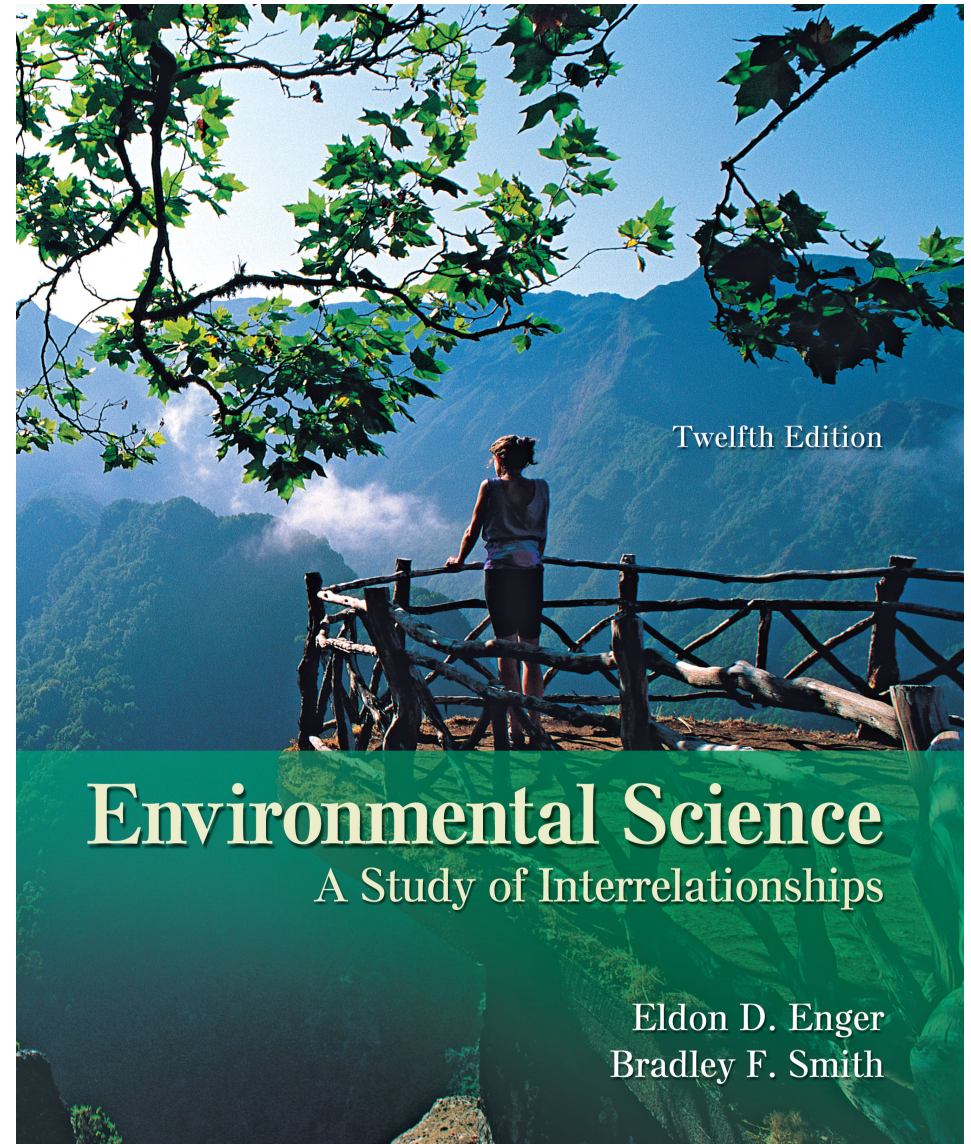


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Chapter 10

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Chapter opener 10

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(a) Bomb blast U.S. Air Force



(b) Nuclear power plant © Corbis RF



(c) Nuclear medicine © SIU/Visuals Unlimited

TABLE 10.1 Half-Lives and Significance of Some Radioactive Isotopes

| Radioactive Isotope | Half-Life | Significance |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Uranium-235 | 700 million years | Fuel in nuclear power plants |
| Plutonium-239 | 24,110 years | Nuclear weapons Fuel in some nuclear power plants |
| Carbon-14 | 5730 years | Establish age of certain fossils |
| Americium-241 | 432.2 years | Used in smoke detectors |
| Cesium-137 | 30.17 years | Treat prostate cancer Used to measure thickness of objects in industry |
| Cobalt-60 | 5.27 years | Sterilize food by irradiation Cancer therapy Inspect welding seams |
| Strontium-90 | 29.1 years | Power source in space vehicles Treat bone tumors |
| Iridium-192 | 73.82 days | Inspect welding seams Treat certain cancers |
| Phosphorus-32 | 14.3 days | Radioactive tracer in biological studies |
| Iodine-131 | 8.06 days | Diagnose and treat thyroid cancer |
| Radon-222 | 3.8 days | Naturally occurs in atmosphere of some regions where it causes lung cancers |
| Radon-220 | 54.5 seconds | Naturally occurs in atmosphere of some regions where it causes lung cancers |

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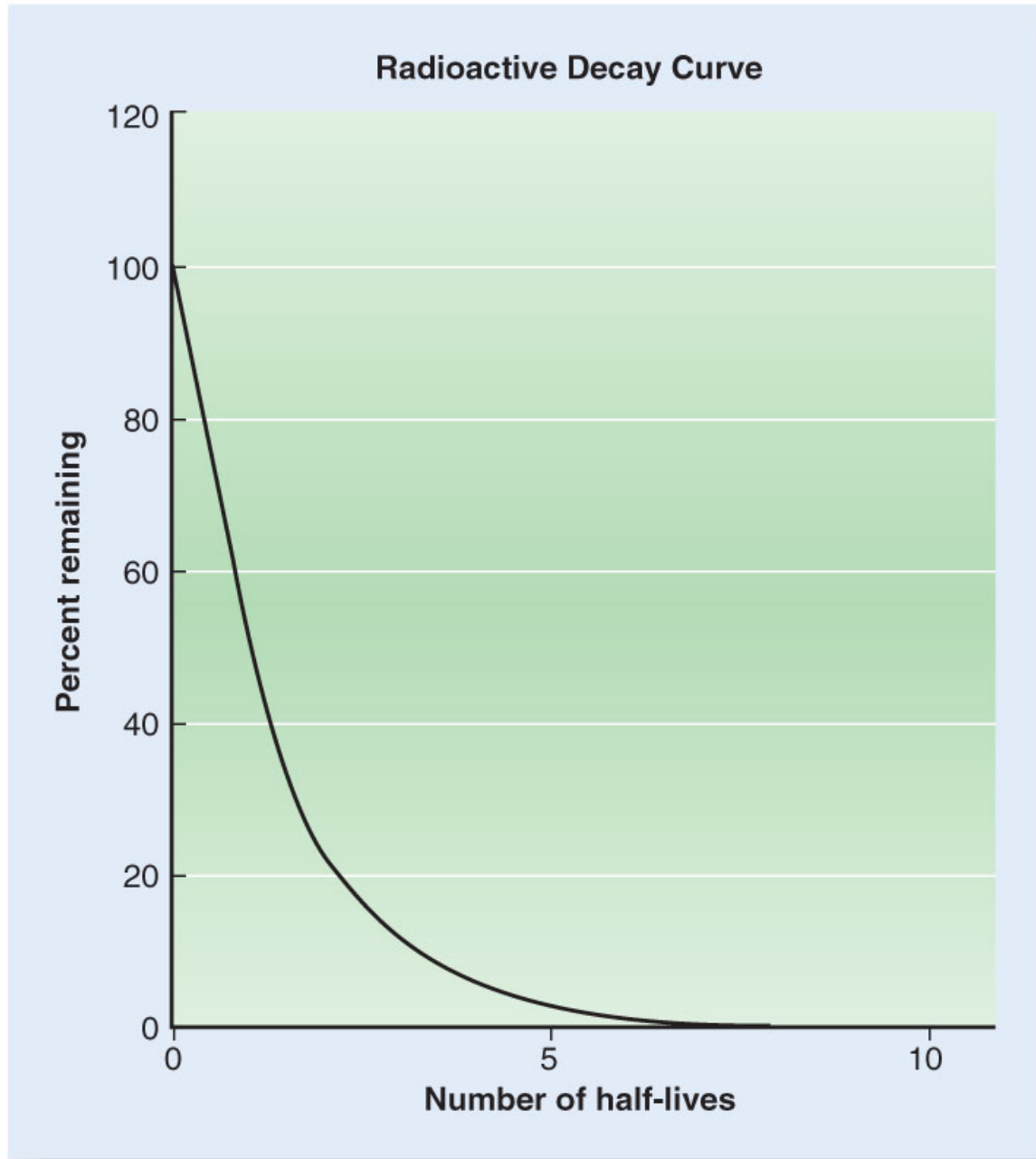
















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| Isotope of Element | Type of Radiation | Half-Life |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Uranium-238 (U-238) Protons = 92 Neutrons = 146 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 4.5 billion years |
| Thorium-234 (Th-234) Protons = 90 Neutrons = 144 |  Beta (electron) | 24.5 days |
| Protactinium-234 (Pa-234) Protons = 91 Neutrons = 143 |  Beta (electron) | 1.14 minutes |
| Uranium-234 (U-234) Protons = 92 Neutrons = 142 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 233,000 years |
| Thorium-230 (Th-230) Protons = 90 Neutrons = 140 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 83,000 years |
| Radium-226 (Ra-226) Protons = 88 Neutrons = 138 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 1590 years |
| Radon-222 (Rn-222) Protons = 86 Neutrons = 136 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 3.825 days |
| Polonium-218 (Po-218) Protons = 84 Neutrons = 134 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 3.05 minutes |
| Lead-214 (Pb-214) Protons = 82 Neutrons = 132 |  Beta (electron) | 26.8 minutes |
| Bismuth-214 (Bi-214) Protons = 83 Neutrons = 131 |  Beta (electron) | 19.7 minutes |
| Polonium-214 (Po-214) Protons = 84 Neutrons = 130 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 0.00015 seconds |
| Lead-210 (Pb-210) Protons = 82 Neutrons = 128 |  Beta (electron) | 22 years |
| Bismuth-210 (Bi-210) Protons = 83 Neutrons = 127 |  Beta (electron) | 5 days |
| Polonium-210 (Po-210) Protons = 84 Neutrons = 126 |  Alpha (2 protons and 2 neutrons) | 140 days |
| Lead-206 (Pb-206) Protons = 82 Neutrons = 124 | | Stable |

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TABLE 10.2 Radiation Measurement Units

| What Is Measured | International Scientific Units | U.S. Commonly Used Units | Application |
|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Number of nuclear disintegrations</i> | becquerel (Bq) 1 Bq = 1 disintegration/second | curie (Ci) 1 Ci = 37 billion disintegration/second <i>1 Ci = 37 billion Bq</i> | Quantify the strength of a radiation source |
| <i>Absorbed dose</i> | gray (Gy) 1 Gy = 1 joule/kilogram of matter | rad 1 rad = 0.01 joule/kilogram of matter <i>1 rad = 0.01 Gy</i> | Quantify the amount of energy absorbed |
| <i>Dose equivalent</i> | sievert (Sv) 1 Sv = Gy X quality factor* | rem 1 rem = rad X quality factor* <i>1 rem = 0.01 Sv</i> | Quantify the potential biological effect of a dose |

*For beta and gamma radiation, the quality factor = 1. For alpha radiation, the quality factor = 20.

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TABLE 10.3 Radiation Effects

| Source or Benchmark | Dose | Biological Effects |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Nuclear bomb blast or accidental exposure in a nuclear facility</i> | 100,000 rems/incident | Immediate death |
| <i>Nuclear accident or accidental exposure to X rays</i> | 10,000 rems/incident 1000 rems/incident 800 rems/incident 500 rems/incident 100 rems/incident 50 rems/incident 10 rems/incident | Coma, death in 1–2 days Death in 2–3 weeks 100% death eventually 50% survival with good medical care Increased probability of leukemia Changes in numbers of blood cells observed Early embryos may show abnormalities |
| <i>X ray of intestine</i> | 1 rem/procedure | Damage or effects difficult to demonstrate |
| <i>Upper limit for occupationally exposed persons</i> | 5 rems/year | |
| <i>Upper limit for release from nuclear facilities that are not nuclear power plants</i> | 0.5 rem/year | |
| <i>Natural background radiation</i> | 0.2–0.3 rem/year | |
| <i>Upper limit for exposure of general public to radiation above background</i> | 0.1 rem/year | |
| <i>Upper limit for release from nuclear power plants</i> | 0.005 rem/year | |

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TABLE 10.4 Nuclear Reactor Statistics (2008)

| Region | Reactors Operating | Reactors Under Construction | Reactors Planned |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>World</i> | 439 | 36 | 93 |
| United States | 104 | 0 | 12 |
| France | 59 | 1 | 0 |
| Japan | 55 | 2 | 11 |
| Russia | 31 | 7 | 10 |
| South Korea | 20 | 3 | 5 |
| United Kingdom | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Canada | 18 | 2 | 3 |
| Germany | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 15 | 0 | 2 |
| India | 15 | 6 | 10 |
| China | 11 | 7 | 24 |
| Sweden | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Rest of World | 57 | 8 | 16 |

Source: Data from World Nuclear Association.

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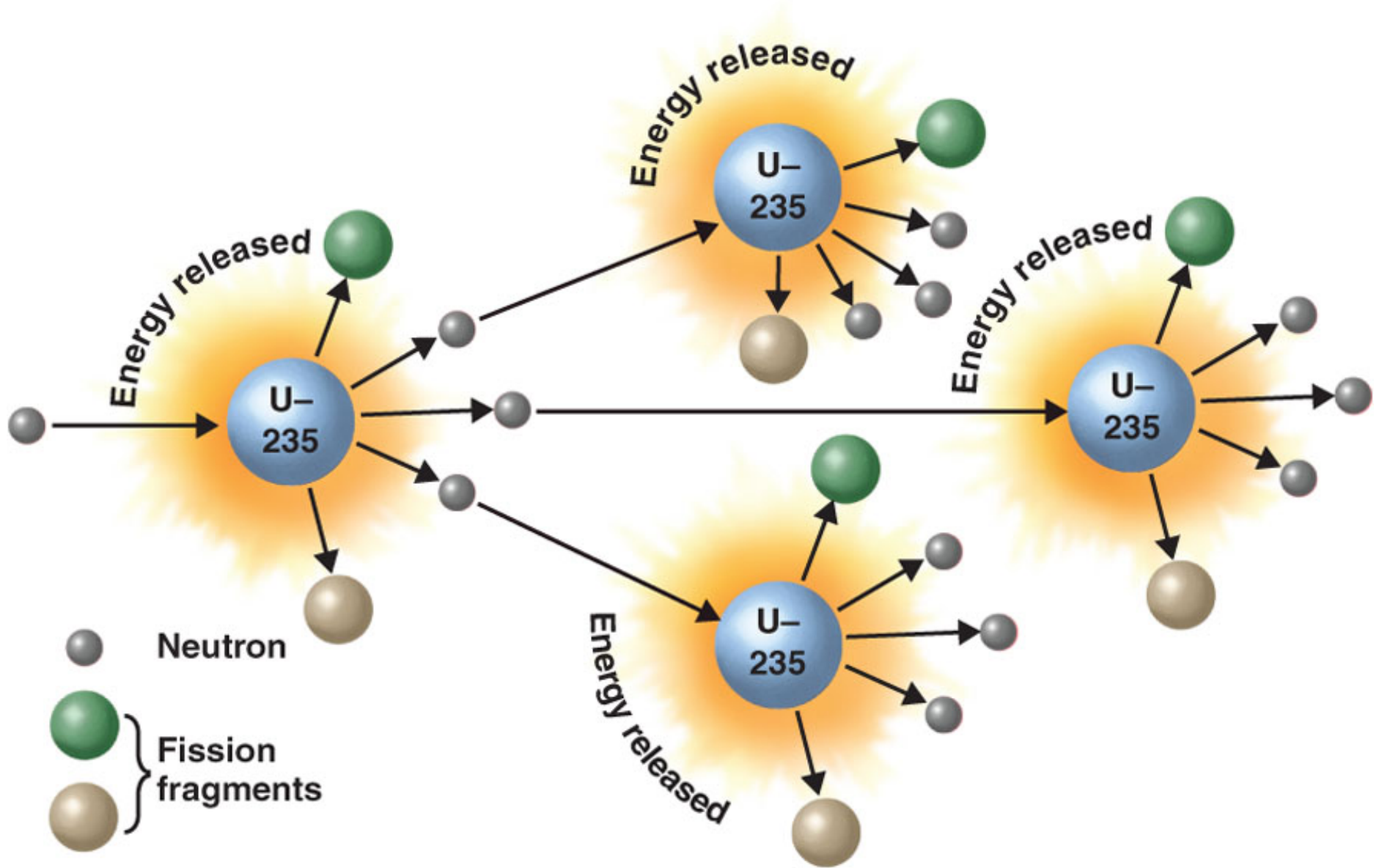


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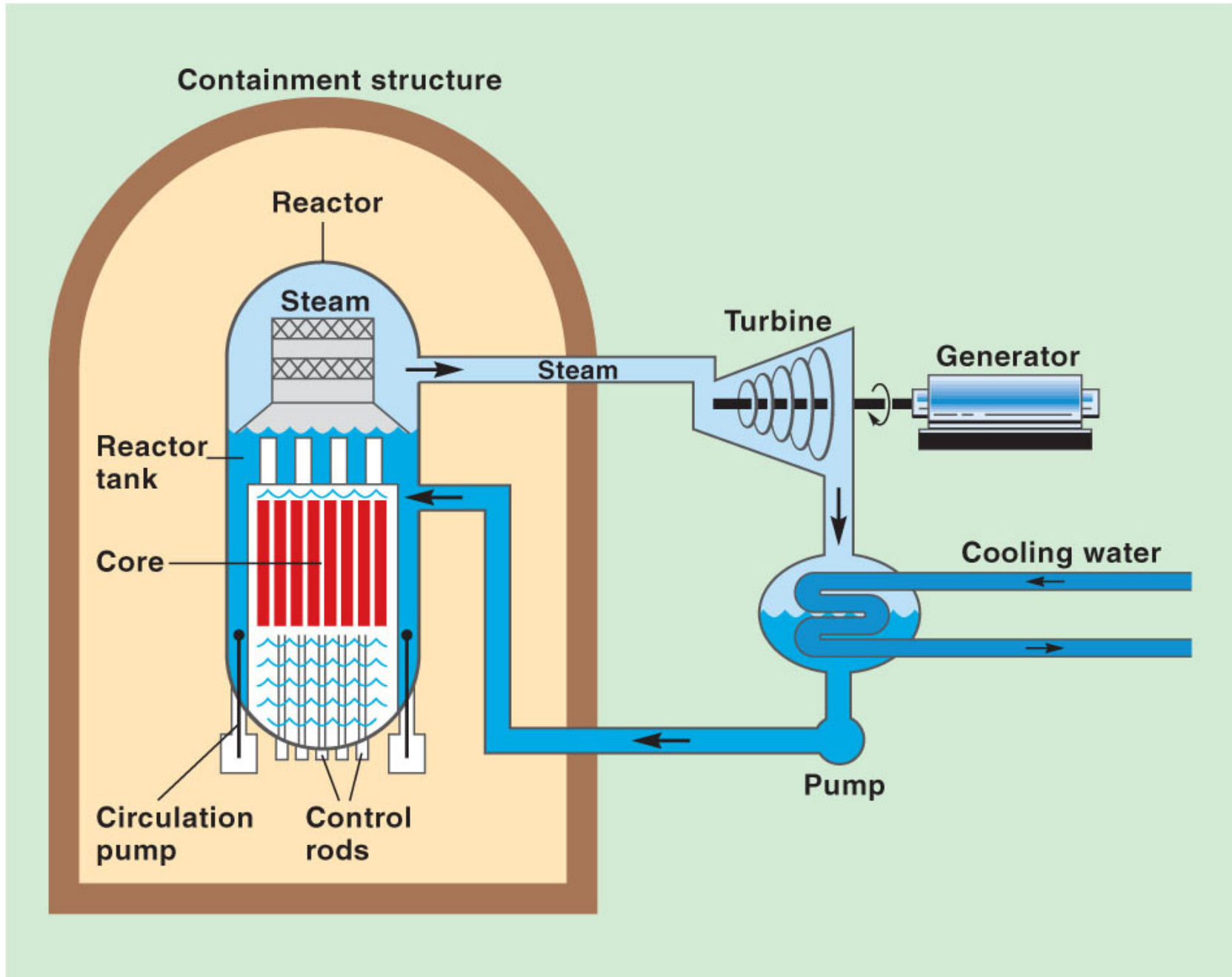


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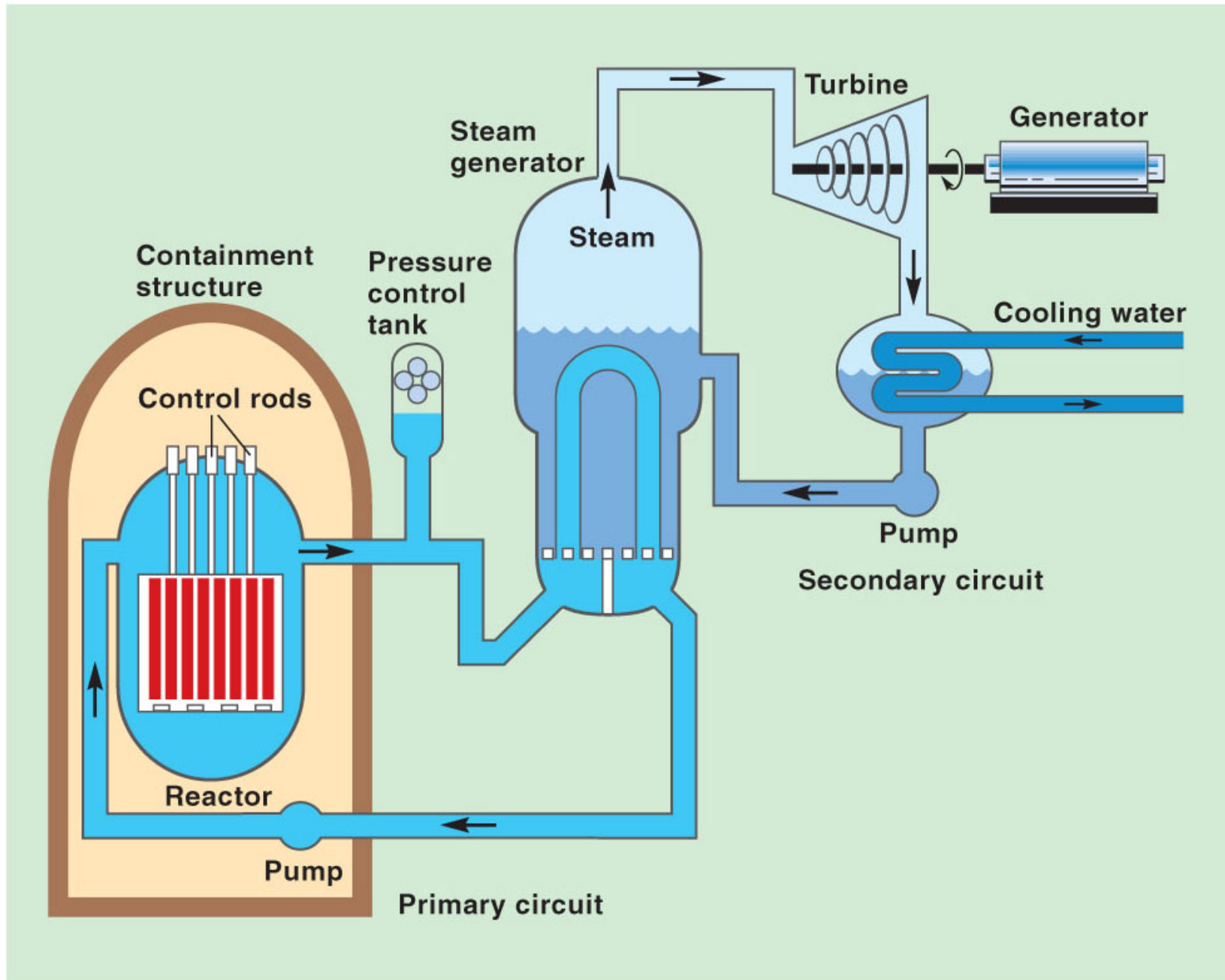


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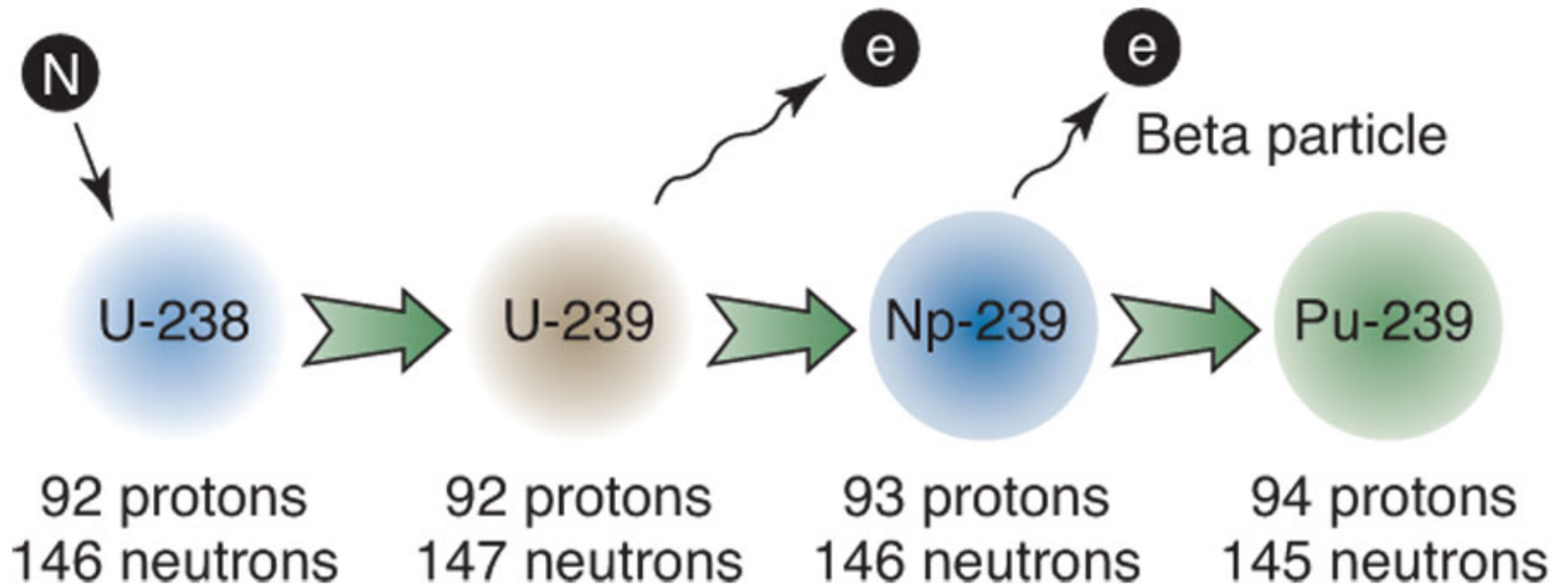
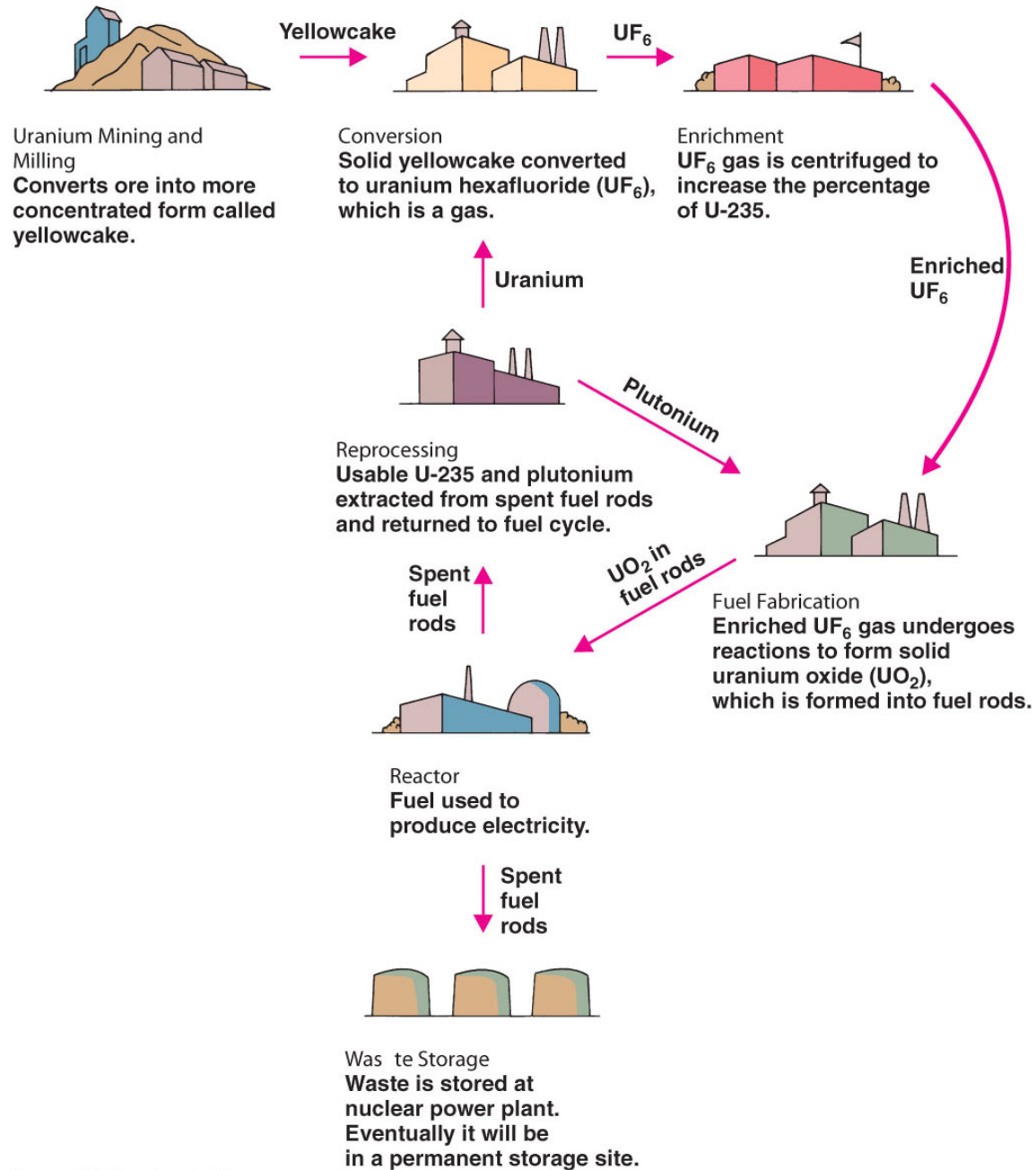


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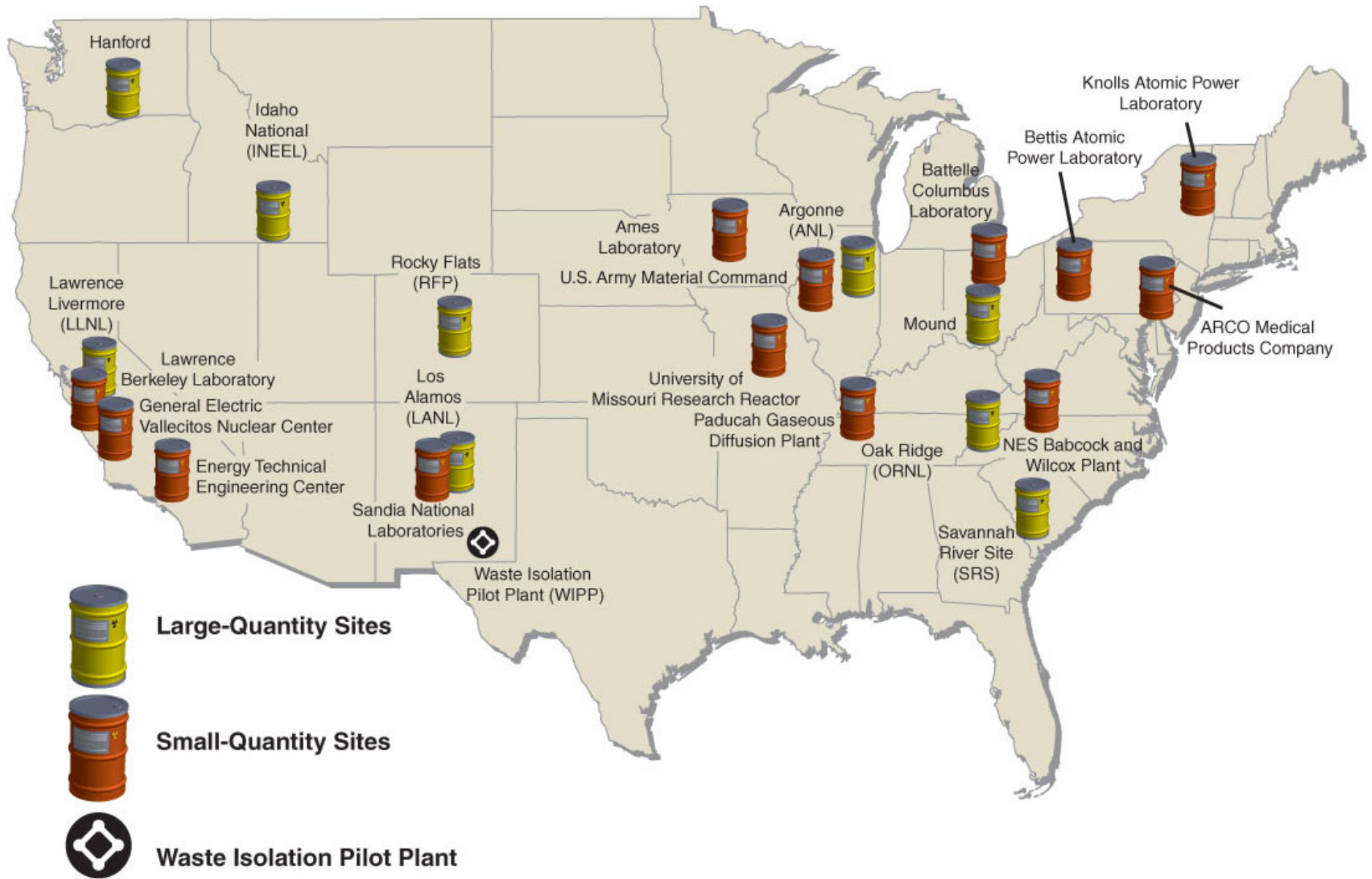
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Figure 10_13

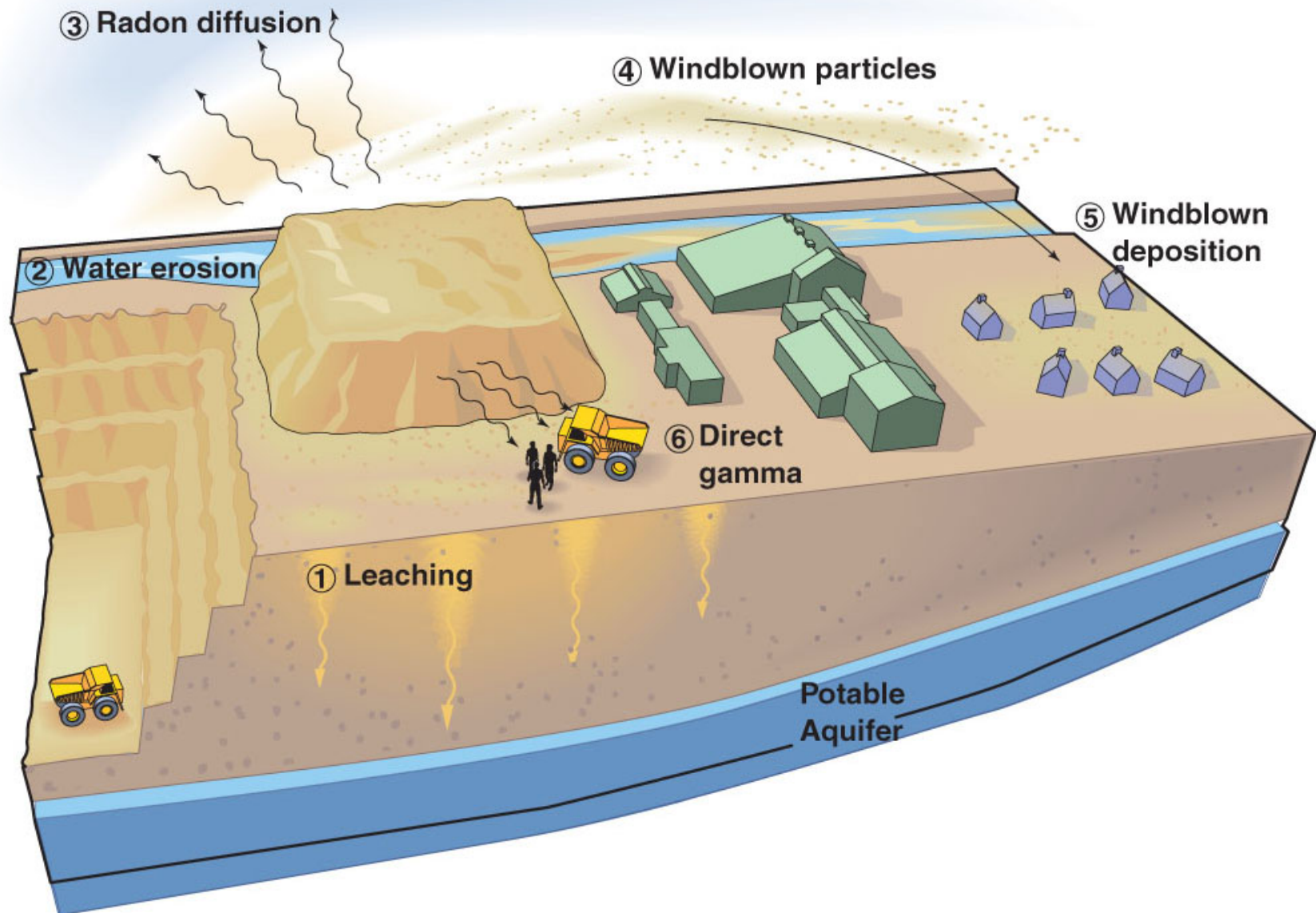
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Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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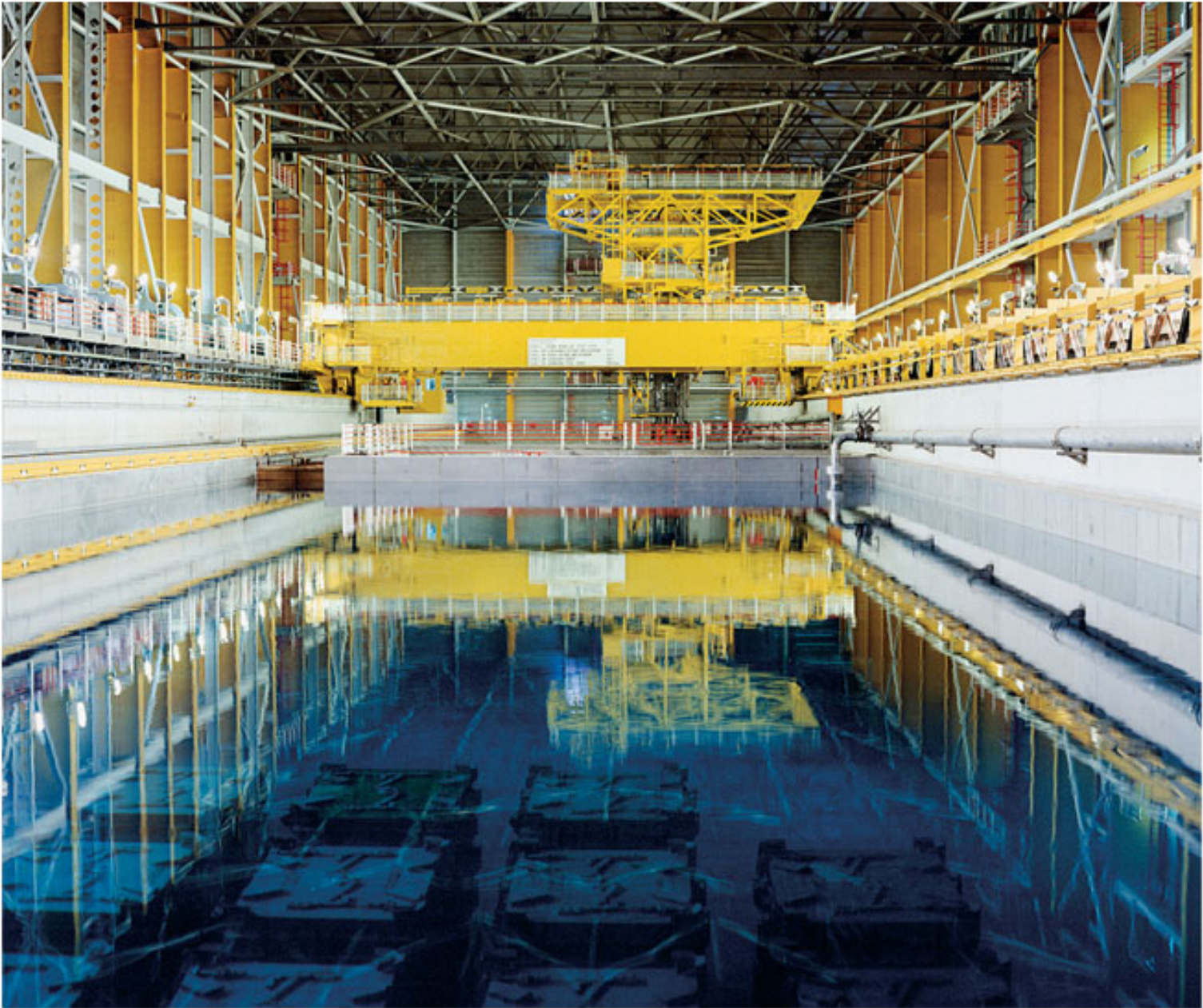


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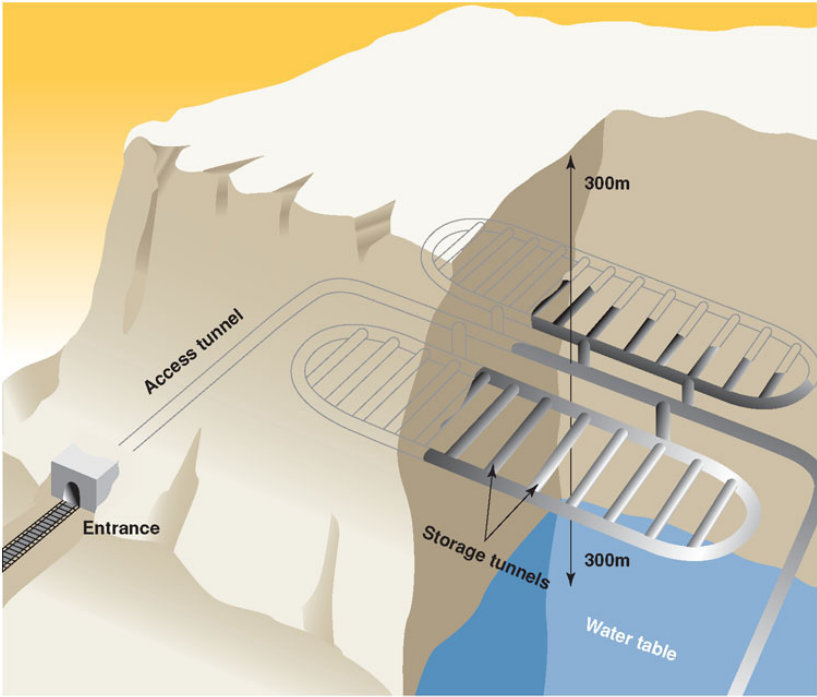
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(a)

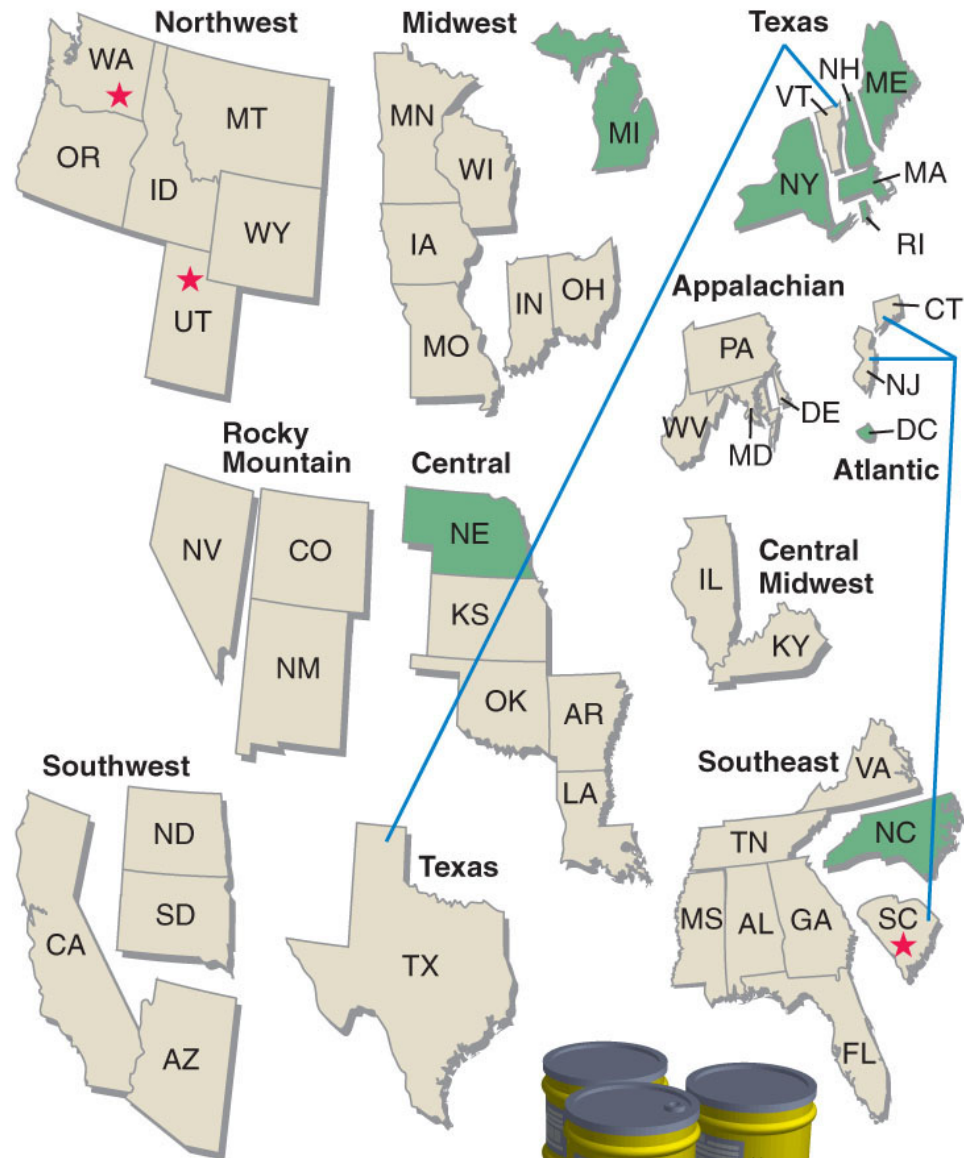


(b)

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- ★ Active disposal site
- Approved compact
- Unaffiliated

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



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