

March 18, 2025

Ohio House Bill 15
Interested Party Testimony

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the committee,

My name is Patricia Marida and I am a coordinator with the Ohio Nuclear Free Network.

HB 15 definitions of “renewable” and “green” energy are quite different from the commonly understood meaning and past usage of these words. It states that natural gas burning is green. We note that Ohio HB 507 made natural gas green in 2023. The bill’s attempts to define something as nebulous as “advanced” include “significant improvements to existing (nuclear) facilities”, with no definition of significant. Coal, oil, nuclear and gas are dirty, polluting energy sources that are neither renewable nor green. Mr. Orwell wrote a book about this. This is putting lipstick on the entire pigpen.

HB 15 mentions “renewable” 53 times, and gives its own, convoluted, indeterminant, political definitions. There is a precise definition of renewable energy, and that is, **once its infrastructure is built, the fuel is free**. These sources include wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, and tidal. Free fuel means less expense, less intrusion into the environment *for* the fuel, and can also mean recyclable infrastructure.

There is nothing “green” about nuclear power except the subsidies and competitive advantages that nuclear speculators get. It becomes a joke when Ohio labels *nearly all* the major energy sources as green. Then all our legislators support green energy.

First, Ohio will be able to give *tax breaks and taxpayer dollars* to dirty energy sources. Second, *watch our electric bills go through the roof, since [Nuclear electricity is now, and will continue to be, 3 to 5 times more expensive](#)* than wind and solar. And I reference the investment advisor Lazard here. Nuclear costs are going up, while renewables are going down. This will handicap Ohio industries and put some small businesses out of business. And nuclear speculators won’t be required to generate the first watt of electricity in return for Ohio’s largesse.

How did nuclear power manage to get a reputation of low or no carbon emissions? They simply **leave out** the cost of obtaining nuclear fuel. Unmentioned is the cost of uranium – its mining, milling, & enrichment. Then there is nuclear fuel fabrication, building of reactors, transportation of materials, cleaning up radioactive spills and accidents, billion\$\$ in worker injury compensation, uncounted billion\$\$ in public health tolls. Not to mention the dollar and energy cost for future generations to keep radioactive waste isolated for a million years. Radioactivity lasts forever. Everything it touches becomes radioactive, including you and me.

Nuclear is a dirty word: The Department of Energy has dropped the word “nuclear” from all its sites and as much as possible from its language. They refer to new nuclear reactors as Small Modular Reactors or Advanced Reactors.

COAL: Coal cannot be made “clean” by failed attempts to capture greenhouse gases as coal burns; building expensive new pipes to transport what is captured for long distances; attempts to inject carbon dioxide underground where it will not stay for long due to the nature of earth movement and cracks in rocks; not to mention the suffocation of people and animals in undetectable leaks above ground such as the incident in Satartia, Mississippi in 2020. The HB 15 definition of clean coal does not even require carbon capture, just capturing some of the emissions from burning it. Which is already being done, even though very poorly.

A point with little discussion: Jumping in and vastly increasing electric supply for uses that have minimum benefit, or even possible negative effects for society, such as artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, need to be thought out carefully – for the sake of a habitable earth as well as electric bills.

No guards or evacuation zones are needed for wind turbines and solar panels. With growing climate and political instability, nuclear power is becoming even more dangerous.

Energy efficiency, wind, and solar are cheap, quick, safe, popular, and proven. Renewables now generate much more power than nuclear reactors. Our energy future is renewable, not radioactive.