

What's Wrong With Nuclear Power? Plenty!

Negative Health Impacts

Children living near nuclear power plants suffer from higher levels of birth defects, cancer, and early death. Studies at five U.S. nuclear plants found increased infant death rates in the surrounding communities. The increased death rate began within two years after the plants opened. And soon after the reactors closed, infant deaths *decreased* by 15-20%. For 7 years after these plants closed, cancer and birth defects continued to decrease. (Data from public health studies by the Radiation and Public Health Project published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology*)

Deceptive Claims

The Better Business Bureau said advertising which says nuclear energy is “environmentally clean” is inaccurate and told the nuclear industry to stop making such claims. The Better Business Bureau concluded that nuclear plants cause thermal water pollution and that the production of nuclear fuel causes air pollution. (The ruling came after a complaint was filed by a coalition of groups, including Public Citizen, who said the advertising was deceptive.)

Pollution

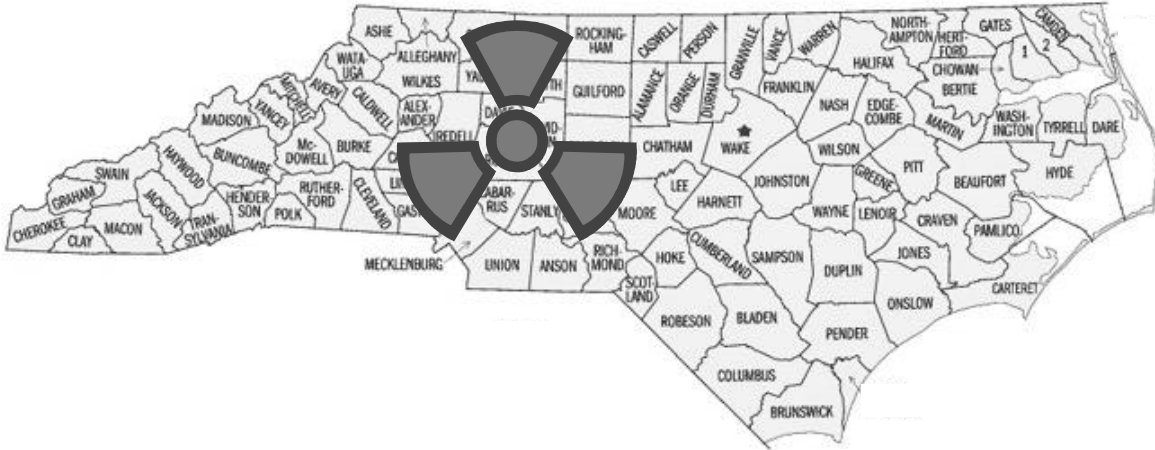
Nuclear reactors release tritium, iodine, cesium, and many other radioactive poisons into the air and water. Carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and many other air pollutants are emitted by the mining of uranium ore for nuclear fuel. It takes a nuclear power plant from 10 to 18 years to make up for the energy lost in uranium mining. (Peer de Rijk, WISE) Up to 2.5 billion gallons of water a day is used to keep a nuclear reactor cool. The waste water discharged is hotter than normal lake and stream water and contains toxic chemicals, solvents, and radioactive pollution. (Public Citizen) Each nuclear power plant produces 20 to 30 tons of highly radioactive waste per year.

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BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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New Nukes in NC?



Duke Power Looking at Nuclear Plant Sites on the Yadkin River

In the 1970's Duke Power spent millions to put a nuclear power plant in Davie County; the Thomas L. Perkins plant would have had three reactors. But the plan foundered when costs skyrocketed. Local opposition prevailed and Duke dropped the proposal in 1984. Recently, Duke has begun to revive its plan. In March the company met with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to discuss costs and permitting options for building a new nuclear plant. At the top of the list of possible sites is the old Perkins tract, 1,705 acres located 8 miles from Mocksville and another tract of 1,616 acres across the river in Davidson County.

