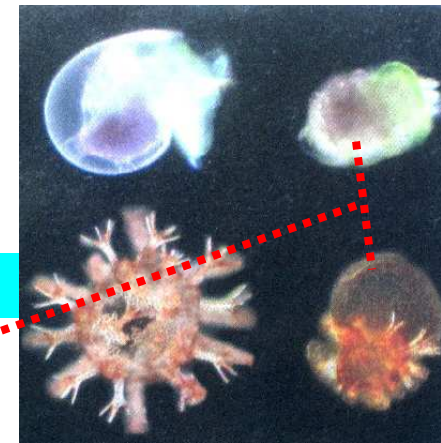
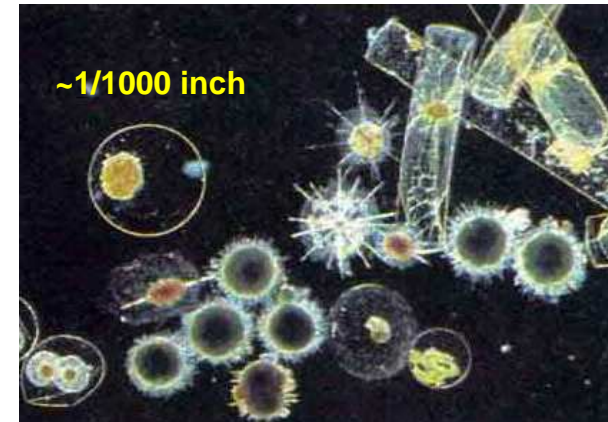
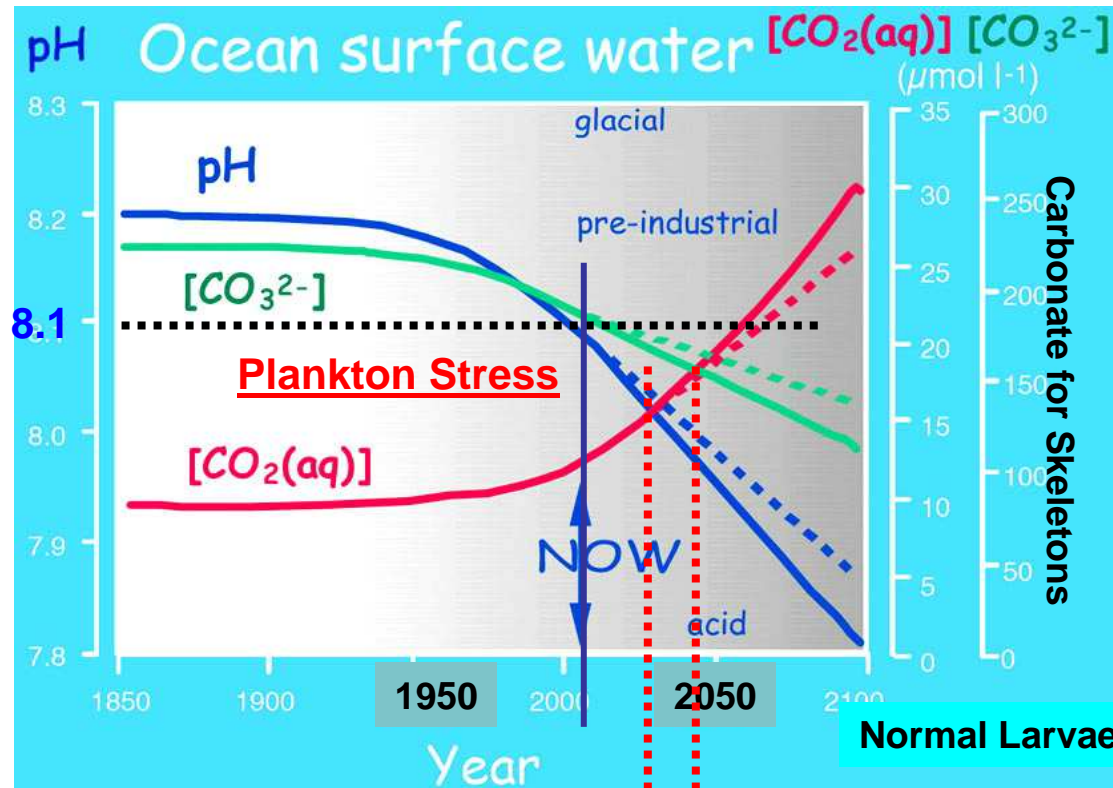
THORIUM, THE GREEN ENERGY  
SOURCE FOR THE FUTURE

RICHARD MARTIN

Copyrighted Material

# Why? -- Emissions Effects

~40% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are now in oceans creating more acidic seawater, preventing plankton growth, affecting entire sea food chain --- sea life provides 20% of human food protein...



Deformed

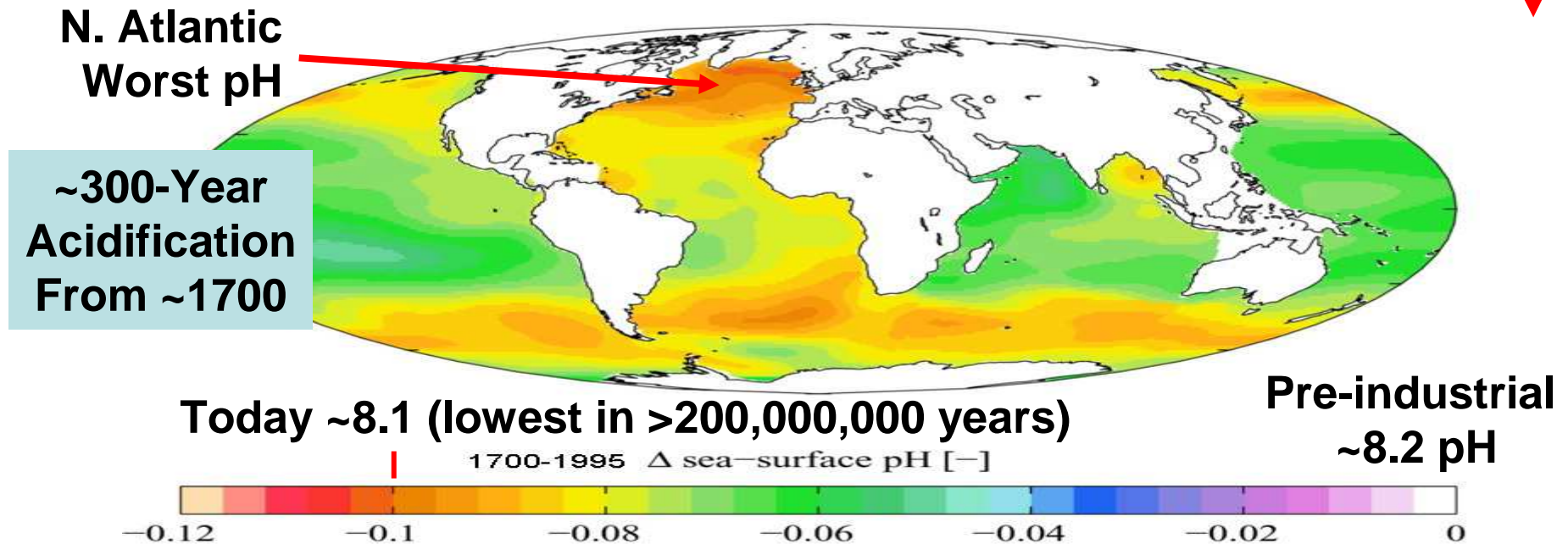
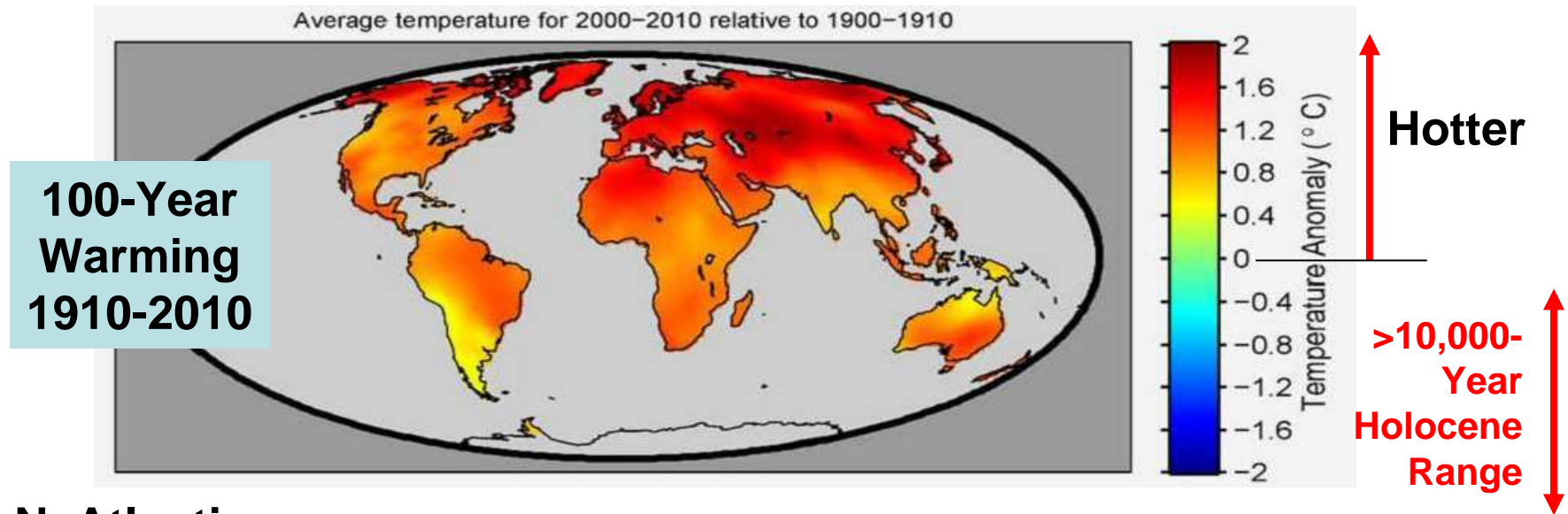
Normal Larvae:

Emissions Payback Time

Warmer & acidifying North Atlantic

<http://tinyurl.com/m6gvgp4> (2013)

# Emissions Effects – Land & Sea



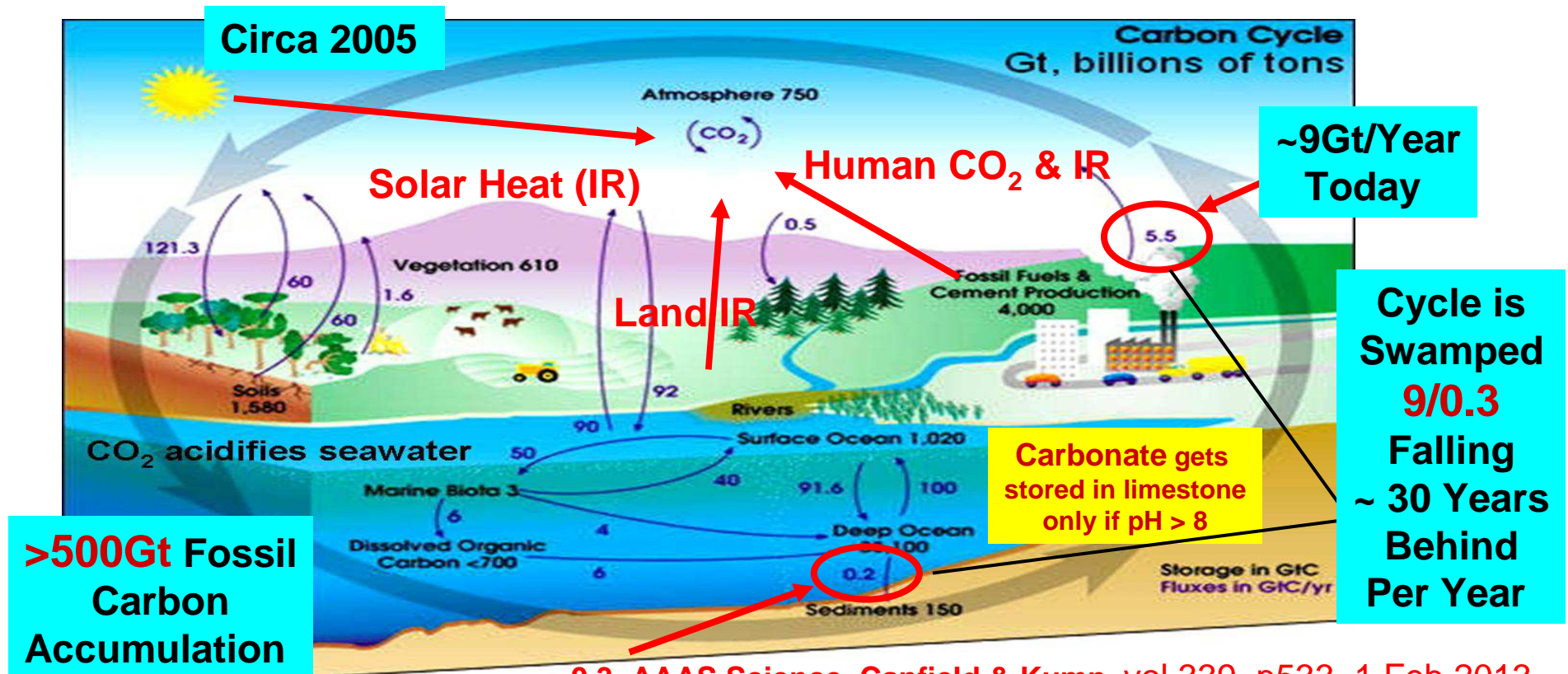
# The Carbon Cycle (**3 Numbers**)

Cyanobacteria, plankton & algae produced most of the Oxygen we have to breathe & use, starting ~2 billion years ago, with the earliest photosynthesizing ocean life. Land plants later evolved & helped. All fossil fuels we dig up were made this way. Carbon emissions today are **~9Gt** (>30Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)

[www3.geosc.psu.edu/~jfk4/PersonalPage/Pdf/annurev\\_03.pdf](http://www3.geosc.psu.edu/~jfk4/PersonalPage/Pdf/annurev_03.pdf) <http://tinyurl.com/m6gvvp4>

[www.atmo.arizona.edu/courses/fall07/atmo551a/pdf/CarbonCycle.pdf](http://www.atmo.arizona.edu/courses/fall07/atmo551a/pdf/CarbonCycle.pdf)

[www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.earth.031208.100206?journalCode=earth](http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.earth.031208.100206?journalCode=earth)



~0.3, AAAS Science, Canfield & Kump, vol 339, p533, 1 Feb 2013

# Areas Needed to Replace US Fossil Fuels

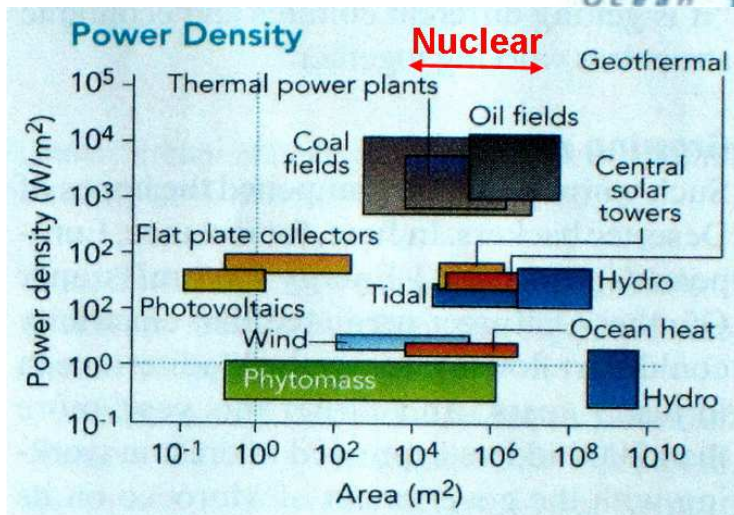
Area Needed for Nuclear\* ●



Area Needed for Solar PV\*  
(Wind is much larger)

\* All mining, construction, power & vehicular uses included in nuclear & solar.

It takes ~100 times more water to produce 1 gal of 'biofuel' than to produce 1 gal of diesel



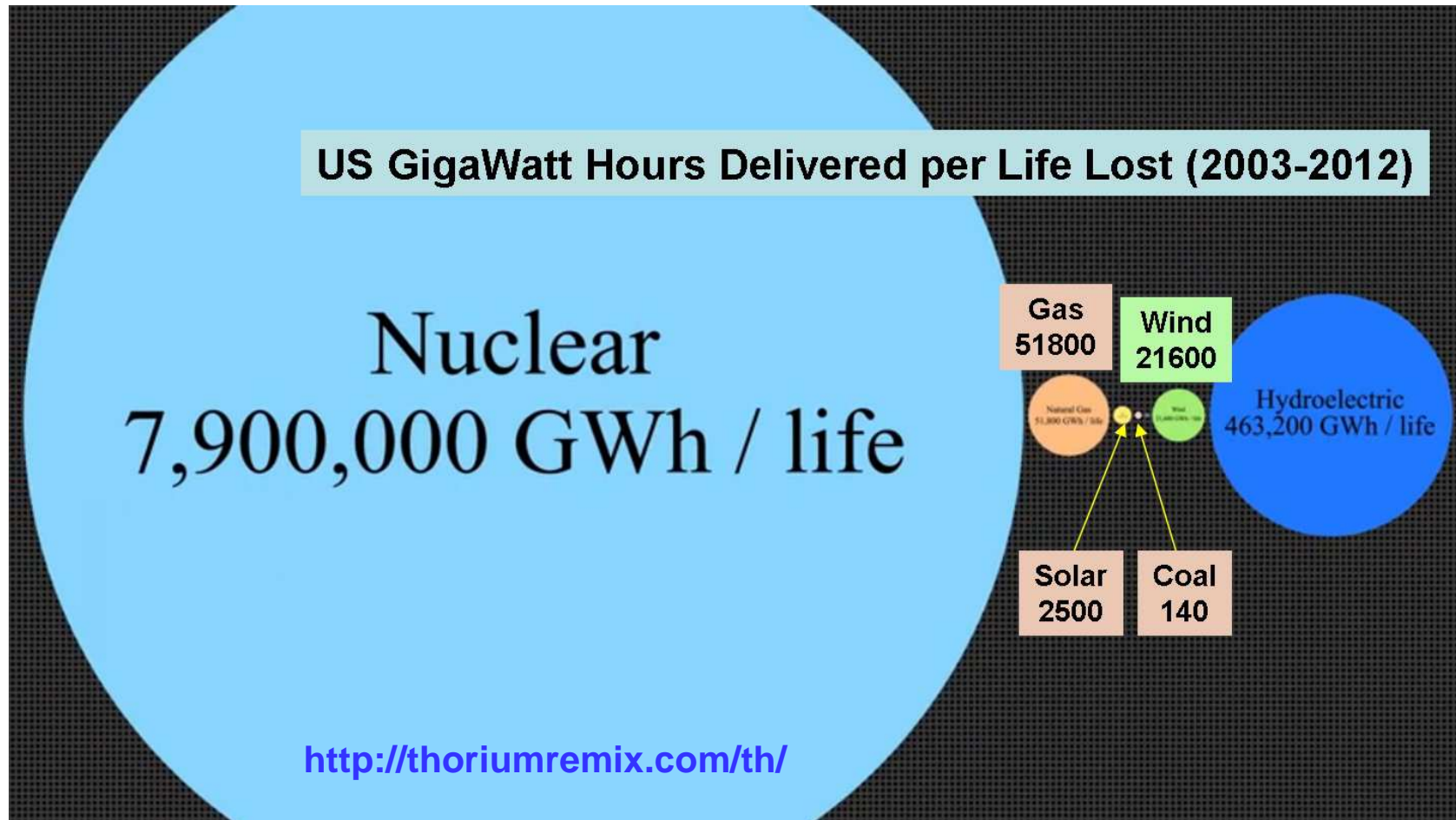
$10^{13}$  J/kg



~10kWhr/lb x500,000 → >3GWhr/lb x100 → >10<sup>11</sup> Whr/lb

# Nuclear Power Safety

Present Civilian & Naval Nuclear Power is the Safest Form of Power Generation Ever Deployed by Humanity: <http://tinyurl.com/42wvr9l> (1998)  
[www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-human-cost-of-energy](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-human-cost-of-energy) (2013)





# Relative Power Dangers

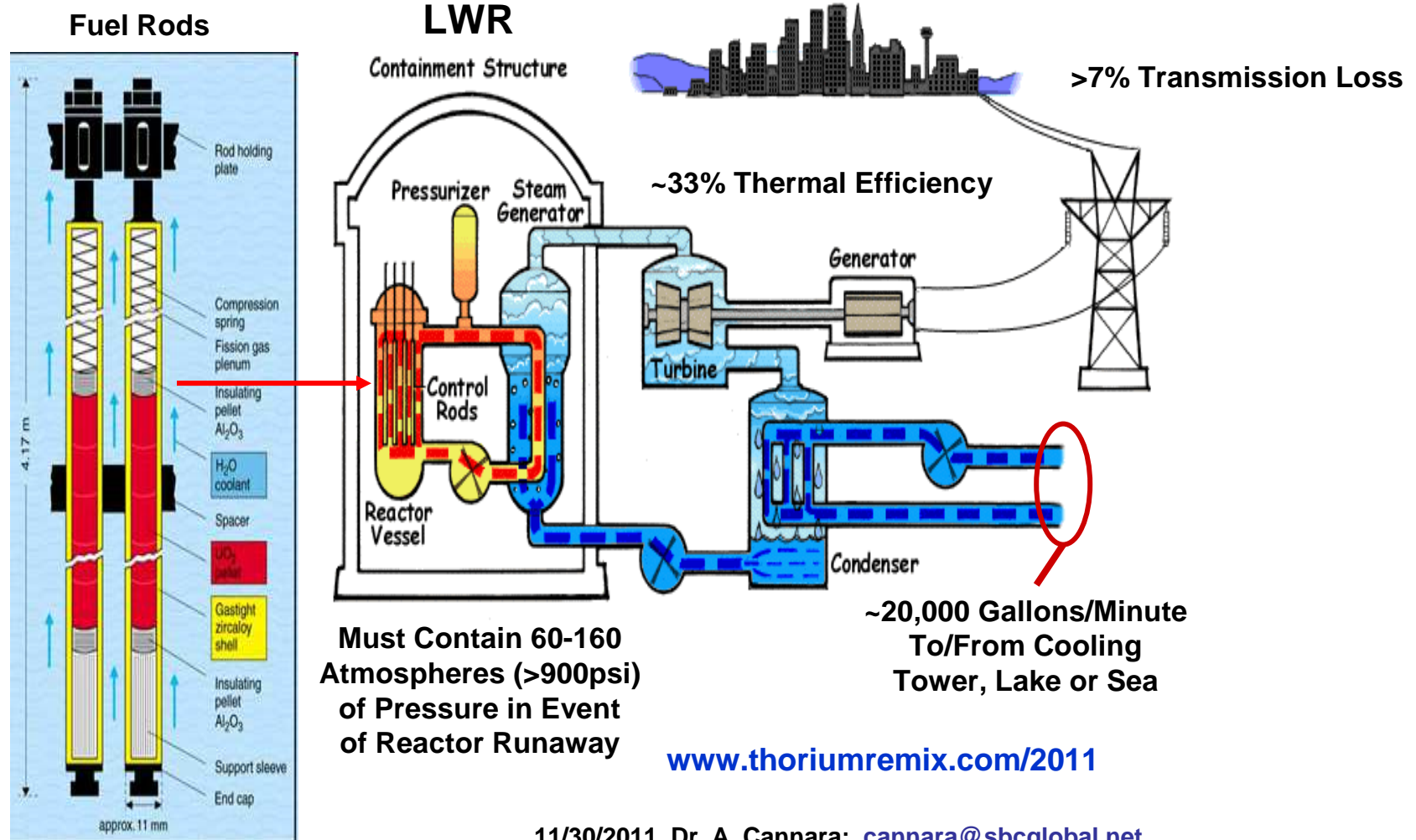
## Severe accidents with at least 5 fatalities (1970-2005)

Energy chain	OECD		EU 27		non-OECD	
	Accidents	Fatalities	Accidents	Fatalities	Accidents	Fatalities
Coal	81	2123	41	942	144 1363 (a)	5360 24'456 (a)
Oil	174	3388	64	1236	308	17'990
Natural Gas	103	1204	33	337	61	1366
LPG	59	1875	20	559	61	2636
Hydro	1	14	1	116 (b)	12	30'007 (c)
Nuclear	—	—	—	—	1	31 (d)

- (a) First line: coal non-OECD without China; second line: coal China  
 (b) Belci dam Romania (1991)  
 (c) Banqiao and Shimantan dam failures alone caused 26'000 fatalities  
 (d) Latent fatalities treated separately

Burgherr & Hirschberg, 2008

# 235/238 Uranium Light-Water Reactors



# 235/238 Uranium Light-Water Reactors

2 types: Pressurized-Water Reactors (PWRs) & Boiling-Water Reactors (BWRs)

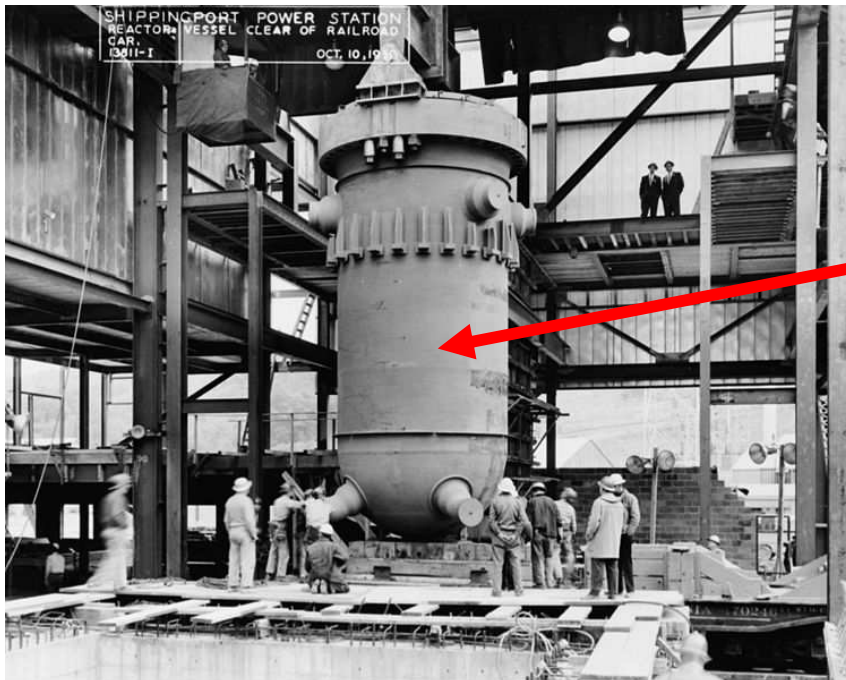
Modern U235/238 Centrifuge



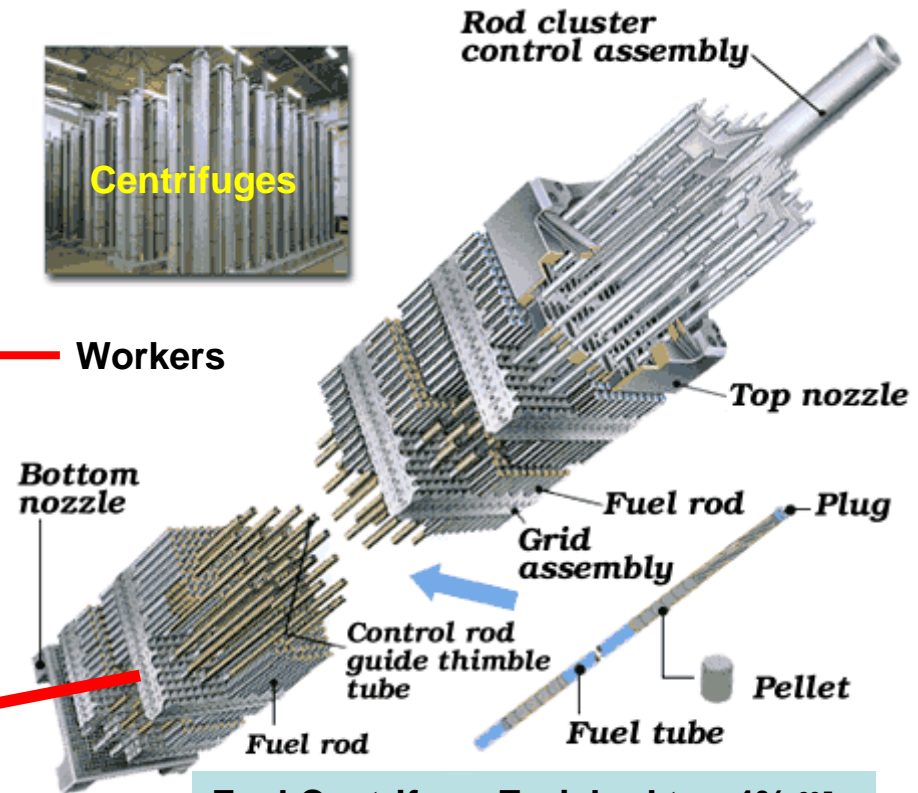
Centrifuges

Workers

First Commercial US Reactor (60MW)



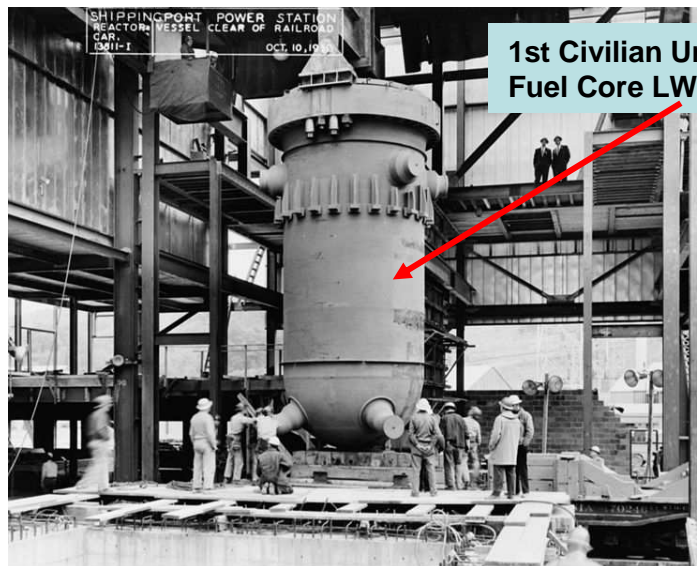
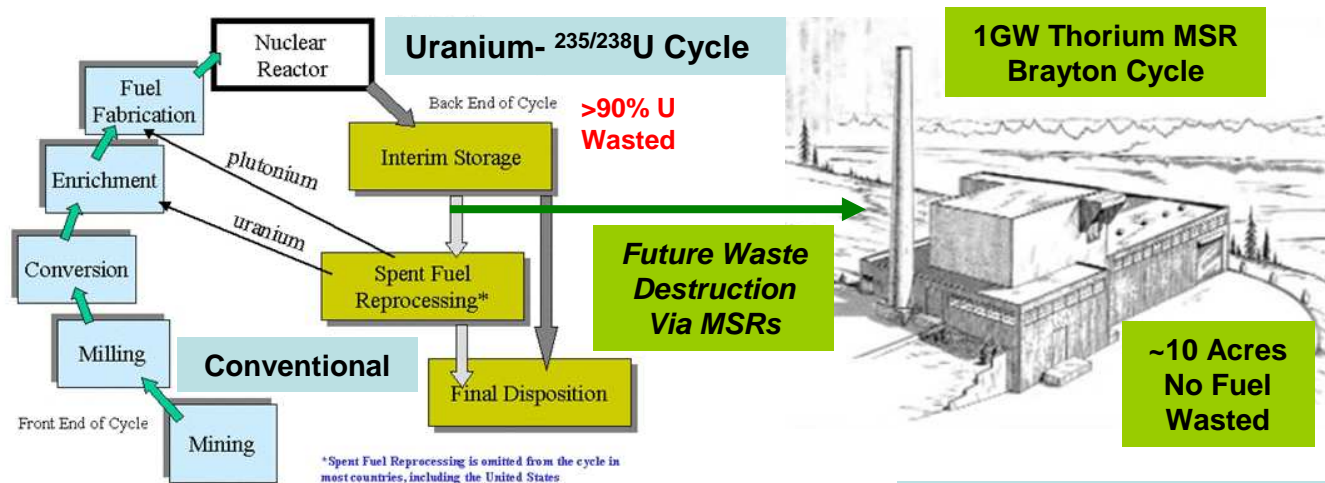
Shippingport, Penn, 1954-56



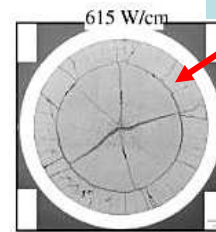
Fuel Centrifuge-Enriched to ~4% <sup>235</sup>U

Modern Fuel Assemblies. **Only ~4% of Uranium is fissioned** before rods must be removed & stored or reprocessed – ~200 tons Uranium needed per GWe-Year.

# MSR Versus LWR



**1st Civilian Uranium Solid-Fuel Core LWR, 60MW**



~10mm Dia.

**Normal Solid-Fuel Pellet Damage In <5 Years, Cladding Must Hold Unused Fuel + Wastes For Millennia**

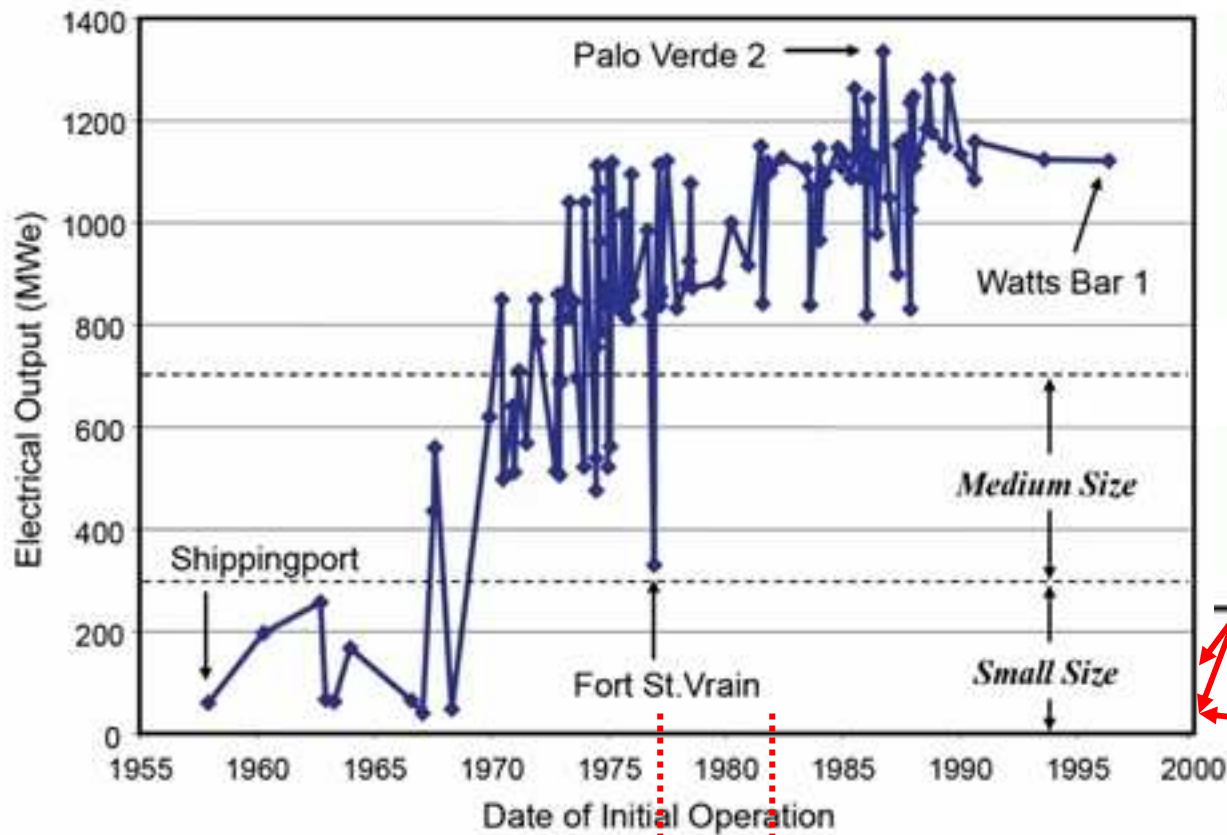
**Equivalent 60MW Thorium MSR Core**



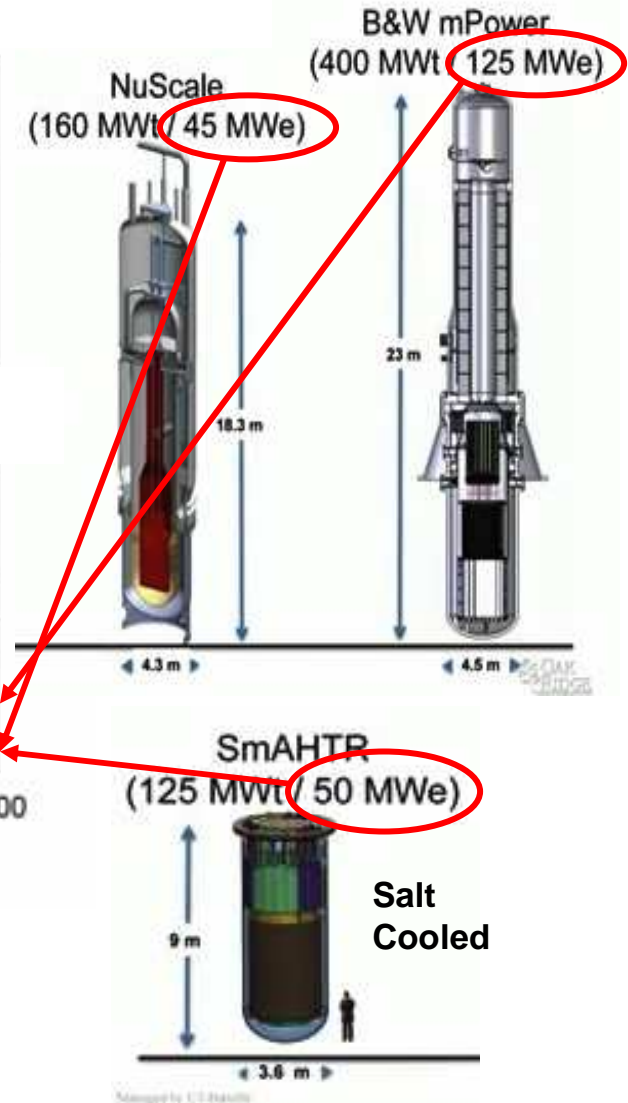
**Equal Scales**

General MSR design: <http://tinyurl.com/8xmso5v>

# 235/238 Uranium Light-Water Reactors

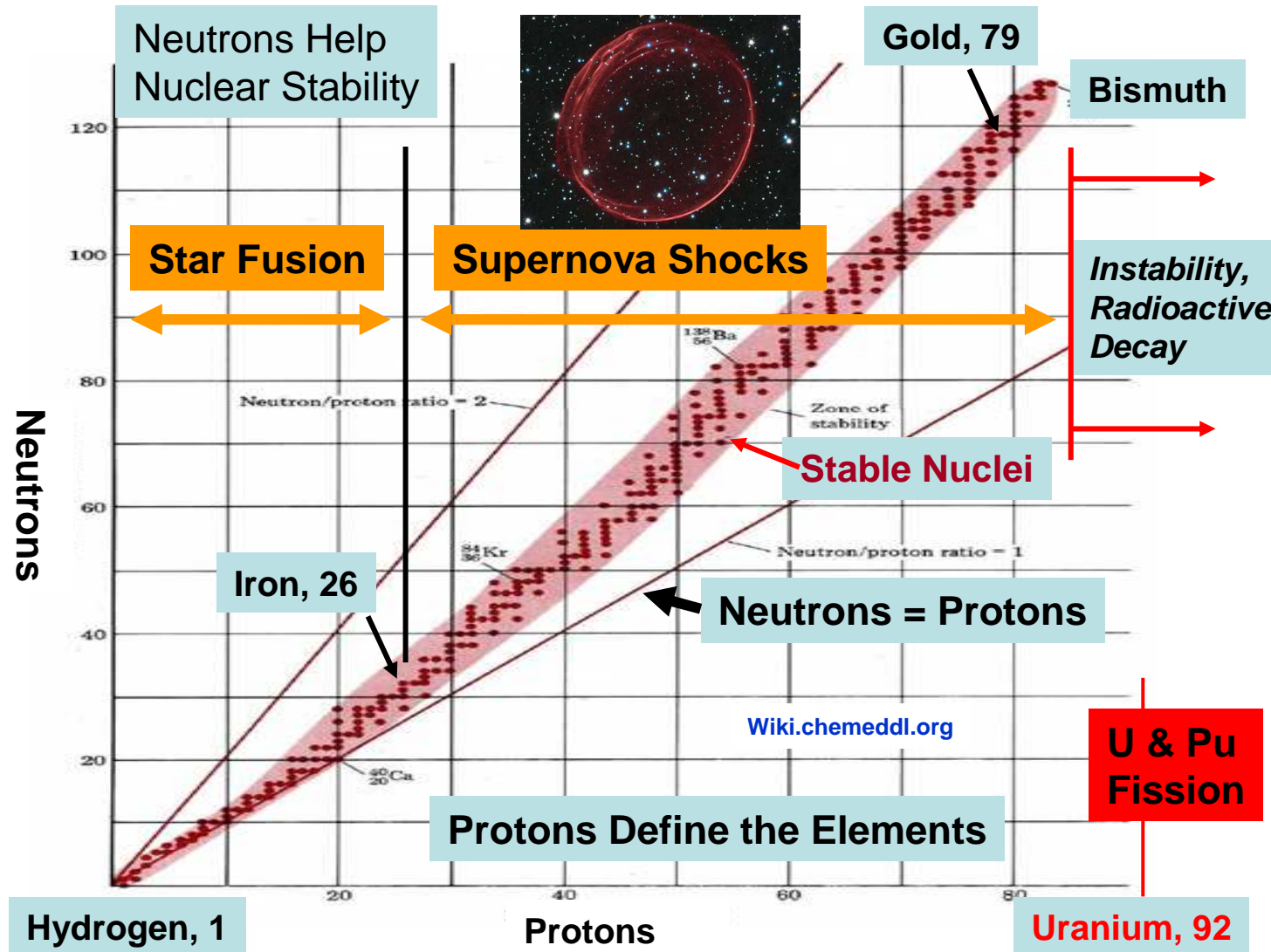


**Solid Thorium Fuel Breeding Expt. at Shippingport  
1977-1982, >1% Fuel Gain in 5 Years**





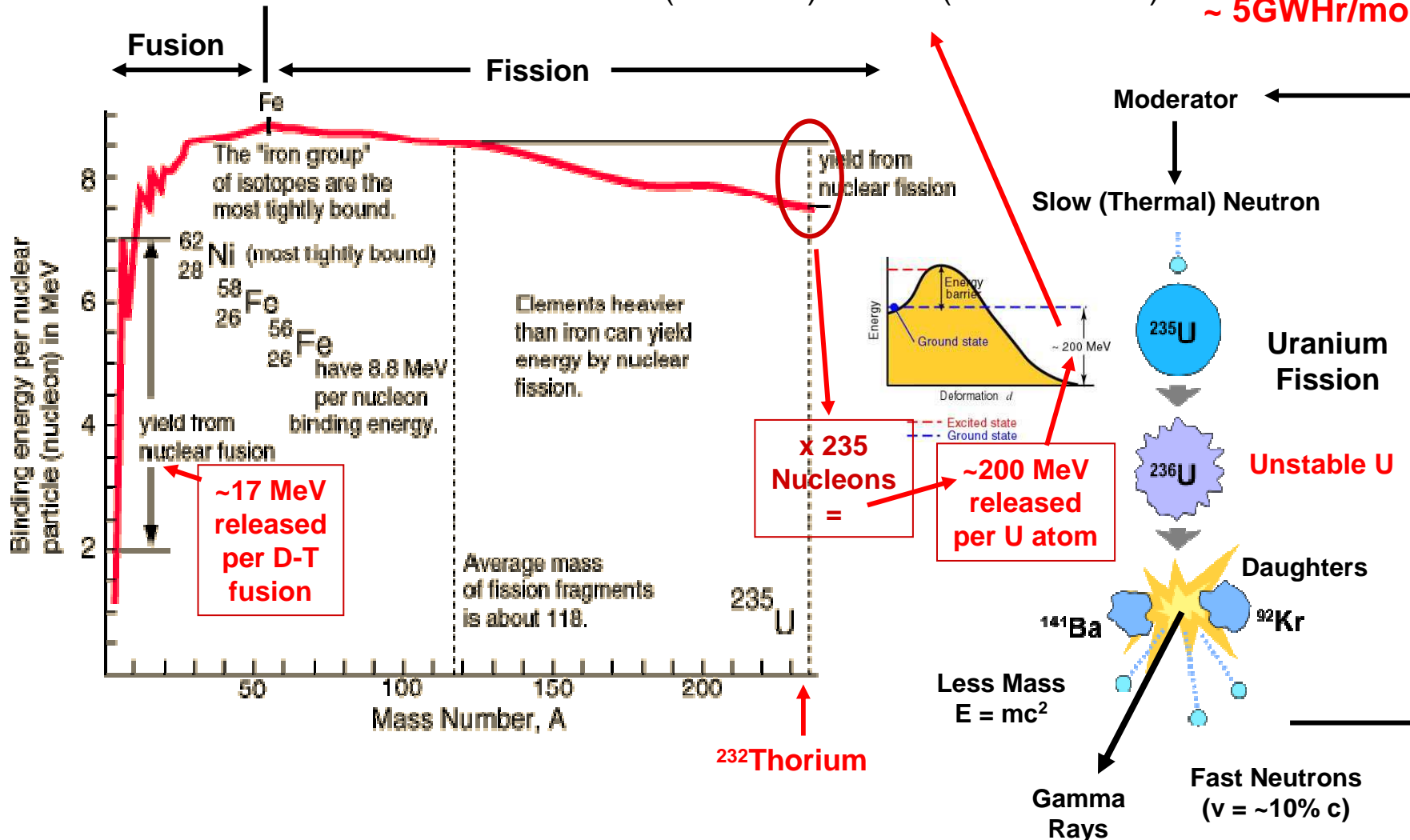
# Elements & Origins



# Nuclear Energy

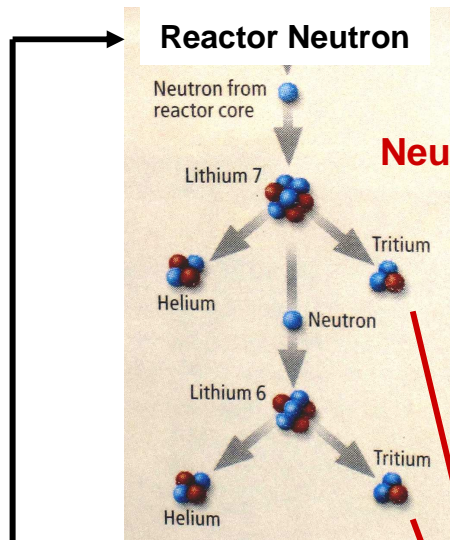
$$\frac{6020000000000000000000000000 \text{ (atoms/mole)} \times 200000000 \text{ (eV/atom)}}{6250000000000000000000000000 \text{ (eV/Joule)} \times 3600 \text{ (Joule/WattHr)}} \sim 5\text{GWhr/mole}$$

**~ 5GWhr/mole**





# Fusion



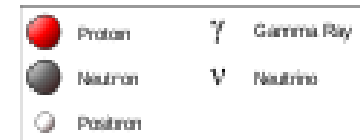
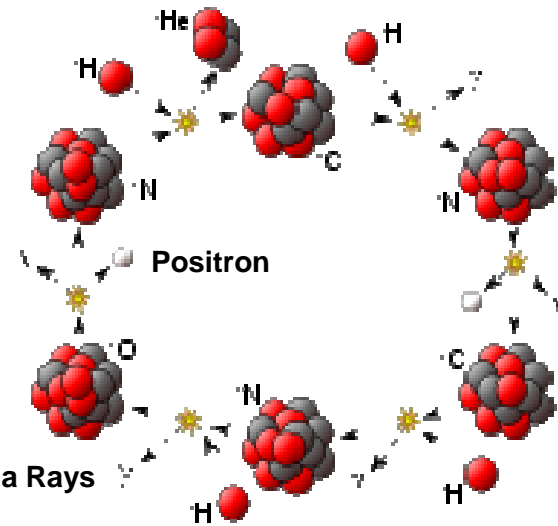
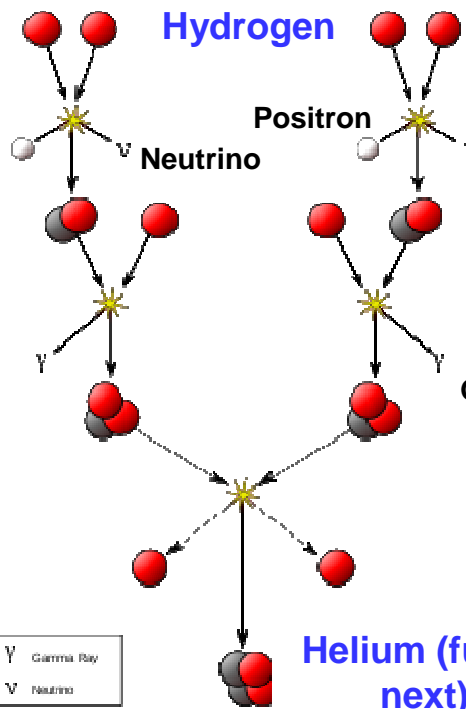
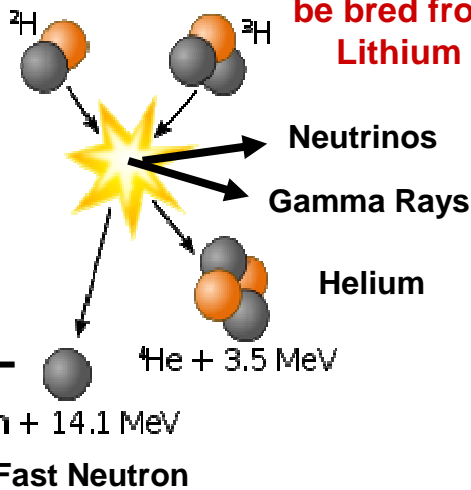
**Neutron Economy Is Key**

**Hydrogen-Hydrogen Fusion (Our Sun)**  
 Any 2 Protons Take ~8 billion Years Before Fusing

**Carbon-Nitrogen-Oxygen Fusion Cycle (big stars)**

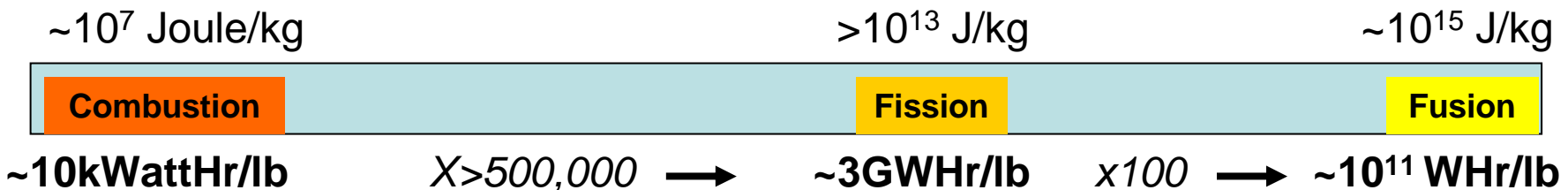
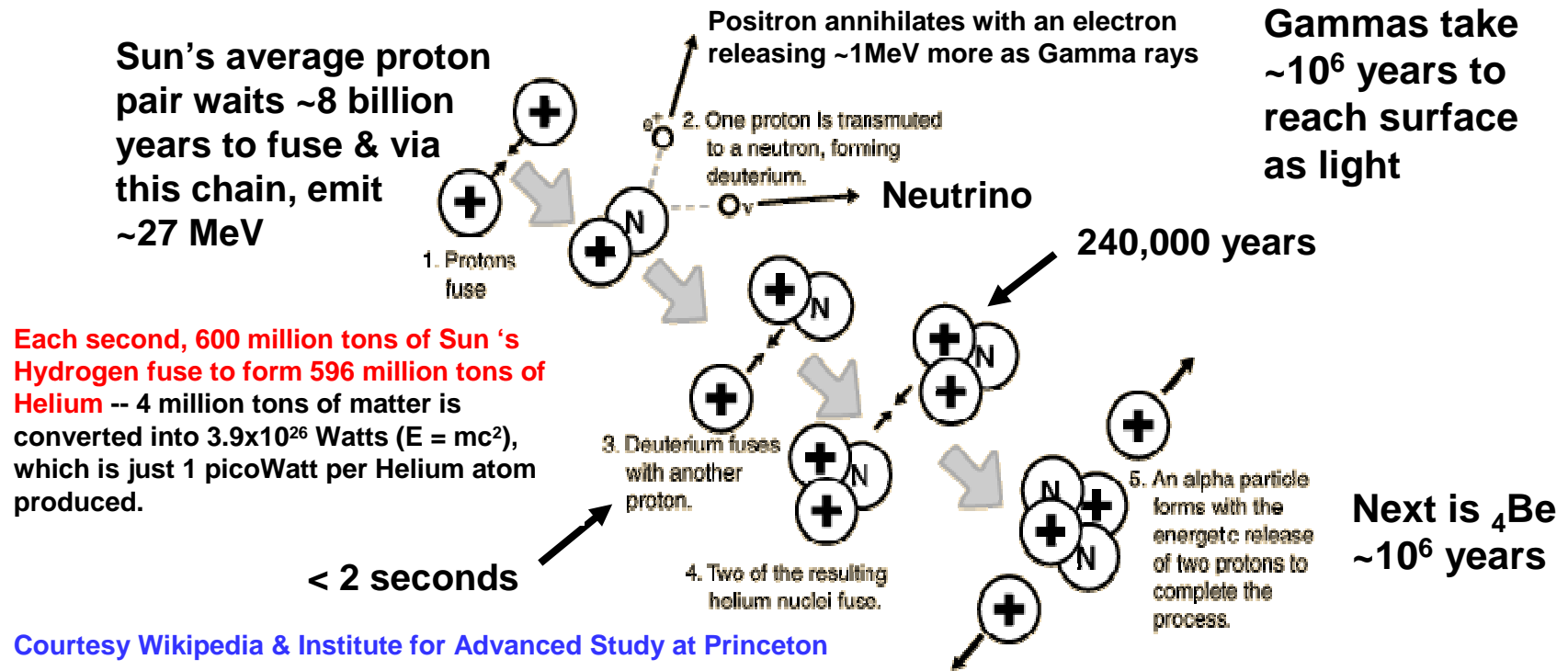
**Deuterium-Tritium Fusion (NIF)**

**Tritium must be bred from Lithium**



# Natural Radiation – Solar Fusion

**Sun's energy density is low** – about ¼ that of a resting human's body heat: 260uW/cm<sup>3</sup>) -- lower than a candle's -- why it's been around for over 4 billion years, turning Hydrogen into Helium, then Beryllium, plus neutrinos and gamma rays (light).



# Fission Choices

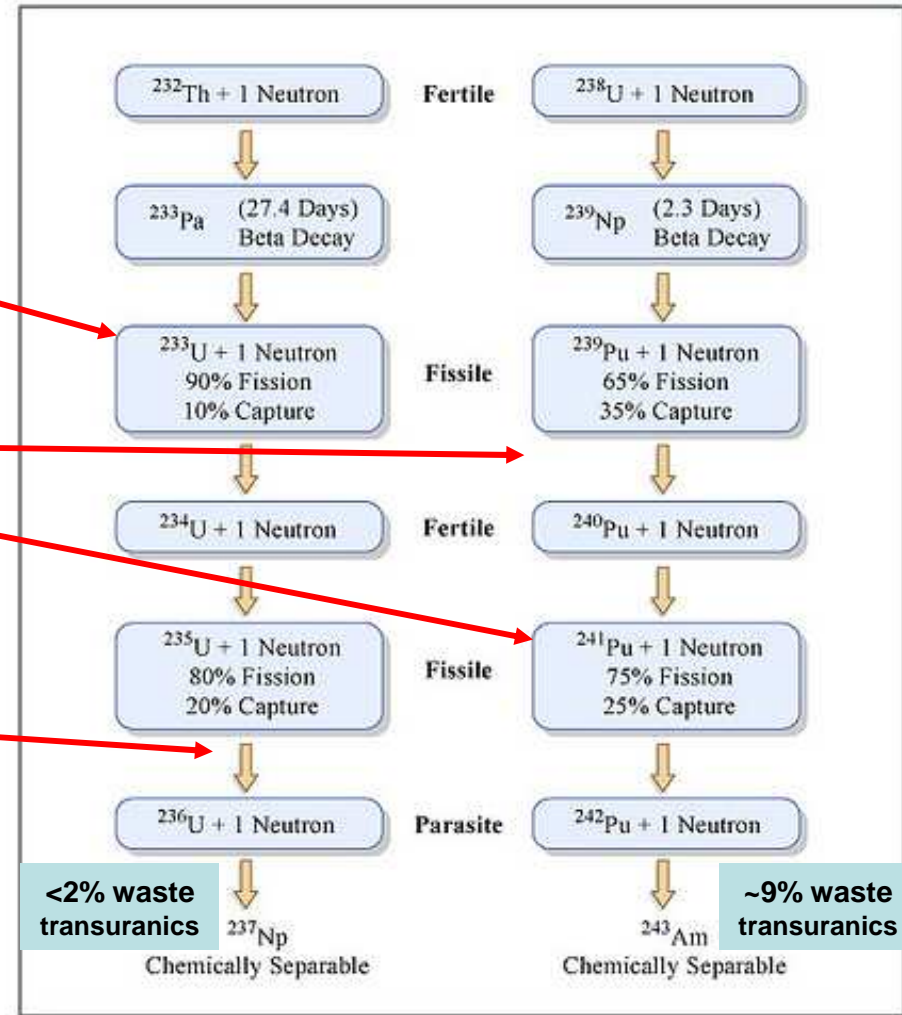
## Starting Fission with Thorium vs $^{238}\text{U}$ Uranium

Thorium bred to  $^{233}\text{U}$  with a neutron (via Protactinium decay), or via proton-beam spallation

Next neutron hitting  $^{233}\text{U}$  has a very high probability of causing fission & releasing ~180MeV energy, but  $^{238}\text{U}$  bred to Plutonium is much less likely to fission, thus building up higher-mass Pu, which has bomb-making potential, plus Am & other long-lived, transuranic wastes

Because Thorium starts at mass 232 & neutron captures rarely exceed 236 (< 20% of 10% = 2%),  $^{238}\text{U}$  & Pu are rarely produced, but are consumed if fissile

Graphics Courtesy of Wikipedia



# The Elements

hydrogen 1 <b>H</b> 1.0079																	helium 2 <b>He</b> 4.0026						
lithium 3 <b>Li</b> 6.941	beryllium 4 <b>Be</b> 9.0122	<b>Heaviest Atom Sun's Fusion Can Build</b>																boron 5 <b>B</b> 10.811	carbon 6 <b>C</b> 12.011	nitrogen 7 <b>N</b> 14.007	oxygen 8 <b>O</b> 15.999	fluorine 9 <b>F</b> 18.998	neon 10 <b>Ne</b> 20.180
sodium 11 <b>Na</b> 22.990	magnesium 12 <b>Mg</b> 24.305	<b>Heaviest Atom Any Star's Fusion Can Build</b>																aluminum 13 <b>Al</b> 26.982	silicon 14 <b>Si</b> 28.086	phosphorus 15 <b>P</b> 30.974	sulfur 16 <b>S</b> 32.065	chlorine 17 <b>Cl</b> 35.453	argon 18 <b>Ar</b> 39.948
potassium 19 <b>K</b> 39.098	calcium 20 <b>Ca</b> 40.078	scandium 21 <b>Sc</b> 44.956	titanium 22 <b>Ti</b> 47.867	vanadium 23 <b>V</b> 50.942	chromium 24 <b>Cr</b> 51.996	manganese 25 <b>Mn</b> 54.938	iron 26 <b>Fe</b> 55.845	cobalt 27 <b>Co</b> 58.933	nickel 28 <b>Ni</b> 58.693	copper 29 <b>Cu</b> 63.546	zinc 30 <b>Zn</b> 65.39	gallium 31 <b>Ga</b> 69.723	germanium 32 <b>Ge</b> 72.61	arsenic 33 <b>As</b> 74.922	selenium 34 <b>Se</b> 78.96	bromine 35 <b>Br</b> 79.904	krypton 36 <b>Kr</b> 83.80						
rubidium 37 <b>Rb</b> 85.468	strontium 38 <b>Sr</b> 87.62	yttrium 39 <b>Y</b> 88.906	zirconium 40 <b>Zr</b> 91.224	niobium 41 <b>Nb</b> 92.906	molybdenum 42 <b>Mo</b> 95.94	technetium 43 <b>Tc</b> [98]	ruthenium 44 <b>Ru</b> 101.07	rhodium 45 <b>Rh</b> 102.91	palladium 46 <b>Pd</b> 106.42	silver 47 <b>Ag</b> 107.87	cadmium 48 <b>Cd</b> 112.41	indium 49 <b>In</b> 114.82	tin 50 <b>Sn</b> 118.71	antimony 51 <b>Sb</b> 121.76	tellurium 52 <b>Te</b> 127.60	iodine 53 <b>I</b> 126.90	xenon 54 <b>Xe</b> 131.29						
caesium 55 <b>Cs</b> 132.91	barium 56 <b>Ba</b> 137.33	57-70 *	lutetium 71 <b>Lu</b> 174.97	hafnium 72 <b>Hf</b> 178.49	tantalum 73 <b>Ta</b> 180.95	tungsten 74 <b>W</b> 183.84	rhenium 75 <b>Re</b> 186.21	osmium 76 <b>Os</b> 190.23	iridium 77 <b>Ir</b> 192.22	platinum 78 <b>Pt</b> 195.08	gold 79 <b>Au</b> 196.97	mercury 80 <b>Hg</b> 200.59	thallium 81 <b>Tl</b> 204.38	lead 82 <b>Pb</b> 207.2	bismuth 83 <b>Bi</b> 208.98	polonium 84 <b>Po</b> [209]	astatine 85 <b>At</b> [210]	radon 86 <b>Rn</b> [222]					
francium 87 <b>Fr</b> [223]	radium 88 <b>Ra</b> [226]	89-102 * *	lawrencium 103 <b>Lr</b> [262]	rutherfordium 104 <b>Rf</b> [261]	dubnium 105 <b>Db</b> [262]	seaborgium 106 <b>Sg</b> [266]	bohrium 107 <b>Bh</b> [264]	hassium 108 <b>Hs</b> [269]	meitnerium 109 <b>Mt</b> [268]	ununnium 110 <b>Uun</b> [271]	ununium 111 <b>Uuu</b> [272]	unubium 112 <b>Uub</b> [277]	ununquadium 114 <b>Uuq</b> [289]										

**Heaviest Stable Atom**

**\*Lanthanides:**

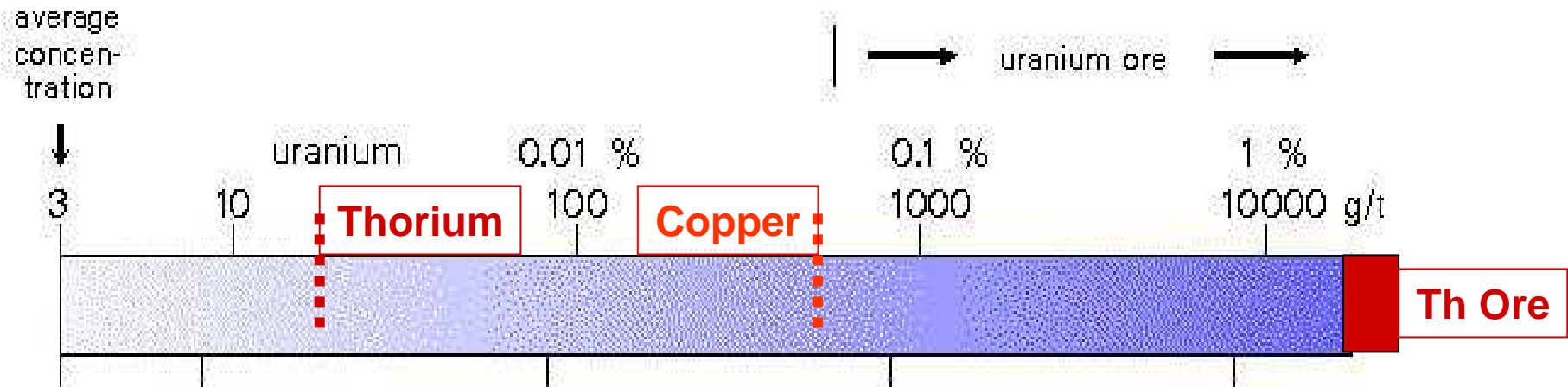
**\*\*Actinides:**

lanthanum 57 <b>La</b> 138.91	cerium 58 <b>Ce</b> 140.12	praseodymium 59 <b>Pr</b> 140.91	neodymium 60 <b>Nd</b> 144.24	promethium 61 <b>Pm</b> [145]	samarium 62 <b>Sm</b> 150.36	europium 63 <b>Eu</b> 151.96	gadolinium 64 <b>Gd</b> 157.25	terbium 65 <b>Tb</b> 158.93	dysprosium 66 <b>Dy</b> 162.50	holmium 67 <b>Ho</b> 164.93	erbium 68 <b>Er</b> 167.26	thulium 69 <b>Tm</b> 168.93	ytterbium 70 <b>Yb</b> 173.04
actinium 89 <b>Ac</b> [227]	thorium 90 <b>Th</b> 232.04	protactinium 91 <b>Pa</b> 231.04	uranium 92 <b>U</b> 238.03	neptunium 93 <b>Np</b> [237]	plutonium 94 <b>Pu</b> [244]	americium 95 <b>Am</b> [243]	curium 96 <b>Cm</b> [247]	berkelium 97 <b>Bk</b> [247]	californium 98 <b>Cf</b> [251]	einsteinium 99 <b>Es</b> [252]	fermium 100 <b>Fm</b> [257]	mendelevium 101 <b>Md</b> [258]	nobelium 102 <b>No</b> [259]

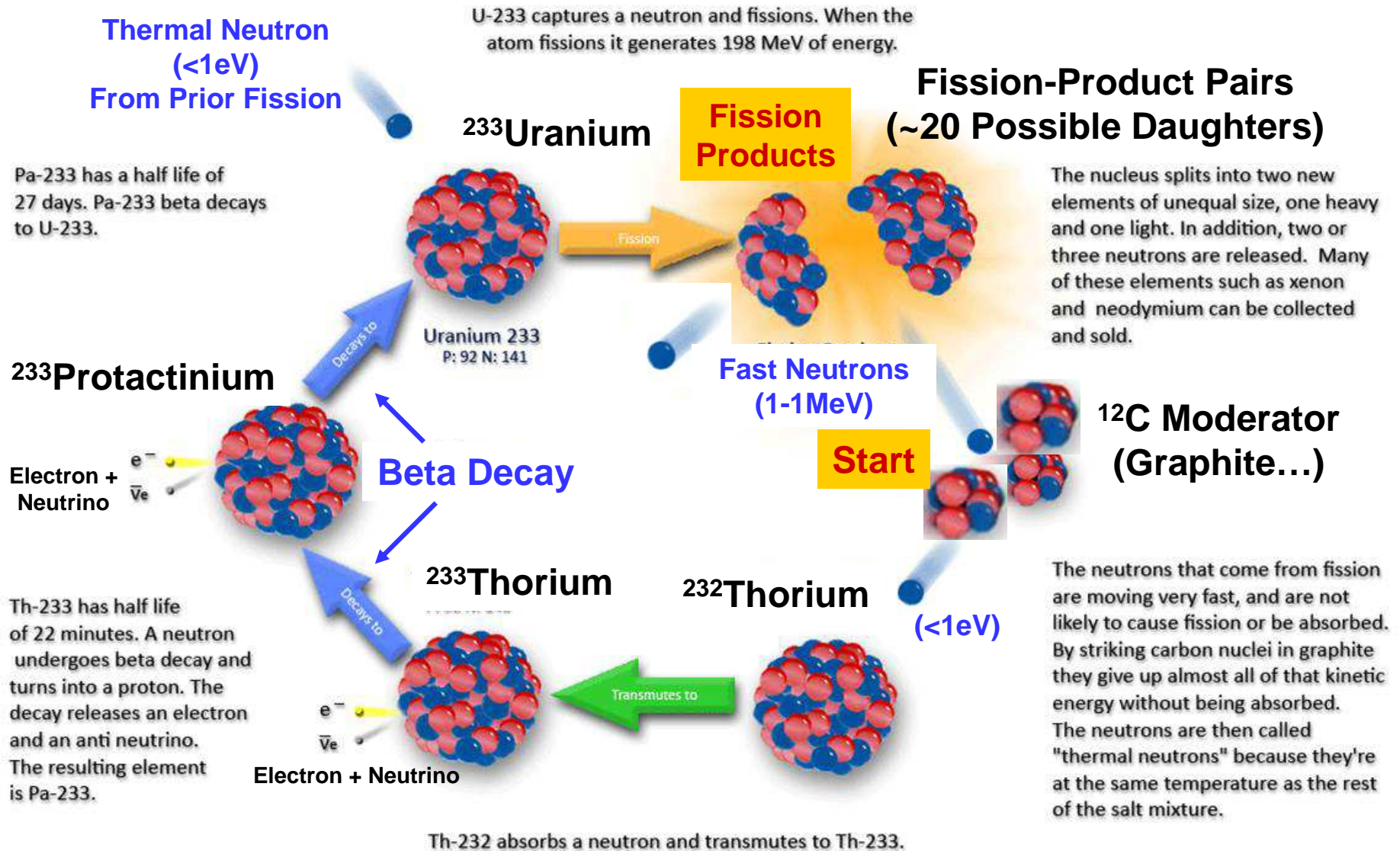
**Transuranics  
(unwanted)**



# Uranium Concentrations in Rock



# Thorium Breeding Cycle



# Thorium Abundance

## Rare Earth Distributions | By Mineralization

Distribution of rare earth elements in selected rare earth deposits (USGS).

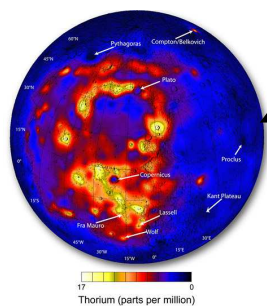
\*Pea Ridge RE resources: Breccia Pipes (primarily Monazite / limited Xenotime).

\*\*Rare Earth Enriched Apatite (Monazite / Xenotime), a no cost byproduct of iron ore mining.

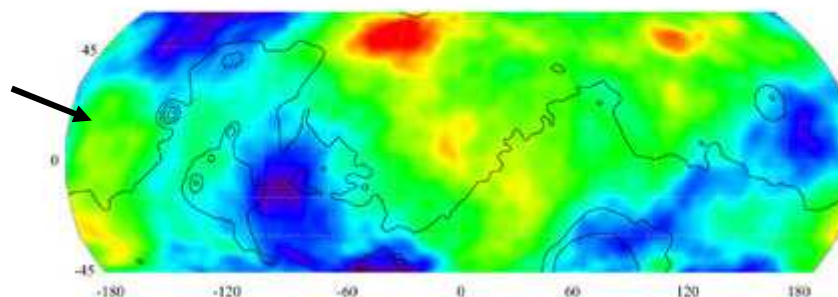
	Mt. Pass Bastansite	China Byan Obo	HRE-China Laterite	Selected Monazite		Pea Ridge* Breccia	Pea Ridge** RE-Apatite
Lanthanum	33.8	27.1	1.8	17.5		27.5	18.6
Cerium	49.6	49.8	0.4	43.7		38.8	34.6
Praseodymium	4.1	5.15	0.7	5.0		4.4	3.5
Neodymium	11.2	15.4	3.0	17.5		15.4	12.7
Samarium	0.9	1.15	2.8	4.9		2.1	2.5
Europium	0.1	.19	0.1	0.2		0.3	.3
Gadolinium	0.2	0.4	6.9	6.6		1.5	2.8
<b>Terbium</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>Heavy Lanthanides</b>	<b>.27</b>	<b>.5</b>
<b>Dysprosium</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>		<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Holmium	0.0	0	1.6	0.1		.28	.5
Erbium	0.0	0	4.9	Trace		.81	1.8
Thulium	0.0	0	0.7	Trace		.13	.2
Ytterbium	0.0	0	2.5	0.1		.96	1.5
Lutetium	Trace	0	0.4	Trace		0.1	.2
Yttrium	0.1	0.2	65.0	2.5		5.7	17.5
<b>Percent Heavy RE Occurrence in Ore</b>	<b>.1%</b>	<b>.5%</b>	<b>83.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>		<b>9.7%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Percent Thorium</b>	<b>.1%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>&gt;.1%</b>	<b>4 – 12%</b>		<b>3.5%</b>	<b>&gt; 1%</b>

Courtesy Wings/Pea-Ridge

In order of Geologic Occurrence – Bastansite, Monazite, HRE Laterite



Th on  
Moon Mars



# MSR/MSBR/LFTR History

## What we were supposed to be doing by 2000

In 1962, President Kennedy requested an AEC civilian power study... *“Your study should identify the objectives, scope and content of a nuclear power development program, in light of the nation’s prospective energy needs and resources...recommend appropriate steps to assure the proper timing of development and construction of nuclear power projects, including the construction of necessary prototypes.”*

The AEC report concluded... <http://tinyurl.com/6xgpkfa> *“The overall objective of the [Seaborg] Commission’s [AEC’s] nuclear power program should be to foster and support the growing use of nuclear energy and...make possible the exploitation of the vast energy resources latent in the fertile materials, uranium-238 and thorium.”*

Why did we fail?... *“...[enriched, natural U] pressurized water had been chosen to power submarines because such reactors are compact and simple. Their advent on land was entirely due to Rickover’s dominance in reactor development in the 1950s, and once established, the light-water reactor could not be displaced by a competing reactor. To claim that light-water reactors were chosen because of their superior safety belied an ignorance of how the technology had actually evolved... Although the AEC established an office labeled ‘Fast Breeder,’ no corresponding office labeled ‘Thermal Breeder’ was established.” (A. Weinberg, 1994).*

AEC Reactor Engineering Director, Shaw, a protégé of Adm. Rickover, but saw only the solid-fuelled, water-cooled designs used by the Navy as worthwhile. He asked MSR & MSBR engineers to “clear their desks into their wastebaskets” when ‘70s funding died:

<http://tinyurl.com/al5hlap> especially due to Nixon: <http://tinyurl.com/73p7ler>



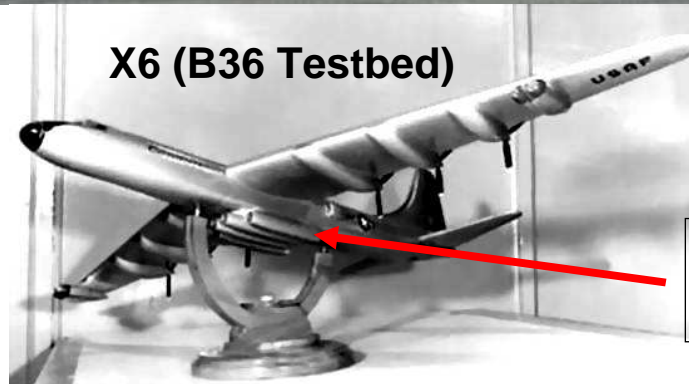
# Aircraft Reactor Experiments

HTR-1 was operated for >5 GWHrs.

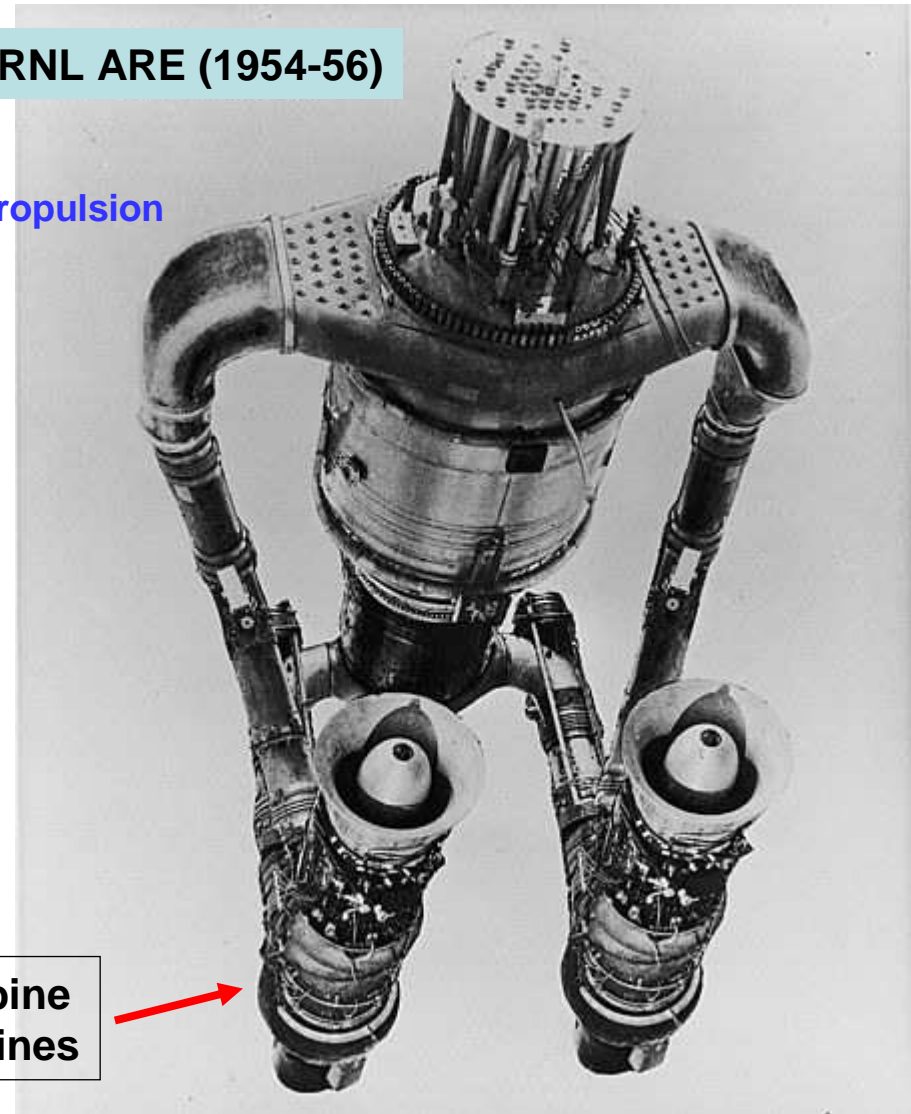
ORNL ARE (1954-56)

Salt: Sodium, Zirconium, Uranium Fluorides

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft\\_Nuclear\\_Propulsion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_Nuclear_Propulsion)



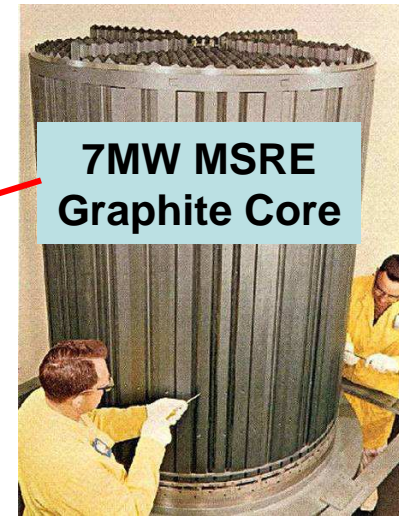
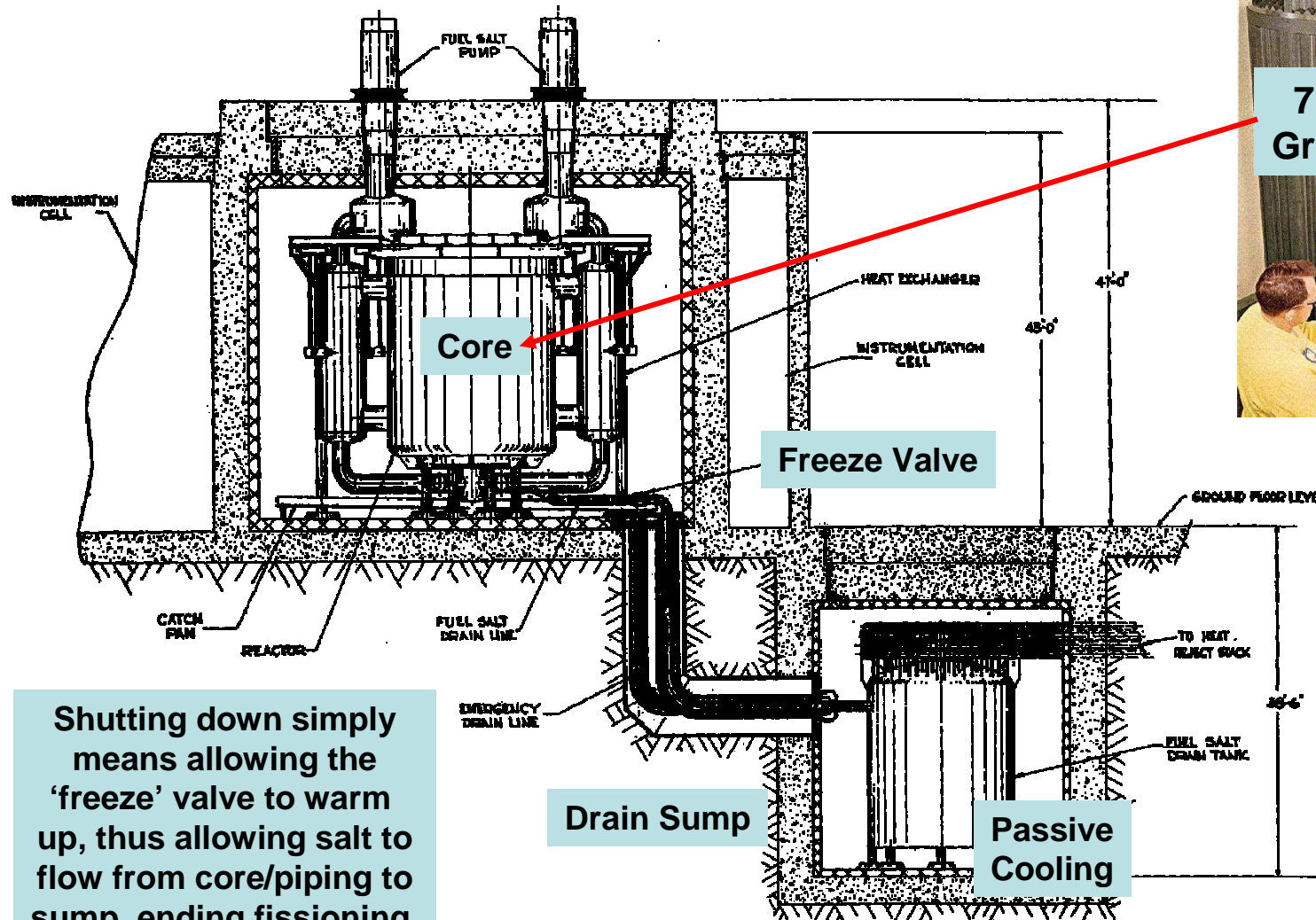
Turbine Engines



[http://moltensalt.org/references/static/downloads/pdf/NSE\\_ARE\\_Operation.pdf](http://moltensalt.org/references/static/downloads/pdf/NSE_ARE_Operation.pdf)  
<http://large.stanford.edu/courses/2012/ph241/omar2/>

# The MSR (Molten-Salt Reactor)

Molten-Salt Reactor & Shutdown Sump Structure...



Shutting down simply means allowing the 'freeze' valve to warm up, thus allowing salt to flow from core/piping to sump, ending fissioning.

Drain Sump

Passive Cooling

# Molten-Salt Reactors (MSRE)

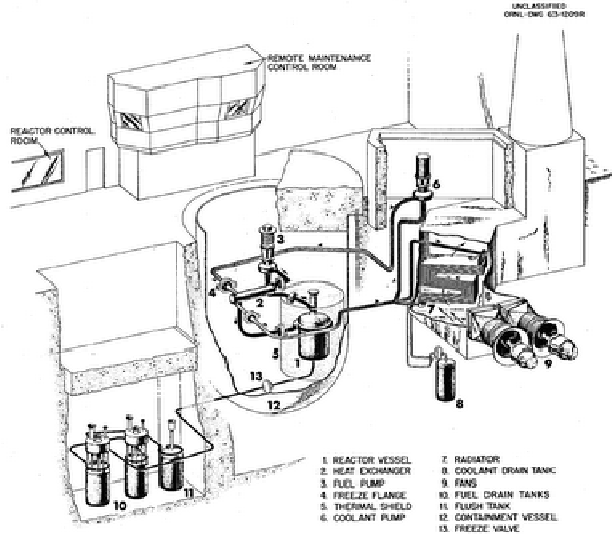


Fig. 7. Elevation of Part of MSRE Building.

1960s MSRE  
7MW, 17,000Hrs



Seaborg Turning It On



MSRE 2012

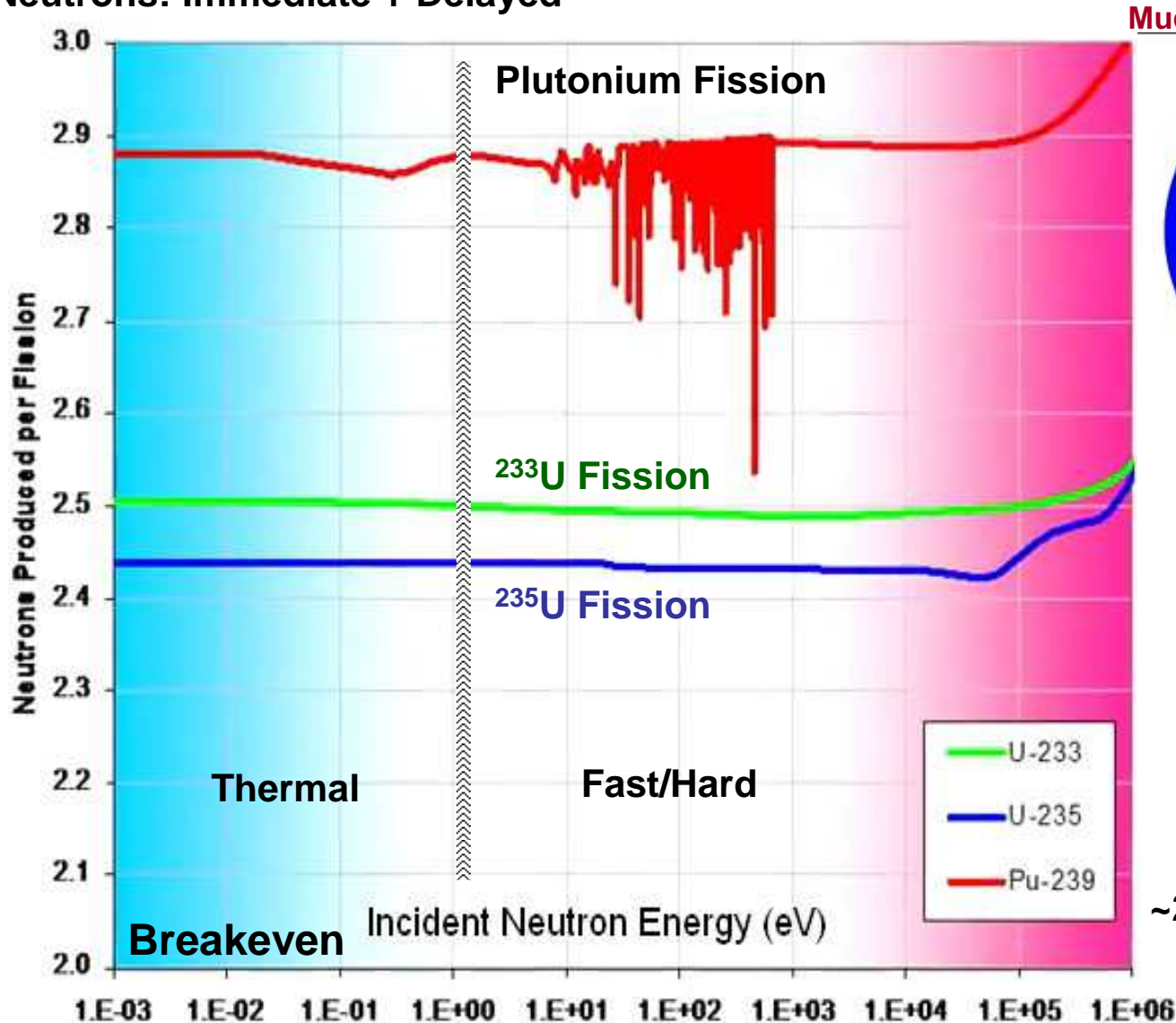


Typical Fluoride Salt

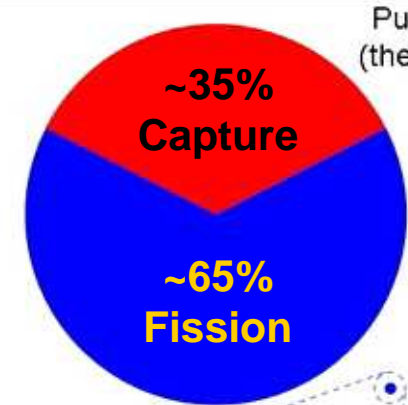


# Fission Neutron Economy

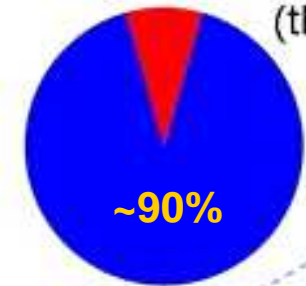
Neutrons: Immediate + Delayed



Much Less Red for Fast Neutrons



Pu-239 (fast)

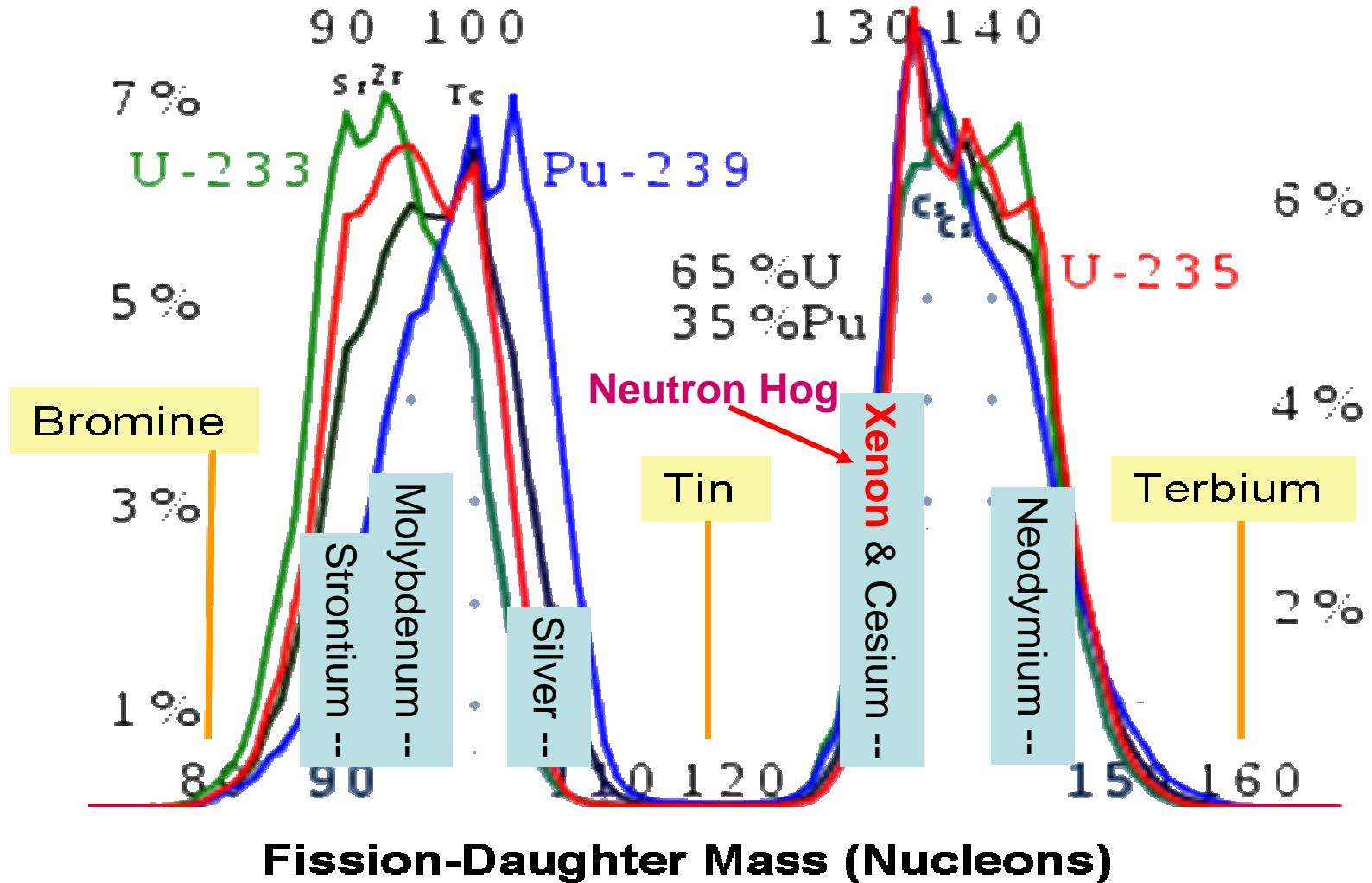


U-233 (fast)

U-235 ~80% Fission

~25:1 Thermal:Fast Cross-Section Ratio

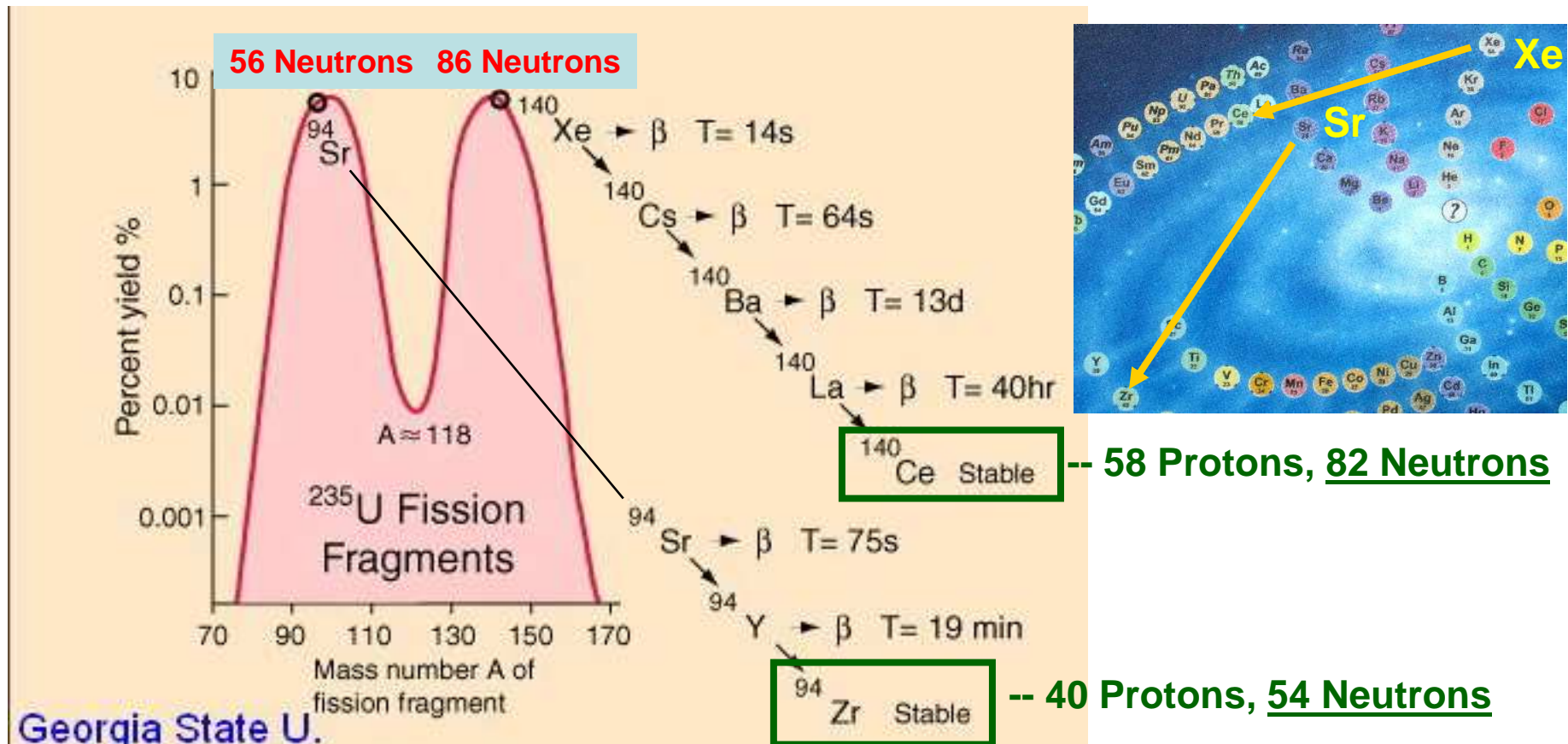
# Fission Products



Asymmetrical yields of thermal-fission-product pairs versus fissile element

# Fission-Product Radiation

$^{235}\text{U}$  fission can result in the FP pair  $^{94}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{140}\text{Xe}$ , which are Highly radioactive, due to excess of several neutrons each. They decay within minutes or days to stable Zirconium and Cerium, by shedding Beta particles (electrons), thus moving up the Periodic Table to higher Proton/Neutron ratios..



# Natural Radiation -- Fission

The mountains in Oklo, south-eastern Gabon are home to several natural  $^{235}\text{U}$  Uranium fission reactors. They operated about 2 billion years ago, when the 700-million-year half life of that isotope would have meant it was about 8 times as abundant in typical rock containing Uranium ore. The Earth's growing *atmospheric Oxygen content, water & bacteria concentrated  $\text{UO}_2$  enough that rainfall & groundwater acted as a neutron moderator to enhance fission* by slowing neutrons to 'thermal' speeds, making their capture by  $^{235}\text{U}$  nuclei more probable. When water stopped flowing, the reactors stopped fissioning. When it flowed again, they restarted. The site is now useful to judge stability of fission wastes. Niger & Gabon have very significant U deposits.



<http://www.ans.org/pi/np/oklo/>

<http://www.ans.org/pi/np/oklo/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_nuclear\\_fission\\_reactor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_nuclear_fission_reactor)

[www.physics.isu.edu/radinf/Files/Okloreactor.pdf](http://www.physics.isu.edu/radinf/Files/Okloreactor.pdf)

# The Molten-Salt Breeder



*“During my life I have witnessed extraordinary feats of human ingenuity. I believe that this struggling ingenuity will be equal to the task of creating the Second Nuclear Era. My only regret is that I will not be here to witness its success.” -- Alvin Weinberg (1915-2006)*

## **1962 AEC Seaborg Commission Report to the President (JFK)...**

*“This [AEC civilian reactor] program... leaned heavily upon, indeed it started from, knowledge gained from other reactor programs, notably...reactors for making plutonium, naval propulsion reactors and research and test reactors...Certain classes...notably water-cooled converters [LWRs]...are now on the threshold of economic competitiveness...it is important that the combination of breeders and converters reaches an overall net breeding capability...**The overall objective of the Commission’s nuclear power program should be to foster and support the growing use of nuclear energy and...make possible the exploitation of the vast energy resources latent in the fertile materials, uranium-238 and thorium.**” -- <http://energyfromthorium.com/pdf/CivilianNuclearPower.pdf>*

Nowadays [1994], I often hear arguments about whether the decision to concentrate on the LWR was correct. I must say that at the time I did not think it was; and 40 years later we realize, more clearly than we did then, that **safety must take precedence even over economics** — that no reactor system can be accepted unless it is first of all safe. However, in those earliest days we almost never compared the intrinsic safety of the LWR with the intrinsic safety of its competitors. We used to say that every reactor would be made safe by engineering interventions. We never systematically compared the complexity and scale of the necessary interventions for [different] reactors. So in this respect, **I would say that [AEC’s reactor-development director in 1955 ] Ken Davis’ insistence on a single line, the LWR, was premature.**

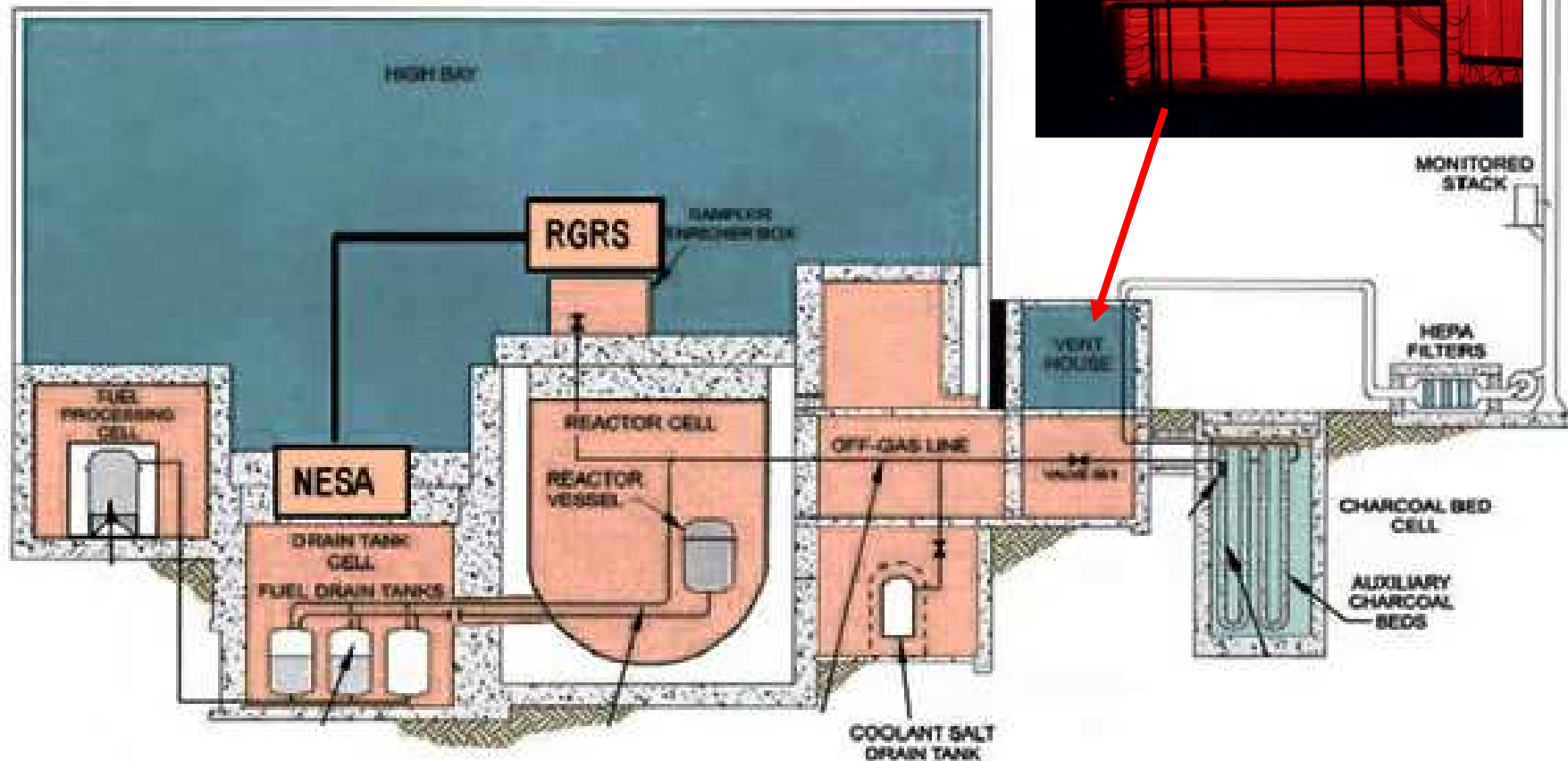
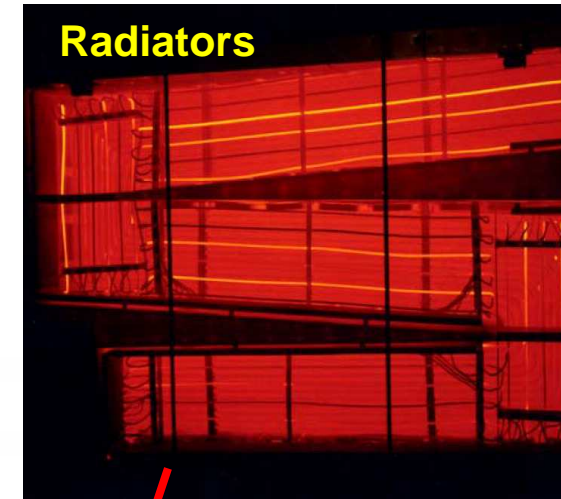
*...The Second Nuclear Era – A. Weinberg, 1994...*

One publicist claimed that the light-water reactor had been chosen after long and careful analysis because it possessed unique safety features. I knew this was untrue: **pressurized water had been chosen to power submarines because such reactors are compact and simple. Their advent on land was entirely due to Rickover’s dominance in reactor development the 1950s**, and once established, the light-water reactor could not be displaced by a competing reactor. **To claim that light-water reactors were chosen because of their superior safety belied an ignorance of how the technology had actually evolved...the Army finally decided that even small light-water reactors were too difficult and costly to maintain, and they were all eventually decommissioned.**



# Molten-Salt Reactors (MSRE)

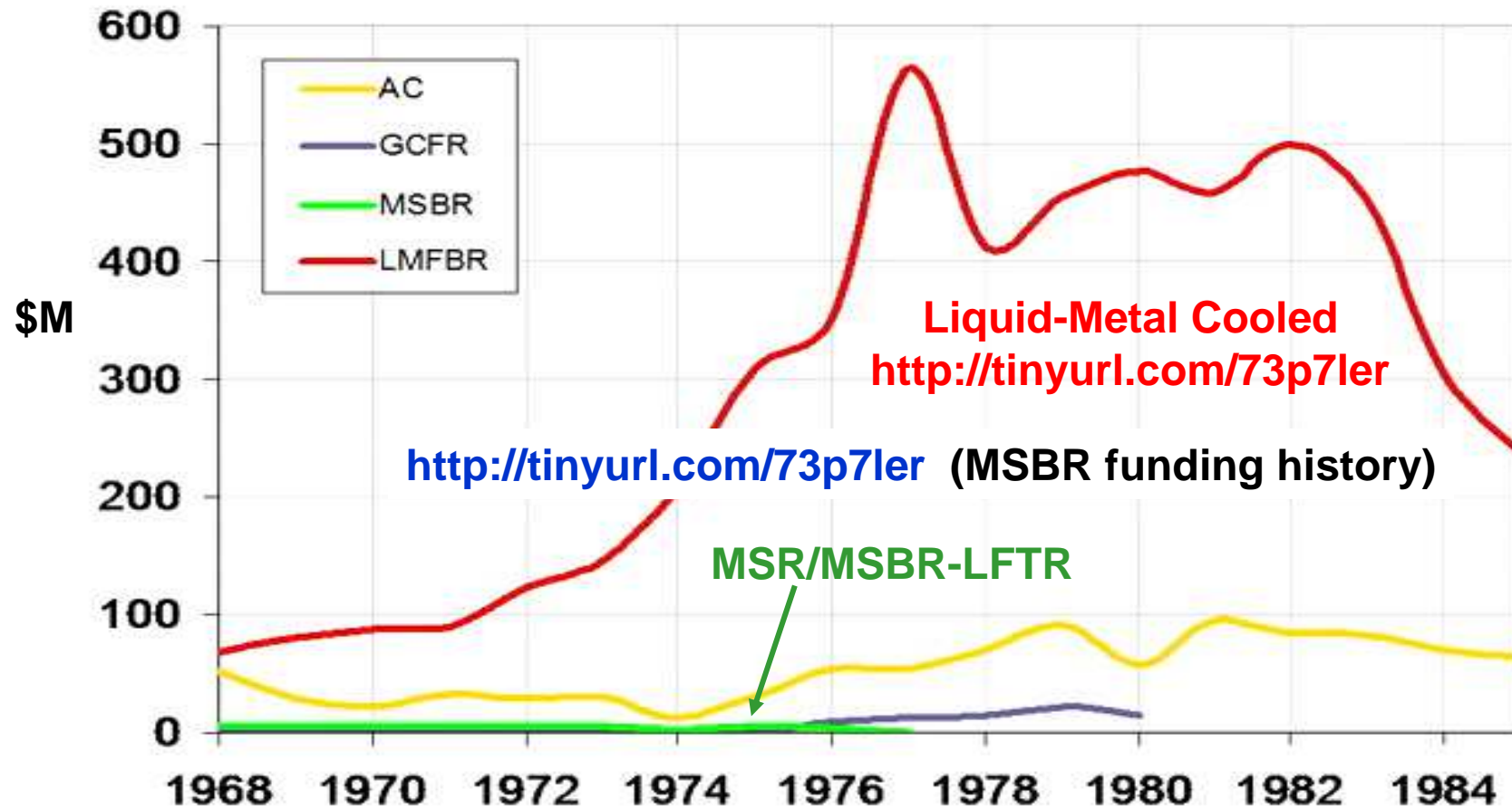
- Operated from June 1965 to December 1969
- 8MW Thermal Power
- Started with 227kg  $^{235/238}\text{Uranium}$
- In 1968, Fuel Changed to  $^{233/235}\text{Uranium}$  &  $^{239}\text{Plutonium}$
- Salts: Lithium, Beryllium, Zirconium & Fuel Fluorides



# Funding History

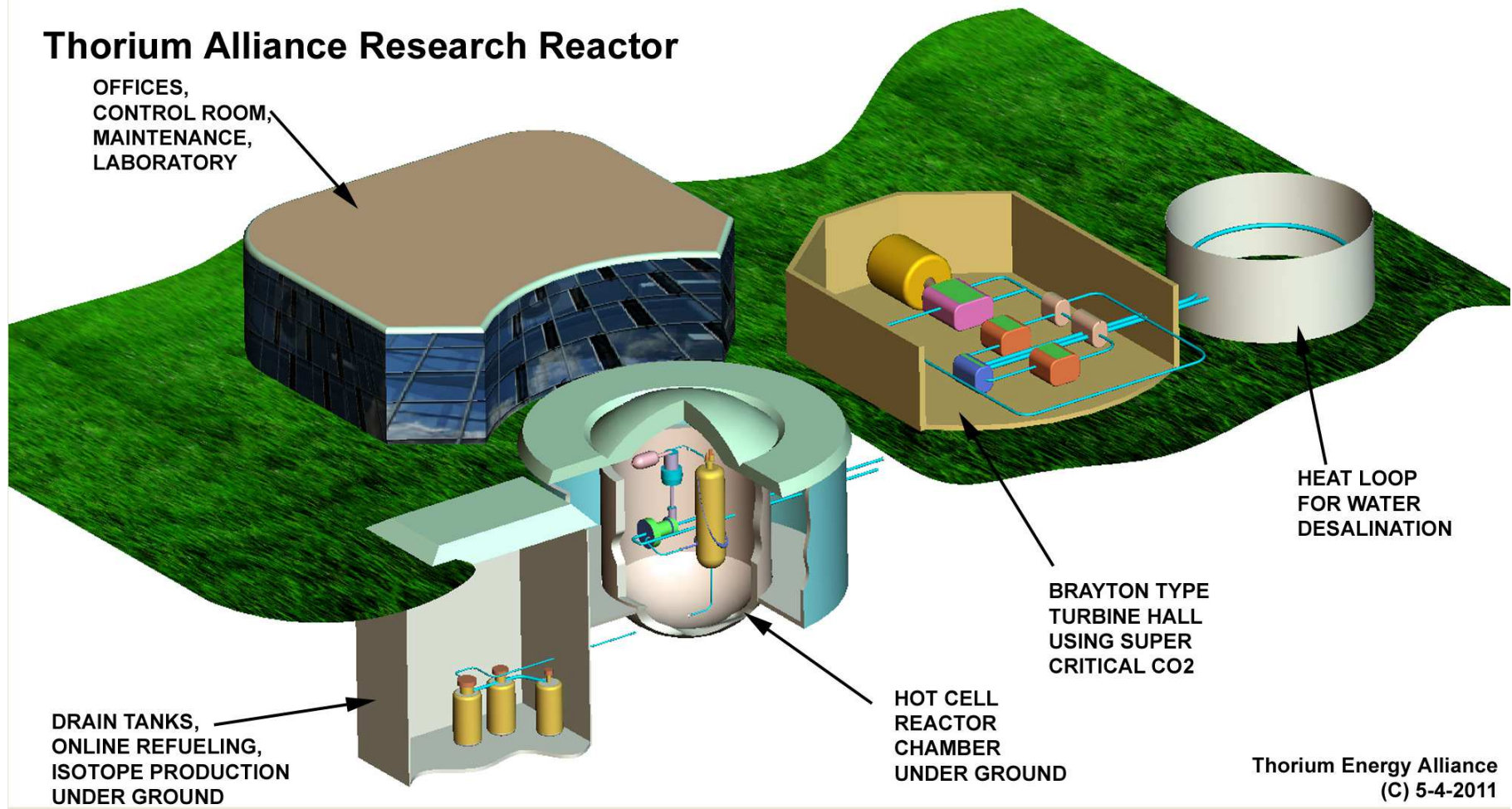


## Breeder Reactor Funding (1968-85)



# Molten-Salt Reactors

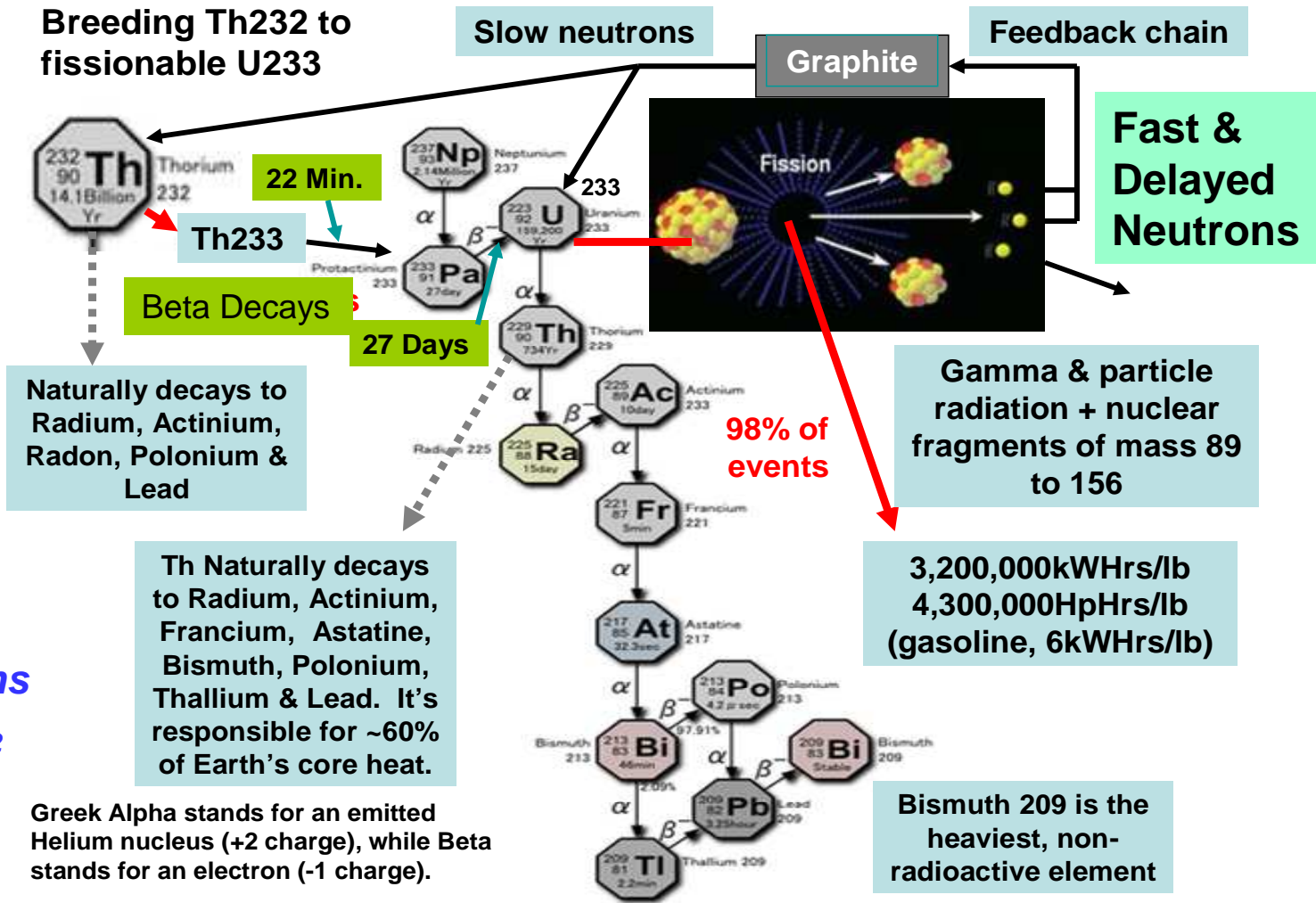
## Thorium Alliance Research Reactor



# Thorium-<sup>233</sup>U Based Fission

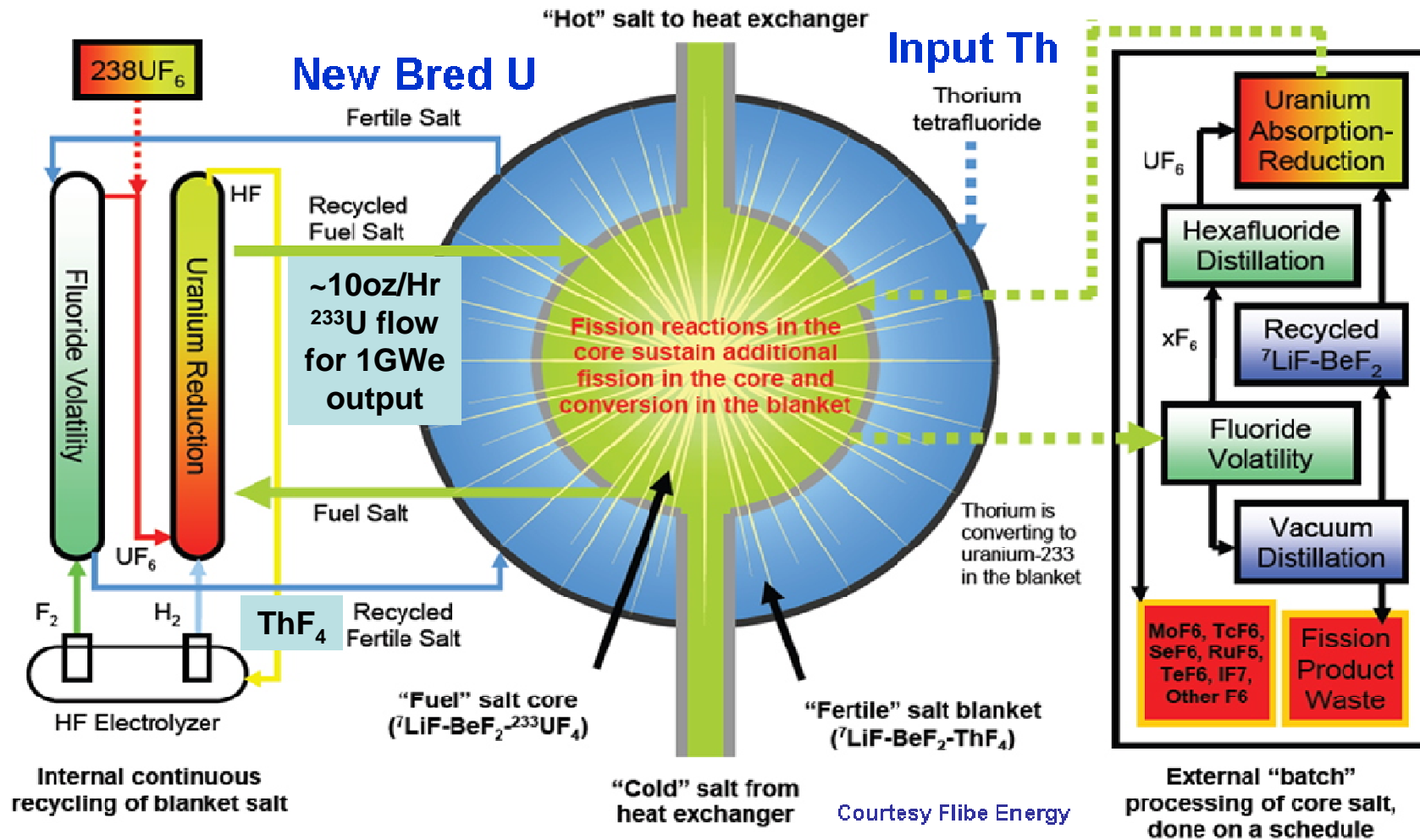
Abundant,  
Cheap, low  
radioactivity

Alternatively,  
accelerator-  
injected neutrons  
can breed  $\text{Th}_{232}$   
to  $\text{U}_{233}$



Greek Alpha stands for an emitted Helium nucleus (+2 charge), while Beta stands for an electron (-1 charge).

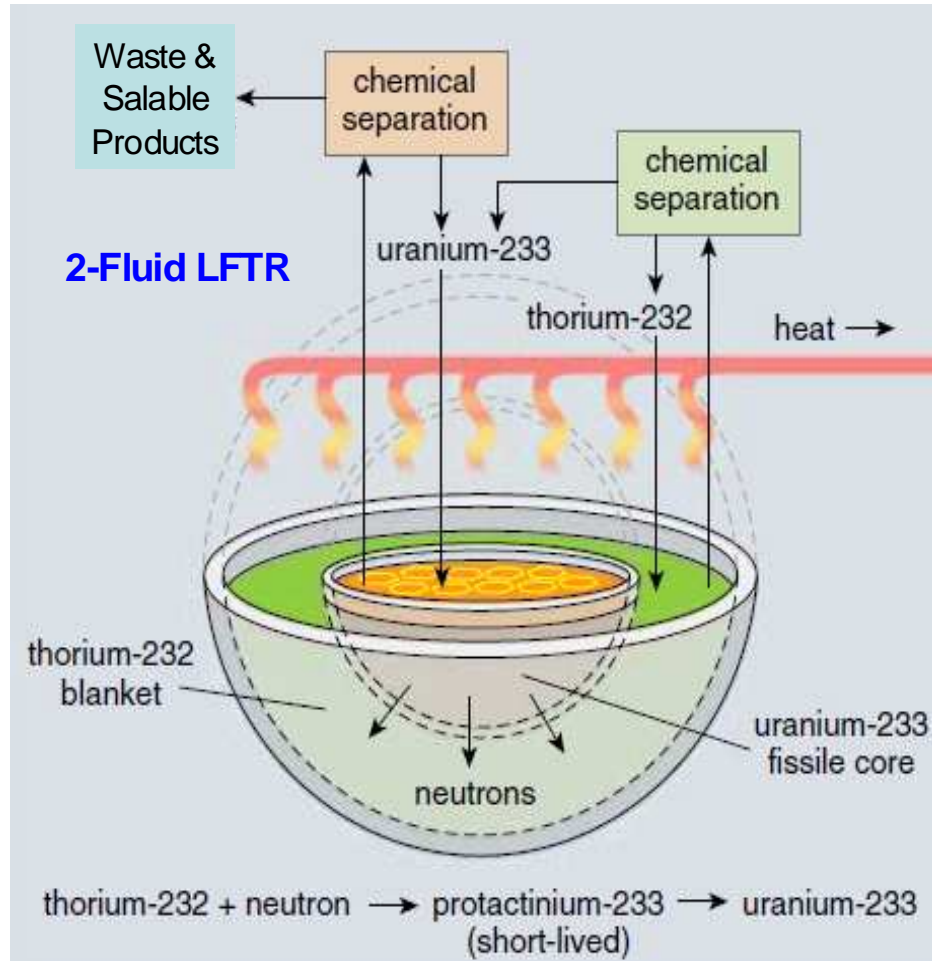
# Thorium Molten-Salt Reactor (LFTR)



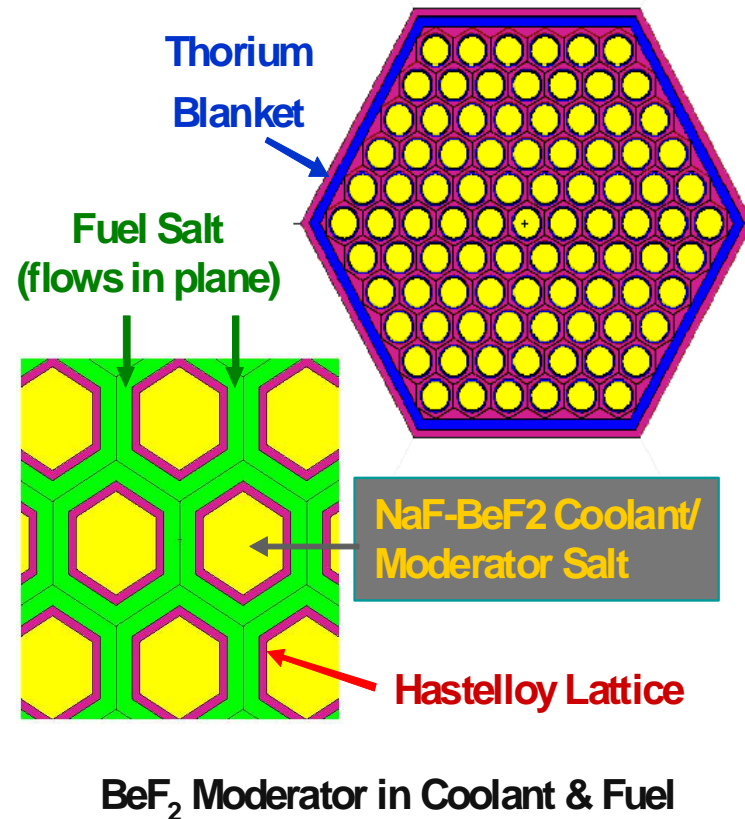
Thorium is 4x as abundant as Uranium & nearly free ‘waste’ product of rare-earth mining. Inside the reactor it breeds  $^{233}\text{U}$  Uranium, which fissions easily, with low waste & valuable products.

# LFR Architectures

## 2-Fluid Pool & Solid Core Moderator



## 2-Fluid Lattice & Thorium Blanket



Courtesy Thorenco

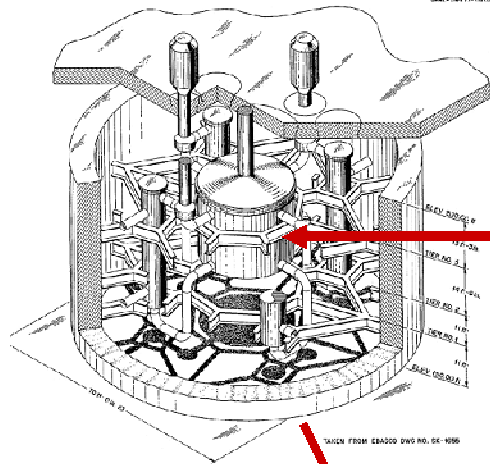
# Using MSR/LFTR Modules

## From Coal/Gas/Uranium to Thorium

**Molten-Salt Reactor**  
<http://tinyurl.com/ye6leml>

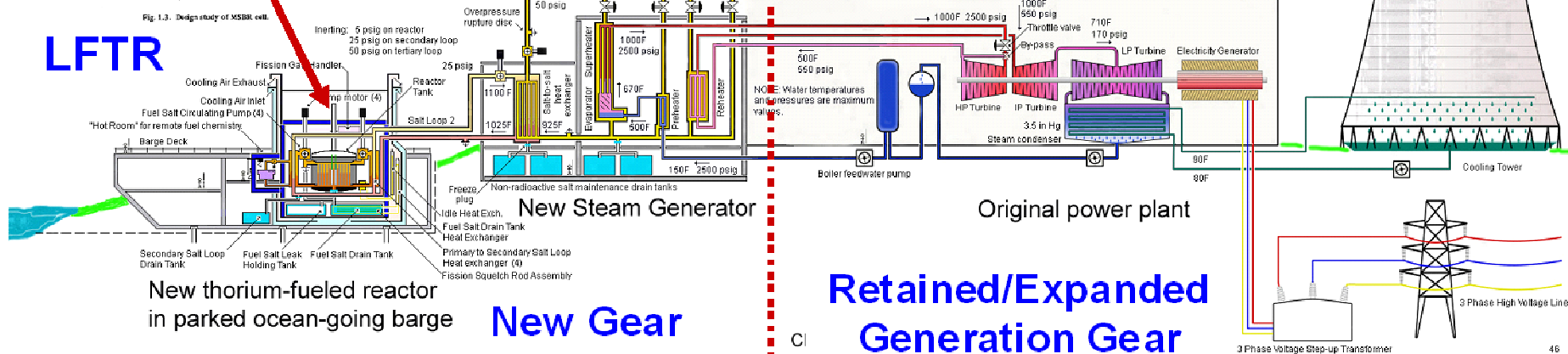
[www.CoalToNuclear.com](http://www.CoalToNuclear.com)

**Coal/Gas/Reactor Boiler & Smokestack Gone**

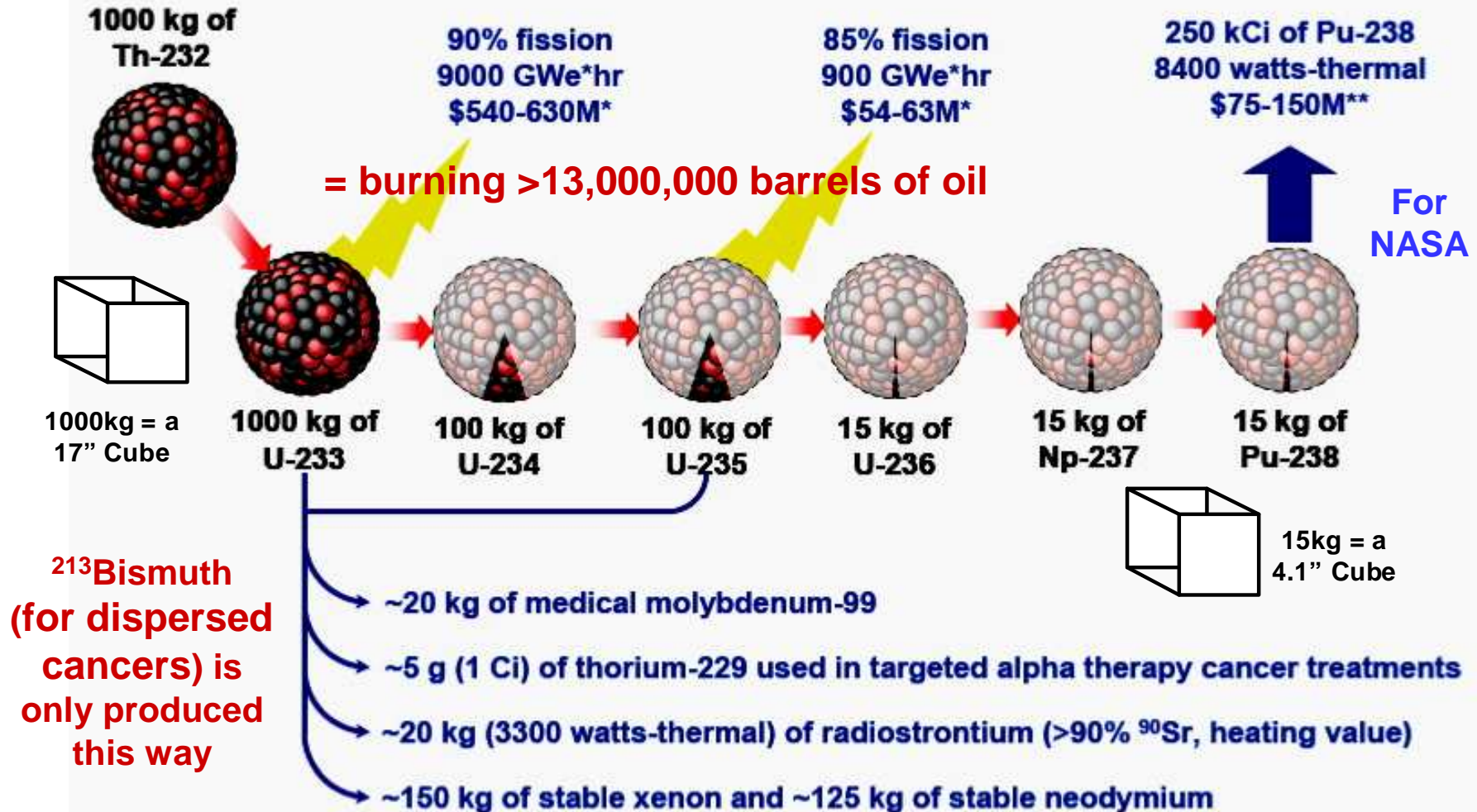


**LFTR**

Fig. 1.3. Design study of MSR core.



# Electricity and Isotope Production from LFTR



Courtesy Flibe Energy

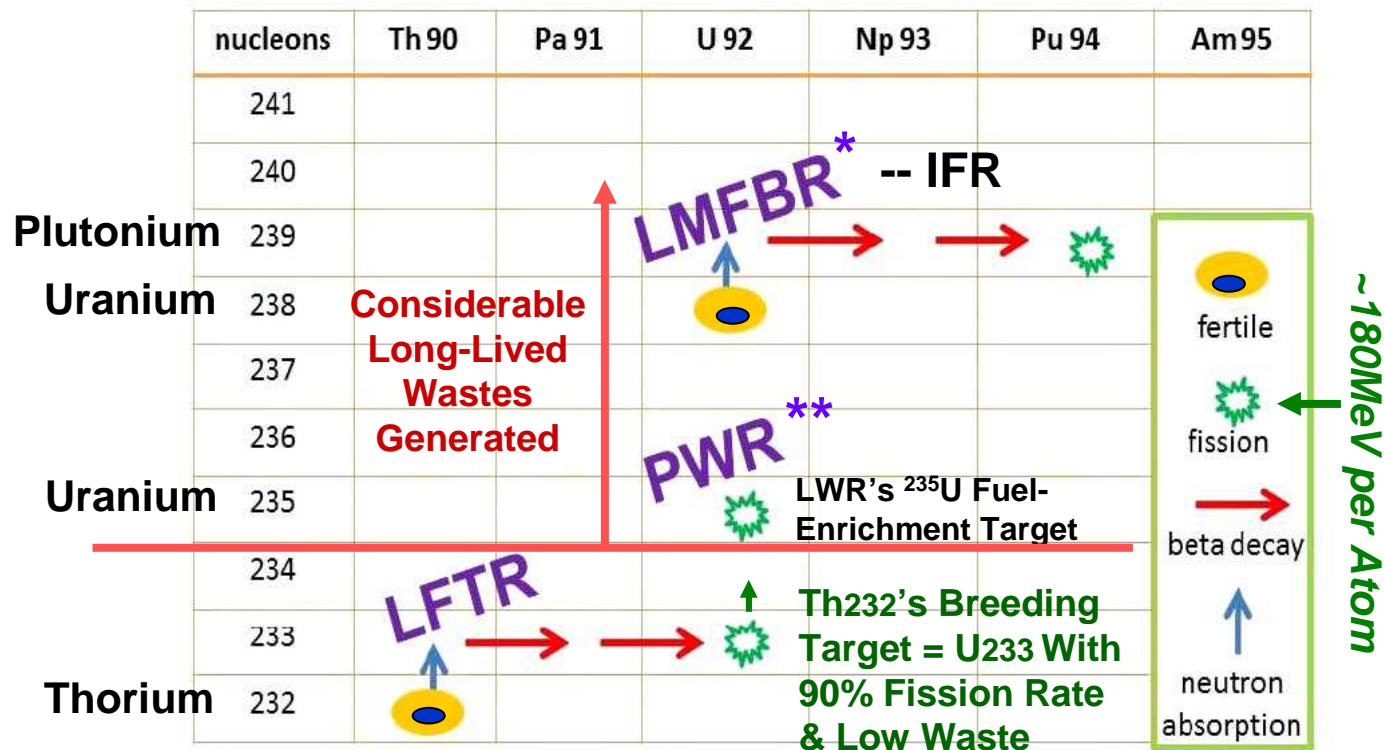


← **1/2 Oz. Thorium runs 1 American's life for 1 decade**



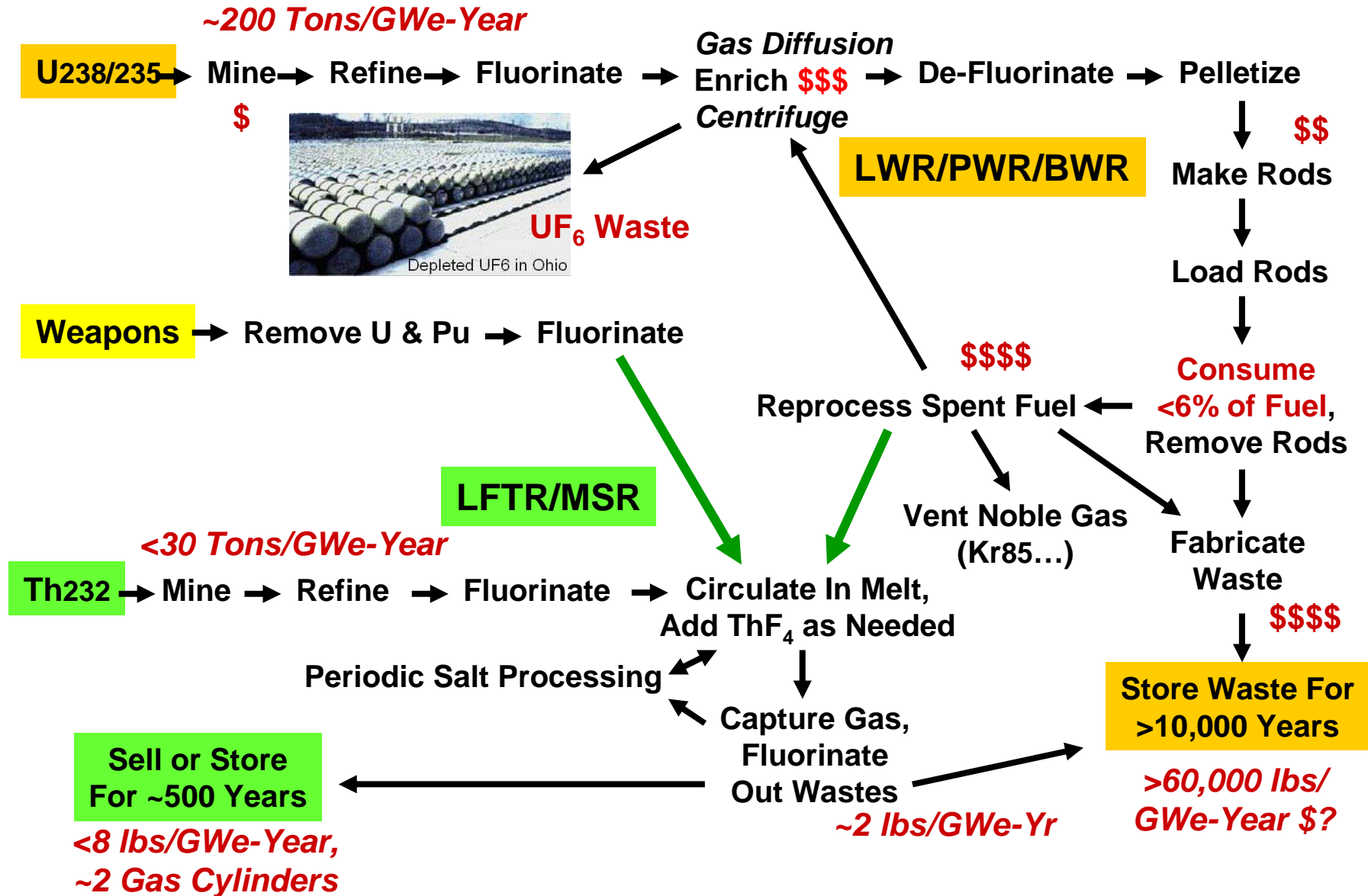
# The Thorium Solution

Two breeding technologies provide  $10^2$  X more energy than 0.7% U-235.



\* Liquid-Metal Fast Breeder Reactor , \*\* Pressurized-Water Reactor (an LWR)

# Thorium MSR & Uranium LWR Cycles



# $^{235}/^{238}$ Uranium Reactor Wastes (*notes*)

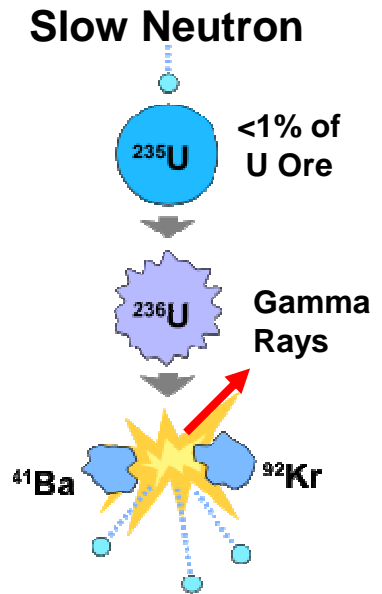
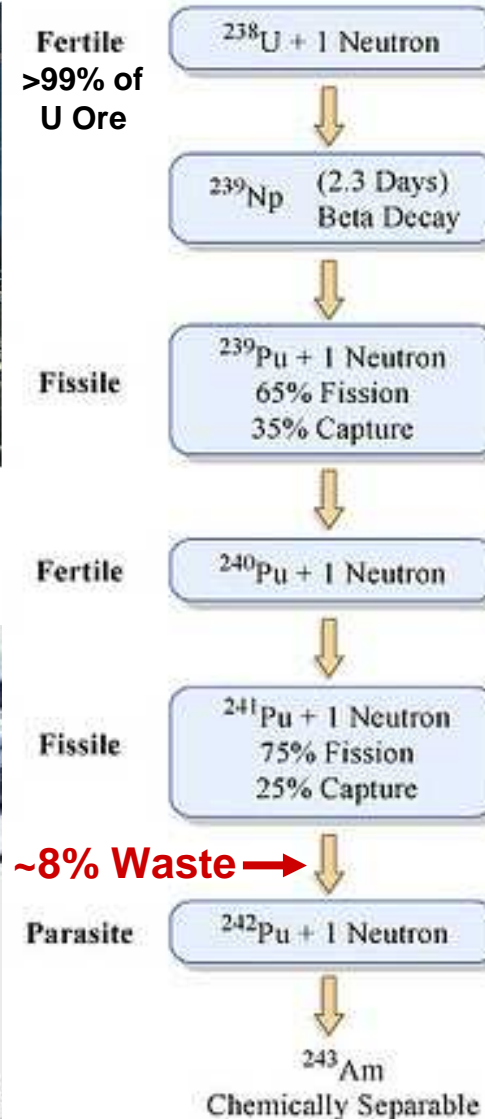


Indian Point NY (~2GWe)

Enrichment Waste, U<sup>235</sup>-Depleted Below Ore



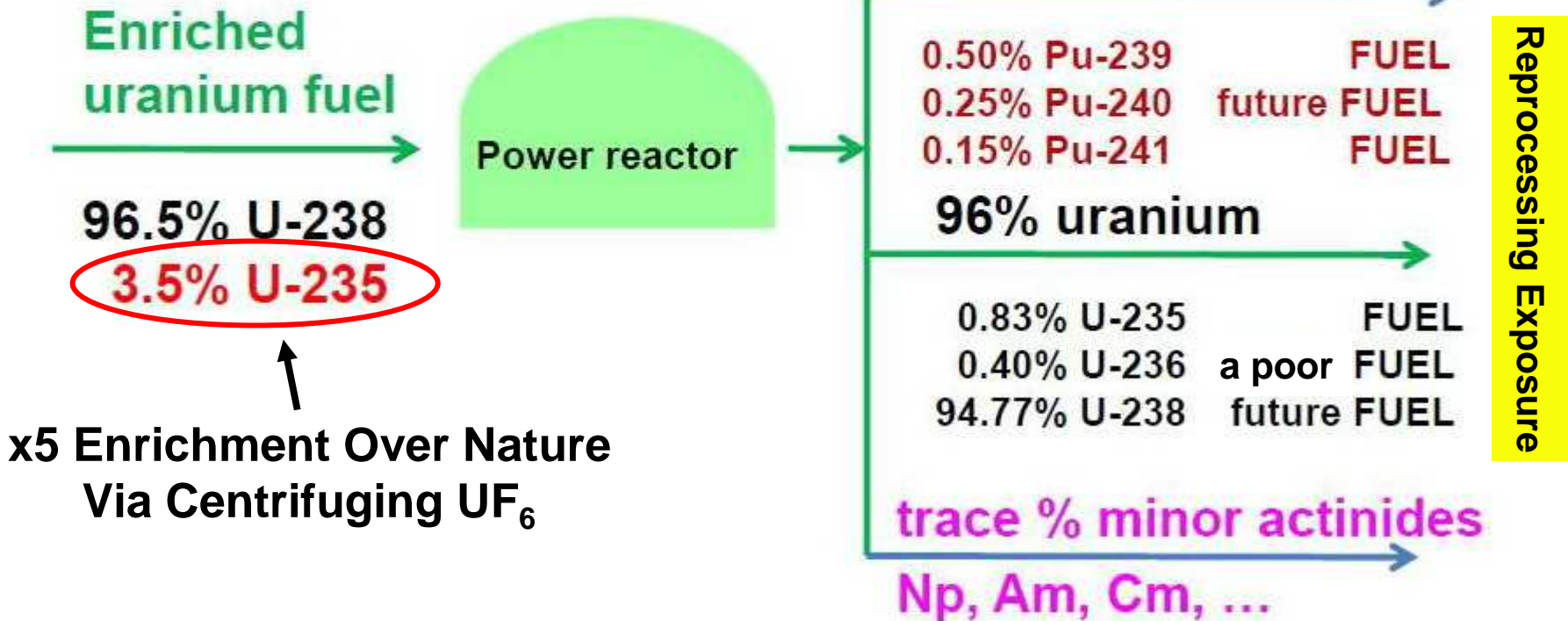
Depleted UF<sub>6</sub> in Ohio



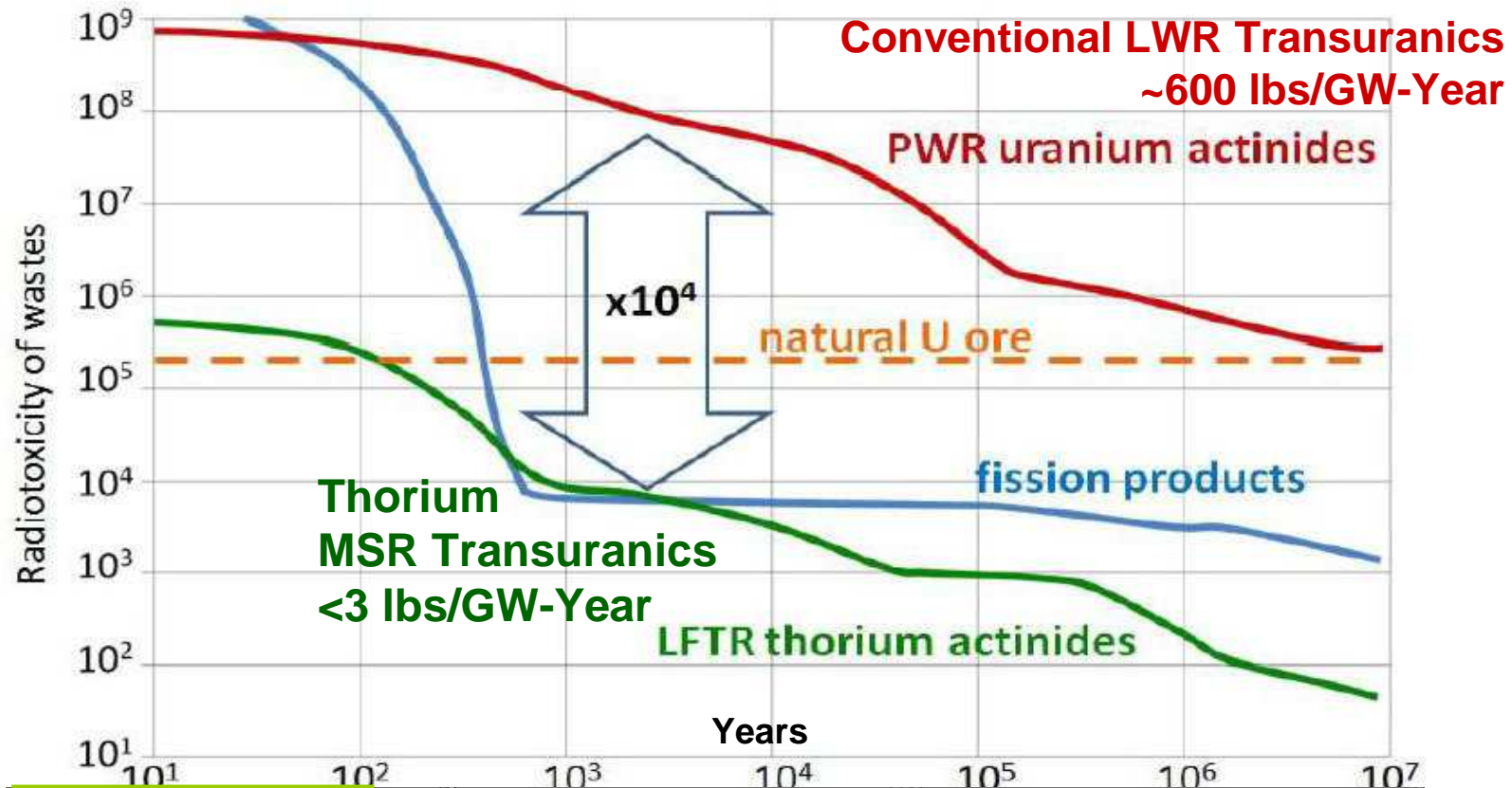
1-4 Neutrons + pairs of ~20 other possible Fission fragments like: Rb, Cs, Sr, Xe... Plus ~200MeV or ~176 years of an American's energy use, per kilogram of U<sup>235</sup>.

# Waste Comparisons

**Conventional (LWR):  
~30 Tons/GW-Year of Fission  
Products, Uranium, Transuranics  
& Associated Reactor Materials**

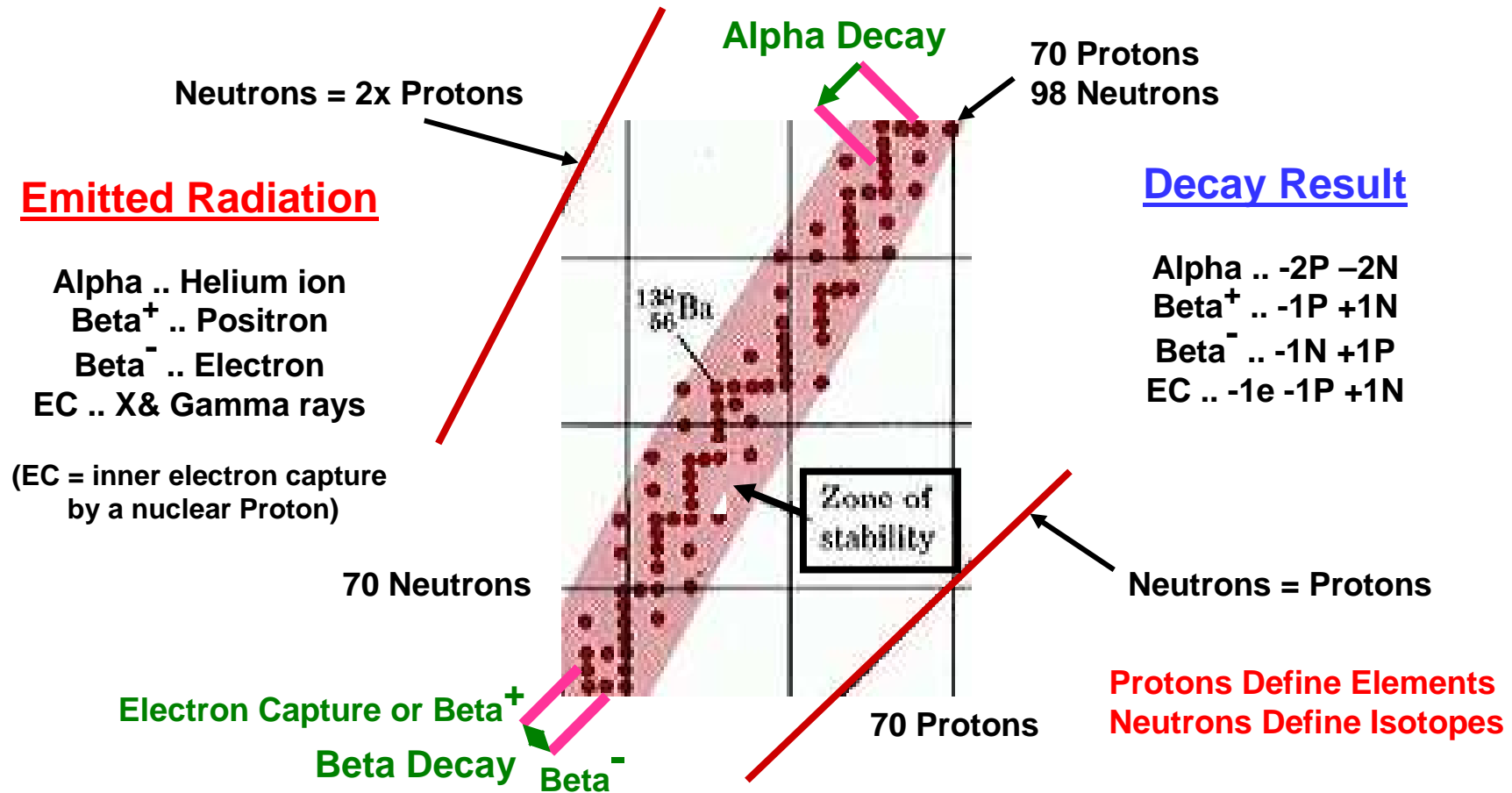


# Waste Comparisons



For 30 years total:	FUJI-U3 (1GWe)	Relative to 1GWe BWR
Fissile requirement	7.8 t (reusable)	Japanese Example 32%
Pu production	4 kg	0.1%
MA (Np/Am/Cm) production	23 kg	4 %

# Alpha & Beta Decay Detail



Note 1: Illustrated decays would only occur outside the Zone of Stability, or for isotopes not indicated by red dots, e.g., <sup>139</sup>Ba.

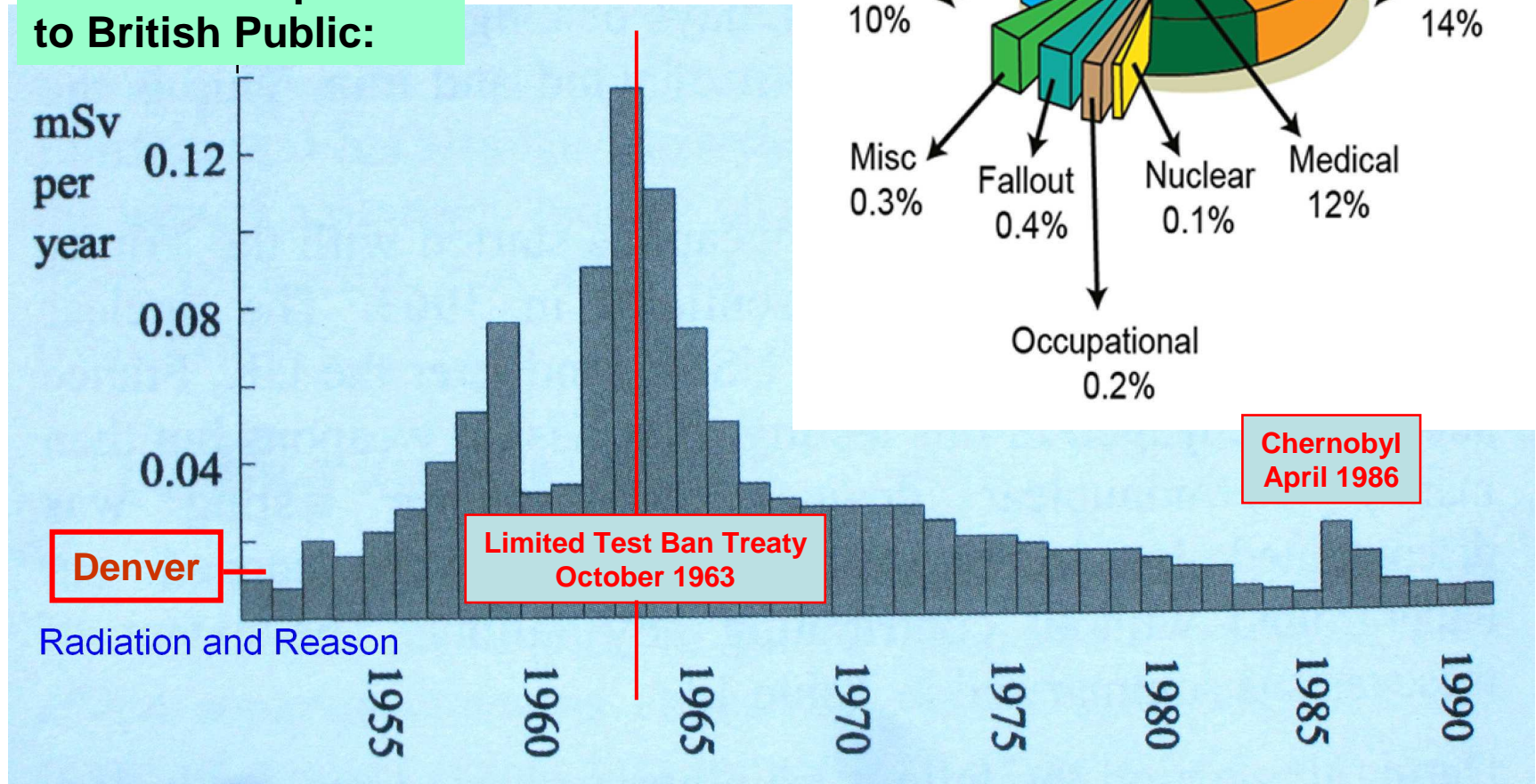
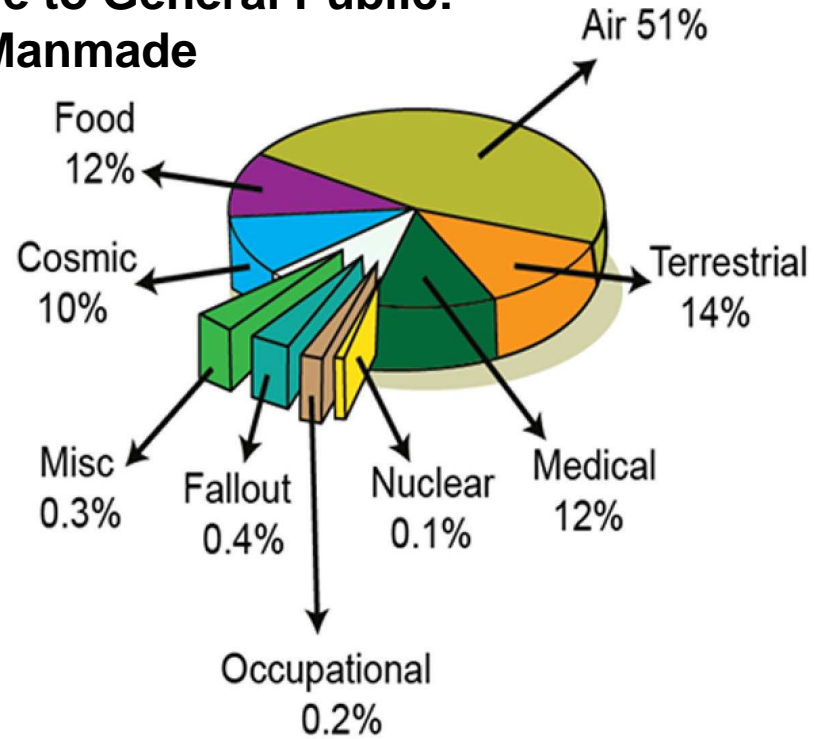
Note 2: Decays are accompanied by Gamma or X radiation at some energies reflecting needed nucleon reshufflings.

# Relative Radiation Dangers

**0.2Sv**  
**0.5 BED**

**Radiation Exposure to General Public:  
87% Nature, 13% Manmade**

**Radiation Exposure to British Public:**



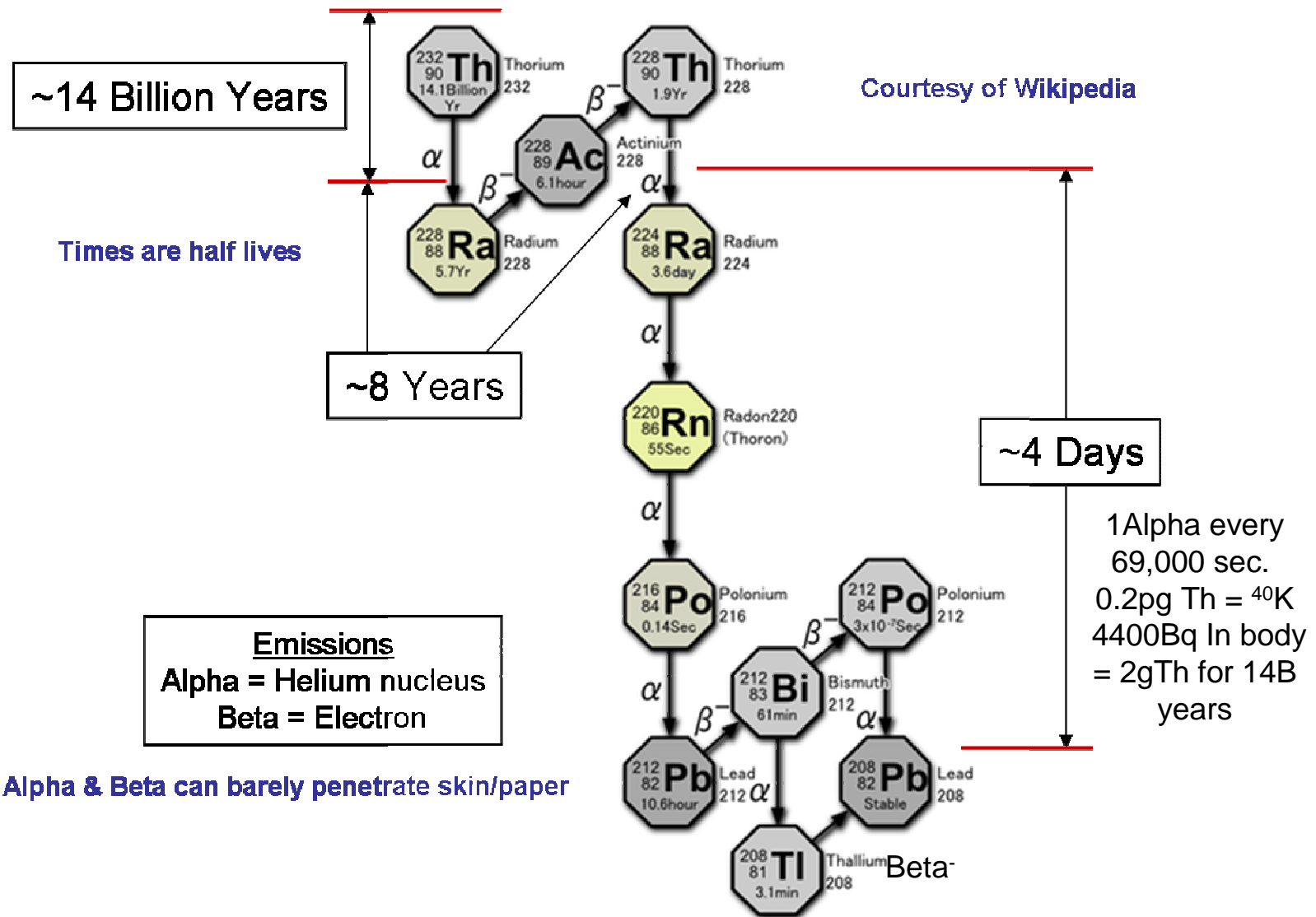
**Denver**

**Limited Test Ban Treaty  
October 1963**

**Chernobyl  
April 1986**

Radiation and Reason

# Thorium's Radiation Exposure (*notes*)





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***Your Body and Radiation***, N. Frigerio, AEC #67-60927, 1967.