

Curiosity using nickel to generate power on Mars

Dean Jobb - March 08, 2013



Not long after NASA's Curiosity rover began exploring the surface of Mars in August 2012, its Earth-bound controllers used laser and X-ray probes to analyze an odd-coloured rock nicknamed "Jake." Among the array of elements they discovered was one that was helping to power those very instruments: [nickel](#).

NASA and NICKEL SINCE 1989

NASA and LENR

Posted on [January 27, 2012](#) by [Ben](#)

NASA has been involved in the cold fusion/LENR story since 1989. The purpose of this page is to document NASA's involvement, at least in part, over the years, starting in the year of Pons and Fleishmann and continuing to the ... [Continue reading →](#)

The world uses lot of nickel. The problem with it is:

1. At current levels of usage the entire world supply will only last 75.67 years.
2. There's hardly any nickel in the United States.
3. Much of the nickel used in the United States comes from recycling nickel-containing alloys.

The good thing about nickel is:

1. Like uranium, nuclear power can be produced with it.
2. Unlike uranium, using **nickel for nuclear power produces no radiation**.
3. Need I say any more.

As I stated above, at current levels of usage the entire world supply will only last 75.67 years. There's enough uranium to last approximately 260 years. Everyone that has studied natural resources knows we are running out on dear ole planet earth.

All the countries in the world want nuclear power. Most probably for peaceful means. But, not all. The United States and Russia are the most advanced in this technology. Each has enough nuclear bombs to destroy all life on planet earth. At the end of World War II and the devastating effects of the two nuclear bombs dropped on Japan, the United States and Russia began a race in developing nuclear weapons. Thus **The Cold War**. To ensure these weapons would never be used again, they had to come up with an agreement between themselves. Thus, The **MAD** doctrine. What is the **MAD** doctrine? A doctrine of military strategy and national security policy in which a full-scale use of high-yield **weapons of mass destruction** by two or more opposing sides would cause the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender.

When uranium is enriched and used to produce electricity, it creates something called plutonium. Plutonium is what nuclear bombs are made of.

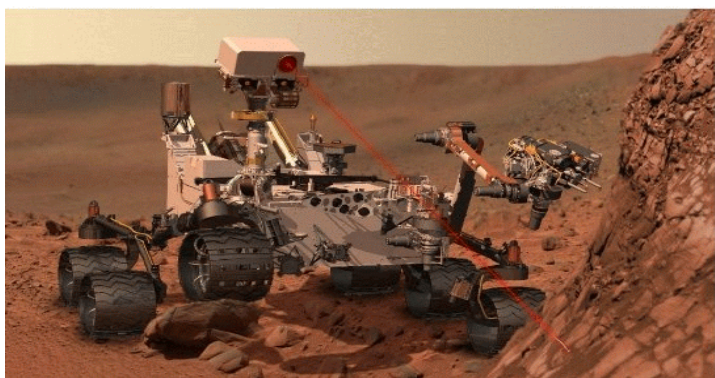
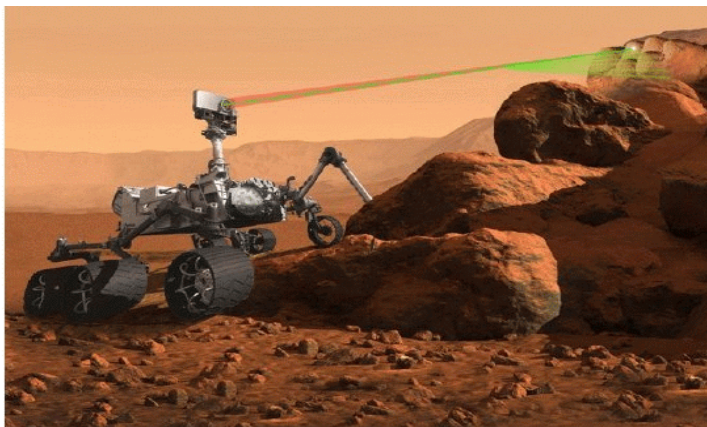
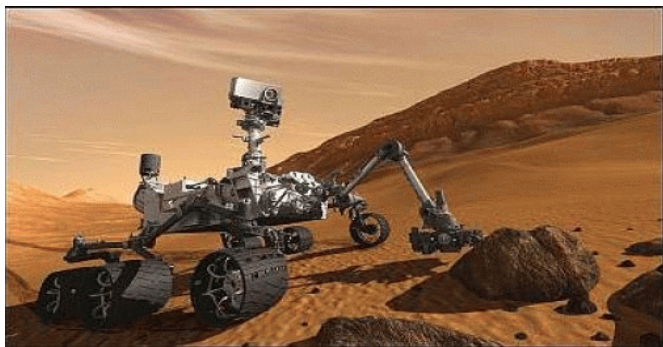
Let's get back to NICKEL and NASA:

NASA is funded by the United States government. Or better said, by the citizens of the United States through taxes. President Obama and others want to cut funding for NASA. What would it take to ensure NASA'S survival? The mining and transporting of nickel from mars to earth. As I stated earlier, earth is running out of natural resources. What are we going to use to operate the millions and millions of vehicles going up and down the highways today? How are we going to heat and cool our homes, power our electric stoves, microwave ovens, lights, etc? **Other than wind, water, and solar**, coal is the most abundant resource we have for producing electricity. We all know that's changing fast. Very fast. What's next? I can hear it now. Our government, stating something like the following: "to insure the fantastic life style we have created on planet earth and for the good of all mankind, we must start immediately, if not sooner, a system for mining and transporting nickel from mars to earth. We need many volunteers right now to begin intense training for this, the most noble and important mission of planet earth. **The whole world must join together** if we are to continue the wonderful life we have created. Let's put all our differences aside and for once, come together and start trying to preserve mankind instead of destroying it.

Who can argue with that? No one. It sounds great and it is great. Well, we're there. It's been in the works for quite some time.

We will still have to deal with rogue nations like North Korea and Iran, whom it appears are very anxious to use nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Imagine **nuclear weapons of mass destruction without the radiation**. Would this make the **MAD** doctrine obsolete? I can hear it now in the minds of some of these fruitcakes, "Boy, we can drop one of these new type nuclear bombs on a particular city, move right in, take over, rebuild the way we want, install our way of life, which happens to be the best for all the world". ... We still have people around who thinks like Hitler did.

I keep losing my train of thought. **Let's get back to NICKEL and NASA:**



See the next page for **what NASA has in mind**.
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NASA: A Nuclear Reactor To Replace Your Water Heater



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This reactor does not use fission, the process of splitting atoms into smaller elements employed by every commercial power reactor currently operating on earth.

And it does not use hot fusion, the union of hydrogen atoms into larger elements that powers the sun and stars.

Instead, a low-energy nuclear reactor (LENR) uses common, stable elements like nickel, carbon, and hydrogen to produce stable products like copper or nitrogen, along with heat and electricity.



NASA scientist Joseph Zawodny with a device used to test low-energy nuclear reactions (NASA)

NASA Wants LENR In Every Home, Car, and Plane

This process, like the “conventional” fusion of hydrogen atoms into helium, produces a lot of heat. (See: [500MW from half a gram of hydrogen: The hunt for fusion power heats up.](#)) The main difference, though, is that the cold fusion process (also known as LENR, or low energy nuclear reaction) produces very slow moving neutrons which don’t create ionizing radiation or radioactive waste. Real fusion, on the other hand, produces fast neutrons that decimate everything in their path. In short, LENR is fairly safe — safe enough that NASA dreams of one day putting a cold fusion reactor in every home, car, and plane. Nickel and hydrogen, incidentally, are much cheaper and cleaner fuels than gasoline.

Only one nickel mine is USA August 1995

There is **only one** nickel mine in operation in the United States. The mine is located in Riddle, Oregon. Most of our new nickel is imported from Canada. Much of our domestic nickel comes from recycling nickel-containing alloys.