

**"French Train China Nuclear Experts," The Wall Street Journal, Max Colchester, December 29, 2011**

"France has long exported its nuclear power technology. Now, as global demand wavers, the country is pitching its nuclear education too. In five years, about 100 Chinese nuclear engineers will graduate from the Franco-Chinese Institute for Nuclear Energy in China's southern Guangdong province... China is widely seen as the new nuclear El Dorado: The country is building 28 of the 62 reactors under construction across the world."

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**"Czech's Plan Nuclear Push With a \$25 Billion Project," The Wall Street Journal, Sean Carney, October 26, 2011**

"The Czech Republic is pushing ahead with a large-scale expansion of its nuclear-power industry... the country's government-controlled CEZ AS will issue technical specifications for a \$25 billion project to build up to five new nuclear reactors, with the first two scheduled to go online by 2025..."

The Czech strategy runs counter to the approach of Berlin, which after the partial meltdown of a Japanese nuclear plant following the earthquake and tsunami, has pulled the plug on atomic power. [Ed. Note: See article immediately after this article for information on this aspect.]...

[Vaclav Bartuska, the Czech government's special energy envoy] said that the accident in Japan highlights the need for high safety standards. But he said that in order to cut greenhouse-gas emissions, nuclear power is critical. 'We have burned our fingers with massive funding and subsidies for photovoltaic power,' he added. 'At the present state we do not see renewables as a way forward if they have to be heavily subsidized.'

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**"Nuke-Free Germany Isn't Exactly Nuke-Free," Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Ladka Bauerova and Carol Matlack with Stefan Nicola, October 3-9 2011**

"Since last spring, when [German] Chancellor Angela Merkel began shutting down Germany's nuclear reactors, [the Czech Republic] has stepped up supplies of electricity to Bavaria, where big German manufacturers including BMW, Audi, and Siemens have factories. There's a double paradox here, Germany says its future will be nuclear-free. For the present though, it's nuclear not-so-free, relying more than ever on electricity from atomic-powered neighbors. What's more, the Germans have been turning off their reactors because they don't want a Fukushima-style meltdown spewing radiation across their country. Yet the Temelin reactors, which are in good shape, are close enough to the border to rain down radiation on Germany should a serious accident occur."

Until their nuclear shutdown began, the Germans exported an average of 1,400 gigawatt-hours a

month, almost 3 percent of Germany's electrical production. Now, though, the Germans are importing about 2,000 gigawatt-hours a month... The imports of electrical power cost the Germans \$139 million a month, based on current prices tracked by Bloomberg...

The Germans have said they will replace nuclear capacity with wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources... Achieving that goal won't be easy. Every-changing weather conditions mean that reliable supplies of wind- and solar-generated power aren't always available. And while northern Germany has extensive wind and solar farms, not enough high-voltage power lines carry electricity south to Bavaria. Building new lines could take 5 to 10 years.

"The German government has shot itself in the foot," says Lawson Steele, a utilities analyst at Espirito Santo Investment Bank in London. "Germany will probably be O.K. for three to four years, and then it'll start running out of capacity."

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### **"China Wants Nuclear Reactors - Fast", Bloomberg BusinessWeek, December 6 - December 12, 2010**

"According to Michael Kruse, consultant on nuclear systems for Arthur D. Little, the Chinese are ready to spend \$511 billion to build up to 245 reactors... Even though they lack the most advanced technology, the Chinese are rapidly becoming self-sufficient in reactor design and construction, according to the World Nuclear Association.

Just 13 nuclear plants operate in China today, and until recently the Chinese were building only one or two reactors a decade. Now they are building 25 facilities, accounting for close to half the reactors under construction worldwide... China's energy planners say they aim to have 40 reactors by 2020, and by 2030, enough additional reactors to generate more power than all 104 reactors in the U.S., the leader in nuclear energy."

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### **"After the Nuclear Power Plant Powers Down", The New York Times, Nov. 23, 2010**

Exelon Corp. "is trying out a radical new approach to decommissioning [the Zion Station nuclear power] plant that promises to make the process faster, simpler and 25 percent less expensive – instead of hiring a contractor, it has turned the job and the reactors over to a nuclear demolition company that owns a nuclear dump site... If the approach is successful, it could have implications for 10 other nuclear plants around the country that are waiting to be decommissioned, and for the 104 reactors that are still in operation but will eventually be torn down. It will also save money for electricity customers, who often end up paying for the cleanup of nuclear plants through their utility bills.

The decommissioning operation at Zion, which began on Sept. 1, will skip one of the slowest, dirtiest and most costly parts of tearing down a nuclear power plant: separating radioactive materials which must go to a licensed dump, from nonradioactive materials, which can go to an ordinary industrial landfill... instead, anything that could include radioactive contamination will be treated as radioactive waste.

On Sept. 1, Exelon transferred ownership, along with the license issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to EnergySolutions, which is based in Salt Lake City. The company owns a one-square-mile area of desert about 70 miles west of there, in Clive... Mark Walker, a spokesman for EnergySolutions, said that the dump could accommodate all 104 of the nation's operating nuclear plants, "with space left over."

EnergySolutions cannot dispose of all the waste... the spent nuclear fuel is in the same situation as used reactor fuel all over the country: the Energy Department is under contract to take it, but has no place to dispose of it.

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### **A GOP Energy Alternative, The Wall Street Journal, Kimberley A. Strassel, July 30, 2010**

"California Rep. Devin Nunes..unveiled his 'Energy Roadmap,' a companion bill to Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan's plan for tax and spending reform. Mr. Nunes wants to get his party thinking about a modern, principled energy policy. Lord knows the GOP could use the help...

Purists will advocate getting government out of the regulatory way while axing all subsidies - and that would indeed be bliss. But it doesn't help Republicans with today's political realities. The carbon debate will continue to rage; renewables aren't going away; and many Americans worry about both foreign oil and the environment.

Mr. Nunes' interest is how to answer these concerns in a more free-market way... Rather than thrown federal loan guarantees at uncertain nuclear plants, the legislation attacks the true problem: bureaucratic roadblocks. It streamlines a creaky regulatory process, requires the timely up-or-down approval of 200 plants over 30 years, and offers new flexibility for dealing with nuclear waste.

Mr. Nunes likes to point out that his nuclear provision alone would do more to reduce carbon emissions than any Democratic proposal in existence. And it would in fact create, ahem, green jobs. Imagine that.

[The bill] would divert all the federal resource royalties into a fund. Companies or individuals with proven renewable technology would take part in a reverse auction. They'd bid for government bucks; those that can produce the most megawatts for the least money win... Today, bureaucrats choose unproven technologies on which to bestow taxpayer grants. Blanket tax credits flow to industries - regardless of individual companies' merit. Auction participants, in contrast, would compete, and the market would have a say in their success."

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### **Charlie Rose talks to Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of Areva, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, July 18, 2010**

"ROSE: Between now and 2050, what percentage of U.S. demand could nuclear serve?  
LAUVERGEON: You have 20 percent of your electricity produced by nuclear. You have the

oldest nuclear plants in the world because you started in the '50s or '60s. Some of them have no lifetime expansion [after]... 2025, 2030. So what to do? It's in your hands, but it's clear that India, China, a lot of emerging countries are going to go nuclear. Why? Because it is cheap. We are in a global competition worldwide. If we are not competitive in terms of energy, we are dead."

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### **A High-End Bet on Nuclear Power, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, March 15, 2010**

Of the 53 nuclear power plants under construction worldwide, only one is in the United States.  
[Business Week Nuclear Renaissance](#)

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### **Energy Insider, March 13, 2009**

"Electricite de France's 49% acquisition of Constellation Energy's nuclear assets signifies its belief that nuclear energy will gain traction in the United States... the fundamentals are in place for it to occur. The country is inexorably headed toward carbon constraints... unless researchers and developers can commercialize carbon capture [for coal-fired generation] - nuclear [will] become the most viable [base-load generation option]..."

By 2010, utilities are expected to have submitted applications for 33 new reactors at 22 sites to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

While [Electricite de France] will start with Constellation, there are many smaller nuclear operators such as those at Wolf Creek in Kansas and Palo Verde in Arizona that do not have the resources to expand their bases and which could be potential partners."

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### **BusinessWeek, July 7, 2008, "Nuclear's Tangled Economics"**

"To power America's future, Senator John McCain has an energy plan with a distinctly French accent. 'The French are able to generate 80% of their electricity with nuclear power, there's no reason why America shouldn't'.

And while France has the world's biggest fuel-reprocessing program, it still hasn't found a permanent home for a growing pile of highly radioactive waste that's left over. The waste sits in heavily guarded storage at Areva's La Hague reprocessing plant. The US nuclear industry believes that delays and cost overruns, which helped kill new plant construction in the late 1970s, are less likely today, thanks to now-standardized reactor designs and a streamlined US government licensing process. That process has yet to be tested though, and costs for new plants are climbing.

Two years ago, the price of a 1,500-megawatt reactor was pegged at \$2 billion to \$3 billion. Now it's up to \$7 billion and rising as the cost of concrete, steel and other materials and labor soar...

MidAmerican Energy Holdings, a gas and electric utility owned by Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway, shelved its own nuke plan earlier this year, saying it no longer made economic sense... [This despite] incentives Congress has put in place. The subsidies include a 1.8 cents/kWh tax credit for each kWh produced, which could be worth more than \$140 million per reactor per year; a \$500 million payout for each of the first two plants build (and \$250 million each for the next four) if there are delays for reasons outside company control; and a total of \$18.5 billion in loan guarantees. The latter is crucial, since it shifts the risk onto the federal government, making it possible to raise capital from skittish banks. David Crane, CEO of NRG: 'Without the loan guarantees, I think it would be very difficult for the first wave of plants to move forward.'

Even \$18.5 billion won't guarantee the debt needed to build dozens of reactors, though. And the current limit on the loan guarantee is just one bottleneck. Only two companies, Japan Steel Works and France's Creusot Forge, a unit of Areva, are capable of forging key reactor parts such as massive pressure vessels... There are also shortages of contractors with nuclear certification and of skilled workers, even a lack of potential sites for new reactors.

[Today's] proposed plants are all next to existing reactors.

Builders of the power plants, utility executives say, are unwilling to commit to fixed prices and fixed schedules. Most companies want to be paid their actual costs, including overruns, plus a reasonable return, says one CEO...

Robert Fishman, a veteran utility executive who is now CEO of solar startup Ausra, says the investment tax credit sought by the solar industry would cost less than 1% of the dollars going to nukes and fossil fuels. 'I don't think we've done a good job laying out... what the renewable industry can do for the country'."