

# The Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MIT STUDY

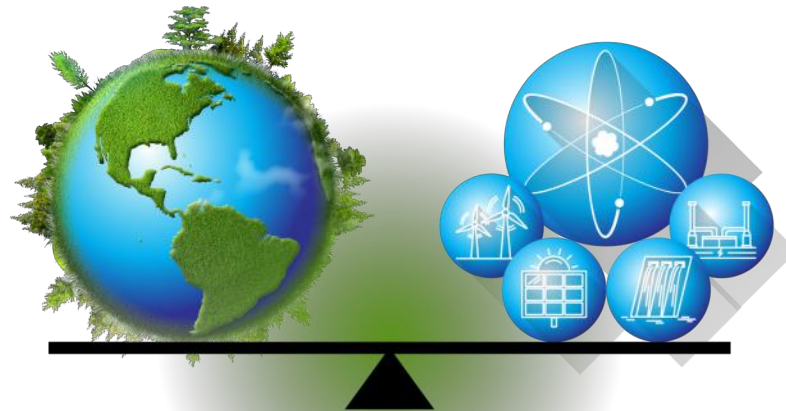


**Download the report at**  
**<http://energy.mit.edu/>**

**Hard copies of the  
Executive Summary  
available in the room**

# Take-away messages

- The opportunity is carbon
- The problem is cost
- There are ways to reduce it
- Government's help is needed to make it happen



# Study Team



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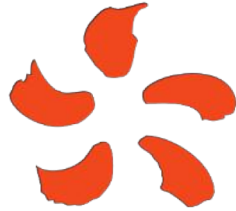
# Advisory Board

Name	Title	Background
<b>Philip Sharp (Chair)</b>	President, Resources for the Future; former US Congressman; Professor Emeritus, Harvard University	Government, energy policy
<b>Kathryn McCarthy</b>	Vice President for Research and Development, Canadian National Laboratories	Nuclear technology
<b>Richard Meserve</b>	President Emeritus, Carnegie Institution for Science; Head Emeritus, NRC	Nuclear regulations, science
<b>William Magwood</b>	Director, Nuclear Energy Agency; Commissioner Emeritus, NRC; Director Emeritus, DOE-NE	Nuclear technology, regulations, government, international dimension
<b>Bernard Salha</b>	Sr. Executive VP & President of EDF R&D	Nuclear technology and R&D
<b>Robert Budnitz</b>	Project Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	Nuclear waste and regulations
<b>Dirk Smit</b>	Vice President Exploration Technology, Chief Scientist Geophysics, Shell	Energy markets and fuels
<b>Zach Pate</b>	CEO and Chairman Emeritus, INPO and WANO; former US Navy submarine commander	NPP operations, industry oversight, Navy experience
<b>Susan Landahl</b>	Sr. VP, Exelon Corporation	NPP operations/industry
<b>Jean-Pierre Benque</b>	President Emeritus, EDF Development Inc. and EDF North America	International nuclear industry and energy markets
<b>Edward Steinfeld</b>	Professor of China Studies, Brown University	China energy markets
<b>John Deutch</b>	Institute Professor, MIT; Director Emeritus, CIA	Non-proliferation, government
<b>Marvin Fertel</b>	Ex-President and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute	Nuclear industry, government
<b>Michael Shellenberger</b>	Founder and President, Environmental Progress	Environmental perspective
<b>Akira Omoto</b>	Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology and Advisor to Nuclear Risk Research, ex-Director, Division of Nuclear Power, IAEA	Nuclear safety, Japan perspective
<b>James Del Favero</b>	Head, Cross-border M&A, Goldman Sachs	Finances



# Acknowledgements

This study is supported by generous grants and donations from



**edf**



the David &  
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Neil Rasmussen



James Del Favero



Zach Pate



**Anthropocene** Institute

and in-kind contributions from



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# Dissemination

**Report Online Release:** Sep 3, 2018  
Executive summary translated in French,  
Japanese and Chinese

## Rollout Events

London (Sep 2018)  
Paris (Sep 2018)  
Brussels (Sep 2018)  
Washington DC (Sep 2018)  
Tokyo (Oct 2018)  
South Korea/China (Jan 2019)



**46 presentations at universities, industry organizations, government, conferences, research labs**  
BEIS UK June 2017 (JB), ICAPP Plenary 2018 (JB), CEA Oct 2017 (JB), RMIT Jan 2017 (JB), Yale Univ. Mar 2018 (JB), Imperial College, June 2017 (JB), Zhejiang Univ. Sep 2017 (JB), Curtin Univ. Jan 2017 (JB), TAMU, Oct 2017 (JB), U-Houston, Oct 2017 (JB), Harvard Univ. HBS, Nov 2017 (JB), Harvard Belfer Center, June 2018 (JB), National Univ Singapore (NUS) Jan 2018 (JB), EPRI (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Workshop), Nov 2017 (JB), Royal Acad. Eng. Nov 2017 (JB), Nuclear Insider SMR Summit, Apr 2017 (JB), MITEI Advisory Board Oct 2017 (JB, Parsons), Forum of India's Nuclear Industry, Jan 2018 (JB), Canadian Nuclear Society, Nov 2018 (JB), MIT Alumni Association of New Hampshire, Jun 2018 (JB), 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Nuclear Technology, Berlin, May 2018 (JB), U-Edinburgh Aug 2018 (JB), Duke Energy Aug 2018 (JB), NSE May 2018 (JB, Petti, Parsons), Golay Fest, Mar 2018 (JB, Petti), Nuclear Bootcamp at UCB, July 2018 (Corradini), GA visit to MIT April 2018 (all), Armstrong and Moniz August 2017 (all), ANS Orlando, Nov 2018 (Corradini), Mark Peters INL Lab Director, June 2017 (Petti), JASONs June 2017 (Petti, Parsons, Corradini), Wisconsin Energy Institute (MLC), Mar 2018 (Corradini), CNL, Oct 2017 (Petti), CSIS, Sept 2017 (Petti), DoE Dep Sec and Chief of Staff and NE-1, Jan 2018 (Petti, Parsons, Corradini), NRC, Sep 2018 (Corradini), NEI, Sep 2018 (Corradini), EPRI/NEI roadmapping meeting, Feb 2018 (Petti), INL, March 2018 (Petti), Gain Workshop, March 2018 (Petti), Golay Workshop, March 2018 (Petti), WNA, September 2018 (Petti), NENE Slovenia, September 2018 (Petti), PBNC SF, September 2018 (Petti), Zurich, December 2018 (Petti), Undersecretary of Energy – Science P. Dabbar, Aug 2018 (JB)

# Key Questions Analyzed in the MIT Study

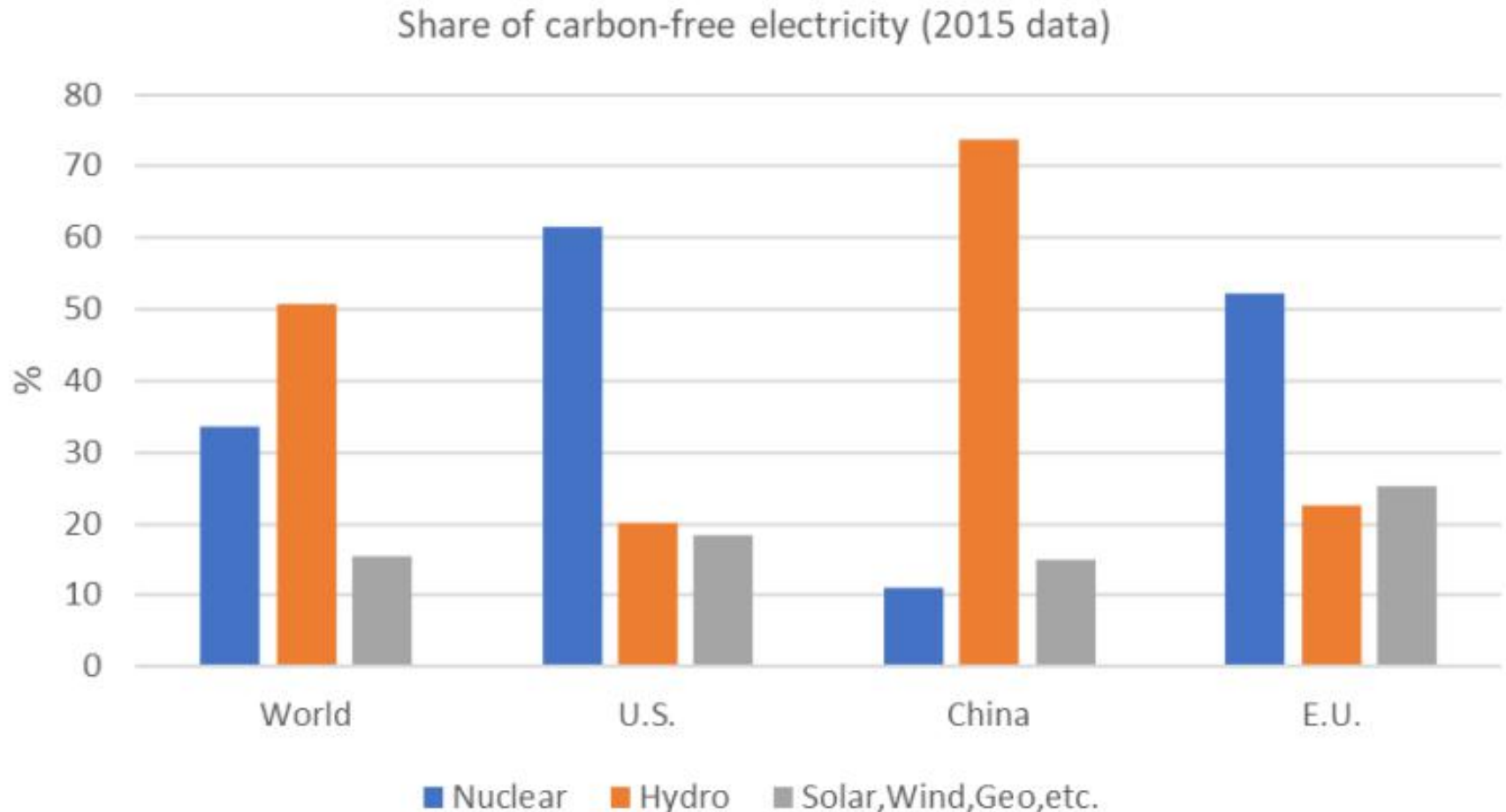
For the period present-2050:

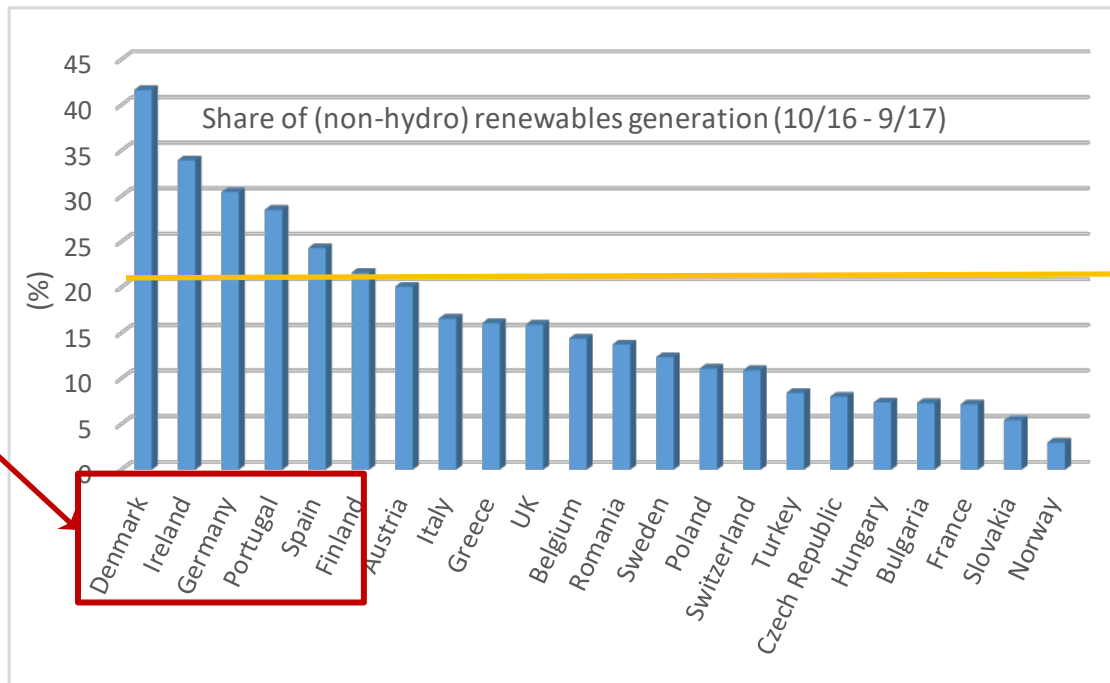
- Do we need nuclear to de-carbonize the power sector?
- What is the cost of new nuclear and how to reduce it?
- What is the value proposition of advanced nuclear technologies?
- What is the appropriate role for the government in the development and demonstration of new nuclear technologies?

**Do we need nuclear to  
decarbonize the power  
sector?**

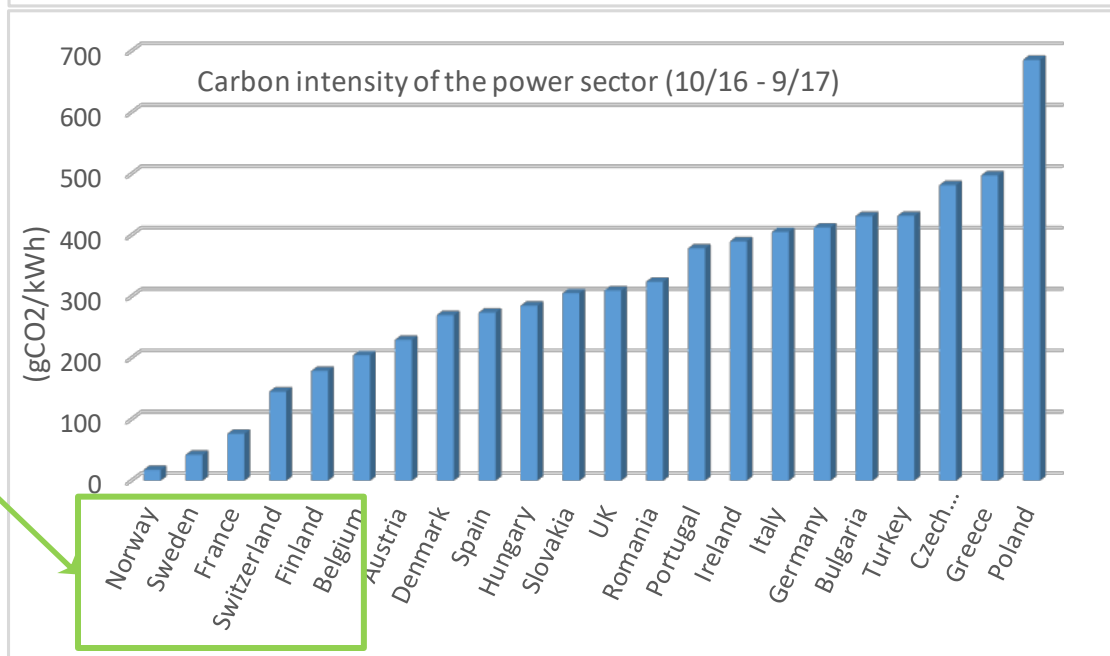


# Nuclear is the largest source of emission-free electricity in the US and Europe





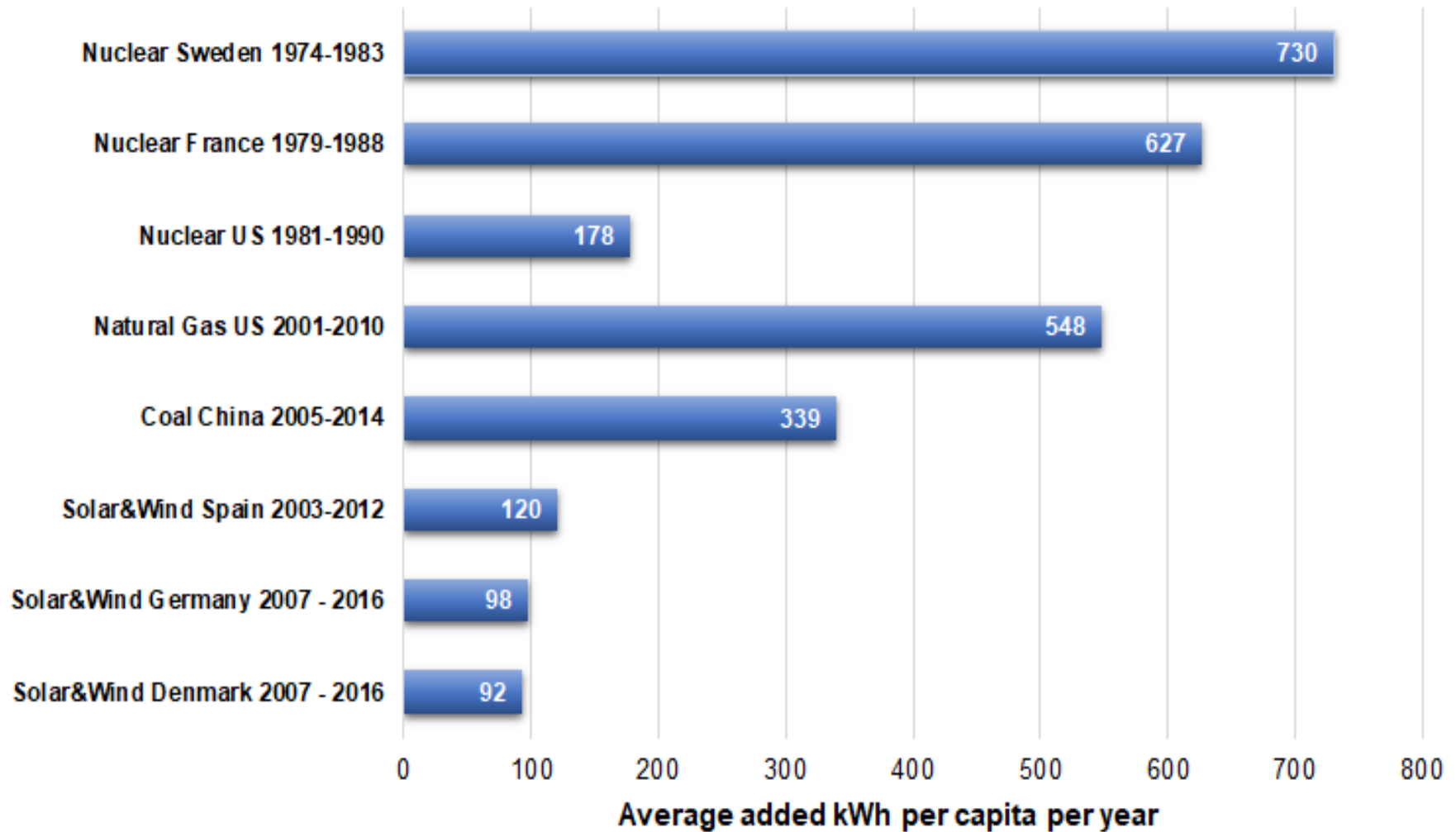
EU countries  
with high  
capacity of solar  
and wind



EU countries  
with low carbon  
intensity

**Low carbon intensity in the EU power sector correlates with nuclear and hydro**

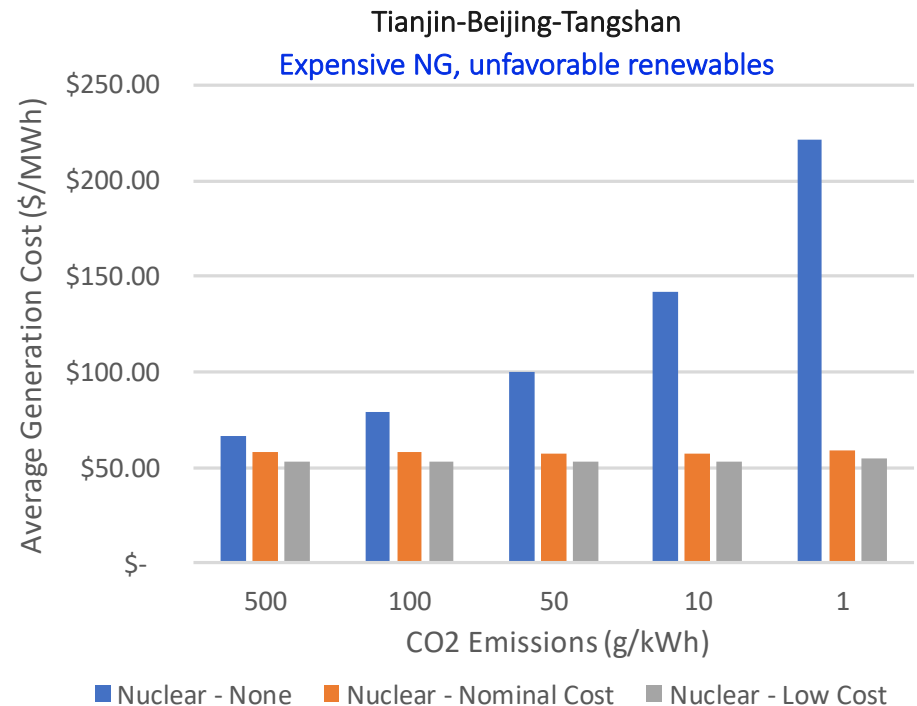
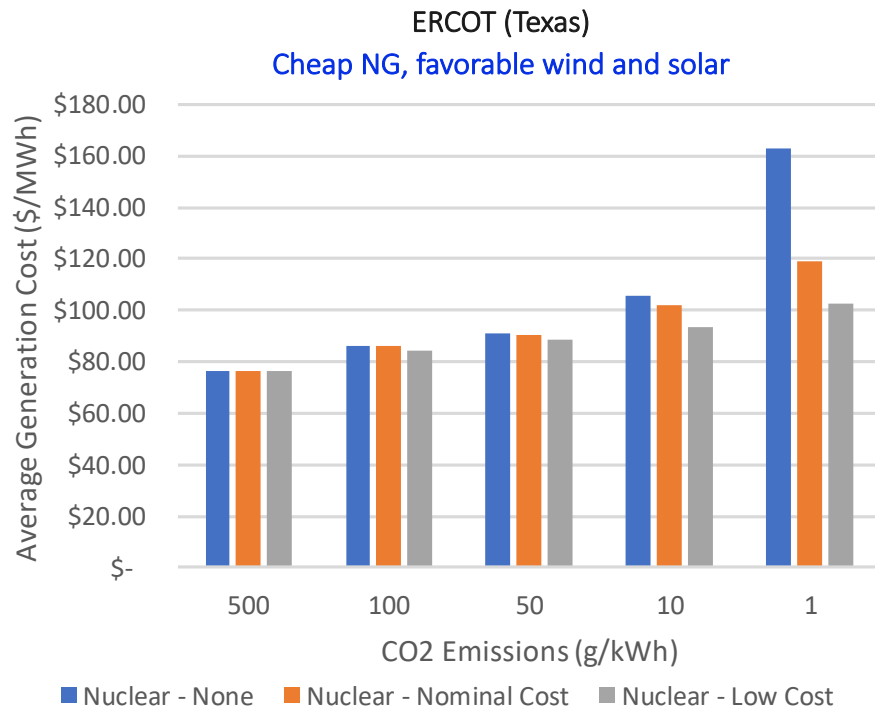
# The scalability argument



**Nuclear electricity can be deployed as quickly as coal and gas at a time of need**

# The economic argument

## Excluding nuclear energy drives up the average cost of electricity in low-carbon scenarios

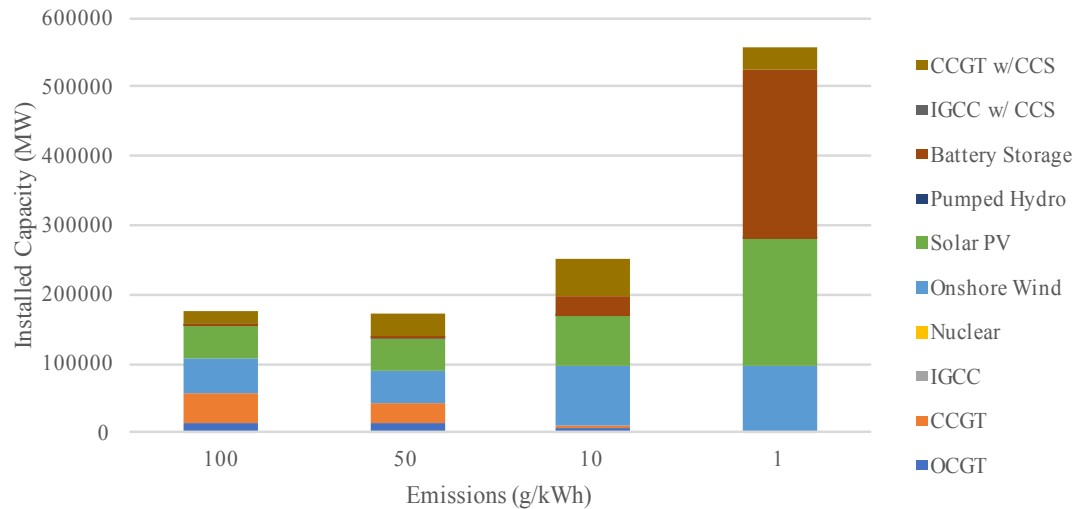


### Simulation of optimal generation mix in power markets

MIT tool: hourly electricity demand + hourly weather patterns + capital, O&M and fuel costs of power plants, backup and storage + ramp up rates

# Texas (ERCOT) Results

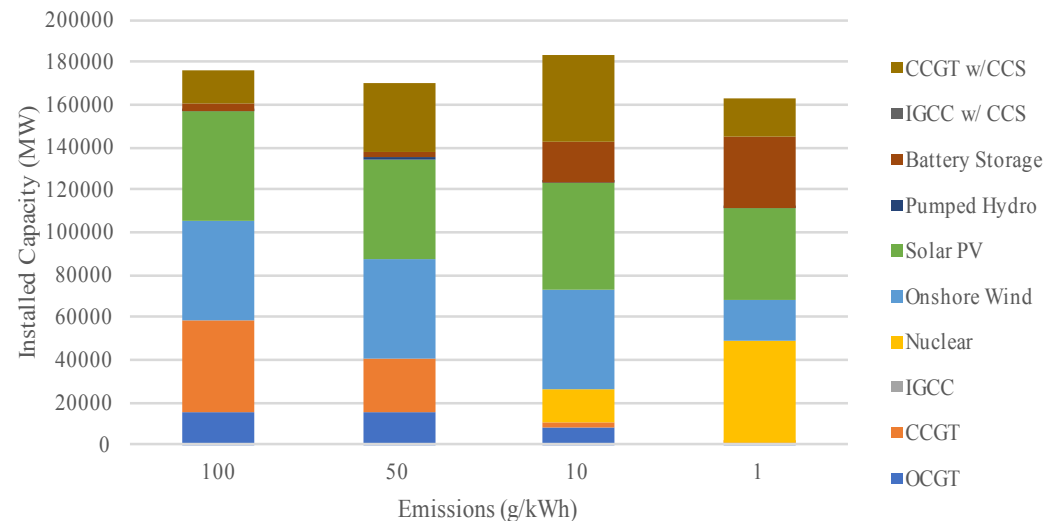
Installed Capacities in Texas: No Nuclear



To meet constraint w/o nuclear requires major build-out of renewables

By contrast, installed capacity is relatively constant with nuclear allowed

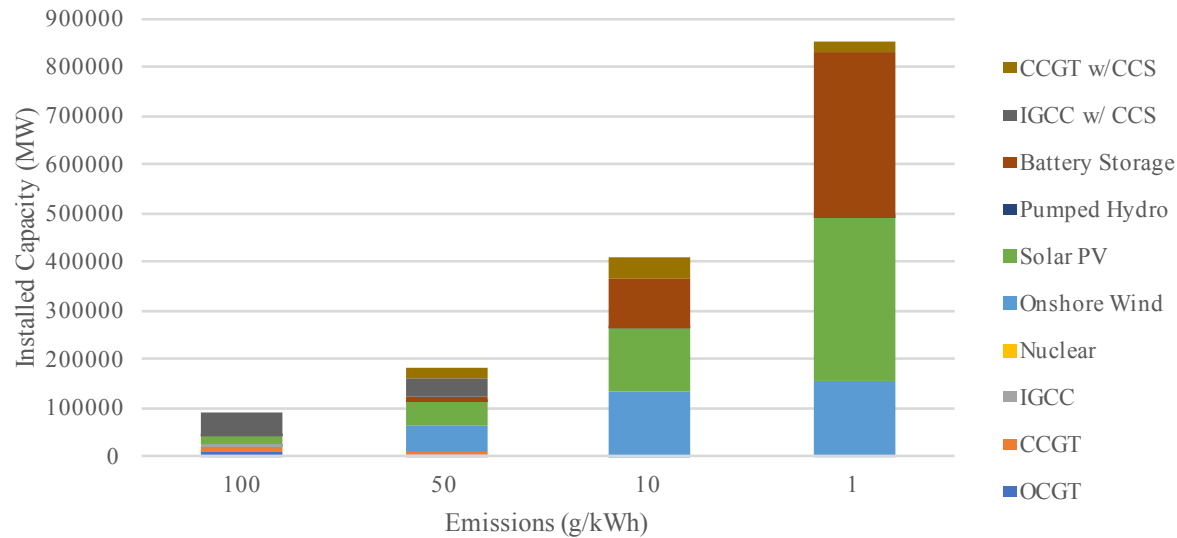
Installed Capacities in Texas: Nuclear - Nominal





# Tianjin-Beijing-Tangshan Results

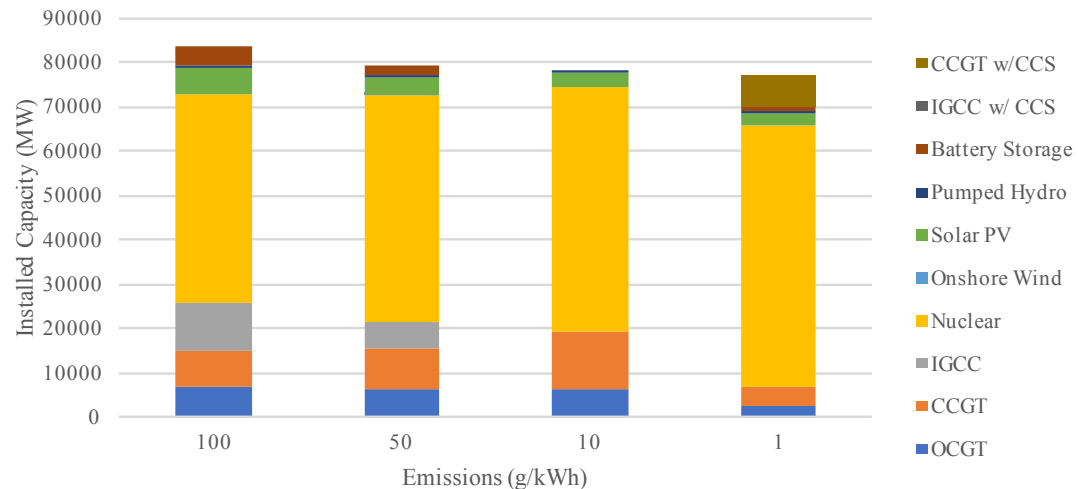
Installed Capacities in Tianjin: No Nuclear



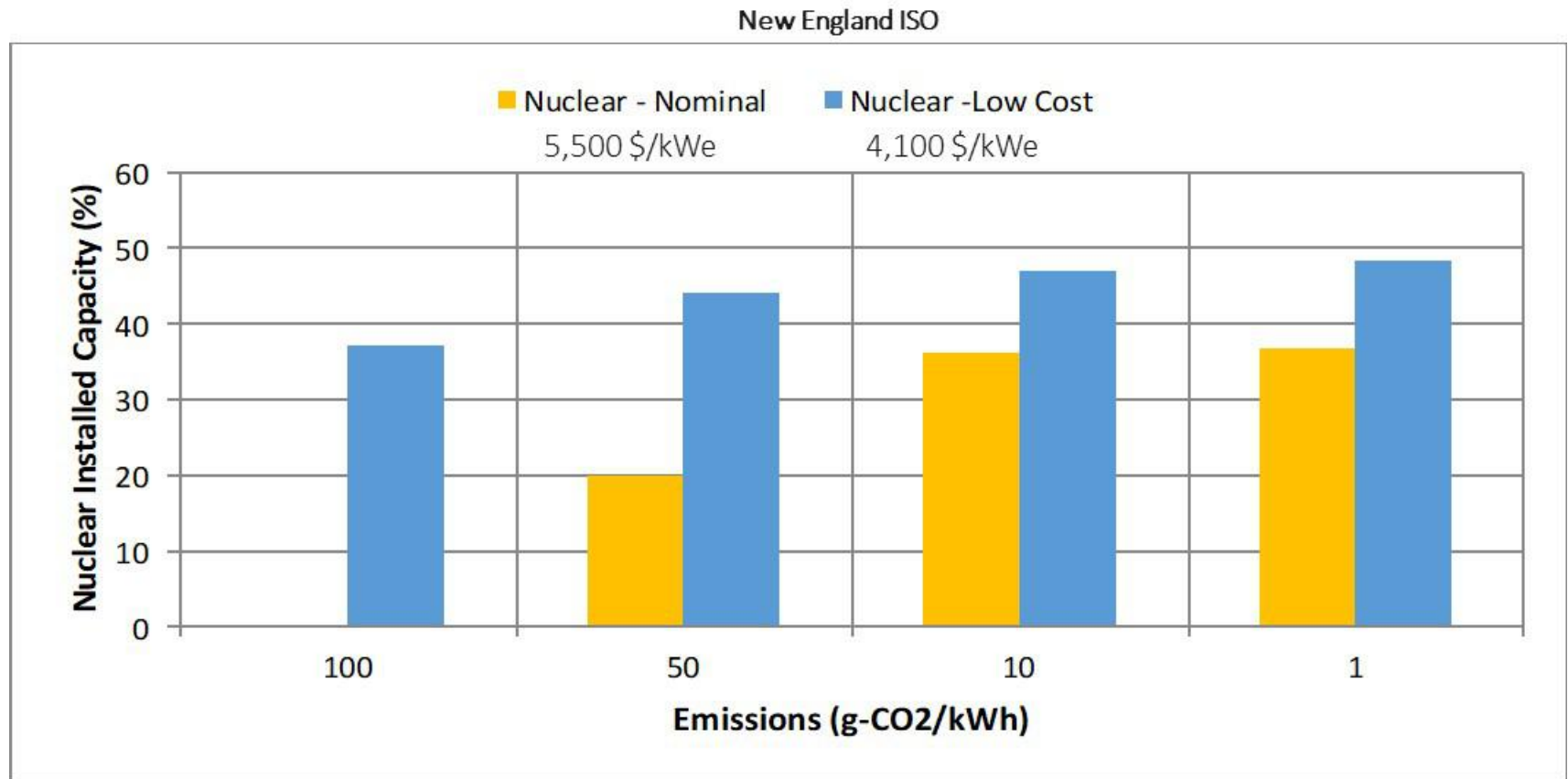
To meet constraint w/o nuclear requires significant build-out of renewables

By contrast, installed capacity is relatively constant with nuclear allowed

Installed Capacities in Tianjin: Nuclear - Nominal



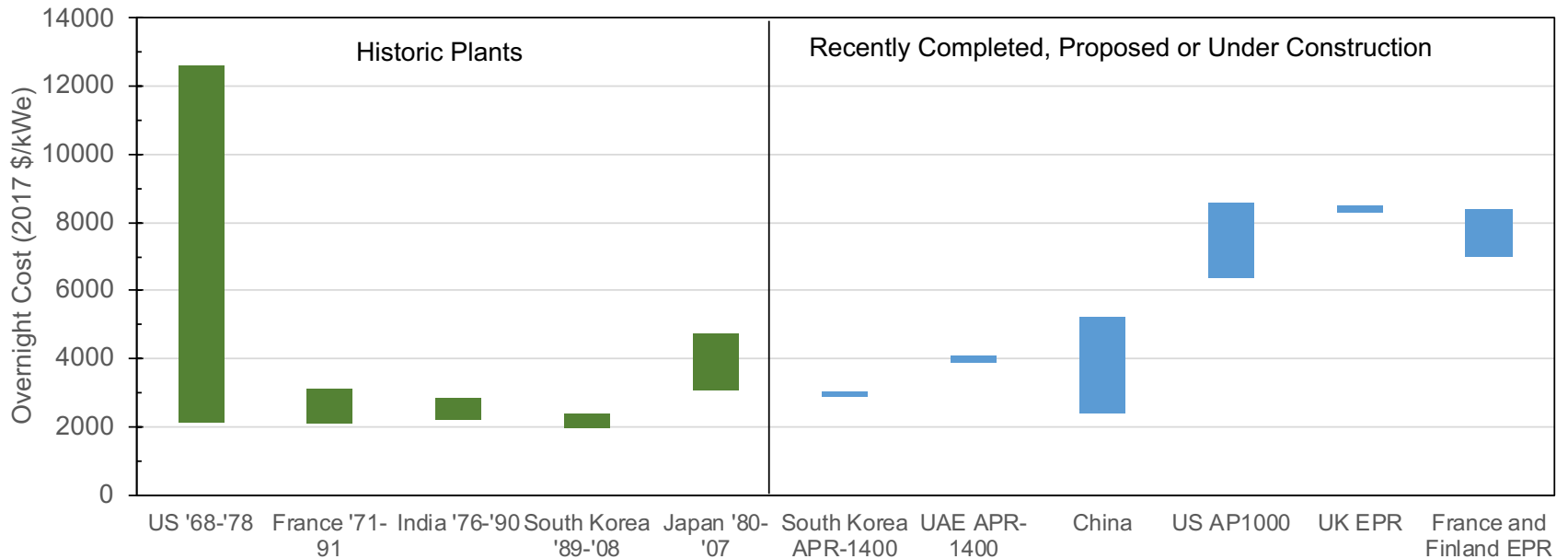
# Capital cost of nuclear matters!



**Markets expand dramatically for nuclear even at modest decarbonization targets, if its cost decreases**

# **The cost issue**

# Nuclear Plant Cost

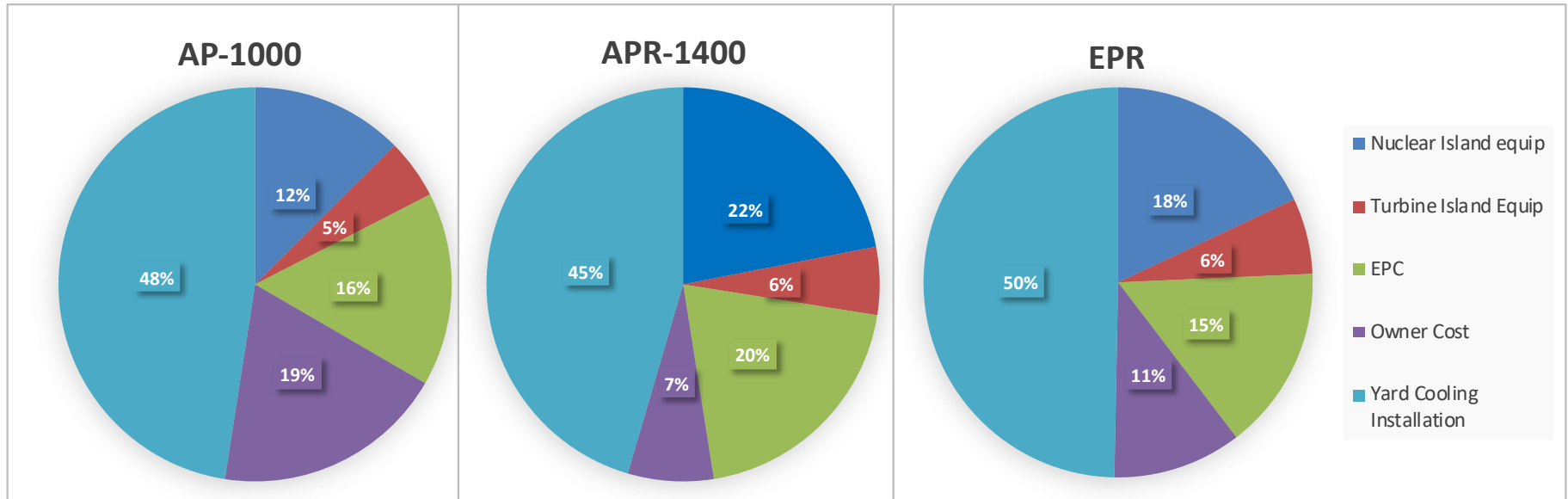


**An increased focus on using proven project/construction management practices will increase the probability of success in execution and delivery of new nuclear power plants**

For example:

- Complete design before starting construction,
- Develop proven NSSS supply chain and skilled labor workforce,
- Include fabricators and constructors in the design team,
- Appoint a single primary contract manager,
- Establish a successful contracting structure,
- Adopt a flexible contract administrative processes to adjust to unanticipated changes,
- Operate in a flexible regulatory environment that can accommodate changes in design and construction in a timely fashion.

# Nuclear Plant Cost (2)



**Sources:**

**AP1000:** Black & Veatch for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, *Cost and Performance Data for Power Generation Technologies*, Feb. 2012, p. 11

**APR1400:** Dr. Moo Hwan Kim, POSTECH, personal communication, 2017

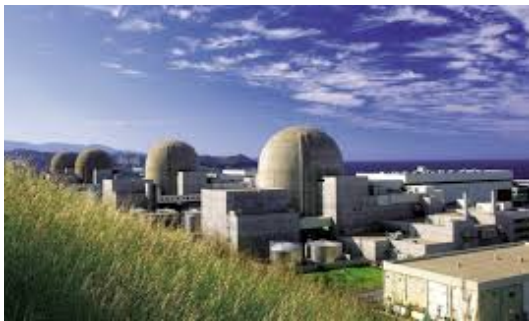
**EPR:** Mr. Jacques De Toni, Adjoint Director, EPRNM Project, EDF, personal communication, 2017

Civil works, site preparation, installation and indirect costs (engineering oversight and owner's costs) dominate

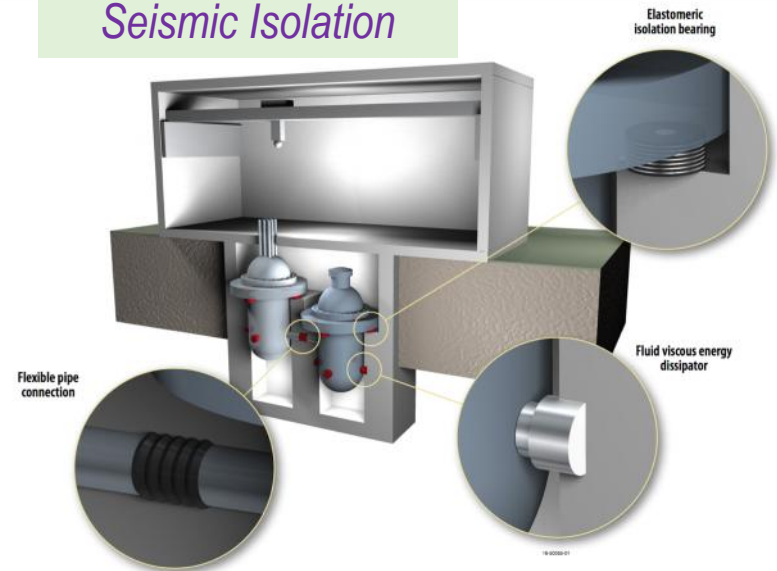


**A shift away from primarily field construction of cumbersome, highly site-dependent plants to more serial manufacturing of standardized plants**  
*(True for all plants and all technologies. Without these, the inherent technological features will NOT produce the level of cost reduction necessary)*

### Standardization on multi-unit sites



### Seismic Isolation



### Advanced Concrete Solutions

Work Structure	Rebar arrangement	Form work (assembling)	Placing concrete	Form work (removal)
RC		 Wooden form		
28days	13days	7days	4days	4days
SC	—	 Steel plate (welding)		—
14days	—	10days	4days	—

### Modular Construction Techniques and Factory Fabrication



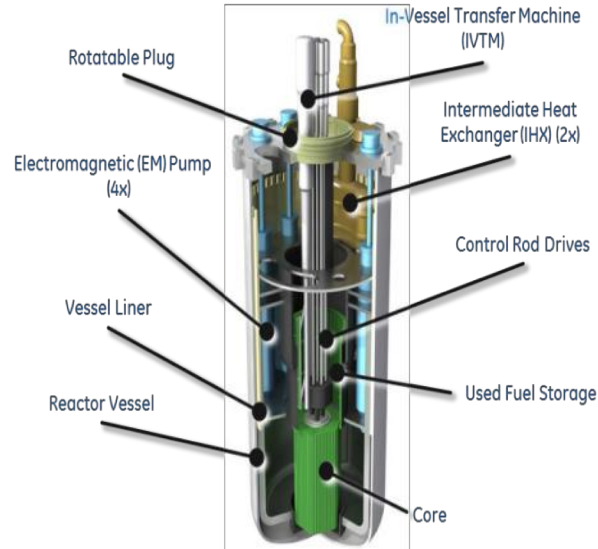
# **Advanced reactors**

# Advanced Reactors (Generation-IV)

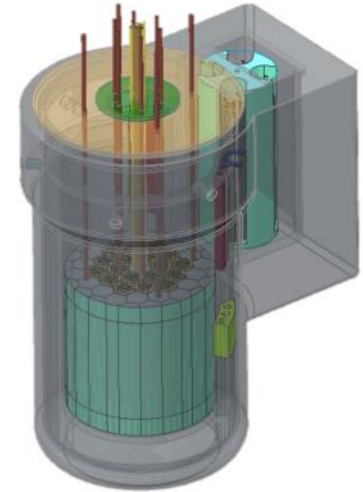
*High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactors*



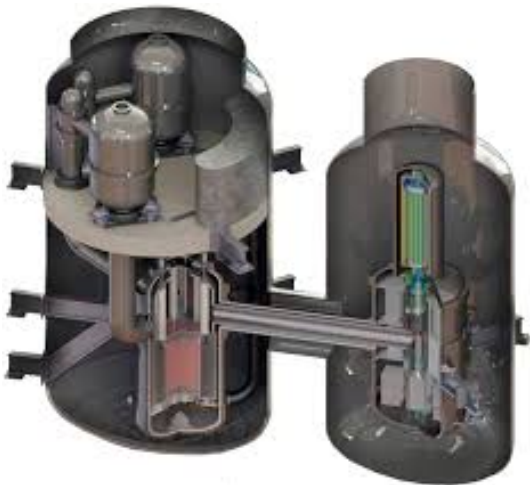
*Sodium Fast Reactors*



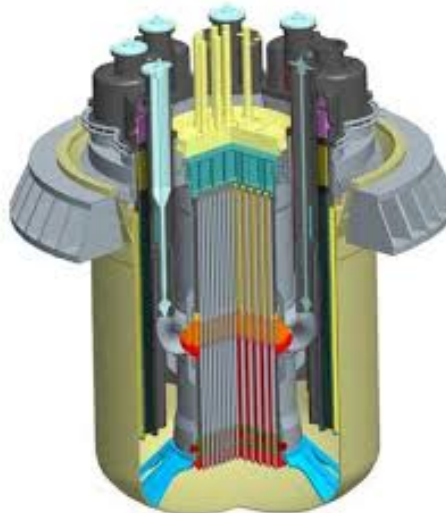
*Fluoride High Temperature Reactors*



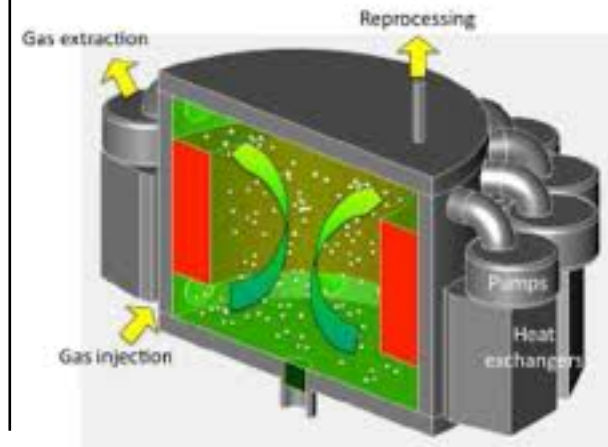
*Gas-Cooled Fast Reactors*



*Lead-Cooled Fast Reactors*



*Molten Salt Reactors*



# Potential Advanced Reactor Missions

- Cheap grid-connected electricity
- Process heat and high temperature applications
- Flexible operation
- Microreactors for off-grid electricity and heat
- Desalination
- Improved fuel cycle (fuel recycling/waste burning)

# What is the value proposition for advanced reactors?

Demonstrated inherent safety attributes:

- No coolant boiling
- High thermal capacity
- Strong negative temperature/power coefficients
- Strong fission product retention in fuel, coolant and moderator
- Low chemical reactivity

+

Engineered passive safety systems:

- Heat removal
- Shutdown

=



- ✓ No need for emergency AC power
- ✓ Long coping times
- ✓ Simplified design and operations
- ✓ Emergency planning zone limited to site boundary

Leading Gen-IV systems exploit inherent and passive safety features to reduce the probability of accidents and their offsite consequences. Their economic attractiveness is still highly uncertain.

We judge that advanced LWR-based SMRs (e.g. NuScale), and mature Generation-IV concepts (e.g., high-temperature gas-cooled reactors and sodium-cooled fast reactors) are now ready for commercial deployment.



# What is the value proposition for advanced reactors? (2)

There exists a small (but not insignificant) potential market for nuclear heat

Industry	300 MW <sub>th</sub> Reactor		150 MW <sub>th</sub> Reactor	
	U.S. Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	Global Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	U.S. Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	Worldwide Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)
Co-Generation Facilities	82,800 (61.7%)	340,800 (59.8%)	86,250 (57.5%)	355,050 (55.7%)
Refineries	15,600 (10.4%)	76,800 (12.1%)	17,250 (11.5%)	84,750 (13.3%)
Chemicals	7,800 (5.2%)	36,600 (5.7%)	7,050 (4.7%)	34,200 (5.4%)
Minerals	2,100 (1.4%)	8,700 (1.4%)	2,100 (1.4%)	8,700 (1.4%)
Pulp and Paper	12,600 (8.4%)	51,900 (8.1%)	21,300 (14.2%)	87,750 (13.8%)
Other	13,200 (8.8%)	55,200 (8.7%)	16,050 (10.7%)	66,450 (10.4%)
Total	134,100 (100%)	570,000 (100%)	150,000 (100%)	636,900 (100%)

## Methodology:

- EPA database for US sites emitting 25,000 ton-CO<sub>2</sub>/year or more
- Site must need at least 150 MW<sub>th</sub> of heat
- Nuclear heat delivered at max 650°C (with HTGR technology)
- At least 2 reactors per site for assured reliability
- Heat from waste stream not accessible
- Costs not evaluated

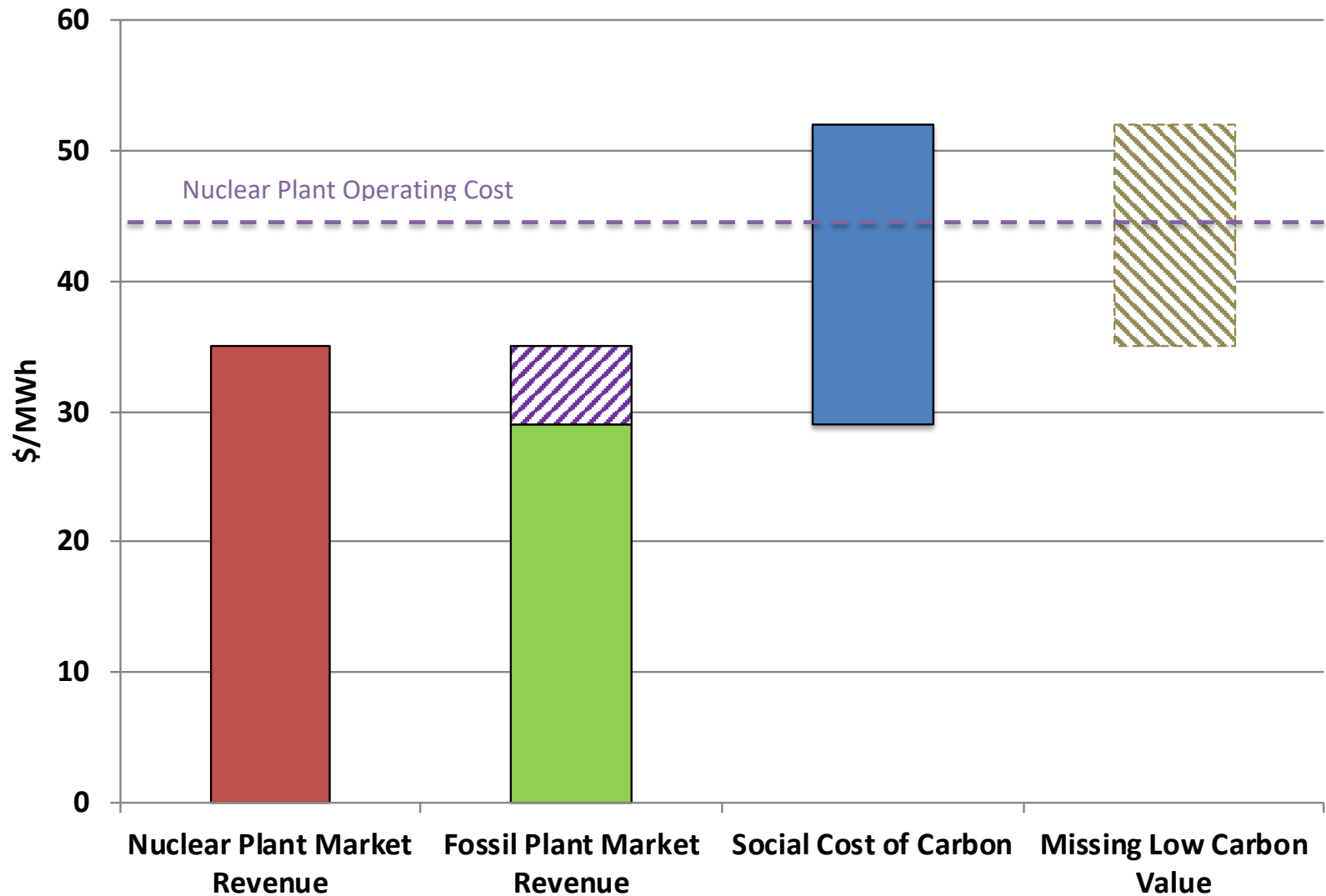
# **Government role**

# Preserve the existing fleet

**An essential bridge to the future to:**

- **Avoid emission increases:**
  - Keeping current NPPs is the lowest cost form of constraining carbon emissions
  - A \$12-17/MWh credit would be enough to keep US nuclear power plants open
  - *Zero Emission Credits* are doing the job in NY, IL and NJ
- **Retain key technical expertise** needed to operate the nuclear systems of the future

# US Electricity Markets



# Global Nuclear Market

- Growth in electricity demand is primarily in the non-OECD.
- Plenty of choice of vendors.
  - Korea has been successful.
  - Russia is extremely active globally.
  - China has built a domestic foundation to become an exporter.
- US success as a nuclear innovator must be won in this new context.



# New Reactor Designs

Electricity sector remains the major energy product

- Bigger than ever on a global scale, and
- with electrification of transportation and other energy services in the offing

Cost is the driver

- That means cutting the capital cost of the entire plant.
- \$5,500 overnight is only competitive when carbon constraints are very tight
- \$2,000 overnight is required without carbon constraints

# How can the government help to deploy new nuclear technologies?

## Improve the design of competitive electricity markets

- Decarbonization policies should create a level playing field that allows all low-carbon generation technologies to compete on their merits.
- Ensure technology neutrality in capacity markets
- Enable investors to earn a profit based on full value of their product (include reducing CO2 emissions)
- Would enable current plants to compete in the market



- Develop a durable political solution for spent fuel disposal to spur private investment
- Focus government research spending on innovations that lower capital cost of NPPs vs. fuel cycle innovations, reductions in waste streams and recycling

# How can the government help to deploy new nuclear technologies? (2)

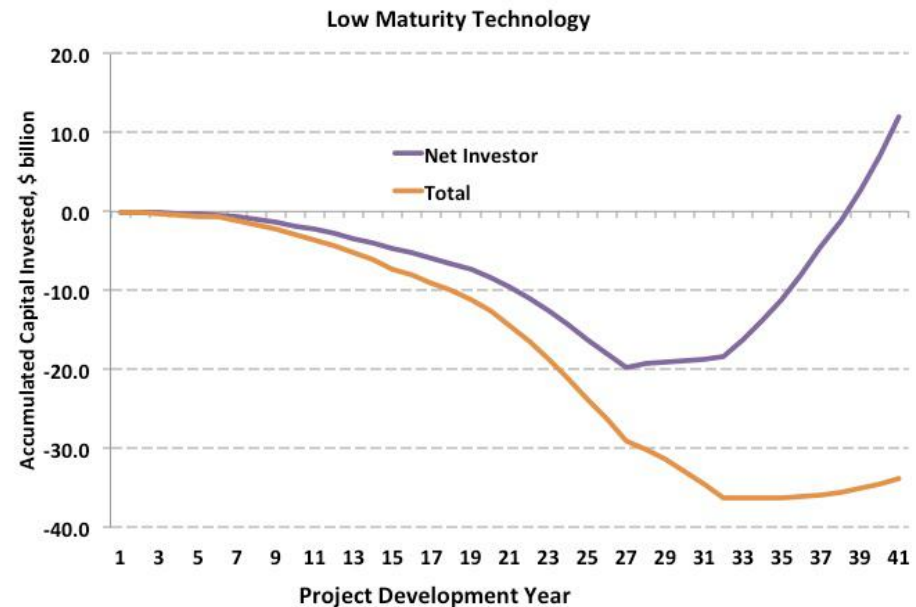
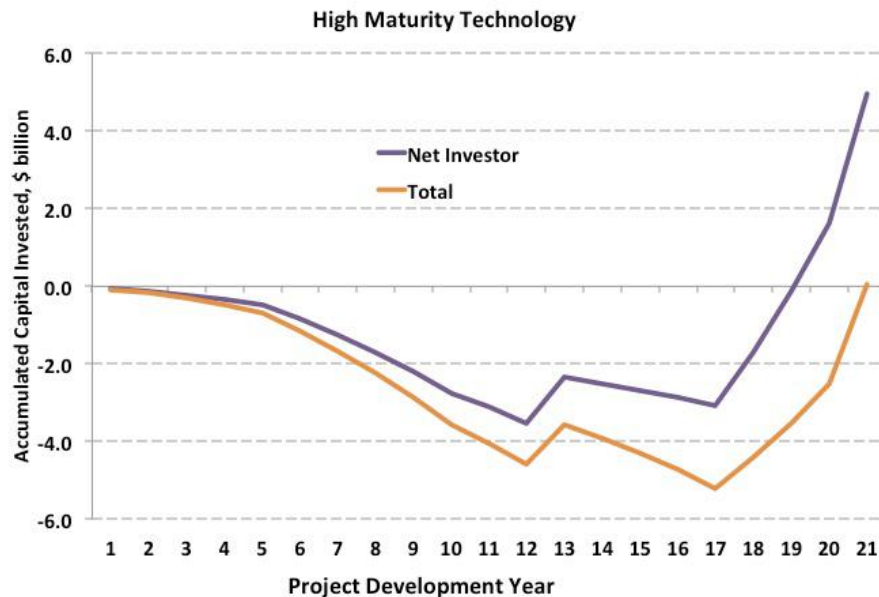
Governments should establish reactor sites where companies can deploy prototype reactors for testing and operation oriented to regulatory licensing.

- Government provides site security, cooling, oversight, PIE facilities, etc.
- Government provides targeted objectives, e.g. production of low-cost power or industrial heat, for which it is willing to provide production payments as an incentive
- Government takes responsibility for waste disposal
- Companies using the sites pay appropriate fees for site use and common site services
- Supply high assay LEU and other specialized fuels to enable tests of advanced reactors



# How can the government help to deploy new nuclear technologies? (3)

High upfront costs and long time to see return on investment  
(more so for less mature technologies, e.g. FHR, MSR, LFR, GFR, than more mature technologies, i.e. HTGR, SFR)

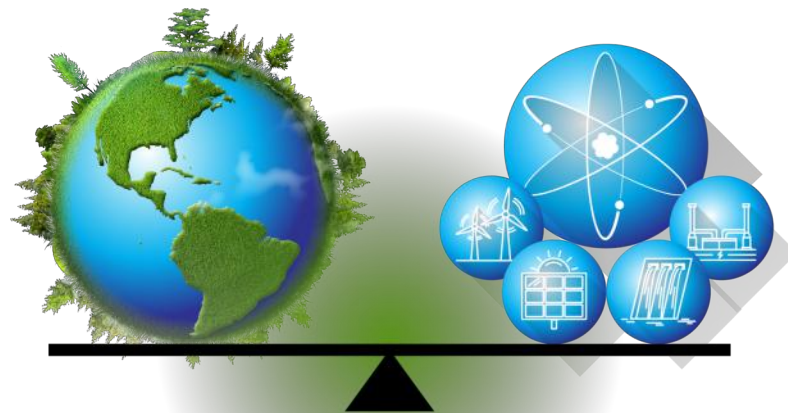


Early government support helps. Four “levers”:

- Share R&D costs
- Share licensing costs
- Payments for construction milestones
- Production credits

# Take-away messages

- The opportunity is carbon
- The problem is cost
- There are ways to reduce it
- Government's help is needed to make it happen



**Backup slides**



# Why a new study

**BBC**  
Switzerland votes to phase out nuclear power

**REUTERS**  
South Korea's president says will continue phasing out nuclear power

**The State**  
SCANA leaves failed nuclear project to rot, upsetting some who want it finished

**The Telegraph**  
Hinkley Point's cost to consumers surges to £50bn

**The Washington Post**  
San Onofre nuclear power plant to shut down

**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
Cheap gas has hurt coal and nuclear plants, says US grid study

**THE BLADE**  
News • Sports • A&E • Business • Opinion • Jobs  
**Davis-Besse nuclear power plant to shut down permanently in 2020**

**NEW YORK POST**  
**More problems with closing Indian Point**

**Los Angeles Times**  
Regulators vote to shut down Diablo Canyon

**REUTERS**  
France will need to close nuclear reactors: minister

**The New York Times**  
*Westinghouse Files for Bankruptcy, in Blow to Nuclear Power*

**The nuclear industry is facing an existential crisis  
(especially in the U.S. and Europe)**

# Why a new study

**BBC**  
Switzerland votes to phase out nuclear power

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**The aftermath of Fukushima**

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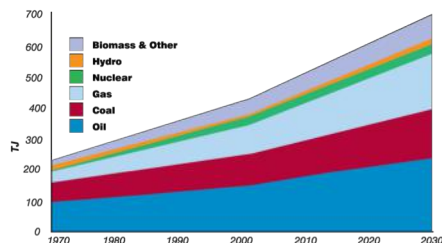
**The New York Times**

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**The nuclear industry is facing an existential crisis  
(especially in the U.S. and Europe)**



# Five Major Themes



1. Opportunities

2. Cost

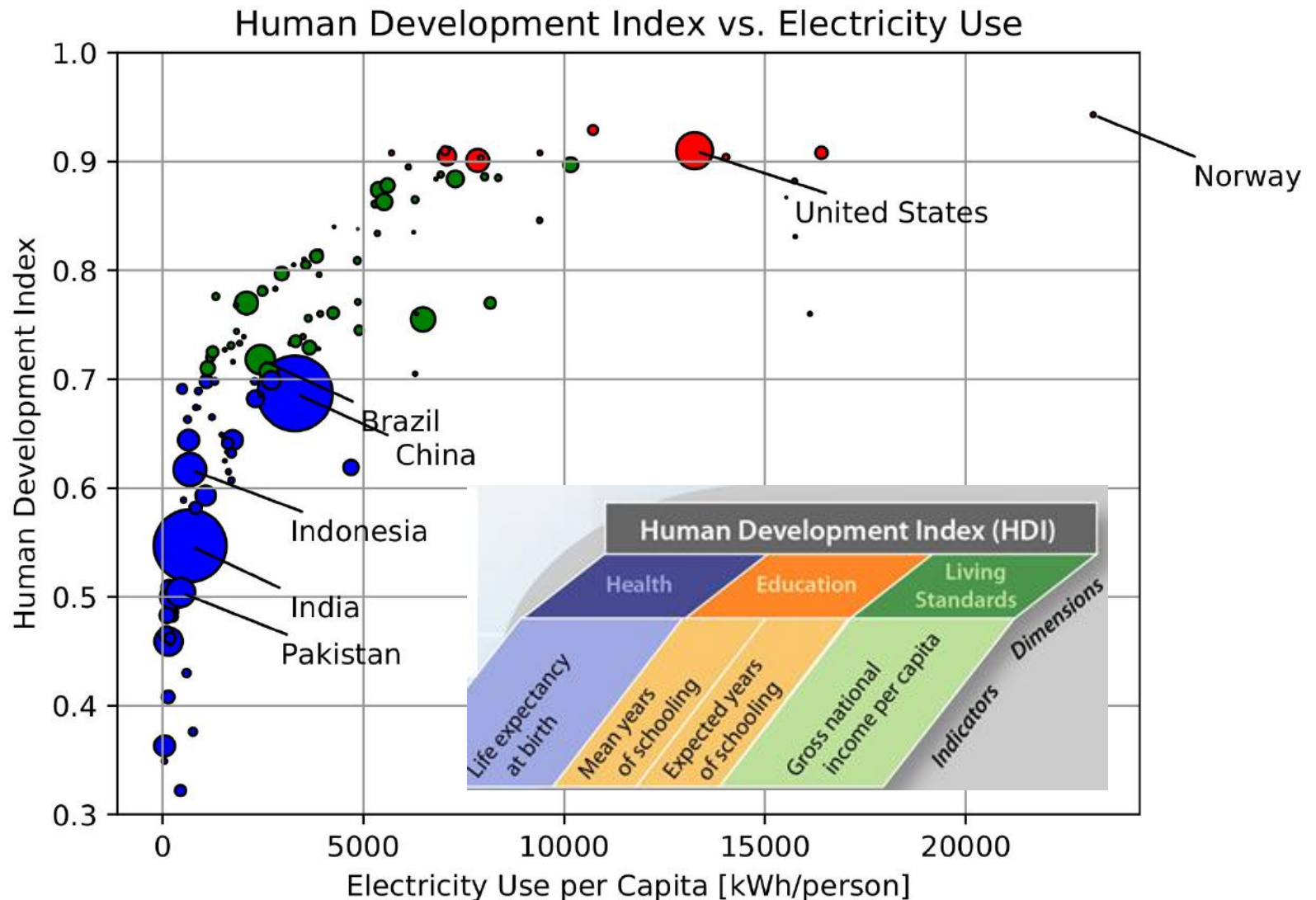
3. Advanced Reactor Evaluation

4. Policy and Business Models

5. Regulatory Assessment

**The big picture**

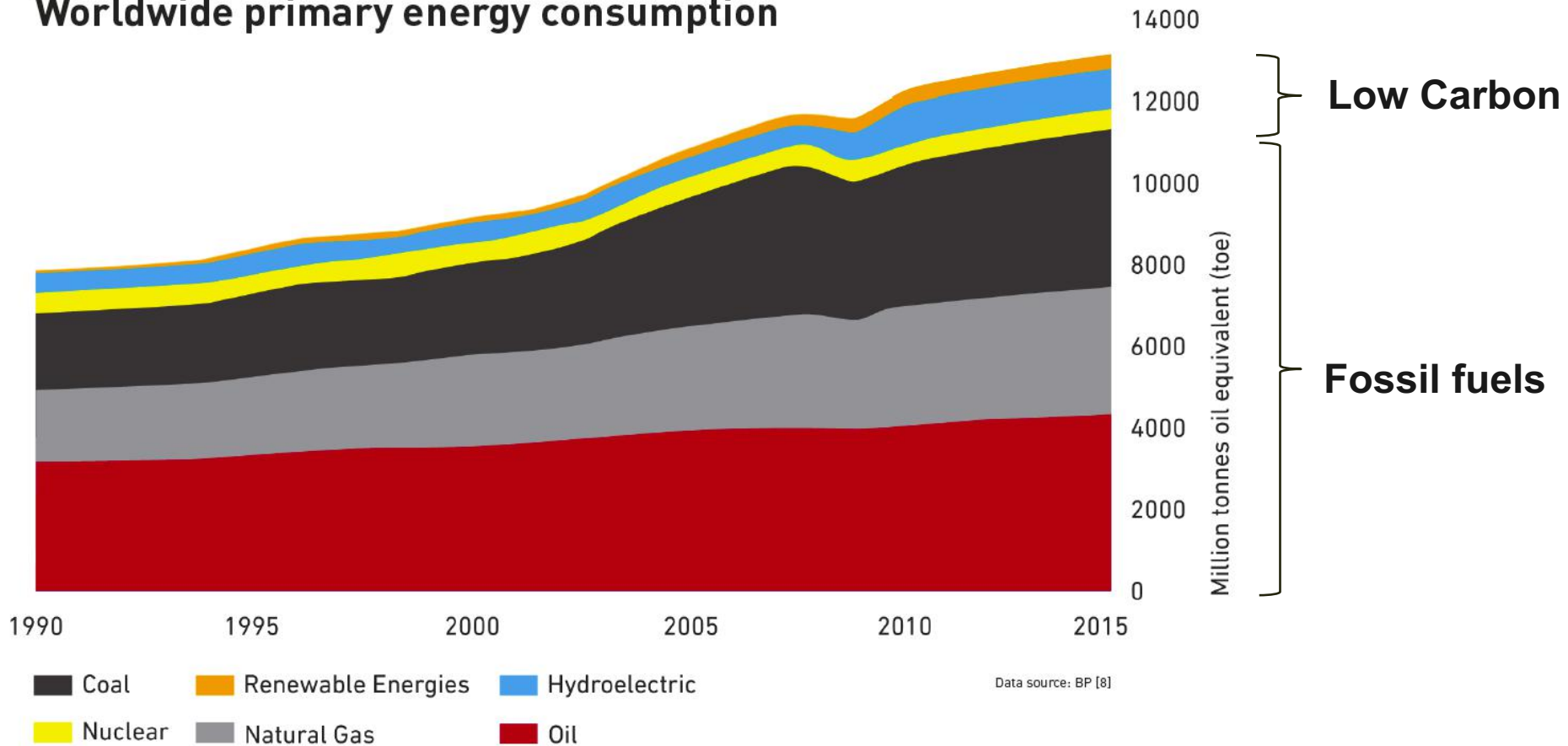
# The World needs a lot more energy



**The World electricity consumption is projected to grow 45% by 2040**

# The key dilemma is how to increase energy generation while limiting global warming

Worldwide primary energy consumption



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are actually rising... we are NOT winning!

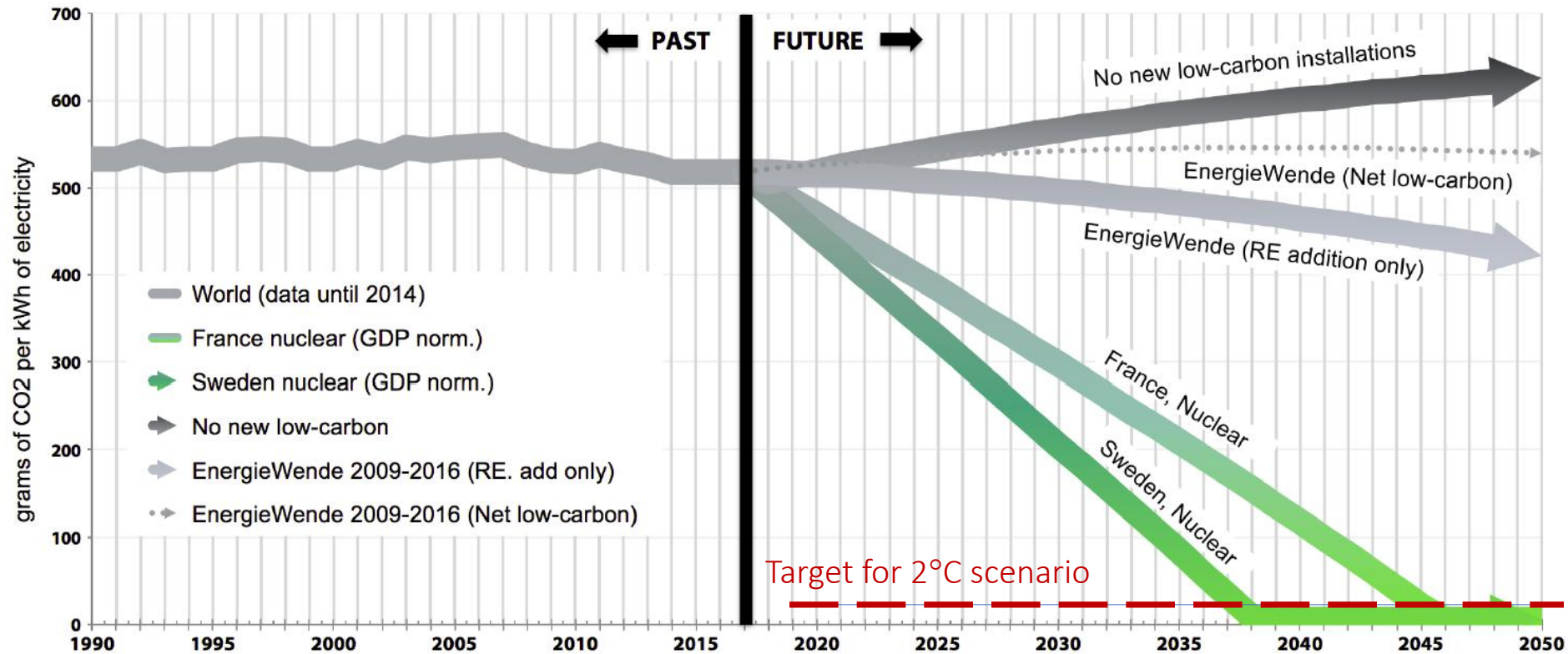
Can we decarbonize using *only* wind and solar?



# **Opportunities for Nuclear Energy**



# The scalability argument



Source: Staffan Qvist, 2018

**A nuclear build-up (at historically feasible rate) can completely decarbonize the World's power sector within 30 years**

# US Overnight Cost Assumptions

Resource	Low Cost	Nominal Cost	High Cost
OCGT <sup>A</sup>		\$805/kW	
CCGT <sup>A</sup>		\$948/kW	
Coal <sup>A</sup>		\$3,515/kW	
Nuclear	\$4,100 <sup>C</sup> /kW	\$5,500 <sup>A</sup> /kW	\$6,900/kW
Wind <sup>A</sup>	\$1,369/kW	\$1,553/kW	\$1,714/kW
Solar <sup>A</sup>	\$551/kW	\$917/kW	\$1,898/kW
Battery Storage <sup>B</sup>	\$429/kW (\$215/kWh)	\$715/kW (\$358/kWh)	\$1,430/kW (\$715/kWh)
Coal IGCC+CCS <sup>A</sup>		\$5,876/kW	
Gas CCGT+CCS <sup>A</sup>		\$1,720/kW	\$2,115/kW

<sup>A</sup> NREL-ATB report (2016)

<sup>B</sup> Lazard.com report (2015)

<sup>C</sup> OECD (2015)



# GenX Results

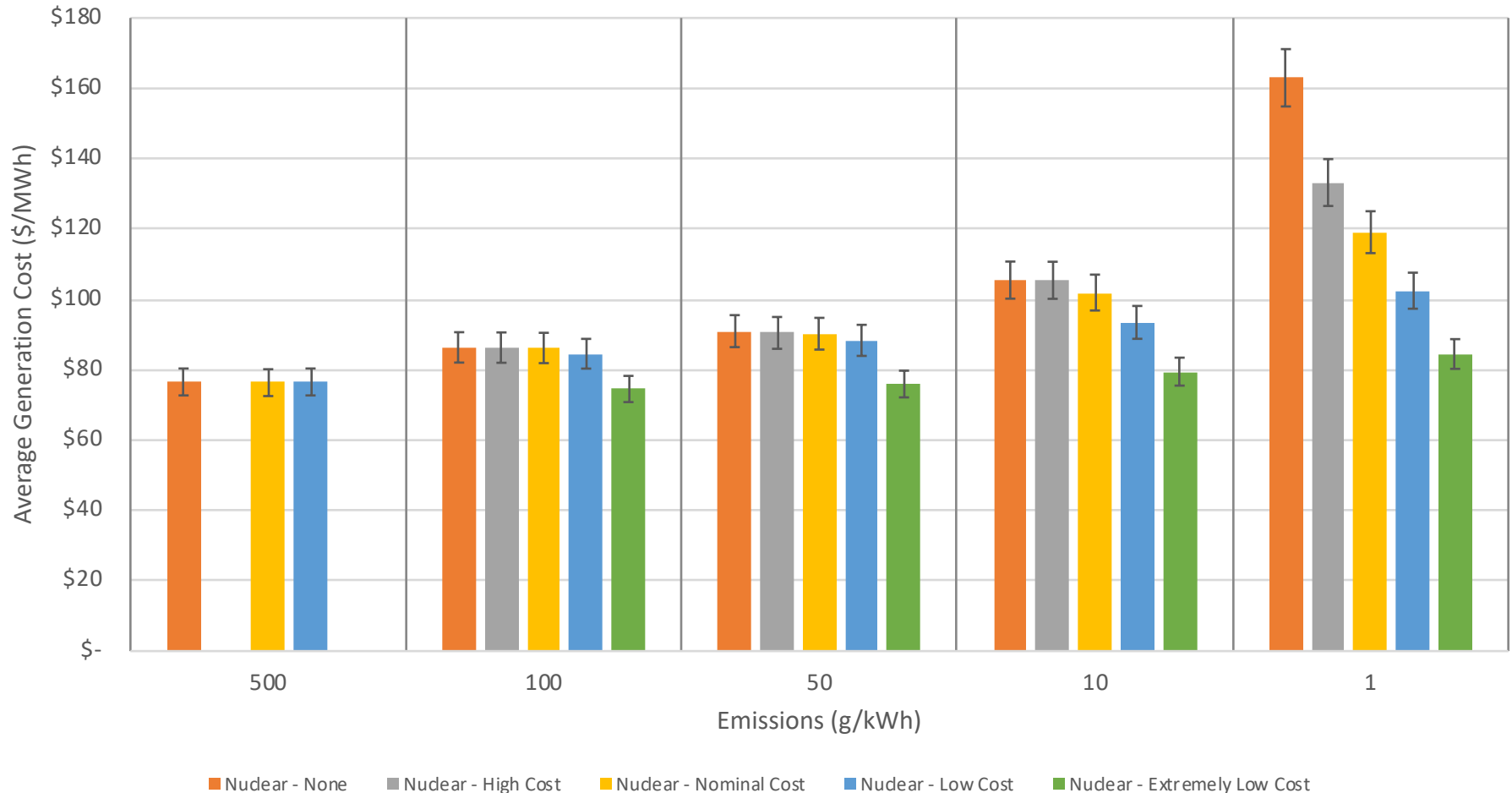
Simulated Texas-ERCOT and NE-ISO with GenX; similar analyses for China (Tianjin, Zhejiang province) and UK and France with a range of carbon constraints (500-nominal, 100, 50, 10, 1 gm-CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh)

Performed a range of sensitivity studies on:

- Renewables plus battery storage cost (hi-nominal-low)
- Nuclear capital cost (nominal – low with improvements)
- Natural gas price (hi-nominal-low)
- CCS Cost and Efficiency (nominal-hi; 90% and 99%)
- Demand-Side Response (with and without)
- Extreme Weather (clouds/low-wind for a time period)

# Texas – ERCOT ISO

**Simulation of optimal generation mix in power markets**  
**MIT tool: hourly electricity demand + hourly weather patterns + capital, O&M and fuel costs of power plants, backup and storage + ramp up rates**



***Similar results were found for Europe (U.K. and France)***

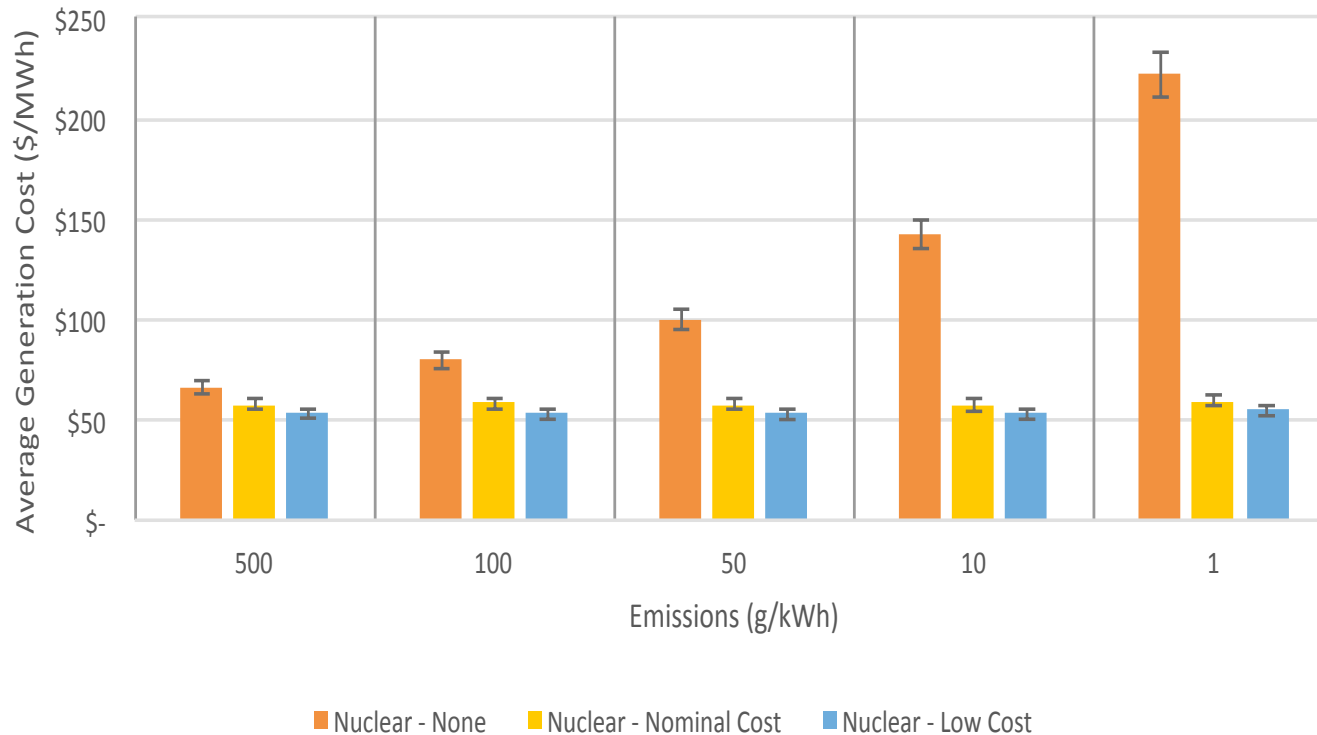
# China Overnight Cost Assumptions

Resource	Low Cost	Base Cost	High Cost
OCGT		\$421/kW	
CCGT		\$496/kW	
Coal		\$1,160/kW	
Nuclear	\$2,084/kW	\$2,796/kW	
Wind	\$1,117/kW	\$1,267/kW	\$1,398/kW
Solar	\$404/kW	\$671/kW	\$1,389/kW
Battery Storage	\$429/kW (\$215/kWh)	\$715/kW (\$358/kWh)	\$1,430/kW (\$715/kWh)
Coal IGCC+CCS		\$1,940/kW	
Gas CCGT+CCS		\$900/kW	\$1,159/kW

NOTE: Study used the relative costs for each technology from the 2015 OECD Report with NREL U.S. cost values used as cost basis for scaling to other countries

# T-B-T Province Results

Tianjin-Beijing-Tangshan (T-B-T) China

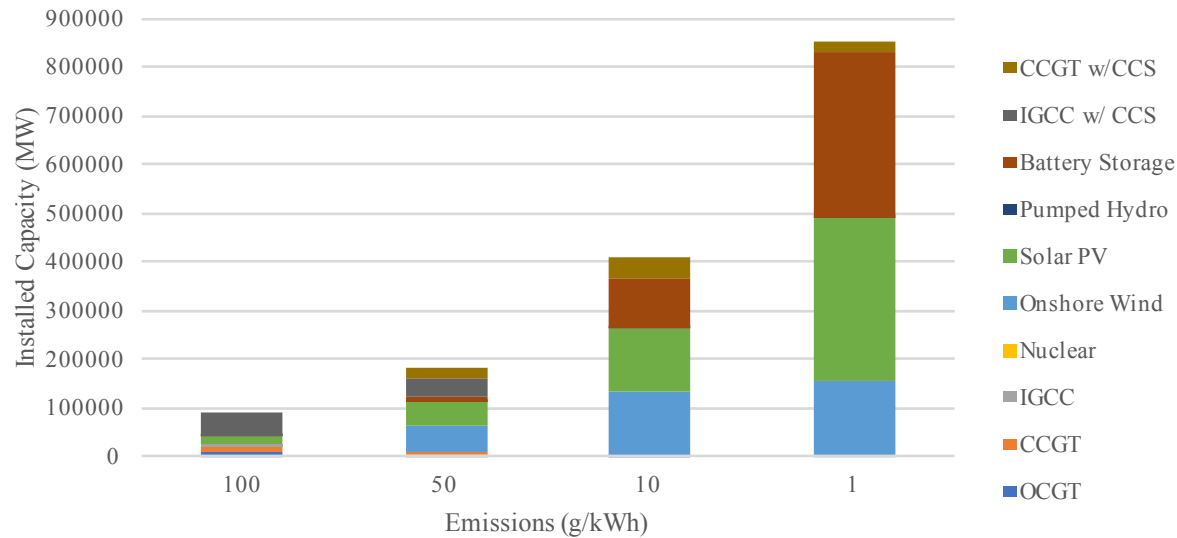


Due to its low relative cost, having nuclear as an option always decreases overall system cost

This decrease in system cost is dramatic for low carbon scenarios

# T-B-T Province Results

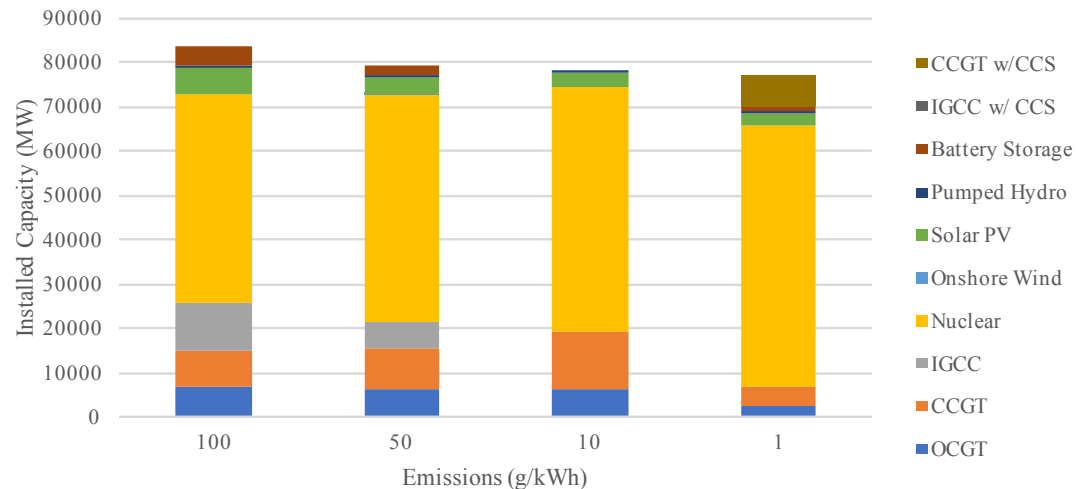
Installed Capacities in Tianjin: No Nuclear



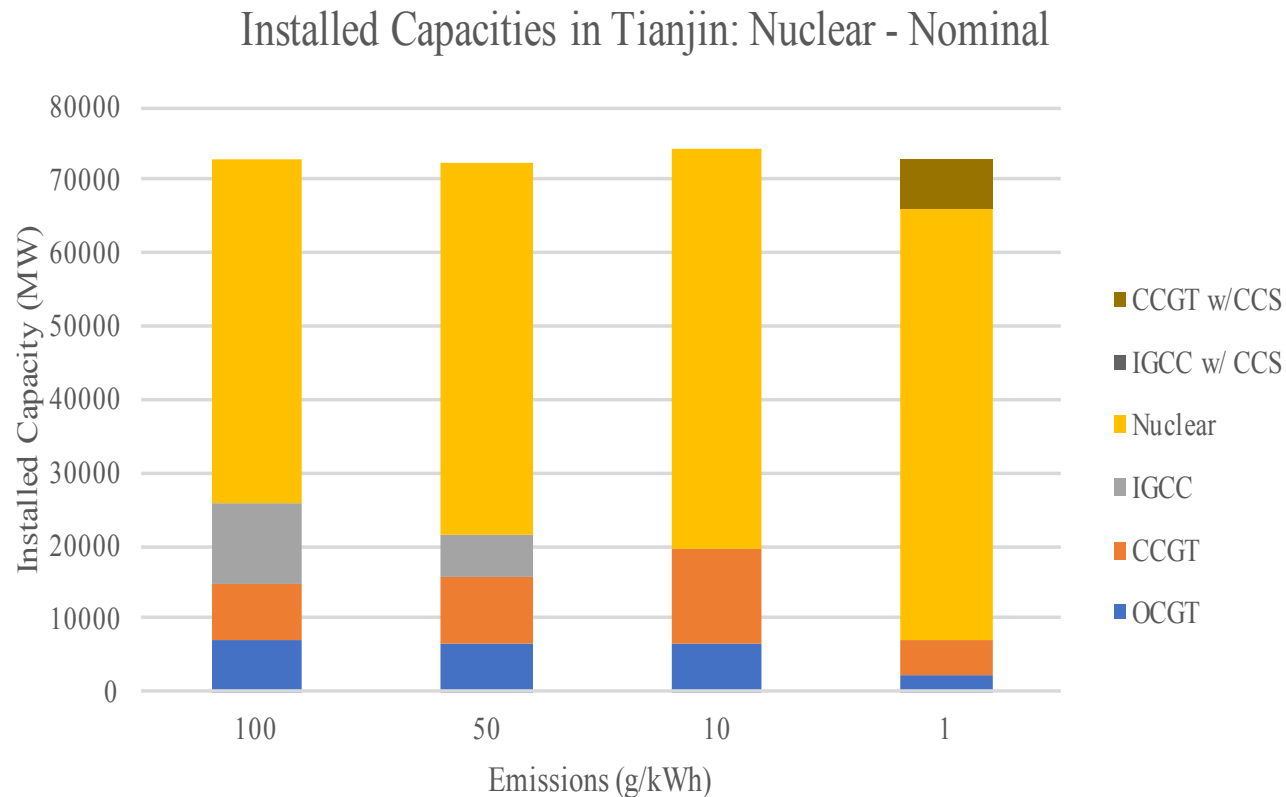
To meet constraint w/o nuclear requires significant build-out of renewables

In contrast, installed capacity is relatively constant w nuclear allowed

Installed Capacities in Tianjin: Nuclear - Nominal



# Tianjin-Beijing-Tangshan Dispatchable Generation Competition

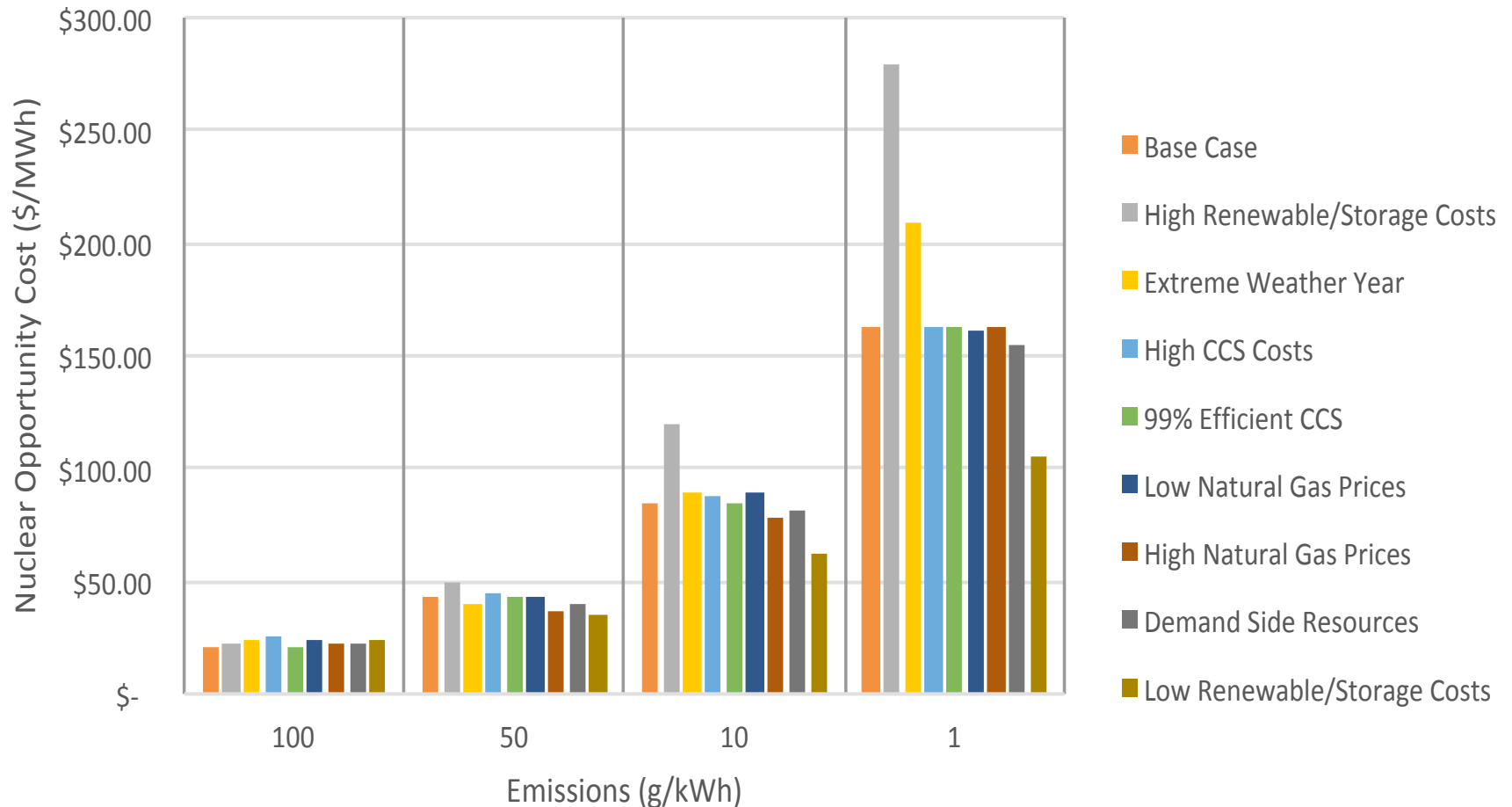


- Fossil (Coal & NG) selected for  $\geq 10$  g/kWhr
- NG with CCS is only selected in Tianjin between 10 g/kWh and 1g/kWh
- Nuclear is always selected at 100 g/kWh and below

# GenX Sensitivity Nomenclature

- No nuclear case: All costs at nominal conditions w/o nuclear
- Nuclear-nominal: Nuclear included w nominal conditions
- Nuclear-low cost: Lower cost w improved enabling technology
- Renewable/Battery Low cost: Nominal w low cost renewables
- Renewable/Battery High cost: Nominal w hi cost renewables
- High Nat.Gas cost: Nominal w high natural gas fuel cost
- Low Nat.Gas cost: Nominal w low natural gas fuel cost
- 99% CCS: Nominal costs with 99% Carbon-capture efficiency
- Demand-side response allowed (DSM + DR)
- Extreme weather year: Nominal w 1wk-Low-Renew Cap.Fac.

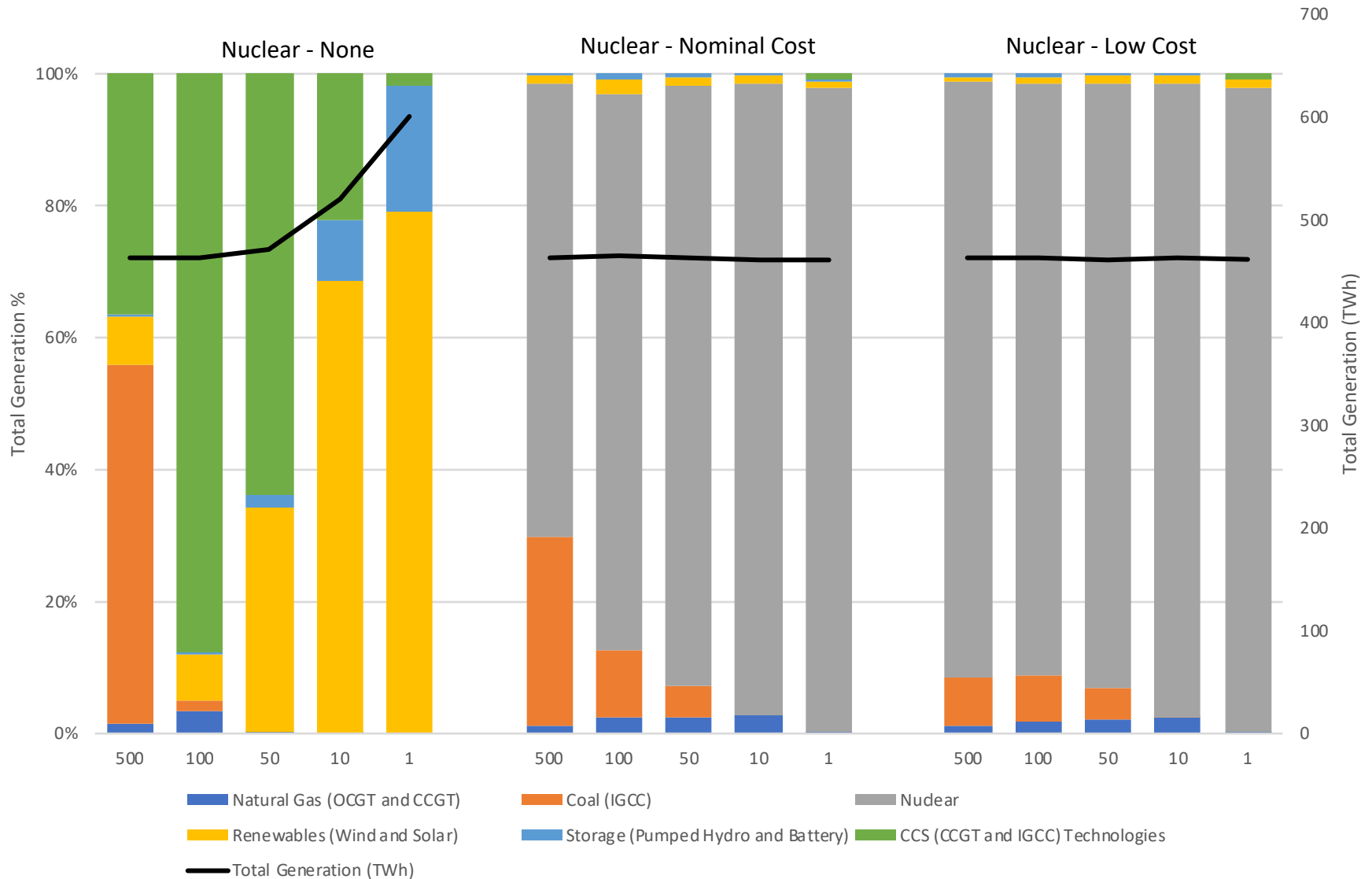
# T-B-T Cost Sensitivity Results



Even with low renewables/storage cost, nuclear is still chosen for all constraints



# T-B-T Electrical Energy Generation

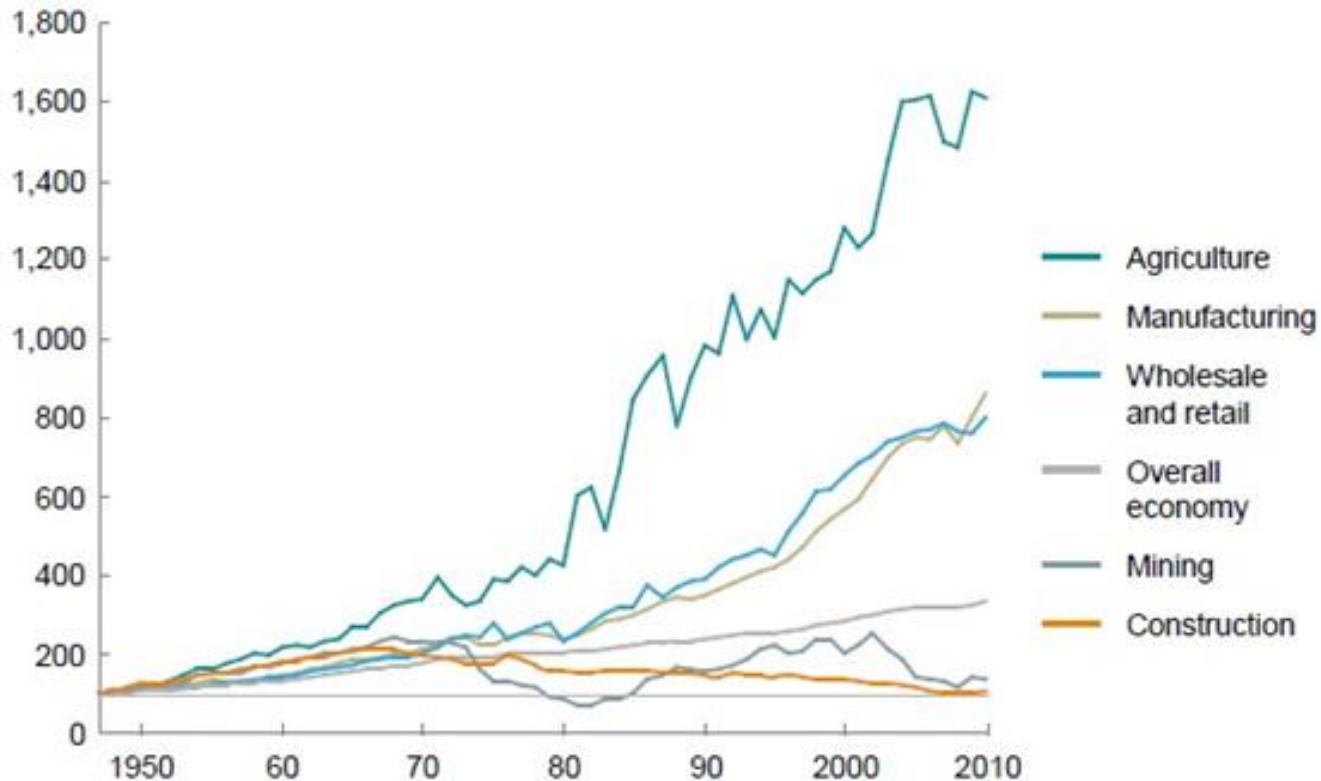


# **Advanced Reactors and Cost**

# Why are nuclear construction projects in the West particularly expensive?

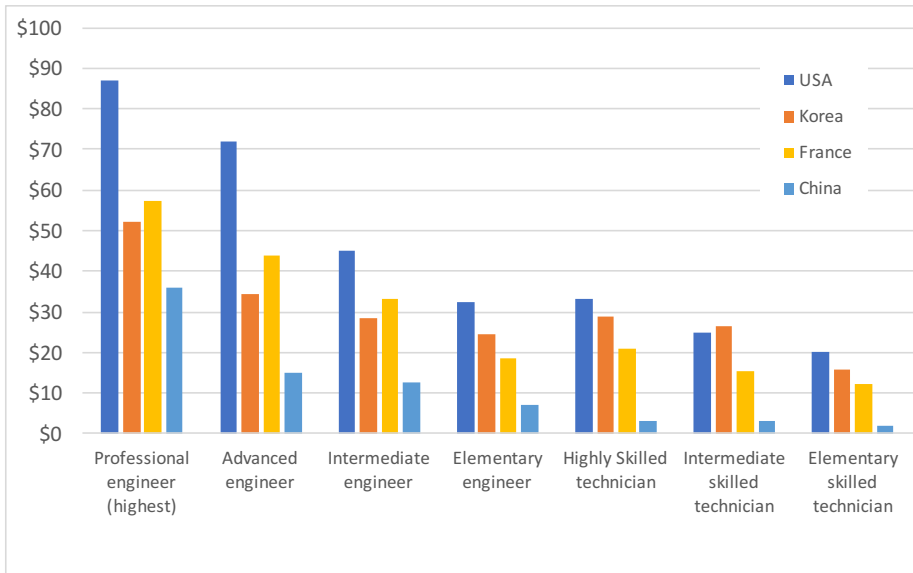
Gross value added per hour worked, constant prices

Index: 100 = 1947

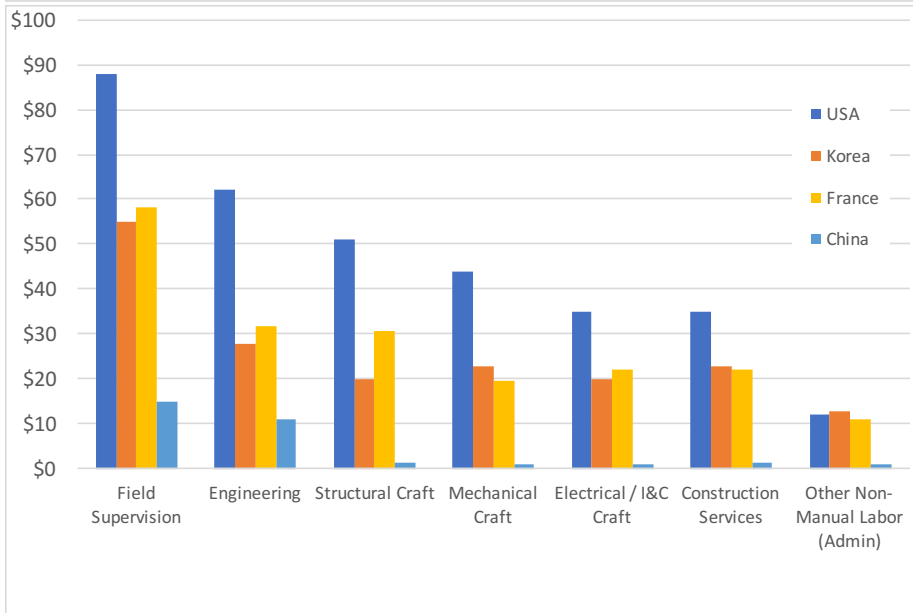


Construction labor productivity has decreased in the West

# Why are nuclear construction projects in the West particularly expensive? (2)



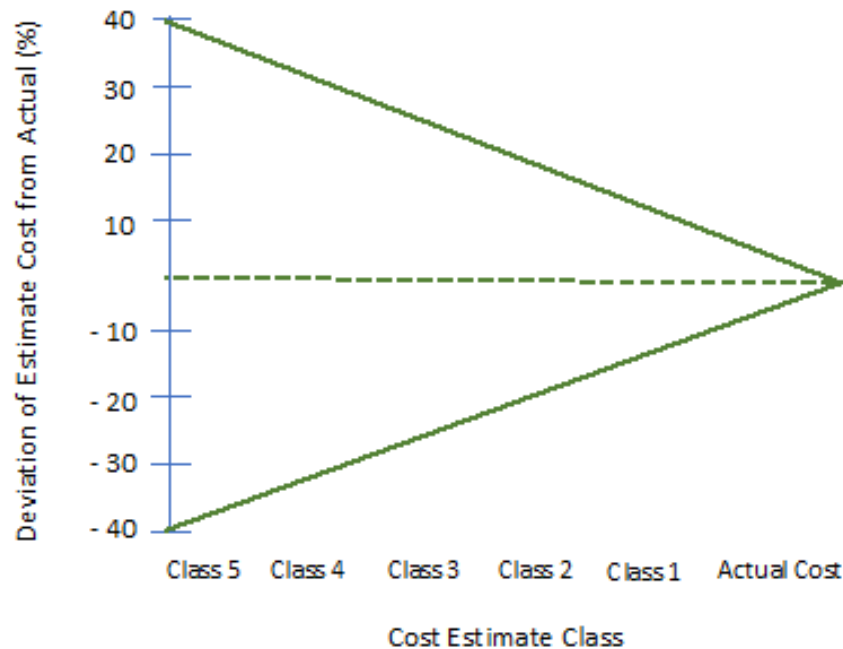
Construction and engineering wages are much higher in the US than China and Korea



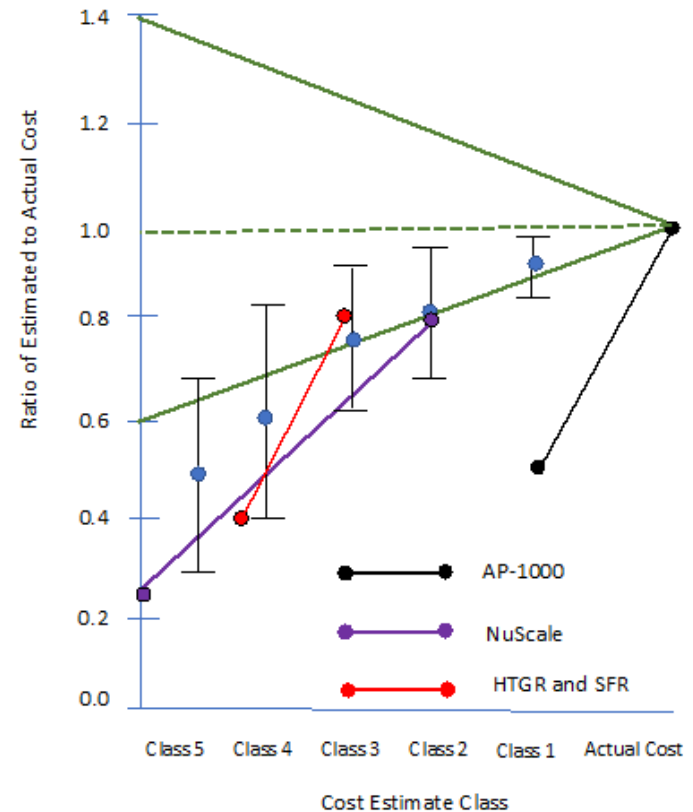
**Estimated effect of construction labor on OCC (wrt US):**  
**-\$900/kWe (China)**  
**-\$400/kWe (Korea)**

# Uncertainties in cost estimates for large, complex projects

## Conventional View



## Reality



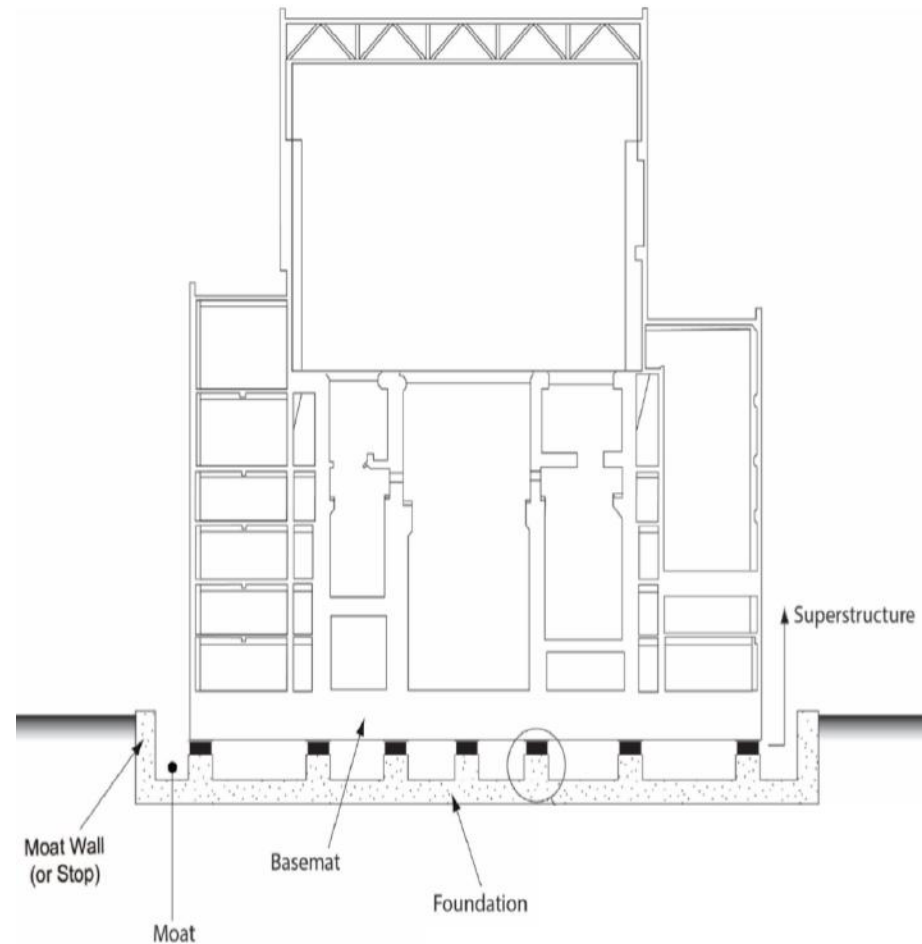
Early-stage cost estimates are unreliable predictors of the eventual cost of mega-projects. This is valid across *all* nuclear technologies and also large non-nuclear mega-projects.

# Modularity - the experience

- Transformational impact (40-50%) in other industries (e.g. chemical plants)
- Major impact on nuclear submarine construction; 20% savings in cost and schedule for Virginia class subs
- Advanced construction techniques were adopted in Japanese BWR builds where over 15 years, construction schedules were reduced by nearly 20% and non-civil construction man-hours were reduced by nearly 40%
- Much less impact on cost and schedule (10-15%) for US nuclear based on talks with AP-1000 experience and NuScale
  - Extra transportation costs
  - Additional engineering time to assure modules fit together
  - Fit up and dimensional tolerance issues



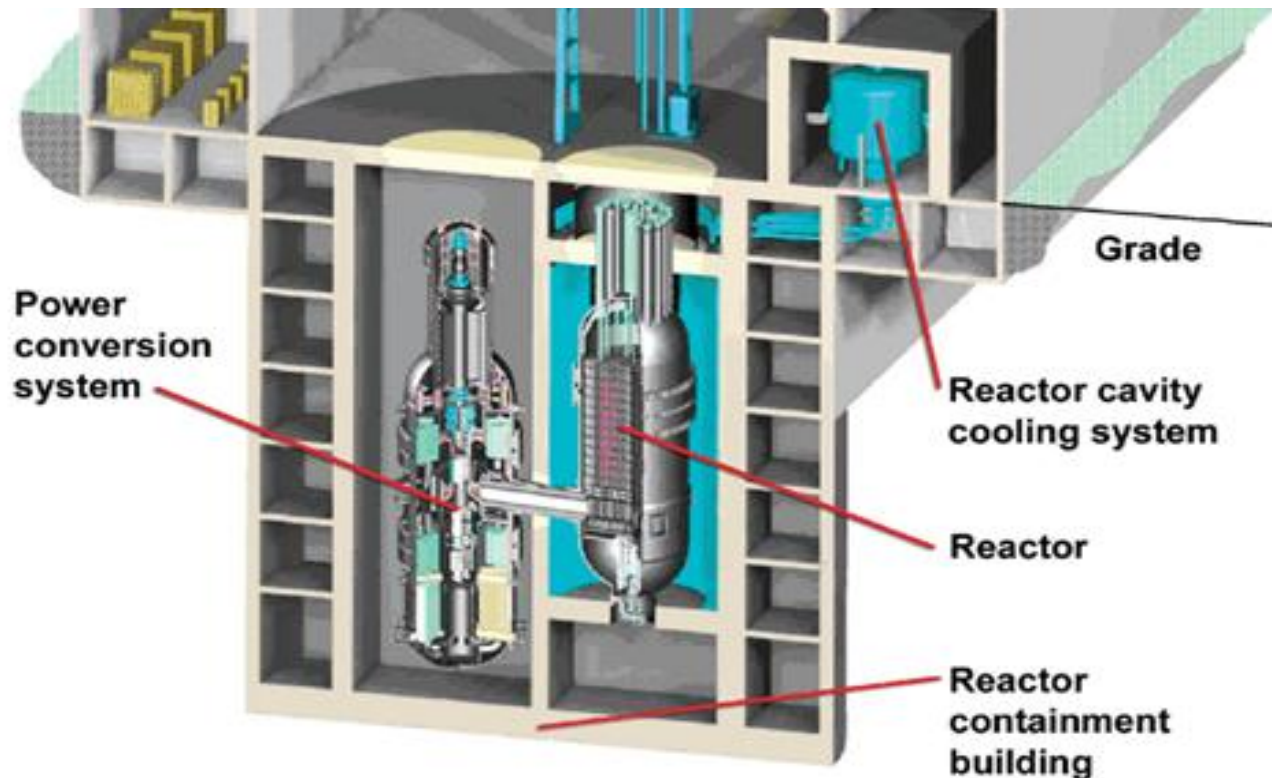
# Seismic isolation means less materials & site-independent designs



- Isolates the plant to reduce seismic risk and costs
- Isolation is cost effective above peak ground accelerations of 0.2 g – that includes every plant in the US
  - 5% reduction in overnight capital (reduced thickness and reinforcement of all structures within the building envelope, including SCC supports) for small nuclear projects
  - Expected to be larger for gigawatt-level plants and for highly-seismic sites
- External shield building cannot be thinned because of airplane crash protection
- Minimal maintenance required with Lead Rubber (LR) and Friction Pendulum (FP) sliding isolators
- Allows for site-independent NSSS design

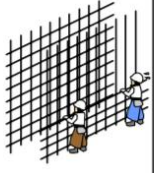

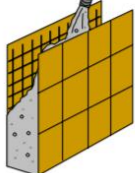
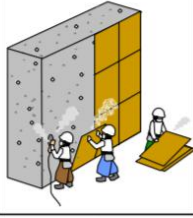
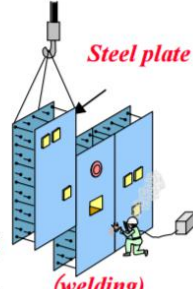
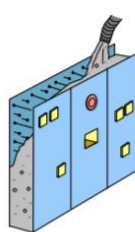
# Full embedment of NSSS eliminates need for shield building

- Shield building vs conventional building cost differential is ~\$250/kWe
- Embedment:
  - Reduces seismic input at RPV supports
  - Reduces exposure to aircraft crash and extreme weather
  - Maintenance costs (e.g. dewatering) unknown





# Advanced concrete can replace construction-slowing rebar and form work

Work Structure	Rebar arrangement	Form work (assembling)	Placing concrete	Form work (removal)
RC		 <i>Wooden form</i>		
<b>28days</b>	<b>13days</b>	<b>7days</b>	<b>4days</b>	<b>4days</b>
SC	—	 <i>Steel plate</i> <i>(welding)</i>		—
<b>14days</b>	—	<b>10days</b>	<b>4days</b>	—

- Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) is very strong concrete (metallic fibers impart strength), can be self-consolidating
- Steel Plate Composites (SPCs) are steel shells that are filled with concrete onsite (alternatively can use precast UHPC shells)
- Both aim to reduce/eliminate formwork and rebar, thus reduce cost and schedule



# What is the value proposition for advanced reactors? (2)

Cost (\$/kWe)	HTGR	SFR	FHR (Large)	FHR (Small)	MSR
<b>Machine Size</b>	4 x 600 MWth	4 x 840 MWth	3400 MWth	12 x 242 MWth	2275 MWth
<b>Design Stage</b>	Conceptual approaching Preliminary	Conceptual approaching Preliminary	Early conceptual	Early conceptual	Early conceptual
<b>Direct Cost</b>	2400	2500	2100	2300	2500
<b>Indirect Cost</b>	1400	1600	1400	1300	1700
<b>Contingency</b>	800	800	1100	1100	1200
<b>Total Overnight Cost</b>	4600	4900	4600	4700	5400
<b>Interest During Construction</b>	600	700	600	700	700
<b>Total Capital Invested</b>	5200	5600	5200	5400	6100

1. E. Ingersoll, "International Nuclear Project Costs, Proprietary and Confidential

2. F. Ganda et al., "Reactor Capital Costs Breakdown and Statistical Analysis of Historical US Construction Costs," ICAPP 2006

3. A. M. Gandrik, "Assessment of High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR) Capital and Operating Costs," TEV-1196, Jan. 2012

4. F. Ganda, "Economics of Promising Options," FCRD-FCO-2015-000013, Sept. 2015

5. D. E. Holcomb et al., "Advanced High Temperature Reactor Systems and Economic Analysis," Sept. 2011

6. J. Engle et al., "Conceptual Design Characteristics of a Denatured Molten-Salt Reactor with Once-through Fuelings, ORNL/TM-7207, July 1980

7. C. Andreades, "Nuclear AirBrayton Combined Cycle Power Conversion Design, Physical Performance Estimation and Economic Assessment," UC Berkely Thesis, 2015

Independent cost estimates for advanced reactors confirm importance of civil works (buildings and structures) and indirect costs, and do not suggest significant cost reduction with respect to LWRs

# What is the value proposition for advanced reactors? (3)

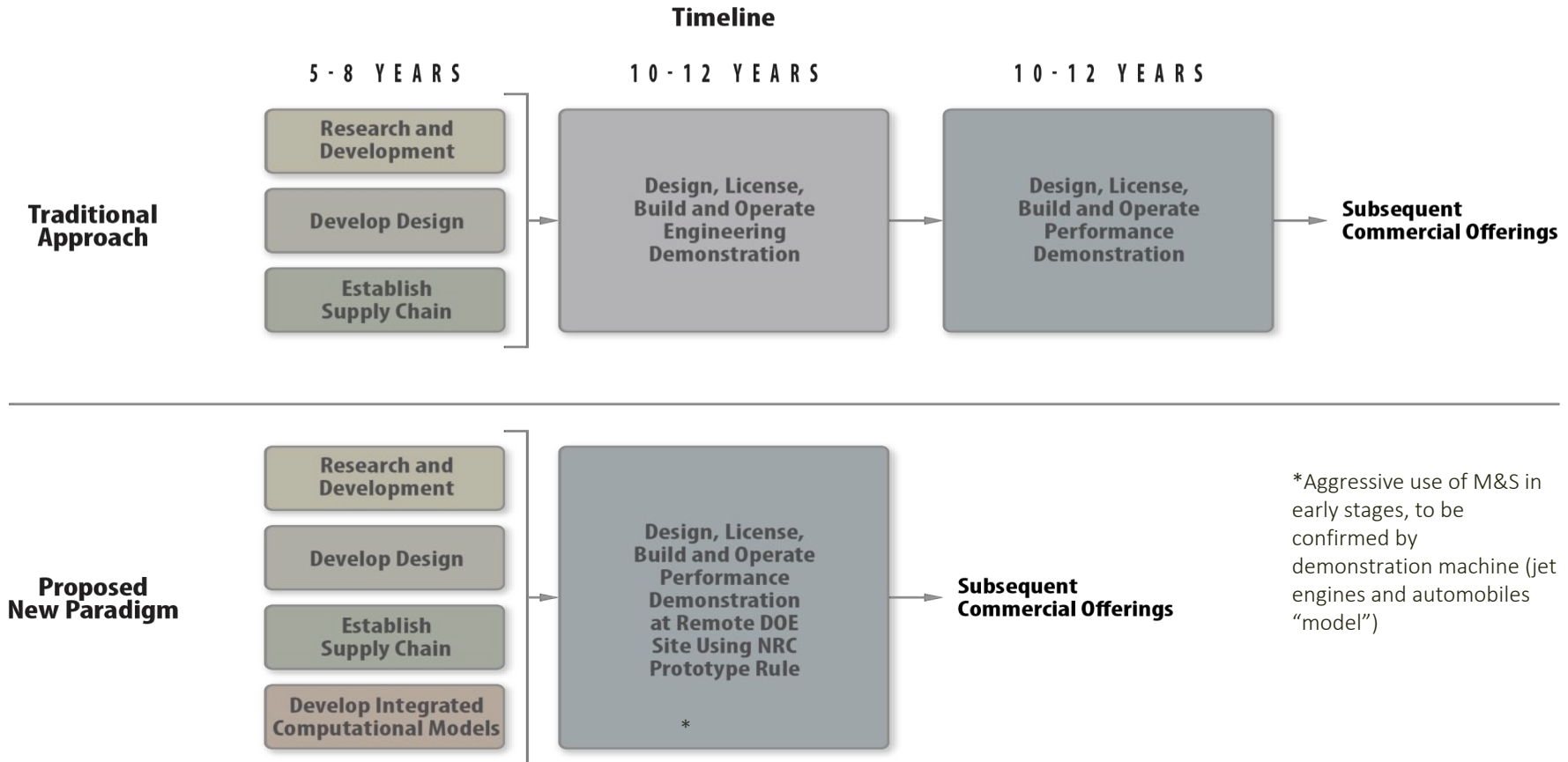
There exists a small (but not insignificant) potential market for nuclear heat

Industry	300 MW <sub>th</sub> Reactor		150 MW <sub>th</sub> Reactor	
	U.S. Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	Global Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	U.S. Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)	Worldwide Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> Installed) (%)
Co-Generation Facilities	82,800 (61.7%)	340,800 (59.8%)	86,250 (57.5%)	355,050 (55.7%)
Refineries	15,600 (10.4%)	76,800 (12.1%)	17,250 (11.5%)	84,750 (13.3%)
Chemicals	7,800 (5.2%)	36,600 (5.7%)	7,050 (4.7%)	34,200 (5.4%)
Minerals	2,100 (1.4%)	8,700 (1.4%)	2,100 (1.4%)	8,700 (1.4%)
Pulp and Paper	12,600 (8.4%)	51,900 (8.1%)	21,300 (14.2%)	87,750 (13.8%)
Other	13,200 (8.8%)	55,200 (8.7%)	16,050 (10.7%)	66,450 (10.4%)
Total	134,100 (100%)	570,000 (100%)	150,000 (100%)	636,900 (100%)

## Methodology:

- EPA database for US sites emitting 25,000 ton-CO<sub>2</sub>/year or more
- Site must need at least 150 MW<sub>th</sub> of heat
- Nuclear heat delivered at max 650°C (with HTGR technology)
- At least 2 reactors per site for assured reliability
- Heat from waste stream not accessible
- Costs not evaluated

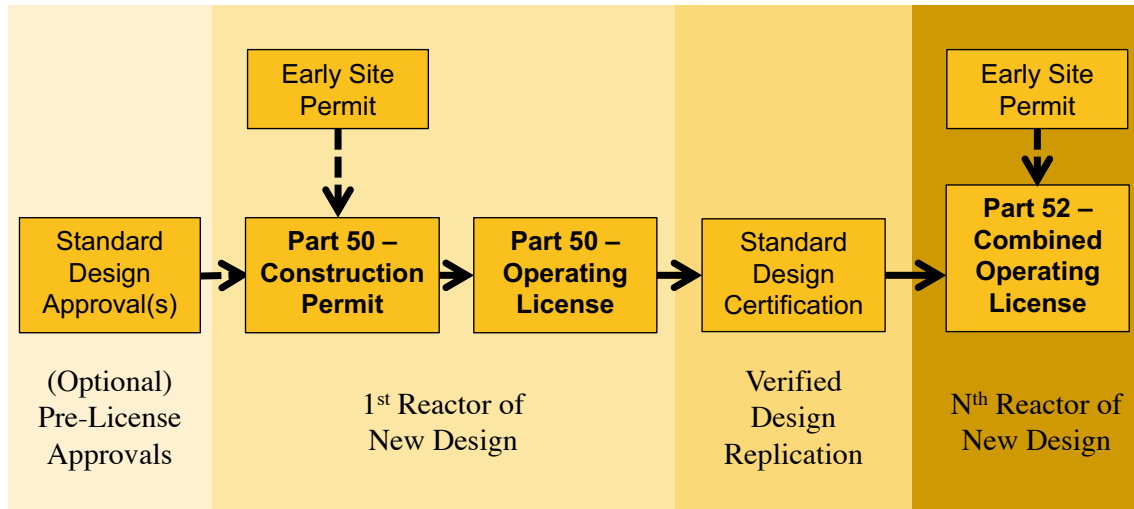
# Can we accelerate commercialization of the less mature advanced reactors?



18-GA50013-05

By combining the engineering demonstration machine (traditionally a small-scale machine) with the at-scale performance demonstration machine, and using the NRC prototype rule at a "forgiving" site (e.g. INL) it may be possible to accelerate the commercial deployment of the less mature advanced reactors (i.e. molten salt-cooled and lead-cooled designs) by over 10 years

# Can we license advanced reactors?



Adapted from *Advanced Demonstration and Test Reactor Options Study*, Chapter 7, INL

**Finding:** Regulatory agencies in other nations have similar basic principles as described in IAEA policies and as embodied in NRC regulations, but vary widely in the detailed application of these policies and principles.

**Finding:** Advanced reactor concepts should consider NRC prototype option (10CFR50.43(e)) to license less mature designs to accelerate these concepts toward commercialization

**Finding:** The current NRC regulatory structure is flexible and can be adapted to accommodate licensing of (mature) advanced reactors (such as SFRs and HTGRs), without a new regulatory paradigm. NRC has sufficient and diverse tools at hand to provide a stepwise process with intermediate licensing decisions without unnecessary delays, given required design information.

# **Government role**

# Global Nuclear Market

- Growth in electricity demand is primarily in the non-OECD.
- Plenty of choice of vendors.
  - Korea has been successful.
  - Russia is extremely active globally.
  - China has built a domestic foundation to become an exporter.
- US success as a nuclear innovator must be won in this new context.

# New Reactor Designs

Electricity sector remains the major energy product

- Bigger than ever on a global scale, and
- with electrification of transportation and other energy services in the offing

Cost is the driver

- That means cutting the capital cost of the entire plant.
- \$5,500 overnight is only competitive when carbon constraints are very tight
- \$2,000 overnight is required without carbon constraints