

# Renewables are under “Nuclear Attack!”

Since January of this year, renewable energy and energy efficiency have been the targets of an ongoing, well-coordinated, well-funded legislative and PR campaign led by nuclear companies like Exelon and Entergy designed to achieve three results:

- ☢ **Guarantee subsidies and bailouts for older, unprofitable nuclear reactors (Exelon claims at least 5 in Illinois);**
- ☢ **Roll back market share and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, guaranteeing their long-term marginalization in the nation’s energy mix; and**
- ☢ **Perpetuate nuclear and fossil fuel dominance by large, centralized utilities, and locking in of the “baseload/grid” utility model.**

Any one of these alone would have serious implications for renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE/EE) nationwide. Taken as a whole they represent a declaration of “nuclear war” against the RE/EE sector.

## **Who are the attackers? :**

- ☢ **Exelon Corporation:** owns 23 reactors, since January it has created and largely bankrolled the pro-nuclear front group, “Nuclear Matters”; is a partner in the pro-nuclear front group, “C2ES,” formerly Pew Center on Global Climate Change; has publicly opposed the federal PTC for wind; got the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard legislative fix postponed in Illinois by threatening to close 5 nuclear reactors, and got a resolution passed which, if it becomes formal legislation in the future, would essentially require the state to consider nuclear and coal as the dominant energy sources of choice for Illinois; announced in September it would *initially* need \$580 in bailout money, possibly *more later*.
- ☢ **Entergy Corporation:** owns 11 reactors; a founding “Strategic Partner” of C2ES;
- ☢ **ALEC:** numerous attempts to roll back RE/EE portfolio standards like in Ohio and Arizona;
- ☢ **Nuclear Energy Institute:** the lobbying and trade group for the nuclear industry, they recently named Exelon’s Christopher Crane as the President and CEO. Exelon is the major financial sponsor for the NEI, contributing \$7+ million/year..
- ☢ **The U.S. EPA:** Its recently released carbon emission standards program is being used as a regulatory fig-leaf to justify the continued operation of old and unprofitable nuclear reactors. Says EPA Director Gina McCarthy, ““There are a handful of nuclear facilities that because they are having trouble remaining competitive, they haven’t yet looked at re-licensing (to extend their operating lives). We were simply highlighting that fact,” ( Source: “EPA: Carbon rules could ensure nuclear power’s survival,” Chicago Tribune, June 17, 2014)
- ☢ **Politicians and Public Officials:** Legislators who delay, sabotage or roll back RE/EE portfolio standards – like IL House Speaker Michael Madigan.

(over...)

# What you need to know about nuclear:

## ***Nuclear power is simply too:***

***Dirty...***while ***low***-carbon and ***only*** at the powerplant site, they are ***neither zero-carbon, nor emissions free***. They are regularly allowed to discharge radioactive emissions into the air and water. And they have a sizeable carbon footprint over their entire life cycle. But most important --it's ***not*** "clean" to generate high-level radioactive wastes which must be kept out of the environment for more than 6,000 generations.

***Dangerous...***there's nothing "safe" about having to contain 1,000 Hiroshima bombs worth of radiation in a box. **Radiation risk and contamination** are present at every step of the nuclear fuel cycle. And the **radioactive waste** legacy lives on long after reactors close. Then there are the inevitable **nuclear catastrophes** like Chornobyl and Fukushima – low probability but astronomically high consequence disasters.

***and Expensive...*****Safety costs money**, and storing 1,000 Hiroshima's 24/7/365 is not cheap. New nuclear reactors are among the costliest forms of energy generation, more expensive than new solar in some markets. Old reactors are seeing O&M costs increase with age, and are deemed unprofitable in some markets already. And nuclear plants receive nearly 30 different unique subsidies.

***...to be considered "clean, safe and cheap," as Exelon would like you to believe. The only thing "green" about nuclear power is the money it sucks out of ratepayers' wallets. Ratepayers have already paid for reactors 3 times – through construction rate hikes, stranded cost recovery, and through current rates. No more nuclear bailouts!***

## ***What YOU can do:***

### ***1.) In the State Legislature:***

- Fight to keep, fix and expand state renewable and efficiency portfolio standards. Remind your officials – it's an election year!
- Oppose any new nuclear subsidies or bailouts that will cripple RE/EE programs.

### ***2.) In Regulation:***

- Submit comments on the EPA carbon emission standards by December 1<sup>st</sup>. <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule>
- Tell U.S. EPA to take nuclear out of the draft carbon rule, and give priority to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### ***3.) In the Media:***

- Write letters to the editors and op-eds against nuclear bailouts.
- Leave comments on all e-articles on the issue, opposing nuclear subsidies and promoting RE/EE programs.

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