

The EPA's draft carbon pollution rule for the first time declares nuclear power a core element of the nation's climate policy and pushes states to preserve, expand, and subsidize nuclear reactors.

The draft rule does this in several ways:

- Incorporating existing and even planned nuclear generation as low-carbon power sources, along with renewables.
- Pressuring states to ensure that reactors now being built are completed, no matter the cost.
- Authorizing states to subsidize existing reactors to prevent uncompetitive ones from closing.
- Encouraging states to subsidize expensive retrofits to increase the power output of existing reactors.

These provisions could also undermine the growth of renewable energy and prevent the closure of coal-fired power plants. The EPA rule encourages states to set up cap-and-trade programs and so-called "clean" energy standards, which could permit nuclear plants to sell emissions credits/offsets to fossil fuel plants.

The EPA also ignores the other environmental impacts of nuclear power:

- It disregards the vast water consumption of nuclear reactors.
- It dismisses the production of radioactive waste as an environmental concern.
- It ignores the extreme toxicity and radiological contamination from uranium mining and processing entirely.

The EPA sells our best climate solutions short by assuming that renewable energy, efficiency, energy storage, and conservation cannot grow fast enough or play a large enough role, despite all the evidence to the contrary. Sustainable solutions are our most cost-effective and practical resources for protecting the climate AND replacing nuclear power.

The EPA must abandon subsidies and incentives for nuclear power in the Carbon Pollution Plan, and instead require that:

- Nuclear reactors that close are replaced with sustainable energy resources, including renewables, efficiency, energy storage, conservation, demand response, etc.
- Nuclear power is not included in "clean" energy standards or cap-and-trade programs.
- New reactors and power uprates do not qualify for subsidies or incentives for reducing carbon emissions. All such subsidies and incentives must go to sustainable energy resources and solutions.



Join the Nuclear-Free Carbon-Free contingent at the People's Climate March. September 21, 2014. New York City. Contact Nuclear Information and Resource Service, www.nirs.org, nirsnet@nirs.org, 301-270-6477 for more information.