WHY NUCLEAR?

WHAT NUCLEAR?



PARIS AGREEMENT NOW IN LEGAL FORCE:

2

LIMIT WARMING TO "WELL BELOW" 2 DEGREES C AND "PURSUE EFFORTS" TO LIMIT WARMING TO 1.5 DEGREES C

PARIS2015 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP21.CMP11

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

A ZERO CARBON ENERGY SYSTEM

ELECTRICITY, TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRY

WITHIN 40-50 YEARS

AS GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND DOUBLES

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

REDUCE DEMAND VIA EFFICIENCY

ADOPT ZERO CARBON RENEWABLE ENERGY (E.G. WIND, SOLAR)

SCRUB THE CARBON OUT OF FOSSIL ENERGY OR FROM THE ATMOSPHERE

NUCLEAR ENERGY

EACH OF THESE OPTIONS HAS CHALLENGES AT SCALE

EFFICIENCY CHALLENGES:

UNDERLYING DEMAND FOR LIGHT, HEAT AND MOTION WILL GROW AS THE WORLD GETS RICHER – WE CAN MITIGATE BUT NOT ELIMINATE GROWTH

EX: 50 MILLION NEW AIR CONDITIONING UNITS/YEAR IN CHINA

NUCLEAR CHALLENGES:

COSTS MORE THAN GAS AND COAL

SLOW TO BUILD (4-5 YEARS/UNIT)

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE – ACCIDENT RISK, WASTE, PROLIFERATION

CCS CHALLENGES:

ADDS TO FOSSIL FUEL COSTS DIRECTLY AND VIA LOAD TO OPERATE SCRUBBING EQUIPMENT

MUST CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE SUBSTANTIAL UNDERGROUND PIPELINE AND STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

RENEWABLES CHALLENGES:

DIRECT COST OF PRODUCTION IN MOST CASES HIGHER THAN FOSSIL

SEASONAL INTERMITTENCY THAT CANNOT BE ADDRESSED BY DAILY STORAGE

SUBSTANTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDOUT – GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION

WIND AND SUN ARE HIGHLY VARIABLE ACROSS MULTI-WEEK AND SEASONAL PERIODS







WIND IS HIGHLY CORRELATED ACROSS CONTINENTAL SCALE



BATTERY STORAGE WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM





YOU NEED DISPATCHABLE CAPACITY NEARLY EQUAL TO PEAK DEMAND

OR SEASONAL STORAGE CAPACITY IN THE SAME RANGE AS PEAK DEMAND



SCALING TOWARDS AN ALL-RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM BY 2050-2070 ALSO CHALLENGES **CREDIBILITY**

22 OF THE NATION'S LARGEST WIND FARMS IN EVERY STATE

41 OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST OFFSHORE WINDFARMS FOR EVERY COASTAL STATE, INCLUDING THE GREAT LAKES STATES

1,200X MORE CENTRAL SOLAR PV PLANTS THAN EXIST TODAY

SEASONAL STORAGE TWICE THE SIZE OF THE US ELECTRIC SYSTEM, USING TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COMMERCIALLY DEMONSTRATED AT SCALE

ABILITY TO RAMP DOWN 60% OF INDUSTRY DEMAND FREQUENTLY FOR EIGHT HOURS

DOUBLE SIZE OF TRANSMISSION ETC ETC

DOABLE THEORETICALLY?

MAYBE

HIGHLY RISKY AS A SOLE STRATEGY IN THE REAL WORLD?

MOST DEFINITELY



CLIMATE CHANGE 2014

Mitigation of Climate



pathways to deep decarbonization

2014 report

WORKING GROUP IN CONTRIBUTION TO THE RITTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERCOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON COMMTE (



2-3X INCREASE IN NUCLEAR





BUT WE NEED BETTER NUCLEAR

CAN WE GET IT?

ELIMINATE WATER FROM THE EQUATION USING COOLANTS WITH MUCH HIGHER PHASE CHANGE POINTS:

RADICALLY REDUCED ACCIDENT RISK/OFFSITE IMPACTS

OPERATE AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE-> ELIMINATE NEED FOR PRESSURIZED CONTAINMENT → REDUCED COST AND SHORTER AND PREDICTABLE CONSTRUCTION TIMES

50 start-ups in the US, CAN, UK, EU



Graphic from: Third Way, 2015

OVERNIGHT NUCLEAR COSTS



CONCLUSION:

MORE OPTIONS \rightarrow

INCREASE OUR CHANCE OF SUCCESS

NUCLEAR IS A KEY OPTION

MORE AT

http://www.catf.us/resource s/publications/view/232

ADDITIONAL SLIDES

FACTORY OR SHIPYARD BUILT



INTERNATIONAL STANDARIZED LICENSE

Metric Tons of Steel Per MW



AP1000

MOLTEN SALT

HIGHER TEMPERATURE → INDUSTRIAL HEAT AND FUEL SYNTHESIS

HIGHER UTLIZATION AND RECYCLING OF FUEL, REDUCING PROLIFERATION RISK

REDUCE OR ELIMINATE COOLING WATER REQUIREMENTS

"BUILD - OWN - OPERATE - REMOVE" BUSINESS MODEL ALLOWS SAFER GLOBAL OPERATION

History: the most decarbonized grids are high nuclear



Source: IHS CERA; Germany 2015 data from German Environment Ministry and Agora EnergieWende

DIABLO CANYON REPLACEMENT OPTIONS (MWH)

