WHAT IS NUCLEAR ENERGY?

A reliable, clean power source that can play a vital role in decarbonizing the U.S. economy.

 Uranium in a nuclear reactor produces heat when it splits, or fissions, which is what happens when a fragile uranium-235 (U-235) atomic nucleus is hit by a neutron. At the same time, fission produces several neutrons that can go on to cause yet more fissions, providing a smooth, stable supply of heat that is used to produce electricity. Huge amounts of heat—and, in turn, electricity—are produced using extremely tiny amounts of fuel.

DID YOU KNOW?

A half-inch (1/25th of a pound) uranium fuel pellet can create as much energy as

- 149 GALLONS
- ONE TON
- 17K CUBIC FEET

Learn more at www.anl.gov.