

CHAT LOG SESSION 5: Modular Nuclear Reactors

00:45:59 PCL Foundation: The private Assembly Page with webinar links now and session videos and presentations to be posted after the Assembly:

<https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/registantinfo/>

The panel sessions from day 1 (January 19th) and day 2 (January 26th) are already posted and viewable on the link above.

The public Assembly page with panel details and bios: <https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/>

01:16:13 David Keller: Who provides liability insurance for any of this new generation of nuclear facilities?

01:17:17 David Keller: What is the projected lifespan of these plants? Who pays for the costs of decommissioning these plants at the end of their lifespan?

01:21:07 Mike Laufer: @DK Reactor operators are required to obtain sufficient insurance as a condition of receiving an operating license from the NRC. There is currently an insurance pool for commercial reactors that operators pay into. Liability is limited by the Price-Anderson Act.

01:22:31 Mike Laufer: @DK Lifespan may vary for different types of reactor. Decommissioning requirements are heavily regulated by the NRC and demonstration of adequate funding is another condition to obtain an operating license.

01:23:24 David Keller: The Price Anderson Act puts the major liability on the public. Unlike more conventional power plants, where the utility is holding the liability and costs. Essentially this means that the public is left with any disastrous cleanup costs and risks, while the utility gets the benefit and profits. This not clean business practice.

01:24:20 David Keller: I'd appreciate this discussion to be part of the Q&A, not kept in Chat.

01:24:42 Michael Warburton: Thanks David Keller!

01:26:27 David Keller: We still do not have long-term "forever" disposal system or siting for nuclear waste. Please talk about this huge set of risks.

01:27:23 David Keller: Still do not have an answer to the lifespan of these plants.

01:29:23 Chris Brown: the nice thing about having questions in chat is that we can all see the questions.

01:42:15 David Keller: "affordable" without including risk analysis, waste disposal and liability insurance is not a reasonable cost assessment.

01:43:33 C Carson: Is the FLiBe natural assay lithium or enriched? if enriched, where is that coming from?

02:06:39 David Keller: Re: community understanding of risks: Right now, all safety information about FERC regulated dams is classified as Secret . So, local communities cannot reasonably and be informed about the risks to them and their environs. This is dysfunctional.

02:08:16 Faramarz: How is PCL bringing speakers who claim the U.S.'s existing nuclear power generation is "clean" without including speakers pointing out that nuclear waste continues to accumulate without disposal, long-term waste storage demonstrations suffer from water intrusion, and the mining and transportation of uranium isn't carbon free?

02:11:10 Mike Laufer: <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/non-power/new-facility-licensing/hermes-kairos/documents.html>

02:11:22 David Keller: Yes, I've asked questions about liability and the limits imposed by the Price Anderson Act. Please talk about how the industry responds to this failure to address full and real costs?

02:13:09 David Keller: No - the costs fall on the public

02:13:15 Faramarz: There's a difference between renewables, which do not have ongoing carbon emissions for generation, and nuclear, which has carbon emissions associated with the production and transmission of its fuel.

02:15:13 David Keller: PG&E is paying \$\$billions for their errors, omissions and failures. It is not exempt for these under P-A Act.

02:16:22 Faramarz: Land contamination of the Santa Susana reactor meltdown in California is still an issue.