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# Continuous Improvement in a Field Frozen by Regulation

**Accelerator-Driven Molten Salt Subcritical System  
(non-reactor) to ease Regulatory Burdens and  
“Improve Constantly and Forever”**









# SUMMARY - Mu\*STAR Nuclear Power Plants

## Clean Nuclear Energy - Converting SNF to Energy

Flexible Regulatory Approach Possible -> Improve Continuously and Forever  
Subcritical - No Criticality Accidents  
Accidental Radioactive Releases Mitigated by Online Fission Product Removal  
Uranium and Plutonium consumed in reactor -> Cleaner Final Waste Disposal  
Decouples nuclear energy from nuclear weapons  
No Uranium enrichment  
No dedicated reprocessing facility with plutonium stream  
No weapons proliferation risks -> bomb materials consumed in reactor  
Inexpensive Nuclear Energy -> High burnup of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF)  
Online neutron poison removal improves efficiency  
Consumes waste from other reactors - SNF becomes a valuable commodity

Thanks! Any Questions or Comments?



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Muons, Inc. has over 20 years of R&D experience developing particle accelerators and related technology, having been awarded and delivered over 32M USD in private and government contracts in partnership with 11 National Labs and 9 Universities. Founded by scientists from National Labs.



# Nuclear Now!

- No Greenhouse gas emission during operation
- Safest form of Electricity Generation
- Highest Energy Density / Low Footprint
- Lowest amount of waste

## CHALLENGES:

- What to do with the SNF (Spent Nuclear Fuel)?
- Designs Frozen By Regulation = Innovation Gap>\*
- Uranium Enrichment and Weapons Proliferation

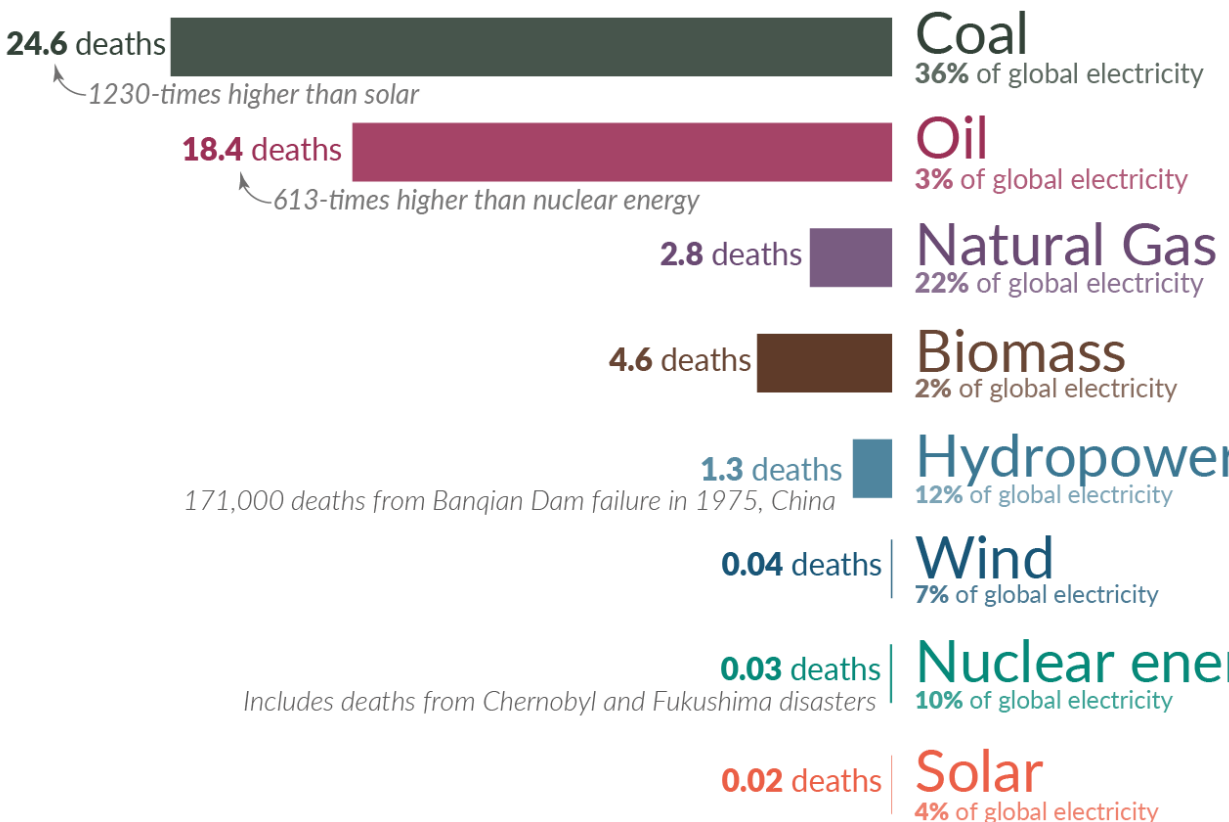


# What are the **safest** and **cleanest** sources of energy?



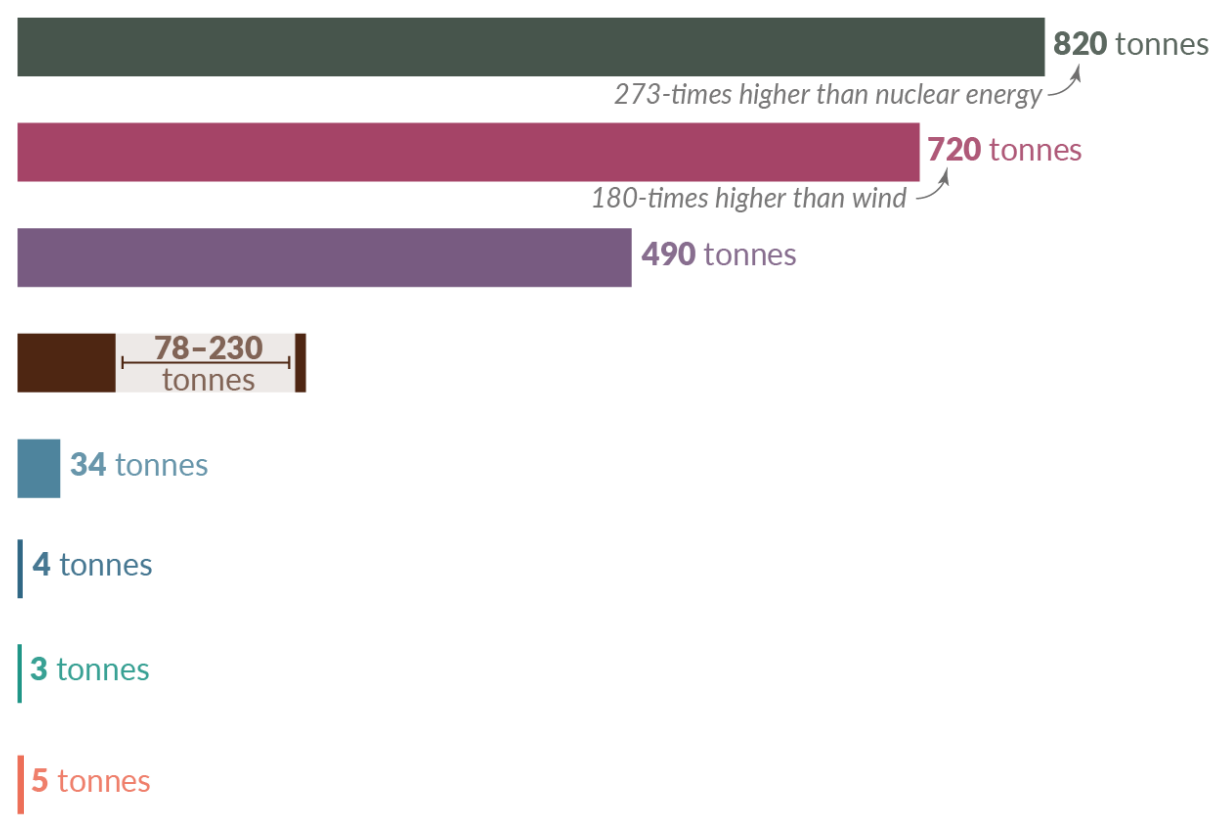
## Death rate from accidents and air pollution

Measured as deaths per terawatt-hour of electricity production.  
1 terawatt-hour is the annual electricity consumption of 150,000 people in the EU.



## Greenhouse gas emissions

Measured in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents per gigawatt-hour of electricity over the lifecycle of the power plant.  
1 gigawatt-hour is the annual electricity consumption of 150 people in the EU.



Death rates from fossil fuels and biomass are based on state-of-the art plants with pollution controls in Europe, and are based on older models of the impacts of air pollution on health. This means these death rates are likely to be very conservative. For further discussion, see our article: [OurWorldinData.org/safest-sources-of-energy](https://OurWorldinData.org/safest-sources-of-energy). Electricity shares are given for 2021. Data sources: Markandya & Wilkinson (2007); UNSCEAR (2008; 2018); Sovacool et al. (2016); IPCC AR5 (2014); Pehl et al. (2017); Ember Energy (2021).  
OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world’s largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser.







# Nuclear Improvements Frozen by Regulations

The Nuclear Energy Industry is hobbled by Regulatory Demands to prevent:

- **Criticality Accidents** (like Chernobyl)
- **Accidental Release of Radioactive Isotopes** (like Chernobyl, 3-Mile Island, Fukushima)

**These challenges can be overcome with an ACCELERATOR-DRIVEN SUBCRITICAL DESIGN and MOLTEN SALT FUEL with continuous removal of volatile radioactive isotopes.**

CFR10: a nuclear reactor is defined as "any apparatus or device in which a nuclear chain reaction can be sustained and controlled in a self-supporting or neutron multiplying medium, and which is designed or used to produce heat, power, or any other form of radiation."

CFR10 Part 50, Appendix A: nuclear power plants must limit the release of radioactive materials into the environment following an accident. The limit for the release of iodine-131 is 5 curies per day. The limit for the release of cesium-137 is 15 curies per day.



# Nuclear Improvements Frozen by Regulations

- Decades required to certify reactor designs and components.
- Defense-in-depth approach.
- Regulatory process time consuming and expensive (~\$1B for Nuscale).
- Designs cast in concrete.
- Operation limited to same procedures for the following 6-8 decades.





## Mu\*STAR Nuclear Power Plants

### Clean Nuclear Energy - Converting Waste SNF to Energy

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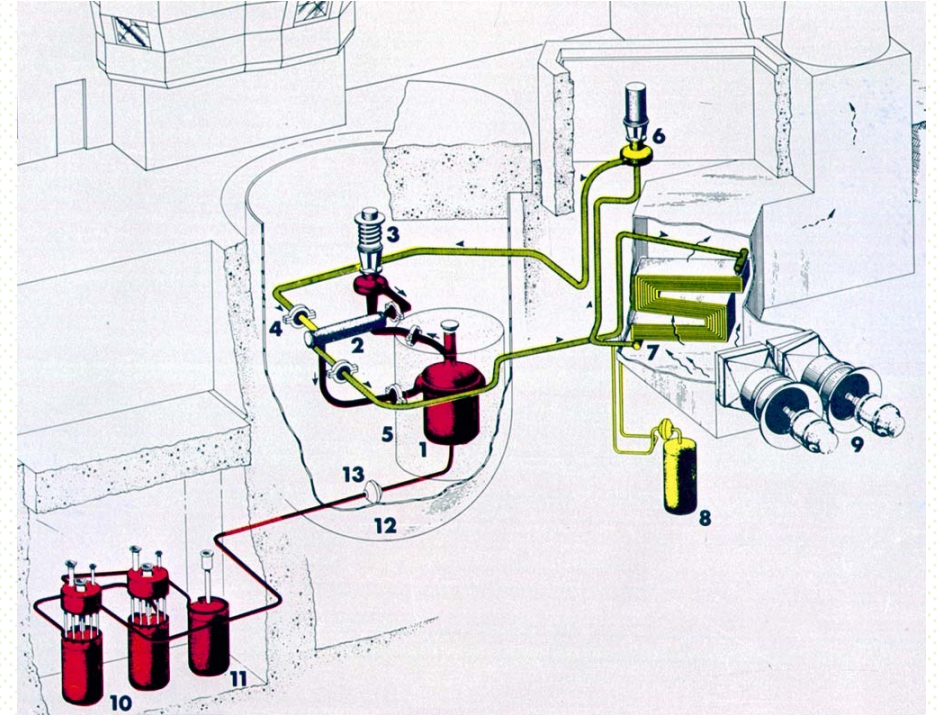


# Overcoming challenges using proven US National Lab Innovations

Our Solution to overcoming the two constraints come from one new and one old development at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Superconducting Linac of the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) which has the power to drive multiple subcritical Small Modular Reactors (operated from 2010 to now)



ORNL SNS (2010-...)

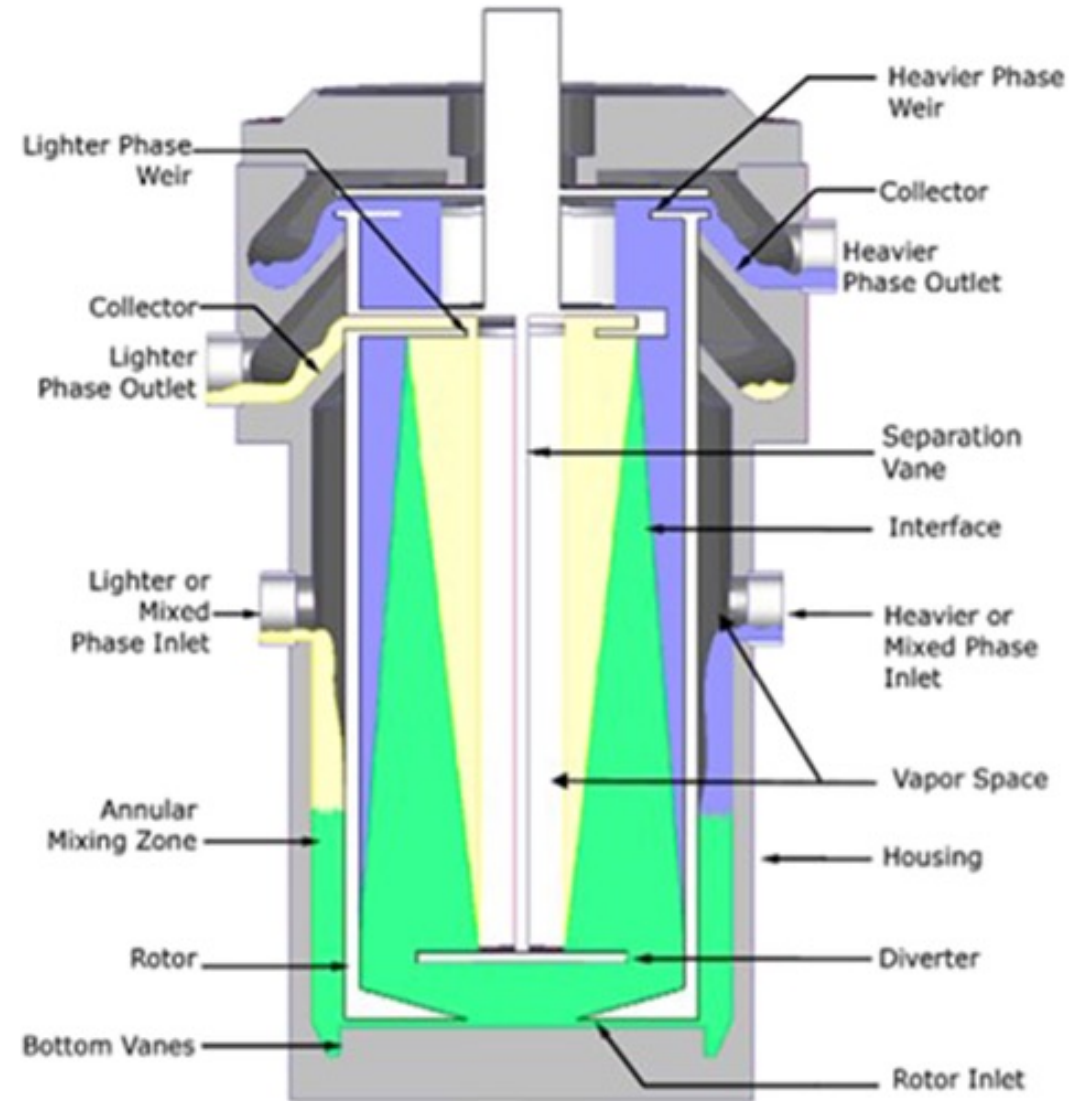
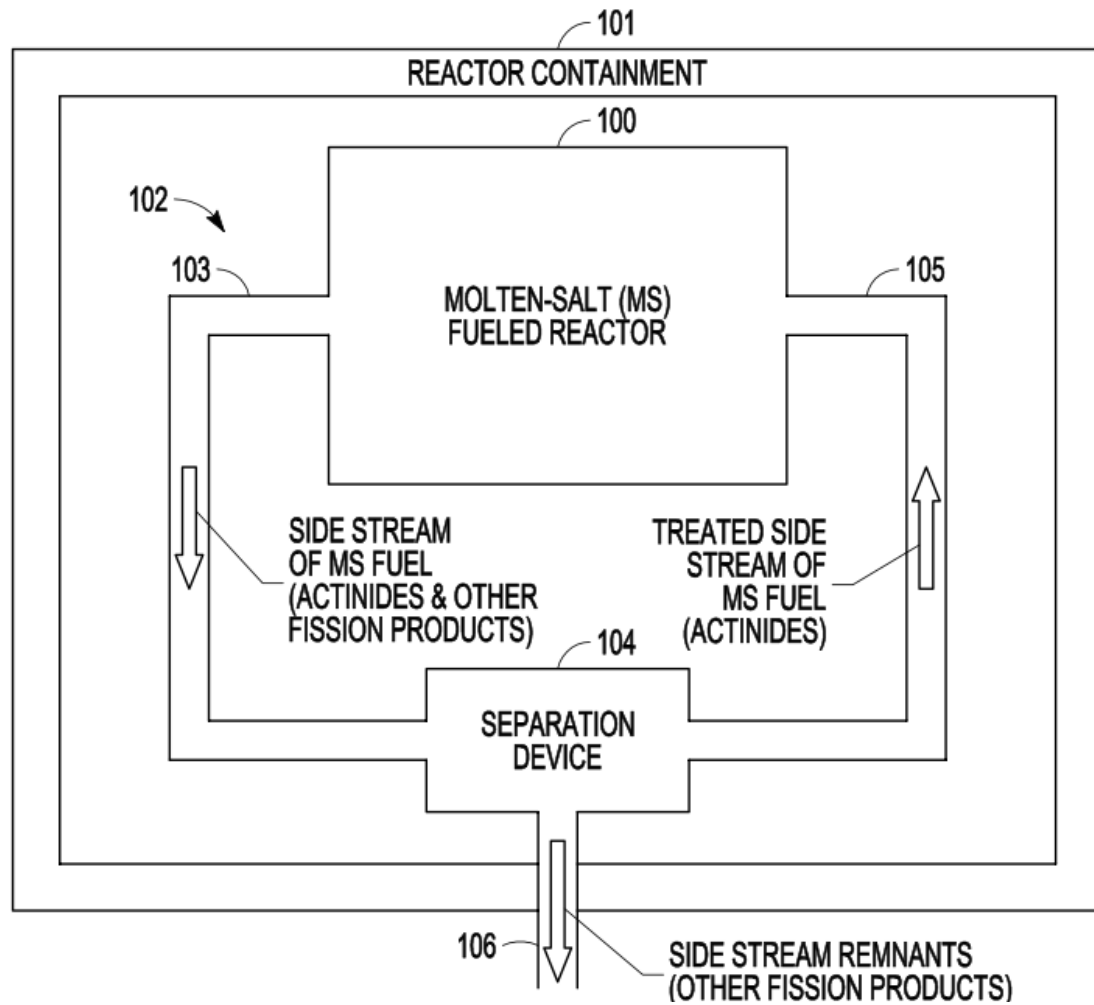


ORNL MSRE (1965-1970) Diagram

The Molten Salt Reactor Experiment (MSRE) (operated from 1965 to 1970) which demonstrated how we can continuously remove fission products from an operating reactor.



# Improvement for Removing Neutron Poisons / PUREX inspired





# Business Drivers

## Profitably Solving Legacy LWR SNF Waste Challenge

**0.002x**

**Radiotoxic  
lifetime**

Reduction in radiotoxic lifetime of nuclear waste from 130,000 years to 270 years. Reduces need for geological disposal

**\$3 TUSD**

**Waste to  
Asset**

The current unwanted 80kT of nuclear waste in the US alone can be used to produce carbon-free electrical energy worth Trillions of dollars.

**\$12.70**

**Carbon  
Credits**

From voluntary and legislated carbon credits for Carbon free generated Energy. \$/ton of CO2

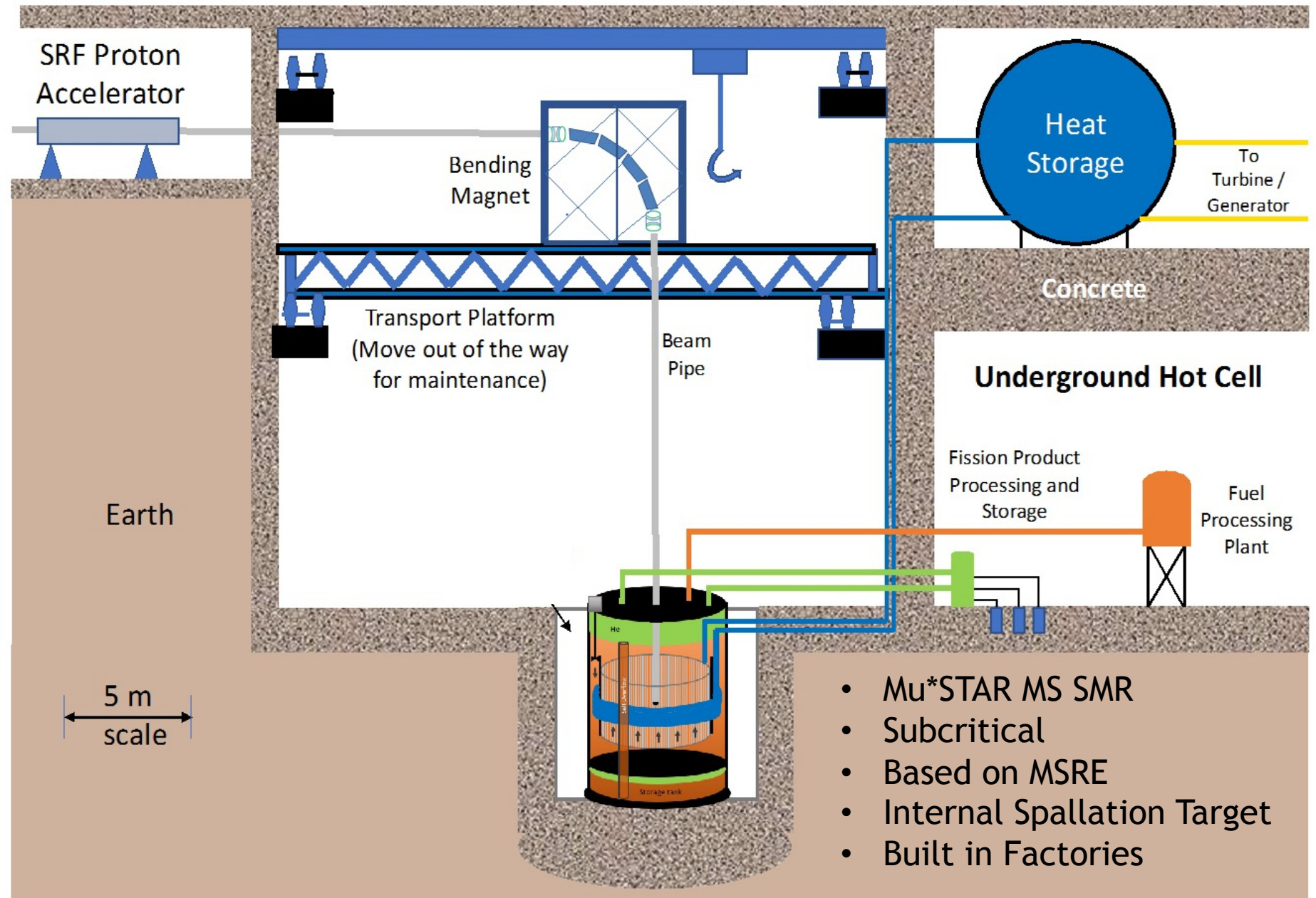




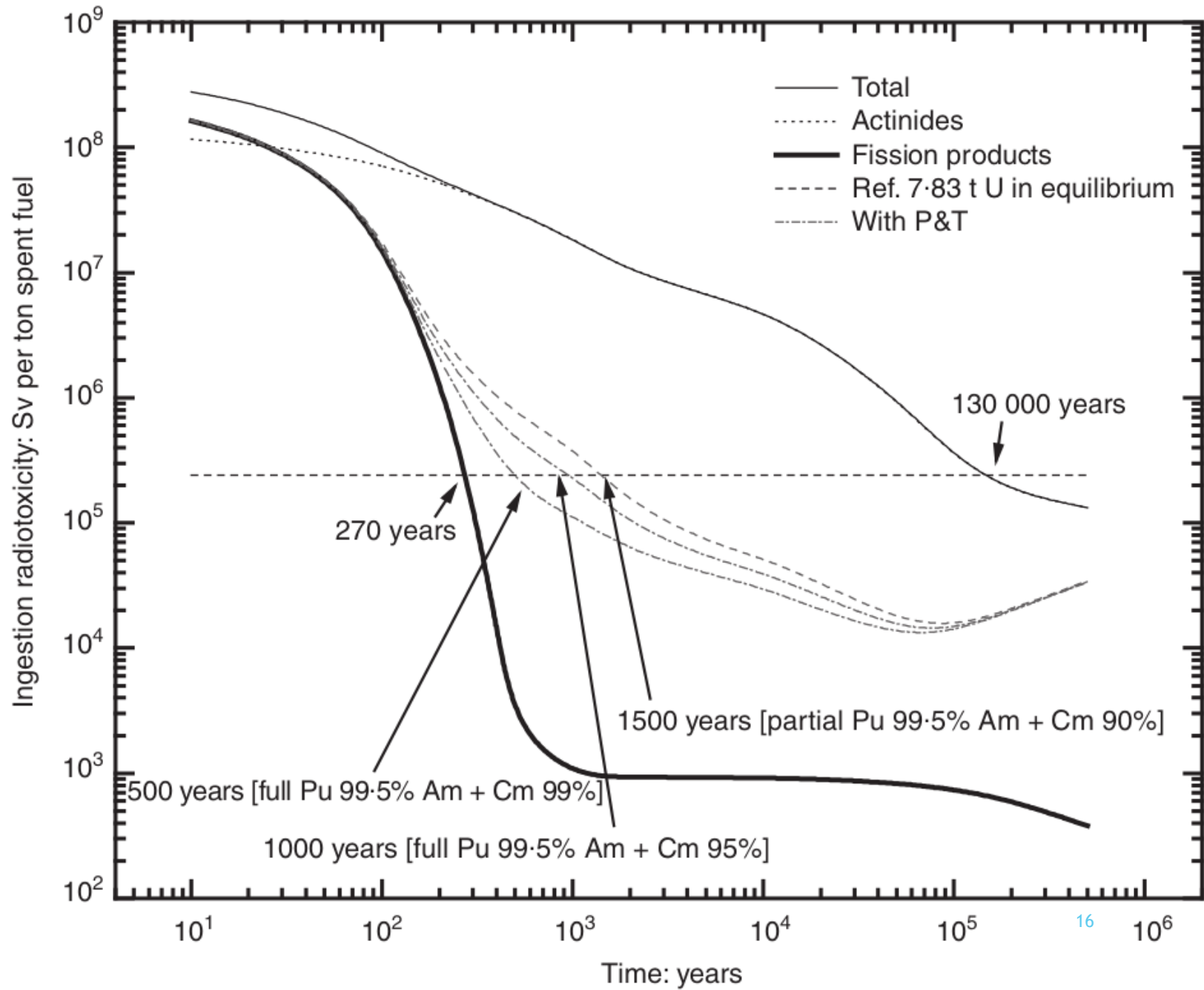


### Underground Build:

- MS fuel prep
- FP Removal
- FP Storage
- MS Heat Storage
  - Decay Heat
  - Downtimes
- SRF Linac
- Mu\*STAR SMR



- Mu\*STAR MS SMR
- Subcritical
- Based on MSRE
- Internal Spallation Target
- Built in Factories



I	1																	2
	<b>H</b>																	<b>He</b>
II	3	4											5	6	7	8	9	10
	<b>Li</b>	<b>Be</b>											<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Ne</b>
III	11	12											13	14	15	16	17	18
	<b>Na</b>	<b>Mg</b>											<b>Al</b>	<b>Si</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Cl</b>	<b>Ar</b>
IV	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
	<b>K</b>	<b>Ca</b>	<b>Sc</b>	<b>Ti</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>Mn</b>	<b>Fe</b>	<b>Co</b>	<b>Ni</b>	<b>Cu</b>	<b>Zn</b>	<b>Ga</b>	<b>Ge</b>	<b>As</b>	<b>Se</b>	<b>Br</b>	<b>Kr</b>
V	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
	<b>Rb</b>	<b>Sr</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Zr</b>	<b>Nb</b>	<b>Mo</b>	<b>Tc</b>	<b>Ru</b>	<b>Rh</b>	<b>Pd</b>	<b>Ag</b>	<b>Cd</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Sn</b>	<b>Sb</b>	<b>Te</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Xe</b>
VI	55	56	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
	<b>Cs</b>	<b>Ba</b>	<b>Lu</b>	<b>Hf</b>	<b>Ta</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Re</b>	<b>Os</b>	<b>Ir</b>	<b>Pt</b>	<b>Au</b>	<b>Hg</b>	<b>Tl</b>	<b>Pb</b>	<b>Bi</b>	<b>Po</b>	<b>At</b>	<b>Rn</b>
VII	87	88	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
	<b>Fr</b>	<b>Ra</b>	<b>Lr</b>	<b>Rf</b>	<b>Db</b>	<b>Sg</b>	<b>Bh</b>	<b>Hs</b>	<b>Mt</b>	<b>Ds</b>	<b>Rg</b>	<b>Cn</b>	<b>Nh</b>	<b>Fl</b>	<b>Mc</b>	<b>Lv</b>	<b>Ts</b>	<b>Og</b>
La			57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70		
			<b>La</b>	<b>Ce</b>	<b>Pr</b>	<b>Nd</b>	<b>Pm</b>	<b>Sm</b>	<b>Eu</b>	<b>Gd</b>	<b>Tb</b>	<b>Dy</b>	<b>Ho</b>	<b>Er</b>	<b>Tm</b>	<b>Yb</b>		
Ac			89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102		
			<b>Ac</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Pa</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Np</b>	<b>Pu</b>	<b>Am</b>	<b>Cm</b>	<b>Bk</b>	<b>Cf</b>	<b>Es</b>	<b>Fm</b>	<b>Md</b>	<b>No</b>		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18



# Highest Energy Density

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Energy Density MJ/m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Electrical Energy Density kWh/m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Conv. Effic.</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Natural uranium (Fast)	150,000,000,000	12,500,000,000	30%	Fast reactors
Natural uranium LWR	950,000,000	80,000,000	30%	Thermal
Black coal	24,000	2,300	35%	-
Brown coal	15,000	1,000	25%	-
Dry wood	10,000	970	35%	Biomass
Natural gas	38	5	45%	CCGT

*Energy density is expressed in megajoules (MJ) per cubic meter (m<sup>3</sup>). There is always some loss in converting the stored energy to electrical energy, so the table shows the typical conversion efficiency and the electrical energy recovered per cubic metre of fuel.*