

Why nuclear has no place in a Clean Energy Standard

- ▶ There are over 15,000 abandoned uranium mines in the US, mostly in indigenous communities.
- ▶ Approximately 25,000 pounds of mining waste (rock, mill tailings, and depleted uranium) are generated for each pound of nuclear fuel. The average nuclear reactor uses 44,093 pounds of fuel every year, which means 1 billion pounds of radioactive mining waste is generated per reactor per year.
- ▶ The legal limit for radiation exposure is a dose that will cause 1 additional cancer fatality per 286 people exposed. This estimate is based on exposure for a healthy man (called reference man). Women and children are more vulnerable to radiation than “reference man.”
- ▶ Almost 75% of reactors in the U.S. have had radioactive tritium leak at some point, according to the Associated Press.
- ▶ The US nuclear fleet generates approximately 2,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste annually, which has no safe place to go.
- ▶ Most of the reactors in Upstate NY use once-through cooling systems. Each uses hundreds of millions gallons of water daily to cool the reactors and then dumps it back into Lake Ontario, causing thermal and radioactive pollution and killing aquatic life. The Indian Point reactors on the Hudson River consume more than 2 billion gallons per day, killing a billion fish and other organisms each year. Every 2 hours, the plant’s cooling system dumps as much heat as the Hiroshima bomb explosion into the river.

More info at www.CleanUptheCleanEnergyStandard.org

