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WHY NUCLEAR POWER SHOULDN'T BE CONSIDERED CLEAN ENERGY

Recently, advocates of nuclear power have made statements that nuclear power is “clean energy” and “emission free” to influence and lobby state legislatures to pass laws giving the struggling nuclear industry huge additional subsidies from higher electric bills and higher taxes.

The term “emission free” is a falsehood when describing nuclear electric power. Nuclear reactors release some greenhouse gas (such as Carbon-14), at lower levels than oil, coal, and natural gas. However, the process to produce atoms of reactor-ready uranium-235, required to produce energy in reactors, consists of numerous steps (mining, milling, fabrication, enrichment, purification), each of which requires huge amounts of greenhouse gas.

The hoax of using the term “emission free” is furthered by nuclear advocates ignoring the fact that reactors produce over 100 chemicals, not found in nature, but only produced when atomic bombs explode and nuclear reactors operate. These chemicals, including Iodine-131, Cesium-137, Strontium-90, and Plutonium-239 are all radioactive and cancer-causing. While much of these chemicals are retained in the reactor and are stored as waste for up to 250,000 years, some is released into the environment, and thus the food chain. Proof that these “emissions” released occur are documented in annual reports from operators of nuclear plants to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The other term that is falsely applied to nuclear power (“clean energy”) is proven inaccurate by numerous articles in peer-reviewed medical journals. Several have shown that people living near nuclear reactors take in an elevated amount of radioactivity (i.e., Strontium-90 in baby teeth). Others have shown generally elevated rates of cancer, especially cancer known to be most sensitive to radiation exposure (child cancer, thyroid cancer, and breast cancer).

Of course, the catastrophic meltdowns at places like Chernobyl and Fukushima demonstrate the worst-case scenario of nuclear power not being “emission free” or “clean energy.”

Any list of sources of “clean energy” should thus not include nuclear power.

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