

No Bailout for Diablo



There are several problems with the Biden Administration’s plan for a \$6 billion bailout of failing nuclear power plants.

As a non-scalable, inflexible power source, nuclear forces wind and solar energy to be curtailed on the electrical grid. Hence, a \$6 billion subsidy for non-economical nuclear plants is \$6 billion that is not supporting – and is actually curbing – the development of more solar, wind, and energy efficiency in buildings and appliances. Closing Diablo Canyon will solve that problem in California.

[We agree with Amory Lovins](#), chief scientist at the Rocky Mountain Institute:

“The reason the plants are distressed and cannot compete on operating cost is the operating cost is so high. High enough that for every KWh you don’t generate in such a reactor, you could buy approximately three KWhs of efficiency.... If you close those distressed nuclear plants, buy efficiency instead – which the regulator can tell you to do – with the saved operating costs, you will save money and carbon.”

“In 2020, the world added 0.4 gigawatts more nuclear capacity than it retired, whilst the world added 278 gigawatts of renewables – that’s a 782-fold greater capacity. Renewables swelled supply and displaced as much carbon every 38 hours as nuclear did all year. There is no new type or size or fuel cycle of reactor that will change this. Do the math. It is game over.”

As if to underscore the point, on April 30 [nearly 100% of California’s electrical grid was powered by renewable energy](#).