# THE U.S. NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE AND THE CHALLENGES IT PRESENTS

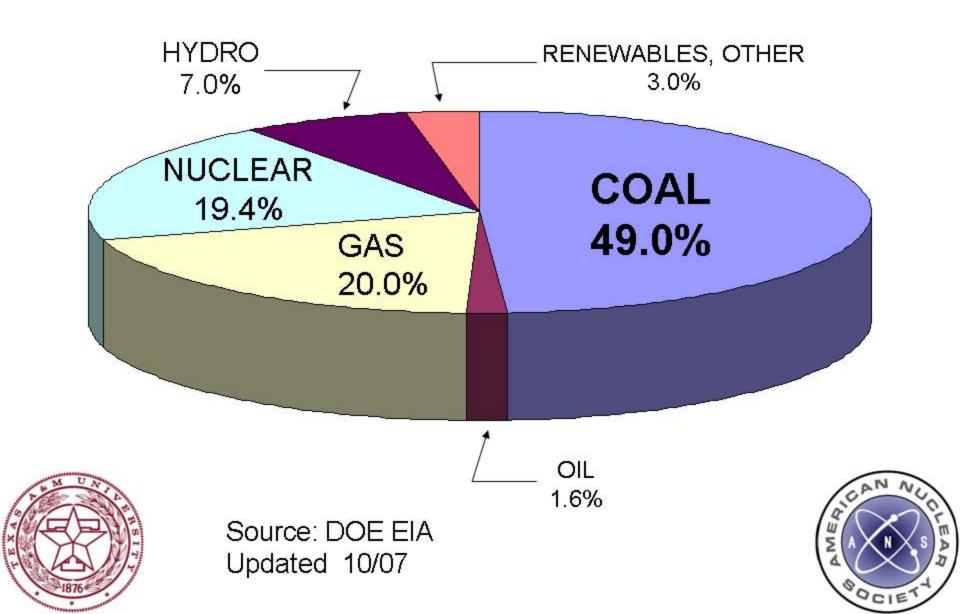
William E. Burchill, Ph.D.
Vice President/President-Elect
American Nuclear Society
Retired Department Head
Nuclear Engineering
Texas A&M University



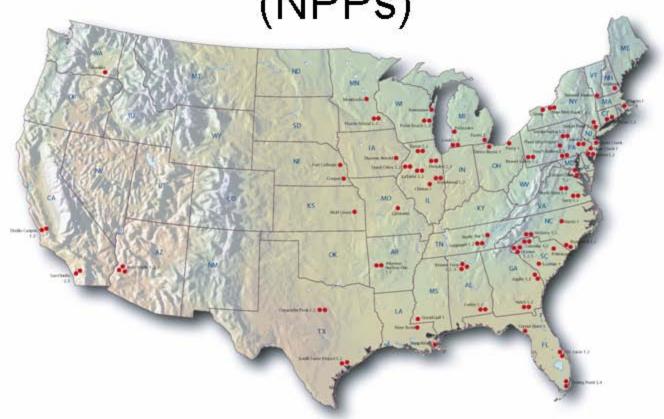
NRG 0.1 Seminar
California Institute of Technology
February 8, 2008



### U. S. Electricity Generation by Fuel (2006)



# U.S. Operating Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs)

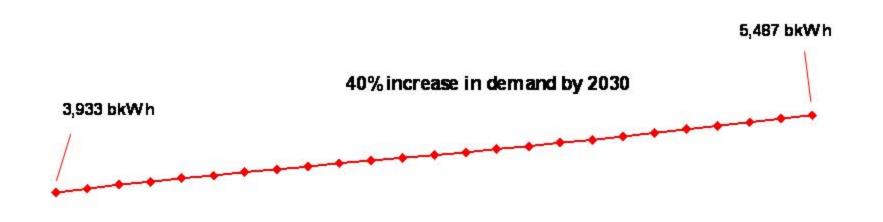




104 Operating Reactors ~20% of U.S. Electricity



### U.S. Electricity Demand Growth





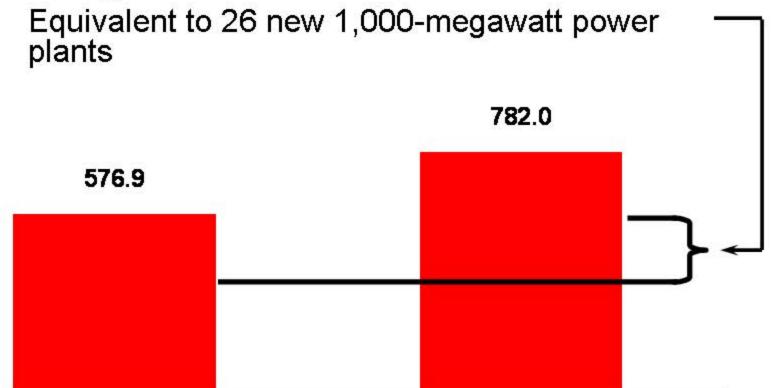


Source: DOE EIA's 2007 Annual Energy Outlook

Updated: 1/07



# Growth of U.S. NPP Production During Recent 15 Years (billion kWh)



1990 2005\*



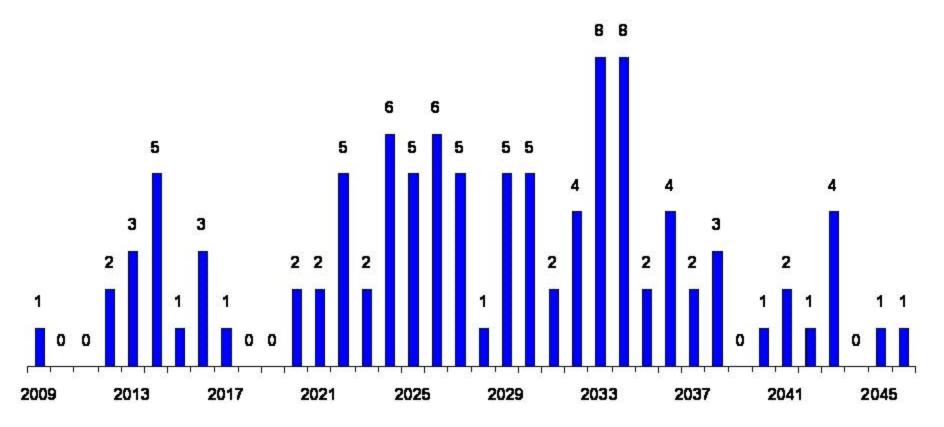
\*Source: Global Energy Decisions / DOE

**Energy Information Administration** 

Updated: 4/06



# Expiration Of U.S. NPP Licenses 2009-2046



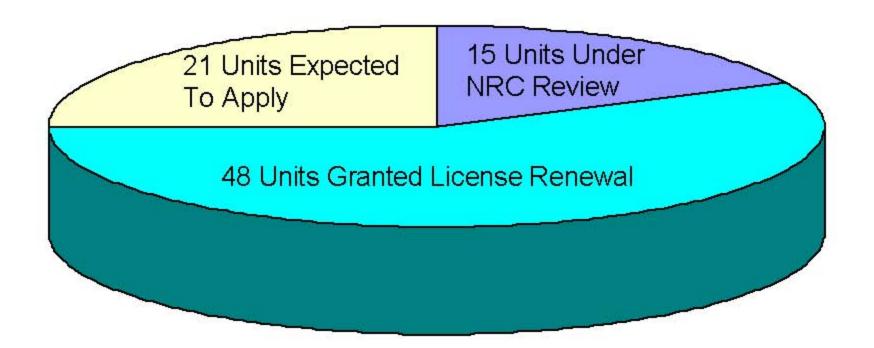


Source: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Updated: 1/07



## U.S. Applications For License Renewal



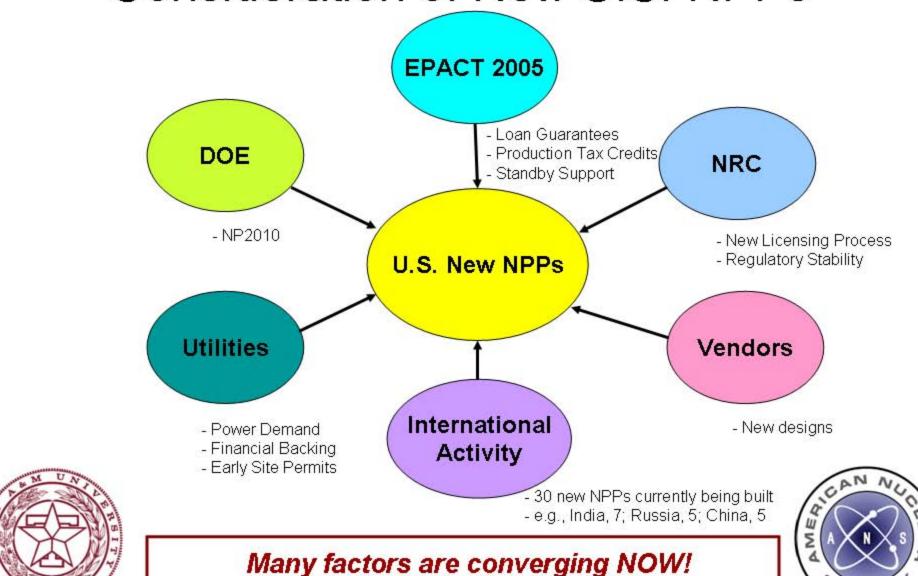


Source: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Updated: 1/08



# Factors Which Influence Consideration of New U.S. NPPs



### New NRC NPP Licensing Process

Early Site Permit (ESP)



Design Certification (DC)

Combined Construction and Operation License (COL)

## > 30 COL Applications Announced Since January, 2006





Source: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2006 Regulatory Information Conference



## Announced COL Applications

Company	NPP Design	Number of Units	<b>COL Submittal Date</b>
Alternate Energy Holdings	EPR	TBD	FY 2009
Amarillo Power	EPR	TBD	FY 2009
AmerenUE	EPR	TBD	FY 2008
Constellation (UniStar)	EPR (3)	3	FY 2008
Detroit Edison	TBD	TBD	FY 2008
Dominion	ESBWR	i	November 2007
Duke	AP1000	2	December 2007
Duke	TBD	TBD	TBD
Entergy	ESBWR	1	FY 2008
Entergy (NuStart)	ESBWR	1	FY 2008
Exelon	TBD	TBD	TBD
Exelon	ESBWR	2	FY 2008
Florida Power & Light	TBD	2	FY 2009
Luminant	APWR	2	FY 2008
NRG Energy / STPNOC	ABWR	2	September 2007
PPL Corp.	EPR	1	FY 2009
Progress Energy	AP1000	4	FY 2008
South Carolina Electric &	AP1000	2	TBD
Gas Southern Company	AP1000	2	FY 2008
TVA (NuStart)	AP1000	2	FY 2008 October 2007

Source: Nuclear Energy Institute

Updated: 1/08

### Summary of COL Applications

- 17 companies preparing COL applications for at least 33 reactors
- 4 designs certified, 1 under review,
   2 being prepared for review
- 3 early site permits issued, 1 under review,
   6 companies considering applications
- Industry expenditure to date on new NPPs –
   \$2+ billion
- 4 COL applications submitted in 2007

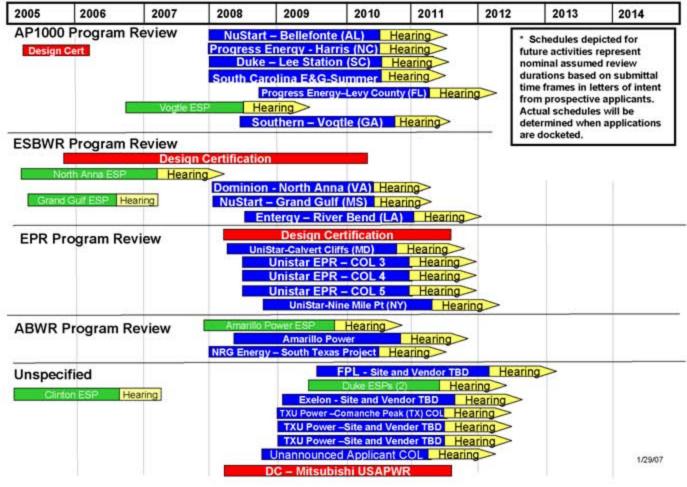


Source: Nuclear Energy Institute

Updated: 1/08



## New NPP Licensing Applications





OCIET



### The Challenges



Re-establish the nuclear infrastructure

Utilities Universities
Vendors Government
Labor Investors

Determine fabrication sources

- Maintain high performance standards
- Address proliferation concerns
- Continue to build public confidence
- Long-term nuclear waste disposal
  - License Yucca Mtn.
- Close the nuclear fuel cycle







### Examples of Infrastructure Issues

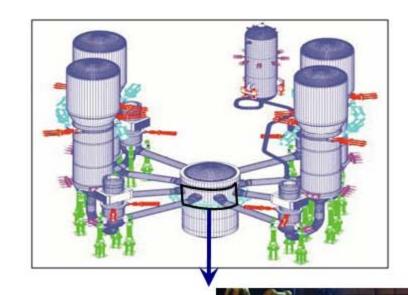
- DOE funding for university Nuclear Education Programs
- Knowledge, experience, & labor shortages
- DOE failure to implement 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act
  - DOE Standard Contract with utilities
  - Accept SNF by January 31, 1998
- Delays in applying for Yucca Mountain repository license following 2002 approvals by Congress and President
- Slow implementation of 2005 Energy Policy Act
  - 4/24/06, Production tax credit
  - 8/4/06, Standby support coverage
  - 10/4/07, Clean-energy loan guarantee program





### **Fabrication Sources**

U.S. EPR #1
forgings are
currently
in production
at Japan
Steel Works
(JSW)

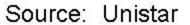






Nozzle shell forging for U.S. EPR #1

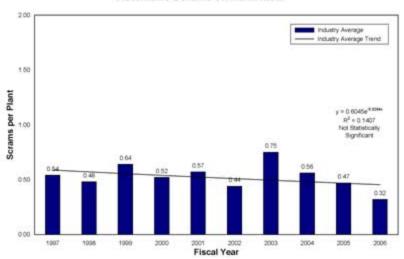




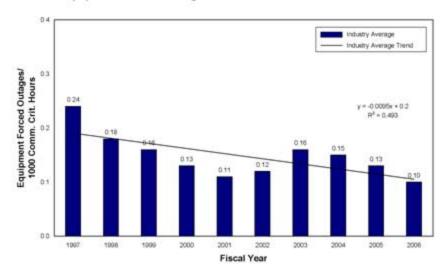


### High Performance Standards

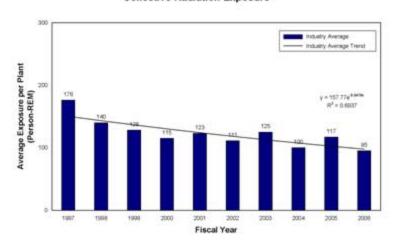
#### **Automatic Scrams While Critical**



#### **Equipment Forced Outages/1000 Commercial Critical Hours**



#### Collective Radiation Exposure



Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, 11/07





### Addressing Proliferation Concerns

### Physical solutions

- Continue current barriers (guns, gates, & guards)
- Reduce inventory of weapons-grade material by fission in power reactors
- Implement advanced fuel cycles
- Remove inventory of weapons-grade material from the biosphere

### Political solutions

- Prohibit reprocessing facilities in additional countries (GNEP)
- Prohibit enrichment facilities in additional countries (GNEP)
- Establish centralized world-oversight of all weapons-grade material (GNEP)



## Physical Solutions - Barriers







Barriers

No-Man Zones

Surveillance







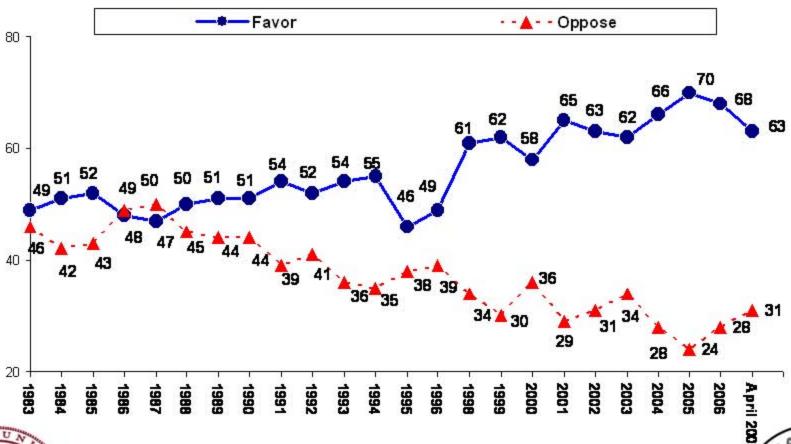
OCIET

Guards

Gates

Guns

### U.S. Public Opinion Of Nuclear Power





Source: Bisconti Research

## Public Opinion – NPP Neighbors





OCIET

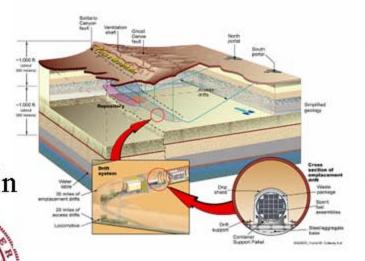
Source: Presentation by Mayor of Bay City Texas, Location of South Texas Project NPP

### **Nuclear Waste Disposition**





Long-Term Storage Yucca Mountain

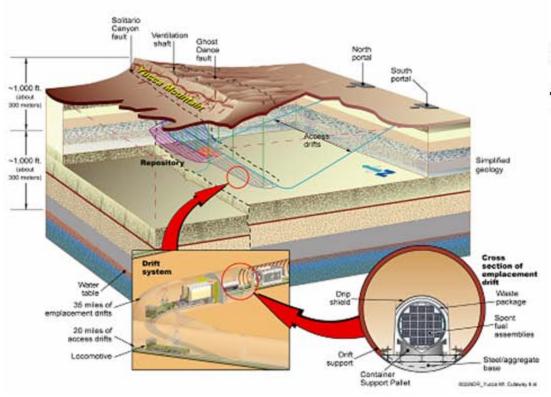


### Ultimate Options:

- Fuel Reprocessing
  - ➤ Recycle Fissile Material
  - > Transmute High Level Waste
  - ➤ Vitrify Residual Waste
- As demonstrated currently in

France, Russia, Japan and previously in USA

### License Yucca Mountain



Current projection for license application

Submit

Spring 2008

Open

2017?

2021?

Address Nevada political resistance to Yucca Mountain by demonstrating support of Nevada state goals

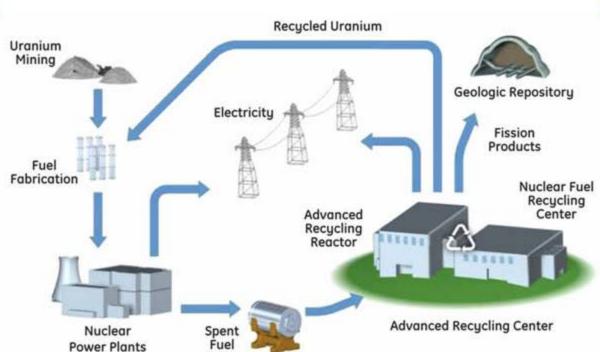
- · Synergism with gaming tax income
- Boost of local employment
- National leadership position
- No negative impact on tourism





### Close The Nuclear Fuel Cycle



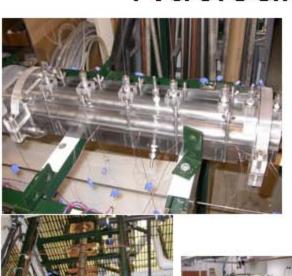


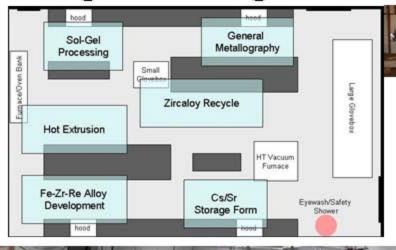
- Re-establish reprocessing
- Establish recycling (with or without MOX and advanced reactors)
- Define HLW forms
- Establish geologic repository

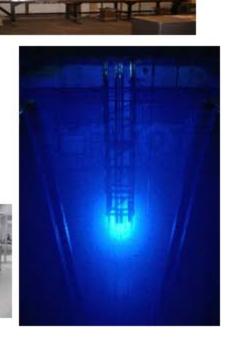


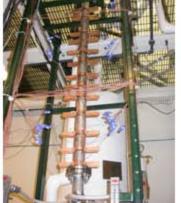


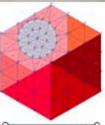
## Texas A&M University Nuclear Engineering Research

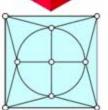




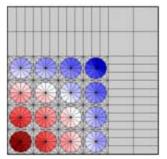








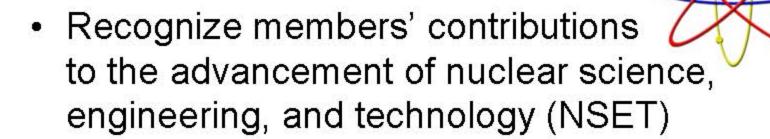






## Role of the American Nuclear Society

 Provide a professional home for scientists and engineers in the nuclear profession







### Role of the American Nuclear Society

 Provide forums to exchange information needed to develop and to apply NSET



 Serve as a credible source of information about NSET







### Role of the American Nuclear Society

- ANS professional divisions
  - provide peer review of new NSET developments
  - advance NSET at topical meetings and workshops



- ANS public policies and public information
  - inform the Public
  - assist Government in developing sound policies



## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

# THE U.S. NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE AND THE CHALLENGES IT PRESENTS



NRG 0.1 Seminar
California Institute of Technology
February 8, 2008

