

Nuclear Power is Not Clean

Welcome new board members. So glad we have such knowledgeable and highly qualified additions to the board and we thank you for serving our valley. I'm a concerned citizen and a member of MATRR, Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation.

We also think the board has been misinformed by the TVA executives regarding supportable evidence about the costs and dangers of nuclear power.

At the last board meeting, the executive report made repeated claims that nuclear power is clean, cheap & safe. The evidence shows it is none of those.

Nuclear power is not clean. From the mine to the 100 year waste containment canisters, nuclear waste is a reality.

Uranium extraction is carbon intensive, using large diesel earth movers, in addition to radiation pollution and the acids and other uranium processing chemicals.

Nuclear power is not clean, it kills American workers. Tens of thousands of Department of Energy workers and contractors have been granted worker compensation claims for illness and death from radiation exposure.

Only 1% of the uranium produces electricity, 99% produces nuclear waste. Also, nuclear power plants routinely release radionuclides into our air and water in order to manage the radiation buildup within the plant.

Radioactive poisons move up the food chain and are cumulative. They are known to cause cell alterations and DNA mutations, with pregnant women and children at high risk. There is no safe dose of radiation.

Radionuclides are invisible poisons. By the time we see the mutations, it is too late for our children and grandchildren and for future children for thousands of years

Not clean, not safe. How can TVA justify this costly, unnecessary, and short-term energy source against the terrible long-term risks to our valley?

We think it is time to pursue a rapidly attainable 30% improvement in energy efficiency, and a long-term TVA solar power plan.

Germany produces 7.4 times more solar electricity per year than the U.S., with far less land and a cloudy northern location.

Nuclear power is not cheap. The nuclear industry only stands if we continue to privatize profits and socialize the risks with government loan and liability guarantees.

The Congressional Budget Office found that 75 of the 104 nuclear power plants cost 3 times the industry estimates, and the GAO predicts 50% nuclear loan defaults. In addition, we continue to ignore the endless costs of radioactive waste management for future generations.

As residents of the valley, our first choice is an attainable 30% improvement in energy efficiency. Next is solar power, which is more reasonable than nuclear, both economically and ecologically. Solar is also far more secure.

For more information and backup data, please visit our website at M-A-T-R-R.org, that's MATRR.org - Because It Matters.

Thank you,

Gretel Johnston, Scottsboro, AL

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