



Safeguard America's Resources

Small Modular Reactors

FACTS

4/12/16

Economies of Scale?

- Lower cost does not mean cost-effective.
- A study done in 2011 concludes that Small Modular Reactors would be MORE expensive than existing plants.

Relaxed Security Standards?

- Proposed 70% reduction of security forces for SMRs exposes them to risk from terrorist attack.
- Underground siting raises threat from some types of attacks.

Are Small Modular Reactors Safer?

- SMR passive cooling systems do not have active backup systems.
- Less robust containment of SMRs have greater chance of damage in hydrogen explosions.
- Underground siting increases risk during flooding, evacuation.
- Multiple SMRs present HIGHER risk if operators reduce support staff or safety equipment.

Shrinking Evacuation Zones?

- Reducing current Emergency Planning Zones for Small Modular Reactors from 10 miles to 1000 feet is based on false assumptions.
- Fukushima evacuation extended 30 miles, indicating existing zone should be increased, not reduced.

“There is therefore no basis at the present time for the NRC to grant SMRs any special exemptions to its regulatory requirements, and the Department of Energy should take steps to insure that its Technical Licensing Support program does not use taxpayer funds to endanger public health by undermining nuclear safety and security standards.” Dr. Edwin Lyman

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Facts from “Small Isn’t Always Beautiful” by the Union of Concerned Scientists (2013) www.ucsusa.org