Nuclear Shutdown: the Economic and Environmental Disaster

Emily Hobbs
Society and Technology Residential College
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

Abstract

Nuclear power plants in the United States are in jeopardy of closing as the government favors "green" energy suppliers with exclusive tax credits. While strictly not renewable, nuclear power provides clean, baseload energy essential to the national power grid. However, unlike coal, oil, and natural gas producers, the threat of environmental contamination in the nuclear power industry is minimal while offering equivalent economic advantages. This investigation shows the benefits nuclear power has to the local and national economies while reducing its environmental impact.

Introduction

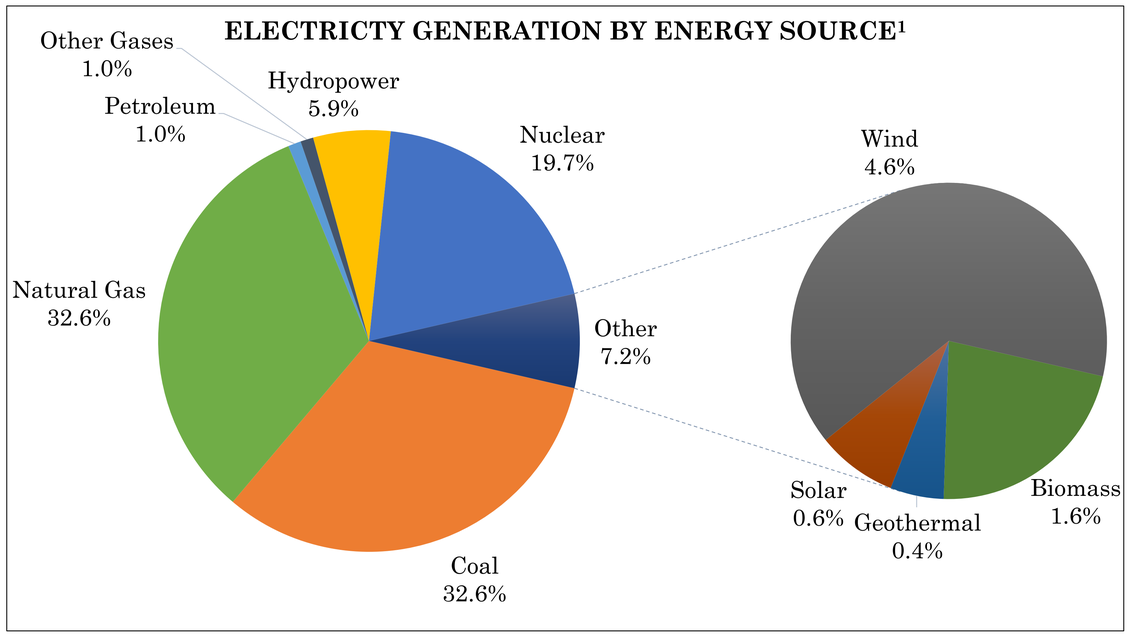
National and state governments are providing incentives for the implementation of clean "green" energies including:

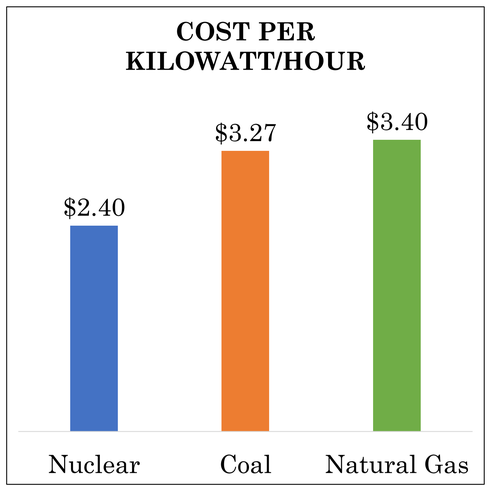
- Personal and corporate tax credits
- Tax exemptions
- Loan programs
- Grants
- Development programs
- Rebates

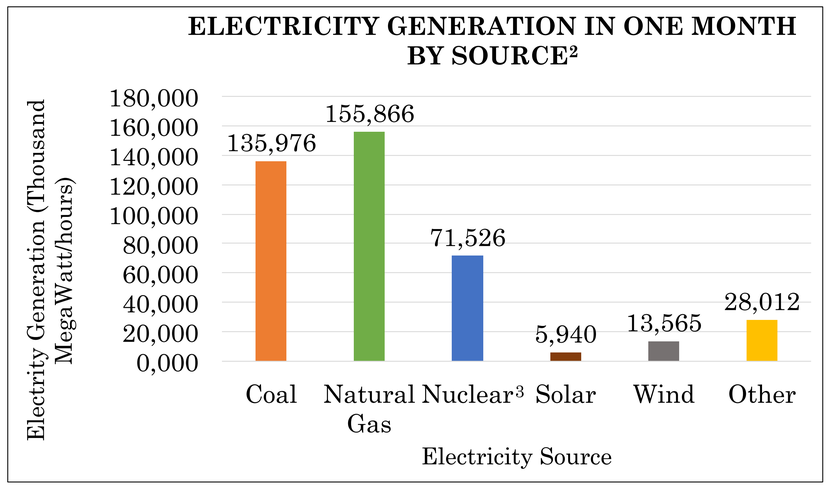
Problem

Nuclear power is not receiving the same incentives and plants are struggling to make a profit. Plants are in jeopardy of shutting down when they supply baseload power for the United States.

Comparisons







Notes

[1]Data from 2015

[2]Data from August 2016

[3]Important to note nuclear only has 62 plants while natural gas has 1,779 and coal has 427

Discussion

Nuclear power:

- Efficient and reliable
- Supplies 140,000 full time jobs to the national economy
  - Many projects requiring contractors
- Contained and does not pollute local environment

Conclusion

Without the government supplying incentives for nuclear power, plants will be forced to shutdown, negatively affecting the local economy and environment.

References

http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=PA
https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=427&t=3
http://www.power-eng.com/content/dam/pe/online-articles/2013/01/cr3.JPG (pic)
http://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_04_01.html

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. Sally Koutsoliotas and her continued support throughout the research process.