Ten Reasons to Say No to Nuclear Power

1 Reactors are too expensive, costing at least $9-12 billion each of taxpayers' and ratepayers' money and likely more. The industry has a history of huge cost-overruns.

2 From licensing through construction to operation, reactors take too long to come on line – at least 6-10 years each – to address climate change in time.

3 No reactors are accident-proof. A meltdown could cause tens of thousands of deaths and spread radioactive contamination across vast areas for centuries.

4 Reactors are poorly-protected sitting-duck targets and are not required to withstand an aircraft attack. No meaningful security improvements have been made since 9/11. All reactors produce plutonium which could be used in a nuclear bomb.

5 Civilian nuclear programs provide the materials, knowledge and technology to transition to nuclear weapons production as happened in India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Any nuclear expansion impedes the goal of nuclear disarmament.

6 There is no solution to the radioactive waste problem. The proposed Yucca Mountain repository is scientifically flawed and its capacity would be exceeded by existing reactor and weapons wastes before the dump could open.

7 Reactors consume enormous quantities of water to operate. In a water-short world brought on by global warming, thermoelectric power plants deprive humans of essential water resources.

8 Nuclear power is not emissions-free. Reactors routinely release radioactivity, harmful to health. From uranium mining to waste storage, nuclear power emits greenhouse gases.

9 Exposure to radiation can cause cancer, alter DNA and shorten life-expectancy. Wildlife near the Chernobyl reactor explosion have demonstrated decreased longevity. Long-term genetic damage remains unknown.

10 At every phase of the nuclear chain, minorities and the low-income are often the most negatively affected. Nuclear corporations habitually violate human rights and environmental justice.

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www.beyondnuclear.org

#0508

ecoSmart Green Inks

Ten Brighter Ideas

1 Conservation is key and simply achieved. Start by turning off lights and unplugging electrical equipment when not in use. Line-dry clothes.

2 If every U.S. household installed just one compact fluorescent light bulb, it would displace the electricity provided by one nuclear reactor. 1=1! Twenty compact fluorescents in every household would displace the need for at least 25% of all U.S. reactors.

3 Updating heating, lighting, cooling and other electrical appliances with energy-efficient models can save more energy than all 104 operating U.S. reactors produce annually and can reduce home electricity use by at least 20%.

4 Energy efficiency is the cheapest and fastest way to reduce carbon emissions and is seven times more cost-effective at displacing carbon than nuclear power.

5 Homeowners and renters alike can choose to buy green power instead of nuclear-generated electricity. Check with your electric uility to find out how.

6 Wind power in 12 U.S. states could generate 2.5 times the current U.S. electricity production. Six states, individually, could produce more wind energy than the electricity produced by all 104 U.S. reactors.

7 Solar resources on just 1% of the U.S. landmass are three times as large as all U.S. wind energy potential.

8 Conversion of just 15% of U.S. parking lot acreage to photovoltaic rooftops would produce more electricity than the U.S. generates today.

9 Support for green collar jobs and an inclusive, robust green economy lifts people out of poverty.

10 The U.S. can become both nuclear-free and carbon-free. Go to www.ieer.org/carbonfree/ to learn more.

BEYOND NUCLEAR

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