

From: [REDACTED]
To: erda.sm.DraftBlueprint
Subject: No New Nuclear Plants
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Dear NYSERDA President Harris,

I strongly oppose the development of new nuclear energy in New York.

Nuclear energy poses far more risks to New York than the purported benefits, and we ought to be doubling down on New York's commitment to building publicly owned renewables instead.

The Draft Blueprint for consideration fails to recognize the risks and harms of nuclear. Nuclear reactors are an environmental injustice. Nuclear energy creates deadly health hazards and threatens the communities it's sited in. Those communities are all too often indigenous communities and poorer communities. Radioactive and toxic exposures cause cancers, birth defects, reproductive system diseases, and weakened immune systems.

New York has a mandate to build renewables and an opportunity to show the world what a transition to clean, renewable energy can look like. Nuclear is a fairy-tale distraction – it would hinder development of the necessary renewables, while being too expensive and too slow to build to even appreciably cut New York's emissions in the necessary timeframe to meet our climate goals set forth by the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act.

We're already paying billions in subsidies to keep old nuclear reactors open in New York. Building more nuclear would only stick taxpayers with more inevitable bailouts. Subsidies would be so much better spent on energy projects that make economic sense - like renewables.

In 2023, the state legislature swiftly passed the "Save the Hudson" legislation to prevent radioactive waste from the decommissioned Indian Point facility from being dumped in the river. It's been proven repeatedly that there is no safe way to dispose of nuclear waste, and it is wildly politically unpopular to attempt to do so. Development of new nuclear would ignore all the scientific evidence of danger, while also ignoring the deep public opposition to nuclear and its waste problem.

NYSERDA must not waste New Yorkers' time and money on an unproven and dangerous technology with serious economic, environmental, and health problems. Solar and wind power and battery storage are affordable now; they are low risk, quick to build, and proven. We must prioritize these technologies and meet the goals of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act. The draft nuclear blueprint is a costly and dangerous distraction we cannot afford.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]