Why Not Nuclear? Let's Count the Ways!

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS) is opposed to the continued use of nuclear power both in the USA and worldwide; and supports its replacement using appropriate sustainable renewable energy resources and aggressive use of energy efficiency and conservation.

There's a lot of talk in the mainstream press about a "nuclear renaissance." But when one rationally examines the details, *it is nonsense*. Why? Let's count the ways. Nuclear power is...

- 1.) an unacceptable, unnecessary safety and health risk because of the catastrophic and costly accidents it could cause, like at Chernobyl in the Ukraine, Three Mile Island and Brown's Ferry in the USA, and Windscale, England; because of its potential as terrorist targets; and because of the ongoing accidental and government-permitted contamination from every step of the fuel, production and waste cycles.
- 2.) it is **too expensive** compared to already existing ways of meeting legitimate energy needs for electric service:
- 3.) unlike its alternatives, it produces long-lived and dangerous *radioactive wastes* which must be kept out of the environment for hundreds to thousands of years, at great risk and financial cost:
- 4.) if not for the first three problems, nuclear power would actually be an unimportant energy source, since so many other *better, cheaper, safer and quicker means exist* to meet our energy needs.
- 5.) it contributes worldwide to the illegal and unwanted *spread of nuclear materials, technology, and eventually weapons,* as it did in Korea. Pakistan. India. Israel and Irao:
- 6.) it cannot efficiently, safely or costeffectively help solve Global Warming, and cannot contribute to CO2 removal in a timely enough manner to make any difference on reducing atmospheric carbon levels.
- 7.) it does nothing to reduce our foreign oil imports, as nuclear industry advertising claims.

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Why You Can't 'Nuke' Global Warming:

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS) is opposed to the continued use of nuclear power both in the USA and worldwide; and supports its replacement using appropriate sustainable renewable energy resources and aggressive use of energy efficiency and conservation.

A lot of talk is going around about nuclear power "solving" the global warming problem. But when one rationally examines the details, *it is nonsense.* Why? Let's count the ways:

- it'll "break the bank;" not remotely costeffective in carbon displacement compared to other currently available means; efficiency takes 6-7 times more carbon out of the atmosphere for the same dollar spent, and does it faster.
- construction time-line too long, compared to both other available energy options, and to the timeline required for effective climate change intervention (needed within the next 8-10 years)
- stifles development, implementation, and expansion of market share of true local, sustainable and renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency; and ties up inordinate amounts of scarce investment capital required to expand these resources
- using more nuclear also means increases in nuclear's currently unsolved problems like:
 - nuclear wastes of all kinds
 - probability of accidents, unintentional leaks and contamination, more uranium mining,
 - proliferation of technology, expertise, materials, and ultimately nuclear weapons
 - increased risk from terrorist attacks in a post-9/11 world
- do not operate effectively under expected global warming conditions (rising coastlines; unpredictable water availability, more frequent/violent weather events;) without creating other unacceptable environmental damage (e.g., thermal damage to rivers)
- engenders a form of economic dependency at best, nuclear "neo-colonialism" at worst in non-industrialized nations
- proliferates the same unsolved problems nuclear power still has in developed countries, to countries that lack the capital, expertise, and political stability to manage nuclear power even at our current level of questionable standards
- vastly increases likely negative health and genetic effects from allowed radiation releases, accidental releases, and more accidents.

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