

Submitter: Laura Feldman
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

Good morning Chair Lively, Co-chairs Gamba and Levy,

My name is Laura Feldman, born and raised in Portland. I have served on the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board since 2018; I'll be leaving the board next Saturday.

I'm going to address some of the safety and security risks of this project.

I'm urging you to oppose HB 2401. Siting a SMNR (Small Modular Nuclear Reactors) demonstration project in Umatilla is a dangerous and irresponsible waste of time and money as the climate crisis advances.

Many SMNR designs would use nuclear fuel that requires either higher enriched uranium or plutonium, both of which can be used to make nuclear weapons. Small modular reactors will impede efforts to mitigate threats of the accelerating climate crisis while also increasing the risks of nuclear weapons proliferation, locally and globally.

https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/bn_talkingpoints6_smallmodularreactors_nov2022-1.pdf
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/whats-wrong-with-nuclear-weaponry-and-energy/>

The nuclear energy and weapons industries rise or fall together. They lobby together and are funded together. Nuclear energy technology is used as a stepping stone to weapons production resulting in Security (Terrorism) concerns which are often overlooked. This SMNR pilot project being proposed by Amazon in Umatilla County and eventually in Morrow and Gilliam Counties where Amazon has purchased land for data centers and their attached SMNRs, poses extreme security safety risks due to terrorism and climate catastrophes.

Drone warfare for example has predictably spread far and wide, turning every nuclear power plant into a self-directed nuclear weapon. Scappoose 20 miles downriver from Portland will be building a drone factory that will test military drone applications. No matter how thick the containment domes, or how vehement the industry denials, the killing power of the latest weaponized drones have completely blown past official atomic safety assurances.

As physician Helen Caldecott warned us in the 1980s "If you have a nuclear power plant, your enemy does not need a nuclear weapon."

<https://stopnuclearworkgroup.org/the-issues/nuclear-power-security-risk/>
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/whats-wrong-with-nuclear-weaponry-and-energy/>

Both Oregon and Washington are prone to longer wildfire seasons as well as earthquakes. At Hanford, there were 130 wildfires between 2012 and 2023. The highest concentration of high risk wildfire zones in Oregon are located in southwest, central and eastern areas, like Umatilla County with its Battle Mountain Complex fire last summer, The Cougar Peak fire in Lake County burned over the former White King Mine, and the Lucky Lass uranium mines within one mile of each other which could have resulted in a huge ecological disaster impacting the entire state.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/may/25/nuclear-sites-feeling-the-heat-as-climate-change-stokes-wildfires-drought/>

Like Hanford, Umatilla County is located in an area prone to earthquakes, due to its proximity to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which has the potential for a large magnitude earthquake. (As are the 36 High Level waste storage casks from Trojan on the back of the lower Columbia, 40 miles from Portland.)

<https://kobi5.com/news/cougar-peak-fire-burns-over-uranium-mines-166794/>

Given these safety and security risks, opening the door to SMRs in Umatilla County is a very poor decision, especially if we're considering a very unstable and unpredictable future.

Thank you,
Laura Feldman