

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS-A DANGEROUS TECHNOLOGY

Earl A. Sealy

*Formerly of Lynn University
3601 N Military Trail, Boca Raton,
Florida 33431, U.S.A*

Author for Correspondence: dr.earlsealy@gmail.com

The use of Nuclear Power plants to produce electricity was initially thought to be the innovative alternative to fossil fuels to produce clean energy. However, the inherent dangers in the use of Nuclear Power Plants were not well understood or explained. Although there were minor melt downs that spilled dangerous radiation into the environment, it was not until the Chernobyl, and Three Mile Island, disasters and to a lesser extent the Japanese earthquake disaster that the dangers in the use of Nuclear Power Plants to produce electricity came to the fore front.

Melt downs are always possible when using the fission process in Nuclear Power Plants to produce electricity. Although there is an agency to monitor and report on the use of nuclear energy melt downs still occur. Nuclear Power Plants are found mainly in the highly industrialized countries that can afford the expensive technology.

Advocates for the use Nuclear Energy Technology to produce electricity always down play the biological and medical dangers involved if/when there is a release of radiation to the environment due to wear and tear of the equipment or melt down. The biological dangers to animals involve deformities in the new born, cancerous tissue and for livestock, radiation in milk, poultry and other meat supplies which can then be transferred to humans when ingesting such foods. This causes a secondary effect to humans. Radiation is also absorbed by plants. In the case of agricultural crops there is a secondary transfer of radiation to humans. When radiation is detected in livestock and other agricultural produce there is an economic loss to farmers because the entire stock has to be destroyed. The immediate medical danger to humans exposed to radiation produced by Nuclear Power Plants is life threatening/ending cancers. If women are exposed while pregnant there can be deformities in their offspring. Individuals exposed to radiation from Nuclear Power Plants are never the same again, that is, they never return to normal physical and medical wellness.

When Radiation from Nuclear Power Plants reach the atmosphere, it can travel many miles in the airborne current and there is normally mandatory for areas up to ten miles or more from the power plant depending on the severity of the explosion or melt down. Some residents are not allowed to return to their locations for months. It should be noted that workers in Nuclear Power Plants wear special clothing to protect themselves from radiation. Individuals living in a downwind proximity do not wear such clothing.

No other technology use to produce electricity exposes humans, animals and plants to such great danger. Certainly not coal, crude, gas, wind, wave or solar technologies. The dangers involved in the use of Nuclear Energy are inherent, they will occur at some time. Human error can also amplify the dangers.

Since the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island explosions the proliferation of the use of Nuclear Power Plants to produce electricity has been slowed. In my opinion the time has come to begin a path to other technologies and prevent/stop the use of Nuclear Power Plants. The dangers inherent in the use of Nuclear Power Plants to produce electricity over shadows the risk to human life. Also, on a somber note the technology can be used as a stepping stone to produce nuclear weapons, an ever threat to the human civilization.