

## THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR POWER

### KEY RISKS

#### High Costs

New nuclear reactors are extremely expensive and given historical trends, are unlikely to be built on time or on budget. In 2006, Progress Energy's two proposed AP1000 reactors for Levy County, Florida were estimated to cost \$6-8 billion and be completed in 2016. Five years later, the price tag has skyrocketed to \$17-22.5 billion, and the project is now delayed until 2021.

#### Threats to Communities

Nuclear reactors produce highly radioactive waste that remains harmful for tens of thousands of years. Also, as illustrated by the ongoing nuclear disaster in Japan, severe natural events and lax regulation can lead to catastrophe. Flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, drought and hurricanes have all recently threatened U.S. reactors.

#### Water Resource Depletion

Nuclear power is the most water-intensive electric generating technology, and competes with other important water needs. Nuclear reactors require millions to billions of gallons of water per day. Reactor reliability has been affected in the Southeast, especially during drought conditions.



Students oppose nuclear cost recovery at the Florida Public Service Commission.



TVA plans to complete unit one of the Bellefonte reactors near Scottsboro, Ala.

### WHAT SACE IS DOING:

- SACE is challenging new reactor proposals across the region, both at the state and federal levels. This includes legally intervening in licensing processes, fighting anti-consumer nuclear cost recovery schemes, and protecting taxpayers by opposing risky federal loan guarantees for new nuclear projects. Additionally, SACE works with scores of organizations across the country to petition the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to stop all licensing activities until further analysis of the Fukushima disaster is completed.
- SACE actively calls upon lawmakers and utility regulators to support affordable, clean and safe energy choices that will reduce global warming pollution. These solutions include energy efficiency programs and renewables such as wind, solar, and bioenergy.
- SACE is working with concerned citizens, organizations, community leaders and elected officials to build a coalition to promote clean, safe and affordable energy choices.
- Through SACE's Southern Energy Network, a project of SACE, students are mobilizing to prevent new power plant proposals and advocate for global warming solutions that protect our communities, bolster our economy and preserve our natural resources.