CANDU uses heavy water as the moderator and coolant, and natural uranium as the fuel.

The CANDU site at Pickering, Ontario, is the biggest producer of commercial nuclear power in the world. Approximately 70 per cent of the money spent by the Federal Government on energy research goes into the nuclear field. Much development work is done in collaboration with Canadian industry which has supplied AECL with improved equipment, components and materials for CANDU reactors.

Canada's interests in nuclear research are not limited to power reactors. AECL participates in the production of radio-isotopes and related equipment and has supplied Cobalt 60 cancer therapy units to many countries.

Both at home and abroad, Canadian government and industry officials work to ensure that nuclear power development proceeds under safe conditions and under circumstances that will not lead to a proliferation in nuclear weapons capabilities.