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# The State of Play for Nuclear Energy in the United States

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

## About EESI



#### **Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers**

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

#### Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop "on-bill financing" programs

#### Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making

#### **Sustainable Solutions**

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.

## Policymaker Education

#### **Briefings and Webcasts**

Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

#### **Climate Change Solutions**

Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

#### **Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs**



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

### Social Media (@EESIOnline)



Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube







# DOE Office of Nuclear Energy 2023 Outlook

Dr. Kathryn (Katy) Huff Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy April 19, 2023

# Mission

To advance nuclear energy science and technology to meet U.S. energy, environmental, and economic needs

# **Priorities**

- Keep existing U.S. nuclear reactors operating.
- Deploy new nuclear reactors.
- Secure and sustain our nuclear fuel cycle.
- Expand international nuclear energy cooperation.



# Enable continued operation of existing **U.S. nuclear** reactors

Nuclear power is carbon-free energy.

It's the **largest source** of carbon-free electricity in the United States! **18%** of **all electricity generated** in the U.S.

47% of all emissionsfree electricity in the U.S.

- R&D programs enhance performance, extend lifetime, reduce operating costs, and develop advanced fuels.
- Integrated energy systems research and hydrogen production demonstrations expand applications and markets for nuclear energy.

# **Enable deployment of advanced nuclear reactors**



### ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY



- Essential to tackling climate crisis, supplying clean energy, and decarbonizing the economy
- Demonstrating reactors with advances in sustainability, safety and reliability, resource utilization, and economics
- Developing small modular reactors to offer siting flexibility, scalability, and energy uses beyond electricity
- Developing microreactors for off-grid communities, remote industrial locations, and disaster relief missions

# **Coal to Nuclear Transition**

#### **₩** --> 🕸

A recent **@ENERGY** report finds 80% of coal power plant sites could be converted to nuclear power plants—more than doubling U.S. nuclear capacity to more than 250 gigawatts.



- Nuclear reactors are especially suited to leverage grid, workforce, and other assets at retiring or retired coal plant sites.
- Repurposing unabated fossil plants could deliver place-based solutions and ensure equitable energy transition.
- DOE analysis finds hundreds of coal power plant sites across the country could be converted to nuclear power plant sites.
- Study shows energy communities could benefit from adding 650 permanent jobs, additional economic activity of \$275 million, and 86% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Leveraging existing infrastructure and highly skilled workforce can reduce system costs.

# Pathways to Commercial Liftoff

Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: **Advanced Nuclear** 

ENERGY

**Figure: New nuclear** build-out scenarios and implications for industrial base capacity requirements.





**Figure: Select elements** of nuclear energy's value proposition as compared to other power sources.

Additional applications include clean hydrogen generation, industrial process heat, desalination of water, district heating, off-grid power, and craft propulsion and powe 2. Renewables + storage includes renewables coupled with long duration energy storage or renewables coupled with hydrogen storage

New nuclear deployment starting in 2030

Annual deployment (GW/yr) built and Cumulative GW online

Cumulative GW GW/v 200 Steady-state achieved in 2040 at 13 GW/vr deployed 150 100 50 2030

#### New nuclear deployment starting in 2035

Annual deployment (GW/yr) built and Cumulative GW online

- GW deployed by year Cumulative GW



# Secure and sustain the global nuclear fuel cycle



- Addressing gaps in the domestic nuclear fuel supply chain for existing and advanced nuclear reactors
- Encouraging expansion of domestic commercial capacity in conversion and enrichment services to assure the supply of low enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay lowenriched uranium (HALEU)
- Developing strategy for the integrated waste management of spent nuclear fuel
- Developing a consentbased approach to siting interim storage facilities

# **Consent-Based Siting**

While spent nuclear fuel is stored safely at over 70 U.S. sites, those communities never agreed to host that material in the long term.

DOE is committed to a consent-based process for siting one or more consolidated interim spent nuclear fuel storage facilities.

- Prioritizes people and communities
- · Seeks willing and informed consent
- Flexible, adaptive, and collaborative process
- Responsive to community concerns
- · Centers equity and environmental justice
- Informed by public feedback



energy.gov/consentbasedsiting

# Expand International Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sup



- Support Front-End Engineering Design studies for U.S. nuclear builds in foreign markets.
- Support nuclear safety in Armenia and Ukraine, including emergency support.
- Deploy Clean Energy Training Centers to inform small and emerging nuclear states of U.S. nuclear technology within clean energy systems.
- Increase U.S. technical presence through bilateral nuclear energy cooperation particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States, Southeast Asia, and the Americas including workforce capacity building, academic and professional training, joint studies, and regional technical events.
- Leverage U.S. sponsorship of subject matter experts in international organizations to advance U.S. nuclear equities.

# **Thank You!**



Jhansi Kandasamy Executive Director INL Net-Zero Program

> Idaho National Laboratory: The Role of Nuclear in Reaching Net-Zero Emissions



## **DOE National Laboratories**



## **DOE** labs support the entire technology lifecycle



T.e.

# Unique INL site, infrastructure, and facilities enable energy and security RD&D at scale



4	Operating reactors
22	Hazard Category II & III non-reactor facilities/ activities
49	Radiological facilities/activities
17.	Miles railroad for shipping nuclear fuel
44	Miles primary roads (125 miles total)
9	Substations with interfaces to two power providers
128	Miles high-voltage transmission & distribution lines
3	Fire Stations





## **INL's Roadmap to Net-Zero through Nuclear**

Time to Market and Operability Case Study for On-Site Microreactor Deployment

# Infrastructure & Siting

Developing infrastructure and siting resources necessary for onsite deployment

# Licensing & Regulation

Determine efficient, timely and economical process

### Fuel Cycle

Entire cycle from fuel identification to waste management

# Financial & Contracting

Identify financial structure and funding methodology

Public Engagement: Communication, Outreach, and Education

# **NRIC/NRC Collaboration**

- Congress recognized the importance of agency coordination in the Nuclear Energy
  Innovation Capabilities Act
- DOE/NRC MOU to "coordinate DOE and NRC technical readiness and sharing of technical expertise and knowledge on advanced nuclear reactor technologies and nuclear energy innovation, including reactor concepts demonstrations, through the [NRIC]."
  - NRIC Rotations



Fred Sock Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research



Allen Fetter Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Monthly Coordination Calls – DOE/NRC/NRIC

## Accelerating advanced reactor demonstration & deployment



## **Collaborations**

- National Labs
  - Partnering on key Net-Zero initiatives with all 17 national labs
- State of Idaho
  - EV infrastructure & workforce development
- Universities
  - Innovations, research, and workforce development
- Tribal Nations
- Net-Zero World
  - Ukraine
  - Indonesia
  - ASEAN



## **Transforming the world to a net-zero future**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYD-Cz\_T8cc

## **Contact Information**



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Visit our website at inl.gov/net-zero/





# Research, Development, & Demonstration at Idaho National Laboratory

- INL's site characteristics and operations make it a highly relevant demonstration site
- Representative of a city or county.

5,700

Employees

 INL will lead by example; lessons learned can inform best-practices

300 +

DOE-owned

buildings & trailers



600 +

Total vehicles

# U.S. nuclear industry recognizes the demand for new nuclear power projects

**projects** Utilities recently identify the need to add <u>100 gigawatts</u> of nuclear power by 2050, more than doubling current capacity.



**United States** 

NUCLEAR POWER ACROSS THE U.S.



Today, 92 reactors provide nearly 20% of the electricity produced for our power grid and more than half of our carbon-free electricity – more than solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal combined.

- Utilities are prepared to invest in nuclear energy because it is a proven noncarbon-emitting solution
- New reactor designs are simpler, more versatile, and more economical at scale
- Utilities are evaluating reusing retired coal plant sites to leverage existing infrastructure and workforce
- Emissions avoided by adding 100 gigawatts of nuclear power is equivalent to taking more than 100 million cars off the road.

## U.S. domestic nuclear capacity has the potential to scale from ~100 GW in 2023 to ~300 GW by 2050



**ENERGY** Pathways to **Commercial Liftoff:** Advanced Nuclear

"Power system decarbonization modeling, regardless of level of renewables deployment, suggests that the U.S. will need ~550–770 GW of additional clean, firm capacity to reach net-zero."

Figure 1: New nuclear build-out scenarios and implications for industrial base capacity requirements

## **Next level integrated energy systems –** *Demonstrating the pathway to commercial use*



Scaling up high temp electrolysis for hydrogen production

# Nuclear Waste: Leading Environmental and Waste Technologies

## Haruko Wainwright, MIT

NSE Nuclear Science & Engineering at MIT science : systems : society



Civil and Environmental Engineering



Nuclear Waste: Key Facts Small/well accounted waste footprint across the life cycle

Best managed/isolated waste

Environmental monitoring for providing assurance

Advancing interdisciplinary research and education

## **Lessons Learned from DOE's Legacy Sites**



# **Lessons Learned from DOE's Legacy Sites**



Non-rad elements (metal, organic)

## Waste Across Energy Life Cycle: Nuclear/Coal



## Waste Across Energy Life Cycle: Renewable?



Metal leaching from Lithium-ion and Nickel-metal hydride batteries and photovoltaic modules in simulated landfill leachates and municipal solid waste materials

M. Kayla Kilgo<sup>a</sup>, Annick Anctil<sup>b</sup>, Marian S. Kennedy<sup>c</sup>, Brian A. Powell<sup>a,\*</sup>

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# **Disposal: Waste Isolation Systems**



### Low-level (U mining)



### Hazardous waste


## **Disposal: Waste Isolation Systems**



#### Hazardous waste



Barrier systems

- Waste form/canister/clayDeep geology
- Clay cover/geomembrane

#### Clay cover/geomembrane

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### Low-level (U mining)



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Waste form/canister/clayDeep geology

#### 10,000 - 1,000,000 years

• Probabilistic risk assessment

- Clay cover/geomembrane
- Clay cover/geomembrane

Compliance

- 500 100,000 years
- Probabilistic risk assessment
- 30 years + extension
- No risk assessment required

## **Disposal: Waste Isolation Systems**



### Low-level (U mining)



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Clay cover/geomembrane

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#### • 30 years + extension

• No risk assessment required

### Radioactive toxicity

Decays over time/Long-lived nuclides are internal exposure

#### Toxicity:

Some never decay: metals etc

### **Waste Management History**

### **General Hazardous Waste**



Solid Waste Disposal Act, 1965 Clean Air Act, 1970 Clean Water Act, 1972 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 1976 Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, 1980 **Nuclear Waste** 

1955 Nuclear power to generate electricity1957 National Academy recommendgeologic disposal of high-level waste1970 U.S. begins search for sites

1980 Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA)1985 Low-level Radioactive Waste PolicyAmendments Act1987 NWPA to focus on Yucca Mountain

2015 Consent-based siting

Coal ash rule, 2015

## **Dry Cask Storage for Spent Fuel**



- Annual spent fuel: 2-3 casks per year
- Passive safety: no active cooling
- Probabilistic risk assessment for earthquakes, floods, high winds, lightning strikes, accidental aircraft crashes, and pipeline explosions
- No accident/leak since 1986

StoreFUEL: https://www.uxc.com/p/products/rpt\_sf\_stf.aspx

## **Advanced Reactors**

# Advanced reactor companies have waste management plans



Independent spent fuel storage: 0.8 acre pad for 60-yr operation

### **Different types of waste**

- Different fuel: TRISO fuel
- Structural material: Graphite
- Coolant: Molten salt, sodium

### → Many research activities on managing/disposing these wastes

## Is it really safe?

## **Environmental Monitoring**



- Data/evidence provides assurance to local communities
- Detection of anomalies if they happen
- Critical ways to keep operators accountable/responsible

## **Monitoring for Consent-based Siting**



#### **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

- First deep geological disposal in the world for transuranic waste
- Successful consent-based siting

## **Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center (CEMRC)**

- Independent/state-funded center
- Characterized background radiation and its fluctuation
- Outreach and surveys to understand people's concerns
- Detected the 2014 accident first, and provided assurance

### **Advanced Long-term Environmental Monitoring Systems**



## **Nuclear**Newswire

TOPICS SOURCES SIGN UP ADVERTISE SIGN UP ADVERTISE

Search the Nuclear Newswire

**POWER & OPERATIONS** 

### Importance of environmental monitoring for consentbased siting of nuclear facilities

Sat, Nov 19, 2022, 6:04AM Nuclear News Haruko W

Haruko Wainwright and Carol Eddy-Dilek



## **Transforming Education**



Share resources and ideas

for interdisciplinary nuclear waste education and research

## **Changing Mindsets**

- Develop a diverse and inclusive community.
  Antagonistic views are important for protecting the environment and improving safety
- ⊖ Send waste to the middle of nowhere
  - → Engineers should design waste isolation in a way that they can have it in their "backyard"
- Engineers should design reactors and technologies from the "waste up"

Nuclear Waste: Key Facts Small/well accounted waste footprint across the life cycle

Best managed/isolated waste

Environmental monitoring for providing assurance

Advancing interdisciplinary research and education



## Commercializing Advanced Nuclear Energy

4/19/2023

EESI Briefing: *The State of Play for Nuclear Energy in the United States* Dr. Patrick White (<u>pwhite@nuclearinnovationalliance.org</u>)

## Who is Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA)?

- NIA is a "think-and-do" tank working to ensure advanced nuclear energy can be a key part of the climate solution.
- NIA identifies barriers, performs analysis, engages with stakeholders and policy makers, and nurtures entrepreneurship through its Nuclear Innovation Bootcamp.



### Takeaways on Commercializing Advanced Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy can play a major role in creating a clean energy economy

Advanced reactors have a wide array of different commercial use cases

Developers are leveraging DOE support to accelerate reactor deployment

Continued federal support and incentives can catalyze private investments



### Advanced nuclear energy is an important complementary clean energy source to help fully decarbonize U.S. energy production





### Large (and growing) group of private companies are developing advanced nuclear energy to meet clean energy needs



Utility partners and industrial energy users have expressed interest in deploying advanced nuclear energy



Public-private partnerships are accelerating the demonstration and deployment of first-of-a-kind advanced reactors



### Developers are preparing to submit a large number of formal license applications for review to the NRC in FY23

#### Site-Specific Applications

- Kairos: Hermes (*in progress*)
- ACU: NEXT MSR (in progress)
- X-energy: Xe-100
- TerraPower: Natrium
- GEH: BWRX-300
- Oklo: NCSFR-1
- Oklo: NCSFR-2

#### **Design-Specific Applications**

- NuScale: VOYGR (complete)
- NuScale: NPM-20 (in progress)
- Terrestrial Energy: IMSR
- Westinghouse: eVinci

#### Pre-Application Interactions

- NuScale: UAMPS (COL)
- Holtec: SMR-160 (CP)
- GA: EM2 (CP)
- BWXT: BANR
- FLiBe: LFTR (ESP)
- ARC: ARC-100
- Radiant Energy: Kaleidos
- USNC: UIUC MMR (CP)
- TerraPower: MCFR
- GA: FMR (CP)

Pathway from first-of-a-kind to widescale deployment requires an orderbook, on-time and on-budget delivery, and supply chains



Figure from 2023 DOE Report Pathways to Commercial Liftoff - Advanced Nuclear

# Successful commercialization could dramatically increase demand for advanced nuclear energy for a wide variety of applications



Figure from 2023 DOE Report Pathways to Commercial Liftoff - Advanced Nuclear



2022 Nuclear Energy Institute survey of 19 member utilities:

- More than 300 new SMRs deployed for electricity generation by 2050
- More than 90 GW of new nuclear generation by existing owners alone
- Evaluations of sites that currently host operating or retired coal plants for new nuclear reactors

Continued federal support and incentives can catalyze private investments in advanced nuclear energy



### Takeaways on Commercializing Advanced Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy can play a major role in creating a clean energy economy

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### Back-up Slides

Advanced nuclear energy adds flexibility and versatility in comparison to conventional nuclear through innovative design

Conventional Nuclear Energy		Advanced Nuclear Energy
Predominantly Large: More than 1000 MW <sub>e</sub>	Reactor Size	Versatile: 1.5 MW <sub>e</sub> to 300+ MW <sub>e</sub>
Predominantly Light-Water Reactors	Reactor Technology	Wide Variety of Reactor Technologies
Primarily Baseload Generation	Generation Type	Flexible and Dispatchable Generation
Designed with Active Safety Systems	Safety Approach	Designed with Inherent Safety Systems

# Definition of advanced nuclear energy includes a variety of nuclear technologies with different advantages



#### Gas-cooled fast reactor (GFR)

An evolution of HTRs, GFRs operate at very high temperatures while using a more sustainable fuel cycle

#### Sodium-cooled fast reactor (SFR)

-ast Fission

With many existing experimental reactors, SFRs offer increased fuel efficiency, reduced waste, and passive safety features

#### Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR)

Similar in design to SFRs, LFRs are advantageous as lead is operationally safer than sodium

# Variety of reactor sizes and low-carbon products enable integration of advanced nuclear into future energy systems



Both NRC and companies play a role in improving licensing under current rules and creating a new regulatory framework



Advanced reactor commercialization requires coordination and planning across all stages of a sustainable fuel cycle



Some advanced reactor technologies will require nuclear fuel cycles with higher uranium enrichment levels



Advanced reactors that require HALEU or recycled fuels will need new fuel cycle infrastructure and facilities



### Stakeholders can get up to speed on advanced nuclear energy and engage with policymakers on clean energy deployment





#### **Every Other Wednesday Starting April 26**

The Process and Path Forward for Passing a Bipartisan Farm Bill | April 26, 2:00-3:30 PM

Climate, Energy, and Economic Win-Wins in the Farm Bill | May 10, 1:30-3:00 PM EDT

Unlocking Rural Economies: Farm Bill Investments in Rural America | May 24, 2:00-3:30 PM EDT

The Future of Forestry in the Farm Bill | June 07, 2:00-3:30 PM EDT

Conservation Practices from Farms to Forests and Wetlands | June 21, 2:00-3:30 PM EDT


## What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at: www.eesi.org/survey

> Materials will be available at: www.eesi.org/041923nuclear

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