

There is no reason for New Yorkers to take on the environmental, health, safety and financial risks associated with nuclear power. NYSERDA should not allow New Yorkers to become guinea pigs for the nuclear industry. NYSERDA's ***Draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies*** recognizes the deep public concern about nuclear power in its section on "Licensing, Safety and Siting." The report states that ALL nuclear reactors have the potential for "***irregular operating conditions***"( my emphasis) and that "public concerns about nuclear safety remains high, prodded by the highly visible accidents at Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986), and Fukushima (2011)." The draft report, continuing in its sanitized language, concludes that

Advanced reactors offer the promise of safer designs that ***could*** reduce both the likelihood and consequences of core damage events....{But} while advanced reactor designs do inherently ***reduce the risk of meltdown, as with all reactors, their performance could depend on operating conditions (my emphasis) ."***

In sum, the report makes clear that nuclear power is a potentially dangerous enterprise. The section on "Issues for Consideration" raises questions about safety, plant security risks, siting challenges, environmental risks, climate justice, supply chain problems, and of course, cost. The report states that

Nuclear plants in the U.S. have a long history of substantial cost overruns. The most recent commercial reactors to be completed, the Vogtle units, were originally estimated to cost \$13 billion but eventually cost \$32 billion, with a 7-year delay. <sup>1</sup>

Cost is no abstract consideration. Long Islanders know well the folly of nuclear power. LIPA customers are still paying off the debt associated with the Shoreham nuclear plant fiasco 35 years later. This past January, the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems canceled their contract with NuScale for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors . The plan collapsed under cost

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/ny/Future-Energy-Economy-Summit>

pressures.<sup>2</sup> More recently, the CEO of NextEra described small modular reactors as financially infeasible.<sup>3</sup>

The Long Island Power Authority's (LIPA) study of the region's electricity needs, its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), shows that LI can meet and expand its power supply through solar PV (photovoltaics), offshore wind, and long-term battery storage. Statewide, the planned closing of carbon-spewing peaker plants, the increased pace of building and transportation electrification, and projected increased demand for power from semiconductor and AI companies poses challenges. Those challenges will mean that New York will need to "up its game" in planning for renewables.

Currently, New York leaves its power supply options primarily in the hands of the private sector. Guided by what is best for their shareholders, they decide the how, when and where of electricity generation. This has led us into a difficult situation. Giant energy corporations have cancelled offshore wind contracts. They site long term battery storage facilities where it makes most sense and money for their investors, not communities. They propose and promote nuclear energy solutions even if it means greater dangers and risks.

There is nothing wrong with researching the atom's potential to provide us with power. It is not anti-science to raise questions and concerns about nuclear energy and its associated risks in mining and waste disposal. There is something wrong when the nuclear power industry claims it has the answer to our energy needs.

We know there are safe, sensible and cost-effective alternatives to nuclear power. What is missing is a plan to mobilize the resources necessary to make those alternatives real. The New York Power Authority (NYPA) recently released a list of 40 proposed state-sponsored power supply projects. They announced that these projects were only the first tranche of what would be other proposals. While private energy developers fail to heed the concerns and needs of the public, NYPA should be the public's advocate and clean energy developer. New York State and NYPA need to think big. Former Governor Mario Cuomo called NYPA New York's "hidden jewel." After all, it developed the Niagara Project, selling low-cost renewable energy across the state. NYPA's hydropower supplies New Yorkers with more than 20% of their electricity needs. NYPA needs to build on its 20th

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<sup>2</sup>file:///Users/famh/Desktop/The%20collapse%20of%20NuScale's%20project%20should%20spell%20the%20end%20of%20small%20modular%20nuclear%20reactors%20%7C%20Utility%20.html

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.utilitydive.com/news/nextera-ceo-not-bullish-on-smrs-as-company-assesses-potential-duane-arnol/730855/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20Utility%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2010-26-2024&utm\\_term=Utility%20Dive%20Weekender](https://www.utilitydive.com/news/nextera-ceo-not-bullish-on-smrs-as-company-assesses-potential-duane-arnol/730855/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20Utility%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2010-26-2024&utm_term=Utility%20Dive%20Weekender)

century record of success, becoming the reliable renewable power supplier for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. NYSERDA should be directing its skills, efforts, and financial resources to this task.

Respectfully submitted,  
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