

## *Spent Fuel Decay*

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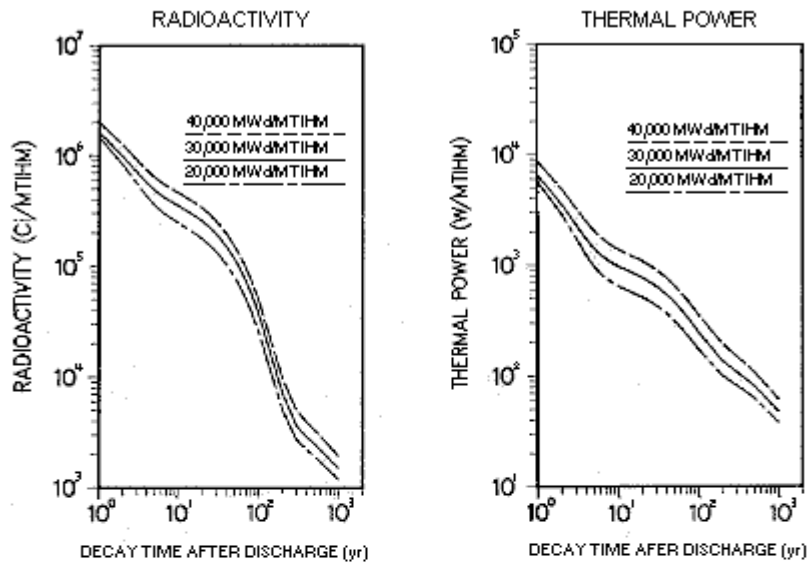
The spent fuel removed from the reactors continues to release heat and is still radioactive. It is, for those reasons, that the fuel is initially stored underwater in the spent fuel storage pools. The U.S. Department of Energy has provided graphs illustrating:

- Radiation level and Decay heat production rate for BWR fuel for various in-reactor exposure times
- Radiation level and Decay heat production rate for PWR fuel for various in-reactor exposure times

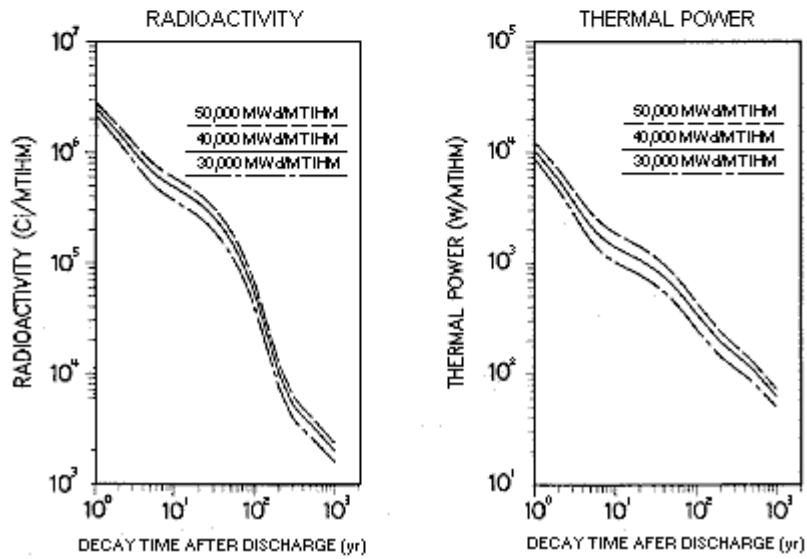
Typically fuel will remain in a reactor for 33,000 - 50,000 Megawatt-Days per Metric Tonne Uranium (MwD/MTU)

The graphs are provided below. I will provide more explanation in the future.

### BOILING-WATER REACTOR SPENT FUEL



### PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTOR SPENT FUEL



Graphics courtesy USDOE