

2. (a) The change in kinetic energy for the meteorite would be

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta K &= K_f - K_i = -K_i = -\frac{1}{2}m_i v_i^2 \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(4 \times 10^6 \text{ kg})(15 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s})^2 \\ &= -5 \times 10^{14} \text{ J}\end{aligned}$$

where the negative sign indicates that kinetic energy is lost.

- (b) The energy loss in units of megatons of TNT would be

$$-\Delta K = (5 \times 10^{14} \text{ J}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ megaton TNT}}{4.2 \times 10^{15} \text{ J}} \right) = 0.1 \text{ megaton TNT} .$$

- (c) The number of bombs N that the meteorite impact would correspond to is found by noting that megaton = 1000 kilotons and setting up the ratio:

$$N = \frac{0.1 \times 1000 \text{ kiloton TNT}}{13 \text{ kiloton TNT}} = 8 .$$