

Contents

Nuclear Power Generation – Past, Present and Future	1
<i>John Walls</i>	
1 Introduction	2
2 Origins of Nuclear Power: The Nuclear Weapons Programme	2
3 Expansion of Nuclear Power	7
4 A Period of Decline	12
5 A Nuclear Renaissance? Possibilities and Challenges	15
5.1 Uranium: A Sustainable Energy Source?	20
5.2 Nuclear Power Economics	22
5.3 Shortages in Skilled Labour and Materials	25
5.4 Nuclear Safety	26
5.5 Nuclear Waste Disposal and Decommissioning Nuclear Plants	28
5.6 Proliferation Risks	31
6 Conclusions	33
References	34
Nuclear Fuel Cycles: Interfaces with the Environment	40
<i>Clint A. Sharrad, Laurence M. Harwood and Francis R. Livens</i>	
1 Nuclear Fission as an Energy Resource	40
2 Nuclear Fuel	41
2.1 Uranium Mining	41
2.2 Uranium Fuel Production and Use	42
2.3 Modern Civil Reactor Fuels	43
2.3.1 Plutonium	43
2.4 Irradiation of Nuclear Fuel	44

2.5	Alternative Fuels	44
2.5.1	Uranium/Plutonium Fast Reactors	44
2.5.2	Highly Enriched Uranium	45
2.5.3	Thorium	45
3	Nuclear Fuel Recycling	45
3.1	Separation of Uranium and Plutonium	46
3.2	Other Reasons to Reprocess	46
3.3	Historical Reprocessing Technologies	47
3.3.1	Precipitation Processes	47
3.4	Purex	48
3.5	Wastes from Fuel Reprocessing	49
3.6	Other Solvent Extraction Processes	49
4	Waste Management Options	49
4.1	The UK Waste Inventory	51
5	Impact of the "Global Nuclear Renaissance"	52
5.1	Growth in Demand	52
5.2	Implications for the Fuel Cycle	53
6	Conclusions	54
	Acknowledgements	55
	References	55
	Nuclear Accidents	57
	<i>J. T. Smith</i>	
1	Introduction	58
2	The 1957 Windscale Fire	58
2.1	Events Leading to the Accident	58
2.2	Environmental Contamination	60
2.3	Radiation Exposures and Health Impacts	62
2.4	Social and Psychological Consequences	62
3	The Kyshtym Explosion	63
3.1	Events Leading to the Accident	63
3.2	Environmental Contamination	63
3.3	Radiation Exposures and their Environmental and Health Impacts	64
3.4	Social and Psychological Impacts	67
4	Three-Mile Island	67
4.1	Events Leading to the Accident	67
4.2	Environmental Contamination	68
4.3	Radiation Exposures and their Environmental and Health Impacts	68
4.4	Social and Psychological Impacts	70
5	The Chernobyl Accident	71
5.1	Events Leading to the Accident	71
5.2	Environmental Contamination	71

5.3	Radiation Exposures and their Environmental and Health Impacts	73
5.4	Social and Psychological Impacts	76
6	Conclusions	76
	References	78
Management of Land Contaminated by the Nuclear Legacy		82
<i>Richard Kimber, Francis R. Livens and Jonathan R. Lloyd</i>		
1	Introduction	83
2	Contamination at Worldwide Nuclear Facilities	83
2.1	United Kingdom	84
2.1.1	Sellafield	84
2.1.2	Dounreay	90
2.2	Russia	91
2.2.1	Mayak	91
2.3	United States of America	92
2.3.1	Rocky Flats	93
2.3.2	Oak Ridge	94
2.3.3	Hanford	95
3	Depleted Uranium	97
4	Remediation	98
4.1	Bioremediation	98
4.2	Chemical Redox Reactions	103
4.3	Permeable Reactive Barrier	104
4.4	Sediment Washing	104
4.5	Electrokinetic Remediation	105
5	Case Studies	106
5.1	Hanford Case Study	106
5.2	Rifle Case Study	107
5.3	Oak Ridge Case Study	109
6	Conclusions	110
	Acknowledgements	110
	References	110
Decommissioning of Nuclear Sites		116
<i>Anthony W. Banford and Richard B. Jarvis</i>		
1	Introduction	116
2	The Goal of Decommissioning	116
3	Stages of Decommissioning	118
4	The Scale of the Decommissioning Challenge in the UK	119
5	Decommissioning Techniques	121

6	Selection of a Decommissioning Approach	123
7	Environmental Impacts of Decommissioning	124
8	Conclusions	127
	References	127

Geodisposal of Higher Activity Wastes **129**

Katherine Morris, Gareth T. W. Law and Nick D. Bryan

1	Introduction	129
2	Radioactive Wastes	130
	2.1 High Level Wastes	130
	2.2 Intermediate Level Waste	131
	2.3 Low Level Waste	132
	2.4 Other Potential Wastes	132
3	Geological Disposal	132
	3.1 The GDF Concept	132
	3.2 International Experience	134
	3.2.1 Suitable Host Geologies	134
	3.2.2 Engineering Approaches	141
	3.3 Implementing the UK GDF	142
	3.3.1 Historical Perspective, Public Consultation, Policy Decisions, and Responsibilities	142
	3.3.2 Guiding Principles and Timeline	142
	3.3.3 Site Selection	143
	3.3.4 Inventory of Geodisposal Wastes	144
	3.3.5 Conditioning and Packaging of Geodisposal Wastes	145
	3.3.6 Interim Storage of Geodisposal Wastes	146
	3.3.7 Reference Scenarios	147
4	Environmental Chemistry Research Challenges in Geological Disposal	148
	Acknowledgements	150
	References	150

Pathways of Radioactive Substances in the Environment **152**

Joanna C. Renshaw, Stephanie Handley-Sidhu and Diana R. Brookshaw

1	Introduction	153
2	Sources of Radionuclides in the Environment	154
	2.1 Nuclear Weapons	154
	2.2 Nuclear Fuel Cycle	155
	2.3 Depleted Uranium	156
	2.4 Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material	157
	2.5 Accidental Release	157

<i>Contents</i>	xiii
3 Environmental Chemistry of Key Contaminants	158
4 Processes and Factors affecting Radionuclide Transport in the Atmosphere	159
5 Processes and Factors affecting Radionuclide Transport in Aquatic Systems	161
5.1 Sorption to Mineral Surfaces	162
5.2 Redox Reactions	164
5.3 Complexation Reactions	166
5.4 (Co-)Precipitation	169
5.5 Colloidal Transport	169
6 Conclusions	170
References	170

**Radiation Protection of the Environment: A Summary of Current
Approaches for Assessment of Radionuclides in Terrestrial Ecosystems** 177

B. J. Howard and N. A. Beresford

1 Introduction	178
2 Radiation Protection of Wildlife	178
3 Environmental Transfer in Terrestrial Ecosystems	180
3.1 Atmospheric Deposition	181
3.2 Radionuclides in Soil	181
3.3 Radionuclide Transfer to Plants	182
3.3.1 Quantification of Transfer to Plants	183
3.4 Radionuclide Transfer to Terrestrial Animals	183
3.4.1 Gastrointestinal Absorption	184
3.4.2 Radionuclide Distribution in Animals	185
3.4.3 Quantification of Transfer to Animals	185
4 Dosimetry for Wildlife	186
4.1 Dose Rate Calculation	188
5 Effects on Wildlife	189
5.1 Environmental Radiological Protection	190
6 Benchmarks for Wildlife Assessment	191
6.1 The ICRP's Derived Consideration Reference Levels	191
6.2 Alternative Approaches used in Radiological Risk Assessments	192
Acknowledgements	194
References	194

Radiological Protection of Workers and the General Public 199

Jan Pentreath

1 Introduction	200
2 The Health Effects of Radiation	202

3	The Scientific Framework for the Protection of Humans	205
4	The ICRP's System of Protection	207
4.1	Justification	210
4.2	Optimisation	211
4.3	Dose Limits	212
4.4	Dose Constraints and Reference Levels	212
5	Radiation Protection in Practice in the UK	214
5.1	Radiation Exposure of Workers	215
5.2	Radiation Exposure of the Public	216
6	Experience Gained from Nuclear Accidents Outside the UK	218
7	Conclusions	221
	References	221
	Subject Index	223