

- Fuel management in CANDU has both design and operations aspects.
- The design component consists of establishing:
 - the desired time-average power distribution for the equilibrium core, which will be used as the target power shape by the site fuelling engineer, and
 - the configuration of depleted fuel in the initial core.
- The time-average calculation is the source of important other information, such as:
 - * expected discharge burnup by channel,
 - expected intervals between channel refuellings,
 - core reactivity-decay rate,
 - * etc.



- The design of the time-average distribution is facilitated
- by the flexibility in selecting region-specific (or, in the limit, channel-specific) target exit-irradiation values
- and axial refuelling schemes,
- allowed by the CANDU on-power-refuelling feature.



- The operations component is the responsibility of the site fuelling engineer or reactor physicist. It involves:
 - * core-follow calculations, typically performed 2 or 3 times per week to keep close track of the in-core flux, power, and burnup distributions and of the discharge burnup of individual bundles,
 - * the selection of channels for refuelling, based on the current core state, power and burnup distributions and zone-control-compartment water fills, and
 - * the determination of the CPPF (channel-power-peaking factor) value, used in the calibration of the ROP detectors.



- The job of the site fuelling engineer or reactor physicist never gets boring.
- The daily tasks and responsibilities are meaningful and keep the job interesting and stimulating.