

<<https://beyondnuclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/12-22-19-NuclearVsWWS-NuclearVsWWS1-1.pdf>>, both submitted as testimony in opposition to Palisades' zombie reactor restart, as well as "Small Modular Reactor" new builds, in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing proceedings <<https://beyondnuclear.org/intervention-against-palisades-zombie-reactor-restart/>>.

For more information why we oppose nuclear power, please find enclosed a copy of the report *PLANT VOGTLE: THE TRUE COST OF NUCLEAR POWER IN THE UNITED STATES* (May 2024; 2nd Edition, Feb. 2025). The report is also posted online at: <https://www.nonukesyall.org/pdfs/Vogtle%20Truth%20Report_update_final.pdf>. This report is a cautionary tale for the Great Lakes State, where the nuclear power lobby seems to have been running roughshod over common sense and fiscal conservatism for the past several years.

Vogtle Units 3 and 4 in Georgia are the only two gigantic new atomic reactors from the attempted Bush/Cheney era nuclear power relapse of the early 21st Century that have actually gone online. Nearly three-dozen others were cancelled in various stages of development, including DTE's Fermi Unit 3 in southeast Michigan, after wasting more than \$100 million of ratepayer money on the cancelled project. Vogtle 3 & 4 fired up seven years behind schedule, and more than double the initial price tag. In 2012, the corporate proponents predicted each Vogtle reactor would cost \$7.5 billion. Instead of costing \$15 billion, as reported in *PLANT VOGTLE: "AT \$36.8 BILLION, PLANT VOGTLE IS AN ASTONISHING \$20 BILLION OVER BUDGET AND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE POWER PLANT EVER BUILT ON EARTH."*

In fact, Vice President Dick Cheney's *ENERGY TASK FORCE REPORT* of May 2001 quoted the estimate by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the industry's public relations, lobbying, and legal headquarters in Washington, D.C., that new build reactors would only cost \$2.5 billion each. At \$18.4 billion each, Vogtle 3 & 4 were each **seven times more expensive** than NEI's 2001 prediction. Century-old Westinghouse went bankrupt in 2017 trying to build the Vogtle twin units. Georgia ratepayers are forced to pay exorbitant Construction Work in Progress surcharges on their electric bills. U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for \$12 billion if Vogtle's owners fail to pay back the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantees.

Colossal impacts on ratepayer and taxpayer pocketbooks are in the works at Palisades as well. In addition to the state grants mentioned above, Holtec has requested an additional \$8+ billion more in public funding for the "zombie" reactor restart alone, and another \$7.4 billion in DOE loan guarantees for so-called Small Modular Reactor design certification, construction, and operation at Palisades, as well as at Big Rock Point in Hayes Township near Charlevoix and Petoskey. Of that, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has already awarded \$1.3 billion in compensation to rural electric co-ops in Michigan, as well as Indiana and Illinois, towards future purchases of electricity from Palisades. Why are federal taxpayers in Michigan being forced to subsidize rural electric co-op customers in Indiana and Illinois? (See a "Breakdown of Bailouts" at Palisades, posted online here: <<https://beyondnuclear.org/breakdown-of-bailouts-at-holtecs-palisades/>>.)

Thanks for considering our views. If I can answer questions or concerns, or be of any further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kamps; Radioactive Waste Specialist, Beyond Nuclear; Board of Directors Member, Don't Waste Michigan, representing his hometown Kalamazoo Chapter
(240) 462-3216; kevin@beyondnuclear.org; www.beyondnuclear.org