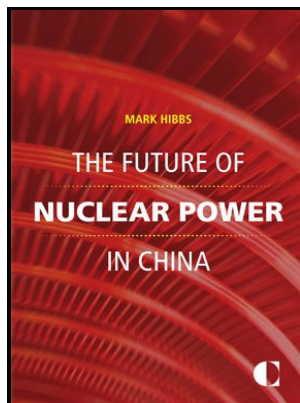


Managing the nuclear fuel cycle - policy implications of expanding global access to nuclear power

Nova Science Publishers - Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power



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Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power

Therefore, nuclear fuel for a fast reactor must have a higher proportion of fissionable isotopes than a thermal reactor to sustain a chain reaction, but a larger number of different isotopes can constitute that fissionable proportion.

Managing the nuclear fuel cycle: policy implications of expanding global access to nuclear power.

New reactors are on order elsewhere in the world, and several non-nuclear countries have announced that they are considering the nuclear option.

Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power

In 2001, USEC ceased uranium enrichment operations in Portsmouth and consolidated operations in Paducah. Since the mid-1980s, however, world nuclear fuel requirements continued to rise while uranium exploration and production fell. For use as fuel in light water reactors, ²³⁵U must be enriched above its natural ore concentration.

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Since 2004, the Group of Eight G-8 Nations have announced a year-long suspension of any such transfers at their annual summit meetings, and international study groups have been formed to try and find agreement on a more permanent solution to the problem. Uranium hexafluoride contains two isotopes of uranium — heavier ²³⁸U and lighter fissionable ²³⁵U, which makes up ~0.

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