

Stop Nuclear WorkGroup



Statewide organizing meeting on proposed
2025 Legislative Bills aim to overturn the
1980 Ballot Measure Law that stops new
nuclear power plants in Oregon

Housekeeping Items

- Be Sure your audio is on mute!
- Turn off your video during the presentations
- Next meeting January 29th 7 p.m.



The Agenda

Presentations



Strategy



What's Next



Wrap-Up

Presentations



Nuclear Power

Not
in
1980
and
Not
Now



By Peter Bergel

1. How we got the law

Years of anti-nuclear work

- Three occupations of the Trojan nuclear plant in 1977-8
- Intervention work by Lloyd Marbet, Susan Garrett and others
- Ballot measure attempts in 1974 and 1976



HB 2570 in 1979



Can not build a new nuclear power plant until there is an operating federal nuclear waste repository.

Meltdown at TMI



Polling 400 Oregonians



- Can not build a new nuclear power plant until there is:
1. An operating federal nuclear waste repository AND
 2. A statewide vote of the people.

Signature collecting





Statewide
campaign for
Ballot
Measure 7



Marbles
under
the
dinosaur

Passage with
53% despite
22:1 spending
disadvantage



That achieved two important things

1. It stopped construction of the Pebble Springs Plant in Arlington, OR
2. It changed the conventional wisdom about nuclear power in Oregon



2. The last four legislative sessions



2017

A measure actually passed the Senate before Chuck and Damon found out about it.



We were able to successfully lobby House Energy to stop it.



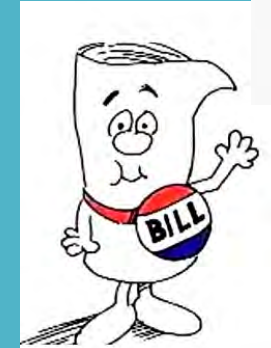
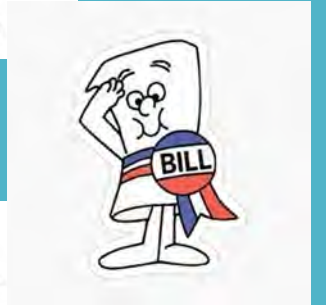
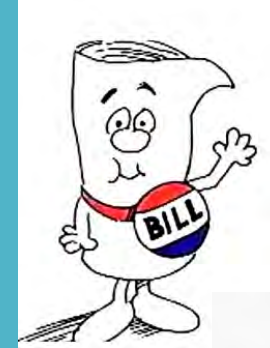
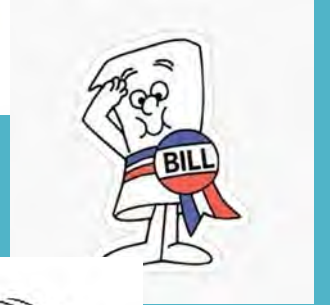
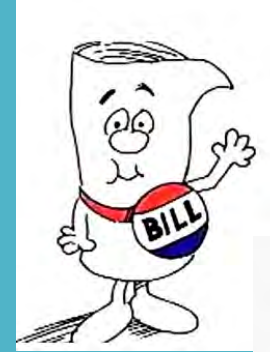
2019 and 2021

Measures were
refused work
sessions by the
Senate Energy Chair
Mike Dembrow



2023

- 5 measures were introduced.
- 1 received a courtesy hearing in House Energy.
- Almost all the public testimony opposed the bill.
- It did not receive a work session.



This year

- HB 2410 – “demonstration project” in Umatilla County
- SB 215, 216 and HB 2426 – repeal 1980’s measure 7
- SB 635 and HB 2038 – study the advantages of nuclear power plants

Nuclear Promotion in the Pacific Northwest

By Cathryn Chudy

Oregon Conservancy Foundation

How We Got Where We Are

2019 Washington Passes Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

2021 X-Energy comes to Washington for Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Development at Hanford

2021 Oregon passes Clean Electricity Bill (HB 2021)

2023 NuScale Small Modular Nuclear Reactor project collapses

How We Got Where We Are

2024 WA Legislature appropriates \$10M (Clean Energy Funds) to Energy Northwest's proposed X-Energy project at Hanford

10/2024 Amazon announces investment in Hanford project (for data centers in E. Oregon)

2025 Energy Northwest admits “optimistic” timeline” of **8-10** years for first 4 Nuclear Reactor Modules at Hanford

2025 Nuclear Advisory Commission proposed in WA legislature to “support the growth of nuclear energy”

In Conclusion...

- The legal designation of nuclear as non-emitting does not mean it is clean energy.
- Nuclear is not a genuine climate solution because of its timeline and cost and harm to living beings.



Implications

We have to:

Organize

Educate

Resist



Nuclear bills in Oregon

(and how to stop them)



Repeal the Moratorium Bills

SB 215 and **HB 2426**

Refers a repeal of the 1980 Ballot Measure Law to a vote of the people at the next regular general election.

SB 216

Repeals the requirement that there be a licensed repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste before a site certificate for a nuclear-fueled thermal power plant may be issued



Bills sponsors: Sen. David Brock Smith and Rep. Diehl



Umatilla County Exception

Bill

HB 2410

Allows the Energy Facility Siting Council to issue a site certificate for a small modular nuclear reactor demonstration project in Umatilla County.

Chief sponsors: Reps. Levy B, Senator Smith DB

Regular sponsors: Reps. Levy E, Wright, Sen. Bonham, Meek.

Note that Rep. Emerson Levy and Sen. Mark Meek are Democrats





Pro-nuclear “Study” Bills

SB 635

Directs Oregon State University to conduct a feasibility study on nuclear energy generation in this state

Chief sponsor: Senator Bonham

HB 2038

Requires the State Department of Energy to study nuclear energy, including nuclear waste disposal from nuclear energy.

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Wright, Levy B, Boice, Diehl, Owens,
Regular sponsors: Reps. Osborne, Scharf, Yunker





What You Can Do

1. Contact your state Senator and Representative now to tell them: Keep Oregon Nuclear-Free!
2. Prepare written testimony to share if a hearing is scheduled
3. Stay in touch with one of the organizations here tonight for next steps

Look up who represents you and subscribe to bills of interest: oregonlegislature.gov



— Kelly Campbell
Policy Director

kelly@columbiariverkeeper.org



Five truths you should know about small modular nuclear reactors:

1. Small modular nuclear reactors are an unproven technology. None have been built in the U.S. Worldwide there are only two in China and one in Russia, all underperforming.

2. Nuclear power is not clean energy. From uranium mining and milling that decimates Indigenous land to nuclear waste that has no safe, permanent repository, nuclear power is a dirty and outdated technology that has no place in a just transition to a clean energy future.

3. Nuclear power is “the most expensive way to boil water.” Reputable studies show it is at least five times as expensive as renewable energy. And building nuclear reactors are notorious for astronomical cost overruns and delays.

4. Baseload is an outdated concept. With new grid and storage technologies, we don’t need “baseload” power like coal and nuclear.

5. Tech company hype is a distraction: new small modular nuclear reactors would not come online for at least 15 years—meanwhile, tech companies’ voracious energy appetite to power their data centers and AI will continue to use dirty fossil fuels and displace renewable energy required for basic needs.



Bottom Line: New nuclear reactors divert funding from energy efficiency, renewable energy, and storage technologies that are safer, less expensive, and faster to deploy. We can’t afford this new nuclear risk to Oregon. Don’t fall for a false solution.

Keep Oregon's Moratorium on New Nuclear Power



The nuclear power industry would like you to believe that new nuclear reactors are a magic bullet to solve climate change. Don't believe the hype. In reality, new nuclear power is a dirty technology and a dangerous diversion from safer, cheaper, and faster solutions to address the climate crisis.

The background: In 1980, Oregon voters passed a state moratorium on building nuclear reactors until the U.S. has a national waste repository and there is another vote of the people to overturn it. Forty-five years later, there is still no national waste repository. Every few years, the nuclear industry attempts to overturn this law at the Oregon Legislature, but so far it has been unsuccessful.

The latest: This August, Umatilla County Commissioners announced they'll attempt another legislative effort to overturn the moratorium, in an effort to build a pilot nuclear project in Umatilla County.

Big tech is also teaming up with the nuclear industry. In our region, Amazon is proposing to partner on building new nuclear reactors at the Hanford Nuclear Site to power its data centers in Oregon.

Oregon Legislators:

Protect Oregon from the dangerous distraction of new nuclear reactors and keep our focus on a just transition to a clean energy future—one in which nuclear power clearly has no place.

Time for Strategy Ideas



Strategy Ideas for Defeating New Nuclear in Oregon

- Ask legislators to oppose any bill that compromises our 1980 ballot measure's provisions.
- Write Rep. John Lively, Chair of House Energy, and Sen. Janine Sollman, Chair of Senate Energy, and ask them not to give either of the incoming bills a work session.
- Also ask them to grant those opposed to the bills the courtesy of presenting invited testimony as they have twice done for the pro-nuke side.

Strategy Ideas for Defeating New Nuclear in Oregon

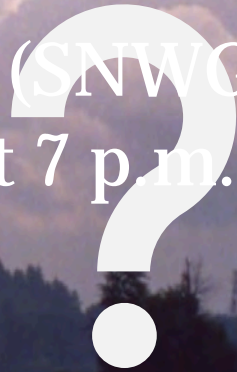
- Learn enough to be a strong advocate against nuclear power in Oregon.
- Join our working group to stay up to date even if you don't have time to attend meetings.
- Volunteer to help the Stop Nuclear WG

Strategy Ideas for Defeating New Nuclear in Oregon



What's Next

Stop Nuclear WorkGroup (SNWVG) one hour meeting on
Wednesday, January 29 at 7 p.m.





Thank You

Email: snwg@stopnuclearworkgroup.org

<https://stopnuclearworkgroup.org>