

# **The Energy Seminar**

## ***The Discussion: Nuclear Energy***

**Amory B. Lovins**

**Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board  
Rocky Mountain Institute**

**MAP/Ming Professor, Stanford University, Spring Qtr.**

**Burton Richter**

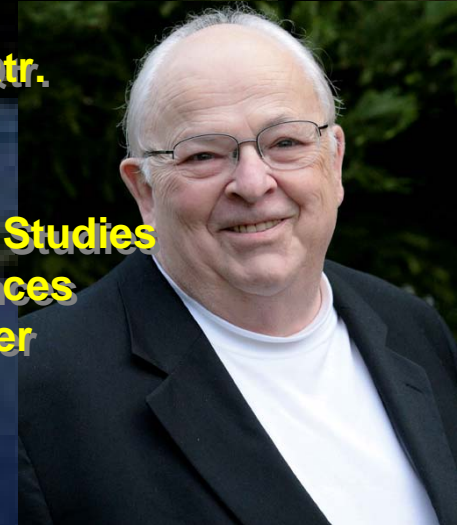
**Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies**

**Paul Pigott Professor Emeritus in the Physical Sciences**

**Former Director, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center**

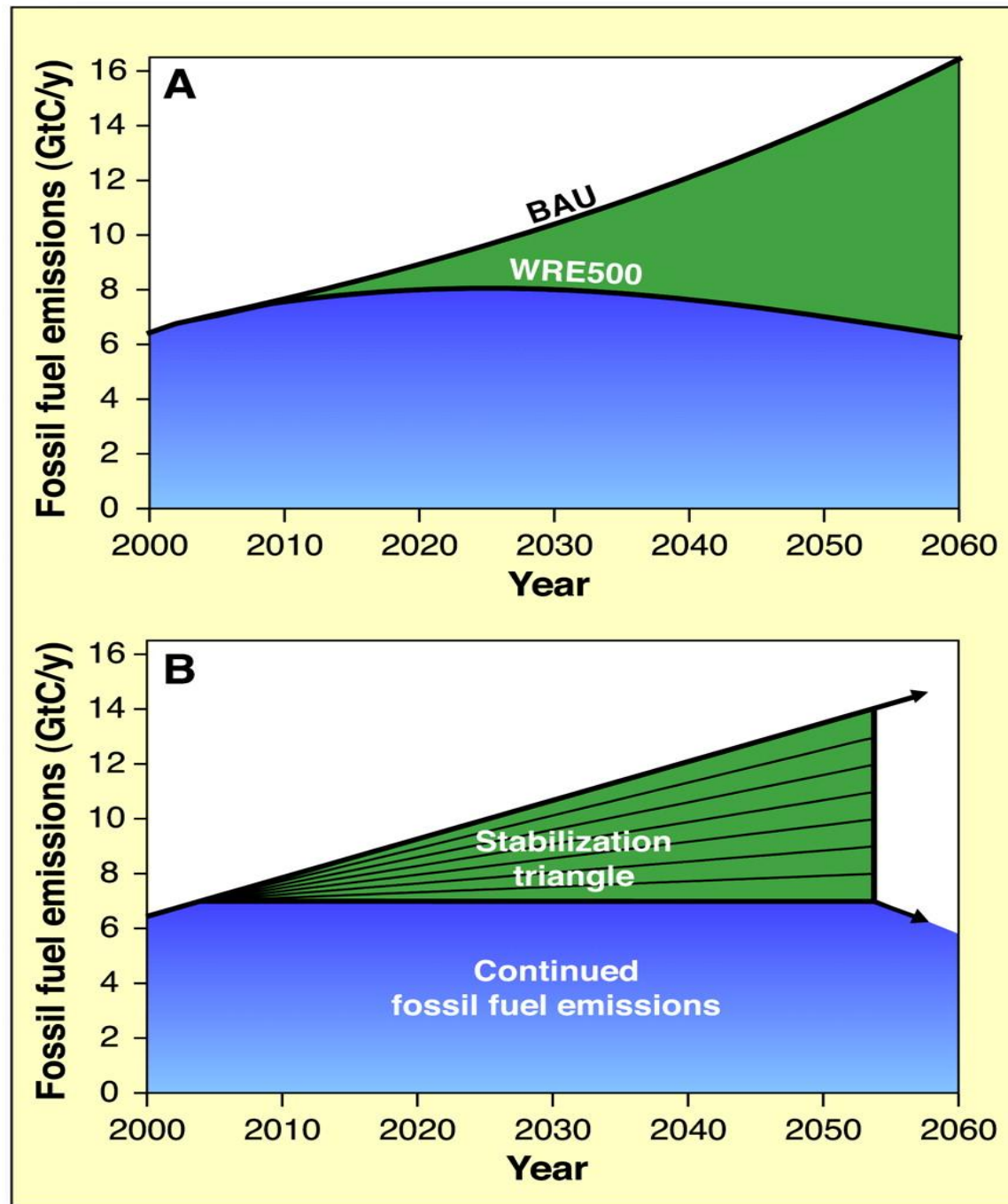
**Nobel Laureate (Physics, 1976)**

**6 June 2007**



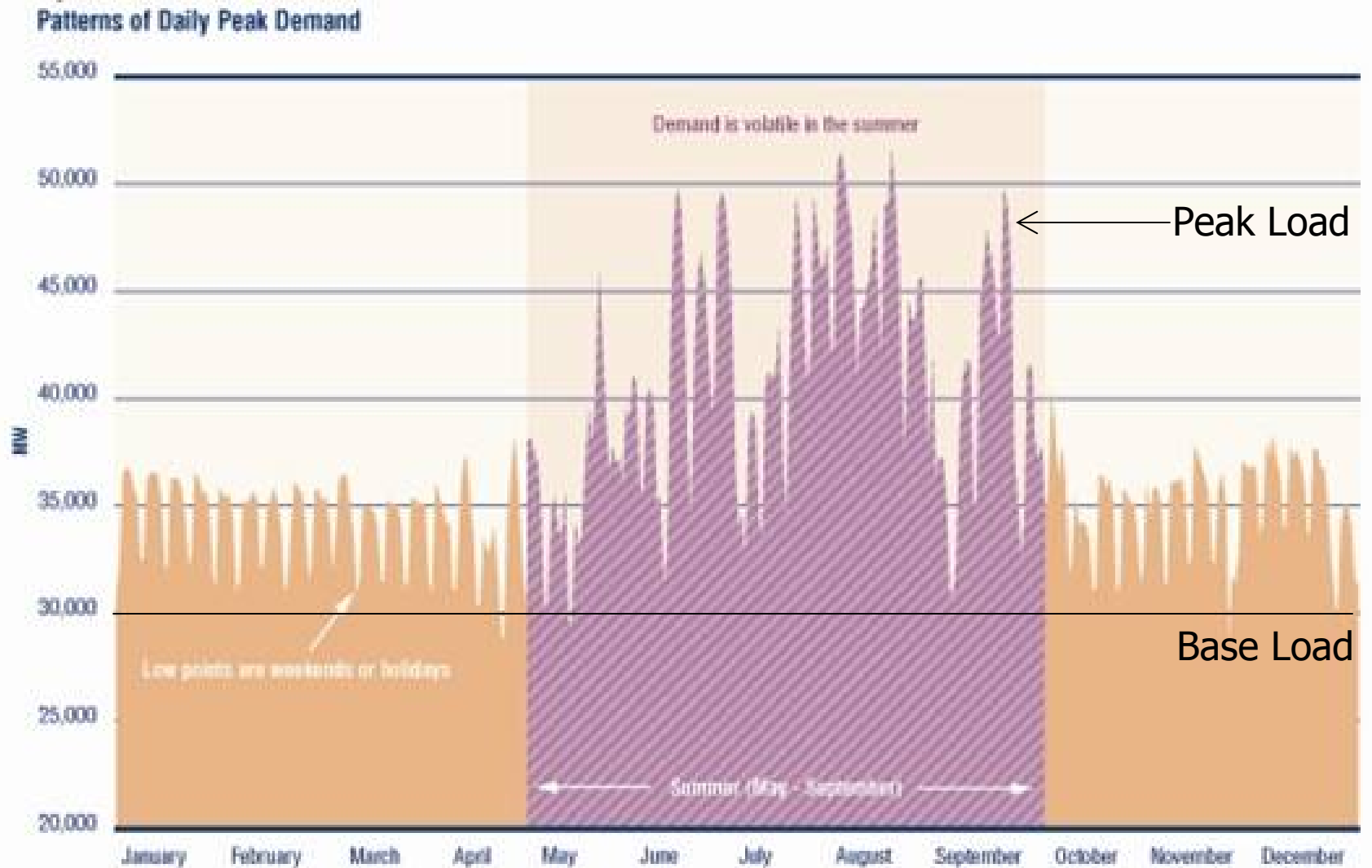
# IIASA Projection of Future Energy Demand Scenario A1 (High Growth)





“Science,” **305**, 968 (August 13, 2004)

# Peak Load vs. Base Load



# CO<sub>2</sub> Intensity

(IEA, Key World Energy Statistics 2003)

<b>Area</b>	<b>GDP (ppp)</b> (Billions of U.S. Dollars)	<b>CO<sub>2</sub>/GDP</b> <b>Kg/\$ (ppp)</b>
World	42,400	0.56
France	1,390	0.28

# The Nuclear Critics

- ↪ It can't compete in the market place.
- ↪ It is too dangerous.
- ↪ We don't know what to do with spent fuel.

# Costs

Nuclear	1800 € $\approx$ \$2500/KW	(Areva)
Coal	\$1500 – 2000/KW	(EIA)
Wind	\$1600/KW (peak)	(NYT 5/1/07)
	\$8000/KW (avg.)	(20% duty factor)
Solar	\$5000/KW (peak)	(CA Energy Commision)
	\$25,000/KW (avg.)	

# Radiation Exposures

<b>Source</b>	<b>Radiation Dose Millirem/year</b>
<b>Natural Radioactivity</b>	240
<b>Natural in Body (75kg)*</b>	40
<b>Medical (average)</b>	60
<b>Nuclear Plant (1GW electric)</b>	0.004
<b>Coal Plant (1GW electric)</b>	0.003
<b>*Included in the Natural Total</b>	



# Nuclear Accidents

## Chernobyl (1986) – World's Worst

Reactor type not used outside of old Soviet bloc  
(can become unstable)

Operators moved into unstable region and disabled  
all safety systems.

## Three Mile Island (1979) – A Partial Core Meltdown

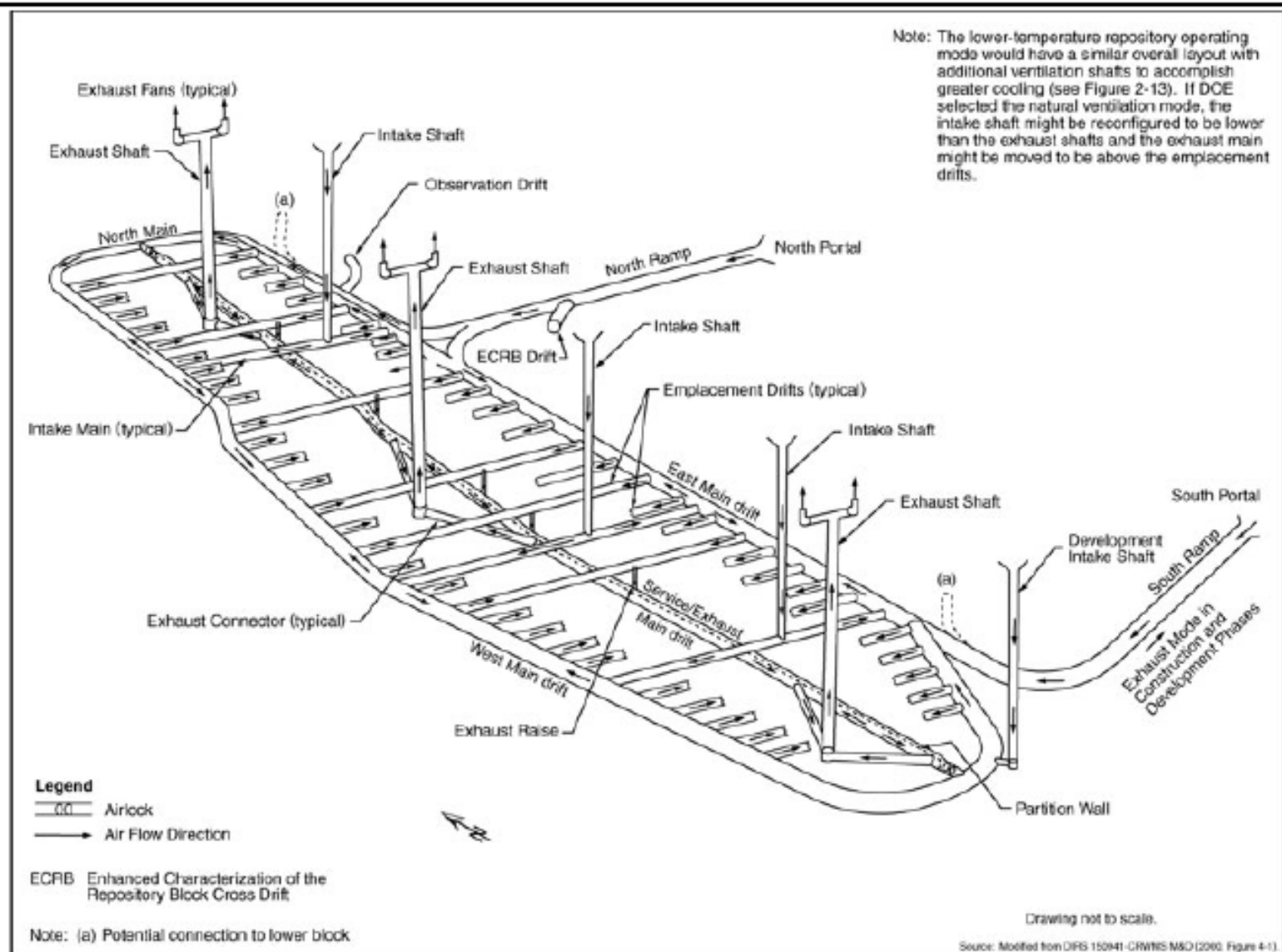
LWRs are not vulnerable to instabilities

All LWRs have containment building

Radiation in region near TMI about 10 mr.

New LWRs have even more safety systems.

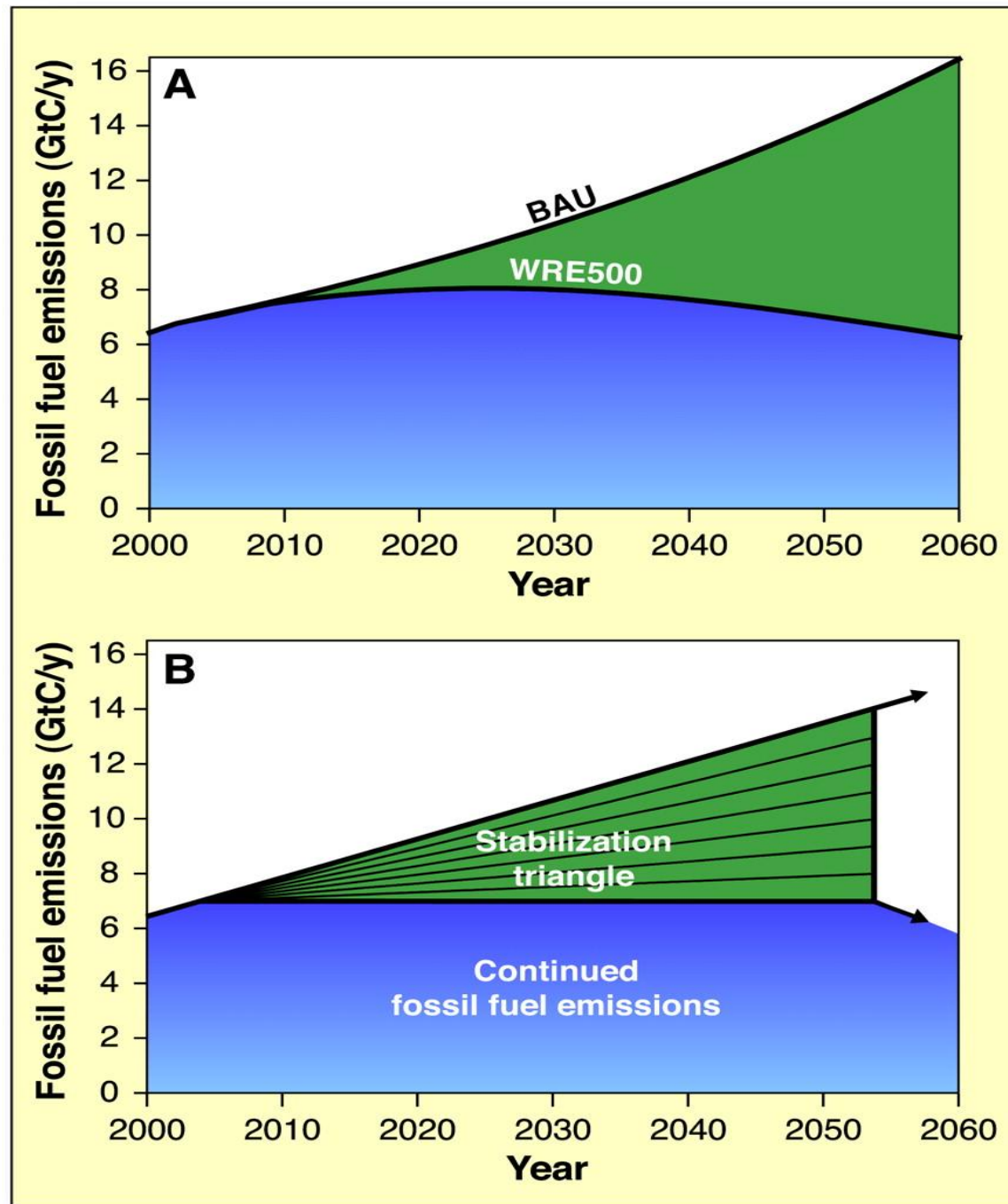
# Yucca Mountain Repository Layout



## Primary Power Requirements for 2050 for Scenarios Stabilizing CO<sub>2</sub> at 450 ppm and 550 ppm

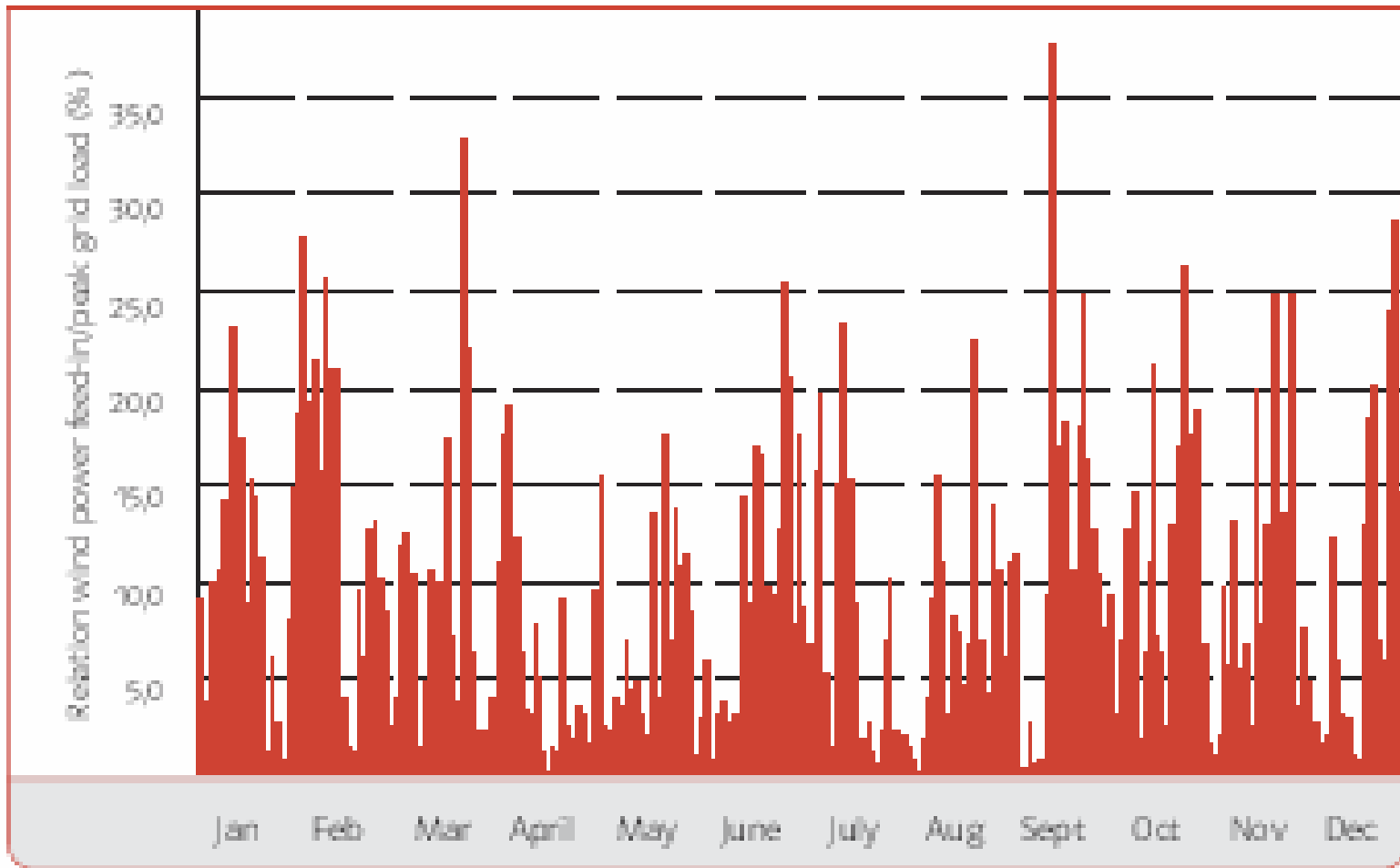
	2000	2050	
Source		450 ppm	550 ppm
Carbon Based	11 TW	7 TW	12 TW
Carbon Free	3 TW	20 TW	15 TW

M. Hoffert, et al., *Nature*, 395, p881, (Oct 20, 1998)



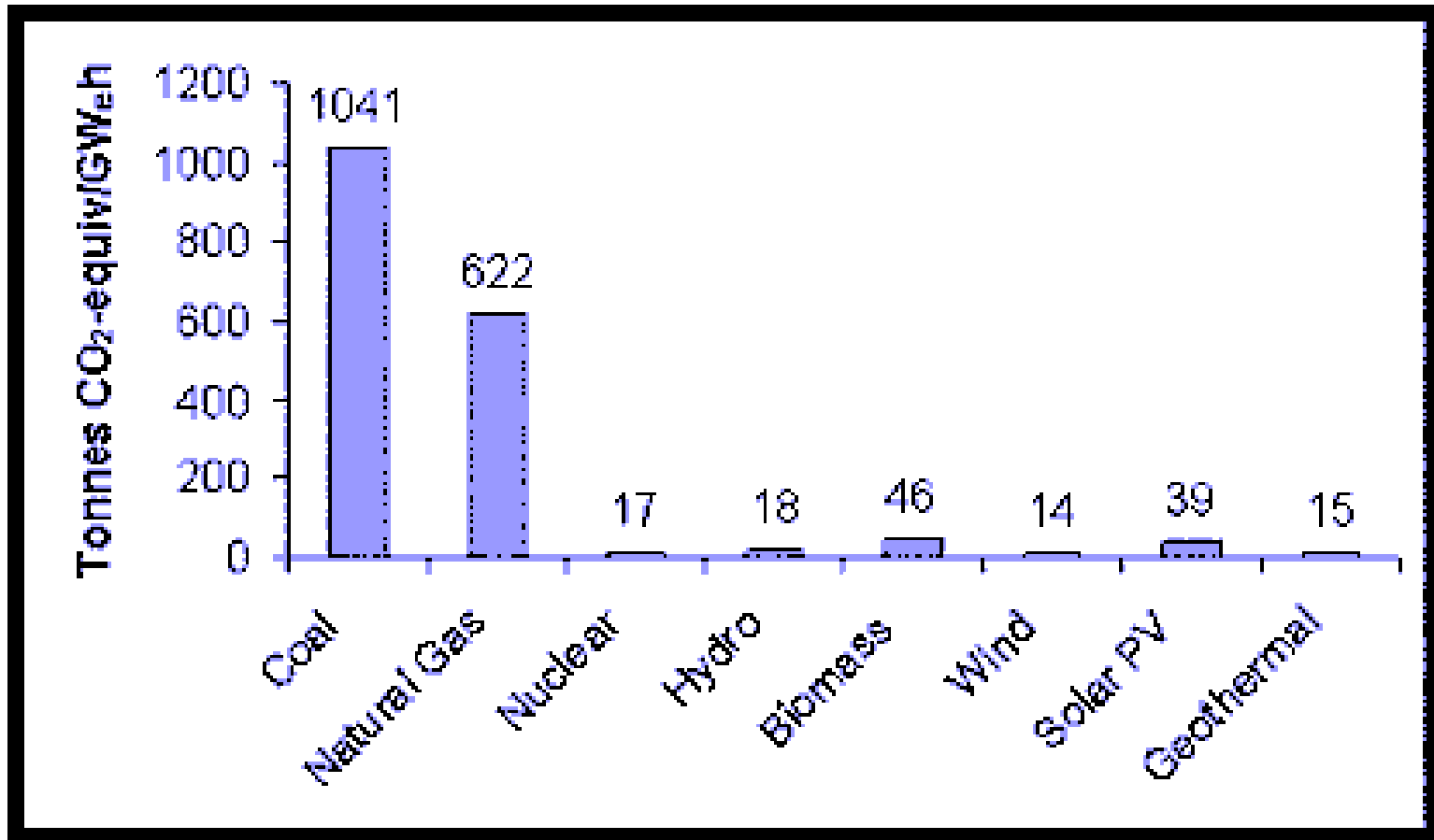
“Science,” 305, 968 (August 13, 2004)

# Back Up



**EON-NETZ (GERMANY) WIND POWER VARIABILITY  
AVERAGE IS 20% OF INSTALLED WIND CAPACITY**

# Comparison of Life-Cycle Emissions



Source: "Life-Cycle Assessment of Electricity Generation Systems and Applications for Climate Change Policy Analysis," Paul J. Meier, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August, 2002.

# World Nuclear Expansion (as of January 2007)

Under construction	28
Approved and to be started	64
Under discussion	158
Total	250



## Some Comparative Electricity Generating Cost Projections for Year 2010 on

	<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>Coal</b>	<b>Gas</b>
<b>Finland</b>	2.76	3.64	-
<b>France</b>	2.54	3.33	3.92
<b>Germany</b>	2.86	3.52	4.90
<b>Switzerland</b>	2.88	-	4.36
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.58	-	6.04
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2.30	2.94	4.97
<b>Slovakia</b>	3.13	4.78	5.59
<b>Romania</b>	3.06	4.55	-
<b>Japan</b>	4.80	4.95	5.21
<b>Korea</b>	2.34	2.16	4.65
<b>USA</b>	3.01	2.71	4.67
<b>Canada</b>	2.60	3.11	4.00

US 2003 cents/kWh, Discount rate 5%, 40 year lifetime, 85% load factor.  
*Source: OECD/IEA NEA 2005.*

# In the U.S.

## Nuclear Incentives in 2006 Energy Bill

- Licensing streamlined
- “Insurance” against regulatory delays
- Cost sharing for First-of-a-Kind costs

## GNEP

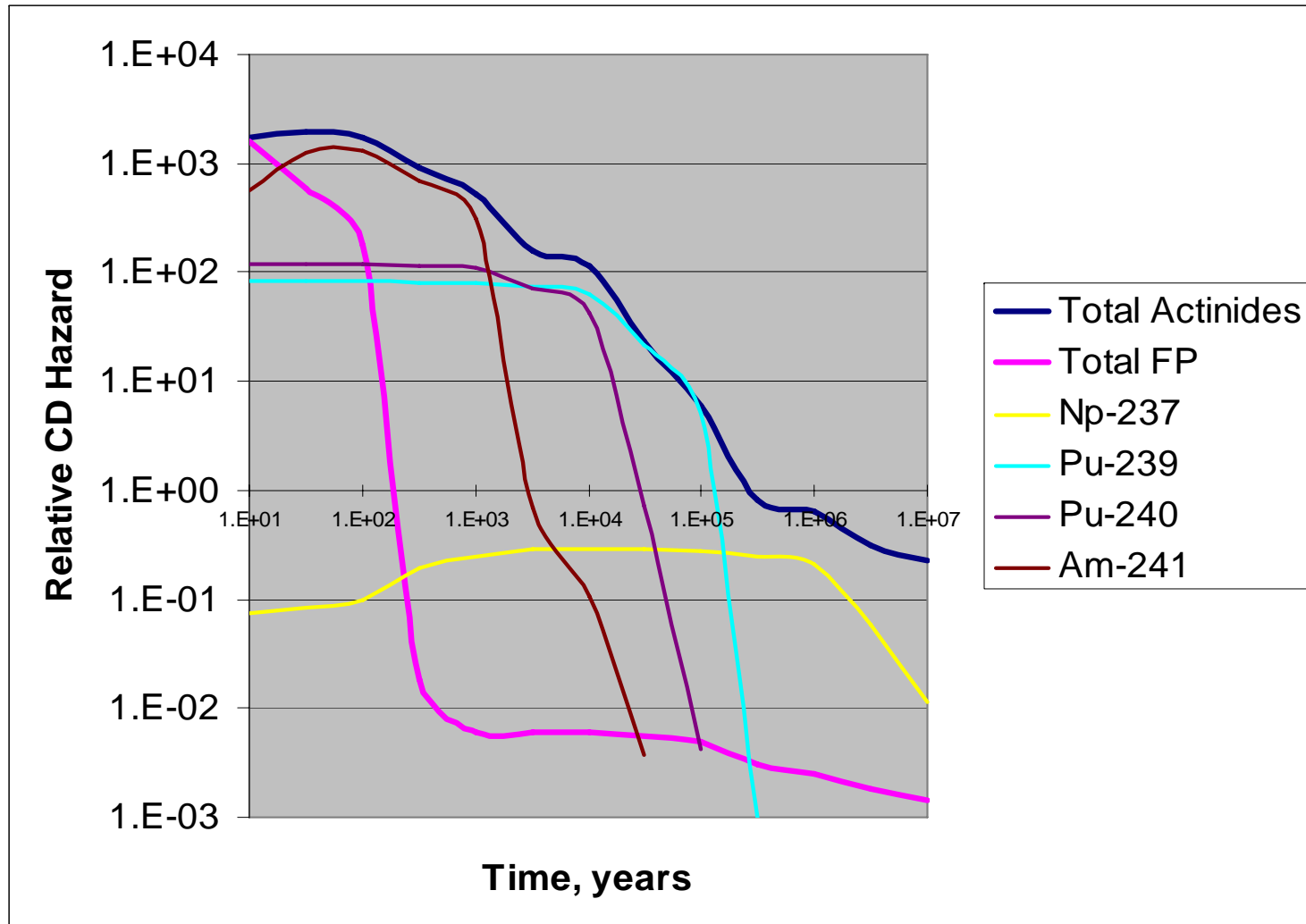
- Waste treatment change
- Proliferation risk reduction

# Public Health Impacts per TWh\*

	Coal	Lignite	Oil	Gas	Nuclear	PV	Wind
<b>Years of life lost:</b>							
<b>Nonradiological effects</b>	138	167	359	42	9.1	58	2.7
<b>Radiological effects:</b>							
<b>Normal operation</b>					16		
<b>Accidents</b>					0.015		
<b>Respiratory hospital admissions</b>	0.69	0.72	1.8	0.21	0.05	0.29	0.01
<b>Cerebrovascular hospital admissions</b>	1.7	1.8	4.4	0.51	0.11	0.70	0.03
<b>Congestive heart failure</b>	0.80	0.84	2.1	0.24	0.05	0.33	0.02
<b>Restricted activity days</b>	4751	4976	12248	1446	314	1977	90
<b>Days with bronchodilator usage</b>	1303	1365	3361	397	86	543	25
<b>Cough days in asthmatics</b>	1492	1562	3846	454	98	621	28
<b>Respiratory symptoms in asthmatics</b>	693	726	1786	211	45	288	13
<b>Chronic bronchitis in children</b>	115	135	333	39	11	54	2.4
<b>Chronic cough in children</b>	148	174	428	51	14	69	3.2
<b>Nonfatal cancer</b>					2.4		

\*Kerwitt et al., "Risk Analysis" Vol. 18, No. 4 (1998).

# Radiotoxicity of LWR Spent Fuel



# Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation & The Fuel Cycle

- ↪ There is NO proliferation-proof fuel cycle
  - Nations: Only method is binding international agreements that include sanctions for violators.
  - Terrorist Groups: It is not easy to build a Pu bomb. Risk is in buying or stealing or getting a gift of one, not so much from fuel cycle.

# Proliferators

Enrichment Phase (“Front End”) to make U(235)

Weapons:

South Africa (gave them up under IAEA supervision)

Pakistan (centrifuge technology sold around the world)

Libya (abandoned attempt)

Iran ?

Reprocessing (“Back End”) to make Pu Weapons:

Israel

India

N. Korea

Per Capita Electricity Sales (not including self-generation)  
(kWh/person) (2005 to 2008 are forecast data)

