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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Fracking Issues 101

Re: Fracking Issues 101

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URL:

Even the gas wells typically produce some oil as condensate. That's what the tanks are for.

Yes, you are correct about Carter on the nuclear issue. It was his admin that stopped us from recycling fuel (breeder reactor) on a commercial basis, a decision which gave rise to our issues with nuclear waste. i.e. nuclear power does not have to produce such nasty waste, that is our choice. But that particular issue doesn't have much to do with greenies, it's a proliferation thing. To recycle the fuel may end up with zero high level waste, but during the cycle, you produce weapons grade material. Carter felt it was a bad example to tell the world that utilizing nuclear power means producing weapons grade material. If you don't recycle, it shows that you can have nuclear power WITHOUT taking that extra step to producing weapons. Further, if nuclear power was to be privately run, rather than public, allowing private companies to handle weapons grade material was a concern.

FWIW, it is a valid concern. I just disagree. Our power generation obviously causes a lot of problems in the world. And as a scientist, I see a well established solution to just about all of them. It dissapoints me that not only is it stalled by geopolitical concerns, but that there's not much effort to overcome those concerns, even though they are probably less than the geopolitical concerns that are being caused by the alternative.

The greenies, well, their influence was stopping us from building anything new at all with the word "nuclear" attached. And it's an ongoing thing, can't be pinned to any one admin or time frame. Though perhaps TMI and "The China Syndrome" kicked things off. The result of this was that instead of building more modern, safer, plants that produce less waste, we are keeping the current 1st generation plants open well beyond their designed lifetimes (gee, that's smart, in the name of "safety"). Further, it has pushed us more towards coal, gas, and oil, and prevented us from having a large, clean source of hydrogen, which has set back a potential hydrogen economy by decades.

IMO, the future is to have nuclear dominate power gen, and as a byproduct produce vast amounts of hydrogen, which can be utilized as an unwired, 100% clean fuel to replace oil. The technology is here. We just need to WANT to move in this direction. That the greenies are opposed to this just blows my mind. Imagine acid rain, gone. Smog, gone. Greenhouse gas emmissions reduced by over 90%. Mining and drilling, reduced by 99%. Pipelines, not needed. Reliance of foreign sorurces, gone. And greenies hold this back?