

LWVCNM Monthly Meeting 12 Noon December 14, 2023 Chat

00:21:50 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: What, exactly, is the position statement that this study is being done to add (or not) to the State/National programs? What is the information being presented leading to?

00:23:41 Akkana Peck: Cheryl: I think the question is whether we should have a position that would allow us to advocate for nuclear power projects

00:24:21 Akkana Peck: and then to pursue a LWVUS concurrence that would allow other states to advocate

00:26:31 Beth Bardwell: The Task 2 Report link in the December 7th email did not work. Can you resend an email with an active link to "Task 2 Report: Identifying deterrents to nuclear energy expansion and any proven and effective remedies"

00:27:18 Akkana Peck: Beth (and anyone else): the reports are all on the concurrence page on the website, <https://www.lwvnm.org/studies/2023/nuclear-issues/consensus-meetings/>

00:27:42 Jody Larson: the link at the LWVNM website works

00:36:22 Starlyn Brown: Did you have the opportunity to explore advanced small modular reactors (SMRs) and how they might be a solution?

00:37:25 Akkana Peck: Starlyn, that's what task 4 was about

00:41:31 Maj-Britt Eagle: To specify an environmental justice issue, former chair of NRC " Former Nuclear Regulatory Chair Gregory Jaczsko notes growing constraints by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in public participation in nuclear decision-making, which appear to reinforce a tradition of secrecy, denial, and misinformation that has long been part of the nuclear industrial complex" (Confessions of a Rogue Nuclear Regulator, authored by Jaczsko)

00:47:57 Jeanne Logsdon LWVCNM: Replying to "To specify an enviro..."

Good point, Maj-Britt. Great to see you on the zoom.

00:48:16 Maj-Britt Eagle: Also to the environmental justice issue, uranium mining causes lung cancer because these mines contain natural radon gas, some of whose decay products are carcinogenic.

00:49:22 Maj-Britt Eagle: As to the time delay to rev up nuclear power, nuclear reactors take 10-19 years between planning and operation; given current deaths by air pollution from carbon emissions, some might find this delay both unnecessary and unconscionable with alternative renewable, clean energy sources close at hand.

00:49:35 Beth Bardwell: Which technology is being used in the first 2 demonstration reactors that will come on-line in 2030-2035?

00:54:15 LWVCNM: There was some new information today about mining for batteries. Have those mining costs been included in the general cost of renewables?

00:54:51 Maj-Britt Eagle: Have you considered the increased waste from small nuclear reactors? e.g. "Our results show that most small modular reactor designs will actually increase the volume of nuclear waste in need of management and disposal, by factors of 2 to 30 for the reactors in our case study," said study lead author Lindsay Krall, a former MacArthur Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC).

00:56:50 Jeanne Logsdon LWVCNM: Replying to "There was some new i..."

Please share this information. I have not seen an update today. Our report was completed in early November. We didn't know the reports could be updated.

00:58:27 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: Still no discussion of handling the very hot waste of spent fuel ... and reprocessing waste! Note Task 2 says the spent fuel situation is already critical.

00:59:08 Liz Shields: No one has mentioned the danger from cyber hacking which is much more dangerous for nuclear power producers than any other energy producers.

00:59:32 Maj-Britt Eagle: [file:///Users/majbritt/Desktop/LWV 2023 nuclear study/Small modular reactors produce high levels of nuclear waste | Stanford News.html](file:///Users/majbritt/Desktop/LWV%2023%20nuclear%20study/Small%20modular%20reactors%20produce%20high%20levels%20of%20nuclear%20waste%20|%20Stanford%20News.html)

01:00:49 Akkana Peck: Yes! about Liz's point on cyber hacking. Just last week a news item came out about Sellafield in the UK having been hacked by China/Russia as far back as 2015, and they've been covering it up. It's unknown whether they still have the malware in their system.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/dec/04/sellafield-nuclear-site-hacked-groups-russia-china>

01:02:43 Akkana Peck: and I also agree with Cheryl on the spent fuel problem

01:04:04 Akkana Peck: Do the carbon footprint calculations include the cost of shipping waste back and forth across the country several times? which seems to be the current plan

01:04:04 Jennifer Black: Karen, can you take us through the next steps—putting today's discussion in context of upcoming consensus process. Thank you.

01:04:26 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: Incidentally, only the federal government will "insure" nuclear facilities. No private insurance company will touch any industry or company that deals with anything radioactive (sad experience there)

01:04:54 Kathy Economy: From my experience, the current nuclear power plants were built by private companies (GE, Westinghouse, etc.). The rods themselves are only 3-5 % burnup and they are old and unstable for the fuel rods to be reprocessed. They all have different designs and specifications, and reprocessing these rods is uneconomical. Additionally, because these are so old, they are being 'shored' up to continue operation. So, to state that these old power plants can be extended can legally, taking in the engineering/physics to extend their lifespan is not reasonable.

01:05:11 Judy Williams: LWVNM website home page says 6 pm tonight!!!!

01:05:51 Kathy Economy: I apologize for my typos in my text.

01:06:01 Judy Williams: Fix the website

01:06:04 Hannah Burling: On the LWVNM website it says 6

01:06:04 judydeutsch: Will you repeat the present comparative costs of nuclear, wind and solar energy?

01:07:23 Akkana Peck: Is it definitely 6:30? I got the 6:00 time from the constant contact that was sent out, but I can change it if it's really 6:30

01:07:35 Judy Williams: Website has to be corrected.

01:08:11 Starlyn Brown: Yes we have advertised and have it scheduled it for 6:30pm

01:08:22 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: Note that costs of nuclear keep rising, in spite of the fact that these are already built facilities that have been operating for decades.

01:08:38 Linda Miller: The Zoom invitation state 6:30.

01:08:52 Akkana Peck: ok, changed to 6:30 on the website

01:09:33 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: Rad techs earn very good salaries.

01:10:15 Maj-Britt Eagle: In discussions of cost, may we include the market cost and the cost arising from environmental damage and health impacts?

01:10:54 Starlyn Brown: There is also waste from disposal of solar panels and wind turbines that are decommissioned. this needs to be considered, it's not free.

01:12:57 Linda Miller: Wind turbines, power lines and towers will not cover most of three counties.

01:13:02 Michelle Meaders: Why aren't we considering Geothermal power more? It's steady and reliable, and doesn't use fuel or produce waste.

01:13:37 Linda Miller: I mean their physical presence do not take up three counties.

01:14:21 Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM: The advanced reactors are still just vaporware. None have yet even been built.