

## Letters to the editor Sunday, September 17, 2017

### **Nuclear energy is too expensive**

Well-informed sources, including the U.S. Energy Information Agency, report that costs per kilowatt-hour for nuclear-generated electricity are at least twice as much as the average price of electricity produced from onshore wind, solar photo-voltaic, and natural gas.

Moreover, these high nuke-costs don't take into account the enormous subsidies provided by government-backed liability insurance, without which the nuclear industry would not exist. Similarly, this cost-analysis ignores the substantial and ever-growing cost of storing and safeguarding extremely hazardous spent nuclear fuel, which remains lethally radioactive for centuries.

Given this well-documented verification of power costs, it is disingenuous if not fraudulent to defend nuclear power on the basis of providing "cheap power." Considering the efficiency and cost benefits of other power sources, continuing to sink billions into absurdly overpriced nuclear facilities such as the Vogtle expansion is essentially a means for increasing revenue-flow to power-company stockholders at our expense.

Another seldom-discussed factor is that high-temperature water-cooled thermoelectric power sources, including coal and nuke plants, are vulnerable to erratic operation under drought conditions.

These circumstances demand a more objective, accountable evaluation of the real costs and consequences of investing in power-generation. Such fact-based assessment will surely confirm that nuclear-power and certain other forms of power-production are too costly and thus contrary to public interest.

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