

15. If  $P$  is the power output, then the energy  $E$  produced in the time interval  $\Delta t$  ( $= 3\text{ y}$ ) is  $E = P \Delta t = (200 \times 10^6 \text{ W})(3\text{ y})(3.156 \times 10^7 \text{ s/y}) = 1.89 \times 10^{16} \text{ J}$ , or  $(1.89 \times 10^{16} \text{ J})/(1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J/eV}) = 1.18 \times 10^{35} \text{ eV} = 1.18 \times 10^{29} \text{ MeV}$ . At  $200 \text{ MeV}$  per event, this means  $(1.18 \times 10^{29})/200 = 5.90 \times 10^{26}$  fission events occurred. This must be half the number of fissionable nuclei originally available. Thus, there were  $2(5.90 \times 10^{26}) = 1.18 \times 10^{27}$  nuclei. The mass of a  $^{235}\text{U}$  nucleus is  $(235 \text{ u})(1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg/u}) = 3.90 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg}$ , so the total mass of  $^{235}\text{U}$  originally present was  $(1.18 \times 10^{27})(3.90 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg}) = 462 \text{ kg}$ .