

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

In addition to the written testimony that I submitted on 2/13/23 and subsequently gave as oral testimony on 2/20/23, please take into consideration the following two articles:

The first article asks the question “Smaller, Safer, Cheaper? About modular nuclear plants and enumerates the reasons that small modular nuclear reactors are still “a risky endeavor,” noting:

Whether small modular reactors, or SMRs, can realistically be built all over the nation is very much in dispute. The nuclear industry has a record of overpromising and energy scholars warn this new technology is straining to show viability.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/02/19/coal-nuclear-smr-modular/>

This second article describes the troubled history of the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, showing how permanent nuclear waste disposal is complex, expensive, is not accident-free, and nowhere near becoming a practical reality for the commercial nuclear waste already accumulated throughout the country, even without making more of it:

<https://www.abqjournal.com/830731/2014-nuclear-accident-at-wipp-ranks-among-costliest-in-u-s-history.html#>

As a wise friend notes:

Here is the First Corollary to the Law of Holes.

Law of Holes:

When you find yourself in a hole - stop digging!

Law of Piles:

(1st Corollary to the Law of Holes)

When you find you've created an immense pile of waste with no solution, stop adding to the pile!

Sincerely,

Cathryn Chudy
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