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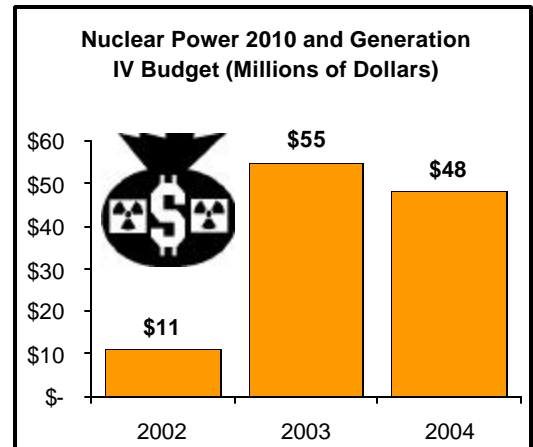
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New Nuclear Power Plants = More Nuclear Waste

The Bush Administration's misguided *Nuclear Power 2010* program mandates the construction of new commercial reactors by 2010. The program promotes the nuclear industry's goal of adding 50,000 megawatts of nuclear generating capacity – i.e., 50 new reactors – by 2020. However, as Department of Energy advisors have stated, “economic viability for a nuclear plant is difficult to demonstrate.”¹ So, the government is planning to subsidize this radioactive boondoggle with our tax dollars.

An Atomic Waste

This year taxpayers will spend about \$55 million on the *Nuclear Power 2010* program and its sister initiative, *Generation IV Nuclear Energy*² – an astonishing 400% increase from 2002 funding levels. The Administration's 2004 spending request includes another \$48 million, which is budgeted as part of nuclear energy research and development (in the nuclear energy technologies line item); the Senate Energy Committee recommends increasing appropriations back to \$55 million. All told, the Administration's nuclear power R&D budget request for 2004 totals \$127 million.



Speaking of Waste...

A nuclear reactor generates about 22 tons of deadly high-level radioactive waste each year. There is no known way to safely dispose of this waste, which remains dangerously radioactive for tens of thousands of years. U.S. nuclear power plants have already produced nearly 50,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste. Managing this mounting stockpile is increasingly complex and presents many scientific, environmental, and safety problems. By 2010, the volume of nuclear waste in the U.S. is expected to exceed capacity at the controversial Yucca Mountain repository. The government has no viable plan for coping with the additional waste that new nuclear reactors would produce.

Not with my tax dollars!

CONTACT YOUR U.S. SENATORS and ask them not to spend your tax dollars on nuclear power plants. Tell them that the misguided *Nuclear Power 2010* program is an unjustifiable polluter subsidy, and ask them to withhold its requested funding in 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations. Ask them oppose any energy legislation that authorizes spending on *Nuclear Power 2010*. Call the Capitol Switchboard – (202) 224-3121 – and ask to be transferred to the office of your Senator.

¹ *A Roadmap to Deploy New Nuclear Power Plants in the United States by 2010*, pg. 4. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy (October 2001).

² Appropriations reports do not always itemize expenditures for these programs individually.

Ralph Nader, Founder

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"Nuclear Power 2010" EXPOSED

WHAT & WHEN:

- Encourages companies to commit to new plant orders by the end of 2003.
- Aims to construct new nuclear power plants in the U.S. by 2010.
- Advances the nuclear industry's *Vision 2020* policy, which has as its goal the addition of 50,000 megawatts of nuclear power generation (i.e. 50 new nuclear reactors) by the year 2020.

HOW & HOW MUCH:

- Phase 1 (Regulatory Approval) costs, estimated to range from \$183 – 238 million, are to be shared equally between industry and the federal government. This translates to a taxpayer burden of \$91.5 - \$119 million.
- Phase 2 (Design Completion) and Phase 3 (Construction and Startup) will also be subsidized at an unspecified rate. The last reactor built in the U.S., Tennessee Valley Authority's Watt's Bar, cost nearly \$8 billion.

WHERE:

- Exelon intends to apply for an Early Site Permit ("approve the site now, ask questions later") at its Clinton plant in Illinois.
- Dominion intends to apply for an Early Site Permit at its North Anna plant in Virginia.
- Entergy intends to apply for an Early Site Permit at its Grand Gulf site in Mississippi.
- Exelon and Dominion were also funded to consider constructing commercial nuclear power plants on federal land at Savannah River (South Carolina), Portsmouth (Ohio), and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

WHO:

- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) runs this program through the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.
- The Near-Term Deployment Group is the DOE's advisory group for this program. This group is composed mainly of industry and government representatives and coordinates closely with the nuclear industry. They issued a 2-volume report in October 2001 titled "A Roadmap to Deploy New Nuclear Power Plants in the United States by 2010."
- Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham is particularly enthusiastic about the program (Abraham received more than \$82,000 in campaign contributions from the nuclear industry in his failed bid for re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2000).
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would evaluate license applications for new reactors under revised "fast track" regulations (10CFR52).
- The Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's lobbying arm, has established an Executive Task Force on New Nuclear Power Plants.
- Entergy, Dominion, and Exelon are working with the DOE and NRC to permit private and federal sites for new reactors.