

(12.4) In a water power station with a fall height of 20 m and a water flow of 500 m³ s⁻¹, the electric power output at 100% efficiency can be calculated. If the heavy water in the fall could be extracted and converted in a fusion reactor according to (12.14) with a 25% efficiency, which of the two power sources would yield more energy?

$$\begin{aligned}
 N_A &:= 6.022137 \cdot 10^{23} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1} & \text{MeV} &:= 1.6021773 \cdot 10^{-13} \cdot \text{joule} & x_D &:= 0.0155 \cdot \% \\
 M_H &:= 1.008 \cdot \text{gm} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1} & M_O &:= 16.00 \cdot \text{gm} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1} & M_D &:= 2.014 \cdot \text{gm} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1} \\
 \text{height} &:= 20 \cdot \text{m} & \text{flow} &:= 500 \cdot \text{m}^3 \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} & \rho_{\text{water}} &:= 1 \cdot \text{gm} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3} \\
 P_{\text{water}} &:= \text{height} \cdot \text{flow} \cdot \rho_{\text{water}} \cdot g & m_{\text{water}} &:= \text{flow} \cdot \rho_{\text{water}} & P_{\text{water}} &= 9.807 \cdot 10^7 \cdot \text{watt} \\
 N_D &:= \frac{m_{\text{water}} \cdot 2 \cdot M_H \cdot N_A}{2 \cdot M_H + M_O} \cdot \frac{N_A}{M_D} \cdot x_D & Q_{DD} &:= 23.85 \cdot \text{MeV} \\
 P_{DD} &:= \frac{N_D}{2} \cdot Q_{DD} & \eta &:= 25 \cdot \% & P_{\text{fusion}} &:= \eta \cdot P_{DD} & P_{\text{fusion}} &= 1.239 \cdot 10^{15} \cdot \text{watt}
 \end{aligned}$$

As seen from this result, the answer is fusion.