

1. Yucca Mountain is full of nuclear fuel that needs to be reprocessed. We used to reprocess spent fuel rods until 1/2 ton of enriched uranium somehow wound up in Israel.
2. Reference:

OUR NUCLEAR FUTURE:
THE PATH OF SELECTIVE IGNORANCE
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The truth is, all natural rocks contain most natural elements. Coal is a rock.

The average concentration of uranium in coal is 1 or 2 parts per million. Illinois

coal contains up to 103 parts per million uranium. A 1000 million watt coal

fired power plant burns 4 million tons of coal each year. If you multiply 4

million tons by 1 part per million, you get 4 tons of uranium. Most of that is

U238. About .7% is U235. 4 tons = 8000 pounds. 8000 pounds times .7% =

56 pounds of U235. An average 1 billion watt coal fired power plant puts out 56

to 112 pounds of U235 every year. There are only 2 places the uranium can go:

Up the stack or into the cinders.

Since a reactor full fuel load is around 11 tons of 2% U235 and 98% U238, and

one load lasts about 10 years, and what one coal fired power plant puts into the

air and cinders fully fuels a nuclear power plant.

Compare 4 Million tons per year with 1.1 tons per year. 1.1 divided by 4 Million

= 2.75×10^{-7} = .000000275 = .0000275%. Remember that only 2% of that is

U235. The nuclear power plant needs ~44 pounds of U235 per year.

The coal

fired power plant burns coal by the trainload. The nuclear power plant consumes

U235 in such small quantities yearly that you could carry that much weight in a

briefcase.

3. See the rest of Alex Gabbard's article. U238 can be bred into Plutonium and

Thorium can be bred into Uranium. We can fuel our nuclear power plants for

CENTURIES just by extracting uranium and thorium from coal cinders and

smoke.

4. See: <http://www.ornl.gov/ORNLReview/rev26-34/text/coalmain.html>