WHY NEW NUKES ARE A BAD IDEA:

Not Worth the Risks

New Nukes are being considered to supplement our energy supply for a short time as an alternative to renewables. Unproven new designs like the AP1000 are risky, expensive and unnecessary. Instead, we should make it a priority to maximize our energy efficiency (there is as much as an additional 40% potential) and to bring renewable sources on-line. The untenable consequence of continuing to produce toxic radioactive waste with no solution in sight is irresponsible.

Clean Energy Independence

Projections indicate that substantial new sources of clean energy will be on board by 2020, 2025 and 2030, allowing us to transfer away from CONG (Coal, Oil, Nuclear, and Gas).

Transition the Money

Spend the billions proposed for hugely expensive **new nukes** on a **crash program for efficiency and renewables** that will get the US to safe, clean energy independence faster. Use the money already allocated for advancing nuclear power for true energy independence in a clean, safe manner. Instead, finance clean energy faster in 20-30 years. Work toward the day when the US will be clean, safe and energy-independent.

NEW NUCLEAR PLANTS ARE:

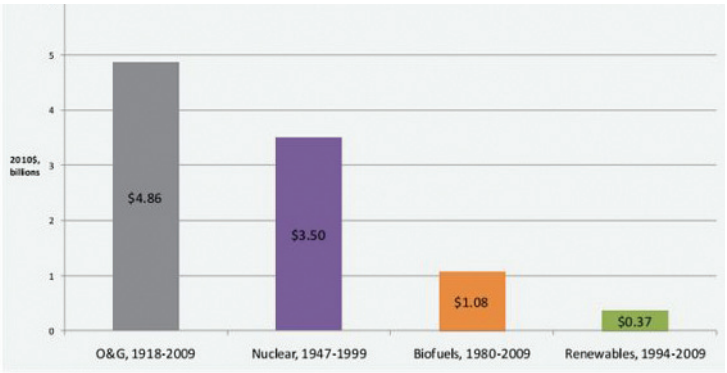
Unnecessary – The Power Not Needed

We have sufficient power now. Efficiency is already coming on board (we waste as much as 40%), buying enough time to allow renewable energy to provide new source replacement. Extremely expensive nuclear energy would rob financial resources from clean energy efforts.

Too Expensive & Bad Economics

Investors are unwilling to foot the bill. Costs for this most expensive, risky energy are paid by taxpayers and ratepayers through Loan Guarantees and CWIP (Construction Work in Progress) leaving little fiduciary responsibility and accountability for the energy company. Government loan guarantees have a dismal history with a 59% default rate. The DOE's loan for the two new reactors at the Vogtle site near Augusta, Georgia is currently under White House review.

Historical Average of Annual Energy Subsidies – A Century of Federal Support



A Public Liability

Taxpayers are responsible for expenses in case of accidents. Nuclear electricity is the most expensive energy. Some large energy companies are reconsidering investments and have recently canceled plants. Indeterminable costs including cost overruns, maintenance problems, waste disposal and cleanup have caused nukes to run over budget and over time, extending the lengthy time it takes for power to come on line.

Dirty and Toxic

There is **no waste confidence** – nukes must not be built unless there are solutions for radioactive waste storage.

No new nukes should be built without a viable radioactive waste solution. The current radioactive waste stream is already unmanageable and dangerous. No sense creating new waste when there is no solution for the old waste, which is piling up dangerously. Pools are overfull, creating hazards at many of the 104 plant locations. Cleanup for old plants has not even been properly addressed.

It is a **myth** to assume that this growing amount of radioactive waste can ever effectively be dealt with. At best we can provide barriers to protect us. Even this is questionable long term. New nuclear reactors contribute to this legacy for tens of millennium for an unnecessary, short-term boost to our energy supply which is already being addressed in other effective ways.

Dangerous

New nuclear power plants are **untested, risky, dangerous,** and **unsafe.** Major catastrophic accidents at 3 Mile Island and

Chernobyl occurred when they were new plants. New designs, such as (AP1000), are unproven technology that has never been built. Fukushima concerns have not been addressed.

RATEPAYERS ON THE HOOK

CWIP, or Construction Work in Progress allows a utility to charge ratepayers higher rates for future costs of a yet-to-be-constructed reactor, even if that reactor is never built. Sometimes described as a tax, it can be a form of rate payer subsidy for projects not financially viable. In states like Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, nuclear utilities can charge ratepayers an added fee on their electricity bills to pay for new reactors under construction – and even before construction begins. In many states, such surcharges are illegal. Missouri and Iowa have successfully sunk new reactor proposals, by opposing legislation that would have allowed the utilities to charge ratepayers for CWIP.

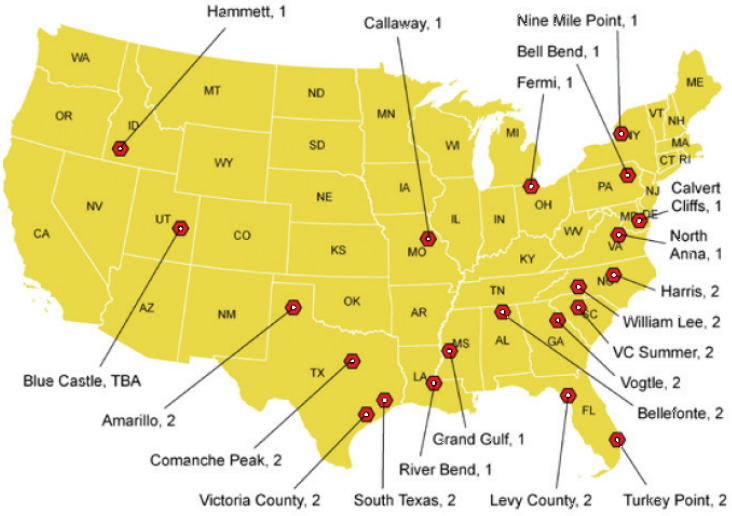
MYTH –THERE ARE NO NEW NUKES IN THE WORKS

Fact: they already are.

On February 9, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved the first new reactors since the 1978 meltdown at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania. Southern Company has started to construct two new reactors at the Vogtle site near Augusta, Georgia. President Obama has already promised Southern Company $8.3 billion in taxpayer loan guarantees towards the $14 billion cost of the proposed reactors. A CWIP (Construction Work In Progress) law allows ratepayers to be charged for construction (even if the plant never operates), removing financial risk from stockholders and the company. In addition Southern Company is already applying to the NRC for dozens of design changes stemming in large part from errors in construction.

Southern Company has already done extensive preliminary construction at the Vogtle site. The NRC license allows Southern to complete construction of the containment, reactor cooling systems, spent fuel storage pools, and other major reactor components before the NRC establishes what new requirements resulting from the Fukushima experience will be.

IS THERE A PROPOSED NEW REACTOR IN YOUR AREA?



Join the Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign to replace nuclear power with energy efficiency and clean, renewable power.

You can join our campaign at: sc.org/no_nukes

Graph source: DBL Investors, "What would Jefferson do?"
Map image courtesy of No New Nukes Y'all. org

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