

The Ohio Legislature is attempting another H.B. 6 giveaway with House Bill 434 which aims to have you pay for development and construction of so-called 'advanced' nuclear reactors and high-level nuclear waste reduction and storage technology. New nuclear power will be almost completely taxpayer or ratepayer subsidized. The bill declares "public moneys may be spent and private property acquired."

House Bill 434 specifies neither length of time nor how deep it will dive into Ohio's treasury.

Nuclear power can't compete. According to Lazard, the global advisory and management firm, the cost of energy from a new nuclear reactor is 13-20 cents per kilowatt-hour compared with 2-5 cents for onshore wind and 2-4 cents for utility-scale solar. Nuclear power takes too long to build and license, creates long-lived radioactive waste and is not a viable solution to the climate crisis. And, Ohio already has plenty of radioactive waste sites.

We need strategic future planning and sustainable development that will not create dangerous, risky economic and environmental problems for taxpayers.

HB 434 specifies neither length of time nor how deep it will dive into the Ohio treasury. Bill promoters have given no hint – and the public would not be able to find out – who is being paid; what is being developed; or where radioactive materials are being shipped.

How can Ohio, with no experience, do a better (or even good) job of oversight and running of research reactors? Why does Ohio need to compete with the feds?

According to investment bank [Lazard](#), in 2021 the levelized cost of energy from a new nuclear reactor is 13.1 to 20.4 cents per kWh. This compares with 2.6 to 5.0 cents per kWh for onshore wind and 2.8 to 4.1 cents per kWh for utility-scale solar. Cost estimates for building the NuScale Utah SMR have jumped [from \\$58/MWh to as much as \\$100/MWh](#).

One of the most serious problems with HB 434 is that the Authority would be put under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Development, which writes contracts for JobsOhio which is not reviewable by Ohio Open Records Act, Ohio ethics laws, the Sunshine Act, the Ohio Administrative Procedure Act, and other accountability requirements. A state authority can conduct business outside of the typical oversight and accountability requirements for operations such as employment practices, contracts, procurement procedures, and financial reporting. State authorities can issue bonds or dip into public treasuries. Nothing in HB 434 prohibits Authority's governing board from having conflicts of interest in financial holdings and decision making.

HB 434 is specifically geared to benefit one small group, **eGeneration** of Cleveland and the associated **Elysium Industries**. Only seven testified for H.B. 434 in the Ohio House and **Five of those 7 have direct ties to eGeneration and/or Elysium Industries**.

Use of Eminent Domain is allowed, Sec. 4164.04 of HB 434 says the Nuclear Development Authority can preside over "*matters of public necessity for which public moneys may be spent and private property acquired.*" Individuals and cities cannot resist taking of property.

Ohio would be responsible for all costs associated with the Authority, including reactor decommissioning, dismantling and disposal of waste and damages resulting from spills and accidents.

Wall Street won't fund nuclear. No new nuclear reactors will be researched, developed, or built without public funding.

Molten Salt Reactors are proposed but they were attempted in the 1960s and none has been built for over 50 years. Reactors that use sodium or molten salts for cooling or fuel destroy their internals rapidly, then leak. There is a constant need for replacement of parts. The only functioning molten salt reactor [operated at Oak Ridge, Tennessee](#) for only 4 years, and is not cleaned up yet

When the nuclear fuel cycle is included, nuclear has a high carbon footprint. And this does not include the energy that will be needed to attempt to isolate tens of thousands of tons of high-level radioactive waste for millennia to come. Efficiency and renewable energy [cost less and produce more jobs](#). Jobs and the grid are decentralized, eliminating major blackouts. "All of the above" is not an energy plan. It is time for Ohio to move into the 21st Century and support the essential move to wind and solar.