
Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : State Rep. White Accused Of Attacking Shale Supporters Online

Re: State Rep. White Accused Of Attacking Shale Supporters Online

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URL:

Moreover, we need A LOT of cleaner energy. Reliable sources. In a hurry. And you can't get there that fast with wind/solar/biofuels etc.

I've been advocating for fast-tracking nuclear power in different on-line forums for some years now. As a policy alternative, it's stuck in a backwater. As are the arguments of its opponents, in my view, which are typically 30 years out of date. A classic example, in my view, of how 1) image trumps content in the contemporary American public mind (taken in aggregate); and 2) no issue rises to the forefront of public notice without continual exposure on television.

Unfortunately, much of the "green" movement and its leadership isn't exempt from such superficiality (Stewart Brand being a notable exception). I think the most blatant example of this weakness is an unwillingness to look at the numbers. I hope it isn't due to an inability to do the math, which is middle-school level:

Fuel type Average power in TW[23]

1980 2004 2006

Oil 4.38 5.58 5.74

Gas 1.80 3.45 3.61

Coal 2.34 3.87 4.27

Hydroelectric 0.60 0.93 1.00

Nuclear power 0.25 0.91 0.93

Geothermal, wind,

solar energy, wood 0.02 0.13 0.16

Total 9.48 15.0 15.8

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_energy_consumption

Unfortunately, the Fukushima disaster was a huge blow to the prospects for nuclear power. Admittedly, the ultimate responsibility for that lies within the nuclear power industry.

Realistically, time is running out for the implementation of a large-scale nuclear power production effort. If one had begun 10-15 years ago, most of the plants would be up and running by now.

So I don't know what's going to happen. Optimistically, breakthrough in algae biofuels and carbon sequestration that make those technologies practical at a scale large enough to change the game. Pessimistically, more denial- with unforeseen but almost certainly disastrous consequences.