

Characteristics of a High-Converting LWR Core Design with Once-Through Thorium Fuel Cycle

| | | | | (HCPLWR) | | | |
|-----|----------|------|-------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| | | 가 | 가 | | | 가 | 가 |
| | | PWR | CANDU | BCM | Blanket | BCM | BCM, TG, SNS HCPLWR Seed |
| BCM | 11.08 kg | 가 | 가 | 14.50 kg | 12.78 kg | 13.66 kg | |
| BCM | | | | TG | SNS | HCPLWR | Seed Blanket |
| | | | | 가 | Seed | Blanket | |
| | | Seed | | PWR | CANDU | | Blanket |
| | | | | | HCPLWR | | |

Abstract

A nuclear design concept for a high-converting pressure-tube type LWR (HCPLWR) core using once-through thorium fuel cycle was proposed as an advanced thermal reactor. Calculated conversion ratio in HCPLWR is much higher than PWR or CANDU. In this paper, the other fuel cycle performance indices, such as proliferation resistance, transmutation efficiency, and radiation hazard in spent fuel were evaluated for this design concept. Performance indices for the proliferation resistance were measured by BCM, TG, and SNS. BCM of seed fuel from HCPLWR was 11.08 kg which was much less than 14.50 kg of PWR and 12.78 kg of CANDU. BCM from blanket was 13.66 kg. Therefore, proliferation resistance was not favorable than the conventional LWRs in the aspects of plutonium composition. However, TG and SNS from HCPLWR spent fuels were much higher. For the evaluation of transmutation efficiency, index of effective fission half-life (EFHL) was used. EFHL in seed and blanket were different each other. EFHL in blanket region is much less than those in PWR or CANDU. Radiation hazard index from spent fuel is much less than from PWRs because production of spent fuel is much less in high-converting core.

1.

[1]
 가 , RTR(Radkowsky Thorium fuel Reactor)
 Seed Blanket Unit(SBU) [2] Seed Blanket
 HCPLWR(High-Converting Pressure-tube type LWR)[3]
 가 , , 가
 가 PWR, CANDU, RTR 가
 (ATR)[4] U-233
 가

2.

U-233, Pu-239, Pu-241 Th-232, U-238, Pu-240
 (Conversion Ratio, CR) CR 가
 (overall Fissile Inventory Ratio, FIR) (Fissile Gain) ,
 RTR HCPLWR Fissile Seed Blanket
 Fissile Gain

$$\text{Fissile Gain} \equiv \frac{\text{Discharged fissile amount} - \text{Feed fissile amount}}{\text{Feed fissile amount}}$$

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----|----------------|----------------|
| RTR Blanket | HCPLWR Blanket | FIR | 1.0 | 1.37 | 1.96 |
| Th-232가 | U-233 | | | | HCPLWR Blanket |
| FIR | U-235 | | | | |
| 2 | Fissile Gain | RTR Blanket | | HCPLWR Blanket | |
| 가 | Fissile Gain | 가 | | FIR | 가 |
| HCPLWR Blanket | | | | | |
| 1 | HCPLWR Blanket | | | | |
| | U-235 | U-233 | 1.5 | | Blanket 가 |
| Fertile material | | U-235 | | | |
| U-233 | RTR Blanket | | | | 0.37 가 가 |
| | HCPLWR Blanket | 0.96 가 가 | | | |

3.

BCM, SNS, TG [5]

가 .

가

- BCM (Bare Critical Mass) : Bare critical assembly

- SNS (Spontaneous Neutron Source) :

- TG (Thermal Generation) :

3 BCM, SNS, TG
 가 SCALE
 MCNP ORIGEN BCM, SNS
 SNS, TG 5 %, 25 %, 3 % BCM TG SNS
 25 % Case 가
 가 , SCALE ORIGEN SNS가 가
 HCPLWR Seed BCM 11.08 kg 가
 Pu-239 Pu-240 Pu-242
 HCPLWR Blanket BCM 13.66 kg Seed 11.08 kg
 2.58 kg . Seed BCM 가
 가 Seed Blanket
 가
 (TG) α-
 . TG가
 가 HCPLWR Blanket TG 69.58 W/kg
 CANDU 20
 . TG Pu-238 α- HCPLWR Blanket
 Pu-238
 SNS HCPLWR Blanket
 RTR Blanket 가 0.45 MBq/kg SNS 가
 PWR CANDU

4.

(EFHL, Effective Fission Half-Life)

$$T_{EFH} = \frac{\ln 2}{\sigma_f^i \Phi + \sum_j f_j \sigma_\gamma^i \frac{\sigma_f^j}{\sigma_t^j} \Phi + \sum_k \lambda_i^{i \rightarrow k} \frac{\sigma_f^k}{\sigma_t^k}}$$

i =

j =

k =

$$f_i =$$

$$\sigma_f^i = \text{fission cross-section}$$

$$\sigma_\gamma^i = \text{capture cross-section}$$

$$\sigma_f^j = \text{fission cross-section}$$

$$\sigma_t^j = \text{total cross-section}$$

$$\sigma_f^k = \text{fission cross-section}$$

$$\sigma_t^k = \text{total cross-section}$$

$$\lambda_i^{i \rightarrow k} =$$

Pu-239 . 1 Np-237, Am-241, Am-243
 . Np-237
 . Am-241 3가
 . Am-241 Am-242 . α -
 Pu-239 Cm-243 Cm-242
 . Am-243 Cm-245
 . Np-237 Am-241
 Pu-239 Am-242m
 4 0.2% MA 가 ,
 . HCPLWR Blanket Np-237, Am-241 EFHL 2.83 , 0.77
 가 Cm-244 9.04 ATR Seed Blanket

5.

PWR 95% 3%
 , 1% , 0.1-0.3%
 가
 가 5
 U-238
 fertile material
 가 2
 .(2
 가 .)

6.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------|-----------------|---------|------------------|--|--|
| | 가 | | | | | | |
| | Blanket | FIR | Fissile Gain(%) | 1.96 | 96.05 | | |
| | | | 가 | | | | |
| 가 | . BCM | Seed | Blanket | 1.08 kg | 13.66 kg | | |
| Seed | 가 | Seed | | | | | |
| | | | . Blanket | TG | SNS | | |
| 69.58 W/kg | 0.4505 MBq/kg | | | | | | |
| | | 가 | | EFHL | | | |
| HCPLWR Blanket | Np-237, Am-241 | EFHL | 가 | Cm-244 | 9.04 | | |
| | | | | Blanket | fertile material | | |

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2. Alex Galperin, Paul Reichat and Alvin Radkowsky, "Thorium fuel for light water reactors-reducing proliferation potential of nuclear power fuel cycle" Science & Global security, 1997, Volume 6 pp265-290.
3. Myung-Hyun Kim, Jae Yong Lim, "Nuclear Core Design of a High-Converting LWR with Thorium Fuel" Proc. of Int'l Conf. on Math. and Comp., Rx Physics and Environmental Analysis, M&C99, Madrid, Spain, Sept. 27-30, 1999
4. Myung-Hyun Kim, Il-Tak Woo, and Hying-Kook Joo, "Advanced PWR Core Concept with Once-Through Thorium Fuel Cycle", Proc. of Int'l Conf. on Future Nuclear Systems GLOBAL'99, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA, 1999
5. Denis E. Beller, et al, "A Closed, Proliferation-Resistant Fuel Cycle with Th-U-O₂-Fueled LWRs, Th, U, and Np Recycle, and Accelerator_driven Transmutation of Waste(ATW)" Proc. of Int'l Conf. on Future Nuclear Systems GLOBAL'99, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA, 1999

1. Reactor type

| | | Reactor type | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | PWR | CANDU | RTR seed | RTR blanket | ATR seed | ATR blanket | HCPLWR seed | HCPLWR blanket |
| Burnup (GWth- d/tIHM) | | 45 | 7 | 300EFD | 100 | 40 | 100 | 44 | 171.5 |
| Feed fissile amount (kg) | U- 233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | U- 235 | 2245.82 | 631.61 | 710.76 | 578.89 | 1021.99 | 1109.60 | 3273.10 | 249.23 |
| | Pu- 239 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pu- 241 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Discharged fissile amount (kg) | U- 233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 635 | 0 | 689.72 | 0 | 358.73 |
| | U- 235 | 324.04 | 221.65 | 128.35 | 128.45 | 174.88 | 77.06 | 1978.03 | 50.63 |
| | Pu- 239 | 361.85 | 215.11 | 16.64 | 23.31 | 75.06 | 95.25 | 192.91 | 57.07 |
| | Pu- 241 | 108.98 | 16.87 | 5.55 | 8.97 | 22.28 | 35.57 | 17.17 | 22.19 |

2. Reactor type FIR Fissile Gain

| | | Reactor type | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | PWR | CANDU | RTR seed | RTR blanket | ATR seed | ATR blanket | HCPLWR seed | HCPLWR blanket |
| Burnup (GWth- d/tIHM) | | 45 | 7 | 300EFD | 100 | 40 | 100 | 44 | 171.5 |
| FIR | | 0.35 | 0.72 | 0.21 | 1.37 | 0.27 | 0.81 | 0.67 | 1.96 |
| Fissile Gain (%) | | - 64.61 | - 28.18 | - 78.65 | 37.46 | - 73.36 | - 19.11 | - 33.15 | 96.05 |

3. Reactor type BCM, TG, SNS

| | Reactor type | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | PWR | CANDU | RTR seed | RTR blanket | ATR seed | ATR blanket | HCPLWR seed | HCPLWR blanket |
| Burnup (GWth-d/tn IHM) | 45 | 7 | 300EFD | 100 | 40 | 100 | 37.5 | 171.5 |
| Pu-238 fraction | 0.01653 | 0.00087 | 0.065 | 0.120 | 0.03100 | 0.07696 | 0.01837 | 0.11924 |
| Pu-239 fraction | 0.49616 | 0.67305 | 0.465 | 0.383 | 0.48104 | 0.41783 | 0.80445 | 0.44932 |
| Pu-240 fraction | 0.25715 | 0.26116 | 0.225 | 0.150 | 0.26770 | 0.17801 | 0.10804 | 0.14679 |
| Pu-241 fraction | 0.14819 | 0.05234 | 0.155 | 0.147 | 0.14161 | 0.15476 | 0.06263 | 0.17119 |
| Pu-242 fraction | 0.08199 | 0.01258 | 0.090 | 0.201 | 0.07865 | 0.17244 | 0.00651 | 0.11346 |
| BCM (kg) | 14.50 | 12.78 | 14.26 | 15.45 | 14.57 | 15.20 | 11.08 | 13.66 |
| TG (W/kg) | 12.16 | 3.64 | 39.38 | 69.91 | 20.42 | 45.75 | 12.74 | 69.58 |
| SNS (MBq/kg) | 0.2781 | 0.2401 | 0.3776 | 0.4555 | 0.3261 | 0.3666 | 0.1472 | 0.4505 |
| TG (W/BCM) | 176.32 | 46.52 | 561.56 | 1080.11 | 297.52 | 695.40 | 141.16 | 950.46 |
| SNS (MBq/BCM) | 4.03 | 3.07 | 5.38 | 7.04 | 4.75 | 5.57 | 1.63 | 6.15 |

4. Reactor type

| | Reactor type | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | PWR | CANDU | RTR seed | RTR blanket | ATR seed | ATR blanket | HCPLWR seed | HCPLWR blanket |
| Np-237 (year) | 4.59 | 3.14 | 5.82 | 5.35 | 3.68 | 3.37 | 6.24 | 2.83 |
| Am-241 (year) | 1.38 | 0.85 | 1.77 | 1.59 | 1.15 | 1.03 | 2.80 | 0.77 |
| Cm-244 (year) | 9.69 | 15.8 | 10.6 | 10.1 | 6.76 | 6.16 | 9.24 | 9.04 |

MA 0.2 % Np-237/Am-241Am-243/Cm-244 = 56/26/12/5

5.

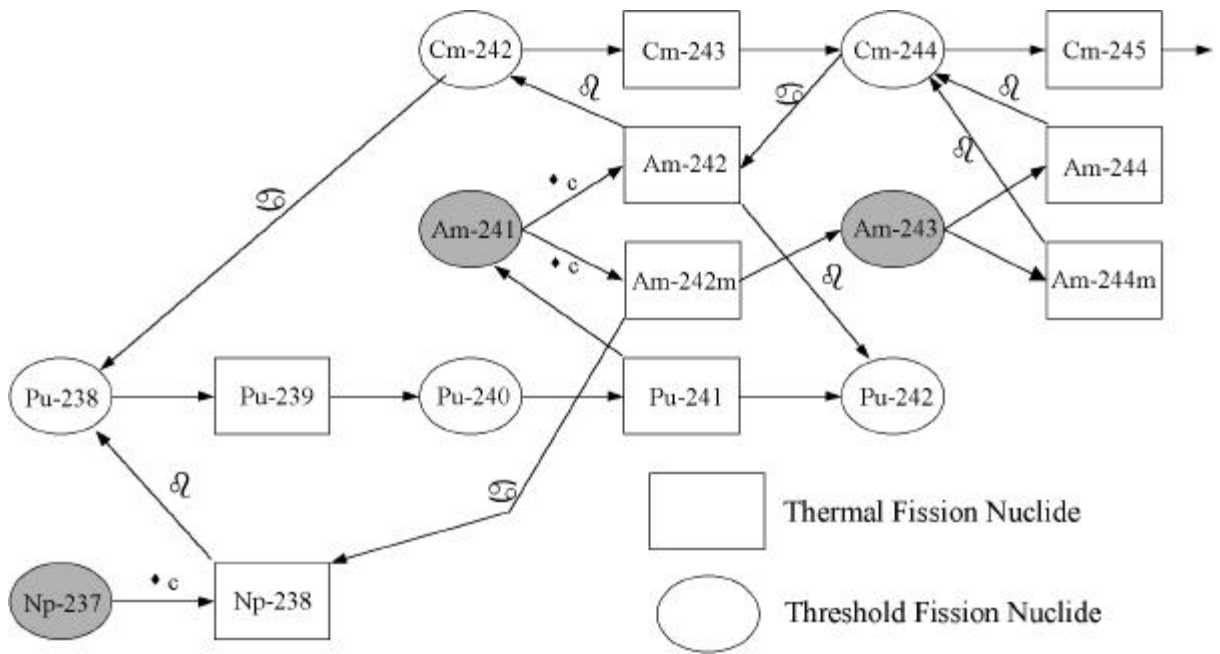
| Isotopes | Pa-231 | Np-237 | Pu-239 | Pu-240 | Am-241 | Am-243 | Cm-245 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| T _{1/2} (year) | 3.2×10^4 | 2.1×10^6 | 24,000 | 6,000 | 458 | 7,900 | 9,000 |

6.

(for 8,037 GWD)

| | PWR | CANDU | HCPLWR |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Effective operation year (year) | 9.7773** | 11.2435* | 11.2435* |
| Consumption of Thorium (ton) | 0 | 0 | 14.017 |
| Consumption of Uranium (ton) | 588.773 | 1071.567 | 149.216 |
| Consumption of U-235 (ton) | 13.718 | 7.619 | 22.007 |
| U-235 Mass in spent fuel (ton) | 2.6834 | 2.523 | 16.271 |
| Actual consumed U-235 Mass (ton) | 11.034 | 5.096 | 5.736 |

* : Availability factor 0.95 ** : Availability factor 0.8



1. Buildup and decay of minor actinide