

From: [REDACTED]
To: erda.sm.DraftBlueprint
Subject: Opposing New Nuclear Reactors in NY
Date: Friday, November 8, 2024 1:59:43 PM

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NYSERDA President and CEO Doreen Harris,

Dear NYSERDA President and CEO Harris,

I am writing to you in strong opposition of new nuclear reactors in New York. The Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan is clear that the harmful impacts of nuclear energy on Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice communities must be analyzed and better understood, before contemplating building new unproven, untested, and highly radioactive and expensive nuclear energy. Yet the Draft Blueprint published by NYSERDA shows no regard for the serious health, environmental, and economic problems that come with so-called "Advanced" Small Modular Reactors.

I would like to bring to your attention to the following harmful and deadly impacts:

- 1) First and foremost, building new nuclear reactors will NOT help us transition to renewable energy. In fact, in the US and around the world, nuclear development impedes renewable energy. New nuclear requires billions of dollars and decades to build, diverting money, time, and the political will that is needed to speed the transition to renewable energy. Furthermore, new nuclear costs at least 5 times more than onshore wind - it will not help New Yorkers out of our energy affordability crisis.
- 2) The production of nuclear energy is an environmental injustice. The report fails to recognize the myriad, deadly harms faced by Indigenous peoples, as well as other environmental justice communities along the entire fuel chain of nuclear energy: those who live close to existing reactors, uranium mines and enrichment sites, and nuclear waste dumps.
- 3) Nuclear reactors create grave and deadly health hazards. Radioactive and toxic exposures cause cancers, birth defects, reproductive system diseases, and weakened immune systems. We are only just now beginning to understand the disproportionate impact that radiation has on women and children, and how tritium bio-accumulates in our environment and our bodies.
- 4) There is no permanent solution for deadly, nuclear waste. NY's shuttered West Valley nuclear reprocessing site is testament to the failures of the nuclear industry. It remains one of the most contaminated places in the country, threatening the Great Lakes and drinking water for millions of people.

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 paired with battery storage are affordable now; they are low risk, quick to build, and proven technologies. In 2023, New Yorkers were forced to pay over \$520 million to subsidize old nuclear reactors, while solar and wind garnered just \$51 million. Imagine if we had invested this money in energy efficiency and building renewables instead.

Nuclear energy is a dirty and dangerous distraction that we cannot afford. We must prioritize meeting the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

REAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT RADIOACTIVE!

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