

# SOLAR SÍ, NUCLEAR NO

## KEEP AUSTIN OUT OF MORE NUCLEAR REACTORS

Austin has wisely stayed out of investing in two nuclear reactors proposed by NRG Energy for the South Texas Project site in Bay City. Austin Energy studies found that it was too expensive and delays were likely. Austin City Council voted no twice.

Now NRG Energy is desperately scrambling for investors. As a way to prop up the financially shaky project and get federal loan guarantees, NRG is now pushing hard to get Austin to agree to purchase nuclear power from the proposed reactors.

The NRG proposal would cost \$13 billion over the life of the plant – for just 500 MW. Residential bills would increase up to 20%. The same company just got nearly a billion dollars in loan guarantees for a 290 MW solar plant in Arizona. Energy Efficiency, solar energy, wind and geothermal energy can meet our energy needs. Solar costs are plummeting, while nuclear costs are skyrocketing.

**Call or write Mayor Leffingwell, the Austin City Council, the City Manager and the Statesman today!**

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm> [letters@statesman.com](mailto:letters@statesman.com) **Don't go nuclear... Go solar!**

### Cost



**Nuclear power is expensive.** Costing up to 17 cents per kilowatt-hour, nuclear power is more expensive than both wind and solar power. Two proposed South Texas Project reactors are expected to cost up to \$18.2 billion



**Cost overruns are the norm.** The first STNP reactors ran six times over budget and were eight years late coming online. There were safety related construction problems, leading to the firing of the project contractor, lawsuits and worker testimony that inspectors were threatened for trying to do their job.

### Water



**Nuclear power is the most water intensive energy source of all.** The proposed South Texas Project reactors would use over 24,000 gallons Colorado River water *every minute*, impacting Lake Travis. Think of this as filling a backyard swimming pool every minute, day and night. What would be left for drinking water, rice farmers, or recreation?



**Texas is in a DROUGHT!** The additional units proposed for Comanche Peak would withdraw 63,230 gallons per minute, 103,717 acre-feet per year, from Lake Granbury with roughly two-thirds lost to evaporation!

### Safety



Accidents happen. Near misses and a partial meltdown have taken place in the US. Human error, inadequate maintenance and poor oversight increase accident risks. A study done for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1982 found that 18,000 deaths could occur from an accident at the South Texas reactor sites.



Nuclear reactors routinely emit radioactive emissions.

#### **The South Texas Project, 2003**

Radioactive leakage found in inspection at South Texas Project.



## Security



**Terrorism Risks** Original 9-11 terrorist plans included flying two airplanes into nuclear reactors. Should we be investing in generation with such high security risks? Would terrorists be likely to attack wind turbines or solar farms? Security guards have been found to be sleeping on duty at some U.S. reactors.

## Radioactive Waste



**Waste from nuclear power plants is dangerous today and stays radioactive for millions of years. Exposure can cause cancer, genetic damage and death.** Spent fuel stored on site at nuclear power plants is a huge security risk. The rest of the reactor would likely get dumped in Andrews County in West Texas, where there are risks of water contamination.



**Nuclear power fosters weapons proliferation.** There is no proliferation-free nuclear technology. Currently, there is enough enriched uranium and separated plutonium in the world to make more than 100,000 nuclear weapons.



**Nuclear reactors can't solve global warming.** A New reactor would have to come online every two weeks from now until 2050 to make a 20% reduction in carbon emissions. Only one place in the world is capable of building reactor heads and can only build 12 reactor vessels per year. It takes at least 10 years for reactors to be built and come online. **Pursuing nuclear power diverts financial resources needed for affordable energy efficiency, solar, wind and geothermal power, and energy storage solutions.**



**Nuclear power is unreliable** and is seriously impacted by changing climate conditions. Elevated water temperatures have already caused nuclear power reactors to be taken off-line due to inadequate cooling capacity.

*Learn more, take action and donate online at:*

[www.SolarSiNuclearNo.org](http://www.SolarSiNuclearNo.org)

**More info:** [www.NukeFreeTexas.org](http://www.NukeFreeTexas.org)

### Contact Information:

Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Councilmember Randi Shade  
Councilmember Sheryl Cole  
Councilmember Bill Spelman

Councilmember Mike Martinez  
Councilmember Chris Riley  
Councilmember Laura Morrison

City Manager Marc Ott

Austin City Hall  
301 West 2nd Street  
Austin, TX 78701-3906

City Clerk (512) 974-2210  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/contacts.htm>

### Letters to the Editor:

American Statesman – [letters@statesman.com](mailto:letters@statesman.com)

Austin Chronicle - [mail@austinchronicle.com](mailto:mail@austinchronicle.com)

