

THREATENED COMMUNITIES

WE HAVE A PROBLEM:

- More nuclear power means more disasters like Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. Since 1986, the year of the Chernobyl accident, there have been 200 near nuclear accidents at 50 reactors in the U.S.
- Radioactive contamination could spread across 40,000 square miles in the event of an accident.²
- Nuclear power is expensive. The first 75 reactors in the U.S. cost \$100 billion over budget and U.S. tax dollars paid for much of it.
- Nuclear power provides the material and know-how for nuclear weapons.
- There is still no safe way to take care of nuclear waste which will remain dangerous for 240,000 years.

SOLUTION:

- No New Nukes! Shut down nuclear reactors and phase out nuclear power.
- More renewable energy such as wind and solar power. These options combined could meet 40 percent of America's energy needs.
- Increase energy efficiency and cut the massive waste of electricity.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell Congress, your governors and legislators that you don't want nuclear power.
- Insist that nuclear subsidies are switched to renewable energy.
- Demand stronger energy efficiency laws.

"The idea that the atom is safe is just a public relations trick."¹

James Watson, Nobel Prize winner
and co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule

TAKE ACTION TO STOP NUCLEAR POWER

The Issue

Nuclear power is expensive, dangerous and unpopular. Suggesting that it is the answer to global warming is pure fantasy. Each nuclear reactor is a potential disaster waiting to happen and an obvious target for terrorists. Atomic reactors also produce dangerous waste that will long outlive them; radioactive waste remains hazardous for more than 240,000 years. Even before the meltdown at Three Mile Island and the explosion at Chernobyl, the nuclear industry was in decline in the U.S., with falling orders, cancelled contracts and cost overruns. The first 75 reactors built in the U.S. came in at \$100 billion over budget. Those high costs haven't disappeared; the boss of power giant Dominion even warned that companies announcing plans to construct new reactors would see their shares dropped to "junk status."³ Now, learning nothing from history, the Bush administration is giving your tax dollars to powerful energy corporations to build the first U.S. reactors in more than 30 years. Without that support, they won't be built. These new reactors will be twice as expensive as the industry claims and will not solve the problems of safety, security and waste.

The Solution

It doesn't have to be this way. Alternative energy such as solar and wind power is safe, clean and affordable. Equally, energy efficiency savings could wipe out a large portion of our current energy demand, removing the "need" for nuclear power. Nuclear subsidies should be switched to renewable energy and improved efficiency. With responsible government, nuclear power can be history.

The Opposition

Under recent federal legislation, the nuclear industry has been handed \$13 billion in subsidies and tax breaks to build a new generation of nuclear plants. In addition, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry lobby, has hired the former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to try to "greenwash" nuclear power's dirty and dangerous image.



What You Can Do

SEND A MESSAGE: Call Congress at 202-224-3121 and tell them that you don't want nuclear power and that they should put an end to nuclear power subsidies and support renewable energy instead.

SHOP SMART: Look for products for your home that are energy efficient. Buy green power if it's available.

GET INVOLVED: Either on campus or online at:
www.greenpeaceusa.org/getinvolved

Greenpeace Victories

- In 1996, the United Nations adopts the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibiting any nuclear explosion whether for weapons or peaceful purposes.
- In 1993, the London Dumping Convention bans at sea disposal of radioactive waste.
- In the 1980s and 1990s, Greenpeace blocks U.S. and French nuclear tests in Nevada and the Pacific.
- Greenpeace helps reverse the federal government's policy to deregulate radioactive waste and dispose of it in municipal landfills.

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