



Global Warming and Nuclear Power: A Dangerous Mix

Global warming is one of the toughest environmental challenges, threatening the health of people, wildlife, and economies around the world. The problem is carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants -- mainly from cars, power plants and other industrial sources that burn fossil fuels -- trap heat in the atmosphere. As a result, the planet is getting warmer. **Nuclear power also threatens the well-being of our communities.** From the unique security threats these facilities pose to the long-lived legacy of the highly radioactive wastes produced by nuclear power, **there are many reasons why nuclear power should not be used to combat global warming.**

Nuclear Power is Expensive.

Nuclear power is not a wise financial investment for tackling global warming--there are more cost-effective ways. **The market will not finance nuclear power because of the high financial liabilities so instead taxpayers have been and continue to be forced to finance the industry.** As a nation from 1948-1998 we spent more than \$111 billion on energy research and development, 59% of that went to nuclear power, an industry that provides only 20% of the nation's energy. This massive subsidization continues today. The federal 2006 Budget allots billions of dollars to promote new nuclear projects and related nuclear expansion activities.



Nuclear Power is Unsafe. Nuclear power poses unique safety concerns not found in other energy supplies. In February 2005 testimony before the United States Select Committee on Intelligence, FBI director Robert S. Mueller, III labeled nuclear power as a threat to national security: *“Another area we consider vulnerable and target rich is the energy sector, particularly nuclear power plants.”*
New nuclear reactor designs pose the same security concerns and have yet to be tested in the real-world. Why should communities become guinea pigs when there are safer ways to produce electricity?

Nuclear Waste Remains a Large Problem.

Since the dawn of the Nuclear Age in the late 1940's, humankind has struggled with how to best deal with the devastating atomic waste that has been, and continues to be produced. Nuclear waste remains dangerous to humans and the environment for longer than any governing society has ever existed.

Brilliant minds have failed to find a solution and billions of dollars have been spent along the way. In the U.S. we are creating nuclear waste at a rate that would fill the proposed geologic repository (Yucca Mountain in Nevada) soon after it is assumed to open. That is, if it even opens--the scientific merit of the site has been called into question and remains mired in controversy.

Nuclear Proliferation is Still a Risk.

Nuclear energy and its fuel cycle pose unique challenges not associated with other forms of energy production. Nuclear power will always be a potential source for nuclear weapons materials or the diversion of radioactive materials to produce a crude nuclear explosive. **“Nuclear power entails potential security risks,** notably the possible misuse of commercial or associated nuclear facilities and operations to acquire technology or materials as a precursor to the acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability.” (Future of Nuclear Power, MIT,2003) Nuclear proliferation remains a threat to our future survival.



What is SACE doing?

SACE is involved in many projects throughout the Southeast that would reduce global warming pollution and prevent nuclear power development:

- ✓ advocating for energy efficiency and conservation alternatives
- ✓ supporting the development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar power, and bio-based energy
- ✓ ensuring that hydrogen is produced from clean sources, not nuclear power

What can you do to help?

Join Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and contribute to our efforts to advocate for clean, safe, and affordable energy solutions.

Find ways to make your home more energy efficient.

This will not only help reduce global warming pollution, it will help prevent the need to build new nuclear power plants and will save you money!

Write to your elected officials, local newspapers and electric utilities and tell them to reject nuclear power expansion efforts. Mention that there are better, safer ways to address global warming--and they're available TODAY!