10. LONG TERM ASSESSMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PENETRATION USING MESSAGE – THE CASE OF ROMANIA[1]

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Abstract

The paper is doing a long-term simulation of the nuclear technology penetration for the Romanian power system using the IAEA MESSAGE (Model for Energy Supply Strategy Alternatives and their General Environmental Impacts) optimization model. The horizon taken into consideration is 2050 and 2070. The production and the demand are considered with various scenarios and the emissions of CO2 are also evaluated.

The results are destined to assess the impact of the nuclear technology on the implementation of the EU energy and climate change policy on a long-term basis, such as to eliminate short term effects in the power system. Given the specifics of the Romanian power system both electrical energy and thermal energy (CHPs) are considered in the main scenarios.

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[1] ***Acknowledgement:*** *This paper was elaborated with financing from the project PRO-ALFRED, having as main partner ICN Mioveni.*

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Keywords: nuclear energy system, modeling energy system, CO2 emissions mitigation, electricity and heat cogeneration, energy system security.

JEL Classification : C3, C61, C62, D7, D87.

1. Introduction

The EU energy policy recently launched by the Commission is bringing along with the existing renewables penetration, emissions reduction and efficiency increase two more pillars, *i.e.* interconnection of 15% of the energy consumption and resources in energy systems.

This approach gives a new area of research perspective, especially on the long-term energy systems development that needs to assess the impact of low or no emission energy technologies penetration beyond the short-term spikes, such the one of renewables based on subsidies. These subsidized technologies are saturating after a period of fast penetration and the need to be correlated with the rest of the system is clearly showing up.

Moreover, an integrated view is necessary on a long-term horizon for the system in order to assess the need to prepare investment and to secure the emissions reduction. Also, out of the various technological combination scenarios one should have the capability to select the optimal ones, given specific restrictions in the general frame of the economical optimization function.

The restrictions are reflected in the requirements of the EU policy summarized below based on the Road Map 2050 and other documents, *e.g.* Directive 2003/87/EC, Directive 2009/29/EC, Directive 2009/28/EC, Decision no. 406/2009/EC.

2. Transforming the Energy System

2.1. Energy Saving and Managing Demand: A Responsibility for All

Improving energy efficiency is a priority in all of the new scenarios related to the energy system decarburization. Current initiatives need to be implemented swiftly to achieve change. Higher energy efficiency in new and existing buildings is key. Buildings – including homes - could produce more energy than they use. Products and appliances will have to fulfill highest energy efficiency standards. In transport, efficient vehicles and incentives for behavioral change are required. Investments by households and companies will have to play a major role in the energy system transformation.

An analysis of more ambitious energy efficiency measures and cost-optimal policy is required. Energy efficiency has to follow its economic potential. This includes using the waste heat of electricity generation in combined heat and power (CHP) plants.

2.2. Switching to renewable energy sources

The second major pre-requisite for a more sustainable and secure energy system is a higher share of renewable energy beyond 2020.

Renewables will move to the center of the energy mix in Europe, from technology development to mass production and deployment, from small-scale to larger-scale, integrating local and more remote sources, from subsidized to competitive. Many renewable technologies need further development to bring down costs.

Storage is currently often more expensive than additional transmission capacity, gas backup generation capacity, while conventional storage based on hydro is limited. With sufficient interconnection capacity and a smarter grid, managing the variations of wind and solar power in some local areas can be provided also from renewables elsewhere in Europe. This could diminish the need for storage, backup capacity and base load supply.

Renewable heating and cooling are vital to decarburization. A shift in energy consumption towards low carbon and locally produced energy sources (including heat pumps and storage heaters) and renewable energy (e.g. solar heating, geothermal, biogas, biomass), including through district heating systems, is needed.

As technologies mature, costs will decrease and financial support can be reduced. The existing targets for renewable energy appear to be useful for giving predictability to investors while encouraging a European approach and market integration of renewables.

2.3. Gas Plays a Key Role in the Transition

Gas will be critical for the transformation of the energy system. Substitution of coal (and oil) with gas in the short to medium term could help to reduce emissions with existing technologies until at least 2030 or 2035. Although gas demand in the residential sector, for example, might drop by a quarter until 2030 due to several energy efficiency measures in the housing sector, it will stay high in other sectors such as the power sector over a longer period. On the other hand, gas heating may be more energy efficient than electric heating or other forms of fossil fuel heating, implying that gas may have growth potential in the heating sector in some

Investors can also hedge against risks of price developments, with gas fired generation often setting the wholesale market price for electricity. However, operational costs in the future may be higher than for carbon free options and gas fired power stations might run for fewer hours.

2.4. Transforming Other Fossil Fuels

Coal in the EU adds to a diversified energy portfolio and contributes to security of supply.

Oil is likely to remain in the energy mix even in 2050 and will mainly fuel parts of long-distance passenger and freight transport. The challenge for the oil sector is to adapt to changes in oil demand resulting from the switch to renewable and alternative fuels and uncertainties surrounding future supplies and prices.

2.5. Nuclear Energy as an Important Contributor

Nuclear energy is a decarburization option providing today most of the low-carbon electricity consumed in the EU. Some Member States consider the risks related to nuclear energy as unacceptable. Since the accident in Fukushima, public policy on nuclear energy has changed in some Member States, while others continue to see nuclear energy as a secure, reliable and affordable source of low-carbon electricity generation.

New nuclear technologies could help to address waste and safety concerns.

As a large-scale low-carbon option, nuclear energy will remain in the EU power generation mix.

2.6. Smart Technology, Storage and Alternative Fuels

Whichever pathway is considered, the scenarios show that fuel mixes could change significantly over time. Much depends on the acceleration of technological development. It is uncertain which technological options might develop, at what pace, with what consequences and trade-offs.

3. Brief Description of the MESSAGE Model

The MESSAGE (Model for Energy Supply Strategy Alternatives and their General Environmental Impacts) was first developed as model in IIASA (International Institute for Applied system Analysis) and later on taken over and extended by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) [4].
The model is based on a simplex (linear programing) algorithm [1] that finds the optimal scenario of energy technology penetration based on an optimality function and on several restrictions specified for the system under consideration.
The fact that the model allows discerning if a given scenario is optimal or not is an advantage at least for the capability to eliminate those scenarios that do not meet the optimality criterion, thus concentrate on the optimal ones. [3], [4], [15].
More evolved models may be used, *e.g.* as developed in [2], but for the purpose of an initial assessment we decided to use the simplex that is at the basis of the MESSAGE initial program.

4. Scenarios, Parameters and Variables

In the determination of scenarios, several parameters and variables were considered, as presented in the table 1. Our paper is only considering selected scenarios that reflect some of the requirements of the EU policy such as considering the distributed generation of heat from electrical energy sources or analyzing the penetration of pumped storage hydro power plant, in the general framework of nuclear technology penetration in the power system of Romania.

Table 1

Reference Case Scenario for NES Development in Romania (12 Case Studies Selected)

Scenario TYPE	Case CODE {Param [UM]}	Comments	
		{Obj.fct.} [US$'00]	{Elapsed.time}
	[NES2d5eh1s200v23y70]	2.09E+06	13m
	[NES2d5ieh1s200v23y70]	2.12E+06	13m
	[NES2d5ieh2s200v23y70]	8.04E+05	30m
	[NES2d5eh3s200v23y70]	1.81E+07	6h45m
	[NES2d5ieh3s200v23y70]	1.81E+07	20m
Ref for S2 Ref	[NES2d8eh1s200v23y70]	8.23E+05	14h15m
	[NES2d8eh2s200v23y70]	2.08E+06	45m
	[NES2d8ieh2s200v23y70]	5.05E+05	1h35m
	[NES2d8ieh3s200v23y70]	4.72E+06	1h10m
	[NES2d10ieh1s200v23y70]	5.62E+05	3h20m
	[NES2d10ieh2s200v23y70]	4.12E+05	37m
	[NES2d10ieh3s200v23y70]	2.17E+05	43h10m

Present status of the energy system – in order to better understand the presented scenarios, the present status of the energy system is given briefly (a list of recent data may be found in [5], [11], [12], [13], [14]). The generation of electrical energy in Romania is done from a balanced portfolio of technologies that includes 30% hydro, 20% coal, 18% nuclear, 15% hydrocarbs and the rest of 17% renewables (combining PV and wind and 0.7% biofuels).

There is a sizeable CHP generation (actually the CHP size has reduced continuously over the last 25 years, but still remaining important). Heat is also produced from heat only boilers either distributed residential or integrated into the heat networks serving to take over the heat demand peaks.

5. General MESSAGE Case Study Development

The general MESSAGE case study for *the long-term assessment of nuclear technology penetration in the Romanian energy system* was developed by the ANDR (Agency for Nuclear and Radioactive Waste)and ICN-Pitesti team leaders using a preliminary model agreed by AIEA-PESS experts. The model improvement was implemented step by step based on the IAEA experts' recommendations.

The main improvements refers to use an updated study [5] on the classical and renewable long term contribution in national energy mix (as competitors up to 2070 to old and new nuclear technologies) and to use an Intermediary Level of energy between the Secondary Level and Final Level (in order to allow the independent control of the distribution and storage of the electricity produced by the nuclear and renewable technologies, and the electricity and heat produced by the classical technologies). In the intermediary level works the hydro-pumping storage technology and the district heat storage and distribution technology. These technologies are critical to ensure the security of total energy supply in the National Energy Mix (NEMix).

All classical, renewable and nuclear technologies are selected as possible competitors in the national long-term energy mix, only if the associated technical and economic data are validated and defined in the general frame of the accessible references until February 2015. In respect with this principle, in this stage of the study, some innovative nuclear technologies (as *e.g.*, ALFRED – LFR Advanced Lead cooled Fast neutron Reactor European Design) and the new proposal for carbon capture technologies (not expected to be validated until 2070), are not considered. The national energy mix considered in the model for the preliminary study includes over 50 technologies. The Energy Chain is developed on 6 Energy Levels: Resources, Primary, Secondary, Intermediary, Final and Demand. There are 31 technologies "competitors" in energy production. There are 5 technologies in NEMix that transport, store and distribute to the demand level the energy in order to ensure the stability of the system on the all 24 load regions considered in NEMix.

The preliminary version of the reference case study was tested and agreed by ANDR and ISPE team in February 2015. This version was improved by ANDR team by taking into account the available internet information about the contribution of Hot Water Boilers and District Heat Mix and Distribution System used by the main national companies implied in provided the electricity and heat in the NEMix.

The code of the case studies, given in Appendix 1 (**NES***α***d***β***eh**J**s***γδε***v***ζ***y***θ*), includes the possibility to identify over 2000 versions of the model in order to provide results for a specific selected of input data setting:

- 3 versions of the Nuclear Energy System – option/ scenario (α=Reference; Low; High)
- 3 versions of the Discount rate of investments (β=8% - reference; 5% - low; 10% - high)
- 3 version of the Scenario for the evolution of the demand of electricity and heat (J=1 – reference; 2 – low; 3 – high)
- 3 versions of the “Specific options” to use support technologies & systems for energy transport storage & distribution (γ) like: „district station for Hot Water Mix and Distribution”, “Hot Water Boilers, support for peak of gas CHP over-load heat requirements in the system” or „Electric Heat for cooking and for domestic boilers”)
- 3 versions of the “Specific options” to use tax of CO2 emissions (δ = 0 for 10 [USD/tone CO2]; 1 for 5 [USD/tone CO2]; 3 for 30 [USD/tone CO2])
- 2 versions of the “Specific options” to a minimum contribution of renewable energy in mix
- 3x2 version (ζ=23 – reference; 25 – low; 29 - high) of new nuclear investment cost vs the basic national concept (N) or new innovative concept (Q)
- the option to record the last year of the period of modeling (y) and to record if the program run in integer mode all the modeling period (eh – option) or was set to run in integer mode only until 2050 (ieh - option)

In a more comprehensive report conducted by Romania in an IAEA-INPRO project the modeling team heave selected only 50 versions from over 150 versions performed. The total time of running MESSAGE for testing and the behavior of the general case study used for performing the report in INPRO takes over 4500 hours. The time of running of one version is pending only to the number of competitors allowed to be used in the modeling period and to the specific of technical and economic data of all the technologies competitors in NEMix; elapsed time of running a version of the Romanian model is until 20 min. and 188 h (on a basic notebook computer).

The primary information about the case studies selected to be analyzed in the INPRO national report are objective function, and elapsed time used by MESSAGE to run the specific case study. This information is presented for each Nuclear Energy Scenario as follows:

Table 2

Low Case Scenario for NES Development in Romania

Scenario TYPE	Case CODE {Param [UM]}	Comments	
		{Obj.fct.} [US$'00]	{Elapsed.time}
	[NES1d5eh1s200v23y70]	1.22E+07	1h00m
Ref for S1-Low	[NES1d8eh1s200v23y70]	3.18E+06	3h43m
	[NES1d8eh2s200v23y70]	5.71E+05	57m
	[NES1d8eh3s200v23y70]	1.26E+07	34m
	[NES1d10eh1s200v23y70]	1.49E+06	1h00m
	[NES1d10eh2s200v23y70]	4.34E+05	4h40m
	[NES1d10eh3s200v23y70]	5.94E+06	55m

Table 3

Reference Case Scenario for NES Development in Romania (12 Case Studies Selected)

Scenario TYPE	Case CODE {Param [UM]}	Comments	
		{Obj.fct.} [US$'00]	{Elapsed.time}
	[NES3d5eh1s200v23Ny70]	8.31E+07	14m
	[NES3d5eh1s200v25Ny70]	8.42E+05	58m
	[NES3d5eh1s205v23Ny70]	8.42E+05	75h55m
	NES3d5eh2s200v23Ny70	6.70E+05	187h27m
	[NES3d5eh2s200v25Ny70]	7.01E+05	150h46m
	[NES3d5eh3s200v23Ny70]	9.92E+05	86h23m
	[NES3d5eh3s220v23Ny70]	1.08E+06	129h30m
	[NES3d5ieh3s200v25Ny70]	1.00E+06	39m
	[NES3d5eh3s205v29NCy70]	1.53E+06	4h06m
Ref for.S3-High	[NES3d8eh1s200v23Ny70]	5.67E+05	48h43m
	[NES3d8eh1s200v25Ny70]	5.78E+05	43h45m
	[NES3d8eh1s200v29Ny70]	5.67E+05	32h05m
	[NES3d8eh2s200v23Ny70]	4.76E+05	135h30m
	[NES3d8eh2s200v25Ny70]	4.81E+05	48h43m
	[NES3d8eh2s205v29Ny70]	4.77E+05	51h51m
	[NES3d8eh3s200v23Ny70]	6.65E+05	58m
	[NES3d8eh3s210v23Ny70]	6.49E+05	73h36m
	[NES3d8eh3s220v23Ny70]	7.29E+05	2h45m
	[NES3d8eh3s200v25Ny70]	5.76+E05	22h26m
	[NES3d8eh3s200v29Ny70]	6.55E+05	9h40m
	[NES3d8eh3s205v29NCy70]	1.43E+06	15h23m
	[NES3d10eh1s200v23Ny70]	4.72E+05	2h19m
	[NES3d10eh1s200v25Ny70]	4.00E+00	34m
	[NES3d10eh1s200v29Ny70]	4.65E+05	8h15m
	[NES3d10eh1s205v23Ny70]	4.85E+05	3h24m
	[NES3d10eh2s200v23Ny70]	3.99E+05	6h29
	[NES3d10eh2s200v25Ny70]	4.06E+05	25m
	[NES3d10eh2s200v29Ny70]	3.94E+05	57h00m
	[NES3d10eh3s200v23Ny70]	5.49E+05	8m
	[NES3d10eh3s200v25Ny70]	5.54E+05	44m
	[NES3d10eh3s200v29Ny70]	5.40E+05	2h32m

6. Detailed Presentation of a Selected Scenario

In what follows, the results of a selected scenario are presented in detail. It must be underlined that each of the considered scenarios has a similar set of results and the purpose of this presentation is to show one in detail.

As coded, this is a rather complex scenario including: 4 CANDU(*CANadian Deuterium Uranium*) units (existing ones and those in construction/after 2019 + life extension)+ NEW NPP(Nuclear Power Plants) (Gen III+: LWR*(Light Water Reactor)* / PWR *(Power Water Reactor)* /after 2035) + Gen IV(ALFRED)/after 2080 (not yet in the model until 2070); 5%

discount rate; low demand; NO bounds of HWMix(Hot Water Mix and Distribution) and HWB(Hot Water Boilers); 10 [USD/tone CO2]; NO bounds; Reference investment cost for Nuclear; 2070 is the last year of modeling the CASE STUDY in MESSAGE.

One may notice that the case is considering the penetration of nuclear technologies, both the existing CANDU and advanced LWR technologies. The demand was chosen low given the trend of the energy efficiency policies and the price of the t of CO2 emissions taken at a low value to be conservative. Also, the investment cost for nuclear is at the reference value and the time horizon is 2070.

Some things to notice are the sharp increase of nuclear after the lifetime of some wind power parks reaches its limit and the associated reduction in CO2 emissions. Also, a sharp increase of the Uranium for nuclear fuel is seen accompanied by the need for more spent fuel deposit space.

The figures in Appendix 2 provide the basic results in terms of the dynamics of the system.

7. Conclusions

In the framework of the EU energy union policy the MESSAGE model was used to assess various scenarios of energy system development with time horizons in 2070. The main objective of the analysis was to assess first the optimality of the scenarios considered based on a simplex algorithm, second the impact of nuclear technology penetration such as emissions of CO2, need of uranium for nuclear fuel, production of spent fuel for final deposits.

The capability of the model to run several scenarios and to discern among the optimal ones is a definite advantage that allows not only to scan various potential dynamics but also to cluster the optimal ones and select the most realistic scenarios.

Thus, the importance of nuclear energy technologies penetration can be understood in the context of the whole energy system.

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Appendix 1

Case Study Codes

code		Meaning/ comments
[NES*αdβ*ehJs*γδε*ν*ζγθ*]		General code
NES		Nuclear Energy System – option/ scenario
α	1	Only 2 CANDU units (existing ones + life extension)
	2	4 CANDU units – national energy strategy in force 2013-2020 (existing ones and those in construction/after 2019 + life extension)
	3	4 CANDU units (existing ones and those in construction/after 2019 + life extension)+ NEW NPP (Gen III+: LWR/ PWR/after 2035) + Gen IV(ALFRED)/after 2080 (not yet in the model until 2070)
d		Discount rate of investments
β	5	5%
	8	8%
	10	10%
eh****		Scenario for the evolution of the demand of electricity and heat
J	1	Reference Demand
	2	Low Demand
	3	High Demand
s		Specific options

code		Meaning/ comments
[NES*αdβ*ehJs*γδεvζyθ*]		General code
γ		Option to use support technologies & systems for energy transport storage & distribution
y	1	NO bounds of: HWMixD*, HWB**, El.HeatNucl***
	2	NO bounds of HWMixD and HWB,
	3	All additional innovative technologies are bounded
δ		Option to use tax of CO2emmisions
δ	0	10 [USD/tone CO2]
	1	5 [USD/tone CO2]
	2	30 [USD/tone CO2]
ε		Option to use a minimum contribution of renewable energy in mix
ε	0	NO bounds
	5	% of Renewable in the Total Electricity Production Mix, considered "fix/year" : 31,33,34,34,35,35,35,35,35,38…; last year:2035
v		Version of new nuclear investment cost vs reference scenario and new invative scenario
ζ	23N	Reference investment cost for Nuclear
	25N	+18% Reference investment cost for Nuclear
	29N	-10% Reference investment cost CANDU34
	23Q;25Q;29Q	New Inovative System proposal to use Nuclear and Renewable electricity pick production in power the HWB for District Station (not in included in the model for the preliminary report)
y		Last year of modeling the CASE STUDY in MESSAGE
y	70	2070 is the last year of modeling the CASE STUDY in MESSAGE
	50	2050 is the last year of modeling the CASE STUDY in MESSAGE

*HWMixD – district station for Hot Water Mix and Distribution (HeatInFlow).

**HWB – Hot Water Boilers, support for peak of gas CHP over-load heat requirements in the system.

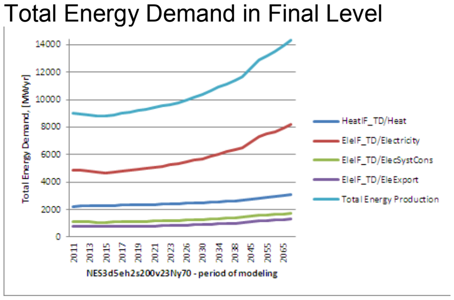
***El.HeatNucl – Electric Heat for cooking and for domestic boilers (solution not yet developed in Romania).

****ieh – refers to the option to limit the optimization process as integer only until 2050 – in order to extract faster partial results if the optimization process take over 100 hours.

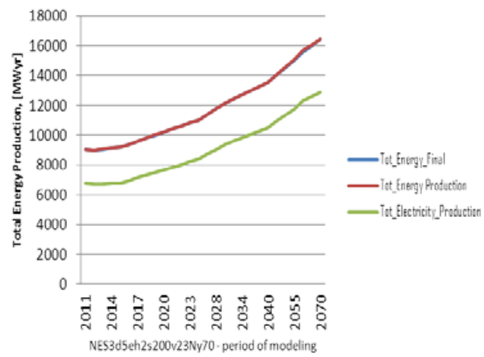
Appendix 2
Figure 2

Basic MESSAGE Result for Case Code [NES3d5eh2s200v23Ny70]
(Objective Function = 689955 [US$'00] (MINimum)/ Elapsed Time: 187h27m)

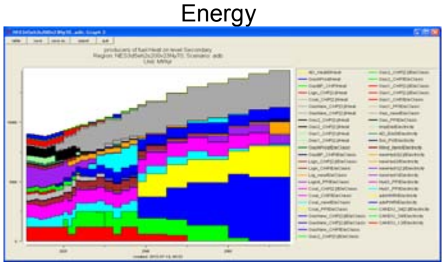
Total Energy Demand in Final Level



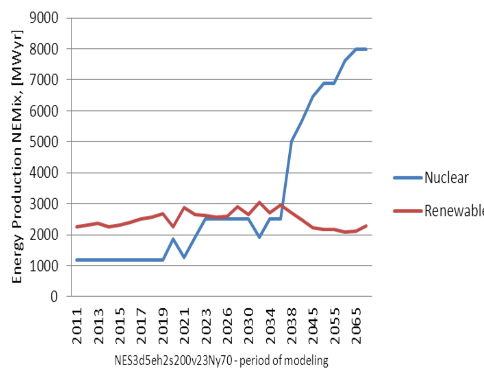
Energy Production in Secondary Level



Production in Secondary Level Total Energy

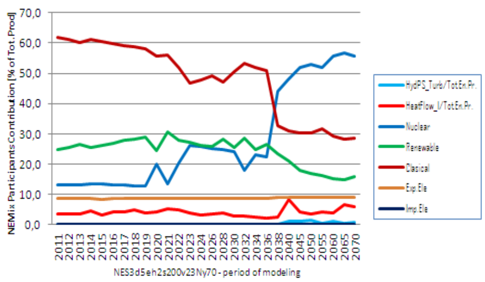


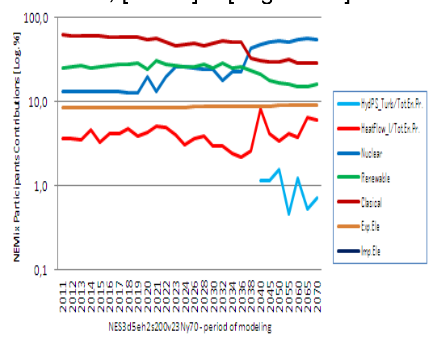
Nuclear New Installed Capacities [MW]



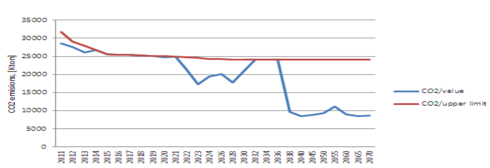
Storage and Re-Distribution System (HydroPS & District Heat Distribution System) [MWyr]

Re-Distribution System Share in NEMix Total Production; [Share] & [Log.Share]

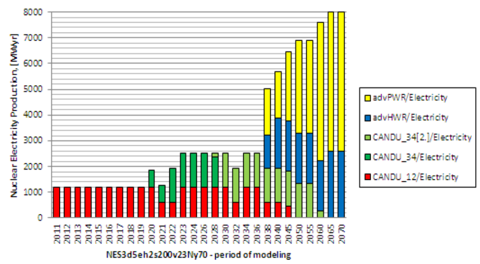




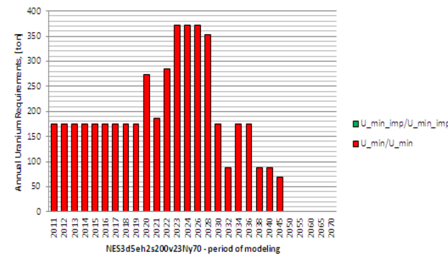
CO2 Emisions [kton] and the Associated Shadow Prices [US$'00]



Nuclear Electricity Production, [MWyr]

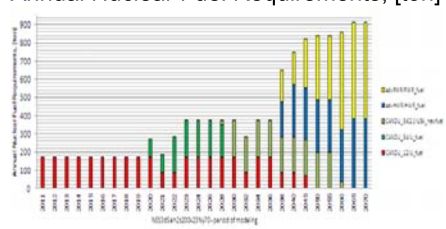


Annual Uranium Requirements, [ton]

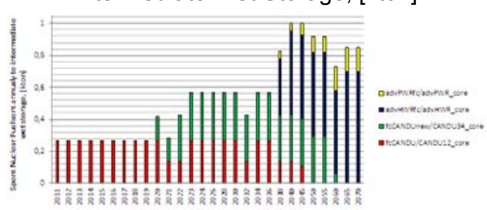


Cumulative Uranium Consumption, [ton]

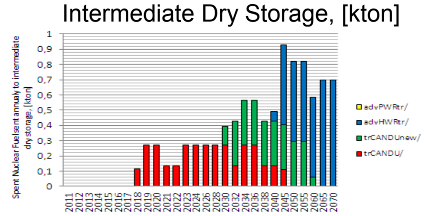
Annual Nuclear Fuel Requirements, [ton]



Spent Nuclear Fuel Sent Annually to Intermediate Wet Storage, [kton]



Spent Nuclear Fuel Sent Annually to Intermediate Dry Storage, [kton]



Volume of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Intermediate Dry Storage, [kton]