

NUCLEAR WOLVES IN GREEN CLOTHING

In a desperate attempt to survive, the nuclear power industry is trying falsely to position itself not only as a “green” energy, but also as a “renewable” energy source. Concerted lobbying efforts are underway to include nuclear power in the Renewable Portfolio Standard whereby states must generate a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable sources.

Unfortunately, the nuclear industry has support from what should be among its strongest opposition — renewable energy companies. A recent letter to the White House (see

image at right) urging swift passage of federal loan guarantees to boost electricity production, was co-authored by the renewable energy trade groups along with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the lobbying arm of the nuclear power industry.

The Faustian Bargain the renewable energy companies appear ready to make — to get loan guarantees passed even if it means sharing them with the nuclear industry



May 19, 2009
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We want to thank you for your strong leadership on clean energy issues and to convey again our support for your goal of doubling renewable energy supply over the next three years. We appreciate the attention and commitment in the American

Ugly bedfellows: A May 19, 2009 joint letter to the White House reveals collusion between renewable energy companies and the nuclear power industry.

— underscores the problematic reality that many of the companies that produce renewable energy also have nuclear divisions. This has effectively muzzled opposition to nuclear subsidies from renewable

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WIND FARMS SAFER AND MORE PROFITABLE

The nuclear industry touts its economic benefits to local communities as jobs, shared labor income and tax revenues. But the nuclear bargain also comes with known risks to a much larger community with its

security exclusion areas, 100-mile wide accident planning zones and national sacrifice areas for radioactive waste dumps.

In stark contrast to nuclear technology, the expansion of renewable

energy is already demonstrating that it can provide more benefits at economies of all scale while greatly reducing risks to the larger community and to future society.

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Special points of interest:

- Nuclear energy gobbles up public funding that should support truly green energy
- Indian reservations ideal for renewable energy production
- A carbon-free and nuclear-free U.S. is achievable, affordable and essential
- Green jobs deliver more, and safer jobs than nuclear

Nuclear Wolves in Green Clothing

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energy companies even though allowing the nuclear elephant into the subsidies room minimizes meaningful support for renewable energy.

In addition, the industry has help from political cheerleaders who have pushed through laws in North Carolina and Florida so far, allowing nuclear power to qualify as a “renewable energy.” Activists stopped a similar effort in South Carolina. But Democrats Mike Ross (AR), John Barrow (GA), Baron Hill (IN), and Zack Space (OH) supported a failed attempt by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) to pass an amendment to the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 defining nuclear power as renewable.

This is why Beyond Nuclear’s Kevin Kamps hit the road, traveling to renewable energy fairs in Michigan and Wisconsin, where crowds numbered 27,000 attendees. Kevin educated fair-



Kevin Kamps (left) tabled for Beyond Nuclear and led workshops at two Midwest renewable energy fairs. Photo: Alfred Meyer

goers about how subsidies for new nuclear reactors would rob the “clean energy bank” of funds needed for renewables and efficiency.

Via workshops, one-on-one discussions and information tabling, Kevin explained the risks of nearby reactors and the dangers and costs of building new ones. He urged constituents to contact their U.S. Senators and Representative to block nuclear subsidies in current climate and energy legislation.

Beyond Nuclear networked closely with a dozen grassroots environmental, peace and justice organizations on both sides of Lake Michigan to strengthen this critically important network seeking truly green energy.

Wind Farms Safer

Continued from front page

Where nuclear power has stalled over the past three decades, the benefits of renewable energy development are rapidly expanding. In 2008 alone, wind power in the U.S. increased by 8,358 megawatts of new generating capacity and channeled more than \$17 billion into the economy. Wind farms provide rural economic development with long-

term stable income to landowners. In Texas where land use lease agreements for wind development are \$4,000 per acre per year, farmers are seeing wind turbines as the new cash crop humming 20 stories above ongoing agricultural farming and grazing. Renewable energy

provides greater climate benefits with fewer lifetime carbon emissions. In stark contrast to the massive and sometimes adverse water demand needed for nuclear and coal-fired power plants, renewable energy drastically saves water use from electricity production.

In 2008, wind power channeled more than \$17 billion into the economy

Give us the “Warm Power of the Sun”

John Hall (pictured right) and now a U.S. Congressman (D-NY), wrote his ode to renewable energy in 1979 – a song that still resonates all too well today.

Just give me the warm power of the sun
Give me the steady flow of a waterfall
Give me the spirit of living things as they return to clay.
Just give me the restless power of the wind
Give me the comforting glow of a wood fire

But please take all of your atomic poison power away.
Everybody needs some power I'm told
To shield them from the darkness and the cold
Some may see a way to take control when it's bought and sold.
I know that lives are at stake
Yours and mine and our descendants in time.
There's so much to gain, so much to lose
Every one of us has to choose.



Photo: Linda Gunter

Distributed energy—a “yes we can” plan for the (near) future

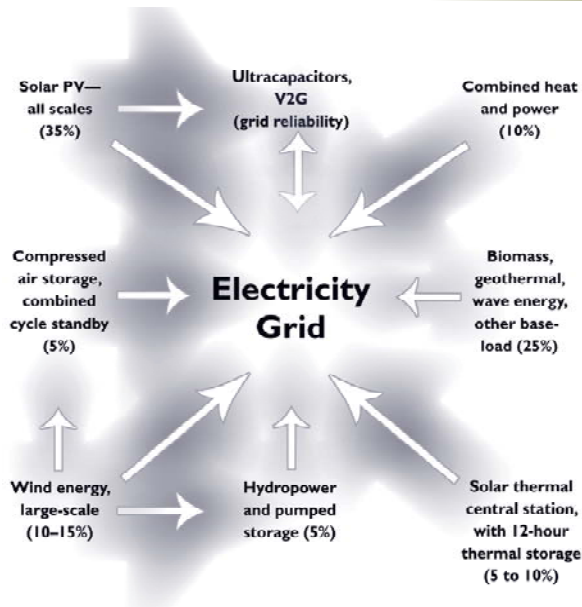


Diagram excerpted from *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy* by Dr. Arjun Makhijani.

Under the current centralized grid system, energy flows one way. A proper distributed grid welcomes a two-way flow of power. Distributed power generation is inherently modular, meaning power can be generated where and when it is needed — far more mobile and flexible than a centralized system.

The idea for a distributed grid is not new — it was Thomas Edison’s first model for electricity generation with neighborhood steam plants providing heat and light for

one-square mile sectors. This old idea is now seen as the wave of electricity’s future.

In his landmark book, *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy*, Dr. Arjun Makhijani takes a “yes we can” approach to solving U.S. energy needs without resorting either to more nuclear or coal-fired power plants. Makhijani anticipates just such a distributed electricity grid (shown at left) by 2050 — notably absent coal or nuclear power.

Green Jobs

Nuclear power should not be viewed as an efficient jobs generator. U.S. federal investment in nuclear power would deny American workers safe, good-paying jobs and instead squander taxpayer dollars on a dirty, dangerous, failed technology. Nuclear jobs are expensive to create and some would go to foreign workers. Based on current cost estimates for new reactors, one nuclear job would require

an investment of at least \$1.5 million, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute’s own numbers.

A 150 billion dollar investment in renewable energy would yield 1.3 million direct impact jobs while the same investment in nuclear power would yield less than 60,000 jobs. For every one

A \$150 billion investment in renewable energy would yield 1.3 million direct impact jobs

million dollars invested in energy efficiency, 21.5 jobs are created while the same investment in nuclear power leads to less than one job. Nuclear jobs often require specialized technical

qualifications whereas green energy jobs are open to a broader range of skills benefiting more members of the community.

Indian lands ideally suited to renewable energy production

The need for energy on American Indian reservations is great since more than 14% of reservation households have no electricity compared to less than 2% of all US households. Ironically, Native Americans have paid the price in health and environmental impacts for a power source they scarcely use — by mining the uranium that powers many of this country’s 104

operating nuclear reactors. (Uranium was also mined for nuclear weapons).

In fact, Indian Country has some of the richest renewable energy resources in America. Tribal wind resources (in the U.S.) alone represent 200,000 megawatts of power potential—well eclipsing the predicted necessary 185,000 megawatts of power needed to stabilize the U.S. climate.

Many First Nations already have wind projects underway in Minnesota, California, the Dakotas and New Mexico. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, in South Dakota, has created a wind company which will be 80 percent owned by the tribe. It will provide energy, income and jobs for a tribe which has suffered unemployment rates as high as 23% in 2009.

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The Thunderbird, in Lakota tradition, is the Guardian of the Truth.

Thunderbird design courtesy of Glenn Carroll



About Beyond Nuclear

Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.

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Funding for Clean Energy Squandered on Weapons and Wars

Renewable energy development is not only threatened by disproportionate funding for dirty energy sources like nuclear and coal — but on consistently bloated spending on the U.S. military sector (see chart at right as an example of past budget allotments).

The 2009 Pentagon budget totals \$653 billion, when military spending from other departments is included. This total includes \$17 billion for nuclear weapons. According to the War Resisters' League, overall U.S. spending on war and war preparations now equals the combined budgets of the world's 15 largest militaries.

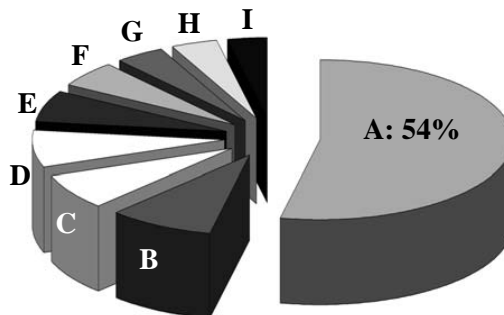
The military budget is 3,383 times the total \$193 million renewable energy budget. A mere \$93 million has been awarded to develop wind energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO, for example, was allocated just

2007-2008 DISCRETIONARY U.S. BUDGET:

\$930,000,000,000 (\$930 BILLION)

(\$1075 BILLION TOTAL, WITH THE WARS*)

(Graphic: Women's Action for New Directions)



KEY TO GRAPHIC

A. 54% Pentagon—Department of Defense & Nuclear Weapons (\$502 b)

B. 8% Education, Training, Employment & Social Services (\$76 b)

C. 7% Environment, Science, Agriculture, Energy (\$66 b)

D. 6% Health (\$57 b)

E. 6% Transportation, General Government, Community Development, Commerce (\$55 b)

F. 6% Income Security (\$54 b)

G. 5% Justice (\$44 b)

H. 4% Veterans' Services (\$40 b)

I. 4% International (\$36 b)

* Wars (~\$145 b)

\$100 million. Despite rhetoric about tackling climate change and a new emphasis on renewable energy and energy efficiency, federal taxpayer dollars will again largely be directed to the U.S. war machine.

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