

Nuclear Power – A Recklessly Dangerous Way to Heat Water

Accidents can be Catastrophic

Chernobyl – the reactor meltdown in 1986 spewed radioactivity all over eastern Europe. A concrete “sarcophagus” had to be placed over the plant. An immense “megatomb” had to be placed over the sarcophagus in 2017. It will last 100 years, but the radioactivity inside will last for thousands of years. What then?

Fukushima – The tsunami in 2011 caused several melt-downs and big release of radioactivity. Radioactive melted fuel contaminates water that seeps into the ruined plant. The radioactive water needs to be stored indefinitely. So far 1,000,000 tons is being stored around the plant. A plan to divert the water with a \$300 million “ice wall” failed to stop the water.

Indian Point, New York is being slowly shut down. It sits on active earthquake faults and if it has an accident there’s no way to evacuate the tens of million downstream on the Hudson River

The Nuclear Waste problem has never been solved – Despite decades of research there’s no plan on where to store radioactive waste that will be dangerous for thousands of years. So all of the spent rods sit in pools near the power plants. They’ll have to be guarded, essentially forever.

Nuclear power is way too expensive - Banks won’t finance them. They have to get enormous amounts of public money to start and keep going. In Connecticut the owners of the Millstone plant threatened to shut down if the state didn’t give them access to certain “zero carbon” markets. The state caved in Dec. 2018

Nuclear power is not zero emission – It’s true that reactor operation doesn’t give off carbon dioxide, but mining, milling, fuel fabrication, enrichment, reactor construction, decommissioning and waste management use fossil fuels and hence emit carbon dioxide.

The promise of 4th generation nuclear power remains only an empty promise – Every few years we’re told that engineers have found new kinds of nuclear power plants that will be much safer and actually run on nuclear waste. Yet they never seem to be actually built.

Read more about the problems of nuclear power at PEPeace.org Go to the site, click on the resources tab and click on “No-Nukes”

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