

2.4 Radioactivity and radioactive decay

Additional nuclear issues that effect power generation and its auxiliary activities will now be considered. Most of these issues are related to the by-products of nuclear fission, namely the fission products and fission radiation. Apart from the release of neutrons that was the focus of the preceding sections, nuclear fission also results in fission products and these elements and isotopes have a number of important consequences. It also results in the emission of various types of radiation whose consequences need to be discussed. It is appropriate to begin with a brief description of radioactive decay.