

U.S. Urgently Needs to Develop Nuclear, States Letter from More Than 300 Nuclear Experts and Others

Feb. 2—In a letter dated Feb. 1, 2010, more than 300 U.S. and international nuclear scientists and engineers, medical professionals, college professors, businessmen, agricultural specialists, political activists, and others, including three high school students, urge President Obama's Science Advisor, John Holdren (who is himself an anti-science Malthusian) to pass their message on to the President, that the United States must get back to developing nuclear energy.

The letter states that the "world is leaving us behind," in developing and deploying nuclear energy. Of the 58 new plants under construction worldwide, it states, only one is in North America, which is a mothballed plant that the TVA is finally finishing. "Our nation needs to proceed quickly—not twenty or fifty years from now—while the people who pioneered this science and engineering can still provide guidance to a new generation of scientists and engineers. There is no political, economic, or technical justification for delaying the benefits that nuclear power will bring to the United States, while the rest of the world forges ahead," the letter states.

The signers make three "urgent recommendations." The first is to "accelerate the licensing and building" of current-generation nuclear power reactors. The second, is to point out the urgent need for the United States to produce medical isotopes, the shortage of which has put "thousands of lives in jeopardy." Third is to develop the fourth-generation reactors. They specifically urge the reinstatement of the program to develop and demonstrate the technology for recycling used, or spent, reactor fuel (reprocessing), which has been cancelled by the Obama Administration. The letter points out that Russia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea have expressed interest in contributing to a demonstration fast reactor.

The signers of the letter are predominantly from the United States, but include people from 21 other nations. Academician E.P. Velikhov, head of the Kurchatov Institute and a Russian policy advisor signed, as did Dr. Baldev Raj, director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in India, and John Ritch, the director of the World Nuclear Association, based in London. Former U.S. Apollo astronaut and geologist, Harrison Schmitt also signed.

The letter (link below) is also being sent to every Member of Congress and to Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

http://www.21stcenturysciencetech.com/Articles_2010/Nuclear_letter.pdf

On March 5, 2010, John Holdren replied to the above letter, and the reply can be accessed with the link below.

http://www.21stcenturysciencetech.com/Articles_2010/Holdren_letter.pdf